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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

Research and Data – Inuit Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse Inuit

KEY MESSAGES:

- **Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada's Inuit-specific Gender-Based Analysis+ (ISGBA+) Framework must be embedded in all work impacting Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.** Our framework is a culturally-specific, gender-based research lens that must be integrated into the creation, implementation, and evaluation of all data, evidence, policy, and programs impacting Inuit women, girls, gender-diverse Inuit, their families, and communities. Grounding this work in Inuit cultural values is essential to equity and reconciliation.
- **Inuit rights, culture, and language must guide all research and data.** The rights, culture, and language of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit must be the foundation of all research and data use. This includes establishing standardized, distinctions-based methods for data collection that respect Inuit community ownership over their data, and validating research results directly with Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.
- **The data gap is a justice issue – and it must be closed urgently.** Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit are overwhelmingly misrepresented and underrepresented in data. All levels of government must take immediate action to close methodological gaps and prioritize culturally-specific, gendered approaches that centre their needs and lived realities.
- **Disaggregated, gendered data must be the standard across all levels of government.** Data must be disaggregated through a gender-based lens and applied consistently. This means federal, provincial/territorial, municipal/hamlet, and Inuit regional governments ensure no community or population is rendered invisible by incomplete or aggregate reporting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Data gaps and the policy context

The need to fill data research gaps relevant to Indigenous women has been addressed by various governmental agencies, institutions, and other contributing partners.

Article 19 of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#) says that states shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.¹

Several [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls \(MMIWG\) Calls for Justice](#) focus on the need for multijurisdictional data collection, including for populations who are currently underserved or underrepresented within current data.²

The [MMIWG National Action Plan](#) (MMIWG NAP) calls for the establishment of a culturally appropriate Indigenous data infrastructure reflective of Indigenous and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. This must be based on Indigenous data sovereignty alongside culturally rooted and distinctions-based indicators.³

The [Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#) includes a commitment to supporting Indigenous Data Sovereignty.⁴ As part of the MMIWG NAP, the National Action Plan Data Strategy emphasizes the need to

improve baseline data, to develop new and innovative data sources that can speak to progress being made, and to use the information to help develop priorities and actions for the future.⁵

The [National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#) says access to the best available data and information is required to help inform effective solutions for preventing violence against Inuit women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The limited availability of data and information about factors linked to violence and its prevention is a barrier to more effectively preventing violence as well as monitoring prevention measures.⁶

The importance of disaggregated data

Disaggregated data — data divided into detailed sub-categories such as region, gender, and ethnicity — is essential for conducting GBA+ and other intersectional analyses.

By revealing inequalities that aggregated data cannot, it ensures that policies and systems work for as many people as possible. Both disaggregated data and direct engagement with diverse populations are required for effective GBA+, and both demand investment in resources and relationships.

While primary data collection is ideal, it is not always feasible due to budget constraints, travel and access challenges in remote regions, cultural and linguistic barriers, and the time required to build trust-based

¹ UN General Assembly. (2008). United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, 2 October 2007, A/RES/61/295. Retrieved from <https://www.refworld.org/docid/471355a82.html>

² National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Canada). (2019). Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Retrieved from https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1b.pdf

³ Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan. (2021). Retrieved from <https://mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca/eng/1670511213459/1670511226843>

⁴ The Government of Canada. (2023). The Federal Pathway. Retrieved from <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1617731561423/1617731691291>

⁵ The Government of Canada. (2023). The Federal Pathway. Retrieved from <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1617731561423/1617731691291>

⁶ Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. (2021). National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls And 2SLGBTQQIA+ People. Retrieved from <https://itk.ca/mmiwg-inuit-action-plan/>

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community relationships. Secondary data sources can fill this gap, but for Inuit well-being specifically, these sources are often limited, outdated, or aggregated with other Indigenous groups — making Inuit-specific analysis difficult.

Baseline data gaps are a significant concern. Data on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people cannot always be disaggregated by Indigenous identity, region, or demographic group. Also, collection and reporting methods are inconsistent.

When relying on secondary data, it is important to identify the assumptions being made and assess whether they are appropriate for the policy context — or whether primary data collection is warranted instead.

Pauktuutit's data work

Pauktuutit's extensive research activities help fill large gender-specific data and knowledge gaps. Key issues include health, social and economic development, and gender-based violence.

For decades, Pauktuutit has conducted studies that collaborate and engage with Inuit women. The research data gathered by Pauktuutit includes primary research data (e.g., interviews, survey data, focus groups), policy reports, environmental scans, literature reviews, and plentiful corporate knowledge (e.g., handbooks and guides). In addition, several studies conducted in collaboration with academic institutions and researchers have been published in academic peer-reviewed journals.

Therefore, Pauktuutit holds data that demonstrates the importance of gendered policy and programs in addressing the unique needs of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit. Currently, Pauktuutit supports research development internally and research data strategies in collaboration with federal partners.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Pauktuutit recommends that all levels of government adopt the following policies to ensure data, evidence, and programs reflect the rights, needs, and realities of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit:

- **Embed culturally-specific, gender-based lenses into all policy, data, and program development.** Culturally-specific, gender-based frameworks, including Pauktuutit's Inuit-specific GBA+ (ISGBA+), must be integrated into the creation, implementation, and evaluation of all data and evidence used to inform policy, practice, and programs impacting Inuit women, girls, gender-diverse Inuit, their families, and their communities. Grounding this work in Inuit cultural values promotes equity for all Inuit and is a necessary component of reconciliation.
- **Uphold Inuit self-determination, research sovereignty, and data sovereignty.** The self-determination, research sovereignty, culture, language, and rights of Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit must be respected and must guide all research and related data activities. This includes respecting the data sovereignty of Inuit communities through the establishment of standardized methods for collecting and using distinctions-based and gender-disaggregated data.
- **Validate research results with Inuit women and gender-diverse Inuit.** To ensure culturally specific, gender-based lenses are applied effectively, research results must be validated directly with Inuit women, girls, and gender diverse Inuit.
- **Urgently address methodological gaps in data on Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit.** All levels of government must take immediate action to address existing methodological gaps. Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit are overwhelmingly underserved and underrepresented in data.
- **Meaningfully involve Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit in defining and evaluating performance metrics.** Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit must be involved in the definition, construction, application, and evaluation of performance metrics used to measure the success of policies and programs that impact them, their families, and their communities.
- **Disaggregate data with a gender-based lens across all levels of government.** All levels of government – federal, provincial/territorial, municipal/hamlet, and Inuit regional government – must disaggregate data and consistently apply a gender-based lens in all relevant policy and program areas.

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