NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

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<u>Research Policy Update</u>
A First Look at the 2020 Census American Indian/Alaska Native Redistricting Data

The purpose of this research brief is to provide Tribal Nations and partners with a first look at American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population counts collected and released for the 2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File. Data for this overview came from the 2010 and the 2020 Census Redistricting data files only. Additional 2020 Census data products will be released in the coming months/years and may include results that are not consistent with the 2020 Redistricting Data file tabulations.

What is the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting File?

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a complete population count of the United States every ten years with the decennial census that is required by the U.S. Constitution. The data from the decennial census is important to Tribal Nations because is it used to determine apportionment of U.S. House of Representative seats, redistricting and legislative representation at the national, state, and local levels, federal funding formulas, local tribal governance, and research or health surveillance. The U.S. Census Bureau first released total population numbers for apportionment in April 2020, and the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File is the first 2020 Census data product with race, ethnicity, age, and housing characteristics. The U.S. Census Bureau released the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File on August 12, 2021.

The U.S. Census Bureau provides the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File to states, which will use its population counts to redraw their congressional and state legislative district boundaries, school districts, and for other purposes. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Civic Engagement Team is conducting trainings on how tribal communities can get involved in their state and local redistricting processes. To learn more and access trainings, visit https://bit.ly/3yR9oeM.

The primary use of the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File is redistricting, but the redistricting data file is often used for other purposes, including federal funding formulas, governance and decision-making, and research or health surveillance.

Definitions and Interpreting the Data

This section includes key definitions and concepts related to AI/AN population data in the 2020 Census.

AI/AN Alone: The AI/AN Alone population data includes people who self-identified only as AI/AN on the 2020 Census form and only chose this one race category.

AI/AN in Combination: The AI/AN in Combination data includes people who self-identified with two or more race categories for the 2020 Census questionnaire, one of which was the AI/AN race category. In other words, they identified as AI/AN and at least one other race.

AI/AN Alone or in Combination: The AI/AN Alone or in Combination data includes all people included in the AI/AN Alone population plus the AI/AN in Combination population.

AI/AN Tribal Citizenship/Membership: The 2020 Census data does not collect, measure, or indicate tribal citizenship, membership, or enrollment. Tribal citizenship data is not something the U.S. Census Bureau had access to or used for the 2020 Census. Tribal Nations remain the sole arbiters on who is and is not a tribal member or tribal citizen.

AI/AN Tribal affiliation: The 2020 Census allowed respondents to write in their "enrolled or principal tribe(s)" when they selected AI/AN as their race. Since this is self-identified data, this information should not be considered official tribal enrollment data. The P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File does not include this information.

Use of AI/AN Alone vs. AI/AN in Combination Data: Tribal citizens/members are known to be represented in either the AI/AN Alone data or the AI/AN in Combination data depending on how they responded in the 2020 Census. As a result, past assumptions that the AI/AN Alone data was a more accurate representation of tribal citizens is not correct in the 2020 Census. The AI/AN Alone or in Combination data represents the increasing diversity of AI/ANs in the U.S. and provides a fuller representation of the AI/AN population in the United States.

AI/AN Geographies: The U.S. Census Bureau uses geographies to sort and analyze population data. Tribal geographies (also known as tribal lands or tribal statistical areas) were developed in consultation with Tribal Nations and allow for presenting census data in more detailed geographic areas that approximate tribal lands. Tribal geographies include Federal American Indian Reservations/Off-Reservation Trust Lands, Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas, Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas, State Reservations, Tribal Designated Statistical Areas, and State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas.

NCAI will produce an analysis of the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File for tribal geographies in August 2021.

2020 Census Data Limitations and Challenges

The U.S. Census Bureau's data collection, data processing, and new privacy methods all impacted the quality and accuracy of the 2020 Census.

The 2020 Census count (enumeration) encountered challenges in conducting a complete census count that ranged from challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, border closures, wildfires, hurricanes, misinformation, incomplete or missing addresses, and delayed and changing timelines. AI/ANs, especially those living on tribal lands with limited or no broadband (Wi-Fi) access, may have been unable to respond to the 2020 Census through the online questionnaire, which was the primary response method for the 2020 enumeration. In person assistance with enumeration was limited and delayed due to closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final NCAI 2020 Census self-response rate reports for tribal geographies are available here: http://bit.ly/2P8Xnu6

The 2020 Census used a new approach to protect the confidentiality of individual responses that were collected during enumeration. The use of differential privacy (an approach to protecting privacy) in the U.S. Census Bureau's Disclosure Avoidance System (the privacy system) was shown to negatively impact AI/AN data in demonstration products released in the past two years. To learn more about the potential impacts of the new privacy system on tribal geographies and AI/AN data, visit: https://bit.ly/2N1ICND

The NCAI Policy Research Center will release an updated analysis of the privacy measure impacts on AI/AN data using the final the 2020 Census demonstration product for the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File in September 2021.

2020 American Indian/Alaska Native Population Data

On August 12, 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau released the following key data from the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File for the AI/AN population in the United States in 2020. This section provides an overview of the AI/AN population data released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

AI/AN Population Data Overview

The total U.S. population numbers for all Census Bureau major race categories with the Race Alone, Race in Combination, and Race Alone or in Combination counts were released with the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File. **Figure 1** shows the total AI/AN population in the U.S. for the 2020 Census compared to the 2010 Census.

Figure 1: The American Indian/Alaska Native Population in the United States between 2010 and 2020 – P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File, U.S. Census Bureau
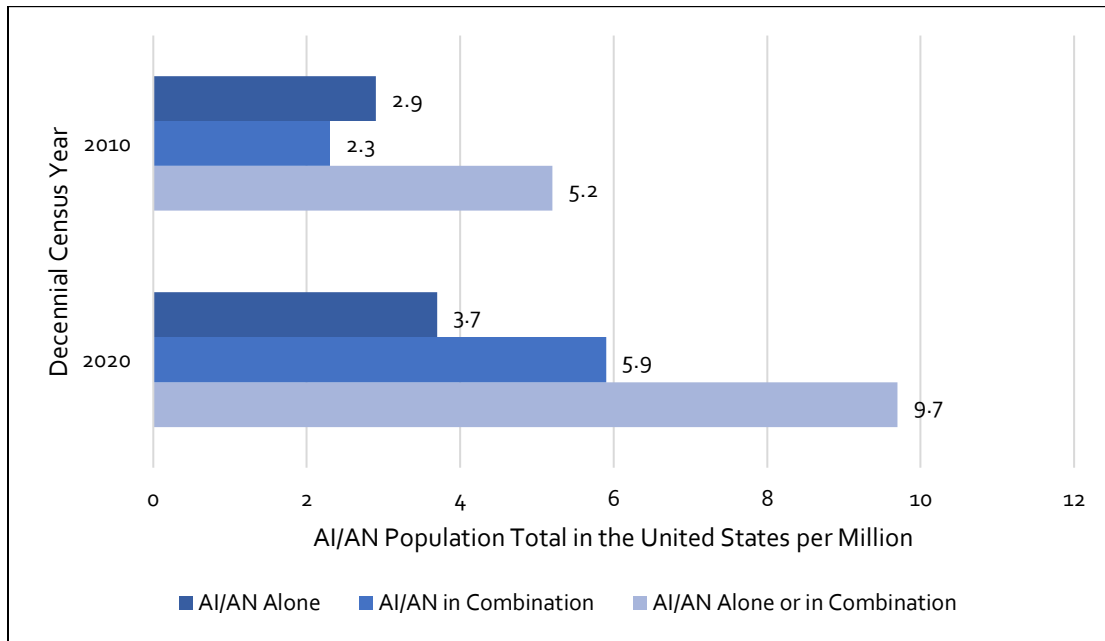
* Data released on August 12, 2021 was rounded to the millionth place and rounding errors may result in slight differences in how the data is reported in various graphs and charts.
Data Sources: 2020 Census Illuminates Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Country; The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010 Census Briefs

Figure 1 shows that the AI/AN population increased from 2010 to 2020 for people self-identifying as AI/AN Alone, AI/AN in Combination with one or more races, and AI/AN Alone or in Combination. In 2010, most of the AI/AN population responded to the census as AI/AN Alone. In 2020, more AI/ANs responded to the census as AI/AN in Combination with some other race. Overall, the AI/AN total population counted in the U.S. grew by 4.5 million people from 2010 to 2020.

Figure 2 details the overall AI/AN population growth between 2010 and 2020 and its percent of the U.S. total population.

Figure 2: AI/AN Population Change in the United States Between 2010 and 2020

	AI/AN Alone or in Combination				AI/AN Alone			
	2010	2020	2020 Percent of Total Population	2010 to 2020 Percent Change	2010	2020	2020 Percent of Total Population	2010 to 2020 Percent Change
United States	5.2 million	9.7 million	2.9%	86.5%	2.9 million	3.7 million	1.1%	27.6%

Data Sources: 2020 Census Illuminates Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Country; The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010 Census Briefs

Figure 2 shows the changes to the AI/AN population within the total U.S. population. **The AI/AN Alone or in Combination population grew by 4.5 million people, which is an 86.5 percent increase from 2010 to 2020**. The AI/AN Alone or in Combination population now represents **2.9 percent of the total United States population,** an increase from 1.7 percent in 2010.

Figure 2 also shows details for the percent increase of the AI/AN Alone population from 2010 to 2020. The AI/AN Alone population increased by 27.6 percent and now represents 1.1 percent of the total U.S. population. The AI/AN in Combination population grew by 160 percent from 2010 to 2020 (data not shown) and accounted for most of the increase in the total AI/AN Alone or in Combination population.

State AI/AN Population Data Overview

Racial data for state geographies was released during the August 12, 2021 launch for the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting file in Legacy format. This section reviews some of the results for the AI/AN population counted in the 2020 Census.

Figure 3 provides a map of the United States and shows the AI/AN Alone or in Combination population within each state as a percent of each state's total population. The dark green color in Figure 3 represents the states with a greater than 10 percent of AI/AN Alone or in Combination population. The states with the lightest green color have less than three percent of the state total population identifying as AI/AN Alone or in Combination.

Figure 3: 2020 Census Percent of American Indian/Alaska Native in the Total State Population

Image Source: 2020 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer, American Indian and Alaska Native Race Alone or in Combination category

Figure 3 shows that Alaska, South Dakota, New Mexico, and Oklahoma all have more than 10 percent of the state population consisting of AI/AN Alone or in Combination. **Figure 4** further

supports and breaks down the information in **Figure 3** to list and define the ten states with the highest population percent of AI/AN Alone or in Combination.

Figure 4: 2020 Census - Top 10 States with the Largest AI/AN Alone or in Combination Population by Percent
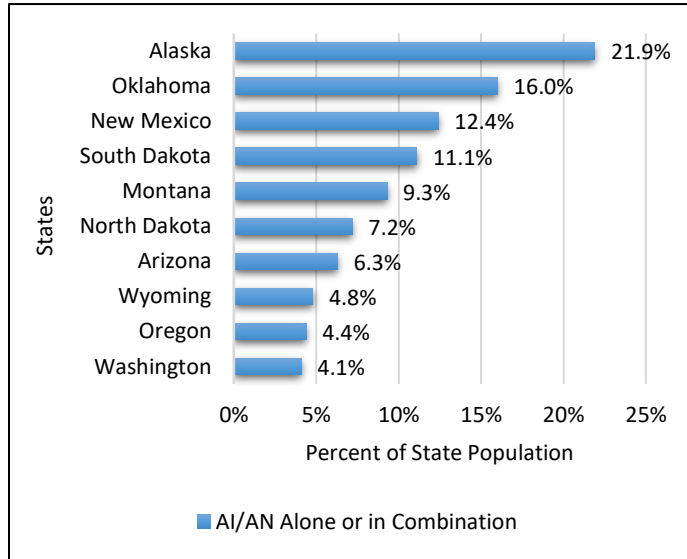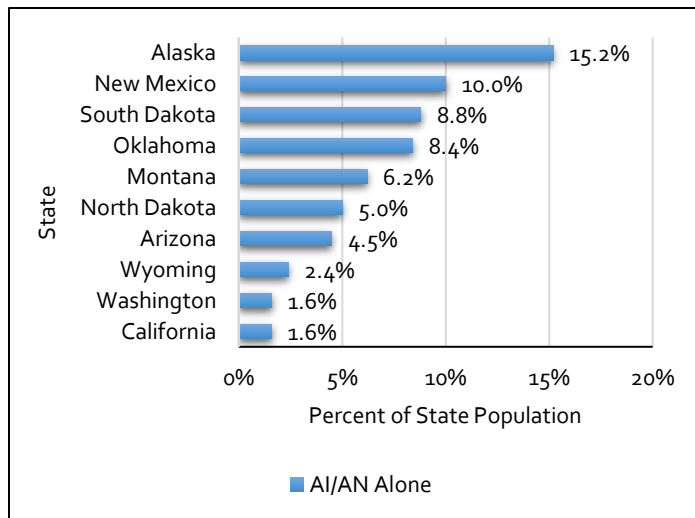

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Race and Ethnicity in the United States: 2010 Census and 2020 Census Tableau

Figure 4 shows that the state with the largest AI/AN Alone or in Combination population by percent within a state is Alaska. The AI/AN Alone or in Combination population made up 21.9 percent of the total Alaska population in 2020.

The AI/AN Alone or in Combination population made up 16 percent of the Oklahoma population, 12.4 percent of the New Mexico population, and 11.1 percent of the South Dakota population. These percents are the detailed population percent for the states colored in dark green in **Figure 3**.

Montana is the state with the fifth highest AI/AN Alone or in Combination population percent. The AI/AN Alone or in Combination population in Montana is 9.3 percent of the state population.

Figure 5: 2020 Census - Top 10 States with the Largest AI/AN Alone Population by Percent

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Race and Ethnicity in the United States: 2010 Census and 2020 Census Tableau

Figure 5 shows the ten states with the largest AI/AN Alone populations by percent.

In addition to having the largest AI/AN Alone or in Combination population by percent, Alaska has the largest AI/AN Alone population by percent. The AI/AN Alone population makes up 15.2 percent of the Alaska total population.

Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Montana are the top five states with the largest AI/AN Alone population by percent. The order of the top five states does change between **Figure 4** and **5**.

Detailed data analysis from the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File will provide further insight into AI/AN population data using race and ethnicity data and AI/AN geography data for tribal lands. From the high-level data that was released and discussed on August 12, 2021 by the Census Bureau, the data shows that the U.S. population is becoming more diverse. The AI/AN population appears to have grown significantly over the last ten years and is more diverse as well.

For a more detailed look at state race data for AI/AN Alone, AI/AN in Combination, and AI/AN Alone or in Combination and the changes between the 2010 Census and the 2020 Census, view the Appendix at the end of this document.

NCAI Upcoming Census Data Analysis and Product Timeline

The NCAI Policy Research Center plans to analyze both the 2020 Redistricting Data File using the IPUMS NHGIS tabulations and the August 2021 Privacy Protected Microdata File (2010 demonstration product). Both data files and analyses are pivotal in understanding the AI/AN data and data quality for the 2020 Census.

In addition to analyzing the data files, the NCAI Policy Research Center will be producing resources on the datasets for Tribal Nations, communities, and partners. Below is the anticipated timeline and the resources that are planned for release.

- **P.L. 94-171/Redistricting File Analysis**.
  August 12, 2021 – September 30
- **Research Policy Update: 2020 Census Redistricting File Summary for All Tribal Geographies**.
  August 27, 2021
- **Research Policy Update: AI/AN Voting Age Population Data**.
  August 27, 2021
- **Webinar: Summary of Key Changes from the 2020 Redistricting File for AI/AN Racial Data, Tribal Geographies, and Voting Age Data**.
  August 31, 2021
- **Research Policy Update: 2020 Census Redistricting File Summary by NCAI Regions**.
  September 3, 2021
- **Research Policy Update: Update on the Impacts of the Disclosure Avoidance System to Tribal Nation Data in the Decennial Census**.
  September 10, 2021

NCAI and its Policy Research Center created several educational resources already for the 2020 Census data and privacy measures. Additional resources are planned for future data products

released by the U.S. Census Bureau, and the above resources focus on only the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data file. Future 2020 Census data products may not match the results shown in the Redistricting Data file due to differences in how the privacy measures are applied to each dataset. To view available resources developed by NCAI Policy Research Center on this topic, go to the Research Recommendations website at https://bit.ly/2N1ICND.

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Questions: NCAI Policy Research Center – email: research@ncai.org; website: http://www.ncai.org/prc

Appendix A: 2010 to 2020 American Indian/Alaska Native Population Changes by State

STATE	American Indian/Alaska Native Alone or in Combination Population				American Indian/Alaska Native Alone Population			
	2010	2020	2020 Percent of Total State Population	2010 to 2020 Percent Change	2010	2020	2020 Percent of Total State Population	2010 to 2020 Percent Change
Alabama	57,118	131,030	2.6%	129.4%	28,218	33,625	0.7%	19.2%
Alaska	138,312	160,287	21.9%	15.9%	104,871	111,575	15.2%	6.4%
Arizona	353,386	453,560	6.3%	28.3%	296,529	319,512	4.5%	7.8%
Arkansas	47,588	115,614	3.8%	142.9%	22,248	27,177	0.9%	22.2%
California	723,225	1,409,609	3.6%	94.9%	362,801	631,016	1.6%	73.9%
Colorado	107,832	207,787	3.6%	92.7%	56,010	74,129	1.3%	32.3%
Connecticut	31,140	60,910	1.7%	95.6%	11,256	16,051	0.4%	42.6%
Delaware	9,899	21,392	2.2%	116.1%	4,181	5,148	0.5%	23.1%
District of Columbia	6,521	11,661	1.7%	78.8%	2,079	3,193	0.5%	53.6%
Florida	162,562	384,485	1.8%	136.5%	71,458	94,795	0.4%	32.7%
Georgia	84,024	214,041	2.0%	154.7%	32,151	50,618	0.5%	57.4%
Hawaii	33,470	41,528	2.9%	24.1%	4,164	4,370	0.3%	4.9%
Idaho	36,385	65,552	3.6%	80.2%	21,441	25,621	1.4%	19.5%
Illinois	101,451	280,985	2.2%	177.0%	43,963	96,498	0.8%	119.5%
Indiana	49,738	139.443	2.1%	-99.7%	18,462	26,086	0.4%	41.3%
Iowa	24,511	55.958	1.8%	-99.8%	11,084	14,486	0.5%	30.7%
Kansas	59,130	111,305	3.8%	88.2%	28,150	30,995	1.1%	10.1%
Kentucky	31,355	91,206	2.0%	190.9%	10,120	12,801	0.3%	26.5%
Louisiana	55,079	103,128	2.2%	87.2%	30,579	31,657	0.7%	3.5%
Maine	18,482	33,502	2.5%	81.3%	8,568	7,885	0.6%	-8.0%
Maryland	58,657	128,650	2.1%	119.3%	20,420	31,845	0.5%	56.0%
Massachusetts	50,705	94,040	1.3%	85.5%	18,850	24,018	0.3%	27.4%
Michigan	139,095	246,458	2.4%	77.2%	62,007	61,261	0.6%	-1.2%
Minnesota	101,900	157,651	2.8%	54.7%	60,916	68,641	1.2%	12.7%
Mississippi	25,910	53,729	1.8%	107.4%	15,030	16,450	0.6%	9.4%
Missouri	72,376	183,435	3.0%	153.4%	27,376	30,518	0.5%	11.5%
Montana	78,601	100,578	9.3%	28.0%	62,555	67,612	6.2%	8.1%
Nebraska	29,816	55,260	2.8%	85.3%	18,427	23,102	1.2%	25.4%
Nevada	55,945	105,790	3.4%	89.1%	32,062	43,932	1.4%	37.0%
New Hampshire	10,524	25,468	1.8%	142.0%	3,150	3,031	0.2%	-3.8%
New Jersey	70,716	147,877	1.6%	109.1%	29,026	51,186	0.6%	76.3%
New Mexico	219,512	263,615	12.4%	20.1%	193,222	212,241	10.0%	9.8%
New York	221,058	399,803	2.0%	80.9%	106,906	149,690	0.7%	40.0%
North Carolina	184,082	318,279	3.0%	72.9%	122,110	130,032	1.2%	6.5%
North Dakota	42,996	55,777	7.2%	29.7%	36,591	38,914	5.0%	6.3%
Ohio	90,124	234,389	2.0%	160.1%	25,292	30,720	0.3%	21.5%

STATE	American Indian/Alaska Native Alone or in Combination Population				American Indian/Alaska Native Alone Population			
	2010	2020	2020 Percent of Total State Population	2010 to 2020 Percent Change	2010	2020	2020 Percent of Total State Population	2010 to 2020 Percent Change
Oklahoma	482,760	633,831	16%	31.3%	321,687	332,791	8.4%	3.5%
Oregon	109,223	185,726	4.4%	70.0%	53,203	62,993	1.5%	18.4%
Pennsylvania	81,092	189,164	1.5%	133.3%	26,843	31,052	0.2%	15.7%
Rhode Island	14,394	23,357	2.1%	62.3%	6,058	7,385	0.7%	21.9%
South Carolina	42,171	108,111	2.1%	156.4%	19,524	24,303	0.5%	24.5%
South Dakota	82,073	98,842	11.1%	20.4%	71,817	77,748	8.8%	8.3%
Tennessee	54,874	161,436	2.3%	194.2%	19,994	28,044	0.4%	40.3%
Texas	315,264	794,062	2.7%	151.9%	170,972	278,948	1.0%	63.2%
Utah	50,064	87,234	2.7%	74.2%	32,927	41,644	1.3%	26.5%
Vermont	7,379	16,900	2.6%	129.0%	2,207	2,289	0.4%	3.7%
Virginia	80,924	180,239	2.1%	122.7%	29,225	40,007	0.5%	36.9%
Washington	198,998	313,633	4.1%	57.6%	103,869	121,468	1.6%	16.9%
West Virginia	13,314	37,689	2.1%	183.1%	3,787	3,706	0.2%	-2.1%
Wisconsin	86,228	144,572	2.5%	67.7%	54,526	60,428	1.0%	10.8%
Wyoming	18,596	27,480	4.8%	47.8%	13,336	13,898	2.4%	4.2%