In 1991, the Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics (IBGE) introduced "Indígena" as a category of self-identification to the national census. Today, 817,963 Indigenous people live in Brazil, representing 0.4% of the nation’s total population. Indigenous peoples in Brazil represent 305 different ethnic groups and speak more than 270 Indigenous languages.

Where do Indigenous peoples live in Brazil?

Despite the significant strides made by Indigenous peoples and their allies, Indigenous peoples in Brazil continue to struggle for national recognition and their rights as citizens and people.

**Rights & Citizenship**

Brazilian citizens are guaranteed access to education, healthcare and self-determination. However, only 73.7% of Indigenous peoples are literate, compared to the national average of 89%. Moreover, only 67.7% of Indigenous peoples living in officially recognized Indigenous lands are literate.

**Mental Health**

Mental health is a grave concern within the Indigenous community in Brazil and suicide is among one of the greatest health issues currently plaguing the community. The suicide rate of Guarani people of Mato Grosso do Sul is 12 times the national average. The suicide rate of Indigenous peoples is 6 times the national average.

**Land and Natural Resources**

Research shows that access to ancestral lands is directly tied to the health and survival of Indigenous communities. Only 12.5% of land is demarcated for Indigenous peoples, and it remains a source of tension. Indigenous peoples continue to be forcibly removed and killed for access to their land and natural resources. The majority of these deadly land disputes go unresolved.

833 Indigenous people have been murdered in Brazil since 2007.

Source: IBGE, Censo Demográfico 2010

"Today, only 12.5 percent of Brazilian land remains in the possession of indigenous people." ("The Genocide of Brazil’s Indians," New York Times. 29 May 2017.)