



## Growing ND by the Numbers

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#### Top 5 in the Nation:

*North Dakota is one of just a handful of states that have more than five percent American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) population. Ahead of North Dakota are Alaska at 12.9%, New Mexico at 9.3%, Oklahoma at 7.8%, and Montana at 6.5%.*

## Native American Population in North Dakota

American Indian and Alaska Native are North Dakota's largest minority. American Indian represents just under one percent of the United States household population. According to the latest American Community Survey, American Indians alone comprise 39,669 of North Dakota's population, a little over five percent; a figure that has remained unchanged since the last decennial census.

North Dakota's 39,669 American Indians represents a gain of 3,475 since the 2010 Census, or 9.6%, nearly matching the total statewide population gain of 9.9%. Of that total, numerous tribes are represented though the majority are either Chippewa or Sioux, which make up seventy-two percent of the Native American population .

The majority of the American Indians reside on one of five reservations within North Dakota's boundaries.



North Dakota's five American Indian reservations.  
Source: North Dakota Census Office 2014 File Map

The reservations include Fort Berthold with the Three Affiliated Tribes, Lake Traverse with the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake with the Sioux, Standing Rock with the Sioux, and Turtle Mountain with the Chippewa. Though the Fort Berthold and Standing Rock reservations are much larger in land area, the Turtle Mountain reservation has a largest population of the five reservations.

As of 2014, the median age of North Dakota's American Indians is 26.9, a full eight years younger than North Dakota's overall median age of 35.1. Specifically, the median age for males is 25.4 while for females it is 28.6.

Source: Federal Register / Vol. 80, No. 9 and U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 1-Year American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey

**2020 Tribal Consultation Meeting**  
*A meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2016, in Fort Yates at Sitting Bull College, to plan for the upcoming 2020 Census. The discussion will focus on the following elements of the 2020 Census. They include enumeration (act of counting a population), communications, partnerships, classification and tabulation of response data, geography, and recruitment of census jobs.*

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## Characteristics of American Indians in North Dakota

The average household size for American Indians in North Dakota varies from 2.78 within Lake Traverse to 3.7 within Spirit Lake.

This holds true for the average family size on the reservations with numbers varying from 3.3 in Lake Traverse to 4.26 at Spirit Lake.

In the area of educational attainment, the percent of high school graduate or higher ranged from 77.2% at Spirit Lake to 88.2% at Fort Berthold. This compares to 90.9% for North Dakota overall.

When it comes to those with bachelor's degrees or higher, Spirit Lake is at 9.3%, Standing Rock 15.7%, Lake Traverse 17.2%, Fort Berthold at 17.4%, and Turtle Mountain at 19.5%. North Dakota overall is at 27.2%.

Unemployment and poverty continue to be an issue on the reservations in North Dakota. Of the civilian labor force, unemployment included 6.8% at Fort Berthold, 7.1% at Lake Traverse, 9.3% at Spirit Lake, 24.4% at Standing Rock, and 4.4% at Turtle Mountain. This compares

to 3.3% for North Dakota overall.

The American Indian population in North Dakota primarily works in one of seven sectors. They include, in order of the number employed, Public Administration; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; Accommodation and Food Services; Construction; Retail Trade; Health Care and Social Assistance; and Educational Services

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey, Demographic Profile DP02, DP03, Center for Economic Studies Local Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) 2014 3rd Quarter*

Reservation (ND portion)	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2009-2013 5 Year ACS	2010-2013 Change	2010-2013 % Change
Fort Berthold	5,387	5,915	6,341	6,840	499	7.9
Lake Traverse	219	191	169	157	-12	-7.1
Spirit Lake	3,574	4,435	4,238	4,204	-34	-.8
Standing Rock	3,761	4,044	4,153	4,258	105	2.5
Turtle Mountain	7,101	8,307	8,656	8,911	255	2.9

*Population Totals since the 1990 Census*

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census (1990, 2000, 2010), 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey*

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