



# Land & Body Violence And The Opioid Crisis

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# What is Land & Body Violence

- Land & Body violence describes the intersection between environmental destruction of Indigenous land and the violence perpetrated against Indigenous peoples at disproportionate rates in or around these lands.
- This intersection encompasses a broad array of exploitative practices, including labour exploitation, colonial exploitation, and environmental exploitation, all of which require one another to maintain the existence the overall system of oppression.



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# A History of L&B Violence

- Native bodies and native lands have been exploited for the benefit of settler colonialism since America's inception
- Extractive industries have drilled, mined, and fracked Indigenous land for centuries
- Women and girls have historically experienced the highest rates of violence in America, often coming from communities affected by the violence of extractive industries



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# L&B Violence Today

- Indigenous communities today face expansive chemical manufacturing and waste dumping, the introduction of temporary “man camps” through oil and gas extraction, and an increasing number of pipelines threatening delicate water systems
- The devastating impacts of this environmental harm contributes to higher rates of:
  - sexual and domestic violence
  - drugs and alcohol
  - Murders and disappearances
  - reproductive illnesses and toxic exposure
  - threats to culture and Indigenous lifeways



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1.

“Violence on the Land, Violence on the Body.” Land Body Defense, 2014,  
<http://landbodydefense.org/uploads/files/SLVBReportToolkit2016.pdf>.

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# L&B Violence Today

- In the U.S. alone, 5% of oil, 10% of gas reserves, 30% of low sulfur coal reserves, and 40% of privately held uranium deposits are found on tribal lands.
- The largest private coal mining company in the world, PeaBody Energy, once operated the biggest strip mining operation at Black Mesa mine and Kayenta mine on Navajo Nation
- The Fort Berthold Reservation has become the center of oil extraction in North Dakota, where more than 35 corporations now operate in extractive industries



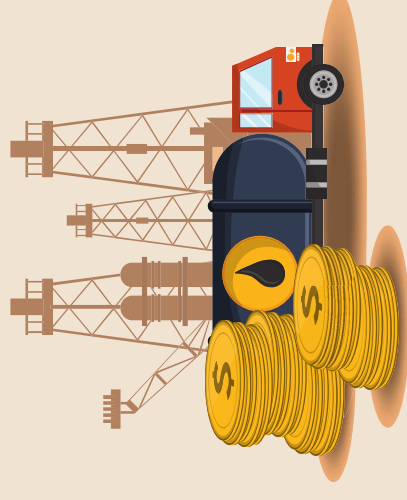
2. Adamson, R. (2003). Land Rich and Dirt Poor: The Study of Native American Assets. First Peoples, 26. Referenced from <http://www.firstpeoples.org/news/NativeAmericas-LandRichDirtPoor.pdf>
3. Cyndee R. (Director), & Tuti Y. (Director). (2014). Native American Boomtown (4). In Cyndee R. (Producer), America by the Numbers. Futuro Media Group.

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# Oil Extraction & Violence in ND

- Native American women are already 2.5 times more likely to experience a violent crime than any other demographic women.
- North Dakota's crime increased approximately 18% between during the Bakken oil boom from 2008 to 2018. A study on crime in 2012 determined Western North Dakota, where employment in the oil fields attracted thousands of people to work in the state, was a source of much of the increase.
- Assaults in Dickinson, ND rose 300%, and the tribal police department of Fort Berthold reported more murders, fatal accidents, sexual assaults, domestic disputes, drug busts, and gun threats than any year before. Once one of the safest states in the country, North Dakota now has the eighth highest incidence of rape in the U.S.



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7. Britto Schwartz, J. (2015). Bearing Witness: North Dakota Oil Industry Increases Violence Against Native Women. Feministing. Referenced from <http://feministing.com/2015/11/25/bearingwitness-north-dakota-oil-industry-increases-violence-against-native-women-2/>

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# Man Camps

- “Man camps” refer to an influx of additional workers needed at extraction sites to monitor and process the natural resources being mined, fracked, drilled, manufactured, or transported. These workers, who are mostly men, are housed in temporary accommodations, or “man camps.”
  - With such a concentration of men, money, drugs, and isolation, the rates of sexual violence have risen in many of these communities affected by extractive industries
  - In the neighborhoods of Fort McMurray in Alberta, Canada, the ratio of men to women is two to one

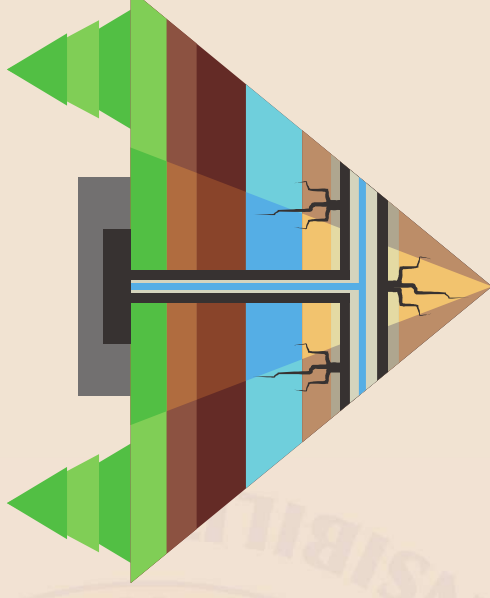


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8. Adamson, R. (2015). Indigenous Rights: A Case Study in Bottom Up Social Metrics. Green Money. Retrieved from <http://www.greenmoneyjournal.com/august-2015/rights>

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# Man Camps

- On the borders of Navajo Nation, where oil, gas, and mining lease allotments are common in the San Juan basin, a sharp increase in missing and murdered people have been a grave concern for many community members, citing a sharp incline in murder rate per capita, which is four times the national average.
  - Border towns such as Farmington and Gallup have some of the highest numbers of MMIP cases in the state, and are situated directly in the middle of the largest oil and gas sites in New Mexico.
  - Over 400 cases of Native Americans are currently missing in the state of New Mexico, many of who go missing in border towns situated near oil and gas fields

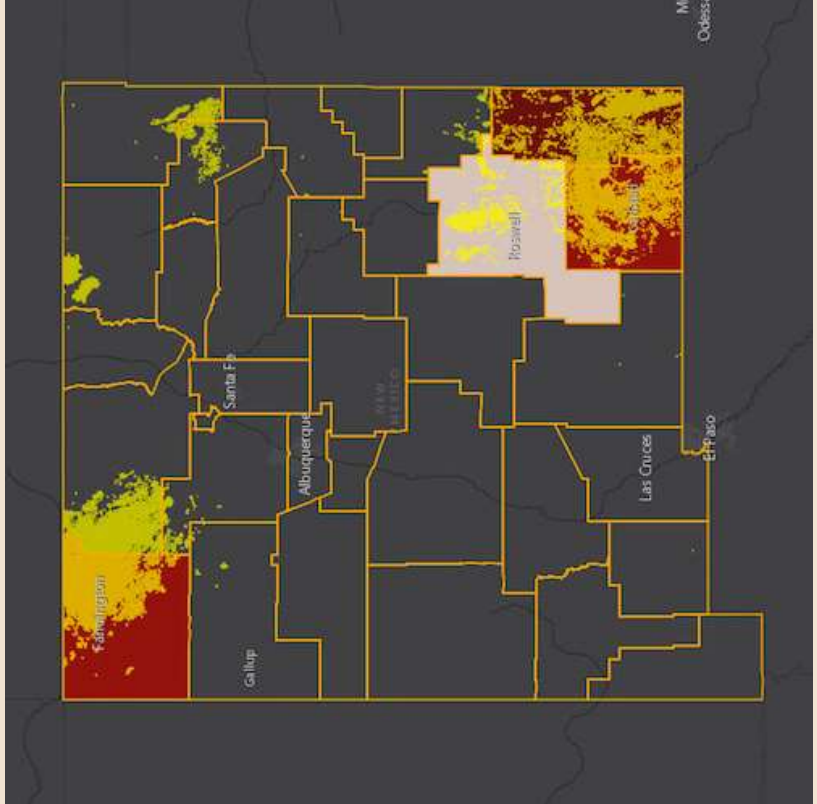
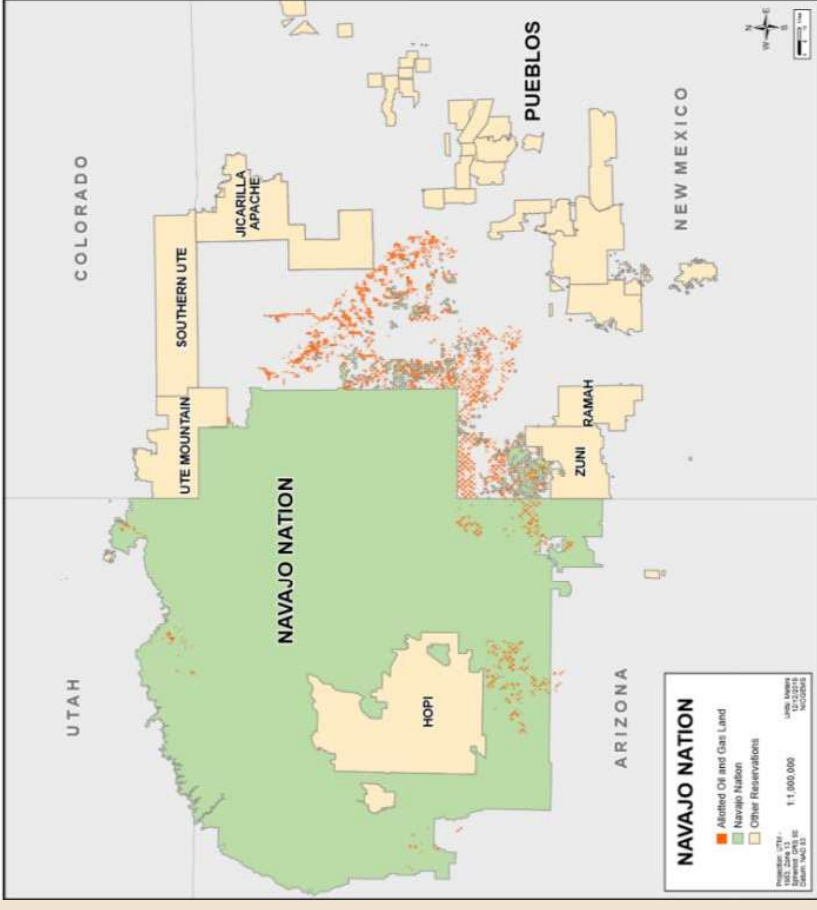


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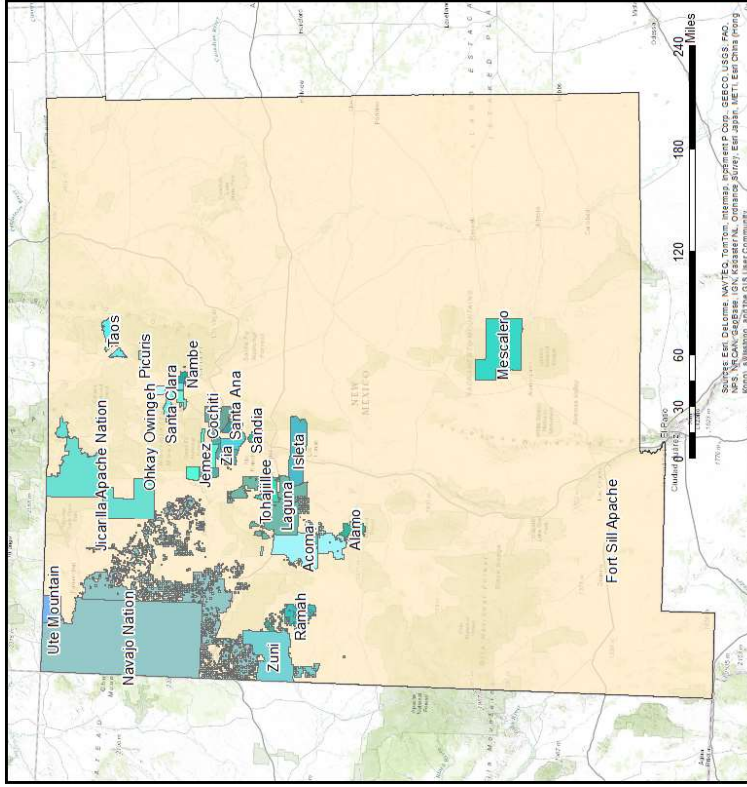
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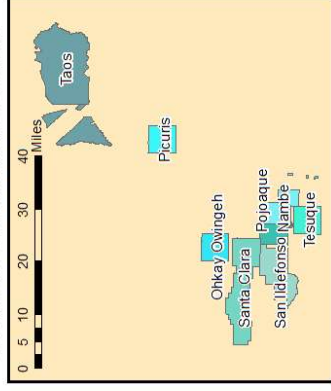


# Tribal Areas Within New Mexico, 2014

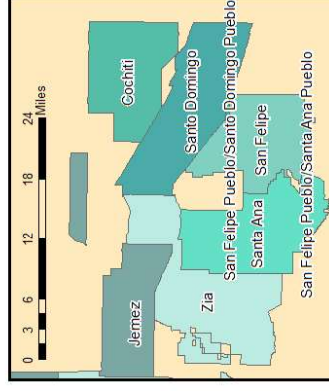


Source: U. S. Census TIGER/line Shapefiles

## Northern New Mexico Pueblos



## Sandoval County Pueblos



Map by Samuel Swift, MPH

# Drug Crisis & LB Violence

- In the U.S., Indigenous young people are already more likely to experience a substance use disorder, have higher rates of trauma (2.3%) and are twice as likely as youth of any other race to die before the age of 24.
- Kim Howe (Diné) of Dooda Fracking, an organization raising awareness about fracking on Navajo lands, speaks about the increase in meth usage due to fracking.
  - “One thing I’ve learned about is the high rates of meth use amongst the [industry workers]. I met this girl, she used to party with the men at the man camps. She got with them...and got addicted to meth. [She] got addicted to meth, and she actually got pregnant from one of the oil-rig workers”
- The existence of man camps in tribal communities is an extension of colonial control and intrusion; bringing colonial violence from a patriarchal system



1. “Violence on the Land, Violence on the Body.” Land Body Defense, 2014, <http://landbodydefense.org/uploads/files/VLVBReportToolkit2016.pdf>
10. Horwitz, S. (2014). The hard lives—and high suicide rate—of Native American children on reservations. The Washington Post. Retrieved from [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/the-hard-lives--and-high-suicide-rate--of-native-american-children/2014/03/09/6e0ad9b2-9f03-11e3-b8d8-94577ff66b28\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/the-hard-lives--and-high-suicide-rate--of-native-american-children/2014/03/09/6e0ad9b2-9f03-11e3-b8d8-94577ff66b28_story.html)

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# Risk Factors and The Crisis on Tribal Land

- 10% of Native Americans have a substance use disorder.
- An individual who experiences substance use disorder is also at higher risk for sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking.
- The prevalence of substance use disorders and addiction on reservations facing rapid resource extraction exploitation has created vulnerable communities leading to the crisis many tribal communities are facing today.
  - The increase in drug use and influx of temporary workers on the reservation has put a strain on the people, the community, and the services offered.



11. MHA Nation Tomorrow: Completing Phase I, A One-Year Report (Aug. 2014).

12. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2014). [SAMHSA American Indian/Alaska Native Data](#).

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# The Need For Expanded Services

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reports that 13% of Native Americans need substance use treatment, but only 3.5% actually receive any treatment.
- Many Native Americans have limited access to substance abuse services due to transportation issues, lack of health insurance, systematic poverty, and a shortage of appropriate treatment options in their communities
- An improved and expanded system allows greater access to treatment for those in need, increased availability of culturally centered treatment, and accessibility of services for adults, parents, and youth.



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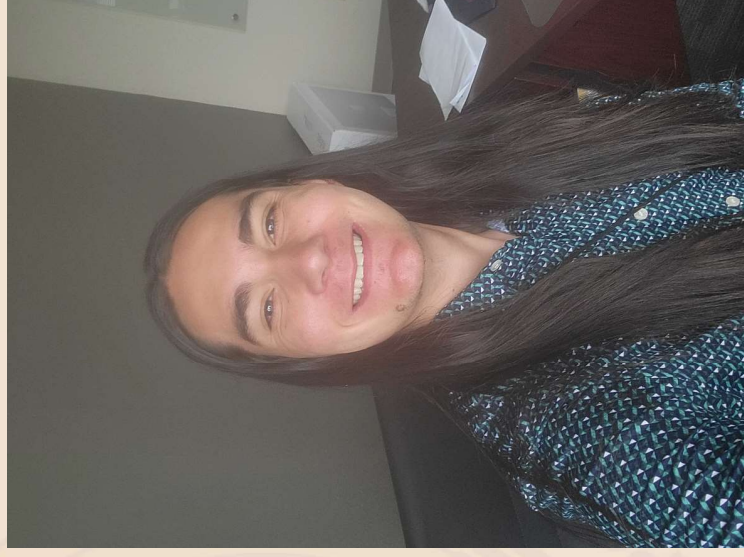
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# THANK YOU!

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