

American Community Survey 5-year Estimates: American Indian Reservations in Minnesota

Child Poverty (Percent)		ME (+/-)
Minnesota	12.4	0.4
White Earth Reservation	26.6	4.6
Leech Lake Reservation	33.3	5.7
Red Lake Reservation	45.8	16.4
Bois Fort Reservation	10.0	9.3
Grand Portage Reservation	44.0	18.5
Fond du Lac Reservation	27.2	8.3
Mille Lacs Reservation	32.4	8.7
Upper Sioux Reservation	NA	NA
Lower Sioux Reservation	15.0	16
Shakopee Reservation	13.5	14.3
Prairie Island Reservation	55.2	38.5

Child poverty on American Indian Reservations in Minnesota varied greatly across the state. Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Prairie Island, and Red Lake Reservations all had child poverty rates above 30 percent. Bois Forte Reservation had a child poverty rate lower than the state, while the Shakopee and Lower Sioux Reservations had rates similar to that of the state. Overall child poverty ranged from 10 percent in Bois Forte to 55.2 percent in Prairie Island.

School Enrollment (Percent)	3 and 4 year olds	ME (+/-)	Population 18 to 24 enrolled in college	ME (+/-)
Minnesota	44.7	0.8	42.6	0.5
White Earth Reservation	49.1	9.5	13.0	3.2
Leech Lake Reservation	51.6	12.4	12.6	7.0
Red Lake Reservation	27.6	24.1	2.8	4.8
Bois Fort Reservation	54.8	26.7	16.8	13.6
Grand Portage Reservation	25	34.1	16.3	31.6
Fond du Lac Reservation	77.8	12.5	19.6	7.4

Mille Lacs Reservation	22.9	13	8.7	6.4
Upper Sioux Reservation	100	95	NA	NA
Lower Sioux Reservation	50	50	NA	NA
Shakopee Reservation	48	52	NA	NA
Prairie Island Reservation	NA	NA	22.2	27.6

White Earth, Leech Lake, Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Lower Sioux, and Shakopee Reservations all had pre-kindergarten school enrollment greater than the state. Four Reservations had more than half of 3 and 4 year olds participating in early childhood education.

Conversely, college enrollment among 18 to 24 year olds was much lower than the state across all Reservations ranging from 2.8 percent on the Red Lake Reservation to 22.2 percent on the Prairie Island Reservation. Educational attainment and income are related because low wage jobs are many times also low skilled jobs. Providing opportunities for young people to obtain an associates or bachelor's degree is one way to provide a pathway toward self-sufficiency.

Entire Population in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity (Percent)	White	ME (+/-)	African American	ME (+/-)	American Indian	ME (+/-)	Asian	ME (+/-)
Minnesota	8.0	0.1	33.0	1.2	33.0	2.0	16.4	1.1
White Earth Reservation	9.9	2.1	8.3	16.4	35.2	5.6	5.1	7.7
Leech Lake Reservation	11.7	1.9	NA	NA	39.2	5.1	6.7	12.3
Red Lake Reservation	19.9	18.9	NA	NA	41.0	12.7	NA	NA
Bois Fort Reservation	3.5	3.5	NA	NA	16.4	8.6	33.3	44.5
Grand Portage Reservation	21.9	20.1	NA	NA	42.3	13.5	6.8	11.1
Fond du Lac Reservation	11.2	4.8	62.5	59.7	36.5	10.2	4.3	8.4
Mille Lacs Reservation	17.4	3.9	NA	NA	40.5	11.3	65.8	46.4
Upper Sioux Reservation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lower Sioux Reservation	9.4	11.4	100	35.6	16.8	13	NA	NA
Shakopee Reservation	13.3	13.6	NA	NA	9.0	9.0	NA	NA
Prairie Island Reservation	6.5	9.4	NA	NA	50.6	34.4	NA	NA

American Indians have high rates of poverty. Two Reservations (Lower Sioux and Bois Forte) had poverty rates below the state American Indian poverty rate. Overall American Indian poverty rates were higher than other racial groups in Minnesota.

Educational Attainment for those living below poverty by Place (Percent)	Less than High School	ME (+/-)	High School Grad	ME (+/-)	Some College	ME (+/-)	Bachelor's	ME (+/-)
Minnesota	22.3	0.5	9.4	0.2	6.2	0.2	2.8	0.1
Leech Lake Reservation	35.7	7.8	19.5	3.0	16.0	3.8	9.2	3.1
White Earth Reservation	30.5	6.3	12.8	2.8	11.5	2.6	3.1	2.0
Red Lake Reservation	47.4	16.9	27.2	13.8	27.4	11.2	10.5	15.8
Bois Fort Reservation	30.1	22	8.1	8.3	14.4	9.4	5.4	7.9
Grand Portage Reservation	36.8	24.3	11.5	11.6	14.8	17.6	21.7	31.5
Fond du Lac Reservation	38.1	9.6	15.3	5	14.0	5.3	8.1	5.2
Mille Lacs Reservation	30.2	10.6	21.6	6.5	15.0	4.7	3.4	3
Upper Sioux Reservation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lower Sioux Reservation	39.8	25.8	25.4	20.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
Shakopee Reservation	34.3	31.4	3.7	6	2.7	4.3	NA	NA
Prairie Island Reservation	13.6	22.7	39.4	32.3	36.6	32.8	NA	NA

Much like the state’s educational attainment for those living below poverty, higher percentages of people living in poverty have attained less than a high school diploma, reinforcing that educational attainment is strongly related to income. For those living below poverty, it is more likely that they have less than a high school diploma no matter where they are living.

It is disconcerting to see high numbers of people with bachelor’s degrees living in poverty on Red Lake, Grand Portage, and Leech Lake Reservations. This would indicate there are fewer economic opportunities available despite educational attainment or that the employment opportunities that exist do not lift these families out of poverty regardless of their educational levels.

Employment Status for Those in Poverty (Percent)	Unemployed	ME (+/-)	Employed	ME (+/-)
Minnesota	25.1	0.7	6.5	0.1

White Earth Reservation	36.8	7.6	13.0	1.5
Red Lake Reservation	52.4	18.4	36.4	14.2
Leech Lake Reservation	56.2	9.8	14.4	1.8
Bois Fort Reservation	13.8	15.8	6.5	4.4
Grand Portage Reservation	10.0	32.3	16.8	11.0
Fond du Lac Reservation	46.7	14.7	10.9	3.4
Mille Lacs Reservation	44.2	14.5	17.8	4.9
Upper Sioux Reservation	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lower Sioux Reservation	34.3	25.6	19.5	16
Shakopee Reservation	33.3	66.7	4.1	9.3
Prairie Island Reservation	NA	NA	NA	NA

Red Lake and Leech Lake Reservations had the highest unemployment rates for those below the poverty level- two times the state unemployment rate. With the exception of Bois Forte and Grand Portage, people living below the poverty line on Reservations across Minnesota had unemployment rates higher than the state.

Employment Status for Population 16 yrs and over (Percent)	Unemployed	ME (+/-)	Employed	ME (+/-)	16 to 19 years	ME (+/-)	20 to 24 years	ME (+/-)
Minnesota	5.8	0.1	67.0	0.1	17.3	0.6	9.6	0.4
White Earth Reservation	13.0	1.6	57.1	1.7	39.0	9.8	41.2	8.4
Leech Lake Reservation	12.7	2.3	50.5	2.9	47.2	12.2	21.3	12.2
Red Lake Reservation	26.0	6.5	44.2	6.3	66.0	21.0	28.9	20.3
Bois Fort Reservation	15.8	8.9	51.6	6.9	13.9	20	8.2	10.6
Grand Portage Reservation	3.4	3.9	67.7	11	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fond du Lac Reservation	14.9	3.3	51.2	3.5	26.8	13.1	18.4	13.8
Mille Lacs Reservation	14.8	3.3	50.1	3.2	23.2	11.1	38.8	22.1
Upper Sioux Reservation	NA	NA	64.0	29.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lower Sioux Reservation	50.4	26.3	21.3	15.5	NA	NA	NA	NA
Shakopee Reservation	4.1	8.9	24.5	13.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
Prairie Island Reservation	NA	NA	11.6	6.7	NA	NA	NA	NA

For the entire population, Red Lake Reservation had an unemployment rate almost five times higher than the state. Unemployment ranged from 3.4 percent to 50.4 percent across American Indian Reservations.

Employment Status of Families (Percent)	Married: Both Husband and Wife Working	ME (+/-)	Married: Both Husband and Wife not Working	ME (+/-)	Female Households Working	ME (+/-)	Male Households Working	ME (+/-)
Minnesota	75.4	0.4	1.3	0.1	61.1	0.7	25.6	0.6
White Earth Reservation	74.1	6.1	2.2	1.6	51.9	8.6	27.8	8.0
Leech Lake Reservation	83.3	6.5	0	4.0	48.3	9.2	30	9.1
Red Lake Reservation	47.1	33.8	0	17.4	69.9	13.7	21.4	10.1
Bois Fort Reservation	50.0	36.4	2.8	4.2	68.8	35.1	31.3	35.1
Grand Portage Reservation	70.8	36.1	0	47.5	40.6	22.7	12.5	13.8
Fond du Lac Reservation	62.2	10.8	0.7	1.6	64.0	12.5	36.0	12.5
Mille Lacs Reservation	73.2	10.4	7.7	5.2	57.8	18.5	42.2	18.5
Upper Sioux Reservation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lower Sioux Reservation	43.6	46.1	32.7	34.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
Shakopee Reservation	33.3	28.4	54.4	29.1	70.0	31.9	30.0	31.9
Prairie Island Reservation	25.0	42.5	50.0	41.8	NA	NA	NA	NA

Workforce participation is high across Reservations especially for married couple families and female-headed households. Almost all families have at least one or two workers in the workforce. Families are working at high rates on Reservations, while still facing high rates of poverty.

Median Family Income	ME (+/-)
Minnesota	\$70,887 278
White Earth Reservation	\$47,346 2,663
Leech Lake Reservation	\$39,684 2,950
Red Lake Reservation	\$31,272 6,145
Bois Fort Reservation	\$63,750 27,152
Grand Portage Reservation	\$28,571 4,604

Fond du Lac Reservation	\$43,050	5,052
Mille Lacs Reservation	\$42,063	4,092
Upper Sioux Reservation	\$100,714	36,720
Lower Sioux Reservation	\$37,019	16,581
Shakopee Reservation	\$131,250	38,757
Prairie Island Reservation	NA	NA

While workforce participation is high on American Indian Reservations, median family income for most Reservations is below the state average. Only two Reservations have median family incomes above the state average and overall median income ranged from \$28,571 to \$131,250.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

NA= Data not available.

ME= Margin of Error.

Note: Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see Accuracy of the Data). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.