

5.0 Population Trends & Characteristics

Population Trends

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Southwest Alaska in 2000 was 30,078. This reflects a nearly 8 percent decrease from 1990 and marks the first time in 40 years that the region has experienced a population decline. Moreover, from 2000 to 2008, the population in Southwest Alaska has steadily decreased. This trend is a distinct change as Southwest Alaska's population grew by nearly 75 percent from 1960 to 1990. Table 5.1 illustrates changes in the population of Southwest Alaska from 1990 to 2008 based on the U.S. Census and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Estimates for the region's 2007 and 2008 population show a continuation of population decline. For each year since the 2000 census, the population is estimated to have changed by approximately one and a half percent.

In 2000, the Kodiak Island Borough had the largest population in the region at 13,913. While this marks a 7 percent increase over the

1990 population count, the Kodiak Island Borough's population has varied over the past decade and after two small, but steady increases in 2002 and 2003, the Borough's population has decreased by 3.9 percent when compared to the 2000 U.S. Census. Table 5.2.E outlines the population for the Kodiak Island Borough and its communities from 1990 – 2008.

The Bristol Bay Borough has the smallest population in the region at 1,029 in 2008. In comparison to the 2000 U.S. Census, this marks an 18.2 percent decrease. Estimates from 2001 to 2008 show a pattern of minor and sporadic increases and decreases in population, with the majority of change occurring in mid-2000. Change occurs throughout all three towns within the borough. Table 5.2.C shows population trends for the Bristol Bay Borough and its communities from 1990-2008.

The Dillingham Census Area realized the greatest population increase between 1990 and 2002 at a rate of 23 percent. All communities in the area experienced population increases between 1990 and 2000. However, in 2001 and 2002, five communities in the area experienced population declines and over the next six years the Dillingham Census Area's total population declined 2.9 percent. See Table 5.2.D for the Dillingham Census Area's population information from 1990 –2008.

The greatest population decrease in Southwest Alaska from 1990 – 2002 was in the Aleutians West Census Area. Overall, population decline in the area totals 23.1 percent from 2000 to 2008. Most of the decline is attributable to closures or staffing reductions at military

installations or Coast Guard stations in the area. Communities in the area have also experienced population changes since 2000. St. Paul experienced an 18.2 percent decrease while Unalaska's population decreased by nearly 21 percent. Table 5.2.B provides more information on the Aleutians West population.

Population trends in the Aleutians East Borough show moderate variation across the period from 2000 to 2008, with a few secluded areas experiencing substantial changes. The largest change occurred during the 2000 Census that resulted in an unexpected population increase. The communities of Akutan, King Cove, and Sand Point experienced the most significant increases across the period. However, recent State estimates reveal that population in Akutan has increased while numbers in King Cove and Sand Point have decreased. From 2000 to 2008, the communities of False Pass and Nelson Lagoon also experienced population declines. Table 5.2.A outlines community and borough population trends for the Aleutians East Borough.

From 1990 to 2000, the Lake & Peninsula Borough had a population increase of 9 percent. However, based on population estimates through 2008, this trend has been abruptly reversed as the Borough experienced an almost 15 percent decline. Moreover, 16 of the 18 communities saw population declines from 2000 to 2008. Kokhanok and Newhalen were the only communities to see an increase. Population trends for the Lake & Peninsula Borough are presented in Table 5.2.F.

Table 5.1: 2000 – 2008 Population Trends in Southwest Alaska

Area Name	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000 U.S. Census	1990 U.S. Census	2000 - 2008 Change	% Change 2000 - 2008
Aleutians East Borough	2,699	2,789	2,588	2,654	2,654	2,712	2,722	2,547	2,697	2,464	2	n/a
Aleutians West Census Area	4,439	4,493	4,910	5,239	5,238	5,325	5,068	5,252	5,465	9,478	-1,026	-23.1%
Bristol Bay Borough	1,029	1,030	1,056	1,174	1,099	1,102	1,162	1,173	1,258	1,410	-229	-22.2%
Dillingham Census Area	4,771	4,769	4,795	4,784	4,845	4,899	4,914	4,888	4,922	4,012	-151	-3.2%
Kodiak Island Borough	13,373	13,495	13,427	13,667	13,554	13,802	13,633	13,560	13,913	13,309	-540	-4.0%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,552	1,531	1,555	1,618	1,608	1,625	1,638	1,732	1,823	1,668	-271	-17.5%
Southwest Region Total	27,863	28,107	28,331	29,136	28,998	29,465	29,137	29,152	30,078	32,341	-2,215	-7.9%

Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Table 5.2.A: 1990 – 2008 Population Trends in the Aleutians East Borough

Aleutians East Borough	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000 U.S. Census	1990 U.S. Census	2000 - 2008 Change	% Change 2000 - 2008
Akutan	796	858	745	773	789	807	749	707	713	589	83	11.6%
Belkofski ANVSA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Cold Bay	90	71	87	89	89	95	116	75	88	148	2	2.2%
False Pass	39	45	54	63	63	69	79	69	64	69	-25	-64.0%
King Cove	750	753	744	722	725	727	786	693	792	677	-42	-5.6%
Nelson Lagoon CDP	65	69	68	66	78	64	70	80	83	83	-18	-27.6%
Sand Point	958	992	889	939	910	949	919	921	952	878	6	0.60%
Reminder of AEB	1	1	1	2	0	1	3	2	5	20	-4	-20.0%
Aleutians East Borough Total	2,699	2,789	2,588	2,654	2,654	2,712	2,722	2,547	2,697	2,464	2	0%

Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Table 5.2.B: 1990 – 2008 Population Trends in the Aleutians West Census Area

Aleutians West Census Area	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000 U.S. Census	1990 U.S. Census	2000 - 2008 Change	% Change 2000 - 2008
Adak CDP	178	136	145	168	70	74	166	152	316	4,633	-138	-77.5%
Atka	73	74	73	90	93	94	102	92	92	98	-19	-26.0%
Attu Station CDP	15	15	20	15	18	27	25	25	20	23	-5	-33.3%
Nikolski CDP	27	33	31	31	36	41	34	32	39	35	-12	-44.4%
St. George	112	114	119	128	138	148	147	146	152	138	-40	-35.7%
St. Paul	450	445	469	491	495	538	532	526	532	763	-80	-18.2%
Unalaska	3,551	3,648	4,025	4,295	4,360	4,368	4,033	4,249	4,283	3,089	-732	-20.6%
Remainder of AWCA	33	28	28	21	28	35	29	30	31	35	2	6.4%
Aleutians West Census Area Total	4,439	4,493	4,910	5,239	5,238	5,325	5,068	5,252	5,465	9,478	-1,026	-23.1%

Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Table 5.2.C: 1990 – 2008 Population Trends in the Bristol Bay Borough

Bristol Bay Borough	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000 U.S. Census	1990 U.S. Census	2000 - 2008 Change	% Change 2000 - 2008
King Salmon	409	423	399	517	395	385	397	388	442	696	-33	-7.5%
Naknek	552	541	582	581	612	611	641	657	678	575	-126	-18.5%
South Naknek	68	66	75	76	89	102	120	124	137	136	-69	-50.3%
Remainder of BBB	0	0	0	0	3	4	4	4	1	6	-1	-100.0%
Bristol Bay Borough Total	1,029	1,030	1,056	1,174	1,099	1,102	1,162	1,173	1,258	1,410	-229	-18.2%

Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Table 5.2.D: 1990 – 2008 Population Trends in the Dillingham Census Area

Dillingham Census Area	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000 U.S. Census	1990 U.S. Census	2000 - 2008 Change	% Change 2000 - 2008
Aleknagik	242	232	241	237	233	239	220	221	221	185	21	8.7%
Clark's Point	54	65	69	65	63	66	65	69	75	60	-21	-28.0%
Dillingham	2,347	2,399	2,400	2,367	2,403	2,382	2,467	2,461	2,466	2,017	-119	-4.8%
Ekuk	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	2	0	-2	-100.0%
Ekwok	121	108	115	118	127	128	115	119	130	77	-9	-6.9%
Koliganek	174	191	165	168	188	199	187	177	182	385	-8	-4.4%
Manokotak	430	429	423	437	406	404	407	412	399	181	29	6.7%
New Stuyahok	491	445	467	461	471	491	483	488	471	391	20	4.1%
Portage Creek	7	9	20	37	49	61	48	47	36	0	-29	-80.5%
Togiak	802	785	781	778	802	819	808	787	809	613	-7	-0.86%
Twin Hills	75	81	77	71	68	76	77	64	69	66	6	8.0%
Remainder of DCA	28	25	37	45	35	34	32	41	62	37	-34	-54.8%
Dillingham Census Area Total	4,771	4,769	4,795	4,784	4,845	4,899	4,914	4,888	4,922	4,012	-151	-3.07%

Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Table 5.2.E: 1990 – 2008 Population Trends in the Kodiak Island Borough

Kodiak Island Borough	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000 U.S. Census	1990 U.S. Census	2000 - 2008 Change	% Change 2000 - 2008
Akhiok	48	33	41	41	56	51	49	57	80	77	-32	-40.0%
Aleneva	56	56	46	45	44	59	96	88	68	0	-12	-17.6%
Chiniak	44	41	41	52	50	49	56	53	50	69	-6	-6.0%
Karluk	38	37	33	35	32	28	27	29	27	71	11	28.9%
Kodiak	5,974	5,640	5,657	6,128	6,201	6,102	6,095	6,072	6,334	6,365	-360	-5.6%
Kodiak Station	1,782	1,818	1,884	1,974	1,762	2,187	1,938	1,757	1,840	2,025	-58	-3.1%
Larsen Bay	67	82	83	97	96	95	107	113	115	147	-48	-41.7%
Old Harbor	184	187	178	200	198	210	226	236	237	284	-53	-22.4%
Ouzinkie	167	153	171	189	187	172	188	204	225	209	-58	-25.8%
Port Lions	190	178	196	219	240	233	227	246	256	222	-66	-25.8%
Womens Bay	701	826	757	702	688	680	684	682	690	620	11	1.6%
Remainder of KIB	4,122	4,444	4,340	3,985	4,000	3,936	3,940	4,023	3,991	2,950	131	3.2%
Kodiak Island Borough Total	13,373	13,495	13,427	13,667	13,554	13,802	13,633	13,560	13,913	13,039	-540	-3.9%

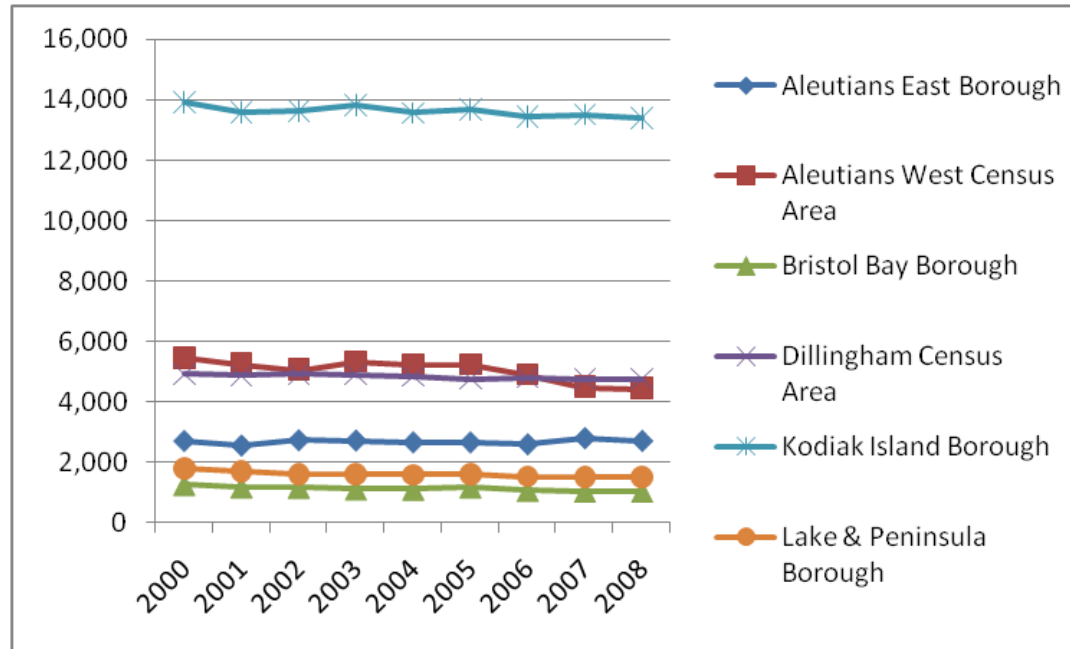
Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Table 5.2.F: 1990 – 2008 Population Trends in the Lake & Peninsula Borough

Lake & Peninsula Borough	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000 U.S. Census	1990 U.S. Census	2000 - 2008 Change	% Change 2000 - 2008
Chignik	59	80	83	95	92	90	77	76	79	188	-20	-25.4%
Chignik Lagoon	71	67	71	86	82	91	88	104	103	53	-32	-31.1%
Chignik Lake	105	125	121	117	113	113	114	140	145	133	-40	-27.6%
Egegik	62	62	76	81	77	83	87	80	116	122	-54	-46.6%
Igiugig	40	32	53	50	54	50	43	55	53	33	-13	-24.6%
Iliamna	95	87	82	86	90	91	98	95	102	94	-7	-6.9%
Ivanof Bay	0	0	0	2	5	3	3	13	22	35	-22	-100.0%
Kokhanok	179	173	168	178	166	181	179	172	174	152	5	2.8%
Levelock	70	70	62	54	57	71	83	107	122	105	-52	-42.6%
Newhalen	162	185	167	180	183	171	166	156	160	160	2	1.2%
Nondalton	202	194	195	203	206	216	206	210	221	178	-19	-8.6%
Pedro Bay	44	38	55	61	47	45	46	50	50	42	-6	-12.0%
Perryville	133	117	119	114	110	106	111	114	107	108	26	19.5%
Pilot Point	72	59	66	73	76	70	75	86	100	53	-28	-28.0%
Pope-Vannoy Landing	5	5	6	6	9	10	5	5	8	0	-3	-37.5%
Port Alsworth	125	115	111	106	114	104	109	105	104	55	21	16.8%
Port Heiden	90	86	79	89	90	85	108	118	119	119	-29	-24.3%
Ugashik	15	13	17	15	12	12	12	12	11	0	4	26.6%
Remainder of LPB	23	23	24	22	25	33	28	34	27	38	-4	-14.8%
Lake & Peninsula Borough Total	1,552	1,531	1,555	1,618	1,608	1,625	1,638	1,732	1,823	1,668	-271	-14.9%

Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Chart 5.1: Population Trends for Boroughs and Census Areas in Southwest Alaska



Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Table 5.3: Population Gender Composition in Southwest Alaska

	Aleutians East Borough	Aleutians West CA	Bristol Bay Borough	Dillingham CA	Kodiak Island Borough	Lake & Peninsula Borough	Southwest Region Total	Alaska Total
Male	1,815	2,868	566	2,454	6,955	814	15,472	346,986
Female	884	1,571	463	2,317	6,418	738	12,391	332,734
Male % of Population	67%	65%	55%	51%	52%	53%	56%	51%
Female % of Population	33%	35%	45%	49%	48%	47%	44%	49%

Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Gender

The State of Alaska's population is comprised of 51 percent males and 49 percent females. In comparison to the state, Southwest Alaska has a higher proportion of males at 56 percent. Most of this difference is accounted for by the gender composition of the populations in the Aleutians East Borough and the Aleutians West Census Area. In each of these two sub-regions, the population is comprised of nearly two-thirds males and slightly more than one-third females. The remaining four sub-regions have male populations of 51 – 55 percent and female populations of 44 – 48 percent. Table 5.3 shows gender composition for each of the boroughs and census areas in the region.

Age

Based on the 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development estimates, the average median age in Southwest Alaska is 34.3 years, slightly older than the 33.5 median age for the state. In comparison to 1990, median age in Alaska increased by 4 years from 29.4. It is also important to note that median age varies significantly throughout each borough or census area in Southwest Alaska. Chart 5.2 compares the median ages for each sub-region of Southwest Alaska as well as to the State of Alaska.

In the Aleutians East Borough, the Aleutians West Census Area and the Bristol Bay Borough the median age is older than the state average. The Bristol Bay Borough has the oldest median age in the region at 42.0 years. The youngest

median age in the region is in the Dillingham Census Area at 28 years.

On a statewide basis, three boroughs or census areas have populations with a median age older than the Bristol Bay Borough with the Haines Borough having the oldest median age at 45.7 years. Six areas have a median age younger than the Dillingham Census Area with the Wade-Hampton Census Area having the youngest median age at 19.4 years,

The Dillingham Census Area has the highest percentage of population in the region under 25 years at 47 percent. At 22.2 percent of the population, the Aleutians West Census Area has the lowest percentage of population in the region under 25 years. For the state, about 39 percent of the population is under 25 years. Charts 5.3.A-F illustrates the age distribution for males and females within each borough or census area.

Conversely, the Bristol Bay Borough has the highest percentage of population in the region over 54 years at 21.7 percent. The Aleutians East Borough has the lowest percentage of population in the region over 54 years at 10.5 percent.

For the population aged between 25 and 54 years, the Aleutians East Borough and Aleutians West Census Area have the highest concentration in the region at 64.7 percent and 66.6 percent respectively. Both areas are well above the state proportions for this age range at 43 percent. The lowest percentage of population between 25 and 54 years lies in the Dillingham Census Area at 36.7 percent.

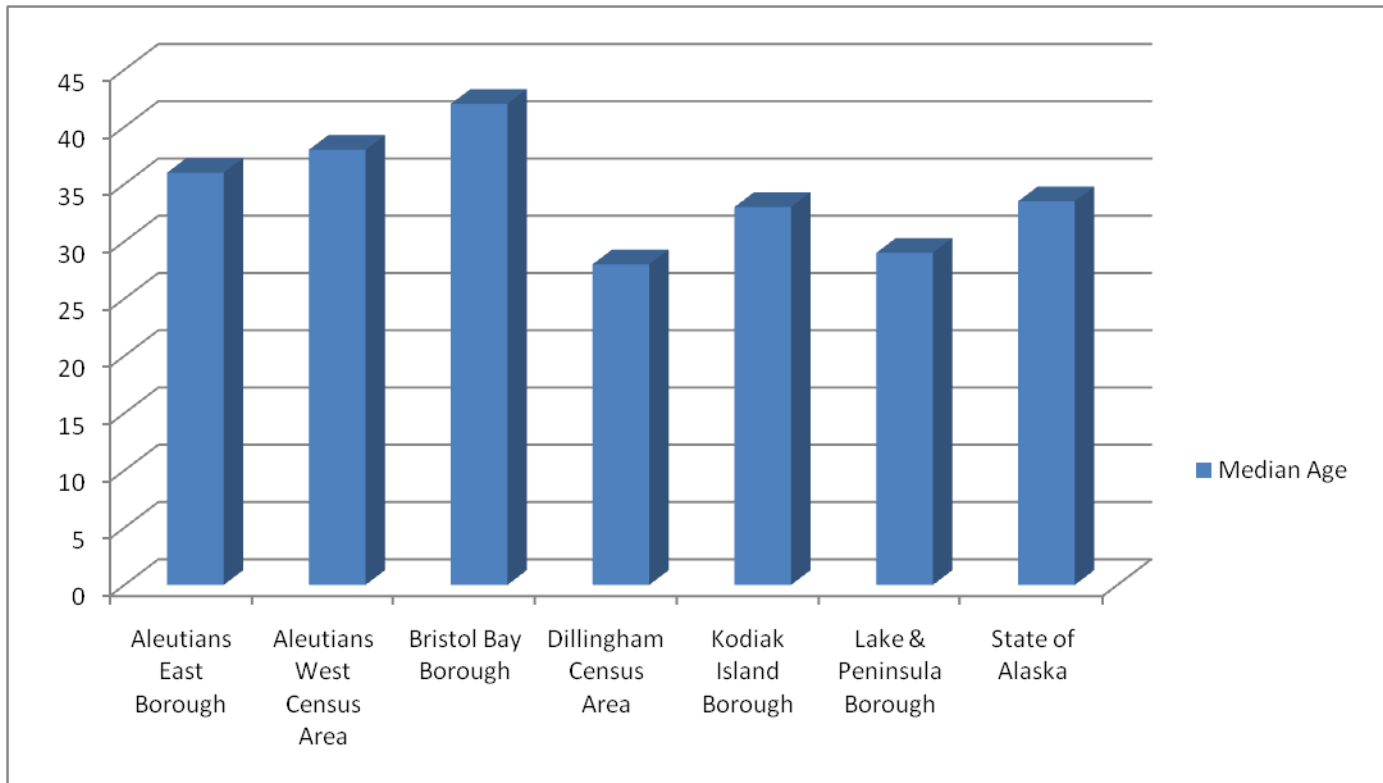
Ethnicity

According to 2007 U.S. Census data, the ethnic composition of Southwest Alaska's population varies significantly from that of the State of Alaska. While the two largest ethnic groups for both the state and the region are White and Alaska Native, there are marked differences in the state and regional proportions. Whites comprise almost 71 percent of the state population, but only total 46.8 percent of the regional population. Alaska Natives account for 15.2 percent of the state population. However, in Southwest Alaska, Alaska Natives comprise nearly one-third (30.6%) of the population or twice the state rate. Chart 5.4 presents the ethnic composition of the region's population.

Asians are the third largest single ethnic group in the region. Here again, there is significant variation between the region at 16 percent and the state at 4.6 percent. The region and state populations are comparable for those that identify their ethnicity as two or more races, about 4.5%. Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders, and other races account for a small percentage of both state and regional populations, ranging from less than one percent in some areas to 4 percent in others.

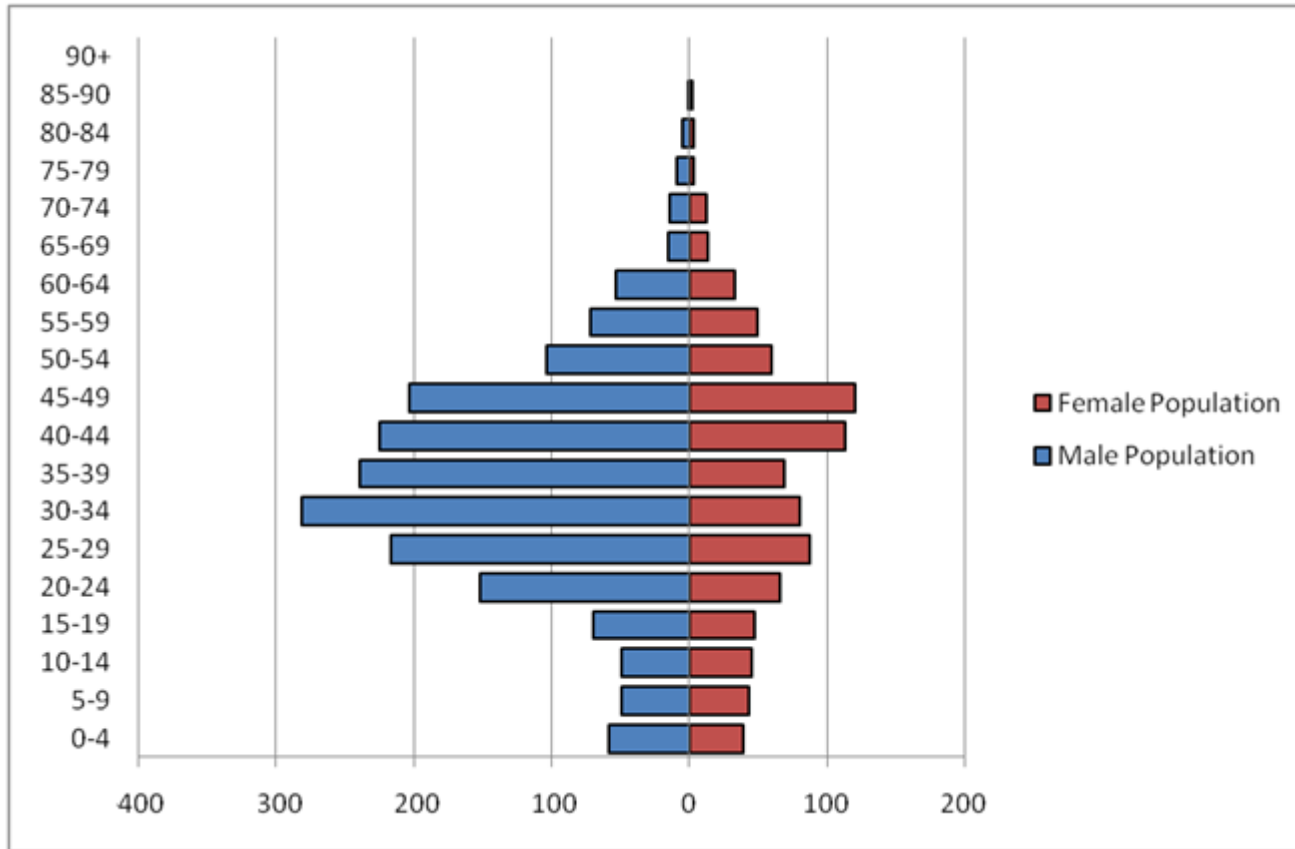
Whites comprise the largest proportion of the Kodiak Island Borough, which at 61.5 percent is the largest concentration in the region. In the Lake & Peninsula Borough, whites total 22 percent of the population, the smallest proportion in the region.

Chart 5.2: Median Age in Southwest Alaska



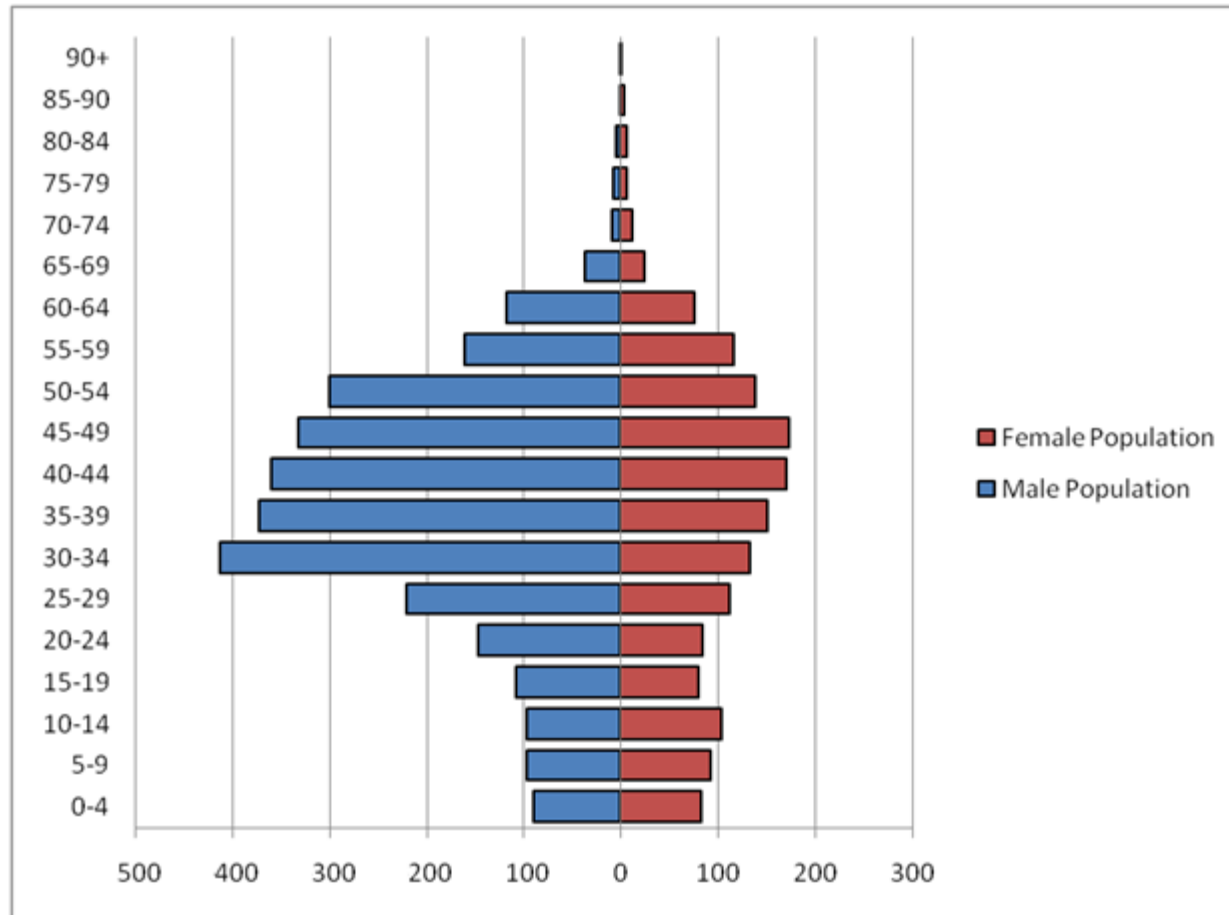
Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Chart 5.3.A: Aleutians East Borough Population Age Distribution



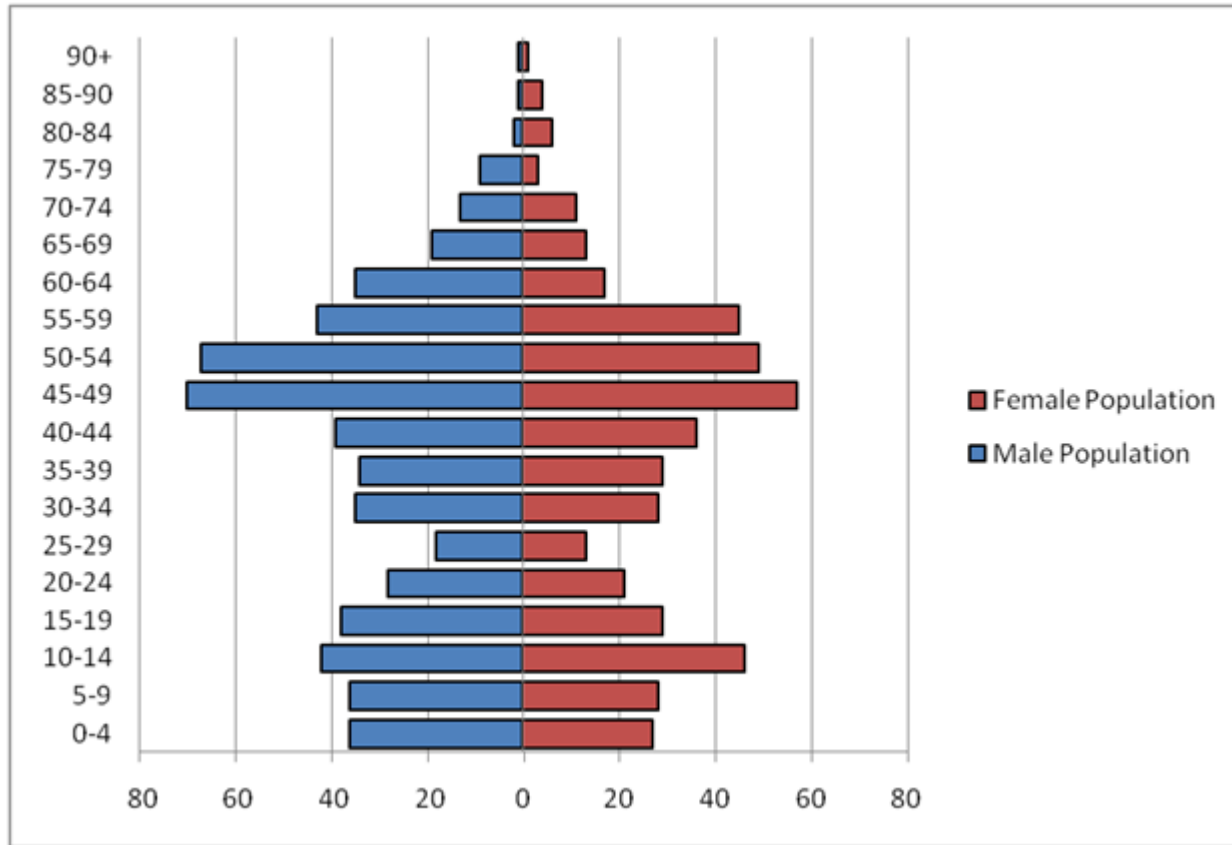
Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Chart 5.3.B: Aleutians West Census Area Population Age Distribution



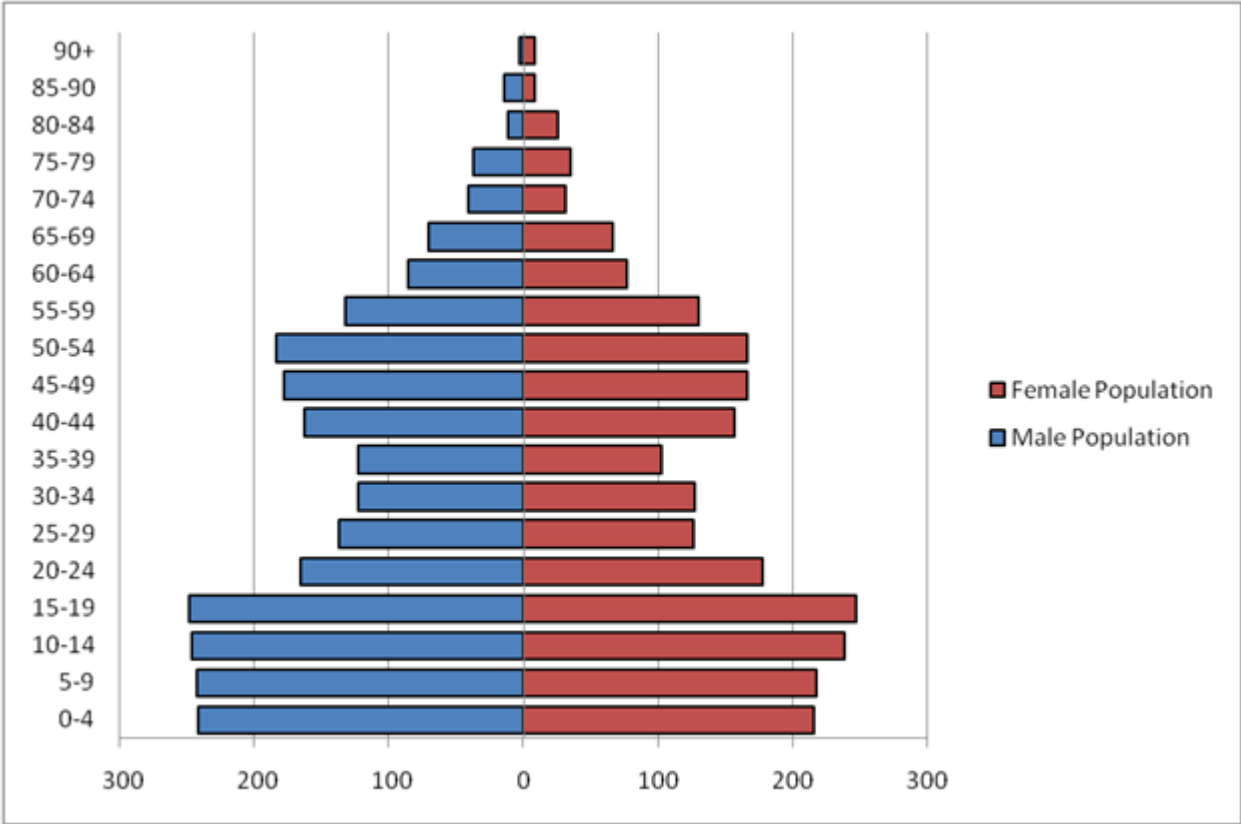
Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Chart 5.3.C: Bristol Bay Borough Population Age Distribution



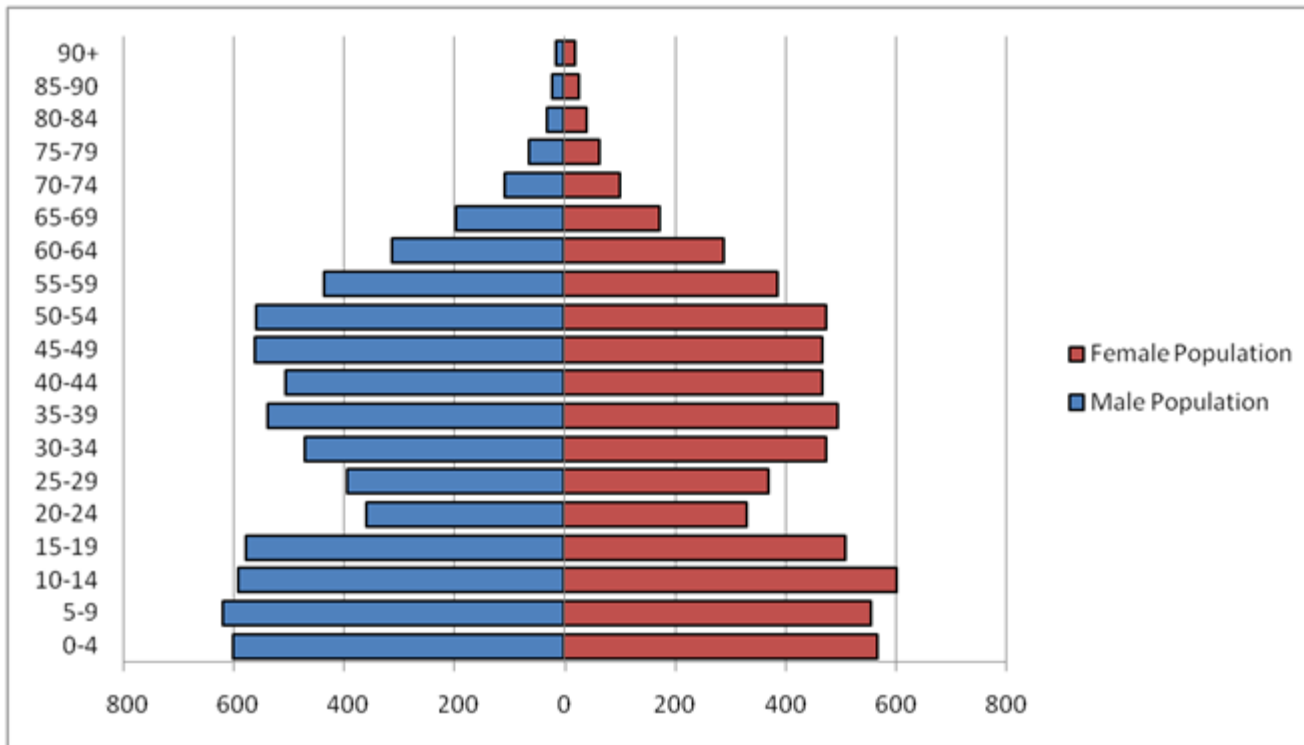
Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Chart 5.3.D: Dillingham Census Area Population Age Distribution



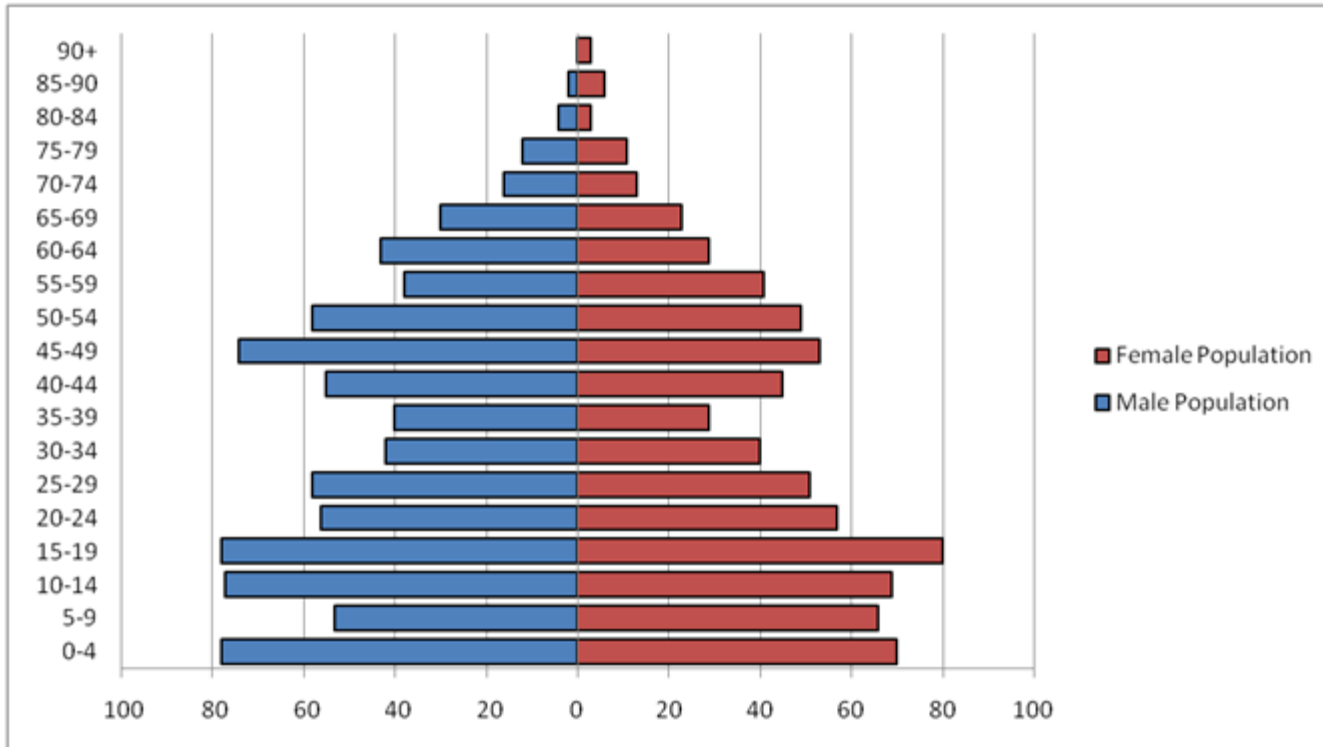
Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Chart 5.3.E: Kodiak Island Borough Population Age Distribution



Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Chart 5.3.F: Lake & Peninsula Borough Population Age Distribution



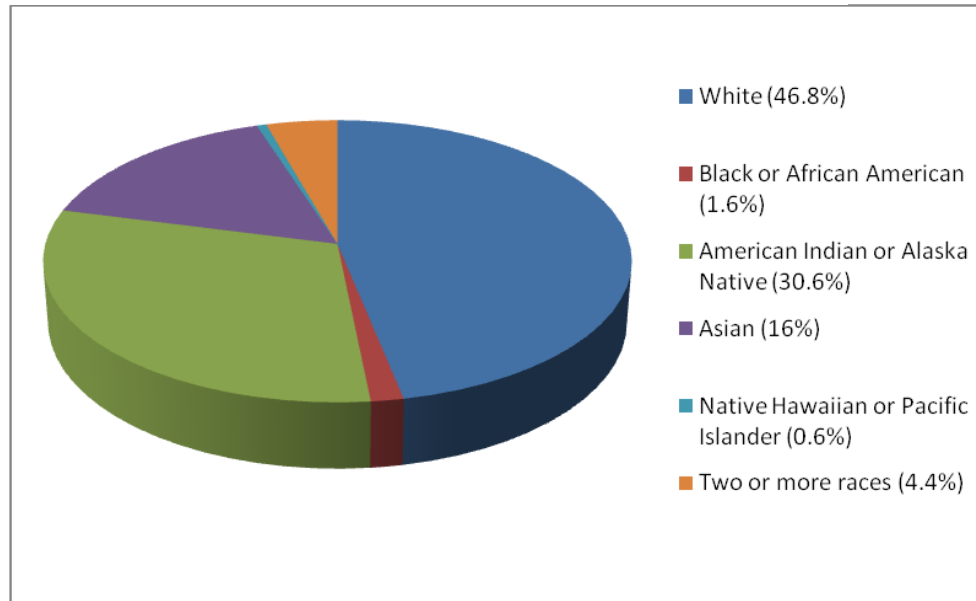
Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Table 5.4: Population Ethnicity in Southwest Alaska

	Aleutians East Borough		Aleutians West Census Area		Bristol Bay Borough		Dillingham Census Area		Kodiak Island Borough		Lake & Peninsula Borough		Southwest Alaska		State of Alaska	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
White	883	32.7%	1,988	44.8%	499	48.5%	1,107	23.2%	8,227	61.5%	341	22.0%	13,045	46.8%	481,242	70.8%
Black or African American	49	1.8%	177	4.0%	5	0.5%	19	0.4%	202	1.5%	2	0.1%	454	1.6%	27,869	4.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	762	28.2%	887	20.0%	485	47.1%	3,354	70.3%	1,969	14.7%	1,062	68.4%	8,519	30.6%	103,317	15.2%
Asian	924	34.2%	1,220	27.5%	13	1.3%	33	0.7%	2,250	16.8%	12	0.8%	4,452	16.0%	31,267	4.6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	8	0.3%	26	0.6%	4	0.4%	5	0.1%	121	0.9%	8	0.5%	172	0.6%	4,078	0.6%
Two or more races	73	2.7%	141	3.2%	23	2.2%	253	5.3%	604	4.5%	127	8.2%	1,221	4.4%	31,947	4.7%

Source: www.census.gov

Chart 5.4: Ethnic Composition of Southwest Alaska Population



Source: www.census.gov

Table 5.5.A: Aleut Corporation Alaska Native Population

Aleut Corporation	Total Population*	Alaska Native Population**	% of Total***
Akutan	796	131	16.4%
Atka	73	67	91.3%
Belkofski	0	0	0.0%
False Pass	39	26	65.6%
King Cove	750	359	47.9%
Nelson Lagoon	65	53	81.9%
Nikolski	27	19	69.2%
Sand Point	958	423	44.2%
St. George	112	103	92.1%
St. Paul	450	389	86.5%
Ugashik	15	12	81.8%
Unalaska	3,551	334	9.4%

* 2008 State Estimate
 ** Estimate based on 2000 U.S. Census
 *** 2000 U.S. Census

Source: www.census.gov and 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Table 5.5.B: Koniag, Inc. Population

Koniag, Inc.	Total Population*	Alaska Native Population**	% of Total***
Akhiok	48	45	93.8%
Karluk	38	36	96.3%
Larsen Bay	67	53	79.1%
Old Harbor	184	158	85.7%
Ouzinkie	167	146	87.6%
Port Lions	190	121	63.7%

* 2008 State Estimate
 ** Estimate based on 2000 U.S. Census
 *** 2000 U.S. Census

Source: www.census.gov and 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

Bristol Bay Native Corporation	Total Population*	Alaska Native Population**	% of Total***
Aleknagik	242	205	84.6%
Chignik	59	36	60.8%
Chignik Lagoon	71	58	81.6%
Chignik Lake	105	91	86.9%
Clark's Point	54	50	92.0%
Dillingham	2,347	1,429	60.9%
Egegik	62	48	76.7%
Ekuk	0	0	0.0%
Ekwok	121	113	93.8%
Igiugig	40	33	83.0%
Ivanof Bay	0	n/a	95.5%
Kokhanok	179	163	90.8%
Levelock	70	67	95.1%
Manokotak	430	407	94.7%
Naknek	552	260	47.1%
Koliganek	174	152	87.4%
New Stuyahok	491	471	96.0%
Newhalen	162	148	91.3%
Nondalton	202	182	90.0%
Pedro Bay	44	28	64.0%
Perryville	133	130	98.1%
Pilot Point	72	62	86.0%
Port Heiden	90	70	78.2%
Portage Creek	7	6	86.1%
South Naknek	68	57	83.9%
Togiak	800	742	92.7%
Twin Hills	75	71	94.2%
Ugashik	15	12	81.8%

Table 5.5.C: Bristol Bay Native Corporation Population

* 2008 State Estimate

** Estimate based on 2000 U.S. Census

*** 2000 U.S. Census

Source: www.census.gov and 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates

The Alaska Native population varies across the region. In the Lake & Peninsula Borough nearly seven out of ten residents (68.4%) are Alaska Natives. In the Kodiak Island Borough, one in seven residents is an Alaska Native (14.7%), slightly below the state proportion. Throughout Southwest Alaska, five out of six sub-regions have Alaska Native populations that exceed the state proportion.

Refer to Table 5.4 for a comparison for ethnicity across the region. Additionally, Tables 5.5.A-C provides a profile of the Alaska Native population for all Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs) in the region. In this table, the Alaska Native population includes all residents reporting Alaska Native ethnicity alone or in combination with one or more ethnicities.

Educational Attainment

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the most recently reported data, 81 percent of the region's population over age 25 has obtained a high school diploma or college education. This is somewhat lower than the state level, which is 88.4 percent. The Bristol Bay Borough and Kodiak Island Borough exceed the state high school and/or college completion rate at 88.8 percent and 92.9 percent, respectively. Educational attainment rates for the remaining boroughs and census areas range from 72.7 percent to 92.9 percent with the Lake & Peninsula Borough having the lowest high school and/or college completion rate in the region.

Conversely, about 11 percent of the state's

population over age 25 has not earned a high school diploma or attended college. For the region as a whole, 19 percent of the population has not received a high school or college diploma.

Slightly more than one-fifth (20.5%) of the population over age 25 in Southwest Alaska has obtained a college degree. This is significantly lower than the state level of college degree completion at 31.9 percent. The Bristol Bay Borough has the highest proportion of population with a college degree at 26.7 percent, followed by the Kodiak Island Borough at 25.5 percent. In the Aleutians East Borough, only 10.9 percent of the population has a college degree, the lowest proportion in the region. The Kodiak Island Borough has the highest degree of residents who have obtained an associate or bachelor's degree. Bristol Bay Borough residents have the greatest proportion of graduate degrees in the region.

Table 5.6 demonstrates the educational attainment levels for each borough or census area in the region.

A closer look at educational attainment levels in ANVSAs reveals a wide variation in high school diploma and college degree completion among the region's Alaska Native population. Based on sample data of 26 communities for persons 25 years and older, three-quarters of the ANVSA population in the region has completed high school or college. However, the range of high school completion varies from a high of 95 percent in St. George to a low of 54.7 percent in Egegik.

Slightly more than the 10 percent of the

ANVSA population have completed a college degree, which is half of the rate for the region as a whole. Iliamna has the highest proportion of degree completion at 28.9 percent, while three ANVSAs have no residents with a college degree.

Population Density

Based on total land area, population density for the State of Alaska is 1.19 persons per square mile. In comparison, the population density for Southwest Alaska is 0.46 persons per square mile. Given the vast public land holdings in the region, population density based on total land area is somewhat misleading.

A reassessment of population density based on the populated land area better illustrates population patterns in the region. Using the area of incorporated cities and CDPs as the definition for populated land area results in a revised population density of 11.56 persons per square mile for the region. Based on this revised definition, the Kodiak Island Borough has the highest population density at 35.01 persons per square mile. At 2.64 persons per square mile, the Lake & Peninsula Borough has the lowest population density. Population densities for all boroughs and census areas in Southwest Alaska are presented in Table 5.7.

Table 5.6: Educational Attainment Levels in Southwest Alaska for Population 25 Years and Over

Area Name	Less than 9th Grade	9th to 12th grade, no diploma	High School Graduate or equivalency	Some College No Degree	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Aleutians East Borough	10.9%	14.3%	49.0%	14.8%	6.1%	3.1%	1.7%
Aleutians West Census Area	10.0%	0.1%	34.4%	29.7%	3.4%	9.0%	2.0%
Bristol Bay Borough	4.5%	6.6%	34.0%	28.1%	5.6%	12.9%	8.2%
Dillingham Census Area	13.4%	9.9%	33.9%	21.7%	4.6%	10.4%	6.1%
Kodiak Island Borough	7.0%	7.6%	31.3%	28.5%	6.8%	13.2%	5.5%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	16.5%	11.3%	39.2%	16.2%	4.3%	8.9%	3.6%
Southwest Region Total	9.4%	9.7%	34.8%	25.7%	5.5%	10.6%	4.4%
State of Alaska	4.1%	7.5%	27.9%	28.6%	7.2%	16.1%	8.6%

Source: www.census.gov, 2000 Census of Population

Table 5.7: Population Density (Persons per square mile) in Southwest Alaska

Area Name	Total Population*	Land Area	Populated Area**	Density for Total Area	Density for Populated Area
Aleutians East Borough	2,699	6,988	266	0.38	10.15
Aleutians West Census Area	4,439	4,397	592	1.01	7.50
Bristol Bay Borough	1,029	505	349	2.04	2.95
Dillingham Census Area	4,771	18,675	231	0.26	20.65
Kodiak Island Borough	13,373	6,560	382	2.04	35.01
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,552	23,782	587	0.07	2.64
Southwest Region Total	27,863	60,906	2,407	0.46	11.56
State of Alaska	679,720	571,591	Unknown	1.19	Unknown

* 2008 State Estimate

** 2000 U.S. Census data

Source: www.census.gov, 2000 Census of Population

Population Projections

The Alaska Department of Labor (ADOL) prepares population projections based on trends in fertility, mortality, and in-migration. Table 5.8 portrays population projections the boroughs and census areas in Southwest Alaska. These projections run counter to estimated declines in the region’s population since 2000. ADOL projects a decline in the population of the Aleutians East Borough and the Lake & Peninsula Borough while all other boroughs or census areas in the region are projected to experience population increases.

Table 5.8: Population Projections for Southwest Alaska

Area Name	2008	2010	2015	2020	2025	Change
Aleutians East Borough	2,699	2,675	2,688	2,676	2,645	-2.1%
Aleutians West Census Area	4,439	5,169	5,068	4,944	4,795	7.4%
Bristol Bay Borough	1,029	1,169	1,153	1,152	1,133	9.2%
Dillingham Census Area	4,771	4,897	5,044	5,181	5,293	9.9%
Kodiak Island Borough	13,373	13,477	13,298	13,058	12,740	-4.7%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,552	1,586	1,560	1,510	1,443	-7.0%
Southwest Region Total	27,863	28,973	28,811	28,521	28,049	0.7%
State of Alaska	676,720	698,573	734,999	771,465	806,113	16.1%

Source: 2008 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Estimates