

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

Source: Unpublished tabulations from U.S. Bureau of the Census.



Table 5.--Industry of American Indians in Oklahoma by Residence: 1980

INDUSTRY	All races						American Indian					
	Both sexes			Male			Female			Total		
	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside
Employed 16 years and over.....	1,287,857	36,586	20,863	32,803	20,877	11,926	24,646	15,709	8,937			
Agr., forestry, fish., mining.....	104,171	3,190	859	3,422	2,777	645	627	413	214			
Construction.....	92,856	3,721	1,701	5,149	3,591	1,558	273	130	143			
Manufacturing.....	214,779	7,613	3,944	7,613	4,795	2,818	3,944	2,818	1,126			
Nondurable goods.....	77,724	3,315	1,207	2,380	1,648	732	2,142	1,667	475			
Durable goods.....	137,055	4,298	2,737	5,233	3,147	2,086	1,802	1,151	651			
Transportation.....	56,263	1,095	925	1,708	932	776	312	163	149			
Communications & other.....	39,780	713	745	1,095	569	526	363	144	219			
Wholesale trade.....	57,921	1,856	947	1,373	738	635	483	171	312			
Retail trade.....	211,505	7,578	3,312	3,483	1,841	1,642	4,095	2,425	1,670			
Finance, ins. & real estate.....	68,873	1,890	962	747	379	368	1,143	549	594			
Business & repair services.....	51,064	1,968	1,004	1,293	711	582	675	253	422			
Personal enter. & rec. serv.....	48,428	2,341	1,060	677	359	318	1,664	922	742			
Professional & related services.....	253,144	11,926	3,728	3,325	2,189	1,136	8,601	6,009	2,592			
Health services.....	90,370	4,904	1,627	804	482	322	4,100	2,795	1,305			
Education services.....	108,283	5,136	1,425	1,746	1,241	505	3,390	2,470	920			
Other.....	54,491	1,886	676	775	466	309	1,111	744	367			
Public administration.....	79,073	5,384	1,676	2,918	1,996	922	2,466	1,712	754			

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

Table 6.--Number of Workers in Families in 1979 of American Indians in Oklahoma by Residence: 1980

WORKERS IN FAMILY IN 1979	All races						American Indian					
	Both sexes			Male			Female			Total		
	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside
Families.....	830,508	27,359	12,231	30,947	21,303	9,644	8,643	6,056	2,587			
No workers.....	107,014	4,540	1,094	3,635	2,989	646	1,999	1,551	448			
1 worker.....	278,662	9,462	3,918	9,518	6,831	2,687	3,862	2,631	1,231			
2 or more workers.....	444,832	13,357	7,219	17,794	11,483	6,311	2,782	1,874	908			

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	15,893	11,068
Less than \$5,000.....	180,268	8,996	2,561	3,837	6,679	5,159
\$5,000 to \$7,499.....	104,652	4,536	1,397	2,843	2,409	1,693
\$7,500 to \$9,999.....	96,976	3,836	1,555	2,584	1,783	1,252
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	185,549	6,301	2,733	4,724	2,499	1,577
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	158,867	4,526	2,442	3,871	1,171	655
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	130,597	2,960	2,160	2,641	604	319
\$25,000 to \$34,999.....	149,510	2,499	2,139	2,205	500	285
\$35,000 to \$49,999.....	73,299	1,003	929	2,205	294	206
\$50,000 or more.....	38,473	376	324	920	147	85
Median.....Dol.....	14,750	10,107	14,680	12,769	6,315	5,554
Mean.....Dol.....	18,328	12,880	17,142	15,142	8,930	7,983
Families.....	830,508	27,359	12,231	21,303	8,643	2,587
Less than \$5,000.....	68,432	4,356	1,196	2,435	2,527	1,921
\$5,000 to \$7,499.....	66,276	3,422	867	2,431	1,367	991
\$7,500 to \$9,999.....	66,249	3,314	1,021	2,416	1,199	898
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	140,121	5,589	2,091	4,438	1,737	1,151
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	132,290	4,208	2,068	3,698	856	510
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	115,409	2,782	1,867	2,518	430	264
\$25,000 to \$34,999.....	138,059	2,397	1,867	2,155	351	242
\$35,000 to \$49,999.....	68,377	947	1,946	2,155	109	52
\$50,000 or more.....	35,295	344	873	886	113	61
Median.....Dol.....	17,668	12,113	16,890	13,762	8,391	7,823
Mean.....Dol.....	21,104	14,649	19,372	16,058	10,573	9,694
Unrelated individuals						
15 years and over.....	382,904	9,843	6,111	3,674	9,396	6,169
Less than \$2,000.....	57,055	2,221	1,196	874	2,032	1,347
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	40,932	1,530	562	440	1,445	1,090
\$3,000 to \$4,999.....	81,957	2,859	1,109	943	2,572	1,916
\$5,000 to \$7,999.....	63,307	1,403	956	546	1,408	857
\$8,000 to \$9,999.....	32,240	492	402	195	595	297
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	53,735	767	824	344	824	423
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	39,429	420	664	247	405	173
\$25,000 to \$49,000.....	11,694	132	129	76	98	42
\$50,000 or more.....	2,555	19	15	9	17	7
Median.....Dol.....	5,500	3,904	5,420	3,857	3,655	3,453
Mean.....Dol.....	8,146	5,292	7,433	6,072	5,399	4,828

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

AMERICAN INDIANS

MALES

FEMALES

AGE	TOTAL	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	TOTAL	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	TOTAL	INSIDE	OUTSIDE
TOTAL	17,124	12,959		8,430	5,955		8,691	6,140	
UNDERS	16,784	11,717		8,801	6,884		7,985	5,493	
5-9	17,607	12,568		9,018	6,550		8,589	6,018	
10-14	18,993	14,234		10,052	7,637		8,937	6,597	
15-19	20,379	14,787		10,817	7,853		9,562	6,934	
20-24	14,860	9,551		7,478	4,749		7,382	4,802	
25-29	12,495	7,881		6,085	3,963		6,410	3,918	
30-34	11,827	7,798		5,792	3,782		6,035	4,076	
35-44	17,470	11,757		8,445	5,493		9,025	6,264	
45-54	13,634	9,577		6,403	4,517		7,231	5,060	
55-59	6,889	4,989		3,215	2,271		3,674	2,718	
60-64	5,652	4,263		2,506	1,884		3,146	2,379	
65-74	9,313	7,521		3,807	3,099		5,506	4,422	
75-84	4,223	3,408		1,568	1,338		2,655	2,070	
85+	1,096	908		314	853		782	655	
URBAN/RURAL									
TOTAL	17,124	12,959		8,430	5,955		8,691	6,140	
URBAN	8,554	4,080		4,149	1,946		4,435	2,146	
RURAL	8,570	8,079		4,286	4,009		4,256	3,990	
FARM	5,028	4,754		2,656	2,489		2,372	2,265	

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## American Indians

## Males

## Females

	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside
INCOME IN 1979									
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL									
<i>Females</i>									
% below poverty level	78.92	62.52		26.48	13.72		10.487	32.818	
with related children under 18 yrs	19.9	22.9		27.9	65.6		121.3	541.9	
with related children 5 to 17 yrs	55.9	44.9		65.93	10.620		81.66	26.109	
Female HH no related present	43.15	35.90		54.91	15.658		56.64	15.763	
with related children under 18 yrs	31.72	24.32		39.15	9.935		39.32	12.686	
with related children under 5 to 17 yrs	25.71	20.04		31.06	5.322		31.63	7.348	
H H 65 years or over	12.90	9.67		14.36	2.444		19.56	11.148	
Unrelated individuals for whom poverty status determined	11.37	9.99		11.37	9.99		11.37	9.99	
Persons in group quarters									
65 years or over	59.58	41.84		19.06	12.65		40.52	29.19	
Persons for whom poverty status determined	42.0	47.9		34.2	40.6		47.1	52.1	
Persons below poverty level	25.64	21.72		5.08	4.61		80.56	17.11	
Persons for whom poverty status determined									
Persons below poverty level	39.04	31.598		35.638	28.665		21.955	17.277	
Persons in group quarters	23.9	26.9		43.9	49.9		25.9	28.9	
Related children under 18 yrs	17.632	14.227		17.632	14.227		23.91	6.650	
Related children 5 to 17 yrs	12.738	10.486		12.738	10.486		6.061	4.924	
60 years or over	57.46	49.31		33.70	29.77		38.50	32.63	
65 years or over	43.70	37.46		23.14	20.35		29.92	25.35	

American Indians

Males

Females

CLASS OF WORKER	American Indians		Males		Females	
	Total	Inside	Outside	Total	Inside	Outside
Employed plus 16 yr. +	57449	36586		32803	20877	
Unemployed wage seeking workers	38544	22848		22951	13668	
Student workers	5570	3994		2786	1881	
State govt. workers	3492	2288		1554	1084	
Social	6016	4509		2780	2041	
Self-employed workers	3521	2726		2610	2107	
Unpaid family workers	306	221		122	96	
<b>OCCUPATION</b>						
Emp. plus 16 yr. +	57449	36586		32803	20877	
Managerial & professional						
occupational occu.	8973	5554		4687	2822	
Exec. Adm. & mang. occ.	3868	2147		2453	1382	
Prof. spec. occ.	5105	3407		2234	1440	
Technical, Sales, & adw.						
support occup.	13753	7575		4086	2012	
Tech. related support occ.	1568	869		802	337	
Sales occup.	3842	2029		1533	753	
Adm. support occ. exc.						
clerical	8343	4677		1751	922	
Service occup.	9392	6297		3165	2007	
Private HH occup.	268	184		4	4	
Protective Service occup.	892	546		794	490	
Service occup. except						
productive & H.H.	8232	5567		2367	1513	
Farming, forestry & fishing	2074	1874		1796	1628	

	American Indians		Males		Females	
	total	inside outside	total	inside outside	total	inside outside
INCOME IN 1979						
BELOW SPECIFIED POVERTY LEVEL						
% of persons for whom County State Standard:						
Below 75% of 8	15.5	11.3	28.9	32.6	16.6	18.1
" 125	32.1	36.0	59.3	67.1	34.1	37.8
" 150	40.0	44.7	74.7	84.3	42.1	46.6
" 200	54.9	60.7	104.1	116.0	56.9	62.1