

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons



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Missing vs Murdered

- Two very separate things.
 - Missing does not always equate to murder
 - Murder is not always of a missing person
 - At times, the two do merge

A missing person is a person who has disappeared and whose status as alive or dead cannot be confirmed as their location and fate are not known. A person may go missing through a voluntary disappearance, or else due to an accident, crime, death in a location where they cannot be found, or many other reasons.

2020 FBI Stats

- 5295 Reports/Entries of missing AIAN females
- 4276 Reports/Entries of missing AIAN males
- 4 Reports/Entries of unknown gender
- Total of 9575 reports
- 578 AIAN female are active missing person records(FBI 2020)
- 918 AIAN males are in active missing records (FBI 2020)
 - Only cases reported to the FBI – Changes Daily

2020 FBI Stats

- Of the 9575 reports:
 - 78% of female reports were underage of 18
 - 69% of male reports were underage of 18
- Missing Reported in one of 6 categories
 - 6804 – Juvenile
 - 180 – Involuntary
 - 1 – Catastrophe Victim
 - 703 – Endangered
 - 257 – Disability
 - 1630 - Other

Missteps to MMIP Cases Continued

- Lack of MMIP Policy or lack of understanding of existing policy
- Lack of Training
- Disconnect with neighboring agencies
- Failure to engage victim services
- Failure to communicate with victim's family
- Failure to use media to assist with locating victim
- Failure to maintain a fluid communication system
- Failure to take a complete and accurate report
- Failure to enter information from a complete report into the appropriate missing person databases.

Biggest Missteps Responding to MMIP Cases

- 1. Failing to Respond
 - Assuming they will return
 - Did not get dispatched
 - No officer available
- Not Taking Report Seriously
 - Assuming drug or alcohol related
 - Report seems unbelievable
 - Believe it is a hoax
- Assumed Runaway
 - They will come back or show up
- Implementing a waiting period
 - They have a history of this behavior
 - Assume they are hunting or fishing and just delayed
 - Violates 34 USC 41308)1)
- Lack of Volunteer Support or Coordination
 - They will not come or take action if they do
 - They can do their own thing
 - They can provide their own supplies
 - They will not talk to the press



Guides for Developing Tribal Community Response Plans for Missing Person Cases

A Tribal Community Response Plan details how a tribal community will respond to a report of a missing person. This plan will be approved by the tribal government and tailored to the resources and culture of the community.

1. Law Enforcement

- Collaborative
- Resourceful
- Comprehensive

2. Victim Services

- Culturally appropriate
- Victim-centered
- Trauma-Informed

3. Media

- Timely
- Accurate
- Transparent

4. Community Outreach

- Proactive
- Expandable
- Intentional

What is a Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP)?

- ▶ Plan for how a tribal community will respond to a report of a missing person
- ▶ Developed by Tribes in conjunction with U.S. Attorney partners and others
- ▶ Tailored to the needs, resources and culture of the community

Additional Resources

- Specialized Assistance (FBI and US Marshal Resources)
- Tribal Access Program (TAP)
- National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS)
- Department of the Interior – BIA/OJS (MMU)
- Education and Awareness
- Data Development/Collection/Analysis

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THANK YOU

