



## AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE FACT SHEET FOR THE STATE OF VERMONT

### 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)

THERE ARE NO STATE OR FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES WITH RESERVATIONS WITHIN THE STATE OF VERMONT. THE ABENAKI TRIBE IS IN THE PROCESS OF SEEKING BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL RECOGNITION. THERE ARE 933 ENROLLED ABENAKI IN VT.

Total AI/AN population (alone or in any combination)	7,408
Total AI/AN population under age 19 (alone or in any combination)	2,412

***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:

<b>Abenaki Self-Help Association, Inc. (ASHAI)</b> 100 Grand Avenue PO Box 276 Swanton, VT 05488 (802) 868-2559 (802) 868-7146 Fax Website: <a href="http://www.abenakination.org/ashai.html">http://www.abenakination.org/ashai.html</a>	<b>Governor's Advisory Commission on Native American Affairs</b> 49 Church Street Swanton, VT 05488 (802) 868-4033 Jeff Benay, Chair <a href="mailto:jbenay@fnwsu.k12.vt.us">jbenay@fnwsu.k12.vt.us</a>
<b>Eastern Regional Office Bureau of Indian Affairs</b> 711 Stewarts Ferry Pike Nashville TN 37214 (615) 467-1700 (615) 467-1701 Fax	

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).

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<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*