



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

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)¹ 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 need², 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

Total AI/AN population (alone or in any combination)	164,481
Total AI/AN population under age 19 (alone or in any combination)	62,472
Number of AI/AN on reservation (AI/AN race alone or in combination with one or more races)	30,096
Number of AI/AN off reservation	134,385
Urban Indian population for Bellingham, WA	6,711
Urban Indian population for Richland, Kennewick, & Pasco, WA	2,909
Urban Indian population for Seattle, Tacoma, & Bremerton, WA	86,649
Urban Indian population for Spokane, WA	10,837
Urban Indian population for Yakima, WA	12,060

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

Contact Information

For a complete directory for Washington State tribes, including contact information for federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes^{iv}, tribal clinics, tribal colleges, and Washington State Indian Organizations, please visit the following link: <http://www.goia.wa.gov/Tribal-Directory/Directory.htm>.

United Indians Of All Tribes Foundation Discovery Park PO Box 99100 Seattle, WA 98199 Phone: (206) 285-4425 Fax: (206) 282-3640 Website: http://www.unitedindians.com	American Indian Community Center 905 E. Third Spokane, WA 99202 Phone: (509) 535-0886
Northwest Urban Indian Community 120 State Ave. N.E., #1455 Olympia, WA 98501 Phone: (360) 561-2889 http://nwurbanindians.home.comcast.net	Seattle Indian Center 611 12th St. S. #300 Seattle, WA 98144 Phone: (206) 329-8700
Tahoma Indian Center 1323 Yakima Ave. Tacoma, WA 98405 Phone: (253) 593-2707 Website: http://www.ccsww.org/familyservices/southwest/pierce/es.php	Seattle Indian Health Board: http://www.sihb.org/
Portland Area Indian Health Service 1220 SW Third Ave #476 Portland, OR 97204 Phone: (503) 326-2020 Fax: (503) 326-7280	Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Area (Covers Oregon, Washington, and Idaho) Bureau of Indian Affairs 911 N.E. 11th Avenue Portland, Oregon 97232 Phone: (503) 231-6702 FAX: (503) 231-2201

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*

^{iv} *Washington state does not have any state recognized tribes*