One in 7 Native American High School Students Experience Homelessness

Native American high school students are 1.7x as likely to experience homelessness as their non-native peers (13.4% vs. 7.8%).

Native American students experiencing homelessness were about equally likely to report being depressed (50%) as non-Native American homeless students (49%) but were about 1.5x as likely to report have attempting suicide (44% vs. 28%).

Depression and Suicide

Native American homeless students were 2.5x more likely to be physically hurt on purpose by a partner (45%) than non-Native American homeless students (18%).

Physical Abuse

Native American homeless students were 17x as likely than their non-Native American peers to report binge drinking in the past month (40% vs. 24%).

Alcohol Consumption

One third (32%) of Native American homeless students visited a dentist in the past year, compared to over half of non-Native American homeless students (51%).

Dentist Visits

Note: Data are weighted estimates from the 2016-17 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Due to small sample size, Native American homeless student data should be interpreted with caution. *Other category includes students who responded “Somewhere Else” and “No Usual Place.” No further explanations of primary night-time residence categories are available.

Primary Night-Time Residence of Homeless Students

Alaska, Montana, and New Mexico had the highest proportions of homeless students who were Native American.

Native American homeless students were 3x as likely to sleep in a hotel or motel, and less likely to sleep doubled up, in shelter, or in a car or public place.

Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness

Health and Well-Being Outcomes for Homeless Native American Students

Native American students experiencing homelessness are uniquely vulnerable to poor health outcomes. Disproportionate poverty, discrimination, geographic isolation, cultural differences, and limited access to social welfare services compound the effect of homelessness and housing instability for Native American students.