

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

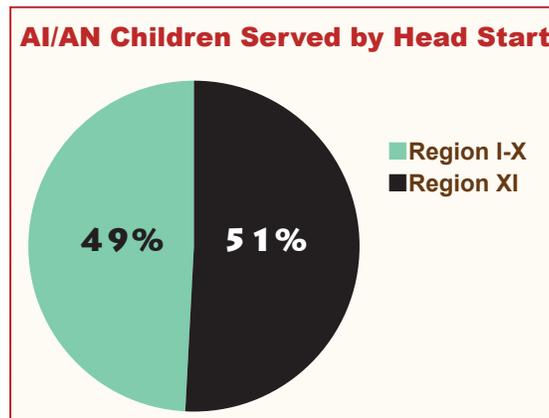
Nationally, about 35,575 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and their families are served by Head Start. Just over half of these children and families are served by 150 AI/AN Head Start programs in Region XI. While we have a wealth of information about Head Start children and families 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 are planning 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-two Region XI Head Start programs are currently being recruited to participate in the first AI/AN FACES study, which will start fall 2015.



Here we share some AI/AN FACES 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 programs, classrooms, teachers, families, and children—with a particular focus on children’s cognitive, social-emotional, and school readiness skills to inform the national picture of Head Start, and for use in Head Start policy and practice decisions.
Study Timeline	Children will be assessed and families will be surveyed in fall 2015 and spring 2016. Directors and teachers will be surveyed in spring 2016 and spring 2017. A new group of Region XI programs, teachers, children and families will be recruited in fall 2018.
Study Participants	Region XI serves approximately 87 percent AI/AN children and 13 percent non-AI/AN children. AI/AN FACES will be representative of all Region XI children and families. Region XI programs have been randomly selected and invited to be a part of AI/AN FACES. Approval from the appropriate tribal authorities is being obtained for each selected program. Taking part in the study is voluntary for all programs and individuals.
Information Gathered	Children’s language, literacy, math, social-emotional, and executive functioning 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.
Data Collection Methods	Adult study participants can 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. The study will be carried out in ways that are sensitive to and respectful of tribal culture.
Study Products	Members of the AI/AN FACES Workgroup will provide input on the development of products from this study, including written reports and briefs, infographics, and presentations about 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. 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.



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** and how it is being conducted, please contact Dr. Lizabeth Malone, Project Director, at lmalone@mathematica-mpr.com. The federal project officer for the study is Maria Woolverton, and she may be reached at maria.woolverton@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>.