



# NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association

*Protecting our children • Preserving our culture*

## AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE FACT SHEET FOR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

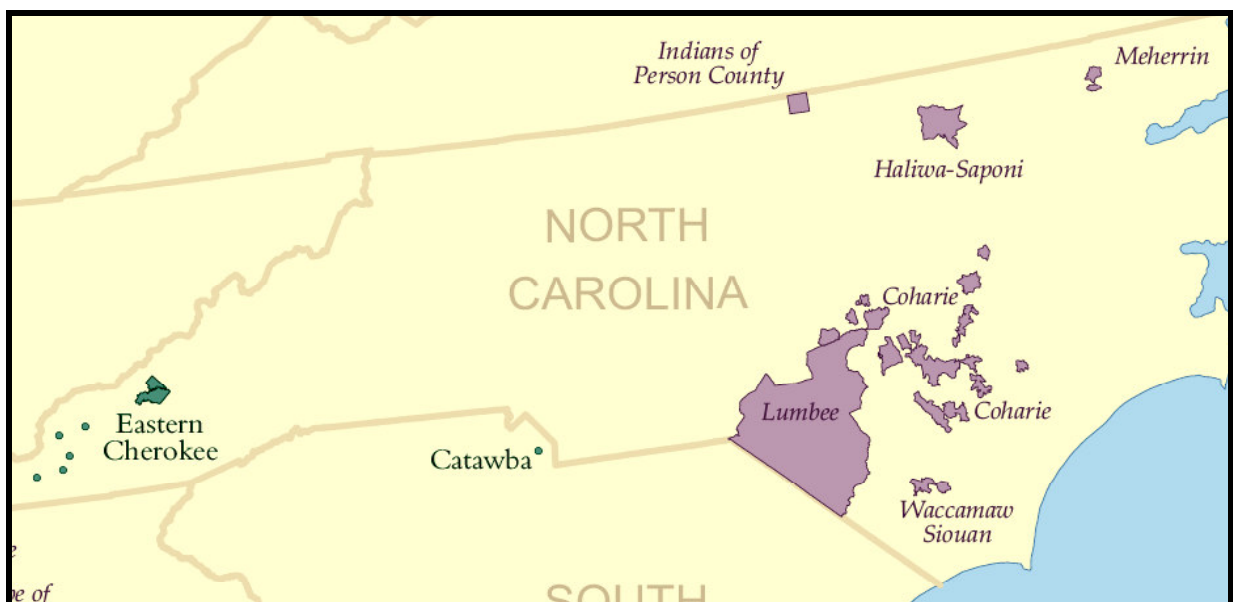
### OVERVIEW

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>1</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>2</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>3</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.

Map of AI/AN Groups (2000 U.S. Census)



**North Carolina Demographics (2000 U.S. Census)**

Total AI/AN population (alone or in any combination)	138,582
Total AI/AN population under age 19 (alone or in any combination)	45, 960
Number of AI/AN (alone or in any combination) on Cherokee reservation	6,665
Number of AI/AN (alone or in any combination) in state recognized Indian communities	70,091
Number of AI/AN off reservations or outside of state recognized Indian communities	56,653
Urban Indian population (Greensboro Metro Area and Raleigh-Durham)	21,223

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

**Contact Information:**

For links to all tribal governments and Indian groups in North Carolina (including contact information), please visit the following link through State of North Carolina Department of Indian Affairs: <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/cia/indian.htm>. Below are selected contacts for the service providers of the larger tribal groups.

<p><b>Susan Leading Fox, Acting Executive Director</b>                  Cherokee Health Delivery System                  P.O. Box 666                  Cherokee, NC 28719                  Phone: (828)-497-7460                  Fax: (828)-497-7459</p>	<p><b>Richie Grinnell, Area Director</b>                  Nashville Area Indian Health Service                  711 Stewarts Ferry Pike                  Nashville, TN 37214-2634                  Toll Free Phone: (866)-447-6261                  Fax: (615)-467-1501                  Website:  <a href="http://www.ihs.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/Nashville/">www.ihs.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/Nashville/</a></p>
<p><b>Dewey Locklear, Executive Director</b>                  Lumbee Regional Development Association                  P.O. Box 68                  Pembroke, NC 28372                  Phone: (910)-521-8602                  Fax: (910) 521-8625                  Website: <a href="http://www.lumbee.org">www.lumbee.org</a></p>	<p><b>Franklin Keel, Regional Director</b>                  Bureau of Indian Affairs                  545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700                  Nashville, TN 37214                  Phone: 615-564-6700                  Fax: 615-564-6701  <i>(Regional office that covers programs administered in eastern area)</i></p>

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*