



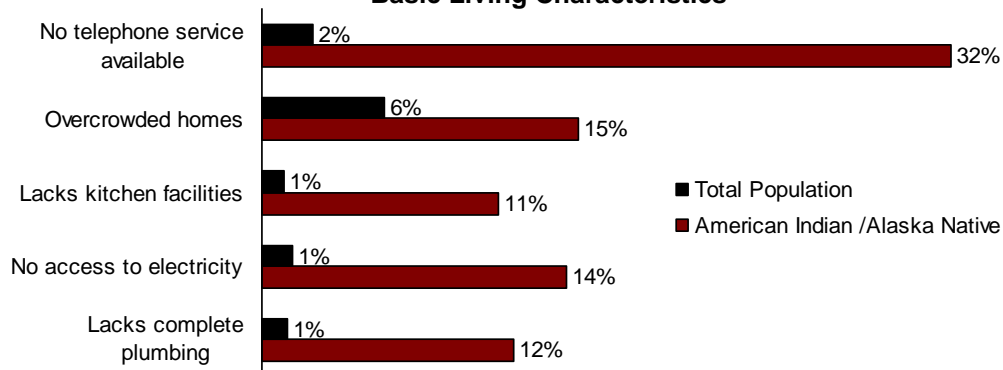
# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF INDIAN COUNTRY

Updated January 2012

## POPULATION STATISTICS

- Total American Indian/Alaska Native alone population: 2.48 million or 0.9% of the US population.
- Total AI/AN in combination with other races: 4.12 million or 1.5% of the US population.
- About 32 percent of Natives are under the age of 18, compared to only 24% of the total population who are under the age of 18. The median age for American Indians and Alaska Natives on reservations is 26, compared to 37 for the entire nation.
- The AI/AN population from birth through age 24 makes up 42% of the total AIAN population; whereas the under 25 population for the U.S. is only 34% of the total population.
- States with the highest proportion of AI/AN: Alaska (19%), Oklahoma (11%), New Mexico (10%).
- States with the largest populations of AI/AN: California, Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico.

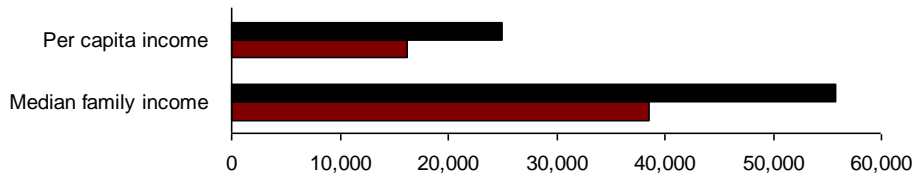
### Basic Living Characteristics<sup>i</sup>



### Poverty and Unemployment



### Income



(In dollars)

## HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Native people die at higher rates than other Americans from
  - tuberculosis: 600% higher
  - alcoholism: 510% higher
  - diabetes: 189% higher
  - vehicle crashes: 229% higher
  - injuries: 152% higher
  - suicide: 62% higher
- Indian youth have the highest rate of suicide among all ethnic groups in the US and is the second-leading cause of death for Native youth aged 15-24.<sup>ii</sup>

## TRIBAL ECONOMIES<sup>iii</sup>

- Between 1992 and 1997, the number of Native-owned businesses grew by 84% to a total of 197,300 businesses, and their receipts increased by 179%.
- Between 1990 and 2000, income levels rose by 33% and the poverty rate dropped by 7%, with little difference between those tribes with gaming operations and those tribes without gaming.
- Real per capita income of Indians living on reservations is still less than half of the national average and unemployment is still double the rest of the country.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY**

- In 2001 half the tribes in the lower 48 states employed at least 1 full-time sworn officer with general arrest powers.<sup>iv</sup>
- Indian Country has a 42% unmet staffing need in law enforcement officers. There are 2,555 officers, yet a needed total of 4,409, resulting in a gap of 1,854 officers.<sup>v</sup>
- About 59% of tribes have a tribal judicial system.<sup>vi</sup>
- The rate of aggravated assault among American Indians and Alaska Natives is roughly twice that of the country as a whole (600.2 per 100,000 versus 323.6 per 100,000).<sup>vii</sup>
- 1 out of 10 American Indians (12 and older) become victims of violent crime annually.<sup>viii</sup>
- More than 25 Indian tribes govern lands that are either adjacent to borders or directly accessible by boat from the border. These tribal lands encompass over 260 miles of international borders – a distance 100 miles longer than California's border with Mexico.

#### **ENERGY ON TRIBAL LANDS**

- Indian land contains an estimated 10% of all energy resources in the United States.
- Indian tribes boast nearly a quarter of the nation's on-shore oil and gas reserves and developable resources and one-third of the West's low-sulfur coal. Yet, in total, it represents less than five percent of current national energy production.
- The Department of the Interior estimates that undeveloped reserves of coal, natural gas, and oil on tribal lands could generate nearly \$1 trillion in revenues for tribes and surrounding communities.
- Tribal wind and solar energy potential can provide respectively, 14 percent and 4.5 times the nation's energy needs.

#### **HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Native Americans are becoming homeowners at an increasing rate, 39% more from 1997 to 2001.
- Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) comprise over 104,000 miles of public roads and are owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian tribes, states and counties.
- More than 65 percent of the system is unimproved earth and gravel, and approximately 24 percent of IRR bridges are classified as deficient.
- While the number of fatal crashes in the nation declined 2.2 percent over the past 25 years, the number of fatal motor vehicle crashes per year on Indian reservations increased 52.5 percent.

#### **FORESTRY**

- There are 302 forested Indian reservations which encompass 17.9 million acres of Indian forest lands – 7.7 million acres of timberlands and 10.2 million acres of woodlands.
- 199 reservations contain timberlands and 185 reservations contain woodlands.

#### **EDUCATION<sup>ix</sup>**

- The number of American Indian and Alaska Native students enrolled in colleges and universities and the number of postsecondary degrees awarded has more than doubled in the past 30 years.
- Only five percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have received graduate or professional degrees, compared to 10 percent for the total population, and only nine percent of American Indians have earned bachelor's degrees compared to 19 percent for the US population.

#### **TRIBAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS<sup>x</sup>**

- Analog telephone reaches only 68% of Indian Country, and Internet penetration is estimated at less than 10% percent;
- Broadband is the basis and future of economic development, health, public safety, housing, energy, and educational models for the future in Indian Country;
- Native Americans have been historically ignored by federal telecommunications policy and underserved by telecom providers;

- The Internet is now classified as a utility, the common carriage for all media platforms, and access to the Internet has been recognized by the United Nations as a basic human right;
- This new digital ecology necessitates Native inclusion;
- Currently there is an opportunity to have a voice at the policy-making table in regards to Broadband development through the Federal Communications Commission Office of Native Affairs and Policy;
- Broadband is a critical infrastructure for nation building in Indian country;
- Tribally centric deployment models are most successful in Indian country, not individual residential service models.

#### **NCAI TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY OVERVIEW**

NCAI has a long and comprehensive history of representing tribes in telecommunications issues. The earliest resolutions available date back to 2002 and continue annually through the most recent NCAI annual meeting in Portland, OR in October 2011. Not surprisingly, the more recent resolutions are the most relevant given that technology makes a generational leap every eighteen months. During the last ten years, NCAI has advanced tribal leadership positions on telecommunications regarding such topics as tribal consultations in public telecommunications policy, Universal Service Fund reforms, the Rewrite of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, spectrum allocation, broadcast and media services, preservation of funding for tribal radio stations, increasing access to funding for broadband support, and Net Neutrality.

The Universal Service Fund was an extremely important instrument that provided funds for the Lifeline and Link-Up programs, and the High Cost Fund – all of which were utilized by tribes. However, very few were tribes took advantage of these available funds due to lack of infrastructure, a telecommunications regulatory authority, and barriers to funds for the development and maintenance of telecommunications systems. As of January 2012 there were twelve tribally regulated telecommunications providers out of 566 federally-recognized tribes in the United States.

On November 18, 2011 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which overhauls the Universal Service Fund (USF) and substantially revises its intercarrier compensation (ICC) mechanisms. This Order adopts the new Connect America Fund, and a new Mobility Fund, which is inclusive of a ‘Tribal Mobility Fund’ specifically focused on deploying 3G or better mobile broadband services to tribal lands. This recent Order released by the FCC – 759 pages in length – represents the most significant overhaul of telecommunications regulation in nearly a century. NCAI has advanced tribal positions through resolutions and testimony before various body’s of government. The history of NCAI telecommunications advocacy has had a direct effect on the FCC and as a result, late last year the FCC created the Office of Native Affairs and Policy. This office works directly with tribes and with NCAI. Tribal positions have been further advanced through the this office and NCAI continually works with FCC-ONAP to bridge the digital divide prevalent in Indian Country.

NCAI’s legacy of support for telecommunications policy through the consensus based resolution process in Indian Country is extremely important as the transition from analog to digital technologies is occurring now. For the first time, tribes have a seat at the table in the development of a new utility—broadband—and this promises to reinvent how the infrastructure of public safety, health systems, energy, housing, education and economic development on Native lands and in Tribal communities.

#### **NCAI TELECOM RELATED RESOLUTIONS SINCE 2005**

Resolution #PDX-11-021

TITLE: Endorsement for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation for Standing Rock Telecommunications, Inc. and Future Designations of Tribal Telecommunications Regulators

Resolution #PDX-11-034

TITLE: Support for Federal Communications Policy Reform to Strengthen American Indian and Alaska Native Self-Determination

Resolution #MKE-11-004

TITLE: In Support of Improving Communications Services for Tribal Communities

Resolution #MKE-11-005

TITLE: In Support of Tribal Positions on Universal Service Reform

Resolution #MKE-11-006

TITLE: In Support of the Office of Native Affairs and Policy’s (FCC ONAP) Tribal Initiatives and Budget

Resolution #MKE-11-007

TITLE: In Support of a Tribal Priority for the Utilization of Spectrum on Tribal Lands

Resolution #MKE-11-016

TITLE: Tribal Mobility Fund

Resolution #ABQ-10-006

TITLE: Urging Congress to Urgently Support and Fund Native American Broadcast Services and Facilities and Media Outlets

Resolution #ABQ-10-061

TITLE: Congress and Federal Agencies Must Create the Native Broadband Fund, and Devote and Prioritize Funding and Resources to Provide Broadband in Native Communities and Include Native Governments in All Native Telecommunications Infrastructure and Broadband Policy Initiatives

Resolution #RAP-10-006

TITLE: Call for Congressional Funding of Tribal Broadband Fund and FCC Tribal Programs

Resolution #RAP-10-007

Title: Call for Support of Non-Discrimination and to Preserve Open Internet or Network Neutrality

Resolution #RAP-10-008

TITLE: Preserving the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program for a Continued Tribal Broadcasting Voice

Resolution #RAP-10-009

TITLE: Ensuring Future Universal Service Support in Indian Country and Existing Telephony during the Broadband Transition

Resolution #PSP-09-026

TITLE: Effective Inclusion of Tribes in the ARRA Broadband Programs

Resolution #PSP-09-082c

TITLE: Support for Passage of H.R. 1147 and S. 592 to Provide for Native Community Low-Power FM Radio Station Licensing Opportunities

Resolution #PSP-09-083c

TITLE: Removing the Barrier to Entry for the Tribal Digital Village and Tribal Use of White Space Spectrum Involving International Border Exclusion Zones

Resolution #PSP-09-084c

TITLE: National Broadband Plan Priorities and Universal Service Fund Tribal Broadband Program Needs

Resolution #PSP-09-087c

TITLE: Advancing Consultation Regarding Tribal Section 106 Concerns in the ARRA Broadband Programs

Resolution #NGF-09-007

TITLE: Establishment of a Tribal Priority for Broadcast Spectrum Allocations at the Federal Communications Commission, FCC Docket 09-30

Resolution #TUL-05-041

TITLE: Guidelines for Tribal Telecommunications Public Policy Discourse

Resolution #TUL-05-068

TITLE: Resolution to Ensure Tribal Governments are Included in the Rewrite of the 1996 Telecommunications Act

Resolution #TUL-05-109

TITLE: Statutory Changes to the Communications Act for Telecommunications Service to Tribal Communities

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<sup>i</sup> U.S. Census, 2000; Energy Information Administration, *Energy Use and Renewable Energy Development Potential on Indian Lands*, 2000; 2006 GAO 06-189 Report, *Challenges to Assessing and Improving Telecommunications For Native Americans on Tribal Lands*

<sup>ii</sup> SAMHSA, *National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2003*

<sup>iii</sup> Kalt, J. & Taylor, J. (2005). *American Indians on Reservations: A Databook of Socioeconomic Change Between the 1990 and 2000 Censuses*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development.

<sup>iv</sup> US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *2002 Census of Tribal Justice Agencies*

<sup>v</sup> BIA *2006 Gap Analysis* of police to service population based on the FBI's 2004 Uniform Crime Report and BIA data

<sup>vi</sup> US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *2002 Census of Tribal Justice Agencies*

<sup>vii</sup> Rennison, C. (2001). Violent Victimization and Race, 1993-98. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, March, (NCJ 176354).

<sup>viii</sup> 2004 report, *American Indians and Crime, A BJS Statistical Profile, 1992-2002*

<sup>ix</sup> DeVoe, J.F. and Darling-Churchill, K.E. (2008). *Status and Trends in the Education of American Indians and Alaska Natives*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. (NCES 2008-084).

<sup>x</sup> Native Public Media