

## 1. Description

1.1 Name of society, language, and language family:

\* Poqomam/Pokomam, Pokom, Mayan language family. (Vogt & Wauchope)

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com):

\* [ISO 639-3: poc](#)

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):

\*14°42'0"N 90°30'0"W

1.4 Brief history:

\*The Poqomam first encountered Spanish explorers in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Before contact, they lived in the valleys. (Vogt & Wauchope)

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:

\*Spanish Missionaries forced native peoples to learn Spanish and practice Christianity. (Vogt & Wauchope)

1.6 Ecology:

\*The area that the Pokomam inhabit is crossed by low mountains. It is a subtropical area with dry and wet seasons. From June to November, it rains nearly every day. (Vogt et al)

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density

## 2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

\*Corn (Vogt & Wauchope)

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

\*Frijoles (beans) (Vogt & Wauchope)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

2.4 Food storage:

\*Food is stored in the house on a board hanging by wires from the ceiling to keep mice away. (Vogt & Wauchope)

2.5 Sexual division of production:

\*Men produce charcoal and women produce pottery. After puberty it is not appropriate for men to do women's work or women to do men's. (Vogt & Wauchope)

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics:

\*Yes. Women make pottery, such as tinajas (water jars). (Vogt & Wauchope)

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos:

2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

\*No

### 3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):

\* M- 156.1cm

F- 147.4cm (Stewart)

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

\*N/A

### 4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f):

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):

4.3 Completed family size (m and f):

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

\*No polygyny mentioned.

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:

4.9 Inheritance patterns:

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):

\*Marriage can occur between people with different surnames, are outside ceremonial kinship and live in the same pueblo. (Vogt & Wauchope)

\*It is difficult for men to marry women in another canton. (Vogt & Wauchope)

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?

- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations
  - \*Bilateral (Vogt & Wauchope)
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules
  - \*Marriage is forbidden between ceremonial kin. (Vogt & Wauchope)
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?
  - \*Yes (Vogt & Wauchope)
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)
  - \*Inside the pueblo, their immediate community. (Vogt & Wauchope)
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?
  - \*The suitor talks to the father of the girl and
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

### **Warfare/homicide**

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):
- 4.18 Cannibalism?

## **5. Socio-Political organization and interaction**

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

\*Permanent houses (Vogt & Wauchope)

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):

5.4 Post marital residence:

\*Bilocal with patrilocal emphasis. (Vogt & Wauchope)

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

\*Young, unmarried men enter into special friendships known as camaraderie and are often seen together drinking during festivals.

5.8 Village and house organization:

\*Villages lack planning and symmetry. Older houses were made with thatched roofs and cane or adobe walls. Modern houses are made with tile or sheet-metal roofs and adobe walls

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

\*They sleep on the floor. (Vogt & Wauchope)

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:

\*Villages are divided into cantones and its people are farther subdivided into los arrivbenos and los abajenos. (Vogt & Wauchope)

5.12 Trade:

\*Charcoal and pottery are sold to buy food to supplement the crops grown.

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

Yes.

## **6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)**

6 Time allocation to RCR:

\*Catholicism is an important part of everyday life. There are alters to the dead inside homes.

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

6.2 Stimulants:

\*None mentioned.

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):

\*Baptism, confirmation, marriage. (Vogt & Wauchope)

6.4 Other rituals:

\*A marriage takes three days because the civil ceremony, the church ceremony and the ceremony by the tatahpish. (Vogt & Wauchope)

#### 6.5 Myths (Creation):

\*It is believed that when the earth was first created the people were savages who killed and ate each other. God then became angry and made it rain for 40 days, only one girl and one boy survived by

#### 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

#### 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

#### 6.8 Missionary effect:

#### 6.9 RCR revival:

#### 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:

#### 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

#### 6.12 Is there teknonymy?

#### 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

### **7. Adornment**

#### 7.1 Body paint:

\*No.

#### 7.2 Piercings:

\*Ears. (Vogt & Wauchope)

#### 7.3 Haircut:

\*Women wear their hair braided with three or four thick strings of black, blue, or red. (Vogt & Wauchope)

#### 7.4 Scarification:

\*No. (Vogt & Wauchope)

#### 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):

\*Women wear long pleated skirts, red for married women and green for single. Women also wear a shawl. Necklaces and earrings are common. Men's style since 1925 has changed. Before then, they wore white trousers and shirt and red sash. This has since been replaced by army khakis or bright blue trousers, plaid flannel shirt, leather belt, dark blue wool jackets and straw hat. *Caïtas* (shoes) are worn by the elders; young men go barefoot. (Vogt & Wauchope)

#### 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

\*Women's shawls are worn over the head during ceremonies. (Vogt & Wauchope)

#### 7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

#### 7.8 Missionary effect:

\*The Poqomam lost much of their traditional culture when they encountered Spanish explorers. (Vogt & Wauchope)

#### 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

### **8. Kinship systems**

#### 8.1 Sibling classification system:

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

\*Eskimo kinship system. (Vogt & Wauchope)

**9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):**

## Works Cited

Stewart, T.D (Vol. Ed.) & Wauchope, R. (Gen. Ed.). Table 2. *Handbook of Middle American Indians, Vol 9, Physical Anthropology* 1970, Printed University of Texas Press Austin.

Vogt, E.Z (Vol. Ed.) & Wauchope, R (Gen. Ed) *Handbook of Middle American Indians, Vol 7, Ethnography Part 1*. 1969. Printed University of Texas Press Austin.