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US Census Response Rates on American Indian Reservations in the 2020 Census and in the 2010 Census

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The U.S. Census is the backbone of the U.S. official statistics system. A decennial census is constitutionally mandated to determine proportional representation in Congress. It also provides population counts that are used to allocate public services and funding across the country, and to calculate vital statistics estimates. In the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Census data are crucial for understanding case and death rates as well. Currently, the U.S. Census Bureau is undertaking its 24th Census amid one of the most difficult enumeration periods in history. While the country faces dual threats of an economic shutdown and the public health pandemic, the decennial census is underway.

As a result, U.S. Census response rates may not be the highest priority for the country's citizens. In prior Censuses, low response rates impacted certain populations: racial and ethnic minorities, children, those in poverty, and the highly mobile. A critical remedy is the use of Census enumerators who make direct house calls to non-response households. However, in-person enumerators may not be as viable in the time of a pandemic due to health risks to Census workers and households.

In particular, American Indian and Alaska Native nations and communities have some of the highest Census non-response rates decade after decade. There are many reasons for low rates of participation, including non-standard mailing addresses, antipathy towards the U.S. Government, and lack of familiarity with the agency and purpose of the Census, among others. To evaluate current levels of Census response among American Indian communities, we examined real time response data from the U.S. Census.

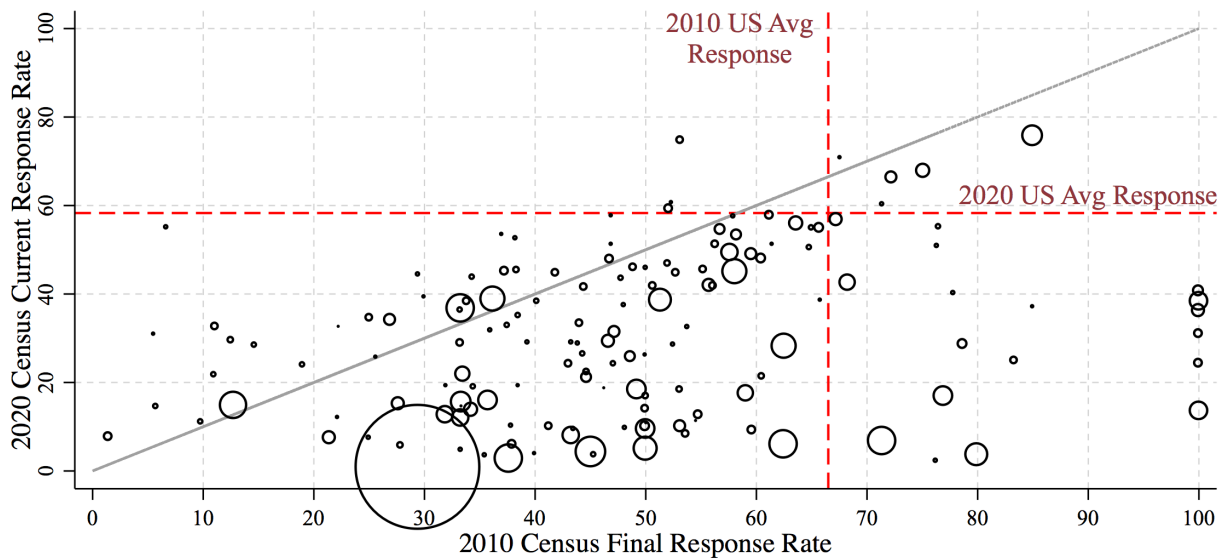
In the figure below, we take the American Indian tribal reservation response data provided as of May 13, 2020 and compare it to the 2010 response rate. The size of the circles reflects the size of the population on reservation for the AIAN alone population. We exclude Oklahoma tribes and Alaska Natives in this analysis. Additionally, we exclude those tribal reservations that have no information or have a zero recorded as a response rate in either time period.

The gray diagonal line, at a 45-degree angle, represents an equal response rate in 2010 and 2020 at the tribal level. Bubbles that fall below the line indicate that the current Census response rate is behind the historical 2010 response rate. To some extent, this would be expected as Census enumeration will continue for the rest of the year. The red vertical line at 67% indicates the 2010

response rate for the U.S. as a whole. The horizontal red line indicates the current completion rate for the U.S. as a whole in 2020, which is at 60% currently.

There appears to be seven tribal reservations that have response rates greater than the current national average (they are above the red horizontal line). The rest of the tribal reservations appear to have response rates that are currently below the U.S. national average. Historically, the majority of tribal reservations were below the U.S. average response rate which is evidenced by the high number of bubbles to the left of the red vertical line at 67%. Finally, the majority of tribal reservations are below their 2010 Census response rates at the current time period as illustrated by the majority of bubbles positioned below the gray 45-degree line.

Figure 1: Census Response Rates for Tribal Nations in 2010 and Current 2020 by Population



The list below provides the information as of May 13, 2020 for response rates on American Indian reservations for the 2020 US Census. We have matched it, where possible, to the 2010 Census Response rates. These data are all publicly available from the U.S. Census Bureau online: <https://data.world/uscensusbureau/2020-census-response-rate-data>.

Our findings suggest that the low self-response rate during the first phase of the 2020 Census will create major challenges for the second phase, the non-response follow-up in-person interviews. Low self-response means many more labor-intensive contacts will be needed. It is critical that we act now to reduce the response gap as much as possible and to use updated information on the location and magnitude of the gap to more effectively guide outreach efforts in the near future. We identify the urgent need to develop a plan for the complete and accurate count of all American Indian communities amid the pandemic. Such a plan must be developed in partnership with tribal nations. It should further consider the disproportionate rates of COVID-19 cases on American Indian Reservations, especially in the Southwest. Extending Census operations beyond the October 31, 2020 end date, among other efforts, is likely required to mitigate the potentially disastrous undercount of the American Indian population.

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**Table of U.S. Census Response Rates for American Indian Tribes for the 2010 and 2020
Censuses as of May 13, 2020.**

Tribe Name	2020 Census Response Rate as of May 13, 2020	2010 Census Final Response Rate
Yomba	0	
Los Coyotes	0	33.3
Mashpee Wampanoag	0	25
Passamaquoddy	0	0
Grindstone	0	40.8
Stewarts Point	0	0
Mesa Grande	0	
Havasupai	0	
Hopi	0.4	
San Carlos	0.5	
Big Cypress	0.6	
Navajo Nation	0.7	29.4
Chemehuevi	0.9	
Onondaga Nation	1.7	
Gila River	1.8	
Santo Domingo	1.9	
Bridgeport	2.3	76.2
Kaibab	2.4	
Rosebud	2.6	37.7
Fort Apache	3	
Red Lake	3.1	0
Hollywood	3.2	
Jicarilla Apache Nation	3.2	0
Northern Cheyenne	3.2	
Benton Paiute	3.4	35.5
Crow	3.5	80
Lac Vieux Desert	3.6	45.3
Immokalee	3.8	
La Jolla	3.8	0
XL Ranch	3.8	40
Soboba	4	
Tohono O'odham Nation	4.2	45.1
Moapa River	4.2	
Santa Ysabel	4.3	

Pine Ridge	4.3	
Timbi-Sha Shoshone	4.5	
Rincon	4.5	
Brighton	4.7	
South Fork	4.8	33.3
Cheyenne River	4.9	50
Table Mountain	5	
Fort Belknap	5.1	
Pechanga	5.2	
Iowa (KS-NE)	5.2	
Lower Brule	5.4	0
Torres-Martinez	5.6	
Round Valley	5.7	27.9
Fort Yuma	5.8	
Indian Township	5.9	37.9
San Pasqual	5.9	
Cahuilla	5.9	
Turtle Mountain	6.1	62.5
Crow Creek	6.2	
Pauma and Yuima	6.3	
Goshute	6.3	
Pala	6.5	
Santa Rosa	6.5	
Fort Pierce	6.5	
Blackfeet	6.6	71.4
Laguna	6.9	
Hoopa Valley	7.2	
Zuni	7.2	0
Hualapai	7.4	21.4
Tonto Apache	7.5	25
Yavapai-Apache Nation	7.6	1.4
Acoma	7.9	43.3
Santee	8.2	
Lone Pine	8.3	
Yavapai-Prescott	8.3	
Picuris	8.4	53.6
Duck Valley	8.4	
Yurok	8.8	
Pleasant Point	9.3	59.6
Fort Bidwell	9.3	43.5
Menominee	9.4	
Isleta	9.5	50

Wells	9.7	48.1
Colorado River	9.8	
Fort Berthold	9.8	
Tuscarora Nation	9.9	50
Annette Island	10.1	53.1
Flandreau	10.1	41.2
Coushatta	10.3	37.8
Rocky Boy's	10.3	
Cocopah	10.5	
Spirit Lake	10.6	
Manchester-Point Arena	10.7	0
Fort McDermitt	10.7	
Manzanita	10.8	
Ohkay Owingeh	10.9	50
Standing Rock	11.1	
Tuolumne	11.1	9.8
Oneida Nation	11.4	54.5
San Felipe	11.8	
Uintah and Ouray	11.9	33.3
Winnemucca	11.9	22.2
Bois Forte	12.6	54.8
St. Regis Mohawk	12.6	31.9
Big Pine	12.8	
Zia	13.2	
Spokane	13.4	
Mescalero	13.4	100
Makah	13.7	
Taos	13.8	34.2
Fort Peck	14	
Tesuque	14	50
Laytonville	14.5	5.8
Santa Clara	14.7	33.3
Eastern Cherokee	14.8	12.8
Walker River	14.8	
Picayune	15	
Grand Portage	15.1	
Ute Mountain	15.2	27.6
Lac du Flambeau	15.2	
Leech Lake	15.5	33.3
Big Sandy	15.7	0
Warm Springs	15.9	35.8
Duckwater	16.3	

Poarch Creek	16.8	50
Jemez	16.8	
White Earth	16.9	76.9
Santa Ana	17	
Winnebago	17.4	
Yankton	17.4	59.1
Lovelock	17.5	
Wampanoag-Aquinnah	17.5	
Colville	17.7	
Lake Traverse	18.4	49.2
Karuk	18.4	53.1
Rumsey	18.8	46.2
Kickapoo (TX)	18.9	0
Sac and Fox Nation	19	
Kalispel	19	34.5
Shingle Springs	19.2	32
Redding	19.2	38.5
Campo	19.3	
Fort Hall	19.3	
Sokaogon Chippewa	19.8	
North Fork	20	
Pyramid Lake Paiute	20	
Tonawanda	20.2	
Battle Mountain	20.5	
Quinault	21.1	44.7
Chitimacha	21.2	60.5
Mashantucket Pequot	21.8	11
Viejas	21.8	
Cattaraugus	21.9	33.5
Susanville	22.2	44.7
Lac Courte Oreilles	23	
San Ildefonso	23.5	0
Omaha	23.7	
Trinidad	23.9	19
Pojoaque	24.1	43.1
Santa Ynez	24.1	47.1
Sandia	24.3	100
Santa Rosa	24.7	
Nambe	24.9	83.3
Upper Lake	25.6	25.6
Tule River	25.7	48.6
San Manuel	26.2	50

Upper Skagit	26.3	44.3
Wind River	26.6	0
Blue Lake	27	0
St. Croix	27.6	
Osage	28.2	62.5
Big Valley	28.3	14.6
Morong	28.4	0
Berry Creek	28.6	52.5
Ysleta del Sur	28.6	78.7
Smith River	28.6	43.9
Cabazon	28.6	
Kickapoo (KS)	28.8	33.3
Cow Creek	28.9	39.3
Hoh	29	43.3
Southern Ute	29.3	46.7
Robinson	29.5	12.5
Cold Springs	30	
Klamath	30.8	5.6
Fort Mojave	30.9	
Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation	31	100
Ho-Chunk Nation	31.3	47.2
Burns Paiute	31.7	36
Yerington	31.8	
Tunica-Biloxi	32.4	53.8
Barona	32.6	
Dresslerville	32.7	11.1
Rohnerville (Rancheria)	32.7	22.2
Hopland	32.9	37.5
Bad River	33	
Paiute (UT)	33.3	44
Cochiti	33.6	
Mille Lacs	34.1	26.9
Chehalis	34.5	25
Prairie Island	35.2	38.5
Fort Independence	35.2	
Houlton Maliseet	36.3	33.3
Coeur d'Alene	36.3	100
Guidiville	36.4	
Flathead	36.8	33.3
Huron Potawatomi	37	85
Las Vegas	37.5	48
Maricopa (Ak Chin)	37.6	

Sac and Fox/Meskwaki	37.7	
Pascua Pueblo Yaqui	38.3	100
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	38.3	
Aroostook Band of Micmac	38.4	40.2
Quileute	38.4	33.8
Salt River	38.5	51.4
Elk Valley	38.6	65.8
Mississippi Choctaw	38.8	36.2
Penobscot	39	0
Sauk-Suiattle	39.1	30
Bishop	39.9	
Little River	40.2	77.8
Reno-Sparks	40.6	100
Sycuan	41.3	0
Skokomish	41.4	44.4
Hannahville	41.7	56.1
Allegany	41.8	55.8
Siletz	41.9	50.6
Nez Perce	42.4	68.3
Pinoleville	43.4	47.8
Sherwood Valley	43.9	34.3
Carson	44	
Upper Sioux	44.3	29.4
Coyote Valley	44.4	0
Alabama-Coushatta	44.6	41.9
Grand Ronde	44.7	52.7
Yakama Nation	45	58.1
Nooksack	45.1	37.3
Squaxin Island	45.3	38.3
Woodfords	45.3	
Grand Traverse	45.6	55.2
Quartz Valley	45.8	50
Lower Sioux	46	
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux	46	48.9
Agua Caliente	46.8	52
Lower Elwha	47.8	46.7
Catawba	47.8	60.5
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone	47.8	0
Campbell	49	
Umatilla	49.1	59.5
Lummi	49.2	57.6
Elko	49.5	

Redwood Valley	50.5	64.8
Mooretown	50.8	76.3
Shoalwater Bay	51.2	61.5
Little Traverse Bay	51.2	46.9
Nisqually	51.2	56.3
Table Bluff	52.6	38.2
Stewart	52.9	0
Muckleshoot	53.2	58.2
Colusa	53.3	37
Bay Mills	54.6	56.7
L'Anse	54.8	65.7
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone	54.9	
Coquille	55	65
Celilo	55	6.7
Ely	55.2	76.5
Tulalip	55.9	63.6
Fond du Lac	56.8	67.2
Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw	57.5	57.9
Mohegan	57.5	46.9
Swinomish	57.8	61.2
Port Madison	59.3	52.1
Washoe Ranches	60.2	71.4
Kootenai	60.6	52.4
Puyallup	66.2	72.3
Isabella	67.6	75.1
Pokagon	70.7	67.6
Port Gamble	74.8	53.1
Oneida (WI)	75.8	85