

FACT SHEET

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives is an international issue that has negatively impacted Indigenous communities. Indigenous women are more likely to experience violence compared to non-Hispanic white women. The same is true for Indigenous women and relatives' rates of homicide and going missing. This factsheet highlights key data to better understand this crisis.

KEY FACTS

- Indigenous women are murdered at **10x the national average.**
- Homicide is roughly the **third leading cause** of death among Indigenous women ages **10-24.**
- More than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women (**84.3%**) have experienced violence in their lifetime.
- **56.1%** of (AI/AN) women have experienced sexual violence, **55.5%** have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, and **48.8%** have experienced stalking.
- In 2024, the FBI reported **10,248** missing Indigenous persons cases. Of those, **5,614** were women and **4,626** were men. Most women reported missing were under the age of 18.
- **64 percent** of human trafficking victims in Hawaii identified as at least part Native Hawaiian.
- The **10 states** with the highest rates of AI/AN missing persons cases in 2025 were AK, AZ, OK, WA, NM, CA, MT, NC, SD, and TX.

GAPS IN DATA AND REPORTING

- **Undercounting of MMIWR Cases:** Racial misclassification of MMIWR cases and general case underreporting make it difficult to know the true number of MMIWR cases.
- **Lack of Media Coverage:** 95 percent of cases identified by the Urban Indian Health Institute had not been covered by the mainstream media.
- **No Accurate Nationwide Case Count:** Because of limited data, there is no reliable nationwide count of how many Native women go missing or are murdered each year.
- **Inconsistent Logging of Cases:** Of the 5,712 reports of missing Indigenous women and girls in 2016, only 116 were put into the national information clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases.

SOURCES:

- CDC, Leading Causes of Death, 2019
- National Institute of Justice, Violence Against AI/AN Women, 2016
- Rosay, Violence Against AI/AN Women and Men, 2016
- FBI NCIC, Missing AI/AN Persons Data, 2024
- Parker et al., Domestic Violence in AI/AN Populations, 2024
- Roe-Sepowitz & Jabola-Carolus, Sex Trafficking in Hawai'i, 2020
- National Institute of Justice, AI/AN Missing Persons Report, 2025
- Urban Indian Health Institute, MMIWG Data Snapshot, 2018
- Bureau of Indian Affairs, MMIP Crisis Overview, 2024
- Lucchesi & Echo-Hawk, MMIWG Urban Data Study, 2018



**NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS**
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

www.niwrc.org