

# MISSING OR MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS (MMIP)

July 2024



There are no standardized protocols for reporting and investigating missing persons.<sup>1</sup>

All 50 states require law enforcement to report missing persons under 21 to NCIC.<sup>1</sup>

However, only 43 states require found individuals to be entered into NCIC, **resulting in count issues.**<sup>1</sup>



**NO** federal laws require the reporting and investigating of missing adults.<sup>1</sup>

## Jurisdictional complexities make it difficult to investigate MMIP Cases.

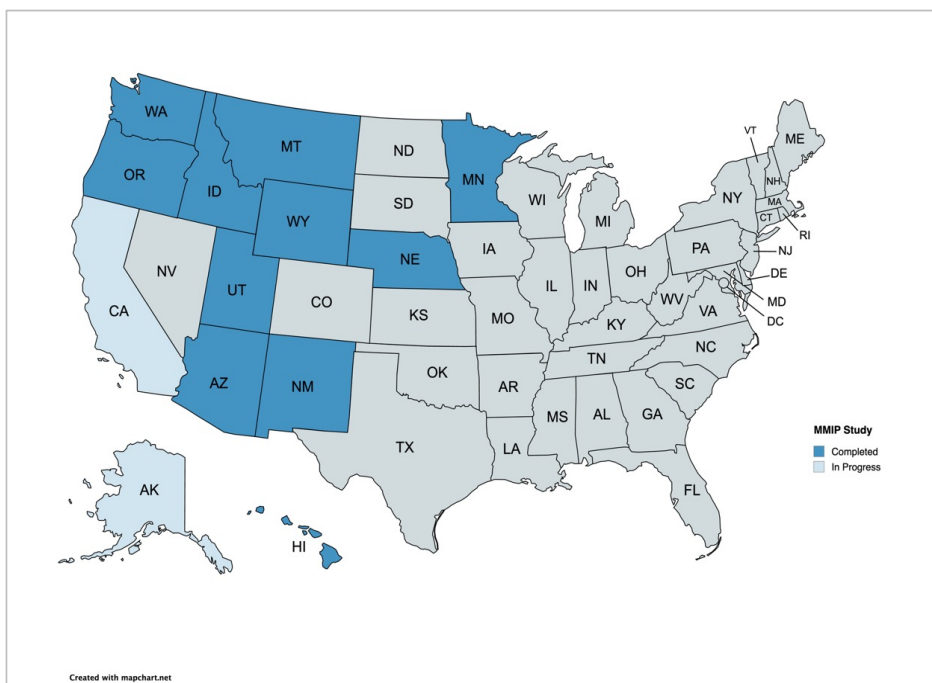
Multiple agencies may respond, resulting in conflicting or duplicate information for an MMIP case due to a lack of collaboration and communication between agencies.

A series of federal laws affect which law enforcement agencies (federal, state, tribal, or local) have jurisdiction over different crime levels, which differs by state. These laws include the Major Crimes Act (1885)<sup>3</sup>, Public Law 280 (1953)<sup>4</sup>, the Indian Civil Rights Act (1968)<sup>5</sup>, and the Tribal Law and Order Act (2010).<sup>6</sup>

## Savanna's Act (2020) was established to improve the federal response to MMIP by:<sup>7</sup>

- Providing training to law enforcement to enter tribal affiliation into NCIC
- Developing guidelines for responding to MMIP cases
- Requiring law enforcement to report MMIP cases
- Including MMIP stats in annual report to Congress
- Providing grants for law enforcement
- Improving tribal law enforcement's access to resources

The **Not Invisible Act Commission** was established to improve intergovernmental coordination and provide recommendations on combatting the MMIP crisis.



Only **11** states have completed a study on MMIP.

Due to different methodologies, it is difficult to compare studies across states.

Studies vary on the sex of the majority of missing Indigenous persons.

Arizona  
Nebraska  
New Mexico

---

Arizona  
Nebraska  
New Mexico

Underreporting and misclassifying the race of Indigenous persons leads to the undercounting of MMIP cases.

Some tribes may not have access to state and national databases to report and investigate MMIP cases.

There is **NO** national database for MMIP cases, making it difficult to know the scope of missing Indigenous persons.

Some tribes may not have access to state and national databases to report and investigate MMIP cases.

# Recommended Readings

Below is a list of recommended MMIP Studies and Reports

## Arizona

Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (ASU) (2020)

## Hawaii

Holoī ā Nalo Wāhine 'Ōiwi: Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force Report// (2022)

## Idaho

HCR33 Report: Idaho's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Report (2021)

## Minnesota

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force: A Report to the Minnesota Legislature (2020)

Minnesota's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Office Report: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Policy, Best and Emerging Practices, and Current Issues in Minnesota (2023)

## Montana

Looping Native Communities: Report to the State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee (2020)

## Nebraska

A Descriptive Analysis of Missing and Murdered Native Women and Children in Nebraska, Barriers to Reporting and Investigation, and Recommendations for Improving Access to Justice (2021)

## New Mexico

New Mexico Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR) Task Force Report (2020)

## Oregon

Report on Missing and Murdered Native American Women (Oregon State Police) (2020)

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Report (U.S. Attorney's Office District of Columbia) (2021)

## Utah

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Task Force Report (2023)

## Washington

Missing & Murdered Native American Women Report (Washington State Patrol) (2019)

## Wyoming

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Statewide Report (2021)

# Other Helpful MMIP Resources

## Below is a list of MMIP-related Publications and Websites

[When Your Child is Missing: A Family Survival Guide \(5th Edition\)](#)

[Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons \(MMIP\) Fact Sheet](#)

[Guide to Developing a Tribal Community Response Plan for Missing Person Cases](#)

[When a Loved One Goes Missing: Resources for Families of Missing American Indian and Alaska Native Adults](#)

[MMIW Toolkit for Families and Communities](#)

[Outreach & Resources for Native American, Tribal & Indigenous Communities](#)

[Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls: A Snapshot of Data from 71 Urban Cities in the United States](#)

[Strong Hearts Native Helpline](#)

A 24/7 helpline that offers culturally appropriate support and advocacy for Native victims of DV and SA.

[The Tribal Resource Tool](#)

This tool is a searchable map of VSPs for victims and survivors.

[Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program: Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons](#)

Tribes and organizations that receive funding from the OVC Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program can use their funds to help MMIP. The funds can be used to provide services to the family members of MMIP victims and/or generate MMIP awareness for community members.

[Tribal Victim Services Training and Technical Assistance \(T-VSTTA\)](#)

The T-VSTTA provides tailored, victim-centered, and trauma-informed training and technical assistance to VSP grantees and provides services in areas such as MMIP response.

[U.S. Department of Justice: Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons](#)

This site highlights efforts by the U.S. DOJ to address MMIP.

[Bureau of Indian Affairs](#)

This site provides information about MMIP, the Not Invisible Act Commission, and Victim Assistance Program.

# References

1. Chakraborty, T. (2020). Reporting & investigating missing persons: A background paper on how to frame the issue. National Institute of Justice. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/255934.pdf>
2. McIntyre v. Ohio Elections Commission, 514 U.S. 334 (1995). <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/514/334/>
3. The Major Crimes Act of 1885, 18 U.S.C. § 1153 (1885). <https://www.justice.gov/archives/jm/criminal-resource-manual-679-major-crimes-act-18-usc-1153>
4. Public Law 280 of 1953, 18 U.S.C. § 1162, 28 U.S.C. § 1360, and 25 U.S.C. §§ 1321–1326 (1953). <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-67/pdf/STATUTE-67-Pg588.pdf>
5. The Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 (ICRA), 25 U.S.C. § 1301–1304 (1968). <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-343/pdf/COMPS-343.pdf>
6. The Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111–211, H.R. 725, 124 Stat. 2258 (2010). <https://www.congress.gov/111/bills/hr725/BILLS-111hr725enr.pdf>
7. National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center (NIWRC) (2024). Fact sheet: Savanna’s Act. <https://www.niwrc.org/sites/default/files/files/reports/Fact%20Sheet-Savanna%27s%20Act-New.pdf>
8. U.S. Department of the Interior (n.d.). Not Invisible Act Commission. <https://www.doi.gov/priorities/strengthening-indian-country/not-invisible-act-commission>
9. Savanna’s Act of 2020, Pub. L. No. 116-165, 134 Stat. 760 (2020). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/227>
10. Not Invisible Act of 2020, Pub. L. No. 116-509, H.R. 2438, 134 Stat. 766 (2020). <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ166/PLAW-116publ166.pdf>