

BONUS OPPORTUNITY #3

The American Indian population in the U.S., S.D., and many other states has shown significant growth in recent decades. It is also a comparatively young population. In this Bonus Opportunity, you will look at these growth patterns, compare the size and age distribution of the American Indian population in the U.S., S.D., & several reservation counties (& your home state/county if you choose). Then you will think about and briefly write a paragraph or two on what you see as implications of the data that you have examined. This Bonus Opportunity is due on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

To carry out this Bonus Opportunity:

1. You will need to go to the following web site –
<http://www.censusscope.org>
2. Click on “Charts & Trends” at the top of the page.
3. Then click on “Population by Race” on the left side of the page (under Census Trend Charts).
 - a. Look at the table at the bottom of this page.
 - b. Compare the growth rates shown for the “White” population with the growth rates shown for the American Indian population, 1980-2000.
 - c. How do these growth rates compare?
4. Now click on “State” and S.D. (under Change Location on left side of the page) and click on “View Chart.”
 - a. Look at the table at the bottom of this page.
 - b. Again compare the growth rates for the “White” population in the state with the growth rate for the American Indian population in the state, 1980-2000.
 - c. How do these growth rates compare?
 - d. How does the growth rate of the American Indian population in the state compare with the growth rate for American Indians in the U.S.
5. Now click on one of the reservation counties in S.D., such as Shannon or Todd (also under Change Location), then click “View Chart.”
 - a. Compare the proportion of population here that is “White” with that which is “American Indian.”
 - b. How have those proportions changed, 1980-2000?
 - c. How do the growth rates of these populations compare?
6. Finally, click on “Age Distribution” (under Census Trend Charts).
 - a. Look at the age distribution for the U.S. & S.D.
 - b. Then look at the age distribution for some S.D. counties, such as Brookings, Minnehaha, Pennington, Shannon, & Todd. You can also look at your home county if you are from S.D. (If you are not from S.D., you will need to click on your home state first, then your home county in that state.)
 - c. How do these age distributions compare?
7. Lastly, in a paragraph, discuss implications of what you have observed – such as predictions for population growth, and variability in service needs (children/youth services & education vs. services for the elderly).