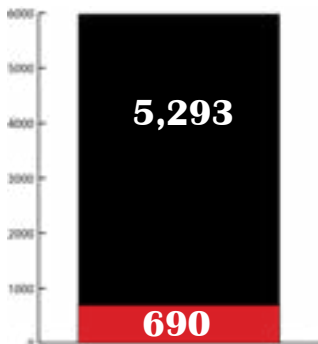


Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives (MMIWGR)

The Crisis

“The crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women is not new. It is more than an epidemic—instant is part of the spectrum of violence experienced by Native women. This crisis of MMIW has deep roots in colonization and genocide and can be attributed to the lack of legal protections as a result of the systematic erosion of tribal sovereignty stretching back more than 500 years.” - National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center

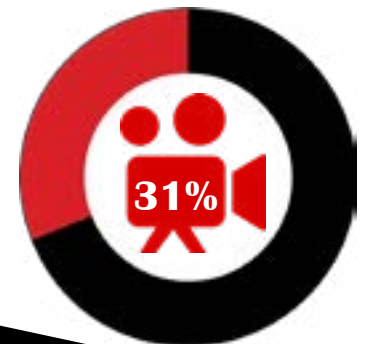


In 2020, there were 5,293 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls; only 690 cases were logged in the federal missing person database.¹

- Indigenous women are 2.5x as likely to experience violent crimes and 2x more likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes.¹
- Homicide is the #3 leading cause of death for Indigenous women 10-24 years old and the #5 leading cause of death for Indigenous women 25-34 years old.¹
- 40% of victims of sex trafficking are identified as Indigenous women.¹
- Unlike other racial groups, violence against Indigenous women is more likely to be perpetuated by someone outside their racial group.²



In the Urban Indian Health Institute’s 2016 study, more than 95% of the MMIWGR cases in the study were never covered by national or international media. In the same study, 31% of the media outlets who covered MMIWGR cases used violent language to describe the victims.³



We include “Relatives” to acknowledge that Indigenous men, children, elders, and Two Spirit individuals are also at a great risk of experiencing violence in their lifetimes.

1.5 million women



More than 4/5 Indigenous women have experienced violence in their lifetime.¹



The Movement

MMIWGR is a movement that works to raise awareness about this crisis, seeks to offer support to communities and families with missing and murdered individuals and address the underlying causes of this crisis.

There are several organizations and government bodies now working to address this crisis:

- The passing of the “Not Invisible Act of 2020” created the Missing and Murdered Unit of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). There are currently 15 BIA offices around the country with Missing and Murdered Units.
- May 5 was designated as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls in 2019.
- The National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, Native Hope, and Native Women’s Wilderness are just a few organizations working to address the crisis by raising awareness, educating, and offering support.

A red hand covering the mouth is the symbol of this movement. “It stands for all the missing sisters whose voices are not heard. It stands for the silence of the media and law enforcement in the midst of this crisis. It stands for the oppression and subjugation of Native women who are now rising up to say #NoMoreStolenSisters.” – Native Hope

Resources

- [National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center](#)
- [Native Hope](#)
- [Native Women’s Wilderness](#)
- [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#)
- [Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women \(NM\)](#)
- [Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition](#)
- [Urban Indian Health Institute’s “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls” report](#)
- [National Criminal Justice Training Center’s National Statistics on Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls](#)
- [“Alaska Daily” ABC television series](#)
- [“The Roundhouse” novel by Louise Erdrich](#)
- [“Wind River” 2017 film](#)

¹National Criminal Justice Training Center’s National Statistics on Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls. ²National Institute of Justice’ “Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men” report. ³Urban Indian Health Institute’s “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls” report.