



Nick Brown
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Policy Division
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
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June 29, 2026

Dear Legislators:

In the 2025-2027 Operating Budget,¹ the Legislature directed the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) Task Force to develop and submit two supplemental reports:

1. “[Develop] best practices for law enforcement agencies, county coroners, and medical examiners on collecting Indigenous demographic data. The Task Force shall submit a report including findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by June 30, 2026.”
2. “The Task Force shall conduct a feasibility study to determine the potential impact and effectiveness of a commission focused on missing and murdered Indigenous women and people. The feasibility study shall be submitted to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by June 30, 2026.”

Both reports, including supplemental materials, are attached here for your review and consideration. If you have any questions about the information provided in these documents, please reach out to Legislative Director Adam Eitmann at Adam.Eitmann@atg.wa.gov, Policy Director Enoka Herat at Enoka.Herat@atg.wa.gov, or Deputy Policy Director Ellen Austin Hall at Ellen.AustinHall@atg.wa.gov. To learn more about the MMIWP Task Force, including past interim and research reports, please visit: <https://www.atg.wa.gov/washington-state-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-and-people-task-force>.

The Task Force and the AGO are grateful for the Legislature’s continued support of our work toward justice for Tribes and Tribal communities.

Sincerely,

Enoka Herat
Policy Director

Ellen Austin Hall
Deputy Policy Director

¹ Ch. 424, Laws of 2025, Sec. 916(3), <https://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5167-S.SL.pdf>.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Washington State Legislature
Governor's Office

FROM: Policy Division, Attorney General's Office

SUBJECT: **Best Practices for Law Enforcement Agencies, County Coroners, and Medical Examiners on Collecting Indigenous Demographic Data**

Over the past five years, the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) Task Force, administered by the Attorney General's Office (AGO) has heard from community members and partners, that systemic racial misclassification of Indigenous people is a significant barrier to understanding the full extent of the MMIWP crisis and adequately addressing the crisis. Far too frequently, Indigenous people are omitted from data entirely, and thus invisible to systems utilizing the data. Without accurate demographic data collection in our systems and institutions to reflect the identities of Indigenous people, this systemic injustice will continue.

The AGO was directed to “[develop] best practices for law enforcement agencies, county coroners, and medical examiners on collecting Indigenous demographic data.” Before going further, it is important to emphasize that law enforcement agencies, county coroners and medical examiners, should look to, and proactively seek, guidance from local Tribes and Native-led organizations about how best to collect demographic data involving Indigenous community members. Native-led organizations, such as the Urban Indian Health Institute, have developed guidance for collecting Indigenous demographic data, including Tribal affiliation (see Appendix 1).¹ Their guidance should be prioritized over that from other state, federal, or local agencies. It is also critical to remember that each Tribe has different customs, practices, and preferences, and there is not a single solution to this complex problem.

The best practices and information that follows is consistent with guidance developed by Indigenous-led organizations and shared in Task Force and subcommittee meetings by Indigenous community members. There is a great deal of sensitivity around collecting and retaining Indigenous demographic data and other data about Tribal members, and agencies

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seeking to do this work appropriately, authentically, and respectfully should seek to understand and develop agency data collection policies that are responsive to those sensitivities.

Recommended Best Practices for Collecting and Managing Indigenous Demographic Data

1. Ask an individual how they identify. If that is not possible (for example, if the person is missing and a loved one is submitting a missing person report), ask family members or next of kin. Individuals who shared their experiences with the Task Force frequently note that they or their loved ones were not asked, and if their racial identity was recorded at all, they were not asked to verify their race. Asking directly provides far greater accuracy than relying on visual assumptions.
2. Provide fields to collect racial data that allows selection of multiple specific options that can be disaggregated in data analysis and reporting. Even an option of “two or more,” or something similar, is insufficient. Allowing individuals to choose between specific options ensures that they are represented in the data for all their racial identities.
3. In addition to the practices above, include a separate field to collect Tribal affiliation data. Include protections to ensure that this data cannot be shared without the Tribe’s permission to honor Tribal Sovereignty.
4. All agencies collecting demographic information should have a process allowing individuals or family members to update the racial classification and other important information. In some cases, it will not be possible to verify the information when it is entered, but the agency should have a mechanism to correct data when they receive additional information. If changes are needed, individuals and families should not be charged for obtaining updated documents with corrected information.

Importance of Accurate Demographic Data

Historically, many missing or murdered Indigenous people were not identified as Indigenous in law enforcement or coroner records, resulting in their invisibility in “official” records. This leads to an inaccurate picture of the extent of the MMIWP crisis. In historic and current data, Indigenous people have higher rates of racial misclassification than other racial groups, frequently identified as white, another race, or both. MMIWP Task Force interim reports repeatedly expressed the concern that while data already show that Indigenous people are disproportionately represented in the number of people missing or murdered in Washington, due to racial misclassification, this is likely an undercount, and the disproportionality is likely even more significant.

The MMIWP crisis in Washington has been happening for generations. In 1855, the rape and murder of a Yakama woman, her teenage daughter and young baby became the first official recorded instance of an MMIW case.² The lack of accurate demographic data capturing the full disproportionality in rates of Indigenous missing and murdered people allowed the crisis to perpetuate, because it was invisible to systems of power.

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Underreporting is particularly problematic because resources and funding are allocated and issues are prioritized, based on data collected and held by government agencies. Historically, since the founding of the United States, government policy sought to harm Tribes and Tribal people, including eliminating Tribal cultures and languages. Eliminating Indigenous people in data is another way of reducing resources available to Tribes and perpetuating this historic harm. While this practice may have been intentional in the past, even current data collection practices inadvertently limit Indigenous visibility. For example, when only one race can be selected on a form, people with multiple racial identities are forced to identify as only one race, which causes data sources to incorrectly portray information. When racial identities are not captured accurately or at all in this data, groups who have disproportionate needs are not served and needs remain unaddressed.

Honoring Data Sovereignty to Protect Against Extractive Data Use

Tribes are sovereign governments and must be treated as such. Agencies and jurisdictions should have a Tribal Consent and Consultation Policy and adhere to the policy to obtain free, prior, and informed consent on matters impacting Tribes, including data related to Tribal members. For agencies covering urban areas, other practices may be necessary. In urban areas, where members and descendants of many different Tribes and regions reside and formal government-to-government consultation is not possible, agencies can utilize an urban meet and confer.³ A meet and confer is a forum for agencies to engage with urban Indian organizations when considering the direct impact of policies and programs on Indigenous people. This process of transparency and obtaining consent is an important part of honoring Tribal data sovereignty.

Government policy has frequently been predatory and extractive to Tribes and Indigenous people, and as a result, many Native people do not trust government. It is important to note that Tribal members are wary that data held by government can also be used against them. When data about Native people is collected or retained, there should be a clear purpose for collecting or holding the data, and the purpose should benefit the Indigenous people included in the data collection. Information that will serve only extractive purposes should not be collected or retained. Engaging with Tribes or in a meet and confer about data collection and retention practices can help ensure that Tribal data sovereignty is respected and honored.

Indigenous Demographic Identity is expressed as Race, Ethnicity, and Political Status

Another complication worth noting is that Indigeneity and Tribal demographic identity is considered in different contexts as a person's race, ethnicity, and/or political status. While ethnicity relates to the shared heritage tied to Tribal members, governments at all levels classify Indigeneity in the frame of racial identity. However, Tribal members, occupy a unique political status, rooted in sovereignty, treaty rights, and self-determination. Race is a social construct often used to identify groups as separate from one another. Historically, race has been used to justify disparate treatment and outcomes, nearly always harming marginalized racial groups.

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While valuable in other contexts, in relation to Tribes, race obscures the realities of settler colonialism. Tribes are sovereign nations with distinct governing structures and legal rights. Their identity is shaped by treaties, historical agreements, and cultural heritage, which sets them apart from conventional race categories. As such, Tribal members are a distinct political class. Recognizing this prevents reinforcing the very narratives and power structures that contributed to settler colonial violence. In collecting Tribal demographic data, allowing for Tribal affiliation is another step in honoring Tribal sovereignty.

Appended to this report are:

1. Guidance on demographic data collection best practices developed and provided by the Urban Indian Health Institute; and
2. Information compiled by the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center, in support of the MMIWP Task Force, describing the demographic data collection practices of 17 state and national databases used by law enforcement, service providers, and others involved in responding to and addressing the MMIWP crisis.

¹ “Best Practices for American Indian and Alaska Native Data Collection,” Urban Indian Health Institute, <https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Best-Practices-for-American-Indian-and-Alaska-Native-Data-Collection.pdf> (last accessed June 23, 2026); “Best Practices for American Indian and Alaska Native Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting” Pocket Guide, Urban Indian Health Institute, <https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Best-Practices-PocketGuide-HalfLetter-080525-3.pdf> (last accessed June 23, 2026); “Addressing Racial Misclassification: Ensuring the Inclusion of American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) Communities in Data,” Urban Indian Health Institute, <https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Addressing-Racial-Misclassification-1.pdf> (last accessed June 23, 2026).

² Washines, Emily. (2017). *Who Started the Yakama War?* Native Friends. <https://nativefriends.com/blogs/news/who-started-the-yakama-war> (last accessed June 23, 2026).

³ Urban Confer Frequently Asked Questions, Seattle Indian Health Board, https://www.sihb.org/wp-content/uploads/SIHB-Urban-Confer_FAQ_20240314.pdf (last accessed June 26, 2026).



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Washington State Legislature
Governor's Office

FROM: Policy Division, Attorney General's Office

SUBJECT: **Feasibility Study for MMIWP Commission, pursuant to ESSB 5167 (2025)**

In the 2025-2027 biennial operating budget, the Legislature requested “a feasibility study to determine the potential impact and effectiveness of a commission focused on missing and murdered Indigenous women and people.”¹ The Attorney General’s Office (AGO) is committed to centering the wisdom, intention, and innovation of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) Task Force. A commission could continue the Task Force’s important work to address the historic and ongoing MMIWP crisis. Below are two options for the Task Force and Legislature to consider. Note that these options are not recommendations by the Task Force, but recommendations from AGO staff.

There is a need for long-term State investment in MMIWP policy work

Native people face disproportionate rates of violence, including sexual violence – and have since first contact with European and American-born settlers. This disproportionate violence experienced by Indigenous people is the result of, among other things, specific and targeted federal, state, and local laws and policies. These policies sought elimination of Tribal people, governments, and cultures through forced relocation, and assimilation through forcibly removing children from families and communities and sending them to boarding schools where abuse was common and an unknown number of children died. The harm continues when Indigenous people are murdered or go missing, and the compounding effects of this historical trauma are deeply felt in Tribal communities.

While there are significant gaps in data and research on the violence experienced by Indigenous people, according to 2018 data, Indigenous women go missing at a rate four times that of white women in Washington State. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

¹ Ch. 424, Laws of 2025, Sec. 916(3), <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5167-S.SL.pdf>.

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(CDC) homicide is a leading cause of death for Indigenous women. Additionally, in some areas, the murder rate for Indigenous women is 10 times higher than the national average. In another study conducted by the CDC, homicide was the fifth leading cause of death for Indigenous men. The Task Force has made progress to improve responses to cases of missing or murdered Indigenous people, but much work remains to prevent the disproportionate violence experienced by Indigenous people.

What is a Commission?

Washington state has over 230 boards and commissions focused on a variety of topics, from community-specific commissions such as the African American Affairs Commission, to agricultural products such as the Potato Commission. While each commission is different, they tend to have similarities. They provide permanent or long-term structure, staffing resources, and focus on a particular topic, provide transparency, and allow Washingtonians to participate in government. Commissions typically engage in community outreach, development of public policy, advocate for change, and advise our state in best practices. They have a varying number of appointed, volunteer, unpaid Commissioners, who can be reimbursed for reasonable travel and other expenses incurred while participating. Commissioners are typically appointed by the Governor, their designee, or other state agencies. Commissions provide an ongoing structure for community participation.

While most commissions do not tend to have regulatory or rulemaking authority, the ability to investigate harms, or the authority to enforce state laws, some do. These commissions are relatively small state agencies with dozens of state employees who can draft regulations, conduct targeted investigations, take state actions such as revocation of licenses, and oversee settlements on behalf of the state. For example, the Washington State Human Rights Commission is authorized to investigate violations of, and to enforce the Washington Law Against Discrimination. Another example is the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC), which has the ability to train, certify, investigate, discipline, and decertify law enforcement officers. In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed a [law](#) detailing when an officer may be subject to discipline or decertification, and empowered the CJTC to enforce the law and review complaints against officers. The CJTC submitted a [fiscal note](#) of 13 staff at approximately \$5 million per biennium to advance this body of work. Given the State's current budget limitations, creating a commission with this kind of scope is likely unfeasible.

The AGO does not have any commissions under its authority. However, the Legislature assigned the AGO to *staff* Boards and Committees, such as the Clemency and Pardon Board and the Sunshine Committee, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Sunshine Committee makes recommendations to the Legislature to repeal or amend exemptions to the Public Records Act. While the AGO is statutorily required to support the Sunshine Committee, the Legislature has not provided any funding to do so. Ultimately, a few different AGO staff support the Sunshine Committee, prioritizing compliance with Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)

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obligations, in addition to their other duties, totaling less than 1 full time staff member. The AGO is funded for 2.5 staff to administer the Clemency Board. The AGO also administers several Task Forces established by the Legislature, including the MMIWP Task Force, the Artificial Intelligence Task Force, and the Domestic Extremism Mass Violence Task Force. These Task Forces are time-limited projects focusing on a particular issue and are tasked with convening key stakeholders, engaging in dialogue and discussion, and creating recommendations and reports to the Legislature to advance important public policies. The Legislature generally funds 1-2 staff to administer each Task Force.

Recommendation 1: State Commission, staffed by AGO

One possibility is a state commission, with a set number of commissioners, that advises the Legislature and state government on MMIWP issues. Additional Task Force guidance regarding such a commission's scope of duties and responsibilities would be helpful. This commission could stand as a permanent replacement for a MMIWP Task Force, playing an active role in listening to community concerns, as well as an advisory role to the Legislature and Governor by recommending policy, budget, and legislative proposals to address the MMIWP crisis.

Unlike the Task Force, which must be renewed in every biennial budget, a legislatively established commission would provide more permanence and stability. Staffing for commissions similarly tasked with an advising role, such as the Women's Commission or the African American Affairs Commission, are administered by 3-4 staff, which we would recommend for an MMIWP-focused commission for effectiveness. This staffing level would allow some staff to focus on creating a new commission, others to work on logistics, OPMA compliance, outreach, and coordination with Tribal members. Other staff could address the substantive policy and advocacy work to advance the Commission's goals. The Commission would require enacting legislation to define the scope of work, duties, and authority of the Commission, and funding for enough staff to ensure its effectiveness.

Recommendation 2: AGO Tribal Justice Policy Commission or Unit

Alternatively, the Legislature could extend the work of the MMIWP Task Force and the Truth and Healing Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) into a broader Tribal Justice Policy Commission or Unit within the AGO. The Tribal Policy team, within the Policy Division of the AGO, currently administers two budget provisos focused on pursuing justice for Tribes and Indigenous people: the MMIWP Task Force, established in 2021, and the TAC, established in 2023 to understand and address the harms and legacy of Indian boarding schools. The harms that each group addresses—preventing further tragedy and improving response to the MMIWP epidemic, and the historical trauma and systemic disproportionalities stemming from Indian Boarding Schools—are long-term problems that need dedicated resources to rectify. These groups have done important work, but there is much more work ahead to comprehensively address the Legislature's directives and to address these complex issues with meaningful Tribal engagement

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and consultation. Because of the current temporary nature of these programs, efforts have been limited. For example, prior budget provisos supported six listening sessions with Tribes on Boarding Schools, but the issue impacted all 29 Tribes in Washington, and all Tribes should have an opportunity to host listening sessions, including follow up listening sessions with Tribes who have already completed one.

A more formal Tribal Justice Policy Commission would continue the AGO's ongoing work to seek justice and accountability for Tribes and Indigenous communities. Both advisory bodies (the Task Force and TAC) seek feedback from community members with lived experience to understand how the State can begin to address the harms of generations of anti-Tribal and anti-Indigenous public policies, develop recommendations for public policy changes to the Legislature, and provide public education resources to prosecutors, law enforcement, medical examiners, archivists, service providers, and others.

The MMIWP Task Force and AGO staff, with other stakeholders, successfully advocated for creation of the [Missing Indigenous Person Alert](#), the [MMIWP Cold Case Unit](#) within the AGO's Criminal Division, the [Missing Indigenous Persons Toolkit](#), the [Tribal Warrants Act](#), and significant research that will be the foundation for additional policy recommendations.

In 2023, the TAC identified six initial Tribal communities to engage in boarding school research and listening sessions. The AGO and TAC hope to extend this work to include all 29 federally recognized Tribes within the borders of Washington State if they choose to participate. We recognize that much work remains to establish a full and transparent record of the complex history of Indian boarding schools in Washington State, and a permanent body within the AGO would ensure such a project is done comprehensively.

A Tribal Justice Policy Commission or Unit could ensure the State's long-term commitment to addressing these deep-rooted traumas. This Commission would require continued funding by the Legislature for at least three staff to ensure its stability and effectiveness.

Best Practices for American Indian and Alaska Native Data Collection

Current standard data collection practices by many federal, state, and local entities effectively omit or misclassify American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations, both urban and rural.

This is particularly concerning in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic as these current standards of practice are resulting in a gross undercount of the impact COVID-19 has on Native people. Two major problems that are seen in data collection for Native populations include multiple descriptions of Native people found in data sources between federal, state, and local public entities and methodologies for collection, analysis, and presentation of data are inconsistent in available datasets.

To address these incomplete, inaccurate, and unreliable standard data collection and analysis practices, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI), a Tribal Epidemiology Center, has created best practices for methods to collect, analyze, and present data on AI/AN populations. The following data collection best practices recommendations are grounded in and stem from Indigenous values and practices.



Recommendations

General Data Collection

Best Practices for Advocacy and Decision Making for Tribal Leadership, Policy Makers, Urban Indian Organizations, and Community Members

Mandate collection of race and ethnicity in health data that utilizes local, state, federal, and territorial funds. Include enforcement mechanisms for non-collection of this data. Provide best practices, training, and technical assistance for mandated agencies.

In data collection, AI/AN should always be defined as AI/AN alone; and, if the AI/AN individual identifies as another race, include the individuals who are AI/AN in any combination with any other race and include those who identify as Latinx/Hispanic. In the event the definition cannot be as inclusive as stated above, the next less inclusive definition should be used, i.e. AI/AN alone.

Data tools used for collection of race and ethnicity should allow for selection of multiple races with the ability to disaggregate the data once collected. Data collection tools that do not allow for disaggregation are not recommended as they will effectively eliminate AI/AN in the data. AI/AN are one of the largest growing multi-racial groups in the United States, and data collection should reflect this diversity.¹

Collect tribal affiliation. If using electronic data collections tools, this should be an inclusive list of all federal- and state-recognized tribes with a write-in option for First Nations or other tribal affiliation not listed. If using paper, ensure there is a space allocated to write in tribal affiliation.

- UIHI recommends using “tribal affiliation” in contrast to “tribal citizenship,” as only tribes determine and define tribal citizenship. Federal, state, and local entities do not have the ability to verify tribal citizenship. Use of tribal affiliation allows for the collection of what tribe(s) an individual identifies with, without impeding on tribal sovereignty.
 - Caution should be taken when releasing data on tribal affiliation publicly. UIHI recommends working with local tribes and Native organizations in the region to obtain recommendations on when and how the data should be shared.
-

Do not release tribally specific data without a Data Use Agreement from the tribe that grants such a release.

- For example, if a tribe reports the number of COVID-19 infections to the state, the state cannot release that tribe’s data in a way that identifies the tribe without their permission. The release of this data without permission is a direct violation of the tribe’s sovereignty, which grants them authority to govern any release of this data. When a Data Use Agreement is executed between government agencies and tribes regarding use of this data, it protects both the tribe and the government agency and should be standard practice for all data shared between tribes and government agencies.

National Electronic Disease Surveillance System access should be granted to Tribal Epidemiology Centers who were established as Tribal Public Health Authorities under the 2010 Affordable Health Care Act. Tribal Epidemiology Centers have the unique ability to work with tribes and urban Indian populations and are governed by urban and rural Native leadership.

Aggregate data on AI/AN populations. Aggregate data across time that includes a longer time frame for the analysis builds larger samples, which assists in overcoming the challenge of small populations analysis.

- For example, analyze data over three or five years rather than a single year. Another consideration for aggregating data is to combine several adjacent counties into one group, or present data at the state level to reflect demographics and outcomes of AI/AN.
-

Use weighted sampling for AI/AN populations.

- Weighted sampling is the practice that allows for the population that is being analyzed to accurately reflect how it's proportion in the total population is being represented from which it is being abstracted from. This gives increased strength to small populations.
-

Limit stratification in analysis to restrict reduction of sample size. Increased breakdowns often reduce sample sizes to very small numbers.

Avoid reporting data collected and findings from analysis as 'multi-racial' and 'other' when possible.

Link data sets to correct for racial misclassification.

Racial misclassification is when an individual is classified as a different race than they identify with. This often occurs when the data collector makes assumptions based on stereotypical physical appearance instead of asking the individual what their race is. In some instances, racial misclassification occurs when an individual's race is not collected and the data system defaults to "white."

- Data linkages aim to identify two records in two data sets that represent the same person.² For example, a data linkage between a cancer registry and an IHS patient registration looks for records in the two files that are for the same person. Because the IHS patient registration file includes tribal members only, any individual in the cancer registry who is also in the IHS file is assumed to self-identify as AI/AN. Thus, the record in the cancer registry is corrected to reflect the correct race of the individual who is misclassified as another race.
-

Oversample the AI/AN population.

- Oversampling is an intentional sampling process, designed to incorporate more (typically low prevalence) members of a certain community (AI/AN population) into your sample and to adjust population distribution of the dataset.
-

Conduct mixed-methods research (quantitative and qualitative).

- Mixed-methods research includes storytelling, focus groups, and key informant interviews. Often, epidemiologists have findings that are not statistically significant, but that does not mean the data is not important or indicative of change or disparity, especially when working with a small population. In such cases, supplementing qualitative data can support initial results despite quantitative results showing insignificance.

Report limitations of data collection and analysis.

- It is important to list, explain, and discuss limitations so those considerations can be accounted for in evaluating the results and outcomes but also so that future endeavors may seek to address and improve upon these limitations.

Report strength-based and positive outcomes that focus on effective results illustrating the strength and resiliency of Indigenous people.

Surveillance Data Collection

Best Practices for Public Health Jurisdictions

Surveillance data flows from the local level through reports of diseases, conditions, and outbreaks to the state, local (New York City and District of Columbia), or territory and then to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the Nationally Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS). COVID-19 is a Nationally Notifiable Condition to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NNDSS follows the 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards of reporting race in one of five categories, permitting the reporting of more than one race, and race being based on self-identification.

Data Collection

Often, current data collection standards do not provide inclusive categories in data collection tools that properly capture AI/AN. This results in the erasure of the AI/AN populations and limits the ability to understand the health and well-being of the community.

Collection of race and ethnicity. Reporting forms at the local, state, and territorial level must include reporting on race and ethnicity, must include AI/AN as

one of the racial categories, and must allow the reporting of multiple races. AI/AN should always be defined as, AI/AN alone, and, if the AI/AN individual identifies as another race, include the individuals who are AI/AN in any combination with any other race, and include those who identify as Latinx/Hispanic. In the event the definition cannot be as inclusive as stated above, the next less inclusive definition should be used, i.e. AI/AN alone.

Collect tribal affiliation. If using electronic data collection tools, this should be an inclusive list of all federal- and state-recognized tribes with a write-in option for First Nations or other tribal affiliations not listed. If using paper, ensure there is a space allocated to write in tribal affiliation.

Public health personnel at the local level (or state or territorial level if case investigation is done at that level) need to receive training on asking people under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 about their race and ethnicity—to enable PUI to report more than one race if that is how the person self-identifies—and to record these responses correctly on case reporting forms. They should be able to explain in a culturally attuned way to the PUI why this information is being collected and how it will be used. They should be trained to obtain this information on first contact with the PUI and, if not obtained on first contact, to ask when further contact is made. If the PUI is not able to respond because of illness or disability, public health personnel should receive training on how to illicit this information from family, friends, or those who could provide race information in a manner that would be most acceptable to the PUI.

Regular feedback should be provided to public health personnel at the local, state, and territorial level about missing race data along with a plan for quality improvement as problems are noted.

States and territories need to report race/ethnicity information to the CDC. NNDSS provides National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) standards to support the transmission of 1997 OMB standards of race/ethnicity data to the CDC by states, territories, and tribal health departments.

NNDSS access should be granted to Tribal Epidemiology Centers who were established as Tribal Public Health Authorities under the 2010 Affordable Health Care Act. Tribal Epidemiology Centers have the unique ability to work with tribes and urban Indian populations and are governed by urban and rural Native leadership.

Data Analysis

AI/AN are frequently not analyzed or are placed in a category with other smaller racial groups and analyzed as “other”. The declaration of a small population or not statistically significant stems from the practices of incorrectly identifying and defining AI/AN and misclassifying them as “other” races or ethnicities. Without further breakdown, disaggregation, and enumeration of the different racial combinations that Native people self-identify with, AI/AN are erased, omitted, and/or suppressed from reports.

Numerator: Include people who are AI/AN alone and, if multi-race, include people who are AI/AN in any combination with other races. Include all ethnicities.

Denominator: Counts of AI/AN alone or in any combination can be obtained from data.census.gov using the American Community Survey. Data are available down to the county level in the United States. Data are available by gender and age down to the state/territory level. Additional data on AI/AN alone or in any combination with other races may be obtained from state, territorial, and tribal population forecasting organizations.

Counts: If the numbers of AI/AN with COVID-19 are too small to protect privacy, consider aggregating the data of several adjacent counties or presenting data at the state level. Take into consideration how surveillance data for other conditions with small numbers is presented and discussed, and aggregate data across time that includes a longer time frame for the analysis. For example, analyze data over three or five years rather than a single year.

Defined settings: If a significant proportion of cases are due to outbreaks in people who live in defined settings (long-term care facilities, jails and prisons, homeless shelters, etc.), consideration should be given to analyzing these cases separately from cases assumed to have been exposed elsewhere in the community. This serves two purposes: 1) it can highlight which defined settings pose a specific morbidity risk to AI/AN and 2) if a defined setting makes up a substantial proportion of deaths in a county or state, including those deaths in the analysis of the community can hide the true mortality burden. As an example of the second case, if there were many deaths in long-term care facilities serving primarily older, non-Hispanic White people, including these in the population under analysis may mask that mortality outside of those facilities is disproportionately among AI/AN.



COVID-19 Mortality Data in Native Populations

Best Practices for Medical Examiners, Coroners, and Funeral Homes

Unlike surveillance data where the best practice is to ask, if possible, the PUI for COVID-19 which racial and ethnic groups they self-identify as, this is not possible with the loved one who has passed away. In most instances where someone dies, the funeral home is responsible for working with the decedent's next of kin or informant to fill out the demographic portion of the death certificate, including how the decedent would have described their race and/or ethnicity. In some instances, the medical examiner or coroner may be responsible for obtaining this information from the decedent's next of kin or informant. Numerous studies have demonstrated that a high proportion of AI/AN people who die are misclassified as white on their death certificates.^{3,4}

Data Collection

Due to subjective observation by the funeral home, medical examiner, or coroner, Native people are born AI/AN and die classified as white. In addition, if the next of kin is asked, funeral homes, medical examiners, and coroners may not properly offer multi-race options.

Funeral homes, medical examiners, and coroners must ask the next of kin or informant how the decedent would have described their race/ethnicity and tribal affiliation and should abstain from placing information on the death certificate based on subjective observation.

AI/AN should always be defined as AI/AN alone, and, if the AI/AN individual identifies as another race, include the individuals who are AI/AN in combination with other race, and include those who identify as Latinx/Hispanic. In the event the definition

cannot be as inclusive as stated above, the next less inclusive definition should be used, i.e. AI/AN alone.

Regular feedback should be provided to funeral homes, medical examiners, and coroners about unknown or refused race responses on the death certificates along with a plan for quality improvement when a problem is identified.

Provisions in state and territorial law should be made for the next of kin or informant to amend the death certificate after it is filed if the race/ethnicity information is incorrect or is unknown at the time the death certificate is filed.

Data Analysis

Since 2018, all state and territorial death certificates comply with 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards of reporting race in one of five categories, permitting the reporting of more than one race, and race being based on self-identification.

Numerator: Include decedents who are AI/AN alone and, if multi-race, include decedents who are AI/AN in any combination of another race. Include all ethnicities. For guidance on how to use provisional death data to count deaths from COVID-19 see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvss/coronavirus/Alert-3-Final-COVID-19-Guidance-and-Provisional-Death-Counts.pdf>

Denominator: Counts of AI/AN alone or in any combination can be obtained from data.census.gov using the American Community Survey. Data are available down to the county level in the United States. Data are available by gender and age down to the state/territory level. Additional data on AI/AN alone or in any combination may be obtained from state, territorial, and tribal population forecasting organizations.

Small counts: Understand state, territorial, and tribal laws about the confidentiality of mortality data. In some areas, mortality data from death certificates is public data with no assumption of privacy. In other areas, there are laws regarding the release of data. If privacy is a concern and numbers of AI/AN with COVID-19 are too small to protect privacy, consider aggregating the data of several adjacent counties or presenting data at the state level. Take into consideration how mortality data for other conditions with small numbers is presented and discussed.

Defined settings: If a significant proportion of deaths are in people who live in defined settings (long-term care facilities, jails and prisons, homeless shelters, etc.), consideration should be given to analyzing these deaths separately from cases assumed to have died elsewhere in the community. This serves two purposes: 1) it can highlight which defined settings pose a specific mortality risk to AI/AN and 2) if a defined setting makes up a substantial proportion of deaths in a county or state, including those deaths in the analysis of the community can hide the true mortality burden. As an example of the second case, if there were many deaths in long-term care facilities serving primarily older, non-Hispanic White people, including these in the population under analysis may mask that mortality outside of those facilities is disproportionately among AI/AN.

It may be possible to check for racial misclassification using other data sources. Link data sets to correct for racial misclassification. Data linkages aim to identify two records in two data sets that represent the same person.² For example, a data linkage between a cancer registry and an IHS patient registration looks for records in the two files that are for the same person. Because the IHS patient registration file includes tribal members only, any individual in the cancer registry who is also in the IHS file is assumed to self-identify as AI/AN. Thus, the record in the cancer registry is corrected to reflect the correct race of the individual who is misclassified as another race.

The Urban Indian Health Institute recommendations are grounded in the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty

In order to conduct Indigenous epidemiology, we must honor and uphold tribes' inherent right to govern their peoples, lands, resources, and data. We use these practices and elements to assess and evaluate AI/AN populations to provide accurate and meaningful data that is relevant and reflects the unique cultures, traditions, and health needs of urban and rural Native communities. To address the impact of COVID-19 in Native communities, we must use a model of Indigenous health equity,⁵ which demands collaboration with Native communities and tribal leadership for meaningful data collection and analysis.

When undertaking any efforts toward improving data collection among AI/AN people, come to Indigenous people because we have the answers, not because you think we have the most problems. The answers to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in AI/AN communities are carried in our stories, our practices of honoring elders, and generational practice of ensuring a great future for the next generations.

Data for Indigenous people, by Indigenous people.

References

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Best Practices for American Indian/Alaska (AI/AN) Native Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting

Data Practices

Current data practices omit or misclassify AI/AN populations, both urban and rural.

- Multiple definitions of AI/AN people are found in different data sources.
- Methods for data collection, analysis, and reporting are inconsistent in data sources.

Areas to Improve AI/AN Data

To address these inaccurate data practices, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) has created best practices to collect, analyze, and report data on AI/AN populations. The following recommendations are grounded in and stem from Indigenous values and practices.

If you have any questions about trainings offered by UIHI, requests for data, or need additional assistance or resources, please email us at info@uihi.org

Data Collection

- AI/AN defined alone; and include individuals who are **AI/AN alone or in combination with any other race(s)**, including those who identify as Latinx/Hispanic.
- **Collect tribal affiliation.** This should be an inclusive list of all federal and state-recognized tribes and with a write in option.

1. Race (select all that apply)

- ☒ American Indian/Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☒ Black or African American
- ☒ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ White



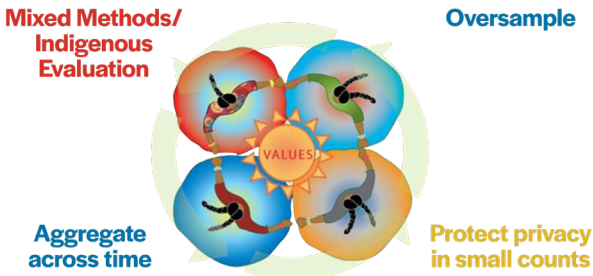
Urban Indian Health Institute

A division of Seattle Indian Health Board | uihi.org |
611 12th Ave S, Seattle WA 98144 | (206) 812-3030

Data Analysis

Mixed methods analysis/Indigenous Evaluation:

- Resilient and strength-based language
- Centering the Community
- Community is Created Wherever Native People Are
- Decolonizing Data



Data Reporting

- Report **strength-based and positive results** that focus on effective results that illustrate the strength and resiliency of Indigenous people.
- Report limitations of data collection and analysis.

Solutions and Implications

In order to conduct Indigenous research, we must honor and uphold tribes' inherent right to govern their peoples, lands, resources, and data.

The **answers** to preventing health disparities in AI/AN communities are carried in **our stories, our practices of honoring Elders, and our generational practice of ensuring a great future for the next generation.**

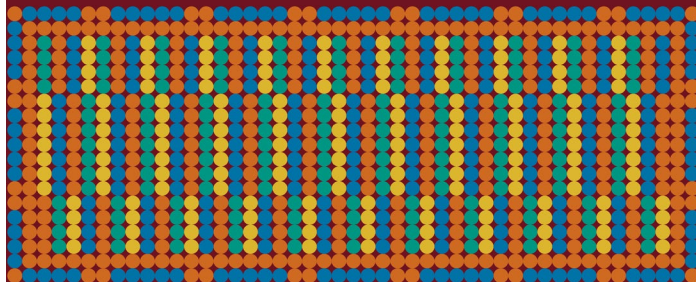


Scan QR code for full
recommendations



Addressing Racial Misclassification

Ensuring the Inclusion of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Communities in Data



Recommendations in Collecting Race

In data collection and analysis, there are several stages where AI/AN community members often get left behind.

The first stage where this can occur is in the initial collection of race information. To avoid this, UIHI recommends maintaining certain standards in race collection that support the inclusion of AI/ANs in data collection:

- Always ask the patient how they identify, never make assumptions.¹
- If patients identify as more than one race, list all, and disaggregate it when doing reporting on race/ethnicity (Ibid.).
- If a provider, avoid options such as “two or more” in the collection of race data. This often leads to racial misclassification of AI/AN people and makes disaggregating data difficult (Ibid.).

Addressing Racial Misclassification by Sharing Data

In order to properly serve AI/AN populations, all data must be collected and analyzed in a way that is culturally relevant to the community. Misclassification of race/ethnicity is a leading factor in the underrepresentation of Native people in public health surveillance systems and reports. Limited data can prevent the understanding of the true health disparity among AI/ANs and other populations. Two ways that this can be addressed are through data use agreements and data linkages. Through these processes, public health professionals can prevent racial misclassification and advocate for a more inclusive collection of data. UIHI has created a useful go-to guide in understanding and utilizing data use agreements and data linkages for Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs). (see right).

Data Use Agreements and Data Linkages

A data use agreement, or a DUA, covered under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, allows certain personnel from the interested organization access to specified data sets from the requested organization within the agreement. These contracts are also sometimes referred to as data-sharing agreements, or DSAs.

Data use agreements are one of two possible first steps in addressing racial misclassification in data collection. Often, AI/ANs are incorrectly reported as white or another race in public health surveillance systems. A 2007 study found that **55% of AI/ANs who had HIV were racially misidentified** in the California HIV/AIDS Reporting System.² These disparities limit the resources made available to tribal and urban Indian communities and further underrepresent AI/ANs within surveillance systems. With data sharing, racial misclassification can be limited, and communities can become better represented. These agreements are usually negotiated with state or local health jurisdictions.

If any UIOs are interested in DUAs and would like to initiate the process but are unsure where to start, UIHI can provide technical assistance. It can be a critical step to representing AI/AN people, and it is UIHI's priority to ensure that all programs have the resources to help assess and respond to disparities.

Data linkage is a process where two sets of data relating to the same individual or population are examined together, providing a more accurate picture of what that data represents. Once a DUA is established and an organization is granted access to a data set, the data linkage process can be initiated. The comparison of these two data sets makes it easier to identify inconsistencies that might indicate racial misclassification.

Combing data sets can be tricky, and health departments don't always fix racial misclassification. To combat this, we recommend that when establishing a DUA between a UIO and the requested organization, if requested UIHI can be included in the agreement as well. We understand that organizations don't always have the time or resources to analyze lengthy sets of data. This is where UIHI can help.

UIHI utilizes a process that can identify cases of racial misclassification in the system. Data linkage allows us to analyze and identify cases of misclassification that would otherwise go undetected. With this information, we can ensure that all analyses, factsheets, and reports represent a more accurate portrayal of the AI/AN community.

References

1. Urban Indian Health Institute. *Best Practices for American Indian and Alaska Native Data Collection.*; 2020.
2. Bertolli J, Lee LM, Sullivan PS. Racial Misidentification of American Indians/Alaska Natives in the HIV/AIDS Reporting Systems of Five States and One Urban Health Jurisdiction, U.S., 1984–2002. *Public Health Rep.* 2007;122(3):382-392.

Name	Acronym	Data Owner	Description	Audience	Link	Tribal Data Collection	Tribal Data Collection Details	Meets OMB Standards for Race/Ethnicity Categorization	Race	Select More Than one Race	Race Categories	How Determined
National Violent Death Reporting System	NVDRS	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	NVDRS is a state-based anonymous surveillance system which covers all types of violent death (including homicides and suicides). It collects information about the who, what, where, and how of violent deaths to provide insight on why they occurred to inform prevention efforts.	The audience for NVDRS includes law enforcement agenices, researchers, policy makers, and public health officials.	https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nvdrs/index.html	No	The database contains information about all violent deaths. However, there are no specific variables in the dataset to specify that the death occurred on tribal land. It is possible to overlay injury location data with tribal lands data, but this may be difficult to do for smaller tribal lands or tribal lands that encompass portions of multiple zip codes.	Yes	Yes	Yes	• American Indian or Alaska Native • Asian • Black of African American • Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander • White	Race is determined by death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, and/or law enforcement reports.
National Incident-Based Reporting System	NIBRS	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	Captures details about individual incidents (and separate offenses within the same incident) including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes.	The audience for NIBRS includes law enforcement agencies, researchers and analysts, and policymakers.	https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr/nibrs	Limited	There is not stand-alone data field to collect tribal data. The NIBRS codebook indicates law enforcement agencies may report the location of a crime to be tribal lands. However, law enforcement officers are encouraged to choose the most precise location for reporting, meaning if a crime happened at a park on tribal lands, it is up the reporting officer whether they enter the location as the park or as tribal lands. Tribal agencies may input their data into the NIBRS system.	Yes	Yes	Not specified	• American Indian or Alaska Native • Asian • Black or African American • Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander • White • Unknown	Descriptions for each racial category are provided in the codebook. How law enforcement office decide which description best fits a person is not specified.

Name	Acronym	Data Owner	Description	Audience	Link	Tribal Data Collection	Tribal Data Collection Details	Meets OMB Standards for Race/Ethnicity Categorization	Race	Select More Than one Race	Race Categories	How Determined
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System	NamUs	Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP)	NamUs serves as a nationwide centralized database and support hub for cases involving missing individuals, unidentified bodies, and unclaimed persons throughout the United States. Its primary goal is to aid investigators in linking long-term missing persons cases with unidentified remains, facilitating case resolutions, and offering closure to victims' families and loved ones.	The audience for NamUs includes law enforcement agencies, the general public, and the family members/loved ones of missing persons.	https://namus.nij.ojp.gov/	Yes	NamUs collects data describing tribal enrollment/affiliation, if a missing person is missing from tribal lands or if remains were found on tribal lands, if a missing person's residence is on tribal lands, and if the investigating agency is tribal law enforcement. Data describing tribal enrollment/affiliation is provided to NamUs by local, state, tribal, or federal law enforcement agencies, or it may be voluntarily reported by family members of missing individuals. Data fields for recording tribal enrollment and affiliation details were incorporated into NamUs in December 2018 without mandating investigating agencies to input this information retrospectively. Consequently, tribal data might still be absent from NamUs records for certain missing persons.	Yes Note: NamUs codebook was not found. Information in this document regarding the race, ethnicity, and sex of the missing person come from screenshots in the user guide for entering a missing person into the database, and the missing person dashboard tool.	Yes	Yes	• White/Caucasian • Black/African American • Hispanic/Latino • Asian • American Indian/Alaskan Native • Hawaiian/Pacific Islander • Other • Uncertain	Determined by the reporting party -- either local, state, federal, or tribal law enforcement, or by the victims' family members or loved ones.
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children	NCMEC	Private, non-profit organization (Grant funded in part by DOJ)	NCMEC is a private, non-profit organization that seeks to help find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization.	The audience for NCMEC includes law enforcement agencies, family membes of missing children, the general public, child-serving professionals, and policy makers.	https://www.missingkids.org/home	Yes	NCMEC provides a "Native American Children Reported Missing to NCMEC" report. This report is specific to AIAN children reported missing to NCMEC. The brief does identify both tribal affiliation and the specific reservation the AIAN child is reportedly missing from (when those data are reported to NCMEC). This report may be found here: https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/Native%20American%20Children_2009-2018.pdf It is unclear how tribal data is otherwise collected and reported by NCMEC.	Yes NCMEC codebook was not found. Information in this document regarding the race, ethnicity, and sex of the missing child come from the public-facing missing children poster search.	Yes	No	• American Indian/Native American • Asian • Black • Hispanic • Multiracial • Pacific Islander • White • Unknown	Determined by law enforcement agencies, child welfare agencies, and family members who report. NCMEC may also enter this information if they find it in a public records search.

Name	Acronym	Data Owner	Description	Audience	Link	Tribal Data Collection	Tribal Data Collection Details	Meets OMB Standards for Race/Ethnicity Categorization	Race	Select More Than one Race	Race Categories	How Determined
Incident Management Analysis Reporting System	IMARS	Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Law Enforcement and Security	IMARS is an incident management and reporting program aimed at preventing, detecting, and investigating criminal activity. It safeguards natural and cultural resources, integrates law enforcement data from various sources, evaluates program performance, meets reporting standards, interfaces with federal agencies and NIBRS, prioritizes protection efforts, and aids in managing visitor programs.	The audience for IMARS includes law enforcement agencies and federal agencies.	https://www.doi.gov/privacy/doi-10-incident-management-analysis-and-reporting-system	Yes	IMARS contains a wide range of personal information from law enforcement reports and records, including tribal identification numbers or other tribal enrollment data. Additionally, personally identifiable information collected by law enforcement agencies is shared with Tribes for investigation, apprehension, recordkeeping, and possible arrest/conviction for crimes committed in DOI's jurisdiction, sometimes including tribal lands.	Unable to determine.	Unable to determine.	Unable to determine.	Unable to determine.	Unable to determine.
National Crime Information Center, Missing Persons File	NCIC Missi	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	The NCIC's Missing Person File allows law enforcement agencies to input missing persons records into the system and quickly search for information on missing individuals.	The audience for the NCIC Missing Person File includes Federal, State, and local criminal justice agencies (e.g., law enforcement agencies, judicial bodies, correctional institutions, victim service providers).	https://le.fbi.gov/informational-tools/ncic	Limited	NCIC does not specifically collect tribal data as a primary function. Certain tribal information may be included in NCIC records if relevant to law enforcement activities, such as missing persons cases involving individuals from tribal communities. However, the collection and handling of tribal data varies depending on the policies and practices of individual law enforcement agencies and their interactions with tribal governments. The NCIC contains codes to describe individual Indian Nations.	No	Yes	Not specified in codebook.	• Asian • Black • American Indian • Unknown • White	Descriptions for each racial category are provided in the codebook. How law enforcement office decide which description best fits a person is not specified.
National Crime Victimization Survey	NCVS	Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)	The NCVS serves as the principal data source for criminal victimization in the United States, gathering annual data from approximately 240,000 individuals across 150,000 households selected to represent the nation. These interviews cover aspects such as the frequency, characteristics, and outcomes of criminal victimization experiences in the country.	The audience for the NCVS includes policymakers, law enforcement agencies, researchers, academics, advocacy groups, and the general public interested in understanding trends and patterns related to criminal victimization in the United States.	https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs	Limited	The NCVS collects data from households in tribal lands. However there is not sufficeint information to produce estimates of crime victimization in these areas, and no specific tribal variables (e.g., tribal affiliation, if crime occurred on tribal land) are found in the codebook.	No	Yes	No	• White • Black • American Indian/Alaska Native • Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander • More than one race	Race is self-reported in the NCVS.

Name	Acronym	Data Owner	Description	Audience	Link	Tribal Data Collection	Tribal Data Collection Details	Meets OMB Standards for Race/Ethnicity Categorization	Race	Select More Than one Race	Race Categories	How Determined
National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System	NCANDS	Department of Health & Human Services, Children's Bureau	NCANDS is a federally sponsored initiative established to gather and analyze data on child abuse and neglect cases reported to child protective services (CPS) agencies across the United States. NCANDS is a voluntary data collection system that gathers information from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico about reports of child abuse and neglect.	The audience for NCANDS data are the individual states and researchers interesting in conducting analyses.	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data-research/ncands	No	NCANDS codebook defines American Indian/Alaska Native individuals as those with a maintained tribal affiliation or community attachment. However, the codebook does not indicate any tribal-specific data collection fields.	Yes	Yes	Yes	• American Indian or Alaska Native • Asian • Black or African American • Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander • White • Unable to determine	Child identifies himself or herself as a member of the race, or the parent identifies the child as a member of the race. When neither child nor parent identifies the child's race, the race is unable to be determined.
Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System	AFCARS	Department of Health & Human Services, Children's Bureau	AFCARS is a federal data collection system that gathers information on children in foster care and those who have been adopted or are awaiting adoption. It provides insights into the demographics, placement history, and outcomes of children involved in the child welfare system across the United States. Data can be used by policymakers at the federal, tribal, and state levels to assess how many children are in foster care, reasons why they enter, how they exit, and to develop strategies to prevent their entry into foster care. State and Tribal title IV-E agencies are obligated under §479 of the Social Security Act to report detailed case-level information to AFCARS for all children within their jurisdiction who are in foster care or who have been adopted with title IV-E agency involvement.	The audience for AFCARS include states, territories, and tribes, as well as policymakers at the federal, tribal, and state level.	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data-research/adoption-fostercare	Yes	Tribal title IV-E agencies, which administer foster care and adoption services for Native American children, are required to report case-level information on children in foster care and those adopted with title IV-E agency involvement to AFCARS. This data helps to monitor the well-being and outcomes of Native American children in the child welfare system. For more information: https://www.nicwa.org/latest-news/afcars-data-collection-for-native-children/	Yes	Yes	Yes	• American Indian or Alaska Native • Asian • Black or African American • Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander • White • Unable to determine	Child identifies himself or herself as a member of the race, or the parent identifies the child as a member of the race. When neither child nor parent identifies the child's race, the race is unable to be determined.

Name	Acronym	Data Owner	Description	Audience	Link	Tribal Data Collection	Tribal Data Collection Details	Meets OMB Standards for Race/Ethnicity Categorization	Race	Select More Than one Race	Race Categories	How Determined
Uniform Crime Reporting	UCR	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	The UCR program compiles information from over 18,000 law enforcement agencies that voluntarily report crime data nationwide. Its main goal is to produce dependable criminal statistics to support law enforcement administration, operations, and management.	The audience for UCR data is law enforcement agencies, criminal justice students, researchers, legislators, municipal planners, the media, and the public.	https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr	Yes	Tribal UCR information is published in the annual Crime in United States publication. The tables include crime data for agencies that reported 12 complete months of data for the year, submitted by tribal law enforcement agencies and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These tables do not include data reported by state and local law enforcement agencies about crimes that occurred on tribal lands. For more information: https://bjs.ojp.gov/tribal-crime	No	Yes	No	• American Indian • Asian • Black • White	Primarily officers' perception; sometimes provided by arrestee.
Criminal Justice Administrative Records System	CJARS	Non-profit organization at the University of Michigan in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau	CJARS collects and harmonizes electronic records from criminal justice agencies to facilitate research and policy-making on the U.S. criminal justice system. At the University of Michigan, CJARS tracks criminal episodes across all stages of the system, while at the U.S. Census Bureau, it anonymously links criminal justice records with comprehensive social, demographic, and economic information.	The audience for CJARS data is policymakers, journalists, non-profit organizations, students, researchers, and the general public.	https://cjars.org/	Limited	The CJARS codebook does not contain any tribal-specific data fields. However, CJARS may collect data from tribal law enforcement agencies which would include information about crimes that occurred on tribal lands. Additionally, it may be possible for researchers with access to the micro-data to overlay injury location data with tribal lands data, but could be difficult to do for smaller tribal lands or tribal lands that encompass portions of multiple zip codes.	No	Yes	No	• White, non-Hispanic • Black, non-Hispanic • Asian or Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic • Hispanic • American Indian or Alaska Native • Other race/ethnicity	Based on source data, as available.
Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	WASPC	State of Washington	WASPC is a professional organization representing law enforcement leaders across Washington State. WASPC fosters collaboration, communication, and professional development, and serves as a liaison between law enforcement agencies and government entities, providing resources and advocacy to enhance public safety and address common challenges in the criminal justice system.	The audience for WASPC data is law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in Washington state (members and non-members alike), researchers, policymakers, and the public.	https://www.waspc.org/	Limited	WASPC itself does not contain a database with a codebook for data collection. However, WASPC does aim to collect information and resources from State and federal criminal justice agencies, including tribal agencies.	N/A WASPC compiles data from a variety of sources. Some sources (e.g., NIBRS) adhere to OMB standards for race/ethnicity categorization, and others (e.g., UCR) do not.	N/A WASPC does not conduct original data collection describing race. Most data collections hosted on WASPC's website do collect race data.	N/A WASPC does not conduct original data collection describing race. Whether more than one race may be selected depends on the data source accessed.	N/A WASPC does not conduct original data collection describing race. Each data collection hosted on WASPC website collects race data differently.	N/A WASPC does not conduct original data collection describing race. Each data collected hosted on WASPC's website collects race data differently.

Name	Acronym	Data Owner	Description	Audience	Link	Tribal Data Collection	Tribal Data Collection Details	Meets OMB Standards for Race/Ethnicity Categorization	Race	Select More Than one Race	Race Categories	How Determined
Washington State Department of Health	Washingto	State of Washington	The Washington State DOH offers a wide range of public health services and programs to the community, facilitated by a workforce of approximately 2,000 public health professionals. These professionals are committed to enhancing the health and well-being of Washingtonians and their communities. Washington DOH provides access to injury death data (e.g., homicides).	The audience for the Washington DOH includes the general public, healthcare providers, government agencies, community-based organizations, schools, researchers, and the media.	https://doh.wa.gov/ https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/health-statistics/death	Limited	Washington DOH collects death certificates for all registered deaths in the State of Washington, including deaths that occurred on tribal lands. Zip code tabulation area data make it possible to determine if the death occurred on tribal lands. There is no specific code in the Washingotn State Death Data User's Guide (2020) indicating whether a death occurred on tribal lands. When collecting race information, if a decedent is reported as American India/Alaskan Native, there is a free-text field that allows the user to enter tribal affiliation if applicable. Note: In 2020, a code that indicated whether a decdent's residence was on a tribal reservation was discontinued.	Yes	Yes	Yes	• White • Black or African American • American Indian/Alaskan Native (followed with free text field to indicate tribal affiliation, if applicable) • Asian Indian • Chinese • Filipino • Japanese • Korean • Vietnamese • Other Asian (followed by free text field) • Native Hawaiian • Guamanian or Chamorro • Samoan • Other Pacific Islander (followed by free text field) • Other (followed by free text field)	Race is determined by death certificate data/funeral home.
Oregon Health Authority	OHA	State of Oregon	The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) oversees public health programs and services statewide, working to protect and promote the health of Oregonians. Collaborating with various stakeholders, OHA administers programs, ensures healthcare access, and addresses health issues to improve the well-being of individuals and communities across the state. OHA provides access to injury death data (e.g., homicides).	The audience for the OHA includes the general public, healthcare providers, government agencies, community-based organizations, schools, researchers, and the media.	https://www.oregon.gov/oha/pages/index.aspx	Limited	OHA collects death certificates for all registered deaths in the State of Oregon, including deaths that occurred on tribal lands. Zip code tabulation area data make it possible to determine if the death occurred on tribal lands. There is no specific code or data definition in the public-facing database indicating whether a death occurred on tribal lands.	Yes	Yes	No	• White • Black • American Indian or Alaska Native • Two or more races • Asian • Other and unknown • Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	Race is determined by death certificate data.

Name	Acronym	Data Owner	Description	Audience	Link	Tribal Data Collection	Tribal Data Collection Details	Meets OMB Standards for Race/Ethnicity Categorization	Race	Select More Than one Race	Race Categories	How Determined
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare	Idaho DHW	State of Idaho	The Idaho DHW is a state agency dedicated to safeguarding public health, administering social services, and promoting well-being across Idaho's communities. It oversees programs ranging from public health initiatives and social welfare services to regulatory oversight and behavioral health support. Idaho DHW houses injury death data (e.g., homicides).	The audience for Idaho DHW death data is limited to family members and those with legal standing to access death certificates.	https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/	Unable to determine.	Idaho DHW collects death certificates for all registered deaths in the State of Idaho, including deaths that occurred on tribal lands. It is unclear the level of detail available in the death data -- if the death data contain zip code tabulation areas, it is possible to determine if the death occurred on tribal lands. There is no specific code or data definition in the public-facing database indicating whether a death occurred on tribal lands.	No	Yes Note: Race categories reported in this analysis come from annual vital records reports, not a codebook.	No	• White • Black • American Indian/Alaskan Native • Asian/Pacific Islander • Other Race/Multiple Race • Not stated	Race is determined by death certificate data.
National Archive of Criminal Justice Data	NACJD	University of Michigan, sponsored by the Bureau of Jusice Statistics (BJS)	The NACJD serves as a central hub for accessing and analyzing crime and justice-related datasets, including NCVS, UCR, NIBRS, and the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN). Researchers can utilize NACJD to explore a variety of large-scale datasets essential for understanding crime trends and informing policy decisions.	The audience for NACJD primarily includes researchers looking to perform secondary analyses, law enforcement agencies, government officials, and policymakers.	https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/NACJD/index.html	Limited	NACJD captures data from a variety of sources nationwide. Tribal data are captured in datasets such as the Census of Tribal Justice Agencies and the Annual Survey of Jails. Homicide data contained in NACJD come from national surveys like UCR, NIBRS, and NCVS which do not contain tribal specific variables.	N/A Some data collections contained in NACJD meet OMB standards while others do not.	N/A NACJD does not conduct original data collection describing race. Most data collections hosted on NACJD's website do collect race data.	N/A NACJD does not conduct original data collection describing race. Whether more than one race may be selected depends on the data collection accessed.	N/A NACJD does not conduct original data collection describing race. Each data collection hosted on NACJD's website collects race data differently.	N/A NACJD does not conduct original data collection describing race. Each data collected hosted on NACJD's website collects race data differently.
Homicide Investigation Tracking System	HITS	Washington State Attorney General	HITS is a centralized database that collects and analyzes violent crime data from law enforcement agencies across Washington and Oregon. Developed to track and link cases such as homicides, sexual assaults, and missing persons, HITS enhances public safety by facilitating multi-agency collaboration and supporting investigations with expert analysis and resources.	The primary audience for HITS is local and national law enforcement officials.	https://www.atg.wa.gov/hits-overview	Unable to determine.	N/A	Unable to determine.	Unable to determine.	Unable to determine.	Unable to determine.	Unable to determine.