

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

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. 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.

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



Demographics (2000 U.S. Census)

Total AI/AN population (alone or in any combination)	21,271
Total AI/AN population under age 19 (alone or in any combination)	7,332
Number of AI/AN (alone or in any combination) on Mississippi Choctaw reservation	4,956
Number of AI/AN off reservations or outside of state recognized Indian communities	16,315
Urban Indian population: Jackson	2,329
Gulfport-Biloxi	4,701

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

Contact Informaion

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians 101 Industrial Road Choctaw, MS 39350 (601) 656-5251 info@choctaw.org http://www.choctaw.org/	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 <i>(Regional office that covers programs administered in eastern area)</i>
Nashville Area Indian Health Service 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/ <i>(Regional office that covers programs administered in eastern area)</i>	

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*