



**Tribal Youth Victimization and Delinquency:
Analysis of Youth Risk Behavior
Surveillance Survey Data**

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Introduction



Introduction
Background

- Findings reported here are analyses completed as part of the Tribal Youth Victimization and Juvenile Delinquency Project
- The presentation presents findings from analysis of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey
- Partnership between Prevent Child Abuse America, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Purdue University Calumet
- This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

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Introduction
A few statistics...

- Rate of violent victimization among American Indian/Alaska Native youth is almost double that of all races (DOJ, 2004)
- Seventy-four percent of the youth in custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons are AI/AN (Federal Bureau of Prisons, 2008)
- The American Indian and Alaska Native population is young: the median age of the Indian population is 28.0 years compared with 35.3 years for all races in the US (IHS, 2008).
- AI/AN population has a poverty level nearly twice that of the rest of the population (IHS, 2008)

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The Problem
Access to Services

- Fewer AI/AN mental health providers are available (173 per 100,000 for whites versus 101 per 100,000 for AI/AN)
- According to the Surgeon General's 1999 report,
 - only an estimated 29 psychiatrists in the United States were of Indian or Native heritage in 1996.
 - about half of AI/ANs have employer based health insurance, whereas 72% of whites receive health insurance through their employers.
- The (IHS) also reported that the AI/AN population has double the number of people without health insurance than other races (IHS, 2008)
- Pavkov & Walrath (2008) found that AI/AN children entering systems of care were less likely to have received medication

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The Problem
Substance Use

- The rate of alcohol-related arrests among AI/AN for alcohol violations is double the national rate
- 62% of AN/AN violent crime victims experienced violence by an offender using alcohol, compared to 42% for the national average
- Native Americans are at higher risk for experiencing multiple victimizations
- Among AI/AN youth research indicates an association among risky sexual behaviors, substance abuse, and exposure to violence
- Intact social networks maintained in AI/AN communities are thought to mediate the effects of trauma and substance abuse


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The Problem
Mental Health

- Childhood exposure to violence has negative effects on parenting ability later in life
- The suicide rate for AI/AN youth has been reported as three times the national average
- Studies indicate that psychological disturbances related to dysfunction, trauma and suicide are higher among AI/AN persons than in the general population
- Elevated lifetime rates of alcohol/drug dependence, post traumatic stress disorder, pathological reactions to violence and trauma, and suicide have also been reported within reservation populations
- These phenomenon are thought to be linked to historical trauma experienced by AI/AN populations
 - According to DOJ, 60% of AI victims of violence described offender as White.

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Research Questions



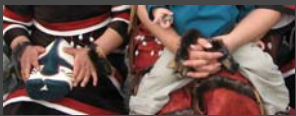
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Research Questions

- What are the observed differences related to victimization, delinquency, substance use, sexual behavior, and mental health between American Indian/Alaskan Native youth compared to youth of other categories of race/ethnicity?
- What is the observed association between victimization and delinquency for American Indian/Alaskan Native youth?

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Method



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Method
Dataset

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveys youth every odd year since 1991 via the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS).
- National YRBSS is representative of 9th through 12th graders enrolled in public and private high schools in the 50 states and the District of Columbia
- YRBSS is designed to:
 - monitor the prevalence of health-risk behaviors in the target age group,
 - assess how rates of participation in these behaviors change over time
 - assess how likely certain behaviors may be to co-occur

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Method
Dataset

- 3-stage cluster design
- Oversampling of target populations
- Data editing
- Weighting

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Method
YRBS Response Rates for 2003 - 2007

Figure 1.

| Year | School Response Rate | Student Response Rate | Overall Response Rate | Sample Size |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 2003 | 81% | 83% | 67% | 15,214 |
| 2005 | 78% | 86% | 67% | 13,917 |
| 2007 | 81% | 84% | 68% | 14,041 |

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- Method**
Dataset
- Limitations:
 - Questionnaire is self-report
 - Sample only representative of youth who are enrolled in school
 - Process of obtaining parental permissions is not consistent from one school to the next
 - YRBS not designed to evaluate effectiveness of interventions aimed at decreasing health-risk behaviors
 - Impossible to measure every behavior that poses a potential health-risk
 - AI/AN youth were not over-sampled, yielding very low sample sizes for this population within a given year
- (CDC, 2004). 14

- Method**
Procedure
- At the CDC's suggestion, data from the three years (2007, 2005, and 2003) were concatenated into a single file
 - Items were selected for secondary analysis based on their face-valid relevance to one of five categories including:
 - Violent or delinquent behaviors
 - Substance use
 - Sexual behaviors
 - Experience of victimization
 - Suicide-related behaviors
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- Method**
Procedure
- Item responses were dichotomized wherever possible in order to emphasize the difference between groups, and to simplify the analysis.
 - AI/AN youth were compared to:
 - Caucasian
 - African American
 - Hispanic/Latino
 - Asian
 - Other/Mixed-Racial
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Method
Procedure Analysis I

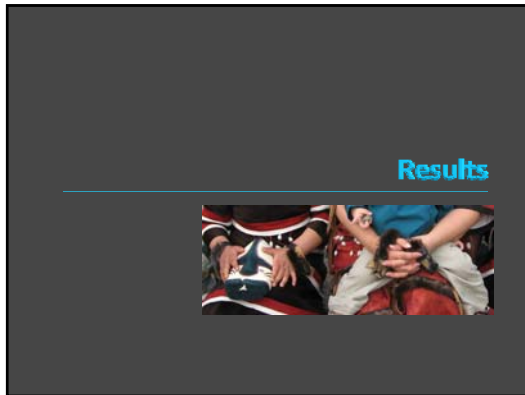
- A Chi-Square test was used to determine whether there were statistically significant differences between each group (e.g. AI/AN vs. Caucasian, AI/AN vs. African American, AI/AN vs. Hispanic/Latino, etc.) within each of the dichotomized variables.
 - five separate two-by-two analyses for each item
 - A Bonferroni correction was used in determining statistical significance within each category (family), for each racial/ethnic dyadic comparison group, to compensate for the large number of statistical tests conducted:

Figure 2.

| Category | Number of Items | Alpha Cutoff with Bonferroni correction. |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Violence & Delinquency | 8 | p < 0.00625 |
| Substance Use | 19 | p < 0.00263 |
| Sexual Behavior | 6 | p < 0.00833 |
| Victimization | 5 | p < 0.01000 |
| Suicide-Related Behaviors | 5 | p < 0.01000 |

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- Method**
Procedure Analysis II
- In order to test the relationship between youths' responses to the violence/delinquency items and their responses to the victimization items, the eight violence and delinquency items were paired with each of the five victimization items, to create 40 unique pairs of items.
 - A Chi-square analysis was then used for each of the 40 pairs of items, within each of the six racial/ethnic categories.
 - The presence or absence of a relationship between each pair of items was then considered across each of the six race/ethnicity reference groups, in order to highlight pairs which had a relationship among one or more reference groups, but not among others.
 - Again, a Bonferroni correction was used within each racial/ethnic reference group (40 tests, alpha = 0.00125) to determine the appropriate cutoff for statistical significance for each analysis.
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Results
Delinquency & Violence

Figure 3.

| Item Description: | American Indian/ Alaskan Native | Caucasian | African American | Hispanic/Latino American |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| How often do you wear a seatbelt when someone else is driving? (rarely or never) | 18.75% | 12.33% | 15.77% | 16.46% |
| Did you Drink & Drive during the past 30 days? | 14.83% | 11.92% | 6.57%* | 9.13%* |
| Did you carry a weapon in the last 30 days? | 24.38% | 17.65% | 17.38% | 16.68% |
| Have you carried a gun in the last 30 days? | 9.25% | 5.15%* | 5.75% | 5.14%* |
| Have you carried a weapon at school in the last 30 days? | 8.86% | 5.59% | 6.24% | 5.68% |
| Were you in a physical fight in the last 12 months? | 41.50% | 31.63%* | 43.25% | 37.32% |
| Have you been injured in a fight in the last 12 months? | 8.92% | 2.77%* | 5.35% | 4.55%* |
| Have you been in a fight at school in the last 12 months? | 21.26% | 10.53%* | 18.99% | 16.53% |

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Results
Substance Use

Figure 4a.

| Item Description: | American Indian/ Alaskan Native | Caucasian | African American | Hispanic/Latino American |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Have you ever used a cigarette? | 70.70% | 54.08%* | 54.02%* | 56.96%* |
| How old were you when you first smoked a cigarette? (12 or younger) | 47.58% | 37.96% | 42.26%* | 37.63%* |
| Did you smoke cigarettes at school in the last 30 days? | 11.11% | 7.23% | 4.21%* | 4.95%* |
| During the past 30 days, did you usually take your cigarettes from a store or family member? | 2.29% | 4.92% | 6.97%* | 6.70%* |
| How old were you when you first had a whole drink? (12 or younger) | 45.54% | 31.86%* | 42.10%* | 37.19% |
| Have you had a drink at school in the past 30 days? | 6.27% | 3.59% | 3.94% | 6.93% |
| During the past 30 days, did you usually take the alcohol you drank from a store or family member? | 4.88% | 8.16% | 13.30% | 12.85%* |

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Results
Substance Use

Figure 4b.

| Item Description: | American Indian/ Alaskan Native | Caucasian | African American | Hispanic/Latino American |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Have you ever used marijuana? | 53.14% | 38.66%* | 40.91%* | 38.30%* |
| How old were you when you first tried Marijuana? (12 or younger) | 31.94% | 20.09%* | 25.29%* | 25.10%* |
| Have you used marijuana at school in the last 30 days? | 10.10% | 4.14%* | 5.31%* | 6.20% |
| Have you ever used any form of cocaine? | 11.84% | 7.89%* | 2.46%* | 10.71% |
| Have you ever used inhalants to get high? | 14.35% | 13.51% | 7.59%* | 12.15% |
| Have you ever used heroin? | 4.44% | 2.37%* | 2.10% | 2.93% |
| Have you ever used methamphetamines? | 9.51% | 6.42% | 2.43%* | 6.75% |
| Have you ever used ecstasy/MDMA? | 13.29% | 7.55% | 4.77%* | 9.34% |
| Have you ever used LSD or other hallucinogens? | 14.25% | 9.98% | 3.22%* | 8.07% |
| Have you ever injected drugs into your system with a needle? | 4.48% | 2.01%* | 2.06% | 3.13% |
| Have you ever used steroids without a prescription? | 7.24% | 4.85% | 2.79%* | 4.46% |
| Has anyone offered, sold, or given you illegal drugs at school? | 27.38% | 24.03% | 22.34% | 34.31% |

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Results
Sexual Behaviors

Figure 5.

| Item Description: | American Indian/ Alaskan Native | Caucasian | African American | Hispanic/Latino American |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Have you ever had sex? | 49.73% | 42.70% | 66.44%* | 49.42% |
| Did you use any substances before the last time you had sex? | 26.60% | 24.84% | 14.00%* | 20.90% |
| Did you use a condom the last time you had sex? | 62.43% | 64.93% | 73.98%* | 62.74% |
| How old were you the first time you had sex? (14 or younger) | 57.92% | 41.81%* | 67.97%* | 54.37% |
| How many people have you had sex with? (More than 1) | 68.45% | 59.00% | 75.25%* | 59.65% |
| How many people have you had sex with in the last 3 months? (More than 1) | 32.87% | 22.69% | 38.23% | 26.42% |
| What one method of birth control did you use the last time you had sex? (None) | 12.27% | 5.22% | 11.18%* | 11.82% |

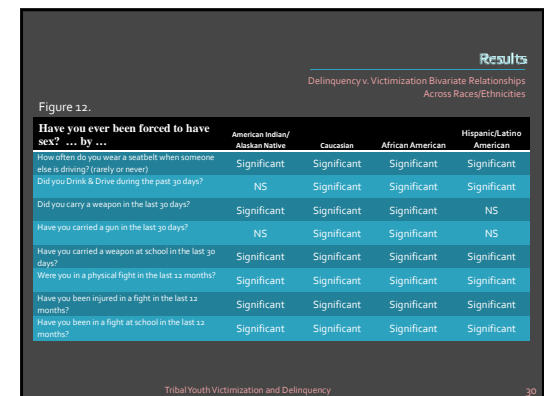
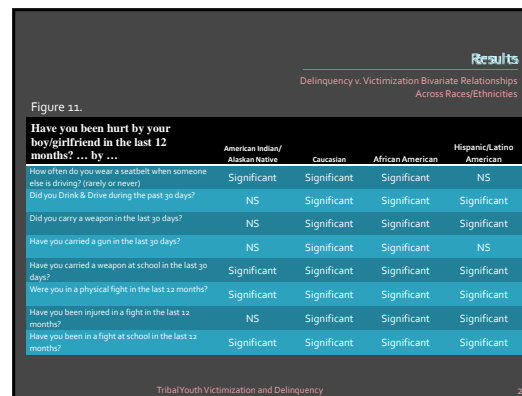
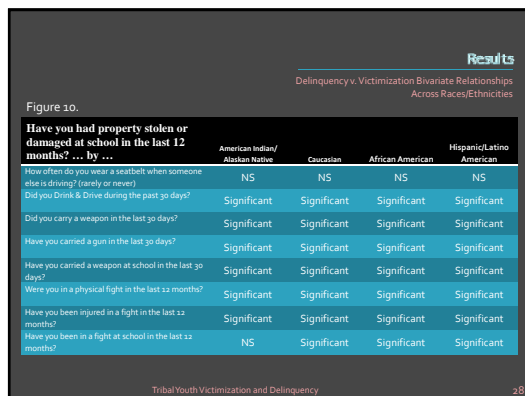
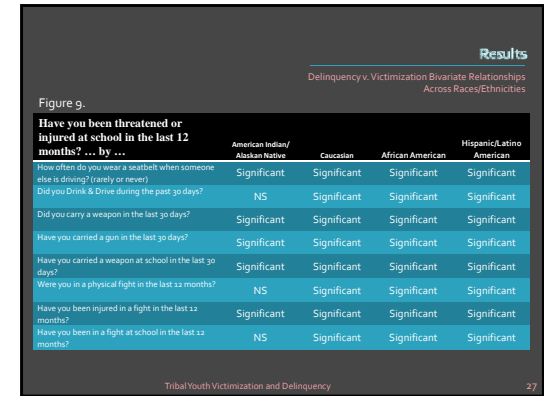
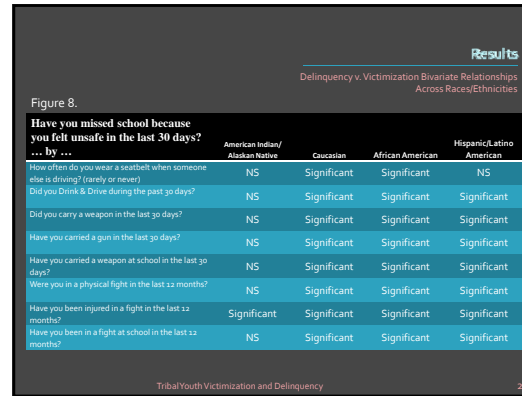
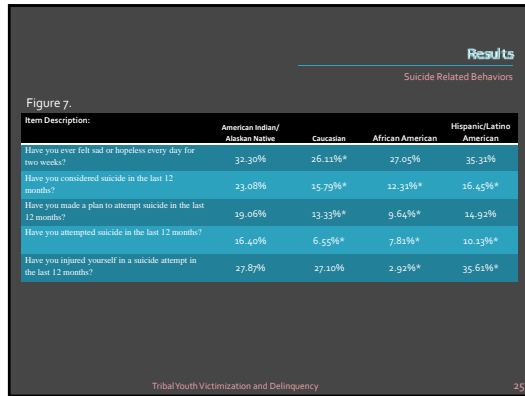
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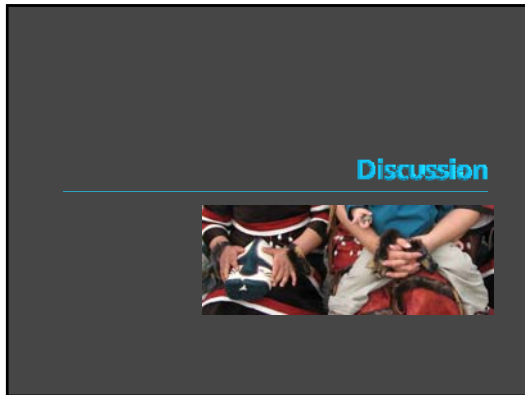
Results
Experience of Victimization

Figure 6.

| Item Description: | American Indian/ Alaskan Native | Caucasian | African American | Hispanic/Latino American |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Have you missed school because you felt unsafe in the last 30 days? | 9.45% | 3.75%* | 8.10% | 9.35% |
| Have you been threatened or injured at school in the last 12 months? | 13.59% | 7.32% | 9.76% | 8.29% |
| Have you had property stolen or damaged at school in the last 12 months? | 18.01% | 27.66% | 30.51% | 30.51% |
| Have you been hurt by your boy/girlfriend in the last 12 months? | 11.65% | 7.83% | 12.95% | 8.21% |
| Have you ever been forced to have sex? | 11.54% | 7.07% | 10.39% | 7.96% |

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Discussion
Violent Behavior

- AI per capita rate of violence twice that of US population
- 7 of 10 AI juvenile murder victims killed by another AI
- American Indians more likely to be victims of assault and rape by stranger
- 62% of offenders used alcohol (42% national average)

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Discussion
Violent Behavior

- Analysis confirms the disparities that exist relative to violent and/or delinquent behaviors
 - Higher levels of involvement in physical altercations
 - AI/AN youth almost 3 times more likely to be injured in a fight than Caucasians
 - Almost 2 times more likely than either African American or Hispanic youth to be injured in fight
- AI/AN youth more likely to carry a weapon than youth from other groups

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Discussion
Substance Use

- Similar disparities are confirmed to exist related to substance use behaviors
 - Smoking behaviors are higher among AI/AN youth than all other groups
 - AI/AN youth generally use tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana at younger ages than other groups
 - Substance use is higher among AI/AN youth at a factor between 1.5 and 4 times that found among other groups

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Discussion
Other Differences

- Significant differences emerge between AI/AN youth and African American youth related to sexual behaviors
- Few differences emerge across groups on selected victimization variables
 - One exception related to being afraid to go to school
 - Qualitative findings (Dr. Fox's research)
- Higher rates of suicide behaviors than all other group

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Discussion
Violence and Delinquency

- Linkage between delinquency and violence is somewhat less evident among AI/AN youth than with other groups
 - Smaller sample sizes?
 - Indian culture provides protective factor?

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Discussion
Programming Implications

- Lack of evidence based practice developed for tribal communities
- Many interventions do not incorporate AI/AN values in treatment programs
 - Reciprocity - manifested by the giving of gifts
 - Sense of Community - orientation toward the good of the group rather than good of the individual
 - Actively incorporating prayer into daily life

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Contact Information

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