



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

National Institute of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Tribal Leader,

The United States Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is honored support American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. NIJ's mission is to improve the quality and practice of science to address public safety and criminal justice issues. I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a valuable, free resource that is available to address the issue of missing and murdered indigenous people—the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).

On any given day, over 80,000 people are actively missing in the United States. Every night, tens of thousands of families sit down to their dinner tables and face an empty chair that should be occupied by a missing loved one. Those impacted by the disappearance of a family member face an agonizing wait for answers, sometimes for decades. NamUs offers powerful tools and resources to help solve cases and bring answers to grieving families.

NamUs is a national centralized resource center with users in all 50 states and territories that was developed to locate and identify missing persons and unidentified decedents. This system bridges the communication gap between stakeholder communities to foster enhanced information sharing and case support. To date, NamUs has helped resolve 282 cases of missing AI/AN persons and is currently supporting another 323 active cases. We can do more—we will continue to support this call to action and encourage you to start using the NamUs system and its resources for these critically important cases.

NamUs employs regional program specialists stationed around the country to provide training and technical assistance to all users whose lives have been impacted by the disappearance of a loved one. The dedicated, responsive, and experienced NamUs staff, and the technology that supports their mission, ensures that every missing person's story continues to be told, and no one is ever forgotten. You may access the system and program offerings at www.NamUs.gov or call the NamUs toll-free hotline at 1-855-626-7600.

In closing, I want to emphasize our commitment to working alongside our tribal partners to improve the tools they need to protect citizens, safeguard communities, and solve crimes that, in too many cases, have left loved ones without the answers that they need and deserve.

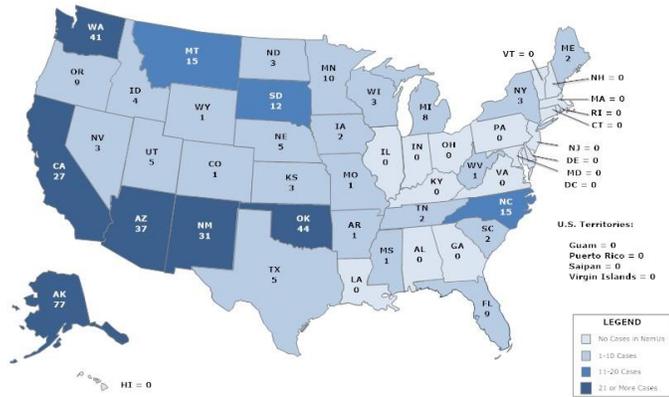
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David B. Muhlhausen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David B. Muhlhausen, Ph.D.
Director, National Institute of Justice

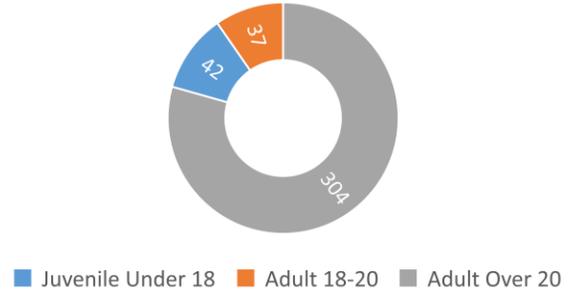
American Indian/Alaska Native Case Update, as of June 1, 2019

There are currently **383** American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) missing persons published in NamUs, from **32** states.

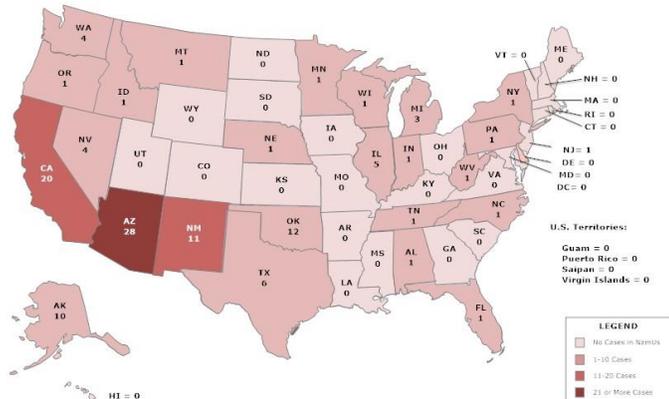


The following charts provide additional detail regarding the **383** AI/AN missing person cases currently published in NamUs:

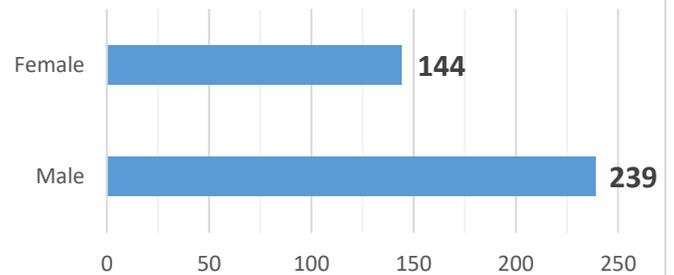
Cases by Age Group of Missing Person



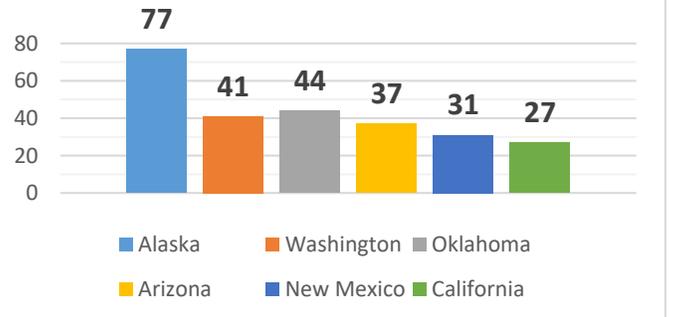
There are currently **118** AI/AN unidentified persons published in NamUs, from **24** states.



Cases by Sex of Missing Person



States with the Highest Number of Published AI/AN Cases, with Case Counts



NamUs Tribal Data Fields

In December 2018, data fields were added to NamUs to increase the sharing of information across local, state, federal, and tribal agencies. These data fields include:

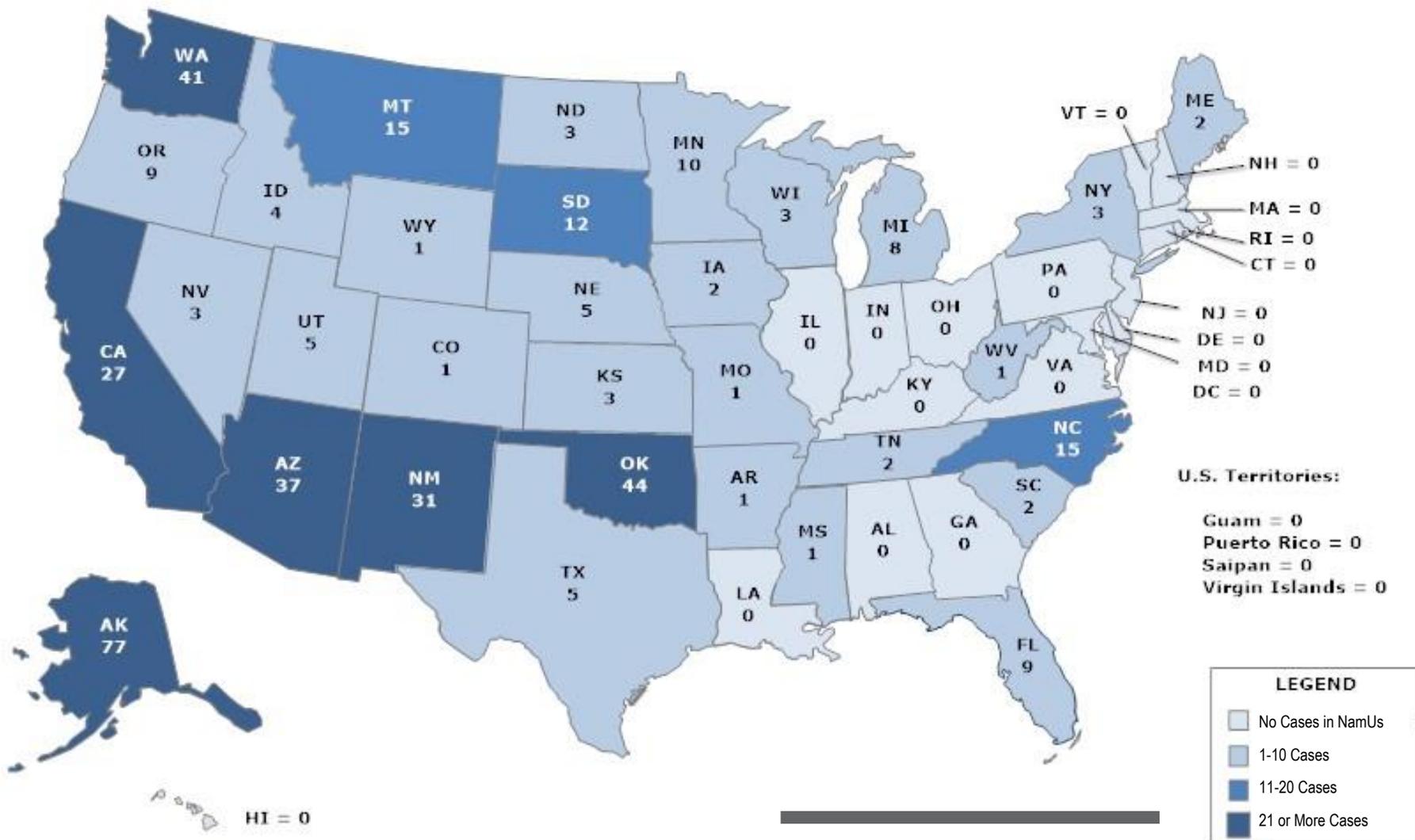
- Was a missing person last seen on tribal land?
- Was the missing person's primary residence on tribal land?
- Was the missing person enrolled in, or affiliated with, one or more tribes?
- Was an unidentified person found deceased on tribal land?
- Does the tribal law enforcement agency participate in TAP (Tribal Access Program)?

About NamUs

NamUs is funded and administered by the National Institute of Justice, and managed in partnership with the UNT Health Science Center through a cooperative agreement. For more information, visit:

www.NamUs.gov

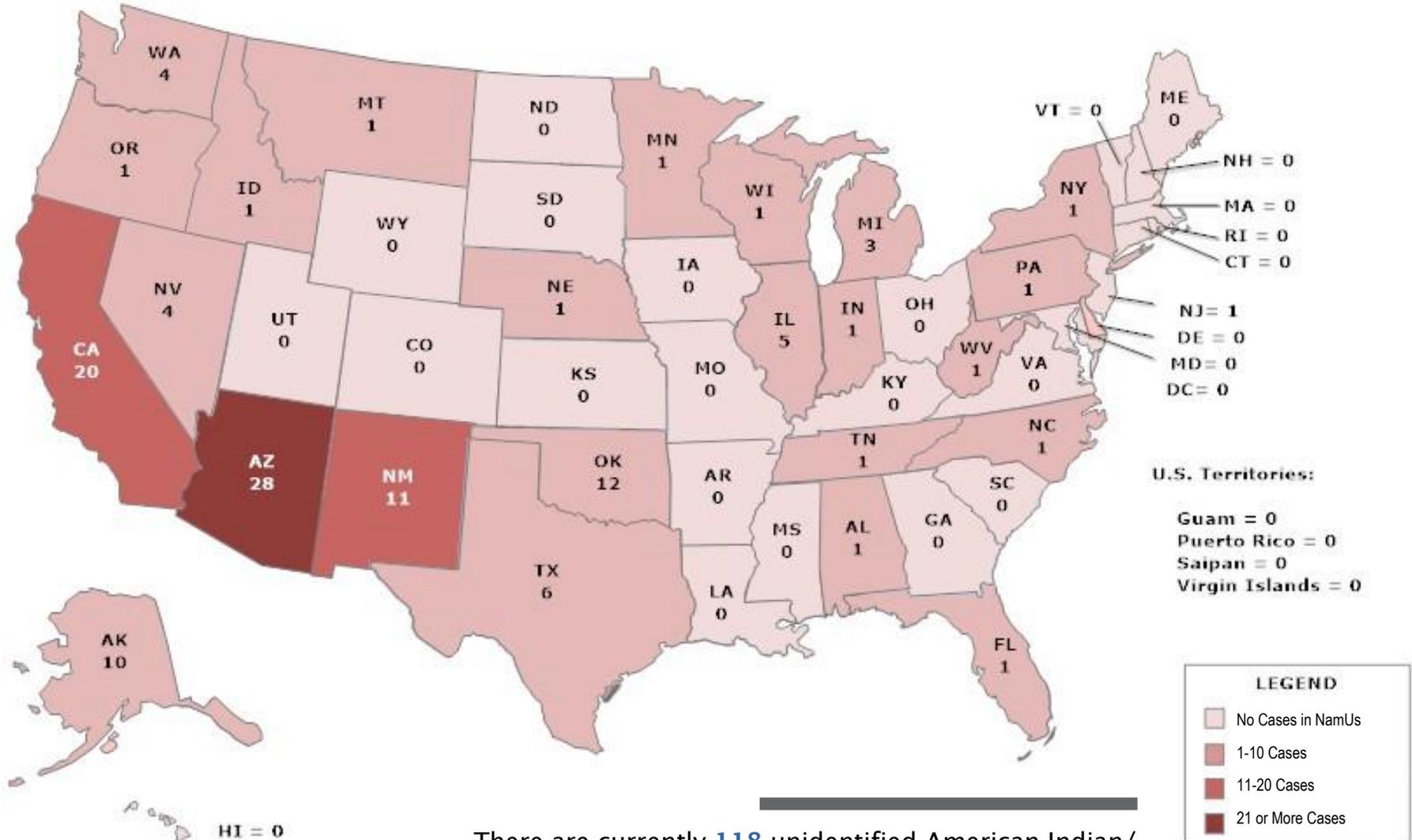
American Indian/Alaska Native Missing Person Cases Published in NamUs, as of June 1, 2019



There are currently **383** unidentified American Indian/
 Alaska Native persons missing from **32** states entered into NamUs.

Male = **239**
 Female = **144**

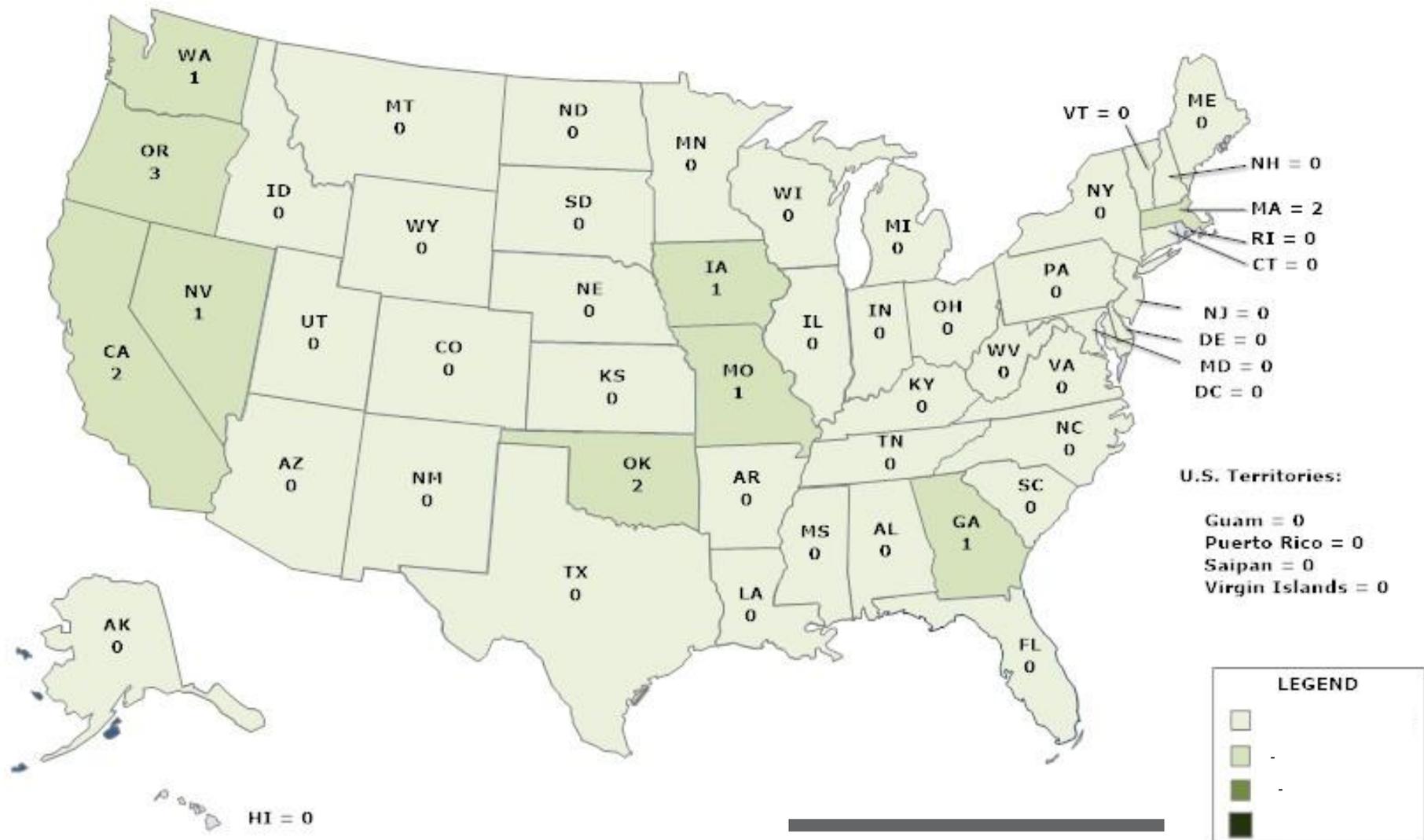
American Indian/Alaska Native Unidentified Person Cases Published in NamUs, as of June 1, 2019



There are currently **118** unidentified American Indian/
 Alaska Native persons found in **25** states entered into NamUs.

Male = **93**
 Female = **22**
 Unsure = **3**

American Indian/Alaska Native Unclaimed Person Cases Published in NamUs, as of June 1, 2019



There are currently **14** unclaimed American Indian/Alaska Native persons found in **9** states entered into NamUs.

Male = 14
 Female = 0