

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

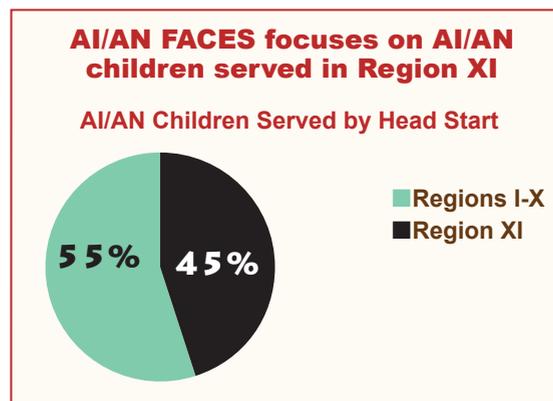
Nationally, about 37,000 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and their families are served by Head Start. Almost one-half of these children and families are served by 150 AI/AN Head Start programs in Region XI. While we have a wealth of information about Head Start children and families in general, we have little information about those who attend Head Start programs in Region XI, which includes both Native and non-Native children. A major source of descriptive information on Head Start—the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES)—has not historically included Region XI programs, children and families. As a result, we have little data to assess the service needs of the children and families in Region XI and to help inform policies and practices for addressing these needs. The American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (AI/AN FACES) is designed to fill this information gap with tribal voices at the forefront.

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation conducted a study of Region XI children, families and programs that is responsive to the needs of Region XI Head Start. The study design reflects advice from members of the AI/AN FACES Workgroup, comprised of Region XI Head Start directors, researchers, and federal officials. Twenty-one Region XI Head Start programs participated in the AI/AN FACES study, which occurred in the 2015-2016 program year.



**Here we share some AI/AN FACES highlights:**

<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 were assessed and families were surveyed in fall 2015 and spring 2016. Directors and teachers were surveyed in spring 2016.
<b>Study Participants</b>	AI/AN FACES is representative of all Region XI children and families. 1,049 children participated from 21 Region XI programs. Participants were randomly selected and invited to be a part of AI/AN FACES. Approval from the appropriate tribal authorities was obtained for each selected program.
<b>Information Gathered</b>	Children’s language, literacy, math, social-emotional, and executive functioning skills and physical growth and development were assessed at the beginning and end of the Head Start year. Parents provided information about their child’s health and development, family life, and their Head Start experiences. Head Start teachers answered questions about children’s classroom experiences and each child’s social skills, behaviors, and approaches to learning. Head Start program and center directors provided information about program policies and practices. Head Start teachers and directors answered questions about their educational backgrounds and credentials. Head Start classrooms were observed to measure the quality of classroom materials and resources and the quality of teacher-child interactions. Parent and staff surveys and observations also gathered information on children’s exposure to native culture and language.
<b>Data Collection Methods</b>	The study was carried out in ways sensitive to and respectful of tribal culture. Adult study participants completed surveys online, on the phone, or on paper. Children met one-on-one with study staff for an assessment of their school readiness skills.
<b>Study Products</b>	Dissemination activities are underway, reflecting continued engagement with members of the AI/AN FACES Workgroup. A series of presentations on selected first findings has been done, with a webinar posted on the study website. Additional products 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 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. Information about the data set and how to apply for access will be available at <a href="http://www.researchconnections.org">www.researchconnections.org</a> .



Note: AI/AN children served in Regions I-X are included in the main FACES study. Since children in Region XI Head Start have never been included in FACES, Region XI programs were prioritized for this study.



If you have questions about AI/AN FACES, please contact Lizabeth Malone, Project Director, at [lmalone@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:lmalone@mathematica-mpr.com) or Meryl Barofsky, federal project specialist, at [meryl.barofsky@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:meryl.barofsky@acf.hhs.gov).  
To learn more about AI/AN FACES, visit the AI/AN FACES website at

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/research/project/american-indian-and-alaska-native-head-start-family-and-child-experiences-survey-faces>.