



The author(s) shown below used Federal funding provided by the U.S. Department of Justice to prepare the following resource:

Document Title: Taku Eyachantognaka Owihankeya
Wanica, Community Brief 2

Author(s): Carmen O’Leary, Bridget Diamond-Welch,
Anna E. Kosloski

Document Number: 309603

Date Received: October 2024

Award Number: 15PNIJ-21-GG-02808-RESS

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This research was funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) (15PNIJ-21-GG-02808-RESS). Opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of NIJ.

Research Overview: The purpose of this project was for Native American community members to work with researchers to determine what type of research they would like to see happen in Native communities on issues related to Native youth violence and resiliency. Across the workshops, a total of 55 Native people participated in three workshops to discuss violence and resiliency. This community brief talks shortly about what we found about violence.

Examples of Resiliency Identified by Participants

“To be resilient is to be Indigenous.”

“Being able to speak to people you don’t know and it’s going to bring up something for someone in this room. I bring my light and when someone else comes in and shines their light and I’m like that makes sense. Then someone else shines their light and then I get to see the full picture. This is resiliency and I see that betters my family.”

“Learn from mistake and learn from our peers of how to deal with our trauma and all the things we deal with in our life.”

“Our culture is key. Our identity. Our LANGUAGE. If we do not know who we are, how will we know where we are going?”

“The kids asked to be safe and we taught them about safe touch, not okay touch, their body parts, and how to say their body parts in Lakota. We taught them not to be ashamed of their body parts and you know, parents didn’t realize and I don’t think they pay attention.”

Areas for Strengthening Resiliency

“The youth showed us that they could lead. Let’s get them involved and keep them involved. They are the future.”

“Not only for school but for our justice system, I think they need to include more of us in the conversation when it comes to decision making and implementing programs. I think a lot of us are missing from those conversations. That’s the first step. Every time I find myself at a community event, I feel like not enough of us are showing up or not enough of us are invited. Where are we? We are here to help each other but not very many of us are coming to the table to talk about things.”

“I think each of us in here has a personal stake in here to help our child/ and youth. How do we instill resiliency in them when [we] are still experiencing trauma?”

Next Steps

The research team is working to identify another research project based on the input from community members that participated in the workshops. We are developing a more extensive report for Native Women’s Society of the Great Plains (NWS). We are also currently talking with potential Native partners and looking to identify a way to address Native youth violence and promote resiliency in a culturally informed and responsive way based on the information shared from this research.

Interested in Connecting?

If you are interested in learning more about this research or any upcoming research, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us through the information provided below.

Carmen O’Leary

carmen@nativewomenssociety.org

Bridget Diamond-Welch

Bridget.K.Diamond-Welch@usd.edu

Anna E. Kosloski

akoslosk@uccs.edu



Native Women’s Society of the Great Plains



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA



University of Colorado Colorado Springs

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