



# American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey 2019 (AI/AN FACES 2019)

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

Historically there was little information about children attending Region XI programs; however, in 2015 we undertook the first AI/AN FACES study that provided a national picture of children, families, and programs in Region XI. Tribal voices were at the forefront of this study in the AI/AN FACES 2015 Workgroup, comprised of Region XI Head Start directors, researchers, and federal officials. We extend our thanks to the 21 programs that participated in AI/AN FACES 2015. We are now building on what was learned in 2015 and are actively including tribal voices in the AI/AN FACES 2019 design. In fall 2018, we hope to begin recruiting twenty-two Region XI Head Start programs to participate in AI/AN FACES 2019, which will occur in the 2019-2020 program year.

AI/AN FACES 2015 provided important information 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 tribal language. Within the Head Start classroom, slightly over half of children receive tribal language lessons. More findings from AI/AN FACES 2015 can be found on the study's website listed at the end of this flyer.



Some images shared with permission from the National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning.



## Plans for the AI/AN FACES 2019 study:

<b>Study Sponsor</b>	Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS) and Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE).
<b>Study Goals</b>	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.
<b>Study Timeline</b>	Children will be assessed, and families will be surveyed in fall 2019 and spring 2020. Classrooms will be observed, and directors and teachers will be surveyed in spring 2020.
<b>Study Participants</b>	Region XI serves approximately 80 percent AI/AN children and 20 percent non-AI/AN children. AI/AN FACES 2019 will be representative of all Region XI children and families. Participants will be randomly selected and invited to be a part of AI/AN FACES 2019. Approval from the appropriate tribal authorities will be obtained for each selected program. Taking part in the study is voluntary for all programs and individuals.
<b>Information Gathered</b>	Children’s language, literacy, math, social-emotional, and executive function skills and physical growth and development will be assessed at the beginning and end of the Head Start year. Parents will be asked about their child’s health and development, family life, and their Head Start experiences. Head Start teachers will be asked about children’s classroom experiences and social skills, behaviors, and approaches to learning. Head Start program and center directors will be asked about program policies and practices. Head Start teachers and directors will also be asked about their educational backgrounds and credentials. Head Start classrooms will be observed to measure the quality of classroom materials and resources and the quality of teacher-child interactions. Parent and staff surveys and observations will also gather information on children’s native culture and language experiences.
<b>Data Collection Methods</b>	The study will be carried out in ways sensitive to and respectful of the diverse nature of tribal cultures. Adult study participants will complete surveys online, on the phone, or on paper. Children participating in the study will meet one-on-one with study staff for an assessment of their school readiness skills.
<b>Study Products</b>	Members of the AI/AN 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 and briefs. The confidentiality of all participating individuals and tribal communities will be strictly maintained; no individuals or communities will ever be identified in the reporting of study findings.  A restricted-use dataset is 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. Information about the AI/AN FACES 2015 data set and how to apply for access will be available at <i>Research Connections</i> ( <a href="https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/36804">https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/36804</a> ).



If you have questions about AI/AN FACES 2019, please contact Dr. Lizabeth Malone, Project Director, at [lmalone@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:lmalone@mathematica-mpr.com), Dr. Meryl Barofsky, Federal Project Officer, at [meryl.barofsky@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:meryl.barofsky@acf.hhs.gov), or Dr. Laura Hoard, Federal Project Officer, at [laura.hoard@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:laura.hoard@acf.hhs.gov).

To learn more about AI/AN FACES 2019 and review products from AI/AN FACES 2015, visit the website at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/research/project/american-indian-and-alaska-native-head-start-family-and-child-experiences-survey-faces>.