

Homes and Communities

To what extent are students exposed to their AI/AN language at home?

Students come into contact with their cultural heritage in a variety of ways, including through the home and community. Sixty-one percent of fourth-graders and approximately 59 percent of eighth-graders who identified themselves as AI/AN or AI/AN plus another race reported being exposed to their native language at home at least once in a while (figure 3-2).

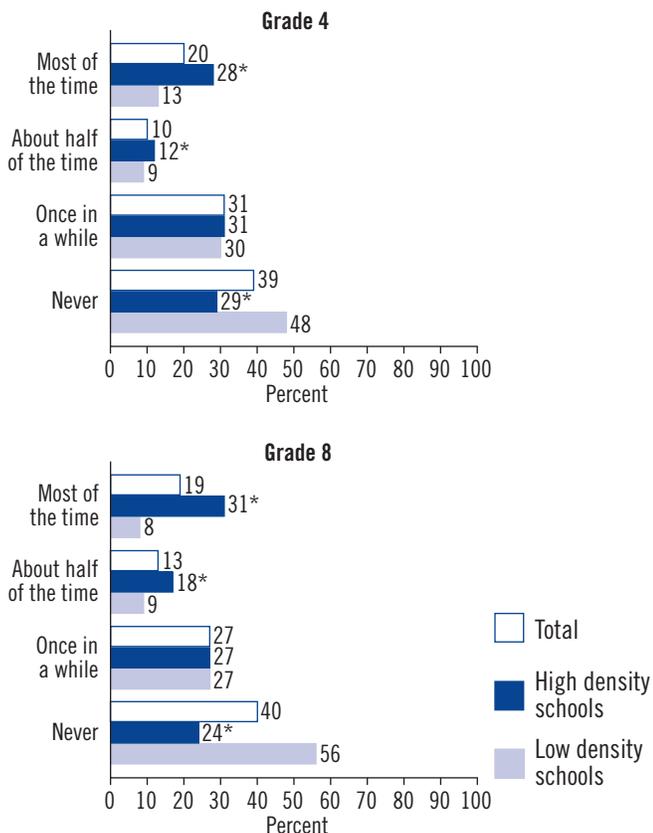
At both grades, the percentage of self-identified AI/AN students reporting that family members talked to each other in their native language “most of the

time” was higher for students attending high density schools than for their peers in low density schools.

Exposure to their native language at home occurred more frequently for self-identified AI/AN students attending BIE schools than for students attending public schools (table 3-4). For example, 41 and 42 percent of self-identified AI/AN students in BIE schools at grades 4 and 8, respectively, indicated that their native language was used at home “most of the time,” compared to 18 percent of fourth-graders and 16 percent of eighth-graders attending public schools.

Figure 3-2. Percentage of fourth- and eighth-grade self-identified AI/AN students’ responses to a question about exposure to their AI/AN language at home, by school density: 2007

How often do members of your family talk to each other in your American Indian or Alaska Native language?



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from low density schools.
 NOTE: AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native. School density indicates the proportion of AI/AN students enrolled. High density schools have 25 percent or more AI/AN students. Low density schools have less than 25 percent. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007 National Indian Education Study.

Table 3-4. Percentage of self-identified AI/AN students, by grade, type of school, and students’ responses to a question about exposure to their AI/AN language at home: 2007

How often do members of your family talk to each other in your American Indian or Alaska Native language?	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	Type of school		Type of school	
	Public	BIE	Public	BIE
Most of the time	18	41*	16	42*
About half of the time	10	15*	12	19*
Once in a while	31	29*	27	24*
Never	41	15*	45	14*

* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from public schools.
 NOTE: AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native. BIE = Bureau of Indian Education. Results are not shown for Department of Defense and private schools. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, 2007 National Indian Education Study.

