

RESIDENTIAL DIFFERENCES AMONG AMERICAN INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA:
SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AMERICAN INDIAN AREAS

by

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ABSTRACT

The principle objective of this paper is to document differences in socioeconomic status between American Indians residing inside and outside of American Indian areas, and to begin to show how residential location affects the material well-being of American Indians. This paper will not test specific hypotheses, but will give descriptive information about American Indians to document basic differences associated with residence.

American Indian areas such as reservations were originally established to remove American Indians from the mainstream of American society (Ultey 1984). Subsequent reservation policies varied; some policies such as the Indian Reorganization Act (1934) worked with tribal governments while other policies such as those reflected in the General Allotment Act (1887) and House Concurrent Resolution 108 (1935) were used to bring American Indians into the "melting pot" of American society. Instead of becoming transition areas for entry into American society, reservations became ethnic enclaves where Indians continued to practice their religion, language, and lifestyles. Industrial development bypassed some Indian lands partly because of their isolated location and partly because, unlike European immigrants, lifestyles and value systems of many American Indians were not particularly compatible with the demands of industrial development (Miner 1976, Jacobsen 1984). As a result, American Indians inside areas developed subsistence economies with predictably low standards of material wealth and high levels of poverty and unemployment.

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, State governments, and consultations with American Indian tribal governments and organizations. American Indian

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areas in the 1980 census consisted of American Indian reservations, tribal trust lands (off reservations), and the 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 (BIA) and the State governments and were located in 33 States. Some of the American Indian reservations had tribal trust lands in the vicinity of the reservation; these areas were also identified by the BIA.

The historic areas of Oklahoma (excluding urbanized areas) consisted of the former reservations which had legally established boundaries during the period 1900-1907. These reservations were dissolved during the 2- to 3-year period preceding the statehood of Oklahoma in 1907. The former reservation boundaries are used for planning and program implementation by tribes and the Federal government. In the census, the entire area encompassing the former reservations was identified (excluding urbanized areas); individual former reservations were not identified separately. The historic areas of Oklahoma (excluding urbanized areas) were not identified in previous censuses.

Information on American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts was derived from answers to the 1980 census race item. The concept of race used by the Census Bureau reflects self-identification and does not denote a scientific definition of biological stock. 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 obtained for the person's mother, the first race reported by the person was used. In the 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. Due to computing procedures all of the data presented in this paper are for American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts combined; for this paper, "American Indian" refers to the sum of the groups.

Although this paper describes data only for Oklahoma, a subsequent report will look more closely at data for the United States as a whole. Our choice of Oklahoma for preliminary tabulations is dictated by several considerations. Historically, Oklahoma has had an unparalleled role in Indian affairs. During the 19th century, Oklahoma was the original Indian Territory for tribes from the eastern United States who were relocated in large numbers. As a result, Oklahoma has the second largest Indian population (after California), and a diverse representation of tribal cultures from the East and from the Plains tribes that originally inhabited the area. Oklahoma is especially interesting because, compared to California's relatively urbanized population, Indians in Oklahoma are a larger share of the total state population (over 5 percent), and reside in proportionally greater numbers in American Indian areas.

Through a series of tables we show some of the differences between American Indians living inside American Indian areas and those living outside these areas. There are major differences in socioeconomic status between residences, but also significant differences between sexes. Proportions in the labor force, distributions by class of worker, occupation and industry, and poverty levels show that American Indians living outside American Indian areas have higher standards of living than those living inside these areas.

The data presented here, although admittedly general and broad in scope, are a first step for documenting the economic conditions of American Indians inside American Indian areas. These data can be used in conjunction with data from other sources to help policy makers determine recent economic conditions to aid in program implementation. The 1980 census was the first to document conditions within American Indian areas. Of course, census data by themselves are insufficient to fully describe conditions inside American Indian areas because American Indian attitudes and desires cannot not be obtained from census data alone. Later papers will analyze the conditions in these areas in greater detail.

Table 1.--Residence of American Indians in Oklahoma: 1980

URBAN AND RURAL	All races	American Indian								
		Both sexes		Male		Female				
		Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside			
Total persons..	3,025,290	171,224	120,959	50,265	84,305	59,553	24,752	86,919	61,406	25,513
Urban.....	2,035,192	85,554	40,880	44,674	41,419	19,464	21,955	44,135	21,416	22,719
Rural.....	990,098	85,670	80,079	5,591	42,886	40,089	2,797	42,784	39,990	2,794

Source: Unpublished tabulations from U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 2.--Labor Force Status in 1979 of American Indians in Oklahoma by Residence: 1980

LABOR FORCE STATUS	All races	American Indian								
		Both sexes		Male		Female				
		Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside			
Persons 16 years and over..	2,281,190	113,586	79,375	34,211	54,167	37,531	16,636	59,419	41,844	17,575
Labor force.....	1,373,403	63,117	40,723	22,394	36,483	23,569	12,914	26,634	17,154	9,480
Percent of persons 16 years and over.....	60.2	55.6	51.3	65.5	67.4	62.8	77.6	44.8	41	53.9
Civilian labor force.....	1,343,066	62,736	40,695	22,041	36,129	23,547	12,582	26,607	17,148	9,459
Employed.....	1,287,857	57,449	36,586	20,863	32,803	20,877	11,926	24,646	15,709	8,937
Unemployed.....	55,209	5,287	4,109	1,178	3,326	2,670	656	1,961	1,439	522
Percent of civilian labor force.....	4.1	8.4	10.1	5.3	9.2	11.3	5.2	7.4	8.4	5.5
Not in labor force.....	907,787	50,469	38,652	11,817	17,684	13,962	3,722	32,785	24,690	8,095

Source: Unpublished tabulations from U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 3.—Class of Worker of American Indians in Oklahoma by Residence: 1980

CLASS OF WORKER	American Indian											
	All races		Both sexes		Male		Female					
	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside
Employed persons 16 years and over.....	1,287,857	57,449	36,586	20,863	32,803	20,877	11,926	24,646	15,709	8,937		
Private wage and salary workers.....	916,961	38,544	22,848	15,696	22,951	13,668	9,283	15,593	9,180	6,413		
Federal government workers.....	59,709	5,570	3,994	1,576	2,786	1,881	905	2,784	2,113	671		
State government workers.....	72,225	3,492	2,288	1,204	1,554	1,084	470	1,938	1,204	734		
Local government workers.....	105,239	6,016	4,509	1,507	2,780	2,041	739	3,236	2,468	768		
Self-employed workers.....	124,914	3,521	2,726	795	2,610	2,107	503	911	619	292		
Unpaid family workers.....	8,809	306	221	85	122	96	26	184	125	59		

Source: Unpublished tabulations from U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 4.--Occupation of American Indians in Oklahoma by Residence: 1980

OCCUPATION	All races						American Indian					
	Both sexes			Male			Female			Total		
	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside
Employed persons 16 years and over.....	1,287,857	57,449	36,586	20,863	32,803	20,877	11,926	24,646	15,709	8,937		
Managerial and professional and specialty occupations.....	272,201	8,973	5,554	3,419	4,687	2,822	1,865	4,286	2,732	1,554		
Exec., admin. and mang. occup.	128,955	3,868	2,147	1,721	2,453	1,382	1,071	1,415	765	650		
Professional specialty occup..	143,246	5,105	3,407	1,698	2,234	1,440	794	2,871	1,967	904		
Tech., sales & admin. support...	387,229	13,753	7,375	6,178	4,086	2,012	2,074	9,667	5,563	4,104		
Tech. & related support occup.	38,161	1,568	869	699	802	337	465	766	532	234		
Sales occupations.....	137,028	3,842	2,029	1,813	1,533	753	780	2,309	1,276	1,033		
Administrative support occup including clerical.....	212,040	8,343	4,677	3,666	1,751	922	829	6,592	3,755	2,837		
Service occupations.....	161,216	9,392	6,297	3,095	3,165	2,007	1,158	6,227	4,290	1,937		
Private household occup.....	6,860	268	184	84	4	4	0	264	180	84		
Protective service occup.....	16,103	892	546	346	794	490	304	98	56	42		
Serv. occ., except prot. & hh.	138,253	8,232	5,567	2,665	2,367	1,513	854	5,865	4,054	1,811		
Farming, forestry and fishing...	48,947	2,074	1,874	200	1,796	1,628	168	278	246	32		
Precision prod, craft & repair..	197,334	9,172	5,839	3,333	8,503	5,466	3,037	669	373	296		
Operators, fabric. & laborers...	220,930	14,085	9,447	4,638	10,566	6,942	3,624	3,519	2,505	1,014		
Machine op. assemblers & insp.	98,657	6,726	4,482	2,244	4,084	2,589	1,495	2,642	1,893	749		
Trans. & material moving occ...	66,273	3,583	2,380	1,203	3,303	2,207	1,096	280	173	107		
Handlers, equip. cleaners and laborers.....	56,000	3,776	2,585	1,191	3,179	2,146	1,033	597	439	158		

Source: Unpublished tabulations from U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 7.—Income in 1979 of American Indians in Oklahoma by Residence: 1980

INCOME IN 1979	American Indian							
	All races		Male		Female			
	Total	Both sexes	Total	Inside	Total	Inside		
Households.....	1,118,191	35,035	16,240	23,967	11,415	15,893	11,068	4,825
Less than \$5,000.....	180,268	8,996	2,561	3,837	1,041	6,679	5,159	1,520
\$5,000 to \$7,499.....	104,652	4,536	1,397	2,843	681	2,409	1,693	716
\$7,500 to \$9,999.....	96,976	3,836	1,555	2,584	1,024	1,783	1,252	531
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	185,549	6,301	2,733	4,724	1,811	2,499	1,577	922
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	158,867	4,526	2,442	3,871	1,926	1,171	655	516
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	130,597	2,960	2,160	2,641	1,875	604	319	285
\$25,000 to \$34,999.....	149,510	2,499	2,139	2,205	1,933	500	294	206
\$35,000 to \$49,999.....	73,299	1,003	929	1,787	867	147	85	62
\$50,000 or more.....	38,473	376	324	342	257	101	34	67
Median.....Dol.....	14,750	10,107	14,680	12,769	17,607	6,315	5,554	8,331
Mean.....Dol.....	18,328	12,880	17,142	15,142	19,695	8,930	7,983	11,102
Families.....	830,508	27,359	12,231	21,303	9,644	8,643	6,056	2,587
Less than \$5,000.....	68,432	4,356	1,196	2,435	590	2,527	1,921	606
\$5,000 to \$7,499.....	66,276	3,422	867	2,431	491	1,367	991	376
\$7,500 to \$9,999.....	66,249	3,314	1,021	2,416	720	1,199	898	301
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	140,121	5,589	2,091	4,438	1,505	1,737	1,151	586
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	132,290	4,208	2,068	3,698	1,722	856	510	346
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	115,409	2,782	1,867	2,518	1,701	430	264	166
\$25,000 to \$34,999.....	138,059	2,397	1,946	2,155	1,837	351	242	109
\$35,000 to \$49,999.....	68,377	947	873	1,707	821	113	61	52
\$50,000 or more.....	35,295	344	302	326	257	63	18	45
Median.....Dol.....	17,668	12,113	16,890	13,762	19,223	8,391	7,823	10,055
Mean.....Dol.....	21,104	14,649	19,372	16,058	21,179	10,573	9,694	12,631
Unrelated individuals								
15 years and over.....	382,904	9,843	6,111	3,674	2,884	9,396	6,169	3,227
Less than \$2,000.....	57,055	2,221	1,196	874	511	2,032	1,347	685
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	40,932	1,530	562	440	207	1,445	1,090	355
\$3,000 to \$4,999.....	81,957	2,859	1,109	943	453	2,572	1,916	656
\$5,000 to \$7,999.....	63,307	1,403	956	546	405	1,408	857	551
\$8,000 to \$9,999.....	32,240	492	402	195	358	595	297	298
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	53,735	767	824	344	423	824	423	401
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	39,429	420	664	247	432	405	173	232
\$25,000 to \$49,000.....	11,694	132	129	76	87	98	56	42
\$50,000 or more.....	2,555	19	15	9	8	17	10	7
Median.....Dol.....	5,500	3,904	5,420	3,857	6,750	3,655	3,453	4,748
Mean.....Dol.....	8,146	5,292	7,433	6,072	8,487	5,399	4,828	6,491

Source: Unpublished tabulations from U.S. Bureau of the Census.