

Native American Current Issues

Videos

- 1) *We are Land Protectors,
Not Protesters* (1:57)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSE4cH95qlc>

- 2) *'America is a stolen country'*
(5:45)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SM8WZ0ztMuc&t=77s>

What did you notice or wonder?



Exploitation of Land & Resources

Indigenous people in the US have lost nearly 99% of land they occupied

Some tribal lands contain resources such as oil, gas, timber, & are subject to attempts by private companies to expropriate land

Enbridge's Line 5 Pipeline: Built in 1953, has a long history of toxic spills. Goes through Chippewa territory in Michigan

Pebble Mine: Giant open-pit mine that looms over a salmon spawning territory

Oak Flat: Members of San Carlos Apache Nation fighting the sale of sacred site to foreign copper mining conglomerates



Poverty & Unemployment

**About 33% of Native Americans live in poverty,
& its only increasing**

**2021 the unemployment rate was 8.5% for Native
Americans while national rate was 4.8%**

**On some reservations, 40% live in substandard
housing, 33% are overcrowded, & only 16%
have indoor plumbing**

Health & Mental Care

Native Americans have a life expectancy that is 5.5 years less than all the U.S. race populations

Natives have higher rates of chronic diseases than any other ethnic group in the U.S.

Native Americans die by suicide at higher rates than any other group.

In 2019 the leading cause of death for Natives between the ages of 10 & 34

Lack of Educational & Economic Opportunities

In 2019, the high school drop out rate for Native Americans in the U.S. was 9.6% highest for any ethnicity

Just 17% of students continue education after high school, compared to 60% of US population

Reservation land is held in trust by the government, which prevents reservations from leveraging assets for loans





Mass Incarceration & Police Violence

2019 Natives were 2.1% of all federally incarcerated people, 2% of police killing

Confinement rates of youth are only second to black youth, exceeding white, Hispanic, & Asian combined

Youth experience disproportionate arrest rates & harsher outcomes for low level offenses



Violence Against Women

84% of Native women have experienced physical violence & over 56% sexual violence

90% of females have experienced sexual violence by a non-native perpetrator

Native women & girls are murdered at a rate 10x higher than the national average

Videos

- 1) *The loss of Native American languages* (3:34)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyKXda5dJw4>
- 2) *Language | Native Americans | One Word | Cut* (3:31)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K1BsEbjIAo>

What did you notice or wonder?

Loss of Native Languages & Cultures

**Out of more than 300 Native American Languages,
only about 175 remain today**

**More than 130 Native Languages are currently at risk
with 74 of them considered “critically
endangered”**

**Estimates predict that without measures to
preserve these languages, there may only
be 20 by 2050**



13 Issues Facing Native People Beyond Mascots & Casinos