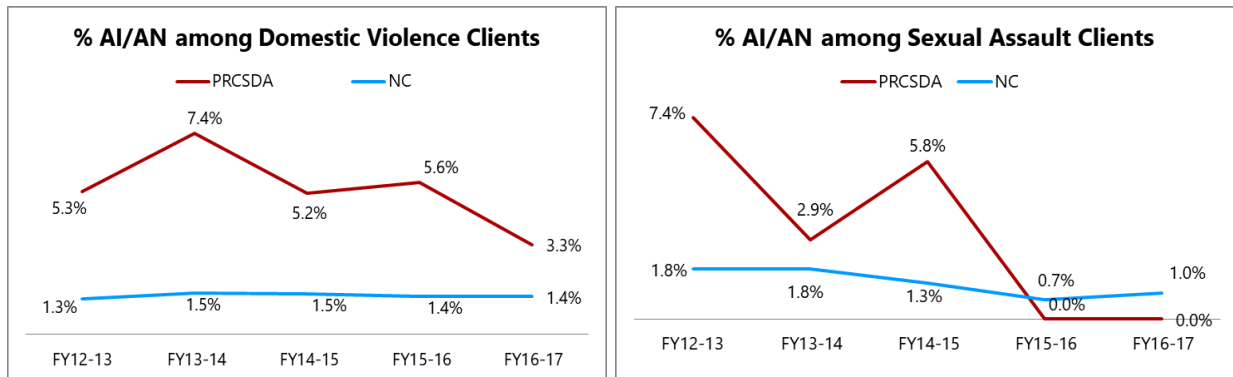


Trends: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Rates of reported domestic violence and sexual assault for AI/AN in the PRCSDA decreased between 2012 and 2016.



Understanding the Issue

EBCI 2017 Tribal Community Health Survey

5% of respondents to the 2017 EBCI Community Health Survey identified “domestic violence, child abuse, or elder abuse” among the top three things most negatively impacting their life over the past month. A similar proportion identified “theft and/or violent crime (assault, sexual assault) among the concerns most negatively impacting their life. 34% of respondents identified “Access to assistance for victims and/or offenders of crime related issues (theft, child or elder abuse, violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, illegal drug use)” among the things positively impacting the health and well-being of the EBCI Tribal community. Another 11% identified “Lack of or low crime (theft, violence, illegal drug use” among the positive aspects among the EBCI Tribal community.

Cherokee Central Schools 2018 Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS)

In the 2018 YRRS, 21% of high school students and 19% of middle school students reported that they had skipped school due to safety concerns at least once in the last 30 days. Approximately ¼ of students reported that they had been in a physical fight, and 15% reported that they had been in a physical fight on school property. 10% of high schoolers reported that they had experienced sexual dating violence, and 11% reported they had experienced physical dating violence. 8% of high school students reported that they had been forced to have sex.

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Domestic Violence Program (DVP)

Ernestine Walkingstick Domestic Violence Shelter defines domestic violence as “a pattern of coercive behavior that is used by a person against family, household members or dating partners to gain power or control over the other party in a dating relationship.” The shelter served 135 individuals in 2017, the vast majority of which were over the age of 18, female, and Native American. They provided 3525 services for these individuals. The most common perpetrators of domestic violence were those with whom the individual was intimate with or married to.

2015					2016					2017				
<18	F	AI/AN	Total	Services	<18	F	AI/AN	Total	Services	<18	F	AI/AN	Total	Services
1	186	152	204	5219	3	125	100	138	3516	2	122	103	135	3525

Adult Protective Services (APS)

APS records allegations of elder abuse for adults 60 years and older. Between Oct 2015 and May 2018, there were 25 allegations of abuse, 129 allegations of neglect, and 48 allegations of exploitation. From the APS Unit: “When reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation are received involving elderly and/or disabled adults, a Family Safety Adult Protective Services social worker will make an investigation. This investigation includes but is not limited to investigations, mental or physical health evaluations and mobilization of essential services, social services, case management or other protections.”

	Abuse	Neglect	Exploitation	Total
Oct.1, 2015- Sept. 2016	6	36	15	57
Oct. 1, 2016 – Sept. 2017	13	51	27	91
Oct. 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018	16	42	16	74
Totals:	35	129	48	

* A report may have more than one type of allegation; therefore, the total number of allegations are higher than the number of reports

Health Resources available/needed

Ernestine Walkingstick Domestic Violence Shelter

From the EBCI PHHS Domestic Violence Webpage: “The Ernestine Walkingstick Domestic Violence Shelter was established on June 3, 2002. The Shelter is a non-profit organization and is a program of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians that is funded primarily by Federal grants and supplemented by Tribal monies.” They provide the following services: victim advocacy, legal assistance, court accompaniment, transportation assistance, emergency shelter services

24/7, relocation services, crisis counseling, prevention education, and outreach activities. The shelter hotline number is 828-488-5527.

R.E.A.C.H of Macon County

R.E.A.C.H stands for resources, education, assistance, counseling, and housing. R.E.A.CH of Macon County provides “intervention, prevention, and coordinated community response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon and Jackson Counties.” The services they provide include: “24 HR Emergency Hotline, Court Advocacy, Youth Advocacy, Rape Prevention Education and Anti-Bullying, Shelter for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault victims, [and] Latino Outreach.” Their Macon County Hotline number is 828-369-5544. Their Jackson County Hotline number is 828-586-8969.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

The National Domestic Violence Hotline was established in 1996. From their website: “We provide confidential, one-on-one support to each caller and chatter, offering crisis intervention, options for next steps and direct connection to sources for immediate safety. Our database holds over 5,000 agencies and resources in communities across the country. Bilingual advocates are on hand to speak with callers, and our Language Line offers translations in 170+ different languages.” They have both a phone hotline, **800-799-SAFE, and live chat services at www.thehotline.org**

EBCI Family Safety Program

The Family Safety Program offers child and adult protective services to the children and families in the Cherokee community. Family Safety works jointly with programs such as Analenisgi, Safe Babies, Transitional Housing, and other local Cherokee resources through services in the home and community. They provide child and adult protective services for the community and maintain the EBCI foster care program. They can be contacted at 828-359-1520.