



American Indian and  
Alaska Native

family and child experiences survey

## **Tribal Participatory Research on a National Scale:**

The Story of the First National Study of  
American Indian and Alaska Native Head  
Start

**Presentation at the Child Care and Early Education  
Policy Research Consortium  
Washington, DC**

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# Goals for Today

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- **Brief overview of FACES and motivation for AI/AN FACES**
- **Description of the collaborative processes to design, implement, and disseminate AI/AN FACES**
- **Discussion on approaches and how it can serve as a model for future research**

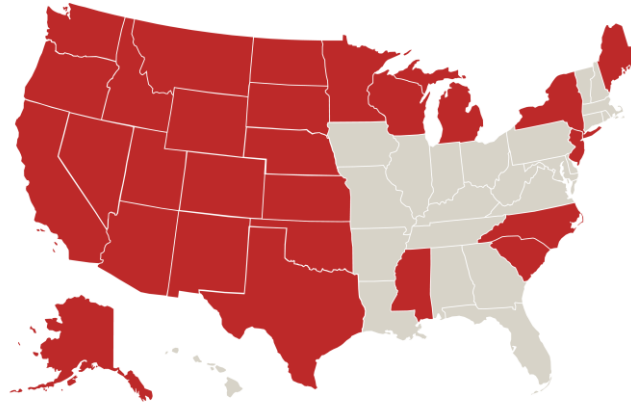
# **The Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES)**

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- **Since 1997, FACES has been a regular source of nationally-representative data on Head Start programs, centers, classrooms, children, and families**
- **With these data, FACES offers a picture of:**
  - **Head Start children's school readiness**
    - Health and physical development
    - Cognitive development
    - Social emotional development
  - **Head Start program performance**
    - Quality
    - Child/family outcomes
- **FACES data are used to:**
  - **Track changes over time in the Head Start population, services, quality, and outcomes**
  - **Identify ways to improve Head Start services**

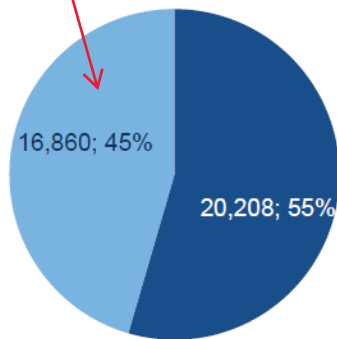
# Region XI Head Start: Location & Population Served

States with Region XI Head Start Programs



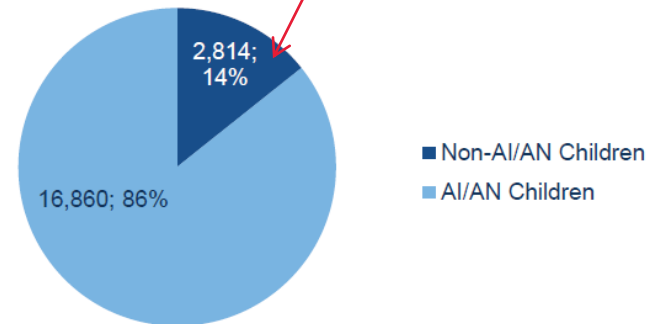
Region XI serves half of the  
AI/AN children in Head Start

37,068 AI/AN Children Served by  
Regions I-XI Head Start in 2014-2015



Region XI also serves some  
non-AI/AN children

19,674 AI/AN and Non-AI/AN Children  
Served by Region XI Head Start in 2014-2015



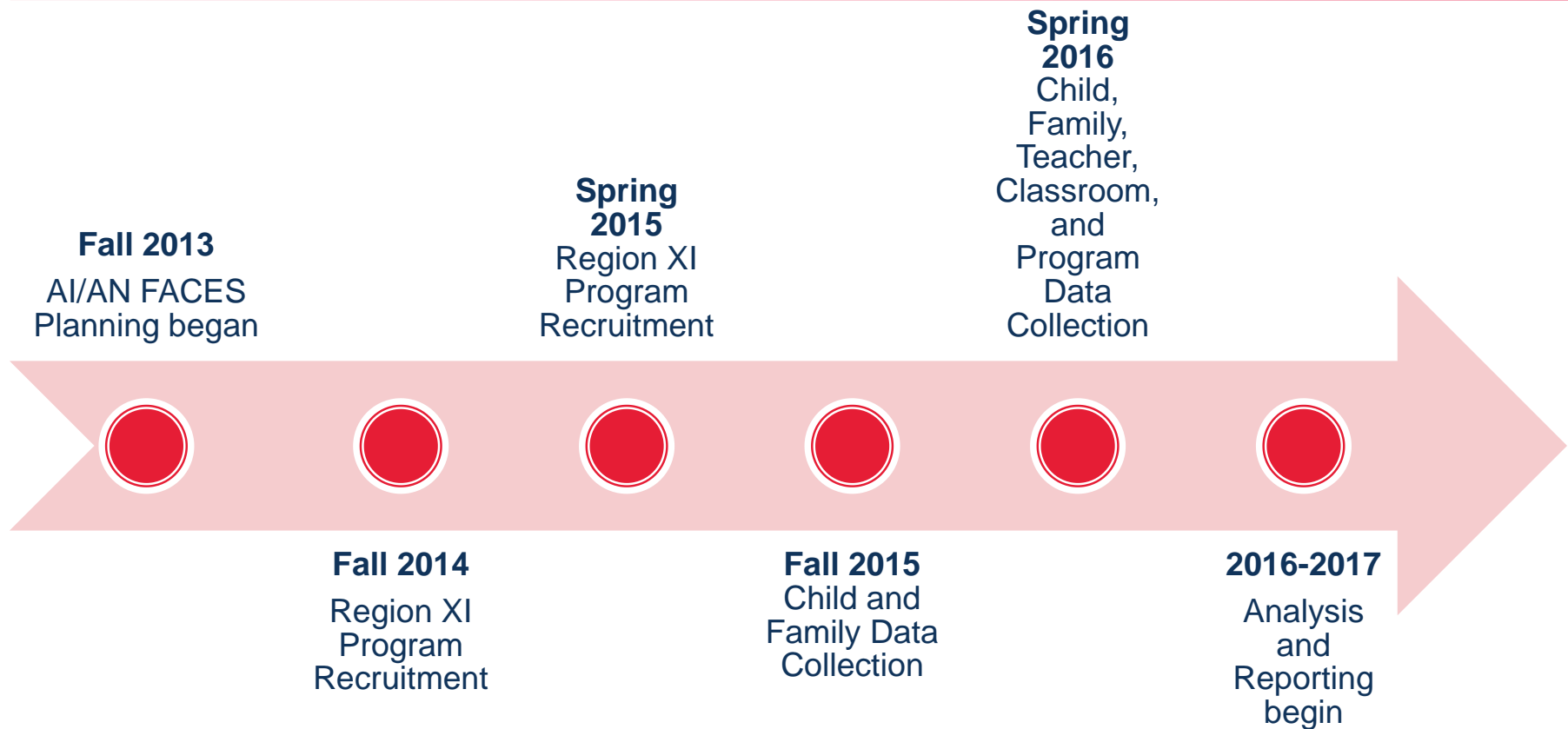
Source: Head Start Program Information Report

# Historically, Region XI Head Start programs have not been included in FACES

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- **Reasons**
  - Tribal concerns about research
  - Unique protocols for research involving sovereign tribal nations
  - Resource-intensive nature of planning and implementing study according to best tribal practices
- **As a result**
  - National descriptions of Head Start do not include the experiences of Region XI programs, children, and families
  - Region XI lacks important national-level data on the children and families they serve – without which they are at disadvantage for knowing the needs of children and families or how best to meet those needs

# AI/AN FACES Timeline



# The American Indian and Alaska Native FACES Workgroup



# Collaboration = Time + Dedication

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- **First AI/AN FACES Workgroup convening: December 2013, National Museum of the American Indian**
- **Since then ...**
  - **15+ in-person events, including:**
    - AI/AN FACES Workgroup
    - OHS tribal consultation
    - Conference presentations
    - Other stakeholder meetings/presentations, such as the STAC and NCAI
  - **180+ phone calls/virtual meetings**
    - AI/AN FACES Workgroup monthly calls
    - Scheduled and ad hoc working group calls



# What do we want to know?

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- **AI/AN FACES collaborative design process**

## **Guidance on Study Design**

- What is the population of interest?
- What do we want to know?
- How do we measure it?
- How might AI/AN FACES align, adapt or add to the FACES design?
  - Developing new measures

## **Sensitive Engagement with Tribal Communities**

- Engaging Head Start and tribal leaders nationally

# How did we conduct the study?

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- **AI/AN FACES culturally-grounded implementation**

## **Recruiting Programs and Engaging Individuals**

- Review study recruitment materials sent to selected programs (for example, “Agreement of Collaboration and Participation”)
- Initial program outreach to programs pairs
- Engage programs and staff
- Engage children and families

## **Study Methods**

- Discussion on how to collect data: in-person, phone, or web options
- Tokens of appreciation
- Cross-cultural understanding training of field staff co-developed and co-led
- Videos of AI/AN children and classrooms for additional grounding
- Observation training onsite at a tribal Head Start program

# How will we share our findings?

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- **AI/AN FACES continued engagement for dissemination**

## **Data Reporting**

- Developing analytic and dissemination priorities
- Reviewing findings and products
- Presenting to various audiences

## **Data Access**

- Developing procedures for data access
- Reviewing future researchers' plans to request data

# Beyond Cultural Sensitivity

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- **Uniting different perspectives and talents for the same cause**
- **Building relationships through face-to-face interactions and maintaining them through ongoing virtual contact**
- **Raising challenging questions in the context of trusting relationships**
- **Asking questions and knowing the trusting relationships make any question okay**
- **Achieving peer learning for all**

# Acknowledgments

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- Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation and Office of Head Start staff
- AI/AN FACES Workgroup
- The 21 Region XI Head Start programs, staff, families, and communities

# For More Information

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Visit the AI/AN FACES website at

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/research/project/american-indian-and-alaska-native-head-start-family-and-child-experiences-survey-faces>



### American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (AI/AN FACES)

Nationally, about 35,575 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and their families are served by Head Start. Just over half of these children and families are served by 150 AI/AN Head Start programs in Region XI. While we have a wealth of information about Head Start children and families in general, we have little information about those who attend Head Start programs in Region XI, which includes both Native and non-Native children. A major source of descriptive information on Head Start—the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES)—has not historically included Region XI programs, children and families. As a result, we have little data to assess the service needs of the children and families in Region XI and to help inform policies and practices for addressing these needs. The American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (AI/AN FACES) is designed to fill this information gap with tribal voices at the forefront.

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation are planning a study of Region XI children, families and programs that is responsive to the needs of Region XI Head Start. The study design reflects advice from members of the AI/AN FACES Workgroup, comprised of Region XI Head Start directors, researchers, and federal officials. Twenty-two Region XI Head Start programs are currently being recruited to participate in the first AI/AN FACES study, which will start fall 2015.



# Questions for Discussion

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## Design:

- When does engagement begin?
- How deep does engagement go?

## Implementation:

- What approaches are needed for culturally-grounded engagement of communities?
- How will the study be conducted? Who will collect the data?

## • Dissemination:

- Who do you involve in dissemination? How do you involve community partners in dissemination?
- What is the best way to report findings to different audiences?
- How do you ensure appropriate and transparent use of data?
- How do you reach out to indigenous scholars to use the data?