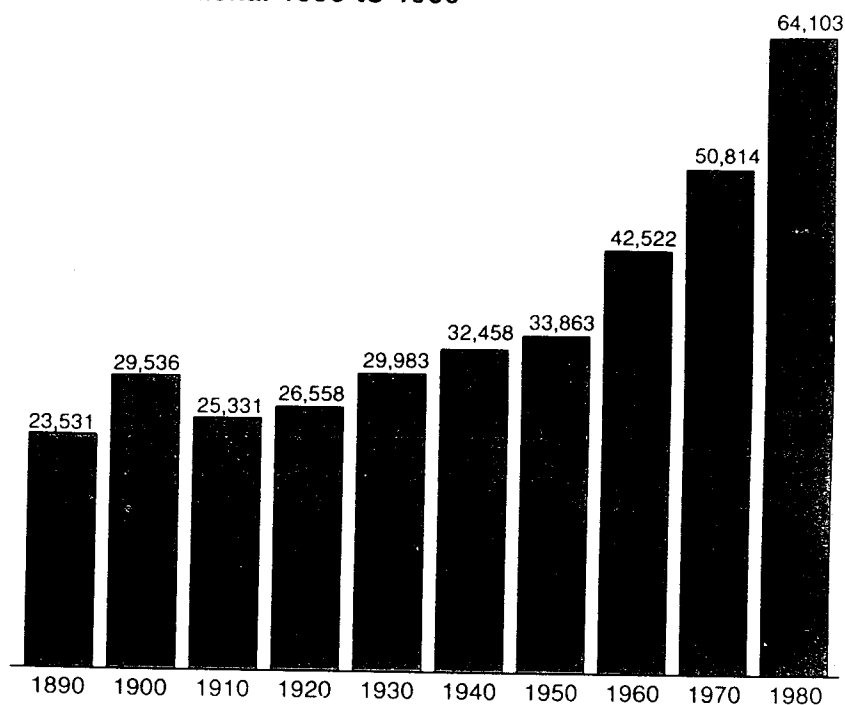


Since 1880, the U.S. Census Bureau has counted Alaska Natives in the decennial censuses.

- The growth of the Alaska Native population was relatively slow from 1890 to 1950. During that time, the population increased by only about 10,000 persons, from 23,531 to 33,863.
- The period from 1950 to 1980 was a time of rapid growth for Alaska Natives. The population rose by more than 30,000 persons and numbered 64,103 in 1980.

Figure 23. **Alaska Native Population in Alaska: 1890 to 1980**



The Alaska Native population comprises Eskimos, American Indians, and Aleuts.

- In 1980, more than half of all Alaska Natives were Eskimos, about one third were American Indians, and slightly more than one-tenth were Aleut.
- The two main Eskimo groups, Inupiat and Yupik, are distinguished by their language and geography. The former live in the north and northwest parts of Alaska and speak Inupiaq, the latter live in the south and southwest and speak Yupik.
- The main American Indian tribes are the Alaskan Athabaskan in the central part of the state, and the Tlingit, Tsimshian, and Haida in the southeast.
- The Aleuts live mainly in the Aleutian Islands.

Figure 24. **Distribution of the 64,000 Alaska Natives in Alaska: 1980**

