

Best Practices in Identifying Race for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Law Enforcement

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, & Girls in NC

45%

of AI/AN self-identified as AI/AN in combination with another race

“One of the biggest issues the researchers identified was racial misclassification in police data. For example, the Seattle Police Department Homicide Unit used the same racial indicator for African-American and Native individuals from the 1960s through the early 80s. In other cities, there was confusion between Indian-Americans and American Indians. And the police record system in Fargo, North Dakota, defaulted to “white” if no racial classification was entered. All of these are examples of poor data integrity” (Gardner, 2020).

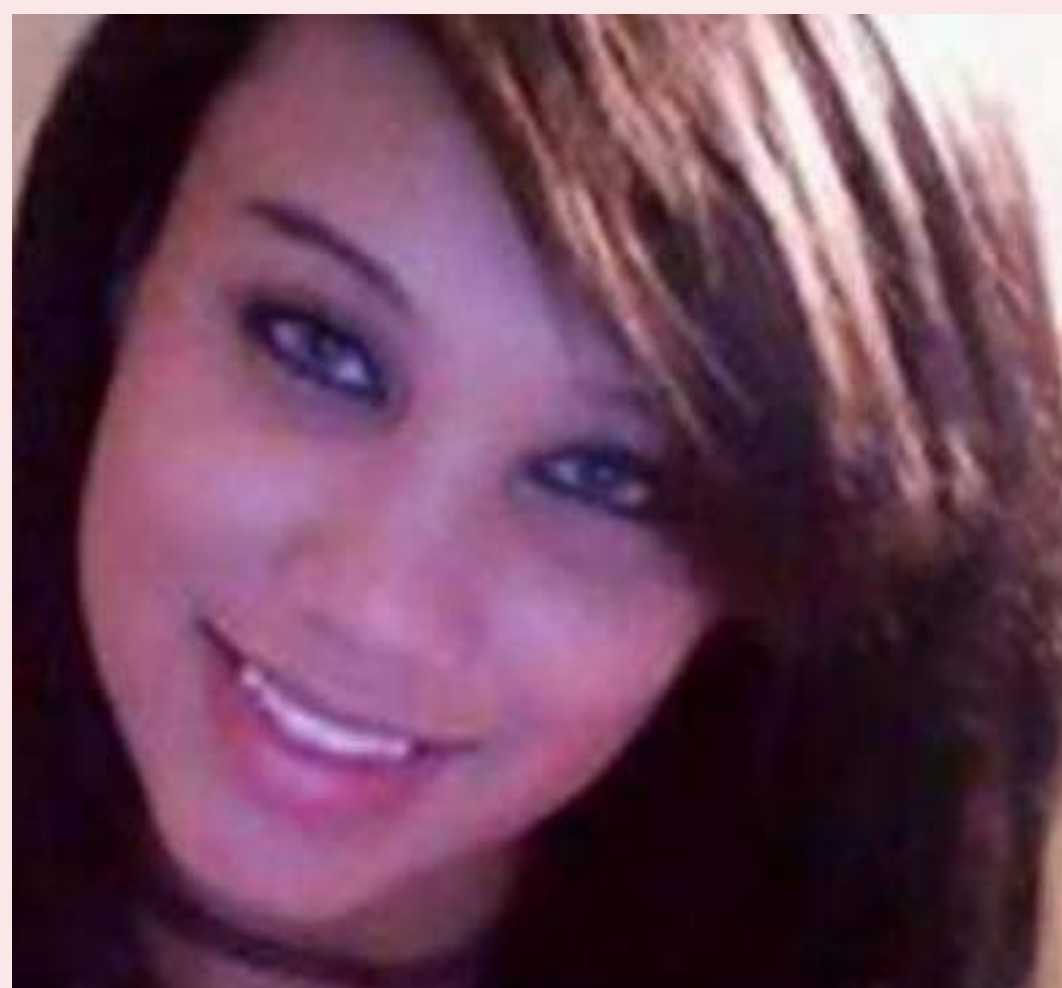
Why Racial Misclassification Happens:

"Racial misclassification occurs when someone's race is inaccurately captured for reasons including the subjective use of personal observation by the data collector, Spanish surnames being used to determine race, data collection tools that only allow for single race identification, uninformed individuals documenting race on a data collection tool, self-identification with multiple races, or even changing self-identification due to fear of racism" (Urban Indian Health Institute, n.d.).

Inaccurate and incorrect identification of race undermines and diminishes the ability to understand the true scope of missing Native women

"They disappear not once, but three times: In life, in the media, and in the data."

Can You Identify the Indigenous Women & Girls?



How to Ensure More Accurate Data Collection

Ask Appropriate Questions

Do NOT Rely on Visual Sight / What You THINK Someone Is

Input Data Accurately Into Your Offices Reporting System

Resources & References

Gardner, B. (2020). They disappear "not once, but three times: In life, in the media, and in the data". Harvard Kennedy Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

<https://datasmart.ash.harvard.edu/news/article/they-disappear-not-once-three-times-life-media-and-data>

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