Using NamUs to Resolve Missing and Unidentified Person Cases & Providing Resources to Family Members

The Family Violence Prevention & Services Program’s 2019 Tribal Grantee Meeting
Seattle, Washington | August 13-15, 2019
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  – F2 Solutions staff

• All the families of missing loved ones.
• The dedicated women and men who provide much needed victim services.
Presentation Highlights

• An Overview of NIJ
  – Mission: "Listen, Learn, Inform"
• Carolyn’s Story
• An Overview of NamUs
  – System, Databases, and Services Offered
  – American Indian and Alaska Native Missing Person and Unidentified and Unclaimed Decedent Cases
  – Research Unit
  – Victim Services Division
  – Other Services in Development
### Office of Justice Programs
- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- **Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)**
- National Institute of Justice (NIJ)
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
- Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART)
- Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)

### Other Offices
- The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)
- Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
Tribal Crime and Justice Research & Evaluation

- 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey
- Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Evaluation (Alaska)
- Tribal Youth Victimization Study (TYVS)
- National Baseline Study: A Study on Public Health, Wellness, and Safety in Tribal Communities
The Missing Person Problem: “The Nation’s Silent Mass Disaster”

- Every year, over 600,000 individuals are reported missing to law enforcement. Fortunately, many are quickly found, alive and well.

- On any given day, there are between 80,000 and 90,000 active missing person cases in the National Crime Information Center also referred to as NCIC.
Missing and Murdered: No One Knows How Many Native Women Have Disappeared

#NotInvisible: Missing and murdered Native American women

At the end of 2017, Native Americans and Alaska Natives made up 1.8 percent of ongoing missing cases in the FBI's National Crime Information Center database, even though they represent 5.8 percent of the U.S. population.

Montana woman's disappearance is one of many Native American women missing or dead.

Valier — The searchers combed through the abandoned trailer, flipping over a battered couch, unfurling a stained sheet, looking for clues. It...

Despite past reforms, Native women face high rates of crime.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — For generations, Native American women have been victimized at astonishing rates, with federal figures showing that more than 1.5 Native American women are killed each year.

Lawmakers propose new ways to help Native American women.

Federal and state lawmakers have proposed or adopted a series of measures designed to address the problem of missing and murdered Native American women. They have also called for more reporting on Native American women who are missing or murdered.
Carolyn DeFord, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
*A Daughter Remembers*
The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System offers law enforcement agencies, medical examiners, coroners, family members and victim advocates powerful tools for resolving missing and unidentified persons cases.

www.NamUs.gov
NamUs Services, Resources, Training, & Technical Assistance

- Available at **No Cost**
  - Use of the NamUs case management system to expedite case associations and resolution
  - Forensic and Analytical Services
    - Anthropology, Odontology, Fingerprint, DNA
    - Collection and analysis of family reference samples
NamUs Services, Resources, Training, & Technical Assistance (Cont.)

- Available at No Cost
  - Investigative support via Regional Program Specialists
  - NamUs training and outreach
  - Assistance with obtaining official law enforcement report for a missing person
  - Connecting families of missing persons to much needed resources

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NamUs Regional Program Specialists

Region 1
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Region 2
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Region 9
Allison O’Neal
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(817) 372-4169
NamUs Analytical Services

- Searches for missing persons
- Locating next of kin for death notifications
- Locating additional family members for DNA collections
NamUs creates a central repository for all missing and unidentified person case information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP1</th>
<th>Anthony Allen, Male, White / Caucasian</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fort Smith, AR</td>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>October 01, 1972</td>
<td>May 09, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP2</th>
<th>Suzanne Lyall, Female, White / Caucasian</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>19 years</td>
<td>March 02, 1999</td>
<td>May 09, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP4</th>
<th>Mitchell Woten, Male, White / Caucasian</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>July 27, 1972</td>
<td>May 09, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP5</th>
<th>Douglas Simmons, Male, White / Caucasian</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>19 years</td>
<td>July 15, 1990</td>
<td>May 09, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP6</th>
<th>Pamela Mitchell, Female, White / Caucasian</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>19 years</td>
<td>August 19, 1992</td>
<td>May 09, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP7</th>
<th>Terri Fourcher, Female, White / Caucasian</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>28 years</td>
<td>August 10, 1996</td>
<td>May 09, 2018</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP8</th>
<th>Charles Toliver, Male, White / Caucasian</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>34 years</td>
<td>February 04, 2004</td>
<td>May 09, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP11</th>
<th>Jennifer Wycoff, Female, White / Caucasian</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>31 years</td>
<td>June 23, 1990</td>
<td>May 23, 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP13</th>
<th>Charlie Hall, Male, Black / African American</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>27 years</td>
<td>December 28, 1991</td>
<td>May 4, 2010</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Person / NamUs #MP14</th>
<th>Miranda Smith, Female, White / Caucasian</th>
<th>Missing From</th>
<th>Missing Age</th>
<th>Date of Last Contact</th>
<th>Data Modified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>26 years</td>
<td>February 09, 2005</td>
<td>May 09, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Family members of missing persons, victim advocates, and other members of the general public can register to use NamUs.
### Central Dashboard for all Account and Case Tools

**B.J. Spamer**
*Regional Program Specialist*

**Quick Search**
- **NamUs Number**: MP123, MP-123, 123
- **First Name**
- **Last Name**
- **State**: Select State
- **County**: Enter County

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**My Dashboard**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MISSING</th>
<th>UNIDENTIFIED</th>
<th>AGENCIES</th>
<th>USERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORKFLOW</strong></td>
<td><strong>MY CASES</strong></td>
<td><strong>RECENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>REGION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230 Entered</td>
<td>124 Contributor</td>
<td>260 Tracked Cases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**1 - 25 of 230 Entered Cases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St...</th>
<th>Case</th>
<th>DLC</th>
<th>Date Mod...</th>
<th>Last Name...</th>
<th>First Name...</th>
<th>Missing Age...</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Gender...</th>
<th>Race / Et...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MP19296</td>
<td>01/01/1954</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Johanson</td>
<td>Mildred</td>
<td>31 Years</td>
<td>Couer D'Alene</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MP24379</td>
<td>06/08/2013</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Moore</td>
<td>Westley</td>
<td>30 Years</td>
<td>Rye</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MP28454</td>
<td>03/04/2015</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Rugg</td>
<td>Kyle</td>
<td>20 Years</td>
<td>Lake Livingst...</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MP21211</td>
<td>09/05/1984</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Dmowske</td>
<td>Stephanie</td>
<td>27 Years</td>
<td>Lakewood</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MP20124</td>
<td>06/16/1978</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>26 Years</td>
<td>Kunnswick</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MP21953</td>
<td>06/01/1978</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Linda</td>
<td>15 Years</td>
<td>Yakima</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>MP22747</td>
<td>02/01/1988</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Keefer</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>44 Years</td>
<td>Lake Jackson</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>MP28465</td>
<td>07/16/2011</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Ros-Eucedo</td>
<td>Cristian</td>
<td>18 Years</td>
<td>Falfurrias</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>MP28441</td>
<td>06/13/2013</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Mandujano</td>
<td>Jorge</td>
<td>22 Years</td>
<td>Falfurrias</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### NamUs Short entry form to quickly create a new case draft

![NamUs Form](image)

**Demographics**
- **First Name**
- **Middle Name**
- **Last Name**
- **Date of Birth**
- **Race/Ethnicity**
- **Gender**

**Circumstances**
- **Date of Last Contact**
- **Last Known Location**
- **Height**
- **Weight**

**Physical**
- **Hair Color**
- **Eye Color**

---

**Create and submit a Missing Persons case**

1. **Begin**
   - Complete this form with all available information.

2. **Create**
   - Click the 'Create Draft' button. You will be able to review additional information on the following page.

3. **Submit**
   - After creating your draft, the following fields will be required to submit your case:
     - Relationship to missing person
     - First Name
     - Last Name
     - Sex
     - Race/Ethnicity
     - Date of Last Contact
     - City
     - State
     - County
     - Circumstances of Disappearance
     - Height
     - Weight
     - Hair Color
     - Eye Color

4. **After Submission**
   - A Regional Program Specialist RPS will review your case entry for accuracy and completeness. All cases will be vetted with the appropriate investigating agencies prior to publication in NamUs.
   - You will be contacted by your NamUs RPS if additional information is needed.
New Tribal Data Fields

To improve data collection and system usefulness:

• Was a missing person last seen on tribal land?
• Was the missing person’s primary residence on tribal land?
• Was the missing person enrolled in, or affiliated with, one or more tribes?
• Was an unidentified person found deceased on tribal land?
• Does the tribal law enforcement agency participate in TAP (Tribal Access Program)?
As of June 1, 2019, there were **383** American Indian and Alaska Native Missing Persons from **32 states** published in NamUs.
As of June 1, 2019, there were 383 American Indian and Alaska Native Missing Persons from 32 states published in NamUs.

States with the Highest Number of Published AI/AN Cases, with Case Counts

- Alaska: 77 cases
- Washington: 41 cases
- Oklahoma: 44 cases
- Arizona: 37 cases
- New Mexico: 31 cases
- California: 27 cases

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As of June 1, 2019, there were 383 American Indian and Alaska Native Missing Persons from 32 states published in NamUs.
As of June 1, 2019, there were 383 American Indian and Alaska Native Missing Persons from 32 states published in NamUs.

Cases by Age Group of Missing Person

- **Juvenile Under 18**: 42 cases
- **Adult 18-20**: 37 cases
- **Adult Over 20**: 304 cases
As of June 1, 2019, there were 118 American Indian and Alaska Native Unidentified Person cases from 24 states published in NamUs.
As of June 1, 2019, there were 14 American Indian and Alaska Native Unclaimed Persons from 9 states published in NamUs.
75% of resolved NamUs missing person (MP) cases involved a person recovered alive.

13% of active NamUs MP cases indicate foul play is suspected.

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25% of active unidentified person (UP) cases in NamUs indicate a manner of death that does not involve foul play (suicide, accident, or natural).

16% of active UP cases in NamUs are categorized as homicides.
Research & Evaluation at NamUs
NamUs Data for Improved Understanding

• How can NamUs data be used to better understand missing, unidentified, unclaimed persons issues?

• NamUs as a data repository → data source

• Maintain awareness of:
  – Data strengths and limitations
  – Different sources of data
The NamUs Examination of Circumstances and Characteristics (ECC) Project
NamUs ECC Project – Phase 1

Overarching Goal
To enhance understanding of violent missing person (MP) and unidentified person (UP) cases that will improve NamUs data collection and services for persons involved in such cases and their families.
NamUs ECC Project – Phase 1

Project Aims

1. To classify MP cases as violent or non-violent through the development and implementation of a qualitative, automated case classification method.

2. To determine if sex-specific differences between violent and non-violent cases exist by personal characteristics, case characteristics, or investigative characteristics for both missing and unidentified persons cases.

3. (Phase 2) To ascertain final case disposition (e.g., perpetrator identification, arrest, etc.) of violent missing and unidentified persons cases.
NamUs ECC Project – Phase 1

Methods

• Violent case classification
  – MP: keyword content analysis/text mining
  – UP: homicide cases
• Sex comparisons
  – Male v. female
• Characteristic comparisons
  – e.g., race/ethnicity, geography, biometric availability
NamUs ECC Project – Phase 1

Expected Results & Impact

• Uncover practically significant differences
• Make recommendations for
  – improved data collections
  – development of additional services
• Overall, will help to understand experiences of violence among persons entered into NamUs so that we can better serve these victims, their families, users, and society.
NamUs ECC Project
Phase 1: AI/AN Special Section

• Public Law 280 states vs. Non-Public Law 280 states

• Type of investigating agency (tribal, local, state, federal)
NamUs Victim Services Division
NamUs Victim Services Division

- Connecting families of missing persons to victim resources
- Development of publications and outreach to support families whose loved ones have gone missing or been found deceased
- Development of a peer-to-peer network, where families provide support to one another
NamUs Victim Services Division: Referrals

• Support Groups

• Mental Health Care
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
  - Cognitive Processing Therapy
Peer supporters are people who use their experiences of recovery to support others in recovery.

Combined with skills learned in training, their experience and knowledge put peers in a unique position to offer support.
NamUs Victim Services Division: Reunification

• Reunification program will help lost loved ones return home.

• Reunification process may include exhumation and re-interment.
NamUs Victim Services Division: Outreach and Education Materials

- Web-based resource guide
- Instructional guide for families when a loved one goes missing
- Informative guide for law enforcement on communicating with family members
NamUs Victim Services Focus Groups
NamUs VSD Focus Groups

Purpose
• To understand various stakeholder views on barriers and successes in victim services to help develop NamUs victim services

Logistics
• Four Corners Conference (tribal focus)
• National Center for Victims of Crime’s National Training Institute

Status
• Recruitment and focus group guide development
NamUs Questionnaire on Impacts and Protectors (QuILP)

Purpose
- To develop an instrument that will assess consequences of and activities that protect against adverse outcomes related to MP/UP cases.

Development
- Adaptation or creation

Status
- Instrument revision
Questions & Answers

Discussion

NIJ
Register for NamUs at:

www.NamUs.gov

Or to report a case to NamUs by telephone, call:

1-855-626-7600
Thank You!