Addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Data Crisis

In November 2018, the Urban Indian Health Institute, the research division of Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB) released a report titled, *__Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls__* (MMIWG), that details results from a study of 71 urban cities in 29 states across the United States. The study highlights the barriers to obtaining data needed to address the MMIWG crisis. Based on the findings of this report, the following document outlines overarching policy recommendations designed to address the MMIWG data crisis.

Overarching Policy Recommendations

Recommendation Theme	Specific Recommendation	Federal Laws and Bills that Include SIHB Policy Recommendations	
		P.L. 113-4 VAWA	S.227 Savanna's Act
Engage Communities Most Impacted Policymakers should have meaningful relationships with Tribal nations and urban Indian organizations to ensure legislation, guidelines, protocols, and policies are informed and guided by the communities most impacted.	► **Build in on-going consultations with tribal nations** to inform, develop, and implement indigenous perspectives within legislation and government funded programs.	X	X
	► **Build in on-going confers with urban Indian organizations** to inform, develop, and implement indigenous perspectives within legislation and government funded programs.		
Invest in Indigenous Approaches Policymakers should invest in initiatives, methods, and approaches developed for Native people, by Native people. Indigenous approaches are community-led and will improve how non-tribal law enforcement agencies work with American Indian and Alaska Native communities, including addressing high rates of racial misclassification and building community trust.	► **Invest in tribal epidemiology centers** to develop policies, protocols, and guidelines, provide trainings and technical assistance, develop recommendations, and evaluate: • **Community-led demographic data collection and reporting standards** of law enforcement agencies including best practices for collecting race, ethnicity, and tribal affiliation. • **Indigenous Data Sovereignty practices** that allow tribal nations to govern the collection, ownership, and application of its own data, including any data collected on its tribal citizens.		
	► **Invest in indigenous approaches to ending gender-based violence** by reallocating a portion of state and county formulary and discretionary funding for gender-based violence and sexual assault prevention and treatment grants to urban Indian organizations without impacting funding for tribal programs.		
	► **Invest in indigenous approaches to ending gender-based violence** by setting aside a portion of funding specifically for tribal programs.	X	
Mandate Improvements in Data Collection and Reporting Policymakers should require law enforcement agencies to have standardized data collection and reporting requirements for data that inform and document the MMIWG crisis.	► **Conduct a comprehensive assessment of law enforcement data systems** to identify existing data collection systems, data management practices, data sharing practices, and reporting requirements.		X
	► **Mandate uniform data collection and reporting of race and ethnicity** to better coordinate data collection, sharing, and reporting amongst both tribal and non-tribal law enforcement agencies.		X
Strengthen Accountability Policymakers should ensure accountability and recourse for law enforcement agencies that fail to track and report accurate data on MMIWG and address chronic underfunding on tribal law enforcement agencies that has resulted in capacity and infrastructure challenges.	► **Include accountability mechanisms** such as funding restrictions for non-compliant law enforcement agencies.		X
	► **Invest in capacity and infrastructure, including trainings and technical assistance** for tribal law enforcement and smaller municipal police departments to improve data collection and reporting abilities by addressing gaps in personnel, limited subject matter expertise, and technology infrastructure.		

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