

## Understanding The Roots Of Violence

What are some factors that have contributed to the roots of violence against Native women?

Prior to European contact, Native women and men's roles were based on specific traditional values practiced and honored through individual clans and Tribes. Women were honored as pivotal to the survival of the Tribes. Although they had distinct roles, Native women and men were considered equal in status. Associating violence with power occurred in Native communities after the advent of colonization. Along with this change came a shift in the concepts of women's roles, in particular, defining women and children as property. This imbalance in power created a framework that perpetuates domestic violence.

There are many historical factors that have hurt Native communities, among them are colonization, racism, and institutionalization. These have profoundly harmed our culture, language, traditional knowledge, and values. Native people have been dealing with the impact of this historical trauma for many generations. These experiences have given rise to high rates of substance abuse, suicide, teen pregnancy, school drop out, poverty, incarceration, health problems, and shorter life spans. These conditions have also contributed to high rates of violence in interpersonal relationships, high rates of child abuse and neglect, and high rates of family violence, particularly abuse of women.

~ Understanding Our Past  
to Re-Vision Our Future ~



**PASSAMAQUODDY  
PEACEFUL RELATIONS  
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**PLEASANT POINT TRIBAL POLICE**

911

**PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBAL COURT**

853-2600

**TRIBAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**

454-7641

Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations is a member of the Wabanaki Women's Coalition which is a 501(c)3 non-profit Tribal domestic and sexual violence coalition serving the five Wabanaki Tribes of Maine.

[Www.WabanakiWomensCoalition.org](http://Www.WabanakiWomensCoalition.org)



We are funded in part by Grant 2014-TW-AX-0038 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and by a Family Violence Prevention and Services grant. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibit are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women or Family Violence Prevention and Services.



Passamaquoddy Tribal Services for Victims/Survivors of  
Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and  
Stalking

Passamaquoddy  
Peaceful  
Relations

Serving the  
Passamaquoddy Tribe  
at Pleasant Point  
and all residents of  
Pleasant Point  
Reservation

Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations is a Native American Tribal Program serving people who experience:

domestic violence/family violence  
dating violence  
sexual assault  
stalking

### Mission Statement

The mission of Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations is to effect change within our Tribal community where equality, respect and nonviolence become cornerstones of all relationships. Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations is dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault by assisting victims/survivors in regaining personal safety and control of their life, ensuring accountability of offenders within the Tribal and non-Tribal law enforcement and judicial systems, and promoting peaceful relations in our Tribal Community.

Our services include and may not be limited to:

- 24 Hour Hotline
- Crisis Intervention
- Nonjudgmental & confidential support
- Hospital response for sexual assault
- Emergency shelter
- Safety planning
- Door lock replacement, window alarms
- Accompaniment to medical, law enforcement and legal proceedings (in both Tribal & non-Tribal settings)
- Assistance with obtaining a protection order
- Legal assistance for civil family matters related to domestic violence, stalking, dating violence and sexual assault
- Transitional assistance (housing, food)
- Information and referrals
- Transportation needed for safety
- Advocacy in your expressed areas of interest
- Trainings to increase community awareness

Updated 03/07/16

### Did You Know?

Native Americans are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races, and one in three Indian women reports having been raped during her lifetime. (Patricia Tjaden & Nancy Thoennes, US Department of Justice, 2000)

17% of Native American women—which is at least twice that of other groups—are stalked each year. (Sacred Circle National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women, 2005)

69% of American Indian children report exposure to violence in the home. (Luna-Firebaugh, E. M. Violence Against Women Journal, 2006, 12(2): 125-136)

3 out of 4 of American Indian/Alaska Native women are victims of intimate partner violence

1 in 7 American Indian/Alaska Native men is a victim of intimate partner violence. (National Congress of American Indians-NCAI)

70% of Native Americans who are the victims of violent crimes are victimized by a non-native individual. (NCAI)

### Why Does It Matter?

The disproportionate amount of violence destroys the quality of life of Native Americans and threatens the stability and security of their families, communities and Tribes.