Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls

Aren Sparck (Cup’ik), Government Affairs Officer
About Us

Seattle Indian Health Board is a community health clinic that provides **health and human services** to its patients, while specializing in the care for Native people.

Seattle Indian Health Board is also recognized as a national leader in **policy advocacy** for urban Indian health and the **decolonization of data** through its research division, Urban Indian Health Institute.
Native women are 2.5x more likely to be raped or a victim of sexual assault compared to the rest of the country.ii
94% had been raped or coerced in their lifetime.

42% attempted suicide at some point if they had been raped or coerced.

53% lacked permanent housing.

34% binge drank on a weekly or daily basis after they were initially attacked.

Only 8% of cases of a rape victim's first attack ended in a conviction.

86% reported being affected by historical trauma.
MURDER
The third-leading cause of death among American Indian/Alaska Native women.
THIS IS AN UNDERCOUNT. WE KNOW THERE ARE MORE VICTIMS.

- 506 MMIWG cases were identified across 71 selected urban cities
- 128 were cases of missing Indigenous women
- 280 were cases of murdered Indigenous women
- 98 were cases with an "unknown status"
- 29 The median age of MMIWG victims
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29 The median age of MMIWG victims
THE INVISIBLE 153

Number of cases identified by UIHI that currently do not exist in law enforcement records.
TOP 10 CITIES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF MMIWG CASES

Seattle, WA (45)
Albuquerque, NM (37)
Anchorage, AK (31)
Tucson, AZ (31)
Billings, MT (29)
Gallup, NM (25)
Tacoma, WA (25)
Omaha, NE (24)
Salt Lake City, UT (24)
San Francisco, CA (17)

See Appendix for data from all 71 cities surveyed.
### TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF MMIWG CASES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
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<td>California</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“[Regarding the difference] the Homicide unit found that ‘N’ was being used in the 60s up through the late 70s and early 80s – meant Negro not Native American.”

-Representative from Seattle Police Department
6 bills in 5 states have passed with policy to address MMIWG issues, and awareness continues nationally through city and state proclamations.
Integrating Traditional Medicine

Savanna’s Act
H.R.2733/S.227

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
H.R.1585/S.

Studying the MMIW Indian Crisis Act/Review of Law Enforcement at Federal Level on Why We Got Here and Where We Can Go
H.R.2029/S.336

3 Federal bills with MMIWG policy
MMIWG Justice in Legislation

**VAWA**

Expired Dec. 21, 2018, still drawing down funds.

Expanding protection to people in same sex marriages, funds shelters and DV prevention programs.

Held up by 2nd amendment clauses (boyfriend loop) and transgender access to women’s shelters.

**Savanna’s Act**

Senate 12 sponsors, 4 R, 8 D; House 6 R, 15 D.

Attorney General initiative, community advisory board w/ tribes and stakeholders.

Public reporting of compliant law enforcement agencies.

Implementation and incentive grant authority. Block grant first, then reward successful implementation of data collection and reporting.
Inclusion of Urban Indians

- Support bills that expand tribal justice.
- Advocate for 4 key urban AI/AN community provisions:
  - References to urban Indian communities and data in the legislative findings.
  - Addition of urban confer policies where tribal consultation is included as long as inclusion does not threaten tribal sovereignty.
  - Funding carve outs for Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs).
  - Definitions that are inclusive of urban Indian people and organizations.

► “tribes, tribal organizations and urban Indian organizations” as defined by 25 U.S.C. § 1603.
► “tribal epidemiology centers” as defined by 25 U.S.C. § 1621m.
Thank you

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