



# ICWA Courts: *Gold Standard* Courts

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# SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

casey family programs

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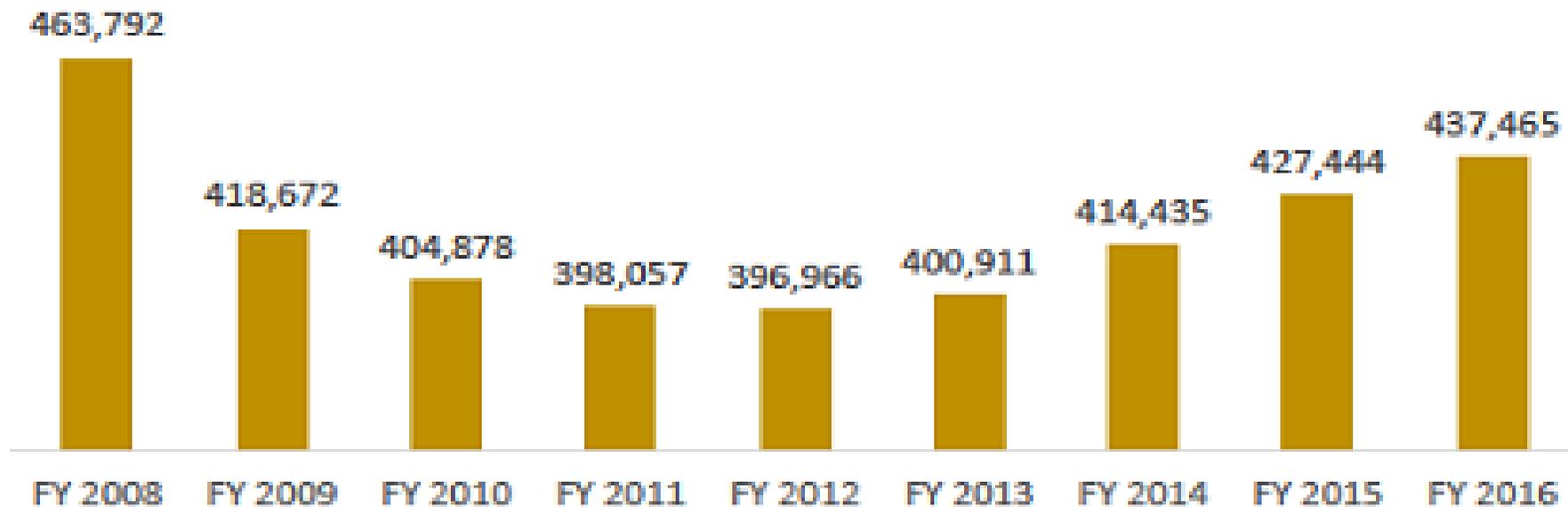
safe children | strong families | supportive communities

# Viral Memes



After years of decline, the number of children in foster care has steadily risen in recent years.

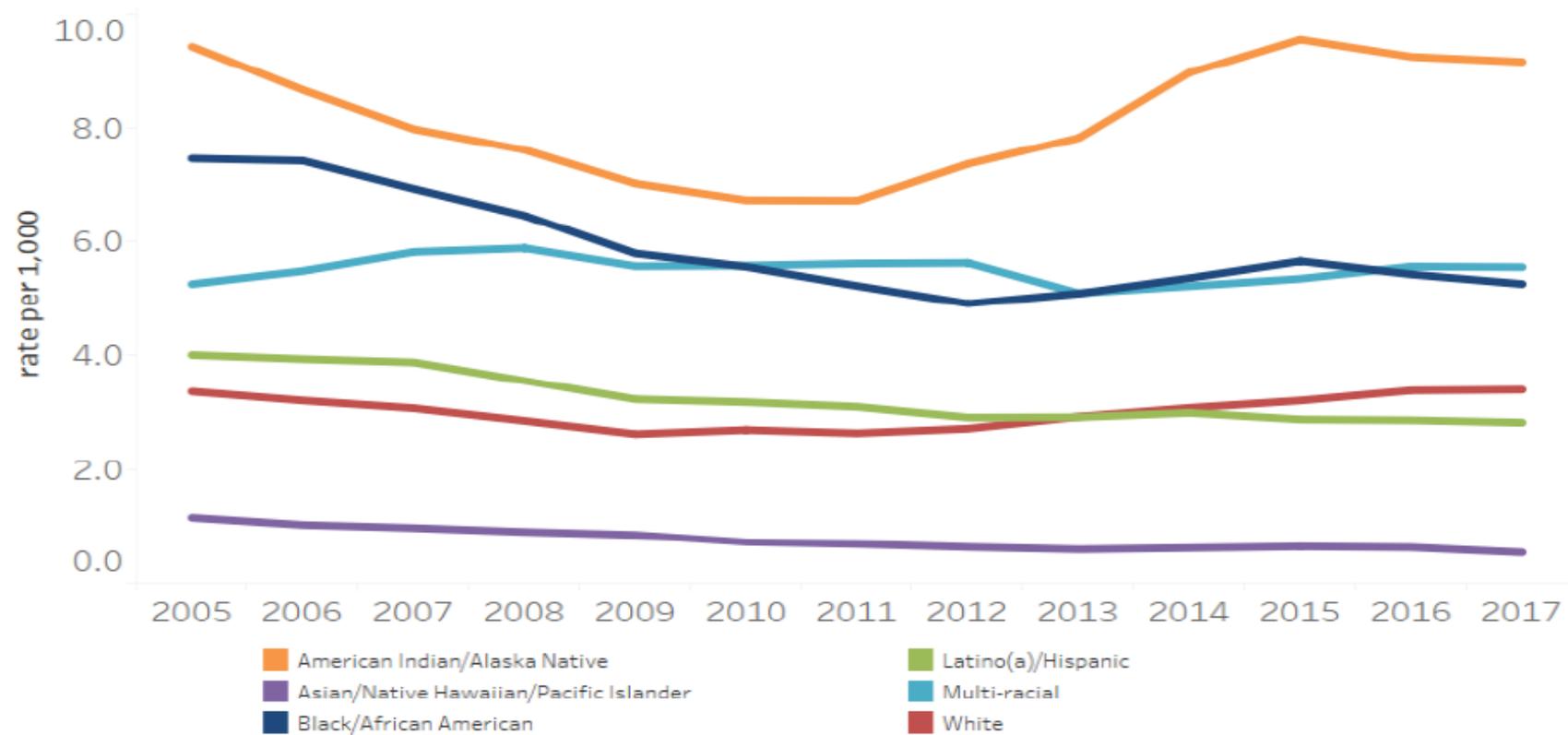
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY



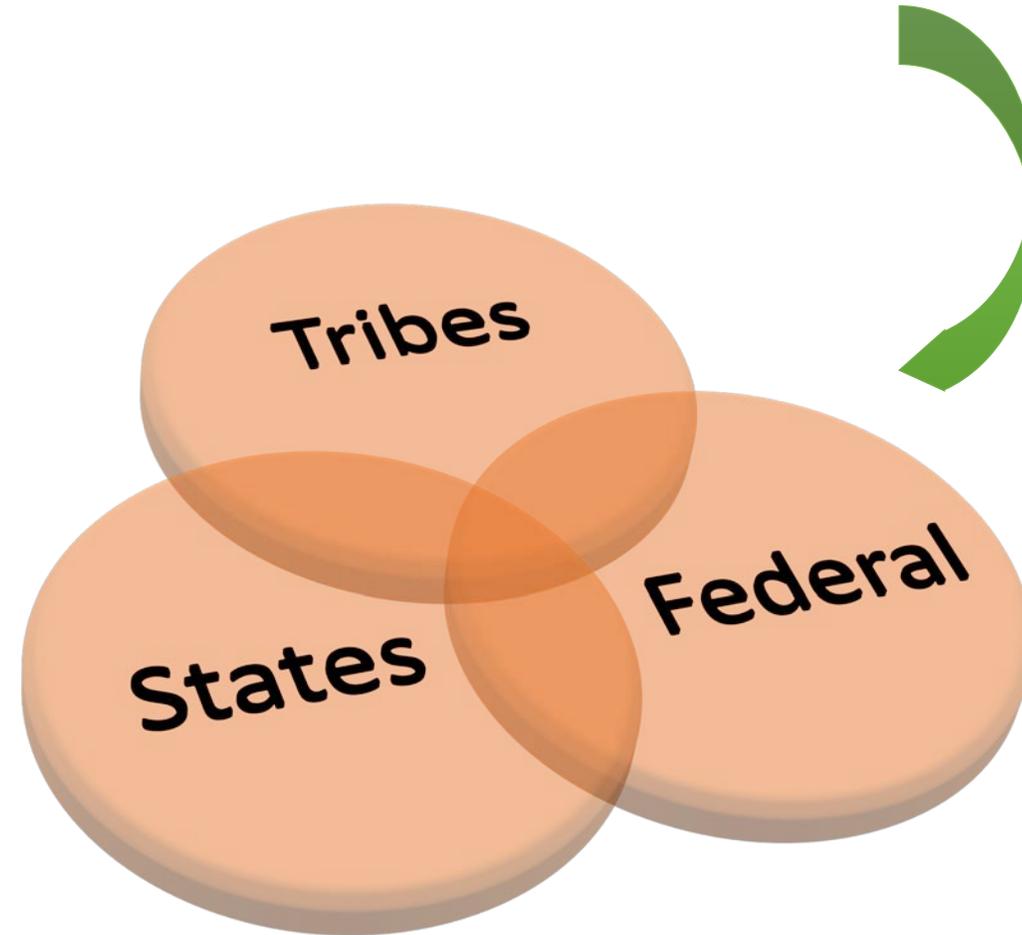
SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

# Need for ICWA?

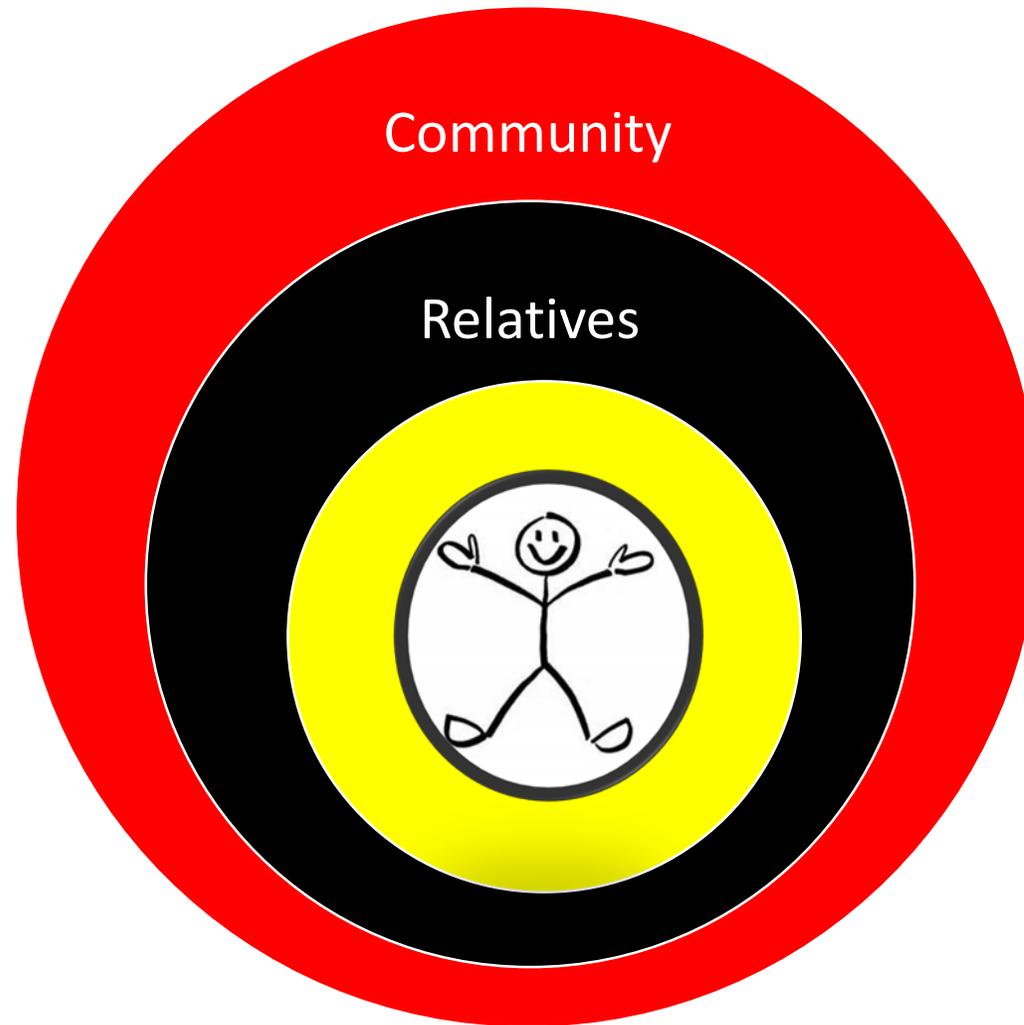
Native children enter care at nearly three times the rate of Latino & White youth



# Indian Child Welfare Act



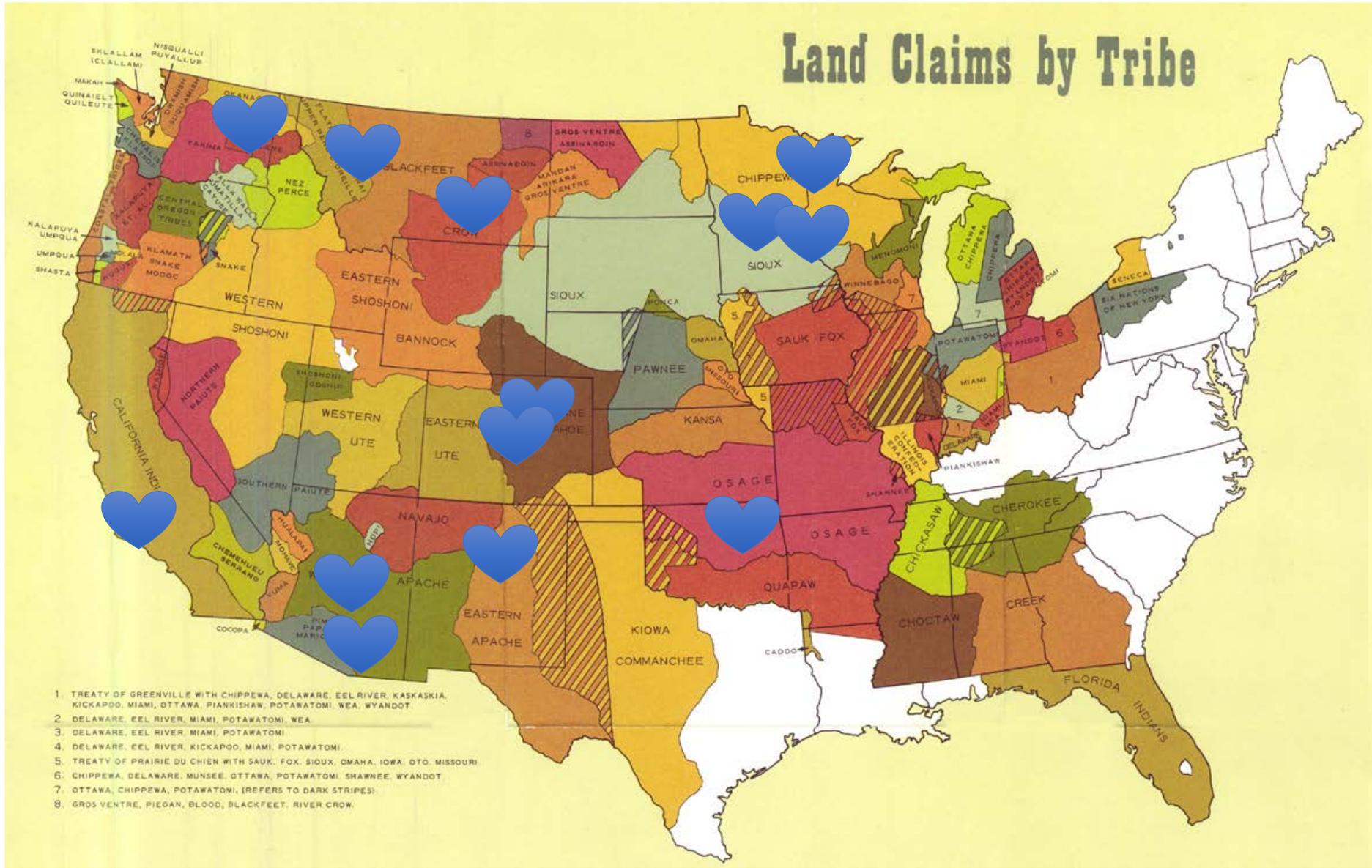
# Why the ***Gold Standard*** of child welfare?



# ICWA Courts



# Land Claims by Tribe



# Child Welfare: What do we know is best for children and families?

- The goal in child welfare should be to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children ***and their families***.
- We know to support child well-being, it is important to intervene as early as possible.
- We know that the act of removing children from their families and homes creates emotional distress and trauma that should be avoided whenever possible.
- We know some children can be better served by remaining safely at home while their parents receive the community services and support they need.

# ICWA Baseline Measures

- Tribe being present shortens the time to permanency by 125 days.
- Enhanced ICWA Application: Parents attorney at hearing, Tribe being present, finding of ICWA early. Longer notice less ICWA application.



# ICWA Courts



# ICWA Court Collaborative

# Native American Populations 2019

State	2019 Population	Indian (Total) ▼
Oklahoma	3,896,251	276,650
Arizona	6,809,946	266,680
New Mexico	2,084,828	181,382
California	38,982,847	137,813
North Carolina	10,052,564	109,080
Alaska	738,565	101,704
Washington	7,169,967	79,825
South Dakota	855,444	71,127
Texas	27,419,612	65,883
Montana	1,029,862	64,251
Minnesota	5,490,726	51,999
Wisconsin	5,763,217	45,947
New York	19,798,228	45,623
Michigan	9,925,568	44,263
Florida	20,278,447	41,706
North Dakota	745,475	38,662
Oregon	4,025,127	34,905
Colorado	5,436,519	28,624

# Moral Courage—

## Sand Creek Massacre Tribute

*“When I was running, I was thinking of my relatives. From that baby [Ho’weche] that survived is where I came from.”*

**NAVITT SPOTTED ELK**

November 29, 2015 at Colorado State Capitol, Denver

