
THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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APPENDIX A

INDIAN SERVICE POPULATION AND LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

This appendix was published by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in January 1982, based on estimates from its field offices. Figures have been rounded and some do not add to exact totals. These statistics are the best available on the number of Indians in various locations served by the BIA and the labor force situation for each group. This information is part of the basic data required for realistic analysis and for consideration of feasible policy options. Other desirable data, not now available, are indicated in the chapter on policy issues.

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LOCAL ESTIMATES OF RESIDENT INDIAN POPULATION AND LABOR FORCE STATUS: DECEMBER 1981

Coverage: The term "resident Indian" means Indians living on Federal reservations or nearby, and who are eligible for services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The term "near reservations" is defined in CFR 25 par. 20.1 (r). Special legislation governs eligibility in Alaska and Oklahoma. In Alaska the figures include all Alaska Natives, i.e. Aleuts, Eskimos, as well as Indians. Since very few are actually living on reservations, the term "nearby" refers to all the rest of Alaska. In Oklahoma, the area covered is composed of former reservations. Thus, in both states the Bureau's responsibility extends almost entirely to the total Indian population of those states.

The statistics compiled herein refer basically to the population of a geographic area; they do not refer to tribal membership. The latter figures are maintained by the individual tribes according to their specific rules of membership, which may include members wherever they may be living. The few cases where membership rather than residency was used are so indicated in the appropriate table.

In certain instances the figures for individual Reservations are higher than the figures shown in the 1980 census for the counties where these reservations are located. Some of the reasons for these differences may be: (1) the tribes may have included in their count members that have left the reservation on a temporary basis (students, employment, etc.); (2) as stated above the tribes may have included tribal membership in their count; (3) possible variance of tribal population counts among tribes residing in the same county; and (4) not all members were counted in the 1980 census. Consequently in this report the total Indian population in some states differs somewhat from the 1980 census.

The total of approximately 735,000 Indians covered in these tables represents over half of the total Indian population of the United States, which in the 1980 U.S. census numbers 1,418,195. The remainder consists of members of Federally recognized tribes who live off-reservation, or Indian people who are not members of any Federally recognized tribe, or those who claimed Indian ancestry.

Estimated
Figures:

The statistics are labeled "estimates" because they are not based to any major extent on actual surveys. The local Agency offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs estimated the data using whatever information was available. Accuracy varies from place to place; it is relatively high at small, isolated locations where everyone's activity is common knowledge. Generally, data for the Navajo Area, the State of Oklahoma (Anadarko and Muskogee Areas), and the State of Alaska are considered the least accurate and the most difficult to estimate because of the large population scattered over large geographic areas. This is particularly true in estimating the labor force status. Because of the considerable cost, household surveys of the labor force status are not frequently conducted.

