

# Education in Alaska

by  
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## Attainment in higher education declines, but remains above national average

**T**he everyday view of education focuses on the young and what they are learning in school. This article presents an historical perspective of Alaska's population and the changes in the educational profile of generations. Like tree rings, a population's education profile records the climate that affects it. When socio-economic conditions are favorable, educational levels tend to rise. When they are not, this growth is stunted.

The availability or absence of a well-educated population has a profound impact on the ability of a community to attract and retain economic resources. Alaska's economic strength and vitality depend on the capacity to build and maintain a skilled and educated workforce. If the number of skilled workers declines, Alaska will be unable to compete with other states in attracting industry and creating new employment opportunities, and well educated Alaskans will look outside the state for employment.

### GI bill, pipeline, baby boom change the educational landscape

Many factors can rapidly change the educational profile of a community, including changing socio-economic conditions and migration. When new, younger workers are attracted to Alaska due to rapid economic growth, they tend to come with a higher level of education than the resident older

population. During the 1970s and early 1980s as pipeline construction and the oil boom fueled rapid economic growth, a windfall of well educated "baby boomers" came to Alaska. Prior to the end of World War II and the GI bill, a college education was uncommon in America; consequently, populations with larger proportions of older adults show a lower educational level than relatively younger communities.

The 2000 census gives an up-to-date picture of Alaska's ever-changing educational profile. Alaska has ranked first among states in high school

## Educational Attainment Alaska and U.S.

Persons age 25 and over

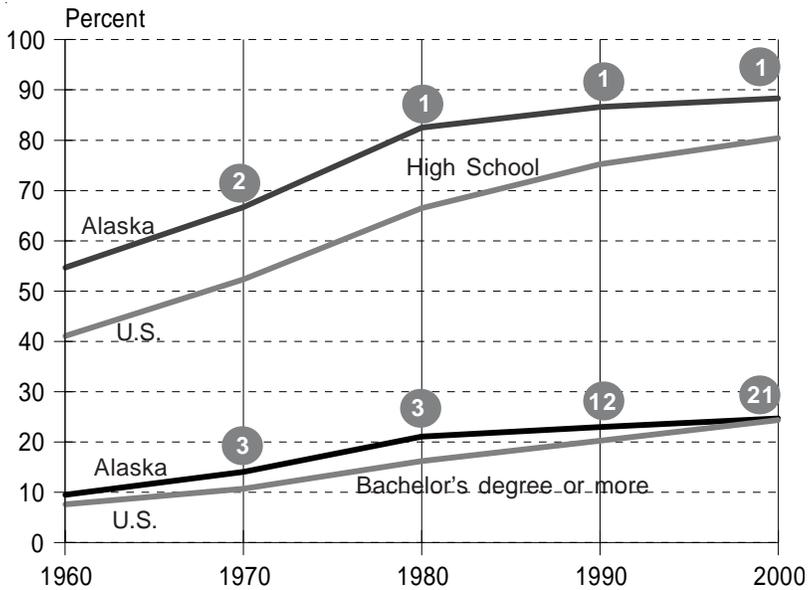
	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960
<u>High School diploma or more</u>					
United States	80.4%	75.2%	66.5%	52.3%	41.1%
Alaska	88.3%	86.6%	82.5%	66.7%	54.7%
Alaska Rank	1	1	1	2	—
<u>Bachelor's degree or more</u>					
United States	24.4%	20.3%	16.2%	10.7%	7.6%
Alaska	24.7%	23.0%	21.1%	14.1%	9.5%
Alaska Rank	21	12	3	3	—

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

## 2 Education Level Completed

### U.S. and Alaska, 1960–2000

Persons age 25 and over



1 Alaska Rank among states

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

educational attainment since 1980. This is largely due to the state's relatively small older population and the large influx of young adults that came during the pipeline era. The percentage of Alaskans 25 years and older who hold a high school diploma or better has increased steadily from 54.7 percent at the time of statehood to 88.3 percent at the turn of the century. (See Exhibits 1 and 2.) During that same period, the corresponding figure for the U.S. rose from 41.1 percent to 80.4 percent.

### Educational attainment in Alaska and U.S.

Alaska compares favorably with the nation in the percentage of its population that hold high school diplomas (or equivalent), bachelor's or master's degrees. (See Exhibit 3.) However, at the highest educational levels, Alaska's population has a below average share of professional and doctoral degree holders: only 1.8 percent of Alaskans have

## 3 Educational Attainment by Sex

### Alaska 2000

Persons age 25 and over

	Total	% of Total	Male	% of Males	% Male	Female	% of Females	% Female
College, Graduate and Professional training:	93,807	24.7	47,150	24.1	50.3	46,657	25.4	49.7
Doctoral degree	3,288	0.9	2,114	1.1	64.3	1,174	0.6	35.7
Professional school degree	6,738	1.8	4,235	2.2	62.9	2,503	1.4	37.1
Master's degree	22,585	6.0	11,252	5.8	49.8	11,333	6.2	50.2
Bachelor's degree	61,196	16.1	29,549	15.1	48.3	31,647	17.2	51.7
Some college training:	135,655	35.7	68,160	34.8	50.2	67,495	36.7	49.8
Associate degree	27,213	7.2	13,528	6.9	49.7	13,685	7.4	50.3
Some college, 1 or more years, no degree	73,480	19.4	37,771	19.3	51.4	35,709	19.4	48.6
Some college less than 1 year	34,962	9.2	16,861	8.6	48.2	18,101	9.8	51.8
High school graduate or less:	150,094	39.5	80,366	41.1	53.5	69,728	37.9	46.5
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	105,812	27.9	57,375	29.3	54.2	48,437	26.3	45.8
Some High School, no diploma	28,619	7.5	15,407	7.9	53.8	13,212	7.2	46.2
Less than 9 years	15,663	4.1	7,584	3.9	48.4	8,079	4.4	51.6
Total Population 25 years and over	379,556	100.0	195,676	100.0	51.6	183,880	100.0	48.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

professional degrees compared to 2.6 percent for the U.S., and only 0.9 percent have doctoral degrees, compared to a national average of 1.4 percent. These differences are likely due to labor market forces and the occupational mix in Alaska versus the rest of the U.S.

### Alaska loses ground in holders of advanced degrees, relatively

Although the percentage of Alaskans holding bachelor, graduate or professional degrees increased during the 1970 – 2000 period, Alaska lost ground when compared to other states. In 1970, Alaska was third highest in its proportion of people holding bachelor’s or advanced degrees. Alaska’s relative position began slipping following the 1986 oil market collapse. By 1990 Alaska ranked 12<sup>th</sup>. In 2000 the state slipped to 21<sup>st</sup> place, with 24.7 percent of the population holding a bachelor’s degree or higher, barely above the national average of 24.4 percent.

Both internal and external forces contributed to Alaska’s inability to maintain its rank among states as one of the highest in advanced degree attainment. The nation’s high-tech, high-wage, growth of the 1990s largely passed Alaska by, resulting in fewer highly educated migrants to the state. During the 1990-2000 decade, Alaska saw a loss of high paying, traditionally education-intensive jobs in the federal government and oil and gas industry sectors. The pace and nature of future economic growth will determine whether Alaska will retain its post-secondary graduates as well as attract graduates from the lower 48.

### Fewer Alaskans have less than 9 years of school

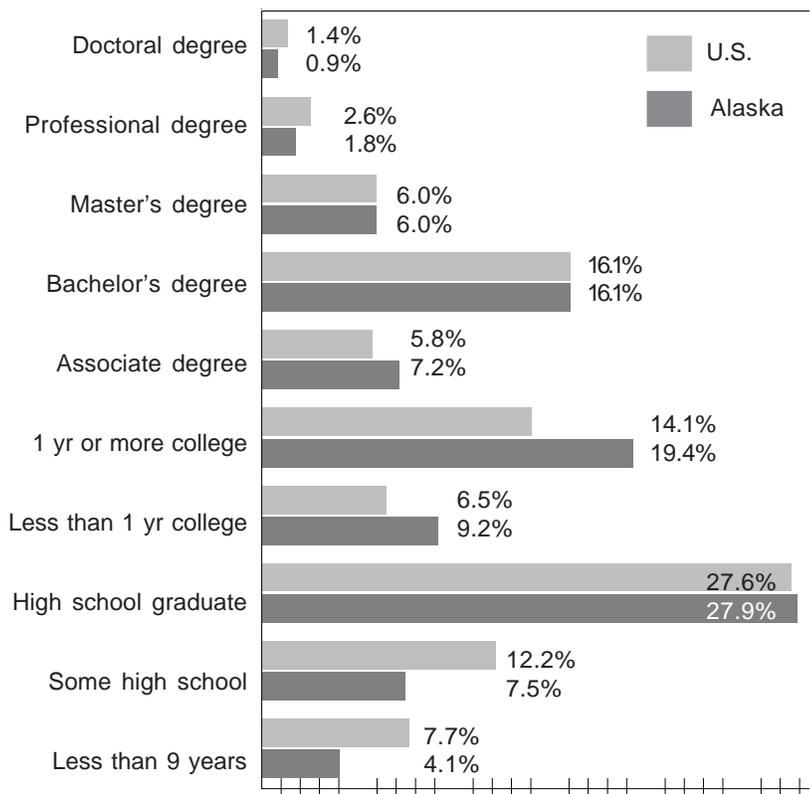
In 2000, 4.1 percent of Alaskans had less than 9 years of education compared to 7.7 percent for the U.S.; and 7.5 percent of Alaskans had not completed high school compared to 12.2 percent for the U.S. as a whole. (See Exhibits 3 and 4.)

These differences may be due to the relative youth of Alaska’s population, but are more likely due to the nation’s higher dropout rates.

Alaska and the U.S. differ most in the area of post-secondary education: 19.4 percent of Alaskans have more than one year of college but no degree, compared 14.1 percent for the U.S. This may suggest that Alaskans are better educated than the U.S. population at all levels below bachelor’s degree. It depicts substantial numbers of Alaskans doing some college level work, but not obtaining degrees. Some of these students may have earned technical certificates.

## Education Level Completed 2000 Percent distribution, Alaska and U.S. 4

Persons age 25 and over



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Educational attainment for men and women

Few educational differences exist between men and women. Women have slightly higher overall education levels. The greatest difference is in advanced degrees, where two-thirds of all doctoral and professional degrees are held by men. (See Exhibit 3.)

## Educational trends by age, 1990-2000

For insight into the educational contribution made by different generations of Alaskans we can compare the education of different age groups. (See Exhibits 5 – 10.)

Census numbers show that the average educational level of Alaskans has increased over the past decade. In 1990, there were 102,219 Alaskans age 25 to 34 with a high school or better education, while in 2000, this age group (now 35 to 44 years old) numbered 104,878 persons. During the same period, the number of persons with bachelor's degree or better among these age groups increased from 20,500 to 26,548 and the share with bachelor's degrees or better increased from 18.1 percent to 22.9 percent. Either a substantial number of students went on to complete their bachelor's degrees during the decade, or people with bachelor's degrees moved into the state.

# 5 Educational Attainment by Age Alaska 1990 and 2000

	2000				1990			
	Total 18 Yrs +	High School and +	% of Education Level	% of Age Group	Total 18 Yrs +	High School and +	% of Education Level	% of Age Group
18 to 24 years	56,869	43,748	11.5	76.9	54,926	44,343	13.7	80.7
25 to 34 years	89,209	81,282	21.4	91.1	113,474	102,219	31.5	90.1
35 to 44 years	115,694	104,878	27.7	90.7	102,490	95,265	29.4	93.0
35 to 54 years	—	—	—	—	158,516	145,703	—	91.9
55 years or more	—	—	—	—	51,439	34,243	—	66.6
45 to 64 years	139,560	125,452	33.1	89.9	85,306	69,378	21.4	81.3
65 years or more	35,093	23,662	6.2	67.4	22,159	13,323	4.1	60.1
Total 18 years old or over	436,425	379,022	100.0		378,355	324,528	100.0	
	Total 18 Yrs +	Bachelor's Degree and +	% of Education Level	% of Age Group	Total 18 Yrs +	Bachelor's Degree and +	% of Education Level	% of Age Group
18 to 24 years	56,869	2,273	2.4	4.0	54,926	2,281	3.0	4.2
25 to 34 years	89,209	19,012	19.8	21.3	113,474	20,500	26.7	18.1
35 to 44 years	115,694	26,548	27.6	22.9	102,490	29,775	38.8	29.1
35 to 54 years	—	—	—	—	158,516	45,652	—	28.8
55 years or more	—	—	—	—	51,439	8,345	—	16.2
45 to 64 years	139,560	42,179	43.9	30.2	85,306	21,370	27.8	25.1
65 years or more	35,093	6,068	6.3	17.3	22,159	2,852	3.7	12.9
Total 18 years old or over	436,425	96,080	50.2		378,355	76,778	100.0	31.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In 1990, there were 8,345 persons 55 and over with a bachelor's degree or better, accounting for 16.2 percent of the age group. In 2000, this group had shrunk to 6,068, but as a percentage had increased to 17.3 percent. Deaths accounted for 35 percent of the reduction of the 65 years and over cohort, and migration the other 65 percent. This apparent anomaly is the result of the fact that persons with less education tend to have higher mortality rates than those better educated. Also, larger numbers of educated Alaskans may have remained in Alaska after retirement.

### Time molds age groups

Another way of looking at the changing educational levels of Alaska's population is to look directly at the relative size of the age groups over time. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of persons 18-24 at any level of education remained a fairly constant share of the population.

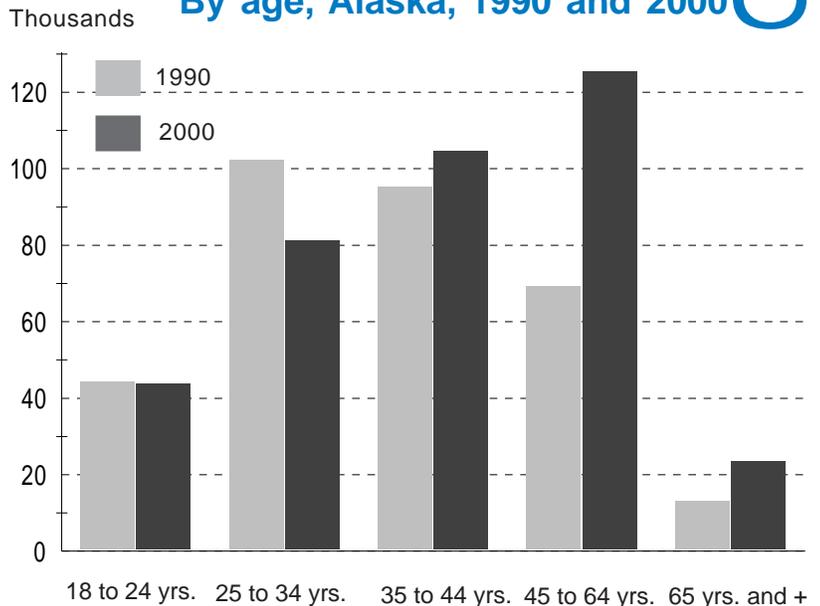
The large influx of "baby boomers" in the late 1970s and early 1980s has had lasting impact. In 1990, 61 percent of all holders of a high school diploma or better, and 66 percent with a bachelor's degree or better were between 25 and 44 years old. Because no similar influx of population followed this brief boom, by 2000 only 49 percent of all persons with high school diplomas or better and 47 percent with bachelor's degrees or better were age 25 to 44. Over half of all persons with bachelor's, graduate or professional degrees were over 45 in 2000.

### Smaller share of Alaskans lack high school diploma

One last observation from the age data involves the percent of the population with less than a high school diploma. Alaska's proportion of persons with less than a high school diploma is substantially below the national average, and that proportion has declined in most age groups over the decade.

## High School Education or more

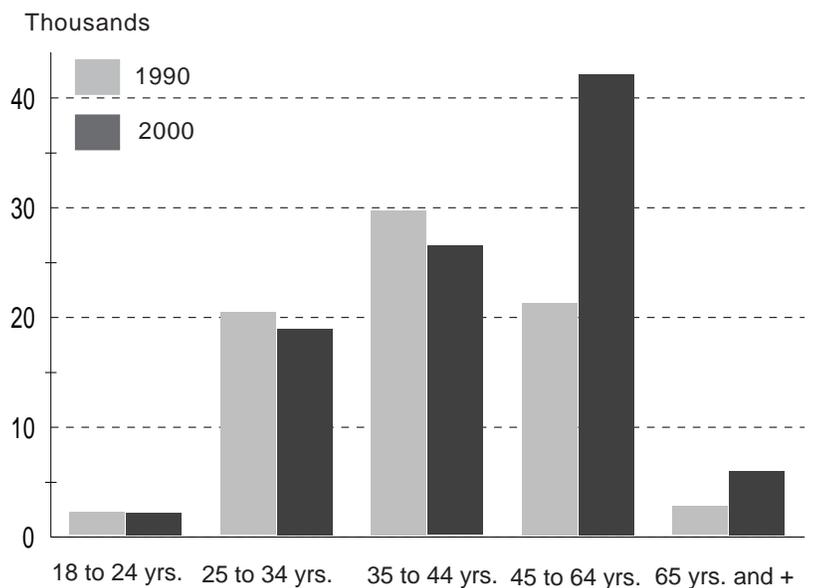
### By age, Alaska, 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

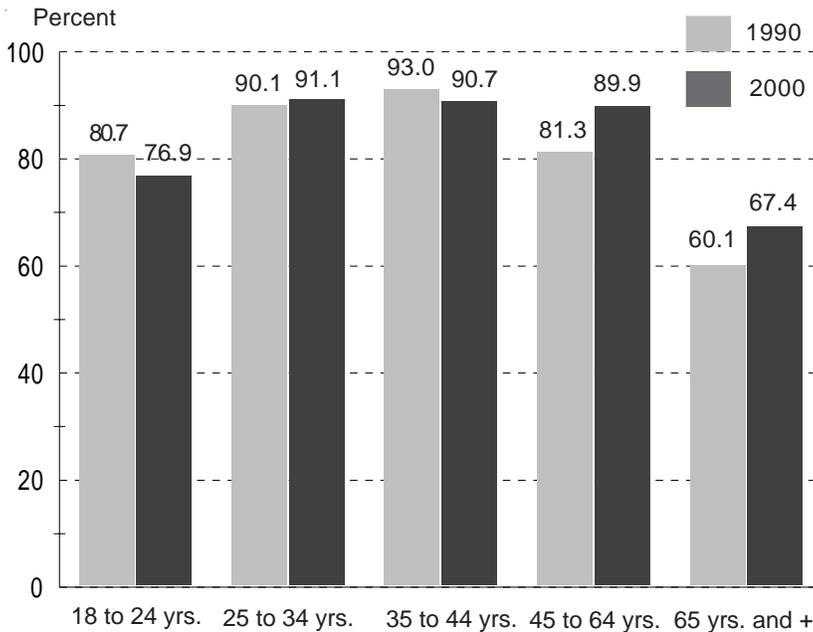
## Holders of Advanced Degrees

### By age, Alaska, 1990 and 2000



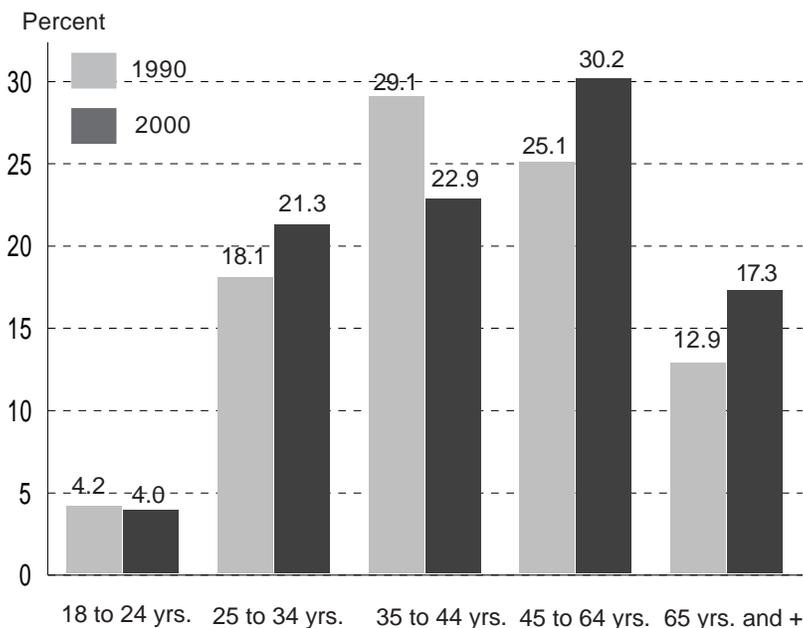
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## 8 High School Education or more Percent by age, Alaska, 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## 9 Percent with Advanced Degrees By age, Alaska, 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Two age groups are exceptions: ages 35 to 44, where the proportion increased from 7.0 percent in 1990 to 9.3 percent in 2000, and ages 18 to 24 where the proportion increased from 19.2 percent in 1990 to 23.1 percent in 2000.

### Geographic distribution of education

Education levels vary across the state. (See Exhibits 12 and 13.) In both 1990 and 2000, the rural, mainly Alaska Native areas have the lowest proportions of persons with a high school diploma or better. In 2000, the Northern, Southwestern and Interior areas averaged about 72 percent of the population with a high school diploma or better, compared to the statewide average of about 87 percent.

However, these rural areas have made the greatest gains in educational attainment during the past decade. These areas gained more than six percentage points for those with a high school diploma or better since 1990, compared to a gain of only one percentage point statewide. Southeast and Valdez-Cordova gained over five percentage points. In contrast, Anchorage Municipality, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Southeast Fairbanks census area, Bristol Bay Borough and Aleutians West census area, all declined in their percentage of persons who had a high school diploma or better during the last decade. Aleutians West is not comparable because of population loss due to the closing of Adak Naval Station.

### Education by race and ethnicity

Statistics on education by race and ethnicity are shown in Exhibits 11 and 14. Statewide the proportion of the population 25 years and over with a high school diploma or better in 2000 was 88.3%.

Exact comparison of 1990 and 2000 statistics are not possible because, for the first time, the 2000 questionnaire allowed for the choice of multiple races. Since 1990, the percentage obtaining

advanced degrees has increased by 1.7 percent statewide. Alaska Natives or American Indians showed the largest increase, almost 9 percentage points for the decade. Whites increased by 1.4 percentage points while Black or African Americans showed no change. In contrast, Asians and Hispanics both declined by over 2 percentage points since 1990. Higher immigration for these two groups in the 1990s may have contributed to this decline.

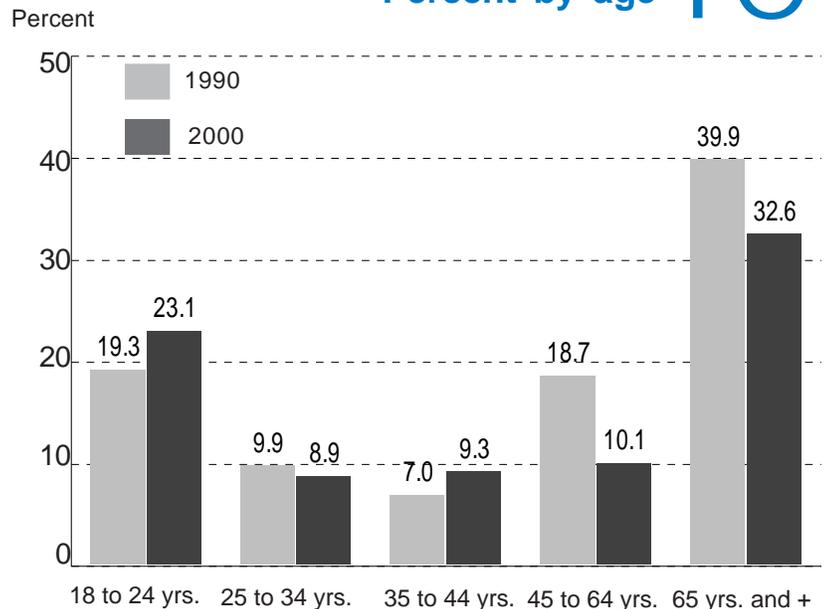
In 2000, the statewide proportion of population with a bachelor's or better was 24.7 percent. For Whites it was 29.3 percent, Asians 21.2 percent, Black or African American 14.9 percent, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 9.7 percent and Alaska Native or American Indian 6.0 percent.

The statewide change in bachelor's degree or better since 1990 is 1.7 percentage points. Whites increased the most with 2.5 percentage points; Alaska Native by 1.7 percentage points; Blacks or African Americans increased by 0.8, and Hispanics by 0.7 percentage points. Asians had almost no change with a -0.1 percentage point decline.

## Conclusions

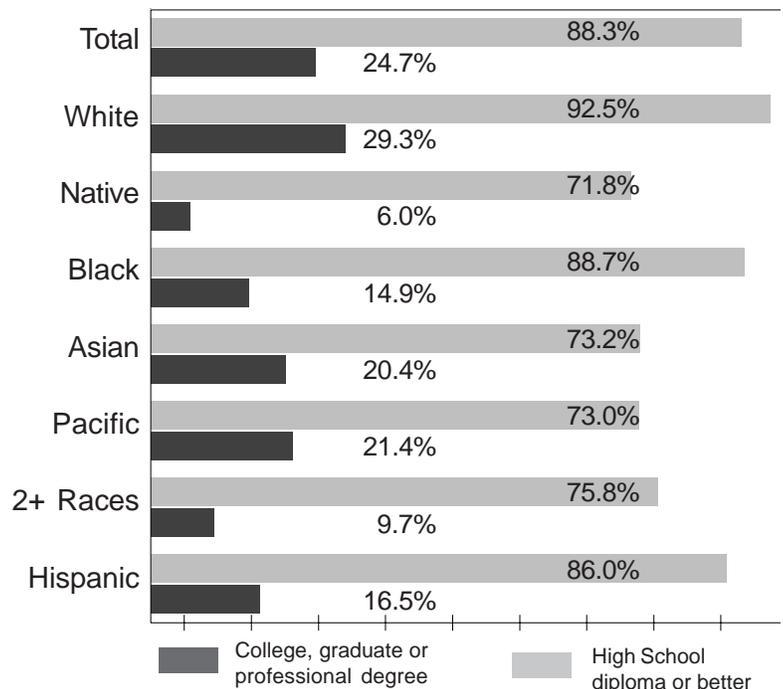
Alaska has prospered for the last quarter of a century in part due to large numbers of well-educated persons attracted to the state by high salaries and job opportunities associated with the oil boom. Although Alaska's overall education levels have continued to improve in absolute terms since that time, the state has lost ground relative to the rest of the U.S due to changing economic conditions and the age profile of the state. As substantial numbers of the well educated "pipeline generation" retire, Alaska will face challenges attracting and retaining a well educated workforce.

## Less Than High School Grad 10 Percent by age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Educational Attainment 11 By race and ethnicity, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# 12 Educational Attainment by Region and Census Area

## Persons age 18 and older, Alaska, 1990 and 2000

	2000		1990		2000			1990			
	Total	Share of State	Total	Change in Number	Less than High School Diploma	Per-cent	Share of State	Less than High School Diploma	Per-cent	Change in Number	Change in %
Alaska	436,425	100.0	378,355	58,070	57,403	13.2	100.0	53,827	14.2	3,576	-1.1
Anchorage Mat-Su Region	224,874	51.5	185,835	39,039	26,220	11.7	45.7	20,492	11.0	5,728	0.6
Anchorage Borough	184,645	42.3	159,923	24,722	20,586	11.1	35.9	16,979	10.6	3,607	0.5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,229	9.2	25,912	14,317	5,634	14.0	9.8	3,513	13.6	2,121	0.4
Gulf Coast Region	51,359	11.8	43,672	7,687	6,868	13.4	12.0	6,743	15.4	125	-2.1
Kenai Peninsula Borough	34,806	8.0	27,398	7,408	4,531	13.0	7.9	4,063	14.8	468	-1.8
Kodiak Island Borough	9,387	2.2	9,213	174	1,452	15.5	2.5	1,467	15.9	-15	-0.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	7,166	1.6	7,061	105	885	12.3	1.5	1,213	17.2	-328	-4.8
Interior Region	67,797	15.5	62,842	4,955	7,510	11.1	13.1	7,742	12.3	-232	-1.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	57,958	13.3	53,523	4,435	5,581	9.6	9.7	5,766	10.8	-185	-1.1
Southeast Fairbanks CA	4,149	1.0	3,797	352	630	15.2	1.1	522	13.7	108	1.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,690	1.3	5,522	168	1,299	22.8	2.3	1,454	26.3	-155	-3.5
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	4,252	1.0	—	—	1,175	27.6	2.0	—	—	—	—
Denali Borough	1,438	0.3	—	—	124	8.6	0.2	—	—	—	—
Northern Region	14,586	3.3	12,324	2,262	3,908	26.8	6.8	4,221	34.3	-313	-7.5
Nome Census Area	5,795	1.3	5,126	669	1,590	27.4	2.8	1,778	34.7	-188	-7.2
North Slope Borough	4,564	1.0	3,727	837	1,070	23.4	1.9	1,199	32.2	-129	-8.7
Northwest Arctic Borough	4,227	1.0	3,471	756	1,248	29.5	2.2	1,244	35.8	4	-6.3
Southeast Region	52,627	12.1	48,090	4,537	5,912	11.2	10.3	7,545	15.7	-1,633	-4.5
Haines Borough	1,773	0.4	1,521	252	212	12.0	0.4	349	22.9	-137	-11.0
Juneau Borough	22,247	5.1	18,868	3,379	1,738	7.8	3.0	2,253	11.9	-515	-4.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	10,096	2.3	9,691	405	1,310	13.0	2.3	1,549	16.0	-239	-3.0
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	4,248	1.0	4,237	11	746	17.6	1.3	1,013	23.9	-267	-6.3
Sitka Borough	6,466	1.5	5,970	496	659	10.2	1.1	796	13.3	-137	-3.1
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	3,100	0.7	2,949	151	523	16.9	0.9	658	22.3	-135	-5.4
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	2,514	0.6	—	—	430	17.1	0.7	—	—	—	—
Yakutat Borough	586	0.1	—	—	93	15.9	0.2	—	—	—	—
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	4,697	1.1	4,854	-157	724	15.4	1.3	927	19.1	-203	-3.7
Southwest Region	25,182	5.8	25,592	-410	6,985	27.7	12.2	7,084	27.7	-99	0.1
Aleutians East Borough	2,264	0.5	1,931	333	570	25.2	1.0	633	32.8	-63	-7.6
Aleutians West Census Area	4,531	1.0	7,578	-3,047	1,010	22.3	1.8	1,022	13.5	-12	8.8
Bethel Census Area	9,615	2.2	8,337	1,278	2,885	30.0	5.0	2,966	35.6	-81	-5.6
Bristol Bay Borough	865	0.2	1,029	-164	112	12.9	0.2	104	10.1	8	2.8
Dillingham Census Area	3,027	0.7	2,517	510	732	24.2	1.3	731	29.0	1	-4.9
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,131	0.3	1,044	87	332	29.4	0.6	413	39.6	-81	-10.2
Wade Hampton Census Area	3,749	0.9	3,156	593	1,344	35.8	2.3	1,215	38.5	129	-2.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Educational Attainment by Region and Census Area 12

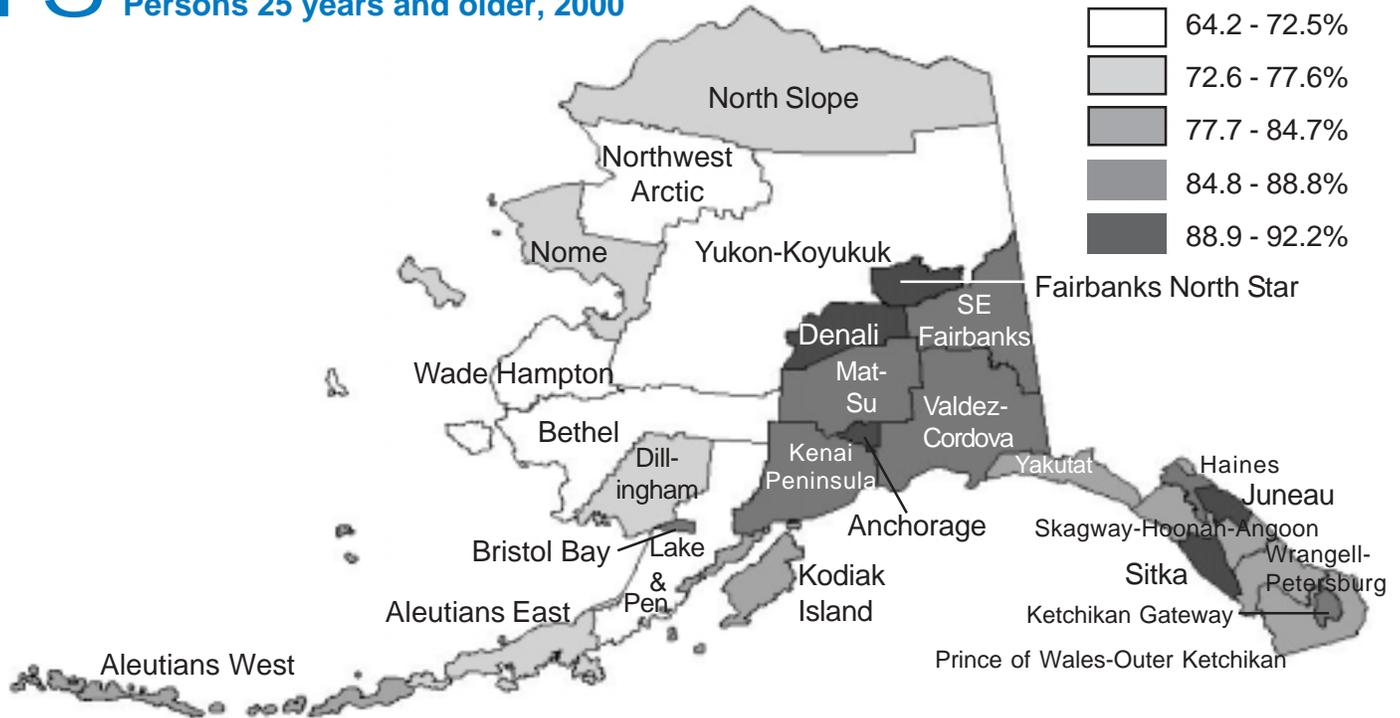
Persons age 18 and older, Alaska, 1990 and 2000 (continued)

	2000		1990		Change in Number	% Change	2000			1990			Change in Number	% Change
	High School Diploma or More	Per- cent	High School Diploma or More	Per- cent			Bachelor's Degree or More	Per- cent	Share of State	Bachelor's Degree or More	Per- cent			
Alaska	379,022	86.8	324,528	85.8	54,494	1.1	96,080	22.0	100.0	76,778	20.3	19,302	1.7	
Anchorage Mat-Su Region	198,654	88.3	165,343	89.0	33,311	-0.6	53,945	24.0	56.1	42,189	22.7	11,756	1.3	
Anchorage Borough	164,059	88.9	142,944	89.4	21,115	-0.5	47,327	25.6	49.3	37,887	23.7	9,440	1.9	
Matanuska-Susitna Bor.	34,595	86.0	22,399	86.4	12,196	-0.4	6,618	16.5	6.9	4,302	16.6	2,316	-0.2	
Gulf Coast Region	44,491	86.6	36,929	84.6	7,562	2.1	9,443	18.4	9.8	7,422	17.0	2,021	1.4	
Kenai Peninsula Borough	30,275	87.0	23,335	85.2	6,940	1.8	6,453	18.5	6.7	4,462	16.3	1,991	2.3	
Kodiak Island Borough	7,935	84.5	7,746	84.1	189	0.5	1,592	17.0	1.7	1,741	18.9	-149	-1.9	
Valdez-Cordova CA	6,281	87.7	5,848	82.8	433	4.8	1,398	19.5	1.5	1,219	17.3	179	2.2	
Interior Region	60,287	88.9	55,100	87.7	5,187	1.2	14,945	22.0	15.6	12,655	20.1	2,290	1.9	
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	52,377	90.4	47,757	89.2	4,620	1.1	13,402	23.1	13.9	11,322	21.2	2,080	2.0	
Southeast Fairbanks CA	3,519	84.8	3,275	86.3	244	-1.4	703	16.9	0.7	634	16.7	69	0.2	
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	4,391	77.2	4,068	73.7	323	3.5	840	14.8	0.9	699	12.7	141	2.1	
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	3,077	72.4	—	—	—	—	532	12.5	0.6	—	—	—	—	
Denali Borough	1,314	91.4	—	—	—	—	308	21.4	0.3	—	—	—	—	
Northern Region	10,678	73.2	8,103	65.7	2,575	7.5	1,898	13.0	2.0	1,443	11.7	455	1.3	
Nome Census Area	4,205	72.6	3,348	65.3	857	7.2	764	13.2	0.8	624	12.2	140	1.0	
North Slope Borough	3,494	76.6	2,528	67.8	966	8.7	665	14.6	0.7	469	12.6	196	2.0	
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,979	70.5	2,227	64.2	752	6.3	469	11.1	0.5	350	10.1	119	1.0	
Southeast Region	46,715	88.8	40,545	84.3	6,170	4.5	13,159	25.0	13.7	10,193	21.2	2,966	3.8	
Haines Borough	1,561	88.0	1,172	77.1	389	11.0	403	22.7	0.4	257	16.9	146	5.8	
Juneau Borough	20,509	92.2	16,615	88.1	3,894	4.1	7,318	32.9	7.6	5,286	28.0	2,032	4.9	
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,786	87.0	8,142	84.0	644	3.0	1,856	18.4	1.9	1,762	18.2	94	0.2	
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	3,502	82.4	3,224	76.1	278	6.3	538	12.7	0.6	432	10.2	106	2.5	
Sitka Borough	5,807	89.8	5,174	86.7	633	3.1	1,729	26.7	1.8	1,154	19.3	575	7.4	
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon CA	2,577	83.1	2,291	77.7	286	5.4	590	19.0	0.6	420	14.2	170	4.8	
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	2,084	82.9	—	—	—	—	498	19.8	0.5	—	—	—	—	
Yakutat Borough	493	84.1	—	—	—	—	92	15.7	0.1	—	—	—	—	
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,973	84.6	3,927	80.9	46	3.7	725	15.4	0.8	882	18.2	-157	-2.7	
Southwest Region	18,197	72.3	18,508	72.3	-311	-0.1	2,690	10.7	2.8	2,876	11.2	-186	-0.6	
Aleutians East Borough	1,694	74.8	1,298	67.2	396	7.6	99	4.4	0.1	211	10.9	-112	-6.6	
Aleutians West Census Area	3,521	77.7	6,556	86.5	-3,035	-8.8	472	10.4	0.5	857	11.3	-385	-0.9	
Bethel Census Area	6,730	70.0	5,371	64.4	1,359	5.6	1,086	11.3	1.1	916	11.0	170	0.3	
Bristol Bay Borough	753	87.1	925	89.9	-172	-2.8	170	19.7	0.2	172	16.7	-2	2.9	
Dillingham Census Area	2,295	75.8	1,786	71.0	509	4.9	448	14.8	0.5	333	13.2	115	1.6	
Lake & Peninsula Borough	799	70.6	631	60.4	168	10.2	129	11.4	0.1	130	12.5	-1	-1.0	
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,405	64.2	1,941	61.5	464	2.6	286	7.6	0.3	257	8.1	29	-0.5	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# 13 Percent with High School Diploma or Better

Persons 25 years and older, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# 14 Educational Attainment

Percent by race and ethnicity

	High School diploma or better			College, Graduate or Professional Degree		
	2000	1990	Change	2000	1990	Change
<b>Total</b>	88.3	86.6	1.7	24.7	23.0	1.7
<i>Race</i>						
White	92.5	91.1	1.4	29.3	26.8	2.5
Native	71.8	63.1	8.7	6.0	4.1	1.9
Black	88.7	88.2	0.5	14.9	14.1	0.8
Asian & Pacific	73.2	75.4	-2.2	20.4	20.5	-0.1
Asian	73.0	—	—	21.2	—	—
Pacific	75.8	—	—	9.7	—	—
2+ Races	86.0	—	—	16.5	—	—
<i>Ethnicity</i>						
Hispanic	78.3	80.4	-2.1	15.3	14.6	0.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau