

AB 1314 - Feather Alert Implementation Roundtable: Background Information and Recommended Response



State and County Population

700,000+

California has the largest Native population in the nation with over 700,000 individuals identifying as American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), Native American or Native Hawaiian.



327,390

The 2020 US Census estimated that the population of individuals identifying as fully or partly AI/AN in Los Angeles County was about 327,390



200+

Further, the 2020 US Census confirmed that self-identified individuals represent over 200 tribal nations dispersed throughout Los Angeles County.



Note: The Urban Indian Health Institute reports that approximately 71% of AI/ANs live in urban areas. There is significant need for specific data, education and advocacy with Urban Native populations throughout the US.

Issue

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) is a national and statewide epidemic.
- The National Crime Information Center documents, in 2016, there were 5,712 MMIP cases reported with only 116 logged in the US Department of Justice's missing person's database.
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports murder is the 3rd leading cause of death for AI/AN women.
- In 2016, the National Institute of Justice reported more than 4 out of 5 Indigenous women have experienced violence.
- According to the Sovereign Bodies Institute (SBI), Indigenous women are at increased risk of intimate partner violence, trafficking, serious violence, kidnapping and homicide than non-Indigenous women (2021).
- In 2023, SBI reported that 91% of Missing and Murdered Indigenous children in Southern California are girls.
- SBI (2023) documented 259 MMIP cases in 42 of California's 58 counties, encompassing nearly three quarters of CA.

Response

- Raise awareness of AB 1314 and related criteria to ensure activation of a Feather Alert, provide urgent notifications and responses, and ultimately save Indigenous lives
- Increase knowledge of and investment in comprehensive, cultural and community-based mental health/support services for survivors and loved ones
- Long-term commitment to trauma-informed approaches when working with Indigenous families as well as implementation of best practices and appropriate protocols
- Education, training and policy development focused on awareness of California Native and Urban Native history, diversity, Two-Spirit identities, gender/racial justice, tribal sovereignty, self-determination and Indigenous epistemologies
- Sustained partnership with California Tribal governments, California Tribal leaders and Urban Native organizations to build trust and ensure safe accessibility to law enforcement agencies and local governance