

# **The Socio-Economic Status of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Nebraska**



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Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**

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The Socio-Economic Status of  
Nebraska American Indians and Alaska Natives

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## Executive Summary

In order to capture the *socio-economic* status of Nebraska's American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population, we must first consider the variables or data criteria through data collection on populations assembled by this Office. Then for a true picture to develop, contrast those findings, in some cases with those for all Nebraskans; but in all cases, show the contrast between this minority population and the Non-Hispanic/Latino White (hereinafter referred to as White) majority population.

The AI/AN population was younger than the total Nebraska population and the White population.

A larger proportion of the AI/AN were divorced or never married as compared to that of the White population.

The American Indians and Alaska Natives women had a higher fertility rate than that of Non-Hispanic White women.

AI/AN had a higher proportion of households that were single parent female than Whites.

A higher percentage of AI/AN grandchildren lived with their grandparents who were responsible for their care, as compared with White grandparents.

Nearly 10% more AI/AN between the ages of 16 to 64 had a disability, compared with the same age groups for Whites.

In contrast with Non-Hispanic Whites, the American Indian and Alaska Native population was about 5% more likely to be foreign born.

Roughly 37% foreign-born AI/AN (or in combination with one or more other races) entered the United States in the year 2000 or later, 23% entered between 1990 and 1999; and about 40% arrived before 1990. In comparison, about half of foreign-born Whites entered the United States prior to 1990.

Among AI/AN or in combination with one or more races ages 5yrs. and older in 2006, about 12% spoke a language other than English at home. This is compared to about 2.7% of Whites ages 5 yrs. and older who spoke a language other than English at home. It was also reported that roughly 5% of AI/AN children spoke English less than *very well* as compared to 0.7% of their White counterparts.

Nebraska AI/AN enrolled 9% more children in elementary school, 5% more in high school, roughly about 4% more in nursery school and kindergarten, but 17% less in college or graduate school than Whites.

A lower percentage of the American Indian and Alaska Native females ages 25 and older had a Bachelor's Degree or higher education than that of Non-Hispanic White females ages 25 and older.

A higher proportion (roughly 11.7%) of the AI/AN population ages 16 years and older were unemployed than Whites ages 16 and older (about 2.8%).

AI/AN were more likely to work in service, construction, production, transportation, and material moving occupations, and less likely to work in management, professional, and related occupations than Whites.

The median yearly income of American Indian and Alaska Native households from 2005 to 2007, was about \$27,625. This was about \$21,297 less than the median income of Non-Hispanic White household which was \$48,922.

Approximately 36% of AI/AN were living below the poverty level in the 24 months prior to being surveyed as compared with roughly 9% of Whites.

Roughly 41% of AI/AN households lived in owner-occupied homes and about 59% lived in renter-occupied homes. In comparison, about 71% of White households lived in owner-occupied homes.

For AI/AN or in combination with one or more races, the median value of owner-occupied homes was \$74,600, which is lower than the median value (\$120,500) of owner-occupied homes for White households.

American Indian and Alaska Native workers were more likely than Non-Hispanic White workers to carpool, walk, or use other means of transportation to work.

AI/AN or in combination with one or more races tended to have more children (38.2%), other relatives (10%), or non-relatives (7%) in the household than Whites, Whites alone, and total Nebraskan.

23.6% of AI/AN or in combination with one or more races were more likely to be employed in government occupations, and less likely to be self-employed or work for private sectors than 14.7% of Whites.

A larger proportion of the American Indians and Alaska Natives or in combination with one or more races owned houses built before 1980 as compared to Non-Hispanic Whites.

In this report American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) represents one single race. For some items when the sample size is too small to analyze data for single race, we use AI/AN or in combination with one or more races.

This report is meant to serve as a data resource for the tribal communities in Nebraska, and for those who work for and with American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) people in Nebraska. The purpose for writing this report was to provide a one-stop resource data book, so that individuals interested in this type of AI/AN data could go to one source for multiple pieces of information. It is hoped that in future editions, data will be added to this report and provide a more comprehensive look at AI/AN socio-economic status in Nebraska.

## **Introduction**

This report presents a portrait of the American Indian and Alaska Native population in Nebraska, and provides critical information on social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics for the Nebraska American Indian and Alaska Native community. The data presented here can be seen as a *snap shot* of this population in time. While the population itself may experience statistically significant growth overall, often the various components of socioeconomic status do not.

Imagine the rungs on the ladder as depicting the resources needed to live life healthy, well, and secure. Education, comfortable & affordable housing, social and familial relationships, income, and employment, place people on this ladder. Likewise, others experience generational poverty, extended periods of unemployment, poor education, low wages, and sub-standard housing. In using the data presented here, rather than seeing health disparities solely as the result of a genetic determinant, it shows socio-economic determinants also directly impact the health status of a population. Hopefully, as inequities and inequalities are addressed through better social policies, the ladder to better health outcomes will shrink, and rungs will be within reach, as more people experience greater access to; education, employment, improved income, housing, etc.

### ***Snapshot of the Minority Population in Nebraska***

Nebraska continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse. Based on the US Census Bureau's estimates<sup>1</sup>, in 2007, the population of Nebraska was 1,774,571. Minorities represented 15.5% of the total population. Hispanics were the largest minority group at 7.5% of the state population. African Americans were the second-largest minority group at 4% of the state population, followed by Asians at 1.7%, and American Indians or Alaska Natives at 1%. The minority population in Nebraska has been increasing much more rapidly than the non-Hispanic (NH) White population. According to the US Census Bureau, from 2000 to 2007, Nebraska's racial and ethnic minority population grew from 214,152 to 274,191, a 28% increase. During this same period, the non-Hispanic White population increased by only 0.2%<sup>2</sup>.

In the mid 1990's, the United States Census projections for the State of Nebraska's minority populations were expected to reach a high of 14.4% of the total population<sup>3</sup> by the year 2025. In 2005, 20 years ahead of those projections, the racial ethnic minority population of Nebraska was estimated to be 14.6%.

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<sup>1</sup>Source: Population Division, US Census Bureau, Estimates of the Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States and States: July 1, 2007. Release Date: May 1, 2008

<sup>2</sup>Source: Population Division, US Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for Nebraska: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007. Release Date: May 1, 2008

<sup>3</sup>Source: Population Division US Census Bureau, Projected State Populations by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995-2025. Release Date: October 1996.

The American Indian and Alaska Native population increased from 12,410 in 1990 to 15,634 in 2000, to 17,576 in the year 2007. In 1990, the population of Nebraska was 1,578,385. Of that number, the AI/AN population accounted for 0.7%. In 2000, the population of Nebraska was 1,711,265 and the AI/AN accounted for 0.9%. In 2007, the population of Nebraska rose to 1,774,571 and the AI/AN population accounted for 1.0% of the total population. A detailed recap is provided in the following table.

**Table 1: Nebraska Population by Race and Ethnicity: 2000 and 2007**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Population* Apr.1, 2000</b>	<b>% Population (2000)</b>	<b>Population Jul.1, 2007</b>	<b>%Population (2007)</b>	<b>Change (00-07)</b>	<b>%Change (00-07)</b>
<b>Nebraska Total</b>	1,711,265		1,774,571		63,306	3.7
<b>White Alone</b>	1,585,619	92.7	1,625,144	91.6	39,525	2.5
<b>African American Alone</b>	70,043	4.1	78,581	4.4	8,538	12.2
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native Alone</b>	15,634	0.9	17,576	1.0	1,942	12.4
<b>Asian Alone</b>	22,528	1.3	30,317	1.7	7,789	34.6
<b>NHPI**Alone</b>	993	0.1	1,270	0.1	277	27.9
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	94,425	5.5	133,832	7.5	39,407	41.7
<b>White Non-Hispanic</b>	1,497,113	87.5	1,500,380	84.5	3,267	0.2
<b>Minority Population</b>	214,152	12.5	274,191	15.5	60,039	28.0

Notes: \*2000 Population Estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population from the Count Question Resolution program and geographic program revisions.

\*\* NHPI: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

Minority Population = Total Population - White, Not Hispanic Population.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 population estimates (Release date: May 1, 2008), 2000 Census estimates base.

## ***Race and Ethnicity in the United States Census***

Race and ethnicity in the United States, as defined by the United States Census Bureau and the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB), are: “self-identification data items in which residents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify, and indicate whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino origin (ethnicity).”

The racial classifications were used by the Census Bureau to adhere to the October 30, 1997, Federal Register Notice entitled “Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal

Data on Race and Ethnicity" issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)<sup>4</sup>. The OMB requires five minimum categories (White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) for race. The race categories are described below with a sixth category, "Some other race," added with OMB approval. In addition to the five race groups, the OMB also states that respondents should be offered the option of selecting one or more races. The following definitions are provided by OMB and the US Census Bureau to identify race<sup>5</sup>.

**White:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes people who indicate their race as "White," or report entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Near Easterner, Arab, or Polish.

**Black or African American:** A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. It includes people who indicate their race as "Black or African American," or Negro, or provide written entries such as African American, Afro American, Kenyan, Nigerian, or Haitian.

**American Indian and Alaska Native:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment.

**Asian:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian sub-continent including; for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam. It includes Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Other Asian.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. It includes people who indicate their race as Native Hawaiian, Guamanian, or Chamorro, Samoan, and Other Pacific Islander.

**Some Other Race:** Includes all other responses not included in the "White," "Black or African American," "American Indian and Alaska Native," "Asian," and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," race categories described above. Respondents providing *write-in* entries such as multi-racial, mixed, inter-racial, or a Hispanic/Latino group (for example, "Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or "Cuban") in the "Some other race" write-in space are included in this category. Estimates for the years after 2000 reflect an allocation of this category among the other categories.

**Two or More Races:** People may have chosen to provide two or more races either by checking the two or more race response check boxes, by providing multiple write-in responses, or by some combination of check boxes and write-in responses.

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<sup>4</sup><http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/ombdir15.html>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/ombdir15.html>



Race and ethnicity were considered separate and distinct identities, with Hispanic origin asked as a separate question. Thus, in addition to their race or races, all respondents are categorized by membership in one of two ethnicities: Hispanic/Latino, and Non-Hispanic/Latino. Percentages for the various race categories add up to 100%, and should not be combined with the Hispanic percentage.

**Hispanic/Latino:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South or Central America, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

## **Data Source**

The findings presented in this report are based on the American Community Survey (ACS) sample interviewed between 2005 and 2007. The ACS is a large, continuous demographic survey conducted by the US Census Bureau that will provide up-to-date profiles of America's communities every year. This survey produces yearly demographic, social, economic, and housing data that can be compared across states, communities, and population groups. The 2006 ACS shifted from a demonstration program with a different sample design and sample size to the full sample size and design in 2005. It became the largest household survey in the United States, with an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses. Every year the ACS can support the release of single-year estimates for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or more. The ACS accumulates samples over 3-year intervals to produce estimates for smaller geographic areas including census tracts and block groups<sup>6</sup>. It produces 3-year estimates for geographic areas with a population of 20,000 or more, including the nation, all states and the District of Columbia, all congressional districts, approximately 1,800 counties, and 900 metropolitan and metropolitan statistical areas, among others. The 2006 data release marks the first time that group quarters populations (prisons, college dorms, military barracks, and nursing homes) were included in the ACS data products. Prior to 2006, ACS data only included estimates for the household population<sup>7</sup>.

Every year between 2000 and 2004, the ACS collected information from a sample of over 700,000 addresses in the U. S. In 2005, the ACS began collecting information from approximately 3 million addresses in the United States and 36,000 addresses in Puerto Rico. By 2007, it also included approximately 200,000 people living in group quarters<sup>8</sup>. Table 2 shows ACS sample sizes for Nebraska since 2000<sup>9</sup> (The number of the initial addresses selected for housing units and group quarters population is the 12 month sample for the American Community Survey). The number of final interviews is the actual sample that is used to produce all weighted estimates for the survey year.

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<sup>6</sup><http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/tp67.pdf>

<sup>7</sup><http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2006.pdf>

<sup>8</sup>[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/sse/sam/sam\\_def.html](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/sse/sam/sam_def.html)

<sup>9</sup>[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/acs-php/quality\\_measures\\_sample\\_2007.php](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/acs-php/quality_measures_sample_2007.php)

**Table 2: ACS Sample Sizes for Nebraska, 2000-2007**

Year	<u>Housing Units</u>		<u>Group Quarters People</u>	
	Initial Addresses Selected	Final Interviews	Initial Sample Selected	Final Interviews
2007	24,841	17,694	1,334	1,008
2006	25,254	18,307	1,252	1,036
2005	25,458	18,002	N/A	N/A
2004	11,076	8,108	N/A	N/A
2003	10,993	8,210	N/A	N/A
2002	10,046	7,557	N/A	N/A
2001	14,931	11,357	N/A	N/A
2000	15,154	11,164	N/A	N/A

Notes:

**Housing Units Initial Addresses Selected** - The number of addresses in Nebraska and for the nation that were selected for the ACS sample for a particular year.

**Housing Units Final Interviews** - The final number of interviews across all three modes of data collection for the ACS in a given year for the nation and by state. This number includes occupied and vacant housing units that were interviewed by mail, telephone, or personal visit methods between January 1 and December 31.

**Group Quarters People Initial Sample Selected** - The number of people living in group quarters that could be contacted for ACS interviewing in a given year for the nation and by state.

**Group Quarters People Final Interviews** - The final number of person interviews for the ACS for those living in group quarters in a given year for the nation and by state.

The ACS provides critical information about the characteristics of local communities; it is not designed to count the population. We should use other sources for population counts, such as *Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program*, which produces the official estimates for population in the categories of; age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, for the nation, states, and counties.

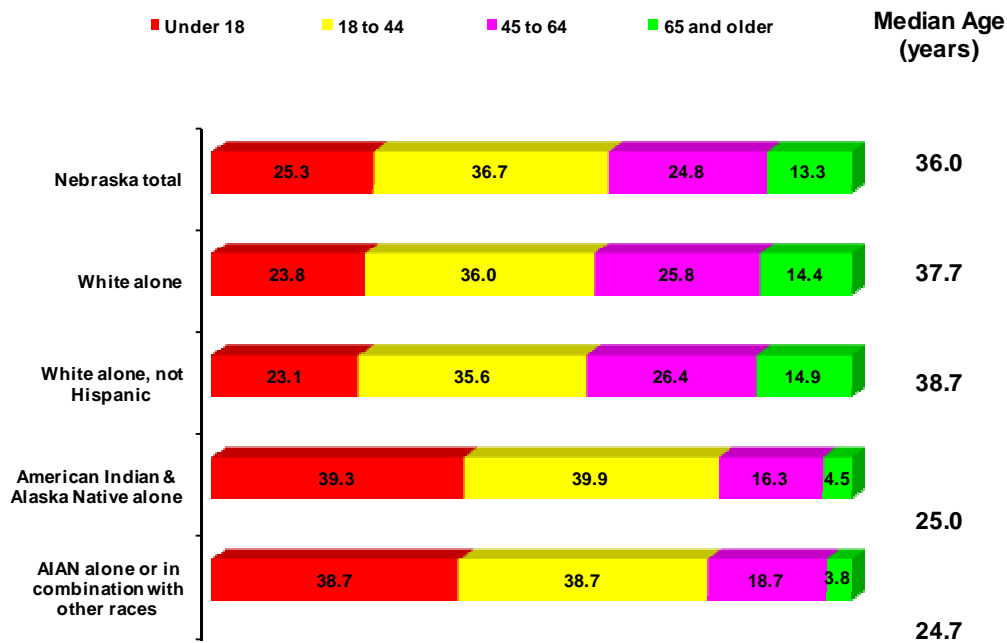
Further information from the 2006 ACS is available on the American Fact Finder from the Census Bureau's web site. More than 1,000 tables are available, including population profiles for race, American Indian and Alaska Native, and ancestry groups.

## Selected Age Groups and Median Age

Between 2005 and 2007, Nebraska American Indians and Alaska Natives had a median age of 25, about 14 years younger than the median age of the Non-Hispanic White population at 38.7 years.

The AI/AN population had a larger proportion of young people, and a smaller proportion of older people than the White population. Roughly 2 out of every 5 AI/AN were children (under 18 years old), compared with 1 in 4 Whites. About 4.5% of AI/AN population were 65 and older, as compared to about 15% of the White population.

**Figure 3: Selected Age Groups and Median Age: 2005-2007**  
(Percent Distribution)



Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.  
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

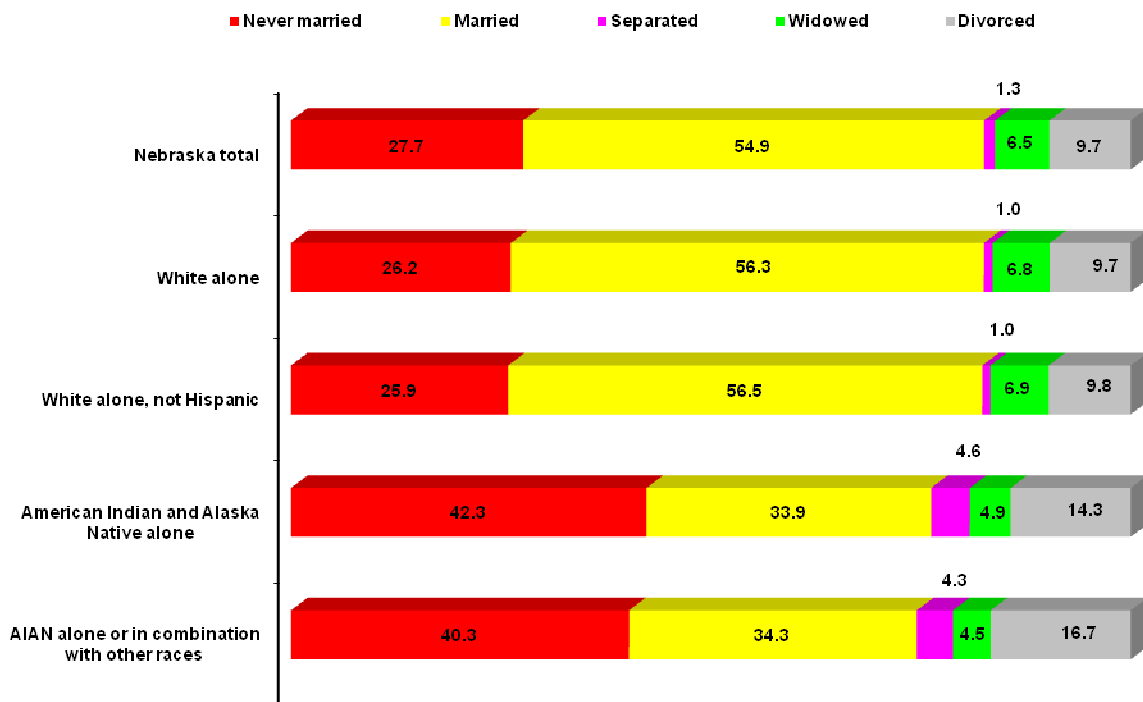
## Marital Status

In looking at marital status, about 42% of AI/AN ages 15 years and older were never married. Whites ages 15 years and older were less likely never to have been married (about 26%).

A larger percentage of AI/AN were divorced (about 14% versus 10% of Whites). A smaller percentage of AI/AN were widowed (about 5% versus 7% Whites).

A higher proportion of AI/AN (about 5%) were separated from their spouse than their White counterparts (about 1%).

**Figure 4: Marital Status: 2005-2007**  
(Percent Distribution)



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

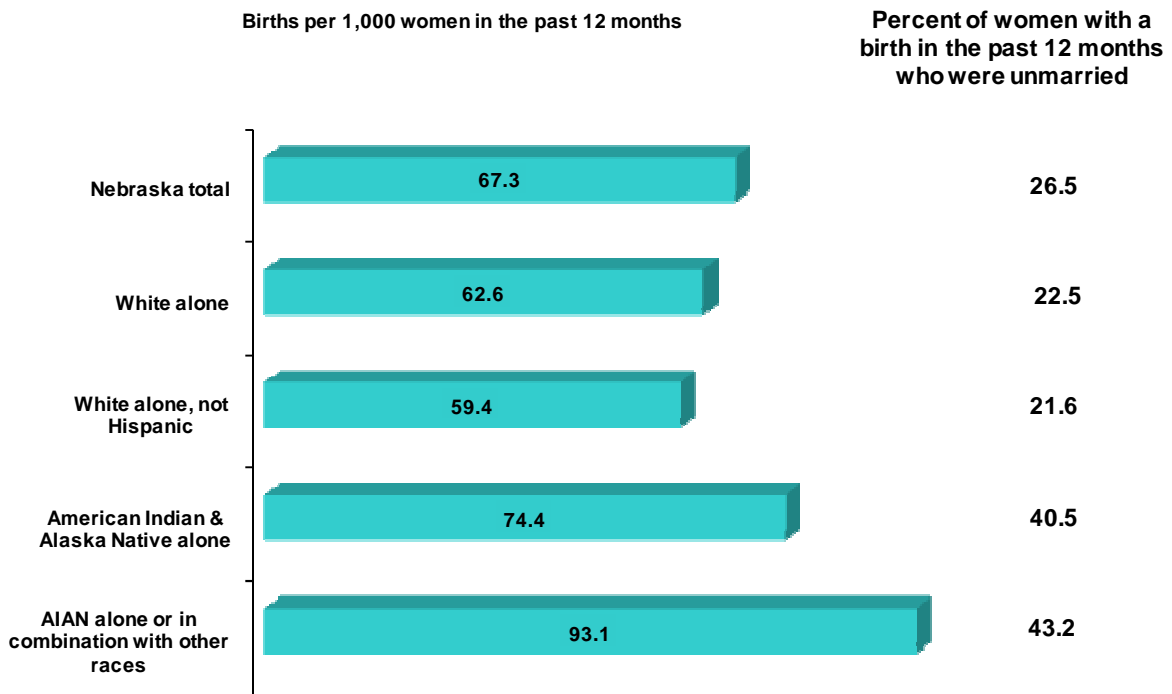
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## **Fertility**

American Indians and Alaska Natives had a higher fertility rate than Non-Hispanic White women. Approximately 74 out of every 1,000 American Indian and Alaska Native alone women ages 15 to 50 had given birth in the 12 months prior to being surveyed during the period of 2005 to 2007, as compared to about 60 out of every 1,000 Non-Hispanic White women in the same age group.

41% of American Indians and Alaska Natives mothers who had given birth were unmarried, compared to about 22% of Non-Hispanic White mothers.

**Figure 5: Fertility: 2005-2007**



Note: Of every 1,000 women ages 15 to 50, the number who had given birth in the 12 months preceding the date of the survey, based on the race of the mother.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Household Type

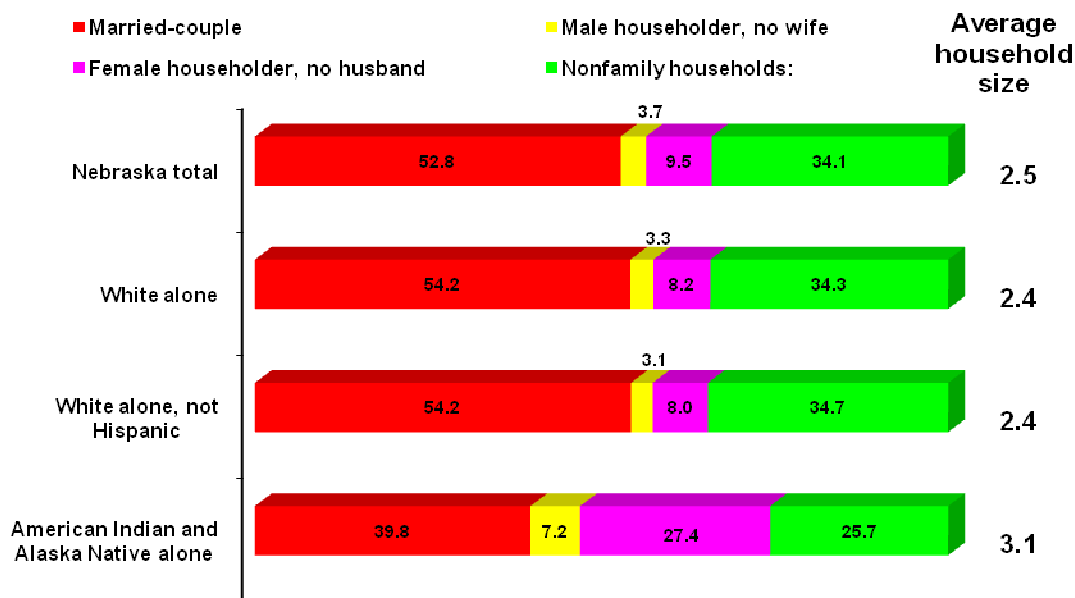
A higher proportion of AI/AN (about 7%) than White households (about 3%) were families maintained by a man with no wife present.

27% of AI/AN households were families maintained by a woman with no husband present, compared with about 8% of White households.

AI/AN households had a smaller percentage of married couple households (about 40%) and non-family households (about 26%), in contrast to White households (about 54% and 35% respectively).

AI/AN households consisted of 3.1 people on average which differed from 2.4 people on average in White households.

**Figure 6: Household Type: 2005-2007**  
(Percent Distribution)



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

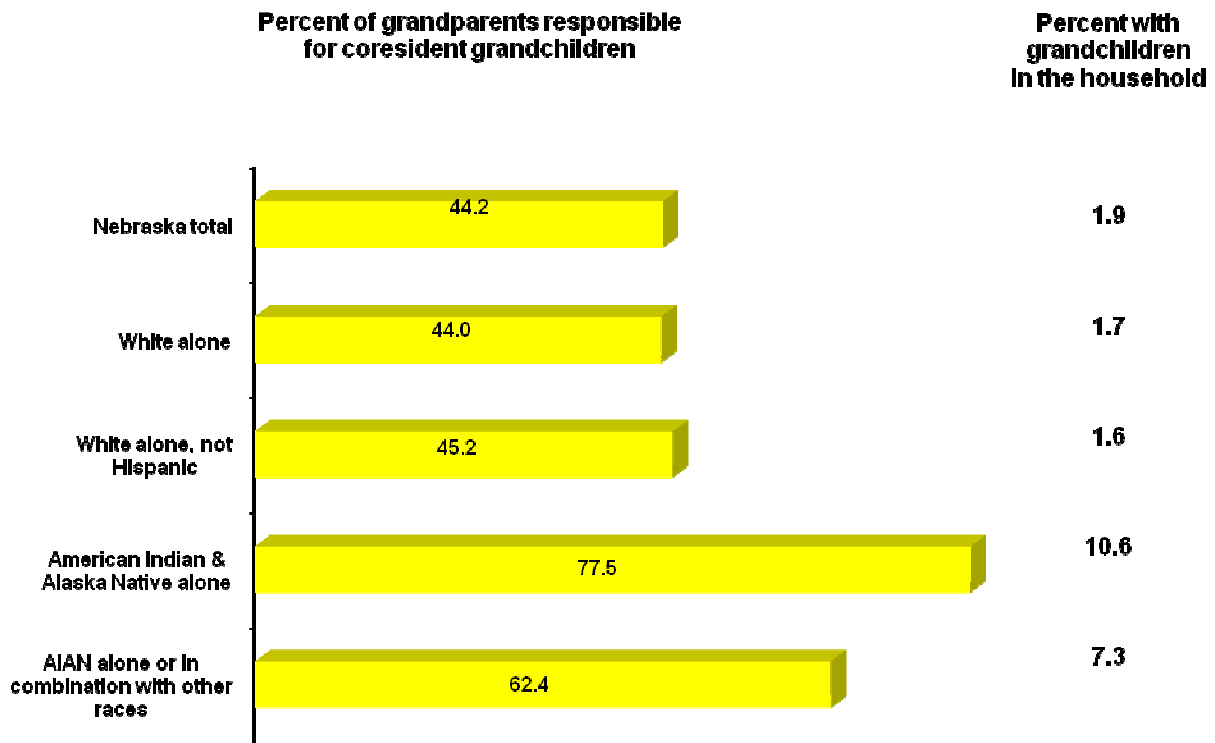
Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

## **Responsibility for Grandchildren**

Roughly 11% of American Indians and Alaska Natives ages 30 and older were grandparents living in the same household with their grandchildren younger than 18. In comparison, roughly 2% of Non-Hispanic Whites ages 30 and older were grandparents living in the same household with their grandchildren younger than 18.

Almost 78% of American Indians and Alaska natives alone grandparents whose grandchildren lived with them, were responsible for their grandchildren’s care in contrast to about 45% of Non-Hispanic White grandparents.

**Figure 7: Responsibility for Grandchildren Under 18 Years Old: 2005-2007**  
(Percent of Grandparents 30 and Older)

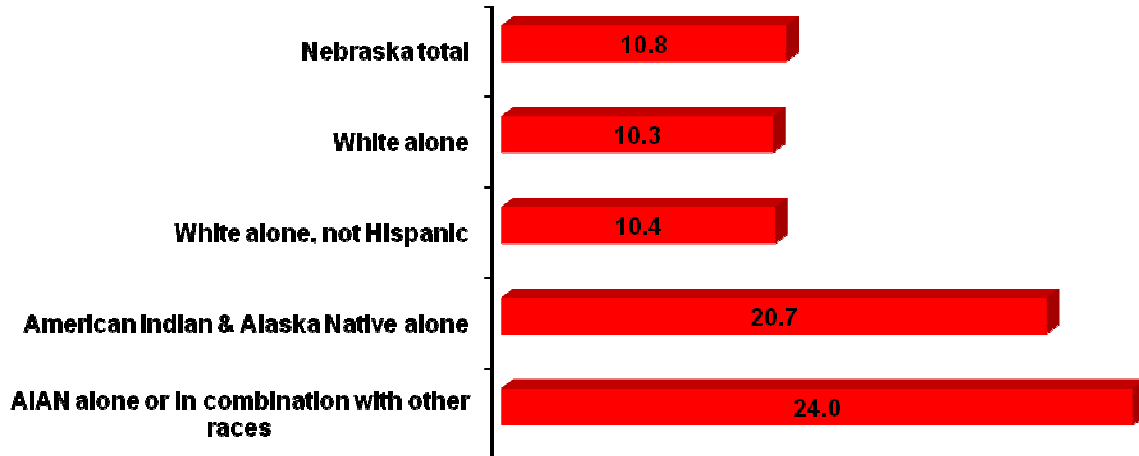


Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.  
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## **Disability Status**

Nearly 21% of AI/AN ages 16 to 64 had a disability, compared with about 10% of Whites ages 16 to 64.

**Figure 8: Disability for Population 16 to 64 years**  
(Percent distribution)



Notes: The Census Bureau introduced a new skip pattern for the disability questions in the 2003 ACS questionnaire. This change mainly affected two individual items -- go-outside-home disability and employment disability -- and the recode for disability status, which includes the two items. Accordingly, comparisons of data from 2003 or later with data from prior years are not recommended for the relevant questions.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

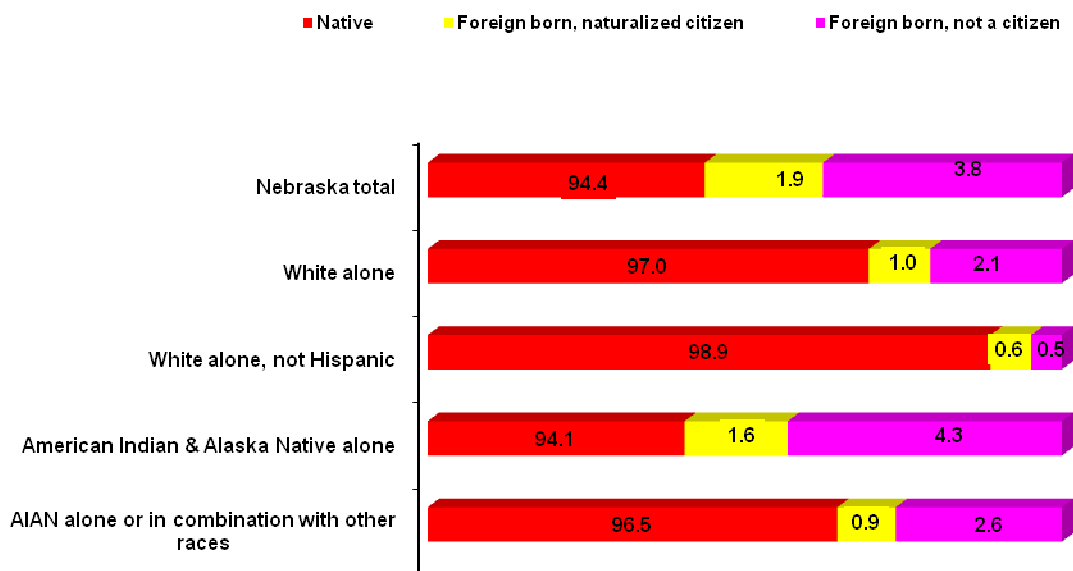


## Nativity and Citizenship Status

Roughly 6% of Nebraska’s AI/AN population was foreign born. Among Whites, only about 1% were born outside the US.

A higher proportion of AI/AN (about 4.3%) were born abroad and are not US citizens as compared to Whites (just 0.5%).

**Figure 9: Nativity and Citizenship Status: 2005-2007**  
(Percent Distribution)



Notes: Nativity is determined by US citizenship status and place of birth. Natives are those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or a US island area (the US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or born abroad of a US citizen parent. All other individuals are considered foreign born.

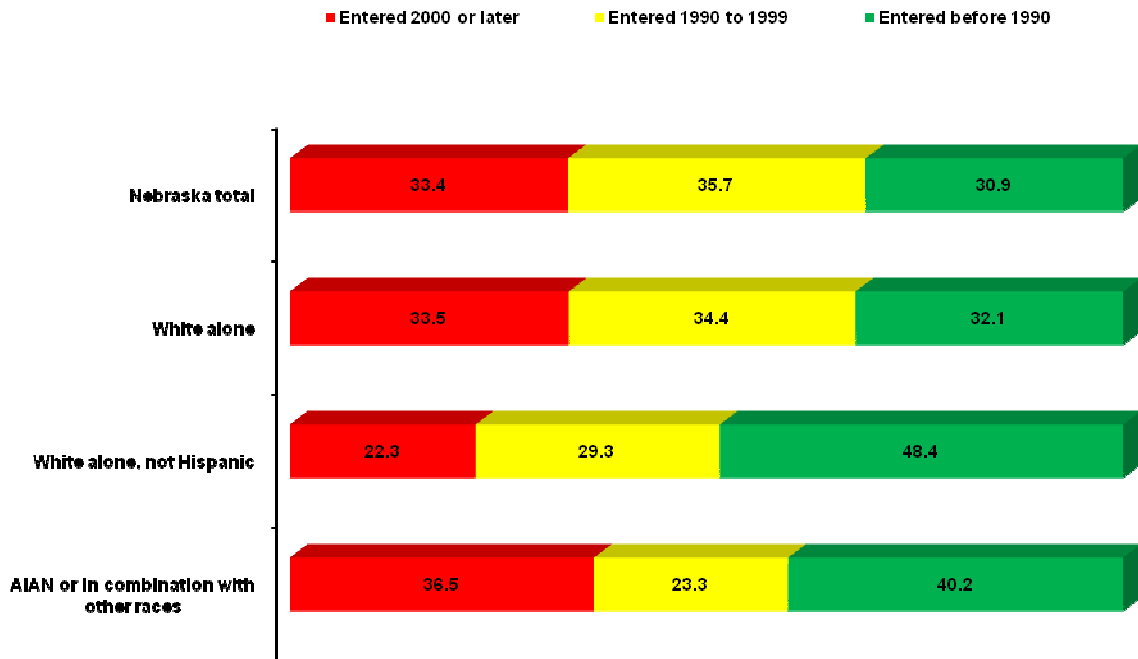
Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## **Foreign Born**

Of those foreign-born American Indians and Alaska Natives or in combination with one or more races about 37% entered the United States in the year 2000 or later, 23% entered between 1990 and 1999, and about 40% arrived before 1990. In comparison, about half of foreign-born non-Hispanic Whites entered the United States prior to 1990.

**Figure 10: Foreign Born by Year of Entry: 2005-2007**  
(Percent Distribution)



Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

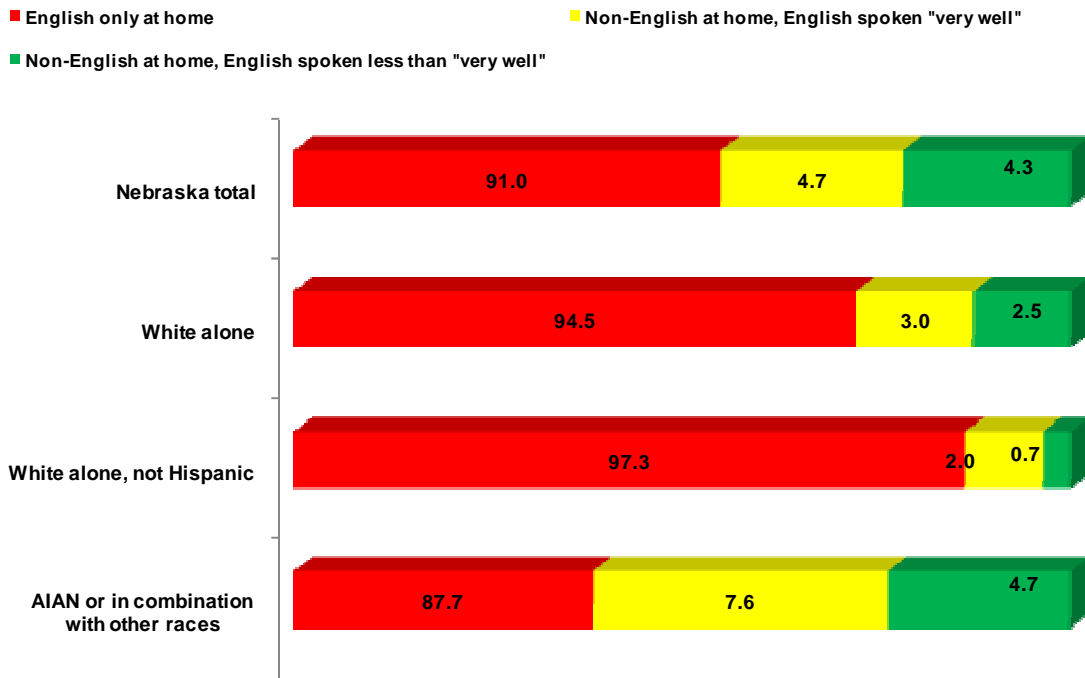
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Language Spoken

Among AI/AN or in combination with one or more races ages 5 and older in 2006, about 12% spoke a language other than English at home. In comparison, about 2.7% of Whites ages 5 and older spoke a language other than English at home.

Roughly 5% of the AI/AN or in combination with one or more races spoke English less than *very well* as compared with 0.7% of their White counterparts.

**Figure 11: Language Spoken at Home\* and English-Speaking Ability: 2005-2007**  
(Percent Distribution of Population 5 and Older)



Notes: \*The language currently used by respondents at home, either "English only" or a Non-English language which is used in addition to English or in place of English. Most respondents who reported speaking a language other than English also spoke English. The questions did not permit a determination of the primary language of persons who spoke both English and another language.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

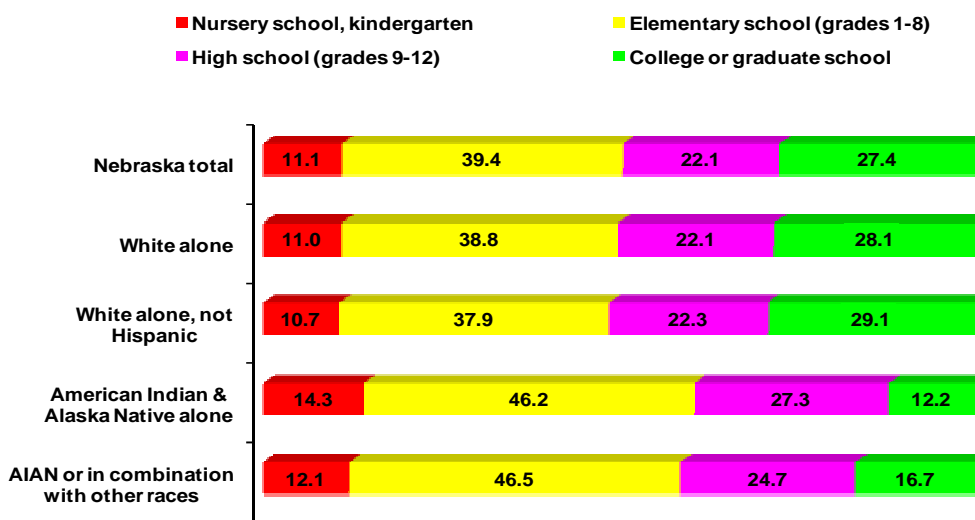
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## School Enrollment

Among Nebraska American Indians and Alaska Natives ages 3 years and over enrolled in school, 14% were enrolled in nursery school and kindergarten, and 46% were enrolled in elementary school (grades 1-8). In comparison, among Non-Hispanics Whites ages 3 years and over nearly 11% were enrolled in nursery school and kindergarten, and 38% were enrolled in elementary school (grades 1-8).

Nebraska American Indians and Alaska Natives enrolled in school; about 27% were enrolled in high school (grades 9-12), and 12% in college or graduate school. In contrast, 22% of Non-Hispanic Whites were enrolled in high school (grades 9-12), and 29% in college or graduate school.

**Figure 12: Population 3 years and Over Enrolled in School: 2005-2007  
(Percent Distribution)**



Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.  
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Educational Attainment

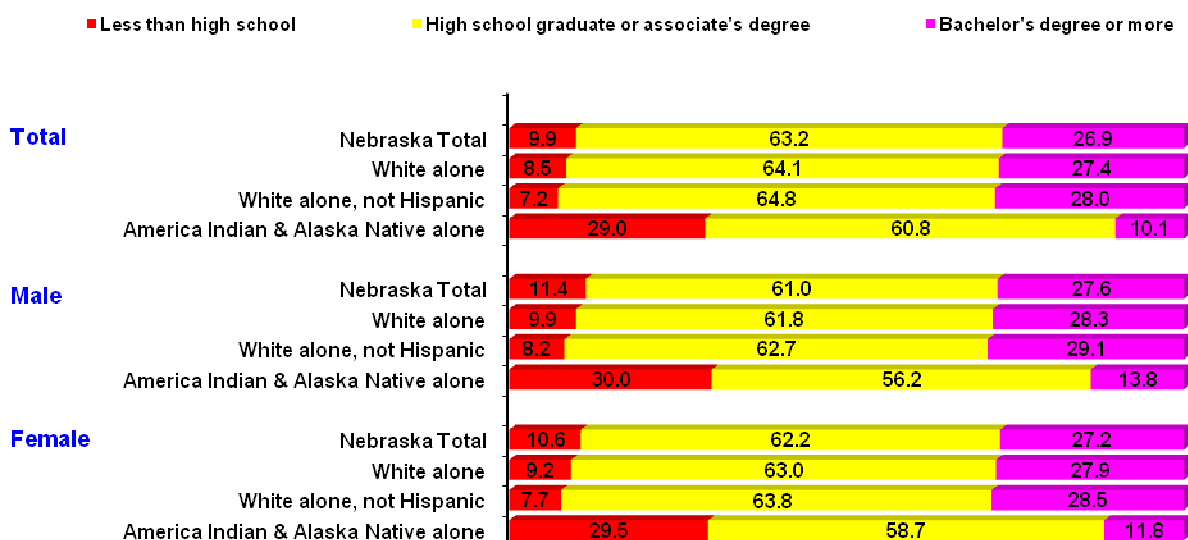
Approximately 29% of AI/AN ages 25 and older were less than high school graduates, and about 10% had a Bachelor's Degree or higher education. Among Whites ages 25 and older, about 7% were less than high school graduates, and about 28% had a Bachelor's Degree or higher education.

Roughly 30% of AI/AN males ages 25 and older had less than a high school education, and nearly 14% had a Bachelor's Degree or higher education. In comparison, White males ages 25 and older about 8% had less than a high school education, and about 29% had a Bachelor's Degree or higher education.

Nearly 30% of AI/AN females ages 25 and older had less than a high school education and roughly 12% had a Bachelor's Degree or higher education. Among White females ages 25 and older, about 8% had less than a high school education and roughly 29% had a Bachelor's Degree or higher education.

Interestingly from the finding, there is no difference between genders for less than high school graduates in AI/AN; both genders hovered around 30% from 2005 to 2007.

**Figure 13: Educational Attainment: 2005-2007**  
(Percent of Population 25 and Older)



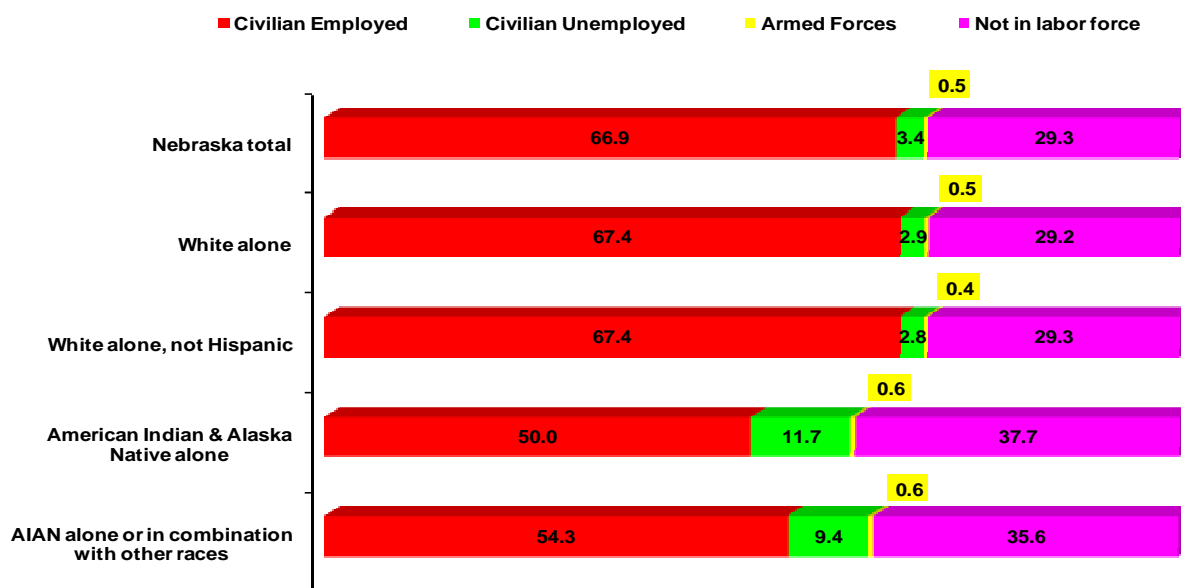
Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

## Employment Status

A higher proportion (about 11.7%) of the American Indian and Alaska Native population ages 16 years and over were civilian unemployed, than Non-Hispanic Whites ages 16 and over (about 2.8%).

Between 2005 and 2007, approximately 62% of Nebraska American Indians and Alaska Natives ages 16 years and over were in the labor force. Compared to 71% of Non-Hispanic Whites 16 years and over in the labor force for the same timeframe.

**Figure 14: Employment Status: 2005-2007**  
(Percent Distribution of Civilian Employed Population 16 and Older)



Notes: The category of “Employed” includes all civilians 16 years old and over who either (1) were “at work” – those who did any work at all during the reference week as paid employees, worked in their own business or profession, worked on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a family farm or in a family business; or (2) were “with a job but not at work”--those who did not work during the reference week but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation, or other personal reasons. Excluded from the employed are people whose only activity consisted of work around the house or unpaid volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations; also excluded are all institutionalized people and people on active duty in the United States Armed Forces.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

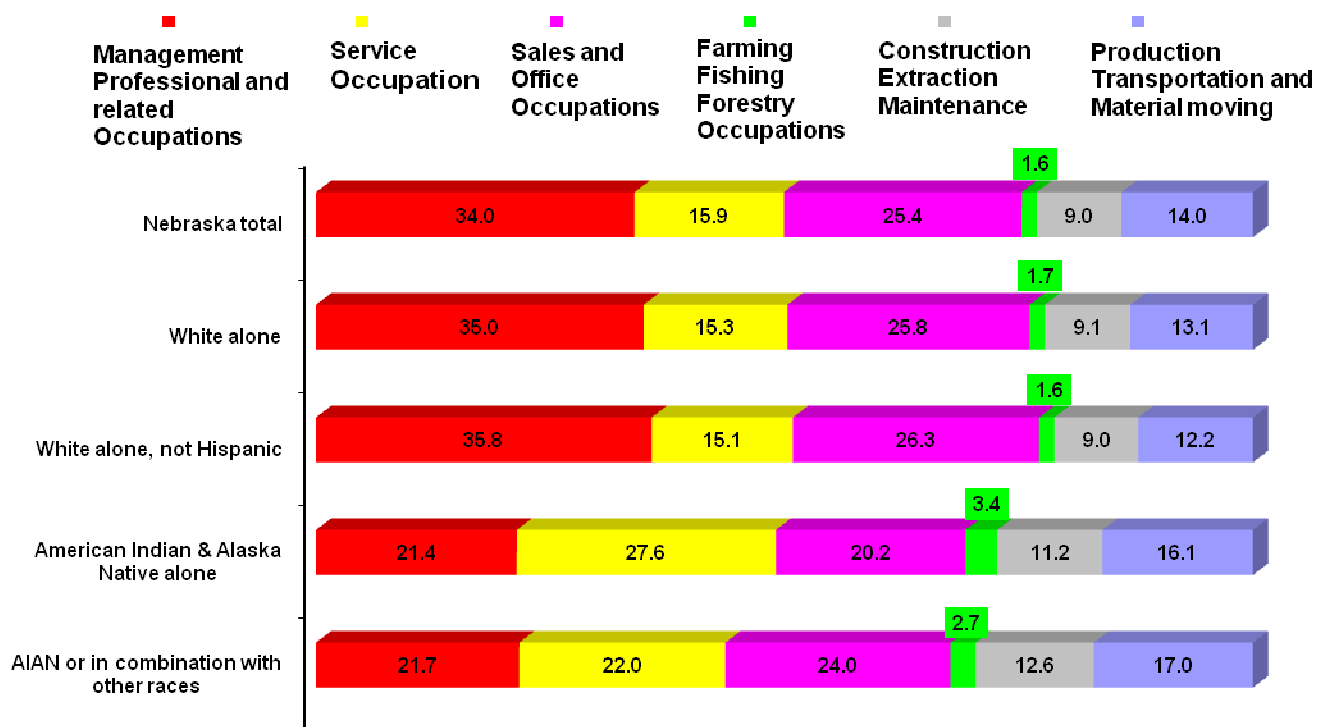
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Occupation

American Indians and Alaska Natives were more likely than Non-Hispanic Whites to work in service, construction, and production jobs. About 28% of civilian employed American Indians and Alaska Natives ages 16 and older worked in service occupations; 11% were in construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations; and approximately 16% were employed in production, transportation, and material moving occupations. In comparison, among civilian employed Non-Hispanic Whites ages 16 and older; 15% worked in service occupations; about 9% worked in construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations; and roughly 12% worked in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

21% of civilian employed American Indians and Alaska Natives ages 16 and older worked in management, professional, and related occupations; compared to 36% of civilian employed Non-Hispanic Whites ages 16 and older.

**Figure 15: Occupation: 2005-2007**  
(Percent Distribution of Civilian Employed Population 16 and Older)



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detail Tables.

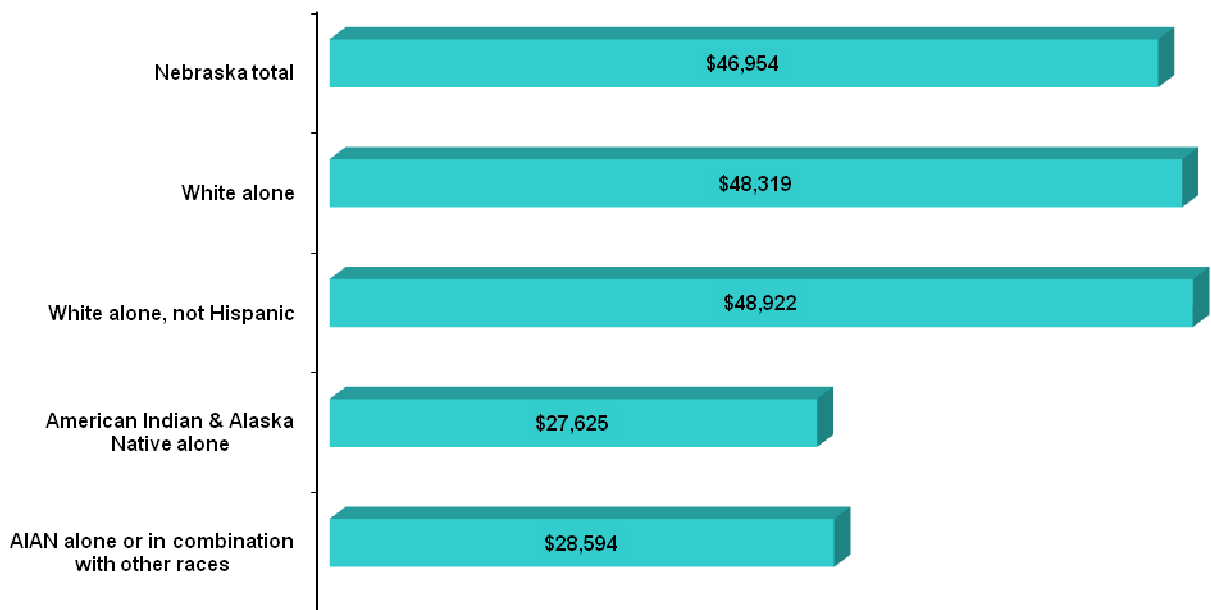
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## **Income**

The median annual income of AI/AN households from 2005 to 2007, was approximately \$27,625. This was about \$21,297 lower than the median annual income for Non-Hispanic White households, which was about \$48,922 (Figure 16).

Here in Nebraska AI/AN had a per capita income of \$10,398; in comparison, Whites had a per capita income of \$25,659 (Table 5).

**Figure 16: Median Household Income: 2005-2007**



Note: Household income in the past 12 months in 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detail Tables.

AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

**Table 5: Per Capita Income in the Past 12 Months\***

	Per Capita Income	Margin of Error
<b>Total</b>	\$23,900	166
<b>White alone</b>	\$25,069	188
<b>White alone, not Hispanic</b>	\$25,659	1,008
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</b>	\$10,398	202

Notes: \*In 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.



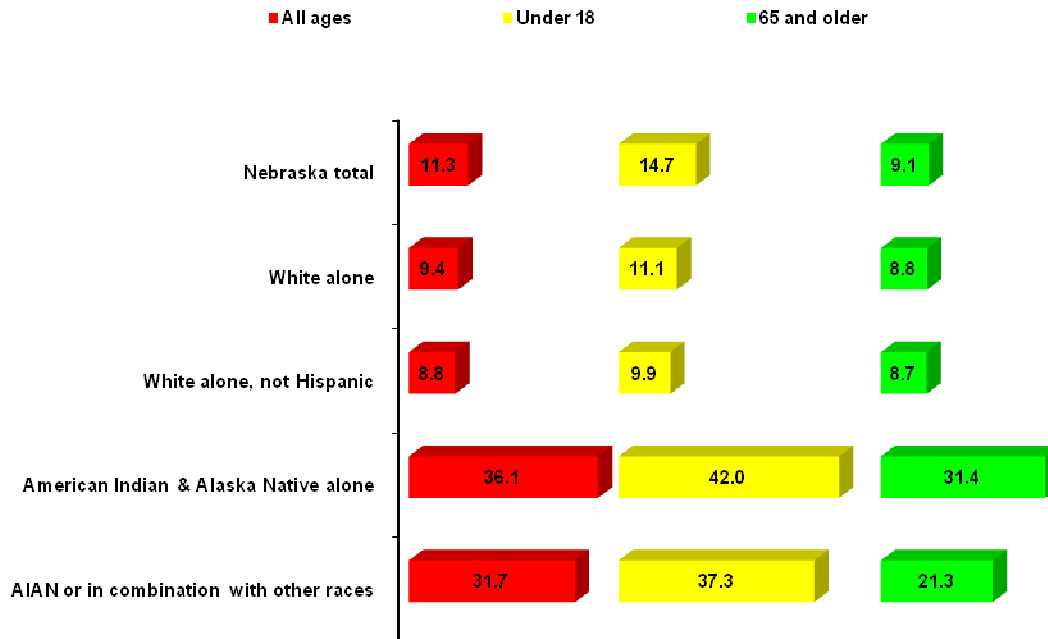
## Poverty

The poverty rate was higher for American Indians and Alaska Natives than for Non-Hispanic Whites. Nearly 36% of American Indians and Alaska Natives were living below the poverty level in the 24 months prior to being surveyed, compared to almost 9% of Non-Hispanic Whites.

The poverty rate was generally higher for American Indian and Alaska Native children (under age 18). Approximately 42% of American Indian and Alaska Native children and 10% of Non-Hispanic White children lived in poverty.

Among those 65 and older, the American Indians and Alaska Natives had a poverty rate of about 31% as compared with about 9% for Non-Hispanic Whites.

**Figure 17: Poverty Rate by Age Group: 2005-2007**  
(Percent of Specific Group in Poverty in the Past 12 Months)



Notes: In accordance with the US Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the threshold for the family, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detail Tables.

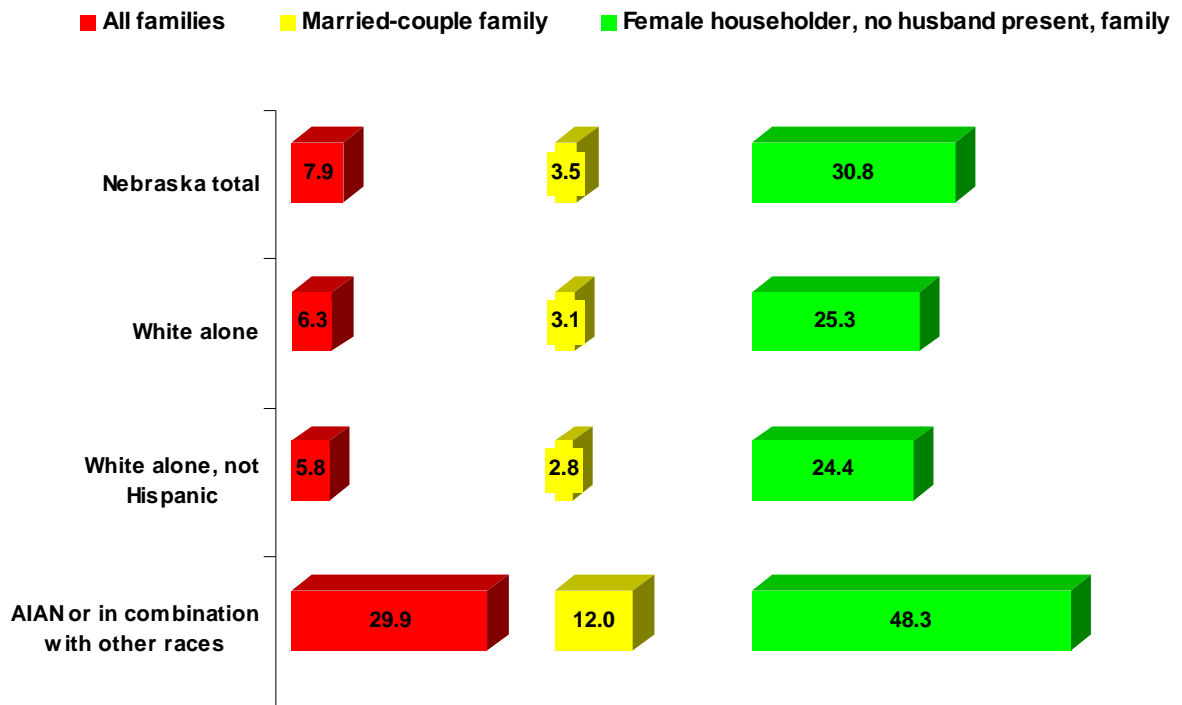
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Poverty Level by Family Type

The poverty rates were higher for families of AI/AN or in combination with one or more races, about 12% of married-couple families were living below the poverty level in the 24 months prior to being surveyed, compared with about 2.8% of White married-couple families.

Among those female head of household with no husband present, AI/AN or in combination with one or more races families had a poverty rate of about 48.3%, compared with that of 24.4% White females.

**Figure 18: Poverty Rate by Family Type: 2005-2007**  
(Percent of Specific Group in Poverty in the Past 12 Months)



Notes: In accordance with the US Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the threshold for the family, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty.

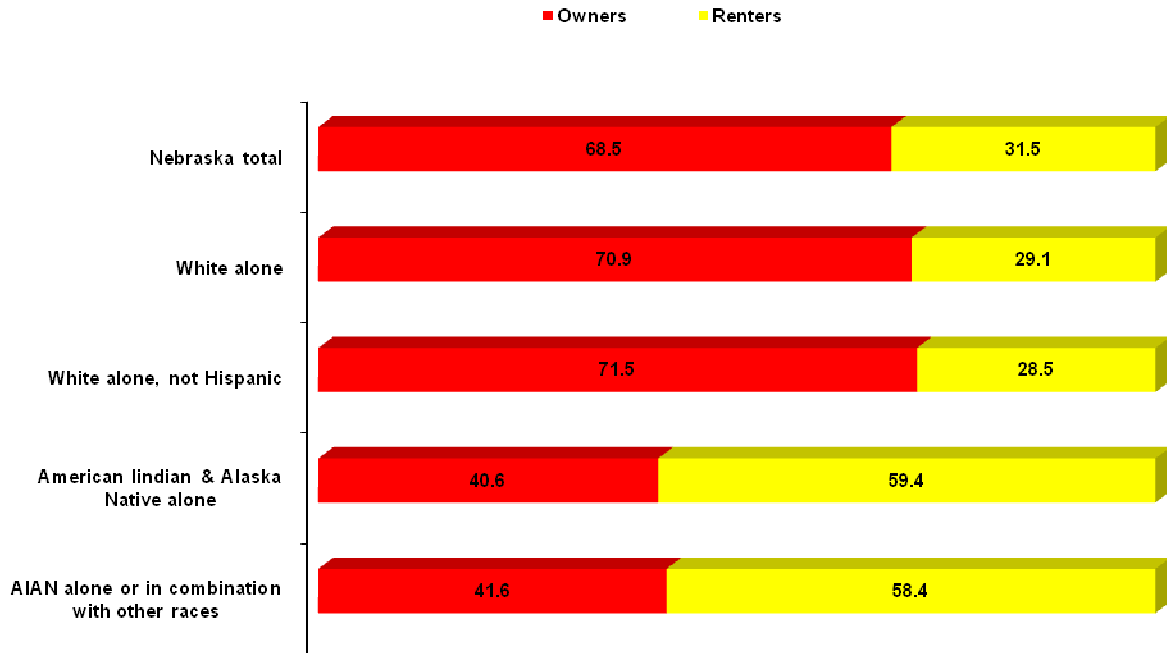
Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detail Tables.

AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Housing Tenure

Roughly 41% of American Indian and Alaska Native households lived in owner occupied homes, whereas almost 59% lived in renter occupied homes. In comparison, about 72% of Non-Hispanic White households lived in owner occupied homes.

**Figure 19: Housing Tenure: 2005-2007  
(Percent of Occupied Housing Units)**



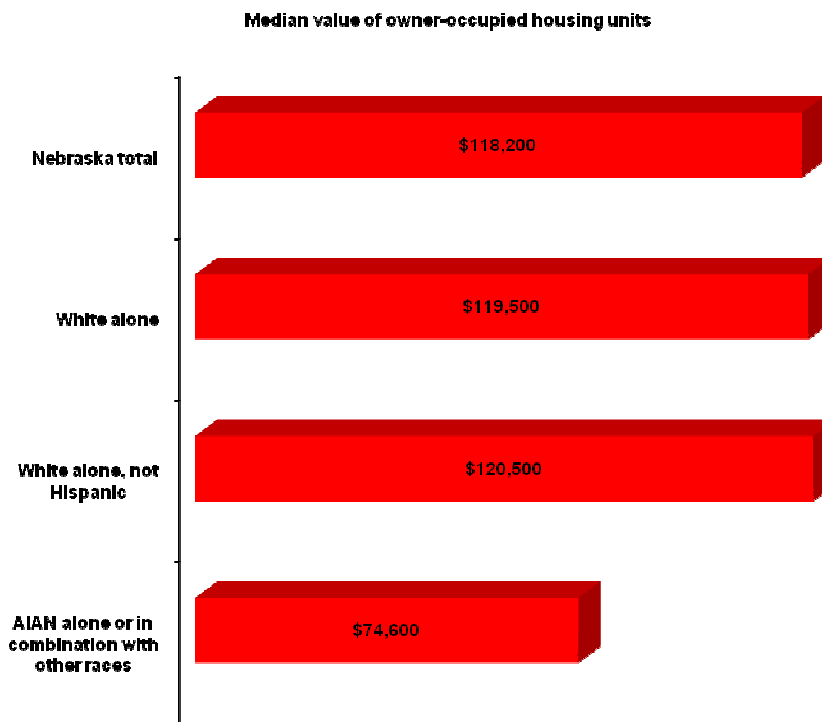
Note: Housing tenure is shown by the race and Hispanic origin of the householder.  
Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detail Tables.  
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## **Median House Value and Median Rent**

For AI/AN or in combination with one or more races, the median value of owner occupied homes was \$74,600, which was lower than the median value of owner occupied homes for White households (\$120,500).

The median monthly rental payment by AI/AN or in combination with one or more races households in renter occupied homes was about \$543, which was lower than the median rental payment of \$611 for White households.

**Figure 20: Selected Housing Characteristics: 2005-2007**

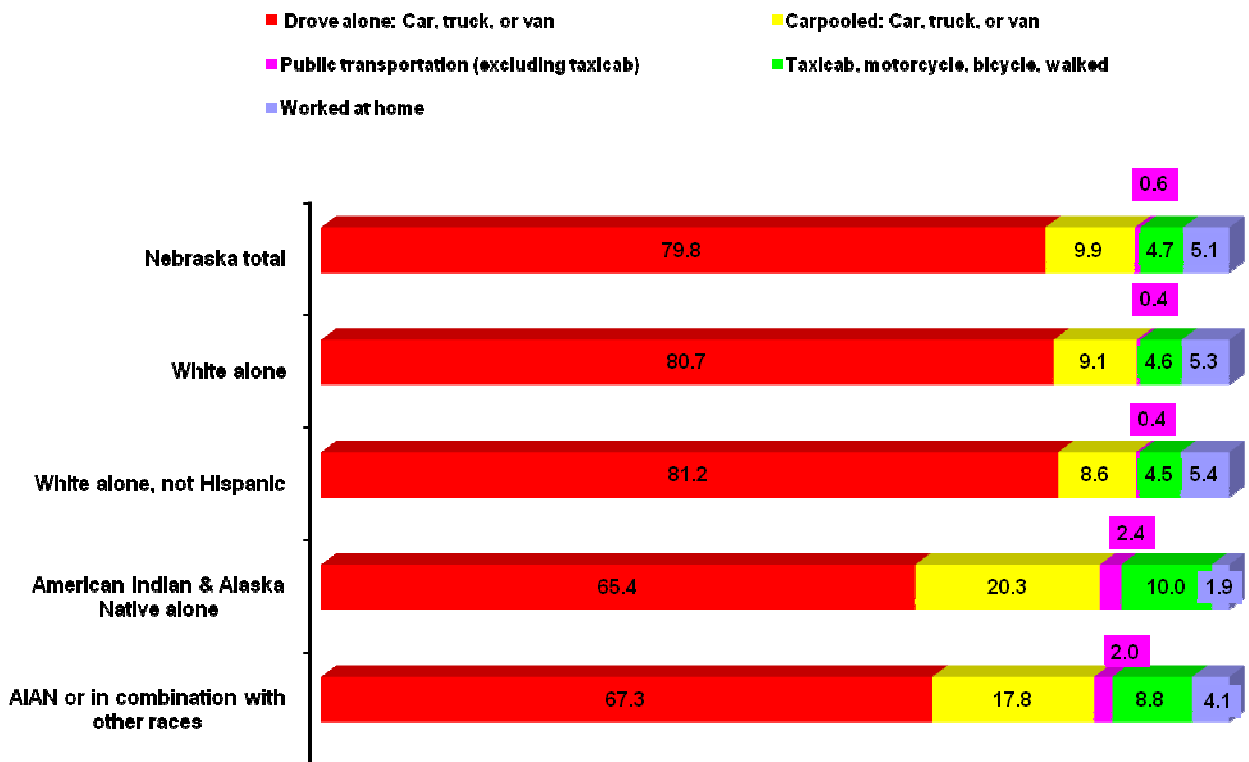


Note: Housing units are classified by the Hispanic origin and race of the householder.  
Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detail Tables.  
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Commuting to Work

American Indian and Alaska Native workers were far more likely than Non-Hispanic White workers to carpool to work (from 2005 to 2007, about 20%). Among Non-Hispanic White workers ages 16 and older, roughly 9% carpooled to work. American Indian and Alaska Native workers were more likely than Non-Hispanic White workers to walk to work, or take other means of transportation. Non-Hispanic Whites were more likely to work at home than were American Indian and Alaska Native workers.

**Figure 21: Commuting to Work: 2005-2007**  
(Percent of Workers 16 and Older)



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

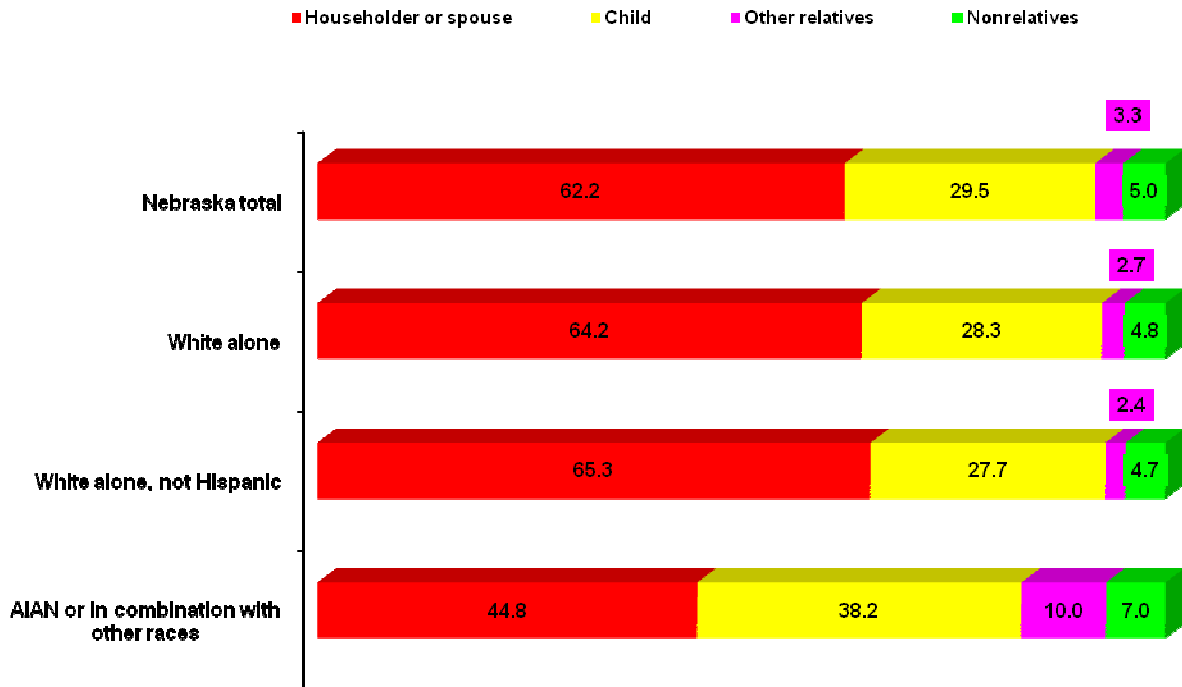
Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Population in Households

From 2005 to 2007, AI/AN or in combination with one or more races tended to have more children (38.2%), other relatives (10.0%), and non-relatives (7.0%) in their households Whites, and the Nebraska total population.

**Figure 22: Population in Households: 2005-2007**  
(Percent of population in households)



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

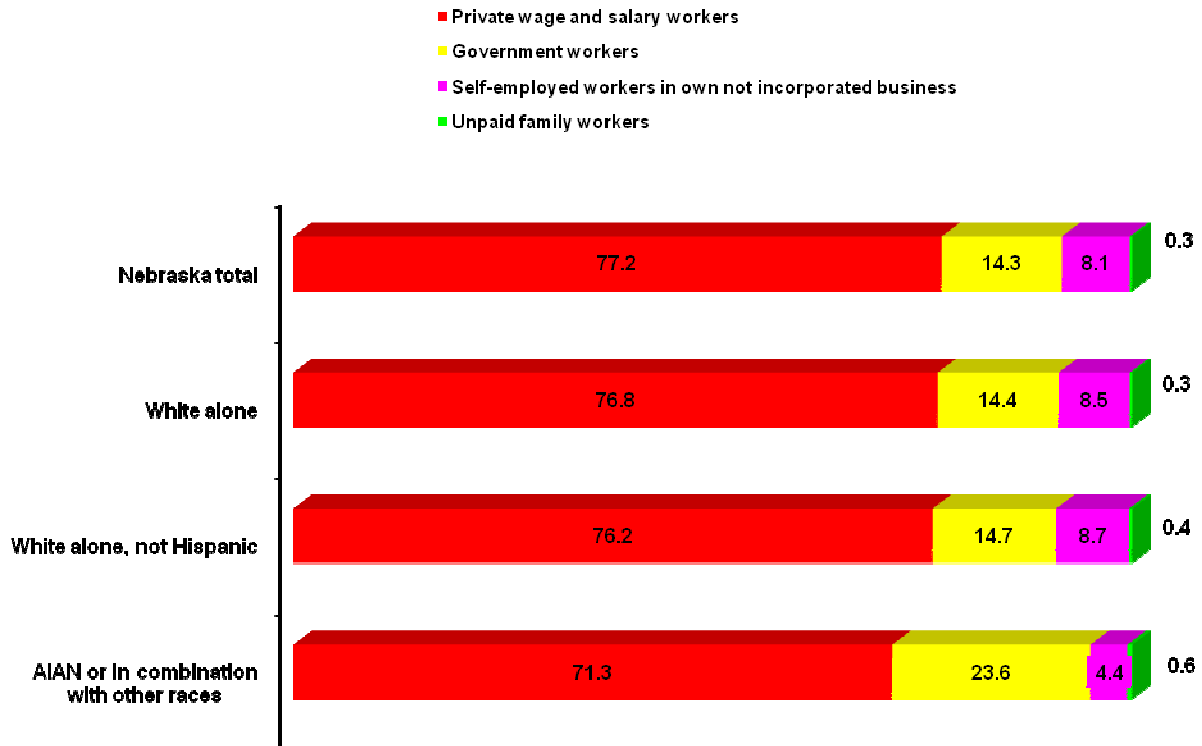
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Class of Worker

23.6% of the American Indians and Alaska Natives or in combination with one or more races were employed in government positions; Non-Hispanic Whites were less likely to be employed by the government (14.7%).

A smaller proportion of American Indians and Alaska Natives or in combination with one or more races, were self-employed or worked for private sectors compared with Non-Hispanic Whites.

**Figure 23: Class of Worker: 2005-2007**  
(Percent of Workers 16 and Older)



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

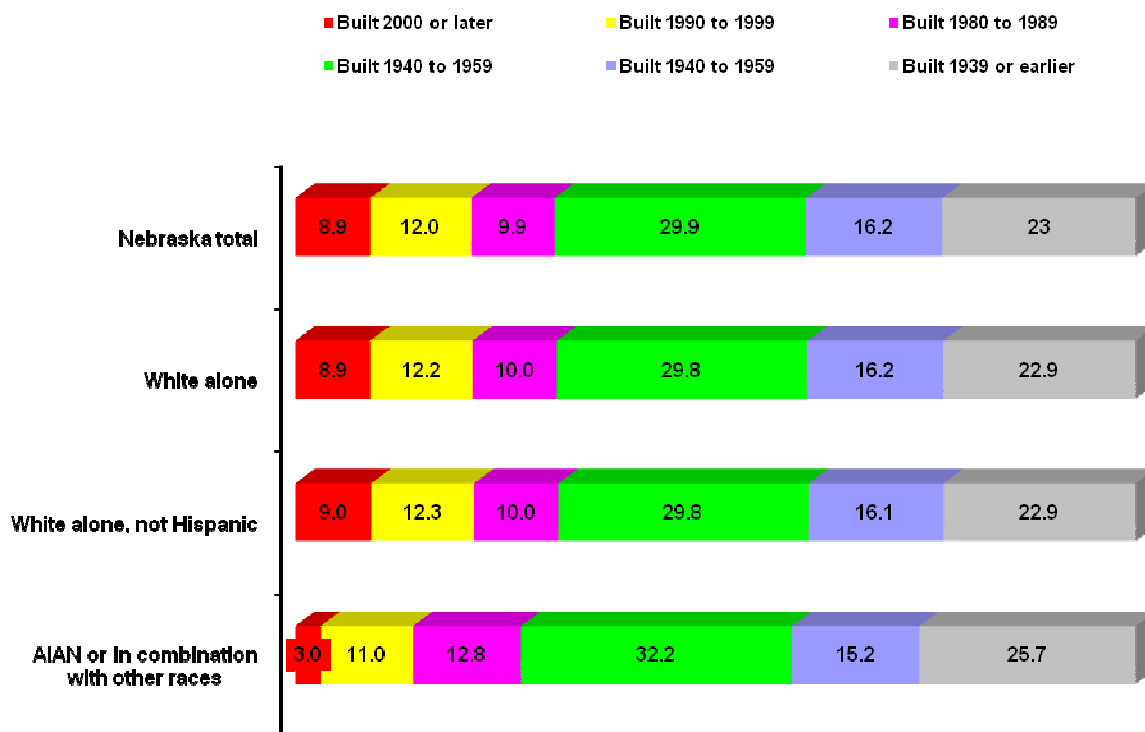
AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native

## Year Structure Built

Between 2005 and 2007, a larger portion of the AI/AN or in combination with one or more races owned houses were built before 1980, compared with those of Whites.

Only about 3.0% of AI/AN or in combination with one or more races owned houses built in 2000 or later, compared to about 9.0% of Whites.

**Figure 24: Year House Built: 2005-2007**  
(Percent of Year House Built)



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables.

AI/AN: American Indian and Alaska Native



This report is meant to serve as a data resource for the tribal communities in Nebraska, and for those who work for and with American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) people in Nebraska. The purpose for writing this report was to provide a one-stop resource data book, so that individuals interested in this type of AI/AN data could go to one source for multiple pieces of information. It is hoped that in future editions, data will be added to this report and provide a more comprehensive look at AI/AN socio-economic status in Nebraska.

## **Glossary of Terms**<sup>10</sup>

**Group Quarters (GQ):** Group quarters are places where people live or stay that are normally owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. These services may include custodial or medical care as well as other types of assistance, and residency is commonly restricted to those receiving these services. People living in group quarters are usually not related to each other. Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and workers' dormitories.

**Fertility:** Data are most frequently presented in terms of the aggregate number of women aged 15 to 50, who had a birth in the past 12 months in the specified category, and in terms of the rate per 1,000 women.

**Foreign-Born Population:** The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a US citizen or a US national at birth. This includes respondents who indicated they were a US citizen by naturalization or not a US citizen.

**Unemployment Rate:** The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the civilian labor force. For example: if the civilian labor force equals 100 people and 7 people are unemployed, then the unemployment rate would be 7%.

**Labor Force:** All people classified in the civilian labor force plus members of the US Armed Forces (people on active duty with the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard).

**Labor Force Participation Rate:** The labor force participation rate represents the proportion of the population that is in the labor force. For example: if there are 100 people in the population 16 years and over, and 64 of them are in the labor force, then the labor force participation rate for the population 16 years and over would be 64%.

**Not in Labor Force:** All people 16 years old and over who are not classified as members of the labor force. This category consists mainly of students, housewives, retired workers, seasonal workers interviewed in an off season who were not looking for work, institutionalized people, and people doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the reference week).

**Household:** A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit. (People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters.) A family household consists of a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. It may also include people unrelated to the householder. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated people who share living arrangements.

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<sup>10</sup><http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def.html>

**Average Household Size:** A measure obtained by dividing the number of people in households by the number of households. In cases where people in households are cross-classified by race or Hispanic origin, people in the household are classified by the race or Hispanic origin of the householder rather than the race or Hispanic origin of each individual. Average household size is rounded to the nearest hundredth.

**Housing Unit:** A housing unit may be a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room that is occupied (or, if vacant, intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other individuals in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall. For vacant units, the criteria of separateness and direct access are applied to the intended occupants whenever possible. If that information cannot be obtained, the criteria are applied to the previous occupants.

**Poverty:** Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

**Disability Status:** The Census Bureau defines disability as a long-lasting sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition or conditions that make it difficult for a person to do functional or participatory activities such as seeing, hearing, walking, climbing stairs, learning, remembering, concentrating, dressing, bathing, going outside the home, or working at a job.



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