

**The Largest American Indian Populations in California:  
Household and Family Data from the Census 2000**

Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity\*  
Stanford University

**Executive Summary**

California is home to 15.2 percent of the nation's American Indian population. In the state, 1.9 percent of the population is American Indian, with the largest concentrations residing in the Northern and Eastern Mountain counties. To give attention to American Indians, an often understudied but historically significant group, this report focuses on available population, household, and family data from the Census 2000 for counties in California with the largest population percentages of American Indians—including Alpine, Del Norte, Humboldt, Inyo, Mendocino, Modoc, Siskiyou, and Trinity.

American Indians are invited to note a specific tribal affiliation on the federal census. While 33.2 percent of American Indians in the U.S. and 25.7 percent in California specified no tribal affiliation, in the eight counties of the state with the largest concentrations of American Indians, smaller percentages of American Indians declined to identify with a tribe (between 6.5 in Alpine and 20.9 in Trinity). The tribe most affiliated with in the state is Cherokee, though in several of the focus counties (Inyo, Modoc, and Alpine), Paiutes comprise the largest percentage of American Indians.

For the first time on the U.S. decennial survey, people were allowed to identify with multiple race groups. In seven of the eight counties in California with the largest American Indian concentrations smaller percentages of American Indians identified with additional race groups on the 2000 Census (between 22.1 in Inyo and 44.4 in Trinity), compared to the state (71.5) and nation (49.8).

On the whole, counties with the largest American Indian population percentages are less racially diverse (with diversity indices ranging from 24.7 in Trinity to 49.2 in Del Norte) than the state overall (72.0). While there is greater racial diversity among children in these counties, compared to the total population, diversity indices are lower than for California overall.

Average household size for those headed by American Indians in the focus counties of this report is larger (between 2.6 and 3.3) than the average household size for all households in these counties (between 2.3 and 2.6). Relative to Latino and "Some Other Race" households, however, American Indian households tend to be smaller.

Average family size for those headed by American Indians in the focus counties is larger (between 3.2 and 3.7) than the average family size for all families in these counties (between 2.8 and 3.1). Relative to Latino and "Some Other Race" families, however, American Indian families tend to be smaller. Compared to all families, larger percentages of American Indian families in the counties with the largest concentrations of American Indians are single-adult headed households (23.8 to 45.6 percent are female-headed across the eight counties, and 8.6 to 15.1 percent are male-headed). Of the 40.4 to 67.5 percent of American Indian families that are married couples, 43.6 to 57.2 percent have children across the eight focus counties; of female-headed households with no spouse present, 46.2 to 69.8 percent have children, and of male-headed households with no spouse present, 38.5 to 83.3 percent do.

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\* Report Author: Alejandra Lopez. Series Advisors: Matthew Snipp & Al Camarillo.