

**FACTSHEET ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE POPULATION FOR THE U.S. COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO**

**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.

The U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is considered a self-governing autonomous political unit voluntarily associated with the United States. Its chief of state is the President of the United States of America, and the head of the Puerto Rican government is an elected governor (as of August 2005, Governor Anibal Acevedo-Vila). While there are no federally recognized land bases for American Indians/Alaska Natives in Puerto Rico, over 26,000 members of federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribes live in Puerto Rico. Additionally, the indigenous peoples of Puerto Rico, the Taíno, reside throughout the commonwealth. The U.S. Department of Interior resource for general information about the government relationship to the commonwealth, history and politics of Puerto Rico, and other information can be found at <http://www.doi.gov/oia/Islandpages/prmain.htm>.

**U.S. Census Map 2000 of Percent of Persons Who Are American Indian and Alaska Native Alone: by County in Puerto Rico (with not-to-scale additions in *italics*)**



### Demographics (2000 U.S. Census)

Total AI/AN Population (alone or in any combination)	26,871
Total AI/AN Population (alone)	13,336

**Disclaimer** – Census data may have some inaccuracies related to the total AI/AN population. Contact tribe for the official tribal statistics.

#### Contact Information:

<p><b>United Confederation of Taíno People</b>  <i>El Consejo General De Taínos Borincanos</i>                  c/o Elba Anaca Lugo                  HC 61 Buzon #5075                  Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico 00976                  (787) 568-1547                  Email: <a href="mailto:brendalugo@hotmail.com">brendalugo@hotmail.com</a>                  or <a href="mailto:terralunatika@hotmail.com">terralunatika@hotmail.com</a>                  Webpage: <a href="http://www.uctp.org/bpr.htm">http://www.uctp.org/bpr.htm</a></p> <p><i>El Caney Quinto Mundo</i>                  Representative:                  Grandmother Naniki Reyes-Ocasio                  HC 01 Buzon #5761                  Ciales, Puerto Rico 00638-9624                  (787) 847-5039                  Email: <a href="mailto:caney@prtc.net">caney@prtc.net</a>                  Webpage: <a href="http://www.uctp.org/bpr.htm">http://www.uctp.org/bpr.htm</a></p>	<p><b>Governor Anibal Acevedo-Vila</b>                  La Fortaleza                  P.O. Box 9020082                  San Juan, PR 00902-0082                  (787) 721-7000                  Governor's website: <a href="http://www.fortaleza.gobierno.pr/">http://www.fortaleza.gobierno.pr/</a>                  U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's website:  <a href="http://www.gobierno.pr/GPRPortal/Inicio">http://www.gobierno.pr/GPRPortal/Inicio</a></p> <p><b>Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA)</b>                  Eduardo Bhatia Gautier, Executive Director                  1100 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 800                  Washington, D.C. 20036                  V: 202-778-0745  <b>Spanish weblink:</b>  <a href="http://www.prfaa.com/esp/portada.asp">http://www.prfaa.com/esp/portada.asp</a>  <b>English weblink:</b>  <a href="http://www.prfaa.com/eng/index.asp">http://www.prfaa.com/eng/index.asp</a></p>
<p><b>Oficina Regional de Asuntos Tribales Taíno de Puerto Rico</b>                  Ms. Arlene Torruellas, Administration                  PO Box 40715                  San Juan, Puerto Rico 00940-0715</p> <p>59 Calle Cristo                  Viejo San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901                  (787) 977-2983                  Fax: (787) 723-6029</p>	<p>Here is a list with hyperlinks with more information on the current Taíno restoration movement in Puerto Rico and elsewhere</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nación Taína/Nación Taina de las Antillas  <a href="http://nacion_taina.tripod.com/index.html">http://nacion_taina.tripod.com/index.html</a></li> <li>2. The Jatibonicu Taíno Tribal Nation of Borikén  <a href="http://www.taino-tribe.org/">http://www.taino-tribe.org/</a></li> <li>3. Taíno Turabo Tribe of Caguas Puerto Rico  <a href="http://www.indio.net/aymaco/">http://www.indio.net/aymaco/</a></li> <li>4. Caribbean Amerindian Centrelink  <a href="http://www.centrelink.org/Taino.html">http://www.centrelink.org/Taino.html</a></li> </ol>

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. U.S. 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*