

A report from the
Montana Missing
Indigenous Persons
Task Force & the
Missing Persons
Response Team
Training Grant
Program

2023 - 2024

Report to the State-Tribal
Relations Interim Committee

Montana Department of Justice
July 1, 2024



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Attorney General Austin Knudsen with members of the Montana Missing
Indigenous Persons Task Force
June 19, 2024
Great Falls, MT

Top row pictured left to right: Amanda Myers, Brian Frost, Cheryl Horn, Tina Bierle (alternate), Danielle Matt, Sarah Wolf Tail, Lea Wetzel (alternate); Bottom row pictured left to right: Colleen Hill (alternate), Iris Kill Eagle, Haley Omeasoo, Attorney General Knudsen, Alan Doane, Dr. Alan Ostby

The Montana Attorney General and staff at the Montana Department of Justice are grateful to the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force members for their dedication.

Their work is the hallmark of collaboration and communication needed to improve response to missing Indigenous persons in Montana.

Executive Summary

The Montana State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee began studying the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women issue in 2017 and has sustained their work with successful bills in the 2019, 2021 and 2023 Legislative Sessions. The Montana Missing Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Task Force was initially appointed and began their work in 2019 and reported to State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee (STRC) in September 2020. Attorney General Knudsen re-appointed the task force members in June 2021 and again in June of 2023. This report provides an overview of the 2023 and year to date 2024 work of the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force and the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) staff that support them.

The passage of House Bill 163 in 2023 continued the MMIP Task Force for ten years to the sunset of June 20, 2033. The passage of House Bill 18 established the Missing Person Response Team Training Grant Program and appropriated funds to support the program. The subsequent action on both bills is as follows:

- MMIP Coordinator contact with each of the eight tribal councils
- Seven Tribal Council resolutions and appointments completed
- Re-appointment of the MMIP Task Force in June 2021
- Appointments include a representative from the Montana Office of Public Instruction and an at-large member.
- MMIP Task Force in person meeting June 19, 2023, in Great Falls, MT.
- Collaboration with the DOJ Missing Persons Specialist
- Analysis of missing persons data for 2023
- Missing Person Response Team search and rescue basic training planning
- Target September dates for the search and rescue training
- Plans for the MMIP Coordinator to attend a conference of all state MMIP programs in October 2024.
- Report of findings and recommendations to the Committee by July 1, 2022

The newly appointed Task Force met in Great Falls, MT on June 19, 2024 and adopted one formal recommendation for the State Tribal Relations Interim Committee's consideration. The recommendation and rationale are detailed on page 20 of this report.

Background

Montana is a large geographic area with a relatively low population density. Montana's 145,522 square mile area, and an estimated 1.13 million people, leaves approximately 7.4 people per square mile. (United States Census Bureau 2023), This situation offers a unique and challenging venue to address the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons issue.

Montana Tribal Communities



Image source: (2023 State-Tribal Relations Report)

Montana is home to 8 Federally recognized Indian Tribes.

- **Blackfeet Reservation**
 - Home of the Blackfeet Nation headquartered in Browning, Montana.
 - Blackfeet Nation is one of the 10 largest tribes in the United States and is home to 17,321 members. (Blackfeet Nation 2023)
 - The Blackfeet Reservation is situated in Northwestern Montana, within Glacier and Pondera counties.
- **Crow Reservation**
 - Home of Crow Nation, headquartered in Crow Agency, Montana.
 - Crow Reservation is approximately 3.5 million acres and is home to approximately 7,900 of their estimated 11,000 enrolled members. (Office of the Governor 2023)
 - The Crow Reservation is situated in Southcentral Montana, within Bighorn, Yellowstone, and Treasure counties.

- Flathead Reservation
 - Home of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, headquartered in Pablo, Montana.
 - 65% of the 7,443 enrolled members live on the Flathead Reservation. (Office of the Governor 2023)
 - The Flathead Reservation is situated in Northwest Montana, within Missoula, Lake, Flathead, and Sanders counties.
- Fort Belknap Indian Community
 - Home to the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes, headquartered in Fort Belknap Agency, Montana.
 - There are 6,693 enrolled members, 3429 live on or near the reservation. (Office of the Governor 2023)
 - Fort Belknap Indian Community is situated in Northcentral Montana, within Blaine and Phillips counties.
- Fort Peck Reservation
 - Home of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, headquartered in Poplar, Montana.
 - About 6,800 members live on Fort Peck, with an estimated 3,900 living off the reservation. (Office of the Governor 2023)
 - Fort Peck Reservation is situated in Northeastern Montana, within Roosevelt, Daniels, Sheridan, and Valley counties.
- Little Shell Chippewa Tribe
 - The Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians is a band of the Chippewa Indians, headquartered in Great Falls, Cascade County, Montana.
 - There are an estimated 4,500 enrolled members. (Office of the Governor 2023)
- Northern Cheyenne Reservation
 - Home to one of several bands of Cheyenne Peoples, headquartered in Lama Deer, Montana
 - There are approximately 11,266 enrolled members with about 5,012 living on the reservation. (Office of the Governor 2023)
 - The Northern Cheyenne Reservation is situated in Southeast Montana, within Big Horn and Rosebud counties.
- Rocky Boy's Reservation
 - Home of the Chippewa Cree Tribe, headquartered in Rocky Boy's Agency, Montana
 - 55% of the 6,177 enrolled members live on the reservation. (Office of the Governor 2023)
 - The Rocky Boy's Reservation is situated in Northcentral Montana, within Hill and Choteau counties.

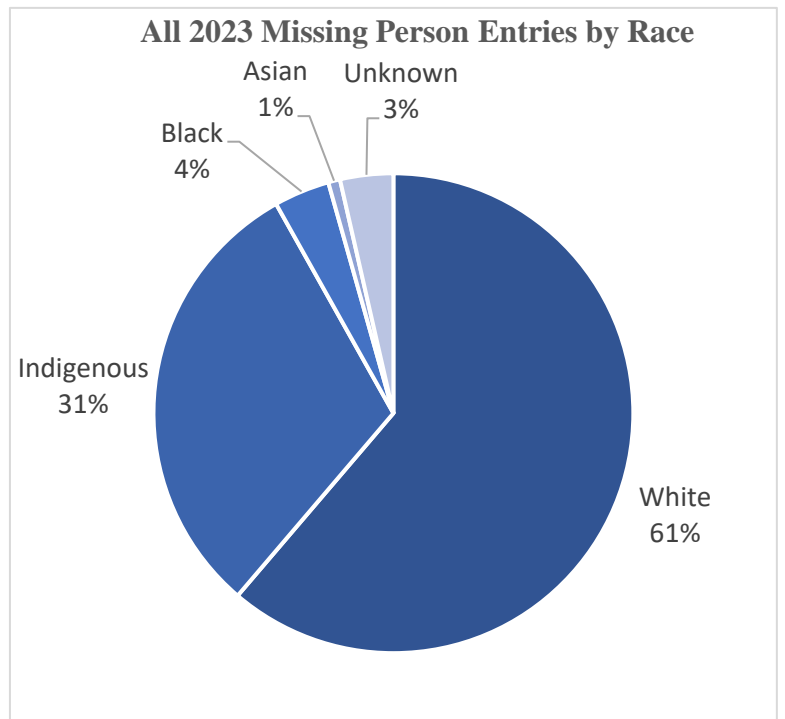
Montana’s Urban Native Americans

Montana’s urban, and suburban areas account for a large portion of the Native America population. Urban Indian Centers are established in Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, and Missoula, to service the urban Native American population. American Indian and Alaska Natives make up an estimated 6.5% of Montana’s population (United States Census Bureau 2023), yet accounted for 30.6% of Missing Persons reported to the Montana Missing Person Clearinghouse in 2023.

Missing in Montana

As detailed in the “Data” section of this report, Indigenous persons make up 6.5% of Montana’s population, yet account for 30.6% of persons reported missing. In 2023, 2,263 persons were reported missing to the Montana Missing Persons Clearinghouse; 1,570 were non-Indigenous, 693 were Indigenous. (Montana Department of Justice 2023). These numbers have remained consistent in previous years of study.

Thanks to efforts of Montana Law Enforcement Agencies, federal partners, local search and rescue groups, and community planners, 2,185 of the 2,263 people reported to the Missing Person Clearinghouse in 2023 have been located. That is a 96.5% clearance rate. (Montana Department of Justice 2023)



However, there are still loved ones unaccounted for, and Native Americans are still four times more likely to be reported missing. As of May 2nd, 2024, 44 individual entries for Indigenous persons were cataloged by the Missing Person Clearinghouse. Of those 44 individual entries, 23 have been missing for over 1 year (see Appendix A).

Response programs available through the Montana DOJ include:

1. Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) - the state’s link to the FBI’s National Crime Information Center
2. Montana Missing Persons Clearinghouse (MMPC) - the database of missing persons in Montana
3. Montana Missing Person System (MMPS) - a searchable website providing information on Montana’s missing persons

4. AMBER Alert - a national public alert system that provides notification of the abduction of a child under life-threatening circumstances
5. MEPA – Missing Endangered Persons Advisory: a statewide alert system that provides notification of a missing person in danger
6. DOJ Office of the Child and Family Ombudsman (OCFO) - an entity to which the state Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) is required to report missing children who receive services through CFSD.

History of Legislation

National Legislation

Operation Lady Justice

In 2019, Presidential Executive Order 13898 was enacted, also known as *Operation Lady Justice*. *Operation Lady Justice* sunset in 2021. According to the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, *Operation Lady Justice* sought to address the legitimate concerns of American Indian and Alaska Native communities regarding missing and murdered people. A task force was created and set out to:

- Conduct appropriate consultations with tribal governments on the scope and nature of the issues regarding missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives
- Develop model protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of missing or murdered persons in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, including best practices for:
 - Improving the way law enforcement investigators and prosecutors respond to the high volume of such cases, and to the investigative challenges that might be presented in cases involving female victims.
 - Collecting and sharing data among various jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies
 - Better use of existing criminal databases, such as the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and the Combined DNA Index
- Establish a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional team including representatives from tribal law enforcement and the Departments of Justice and the Interior to review cold cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives
- Address the need for greater clarity concerning roles, authorities, and jurisdiction throughout the lifecycle of cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives by:
 - Developing and publishing best-practices guidance for use by Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement in cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives, to include best practices related to communication with affected families from initiation of an investigation through case resolution or closure;

- Facilitating formal agreements or arrangements among Federal, State, local and tribal law enforcement to promote maximally cooperative, trauma-informed responses to cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives
- Developing and executing an education and outreach campaign for communities that are most affected by crime against American Indians and Alaska Natives to identify and reduce such crime; and
- Developing, in partnership with NamUs, a public-awareness campaign to educate both rural and urban communities about the needs of affected families and resources that are both needed and available.

Savannah’s Act

S.227, otherwise known as *Savannah’s Act*, was signed into law on October 10, 2020, and directed the US Department of Justice to review, revise and develop protocols to address MMIP issues. Savannah’s Act set out to:

- provide training to law enforcement agencies on how to record tribal enrollment for victims in federal databases;
 - develop and implement a strategy to educate the public on the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System;
 - conduct specific outreach to tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations regarding the ability to publicly enter information through the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System or other non-law enforcement sensitive portal;
 - develop regionally appropriate guidelines for response to cases of missing or murdered Native Americans;
 - provide training and technical assistance to tribes and law enforcement agencies for implementation of the developed guidelines; and report statistics on missing or murdered Native Americans.
- (U.S. Congress 2020)



Photo Credit: Dave Colpack/AP

Not Invisible Act

Also in 2020, the 116th U.S. Congress passed Public Law 166, otherwise known as the *Not Invisible Act*. The act directed the US Department of Justice and the US Department of the Interior to establish a commission to make recommendations to federal partners in combating MMIP and human trafficking. The Act sunset 2 years after its establishment. The commission completed an in-depth review of the problem at hand and completed a report titled, “Not One More: Findings and Recommendations of the Not Invisible Act Commission”. The US Departments of Justice and

the Interior made strides in responding to the commission’s report. Their response to the commission is compiled in a report dated March 2024.

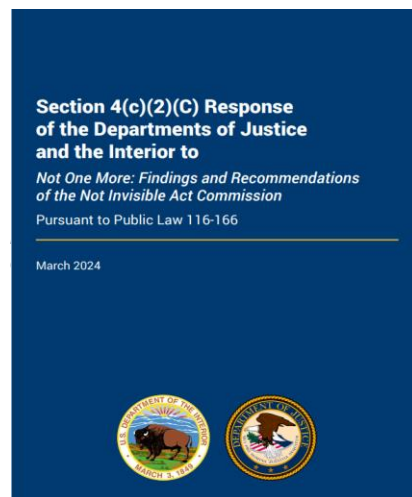
The Not Invisible Act identified six areas for the commission to address. (Departments of Justice and the Interior 2024)

1. Identifying, reporting, and responding to instances of missing persons, murder, and human trafficking on Indian lands and of Indians;
2. Legislative and administrative changes necessary to use programs, properties, or other resources funded or operated by the Department of the Interior and Department of Justice to combat the crisis of missing or murdered Indians and human trafficking on Indian lands and of Indians;
3. Tracking and reporting data on instances of missing persons, murder, and human trafficking on Indian lands and of Indians;
4. Addressing staff shortages and open positions within relevant law enforcement agencies, including issues related to the hiring and retention of law enforcement officers;
5. Coordinating Tribal, state, and federal resources to increase prosecution of murder and human trafficking offenses on Indian lands and of Indians; and
6. Increasing information sharing with tribal governments on violent crime investigations and prosecutions in Indian lands that were terminated or declined.

Several important functions came out of these legislative efforts. These functions include, but are not limited to:

- The BIA’s Missing and Murdered Unit
- Community Actions Planning Guide
- Unresolved Missing Person Resource Guide
- After Action Reporting Guide
- Community Engagement Strategies
- Establishing a Cold Case Unit Guide.

Legislative and policy changes at the national level have made headway to addressing the MMIP issue. Some strategies have been implemented with varying degrees of success. Some strategies are still in the planning processes and have not yet been executed due to tribal, governmental, jurisdictional, or other barriers.



NIAC Report cover

History of Montana Legislation

Montana has addressed the MMIP issue over several recent legislative sessions. The past three sessions, the 66th, 67th, and the 68th have all had some form of MMIP legislation brought to them.

66th Legislature, 2019

House Bill 20

HB20 was an act that revised laws related to the reporting of missing children and added provisions regarding certain custodial interference cases. (House Bill 20 2019) The Bill also removed language that jurisdictionally tied the hands of law enforcement authorities. MCA 44-2-405 was subsequently revised.

Hannah's Act

In 2019 House Bill 21, otherwise known as "Hannah's Act", became law. The Bill, named after a Northern Cheyenne woman, Hannah Harris, authorized the Department of Justice to assist with the investigation of all missing person cases, regardless of the age of the missing person. Hannah's Act further required the employment of a missing person specialist within the Department of Justice. (Hannah's Act 2019)

Senate Bill 312

A companion Bill to Hannah's Act, Senate Bill 312, was passed by the 66th Legislature. Senate Bill 312 created the MMIP Task Force and outlined their duties and composition. SB 312 also established the Looping In Native Communities (LINC) Network Grant Program. This Bill created a competitive Grant for a tribal college to develop and maintain a central location for collecting, storing, and securing network data pertaining to missing Indigenous persons. The Bill also provided grant funds to tribal agencies to access the LINC network. The competitive grant was to be administered by the MMIP Task Force. Senate Bill 312 passed with a sunset provision of 2021. With the help of private and public programmers and data experts, a network was established. However, some unforeseen circumstances concerning data, oversight of the information entered in the database, and stewardship of the program itself, the program fell short of its intended design.

House Bill 54

House Bill 54 revised laws relating to missing person reports. The Bill intended to minimize jurisdictional issues pertaining to missing persons by codifying that all law enforcement authorities in the state shall accept, without delay, any report of a missing person unless there are extenuating circumstances. The Bill also codified that all missing persons shall be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database within 2 hours for missing person under 21 years of age, and within 8 hours for missing adults. (House Bill 54 2019)

67th Legislature, 2021

Senate Bill 4

SB4 extended the termination of the MMIP Task Force and included a sunset provision of 2023. The Bill required the Task Force to work toward identifying causes contributing to missing and murdered Indigenous persons. (Senate Bill 4 2021)

House Bill 35

HB 35 established the Missing Indigenous Persons Review Commission. The commission was made up of state representatives, private organization representatives, tribal members, law enforcement, concerned citizens and a member of the legislature who serves on either the House or Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee was to examine trends and patterns of missing Indigenous persons in the state, educate the public, law enforcement, and policy makers about strategies for investigation and prevention, and recommend policies and practices that may encourage jurisdictional collaboration. (House Bill 35 2021)

House Bill 36

House Bill 36 was a bill that aimed to establish the Missing Persons Response Team Training Grant Program, and appropriated funds to that end. The bill died in standing committee. Even though this bill did not pass, Legislators would have another opportunity in the next legislative session.

House Bill 98

House Bill 98 extended the sunset date of one of the Task Force functions, and clarified information the Task Force must report on. The Bill further amended some sections pertaining to Task Force functions.

68th Legislature, 2023

House Bill 163

House Bill 163 extended the sunset provision of the Task Force to 2033. This Bill also added a representative from the Office of Public Instruction and authorized the Task Force to make recommendations to federal, state, and local agencies. This bill further appropriated funds to add one FTE employee to coordinate and manage the administration of the Task Force. (House Bill 163 2023)

House Bill 18

This bill was a re-attempt of House Bill 36 (HB36 died in standing committee the previous legislative session). House Bill 18 established the Missing Person Response Team Training Grant Program and appropriated funds to support the program. (House Bill 18 2023) The bill was signed into law, and funds were appropriated.

Joint Resolution 1

The 68th Legislature also passed JR1, which authorized an interim study of missing youth in Montana. The Legislature noted that 80% of all missing persons in Montana are under 18 years of age. The Resolution required that the Department of Justice collaborate with the missing person specialist, youth courts, juvenile probation, Office of Public Instruction, the MMIP Task Force, the Missing Indigenous Persons Review Commission, tribal governments, and youth organizations to study the issue. (Joint Resolution 1 2023)

Joint Resolution 5

The same legislative session also saw the passing of Joint Resolution 5, which urged the United States Congress to fully fund public safety and law enforcement agencies, programs, services, and activities within Montana’s reservations. (Joint Resolution 5. 2023) This resolution acknowledged Indian nations and tribes as prior sovereigns through Treaty and Supremacy Clauses, and acknowledged through treaties, agreements, statutes, and executive orders, the United States undertook a responsibility to assist Indian nations in providing public safety, law and order, and the administration of justice. Joint Resolution 5 also pointed out that Montana’s reservations have experienced a drug and alcohol epidemic that correlates directly to violent crime rates above the national average. Additionally, the resolution noted that generations of Montana’s Native Americans have mourned a missing or murdered family member, and illustrated how justice has eluded many native American victims, survivors, and families. Aside from urging the U.S. Congress to act, the Resolution urged the U.S. Department of Justice to develop a plan to cooperatively administer criminal justice programs and engage in government-to-government consultation with tribes to execute its commitment. The resolution invited the tribal governments to adopt their own resolutions to the United States Congress to fully fund this venture and requested Montana’s Governor to draft a letter to the U.S. Congress in support.

Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force

Legislation required a representative from each of the state’s eight federally recognized tribes, a representative from the Attorney General’s Office, a representative from the Montana Department of Justice who has expertise in the subject of missing persons, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Montana Highway Patrol. In 2019, the Task Force identified the need to include representatives from the United States Attorney General’s Office (Montana District) and Indian Health Services. The Task Force met throughout the following year to discuss the many issues that arise when community members go missing.

Table 1: Montana MMIP Task Force Members

Name	Organization
Sarah Wolf Tail (primary) Lea Wetzel (alternate)	Blackfeet
Pending	Crow Nation
Danielle Matt (primary) Martin Charlo (alternate)	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Cheryl Horn (primary) Tina Bierle (alternate)	Fort Belknap Indian Community
Stacey FourStar (primary) Bryce Kirk (alternate)	Fort Peck Tribes
Iris Kill Eagle (primary) Colleen Hill (alternate)	Little Shell Tribe
Yolonda Fraiser (primary) Rose Harris (alternate)	Northern Cheyenne
Jonathan Windy Boy (primary) Jody Lamere (alternate)	Rocky Boy’s
Brian Frost Kelly Gilman	DOJ Missing Person Specialist
Major Derek Werner	Montana Highway Patrol
Alex Sterhan Alan Doane	Montana Attorney General’s Office
Crystal Hickman	Office of Public Instruction
Dr. Paula Cater Dr. Alan Ostby	Indian Health Services
Amanda Myers	US Attorney’s Office District of Montana
Haley Omeasoo	Ohkomi Forensics
Justin Kambic	MMIP Task Force Coordinator

Task Force Activities

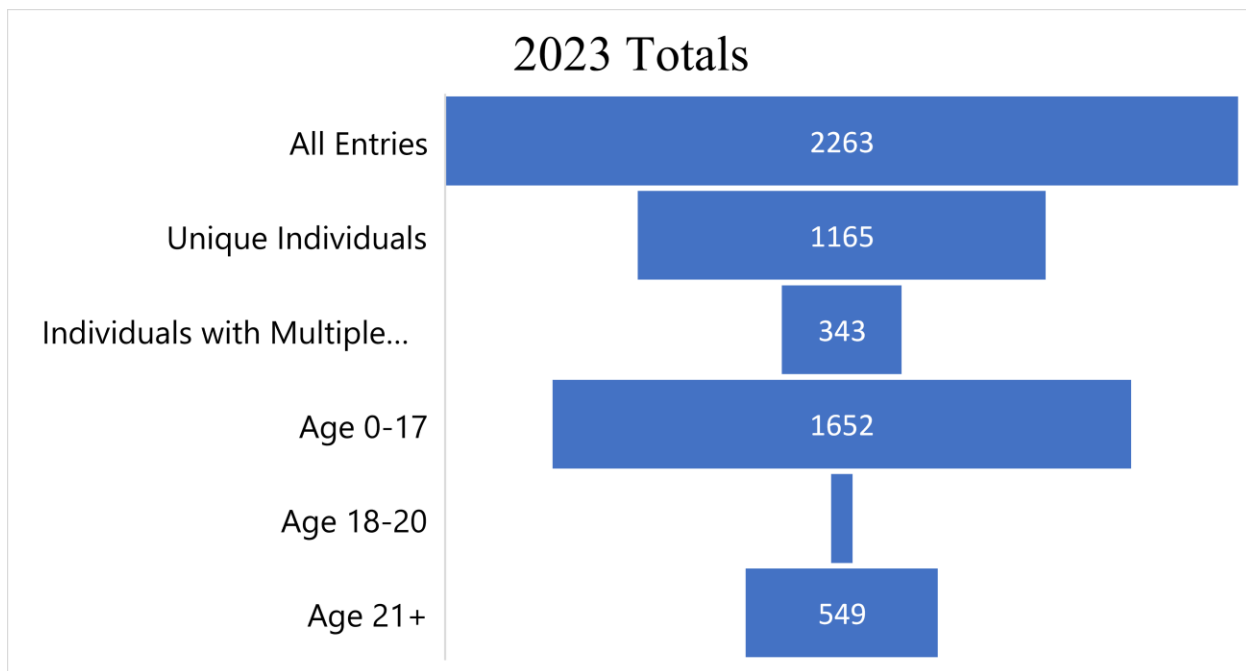
Data Analysis for 2023

The Montana Department of Justice Missing Persons Specialist supports the work of the Task Force through regular reports of data about missing Indigenous Persons. The following graphs provide the 2023 information required for this report. The data is from the Montana Missing Persons System (MMPS) housed in the Montana Department of Justice.

Graph #1 represents the total entries in 2023 and separates all entries by unique individuals. The graph further illustrates the age ranges for missing persons entered in the database. There were a total of 2,263 missing person entries in 2023. The number of unique individuals reported to MMPS in 2023 is 1,165 or **51.4%** of all missing person entries in 2023.

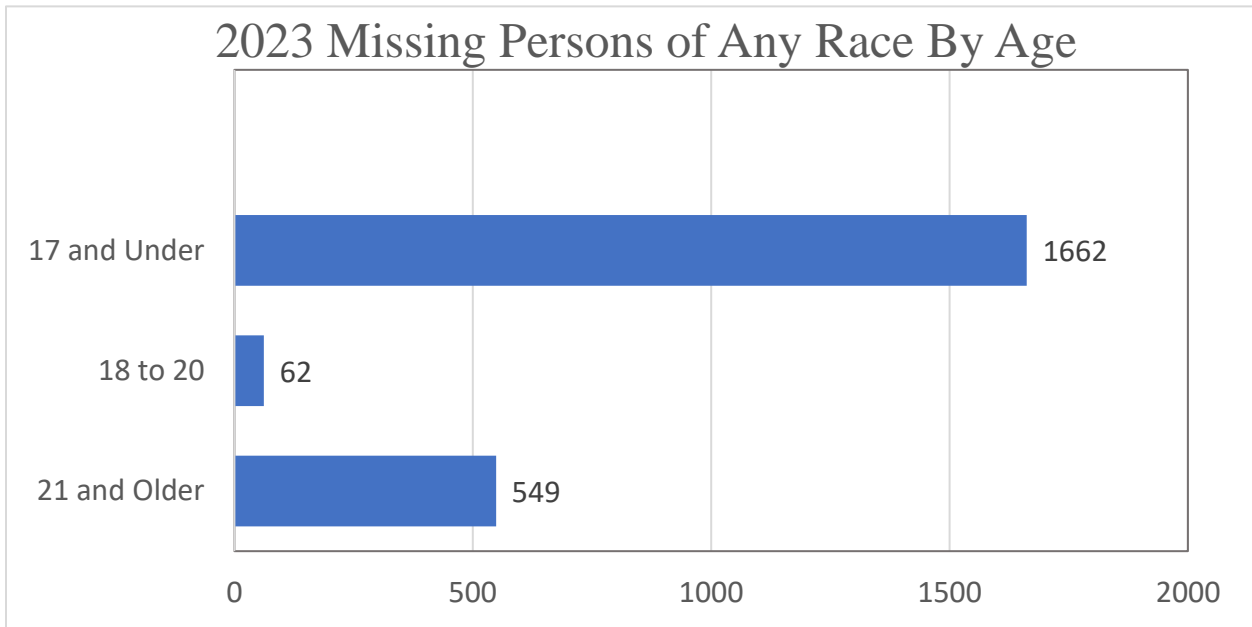
During analysis, it was discovered that some individuals are reported missing more than one time during the reporting period, and some individuals were reported missing numerous times. Graph #1 separates “Unique” individuals from the total of all entries to paint a more accurate reflection of the data.

Graph #1

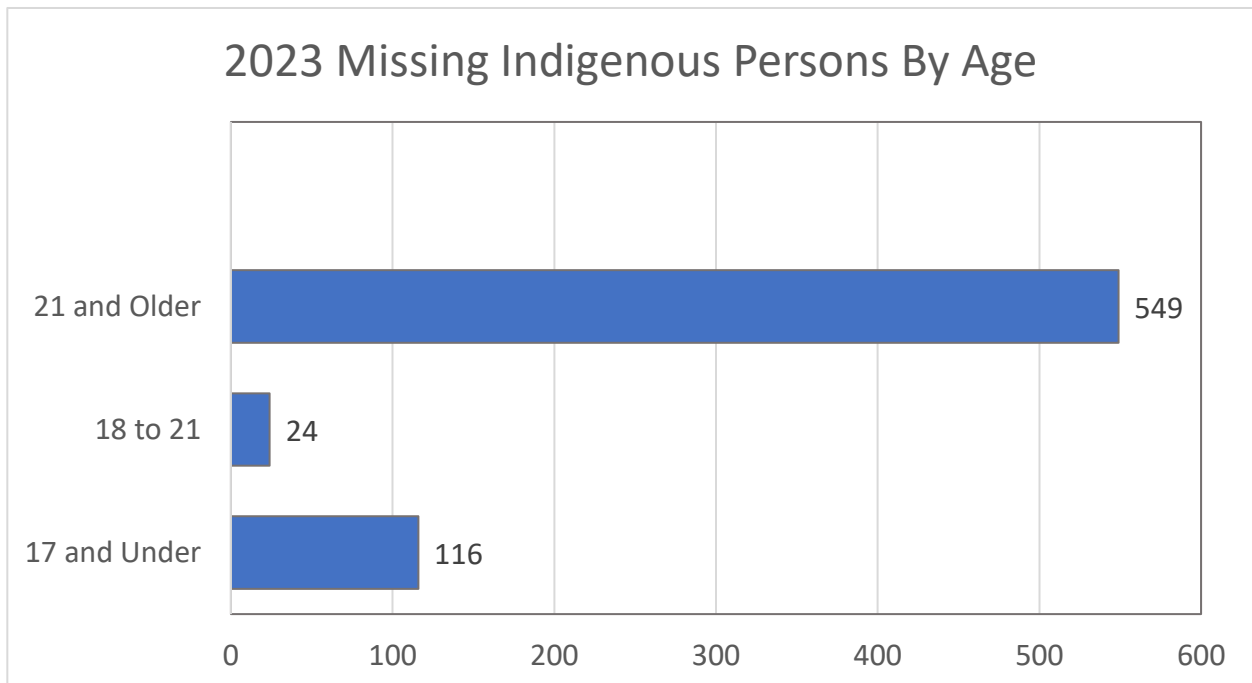


Graphs 2 and 3 represent missing juveniles in 2023, contrasted with missing Indigenous juveniles in 2023. Persons under the age or 21 represent **76.4%** of those reported missing in 2023.

Graph #2

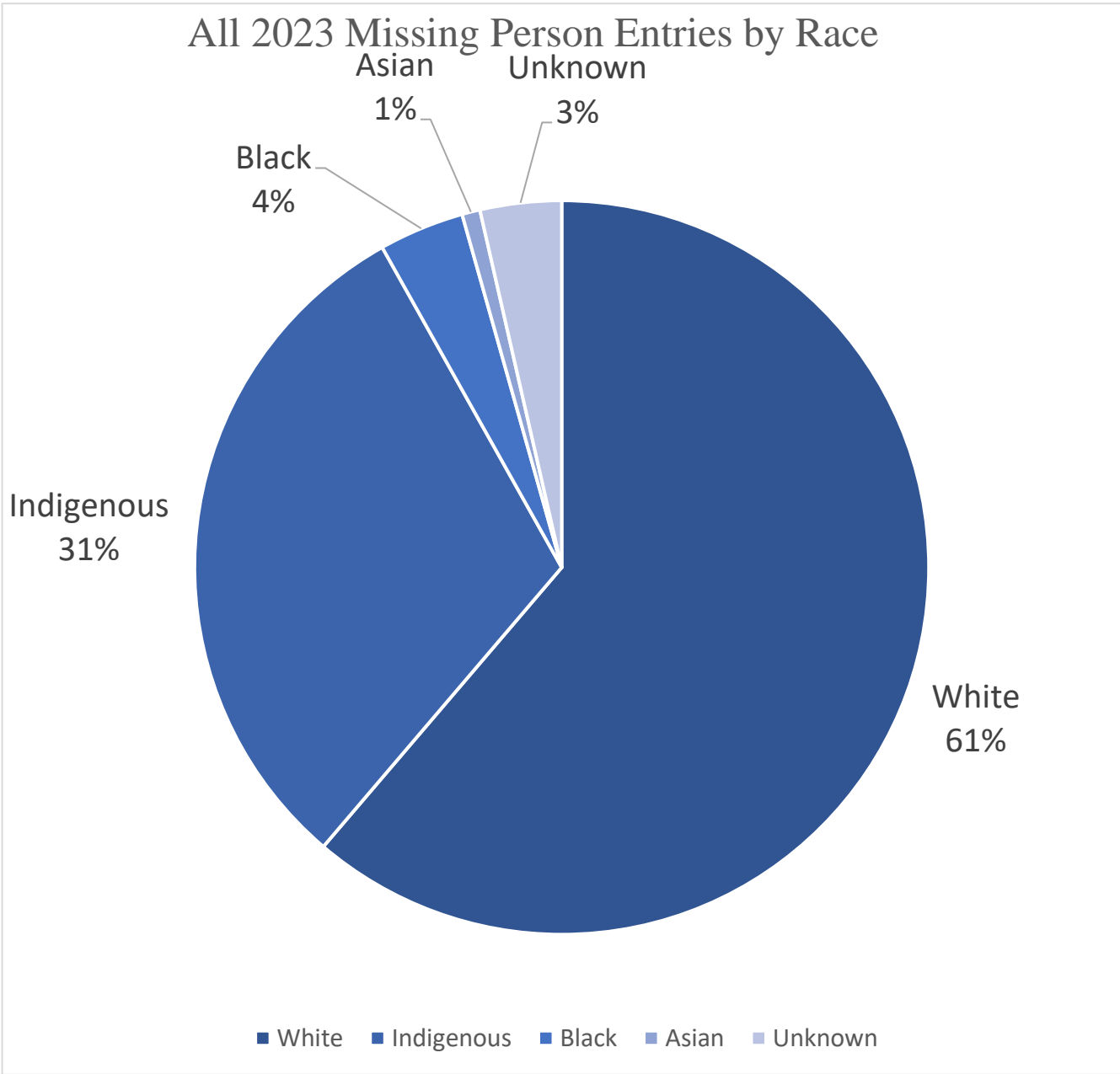


Graph #3



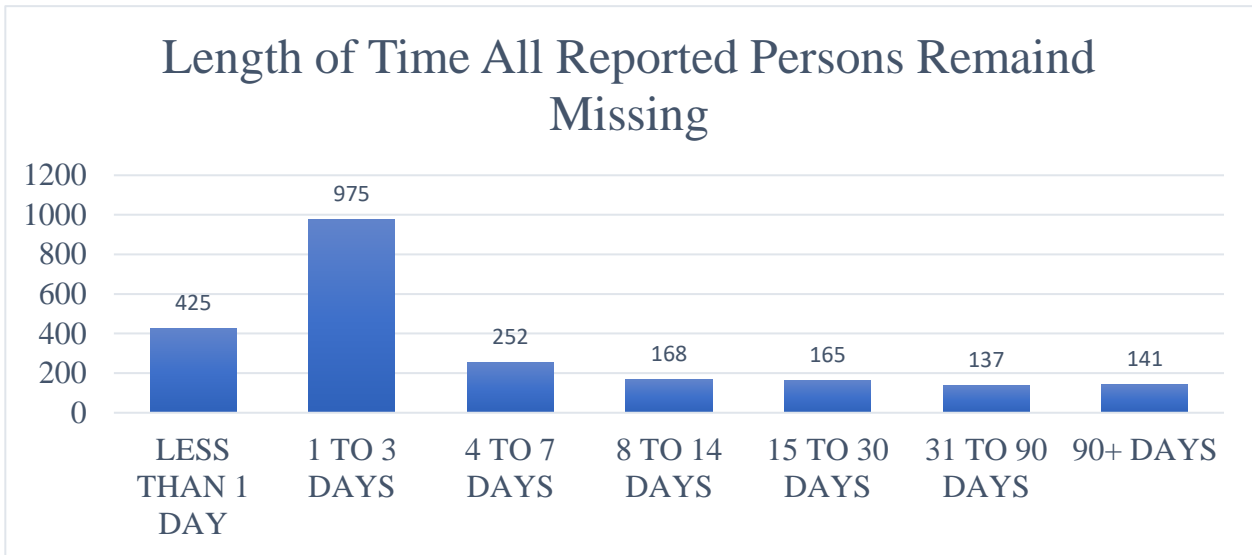
Graph #4 is a representation of missing persons by race in 2023. Caucasians represented the greatest percentage of missing persons with 1,386 reported in 2023. Indigenous persons were the next highest percentage of missing persons represented by racial group at 693. Missing persons in the remaining racial groups include 85 Black, 18 Asian and 81 unknown. It should be noted that there is no mechanism to designate mixed race individuals except as “Unknown”, which is also used when Race is in fact unknown.

Graph #4

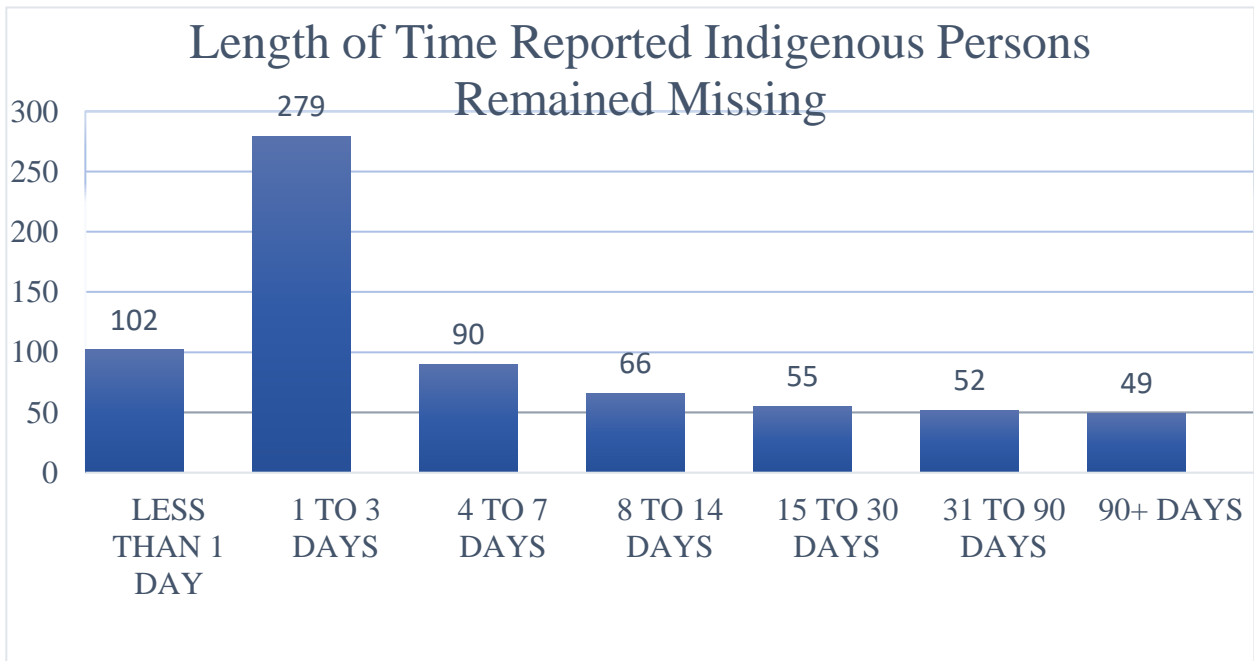


Graphs #5 and #6 refer to length of time all reported person remained missing compared to the length of time Indigenous persons remained missing. **73%** of persons reported missing in 2023 were resolved within one week. In 2023, the average time all reported persons remained missing is **15** days. In 2023, the Average time reported Indigenous persons remained missing is **12.5** days.

Graph #5

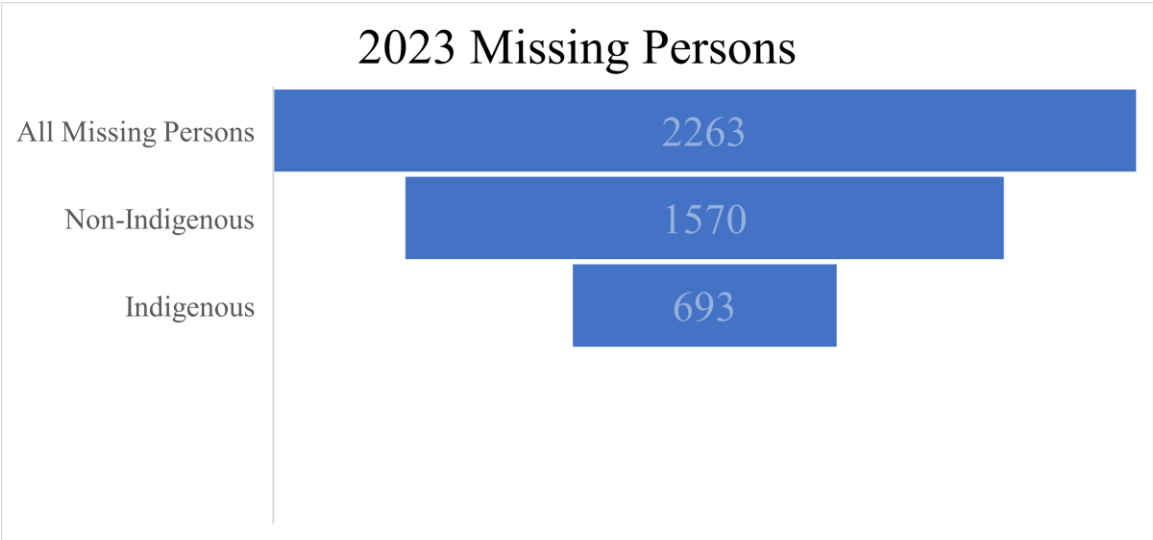


Graph #6



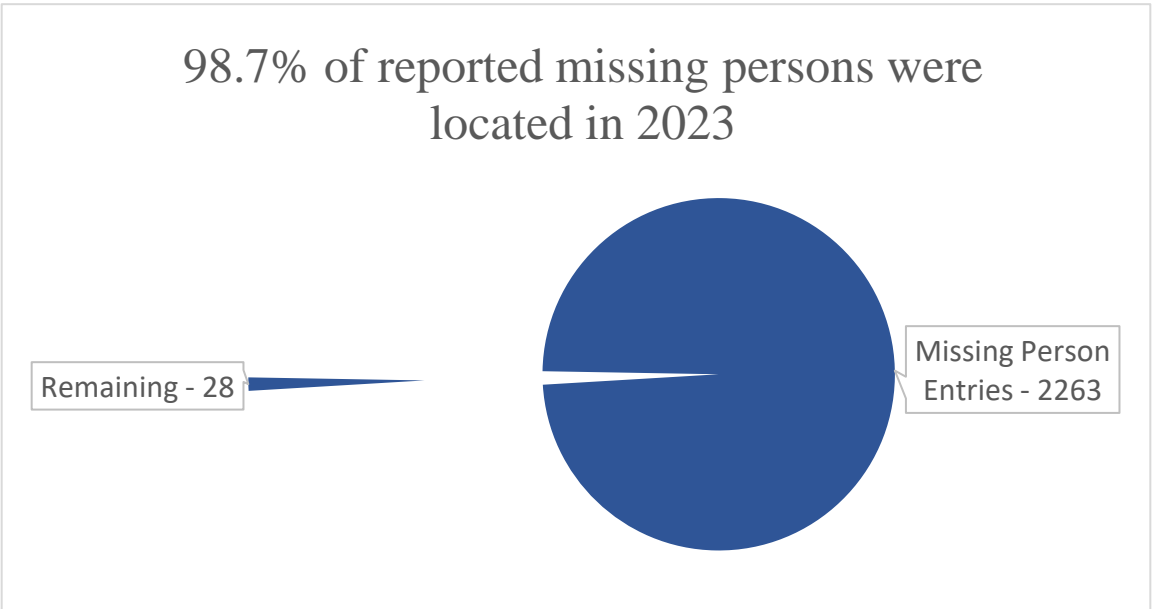
Graph #7 is a snapshot of the 2023 missing Indigenous Persons. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Indigenous persons make up approximately **6.2%** of Montana’s population. According to 2023 Montana missing person entries, Indigenous persons were exactly **30.6%** of missing persons last year.

Graph #7



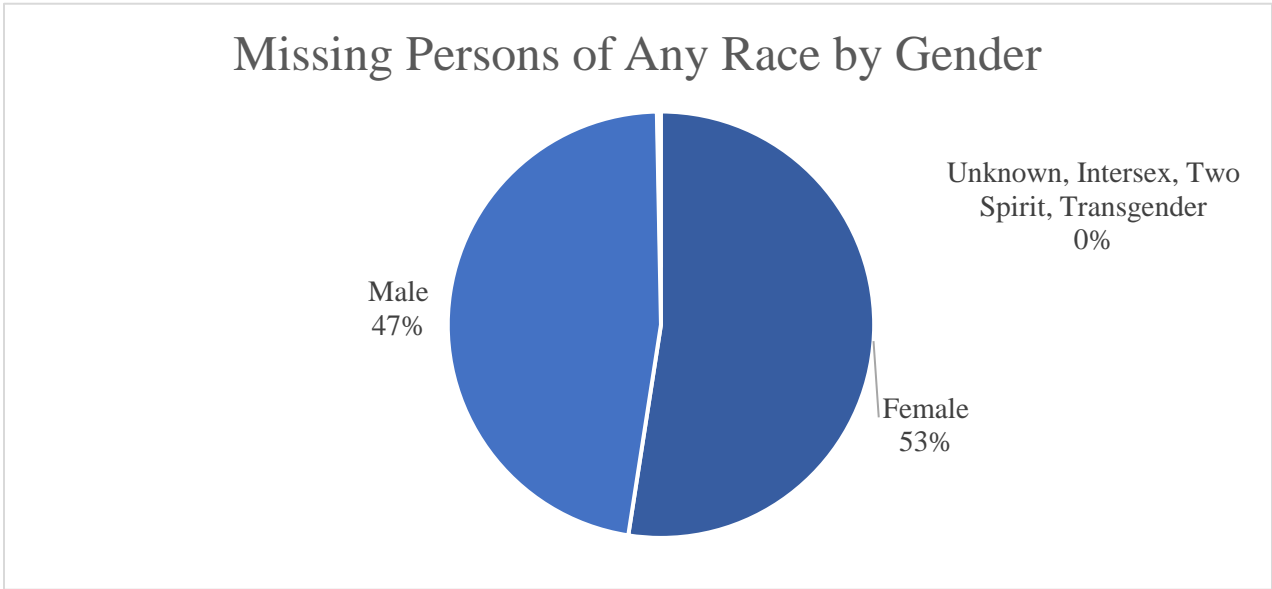
Graph #8 illustrates the number of located missing persons in 2023. As of May 31, 2024, 2,235 of the reported 2263 missing person reports have been resolved.

Graph #8

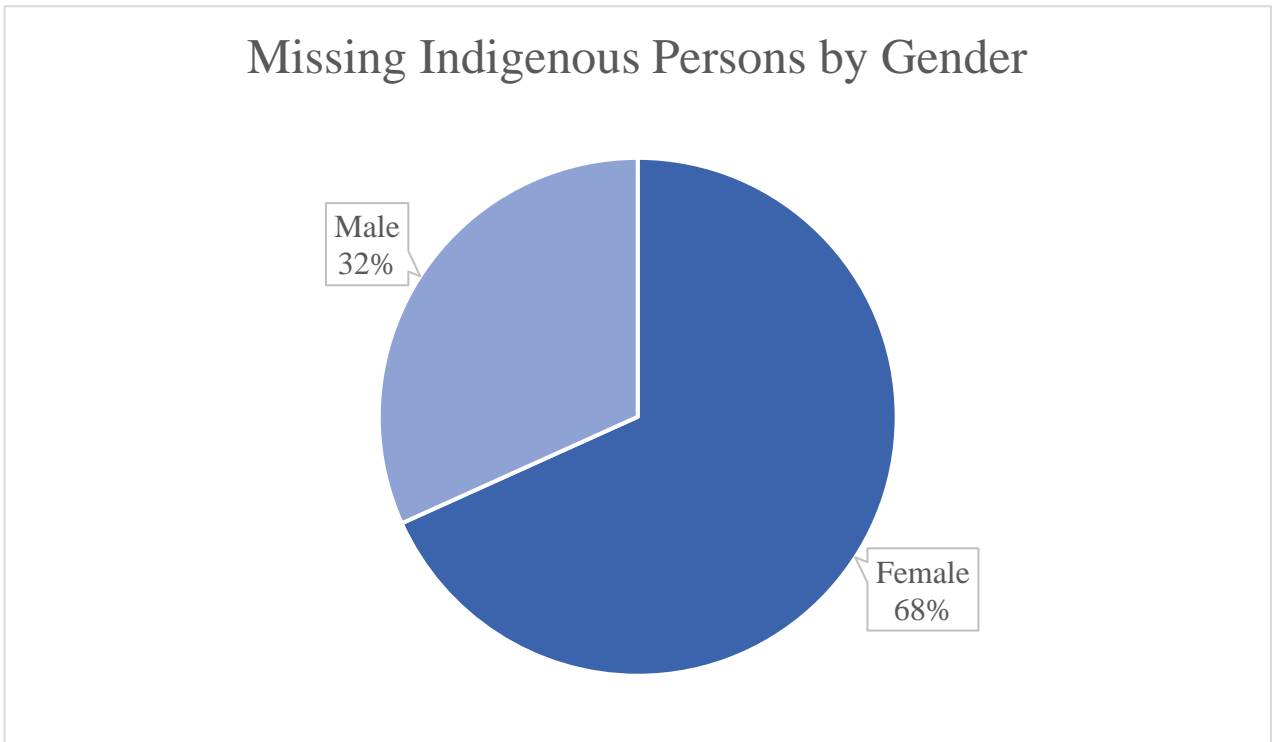


- Graphs #9 and #10 reflect missing persons by gender.
 - Graph #8 represents all missing persons
 - Graph #9 represents Indigenous missing persons by gender

Graph #9



Graph #10



MMIP Task Force Recommendations to the State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee

Task Force Meeting

Held in Great Falls, Montana, on June 19, 2024, the meeting hosted nominated members from tribal communities, and the selected advisory council for the Task Force. The members were officially appointed by the Attorney General (see Task Force Membership tab of this report). The agenda that followed went over current data, legislation, future planning, and other topics. See Appendix for agenda details.

In-Person Task Force Meeting Summary

During this meeting, Task Force membership met in person, for the first time since 2023. Attorney General Austin Knudsen officially appointed new members, including the appointment of the presiding officer, Alan Doane, and re-appointed previous members. Several presentations were given regarding Task Force structure and organization, state and federal legislation concerning MMIP issues, and search and rescue training roll out. These presentations recognized previous members, outlined duties and responsibilities of the Task Force, and set a foundation on which the Task Force can build.

During the meeting it was determined that each primary member of the Task Force is a voting member regarding issues requiring consensus. Alternate members get to vote on issues in the event the primary member cannot attend a meeting or cast a vote.

MMIP Task Force Recommendation

Per statute, one of the Task Force's responsibilities is to make recommendations to the State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee. The current Task Force passed one recommendation:

Recommendation #1: The Task Force seeks to adopt language in its guiding legislation (MCA 44-2-411), similar to House Bill 18 (2023), specifically, "money transferred from any lawful source, including but not limited to gifts, grants, donations, securities, and other assets, public or private, may be deposited in the account."

Rationale #1: The Task Force currently does not have a mechanism to raise funds, purchase equipment, or maintain operational costs. The Task Force would like to create an account and have the ability to accept and generate funds to help support the Task Force's mission and objectives. The language used in House Bill 18 (2023) reflects the type of funds, and use of said funds, generally anticipated by Task Force membership.

Missing Persons Response Team Training Grant Program

As detailed in MCA 44-2-416, a \$61,000 grant account was established by HB18 during the 2023 Legislative Session. The purpose of this grant is to help fund training opportunities for community-based search and rescue response teams. The funds are available to multiagency, multijurisdictional, community entities and volunteers. This bill, and the subsequent grant funds were initiated directly from Task Force recommendations, and tribal communities' desire to improve emergency response regarding missing persons.

In April of 2024, the planning process began to initiate search and rescue teams response training. The training is a Basic Search and Rescue Response course and covers such topics as SAR management, and the role of Incident Command System (ICS) in search and rescue operations. The training further highlights basic survival skills for SAR responders, Lost Person Behavior Strategies and Search Theory, search tactics, land navigation and other related topics. The course itself is a product of Emergency Response International (ERI), an organization that primarily serves people living and working outdoors, professionals who face unexpected exposure to extreme environments, or those charged with responding to outdoor emergencies and Search and Rescue incidents. (Emergency Response International 2023)

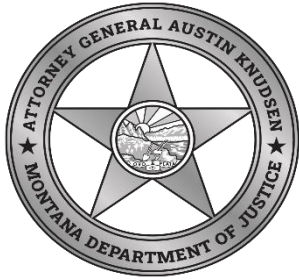
The first application of the grant fund award is projected for September of 2024. This training will be hosted in Great Falls and is designed to be the first of several iterations to come. The goal of this training is to establish a common foundation on which to build upon and improve community response to missing persons.

Moving Forward

Now that the MMIP Task Force has been reinvigorated and membership is solidified, the Task Force can continue their important work. A Task Force calendar is being drafted so meetings can commence on a regular basis. Search and Rescue Teams Training is being developed and roll out is expected in the Fall of 2024. The Task Force, led by the Presiding Officer, guided by the Advisory council, and facilitated by the coordination staff, can set to work to help address the issue of Missing Indigenous Persons.

The Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force and Looping in Native Communities

Legislative Report to the State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee
was approved for release by the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force
June 30, 2023



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Appendix

Appendix A: Task Force Meeting Agenda

MMIP Task Force Meeting Agenda



Great Falls High School
1900 2nd Ave South
Great Falls, Montana 59405
Wednesday, June 19, 2024

9:00 - 9:15 Opening Prayer

Dugan & Selena Colburn

9:15 - 10:00 Introductions and Appointments

Attorney General/Designee
Presiding Officer
MMIP Task Force
Advisory Council

10:00 - 10:20 Break

10:20 - 11:00 Current State of Affairs

Decorum (Robert's Rules of Order) - Doane
Mission Statement, Vision and Goals - Kambic
Data - Brian Frost/Kelly Gilman

11:00-11:30 State Legislation

State Legislation Overview - Kambic
Discussion About State Legislation - All

11:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00 -2:00 Federal Legislation

Federal Legislation Overview - Amanda Myers
Discussion About Federal Legislation - All

2:00 - 2:20 Break

2:20 - 3:30 Moving Forward

Search and Rescue Teams Training - Kambic
MOUs - All
Community Engagement/Action Planning - All

3:30 - 4:00 Public Comment

4:00 - 4:30 Wrap up

Remaining discussion Topics - All
Thoughts on next meeting - All

4:30 Adjourn