

Table 1.
American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Race	Number	Percent of total population
Total population	281,412,906	100.0
American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races	4,119,301	1.5
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,475,956	0.9
American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races.	1,643,345	0.6
American Indian and Alaska Native; White	1,082,683	0.4
American Indian and Alaska Native; Black or African American	182,494	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native; White; Black or African American	112,207	-
American Indian and Alaska Native; Some other race	93,842	-
All other combinations including American Indian and Alaska Native	172,119	0.1
Not American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races	277,293,605	98.5

- Percentage rounds to 0.0.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

The maximum number of people reporting American Indian is reflected in the American Indian alone or in combination population.

One way to define the American Indian population is to combine those respondents who reported only American Indian with those who reported American Indian as well as one or more other races. This creates the American Indian *alone or in combination* population. Another way to think of the American Indian *alone or in combination* population is the total number of people who identified entirely or partially as American Indian. This group is also described as people who reported American Indian, whether or not they reported any other races.

Census 2000 provides a snapshot of the American Indian population.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of Census 2000 respondents who reported American

Indian alone as well as those who reported American Indian and at least one other race.

Of the total United States population, 2.5 million people, or 0.9 percent, reported only American Indian. An additional 1.6 million people reported American Indian and at least one other race. Within this group, the most common combinations were “American Indian and Alaska Native **and** White” (66 percent), followed by “American Indian and Alaska Native **and** Black or African American” (11 percent), “American Indian and Alaska Native **and** White **and** Black or African American” (6.8 percent), and “American Indian and Alaska Native **and** Some other race” (5.7 percent). These four combination categories accounted for 90 percent of all American Indians who reported two or more races. Thus 4.1 million people, or 1.5 percent, of the total population, reported American Indian alone or in combination with one or more races.

The American Indian population increased faster than the total population between 1990 and 2000.

Because of the changes made to the question on race for Census 2000, there are at least two ways to present the change in the total number of American Indians in the United States. They include: 1) the difference in the American Indian population between 1990 and 2000 using the race alone concept for 2000 and 2) the difference in the American Indian population between 1990 and 2000 using the race alone or in combination concept for 2000. These comparisons provide a “minimum-maximum” range for the change in the American Indian population between 1990 and 2000.

The 1990 census showed there were nearly 2 million American Indians. Using the American Indian alone population in 2000, this population increased by 516,722, or 26 percent, between 1990 and 2000. If the American Indian alone or in combination population is used, an increase of 2.2 million, or 110 percent, results. Thus, from 1990 to 2000, the range for the increase in the American Indian population was 26 percent to 110 percent. In comparison, the total population grew by 13 percent from 248.7 million in 1990 to 281.4 million in 2000.

THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN POPULATION

The following discussion of the geographic distribution of the American Indian population focuses on the American Indian alone or in combination population in the text. As the upper bound of the American Indian population, this group includes all respondents who reported American Indian, whether or not