



SPOTLIGHT ALASKA and the CRISIS OF MMIWG 2022

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1

Welcome & Introductions

Michelle Demmert,
Law and Policy Director,
Moderator

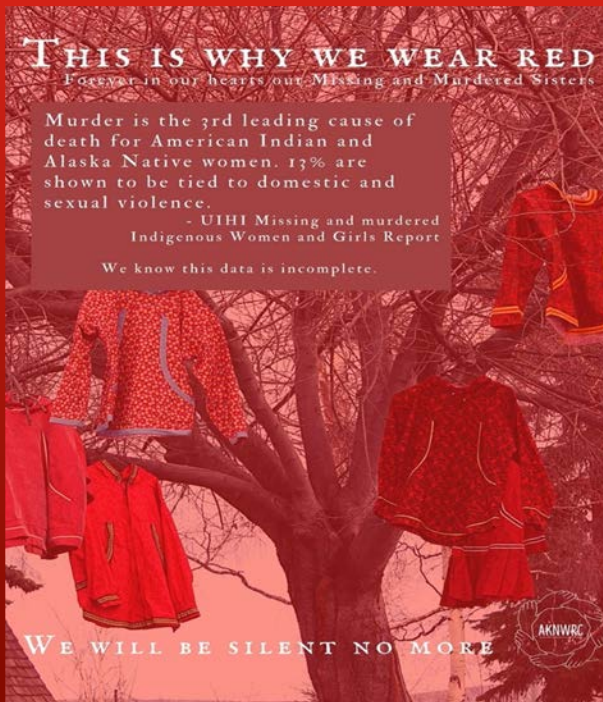


2

Rochelle Greenley



3



4

AKNWRC Toolkit and First Steps

- Take immediate action
- Report missing as soon as possible
- Find a current picture and identifying marks
- Establish when last seen and who with



5

Develop a Community Plan



- Identify local resources and people
- Have a list of names and phone numbers
- Know who can help with a search
- Identify someone you trust to handle social media posts
- Designate the key spokesperson for LE and press

6

Communication is Vital

- Designate one or two people -- point of contact
- Centralize information
- Document all information
- Establish a timeline
- Talk to law enforcement



7



IPAWS
Integrated Public Alert & Warning
System



FEMA

Tribal Nations in Alaska
and IPAWS
2022

8



MMIWG2S Alaska Working Group:



**NATIVE
MOVEMENT**

www.nativemovement.org



**NATIVE PEOPLES ACTION
COMMUNITY FUND**

www.npacommunityfund.org



**DATA FOR
INDIGENOUS
JUSTICE**

www.dataforindigenousjustice.com



**ALASKA
NATIVE
HERITAGE
CENTER**

www.alaskanative.net



AKNWRC

www.aknwrc.org

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Other organizations doing this work:



**Alaska Native
JUSTICE CENTER**
Voices for Justice



**Urban Indian
Health Institute**
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board




MMIWG



**National
Congress of
American
Indians**

9

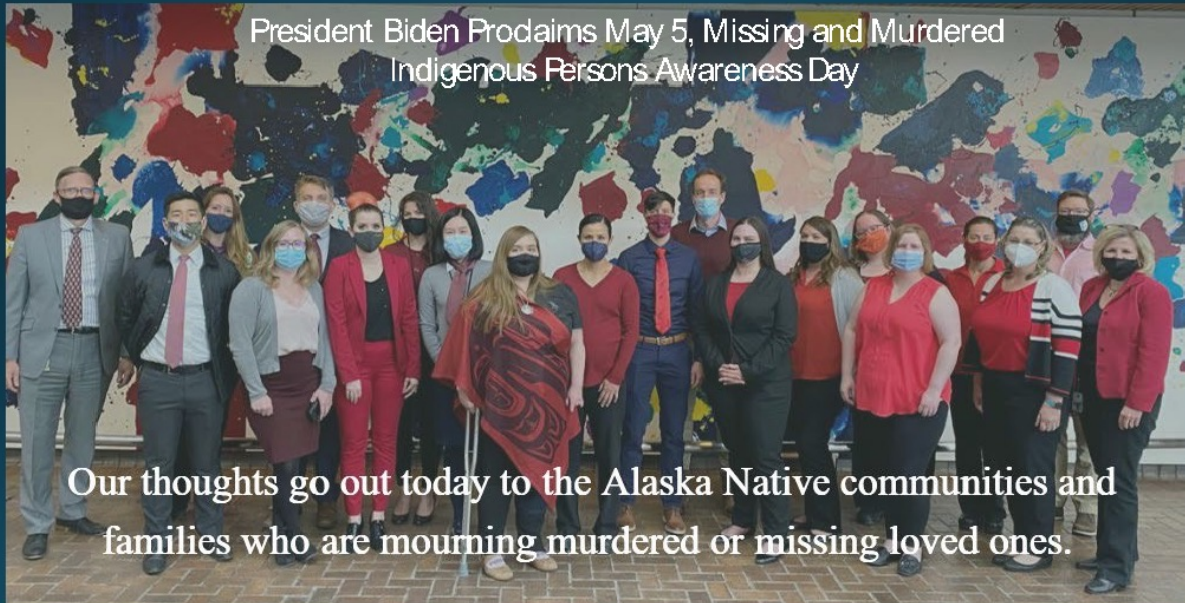
Spotlight Alaska and The Crisis of MMIWG 2022: Savanna's Act, (RAAVEN) Rural Alaska Anti-Violence Enforcement Network & Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)



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10



11

Goals and Objectives

- Savanna's Act Guidance Awareness
- Become familiar with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP), AK-MMIP working group, the Tribal Community Response Plan, and NCJTC Amber Alert MMIP tabletop exercises
 - Collaboration and Capacity Building/Support with
 - 229 Alaska Tribes, their stakeholder providers, and Law Enforcement
- To become aware of RAAVEN, MMU, Federal Nexus, Victim Services, Media and Communication



12

Savanna's Act Guidance

- ▶ Missing persons Law Enforcement protocols and increased reporting
- ▶ All cases entered in APSIN and CJIS-AK Native or AI identified
 - ▶ Primary responsible agency identified
- ▶ Found missing persons defined as Found/Alive, Dead Natural Causes, Dead Suspicious. . .
- ▶ Points of contact, collaboration, communication, increased response
- ▶ Resources identified for recovered missing person
- ▶ Search and Rescue support and increased response
- ▶ Human Remains Recovery
- ▶ Enforcement of Tribal and other agency protective orders



13

Operation RAAVEN United States Attorney, District of AK (Rural Alaska Anti-Violence Enforcement Network)

- ▶ Promote Public Safety in Rural Alaska
- ▶ Prosecution and Prosecutors
- ▶ Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Coordinator
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Grants/Funding



14



15



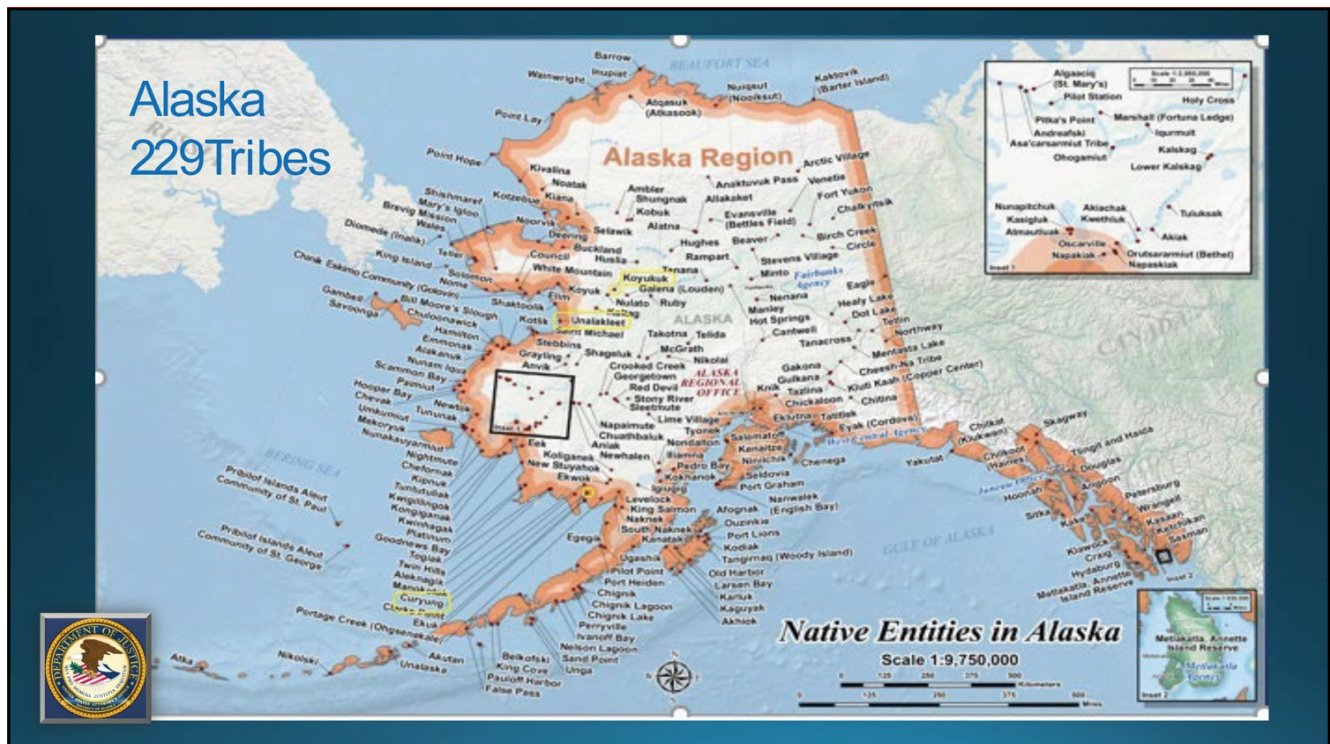
16

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons Coordinators

- 2019 Attorney General’s MMIP Initiative & Operation Lady Justice
- Currently Six (6) MMIP Coordinators MMIP Coordinators -
 - DOJ contract employees , USAttorney’s Office Districts:
 - Alaska, Arizona, Michigan, Oklahoma (LE Coordinator), Oregon, New Mexico, and Washington
- Ingrid Cumberland, District of Alaska MMIP Coordinator
 - USAttorneys Office, Anchorage, AK, July 2020 – present
- BIA- Missing and Murdered Unit Office, Alaska, August 2020



17



18

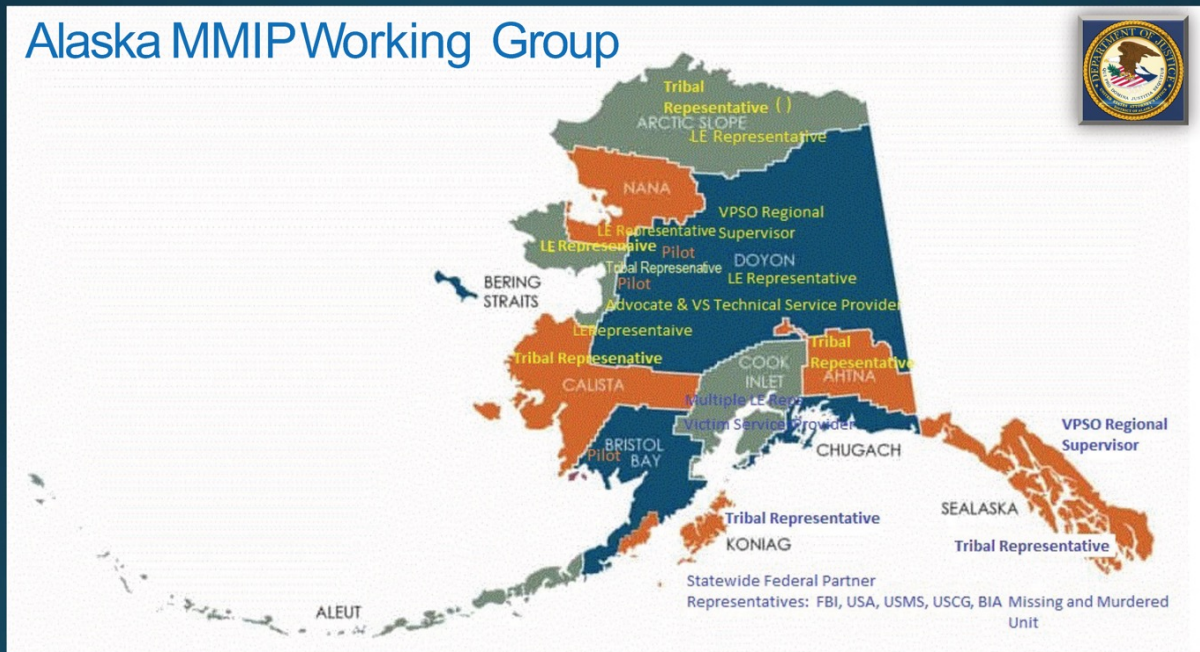
Alaska MMIP - Statewide Working Group Stakeholders/Providers/LE: Resources & Response

- ▶ Statewide, Tribal MMIP Focus, Stakeholders, and Multidisciplinary Providers. (September – bi-monthly)
- ▶ Federal Law Enforcement Partners: FBI, USMS, USCG, BIA-MMU & HHS, and USA
- ▶ Alaska State Troopers
 - ▶ Village Public Safety Officer Regional Supervisors (2-tribal)
- ▶ Alaska Department of Law
- ▶ Municipal Law Enforcement
- ▶ Victims and Advocacy Services (1 – tribal)
- ▶ Tribal Members & TCRP Pilot Site Members (7 – tribal)



19

Alaska MMIP Working Group



20

Goal of the Alaska – MMIP Pilot Projects

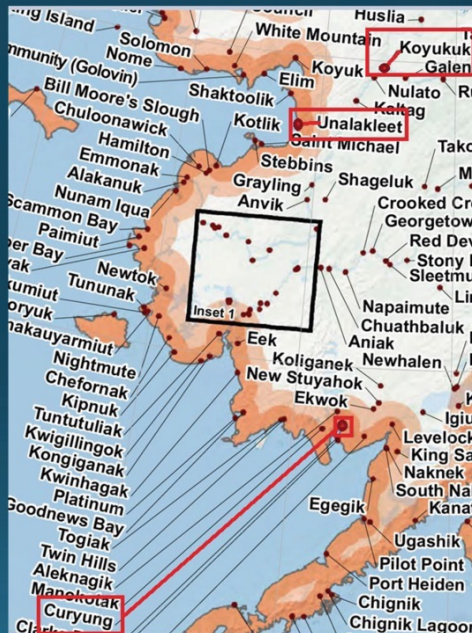
- ▶ To establish a plan for tribal communities to collectively use their resources effectively in supporting an emergent MMIP case, ongoing case, and cold case response
- ▶ To support a multidisciplinary approach to raise MMIP awareness, prevention efforts, training, & response capacity
- ▶ To Identify and respond to root causes (i.e. historical trauma, substance use, domestic violence, danger of media & travel...): support prevention, treatment, repair of harm



21

3 Pilot Project Volunteer Alaskan Tribes

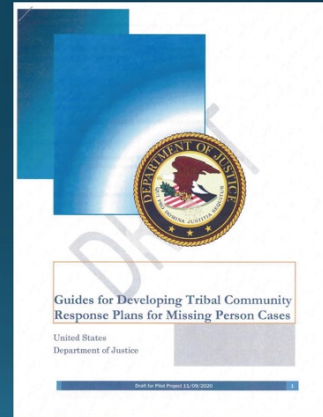
Share experiences in the Pilot Project



22

AK – MMIP Pilot Project is Comprised of Five Guides

- ▶ Law Enforcement
- ▶ Victim Services
- ▶ Public and Media Communications
- ▶ Community Outreach



23

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS – TRIBAL COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN DRAFT WORK SCHEDULE
(ADDITIONAL GUESTS PARTICIPANTS MIGHT INCLUDE LOCAL, NEIGHBORING, REGIONAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL: COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS, PROVIDERS & LAW ENFORCEMENT & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/ WELLNESS SUPPORT OR ACCESS)

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time/Participants	Tribal Team (Team)/Outreach/ Team Purpose, Mission, & Policies	Team Mission.../Local, Regional... Resources /Media	Team/Law Enforcement (LE)	Team Purpose, Mission & Policies /Victim Services/LE	Tribal Team
9:00-9:55 a.m.	Open in a Good Way Introductions Draft Ground Rules Review Model TCRP	Open in a Good Way Introductions Review Ground Rules, Review Model TCRP/ Debrief and Drafting	Open in a Good Way Introductions Review Ground Rules, Review Model TCRP/ Debrief and Drafting	Open in a Good Way Introductions Review Ground Rules, Review Model TCRP/ Debrief and Drafting	Open in a Good Way Introductions Review Ground Rules, Review Model TCRP/ Debrief and Drafting
9:55-10:05	BREAK TIME				
10:05-11:00 a.m.	MMIP Introduction, Team Outreach-Who do you want at the table? MMIP TCRP Model Review, Begin Drafting Discussion, Q&A	Identify and Write Local... List of Resources & Contacts, Draft Purpose, Mission, Policy Statements, and Cultural Sections Q&A	Law Enforcement and AK-MMIP working group Guests-Current Response, Resources, and Jurisdiction	Identify and Write Local... List of Resources & Contacts, Draft Purpose, Mission, Policy Statements, and Cultural Sections Q&A	Recap Community Outreach, Media and Public Communication, Law Enforcement, and Victim Services, Drafting Continued
11:00 – 11:15	BREAK TIME				

Working Together
 5 Days
 4+ Hours
 Tribal Team
 Stakeholders
 Providers
 Law Enforcement



24

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:15-12:10 p.m.	Draft Purpose, Mission, Policy Statements, and Cultural Sections Q&A	Operation Lady Justice Media and Public Communication Guide and Guests, Q&A, Plan Media & Public Communication	Law Enforcement and AK-MMIP working group Guests-Current Response, Resources, and Jurisdiction/ Drafting	Operation Lady Justice Victim Services Guide & Guests, Q&A, Identify and Draft Victim Services Response	Finish Drafting of Purpose, Mission, Policy Statements, and Cultural Sections. Q&A
12:10-12:20	BREAK TIME				
12:20-1:15 p.m.	Draft Purpose, Mission, Policy Statements, and Cultural Sections Q&A	Operation Lady Justice Law Enforcement Guide/Model Introduction, Q&A	MMIP Tribal Response Team Identify & Write Local, Neighboring, and Regional Response Resources & Contacts	MMIP Tribal Response Team Identify and Draft TCRP Media & Public Communication and Victim Services	Finish Drafting and Review Tribes MMIP TCRP, Discussion
1:15-1:30 p.m.	Recap/Q&A/Debrief Lessons Learned, Tomorrow's Schedule, Healing Needs End in a good way.	Recap/Q&A/Debrief Lessons Learned, Tomorrow's Schedule, Healing Needs End in a good way.	Recap/Q&A/Debrief Lessons Learned, Tomorrow's Schedule, Healing Needs End in a good way.	Recap/Q&A/Debrief Lessons Learned, Tomorrow's Schedule, Healing Needs End in a good way.	Recap/Q&A/Debrief Lessons Learned and Next Meeting Time(s)? And Thank You(s) End in a good way.

Working Together

5 Days

4+ Hours


Tribal Team Stakeholders Providers Law Enforcement



25

Alaska MMIP - Pilot Program, 3 Volunteer Tribes

- ▶ Develop 3 Community Action Models (Tribal Community Response Plans)
 - ▶ Communities with no law enforcement (LE)
 - ▶ Communities with limited LE (VPSO, TPO...)
 - ▶ Hub Communities with municipal and/or state law enforcement
- ▶ Adopted: Curyung Tribal Council of Dillingham
Native Village of Unalakleet
- ▶ In Progress: Koyukuk Native Village
- ▶ One Model



26

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons Tribal Community Response Plan Model - Goals

- ▶ The Plan belongs to and is lead by participating Alaska Tribes and Villages.
- ▶ The Model is a backbone to the tribal team's capacity building work.
- ▶ The Model is not the final plan document: collaboration/relationships building
 - Find Solutions
 - Identify Resources
 - Build Response Capacity, Contacts, Understanding, and Collaboration
 - Increase Reporting/Response
 - Increasing Cultural Understanding
 - Foster Supportive Relationships & Good Communication
 - Build Trust
 - Resolve Conflicts /Roadblocks
 - Recognize Historical and Residual/Secondary Trauma
 - Learn from Each Other



27

Alaska Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons: NCJTC - Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise in Indian Country – Tribal Community Response Plan

- ▶ Curyung Tribal Council of Dillingham
- ▶ Native Village of Unalakleet
 - Scenario Based: Child (14 or 16 goes missing)
 - 4 hours with Tribal Response Team, Stakeholder providers, and Law Enforcement
 - Initial Response, On-going Response, Media, Victim Services, and Re-unification/Resolution...



28

Regional Tribal MMIP Listening/Consultation Objectives

- ▶ AVCP, TCC, Kawerak, BBNA done, A/PIA, all regions invited
- ▶ Introduction to the Alaska MMIP working group and stakeholder members
 - ▶ Resources and Response
 - ▶ Pilot Projects
 - ▶ Build Relationships
 - ▶ Develop Contact Lists
- ▶ MMIP - Tribal Community Response Plan Pilot Projects
 - ▶ Tribes can schedule their TCRPs
- ▶ Tribes and community members invited to share MMIP stories, experiences, history, concerns, response resources, successes, solutions, and training needs.



29

Lessons from Alaska's Tribes

Historical / Residual Trauma/Other Dangers

- Immigration- Cultural Blending and Stress
- Economic Stress
- Boarding Schools
- Religious Stress

Alaska Native Resilience

- Restorative Practices-Healing
 - We value all our people - regardless of their history or life experiences
 - Reporting & collecting data
- Prevention
 - Building and Supporting Health Relationships: LE, Providers, Community
 - Celebrating Cultural Identity
 - Education and Outreach



30

Lessons from Alaska's Tribes

Historical / Residual Trauma/Other Dangers

- Alcohol/Substance Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Child Abuse
- Human Trafficking
 - Family, Friends, Peer, Unknown
 - Stranger Social Media/Social Gaming
 - Travel Danger



Alaska Native Resilience

- Intervention
 - Indicator Identification and Response
- Preparation: Tribal Community Response Plan
 - MMIP Reporting (LE No Wait Time)
 - Collaboration: Stakeholders, Providers, Law Enforcement, Victims Services, Tribal Team Members
 - MMIP Resource and Response Building
 - MMIP Response Practice and Training

31

Next Steps – AK MMIP

- ▶ Pilot Project – Tabletop Exercises
- ▶ Finish work of AK – MMIP Pilot Projects and TCRP Models
- ▶ Regional AK-MMIP listening/consultation sessions: pilot reports, tribal input, scheduling: (Examples: dispatch , run away....)
- ▶ Continue work with 226 remaining Alaska Tribes by supporting their Community Action Plans / Tribal Community Response Plans
- ▶ Prevention, Education, and Outreach
- ▶ Annual/Semi-Annual tribal communities revisit to TCRP



32

Spotlight Alaska and The Crisis of MMIWG 2022: Savanna's Act, (RAAVEN) Rural Alaska Anti-Violence Enforcement Network & Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)

Qāgaasakung
Gunalchéesh
Quyana
Enna Baasee'
Tsin'aen
Quyanaqpak

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Any questions?



33

Missing Persons - State of Alaska

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34

The Nation's Silent Mass Disaster

- ❑ The sheer volume of missing and unidentified person cases poses one of the greatest challenges to agencies tasked with resolving these important cases.
- ❑ Over 600,000 individuals go missing in the United States every year. Fortunately, many missing children and adults are quickly found, alive and well. However, tens of thousands of individuals remain missing for more than one year – what many agencies consider “cold cases”. On any given day in the United States, there are between 80,000 and 90,000 active missing person cases in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).
- ❑ It is estimated that 4,400 unidentified bodies are recovered each year, with approximately 1,000 of those bodies remaining unidentified after one year.
 - *Cited from National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) [Home | NamUs \(ojp.gov\)](https://www.fbi.gov/missing-and-unidentified-persons)*

35

Missing Persons: Reporting in Alaska

Topics to share:

- ❑ What specific information/items law enforcement needs from a person reporting someone missing
- ❑ Our statutes that govern the missing persons reporting process in Alaska
- ❑ State and national resources available for family and friends of missing persons
- ❑ Dental records and DNA collection (how family members can help)

36

Missing Persons - Reporting in Alaska

- A missing person must be reported as soon as possible to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing from.
 - Only a law enforcement officer can take a missing persons report.
 - If there is not law enforcement in your community, contact the nearest AST post.
 - There is NOT a 24-hour waiting period before filing a missing persons report.
 - Please be sure to notify law enforcement if/when the missing person is located or returns.

37

Missing Persons - What Law Enforcement Needs to Know

- Name and date of birth
- Why you believe they are missing? (circumstances)
- Is the behavior normal (absence or lack of contact)?
- Places frequented, hobbies, recent trips (local and state)
- Vulnerable adult/PTSD/Mental Health Issues
- Last seen wearing (clothes)
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Scars, marks, tattoos, etc.
- Known associates, friends
- Place of employment
- Cell phone number
- Social media accounts
- Recent photo

A person does not have to know all of the information/items listed to report a missing person.

38

Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse

AS 18.65.610. Duties of Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse

- (a) The missing persons information clearinghouse is established as a central repository of information regarding missing persons.
- (b) The clearinghouse shall
 - (1) establish within the state a system and appropriate procedures for communication of information regarding missing persons;
 - (2) collect, maintain, and disseminate accurate and complete information on missing persons for the purpose of identifying, locating, and returning them;
 - (3) provide for exchange of information on missing persons within the state;
 - (4) cooperate with private citizens, local law enforcement agencies, and other state and federal agencies in investigations concerning missing persons;
 - (5) provide training and assistance to law enforcement agencies to promote effective use of the clearinghouse.

39

Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse

18.65.620 - Duty of Law Enforcement Agencies

- A local or state law enforcement agency shall submit to the clearinghouse all missing person reports received by the law enforcement agency that relate to a person who is not located within 48 hours after the first report concerning that person was filed.

40

Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse

AS 18.65.630. Medical and Dental Records of Missing Persons

- (a) A family member of a missing person can sign a form authorizing the release of medical and dental records to the law enforcement agency.
- (b) If the person was reported missing by friends and no known family members can be located, law enforcement can execute a written declaration stating that an active investigation is being conducted and that medical and dental records are required for the exclusive purpose of furthering the investigation.
- (c) Medical and dental records obtained under this section shall be provided to the clearinghouse.

41

Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse

AS 18.65.640. Reports Upon Finding a Missing Person

- A person who has filed a missing person report shall immediately notify the law enforcement agency when the location of the missing person is determined.

42

Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse

Missing Persons Databases

- ❑ APSIN (Alaska Public Safety Information Network) – Department of Public Safety
- ❑ NCIC (National Crime Information Center) – FBI
- ❑ NamUs (National Missing and Unidentified Persons System) – National information clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons across the US. Public users can enter missing persons into this database. All entries by public users are always vetted with law enforcement before being published – [Home | NamUs \(ojp.gov\)](#)
 - All NamUs resources are provided at no cost to law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners, allied forensic professionals, and family members of missing persons.
 - Helpful FAQ's - [Frequently Asked Questions | NamUs \(ojp.gov\)](#)
- ❑ DPS website lists all known missing persons across the state - [Missing Person - ABI - AST - Alaska Department of Public Safety](#)

43

Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse

Dental Records

- ❑ Only need the name and location of dentist of missing person
- ❑ Once radiographs and treatment notes are received, they are sent to a Forensic Odontologist for charting. Once charted, the records are entered into NamUs and NCIC.

44

Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse

DNA Collection

- ❑ DNA can only be collected by a law enforcement officer. They can not be self-submitted. If there is not law enforcement in your community, contact the nearest Alaska State Trooper post.
- ❑ DNA samples from next of kin are sent to RTI (Research Triangle Institute)
 - RTI processes all DNA for missing persons across the country for uploading into CODIS which takes approximately 10 months
- ❑ DNA samples can also be sent to the FBI
- ❑ The preferred order DNA samples is as follows:
 - Biological mother, father, and/or child of the missing person (Most useful)
 - Biological full sibling of the missing person (Useful)
 - Biological half-sibling (need to know which parent is shared)
 - Biological aunt/uncle, niece/nephew, grandparents of the missing person (Least useful). However, if these relatives are the only ones living, need to know the exact relationship to the missing person.

45

Voluntary DNA From Family Members

- ❑ RTI is bound by federal and state laws **not** to use a volunteer sample for anything other than its express purpose.
- ❑ Authorization/consent form must be signed by the family member and the law enforcement officer who collects the DNA samples.
- ❑ Voluntarily submitted DNA samples from relatives will be profiled and uploaded into CODIS, where they can only be searched against the profiles of unidentified remains in CODIS to locate their missing loved one.
- ❑ DNA profiles for family members cannot be searched against the CODIS profiles of arrestees or convicted offenders, or profiles of unknown suspects who have committed crimes.
 - To do otherwise could result in the lab losing CODIS access and be stripped of the ability to use the database all together. This is not a matter of policy but of LAW.

46

Missing Persons – State of Alaska

Recap

- A missing person must be reported as soon as possible to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing from
 - Only a law enforcement officer can take a missing persons report
 - There is ***NOT*** a 24-hour waiting period before filing a missing persons report
 - Please be sure to notify law enforcement if/when the missing person is located or returns.
- Very important to get DNA and dental records on file as soon as possible
 - Voluntarily submitted DNA samples from relatives will *only* be searched against unidentified remains and will NOT be searched against the rest of the CODIS database.

47

Questions?

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48

Contact Information



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Mailing list: <https://bit.ly/2XjV6Dr>

Website: www.aknwrc.org

49

Questions

50