YWomenVote2020

Spotlight: American Indian/Alaska Native Women

An overview of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Women’s Concerns, Priorities, and Experiences of Discrimination

YWomenVote2020—YWCA’s 3rd national survey of women in the United States—provides a comprehensive examination of women’s concerns, experiences, and priorities. With its in-depth focus on women whose voices are critical yet frequently overlooked in policy discussions, YWomenVote2020 frames clear expectations for legislative action that are held by women of color, Gen Z (age 18-22) and Millennial women (age 23-38), and white rural women. Learn more at YWomenVote.org.

AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN SHARE CORE CONCERNS WITH ALL WOMEN, BUT AT HIGHER LEVELS OF INTENSITY

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women today are worried about a broad range of health, safety, caregiving, and economic concerns that they and their families face. Notably, AI/AN women are intensely worried about safety and health care concerns that dominate the top tier of women’s concerns overall.

![AI/AN Women's Core Concerns](chart.png)
A WOMAN’S RACE IMPACTS HER CONCERNS

AI/AN women often have higher levels of worry about safety, health, economic, and caregiving concerns. In particular, AI/AN women are more concerned about experiencing sexual or domestic violence, accessing affordable mental health services, and the ability of their income to meet family bills and expenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues where American Indian/Alaska Native Women are More Likely to be Very Worried</th>
<th>American Indian/Alaska Native</th>
<th>All Women</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Having a medical expense for you or your family that you cannot afford*</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping you and your family safe from gun violence*</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiencing sexual assault or domestic violence*</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That your total family income will not be enough to meet your family’s expenses and pay your bills*</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to affordable mental health services*</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Split sampled

AI/AN’s intense worries about gender-based violence concerns are especially notable in comparison to white women.

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**AI/AN Women’s Concerns Compared to White Women**

- **Experiencing sexual assault or domestic violence:** 60% (AI/AN) vs. 30% (White)
- **Being believed when reporting sexual harassment, sexual assault, or domestic violence:** 61% (AI/AN) vs. 42% (White)
- **Being able to access counseling or other services you need after experiencing sexual or domestic violence:** 58% (AI/AN) vs. 31% (White)
AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE HIGH LEVELS OF DISCRIMINATION

Nearly half of AI/AN women (48%) reported experiencing discrimination because they are a woman, a 6-point-increase in gender discrimination since 2012. Four out of ten AI/AN women also reported experiencing discrimination based on their race or ethnicity. However, there has been a significant decrease in discrimination against AI/AN women based on age and religion since 2018 and they now report discrimination in these two categories at approximately the same levels as they did in 2012.

INTENSITY OF SUPPORT FOR KEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IS NOTABLY HIGH AMONG AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN

AI/AN women are aligned with women overall on policy solutions. However, their support for specific proposals is more intense. They are more likely to be very supportive of safeguarding health care coverage, strengthening equal pay laws, and passing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). AI/AN women are also likely to find second tier policies to be very important, including increasing funding for nonprofits who provide community services and improving maternal health.

AI/AN women also find it very important to prevent discrimination against the LGBTQ community (60%) and trans women of color (78%).