

American Indians Inside and Outside American Indian Areas in
Oklahoma: 1980

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This paper briefly describes some of the recently tabulated data for American Indians inside and outside American Indian areas, derived from the 1980 census. Although this paper describes data only from Oklahoma, a later, more detailed paper will look more closely at data from the United States as a whole, SMSAs and Central cities.

The types of identified American Indian areas recognized in the 1980 census were based on recommendations of the Office of Management and Budget Task Force on Indian Census, consultations with American Indian tribal governments and organizations, and State governments. The 1980 census is the first to identify all Federal and State American Indian areas.

Information on American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts was derived from answers to the 1980 census race item (question 4). The concept of race as used by the Census Bureau reflects self-identification by respondents; it does not denote any clear-cut scientific definition of biological stock. Since the 1980 census obtained information on race through self-identification, the data represent self-classification by people according to the race with which they identify.

For persons who could not provide a single response to the race question, the race of the person's mother was used; however, if a single response could not be provided for the person's mother, the first race reported by the person was used. In 1970 the race of the person's father was used.

The categories "American Indian," "Eskimo," and "Aleut" include persons who classified themselves as such in one of the specific race categories. In addition, persons who did not report themselves in one of the specific race categories, but entered the name of an American Indian tribe or reported entries such as Canadian Indian, French-American Indian, or Spanish-American Indian, were classified as American Indian.

For the 1980 census, American Indian areas consisted of American Indian reservations, tribal trust lands, and historic areas of Oklahoma (excluding urbanized areas). American Indian reservations are areas with boundaries established by treaty, statute, and/or executive court order; in 1980 the reservation boundaries were identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the State governments and were located in 33 States. Some of the American Indian reservations have tribal trust lands in the vicinity of the reservation, but none of these were in Oklahoma. The historic areas of Oklahoma (excluding urbanized areas) consist of the former reservations which had legally established boundaries during the period 1900-1907. These