

Parker, Arizona Community Profile

The community of Parker, where the *United States Indian Hospital-Parker* is located, is situated on the east bank of the Colorado River in the northern corner of the Colorado River Indian Tribe. Parker is approximately 160 miles west of Phoenix and 125 miles north of the Mexico border. Parker also serves as the County Seat of rural La Paz County.

Parker originated in 1871 when the Parker post office was built to serve the Indian agency there. In 1905, a railroad was built through Parker that included a stopover, watering and shipping station. This line connected Parker to distant places and facilitated the town's economic development into a regional service and shipping center for agricultural and mining activities. Agricultural development has traditionally been Parker's major economic base. Today, other major industries include retail trade and services. In addition, Parker is the major trade and business center for the Colorado River Indian Reservation, while the nearby Colorado River provides recreational opportunities that are a major draw for tourists.

The surrounding terrain is river bottomland with rugged low desert mountains. Close by are three mountain ranges, including the Gibraltar Mountains to the east, the Riverside Mountains to the southwest, and Ripple Mountains to the north.

Parker's population is 3,270. Parker's population density is 148.7 residents per square mile of land, with 4.7 residents per square mile in surrounding La Paz County. The racial composition includes 62.0 percent Whites, 23.1 percent Native Americans, 1.9 percent Blacks, and 1.0 percent Asians and Pacific Islanders. Hispanics comprise 29.8 percent of the Parker population, compared to 25.4 percent of the statewide total.

Among Parker residents, the age distribution includes 36.0 percent below 20 years of age, 31.8 percent from 20-44 years, 22.8 percent from 45-64, and 9.4 percent above the age of 64. There are 100 females for every 93.4 males for a female:male ratio of 1.07.



The median household income in Parker is \$34,307. This is less than the statewide figure (\$44,261) by one-fifth. Approximately 14.7 percent of Parker's population lives below the federal poverty line and approximately 43.2 percent lives below 200% of the federal poverty line. The Parker unemployment proportion of 5.6 percent is higher than the statewide average of 4.2 percent. Detailed tables profiling demographic, economic and healthcare coverage indicators at the community, county, and state-wide levels are included.

USPHS Indian Hospital–Parker

Vast Coverage Area Straddles Two States: Serve 5,200 Native Americans

The community of Parker, where the United States Indian Hospital-Parker is located, is in an Arizona Medically Underserved Area as well as a dental, mental health and primary care Health Professional Shortage Area. The facility was designated a Critical Access Hospital on November 21, 2002. It has 20 licensed acute care beds and is currently working to obtain approval for swing bed services.

The hospital is referred to within the Indian Health Service as the Colorado River Service Unit. Its service area encompasses an appreciable portion of the border between Arizona and California, spanning more than 500 miles of desert reaching from the Grand Canyon to the outer rim of metropolitan Los Angeles. The Native American groups who reside here include the Colorado River Indians (a mix of Mojave, Hopi, Navajo and Chemehuevi), as well as Hualapai, Havasupai, Chemehuevi and Fort Mojave tribes. Thus, medical services are provided to over 5,200 Indian people at six locations within a vast domain.

One of the well-known tribes is the Havasupai, whose approximately 500 members inhabit a remote village on the floor of the Grand Canyon. Once a farming society, the residents now rely on a mule train to bring food and some modern-day necessities down to them five days a week.

Services cover the gamut, including specialty clinics in pulmonary, pediatrics, OB/GYN, audiology, cardiology, ophthalmology, general surgery and genetics. Services cover the gamut from diabetes care, family practice, preventive health, podiatry and nutrition, dental care, public health nursing, optometry, health education, public health nursing, mental health, substance abuse and HIV prevention, environmental health and social services.

Six clinics reach out with convenient services to this dispersed population.

Chemehuevi Health Center is a small ambulatory clinic located in Chemehuevi, California, 60 miles northwest of Parker, which offers general medicine including family practice, preventive health, podiatry, nutrition and dental services. The nearby Chemehuevi Health Clinic is in Havasu Landing, California. Peach Springs Health Clinic in Peach Springs, Arizona, 150 miles northeast of Parker, provides outpatient services, dental care and preventive services. Specialty clinics there include pediatrics, podiatry, ophthalmology, cardiology, general surgery and nutrition. Supai Health Clinic, 210 miles northeast of Parker, is set deep in the Grand Canyon, with services ranging from family practice and preventive health, to nutrition and dental services. Fort Mojave Health Center is in Needles, California, with services offered by the Fort Mojave Tribe. Sherman Indian Health Clinic is located on the grounds of the Sherman Indian School in Riverside, California and operates an ambulatory clinic.

Representatives from the hospital were involved in the Flex Program's Balanced Scorecard benchmarking system. They removed the hospital from the program two years ago when the

Indian Health Service implemented its own benchmarking system and the hospital decided against using two systems.



United States Indian Hospital-Parker

Over the past two years, the hospital has undergone a major leadership shift. The Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer and quality managers were relocated to other posts within the Indian Health Service. The hospital is currently involved with the Flex Program's seven-state "Harvesting Quality" initiative with Bainbridge Associates, and utilizing the management tools the consultants have made available to them.

Staff members have also been active in many quality improvement activities. Representatives participated in the medication reconciliation workshop offered in 2005 by Health Services Advisory Group. They also have been active in the EMS Working Group and the mid-level managers training organized by the Arizona Rural Hospital Flexibility Program.

Sources:

Arizona Department of Commerce, Parker Community Profile

Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health Systems Development

Town of Parker website

USPHS Indian Hospital-Parker website

**USPHS Indian Hospital – Parker, Parker, Arizona
Parker, Colorado River Indian Tribe PCA, La Paz County and Arizona
Demographic, Economic Indicator, and Healthcare Coverage Profile 2006**

	PARKER	COLORADO RIVER TRIBE PCA	LA PAZ COUNTY	ARIZONA
<u>POPULATION</u>				
2006 Population	3,270	7,961	21,255	6,305,210
Population density ¹	148.7	22.1	4.7	55.5
Female % / Male %	51.6% / 48.4%	49.0% / 51.0%	48.7% / 51.3%	50.1% / 49.9%
<u>AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION</u>				
Age				
0-19	1,175 (36.0%)	2,768 (34.8%)	4,874 (22.9%)	1,871,275 (29.7%)
20-44	1,041 (31.8%)	2,705 (34.0%)	5,217 (24.5%)	2,295,094 (36.4%)
45-64	745 (22.8%)	1,634 (20.5%)	5,653 (26.6%)	1,318,234 (20.9%)
65+	308 (9.4%)	854 (10.7%)	5,511 (25.9%)	820,607 (13.0%)
<u>RACE AND ETHNICITY</u>				
Race and Ethnicity				
White	62.0%	45.7%	74.2%	75.7%
American Indian	23.1%	30.3%	12.5%	4.8%
Black	1.9%	1.1%	0.8%	3.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0%	0.6%	0.5%	1.9%
Other	12.0%	22.3%	12.0%	14.5%
Hispanic	29.8%	37.7%	22.4%	25.4%
<u>ECONOMIC INDICATORS</u>				
Economic Indicators				
Below 100% FPL	14.7%	22.2%	19.6%	13.9%
Below 200% FPL	43.2%	53.3%	48.4%	33.5%
Unemployed	5.6%	7.1%	6.0%	4.2%
Median household income	\$34,307	\$29,295	\$26,576	\$44,261
<u>HEALTH COVERAGE</u>				
Health Coverage				
Medicare beneficiaries	16.3%	15.9%	15.9%	11.1%
AHCCCS enrollees	26.4%	25.8%	25.5%	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.

¹Residents per square mile of land