

Assets of Native American Elders



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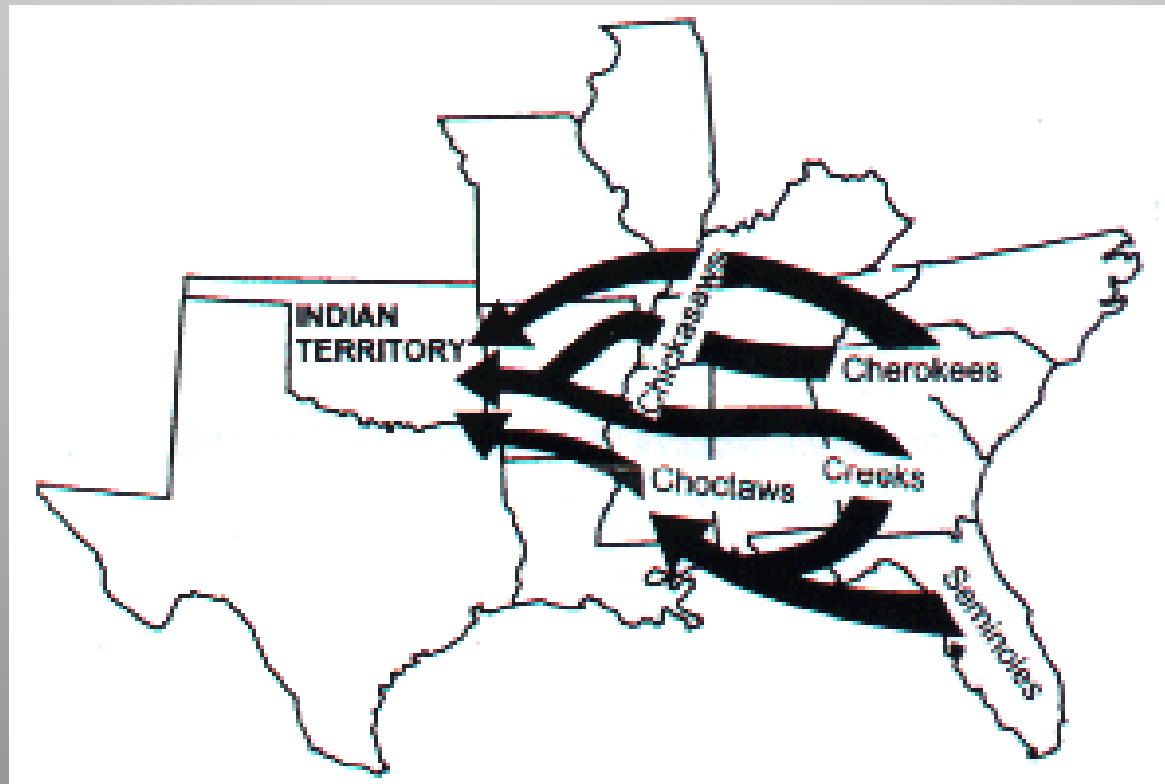
Overview

Who are the Native Elders?

- 565 Federally Recognized Tribes (Navajo = largest)
- 410,000 aged 65 and over
- Age adjusted for life expectancy would mean “elder” at 55 years
- Heterogeneous group
 - Life expectancy ranges from 64.3 (Aberdeen HIS Area) to 76.3 (California); overall 71.1 yrs
 - About half of Native elders live on reservations

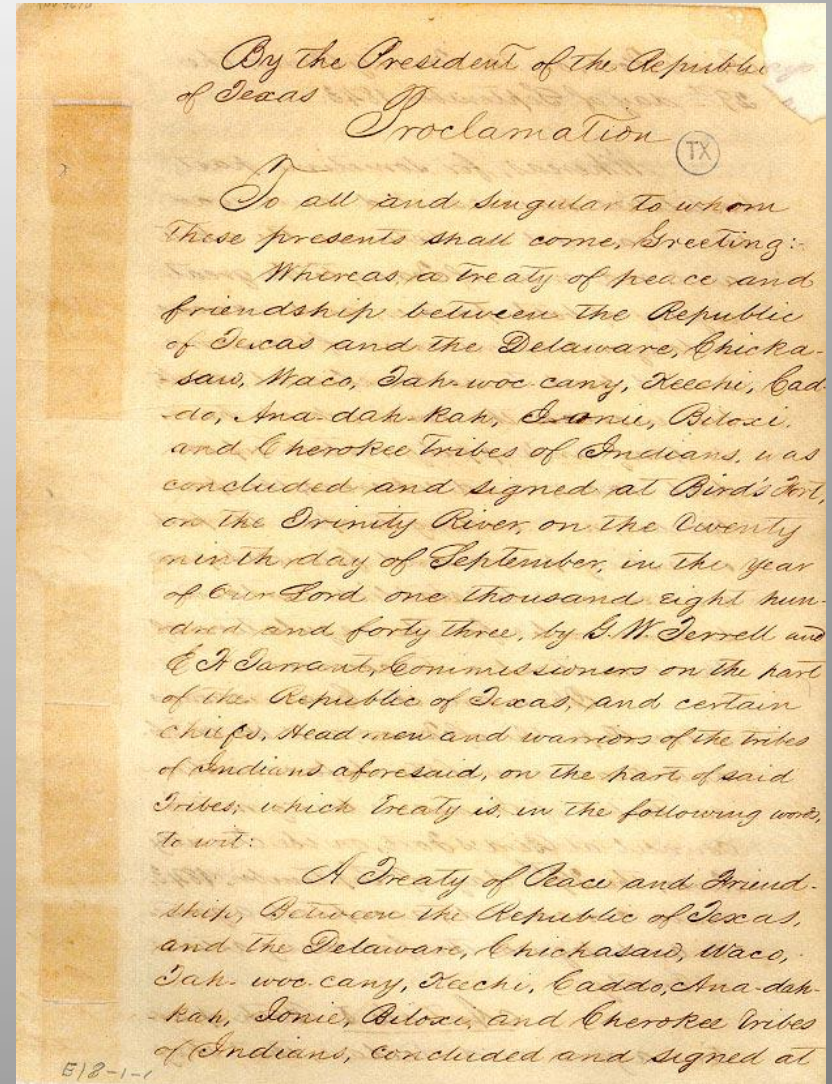
“The past is never dead. It’s not even
past.”

--- Wm. Faulkner



Policy History

- Unique status of “domestic dependent nations”
(Worcester v. Georgia, 1832)
 - Not subject to state law
 - Federal trust obligation
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Indian Health Service
 - Admin. on Aging (Title VI, OAA)





Financial Status

Native Americans

- Educational Attainment
- Occupational Distribution
- Median Household Income
- Poverty

Native elders

- 20% in poverty (HAC,2012)
- No. Dakota Reservations:
 - 47% below \$10,000/yr
 - 18% between \$10,000 and \$14,999

Health

- NRCNAA Study '07-'08
Native elders compared to U.S. 55+
 - surveyed 298 nations
 - CHF (57% higher)
 - Stroke (29% higher)
 - Diabetes (168% higher)
 - Osteoporosis (168% higher)



NRCNAA (Cont)

- Obesity (38% vs. 18%)
- Insurance Coverage
 - 59% Medicare
 - 27% private coverage
 - 19% Medicaid
 - 12% Tribal services
 - 2% LTC Insurance
 - 6% VA
- No personal doctor (24% v 8%)
- Cost as barrier (20% v 46%)

Long Term Care

- North Dakota Caregiver Study
 - Caregivers were younger
 - Physical care easier
 - Work-related impacts
 - Isolation

Native Service Locator
Project (Center for Rural
Health)

Cultural Assets

- Resilience
- Knowledge & Skills
 - Adopt-an-Elder Program
- Language Revitalization
 - “Every language lost is like dropping a bomb on the Louvre.” -- K. Hale
 - [UNESCO's Interactive Language Atlas](#)



Gloria Begay – “Making Bread”

Thank you!!

