

Sustaining the O'odham Ñi'okĩ

O'odham Ñi'okĩ Ki:
(O'odham Language Center)



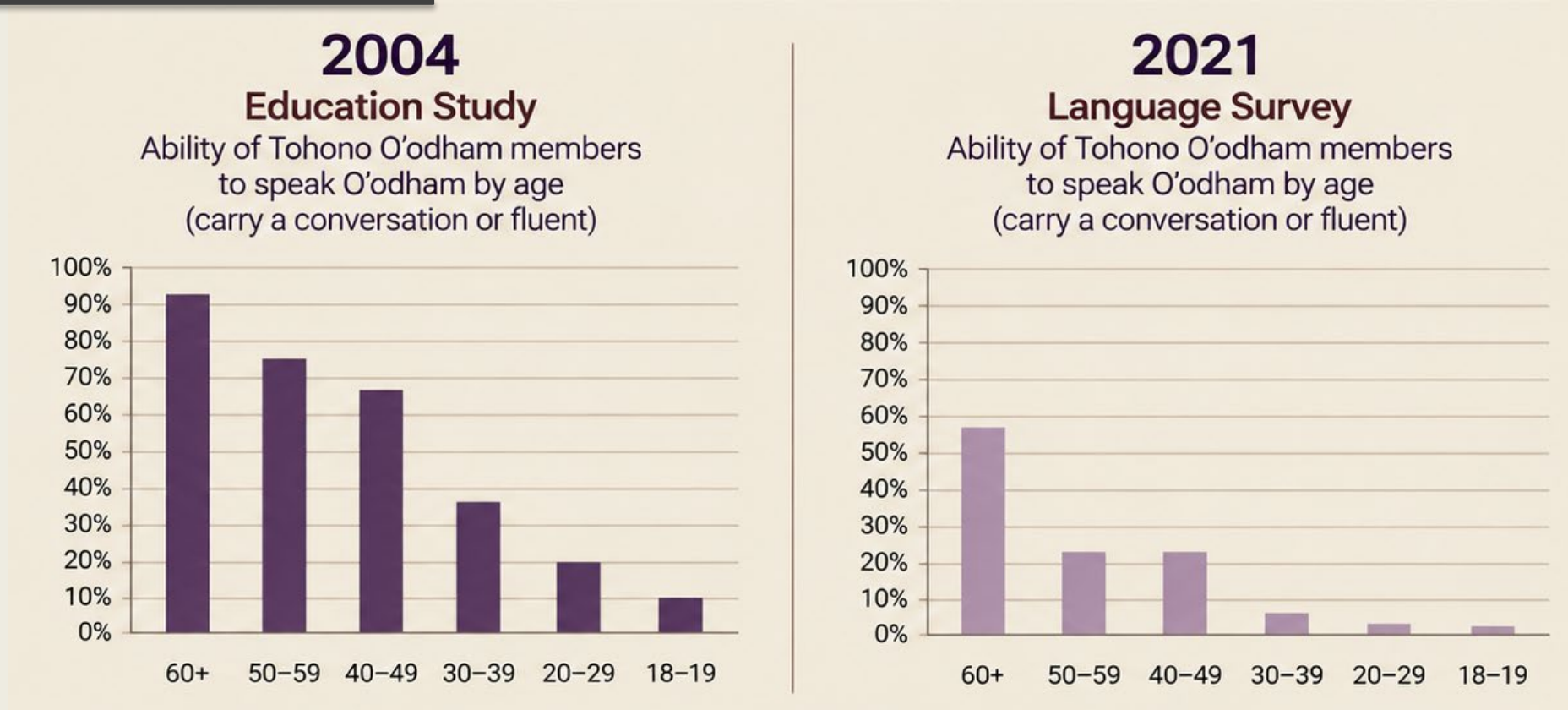
Indigenous Languages in the United States

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According to a 2023 Bureau of Indian Affairs report, approximately 167 Indigenous languages are spoken in the United States, and it is estimated that only 20 will remain by 2050.



Source: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. (2023).
Native American Revitalization Literature Review.

O'odham Language: Evidence of Declining Intergenerational Transmission



Source: Tohono O'odham Nation & Tohono O'odham Community College, *Comprehensive Education Study 2004* (2004).

Source: Tohono O'odham Community College, *O'odham Language Comprehensive Survey* (2021).

Data are drawn from separate studies and are presented to illustrate patterns in O'odham speaking ability across age groups.

Building on A Strong Foundation

For many years, the Tohono O'odham Nation has invested in language documentation, dictionary, teaching, and learning. These efforts have included:



What We're Working Toward

Our work is focused on changing the conditions that allow O'odham ñi'okĩ to be learned, used and passed on.



The goal is to strengthen the use of the O'odham language in everyday life.



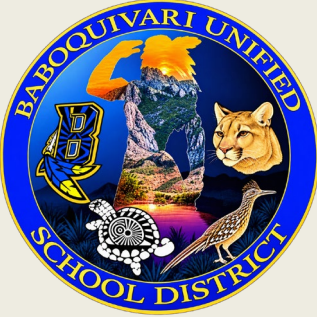
A Connected Approach to Language Continuity

The O'odham Ñi'okĩ Ki: works to strengthen the O'odham language through six interconnected areas.



These areas support how O'odham is learned, used, and passed on.

Language Continuity through Partnership



Youth, Family, and Community-based Language Learning



YOUTH AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
GROWING INTEREST IN LANGUAGE LEARNING
THROUGH COMMUNITY FOCUSED LANGUAGE EVENTS,
YOUTH AND FAMILIES HEAR AND USE O'ODHAM

STRONGER LANGUAGE CONTINUITY
OUR YOUTH SPEAK AND VALUE O'ODHAM

STRONGER FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
FAMILIES ARE ACTIVE PARTNERS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR O'ODHAM AT HOME AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HEAR AND USE O'ODHAM
YOUTH HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE AND USE O'ODHAM IN EVERYDAY WAYS.

LANGUAGE EXPERIENCES
FUN AND ENGAGING EXPERIENCES INSPIRE INTEREST AND CREATE POSITIVE CONNECTIONS TO THE LANGUAGE.

THESE ELEMENTS CREATE A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR O'ODHAM LANGUAGE SUSTAINABILITY
WHEN YOUTH AND FAMILIES ARE ENGAGED, OUR LANGUAGE GROWS STRONGER.

Outcomes

Expanded teaching capacity

Participants are applying training in schools, programs, and communities.

Strengthened early childhood immersion

Head Start teachers are equipped to use and model immersion strategies, build the capacity of other educators, and increase O’odham language production among young learners.

Expanded everyday access

Learning reached communities, workplaces, families, cultural activities, elders, and public events.

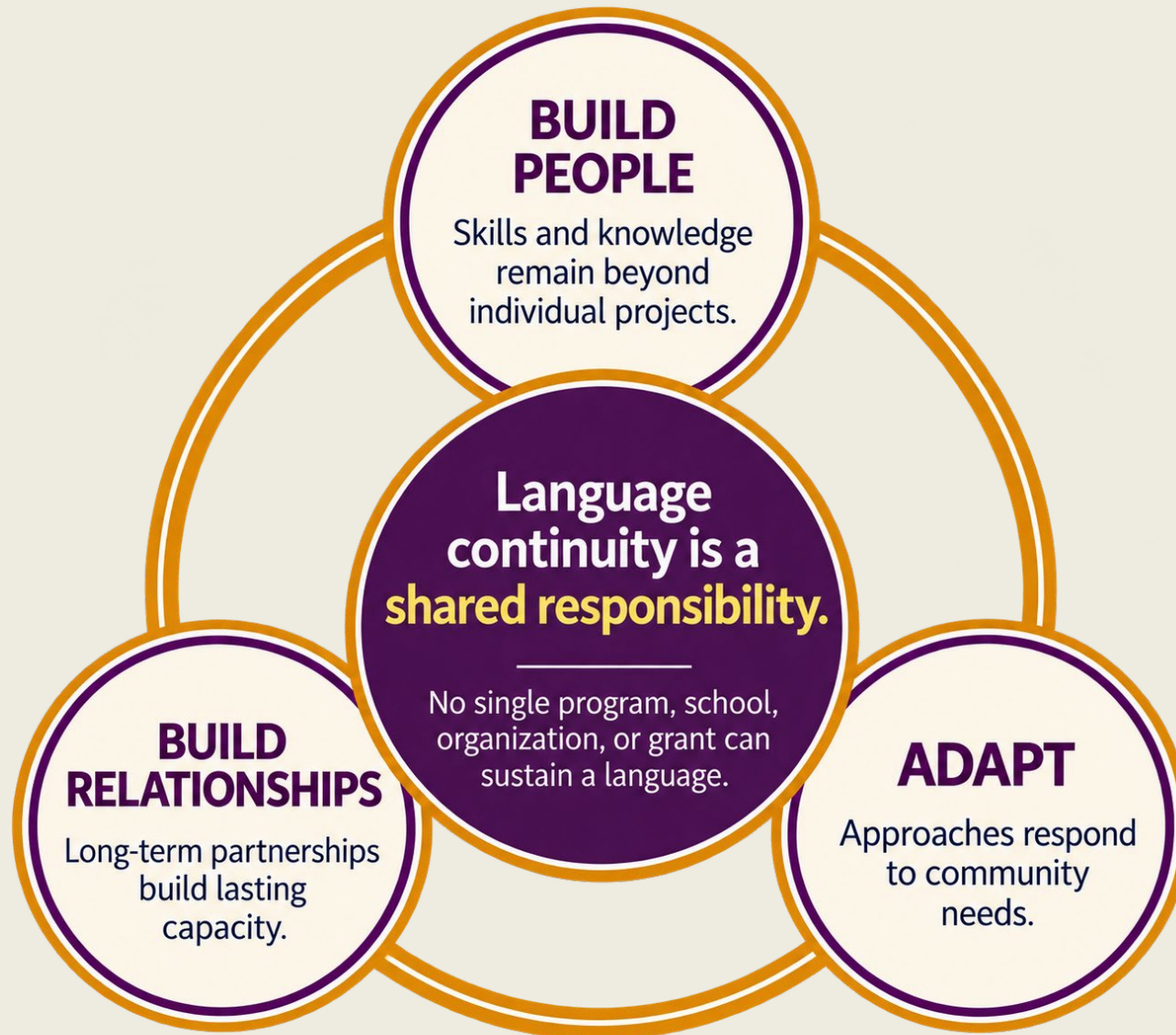
Increased resources and visibility

New learning resources, radio broadcasts, and translation efforts are increasing opportunities to see, hear, learn, and use O’odham.

Progress toward a larger goal: more people prepared to teach and share O’odham, and more places for the language to be visible, spoken, and heard.



From Grant Support to Lasting Capacity





CONTACT INFORMATION

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