

# What is Tribal Citizenship? Using the American Community Survey to Describe Tribal Identity

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Housing Assistance Council



# Presentation



Tribal Identity

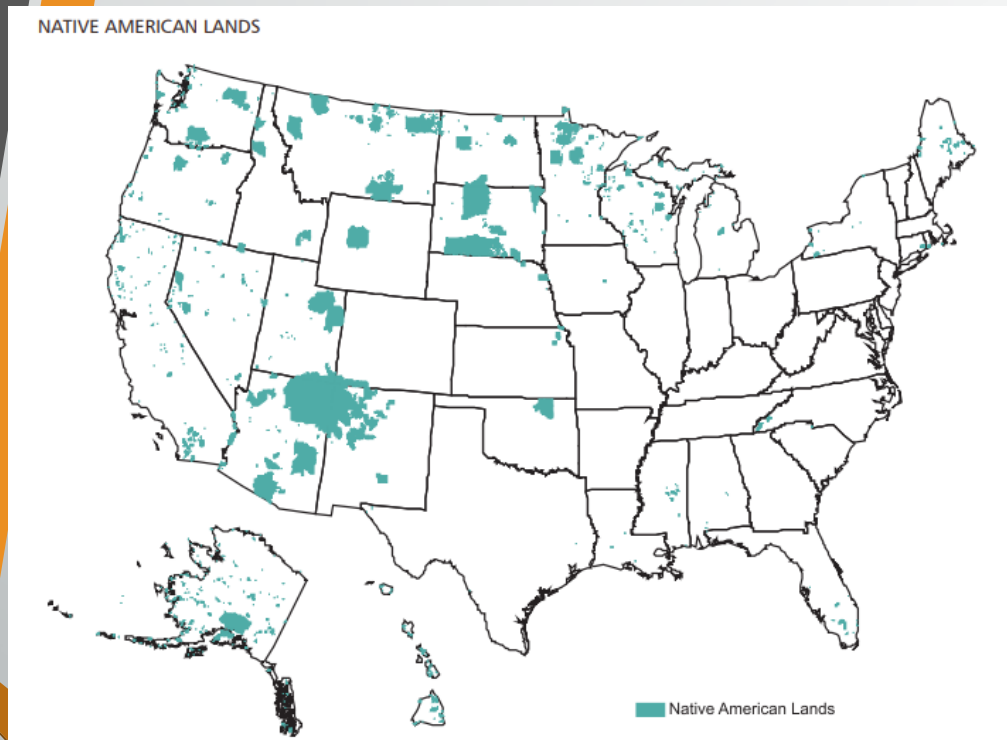


Tribal Visibility



Addressing Challenges

# American Indians and Alaskan Natives



Source: HAC

- There are approximately 5.2 million AIAN in the United States, representing 1.7 % of the population
- The ACS is used to determine how \$400 billion in federal programs is distributed
- AIAN face some of the worst health outcomes and economic statistics of any race

# American Community Survey and American Indian / Alaskan Native Data Issues

## Constraints on Data Collection

- 54% survey **participation rates** in counties with high AIAN populations
- Population **undercount** at 4.9% within reservations
- **Estimate reliability**: 1/4 of reservations had an "unreliable" CV

## Constraints on Data Usage

- High **variability** between reservations
- **low comparability** across researchers

# American Community Survey and American Indian / Alaskan Native Data Issues

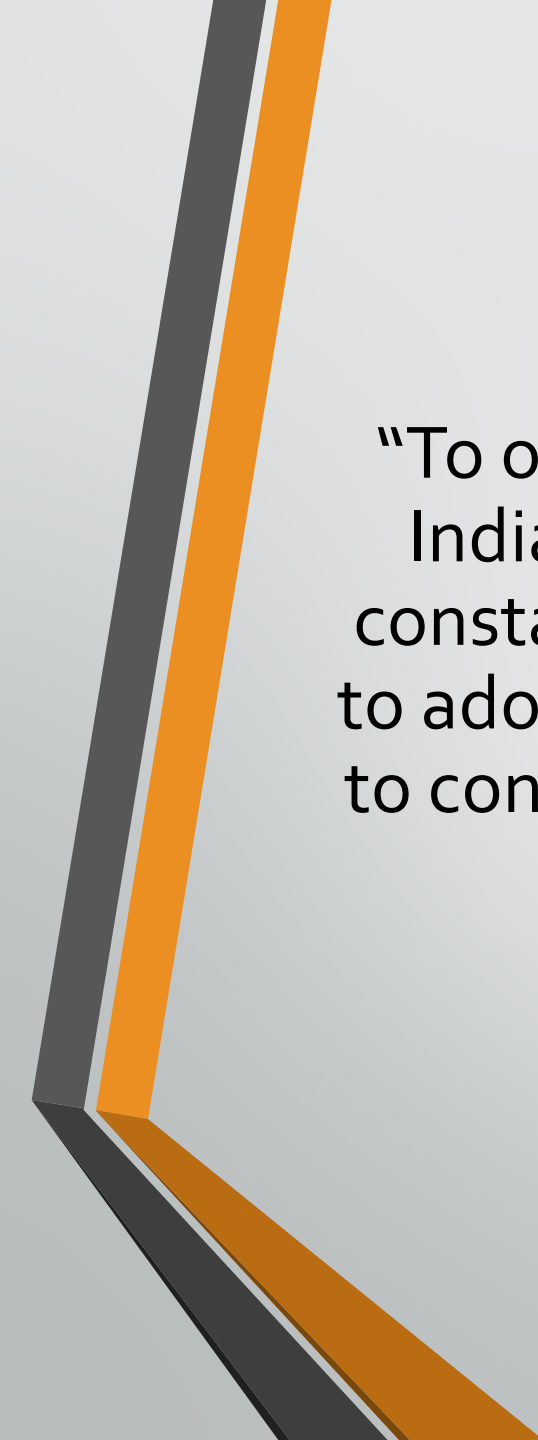
## Constraints on Data Collection

- 54% survey **participation rates** in counties with high AIAN populations
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- **Estimate reliability**: ¼ of reservations had an "unreliable" CV

## Constraints on Data Usage

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- **low comparability** across researchers

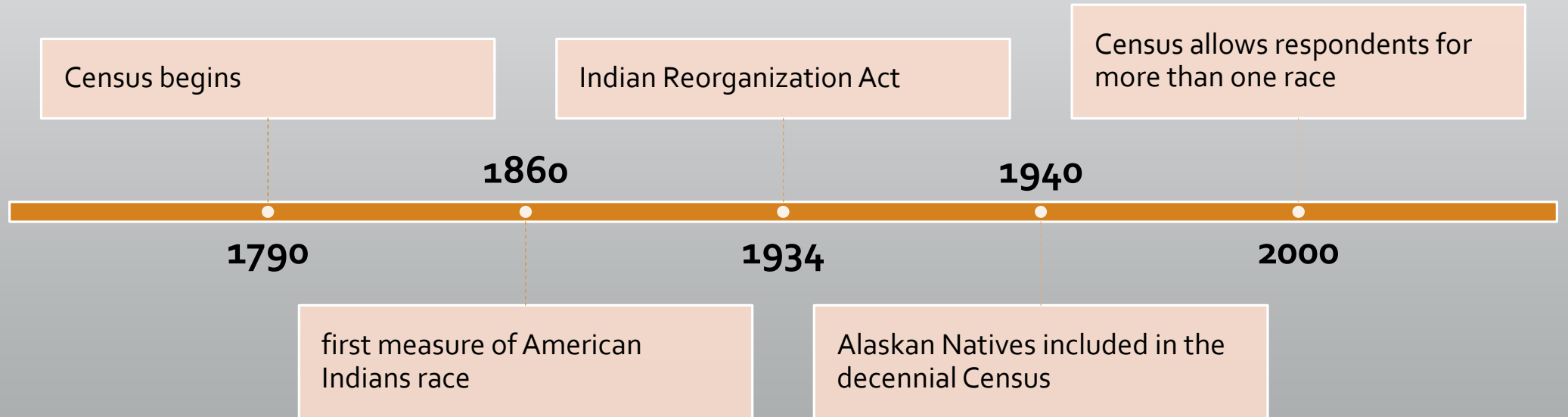
*After 2011, the ACS increased sampling to 3.54 million households and added additional follow-up methods for AIAN populations*



“To obtain federal recognition and protection, American Indians, unlike any other American ethnic group, must constantly prove their identity, which in turn, forces them to adopt whatever Indian histories or identities are needed to convince themselves and others of their Indian identity, and thus their unique cultural heritage.”

*(Schmidt, Journal of Anthropology 2011)*

# History of Tribal Identity in the Census





# ACS 1-Year: "AIAN Alone for Selected Tribal Groupings

55 of 55

	United States	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	2,726,278	+/-34,715
American Indian tribes, specified:	2,099,766	+/-31,388
Apache	74,916	+/-5,590
Arapaho	10,337	+/-1,806
Blackfeet	34,154	+/-3,389
Canadian and French American Indian	6,115	+/-1,466
Central American Indian	10,966	+/-3,144
Cherokee	291,434	+/-9,420
Cheyenne	11,895	+/-2,464
Chickasaw	24,210	+/-2,801
Chippewa	118,195	+/-5,268
Choctaw	95,204	+/-8,862
Colville	9,835	+/-1,704
Comanche	12,471	+/-2,477
Cree	2,386	+/-1,093



## Implications:

1. Limited policy use for tribal sovereignty
2. Instrument reliability and response rates



# Selected American Indian and Alaskan Native Tables (2015)

214	Chippewa tribal grouping alone	B67-B99
04A	Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe alone	B67
04B	Bay Mills Indian Community alone	B68
04C	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa alone	B69
04D	Chippewa alone	B71
04E	Fond du Lac alone	B72
04F	Grand Portage alone	B73
04G	Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians alone	B74
04H	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community alone	B75
04I	Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa alone	B76
04J	Lac du Flambeau alone	B77
04L	Lake Superior Chippewa alone	B79
04M	Leech Lake alone	B80
04N	Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana alone	B81
04O	Mille Lacs alone	B82
04P	Minnesota Chippewa alone	B83
04Q	Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa alone	B85
04R	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians alone	B86
04S	Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe alone	B87
04T	St. Croix Chippewa alone	B88
04U	Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians alone	B89
04V	Sokaogon Chippewa Community alone	B90
04W	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota alone	B91
04X	White Earth alone	B92

- Includes **1,119** permutations, alone and alone or in combination > 573 tribes
- State-recognized tribes
- No year-to-year fluctuations
- Limited use

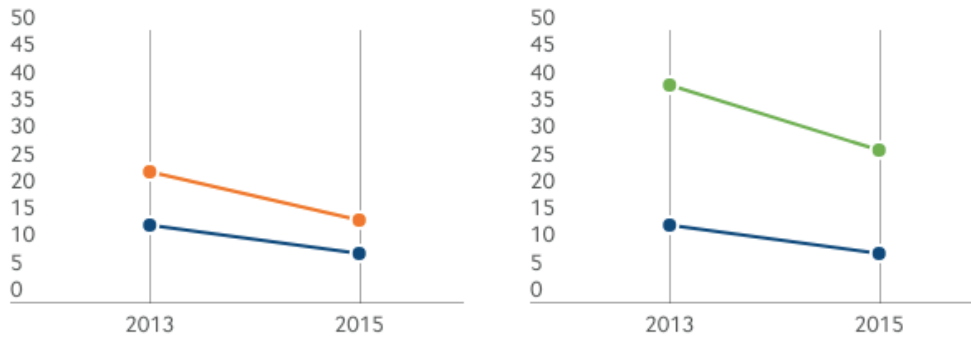
# Comparing ACS Data Tables

*Measuring cultural affiliation versus political affiliation*

	ACS 1-Year (2017)	ACS Selected 5-Year Tables (2015)
<i>Title</i>	"AIAN alone for Selected Tribal Groupings"	"5-Year Selected AIAN Tables"
<i>Precision</i>	<b>55</b> different AI/AIN Groups	<b>1,119</b> different tribes
<i>Response rate</i>	77%	76%

What is the perfect  
measure of tribal  
identity?

Percent of uninsured adults ages 19–64, U.S. average

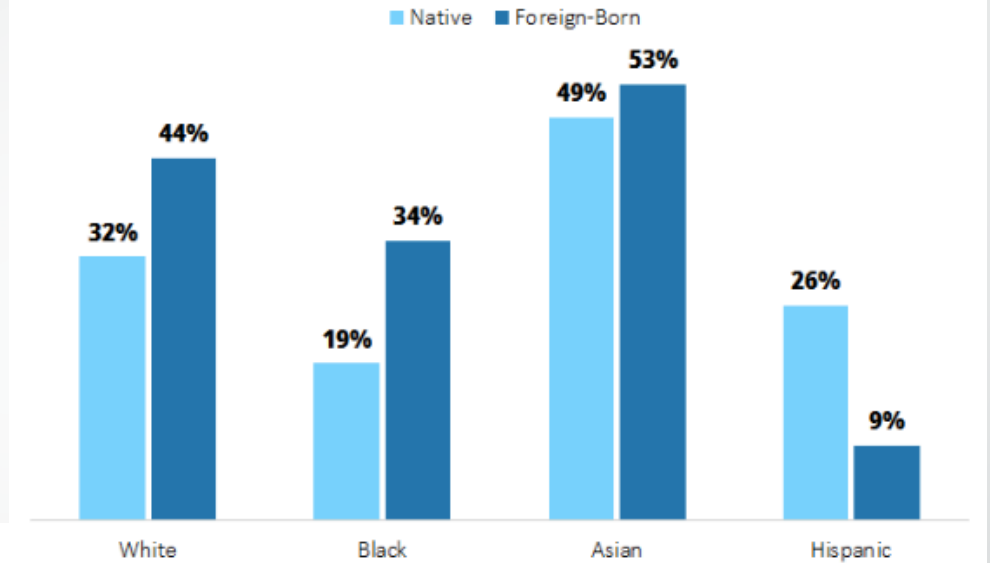


Black–white disparity narrowed by 4 percentage points between 2013 and 2015

Hispanic–white disparity narrowed by 7 percentage points between 2013 and 2015

### Educational attainment varies by race/ethnicity and nativity

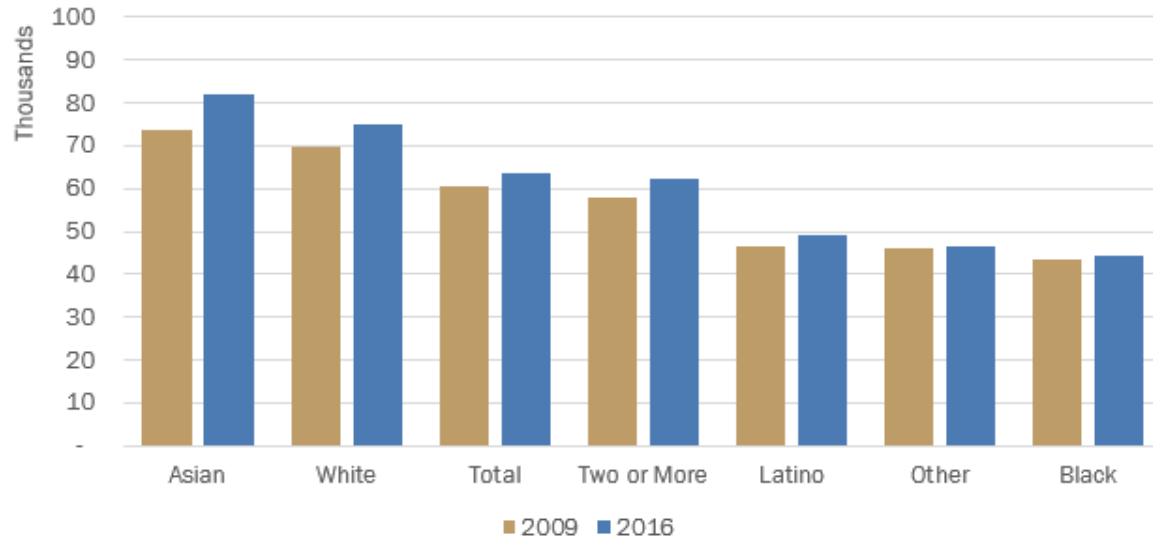
Percentage of NC adults 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher, 2014



Data Source: 2014 American Community Survey via IPUMS-USA

UNC CAROLINA  
CAROLINA POPULATION CENTER  
DEMOGRAPHY

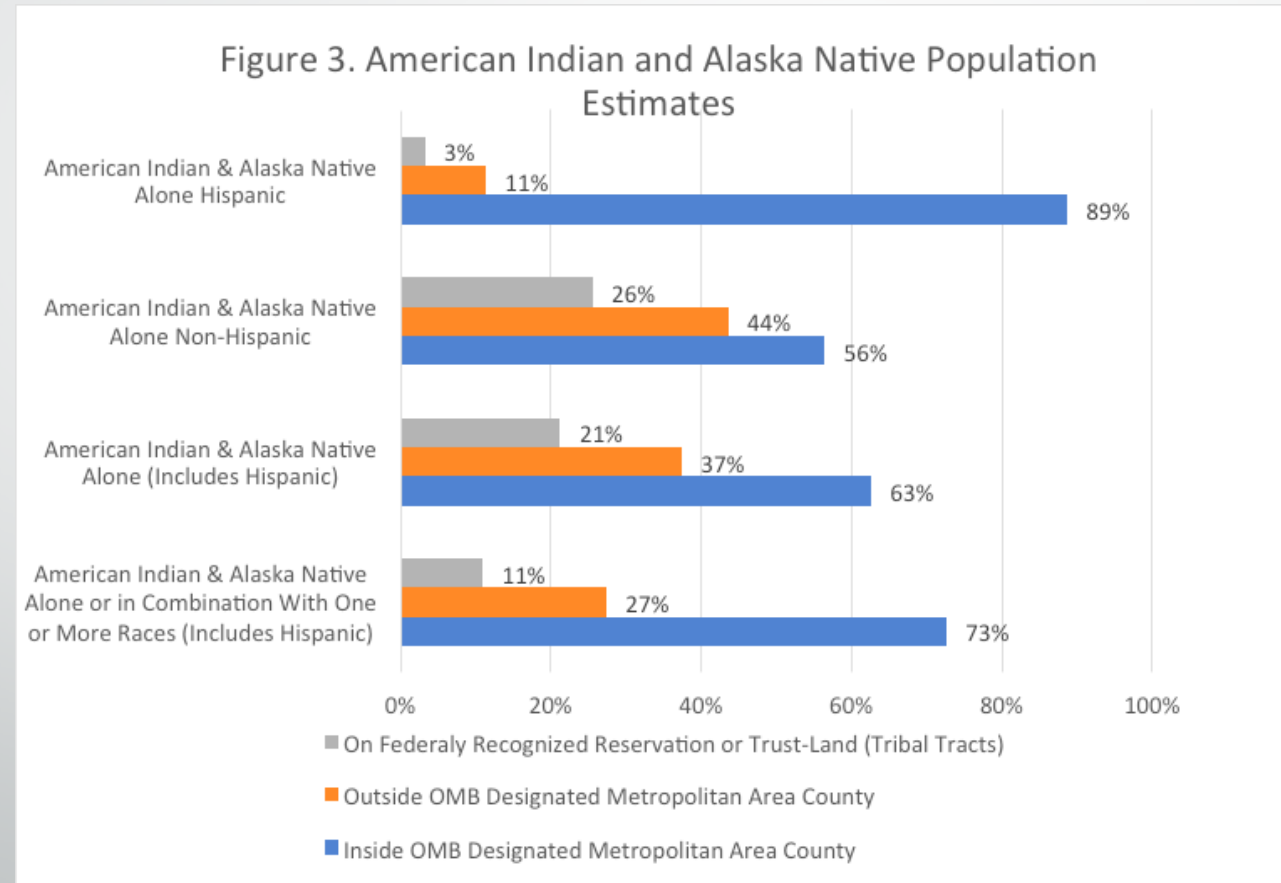
### California Median Household Income (\$) 2009 and 2016



...there is a measure

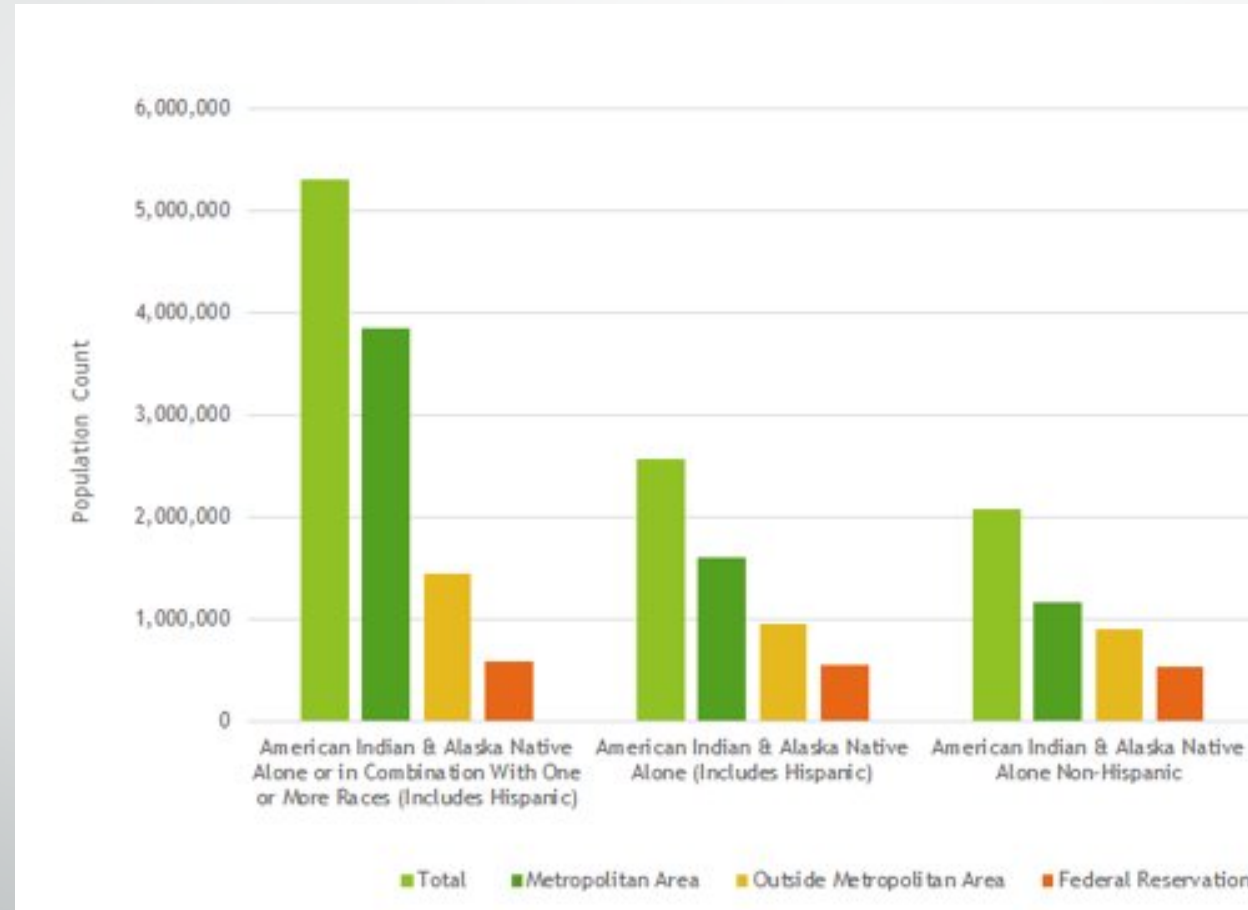
Sources: Commonwealth Fund, Advancement Project CA, University of North Carolina

# Alone or in combination? Hispanic or non-Hispanic?



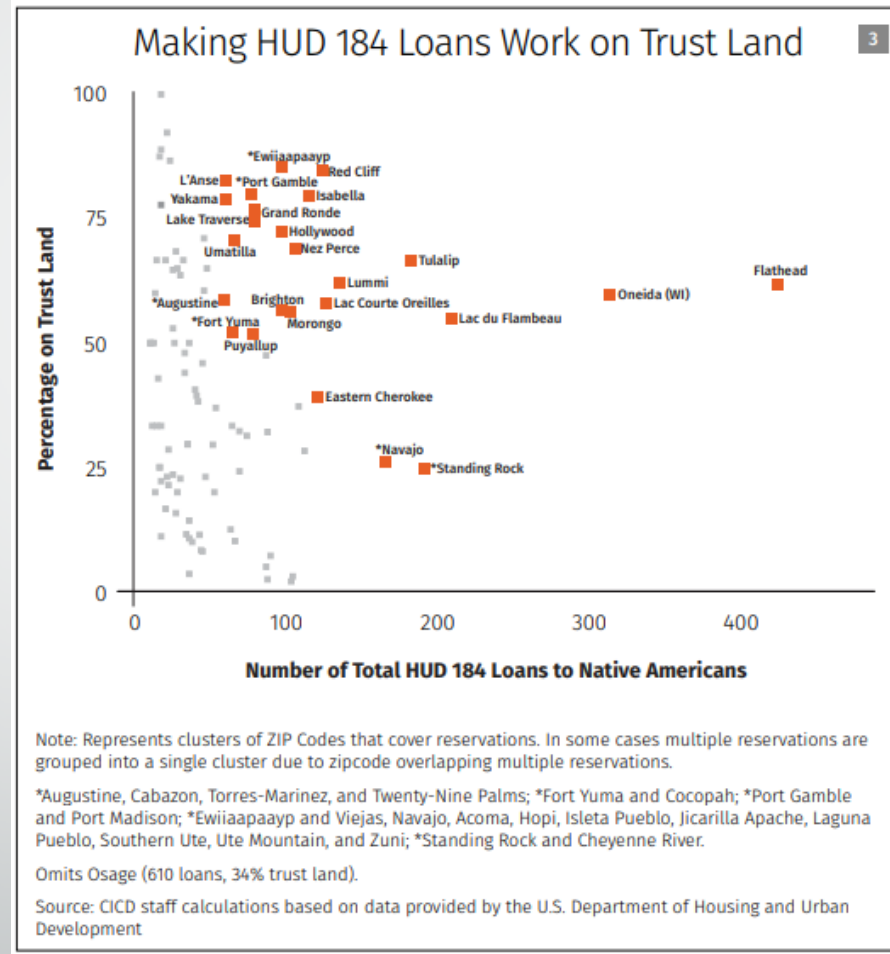
Source: Housing Assistance Council tabulation of ACS data

# Rural or Urban?



Source: Housing Assistance Council tabulation of ACS data

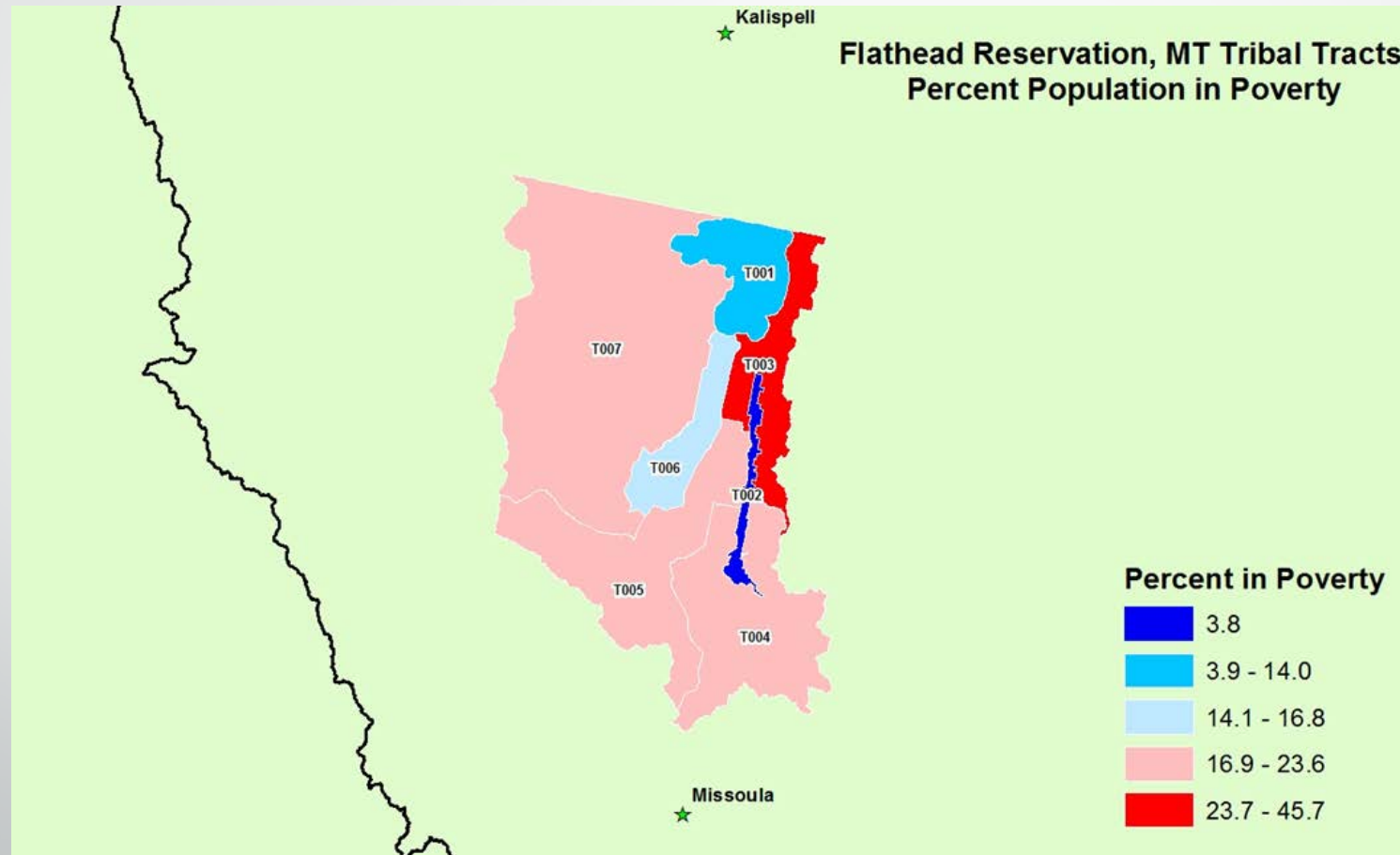
# Example 1: Center for Indian Country Development



Source: Center for Indian Country Development



# Example 2: Housing Assistance Council



Source: HAC tabulations of ACS data



# Next Steps: Tribal Administrative Data

# Policy Implications



Data Producer



Data User



Public

Questions? Contact [evelyn@ruralhome.org](mailto:evelyn@ruralhome.org)