

AIAN Homelessness and Housing: Updates and Perspectives from the LANAIC

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Commissioner,

Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian
Commission



An Illustration of Data Genocide

Healthy LA Natives Study (2023)	American Indian Counseling Center (2023)	RAND Neighborhood Study (2022)*	Study of Older AIAN Adults (1980s)	2023 Point in Time Count**
14%	34%	19%	16%	3.8%*

*AIAN alone or in combo with other races

**2,700 AIAN people (Hispanic + Non-Hispanic)



Patterns of Health Care Access and Use in an Urban American Indian and Alaska Native Population

Andrea N. Garcia^{1,2} · Angela Venegas-Murrillo³ · Adrienne Martinez-Hollingsworth⁴ · Lisa V. Smith⁵ · Kenneth Wells⁶ · MarySue V. Heilemann⁷ · Lori Fischbach⁸ · Patricia L. Cummings⁹ · Tony Kuo¹⁰

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[> Am Indian Alsk Native Ment Health Res. 2023;30\(1\):14-34. doi: 10.5820/aian.3001.2023.14.](#)

Primary Psychiatric Diagnoses, Commercialized Tobacco Use, and Homelessness: Comparisons Between Urban American Indian/ Alaska Native and Non-American Indian/Alaska Native Adult Clinical Samples

[Daniel Dickerson, Melanie Cain, Andrea Garcia](#)

PMID: 37027498 DOI: [10.5820/aian.3001.2023.14](https://doi.org/10.5820/aian.3001.2023.14)

A Sample of Where We Have Been



SEPTEMBER 25, 2020
9:30 AM (PST)



Housing Webinar:
Lessons Learned from
Chief Seattle Club

REGISTER AT
bit.ly/AIANHousingWebinar2

MITCH O'FARRELL
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Housing Webinar:
Lessons Learned
from Native
American
Connections

REGISTER AT:
<https://bit.ly/AIANHousingWebinar>



Eric Garcetti
Mayor OLA

MITCH O'FARRELL
COUNCIL MEMBER - 12th DISTRICT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH
hope. recovery. wellbeing.

A SNAPSHOT OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HOMELESSNESS

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

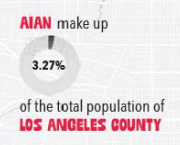


Los Angeles County occupies the unceded land originally and **STILL INHABITED BY:**

- Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

LOS ANGELES is the county with the largest number of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) people in the United States

327,930*
*Census 2020



In addition to local tribe Los Angeles is also home to individuals represent more than **200 TRIBAL NATIONS** from across United States.

AIAN is a **CULTURALLY DIVERSE POPULATION** made up of more than **571 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL NATIONS**, and numerous tribal nations who continue to fight for their status to be recognized today

AIAN IDENTITY is shaped by a complicated and resilient past, such that racial and ethnic diversity is also part of our story



American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness

Background

Los Angeles County has a larger American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) population than any other county in the United States (165,513¹). The county also sits on the traditional homeland of three AIAN tribes: Fernandefio Tataviam, Tongva, and Chumash². However, the AIAN community is often underrepresented in sample data. Further, identity is often misclassified. For example, the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count found that approximately 1,800 people experiencing homelessness identify as AIAN (of both Hispanic and Non-Hispanic origin) – meaning that just over 1% of AIAN people in the county are experiencing homelessness. However, in the Healthy LA Natives study³, a 2016 survey of AIAN people in Los Angeles County, 14% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness. While the two data sources have different sample sizes and methodologies, the discrepancy in results warrants an examination of the underrepresentation of the AIAN population across sources data available in Los Angeles County. Historical underrepresentation and misclassification are problematic in that ignores the unique challenges of this population and may divert resources and services that are required to address the specific needs of the population. This brief builds off of Los Angeles County’s Community Forum on Native American Homelessness report and analyzes data specific to the AIAN population experiencing homelessness.

1.04 How Can We Better Serve Urban Indigenous People



Bill Robertson
Project Manager, Collaborative Solutions

Ariana Yazzie Devine
President and Chief Executive Officer of Native American Connections

Dr. Andrea Garcia
Physician Specialist in the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health



A Sample of Where We Have Been (cont.)

**COMING
SUMMER 2024**

UCLA School of Law
**Native Nations Law
& Policy Center**



DRAFTED

**A TRUST OBLIGATION TO
HOUSE LOS ANGELES'S
AMERICAN INDIANS AND
ALASKA NATIVES**

Where We
Are Going

Communications with the BOS

Data Advocacy

- 4 signature letter from the BOS to the OMB to support the proposed change to have a single combined race/ethnicity question and to discourage ethnic top-coding practices.

Budget Request

- Budget request letter included ask for FTE within CEO HI, and that County Counsel retain a firm or attorney with Indian law expertise

Sep. 2023

Apr. 2023

Oct. 2023

Item Request

Letter to BOS offices requesting stop-gap between consultant contract for CEO-HI as well as an FTE to be housed within CEO HI

November 2023 | Communication with CEO HI Encouraging:

Regular engagement with the LANAIC

Regular engagement with relevant AIAN stakeholders (e.g. the emergent AIAN Housing Collaborative and beyond)

Staff development:

- Foundational trainings on AIAN
- Attend relevant tribal housing conferences (with urban AIAN tracks)
- Complete site visits in other COCs with AIAN culturally supportive housing
- Become familiar with the body of work that the LANAIC is conducting that intersects with this work (e.g. Harms Report, Tribal consent and consultation policy, etc.)
- Any trainings or consultation that can provide an appreciation of AIAN specific statewide or Federal housing opportunities. This includes seeking out technical assistance, where possible.

November 2023 | Communication with CEO HI Encouraging:

Acknowledgement that the report and action plan may now be outdated, and an understanding that this may best be treated as a living document

In engaging other pertinent stakeholders, we learned the following:

- As it relates to the Internal County AIAN Working Group, there were questions about the function and path forward
- There was a direct question about County land that was to be identified as part of the original board motion

- CEO HI, LAHSA, LACDA, LACDMH and multiple other departments
- Data
- Policy
- Processes
- Representation
- Resources
- Relationships and repair

County
Systems

Community
Readiness:
AIAN
Housing
Collaborative

- Building organizational and community capacity to:
- Connect to HMIS
 - Apply for funding
 - Staff up and train as needed
 - Provide service provision, operations, and/or eventually build AIAN housing and beyond
 - *Dream and think outside the box*

- Tribal consent and consultation
- Harms Report
- Tribal Affairs Office
- Beyond land acknowledgement
- Building a knowledge base and partnerships

LANAIC
Foundational
Work

Room for the
unknown

- Home is *more* than housing!

Ongoing Requests

- Final report back and action plan from original board motion, "Identifying, Supporting, and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Are at Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness"
- One senior position FTE within CEO HI dedicated exclusively to AIAN homelessness and housing
- County Counsel retains expertise in Indian Law
- Ongoing support of adjacent LANAIC work that supports the holistic landscape of this work (tribal consultation and consent policy, researching a tribal affairs office, commitment to going beyond a land acknowledgement, repairing harm)

Additional Goals

- Continue to build off the AIAN language in the NOFA 30 for culturally supportive housing
- AIAN Vouchers
- ...and many many more goals!



Maacagíraac | Thank you

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