

Highlights:

Alaska Population Overview: 1995 Estimates

by Greg Williams

Alaska Population Overview: 1995 Estimates, to be released in July, covers a wealth of information about Alaska's population, including the state's households and living arrangements discussed below in 1990 and 1995 estimates.

Alaska Households and Living Arrangements in 1995

The census counts all persons as living in either households or group quarters. In 1990, some 232,608 housing units were counted in Alaska, 188,915 of which were occupied; that is, they contained a household. Vacant housing units totaled 43,693. The number of per-

sons per household in Alaska was 2.93 in 1990, slightly larger than the U.S. average of 2.63. Households are broken down into family households and nonfamily households. A household containing a householder and one or more persons related by birth or marriage makes up a family household. A household composed of a group of unrelated individuals or one person living alone is considered a nonfamily household. In addition, some 20,701 persons lived in group quarters in Alaska in 1990. Group quarters are either institutional, such as prisons, nursing homes or military barracks, or they are other living quarters where 10 or more unrelated individuals live. This latter category may include rooming houses, group homes, college

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Population and Households by Type, 1980, 1990, 1995

	1995	Percent	1990	Percent	1980	Percent
Universe: Population						
Total Population	615,900		550,043		401,851	
Population in Group Quarters	17,406		20,701		16,260	
Population in Households	598,494		529,342		385,591	
Persons Per Household	2.79		2.80		2.93	
Universe: Households						
Total Households	214,744	100.0	188,915	100.0	131,463	100.0
Family Households	149,850	69.8	132,837	70.3	95,564	72.7
Married Couple Families	118,184	55.0	106,079	56.2	80,344	61.1
With Children *	71,533	33.3	64,720	34.3	50,577	38.5
Other Families	31,666	14.7	26,758	14.2	15,220	11.6
Male Householder	10,058	4.7	8,529	4.5	4,948	3.8
With Children *	6,973	3.2	5,749	3.0	2,810	2.1
Female Householder	21,608	10.1	18,229	9.6	10,272	7.8
With Children *	17,435	8.1	14,625	7.7	7,973	6.1
Nonfamily Households	64,894	30.2	56,078	29.7	35,899	27.3
Householder Living Alone	48,515	22.6	41,826	22.1	26,467	20.1
Two or more persons	16,379	7.6	14,252	7.5	9,432	7.2

*1990: with related children; 1980: With own children under 18.

Source: U.S. Census of Population and Housing, 1990, 1980. Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section, Demographics Unit.

dorms, emergency shelters, or logging and fish processing camps. Because of military cutbacks, the number of persons living in group quarters in Alaska dropped to 17,406 in 1995. The numbers of persons in households of different types and group quarters appear in Table 1.

Some 529,342 persons lived in 188,915 households in Alaska in 1990. Of that population, 454,726 persons, or 82.7%, lived in 132,837 family households. The remaining 74,616 persons, or 13.6%, lived in 56,078 nonfamily households. Overall, 70.3% of all households were family households, and 29.7% are nonfamily households. By 1995, Alaska's households had increased to an estimated 214,744. Of these, 149,850, or 69.8%, were estimated to be family households, and 64,894, or 30.2%, nonfamily households. Comparatively, in 1994, 70.6% of all households nationwide were family households, and 29.5% were nonfamily households. Both in the U.S. and Alaska, the proportion of persons in family households continues to decline.

Family households are made up of husband-wife, male-headed and female-headed households. A married-couple household is a family in which the householder and spouse are counted as members of the same household. Male- and female-headed households consist of a single adult head and at least one younger or older dependent. Of the 132,837 family households in 1990, 106,079 were husband-wife, 8,529 were male-headed and 18,229 were female-headed. These comprised 56.2%, 4.5% and 9.6% of all households respectively. In 1995, there were an estimated 118,184 married-couple family households, 21,608 female-headed family households and 10,058 male-headed family households in Alaska. These make up 55.0%, 10.1% and 4.7% of all households respectively. Alaska households are only slightly less likely to contain single-parent families, but these families are more likely to be male-headed than in the nation as a whole. In the U.S., 54.7% of all households are married-couple, 12.8% female-headed, and 3.0% male-headed. Overall, the proportion of Alaska households that are family households tends to be slightly less than for the U.S. as a whole.

In 1990, Alaska counted 85,094 families with related children. Of these related-children households, 64,720, or 76.1%, were in married-couple families. A single-female householder was present in 14,625, or 17.2%, of the households with related children, and 5,749, or 6.8%, of the households with related children had a single-male householder. By 1995, families with related children in Alaska had increased to 95,941. Of these households, an estimated 71,533, or 74.5%, were in married-couple families; 17,435, or 18.2%, in female-headed families; and 6,973, or 7.3%, in male-headed families. Only 44.7% of all Alaskan households contained related children under 18. Households containing a husband, wife and related children make up only one-third of all households in Alaska. This is slightly higher than the national average of 25.8%. In part, this reflects Alaska's younger population and higher fertility.

Between 1980 and 1995, the proportion of households with children living with married-couple families continued to decline, while the proportion of female- and male-headed households with children continued to increase. Of all households containing children living with one parent in 1995, an estimated 28.6% were living in male-headed households and 71.4% in female-headed households.

Persons living alone or unrelated persons living together are considered nonfamily households. Of Alaska's 56,078 nonfamily households in 1990, 41,826 contained persons living alone and 14,252 contained unrelated persons living together. In 1995, of an estimated 64,894 nonfamily households in Alaska, 48,515 contained persons living alone and 16,379 contained unrelated individuals. In 1990, 22.1% of all households were made up of persons living alone; by 1995, such households remained almost the same at an estimated 22.6%. Nationwide, the proportion of households containing a single person living alone was 24.3 in 1994.

Copies of *Alaska Population Overview: 1995 Estimates* are available on request from the Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.