

# Domestic Violence Fatalities Involving Native People in Washington State

Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review

June 2012

In **11** cases, the homicide victim or perpetrator was identified as a **member of a tribe**.

**8** homicides and suicides occurred on tribal land including the **Colville, Lummi, Tulalip, and Yakama** reservations.

Homicides and suicides occurred in **12** counties: **Asotin, Clark, Franklin, Ferry, King, Kittitas, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima**

Washington State is home to **29** federally recognized tribes and **7** tribes not recognized by the federal government. **28** tribes offer services for Native survivors of violence.

Since 1997 in Washington State, **41** people have died in **28** domestic violence related homicides and suicides involving Native victims or perpetrators. (Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review)

The rate of intimate partner homicide for American Indian and Alaska Native women in Washington State is **2.8** times higher than for white, Non-Hispanic women. (Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review)

**46%** of American Indian and Alaska Native women and **45%** of men in the U.S. have been raped, physically assaulted, or stalked by an intimate partner. (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey)

Multiple studies have documented barriers to safety for Native victims and lack of accountability for abusers. Federal authorities decline to prosecute **46%** of assaults and **67%** of sexual abuse cases in Indian Country. (U.S. Government Accountability Office)

## Domestic violence fatalities involving Native victims and perpetrators in Washington State 1997-2011

Women killed by current or former husband or boyfriend	17
Men killed by current or former wife or girlfriend	5
Children killed by abusers	7
Friends and family killed by abusers	3
Abuser suicides	8
Abuser killed by law enforcement	1
Total	41

WASHINGTON STATE COALITION

**WSCADV**

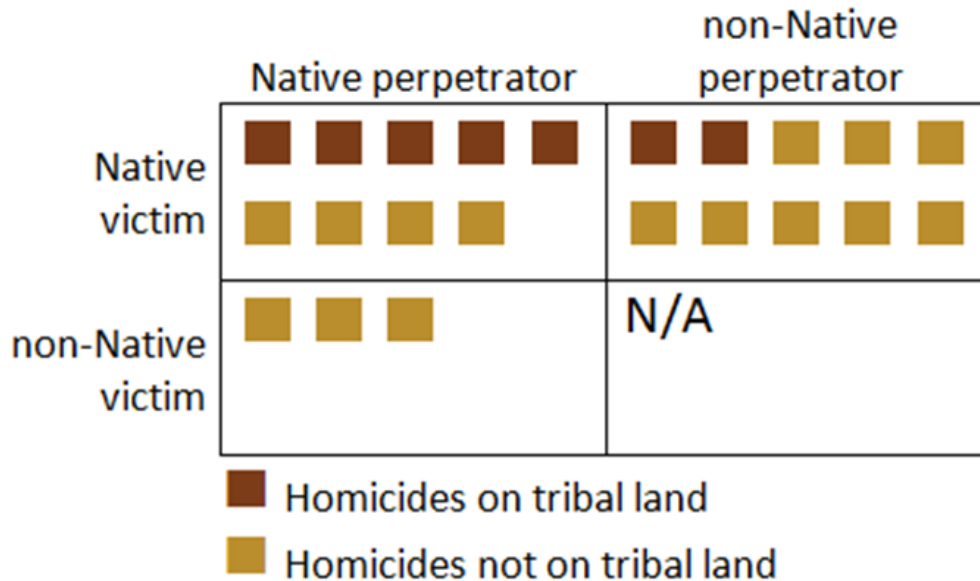
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## Find more online at [wscadv.org](http://wscadv.org)

- Get up-to-date statewide fatality statistics.
- Learn more about WSCADV's work to end domestic violence.
- Find resources for advocates and survivors..

## Native and non-Native victims and perpetrators in 26 homicides

(Does not include suicides and abuser killed by law enforcement.)



22 different law enforcement agencies responded to fatalities involving Native people: 5 tribal agencies, 7 city police departments, 7 county sheriff's offices, 1 state police agency, 1 university police department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## Resources

**WomenSpirit Washington State Native American Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault** offers support for tribal programs serving Native survivors and statewide and national technical assistance, consultation and training. [www.womenspiritcoalition.org](http://www.womenspiritcoalition.org)

Find online training, publications, model policies, and more from the **National Indigenous Women's Resource Center** at [www.niwrc.org](http://www.niwrc.org).

**Tribal Law and Policy Institute** provides a clearinghouse of information for tribal courts, law enforcement, and victim advocates. [www.tribal-institute.org/lists/domestic.htm](http://www.tribal-institute.org/lists/domestic.htm)