Dozens of Native children from PWN died in boarding schools, report finds

By ALEXANDRA VON HERNENDICK and ISABELLA REINA

USA TODAY staff reporters

More than 60 children from tribes in South Dakota and Washington, Oregon and Alaska are among the nearly 1,500 Native American children who died in the U.S. government’s 19th-century boarding school system that tore families apart and assimilated Indian children from 1819 to 1978.

The federal government spent $2.2 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars over the 50-year period supporting the boarding schools and similar assimilation policies.

There were at least 17 boarding schools in Washington, up and down the Interstate 5 corridor, on the coast, dotted through the and grandstands of the seven major sports teams in the state. Many of them were on present-day tribal land.


The report, commissioned by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, found marked and unmarked graves of 65 of the more than 400 U.S. boarding schools that were established to forcibly assimilate Native American children into white society.

The report also does not say how each child died, but officials noted the data was not adequate.

The report is part of an effort by federal officials and religious leaders to eradicate Indigenous assimilation. Tribe leaders have called for the federal government to apologize and to create a commission to investigate the boarding school system, which was abolished in 1978.

The report comes as President Joe Biden on Friday signed into law a bill formally apologizing for the decades of assimilation policies.

The bill would create a commission to study the effects of the boarding schools, including the impacts on families and the health and well-being of Native children.

-American Indian Center of Minnesota

-Tribal children’s welfare commission

-Native American lobby group

-Federal Indian Boarding School Impact Study

-Indian Child Welfare Act

-Human trafficking

-Involuntary servitude

-Adoption

-Birthright citizenship

-Genocide

-Human rights

-Native American history

-Native American rights

-Patriotism

-Racism

-Sovereignty

-War crimes

-World War II

The report, commissioned by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, found marked and unmarked graves of 65 of the more than 400 U.S. boarding schools that were established to forcibly assimilate Native American children into white society.

The report also does not say how each child died, but officials noted the data was not adequate.

The report is part of an effort by federal officials and religious leaders to eradicate Indigenous assimilation. Tribe leaders have called for the federal government to apologize and to create a commission to investigate the boarding school system, which was abolished in 1978.

The report comes as President Joe Biden on Friday signed into law a bill formally apologizing for the decades of assimilation policies.

-American Indian Center of Minnesota

-Tribal children’s welfare commission

-Native American lobby group

-Federal Indian Boarding School Impact Study

-Indian Child Welfare Act

-Human trafficking

-Involuntary servitude

-Adoption

-Birthright citizenship

-Genocide

-Human rights

-Native American history

-Native American rights

-Patriotism

-Racism

-Sovereignty

-War crimes

-World War II

The report, commissioned by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, found marked and unmarked graves of 65 of the more than 400 U.S. boarding schools that were established to forcibly assimilate Native American children into white society.

The report also does not say how each child died, but officials noted the data was not adequate.

The report is part of an effort by federal officials and religious leaders to eradicate Indigenous assimilation. Tribe leaders have called for the federal government to apologize and to create a commission to investigate the boarding school system, which was abolished in 1978.

The report comes as President Joe Biden on Friday signed into law a bill formally apologizing for the decades of assimilation policies.

-American Indian Center of Minnesota

-Tribal children’s welfare commission

-Native American lobby group

-Federal Indian Boarding School Impact Study

-Indian Child Welfare Act

-Human trafficking

-Involuntary servitude

-Adoption

-Birthright citizenship

-Genocide

-Human rights

-Native American history

-Native American rights

-Patriotism

-Racism

-Sovereignty

-War crimes

-World War II

The report, commissioned by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, found marked and unmarked graves of 65 of the more than 400 U.S. boarding schools that were established to forcibly assimilate Native American children into white society.

The report also does not say how each child died, but officials noted the data was not adequate.

The report is part of an effort by federal officials and religious leaders to eradicate Indigenous assimilation. Tribe leaders have called for the federal government to apologize and to create a commission to investigate the boarding school system, which was abolished in 1978.

The report comes as President Joe Biden on Friday signed into law a bill formally apologizing for the decades of assimilation policies.

-American Indian Center of Minnesota

-Tribal children’s welfare commission

-Native American lobby group

-Federal Indian Boarding School Impact Study

-Indian Child Welfare Act

-Human trafficking

-Involuntary servitude

-Adoption

-Birthright citizenship

-Genocide

-Human rights

-Native American history

-Native American rights

-Patriotism

-Racism

-Sovereignty

-War crimes

-World War II

The report, commissioned by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, found marked and unmarked graves of 65 of the more than 400 U.S. boarding schools that were established to forcibly assimilate Native American children into white society.

The report also does not say how each child died, but officials noted the data was not adequate.

The report is part of an effort by federal officials and religious leaders to eradicate Indigenous assimilation. Tribe leaders have called for the federal government to apologize and to create a commission to investigate the boarding school system, which was abolished in 1978.

The report comes as President Joe Biden on Friday signed into law a bill formally apologizing for the decades of assimilation policies.

-American Indian Center of Minnesota

-Tribal children’s welfare commission

-Native American lobby group

-Federal Indian Boarding School Impact Study

-Indian Child Welfare Act

-Human trafficking

-Involuntary servitude

-Adoption

-Birthright citizenship

-Genocide

-Human rights

-Native American history

-Native American rights

-Patriotism

-Racism

-Sovereignty

-War crimes

-World War II

The report, commissioned by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, found marked and unmarked graves of 65 of the more than 400 U.S. boarding schools that were established to forcibly assimilate Native American children into white society.

The report also does not say how each child died, but officials noted the data was not adequate.

The report is part of an effort by federal officials and religious leaders to eradicate Indigenous assimilation. Tribe leaders have called for the federal government to apologize and to create a commission to investigate the boarding school system, which was abolis...