

# MMIR Issues

## A Report Roadmap

pg 34 **Communication and alert systems**

The effectiveness of Minnesota’s AMBER Alert system is impacted by community distrust and lack of awareness of alert criteria among law enforcement and the public. There are opportunities to bolster Minnesota’s alert system for missing and endangered adults.

pg 48 **Death investigation**

Improved communication with families can help navigate cultural considerations for autopsies and address concerns over the official cause or manner of death. Death investigation and autopsy decision-making should be standardized across jurisdictions.

pg 72 **Data issues**

There are concerns about the quality and completeness of data related to the MMIR injustice, particularly related to participation in data systems among Tribes and law enforcement, and tracking and documenting race, ethnicity, and Tribal affiliation data.

pg 94 **Prevention**

Bolstering protective factors such as cultural and community connections, increasing access to healthy relationships education, improving law enforcement and social service system responses to domestic violence and trafficking cases, and supporting Indigenous restorative justice practices can reduce the incidence of MMIR.

**Reporting and initial investigation of missing person cases**

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Inconsistent use of investigative best practices, community distrust, biases against vulnerable populations, and staffing challenges contribute to delays, de-prioritization, and inadequate investigation of missing person cases.

**Review and investigation of unresolved (“cold”) cases**

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Many factors make it difficult for law enforcement to maintain momentum on long-term unresolved cases. Having a statewide expert review panel re-examine cases with fresh eyes may help identify new leads.

**Jurisdiction issues and government-to-government collaboration**

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Tribal Nations and communities navigate a complex web of jurisdictional issues, and their sovereignty to exercise criminal authority has been eroded over time. Cross-jurisdictional and inter-governmental relationship building, communication, and collaboration are needed.

**Victim and family services**

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There is a need for victim-centered, survivor-informed, trauma-informed, and culturally-responsive services and flexible financial supports. Consistent, compassionate communication with families is needed to reconcile families’ needs and investigative priorities.

**Media reporting**

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Historically, MMIR cases have received less media attention than their White counterparts. Media should adopt a survivor-centered approach to create a positive character profile of victims, and law enforcement should utilize mainstream and social media tools to spread awareness of missing persons.