

MMIW

Gwendolyn Packard, Senior Housing Specialist
STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Center
NIWRC





Mission and Vision

MISSION:

The Tribal Safe Housing Center, advocates for safe housing for all our relatives. We do this work through centering Indigeneity, acknowledging our relationship to Earth Mother, building on each other's gifts, resisting oppression and erasure, and acting upon the prayers of our ancestors to honor diversity and create belonging for us all.

VISION:

Safe Housing For All Our Relatives



Preventative Work is Work that Centers

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Disability Community

Climate
Change

Public Health

Two-Spirit
and LGBTQAI

Elders

Mental
Health/Substance
Misuse

Youth

Incarcerated/Formerly
Incarcerated



Especially centering those
aging out of foster care

What is MMIW?

- A serious and urgent issue
- A manifestation of settler colonialism
- A heart issue— what are our shared values?
- A movement led by Native women/A call to action

We have to think about MMIW in terms of scope, in terms of where, in terms of who.

We also have to think of it in terms of **prevention**, intervention, and response.



What is the scope of the problem?

- Anecdotally
- Statistically
 - The National Crime Information Center reports that as of 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls (UIHI 2018)
 - Underreported

What are the Public Health Implications?

SART/SANE access

Forensics

Gun Violence Prevention

Housing

Substance Misuse

Psychological issues/historical trauma

Access to Justice

Interactions with Law Enforcement/Law Enforcement Response

Gender-based violence generally (domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence)

Access to Resources

Ongoing Barriers to Safety

- Jurisdiction
- Invisibility
- Lack of Resources for Direct Services
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Prolific Access to Justice Issues
- Objectification/Dehumanization
- Extreme Poverty
- Inadequate (non-local/underfunded)
Law Enforcement Responses
- Unavailability of Housing/ Homelessness



Umbrella Lens: Gender-Based Violence

Root Causes

Colonization

Genocide

Cultural Genocide

Complete Disruption of Traditional Values

Degradation of Tribal Sovereignty

Loss of Land

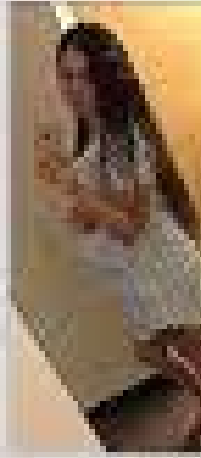
White Supremacy

A Note About Data

- The way that we have had to collect data from the feds is through FOIA requests.
- But the National Crime Information Center is where that data is primarily housed.
 - A lot of tribes do not have access to NCIC
 - NCIC databases (homicide and missing) do not usually enter in demographic information that is identifying for Native people.

MISSING

SAVANNA LAFONTAINE-GREYWIND



8 MONTHS PREGNANT

Age: 22

Height: 5'4"

Hair: Black

Weight: UNKNOWN

Eyes: Green



141704

Savanna Lafontaine-Greywind was last seen at her apartment in the 2000 block of 9th St. N. in North Fargo, ND on Saturday, August 19, 2017 between 1:30 and 2:00pm. She went to neighbor's apartment to model a dress and never returned. She was having a texting conversation with her boyfriend and stopped responding. Savanna is 8 months pregnant. She is without her car and wallet.

OurMissingHearts@Gmail.co

Fargo Police Department (701) 235-4495

Intervention

- Law Enforcement Response
 - Anecdotally, we know that police do not take missing persons reports of Native women seriously.
 - Why?



Response

- Jurisdiction
- Resources
- Prosecution
 - Department of Justice → Declination reports
 - Public Law 280
 - Tribal Law and Order Act
 - VAWA Limitations
- No Access to VOCA Funds → Family issue/community issue

VAWA

- Enacted in 1994 (reauthorized in 2000, 2005 and 2013 and 2022).
 - In 2005- Adds Safety for Indian Women Title and includes findings that recognize tribal sovereignty.
 - In 2013- partial Oliphant fix
 - Implementing tribes can now prosecute non-natives for the following offenses if committed on tribal land
 - Dating Violence
 - Domestic Violence
 - Violations of a protection order
 - Tribes must implement protections for defendants
 - Does not address
 - Sexual violence
 - Child abuse
 - Crimes committed while interacting with the system (ie: assaulting the arresting officer)
 - 2022- expanded Oliphant Fix and additional housing provisions

Prevention –
NOT
EXHAUSTIVE

Firearms

Services

Housing

Firearms

- Black and American Indian and Alaska Native women experienced the highest rates of homicide (4.4 and 4.3 per 100,000 population, respectively) (Petrosky et al., 2017).
- This data is likely under-representative of American Indian and Alaska Native victims due to issues surrounding reporting.
- The CDC report further concluded that there was a strong link between homicide and intimate partner violence, **finding that 55.4% of the cases involving American Indians and Alaska Natives were at the hands of an intimate partner and 38% of those killed by an intimate partner were killed via firearm.**

Access to Services

Major resource gap in Indian Country

Geographic constraints

Law enforcement constraints

Prejudice/Racism

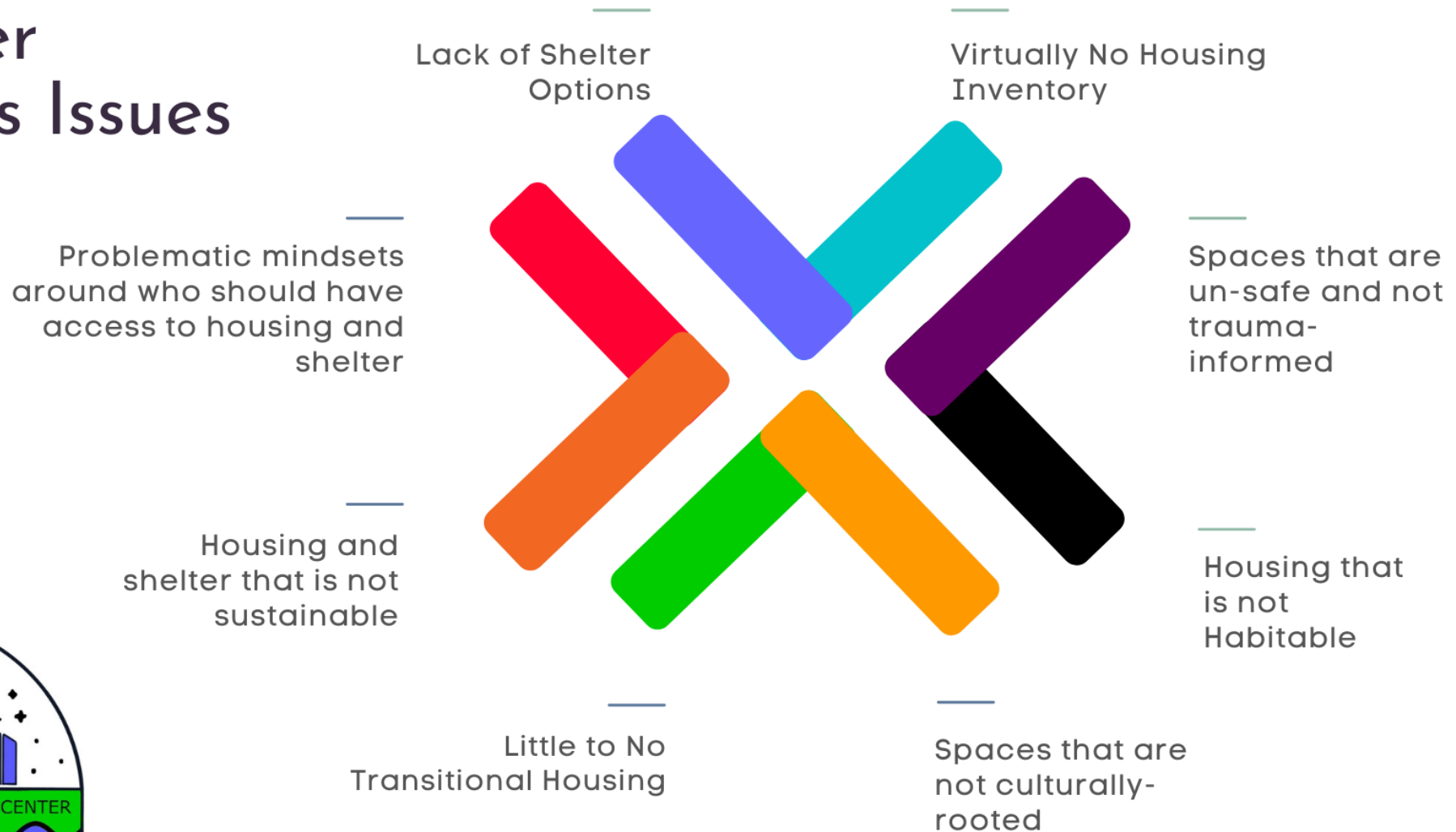
Sane/Sart

911 issues

Lack of peer to peer or culturally rooted services

Housing and Shelter Access Issues

Housing and Shelter Access Issues



SHTARS

Domestic Violence Shelters

Nationally there are over 1500 domestic violence shelters in the United States

Nationally there are fewer than 50 tribal domestic violence shelters

There are 574 Federally Recognized Tribes

260 Tribal Domestic Violence Programs are funded by FVPSA in FY15

HOMELESSNESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

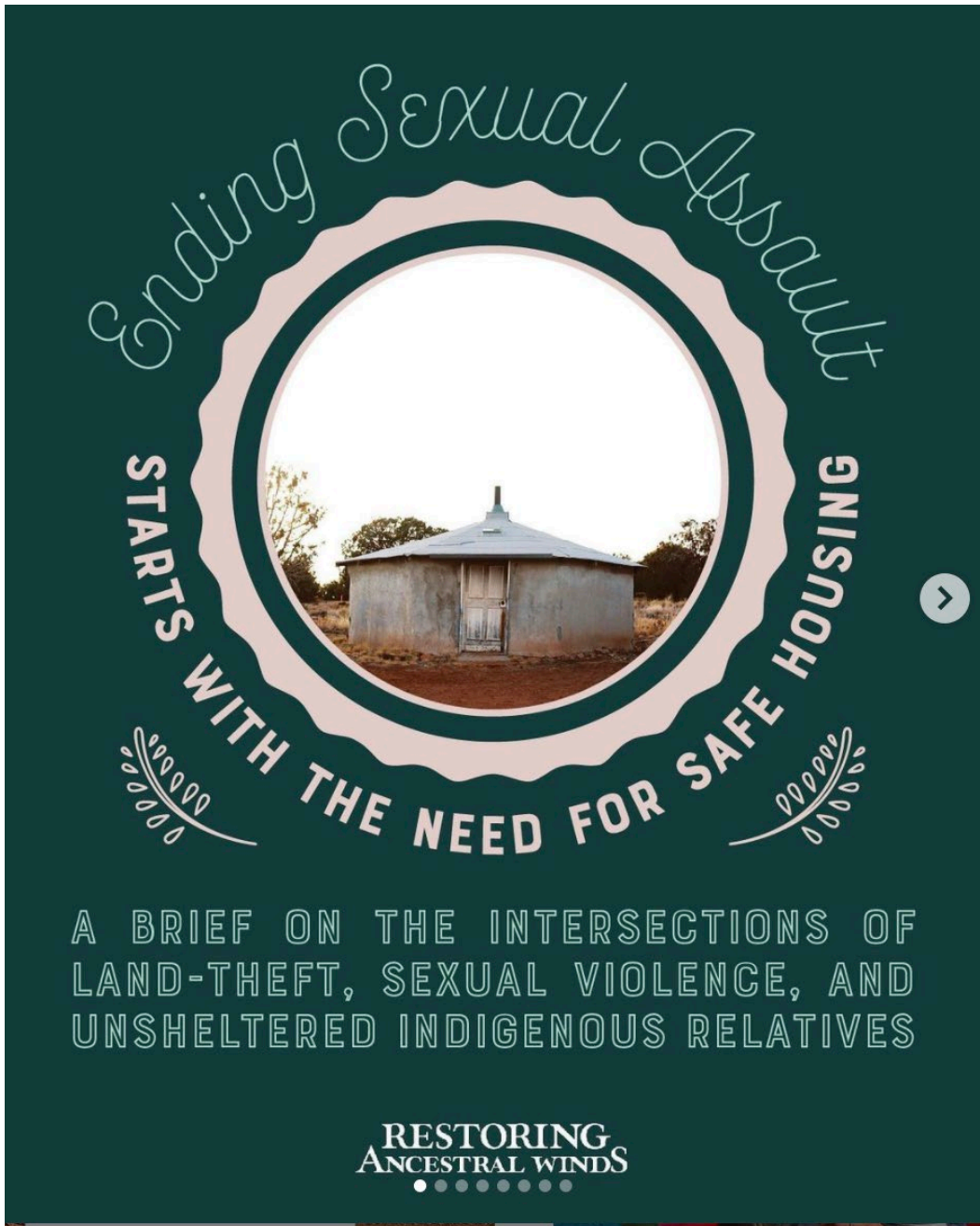
42,100—84,700 AI/AN people would be homeless if a family or friend had not taken them in. (4-7% of pop)

1 in 200 AI/AN are homeless compared to 1 in 1,000 in the US overall population

17% of AI/AN households include doubled up members

19% of AI/AN doubled-up households would ask “relatives” to leave, and 80% of people living doubled up would prefer to leave if they could

Affordable housing and homeless services are insufficient to meet the need



Housing- All in Crisis

- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Public Housing
- Affordable Housing
- Accessible Housing
- Housing that is Habitable

https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/files/2020-07/NRCDV_NationalWorkgroupSafeHousingforAIANSurvivorsofGBV-Jan2020-updated.pdf

Poverty Rates

- 22% in metropolitan areas
- 28% in surrounding communities
- 32% in tribal areas (double the National U.S. Average)

Study focused on problems and needs in Indian Country

- System deficiencies (plumbing, heating, kitchen and electrical).
- Condition problems, including structural deficiencies.
- Overcrowding, defined by having more than one person per room

Housing in Indian Country





GBV and Housing Instability

- The need for safe and affordable housing is one of the most pressing concerns for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) survivors of violence and abuse, as domestic and sexual violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children
- 50% of homeless population identify domestic violence as the primary cause
- Between 22% and 57% of homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness
- 92% of homeless women have experienced severe physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives
- 63% of homeless women have been victims of domestic violence
- 38% of domestic violence victims will become homeless at some point
- "Sexual assault is both a precursor to and a consequence of homelessness"
- Intersection between CW/Housing



Pidamaya! Miigwetch!



- Gwendolyn Packard, gpackard@niwrc.org
- Caroline LaPorte, claporte@niwrc.org

