



Pine Ridge Reservation Student Drop-Out Rate and its Contributing Factors

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Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota

Population : 40,000

Yearly Estimated Median Income: \$2600 - \$3500

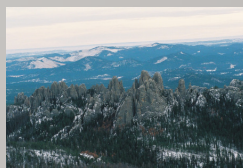
Unemployment Rate: 85%

Population living under Federal Poverty Line: 97%

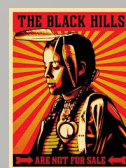
Student Drop-Out Rate: 70%

“Poverty to us [Native Americans] is the loss of our land, our language, and our culture.”

- Native American audience member at Western Social Science Association Conference



-Black Hills, South Dakota



THE BLACK HILLS
SHOW ARE ONLY PURE SILENCE

Qualitative Results

4 Most Prevalent Contributing Factors

1. Drugs and Alcohol

Whiteclay, Nebraska

- Population: 14
- Economy: 4 businesses whose sole purpose is to sell alcohol to residents of Pine Ridge
- Cans of beer sold daily: 11,000



- Marijuana currently most prevalent on Pine Ridge
- Being laced with bath salts and other foreign substances

2. Self-Esteem

- Poor self-esteem has been attributed to failure of a proper education

- Some Native American students feel despair, disillusionment, alienation, frustration, hopelessness, powerless, rejection, estrangement

3. Cultural Identity

- Some Native American students feel that by going to a school that teaches mainstream education, they are turning their backs on their culture

- Mainstream education frowns at Native American culture

- History books are written by the winners and are biased
Creates negative attitude and distrust toward continuing mainstream education

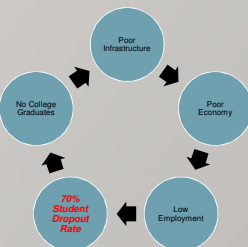


4. Family/Peer Support

- Largest causation factor

- Parents who have higher education much more likely to encourage children to attend school
- Students want to be with their friends, many who have already dropped out of school

Why are conditions on the Pine Ridge reservation are not getting any better?



Research Methods

Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, I compared statistics between the nationwide Native American student drop-out rate and the student drop-out rate on the Pine Ridge reservation. I also researched the causation factors for Native American student drop-outs on a nationwide level and then compared those findings to the current situations on the Pine Ridge reservation to try to pinpoint the exact cause for such a high drop-out rate.

Quantitative Results

Year	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native
1990	10.1	15.0	10.1	6.9	10.1
1991	10.0	14.8	10.0	6.8	10.0
1992	10.0	14.7	10.0	6.7	10.0
1993	10.0	14.6	10.0	6.6	10.0
1994	10.0	14.5	10.0	6.5	10.0
1995	10.0	14.4	10.0	6.4	10.0
1996	10.0	14.3	10.0	6.3	10.0
1997	10.0	14.2	10.0	6.2	10.0
1998	10.0	14.1	10.0	6.1	10.0
1999	10.0	14.0	10.0	6.0	10.0
2000	10.0	13.9	10.0	5.9	10.0
2001	10.0	13.8	10.0	5.8	10.0
2002	10.0	13.7	10.0	5.7	10.0
2003	10.0	13.6	10.0	5.6	10.0
2004	10.0	13.5	10.0	5.5	10.0
2005	10.0	13.4	10.0	5.4	10.0
2006	10.0	13.3	10.0	5.3	10.0
2007	10.0	13.2	10.0	5.2	10.0
2008	10.0	13.1	10.0	5.1	10.0
2009	10.0	13.0	10.0	5.0	10.0
2010	10.0	12.9	10.0	4.9	10.0

Table A-33-1. Status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds in the civilian, noninstitutionalized population, by race/ethnicity: October Current Population Survey (CPS) 1990-2010

Definition of **Poverty**

The state or condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support; condition of being poor

-Dictionary.com



Further Research

A proposed qualitative survey would be administered to a group of students at the Wolf Creek Alternative Elementary School and also to a group of students at the Wolf Creek Elementary school for comparative analysis to prove hypothesis of family/peer support being the greatest contributing factor for student drop-out on the Pine Ridge Reservation

References

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The printing of this poster was funded by Differential Tuition.