



# Minnesota Prenatal to Three Coalition American Indians in Minnesota



These numbers represent American Indian infants, toddlers and young families that are American Indian “only” and do not represent persons who identify as American Indian in part or in combination with another race.

## Infants, Toddlers and Young Children

The life outcomes of every child begin to take shape before they are born and are influenced by the dynamic interplay of cumulative experiences and systemic barriers, which are buffered by relationships with family, caregivers and community.

**4,908** American Indian children age 0 through 5 in Minnesota

**1,233** American Indian live births in 2018, of these **10%** were **low birth weight**

Infant death rates for American Indian families is **11.5 per 1,000**

**69%** of American Indian children age 0 through 5 live in poverty

## Strong Families

The effects of historical trauma continue to impact families today and impact child development directly and indirectly. Direct impacts include the erosion of traditional parenting practices stemming from among other things, generations of Indian boarding school attendance that interrupted the intergenerational transmission of Native parenting practices. There is growing evidence that children and youth who have stronger cultural orientations also have more positive mental health outcomes and are less likely to engage in substance use.

**53%** of American Indian mothers with children age 0 through 5 are working outside the home; **70%** of these mothers are single parents

**1,157** American Indian children age 0 through 5 placed in foster care

**262** American Indian children age 0 through 5 received mental health services – **81** children age 0 to 3 and **181** age 3 to 5

*“Giving kids what they need is like building a house. It’s good to put money into the roof and the sides, but the most important part is the foundation.” Leroy Staples Fairbanks, III – Leach Lake Band of Ojibwe District III Representative*

## Child Care and Early Learning Opportunities

American Indian children benefit from high quality early childhood programs, and by having strong teachers that reflect their culture. The promotion of cultural identity, which begins at the social level, has also been found to reduce the effects of historical trauma.

**366** American Indian children receive support through **Tribal Child Care Subsidy**

**85** American Indian children access support through **State Child Care Assistance Program**

**584** American Indian children receive **Early Learning Scholarships**

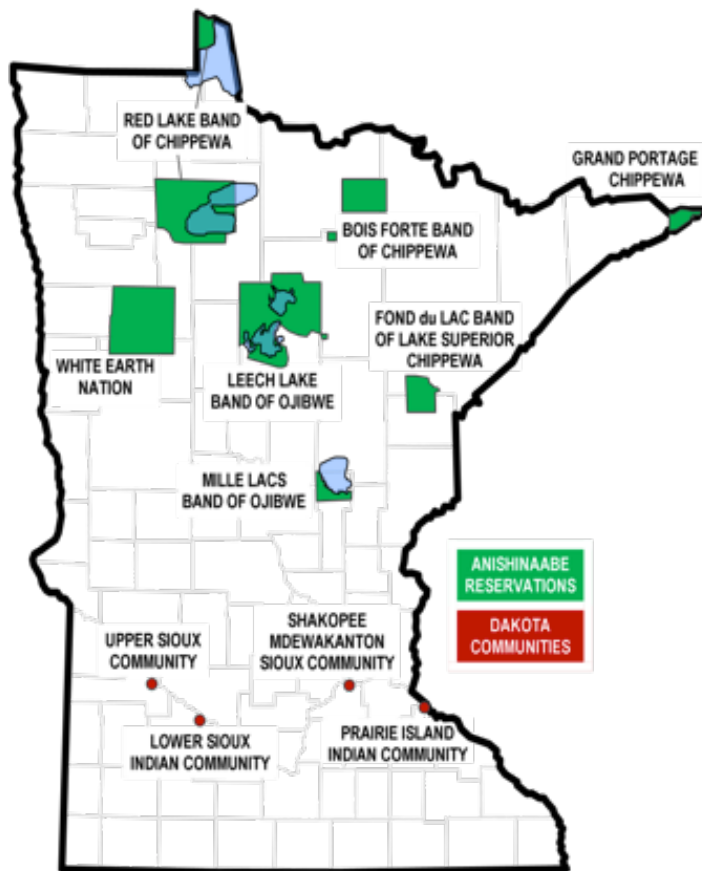
**1,326** children & **64** pregnant women are served by Tribal Early Head Start and Head Start

**55%** teaching staff are of **American Indian ethnicity** in Tribal Early Head Start and Head Start

**26** Family Child Care Homes & **10** Child Care Centers are tribally licensed



# Minnesota's Federally Recognized Tribes



There are 11 federally recognized Indian tribal governments in Minnesota – seven Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) Tribes and four Dakota (Sioux) Tribes along with two urban communities that have a high population of American Indian residents in Duluth and Twin Cities metro.

The Census Bureau's American Community Survey estimated there were 105,477 individuals in Minnesota identifying as "American Indian and Alaska Native persons" in part or in combination with another race.

Each Tribe is a separate sovereign Nation with its own government that is unique unto itself and distinct from all other federally recognized tribes. Each Nation has an independent relationship with the United States and the State of Minnesota. A reservation is a segment of land that belongs to one or more groups of American Indians. These reservations have boundary lines much like a county or state has boundary lines.

It is land that was retained by American Indian tribes after ceding large portions of their original homelands to the United States through treaty agreements. It is not land that was given to American Indians by the federal government.

### Acknowledgements

The PN-3 Coalition is grateful to Indigenous Visioning for their partnership in collecting public data on American Indian children and families across Minnesota. Data was collected through separate entities such as Tribal Governments, Counties, State agencies and Federal agencies. Through this partnership with Indigenous Visioning, we hope to tell the stories and experiences of American Indian children and families. For more information on Indigenous Visioning go to <http://www.indigenousvisioning.com>.



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