

Overlooked Talent Pools Data Series

American Indians & Alaskan Natives in STEM



As of 2019, there are an estimated **6.9 million**



American Indians and Alaskan Natives, alone or in combination with other races, living in the United States.

Native Americans alone account for roughly **1.3%** of the total population and 2.1% when accounting for those of two or more races. There are currently:



574 federally recognized tribes

and



100+ state recognized tribes

U.S. Census Bureau, 2020

The **states with the largest populations** of American Indians and Alaskan Natives are:



California



Oklahoma



Arizona



Texas



New York



New Mexico

U.S. Census Bureau, 2012

Complex socioeconomic and cultural factors create barriers to success for American Indian & Alaskan Native individuals. These factors include:



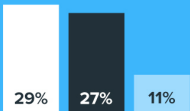
Lack of Resources & Economic Opportunity



Geographic & Cultural

U.S. Census Bureau, 2012; DHHS Office of Minority Health, 2018

Among Native students who are STEM proficient, most do not express interest in STEM

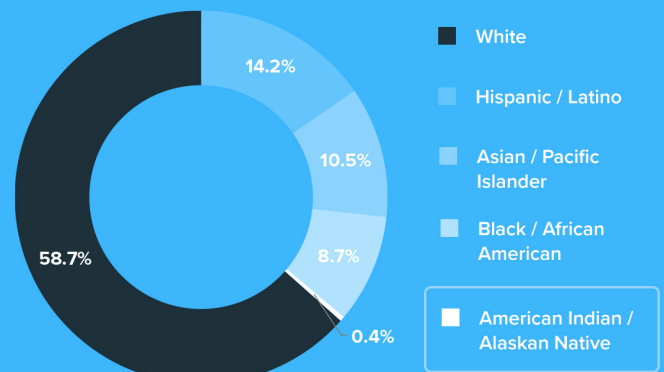


Percent of Native students who are STEM proficient and express interest in STEM subjects

Mathematics Science STEM

ACT, 2016

Percent of STEM Bachelor's degrees earned in the U.S., by race / ethnicity (2017)



National Science Foundation, 2019

Native individuals make up **0.8%** of the adult population but only **0.2%** of STEM workers.

National Science Foundation, 2019

Nearly **1 in 3** Native STEM workers are in computer science, mathematics, or engineering fields.

National Science Foundation, 2019



What is a TCU?

Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) are postsecondary education institutions formed for the purpose of supporting educational attainment for tribal youth while integrating tribal culture and beliefs into curricula.

Each TCU is associated with a specific native tribe which charters and directs the institution.

As of 1994, many TCUs are **USDA Land Grant Universities**, meaning that they are provided with federal support through the provision of land, endowments, and other services.



of all students at TCUs were Native American in the fall of 2010.



of all Native college students attended a TCU in the fall of 2010. This number **increased by 23%** between 2001-06.

U.S. Department of Education, 2020; PNPI, 2019

To download the full data story, visit www.STEMconnector.com