

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

“Who will find peace with the lands? The future of humankind lies waiting for those who will come to understand their lives and take up their responsibilities to all living things. Who will listen to the trees, the animals and birds, the voices of the places of the land? As the long forgotten peoples of the respective continents rise and begin to reclaim their ancient heritage, they will discover the meaning of the lands of their ancestors. That is when the invaders of North American continent will finally discover that for this land, God is red”.

Vine Deloria Jr., God Is Red

Indigenous Peoples and their respective First Nations are not only place-based peoples relationally connected to their traditional homelands, but have their own distinctive cultures, traditions, and pre-colonial and colonial histories since European contact.¹

The World Bank 2020 Report states the global Indigenous population is 476 million people, or 6% of the world’s population, live in over 90 countries, and through the cultural practices of traditional ecological knowledge, protect about 80% of the world’s remaining biodiversity². Within the United States (U.S.), Native Americans/American Indians/Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians comprise about 2% of the entire United States population. There are, indeed, more than 6.9 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives³, and in 2019, there were 1.9 million Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders⁴. Within the U.S., there are 574 federally recognized Indian nations, 62 state-recognized Indian nations⁵, and hundreds of non-federally and non-state recognized Native American nations⁶. There are also over 40 million Mexican, Central and South American migrants that are either Indigenous or of Indigenous roots residing within the politically defined borders of the U.S. Of these, about three million still have active ties to their tribal linguistic and traditional knowledge.

Indigenous Peoples are experiencing protracted violence of ongoing land loss and displacement that began with the Doctrine of Discovery⁷, the central theological and settler-colonial legal instrument used to dispossess all Indigenous Peoples’ ownership of their traditional homelands, regardless of historical and current political status. Even Indian treaty nations only have the right to occupancy and not ownership of lands. Moreover, the U.S. government has never entirely honored any of the approximately 370 signed and ratified treaties with Indian nations; that includes an equal number of treaties signed and never ratified during the Treaty Era (1778-1871).

The settler-colonial legacy, commencing with the Doctrine of Discovery patterns of domination, is directly connected to the present genocidal forms and environmental conditions of state, economic, political, and cultural violence perpetrated against Indigenous Peoples and their respective First Nations. Indeed, the Doctrine of Discovery is one of the clearest expressions of

¹ <https://www.vox.com/first-person/2019/9/23/20872713/native-american-indian-treaties>

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/indigenouspeoples>

³ <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2019/aian-month.html>

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2020/aian.html>

⁵ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/state-tribal-institute/list-of-federal-and-state-recognized-tribes.aspx#State>

⁶ Duane Champagne. *Social Change and Cultural Continuity Among Native Nations*. Lanham: Altamira Press, 2007.

⁷ The Doctrine of Discovery is a principle of international law dating from the late 15th century. Its roots stem from the papal decree issued by Pope Nicholas V in 1452 that specifically sanctioned and promoted the conquest, colonization, and exploitation of non-Christian territories and peoples. Hundreds of years of decisions and laws continuing right up to our own time can ultimately be traced back to the Doctrine of Discovery—laws that invalidate or ignore the rights, sovereignty, and humanity of Indigenous peoples in the United States and around the world.

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

the "distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism" which the Poor Peoples Campaign has taken a core stand against.

Therefore, we recognize that for a just and moral transition to occur, unconditional full support of Indigenous Peoples' self-determination and sovereignty, revocation of the Doctrine of Discovery, total compliance with all signed, unsigned, and ratified treaties, and full acknowledgement and adherence to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are a necessary prerequisite for creating intergenerational and culturally sustainable futures for all.

*Note: The statistics provided convey rough estimations. Depending on the statistic and citation source, overlooked Indigenous peoples in the "Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet" include: non-federally recognized Native Americans, non-federally and non-state recognized Native Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, First Nations peoples from Canada with Treaty rights in the United States and/or who reside within the United States; and approximately over 40 million Mexican, Central and South American migrants that are either Indigenous or of Indigenous roots residing within the politically defined borders of the U.S.

Systemic Racism

Note: Utilizing the concept of 'system racism' and applying it towards Indigenous peoples relegates Native Peoples into a sub-ethnic, homogenized group within the United States. Indigenous Peoples are, indeed, citizens of their own nations, are citizens of a political class; and identity for Native Americans can be seen as both membership in a political entity as well as a race.⁸ Judicially, the United States courts have acknowledged the legal status of Native Americans as both a set of sovereign political entities and as a racial group with constitutionally guaranteed rights to equal protection.⁹

- In 1823, the U.S. Supreme Court case *Johnson v. McIntosh* codified the Doctrine of Discovery which legally justified U.S. federal ownership of Indigenous/Native lands in exchange for giving Native Americans "Civilization and Christianity".¹⁰
- Federally recognized tribes and nations are denied the right to purchase their traditional/treaty lands and place them under their jurisdiction of sovereignty.¹¹

⁸ Sarah Krakoff, *Inextricably Political: Race, Membership, and Tribal Sovereignty*, 87WAS. L. REV. 1041, 1043 (2012). See also Matthew L.M Fletcher, *Tribal Membership and Indian Nationhood*, 37 AM. INDIAN L. REV. 1, 9–13 (2013) (where the author states that, "It is impossible to avoid the fact that racial ancestry is critical to tribal membership criteria.").

⁹ See *Morton v. Mancari*, 417 U.S. 535, 553–54 (1974) (characterizing Congress's power to create an employment preference for Native Americans in the Bureau of Indian Affairs as grounded in federal legislative authority to govern on behalf of "quasi-sovereign" tribes according to the trust relationship). Case law subsequent to *Morton v. Mancari* has noted the inclusion of Native Americans as a racial minority in race-based classifications designed to remedy past discrimination. See also *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, 515 U.S. 200, 205 (1995) (observing that "Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, and other minorities" were presumed disadvantaged by racial bias in a law challenged under the Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause); *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. 469, 478 (1989) (examining a law that defined minority groups as "Blacks, Spanish-speaking, Orientals, Indians, Eskimos, or Aleuts."). See also Stuart Minor Benjamin, *Equal Protection and the Special Relationship: The Case of Native Hawaiians*, 106 YALE L.J. 537, 566–68 (1996) (discussing Supreme Court jurisprudence) that has reviewed Native Americans' rights as members of sovereign tribes and as a distinct racial minority).

¹⁰ "Doctrine of Discovery," Upstander Project, accessed May 22, 2019, <https://doctrineofdiscovery.org/>.

¹¹ *City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York*, 544 U.S. 197 (2005).

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

- Between 1985 and 2015, Native American tribes and nations won approximately 23% of all federal Indian law cases adjudicated by the United States U.S. Supreme Court.¹²
- In 2009, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) issued a joint statement stipulating Indigenous peoples and their respective First Nations should avoid America's judicial system because justice is untenable, illusory, and a potentially risky endeavor in terms of additional losses in Native American individual and collective rights, freedoms, and sovereignty.
- Ratification of the 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution in 1870 did not confer Native Americans the right to vote due to their lack of U.S. citizenship.
- All Native Americans were unilaterally "given" U.S. Citizenship when the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.
- All Native Americans were not accorded the right to vote until the U.S. Congress passed the 1975 Amendment to the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965.
- In 2020, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) identified ten major obstacles causing forms of Native American voter suppression and twelve major reasons for contemporary impediments to political participation.¹³
- In 2016, at least 17 states had brought litigation involving Native American/Alaska Native voter suppression¹⁴, including racist redistricting efforts.¹⁵ In some instances, Native American voters have traveled an average of two hours to submit a voter ballot, without access to reliable public transportation.¹⁶
- Percent of Native Americans and Alaska Natives, in 2018, under age 65 without health insurance coverage: 28.6%¹⁷
- Despite passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, the United States government increased its trust responsibility spending from .16 cents to .23 cents for every treaty dollar the United States government is obligated to spend.¹⁸
- Until 1976, forced sterilization of Native women was practiced by the Indian Health Service. In fact, anywhere from 25 to 50 percent of the Indigenous women of reproductive age in the U.S. were sterilized between 1970 and 1976.¹⁹ This state sanctioned practice established a legacy of violence against women, led to future smaller Native American family sizes and fostered a process of extermination and genocide.

¹² Skibine, Alexander Tallchief. "The Supreme Court's Last 30 Years of Federal Indian Law Looking for Equilibrium or Supremacy". *Columbia Journal of Race and Law*, vol. 8, no. 2. 2017, pp. 277-340.

¹³ https://vote.narf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/obstacles_at_every_turn.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/03/native-american-voting-rights-lawsuits/>

¹⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/04/us/native-american-voting-rights.html>

¹⁶ <http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2773138-Navajo-Nation-v-San-Juan-County-Complaint-ACLU.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/american-indian-health.htm>

¹⁸ <https://www.indianz.com/News/2020/06/11/covid19-exposes-inadequate-funding-level.asp>

¹⁹ Lawrence, Jane. "The Indian Health Service and the Sterilization of Native American Women". *The American Indian Quarterly*, vol. 24, no. 3 (Summer, 2000), pp. 400-419.

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

Poverty and Inequality

- The percentage of American Indian and Alaska Natives living in poverty in 2017 was estimated to be 26.8%. This compares to 4.6% for the nation as a whole.²⁰
- Indigenous peoples also have the highest unemployment rate of any ethnic group: 12 per cent in 2016, compared to the national average of 5.8 per cent.²¹
- One in four indigenous young people age 16 to 24 are neither enrolled in school nor working.²²
- Poverty, unemployment, social exclusion and loss of cultural identity also have significant mental health ramifications and often lead to a higher prevalence of substance abuse, domestic violence and alarmingly high suicide rates in indigenous communities, particularly among young people. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives aged between 10 and 34.²³
- There are 2.14 million poor and low-income Native American/Indigenous people in the U.S. This accounts for over 59% of the Native American/Indigenous population in the country.²⁴
- In 2016, one out of every five native women and more than one third of native children fell below the poverty line.²⁵
- More than 40% of Trans or Two Spirit Native people fell below the poverty line in 2015.
- Pacific Islanders and Native Americans are most likely to be homeless in America when compared to all other racial/ethnic groups. Within the former, 160 people experience homelessness out of every 10,000 compared to the national average of 17 out of every 10,000.²⁶
- In tribal areas, homelessness translates into overcrowding rather than people sleeping on the street. In 2013–2015, between 42,000 and 85,000 people in tribal areas were staying with friends or relatives because they could not afford a place of their own.²⁷
- As of FY 2020, there are approximately 276 tribes receiving benefits under Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). The FDPIR provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations, and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations and in Oklahoma.²⁸
- Among the general U.S. population in 2020, about 11 to 14 percent of Americans are food insecure. For Native American people around the country, the rate is three to four times higher.²⁹

²⁰ U.S. Census Bureau; (2017). Table B17001C and B17001: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

²¹ <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/38/33/ADD.1>

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ <https://kairoscenter.org/explaining-the-140-million/>

²⁵ <https://www.epi.org/publication/one-third-of-native-american-and-african-american-children-are-still-in-poverty/>

²⁶ <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-2020/>

²⁷ <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/HNAIHousingNeeds.pdf>

²⁸ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/fdpir-program-fact-sheet-2020-for%20website.pdf>

²⁹ <https://www.popsoci.com/story/health/native-american-nations-coronavirus-food-security/>

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

- In 2014, the Obama administration declared Native American youth and their education in a “state of emergency.”³⁰
- In 2014, more than one third of schools supported by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) were in serious disrepair. A 2017 report from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities found that funding for BIE Schools has fallen 67% from 2001.³¹
- Only 14% of American Indian and Alaska Natives age 25 and older have a bachelor’s degree today, compared to 30.3% of the overall U.S. population, according to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau.³²
- In 2018, Native American students scored lower than nearly all other demographic groups on national tests and just 72 percent of Native students graduated, the lowest of any demographic group.³³
- A 2019 report by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota’s Center for American Indian Development found only 55 percent of the households on reservations in the U.S. Southwest, Northern Plains, and Intermountain West have broadband access, well below the national average of 78 percent.³⁴
- In 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimated that 35% of Native Americans living on tribal lands lack broadband service — more than four times the United States average.³⁵

Ecological Devastation and Health

- Disparities between indigenous and non-indigenous health status have long been recognized but not effectively addressed. American Indians and Alaska Natives face almost a 50 percent higher death rate than do non-Hispanic White people, due to illnesses such as heart disease, cancer, chronic liver disease and diabetes.³⁶
- Native Americans have a life expectancy that is 5 ½ years lower than the United States average.³⁷
- In the United States (2014), American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) had the lowest life expectancy of any racial/ethnic group.³⁸
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported that between 2005 and 2014, every racial group experienced a decline in infant mortality, except for Native Americans.³⁹

³⁰ https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/docs/20141129nativeyouthreport_final.pdf

³¹ “Maintenance of Federally Funded Tribal Schools,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, May 19, 2017, https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/5-19-17bud_tribalschools.pdf.

³² American Indian College Fund. *Creating Visibility and Healthy Learning Environments for Natives in Higher Education Report* (2019). https://collegefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Creating-Visibility-and-Healthy-Learning-Environments-for-Natives-in-Higher-Education_web.pdf

³³ https://www.propublica.org/article/education-discrimination-montana-reservation-schools-favor-whites-over-native-americans?utm_source=pardot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=majorinvestigations

³⁴ <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/virus-widens-gap-between-internet-haves-have-nots-edAUSKUn8U-eGLVng05BAA>

³⁵ <https://www.hcn.org/articles/indigenous-affairs-technology-an-opportunity-to-close-indian-countrys-digital-divide-is-expiring>

³⁶ <https://www.hcn.org/articles/indigenous-affairs-technology-an-opportunity-to-close-indian-countrys-digital-divide-is-expiring>

³⁷ <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/12-20-Broken-Promises.pdf>

³⁸ Period life tables for the non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native population, 2007-2009.

Arias E, Xu J, Jim MA. *Am J Public Health*. 2014 Jun; 104 Suppl 3():S312-9.

³⁹ T.J. Mathews and Anne K. Driscoll, “Trends in Infant Mortality in the United States, 2005–2014,” National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics, March 2017, at 1, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db279.pdf>.

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

- Native Americans experience infant mortality rates 1.6 times higher than non-Hispanic whites and 1.3 times the national average.⁴⁰
- The suicide rate among AI/AN has been increasing since 2003 and in 2015, AI/AN suicide rates in the 18 states participating in the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) were 21.5 per 100,000, more than 3.5 times higher than those among racial/ethnic groups with the lowest rates.⁴¹
- The suicide death rate for Native male youth is two-and-a-half times greater than that of their non-Native peers. In comparison to other groups where suicide rates increase with age, the Native American suicide rate is highest among the young and decreases with age.⁴²
- Native Americans as a group suffer from the highest rate of diagnosed diabetes in the nation.⁴³
- Approximately 16% of the Native American population has been diagnosed with diabetes—a rate roughly double that of the national average.⁴⁴
- Native Americans face the highest rates of diabetes and asthma in the country and are nearly twice as likely to die from influenza and pneumonia during the regular flu season.⁴⁵
- American Indians (AI)/Alaska Natives (AN) experience higher rates of gender-based violence than almost any other racial group in the country. Six out of ten (56.1%) AI/AN women have experienced sexual violence.⁴⁶
- 84% of AI/AN women have experienced physical violence; 66% of AI/AN women have experienced psychological violence. Furthermore, homicide is the third leading cause of death among AI/AN women and girls ages 10 through 24.⁴⁷
- Approximately 13% of Native American homes lack safe water or adequate wastewater disposal facilities, as compared with under one percent of homes nationwide.⁴⁸
- A 2016 study shows that, Native Americans and Alaskan Natives are nearly 6 times more likely than the general U.S. population to lack access to complete household plumbing.⁴⁹ Of the 20 counties with the highest percentage of households lacking this access, all were rural and 13 had a majority Native American or Alaskan Native population.⁵⁰

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6708a1.htm>

⁴² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, *Fact Sheet: Behavioral Health* (Jan. 2015),

⁴³ <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pdfs/data/statistics/national-diabetes-statistics-report.pdf>

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/7kzmm/heres-what-trump-can-do-in-a-coronavirus-national-emergency

⁴⁶ Stumblingbear-Riddle, Glenna P. Ph.D.; Burlew, Ann K. Ph.D.; Gaztambide, Daniel Psy.D.; Madore, Michelle R. Ph.D.; Neville, Helen Ph.D.; and Joseph, Gillian (2019) "Standing with our American Indian and Alaska Native Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People: Exploring the Impact of and Resources for Survivors of Human Trafficking," *Journal of Indigenous Research*: Vol. 7 : Iss. 1 , Article 1. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/kicjir/vol7/iss1/1>

⁴⁷ Stumblingbear-Riddle, Glenna P. Ph.D.; Burlew, Ann K. Ph.D.; Gaztambide, Daniel Psy.D.; Madore, Michelle R. Ph.D.; Neville, Helen Ph.D.; and Joseph, Gillian (2019) "Standing with our American Indian and Alaska Native Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People: Exploring the Impact of and Resources for Survivors of Human Trafficking," *Journal of Indigenous Research*: Vol. 7 : Iss. 1 , Article 1. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/kicjir/vol7/iss1/1>

⁴⁸ HHS, *IHS FY 2016 Congressional Justification*, *supra* note 356, at CJ-156. See also Indian Health Service, *Fact Sheet: Safe Water and Waste Disposal Facilities* (September 2016).

⁴⁹ https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/1F3C7B5E413CBD73BE480E66FABDD7C/S1742058X16000242a.pdf/basics_inequality.pdf

⁵⁰ Ibid.

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

- Native Americans die at higher rates than other Americans from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, diabetes mellitus, unintentional injuries, assault/homicide, intentional self-harm/suicide, and chronic lower respiratory diseases.
- The United States only spends 1/3 as much per capita on the Indian Health Service as other health care nationwide.⁵¹
- According to Native American Nations, Indian Health Services (IHS) needs \$36.8 billion to be fully funded. For 2020, the United States Congress appropriated \$6.04 billion to IHS.⁵²
- Native Americans and Indigenous communities have been receiving inadequate resources during the COVID-19 crisis⁵³, leading to extraordinarily high rates of infection among some First Nations.⁵⁴
- In 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) sixth national assessment of public water system infrastructure needs a total 20-year capital improvement budget of \$472.6 billion. The total includes \$3.8 billion for Indigenous and Native American water systems.⁵⁵ In fact, some Native American citizens within their nations drive a significant distance from their homes to access potable water due to a lack of running water at home. For instance, in 2013, approximately 35 to 40% of all Dine' citizens drive an average of fourteen miles to access potable water.⁵⁶
- Nationally, approximately 14.2% of American Indian households do not have electricity, compared to only 1.4% of total households in the United States.⁵⁷
- In 2020, globally, extractive industries located nearby indigenous communities often take advantage of and discriminate against indigenous peoples, with women being doubly discriminated against because of both their ethnicity and gender.⁵⁸
- Out of 1,322 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund sites in 2014, nearly 25 percent of them are in "Indian Country".⁵⁹
- More than a century of hard rock mining has resulted in a legacy of more than 160,000 abandoned mines, polluted and contaminated water and soils, in the Western USA that are disproportionately Native American lands and where an estimated more than 600,000 Native Americans live within 10 km of an abandoned mine. In fact, the 520 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation represent approximately 12% of the more than 4000

⁵¹ David Montgomery, "What Do Native Americans Want From a President?," Washington Post Magazine, May 13, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/magazine/wp/2019/05/13/feature/what-do-native-americans-want-from-a-president/?utm_term=.1bbc8382a97f

⁵² https://www.nihb.org/docs/04122018/265620_NIHB%20IHS%20Budget%20Book_WEB.pdf

⁵³ <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/tribal-nations-highly-vulnerable-to-covid-19-need-more-federal-relief>

⁵⁴ https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/coronavirus-navajo-nation-crisis/2020/05/11/b2a35c4e-91fe-11ea-a0bc-4e9ad4866d21_story.html

⁵⁵ https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-10/documents/corrected_sixth_drinking_water_infrastructure_needs_survey_and_assessment.pdf

⁵⁶ Cozzetto, K., Chief, K., Dittmer, K. *et al.* Climate change impacts on the water resources of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the U.S.. *Climatic Change* **120**, 569–584 (2013). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-013-0852-y>.

⁵⁷ White Hawk, Racheal M. 2016. "Community-Scale Solar: Watt's in It for Indian Country?" *Environ Environmental Law and Policy Journal* **40** 1-37.

⁵⁸ *Gender-based Violence and Environment Linkages: The Violence of Inequality Report* (2020).

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-002-En.pdf>

⁵⁹ <https://intercontinentalcry.org/kill-land-kill-people-532-superfund-sites-indian-country-24366/>

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

abandoned uranium mines in the Western USA, and an even smaller fraction of the more than 161,000 abandoned hard rock mines in the Western USA.⁶⁰

- Education, information, and community approaches, including those that are informed by indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and local knowledge, can accelerate the wide-scale behavior changes consistent with adapting to and limiting global warming to 1.5°C.⁶¹
- Populations at disproportionately higher risk of adverse consequences with global warming of 1.5°C and beyond include disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, some indigenous peoples, and local communities dependent on agricultural or coastal livelihoods (high confidence).⁶²
- Environmental land defenders globally face high rates of criminalization (20% of cases), physical violence (18%), and assassinations (13%), which significantly increase when Indigenous people are involved.⁶³

Militarism and the War Economy

- American Indian/Alaska Native women and girls also experience disproportionately high rates of enslavement in the commercial sex industry.⁶⁴
- In a 2015 study conducted at four sites in the U.S. and Canada, “an average of 40% of women involved in sex trafficking identified as an AI/AN or First Nations,” yet Native women represent 10 percent or less of the general population in the studied communities.⁶⁵
- Congressional findings are that Native American and Alaska Native women are raped 34.1%, more than 1 in 3, will be raped in their lifetime; 64%, more than 6 in 10, will be physically assaulted.⁶⁶
- Native women are stalked more than twice the rate of other women. Native women are murdered at more than ten times the national average.⁶⁷ Non-Indians commit 88% of violent crimes against Native women.⁶⁸
- The National Crime Information Center reports that, in 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, though the US Department of Justice’s federal missing persons database, NamUs, only logged 116 cases.⁶⁹

⁶⁰ Lewis J, Hoover J, MacKenzie D. “Mining and Environmental Health Disparities in Native American Communities,” *Curr Environ Health Rep.* 2017;4(2):130-141. doi:10.1007/s40572-017-0140-5

⁶¹ https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Arnim Scheidel; Daniela Del Bene; Juan Liu; Grettel Navas; Sara Mingorría; Federico Demaria; Sofia Avila; Brototi Roy; Irmak Ertör; Leah Temper; Joan Martínez-Alier (2020). “Environmental conflicts and defenders: A global overview,” *Global Environmental Change*: Vol: 63, Page: 102104. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378020301424?via%3Dihub>

⁶⁴ Stumblingbear-Riddle, Glenna P. Ph.D.; Burlew, Ann K. Ph.D.; Gaztambide, Daniel Psy.D.; Madore, Michelle R. Ph.D.; Neville, Helen Ph.D.; and Joseph, Gillian (2019) "Standing with our American Indian and Alaska Native Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People: Exploring the Impact of and Resources for Survivors of Human Trafficking," *Journal of Indigenous Research*: Vol. 7 : Issue 1, Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/kicjr/vol7/iss1/1>

⁶⁵ <http://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/research-data/prc-publications/TraffickingBrief.pdf>

⁶⁶ <https://humantraffickingsearch.org/traffickingofnativeamericans/>

⁶⁷ https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xvckuh226/files/media/document/dvic_facilitator_guide.pdf

⁶⁸ <https://humantraffickingsearch.org/traffickingofnativeamericans/>

⁶⁹ <https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf>

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

- American Indians (AI)/Alaska Natives (AN) experience higher rates of gender-based violence than almost any other racial group in the country. Six out of ten (56.1%) AI/AN women have experienced sexual violence.⁷⁰
- In 2016, American Indian and Alaska Native men also have high victimization rates. More than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native men (81.6 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime.⁷¹
- According to U.S. Department of Justice crime statistics, Native Americans are the victims of violent crime at a rate of two times the national average.⁷²
- Native American youth experience a violent crime rate of up to ten times the national average.⁷³
- Due in part to the violent crime rates, the average life expectancy for Native American men on some Indian reservations is less than 50 years.⁷⁴
- The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) reports that Native American youth are arrested at a rate two-to-three times that of other groups, and evidence suggests that Native American defendants in federal and state courts may receive harsher sentences than other groups.⁷⁵
- From 1999 to 2016, Native Americans are being killed in police encounters at a higher rate than any other racial or ethnic group.⁷⁶
- Native American women are currently incarcerated at six times the rate of white women.⁷⁷
- In 2016, 19,790 Native men and 2,954 Native women (22,744 total) were incarcerated in U.S. state and federal prisons, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) series – this information does not include local jails.⁷⁸
- Native youth are approximately three times more likely to be confined than white youth (83 per 100,000).⁷⁹

⁷⁰ Stumblingbear-Riddle, Glenna P. Ph.D.; Burlew, Ann K. Ph.D.; Gaztambide, Daniel Psy.D.; Madore, Michelle R. Ph.D.; Neville, Helen Ph.D.; and Joseph, Gillian (2019) "Standing with our American Indian and Alaska Native Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People: Exploring the Impact of and Resources for Survivors of Human Trafficking," *Journal of Indigenous Research*: Vol. 7 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/kicjir/vol7/iss1/1>

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization, 2012* (Oct. 2013), 7, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv12.pdf>.

⁷³ <https://www.aisc.ucla.edu/iloc/report/files/Roadmap%20For%20Making%20Native%20America%20Safer%20-%20Washington%20DC%20May%202015.pdf>

⁷⁴ ILOC, *A Roadmap For Making Native America Safer*, 2015, *supra* note 107, at 39. <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/12-20-Broken-Promises.pdf>.

⁷⁵ http://www.ncai.org/policy-issues/tribal-governance/budget-and-appropriations/FY2016_NCAI_Budget_Booklet.pdf

⁷⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Health Statistics, "Underlying Cause of Death 1999–2016," CDC WONDER Online Database, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> (using data from the "Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999–2016," compiled from the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program); *see also* Stephanie Woodard, *The Police Killings No One Is Talking About*, IN THESE TIMES (Oct. 17, 2016), http://inthesetimes.com/features/native_american_police_killings_native_lives_matter.html; Olugbenga Ajilore, Urban Institute, Urban Wire: Crime and Justice, *Native Americans deserve more attention in the police violence conversation* (Dec. 4, 2017), <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/native-americans-deserve-more-attention-policeviolence-conversation> [hereinafter Ajilore, *Native Americans deserve more attention in the police violence conversation*]; Elise Hansen, *The forgotten minority in police shootings*, CNN (Nov. 13, 2017), <https://www.cnn.com/2017/11/10/us/native-lives-matter/index.html> [hereinafter Hansen, *The forgotten minority in police shootings*]. <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/12-20-Broken-Promises.pdf>.

⁷⁷ <https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/lakota-peoples-law/uploads/Native-Lives-Matter-PDF.pdf>

⁷⁸ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/04/22/native/>

⁷⁹ Ibid.

Indigenous Peoples/First Nations Fact Sheet

For the Poor Peoples Campaign

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