

Proud Heritage, Bright Future

4.9 million

As of July 1, 2008, the estimated population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race.

8.6 million

The projected population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race, on July 1, 2050.

83,250

Increase in the nation's American Indian and Alaska Native population from July 1, 2007, to July 1, 2008. The population of this group increased by 1.7 percent during that period.

5

Number of states where American Indians and Alaska Natives were the largest race or ethnic minority group in 2008. These states are Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

\$26.9 billion

Receipts for American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses in 2002. These businesses numbered 201,387.

3.64

Average number of people in an American Indian and Alaska Native family in 2008. This was larger than the national average size for all families (3.22 people).

Source: www.census.gov
"Facts for Features"

Veteran's Day Recognizes Warriors, Underscores Importance of Being Counted

The November 11th holiday honors veterans for their military service. The Denver Regional Census Center would like to acknowledge their sacrifice and thank them for building a stronger country and a proud community.



Navajo Code Talkers exchanging code
Source: www.lehighhistory.blogspot.com

Native Americans and Alaska Natives have the highest record of service per capita compared to any other ethnic group, yet they are not receiving their earned veteran benefits. According to Juanita Mullen, American Indian Veterans Liaison for the Department of Veterans Affairs, out of the over 200,000 Native American and Alaska Native Veterans, only .06% apply for their benefits. Mullen states, "What would help is to track how many vets are in the tribe so we could start our outreach. Most Americans do not understand the specific needs of these veterans. They need to learn our culture in order to understand us."

Native Americans and Alaska Natives have fought in America's wars for more than 200 years. In Vietnam alone, 42,000 Native Americans and Alaska Natives fought, 90% of those voluntarily. It has been said that tribal culture and proud warrior traditions add to the drive to serve in the military.

To learn more about your veteran benefits, call 1-800-827-1000 or go online www.va.gov.

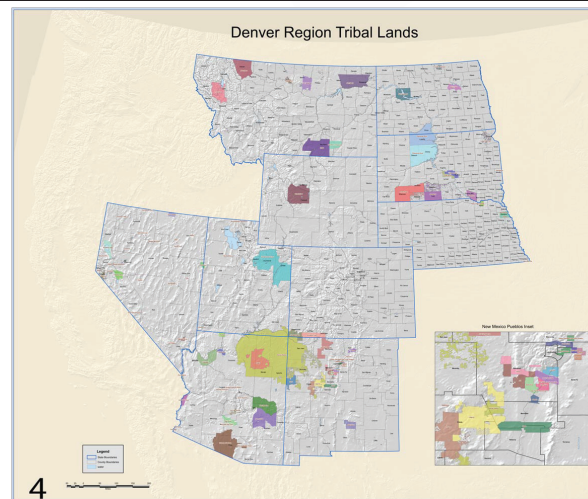


Next year's census offers the most expansive outreach in its 220-year history. A complete and accurate count means more people will learn and understand your culture, and that means your culture will be better preserved.

- Cathy L. Lacy, Census Bureau Denver Regional Director

Census Requesting Boundary Changes

The Denver Regional Census Center is currently producing and shipping the 2010 Boundary and Annexation materials for those tribes with possible changes to their boundaries. Liaisons for the tribal BAS program should begin receiving their maps and other materials this week. This important program is the last boundary survey before the 2010 census results are tabulated next year. All boundary changes with supporting documentation must be submitted before March 1, 2010. If you have questions about the Tribal BAS program, please contact Chuck Rose of the Denver Geography Department at 720-475-3600.



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Tribal Nation News

Denver Regional Census Center

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Events / Timeline

- October 2009**
Remaining 28 Local Census Offices open
- October 2009 / April 2010**
Recruitment and testing for enumeration operations
- Mid March - June 2010**
Questionnaires delivered to households or door-to-door enumeration
- April 1, 2010**
Census Day!
- May - June 2010**
Follow-up with households that did not return questionnaire
- December 31, 2010**
Delivery of population counts to the President for reapportionment
- January - March, 2011**
Delivery of population counts to each state

November is National American Indian Heritage Month. It was passed by Congress and signed into law in November 1990. However, this month-long observation began back in 1916 when New York became the first state to designate an American Indian Day.



Indian Country Counts!

During the National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) 66th Annual Convention and Trade Show, Dr. Robert M. Groves, director of the Census Bureau, and Joe Garcia, president of the NCAI, reaffirmed the Census Bureau's American Indian and Alaska Native Policy by launching NCAI's 2010 Census Campaign, "Indian Country Counts."

Groves signed a proclamation that, in his words, "Acknowledges there are many tribal governments that represent many peoples that are diverse in their cultures and their concerns and aspirations, and pledges the Census Bureau to consult with these tribal governments and tribal leaders prior to forming policies and plans that could affect them."

Before a room packed with reporters, tribal members and Census Bureau representatives, Garcia accepted a framed version of the document and read its three paragraphs. It reads, in part:

The Census Bureau recognizes our federal trust and responsibility and the government to government relationship that exists between the 563 federally recognized American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal governments. This relationship is based on the United States Constitution, federal treaties, policy, law, court decisions, executive orders and the ongoing political relationship among tribal nations and the federal government.

After shaking hands with Dr. Groves, Garcia added, "We've accepted that we've had trauma, we've recovered and we're moving forward. The count is an important piece that has to happen. If we don't count ourselves in our communities, if our nation doesn't count us, does that mean we don't exist? Certainly not, but we need to get out there and prove we do in terms of funding and so many important things that depend on a true count."



Joe Garcia and Director Groves

Let Your Voice Be Heard Today And Through Future Generations

"While your personal information is confidential and protected by law, it is also sealed for 72 years. After 72 years, the data is released with the primary use being that of genealogy research. This research helps to build a bridge to your children and grandchildren." - **Cathy L. Lacy / Denver Regional Director**

By completing the Census questionnaire, we are leaving a permanent record of our existence. We will provide future generations with basic information about us. We will provide a direct link to our family history, and preserve our cultural heritage at the same time. We can tell our story. **Please see pages 2 and 3 to read what tribal leaders have to say about their story and their community.**



2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

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United States
Census
2010
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

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www.census.gov

The 2010 Census Gives You a Voice

What Tribal Leaders Want America To Know About Their Community.

Dee St. Cyr

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Chairman of the Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce

The Census is critical to me because we look at those numbers and rely on those numbers quite heavily. They tell us how many Native-owned businesses there are out there. Everybody just has this vision that Native is the beautiful dancing or the beadwork or the basket weavers or the rug makers or anything like that and that's true. That's our heritage. That's our tradition. But now, come this way. We are always forward thinking as we're constantly planning for the next generation, the next generation after that. Because I believe that every Native American in the United States of America has a commitment and a passion and a drive to make it better than it was for the previous generation. I believe that wholeheartedly.



James Steele, Jr.

Chairman, Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council

Yes, we do pay taxes. No, we don't get free health care and no we don't get free education. As for the Census, it means dollars for the tribes and for Indian people, and so often the thing that's important is the fact that legislative districts will be drawn and a lot of those will be drawn to contain large Native populations.



Robert Moore

Legislator of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota

Sometimes there are a lot of brick walls during the day but generally at the end of the day you can go back and say, "I made it through that wall today," or "I made it over that wall today," or "I've taken down five feet of the bricks so I can get through the wall tomorrow." At the end of the day there is always some reward in what we do to help build our nations. Being part of the Census in the United States in this coming year 2010, helps dismantle all of those bricks on that wall. So that every time we take down a brick we have counted one of our tribal members. The next brick we take down will be counting a tribal member who will be impacted in the next 10 years by these counts and these figures that we are getting today.



Matthew Box

Chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe

Just that we're here. A lot of people aren't aware...maybe the concept is that we're extinct, but no, the census shows we're here and we have a lot to offer, not just for our own people, but for the world when it comes to cultural ways of the environment, the brothers and sisters, willows, trees. We wanted to look at alternative energies. We're working with algae for fuel. There are so many newer types of alternative energy but we scrutinized algae very deeply and it came right up to the top because it didn't compete with food like corn.



Marla Jean Big Boy

National Indian Child Welfare Assoc.

We have the same issues as anyone else. We have children in foster care. We have issues with abuse and neglect. The same issues of health care, the same issues of needing infrastructure improvements. We have the same issues with the economy; we have all the same issues that any other community has. And we are everywhere. I think that often people think that tribal people are on a reservation some place away from the city. The last census indicated that up to fifty percent of the American Indian population resides in urban areas. I always say if you're walking down the street in New York City, you're probably walking next to an American Indian.



**"...we're here and we have a lot to offer, not just for our own people, but for the world..." - Matthew Box
Chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe**

David M. Gipp

President United Tribes Technical College

Young people coming into my campus want to know more and more about their culture, the language, the history and their heritage. And they want the census to get a good accurate accounting of it rather than the storybook stuff. Whether we're on the reservation or off, maybe in a so-called urban area, we find that many of those tribal people want to know more about themselves and from whence they came.



J'Shon Lee

White Mountain Apache

Female Youth Ambassador for NCAI Youth Commission

I come across young native people making differences in their communities. We have to go to the children and let them know they are valued. Once young people know they're valued, they have more motivation and more courage to share what's really on their heart. Once they do that they realize their voice does count.



Irene C. Cuch

Northern Ute Tribal Council

We like them to know our history of the Ute people going from the background to the present. We're moving and want to become successful in our economic endeavors...that we move on. I know there is a lot of misconceptions that we still live in teepees, we don't. We live in sub-standard homes. We live in homes similar to other communities where people live in other communities. But we also have our culture and we like to educate them about our cultural beliefs and our ways so they can respect why we practice our cultural ways and beliefs.



Theresa Two Bulls

President Oglalla Sioux Tribe

We were the first Americans. We were here before anybody came. We are here and we're going to be here until the end. If you live in a state with tribes, get to know them.

