



There are no words

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN ALASKA FACT SHEET

The ongoing and historic crisis of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited relatives (MMIWG2S) going missing or found murdered has been a reality for tribal families and communities for the last 550 years of contact.

Primary solutions to this growing crisis are:

- continue to build awareness of and speak out about the issue of violence in our communities
- increase the abilities for tribes to develop their own justice systems to provide protection orders and accountability for perpetrators
- increase tribal control of public safety with tribal law enforcement
- demand for coordination and communication between local, state and federal law enforcement so that investigations can begin right away.

MMIWG in Alaska

Data currently shows 149 missing and 80 murdered for a total of 229.

The numbers MMIWG, domestic violence and sexual assaults are believed to be actually higher due to several reasons, such as under-reporting, inability to report, distrust of law enforcement or non-existent law enforcement.

Urban Indian Health Institute 2018

Alaska had the fourth highest number of MMIWG and Anchorage was ranked the third highest city in the nation.

As of 2020 with a population of 733,331 falling only behind New Mexico (pop 2,120,220), Washington (pop. 7,656,200), and Arizona (pop. 7,151,504).

Law Enforcement

"Alaska Department of Public Safety providers for only 1.0-1.4 field officers per million acres. Nearly 40% of all communities in Alaska lack any law enforcement presence at all."

-A Roadmap for Making Native America Safer: Report to the President and Congress of the United States

Under-reporting by families is a result of increased mistrust in law enforcement and courts due to slow filings of criminal charges and/or declining to prosecute.

Alaska rates of DV

"More than 4 out of 5 Alaska Native women will experience violence in their lifetime."

-NIJ study on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native women and men

There is a direct link between MMIWG and the rising number of domestic violence and sexual assault cases with first person reports that unfortunately are not being captured in the collected data.



What to do When Someone Goes Missing

- Take immediate action: the first 72 hours following a disappearance is a critical time.
- Report the disappearance as soon as possible - Don't wait 24 hours!
- Designate one or two family members to be a point of contact with Law Enforcement and other agencies.
 - Establish a timeline and details
- If the victim is on Facebook, Instagram or other social media, a search through this might provide essential information.
 - Add to local missing person pages immediately
 - MMIWG Alaska, MMIW USA, or Seeking AK Missing

Talk to an advocate at StrongHearts Native Helpline at **1-844-762-8483**

For more information please
contact AKNWRC at
info@aknwrc.org or call us at
907-328-3990

