

# U.S. CENSUS MARKS INCREASE IN URBAN AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

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BROADCAST

The 2010 U.S. Census Bureau defines an urban area\* as a “densely settled core of census tracts and/or census blocks that meet minimum population density requirements.” From 2000 to 2010, the number of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) alone or in combination with other races residing in urban areas grew by 34% (almost 1 million people) (Table 1). Not only has the number increased, but also the proportion of AI/ANs living in urban areas increased from 67% to 71%, an overwhelming majority (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1: AI/AN<sup>+</sup> Population in 2000 and 2010**

| Population                             | 2000      | 2010      |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Total AI/ANs in the U.S.               | 4,119,301 | 5,220,579 |
| Total Urban AI/ANs in the U.S.         | 2,774,716 | 3,707,636 |
| Proportion of Urban AI/ANs in the U.S. | 67%       | 71%       |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Additionally, more than 1 in 5 urban AI/ANs lives in poverty according to an American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate of a sample of urban AI/ANs.<sup>2</sup> While the Affordable Care Act may benefit urban AI/ANs living in poverty by expanding Medicaid and insurance coverage, uncertainty remains regarding how ACA implementation will impact health care costs and availability for AI/ANs.

**Figure 1: AI/AN Population in 2010**  = 10%

71% of AI/ANs live in urban areas.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The growing number of urban AI/ANs, many of whom live in poverty, will need increased health care resources. The UIHI encourages you to use these data in your own materials to emphasize the growing urban AI/AN population requiring health and social services.

A [video tutorial on using American FactFinder](#) to access these data can be found on YouTube. For more information, contact the UIHI at [info@uihi.org](mailto:info@uihi.org).



\* The complete definitions of the U.S. Census Bureau's urban/rural designations can be found here: <http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/ua/urban-rural-2010.html>

+ American Indians and Alaska Natives alone or in combination with other races

## References

1. U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Census 2010 American Indian and Alaska Native Summary File; Table: PCT2; Urban and rural; Universe Total Population; Population group name: American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races.
2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey. (2010). Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months By Sex By Age Universe; Table: SF4; Urban; Population group name: American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races.