

## **CONTEMPORARY NATIVE PEOPLES OF PENNSYLVANIA**

*Information Compiled by the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee (2017)*

### **Number of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Pennsylvania (2010 Census)**

Those identifying solely as Am Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN)	26,843 (.2% of PA's population)
Those identifying as AI/NA and another race (mixed heritage)	54,249 (.4% of PA's population)
Total	81,092

### **Number of American Indians and Alaska Natives in United States**

According to the 2010 Census, the number of individuals identifying as solely American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) is **2,932,248**, which is 0.9% of U.S. population. The number of individuals identifying themselves as having mixed heritage, i.e., identifying as AI/AN and another race, is 2,288,311, which is .07% of U.S. population. The combined total of American Indian and Alaska Native individuals identifying as solely and as multi-racial is **5,200,579**, which is 1.7% of U.S. population.

### **Location of Individual American Indians and Alaska Natives in Pennsylvania (2010 Census)**

A large number of the Native Americans living in Pennsylvania today immigrated during the federal government's 1950s initiative to move Native people from reservations to cities. Subsequently, the 2010 census shows the largest numbers are living in: Alleghany County (1,702), Berks County (1,285), Bucks County (1,232), Lancaster County (1,195), Lehigh County (1,279), Montgomery County (1,174), and the city of Philadelphia (6,996).

### **Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Pennsylvania**

There are no federally or state recognized tribes in Pennsylvania. Nationwide there are 567 federally recognized tribes as of 2014.

### **Members of Tribes Living in Pennsylvania (2010 Census)**

In a 2009, an American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, some of the non-historic tribes represented in Pennsylvania are Cherokee (1,679), Sioux (657), Navajo (319), and Chippewa (109).

### **Indian History in Pennsylvania - Carlisle Indian Industrial School**

Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania was the first federally funded off-reservation Indian boarding school. It operated from 1879 through 1918 and was founded on the principle that Native Americans were a vanishing race and therefore Native American children must be taught Euro-American culture to survive and advance in society. Carlisle became the model for 26 Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools in 15 states and territories, and hundreds of private boarding schools sponsored by religious denominations. "

Boarding schools were extremely traumatic for numerous Native youth; many, including some of the children sent to Carlisle, did not survive and were buried there. Later, many of the Carlisle children's remains were exhumed and reburied to make room for new construction on the grounds. The U.S. Army has agreed to pay the costs of returning the remains of children to their tribes upon request. The Carlisle School is now a National Historic Landmark.

Its founder, Captain Richard Pratt, who believed in total assimilation, is famous for his pronouncement that: "A great general has said that the only good Indian is a dead one. In a sense, I agree with the sentiment, but only in this: that all the Indian there is in the race should be dead. *Kill the Indian in him and save the man.*"

**Pennsylvania Legislation 2014**

Pennsylvania Senate Resolution 220, a bipartisan resolution recognizing the month of November 2015 as "Native American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania, was passed on October 20, 2015.

Pennsylvania House Resolution 776 honored Jacobus Franciscus Thorpe by designating May 21, 2016 as "Jim Thorpe Day" was passed on May 18, 2016. Thorpe was a Sac and Fox American Indian who attended Carlisle Indian Industrial School and attained distinction as a 1912 Olympic athlete and as a professional baseball, football, and basketball player.

Pennsylvania House Resolution 552 honoring and recognizing Pennsylvania's Native American peoples and communities and recognizing the first Saturday in October of every year as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in Pennsylvania was passed on October 21, 2015 by a vote of 198-0.

**Organizations and Resources Information**

Native people are organized in Pennsylvania, despite the lack of state or federal recognition. Contact information	
<b>Southeastern Cherokee Confederacy of Pennsylvania</b> Chief Buffy Red Feather Brown P. O. Box 27405, Philadelphia, PA 19118 (215) 549-4191 <a href="http://www.secherokee-confederacy.org">http://www.secherokee-confederacy.org</a>	<b>The Delaware Nation</b> Chief Mike Medicine Shield Mollie Eliot, Secretary 35 Morgan Circle Troy, PA 16947 <a href="http://www.easterndelawarenations.org/">http://www.easterndelawarenations.org/</a>
<b>The Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania</b> Chief Robert Red Hawk Ruth PO Box 362 Gilbert PA 18331 <a href="http://www.lenapenation.org/main.html">http://www.lenapenation.org/main.html</a>	<b>Thunder Mountain Lenape Nation</b> 236 Skyline Drive Saltsburg, Pa 15681 (724) 639-3488 <a href="http://www.thundermtlenape.org/">http://www.thundermtlenape.org/</a>
<b>Indian Organizations</b>	
<b>Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, Inc.</b> 120 Charles Street Pittsburgh, PA 15238 Telephone (412)-782-4457 -- Fax (412)-767-4808 <a href="http://www.cotraic.org">http://www.cotraic.org</a>	<b>Totem Pole</b> <a href="http://www.totemrhythmsinc.org/index.html">http://www.totemrhythmsinc.org/index.html</a> <a href="mailto:marietta@totemrhythmsinc.org">marietta@totemrhythmsinc.org</a>
<b>Lobbying Organizations</b>	
<b>National Congress of American Indians</b> 1516 P. Street NW Washington, DC 20005 (202) 466-7767 <a href="mailto:ncai@ncai.org">ncai@ncai.org</a> <a href="http://www.ncai.org">www.ncai.org</a>	<b>Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quaker)</b> 245 Second Street, NE Washington, DC 20002 (202) 547-6000 or (800) 630-1330 <a href="http://fcnl.org/issues/nativeam/">http://fcnl.org/issues/nativeam/</a>