

## Sacaton, Arizona Community Profile

*Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital* is located in the community of Sacaton, approximately 45 miles south of Phoenix. Sacaton, which is in close proximity to the Gila River in a river valley at an elevation of 1,283 feet, is the capital of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), where tribal administration offices serve residents throughout the community districts.

Local author Bob Ramsey describes some of Sacaton's geographical details:

Sacaton is situated on the Gila River Indian Reservation . . . . It is 15 miles north of Casa Grande, and 45 miles south of Phoenix in Pinal County, Arizona. The Gila River is about one mile distant to the North. . . . Sacaton sits in a sweeping valley, close to the Gila River. Small mountain ranges parallel the valley running east and west. Minor dirt roads approached it from all four directions through brush, mesquite trees, and a forest of giant cactus and reptiles of every nature.

Spanish missionaries first came to the area in 1696 and founded what was then named the Pima Indian Settlements. Sacaton continues as the center for the Gila River Community. In the recent past, during World War II, Japanese-Americans were held at a detention camp near Sacaton. The infamous Gila River Relocation Center housed more than 13,000 Americans of Japanese descent who had lived in California and Hawaii during the war.

Today, principal economic activities include industrial, retail and recreational development. There are three industrial parks on the Gric lands, a gaming casino, and a "theme park." Agriculture and related activities also play prominent economic roles.

Sacaton's population is 2,985. Its population density is 1,257 residents per square mile of land. The population density in surrounding Pinal County is 55.8. Sacaton's racial composition includes 95.0 percent Native Americans and 2.0 percent White. By comparison, Native Americans comprise 4.8 percent of the statewide population and Whites 75.7 percent. Hispanics are 7.1 percent of Sacaton's population compared to 25.4 percent of the Arizona population.

The age distribution among Sacaton residents includes 42.5 percent below 20 years of age, 35.9 percent from 20-44 years, 16.0 percent from 45-64, and 5.5 percent above the age of 64. For every 100 females there are 94.9 males for a female:male ratio of 1.05:1



In Sacaton, the median household income is \$19,348, which is 56 percent less than the statewide median household income of \$44,261. Approximately 42.9 percent of Sacaton's population live below the federal poverty line and 74.5 percent live below 200% of the federal poverty line, compared with statewide figures of 13.9% and 33.5, respectively). The Sacaton unemployment proportion is 20.8 percent, compared to 4.2 percent statewide. Detailed tables profiling demographic, economic and healthcare coverage indicators at the community, county, and state-wide levels are included.

## Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Profile

The Sacaton community, where the *Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital* is located, is in an Arizona Medically Underserved Area as well as a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. Sacaton is approximately 45 miles south of Phoenix. It is the primary care medical facility for the Gila River Indian community residents.

The hospital received its critical access designation on November 21, 2002. It operates 15 licensed acute care beds and is governed by a community board composed of tribal members from the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) and the AkChin Indian Community. This is the first hospital to be fully administered through a tribal government in Arizona under publication



**Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital**

93-630 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975. The GRIC took over managing the hospital in October 1995 through a contractual agreement with the Indian Health Service. The Indian Health Service, which is a branch of the Public Health Service that directly operates a large number of the Indian hospitals throughout the country. Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital received Flex funding to enhance implementation of the Indian Health Service Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS), an

electronic health record system. An acting CEO currently administers the hospital. The hospital is

accredited by the Joint Commission and manages a sizable I.H.S. contract for health care services.

The challenges that come with treating a diverse caseload are further complicated by the prevalence and sequelae of Type II Diabetes in these Native American Communities. Half the Gila River population develops Type II Diabetes Mellitus by age 35, constituting the highest incidence of this disease among a population in the world. Some fifty percent of all emergency room visits are related to diabetes. As a consequence, many of the hospital's resources and personnel have been directed toward treatment of a disease that is hyper-endemic in this community.

Hospital services include primary care, podiatry, case management, physical rehabilitation and dialysis services. An emergency room is operative 24 hours a day. Patients with serious medical complications are taken to one of the hospitals in the Phoenix area.

### Sources:

Arizona Department of Commerce, Gila River Indian Community Profile  
Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health Systems Development  
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital web page.  
Bob Ramsey, An Oasis Remembered, An Indian Agency, Sacaton  
Sacaton community profile, ePodunk

**Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital, Sacaton, Arizona  
Sacaton, Gila River Indian Community PCA, Pinal County and Arizona  
Demographic, Economic Indicator, and Healthcare Coverage Profile 2006**

	SACATON	GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY PCA	PINAL COUNTY	ARIZONA
	<u>POPULATION</u>			
2006 Population	2,985	19,284	299,875	6,305,210
Population density <sup>1</sup>	1257.1	32.9	55.8	55.5
Female % / Male %	51.3% / 48.7%	52.9% / 47.1%	46.7% / 53.3%	50.1% / 49.9%
	<u>AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION</u>			
Age				
0-19	1,270 (42.5%)	8,855 (45.9%)	86,709 (28.9%)	1,871,275 (29.7%)
20-44	1,072 (35.9%)	6,379 (33.1%)	99,156 (33.1%)	2,295,094 (36.4%)
45-64	477 (16.0%)	2,862 (14.8%)	67,791 (22.6%)	1,318,234 (20.9%)
65+	165 (5.5%)	1,189 (6.2%)	46,219 (15.4%)	820,607 (13.0%)
	<u>RACE AND ETHNICITY</u>			
Race and Ethnicity				
White	2.0%	3.9%	68.0%	75.7%
American Indian	95.0%	91.5%	8.7%	4.8%
Black	0.0%	0.2%	2.6%	3.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%	0.6%	1.9%
Other	2.9%	4.4%	20.1%	14.5%
Hispanic	7.1%	9.4%	32.3%	25.4%
	<u>ECONOMIC INDICATORS</u>			
Economic Indicators				
Below 100% FPL	42.9%	52.1%	16.9%	13.9%
Below 200% FPL	74.5%	79.8%	39.4%	33.5%
Unemployed	20.8%	16.4%	5.0%	4.2%
Median household income	\$19,348	\$18,304	\$36,586	\$44,261
	<u>HEALTH COVERAGE</u>			
Health Coverage				
Medicare beneficiaries	10.7%	10.5%	11.0%	11.1%
AHCCCS enrollees	12.6%	13.3%	14.3%	17.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health Systems Development, Primary Care Area and Places Special Area Statistical Profiles. Adapted February 2008.

<sup>1</sup>Residents per square mile of land