**Trends in Size of AI/AN Alone Youth Population**

**by Type of Land Area - 1990 to 2010**

The rate of growth in the size of the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) "alone"[[1]](#footnote-1) youth population appears to have declined significantly, nationally and in reservation areas over the course of the last three decennial censuses.

From 1990[[2]](#footnote-2) to 2000, the AI/AN alone population between the ages of 0 to 17 grew by 20.6% nationally, slower than the growth rate of the total AI/AN alone population. From 2000 to 2010, the AI/AN alone youth population grew by only 5.7% nationally.

The declining rate is particularly evident in reservation areas and Alaska Native villages. From the 1990 to the 2000 census, the AI/AN alone on-reservation youth population grew by just 14.1%. From 2000 to 2010 the on-reservation AI/AN alone youth population actually declined by 10.6%. In Alaska Native villages, the AI/AN alone youth population grew by just 6.8% from 1990 to 2000, then declined by 9.3% from 2000 to 2010.

Data on the size of the AI/AN alone youth population from the decennial censuses in 1990, 2000 and 2010 is contained in the first tab of the attached spreadsheet. It shows the size and percentage change in the total AI/AN alone population and the AI/AN alone youth population (0 to 17) from 1990 to 2000 and from 2000 to 2010. Data is shown for all areas nationally, for reservation areas, Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSAs), for Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs) and for the remaining portions of the US.

The 2000 and 2010 data sets are directly comparable. The reservation data is for all federal reservations. The OTSA data is for all OTSAs. The ANVSA data for 2000 and 2010 is for those ANVSAs where the AI/AN alone population is at least 25% of the total population of all races. This limitation on the ANVSA data is intended to include only those villages where a significant portion of the population is Alaska Native. Other ANVSAs generally differ in their demographic, geographic and economic characteristics.

The 1990 data used in the analysis is based on the assumption that the Indian, Eskimo, Aleut (IEA) population is substantially similar to the population in 2000 and 2010 that identified as AI/AN alone. In addition, the 1990 data includes state as well as federal reservations. (The population on the state reservations is very small.) All ANVSAs are included in the 1990 data.

A preliminary analysis was also performed of the size of the AI/AN alone youth population in 2000 and 2010 on the Arizona portion of those reservations where the AI/AN alone population was at least 1,000.

The AI/AN alone youth population in these areas declined in every case but two between 2000 and 2010. It remained stable for the Arizona portion of the Colorado River reservation and grew on the Salt River reservation.

The declines in the size of the AI/AN alone youth population ranged from 3.7% on the San Carlos reservation to 21.1% on the Arizona portion of the Navajo reservation.

The Arizona data is shown in the second tab of the attached spreadsheet.

These trends would appear to call for a more in-depth analysis of the trends in the size of the AI/AN alone youth population, one that would draw on data from the Indian Health Service as well as decennial census data.

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1. The AI/AN "alone" population is defined by the US Census Bureau as composed of those persons who responded to the race question on a Census questionnaire by identifying as AI/AN only and not also members of another race. Multiple responses to the race question were first permitted in 2000. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In 1990 the Census Bureau called the AI/AN population the "Indian, Eskimo, Aleut" population. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)