



PREVENTION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

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April Recap



Prevention Specialist Mary Mohawk-Jensen (lower left) leading a discussion on "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" (MMIW) with students from Lakeshore High School. MMIW Day will be recognized on May 5th, 2025, with an awareness campaign running throughout the remainder of the month and beyond.

Prevention Specialist Mary Mohawk-Jensen lead a discussion on the topic of "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" (MMIW) with a group of Lake Shore High School Students, to educate them further on the MMIW Movement and Awareness with the upcoming MMIW day on May 5th, 2025. The discussion started with watching a music video that portrayed the fear that sets in for Native Woman when going into the world. The visuals that were used were centered around a young Native Woman who just started a new job, who then begins a relationship with a male coworker. As the song progressed her mother sits at home making attempts to contact her. As the story progresses the possible scenarios take over and outline to the audience what could happen or dramatic retellings of actual outcomes that have been reported.

In remembrance of Lost and Stolen Sisters the students crafted red bracelets; beads and braiding projects with the departments newest Prevention Specialist, Shawn Pierce, instructing the students on the craft project. As the students worked on their projects, everyone shared their familiarity and knowledge of experiences they've had with the topic of MMIW. The end goal was for the students to hand out the bracelets they made to other classes so that they could educate others on the topic of MMIW; as well as the significance of May 5th.

CULTURE IS PREVENTION

CULTURAL PRACTICES ARE PROTECTIVE FACTORS THAT REDUCE THE RISK OF YOUTH ENGAGING IN SUBSTANCE MISUSE. LEARNING, PRACTICING, AND KNOWING OUR CULTURE HAS POSITIVE AFFECTS ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SELF-ESTEEM, LOWERING THE RISK OF USING MIND CHANGERS AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES.



Seneca Health Day

April 14th- 17th 2025 at the Cattaraugus Territory
Community Fair

This past month The Prevention Department has been up to quite a bit. Mid April (April 14th - 17th 2025) the department took part in the Community Fair for "Seneca Health Day" provided materials throughout the day on child abuse prevention; as April recognized Child Abuse Awareness Month. Prevention Specialists Malesia Follman and Mary Mohawk-Jensen, along with Community Outreach Supervisor Ray Woodin, also provided interactive activities such as Cornhole with the added challenge of "Intoxication Goggles." Participants were given the objective of tossing their bean bags into the cornhole while fitted with the goggles for a chance to win prizes that included Native Connections Lacrosse Balls, a pair of Native Connections Wireless Headphones, a hard-cover copy of "Rez Ball" along with a brand new 'Wilson Basketball'. Later events included a showing at the CCC of Disney Pixar's 'Inside Out 2', which drew a significant crowd of families who enjoyed free popcorn and drinks during the showing, and was extremely well received. The Prevention Department would also like to send out a huge "Thank You" to Penelope Minner for facilitating the "Corn Husk Doll" event on April 25th, 2025 at the Allegany Clubhouse Location



End
The
Stigma



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Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women



Red Hand

The red hand over the mouth has become the symbol for the growing movement. It stands for all the missing sisters whose voices are not heard. As well as the silence from the Mainstream Media, and Law Enforcement that turn a blind eye to this crisis. Symbolizing the oppression and subjugation of Native Women who are now rising up to say #NoMoreStolenSisters

May 5th

National MMIW Awareness Day

The fifth of May is the official MMIW day, and is most widely celebrated across the US and Canada. Every year, individuals wear red and attend marches, rallies, fundraisers and much more to raise awareness of the MMIW cause. The purpose being to fight against the injustice that happens against Native Women and their families everyday.

Top 10 Cities

Highest Number of MMIWG Cases

Seattle, WA (45)

Albuquerque, NM (37)

Anchorage, AK (31)

Tucson, AZ (31)

Billings, MT (29)

Gallup, NM (25)

Tacoma, WA (25)

Omaha, NE (24)

Salt Lake City, UT (24)

San Francisco, CA (17)

Cases Reported

4089
0-17 year olds

1398
18+ year olds

5,487
incidents

658

cases still open
at end of 2022

2022 National Crime Information Center's (NCIC's)
Missing Person and Unidentified Person Files*



REDress Project

This started out as an Art Installation that was created by Jamie Black, in response to the MMIW movement. This project is notable by the hanging of empty red dresses in various locations the most notable being hung from a tree. The significance of the Red Dress itself symbolizes the women who've gone missing, while the color red is said to be a direct connection between our world and the spirit world. Today over 400 dresses have been donated by women in support of this movement.



Top 10 States with highest number of missing person cases reported



Florida	784	Oklahoma	28
Texas	97	Arizona	24
California	58	Washington	21
Tennessee	50	North Carolina	20
Arkansas	31	Missouri	19