

Responses to Domestic Violence in Tribal Communities

A Regional Survey of Northern California

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents findings from a technical assistance project designed to gain a deeper understanding of the problems associated with domestic violence in Northern California tribal communities, including the Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Smith River Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria, and the Yurok Tribe. The analysis was carried out by the Center for Court Innovation in partnership with the Northern California Tribal Court Coalition.

Methods included two surveys, respectively of adults and youth, exploring respondents' personal experiences with domestic violence and their perceptions of community and justice system responses. In addition, nine focus groups were held to gain a deeper understanding of these issues with different groups of affected stakeholders, including perpetrators, victims, service providers, court staff, and both adult and high school age community members.

Major themes and findings included:

- Domestic Violence Victimization: Thirty-seven percent (37%) of adult survey respondents, including 44% of female and 19% of male respondents, reported that they had previously been abused by a partner.
- Role of Alcohol and Illegal Drugs: Almost two-thirds (66%) of victims who were included in the adult survey indicated that their partner was under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or both during the most recent incident. In addition, 59% of perpetrators in the survey self-reported that they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Focus group findings confirmed a common perception that alcohol and drug use coincides with domestic violence.
- Reporting of Domestic Violence Incidents: Only 11% of adult survey respondents believed that domestic violence incidents are usually reported to law enforcement, and only 20% believed that incidents involving children are usually reported to child protective services. Focus group findings confirm a virtually unanimous perception that the majority of incidents are not reported, due to shame, fear of retaliation from the perpetrator or his/her family, or distrust of the justice system, county law enforcement in particular. Despite these perceptions, 69% of perpetrators in the adult survey indicated that their most recent incident was reported, and 43% of victims reached by that survey also indicated as much.
- Perceptions of Law Enforcement: Almost half (43%) of respondents felt that law enforcement—city and county law enforcement in particular—did not treat members of the community fairly regarding reports or investigations of domestic violence. (Only 19% agreed that treatment by law enforcement was fair, whereas the remaining 38% of respondents indicated that they did not know.) Common concerns included a perceived tendency by law enforcement to threaten victims with child removal and to treat them in other ways that were perceived as shaming and embarrassing. Service providers recommended improving the law enforcement response through training.

- Perceptions of the Court Response: Adult survey respondents also identified problems with court involvement in tribal domestic violence incidents. Provided a choice of nine different aspects of the court response as “not a problem,” “somewhat of a problem,” or a “serious problem,” significant percentages of respondents rated each of the nine dimensions as serious problems. Examples include: state court judges lack tribal cultural knowledge (46% ranked as serious); state court orders to protect victims are not enforced (42%); and tribal court orders to protect victims are not enforced (46%). Focus group respondents, however, reported positive experiences with the Tribal courts and differentiated between those courts and state courts.
- Appropriate Court Sanctions: When it is legally appropriate to penalize domestic violence perpetrators, the responses most commonly favored were prison or jail (53%), drug or alcohol treatment (45%), batterer program (42%), mental health treatment (33%), and protective orders (31%).
- Youth Experiences of Violence: Of the youth surveyed, 42% reported witnessing a family member abusing another family member, and 17% reported having been abused themselves by a family member.
- Teen Dating Violence: Most of the youth (59%) reported that they had previously been in a dating relationship. Of those, 21% reported having been the victim of physical abuse. The survey also covered non-physical forms of abuse, of which the most common included having been insulted in front of other people (16%); not allowed to do things with other people (16%); and made to describe whereabouts “every minute of the day” (11%).
- Services: Focus group participants generally perceived batterer programs and other services as useful, but participants generally believed that these services lacked a necessary cultural component to ensure their appropriateness for a Native American population. Focus groups with community members, victims, and perpetrators revealed a widespread perception of a lack of treatment, counseling, drug abuse, and other services in the community; yet, in focus groups with service providers, participants reported that a wealth of services exist, suggesting that services may need to be more widely publicized.
- Community Awareness: Particularly in the focus group with service providers, participants advocated more frequent community awareness activities and events surrounding the harms of domestic violence; the justice process; and the availability of services.
- Youth Prevention: Focus group participants cited a particular need to conduct outreach to Native American youth and to provide education about domestic violence prevention.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) provided funding to the Northern California Tribal Court Coalition (NCTCC) to plan and implement a domestic violence court, with the aim of improving access to justice for Tribal members with domestic violence cases. To assist in the planning process, in the summer and fall of 2011, NCTCC partnered with the Center for Court Innovation (CCI), a national technical assistance provider funded separately by OVW, to develop and implement surveys and focus groups regarding experiences with domestic violence in Tribal communities throughout the Northern California region.

Background: The Northern California Tribal Court Coalition

The Northern California Tribal Court Coalition is a Tribal Consortium established in December 2004 and incorporated (under Title 54, the Hoopa Valley Nonprofit Corporations Code) as a tribally chartered nonprofit organization in February 2009. The coalition is currently comprised of five (5) federally-recognized Indian Tribes: Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Smith River Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria and the Yurok Tribe. The NCTCC's mission is to promote and strengthen tribal justice systems to restore balance and order, while honoring sovereignty and cultural values.

The northernmost part of California that is served by the NCTCC tribes is a remote and rugged area, from the "Lost Coast" of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties to the large yet sparsely populated Siskiyou County (the fifth largest county in the State, covering 6,500 square miles). These northern counties have a far greater than average Native American population (Humboldt County is 6.3% Native American, Del Norte County, 6.9%, and Siskiyou County, 4.4%, compared to the statewide percentage of 0.7% and national percentage of 1.5%.) The Tribes in the NCTCC are among the largest in the state (at last count, the Yurok Tribe has approximately 5,700 enrolled members, the Karuk Tribe has 3,548, the Hoopa Tribe has 2,785, and the Smith River Rancheria has 1,474, with a total Tribal population of over 13,500.) These populations are all economically depressed, with high unemployment rates, percentages of women and children living below the federal poverty level, and dropout rates, substance abuse, and mental health needs. These characteristics are known risk factors for domestic violence and sexual assault.¹

The counties that are home to these Tribes are under-funded and under-staffed. Families live in isolation, often in survivalist mode. They may have no means of transportation and no access to electricity or communications systems such as telephones, television, computers or newspapers.² It is impossible to report all the incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault that take place within these communities. In 2000, the National Institute of Justice published a report on the findings of the National Violence against Women Survey, which revealed that one in three Native American women reported having been raped during her lifetime. More generally, Native American women experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States. A report released by the Department of Justice, American Indians and Crime, found that Native American women

¹ For example, as of January 2012 the unemployment rate for Del Norte County averaged 14.1 %, Humboldt County was 11.2%, and Siskiyou County was a staggering 18.6%, all above the statewide unemployment average of 10.9%.

² See Siskiyou County's Child and Family Services Review System Improvement Plan, September 30, 2004.

suffer violent crime (including domestic violence) at a rate three and a half times greater than the national average.³

Methodology

During the summer of 2011, the Center for Court Innovation worked with the NCTCC to design surveys to gauge tribal members' experiences with and perceptions of domestic violence. A separate survey was designed to target tribal youth and experiences with teen dating violence. Focus groups were also implemented to gain a better understanding of domestic violence issues in each of the tribal communities.

CCI staff also worked with NCTCC staff to design appropriate protocols for human subjects' protections that guaranteed anonymity to written survey respondents and confidentiality to focus group participants. Survey respondents and focus group participants received and signed informed consent forms and received a detailed brochure of available social services in the event that they became emotionally distressed. NCTCC staff and staff from each tribe were trained in appropriate survey administration techniques and focus group protocols.

Domestic violence advocates from all NCTCC member Tribes administered and collected 444 completed adult surveys and 70 youth surveys, and conducted nine focus groups of community members, victims, service providers, court personnel and perpetrators, using CCI's methodology. The original analysis was completed in December of 2011.

³ See U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service Violence Against Native Women Page <http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/MCH/V/index.cfm>.

CHAPTER 2. ADULT SURVEY RESPONSES

During the fall of 2011, staff at each of the participating tribes administered written surveys to adult and youth tribal members in a variety of community settings, including community meetings and events. Survey topics included respondents' personal experiences with domestic violence, the role of culture in shaping those experiences, and perceptions of community, law enforcement, and court responses to domestic violence. A total of 444 surveys with adult community members were collected from the five participating tribal communities. The majority of respondents were administered the survey in the Hoopa Valley (43%), Karuk (27%), and Yurok (24%) tribal communities. Additional respondents were administered the survey in the Smith River-Rancheria (2%) and Klanath (1%) tribal communities. Descriptive statistics are presented for most questions and a full copy of the adult interview guide can be found in Appendix A.

PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Table 2.1 presents demographic data for the survey respondents. The majority of respondents were female (72%) and identified as having membership with the Yurok (36%), Hupa (33%), and/or Karuk (30%) tribes. Most respondents were between the ages of 18 and 59 years (83%). Almost half of the respondents reported that they were currently in an intimate relationship, either living together, engaged, or married (traditionally or by the church or state) while 42% reported that they were currently single. When asked about their relationship with their community, the majority of respondents reported that they were community members (59%), as opposed to tribal elders, advocates, social services, staff, or individuals with other relationships to the Tribe.

Table 2.2 presents data on the cultural background of survey respondents. The majority of respondents reported that they were currently living in their local native community (78%) and that they grew up in their local native community at least part of the time (82%). Almost three-quarters of respondents reported that they knew the village from which their family came (74%) and almost all respondents reported that they participated in at least one traditional ceremony. The majority of respondents reported that they did not speak their tribal language often or never spoke it (68%) and that they did not often work on regalia or ceremonial items or never worked on them (54%). However, the majority of respondents reported that they attended or participated in local ceremonies at least sometimes (70%) and gathered or prepared traditional foods at least sometimes (73%). An overwhelming majority of respondents reported that they visited Tribal elders and relatives within their community at least sometimes (84%).

Table 2.1 Respondent Demographics (N=444)

Tribe	
Hoopa Valley	43%
Karuk	27%
Yurok	24%
Smith River Rancheria	2%
Klanath	1%
None Specified	3%
Gender	
Female	72%
Male	28%
Tribal Membership*	
Yurok	36%
Hupa	33%
Karuk	30%
Other	21%
Tolowa	7%
Wiyot	1%
Age	
18-29 years old	24%
30-39 years old	24%
40-49 years old	18%
50- 59 years old	18%
60 years old and up	16%
Marital Status	
Single	42%
Traditional Marriage	11%
Marriage by Church/State	25%
Living together or engaged	14%
Other**	7%
Relationship to Community	
Community Member	59%
Social Services/Counselor/Advocate	16%
Other – Not Specified	12%
Tribal Elder	10%
Advocate	7%

*Respondents were given the option of identifying as a member of more than one tribe. The “other” category includes those who had no tribal affiliation, those married to tribal members, or those who responded “other” without specification.

** Other category includes widowed, divorced/separated, and other not specified.

Table 2.2 Respondent Cultural Background

Currently lives in native community						78%
Grew up in local native community						
Yes						70%
Part of the time						12%
No						18%
Knows village(s) that family comes from						74%
Attends/participates in:*						
Brush Dance						74%
Jump Dance/Mountain Dance						52%
World Renewal Ceremony						42%
Nee Dash (Tolowa)						21%
Flower Dance						19%
Other						14%
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Not Often	Never	
1. What is the extent to which you speak your tribal language?	3%	5%	24%	31%	37%	
2. How often do you attend and/or participate in local tribal ceremonies?	15%	23%	32%	20%	10%	
3. How often do you gather or prepare traditional foods?	13%	29%	31%	16%	12%	
4. How often do you visit your Tribal elders/relatives within the community?	18%	34%	32%	10%	6%	
5. How often do you work on regalia or ceremonial items?	6%	13%	28%	22%	32%	
	Truly Non-Indian	Somewhat Non-Indian	Both	Somewhat Indian	Truly Indian	
Please rate your sense of belonging to the cultural group known as Native-Indian.	7%	4%	15%	18%	55%	

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses.

PERSONAL & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Respondents were next asked about their personal experiences with domestic violence, including perpetrating an incident of domestic violence, being a victim of an incident of domestic violence, and personal or familial experiences of sexual abuse or victimization. Tables 2.3 to 2.5 present information on respondents’ personal experiences with domestic violence and sexual victimization.

Regarding perpetration, 6% of female and 25% of male respondents reported that they had been accused of or arrested for hurting or abusing a partner or family member at some point in time. Table 2.3 presents data for those respondents who reported being the perpetrator of an incident of domestic violence only. The majority of those who had previously been the perpetrator of an incident of domestic violence reported that the most recent incident occurred more than 1 year (36%) and more than 5 years ago (36%). Almost half of the respondents (43%) reported that they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the most recent incident and almost one-quarter (24%) reported that the partner or family member was also under the influence of alcohol. The majority of respondents reported that the most recent incident had been reported to authorities (69%) and the most common authority to which it was reported was law enforcement (55%).

Table 2.3 Experiences Perpetrating Incidents of Domestic Violence (N=51)

Most Recent Incident	
Within last 3 months	7%
Within last 6 months	14%
Within the last year	7%
More than 1 year ago	36%
More than 5 years ago	36%
Involvement of Drugs/Alcohol*	
I was under the influence of alcohol.	43%
My partner/family member was under the influence of alcohol.	24%
I was under the influence of drugs.	16%
My partner/family member was under the influence of drugs.	18%
I don’t know.	8%
Most Recent Incident Reported to Authorities	
Yes	69%
No	21%
I don’t know.	10%
Most Recent Incident Reported to (of those who reported):*	
Law Enforcement	55%
Child Protective Services	12%
Social Services	8%
Other	6%

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses.

Regarding victimization, 44% of female and 19% of male respondents reported that they had been hurt or abused by a partner or family member as a child or adult in the past. Table 2.4 presents data for those respondents who reported being a victim of domestic violence only. Of the respondents who reported that they had been the victim of an incident of domestic violence, the majority reported that the most recent incident was more than 5 years ago (65%). Almost half of these respondents (41%) reported that their partner or family member that had hurt them was under the influence of alcohol at the time and a quarter (25%) reported that their partner or family member was under the influence of drugs. Almost half of the victims (43%) reported that the most recent incident had not been reported to authorities. However, when the incident was reported, it was most often reported to law enforcement (86%).

Table 2.4 Experiences as Victims of Incidents of Domestic Violence (N=164)

Most Recent Incident	
Within last 3 months	5%
Within last 6 months	2%
Within the last year	5%
More than 1 year ago	23%
More than 5 years ago	65%
Involvement of Drugs/Alcohol*	
I was under the influence of alcohol.	15%
My partner/family member was under the influence of alcohol.	41%
I was under the influence of drugs.	10%
My partner/family member was under the influence of drugs.	25%
I don't know.	26%
Most Recent Incident Reported to Authorities	
Yes	43%
No	50%
I don't know.	7%
Most Recent Incident Reported to:*	
Law Enforcement	86%
Child Protective Services	9%
Social Services	12%
Other	21%
Have you ever been hospitalized or required medical care due to injuries?	
Yes	14%
No	27%
Did Not Respond	59%

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses.

Thirty-two percent (32%) of respondents reported that they knew a family member who had been sexually abused or victimized or that they themselves had been sexually abused or victimized in the past. Almost one-quarter (23%) reported that they were aware of an ancestor in their family that had experienced sexual abuse in the house or in boarding school. Table 2.5 presents data for those respondents who reported personal or familial experiences of sexual abuse or victimization. Of the respondents who reported sexual abuse or victimization, the majority (57%) reported that the most recent incident had not been reported to the authorities. When the incident was reported, it was most often reported to law enforcement (26%). Fear and shame/embarrassment were the two most common responses that respondents perceived as reasons that incidents were not reported, but the majority of respondents did not answer this question (45%). Only 11% of respondents reported that outside help or support sought following these incidents was helpful and only 9% reported that the support was culturally sensitive.

Table 2.5 Personal or Familial Experiences of Sexual Abuse or Victimization (N=140)

Most Recent Incident Reported to Authorities	
Yes	29%
No	57%
I don't know.	14%
Most Recent Incident Reported to (of those who reported):*	
Law Enforcement	26%
Child Protective Services	10%
Rape Crisis Center (Social Services)	6%
Other	6%
Reasons Sexual Assault Not Reported	
Fear	16%
Shame or Embarrassment	14%
Threat of Retaliation	9%
Other	2%
<i>Authorities Did Not Believe Us</i>	1%
Did not respond	45%
If you or the family member obtained outside support, was it helpful?	
Yes	11%
No	13%
I don't know.	14%
Did not respond	62%
Was the assistance or support provided in a culturally sensitive or respectful manner?	
Yes	9%
No	15%
I don't know.	14%
Did not respond	62%

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses.

Respondents were also asked about the cultural context of domestic violence, including the frequency of domestic violence in their community, their understanding of perpetrators and victims of domestic violence, and appropriate responses to perpetrators. Respondents reported that intimate partner abuse was the most frequent type of domestic violence followed by sexual assault and teen dating violence. Stalking and elder abuse were reported to be the least frequent types of domestic violence. Table 2.6 presents information on respondents' perceptions of incidents of domestic violence in their community. The majority of respondents (71%) believed that tribal and non-tribal members were equally responsible for incidents of domestic violence. More than half of respondents (63%) reported that men were the most likely perpetrators in incidents of domestic violence and an even greater proportion (70%) reported that women were the most likely victims of these incidents. Almost one-third (29%) also reported that teenage women were likely victims of domestic violence.

Table 2.7 presents information on respondents' perceptions of the causes of domestic violence perpetration and the most appropriate responses to those who engage in abusive behavior. The majority of respondents reported that each of four potential causes of the actions of perpetrators of domestic violence were at least sometimes responsible for their behavior: drug and alcohol abuse (77%); mental health and emotional issues (82%); learned behaviors from family and/or community (87%); and disconnection from culture and traditions (78%).

Table 2.6 Perceptions of Incidents of Domestic Violence

Who most often acts violently in these incidents of domestic violence?	
Tribal members	12%
Members of a different tribe	5%
Non-Indians	12%
All equally act violently	71%
Who are usually the perpetrators in incidents of domestic violence?*	
Women	22%
Men	63%
Teenage Men	14%
Teenage Women	10%
Elder Men	7%
Elder Women	6%
Who are usually the victims in incidents of domestic violence?*	
Women	70%
Men	12%
Teenage Men	9%
Teenage Women	29%
Elder Men	9%
Elder Women	15%

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses

Table 2.7 Perceptions of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Not Often	Never
Causes for Actions of Perpetrators					
Drug & Alcohol Abuse	22%	39%	16%	4%	9%
Mental Health & Emotional Issues	14%	35%	33%	8%	10%
Learned Behaviors from Family and/or Community	20%	38%	29%	5%	8%
Disconnection from Culture & Traditions	15%	29%	34%	12%	10%
Most Appropriate Responses for Perpetrators*					
Prison or jail			53%		
Drug or alcohol treatment			45%		
Batterer program			42%		
Mental health treatment			33%		
Protective orders			31%		
Cultural mentoring			28%		
Community service			24%		
Community monitoring			18%		
Fines			17%		
Probation			16%		
Banishment			13%		
Other**			7%		

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses.

**Other responses included: sweathouses and cultural activities; public humiliation; payments to family; communication & skills training; anything that works; and youth education & prevention.

RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Table 2.8 presents information on respondents' perceptions of community responses to domestic violence. The majority of respondents reported that incidents are not usually reported to law enforcement (63%) and incidents involving children are not usually reported to child protective services (53%). When incidents are reported, the victim's family (56%) was the most common answer regarding who usually makes the report, followed by the victim (29%), a teacher (24%), a service provider (22%), a neighbor (21%), or a healthcare provider (20%). One-third (33%) believed that the community helps address domestic violence in other ways, including family counseling (29%), individual counseling (26%), victim support groups (19%), and victim shelters (18%).

Concerning the justice response to domestic violence, the most popular responses that respondents considered to be appropriate were prison or jail (53%), drug or alcohol treatment (45%), a batterer program (42%), mental health treatment (33%), and protective orders (31%).

Table 2.8 Perceptions of Community Responses to Domestic Violence

Do incidents of domestic violence usually get reported to law enforcement?	
Yes	11%
No	63%
I don't know.	26%
Do incidents of domestic violence involving children usually get reported to child protective services?	
Yes	20%
No	53%
I don't know.	27%
Do certain types of domestic violence get reported less than others?	
Yes	55%
No	10%
I don't know.	35%
What types of domestic violence get reported less?*	
Intimate Partner Abuse	33%
Sexual Assault	36%
Teen Dating Violence	32%
Stalking	21%
Elder Abuse	31%
Who usually reports incidents of domestic violence?*	
Victim's Family	56%
Victim	29%
Teacher	24%
Social Service Provider	22%
Neighbor	21%
Healthcare Provider	20%
No One	7%
Other	6%
Are there any other ways that your community helps solve or talk about domestic violence?	
Yes	33%
No	13%
I don't know.	54%
What are some of these other options (if "yes" to prior question)?*	
Family counseling	29%
Individual counseling	26%
Victim support groups	19%
Victim shelters	18%
Mediation	17%
Community meetings	17%
Prevention education	16%
Batterer's programs	15%
Healing seminars	14%
Other	7%

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses.

Table 2.9 presents information on respondents’ perceptions of law enforcement responses to domestic violence incidents. Over one-third of respondents reported that community members were not treated fairly by law enforcement (43%) or by child protective services (36%) when reporting incidents of domestic violence. The majority of respondents were unsure about whether or not community members were treated fairly by the probation department (46%), but 30% reported that community members were not treated fairly. Forty-six percent of respondents believed that certain types of domestic violence are investigated less than others. Elder abuse (24%) and teen dating violence (24%) were reported as the types of domestic violence that are most commonly investigated less.

Table 2.10 presents information on respondents’ understanding of court involvement in domestic violence incidents. Respondents were asked if they had ever been involved in a domestic violence case in Tribal Court. The majority of respondents (55%) reported that they had never been involved in any cases in Tribal Court. This may explain why the majority of respondents were unsure about whether or not the community used state courts to help with domestic violence cases.

Table 2.9 Perceptions of Law Enforcement Responses to Domestic Violence

Are members of the community treated fairly by law enforcement regarding reports or investigations of domestic violence incidents?	
Yes	19%
No	43%
I don’t know.	38%
Are members of the community treated fairly by child protective services regarding reports or investigations of domestic violence incidents?	
Yes	18%
No	36%
I don’t know.	46%
Are members of the community treated fairly by the probation department regarding domestic violence incidents?	
Yes	17%
No	30%
I don’t know.	53%
Do certain types of domestic violence get investigated less than others?	
Yes	46%
No	9%
I don’t know.	45%
What types of domestic violence get investigated less (of those who responded “yes” to prior question)?*	
Intimate Partner Abuse	23%
Sexual Assault	22%
Teen Dating Violence	24%
Stalking	22%
Elder Abuse	24%

The majority of respondents reported that the community had a Tribal Court (77%); however, the majority was unsure whether or not domestic violence cases were heard there (52%). Respondents were also asked about gaps in the state and tribal justice systems that might create problems in responding to domestic violence. The majority of respondents agreed with each of nine statements signifying problems in the justice response to domestic violence. These statements included: state court staff lack tribal culture knowledge (89%); state court orders to protect victims are not enforced (80%); state courts were too far away to be useful (85%); state court judges lacked tribal culture knowledge (89%); and services provided to victims were not culturally appropriate (88%).

Table 2.10 Court Involvement in Domestic Violence Incidents

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Does the community use state courts to help when domestic violence happens?			
Intimate Partner Abuse	30%	16%	54%
Sexual Assault	28%	14%	58%
Teen Dating Violence	18%	18%	64%
Stalking	21%	17%	62%
Elder Abuse	22%	19%	59%
Does your community have a Tribal Court?			
Yes		77%	
No		10%	
I don't know.		13%	
Do domestic violence incidents get heard in Tribal Court?			
Yes		24%	
No		12%	
Sometimes		12%	
I don't know.		52%	
	Not a Problem	Somewhat of a Problem	Serious Problem
1. State court process takes too long.	11%	50%	39%
2. State courts are too far away to be useful.	15%	48%	37%
3. State court judges lack tribal culture knowledge.	11%	43%	46%
4. State court staff lack tribal culture knowledge.	11%	44%	45%
5. Unfair court process when Indian victims of family violence are involved.	9%	50%	41%
6. Poor understanding of the Indian Child Welfare Act by court staff, judges and attorneys.	10%	47%	43%
7. Services provided to victims are not culturally appropriate.	12%	50%	38%
8. State court orders issued to victims are not enforced.	10%	48%	42%
9. Tribal court orders issued to protect victims are not enforced.	10%	44%	46%

CHAPTER 3. YOUTH SURVEY RESPONSES

A total of 66 surveys with youth community members were administered in two of the five participating tribal communities (Hoopa Valley and Yurok). Survey topics included personal and cultural experiences with domestic violence and perceptions of community, law enforcement, and court responses. One set of questions was also specifically designed to assess experiences with dating and dating violence. Descriptive statistics are presented for most questions and a full copy of the youth survey can be found in Appendix B.

PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Table 3.1 presents demographic data for the survey respondents. The majority of youth respondents were female (59%) and were members of the Karuk (46%), Hupa (26%), and/or Yurok (20%) tribes. Just over half of all respondents were between the age of 11 and 15 years old (51%) with an average age of 14 years.

Table 3.1 Respondent Demographics (N=66)

Gender	
Female	59%
Male	41%
Tribal Membership*	
Yurok	20%
Hupa	26%
Karuk	46%
Other	12%
Tolowa	3%
Wiyot	3%
Mean Age	14
Under 10 years old	12%
11-15 years old	51%
16 to 20 years old	36%

*Respondents were given the option of identifying as a member of more than one tribe.

Table 3.2 presents data on the cultural background of youth respondents. The majority of respondents reported that they were currently living in their local native community (75%) and that they grew up in their local native community at least part of the time (83%). Over half of the respondents reported that they knew the village from which their family came (66%) and that they attended or participated in at least one traditional ceremony (71%). The majority of respondents reported that they did not speak their tribal language often or never spoke it (55%) and that they did not often work on regalia or ceremonial items or never worked on them (70%). However, the majority of respondents reported that they attended or participated in local ceremonies at least sometimes (60%) and gathered or prepared traditional foods at least sometimes (64%). An overwhelming majority of respondents reported that they visited Tribal elders and relatives within their community at least sometimes (82%).

Table 3.2 Respondent Cultural Background

Currently lives in native community	75%				
Grew up in local native community					
Yes	69%				
Part of the time	14%				
No	17%				
Knows village(s) that family comes from	66%				
Attends/participates in:*					
Brush Dance	71%				
Jump Dance/Mountain Dance	35%				
World Renewal Ceremony	20%				
Nee Dash (Tolowa)	18%				
Flower Dance	14%				
Other	8%				
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Not Often	Never
1. What is the extent to which you speak your tribal language?	0%	7%	38%	34%	21%
2. How often do you attend and/or participate in local tribal ceremonies?	7%	30%	23%	28%	13%
3. How often do you gather or prepare traditional foods?	2%	16%	46%	21%	15%
4. How often do you visit your Tribal elders/relatives within the community?	10%	30%	42%	10%	7%
5. How often do you work on regalia or ceremonial items?	2%	5%	22%	23%	47%
	Truly Non-Indian	Somewhat Non-Indian	Both	Somewhat Indian	Truly Indian
Please rate your sense of belonging to the cultural group known as Native-Indian.	7%	2%	30%	21%	40%

*Respondents were able to give multiple responses.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Youth respondents were next asked about their personal experiences with domestic violence, including witnessing one family member abusing another and being the victim of a domestic violence incident. Tables 3.3 and 3.4 present information on respondents' personal experiences with domestic violence in their family.

Twenty-seven respondents (42%) reported that they had witnessed a family member hurting or abusing another family member. Table 3.3 presents data only for those respondents who reported witnessing an incident of domestic violence in their family. The majority of respondents reported that the most recent incident that they had witnessed occurred at some point within the last year (49%). The majority of youth reported that they had not reported the most recent incident they witnessed to authorities (52%), but that someone else had reported it (48%). In the event an incident was reported, law enforcement was the most common authority to which the incident was reported (56%).

Table 3.3 Experiences Witnessing an Incident of Domestic Violence (N=27)

Most Recent Incident	
Within last 3 months	19%
Within last 6 months	16%
Within the last year	16%
More than 1 year ago	33%
More than 5 years ago	15%
Most Recent Incident Reported to Authorities (By You)	
Yes	37%
No	52%
I don't know.	11%
Most Recent Incident Reported to Authorities (By Someone Else)	
Yes	48%
No	15%
I don't know.	37%
Most Recent Incident Reported to (of those who reported):*	
Law Enforcement	56%
Child Protective Services	11%
Social Services	11%
Other – Not Specified	33%

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses.

Eleven respondents (including 14% of female youth and 22% of male youth) reported that they had been abused by a family member. Table 3.4 presents data only for those respondents who reported being the victim of domestic violence. The majority of youth reported that the most recent incident in which they had been hurt or abused occurred within the last year (63%). An overwhelming majority of youth reported that they had not reported the incident to authorities (82%) and that someone else had not reported the incident to authorities either (73%). In the event that an incident was reported, the majority of respondents reported it to someone other than an official authority (55%).

Table 3.5 presents youths' perceptions of the most appropriate responses for perpetrators of domestic violence. Similar to adults, the majority of youth also felt that prison or jail would be the most appropriate response. Drug or alcohol treatment (32%), batterer programs (25%), and mental health treatment (20%) were also popular responses.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH DATING AND DATING VIOLENCE

Youth were specifically asked about their personal experiences with dating and teen dating violence, including physical, emotional, and psychological abuse. The majority reported that they had previously been in a dating relationship (59%). Of those, 68% had their first dating relationship between the ages of 11 and 14, and 21% reported that a partner had used physical force against them. Tables 3.6 and 3.7 present information about youths' experiences with teen dating violence only for those who reported having previously been in a relationship with a boyfriend/girlfriend. Respondents were asked to eliminate any actions they had done in self-defense or in play. Table 3.6 presents information on respondents' experiences with being victimized by a boyfriend/girlfriend in a relationship and Table 3.7 presents information on respondents' experiences victimizing a boyfriend/girlfriend.

Table 3.4 Experiences as Victims of Incidents of Domestic Violence (N=11)

Most Recent Incident	
Within last 3 months	27%
Within last 6 months	9%
Within the last year	27%
More than 1 year ago	0%
More than 5 years ago	36%
Most Recent Incident Reported to Authorities (By You)	
Yes	9%
No	82%
I don't know.	9%
Most Recent Incident Reported to Authorities (By Someone Else)	
Yes	18%
No	73%
I don't know.	9%

Table 3.5 Most Appropriate Responses for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence *

Prison or jail	57%
Drug or alcohol treatment	32%
Batterer program	25%
Mental health treatment	20%
Protective orders	17%
Cultural mentoring	16%
Community service	9%
Community monitoring	5%
Fines	14%
Probation	17%
Banishment	5%
Other	2%

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses.

The majority of respondents did not report that they had experienced any of these behaviors in their teen relationships. However, 16% of youth reported that a boyfriend or girlfriend had slapped or scratched them, insulted them in front of others, and would not let them do things with other people. A small percentage of youth reported forms of cyber abuse in their relationships and also forms of intense physical violence in their relationships.

The majority of youth reported that they had not engaged in abusive behaviors with a boyfriend or girlfriend. However, a small percentage did report that they had insulted someone in front of others (8%), slapped or scratched someone (5%), used email or the internet to send mean or threatening messages and spread rumors (6%), texted someone with mean or threatening messages (5%), and pushed, grabbed, shoved, or kicked someone (3%).

Table 3.8 presents information on youths' perceptions of whether or not certain behaviors could be considered forms of dating abuse. Of those who provided a response, the majority felt that slapping or scratching someone (90%) and physically twisting someone's arm or bending back their fingers (91%) was a form of dating abuse. More than half of the respondents also felt that pushing, grabbing, shoving or kicking someone (83%) was a form of dating abuse. Almost three-quarters of the respondents also reported that they felt forms of cyber bullying (texting or emailing someone mean or threatening messages or using the internet to spread rumors) were also forms of dating abuse. Only slightly over one half of youth felt that threatening to hurt someone was a form of dating abuse, whereas the majority felt that beating someone up and assaulting someone with a knife or gun (88%) were forms of abuse.

Table 3.6 Teen Dating Violence Victimization Experiences

Has someone you were dating done any of the following things to you?	
A. Said something to hurt your feelings.	32%
B. Slapped or scratched you.	16%
C. Physically twisted your arm or bent back your fingers.	3%
D. Insulted you in front of other people.	16%
E. Would not let you do things with other people.	16%
F. Texted you with mean or threatening messages.	5%
G. Called you all the time on the phone & harassed you.	8%
H. Emailed you with mean or threatening messages.	3%
I. Used the internet to spread a rumor about you.	5%
J. Pushed, grabbed, shoved, or kicked you.	8%
K. Made you describe where you were “every minute of the day”.	11%
L. Hit you with their fist or with something else hard.	5%
M. Threatened to hurt you.	5%
N. Beat you up.	3%
O. Assaulted you with a knife or with a gun.	3%

Table 3.7 Teen Dating Violence Perpetrator Experiences

Have you ever done any of the following things to a dating partner?	
A. Said something to hurt someone’s feelings.	8%
B. Slapped or scratched someone	5%
C. Physically twisted someone’s arm or bent back someone’s fingers.	0%
D. Insulted someone in front of other people.	8%
E. Would not let someone do things with other people.	5%
F. Texted someone with mean or threatening messages.	5%
G. Called someone all the time on the phone & harassed someone.	3%
H. Emailed someone with mean or threatening messages.	3%
I. Used the internet to spread a rumor about someone.	3%
J. Pushed, grabbed, shoved, or kicked someone.	3%
K. Made someone describe where they were “every minute of the day”.	0%
L. Hit someone with their fist or with something else hard.	0%
M. Threatened to hurt someone.	0%
N. Beat someone up.	0%
O. Assaulted someone with a knife or with a gun.	0%

Table 3.8 Youth Perceptions of Forms of Dating Abuse

	Abuse	Not Abuse	Not Sure
A. Said something to hurt someone’s feelings.	38%	38%	25%
B. Slapped or scratched someone	90%	10%	0%
C. Physically twisted someone’s arm or bent back someone’s fingers.	91%	9%	0%
D. Insulted someone in front of other people.	47%	36%	17%
E. Would not let someone do things with other people.	47%	32%	21%
F. Texted someone with mean or threatening messages.	74%	23%	3%
G. Called someone all the time on the phone & harassed someone.	56%	36%	8%
H. Emailed someone with mean or threatening messages.	70%	17%	13%
I. Used the internet to spread a rumor about someone.	74%	22%	4%
J. Pushed, grabbed, shoved, or kicked someone.	83%	15%	2%
K. Made someone describe where they were “every minute of the day”.	67%	20%	13%
L. Hit someone with their fist or with something else hard.	84%	8%	8%
M. Threatened to hurt someone.	62%	23%	15%
N. Beat someone up.	88%	8%	4%
O. Assaulted someone with a knife or with a gun.	88%	8%	4%

Youth were also asked about their experiences with a friend whose boyfriend/girlfriend had victimized them in a relationship. The majority of respondents reported that they did not have any friends whose boyfriend/girlfriend used physical force against them (49%). However, one-quarter of youth (25%) reported that they had known a friend who was victimized in a teen relationship. Only 11% of respondents reported that the friend had actually reported the incidents to anyone and that when teens did report dating violence, they most frequently reported the incident to a friend (12%) rather than an authority figure.

RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Youth were also asked questions that focused on their perceptions of community, law enforcement, and court responses to incidents of domestic violence in their communities. Table 3.9 shows that about one-third of youth were unsure about whether or not incidents of domestic violence were reported to law enforcement (33%) or child protective services (30%). The majority of youth were also unsure about whether certain types of domestic violence get reported less than others (55%). Of the 34% of youth who believe that certain types of domestic violence do get reported less than others, 22% believe that intimate partner abuse and sexual assault are reported less. Similar to adults, youth believe that the victim’s family (43%) and the victim (31%) are the most likely to report incidents, followed by neighbors (28%) and teachers (23%).

Table 3.9 Perceptions of Community Responses to Domestic Violence

Do incidents of domestic violence usually get reported to law enforcement?	
Yes	22%
No	33%
I don't know.	45%
Do incidents of domestic violence involving children usually get reported to child protective services?	
Yes	30%
No	24%
I don't know.	46%
Do certain types of domestic violence get reported less than others?	
Yes	34%
No	11%
I don't know.	55%
What types of domestic violence get reported less?*	
Intimate Partner Abuse	22%
Sexual Assault	22%
Teen Dating Violence	19%
Stalking	18%
Elder Abuse	21%
Who usually reports incidents of domestic violence?*	
Victim's Family	43%
Victim	31%
Neighbor	28%
Teacher	23%
Social Service Provider	14%
Healthcare Provider	12%
No One	9%
Other	2%

*Respondents had the option of choosing multiple responses

Table 3.10 presents information on perceptions of law enforcement responses to domestic violence incidents. Most youth were unsure about whether or not community members were treated fairly by law enforcement (47%), child protective services (51%), and the probation department (59%). The majority of youth were also unsure about whether or not there were types of domestic violence that were investigated less than others (59%). Of the 24% of youth that did report that certain types of domestic violence were investigated less than others, 15% of youth believed that teen dating violence is reported less than other types of domestic violence.

Youth were also asked briefly about their knowledge of a Tribal Court in their community and whether or not the Tribal Court handles domestic violence cases. Forty-seven percent of youth reported that their community had a Tribal Court. However, the majority of youth were unsure whether or not the Tribal Court handled domestic violence incidents.

Table 3.10 Perceptions of Law Enforcement Responses to Domestic Violence

Are members of the community treated fairly by law enforcement regarding reports or investigations of domestic violence incidents?	
Yes	14%
No	38%
I don't know.	47%
Are members of the community treated fairly by child protective services regarding reports or investigations of domestic violence incidents?	
Yes	18%
No	31%
I don't know.	51%
Are members of the community treated fairly by the probation department regarding domestic violence incidents?	
Yes	14%
No	27%
I don't know.	59%
Do certain types of domestic violence get investigated less than others?	
Yes	24%
No	17%
I don't know.	59%
What types of domestic violence get investigated less?*	
Intimate Partner Abuse	12%
Sexual Assault	12%
Teen Dating Violence	15%
Stalking	11%
Elder Abuse	12%

*For respondents who indicated that certain types of domestic violence get investigated less.

CHAPTER 4. FOCUS GROUP THEMES AND FINDINGS

During the fall of 2011, NCTCC and tribal community staff conducted nine focus groups with several groups of individuals to learn more about domestic violence and the justice system and community response to domestic violence. The technical assistance team recruited individuals from a variety of groups of interest, including victims and perpetrators of domestic violence incidents.

Each focus group began with an explanation of the group's purpose, introduction of the moderators, and review of the informed consent form. Participants were informed that the sessions would be audio recorded, but that identities would remain confidential. Participants were given the option of leaving the session at any time without having to provide a reason. Each participant signed a written consent form before the focus group proceeded. The complete focus group introduction and questions are in Appendix D.

Nine focus groups were held in total: two with community members, including one group with high-school youth; one with female victims of domestic violence; four with perpetrators of domestic violence, including one group with women; and two focus groups with service providers, one combined with court staff. Focus groups were facilitated by NCTCC staff, Yurok Tribe social workers/advocates and a NCTCC cultural consultant. Three groups were conducted in Eureka, three in Crescent City, two in Klamath, and one in Yreka, California. There were approximately the same number of men and women, and a balanced distribution between perpetrators, victims and service providers. Tribal advocates distributed flyers and invited victims and community members to participate in the focus groups, and two local batterer programs (one through the Karuk Tribe, and one through MEND/WEND in Eureka) identified and invited perpetrators to participate in the focus groups (receiving program class credit for participating). The intended size of each group was 10 persons, but the average was approximately 5-7 persons per group. The average length of time for each focus group was approximately 2 hours.

The personal definition of domestic violence was generally agreed upon in all groups: the exertion of power and control over one's partner, which could be manifested in physical, sexual, mental/psychological, emotional, and other types of abuse. Female perpetrators of domestic violence and community members also mentioned that threats instill fear in individuals and that this fear is an important component of domestic violence. Many group participants were unsure about how the community traditionally handled incidents of domestic violence. However, the most common response was that families and tribal leadership would require the perpetrator to pay restitution to the victim and would decide on what that restitution would involve. One of the most important components of this traditional response was the conversation and negotiation that would occur about the incident, in which tribal leadership would mediate between the two parties.

Focus group participants had mixed opinions about whether or not engaging in domestic violence meant that perpetrators were not connected to their cultural values. Some participants believed that engaging in this behavior meant that the perpetrator was most definitely disconnected from any sense of cultural values. Some participants felt that traditional Native American values would provide a natural system to "check" the behavior of individuals in the community. However, other participants stated that engaging in domestic violence did not definitely mean that the individuals

were disconnected from their culture. One service provider provided a statement that sums up this side of the debate:

Because you can be connected to cultural values, but in practice, you can have a negative coping mechanism because of the world we live in. You can be connected to cultural values and living with those beliefs. People can value and know those beliefs, but for them to practice and live by them – that’s the piece that we all, our community, is missing, because of genocide, because of historical trauma, because of living in two worlds. We have that knowledge, but the ability for our families and community to actually live by them and practice those beliefs and values is difficult because of assimilation, having to live in two worlds...having a culture is key and important, but too, knowing how to practice, and that’s what I think is missing for some folks, the ability to practice those values and those beliefs.

Participants also believed that some communities are re-learning cultural values and that eliminating tolerance for and participation in domestic violence is difficult. Others also stated that the issue may not be the level of connection to cultural values, but rather the challenge of applying the same cultural values from hundreds of years ago to different contexts in which family structures and support systems are different than they used to be.

Participants from all groups mentioned intergenerational family violence as a significant cause of domestic violence in their communities. Many participants reported that they had either witnessed incidents of domestic violence in their homes as children or had actually been the victims of domestic violence in their families. Participants reported that the abuse can become a learned behavior and witnesses or victims of domestic violence sometimes engage in abuse in their own families later as a way to handle familial conflicts. Many also reported that these histories of abuse led individuals to bottle up a lot of anger and emotion that would eventually release itself through victimizing others with abuse and violence.

Abuse of drugs and alcohol was also a common thread that participants in all focus groups mentioned as a cause for domestic violence in their communities. Participants expressed a belief that alcohol or drugs may cause individuals to lose their ability to think straight and act appropriately and therefore act out their emotions through uninhibited violence. Participants also believed that there was a lack of treatment and counseling and that this lack contributed to domestic violence in their communities. One participant stated:

There’s also a lack of counseling available, and a lot of mental health issues. There’s a lot of domestic violence, sexual abuse, mental abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, and it’s carrying on through the generations, and there’s no resources for mental health counseling, not as much as there should be. That plays a big part in domestic violence because they are acting out their issues.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Adult community members did not believe that incidents of domestic violence are typically reported to the authorities. The closeness of the community and fear of word of mouth keeps many people

from reporting to authorities. Physical abuse was perceived as most likely to be reported to authorities since a third party often gets involved, like a neighbor who witnesses the incident.

Youth community members did not believe that teen dating violence was a serious problem in their communities. However, some participants agreed that it might happen in private and that teens would not report it to an adult out of fear.

When an incident is reported, community members, both adults and youth, felt that police do not respond appropriately: Either they do not respond at all, or they respond by threatening the parties involved, specifically with the threat that if they have to return, a couple's children will be taken away. One community member reported that her case had been handled poorly by the police:

There was one domestic violence time that I had, where I was pregnant with my daughter, and they made me stand outside in the pouring rain, barefoot. They wouldn't let me go inside and my other kids were inside crying, and I wanted to go and comfort them, but they wouldn't let me. And I felt like they were mean to my children because they wouldn't let me talk to them or be close to them.

One suggestion several community members made to improve the police response was to send social workers or tribal staff to accompany law enforcement. Some community members expressed the belief that county/city police are "racist" and abusive. One community member felt that tribal members should have the option of having tribal police handle their cases rather than local police, to avoid discrimination and stereotyping.

Community members had similar sentiments about the court response to domestic violence incidents. Some participants reported that sentencing for domestic violence is harsher than the sentence for other crimes, including murder. Community members also felt that judges are not educated in handling domestic violence cases and often threaten victims with removing children from the home. One community member, a victim of domestic violence, reported:

I went to court once, and it went to pre-trial, and the judge told me if there was another domestic violence incident that brought me to court, they were going to send CPS to get my kids, and they would take me and my husband to jail...And now I feel that I can't turn to anybody if I have an issue. Or if we have a verbal altercation, I feel that I have to stay there and endure it. And stay and stay and stay because I can't turn to anybody else. And that's what makes it rough.

Community discrimination was also an issue in responding to domestic violence incidents. Youth community members reported that they knew victims who changed their story because the community treated them unfairly after reporting domestic violence. Adults reported that once someone is stuck with a label, it is difficult to change public perceptions. Another member depicted this by stating:

It's like, if you're like my family, my mom and my dad, I mean generations and generations are born and raised here, so no matter what or how you try to better

yourself, you are still guilty by association. No matter what you do or how you do it, you are still tagged as 'one of them.'

Domestic violence awareness programs may be one way to change the community's response to these incidents, according to community members. Community members also stressed the importance of classes for men and women that are non-judgmental and respectful within the tribe. County domestic violence classes are often perceived as judgmental (and not culturally appropriate). One participant stated:

*We were doing domestic awareness in group one day and one of my group members was Native American...he sat there and cried in front of a bunch of other Native men and women and you could feel his sincerity. And then he goes to this other group, because he got arrested for domestic violence, and is made to feel like a piece of s***.*

Youth also reported that it was important to address the issues of alcohol and drug abuse in the community in order to deal with domestic violence.

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Participants agreed that the majority of incidents are not reported to authorities; that physical abuse is the most likely type to be reported; and that sexual abuse is the least likely to be reported. Most of the victims reported that they were too afraid or too embarrassed to report their victimization and that their neighbors often reported it to police. Others stated that they thought this type of behavior was normal and that they had to endure it for those they loved.

Victims reported that the police could have done a better job in handling some of their cases. One participant reported that her spouse would always sweet talk her back after an incident and that she would be arrested for violating the stay away order. Another issue that victims reported with county/city police was that they took too long to respond.

Some participants had experience with tribal court. Those participants felt that in contrast to tribal courts, state courts do not provide Native people with a chance to better themselves and also do not understand the importance of family or the many barriers that Native people face. Many of the participants preferred the tribal court to handle domestic violence incidents over the state court for these reasons. One participant stated "Anyone I know who gets in trouble, I tell them to go to tribal court."

According to focus group participants, the community is often an issue for victims when they reported their abuse. Family and friends blame the victim when the perpetrator gets in trouble. One participant strongly echoed this belief: "I had a black eye one time. My cousin asked what happened...and they were like 'oh, you didn't shut the f* up?'" Participants believed that sometimes this backlash caused victims not to support prosecution of their abuser.

Participants felt that traditional cultural and spiritual practices would help all age groups overcome issues of domestic violence. Community education was also cited as an important way of ending the

cycle of violence; victims wanted to talk about their experiences, but felt the community pretended that domestic violence did not happen.

PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Female Perpetrators: Many of the female participants in the focus groups revealed experiences as victims of domestic violence in addition to their experiences as a perpetrator. These past experiences shaped how they transitioned from being the victim of these incidents to being the perpetrator in their current relationships. One participant stated:

Some people, when raised in a violent, abusive family, the abused becomes the abuser. I was raised in abuse and was familiar with that, and became the abuser. I know anger, but love is unfamiliar.

Substance abuse and alcoholism were also named as causes of abusive behavior. One participant stated that she had witnessed her family members get drunk and beat their children and partners since she was 10 years old. The female victims and perpetrators in the focus group all agreed that domestic violence goes largely unreported in their communities.

Female perpetrators reported that their interactions with police caused shame and embarrassment. Several participants also reported that they felt typecast and judged as a Native when they were arrested. Participants suggested that law enforcement should have more Native police or officers who understand Native communities and would treat tribal members fairly and with less judgment and stereotyping.

In this focus group, none of the participants had experience with the community's tribal court, but they still felt that it would be more comfortable to have their domestic violence incidents handled in tribal court rather than in the state court. Participants reported mixed feelings on the fairness of their sentence and outcome in state courts – for some situations, their punishment was considered appropriate and for others, it was considered harsh and unfair. One participant stated:

I've been arrested for numerous incidents, from very violent crimes to petty. For the violent crimes, I feel it was just, I got the proper time. Another time, my children and I were in danger and I was trying to get help and broke a window accidentally, and I had time for that. They looked at my past and assumed I was being violent.

Participants felt that the court had unreasonable expectations of them in terms of supporting their families. In particular, participants stated that the price of the MEND/WEND program and time required to participate can be stressful and overwhelming. Some participants agreed that the program had benefitted them, but the majority of participants felt that a year's worth of classes and the \$40/week cost of the program were unfair for a first-time offense.

Participants reported that the community often does not believe that people can change and that perpetrators are met with judgment and caution. They thought the tribal community was often more understanding than the outside world, but still disappointed in perpetrators. One participant stated:

“I lost a lot of people who had had it with my b.s., my addictions, my lashing out – there was some disownment like, ‘we don’t want you around, get out.’”

However, others reported that there seemed to be community tolerance of domestic violence and that some individuals engaged in victim blaming. When asked about improving the community’s response to domestic violence, participants felt that better support systems and healthier activities could break the cycle of violence. A participant in recovery from substance abuse stated:

One thing I think about is what is there to do around here for people who are in recovery? What activities that are healthy? It’s a college bar town. What can people get together and do that aren’t related to substances?

Participants indicated that they had to find new groups of friends because their family and friends were all drinkers and addicts.

Male Perpetrators: Male perpetrators discussed issues of control and anger and inter-generational familial abuse. One participant stated: “In my family, it started with my grandmother abusing my father, then him abusing his kids. The abuse my grandmother would put my grandfather through, the anger.”

Alcohol and drugs were highlighted as causes of abuse. One participant stated that he had promised himself he would never abuse his wife like he had seen his father abuse his mother, but when alcohol was involved, he no longer cared about his wife.

Participants agreed that incidents of domestic violence may go unreported at times and that sexual violence was reported much less due to shame. Participants reported that the police respond very quickly to incidents and often blame the men. Participants reported that the police response is not always appropriate since sometimes the other party is the instigator of the fight. One participant stated:

No, they need to do the same thing, but with both sides, fairly, to find out what’s going on. Not just take the one side hands down. The female or the one who is more badly beaten.

Educating the police on the dynamics of incidents of domestic violence was important to offenders. They particularly believed that the police should be trained to treat each case individually, rather than always believing the same side.

The typical response of the state court was reported to be similarly unfair – the participants felt that the handling of cases was one-sided. Participants felt that the court should have looked at their side and conducted an investigation on their behalf. Most reported that their partner had engaged in mutual abuse during the incident, but only the male perpetrators were punished. Participants felt that these incidents would be handled better in the tribal court since they look at both sides of the story, take their time, and don’t have as many cases.

Participants felt that the jail or prison time they had received was unfair when considering the severity of their incidents. However, most participants felt that they had benefitted from part of their sentence, particularly the domestic violence class in which they were participating when they were involved in the focus group. Similar to the female perpetrators, men also stated that the financial cost of the course was stressful for them to meet. Participants felt that community service and counseling would be the best interventions for domestic violence.

Participants also mentioned that they had witnessed retaliation from community members when a victim reported domestic violence to the authorities, particularly their own family or the victim's family retaliating against them. One participant stated: "I have seen it, my mother and brother wanted to retaliate against my ex and it wasn't even their beef."

However, the participants felt that victims refused to cooperate with prosecution not because of fear of retaliation by family members and friends, but rather, because of fear of the offender. Education was mentioned as one of the best ways to attempt to break the cycle of violence in the community. Family counseling and cultural activities involving the family working together were also identified as important ways to restore and promote harmony in the community. Participants believed that families and the community would benefit from learning about domestic violence and receiving counseling for family issues.

SERVICE PROVIDERS and COURT STAFF

Service Provider Group: In the focus group solely composed of service providers—which included social workers, domestic violence and sexual assault advocates, and tribal court staff—participants named alcohol and drugs as a major cause of domestic violence incidents. A lack of treatment options causes problems like domestic violence and substance abuse to be passed down through generations, according to participants. Service providers also recognized the experiences of intergenerational family violence as a significant cause of violence.

Service providers also stressed as other causes of domestic violence lack of mentors in the community and a community tolerance for domestic violence. In the view of participants, lack of mentors in the community allows perpetrators with past experiences of domestic violence to continue the negative behavior. Service providers mentioned that men are not held accountable for their behavior:

I think too our community tolerates it. People know what's going on, and nobody does anything about it. And the neighbor hears, and it's none of their business and they don't want to report it. Family members hear, and they don't want to get other family members in trouble, and it becomes tolerated in the community.

So for example, in a small community, people know that this man has been abusing his wife, or the mother of his children. And then come ceremony time, he is still highly revered, he is still higher up, singing, and the younger men look up to him. But the other men that are there, are they making sure he has made payment to that woman's family for how he has treated her all year long? No, they haven't, and we

have these young men, looking up to their role model, so there is not that accountability, and there is that acceptance, even at that level.

Participants believed that a lack of activities to raise awareness of domestic violence contributed to the problem. Though there have been more efforts in the last few years to raise awareness, the efforts have been agency-based rather than grass roots-based according to focus group participants.

Community tolerance of domestic violence is evident to service providers in the lack of reporting. Shame, fear of repercussions, and distrust of the system are several reasons for lack of reporting. According to service providers, problems with law enforcement appear to be a significant issue for service providers in reporting domestic violence. Tribal police do not always have the resources to respond to 911 calls, so community members are instructed to call the Sheriff's Office. Participants reported that the sheriff either does not respond or takes several hours to respond to a call. And sometimes, the response by police is not appropriate to the situation. One service provider stated:

When I've been here in town, there have been times when a woman has reported, a police officer has taken her out to the curb and said he's not going to file a report because he doesn't think she is serious and he has had dealings with her before, and she didn't follow through, so he is not going to waste his time. So if you have a history of domestic violence, you are much less likely to get help from the police department.

Service providers feel that there should be more education of law enforcement about responding to domestic violence incidents. Some service providers feel that outside police agencies are "racist" towards tribal communities. One service provider stated that she had witnessed domestic violence calls come in via the scanner and heard country police say that they did not want to drive out to the reservation. (This account is unconfirmed.)

Service providers reported providing an abundance of services for victims and families suffering from domestic violence in these communities. Providers reported that there is a crisis line for domestic violence victims, but that many tribal members are hesitant to call. Temporary housing and shelter care, vouchers for immediate needs, court advocacy, safety planning, crisis counseling, and re-location assistance are some of the other services that social service providers said are available. However, focus group discussions with other groups of interest, specifically community members, victims, and perpetrators, revealed limited knowledge of such resources.

Mixed Court Staff and Service Provider Group: This focus group was meant to include law enforcement and court staff, but no law enforcement representatives were present. When social service providers began to arrive, they were incorporated into the court staff focus group to create a mixed focus group.

Unlike previous focus groups, when questioned about whether or not domestic violence is reported to the appropriate authorities, participants debated the meaning of "appropriate authorities" in different contexts. Participants reported that victims do not like to report incidents because they don't want other people involved in their business and they risk getting labeled. Many victims also

weigh the consequences of losing their homes or financial support, especially when the spouse controls the family's finances.

Participants reported that interactions with the police are mixed for victims of domestic violence. This group of participants also stated that police response time can be a problem. Many participants also agreed that it is difficult for victims to report domestic violence to law enforcement and the courts when they do not have physical marks or bruises to prove that the abuse occurred.

Participants echoed the general consensus of victims and perpetrators of domestic violence that state courts do not always respond appropriately to incidents of domestic violence involving Native people. Service providers did not always feel that the court staff recognized their role in supporting victims in their experience:

In state court, I would like to see some courtesy and respect as a worker going down to the court.

I know one of the problems in Superior Court mediation. They had mediations to help the perpetrator and victim in the same room and they won't allow the support person to come into the room.

Education for state court staff on handling domestic violence incidents involving Native people was one of the primary suggestions for improving the court experience.

Participants stated that the most effective way to end the cycle of violence in communities would be a multi-disciplinary approach that included encouraging the community to talk about the issue. One participant stated that the "community was still in the dark ages," engaging in victim blaming and judgment. Participants agreed that family members and friends often question the victim rather than recognizing that the victim did not deserve the abuse. As community members, one participant stated that "each of us needs to take a stand and say we are not going to tolerate your behavior" and that a collective effort through ongoing education and support was important. Strategic plans at the tribal government level were also suggested to change the cycle of violence, rather than just applying for one grant program at a time to address the issue.

APPENDIX A
Informed Consent Forms and Resource Brochure

The Northern California Tribal Court Coalition (NCTCC) is collecting information on the issue of domestic violence, your personal experiences with domestic violence, and the responses of your community, the police, and the courts to this issue. For the purpose of this research, “domestic violence” is defined as intimate partner violence (between husband and wife, or dating partners), sexual assault, teen dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse.

We are asking you to participate in both a written survey and a focus group session. Participation in this research is completely voluntary and you may decline to participate.

We understand that your responses to the survey are both private and sensitive and would like to insure you that all results will be kept both anonymous and confidential. Your survey cannot be associated with you personally in any way. Your responses in the focus group will be kept confidential and any statements you provide will be attributed anonymously. In cases where your identity may be easily guessed by others, we will utilize an identifier that makes your identity less obvious. For example, if you are the “police chief” of your Tribe, we will identify you as a “police representative” to protect your identity. When a direct quote is desired, your approval will be gained and you will be given the opportunity to see the quote in the context it is being used prior to its public release (if any).

We also understand that questions in the survey and focus group may elicit a very emotional response and may bring up painful and traumatic memories for some participants. If you are emotionally distressed during your participation, you may elect to terminate your participation in the survey and/or focus group at any time. Please refer to the attached resource page in the event you need to talk to someone following your participation.

By agreeing to participate in this research, you are providing information that will assist the NCTCC in its assessment of the levels and impact of domestic violence in your tribal community and how the community and justice-system can improve their responses to this issue.

Study Consent – Participant Statement

“I have read (or someone has read to me) the description above and I am informed of the potential use of any responses that I may provide. I give my full consent to participate in this study.”

Name (PLEASE PRINT): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Informed Consent for Study Participation – Parental Consent/Minor Assent

1. What is the purpose of this study?

The Northern California Tribal Court Coalition (NCTCC) would like to talk to teenagers about their experiences with domestic violence and how the community, the police, and the court respond. Domestic violence includes physical violence between husband and wife and adult boyfriends and girlfriends, sexual assault, violence between teenage boyfriends and girlfriends, stalking, and elder abuse.

2. What will you be asking my child/juvenile to do?

The research for this project will consist of two components. Your child/juvenile will complete a written survey about their experiences with domestic violence and teen dating violence as well as their perspectives on how the community, police, and the courts respond to cases of domestic violence. Your child/juvenile will also be asked to participate in a focus group session that involves elaborating on their perspectives and suggesting ways that the community and justice system can improve their responses to domestic violence in your community.

3. Does my son or daughter have to take part in this research?

No. Participation in both parts of the NCTCC research is voluntary. Your child/juvenile can stop participating in the study at any time, for any reason. And, your child/juvenile can skip any questions that he or she does not want to answer.

4. Will information be confidential?

All survey results will be kept in strictest confidence. Written surveys and responses cannot be associated with your child/juvenile in any way. No person can tell who filled out the written survey at a later point in time. The focus group will be conducted in a private space, where participants' comments won't be overheard by non-participating individuals. The group will be recorded and transcribed, with no identifying information included in the write-up.

5. Are there any risks or benefits to being in this study?

By participating in this research, your child/juvenile will be providing important data to researchers about the issue of domestic violence in the tribal community and how the community and justice system can do better at addressing this issue. B

There are minimal risks for participation. However, we do understand that some of these questions ask about potentially emotional and traumatic experiences. If your child/juvenile becomes upset, they can change their mind at any time and tell the researcher that they would like to leave. If you have concerns about your child's emotional well-being following their participation in the study, you can contact the individuals listed on the resource page to receive services and counseling.

6. What should you do if you have any questions?

If you have any questions about the study, please contact Stephanie Dolan by phone at (541) 955-5234 or by email at stephjd@mac.com.

PARENT'S STATEMENT

I agree to allow my child/juvenile _____ to participate in the NCTCC study. I understand that his/her participation is voluntary and that he/she can stop participating at any time or refuse to answer specific questions.

Name _____
(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME)

Signature _____ Date _____

PARTICIPANT'S STATEMENT

I agree to participate in the NCTCC survey and focus group. I understand that my participation is voluntary and I can stop participating at any time or refuse to answer specific questions.

Name _____
(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME)

Signature _____ Date _____

Date of Birth _____

Domestic Violence Resources and Hotlines

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE:

Name:Judy Surber
Title: DV Advocate
Phone: (530) 625-4201 Ext. 245
Email:judawn@yahoo.com

KARUK TRIBE:

Name: Tanya Busby, CSAC II
Title: Administrative Assistant/ Pikyav Program Coordinator – Judicial Legal Center
Address: 1517 South Oregon Street Suite # B Yreka, CA. 96097
Phone:(530) 842-6282 Ext. 2
Fax: (530) 842-6283
Cell: (530) 598-6829
Email: tbusby@karuk.us

Alternative Contact Info:

533 Jacobs Way
Happy Camp, CA. 96039
Phone: (530) 493-1630 Ext. 1
Fax: (530) 493-5053

SMITH RIVER RANCHERIA:

Name: Judith Burke
Title: Social Worker/Advocate
Address: 110 First St, Smith River CA 95567-9512
Phone: (707) 487-9255 ext 3134
Fax: (707) 487-0137
Email: judith.burke@tolowa.com

YUROK TRIBE:

The Yurok Sexual Assault Helpline is 1-855-WIL-HELP

Name: Gail Tarbell
Title: Crisis Worker/SA-DV Advocate
Address: 190 Klamath Blvd. PO Box 175 Klamath, CA 95548
Phone:(707) 482-1350 ext. 340
Fax:(707) 954-8737 (cell)
www.yuroktribe.org
www.yuroktribalcourt.com/id18.html

Yurok Social Services

Name: Porscha Cobbs

Title: Crisis Worker/Victim Advocate

Address: 525 7th St. Eureka Ca, 95501

Phone: 707-445-2422 ext 1011

Cell Phone: 707-954-8938

Fax: 707-445-2428

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

Humboldt Domestic Violence Services (Eureka):

707-433-6042 or 866-668-6543 24 hour Crisis/Support Line

Rural Human Services Harrington House (Crescent City):

707-465-3013 - 24 hour hotline

North Coast Rape Crisis:

24 hour hotline 707-445-2881 (Humboldt County)

24 hour hotline (707) 465-2851 (Del Norte County)

D.A. Victim/Witness (Humboldt):

(707) 445-7417

Victim/Witness (Del Norte):

(707) 464-7273

Siskiyou Domestic Violence & Crisis Center (Siskiyou):

118 Ranch Lane

Yreka, CA 96097

(530) 842-6629 (office)

(877) 842-4068 24-Hr. Toll Free Hotline

Fax Number:(530) 842-9724

Web Page: <http://www.sdvcc.org>

Counseling Providers

Social Worker/Victim Advocate

Two Feathers Native American Family Services (Humboldt County only)

2355 Central Ave. Suite C

McKinleyville, CA 95519

707-839-1933

www.twofeathers-nafs.org

APPENDIX B
Northern California Tribal Court Coalition
Adult Survey

The Yurok Tribal Court, Hoopa Valley Tribal Court, Karuk Tribal Court, and Smith River Rancheria Tribal Court are all members of the Northern California Tribal Court Coalition, (NCTCC) which is a Tribally-chartered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working on improving community responses to domestic violence in Tribal communities.

Please take some time to answer the following questions the best that you can, so we can inform how to best develop our local Tribal justice systems, incorporating cultural intervention strategies, in response to domestic violence. No response to some questions is okay if you are uncomfortable answering them, but keep in mind that this survey is designed to be completely anonymous and your answers will help develop ways to help your community deal with domestic violence.

The term “domestic violence” as used in this survey covers intimate partner violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, stalking and elder abuse.

Demographic Information

1. Gender:

- Male Female Other

2. Marital Status:

- Single Traditional Marriage Marriage by Church or State Official Living Together Other: _____

3. Age:

- 18-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70-79 80+

4. Tribal Affiliation: Check all that apply

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hupa | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wiyot | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yurok | <input type="checkbox"/> | None, but married to tribal member | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Karuk | <input type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tolowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. Describe your relationship to your community: Check all that apply

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Social Service Provider | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tribal Elder | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tribal Council Member | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tribal Court Petitioner | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural Consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tribal Court Respondent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community Member | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cultural Background

6. Do you currently live within a local native community?

- Yes No

7. Did you grow up within a local native community?

- Yes No Part of the time

8. Do you know what village(s) your family comes from?

- Yes No

9. Please check all ceremonies that you attend and/or participate in:

- Brush Dance
- Jump Dance/Mountain Dance
- Flower Dance
- World Renewal Ceremony (including White Deerskin Dance, etc.)
- Nee Dash (Tolowa)
- Other: _____

10. Please circle the number in the following scales that is closest to your answer:

What is the extent to which you speak your tribal language?

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Not Often | Sometimes | Often | Always |

How often do you attend and/or participate in local tribal ceremonies?

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Not Often | Sometimes | Often | Always |

How often do you gather or prepare traditional foods (i.e. salmon, acorns, deer meat, etc.)?

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Not Often | Sometimes | Often | Always |

How often do you visit your Tribal elders/relatives within the community?

1	2	3	4	5
Never	Not Often	Sometimes	Often	Always

How often do you work on regalia or ceremonial items?

1	2	3	4	5
Never	Not Often	Sometimes	Often	Always

Please rate your sense of belonging to the cultural group known as Native-Indian:

1	2	3	4	5
Truly Non-Indian	Somewhat Non-Indian	Both	Somewhat Indian	Truly Indian

Personal and Cultural Experiences with Domestic Violence

Please answer all the following questions about your personal and community experiences. Keep in mind your answers to the following questions will be anonymous.

11. Have you ever been accused of or arrested for hurting or abusing a partner or family member?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Don't Know

IF NO: Skip to Question 12. **IF YES:** Please answer the following questions.

A. Did the most recent incident occur within the last:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 months	6 months	1 year	More than 1 year ago	More than 5 years ago

B. In the most recent incident, were drugs and alcohol involved? Check all that apply

I was under the influence of alcohol.	<input type="checkbox"/>
My partner or family member was under the influence of alcohol.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I was under the influence of drugs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
My partner or family member was under the influence of drugs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I don't know.	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Was the most recent incident reported to authorities?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Don't Know

IF THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED: To whom was it reported to? Check all that apply

Law Enforcement Social Services Child Protective Services Other: _____

12. Have you ever been hurt or abused by a partner or family member as a child or adult?

Yes No Don't Know

IF NO: Skip to Question 13. **IF YES:** Please answer the following questions.

A. Did the most recent incident occur within the last:

3 months 6 months 1 year More than 1 year ago More than 5 years ago

B. Was the partner or family member that hurt or abused you a:

Tribal Member Non-Tribal Member Not Sure

C. In the most recent incident, were drugs and alcohol involved? Check all that apply

I was under the influence of alcohol.
My partner or family member was under the influence of alcohol.
I was under the influence of drugs.
My partner or family member was under the influence of drugs.
I don't know.

D. Was the most recent incident reported to authorities?

Yes No Don't Know

IF THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED: To whom was it reported to? Check all that apply

Law Enforcement Social Services Child Protective Services Other: _____

13. Are you aware if any ancestor (parent, grandparent, great grandparent, etc) experienced sexual abuse either in boarding school or in the home?

Yes No Don't Know

14. Have you or a family member (male or female) experienced sexual assault or abuse?

- Yes No Don't Know

15. Was the sexual assault or abuse reported to the appropriate authorities?

- Yes No Don't Know

IF NO: Skip to Question 16. IF YES: Please answer the following questions.

A. To whom was it reported to? Check all that apply

- Law Enforcement Rape Crisis Center (Social Services) Child Protective Services Other: _____

B. What might be the reasons that the sexual assault or abuse incident was not reported?

- Fear Threat of Retaliation Shame/Embarrassment Other: _____

C. If you or the family member obtained outside support for the sexual abuse or assault, was it helpful?

- Yes No Don't Know

D. Was the assistance or support provided in a culturally sensitive or respectful manner?

- Yes No Don't Know

16. Of the types of domestic violence listed below, please rank them from the most frequent to the least frequent in your community (1 being the most frequent, 5 being the least frequent).

- Intimate Partner Abuse (dating or spouse) _____
Sexual Assault _____
Teen Dating Violence _____
Stalking _____
Elder Abuse _____
I don't know. _____

17. Who most often acts violently in these incidents of domestic violence?

- Tribal Members Members of a different tribe Non-Indians All equally act violently

18. Who are usually the perpetrators in incidents of domestic violence?

- Women Men Teenage Men Teenage Women Elder Men Elder Women

19. Who are usually the victims in incidents of domestic violence?

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Women | Men | Teenage Men | Teenage Women | Elder Men | Elder Women |

20. Please rate the following as a cause for the actions of domestic violence perpetrators:

Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse:

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Not Often | Sometimes | Often | Always |

Mental Health and Emotional Issues:

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Not Often | Sometimes | Often | Always |

Learned Behaviors from Family and/or Community:

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Not Often | Sometimes | Often | Always |

Disconnection from Culture and Traditions:

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Not Often | Sometimes | Often | Always |

21. Which do you feel are the most appropriate responses for those who are perpetrators of domestic violence?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Prison/Jail | <input type="checkbox"/> | Protective Orders | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Batterer’s Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural Mentoring | <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drug or Alcohol Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mental Health Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Banishment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fines | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Probation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Responses to Domestic Violence

COMMUNITY:

22. Historically, do you believe that domestic violence occurred among local Native tribes?

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes | No | Don’t Know |

IF YES: How did the tribe administer justice when there was a domestic violence incident?

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Victim Compensation or Restitution | Banishment | Physical Retaliation | Spiritual or Cultural Healing Practices | Mediation | Other: |

23. Do incidents of domestic violence usually get reported to law enforcement?

Yes No Don't Know

24. Do incidents of domestic violence involving children usually get reported to child protective services?

Yes No Don't Know

25. Do certain types of domestic violence get reported LESS than others?

Yes No Don't Know

IF YES: Which types of domestic violence get reported less?

Intimate Partner Abuse (dating or spouse)
Sexual Assault
Teen Dating Violence
Stalking
Elder Abuse

26. Who usually reports incidents of domestic violence?

Victim Social Service Provider
Victim's Family Healthcare Provider
Teacher No One
Neighbor Other: _____

27. Do you support the training of healthcare providers to talk privately with their patients about domestic violence and available resources?

Yes No Don't Know

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COURT RESPONSES:

28. Are members of your community treated fairly by law enforcement regarding reports or investigations of domestic violence incidents?

Yes No Don't Know

29. Are members of your community treated fairly by child protective services during reports or investigations of domestic violence incidents?

Yes No Don't Know

30. Are members of your community treated fairly by the probation department regarding domestic violence incidents?

Yes No Don't Know

31. Do certain types of domestic violence get investigated LESS than others?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

IF YES: Which types of domestic violence get investigated less?

- Intimate Partner Abuse (dating or spouse)
Sexual Assault
Teen Dating Violence
Stalking
Elder Abuse

32. Does the community use the state courts to help when domestic violence happens?

**YES NO DON'T
KNOW**

Intimate Partner Abuse (dating or spouse)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Assault	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen Dating Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stalking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elder Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

33. Does your community have a Tribal court?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

IF YES: Do domestic violence incidents get heard in the tribal court?

- Yes
 No
 Sometimes
 Don't Know

34. Have you ever been involved in a domestic violence case in your Tribal court?

- Yes, as a member of court staff or service provider.
Yes, as a family law petitioner (custody, guardianship, etc).
Yes, I responded to a family law petition.
Yes, I filed for a restraining order.
Yes, I responded to a restraining order petition.
Other:

No, I have not been involved in any cases in Tribal Court.

35. Are there other ways that your community helps solve or talk about domestic violence aside from the court process?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

IF YES: What are some of these other options?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mediation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Batterers' Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Individual Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prevention Education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Victim Support Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> | Healing Seminars | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Victim Shelters | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> |

36. For each of the statements listed below about gaps in the state and Tribal justice system, please check the extent to which that gap is a problem for your community:

	NOT a problem	SOMEWHAT of a problem	SERIOUS problem
State court process takes too long.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State courts are too far away to be useful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State court judges lack knowledge of tribal culture.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State court staff lacks knowledge of tribal culture.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unfair court process when Indian victims of family violence are involved.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor understanding of the Indian Child Welfare Act by court staff, judges, and attorneys.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services provided to victims are not culturally appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State court orders issued to protect victims are not enforced.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal court orders issued to protect victims are not enforced.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

37. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about responses to domestic violence in your community (please use the back of the last page if needed)?

APPENDIX C
Northern California Tribal Court Coalition
Youth Survey

The Yurok Tribal Court, Hoopa Valley Tribal Court, Karuk Tribal Court, and Smith River Rancheria Tribal Court are all members of the Northern California Tribal Court Coalition, (NCTCC) which is a Tribally-chartered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working on improving community responses to domestic violence in Tribal communities.

Please take some time to answer the following questions the best that you can. Your answers will help NCTCC develop strategies to respond to domestic violence in Tribal communities. No response to some questions is okay if you feel uncomfortable answering them, but keep in mind that this survey is completely anonymous and that your answer will help develop ways to help your community deal with domestic violence.

The term “domestic violence” as used in this survey covers intimate partner violence (between husband and wife or adult boyfriend and girlfriend), sexual assault, teen dating violence, stalking and elder abuse.

Information about You

1. Gender:

- Male Female Other

2. Age: _____

3. Tribal Affiliation: Check all that apply

- Hupa Yurok Karuk Tolowa Wiyot None Other: _____

Cultural Background

4. Do you currently live within a local native community?

- Yes No

5. Did you grow up within a local native community?

- Yes No Part of the

time

6. Do you know what village(s) your family comes from?

Yes

No

7. Please check all ceremonies that you attend and/or participate in:

Brush Dance

Jump Dance/Mountain Dance

Flower Dance

World Renewal Ceremony

(including White Deerskin Dance,
etc.)

Nee Dash (Tolowa)

Other: _____

8. Please circle the number in the following scales that is closest to your answer:

How often do you speak your tribal language?

1

2

3

4

5

Never

Not Often

Sometimes

Often

Always

How often do you attend and/or participate in local tribal ceremonies?

1

2

3

4

5

Never

Not Often

Sometimes

Often

Always

How often do you gather or prepare traditional foods (i.e. salmon, acorns, deer meat, etc.)?

1

2

3

4

5

Never

Not Often

Sometimes

Often

Always

How often do you visit your Tribal elders/relatives within the community?

1

2

3

4

5

Never

Not Often

Sometimes

Often

Always

How often do you work on regalia or ceremonial items?

1

2

3

4

5

Never

Not Often

Sometimes

Often

Always

Please rate your sense of belonging to the cultural group known as Native Indian:

1

2

3

4

5

Truly Non-
Indian

Somewhat
Non-Indian

Both

Somewhat
Indian

Truly Indian

Personal Experiences with Domestic Violence

Please answer all the following questions about your personal and community experiences. Keep in mind your answers to the following questions will be anonymous.

9. Have you ever witnessed a family member hurting or abusing another family member?

Yes No Don't Know

IF NO: Skip to Question 10. **IF YES:** answer the following questions.

When did the most recent incident occur?

3 months 6 months 1 year More than 1 year ago More than 5 years ago

Did you report the most recent incident to authorities?

Yes No Don't Know

Did someone else report the most recent incident to authorities?

Yes No Don't Know

Who was it reported to? Check all that apply

Law Enforcement Social Services Child Protective Services Other: _____

10. Have you ever been hurt or abused by a family member?

Yes No Don't Know

IF NO: Skip to Question 11. **IF YES:** answer the following questions.

When did the most recent incident occur?

3 months 6 months 1 year More than 1 year ago More than 5 years ago

Did you report the most recent incident to authorities?

Yes No Don't Know

Did someone else report the most recent incident to authorities?

Yes No Don't Know

Who was it reported to? Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law Enforcement	Social Services	Child Protective Services	Other: _____

11. Which do you feel are the most appropriate responses for those who abuse or hurt a family member?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prison/Jail	Protective Orders	Community Service	Community Monitoring
Batterer's Programs	Community Service	Mental Health Treatment	Fines
Cultural Mentoring	Community Monitoring	Other: _____	
Drug or Alcohol Treatment	Mental Health Treatment		
Banishment	Fines		
Probation	Other: _____		

Personal Experiences with Dating and Dating Violence

12. Have you ever been in a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Don't Know

13. At what age did you have your first boyfriend/girlfriend?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under 10	Ages 11-12	Ages 13-14	Ages 15-16	Older than 16	Not dating

14. Has a boyfriend/girlfriend ever used physical force against you (such as hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking, or assaulting you with a weapon) that was not in self-defense or play?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	1-2 times	3 to 5 times	6 to 9 times	More than 10 times	Never dated

15. Has someone you were dating done any of the following things to you? Don't count it if they did it in self-defense or in play.

Said something to hurt your feelings.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Don't Know	Never dated

Slapped or scratched you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Don't Know	Never dated

Physically twisted your arm or bent back your fingers.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Insulted you in front of other people.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Would not let you do things with other people.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Texted you with mean or threatening messages

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Called you all the time on the phone and harassed you

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Emailed you with mean or threatening messages

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Used the internet to spread a rumor about you.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Pushed, grabbed, shoved, or kicked you.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Made you describe where you were "every minute of the day".

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Hit you with their fist or with something else hard.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Threatened to hurt you.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Beat you up.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Assaulted you with a knife or with a gun.

Yes

No

Don't Know

Never dated

16. Did you report any of these incidents to anyone?

Yes

No

IF YES: Who did you report them to?

Friend

Parent

Teacher

Medical Doctor

Police Officer

Other: _____

17. Have you ever used physical force against a boyfriend/girlfriend (such as hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking, or assaulting you with a weapon) that was not in self-defense or play?

Never

1-2 times

3 to 5 times

6 to 9 times

More than
10 times

Don't Know

18. Have you ever done any of the following things to a boyfriend/girlfriend? Don't count it if they did it in self-defense or in play.

Said something to hurt their feelings.

Yes

No

Don't Know

Never dated

Slapped or scratched them.

Yes

No

Don't Know

Never dated

Physically twisted their arm or bent back their fingers.

Yes

No

Don't Know

Never dated

Insulted them in front of other people.

Yes

No

Don't Know

Never dated

Would not let them do things with other people.

Yes

No

Don't Know

Never dated

Texted them with mean or threatening messages

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Called them all the time on the phone and harassed them

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Emailed them with mean or threatening messages

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Used the internet to spread a rumor about them.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Pushed, grabbed, shoved, or kicked them.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Made you describe where they were "every minute of the day".

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Hit you with their fist or with something else hard.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Threatened to hurt them.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Beat them up.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

Assaulted them with a knife or with a gun.

Yes No Don't Know Never dated

19. Do you have any friends whose boyfriend or girlfriend used physical force against them (such as hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking, or assaulting you with a weapon) that was not in self-defense or play?

Yes No Don't Know

20. Did they report this incident to anyone?

- Yes No

IF YES: Who did they report it to?

- Friend
 Parent
 Teacher
 Medical Doctor
 Police Officer
 Other: _____

21. Which of the following behaviors do you consider to be a form of dating abuse?

	ABUSE	NOT ABUSE	NOT SURE
a. Saying something to hurt someone's feelings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Slapping or scratching someone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Physically twisting someone's arm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Insulting someone in front of others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Not letting someone do what they want.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Texting someone with threatening or mean messages.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Calling someone on the phone and harassing them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Emailing someone with threatening or mean messages.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Using the internet to spread a rumor about someone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Pushing, shoving, grabbing, or kicking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Making someone describe every minute of the day.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Hitting with fists or hard objects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- m. Threatening to hurt someone.
- n. Beating someone up.
- o. Using a weapon.

Police and Court Responses to Domestic Violence

COMMUNITY:

22. Do incidents of domestic violence usually get reported to law enforcement?

- Yes No Don't Know

23. Do incidents of domestic violence involving children usually get reported to child protective services?

- Yes No Don't Know

24. Do certain types of domestic violence get reported LESS than others?

- Yes No Don't Know

IF YES: Which types of domestic violence get reported less?

- Intimate Partner Abuse (dating or spouse)
- Sexual Assault
- Teen Dating Violence
- Stalking
- Elder Abuse

25. Who usually reports incidents of domestic violence?

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Victim | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social Service Provider | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Victim's Family | <input type="checkbox"/> | Healthcare Provider | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> | No One | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Neighbor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COURT RESPONSES:

26. Do you think that police officers treat members of your community fairly when incidents of domestic violence are reported or investigated?

- Yes No Don't Know

27. Do you think that child protective services treat members of your community fairly when incidents of domestic violence are reported or investigated?

- Yes No Don't Know

28. Do you think that probation services treat members of your community fairly when incidents of domestic violence are reported or investigated?

- Yes No Don't Know

29. Do certain types of domestic violence get investigated LESS than others?

- Yes No Don't Know

***IF YES:** Which types of domestic violence get investigated less?*

- Intimate Partner Abuse (dating or spouse)
- Sexual Assault
- Teen Dating Violence
- Stalking
- Elder Abuse

30. Does your community have a Tribal court?

- Yes No Don't Know

***IF YES:** Do domestic violence incidents get heard in the tribal court?*

- Yes No Sometimes Don't Know

31. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about responses to domestic violence in your community?

APPENDIX D
Focus Group Protocol and Guide

FOCUS GROUP INTRODUCTION

“Thank you all for taking the time to meet with me.

The Northern California Tribal Court Coalition (NCTCC) is interested in learning about domestic violence and the community and court responses to domestic violence in tribal communities.

The NCTCC (a partnership between the tribal courts of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Smith River Rancheria and Yurok Tribe) has received funding to conduct community needs assessments and develop a plan to improve court responses that will include cultural intervention strategies to domestic violence.

As you may be aware, domestic violence impacts our tribal communities more than any other demographic in the United States. For examples, according the Department of Justice statistics, American Indians are twice as likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races, Native American women experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States, suffering violent crime at a rate three and a half times greater than the national average.

Locally, 30% of the victims receiving domestic violence shelter services in Del Norte County are Native American women. When compared to the 6.9% Native American population in the county and that 70% of the incidents go unreported, this is not just a problem, it is an epidemic.

Over the long term, we seek to develop a collaborative cultural community response that reduces domestic violence and sexual abuse, and stops the cycle of violence that has been impacting so many of our families for generations.

We also hope to influence policy and practice statewide in developing cultural responses that have found to reduce violence and victimization.”

A) Summary of procedure

“The focus group will last approximately one and a half to two hours. I hope you don’t mind if I take notes, but I want to be sure I remember the key points made. If we want to use any quotes that are attributable to any individual by name in the materials produced, we will seek that individuals permission. Before we begin, if everyone is comfortable doing so, lets go around the room and introduce yourself to the others in the group.”

Note: when appropriate ask for permission to audio record the focus group. All audio recorded interviews should have an oral consent recorded.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS FOR ALL GROUPS:

1. What does “domestic violence” mean to you?
2. How did your Tribe traditionally work out conflicts between people?
3. What did we do as a culture, traditionally, when someone harmed a family member?
4. How does connection to culture affect domestic violence? If you are connected? If you are disconnected?
5. What do you think are the causes of “domestic violence” in your community?
 - a. **PROD: Do you have personal experiences involving any of these causes? (can be used for everyone or perpetrator’s only)**

QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Justice System Responses:

1. Do you believe that incidents of domestic violence get reported to the appropriate authorities?
 - a. **PROD (if general response is that they do not) – Why not?**
2. Do certain types of domestic violence get reported LESS than others?
 - a. **PROD (if general response is yes) – Which ones? Why?**
3. What is the typical response by the police when domestic violence incidents are reported?
 - a. **PROD – Do you feel that these responses are appropriate? Effective?**
 - b. **PROD (if general response is that they are not effective) – How can police responses to domestic violence incidents be improved?**
4. What is the typical response by the court when domestic violence incidents are reported and prosecuted?
 - a. **PROD – Do you feel that these responses are appropriate? Effective?**
 - b. **PROD (if general response is that they are not effective) – How can court responses to domestic violence incidents be improved?**
5. What are the benefits of having a tribal court to handle domestic violence cases (over a State court)?
6. What are the disadvantages of having a tribal court handle domestic violence cases (over a State court)?
7. How can the Tribal Court incorporate cultural components to restore harmony to families and combat domestic violence in the community?

8. What are the best interventions for community members that commit crimes of domestic violence?

Community Responses:

9. Do you believe that victims of domestic violence are treated fairly by the community when they reveal their experiences with domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: Do you think that some community members retaliate against victims for reporting the incident? In what ways?**
 - b. **PROD: Do you know of any victims of domestic violence that have not cooperated with the prosecution after an experience with a community member?**
10. Besides the court system, are there other ways for victims to seek refuge and justice in the community?
 - a. **PROD: What social services and programs are available to victims and families in your community?**
11. How can your community talk about and work towards solving domestic violence?
12. How do we break the cycle of violence as a community?

QUESTIONS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS/ADVOCATES:

Services and Advocacy in the Community:

1. What current activities are available in the community to raise awareness of domestic violence?
2. What are the current available services offered to victims and families who have experienced domestic violence?
3. What is the role of service providers and advocates in your community in dealing with domestic violence?

Justice System Responses:

4. Do you believe that incidents of domestic violence get reported to the appropriate authorities?
 - a. **PROD (if general response is that they do not) – Why not?**
5. Do certain types of domestic violence get reported LESS than others?
 - a. **PROD (if general response is yes) – Which ones? Why?**
6. What is the typical response by the police when domestic violence incidents are reported?
 - a. **PROD – Do you feel that these responses are appropriate? Effective?**
 - b. **PROD (if general response is that they are not effective) – How can police responses to domestic violence incidents be improved?**
7. What is the typical response by the court when domestic violence incidents are reported and prosecuted?
 - a. **PROD – Do you feel that these responses are appropriate? Effective?**

b. **PROD (if general response is that they are not effective) – How can court responses to domestic violence incidents be improved?**

8. How do you get involved in domestic violence cases when they are reported to the police and brought for prosecution before the Tribal Court?
9. How can law enforcement, the Tribal Court, and social service providers work together to combat domestic violence in your community?

Community Responses:

10. Do you believe that victims of domestic violence are treated fairly by the community when they reveal their experiences with domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: Do you think that some community members retaliate against victims for reporting their crimes? In what ways?**
 - b. **PROD: Do you know of any victims of domestic violence that have refused to testify after an experience with a community member?**
11. How can your community improve their response to domestic violence and break the cycle of violence?

QUESTIONS FOR JUDGES/LAW ENFORCEMENT:

1. Do you believe that incidents of domestic violence get reported to the appropriate authorities?
 - a. **PROD (if general response is that they do not) – Why not?**
2. Do certain types of domestic violence get reported LESS than others?
 - a. **PROD (if general response is yes) – Which ones? Why?**
3. What is the role of the police in dealing with domestic violence incidents in the community?
4. What is the role of the Tribal Court in dealing with domestic violence incidents in the community?
5. What are the current justice system strategies in place to combat domestic violence in your community?
6. Is it possible to improve your responses to domestic violence incidents?
 - a. **PROD: Do you know of any existing strategies in other communities that would better assist you in combatting domestic violence in your community?**
7. How can law enforcement, the Tribal Court, and social service providers work together to combat domestic violence in your community?
8. Do you believe that victims of domestic violence are treated fairly by the community when they reveal their experiences with domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: Do you think that some community members retaliate against victims for reporting their crimes? In what ways?**

- b. **PROD: Do you know of any victims of domestic violence that have refused to testify after an experience with a community member?**
- 9. How can your community improve their response to domestic violence and break the cycle of violence?

QUESTIONS FOR VICTIMS:

Justice System Experiences:

- 1) Did you struggle with the decision to report your experience with domestic violence to the appropriate authorities?
 - a. **PROD: Why?**
 - b. **PROD: Did you have prior experiences of domestic violence before you reported that incident?**
- 2) What was your experience with the police in your community when you reported your experience with domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: Do you feel that this response was appropriate?**
 - b. **PROD: How can police responses to victims be improved?**
- 3) What was your experience with the Tribal Court in your community when you reported your experience with domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: Do you feel that this response was appropriate?**
 - b. **PROD: How can Tribal Court responses to victims be improved?**
- 4) What was the outcome of your case?
 - a. **PROD: Were you satisfied?**
- 5) What do you feel are the most appropriate interventions for perpetrators of domestic violence in your community?

Community Experiences:

- 6) Did you ever experience a negative response from community members for reporting an experience with domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: In what ways?**
 - b. **PROD: Did that experience prevent you from testifying or bringing your case to the Tribal Court?**
- 7) How can your community improve their response to domestic violence and break the cycle of violence?

Experiences with Advocacy and Social Services:

- 8) What are the current available services offered to victims and families suffering from domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: What was your experience with these services?**
 - b. **PROD: Can these services be improved in any way?**

- 9) Are there additional services that you would have benefitted from if they were available in your community?

QUESTIONS FOR PERPETRATORS:

Justice System Responses:

- 1) What was your experience with the police in your community when you were accused of domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: Do you feel that this response was appropriate?**
 - b. **PROD: How can police responses be improved?**

- 2) What was your experience with the Tribal Court in your community when you were accused of domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: Do you feel that this response was appropriate?**
 - b. **PROD: How can the Court's responses be improved?**

- 3) What was the sentence in your case?
 - a. **PROD: Did you feel the outcome was fair?**

- 4) Did you feel that the intervention to which you were sentenced was appropriate?
 - a. **PROD: Did you feel that it benefitted you?**
 - b. **PROD: Did you feel there was something more appropriate to which you could have been sentenced?**

Community Experiences:

- 5) Did you ever experience a negative response from community members when you were accused of domestic violence?
 - a. **PROD: In what ways?**

- 6) How can your community improve their response to domestic violence and break the cycle of violence?

APPENDIX E

Sample Focus Group Responses with Common Themes

Disconnection with Native culture contributed to a sense of loss and resulted in abusive behavior.

- *“[Being disconnected from my culture] kind of feels it leaves a little bit of a historical hole inside of me, having to learn life on my own, not having an elder to guide me, it does kind of leave this empty hole inside of me that is hard to fill.”* (Female, Eureka)

- *“The more in tune you are with your culture, speaking for myself personally, my experience, the more I am centered with my spirituality and Creator-influence, it affects my whole life. When I am in tune with the Creator, I feel I am walking in the right path, and everything is good. For me, it does play a big part, because I like to be very culturally active and I always like to talk to elders and learn about our culture and our past. And the more I learn about it, the more I want to be the Indian man the Creator wants me to be. . . I feel it would make me less violent because violence for me comes with chaos and situations like that. Obviously if you are walking with the Creator, there will be very little chaos.”* (Male, Eureka)

- *“I think if there was more connection, with the elders, with the children, to Native culture, [domestic violence] would be there, but not as much. With Native culture, you have to have a lot of respect. You can’t be hitting. You have to take care of each other.”* (Female, Crescent City)

- *“If you are practicing domestic violence, you are obviously disconnected, big time, from cultural values.”* (Female, Eureka)

- *“If culture provides some balance to the individual, you know spiritual, emotional, mental, physical balance, and having access to and connection to a culture also provides just a lot more opportunity for healthy interaction with your own family members ideally with elders in the community, with other healthy community working for a bigger purpose of restoring and creating balance for the entire world. And having those opportunities for those connections, mentor opportunities and for more specific and larger purpose and provide a lot more reality to the individual in my opinion. And teaching again healthier ways of interacting with one another, interacting with yourself, interaction with your community, and interacting with even the world at large. And there is that imparting of traditional values and healthy behaviors, and just that role model in the community. I think that cultural connection is individual and just a more positive reaction and purpose to what their role is as an individual to a larger. Not to say that that’s, that they won’t necessarily participate in unhealthy behavior, but I think it increases their likelihood to deter them away from some of those unhealthy behaviors.”* (Female, Klamath)

- *“I also think that people connected to their culture when they participate in ceremony or practices creates a self-esteem, so it’s a purpose. It’s just that people today if they’re involved it kind of adds to their self-identity and it strengthens them in a sense, and if they’re not, then they kind of get confused and disconnected.”* (Female, Klamath)

- *“We need a collective effort; ongoing education and support, and that cultural connection.”* (Female, Klamath)

Another theme is that the local batterer intervention program is incredibly useful, though lacking a necessary cultural component:

- *“I think the program is wonderful and should be mandatory for every man, woman and child. It has helped me in my life, tremendously.”* (Female, Eureka)
- *“I think the best thing that came out of the sentencing was this domestic violence class. I thought it was going to be more hassle, more headaches. But I listened to what they had to say, and it made me realize my wrongs, helped me to know myself better.”* (Male, Crescent City)
- *“Yeah, I put my hands on a woman and obviously did not know right from wrong, so I didn’t know what I was doing. Yeah, I benefitted. I was so used to that cycle of violence, I was out of control. I think the class helped me learn a lot about myself, my own personal feelings, what makes me mad, what makes me happy, and being responsible.”* (Male, Eureka)
- *“Oh, I loved it, everything about it. Except they have no cultural part. I was always thinking the Yurok Tribe should do the same program, but with a cultural part.”* (Female, Crescent City)
- *“Oh yeah, I honestly think [a dance camp, where batterers would go and elders would be there to teach them] would totally help. And women doing basket weaving.”* (Female, Crescent City)
- *“Yeah, there’s gotta be some light at the end of the tunnel. There’s got to be something that you feel good about. And lately, or I know that when this happened with me, it was just all down. It was just all, it just, I didn’t have nothing to lose. And going to jail was like the icing on the cake. Are you kidding me? And all that did to me was go, when, I don’t give a shit if I go to jail now at all. I mean I got out saying next time I go to jail, dude, I’m going make damn sure that you’re not even here when I get out, at least I won’t have to deal with you when I get out. I mean, that’s kind of the attitude I had for awhile when I got out. I mean, come into classes and focusing on something else and having something else. Like these classes kind of became my little light at the end of the tunnel. I mean, I really did look forward to coming here and talking to Joe and talking, hearing about everybody else. I really did. It gave me something to do.”* (Female, Yreka)
- *“So alcohol was like, yeah, one of my tools I guess. And coming into these classes they teach you, like, it’s good to learn different tools. You know, and that’s like one of the key things. Different tools. Ceremonies. Sweats. Like all that. Like if there’s something that could follow that and give everybody that avenue instead of looking for a drink . . . I believe culture is prevention in all aspects.”* (Female, Yreka)

Participants also had positive things to say about their Tribal Courts:

“I was so glad to be in tribal court instead of state court. This [state] court doesn’t give Native Americans a chance. In tribal court, the judge really worked with us and we had messed up, instead of saying no, you don’t get to see your kids anymore, she said, no, they’re here, that means they are trying and willing, and we’re going to give them another chance. And we got it right the next time.” (Female, Crescent City)

Many participants described the need to reach youth and teach them about domestic violence prevention:

“Education is a main one. Teaching the youth about being proud. There are different generations. There are the elders, who see things more culturally, then there are the younger ones, 25-35, that is the problem, people feel lost, they don’t know who they are, have a hard time identifying with their culture because it’s been erased. And a lot of drugs and alcohol contribute to that. Just more education, positive activities for community, family events. I see commercials for casinos, or people trying to be elected. Nothing for the young people, for summer recreation, camps. Especially if don’t live on the reservation.” (Male, Eureka)

Other themes that came up in the focus groups were the prevalence of family violence and drugs (especially methamphetamine) and alcohol as contributors to domestic violence:

“You’re less likely to care what you’re doing [when drinking]. The way I grew up, I seen my father beating on my mother all the time. And I thought I’m never going to do that, I’m never going to put my wife through that, I seen the damage it did to my mother. But then I found myself following in my dad’s footsteps. It’s from where I didn’t care anymore, when I picked that bottle up. I didn’t care what she felt. I just wanted to get my needs met. I had a lot of squashed feelings that couldn’t come out, and instead of talking to a counselor to get them out in a healthy way, instead I was turning to the bottle.” (Male, Crescent City)

Also, focus group participants almost unanimously reported that the majority of incidents (80-90% was the consistent estimate) are not reported, whether through shame, fear of retaliation from the perpetrator and/or his or her family, or lack of confidence in law enforcement response -- including incredibly slow response time (up to 7 hours in Weitchpec) and discriminatory attitudes from county law enforcement. *“And one incident that rubs a victim the wrong way with law enforcement can deter her from reporting it again.”* (Female, Klamath)