



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



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Data for Indigenous Justice



**DATA  
FOR  
INDIGENOUS  
JUSTICE**

hot topics  
in practice )))

[www.nwcphp.org/hot-topics](http://www.nwcphp.org/hot-topics)

**Northwest Center**  
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

# 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.





UvaNa Charlene Apok, Inupiaqsisga Aqpik



ChinikmiuguruNa, suli NatcharvikmuiguruNa



AakaGa Sandra 'Baby Lu' Apok



Igniga Evan Lukluan

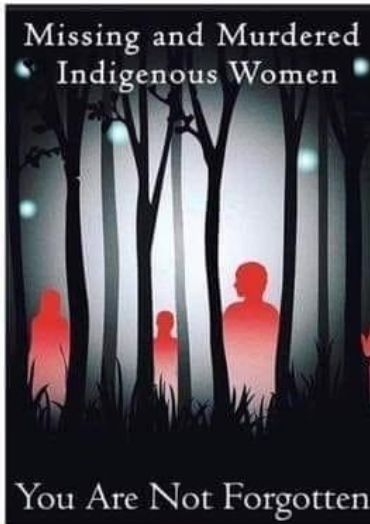


Uqautilunga Inupiatun!



Kingikmuit...PiyumnaqtuNa





# 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 wellbeing of our Indigenous people through efforts that educate and advocate for systemic change;

## **To serve our indigenous communities**

by working for and with them towards justice and healing through systemic change and advocacy regarding missing and murdered indigenous persons;

## **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; applied through respectful, 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



*Three Alaska Native women appointed to Anchorage Public Safety Commission, 2020. (L-R: Kendra Kloster, Emily Edenshaw, Lukluan Apok-Bartron, and Charlene Apok.)*

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

## No Protections

- Murder is *the third leading cause of death* among AI/AN women.
- Rates of violence on reservations can be *up to 10 times higher than the national average*.

## Missing Data

- In 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing AI/AN women and girls; the US Department of Justice logged *only 116 cases*.
- Misclassifying race, mislabeling deaths as a suicide rather than homicide, and mislabeling the origin location of the crime is common.

## Missing in the Media

- More than 95% of the cases in the study by UIHI were *never covered by national or international media*.
- Out of 934 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.

# Our Stories, Our Sisters, Our Strength

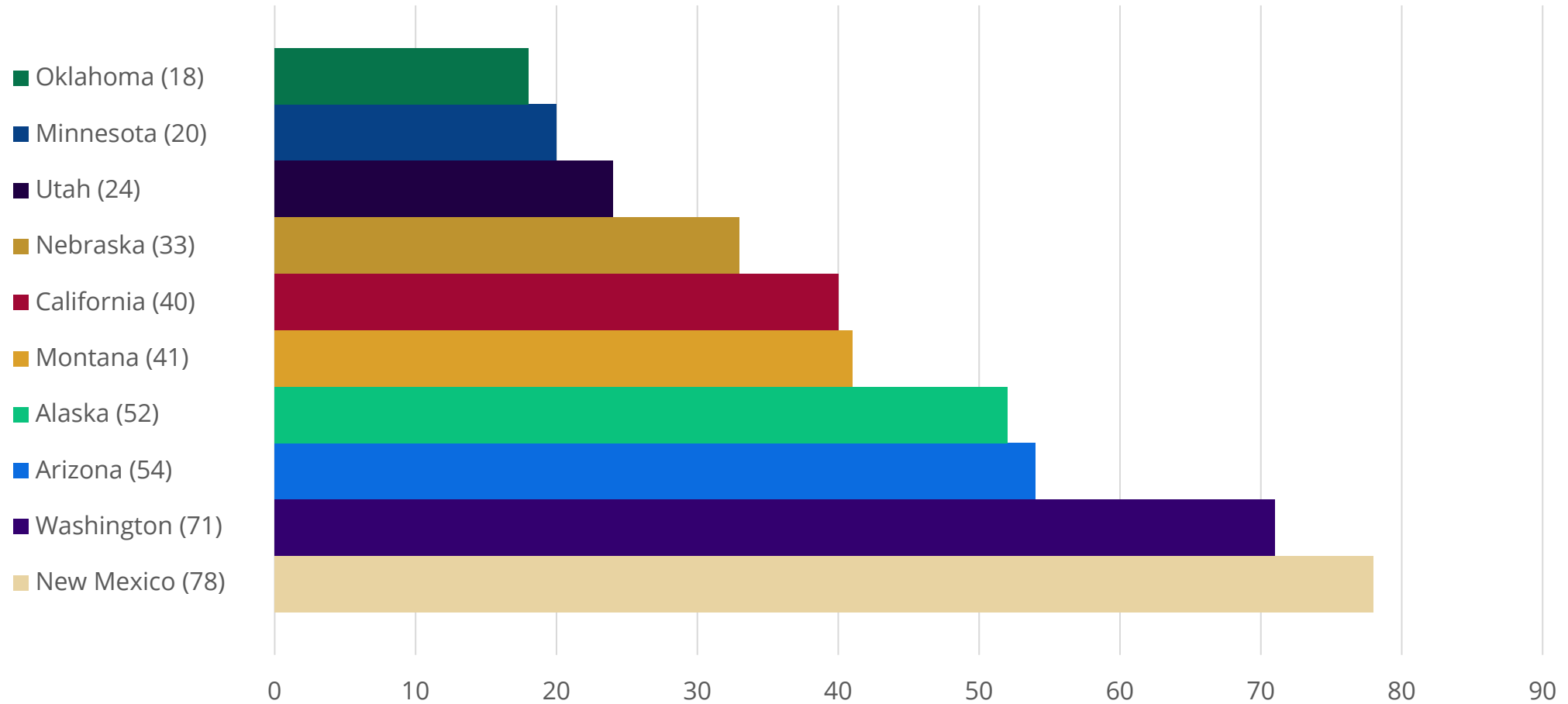


*We address MMIWG2S from a healing centered place,  
with and for our community*



# Alaska, 2018 UIHI Report

## TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF MMIWG CASES



# Reclaiming Data

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



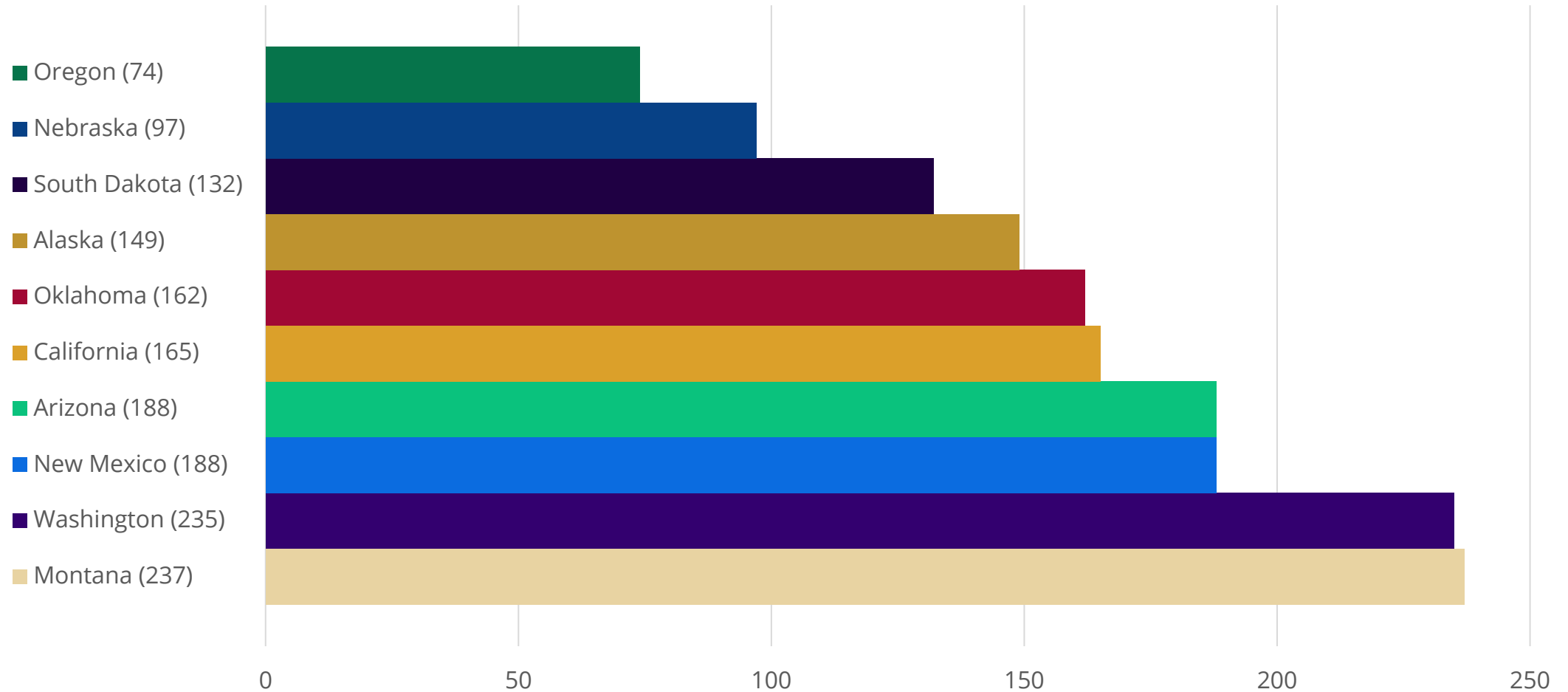
Example of a Public Information Request from [the Department of Public Safety website](#)

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



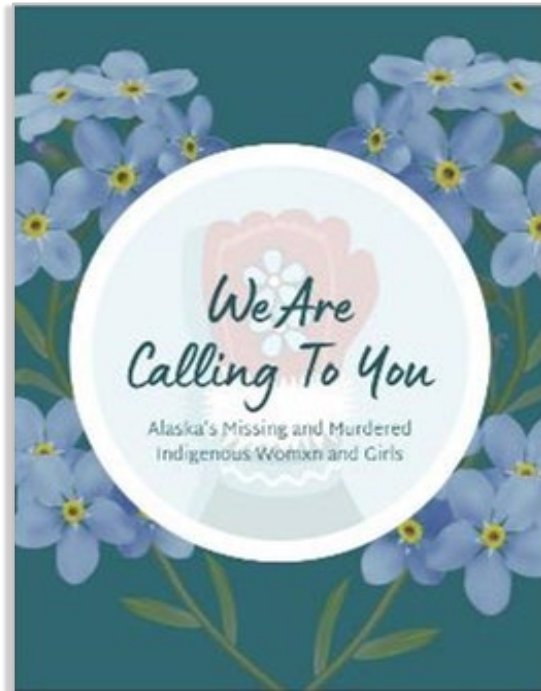
# What Do Cases Look Like Across States?

## SOVEREIGN BODIES INSTITUTE (SBI) DOCUMENTED MMIWG2S STATE CASES AS OF JULY 2020





# 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



A photograph of approximately 18 wooden oars leaning against a red, horizontally-slatted wall. The oars are arranged in two rows, with their blades pointing upwards and their handles resting on the ground. The wall has several dark rectangular openings, possibly for ventilation or storage. The ground is a mix of gravel and wood shavings. A semi-transparent black banner with white text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

**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: Policy Forum, Feb. 15 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

<https://datascience.codata.org/articles/10.5334/dsj-2019-031/>

## **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

<https://niwrc.org/resources/report/kee-skuy-soo-ney-wo-check-i-will-see-you-again-good-way-year-1-project-report>

## **MMIW State Legislative Tracker**

Provided by the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

<https://www.niwrc.org/mmiw-state-legislative-tracker>