

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

**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)<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.

**State Map (2000 U.S. Census)**



## Demographics (2000 U.S. Census)

Total AI/AN population (alone or in any combination)	45,663
Total AI/AN population under age 19 (alone or in any combination)	14,921
Number of AI/AN on reservation (AI/AN race alone or in combination with one or more races)	145
Number of AI/AN off reservation	45,518
Urban Indian population for Birmingham, Alabama	5,610
Urban Indian population for Huntsville, Alabama	5,290
Urban Indian population for Mobile, Alabama	6,187
Urban Indian population for Montgomery, Alabama	2,299

**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

<p><b>Alabama Indian Affairs Commission</b> 777 South Lawrence Street, Suite 102 Montgomery, AL 36104 (334) 242-2831 (800) 436-8261 toll free (only in Alabama) (334) 240-3408 Fax E-Mail: <a href="mailto:aiac@mindspring.com">aiac@mindspring.com</a> For a complete directory of tribes in Alabama, visit the following link: <a href="http://aiac.state.al.us/index.htm">http://aiac.state.al.us/index.htm</a></p>	<p><b>Nashville Area Indian Health Service</b> 711 Stewarts Ferry Pike Nashville, TN 37214-2634 (615) 467-1500 (866) 447-6261 toll free (615) 467-1501 Fax  For additional information on the Indian Health Service, go to <a href="http://www.ihs.gov">www.ihs.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Bureau of Indian Affairs</b> Eastern Agency 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700 Nashville, TN 37214 (615) 564-6700 (615) 564-6701 Fax  (Regional office that covers programs administered in the eastern area.)  (Note) There is one federally recognized Indian tribe and several state-recognized tribes in Alabama.</p>	<p><b>Poarch Creek Indians (Muskogee)</b> (Federally recognized) 5811 Jack Springs Road Atmore, AL 36502 (251) 368-9136 Website: <a href="http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov/">http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov/</a></p>

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*