

# Violence Against Indian Women Research Program: A Roadmap to Present Day

**Christine (Tina) Crossland, Senior Social Science Analyst**  
**Research and Evaluation Division**  
**Office of Research, Evaluation, and Technology**  
**National Institute of Justice**



**NIJ**

Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women Virtual Meeting |  
October 22, 2020

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## Presentation Overview

- Authorizing Legislation and Amendments
- Early Program Development Efforts
- Early Identified Challenges
- Federal Advisory Task Force
- Developing a Program of Research
- Gathering Input from the Research Community
- Program Implementation
- Key Studies
- Questions, Answers, & Discussion

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## Program Authorizing Statute

Title IX, Section 904(a) of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005), Public Law No. 109-162 (codified at 42 USC § 3796gg-10 note), as amended by Section 907 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, Pub. L. No. 113-4.



## Analyses and Research on Violence Against Indian Women in Indian Country VAWA 2005

### • Scope of Work

- Dating violence
- Domestic violence
- Homicide
- Sexual assault
- Stalking



### • Government and Justice System Response

- Laws
- Policies
- Practices
- Procedures
- Programs



## Analyses and Research on Violence Against Indian Women in Indian Country and Alaska Native Villages VAWA 2005 & 2013

### • Scope of Work

- Dating violence
- Domestic violence
- Homicide
- **Sex trafficking (VAWA 2013)**
- Sexual assault
- Stalking



### • Government and Justice System Response

- Laws
- Policies
- Practices
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- Programs



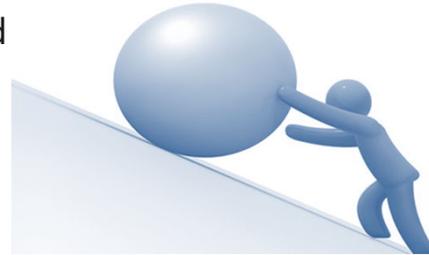
## Early Violence Against Indian Women (VAIW) Program Developmental Work

- Environmental scan
  - Outreach to federal science and policy agencies
  - Survey of state domestic violence and sexual assault data
    - [https://www.jrsa.org/pubs/reports/nij\\_tribal\\_DVSA\\_data\\_report.pdf](https://www.jrsa.org/pubs/reports/nij_tribal_DVSA_data_report.pdf)
- Report on the epidemiology of violence against Native American women and the criminal justice response to this violence
  - (2008) Bachman, Zaykowski, Kallmyer, Poteyeva, and Lanier
    - <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223691.pdf>



## Early Identified Challenges

- Lack of available data
- Difficulty in obtaining access to information
- Dealing with complex and multiple overlapping jurisdictional boundaries and gaps
- Accounting for diverse federal, state, and tribal justice systems
- Difficulty in obtaining accurate sampling data
- Acknowledging and overcoming prior research and ethical violations
- Resources (program funding and staffing)



## Federal Advisory Task Force

- Federal Advisory Committee Act
- Task Force Members are nominated to represent the following entities:
  - Tribal governments
  - National tribal domestic violence and sexual assault nonprofit organizations
  - National tribal organizations
- Established March 31, 2008
- 2010 Task Force Recommendation Report
  - <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/legacy/2011/07/13/904-taskforce-rec.pdf>



## Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women: 2010 Recommendation Report Key Takeaways

- Inclusion of **Alaska** in the scope of work
- **Leveraging national or state data collections**
- **National Baseline Study**
  - Protocols for tribal government engagement
  - Research capacity building
  - Confidentiality and privacy considerations



## Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women: 2010 Recommendation Report Key Takeaways

- **Secondary Data Analysis**
  - Analyze federal, state, and tribal data
    - Declinations, prosecution, sentencing
    - Death investigations and homicide data
- **Evaluations**
  - Effectiveness of a tribal-federal concurrent jurisdiction system
  - Effectiveness of a tribal-multiple federal jurisdiction system
  - Effectiveness of a tribal-state concurrent jurisdiction system
  - Effectiveness of a tribal system
  - Effectiveness of advocacy services programs



## Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women: 2010 Recommendation Report Key Takeaways

### ▪ Special Task Force Requested Studies

- Trafficking (added VAWA 2013)
- Indian women with special needs
- Comparison of tribal laws/codes relating to violence against Indian women
- Comparison of Public Law 280 vs. non-PL 280 prosecutorial and sentencing practices
- Perpetrator data (primary and secondary sources)
- Impact of “Full Faith and Credit” statutes



## Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women: 2010 Recommendation Report Key Takeaways

### ▪ Ongoing Engagement with Tribal Leaders and Stakeholders

- Annual Updates
  - Annual Department of Justice Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation
  - National Congress of American Indians (Violence Against Women Task Force)
  - Alaska Federation of Natives
  - Biennial National Indian Nations Conference
  - Other relevant tribal events/venues



## NIJ Convened VAIW Research Workshops

### ▪ March 2009

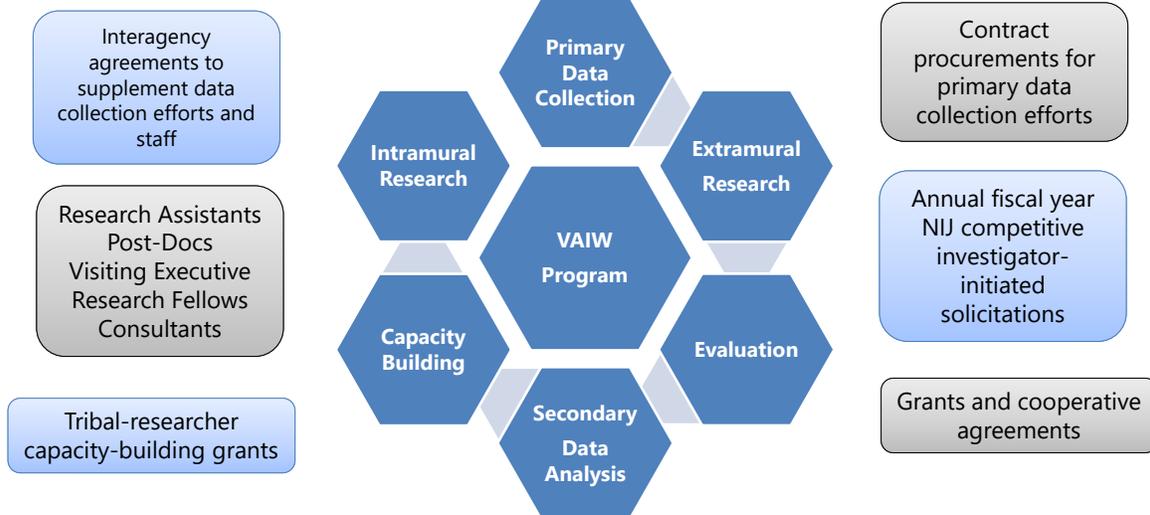
- Federal partners and stakeholders, researchers, and scholars
- Discussion: unit of analysis, sampling frame and techniques, measurement, modes of survey administration, ethical considerations, tribal nation engagement, recruitment and participation
- <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-section-904-researchers>

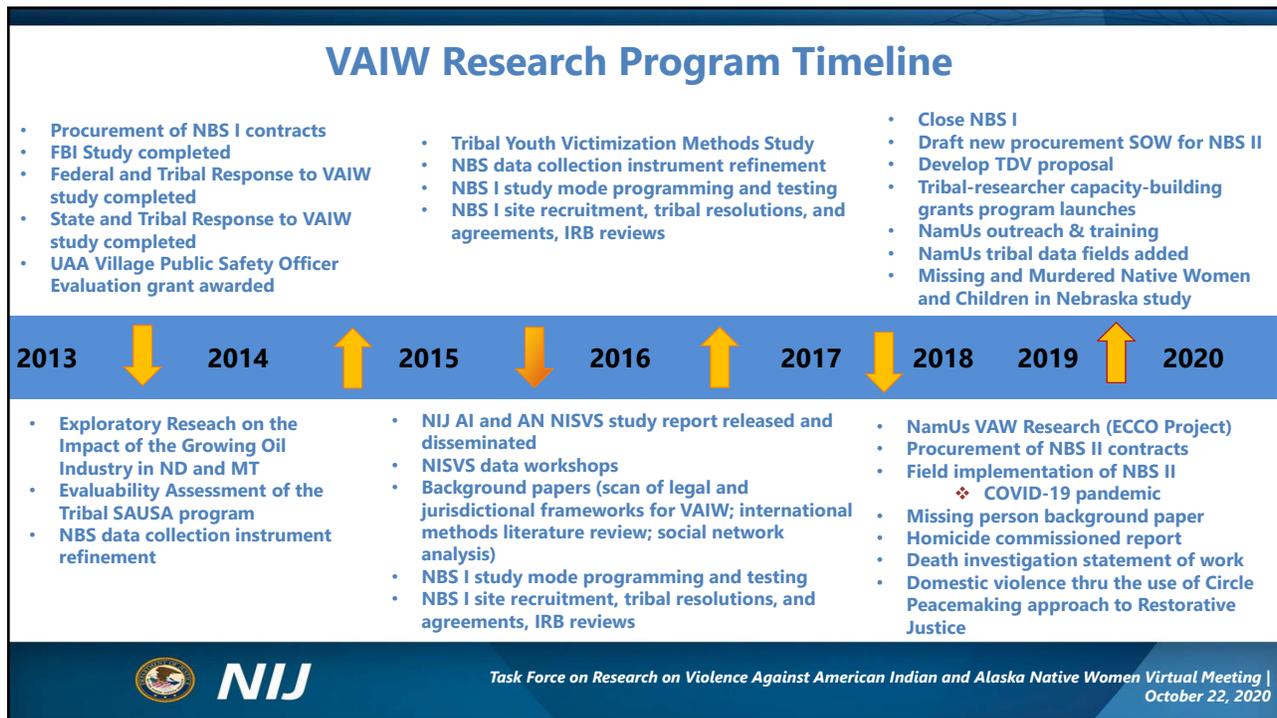
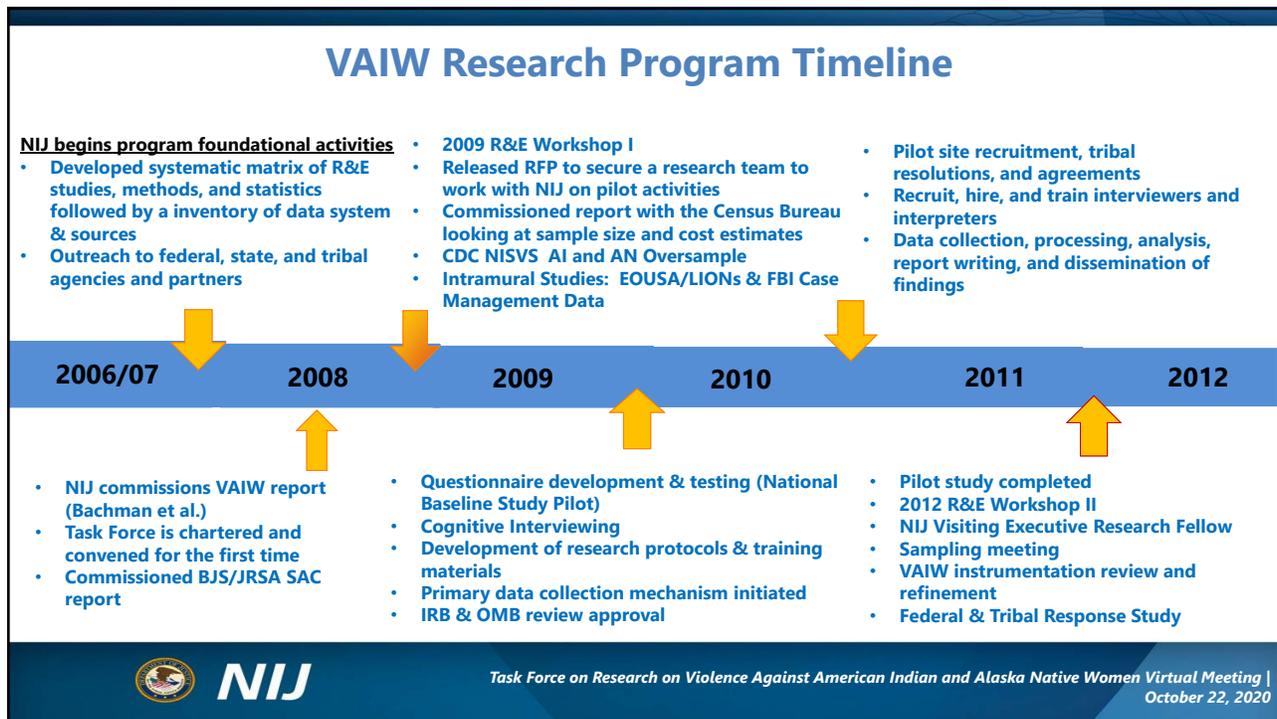
### ▪ March 2012

- Presentation of scientific results from the National Baseline Study pilot study
- [https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/pilot\\_study\\_research\\_workshop\\_summary.pdf](https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/pilot_study_research_workshop_summary.pdf)



## Violence Against Indian Women Program Components





## Main NIJ Violence Against Indian Women Studies

- **Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native women and men: 2010 Findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey**

- <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/249736.pdf>
- <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-and-men>

- **National Baseline Study Pilot Study**

- **National Baseline Study:** *A study of public health, wellness, and safety among American Indian and Alaska Native women living in tribal communities*

- <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-indian-women-national-baseline-study>



## VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN AND MEN: 2010 FINDINGS FROM THE NATIONAL INTIMATE PARTNER AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY



## National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey



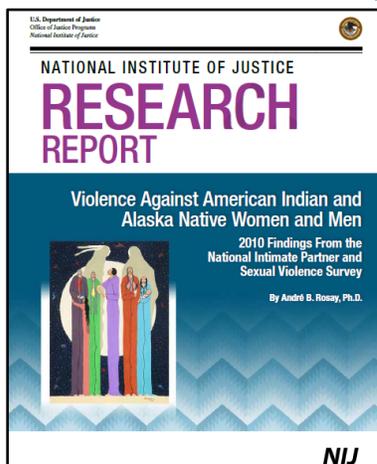
- NISVS is a nationally representative survey on violence against adult women and men in the U.S.

- Survey was launched in 2010 by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), with the support of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Department of Defense.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nisvs/>



## National Institute of Justice Research Report



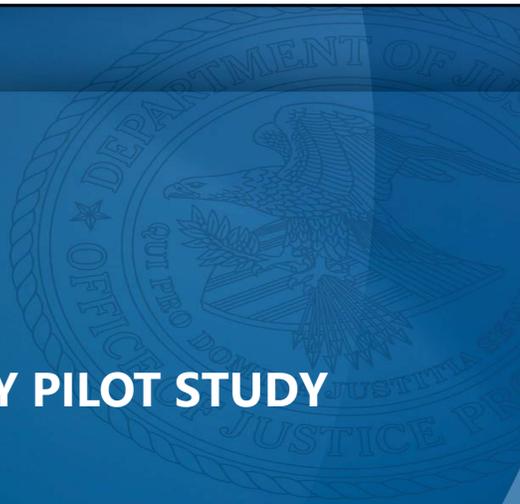
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/249736.pdf>



- Prevalence rates for:
  - Psychological aggression by intimate partners
  - Physical violence by intimate partners
  - Stalking
  - Sexual violence
- Comparisons across racial and ethnic groups
- Race of perpetrators
- Impact of violence



# NATIONAL BASELINE STUDY PILOT STUDY



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## National Baseline Study Pilot

**The pilot study aimed to:**

- Create and pilot test a survey instrument
  - Crosswalk to other studies
  - Cognitive testing
- Develop and test study methods
  - Different sampling techniques
  - Recruitment and participation techniques
  - Different modes of survey administration
    - ❖ Combination of computer-assisted personal interviewing and audio computer-assisted self-interviewing



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## NBS Pilot Study: Pilot Site #1

- **Focus:** to test the viability of using a map-based approach to sample households on reservation lands
- **Activities:** undertake two independent household enumeration activities
  - Innovative map-based approach to identify and enumerate all household units in a predefined area of the reservation
  - travel to the predefined area and work with our tribal partners to undertake more traditional counting and listing
- **Goals:** (1) test the scientific robustness, (2) burden to infrastructure, and (3) cost of each, and, where appropriate, (4) consider an approach that may combine elements of both designs for maximum efficiency.



## NBS Pilot Study: Pilot Site #2

- **Purpose:** a small, but full scale pilot test of all components of a field-based data collection study
  - recruiting, hiring, and training Native American women as field interviewers
  - randomly sampling potential respondents from an enrollment list
  - recruiting American Indian women who are at least 18 years of age to participate in a touchscreen audio computer-assisted self-interview
  - administration of the interview and then debrief respondents about the survey



## NBS Pilot Study: Pilot Site #3

- **Purpose:** limited to cognitive testing of the survey instrument and the consent form, and collecting information about confidentiality issues, the potential for telescoping on the 12-month estimates, and respondent preferences for data collection mode and interviewer characteristics
- **Refining of key survey components:**
  - Informed consent
  - Concerns about confidentiality
  - How respondents placed victimization experiences in time
  - Preference for survey mode and interviewer
  - Specific concerns around survey language and need for translation



## NBS Pilot Study: Key Takeaways

- Local coordination and buy-in are essential
- Must collaborate and maintain tribal partnerships throughout the data collection effort and after
  - Remain transparent and available
- Importance of marrying Western-oriented, science-based research methods with traditional and cultural appropriate practices
- Ensure the research methods and protocols are respectful of tribal sovereignty, customs, and traditions
- Be flexible and able to pivot



# NATIONAL BASELINE STUDY



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## National Baseline Study Research Design

- The study will occur in geographically dispersed tribal communities across the U.S. (lower 48 and Alaska) using a NIJ sampling plan.
- All adult women in randomly selected tribal households are eligible to participate in the study if they:
  - Are 18 years of age and older.
  - Self-identify as indigenous, are affiliated with a tribe, or are an enrolled member of a tribe.
  - Voluntarily agree to participate in the study.



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## National Baseline Study Sampling Plan

### National Sampling Plan

- Comprised of randomly selected land-holding, federally recognized tribes in the lower 48 and Alaska.
- Sample ensures inclusion of at least one tribe from each of the 12 Indian Health Service areas and sampling proportionate to size within each area.



### Tribal Household Sampling Plan

- Developed using participating tribal government approved lists.
- When no available lists exist or are accessible, households will be identified and enumerated using counting and listing map-based methods.



## National Baseline Study Survey Foci

- Demographic make-up of participants
- Participants' health & well-being
- Lifetime and last 12 month victimization experiences and their impact on participants
- Participant service needs and use
- Resiliency and community strengths



## National Baseline Study Survey Administration Mode

The NBS survey uses two types of computer-assisted interviewing modes

- **CAPI - Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing**
  - Field interviewers asks questions and records participants' responses using a study laptop
- **ACASI - Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interview**
  - Participants listen to recordings of questions and response categories using headphones with the ability to also read questions displayed on the study laptop
  - Ensures participant confidentiality and privacy as it is used for portions of the interview deemed most sensitive



## National Baseline Study Participant Support

Study participants that volunteer to take part in the study receive:

- Detailed information about the interview process and survey content
- Childcare support for the time to take the survey, if needed
- Interpreter services, if needed
- List of local and national resources
- Compensation for their time



## National Baseline Study Team & Partners

### National Institute of Justice (NIJ):

- NBS Contracting Officer's Representative(COR)
- NIJ NBS Project Director

### National Baseline Study Research Contactor (NBSRC):

- American Indian Development Associates, LLC (AIDA)

### National Baseline Study Data Collection Contractor (NBSDCC):

- RTI International (RTI)

### Selected AI and AN tribes:

- Tribes, tribal households, and adult AI and AN women that voluntarily agree to participate in the NBS Study



## National Baseline Study Research Contract Field Staff



### American Indian Development Associates, LLC

Supporting Tribal Self-Determination Through Education, Justice, Health & Community Development

*American Indian Owned and Operated Business Since 1989*



### Field Operations Managers

- Oversee, supervise, and manage onsite research and closeout activities.

### Site Coordinators

- Assist with onsite data collection, field staff supervision, and assist with onsite research and administrative activities.

### Field Interviewers

- Implement field data collection processes by recruiting households and participants for the NBS survey, and conducts interviews.

### Interpreters

- Translates questions or words not understood by the NBS survey participants.



## NBS Research Reviews and Approvals

### Office of Management & Budget (OMB)

- NBS requires OMB review and approval because it is a national, congressionally mandated and federally-funded and directed study.
- The OMB reviews and approves the NBS study design and data collection instruments.

### NIJ Privacy Certificate (PC)

- The PC protects tribes' and participants' privacy and confidentiality.
- Limits use of data collected for research purposes only.

### Institutional Review Board (IRB)

- AIDA – Southwest Tribal IRB approval
- RTI – RTI IRB approval
- Individual Tribal IRB/research review boards approvals required



## NBS Participatory Agreements and Permissions

### NIJ respects tribal sovereignty and the NBS adheres to government-to-government principles

- Tribal Approvals
  - Tribal Resolutions or Executive Orders
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or
  - Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)



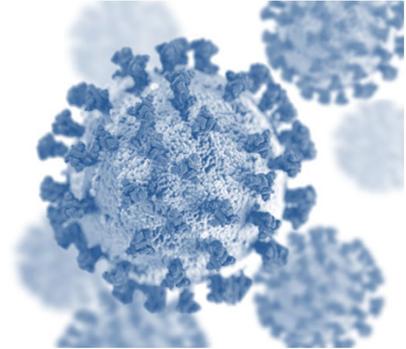
### Tribal participatory agreements and permissions include:

- Stakeholder engagement with local implementation
- Outreach and community awareness
- Communications plan
- Tribal approval and permissions
- Information sharing agreements
- Data protection
- Field staff recruitment from participating tribes
- Closeout strategies
- Collective NBS information session
- Tribal input on study presentation and publications



## National Baseline Study Delays

- Recruitment was to begin late spring 2020 into summer 2020
- COVID-19 pandemic
  - State and Tribal Nation closures | shelter in place orders
  - Reopening in phases | delays
- Reassess NBS tribal nation engagement and outreach protocols
  - Tribal leader input sought | consultation framing paper:  
<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1319981/download>

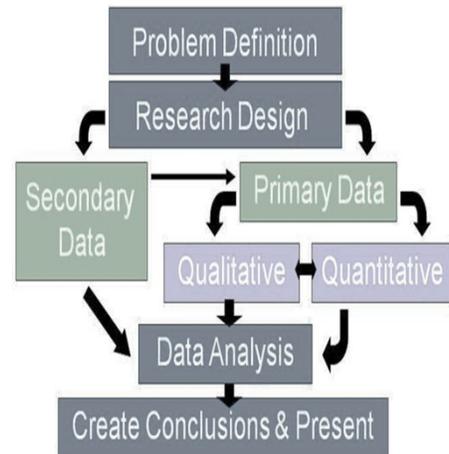


## PRESENT DAY VAIW PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



## NIJ VAIW Current Activities

- Continue National Baseline Study pre-data collection activities
- Continue to support capacity building efforts for tribally-driven and investigator-initiated research proposals
  - Tribal-Researcher Capacity-Building Grants Program
- Fund extramural research proposals submitted to NIJ's solicitations
- Initiate new intramural/in-house research projects
- Commission new studies (i.e., homicide and death investigations)
- Address components of the program not addressed (e.g., teen dating violence, sex trafficking)
- Gather input from the program's Task Force on new study ideas, research questions, and priorities



## Contact Information

**Christine (Tina) Crossland**  
Senior Social Science Analyst  
Research and Evaluation Division  
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Technology

[christine.crossland@usdoj.gov](mailto:christine.crossland@usdoj.gov)

Landline 202-616-5166

Mobile 202-532-3436

If you have questions or inquiries for NIJ,  
please email [NIJ\\_NationalBaselineStudy@usdoj.gov](mailto:NIJ_NationalBaselineStudy@usdoj.gov).

