



# House Resolution 10

*“Urging the United States Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 without an exemption for tribal governments in the state and to support Savanna’s Act and highlight the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women.”*



# The Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

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*Finally, the ongoing issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women have now come to the forefront of activism and policy reform. We have an opportunity to make systematic and cultural change to better protect Alaska Native women and girls- no matter where they live*

# The Data: Seattle Indian Health Board Urban Indian Health Institute's Nov 2018 Report

## TYPES OF VIOLENT LANGUAGE USED IN ARTICLES

References to drugs or alcohol 38%

Coverage of trans-women victims that misgendered the victim 33%

References to victim's criminal history 31%

References to sex work 11%

Gave false information on the case or did not name the victim 8%

Made excuses for the perpetrator or used victim-blaming language 4%

Showed images or video of victim death 3%



**ONLY 116**  
of them were logged  
in DOJ database

"Until there is cooperation and better tracking systems at all government levels, the data on missing and murdered Indigenous women will never be 100 percent accurate, which is what we need to strive for in order to protect our mothers, daughters, sisters, and aunties."

- Abigail Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), Director,  
Urban Indian Health Institute

# State of Alaska and the City of Anchorage Statistics

## TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF MMIWG CASES

New Mexico (78)

Washington (71)

Arizona (54)

Alaska (52)

Montana (41)

California (40)

Nebraska (33)

Utah (24)

Minnesota (20)

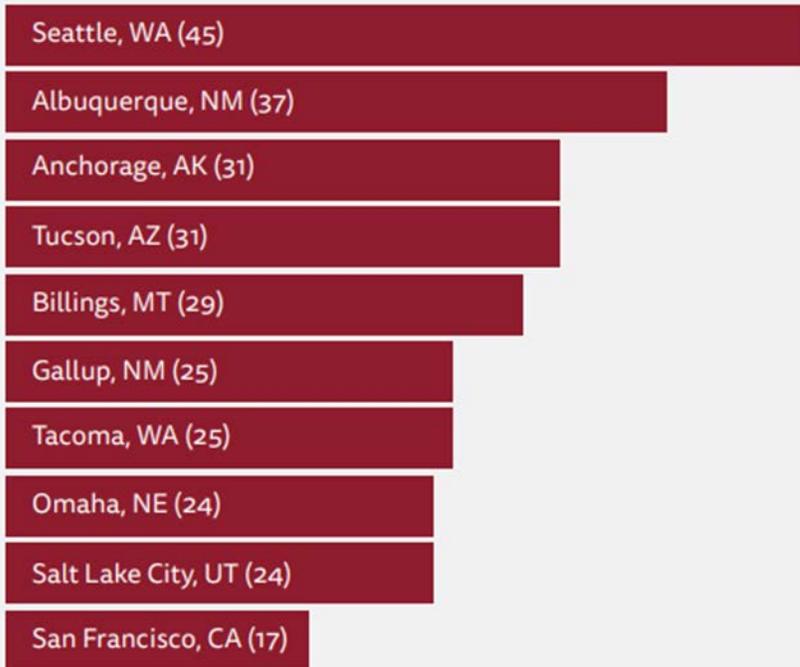
Oklahoma (18)

Departments like Anchorage and Lincoln demonstrate that it is possible for urban police departments to respond to FOIA requests for such data and that the barriers other agencies have identified are not inherent to law enforcement as a whole.

THE CYCLE OF  
VIOLENCE  
ENDS HERE!

# State of Alaska Ranking and Data Barriers

## TOP 10 CITIES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF MMIWG CASES



After UIJI's FOIA request was rejected by the Alaska State Troopers being too burdensome, an appeal was denied by DPS because it was estimated there were between 800- 1,200 homicides of Alaska Native women since 1940 and it would require too many work hours to complete the request.

Due to pressure from a tribal leader, DPS offered to provide data from 2013-2018 because those records had been digitized and were searchable. However, UIJI has still not received the data at the publication of this report.

# Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls in Alaskan Cities

## Utqiagvik

UIHI has recorded 1 case in Utqiagvik--Nancy Brower, a 15-year-old high school student raped and murdered in 2002.

In 2018, UIHI filed a FOIA request to the Alaska State Troopers, for information on the number of MMIWG in the state. They estimated there are between 800 to 1,200 homicides of Alaska Native women in their records since 1940, but said the agency does not have the time to pull them. This map has over 1,200 feathers on it, to honor each of those files UIHI could not access. This map also honors the connection our stolen sisters have to our communities and the land, with Alaska-style forget-me-not beadwork designs.

## Fairbanks

UIHI has recorded 6 cases in Fairbanks, including Sophie Sergie, a 20-year-old aspiring marine biologist, who was found raped and shot in a bathtub in a University of Alaska dorm in 1993.



## Bethel

UIHI has recorded 8 cases in Bethel, including Stella Evon, a 17-year-old Yup'ik girl missing since 1996, and Sandra Frye, a 26-year-old mother of four found murdered in 2017.



## Anchorage

UIHI has recorded 31 cases in Anchorage, including Annie Mann, Vera Hapoff, Della Brown, and Genevieve Tetpon, 4 of at least 10 murders of Native women in the span of a few years. Many of these cases remain unsolved, including Annie and Vera's.



## Juneau & Ketchikan

UIHI has recorded 3 cases each in Juneau and Ketchikan, including LoriDee Wilson, a Yup'ik mother of three missing since 2016, and Angeline Dundas, a 34-year-old woman, whose body was pulled from the Tongass Narrows in 2015, within 24 hours of seeking help at a local women's shelter.



Notes: data ranges from 1940 to 2018, but due to challenges in collecting data on historical cases, approximately 80% of the cases in this report have occurred since 2000. All MMIWG photos are sourced from public media.

# Federal Legislation Addressing Violence Against Native Women

<p><b>Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization</b> H.R. 1585</p>	<p><b>Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act</b> S. 290 and H.R. 958</p>	<p><b>Savanna's Act</b> S.227</p>	<p><b>SURVIVE Act</b> S. 211</p>	<p><b>Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act</b> S. 288</p>
<p><i>Congressmen Don Young's Amendment passed 4/4/19</i></p>	<p><i>Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs (Natural Resources, Education, Labor)</i></p>	<p><i>Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs</i></p>	<p><i>Reported favorably without amendment by the Committee on Indian Affairs</i></p>	<p><i>Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs</i></p>

# The Violence Against Women Act



## 2005 Reauthorization

*Historic Amendment for Indian Country: Congress recognized the severity of the violence against Native women and the need to enact federal legislation supporting increased protections.*

*Recognized the unique legal relationship and commitment that the US has to Indian tribes and the safety of Native women.*

*Required Sec. 903, U.S. shall conduct annual government to government consultations with Indian tribal governments concerning administration of tribal funds and programs under this act.*



## 2013 Reauthorization

*Historic Amendment: Restored inherent tribal authority of Indian Tribes to prosecute non-native defendants for certain crimes known as Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction*

### *Limited in Scope*

- *Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Violations of a Protection Order*
- *Defendant must have close ties to Indian Country: live there, employed there, or spouse*

### *Alaska Exclusion:*

- *228 tribes excluded (Metlakatla)*
- *Jurisdiction tied to land base*



## 2019 Proposed Changes

*Expands prosecution of non-Indians to include obstruction of justice-type crimes, sexual assault crimes, sex trafficking and stalking*

*Creates pilot project for up to five Alaska Tribes*

*Expands definition of DV victims to include children who witness the crime*

*Provides a specific finding for Alaska and jurisdictional challenges because of restrictive land settlement*

*Expands Tribal Access Program (TAP) to tribes without law enforcement*

*Expands enforcement of tribal protection orders and specifically in Alaska with land issues*

# 2019 Violence Against Women Act

## Section 901 and 903

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### Indian Country Defined

- “For purposes of the pilot project described in subsection (f)(5), the definition of ‘Indian country’ shall include Alaska Native-owned Townsites, Allotments, and former reservation lands acquired in fee by Alaska Native Village Corporations pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 33) and other lands transferred in fee to Native villages.”

### Congressmen Young Amendment:

- expands jurisdiction: “(2) All lands within any Alaska Native village with a population that is at least 75 percent Alaska Natives.”

“ (15) In States with restrictive land settlement acts such as Alaska, “Indian country” is limited, resources for local tribal responses either nonexistent or insufficient to meet the needs, jurisdiction unnecessarily complicated and increases the already high levels of victimization of American Indian and Alaska Native women. According to the Tribal Law and Order Act Commission Report, Alaska Native women are over-represented in the domestic violence victim population by 250 percent; they comprise 19 percent of the State population, but are 47 percent of reported rape victims. And among other Indian Tribes, Alaska Native women suffer the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence in the country.”



# Savanna's Act S. 227

- *Improving tribal access to the federal criminal information databases*
- *Requiring data collection on missing and murdered Native people, and*
- *Directing the U.S. Attorneys to develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address missing persons.*

The background of the slide is a collage of embroidered portraits of women, likely members of a community or organization. The portraits are rendered in a golden-brown thread on a white fabric. The women are shown from the chest up, with various hairstyles and expressions. Some are smiling, while others have more neutral or thoughtful expressions. The portraits are arranged in a somewhat circular pattern. On the left side of the image, there is a wooden surface, possibly a table, which is partially covered by the white fabric. The overall tone is warm and appreciative.

**House Resolution 10**  
**Thank you**