

Race and Ethnicity in Alaska

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Definitions have changed;
comparisons have become complex;
and racial distributions have shifted

Defining the term “race” has always been somewhat arbitrary. Traditionally, race has referred to descent from a common ancestral group which bestows common physical characteristics. The tendency today to define race by a people’s culture, history, and way of life blurs the distinction between race and nationality or ethnicity. Hence, persons of Hispanic or Latino origin (considered an ethnicity) can come from very diverse racial backgrounds.

“Race,” as used for federal programs and as collected by the U.S. Census, is defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). When planning began in the early 1990s for the 2000 census, OMB held public hearings that addressed a wide range of concerns over the way race was defined. These hearings led to changes in the categories of race and ethnicity used in the 2000 census. In prior years one had to choose one of four races: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, or Asian and Pacific Islander. In the *Federal Register* for October 30, 1997, OMB revised its 1977 guidelines and established a five-race classification for federal data on race and ethnicity. It also allowed for identifying origins in more than one race.

American Indian or Alaska Native. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African American. A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as “Haitian” or “Negro” can be used in addition to “Black or African American.”

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White. A person having origins in any set of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

With respect to ethnicity, the standards provide for the collection of data on whether or not a person is of “Hispanic or Latino” culture or origin.

Hispanic or Latino. A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term, “Spanish Origin,” can be used in addition to “Hispanic or Latino.”

Under the new guidelines, OMB provided for multi-race reporting. This allowed persons of mixed race to identify themselves as a combination of races rather than being forced to choose one race. With five races, permutations and combinations result in 63 possible race categories.

The Census Bureau followed the OMB guidelines in conducting the 2000 census. All race and ethnicity was self-reported by the respondent and represented each individual’s interpretation of the choices presented. In addition to the race and ethnic categories recognized by OMB, the census allowed people to define themselves as “some other race” and to write in their race. Most often the “some other race” response involved confu-

sion over Hispanic or Latino as a race rather than an ethnicity.

To make census data comply with federal program uses, the Census Bureau may, in 2002, create a new set of estimates of age, race and sex (as they did for the 1990 and 1980 censuses) that allocates the “some other race” category to one of the 63 multi-race categories. Estimates may also be corrected for mis-reporting of age known as “age heaping.” Some people tend to round their age to the nearest five, or increase or decrease their reported age around significant ages (i.e., 18, 21, 39, or 65). These estimates are referred to as the MARS estimates (Modified Age, Race and Sex). The MARS estimates have been the basis for the race estimates produced by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

(AKDOL) during the 1990s. They are considered more accurate because they conform to OMB standards. New MARS estimates will consist of 63 race combinations and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. The exact methods that will be used to produce these new, more complex estimates have not been finalized at this time.

All these changes make race and ethnicity more difficult to understand. They also make race data from Census 2000 more difficult to compare with 1990 and earlier censuses. If there ever was a simple answer to the question, “How many Alaska Natives live in Alaska?” there isn’t any longer. From now on, the question will have several answers, and different federal programs may require different measures. As of this writing, which federal programs will require what definition of race is uncertain.

1 Population by Race, Alaska 2000

By Race Alone, Equal Proportion or in Combination

Race	Race		Race in Combination Only		
	Number (A)	Percent of Total Population	Number (B)	Percent of Total Population	Percent Multi-race
Race					
Total Population	626,932		34,146		5.4%
<i>Number of responses</i>	626,932	100.0%	70,953	100.0%	10.7%
One race	592,786		—	—	
White	434,534	69.3%	29,465	41.5%	6.4%
Black or African American	21,787	3.5%	5,360	7.6%	19.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	98,043	15.6%	21,198	29.9%	17.8%
Asian	25,116	4.0%	7,570	10.7%	23.2%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	3,309	0.5%	2,206	3.1%	40.0%
Some other race	9,997	1.6%	5,154	7.3%	34.0%
Two or more races	34,146	5.4%	—	—	—
Hispanic or Latino and Race					
Total Population	626,932	100.0%	626,932	100.0%	—
Not Hispanic or Latino	601,080	95.9%	601,080	95.9%	—
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	25,852	4.1%	25,852	4.1%	—
<i>Number of Hispanic responses</i>	25,852	100.0%	4,089	100.0%	13.7%
One race	22,160	85.7%	—	—	
White	10,746	41.6%	2,847	69.6%	20.9%
Black or African American	714	2.8%	700	17.1%	49.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,538	5.9%	1,149	28.1%	42.8%
Asian	375	1.5%	534	13.1%	58.7%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	128	0.5%	215	5.3%	62.7%
Some other race	8,659	33.5%	2,336	57.1%	21.2%
Two or more races	3,692	14.3%	—	—	

Sources: Census 2000; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

New measures of race in 2000

The Census Bureau has so far provided race and ethnicity tabulations in the following forms from the 2000 census.

1. One race alone and two or more races.
2. Race alone or in combination.
3. 63 race categories.

A National Academy of Sciences panel studied a series of possible ways to combine the 2000 race data to produce race data comparable to the 1990 and earlier definitions of race. These tabulations are referred to as “bridge” estimates, because they allow comparison of the two sets of incompatible data.

Of the possible ways of combining the new race data to create tabulations that are comparable to earlier data, the method easiest to understand is

what is generally referred to as “equal proportion or equal fractions.” This method proved to be the simplest and most comparable to earlier race definitions. The principle of “equal proportion” involves weighting the multi-race responses on the assumption that they are equal shares of each race. For example, the category of “Alaska Native and White” would be weighted 0.5 Alaska Native and 0.5 White. After all the multi-races are proportionately weighted, the race fractions are summed and rounded to the nearest whole person to obtain the estimated number of persons equivalent to the single race responses of earlier censuses.

In addition, in an attempt to further approximate the 1990 MARS classification of race, the state demographer’s office has distributed the “some other race” group to the 1990 race categories for this set of preliminary MARS estimates. The Census Bureau used a “hot deck” to assign the “some

Population by Race, Alaska 2000 1

By Race Alone, Equal Proportion or in Combination (continued)

	Race Alone (Minimum Population)		Equal Proportion “Bridge Series”		Race Alone or in Combination (Maximum Population)	
	Number (C)	Percent of Total Population	Number (D)	Percent of Total Population	Number (E)	Percent of Total Population
Race						
Total Population	626,932		626,932		626,932	
<i>Number of responses</i>	592,786	100.0%	626,932	100.0%	663,739	100.0%
One race	—	—	—	—	—	—
White	434,534	73.3%	448,877	71.6%	463,999	69.9%
Black or African American	21,787	3.7%	24,281	3.9%	27,147	4.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	98,043	16.5%	108,343	17.3%	119,241	18.0%
Asian	25,116	4.2%	28,664	4.6%	32,686	4.9%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	3,309	0.6%	4,301	0.7%	5,515	0.8%
Some other race	9,997	1.7%	12,466	2.0%	15,151	2.3%
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hispanic or Latino and Race						
Total Population	626,932	100.0%	626,932	100.0%	626,932	100.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	601,080	95.9%	601,080	95.9%	601,080	95.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	25,852	4.1%	25,852	4.1%	25,852	4.1%
<i>Number of Hispanic responses</i>	22,160	100.0%	25,852	100.0%	29,941	100.0%
One race	—	—	—	—	—	—
White	10,746	48.5%	12,112	46.9%	13,593	45.4%
Black or African American	714	3.2%	1,035	4.0%	1,414	4.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,538	6.9%	2,075	8.0%	2,687	9.0%
Asian	375	1.7%	612	2.4%	909	3.0%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	128	0.6%	220	0.9%	343	1.1%
Some other race	8,659	39.1%	9,798	37.9%	10,995	36.7%
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sources: Census 2000; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

other race.” This technique randomly assigns “some other race” based on the race distribution of the household or neighborhood in which a person was living. Since the most detailed race record available is the block level from the 2000 census, the “some other race” was distributed proportionally according to the race distribution of the block (or in some cases neighboring block) in which it was found. These equal-proportion “bridge” race estimates for 2000 may not be exactly like those which eventually will be produced by the Census Bureau, but they should be close enough to use in the interim to view changes in race from 1990 to 2000.

As of this date, the AKDOL has not decided which approach will be used to prepare estimates for this decade. Every effort will be made to produce estimates that will be the most widely usable for the variety of program users. Several years may pass before data collected by federal and state agencies are fully compatible with the OMB standards and federal program application guidelines.

In the interim, it seems reasonable to produce estimates that are comparable to both the past and the new standards. Census 2000 race and ethnicity and AKDOL’s “bridge” estimates are presented in the accompanying exhibits.

Alaska has seen changes in race and ethnicity since 1990

Exhibit 1 presents a variety of race and ethnic information from the 2000 census along with the “bridge” estimates for Alaska. Column A shows all those who identified themselves as only one race as well as the number who identified themselves as two or more races (34,146 or 5.4%). Alaska had the second highest percentage of any state (next to Hawaii) of persons who identified themselves as multi-racial. Column B shows the distribution of the 70,953 racial responses made by the 34,146 persons who stated multi-race. Persons who declared themselves to be multi-race said they were: White (41.5%), American Indian or Alaska Native (29.9%), Asian (10.7%), Black or

2 Population by Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin 1990 and 2000, Alaska

	1990 Census		Census 2000 Equal Proportion “Bridge Series”		Change 1990-2000	Avg Ann % Change 1990-2000
	Number	Percent of Total Population	Number	Percent of Total Population		
Race						
Total Population	550,043	100.0%	626,932	100.0%	76,889	1.3%
White	415,492	75.5%	448,877	71.6%	33,385	0.8%
Black or African American	22,451	4.1%	24,281	3.9%	1,830	0.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	85,698	15.6%	108,343	17.3%	22,645	2.3%
Asian	17,814	3.2%	28,664	4.6%	10,850	4.7%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	1,914	0.3%	4,301	0.7%	2,387	7.7%
Some other race	6,674	1.2%	12,466	2.0%	5,792	6.1%
Hispanic or Latino and Race						
Total Population	550,043	100.0%	626,932	100.0%	76,889	1.3%
Not Hispanic or Latino	532,240	96.8%	601,080	95.9%	68,840	1.2%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	17,803	3.2%	25,852	4.1%	8,049	3.7%
White	8,770	1.6%	12,112	1.9%	3,342	3.2%
Black or African American	652	0.1%	1,035	0.2%	383	4.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,104	0.2%	2,075	0.3%	971	6.1%
Asian	892	0.2%	612	0.1%	-280	-3.7%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	106	0.0%	220	0.0%	114	7.0%
Some other race	6,279	1.1%	9,798	1.6%	3,519	4.4%

Sources: Census 2000; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

African American (7.6%), some other race (7.3%), and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (3.1%). A substantial proportion of persons other than White declared themselves to be multi-race. Of all race responses, the share of each race's multi-race responses was as follows: Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (40.0%), Some other race (34%), Asian (23.2%), Black or African American (19.7%), American Indian or Alaska Native (17.8%) and White (6.4%).

Columns C, D and E show the range of race as measured in different ways. Each of these eliminates the "Two or more races" category. Column C looks at the distribution of the 592,786 persons who declared themselves to be one race only. Because of the higher proportions of multi-race among the nonwhite population, this number will show the smallest proportion of nonwhite population. Column E tabulates all of the individual responses to race. It counts the person who listed two races twice, three races three times, etc. The proportion of multi-race responses by race dis-

cussed above is obtained by dividing column B by column E. Since this measure counts each person of multi-race in each group that they list, the total is greater than the population (663,739 race response). Column D shows the equal-proportion "bridge" estimate. Since it weights each multiple response as a part of a person, it adds to the total population (626,932) and is most comparable with the 1990 definition of race.

Exhibit 2 compares the equal-proportion estimate for 2000 with race from the 1990 census. This retains the "Some other race" category. Exhibit 3 compares the equal-proportion estimate with the 1990 MARS estimates, which eliminates the "Some other race" category. Exhibit 3 should give the clearest picture of changes in race in Alaska in the last decade.

During the 1990s the population of Alaska increased by 76,889 persons, for an average annual growth rate of 1.3%. Although Whites made up almost 73% of the 2000 population, they ac-

Modified Population by Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin 3 Alaska, 1990 and 2000

	1990 Census MARS		Census 2000 Equal Proportion "Bridge Series" MARS Estimate		Change 1990-2000	Avg Ann % Change 1990-2000
	Number	Percent of Total Population	Number	Percent of Total Population		
<i>Note: Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.</i>						
Race						
Total Population	550,043	100.0%	626,932	100.0%	76,889	1.3%
White	420,745	76.5%	455,284	72.6%	34,539	0.8%
Black or African American	22,833	4.2%	25,547	4.1%	2,714	1.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	86,252	15.7%	111,091	17.7%	24,839	2.5%
Asian & Pacific Islander	20,213	3.7%	35,010	5.6%	14,797	5.4%
Asian	—	—	30,352	4.8%		
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	—	—	4,658	0.7%		
Hispanic or Latino and Race						
Total Population	550,043	100.0%	626,932	100.0%	76,889	1.3%
Not Hispanic or Latino	532,240	96.8%	601,080	95.9%	68,840	1.2%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	17,803	3.2%	25,852	4.1%	8,049	3.7%
White	13,716	2.5%	19,716	3.1%	6,000	3.6%
Black or African American	1,011	0.2%	1,856	0.3%	845	5.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,607	0.3%	2,934	0.5%	1,327	5.8%
Asian & Pacific Islander	1,469	0.3%	1,346	0.2%	-123	-0.9%
Asian	—	—	995	0.2%		
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	—	—	351	0.1%		

Sources: Census 2000; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

counted for only 45% of the population increase during the 1990s, for an average annual growth rate of 0.8%. While American Indians and Alaska Natives account for 17.7% of the 2000 population, they accounted for 32% of the population growth during the decade. The average annual growth rate for Native Americans was 2.5%. The

most rapid population increases were found among Asians and Pacific Islanders. At only 5.6% of the 2000 population, they accounted for 19.2% of the state's growth in the 1990s with an average annual growth rate of 5.4%. The Black or African American population of Alaska (4.1%) slipped below the Asian population in 2000. African

4 Modified Estimates (MARS) of Race and Ethnicity Alaska, 1990 and 2000

	April 1, 2000 Equal Proportion "Bridge Series"					RACE April 1, 1990 Modified (MARS) Race Estimates				
	Total	White	Native American	African American	Asian & Pacific Islander	Total	White	Native American	African American	Asian & Pacific Islander
ALASKA	626,932	455,284	111,091	25,547	35,010	550,043	420,745	86,252	22,833	20,213
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	319,605	251,813	28,369	18,216	21,207	266,021	222,715	16,732	15,113	11,461
Anchorage Municipality	260,283	198,219	24,025	17,657	20,382	226,338	185,601	14,780	14,801	11,156
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	59,322	53,594	4,344	559	825	39,683	37,114	1,952	312	305
Gulf Coast Region	73,799	60,897	8,446	514	3,942	64,063	54,985	6,370	401	2,307
Kenai Peninsula Borough	49,691	44,027	4,531	315	818	40,802	37,220	2,942	204	436
Kodiak Island Borough	13,913	8,805	2,309	153	2,646	13,309	9,467	2,162	138	1,542
Valdez Cordova Census Area	10,195	8,065	1,606	46	478	9,952	8,298	1,266	59	329
Interior Region	97,458	75,834	13,061	5,716	2,847	92,111	73,009	10,915	5,997	2,190
Fairbanks North Star Borough	82,840	67,416	7,203	5,535	2,686	77,720	64,672	5,383	5,618	2,047
Southeast Fairbanks CA	6,174	5,045	913	139	77	5,913	4,734	798	291	90
Denali Borough	1,893	1,684	135	29	45	1,764	1,644	79	26	15
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	6,551	1,689	4,810	13	39	6,714	1,959	4,655	62	38
Northern Region	23,789	4,337	18,555	153	744	20,380	4,213	15,712	62	393
Nome Census Area	9,196	1,920	7,143	49	84	8,288	2,064	6,157	9	58
North Slope Borough	7,385	1,424	5,312	75	574	5,979	1,307	4,344	41	287
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,208	993	6,100	29	86	6,113	842	5,211	12	48
Southeast Region	73,082	54,363	14,681	567	3,471	68,989	53,450	12,928	426	2,185
Haines Borough	2,392	2,027	334	5	26	2,117	1,817	282	1	17
Juneau Borough	30,711	24,047	4,370	353	1,941	26,751	21,765	3,509	300	1,177
Ketchikan Borough	14,070	10,801	2,440	97	732	13,828	11,363	1,913	55	497
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	6,146	3,456	2,613	18	59	6,278	3,872	2,368	9	29
Sitka Borough	8,835	6,379	1,951	55	450	8,588	6,406	1,805	42	335
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	3,436	2,085	1,303	10	38	3,680	2,280	1,369	6	25
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	6,684	5,142	1,320	28	194	7,042	5,565	1,370	12	95
Yakutat Borough	808	426	350	1	31	705	382	312	1	10
Southwest Region	39,199	8,040	27,979	381	2,799	38,479	12,373	23,595	834	1,677
Aleutians East Borough	2,697	728	1,069	53	847	2,464	909	1,052	26	477
Aleutians West Census Area	5,465	2,419	1,223	194	1,629	9,478	6,661	1,101	685	1,031
Bethel Census Area	16,006	2,236	13,461	91	218	13,656	2,122	11,379	63	92
Bristol Bay Borough	1,258	670	562	7	19	1,410	905	455	38	12
Dillingham Census Area	4,922	1,200	3,642	24	56	4,012	1,035	2,938	9	30
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,823	392	1,416	3	12	1,668	392	1,263	1	12
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,028	395	6,606	9	18	5,791	349	5,407	12	23

Sources: Census 2000; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

Americans contributed only 3.5% of the growth with an average annual rate of increase of only 1.1%. While Hispanics or Latinos may be of any race, 76% listed themselves as White. Hispanics or Latinos were 4.1% of the 2000 population of Alaska, but accounted for 10.5% of the population growth during the nineties. The Hispanic or Latino population had a 3.7% average annual growth rate during the decade. Alaska has been

more diverse and multi-racial than much of America. The trends of the 1990s should continue. In 2000, the Non-Hispanic White population was 69.5%.

Geographic distribution

Exhibits 4, 5 and 6 present the equal-proportion estimates for 2000 with the 1990 MARS race and

Modified Estimates (MARS) of Race and Ethnicity 4 Alaska, 1990 and 2000

	ETHNICITY			Change 1990-2000					
	Hispanic or Latino	April 1 2000	April 1 1990	Total	White	Native American	African American	Asian & Pacific Islander	Hispanic or Latino
<i>Note: Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.</i>									
ALASKA	25,852	17,793	76,889	34,539	24,839	2,714	14,797	8,059	
Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna Region	16,284	10,010	53,584	29,098	11,637	3,103	9,746	6,274	
Anchorage Municipality	14,799	9,258	33,945	12,618	9,245	2,856	9,226	5,541	
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,485	752	19,639	16,480	2,392	247	520	733	
Gulf Coast Region	2,221	1,659	9,736	5,912	2,076	113	1,635	562	
Kenai Peninsula Borough	1,087	726	8,889	6,807	1,589	111	382	361	
Kodiak Island Borough	848	663	604	-662	147	15	1,104	185	
Valdez Cordova Census Area	286	270	243	-233	340	-13	149	16	
Interior Region	3,732	3,148	5,347	2,825	2,146	-281	657	584	
Fairbanks North Star Borough	3,440	2,889	5,120	2,744	1,820	-83	639	551	
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	167	177	261	311	115	-152	-13	-10	
Denali Borough	47	29	129	40	56	3	30	18	
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	78	53	-163	-270	155	-49	1	25	
Northern Region	324	266	3,409	124	2,843	91	351	58	
Nome Census Area	92	106	908	-144	986	40	26	-14	
North Slope Borough	175	124	1,406	117	968	34	287	51	
Northwest Arctic Borough	57	36	1,095	151	889	17	38	21	
Southeast Region	2,077	1,577	4,093	913	1,753	141	1,286	500	
Haines Borough	33	27	275	210	52	4	9	6	
Juneau Borough	1,040	749	3,960	2,282	861	53	764	291	
Ketchikan Borough	372	285	242	-562	527	42	235	87	
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	107	121	-132	-416	245	9	30	-14	
Sitka Borough	290	209	247	-27	146	13	115	81	
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	97	53	-244	-195	-66	4	13	44	
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	132	119	-358	-423	-50	16	99	13	
Yakutat Borough	6	14	103	44	38	0	21	-8	
Southwest Region	1,214	1,133	720	-4,333	4,384	-453	1,122	81	
Aleutians East Borough	339	180	233	-181	17	27	370	159	
Aleutians West Census Area	573	742	-4,013	-4,242	122	-491	598	-169	
Bethel Census Area	140	80	2,350	114	2,082	28	126	60	
Bristol Bay Borough	7	33	-152	-235	107	-31	7	-26	
Dillingham Census Area	111	49	910	165	704	15	26	62	
Lake & Peninsula Borough	21	32	155	0	153	2	0	-11	
Wade Hampton Census Area	23	17	1,237	46	1,199	-3	-5	6	

Sources: Census 2000; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

ethnic estimates, percent and racial share. Several observations stand out. The Anchorage Municipality, Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough grew faster than the rest of Alaska, and also became more racially diverse. These three areas increased from 55.8% of the state's population in 1990 to 58.9% in 2000. The other large boroughs, Fairbanks North Star, Juneau, Ketchikan Gateway and Kodiak Island all lost share

to Anchorage/MatSu and Kenai.

The state's Black or African American population is the most concentrated. In 2000, 90 percent of the population was concentrated in the two largest boroughs, Anchorage Municipality (69.1%) and Fairbanks North Star Borough (21.7%). Alaska's African American population is historically associated with the military, and the closing and re-

5 Percent Distribution, MARS Race and Ethnicity Estimates Alaska, 1990 and 2000

RACE

Area Name	April 1, 2000 Equal Proportion "Bridge Series"				April 1, 1990 Modified (MARS) Race Estimates			
	White	Native American	African American	Asian & Pacific Islander	White	Native American	African American	Asian & Pacific Islander
ALASKA	72.6%	17.7%	4.1%	5.6%	76.5%	15.7%	4.2%	3.7%
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	78.8%	8.9%	5.7%	6.6%	83.7%	6.3%	5.7%	4.3%
Anchorage Municipality	76.2%	9.2%	6.8%	7.8%	82.0%	6.5%	6.5%	4.9%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	90.3%	7.3%	0.9%	1.4%	93.5%	4.9%	0.8%	0.8%
Gulf Coast Region	82.5%	11.4%	0.7%	5.3%	85.8%	9.9%	0.6%	3.6%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	88.6%	9.1%	0.6%	1.6%	91.2%	7.2%	0.5%	1.1%
Kodiak Island Borough	63.3%	16.6%	1.1%	19.0%	71.1%	16.2%	1.0%	11.6%
Valdez Cordova Census Area	79.1%	15.8%	0.5%	4.7%	83.4%	12.7%	0.6%	3.3%
Interior Region	77.8%	13.4%	5.9%	2.9%	79.3%	11.8%	6.5%	2.4%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	81.4%	8.7%	6.7%	3.2%	83.2%	6.9%	7.2%	2.6%
Southeast Fairbanks CA	81.7%	14.8%	2.3%	1.2%	80.1%	13.5%	4.9%	1.5%
Denali Borough	89.0%	7.1%	1.5%	2.4%	93.2%	4.5%	1.5%	0.9%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	25.8%	73.4%	0.2%	0.6%	29.2%	69.3%	0.9%	0.6%
Northern Region	18.2%	78.0%	0.6%	3.1%	20.7%	77.1%	0.3%	1.9%
Nome Census Area	20.9%	77.7%	0.5%	0.9%	24.9%	74.3%	0.1%	0.7%
North Slope Borough	19.3%	71.9%	1.0%	7.8%	21.9%	72.7%	0.7%	4.8%
Northwest Arctic Borough	13.8%	84.6%	0.4%	1.2%	13.8%	85.2%	0.2%	0.8%
Southeast Region	74.4%	20.1%	0.8%	4.7%	77.5%	18.7%	0.6%	3.2%
Haines Borough	84.7%	14.0%	0.2%	1.1%	85.8%	13.3%	0.0%	0.8%
Juneau Borough	78.3%	14.2%	1.1%	6.3%	81.4%	13.1%	1.1%	4.4%
Ketchikan Borough	76.8%	17.3%	0.7%	5.2%	82.2%	13.8%	0.4%	3.6%
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	56.2%	42.5%	0.3%	1.0%	61.7%	37.7%	0.1%	0.5%
Sitka Borough	72.2%	22.1%	0.6%	5.1%	74.6%	21.0%	0.5%	3.9%
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	60.7%	37.9%	0.3%	1.1%	62.0%	37.2%	0.2%	0.7%
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	76.9%	19.7%	0.4%	2.9%	79.0%	19.5%	0.2%	1.3%
Yakutat Borough	52.7%	43.3%	0.1%	3.8%	54.2%	44.3%	0.1%	1.4%
Southwest Region	20.5%	71.4%	1.0%	7.1%	32.2%	61.3%	2.2%	4.4%
Aleutians East Borough	27.0%	39.6%	2.0%	31.4%	36.9%	42.7%	1.1%	19.4%
Aleutians West Census Area	44.3%	22.4%	3.5%	29.8%	70.3%	11.6%	7.2%	10.9%
Bethel Census Area	14.0%	84.1%	0.6%	1.4%	15.5%	83.3%	0.5%	0.7%
Bristol Bay Borough	53.3%	44.7%	0.6%	1.5%	64.2%	32.3%	2.7%	0.9%
Dillingham Census Area	24.4%	74.0%	0.5%	1.1%	25.8%	73.2%	0.2%	0.7%
Lake & Peninsula Borough	21.5%	77.7%	0.2%	0.7%	23.5%	75.7%	0.1%	0.7%
Wade Hampton Census Area	5.6%	94.0%	0.1%	0.3%	6.0%	93.4%	0.2%	0.4%

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

duction of bases during the 1990s have caused African Americans to decline as a share of the population. This includes the traditionally more military areas of Aleutians West, Fairbanks North Star Borough and Southeast Fairbanks. The share of the state's total African American population in Anchorage and Mat-Su increased from 66.2 % to 71.3% between 1990 and 2000.

The White population of the state is concentrated in the most heavily populated boroughs and census areas, and the Alaska Native population is more rural than the population at large. In 2000, 85% of the White population lives in the five largest areas: Anchorage Municipality (43.5%), Fairbanks North Star Borough (14.8%), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (11.8%), Kenai Peninsula Borough (9.7%),

Percent Distribution, MARS Race and Ethnicity Estimates

Alaska, 1990 and 2000 (continued)

5

	ETHNICITY		Change 1990-2000					Hispanic or Latino
	Hispanic or Latino		White	Native American	African American	Asian & Pacific Islander		
	April 1 2000	April 1 1990						
ALASKA	4.1%	3.2%	-3.9%	2.0%	-0.1%	1.9%	0.9%	
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.1%	3.8%	-4.9%	2.6%	0.0%	2.3%	1.3%	
Anchorage Municipality	5.7%	4.1%	-5.8%	2.7%	0.2%	2.9%	1.6%	
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	2.5%	1.9%	-3.2%	2.4%	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%	
Gulf Coast Region	3.0%	2.6%	-3.3%	1.5%	0.1%	1.7%	0.4%	
Kenai Peninsula Borough	2.2%	1.8%	-2.6%	1.9%	0.1%	0.6%	0.4%	
Kodiak Island Borough	6.1%	5.0%	-7.8%	0.4%	0.1%	7.4%	1.1%	
Valdez Cordova Census Area	2.8%	2.7%	-4.3%	3.0%	-0.1%	1.4%	0.1%	
Interior Region	3.8%	3.4%	-1.4%	1.6%	-0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	
Fairbanks North Star Borough	4.2%	3.7%	-1.8%	1.8%	-0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2.7%	3.0%	1.7%	1.3%	-2.7%	-0.3%	-0.3%	
Denali Borough	2.5%	1.6%	-4.2%	2.7%	0.1%	1.5%	0.8%	
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	1.2%	0.8%	-3.4%	4.1%	-0.7%	0.0%	0.4%	
Northern Region	1.4%	1.3%	-2.4%	0.9%	0.3%	1.2%	0.1%	
Nome Census Area	1.0%	1.3%	-4.0%	3.4%	0.4%	0.2%	-0.3%	
North Slope Borough	2.4%	2.1%	-2.6%	-0.7%	0.3%	3.0%	0.3%	
Northwest Arctic Borough	0.8%	0.6%	0.0%	-0.6%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	
Southeast Region	2.8%	2.3%	-3.1%	1.3%	0.2%	1.6%	0.6%	
Haines Borough	1.4%	1.3%	-1.1%	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	
Juneau Borough	3.4%	2.8%	-3.1%	1.1%	0.0%	1.9%	0.6%	
Ketchikan Borough	2.6%	2.1%	-5.4%	3.5%	0.3%	1.6%	0.6%	
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	1.7%	1.9%	-5.4%	4.8%	0.1%	0.5%	-0.2%	
Sitka Borough	3.3%	2.4%	-2.4%	1.1%	0.1%	1.2%	0.8%	
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2.8%	1.4%	-1.3%	0.7%	0.1%	0.4%	1.4%	
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	2.0%	1.7%	-2.1%	0.3%	0.2%	1.6%	0.3%	
Yakutat Borough	0.7%	2.0%	-1.5%	-0.9%	0.0%	2.4%	-1.2%	
Southwest Region	3.1%	2.9%	-11.6%	10.1%	-1.2%	2.8%	0.2%	
Aleutians East Borough	12.6%	7.3%	-9.9%	-3.1%	0.9%	12.0%	5.3%	
Aleutians West Census Area	10.5%	7.8%	-26.0%	10.8%	-3.7%	18.9%	2.7%	
Bethel Census Area	0.9%	0.6%	-1.6%	0.8%	0.1%	0.7%	0.3%	
Bristol Bay Borough	0.6%	2.3%	-10.9%	12.4%	-2.1%	0.7%	-1.8%	
Dillingham Census Area	2.3%	1.2%	-1.4%	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%	1.0%	
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1.2%	1.9%	-2.0%	2.0%	0.1%	-0.1%	-0.8%	
Wade Hampton Census Area	0.3%	0.3%	-0.4%	0.6%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%	

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

and Juneau Borough (5.3%). In 1990, only 82% of the White population lived in these five boroughs. The greatest increase in the share of Whites during the decade occurred in Matanuska-Susitna Borough (+3.0%) and Kenai Peninsula Borough (+0.8%).

In contrast, only 40% of the Alaska Native or American Indian population lived in these same five boroughs in 2000. However, the proportion

of Alaska Natives living in these boroughs has increased by almost 7 percentage points since 1990. The Alaska Native population, while the most dispersed, became more concentrated. In 2000, 82% of the Native population was spread over 12 boroughs or census areas. In 1990, the percentage in these same 12 areas was only 76.2%.

The percentage Alaska Native or American Indian in 2000 and the change since 1990 are as fol-

6 Share of State, MARS Race and Ethnicity Estimates Alaska, 1990 and 2000

Area Name	April 1, 2000 Equal Proportion "Bridge Series"					April 1, 1990 Modified (MARS) Race Estimates				
	Percent of Total	White	Native American	African American	Asian & Pacific Islander	Percent of Total	White	Native American	African American	Asian & Pacific Islander
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	51.0%	55.3%	25.5%	71.3%	60.6%	48.4%	52.9%	19.4%	66.2%	56.7%
Anchorage Municipality	41.5%	43.5%	21.6%	69.1%	58.2%	41.1%	44.1%	17.1%	64.8%	55.2%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	9.5%	11.8%	3.9%	2.2%	2.4%	7.2%	8.8%	2.3%	1.4%	1.5%
Gulf Coast Region	11.8%	13.4%	7.6%	2.0%	11.3%	11.6%	13.1%	7.4%	1.8%	11.4%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	7.9%	9.7%	4.1%	1.2%	2.3%	7.4%	8.8%	3.4%	0.9%	2.2%
Kodiak Island Borough	2.2%	1.9%	2.1%	0.6%	7.6%	2.4%	2.3%	2.5%	0.6%	7.6%
Valdez Cordova Census Area	1.6%	1.8%	1.4%	0.2%	1.4%	1.8%	2.0%	1.5%	0.3%	1.6%
Interior Region	15.5%	16.7%	11.8%	22.4%	8.1%	16.7%	17.4%	12.7%	26.3%	10.8%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	13.2%	14.8%	6.5%	21.7%	7.7%	14.1%	15.4%	6.2%	24.6%	10.1%
Southeast Fairbanks CA	1.0%	1.1%	0.8%	0.5%	0.2%	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%	1.3%	0.4%
Denali Borough	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	1.0%	0.4%	4.3%	0.1%	0.1%	1.2%	0.5%	5.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Northern Region	3.8%	1.0%	16.7%	0.6%	2.1%	3.7%	1.0%	18.2%	0.3%	1.9%
Nome Census Area	1.5%	0.4%	6.4%	0.2%	0.2%	1.5%	0.5%	7.1%	0.0%	0.3%
North Slope Borough	1.2%	0.3%	4.8%	0.3%	1.6%	1.1%	0.3%	5.0%	0.2%	1.4%
Northwest Arctic Borough	1.1%	0.2%	5.5%	0.1%	0.2%	1.1%	0.2%	6.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Southeast Region	11.7%	11.9%	13.2%	2.2%	9.9%	12.5%	12.7%	15.0%	1.9%	10.8%
Haines Borough	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%
Juneau Borough	4.9%	5.3%	3.9%	1.4%	5.5%	4.9%	5.2%	4.1%	1.3%	5.8%
Ketchikan Borough	2.2%	2.4%	2.2%	0.4%	2.1%	2.5%	2.7%	2.2%	0.2%	2.5%
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	1.0%	0.8%	2.4%	0.1%	0.2%	1.1%	0.9%	2.7%	0.0%	0.1%
Sitka Borough	1.4%	1.4%	1.8%	0.2%	1.3%	1.6%	1.5%	2.1%	0.2%	1.7%
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	0.5%	0.5%	1.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.7%	0.5%	1.6%	0.0%	0.1%
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	0.1%	0.6%	1.3%	1.3%	1.6%	0.1%	0.5%
Yakutat Borough	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Southwest Region	6.3%	1.8%	25.2%	1.5%	8.0%	7.0%	2.9%	27.4%	3.7%	8.3%
Aleutians East Borough	0.4%	0.2%	1.0%	0.2%	2.4%	0.4%	0.2%	1.2%	0.1%	2.4%
Aleutians West Census Area	0.9%	0.5%	1.1%	0.8%	4.7%	1.7%	1.6%	1.3%	3.0%	5.1%
Bethel Census Area	2.6%	0.5%	12.1%	0.4%	0.6%	2.5%	0.5%	13.2%	0.3%	0.5%
Bristol Bay Borough	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%
Dillingham Census Area	0.8%	0.3%	3.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.7%	0.2%	3.4%	0.0%	0.1%
Lake & Peninsula Borough	0.3%	0.1%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	1.5%	0.0%	0.1%
Wade Hampton Census Area	1.1%	0.1%	5.9%	0.0%	0.1%	1.1%	0.1%	6.3%	0.1%	0.1%

Sources: Census 2000; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

lows: Anchorage Municipality (21.6%, +4.5%), Bethel Census Area (12.1%, -1.1%), Fairbanks North Star Borough (6.5%, +0.2%), Nome Census Area (6.4%, -0.7%), Wade Hampton Census Area (5.9%, -0.3%), Northwest Arctic Borough (5.5%, -0.6%), North Slope Borough (4.8%, -0.3%), Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (4.3%, -1.1%), Kenai Peninsula Borough (4.1%, +0.7%), Mat-Su Borough (3.9%, +1.6%), Juneau Borough (3.9%, -0.1%) and Dillingham Census Area (3.3%, -0.1%). Clearly, the Alaska Native population is gradually becoming more concentrated in the more urban areas of Alaska.

Area Name	ETHNICITY	
	Hispanic or Latino	
	April 1 2000	April 1 1990
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	63.0%	56.3%
Anchorage Municipality	57.2%	52.0%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	5.7%	4.2%
Gulf Coast Region	8.6%	9.3%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	4.2%	4.1%
Kodiak Island Borough	3.3%	3.7%
Valdez Cordova CA	1.1%	1.5%
Interior Region	14.4%	17.7%
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	13.3%	16.2%
Southeast Fairbanks CA	0.6%	1.0%
Denali Borough	0.2%	0.2%
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	0.3%	0.3%
Northern Region	1.3%	1.5%
Nome Census Area	0.4%	0.6%
North Slope Borough	0.7%	0.7%
Northwest Arctic Borough	0.2%	0.2%
Southeast Region	8.0%	8.9%
Haines Borough	0.1%	0.2%
Juneau Borough	4.0%	4.2%
Ketchikan Borough	1.4%	1.6%
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	0.4%	0.7%
Sitka Borough	1.1%	1.2%
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	0.4%	0.3%
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	0.5%	0.7%
Yakutat Borough	0.0%	0.1%
Southwest Region	4.7%	6.4%
Aleutians East Borough	1.3%	1.0%
Aleutians West Census Area	2.2%	4.2%
Bethel Census Area	0.5%	0.4%
Bristol Bay Borough	0.0%	0.2%
Dillingham Census Area	0.4%	0.3%
Lake & Peninsula Borough	0.1%	0.2%
Wade Hampton Census Area	0.1%	0.1%

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographic Unit

Asian and Hispanic populations are distributed in much the same manner as the White population, but with some differences. Asians are more concentrated in Anchorage and in coastal areas because of a historical association with fish processing. In 2000, 84% of the Asian population lived in five borough/census areas. The share of Alaska's Asian and Pacific Island population and its change since 1990 are as follows: Anchorage Municipality (58.2%, +3.0%), Fairbanks North Star Borough (7.7%, -2.5%), Kodiak Island Borough (7.6%, -0.1%), Juneau Borough (5.5%, -0.3%), and Aleutians West Census Area (4.7%, 0.4%). In the last decade, the greatest change has been the share of Asians in Anchorage.

As with the country as a whole, the Hispanic population has increased substantially in the last decade. In 2000, 90% of the Hispanic or Latino population was found in seven borough/census areas. The share of Alaska's Hispanic or Latino population and its change since 1990 are as follows: Anchorage Municipality (57.0%, +5.2%), Fairbanks North Star Borough (13.3%, -2.9%), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (5.7%, +1.5%), Kenai Peninsula Borough (4.2%, +0.1%), Juneau Borough (4.0%, -0.2%), Kodiak Peninsula Borough (3.3%, -0.4%), and Aleutians West Census Area (2.2%, -2.0%). Hispanics and Asians are next to African Americans in their degree of concentration in Anchorage.

Summary

Changed definitions of race and the inclusion of multi-race occur in a time of increasing racial and cultural diversity. A declining share of Alaska's population is Non-Hispanic White. A noticeable proportion of all races other than White consider themselves to be multi-race. Alaska Natives, Asians and Hispanics account for over half of the growth in the state's population during the last decade. Finally, it is clear that that growth has occurred disproportionately in the more populated areas of the state.

Note: Race Alone and Race Alone or in combination counts for boroughs and census areas are available on-line from the AKDOL Research and Analysis web site or from Census.gov (American Factfinder).