



# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF INDIAN COUNTRY

Revised November 2012

## POPULATION

### A Fast Growing Population

- In the 2010 Census, 5.2 million people or 1.7 percent of the US population identified as American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) alone or in combination with other races, an overall increase of 27 percent from the 2000 Census.<sup>i</sup> The overall US population grew about 9.7 percent between 2000 and 2010.
- The total AIAN alone population is 2.9 million or about .9 percent of the US population.<sup>ii</sup>

### Indian Country is Young

- About 32 percent of Natives are under the age of 18, compared to only 24 percent of the total population.
- The median age for Natives on reservations is 26, compared to 37 for the entire nation.
- The AIAN population from birth through age 24 makes up 42 percent of the total AIAN population; whereas the under 25 population for the U.S. is only 34 percent of the total population.

### Where Native People Live

- States with the highest proportion of AIAN people include: Alaska (19.5%), Oklahoma (12.9%), New Mexico (10.7%), South Dakota (10.1%), Montana (7.9%), North Dakota (6.4%), Arizona (5.5%), Wyoming (3.3%), Washington (3.0%), and Oregon (2.9%)<sup>iii</sup>
- About two thirds of AIAN people lived in 10 states: California, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, North Carolina, New York, Alaska, Washington, and South Dakota.<sup>iv</sup>
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs now recognizes 566 federally recognized tribes, with 229 of those tribes and villages located in Alaska.

### Languages

- 384,605 American Indians/Alaskan Natives of voting-age and 53 Native language minority groups are covered by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act and must be provided language assistance so they can adequately participate in the electoral process.<sup>v</sup>

## TRIBAL ECONOMIES

### Native Owned Businesses are Growing

- The number of American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned businesses totaled 237,386 in 2007, up 17.9 percent from 2002; total receipts of these businesses were \$34.5 billion, up 28.3 percent from 2002.<sup>vi</sup>
- Between 1992 and 1997, the number of Native-owned businesses grew by 84 percent to a total of 197,300 businesses, and their receipts increased by 179 percent.
- However, entrepreneurial parity is still unrealized: the adult AIAN population represented 1.5 percent of the adult U.S. population in 2009, but AIAN held only 0.9 percent of all Classifiable firms, 0.3 percent of these firms' gross receipts and 0.3 percent of their employment.<sup>vii</sup>
- If American Indian & Alaska Native firms' gross receipts reflected the 2007 adult American Indian & Alaska Native population share, receipts would have amounted to more than \$160 billion—nearly five times the actual figure.

### Rapid Economic Development in the 1990s

- In the 1990s, AIAN family poverty rates dropped by seven percentage points or more in non-gaming areas, and by about 10 percentage points in gaming areas; and inflation-adjusted per capita income grew 2.5 times faster for Indians on reservations than for the U.S. population at large.<sup>viii</sup>
- The American Indian population had an estimated buying power of \$64.7 billion in 2009, larger than the 2009 purchasing power of countries such as Kenya (\$63.7 billion), Burma (\$57.5 billion), Slovenia (\$55.8 billion), and Costa Rica (\$48.5 billion).<sup>ix</sup>

## TRIBAL LANDS

- American Indian reservation and trust land areas comprise 70 million acres, or 56 million acres excluding non-Indian lands inside the boundaries of reservations. Alaska Native corporations and villages control 44 million acres as fee simple land under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The total land mass under American Indian or Alaska Native control is about 100 million acres, and equivalent to the fourth largest state in the United States.
- Between 1887 and 1934, due to the General Allotment Act, nearly two-thirds of Indian lands, 90 million acres, passed into non-Indian ownership.<sup>x</sup>

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

### Criminal Justice Systems

- 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.
- In 2001 half the tribes in the lower 48 states employed at least 1 full-time sworn officer with general arrest powers.<sup>xi</sup>
- 188 tribes had some form of judicial system and 175 tribes had a formal tribal court.<sup>xii</sup>
- Despite the Federal Government's primary enforcement responsibility on Indian reservations, U.S. Attorneys decline to prosecute nearly 52 percent of violent crimes that occur in Indian country; and of those declined, 67 percent of the cases were sexual abuse related.<sup>xiii</sup>
- In 2001, about 23 percent of tribes provided their own detention function. About two-thirds relied on local or county agencies to provide a jail or detention facility.<sup>xiv</sup>

### Crime Rates

- 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>xv</sup>
- 1 out of 10 American Indians (12 and older) become victims of violent crime annually.<sup>xvi</sup>

## ENERGY ON TRIBAL LANDS

- 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.

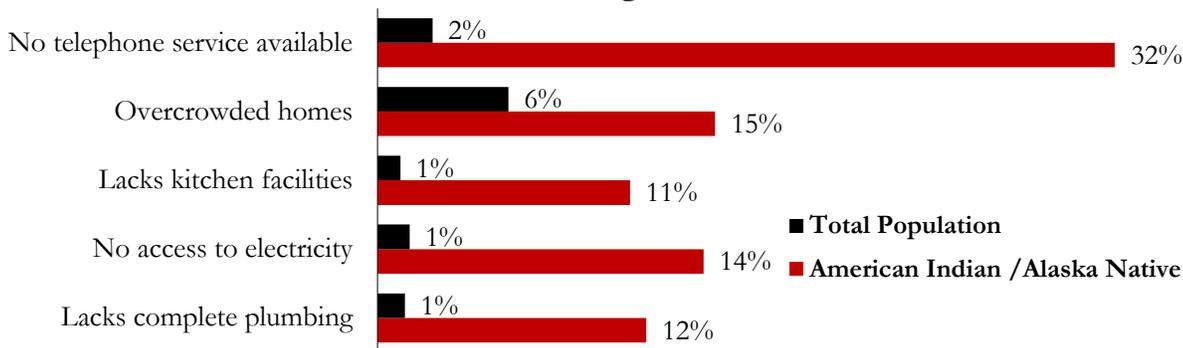
## HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Native Americans are becoming homeowners at an increasing rate, 39 percent 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.<sup>xvii</sup>
- 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.

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



### Unemployment and Poverty



### 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>xix</sup>

### EDUCATION<sup>xx</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.

<sup>i</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, Summary File 1

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Census, 2010 Census Redistricting File

<sup>iii</sup> 2010 Census National Totals - PL 94-171 File, American Indian/Alaska Native alone or in combination with other races.

<sup>iv</sup> 2010 Census National Totals - PL 94-171 File, American Indian/Alaska Native alone.

<sup>v</sup> U.S. Census, Census Bureau Releases 2011 Determinations of Political Jurisdictions Subject to Minority Language Assistance Provisions of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, Oct. 12, 2011, Retrieved 11/1/2012 from [http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010\\_census/cb11-cn189.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010_census/cb11-cn189.html)

<sup>vi</sup> U.S. Census, 2007 Survey of Business Owners

<sup>vii</sup> Minority Business Development Agency, American Indian & Alaska Native-Owned Business Growth and Global Reach, Produced by the Minority Business Development Agency, August 2011

<sup>viii</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>ix</sup> Minority Business Development Agency, American Indian & Alaska Native-Owned Business Growth and Global Reach, Produced by the Minority Business Development Agency, August 2011

<sup>x</sup> William C. Canby, Jr., *American Indian Law in a Nutshell*, 4th ed.

<sup>xi</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *2002 Census of Tribal Justice Agencies*

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

<sup>xiii</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office, U.S. Department of Justice Declinations of Indian Country Criminal Matters, REPORT NO. GAO-11-167R, at 3 (2010).

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

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

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

<sup>xvii</sup> US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. (2003). *Transportation serving Native American lands: TEA-21 reauthorization resource paper*. Washington, DC: Author.

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

<sup>xx</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).