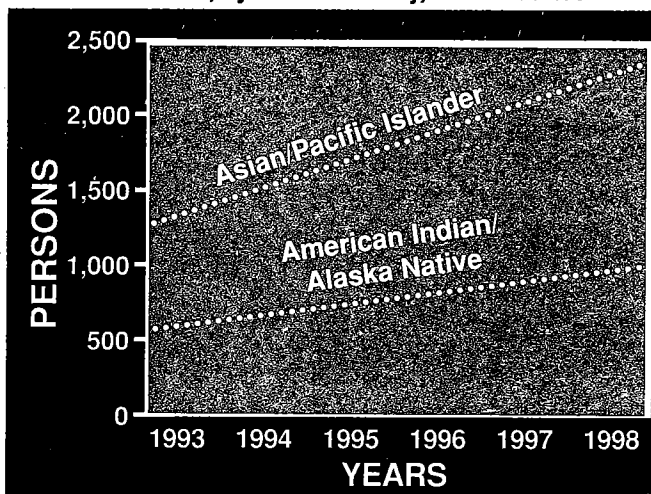


# HIV/AIDS

## AMERICAN INDIANS/ ALASKA NATIVES

HIV/AIDS is devastating communities of color around the globe in ways that we don't fully comprehend. What we DO know about HIV/AIDS is that it is preventable. Know the facts and join us in the fight against HIV/AIDS!

**Estimated Number of Persons Living with AIDS, 1993 - 1998, by Race/Ethnicity, United States**



Graph: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance, General Epidemiology L178 Slide (through 1999) on the Internet at [www.cdc.gov/hiv/graphics/surveillance.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/graphics/surveillance.htm).

- Ten states account for nearly 2/3 of the AI/AN population (OK, CA, AZ, NM, AK, WA, NC, TX, NY, MI). Of these states, seven have been reporting HIV data to CDC, two have recently initiated HIV surveillance programs, and presently CA has its program under consideration.<sup>1</sup>
- The CDC estimates that approximately 200,000 or more people are infected with HIV and don't know it. Efforts to increase knowledge of HIV status among American Indians and Alaska Natives are needed.<sup>2</sup>

Major obstacles in the fight against HIV/AIDS in AI/AN communities are:

- Insufficient HIV surveillance systems
- Frequent misclassification of an individual's ethnicity as Latino, White, or Asian
- Lack of access to confidential testing and care
- HIV diagnosis is often made late in the disease's progression
- Many people do not recognize themselves or their partners as being at risk of HIV infection

For more information on HIV/AIDS in the United States contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 1-800-458-5231 or on the Internet at [www.cdcnpin.org](http://www.cdcnpin.org).

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, 2000; Vol. 12 (No. 2).

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Guidelines for National Human Immunodeficiency Virus Case Surveillance, Including Monitoring for Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome*, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, December 10, 1999/48 (RR13);18.

The Leadership Campaign on AIDS is a program of the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy - (202) 690-5560 - [www.surgeongeneral.gov/AIDS](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/AIDS)

### WHAT WE KNOW...

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data reported through December 2000, 2,337 American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) from all states and territories were diagnosed with AIDS.<sup>1</sup>
- Like other communities of color, the number of AI/AN persons living with AIDS continues to rise (refer to the chart for more details).
- Of the states and territories that have confidential HIV reporting, 871 American Indians/Alaska Natives were reported with HIV (but had not developed AIDS) as of December 2000. These cases were predominantly among men ages 25-29 and 30-34 and women ages 20-24, 30-34 and 35-39.<sup>1</sup>

### Within Native communities, those most affected by HIV (and who had not developed AIDS) were<sup>1</sup>:

- Men who have sex with men — 51% of Native men reported with HIV infection
- Women who were infected through heterosexual contact — 41% of Native women reported with HIV infection
- Injection drug users — 17% of Native men and women reported with HIV infection

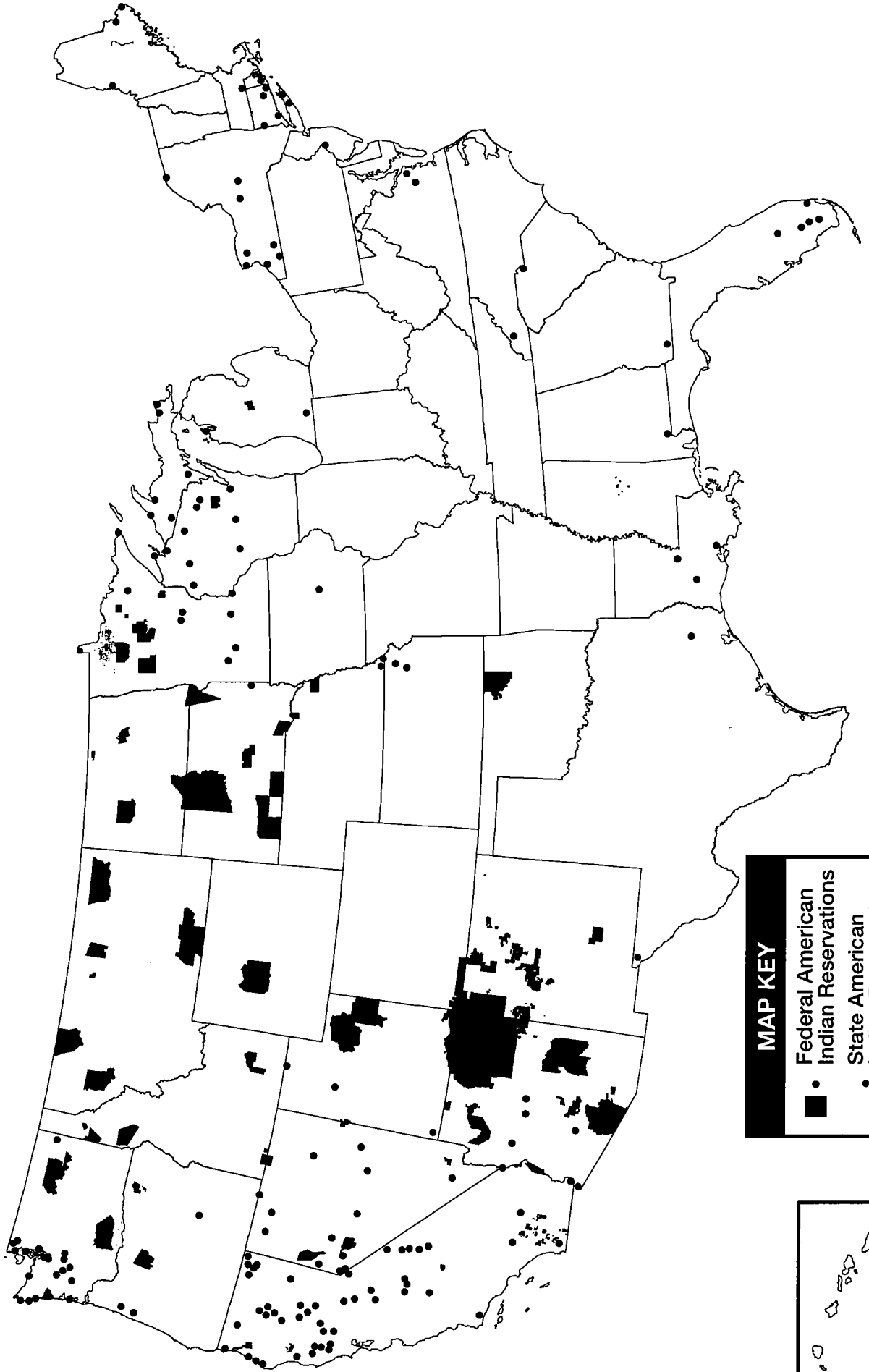
### LET'S TAKE ACTION!

In order to fight against HIV/AIDS in AI/AN communities, we need to address and better understand the following issues:

- The social, economic, spiritual, and geographic diversity that exists among different AI/AN communities,
- The need to improve surveillance systems for HIV/AIDS with the cooperation of state and territorial health departments, the Indian Health Service, and the CDC,
- Related public health disparities that signal potential risk of HIV infection (e.g., high rates of teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and substance or alcohol use/abuse),
- The inclusion of community leadership (including parents, teachers, tribal leaders, etc.) in HIV/AIDS dialogue.

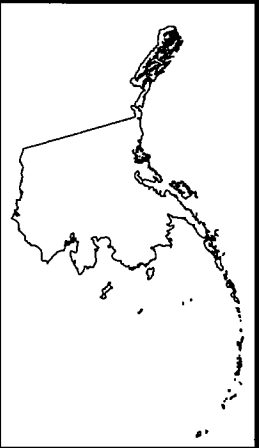


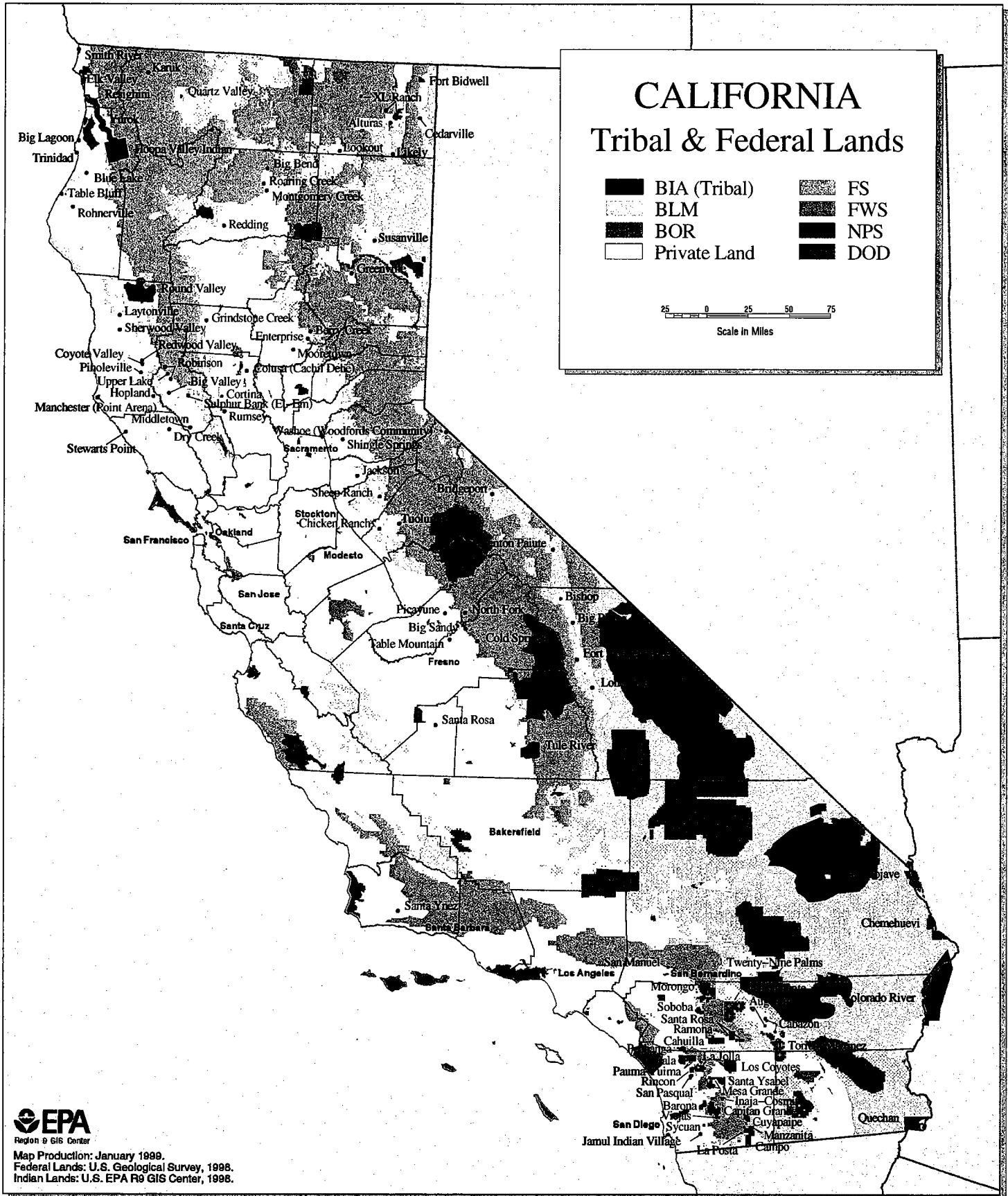
# American Indian Reservations



**MAP KEY**









- Federal American Indian Reservations
- State American Indian Reservations





# CALIFORNIA

## Tribal & Federal Lands

- |  |              |   |     |
|--|--------------|---|-----|
|  | BIA (Tribal) |  | FS  |
|  | BLM          |  | FWS |
|  | BOR          |  | NPS |
|  | Private Land |  | DOD |

25 0 25 50 75  
Scale in Miles



Map Production: January 1999.  
Federal Lands: U.S. Geological Survey, 1998.  
Indian Lands: U.S. EPA R9 GIS Center, 1998.