

## The movement between Alaska's major Native areas and Anchorage

**A**re people leaving Alaska's Native villages and other rural communities to move to Anchorage?

That question has recently been of substantial interest for educators, government and community leaders, and a wide range of service providers. Although attempts have been made to document the trends, questions persist. How many people are involved? What communities are losing people? What are the characteristics of the movers and are the movements permanent?

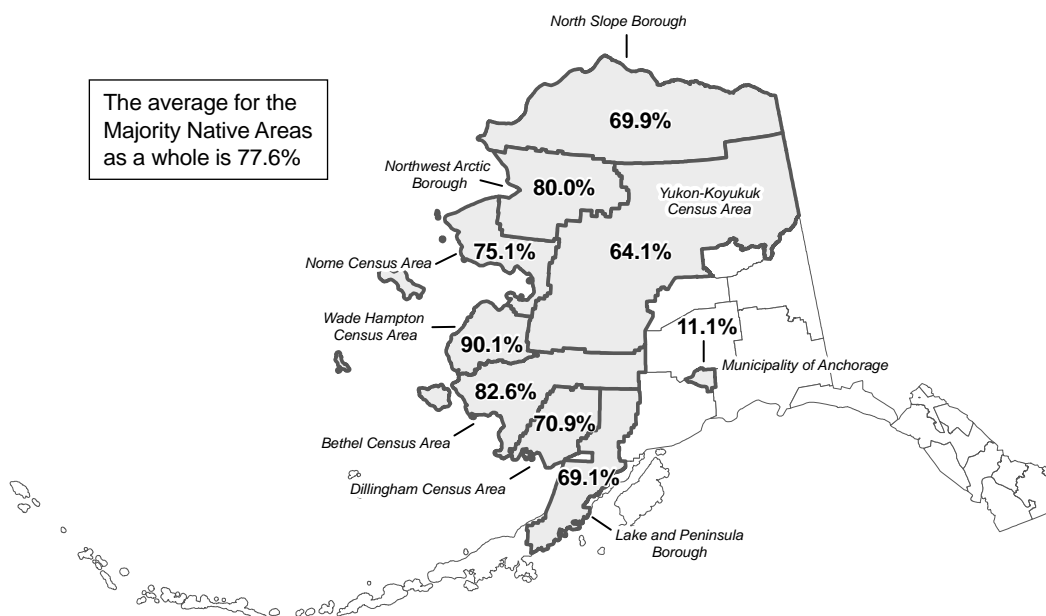
While not all these questions can be answered here, our goal is to define the key parameters of the movement to Anchorage, in general, and from eight rural boroughs and census areas, in particular. The eight were more than 50 percent Alaska Native<sup>1</sup> in 2008 – referred to in this article as Majority Native Areas.

### Majority Native Areas

The eight Majority Native Areas and their total population<sup>2</sup> are the Bethel Census Area (population 13,984), Nome Census Area (7,138), Wade Hampton Census Area (6,909), Northwest Arctic Borough (5,922), North Slope Borough (4,690), Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (3,757), Dillingham Census Area (3,385), and Lake and Peninsula Borough (1,073).

This analysis uses data from the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend from 2000 to 2009 to track the movement of residents from the Majority Native Areas to and from Anchorage. While that movement includes Natives and non-Natives, the results should serve to

## 1 The Alaska Native Population<sup>1</sup> Alaska, 2008



<sup>1</sup> This map shows the percentage of the population in the Majority Native Areas and Anchorage that is Native. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Demographics Unit

<sup>1</sup> All references to Natives in this article are to Alaska Natives.

<sup>2</sup> All population numbers in this article refer to the average annual resident population, often referred to as the July 1 population.

illustrate the trend, patterns and characteristics of Native rural-to-urban movement during the decade.

## A Breakdown of the Population **2** By borough and census area, 2008

### Alaska's Native population

Alaska's Native population in 2008 was 121,929,<sup>3</sup> or about 17.9 percent of the state's total population of 679,720.

While the Native population is distributed throughout the state, Natives are a larger proportion of the population in some areas. (See Exhibits 1 and 2.) About 26 percent of the state's Natives, 31,539 people, live in Anchorage, where Natives make up about 11 percent of the population.

Thirty-eight percent of Alaska's Natives, or 46,858 people, live in the eight Majority Native Areas. And 64 percent of the state's Natives live in the Majority Native Areas and Anchorage.

The remaining 36 percent, 43,532 people, live in the rest of the state. About two-thirds of the Natives living in the rest of the state live in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (Native population 9,534), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (7,704), Kenai Peninsula Borough (5,293) and Juneau Borough (4,720).

### The movement to and from Anchorage

The Majority Native Areas are about 78 percent Native. However, a disproportionate share of the movement to Anchorage is from the larger rural hubs, such as Dillingham and Barrow, where the Native percentage is somewhat lower than the Majority Native Areas as a whole. So the estimate of movement from the Majority Native Areas to Anchorage likely includes about 30 percent non-Native residents.

The overall population movement to and from Anchorage is substantial be-

	Total Population	Native Population	Percentage of Borough or Census Area that's Native	Percentage of Natives Statewide
Alaska	679,720	121,929	17.9%	100.0%
Anchorage Municipality	284,994	31,539	11.1%	25.9%
Majority Native Areas	60,405	46,858	77.6%	38.4%
Balance of the state	334,321	43,532	13.0%	35.7%
Aleutians East Borough	2,699	990	36.7%	0.8%
Aleutians West Census Area	4,439	813	18.3%	0.7%
Anchorage Municipality	284,994	31,539	11.1%	25.9%
Bethel Census Area	16,940	13,984	82.6%	11.5%
Bristol Bay Borough	1,029	436	42.4%	0.4%
Denali Borough	1,848	169	9.1%	0.1%
Dillingham Census Area	4,771	3,385	70.9%	2.8%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	89,896	9,534	10.6%	7.8%
Haines Borough	2,310	323	14.0%	0.3%
Juneau Borough	30,427	4,720	15.5%	3.9%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	52,990	5,293	10.0%	4.3%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	12,993	2,348	18.1%	1.9%
Kodiak Island Borough	13,373	2,193	16.4%	1.8%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,552	1,073	69.1%	0.9%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	82,515	7,704	9.3%	6.3%
Nome Census Area	9,499	7,138	75.1%	5.9%
North Slope Borough	6,706	4,690	69.9%	3.8%
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,407	5,922	80.0%	4.9%
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	5,360	2,247	41.9%	1.8%
Sitka Borough	8,615	1,935	22.5%	1.6%
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,946	993	33.7%	0.8%
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7,008	957	13.7%	0.8%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,513	1,571	16.5%	1.3%
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,670	6,909	90.1%	5.7%
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	5,959	1,068	17.7%	0.9%
Yakutat Borough	592	238	40.2%	0.2%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,669	3,757	64.1%	3.1%

Note: These estimates are "bridge estimates," meaning they're an average of the number of people who identify themselves as "American Indian or Alaska Native alone" and "American Indian or Alaska Native alone and in combination" with some other race due to the multi-race self-identification from the 2000 Census.

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

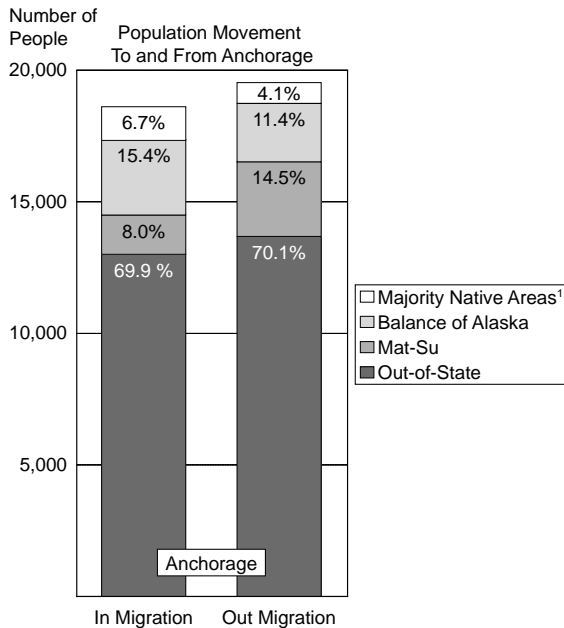
## Movement To and From Anchorage **3** Average annual movement, 2000 to 2008

		Total	Out of State	Mat-Su Borough	Majority Native Areas	Balance of Alaska
Movement to Anchorage	Number of People	18,613	13,006	1,493	1,245	2,871
	Percentage	100%	69.9%	8.0%	6.7%	15.4%
Movement from Anchorage	Number of People	19,535	13,685	2,837	792	2,221
	Percentage	100%	70.1%	14.5%	4.1%	11.4%
Net Movement		-922	-679	-1,344	453	650

<sup>3</sup> The estimates in this article are "bridge" estimates – an average of people who identify themselves as "American Indian or Alaska Native alone" and "American Indian or Alaska Native alone and in combination" with some other race due to the multi-race self-identification from the 2000 Census.

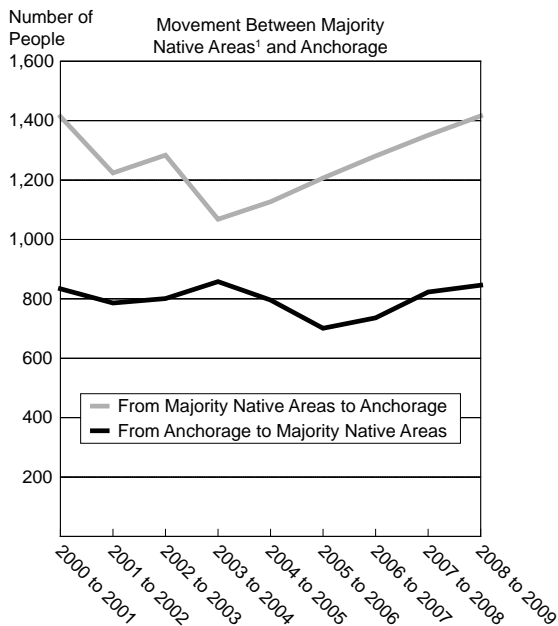
Notes:  
The average annual movement is estimated.  
The years for the cumulative sum on this exhibit, 2000 to 2008, are different than the other exhibits in this article; those are based on 2000 to 2009.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Demographics Unit

# 4 To and From Anchorage 2000 to 2008



Note: This exhibit shows estimated average annual movement.  
<sup>1</sup> The Majority Native Areas are the Bethel, Nome, Wade Hampton, Yukon-Koyukuk and Dillingham census areas, and the Northwest Arctic, North Slope, and Lake and Peninsula boroughs.  
 Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographics Unit

# 5 Between Native Areas, Anchorage 2000 to 2009



Note: Each reference period is from July 1 of the first year to June 30 of the second year. For example, 2000 to 2001 represents the movement between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001.  
<sup>1</sup> The Majority Native Areas are the Bethel, Nome, Wade Hampton, Yukon-Koyukuk and Dillingham census areas, and the Northwest Arctic, North Slope, and Lake and Peninsula boroughs.  
 Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Demographics Unit

cause Anchorage is Alaska’s largest city, it’s a key entry point to the state, and it has a substantial military population subject to regular rotation.

It’s estimated that between 2000 and 2008, about 18,600 people moved to Anchorage and about 19,500 people left the city on a yearly basis from and to all areas within and outside Alaska. (See Exhibits 3 and 4.) All population movement to and from Anchorage adds up to about 14 percent of Anchorage’s total population annually.

About 70 percent of the total number of people who moved to and from Anchorage during the 2000-2008 period were coming from or going to some place outside Alaska. An annual average of 13,006 people moved to Anchorage from out of state and 13,685 left for out-of-state destinations.

In-state movement accounts for 30 percent of the total migration to and from Anchorage during the 2000-2008 period.

The three most important population flows for in-state movement are the flows that move to and from the Majority Native Areas, Mat-Su Borough and the balance of Alaska.<sup>4</sup>

Looking at the total number of people who moved to Anchorage each year during the 2000-2008 period – the average annual movement – 6.7 percent of that movement was from the Majority Native Areas. (See Exhibit 3.) Considering the people who moved from Anchorage during that same period, only 4.1 percent of that movement went to the Majority Native Areas.

The movement from Majority Native Areas to Anchorage declined from 2000 to 2004, but it has increased steadily since 2004 to about 1,400 each year in the 2008-2009 period. (See Exhibit 5.) Yet the movement from Anchorage back to the Majority Native Areas has remained fairly stable at about 800 people a year. The re-

<sup>4</sup> The balance of Alaska, for the purposes of this article, covers all areas outside Anchorage, the Mat-Su Borough and the Majority Native Areas.

sult is that Anchorage has gained no more than 600 people each year from the Majority Native Areas between 2000 and 2009.

Some of those who move from the Majority Native Areas to Anchorage remain in Anchorage; others stay for varying periods, circulating between Anchorage and the Majority Native Areas. Over a period of time, some also move to a community in the balance of the state; others no longer get the dividend because they move out of state or their dividend record stops because they die.

Anchorage was by far the primary destination for people from the Majority Native Areas over the 2000-2009 period. (See Exhibit 6.) About 53 percent of the Majority Native Area gross flows were to and from Anchorage. The next most common destinations were the Fairbanks North Star Borough (23 percent), Mat-Su Borough (9 percent), Kenai Peninsula Borough (5 percent), and all other areas of the state (10 percent).

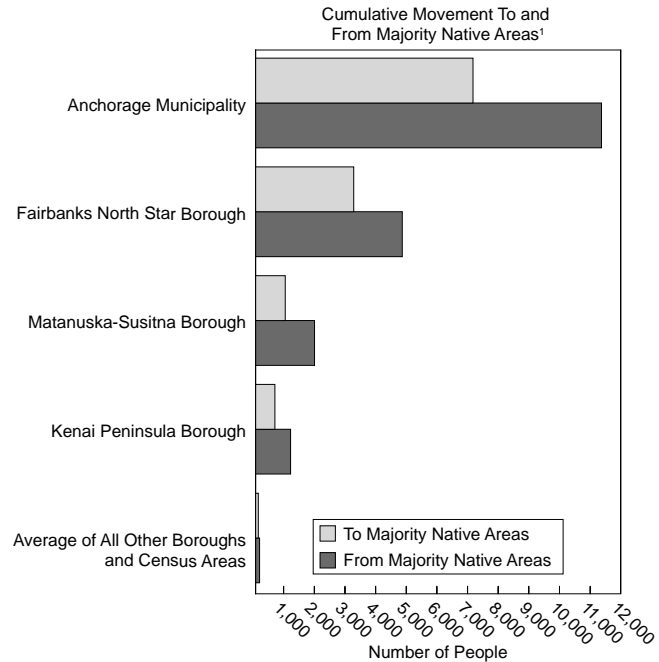
The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, however, was the main exception within the Majority Native Areas. About 59 percent of the gross flows to and from Yukon-Koyukuk had Fairbanks North Star Borough as an origin or destination; 17 percent had Anchorage.

### What the migration means to the areas

As a share of the population, the movement from the Majority Native Areas to Anchorage has a greater impact on the Majority Native Areas than for Anchorage. The total population movement from the Majority Native Areas to Anchorage amounts to only 0.5 percent of Anchorage's population annually.

For the Majority Native Areas, though, the movement to Anchorage amounts to about 2 percent of their population annually. Given the rates of return from Anchorage to the Majority Native Areas, the actual net annual loss of population for the Majority Native Areas is an average of 1.0 percent of the population of those areas. Still, over a decade, that's a loss of roughly 10 percent of the Majority Native Areas' population.

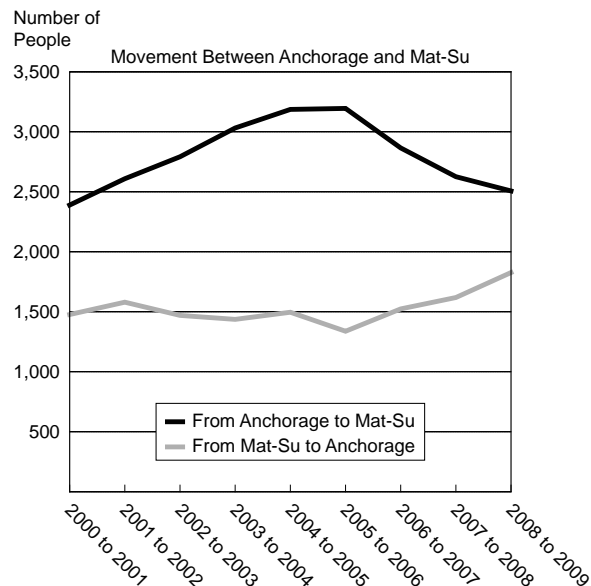
## To and From Majority Native Areas 2000 to 2009 **6**



<sup>1</sup> The Majority Native Areas are the Bethel, Nome, Wade Hampton, Yukon-Koyukuk and Dillingham census areas, and the Northwest Arctic, North Slope, and Lake and Peninsula boroughs.

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

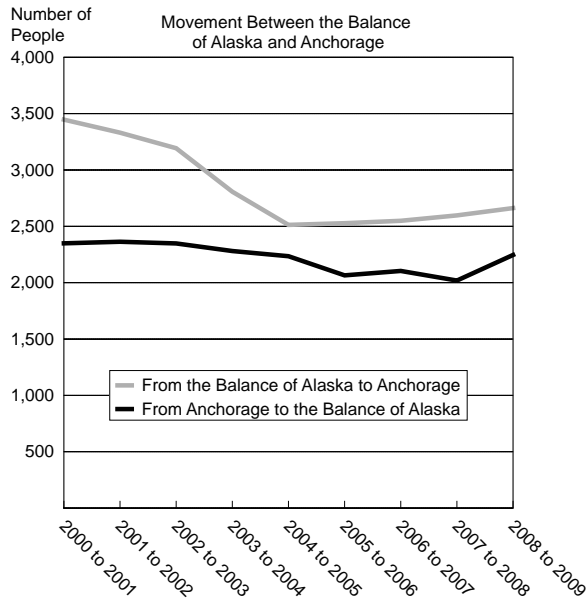
## Between Anchorage and Mat-Su 2000 to 2009 **7**



Note: Each reference period is from July 1 of the first year to June 30 of the second year. For example, 2000 to 2001 represents the movement between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001.

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

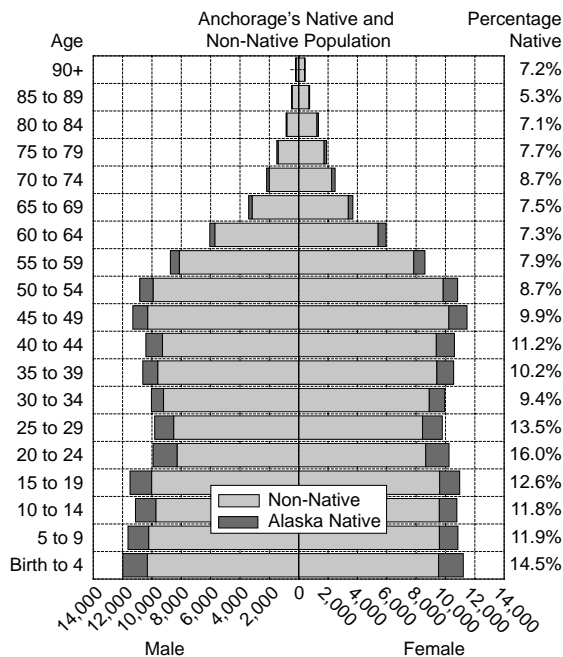
## 8 Balance of Alaska and Anchorage 2000 to 2009



Note: Each reference period is from July 1 of the first year to June 30 of the second year. For example, 2000 to 2001 represents the movement between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001.

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

## 9 Anchorage's Population By race, age and sex, 2008



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

## The Mat-Su Borough

The movement to and from the Mat-Su Borough is somewhat different because the Matanuska Valley is in many ways an Anchorage suburb. While Anchorage has net gains from the rest of the state, Anchorage has consistently lost population to the Valley.

During the 2000-2008 period, 14.5 percent of the average annual movement out from Anchorage was to the Mat-Su Borough and 8.0 percent of the average annual movement to Anchorage was from Mat-Su. (See Exhibits 3 and 7.)

The movement to Mat-Su reached its peak during the 2000-2009 period in 2005-2006, when Anchorage lost 1,857 people to Mat-Su. After that, migration to Mat-Su declined and migration from Mat-Su increased; Anchorage's net loss to Mat-Su was only 689 residents in the 2008-2009 period. That migration trend appears to be reflected in the Anchorage School District's enrollment in 2009.

## The balance of Alaska

Finally, the remaining 15.4 percent of the average annual movement to Anchorage came from the balance of Alaska and 11.4 percent of the average annual movement from Anchorage went to the balance of Alaska. From 2000 to 2008, an average of 2,871 people moved from the balance of Alaska to Anchorage annually, and 2,221 left Anchorage for the balance of Alaska. The migrant net gain from the balance of Alaska has narrowed to about 400 each year. (See Exhibit 8.)

## Characteristics of the population and the movers

While only about 11 percent of Anchorage's population is Native, the percentage of the city's population that's Native varies significantly by age. (See Exhibit 9.) Only 7 percent to 8 percent of the population older than 55 is Native, compared to 14 percent to 16 percent of people in their 20s and under age 5. Like Alaska as a whole, the younger population is more diverse than the older population.

The Majority Native Areas present a very different age profile. (See Exhibit 10.) Here, because of large Native families, the population under 20 tends to be twice the size of the population older than 24.

At the same time, the non-Native population in the Majority Native Areas tends to be overrepresented in the 40- to 64-year-old age groups. Those tend to be part of Alaska's baby boomer population. Non-Natives tend to be only 13 percent to 18 percent of the children under 20 and non-Natives tend to leave the Majority Native Areas after age 65. Only about 12 percent of the elders are non-Natives.

The under-20 population of the Majority Native Areas is rapidly growing, and without a similarly rapid growth in jobs and training opportunities following high school, there's a strong pressure for young people – individuals and families – to move out of the state's rural communities.

Looking at the age and sex of the people who moved from the Majority Native Areas to Anchorage from 2000 to 2009 (see Exhibit 11), the movement is similar to migration in general. The peak of migration fairly universally follows high school.

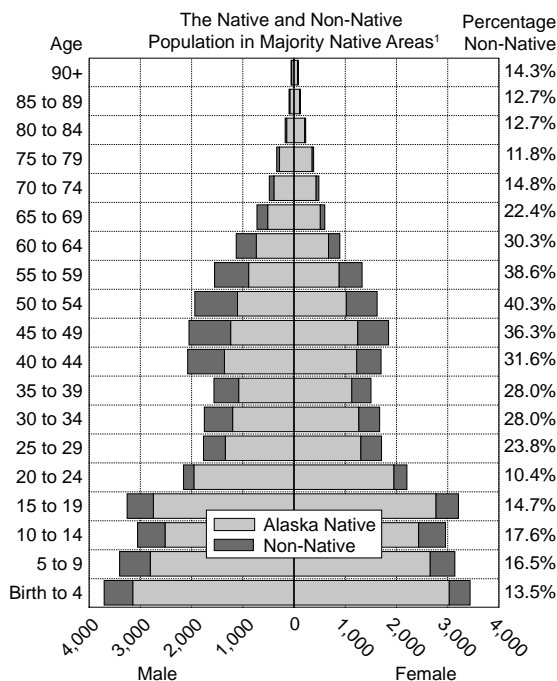
Starting at ages 17 and 18 and extending through their 20s, some young adults leave home to pursue a first civilian job, post-secondary training or join the military. Since the 20s is also when people marry and start having children, the movement of young adults is usually matched by the movement of children under 5.

About 70 percent of the people who moved from the Majority Native Areas to Anchorage were under 35; about a third of the 70 percent were ages 20 to 29 and children under 5. The people who moved accounted for 3.8 percent of those ages 20 to 24 annually and 3.0 percent of those ages 25 to 29.

The movement was more than 2 percent annually for ages 17 to 39 and for those under 5. The movement then diminished with age.

There was little migration above age 65; elders were the least likely to move out of the Major-

## The Population in Native Areas **10** By race, age and sex, 2008



<sup>1</sup> The Majority Native Areas are the Bethel, Nome, Wade Hampton, Yukon-Koyukuk and Dillingham census areas, and the Northwest Arctic, North Slope, and Lake and Peninsula boroughs.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographics Unit

ity Native Areas. That contrasts with migration in general, where some populations experience a small increase in movement in the 60- to 65-year-old group as people retire from work.

The return movement from Anchorage to the Majority Native Areas for the same 2000-2009 period followed the same age pattern as movement to Anchorage. For most ages, the return movement is about 60 percent of the movement to Anchorage. For ages 25 to 29, the return tends to be higher at 70 percent to 80 percent.

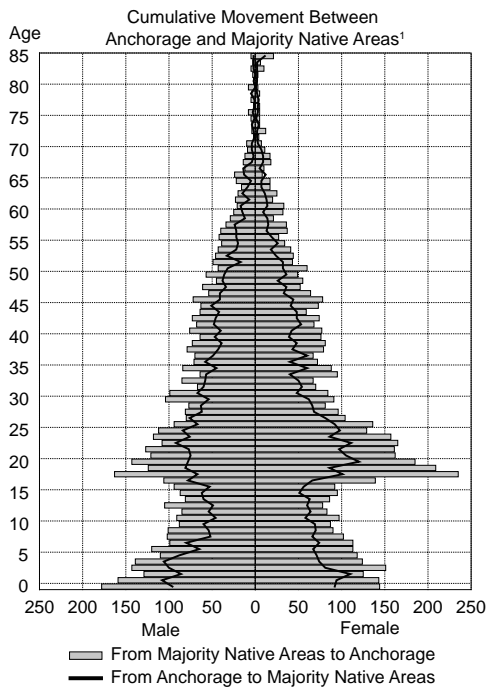
After the return movement is taken into consideration, the total net loss to Anchorage was 0.8 percent per year overall, and 1.0 percent to 1.5 percent annually for the Majority Native Areas' 17- to 24-year-old population.

### The movement of women versus men

An outstanding trend is the substantially greater movement of young women from the Majority Native Areas to Anchorage compared to young

# 11 Cumulative Movement

## By age and sex, 2000 to 2009



<sup>1</sup> The Majority Native Areas are the Bethel, Nome, Wade Hampton, Yukon-Koyukuk and Dillingham census areas, and the Northwest Arctic, North Slope, and Lake and Peninsula boroughs.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographics Unit

men during the 2000-2009 period. Overall, 92 men moved to Anchorage for every 100 women.

From ages 17 to 27, women moved to Anchorage in substantially larger numbers – an average of 74 men moved to Anchorage for every 100 women. At age 19, only 59 men moved to Anchorage for every 100 women. The average annual movement of 20- to 24-year-old women was 4.4 percent, compared to 3.2 percent for men.

One factor contributing to this differential may be that more women pursue post-secondary education. University of Alaska Anchorage enrollment since 2004 for Native women has been about twice that of Native men.

But the return movement from Anchorage to the Majority Native Areas is a bit more equal. Overall, 96 men returned for every 100 women. For men ages 45 to 64, the return was higher for men than for women – 111 men returned for every 100 women.

While the net gain in population by age and sex reflects the male/female movement in the post-secondary ages (see Exhibit 11), other trends beg explanation, including the larger number of males compared to females ages 10 to 14.

### Detailed origin and destination of the movers

Thirty-nine Majority Native Area communities out of the area's 155 communities contribute the most to movement to and from Anchorage. (See Exhibit 12.) These 39 communities either had the largest number of movers, the largest percentage of the population who moved or had the largest number of people who moved from the Majority Native Areas and stayed in Anchorage.

An index was created based on a rank order of each of those variables – the lowest index number indicates the most movement. All 39 communities on the list have populations that are more than 50 percent Native, except one. McGrath was only 44 percent Native in 2000.

Among the 20 communities highest on the list are the regional population centers of Dillingham, Kotzebue, Barrow, Bethel and Nome. Those five communities were the largest numerical contributors to movement to Anchorage and may also serve as collection points for smaller communities in their surrounding areas. While that analysis is beyond the scope of this paper, migration to and from Bethel during the 2007-2008 period consisted of 193 into Bethel and 128 out of Bethel to the villages in the Bethel Census Area.

Among the other communities with high movement rates are Point Hope, McGrath, Grayling, Unalakleet, Aniak, Togiak, Mountain Village, Emonak, Nuiqsut, Stebbins, Hooper Bay, Noorvik, Kotlik, Shageluk and Holy Cross. For the communities with the greatest movement, the movement is quite noticeable and may add up to 3 percent to 4 percent of the population annually.

While the patterns of where people from the Majority Native Areas settle when they move to Anchorage are also beyond the scope of this

# Movement Between Selected Communities and Anchorage 2000 to 2009 **12**

Movement To and From Majority Native Areas<sup>1</sup>

Column	2008 Population	2000 Population	Change, 2000 to 2008	Percentage Native Alone in 2000	Average Annual Percentage of Movement to Anchorage, 2000 to 2009	Cumulative Percentage of Movement to Anchorage, 2000 to 2009	Total Movement to Anchorage, 2000 to 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Total Movement from Anchorage, 2000 to 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Net Move- ment, 2000 to 2009	Move- ment Index <sup>3</sup>	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J		
Anchorage Municipality	284,994	260,283	24,711	7.3%	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Total for All Majority Native Areas	60,405	60,118	287	78.3%	2.07%	18.6%	11,182	7,180	-4,002		
Percentage of the Majority Native Areas' Total that Selected Communities Represent							75.5%	69.6%	86.1%		
Total for Selected Communities	35,432	35,739	-307	72.6%	2.64%	23.7%	8,442	4,997	-3,445		
Place	Borough or Census Area										
Dillingham	Dillingham Census Area	2,347	2,466	-119	52.6%	3.60%	32.4%	780	425	-355	14
Kotzebue	Northwest Arctic Borough	3,126	3,082	44	71.2%	3.39%	30.5%	948	627	-321	16
Barrow	North Slope Borough	4,054	4,581	-527	57.2%	2.75%	24.8%	1,069	478	-591	17
Bethel	Bethel Census Area	5,665	5,471	194	61.8%	2.69%	24.2%	1,346	815	-531	18
Point Hope	North Slope Borough	689	757	-68	87.1%	3.44%	31.0%	224	132	-92	19
Nome	Nome Census Area	3,570	3,505	65	51.0%	2.90%	26.1%	924	595	-329	20
McGrath	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	317	401	-84	43.9%	5.17%	46.5%	167	103	-64	22
Grayling	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	152	194	-42	88.1%	5.65%	50.9%	88	38	-50	35
Unalakleet	Nome Census Area	723	747	-24	85.3%	2.54%	22.9%	168	113	-55	37
Aniak	Bethel Census Area	494	572	-78	68.4%	2.90%	22.3%	139	93	-46	41
Togiak	Dillingham Census Area	802	809	-7	86.3%	2.48%	26.1%	180	133	-47	41
Mountain Village	Wade Hampton Census Area	765	755	10	90.5%	2.47%	22.2%	169	123	-46	47
Emmonak	Wade Hampton Census Area	794	767	27	91.3%	2.01%	18.1%	141	86	-55	49
Nuiqsut	North Slope Borough	383	433	-50	88.2%	3.13%	28.2%	115	79	-36	52
Stebbins	Nome Census Area	577	547	30	94.0%	2.53%	22.8%	128	85	-43	54
Hooper Bay	Wade Hampton Census Area	1,160	1,014	146	93.7%	1.67%	15.0%	163	112	-51	55
Noorvik	Northwest Arctic Borough	642	634	8	90.1%	2.35%	21.2%	135	89	-46	56
Kotlik	Wade Hampton Census Area	610	591	19	93.6%	1.74%	15.7%	94	39	-55	59
Shageluk	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	102	129	-27	96.9%	5.19%	46.8%	54	23	-31	64
Holy Cross	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	194	227	-33	96.5%	3.33%	29.9%	63	34	-29	66
Chignik Lake	Lake and Peninsula Borough	105	145	-40	86.9%	5.24%	47.2%	59	35	-24	67
Chevak	Wade Hampton Census Area	922	765	157	90.5%	1.83%	16.5%	139	106	-33	68
Pilot Station	Wade Hampton Census Area	587	550	37	96.9%	1.58%	14.2%	81	33	-48	71
Alakanuk	Wade Hampton Census Area	670	652	18	95.4%	1.63%	14.7%	97	54	-43	73
Saint Michael	Nome Census Area	434	368	66	92.7%	2.41%	21.7%	87	60	-27	74
Napakiaik	Bethel Census Area	348	353	-5	96.0%	1.93%	17.4%	61	15	-46	74
Mekoryuk	Bethel Census Area	195	210	-15	90.5%	3.29%	29.6%	60	38	-22	76
Chignik Lagoon	Lake and Peninsula Borough	71	103	-32	81.6%	6.26%	56.3%	49	29	-20	77
White Mountain	Nome Census Area	191	203	-12	83.7%	2.65%	15.3%	47	16	-31	81
Selawik	Northwest Arctic Borough	846	772	74	94.8%	1.70%	23.9%	124	97	-27	81
Kiana	Northwest Arctic Borough	383	388	-5	92.5%	2.02%	18.2%	70	43	-27	83
Elim	Nome Census Area	280	313	-33	92.7%	2.40%	21.6%	64	40	-24	84
Akiachak	Bethel Census Area	659	585	74	92.3%	1.23%	11.1%	69	32	-37	85
Shaktoolik	Nome Census Area	223	230	-7	94.3%	2.55%	23.0%	52	30	-22	88
Galena	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	580	675	-95	63.4%	1.36%	12.3%	77	48	-29	88
Savoonga	Nome Census Area	722	643	79	95.3%	0.94%	8.5%	58	18	-40	92
Wainwright	North Slope Borough	534	546	-12	90.3%	1.11%	10.0%	54	22	-32	96
Ambler	Northwest Arctic Borough	259	309	-50	84.8%	2.07%	18.7%	53	33	-20	97
Point Lay	North Slope Borough	257	247	10	82.6%	2.03%	18.3%	46	26	-20	103

<sup>1</sup> The Majority Native Areas are the Bethel, Nome, Wade Hampton, Yukon-Koyukuk and Dillingham census areas, and the Northwest Arctic, North Slope, and Lake and Peninsula boroughs.

<sup>2</sup> As shown on the column headers above, the cumulative sum of movement is for the years 2000 to 2009. The years for the cumulative sum for Exhibit 3, however, are 2000 to 2008.

<sup>3</sup> For the Movement Index, the lowest index number indicates the most movement. The Movement Index was created by ranking columns F and G, and the absolute value of I (dropping the minus signs), from high to low and assigning "1, 2, 3..." to the rows in each column, with 1 being assigned to the highest number. The assigned ranking numbers ("1, 2, 3...") for the three columns were then added to get the index number.

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



article, in general, they tend to settle in areas that already have somewhat higher proportions of Natives.

### In summary

The total movement from the Majority Native Areas to Anchorage each year is small relative to Anchorage's total population. Yet, from the point of view of the Majority Native Areas, the annual movement to Anchorage is a noticeable share of the population. For some communities,

the movement is quite noticeable and may add up to 5 percent to 6 percent annually.

Given the rates of return from Anchorage to the Majority Native Areas, the net loss may average 7 percent a decade. Those who move are disproportionately young adults just out of high school, young women and young families with small children. The pattern of movement observed in rural Alaska, however, is not unique. It tends to be the norm for most of the rural areas of the United States.

## Safety and Health Training Available for Free

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Alaska Occupational Safety and Health, often called AKOSH, provides various types of training, for free:

Ten-hour card training – It's a course that provides 10 hours of instruction on safety and health topics. Participants receive a U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-hour safety training card in construction, general industry or maritime. (Ten-hour safety training courses in construction and general industry will be available at the Governor's Safety and Health Conference in Anchorage on March 23-25. To register, go to [labor.alaska.gov/lss](http://labor.alaska.gov/lss).)

Custom training – Worksite training sessions specific to hazards or AKOSH standards applicable to your worksite are available by request, along with confidential worksite evaluations, and help with eliminating hazards and developing programs to reduce worksite accidents.

Scheduled training – AKOSH also provides scheduled monthly training at its Anchorage office at 3301 Eagle St., Room 100. The sessions are at 9 a.m. on the following dates:

April 5	Excavation and Trenching
May 3	Health Hazards in Construction
June 7	Hazard Communication
July 6	Fall Protection
Aug. 2	OSHA 300 Recordkeeping
Sept. 7	OSHA 300 Recordkeeping
Oct. 4	Personal Protection Equipment Job Hazard Assessment
Nov. 1	Respiratory Protection

For more information, to enroll or request other training, contact AKOSH Consultation and Training at (907) 269-4940 or (800) 656-4972, or send an email to [Juneau.LSS-OSH@alaska.gov](mailto:Juneau.LSS-OSH@alaska.gov). Training request forms are also available at the AKOSH Web site at [labor.alaska.gov/lss](http://labor.alaska.gov/lss). AKOSH is part of the department's Labor Standards and Safety Division.