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In many cases, the conditions on the reservations are such that people would be surprised to find a large disparity exists in the United States (Courtesy of PWNA)

## Native American Heritage Month: The Realities of Hardships and Life on Utah's Navajo Indian Reservation

by Kate Judge

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EDITORIAL — For most Americans, their only exposure to Native Americans comes from movie and television portrayals or through outdated and perhaps stereotypical ideas of Indian country, but the truth is more complex. The reality is that fewer than 15 percent of Indian tribes operate prosperous casinos, Native Americans don't receive government aid simply for being Native American and Native Americans do, in fact, pay federal income taxes.

In many cases, the conditions on the reservations are such that people would be surprised to find a large disparity exists in the United States. For example, Native Americans endure a legacy of healthcare disparities – the average lifespan of Native American men on some reservations is 20 years less than that of other men in the U.S. Approximately 90,000 Native Americans are homeless and nearly one quarter of families experience low food security. Further, less than 1 percent of all charitable donations support Native causes.

Combatting these critical issues is Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA), a nonprofit organization committed to championing hope for a brighter future for Native Americans living on remote, isolated and impoverished reservations, including Utah's Navajo Indian Reservation.

To bring awareness to the realities of life on these reservations, PWNA has put together the following PSA announcement.



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