



STATE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

REGIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES NORTH AMERICA

Well under the poverty line:

- ◆ The average income of Native Americans is less than half the average for the **United States** overall.
- ◆ Almost a quarter of Native Americans and Alaska Natives live under the poverty line in the **United States**, compared to about 12.5 per cent of the total population.
- ◆ Sixty per cent of Aboriginal children in urban areas in **Canada** live below the poverty line.

Tuberculosis, suicide, malnutrition and other risks higher:

- ◆ In **Canada** in 2006, the tuberculosis rate among First Nations peoples was 35 times higher than that of the non-Aboriginal population. The Inuit rate is just over 150 times higher than the non-aboriginal population.
- ◆ Suicide rates among the Inuit are the highest in **Canada**, at 11 times the national average.
- ◆ Native Americans and Alaska Natives have higher death rates than other Americans from **tuberculosis** (600 per cent higher), **alcoholism** (510 per cent higher), **motor vehicle crashes** (229 per cent higher), **diabetes** (189 per cent higher), **unintentional injuries** (152 per cent higher), **homicide** (61 per cent higher) and **suicide** (62 per cent higher).
- ◆ Malnutrition among indigenous peoples in North America contributes to an increasing prevalence of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The Pima Indian tribe in Arizona has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the world, with around 50 per cent of adults aged 30-64 suffering from diabetes.
- ◆ Suicide rates for American Indian and Alaska Native youth are significantly higher than the national average for other population groups. For 5 to 14 year-olds, the suicide rate is 2.6 times higher than the national average; for 15 to 24 year-olds it is 3.3 times higher.

Dropout rates hinder economic prospects:

- ◆ In **Canada**, around 70 per cent of First Nations students on-reserve will never complete high school.
- ◆ The education deficit clearly has an impact on economic outcomes: While the total unemployment rate in the **United States** declined from 6.5 to 5.9 per cent between 1994 and 2003, during the same period it increased from 11.7 to 15.1 per cent among American Indians and Alaska Natives.

High incarceration rates:

- ◆ While indigenous peoples in **Canada** represent only 3 per cent of the total population, they make up around 19 per cent of federal prisoners.

Violence against women:

- ◆ Native American women are 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually violated than women in the **United States** in general.

The State of the World's Indigenous Peoples was authored by seven independent experts and produced by the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

For more information, see: www.un.org/indigenous

