



MISSING & MURDERED
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
TASK FORCE

Missing & Murdered Indigenous People

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1. Participants will learn of the historical overview of Missing & Murdered Indigenous People in the United States.
1. Understand Arizona's findings of members who were missing and/or murdered.
1. Learn the overview and efforts of Arizona Governor's MMIP Task Force.

History of MMIP

2015 - Canada:
Grassroots effort that
created the movement
by woman

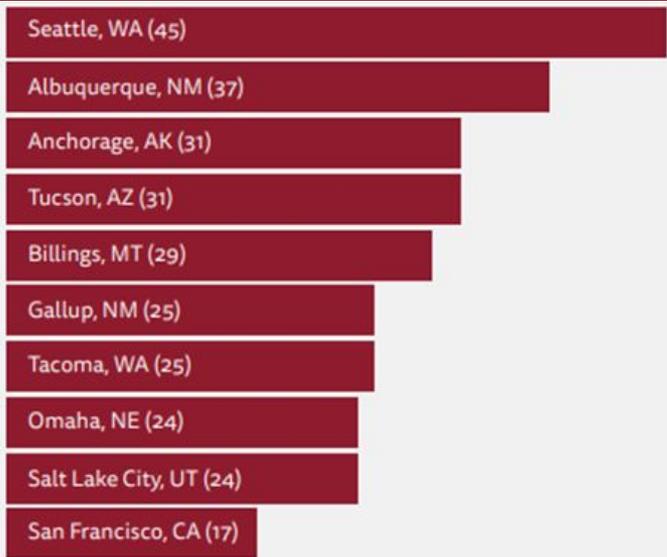
Lower 49 identified in
Minnesota and the
Dakotas first (identified
from survivors &
families)

- Oil Fields (HT)
- Man Camps



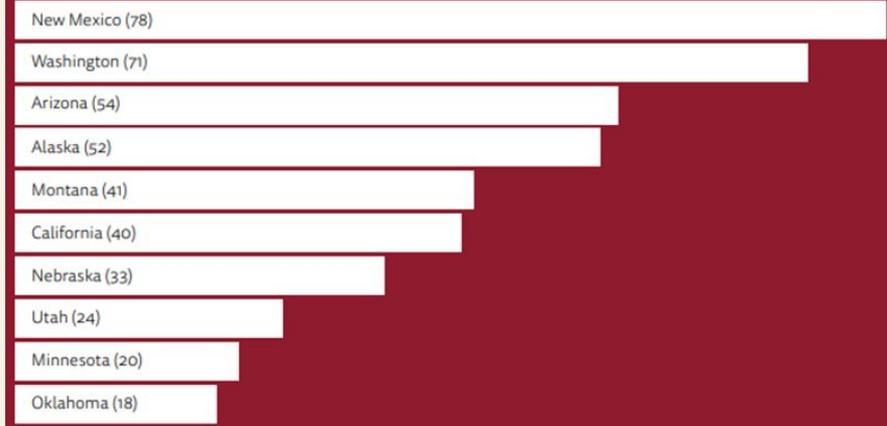
Arizona Data & Findings

MMIWG/P Background



See Appendix for data from all 71 cities surveyed.

TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF MMIWG CASES



Alert from Urban Indian Health Institute (2016)

- 5,712 cases of MMIWG reported in 2016
- 116 were logged in DOJ database

Data is Limited - Missing Persons

12 Indigenous females were recorded as missing in Arizona as of July 25, 2020 and ranged in ages from 20 to 54.

Of the Indigenous Peoples documented as missing in Arizona as of July 25, 2020, females were missing for an average of two decades (21 years). This is twice as long as the average for males (12 years)

Data is Limited - Murders

Counties in Arizona that have higher populations – such as Maricopa and Pima – have more Indigenous female homicides compared to counties with smaller populations. • 74% of homicides of Indigenous women and girls are handled by municipal police (n=119) whereas far fewer cases are handled by Sheriff's offices (13%; n=21) or Tribal police (12%; n=20).

Indigenous females of all ages are murdered. In Arizona, Indigenous females were killed ranging in age from infants (less than 1 year old) to elders (81 years old), with the average victim's age of 31.

Data is Limited - Who?

Most of the murderers/offenders who kill Native American females are between the ages of 18 to 40, with an average age of 31

Nearly 90% of offenders who kill Native Americans are male (n=102).

Of the cases in which the race of the offender was documented, 63% of those who killed Native American females were also Native American (n=73) and 25% were white (n=25).

Data is Limited - Weapon Used

The weapon most commonly used to kill Indigenous females was:

- guns/firearms (n=53; 33%)
- followed by knives (n=41; 26%)
- personal weapons (n=25; 16%)
- unknown weapons (n=21; 13%)
 - blunt objects (n=14; 9%)
 - strangulation (n=4; 3%)
 - fire (n=1; 1%).

Data is Limited - Relationship

The most common relationship between murdered Indigenous females and their killers is unknown in 30% (n=47) of cases.

Over a quarter of Indigenous females were killed by:

- an intimate partner (n=45; 28%),
- followed by acquaintances (n=27; 17%),
 - strangers (n=14; 9%),
 - parents (n=9; 6%),
 - friends (n=4; 3%),
 - children (n=2; 1%),
 - siblings (n=1; 1%)
- other family members (n=10; 6%).

Victim Gender	Murder Cases	Missing Cases	Missing & Murder Cases	Missing Cases (Survivors)	Totals
Female	6	5	10	6	27
Male	2	1	5		8
Transgender				2	2
Total Cases	8	6	15	8	37

How many are murdered?

160* Indigenous Women and Girls in Arizona were known to be murdered between 1976-2018



*This number only includes reported homicides. The reality is that many more are murdered and go unreported

At what age does MMIWG happen?

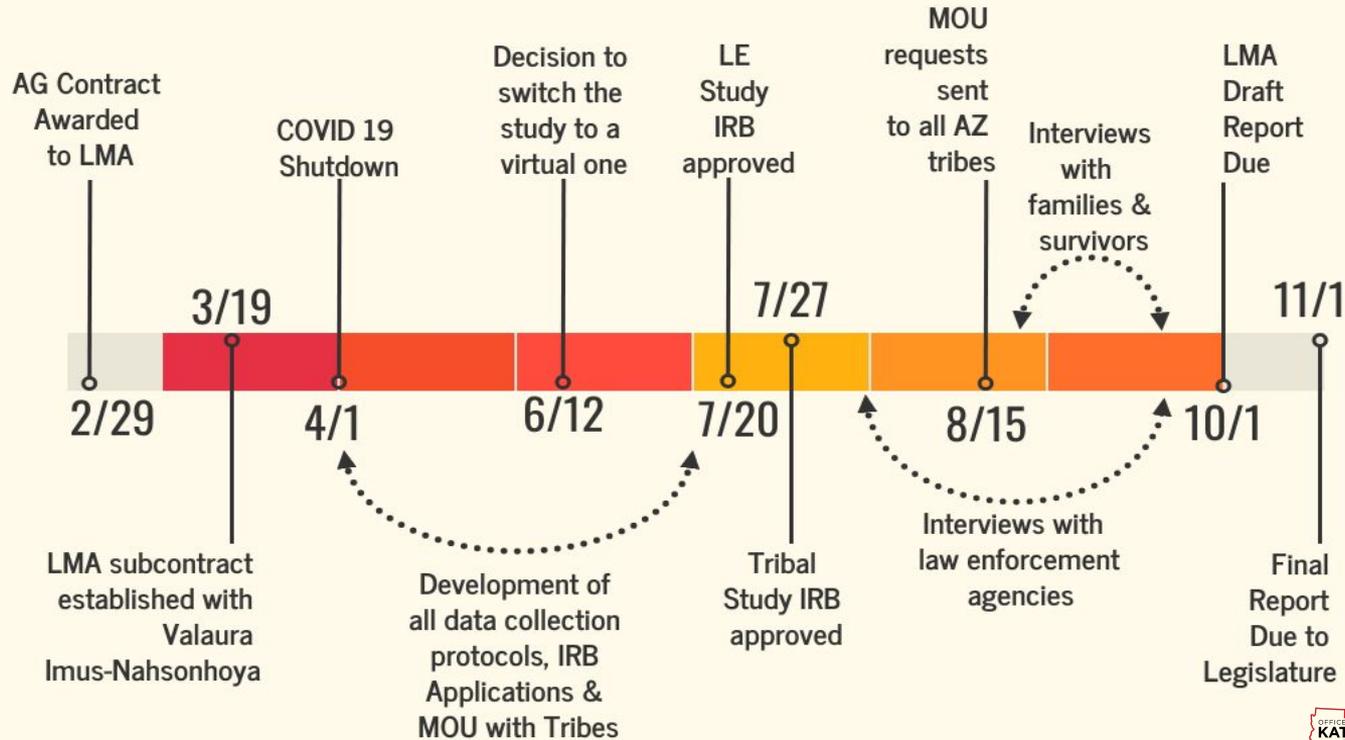
Indigenous women and girls of all ages are missing and murdered, ranging from infants to elders



Infant Elder

2020-MMIWG Field Study Timeline

AZ State Ad Hoc - LeCroy & Milligan Associates



Voices of Survivors & Families



1. Take missing person cases more seriously for adults.
2. See more effort and a quicker response to MMIWG/P cases.
3. More empathy, compassion, and communication.
4. Address racism, sexism, and LGBT-phobia.
5. Refer families to victim services at the time of the investigation.
6. Provide extensive training to all officers on how to better handle MMIWG/P cases.
7. Work to solve jurisdictional maze.

CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

1. Law enforcement jurisdiction
2. Non-communication of Databases
3. Lack of understanding of intersection of Human Trafficking
4. Lack or minimum patrol officers or investigators
5. Investigative Resources
6. Lack of Cultural Sensitivity

1. **Adult missing person not a Crime**

Overall, Systemic Barriers

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

Missing Persons	Unidentified Persons	Unclaimed Persons
24,420 Open Cases	14,713 Open Cases	17,104 Open Cases
43,117 Resolved Cases	7,258 Resolved Cases	4,978 Resolved Cases

Filter By: All States & Territories

Missing Persons	Unidentified Persons	Unclaimed Persons
24,435 Open Cases	14,707 Open Cases	17,126 Open Cases
43,272 Resolved Cases	7,270 Resolved Cases	5,001 Resolved Cases

Filter By: Arizona

Missing Persons

1,064

Open Cases

Unidentified Persons

2,082

Open Cases

Unclaimed Persons

179

Open Cases

1,471

Resolved Cases

891

Resolved Cases

8

Resolved Cases

Filter By: Arizona

Missing Persons

1,065

Open Cases

Unidentified Persons

2,082

Open Cases

Unclaimed Persons

179

Open Cases

1,473

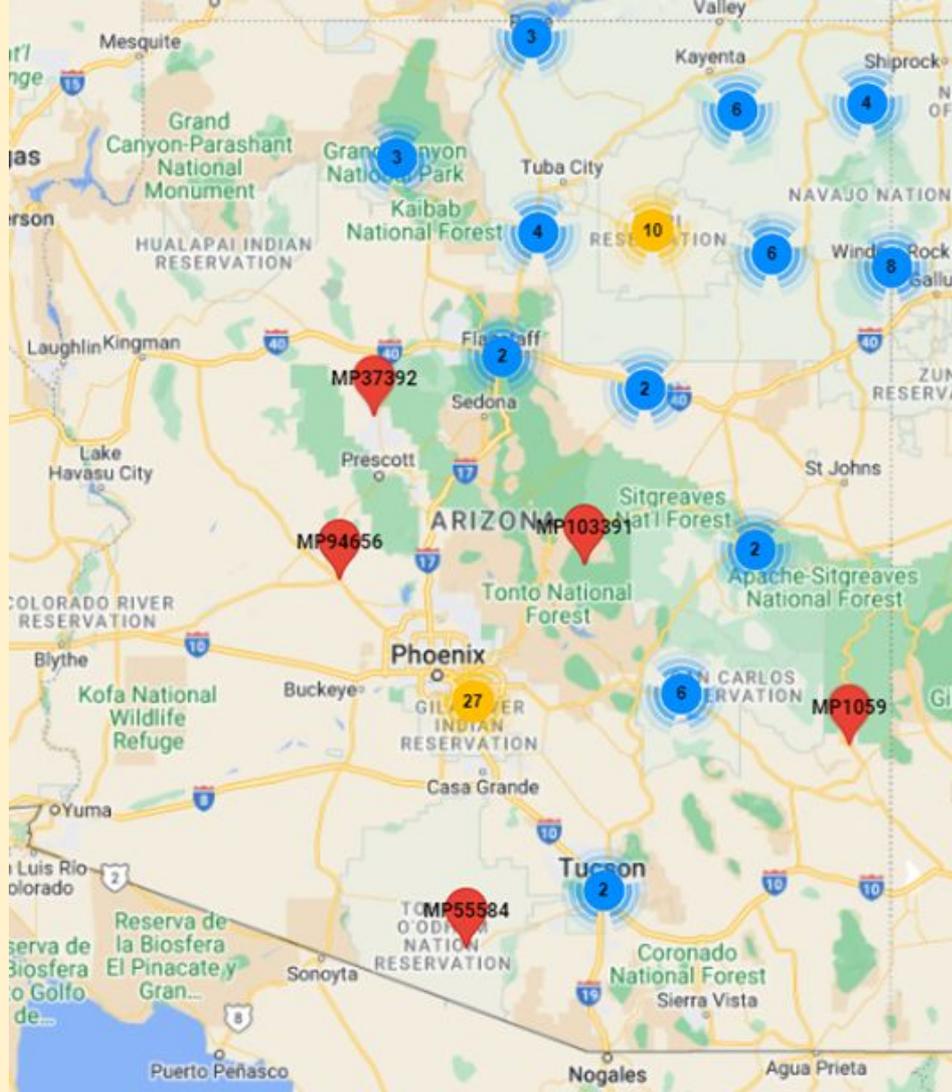
Resolved Cases

891

Resolved Cases

8

Resolved Cases



Impact of Families & Communities

EMOTIONAL

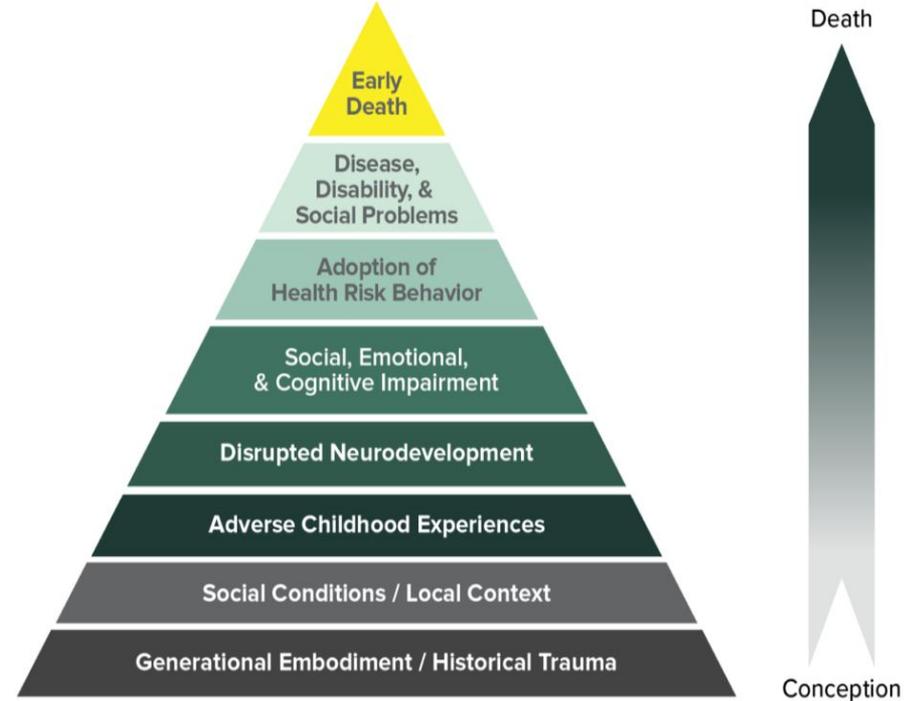
PHYSICAL

FINANCIAL

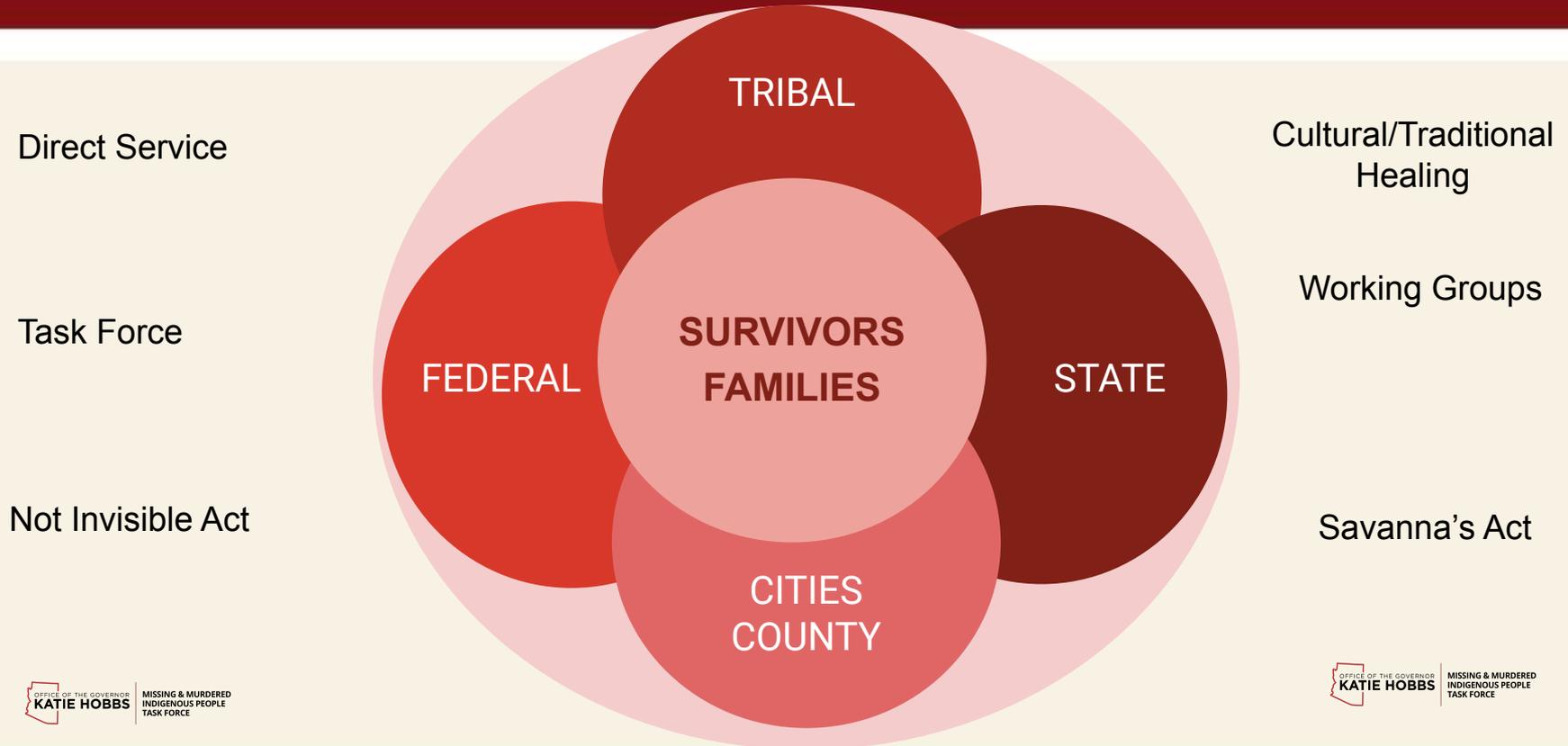
PSYCHOLOGICAL

SOCIAL

MEDICAL



Tribal, State, & Federal Collaboration



Arizona Governor's MMIP Task Force



The Wrap: MMIP Task Force established in Arizona

Indigenous Headlines for Wednesday, March 15, 2023

ICT - MAR 15, 2023



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TASK FORCE

Governor Executive Order, 2023-08

Established: March 7, 2023 via Executive order and announced Task Force members on MMIP Awareness Day, May 5, 2023

Council Overview: A 14 member task force to address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people through a culturally sensitive and trauma-informed process.

Objectives: To collect data, review policies, and make recommendations to address the crisis of MMIP through working groups in Health, Judicial, Policy, and Tribal components.



Executive Order Charges assigned to Working Groups

HEALTH

- 1) **Examine the practices** of licensed and unlicensed public and private rehabilitation and **sober living homes** and propose recommendations
- 2) Gather information to **understand the lived experiences** among Indigenous People surrounding Missing and Murdered Indigenous People in an effort to ensure that policy recommendations are culturally accurate.

JUDICIAL

- 1) **Evaluate prosecutorial trends** and practices related to crimes of gender violence against Indigenous People
- 2) Work with law enforcement and tribal governments to continue to **track and collect data** on violence against Indigenous People, including data on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People
- 3) Work with the Attorney General's Office and relevant entities to formulate effective programs and identify **sustainable funding sources**

Executive Order Charges assigned to Working Groups (con't)

POLICY

- 1) **Collaborate with State, Federal, and Tribal agencies** to address the recommendations of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Study Committee, which aim to reduce and end violence against Indigenous People in Arizona
- 2) **Review policies and practices** that impact violence against Indigenous People, such as child welfare policies and practices

TRIBAL

- 1) **Consult with tribal governments** on the scope and the nature of the issues associated with Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and gather data on the prevalence and contextual characteristics of violence against Indigenous People
- 2) Recommend measures to ensure **access to culturally appropriate victim services** for Indigenous People who have been victims of violence

Working Group Process Example

Goals

Leverage relationship-building and use of training and technical assistance to identify best practices for ongoing data collection.

Objectives

Review MMIWG Field Study and the recommendations as they relate to law enforcement, specifically input from families and survivors.

Develop educational material for Arizona law enforcement, which could be deployed via AZPOST, that explains jurisdictional complications, and the importance of capturing tribal affiliation in missing persons reports, with the belief that if officers understand the “why” they are more likely to gather this much-needed information.

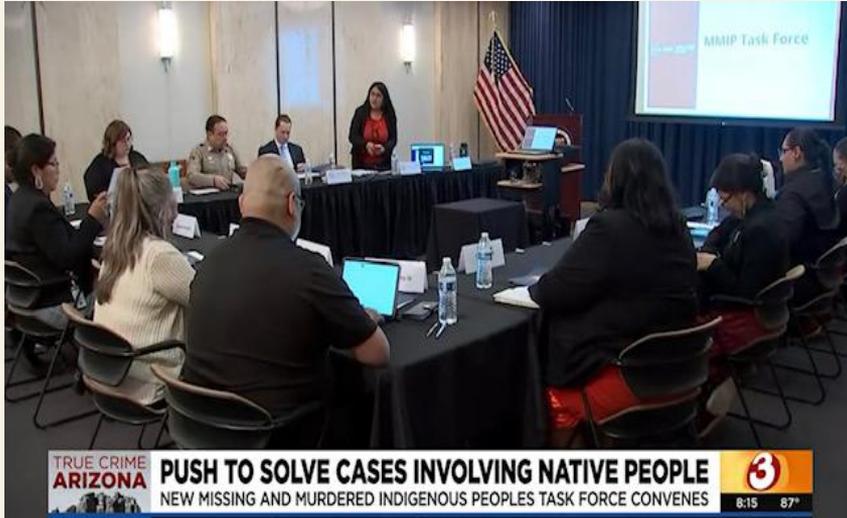
Develop a list of recommendations that aim to ensure that tribes are made aware when their members are reported as missing.

Recommendation

Work with law enforcement and tribal governments to continue to track and collect data on violence against Indigenous People, including data on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

Unknown at this time

Meetings & Reports



Council meetings occur six times a year

Working Group meetings

- Scheduled among working groups and meet at least once prior to whole council meeting

Reports Due

- ~~December 1, 2023~~
- December 1, 2024
- December 1, 2025
- December 1, 2026

“The recommendations made by this task force must be turned into meaningful reforms with pathways to justice for the missing and murdered.”

- Governor Hobbs



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