

Crime and Victimization Among North Carolina's American Indian Population

"A recent national study indicated that crime among our American Indian population is a more serious problem than we realized. I directed the Governor's Crime Commission to compile this report in order to understand the nature and extent of the problem in North Carolina. This study clearly shows that our American Indian citizens are more likely to be victims of certain crimes, and some American Indians are more likely to commit various crimes. Domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and child abuse and neglect were prevalent among the state's American Indians. These factors are known to be common precursors for future juvenile and adult crime. Now that we have this information, we must absorb it, and then act upon it. Our goal is to ensure that all of North Carolina's citizens can live in safety now and in the next century."

Richard Moore, Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

"This is the first time that the state has conducted a critical analysis of victimization rates among the state's native people and we are very pleased at these efforts to address and highlight the level of violence against American Indians. American Indians are twice as likely to become the victims of violent crimes. Approximately 25 percent of American Indians in the state live below the poverty level, compared with 8.6 percent of whites. One of the many services that we provide in our office is to assist Indian communities in social and economic development. This report highlights crime and victimization among North Carolina's American Indians and identifies many of the same social and economic factors that we address as being contributing factors for this crime. The data currently reflects national figures for federally recognized American Indians. This SystemStats contains data on the state's entire American Indian population regardless of federal status. Hopefully by our continued work and the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety's desire to enhance criminal justice and victim services we can jointly make a difference in the lives of North Carolina's American Indian citizens."

Gregory Richardson, Director of the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs

Introduction and study rationale

A recent study by Greenfeld and Smith, of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (1999), documents the extent to which American Indians are the victims of crime, especially violent crime. Some of the study's most salient findings include:

- Rates of violence in every age group are higher among Indians than that of all races.
 - This group experienced the highest per capita rate of violence of any racial group- about 1 violent crime for every 4 persons of the ages between 18 and 24.
 - Rates of violent victimization for both males and females are higher among Indians than for all races.
 - The rate of violent crime experienced by Indian women is nearly 50% higher than that reported by black males.
 - At least 70% of the violent victimizations experienced by American Indians are committed by persons not of the same race.
 - The 1997 arrest rate among American Indians for alcohol related offenses (DWI, liquor law violations, and public drunkenness) was more than double that found among all races.
 - In 1997, about 16,000 American Indians were held in local jails – a rate of 1,083 per 100,000 adults, the highest of any racial group.
 - On a per capita basis, American Indians had a rate of prison incarceration about 38% higher than the national rate.
- American Indians experience per capita rates of violence which are more than twice those of the U.S. resident population.



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This national study raised numerous questions concerning crime and victimization among North Carolina's American Indian population. How has crime affected this group in North Carolina? What are the most common crimes committed by, and against, the state's American Indians? What factors contribute to crime and victimization among this racial group? And what are the American Indians greatest needs that the criminal justice system can address?

The Commission's Criminal Justice Analysis Center examined incident-based crime data, reported crime and arrest data for both the state and the nation in an effort to ascertain and delineate crime trends within this population. The Center also conducted a telephone survey¹ in order to more precisely document this issue, and to specifically identify those offenses which are most problematic within the American Indian community. The survey also solicited possible solutions and recommendations for best addressing the needs of American Indian victims and offenders. This issue of *SystemStats* presents the major highlights from the full report which was presented to Secretary Richard H. Moore, N. C. Crime Control and Public Safety in May of 1999.

A total of 67 members of the criminal justice system and Native American agencies responded to the survey.

Ten members of police departments, ten members of sheriffs' offices and nine juvenile court counselors offered insightful comments and useful information about American Indians and how they are affected by crime. A total of nine domestic violence shelter employees provided comments, with five probation officers responding as well. The Analysis Center also discussed this issue with members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, staff of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, four members of county Indian Housing Authorities, as well as representatives from the state's Indian Tribal Organizations.

Reported crime data²

Data for North Carolina indicates that in 1997 the rate of reported murder was higher for American Indians yet lower than the rate for Blacks. The rate of murder offenders was four times higher for American Indians, compared to Whites, yet less than the rate for Blacks. The rate of reported rapes, among American Indians, was slightly higher than the White rate but far less than the Black rate. The same finding is applicable to the rate of reported rapists per capita.

Table 1

1997 Reported Crime

	White	Black	American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut
Murder Victims per 100,000	4.7	19.2	17.8
Rape Victims per 100,000	22.4	62.4	23.1
Murder Offenders per 100,000	4.1	22.4	16.8
Rape Offenders per 100,000	17.0	93.1	22.0

¹ Center staff would like to acknowledge Gregory Richardson, executive director, N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, for reviewing the survey instrument and Brenda Moore, community developer, N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs (Waccamaw-Siouan Development Association), for assistance with survey administration. The staff also thanks all of the responding agencies for participating.

² The following reported crime and arrest data do **NOT** include offenses which occur on Indian reservations, tribal trust lands and military installations.

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Incident-based crime data

Data from the 1997 North Carolina Incident-Based Crime Reporting System, as compiled by the State Bureau of Investigation's Division of Criminal Information, indicates that there were at least 2,190 offenses in which American Indians were victimized.³ The majority of these offenses (83.6%) involved only one victim. Two distinct victims were involved in 243 separate offenses (11.1%), 62 offenses had three victims (2.8%). One offense involved 13 different victims. Among the 2,190 offenses, there were a total of 2,190 primary victims and 594 secondary victims for a total of 2,784 Native American victims. The primary victims' ages ranged from less than one year old to 92 years old with the average victim being 33 years old.

The most common offense for which American Indians were victimized was larceny. Forced entry burglaries and vandalism were the next two frequently reported offenses. Assaults were relatively common with 337 (15.4%) being reported by the participating agencies. (See table 2).

There were slightly more female primary victims (52%) versus male primary victims (48%). The number of female larceny victims (150) slightly outnumbered the number of male larceny victims (123). American Indian males were more likely to be the victims of robbery and non-physical assaults while American Indian females were more likely to be the victims of physical assaults and offenses involving non-physical threats or intimidation.

Arrest data: national and state comparisons

National arrest statistics, as compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, indicate that a total of 132,734 Native Americans⁴ and Alaskan Natives were

arrested in 1997. This represents 1.3 percent of the total arrests recorded for that year. Specifically, 94 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives were arrested for murder and non-negligent manslaughter (.7 % of total murder arrests), 237 were arrested for rape (1.1 % of total), 551 were arrested for robbery (.6% of total), and 3,809 were arrested for aggravated assault (1% of total aggravated assault arrests). 2,569 were arrested for burglary (1% of total) and 12,854 were arrested for larceny (1.2% of total larceny arrests). (See table 2).

1,073 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives were arrested for weapons law violations (.7% of total), 6,006 were arrested for drug abuse offenses (.5% of total), 14,713 were arrested for D.W.I. (1.5% of total D.W.I. arrests), and 13,219 were arrested for liquor law violations (3.1% of total). (See Table 2).

State arrest statistics, as compiled by the State Bureau of Investigation/Division of Criminal Information, indicate that a total of 6,392 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives were arrested in 1997. This represents 1.2 percent of the total arrests recorded for that year. Specifically, 21 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives were arrested for murder and non-negligent manslaughter (2.8 % of total), 7 were arrested for rape (.9% of total), 41 were arrested for robbery (.9% of total), and 303 were arrested for aggravated assault (1.4% of total aggravated assault arrests). 332 were arrested for burglary (2.1% of total) and 552 were arrested for larceny (1.3% of total larceny arrests). 127 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives were arrested for weapons law violations (1.5% of total), 473 were arrested for drug abuse offenses (1.1% of total), 773 were arrested for D.W.I. (1.2% of total D.W.I. arrests) and 62 were arrested for liquor law violations (.6% of total). (See table 2).

The chart on page 4 depicts the 1997 arrest distribution pattern for those arrests **within** the Native American/Alaskan Native population. Compared to the national distribution, arrests for this population are higher in North Carolina for 5 offense types: burglary, aggravated assault, drug offenses, weapon law violations, and other assaults. Arrests for liquor law violations accounted for a far greater percentage of the total national arrests (10%) than here in North Carolina (1%).

³ This number does not represent a statewide total of incidents. Not every law enforcement agency compiles incident based crime data. Consequently the true number of incidents involving American Indians will be higher than the number reported here. This figure represents the total as reported by only 27 agencies which serve a population of 2,440,710 or 33.5 percent of the state. Center staff thank Julia Nipper, SBI/DCI, for providing this data.

⁴ The term Native Americans is used in the national statistics, however, the Commission on Indian Affairs has adopted the term American Indian by formal action.

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Table 2 1997 National and State Arrests of Native Americans and Alaskan Natives

Offense	1997 National Arrests	1997 N. C. Arrests
Total Arrests	132,734	6,392
Murder/Nonnegligent manslaughter	94 (.07%)	21 (.3%)
Rape	237 (.18%)	7 (.1%)
Robbery	551 (.4%)	41 (.6%)
Aggravated Assault	3,809 (2.9%)	303 (4.7%)
Burglary	2,569 (1.9%)	332 (5.2%)
Larceny	12,854 (9.7%)	552 (8.6%)
Drug related	6,006 (4.5%)	473 (7.4%)
Weapons law	1,073 (.8%)	127 (2.0%)
D.W.I.	14,713 (11.1%)	773 (12.1%)
Drunkenness	11,743 (8.8%)	N/A
Disorderly conduct	7,772 (5.9%)	285 (4.5%)
Vandalism	2,765 (2.1%)	123 (1.9%)
Liquor Laws	13,219 (10%)	62 (1%)
Other assaults	12,227 (9.2%)	759 (11.9%)
All other arrests excluding traffic	43,102 (32.5%)	2,534 (39.6%)

The figures on page 5 depicts national and state comparisons for selected offenses by race. The number of arrests, per 100,000 racial group, are contrasted in an effort to delineate similarities and differences between North Carolina's arrests and national arrest patterns.

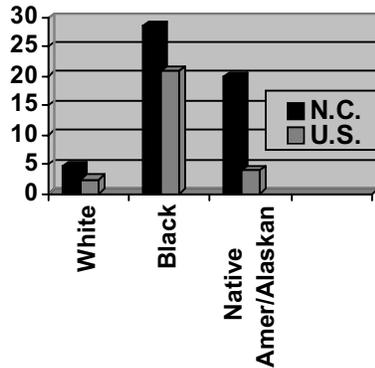
Murder arrest rates in North Carolina exceed the national rates for all three racial groups with the greatest disparity being found among Native American and Alaskan Native arrestees. Nationally, there were 4 murder arrests per 100,000 Native Americans/Alaskan Natives. North Carolina's murder arrest rate, for this racial group, was 19.9 arrests per 100,000 in 1997.

North Carolina's rape arrest rates were slightly higher for the White and Black populations when contrasted to the national rates. The rape arrest rate, for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives was higher nationally (10.1 per 100,000) when compared to the state's rate for this group (7.3 per 100,000).



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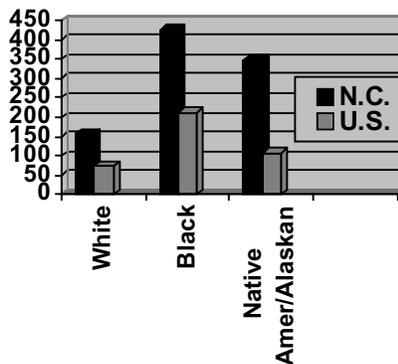
Figure 1 1997 Murder Arrest Rates Per 100,000



The 1997 robbery arrest rates for Blacks and Native American/Alaskan Natives were substantially higher in North Carolina. North Carolina recorded 206.6 arrests per 100,000 Blacks compared to the national rate of 156.1 arrests per 100,000 Blacks. The state’s robbery arrest rate for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives was 84 percent greater than the national robbery arrest rate (43 arrests per 100,000 versus 23.4 per 100,000).

North Carolina’s aggravated assault arrest rates were higher than the national rates for all three racial groups.

Figure 2 1997 Burglary Arrest Rates Per 100,000



The most pronounced difference existed for the Black population, with the state’s arrest rate being nearly twice as high as the national arrest rate for Blacks. The same disparity existed among the Native American and Alaskan Native arrest rates. North Carolina’s Native Americans and Alaskan Natives were arrested at a rate which was nearly double the national arrest rate for this offense. The state arrest rate was 317.6 per 100,000 Native Americans/Alaskan Natives, contrasted with the national rate of 161.6 aggravated assault arrests per 100,000.

The 1997 burglary arrest rates for North Carolina were considerably higher than the national rates irrespective of race. While the White and Black arrest rates were double the national rates for these groups, the state’s arrest rate for Native American and Alaskan Natives was three times higher than the national burglary arrest rate for this group. Native Americans and Alaskan Natives were arrested for burglary at a rate of 109 per 100,000 at the national level and a rate of 348 per 100,000 in North Carolina.

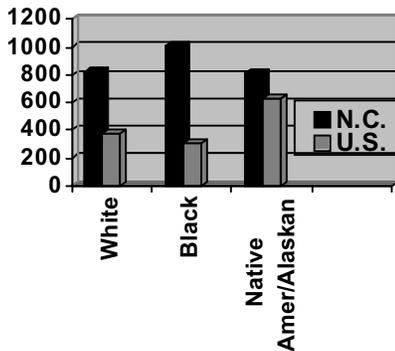
The state’s larceny arrest rates were also higher for all 3 racial categories. However the disparity between state and national rates was not as pronounced as it was for the crime of burglary. Nationally, there were 545.4 larceny arrests for every 100,000 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives. North Carolina’s rate was slightly higher.

An analysis of arrest rates for drug law violations indicates, that again, North Carolina had higher arrest rates than the nation as a whole irrespective of race. The largest differences were found among the Black and Native American/Alaskan Native populations. Statewide, Blacks were arrested for these violations at a rate of 1,411 per 100,000 while Native Americans and Alaskan Natives were arrested at a rate of 496 per 100,000. Nationally, Blacks were arrested for drug law violations at a rate of 1,178 per 100,000 while Native Americans/Alaskan Natives were arrested at a rate of 255 per 100,000.

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North Carolina surpassed the nation in terms of its 1997 weapon law violation arrest rates. These rates were considerably higher than the national arrest rates, especially for the Native American and Alaskan Native population. North Carolina's arrest rates were 62 percent higher than the nation's for Whites, 55 percent higher for Blacks and an extreme 192.5 percent higher for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives.

Figure 3 1997 D.W.I. Arrest Rates Per 100,000



Historically, North Carolina has led the nation in its efforts to crackdown on driving while impaired. This aggressive and proactive response is reflected in the arrest statistics, with the state's arrest rates surpassing the national rates. The disparity between state and national arrest rates is more apparent for Black and White offenders. The state rate for Native American and Alaskan Native violators was 810.3 arrests per 100,000 in 1997; while the national rate was a lower 624 arrests per 100,000.

Juvenile arrests and child abuse cases

Figure 4 1997 Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rates Per 1,000

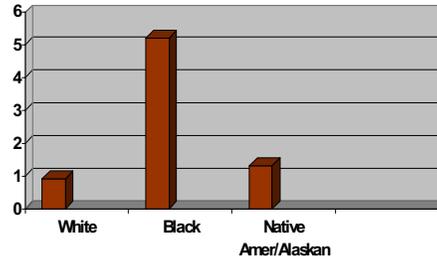


Figure 4 presents the juvenile arrest rates for the four violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The rate of arrests among Black juveniles was 5 times greater than the White violent crime arrest rate, and the rate among Native American/Alaskan Native juveniles was slightly higher than the White arrest rate.

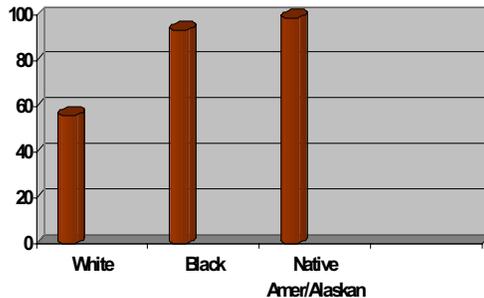
The drug law violation arrest rate was highest among the Black juvenile population followed by the Native American/Alaskan Native rate. The majority of the Native American/Alaskan Native juveniles were arrested for drug possession (92%), with marijuana being the most common drug.

Arrests for weapons possession were more common among Black and Native American/Alaskan Native juveniles.



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Figure 5 1997/98 Rates of Reported Child Abuse and/or Neglect By Race Per 1,000



Data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services indicate that there were 114,152 reported cases of child abuse and/or neglect during fiscal year 1997/98. White children constituted 58.4 percent (66,757) of the reported cases followed by Black children, who comprised 38.8 percent (42,004) of the reported cases. There were 2,907 reported cases in which the child was a Native American/Alaskan Native (2.5%). The rate of reported cases per 1,000 children was the greatest among the Native American and Alaskan Native population. This rate was slightly higher than the rate among Black children but nearly twice as great as the rate of reported cases among White children.

Crime on the Cherokee Indian Reservation⁵

Data provided by the Cherokee Police Department indicate that law enforcement personnel responded to a total of 11,927 offenses and calls for service on the reservation between October, 1997 and September, 1998. Sixty-seven percent of these responses were to provide assistance to citizens or to perform community-policing types of services. In addition to traffic accidents (556 reported, 4.7%), the police responded to 662 (5.6%) drunkenness calls, 491 (4.1%) domestic calls, and 388 fights and disturbances (3.3%).

⁵ The staff of the Criminal Justice Analysis Center would like to acknowledge Assistant Chief Dyke Sneed, Cherokee Police Department, for sharing this reported crime data.

There were 267 (2.2%) D.W.I. reports, 238 (2.0%) calls related to juveniles, 164 reported thefts (1.4%), 154 acts of vandalism (1.3%) and 153 reported assaults (1.3%). Police also responded to 150 threat and harassment calls (1.3%), 136 (1.1%) breaking and entering reports, and 100 cases of firearm violations (.8%). The reports appear to demonstrate little temporal variation, with most reports occurring in August, November and January. In addition to these calls, the police served 4,000 civil papers and issued 1,497 citations to people on the reservation during this period.

Survey results

American Indian victims

The majority of the survey respondents (72.7%) did not perceive any drastic changes in the level and types of crimes which are perpetrated against the state's American Indians. Of those respondents who did perceive changes in victimization patterns, the perceived rate of change ranged from a slight one percent increase to an increase of 40%. Respondents indicated that there was an average 16% increase in the number of American Indian victims.

The crimes of domestic violence, drug-related offenses, and aggravated assault were the three most frequently reported offenses which are commonly perpetrated against members of the American Indian community. 52.6 percent of those surveyed reported that domestic violence was commonly perpetrated on American Indians, while 43.9 percent felt that there were an excessive number of American Indian aggravated assault victims. The crimes of rape and motor vehicle theft were reported to be the least problematic in terms of American Indian victims.

When queried about the differences between American Indian victims and crime victims of other races, 47.2% reported that there were no distinctions along racial lines. 52.8 percent reported that there were distinct differences between American Indian crime victims and crime victims from other racial groups. The most commonly reported difference was that American Indians are less likely to report crimes or take advantage of the criminal justice system. Much of this can be attributed to their perceived fear of law enforcement and a lack of understanding regarding

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how the criminal justice system operates in North Carolina. Poverty, cultural differences and the inability to acquire adequate legal counsel were also cited as significant differences between American Indians and other crime victims.

Respondents were asked to estimate the amount of inter and intra-racial crime in which American Indians are victims. The respondents estimated that on the average American Indians victimize each other 42.3 percent of the time with an average of 31.6 percent of American Indian victims being victimized by members of other racial groups. This stands in contrast to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' study which found that at least 70 percent of American Indians were victimized by members of other races.

Domestic violence appears to be problematic among the state's American Indians. 66.2 percent of the respondents perceived this crime to be prevalent within the American Indian community. Alcohol and drug abuse were listed as the top factors responsible for domestic violence. 46.9 percent believed that these substances either caused or exacerbated the level of domestic violence. Poverty, a lack of adequate education about domestic violence, and the deprivation of adequate societal opportunities, were also perceived as contributing to this problem.

Child abuse and neglect were **not** perceived as being problematic within the American Indian community. 75.8 percent of the respondents reported that this offense was no more prevalent among American Indians than for other racial groups. Of those survey participants who felt that this was prevalent among American Indians, 81.9 percent perceived substance use and abuse as the driving catalyst behind child abuse and neglect.

Respondents also did not perceive any distinct differences between the races when asked about the extent to which American Indian children are victimized. Only 29.2 percent felt that American Indian children were victimized. The most common reason was again related to alcohol and drug abuse, with 46.2 percent believing that substance use and abuse played a significant part in explaining

why American Indian children are more likely to be victimized.

American Indian offenders

The survey respondents were queried about their perceptions of American Indian offenders and the extent to which patterns in crimes, committed by Native Americans, have changed within the last five years. 42.4 percent of those surveyed perceived changes in the level and types of crimes over the past five years. Respondents' estimates ranged from no change to a high of a 80 percent increase in crimes by American Indians. The average growth in crimes by American Indians was perceived to be 20.9 percent over the last five years.

D.W.I. and liquor law violations, drug possession, and domestic violence were perceived to be the three most common crimes which American Indians engage in. Seventy-five percent felt that D.W.I. and liquor law violations were common, 56.7 percent perceived drug possession to be common, while 51.7 percent reported domestic violence as a common offense among American Indian offenders. Several participants suggested that elder abuse, public intoxication, affrays, and traffic violations were commonly committed by American Indians. Robbery, murder, and motor vehicle theft were reported as the least common crimes committed by American Indians.

The majority of the respondents (73.8%) did not view any substantial distinctions between American Indian offenders and offenders from other racial groups. 26.2 percent of those surveyed perceived American Indian offenders as being different from other offenders. 33.3 percent reported that offenders were different because of the Native American culture and beliefs. Other differences included: a greater degree of racism and discrimination directed toward American Indian criminals, poverty, and a lack of understanding about the criminal justice system.

The survey participants were divided in terms of their perceptions concerning the future of American Indian criminality. 45.3 percent predicted no discernible changes over the next ten years while 54.7 percent did think that their criminal offending patterns would

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change in the future. 21.4 percent believed that an increase in crime among American Indians would be directly correlated with an increase in the American Indian population. Other anticipated changes included an increase in drug cases, an increase in juvenile crime, and more domestic violence related offenses. Only two respondents felt that the number of American Indian offenders would decline within the coming ten years.

Several illuminating comments were received about the relationship between the casino on the Cherokee Indian Reservation and crime. Two opposing opinions emerged. Some respondents felt that as the casino prospers and becomes an ingrained fixture within the community crime will increase, especially incidents of burglary and robbery. Alternatively, respondents believed that crime would actually decline because the casino offers employment opportunities and strengthens the local economic base. Thus the American Indians on the reservation would have less reason to commit crimes for financial gain. It was also asserted that much of the crime on casino grounds is committed by members of other racial groups.

Service and criminal justice system needs

Eighty-one percent of the survey participants reported that their agencies had specific needs to help them work with American Indian victims and offenders. The most frequently cited need was cultural diversity training to make other races more aware of, and sensitive to, Native American customs, beliefs and values. Respondents also stressed a need for more education and funds to address alcohol and drug abuse. There was a desire to hire more American Indians counselors and criminal justice professionals.

Numerous respondents reported the need for crime and substance abuse intervention and prevention efforts among juveniles. Educational efforts are needed to instruct members of the American Indian communities about the criminal justice system, and to make them aware of how the system can benefit them. Improving parenting skills and establishing or strengthening relationships between American Indians on the reservation and surrounding law enforcement personnel were also unmet needs identified by the respondents.

The survey participants offered excellent and varied ideas on how the criminal justice and human service systems can benefit the state's American Indian community. More intervention and prevention programs were suggested as a means for reducing juvenile crime. After school programs and family counseling were also suggested. Increased funding for domestic violence counselors, shelters, and victim advocates who work within the Native American community was proposed. Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, vocational training, transitional and affordable housing, as well as cultural diversity training were all offered as possible ways to provide assistance to the state's American Indian population.

Roughly half of the agencies that responded to the survey have already developed programs or services specifically for American Indians. American Indian counselors have been employed within domestic violence shelters. Federal funds have been obtained and used for drug programs and education. Housing and economic development initiatives have also been implemented. Indian education and day-care centers have been opened and include teen pregnancy and drug prevention courses.

Unfortunately, 64.3 percent of the respondents said their particular agencies did not have any plans to develop programs or begin initiatives targeting American Indians. Those survey participants who reported future plans in this area said they were focusing on economic development and housing. Other agencies will be: starting drug courts, formulating alternative programs for at-risk youth, providing educational scholarships, and opening child care centers.

Recommendations

Based upon the available reported crime, arrest and incident-based crime statistics, as well as the survey results, the following recommendations are offered as a means of alleviating, or at least minimizing, crime and victimization among North Carolina's American Indian population.

- Extensively target the primary problems of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, assaultive behavior, and juvenile weapon law violations.

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- Encourage cooperation and involvement in crime intervention and prevention efforts by consulting with representatives of the state's Commission of Indian Affairs, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and other tribal organizations throughout the state.
- Implement, and or expand, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, counseling and education.
- Implement, and or expand, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs.
- Target child abuse and neglect through parenting skills, anger management and other programs which address the underlying causal factors of child abuse and neglect.
- Implement, and or expand, programs (Community Watch) to insure a greater degree of property protection, and reduce burglaries and larcenies.
- Address the high rate of juvenile arrests for weapons related offenses through programs which have been proven to reduce juvenile gun-related violence.
- Educate members of the American Indian community about the state's criminal justice system and processes, especially in the areas of D.W.I., domestic violence, and victim assistance.
- Encourage and assist all of the state's American Indian organizations to continue to explore federal funding sources.
- Encourage and assist all of the state's American Indian organizations to continue to explore federal funding sources.
- Implement, and/or expand, cultural diversity training programs specifically designed by American Indians which focus on their culture, customs and beliefs.
- Conduct focus groups to further delineate crime and victimization trends and issues among the state's American Indian population.
- Implement an aggressive recruitment program to encourage more American Indians to seek employment in the criminal justice system.
- Appoint American Indians to criminal justice and human services commissions and boards.

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- North Carolina Criminal Justice Analysis Center. (May,1999). *Crime and victimization among North Carolina's American Indian population: A report to the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety*. Raleigh, N.C. [Available from the Governor's Crime Commission].



SYSTEMSTATS

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The Governor's Crime Commission was established in 1977 by the North Carolina General Assembly under G.S. 143B-479. Its primary duty is "to be the chief advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety for the development and implementation of criminal justice policy." The Crime Commission is always open to comments and suggestions from the general public as well as criminal justice officials. Please contact us and let us know your thoughts and feelings on the information contained in this publication or on any other criminal justice issue of concern to you.

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