

Inclusion of American Indian and Alaska Native Language and Culture in Head Start

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AI/AN FACES Workgroup

TRC Language and Culture Community of Learning



Agenda



Introduction



Data on American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) parents' perspectives about Native language



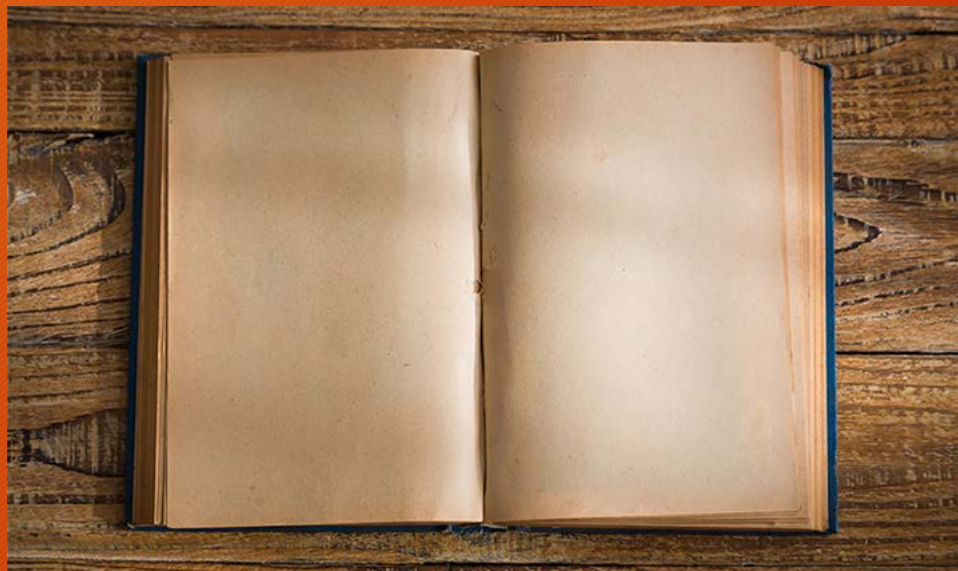
Data on how AI/AN Head Start programs include Native language in the classroom



Importance of inclusion of culture and Native language for decision making

Introduction

The State of the Research



Tribal Early Childhood



Research Center



National Data on Head Start Programs



FACES

- FACES was conducted every 3 years from 1997-2009 in Regions I-X
- After a major redesign in 2012, it was last conducted in 2014
- Will be conducted again starting in fall 2019



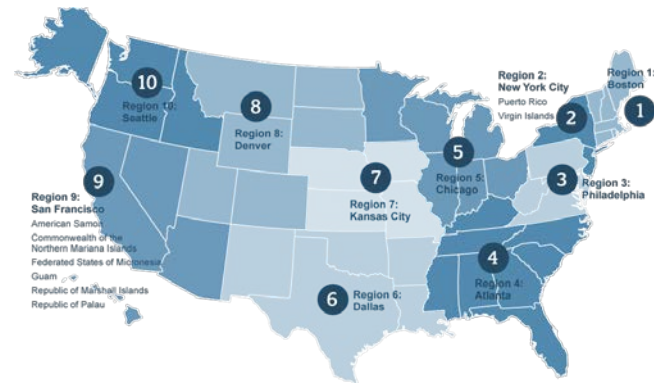
AI/AN FACES

- Began in 2015 after multi-year collaborative planning effort to address process for engaging in research with sovereign tribal nations; concerns about use of existing measures in Region XI
- Will be conducted again starting in fall 2019

Region XI Head Start

- Approximately 565 federally recognized AI/AN communities
- 51% of AI/AN Children in Head Start are served in Regions I-X
- 85% of Region XI children are AI/AN

OHS Regions I-X



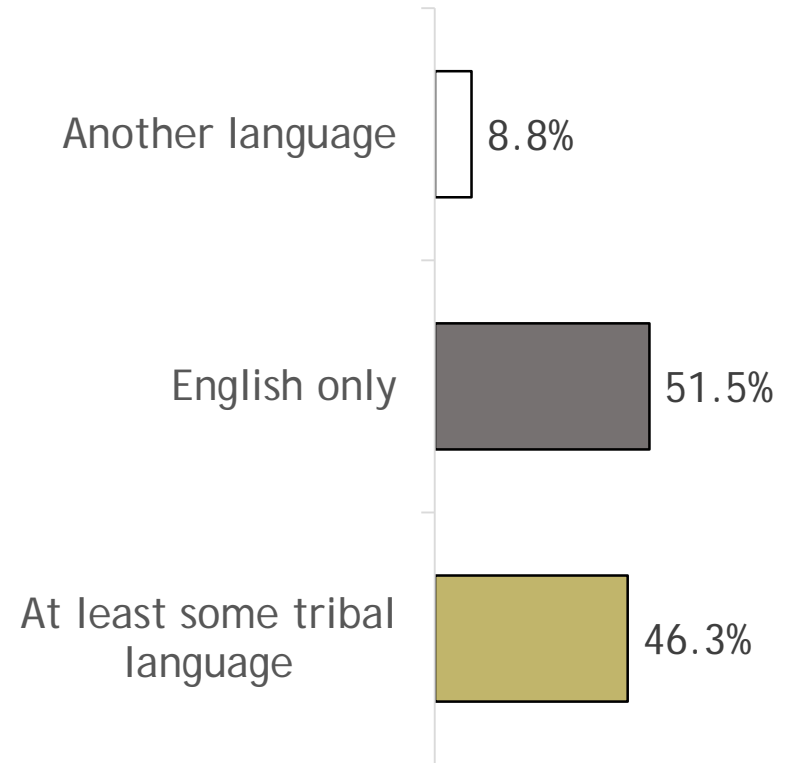
OHS Region XI Zones



Data on AI/AN Parents' Perspectives about Native Language

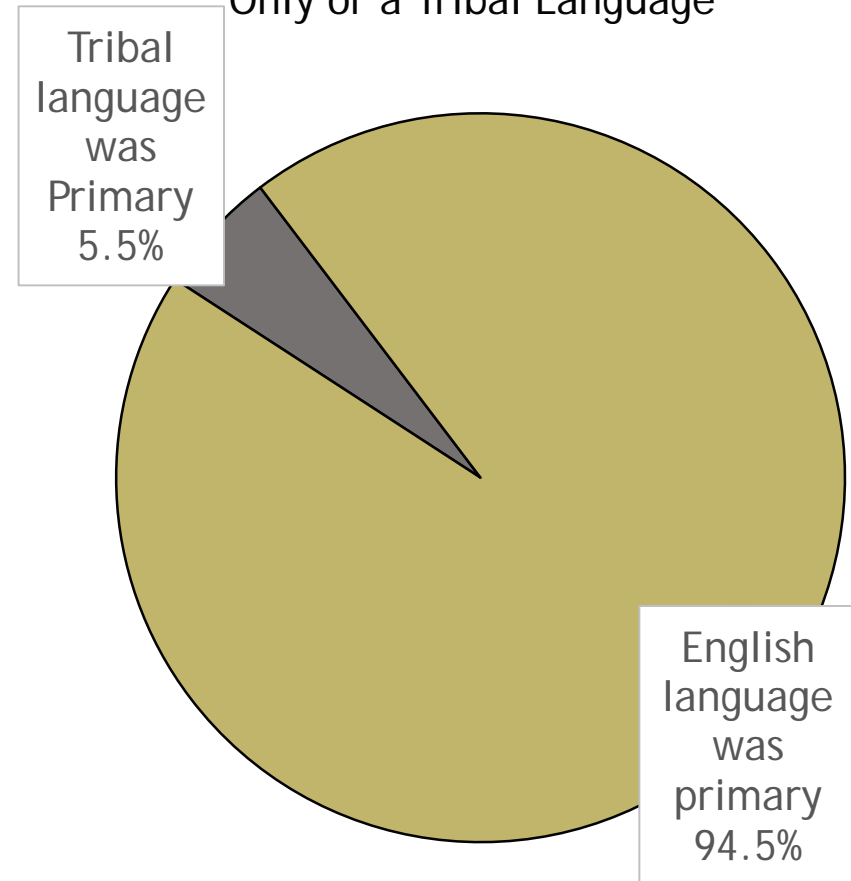
Just over half of AI/AN children in Region XI Head Start had parents who reported English only spoken at home; just under half had parents who reported at least some Native language use at home.

% of AI/AN Children in Region XI Whose Parents Reported English Only, Some Tribal Language, or Another Language at Home



The majority of AI/AN children in Region XI Head Start were in homes where English was the primary language.

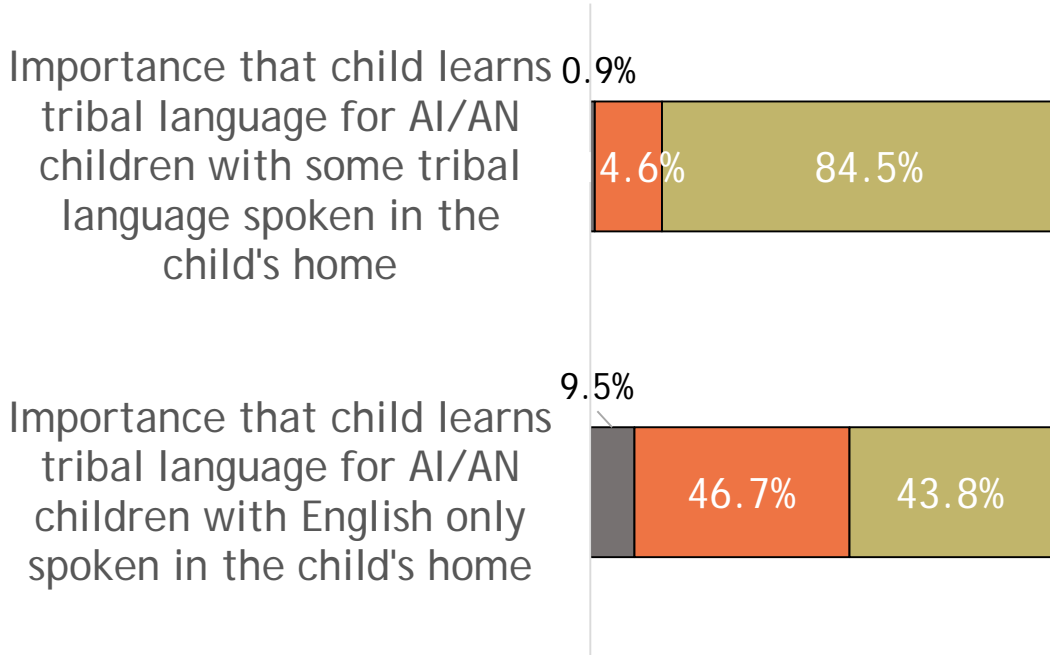
% of AI/AN Children in Region XI Whose Parents Reported the Primary Language Used at Home was English Only or a Tribal Language*



Importance that Child Learns Tribal Language for AI/AN Children in Region XI

In homes with some Native language use, 99% of children had parents who felt it was somewhat or very important for their child to learn a Native language.

In homes with English only spoken, 90% of children had parents who felt it was somewhat or very important for their child to learn a Native language.



■ Not at all important ■ Somewhat important ■ Very Important

Data on AI/AN Head Start Programs' Inclusion of Native language in the classroom

Classroom and Center Staff



84% of children were in classrooms with at least one AI/AN staff member



50% of children were in classrooms in which their lead teacher was AI/AN



71% of children had a Head Start program director who was AI/AN*



69% of children had a Head Start center director who was AI/AN*

*These data were obtained from questionnaire items for which staff identified their connection to their community

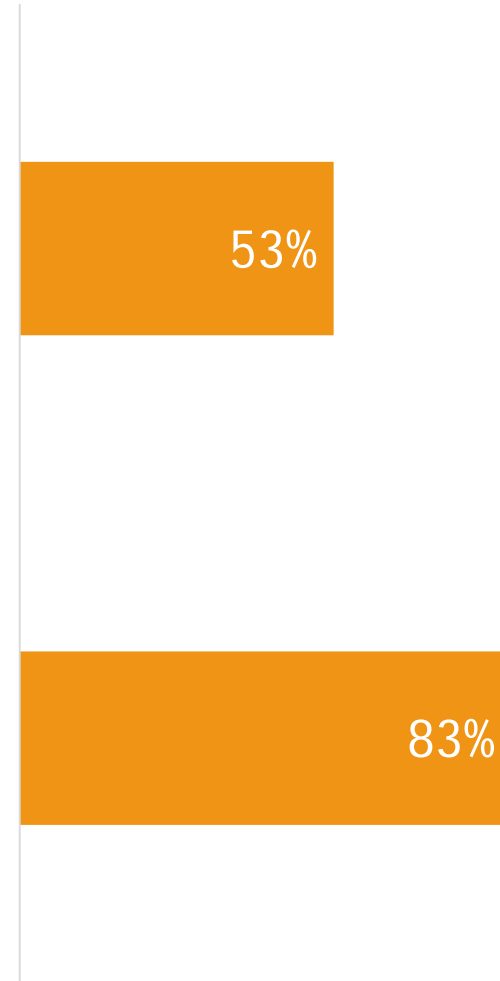
62% of children
were in classrooms
in which Native
Language use was
observed

Native Language Use
was Informal

53%

Native Language Use
was Formal

83%



Less than 25% of Region XI Head Start Children are in Classrooms Using Cultural or Locally-designed Curriculum or Assessment Tools

% of Region XI Children in a Head Start Classroom Using a Native Cultural Curriculum

No, 77.5%

Yes, 22.5%

% of Region XI Children in a Classroom using Locally-designed or Native-specific tool to assess Native Language Development or Cultural Practices

No, 80.5%

Yes, 19.5%

Importance of inclusion of
culture and Native language
for decision making



Importance of Native Language in the Context of Revitalization



Tribal programs choose to participate in Region XI Head Start because of the infusion of our cultures and languages that make our programs unique from non-tribal programs.

And our parents want their children to learn about their Native language and culture in an age appropriate setting.

This is where children begin to find their sense of pride in who they are as native people and to honor and practice their culture and language.

For more information on AI/AN FACES

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For more information on the TRC



www.tribalearlychildhood.org

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