

# American Indian Children's Well-Being in North Dakota: Major Trends and Highlights



## THE NEXT GENERATION

- American Indians younger than age 20 comprise 41.4% of all American Indians in North Dakota.
- American Indians are the largest minority group of children in the state.
- A little over half of all American Indian children live on North Dakota reservations or tribal trust lands.

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

- American Indian children in North Dakota benefit from strong extended family support.
  - Nearly 13% live in households where a relative other than their parent is the householder.
  - The majority of American Indian grandparents who live with their grandchildren are also responsible for their grandchildren.
- About three in seven American Indian children in North Dakota reside with a single parent.

## ECONOMIC CONDITION

- American Indian family incomes are much lower than those of families of other races in North Dakota. They are also much less likely to own their own homes.
- Four in seven American Indian women with children in North Dakota are employed.
- American Indian children younger than 18 have poverty rates more than four times as high as white children in North Dakota.
- Over half of all American Indian children younger than 6 are poor in North Dakota.

## EDUCATION

- North Dakota has five tribal colleges within its borders.
  - Over 2,000 American Indians were enrolled in these colleges in the fall of 2005.
- More than one in five North Dakota American Indian youth (ages 18-24) were enrolled in college or graduate school in 2000.
- Over one-third of all children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start programs are American Indian.

## HEALTH

- Between 4% to 17% of American Indian children in North Dakota did not have health insurance in 2003.
- Since 2000, there has been a significant drop in the infant death rate for American Indians in North Dakota.
- American Indian teenagers had birth rates over twice as high as all teenagers in North Dakota from 2000 to 2004.

## AT RISK FACTORS

- American Indian teens have higher suicide rates than do all teens in North Dakota.
- American Indian teens have "at risk" behaviors similar to most youth in the state, with the exception of their greater tendency to be overweight, smoke cigarettes, and use select drugs.
- American Indian children comprise 9% of the state's children, but 29% of all children in foster care in North Dakota.