

U.S. Census Bureau

[Skip this main site navigation menu](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Releases](#) | [Broadcast & Photo Services](#) | [Tip Sheets](#) | [Facts for Features](#) | [Minority Links](#)

[Releases](#) » [Facts for Features & Special Editions](#)

« [Return to Main Releases Page](#)

Facts for Features

CB05-FF.16
September 9, 2005

American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: November 2005

American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month originated in 1915 when the president of the Congress of American Indian Associations issued a proclamation declaring the second Saturday in May of each year as American Indian Day. The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued every year since 1994.

Population

4.4 million

As of July 1, 2004, the estimated population of American Indians and Alaska natives, including those of more than one race. They made up 1.5 percent of the total population.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/005164.html>>

687,400

The American Indian and Alaska native population in California as of July 1, 2004, the highest total of any state in the nation. California was followed by Oklahoma (398,200) and Arizona (322,200). About 6,400 American Indians and Alaska natives were added to Arizona's population between July 1, 2003, and July 1, 2004. That is the largest numeric increase of any state in the nation. Florida and Texas added 5,300 and 4,500, respectively.

About 1 in 5

The proportion of Alaska's population identified as American Indian and Alaska native as of July 1, 2004, the highest rate for this race group of any state in the nation. Alaska was followed by Oklahoma and New Mexico (11 percent each).

153,500

The number of American Indians and Alaska natives in Los Angeles County, Calif., as of July 1, 2004. Los Angeles led all the nation's counties in the number of people of this racial category. Maricopa County, Ariz., added about 3,000 people of this group between July 1, 2003, and July 1, 2004. Maricopa led all the nation's counties in this category.

Source for the preceding three statements:

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/005514.html>>

Families and Children

549,299

The number of American Indian and Alaska native families. Of these:

- 335,320, or 61 percent, are married-couple families.

- 302,249, or 55 percent, are families with their own children under 18.
- And 164,728, or 30 percent, are married couples with their own children, under the age of 18. (Source: [American FactFinder](#))

Homeownership

Nearly 6-in-10

The proportion of American Indian and Alaska native households who own their own home. (Source: [American FactFinder](#))

Languages

381,000

The number of people 5 years and older who speak a native North American language at home. The most common language is Navajo, spoken by 178,014. <<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t20.html>>

Education

76%

The percentage of American Indians and Alaska natives age 25 and older who have at least a high school diploma. Also, 14 percent have at least a bachelor's degree. (Source: [American FactFinder](#))

Businesses

\$26.4 billion

Receipts for American Indian- and Alaska native-owned businesses in 2002. These businesses numbered 206,125. An estimated 25,101 such firms had paid employees, with receipts of \$21.2 billion, or \$847,492 per firm.

- American Indian- and Alaska native-owned firms were active in many industries, with the largest concentrations in construction; retail trade; professional services; health care; and other services. Receipts were highest in retail trade and construction.
- American Indian- and Alaska native-owned firms accounted for 8 percent of firms in Alaska and about 5 percent of firms in both Oklahoma and New Mexico.

For more information on the data in this section:

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/business_ownership/005477.html>.

Jobs

24%

The percentage of American Indians and Alaska natives age 16 and older who work in management, professional and related occupations. (Source: [American FactFinder](#))

Income and Poverty

\$33,132

The median income of households where the householder reported they were American Indian and Alaska native and no other race. The median income is based on a three-year average (2002-2004).

24%

The poverty rate of people who reported they were American Indian and Alaska native and no other race, based on a three-year average.

For information on the data in this section:

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/005647.html>.

Health Insurance

29%

The percentage of people who reported they were American Indian and Alaska native and no other race who lacked health insurance coverage, based on a three-year average.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/005647.html>

Veterans**185,000**

The number of American Indian and Alaska native veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

(Source: [American FactFinder](#))

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau *Facts for Features* series:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan. 17) & African-American History Month (February)	Back to School (August)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)	Labor Day (Sept. 5)
Women's History Month (March)	Grandparents Day (Sept. 11)
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)	Halloween (Oct. 31)
Older Americans Month (May)	American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
Mother's Day (May 8)	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Father's Day (June 19)	Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24)
The Fourth of July (July 4)	The Holiday Season (December)
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)	

Editor's note: The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: (301) 763-3030; fax: (301) 457-3670; or e-mail: <pio@census.gov>.

[PDF] denotes a file in Adobe's Portable Document Format. To view these files, you will need Acrobat Reader which is available free from [Adobe](#).

Census Bureau Links: [Home](#) • [Search](#) • [Subjects A-Z](#) • [FAQs](#) • [Data Tools](#) • [Catalog](#) • [Census 2000](#) • [Quality](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Contact Us](#)

USCENSUSBUREAU
Helping You Make Informed Decisions

Source: U.S. Census Bureau | Public Information Office | (301) 763-3030