Two tribes make up the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community: the Pima ("Akimel Au-Authm" or River People); and the Maricopa ("Xalychidom Pipaash" or People Who Live Toward the Water). The two tribes originally banded together for protection against the Yuman and Apache tribes.

The Pima believe they are descendants of the “Hohokam,” an ancient civilization that farmed the Salt River Valley using elaborate canal irrigation techniques that are still used today. The Pima are known for their intricate, watertight basket-weaving.

The Maricopa people were small bands that migrated east from the Colorado River. The Maricopa are known for their red clay pottery. When the Salt River Indian Community formed a reservation in 1879, it included both tribes within its boundaries.

According to the 2010 decennial census, approximately 6,289 individuals live in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

LOCATION

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is a sovereign tribe bounded by the cities of Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa, and Fountain Hills. The Community holds 52,600 acres, 19,000 of which are held as a natural preserve. Approximately 12,000 acres produce cotton, melons, potatoes, onions, broccoli, and carrots. The Community's western boundary is reserved for commercial development.

SOCIAL AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS*

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is very young, with roughly 30 percent of all members under 18 years of age. The proportion 65 years and older is 17 percent, compared to 12.1 percent for the County. The median age for the community is 36, compared to a median age of 34 for Maricopa County. In terms of ethnicity, 14.1 percent of community members self-identify as Hispanic or Latino.

Approximately 78 percent of the 2,198 occupied housing units on the Reservation are owner-occupied.

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is made up of diverse households. Households are twice as likely to be multigenerational compared to the State of Arizona as a whole (defined by the Census as more than two generations living together). Traditional husband-wife families make up 50 percent of all households, and households headed by a single female are 38.4 percent of all households.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community has a poverty rate of 22 percent, which is slightly higher than the state and county. The median household income for the community is $31,892.

In terms of occupation, the majority (more than 53.5 percent) work for the government.

HUHUGAM KI MUSEUM

Huhugam Ki ("House of the Ancestors") includes exhibits of the unique heritage of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Displays of Pima basket weaving techniques and Maricopa red clay pottery are highlighted.

ENTERPRISES

- Courtyard Scottsdale Salt River is the first Marriott hotel on United States Tribal Land.
- Saddleback Communications provides customers with telephone service, high-speed Internet, and business services.
- Salt River Commercial Landfill serves Scottsdale, Mesa, Gilbert, and Tempe, Arizona.
- Salt River Development Company was established in 2000 to promote economic development and business partnerships for the Community.
- Salt River Financial Services Institution provides lending and financial education services to the Community.
- Salt River Gaming Enterprises includes two casinos (Casino Arizona) as well as Talking Stick Resort and Spa, and Talking Stick Golf Club.
- Salt River Materials Group is a leading provider of construction aggregates, portland and masonry cements, gypsum, fly ash, and other coal combustion products.

*All statistics on this page are from the 2010 Decennial Census or the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.
Articles of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Constitution that may pertain to institutional research protocol:

Article V -- Powers of the Community Council

Section 1:

(b) To negotiate with the federal, state, and local governments on behalf of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.
(g) To regulate its own procedure.
(i) To protect the public health and morals and to provide for the public welfare.
(j) To cultivate and preserve native arts, crafts, and culture.

Section 2:

(e) To remove or exclude from the territory of the Community non-members whose presence may be injurious to the peace, health, or welfare of the Community.

Federal

42 USC § 3515b requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to adopt appropriate regulations for the use of federal funds to pay for any research program or project or any program, project, or course which is of an experimental nature, or any other activity involving human participants that present a danger to the physical, mental, or emotional well-being of a participant or subject.

45 C.F.R. § 46.101 requires that research is supported by a federal department or agency (defined by 45 C.F.R. § 46.102(e)) must be reviewed and approved by an institutional review board.