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## Demographics

### Indian Country Demographics

#### POPULATION

- Total American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) alone population: 2.9 million or about 0.9 percent of the US population.(r1)
- Total AI/AN population alone or in combination with other races: 5.2 million or 1.7 percent of the US population.(r2)
- About 32 percent of Natives are under the age of 18, compared to only 24% of the total population who are under the age of 18. The median age for American Indians and Alaska Natives on reservations is 26, compared to 37 for the entire nation.
- The AIAN population from birth through age 24 makes up 42 percent of the total AIAN population; whereas the under 25 population for the United States is only 34 percent of the total population.
- States with the highest proportion of American Indians and Alaska Natives: Alaska (19.5%), Oklahoma (12.9%), New Mexico (10.7%).

#### HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Native people die at higher rates than other Americans from
  - tuberculosis: 600% higher ? alcoholism: 510% higher ? diabetes: 189% higher
  - vehicle crashes: 229% higher ? injuries: 152% higher ? suicide: 62% higher
- Indian youth have the highest rate of suicide among all ethnic groups in the US and is the second-leading cause of death for Native youth aged 15-24. (r4)

#### TRIBAL ECONOMIES

- Between 1992 and 1997, the number of Native-owned businesses grew by 84 percent to a total of 197,300 businesses, and their receipts increased by 179 percent.
- The number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned businesses totaled 237,386 in 2007, up 17.9 percent from 2002; total receipts of these businesses were \$34.5 billion, up 28.3 percent from

2002. (r5)

- American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned businesses accounted for 10.0 percent of businesses in Alaska, 6.3 percent in Oklahoma and 5.3 percent in New Mexico.
- Between 1990 and 2000, income levels rose by 33 percent and the poverty rate dropped by 7 percent, with little difference between those tribes with gaming operations and those tribes without gaming. (r6)

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

- The rate of aggravated assault among American Indians and Alaska Natives is roughly twice that of the country as a whole (600.2 per 100,000 versus 323.6 per 100,000). (r7)
- 1 out of 10 American Indians (12 and older) become victims of violent crime annually. (r8)
- In 2001 half the tribes in the lower 48 states employed at least one full-time sworn officer with general arrest powers. (r9)
- About 59 percent of tribes have a tribal judicial system. (r10)
- More than 25 Indian tribes govern lands that are either adjacent to borders or directly accessible by boat from the border. These tribal lands encompass over 260 miles of international borders – a distance 100 miles longer than California's border with Mexico.

## ENERGY ON TRIBAL LANDS

- Indian tribes boast nearly a quarter of the nation's on-shore oil and gas reserves and developable resources and one-third of the West's low-sulfur coal. Yet, in total, it represents less than five percent of current national energy production.
- The Department of the Interior estimates that undeveloped reserves of coal, natural gas, and oil on tribal lands could generate nearly \$1 trillion in revenues for tribes and surrounding communities.
- Tribal wind and solar energy potential can provide respectively, 14 percent and 4.5 times the nation's energy needs.

## HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Native Americans are becoming homeowners at an increasing rate, 39 percent more from 1997 to 2001.
- Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) comprise over 104,000 miles of public roads and are owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian tribes, states and counties.
- More than 65 percent of the system is unimproved earth and gravel, and approximately 24 percent of IRR bridges are classified as deficient.
- While the number of fatal crashes in the nation declined 2.2 percent over the past 25 years, the number of fatal motor vehicle crashes per year on Indian reservations increased 52.5 percent.

## FORESTRY

- There are 202 forested Indian reservations which encompass 17.9 million acres of Indian forest

- There are 302 forested Indian reservations which encompass 17.7 million acres of Indian forest lands – 7.7 million acres of timberlands and 10.2 million acres of woodlands.
- 199 reservations contain timberlands and 185 reservations contain woodlands.

## EDUCATION

- The number of American Indian and Alaska Native students enrolled in colleges and universities and the number of postsecondary degrees awarded has more than doubled in the past 30 years. (r11)
- Only five percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have received graduate or professional degrees, compared to 10 percent for the total population, and only nine percent of American Indians have earned bachelor's degrees compared to 19 percent for the US population. (r11)

## Page References

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