



FACTS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICA

By all statistical measures, American Indians are among the poorest people in the country.

Despite the historic trust status with the U.S. government, tribal governments struggle to provide health, education, housing and related programs for their people.

There are 2 million American Indians living in America today and 557 federally recognized tribes.

Arizona has 22 federally recognized American Indian tribes.

38 percent of Indians, 6 to 11 years old, live below the poverty level, more than twice the number of the average U.S. citizen.

16 percent of Indian males and 13 percent of Indian females 16 years and older are unemployed as compared to 6 percent for average Americans.

The suicide rate for 15 to 24 year-old Indians is more than twice that of any other American or ethnic group.

Indians die younger than any other segment of the population. 13 percent of Indian deaths are under the age of 25. This compares to 4 percent of the U.S. population.

The alcoholism death rate for Indians age 15-24 years old is more than 17 times the comparable rate for other Americans.

Homicide is the second leading cause of death among Indians 14 years old and younger and the third leading cause of death for Indians 15-24 years old.

Before World War I, Indians living on Arizona reservations were not legal U.S. citizens. Although Indians were exempt from the draft when the country entered the war in 1917, more than 8,000 Indian men and women voluntarily served in the Armed Forces.

Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924. Despite their being made U.S. citizens, Indians were not eligible to vote in Arizona.

Facing World War II and the need for a universal draft, Congress again affirmed the citizenship of all Indian people B on or off reservation B in the Nationality Act of 1940.

More than 25,000 Indian men and women served in the armed forces in World War II. But in Arizona, Indians were still not allowed to vote.

After a lawsuit filed by two Yavapai men, Frank Harrison and Harry Austin, the Supreme Court of Arizona ruled on July 15, 1948, that Indians had the right to vote.
