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

Charlene Aqpik Apok, PhD, MA
Executive Director
Data for Indigenous Justice
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 Aqqik
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To strategically utilize our stories</th>
<th>To serve our indigenous communities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>found in qualitative and quantitative data to benefit the wellbeing of our Indigenous people through efforts that educate and advocate for systemic change;</td>
<td>by working for and with them towards justice and healing through systemic change and advocacy regarding missing and murdered indigenous persons;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To protect and care for our stories</th>
<th>To honor our ancestors’ past and future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>through stewarding qualitative and quantitative data with respect;</td>
<td>with guidance from Indigenous values and teachings; applied through respectful, self-determined, and sovereign research and reporting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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 116 cases.</td>
<td>- More than 95% of the cases in the study by UIHI were never covered by national or international media.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Stories, Our Sisters, Our Strength

We address MMIWG2S from a healing centered place, with and for our community
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)
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 and Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

Example of a Public Information Request from the [Department of Public Safety website](https://www.dps.state.ak.us/)
What Do Cases Look Like Across States?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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

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/mmiw-state-legislative-tracker