

How Extractive Industries Affect Indigenous Women



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Intro



ILLUSTRATION BY LUISA RIVERA

While there is limited scientific data and research on Indigenous women in Alaska and Canada, there are some powerful studies that demonstrate the correlation between extractive industries and Indigenous women facing disproportionate social, emotional, psychological, and physical harm.



How have extractive industries affected Indigenous communities and how can policy protect Indigenous women?

Research Question

In the U.S. 35 percent of its fossil fuel is located either directly on or near Indigenous lands.



Methodology

There is not a lot of data on the direct connection between extractive industries and Indigenous women, so...

- ▷ General secondary data analysis
- ▷ Social accounts/testimonial
- ▷ Drawing broad conclusions



Impacts from Extractive Industries on Indigenous communities

- ▷ Alcohol abuse
- ▷ Social cohesion issues
- ▷ Community violence
- ▷ Environmental Impacts
- ▷ Missing & murdered Indigenous women



“Man Camp”

Male miners coming into new, unfamiliar communities can affect the dynamics of the community through...

 **alcoholism, violence, prostitution, and the spread of STI's**

A study found that when a gold mine was introduced to an Indigenous community in Canada there was a...

 **28% increase in harassment**

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that of all sexual assault against Indigenous women

 **86 % were perpetrated by non-Native men**

Analysis of Gender Issues

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Extractive Industries Are Fueling Violence Against Indigenous Women

Indigenous Women experience hardship due to:

- ▶ Extractive industries solely communicating with men (which deprives women of their traditional role of status/power)
- ▶ Indigenous women having less economic benefit or employment opportunities from extractive industries
- ▶ Women experiencing an increase in violence, sexual assault, STI's, unplanned pregnancies, and prostitution.

Discussion of Data

Impacts on Indigenous Communities

- There is conclusive data demonstrating the impacts extractive industries have on Indigenous communities

Direct Impacts to Indigenous Women

- The conclusion can be drawn that the negative impacts experienced from extractive industries are disproportionately felt by Indigenous women.



Policy Suggestion

- Therefore, policy should protect Indigenous communities and specifically Indigenous women from this harm.

International public policy must intentionally protect Indigenous communities, and specifically Indigenous women.

- **Stricter environmental policies**
- **International legal requirement that companies must receive clear consent from Indigenous representatives**
- **Expand studies on Indigenous communities and Indigenous women that are near mines or oil drilling sites**
- **Reparations for those Indigenous communities impacted, through fiscal, medical, legal, political, and social means**

Conclusion

Thanks!