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.

Wikipedia
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)

• 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 supplied
  • 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
THANK YOU