



# Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives

## MMIWR at the National Level

In 2017, there were **MORE THAN 5,700 REPORTS** of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).



This number **does not include** cases that have yet to be entered into crime databases.

In 2018, **HOMICIDE** was listed as **one of the leading causes of death** among American Indian and Alaska Native women.

In some areas, women and girls are murdered **at 10x the national average.**

## MMIWR in New Mexico

**Albuquerque and Gallup, New Mexico** are amongst the **TOP TEN CITIES** in the United States for the **HIGHEST NUMBER** of MMIWG cases.



Native American women in **New Mexico** have the **highest rate of homicide** among **ALL** racial and ethnic groups.

Citations:

Ronnet Bachman, Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice Response: What Is Known, National Institute of Justice (Jan. 2009); New Mexico Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force Report (Dec 2020)

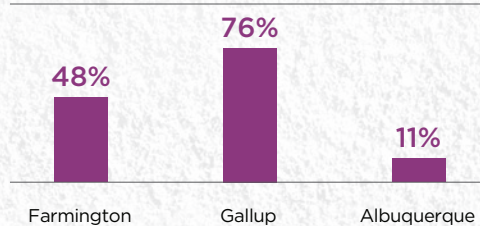
## Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives Task Force Findings

### Analysis of NM Police Department Data

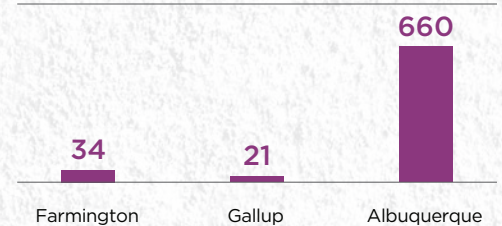
#### Farmington

In Farmington, **66% of Native American cases were missing females**, and of the solved homicide cases, **Native Americans represent 43% of cases.**

Percentage of Native American Missing People among all Cases (Year 2014 - 2019)



Native American Missing People (Year 2014 - 2019)



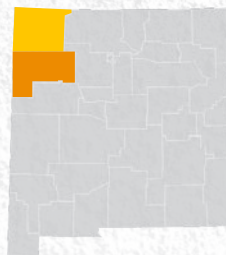
#### Gallup

Out of 675 missing persons in Gallup, **53% were women**, and **Native Americans comprise 76% of ALL missing persons.** Gallup police department data indicates that from 2014-2019 **87% of all homicide cases were Native Americans.**

#### Albuquerque

Between 2014-2019, Albuquerque reported **660 Native American missing persons, 287 of those cases are women REPRESENTING 43% OF ALL NATIVE AMERICAN MISSING PERSONS.**

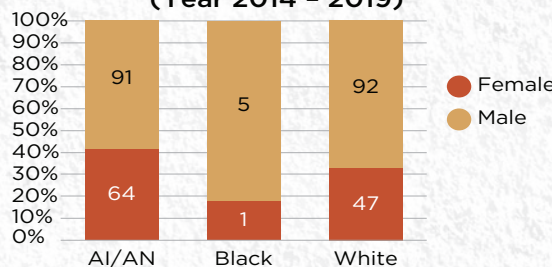
### In Focus: San Juan and McKinley Counties



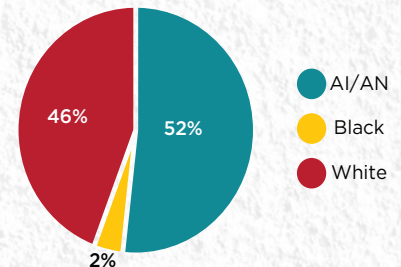
The median age for Native American females in McKinley County and San Juan County indicates that **half of all missing Native American women are younger than 27 years of age.**

**>> Native American missing persons tend to be younger than missing persons from other racial and ethnic backgrounds.**

Missing person cases by race and sex in McKinley County and San Juan County (Year 2014 - 2019)



Missing Persons by Race in McKinley and San Juan Counties (Year 2014 - 2019)



**45%** unattended/attended death and suicide cases are AI/AN, with **28%** being female.

### Data Findings

- Data collected was restricted to those agencies that had the capacity to respond to our request and that collected data by race and ethnicity. The majority of responses from Law Enforcement Agencies to the IPRA request was that it was excessively burdensome or broad.
- The most common reason the U.S. Attorney's Office declined to take a case was insufficient evidence.
- Homicide, or death caused by intentional assault, is a crisis among Native Americans in the state of New Mexico.

### Project Partners







## Recommendations from the NM MMIWR Task Force

### Support increased data-gathering capacity across law enforcement agencies to increase accountability and ability to understand frequency, type and location of crimes.

- Amend reporting forms to require tribal affiliation to be documented in cases of missing persons, trafficking, and homicide in NM to improve data gathering for future policy development.
- Support the establishment of a state data institute to track and study cases of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives that documents tribal-specific data.
- Consistently report all missing persons to the federal database (NamUs) as required by House Bill 16 (2019) N.M. Laws ch.120 § 1.
- Require mandatory MMIWR reporting to the state from all law enforcement agencies.

### Develop law enforcement agreements (cross commissions and one-way commissions).

- Revise law enforcement training standards to allow tribal law enforcement officers who meet New Mexico training standards with similar powers of New Mexico law enforcement officers eliminating the need for NMSA § 29-1- 11.
- Establish a permanent MMIWR task force, including a cold case review team composed of BIA and state cold case investigators.
- Work with federal delegation to streamline the process to commission state police officers with the Special Law Enforcement Commission.
- Develop MOUs and law enforcement agreements between state/county/city agencies and tribal agencies to increase communication and collaboration.
- Consult with tribal nations in the state to identify the most effective pathway forward to resolve jurisdiction barriers.

### Make support services, shelters, and housing available for survivors and families in border towns and rural parts of the state.

- Increase state and local funding to provide resources and programs that can support survivors and families.
- Support programs and opportunities to establish shelters within tribal communities and border towns for individuals, families and youth in crisis.
- Strengthen services provided for long and short term housing to improve crisis response and increase access to mental health and substance abuse treatment.

### Support tribal justice systems with resources, training, and technical support.

- Improve coordination and collaboration between tribal, state, city, county and federal agencies by establishing liaison positions, meeting regularly to address challenges, and developing agreements to streamline processes.
- Build infrastructure in tribal justice systems needed to adequately respond to crime in Indian Country so that Tribal Law and Order Act and Violence Against Women Act can be fully enacted.

### Education and outreach, and other preventive measures are needed.

- Invest money for scholarship opportunities to increase student and Native youth participation in criminal justice and rehabilitation programs to ensure that tribes and the state build expertise and expand the future workforce.
- Amend training for state agencies to include annual meetings with the human trafficking task force.
- Develop youth prevention and education programs that are based in culture and healthy relationships tailored to tribal youth.

### Support community resources for strong responses.

- Provide grant opportunities for Non Government Organizations or fund organizations that work closely with tribal communities.
- Provide tribal communities with technical assistance to develop a community response plan for incidents of MMIWR.

For more information, please go to: [www.iad.state.nm.us](http://www.iad.state.nm.us)

