

# Examining Racial Differences in NamUs Profile Completeness: Preliminary Results

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# Background

- More information better for case resolution
- Unknown how profile completeness varies across races

# Aim

To determine if significant difference exist in profile completeness for Native American profiles compared to profiles of other racial groups

# Methods

## Data

- Active missing persons (MP) and unidentified persons (UP) cases
- Public information only

## Variables

- For optional questions, responses dichotomized into answered/not answered

## Analyses

- Unadjusted logistic regressions

# MISSING PERSONS: Outcomes Tested

- **Case Information**
  - Ethnicity, Max Age, Max Height, Max Weight
- **Circumstances**
  - Zip Code, Circumstances
- **Physical**
  - Hair color, Left eye color, Right eye color, Amputations, Deformities, Scars and marks, Tattoos, and Piercings
- **Medical**
  - Other physical, Skeletal information, Foreign objects, Prosthetics, Finger and toenails
- **Clothing Details**
- **Transportation Methods**
  - Vehicle description, Vehicle year, License plate number, License plate expiration year
- **Specimen Availability**
  - DNA, Dental, Fingerprint



# MISSING PERSONS: Case Information

(n=12,529)

Race	Ethnicity	Max Age	Max Height	Max Weight
White	More often			
Black or African American	Less often			
Asian or Pacific Islander	More often			More often
Other/Unsure	More often	More often	More often	More often

# MISSING PERSONS : Circumstances

(n=12,529)

Race	Zip Code	Circumstances
White		
Black or African American		
Asian or Pacific Islander	More often	
Other/Unsure		More often

# MISSING PERSONS : Physical Characteristics (n=12,529)

Race	Eye Description
White	
Black or African American	
Asian or Pacific Islander	
Other/Unsure	Less often



# MISSING PERSONS : Clothing & Accessories (n=10,988)

Race	Clothing Details
White	
Black or African American	
Asian or Pacific Islander	
Other/Unsure	<b>More often</b>



# MISSING PERSONS : Transportation Methods (n=2,460)

Race	License Plate Expiration
White	Less often
Black or African American	
Asian or Pacific Islander	Less often
Other/Unsure	



# MISSING PERSONS : Specimen Availability (n=12,529)

<b>Race</b>	<b>Dental Availability</b>	<b>DNA Availability</b>	<b>Fingerprint Availability</b>
<b>White</b>			
<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Less often</b>	<b>Less often</b>	
<b>Asian or Pacific Islander</b>		<b>Less often</b>	<b>Less often</b>
<b>Other/Unsure</b>	<b>Less often</b>	<b>Less often</b>	<b>Less often</b>



# UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS: Outcomes Tested

- **Demographics**
  - Body condition, Postmortem interval, Postmortem unit
- **Circumstances**
  - GPS Coordinate, Address, City, Zip code, Circumstances
- **Physical Characteristics**
  - Hair , Hair color, Left eye color, Right eye color, Eye description
- **Medical**
  - Other physical, Prior surgery, Prosthetics, Finger and toenails, Medical implants, Foreign objects, Skeletal findings, Organs absent, Medical other
- **Clothing Details**
- **Specimen Availability**
  - DNA, Dental, Fingerprint



# UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS : Demographics cont'd (n=11,164)

<b>Race</b>	<b>Postmortem Interval</b>	<b>Postmortem Interval Unit</b>
<b>White</b>		
<b>Black or African American</b>		
<b>Asian</b>		<b>Less often</b>
<b>Other/Unsure</b>	<b>Less often</b>	

# UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS : Circumstances (n=11,164)

Race	GPS Coordinates	Address	City	Zip Code
White				More often
Black or African American		More often	More often	
Asian				
Other/Unsure	More often			



# UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS : Physical Characteristics (n=11,164)

Race	Hair	Hair Color	Eye Description	Left Eye Color	Right Eye Color
White	More often	More often	More often	More often	More often
Black or African American	More often	More often		More often	More often
Asian	More often	More often	More often	More often	More often
Other/ Unsure					

# UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS : Clothing Details (n=9,313)

Race	Clothing Details
White	More often
Black or African American	More often
Asian	
Other/Unsure	More often



# UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS : Specimen Availability (n=11,164)

Race	DNA Availability	Dental Availability
White	Less often	
Black or African American	Less often	More often
Asian		More often
Other/Unsure	More often	



# Discussion

- Incomplete case information bigger issue for unidentified persons cases than for missing persons cases
- More differences with other racial minorities than with profiles for Whites
- Difficult to know what is behind unanswered questions

# Recommendations

- For medical examiners, coroners, etc.
  - Provide information whenever possible
  - Emphasize importance of information to any family, friends, etc. who might be able to provide additional details
- For NamUs
  - Research to understand differences in information
  - Targeted outreach to emphasize importance of full information
  - Programming – e.g., force descriptions

# Limitations

- Analysis does not include who entered case
- Small subsample sizes
- Does not account for quality of entered information
- Difficult to contextualize findings

# Contact

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