

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

The goals and objectives of the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) are to decrease the number of violent crimes (sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking) against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women and girls, assist Indian tribes in using their sovereign authority to respond to those crimes, and ensure that people who commit violent crimes against AI/AN women are held responsible for their actions through a strong coordinated community response.

252 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015, 252 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Governments Program.

6,768 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 6,768 victims and 3,336 children during each 6-month reporting period.

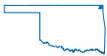
1,563 Cases Investigated

Grantees investigated a total of 1,563 cases, and referred 1,330 cases to prosecutors.

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Develop and enhance culturally competent governmental strategies to reduce violent crimes against and increase the safety of Indian women;
- Increase tribal capacity to respond to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Strengthen tribal justice interventions, including tribal law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities;
- Enhance services to Indian women victimized by domestic/sexual violence;
- Develop a community response regarding the education and prevention;
- Protect the safety of victims and their children by providing supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange;
- Provide transitional housing, support services, and financial assistance to victims; and
- Provide legal assistance to victims seeking justice.

A nationally representative study found that AI/AN women were 1.2 times more likely to experience domestic violence than non-Hispanic white women.²⁶⁴



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Currently, and in the past, our tribe has not been willing to put funds toward this project. However, our governing body is beginning to admit the severity of this issue for our tribe (and local community) and the significant impact we have been able to make. With these funds we have been able to: 1) Open the first ESTOO Family Violence Prevention Office; 2) Hire a full-time advocate and a part-time institutional advocate/director; 3) Train the staff we have hired to be advocates on a cultural and local level and to think about social justice and social change; 4) Provide advocacy and long-term transitional housing assistance; and 5) Create an education and awareness campaign to spread the word about our services and support, while at the same time beginning to chip away at the idea that abuse toward women is something that is a product of their gender.

EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Chugach Women's Violence Intervention (CWVI) Project is committed to providing the women of the Chugach region with a plan for safety, recovery, and a life free from violence. Without the support of the Tribal Governments Program, there would be no funded staff to work towards these aims. Without Tribal Governments Program funding women's healing events cultivating community across the region would be few and far between. The chance for victims to make connections in other villages -- during the history of the CWVI Project -- has proven to promote healing and lessen feelings of isolation.

CHUGACHMIUT



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The service areas that the grant covers do not have any other programs specific to Native victims and most of our cases have Native involvement with either the victim, the offender, or the children being Native American. Our Tribal Governments Program encourages and supports Native victims, increases offender accountability (regardless of race), and teaches our Native children that violence is not our way of life, and that healthy relationships are safe, violence free, and deserved by everyone.

IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

VAWA 2013 added the following purpose areas to the program:

- Expand primary victimization to include sex trafficking;
- Address the needs of youth victims, including providing support to their non-abusing parent or caretaker; and
- Develop and promote legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic/sexual violence against Indian women.

These purpose areas were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address them. If an activity falling under one of the added purpose areas could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **252** individual grantees for the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015 progress reporting period.

- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
 - Enhanced services to Indian women victimized by domestic/sexual violence;
 - Increased tribal capacity to respond to crimes against Indian women; and
 - Worked in cooperation with the community to develop education and prevention strategies directed toward issues of domestic/sexual violence and addressed the needs of children exposed to domestic violence.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, supervised visitation, law enforcement, prosecution, probation, court services, and batterer intervention programs, among other services, to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **245** (97%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **406** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and administrators.

Table 1Staff supported with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2013–June 2015:
Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	406	
Victim advocates	165	41%
Administrators	51	13%
Program coordinators	46	11%
Support staff	21	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Training

Grantees train a wide range of professionals, from tribal elders and spiritual leaders to health professionals and victim advocates, among others, how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence.

This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.

- **147** (58%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **814** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **15,778** people.
- Most often these trainings reached tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**12%**), multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**11%**), and victim advocates (**11%**).

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide information and outreach to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. Outreach activities can include distributing information at community gatherings such as powwows, basket-weaving and beading circles, bake sales, and parades. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**ⁱ

- **204** (81%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **215,569** people.
- Grantees conducted a total of **5,209** outreach activities.

ⁱCommunity education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables an individual to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed the Tribe to hire a dedicated person (via contract and now staff), to address the issues of violence against its women and girls. Having someone with no other responsibility except to address this issue has given the women and girls in the tribal community a voice. They were able to tell their stories so that the community, administration, and leaders fully understood how they were being violated. That understanding encouraged the Tribal Council to form the Task Force with the sole task of recommending program services that will work. The Task Force listened to the voices of the women of the community and created a program that would always empower and give space and voice to women. The end result is the Wampanoag Women's Center: A Harbor for the Women of the First Light. This Women's Center is a safe space meant to empower and restore the women of the Wampanoag Tribe in a cultural way that is directed by them.

WAMPANOAG TRIBE OF GAY HEAD AQUINNAH



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

We are 100% confidential, but on occasion, a victim asks if they can speak at our community events. The victim stories are powerful and seem to help others to tie together how our services indeed help those in need. Many of our events were recorded by our communications department and a YouTube video was made that plays on TV sites around the Cherokee Nation and community.

CHEROKEE NATION



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This grant is allowing us to educate service providers about domestic/sexual violence intervention and prevention strategies, about Native traditions, history, customs, and beliefs. Trainings for Kodiak professionals on understanding the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault, the cycle of violence, the importance of its intervention and prevention, as well as the cultural competency of serving Native women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence and/or sexual assault, were developed specifically for those groups and utilized, thanks to this funding. The funding has allowed us to conduct outreach towards the Native Community. We have successful experience of educating our people about domestic violence and its roots. A promising dialogue has begun among our tribal members; we can foresee a future without violence and a return to Alutiiq traditional heritage.

SUNAK TRIBE OF KODIAK



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed us to facilitate consistent and ongoing groups with youth and women in our community. This has increased our ability to be proactive in educating our communities on domestic violence, to recognize warning signs, to provide resources and prevention methods for those affected. We have also been able to build better collaborative efforts within the community, discuss topics not previously acknowledged, and enhance services to victims of domestic violence. The cultural component is very important to maintain, as the teenagers are energized by having the drum and singing available, and that gives them a sense of belonging and connection, and broadens their willingness to participate and learn.

RED LAKE BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

We have provided direct services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children, including, but not limited to: civil legal advocacy, crisis intervention and counseling, safety and self-sufficiency planning, education and support, transportation, planning and referrals for employment, social services, healthcare, child care, parenting education, support systems, and networking. We believe we are making an impact not only on our tribal members but on the entire Kodiak community, in changing people's perceptions that domestic violence is not a family matter, it is a community matter, and that it's our responsibility to protect the well-being of victims and their children by sending the message that the abuser's behavior is not acceptable and we will not tolerate it.

SUNAK TRIBE OF KODIAK

Table 2 | People educated with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2013–June 2015:
Selected groups

Community members educated	2-year total	
Total community members educated	215,569	
Community members	111,524	52%
Students	46,036	21%
Parents/guardians	13,250	6%
Community groups	9,716	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims and their children, including safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **213** (85%) grantees used funds for victim services.

Grantees provide victims with a wide range of services, including victim advocacy, civil legal advocacy, and crisis intervention. Victims also need assistance with material goods and services, as well as health, education, financial, transportation, employment, and legal issues. In addition, grantees provide a variety of services to victims' children, including, but not limited to, child care, transportation, and counseling.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **6,768** victims during each 6-month period.
- **98%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.
- Grantees also provided a total of **43,778** services to an average of **3,336** children of victims during the 2-year reporting period.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **4,497** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **3,065** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **2,375** victims;
- Transportation services to **1,936** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **1,697** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy services to **1,055** victims; and
- Cultural advocacy services to **1,050** victims.

Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **36,053** times; and
- Grantees received a total of **84,712** hotline calls.

Across the 2-year period, grantees most frequently provided the following services:ⁱⁱ

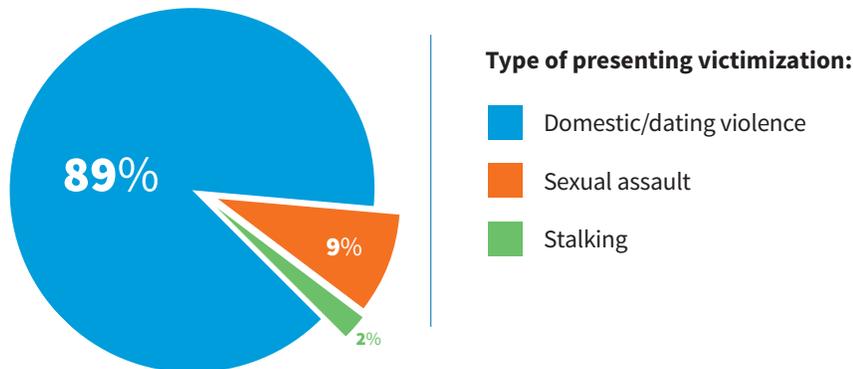
- Victim advocacy services **110,836** times;
- Support group/counseling services **39,430** times;
- Transportation services **28,846** times;
- Crisis intervention **24,337** times;
- Civil legal advocacy **16,582** times;
- Cultural advocacy **10,667** times; and
- Criminal justice advocacy **10,374** times.

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (89%).

Figure 1 | Provision of victim services by Tribal Governments Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization
Victims served by type of victimization (6-month average)



ⁱⁱ The Tribal Governments Program is unique in that grantees are asked to report the number of times each type of service is provided. This allows for the reporting of an unduplicated count of number of services, despite the duplicated count of number of victims served.

Table 3 | Victims seeking services with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2013–June 2015

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	6,919	
Victims served	6,325	91%
Victims partially served	444	6%
Victims not served	151	2%

NOTE: “Partially served” represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant. “Not served” represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant.

Victims’ Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (77%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by another **family or household member** (13%) or in the context of a **dating relationship** (7%).

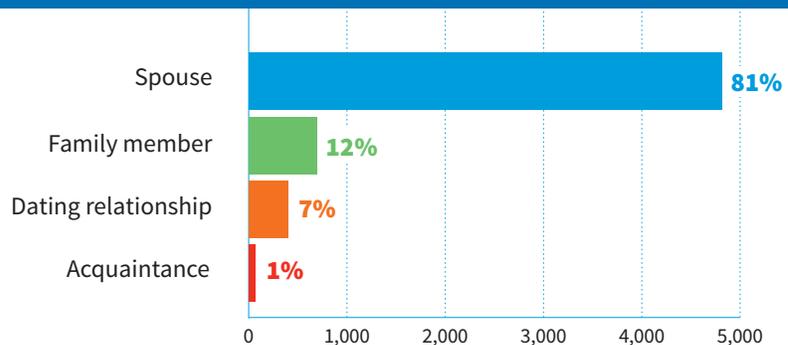
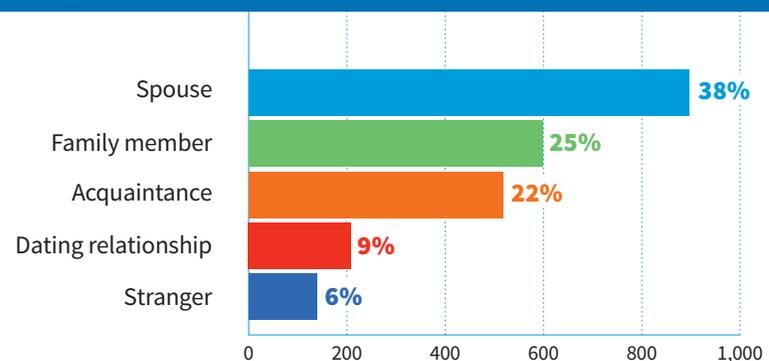
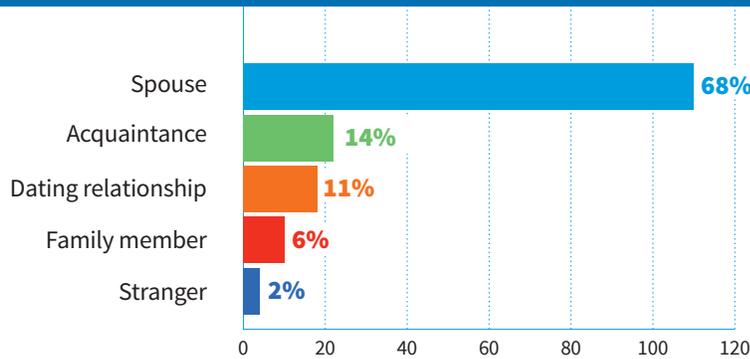
Figure 2 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence****Figure 3** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault**

Figure 4 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Program rules not acceptable to victim;
- Services were not appropriate for victims with substance abuse issues; or
- Program reached capacity.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **6,768** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **American Indian or Alaska Native** (86%), **female** (94%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (70%).

Figure 5 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

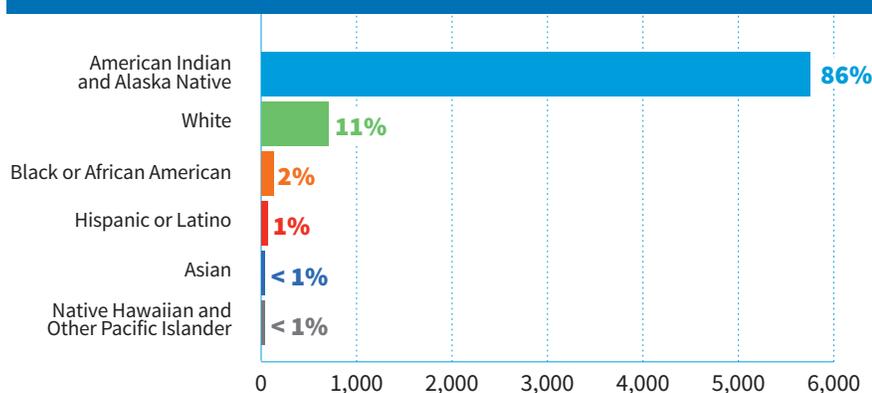
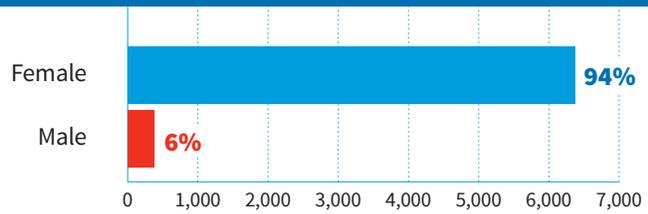
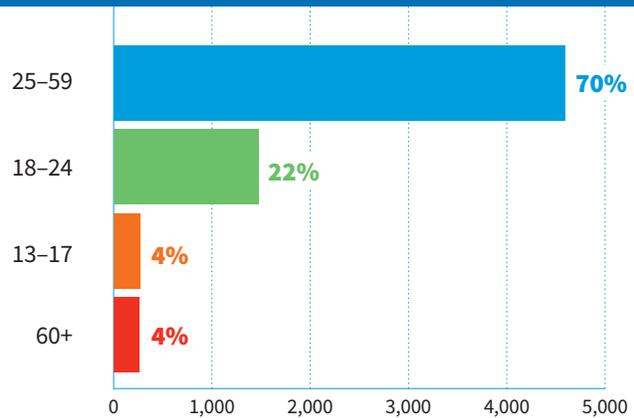
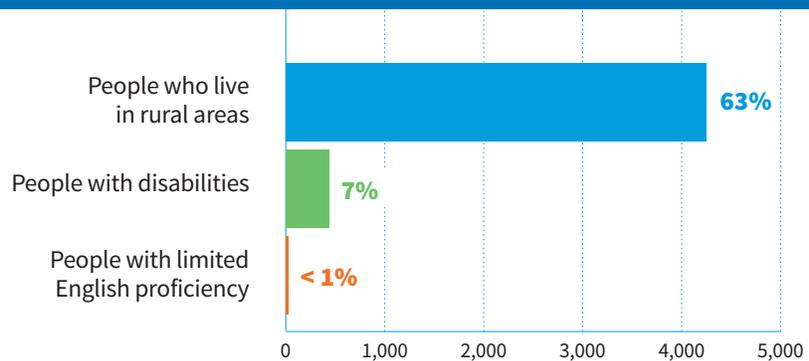


Figure 6 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)**Figure 7** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)**Figure 8** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)

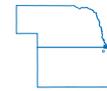
Shelter/Transitional Housing Assistance

Grantees provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.

- **153** (61%) grantees used funds for shelter/transitional housing services.

Table 4 | Victims sheltered with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2013–June 2015

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	962	1,137	163,264
Transitional housing	312	470	181,172
Total	1,273	1,607	344,436



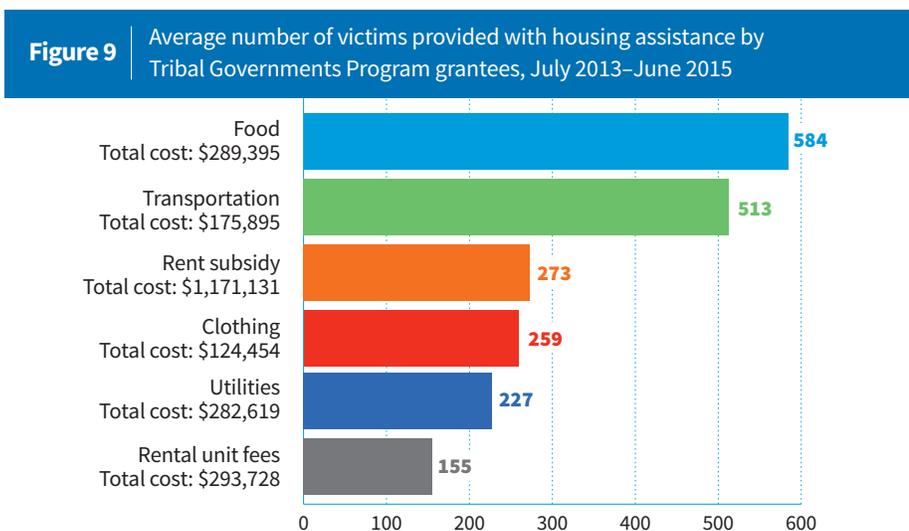
Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Prior to these funds, social services staff would serve clients through advocacy and support as much as possible, but had nothing but referrals to offer in times of crisis. Referrals to safe houses that were nearly always already full, and located over an hour away, were not appropriate to meet the needs of tribal families in this area when they were in a crisis situation. Those times of crisis are when clients are most motivated to seek assistance and that is a critical time to provide the education and support needed by the victim. Shelter is the most common urgent need for victims of domestic violence. Being able to assist with this need engages the client in the program services and builds rapport between the client and staff who were there to help them during their urgent time of need.

THE SAC AND FOX NATION OF MISSOURI

Housing Assistance

In addition to transitional housing, grantees assist victims with expenses for transportation, food, clothing, security deposits, rent, utilities, and relocation costs to enable them to maintain or procure housing.



Legal Services

Grant-funded lawyers, paralegals, and specially appointed advocates provide legal services to victims.

- **63** (25%) grantees used funds for legal services.
- Grantees addressed an average of **763** legal issues during each 6-month reporting period.
- Grantees provided legal services to an average of **492** victims every 6 months.
- Grantees provided multiple instances of legal services to an average of **200** victims every 6 months (41% of those receiving legal services).
- Grantees achieved a total of **3,233** case outcomes.
- Most grantees provided legal assistance with protection orders and custody/visitation arrangements.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

We are able to provide victims of domestic violence free civil legal services. Often victims do not have the funds available or access to the funds to retain representation for civil legal issues such as protection orders, divorce, custody, paternity establishment, child support establishment, or any other legal issues that arise out of the DV. This is especially true for Native American victims of DV. We are able to help ensure that victims have a legal advocate for their rights. When victims are not legally represented in legal matters, the DV is allowed to continue. The abuser still has an immense amount of power and control, including the financial resources to hire an attorney. By providing victims with free representation in civil legal matters, we are supporting them and allowing them to take back some of the power to control their lives and their futures and the futures of their children.

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA

Supervised Visitation

Grantees provide an array of supervised visitation and/or exchange services to families. These services include, but are not limited to, one-on-one supervised visits, group supervised visits, supervised exchanges, and telephone monitoring.

- **13** (5%) grantees used funds for supervised visitation and/or exchange services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **26** families during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of families who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

Across the 2-year period, grantees provided the following services:

- A total of **586** supervised exchanges to an average of **7** families; and
- A total of **526** one-to-one supervised visits to an average of **14** families.

Families Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and their children. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015:

- The majority of families served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (95%).

Figure 10 | Provision of family services by Tribal Governments Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Families served by type of victimization (6-month average)

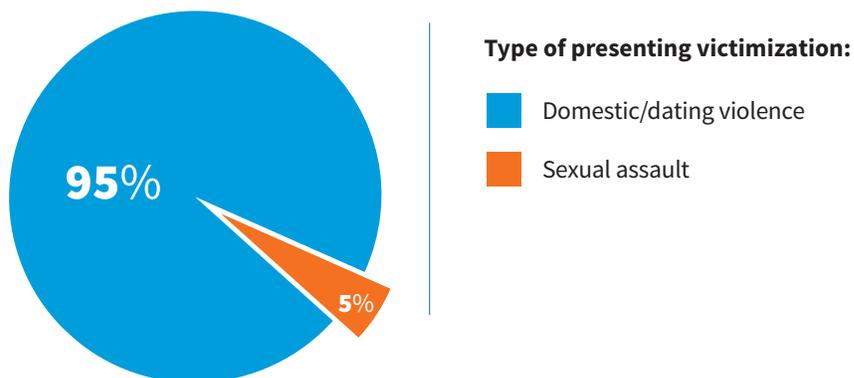


Table 5 Families seeking services with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2013–June 2015

Families seeking services	6-month average	
Total families seeking services	26	
Families served	24	92%
Families partially served	2	8%
Families not served	< 1	< 1%

NOTE: “Partially served” represents families who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant. “Not served” represents families who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant.

Demographics of Families Served and Partially Served

The majority of custodial parents were **American Indian or Alaska Native** (84%), **female** (89%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (80%), with children between the ages of **0 and 6** (44%). Non-custodial parents were most likely to be **American Indian or Alaska Native** (90%), **male** (73%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (77%).

Criminal Justice

In addition to the disproportionate impact of violence on Native women, men, and children, there are unique legal and geographical barriers to responding to these crimes. Factors including the race of the victims and perpetrator, the legal status of the land on which the incident occurred, and the type of crime committed determine under whose jurisdiction a particular crime falls. Some crimes fall under federal jurisdiction, others under the tribe’s, and the legal factors of some incidents are such that no agency has jurisdiction, meaning that victims can face escalated danger and their offenders will not be held accountable. VAWA 2013 included a provision that restores tribes’ inherent authority to exercise jurisdiction over some crimes of domestic violence and violations of protection orders involving non-Native offenders. In addition to jurisdictional issues, many tribal communities are remote and isolated and some tribes have limited resources for responding to domestic/sexual violence. For instance, law enforcement response time in some parts of Alaska can take hours or even days in bad weather.

The Tribal Governments Program supports the efforts of tribal governments to develop or enhance a coordinated community response that brings together law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, victim services, and public and private service providers. Some Tribal Governments grantees have used grant funds to support their effort to exercise jurisdiction under VAWA 2013, in accordance with all applicable laws.

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that nearly half of AI/AN women have been victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime.¹²

The 2015 American Community Survey found that 26.6% of AI/AN people live in poverty, making this population particularly vulnerable to domestic violence.⁴²¹

In rural areas, victims may be fearful of contacting law enforcement because of a lack of anonymity. For rural victims who do contact law enforcement, there may be additional barriers. There may be fewer law enforcement officers in rural communities, or existing officers may be responsible for large areas, leading to lengthier response times.³⁷³

Without proper training, an officer may not be able to identify the predominant aggressor, may unknowingly minimize a victim's trauma, may fail to collect all relevant evidence, and may mistakenly arrest the victim. Moreover, if an officer sides with an abuser, a victim may not report future assaults. Research shows that law enforcement were most likely to arrest perpetrators when they received training on and followed these best practices: in-person investigating, following up with victims after initial contact, conducting safety planning with victims, assessing the needs of children exposed to the violence, providing victims with 911 telephones, describing protection orders and court procedures, connecting victims with available shelter and services, explaining the effects of domestic violence on children, and helping victims feel safe.¹²⁵

Law Enforcement

Grantees use funds to support law enforcement response to domestic/sexual violence. Tribal law enforcement officers respond to emergency calls for assistance, interview key witnesses, and are often familiar with the people and circumstances involved in a given case, due to the small and isolated nature of some tribal communities. Every other agency, including the prosecution, depends on them to supply critical information about a case. For this reason, it is common for tribal law enforcement officers to provide continuing assistance throughout the length of a case. Tribal law enforcement is a vital component of the peacekeeping and accountability process for the tribal nations they serve.

- **22** (9%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **1,147** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.

A proactive response and victim-centered approach influences whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.

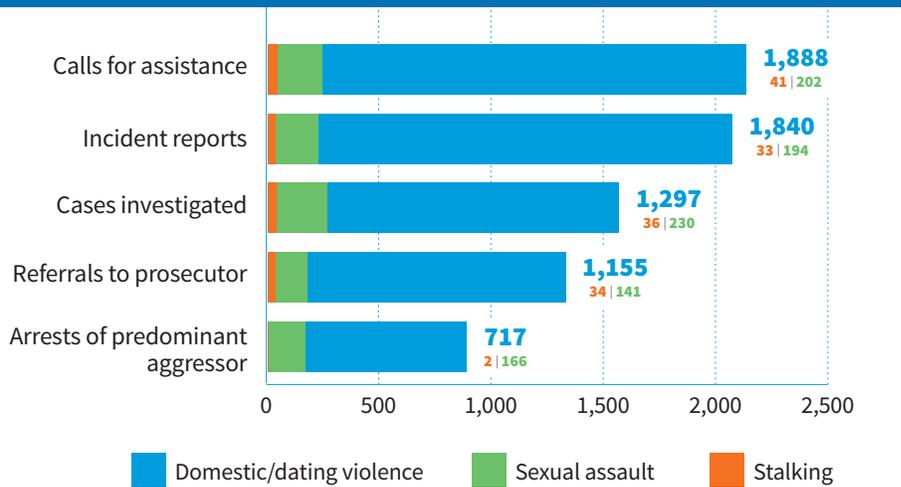


Tribal • Grantee Perspective

With the position of a Special Victims Criminal Investigator, which is funded by Tribal Government grant funds, our Tribal Police Department is now able to take a more proactive and community-integrated approach to many areas of domestic violence. At the core of the training being provided by the position, is for law enforcement management and investigative staff to insure the appropriate response, and that investigations are being conducted by front line staff. Coordinating with federal law enforcement and developing investigative strategy concepts has improved, due to education and communication of the investigator's roles and responsibilities. The ability for the police department to have a focused position has improved the efficiency of the whole agency and the casework is being completed with a higher level of expertise.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIANS

Figure 11 Law enforcement activities in Tribal Governments Program criminal cases, July 2013–June 2015



NOTE: Grantees report only on law enforcement activities that are funded under the Tribal Governments Program and they may receive funds for one or for a number of these activities. Therefore, no relationships can be inferred or comparisons made between activities reported here.

Prosecution

Tribal prosecutors play a significant role in securing safety and justice for Native victims of domestic/sexual violence. Approaches to prosecution vary by state and tribal nation. Tribal police and prosecutors need to be equipped with the tools, resources, and expertise to respond to domestic/sexual violence, make charging decisions, and issue sentences consistent with applicable statutes. **Grantees that use funds for prosecution activities may pursue prosecution by making referrals to appropriate external agencies and/or by prosecuting case referrals they received.**

- **12** (5%) grantees used funds for prosecution.
- Prosecutors received a total of **1,224** case referrals pertaining to domestic/sexual violence, and accepted a total of **1,113**ⁱⁱⁱ (91%) cases for prosecution across the 2-year period.
- Prosecution staff made a total of **872** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.

Table 6 Cases received and accepted by prosecutors funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2013–June 2015

Type of case	Case referrals received	Cases accepted for prosecution	Percent accepted
All cases	1,224	1,113	91%
Domestic/dating violence	1,110	1,011	91%
Sexual assault	91	81	89%
Stalking	23	21	91%

Table 7 Cases disposed of by prosecutors funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2013–June 2015

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
All cases	968	800	83%
Domestic/dating violence	668	558	84%
Sexual assault	67	57	85%
Stalking	12	9	75%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cases accepted, declined, or transferred in the current reporting period may have been received by prosecution in a previous reporting period.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The grant has allowed the Domestic Violence Paralegal to be the liaison between the attorneys and clients. For some of our clients, this will be their first time dealing with the court process and there is a fear of the unknown. The paralegal is not only able to inform them step-by-step of what they should expect at court, but is also able to take the burden off the client by keeping victims up to date with their case, set up appointments on their behalf to meet their attorney, and relay information between attorney and client, which allows the client to focus on healing.

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS

Courts

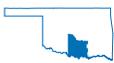
There is wide variety in the types of tribal court systems, and the laws are unique to each tribal nation. Some tribal courts are modeled similarly to Western-style courts, where written laws and rules of court are applied. Other tribes adhere to more traditional means of resolving disputes, including the use of peacemaking, elders' councils, sentencing circles, and banishment. Many tribes that are implementing new tribal courts, or enhancing established ones, are developing hybrid or blended systems that incorporate traditional dispute resolution procedures that are effective in their cultures and communities, while also ensuring that the “rule of law” and due process principles are applied.

- **4** (2%) grantees used funds for court activities.
- A total of **1,125** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.
- Court staff made a total of **16** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.

Table 8 | Disposition of court cases funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2013–June 2015

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
All cases	1,003	655	65%
Domestic/dating violence	686	471	69%
Sexual assault	33	15	45%
Stalking	13	5	38%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This grant has allowed the Chickasaw Nation Violence Prevention to implement a Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) for Chickasaw citizens and other Native individuals. A counselor was hired to provide intakes, assessments, and weekly group counseling to court identified abusers. The BIP works closely with tribal and state law enforcement, courts, and probation and parole. The program initially began in Pontotoc County and has now expanded to include Carter County as well. This service has allowed Violence Prevention to provide wrap-around services for Native families.

CHICKASAW NATION

Tribal Probation/Offender Monitoring

Offender monitoring occurs when the court schedules probation or court reviews to determine whether offenders are complying with the terms of their sentences. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- **11** (4%) grantees used funds for review activities.
- An average of **538** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.

- Across the 2-year period, these agencies reported the following contacts with individual offenders:
 - A total of **6,774** face-to-face contacts with an average of **306** offenders;
 - A total of **3,315** telephone contacts with an average of **211** offenders; and
 - A total of **231** unscheduled surveillance contacts with an average of **32** offenders.

Table 9 | Probation activities funded by the Tribal Governments Program, June 2013-July 2015

Activity	
Average number of offenders (6-month average)	538
Total number of offenders who completed probation	256
Offenders completing probation without violations	134
Offenders completing probation with violations	122

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently cited **housing**, including **emergency shelter, transitional housing, and long-term affordable housing**, as their biggest unmet need. While shelter services were sometimes available in nearby areas, grantees reported that victims were often reluctant to use these resources, preferring to remain within their own communities.

Even with housing, grantees reported that victims continued to struggle to achieve independence due to their **inability to access basic necessities**, such as:

- Employment;
- Child care;
- Job training;
- Food assistance;
- Utility assistance; and
- Transportation.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Adequate and affordable housing continues to be a major challenge in our small, rural geographical area. We have resources in surrounding cities and counties; however, many Native American victims prefer to stay within their community. We currently collaborate with a local shelter 20 miles south of our area. Even with this resource, our clients prefer to stay in one of two hotels that we currently collaborate with, or alternatively, they choose to stay in their current situation for fear of not knowing where they or their children would be placed.

KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

A victim also needs a car to complete daily tasks like grocery shopping, transporting children to school, etc. A victim who is gaining her/his independence cannot truly be independent when s/he is reliant upon others for transportation. Also, in order to find employment and to get to a job daily, a car is vital. Our program recognizes the lack of transportation in the rural areas where we are as a huge obstacle to gaining independence. Further funding for our transportation needs and those of our clients would be of great assistance.

LOS COYOTES BAND OF INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

A significant area that needs immediate attention is one that has become a mantra for Native American Domestic Violence Programs: jurisdictional issues affect services provided to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. For instance, neighboring counties treat us as if we are a foreign country and as if our laws are beneath theirs. This mindset has led to law enforcement picking and choosing which court records (more specifically, domestic violence protective orders and civil records) they will respect. It is unfortunate that it will take a serious injury for our neighbors to help us in our fight against domestic violence.

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Although domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes, still there remains an unacceptable level of community tolerance for these matters. Intergenerational attitudes among some families in the community perpetuate the notion that violence is a norm and not something that should be addressed within the family, socially, or criminally. A targeted campaign of public outreach that challenges tolerance for violence within families would raise awareness of the social and financial costs of violence. This, along with holding perpetrators criminally accountable, would result in victims feeling more comfortable in reporting domestic violence.

MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

To better serve victims we could also benefit from additional program staff. Having only four staff members when fully staffed is challenging and limits the number of services we can offer. Furthermore, our program is in need of more competitive wages for our staff, as the low wages for the support technician positions lead to high turnover. Turnover results in vacant positions, which cause the SART Lead and Counselor to work outside the realm of their normal duties, and which diverts their primary focus.

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE OF MICHIGAN

Many grantees reported the need for measures to **enhance offender accountability**, including:

- Specialized training for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement on the dynamics of domestic violence;
- Funding for dedicated domestic violence investigators and prosecutors;
- Longer sentencing for repeat offenders;
- Updating tribal codes regarding domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Developing Native Batterer Intervention Programs;
- Better enforcement of protection orders;
- Improved victim access to legal assistance; and
- Ability to access and enter information into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) databases.

Grantees reported that **jurisdictional issues between tribal governments, cities, states, and counties**, further complicated their ability to hold offenders accountable.

Despite significant strides toward combatting domestic violence, grantees reported a **severe underreporting of sexual assault** within their communities.

Grantees also cited the need for **community education to combat entrenched beliefs about domestic/sexual violence**.

Grantees reported a number of unique **challenges in providing victim services in Native communities**, including:

- A high rate of substance abuse among perpetrators and victims;
- Histories of trauma and mental illness;
- Isolation of victims, especially in rural areas; and
- Family dynamics that discourage reporting of domestic/sexual violence.

These challenges were exacerbated by **staff shortages and high turnover rates** in grantee organizations, especially in rural and geographically isolated communities.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Reporting of sexual assault continues to be an ongoing struggle. While there are many victims of sexual assault on the Port Gamble S'Klallam reservation, reporting continues to be low, and victims continue to be reluctant to speak out. Victims may feel reluctant to report because they do not see a purpose. Lack of evidence and delayed reporting has led to sexual assault cases going unprosecuted. Police training on how to recognize sexual assault may help encourage reporting, and prosecutor training may help build cases.

PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

We also face many issues specific to small, rural, and tribal communities. Small, inclusive populations make it harder to keep victims safe due to bullying by community and family members, rumors that blame victims, and close proximity to abuser.

IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA