NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association

Protecting our children • Preserving our culture

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

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[i]. 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 need[iii], 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)	39,607
Total AI/AN population under age 19 (alone or in any combination)	13,044
Number of AI/AN on reservation	81
Number of AI/AN off reservation	12,963
Urban Indian population for Boston, MA	6,054

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

Contact information

For a list of tribes and Indian organizations (including contact information), please visit the following link: http://www.mcnaa.org/contact.html

North American Indian Center of Boston, Inc. Executive Director: JoAnn Dunn 105 South Huntington Ave. Jamaica Plains, MA 02130 Phone: (617) 232-0343 Fax: (617) 232-3863 Website: http://www.bostonindiancenter.org	Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, Inc. P.O. Box 5885 Boston, MA 02114-5885 Phone: (617) 884-4227 Fax: (617) 884-4889 Email: MCNAA@aol.com
United Native American Cultural Center 29 Antietam St. P.O. Box 711 Devens, MA 01432 Phone: (978) 772-1306	Nashville Area Indian Health Service (serves Eastern United States) Richie Grinnell, Area Director 711 Stewarts Ferry Pike Nashville, TN 37214-2634 Toll Free Phone: 866-447-6261 Fax: 615-467-1501 Website: www.ihs.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/Nashville/ *(Regional office that covers programs administered in eastern area)*
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Eastern Agency Franklin Keel, Regional Director 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700 Nashville, TN 37214 Phone: 615-564-6700 Fax: 615-564-6701 *(Regional office that covers programs administered in eastern area)*	

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

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[i] *The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2000 Census Brief. Issued February 2002 U.S. 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.*