

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office (MMIR)

Report to the Legislature

Jan. 15, 2023



Minnesota
**Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Relatives**
Office



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

This annual report, covering the period of Jan. 1, 2022 through Jan. 1, 2023, details the measurable outcomes to meet statutory duties along with specific objectives and outcome measures proposed for the following year. The report includes data and statistics on missing and murdered indigenous women, children and relatives in Minnesota.

MMIR Rationale/Background

In Minnesota, research found that Indigenous people have been disproportionately impacted by violence. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Office was created within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to provide support and resources for impacted Indigenous families and communities. The MMIR vision is to reduce and end violence against all Indigenous relatives in Minnesota.

The MMIR office is in the process of developing the appropriate staffing model to ensure that the office achieves its goals and fulfills statutory requirements.

Current Staffing Model

The OJP hired an MMIR Director on Feb. 28, 2022. This director will oversee the work of employees to end the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives through collaboration with Minnesota's Tribal Nations, Bands and Communities; federal, state, and local law enforcement; federal and state agencies; and community-based organizations and advocates.

The MMIR Office hired a Community Planner, who started on Feb. 1. This individual will assist with the development and implementation of comprehensive long- and short-range plans, projects and programs for the MMIR Office. The planner will also develop recommendations on administrative policies and procedures, or services in response to MMIR; provide leadership and coordination of projects, procedures and plans; review services and programs to develop recommendations for service changes or to make budget recommendations for the MMIR Office.

The MMIR Office hired a Violence Prevention Coordinator, who started on Feb. 1. This individual will assist with developing, implementing and coordinating culturally responsive MMIR prevention and awareness programming based on best practices and data-driven research. The coordinator will plan and implement educational programs for community, support and strengthen the trauma-informed and victim centered response of law enforcement, emergency response, courts and the health care systems to Indigenous sexual assault, trafficking, and violence survivors.

The MMIR Office is in the final stage of hiring an Intelligence Specialist. This individual will be responsible for data collection, analyzing crime data looking for patterns, and developing relationships to assist in solving Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives cases. The Intelligence Specialist will also provide accurate, timely, and relevant analysis of crime patterns for investigative purposes.

The 2023 OJP Budget Request includes two additional positions: MMIR Case Review Coordinator and MMIR Victim Specialist.

2022 Accomplishments

- Vendor selected to create a Minnesota MMIR Office logo.
- Began creating policies and procedures for MMIR death investigation case review.
- Began preliminary conversations with Minnesota Tribal Nations and MMIW Task Force members about future structure of an MMIR Advisory Council and potential participation in the MMIR Advisory Council.
- Partnered with the Minnesota Department of Health to address human trafficking as a risk factor of MMIR.
- Support urban indigenous nonprofits in efforts to increase awareness both independently and collaboratively.
- Entered into the development phase of creating an MMIR website to increase public awareness and highlight community responses for when a loved one goes missing.
- Designed and released an RFP (request for proposals) to solicit assistance in developing strategies to respond to the mandates identified in the 2020 MMIW Report. The MMIR Office entered into a contract with Wilder Research to create an “MMIR Protocol” that will include policies and procedures on reporting, response, and victim services via Tribal, local, state, and federal law enforcement, prosecutors, and investigators; health care workers and first responders; and the media. This protocol will be a compilation and synthesis of the best practices from published sources and through interviews with local and national experts. In addition to the MMIR Protocol, the MMIR Office and Wilder Research work on developing training standards to be considered by the Minnesota POST Board. Work is scheduled to be completed in 2023.
- Assisted families and advocates with numerous Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives cases in Minnesota and South Dakota. Referrals were made to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, as well community-based services for families.
- Participated in media interviews with the Star Tribune, Redwood Gazette, KMSP, Elle Magazine, WCCO, Native Lights, CBS’ 48 hours and KAXE.
- Attended Tribal Nation consultations with Prairie Island, Red Lake, Upper Sioux, Lower Sioux, Bois Forte, Grand Portage, Shakopee, Fond du Lac and White Earth.
- Met with community organizations, Tribal governments, research organizations, state agencies, federal agencies, Tribal, state, and federal elected officials, and the Canadian Counsel.

Data and statistics on missing and murdered indigenous women, children and relatives in Minnesota provided by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA)

Missing Person Report, January – December 2022

Missing Persons Entered By Sex and Race

<u>Race</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Total</u>
Asian	111	139	250
African American	1619	1623	3242
Indian/Alaskan	420	301	721
White	1907	1867	3774
Unknown	271	231	502
<u>Total</u>	4328	4161	8489

Proposed objectives and outcome measures for 2023

- Develop a communication plan and report on the strategies implemented.
- Establish an advisory council and report on recommendations and actions taken.
- Build a MMIR dashboard data collection system- collect, analyze and report on MMIR data.
- Establish policy, procedure, conduct case reviews, and report on the results.
- Develop, implement and coordinate culturally responsive MMIR prevention and awareness programming based on best practices and data-driven research.
- Facilitate research to refine the mandates in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force report and assess potential efficacy, feasibility and impact of the recommendations.