



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

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Research Policy Update

2020 Census Results: NCAI Navajo Region Tribal Land Data

This research update is a supplement to the *2020 Census Results: Regional Tribal Land Data Summary* update. To learn details about the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting data, methodology, and overall analysis for the NCAI regions, read the update at <https://bit.ly/3C3W3Ra>.

To learn about the overall American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) population changes at the national and state level in the 2020 Census, read the *A First Look at the 2020 Census American Indian/Alaska Native Redistricting Data* update at <https://bit.ly/3AG5sOd>.

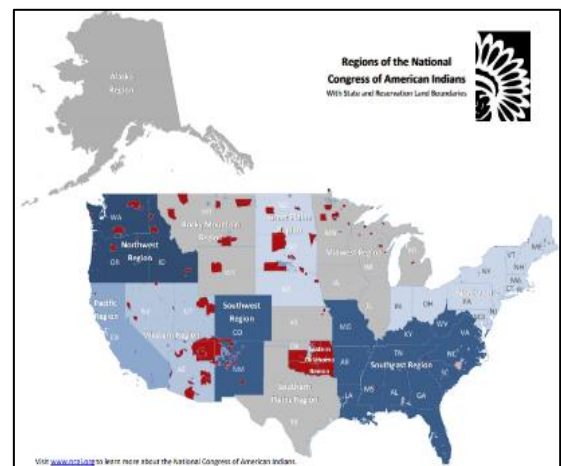
2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data – Tribal Lands by NCAI Regions

This update summarizes population count changes for individual tribal lands in the 2020 Census compared to 2010 results in the NCAI Navajo region defined by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). The areas included in each NCAI region are shown in **Figure 1**.

This report used the IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) tabulations of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File derived from the Legacy Format.¹ The data used in this report are from IPUMS Table 1 and include the AIANNHⁱ Tribal Geographies, also referred to as tribal lands for this report. The data for this report includes racial and population data for the tribal lands.

This report used two additional datasets for comparisons: 1) 2010 Census Summary File 1 tribal land data² to show changes since the last Decennial Census; and 2) 2020 Census self-response rate data³ for tribal lands to show the potential impact of self-response rates on 2020 Census data results.

Figure 1: NCAI Regions



Source: <https://bit.ly/3hzoHID>

ⁱ American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian. Native Hawaiian Homelands were not included in this analysis.

2020 Census – Data Limitations for the NCAI Navajo Region

This report examines the population counts on tribal lands as reported by the 2020 Census for the NCAI Navajo region. “Tribal lands” refer to the U.S. Census Bureau geographic boundaries for the Census Bureau surveys and censuses and may not reflect all Tribal Nations, federally recognized or otherwise. The boundaries for tribal lands (geographies) are created by the U.S. Census Bureau through coordinated efforts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, state officials, and tribal consultation. To learn more about how the geographic boundaries and the tribal lands are created and agreed upon for use by the U.S. Census Bureau, read the *2020 Census Results: Regional Tribal Land Data Summary Appendix A* update.

The 2020 Census enumeration (count) experienced several challenges that affected the final data results. In addition to changes in the tribal lands, challenges emerged from the enumeration process, data processing, differences in coding race/ethnicity in 2020, COVID-19 shutdowns, and the new data privacy measures. All of these challenges likely impacted the final 2020 Census counts generally and for tribal lands. Due to all these factors, the U.S. Census Bureau has stated that comparisons from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census should be considered in the context of these factors. To read more about the limitations in the 2020 Census Redistricting dataset, read the *2020 Census Results: Regional Tribal Land Data Summary* update.

Region Specific Data Limitations

There were no new Census tribal geographies added to the NCAI Navajo region between the 2010 and 2020 Census. The NCAI Navajo region only includes the Navajo Nation. The Hopi Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land is included in the NCAI Western region update.

Disruptions to the 2020 enumeration process left some tribal lands dependent on the non-response follow up (NRFU) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for their 2020 population counts. NRFU efforts included an individual employed by the U.S. Census Bureau physically counting the households within a community. The 2020 Census self-response rates for the NCAI Navajo region reviewed for this report are limited to the Census responses submitted by households by phone, mail, and internet. For more details on the 2020 self-response rates, read the *2020 Census Response Rates* update series at <http://bit.ly/2P8Xnu6>.

This data update covers the population that was counted by the 2020 Census on tribal lands within the NCAI Navajo region. This does not mean that the total population on tribal lands is only American Indian/ Alaska Native (AI/AN) and does not mean that entire population count represents enrollment in the Tribal Nation. The 2020 Census data on race/ethnicity was by self-identification, and these important distinctions were reviewed in our report on national and state results from the 2020 Census.

NCAI Navajo Region Tribal Land Population Results – Summary

This section covers 2020 Census population counts for tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo region. The results cover the changes from 2010 to 2020 in the region’s total population, AI/AN population, and population counts for each Census tribal land within the region.

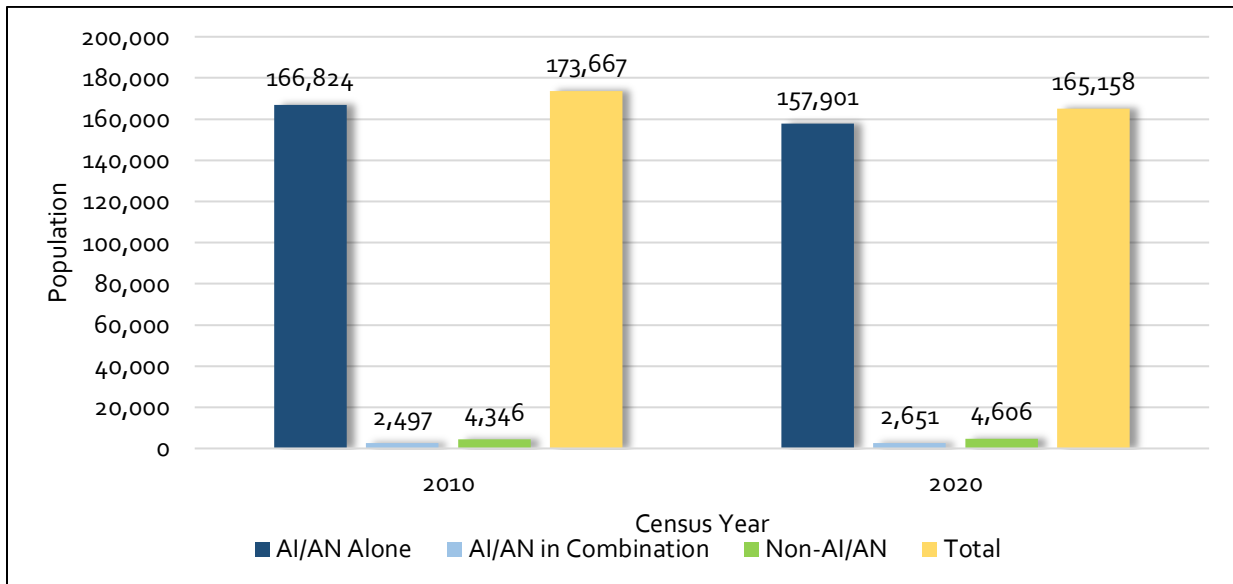
Figure 2: Total Population for the NCAI Navajo Region, 2010 to 2020

<i>NCAI Navajo Region</i>	Total Population
2010	173,667
2020	165,158

The 2020 Census results show that the total population for tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo region declined between 2010 and 2020. **Figure 2** shows the total population counts for the NCAI Navajo region in 2010 compared to 2020. The tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo Region decreased by 8,509 counts, from a total population of 173,667 counted in 2010 to a total population of 165,158 counted in 2020. Population totals in some NCAI regions may not match the results from the *2020 Census Results: Regional Tribal Land Data Summary* update due to the exclusion of tribal lands with significant boundary changes in the previous analysis.

The total population counts for AI/AN Alone, AI/AN in Combination with another race, and the non-AI/AN count in the NCAI Navajo region tribal lands changed from 2010 to 2020. **Figure 3** shows the AI/AN and non-AI/AN populations counted on tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo region during the 2010 and 2020 Census. The dark blue bar shows the total AI/AN Alone population for all tribal lands within the NCAI Navajo region. The light blue bar shows the total AI/AN in Combination population for all the tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo region. The green bar shows the total non-AI/AN population counted on tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo region. The yellow bar is the total population counted on tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo region during the 2010 and 2020 Census. The dark blue, light blue, and green bars all add up to equal the yellow bar.

Figure 3: NCAI Navajo Region Population on Tribal Lands by AI/AN Alone, AI/AN in Combination, Non-AI/AN, and the Total Population Counts, 2010 and 2020



The AI/AN Alone population made up the majority of the population on tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo region during the 2010 and the 2020 Census. **Figure 3** shows that the population decline in the NCAI Navajo region was from a decrease in the AI/AN Alone population count. The AI/AN in combination and the non-AI/AN counts in the NCAI Navajo region increased between 2010 and 2020. The increase of the AI/AN in Combination and the non-AI/AN counts was smaller than the amount the AI/AN Alone population decreased and so overall, the NCAI Navajo region declined in total population.

In the 2020 Census, factors ranging from enumeration challenges to the new data privacy measures can have disproportional impacts on small, rural, and remote populations. **Figure 4** shows the census population count percent losses and gains on tribal lands between 2010 and 2020. There is only one tribal land included in the NCAI Navajo region, and so data in **Figure 4** is limited to one tribal land and cannot indicate the impact of population size with population gain/loss as in other NCAI region reports.

The row in **Figure 4** indicates the size of the 2020 total population count for the NCAI Navajo Region. The column in the figure indicates the percent of population the tribal land gained/lost in the 2020 Census.

Figure 4. Population Gains and Losses in the NCAI Navajo Region by Population Size, 2010 to 2020 Census

<i>NCAI Navajo Region Population Size</i>	<i>Loss >10%</i>	<i>Loss 5 - 9.99%</i>	<i>Loss > 0 - 4.99%</i>	<i>No Gain/Loss</i>	<i>Gain > 0 - 4.99%</i>	<i>Gain 5 - 9.99%</i>	<i>Gain > 10%</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
<i>Above 100,000</i>			1					1
Grand Total			1					1

Figure 4 shows that the one tribal land included in the NCAI Navajo region had a loss of total population counts more than zero but less than five percent. More analysis on rural and remote tribal lands compared to those closer to metropolitan areas could provide additional insight into the populations with total gains or losses.

The 2020 enumeration faced several challenges to a complete count, and counting for small, rural, and remote populations was likely impacted by COVID-19 enumeration delays and 2020 Census privacy measures. The U.S. Census Bureau released and updated daily the self-response rates for tribal lands during the 2020 enumeration efforts. NRFU efforts increased the population counted, but the self-response rates provide some insight into the potential impacts that the disrupted enumeration efforts may have had on the 2020 Census results for total population on tribal lands.

Figure 5 shows the losses and gains for the tribal land total populations that had different 2020 Census self-response rates. **Figure 5** is similarly limited as **Figure 4** in that there is only one tribal land in the region.

Figure 5. 2020 Census Population Gains and Losses by 2020 Census Self-Response Rates for Tribal Lands in the NCAI Navajo Region

NCAI Navajo Region Tribal Land Self-Response Rate	Loss ≥ 10%	Loss 5 - 9.99%	Loss > 0 - 4.99%	No Gain/Loss	Gain > 0 - 4.99%	Gain 5 - 9.99%	Gain ≥ 10%	Grand Total
10 - 24.9%			1					1
Grand Total			1					1

The NCAI Navajo region had the lowest self-response rate of all the NCAI regions, with a self-response rate of 22.6 percent for the 2020 Census. The U.S. national self-response rate was 67 percent. The average self-response rate for all tribal lands in the 2020 Census was 42.1 percent.⁴

Figure 6 and 7 show the detailed 2020 Census Redistricting Data population count results for the tribal land in the NCAI Navajo region. **Figure 6** shows the total population counts for the Census tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo region with data listed. **Figure 6** includes information on the gain and loss in population total counts and the population percent increase or decrease between the 2010 and 2020 Census. The negative numbers indicate the population lost between 2010 and 2020.

Figure 6. 2020 Census Total Population Counts for Tribal Lands in the NCAI Navajo Region

Census Tribal Land	2010 Census Total Population	2020 Census Total Population	Change in Total Population from 2010 to 2020 (± #)	Percent Gain or Loss from 2010 to 2020 (± %)
Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	173,667	165,158	-8,509	-4.9%

The total population numbers show the population that lived and was counted in the 2020 Census on the tribal lands on April 1, 2020. The data is measuring within an area of land and not a jurisdiction or membership. The 2020 Census data on race/ethnicity was by self-identification, and total population includes both AI/ANs and non-AI/ANs living and counted on those tribal lands. 2020 Census data does not measure tribal enrollment.

The Decennial Census data are used for purposes important to Tribal Nations, including apportionment to determine how many representatives each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives; redistricting at federal, state, and local levels; federal funding formulas; local tribal governance; and research and public health surveillance. Minor changes in population counts could have significant effects on Tribal Nations for the next ten years until the 2030 Census.

Figure 6 shows the information for the Census tribal lands by total population and did not identify what the proportion of the population was AI/AN. Figure 7 compares the 2010 and 2020 Census data for the AI/AN Alone population counted on each tribal land and for the AI/AN Alone or in Combination with another race category population. Figure 7 illustrates how the percent of the population that identified as AI/AN Alone or AI/AN Alone or in Combination increased or decreased on the tribal lands between 2010 and 2020.

Figure 7. 2020 Census American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Population Counts (Alone, and Alone or in Combination) on Tribal Lands in the NCAI Navajo Region

Census Tribal Land	2010 AI/AN Alone Population	2020 AI/AN Alone Population	AI/AN Alone Population Gain/Loss 2010 to 2020 (±%)	2010 AI/AN Alone or in Combination Population	2020 AI/AN Alone or in Combination Population	AI/AN Alone or in Combination Population Gain/Loss 2010 to 2020 (±%)
Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	166,824	157,901	-5.3%	169,321	160,552	-5.2%

NCAI created a 2020 Census Tribal Land Population Count Generator that displays the results for each Census tribal land in the same format as in **Figure 3**. To access the NCAI 2020 Census Tribal Land Population Count Generator, visit <https://bit.ly/3hwiHKA>.

For additional data coordination and assistance, NCAI encourages Tribal Nations to reach out to their State Data Centers or the NCAI Census Information Center. **Figure 8** lists the contact information for the State Data Centers in the NCAI Navajo region. The State Data Centers and Census Information Centers are a network of organizations that partner with the U.S. Census Bureau to provide data access and assistance to data users, including Tribal Nations. Many State Data Centers have compiled data resources for the Tribal Nations within their state.

Figure 8. NCAI Navajo Region State Data Centers and Census Information Centers

State Data Center	Lead Agency Contact Information
Arizona	Allen Barnes Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity allen.barnes@azdoa.gov
Colorado	Adam Bickford Division of Local Government Colorado Department of Local Affairs adam.bickford@state.co.us
New Mexico	Ryan Eustice New Mexico Economic Development Department Ryant.eustice@state.nm.us
Utah	Mallory Bateman Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Mallory.bateman@utah.edu
Census Information Center	
National Congress of American Indians	Gwynne Evans-Lomayesva National Congress of American Indians Research@ncai.org
Navajo Nation	Norbert Nez Navajo Nation Census Information Center nnez@nndcd.org

The State Data Centers can include coordinating agencies for the state in addition to the lead agencies. To contact a coordinating agency, visit the Census Bureau website: <https://www.census.gov/about/partners/sdc/member-network.html>.

Citation: NCAI Policy Research Center (2021). *2020 Census Results: NCAI Navajo Region Tribal Land Data*. Washington DC: National Congress of American Indians, September 2021.

Questions: NCAI Policy Research Center – email: research@ncai.org; website: <http://www.ncai.org/prc>

Endnotes

¹ Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0 [2020 Census PL-94-171, Table 1, AIANNH]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. 2021.
<http://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V16.0>

² Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0 [2010 Census Summary File 1, Table 1, AIANNH]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. 2021.
<http://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V16.0>

³ Bureau, U. S. C. (2021, June 16). Tracking self-response rates map. The United States Census Bureau.
<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-census-self-response-rates-map.html>.

⁴ NCAI Policy Research Center (2020). Research Policy Update – Decennial Census: Tribal Lands Response Rates. Washington DC: National Congress of American Indians, October 28, 2020