



hot topics in practice

A Public Health
Resource Service by

Northwest Center
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE



MMIR in Alaska and Data Sovereignty




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www.nwcpa.org/hot-topics

1



How familiar are you with the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives (MMIR)?

- A. Very familiar
- B. Somewhat familiar
- C. Not at all familiar
- D. Other (please type in chat)

2

Understanding the Crisis: MMIR in Alaska



Data for Indigenous Justice



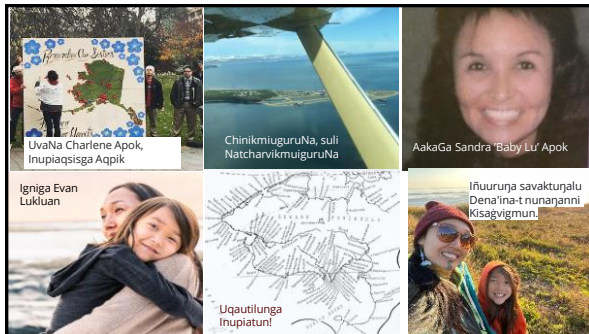
Data Sovereignty in Action



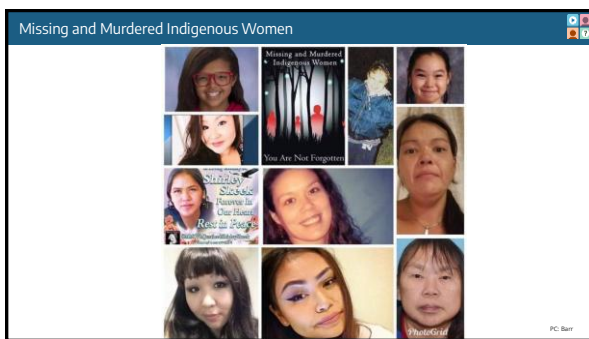
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6

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives

Debbie Nictume

Frank Minano, Jr.

Doreen Sanford

Willis Derendoff

Use the anonymous text tip line Text to 847411 and Open type AKTIPS

PC: PNA

7

Data for Indigenous Justice

8

Data for Indigenous Justice


- VISION: Indigenous Peoples thriving in strong, vibrant communities steeped in ancestral power, justice, and love.
- MISSION: Equip Indigenous peoples across Alaska through self-determined actions on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2 spirit peoples (MMIWG2S).

Artwork: Aly McInight


9

Indigenous Leadership: Our Board


Dr. Jessica Black



Abigail Echo-Hawk




Dr. Malia Villegas




10

Indigenous Leadership: Our Team

Tatiana Ticknor
Project Coordinator




Sabrina Dunphy
Administrative Coordinator




11

Indigenous Leadership: Our Team

Antonia Commack
Resource Coordinator



Maka Monture
Communications



12

Data for Indigenous Justice Purpose

- 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 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 systematic change
- To honor our ancestors' past and future with guidance from Indigenous values and teachings; applied through respectful, self-determined, and sovereign research and reporting

13

2018 Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) Report



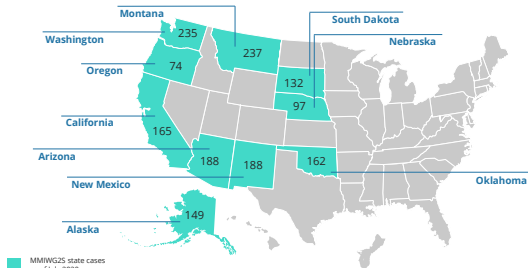
Top 10 States with Highest Number of MMIWG Cases

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

UIHI 2018 Report

14

What Do Cases Look Like Across States?



Sovereign Bodies Institute Report, July 2020

15



16

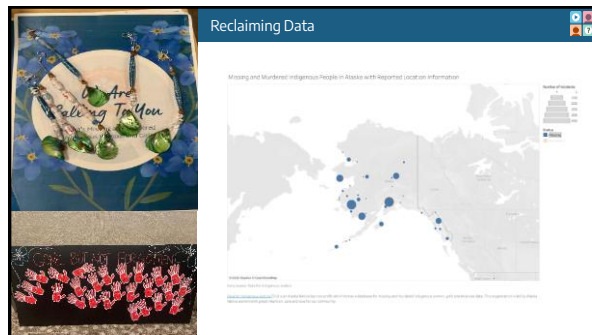


17

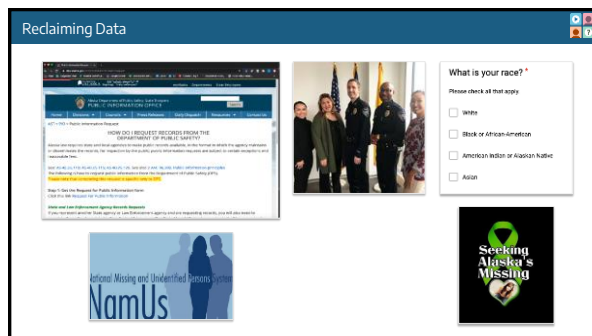


18

19



20


[illegible]

21

Data Systems Strategy

DJI report outlined specific actions including:

- Called on Department of Public Safety to track data and release information (DPS is now sending out quarterly reports)
- Mandatory reporting to NAMUS (this provision was included in SB151 MMIP that passed in 2024)
- Updated Data fields: Missing Category (implemented at DPS)
- Centralized data systems (still working on)



The image contains two screenshots. The left screenshot shows a news article with the headline "Report on missing Native people removed from federal websites" and a sub-headline "DJI report outlines specific actions including: Called on Department of Public Safety to track data and release information (DPS is now sending out quarterly reports)". The right screenshot shows a video call interface with five participants in a grid layout.

[illegible]

Data Systems Advocacy

Circumstance Determinations per the Involved Police Agencies

- **Environment:** Wilderness, waterways, ocean, aircraft crashes, other non-suspicious outdoor deaths where human remains were not located by search and rescue teams, or another related event
- **Suspicious:** Suspected criminal activity surrounding the event
- **Not Suspicious:** No indication of criminal activity or environmental factor
- **Unknown:** Unable to determine circumstance

22


Community Building

23

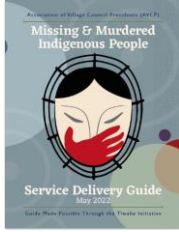
Fellowship Program

24

Indigenous Methodologies Matter



Map of missing and murdered Unangan from 1741-2020.



Association of Alaska Court Judges (AAJC)
Missing & Murdered Indigenous People
Service Delivery Guide
May 2022
Guide Made Possible Through the Victims Initiative

25

Decolonizing Data and Data Sovereignty




Artwork by Justin Newson

26

About the MMIWG2S AK Working Group

The MMIWG2S Alaska Working Group works in collaboration to share initiatives that impacts MMIWG2S/MMIP work, share and create strategies for change, and host healing centered community events. With partnership from statewide organizations, we leverage our collective resources and skills to analyze local, state, and federal policies, have a unified voice on advocacy, and create meaningful outreach events for the community.



AKNWRC ALASKA NATIVE JUSTICE CENTER (ANJC) DATA FOR INDIGENOUS JUSTICE NATIVE MOVEMENT

27



MMIWG2S/MMIR Successes

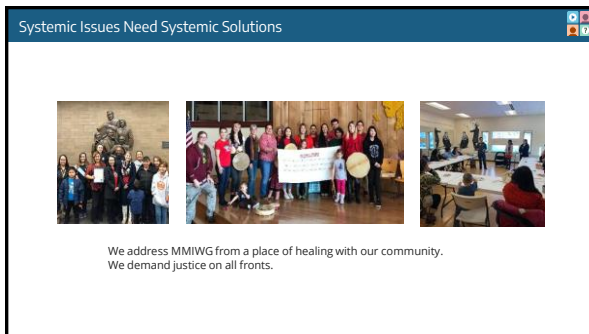
State Policies

- Passage of SB151 - first MMIP Bill in Alaska
 - Mandated Cultural training, NamUs Entry, 2 secured positions, Commission
- Four designated MMIP Investigators at DPS
- One MMIP AAG at Dept of Law
- VPSO legislation and funding increased


Federal Policies

- Passage of Savanna's Act
- Passage of Not Invisible Act
- VAWA Reauthorization

28



Systemic Issues Need Systemic Solutions



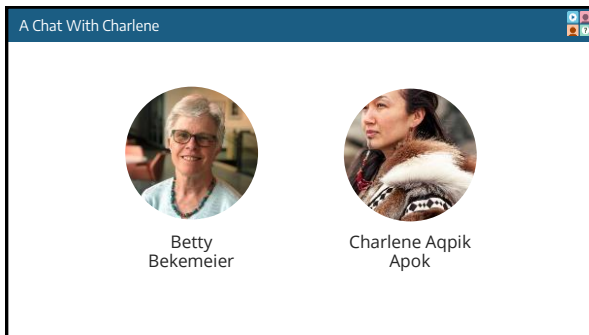
We address MMIWG from a place of healing with our community.
We demand justice on all fronts.

29



Everyone is a part of the solution

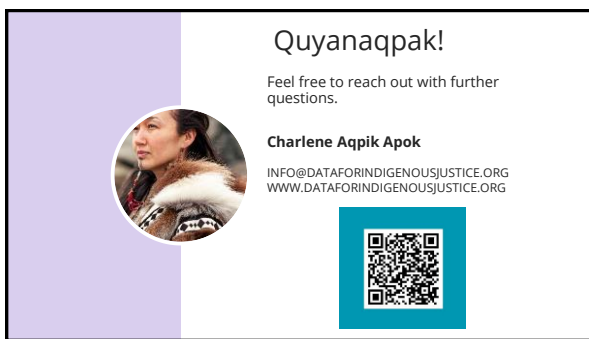
30



31



32



33

Resources & Further Reading

Data for Indigenous Justice
Resources
<https://www.dataforindigenousjustice.org/resources-1>

Data for Indigenous Justice
Report, 2021
<https://squarespace.com/static/650a3ad1f4ccde7d793b6f02/r/65a85dab2441ae379b833205/r1705532855762/Web-Resources.pdf>

Not Invisible Act Commission
Final Report, November 2023
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d4UX1zWKEhGZh28fmbI4_9At_ZwXnCE/view?usp=drive_link

MMIWG25 Alaska Working Group
<https://mmiwg25alaska.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/MMIWG25Alaska>

34

12