

Broadband in Indian Country

American Indian Policy Institute
Arizona State University

July 2024

Agenda



About AIPI

Tribal Nations

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Q & A

American Indian Policy Institute

Arizona State University





American Indian Policy Institute

Arizona State University

Leading the discourse on Tribally-driven, informed policymaking.

Mission

Leading the discourse for Tribally-driven, informed policy-making.

We accomplish our mission by translating research and policy analysis into applied knowledge, creating partnerships between academia and Indian Country, serving communities via innovative capacity-building initiatives and driving change through community embeddedness

Vision

We are fully committed to Tribally-driven participatory research in which tribal governments identify their own research needs and seek out collaborations with the university. As part of Tribally-driven participatory research, the Policy Institute responds to Tribal research direction and empowers Tribal Nations, tribal communities and American Indian students through projects that support self-determination and build Tribal capacity.

Values

We strive to provide thought leadership on American Indian policy in order to enhance our local impact and social embeddedness serving Native Nations. By providing progressive policy analysis, research, and executive education. We seek to elevate Native Nations in local, regional, national and global communities while creating a dynamic dialogue through multiple communication modalities.

Traci Morris

Ph.D. (Chickasaw)

Executive Director,

American Indian Policy Institute

Dr. Morris, the executive director of the American Indian Policy (AIP) Institute at Arizona State University is a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. Under her leadership, the AIP has grown and diversified its service to Indian Country providing policy analysis, Tribally driven research, and economic development capacity building and working with such Indian Country partners as [NCAI](#), [NAFOA](#), and [AISES](#).



EJ John

J.D. (Navajo)

**Policy & Research Analyst,
American Indian Policy Institute**

AIPI's Policy & Research Analyst and is a member of the Navajo Nation from Vanderwagen, New Mexico. He received his J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2016 with a concentration in Indian Law. Prior to that, E.J. received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of New Mexico in 2013. Before joining AIPI, He worked for the Navajo Nation as a Policy Analyst in the Office of Navajo Government Development.

Email: ej.john@asu.edu



Intro to Tribal Nations

U.S. Tribal Demographics

- 574 Federally Recognized Tribes
- 5,152,064 (6% of total population)
- 100 million acres under American Indian or Alaska Native control
 - 334 Reservations
 - 35 States
- Median Age: 31.5 (US: 37.6)
- Median Income: \$46,066 (US: \$60,157)

Source: <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/indiancountry/resources/native-community-data-profiles>

AZ Tribal Demographics

- 22 Federally Recognized Tribes
- 20 million acres, 27% of total land ([source](#))
- 338,997 AI/AN alone or in combination ([source](#))

Tribes are Political Entities

- Inherent sovereignty
- Racial v. political classification
- Tribal government
- Relationship to federal government
- Relationship to states

Development in Indian Country

- Community development
 - Housing
 - Roads/bridges
 - Utilities
 - Schools/Tribal colleges
 - Healthcare
- Economic development
 - Natural resources
 - Gaming/hospitality
 - Other Tribal enterprises

Broadband Access on Indian Country

Current Data

- FCC (2021)
 - 71.9% of people on Tribal Lands have broadband access (Compared to 82.7% in other rural areas)
 - 67.3% of Tribes in the contiguous U.S. have access to broadband
 - 46.5% of people on Tribal lands subscribe to home internet service
- Tribal Technology Assessment (2019)
 - 35% have a personal smartphone
 - 29% rely on a cell phone subscription for home Internet access
 - 36% use a phone company for home Internet access
 - 12% use a cable company for home Internet access

Wired Connections

- Fiber
 - Download: 250 - 1000 Mbps
 - Upload: 250 - 1000 Mbps
- Cable
 - Download: 10 - 500 Mbps
 - Upload: 5 - 50 Mbps
- DSL/Wireless
 - Download: 5 - 35 Mbps
 - Upload: 1 - 10 Mbps

Source: [BroadbandNow.com](https://www.broadbandnow.com)

Barriers to development

- Geography
- Cost
- Lack of investment
- Land held in trust
- Rural communities



[Poor housing harms health in American Indian and Alaska Native communities \(2022\)](#)

Q & A

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