

U.S. Census Bureau News

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American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: November 2010

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. Red Fox James, a Blackfeet Indian, rode horseback from state to state, getting endorsements from 24 state governments, to have a day to honor American Indians. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating November 1990 as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations have been issued every year since 1994. This Facts for Features presents data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, as this is one of the six major race categories.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, the data in the “Population” section refer to the population who reported a race alone or in combination with one or more other races.

Population

5 million

As of July 1, 2009, the estimated population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race. They made up 1.6 percent of the total population.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2009-srh.html>>

8.6 million

The projected population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race, on July 1, 2050. They would comprise 2 percent of the total population.

Source: Population projections

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/summarytables.html>>

83,670

Increase in the nation’s American Indian and Alaska Native population from July 1, 2008, to July 1, 2009. The population of this group increased by 1.7 percent during this period compared with the overall population growth of 1 percent.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2009-srh.html>>

29.7

Median age of the American Indian and Alaska Native population in 2009, younger than the median of 36.8 for the population as a whole. About 30 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives were younger than 18, and 8 percent were 65 and older.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2009-srh.html>>

739,964

The American Indian and Alaska Native population in California as of July 1, 2009, the highest total of any state. California was followed by Oklahoma (415,371) and Arizona (366,954).

About 13,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives were added to Texas' population between July 1, 2008, and July 1, 2009. That is the largest numeric increase of any state. Texas (4.2 percent) also had the highest rate of increase during the period.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2009-04.html>>

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Number of states where American Indians and Alaska Natives were the largest race or ethnic minority group in 2009. These states were Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2009-04.html>>

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Number of states with more than 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native residents on July 1, 2009. These states were California, Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, New York, Washington, Florida, North Carolina, Michigan, Alaska, Oregon and Colorado. Combined, these states were home to 65 percent of the nation's American Indian and Alaska Native residents.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2009-04.html>>

18%

The proportion of Alaska's population identified as American Indian and Alaska Native as of July 1, 2009, the highest rate for this race group of any state. Alaska was followed by Oklahoma (11 percent) and New Mexico (11 percent).

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2009-04.html>>

151,843

The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Los Angeles County, Calif., as of July 1, 2009. Los Angeles led all of the nation's counties in the number of people in this category. Harris County, Texas, added about 2,100 people to this group between July 1, 2008, and July 1, 2009, leading the nation's counties in largest increase of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Source: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/>>

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Among counties or equivalent with total populations of 10,000 or more, the number that were majority American Indian and Alaska Native, as of July 1, 2009. Shannon, S.D., led the way, with 86 percent of its population from this group.

Source: Population estimates

<<http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/CC-EST2009-alldata.html>>

Families and Children

1,080,775

The number of American Indian and Alaska Native families in 2009. Of these:

- 39 percent were married-couple families, including those with children.
- 18 percent were married couples with their own children, under the age of 18.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

3.51

Average number of people in an American Indian and Alaska Native family in 2009. This was larger than the national average size for all families, regardless of race (3.23 people).

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

Housing

55%

The percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native householders who owned their own home in 2009. This is compared with 66 percent of the overall population.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

\$129,800

Median value of homes owned by American Indians and Alaska Natives. The median value of homes for the overall population was \$185,200.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

Languages

21%

Percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives 5 and older who spoke a language other than English at home, compared with 20 percent for the nation as a whole.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

Education

80%

The percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives 25 and older who had at least a high school diploma. Also, 16 percent obtained a bachelor's degree. In comparison, the overall population had 85 percent with a high school diploma and 28 percent with a bachelor's degree.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

163,676

Number of American Indians and Alaska Natives 25 and older who had a graduate or professional degree.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

Businesses

\$34.5 billion

Receipts for American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned businesses in 2007. These businesses numbered 237,386.

45,734

Number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms in California in 2007, which led the states. Oklahoma, Texas and New York followed.

3 in 10

Number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms that operated in construction and other services (such as personal services, and repair and maintenance) in 2007.

24,064

Number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms that had paid employees in 2007. These businesses employed 191,472 people.

3,631

Number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms with receipts of \$1 million or more in 2002. These firms accounted for nearly 2 percent of the total number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms and more than 64 percent of their total receipts.

Source: *American Indian- and Alaska Native-Owned Firms: 2002*

<<http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/02/aiansof.html>>

Note: This is the most current data available — 2007 data will be released in March 2011.

178

Number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms with 100 or more employees in 2002. These firms generated nearly \$5.3 billion in gross receipts — 24 percent of the total revenue for American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned employer firms.

Source: *American Indian- and Alaska Native-Owned Firms: 2002*

<<http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/02/aiansof.html>>

Note: This is the most current data available — 2007 data will be released in March 2011.

New York; Los Angeles; and Gallup, N.M.

The three cities with the largest number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms, with 7,134; 5,767; and 2,642, respectively, in 2002.

Source: *American Indian- and Alaska Native-Owned Firms: 2002*

<<http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/02/aiansof.html>>

Note: This is the most current data available — 2007 data will be released in March 2011.

Source for data in this section, unless otherwise stated: Preliminary Estimates of Business

Ownership by Gender, Ethnicity, Race and Veteran Status: 2007

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/economic_census/cb10-107.html>

Jobs

28%

The percentage of civilian-employed American Indian and Alaska Native people 16 and older who worked in management, professional and related occupations. In addition, 24 percent worked in sales and office occupations and about the same percentage worked in service occupations.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

Caregivers

54%

Among American Indians and Alaska Natives 30 and older who lived with their grandchildren, the percentage who were also responsible for their care. The corresponding rate for the population as a whole was 40 percent.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

Veterans

339,515

The number of American Indian and Alaska Native veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

Income and Poverty

\$37,348

The median income of American Indian and Alaska Native households.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

23.6%

The percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives that were in poverty in 2009.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

Health Insurance

24.1%

The percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives who lacked health insurance coverage.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races population <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

African-American History Month (February)	Labor Day
Super Bowl	Grandparents Day
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Women's History Month (March)	Unmarried and Single Americans Week
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/ St. Patrick's Day (March 17)	Halloween (Oct. 31)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)	American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
Older Americans Month (May)	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Cinco de Mayo (May 5)	Thanksgiving Day
Mother's Day	The Holiday Season (December)
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)	
Father's Day	
The Fourth of July (July 4)	
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)	
Back to School (August)	

Editor's note: The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Facts for Features are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: 301-763-3030; fax: 301-763-3762; or e-mail: <pio@census.gov>.