



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

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Research Policy Update

2020 Census Results: Regional Tribal Land Data Summary

This research update provides a first look at population data for U.S. Census Bureau tribal geographies (tribal lands) collected during the 2020 Census. To learn about the overall American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) population changes at the national and state levels 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 Dataset and Methodology

The Decennial Census is a complete count of the U.S. population every ten years that is required in the U.S. Constitution.¹ 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 for the next ten years until the 2030 Census. This update summarizes population changes for tribal lands in the 2020 Census compared to 2010 results and reviews differences in population counts for tribal lands in regions defined by the National Congress of American Indian (NCAI).

The P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File is the first 2020 Census dataset that includes race and tribal land data. The U.S. Census Bureau released the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File on August 12, 2021 in a "Legacy format." The Legacy format does not display the data in tables for viewing by the public and requires additional statistical work to analyze. The U.S. Census Bureau will release the public redistricting data on September 16, 2021.²

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 (**Figure 1**).³ The data used in this report are from IPUMS Table 1 and include the AIANNH¹ Tribal Geographies, also referred to as tribal lands for this report. The data for this report includes racial and population counts for the tribal lands. This report used two additional datasets for comparisons: 1) 2010 Census Summary File 1 tribal land data⁴ to show changes since the last Decennial Census; and 2) 2020 Census self-response rate data⁵ for tribal lands to show the potential impact of self-response rates on 2020 Census data results. The U.S. Census Bureau cautions comparisons between the

Figure 1: IPUMS NHGIS



<https://www.nhgis.org/>

¹ American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian. The Native Hawaiian Homelands were not included in this analysis.

2010 and 2020 Census data due to changes in coding race/ethnicity data, differences due to privacy measures, and the impact of COVID-19. The comparisons in this report of 2020 Census data and self-response rates help understand some of these differences. A future report will examine the impact of the privacy measures on tribal lands census data.

Census Tribal Land Data – Geography Changes

This report examines the population counts on tribal lands as reported by the 2020 Census. 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 through tribal consultation. The U.S. Census Bureau has several different categories for tribal lands (geographies). This report used the following Census tribal geographies: American Indian Reservations and Off-Reservation Trust Lands, State American Indian Reservations, Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSA), Joint Use Areas, Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSA), Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSA), and State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSA). To learn about the different categories for tribal lands, view **Appendix A**.

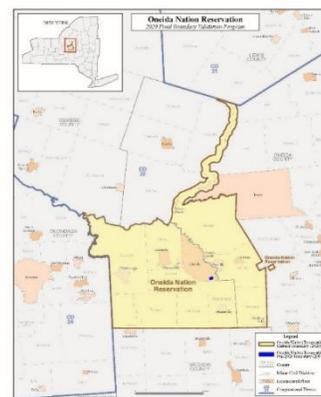
Key geography changes occurred for some Tribal lands between the 2010 and 2020 Census surveys that impacted the data. The geography changes were made in response to a change in reservation or reservations status, federal recognition, or change/relocation of statistical areas. The geography changes that occurred impact the ability to compare 2010 and 2020 Census data and how population changes can be interpreted for those specific geographies. These changes are described below and this report adjusts its results for these changes.

Change in Reservation:

Two new federally recognized American Indian Reservations were added to the Census tribal lands for the 2020 Census: Fort Sill Apache Reservation (NM); and Cowlitz Reservation (WA). Neither of these two Tribal Nations had 2010 Census population counts. The 2020 results for these tribal lands are not included the population totals and averages in this report that is focused on changes from 2010 to 2020. The data for these Tribal Nations will be included in the next report that will include NCAI Southwest and Northwest Regional report summaries for individual tribal lands.

The Oneida Nation (NY) reservation geography grew significantly between the 2010 and 2020 Census surveys.⁶ **Figure 2** shows the 2010 Oneida Nation Census geography in blue and the 2020 Oneida Nation Census geography in yellow. This drastic increase of the tribal land size significantly impacted the population counts for Oneida Nation between 2010 and 2020 and makes the 2010 data not comparable to the 2020 data. The Oneida Nation data was not included in this report analysis and will be available in the upcoming NCAI Northeast Regional report summary for individual tribal lands.

Figure 2: Oneida Nation (NY) Reservation Change from 2010 to 2020 Census



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

New Federal Recognition:

Six Virginia Tribal Nations gained federal recognition in 2018 which occurred between the 2010 and 2020 Census: Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Rappahannock, Upper Mattaponi, Nansemond, and Monacan. Federal recognition does not automatically create a census tribal geography, and not all six new Tribal Nations had census geographies created by the 2020 Census count, which impacted how they were included in this report. Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, and Rappahannock were classified as SDTSAs in the 2010 Census and were made into TDSAs for the 2020 Census. Chickahominy and Eastern Chickahominy had available data in the 2010 Census and both TDSAs are included in the Southeast NCAI Region totals in this report. Rappahannock does not have data for 2010 and was removed for the Southeast regional total in this report but will be included in the upcoming NCAI Southeast Regional report summary for individual tribal lands. Upper Mattaponi was classified as a State Reservation in the 2010 Census, was classified as a State Reservation geography in the 2020 Census data and was included in the Southeast region totals in this report. Nansemond and Monacan are not yet included as census tribal geographies. The Pamunkey Indian Tribe received federal recognition in 2016 and is classified as a state reservation census geography in the 2020 Census data.

New Statistical Areas/Relocation:

New statistical areas were created for the 2020 Census for one ANVSA (Uyak) and seven SDTSAs (Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee, Bayou Lafourche, Isle de Jean Charles, Grand Caillou/Dulac, Natchitoches, Pointe au Chien, and Edisto Natchez Kusso). None of the new statistical areas will be included in this report but will be available in the upcoming NCAI Regional summary reports for individual tribal lands.

Isle de Jean Charles was relocated between 2010 and 2020. Bayou Lafourche, part of Isle de Jean Charles, and part of Grand Caillou/Dulac were created from territory previously part of the United Houma Nation SDTSA. This geography change could have impacted the 2020 Census results for the United Houma Nation, and the results from the United Houma Nation were not included in this report but will be included in the upcoming NCAI Southeast Regional report summary for individual tribal lands.

2020 Census Data Limitations

The 2020 Census enumeration (count) experienced several challenges that affected the final data results. In addition to changes in tribal lands, challenges emerged from the enumeration process, data processing, and the new data privacy measures. All of these challenges likely impacted the final 2020 Census counts generally and for tribal lands.

The 2020 Census count was interrupted and faced challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, tribal border closures, limited internet access for some Tribal Nations, misinformation, incomplete or missing addresses, natural disasters, and delayed and changing timelines. Due to

these challenges in conducting a 2020 complete count, there may have been a significant undercount of some Tribal Nations.

Data processing changes and the new data privacy measures implemented by the U.S. Census Bureau may have further distorted the data or resulted in incomplete results. For additional information on the potential impacts of the privacy measures on small, rural, and remote tribal populations, review NCAI Policy Research Center resources on the U.S. Census Bureau's Disclosure Avoidance System at: <https://bit.ly/2N1ICND>.

This data analysis covers the population that was counted by the 2020 Census on tribal lands. 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. To learn more about the key definitions and concepts related to AI/AN population data in the 2020 Census, view **Appendix B**.

Tribal Land Population Results – Summary

The NCAI Policy Research Center analyzed population data for individual tribal lands and sorted that data by NCAI regions.⁷ The results in this section show the sum of all of the tribal lands population counts within each NCAI region. The NCAI Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains regions were combined for this analysis to respect Tribal Nations that identify with one region over the other regardless of where the Census geographies are located. Our upcoming NCAI Regional summary report will include additional detailed information for individual tribal lands.²

The 2020 Census P.L.-94-171 Redistricting Data File showed that some tribal lands gained population and other tribal lands lost population from the 2010 to the 2020 Census. Our analysis of the 2020 Census examined 629 Census tribal lands but excluded some results for reasons mentioned above. **Figure 3** shows the total number of tribal lands with a population loss, a population gain, or no population change from the 2010 to the 2020 Census for both total population and the AI/AN Alone or In Combination Population on each tribal land.

Figure 3: Tribal Lands with Population Changes in the 2020 Census compared to the 2010 Census

| | Tribal Lands with Population Change, # (%) | | |
|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| | Gain | Loss | No Change |
| Total Population | 355 (60%) | 230 (39%) | 11 (2%) |
| AI/AN Alone or In Combination Population | 376 (63%) | 200 (34%) | 20 (3%) |

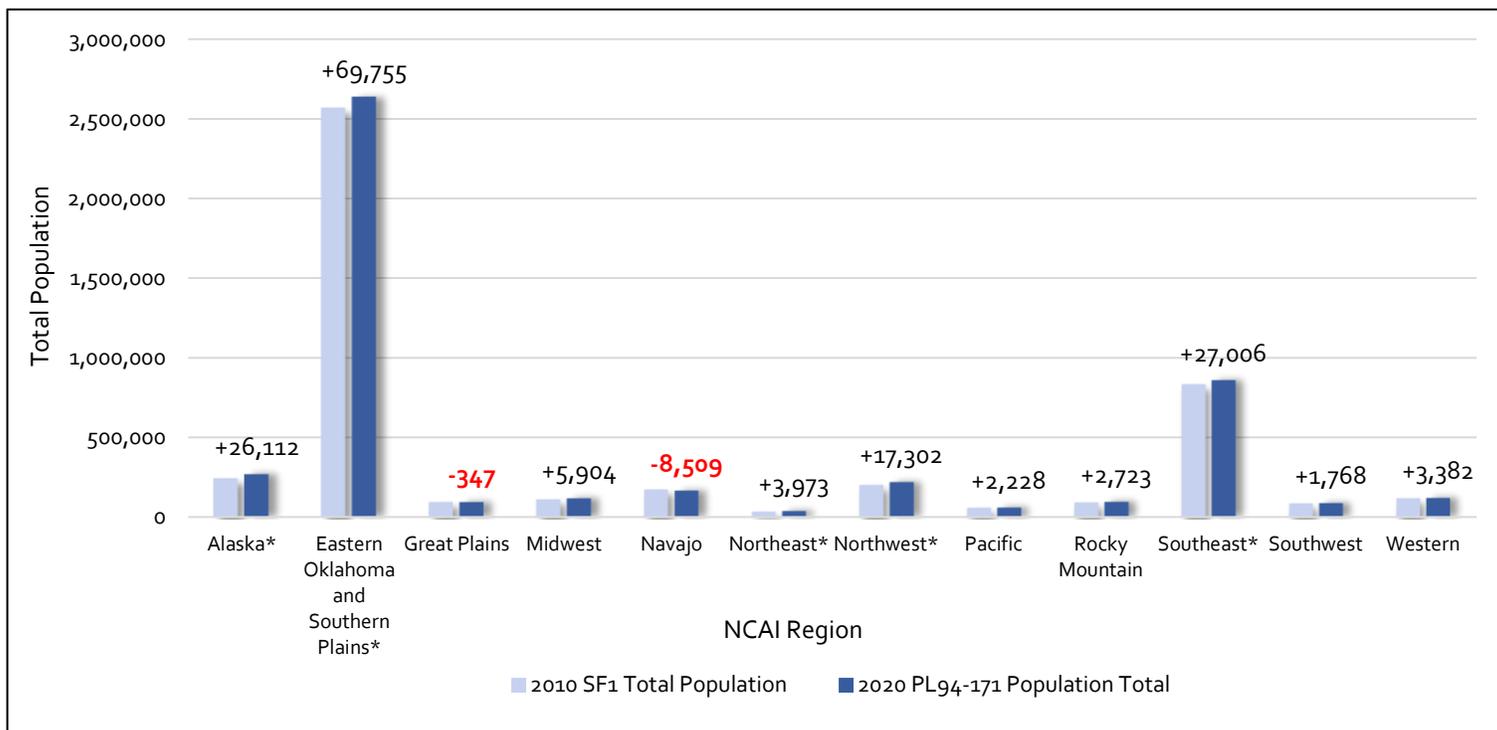
Percent of tribal lands with a population change may not equal 100 percent due to rounding error. Twelve tribal lands did not have data for the 2010 Census and 21 tribal lands had zero population for 2010 and 2020, and these 33 tribal lands were not included in Figure 3; The total number of tribal lands in this figure is 596.

² The 2020 Census Results: NCAI Regional Tribal Land Data summary reports will be released in September 2020.

Most tribal lands (60 percent) had a total population gain between 2010 and 2020, but over one third of tribal lands (38 percent) lost total population. Almost two thirds of tribal lands had a gain in their AI/AN Alone or in Combination population between 2010 and 2020, and one third of the tribal lands experienced a loss in AI/AN Alone or in Combination population. **Figure 3** illustrates how many tribal lands experienced a gain or a loss in total population and AI/AN Alone or in Combination population between the 2010 and 2020 Census. The total gains or losses for each individual tribal land will be illustrated in the next report in this series.

Figure 4 shows the total population gains and losses in the 2020 Census results for tribal lands in the NCAI regions. The light blue bars in **Figure 4** show the total 2010 population on tribal lands for each NCAI region. The dark blue bars in **Figure 4** show the total 2020 population on tribal lands for each NCAI region. The sum of the total population gains or losses for all tribal lands are displayed as a plus or minus number above the dark blue bars for each NCAI region. Of note, **total population counts** include individuals of any race and ethnicity that answered the 2020 Census in tribal lands, not just AI/ANs.

Figure 4: Total Population - Change in Total Counts for All Tribal Lands in Each NCAI Region - 2010 to 2020 Census



*Tribal geographies without 2010 data were not included in this figure for a more accurate 2020 comparison. Oneida Nation and United Houma Nation SDTSA were removed due to the significant geography changes between 2010 and 2020.

Figure 4 shows that most NCAI regions gained total population on tribal lands. The Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains, Southeast, Alaska, and Northwest NCAI regions gained the

most population counts, with gains between 17,302 - 69,755 counts. The rest of the NCAI regions that gained population saw increases between 1,000-6,000 total counts from 2010 to 2020.

Two NCAI regions had decreases in total population counts for all Tribal lands in the 2020 Census results compared to 2010: Navajo and Great Plains NCAI regions. The total population for tribal lands in the NCAI Navajo region decreased by 8,509 counts. The tribal lands in the NCAI Great Plains region decreased in total population by 347 counts. These losses are the population losses for the sum total of all tribal lands within each NCAI region, and the population gains and losses for individual tribal lands could be increases or decreases within that total.

Figure 5 builds on the information displayed in **Figure 4** by providing more detailed total population counts for each NCAI region and the percent change in 2020 compared to 2010. The highest percent changes are displayed in **Figure 5** with green text in the sixth column. The smallest percent changes are negative percent changes because those NCAI regions lost total population on tribal lands in the 2020 Census results. The negative percent changes are displayed in red text.

Figure 5: 2020 Census Total Tribal Land Population Counts by NCAI Regions with Changes from 2010 to 2020

| <i>NCAI Region</i> | Number of Tribal Lands in each NCAI Region | 2010 Census Total NCAI Region Population on AI/AN Lands | 2020 Census Total Region Population on AI/AN Lands | Total Population Change (+/-) | Total Population Percent Change (%) |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Alaska*</i> | 221 | 244,073 | 270,185 | +26,112 | 10.7% |
| <i>Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains*</i> | 38 | 2,565,108 | 2,634,863 | +69,755 | 2.7% |
| <i>Great Plains</i> | 16 | 94,956 | 94,609 | -347 | -0.4% |
| <i>Midwest</i> | 36 | 112,030 | 117,934 | +5,904 | 5.3% |
| <i>Navajo</i> | 1 | 173,667 | 165,158 | -8,509 | -4.9% |
| <i>Northeast*^</i> | 29 | 34,821 | 38,794 | +3,973 | 11.4% |
| <i>Northwest*</i> | 42 | 202,763 | 220,065 | +17,302 | 8.5% |
| <i>Pacific</i> | 104 | 58,257 | 60,485 | +2,228 | 3.8% |
| <i>Rocky Mountain</i> | 8 | 93,088 | 95,811 | +2,723 | 2.9% |
| <i>Southeast*^</i> | 47 | 832,535 | 859,541 | +27,006 | 3.2% |
| <i>Southwest*</i> | 24 | 86,910 | 88,678 | +1,768 | 2.0% |
| <i>Western</i> | 49 | 117,430 | 120,812 | +3,382 | 2.9% |

*Tribal geographies without 2010 data were not included in Figure 5

^ Neither Oneida Nation nor United Houma Nation SDTSA were included in the Figure 5 due to their significant geography changes between 2010 and 2020 Census.

The population changes in **Figure 5** illustrate that the NCAI regions with the highest increases in counts of total population for all of their tribal lands were not necessarily the NCAI regions with the highest percent change for total population gained. The NCAI Alaska region and Northeast

region had the two highest positive percent changes for total population on tribal lands. This means that relative to the total population on tribal lands for the regions in 2010, the Alaska and Northeast regions saw a greater proportional increase in their regions for 2020 than other regions.

Total population includes AI/ANs and the non-AI/AN population. **Figures 6 and 7** show how much of the total population for each NCAI region is AI/AN Alone, AI/AN in Combination with another race category, and non-AI/AN. **Figures 6 and 7** visualize the race data for tribal lands in each region. The NCAI Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains region and the NCAI Southeast region are displayed separately in **Figure 7** due to their much larger counts and to better highlight the population differences in the regions with smaller total population counts in **Figure 6**. The red outlines in **Figure 6** for Great Plains and Navajo NCAI Regions are a reminder that these total population counts are a decrease from 2010 as illustrated in **Figure 5**. For these figures, the sum of the three bars for each region equal the total population for that region i.e. AI/AN alone + AI/AN in Combination + non-AIAN = Total population.

Figure 6: 2020 Decennial Census Tribal Land Population Totals by NCAI Region

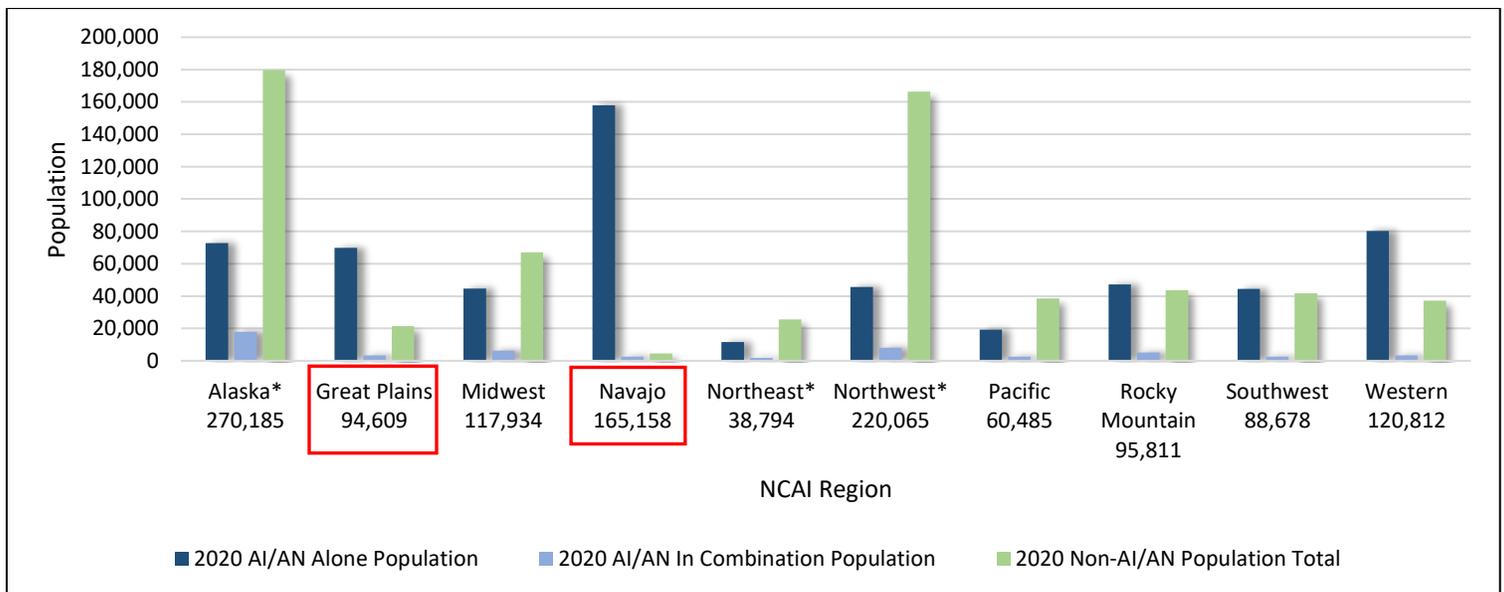


Figure 6 did not include the NCAI Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains region or the NCAI Southeast region. The regions were removed for population scale and can be seen in Figure 7. The numbers under the NCAI region names are total population counts. The red box for Great Plains and Navajo indicates these were the NCAI regions that decreased in total counts; all other total counts listed for each NCAI region represented regions that had increased total population counts from 2010 in the sum of counts for all their tribal lands.

*Tribal geographies without 2010 data were not included for a more accurate comparison. Oneida Nation and United Houma Nation SDTSA were removed due to the significant geography changes between 2010 and 2020.

The NCAI Navajo and Great Plains regions saw a total population loss from 2010 to 2020 as previously noted in **Figure 4**. **Figure 6** shows that Navajo and Great Plains are the two NCAI regions with the largest proportion of the AI/AN alone population in the total population. The AI/AN Alone or in Combination population in the NCAI Navajo region makes up 97.2 percent of

the total population. The AI/AN Alone or in Combination population in the NCAI Great Plains region makes up 77.2 percent of the total population on tribal lands.

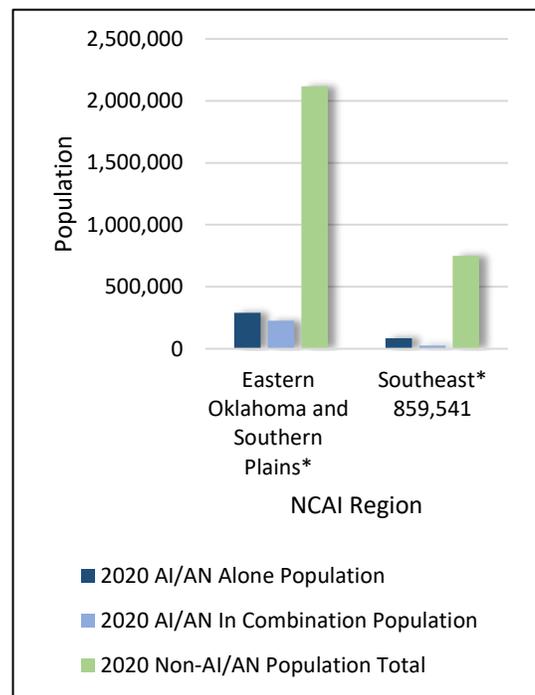
The four regions with the highest population increases between the 2010 and 2020 (**Figure 4**) were also the four regions with the highest percent of non-AI/AN population making up the total population on tribal lands: Alaska; Northwest; Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains; and Southeast. In **Figure 6**, the non-AI/AN population makes up 66.5 percent of the total population on Census tribal lands in the Alaska region and 75.6 percent of the total population in tribal lands in the Northwest region. View **Appendix C** for a table with the information in **Figure 6** for AI/AN Alone, AI/AN in Combination, non-AI/AN counts as percent of total population on tribal lands in each NCAI region.

The NCAI Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains regions and the NCAI Southeast region are shown in **Figure 7**. The non-AI/AN population makes up 80.4 percent of the total population on tribal lands in the NCAI Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains region and 87.3 percent in the NCAI Southeast region. Again, this figure is shown separately due to the different scale of the population numbers compared to **Figure 6**.

The potential relationship between the NCAI regions with population losses/gains and the proportions of AI/AN vs. non-AI/AN counts in the total population merits further investigation. The COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 Census count disruptions could be a possible explanation for the losses in areas with higher proportions of AI/ANs in the total population for all tribal lands in the region.

To evaluate the potential impact of a disrupted Census count on population losses, the final 2020 Census self-response rates for each NCAI region were compared to the 2020 total population results. The Census self-response rates are the calculated percent of homes that responded to the 2020 Census on their own (internet response, mailed in survey, etc.) during the 2020 Census count.⁸ This comparison can help uncover any trends that might suggest a relationship between 2020 census results and 2020 self-response rates.

Figure 7: 2020 Decennial Census Tribal Land Population Totals by Region - Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains, and Southeast NCAI Regions



*Tribal geographies without 2010 data were not included for a more accurate 2020 comparison. Oneida Nation and United Houma Nation SDTSA were removed due to the significant geography changes between 2010 and 2020.

Figure 8 shows the comparison of the 2020 Census results and total population changes with the 2020 self-response rates in each NCAI region. The four NCAI regions with the highest total

population gains are shown in the third column with green text for easy identification. The two NCAI regions with the highest total population losses are shown in the third column with red text. The fourth column shows the final 2020 Census self-response rates for each NCAI region. The two highest self-response rates are highlighted in green and the two lowest self-response rates are highlighted in red.

The results in **Figure 8** illustrate that the NCAI region with the greatest overall total population loss in the 2020 Census was also the NCAI region with the lowest 2020 Census self-response rate on tribal lands (Navajo NCAI Region). **Figure 8** also shows that two of the NCAI regions with the highest overall population gains were also regions with the highest 2020 Census self-response rates for the tribal lands. These results suggest that the total population reported in the 2020 Census and the total population gains and losses may have been impacted by a disrupted 2020 Census count due to COVID-19 shutdowns and other factors that may have depressed response rates.

Figure 8: 2020 Census Total Population Change and 2020 Census Self-Response Rates for all Tribal Lands in each NCAI Region

| <i>NCAI Region</i> | 2020 Census Total Population on AI/AN Lands in each NCAI Region | Total Population Change from 2010 to 2020 | 2020 Census Self-Response Rates |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>Alaska*</i> | 270,185 | +26,112 | 33.1% |
| <i>Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains*</i> | 2,634,863 | +69,755 | 52.6% |
| <i>Great Plains</i> | 94,609 | -347 | 33.8% |
| <i>Midwest</i> | 117,934 | +5,904 | 49.7% |
| <i>Navajo</i> | 165,158 | -8,509 | 22.7% |
| <i>Northeast*^</i> | 38,794 | +3,973 | 32.1% |
| <i>Northwest*</i> | 220,065 | +17,302 | 58.7% |
| <i>Pacific</i> | 60,485 | +2,228 | 38.5% |
| <i>Rocky Mountain</i> | 95,811 | +2,723 | 34.1% |
| <i>Southeast*^</i> | 859,541 | +27,006 | 34.9% |
| <i>Southwest</i> | 88,678 | +1,768 | 45.9% |
| <i>Western</i> | 120,812 | +3,382 | 40.9% |

*Tribal geographies without 2010 data were not included for a more accurate 2020 comparison.

^Oneida Nation and United Houma Nation SDTSA were removed due to the significant geography changes between 2010 and 2020.

There appears to be somewhat of a relationship between the 2020 Census self-response rates for tribal lands and total population gains and losses in 2020 Census counts, but the two other regions with the highest population gains and the second region with a total population loss had similar self-response rates. This suggests that other factors also impacted the total population gains and losses, which may include data processing factors and the new Census privacy measures. To learn more about the new Census privacy measures, read the *2020 Census*

Disclosure Avoidance System: Potential Impacts on Tribal Nation Census Data at <https://bit.ly/3uPbQzr>.

Conclusions and Upcoming Resources

This first look at population changes for the sum of all tribal lands in each of the NCAI regions shows an overall view of emerging patterns in the 2020 Census and highlights significant changes between the 2010 and 2020 Census data. Two NCAI regions lost total population counts for the sum of counts of their tribal lands, and these population losses may negatively impact those regions and individual Tribal Nations within the regions for the next ten years until the 2030 Census. Although two NCAI regions lost total population in the 2020 Census counts compared to the 2010 results, most NCAI regions gained total population overall for the sum of their tribal lands counts. Regardless of whether NCAI regions saw a population count increase or decrease for the sum of their tribal lands, an undercount for individual tribal lands overall still was likely, especially those that are small, rural, and remote, or that had significant closures or impacts from COVID-19 during the enumeration.

Individual tribal lands within each region may have experienced population gains and losses differently than the NCAI region overall totals. The distribution of the gains and losses may also vary among regions. For detailed information on the population counts for specific tribal lands (geographies), the NCAI Policy Research Center will next publish a summary of the results for all tribal lands in upcoming NCAI Region summary reports. The NCAI Region summary reports will be released very soon after this report release.

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

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

Appendices are included after the Endnotes section.

Endnotes

¹ “Questions Asked About the 2020 Decennial Census.” United States Census 2020. U.S. Census Bureau, <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>.

² Bureau, U. S. C. (2021, September 1). Release date for easier-to-use formats for redistricting data. The United States Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/easier-to-use-formats-redistricting-data.html>.

³ 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>

⁴ 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>

⁵ 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>.

⁶ Settlement Agreement by the Oneida Nation, the State of New York, and the County of Oneida. Case 6:08-cv-00644-LEK-DEP Document 319-2 Filed 12/12/13.

https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/oin_settlement_agreement.pdf

⁷ NCAI (2014). *Regions of the National Congress of American Indians With State and Reservation Land Boundaries*. Washington DC. National Congress of American Indians, November 2014.

https://www.ncai.org/resolutions/2014.11.18_NCAI_regions_.pdf

⁸ 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>.

Appendix A:

2020 Census Tribal Land Categories and Definitions

The American Indian/Alaska Native Census tribal land (geography) categories used in this report are defined as follows:

American Indian Reservations (AIR) and Off-Reservation Trust Lands

The Census category for American Indian Reservations and Off-Reservation Trust Lands includes the territories governed by federally recognized AI/AN tribes and the lands that the U.S. government holds the title in trust for Tribal Nations. The boundaries for the tribal lands used by the Census Bureau are confirmed with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and the tribal governments.¹

State American Indian Reservations (state AIR)

State AIRs are the lands set aside by individual states for state recognized Tribal Nations. These boundaries are confirmed between state officials and the U.S. Census Bureau. Unlike the American Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land category, state AIRs cannot cross state boundaries.²³

Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSA)

The ANVSAs measure a geographic area where Alaska Natives of a specific Alaska Native Village represent a significant portion of the population for at least one season.⁴ Alaska Native Village officials confirm these Census areas, and in the event an official chooses not to participate, Alaska Native Regional Corporation officials will confirm the geography.⁵

American Indian Joint Use Areas

Joint-Use Areas are lands over which multiple Tribal Nations jointly claim authority.⁶

Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSA)

OTSAs are lands identified by the U.S. Census Bureau from consultation with the Oklahoma federally recognized tribes for statistical use. The statistical areas are intended to represent the tribal lands prior to Oklahoma statehood and provide a geographic area to compare Tribal Nation data over time.⁷

Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSA)

TDSAs are lands identified for federally recognized Tribal Nations that do not have a reservation or off-reservation trust lands for statistical purposes. The boundaries are intended measure concentrated areas of individuals identifying with a specific Tribal Nation.⁸

State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSA)

SDTSA are lands identified for state recognized Tribal Nations that do not have a state reservation. The statistical area is intended to measure concentrated areas of individuals identifying with a specific state Tribal Nation.⁹

Endnotes

¹ DITD, C. H. (2012, September 10). American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas. Geography Descriptions. https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/TIGERweb_geography_details.html.

² DITD, C. H. (2012, September 10). American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas. Geography Descriptions. https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/TIGERweb_geography_details.html.

³ United States Census Bureau. My Tribal Area Glossary. My Tribal Area. https://www.census.gov/tribal/tribal_glossary.php.

⁴ United States Census Bureau. My Tribal Area Glossary. My Tribal Area. https://www.census.gov/tribal/tribal_glossary.php.

⁵ DITD, C. H. (2012, September 10). American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas. Geography Descriptions. https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/TIGERweb_geography_details.html.

⁶ DITD, C. H. (2012, September 10). American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas. Geography Descriptions. https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/TIGERweb_geography_details.html.

⁷ United States Census Bureau. My Tribal Area Glossary. My Tribal Area. https://www.census.gov/tribal/tribal_glossary.php.

⁸ United States Census Bureau. My Tribal Area Glossary. My Tribal Area. https://www.census.gov/tribal/tribal_glossary.php.

⁹ United States Census Bureau. My Tribal Area Glossary. My Tribal Area. https://www.census.gov/tribal/tribal_glossary.php.

Appendix B:

Key Definitions and Concepts Related to AI/AN Population Data in the 2020 Census

AI/AN Alone: The AI/AN Alone population data include people who self-identified only as AI/AN on the 2020 Census form and only chose this one race category.

AI/AN in Combination: The AI/AN in Combination data include people who self-identified with two or more race categories for the 2020 Census questionnaire, one of which was the AI/AN race category. In other words, they identified as AI/AN and at least one other race.

AI/AN Alone or in Combination: The AI/AN Alone or in Combination data includes all people included in the AI/AN Alone population plus the AI/AN in Combination population.

AI/AN Tribal Citizenship/Membership: The 2020 Census data does not collect, measure, or indicate tribal citizenship, membership, or enrollment. Tribal citizenship data is not something the U.S. Census Bureau had access to or used for the 2020 Census. Tribal Nations remain the sole arbiters on who is and is not a tribal member or tribal citizen.

AI/AN Tribal affiliation: The 2020 Census allowed respondents to write in their “enrolled or principal tribe(s)” when they selected AI/AN as their race. Since this is self-identified data, this information should not be considered official tribal enrollment data. The P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File does not include confirmation of official tribal enrollment information.

Use of AI/AN Alone vs. AI/AN in Combination Data: Tribal citizens/members are known to be represented in either the AI/AN Alone data or the AI/AN in Combination data depending on how they responded in the 2020 Census. As a result, past assumptions that the AI/AN Alone data was a more accurate representation of tribal citizens is not correct in the 2020 Census. The AI/AN Alone or in Combination data represents the increasing diversity of AI/ANs in the U.S. and provides a fuller representation of the AI/AN population in the United States.

AI/AN Geographies: The U.S. Census Bureau uses geographies to sort and analyze population data. View Appendix A for the definitions and descriptions of the different Census categories of tribal lands (geographies).

Appendix C:

2020 Census - AI/AN Alone, AI/AN in Combination, and Non-AI/AN population as a percent of total population on Tribal Lands in each NCAI Region

| NCAI Region (Total Population on Tribal Lands in region) | AI/AN Alone Population (%) | AI/AN in Combination with another Race (%) | Non-AI/AN Population % |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Alaska* (270,185) | 26.9% | 6.6% | 66.5% |
| Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains* (2,634,863) | 11.0% | 8.6% | 80.4% |
| Great Plains (94,609) | 73.8% | 3.5% | 22.7% |
| Midwest (117,934) | 37.8% | 5.3% | 56.9% |
| Navajo (165,158) | 95.6% | 1.6% | 2.8% |
| Northeast* (38,794) | 29.9% | 4.3% | 65.7% |
| Northwest* (220,065) | 20.7% | 3.7% | 75.6% |
| Pacific (60,485) | 31.9% | 4.3% | 63.8% |
| Rocky Mountain (95,811) | 49.2% | 5.3% | 45.5% |
| Southeast* (859,541) | 9.8% | 3.0% | 87.3% |
| Southwest (88,678) | 50.0% | 2.9% | 47.1% |
| Western (120,812) | 66.3% | 2.8% | 30.8% |

*Regions with tribal lands were removed due to significant geography changes. Source: IPUMS NHGIS 2020 Census Redistricting Data File. Note the row percents should add to approximately 100% for each NCAI region, and any differences are due to rounding error. The total population count is listed below the name of the NCAI region. See Figures 6 and 7 to view this information graphically as counts.