



Today's Indian population, however, differs from that of the Columbian period in that it contains a very large admixture of non-Indian blood. While full-blood Indians predominate on reservations in States like Arizona and New Mexico, they constitute a small minority even among the people counted as Indians on the Turtle Mountain Reservation of North Dakota, for example, and in areas that formerly comprised reservations in Oklahoma.

Congress has provided the Bureau of Indian Affairs with no "all-purpose" definition of an Indian and the blood quantum requirements vary for different purposes. In North Carolina's Eastern Band of Cherokee only a thirty-second degree of Cherokee ancestry is required for membership.

The number of Indians now residing on reservations under Federal jurisdiction is approximately 285,000, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The native population of Alaska includes about 14,000 Indians and roughly 29,000 Eskimos and Aleuts.

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