ANROWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY
to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children

Fast Facts – Indigenous family violence

Various enquiries link over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in statistics on interpersonal violence to the impacts of colonisation,[i] including inter-generational trauma, dispossession of land, forced removal of children, interrupted cultural practices that mitigate against interpersonal violence, removal of children and economic exclusion. In the case of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, it is the intersection of gender and racial inequality that creates the conditions for such high rates of violence against them.

- Indigenous people are between two and five times more likely than non-Indigenous people to experience violence as victims or offenders.[ii]

- Indigenous females are five times more likely to be victims of homicide than non-Indigenous females; 55% (n=33) of the 60 Indigenous homicide victims were killed in a domestic homicide; which includes 42% (n=25) that were intimate partner homicides.[iii]

- Indigenous females were 35 times as likely to be hospitalised due to family violence related assaults, and Indigenous males 21.4 times as likely, than non-Indigenous females and males.[iv]

- Based on the results of the Australian component of the 2002 International Violence against Women Survey:[v]
  - 20% of Indigenous women, compared to 7% of non-Indigenous women, had experienced physical violence in the previous year
  - 12% of Indigenous women, compared to 4% of non-Indigenous women had experienced sexual violence in the previous year; and
  - 25% of Indigenous women, compared to 10% of non-Indigenous women, experienced some kind of violence in the previous year.

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[i] Day, A., Francisco, A. & Jones, R. (2013). Programs to improve personal safety in Indigenous communities: Evidence and issues. *Issue Paper No. 4*. Canberra: Closing the Gap Clearinghouse, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australian Government.
[ii] Willis, M. (2011). Non-disclosure of violence in Australian Indigenous communities. *Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice No.405*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
[iii] Chan, A. & Payne, J. (2013). Homicide in Australia: 2008–09 to 2009–10 National homicide monitoring program annual report, *AIC Reports, Monitoring Reports* 21. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
[iv] Steering Committee for the Review of Government Services (2009). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*. Canberra: Productivity Commission.
[v] Mouzos, J. & Makkai, T. (2004, p. 30). Women's experiences of male violence: Findings from the Australian component of the international violence against women survey (IVAWS), *Research and Public Policy Series 56*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. NB: due to small sample sizes, these results must be viewed with caution, although they are consistent with findings from other research.