

Who Are American Indian and Alaska Native Grandparents?

Presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the Population Association of America
Columbus, Ohio
April 17-20, 2024

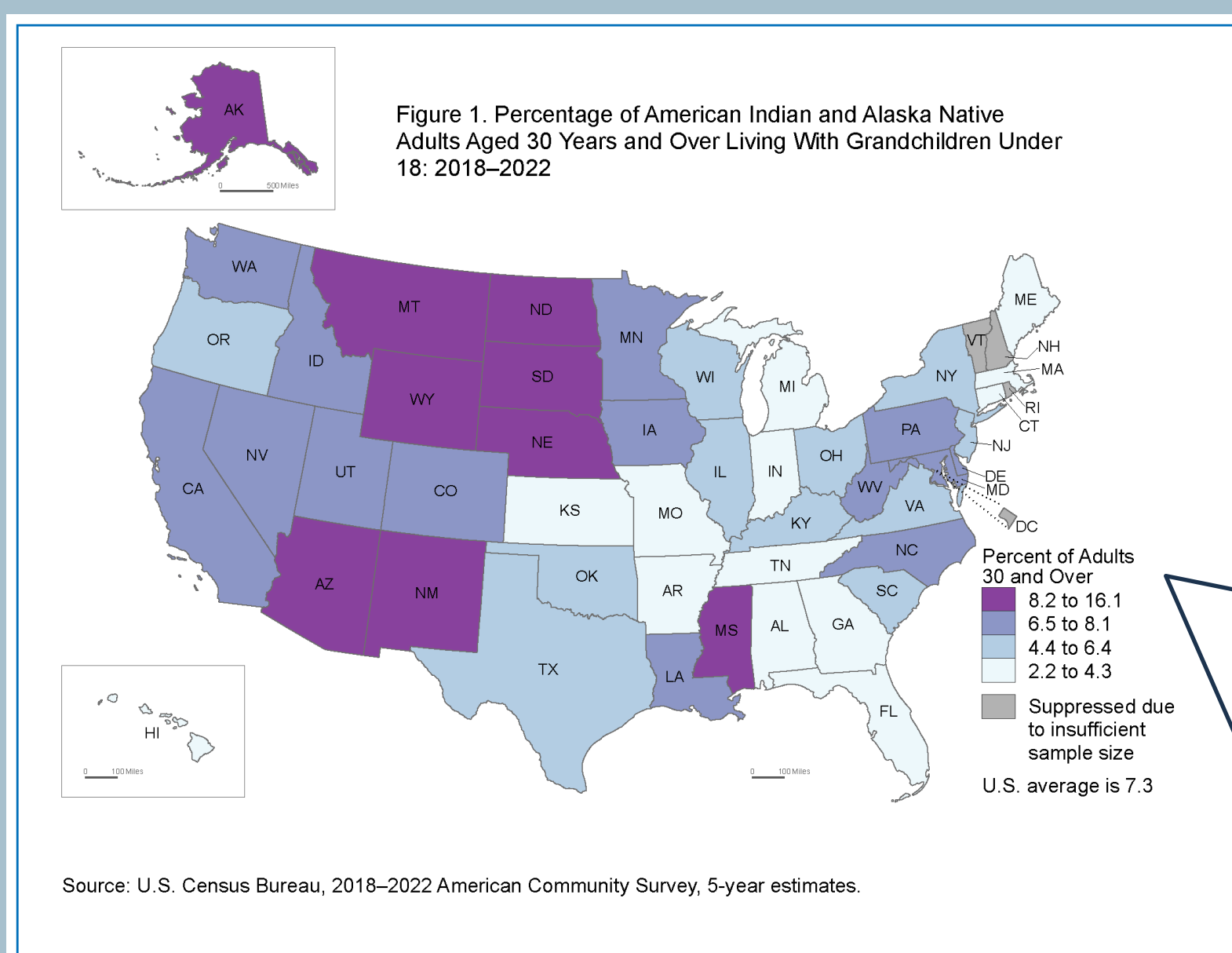
Lydia R. Anderson, MA, and Clayton Buck, MA
Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division
Demographic Directorate
U.S. Census Bureau

INTRODUCTION

- Nationally, there were an estimated 106,500 coresident American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) grandparents in 2022.
- [AIAN adults have significantly higher rates of grandparent coresidence than the total population.](#)¹
 - In 2018–2022, 7.3 percent of AIAN alone adults aged 30 and over lived with grandchildren under the age of 18, compared to 3.4 percent of all adults aged 30 and over.²

RESEARCH QUESTION, DATA, AND METHODS

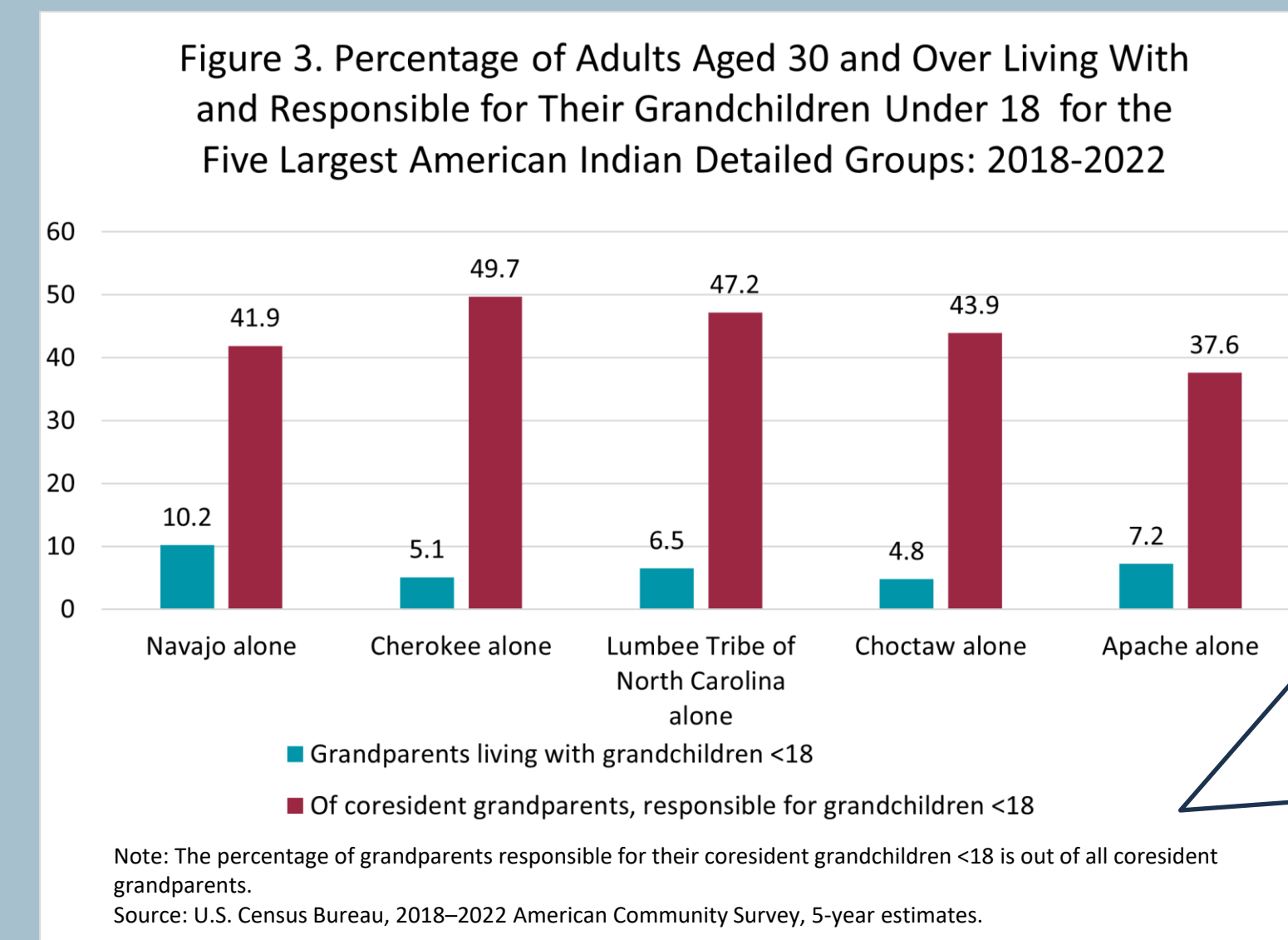
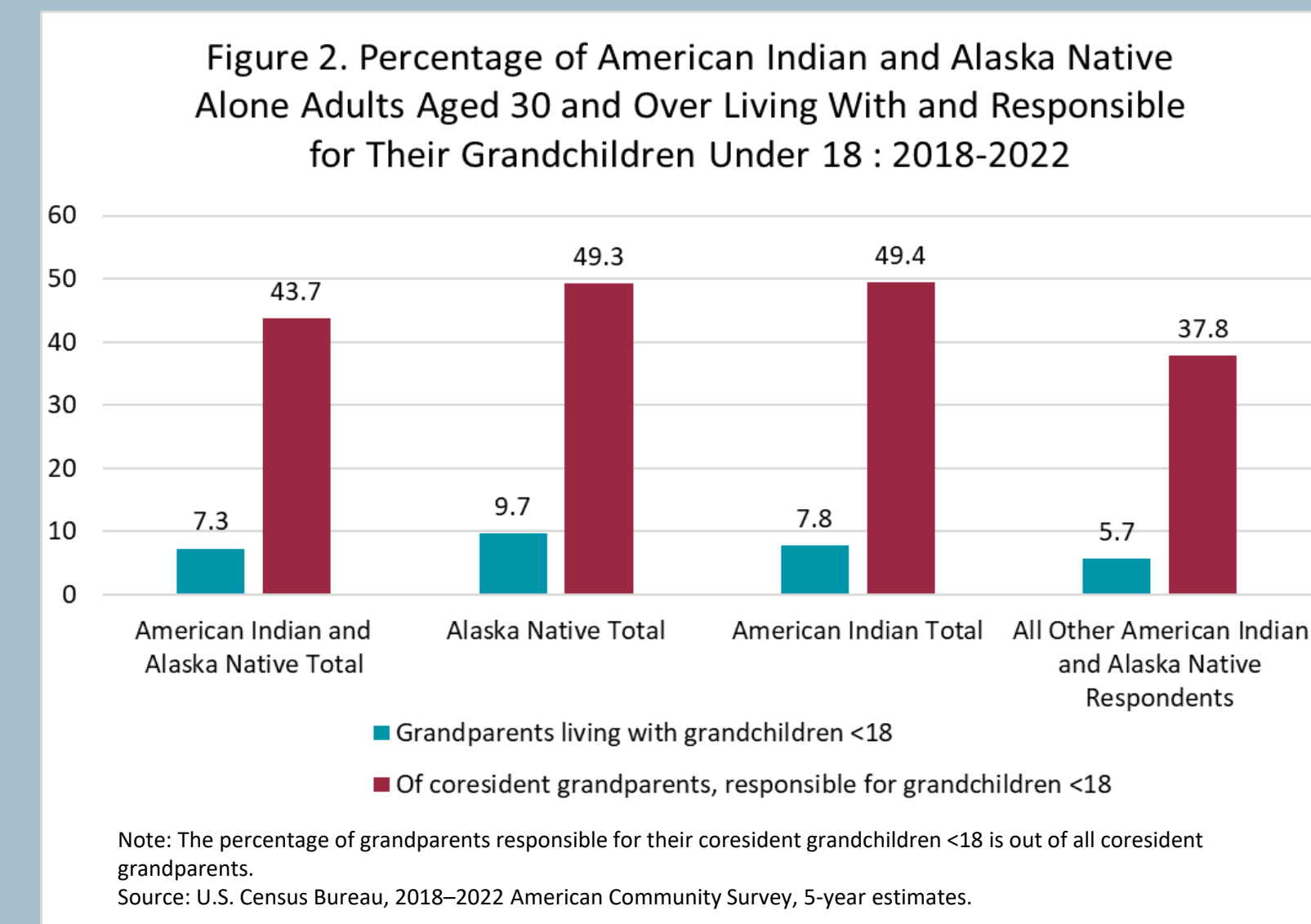
- How do the characteristics of coresidential grandparents vary within the American Indian and Alaska Native population?
- 2018–2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year estimates <<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>>.
- Universe includes American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) alone.
 - Data for the population of AIAN in combination with any other racial category are available using the QR code in the bottom right. Data are presented for five detailed American Indian groups with the largest number of coresidential grandparents. The sum of these five groups will not equal the total for American Indian alone, as there are many other detailed American Indian groups in this category.
- The category “All Other American Indian and Alaska Native” includes Canadian Indian, multiple AIAN identities (ex: both Alaska Native and American Indian, etc.), and AIAN alone. Latin American Indian grandparents are excluded from this category.



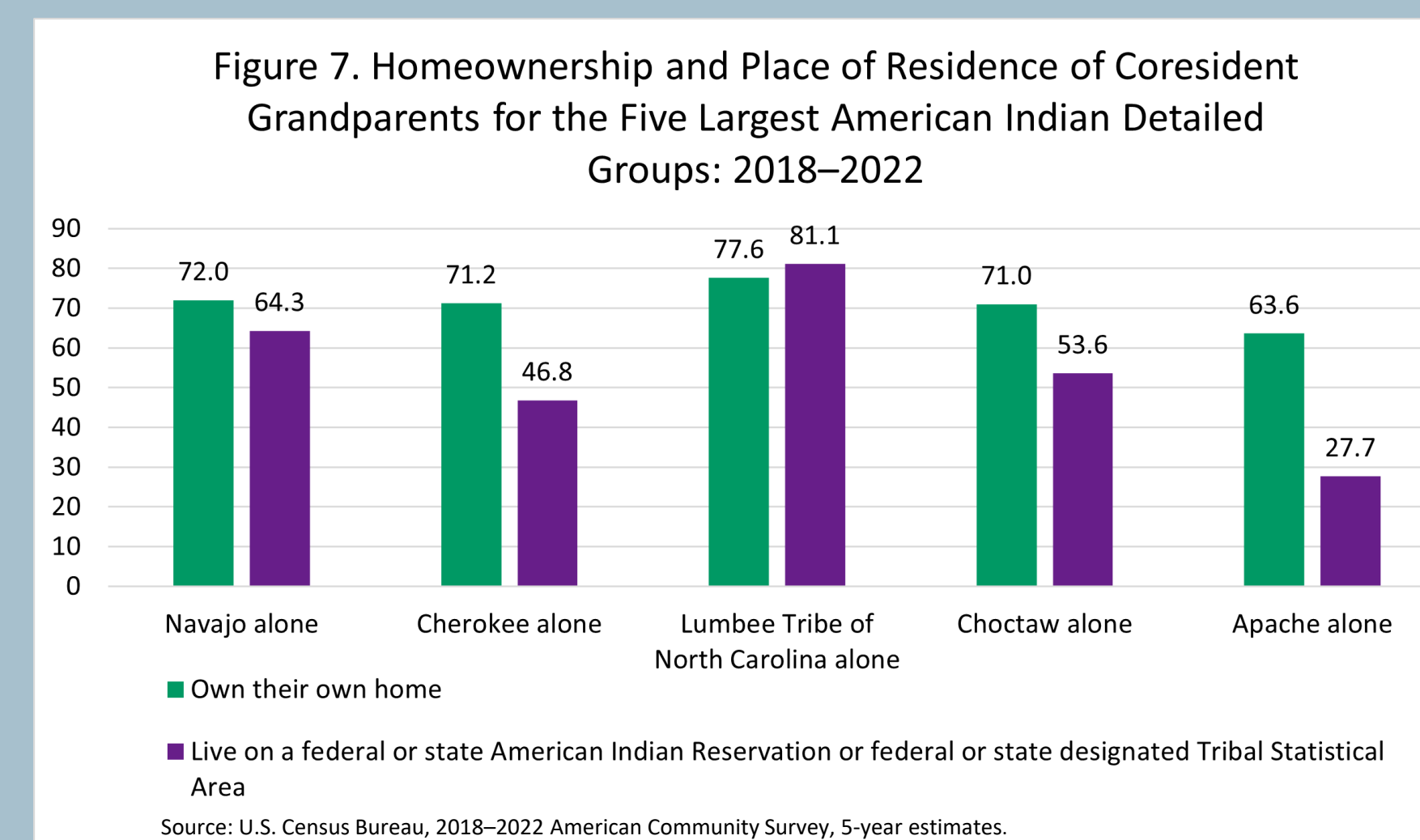
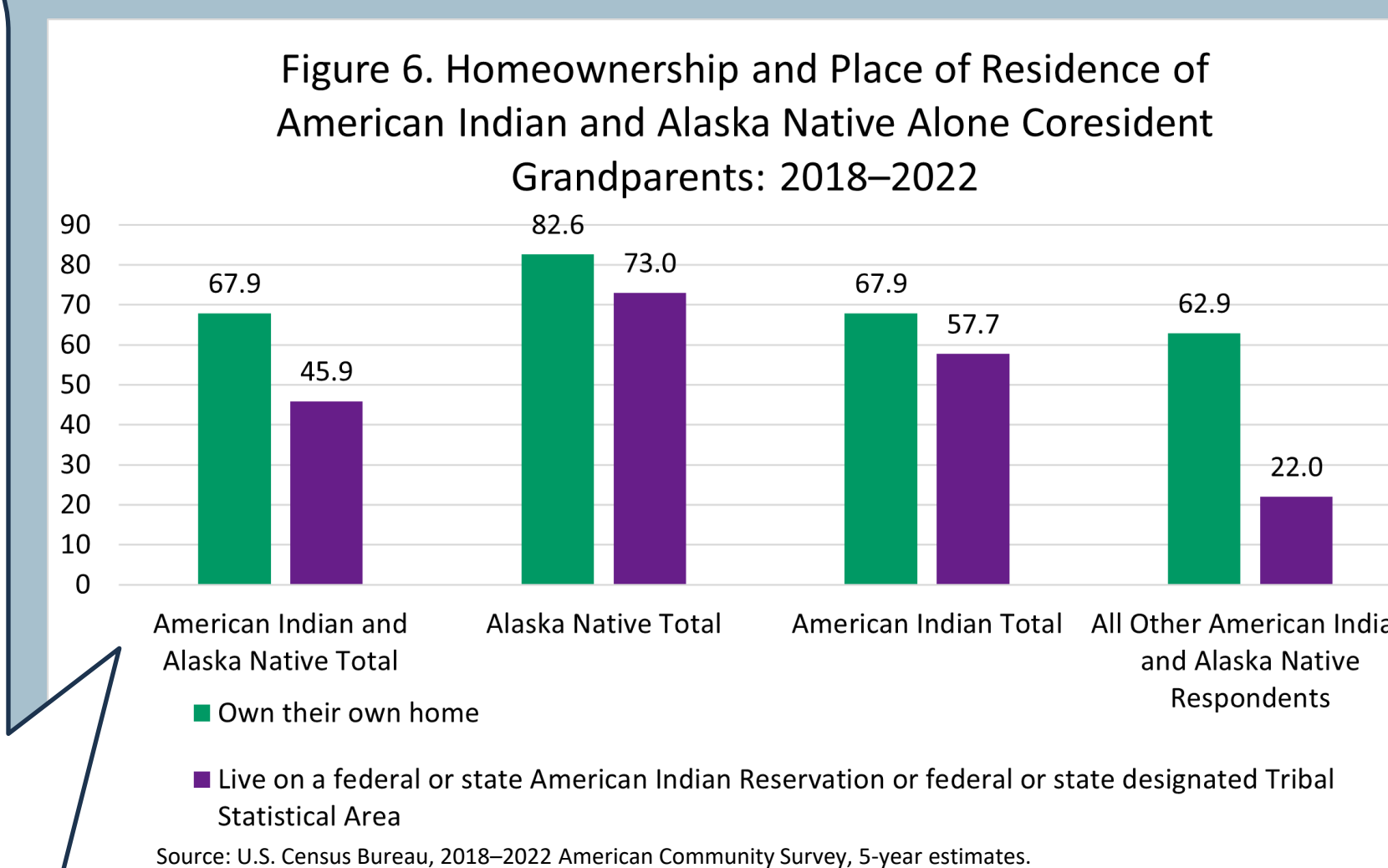
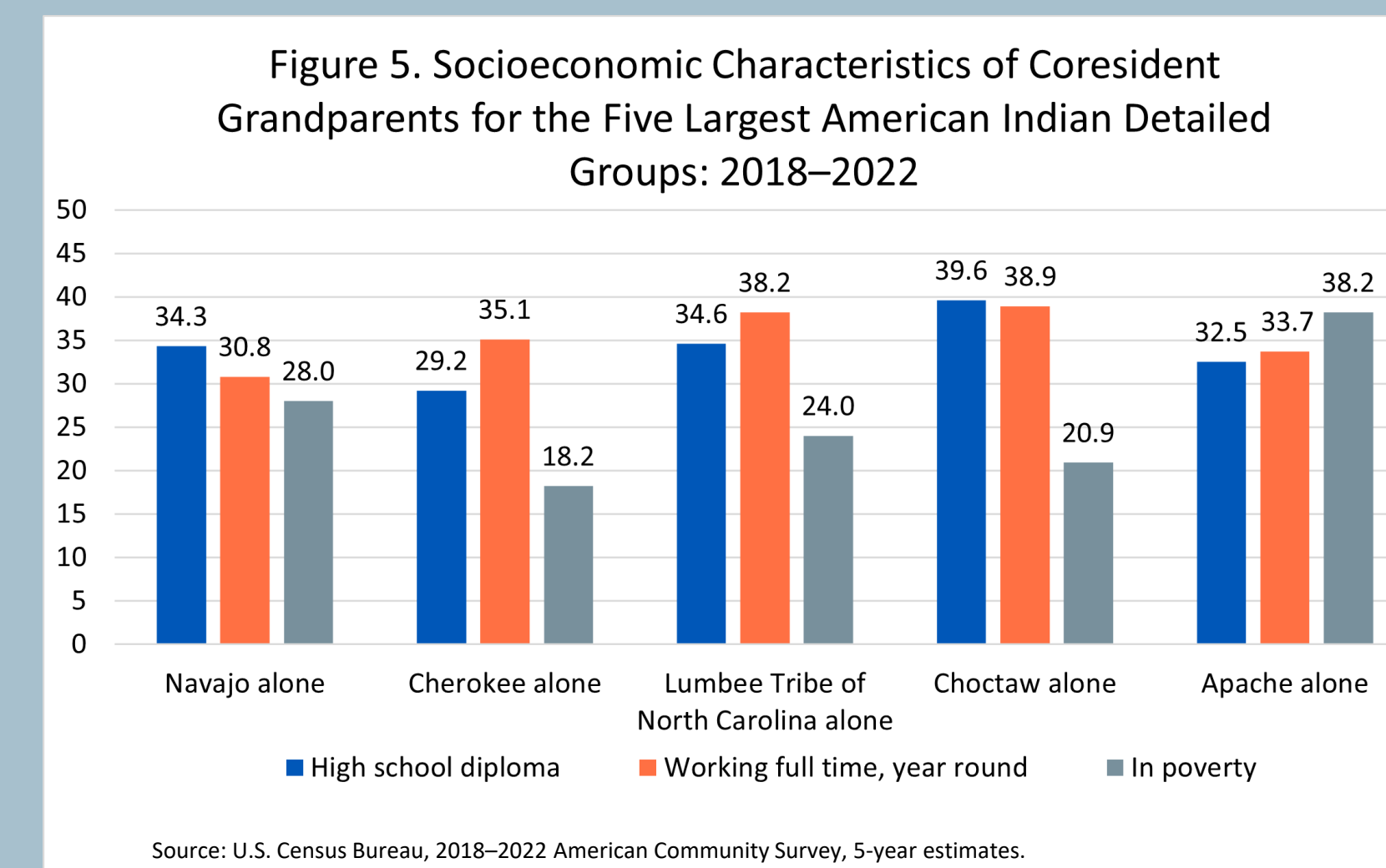
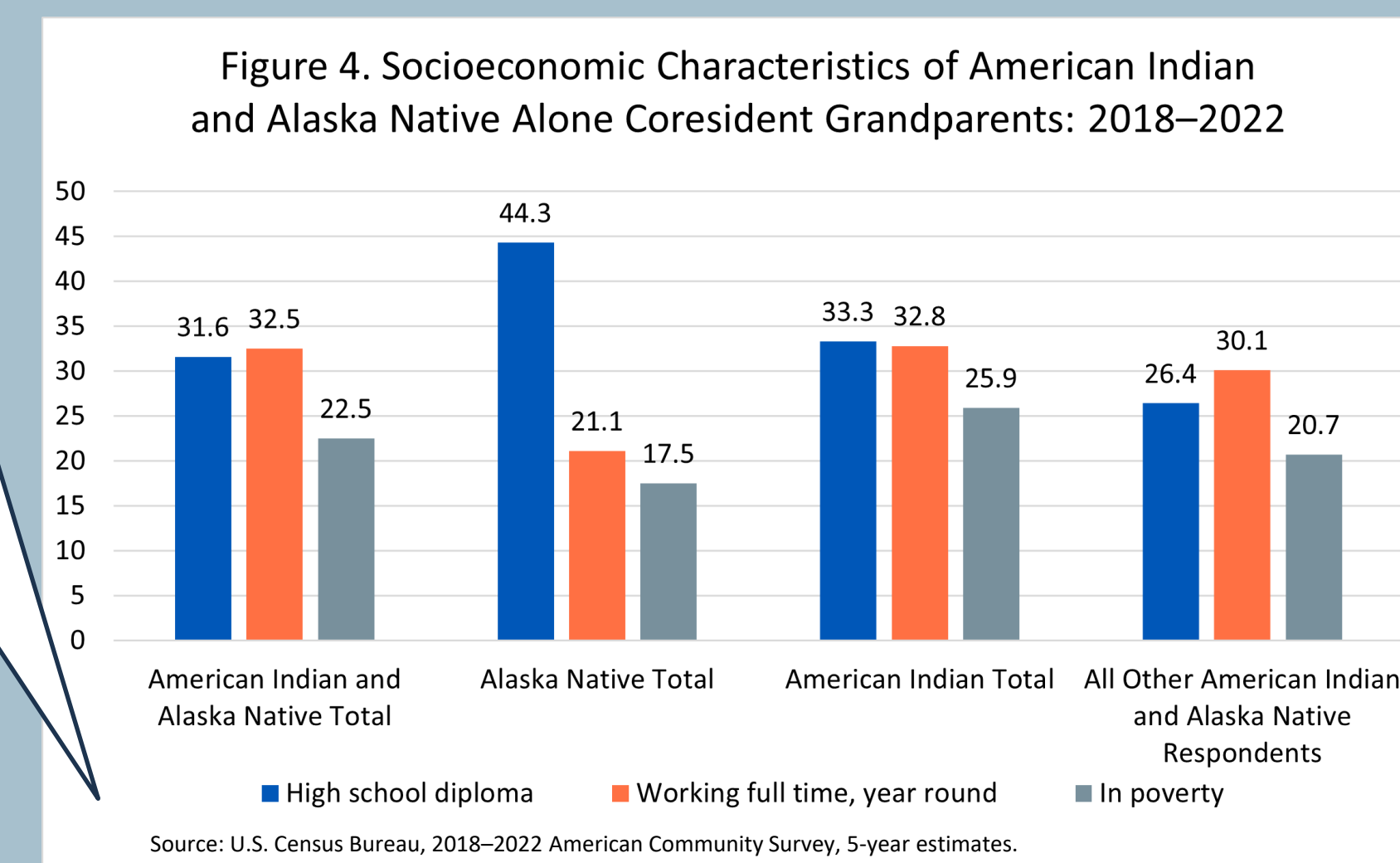
Nationally, 7.3 percent of AIAN adults aged 30 and over lived with grandchildren under 18, but this percentage was highest in northern Midwest and some West states, and lower in some states in the South and Northeast.

Nearly one-third of all coresident AIAN alone grandparents had a high school diploma (31.6 percent) and nearly one-third worked full-time, year-round (32.5 percent). Over one in five of these grandparents lived in poverty.

Over two-thirds (67.9 percent) of all coresident AIAN alone grandparents owned their own home. Alaska Native alone grandparents were the most likely to own their own home. Under half (45.9 percent) of coresident AIAN grandparents lived on a federal or state American Indian Reservation or Tribal Statistical Area, though this varied by AIAN identity.



Less than 10 percent of AIAN alone adults aged 30 years or older lived with a grandchild under the age of 18 years, while less than half (43.7 percent) of coresident AIAN alone grandparents were responsible for the basic care of their grandchildren.



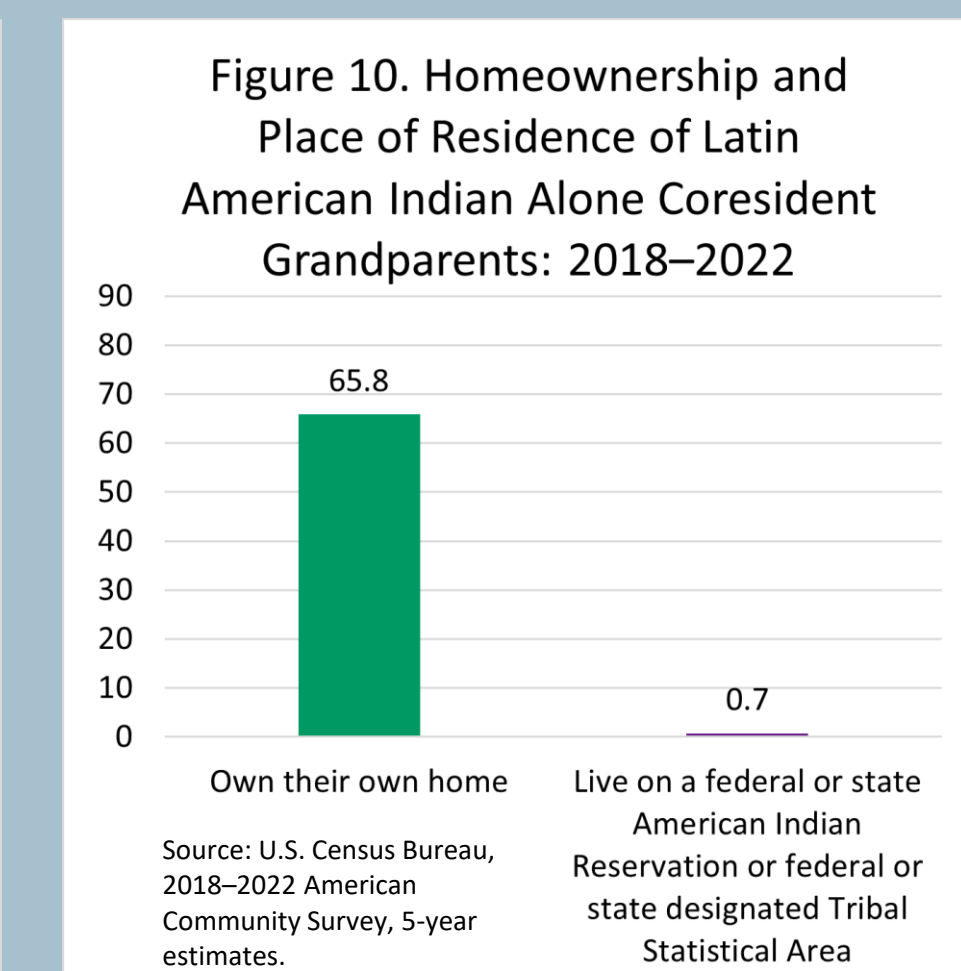
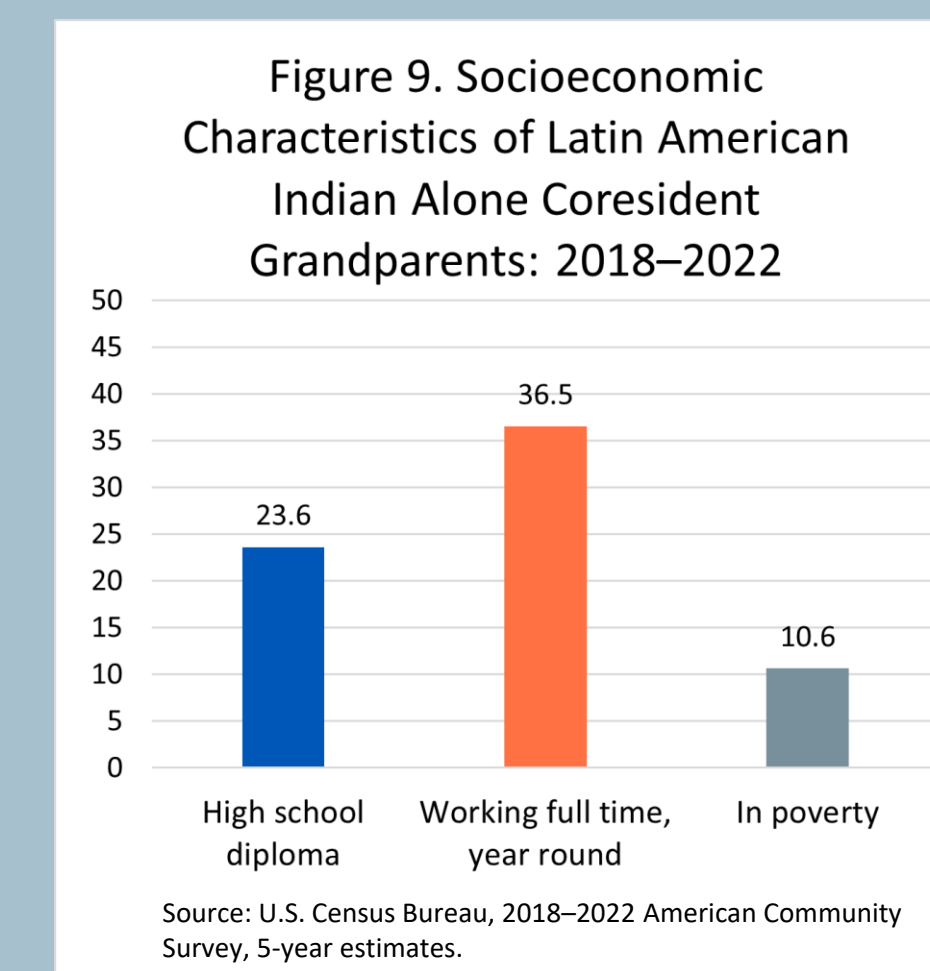
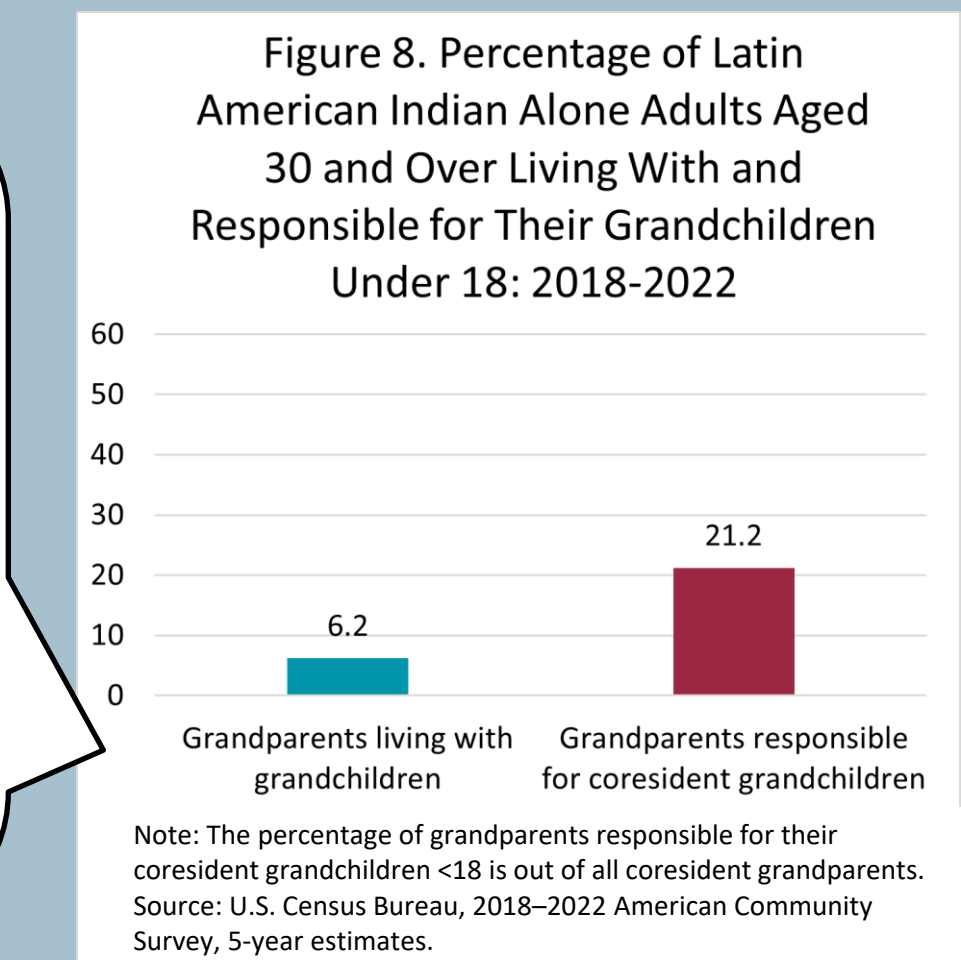
REFERENCES

- Anderson, Lydia R., Clayton Buck, and George M. Hayward, “Coresident Grandparents and Their Grandchildren: 2021,” *Current Population Reports*, P20-588, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2024.
- See Table B10050 <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022_B10050?q=B10050>
- Sánchez-Rivera, Ana I., Paul Jacobs, and Cody Spence, “Detailed Data for Hundreds of American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes,” *America Counts*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2023, <<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/10/2020-census-dhc-a-ai-an-population.html>>.

LATIN AMERICAN INDIAN GRANDPARENTS

- The Latin American Indian alone population grew by [344.7 percent between the 2010 Census and 2020 Census](#).³
- This is a fast-growing group and is in the AIAN Total columns in the graphs to the left, but Latin American Indian grandparents have different characteristics from Alaska Native and American Indian grandparents.

Relative to American Indian alone and Alaska Native alone grandparents, Latin American Indian alone coresident grandparents are less likely to be responsible for their coresident grandchildren and less likely to live in poverty.



CONCLUSION

- The experiences and characteristics of AIAN alone grandparents are diverse and vary by detailed group.

Scan the QR code to the right for a detailed table with more information about AIAN alone grandparents as well as a separate table for grandparents who are AIAN alone or in combination with one or more additional race groups.

