

# FACTS for FEATURES



CB04-FFSE.13

September 21, 2004

Photos

★ Special Edition ★

## Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian

To commemorate today's grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Census Bureau presents a variety of facts on the nation's American Indian and Alaska native population.

### 4.3 million

The number of people estimated to be American Indian and Alaska native or American Indian and Alaska native in combination with one or more other races, as of July 1, 2002. They made up 1.5 percent of the total population. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-100.html>>

### 103,000

The number of people estimated to be American Indian and Alaska native alone or American Indian and Alaska native in combination with one or more other races who were added to the nation's population between Census Day, April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2002. This population increased at a rate of 2.4 percent over the period, roughly the same rate of increase as the overall population.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-100.html>>

### 3.1 million

The number of American Indians and Alaska natives who claim membership in a specific tribe.

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

- American Indian tribes with more than 50,000 members are Cherokee, Navajo, Choctaw, Blackfeet, Chippewa, Muscogee (Creek), Apache and Lumbee. Cherokee is easily the largest, with a population of 697,400 who are Cherokee alone or in combination with one or more other races or tribes.

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

- Tlingit is the largest Alaska native tribe, with 17,200 members. Other Alaska native tribes with 5,000 or more members are Alaskan Athabascan, Eskimo and Yup'ik.

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



## Families and Children

### 1 million

Number of American Indian and Alaska native families. Of these:

- 633,000, or 63 percent, consist of married couples.
- 566,000, or 57 percent, include own children under 18.
- 339,000, or 34 percent, are married couples with their own children under 18.  
<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

## 48

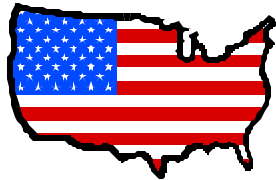
Percentage of American Indians and Alaska natives who are married.

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

The percentage of adopted children who are American Indian and Alaska native (1.6 percent) is higher than the percentage of biological (1.0 percent) or stepchildren (1.2 percent) who are American Indian and Alaska native. This is due in part to informal adoptions in American Indian and Alaska native communities. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-130.html>>

## Population Distribution

### Nation



### 538,300

Number of American Indians and Alaska natives living on reservations or other trust lands. Of this number, 175,200 reside on Navajo nation reservation and trust lands, which span portions of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. This is by far the most populous reservation or trust land.

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

## 66

Percentage of American Indians and Alaska natives who live in metropolitan areas, lowest of any race group. A majority of American Indians and Alaska natives lived outside metropolitan areas until about 1990. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn173.html>>

### States

### 683,000

American Indian and Alaska native population in California on July 1, 2002, the highest total of any state in the nation. California is followed by Oklahoma (395,000) and Arizona (320,000).

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-144.html>>

## 19

Percentage of Alaska's population identified as American Indian and Alaska native on July 1, 2002, the highest rate for this race group of any state in the nation, followed by Oklahoma (11 percent) and New Mexico (11 percent).

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-144.html>>

## 21,900

The number of American Indians and Alaska natives added to Arizona's population between Census Day, April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2002. That was the largest numeric increase of any state in the nation. California and Texas added 10,200 and 9,700, respectively.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-144.html>>

## 9.2

The percentage increase in Nevada's American Indian and Alaska native population between April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2002. That was the highest such percentage increase for this group of any state in the nation. Florida and Arizona were next, with increases of 7.4 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-144.html>>

### Counties

## 156,000

Number of American Indians and Alaska natives in Los Angeles County, Calif., on July 1, 2002. Los Angeles led all the nation's counties in the number of people in this racial category.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-143.html>>

## 50

Percentage of residents of Navajo County, Ariz., who identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska native on July 1, 2002, highest percentage of any county.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-143.html>>

## 9,000

Number of American Indians or Alaska natives added to the population of Maricopa County, Ariz., between April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2002. Maricopa led all the nation's counties in this category. Meanwhile, when it comes to percentage increase in the American Indian and Alaska native population, Fairfax County, Va., led all counties with a 45 percent increase over the same period.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-143.html>>



### Age Distribution

## 1.4 million

The number of American Indian and Alaska native children under 18. Children

comprise nearly one-third of this race group.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-100.html>

## 292,000

Number of American Indians and Alaska natives age 65 and over. This age group comprises 7 percent of the American Indian and Alaska native population.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-100.html>



### Education

## 14

Percentage of American Indians and Alaska natives age 25 and over who had earned at least a bachelor's degree. <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>

## 75

Percentage of American Indians and Alaska natives age 25 and over who had at least a high school diploma. <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>

## 125,000

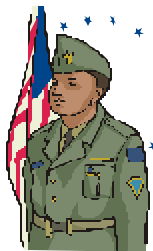
Number of American Indians and Alaska natives age 25 and over who have an advanced degree (i.e., master's, Ph.D., medical or law).

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



### Homeownership

The American Indian and Alaska native homeownership rate — the percentage of American Indian and Alaska native households who own their own home — is 55 percent. <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>



### Proud to Serve

## 383,000

Number of military veterans who identified themselves as American Indian and Alaska natives. Of these, 147,000 served during the Vietnam War era.

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



### Language

## 381,000

Number of people who speak a native North American language. Of these languages, the most commonly spoken is Navajo, with 178,014 speakers.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t20.html>>



## Jobs 24

Percentage of American Indians and Alaska natives age 16 and over who work in management, professional and related occupations.

<<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-25.pdf>>

From time to time, special editions of the U.S. Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* are issued to commemorate anniversaries or observances or to provide background information for topics in the news. Below is a listing of previous such editions:

U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans (April 10, 2003)  
Tax Time (April 11, 2003)  
Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial (May 12, 2003)  
Dialing for Dollars (Sept. 24, 2003)  
First Flight Centennial (Dec. 3, 2003)  
Social Security COLA (Dec. 11, 2003)  
The 2004 Presidential Election (Jan. 6, 2004)  
Brown v. Board of Education: 50th Anniversary (Feb. 4, 2004)  
Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (March 10, 2004)  
50th Anniversary of 'Wonderful World of Color' in Television (March 11, 2004)  
Cinco de Mayo (April 21, 2004)  
Teacher Appreciation Week (April 22, 2004)  
Dedication of National World War II Memorial (May 3, 2004)  
53rd Anniversary of the UNIVAC Computer (May 3, 2004)  
Civil Rights Act of 1964: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (May 3, 2004)  
Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders Honored in May (May 17, 2004)  
Unmarried and Single Americans Week (July 19, 2004)  
National Adoption Month (Sept. 20, 2004)

**Editor's note:** Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. 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](mailto:pio@census.gov)>.