



PREPARED STATEMENT OF
CHARLES LOUIS KINCANNON
DIRECTOR
U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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Good morning. On behalf of the Census Bureau, I would like to thank you Mr. Chairman and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for inviting me to testify this morning. The Census Bureau does not operate "Indian Programs" in the conventional sense, our mission to provide the most timely, relevant, and quality data about the people and economy of this United States. These data play an essential role in ensuring that the needs of these communities are fully considered.

The Census Bureau, as the nation's preeminent collector of data, provides the most comprehensive and in-depth statistics for American Indians and Alaska Natives. This morning I will focus economic and demographic information about these groups from the Economic Census, along with the Survey of Business Owners, and the decennial Census of Population and Housing and its partner, the American Community Survey.

The Economic Census is conducted every five years, for years ending in '2 and '7. We are currently receiving and processing information for the 2002 Economic Census. The Economic Census catalogues the nation's economy by collecting business information, including the number of employees, payroll, receipts, and product line revenues, business by business. The Economic Census is a detailed profile of the U.S. economy — from the national level to the local level, and from one industry to another industry, providing information on over 23 million businesses and 96 percent of the nation's economic activity. Over 5 million firms received questionnaires, and to reduce response burdens we develop data for millions of other firms using tax data.

The Economic Census is used in determining the Gross Domestic Product estimates, as well as other economic indicators that measure the economy and can dramatically affect markets. Moreover, the detailed data — data for over 1000 different industries, including 8000 manufactured products and 3000 merchandise, commodity and service lines — inform economic and financial decisions in the private sector, as well as the Federal, tribal, state, and local levels.

With each Economic Census, we also collect data as part of a separate survey in order to provide a detailed portrait of minority- and women-owned businesses. This is the Survey of Business Owners. The survey collects basic facts such as the revenue, employment, and payroll, as well as data on selected characteristics of the companies, such as information on financing, whether the companies are home-based, and whether the companies are family-owned. The Survey of Business Owners — or, as it was known in the past as the Survey of Minority-owned Business Enterprises — paints a portrait of the American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses that is used by agencies such as the Commerce Department’s Minority Business Development Agency to evaluate program needs and opportunities.

In 1997, almost 200,000 firms were owned by American Indians and Alaska Natives. The sales and receipts from these firms totaled \$34.3 billion. Moreover, the data suggest that the American Indian and Alaska Native economy is diverse and with significant activity across each of the major industry classifications.

Table 1
Summary of the American Indian and Alaska Native Economy

Source: 1997 Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises

	<u>American Indian and Alaska Native</u>		<u>Total U.S. Firms</u>	
	<i>All firms</i>		<i>All firms</i>	
	Firms	Sales and Receipts	Firms	Sales and Receipts
	<i>(number)</i>	<i>(\$1,000)</i>	<i>(number)</i>	<i>(\$1,000)</i>
All Industries	197,300	34,343,907	20,821,935	18,553,243,047
Agricultural Services, forestry, and fishing	8,942	360,484	496,164	64,032,640
Mineral Industries	947	543,908	126,809	176,609,179
Construction industries and subdividers and developers	27,435	5,384,815	2,333,424	944,154,542
Manufacturing	6,717	2,503,417	688,782	4,021,515,429
Transportation, communications, & utilities	6,291	1,620,515	919,570	1,183,669,281
Wholesale trade	4,365	3,155,143	797,856	4,270,041,314
Retail trade	14,768	4,618,484	2,889,041	2,649,085,229
Finance, insurance and real estate industries	4,616	1,190,741	2,237,675	2,567,560,021
Service industries	34,144	5,202,704	8,891,024	2,614,964,642
Industries not classified.	89,243	9,763,696	1,480,003	61,610,770

These data provide a helpful frame of reference, summarizing the American Indian and Alaska Native economy at the national level.

However, the most useful data at the local and tribal governments come directly out of the Economic Census. The 2002 Economic Census will show the number of businesses, employment, and sales for businesses at the state, county, city, and often ZIP-code level. These data will be used by tribal government leaders and planners, as well as entrepreneurs to outline potential opportunities for economic development.

By combining data from the Economic Census and the decennial census, an entrepreneur, business owner, or tribal government can provide a profile with rich detail to encourage investors. The Economic Census will indicate number of employees and annual sales by industry. Data from the decennial census of population can be used to create a profile of potential customers or workers. For instance, if someone was looking to open a new pharmacy, the decennial census would be helpful in determining how much of the potential customer base is over age 65, their household income, and the number of housing units in the neighborhood.

The Census of Population is the great national catalogue of human capital that is collected every ten years. It will be of interest here, that we visit every reservation, as well as every off-reservation tribal trust land, tribal designated statistical area, and state-recognized reservation in the nation — from Seminole in Florida to Yakama in Washington, from the Navajo Nation to the Osage Nation in Oklahoma, and from the Shinnecock Reservation to Wind River.

Beginning with the 2000 decennial census respondents were allowed to check more than one race. This contributed significantly to the number of people who identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native in 2000.

According to Census 2000, when asked about their race, almost 2.5 million persons indicated American Indian or Alaska Native alone on their census questionnaire. An additional 1.6 million persons indicated that they were American Indian or Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races. Combining these two totals means that there were over 4 million persons who indicated that they were American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States. According to the 1990 census slightly less than 2 million persons indicated that they were American Indian and Alaska Natives. In 1990, census respondents were allowed to check only one race; therefore, these numbers are not strictly comparable.

Table 2
American Indian and Alaska Native Population for the United States

	1990 Census	2000 Census	2000 Census	2000 Census
	American Indian and Alaska Native	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	American Indian and Alaska Native in combination	American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination
United States	1,959,234	2,475,956	1,643,345	4,119,301
Percent of total population	0.8	0.9	0.6	1.5

We publish the population counts for reservations, including off-reservation trust land, as well as statistical area, and the census tracts therein. We also publish the population counts for every tribe, whether or not those reporting actually live on the reservation or not. It is important to note that we obtain these counts through self-identification — meaning we rely on the answers that census respondents mark on their forms. This is an important distinction from tribal enrollment.

According to the 2000 census, the largest tribes and tribal groupings were Cherokee, Navajo, Choctaw, Sioux, and Chippewa.

Table 3
Census 2000 Population by Selected Tribal Groupings

	American Indian or Alaska Native Alone		American Indian or Alaska Native Alone or in combination and with one or more tribe reported
	One tribal grouping reported	One or more than one tribal grouping reported	
Apache	57,060	64,977	96,833
Blackfeet	27,104	31,462	85,750
Cherokee	281,069	299,862	729,533
Cheyenne	11,191	12,556	18,204
Chickasaw	20,887	23,901	38,351
Chippewa	105,907	108,637	149,669
Choctaw	87,349	96,901	158,774
Colville	7,833	8,026	9,393
Comanche	10,120	11,688	19,376
Cree	2,488	3,212	7,734
Creek	40,223	45,718	71,310
Crow	9,117	9,691	13,394
Delaware	8,304	8,906	16,341
Houma	6,798	6,877	8,713
Iroquois	45,212	47,530	80,822
Kiowa	8,559	9,689	12,242
Lumbee	51,913	52,555	57,868
Menominee	7,883	8,141	9,840
Navajo	269,202	275,991	298,197
Osage	7,658	9,012	15,897
Ottawa	6,432	7,055	10,677
Paiute	9,705	10,868	13,532
Pima	8,519	9,518	11,493
Potawatomi	15,817	16,409	25,595
Pueblo	59,533	63,060	74,085
Puget Sound Salish	11,034	11,260	14,631
Seminole	12,431	15,413	27,431
Shoshone	7,739	8,453	12,026
Sioux	108,272	113,066	153,360
Tohono O'Odham	17,466	18,180	20,087
Ute	7,309	8,024	10,385
Yakama	8,481	9,042	10,851
Yaqui	15,224	16,469	22,412
Yuman	7,295	7,821	8,976
All other tribes	240,447	249,989	357,658
American Indian, tribe not specified	109,644	109,701	195,902
Alaska Native tribes, specified:	89,757	94,316	116,915
Alaskan Athabascan	14,520	15,335	18,838
Aleut	11,941	12,773	16,978
Eskimo	45,919	47,337	54,761
Tlingit-Haida	14,825	15,884	22,365
All other tribes	2,552	2,987	3,973
Alaska Native, tribe not specified	6,161	6,531	8,702
American Indian or Alaska Native tribes, not specified	511,960	511,960	1,056,457

In addition to population data, the decennial census also collects a wide-range of social, economic, and housing characteristics, including education, income, property value, and housing conditions. These data are collected by the long-form questionnaire.

Such data are used to develop estimates of the educational attainment, household income, and per capita income at the census tract level (approximately 4000 residents), and are also available for reservations and other geographies. The decennial census long form provides the most comprehensive and in-depth profile of American Indians and Alaska Natives and the data are available every ten years. The data are used throughout the Federal government, as well as by tribal governments, to allocate funding.

Among the key data that the Census Bureau collected in 2000, we found that

- Over 800,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives were enrolled in preschools, kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, and colleges.
- There were almost 200,000 veterans among the American Indian and Alaska Native population.
- Approximately 1,050,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives were in the labor force.
- The median income for American Indians and Alaska Natives households was slightly over \$30,000.
- The median property value for American Indian and Alaska Native owner-occupied housing units was \$81,000.
- And according Census 2000, there were 765,000 American Indian and Alaska Native households, of these 90,000 did not have telephones; 34,000 lacked complete plumbing facilities; and 30,000 lacked kitchen facilities.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, the Rural Community Advancement Program, the Department of Education, Housing and Urban Development, as well as other Departments and agencies use these figures to address the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives. And because the decennial census provides these data down to the tract level, it provides a highly sensitive means for assessing changing needs and opportunities.

The decennial census offers a comprehensive and in-depth snapshot of the conditions as of Census Day. It is not, however, the best tool for systematically measuring progress or program outcomes. As you move further and further from the reference date — Census Day — the data become stale, and therefore depict the community in an increasingly less accurate detail. At the end of the decennial cycle, data on these important characteristics can be as much as twelve years old. As late as last summer, tribal governments were still waiting for the data from the Census 2000 long form. They were still using 1990 decennial long form data to try to meet the needs of their members.

The good news is that the Census Bureau has a plan that will dramatically improve the way that we deliver these crucial and important characteristic data to tribal governments. With the American Community Survey, we plan to eliminate the long form by collecting these data every year. While this may be a dramatic change in the way that we collect these characteristic data, we will continue to provide the long form type data that are used by the Federal and tribal governments, as well as the private sector. The real difference is that we will be able to publish data equivalent to the long form every year for every county, reservation, trust land, statistical area, homeland area, *and* the census tracts therein — not just once a decade as with the decennial census long form. It should be noted that annual data from areas with less than 65,000 people will be published using 3- and 5-year averages. This will allow governments to measure change, to plan better, to calibrate programs more effectively, and to take better advantage of potential opportunities.

The American Community Survey is an integral part of the Census Bureau's plan for the 2010 decennial census. We have embarked on this path because it will improve the data that this nation uses to meet the needs of Americans on a daily basis. We believe that this plan will improve the Census of Population in 2010, because we will be able to focus all of our efforts on the primary constitutional responsibility of counting every person. The American Community Survey will deliver key social, economic, and housing characteristic data every year, instead of every ten years — and these are the data that Federal and tribal governments depend upon to address the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As I mentioned before, an entrepreneur, business owner, or tribal government can combine data from the Economic Census and the decennial census, using these data to make the case for investment — strengthening the link between possibility and reality. The Economic Census is the catalog of economic resources. The decennial census and, in the future, the American Community Survey, are catalogs of human capital. These data express the tremendous potential for progress, growth, and opportunity that exists within the United States and every American Indian nation.

Thank you and I would be pleased to answer your questions.