

Photo: Vladimir Badikov, Voice of America.

IMAGEN™



Indigenous Adolescent Girls'
Empowerment Network

Kelly Hallman
(Cherokee Nation),
Lisa Polen,
Kassel Franco-Garibay,
Stephanie Martinez

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ResilienceCon 2021

INDIGENOUS ADOLESCENT GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT NETWORK



RURAL NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES



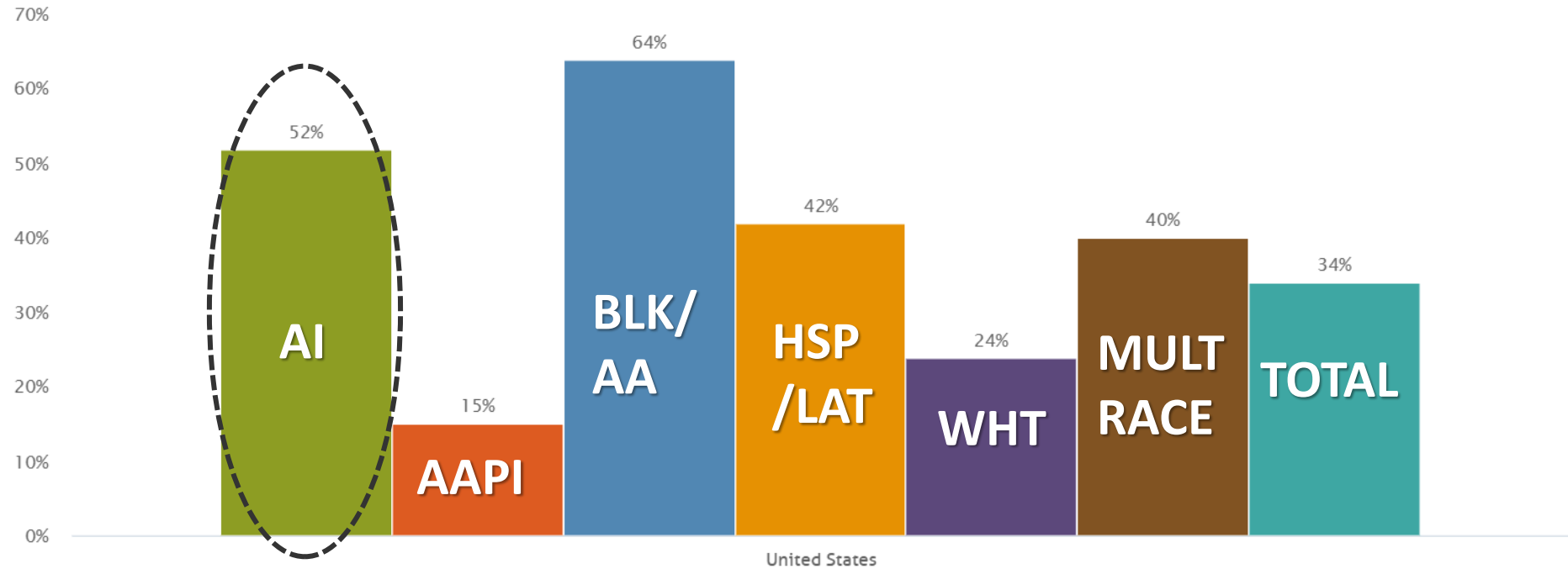
Photo: Vladimir Badikov, Voice of America

- Historical trauma
- Structural violence, racism, poverty, poor health, short lifespans, MMIWG
- Mainstream interventions not effective
- Seeking ways to thrive and heal in an indigenous way



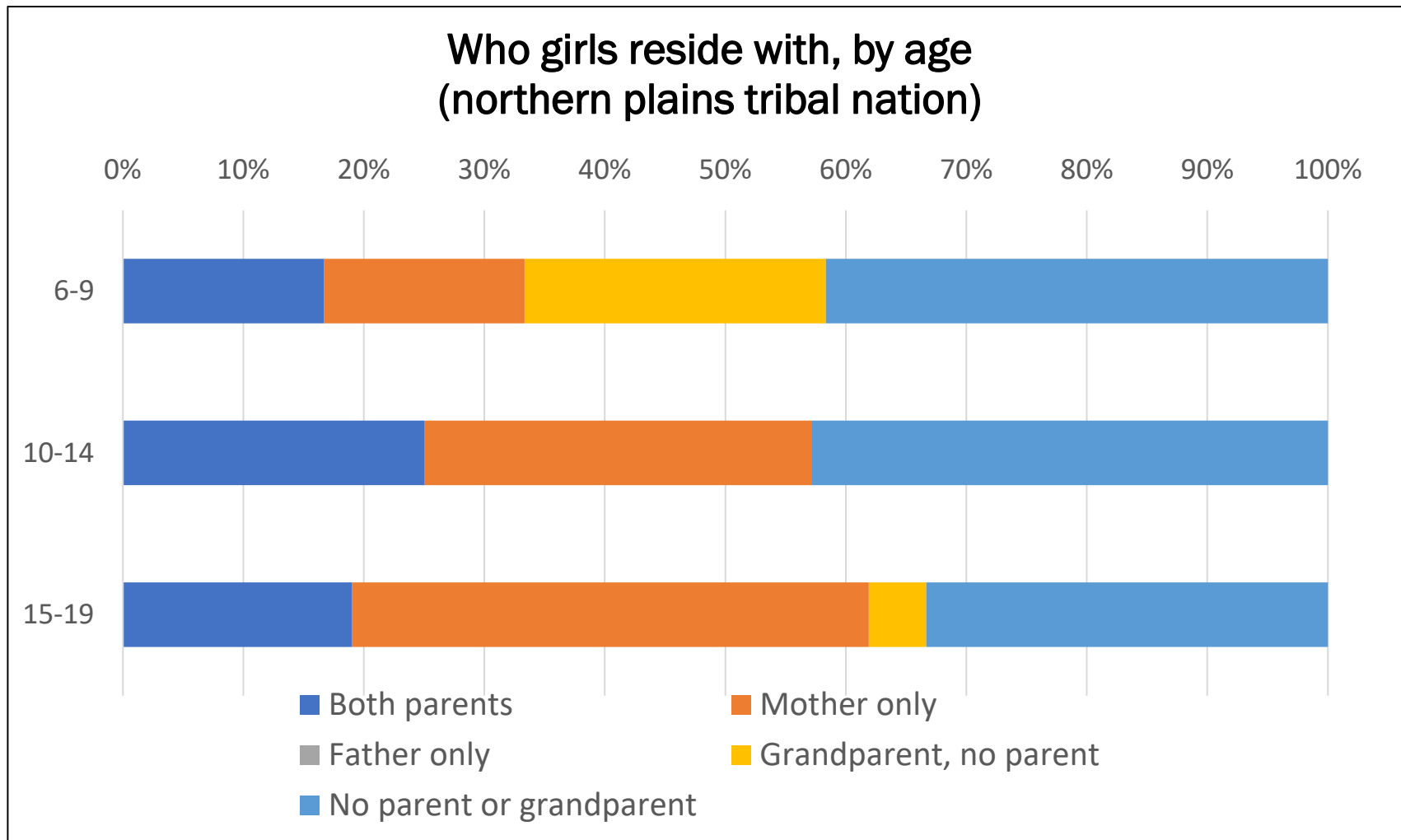
Many AI/AN girls will become primary caretakers of a household/family

(US children residing in single-parent families by race, 2019)



Source: K Hallman, ResilienceCon 2021; Annie E. Casey Foundation, KidsCount Data Center.

Rural tribal girls' living arrangements

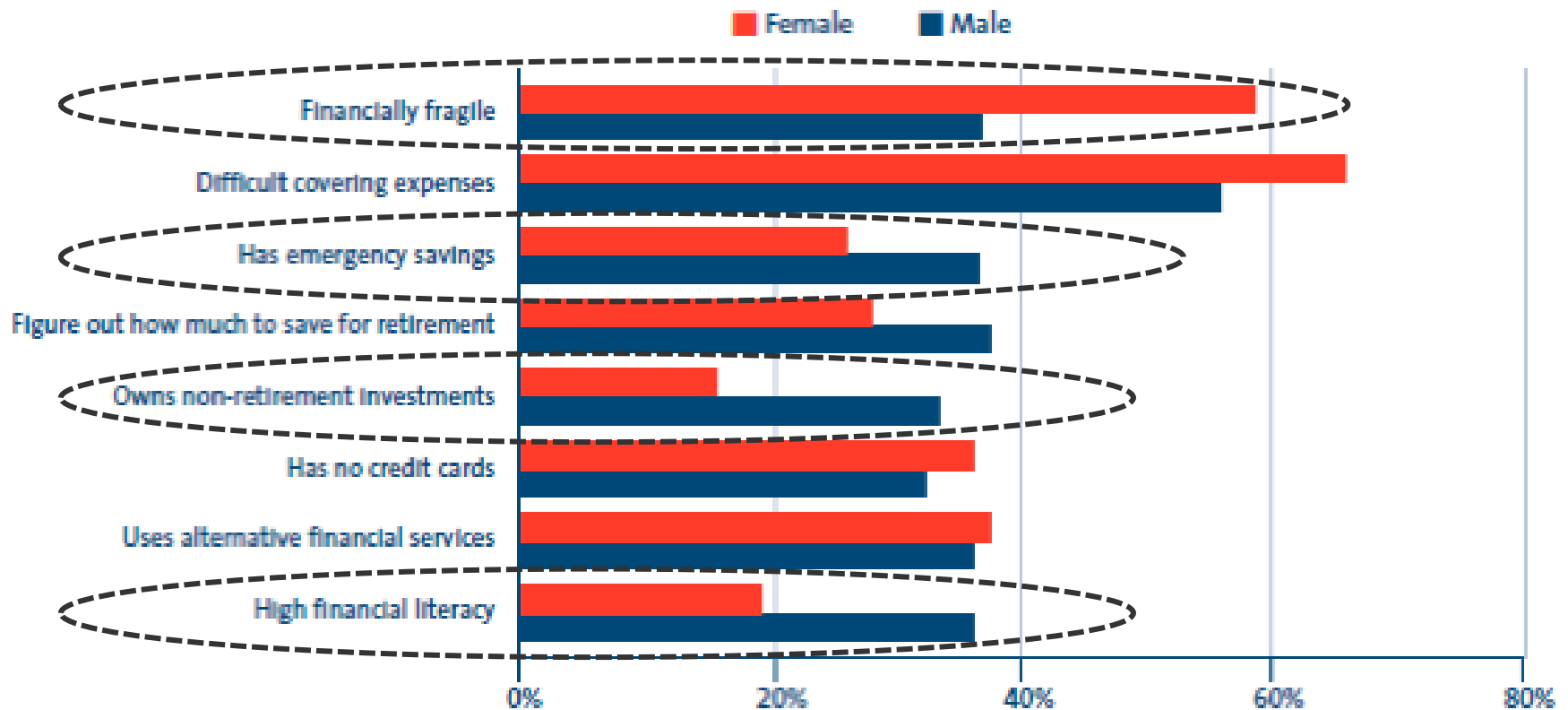


Source: Kelly Hallman and Stephanie Martinez. 2018. "[Adapting the Girl Roster for Lakota Communities](#)." NY: Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network (IMAGEN). Brief 2.

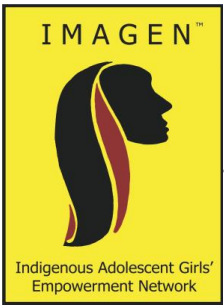


Native females have fewer financial assets & skills than Native males

Figure 24. Gender and Financial Capability Among Native Americans



Source: 2015 National Financial Capability Study (State-by-State Survey); Sara Dewees, Gary Mottola. 2017.



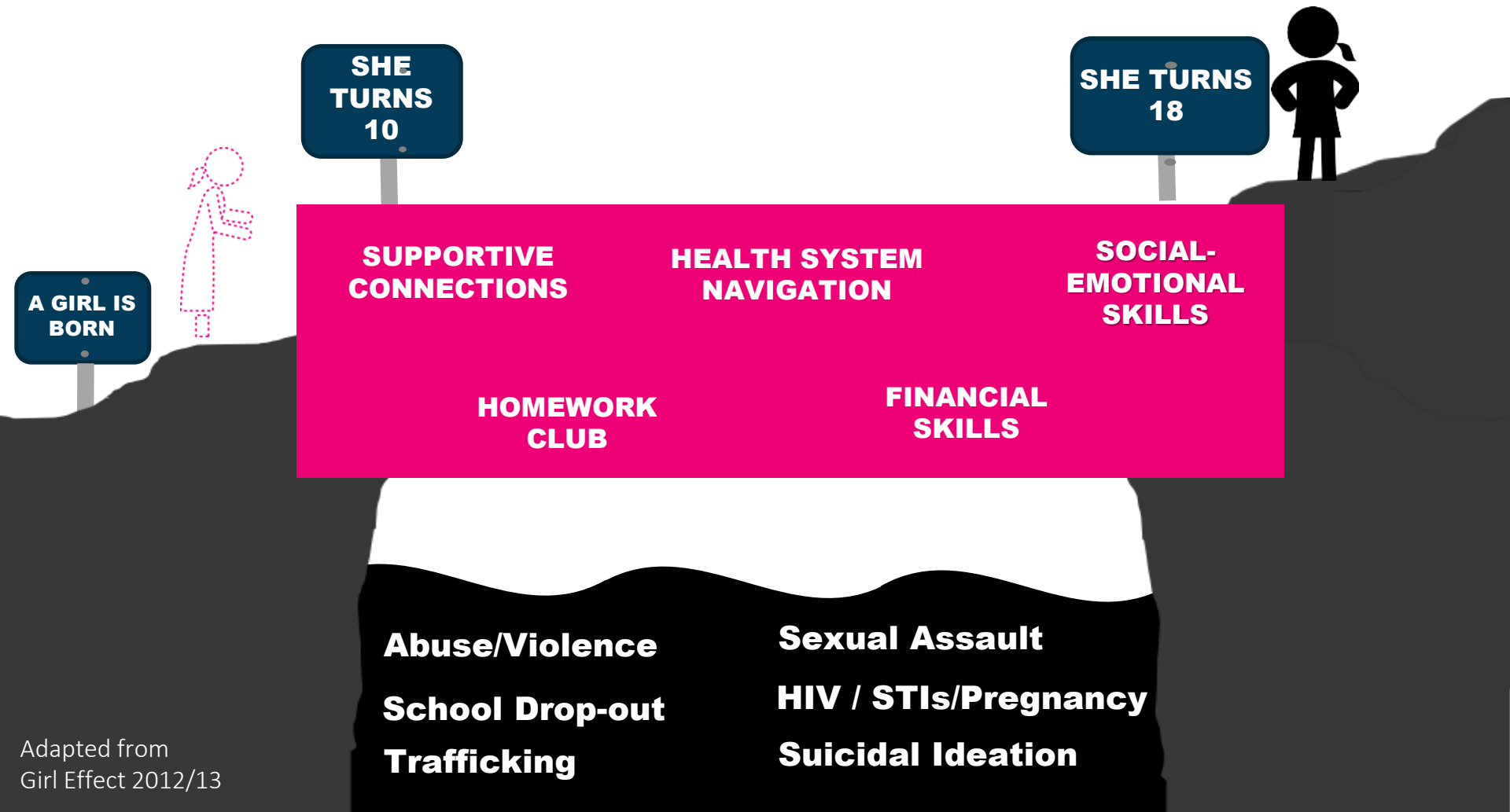
Native “youth” program scan: only 6 of 79 programs (8%) had a gender focus



■ Sex of Target Populatio.. (92%) ■ Girl-Focused (8%)

Source: Kelly Hallman and Stephanie Martinez. 2017. “[Imagining a Network for Native Girls.](#)” NY: Indigenous Adolescent Girls’ Empowerment Network (IMAGEN), Brief 1.

Support offered earlier could help girls face challenges





Women in rural tribal communities create hyper-local "Girl Societies"

Two-mentor team
+
Local girls,
aged 10-18



Weekly
Talking Circle
for Girls



Source: Kelly Hallman and Stephanie Martinez. 2018. "[Building Indigenous Girl Networks in South Dakota](#)" NY: Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network (IMAGEN). Brief 3.

Location of IMAGEN Girl Societies



Girl Societies

- Alaska**
St Paul Island
- Arizona**
Kake
- Idaho**
Kamiah
Lapwai
- Iowa**
Sioux City
- Michigan**
Baraga
- Minnesota**
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Montana**
Blackfeet Nation
Babb
Browning
Fort Belknap Reservation
Great Falls
- Nebraska**
Omaha
Norfolk
- New York**
Niagara County
Erie County
- Nevada**
Carson City
Gardnerville
- North Dakota**
Rosebud Reservation
Crow Creek Reservation
- South Dakota**
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation
Eagle Butte
Dupree
Timber Lake
White Horse
- Utah**
Salt Lake City
- Wisconsin**
Odanah
- Oklahoma**
Oklahoma City
Shawnee
Tulsa
- Montana**
Blackfeet Nation
Babb
Browning
Fort Belknap Reservation
Great Falls
- Nebraska**
Omaha
Norfolk
- New York**
Niagara County
Erie County
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Dupree
Timber Lake
White Horse
- Utah**
Salt Lake City
- Wisconsin**
Odanah



IMAGEN process



- Co-learning with Native communities, tribes & NGOs
 - Advisory council of 7 Native American women
 - 6 large grants to Native-controlled organizations
 - 68 COVID-19 micro-grants to 44 communities
 - Scores of (138) Native American women trained in planning, facilitation & data tools to start and operate Girl Societies
 - Bi-weekly virtual IMAGEN Circle gatherings since March 2020

HOW IS IMAGEN DIFFERENT?

- Native female support systems
 - Non-invasive, yet protective system
 - Inter-generational bonds
 - Native cultural lifeways
 - Skills for the modern world
- Gender- and life-stage focus
- Sovereign determination of content
- Suite of tools
 - Planning, implementation, assessment
- Continuous operational support

Source: Kelly Hallman, Stephanie Martinez, Lisa Polen, Angel del Valle. 2020. [Reclamation: Returning to Matrilineal Traditions, Building a New Generation of Indigenous Girl Societies](#). NY: Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network (IMAGEN). Brief 6.

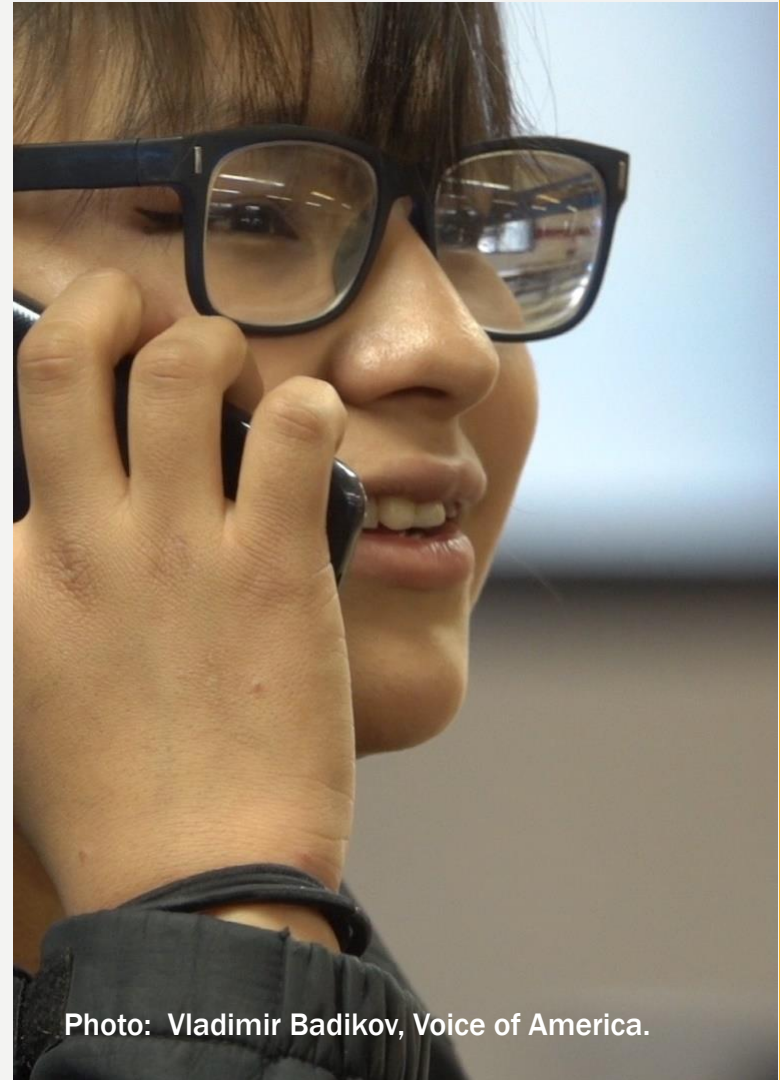


Photo: Vladimir Badikov, Voice of America.



Then versus now exercise

Native vs. Euro-American female rights (~1800)

Haudenosaunee (Iroquios)

Spiritual

Key female responsibilities in ceremonies

Social/ Health

GBV not tolerated, punished by leaders

Economic

Women comunally manage farming; own physical assets

Political

Women hold key political offices (clan mothers)

Euro American

Women forbidden to speak in religious services

Husband legal & religious right to perpetrate GBV

Women home isolated; no female property rights

All decision-making by men



Do you know?

A resilience skills challenge game for Native American girls



Source: [K Hallman, K Garibay, S Martinez, L Polen, 2021, Do you know: Resilience A Skills Challenge Game for Native American girls.](#)

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Indigenous Adolescent Girls'
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IMAGEN COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

Photo: Aimee Pond, Mary LeBeau, Thunder Valley Community Development, South Dakota



Cells phones & data

To help girls connect with and across Girl Society groups during COVID-19.



Photo: Sharisse Sitting Bear, White Buffalo Calf Women's Society.

Personal hygiene bags for girls: resources (COVID-19 and other) available at White Buffalo Calf Women's Society.



Photos: Sharisse Sitting Bear, White Buffalo Calf Women's Society.



Wokpa: spiritual toolkit provided to each girl

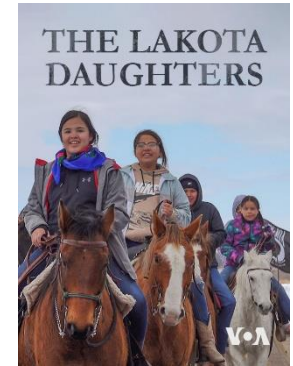


Photo: Sharisse Sitting Bear, White Buffalo Calf Women's Society.



IMAGEN impact

- Platform for Native female inter-generational mutual support in Indian Country
 - IMAGEN “Girl Society Movement” being talked about across U.S. indigenous communities
- Spurring hope, ideas & action among members
 - Thru IMAGEN, Native female-controlled NGOs created to focus exclusively on Native girls
 - Existing programs shift from “youth” to girls and boys
- Influencing donors
 - As of 2021, donors announcing RFAs to work with Native American girls (not “Native youth”)



THE LAKOTA DAUGHTERS



Documentary film by Voice of America (VOA). Dec 2020. (33-min):
<https://www.imagen-network.org/news/imagen-and-tvcdc-highlighted-in-voa-documentary>

THANK YOU!



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