

Our Health Counts Kenora

An inclusive, community-driven health survey for Indigenous peoples in Kenora and related homelands

Missing Persons

Indigenous communities and organizations are working to advance the implementation of the Calls to Justice arising from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The amount of under-addressed violence, victimization, missing persons and homicide that led to this inquiry represents one of the most obvious displays of racial discrimination and social exclusion experienced by Indigenous peoples in Canada. Although data collection methods are missing information about Indigenous identity and underestimate the number of incidents, Indigenous peoples report higher rates of victimization, missing persons, and homicide (6x higher than that of non-Indigenous Canadians).^{1,2} The high level of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ among cases of violent offences and unsolved missing persons highlights systemic discrimination within the justice system.^{2,3,4} Decades of advocacy by Indigenous family and community members are the reason that these issues of violence, victimization and murder have finally been recognized as a national injustice.

Almost 1/3 of Indigenous adults in Kenora and related homelands have had a close friend or family member go missing.

Of the close friend or family members who have gone missing, **6%** were not reported missing to the police.

Almost 1 in 10 Indigenous adults in Kenora and related homelands have had to file a missing person's report with the police for a child or family member.

More than 1 in 3 Indigenous adults in Kenora and related homelands have had a close friend or family member die as a result of violence caused by another person.

Policy Implications

We call on the City of Kenora, provincial, and federal governments to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples living in urban and related homelands and urban-based Indigenous organizations to implement the Calls to justice for MMIWG.

MMIWG Report Calls to Justice 1.5³: We call upon all governments to immediately take all necessary measures to prevent, investigate, punish, and compensate for violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people.

MMIWG Roundtable⁶: [Policies should address] the complexities of the urban reality that Indigenous communities face and identify priority areas for focus to end the violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ peoples in urban settings.

TRC Call to Action 21⁵: We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centers to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centers in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.

TRC Call to Action 39⁵: We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.

TRC Call to Action 40⁵: We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

Definitions:	Indigenous adults: persons 15 years or older self-identifying as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit), living or using services in the City of Kenora
Sources:	1. Statistics Canada (2023); 2. Flores & Román Alfaro (2023); 3. MMIWG (2019); 4. Smylie (2016); 5. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015); 6. Report of the Roundtable on MMIWG (2023).
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Population based estimates were created using respondent driven sampling

Our Health Counts Kenora: Community Health Assessment by the People, for the People



WELL LIVING HOUSE



Our Health Counts Kenora

Missing Persons Reference

Our Health Counts Kenora is a comprehensive and inclusive health survey developed by community, for community, and is part of the largest Indigenous population health study in Canada.

Participants were selected using respondent-driven sampling, a statistical method which builds on the existing strengths of social networks and kin systems to recruit Indigenous people living in the city.

Survey Question	RDS Prevalence Estimate (95% Confidence Interval)
Has a close friend or family member ever gone missing?	
Yes	31.4% (22.1, 40.6)
No	67.1% (57.7, 76.4)
Don't know	0.3% (0.0, 0.7)
Declined	1.2% (0.0, 4.0)
Was this person ever reported missing to the police?	
Yes	91.6% (83.6, 99.6)
No	6.2% (0.0, 13.2)
Don't know	2.2% (0.0, 6.0)
Have you ever had to file a missing persons report with the police for a child or family member?	
Yes	9.3% (4.4, 14.1)
No	89.9% (84.7, 95.0)
Don't know	0.0% (0.0, 0.1)
Declined	0.8% (0.0, 2.7)
Has a close friend or family member ever died as a result of violence caused by another person?	
Yes	38.3% (29.3, 47.4)
No	50.6% (40.9%, 60.2)
Don't know	9.7% (3.6, 15.7)
Declined	1.5% (0.0, 3.6)

