

MISSING PERSONS & THE MONTANA CLEARINGHOUSE

PRESENTED BY BRIAN FROST

CJIN PROGRAM MANAGER

MT AMBER ALERT COORDINATOR



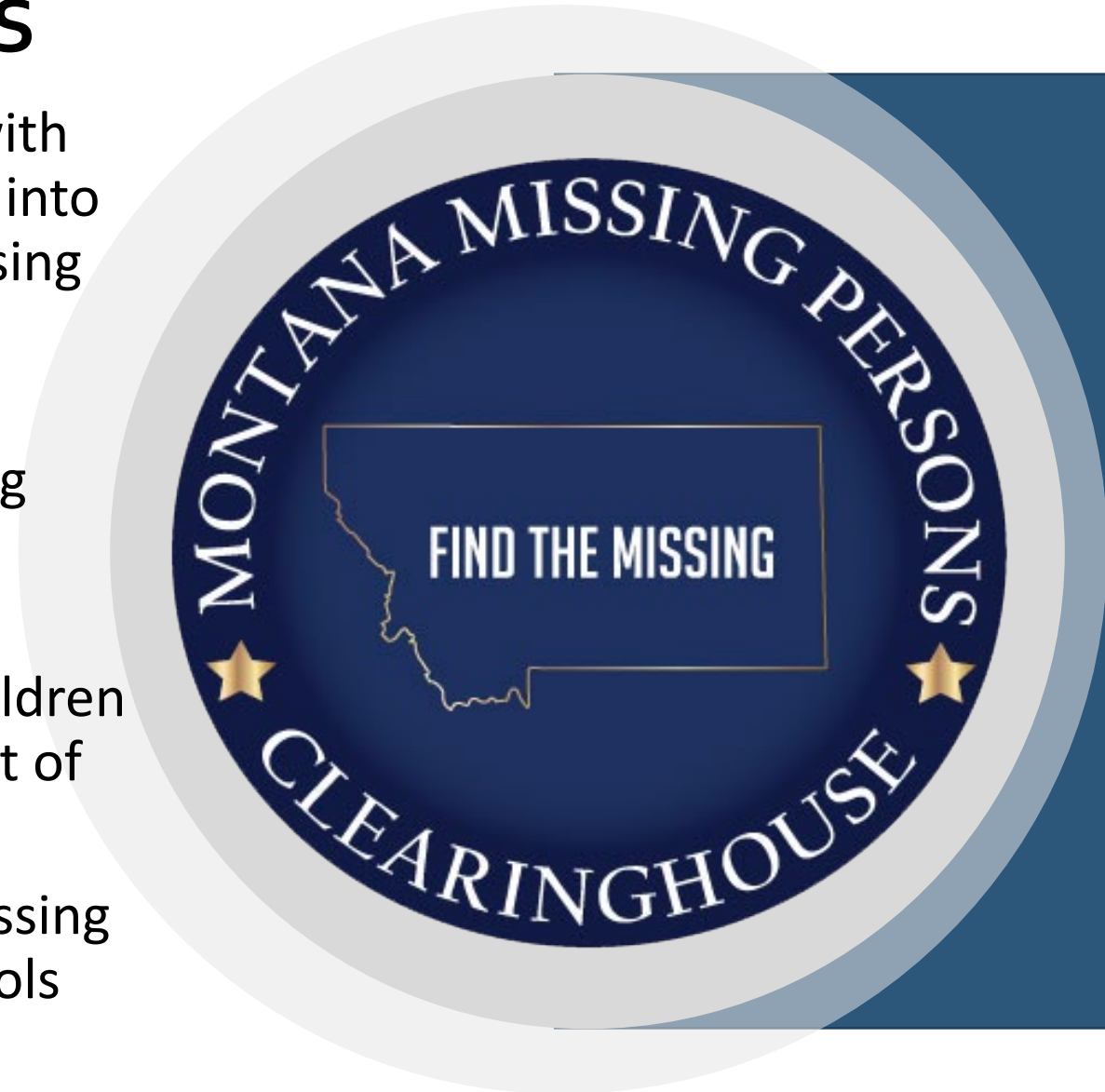


Missing Children Information Program

- MT DOJ shall establish a missing children information program to create a central repository to aid in the location of missing children in Montana.
- Establish a system of intrastate communication of information relating to any child determined to be missing.
- Provide a centralized file for the exchange of information of missing children within the state.
- Interface with NCIC
- Provide OPI with a list of missing Montana school-aged children.

CLEARINGHOUSE DUTIES

- Assists law enforcement agencies with entering the necessary information into state and federal databases for missing and unidentified persons
- Provides general assistance and information to the public concerning missing persons
- Works with NCMEC and other state clearinghouses to aid in locating children who have been unlawfully taken out of Montana or brought into Montana
- Maintains an online database of missing persons in Montana to ensure schools are aware



2017-2018

- Missing Persons are a hot topic with the public, the media, and the Legislature
- What do we know about missing persons?
- What resources already exist?
- How bad is the epidemic of missing indigenous persons?
- What are gaps that can be legislatively addressed?

**ADDRESSING AN EPIDEMIC:
MISSING AND MURDERED INDIAN WOMEN**



Hanna's Act, 44-2-407

- Establishes Missing Person Specialist within Montana DOJ
 - May assist with Missing Persons Investigations
 - Provide guidance & support to LE and families
 - Oversee MP entries into NCIC
 - Manage MMPC & MT Missing Person Database
 - Provide public outreach & education on MP's
 - Facilitate training to LEA's
 - Appointed to MMIP Task Force

CUSTODIAL INTERFERENCE

- 44-2-504 - If LE receives a report that they reasonably believe is a case of custodial interference, LE shall collect data about all parties, suspects, and the child
- If the location of the child is unknown, law enforcement must take a missing persons report



44-2-408 ADULT REPORTING & "THE BUCK STOPS HERE"

- 1st agency contacted takes a missing person report **or** ensures that another law enforcement agency is taking the missing person report
- Under 21 – Enter into NCIC **within 2 hours**
- Over 21 – Enter into NCIC within **8 hours**





Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force 44-2-411

- Established Task Force, allocated to MT DOJ for staffing and administrative purposes only
- Appointees are appointed by the Attorney General, membership isn't limited to but must include:
 - MT DOJ subject matter expert
 - Member of each federally recognized tribe
 - MHP
 - AG's Office



MMIPTF

- While responding government to government relationships between the state and each tribe, the primary duties are:
- identify jurisdictional barriers.
- work to identify causes that contribute to missing and murdered indigenous persons and make recommendations to federally recognized tribes in the state to reduce cases of missing and murdered indigenous persons.
- work to identify strategies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, and collaboration.

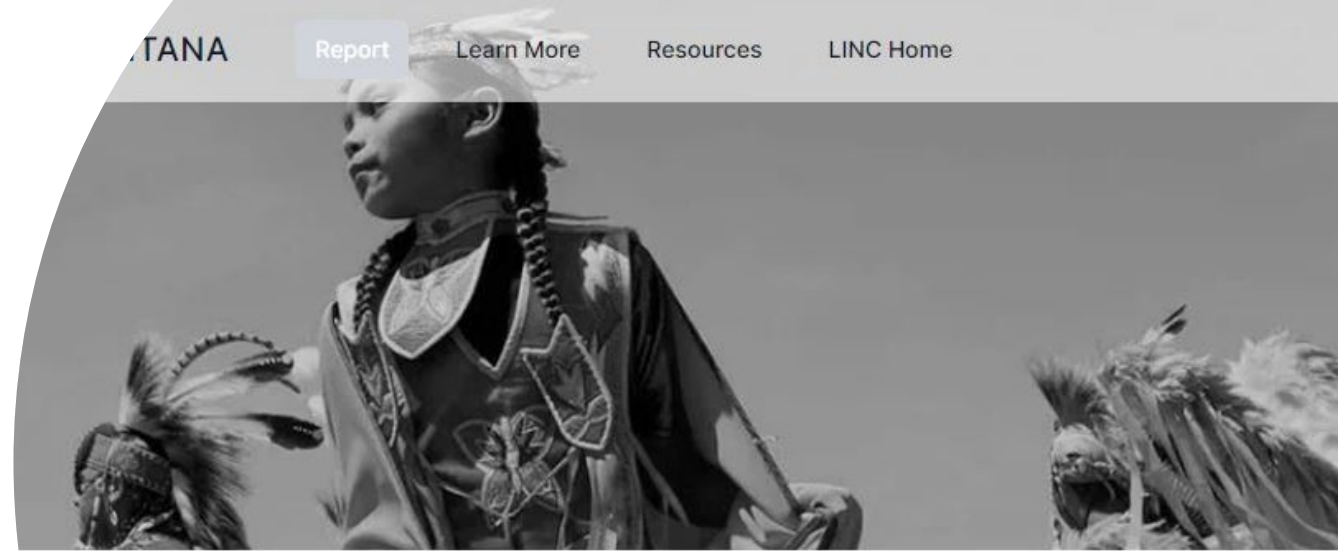


MMIPTF

- While responding government to government relationships between the state and each tribe, the primary duties are:
- By July 1st prior to each legislative session, the task force shall prepare a written report of findings and recommendations for submission to the STRC. This report must include statistics and LINC grant information.

LOOPING IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM 44-2-412

- Established the LINC program in support of Montana's tribes to identify, report, and find Native Americans who are missing. The grant program is administered by the MIPTF.
- Separate database of missing persons where people can report loved ones missing without direct law enforcement contact.
- <https://mmipmt.com/>



MONTANA MISSING INDIGENOUS PERSONS REPORTING PORTAL

Native Americans are **4 times** more likely to go missing in the state of Montana.

Report a missing person

Learn more

OPI PHOTO REPOSITORY

MCA 20-7-1317 required OPI to create and maintain a photo repository of MT students for exclusive purpose of locating missing school-aged children.

Program is “opt in” but OPI still averages about 25% of student images in the repository.

Infinite Campus simple || powerful

State Edition

Version: Campus.2207.5
Montana AIM

Username

Password

Log In

Logged off

Help

Notice

Trouble logging in? Call the OPI AIM Help Desk: 1-877-424-6681, or submit an [AIM Help Desk Ticket](#)

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HOW DOES THE CLEARINGHOUSE HELP?



DPHHS – DEPT. OF JUSTICE PROTOCOL



Caseworker/group home

- Youth in care goes missing
- CI notified



Centralized Intake

- Gathers information
- Completes Missing Youth Referral Form



MT DOJ

- DOJ Ombudsman
- Missing Person Specialist
- MATIC

NCIC Oversight

- Control Terminal Copies
- Entries, Removals, Locates, Modifies
- Direct link to MMPS



The screenshot displays the "Missing Persons Database" interface. At the top, a dark banner shows search statistics: "185 Individuals matched the search criteria.", "84 Missing less than a year", and "101 Missing more than a year". On the left, there is a sidebar with a "Missing Persons Database" header, a "FIND THE MISSING" button, and navigation options: "Home", "Report", "With Pictures" (selected), and "No Pictures". The main content area shows two search results. The first result is for "AGUILAR, TONY ESCALANTE", a 57-year-old male, missing more than a year, with a "Details" button. The second result is for "ALBERT, NEAL THOMAS", a 40-year-old male, not missing more than a year, with a "Details" button. Each result includes a small portrait photo and a list of aliases.

NCIC - > MMPS -> WEBSITE



Montana Law Enforcement enters a record into NCIC



A copy of the record is placed into a MT database by the State Message Switch



Sensitive and law enforcement only information is stripped out and then information published on the website.



A web service call is performed every 2 minutes between our website and the Database

OFFLINE SEARCHES & OTHER RESOURCES

- In-state through MVD
- In-state log searching
- Nationwide NCIC searching
- N-DEx



National Missing and Unidentified Person System (NamUs)

- Clearinghouse enters missing persons that have been missing over 90 days



National Missing and Unidentified Persons System
NamUs



Other duties...

- Facilitate Training to Law Enforcement and the general public
- Supporting families of missing loved ones
- Network with out-of-state clearinghouses & POC for NCMEC
- Issue public alerts

MONTANA ALERTS & ADVISORIES



AMBER ALERT

AMERICA'S MISSING: BROADCAST EMERGENCY RESPONSE



- There is reasonable belief by law enforcement that a child has been abducted or has disappeared under suspicious circumstances.
- The missing child is age 17 years or younger, or has a proven mental disability.
The law enforcement agency believes the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- There is enough descriptive information about the victim and abduction for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child.

**AMBER
ALERT**

MEPA

Missing Endangered Person Advisory



- Can be an Adult or a Child.
- Missing under unexplained, involuntary, suspicious circumstances.
- Believed to be in danger (age, health, mental/physical disability, environmental/weather conditions, potentially with a dangerous person).
- Information released to the public may assist in recovery.

MEPA's often are limited to a specific geographic area

Media has discretion on broadcasting MEPA

BLUE ALERT



- Peace officer has been killed or seriously injured in the line of duty.
- A law enforcement agency has determined the suspect poses a serious threat to the public, to other peace officers, or both.
- Sufficient information exists about the suspect or about the death or injury so that the alert would assist in the capture of the individual.



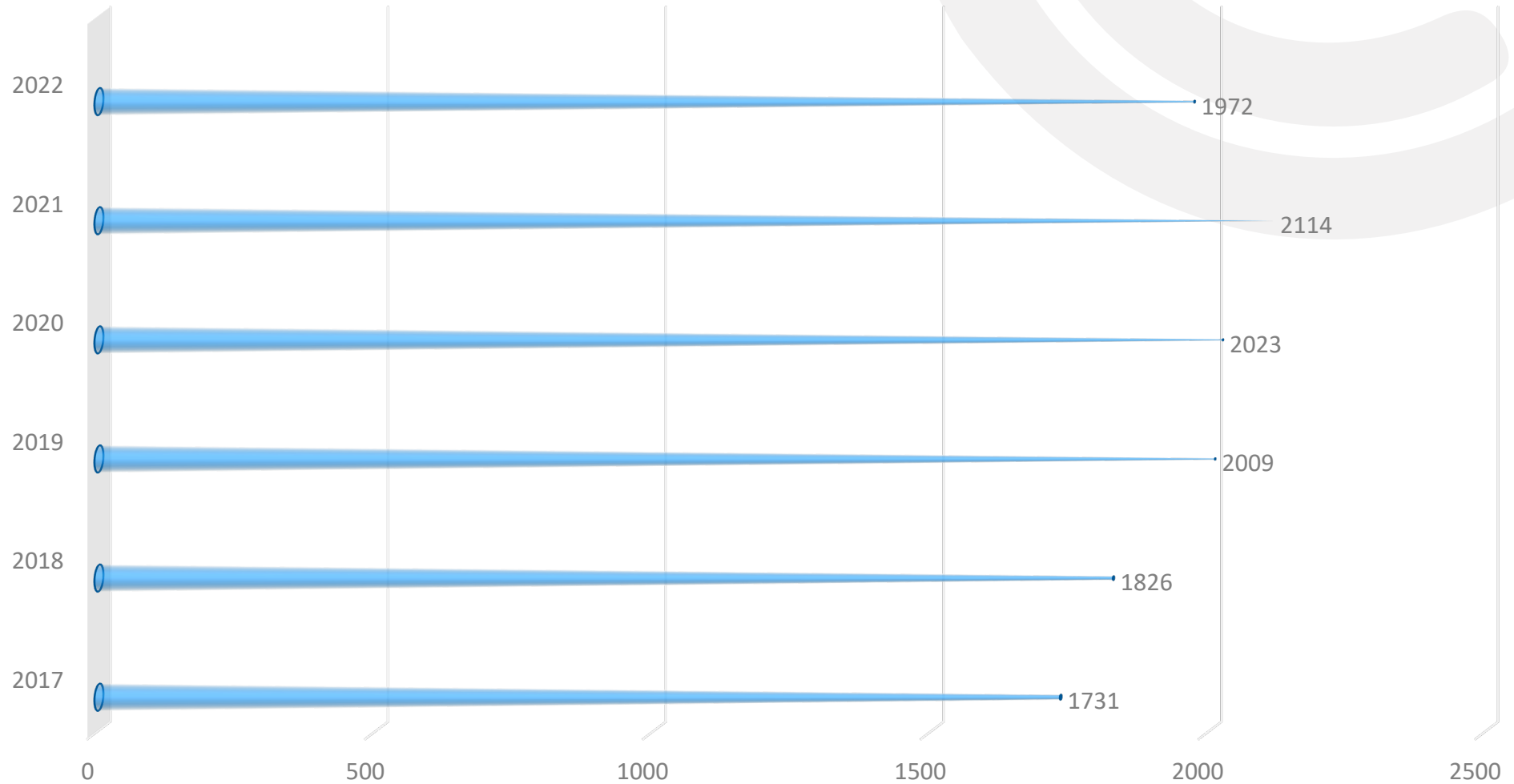
Resources & Partners



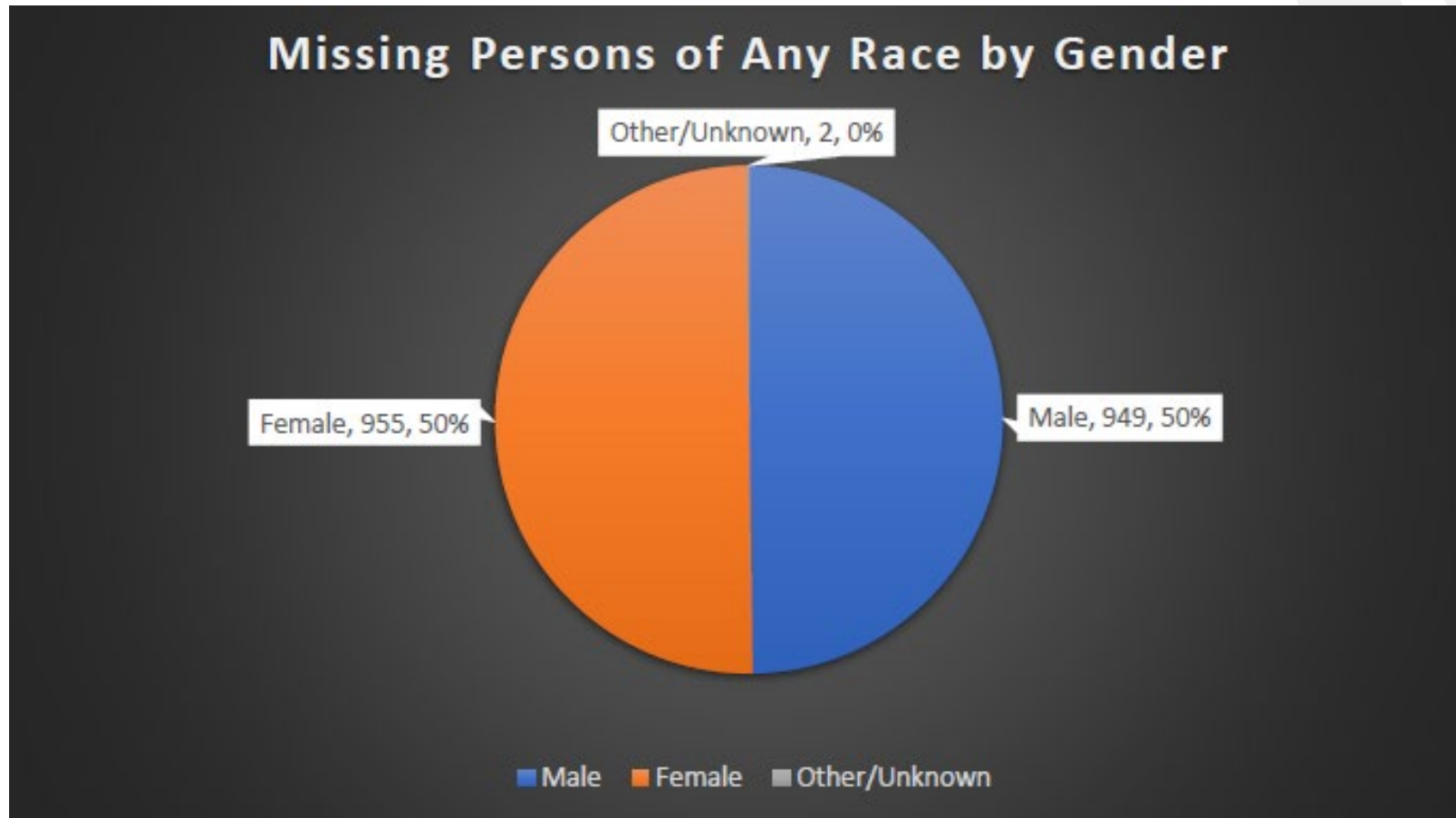
- Montana Broadcasters Association
- CodeRED
- National Weather Service
- Montana Department of Transportation
- Montana Lottery
- IPAWS/WEA/EAS
- NCMEC

MISSING PERSON TRENDS

Total Missing Person Entries by Year in Montana

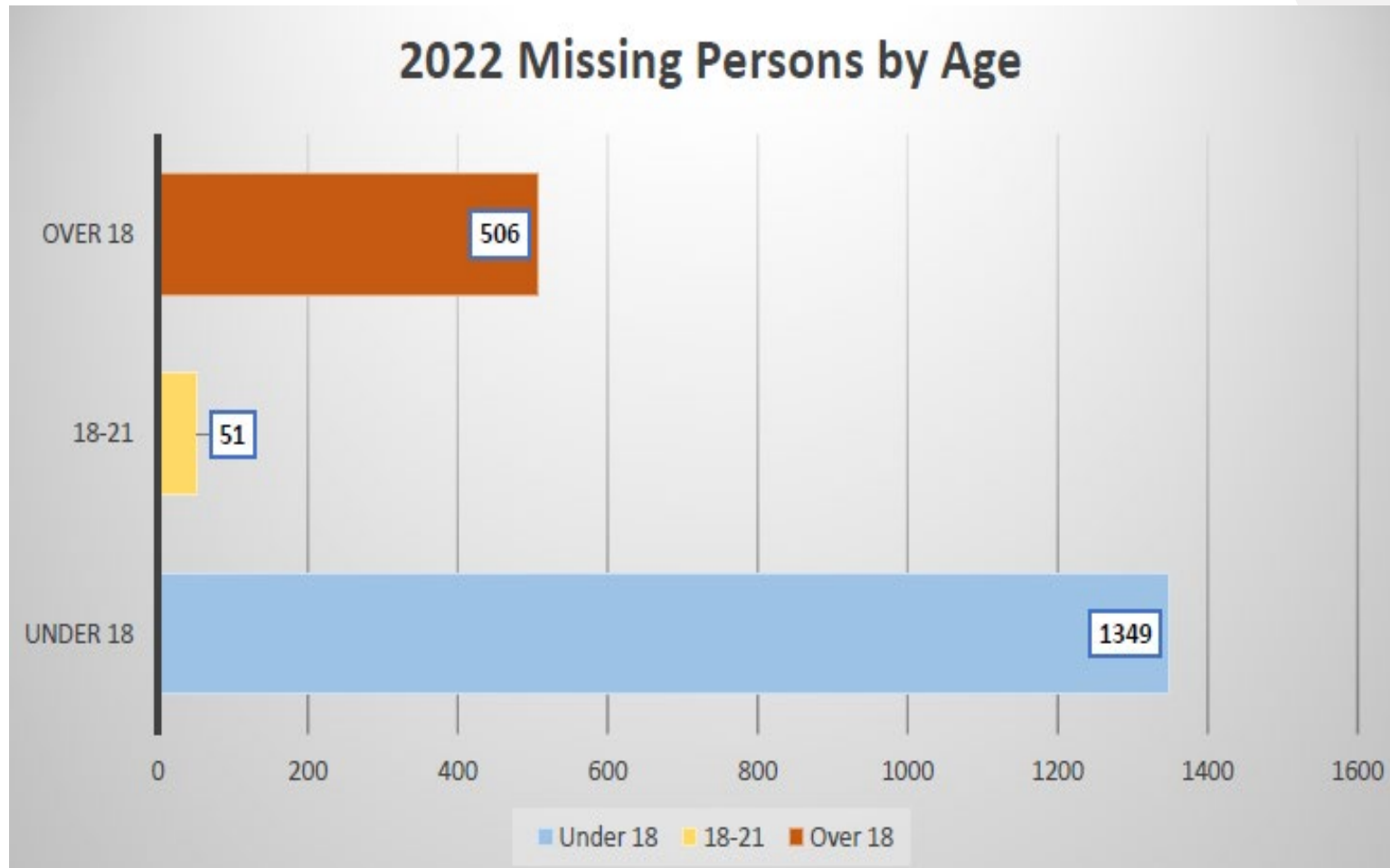


MISSING PERSON TRENDS - 2022



- When looking at missing persons by gender by race, this is one of the times we see data slightly skewed.
- 60/40 Females to Males amongst Indigenous Persons

MISSING PERSON TRENDS - 2022



- When looking at 1,906 cleared cases from 2022, 1349 were under age 18. Just under **71%** of all missing person cases. If we look at those between ages 18 and 21, the number is actually **73%** of all missing person cases in 2022.

MISSING PERSON TRENDS - 2022

At least 225 juveniles were identified as having been reported missing at least two times. This means that they were reported missing, found, and reported missing again at another point in the year.

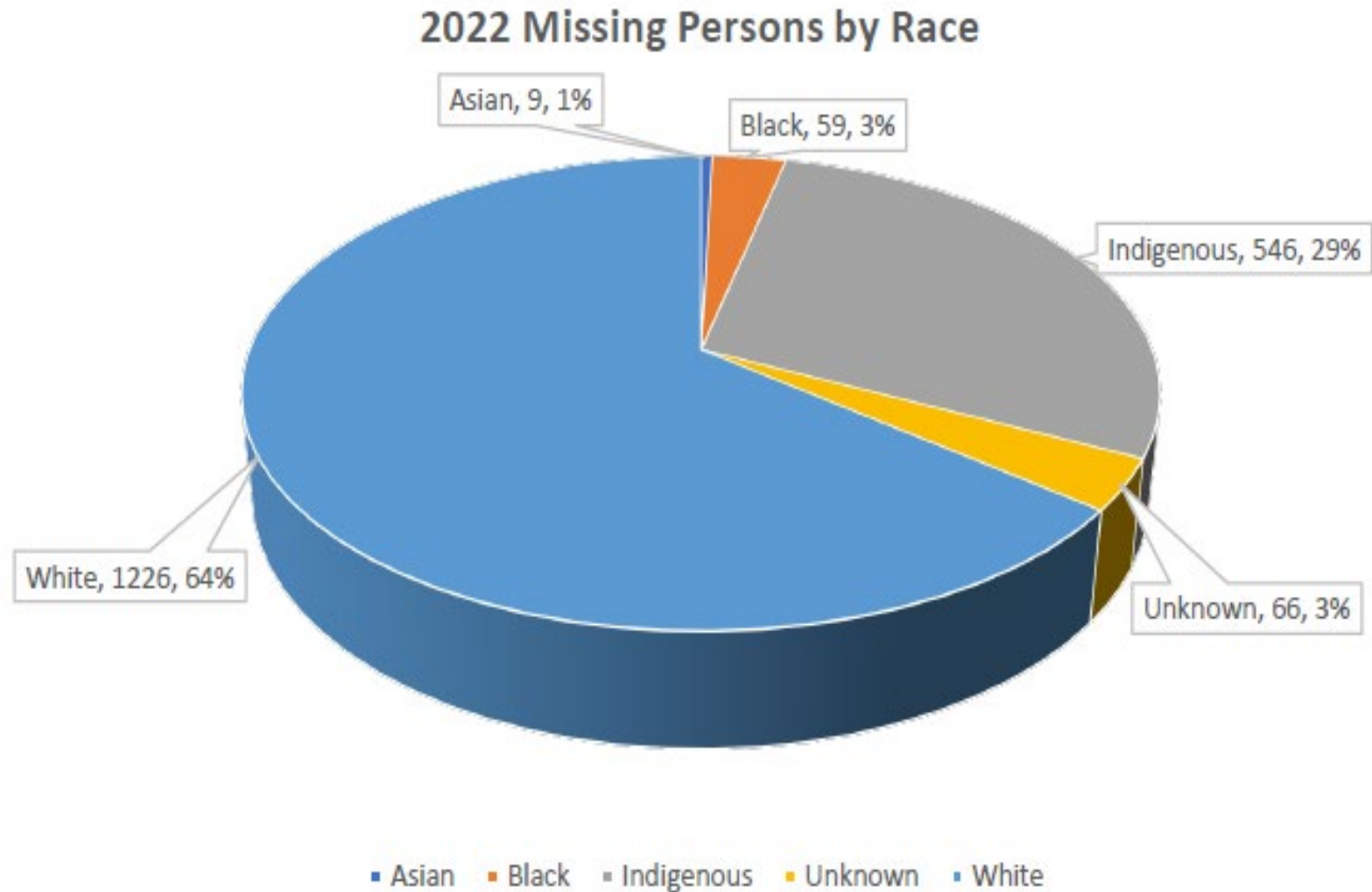
- Frequent Flier?
- Juvenile Runaway?
- Missing Youth?



MISSING PERSON TRENDS - 2022



MISSING PERSON TRENDS - 2022



MISSING PERSON TRENDS

- 2022

99.992% of all
persons
reported missing
in 2022 were
located.





THANK YOU

Brian Frost
CJIN Program Manager / MT AMBER Alert Coordinator
Montana Department of Justice
406-444-2483 / 406-444-2800 (24x7)



BFROST@MT.GOV



[HTTPS://DOJMT.GOV/MISSING-PERSONS/](https://DOJMT.GOV/MISSING-PERSONS/)