



AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE FACT SHEET FOR THE STATE OF COLORADO

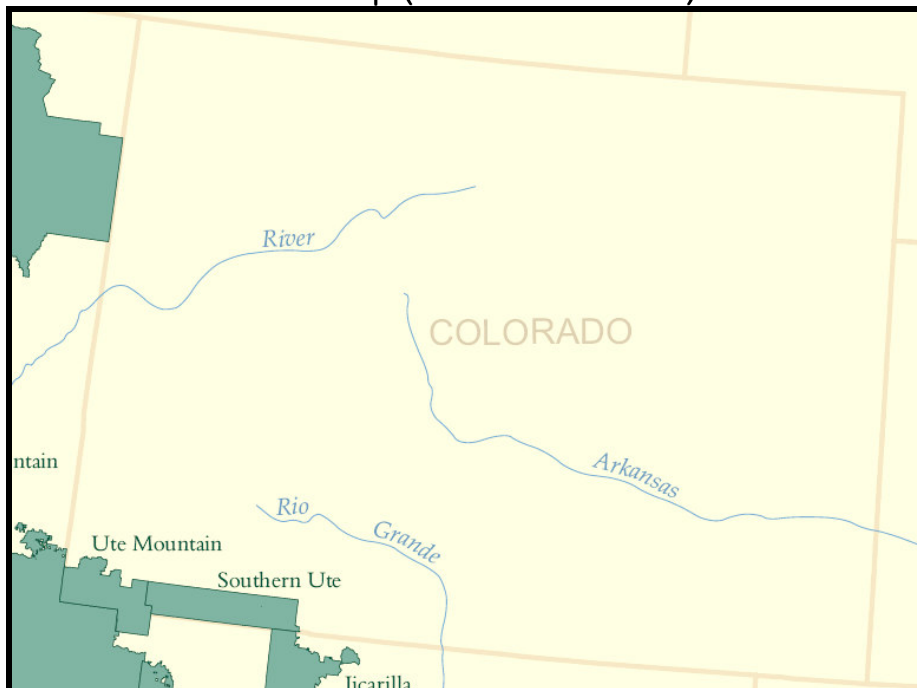
OVERVIEW

According to the 2000 U.S. Census there are 4.1 million American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) residing in the United States (alone or in combination with another race). While 4 out of 10 Indians live in western states, every state in the nation has a measurable AI/AN populationⁱ. There are currently 563 federally recognized Indian tribes and approximately 245 tribes currently petitioning for federal recognition. Each of these tribes is a distinct sovereign nation that determines its own membership (citizenship) and exercises the powers of government. The Urban Indian Health Institute estimates that 66% of the AI/AN population lives in metropolitan areas (over 2.7 million)ⁱⁱ. The Indian Health Service contracts with 34 Urban Indian Health Clinics.

The U.S. Constitution (Article 1 Section 8) sets the foundation for the federal government's trust responsibility to Indian nations, which has been reinforced over the years through various treaties, laws, and court rulings. Despite this, AI/AN people continue to be underserved due to a lack of adequate federal funding. The Indian Health Service appropriation meets less than 60% of the needⁱⁱⁱ, and of that Behavioral Health typically represents about 1% of their total budget. The Bureau of Indian Affairs continues to eliminate or cut programs due to decreased funding.

Since Indian people are also citizens of the states in which they reside, local government agencies and entities have the responsibility to serve AI/AN populations that reside in their cities, counties, or states. In states that have federally or state recognized tribes, government-to-government relationships should be fostered in ways that promote the principle of tribal self-determination. In other states, efforts should be made to reach out to Urban Indian organizations or other community-based AI/AN organizations. Cities should seek partnerships and offer contracts to Urban Indian organizations. The National Indian Child Welfare Association is available to provide assistance to cities, counties, and states seeking to develop partnerships with AI/AN communities.

State Map (2000 U.S. Census)



Demographics (2000 U.S. Census)

Total AI/AN Population (alone or in any combination)	84,802
Total AI/AN population under age 19 (alone or in any combination)	29,534
Ute Mountain Tribal enrolled population	2,005
Southern Ute Tribal enrolled population	1,376
Reservation population of the Ute Mountain Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, CO, NM, UT	1,687
Reservation population of the Southern Ute Reservation, CO	11,159
Urban Indian population in the Consolidated Metropolitan Service Area of Denver, Boulder, Greeley, CO (CMSA)	45,116
Urban Indian population in the Consolidated Metropolitan Service Area of Colorado Springs, CO (MSA)	11,678

Disclaimer – Census data may have some inaccuracies related to the population on reservations. Contact tribe for the official tribal statistics

Contact Information *Colorado is home to two federally recognized tribes:*

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Judy Knight-Frank, Chairwoman General Delivery Towaoc, CO 81334 Phone: (970) 565-3751 Fax: (970) 565-7412	Southern Ute Indian Tribe Howard Richards, Chairman P.O. Box 737, 116 Capote Drive Ignacio, CO 81137 Website: www.southern-ute.nsn.us Phone: (970) 563-0100 Fax: (970) 563-0396
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Additional regional contacts for American Indian/Alaska Native services

Please view the 2004-2005 Colorado Directory of American Indian Resources created by the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs for an extensive list of contacts for American Indian/Alaska Native services:

<http://www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor/initiatives/IndResDirectory2005.pdf>

Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs Ernest House, Jr, Executive Secretary State of Colorado Colorado State Capitol Building 200 East Colfax Avenue, Room 139 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: (303) 866-3027 Fax: (303) 866-5469 E-mail: Ernest.House@state.co.us Website: http://www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor/initiatives/indianaffairs.html	Denver Indian Health and Family Services (DIHFS) Kay Culbertson, Executive Director 3749 S King St. Denver, CO 80236 Phone: (303) 781-4050 Fax: (303) 781-4333 Website: www.uihi.org/prorams/co_dihfs.asp
Denver Indian Family Resource Center Phyllis Bigpond, Executive Director 393 S. Harlan, Suite 100 Lakewood, CO 80226 Phone: (303) 871-8035 Fax: (720) 884-8050 E-mail: pbigpond@difrc.org Website: www.difrc.org	Bureau of Indian Affairs Albuquerque Regional Office (serves CO & NM) 615 First Street NW Albuquerque, NM 87102 PO Box 26567 Albuquerque, NM 87125-6567 Phone: (505) 346-7590 Fax: (505) 346-7517
Indian Health Service Albuquerque Area (serves NM, CO, UT, & TX) James L. Toya, Director 5300 Montgomery Blvd., N.E. Albuquerque, NM 87110 Phone: (505) 248-4500 Fax: (505) 248-4624 Email: jatoya@abq.ih.gov Website: http://www.ih.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/Albuquerque/	

For more information contact the National Indian Child Welfare Association at (503) 222-4044 or visit our website at www.nicwa.org

ⁱ *The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2000 Census Brief. Issued February 2002. US Census Bureau*

ⁱⁱ *Urban Indian Health Issue Brief. By Ralph Forquera for the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, November 2001*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Level of Need Funded Study by the LNF Work Group Report II, December 1999 Indian Health Service 7/8/2005*