



FBI FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

FBI Summary Report

Published by: Denver Field Office

24 January 2025

(U) This document is unclassified.

(U) FBI Denver Investigative Review of Wyoming Cases Involving Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons

(U) In 2024, FBI Denver launched a data collection project to review Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) cases in the state of Wyoming. This initiative began with collecting tips from the public as well as case information from Wyoming law enforcement regarding MMIP investigations in Wyoming over the last 10 years. During this review, FBI Denver identified a new lead in a cold case due to advancements in technology, identified contributing factors associated with death investigations in and around the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR), and identified no new homicides or unknown missing persons investigations in Wyoming from public and law enforcement outreach efforts.

(U) In 2015, FBI Denver was advised of evidence retained by a coroner's office from a 1969 cold case homicide on the Wind River Indian Reservation. FBI Denver opened a cold case investigation, however evidence reviewed by the FBI laboratory did not identify any new leads at that time. Based on recent advancements in technology, FBI Denver will re-open the investigation for investigative genetic genealogy review to identify potential new leads.

(U) A 10-year review of death investigations involving Native American victims in Wyoming identified gunshot wounds as the primary manner of death for homicides cases. This review identified the majority of Native American homicides are occurring in or around the Wind River Indian Reservation and involve Native American offenders and Native American victims. Intoxicants were a major contributing factor in the death investigations reviewed. FBI Denver did review the age of victims and offenders for Native American homicide cases in Wyoming; however, the ages of the victims and offenders varied greatly.

(U) The 10-year review of death investigations involved thoroughly reviewing documents such as medical reporting, law enforcement reporting, interviews, and evidence reports. The following are examples:

(U) In August 2019, a Native American male was kidnapped by three other Native American males in Riverton, Wyoming. The individual was beaten and transported onto the WRIR, where he was executed and dumped off a bridge. Through extensive cooperation with other state and local LE agencies, the FBI successfully prosecuted the three subjects, all of whom received lengthy prison sentences.

(U) In November 2017, a Native American male was found deceased inside a suitcase in the crawlspace of a home on the WRIR. The individual suffered from blunt force injuries and severe sharp force injuries. The investigation indicated the victim in this case was killed due to his refusal to provide alcohol to other involved individuals during a party at the residence. The FBI was able to successfully identify and

prosecute four Native American individuals that were involved in the captioned homicide case.

(U) FBI Denver also collected information from public outreach efforts including a press release, public forums, and tip lines. Between 8 February 2024 and 30 October 2024, FBI Denver received eight tips, however these tips did not provide any new leads or identify any unknown missing or murdered indigenous persons cases.