



CB02-
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October 21, 2002

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American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month: November 2002

To mark this observance, the Census Bureau has culled the following facts from its censuses and surveys on the American Indian and Alaska Native population.

Population Total

4.1 million

The number of people who reported as American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races in Census 2000. They made up 1.5 percent of the total population. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>

3.1 million

Among all people who reported American Indian and Alaska Native either alone or in combination with one or more other races in Census 2000, the number who identified themselves as belonging to a specific tribe.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>

- American Indian tribes with 50,000 or more individuals were Cherokee, Navajo, Choctaw, Blackfeet, Chippewa, Muscogee, Apache and Lumbee, according to Census 2000. Cherokee was easily the largest, with 697,400 people reporting Cherokee alone or in combination with one or more other races or tribes.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t18.html>>

- Census 2000 showed that Tlingit was the most populous Alaska Native tribe, as 17,200 respondents reported Tlingit alone or in combination with one or more other races or American Indian or Alaska Native tribes. Other Alaska Native tribes with 5,000 or more responses were Alaska Athabascan, Eskimo and Yupi'ik.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t18.html>>

Income

\$32,116

Median household income for American Indians and Alaska Natives, based on a 1999-2001 average derived from the 2000, 2001 and 2002 annual demographic supplements to the Current Population Survey.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-124.html>>

(Note: The data in the Families, Population Distribution and Homeownership sections pertain to the population who reported American Indian and Alaska Native alone, as well as those who reported American Indian and Alaska Native and at least one other race.)

Families

936,000

Number of American Indian and Alaska Native families at the time of Census 2000. Of these:

- 585,000, or 63 percent, consisted of married couples.
- 526,000, or 56 percent, included own children under 18.
- 310,000, or 33 percent, were married couples with their own children under 18.
<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

Population Distribution

Nation

- Census 2000 was the first census in which respondents had the option of choosing more than one race. People who chose American Indian and Alaska Native alone in 2000 showed an increase of 516,700, or 26 percent, since 1990. However, if the population who chose American Indian and at least one other race is added, the result is an increase of 2.2 million, or 110 percent. By comparison, the total U.S. population grew by 13 percent.
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>
- According to Census 2000, 43 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives lived in the West, 31 percent in the South, 17 percent in the Midwest and 9 percent in the Northeast.
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>

538,300

Number of American Indians and Alaska Natives living on reservations or other trust lands at the time of Census 2000. Of this number, 175,200 resided on the Navajo Nation reservation and trust lands, which span portions of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. This was by far the most populous

reservation or other trust land.

<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

States

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The number of states with more than 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native residents, according to Census 2000. California (628,000) and Oklahoma (392,000) had the largest populations, followed by Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, New York, Washington, North Carolina, Michigan, Alaska and Florida. Combined, these states accounted for 62 percent of the total American Indian and Alaska Native population, but only 44 percent of the total population.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>

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Number of states where the American Indian and Alaska Native population as a proportion of the total population exceeded the national average of 1.5 percent, according to Census 2000. Alaska (19 percent), Oklahoma (11 percent) and New Mexico (10 percent) had the highest rates. The other 16 states included Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming in the West; Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota in the Midwest; and North Carolina in the South. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>

Counties and Places

786

Number of counties where the proportion of the population that reported in Census 2000 that they were American Indian or Alaska Native met or exceeded the national average of 1.5 percent. All but seven states contained at least one such county. (There are 3,141 counties or county equivalents in the United States.)

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>

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Number of counties across the country where American Indians and Alaska Natives were in the majority, according to Census 2000. These counties were concentrated in northern and western Alaska; in the Four Corners area (where the boundaries of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado meet); and in the Great Plains states of South Dakota, Montana and North Dakota. Nebraska and Wisconsin each contained one such county, also.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>

87,200

The number of people in New York City who in Census 2000 reported as American Indian and Alaska Native. New York City led all the nation's cities in this category. Los Angeles was second, with 53,100; followed by Phoenix (35,100); Tulsa, Okla. (30,200); and Oklahoma City, Okla. (29,000).

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>

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Percentage of Anchorage, Alaska, residents who in Census 2000 reported as American Indian and Alaska Native.

Among cities of 100,000 or more, Anchorage edged out Tulsa, Okla. (8 percent).

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn56.html>>

Age Distribution

28.7

The median age of the American Indian and Alaska Native population at the time of Census 2000, meaning one-half were above this midpoint and one-half below. The median age for the total U.S. population was 35.3 years.

<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

259,663

Number of American Indians and Alaska Natives age 65 and over, according to Census 2000.

<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

Business

197,300

Number of American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses in the United States in 1997. These businesses employed 298,700 people and generated \$34.3 billion in revenues. They made up 0.9 percent of the nation's 20.8 million nonfarm businesses and 6.5 percent of its 3.0 million minority-owned firms.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-87.html>>

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-115.html>>

\$174,100

Average receipts of an American Indian and Alaska Native-owned firm in 1997. About 2 percent (4,900) of all American Indian and Alaska Native-owned firms had annual sales of \$1 million or more.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-87.html>>

Education

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Among people age 25 and over who said American Indian and Alaska Native was their only race, the percentage who had a bachelor's degree or higher at the time of Census 2000.

<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

71

Among people age 25 and over who said American Indian and Alaska Native was their only race, the percentage who had at least a high school diploma at the time of Census 2000.

<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

Homeownership

Census 2000 showed that the American Indian and Alaska Native homeownership rate - the percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native households owning their own

home - was 55 percent.

<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

Serving Our Nation

195,871

Number of civilian veterans in Census 2000 who said American Indian and Alaska Native was their only race.

<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

Poverty

24.5

The poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives, based on a 1999-2001 average.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-124.html>>

800,000

Number of American Indians and Alaska Natives below the poverty line, based on a 1999-2001 national average.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-124.html>>

The preceding facts come from Census 2000, the Current Population Survey and the Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises. The data are subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Previous 2002 *Census Bureau Facts for Features*: African American History Month (February), Valentine's Day (Feb. 14), Women's History Month (March), St. Patrick's Day (March 17), Census Bureau Centennial (March 6), Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May), Older Americans Month (May), Mother's Day (May 12), Father's Day (June 16), the Fourth of July, 12th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26), Back to School (August), Labor Day (Sept. 2), Grandparents Day (Sept. 8), Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) and Halloween (Oct. 31). Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: (301) 763-3030; fax: (301) 457-3670; or e-mail: <pio@census.gov>.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Public Information Office
(301) 763-3030*

Last Revised: October 21, 2002 at 09:48:11 AM

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