



## RESERVATION FACTS

1. Altogether, 566 federally recognized American Indian tribes exist in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> NRC works on 65 of these reservations that are isolated and poverty-stricken.
  2. The overall living conditions on some reservations have been cited as “comparable to the Third World.” NRC’s Program Partners tend to agree with this.<sup>2</sup>
  3. Access to jobs is limited on the reservations. Unemployment ranges from 35% to 85%, depending on the community. Overall unemployment for American Indians is about 49%.<sup>3</sup>
  4. Many American Indians work full-time yet still fall below poverty level. Poverty ranges from 38% to 63% of the population on Navajo, Rosebud, Pine Ridge, Lower Brule, Crow Creek, and other reservations in NRC’s service area.<sup>4</sup>
  5. From 30-43% of American Indian children are living in poverty.<sup>5</sup>
  6. The high school dropout rate for American Indian students is 30 to 70%, depending on the reservation and the state. About 11% of American Indians have a college degree, compared to 24% of their Caucasian peers.<sup>6</sup>
  7. Some 23% of American Indian households experience low food insecurity – more so than other families in the US. Low food security means uncertain or limited access to enough food for an active healthy life, typically because of a lack of money or access.<sup>7</sup>
  8. Suicide rates for American Indians between the ages of 15 and 24 are 3 times the national average – and the second leading cause of death for their age group.<sup>8</sup>
  9. Life expectancy for American Indians has improved yet still trails that of other Americans by a few years. American Indians have a diabetes epidemic – the highest in the U.S. The tuberculosis rate for American Indians is 7 times higher. Cancer-related disparities for American Indians are higher than for any minority group in the U.S., mainly due to poverty and lack of access.<sup>9</sup>
  10. There is a housing crisis in Indian country. About 90,000 American Indian families are homeless or under-housed – and 40% of on-reservation housing is considered inadequate.<sup>10</sup>
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## End Notes

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- <sup>1</sup> BIA at [www.doi.gov/bia/](http://www.doi.gov/bia/). NIGA at [www.indiangaming.org/library/indian-gaming-facts/index.shtml](http://www.indiangaming.org/library/indian-gaming-facts/index.shtml)
- <sup>2</sup> Former US Rep from OH at <http://www.gallupindependent.com/2004/05may04/050404fedheads.html>.
- <sup>3</sup> 2005 BIA American Indian Population & Labor Force Report at <http://www.doi.gov/bia/labor.html>.  
2005-06 Navajo Nation Economic Development Strategy. Native American Indian Housing Council, from Harvard Project on Economic Development at [www.naihc.net/news/index.asp?bid=6316](http://www.naihc.net/news/index.asp?bid=6316). 2000 Census.
- <sup>4</sup> 2005 BIA American Indian Population & Labor Force Report at <http://www.doi.gov/bia/labor.html>.  
2005-06 Navajo Nation Economic Development Strategy. Mar 2006 Federal Gazette in "Tribal Trends" at <http://minneapolisfed.org/pubs/fedgaz/06-03/trends.cfm>. 2003 HRSA Oral Disease Prevention Project. 2003 FHA Project at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/econdev/pineridge.htm>. 2000 Census. Journalist in "Arrogance of Ignorance" at [http://silvrdrach.homestead.com/schwartz\\_2006\\_oct\\_15.html](http://silvrdrach.homestead.com/schwartz_2006_oct_15.html).
- <sup>5</sup> National Center for Education Statistics at [http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/nativetrends/ind\\_1\\_6.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/nativetrends/ind_1_6.asp).
- <sup>6</sup> Census 2000 Summary File 3 at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-24.pdf>. Census 2000 Special Report "We the People: American Indians in the U.S." published at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/censr-28.pdf>. Also 2004 Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization report at <http://www.unpo.org/article/518>. Indian Nations at Risk Task Force report at <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/INAR.html>. 1999 Final Report of the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Education Department on page 24 at <http://eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED463910.pdf>. 1992 Navajo Drop-out Study and Implications on page 1 at <http://jaie.asu.edu/v31/V31S2nav.htm>. National Congress of American Indians at <http://www.ncai.org/about-tribes/demographics>. PBS Indian country diaries at <http://www.pbs.org/indiancountry/challenges/education.html>.
- <sup>7</sup> 2012 Report to Congress Addressing Child Hunger and Obesity in Indian Country on page 12, citing 2006-2008 data at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/Ora/menu/Published/CNP/FILES/IndianCountry.pdf>.
- <sup>8</sup> 1999 "APA Testimony on Suicide" at <http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/psuicnat.html> and Indian Health Service at [http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/PortlandInjury/Worddocs/Data/AIAN/NVSR\\_facts.pdf](http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/PortlandInjury/Worddocs/Data/AIAN/NVSR_facts.pdf)
- <sup>9</sup> Indian Health Service at <http://info.ihs.gov> and <http://info.ihs.gov/Files/DisparitiesFacts-Jan2006.pdf> and <http://info.ihs.gov/Disparities.asp>. HHS National Women's Health Information Center at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/minority/americanindian/tb.cfm>. Native People for Cancer Control at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwccer/npc-about.html>. I.H.S. and National Council of Nursing at [www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/nnlc/documents/phcore.doc](http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/nnlc/documents/phcore.doc).
- <sup>10</sup> National American Indian Housing Council and US Commission on Civil Rights, "A Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country" in 2003 at <http://www.naihc.net/news/index.asp?bid=6316>.