

## American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIANs) in Utah

### **Background**

The five tribal cultures which inhabit what is now called Utah include the Utes, Paiutes, Northwestern Shoshones, Goshutes, and Navajos. Today, there are eight sovereign tribal governments within Utah: Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Navajo Nation, Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute, Skull Valley Band of Goshute, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe. Today, tribal communities in Utah continue to be relevant and contribute to the rich culture and history of the state.

### **Population**

There are about 60,000 AIANs living in Utah.<sup>1</sup> About 46% of Utah's AIAN population lives in urban Salt Lake (14,562), Utah (5,608), Davis (3,269), and Weber (3,150) counties,<sup>2</sup> with the remainder on or near the eight reservations within Utah (some of which cross/share borders with neighboring states). Census data show that the largest tribal communities indigenous to Utah are the Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe, and Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah.<sup>3</sup> Utah is also home to people who self-identify or are enrolled in tribal nations that are not indigenous to Utah - such as the Cherokee and Sioux – as well as Alaska Natives such as Athabascans, Inupiat, Tlingit-Haida, and Yup'ik.<sup>3</sup>

### **Sociodemographics**

The median age of Utah AIANs in 2014 is 24.1 years, with a sex distribution of 49.6% males and 50.4 females.<sup>1</sup>

Close to one-third of AIANs speak a language other than English at home and ongoing efforts are being made to preserve and promote tribal language usage. After English, Navajo is the fourth-most spoken language in Utah.<sup>4</sup>

About 9% of AIANs hold a bachelor's degree, the second-lowest rate of any Utah race group.<sup>5</sup>

For more health information on Utah's indigenous people and tribal governments, please visit the website of the UDOH American Indian/Alaska Native Health Initiative (<http://health.utah.gov/indianh>).

RACE/ETHNICITY	Population	Median Age (Years)	% Male	% Female	Foreign Born	Other Language	Bachelor's Degree
White	2,601,525	29.4	50.2%	49.8%	5.3%	9.2%	20.5%
Hispanic/Latino	370,870	23.6	51.6%	48.4%	40.0%	67.1%	8.2%
Asian	80,037	26.8	47.5%	52.5%	48.2%	57.1%	24.2%
<b>Am. Indian/AK Native</b>	<b>59,338</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>49.6%</b>	<b>50.4%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>31.4%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>
Black/African Am.	47,856	19.6	55.2%	44.8%	17.2%	22.8%	14.5%
N.Hawaiian/Pacific I.	37,994	20.2	52.2%	47.8%	21.3%	44.0%	11.2%

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Age, Race Alone or in Combination, 2014 Population Estimates, Table PEPA SR5H.

<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B02010.

<sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau, 2011-2013 ACS 3-Year Estimates, Table B02017.

<sup>4</sup> US Census Bureau, ACS 2009-2013 5-Year Estimates, Table B16001.

<sup>5</sup> US Census Bureau, ACS 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates, Table B15002.