



# Native Americans in Montana's Correctional System

## Demographics

While Native Americans comprise 6.6% of Montana's population, they are disproportionately represented within Montana's state correctional system. Overall, 19.8% of offenders under the supervision of the Montana Department of Corrections are Native American.

## Native American Programming in Montana Prisons

To help ensure the successful return of Native American inmates to Montana communities, the DOC delivers culturally specific programming, along with religious opportunities at its facilities.

### Integrated Correctional Program Model

- DOC is preparing to transition its programming to the Integrated Correctional Program Model (ICPM)
- Integrates multiple programs into one to address all criminogenic aspects of the Risk – Needs – Responsivity Model
- Includes a specific track for Native Americans
- Staff training scheduled for this fall

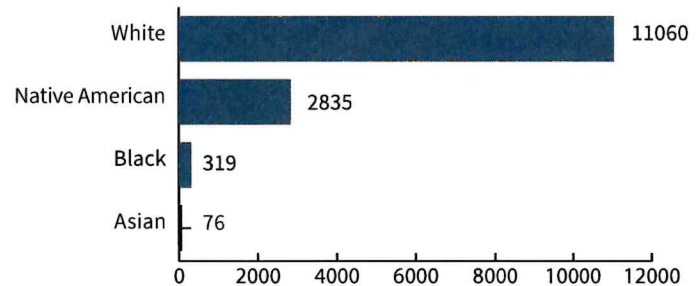
### Religious and Cultural Programming Opportunities

- Drum groups, pipe ceremonies, smudging, sweats, talking circles



Members of the Crow tribe recently donated materials and helped inmates at Montana Women's Prison to set up a tipi on prison grounds. It will be used for smudging and other activities.

## Overall DOC Population by Racial Group Fiscal Year 2022



*In terms of Montana prisons, 21% of incarcerated males and 37% of females are Native American.*

*For more demographic information, visit [COR.MT.GOV](https://cor.mt.gov), click on Data, and select Dashboards.*

## Challenges

- Obtaining Native American volunteers from the community to assist with religious ceremonies, cultural activities
- Striking a balance between safety and security while ensuring access to religious opportunities and artifacts – helping inmates and families understand that balance

## A Helping Hand: Native American Liaison

- Serves as a subject matter expert, advisor to DOC staff
- Acts as liaison between the department and tribal councils
- Delivers training and information on Native American culture related to correctional practices
- Communicates with Native American inmates, families about concerns regarding culture and correctional practices

### Native American Liaison

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