



# The Dirty Effects of Clean Energy: The Impact of Renewable Energy on Indigenous Women and Girls

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## Research Question

**How does the Renewable Energy Industry in California Impact Indigenous Women and Girls?**

## Extraction and Crime

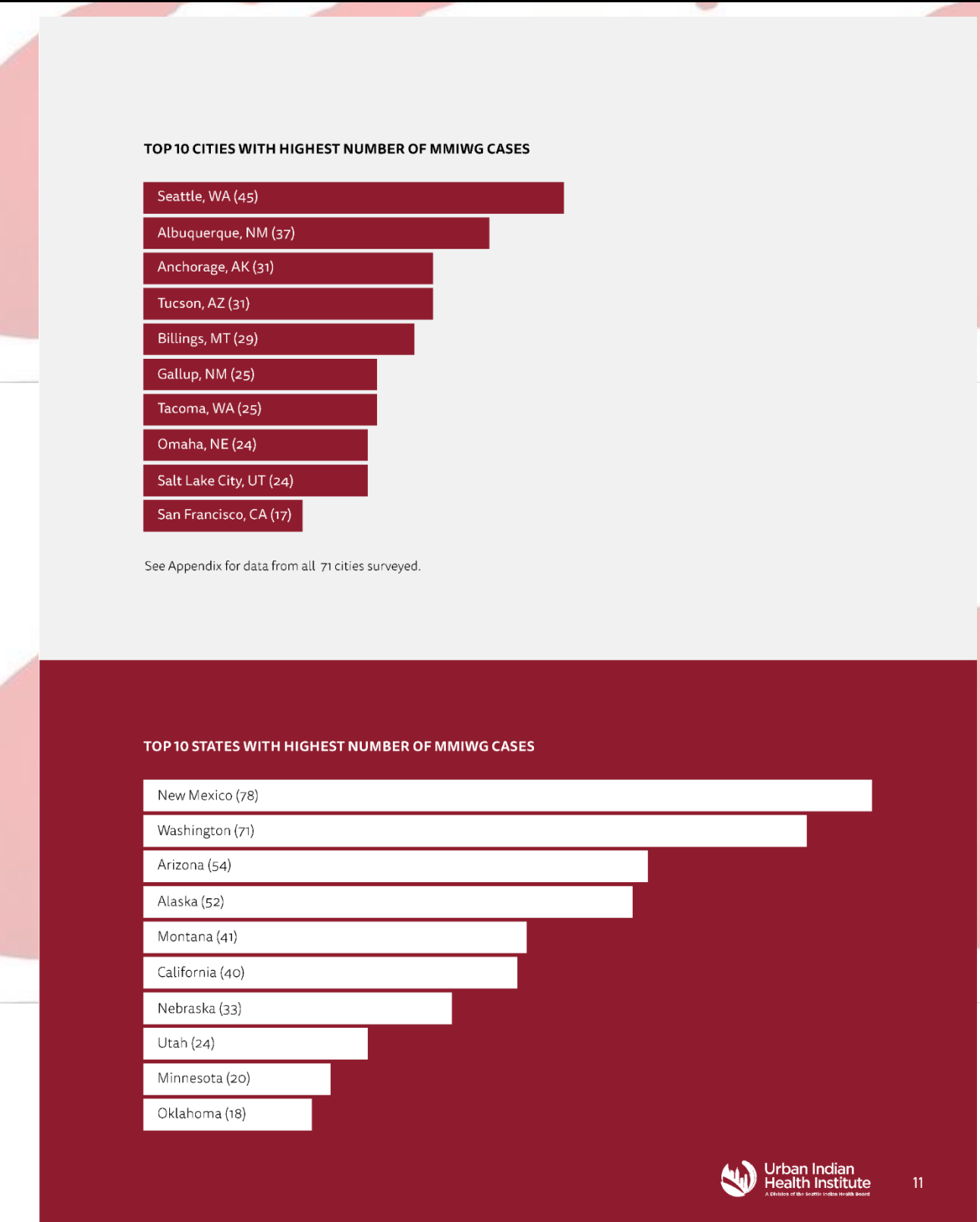
Current research on missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) in the United States found increased oil extraction leads to increased crime and trafficking. Human rights are also violated by renewable energy companies abroad. When large renewable energy production plants are placed within a low socioeconomic community, similar social problems to extractive companies arise (Bonta 2004 & Finley- Brook and Thomas 2011). There are loopholes within Tribal and Federal laws that allow perpetrators who work in the extractive industry to commit violent acts unscathed on tribal land, thus increasing the rate of violence towards Indigenous women (Grisafi 2019).

Researchers noticed a trend between a rise in the number of transient workers to an extraction area and the number of sexual assault cases reported (Deer and Nagle 2017, Washington 2020, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons 2017). Most extractive workers are not Native American and commit crimes on tribal land with no fear of prosecution (Deer and Nagle 2017, & Washington 2020). If an offense is classified above a misdemeanor it goes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Non-Natives cannot be tried for anything above a misdemeanor on tribal lands. This makes Native women five times more likely to experience interracial domestic violence than White women (Grisafi 2020). This project will examine if the renewable energy industry on US soil will create similar negative impacts on Indigenous women and girls contributing to an increase in human trafficking, sexual assault, and violence.

## The State of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) in the USA

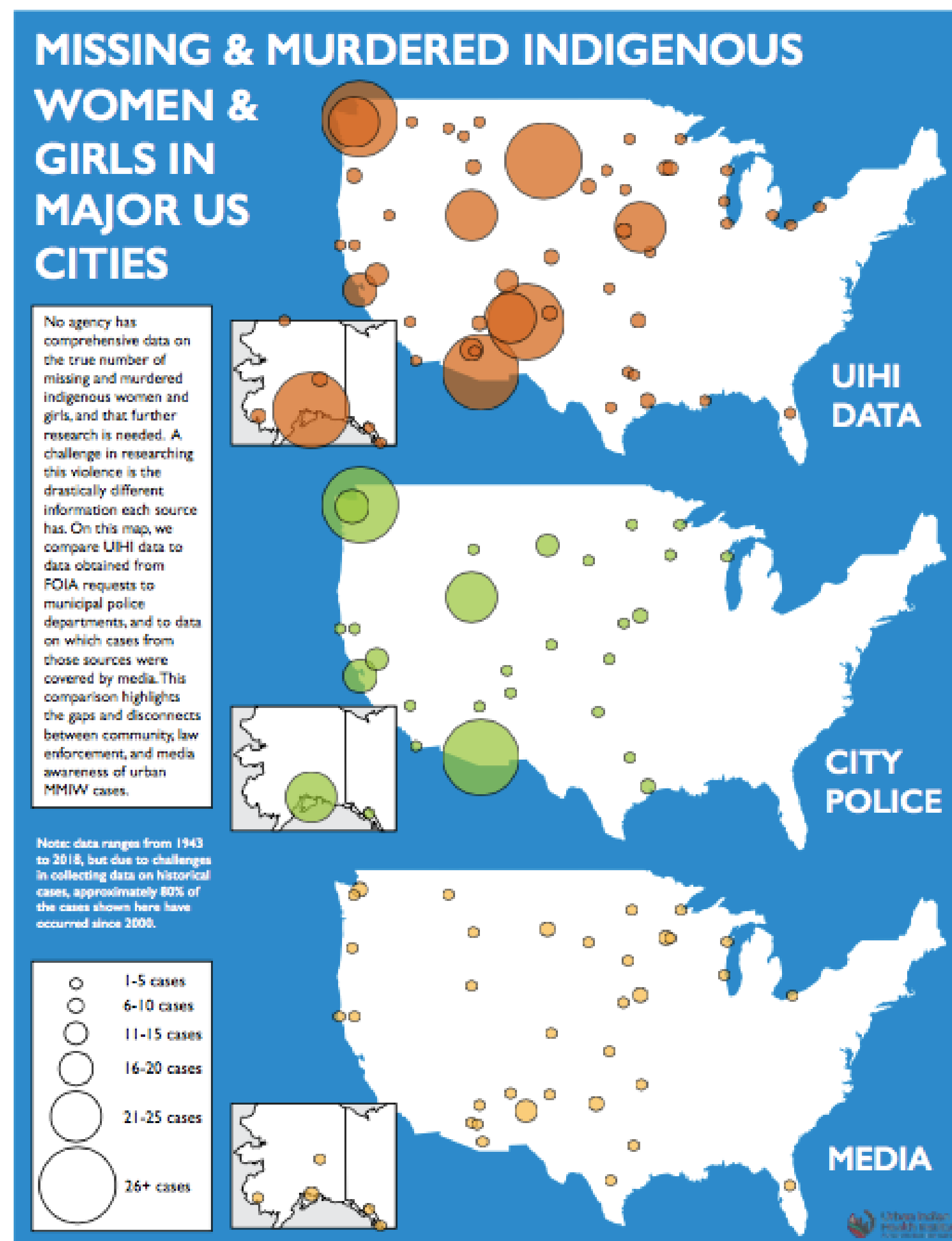
Indigenous women in the United States are negatively impacted by extractive industries. The US is moving towards renewable energy and the impacts of the renewable energy industry on Native American women are unknown. My research question on understanding the impact of renewable energy on Indigenous women is important because the development of renewable energy industries impacts more than Indigenous women. It impacts Black, White, Asians, and people of other ethnic backgrounds. The problem of renewable energy industry development is that Indigenous women and girls are adversely affected. MMIW is a nationwide epidemic with little resolve. There need to be preventive measures in place to help them, and sanctions to help them after they have been affected. There also needs to be accountability for perpetrators. Indigenous people are humans and deserve to have their rights respected. All women, children, men, and two-spirit people who live near renewable energy industrial sites that are adversely impacted by the industries will benefit from this research. Perpetrators of violence will not benefit from this project, especially perpetrators living in temporary housing facilities near work sites (man camps).

## MMIW by State

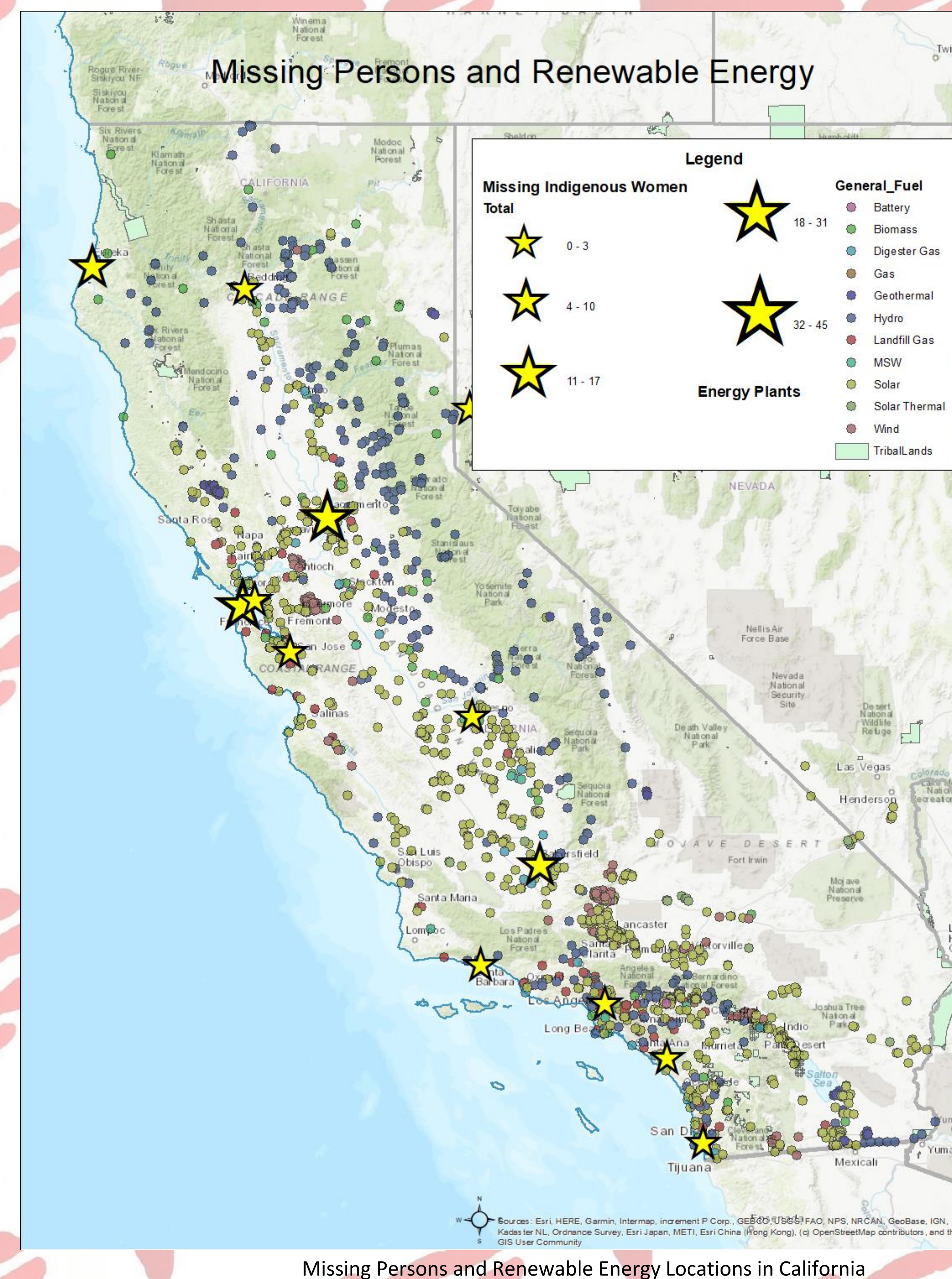


“Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls” 2018

## MMIW In Major Cities



“Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls” 2018



Missing Persons and Renewable Energy Locations in California

## Methods

Reported instances of missing women will be used to build a database that seeks to determine if there is a relationship between renewable energy and missing persons. Aggregate data will be compiled from the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Urban Indian Health Institute, and California police reports. Due to underreporting, I plan to collect more data by creating anonymous voluntary surveys for victims and people who know them. This data will be analyzed by normalizing the number of missing women by the population per city using GIS. Normalizing the data is important because bigger cities will most likely have more missing person cases. Data will also be analyzed by the total reports counted. Map information will be collected from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to determine reservation boundaries, renewable energy location points from the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Energy Commission (“Indian Lands” n.d., “California Power Plants - CSV - California Natural Resources Agency Open Data” n.d.,). The analysis will look at the renewable energy plant count within a twenty-five-mile radius in relation to the aggregated reported cases. This will require a linear regression model to see if there is a relationship between renewable energy plants and the number of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Once this database is created, it will be brought to policymakers to enact legislation to better protect our women.

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