The Pee Posh (Maricopa) Indians were small bands that lived along the Colorado River. Eventually these bands migrated east and became known collectively as Maricopa. Upon migrating east, they became allies with the Akimel O’Odham (Pima) Indians, uniting against the Yuman and Apache Tribes. Some Maricopa settled in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, while others settled along the Gila River. In 1859 Congress established the Gila River Indian Community, comprised of both Maricopa and Pima Tribes.

According to the 2010 decennial census, approximately 11,712 individuals live on the Gila River Indian Community Reservation in Arizona.
SOCIAL & HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS*

The Gila River Indian Community is a young community with a median age of 25.3, compared to a median age of 35.9 for the State of Arizona. More than one-third of the population (36.5 percent) are children under the age of 18.

According to the U.S. Census, 20 percent of the Gila River Indian Community speak a language other than English.

There are approximately 2,982 occupied housing units in the Gila River Indian Community. The majority (64.4 percent) are owner-occupied, with a median value of $60,100.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Gila River Indian Community members have a significantly high poverty rate (43.6 percent), and a large number of female-headed households (40.8 percent). The median household income for the Gila River Indian Community is $31,923.

In terms of occupation, more than half (52.5 percent) work for the government.

HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER

In 2004, the Gila River Indian Community opened the HuHugam Heritage Center. The Center is dedicated to the preservation and display of Native artifacts, and includes an amphitheater for storytelling, gatherings, and ceremonies.

ENTERPRISES

Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa includes an equestrian center and Rawhide, a western-themed attraction with retail shops, cowboys, gunfights, stagecoach rides, and cookouts.

The community also owns three championship golf courses, three casinos, and Firebird International Raceway. The Bob Bondurant Professional School of High Performance Driving uses a 15 turn, 1.6 mile road course for advanced driving instruction.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY RESEARCH CODE

The Gila River Indian Community Medical and Health Care Research Code was enacted and codified as Title 17, Chapter 9 of the Gila River Indian Community Code, effective April 15, 2009. To review the Gila River Indian Community Research Code, see http://www.nptao.arizona.edu/protocols.html.

*All statistics on this page are from the 2006-2010, or 2007-2011 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.