



AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE FACT SHEET FOR THE U.S. TERRITORY OF GUAM

OVERVIEW

According to the 2000 U.S. Census there are 4.1 million American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) residing in the United States (alone or in combination with another race). While 4 out of 10 Indians live in western states, every state in the nation has a measurable AI/AN populationⁱ. There are currently 563 federally recognized Indian tribes and approximately 245 tribes currently petitioning for federal recognition. Each of these tribes is a distinct sovereign nation that determines its own membership (citizenship) and exercises the powers of government. The Urban Indian Health Institute estimates that 66% of the AI/AN population lives in metropolitan areas (over 2.7 million)ⁱⁱ. The Indian Health Service contracts with 34 Urban Indian Health Clinics.

The U.S. Constitution (Article 1 Section 8) sets the foundation for the federal government’s trust responsibility to Indian nations, which has been reinforced over the years through various treaties, laws, and court rulings. Despite this, AI/AN people continue to be underserved due to a lack of adequate federal funding. The Indian Health Service appropriation meets less than 60% of the needⁱⁱⁱ, and of that Behavioral Health typically represents about 1% of their total budget. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (under the Department of the Interior) continues to eliminate or cut programs due to decreased funding.

Since Indian people are also citizens of the states in which they reside, local government agencies and entities have the responsibility to serve AI/AN populations that reside in their cities, counties, or states. In states that have federally or state recognized tribes, government-to-government relationships should be fostered in ways that promote the principle of tribal self-determination. In other states, efforts should be made to reach out to Urban Indian organizations or other community-based AI/AN organizations. Cities should seek partnerships and offer contracts to Urban Indian organizations. The National Indian Child Welfare Association is available to provide assistance to cities, counties, and states seeking to develop partnerships with AI/AN communities.

The territory of Guam is considered an organized, unincorporated territory of the U.S. with policy relations between Guam and the U.S. under the jurisdiction of the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Chamorro people are the original inhabitants of Guam and maintain a distinct language and culture. The U.S. Department of Interior resource for general information about the government relationship to the territory, history and politics of Guam, and other links can be found at <http://www.doi.gov/oia/Islandpages/gumain.htm>

Guam Territory Map
(Source: <http://www.islands.com/guam/>)



Ethnic Identity Demographics (2000 U.S. Census)

Total Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (alone)	75,851
Total Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in combination with other ethnic origin or race; except White and Asian	1,030
Estimated Chamorro sub-population (37% of total island population of 154,805)	57,278

Note: U.S. Census data of the American Indian/Alaska Native population living in Guam are unavailable or too small to measure.

The U.S. Census indicates the Chamorro people represent 37% of the total population of Guam. As an indigenous group of people, they share many common elements of culture and historical issues of colonization with American Indians/Alaska Natives in the continental United States. Chamorros are eligible to receive federal grants through the Administration for Native Americans through the Department of Chamorro Affairs, but do not have the same rights and privileges as AI/AN tribes in the continental U.S. due to the legal history and complexities of Guam's territorial status.

A briefing paper on the Chamorro health status in the United States can be found at <http://www.apiahf.org/resources/pdf/Chamorro%20Health%20Brief.pdf>. Information of general interest and discussion about Chamorro issues can be found on <http://chamorro.com/>.

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For more information, contact the National Indian Child Welfare Association at (503) 222-4044 or visit our website at www.nicwa.org.

ⁱ *The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2000 Census Brief. Issued February 2002. U.S. Census Bureau*

ⁱⁱ *Urban Indian Health Issue Brief. By Ralph Forquera for the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, November 2001*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Level of Need Funded Study by the LNF Work Group Report II, December 1999. Indian Health Service*