

**AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE FACT SHEET  
FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA**

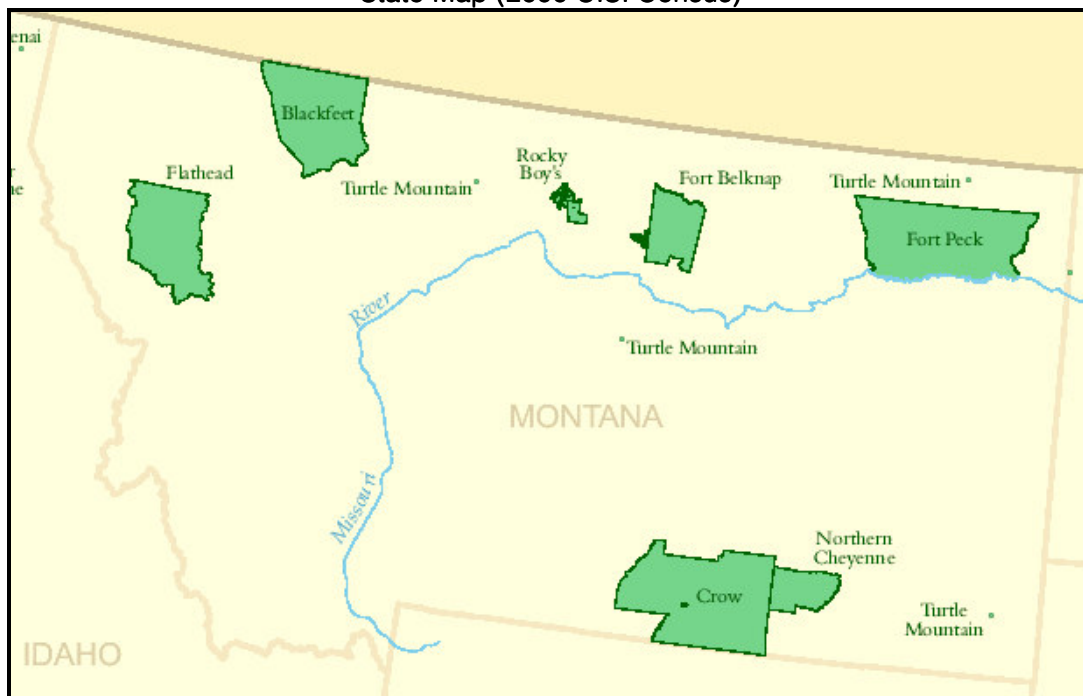
**OVERVIEW**

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 population<sup>i</sup>. 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)<sup>ii</sup>. 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 need<sup>iii</sup>, 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)	67,991
Total AI/AN population under age 19 (alone or in any combination)	30,740
Number of AI/AN on reservation (AI/AN race alone or in combination with one or more races)	37,925
Number of AI/AN off reservation	30,066
Urban Indian population for Billings, Montana	5,284
Urban Indian population for Great Falls, Montana	4,555
Urban Indian population for Missoula, Montana	3,243
Urban Indian population for Helena, Montana	768

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

### Contact Information:

<p><b>Billings Area Indian Health Service (Serves Montana and Wyoming)</b>                  2900 4th Avenue North                  Billings, MT 59101                  Phone: (406) 247-7107                  FAX: (406) 247-7230                  Please visit the <a href="#">Indian Health Service</a> website for more detailed information on agency programs and general agency-wide information</p>	<p><b>Bureau of Indian Affairs area office for: Montana &amp; Wyoming</b>                  316 North 26<sup>th</sup> St.                  Billings, MT 59101                  (406) 247-7943</p>
<p><b>Blackfeet Tribal Business Council</b>                  William "Allen" Talks About, Jr., Chairman                  PO Box 850                  Browning, MT 59417                  Phone: (406) 338-7276                  Fax: (406) 338-7530                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:btbc@3rivers.net">btbc@3rivers.net</a></p>	<p><b>Crow Tribal Chairman: Carl Venne</b>                  PO Box 159                  Crow Agency, MT 59022                  Phone: (406) 638-3715                  Fax: (406) 638-3773</p>
<p><b>Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council</b>                  Eugene Littlecoyote, President                  PO Box 128                  Lame Deer, MT 59043                  Phone: (406) 477-6284                  Fax: (406) 477-6210  <a href="mailto:nctribalsec@nceyenne.net">nctribalsec@nceyenne.net</a>  <a href="mailto:nctribalservice@nceyenne.net">nctribalservice@nceyenne.net</a></p>	<p><b>Chippewa Cree Tribal Council</b>  <b>Chippewa Cree Business Committee:</b>                  John "Chance" Houle, Chairman                  Bruce Sunchild, Vice Chairman                  RR 1, Box 544                  Box Elder, MT 59521                  Phone: (406) 395-4282                  Fax: (406) 395-4497                  Website: <a href="http://www.cct.rockyboy.org">www.cct.rockyboy.org</a></p>
<p><b>Fort Belknap Community Council:</b>                  Julia Doney, President                  Raymond Chandler, Vice President                  Harlem, MT 59526                  Phone: (406) 353-2205                  Fax: (406) 353-2797                  Website: <a href="http://www.fortbelknapnations.nsn.gov">www.fortbelknapnations.nsn.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board:</b>                  Ray K. Eder, Chairman                  Roxanne Gourneau, Vice Chair                  Fort Peck Tribe                  PO Box 1027                  Poplar, MT 59255                  Phone: (406) 768-5155                  Fax: (406) 768-5478                  Website: <a href="http://www.fortfortpecktribes.org">www.fortfortpecktribes.org</a></p>
<p><b>Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana:</b>                  John Sinclair, Chairman                  James Parker Shield, 1st Vice-Chair                  Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana                  105 Smelter Ave. NE - PO Box 1384 - Great Falls, MT 59403                  Phone: (406) 452-2892                  Fax: (406) 452-2982                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:Lstgtfalls@aol.com">Lstgtfalls@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b>Salish &amp; Kootenai Tribal Council:</b>                  Donald "Frederick" Matt,                  Chairman                  Ron Trahan, Vice Chair                  Salish and Kootenai Tribal                  Council                  PO Box 278                  Pablo, MT 59855                  Phone: (406) 675-2700                  Fax: (406) 675-2806</p>

For more information on tribal governments in Montana, including contact information for tribal leaders, please visit the Tribal Leaders Council at the following link: [www.mtwytlc.com](http://www.mtwytlc.com)

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

<sup>i</sup> The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2000 Census Brief. Issued February 2002. US Census Bureau

<sup>ii</sup> Urban Indian Health Issue Brief. By Ralph Forquera for the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, November 2001

<sup>iii</sup> Level of Need Funded Study by the LNF Work Group Report II, December 1999 Indian Health Service 6/22/2005