Using ACS Data to Explore Native American Populations: A Closer Look at Tribal Census Tracts

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American Indian and Alaska Native Population Estimates
Geography Challenges

- The American Indian and Alaska Native population is small for most geographies - Hard to identify geographies where they represent a large portion of residents?

- Census identifies multiple geographies for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Areas - What to include?

- Census specified American Indian and Alaska Native boundaries intersect census tract and county boundaries - How to link to other data?
Census Federally Recognized Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust land Subdivisions: Tribal Tracts

- Subdivide federally recognized American Indian reservation and off-reservation trust lands

- There are approximately 2,500 people per tract

- 481 tribal tracts associated with 325 reservations and located in 33 states

- Approximately 53 percent of the population in tribal tracts identify as American Indian or Alaska Native alone

- Of the 325 reservations, only 51 have two or more tribal tracts
Flathead Reservation, MT Tribal Tracts
Percent Population in Poverty

Percent in Poverty
- 3.8
- 3.9 - 14.0
- 14.1 - 16.8
- 16.9 - 23.6
- 23.7 - 45.7
Variability in Reservation Tribal Tract Estimates

American Indian Reservations

- Agua Caliente
- Flathead
- Isabella
- Navajo Nation
- Nez Perce
- Oneida
- Osage
- Pine Ridge
- Puyallup
- Tulalip
- Uintah and Ouray
- Wind River
- Yakima Nation

Key:
- Lack Complete Plumbing
- Population Age 65 Plus
- Percent Below Poverty
- Labor Force Participation Rate
Figure 4. Tulalip Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA
Tribal Tracts Percent Renter Occupied Estimates

*T Statistically Significant Difference, 90 percent alpha, from all other Tribal Tract Estimates.
Tribal Block Groups

- Smaller subdivisions can provide for more variation and precise exploration.
- Approximately 66 percent of reservations only have one tribal block group.
- Larger margins of error when working with smaller geographies, average of approximately 1,200 people per block group.
Conclusion

- Significant challenges exist to working with small populations
- Tribal tracts offer a way to more closely explore larger reservations
- Variability exists across tribal tracts allowing for meaningful findings
- Tribal block groups could possibly provide even more information