



North Carolina Indians

North Carolina Department of Administration
N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs • 217 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27603-1336 • (919) 733-5998

Population

According to the 1990 U.S. Census, North Carolina's Indian population totals 80,155, giving the state the largest Indian population east of the Mississippi and the seventh largest Indian population in the nation. The Indian population comprises 1.2 percent of the state's total population.

American Indians live in each of the state's 100 counties. Approximately 80 percent of the Indian population of the state, however, lives in 11 counties of the state -- Columbus, Cumberland, Guilford, Halifax, Hoke, Jackson, Mecklenburg, Robeson, Scotland, Swain and Wake. Fifty-one percent of the Indian population of the state lives in Robeson County, accounting for 39 percent of that county's total population.

Six Indian tribes possessing state recognition, including one tribe with federal recognition, live within the borders of the state as follows:

State Recognized

Coharie (Sampson and Harnett)
Haliwa-Saponi (Halifax and Warren)
Lumbee (Robeson, Hoke, Scotland)
Meherrin (Hertford)
Waccamaw-Siouan (Bladen and Columbus)

Federally Recognized

Eastern Band of Cherokee
(Swain, Graham, Jackson)

NOTE: Counties indicated are those in which the majority of the members of the respective tribe live.



KEY

1. Coharie (Sampson and Harnett)
2. Cumberland County Association for Indian People
3. Eastern Band of the Cherokee (Swain, Graham, Jackson)
4. Guilford Native American Association
5. Haliwa-Saponi (Halifax and Warren)
6. Lumbee (Robeson, Hoke, Scotland)
7. Meherrin (Hertford)
8. Metrolina Native American Association (Mecklenburg)
9. Waccamaw-Siouan (Bladen and Columbus)

These tribes vary in size from the Lumbee, with over 40,000 members, to the Meherrin, with fewer than 1,000 members. The Eastern Band of Cherokee, on the Qualla Boundary, is the only tribe in the state residing on a reservation. The Qualla Boundary is composed of 56,572 acres located over five counties.

The urban areas of Charlotte, Fayetteville and Greensboro have significant Indian populations due to the migration of Indians from rural areas of the state or from other states in the country in search of employment and other opportunities. Urban organizations serve these areas as follows: Cumberland County Association for Indian People (Fayetteville), Guilford Native American Association (Greensboro), and Metrolina Native American Association (Charlotte).

Age

- Thirty-nine percent of the American Indian population in the state is 20 years of age and under, compared with 29 percent of the state's total population.
- Nine percent of all N.C. American Indians are 60 years old and older, compared with approximately 17 percent of the state's total population.
- The median age of the state's American Indian population is 27.7 years, compared with the N.C. median age of 33.2 years.

Education

- Seventy-six percent of American Indians in North Carolina have educational levels of high school or less, compared with 56 percent of N.C. whites.
- Only 6 percent of N.C. American Indians have completed four or more years of college, compared with 7 percent of blacks and 13 percent of whites.
- Only 2 percent of N.C. American Indians possess a master's or professional degree, while 6 percent of whites have such degrees.

Income

- The median family income of N.C. American Indians is \$24,900, compared with \$33,242 for the total population.
- Twenty percent of American Indian families are headed by females with no husband present. Fifty-four percent of these families live in poverty, compared with 27 percent of white female-headed families.
- Approximately 25 percent of American Indians in the state live below the poverty level, compared with 8.6 percent of whites.

For more information contact:
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