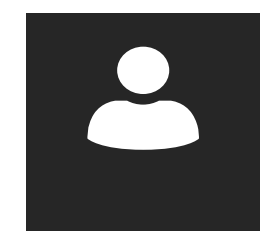


The Portrayal of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys in Canadian News Media



PRESENTER:

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BACKGROUND: Indigenous men and boys are murdered at a higher rate than any other group of individuals in Canada. Yet there is little public concern surrounding this issue.

METHODS

1. Collected 39 news articles discussing missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys (MMIMB)
2. Articles were included if they discussed the phenomena of MMIMB and/or an incident where an IMB was missing or killed
3. Analyzed news articles by thematic coding using NVivo

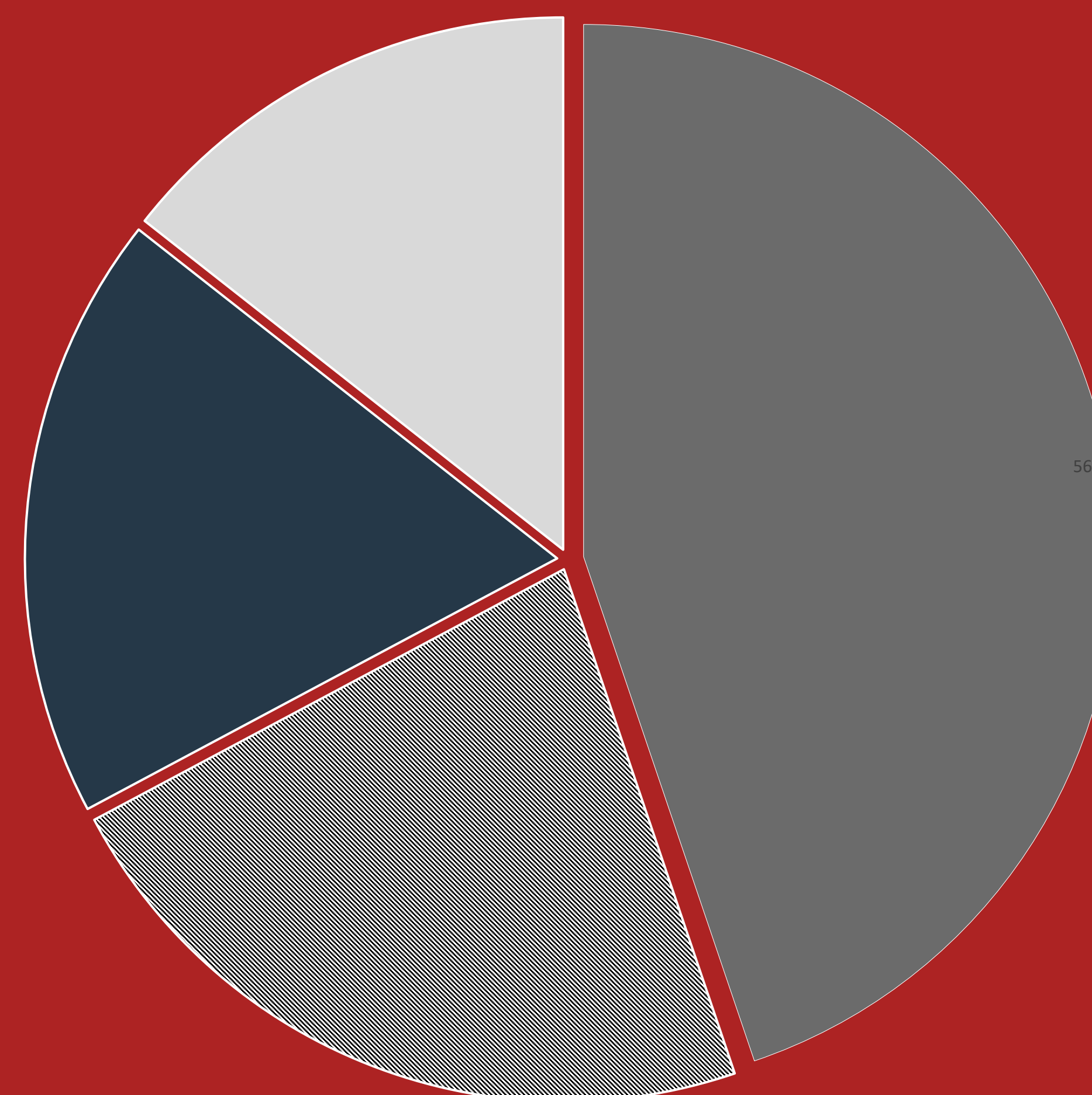
RESULTS

- **Blame and Responsibility:** All articles discussed who is to blame or be held responsible for MMIMB, or a specific incident an IMB was missing or killed (see Figure 1 for subthemes)
- Articles often blamed MMIMB by focusing on whether they used drugs or alcohol, had a mental health disorder, experienced trauma, and/or had a criminal history

Narratives in Canadian news media dehumanize and blame missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys and their communities for the violence they experience.

Figure 1: Theme of Blame and Responsibility

- Blame on Indigenous men and boys, their culture, and community
- ▨ Blame on Government
- Blame on Canadian Police
- Blame on Discrimination and Racism



- About one third of the articles discussed the MMIMB at some point in a humanizing way by using descriptors such as passionate, social, always laughing and smiling

“At the end of the day they're human beings, and they should be given as much representation and consideration as other people” (Trembath, 2016, paras. 9)

DISCUSSION

- Results mostly reflect themes and narratives found in previous literature on MMIWG: Indigenous communities are to be feared and blamed for their victimization (Cripps, 2021; Carden, 2017)

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