

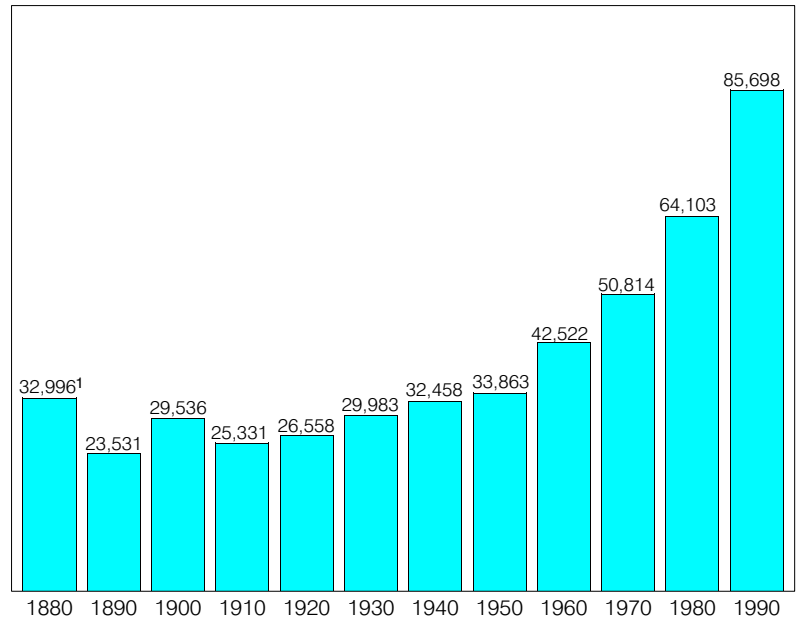
Section 3 - **Alaska Native Population in Alaska**

We, the Alaska Native population, have been counted since 1880.

The Alaska Native population includes Eskimos, American Indians, and Aleuts living in Alaska. The growth of the Alaska Native population was relatively slow from 1880 to 1950.

In contrast, the period from 1950 to 1990 was a time of rapid growth for Alaska Natives. The population rose by more than 50,000 persons (153 percent) and numbered 85,698 in 1990.

Figure 23.
Alaska Native Population in Alaska: 1880 to 1990



¹ Partially estimated.

Half of our people are Eskimos.

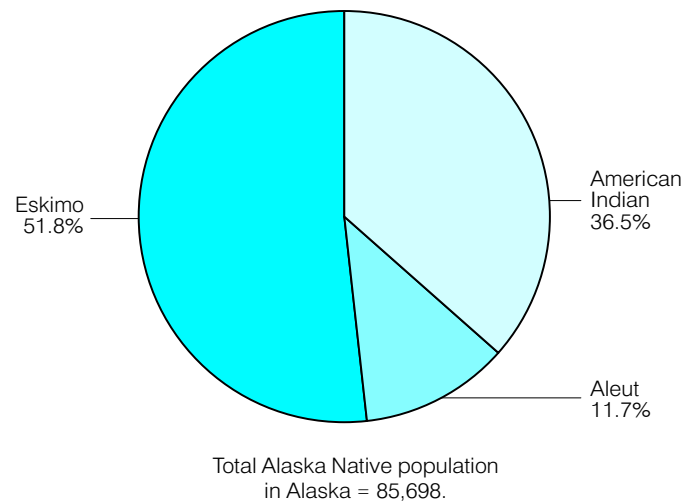
In 1990, more than half of all Alaska Natives were Eskimos, about 36 percent were American Indians, and about 12 percent were Aleuts.

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, while the latter live in the south and southwest and speak Yupik.

The American Indian tribes are the Alaskan Athabaskan (11,696) in the central part of the State, and the Tlingit (9,448), Tsimshian (1,653), and Haida (1,083) in the southeast.

The Aleuts (10,052) live mainly in the Aleutian Islands.

Figure 24.
Distribution of Alaska Natives in Alaska: 1990
(Percent)



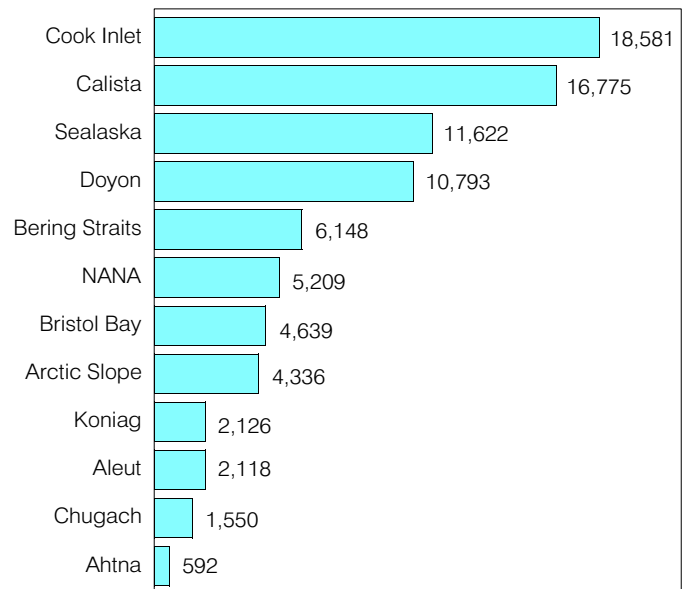
We live and work in Alaska Native Regional Corporations.

After 1971, all of Alaska (except the Annette Islands Reserve) was divided into 12 geographically defined Alaska Native Regional Corporations, a corporate entity organized to conduct business for profit. The boundaries of these regions have been legally established.

In 1990, the largest number of Alaska Natives lived in the Cook Inlet Regional Corporation and the smallest number lived in Ahtna.

Of the 12 Regional Corporations in Alaska, Calista had the highest concentration of Alaska Natives at 86 percent of the total population. Although Cook Inlet had the largest number of Alaska Natives, they comprised only 6 percent of that Corporation's total population.

Figure 25.
Alaska Natives in Alaska Native Regional Corporations: 1990



Alaska is a young State, and our people are younger still.

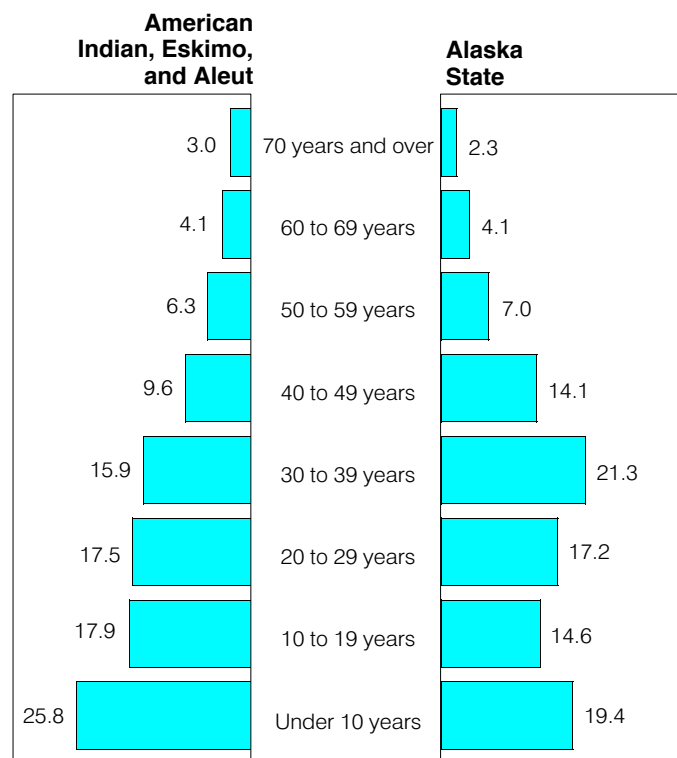
The median age of Alaska Natives was 24 years, compared with 29 years for the total State population and 33 years for the total United States.

About 44 percent of Alaska Natives were under 20 years of age compared with 34 percent of Alaska's total population.

However, 49 percent of Alaska Natives and 60 percent of the State's population were 20 to 59 years old.

About the same percentage of Alaska Natives (7 percent) and of Alaska's total population (6 percent) were 60 years old and over.

Figure 26.
Alaska Natives in Alaska by Age: 1990
(Percent distribution)



Many of our families are maintained by women only.

Alaska Natives had proportionately fewer married-couple families and more families with a female householder and no husband present than the State as a whole.

Only 58 percent of the 16,432 Alaska Native families consisted of a husband and wife compared with 80 percent of all 132,837 families in Alaska.

Among Alaska Natives, Aleuts had the largest percentage of married-couple families.

The proportion of families with a female householder and no husband present was twice as high among Alaska Natives as Alaska's total population.

Thirty-one percent of American Indian families, 28 percent of Eskimo families, and 26 percent of Aleut families were maintained by female householders with no husband present compared with 14 percent of all Alaska's families.

We are making great strides in education but still have room to improve.

Although Alaska Natives have made great strides in education during this century, Alaska Natives remain less likely to have high school diplomas and bachelor's degrees or higher than other Alaskans.

Sixty-three percent of the 41,949 Alaska Natives 25 years old and over had completed high school or higher compared with 87 percent statewide.

Four percent of Alaska Natives were college graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher, while the statewide total was 23 percent.

Among Alaska Native groups, American Indians were more likely to have a high school education and a college degree or higher than were Eskimos and Aleuts.

Figure 27.
Type of Family: 1990

(Percent)

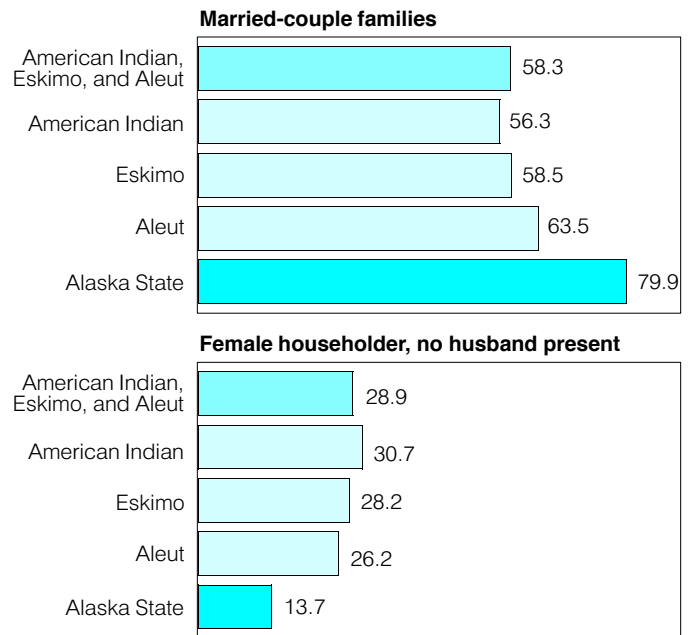
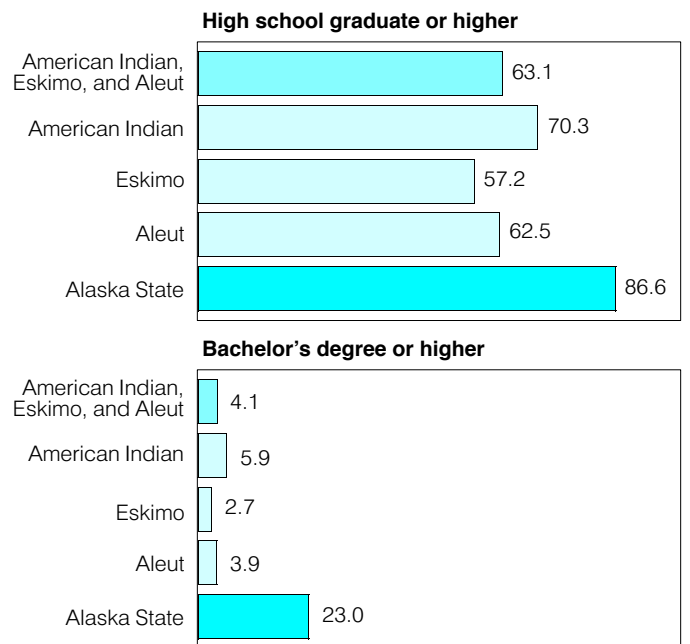


Figure 28.
Educational Attainment: 1990

(Percent of persons 25 years old and over)



Our labor force participation is much lower than that for our State.

Just 56 percent of the 54,614 Alaska Natives 16 years old and over were in the labor force in 1990 compared with 75 percent of Alaska's total population.

Fifty-one percent of all Alaska Native females 16 years old and over compared to 66 percent of all females in Alaska were in the labor force in 1990. Similarly, 61 percent of all Alaska Native males 16 years old and over were in the labor force in 1990 compared with 82 percent of all males in Alaska.

American Indians had the highest labor force participation rate of the three Alaska Native groups; this may be because they were more likely to live in urban areas. Aleuts and Eskimos, who tend to live in rural areas, had lower rates.

We are more likely to work in the service sector than all Alaskans.

Among the 23,506 employed Alaska Natives 16 years old and over, 20 percent were in managerial and professional occupations compared with 30 percent of all workers in the State.

However, Alaska Natives were as likely as the State's total population to work in technical, sales, and administrative jobs. About 3 of every 10 workers in each population held such jobs.

Alaska Natives were more likely than the statewide population to be in service jobs and to be operators, fabricators, or laborers.

Figure 29.
Labor Force Participation Rates: 1990
(Percent of persons 16 years old and over)

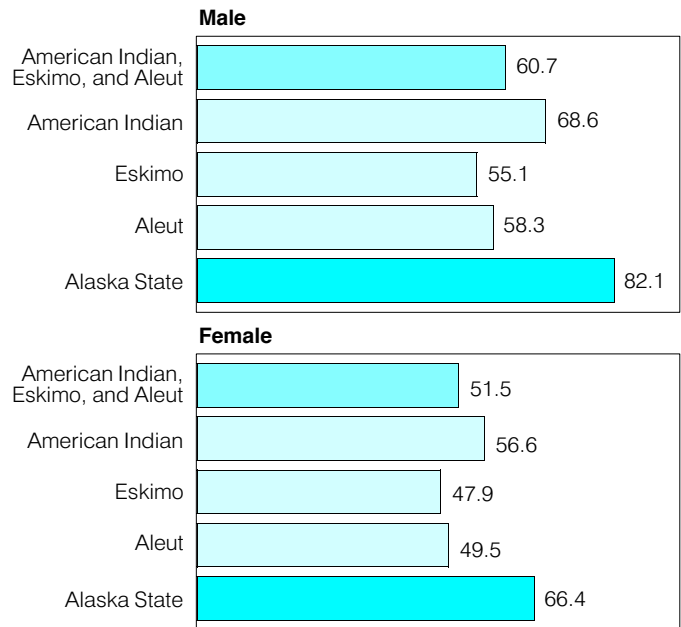
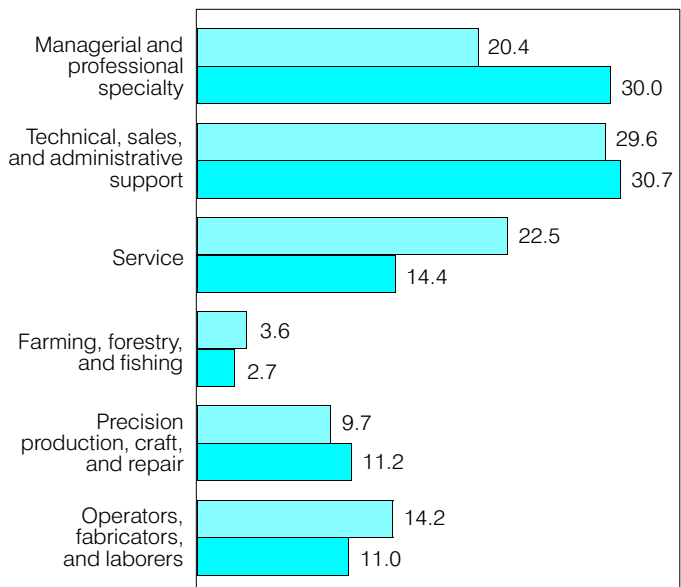


Figure 30.
Occupation: 1990
(Percent of employed persons 16 years old and over)



Although Alaska has the highest median income of any State, our incomes remain below the average for Alaska.

Alaska, with a median family income of \$46,581, had the highest income of any State. However, the median family income for Alaska Natives was \$26,695, only 57 percent of the median income for the State.

Aleut families earned an average of \$36,472 followed by American Indians (\$29,339) and Eskimos (\$23,257).

Among married-couple families, median income levels were \$52,022 for the State and \$37,407, or 72 percent of the State total, for Alaska Natives.

Sizeable proportions of our people and families live in poverty.

In 1989, 23 percent, or 19,250 Alaska Native persons, were poor compared with 9 percent, or 47,906, persons for the State as a whole.

Twenty-eight percent of Eskimos lived in poverty compared with 20 percent of American Indians and 13 percent of Aleuts.

Twenty-one percent of Alaska Native families and 7 percent of families statewide lived below the poverty level.

Figure 31.
Median Family Income in 1989 by Type of Family

(In 1989 dollars)

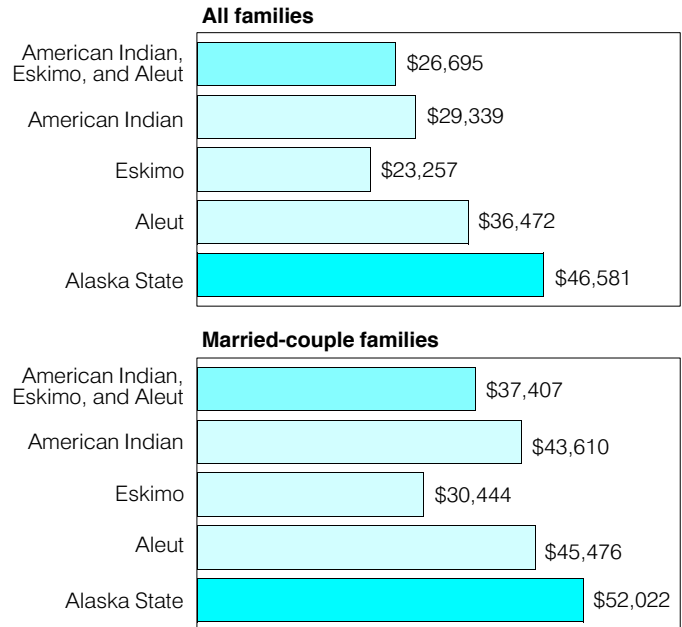


Figure 32.
Poverty Rates in 1989

(Percent in poverty)

