

**the state of indian country arizona | volume 1**

**Arizona Legislative Academy  
for new members of the  
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**Jacob Moore  
Assistant Vice President of Tribal Relations  
ASU Office of University Affairs**





*The State of Indian Country Report – Volume 1* was released in August 2013. The report was distributed to the Governor’s Office, the Arizona State Legislature, the 22 tribal nations and libraries, and business and civic leaders.

The content includes the following topics:

- Cultural Resources
- Demographics
- Health & Human Services
- Education
- Natural Resources
- Economic Development

**introduction**

## Tribal Map



*The 22 tribal governments located within the boundaries of Arizona are independent tribal nations and communities that have jurisdiction over their own lands.*

*Tribal nations and communities are located on 20 reservations across the state and control ~27% of the land base (19,000,000+ acres).*



American Indians and Indian tribes have a unique status in the United States. American Indians are a distinct class of citizen because they have a political and legal relationship with the United States unlike any other racially diverse group.

Indians are at once citizens of the nation, their individual states and citizens of their own tribal governments.

# Tribal Sovereignty and State Relations

By virtue of the exclusive authority of Congress to deal with Indian tribes, state governments may not interfere with tribal self-governance. The Enabling Act of 1910 authorized Arizona's admission into statehood and it also required Arizona to adopt a state Constitution.

When Arizona convened to draft its state constitution, provisions therein specifically exempted Indian lands from taxation and acknowledged the U.S. Congress' jurisdiction over Indian lands.





*Arizona State University, brought together more than fifty Indian delegates from Arizona and other states... They focused on three areas of cultural rights: the right to burial protections; the right to repatriate stolen human remains, burial offerings, and cultural items; and the right to freely worship at their off-reservation sacred places. These issues stem from an appalling history of cultural suppression.*

– Dr. James Riding In

## **cultural rights**

We begin with a story about cultural rights as our ancestors are from here and because we are taught to hold certain beliefs, things, and places as sacred.

# The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Revisited

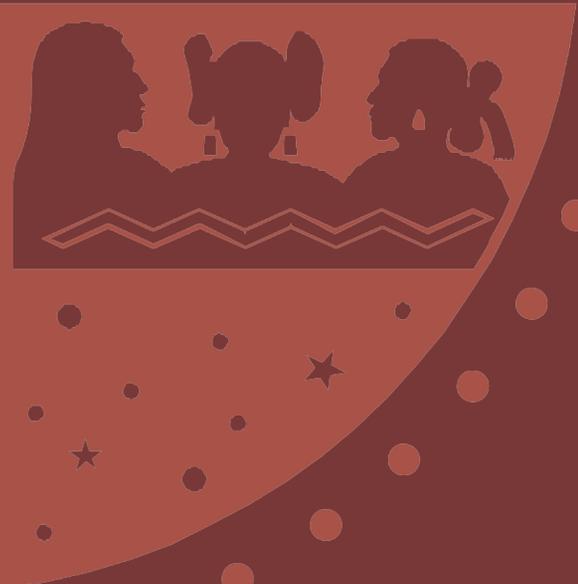
Disposition of culturally unidentified human remains and the repatriation of funerary objects

Amend the definition of NAGPRA and strengthen its criminal provisions

Museum and federal agency non-compliance with NAGPRA

Protection sacred places, ancestors, and burial grounds.





American Indians trace their history in millennia. The modern history is a story of rigorous and sometimes murderous efforts by the United States government to exterminate and assimilate them.

Today, American Indians are citizens of their respective tribes, the state of Arizona, and the United States. Accounting for tribal populations is not an easy feat.

Being counted based on obscure criteria creates distortions of who, what, and where American Indians are as tribal people.

## demographics

# Demographics & Economic Data

2010 U.S. Census data

AZ total reservation population: 162,119

Reservation population with land in AZ: 240,747  
(and outside of AZ)

2012 total enrolled tribal members: 423,728  
(including off-reservation population)

Emp Participation Rate: 45.4%  
Range: 37.9% - 75.5%

Unemployed Rate: 16.4%  
Range: 4.1% - 33.1%

Poverty Rate: 39.6%  
Range: 18.2% - 58.4%



To explain how American Indians receive critical Health and Human Services is a complicated story.

Health and Human Services delivery systems in Indian country has since evolved into the federal managed care environment, which includes coordination with the state of Arizona.

# health and human services

## Health Disparities

AI/AN Infant Mortality Rate: 8.4 per 1000 live births

Ave Arizona Mortality Rate: 4.8 per 1000 live births

Impacted by factors such as maternal health, quality and access to medical care, and socio-economic conditions.

AI/AN median age of death: 59 years

All Arizonans: 76 years

Related to health education, disease prevention and detection, and treatment for chronic and infectious diseases.

Ranked worse than state-wide average on health risk indicators:

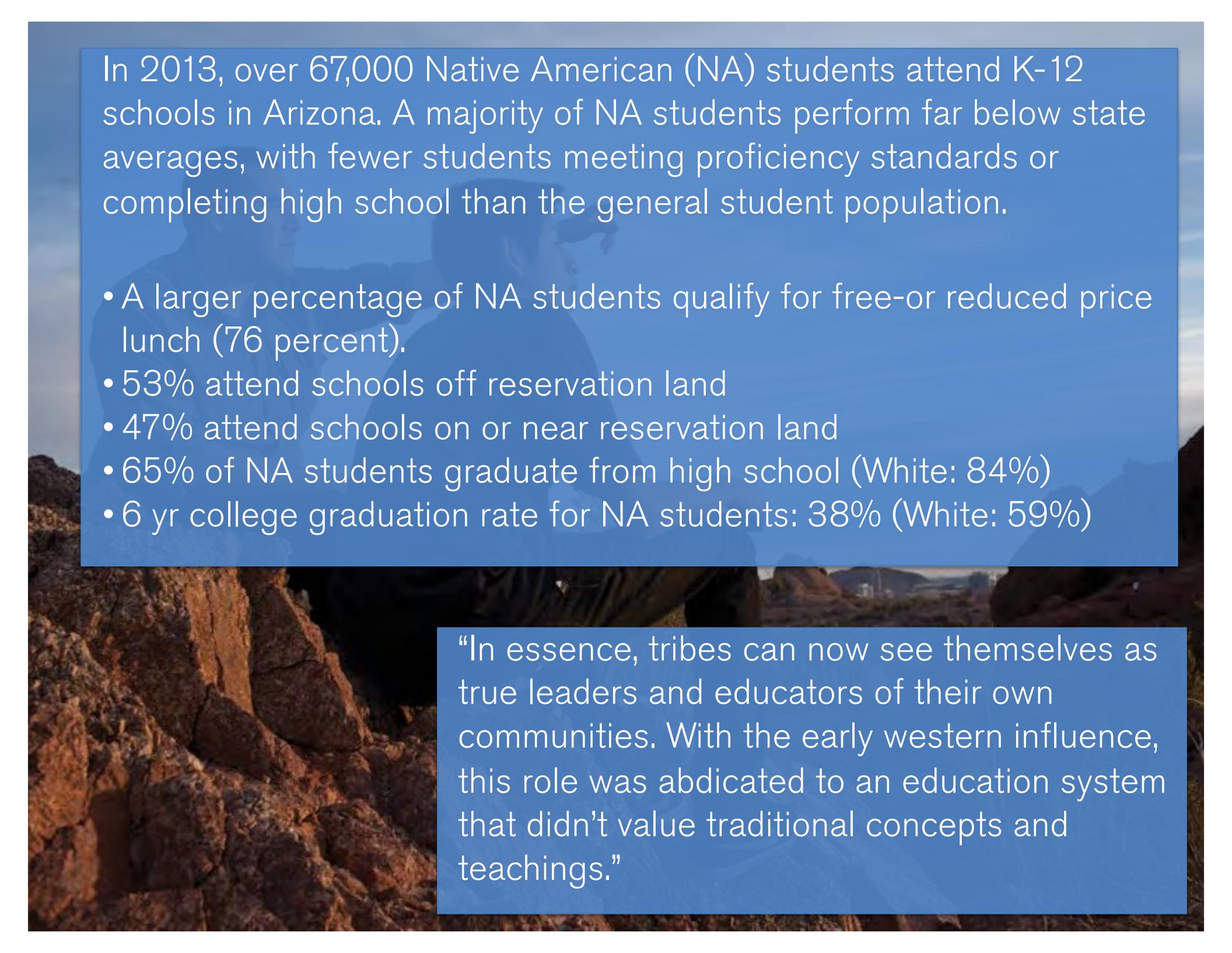
- 2 times higher: Motor vehicle related injuries
- 2.5 times higher: Diabetes
- 3.4 times higher: Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
- 4 times higher: Alcohol-induced deaths



Indian education systems in Arizona are as diverse as the communities they serve and present a wide range of education models. Tribal communities may be served by public, federal (Bureau of Indian Education), private, parochial, and charter schools.

Generally, tribal communities in remote areas have few educational options.

## **education and native languages**



In 2013, over 67,000 Native American (NA) students attend K-12 schools in Arizona. A majority of NA students perform far below state averages, with fewer students meeting proficiency standards or completing high school than the general student population.

- A larger percentage of NA students qualify for free-or reduced price lunch (76 percent).
- 53% attend schools off reservation land
- 47% attend schools on or near reservation land
- 65% of NA students graduate from high school (White: 84%)
- 6 yr college graduation rate for NA students: 38% (White: 59%)

“In essence, tribes can now see themselves as true leaders and educators of their own communities. With the early western influence, this role was abdicated to an education system that didn’t value traditional concepts and teachings.”



This report on the natural resources describes the role tribes play both in stewardship of the land, air and water, and in active energy production and conservation. Land that still remains with tribes contains vast stores of minerals, timber, natural vegetation, and wildlife. Others are prime for renewable energy opportunities and many tribes control significant water rights.

**sustainability**



Tribal governments are critical players in energy production and distribution in Arizona since essentially all of the mineral-based resources of energy within the state are found on tribal lands, as well as two large, coal-fired generation stations.

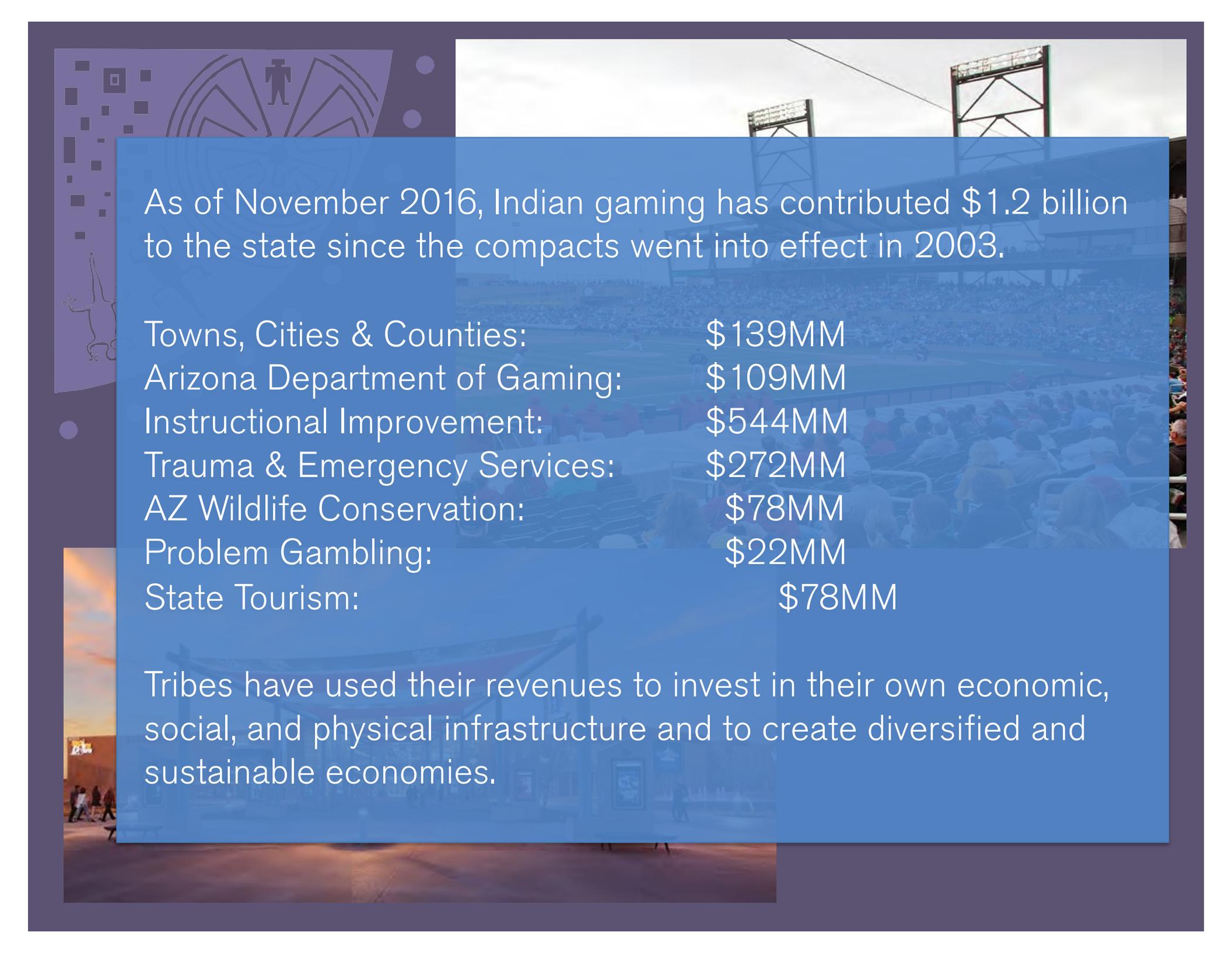
Sustainability, from a tribal perspective, goes beyond maintaining the environment. Tribes also seek to sustain their cultures that are intimately connected to the health of their lands and the well-being of their communities



Long before contact with European explorers, tribal people in the southwest developed thriving economies – farming, hunting, fishing, trading, and raiding.

In modern times, specifically since the development of Indian gaming, tribes in Arizona have expanded their economies by leveraging gaming as the economic engine.

# economic development



As of November 2016, Indian gaming has contributed \$1.2 billion to the state since the compacts went into effect in 2003.

Towns, Cities & Counties:	\$139MM
Arizona Department of Gaming:	\$109MM
Instructional Improvement:	\$544MM
Trauma & Emergency Services:	\$272MM
AZ Wildlife Conservation:	\$78MM
Problem Gambling:	\$22MM
State Tourism:	\$78MM

Tribes have used their revenues to invest in their own economic, social, and physical infrastructure and to create diversified and sustainable economies.

The 22 tribal governments within the boundaries of the state of Arizona are not just a one dimensional list of governments.

Tribal nations and communities have ancestral ties and interaction with one another in unique ways tied to land, language, culture, kinship, and relationships.

The historical trauma built up in tribal communities occurred over generations and recovery has begun.

# Questions



Jacob.Moore@asu.edu  
(480) 965-5793

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