



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

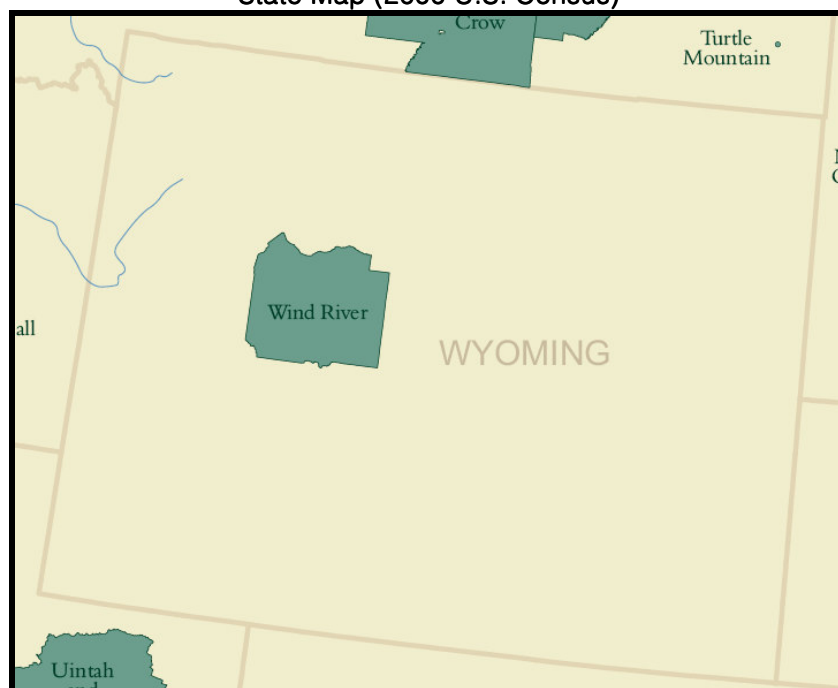
OVERVIEW

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 populationⁱ. 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.

State Map (2000 U.S. Census)



Demographics (2000 U.S. Census)

Total AI/AN population (alone or in any combination)	11,363
Total AI/AN population under age 19 (alone or in any combination)	4,612
Total AI/AN population living on the Wind River Indian Reservation	7,047
Total AI/AN population living off reservation land	4,316

Disclaimer: Census data may have some inaccuracies related to the population on reservation. Please contact the tribes directly for current official tribal statistics.

Contact Information:

Northern Arapaho Tribe Wind River Reservation Northern Arapaho Business Council PO Box 396 Fort Washakie, WY 82514 (307) 332-6120 FAX: (307) 332-7543 http://www.northernarapaho.com/	Eastern Shoshone Tribe Wind River Reservation Eastern Shoshone Business Council PO Box 538 Fort Washakie, WY 82514 (307) 332-3532 FAX: (307) 332-3055 http://easternshoshone.net/
Indian Health Service – Wind River Service Unit PO Box 128 28 Black Coal Drive Ft. Washakie, WY 82514 (307) 332-7300 (General) (307) 332-9416 (Administration) (307) 856-9281 (Arapahoe Clinic)	Indian Health Service – Billings Area Office PO Box 36600 2900 Fourth Avenue North Billings, MT 59107 (406) 247-7248 www.ihs.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/billings/index.asp
Bureau of Indian Affairs – Regional Office Wind River Agency PO Box 158 Ft. Washakie, WY 82514 (307) 332-7810 FAX: (307) 332-4578	Governor’s Tribal Liaison (Position currently vacant) Dave Freudenthal, Governor State Capitol, Room 124 Cheyenne, WY 82002 (307) 777-7434 www.wyoming.gov

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. 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*