

STATISTICS

## Indians Increase Faster Than U. S. Population

➤ AMERICAN INDIANS, widely considered a vanishing race in the early years of the present century, are now increasing at a faster rate than the whole United States population, the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior reported.

The annual growth rate for the Nation's Indian population during the decade of the 1950's was about 2.5 percent as compared with 1.7 percent for the entire country. The 1960 Census showed 509,147 Indians now live in the U.S., excluding Alaska. However, Indians living between the Canadian and Mexican borders around the year 1500 are estimated to have been about 846,000. Their number declined with the coming of western Europeans.

Today's Indian population contains a very large admixture of non-Indian blood. While full-blood Indians predominate on reservations in states like Arizona and New Mexico, they constitute a small minority even among the people counted as Indians on the Turtle Mountain Reservation of North Dakota, for example, and in areas that formerly comprised reservations in Okla-

The number of Indians now residing on reservations under Federal jurisdiction is approximately 285,000, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The native population of Alaska includes about 14,000 Indians and roughly 29,000 Eskimos and Aleuts.

• Science News Letter, 81:47 January 20, 1962

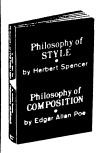
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