

RELATIONSHIP

HB144 – Twelve Hour Hold Following Arrest, an appropriation to prevent domestic violence, provide education, victim protection and create an offender treatment fund.

S-49-Appropriation for domestic violence shelters and programs.

HB243-Appropriation for domestic violence shelters and programs.

SB140-Tribal-State judicial co-operation; appropriation to go partly in domestic violence prevention and education.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Domestic violence is a national concern, affecting thousands of families.

Poverty, unemployment, hunger, substance abuse, and low self-esteem are all possible triggers to domestic violence.

According to National Institute of Health research:

- American Indian women are more than twice as likely to be raped by a domestic partner.
- Nearly 38% of all American Indian women, and 12% of American Indian men, reported being victims of domestic violence.
- Unemployment on Native American reservations hovers at 37% nationally, with some reservations reporting over 70%. Those jobs that are available are mostly in the service industry, with little chance of career growth.
- Alcohol abuse runs rampant through the reservations, with effective programs losing funding just as soon as they begin to show progress.

Other research shows:

- 15.5% of American Indian couples sampled reported violence in their relationship, and 7.2% reported severe violence (National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/natamer.html)).
- Native Americans often perceive that their lifestyles and issues are not well-understood by non-natives. Consideration should be given to provide culturally-sensitive and appropriate information, and to utilize culturally-sensitive and aware counselors and health care providers (*El Independiente Newsletter* on the Web).
- In reviewing the Indian Health Service budget assigned for mental health care, from which domestic violence services are drawn, Nelson et al. (1992) concluded that the funding was only half of that required to provide an even minimal level of care.

MW/njw