

## American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: November 2007

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. Red Fox James, a Blackfoot 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.



Courtesy of U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

### Population

#### 4.5 million

As of July 1, 2006, the estimated population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race. They made up 1.5 percent of the total population. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010048.html>

#### 45,000

Increase in the nation's American Indian and Alaska Native population from July 1, 2005, to July 1, 2006. The population of this group increased by 1 percent during the period. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010048.html>



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### 31

Median age of the American Indian and Alaska Native population in 2006, younger than the median of 36.4 for the population as a whole. About 1.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives were younger than 18, and 352,000 were 65 and older. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010048.html>>

### 688,500

The American Indian and Alaska Native population in California as of July 1, 2006, the highest total of any state in the nation. California was followed by Oklahoma (397,000) and Arizona (331,200).

About 8,100 American Indians and Alaska Natives were added to Arizona's population between July 1, 2005, and July 1, 2006. That is the largest numeric

increase of any state. Georgia (3.7 percent) had the highest rate of increase during the period. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010048.html>>

### 9

Number of states where American Indians and Alaska Natives were the largest race or ethnic minority group in 2006. These states are Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wyoming. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010048.html>>

### 11

Number of states with more than 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native residents on July 1, 2006. These states were California, Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, New York, Washington, Florida, North Carolina, Michigan and Alaska. Combined, these states were home to 62 percent of the nation's American Indian and Alaska Native residents. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010048.html>>

### 18%

The proportion of Alaska's population identified as American Indian and Alaska Native as of July 1, 2006, the highest rate for this race group of any state. Alaska was followed by Oklahoma and New Mexico (11 percent each).

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010048.html>>



Courtesy of Flickr.com



## 150,000

The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Los Angeles County, Calif., as of July 1, 2006. Los Angeles led all of the nation's counties in the number of people of this racial category.

Maricopa County, Ariz., added about 3,700 people to this group between July 1, 2005, and July 1, 2006, leading the nation's counties in this category. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010482.html>>

## 28

Number of counties or county equivalents nationwide that were majority American Indian and Alaska Native, as of July 1, 2006. Wade Hampton Census Area, Alaska, led the way, with 94 percent of its population being a member of this race group. (Among counties or equivalents with total populations of 10,000 or more, 10 were majority American Indian and Alaska Native, led by Shannon, S.D., at 88 percent.) <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010482.html>>

## 301,800

The nation's Cherokee alone population. Cherokee is one of the nation's largest tribal groups, along with Navajo (alone), which has a population of 296,100. Source: 2006 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone population.

## Families and Children

### 540,600

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

- 316,900 are married-couple families, including those with children.
- 150,200 are married couples with their own children, under the age of 18

### 3.55

Average number of people in an American Indian and Alaska Native family. This is larger than the national average size for all families (3.2 people)



Courtesy of Edward S. Curtis/Library of Congress

## Housing

### 56%

The percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native households who own their own home.

### 108,700

Median value of homes owned by American Indians and Alaska Natives.

## Languages

### 28%

Percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives 5 years and older who speak a language other than English at home



Courtesy of Flickr.com

## Education

### **76%**

The percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives 25 and older who have at least a high school diploma. Also, 13 percent have at least a bachelor's degree.

### **142,800**

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

Unless otherwise indicated, the above data come from the 2006 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone population.

## Businesses

### **\$26.9 billion**

Receipts for American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned businesses in 2002. These businesses numbered 201,387.

### **20,380**

Number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside Combined Statistical area, making that area number one in the metro category. Among counties, Los Angeles had the highest number of firms (13,061).

### **38,125**

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

### **Nearly 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).

### **24,498**

Number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms that had paid employees. These businesses employed 191,270 people.

### **3,631**

Number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms with receipts of \$1 million or more. 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.

### **178**

Number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms with 100 or more employees. 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.

## **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.

For more information on the data in this section: American Indian- and Alaska Native-Owned Firms: 2002, at <[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/business\\_ownership/007013.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/business_ownership/007013.html)>

## **Jobs**

### **25%**

The percentage of civilian employed American Indian and Alaska Native people 16 and older who worked in management, professional and related occupations. In addition, 23 percent worked in sales and office occupations and 22 percent in service occupations.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone population.

## **Caregivers**

### **56%**

Percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives 30 and older who lived with grandchildren and were responsible for caring for them. The corresponding rate for the population as a whole was 41 percent.



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## **Veterans**

### **168,300**

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

## **Income and Poverty**

### **\$33,762**

The median income of households where the householder reported being American Indian and Alaska Native and no other race.

### **27%**

The poverty rate of people who reported they were American Indian and Alaska Native and no other race.

There is a wide variation in the demographic characteristics of American Indians and Alaska Natives. For instance, members of the Chippewa (alone) tribal group had a median household income of \$36,481, while for Navajos (alone), median household income totaled \$27,815.

Unless otherwise indicated, the previous data come from the 2006 American Community Survey for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone population.

# Health Insurance

## 31%

The percentage of people who reported they were American Indian and Alaska Native and no other race who lacked health insurance coverage, based on a three-year average. Source: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006, <[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income\\_wealth/010583.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/010583.html)>

A list of observances covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series in 2007:

African-American History Month (February)	Back to School (August)
Super Bowl XLI (Feb. 4)	Labor Day (Sept. 3)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)	Grandparents Day (Sept. 9)
Women's History Month (March)	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/ St. Patrick's Day (March 17)	Unmarried and Single Americans Week (Sept. 16-22)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)	Launch of Sputnik: 50th Anniversary (Oct. 4)
Older Americans Month (May)	Halloween (Oct. 31)
Cinco de Mayo (May 5)	American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
Mother's Day (May 13)	The 2008 Presidential Election
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Father's Day (June 17)	Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 22)
The Fourth of July (July 4)	The Holiday Season (December)
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)	

**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](mailto:pio@census.gov)>.