

2020 PROFILE OF
**AMERICAN INDIANS
AND ALASKA NATIVES
AGE 65 AND OLDER**

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

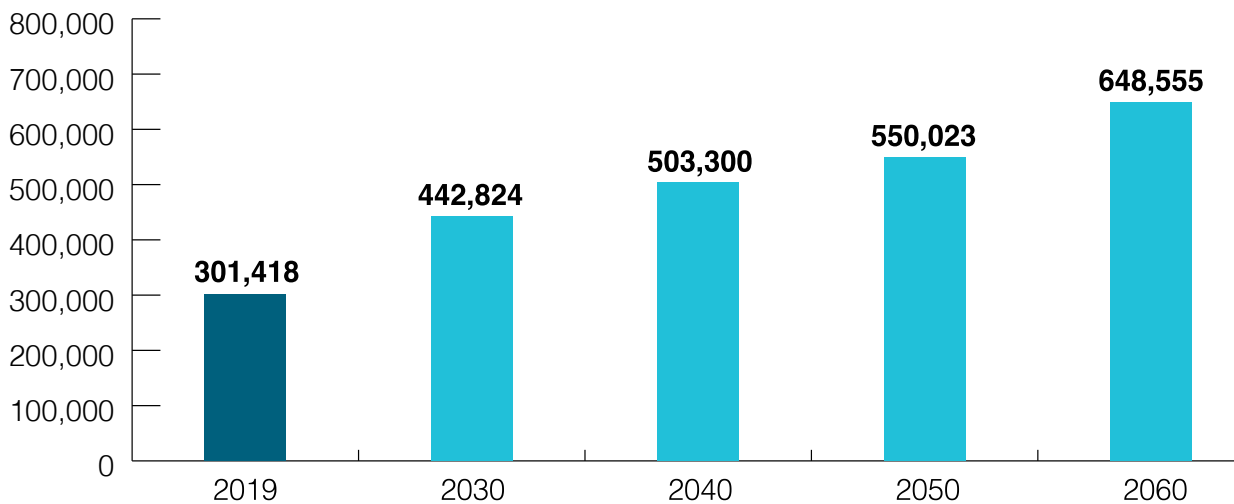
Each year, ACL compiles [The Profile of Older Americans](#), a summary of critical statistics related to the older population in the United States. Relying primarily on data offered by the U.S. Census Bureau, the Profile illustrates the shifting demographics of Americans age 65 and older. It includes key topic areas such as education, marital status, and income. This supplement to the Profile presents some of those same demographics as they pertain to American Indians and Alaska Natives age 65 and older.

Older American Population

In 2019, there were 54.1 million Americans age 65 and older and 6.6 million age 85 and older. The population age 65 and older is expected to increase to 94.7 million in 2060. The population age 85 and older is expected to nearly triple to 19 million during the same period. Among the population age 65 and older, there were 125 women for every 100 men. At age 85 and older, this ratio increased to 178 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.

Population and Projections of American Indians and Alaska Natives Age 65+: 2019 to 2060



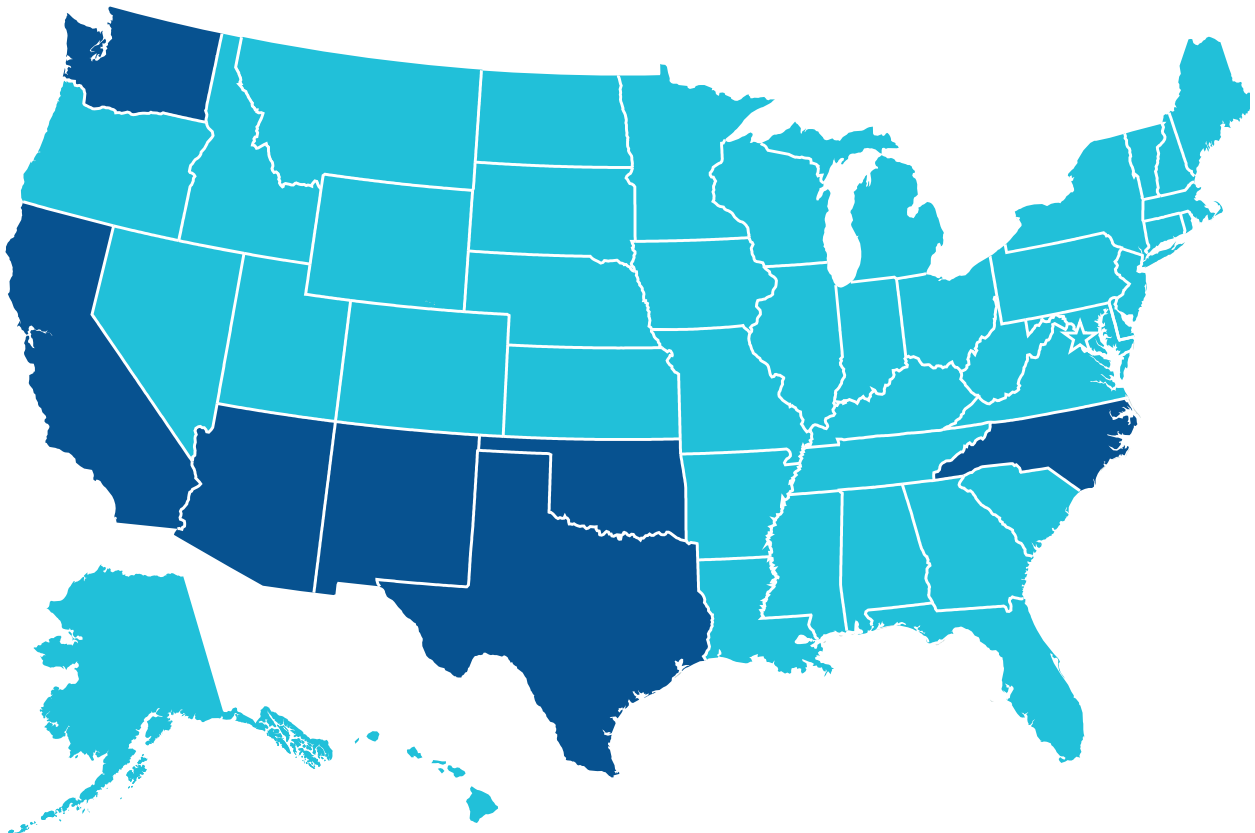
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Estimates and Projections, 2017 (revised)*

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 number of Americans age 65 and older who reported they were American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more races was 702,325 in 2019.

The American Indian and Alaska Native population age 65 and older was 301,418 in 2019 and is projected to grow to more than 648,000 by 2060. In 2019, American Indian and Alaska Natives made up 0.6% of the older population, and by 2060, are projected to make up 0.7% of the population. The number of American Indian and Alaska Natives age 85 and older is projected to increase from 26,916 in 2019 to 118,905 in 2060.

Residence

In 2019, half (51%) of all older American Indians and Alaska Natives lived in seven states: Oklahoma (36,095), Arizona (28,868), California (25,666), New Mexico (20,649), North Carolina (16,517), Texas (14,825), and Washington (11,523).



Education

The past decade has seen a significant increase in educational attainment among older Americans, including American Indians and Alaska Natives. In 2020, 79% of the American Indian and Alaska Native population age 65 and older had finished high school, and 21% had a bachelor's degree or higher. This is compared with 89% of all older persons who were high school graduates and 33% who had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Marital Status

In 2020, 45% of older American Indians and Alaska Natives were married, 29% were widowed, 18% were divorced (including separated and spouse absent), and 8% had never been married.

Grandparents

Among American Indians and Alaska Natives grandparents age 60 and older living with their grandchildren in 2019, 45% were responsible for the basic needs of one or more grandchildren under age 18 living with them, and 55% were not.

Poverty

The poverty rate in 2019 for American Indians and Alaska Natives age 65 and older was 18.7%, more than double the poverty rate for all older Americans of 8.9%.

Leading Causes of Death

In 2018, the top five leading causes of death for American Indian and Alaska Native men age 65 and older were heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, diabetes, and stroke. The top five causes for women were heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, stroke, and diabetes.

Disability Status

In 2019, 47% of older American Indians and Alaska Natives had one or more disabilities compared with 33.5% of all older adults age 65 and older.

Participation in Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs

In 2019, State and Area Agencies on Aging provided services to 10.5 million persons age 60 and older. 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, 1.3% were American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Notes

The sources for the data in this report come from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates; Population Projections; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement; and American Community Survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey; National Vital Statistics System. Administration for Community Living, State Program Report data.

This report includes data on the age 65 and older population unless otherwise noted. The phrases “older adults” or “older persons” refer to the population age 65 and older. Age-adjusted estimates are used when available.

The data presented in this report refer to the noninstitutionalized population except where noted. Numbers in this report may not add up due to rounding.

Due to availability of data, content of profiles may differ.

The Profile of American Indians and Alaska Natives Age 65 and Older: 2020 was developed by the Administration for Community Living, an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.