Decolonizing Data to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Womxn, Girls, 2-Spirited

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Data for Indigenous Justice

Question for the Viewers

How would you describe your knowledge of the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous womxn?

A. High level
B. Moderate level
C. Low level
D. Other (please type in chat)

**NOTE:** If you answered "Yes," please share details in the chat box.
Indigenous Leadership

Jody Potts  Abigail Echo-Hawk  Dr. Malia Villegas

Our Vision

To live our ancestral power to the fullest, in safety, while thriving.
Our Purpose

To strategically utilize our stories found in qualitative and quantitative data to benefit the well-being of our Indigenous people through education and advocacy and advocate for systemic change;

To serve our Indigenous communities by working with and for our communities through systemic change and education and by creating safe spaces for our communities;

To protect and care for our stories through stewarding qualitative and quantitative data with respect;

To honor our ancestors’ past and future with guidance from Indigenous values and teachings through self-determined and sovereign research and reporting.

MMIWG2S Alaska Working Group

The MMIWG2S Alaska Working Group is a collective led by six Indigenous-led statewide organizations:

Overview of the Problem

MMIWG2S is a complex issue, yet is also very simple. MMIWG2S is rooted in colonization and acts of genocide. We seek justice on every front.
The Problem as a System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Protections</th>
<th>Missing Data</th>
<th>Missing in the Media</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Murder is the third leading cause of death among AI/AN women.</td>
<td>In 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing AI/AN women and girls; the US Department of Justice logged only 114 cases.</td>
<td>More than 95% of the cases in the study by UIHI were never covered by national or international media.</td>
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<td>Rates of violence on reservations can be up to 10 times higher than the national average.</td>
<td>Misclassifying race, mislabeling deaths as a suicide rather than homicide, and mislabeling the origin location of the crime is common.</td>
<td>Out of 154 articles, which covered 129 cases out of 506 in the study, one quarter of the total number of cases were covered by local, regional, or national media.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Stories, Our Sisters, Our Strength

We address MMIWG2S from a healing centered place, with and for our community.

Alaska, 2018 UIHI Report

Top 10 States with Highest Number of MMIWG Cases

- Oklahoma (18)
- Minnesota (20)
- Utah (24)
- Nebraska (33)
- California (40)
- Montana (41)
- Alaska (52)
- Arizona (54)
- Washington (71)
- New Mexico (78)
Reclaiming Data

Due to lack of accountability, reclaiming data involves mixed methods of data collection:

- Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA)
- Social Media Seeking Alaska’s Missing (SAM)
- National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

Example of a Public Information Request from the Department of Public Safety website

What Do Cases Look Like Across States?

**SOVEREIGN BODIES INSTITUTE (SBI)**

**DOCUMENTED MMIWG2S STATE CASES AS OF JULY 2020**

Oregon (74)
Nebraska (97)
South Dakota (132)
Alaska (149)
Oklahoma (162)
California (165)
Arizona (188)
New Mexico (188)
Washington (235)
Montana (237)

We Are Calling To You — 2021

Data for Indigenous Justice published We Are Calling To You, the first Alaska-specific MMIWG report, in February 2021
DECOLONIZING DATA.
DATA SOVEREIGNTY.

Artwork: Dustin Newman

Everyone is a part of the solution.

A Chat with Charlene Aqpik Apok

Allene Mares  Charlene Aqpik Apok
QUESTIONS?

To ask a question, please click the icon in the Zoom toolbar to open your Q&A Pod.

Resources

We Are Calling to You
Alaska-specific MMIWG2S Report
https://dataforindigenousjustice.com/we-are-calling-to-you/

MMIWG2S Alaska Working Group
Group Facebook page
https://facebook.com/MMIWG2SAlaska
Recording: Rally for MMIWG2S Alaska, Feb. 11, 2022
https://www.facebook.com/MMIWG2SAlaska/videos/656325962237619

Indigenous Data Governance: Strategies from United States Native Nations
Research paper by Stephanie Russo Carroll, Desi Rodriguez Lonebear, and Andrew Martinez

To’Kee Skuy’ Soo Ney’-Wo’ Chek’ ‘I Will See You Again in a Good Way’
A Year 1 Project Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People of Northern California

MMIW State Legislative Tracker
Provided by the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center
https://www.niwrc.org/mm/w-state-legislative-tracker