

PROJECT BRIEF

Project Title American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (AI/AN FACES) 2019
Project Team: Lizabeth Malone, Project Director; Nikki Aikens and Louisa Tarullo, Co-Principle Investigators; Sara Bernstein, Study Lead
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Project Description.

Beginning in 2015, the American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (AI/AN FACES) is focused on Region XI, or programs operated by federally recognized tribes. AI/AN FACES 2019 is the second iteration of this important endeavor, which provides information on Region XI Head Start and the children and families it serves.

Research Questions.

- What are the demographic characteristics and home environments of children and families that Region XI Head Start serves? What are the strengths and needs of the children and families who receive services?
- What home and community-based activities (in particular concerning storytelling, Native language, and cultural or traditional ways) are available to children and families? What supports for Native language and culture are Region XI programs providing?
- What are the average school readiness skills of Region XI Head Start children in fall and spring of the Head Start year? How do Head Start children compare with children of similar ages in the general population?
- What characteristics of children's Head Start experiences and home life are associated with better child outcomes?

Sample.

A nationally representative sample of 22 Head Start programs, 37 Head Start centers, 80 classrooms, and 800 children and their parents.

Methods.

In fall 2019 and spring 2020, AI/AN FACES 2019 will assess the school readiness skills of

Region XI Head Start children, survey their parents, and ask the children's teachers to rate children's social and emotional skills and report on their developmental conditions or concerns. In spring 2020, AI/AN FACES 2019 will conduct observations in Region XI Head Start classrooms. Surveys with program directors, center directors, and teachers will also be conducted in spring 2020.

Progress Update.

Study design work is nearing completion. AI/AN FACES gathers information about Region XI home and Head Start environments and children's developmental progress, with an enhanced focus in AI/AN FACES 2019 on Native language and culture and understanding family material needs. Program recruitment began in fall 2018 and data collection will begin in fall 2019.

Implications for policy/practice

Data from AI/AN FACES are intended to be responsive to policy questions and to support programs and practitioners working with families in Head Start. In particular, AI/AN FACES 2019 has an enhanced focus on four topics: understanding financial strain, context for AI/AN FACES 2015 findings on obesity, children's Native culture and language experiences, and contextual information to frame reporting on substance use.

Implications for research

AI/AN FACES provides national information on Region XI Head Start children and families and the programs that serve them. A restricted use data file is available for secondary analysis www.researchconnections.org. Therefore, future work by researchers with AI/AN FACES data

can help broaden the knowledge base on Region XI as well as low-income Native children's early development and early care and education experiences.

For more information:

More information about the AI/AN FACES study, including all dissemination products, is available online at

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/american-indian-and-alaska-native-head-start-family-and-child-experiences-survey-faces>

Contact

Lizabeth Malone, Project Director, Mathematica Policy Research, lmalone@mathematica-mpr.com

Meryl Barofsky, Federal Project Officer, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Meryl.Barofsky@ACF.hhs.gov

Laura Hoard, Federal Project Officer, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Laura.Hoard@acf.hhs.gov