

LOS ANGELES URBAN INDIAN ROUNDTABLE

PRESS RELEASE

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LOS ANGELES HIGHLIGHTS (IN)VISIBILITY AND THE STATE OF AMERICAN INDIANS

LOS ANGELES- The Los Angeles Urban Indian Roundtable is excited to announce the steps it is taking to address the visibility of American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in Los Angeles County. The representatives of this Roundtable support the need for research, analysis of existing policies, and advocacy to raise the quality of life for AI/AN.

Due to the invisibility of the AI/AN community in Los Angeles, the Roundtable is highlighting that there are more AI/ANs in this county than any other county according to the 2010 Census. On September 28, 2012, California will recognize Indian Day, creating an opportunity for the AI/AN community to celebrate and for the Roundtable to inform the public of challenges facing the community. Some disparities from the attached research summary:

- 22.7% of AI/AN children live in poverty compared to 11.7% of all other children in the county
- 16% of AI/AN high school students are college ready compared to the overall rate of 67%
- AI/AN exhibit the highest rates of diabetes, asthma and morbid obesity

In the coming weeks, the Roundtable will release a series of policy briefs about AI/AN in Los Angeles. Funded by The California Wellness Foundation, the quantitative briefs will be conducted by the University of California Los Angeles Lewis Center, School of Public Affairs. The Roundtable has provided guidance and insight to the priority areas for the research and is committed to use the findings for potential policy changes.

A Report Card will be released during American Indian Heritage Month, November 2012, to provide a snapshot of the state of AI/AN in Los Angeles. A secondary school grading system of A through F will be applied to areas such as:

- Education
- Homelessness and Housing
- Employment
- Health

Accompanying the grading scale and profile snapshots, a strong slate of recommendations will be put forth by the Roundtable.

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About Us

The Los Angeles Urban Indian Roundtable is a group of stakeholders committed to improving the quality of life for the AI/AN community in Los Angeles County. Stakeholder members include leadership from the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, American Indian Community Council, American Indian Healing Center, American Indian Studies Center at University of California Los Angeles, Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Los Angeles City County Native American Indian Commission, Pukúu Cultural Community Services, Red Circle Project, Southern California Indian Center, Title VII at Los Angeles Unified School District, Torres Martinez Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and United American Indian Involvement.

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A SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF LA INDIANS

LOS ANGELES- In order to heighten the visibility of issues facing American Indian / Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Urban Indian Roundtable compiled a brief summary of current research relevant to the community that focus on four main themes. In November, a Report Card will be released accompanied by policy recommendations.

According to the 2010 United States Census, the 5.2 million AI/ANs now overwhelmingly do not live on reservations.¹ The Census further indicates that more AI/ANs live in California than any other state. Further, Los Angeles has been home to more AI/ANs than any other county in the country. Given this significant AI/AN population, the Roundtable is committed to advocating for the needs of the greater Los Angeles AI/AN communities.

Health Statement

AI/AN have the lowest life expectancy in the United States, with the highest rates of diseases such as diabetes, sexually transmitted infections, hypertension, asthma, arthritis, and morbid obesity to the U.S. population. In a recent report on Urban Indian health care needs, the assessment not only supported these statistics but also indicated the affect on AI/AN in urban areas. There are benchmark indicators of the serious health disparities that continue to afflict the AI/AN community. Additionally, the migration of AI/AN continues toward the urban areas with the 2010 US Census indicating that more than 70% of AI/AN live in metropolitan areas; thus bring substantial new levels of chronic medical conditions, coupled with multiple cultural barriers to seek out quality health care. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, health systems will be important to deliver of quality health care to AI/AN.

Housing and Homelessness

According to the 2011 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, AI/ANs make up 1.3% of the homeless in the City of Los Angeles. The number of homeless AI/ANs in Los Angeles County increases to 1.4% of the total homeless population. However, the City of Long Beach reports 3% of the homeless population as AI/AN.² Further analysis is needed into the survey tools regarding ethnic identification and reports from geo-specific pockets given the disbursement of the AI/AN population across the county, a legacy of the Indian Relocation Act.

Education Statistics For California

The state of Indian education in Los Angeles County and California is far behind all other ethnic groups. Between 2005 and 2006, the AI/AN High School Graduation Rates in California declined 2.8%.³ AI/AN high school graduation rates are 17.7%, well below overall averages for students in

¹ United State Census "The American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2010." January 2012. (20102). <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

² Christine L. Jocoy. "2011 Homeless Count Statistics." City of Long Beach. 2011.

³ Susan C. Faircloth and John W. Tippeconnic, III "The Dropout/Graduation Crisis Among American Indian and Alaska Native Students: Failure to Respond Places the Future of Native Peoples at Risk," (The Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles at UCLA and The Pennsylvania State University, Center for the Study of Leadership in American Indian Education, January 2010), p. 20.

LOS ANGELES URBAN INDIAN ROUNDTABLE

California.⁴ Graduation rates for AI/AN students are approximately 52.4%, which is lower than all other ethnic groups.⁵ Furthermore, the college preparedness of AI/AN students is about 16%, while the overall rate is 67% resulting in a 51% gap.⁶ Within the University of California (UC) system, the number of University ready applicants was about 100 in 2005, about half the number than in 2000. The rate of AI/AN UC ready students is declining. AI/ANs are underrepresented at UC institutions. . Too few students are graduating with college ready training in the Los Angeles Unified School District, and too few are graduating from tribal communities throughout Southern California. A greater analysis of county specific data is needed along with acknowledgement from LAUSD that AI/AN students are less academically prepared for college in comparison to other students.

Poverty

AI/ANs in Los Angeles County are two to three times less likely to be unemployed than non-Hispanic whites (NHW). The education system has failed to prepare AI/ANs for the present-day market system. The average value of homes for AI/ANs is two thirds the values of homes of NHWs.⁷ In 2007 to 2009, 22.7% of Los Angeles County AIAN children were living in poverty, while the overall poverty rate was 11.7% for LA County Children.⁸ On the brighter side, there were in 2007, 17,634 Indian or Alaska Native owned firms in the Los Angeles, Long Beach and Santa Ana metro area and accounts for more than one third of Native-owned businesses nationally.⁹ AI/AN owned businesses totaled 1.4% of 245,523 private non-farm establishments in LA County.

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⁴ Faircloth, Dropout/Graduation Crisis, p. 12.

⁵ Faircloth, Dropout/Graduation Crisis, p. 14.

⁶ Amy Fann, "Forgotten Students: American Indian High School Students' Narratives on College Going," Paper prepared for the UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Higher Education Research Colloquium, May 7, 2004. p. 3. Jay Greene and Greg Foster, "Public High School Graduation and College Readiness Rates in the United States." Manhattan Institute, Center for Civic Information, Education Working Paper, no. 3, September, 2003. S. Bennally, "Serving American Indian Students: Participation in Accelerated Learning Opportunities. Report from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, March, 2004. Dean Chavers, "Indian Students and College Preparation," Proceedings from the Second Annual Research in Indian Education (RIE) Conference, Albuquerque, NM, 2000.

⁷ UCLA Ralph & Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies and United American Indian Involvement, "Socioeconomic Status of American Indian Adults in Los Angeles, 2004.

⁸ Kidsdata.org, "Family Income and Poverty."

⁹ US Census Bureau