

American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey 2019 (AIAN FACES 2019)

Nationally, about 32,758 American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) children and their families are served by Head Start. Almost one-half of these children and families are served by 146 AIAN Head Start programs in Region XI.

Historically there was little information about children attending Region XI programs; however, in 2015 we undertook the first AIAN FACES study that provided a national picture of children, families, and programs in Region XI. Native voices were at the forefront of this study in the AIAN FACES 2015 Workgroup, comprising Region XI Head Start directors, researchers, and federal officials. We have built on what was learned in 2015 and actively included Native voices in the AIAN FACES 2019 design. Starting in fall 2018, we recruited twenty-two Region XI Head Start programs to participate in AIAN FACES 2019, which occurred in the 2019-2020 program year. We extend our thanks to these programs.

AIAN FACES 2019 builds on the important information provided in AIAN FACES 2015 on children's development and home and classroom contexts. For example, most parents of children in Region XI said it was important that their child learns a Native language. Within the Head Start classroom, slightly over half of children receive Native language lessons. More findings from AIAN FACES 2015 and 2019 can be found on the study's website listed at the end of this flyer.



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Here we share some AIAN FACES 2019 highlights:

Study Sponsor	Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS) and Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE).
Study Goals	To provide information about Region XI children and families and their programs and classrooms—with a particular focus on children’s school readiness skills to inform the national picture of Head Start, and for use in Head Start policy and practice decisions.
Study Timeline	Children were assessed in fall 2019, and families were surveyed in fall 2019 and spring 2020. Directors and teachers were surveyed in spring 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the study did not complete all planned assessments with children or observations in classrooms in spring 2020.
Study Participants	Region XI serves approximately 85 percent AIAN children and 15 percent non-AIAN children. AIAN FACES 2019 is representative of all Region XI children and families. Participants were randomly selected and invited to be a part of AIAN FACES 2019. Approval from the appropriate tribal authorities was obtained for each selected program. Taking part in the study was voluntary for all programs and individuals.
Information Gathered	Children’s language, literacy, math, social-emotional, and executive function skills and physical growth and development were assessed at the beginning of the Head Start year. Parents were asked about their child’s health and development, family life, and their Head Start experiences. Head Start teachers were asked about children’s classroom experiences and social skills, behaviors, and approaches to learning. Head Start program and center directors were asked about program policies and practices. Head Start teachers and directors were also asked about their educational backgrounds and credentials. In spring 2020, the study added questions to program and center director surveys to assess how COVID-19 impacted their operations. Parent and staff surveys gathered information on children’s Native culture and language experiences.
Data Collection Methods	The study was carried out in ways sensitive to and respectful of the diverse nature of Native cultures, including a cross cultural understanding and cultural humility training for all data collection staff. Adult study participants completed surveys online, on the phone, or on paper. Children participating in the study met one-on-one with study staff for in-person assessments.
Study Products	<p>Reports and presentations: Members of the AIAN FACES 2019 Workgroup will provide input on the development of products from this study. Products will include a technical report with an extensive set of data tables, shorter briefs, and webinars. The confidentiality of all participating individuals and communities will be strictly maintained; no individuals or communities will ever be identified in the reporting of study findings. Products from AIAN FACES 2019 will be posted to the study website, where information from AIAN FACES 2015 is already available: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/research/project/american-indian-and-alaska-native-head-start-family-and-child-experiences-survey-faces.</p> <p>Restricted-use dataset: A restricted-use dataset will be available for additional analyses by qualified researchers in order to further provide critically needed information about Region XI Head Start programs and the children and families they serve. Data from AIAN FACES 2015 is already available, and information about that data set and how to apply for access is available at <i>The Child & Family Data Archive</i> (https://www.childandfamilydataarchive.org/cfda/archives/cfda/studies/36804). Questions about the restricted-use data may also be sent to: AIAN_OPRE_Data@acf.hhs.gov.</p>



If you have questions about AIAN FACES 2019, please contact Dr. Lizabeth Malone, Project Director, at lmalone@mathematica-mpr.com, Dr. Sara Bernstein, Deputy Project Director, at sbernstein@mathematica-mpr.com, Dr. Meryl Barofsky, Federal Project Officer, at meryl.barofsky@acf.hhs.gov, or Dr. Laura Hoard, Federal Project Officer, at laura.hoard@acf.hhs.gov.