

2017

# Profile of American Indians and Alaska Natives Age 65 and Over

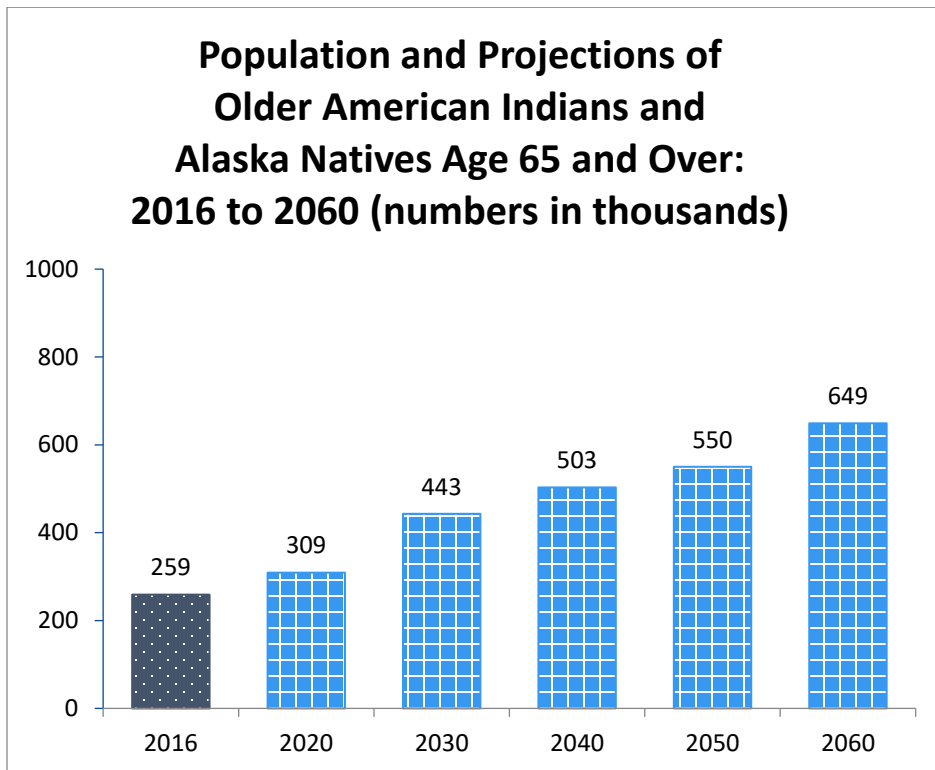


The Administration for Community Living, which includes the Administration on Aging, is an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Introduction

In 2016, there were 49.2 million Americans age 65 and over and 6.4 million age 85 and over. The population age 65 and over is expected to increase to 94.7 million by 2060. The population age 85 and over (6.4 million) is expected to almost triple to 19 million during the same period. Among the population age 65 and over, there were 126 women for every 100 men. At age 85 and over, this ratio increased to 187 women for every 100 men. Along with these general trends for America's older population, the American Indian and Alaska Native older population is also growing.

The American Indian and Alaska Native Population Age 65 and over: Past, Present, and Future



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Estimates, 2016 and Population Projections, 2017*

Note: Increments in years are uneven. Lighter bars indicate projections. The terms American Indians and Alaska Natives refer to American Indians and Alaska Natives who are not Hispanic and do not identify as more than one race.

The non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native population age 65 and over was 258,616 in 2016 and is projected to grow to more than 648,000 by 2060. In 2016, American Indian and Alaska Natives made up 0.5% of the older population and is projected to be 0.7% by 2060. The number of Americans age 65 and over who reported they were American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more races was 592,753 in 2016.

## **Centenarians**

In 2016, there were 389 American Indians and Alaska Natives age 100 and over (108 men and 281 women) comprising less than 1% of all centenarians.

## **Residence**

In 2016, almost 50% (125,095) of older American Indians and Alaska Natives lived in six states: Oklahoma (31,876), Arizona (25,539), California (23,058), New Mexico (17,983), North Carolina (14,233), and Texas (12,406).

## **Education**

The past decade has seen a significant increase in educational attainment among older Americans, including older American Indians and Alaska Natives. In 2017, 79% of the American Indian and Alaska Native population age 65 and over had finished high school, and 21% had a bachelor's degree or higher. There are still educational differences among racial and ethnic groups. In 2017, 86% of all older persons were high school graduates and 30% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

## **Marital Status**

In 2017, 48% of older American Indians and Alaska Natives (non-Hispanic) were married, 27% were widowed, 15% were divorced, 1% were separated (including married, spouse absent), and 9% had never been married.

## **Disability Status**

In 2016, 50% of older American Indians and Alaska Natives had one or more disabilities.

## **Poverty**

In 2016, twice the percentage of older American Indians and Alaska Natives lived below poverty (18.8%) as compared to all older Americans (9.3%).

## **Participation in Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs**

In 2016, state and Area Agencies on Aging provided services to a total of 11 million persons age 60 and over. Consistent with requirements of the OAA, considerable emphasis was placed on services to persons with the greatest social and economic need, including members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and especially those who are poor. Among the older persons who received Title III OAA home and community-based registered services, 1.2% were American Indians and Alaska Natives.

**Number of American Indians and Alaska Natives age 65 and over, by state, 2016**

State(s)	Total
50 States + DC	258,616
Alabama	3,837
Alaska	9,069
Arizona	25,539
Arkansas	2,772
California	23,058
Colorado	3,513
Connecticut	937
Delaware	599
District of Columbia	207
Florida	8,792
Georgia	3,275
Hawaii	393
Idaho	2,145
Illinois	2,475
Indiana	2,088
Iowa	742
Kansas	2,306
Kentucky	1,328
Louisiana	3,547
Maine	961
Maryland	2,090
Massachusetts	1,591
Michigan	6,561
Minnesota	4,720
Mississippi	1,392
Missouri	3,465
Montana	5,046
Nebraska	1,130
Nevada	3,239
New Hampshire	369
New Jersey	1,959
New Mexico	17,983
New York	7,106
North Carolina	14,233
North Dakota	2,399
Ohio	3,276
Oklahoma	31,876
Oregon	5,365

State(s)	Total
Pennsylvania	2,592
Rhode Island	525
South Carolina	2,506
South Dakota	4,595
Tennessee	2,833
Texas	12,406
Utah	1,996
Vermont	328
Virginia	3,226
Washington	9,800
West Virginia	689
Wisconsin	4,731
Wyoming	1,006

## Notes

The sources for the data in this report come from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates; Population Projections; Current Population Survey, 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement; American Community Survey. Administration for Community Living, State Program Report data.

This report includes data on the age 65 and over population unless otherwise noted. The phrases “older adults” or “older persons” refer to the population age 65 and over.

Numbers in this report may not add up due to rounding.

Age-adjusted estimates are used when available.

The data presented in this report refer to the noninstitutionalized population except where noted.

*Profile of American Indians and Alaska Natives Age 65 and Over: 2017* was developed by the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

---

For more information, contact:  
Administration for Community Living  
330 C St SW, Washington DC 20201  
Phone: (202) 401-4634  
Email: [ACLinfo@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:ACLinfo@acl.hhs.gov)  
Web: <http://www.acl.gov>