Sociodemographics
Approximately one in five (19.4%) Alaskans is Alaska Native or American Indian. In 2015 there were 153,070 Alaska Native people using the Alaska Tribal Health System.

The Alaska Native population has increased by almost 30% between 2001 and 2015. More than a third of the Alaska Native population is under the age of 20 years. During the past 5 years, the largest growth in the Alaska Native population has been in the 60-74 years age group.

High school completion among Alaska Native people has been increasing marginally since 2005, and is currently estimated at 81.5%. More than a third (38.5%) of Alaska Native adults have completed some college, or received a college degree.

Almost a quarter (23.2%) of Alaska Native people have a total family income that falls below the federal poverty level, significantly higher than Alaska and U.S. Whites.

The estimated median household income for Alaska Native people is $45,997, significantly lower than Alaska and U.S. Whites.
SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS

User Population

**Definition**

The Indian Health Service (IHS) defines the *user population* as eligible American Indian/Alaska Native persons who had a direct or contract inpatient, ambulatory, or outpatient visit with the tribal health system at least once during the previous three year period. The facility must have been one that reported to the National Patient Information Reporting System. IHS user population data are calculated by federal fiscal year (FY). The FY15 user population is based on people who had visits during the three year period from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2015.

**Summary**

- The Alaska Area user population was 153,070 in FY15.
- The Alaska Area user population increased by nearly 30% between 2001 and 2015.
- Nearly 4 out of every 10 users of the Alaska Tribal Health System were under the age of 20 years.
- Adults aged 65 years and older represented 7.7% of all active users.

**Statewide Active User Population, 2001-2015**

*Data Source: Indian Health Service, National Patient Information Reporting System, National Data Warehouse*

*Appendix Table C-1*

![Graph showing the number of users from 2001 to 2015]

Note: Totals include counts from unknown community codes and may not match the IHS official user population.
### User Population

**Alaska Native User Population by Age Group, FY15 (N=153,070)**

Data Source: Indian Health Service, National Patient Information Reporting System, National Data Warehouse

Appendix Table C-2

![Age Group Pie Chart](chart)

- **65+ years**: 7.7%
- **45 - 64 years**: 19.6%
- **20 - 44 years**: 36.1%
- **0 - 19 years**: 36.6%

**Alaska Native User Population by Tribal Health Region, FY15**

Data Source: Indian Health Service, National Patient Information Reporting System, National Data Warehouse

Appendix Table C-3

![Tribal Health Region Map](map)

- **1,796 - 3,000**
- **3,001 - 10,000**
- **10,001 - 20,000**
- **20,001 - 54,378**

**Note:** Totals are based on census area approximation of tribal health regions. Total includes 21 persons with unknown age or gender.
Definition

A population pyramid is a graphical representation of the age and sex distribution of a population. The proportion of Alaska Native males and females are displayed as horizontal bars. The gray lines show the distribution of the U.S. total population based on the 2015 American Community Survey estimates.

Summary

- In 2015, a larger proportion of the Alaska Native population was aged 29 years or younger compared with the 2015 U.S. population.
- One in five (20.5%) Alaska Native persons are aged 9 years and younger compared with 12.6% of the U.S. population.
- Elders aged 65 years and older accounted for 7.1% of the Alaskan Native population compared with 14.8% of the U.S. population.


Data Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Appendix Table C-4
SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS

Population Change

Definition

Population change is the change in the size of a population over time, and is calculated by taking the difference between the size of the population at the end and beginning of a time period. Population change reflects differences in the size of the population based on both natural changes in size (i.e., births and deaths), as well as net migration.

Summary

- Statewide, the Alaska Native male population increased 3.9% and the overall Alaskan male population increased 11.2% between 2010 and 2015.
- The largest increases in the male Alaska Native population were observed among those aged 60-74 years.
- Statewide, the Alaska Native female population increased 4.7% and the total female population increased 12.9% between 2010 and 2015.
- The largest increases in the female Alaska Native population were observed among those aged 60-74 years.

Population Change by Gender, Alaska Native People, 2010 to 2015

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Appendix Table C-5 & Table C-6
Educational Attainment

Definition

*Educational attainment* refers to the highest level of education that an individual has completed. Educational attainment improves socioeconomic status and is also protective against adverse health risks over the life span.\(^1\)

Summary

- The estimated proportion of Alaska Native adults (25 years and older) who completed high school (or equivalent) or a higher level of education increased 3.8% from 78.5% in 2005-2009 to 81.5% in 2011-2015.
- During 2011-2015, 38.5% of Alaska Native adults completed some college, an associate’s degree, or achieved a bachelor’s degree or higher.

**Adults Aged 25 Years and Older Who Completed at Least High School, 2005-2015**

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Appendix Table C-7

![Graph showing educational attainment for Alaska Native People Statewide, Alaska Whites Statewide, and U.S. Whites from 2005-2009 to 2011-2015.](image-url)
**Educational Attainment**

**Highest Educational Attainment, Adults 25 Years and Older, 2011-2015**

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Appendix Table C-8

![Bar chart showing educational attainment levels for Alaska Native People Statewide, Alaska Whites Statewide, and U.S. Whites.](chart)

- **Alaska Native People Statewide**
  - Less than high school: 18.5%
  - High school graduate: 30.3%
  - Some college or associate's degree: 43.1%
  - Bachelor's degree or higher: 8.2%

- **Alaska Whites Statewide**
  - Less than high school: 4.7%
  - High school graduate: 24.9%
  - Some college or associate's degree: 37.4%
  - Bachelor's degree or higher: 29.4%

- **U.S. Whites**
  - Less than high school: 11.3%
  - High school graduate: 28.2%
  - Some college or associate's degree: 33.1%
  - Bachelor's degree or higher: 31.1%

---

**Alaska Native Adults Aged 25 Years and Older Who Completed at Least High School by Tribal Health Region, 2011-2015**

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Appendix Table C-9

![Map showing educational attainment levels across different tribal health regions.](map)

- **Alaska Native People Statewide**
  - 75% - 77%
  - 78% - 81%
  - 82% - 87%
  - 88% - 89%

- **Alaska Whites Statewide**
  - 75% - 77%
  - 78% - 81%
  - 82% - 87%
  - 88% - 89%

- **U.S. Whites**
  - 75% - 77%
  - 78% - 81%
  - 82% - 87%
  - 88% - 89%
SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS

Unemployment

Definition

*Unemployment* includes anyone over the age of 16 years who has made an active attempt to find work in the four week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the referenced month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they are not conducting active job searches.

Summary

- The unemployment rate in Alaska has historically been higher than the national rate. During 2009 - 2013, the statewide unemployment rate was lower than the national rate.
- Unemployment rates varied widely by tribal region in 2015, with a low of 3.6% in the Aleutian and Pribilofs region to a high of 16.8% in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region.

Unemployment, All Races, 1990-2015

Data Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey
Appendix Table C-10

Note: The data presented here are for all races and are not seasonally adjusted.
Unemployment by Tribal Health Region, All Races, 2015

Data Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Appendix Table C-11

- Norton Sound: 4% - 5%
- Interior: 6% - 9%
- Bristol Bay: 10% - 15%
- Anchorage/Mat-Su: 16% - 17%
- Arctic Slope: 4% - 5%
- Northwest Arctic: 6% - 9%
- Yukon-Kuskokwim: 10% - 15%
- Kenai Peninsula: 16% - 17%
- Copper River/PWS: 4% - 5%
- Kodiak Area: 6% - 9%
- Southeast: 10% - 15%
- Aleutians & Pribilofs: 16% - 17%
Poverty

Definition

The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine the Federal Poverty Level. If a family’s total income is less than the Federal Poverty Level, then the family members are considered to be living in poverty. The official poverty thresholds are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index, but they do not vary geographically. The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or non-cash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, Medicare, or food stamps).

Summary

- The estimated proportion of Alaska Native people living in poverty has increased slightly since 2008-2012.
- During 2011-2015, approximately 1 of every 4 (28%) Alaska Native children under the age of 18 years were living in poverty.
- During 2011-2015, the proportion of Alaska Native people living in poverty varied from 15.2% to 34.5% by tribal health region.

Estimated Percentage of People Living Below the Federal Poverty Level, All Ages, 2008-2012 to 2011-2015

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Appendix Table C-12
**Poverty**

**Estimated Percentage of Alaska Native People Living Below the Federal Poverty Level by Age Group, 2011-2015**

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Appendix Table C-13

- **All ages**: 23.2%
- **Under 18 years**: 28.6%
- **18-64 years**: 22.2%
- **65 years and over**: 8.7%

**Poverty Status Below the Poverty Level By Tribal Health Region, 2011-2015**

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Appendix Table C-14

- Norton Sound: 15% - 17%
- Interior: 18% - 24%
- Alaska Native Health Status Report
**Household Income**

**Definition**

*Household income* is determined by the reported household income of the persons who completed the American Community Survey. Income includes all monetary sources including wages, the Permanent Fund Dividend, corporation dividends and public assistance. Income does not include subsistence resources.

**Summary**

- During 2011-2015, the estimated household income for Alaska Native people statewide was $45,997.
- The estimated household income for Alaska Native people increased between 2005-2009 and 2011-2015, however it remained lower than the median income for the Alaska White and U.S. White populations.

**Estimated Median Household Income, 2005-2009 to 2011-2015**

*Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey*

*Appendix Table C-15*

![Graph showing estimated median household income from 2005-2009 to 2011-2015 for Alaska Native People Statewide, Alaska Whites Statewide, and U.S. Whites. The graph illustrates a trend where the median income for Alaska Native People Statewide decreased from $79,475 in 2005-2010 to $45,997 in 2011-2015, while the median income for Alaska Whites Statewide and U.S. Whites remained relatively stable.*