



**The Navajo Nation Report on the Impact of State
COVID-19 Recovery Laws and Policies on
Indigenous Peoples
to
the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

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Introduction

The Navajo Nation (“Nation”) is the largest land-based Native American Tribe in the United States (“U.S.”), with a Reservation encompassing over 27,000 square miles across the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The Nation has over 309,000 members, with over 154,000 people residing in multi-generational households on the Reservation.¹

Traditionally, Navajos believe the *Diné Bahane*, the Navajo Creation Story in which Changing Woman created the original clans of the Navajo and bore the Monster Slayer Twins who saved the Navajo from destruction by the *Naayéé*, or monsters. Currently, the Nation is facing a *Naayéé* in SARS-CoV-2, and the COVID-19 disease it causes, likened to a monster that harms and kills. The *Hatalii* (Chanters/Healers) advise that this *Naayéé* will invade the Nation and stay, building its strength so it can kill many. The Nation has named the disease *Dikos Nitsaaígíí Náhást’éits’áadah*, translating to “Big Cough 19.”²

In mid-May 2020, the Nation had the highest per capita COVID-19 infection rate in the U.S.,³ directly attributable to a breach of the U.S. federal government’s trust responsibility to the Nation, a legally recognized obligation of the U.S. to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources, including guarantees for healthcare and infrastructure development.⁴ While the Navajo government has made great strides in combating this *Naayéé*,⁵ as evidenced by the declining number of new cases reported⁶ and increasing number of vaccinated Navajo citizens⁷, systemic relief can only be achieved through full collaboration with the U.S., including the opportunity for free, prior and informed consent related to all relief matters affecting the Nation.⁸ In light of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples’ minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of indigenous peoples, the Nation offers the following update report shedding light on the recovery of Navajo people from *Dikos Nitsaaígíí Náhást’éits’áadah*

¹ See **Annex 1** for further information on the Navajo population.

² COVID-19 and *Dikos Nitsaaígíí Náhást’éits’áadah* will be used interchangeably throughout this Report.

³ Hollie Silverman, Konstantin Toropin, Sara Snider, Leslie Perrot, *Navajo Nation surpasses New York state for the highest Covid-19 infection rate in the US*, CNN (May 18, 2020), <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/18/us/navajo-nation-infection-rate-trnd/index.html>.

⁴ Navajo Nation Treaty, 1868, **Annex 2**.

⁵ These include a Declaration of Emergency, issued March 11, 2020 by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management with concurrence by Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez; and Executive Orders issued by President Nez, closing the government and schools, putting most government employees on paid administrative leave, and extending stay at home orders. See **Annex 4** for these documents.

⁶ Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, *Press Release, 45 new cases, 16,054 recoveries, and nine more deaths related to COVID-19* (February 25, 2021), <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/Files/PRESS%20RELEASES/2021/Feb/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%2045%20new%20cases.%2016,054%20recoveries.%20and%20nine%20more%20deaths%20related%20to%20COVID-19.pdf>.

⁷ 120,835 total COVID-19 doses administered, and 39,934 people fully immunized, per the Navajo Nation Department of Health, *Navajo Nation COVID-19 Vaccine Information* (accessed February 27, 2021), <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine>.

⁸ See **Annex 3** for a comprehensive list of the Nation’s requests to the U.S. Department of Interior regarding COVID-19 relief.

and what measures are needed to further protect Navajo citizens and to preserve the Navajo way of life.

I. Historic Shortcomings - The United States Federal Government Response to Navajo Nation Needs

The Navajo Nation, along with many other tribes across the United States, has long faced challenges in getting the United States federal government to fully honor tribal self-determination and the pledges the federal government made to Tribes through treaties. For the Navajo people, the Treaty of 1868 created a trust responsibility in the federal government: a legally recognized obligation of the United States to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources, including guarantees for healthcare and infrastructural development.⁹ The legacy of the United States' breach of these trust responsibilities to the Navajo Nation is evident in the poor health indicators, anemic infrastructure, and bleak employment numbers found across the Navajo Nation. In 2019, prior to the onset of COVID-19, the United States Indian Health Service ("HIS"), the federal agency responsible for delivering comprehensive health service to tribal citizens, noted that the life expectancy for American Indian and Alaska Native people was five and a half (5.5) years less than that of all races in the United States.¹⁰ This gap can be attributed in part to the disproportionate rates of diseases such as asthma, hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease among American Indian and Alaska Native populations. This disparity is borne out in Navajo Nation-specific data, showing for example that the age-adjusted chronic liver disease and cirrhosis mortality rate is 43.05 for the Navajo Nation, as compared to 9.2 for the United States.¹¹ With fewer than twenty (20) medical facilities across the Navajo Nation, whose territory is comparable to the state of West Virginia, Navajo citizens were already at a disadvantage in accessing readily available and quality medical care before COVID-19 infections began to affect the Navajo Nation.

Turning to infrastructural deficiencies, seventy-five percent (75%) of U.S. homes without electrical connectivity are on the Navajo Nation¹²; sixty percent (60%) of the Nation's residents lack fixed internet access according to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority; and about thirty percent (30%) of households on the Navajo Nation must haul water due to lack of running water in their homes.¹³ The lack of running water in homes across the Navajo Nation also has an economic impact, as families hauling water have to spend the equivalent of forty-three thousand dollars

⁹ Navajo Nation Treaty, 1868, **Annex 2**.

¹⁰ Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, *Indian Health Disparities* (October 2019), accessed February 27, 2021,

https://www.ihs.gov/sites/newsroom/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/factsheets/Disparities.pdf.

¹¹ Navajo Epidemiology Center, *Navajo Epidemiology Center Update, Vol. 1, May 2016*, (accessed February 27, 2021), [https://www.nec.navajo-](https://www.nec.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/Announcements/Navajo%20Epidemiology%20Center%20Update%20May%202016.pdf)

[nsn.gov/Portals/0/Announcements/Navajo%20Epidemiology%20Center%20Update%20May%202016.pdf](https://www.nec.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/Announcements/Navajo%20Epidemiology%20Center%20Update%20May%202016.pdf).

¹² American Public Power Association, *Light Up the Navajo Nation*, (accessed February 27, 2021),

<https://www.publicpower.org/LightUpNavajo#:~:text=The%20Navajo%20Nation%20is%20the,households%20in%20the%20United%20States>.

¹³ U.S. EPA *Meeting the Access Goal Strategies for Increasing Access to Safe Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment to American Indian and Alaska Native Homes Prepared by the Infrastructure Task Force Access Subgroup* <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-07/documents/meeting-the-access-goal-strategies-for-increasing-access-to-safe-drinking-water-and-wastewater-treatment-american-indian-alaska-native-villages.pdf>, Pg. 8. Pulled from *Sanitary Assessment of Drinking Water Used by Navajo Residents Not Connected to Public Water Systems, Ecosystem Management, Inc. p. 1 (Dec 2004)*.

(\$43,000.00) per acre foot of water, an exorbitant sum compared to the six hundred (\$600) per acre foot of water spent for typical suburban water users in the region.¹⁴ When it comes to employment, the Navajo Nation’s civilian unemployment rate from 2013-2017 was over nineteen percent (19.1%), as compared to the roughly six and a half percent (6.55%) rate for the United States as a whole; for those employed on the Navajo Nation, the median household income was just under twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$26,862) versus the United States’ median of almost fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$57,652).¹⁵ These deficits evidence the United States’ sustained breach of its trust responsibilities and the resulting effect it has had on Navajo citizens over many years. Unfortunately, this long-standing neglect of the needs of Navajo citizens created a ripe environment for COVID-19 infections to take hold across the Navajo Nation, resulting in a per capita loss of life that was higher than that of any U.S. state in October 2020.¹⁶ Thus today, the Navajo Nation’s efforts to control the spread of, and heal those infected by, COVID-19 has been greatly hampered by the United States’ long-standing neglect of tribal self-determination and its trust responsibility to Navajo citizens.

II. State COVID-19 Responses – Addressing Navajo Nation Needs¹⁷

The Navajo Nation institutions and public health systems have worked together to some extent to address the effects of COVID-19 on Navajo citizens. The Health Command Operations Center (“HCOC”) follows an incident command structure set forth by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”). This incident command system has a unified command structure that was adopted in the summer of 2020, after months of a non-unified command structure. The Nation was able to work together with public health institutions to operate a response, however, a lack of available resources created barriers. Many of the required functions for COVID-19 relief outside clinical services were unfunded by the federal government, leaving the Navajo Nation to pick up the financial costs of these functions.

The HCOC COVID-19 Response team recommended a Vaccine Branch under its organizational chart. It was approved when Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Department of Health, transitioned into the Incident Commander role in September 2020. A discussion regarding a vaccine plan, covering the Navajo Nation areas (“Navajo Area”) served by the federal government, started November 5, 2020 between Navajo Nation Health officials and the Indian Health Service (“IHS”). Disappointingly, the IHS wrote the vaccine distribution plan for Navajo Nation without meaningful tribal input. The IHS ultimately informed Navajo leadership

¹⁴ DRAFT WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES July 2011; http://www.frontiernet.net/~nndwr_wmb/PDF/Reports/DWRReports/DWR2011%20Water%20Resource%20Development%20Strategy%20for%20the%20Navajo%20Nation.pdf; Pg. 9

¹⁵ Center for Indian Country Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, *Navajo Nation Reservation, Reservation Profiles*, (accessed February 27, 2021), <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/indiancountry/resources/reservation-profiles/navajo-nation-reservation>.

¹⁶ Wyatt Grantham-Philips, *On the Navajo Nation, COVID-19 death toll is higher than any US state. Here’s how you can support community relief*, (October 24, 2021), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/10/24/covid-native-americans-how-to-help-navajo-nation/3652816001/>.

¹⁷ This section was guided by conversations with Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Health, February 2021.

that the Navajo Area would adopt the Navajo Nation plan, a plan created by federal officials without Navajo participation.

III. State Economic Recovery Measures – Consulting with the Navajo Nation and Ensuring Navajo Citizens Benefit from Recovery Plans

The United States enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill on March 27, 2020,¹⁸ in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. The CARES Act allocated seven hundred and fourteen million, one hundred and eighty-nine thousand, six hundred and thirty-one dollars and forty-seven cents (\$714,189,631.47) to the Navajo Nation as a part of funds granted to States and local governments for direct aid. During the development of this Act and the guidance for the expenditure of its funds, the Navajo Nation’s government was not consulted. Such failure to consult resulted in a shortened timeframe for the expenditure of the funds allocated, overly restrictive guidelines that did not appropriately take into account the needs of the Navajo people, and drawn-out litigation that impacted the expenditure of aid for the benefit of the Navajo people.

CARES Act/Treasury Guidance

The CARES Act funding legislation and requirements did not account for several important considerations for the Navajo Nation to effectively combat COVID-19, such as the need for long-term expenditures to fund critical infrastructure and capital projects, or the layers of bureaucracy involved in appropriating said funds. This delay in clear guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury over the shortened timeframe for use of the funds also contributed to the way Navajo Nation leadership legislated the allowable uses of the funds.

DED Business/Artisan Program; Hardship Assistance

The Navajo Nation’s legislative governing body, the Navajo Nation Council, allocated sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) of CARES Act funds to its Division of Economic Development (“DED”).¹⁹ These funds were to provide direct relief for assistance to Navajo small businesses and artisans facing financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic through two grant programs: the Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant and the Navajo Artisans Economic Relief Grant. Qualifying businesses could receive grants up to sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to cover expenses such as outstanding bills and paying employees. Qualifying artisans could receive grants up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for similar outstanding expenses. To qualify for a grant, a business or artisan was required to register with the Navajo Nation’s Business Regulatory Department, comply with the reporting requirements of the application process, and have not received any other grant or coverage for similar expenses. The DED awarded over three thousand (3,144) grants to artisans totaling over seventeen million dollars (\$17,541,621.34) and awarded over one thousand (1,192) grants to businesses totaling over eleven million dollars (\$11,178,919.10).²⁰ While the Navajo Nation was able to provide economic assistance to Navajo businesses and artisans, the impact of the condensed timeline for the Nation to develop and implement these programs prevented appropriate implementation, as it hindered clear and

¹⁸ Passed by the 116th U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump in March 2020

¹⁹ Navajo Nation Council, *Resolution CJY-67-20*, available at <http://dibb.nnols.org/publicreporting.aspx>.

²⁰ Draft Report of Business and Artisan Grants Breakdown Graph. DED has compiled the data, but not yet completed the report.

complete coverage of all Navajo Nation people. As well, the reporting requirements of the CARES Act and guidance further did not take into account the practical realities and needs of the Navajo people and excluded many from being able to qualify for such grants.

ANC Litigation

The Navajo Nation joined litigation against the United States Department of the Treasury concerning the eligibility of Alaska Native Corporations (“ANCs”) for CARES Act funding set aside by the United States for “tribal governments.” The inclusion of ANCs as eligible recipients in the federal government’s calculation of how to distribute the funds meant for tribal governments, and the resulting litigation, resulted in a delay in Tribes receiving their full share of the CARES Act funds. In June 2020, the federal district court for the District of Columbia ruled that ANC’s were eligible to receive CARES Act funds. The plaintiffs, including the Navajo Nation, appealed this decision to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. Subsequently, in September 2020, the D.C. Court of Appeals determined that the ANCs were not “tribal governments” under the CARES Act and thus not eligible for CARES Act funds. After pending before the U.S. Supreme Court on two certiorari petitions filed by the ANC intervenors and the Department of the Treasury, and with responses filed by the Navajo Nation and other tribal plaintiffs, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari in January 2021. The matter will be briefed, argued and decided prior to the end of this Supreme Court session in June 2021. At stake is nearly five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) in CARES Act funds that remain to be distributed to tribal governments, including the Navajo Nation.

IV. State Distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine – Consultative, Equitable, and Culturally Appropriate Distribution across the Navajo Nation

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Vaccine plan was developed with the collaboration of all federal, tribal, and urban facilities that serve the Navajo Nation.²¹ Multiple meetings were held with all of the healthcare facilities reviewing the vaccines, distribution, administration, data management, public messaging, safety, and monitoring. Frequent distribution of current information is shared among partner facilities and weekly meetings are held to update and answer any questions or address any challenges. The Navajo Nation will note however, that the consultation process and actual implementation of the plan have been portrayed as inclusive and responsive to tribal needs, whereas the Nation, in reality, has had to fight for influence over the plan, which has largely not been implemented.

All of the healthcare facilities on the Navajo Nation, including federal, tribal, and urban facilities, chose to receive distribution of the vaccine through the Indian Health Service except the Utah Navajo Health system, which receives its vaccine through the State of Utah.²² The vaccine has been distributed using the established equitable distribution plan based on the user populations that each healthcare facility serves.²³ The process of distribution however, remains adaptive and

²¹ This section is based on consultation with Dr. Loretta Christensen, Chief Medical Officer, Navajo Area Indian Health Service and Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Department of Health, and Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center

²² Navajo Nation Council Press Release, December 15, 2020, Navajo Nation: Covid-19 positive cases increase by 160 as Navajo Area IHS reports 3,900 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine doses arrive.

²³ <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine>

fluid. Re-distribution is provided by the Navajo Area Indian Health Service team as vaccines are needed at each facility.

The priorities for the administration of the vaccine to the Navajo population was based on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control guidance provided by the Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices.²⁴ Meetings were held with the Navajo Nation Department of Health and the Office of the President and Vice President to determine the priorities for the Navajo Nation, and thereafter priorities were adopted by the COVID-19 vaccine teams across the Navajo Nation, with the vaccine administration events based on the defined Navajo Nation priorities.²⁵

At this time, the COVID vaccination process has been very effective with over one hundred and twenty thousand (120,000) doses administered by the federal, tribal, and urban healthcare facilities.²⁶ The COVID-19 vaccine team meets weekly, along with a unified vaccine analytics team, to provide data of administration and coverage of all areas of the Navajo Nation. There is continued unified public messaging to provide current information to all the people of Navajo Nation.²⁷

V. Data Collection – Collecting and Analyzing Navajo Nation Data

Collection of data specific to Native populations across the United States has historically been problematic, echoed in the patchwork nature of data collection related to COVID-19. Generally described as American Indian or Alaska Natives in data collection reports, information on COVID-19 in Native American populations across the United States is often not disaggregated; as of September 2020, a news report indicated that states reported race and ethnicity for only seventy-four percent (74%) of coronavirus cases and eighty-nine percent (89%) of deaths.²⁸ Data on the numbers of COVID-19 cases and related deaths reported for the states in which the Navajo Nation is located also highlights this issue, as information on Native populations is listed under one broad category of “American Indian and Alaska Native,” and not categorized to reflect impact on each Tribe. Even without disaggregated data, the numbers are bleak: American Indian and Alaska Native people comprise one percent (1%) of Utah’s population and cases, but four percent (4%) of deaths; in Arizona, the numbers rise to five percent (5%) of Arizona’s population, but six percent (6%) of cases and nine percent (9%) of deaths; in New Mexico, American Indian and Alaska Native people are listed as ten percent (10%) of the population, but comprise twenty percent (20%) of cases and twenty-nine percent (29%) of deaths.²⁹ Some reasons for this data and information gap are explained by the barriers to data collection faced on the Navajo Nation. The various healthcare systems Navajos navigate – tribal, state, federal, and private, and across three states and eleven counties within those states – presents a data challenge for the Nation and others. Initially, the Nation reported COVID-19 cases by county, consistent with the states, but that data

²⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html>.

²⁵ <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine/Vaccine-Registration>;

²⁶ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/26/navajo-nation-sees-community-immunitycoming-120k-jabs-given>.

²⁷ COVID-19 Distribution Plan Graphic

²⁸ Deidre McPhillips, *COVID-19’s Tragic Effect on American Indians: A State-by-State Analysis*, (October 7, 2020), <https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/articles/2020-10-07/a-state-by-state-analysis-of-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-native-americans>.

²⁹ Johns Hopkins University of Medicine, Coronavirus Resource Center, *Tracking by Region*, (accessed February 27, 2021), <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/utah>, <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/arizona>, <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/new-mexico>.

was not meaningful to Navajo people until it was reported by agency due to the relatively low numbers of cases. Determining whether to report Navajo data by residence (on or off reservation) presents another challenge, as the same people may be reported twice for the same county. The federal government also includes border town (non-reservation) data and other Tribes' data, while the Nation's data does not, and health corporations authorized by the Nation also report data in their own unique ways.

The Navajo Epidemiology Center has agreements with Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah to receive COVID-19 positive cases and deaths data directly through a secure system. The Navajo Epidemiology Center also has an agreement with the Navajo Area IHS to share data and verify cases and deaths. Federal and tribal health organization facilities report daily data for cases and other COVID-19 data using EpiInfo and SurveyMonkey; data is then managed by the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo IHS to develop reports of analyses regarding gating measures and surveillance. These measures are stopgap and fulfill the current need, though more efficient and long-term responses are needed to effectively gather and record data across the Navajo Nation. Indeed, data collection procedures need to include more variables which requires more funding, staffing, and informatics support. Disaggregating information requires a database platform and software that can handle large amounts of data that includes patient information. Greater investment in tribal data capacities will assist tribal nations in their efforts to respond to public health emergencies such as COVID-19.

As discussed above, infrastructural inequities abound across the Navajo Nation, which also impact data collection. Accessing individuals, from whom information can be gathered, is made difficult by the fact that fewer than twenty-five percent (25%) of roads on the Navajo Nation are paved,³⁰ limiting the means to reach and communicate to people, and first-hand data collection is difficult. Moreover, another avenue of data collection – interaction with community health workers – is heavily dependent on adequate staffing, often a problem across the Navajo Nation.

Recovery solutions are still unknown as the pandemic is not yet over. Much of the data to understand the extent of the impact to the Navajo Nation will need to be researched through retrospective goals and objectives. Much of the infrastructure to analyze and begin to understand recovery solutions will require skilled professionals currently not available on or to the Navajo Nation.

To more comprehensively understand the impact of COVID-19 on Navajo citizens, the United States should commit to data collection that captures the experiences of each Tribe, rather than grouping the country's five hundred and seventy-four (574) federally recognized tribes under the over-broad category of "American Indian and Alaska Native." Detailed data will help not only in this current effort to contain the spread of and heal those infected by COVID-19, but will also help create targeted responses to issues facing Tribal communities across the country. The U.S. and states must acknowledge the unique experience of individual Tribes and work to provide data that truly represents them and their circumstances.

³⁰ Navajo Division of Transportation 2016 Long Range Transportation Plan, https://www.navajodot.org/uploads/files/LRTP_04022016.pdf, Table 5.1

VI. State-Navajo Nation Collaboration – Working Together to Address the Health Crisis³¹

As stated above, the Navajo Nation has had to be persistent to have any influence over the COVID-19 vaccination efforts implemented through the IHS. The consultations and federal vaccination plan have been demonstrative in nature, more than a sincere consultative engagement of tribal leaders and health officials. To this day, a majority of positions designated by the vaccination plan remain unfilled. When the Nation requests information on how this will be addressed, it is met with excuses and vague projections of future resolution. The Nation further has to fight to gain any data from the IHS.

The Navajo Area and tribal health facilities operating under the IHS first created the federal vaccination plan and prioritizations without including the Navajo Nation, until the Nation demanded to become a part of the planning group. Indeed, with regard to prioritizations for vaccinations, Navajo Health officials had to begin facilitating meetings to discuss prioritizations rather than follow the IHS recommendations. The IHS officials attempted to dictate to the Navajo Nation who to vaccinate and when, and tribal consultation did not occur until the first shipment of vaccines arrived on the Navajo Nation. Today, facilities do not report which priority groups are being vaccinated, and the Nation can only access the overall numbers. With such limited information, the Nation cannot plan ahead, for example by adjusting a vaccine plan based on the number of elders who have already received a vaccine.

The United States has not systematically integrated or developed policies/strategies nor consulted tribal nations about incorporating traditional medicine into the national healthcare system through the COVID-19 pandemic. States within the Navajo Nation boundaries are discussing ongoing efforts to support traditional medicine, however. Arizona, through a waiver program,³² has supported reimbursement for traditional medicine services. Dissimilarly, Utah and New Mexico have offered limited support for reimbursement for such services. Since health services for Navajos are primarily accessed in tribal health organizations and Indian Health Service facilities, these facilities have incorporated traditional medicine in their individual capacities.

VII. Recovery Efforts – Navajo Nation Initiatives

In response to the outsized impact of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation, the Navajo government has implemented a multi-pronged approach to recovery, rooted in the particular needs and barriers found across the Nation. Most immediately, the Navajo Nation used funds allocated by the federal government³³ to address dire infrastructure needs, resulting in over seven hundred (700) homes being connected to the electricity grid, over one hundred (100) home water cistern system installations, over one hundred and thirty (130) broadband installations and capacity upgrades, four new broadband/cellular towers installed, and forty-three (43) temporary Wi-Fi

³¹ This section guided by conversations with Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Health, February 2021.

³² See generally Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, *Arizona Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver*, at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Federal/waiver.html>.

³³ Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, Title V, §5001, 134 Stat. 281 (2020).

hotspots set up for student access to online education.³⁴ In addition, the Navajo Nation used some of its CARES Act dollars to implement a *CARES Act Hardship Assistance Program*, for which two hundred and ninety thousand (290,000) Navajo citizens applied,³⁵ to receive support payments aimed at alleviating some of the economic impacts wrought by COVID-19. Though there were some overall impediments, one advantage to the allocation from the federal government was the opportunity for self-determination over funding uses, so that Navajo leaders could target areas of immediate concern and provide multiple forms of relief to Navajo citizens. To address the immediate health impact of COVID-19, the Navajo Nation has aggressively planned and implemented testing and vaccine programs, resulting in over two hundred and forty-three thousand (243,000) COVID-19 tests administered,³⁶ and over one hundred and twenty thousand (120,000) total COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.³⁷

Recognizing that addressing Navajo needs extends beyond action by the Navajo government, Navajo leaders continue to advocate for COVID-19 mitigation resources including vaccines specifically, but also for increased infrastructural development to address the underlying factors that exacerbated COVID-19's impact on Navajo people. Most recently, the Navajo Nation, President, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, and a Navajo Nation Council Delegate pressed these points at a meeting with Utah state government officials, calling for collaborative efforts to address broadband, electricity, water, and road needs for Navajos residing in Utah.³⁸ Additionally, and as part of a long-standing commitment to addressing systemic infrastructural shortcomings, the Navajo Nation celebrated the adjudication of the water rights of Navajo communities in the state of Utah, with the federal approval of the Navajo-Utah Water Rights Settlement Act. This Act is the culmination of a long negotiation process with the state of Utah, which now ensures that the Navajo Nation has the right to eighty-one thousand five hundred acre feet (81,500 af) of water

³⁴ Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, *Press Release, Navajo Nation leaders and NTUA highlight CARES Act infrastructure accomplishments with U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan* (February 24, 2021), <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/Files/PRESS%20RELEASES/2021/Feb/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%20Navajo%20Nation%20leaders%20and%20NTUA%20highlight%20CARES%20Act%20infrastructure%20accomplishments%20with%20U.S.%20Senator%20Ben%20Ray%20Luj%C3%A1n.pdf>.

³⁵ Navajo Nation Office of the Controller, *Navajo Nation CARES Act Expenditures Dashboard, CARES Act Hardship Assistance Program*, (accessed February 27, 2021), <http://nnooc.org/>.

³⁶ Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, *Press Release, 45 new cases, 16,054 recoveries, and nine more deaths related to COVID-19*, (February 25, 2021), <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/Files/PRESS%20RELEASES/2021/Feb/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%2045%20new%20cases,%2016,054%20recoveries,%20and%20nine%20more%20deaths%20related%20to%20COVID-19.pdf>.

³⁷ Navajo Nation Department of Health, *Navajo Nation COVID-19 Vaccine Information*, (accessed February 27, 2021), <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine>.

³⁸ Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, *Press Release, President Nez advocates for infrastructure projects, COVID-19 vaccines, and road improvements in tribal leaders meeting with Utah Governor* (February 26, 2021), <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/Files/PRESS%20RELEASES/2021/Feb/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%20President%20Nez%20advocates%20for%20infrastructure%20projects,%20COVID-19%20vaccines,%20and%20road%20improvements%20in%20tribal%20leaders%20meeting%20with%20Utah%20Governor.pdf>.

from the Utah Colorado River Basin apportionment, specifically dedicated for use by Navajo communities in Utah.³⁹

Conclusion

Dikos Nitsaaígíí Náhást'éíts'áadah exposes the roots of inequality affecting the Navajo Nation's social, political, and economic self-determination. The rate of infection among Navajo citizens implicates the United States' breach of its legally recognized obligation to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources, including guarantees for healthcare and infrastructure. Indeed, the massive inequities in tribal communities in the United States is a major factor in the overall impact of the COVID-19 health crisis on indigenous peoples' rights. The threat to Navajo people's rights to health, self-determination, economic security, data access, and free prior and informed consent, among others, provides a glimpse into the foundational changes required in the federal government's approach to tribal relations. The Navajo Nation recognizes the *Naayéé, Dikos Nitsaaígíí Náhást'éíts'áadah*, as an opportunity for the United States to acknowledge and address its long-standing neglect of tribal self-determination and its trust responsibility to Navajo citizens so that it may begin to more effectively remedy past and ongoing injustices against indigenous peoples in the United States.

³⁹ Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, *Press Release, Navajo Nation celebrates historic moment as the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act is signed into law* (December 27, 2021), <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/FILES/PRESS%20RELEASES/2020/Dec/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%20Navajo%20Nation%20celebrates%20historic%20moment%20as%20the%20Navajo%20Utah%20Water%20Rights%20Settlement%20Act%20is%20signed%20into%20law.pdf>.

Navajo Population Profile

2010 U.S. Census



- Navajo Division of Health



- Navajo Epidemiology Center

December 2013

Window Rock, Arizona, Navajo Nation

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Executive Summary

The Navajo Population Profile (Profile) is a tool designed to assist programs of all types to effectively plan and strategize prevention and treatment for the Navajo people. The goal is to improve the health status of the Navajo people on the Navajo Nation, in border towns, metropolitan areas, and throughout the United States (U.S.).

Currently, the Navajo Nation is working collaboratively with federal programs (i.e., Indian Health Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the states, self-determined sites contracted under the Public Law 93-638, and local programs to proactively undertake the health issues and challenges affecting the Navajo people. Technical work groups were identified to launch new initiatives such as implementing communicable diseases and public health event surveillance systems; data sharing agreements; and focusing on resources to positively impact the health disparities among the Navajo people.

The problems encountered and witnessed by many programs prior to the Profile include: the lack of consistent collection and coding of geographic information; the multijurisdictional overlap of programs and in geography among local, state, county, tribal and federal entities. Each program operates according to their respective policies and practices, and in geography, the multiplicity in jurisdiction includes trust, allotted, and private land has resulted in conflicting counts for the U.S. Census enumerations.

The Profile aims to provide an accurate picture of the Navajo population throughout the U.S. to identify target or at risk populations when assessing the health status of the Navajo people. Other factors and determinants affecting the health of the Navajo people including socioeconomic status, environmental conditions, poverty status, and access to quality medical care need further evaluation and research and the Profile provides a baseline of the target or at risk populations.

Introduction

The Navajo Nation includes 27,425 square miles of land that extends into New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, and borders Colorado, which makes Navajo the largest geographic land base American Indian reservation in the United States (U.S.), Figure 1 and Figure 2.



Figure 1. Map of the United States with the Navajo Nation highlighted in yellow.

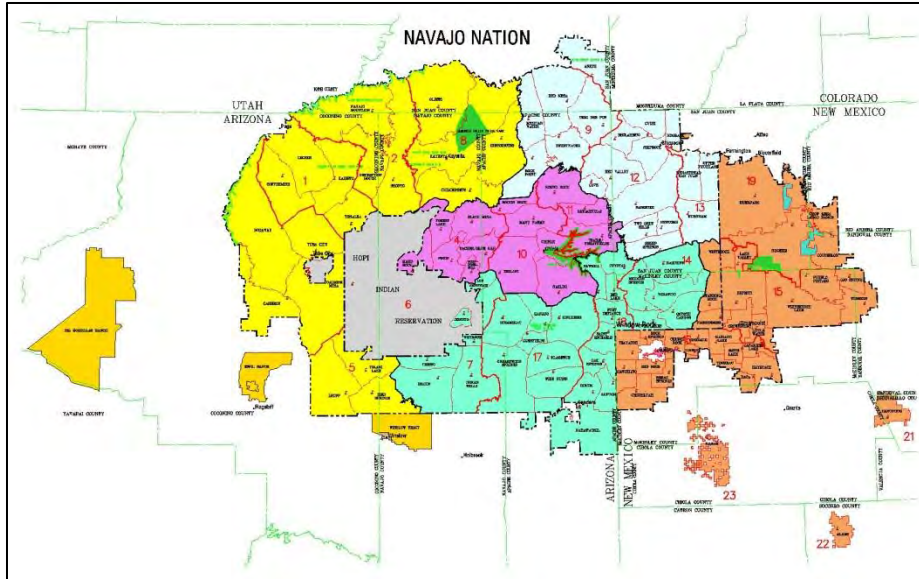


Figure 2. Map of the Navajo Nation, the five geographic and political agencies in color. The grey area is the Hopi reservation. Courtesy of Navajo Land Department, Navajo Nation, 2012.

Navajo Nation claims over 300,000¹ enrolled tribal members and is the second largest tribe in population, following the Cherokee Nation. According to 2010 U.S. Census, there were a total of 332,129 individuals living in the U.S. who claimed to have Navajo ancestry.² The Profile includes the population on the Navajo Nation, the Navajo population in the bordering towns of the Navajo Nation, and in the metropolitan areas with a high populace of Navajos. Using the 2010 U.S. Census American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Summary Files data, the Profile provides a documentation of the population in three enumeration groups, listed below.

- “Navajo tribal grouping alone” (*Navajo alone*)
- “Navajo tribal grouping alone or in any combination” (*Navajo in combination*)
- “All race population includes all races” (*All race*)

The *Navajo alone* consist of individuals who claim to be only Navajo as their race during the 2010 U.S. Census. The *Navajo in combination* include individuals who claim to be Navajo only or individuals who claim to be *Navajo in combination* with another race or tribe. For example, in a formula:

$$\text{Navajo in combination} = \text{Navajo alone} + \text{Navajo mixed with other race}$$

Since *Navajo in combination* has a larger population for the Navajo population, it would be beneficial to use as a health indicator at the geographic local and national level when comparisons are made with other races, tribes, or populations.

The Profile also contains population data on the five Navajo Nation’s political and geographic agencies, Figure 3, listed below, and the 110 chapters.

- Crownpoint of Eastern Navajo Agency
- Fort Defiance Agency
- Chinle or Central Navajo Agency
- Tuba City or Western Navajo Agency
- Shiprock or Northern Navajo Agency

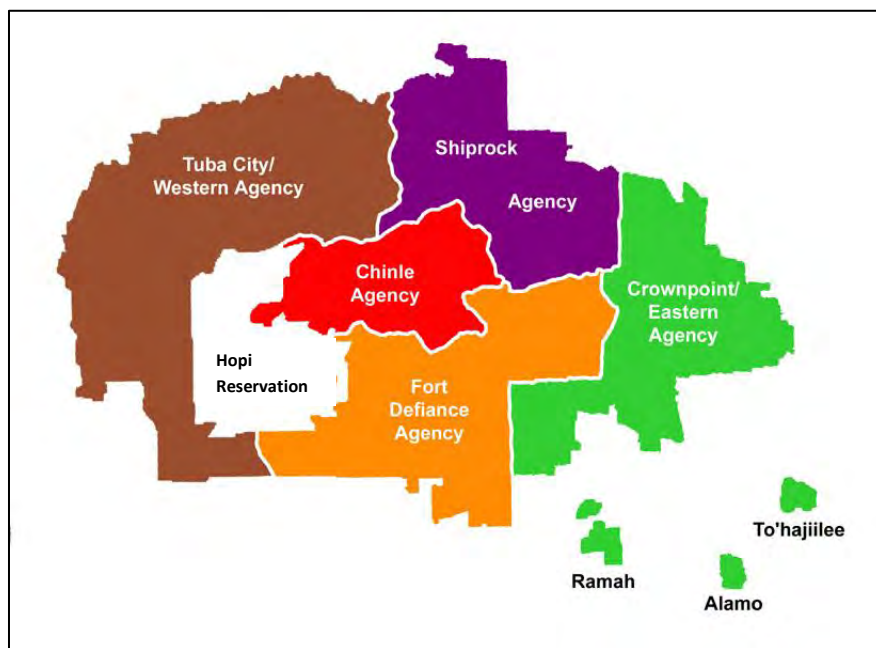


Figure 3. Map of Navajo Nation and the Five Agencies in color. The white area is the Hopi Reservation. 2012.

Each of the five Navajo agencies are geographically and politically divided into chapters; for a total of 110 chapters. The chapters are sub-governmental entities within the Navajo Nation delegated to address local issues pertaining to the land and health status of their respective chapter population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, each chapter is designated as a Census Designated Place (CDP) with the exception of San Juan Chapter, located in northwestern New Mexico.³ The chapters in the Profile are organized by the Navajo Nation agency, state, and counties they entail.

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census population count, Navajos are represented in all parts of the U.S. The majority of Navajos live on the Navajo Nation (47 percent), followed by the metropolitan areas (26 percent), then in border towns (10 percent), Figure 4. The remainder (17 percent) of the Navajos live elsewhere in the U.S. and are not queried and represented in the Profile.

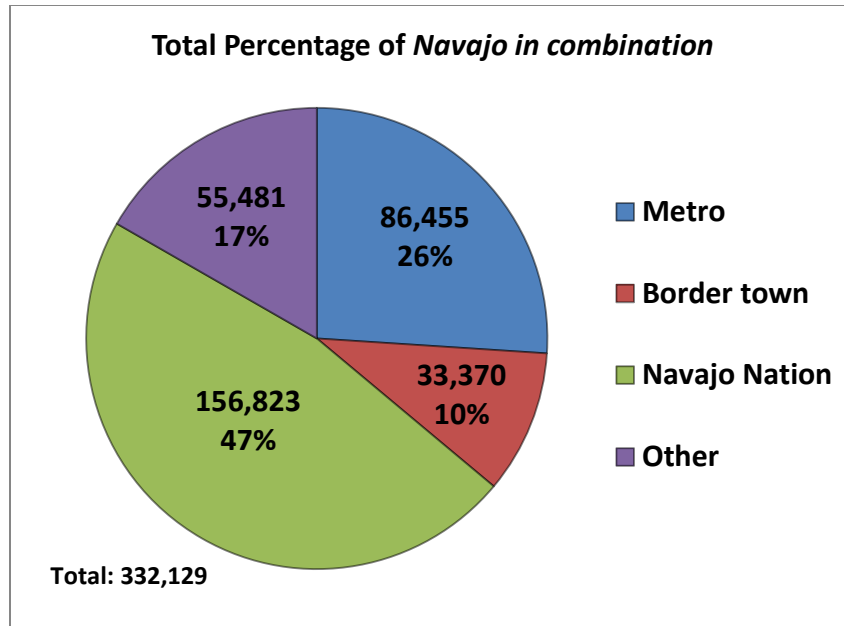


Figure 4. Total number and percentage by location of *Navajo in combination* in the U.S.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria of border towns and metropolitan areas were developed by the Navajo Epidemiology Center (NEC) staff epidemiologists and the selection from the 2005 Navajo Community Health Status Assessment⁴ with one border town inclusion - Blanding, Utah. Thresholds were established to query border towns with at least five hundred *Navajo in combination* population. Border towns with a *Navajo in combination* population less than five hundred were not included in the Profile. The results are based on the 2010 U.S. Census Summary File for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Datasets for twelve border towns were queried by city and included in the Profile.

For metropolitan areas, the selection criteria are based on metro areas that had a *Navajo in combination* population of more than five hundred. The results are based on data using the 2010 U.S. Census American Indian and Alaska Native Summary Files. Datasets were queried by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). All MSA data from the 2010 U.S. Census were queried and those with a *Navajo in combination* population of over five hundred were selected for inclusion in the Profile. There are a total of twenty-eight metro areas in the Profile.

Epidemiological Perspective

To understand the health profile of a Navajo Nation, it is essential to identify the population at risk as a baseline population at a certain point in time to determine incidence, prevalence, mortality, morbidity, and co-morbidity rates. The goal of the Profile is to define the Navajo population based on 2010 U.S. Census to use in public health planning and research; to aid in

developing prevention and treatment strategies; and in evaluating and monitoring current public health programs within the Navajo Division of Health (NDOH) of the Navajo Nation.

All NDOH programs can use the Profile to enhance their understanding of the Navajo population on the Navajo Nation, in the U.S., in border towns, and metropolitan areas. Additionally, since Navajos are represented throughout the U.S., the Profile can also be used by researchers, planners, and leaders to develop public health initiatives for the Navajo people and to reach off reservation programs in areas such as Phoenix and Albuquerque with large Navajo populations.

The Navajo people are burdened with many health issues such as alcoholism, diabetes, and cancer. From an epidemiological standpoint, most of the current health issues affecting the Navajo people are related to socio-economic status and social behavior that need further research and assessment to identify correlations, variances, and risks through analysis and data collection.

As an example, the increase of obesity rates is associated to social behavior. For Navajos, obesity is an emerging health issue that can be seen in each community on the reservation. Studies show obesity increases a person's risk of becoming diabetic or developing cardiovascular disease. Many factors lead to obesity such as poor diet and lack of physical activity. Currently, health promotion and disease prevention programs are out in the communities educating the public about certain diseases that are highly prevalent among the Navajo people. There are other factors the Navajo Nation has not researched such as socio-economic status. Further epidemiological studies need to be conducted to determine associations between socio-economic status and disease development as one example.

Health programs are encouraged to use this Profile as a guide to target health issues when planning and strategizing for a healthier Navajo Nation.

Population of Navajo in the United States

Total Navajo in combination in the United States

The 2010 U.S. Census enumerated 332,129 Navajos as “Navajo tribal grouping alone or in any combination” (*Navajo in combination*) in the U.S. The demographic data was analyzed to provide a glimpse of the population distribution by age group and sex, Figure 5, Figure 6, and Figure 7. The age distribution of total *Navajo in combination* shows the highest population of Navajos in the 0-9 and 10-19 age groups. Over half, fifty-six percent (56 percent) of the total *Navajo in combination* population fell in the 0-29 age groups.

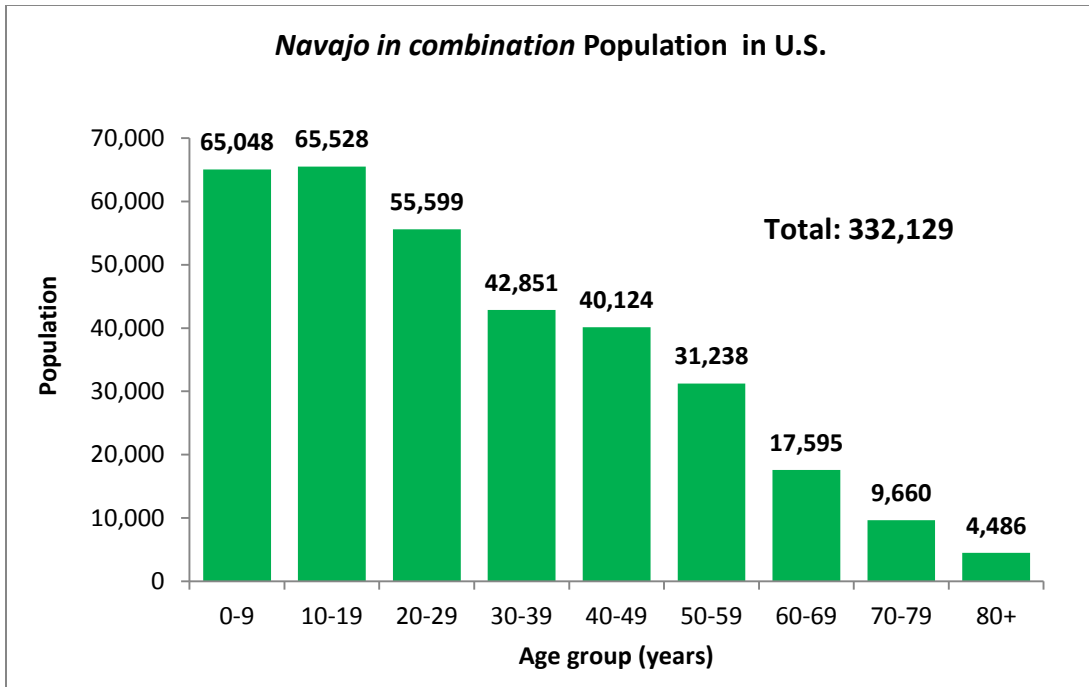


Figure 5. Age distribution of total *Navajo in combination* population in U.S.

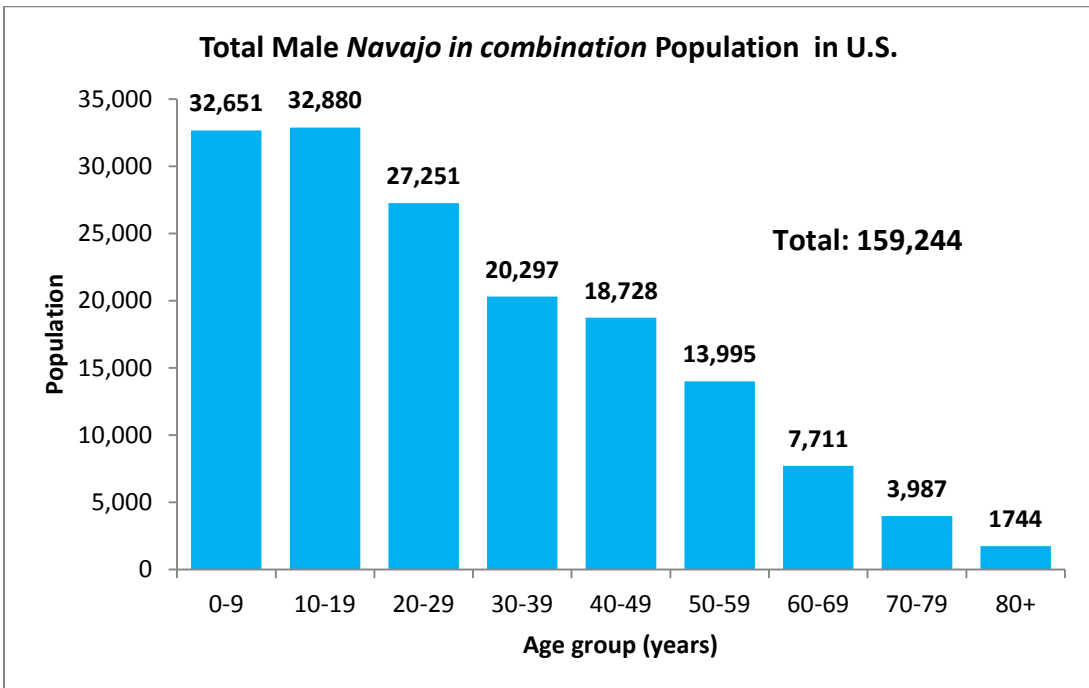


Figure 6. Age distribution of total male *Navajo in combination* in U.S.

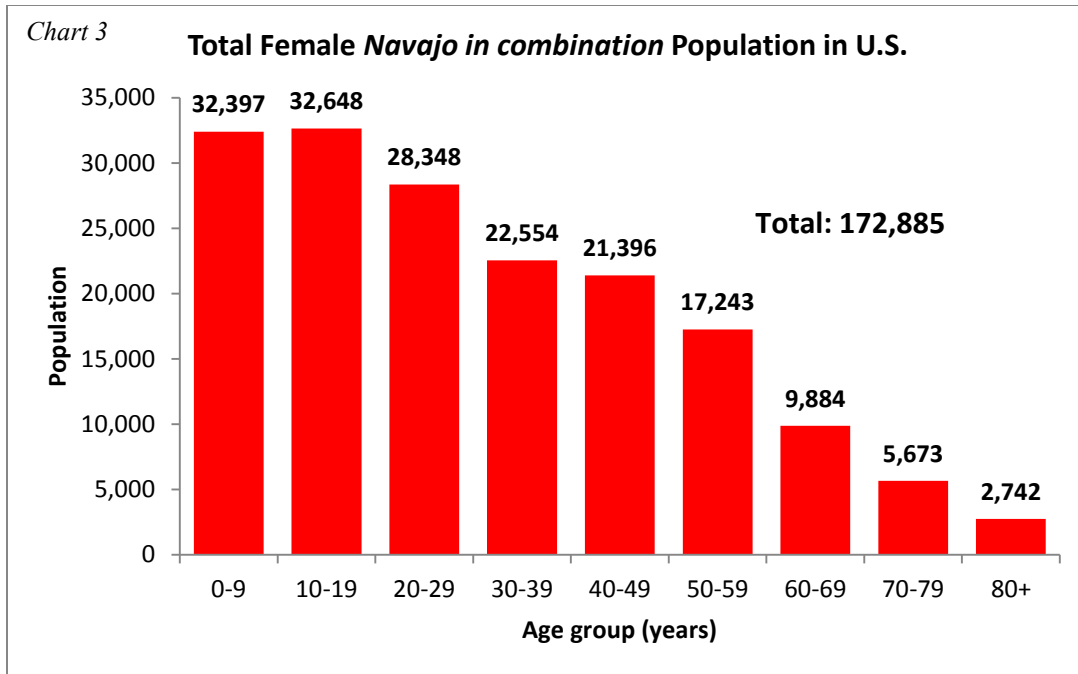


Figure 7. Age distribution of total female *Navajo in combination* in U.S.

From aged 0 through 19 years, the age distribution of males and females are similar, however, from aged 20 years and older, there were more females in all age groups, Figure 8.

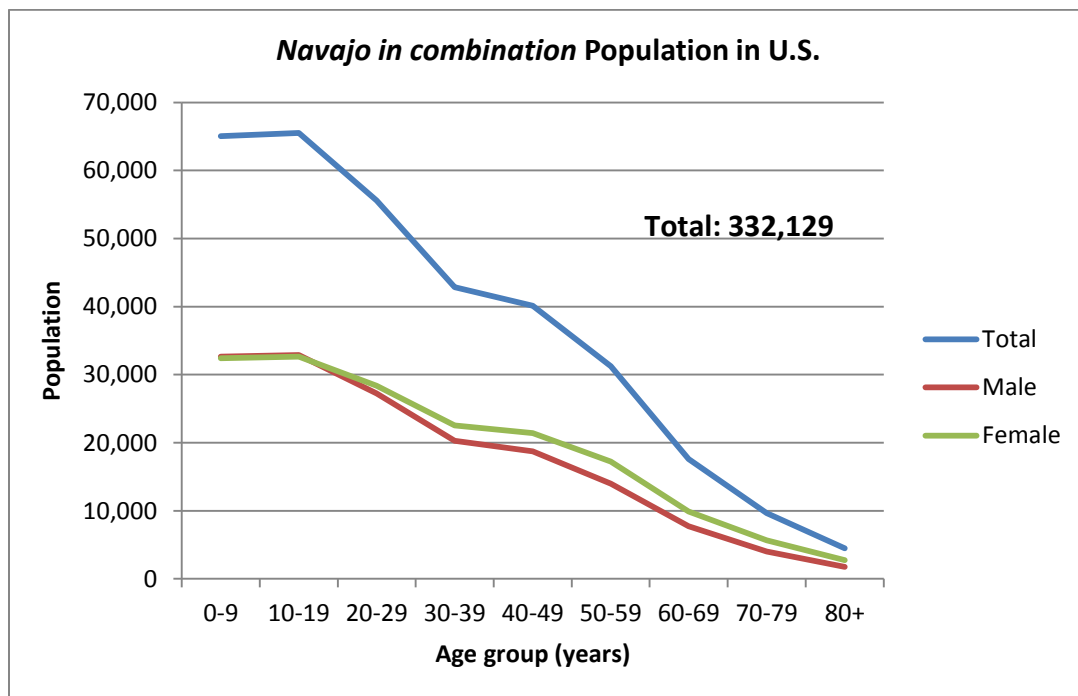


Figure 8. Age distribution of total *Navajo in combination* population by sex in U.S.

Total Navajo alone in the United States

The 2010 U.S. Census enumerated a total of 286,731 Navajos as “Navajo tribal grouping alone” (*Navajo alone*). For this population, the 10-19 age group had the largest population with 54,195 individuals, Figure 9. Fifty-three percent (53 percent) of the total *Navajo alone* population were in the less than 30 year old age groups. The age trends were similar as described prior for *Navajo in combination*, Figure 10, Figure 11, and Figure 12.

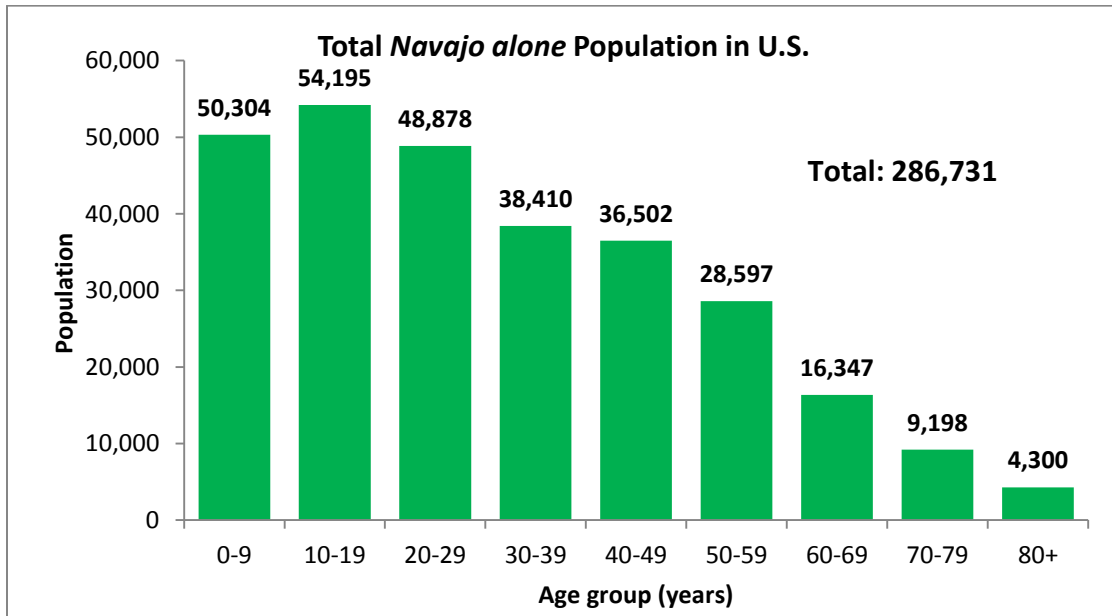


Figure 9. Age distribution of total *Navajo alone* population in the U.S.

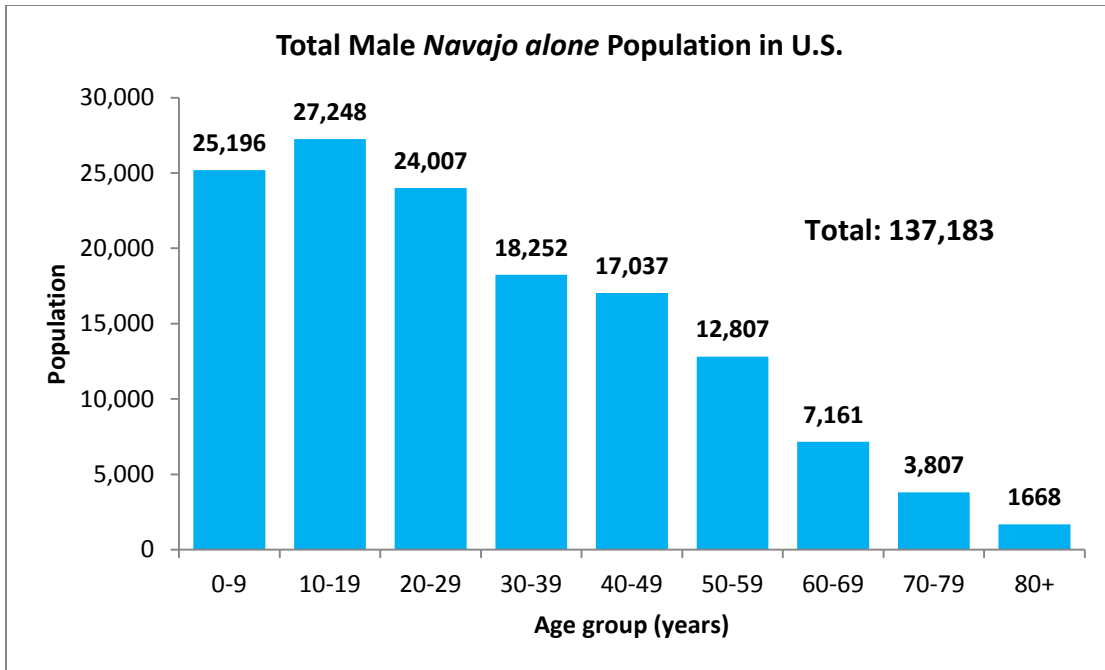


Figure 10. Age distribution of total male *Navajo alone* in the U.S.

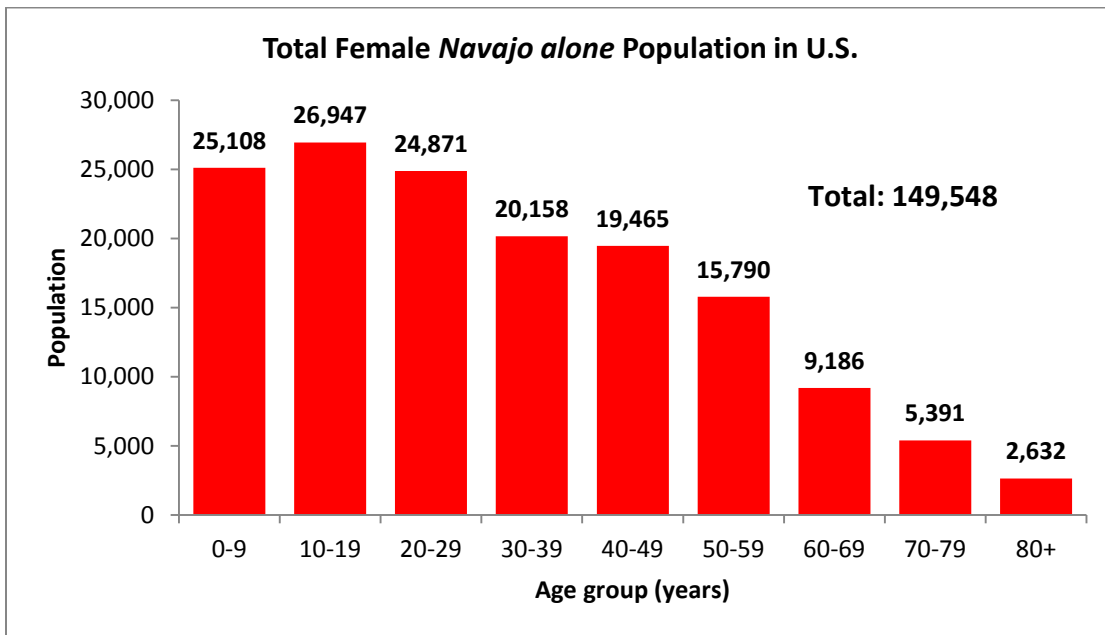


Figure 11. Age distribution of total female *Navajo alone* in the U.S.

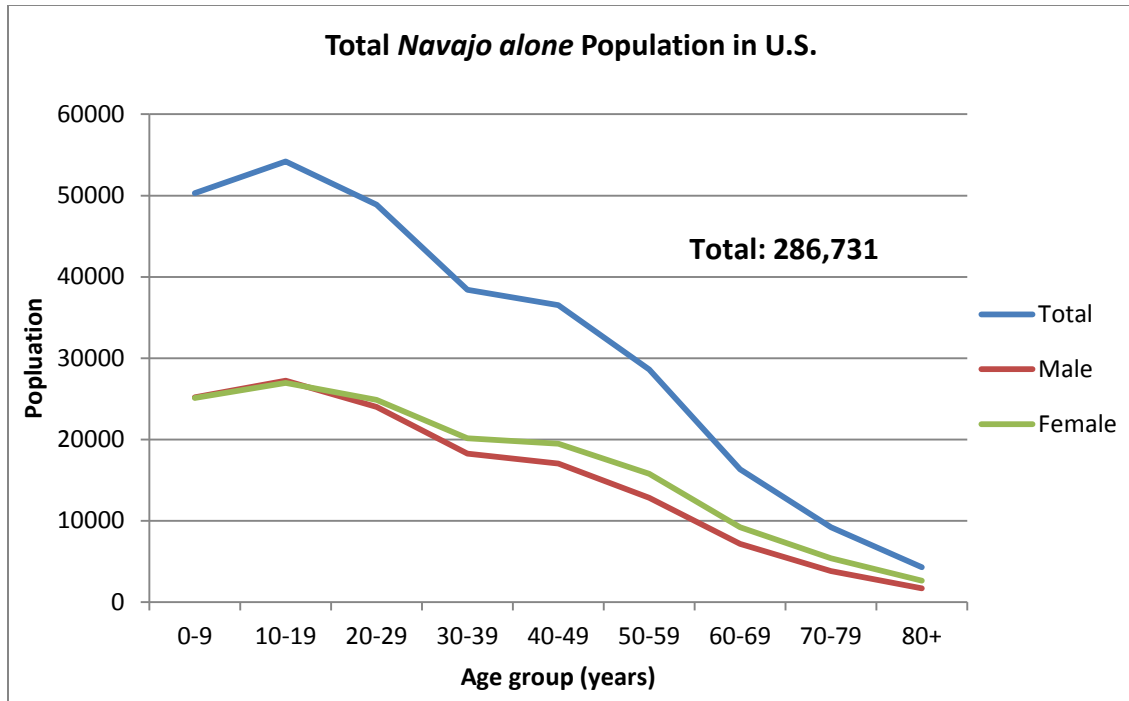


Figure 12. Age distribution of total *Navajo alone* population in the U.S. The age distribution by sex and has a population peak for the 10-19 age group.

Population on Navajo Nation

Total Population on the Navajo Nation

The 2010 U.S. Census enumerated 173,667 people living on the Navajo Nation including all races. The age distribution of the total population on Navajo Nation with the highest population was the 10-19 age group at 34,320 individuals, Figure 13. Fifty-one percent (51 percent) of the total Navajo population were in the 0-29 age group. The distribution of this population by age group and sex are in Figure 14, Figure 15, and Figure 16.

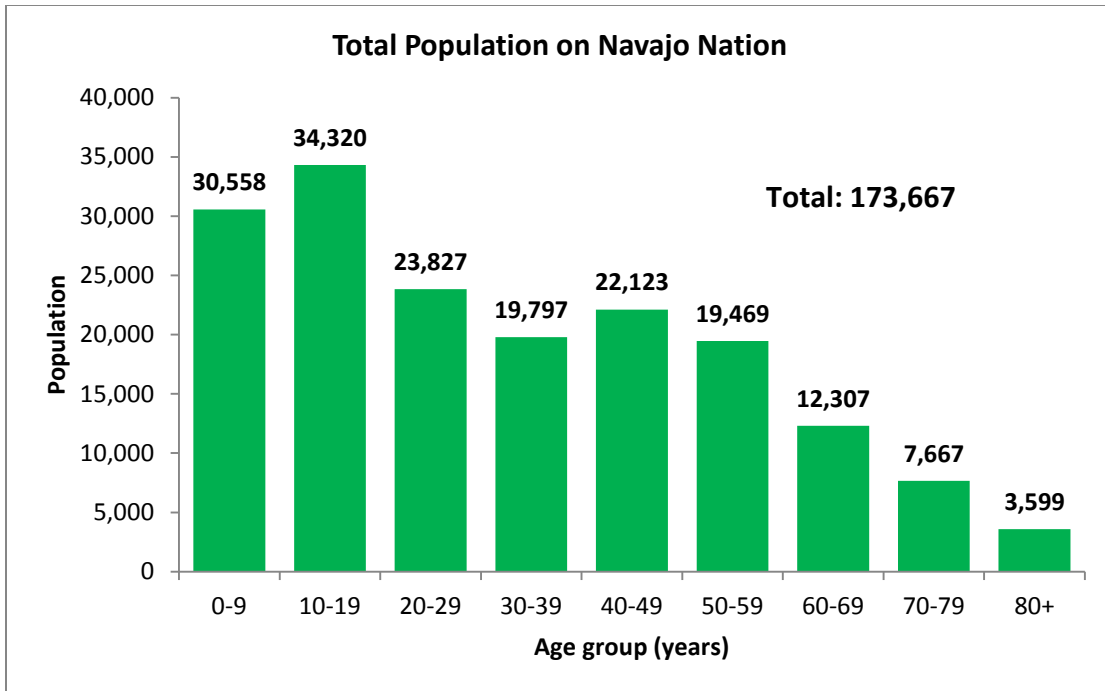


Figure 13. Age distribution of total population on the Navajo Nation.

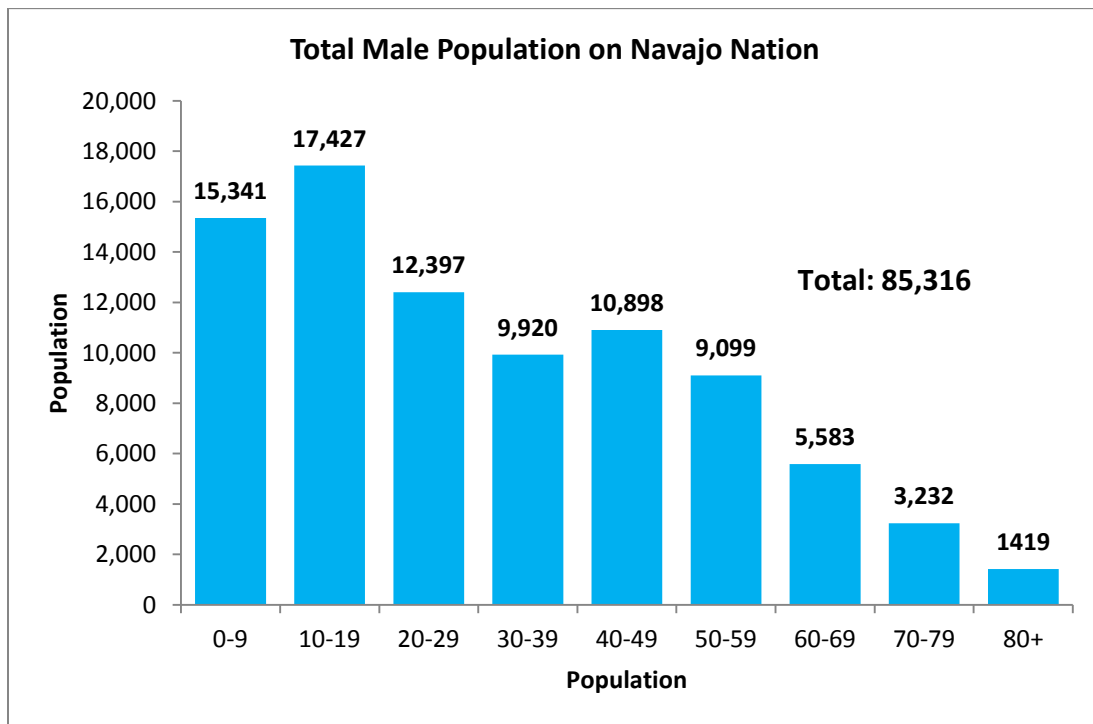


Figure 14. Age distribution of the total male population on the Navajo Nation.

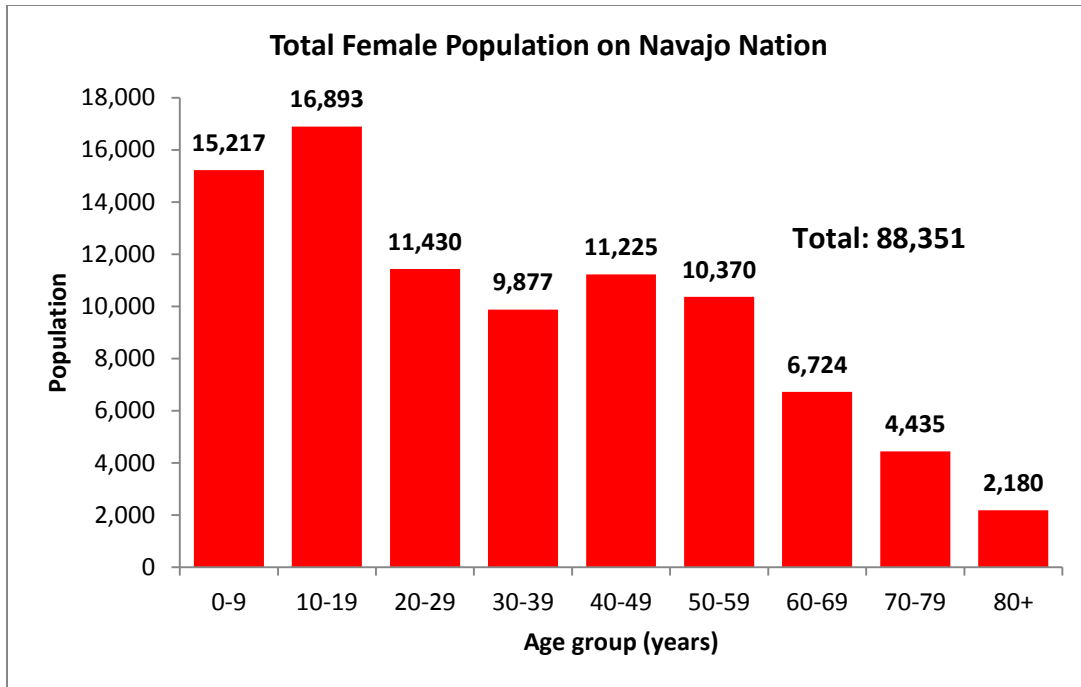


Figure 15. Age distribution of the total female population on the Navajo Nation.

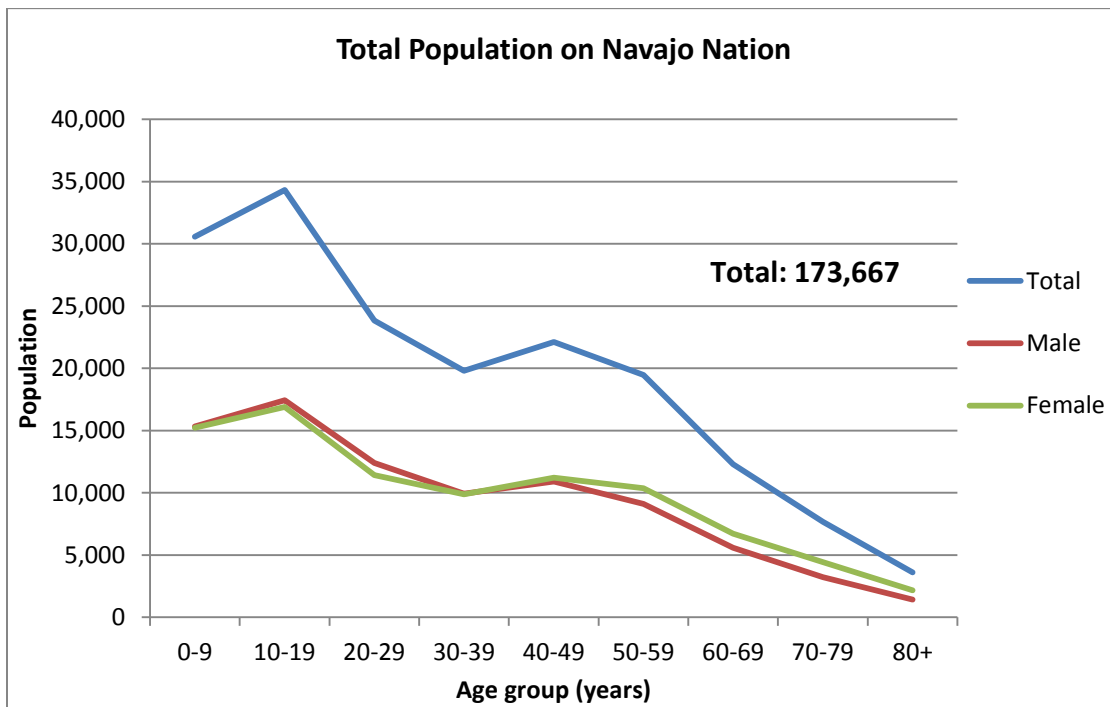


Figure 16. Age distribution of the total population on the Navajo Nation by age group and sex.

Total Navajo in combination Population on the Navajo Nation

The 2010 U.S. Census enumerated 156,823 *Navajo in combination* individuals living on the Navajo Nation. The age distribution of the total *Navajo in combination* population on Navajo Nation shows the highest population in the 10-19 age group at 31,371, Figure 17. Fifty-two percent (52 percent) of the total *Navajo in combination* population on Navajo Nation are in the 0-29 age group. The distribution of this population by age group and sex are in Figure 18, Figure 19, and Figure 20.

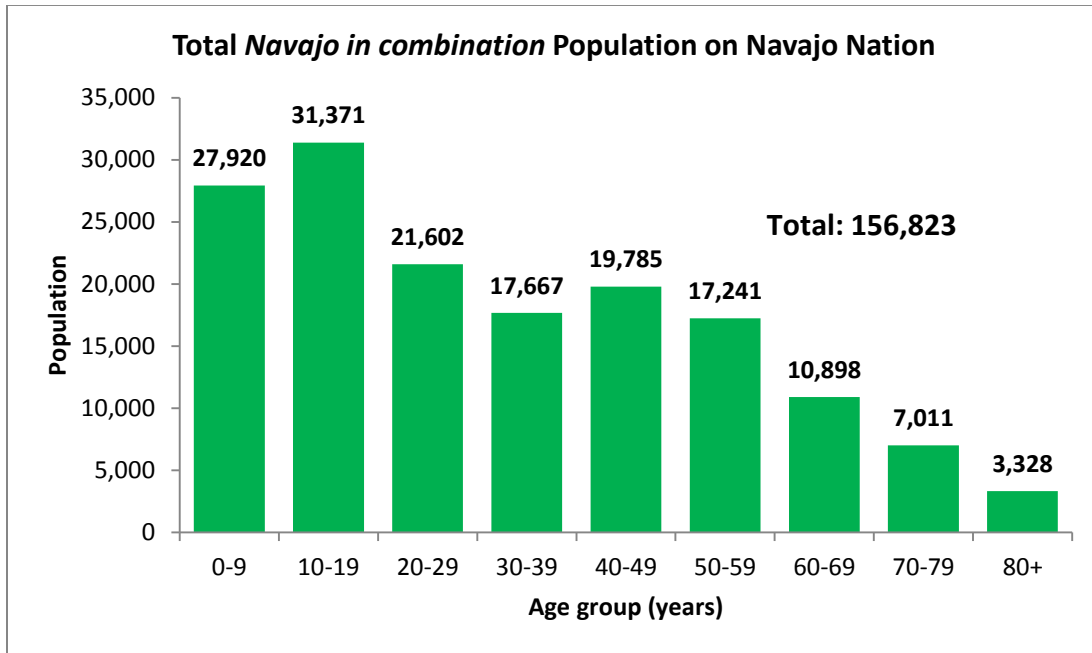


Figure 17. Age distribution of total *Navajo in combination* population on the Navajo Nation.

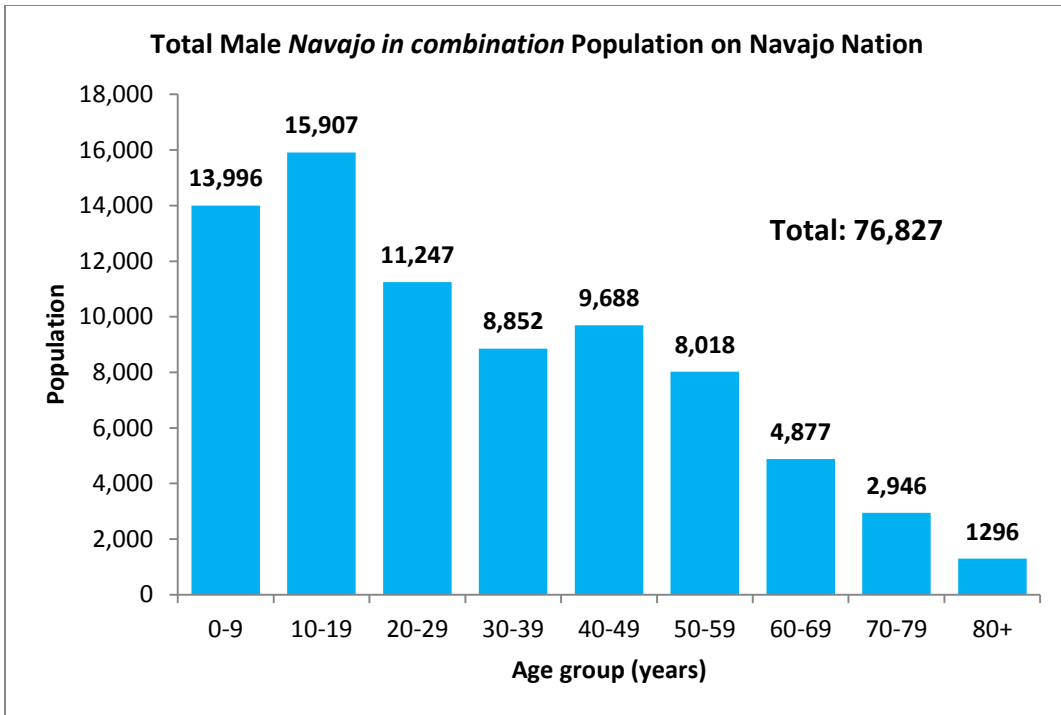


Figure 18. Age distribution of total male *Navajo in combination* on the Navajo Nation.

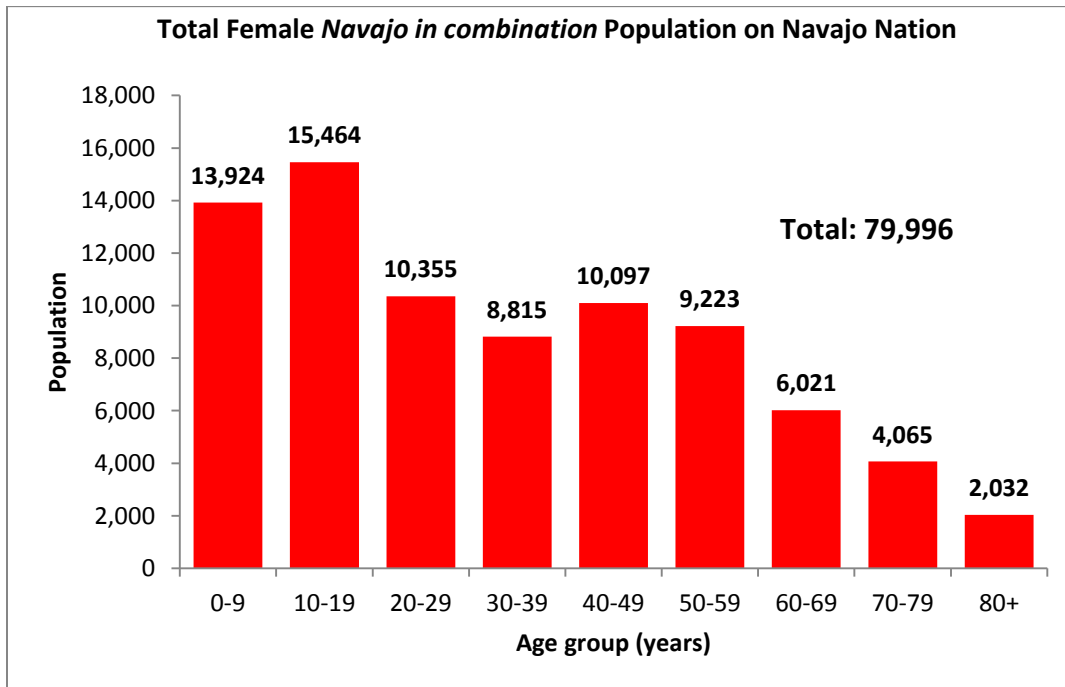


Figure 19. Age distribution of total female *Navajo in combination* on the Navajo Nation.

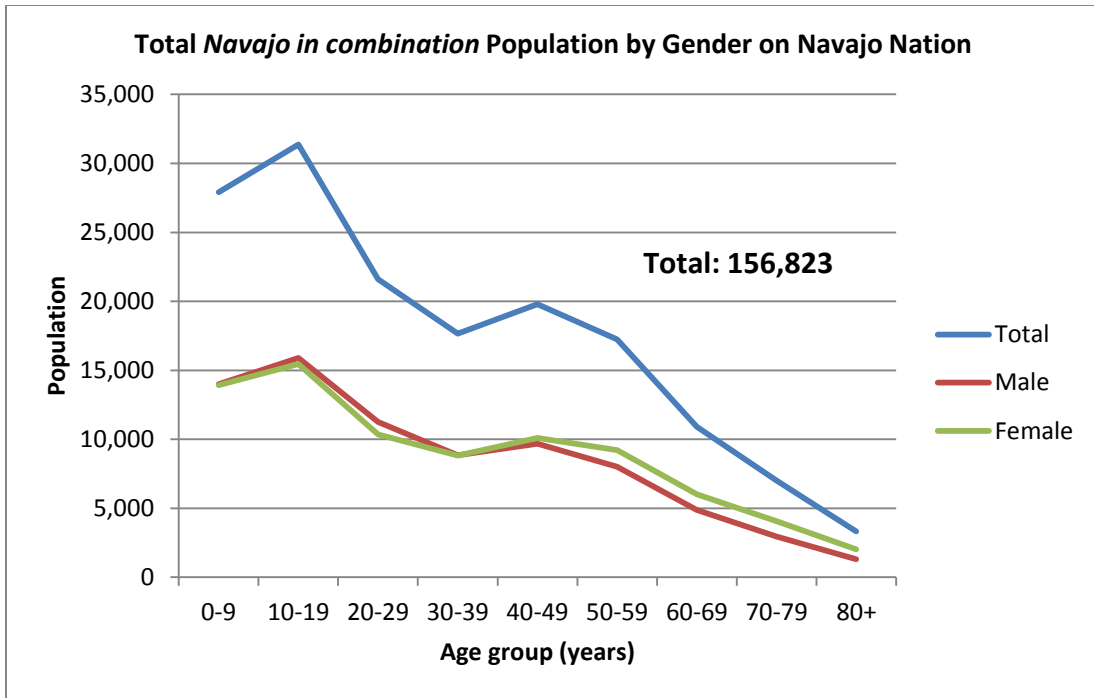


Figure 20. Age distribution of total *Navajo in combination* population by age group and sex on the Navajo Nation.

Total Navajo alone Population on Navajo Nation

The 2010 U.S. Census enumerated 153,323 *Navajo alone* individuals living on the Navajo Nation. The age distribution of the total *Navajo alone* population on the Navajo Nation shows the highest population in the 10-19 age group at 30,325 individuals, Figure 21. Fifty-one percent (51 percent) of the total *Navajo alone* population on the Navajo Nation are in the 0-29 age group. The distribution of this population by age group and sex are in Figure 22, Figure 23, and Figure 24.

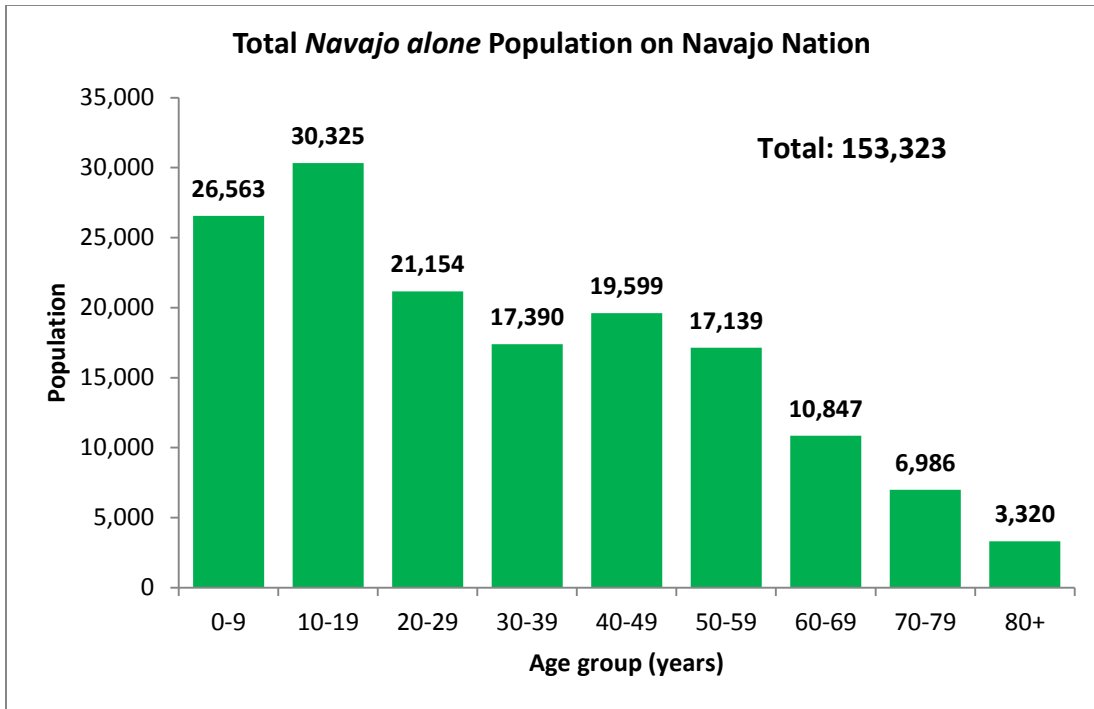


Figure 21. Age distribution of total *Navajo alone* population on the Navajo Nation.

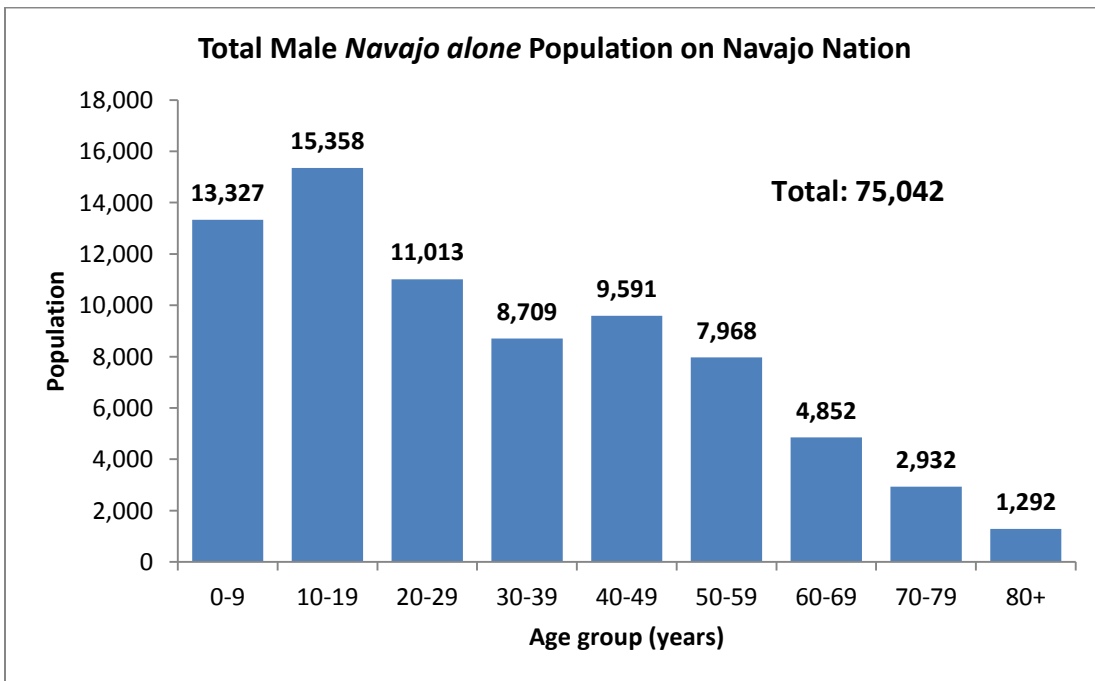


Figure 22. Age distribution of total male *Navajo alone* population on the Navajo Nation.

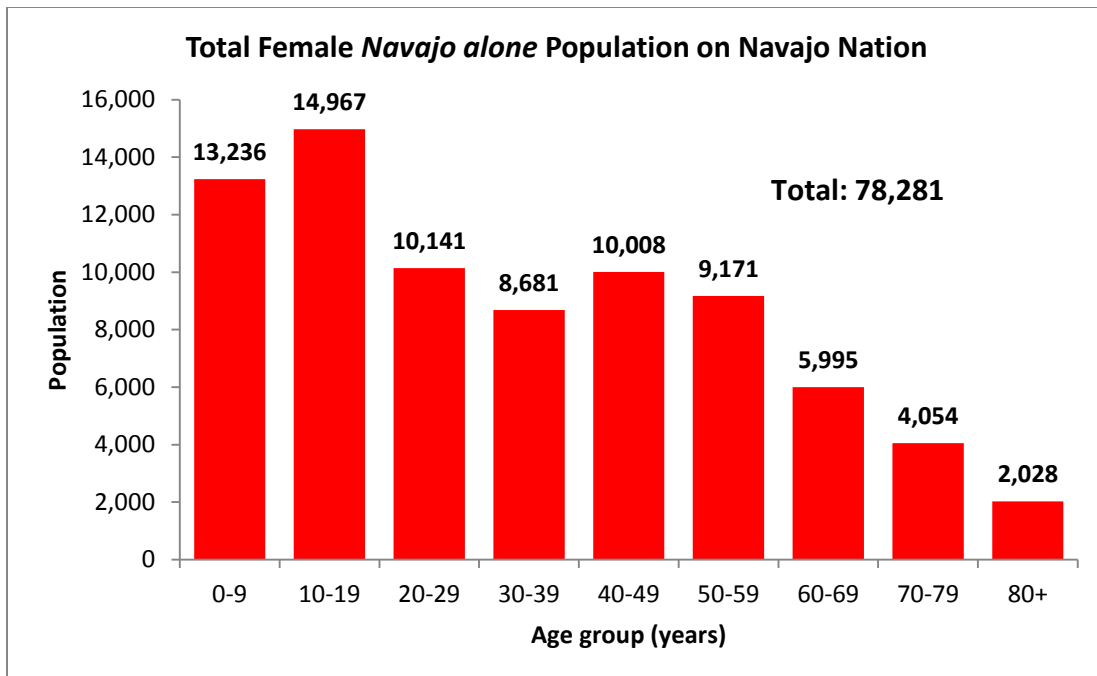


Figure 23. Age distribution of total female *Navajo alone* population on the Navajo Nation.

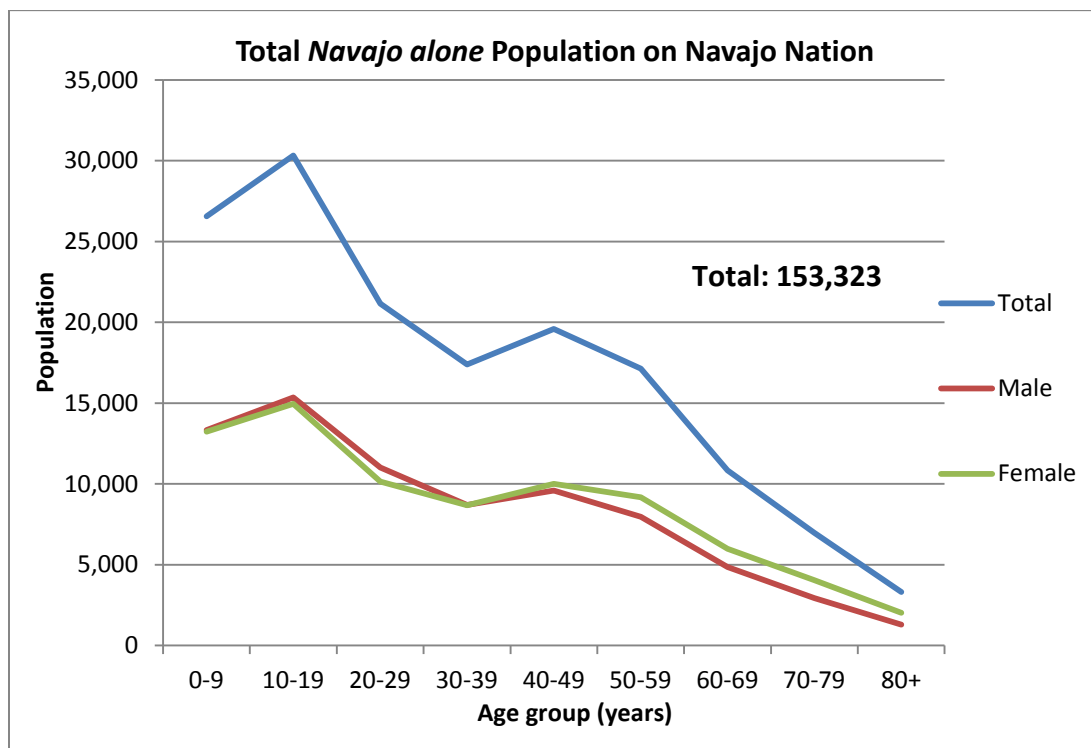


Figure 24. Age distribution of total *Navajo alone* population by age group and sex on the Navajo Nation.

The data for three populations within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation, including *Navajo in combination*, total *Navajo alone*, and total population, were analyzed for age group and sex distribution, Figure 25.

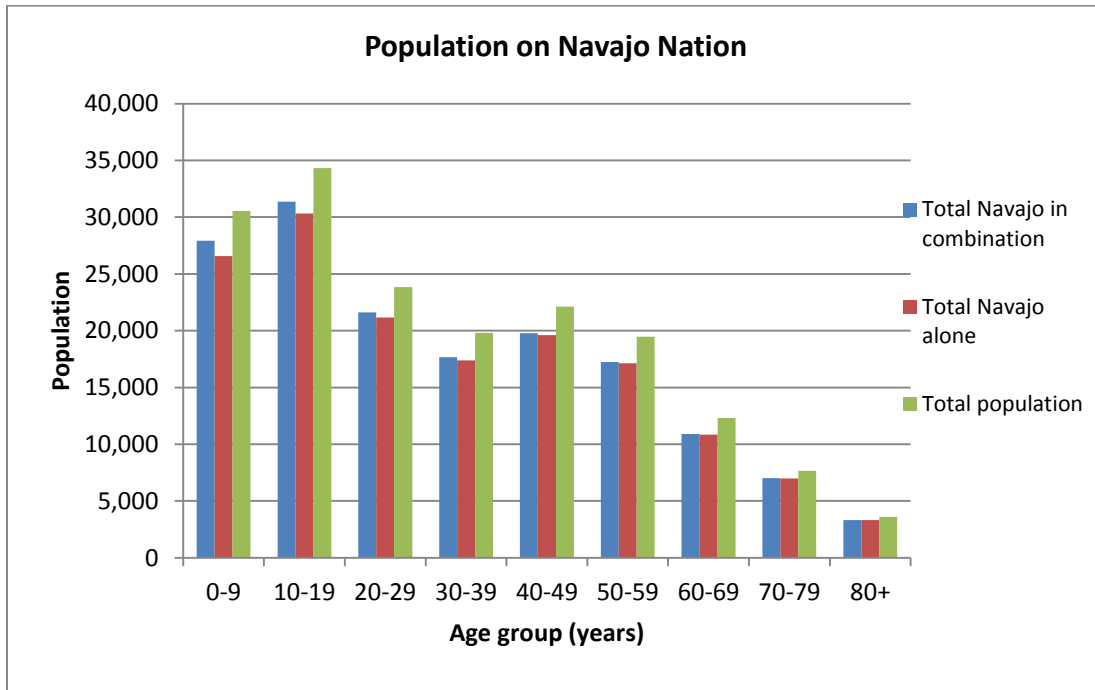


Figure 25. Population distribution of total *Navajo in combination*, total *Navajo alone* and total population on the Navajo Nation.

Population Density

Population density is a measurement of population per unit area (i.e., per square mile). This geographical term is mainly used to determine population in a specific area and identified as rural or urban. The average population density for the U.S. is approximately 345 persons per square mile. The Navajo Nation has a population density of 6.33 persons per square mile and is a rural area.

Population of Navajo in Border Towns

Over half, fifty-three percent (53 percent) of Navajos reside within the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Nation. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, nine percent (9 percent) of Navajos living in cities or towns on the borders of the Navajo Nation are known as border towns. The age distribution of *Navajo alone* and *Navajo in combination* shows the highest population for age groups 0-9 years and 20-29 years indicating a large population of young Navajos living in border towns, Figure 26 and Figure 27. Over sixty percent (60 percent) of Navajos living in the border towns are in the 0-29 age group.

Twelve border towns, listed below, were selected for inclusion in the Profile.

- Farmington, NM
- Gallup, NM
- Flagstaff, AZ
- Page, AZ
- Winslow, AZ
- Bloomfield, NM
- Holbrook, AZ
- Blanding, UT
- Grants, NM
- Cortez, CO
- Durango, CO
- Aztec, NM

The results were based on the 2010 U.S. Census Summary File for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The city datasets were queried by “city.” Farmington, NM has the highest *Navajo in combination* population with 9,522 individuals. The least *Navajo in combination* populated city was Aztec, NM at 535 individuals. For *Navajo alone*, Farmington, NM had the highest population at 8,708 and Durango, CO had the least at 483, Figure 28, Figure 29, and Figure 30. Fifty-six percent (56 percent) of the *Navajo in combination* and *Navajo alone* population live in Farmington or Gallup, NM.

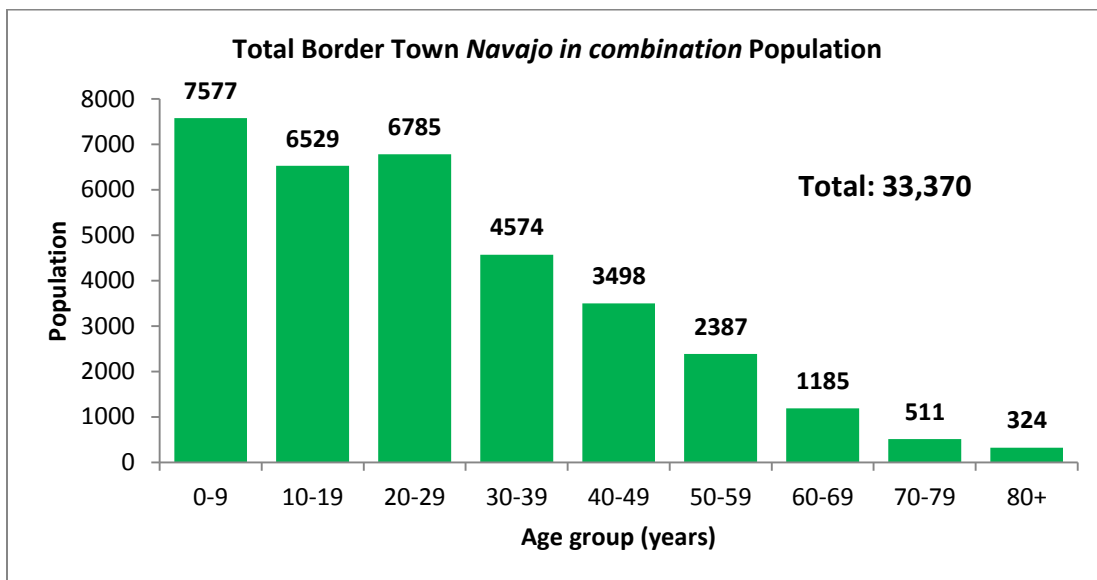


Figure 26. Age distribution of total *Navajo in combination* population in border towns.

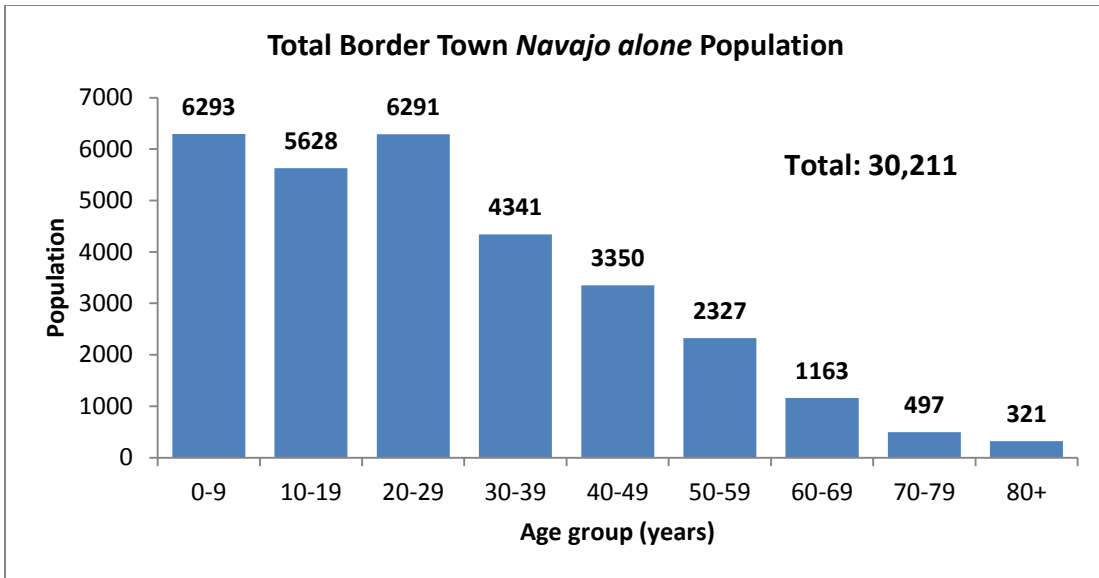


Figure 27. Age distribution of total *Navajo alone* population in border towns.

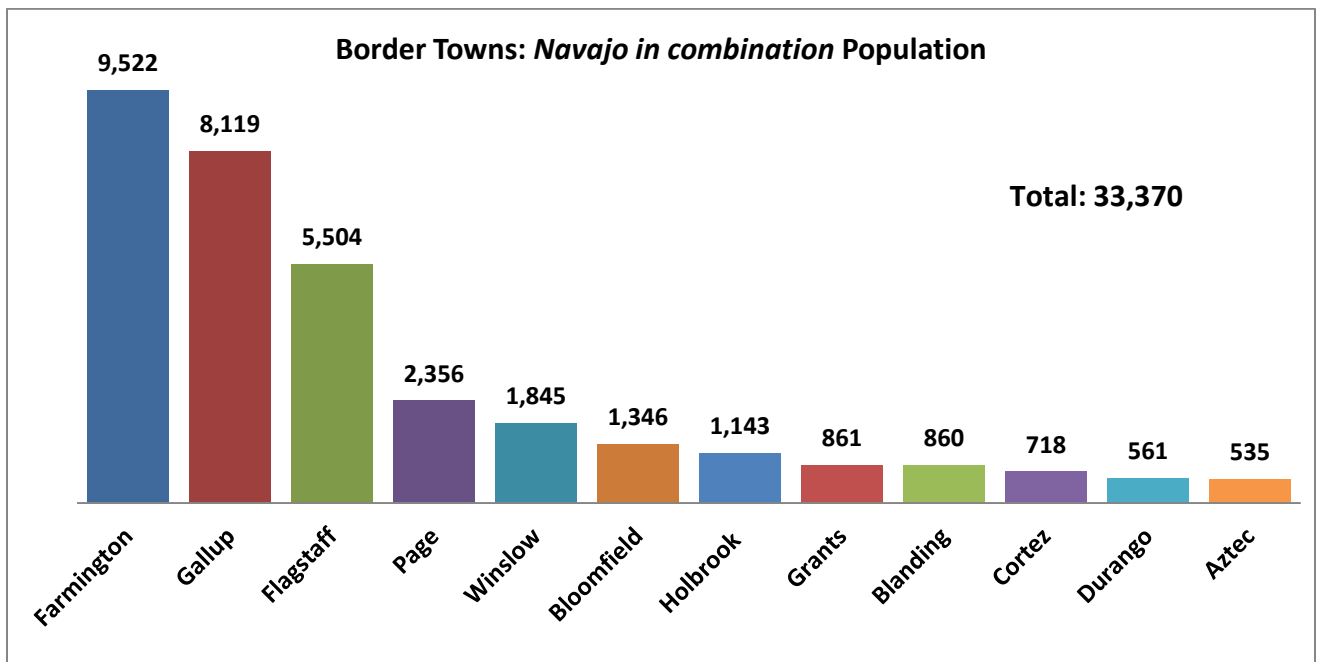


Figure 28. *Navajo in combination* population by specific border town.

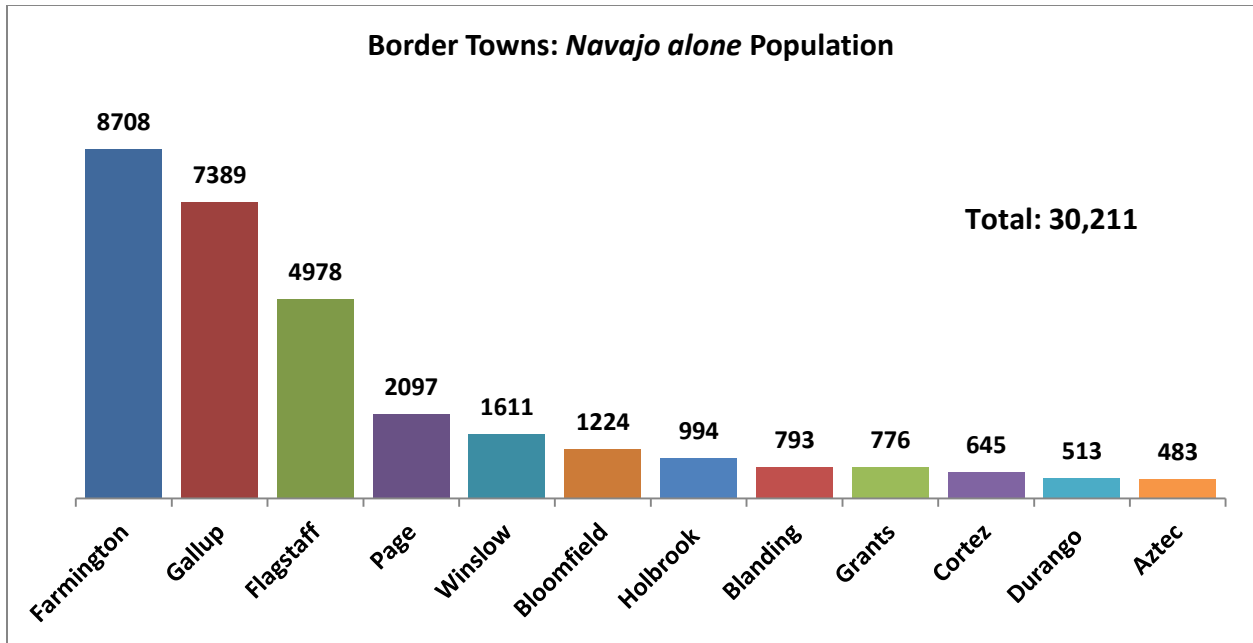


Figure 29. Navajo alone population by specific border town.

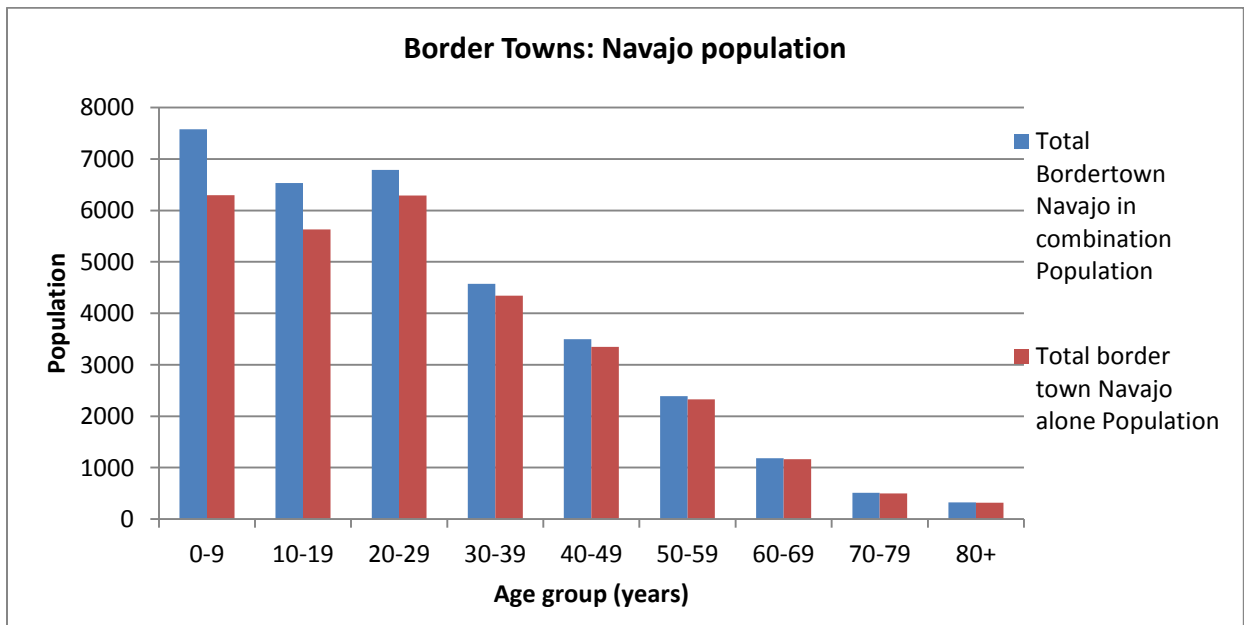


Figure 30. Border town Navajo population. The highest population in border towns are in the 0-9 age group, followed by the 20-29 age group.

Population of Navajo in Metropolitan Areas

Twenty-two percent (22 percent) of Navajos live in metropolitan areas. The age distribution of *Navajo in combination* and *Navajo alone* shows a high population of young Navajos living in the metropolitan areas. Approximately sixty percent (60 percent) of Navajos living in metropolitan areas are in the 0-29 age group. For *Navajo in combination*, the largest populations are in the 0-9 and 20-29 age group with 15,171 and 15,012 individuals, respectively. For *Navajo alone*, the largest population living in the metropolitan areas were in the 20-29 age group with 12,631 individuals.

Twenty-eight metropolitan areas, listed below, were selected.

- Albuquerque, NM
- Chicago, IL
- Colorado Springs, CO
- Dallas, TX
- Denver, CO
- Houston, TX
- Lake Havasu City, AZ
- Las Cruces, NM
- Las Vegas, NV
- Los Angeles, CA
- New York, NY
- Ogden, UT
- Oklahoma City, OK
- Phoenix, AZ
- Portland, OR
- Prescott, AZ
- Provo, UT
- Riverside, CA
- Sacramento, CA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- San Diego, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- San Jose, CA
- Sante Fe, NM
- Seattle, WA
- St. George, UT
- Tucson, AZ
- Washington, DC

The results are based on the 2010 U.S. Census Summary File for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The datasets were queried by MSA and analyzed for age distribution, Figure 31 and Figure 32. Phoenix, Arizona had the largest *Navajo in combination* population at 26,939 and *Navajo alone* at 23,104 individuals, Figure 33 and Figure 34.

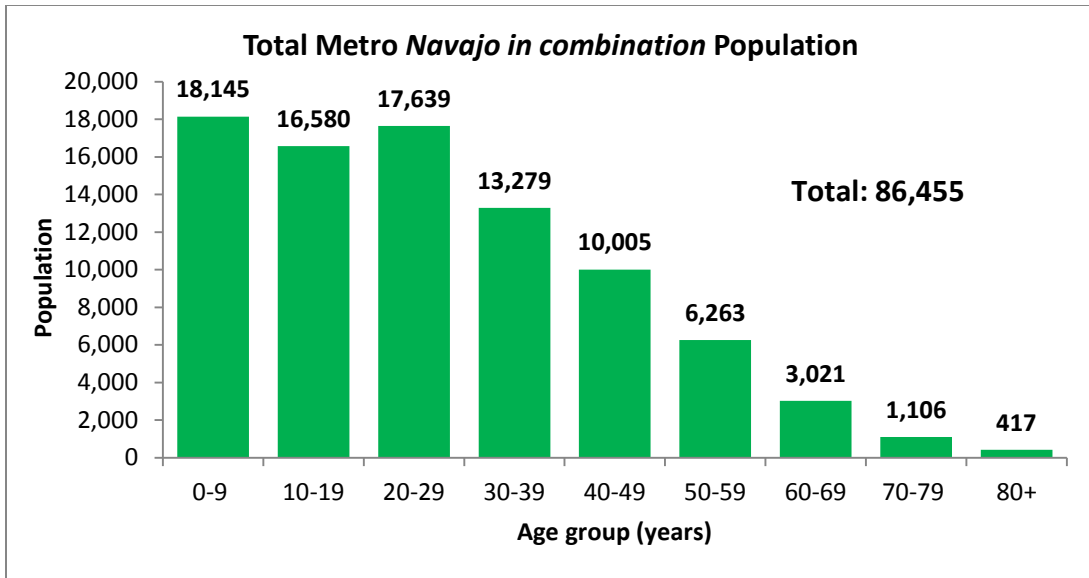


Figure 31. Total metropolitan *Navajo in combination* population in the U.S.

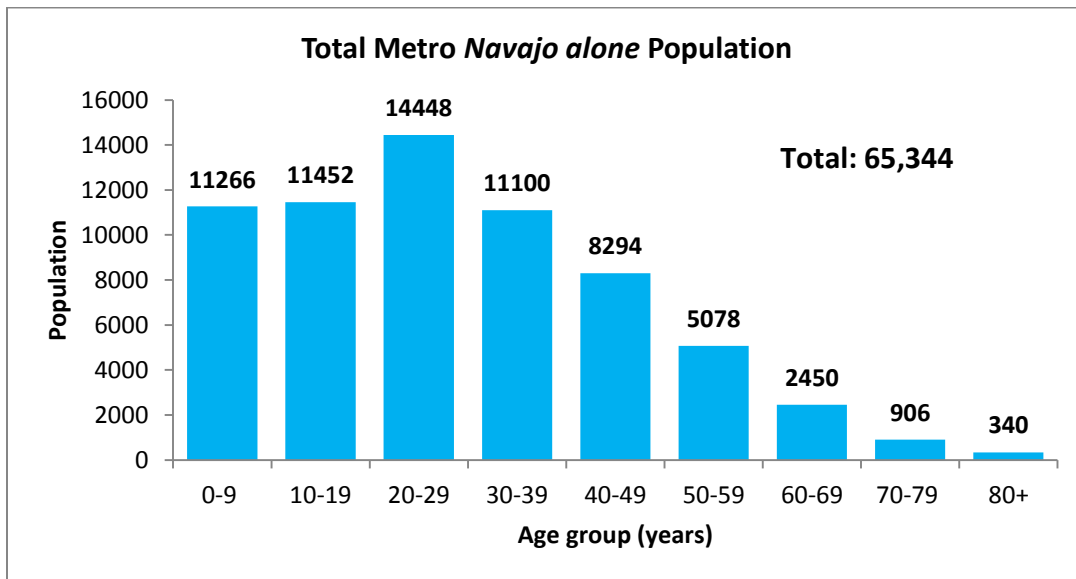


Figure 32. Total metropolitan *Navajo alone* population in the U.S.

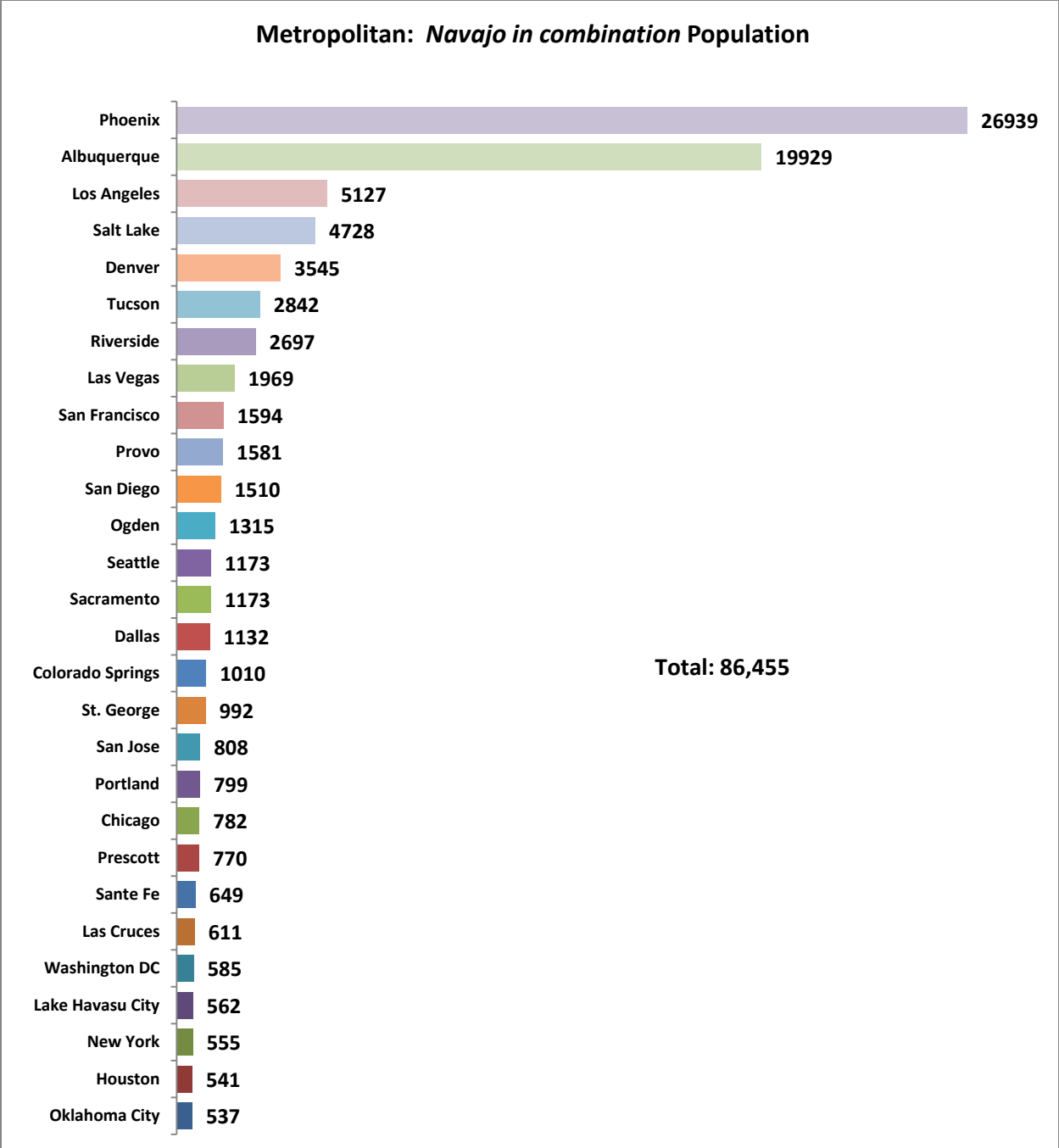


Figure 33. *Navajo in combination* population in Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

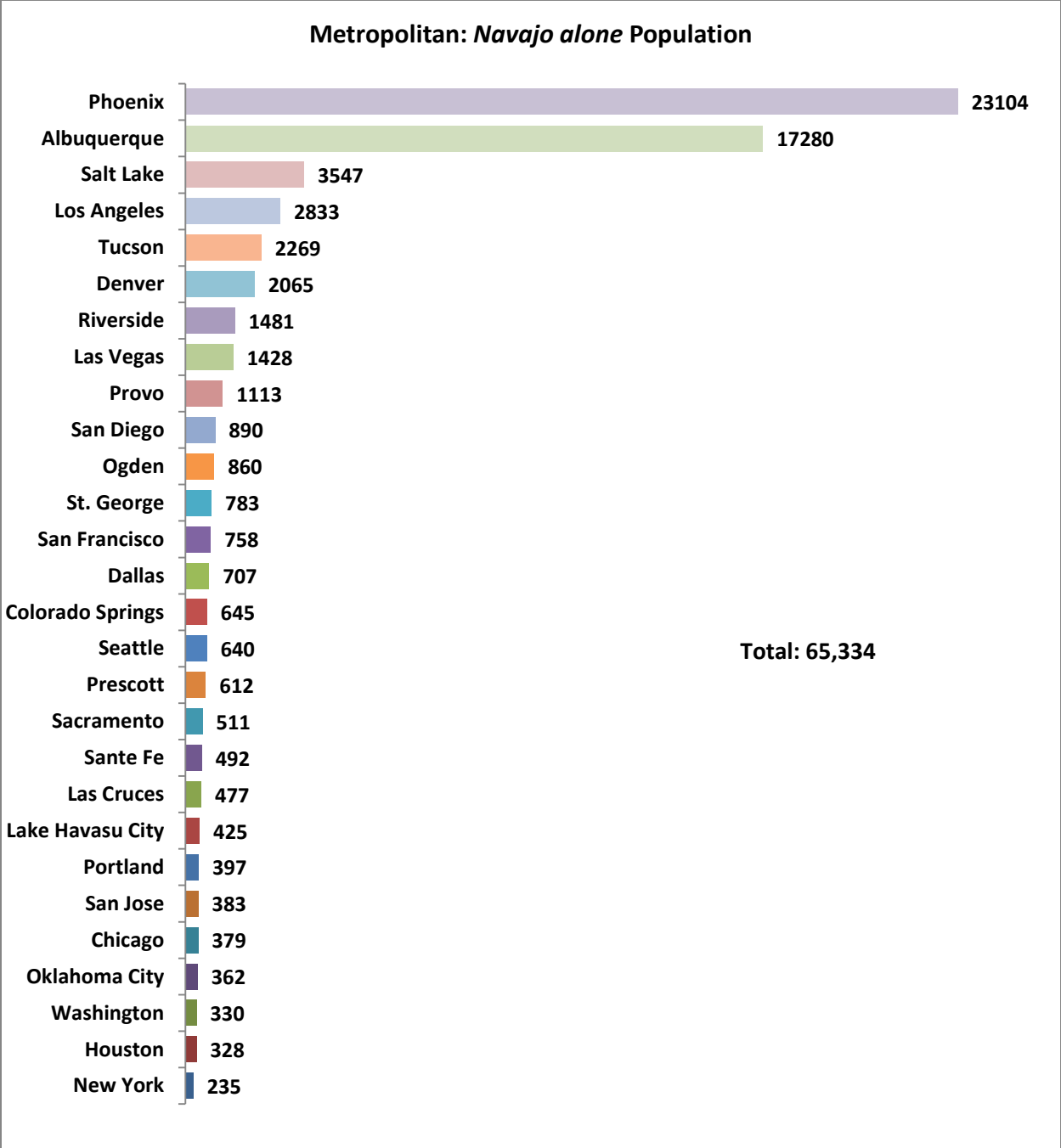


Figure 34. *Navajo alone* population in Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

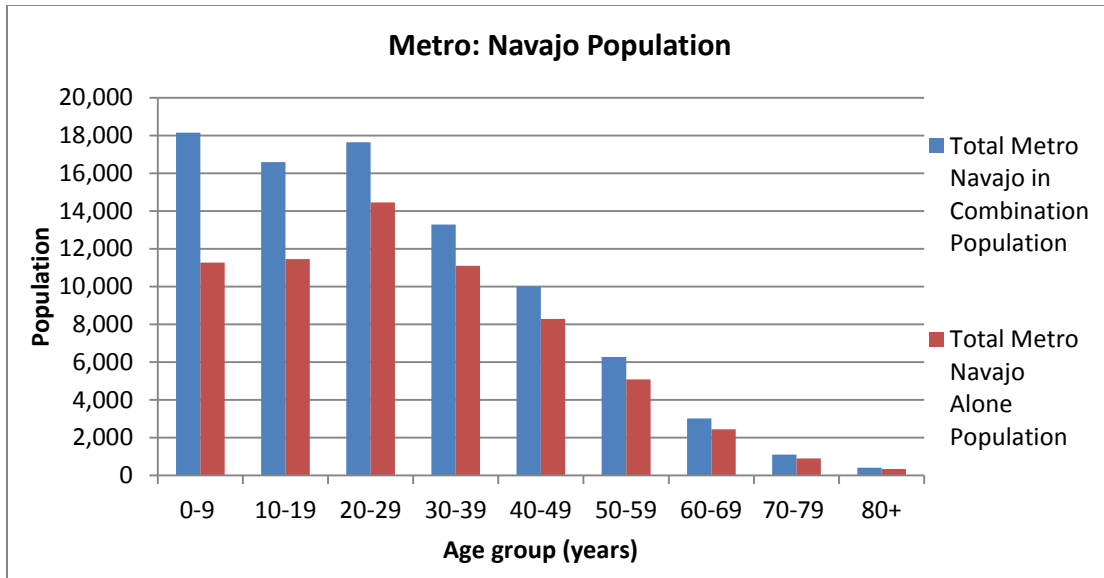


Figure 35. Total metropolitan *Navajo in combination* and *Navajo alone* populations by age group in the U.S..

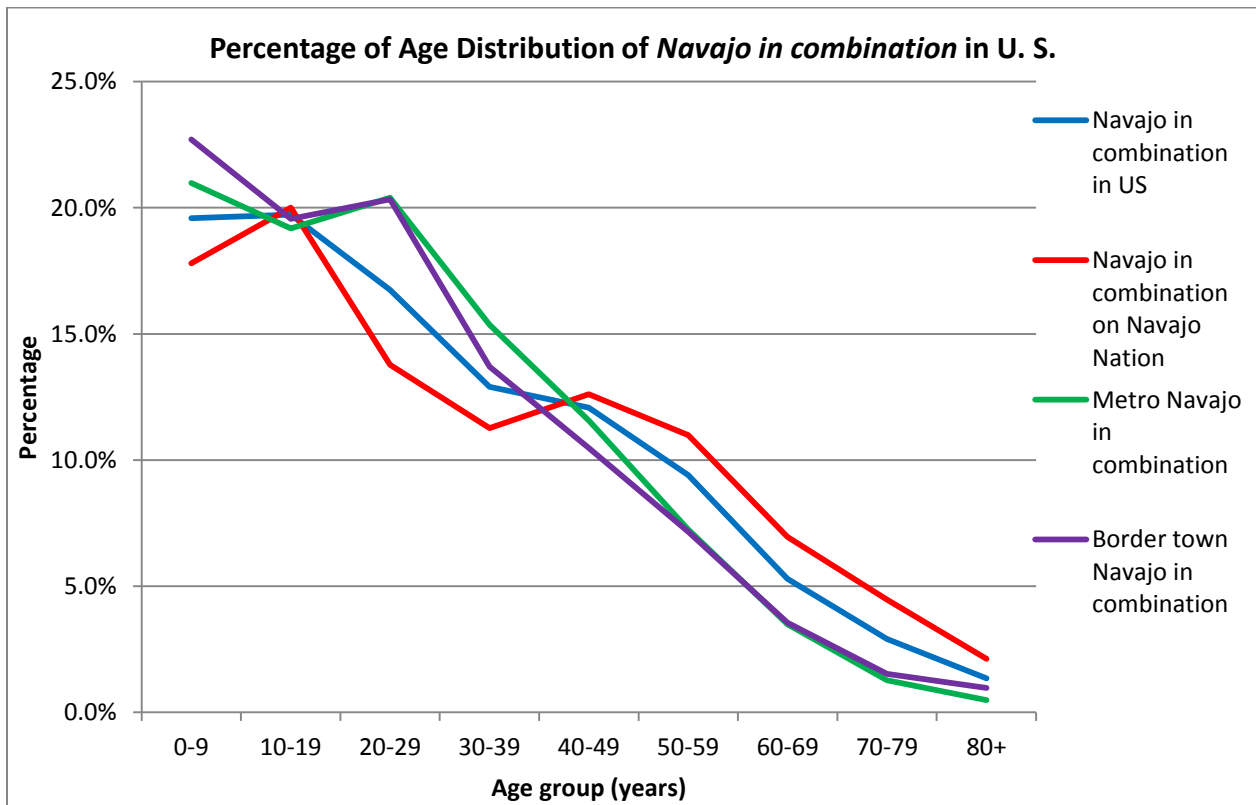


Figure 36. Percentage of *Navajo in combination* by age group and geographical area, in U.S., on Navajo Nation, in metropolitan areas, and in border towns

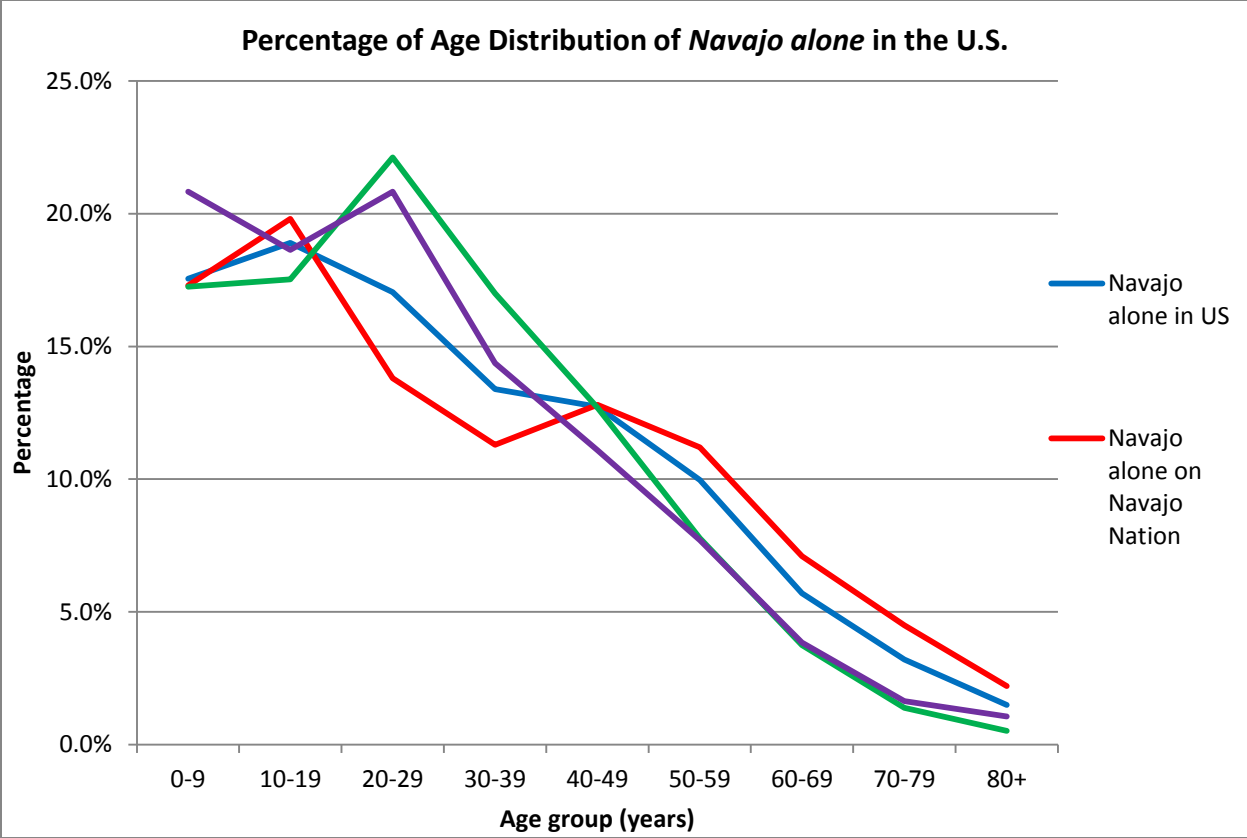


Figure 37. Percentage of *Navajo alone* population by age group and geographic area, in the U.S., on Navajo Nation, in metropolitan areas, and in border towns

Agency and Chapter Population on Navajo Nation

There are a total of 110 chapters that constitute the Navajo Nation with a certain number of chapters per agency, Figure 38. Eastern agency has the most chapter representation at thirty-one. Central agency has the least chapter representation with fourteen. Each chapter is designed some authority over local issues pertaining to their respective chapter area.

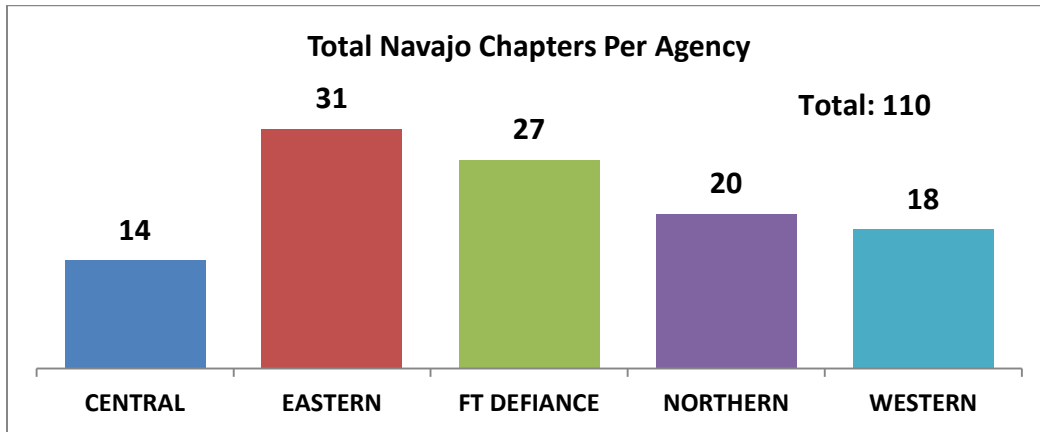


Figure 38: Total number of Navajo chapters per agency.

The 2010 U.S. Census data was analyzed for the Navajo Nation chapters and listed in alphabetical order by agencies with population counts for *Navajo in combination* (*Navajo in Comb pop*), *Navajo alone* (*Navajo alone pop*), and total population with all races (*All race pop*) Table 1.1.

Table 1.1. Eastern Agency populations by Navajo in combination, Navajo alone, and all races.

EASTERN AGENCY					
CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	Navajo in Comb* pop	Navajo alone pop†	All race Pop†
ALAMO	NM	SOCORRO/CIBOLA	1,873	1,826	2,006
BACA	NM	McKINLEY/CIBOLA	731	725	789
BECENTI	NM	McKINLEY	377	367	403
BREAD SPRINGS	NM	McKINLEY	850	843	908
CANONCITO	NM	CIBOLA/BERNALLILO/SANDOVAL	1,423	1,389	1,591
CASAMERO LAKE	NM	McKINLEY	464	460	518
CHICHILTAH	NM	McKINLEY	1,334	1,333	1,443
CHURCH ROCK	NM	McKINLEY	2,653	2,626	2,868
COUNSELOR	NM	SANDOVAL/RIO ARRIBA/SAN JUAN	721	708	870
CROWNPOINT	NM	McKINLEY	2,320	2,263	2,729
HUERFANO	NM	SAN JUAN	2,466	2,404	2,633
IYANBITO	NM	McKINLEY	808	790	890
LAKE VALLEY	NM	SAN JUAN/McKINLEY	287	286	306
LITTLEWATER	NM	McKINLEY	402	402	427
MANUELITO	NM	McKINLEY	223	223	264
MARIANO LAKE	NM	McKINLEY	786	784	823
NAGEEZI	NM	SAN JUAN	1,010	994	1,095
NAHODISHGISH	NM	McKINLEY	384	378	408
OJO ENCINO	NM	McKINLEY	584	567	688
PINEDALE	NM	McKINLEY	1,015	993	1,109
PUEBLO PINTADO	NM	McKINLEY	359	354	419
RAMAH	NM	CIBOLA/McKINLEY	1,236	1,206	1,400
RED ROCK	NM	McKINLEY	1,694	1,666	1,866
ROCK SPRINGS	NM	McKINLEY	988	974	1,086
SMITH LAKE	NM	McKINLEY	828	811	951
STANDING ROCK	NM	McKINLEY	568	548	641
THOREAU	NM	McKINLEY	1,181	1,141	1,433
TORREON	NM	SANDOVAL/McKINLEY	1,315	1,300	1,612
TSAYATOH	NM	McKINLEY	574	555	658
WHITE HORSE	NM	McKINLEY	383	373	406
WHITE ROCK	NM	SAN JUAN/McKINLEY	75	75	76
		TOTAL	29,912	29,364	33,316
* Combination					
† Population					

Table 1.2. Ft. Defiance Agency populations by *Navajo in combination, Navajo alone, and all races.*

FT. DEFIANCE AGENCY					
CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	<i>Navajo in Comb* pop†</i>	<i>Navajo alone pop†</i>	All race Pop†
CORNFIELDS	AZ	APACHE	815	803	911
COYOTE CANYON	NM	McKINLEY	643	634	685
CRYSTAL	NM/AZ	SAN JUAN/APACHE/McKINLEY	562	555	670
DILKON	AZ	NAVAJO	1,960	1,933	2,110
FORT DEFIANCE	AZ/NM	APACHE/McKINLEY	4,979	4,752	5,856
GANADO	AZ	APACHE	2,202	2,169	2,504
GREASEWOOD	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	1,226	1,185	1,320
HOUCK	AZ	APACHE	1,339	1,300	1,436
INDIAN WELLS	AZ	NAVAJO	928	900	989
JEDITO	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	961	936	1,180
KINLICHEE	AZ	APACHE	1,450	1,404	1,610
KLGETOH	AZ	APACHE	846	826	909
LOW MOUNTAIN	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	688	676	754
LUPTON	AZ	APACHE	840	806	902
MEXICAN SPRINGS	NM	McKINLEY	1,212	1,180	1,418
NAHATADZIL	AZ	APACHE	1,572	1,550	1,731
NASCHITTI	NM	SAN JUAN	1,411	1,363	1,500
OAK SPRINGS	AZ	APACHE	497	482	533
RED LAKE	AZ/NM	APACHE/McKINLEY	1,794	1,752	2,028
SAWMILL	AZ	APACHE	982	966	1054
ST. MICHAELS	AZ/NM	APACHE/McKINLEY	4,800	4,667	5,643
STEAMBOAT	AZ	APACHE/NAVAJO	1,173	1,140	1,226
TEESTO	AZ	NAVAJO	844	820	930
TOHATCHI	NM	McKINLEY	1,256	1,240	1,450
TWIN LAKES	NM	McKINLEY	1,990	1,963	2,212
WHITE CONE	AZ	NAVAJO	1,210	1,176	1,284
WIDE RUINS	AZ	APACHE	1,008	984	1,095
		TOTAL	39,188	38,162	43,940
* Combination † Population					

Table 1.3. Central Agency populations by *Navajo in combination, Navajo alone, and all races.*

CENTRAL AGENCY					
CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	<i>Navajo in Comb*</i> pop†	<i>Navajo alone</i> pop†	All race Pop†
BLACK MESA	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	378	376	428
CHINLE	AZ	APACHE	7,273	7135	8,005
FOREST LAKE	AZ	NAVAJO	432	431	471
HARD ROCK	AZ	NAVAJO	1,046	1,032	1,161
LUKACHUKAI	AZ	APACHE	2,064	2,021	2,154
MANY FARMS	AZ	APACHE	2,476	2,444	2,738
NAZLINI	AZ	APACHE	1,155	1,129	1,260
PINON	AZ	NAVAJO	2,487	2,471	2,751
ROUGH ROCK	AZ	APACHE	856	844	947
ROUND ROCK	AZ	APACHE	1,475	1,455	1,566
TACHEE/BLUE GAP	AZ	APACHE/NAVAJO	1,133	1,123	1,178
TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS	AZ/NM	APACHE/SAN JUAN	2,053	2,015	2,250
TSELANI	AZ	APACHE	1,332	1,312	1,425
WHIPPOORWILL	AZ	NAVAJO	1,439	1,427	1,489
		TOTAL	25,599	25,215	27,823
* Combination † Population					

Table 1.4. Western Agency populations by Navajo in combination, Navajo alone, and all races.

WESTERN AGENCY					
CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	Navajo in Comb* pop†	Navajo alone pop†	All race Pop†
BIRD SPRINGS	AZ	COCONINO/NAVAJO	772	751	795
BODAWAY	AZ	COCONINO	1,605	1,588	1,704
CAMERON	AZ	COCONINO	1,020	982	1,122
CHILCHINBETO	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	1,067	1,048	1,165
COALMINE MESA	AZ	COCONINO	641	636	691
COPPERMINE	AZ	COCONINO	545	535	590
DENNEHOTSO	AZ/UT	APACHE/SAN JUAN/NAVAJO	1,402	1,378	1,462
INSCRIPTION HOUSE	AZ/UT	COCONINO/SAN JUAN/NAVAJO	1,161	1,139	1,252
KAIBETO	AZ	COCONINO	1,881	1,858	1,963
KAYENTA	AZ	NAVAJO	5,307	5,174	6,211
LECHEE	AZ	COCONINO	1,589	1,537	1,660
LEUPP	AZ	COCONINO	1,469	1,433	1,611
NAVAJO MOUNTAIN	UT/AZ	SAN JUAN/COCONINO/NAVAJO	501	475	542
OLJATO	UT/AZ	SAN JUAN/COCONINO/NAVAJO	2,040	1,973	2,214
SHONTO	AZ	NAVAJO/COCONINO	1,866	1,827	2,124
TOLANI LAKE	AZ	COCONINO/NAVAJO	606	597	647
TONALEA	AZ	COCONINO	2,452	2,402	2,595
TUBA CITY	AZ	COCONINO	7,608	7,354	9,265
		TOTAL	33,532	32,687	37,613
* Combination					
† Population					

Table 1.5. Northern Agency populations by Navajo in combination, Navajo alone, and all races.

NORTHERN AGENCY					
CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	Navajo in Comb* pop†	Navajo alone pop†	All race Pop†
ANETH	UT	SAN JUAN	1,820	1,802	1,989
BECLABITO	NM/AZ	SAN JUAN/APACHE	718	707	749
BURNHAM	NM	SAN JUAN	257	256	280
COVE	AZ	APACHE	420	412	430
FRUITLAND	NM	SAN JUAN	2,538	2,433	2,751
GADII'AH	NM	SAN JUAN	495	478	550
HOGBACK	NM	SAN JUAN	1,150	1,124	1,215
MEXICAN WATER	AZ/UT	APACHE/SAN JUAN	851	829	933
NENAHNEZAD	NM	SAN JUAN	1,128	1,077	1,292
NEWCOMB	NM	SAN JUAN	550	544	629
RED MESA	UT/AZ	SAN JUAN/APACHE	1,144	1,132	1,222
RED VALLEY	AZ/NM	APACHE/SAN JUAN	1,356	1,343	1,417
ROCK POINT	AZ	APACHE	1,218	1,203	1,273
SAN JUAN	NM	SAN JUAN	500	500	500
SANOSTEE	NM/AZ	SAN JUAN/APACHE	1,676	1,660	1,795
SHEEP SPRINGS	NM	SAN JUAN	766	749	801
SHIPROCK	NM	SAN JUAN	8,329	8,073	9,126
SWEETWATER	AZ	APACHE	1,362	1,332	1,535
TEEC NOS POS	AZ/UT/NM	APACHE/SAN JUAN	1,212	1,178	1,301
TWO GREY HILLS	NM	SAN JUAN	500	500	500
		TOTAL	28,592	27,895	30,945
* Combination					
† Population					

Table 1.6. Populations by Agencies on Navajo Nation. Navajo in combination comprise 90.3 percent of the population on Navajo Nation, while Navajo alone comprise 88.6 percent.

Population on Navajo Nation by Agency			
Agency	Navajo in Comb* pop†	Navajo alone pop†	All race pop†
Central	25,599	25,215	27,823
Western	33,532	32,687	37,613
Northern	28,592	27,895	30,945
Ft. Defiance	39,188	38,162	43,940
Eastern	29,912	29,364	33,316
TOTAL	156,823	153,323	173,637
* Combination			
† Population			

Table 1.7. Population by chapter in Central Agency from most to least populated.

CENTRAL AGENCY POPULATION LARGEST TO SMALLEST						
	CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	<i>Navajo in comb* pop†</i>	<i>Navajo alone pop†</i>	All race pop†
1	CHINLE	AZ	APACHE	7,273	7,135	8,005
2	PINON	AZ	NAVAJO	2,487	2,471	2,751
3	MANY FARMS	AZ	APACHE	2,476	2,444	2,738
4	TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS	AZ/NM	APACHE/SAN JUAN	2,053	2,015	2,250
5	LUKACHUKAI	AZ	APACHE	2,064	2,021	2,154
6	ROUND ROCK	AZ	APACHE	1,475	1,455	1,566
7	WHIPPOORWILL	AZ	NAVAJO	1,439	1,427	1,489
8	TSELANI	AZ	APACHE	1,332	1,312	1,425
9	NAZLINI	AZ	APACHE	1,155	1,129	1,260
10	TACHEE/BLUE GAP	AZ	APACHE/NAVAJO	1,133	1,123	1,178
11	HARD ROCK	AZ	NAVAJO	1,046	1,032	1,161
12	ROUGH ROCK	AZ	APACHE	856	844	947
13	FOREST LAKE	AZ	NAVAJO	432	431	471
14	BLACK MESA	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	378	376	428
* Combination						
† Population						

Table 1.8. Population by chapter in Eastern Agency from most to least populated.

EASTERN AGENCY POPULATION LARGEST TO SMALLEST						
	CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	<i>Navajo in comb* pop†</i>	<i>Navajo alone pop†</i>	All race pop†
1	CHURCH ROCK	NM	McKINLEY	2,653	2,626	2,868
2	CROWNPOINT	NM	McKINLEY	2,320	2,263	2,729
3	HUERFANO	NM	SAN JUAN	2,466	2,404	2,633
4	ALAMO	NM	SOCORRO/CIBOLA	1,873	1,826	2,006
5	RED ROCK	NM	McKINLEY	1,694	1,666	1,866
6	TORREON	NM	SANDOVAL	1,315	1,300	1,612
7	CANONCITO	NM	CIBOLA/BERNALLILO/SANDOVAL	1,423	1,389	1,591
8	CHICHILTAH	NM	McKINLEY	1,334	1,333	1,443
9	THOREAU	NM	McKINLEY	1,181	1,141	1,433
10	RAMAH	NM	CIBOLA/McKINLEY	1,236	1,206	1,400
11	PINEDALE	NM	McKINLEY	1,015	993	1,109
12	NAGEEZI	NM	SAN JUAN	1,010	994	1,095
13	ROCK SPRINGS	NM	McKINLEY	988	974	1,086
14	SMITH LAKE	NM	McKINLEY	828	811	951
15	BREAD SPRINGS	NM	McKINLEY	850	843	908
16	IYANBITO	NM	McKINLEY	808	790	890
17	COUNSELOR	NM	SANDOVAL/RIO ARRIBA/SAN JUAN	721	708	870
18	MARIANO LAKE	NM	McKINLEY	786	784	823
19	BACA	NM	McKINLEY/CIBOLA	731	725	789
20	OJO ENCINO	NM	McKINLEY	584	567	688
21	TSAYATOH	NM	McKINLEY	574	555	658
22	STANDING ROCK	NM	McKINLEY	568	548	641
23	CASAMERO LAKE	NM	McKINLEY	464	460	518
24	LITTLEWATER	NM	McKINLEY	402	402	427
25	PUEBLO PINTADO	NM	McKINLEY	359	354	419
26	NAHODISHGISH	NM	McKINLEY	384	378	408
27	WHITE HORSE	NM	McKINLEY	383	373	406
28	BECENTI	NM	McKINLEY	377	367	403
29	LAKE VALLEY	NM	SAN JUAN/McKINLEY	287	286	306
30	MANUELITO	NM	McKINLEY	223	223	264
31	WHITE ROCK	NM	SAN JUAN/McKINLEY	75	75	76
* Combination						
† Population						

Table 1.9. Population by chapter in Ft. Defiance Agency from most to least populated.

FT. DEFIANCE AGENCY POPULATION LARGEST TO SMALLEST						
	CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	<i>Navajo in comb* pop†</i>	<i>Navajo alone pop†</i>	All race pop†
1	FORT DEFIANCE	AZ	APACHE/McKINLEY	4,979	4,752	5,856
2	ST. MICHAELS	AZ/NM	APACHE/McKINLEY	4,800	4,667	5,643
3	GANADO	AZ	APACHE	2,202	2,169	2,504
4	TWIN LAKES	NM	McKINLEY	1,990	1,963	2,212
5	DILKON	AZ	NAVAJO	1,960	1,933	2,110
6	RED LAKE	AZ/NM	APACHE/McKINLEY	1,794	1,752	2,028
7	NAHATADZIL	AZ	APACHE	1,572	1,550	1,731
8	KINLICHEE	AZ	APACHE	1,450	1,404	1,610
9	NASCHITTI	NM	SAN JUAN	1,411	1,363	1,500
10	TOHATCHI	NM	McKINLEY	1,256	1,240	1,450
11	HOUCK	AZ	APACHE	1,339	1,300	1,436
12	MEXICAN SPRINGS	NM	McKINLEY	1,212	1,180	1,418
13	GREASEWOOD	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	1,226	1,185	1,320
14	WHITE CONE	AZ	NAVAJO	1,210	1,176	1,284
15	STEAMBOAT	AZ	APACHE/NAVAJO	1,173	1,140	1,226
16	JEDDITO	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	961	936	1,180
17	WIDE RUINS	AZ	APACHE	1,008	984	1,095
18	SAWMILL	AZ	APACHE	982	966	1,054
19	INDIAN WELLS	AZ	NAVAJO	928	900	989
20	TEESTO	AZ	NAVAJO	844	820	930
21	CORNFIELDS	AZ	APACHE	815	803	911
22	KLGETOH	AZ	APACHE	846	826	909
23	LUPTON	AZ	APACHE	840	806	902
24	LOW MOUNTAIN	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	688	676	754
25	COYOTE CANYON	NM	McKINLEY	643	634	685
26	CRYSTAL	NM/AZ	SAN JUAN/APACHE/McKINLEY	562	555	670
27	OAK SPRINGS	AZ	APACHE	497	482	533
* Combination † Population						

Table 1.10. Population by chapter in Western Agency from most to least populated.

WESTERN AGENCY POPULATION LARGEST TO SMALLEST						
	CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	<i>Navajo in comb* pop†</i>	<i>Navajo alone pop†</i>	All race pop†
1	TUBA CITY	AZ	COCONINO	7,608	7,354	9,265
2	KAYENTA	AZ	NAVAJO	5,307	5,174	6,211
3	TONALEA	AZ	COCONINO	2,452	2,402	2,595
4	OLJATO	UT	SAN JUAN/ COCONINO/NAVAJO	2,040	1,973	2,214
5	SHONTO/COCONINO	AZ	NAVAJO	1,866	1,827	2,124
6	KAIBETO	AZ	COCONINO	1,881	1,858	1,963
7	BODAWAY	AZ	COCONINO	1,605	1,588	1,704
8	LECHEE	AZ	COCONINO	1,589	1,537	1,660
9	LEUPP	AZ	COCONINO	1,469	1,433	1,611
10	DENNEHOTSO	AZ	APACHE/SAN JUAN/NAVAJO	1,402	1,378	1,462
11	INSCRIPTION HOUSE	AZ	COCONINO/SAN JUAN/NAVAJO	1,161	1,139	1,252
12	CHILCHINBETO	AZ	NAVAJO/APACHE	1,067	1,048	1,165
13	CAMERON	AZ	COCONINO	1,020	982	1,122
14	BIRD SPRINGS	AZ	COCONINO/NAVAJO	772	751	795
15	COALMINE MESA	AZ	COCONINO	641	636	691
16	TOLANI LAKE	AZ	COCONINO/NAVAJO	606	597	647
17	COPPERMINE	AZ	COCONINO	545	535	590
18	NAVAJO MTN	UT/AZ	SAN JUAN/COCONINO /NAVAJO	501	475	542
* Combination † Population						

Table 1.11. Population by chapter in Northern Agency from most to least populated.

NORTHERN AGENCY POPULATION LARGEST TO SMALLEST						
	CHAPTER	STATE	COUNTY	<i>Navajo in comb* pop†</i>	<i>Navajo alone pop†</i>	All race pop†
1	SHIPROCK	NM	SAN JUAN	8,329	8,073	9,126
2	FRUITLAND	NM	SAN JUAN	2,538	2,433	2,751
3	ANETH	UT	SAN JUAN	1,820	1,802	1,989
4	SANOSTEE	NM/AZ	SAN JUAN/APACHE	1,676	1,660	1,795
5	SWEETWATER	AZ	APACHE	1,362	1,332	1,535
6	RED VALLEY	AZ/NM	NAVAJO/SAN JUAN	1,356	1,343	1,417
7	TEEC NOS POS	AZ/UT/NM	APACHE/SAN JUAN	1,212	1,178	1,301
8	NENAHNEZAD	NM	SAN JUAN	1,128	1,077	1,292
9	ROCK POINT	AZ	APACHE	1,218	1,203	1,273
10	RED MESA	UT/AZ	SAN JUAN/APACHE	1,144	1,132	1,222
11	HOGBACK	NM	SAN JUAN	1,150	1,124	1,215
12	TWO GREY HILLS	NM	SAN JUAN	1,102	1,063	1,157
13	MEXICAN WATER	AZ/UT	APACHE/SAN JUAN	851	829	933
14	SHEEP SPRINGS	NM	SAN JUAN	766	749	801
15	BECLABITO	NM/AZ	SAN JUAN/APACHE	718	707	749
16	NEWCOMB	NM	SAN JUAN	550	544	629
17	GADII'AH	NM	SAN JUAN	495	478	550
18	SAN JUAN	NM	SAN JUAN	500	500	500
19	COVE	AZ	APACHE	420	412	430
20	BURNHAM	NM	SAN JUAN	257	256	280
* Combination † Population						

States

The Navajo Nation extends into Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and borders Colorado. The following charts provide the total population and total Navajo population by chapter for each respective state. Arizona has the largest Navajo representation by population and chapters, followed by New Mexico, then Utah. For chapters that cover more than one state, as Red Valley Chapter, the population was tallied by the location of the chapter house (e.g., Red Valley Chapter is located in Arizona, but most of land base is in New Mexico). Populations from all states are included in the tally for chapters encompassing more than one state (e.g., Red Valley Chapter population is tallied from Arizona and New Mexico).

Table 2.1. Arizona Navajo chapters population by Navajo in combination, Navajo alone, and total with all races.

CHAPTER	COUNTY	AGENCY	Navajo in comb* pop†	Navajo alone pop†	All race pop†	
1	BIRD SPRINGS	COCONINO/NAVAJO	WESTERN	772	751	795
2	BLACK MESA	NAVAJO/APACHE	CENTRAL	378	376	428
3	BODAWAY	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,605	1,588	1,704
4	CAMERON	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,020	982	1,122
5	CHILCHINBETO	NAVAJO/APACHE	WESTERN	1,067	1,048	1,165
6	CHINLE	APACHE	CENTRAL	7,273	7,135	8,005
7	COALMINE MESA	COCONINO	WESTERN	641	636	691
8	COPPERMINE	COCONINO	WESTERN	545	535	590
9	CORNFIELDS	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	815	803	911
10	COVE	APACHE	NORTHERN	420	412	430
11	DENNEHOTSO	APACHE/SAN JUAN/NAVAJO	WESTERN	1,402	1,378	1,462
12	DILKON	NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	1,960	1,933	2,110
13	FOREST LAKE	NAVAJO	CENTRAL	432	431	471
14	FORT DEFIANCE	APACHE/McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	4,979	4,752	5,856
15	GANADO	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	2,202	2,169	2,504
16	GREASEWOOD	NAVAJO/APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,226	1,185	1,320
17	HARD ROCK	NAVAJO	CENTRAL	1,046	1,032	1,161
18	HOUCK	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,339	1,300	1,436
19	INDIAN WELLS	NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	928	900	989
20	INSCRIPTION HOUSE	COCONINO/SAN JUAN/NAVAJO	WESTERN	1,161	1,139	1,252
21	JEDITO	NAVAJO/APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	961	936	1,180
22	KAIBETO	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,881	1,858	1,963
23	KAYENTA	NAVAJO	WESTERN	5,307	5,174	6,211
24	KINLICHEE	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,450	1,404	1,610
25	KLAGETOH	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	846	826	909
26	LECHEE	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,589	1,537	1,660
27	LEUPP	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,469	1,433	1,611
28	LOW MOUNTAIN	NAVAJO/APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	688	676	754
29	LUKACHUKAI	APACHE	CENTRAL	2,064	2,021	2,154
30	LUPTON	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	840	806	902
31	MANY FARMS	APACHE	CENTRAL	2,476	2,444	2,738
32	MEXICAN WATER	APACHE/SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	851	829	933
33	NAHATADZIL	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,572	1,550	1,731
34	NAZLINI	APACHE	CENTRAL	1,155	1,129	1,260
35	OAK SPRINGS	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	497	482	533
36	PINON	NAVAJO	CENTRAL	2,487	2,471	2,751
37	RED LAKE	APACHE/McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	1,794	1,752	2,028
38	ROCK POINT	APACHE	NORTHERN	1,218	1,203	1,273
39	RED VALLEY	APACHE/SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,356	1,343	1,417
40	ROUGH ROCK	APACHE	CENTRAL	856	844	947
41	ROUND ROCK	APACHE	CENTRAL	1,475	1,455	1,566
42	SAWMILL	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	982	966	1054
43	SHONTO	NAVAJO/COCONINO	WESTERN	1,866	1,827	2,124
44	ST. MICHAELS	APACHE/McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	4800	4667	5643
45	STEAMBOAT	APACHE/NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	1,173	1,140	1,226
46	SWEETWATER	APACHE	NORTHERN	1,362	1,332	1,535
47	TACHEE/BLUE GAP	APACHE/NAVAJO	CENTRAL	1,133	1,123	1,178
48	TEEC NOS POS	APACHE/SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,212	1,178	1,301
49	TEESTO	NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	844	820	930
50	TOLANI LAKE	COCONINO/NAVAJO	WESTERN	606	597	647
51	TONALEA	COCONINO	WESTERN	2,452	2,402	2,595
52	TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS	APACHE/SAN JUAN	CENTRAL	2,053	2,015	2,250
53	TSELANI	APACHE	CENTRAL	1,332	1,312	1,425
54	TUBA CITY	COCONINO	WESTERN	7,608	7,354	9,265
55	WHIPPOORWILL	NAVAJO	CENTRAL	1,439	1,427	1,489
56	WHITE CONE	NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	1,210	1,176	1,284
57	WIDE RUINS	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,008	984	1,095
* Combination	† Population	TOTAL		93,767	91,635	104,157

Table 2.2. Arizona Navajo chapters population from most to least by all races.

	CHAPTER	COUNTY	AGENCY	Navajo in comb* pop†	Navajo alone pop†	All race pop†
1	TUBA CITY	COCONINO	WESTERN	7,608	7,354	9,265
2	CHINLE	APACHE	CENTRAL	7,273	7,135	8,005
3	KAYENTA	NAVAJO	WESTERN	5,307	5,174	6,211
4	FORT DEFIANCE	APACHE/McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	4,979	4,752	5,856
5	ST. MICHAELS	APACHE/McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	4,800	4,667	5,643
6	PINON	NAVAJO	CENTRAL	2,487	2,471	2,751
7	MANY FARMS	APACHE	CENTRAL	2,476	2,444	2,738
8	TONALEA	COCONINO	WESTERN	2,452	2,402	2,595
9	GANADO	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	2,202	2,169	2,504
10	TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS	APACHE/SAN JUAN	CENTRAL	2,053	2,015	2,250
11	LUKACHUKAI	APACHE	CENTRAL	2,064	2,021	2,154
12	SHONTO	NAVAJO/COCONINO	WESTERN	1,866	1,827	2,124
13	DILKON	NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	1,960	1,933	2,110
14	RED LAKE	APACHE/McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	1,794	1,752	2,028
15	KAIBETO	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,881	1,858	1,963
16	NAHATADZIL	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,572	1,550	1,731
17	BODAWAY	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,605	1,588	1,704
18	LECHEE	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,589	1,537	1,660
19	LEUPP	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,469	1,433	1,611
20	KINLICHEE	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,450	1,404	1,610
21	ROUND ROCK	APACHE	CENTRAL	1,475	1,455	1,566
22	SWEETWATER	APACHE	NORTHERN	1,362	1,332	1,535
23	WHIPPOORWILL	NAVAJO	CENTRAL	1,439	1,427	1,489
24	DENNEHOTSO	APACHE/SAN JUAN/NAVAJO	WESTERN	1,402	1,378	1,462
25	RED VALLEY	APACHE/SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,356	1,343	1,417
26	HOUCK	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,339	1,300	1,436
27	TSELANI	APACHE	CENTRAL	1,332	1,312	1,425
28	GREASEWOOD	NAVAJO/APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,226	1,185	1,320
29	TEEC NOS POS	APACHE/SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,212	1,178	1,301
30	WHITE CONE	NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	1,210	1,176	1,284
31	ROCK POINT	APACHE	NORTHERN	1,218	1,203	1,273
32	NAZLINI	APACHE	CENTRAL	1,155	1,129	1,260
33	INSCRIPTION HOUSE	COCONINO/SAN JUAN/NAVAJO	WESTERN	1,161	1,139	1,252
34	STEAMBOAT	APACHE/NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	1,173	1,140	1,226
35	JEDDITO	NAVAJO/APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	961	936	1,180
36	TACHEE/BLUE GAP	APACHE/NAVAJO	CENTRAL	1,133	1,123	1,178
37	CHILCHINBETO	NAVAJO/APACHE	WESTERN	1,067	1,048	1,165
38	HARD ROCK	NAVAJO	CENTRAL	1,046	1,032	1,161
39	CAMERON	COCONINO	WESTERN	1,020	982	1,122
40	WIDE RUINS	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	1,008	984	1,095
41	SAWMILL	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	982	966	1,054
42	INDIAN WELLS	NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	928	900	989
43	ROUGH ROCK	APACHE	CENTRAL	856	844	947
44	MEXICAN WATER	APACHE/SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	851	829	933
45	TEESTO	NAVAJO	FT DEFIANCE	844	820	930
46	CORNFIELDS	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	815	803	911
47	KLAGETOH	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	846	826	909
48	LUPTON	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	840	806	902
49	BIRD SPRINGS	COCONINO/NAVAJO	WESTERN	772	751	795
50	LOW MOUNTAIN	NAVAJO/APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	688	676	754
51	COALMINE MESA	COCONINO	WESTERN	641	636	691
52	TOLANI LAKE	COCONINO/NAVAJO	WESTERN	606	597	647
53	COPPERMINE	COCONINO	WESTERN	545	535	590
54	OAK SPRINGS	APACHE	FT DEFIANCE	497	482	533
55	FOREST LAKE	NAVAJO	CENTRAL	432	431	471
56	COVE	APACHE	NORTHERN	420	412	430
57	BLACK MESA	NAVAJO/APACHE	CENTRAL	378	376	428
	* Combination	† Population	TOTAL	93,767	91,635	104,157

Table 2.3. New Mexico Navajo chapters population by *Navajo in combination*, *Navajo alone*, and total with all races.

	CHAPTER	COUNTY	AGENCY	<i>Navajo in comb*</i> pop†	<i>Navajo alone pop†</i>	All race pop†
1	ALAMO	SOCORRO/CIBOLA	EASTERN	1,873	1,826	2,006
2	BACA	McKINLEY/CIBOLA	EASTERN	731	725	789
3	BECENTI	McKINLEY	EASTERN	377	367	403
4	BECLABITO	SAN JUAN/APACHE	NORTHERN	718	707	749
5	BREAD SPRINGS	McKINLEY	EASTERN	850	843	908
6	BURNHAM	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	257	256	280
7	CANONCITO	CIBOLA/BERNALLILO/SANDOVAL	EASTERN	1,423	1,389	1,591
8	CASAMERO LAKE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	464	460	518
9	CHICHILTAH	McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,334	1,333	1,443
10	CHURCH ROCK	McKINLEY	EASTERN	2,653	2,626	2,868
11	COUNSELOR	SANDOVAL/RIO ARRIBA/SAN JUAN	EASTERN	721	708	870
12	COYOTE CANYON	McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	643	634	685
13	CROWNPOINT	McKINLEY	EASTERN	2,320	2,263	2,729
14	CRYSTAL	SAN JUAN/APACHE/McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	562	555	670
15	FRUITLAND	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	2,538	2,433	2,751
16	GADII'AH	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	495	478	550
17	HOGBACK	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,150	1,124	1,215
18	HUERFANO	SAN JUAN	EASTERN	2,466	2,404	2,633
19	IYANBITO	McKINLEY	EASTERN	808	790	890
20	LAKE VALLEY	SAN JUAN/McKINLEY	EASTERN	287	286	306
21	LITTLEWATER	McKINLEY	EASTERN	402	402	427
22	MANUELITO	McKINLEY	EASTERN	223	223	264
23	MARIANO LAKE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	786	784	823
24	MEXICAN SPRINGS	McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	1,212	1,180	1,418
25	NAGEEZI	SAN JUAN	EASTERN	1,010	994	1,095
26	NAHODISHGISH	McKINLEY	EASTERN	384	378	408
27	NASCHITTI	SAN JUAN	FT DEFIANCE	1,411	1,363	1,500
28	NENAHNEZAD	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,128	1,077	1,292
29	NEWCOMB	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	550	544	629
30	OJO ENCINO	McKINLEY	EASTERN	584	567	688
31	PINEDALE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,015	993	1,109
32	PUEBLO PINTADO	McKINLEY	EASTERN	359	354	419
33	RAMAH	CIBOLA/McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,236	1,206	1,400
34	RED ROCK	McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,694	1,666	1,866
35	ROCK SPRINGS	McKINLEY	EASTERN	988	974	1,086
36	SAN JUAN	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	500	500	500
37	SANOSTEE	SAN JUAN/APACHE	NORTHERN	1,676	1,660	1,795
38	SHEEP SPRINGS	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	766	749	801
39	SHIPROCK	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	8,329	8,073	9,126
40	SMITH LAKE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	828	811	951
41	STANDING ROCK	McKINLEY	EASTERN	568	548	641
42	THOREAU	McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,181	1,141	1,433
43	TOHATCHI	McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	1,256	1,240	1,450
44	TORREON	SANDOVAL	EASTERN	1,315	1,300	1,612
45	TSAYATOH	McKINLEY	EASTERN	574	555	658
46	TWIN LAKES	McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	1,990	1,963	2,212
47	TWO GREY HILLS	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,102	1,063	1,157
48	WHITE HORSE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	383	373	406
49	WHITE ROCK	SAN JUAN/McKINLEY	EASTERN	75	75	76
	* Combination	† Population	TOTAL	57,557	56,306	63,513

Table 2.4. New Mexico Navajo chapters population from most to least by all races.

	CHAPTER	COUNTY	AGENCY	Navajo in comb* pop†	Navajo alone pop†	All race pop†
1	SHIPROCK	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	8,329	8,073	9,126
2	CHURCH ROCK	McKINLEY	EASTERN	2,653	2,626	2,868
3	FRUITLAND	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	2,538	2,433	2,751
4	CROWNPOINT	McKINLEY	EASTERN	2,320	2,263	2,729
5	HUERFANO	SAN JUAN	EASTERN	2,466	2,404	2,633
6	TWIN LAKES	McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	1,990	1,963	2,212
7	ALAMO	SOCORRO/CIBOLA	EASTERN	1,873	1,826	2,006
8	RED ROCK	McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,694	1,666	1,866
9	SANOSTEE	SAN JUAN/APACHE	NORTHERN	1,676	1,660	1,795
10	TORREON	SANDOVAL	EASTERN	1,315	1,300	1,612
11	CANONCITO	CIBOLA/BERNALLILO/SANDOVAL	EASTERN	1,423	1,389	1,591
12	HASCHITTI	SAN JUAN	FT DEFIANCE	1,411	1,363	1,500
13	TOHATCHI	McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	1,256	1,240	1,450
14	CHICHILTAH	McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,334	1,333	1,443
15	THOREAU	McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,181	1,141	1,433
16	MEXICAN SPRINGS	McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	1,212	1,180	1,418
17	RAMAH	CIBOLA/McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,236	1,206	1,400
18	NENAHNEZAD	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,128	1,077	1,292
19	HOGBACK	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,150	1,124	1,215
20	TWO GREY HILLS	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,102	1,063	1,157
21	PINEDALE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	1,015	993	1,109
22	NAGEEZI	SAN JUAN	EASTERN	1,010	994	1,095
23	ROCK SPRINGS	McKINLEY	EASTERN	988	974	1,086
24	SMITH LAKE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	828	811	951
25	BREAD SPRINGS	McKINLEY	EASTERN	850	843	908
26	IYANBITO	McKINLEY	EASTERN	808	790	890
27	COUNSELOR	SANDOVAL/RIO ARRIBA/SAN JUAN	EASTERN	721	708	870
28	MARIANO LAKE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	786	784	823
29	SHEEP SPRINGS	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	766	749	801
30	BACA	McKINLEY/CIBOLA	EASTERN	731	725	789
31	BECLABITO	SAN JUAN/APACHE	NORTHERN	718	707	749
32	OJO ENCINO	McKINLEY	EASTERN	584	567	688
33	COYOTE CANYON	McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	643	634	685
34	CRYSTAL	SAN JUAN/APACHE/McKINLEY	FT DEFIANCE	562	555	670
35	TSAYATOH	McKINLEY	EASTERN	574	555	658
36	STANDING ROCK	McKINLEY	EASTERN	568	548	641
37	NEWCOMB	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	550	544	629
38	GADII' AHI	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	495	478	550
39	CASAMERO LAKE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	464	460	518
40	SAN JUAN	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	500	500	500
41	LITTLEWATER	McKINLEY	EASTERN	402	402	427
42	PUEBLO PINTADO	McKINLEY	EASTERN	359	354	419
43	NAHODISHGISH	McKINLEY	EASTERN	384	378	408
44	WHITE HORSE	McKINLEY	EASTERN	383	373	406
45	BECENTI	McKINLEY	EASTERN	377	367	403
46	LAKE VALLEY	SAN JUAN/McKINLEY	EASTERN	287	286	306
47	BURNHAM	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	257	256	280
48	MANUELITO	McKINLEY	EASTERN	223	223	264
49	WHITE ROCK	SAN JUAN/McKINLEY	EASTERN	75	75	76
	* Combination	† Population	TOTAL	57,551	56,306	63,513

Table 2.5. Utah Navajo chapters population by Navajo in combination, Navajo alone, and total with all races.

	CHAPTER	COUNTY	AGENCY	Navajo in comb* pop†	Navajo alone pop†	All race pop†
1	ANETH	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,820	1,802	1,989
2	NAVAJO MOUNTAIN	SAN JUAN/NAVAJO/COCONINO/	WESTERN	501	475	542
3	OLJATO	SAN JUAN/COCONINO/NAVAJO	WESTERN	2040	1,973	2,214
4	RED MESA	SAN JUAN/APACHE	NORTHERN	1,144	1,132	1,222
	* Combination	† Population	TOTAL	5,505	5,382	5,967

Table 2.6. Utah Navajo chapters population from most to least by all races.

	CHAPTER	COUNTY	AGENCY	Navajo in comb* pop†	Navajo alone pop†	All race pop†
1	OLJATO	SAN JUAN/COCONINO/NAVAJO	WESTERN	2,040	1,973	2,214
2	ANETH	SAN JUAN	NORTHERN	1,820	1,802	1,989
3	RED MESA	SAN JUAN/APACHE	NORTHERN	1,144	1,132	1,222
4	NAVAJO MOUNTAIN	SAN JUAN/NAVAJO/COCONINO	WESTERN	501	475	542
	* Combination	† Population	TOTAL	5,505	5,382	5,967

Discussion

Public health entails the health of populations based on race, ethnicity and geography. The uniqueness of the Navajo people and the reservation status prompts Navajo public health programs to look into both environments. Upon becoming the Navajo Department of Health, the geography of the Navajo Nation will fall under the jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation will have jurisdiction over all people within their territorial boundaries, in this case, the Navajo Indian Reservation. The status of Navajos who do not live on the reservation needs clarification and further discussion.

Many Navajos living off the reservation still claim and identify a relationship to Navajo Nation. They are registered voters; maintain cultural and familial ties; and have political rights through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) blood quantum program. Therefore, it is important to include Navajos outside the geographic boundaries of the Navajo Nation. Including all Navajos (332,129) in the U.S. as a denominator can be used as a health indicator to compare to other tribes, races and ethnicities. Total population on Navajo Nation can be used as a health indicator for programs solely focused on the Navajo Nation. Since the Navajo Nation extends/borders three states, it is also important to review the population on Navajo Nation and these states.

Since, there are a lot of young Navajos living outside the Navajo Nation boundaries and living in the metropolitan areas, it raises a question on how it impacts the Navajo Nation. Further research needs to be conducted to understand the dynamics of why Navajos aged 20 through 39 years do not live on the Navajo Nation. We could hypothesize it is due to lack of jobs, opportunities, housing, higher education, and business on the reservation. The socio-economic status of the Navajo Nation needs to be further researched to aid programs on the Navajo Nation to guide and foster those the Navajo Nation serves.

Another issue found in the Profile is there are more women than men for the *Navajo in combination* and *Navajo alone* population overall. In Figure 39, an analysis was done to determine the difference between male and female populations for Navajo by percentages. The chart displays a generally equal distribution of gender for the 0-9 age group (less than one percent) for all populations. Despite the almost equal distribution of gender, the chart depicts a higher percentage of males for the 0-19 age group, ranging from 0.7 percent to 3.1 percent more than the female population. As the years progress, females lead in population for *Navajo in combination* and *Navajo alone* in U.S. for the 20-29 age group while males lead in population on Navajo Nation at eight percent (8 percent) difference. The age distribution is largest at 0.4 percent for the 30-39 age group on Navajo Nation, while females lead in population in U.S. by approximately ten percent (10%). At the 40-49 age group, females lead in population for all age groups with the largest difference at fifty-seven percent (57 percent) for the eighty and over (80+) age group.

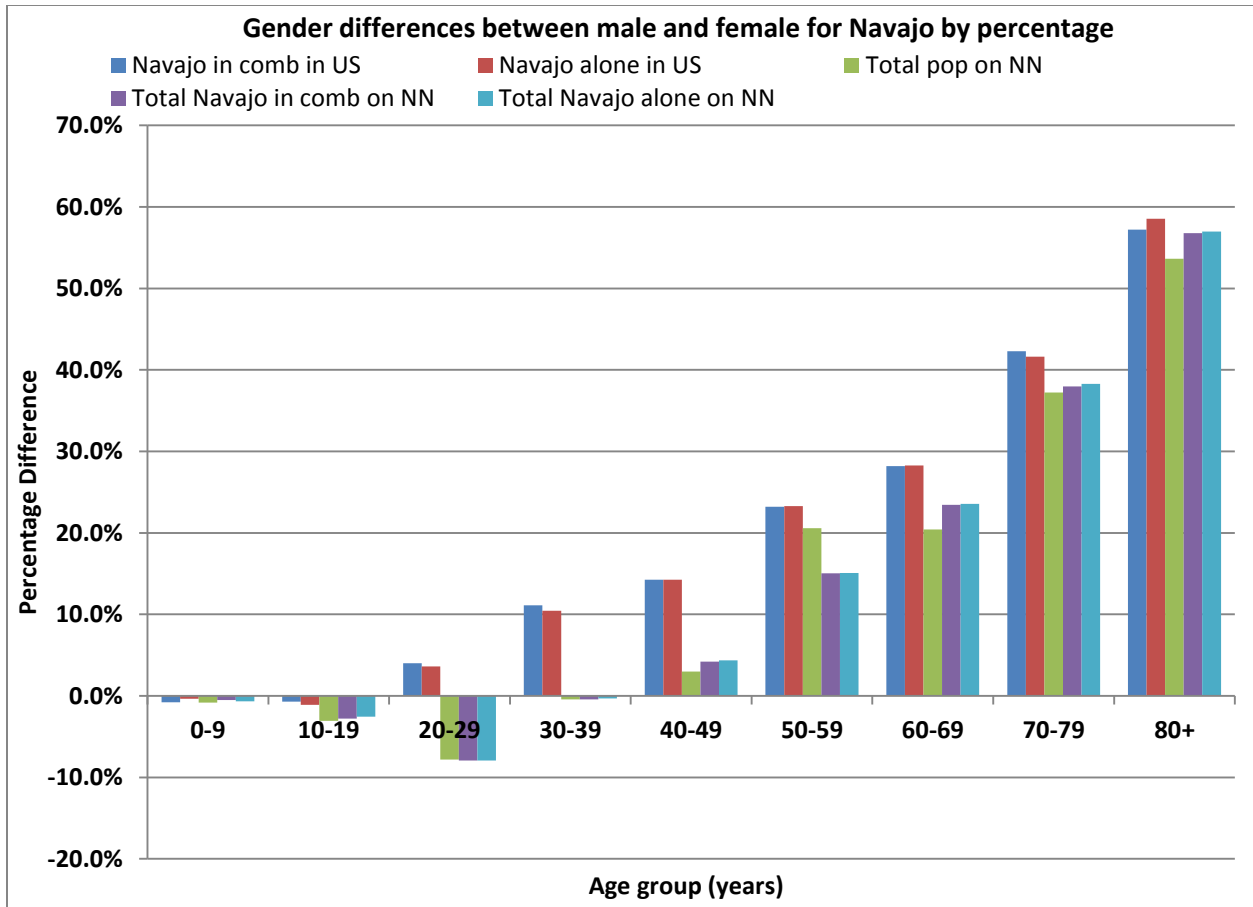


Figure 39. Gender differences between male and female for Navajo by percentage.

A possible explanation is that male in this age range have a higher mortality rate due to alcoholism, injury, or other preventable diseases. Discussion surrounding the gender differences is a topic well under discussion among programs on the Navajo Nation, especially in epidemiology. If there is an equal distribution of gender from birth to nine years of age, why is there a higher population of women starting at the 40-49 age group? Some hypotheses were derived at staff discussions pertaining to the gender population differences. From the Navajo Nation Mortality Report 2006-2009, there is a high number of deaths reported for Navajo males with unintentional injuries as the leading cause of death for Navajo Nation from 2006-2009, accounting for 18.9 percent of all deaths.⁵ Unintentional injuries are the fifth leading cause of death in the U.S., and account for only 4.8 percent of all deaths. The age-adjusted mortality rate for unintentional injuries is 126.5 per 100,000 for Navajo Nation and 37.3 per 100,000 for the U.S. in 2009. The five leading cause of unintentional injury deaths are:

1. motor vehicle crashes (289 deaths)
2. pedestrian (116 deaths)
3. falls (75 deaths)
4. unintentional alcohol poisoning (73 deaths)
5. exposure to cold (66 deaths).

Deaths due to chronic liver disease and cirrhosis is the fifth leading cause of death for Navajo Nation, accounting for 5.6 percent of all deaths, whereas chronic liver disease and cirrhosis is the twelfth leading cause of death for the U.S. accounting for 1.3 percent of all deaths. The age-adjusted mortality rates for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis are 43.1 per 100,000 and 9.2 per 100,000 for Navajo Nation and U.S. respectively.

The age adjusted all-cause mortality rates for Navajo Nation are 876.7 per 100,000 and 692.8 per 100,000 for males and females, respectively. Some key health issues for which the Navajo male mortality rate is higher than the Navajo female mortality rate are listed in the table below.

Table 3.1. Leading causes of death and mortality rates by sex, 2006-2009.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Mortality Rate</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Unintentional Injury	193.1	53.0
Diabetes	62.6	28.2
Suicide	31.4	5.3
Alcohol Dependence Syndrome	23.9	6.3
Assault	21.1	4.4
Hypertensive disease	15.8	5.9
Chronic Obstruction Pulmonary Disease	13.1	5.3

The 2005 Community Health Status Assessment Report⁴ and 2004 Chapter Images⁶ have also reported on the Navajo population prior to the 2010 U.S. Census enumeration. The trend of Navajo population by numbers and the 10 year percent differences in population growth indicate more Navajos living outside the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Nation based on the 2005 MAPP and 2004 Chapter Images, Table 3.1.

Table 3.2. Population of the Navajo and U.S., 1980-2010 Trend, and Percent of Navajos off-reservation

<u>Population</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>
Navajo alone population on Navajo Nation	125,449*	136,253	167,539	156,823
Total population (all races) on Navajo Nation	140,984	155,876	180,462	173,667
Navajo in combination population in U.S.	158,633	219,198	298,197	332,129
Total U.S. population	226,545,805	248,709,873	281,421,906	308,745,538
Percent Navajos living off-reservation	20.9%	37.8%	43.8%	52.7%

*Note: The 1980 Navajos alone numbers were calculated using 95 percent of the total numbers of American Indian living on Navajo Nation, from 1996 Chapter Images.⁷

Table 3.3. Ten-year percent and 1980-2010 differences in Navajo population

<u>Population</u>	<u>10 year differences</u>			<u>20 year difference</u>
	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1990-2000</u>	<u>2000-2010</u>	<u>1980-2010</u>
Navajo population on Navajo Nation	8.6%	22.9%	-6.3%	25.0%
Total population (all races) on Navajo Nation	10.5%	15.7%	-3.7%	23.2%
Navajo population in U.S.	38.1%	36.0%	11.3%	109.4%
Total U.S. population	9.7%	13.1%	9.7%	36.3%

Data source: census.gov

The tables above show a population increase of 109.4 percent for all Navajo in the U.S. and a population decrease of 6.3 percent for the Navajo population on Navajo Nation. Some changes were implemented in the reporting system for races and enumeration methodology that includes self-reporting of more than one race. The table shows a large increase in Navajo population in the U.S. from years 1980 to 2010.

The population figures differ for Navajos living on the reservation compared to those living in the border towns and metropolitan areas. From the age distribution, it appears most Navajos are returning to the reservation at the 40-49 age group. Thereafter, a majority of Navajos are living on the Navajo Nation when compared with border towns and metropolitan areas.

Some key health areas to focus are the high mortality rates for men. Table 3.1 identifies some of the key factors leading to the cause of death for Navajo males, with unintentional injuries as the leading cause. These areas need further attention for planning, prevention, education, and awareness.

Recommendations

- 1) Use *Navajo in combination* population as denominator when comparing to other tribes, races and ethnicities. For example, when using *Navajo in combination* to determine prevalence and incidence rates for diseases such as diabetes, coronary artery disease, cirrhosis of the liver, alcohol dependence syndrome, HIV, sexually transmitted disease, cancer, etc.

$$\text{Prevalence rate} = \frac{\text{Number of old and new cases within a specific time frame}}{\text{Navajo in combination population}}$$

$$\text{Incidence rate} = \frac{\text{Number of new cases within a specific time frame}}{\text{Navajo in combination population}}$$

Rates can also be geographically established within the Navajo Nation to provide comparisons between states, agencies, and/or chapters.

Example of prevalence rate comparison between Navajo agencies:

$$\text{Prevalence rate} = \frac{\text{Number of old and new cases in Central Agency}}{\text{Total Navajo in combination population in Central Agency}}$$

$$\text{Prevalence rate} = \frac{\text{Number of old and new cases in Northern Agency}}{\text{Total Navajo in combination population in Northern Agency}}$$

$$\text{Prevalence rate} = \frac{\text{Number of old and new cases in Western Agency}}{\text{Total Navajo in combination population in Western Agency}}$$

- 2) Use *Navajo alone* population as denominator when comparing to *Navajo in combination* population. The Profile portrays an increase in *Navajo in combination* population for the younger population. Some diseases are associated to race and genetics such as rare diseases, therefore, it is highly important to differentiate between these cases to better understand the dynamics of diseases.
- 3) Provide prevention education on alcohol, substance abuse, suicide, assault, unintentional injury, and promote healthy lifestyles for Navajo males starting at age 10.
- 4) Establish epidemiologic surveillance systems for behavioral health, cancer, infectious diseases, and chronic disease within NDOH.
- 5) Establish a Navajo data work group or committee consisting of programs within the Navajo Nation including:
 - Division of Public Safety
 - Emergency Management System
 - Division of Social Services
 - Division of Health
 - Indian Health Services
 - Department of Diné Education
 - Department of Justice
 - Navajo Nation Council and Legislative Services
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Other pertinent programs aimed at enhancing the public health of the Navajo Nation.

Conclusion

The goal of the Navajo Population Profile is to provide all programs within the Navajo Division of Health to better understand the parameters of the Navajo population in the U.S., on Navajo Nation, in border towns, and metropolitan areas. The age distributions can help programs define areas to focus on with prevention, treatment, and planning from child to geriatric health. Additionally, the Profile shows females having a larger population after the age of forty which could be related to the high mortality rates for men.

The Profile can help to determine prevalence and incidence rates at the national, state, agency, and chapter level. Developing a surveillance system for chronic, communicable, and non-communicable diseases on the Navajo Nation would highly benefit the nation. As the Navajo Nation embarks on transitioning to a Department of Health, the Profile can guide planners, administration, and leaders to develop a health profile for the Navajo Nation. Upon determining

prevalence and incidence rates for chapters and agencies, comparisons can be made to target areas with high priorities and needs.

Since, Navajos were represented in all parts of the country, one of the goals of the Profile is to reach programs off the reservation to be used by researchers, planners, and leaders in developing public health initiatives for the entire Navajo people. With a Navajo population increase of 11.3 percent in the U.S. and a decrease of 6.3 percent on the Navajo Nation between 2000 and 2010, leaders of the Navajo Nation need to focus on how to address and provide services for the Navajo population. Non-NDOH programs can use the Profile to create jobs and for economic development, as they are key services to bring Navajos back to the reservation. Providing a decent salary for educated Navajos can prompt them to return to Navajo Nation rather than losing Navajo talent to other programs outside the reservation.

A main platform for the current Navajo Nation administration and executive is sovereignty.⁸ For sovereignty to occur, the nation needs to be reaffirmed and strengthened through preservation and continued building of the Navajo culture. A major social determinant of health is education. Studies have shown that populations with low educational attainment results in poor health and vice-versa; high educational attainment results in good health. The NDOH is only a portion to the entire function and body of the nation. Other programs (i.e. education, public safety, social services, environmental) are an integral part of the entire system, function, and health of the nation. All programs and networks need to work efficiently and effectively; collaborate by discouraging silo operations; and continue to strive for the best to meet the demands of a healthier Navajo Nation.

It is recommended the Navajo Nation become the owners of Navajo data for all Navajo in the U.S. to enable, evaluate, analyze, and assess data pertaining to the health status of the Navajo people. Sovereignty is a powerful right inherited from our foremothers and forefathers when treaties were established with the federal government in exchange for land and resources. Sovereignty is embedded in the current Indian Health Care Improvement Act⁹ giving tribal nations the authority over their geographical locations and people. This inherit right called sovereignty takes an enormous amount of energy to make it capable of protecting and preserving the Navajo culture, and through that, the Navajo Population Profile can take a step toward reaching the nation's full capacity as a sovereign nation.

References

1. "Census: Navajo Enrollment Tops 300,000." July 7, 2011 Navajo Times.
2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census. American Indian and Alaska Native Summary File. DP-1 - Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010.
3. San Juan Chapter was not included in Census 2010. I called San Juan Chapter and was informed they were the last chapter to join the Navajo Nation. They reported they have a population estimate of 500 which is included with Fruitland/Nenahnezad Chapter in Census 2010 figures. I subtracted 500 from the Fruitland/Nenahnezad population count and added to the San Juan Chapter population count for the Profile.
4. 2005 Navajo Community Health Status Assessment. Navajo Area Indian Health Service Office of Program Planning and Evaluation. 2005.
5. Navajo Nation Mortality Report, 2006-2009. Navajo Division of Health Navajo Epidemiology Center. 2013.
6. Chapter Images 2004: Profiles of 110 Navajo Nation Chapters. Navajo Division of Community Development, April 2004.
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8. 2010-2014 Shelly/Jim Platform. Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim's major goals and platforms for their political term – strengthen sovereignty through Navajo language and tradition.
9. Indian Health Care Improvement Act – 25 U.S. Code Chapter 18.
<http://www.ihs.gov/ihcia/>

Treaty Between the United States of America and the Navajo Tribe of Indians

Concluded June 1, 1868

Ratification advised July 25, 1868

Proclaimed August 12, 1868

[Introduction](#)

- [Article I](#) Cessation of war and wrongdoing
- [Article II](#) Delineation of reservation
- [Article III](#) Construction of a warehouse, agency building, carpenter and blacksmith shops, schoolhouse, and chapel
- [Article IV](#) Assignment of an agent reporting to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs
- [Article V](#) Distribution of land to individuals
- [Article VI](#) Compulsory education for children
- [Article VII](#) Provision of seeds and agricultural implements
- [Article VIII](#) Other provisions to be given to Navajos
- [Article IX](#) Allowance for railroads, military posts, and roads to cross the reservation. No attacks on U.S. citizens or their belongings.
- [Article X](#) Conditions for validation of any future treaties.
- [Article XI](#) Provisions for Navajo return to reservation.
- [Article XII](#) Appropriations of monies.
- [Article XIII](#) Agreement to making reservation permanent home for Navajo.

[Signatures](#)

**TREATY
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE
NAVAJO TRIBE OF INDIANS**

CONCLUDED JUNE 1, 1868.
RATIFICATION ADVISED JULY 25, 1868.
PROCLAIMED AUGUST 12, 1868.

ANDREW JOHNSON
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

TO ALL AND SINGULAR TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME,
GREETING:

Whereas a Treaty was made and concluded at Fort Sumner, in the Territory of New Mexico, on the first day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, by and between Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman and Samuel F. Tappan, Commissioners, on the part of the United States, and Barboncito, Armijo, and other Chiefs and Headmen of the Navajo tribe of Indians, on the part of said Indians, and duly authorized thereto by them, which Treaty is in the words and figures following, to wit:

Articles of a Treaty and Agreement made and entered into at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, on the first day of June, 1868, by and between the United States, represented by its Commissioners, Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman and Colonel Samuel F. Tappan, of the one part, and the Navajo nation or tribe of Indians, represented by their Chiefs and Headmen, duly authorized and empowered to act for the whole people of said nation or tribe, (the names of said Chiefs and Headmen being hereto subscribed,) of the other part, witness:



ARTICLE I.

From this day forward all war between the parties to this agreement shall for ever cease. The government of the United States desires peace, and its honor is hereby pledged to keep it. The Indians desire peace, and they now pledge their honor to keep it.

If bad men among the whites, or among other people subject to the authority of the United States, shall commit any wrong upon the person or property of the Indians, the United States will, upon proof made to the agent and forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington city, proceed at once to cause the offender to be arrested and punished according to the laws of the United States, and also to reimburse the injured persons for the loss sustained.

If bad men among the Indians shall commit a wrong or depredation upon the person or property of any one, white, black, or Indian, subject to the authority of the United States and at peace therewith, the Navajo tribe agree that they will, on proof made to their agent, and on notice by him, deliver up the wrongdoer to the United States, to be tried and punished according to its laws; and in case they wilfully refuse so to do, the person injured shall be reimbursed for his loss from the annuities or other moneys due or to become due them under this treaty, or any others that may be made with the United States. And the President may prescribe such rules and regulations for ascertaining damages under this article as in his judgment may be proper; but no such damage shall be adjusted and paid until examined and passed upon by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and no one sustaining loss whilst violating, or because of his violating, the provisions of this treaty or the laws of the United States shall be reimbursed therefor.



ARTICLE II.

The United States agrees that the following district of country, to wit: bounded on the north by the 37th degree of north latitude, south by an east and west line passing through the site of old Fort Defiance, in Canon Bonito, east by the parallel of longitude which, if prolonged south, would pass through old Fort Lyon, or the Ojo-de-oso, Bear Spring, and west by a parallel of longitude about 109° 30' west of Greenwich, provided it embraces the outlet of the Canon-de-Chilly, which canon is to be all included in this reservation, shall be, and the same is hereby, set apart for the use and occupation of the Navajo tribe of Indians, and for such other friendly tribes or individual Indians as from time to time they may be willing, with the consent of the United States, to admit among them; and the United States agrees that no persons except those herein so authorized to do, and except such officers, soldiers, agents, and employes of the government, or of the Indians, as may be authorized to enter upon Indian reservations in discharge of duties imposed by law, or the orders of the President, shall ever be permitted to pass over, settle upon, or reside in, the territory described in this article.



ARTICLE III.

The United States agrees to cause to be built at some point within said reservation, where timber and water may be convenient, the following buildings: a warehouse, to cost not exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars; an agency building for the residence of the agent, not to cost exceeding three thousand dollars; a carpenter shop and blacksmith shop, not to cost exceeding one thousand dollars each; and a school-house and chapel, so soon as a sufficient number of children can be induced to attend school, which shall not cost to exceed five thousand dollars.



ARTICLE IV.

The United States agrees that the agent for the Navajos shall make his home at the agency building; that he shall reside among them and shall keep an office open at all times for the purpose of prompt and diligent inquiry into such matters of complaint by or against the Indians as may be presented for investigation, as also for the faithful discharge of other duties enjoined by law. In all cases of depredation on person or property he shall cause the evidence to be taken in writing and forwarded, together with his finding, to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, whose decision shall be binding on the parties to this treaty.



ARTICLE V.

If any individual belonging to said tribe, or legally incorporated with it, being the head of a family, shall desire to commence farming, he shall have the privilege to select, in the presence and with the assistance of the agent then in charge, a tract of land within said reservation, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres in extent, which tract, when so selected, certified, and recorded in the "land book" as herein described, shall cease to be held in common, but the same may be occupied and held in the exclusive possession of the person selecting it, and of his family, so long as he or they may continue to cultivate it.

Any person over eighteen years of age, not being the head of the family, may in like manner select, and cause to be certified to him or her for purposes of cultivation, a quantity of land, not exceeding eighty acres in extent, and thereupon be entitled to the exclusive possession of the same as above directed.

For each tract of land so selected a certificate containing a description thereof, and the name of the person selecting it, with a certificate endorsed thereon that the same has been recorded, shall be delivered to the party entitled to it by the agent, after the same shall have been recorded by him in a book to be kept in his office, subject to inspection which said book shall be known as the "Navajo Land Book."

The President may at any time order a survey of the reservation, and, when so surveyed, Congress shall provide for protecting the rights of said settlers in their improvements, and may fix the character of the title held by each. The United States may pass such laws on the subject of alienation and descent of property between the Indians and their descendants as may be thought proper.



ARTICLE VI.

In order to insure the civilization of the Indians entering into this treaty, the necessity of education is admitted, especially of such of them as may be settled on said agricultural parts of this reservation, and they therefore pledge themselves to compel their children, male and female, between the ages of six and sixteen years, to attend school; and it is hereby made the duty of the agent for said Indians to see that this stipulation is strictly complied with; and the United States agrees that, for every thirty children between said ages who can be induced or compelled to attend school, a house shall be provided, and a teacher competent to teach the elementary branches of an English education shall be furnished, who will reside among said Indians, and faithfully discharge his or her duties as a teacher.

The provisions of this article to continue for not less than ten years.



ARTICLE VII.

When the head of a family shall have selected lands and received his certificate as above directed, and the agent shall be satisfied that he intends in good faith to commence cultivating the soil for a living, he shall be entitled to receive seeds

and agricultural implements for the first year, not exceeding in value one hundred dollars, and for each succeeding year he shall continue to farm, for a period of two years, he shall be entitled to receive seeds and implements to the value of twenty-five dollars.



ARTICLE VIII.

In lieu of all sums of money or other annuities provided to be paid to the Indians herein named under any treaty or treaties heretofore made, the United States agrees to deliver at the agency house on the reservation herein named, on the first day of September of each year for ten years, the following articles, to wit:

Such articles of clothing, goods, or raw materials in lieu thereof, as the agent may make his estimate for, not exceeding in value five dollars per Indian—each Indian being encouraged to manufacture their own clothing, blankets, etc.; to be furnished with no article which they can manufacture themselves. And, in order that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs may be able to estimate properly for the articles herein named, it shall be the duty of the agent each year to forward to him a full and exact census of the Indians, on which the estimate from year to year can be based.

And in addition to the articles herein named, the sum of ten dollars for each person entitled to the beneficial effects of this treaty shall be annually appropriated for a period of ten years, for each person who engages in farming or mechanical pursuits, to be used by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the purchase of such articles as from time to time the condition and necessities of the Indians may indicate to be proper; and if within the ten years at any time it shall appear that the amount of money needed for clothing, under the article, can be appropriated to better uses for the Indians named herein, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs may change the appropriation to other purposes, but in no event shall the amount of this appropriation be withdrawn or discontinued for the period named, provided they remain at peace. And the President shall annually detail an officer of the army to be present and attest the delivery of all the goods herein named to the Indians, and he shall inspect and report on the quantity and quality of the goods and the manner of their delivery.



ARTICLE IX.

In consideration of the advantages and benefits conferred by this treaty, and the many pledges of friendship by the United States, the tribes who are parties to this agreement hereby stipulate that they will relinquish all right to occupy any territory outside their reservation, as herein defined, but retain the right to hunt on any unoccupied lands contiguous to their reservation, so long as the large game may range thereon in such numbers as to justify the chase; and they, the said Indians, further expressly agree:

1st. That they will make no opposition to the construction of railroads now being built or hereafter to be built, across the continent.

2nd. That they will not interfere with the peaceful construction of any railroad not passing over their reservation as herein defined.

3rd. That they will not attack any persons at home or travelling, nor molest or disturb any wagon trains, coaches, mules or cattle belonging to the people of the United States, or to persons friendly therewith.

4th. That they will never capture or carry off from the settlements women or children.

5th. They will never kill or scalp white men, nor attempt to do them harm.

6th. They will not in future oppose the construction of railroads, wagon roads, mail stations, or other works of utility or necessity which may be ordered or permitted by the laws of the United States; but should such roads or other works be constructed on the lands of their reservation, the government will pay the tribe whatever amount of damage may be assessed by three disinterested commissioners to be appointed by the President for that purpose, one of said commissioners to be a chief or head man of the tribe.

7th. They will make no opposition to the military posts or roads now established, or that may be established, not in violation of treaties heretofore made or hereafter to be made with any of the Indian tribes.



ARTICLE X.

No future treaty for the cession of any portion or part of the reservation herein described, which may be held in common, shall be of any validity or force against said Indians unless agreed to and executed by at least three-fourths of all the adult male Indians occupying or interested in the same; and no cession by the tribe shall be understood or construed in such manner as to deprive, without his consent, any individual member of the tribe of his rights to any tract of land selected by him as provided in article 5 of this treaty.



ARTICLE XI.

The Navajos also hereby agree that at any time after the signing of these presents they will proceed in such manner as may be required of them by the agent, or by the officer charged with their removal, to the reservation herein provided for, the United States paying for their subsistence en route, and providing a reasonable amount of transportation for the sick and feeble.



ARTICLE XII.

It is further agreed by and between the parties to this agreement that the sum of

one hundred and fifty thousand dollars appropriated or to be appropriated shall be disbursed as follows, subject to any conditions provided in the law, to wit:

1st. The actual cost of the removal of the tribe from the Bosque Redondo reservation to the reservation, say fifty thousand dollars.

2nd. The purchase of fifteen thousand sheep and goats, at a cost not to exceed thirty thousand dollars.

3rd. The purchase of five hundred beef cattle and a million pounds of corn, to be collected and held at the military post nearest the reservation, subject to the orders of the agent, for the relief of the needy during the coming winter.

4th. The balance, if any, of the appropriation to be invested for the maintenance of the Indians pending their removal, in such manner as the agent who is with them may determine.

5th. The removal of this tribe to be made under the supreme control and direction of the military commander of the Territory of New Mexico, and when completed, the management of the tribe to revert to the proper agent.



ARTICLE XIII.

The tribe herein named, by their representatives, parties to this treaty, agree to make the reservation herein described their permanent home, and they will not as a tribe make any permanent settlement elsewhere, reserving the right to hunt on the lands adjoining the said reservation formerly called theirs, subject to the modifications named in this treaty and the orders of the commander of the department in which said reservation may be for the time being; and it is further agreed and understood by the parties to this treaty, that if any Navajo Indian or Indians shall leave the reservation herein described to settle elsewhere, he or they shall forfeit all the rights, privileges, and annuities conferred by the terms of this treaty; and it is further agreed by the parties to this treaty, that they will do all they can to induce Indians now away from reservations set apart for the exclusive use and occupation of the Indians, leading a nomadic life, or engaged in war against the people of the United States, to abandon such a life and settle permanently in one of the territorial reservations set apart for the exclusive use and occupation of the Indians.



In testimony of all which the said parties have hereunto, on this the first day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, at Fort Sumner, in the Territory of New Mexico, set their hands and seals.

W. T. SHERMAN
Lt. Gen'l, Indian Peace Commissioner.

S. F. TAPPAN,
Indian Peace Commissioner.

BARBONCITO, Chief. his x mark.
ARMIJO. his x mark.

DELGADO.
MANUELITO. his x mark.
LARGO. his x mark.
HERRERO. his x mark.
CHIQUETO. his x mark.
MUERTO DE HOMBRE. his x mark.
HOMBRO. his x mark.
NARBONO. his x mark.
NARBONO SEGUNDO. his x mark.
GANADO MUCHO. his x mark.
COUNCIL.
RIQUO. his x mark.
JUAN MARTIN. his x mark.
SERGINTO. his x mark.
GRANDE. his x mark.
INOETENITO. his x mark.
MUCHACHOS MUCHO. his x mark.
CHIQUETO SEGUNDO. his x mark.
CABELLO AMARILLO. his x mark.
FRANCISCO. his x mark.
TORIVIO. his x mark.
DESDENDADO. his x mark.
JUAN. his x mark.
GUERO. his x mark.
GUGADORE. his x mark.
CABASON. his x mark.
BARBON SEGUNDO. his x mark.
CABARES COLORADOS. his x mark.

Attest:

Geo. W. G. Getty,
Col. 37th Inf'y, Bt. Maj. Gen't U. S. A.
B. S. Roberts,
Bt. Brg. Gen't U. S. A., Lt. Col. 3rd Cav'y.
J. Cooper Mckee,
Bt. Lt. Col. Surgeon U. S. A.
Theo. H. Dodd,
U. S. Indian Ag't for Navajos.
Chas. McClure,
Bt. Maj. and C. S. U. S. A.
James F. Weeds,
Bt. Maj. and Asst. Surg. U. S. A.
J. C. Sutherland,
Interpreter.
William Vaux,
Chaplain U. S. A.

And whereas, the said treaty having been submitted to the Senate of the United States for its constitutional action thereon, the Senate did, on the twenty-fifth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, advise and consent to the ratification of the same, by a resolution in the words and figures following, to wit:

*In Executive Session, Senate of the United States,
July 25, 1868.*

Resolved, (two-thirds of the senators present concurring,) That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of the treaty between the United States and the Navajo Indians, concluded at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, on the first day of

June, 1868.

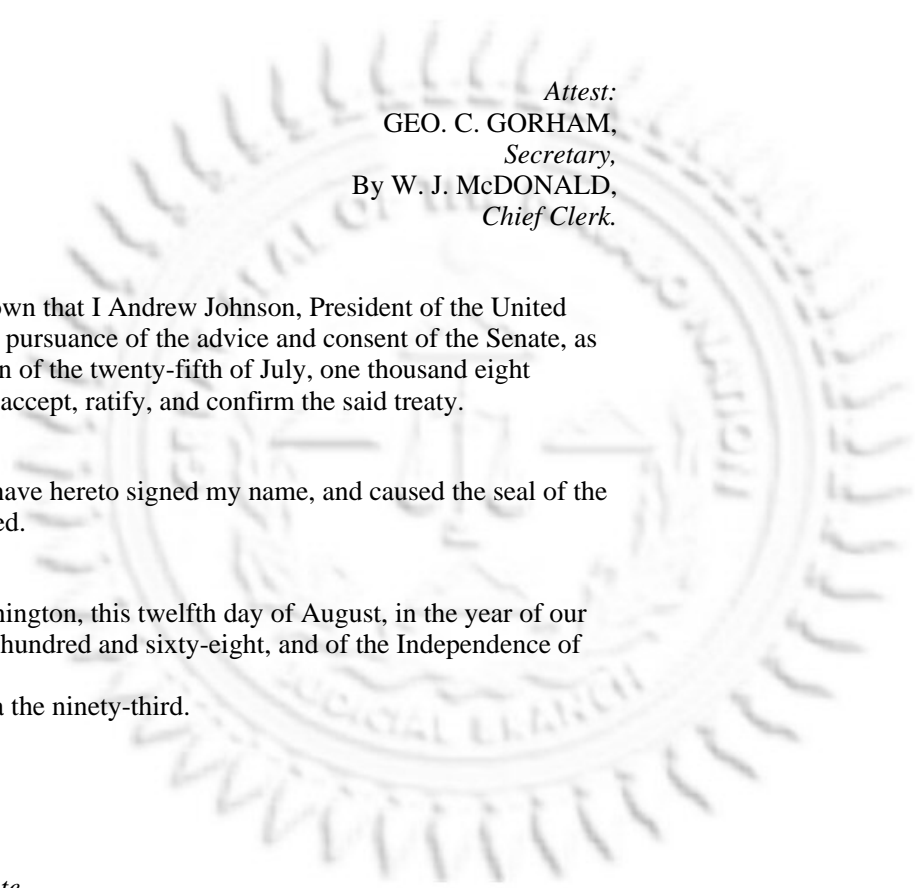
Attest:
GEO. C. GORHAM,
Secretary,
By W. J. McDONALD,
Chief Clerk.

Now, therefore, be it known that I Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America, do, in pursuance of the advice and consent of the Senate, as expressed in its resolution of the twenty-fifth of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, accept, ratify, and confirm the said treaty.

In testimony whereof, I have hereto signed my name, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this twelfth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninety-third.

By the President:
W. Hunter,
Acting Secretary of State.



THE NAVAJO NATION



JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

May 20, 2020

U.S. Secretary David L. Bernhardt
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

The Navajo Nation continues to suffer under a heightened state of emergency across our lands as a result of the rapid spread of the novel Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). As of May 19, 2020, the Navajo Nation has 4,153 confirmed cases and 144 deaths.¹ The Navajo Nation now has more coronavirus cases per capita than any state in America.² However, this is also due to the aggressive testing we are conducting in our communities. We have tested 26,267 Navajo citizens, approximately 12-percent of the population that resides on the Navajo Nation, with 20,200 negative results. Over 1,000 of our people have recovered from the virus as well and we expect that number to increase as more health care facilities report.

We are working tirelessly to suppress and combat this highly contagious and dangerous virus. In order for Navajo leadership to continue its fight against COVID-19, we must continue our invaluable partnership with the Department of the Interior (DOI) to address several priorities of the Navajo Nation. The purpose of this letter is to outline specific requests that would support our battle against the vast effects of COVID-19 now and into the future.

In addition, we request your support of our request to the White House to waive the FEMA reimbursement cost-sharing requirement of 25-percent, which would allow for full reimbursement of costs expended for the COVID-19 emergency response efforts.

Request to Extend the Deadline to Use Coronavirus Relief Funds

On May 14, 2020 the Navajo Nation issued a letter to our Congressional delegation requesting the elimination of the December 30, 2020 deadline for the tribal set-aside of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) in Title V of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, (CARES Act). The Navajo Nation requests that the Department of the Interior support our efforts of eliminating the deadline for the

¹ Navajo Nation, Office of the President and Vice President, Press Release, *69 new cases of COVID-19, two more deaths and 928 recoveries reported*, May 18, 2020, <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/FILES/PRESS%20RELEASES/2020/May/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%2069%20new%20cases%20of%20COVID-19,%20two%20more%20deaths%20and%20928%20recoveries%20reported.pdf>

² Christina Capatides, *Doctors Without Borders dispatches team to the Navajo Nation*, May 11, 2020, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/doctors-without-borders-navajo-nation-coronavirus/> (last visited May 19, 2020).

CRF tribal set-aside. This historic appropriation is the largest one-time allocation of funds for tribal nations. Elimination of the CRF deadline will provide the time and care needed to do our due diligence to identify and implement measures to address the comprehensive needs of the Navajo Nation in response to COVID-19. There are immediate needs that can easily be identified and addressed from now until December 30, 2020, but in order to properly prepare for the projected “waves” of COVID-19 and future pandemics, a reasonable amount of additional time is needed to implement necessary projects well past 2020. You can support our efforts by issuing a letter to Congress signaling the Department of the Interior’s approval for such an extension.

Request to Waive Certain Regulations and Policies

The Navajo Nation is working to implement the funding received from the appropriation pursuant to the federal CARES Act. In your inter-departmental discussion with Secretary Mnuchin, we request your assistance to qualify projects—especially capital improvement projects—to prepare for possible waves of COVID-19. Further, Navajo Nation will almost immediately run into issues with archaeological, waterway and environmental clearances for implementing or constructing these projects. Navajo Nation needs assistance to have these requirements be waived or interpretations be made so that certain federal regulations do not apply to developments on Navajoland. It would be nice if BIA and other federal funds can be added to CARES fund expenditures to leverage or stretch the fund and complete these projects.

Currently the BIA is the lead agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. However, with an average EIS timeline averaging one to two years and with a cost upwards of \$1-2 million depending on the scope of the projects, BIA remains unable to process these clearance requests in a timely manner. To expedite the environmental clearance process, tribal governments should be designated as the lead agency for providing environmental clearances.

The Navajo Nation has a legally robust and proactive Environmental Protection Agency that can review environmental assessments. This would provide tribes the flexibility in how we determine environmental impacts and mitigation alternatives instead of comprehensive EISs and environmental assessments (EA), which take substantial time for preparation and approval. We respectfully request that the Department of the Interior support our effort to empower tribes with the ability to waive or streamline the EIS and EA requirements for emergency situations like COVID-19 rather than waiting for the completion of an EIS and EA for each project. If there are liability concerns, those could be waived.

Request to Reconsider the Reopening of National Parks

National parks within and outside the Navajo Nation attract millions of visitors every year from all regions of our country and around the world. Before the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Navajo Nation welcomed the opportunity to share our beautiful sacred sites and culture and enjoyed the economic benefits from tourism. However, the public health crisis Navajo Nation is currently facing has changed the climate of how we do business and amplified our desire to protect our Navajo relatives, residents, and tourists.

This pandemic creates unique challenges for protecting the health and welfare of our Navajo families and their communities. For this reason, Navajo Nation has repeatedly called for a full partnership with the National Park Service with our letters dated March 24, 2020 and April 13, 2020 addressed to you,

Mr. Secretary, as well as National Park Service Deputy Director Raymond Vela and Bureau of Land Management Acting Director William Perry Pendley. To date, there has been no official response from any of these offices to our letters.

The Navajo Nation must be afforded an opportunity to discuss and weigh in on NPS' plans when their actions impact our people and communities. The Navajo Nation should be at the table with NPS Superintendents or appointed delegates when meeting with external partners, stakeholders, and state government officials on NPS activities that impact our mutual interests. The impacts of reopening these parks that are near, border, or are within the Navajo Nation must be considered in the NPS Reopening Plans. We fear that insufficient consultation or planning could ignite a possible second, third, or even fourth wave of this virus, if we don't work together to ensure the protection of our communities.

The Navajo Nation has limited resources that must be spent wisely. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate the needs of national park or BLM public land visitors that choose to travel through our borders on their way to attractions outside our borders. These tourists passing through put our essential workers, who are on-shift at gas stations, convenience stores and grocery stores, at real risk to their health and the health of their families who live in multi-generational households.

Even NPS as an entity within the Department of the Interior is bound to Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, which establishes "regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications[.]" Moving forward with reopening parks without tribal consultation directly contradicts DOI's Tribal Consultation Policy. Until an effective vaccine is made available and free to all in this country, we urge the Administration to heed this request.

For these reasons, the Navajo Nation opposes the reopening of the national parks and will reconsider this position only when the rate of positive COVID-19 cases has significantly declined. Additionally, the Navajo Nation expects the National Park Service to fully consult with the Navajo Nation on the phased reopening of the national parks to ensure the safety of Navajo families and communities.

Allow BIA to be More Involved in Covid-19 Response

On April 3, 2020, Vice President and I requested for various assistance from our regional BIA director office. *See* attached letter. We would like to see your office do all it can to give leeway for, and additional funds to, Navajo BIA Regional office to assist Navajo Nation during the pandemic.

Request to Approve the Navajo Nation's Diné School Accountability Plan and to Enhance Student Support Services at Bureau of Indian Education Schools

The schools on the Navajo Nation represent a third (1/3) of the entire Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) system. There are 66 Navajo BIE funded schools, and two Tribal Colleges and Universities that service the Navajo Nation. Within the Navajo Nation BIE school system, 31 schools are P.L. 100-297 Tribally Controlled Grant schools and one school is a P.L. 93-638 Indian Self-Determination Contract school. BIE schools on the Navajo Nation need immediate access to the funds appropriated for their use in the CARES Act, including the direct set-aside to the Operations of Indian Education Programs and the set-aside in the Education Stabilization Fund appropriated to the Department of Education for BIE.

BIE schools are deeply underfunded and serve a large percentage of our Navajo students. The limited funds these schools will be receiving under the CARES Act must go to meet the unique needs and challenges our Navajo BIE schools are facing. All BIE schools on the Navajo Nation must undergo deep-cleaning and sanitation before these classrooms are open again for instruction.

To meet the diverse needs of students, BIE schools have increased administrative costs for printing, photocopying, and delivering of educational packets. This has increased the cost for postage, fuel, paper, and ink. These schools are also utilizing their school buses for the delivery of the learning packets. Many of these busses travel long distances and through harsh terrain. Navajo Nation anticipates the need for additional funding for the necessary upkeep, repairs, and replacement of these seasoned school busses.

The Navajo Nation requests BIE to invest in student support services to ensure all students within their system have the therapeutic resources available to adequately address the grief, sense of displacement, and other traumatic effects of this unprecedented pandemic. BIE may consider investing in online grief support sessions, meditation/yoga applications and practices to empower students with self-care tools, and culturally sensitive counseling, including traditional medicine. Providing these support tools through online learning platforms, where appropriate, will ideally provide a resource for Native students to manage and move through their traumas well beyond this pandemic.

The Navajo Nation urges the Department of the Interior to approve our Diné School Accountability Plan (DSAP) extension letter. It has been at the Department since October 28, 2019. The Navajo Nation has been working with the Department of Education and they have not received any feedback either. It would be greatly appreciated if DOI and BIE can provide a prompt status update on our DSAP extension letter.

Request for an Update on the Audit of the Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation

In Fiscal Year 2019, \$1 million was allocated to the Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation (OHNIR) for an audit. The audit was to be completed by the Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General. The Navajo Nation has serious concerns that an audit may be used to close down OHNIR as the Navajo Nation strongly feels that OHNIR's mission and purpose has not been accomplished. The Navajo Nation has not received any information on scope or status of this audit despite having sent numerous requests. Therefore, the Navajo Nation requests DOI to provide the scope and current status of the audit.

Request to Change the Lake Powell Boundary and Related Issues

In 1958 Congress transferred land between the Navajo Nation and the Federal Government.³ The transfer granted the Federal Government all right, title, and interest to the lands described in the Act. It removed the lands from "Indian country" within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 115 and granted them the status of public lands, subject to all laws and regulations governing the use and disposition of public lands.

³ 72 Stat. 1688; Act of Sept. 2, 1958.

The lands transferred to the Federal Government are described in the Act as Parcel A and Parcel B. Parcel A is the land the City of Page is currently located on. Parcel B is land that is used for the Glen Canyon Dam Reservoir. The boundaries of Parcel B are described as where the north boundary of the Navajo Nation intersects “a contour line the elevation of which is 3,720 mean sea level...”⁴ This language fixed the elevation level of Parcel B’s boundary at 3,720 ft. The act requires the Federal government to get the Nation’s approval for any public recreation facilities located on Parcel B. Today the boundary of Parcel B is twenty inches above the high-water mark

When the Act was reviewed and approved by the Navajo Nation Council, the Council requested that Congress make it clear “it will not authorize the Government to acquire a vacant strip of land beyond the high water mark of the lake to be created by Glen Canyon Dam. The Navajo [Nation] Council believes access to the shore of said Lake will be one of the greatest benefits to be derived by the Navajo [Nation] from Glen Canyon Dam and wishes to retain ownership of land to the water’s edge.”⁵The Council wanted to ensure that the Nation maintained control of the shores of Lake Powell. However, the Act was not amended to address the Nation’s concerns; it only mentioned that the Nation approved it.

The Nation believes the description of Parcel B contained in the Act does not reflect the Nation’s desires at the time. The Nation was of the position that it should maintain control of the Lake shores. Its approval of the bill included the request that language stating so be included in the Act. At this time the Nation requests that the boundary of Parcel B be changed “from the elevation of 3,720 ft.” to the middle of the channel for Lake Powell. This would provide the Nation with the ability to develop the shoreline as it sees fit.

The Nation also requests that the Secretary investigate if the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area initially acquired more acreage than authorized by Congress. Navajo Nation documents show there was an intention of creating multiple Navajo sites on the southern shoreline. These sites were never created.

Request to Meet and Revisit Our Quadrilateral Agreement

In 1970 the Navajo Nation, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to develop the Glen Canyon National Recreational Area (GLCA) and the land contained within the area now known as the “Antelope Point Project Area” for purposes of providing public use and recreational enjoyment. □ It specifically governs Parcel A and Parcel B, which are part of the GLCA and Antelope Point, and outlines certain rights and responsibilities among the parties relating to the development, maintenance, and management of Antelope Point. The Agreement expires In September 2020. The Nation requests that the parties Revisit the quadrilateral agreement so Navajo Nation may provide input and its economic ventures be recognized.

The Nation also requests that the Secretary direct the National Park Service to work with the Nation during the Covid-19 pandemic and honor the Nation’s emergency.

Converting Executive Order Lands in Eastern Navajo Agency and Other Parts of Navajo Nation to Navajo Trust Lands

⁴ 72 Stat. 1688; Act of Sept. 2, 1958.

⁵ Navajo Council Resolution CJ-44-56.

Throughout history since the late 1800s, scores of Executive Orders were issued to set aside land for use by the federal government to administrative use or for schools. Many of the land parcels now sit dormant as schools have been closed or no longer in use. Some are continued to be used; however, the Navajo Nation's jurisdiction to the land gets questioned and thus has little or no say as to the further beneficial use for and by the Navajo people. For all intents and purposes, these lands are interior to the Navajo Nation and have always been considered Navajo lands. To remove the uncertainties, Navajo Nation would like to ask the Secretary to explicitly convey these lands to Navajo Nation ownership so doubts about developments on these lands are removed.

Cancel Virtual BLM Meetings Regarding RMPA in New Mexico

BLM is proceeding with its Resources Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) for northwest New Mexico area. Many Navajo families live within the area being considered by RMPA. During this pandemic time and due to the fact that telecommunication connectivity is limited or non-existing, our offices objected to the holding of these virtual meetings and welcomed BLM to work with Navajo Nation for a better time to provide for maximum Navajo input. *See*, attached letter. It sounds like BLM is proceeding to rush this through. We respectfully ask the Secretary to delay these virtual meetings so a better method can be worked out to provide for Navajo input; and to extend the comment period for 120 days.

Closing

The pandemic has not slowed or flattened within our lands. This is a national tragedy that is directly attributable to the breakdown of the federal trust relationship, and the breaking of the Navajo treaty guarantees for health care and infrastructure development. For this reason, Navajo Nation must insist that the Department of Interior partner with us so we may advance issues that are of considerable importance to our communities during this trying time.

These are limited statements on the issues facing Navajo Nation that DOI can help with. For further development of, and a more thorough discussion on, these issues, we would like to have further meetings. We are open to further discussing any of these issues at your request. Please contact Santee Lewis, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Washington Office by email at santeelewis@navajo-nsn.gov or by phone at (202) 981-4331. Ahéhee', Thank you.



Jonathan Nez, *President*

THE NAVAJO NATION

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



CEM-20-03-11

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION DUE TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE ("COVID-19") IN REGIONAL AREAS SURROUNDING THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 881 the Navajo Nation Council established the Commission on Emergency Management, authorizing it to assess, verify, recommend and declare states of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 883 (A) and (C) the Commission is empowered to coordinate immediate emergency and disaster relief services with Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management to recommend and deploy appropriate resources regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 884 (B), (2) the Commission on Emergency Management may seek assistance from federal, state, other tribal governments, and local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. The nature of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") is such that it has spread and increased globally, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention ("CDC"), the World Health Organization ("WHO"), and other public health organizations within the U.S. and regionally; and
5. In the U.S. the number of positive and presumptive positive cases have grown, with the rise in COVID-19 confirmed cases in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado; and
6. No confirmed COVID-19 cases have been verified on the Navajo Nation and area Public Health Services are closely monitoring the situation; and
7. The Navajo Nation, in collaboration with various entities such as the U.S. Public Health Services Area Offices (Albuquerque, Navajo, Phoenix), CDC, state departments of health, Navajo Nation 638 Tribal Health Organizations and various other multi-agency groups, have organized an incident command approach to mitigate COVID-19 transmission on the Navajo Nation; and
8. In partial response to addressing the spread of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation, a Navajo Department of Health ("NDOH") Command Operations Center has been established with an infrastructure to maintain situational awareness, conduct daily communication briefings among NDOH and key collaborative partners and, disseminate information to the public; and

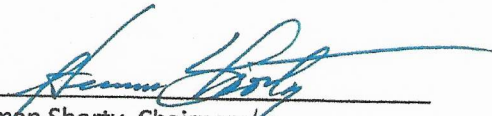
9. The Navajo Department of Emergency Management (NDEM) Emergency Operation Center (EOC) shall be activated to support the Navajo Department of Health Command Center.
10. Locally, it is acknowledged and understood that the threat of transmission of COVID-19 needs to be mitigated to reduce risk of exposure to the Navajo People and the resultant consequential public health impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby declares a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation due to the confirmation of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation.
2. To address increased concerns of potential public health impacts due to risk and exposure to the COVID-19, especially to our older population, the Navajo Nation must encourage independent responsibility and action by the Navajo People in practicing recommended preemptive measures to minimize, prevent and reduce risk of exposure to and from the COVID-19.
3. The Navajo Nation population receives timely, consistent and correct information needed on the COVID-19 on preventive measures against contracting and spread of the virus, signs, symptoms and contacting local hospitals and clinics for reporting.
4. In declaring the Public Health State of Emergency, all Navajo Nation Branches, programs, departments will comply with and adhere to directives, instructions, and/or policies forthcoming from the Navajo Department of Health as related to addressing COVID-19.
5. The needs of the Navajo Nation are to be addressed in a manner so as to provide the necessary resources required to address said Declared Public Health State of Emergency. This includes, but not limited to, resources of personnel, medical supplies and equipment, monetary funding, and other resources as may be required to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens of the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION


I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 4 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 11th day of March 2020.



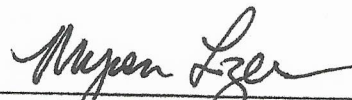
Herman Shorty, Chairperson
Commission on Emergency Management

Motion by: Dicky Bain
Second by: Ben Bennett

CONCURRENCE:



Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION



Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 001-20

**DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE CONFIRMATION OF
THE COVID-19 VIRUS IN REGIONAL AREAS SURROUNDING THE NAVAJO
NATION, CLOSING THE NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND
SUPPORTING THE CLOSURE OF ALL SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL
FACILITIES ON THE NAVAJO NATION**

**NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
MARCH 13, 2020**

WHEREAS:

1. The President of the Navajo Nation serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government with full authority to conduct, supervise, and coordinate personnel and program matters. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (A);
2. The President shall have the enumerated power of issuing an executive order for the purpose of interpreting, implementing or giving administrative effect to statutes of the Navajo Nation in the manner set forth in such statutes. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (C)(14);
3. With the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation, the Emergency Management Commission shall have the power to declare a state of emergency affecting the Navajo Nation and to obtain, coordinate and oversee assistance, whether in the form of goods, services, equipment, motor vehicles, or personnel, from all Divisions, Departments and Enterprises of the Navajo Nation for use in addressing the requirements of the People in any declared emergency. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1)(3);
4. The Emergency Management Commission declared an emergency due to the confirmation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1), *See* Emergency Management Commission resolution CEM 20-03-11;
5. An Executive Order shall have the force of law upon the recipient. 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(14).

THEREFORE:

I, Jonathan Nez, President of the Navajo Nation and I, Myron Lizer, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, by the authority vested in us, hereby issue the following order:

1. With the support of the Emergency Management Commission, CEM-20-03-11, a public health state of emergency is declared affecting the Navajo Nation citizens and residents due to confirmation of the spread of the COVID-19 virus in every state surrounding the Navajo Nation, *see* White House Proclamation, NM Governor Lujan Grisham statement, Utah Governor Herbert Executive Order, Arizona Governor Ducey Executive Order and Declaration of Emergency, as such:
 - a. The Navajo Department of Health Command Operations Center shall be staffed throughout the emergency condition under the direction of the Director, Dr. Jill Jim, Navajo Department of Health; and,
 - b. The Navajo Department of Emergency Management Emergency Operation Center shall be activated to support the Navajo Department of Health Command Center; and,
 - c. All Navajo Nation Branches, Divisions, Departments, programs, offices, and Enterprises shall comply with and adhere to directives, instructions, and/or policies coming from the Navajo Department of Health as related to addressing COVID-19.
2. The Navajo Nation has issued travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 virus which restricted or canceled all off-reservation travel and directed all Navajo Nation employees to return from current off-reservation travel; however, the action of surrounding States by restricting large gatherings and closure of government offices has heightened the concern of the spread of the COVID-19, as such:
 - a. All Navajo Nation government offices shall close to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus beginning March 16 to April 3, 2020 and only essential personnel as determined by the Division Director shall report to their respective duty stations – including Navajo Public Safety, Navajo Fire Department, Navajo Emergency Medical Services, Department of Emergency Management, Navajo Division of Finance, Navajo Division of Social Services, and those determined by the Branch Chiefs; and,
 - b. All non-essential Navajo Nation government employees, including non-certified Chapter employees, affected by this Executive Order shall be granted Administrative Leave for the duration of the closure and are expected to refrain from events, gatherings, or other areas where they may contract the COVID-19 virus; and,
 - c. The closure of Navajo Nation government offices may be extended beyond April 3, 2020 on the recommendation of the Navajo Department of Health Command Operations Center and the Navajo Department of Emergency Management Operation Center.

3. The Navajo Nation Board of Education declared an emergency affecting all schools on the Navajo Nation due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and recommended, among other measures, the closure of all schools and educational facilities on the Navajo Nation to protect our children, their parents, and care givers, NNBEMA-608-2020, as such:
- a. Public Law 100-297 grant schools, Public Law 93-638 contract schools, and Bureau of Education operated schools shall be closed from March 16 to April 3, 2020; and,
 - b. Public schools, including grant schools, private schools, higher education institutions, early childhood programs, including CCDF, Head Start, FACE programs, and all after school programs located on the Navajo Nation shall be closed from March 16 to April 3, 2020; and,
 - c. Off reservation residential halls and dormitories for Navajo students operating under the authority of the Navajo Nation will follow the process and procedure for this host school district; and,
 - d. The Navajo Board of Education may recommend an extension of the closing of the schools and educational facilities beyond April 3, 2020.

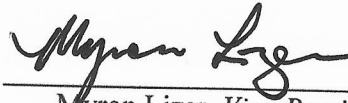
The Divisions, Departments and Enterprises are responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with this order.

The provisions of this order shall be implemented consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and in a manner that advances the highest welfare of the People.

EXECUTED this 13th day of March 2020

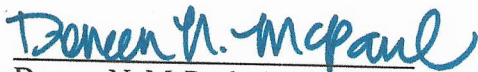


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION



Myron Lizer, *Vice-President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

ATTEST:



Doreen N. McPaul, *Attorney General*



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 003-2021

**EXTENDING THE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
RELATED TO THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY
DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS ON THE NAVAJO NATION;
AND
DUE TO THE CONTINUED RISE IN COVID-19 CASES,
LIMITING SERVICES OF THE NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT
AND RELATED ENTITIES,
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 25, 2021 TO FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

**NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
JANUARY 21, 2021**

WHEREAS:

1. The President of the Navajo Nation serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government with full authority to conduct, supervise, and coordinate personnel and program matters. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (A);
2. The President shall have the power to issue an executive order for the purpose of interpreting, implementing or giving administrative effect to statutes of the Navajo Nation in the manner set forth in such statutes. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (C)(14);
3. With the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation, the Emergency Management Commission shall have the power to declare a state of emergency affecting the Navajo Nation and to obtain, coordinate and oversee assistance, whether in the form of goods, services, equipment, motor vehicles, or personnel, from all Divisions, Departments and Enterprises of the Navajo Nation for use in addressing the requirements of the People in any declared emergency. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1)(3);
4. The Emergency Management Commission declared an emergency due to the confirmation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1), *See* Emergency Management Commission resolutions CEM 20-03-11;
5. The Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Epidemiology Center, along with federal partners, provide data on COVID-19 impact on the Navajo Nation which indicates a

continued rise in positive cases in areas surrounding the Navajo Nation with hospitals and health care systems drastically impacted; these factors threaten the Navajo People's health and well-being and have the potential to overwhelm the Navajo Nation health care system;

6. An Executive Order shall have the force of law upon the recipient. 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(14).

THEREFORE:

I, Jonathan Nez, President of the Navajo Nation and I, Myron Lizer, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, by the authority vested in us, hereby issue the following order:

1. The public health state of emergency, due to rise of COVID-19 cases in and surrounding the Navajo Nation that creates a tremendous strain on our health care system, is extended beginning **January 25, 2021 to February 7, 2021**. *Divisions, Departments, programs, offices, non-governance certified Chapters, Enterprises, and Navajo casinos must have a **Recovery Plan/Workplace Safety Plan which includes a plan to provide awareness of COVID-19 vaccination opportunities**, in anticipation of bringing employees back to work on February 8, 2021.*
2. The Navajo Nation shall continue to follow the orders set in the Declaration of a State of Emergency by the Emergency Management Commission, CEM 20-03-11, and Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-02 (*see www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19*), and as such:
 - a. The Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center shall continue to be staffed throughout the emergency condition with support from the Navajo Department of Health and the Unified Command Group that includes the Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Area Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo Region, and the Tribal Health Organizations; and,
 - b. The Navajo Department of Emergency Management Emergency Operation Center and the Unified Command Group shall continue to support the Navajo Health Command Operations Center; and,
 - c. All Navajo Nation Branches, Divisions, Departments, programs, offices, non-governance certified Chapters, Enterprises, and Navajo casinos shall comply with and adhere to directives, instructions, and/or policies coming from the Navajo Health Command Operations Center as related to addressing COVID-19;
3. Although vaccines are available the coronavirus continues its rapid rise on the Navajo Nation and surrounding States at an alarming rate. The actions of the Navajo Nation – masks required in public, shelter-in-place orders, lockdowns, restricting gatherings and closure of government offices and Navajo enterprises – did have an effect on the spread of COVID-19. But the Navajo Nation and surrounding States continue to show a rise

in positive COVID cases that affect the Navajo People's health and well-being, and as such:

- a. All Navajo Nation government offices and enterprises shall continue limited services to the Navajo citizens and business partners with efforts to minimize the spread of the coronavirus disease. The limited services shall be from **January 25, 2021** to **February 7, 2021**. Employees who are necessary to continue the government's limited services, as determined by respective Division Directors or enterprise management, shall be required to work, either at their respective worksites or through telecommuting, as appropriate. Division Directors are directed to maintain a minimal, necessary work site staff during this time. All Division Directors and Essential (Necessary) Employees shall remain on or within close proximity to the Navajo Nation.

Essential (Necessary) Employees are employees who are needed to maintain basic, direct government services either working in their office or telecommuting or directly working on CARES fund projects. Essential (Necessary) Employees also includes enterprise employees needed to maintain facilities in working order, to provide basic services to the public, or outdoor work related to the enterprises' purpose. Division Directors and enterprise management shall arrange daily work schedules for Essential (Necessary) Employees that ensure a safe work environment and shall arrange work schedules and reporting requirements for telecommuting employees.

Essential (Necessary) Employees shall include those employees from, but not limited to, Navajo Public Safety, Navajo Fire Department, Navajo Emergency Medical Services, Department of Emergency Management, Navajo Division of Finance, Navajo Division of Social Services, Navajo Division of Community Development, Office of Management and Budget, Navajo Department of Justice, Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Division of General Services, Navajo Division of Transportation, Navajo Division of Economic Development, Navajo Division of Natural Resources, Navajo Division of Human Services, Navajo Environmental Protection Agency, Navajo Veterans Administration and Agency Offices, Department of Diné Education, Navajo Nation Washington Office, Office of the Navajo Tax Commission, Office of Miss Navajo, Navajo Gaming Regulatory, Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Commission, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Public Defender, Navajo Enterprises, Employees assigned to CARES Act expenditures, and those determined by the Branch Chiefs; and,

- b. All Non-Essential Navajo Nation government employees, as determined by the Division Directors, affected by this Executive Order shall be granted Administrative Leave for the duration of the closure and are ordered to refrain from events, gatherings, or other areas where they may contract COVID-19, and to observe and follow all Public Health Emergency Orders, including curfews, stay-at-home, shelter-in-place, and lockdown orders; and,

- c. Due to the continued rise in COVID-19 cases on and surrounding the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation “no-off-reservation-travel” directive continues. Additionally, all Navajo Nation employees shall limit travel to their respective offices located within the Navajo Nation.
 - d. The closure of Navajo Nation government offices may be extended beyond **February 7, 2021**;
4. All Navajo Nation Divisions, Departments, Programs, Offices, non-governance certified Chapters, Enterprises, and Navajo casinos shall follow the direction of the Public Health Emergency Orders requiring all Navajo citizens to remain on the Navajo Nation and limit their movement which means staying at home and leaving for Essential Activities only; and comply with the curfew hours by staying home and complying with weekend or other curfew hours.


The Navajo Nation Divisions, Departments, Programs, Offices, non-governance certified Chapters, Enterprises, and Navajo casinos are responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with this order.

The provisions of this order shall be implemented consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and in a manner that advances the highest welfare of the People.

EXECUTED this 21st day of January 2021.


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, *Vice-President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

ATTEST: 
Doreen N. McPaul, *Attorney General*
Navajo Nation Department of Justice



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 004-2021

**EXECUTIVE ORDER RELATED TO
NAVAJO NATION STATE OF EMERGENCY
DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS;
RESUMING SERVICES OF NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT
OFFICES AND RELATED ENTITIES**

**NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
FEBRUARY 5, 2021**

WHEREAS:

1. The President of the Navajo Nation serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government with full authority to conduct, supervise, and coordinate personnel and program matters. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (A);
2. The President shall have the power to issue an executive order for the purpose of interpreting, implementing or giving administrative effect to statutes of the Navajo Nation in the manner set forth in such statutes. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (C)(14);
3. With the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation, the Emergency Management Commission shall have the power to declare a state of emergency affecting the Navajo Nation and to obtain, coordinate and oversee assistance, whether in the form of goods, services, equipment, motor vehicles, or personnel, from all Divisions, Departments and Enterprises of the Navajo Nation for use in addressing the requirements of the People in any declared emergency. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1)(3);
4. The Emergency Management Commission declared an emergency due to the confirmation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1), *See* Emergency Management Commission resolutions CEM 20-03-11;
5. An Executive Order shall have the force of law upon the recipient. 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(14).

THEREFORE:

I, Jonathan Nez, President of the Navajo Nation and I, Myron Lizer, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, by the authority vested in us, hereby issue the following order:

1. The declared state of emergency for the Navajo Nation remains in place due to confirmation of the spread of COVID-19;

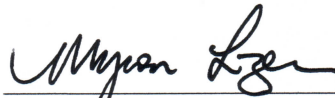
2. The Navajo Nation shall resume all government services on **February 8, 2021**; all Administrative Leave is cancelled, and all employees, designated Essential and Non-Essential, shall return to work either at their worksite or other approved locations;
3. The Navajo Nation travel restrictions remain in place due to COVID-19 spread in and around the Navajo Nation; and all Navajo Nation employees are restricted from off-reservation travel;
4. All Navajo Nation employees returning to work shall follow the Navajo Nation Executive Branch COVID-19 Worksite Safety Guidelines and Priorities, *see* <https://www.navajoreopening.navajo-nsn.gov/>, and when approved, Navajo Nation employees and supervisors shall follow the Navajo Nation Department of Personnel Management Telecommuting Policy and Flexible Work Schedule, *see* <http://www.dpm.navajo-nsn.gov/> or individual Division/Department/Program/Office/Enterprise return to work protocol;
5. The Navajo Nation shall continue to follow the orders set in the Declaration of a State of Emergency by the Emergency Management Commission, CEM 20-03-11, and Public Health Emergency Orders (*see* www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19);
6. All Navajo Nation Branches, Divisions, Departments, programs, offices, Chapters, Enterprises, and Navajo casinos shall comply with and adhere to directives and instructions of this Executive Order; and,
7. The Navajo Nation Divisions, Departments, Programs, Offices, Chapters, Enterprises, and Navajo casinos are responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with this Executive Order.

The provisions of this order shall be implemented consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and in a manner that advances the highest welfare of the People.


EXECUTED this 5th day of February 2021



Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION



Myron Lizer, *Vice-President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

ATTEST: 
Doreen N. McPaul, *Attorney General*
Navajo Nation Department of Justice

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM**

February 17, 2021

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-003

Continuing Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Order and Daily Curfews

- I. Paragraphs I – IX from Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 are incorporated herein, addressing the various Navajo Nation (Nation) authorities related to the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency as well as escalating incidents and community spread of COVID-19 on the Nation.

- II. A Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Order had been in effect for all residents of the Nation, requiring individuals to limit their movement within and outside of their immediate communities and to limit contact with individuals who are not in their immediate household. (Public Health Emergency Orders No. 2020-003 (March 20, 2020) and No. 2020-004 (March 29, 2020)). Under that Order, individuals could leave their place of residence only to perform “Essential Activities” which primarily include activities and tasks essential to health, safety, and welfare. That Order also advised that public gatherings in excess of five (5) people should be avoided. The Nation was under a “Safer on the Navajo Nation” Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-014 (October 16, 2020), under which individuals were encouraged to exercise personal responsibility but were not ordered to stay home. Due to an increase in cases on and around the Navajo Nation, a Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Order was reissued on November 13, 2020 for a period of at least three (3) weeks, or until December 6, 2020. Another Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Order was issued on December 3, 2020 for another three (3) weeks, until December 28, 2020. On December 24, 2020, another Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Order was issued for another two weeks, until January 11, 2021. On January 7, 2021, another Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Order was issued for another two (2) weeks, until January 25, 2021. The Nation continues to be in red status pursuant to Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-29 (November 13, 2020). Individuals on the Navajo Nation played an important role in slowing the spread of COVID-19 on the Nation by exercising caution when engaging in public activities and by practicing everyday preventive actions, including wearing masks in public, practicing social (physical) distancing, disinfecting high-touch surfaces, avoiding unnecessary travel, avoiding unnecessary public gatherings, and washing hands for a minimum of 20 seconds. Individuals can continue to slow the spread on the Navajo Nation by practicing preventive measures and staying safe, staying local, and staying on the Nation.

- III. The Navajo Nation recently experienced an alarming rise in positive COVID-19 cases and uncontrolled spread in several communities across the Navajo Nation. These cluster

cases were a direct result of family gatherings and off-Reservation travel. They also have led to an outbreak and a second surge in cases on the Navajo Nation. Some states, including states surrounding the Nation, recently experienced a record high number of cases. COVID-19 variants, believed to be more dangerous (such as potential to increase spread quickly) than the original virus, recently have been detected in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. These circumstances have the potential to overwhelm the health care system on the Navajo Nation if not mitigated immediately. As a preventive measure, a Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Order is warranted.

- IV. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-003 is to extend the Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) requirements and curfew hours for an additional three (3) weeks, to March 8, 2021 at 5:00 A.M. MST. The requirements of this Order may be extended or changed in a future order. These measures are intended to further ensure an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic by restricting movement of individuals on the Nation to limit contact to prevent the spread of the virus, and to minimize the strain on medical response capabilities. All provisions of this Order are to be interpreted to effectuate this intent. Failure to comply with any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health.
- V. **Individuals are required to STAY HOME and to STAY ON THE NAVAJO NATION. Refrain from off-Reservation travel. Individuals are also advised not to gather with anyone outside your immediate household and to stay within your local communities.**
- VI. To mitigate the risk, individuals are required to stay home (isolate or quarantine) and self-monitor until a future order advises otherwise. Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may be contagious. Isolation separates people who may be sick from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of those who are exposed to a contagious disease.
- VII. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “COVID-19 cases and deaths have been reported in all 50 states, and the situation is constantly changing. Because travel increases your chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19, **staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick.**”
- VIII. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)” and **“the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.”**
- IX. The Nation’s roads remain closed to Visitors for the duration of the declared public health emergency, and Visitors are advised to refrain from traveling to the Navajo Nation. Tribal parks will not be accessible to Visitors and Tourists during this time. Visitors and Tourists will be informed when the Navajo Nation can safely welcome Visitors back to the Nation.

- X. The Navajo Nation is experiencing a downward trajectory of new cases with no sustained rebound; however, we are cautious as the downward trajectory shows a gradual decline in the last two to three months. There is a downward trajectory and the rate of new infection has slowed down in the last two to three months. We remain vigilant as new cases are fluctuating in neighboring states and similarly trending to the Navajo Nation, and cases of new COVID variants are present and being monitored in states surrounding the Navajo Nation. As coronavirus vaccines are slowly made available to Navajo citizens, please continue to take all precautions after receiving the vaccine.

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS GIVEN that, pursuant to the power and authority set forth in the Navajo Department of Health enabling legislation (NNC Resolution No. CO-50-14), and in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Public Health State of Emergency Declaration (CEM Resolution No. 20-03-11):

A. Daily Curfew Hours: A daily curfew from 9:00 P.M. MST to 5:00 A.M. MST continues to apply to all individuals across the Nation. All individuals shall be at home during daily curfew hours, except in the event of an emergency or as described below.

1. Essential Businesses shall limit operations before 7:00 A.M. MST and after 8:00 P.M. MST to permit customers to obey the daily curfew.
2. The daily curfew does not apply to Essential Employees reporting to or from duty, or to employees reporting to an off-reservation worksite. Such employees must carry official identification or a letter of designation from their essential business employer, off-reservation employer, or essential government activity employer on official letterhead, naming a point of contact with contact information for verification.
3. This daily curfew does not apply to Essential Businesses that do not directly serve customers, including Food Cultivation (as described in Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003).

B. All individuals on the Navajo Nation shall **Shelter in Place** and must stay at home and strictly limit movement within and outside of their immediate communities, and limit public contact with others. Individuals may leave their place of residence only for emergencies or to perform "**Essential Activities**," defined herein, which primarily include activities and tasks essential to health, safety, and welfare, or in the event of an emergency, as described below:

1. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their immediate family or household members (including, but not limited to, livestock and pets), such as obtaining critical medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional for an imminent health need.
2. To obtain necessary services or supplies such as canned food, dry goods, produce, pet supplies, meat, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residential

living. When people need to leave home to obtain such necessities, they should do so in limited numbers and should at all times adhere to **Social Distancing Standards** (such as: not shaking hands, standing several feet away from other people, avoiding crowds, etc.).

3. Individuals are still permitted to cultivate food (i.e. farming) and tend to livestock. However, plan ahead to purchase hay and feed, if needed.
 4. Individuals are not required to remain indoors. Outdoor activity is encouraged and individuals may leave their immediate residence or home site area for exercise such as running or hiking, so long as movement is restricted to no more than five (5) miles from one's home.
 5. Wood collection and hauling, with an appropriate permit issued by the Navajo Nation Forestry Department, is a permissible activity; however, groups are limited to no more than 5 people, masks are required, maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible, and use hand sanitizer. Coal collection and hauling is also permissible with the same preventive measures.
 6. Refrain from gathering with individuals from outside your immediate household.
 7. Practice all individual preventative measures including wearing a mask in public, avoid public gatherings, maintain social (physical) distancing, and remain in your vehicle for curbside and drive-through services.
 8. These restrictions do not apply to Essential Employees reporting to or from duty at an Essential Business that is exempted from closure below, or employees reporting to duty at a business or worksite located off the Navajo Nation, provided that the employee must have official identification or a letter of designation from their employer on official letterhead which includes a contact name and number for verification.
- C. All Businesses** not otherwise exempted herein shall be closed. The closure and cease operation requirement do not apply to Healthcare Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, or Essential Infrastructure Activities (as those terms are defined below). **The closure requirement also does not apply to gas stations, grocery stores, post offices, laundromats, restaurants, food establishments, banks and other financial institutions, and hay vendors, provided they comply with the following requirements:**
1. Essential Businesses may operate between the hours of 7:00 A.M. MST and 8:00 P.M. MST daily.
 2. Banks and other financial institutions, however, may allow no more than ten (10) customers inside the bank at any time. Banks may allow only one (1) customer per household, with the exception of one (1) accompanying caregiver per

customer, or the customer's spouse, and only if necessary to conduct business in the bank or financial institution.

3. Ensure that adequate social distancing is practiced.
4. Ensure that high-touch surfaces are regularly disinfected and thoroughly clean retail store areas and employee work areas.
5. Ensure that employees and customers wear masks.
6. Make efforts to ensure that customers have on-site access to handwashing stations, sanitizer, or gloves.
7. Limit the number of customers in any enclosed area.
8. Restaurants and food establishments must operate on a curbside or drive-through basis only.
9. All businesses should report positive COVID-19 cases to the Navajo Health Command Operations Center at <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.
10. All businesses should otherwise comply with the requirements of Public Health Emergency Order No. 29 Declaring "Red Status" for Businesses (November 13, 2020).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements (consistent with HIPAA privacy standards).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that it is greatly advised that the public take the following preventive precautions:

1. All persons on the Navajo Nation are required to stay home and leave home only when absolutely necessary for their health, safety, or welfare or as described herein.

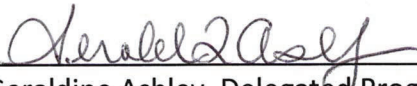
2. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
3. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
4. To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking with people, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hands or finger if you must touch something.
5. Wear a mask and avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
6. Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, and cell phones).
7. Avoid all public gatherings.
8. Avoid all non-essential travel.

9. Get an influenza (flu) vaccination as soon as possible and when safe to do so, and in accordance with the above requirements.

10. Get a complete COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible and when safe to do so, and in accordance with the above requirements.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall end on March 8, 2021 unless otherwise rescinded or modified by a subsequent Order.

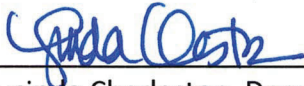
ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 17th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.



Geraldine Ashley, Delegated Program Supervisor III
Navajo Office of Environmental Health &
Protection Program
Navajo Department of Health



Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director
Navajo Department of Health



Lucinda Charleston, Deputy Incident Manager
Dikos Ntsaaigii-19
Health Command Operations Center
Navajo Department of Health

Definitions

Emergency: a serious, unexpected, or dangerous situation requiring immediate action, including a medical condition that requires immediate treatment.

Essential Activities: (1) activities or tasks essential to the health and safety of one's household (including livestock and pets), such as obtaining critical medical supplies or medication, banking, or visiting a health care professional for an imminent health need, or participating in a Traditional Navajo ceremony or prayer; (2) obtaining necessary services or supplies (such as canned food, dry goods, produce, pet supplies, meat, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of a residence); (3) engaging in daytime outdoor activity such as walking, hiking, or running (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020); (4) Voting (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-009, May 14, 2020); (5) Cultivate food (i.e. farming) and tend to livestock (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-015 (June 16, 2020)); (6) Working for an essential business or in an essential government function, or providing essential infrastructure services; (7) Wood collection and hauling (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-024 (September 29, 2020)); (8) Hunting with a permit from the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-026 (October 22, 2020)).

Essential Businesses: Healthcare Operation, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Infrastructure (e.g., courts of law, medical providers for urgent care, public utilities, banks and other financial institutions, and critical school operations such as nutrition programs) (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020 and expanded through Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020 to include food cultivation (including farming and livestock), banks and other financial institutions, grocery stores, food banks, convenience stores, hardware stores and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries and non-grocery products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences, among other things).

Essential Employees: Those employees identified by Essential Businesses or off-reservation employers as necessary to the continued operation of those Essential Businesses or off-reservation employers.

Essential Governmental Functions: means all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020).

Essential infrastructure: Public works construction, construction of housing, water, sewer, gas, electrical, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services). (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020).

Gathering: means any grouping together of individuals in a single connected location. (From Public Health Emergency Order dated March 18, 2020).

Social Distancing Requirements: Physical distancing by limiting contact of people within 6 feet from each other. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020).

Social Distancing Standards: Physical distancing by not shaking hands, standing several feet away from other people, avoiding crowds, etc.) (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020).