

## American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: November 2016

**NOV. 2, 2016** — The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. Red Fox James, a Blackfeet Indian, rode horseback from state to state to get endorsements from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians. 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, and we now refer to this celebration as “American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.” This Facts for Features presents statistics for American Indians and Alaska Natives, as this is one of the six major race categories classified by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

### Population

#### **6.6 million**

The nation’s population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race. They made up about 2.0 percent of the total population in 2015.

Source: Vintage 2015 Population Estimates

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP\\_2015\\_PEPASR5H&prodType=table](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2015_PEPASR5H&prodType=table)

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP\\_2015\\_PEPASR6H&prodType=table](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2015_PEPASR6H&prodType=table)

#### **10.2 million**

The projected American Indian and Alaska Native population, alone or in combination, on July 1, 2060. They would constitute 2.4 percent of the total population.

Source: 2014 National Population Projections, Tables 10 and 11

[www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014/summarytables.html](http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014/summarytables.html)

#### **559,796**

The American Indian and Alaska Native population, alone or in combination, age 65 and over, on July 1, 2015.

Source: Vintage 2015 Population Estimates

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP\\_2015\\_PEPASR5H&prodType=table](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2015_PEPASR5H&prodType=table)

#### **21**

The number of states with 100,000 or more American Indian and Alaska Native residents, alone or in combination, in 2015. These states were California, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, New York, New Mexico, Washington, North Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Colorado, Alaska, Illinois, Oregon, Minnesota, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Wisconsin and New Jersey.

Source: Vintage 2015 Population Estimates

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP\\_2015\\_PEPASR5H&prodType=table](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2015_PEPASR5H&prodType=table)

## **19.5%**

The percentage of Alaska's population identified as American Indian and Alaska Native, alone or in combination, in 2015, the highest share for this race group of any state. Alaska was followed by Oklahoma (13.6 percent), New Mexico (11.8 percent), South Dakota (10.3 percent) and Montana (8.3 percent).

Source: Vintage 2015 Population Estimates

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP\\_2015\\_PEPASR5H&prodType=table](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2015_PEPASR5H&prodType=table)

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## **30.2**

The median age for those who were American Indian and Alaska Native, alone or in combination, in 2015. This compares with a median age of 37.8 for the U.S. population as a whole.

Source: Vintage 2015 Population Estimates

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP\\_2015\\_PEPASR5H&prodType=table](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2015_PEPASR5H&prodType=table)

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## **Reservations**

### **326**

The number of federally recognized American Indian reservations in 2016, including federal reservations and off-reservation trust land. Excluding Hawaiian Home Lands, the Census Bureau provides statistics for 631 American Indian and Alaska Native legal and statistical areas.

Source: Census Bureau Geography Division

[www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/gazetteer.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/gazetteer.html)

## **Tribes**

### **567**

The number of federally recognized Indian tribes in 2016.

Source: Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2016

[www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xraca/documents/text/idc1-033010.pdf](http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xraca/documents/text/idc1-033010.pdf)

## **Families**

### **1,792,840**

The number of American Indian and Alaska Native households in 2015 (households with a householder who was American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with another race). Of these, 38.1 percent were married-couple families, including those with children.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~009](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~009)

## **5.7%**

The percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives, alone or in combination with other races, age 30 and over, who were grandparents living with at least one of their grandchildren in 2015.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~009](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~009)

## **Housing**

### **53.1%**

The percentage of single-race American Indian and Alaska Native householders who owned their own home in 2015. This is compared with 63.0 percent of the overall population.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006)

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## **Languages**

### **27.1%**

The percentage of single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives age 5 and older who spoke a language other than English at home in 2015, compared with 21.5 percent for the nation as a whole.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006)

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## **Education**

### **82.7%**

The percentage of the American Indian and Alaska Native population, alone or in combination, age 25 and older that had at least a high school diploma, GED certificate or alternative credential in 2014. In addition, 19.1 percent obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. In comparison, 87.1 percent of the overall population age 25 and older had a high school diploma or higher, and 30.6 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~009](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~009)

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## **41.3%**

The percentage of single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives age 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher whose degree was in science and engineering, or science and engineering-related fields in 2015. This compares with 44.1 percent for all people age 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher in science and engineering, or science and engineering-related fields in 2015.

Sources: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/C15010C](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/C15010C)

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/C15010](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/C15010)

## **14.1%**

The percentage of single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives age 25 and older who had a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree in 2015.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006)

## **Businesses**

### **26,757**

The estimated number of American Indian and Alaska Native-owned employer firms in 2014.

Source: 2014 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs

<http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ASE/2014/00CSA01>

## **Jobs**

### **26.4%**

The percentage of civilian-employed, single-race American Indian and Alaska Native people, age 16 and older who worked in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2015. In addition, 23.9 percent worked in service occupations and 23.4 percent in sales and office occupations. There is no statistically significant difference between the percentage who worked in service occupations and the percentage who worked in office occupations.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006)

## **Veterans**

### **130,802**

The number of single-race American Indian and Alaska Native veterans of the U.S. armed forces in 2015.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/B21001C](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/B21001C)

## **Income and Poverty**

## \$38,530

The median household income of single-race American Indian and Alaska Native households in 2015. This compares with \$55,775 for the nation as a whole.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006)

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## 26.6%

The percentage of single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives who were in poverty in 2015, the highest rate of any race group. For the nation as a whole, the poverty rate was 14.7 percent.

Sources: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006)

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## Health Insurance

### 20.7%

The percentage of single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives who lacked health insurance coverage in 2015. For the nation as a whole, the corresponding percentage was 9.4 percent.

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201//popgroup~006)

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

African-American History Month (February)	Labor Day (1st Monday in September)
Super Bowl (first Sunday in February)	Grandparents Day (1st Sunday after Labor Day)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Women's History Month (March)	Unmarried and Single Americans Week (3rd week of September)
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/ St. Patrick's Day (March 17)	Halloween (Oct. 31)
Earth Day (April 22)	American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Older Americans Month (May)	Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November)
Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May)	The Holiday Season (December)
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)	
Father's Day (third Sunday in June)	
The Fourth of July (July 4)	
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)	
Back to School (August)	

**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. Facts for Features are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines.

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