

# The Key Is In The House: Multigenerational Families and AI/AN Challenges

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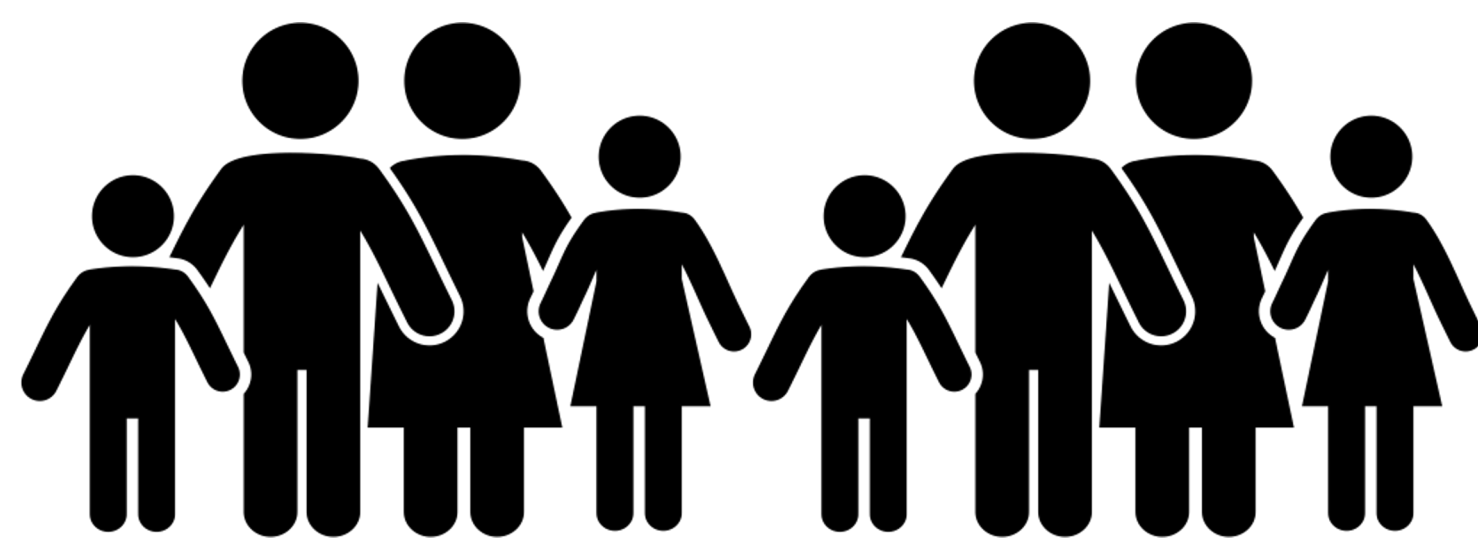
Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, CDC Healthy Tribes Program



## BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE

Towards the end of 2022, a memorandum was issued to the Executive Office of the President as an acknowledgment to tribal nations and Indigenous peoples and as a recommendation to federal agencies to include their knowledge in federal decisions, policies, and research. Part of this knowledge has historically included multigenerational families.

Multigenerational households, or households that house more than one adult generation, are on the rise in recent years. In 2021, a quarter of American adults aged 25-34 lived in a multigenerational household, a difference from the 9% that did so in 1971.



A 2013 US Census report showed that Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders were 3.3 times more likely to live in a multigenerational household than did non-Hispanic whites, the largest group to do so, while American Indians/Alaska Natives were the second largest group, being 2.5 times more likely to do so. Indicators related to AI/AN identity, furthermore, increase the likelihood of the presence of grandparent caregiving, common in multigenerational households.

Multigenerational households, in recent years, have been explored as beneficial to some issues with child-rearing; for example, a household being multigenerational in nature is positively associated with reading scores and higher levels of cognitive functioning. Therefore, this project seeks to broadly identify the positive aspects of multigenerational households as possible solutions for common challenges faced by the AI/AN population.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## REFERENCES



Please scan the QR code to access the literature table containing references.

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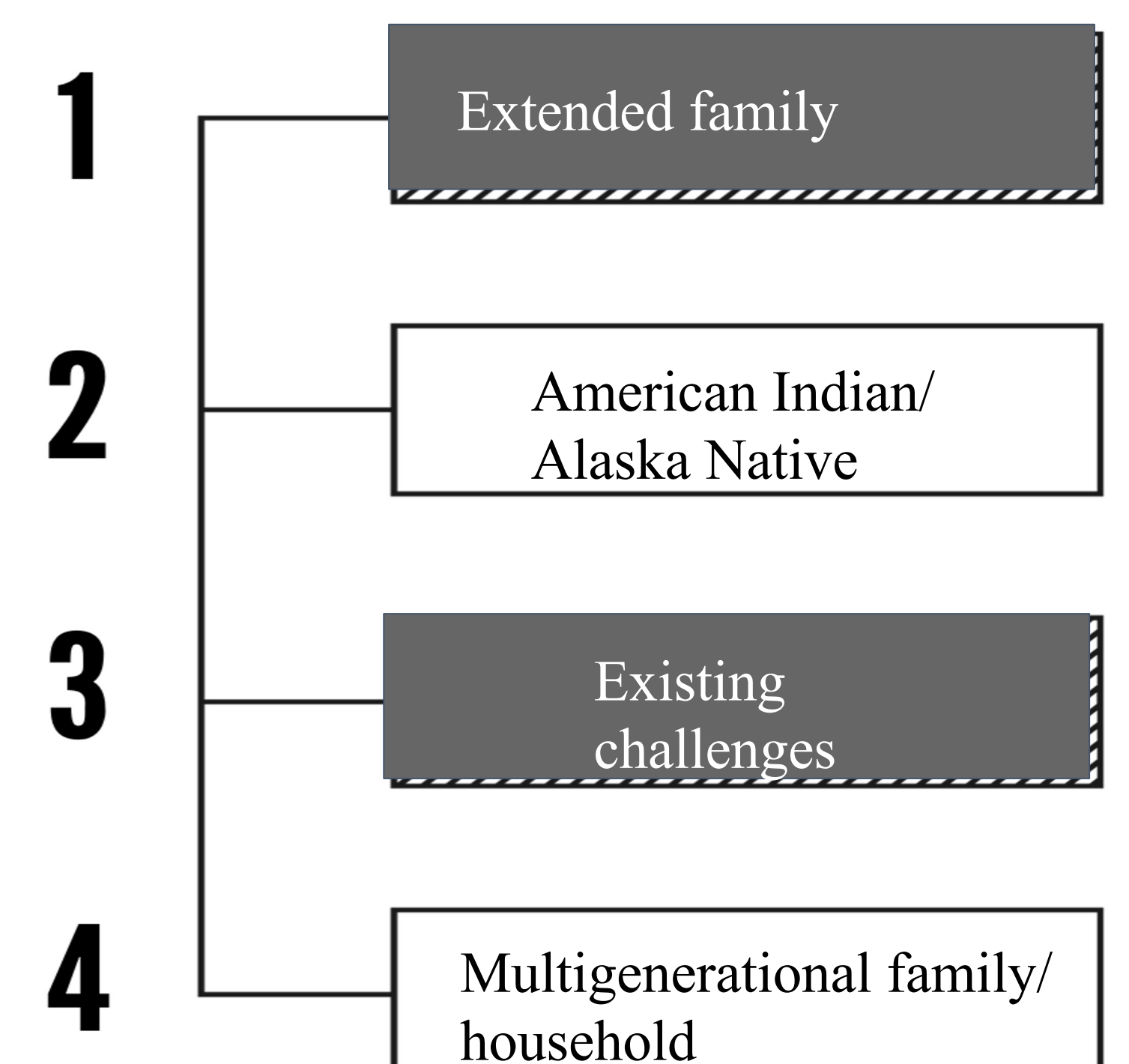


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## METHODOLOGY

- Literature searches were conducted from May to July 2024
- Search engines/databases utilized included the US Census data, PubMed, Google Scholar
- Articles were included for consideration if they were written in English, and were either focused on American Indian/Alaska Native peoples statistics, challenges faced by the population, and/or about the prevalence or benefits of multigenerational families
- 22 articles are cited, including observational studies, scoping reviews, reports, and census data



**Figure 1.** Top search terms used across utilized databases

## RESULTS

- American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) are the second highest racial group to have a multigenerational household
- Indicators correlated with AI/AN identity are associated with being responsible for a grandchild if single or in a couple aged 45+ years
- The presence of grandparents in a household can buffer the transmission of maternal depression intergenerationally
- Living in a multigenerational household lessens effects of poverty and personal struggles; specifically, the presence of a grandchild can additionally help buffer effects of food insecurity
- Healthy individuals in a multigenerational household live longer than solitary healthy individuals; from 2000-2019, AI/AN individuals had a disproportionately high level of mortality for all considered causes of death
- While the presence of grandparents is positively associated with reading scores, AI/AN children in the 4th and 8th grade have the lowest reading scores in the nation

## CONCLUSIONS

- Multigenerational households can be an indicator of lower income; however, the model can have numerous health and social benefits
- The AI/AN ethnic population faces numerous health and social challenges that are discussed in literature focusing on multigenerational families
- The AI/AN population is closely associated with multigenerational households/families
- A majority of research has only been done in recent years - the median year for the literature cited was 2016.
- There is a lack of literature in the subject of multigenerational households in AI/AN populations
- Further research can include

The overall prevalence of multigenerational households in AI/AN populations  
A shift in the model of the multigenerational household in this population in contemporary times  
Comparing challenges faced in households of nuclear families and extended families in this population