

The First 50 Years and the Next: ISER and Rural Alaska

Institute of Social and Economic Research
University of Alaska Anchorage



*Celebrating 50 years of public
policy research in Alaska*

State of Alaska

SESSION LAWS

Resolutions and
Memorials



1961

PASSED BY THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE SECOND STATE
LEGISLATURE

CONVENED AT JUNEAU, THE CAPITAL, ON THE
TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF JANUARY, 1961,
AND ADJOURNED THE SEVENTH
DAY OF APRIL, 1961

ISER Established by the Legislature: April 1961!

CHAPTER 80

AN ACT

Relating to the establishment of a business, economics and public administration research program by the University of Alaska; and providing for an effective date.

(H.B. 161)

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the
State of Alaska:

Section 1. The University of Alaska is authorized to establish a business, economics and public administration research program for the purpose of developing

and publishing statistics and other information regarding the economy, government and resources of the state.

Sec. 2. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without such approval.

Approved April 13, 1961



Institute of Social and Economic Research
University of Alaska Anchorage

Since 1961...

ISER has been enhancing “the well-being of Alaskans and others, through nonpartisan research that helps people understand social and economic systems and supports informed public and private decision-making.”

(ISER Mission Statement)

Research Areas and Activities:

- **Alaska Economy**
- **Energy and Environment**
- **Education**
- **Applied Social Research**
- **Arctic Social Systems**
- **Fisheries and Natural Resources**

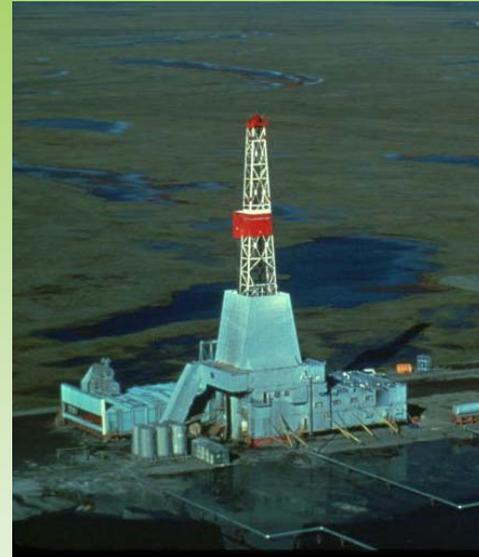
ISER’s Plans for our 50th Anniversary



**Institute of Social and Economic Research
University of Alaska Anchorage**

Alaska Economy and Fiscal Policy

- Importance of Oil and Gas in Alaska's Economy
- Prospects for a Sustainable Economic Future



Research by Scott Goldsmith:

Investing for Alaska's Future

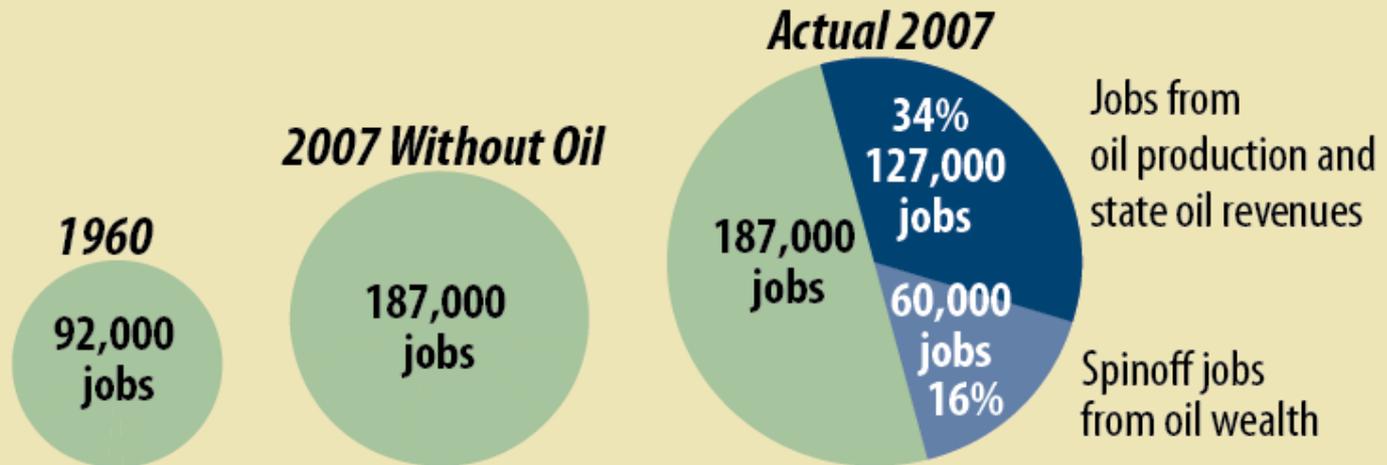
Funded by a grant from Northrim Bank.



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Importance of Oil and Gas in Alaska's Economy

Alaska Jobs, With and Without Oil



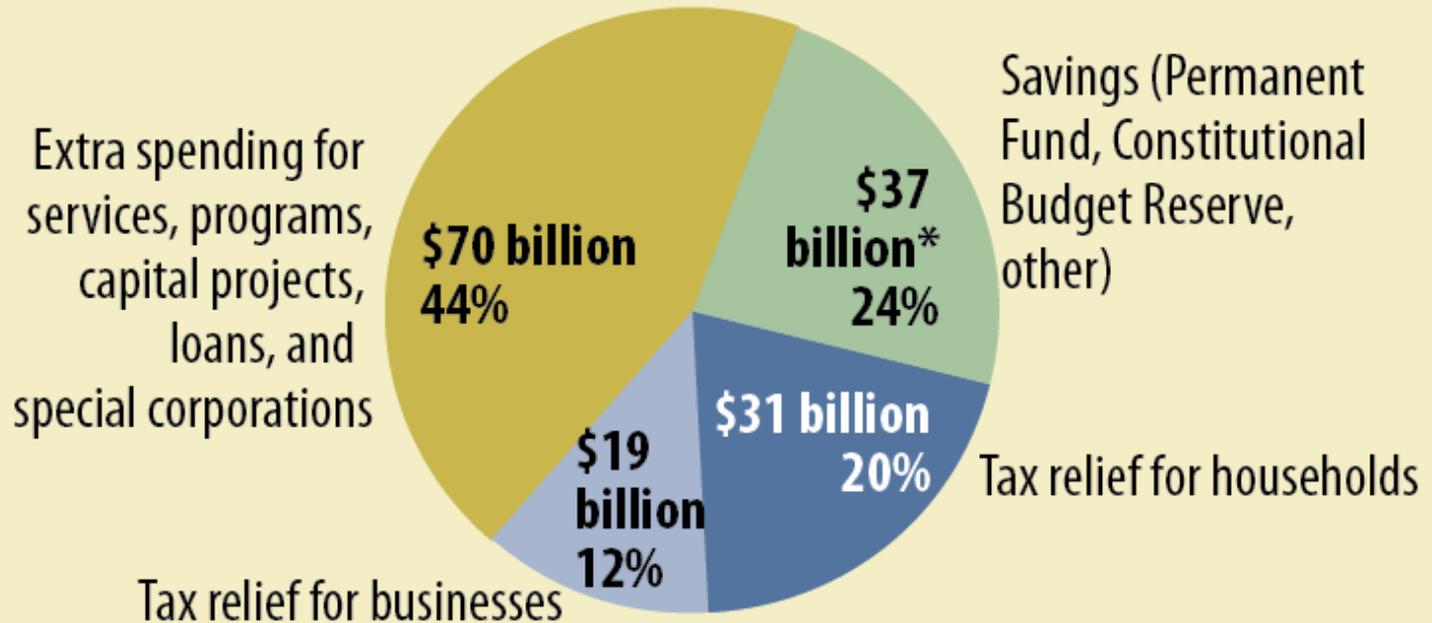
Oil-Wealth Spinoffs

- Bigger and Richer Economy
- Double the Population
- Stability of the Economic Base
- Low Tax Burden
- High Public Expenditures

Importance of Oil and Gas in Alaska's Economy

What Did the State Do with \$157 Billion of Oil Money?

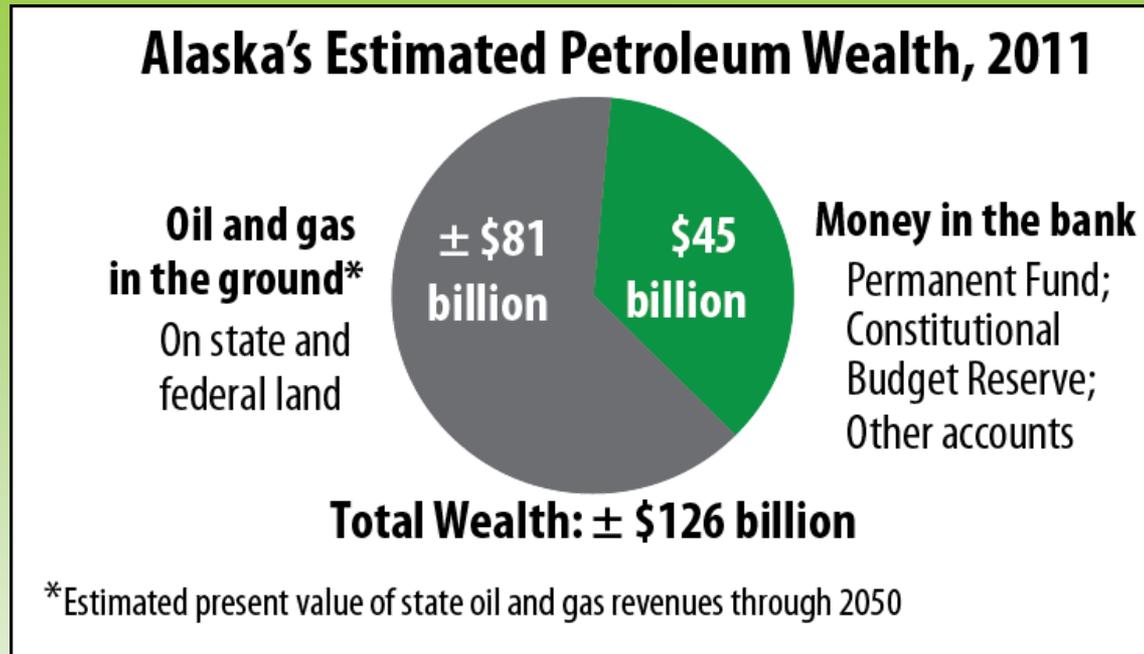
(Cumulative Oil Revenues, 1959-2010, in 2010 Dollars)



*This is not the total balance of these accounts in 2010. It includes only the actual oil revenues deposited over time and excludes earnings that have been re-deposited.

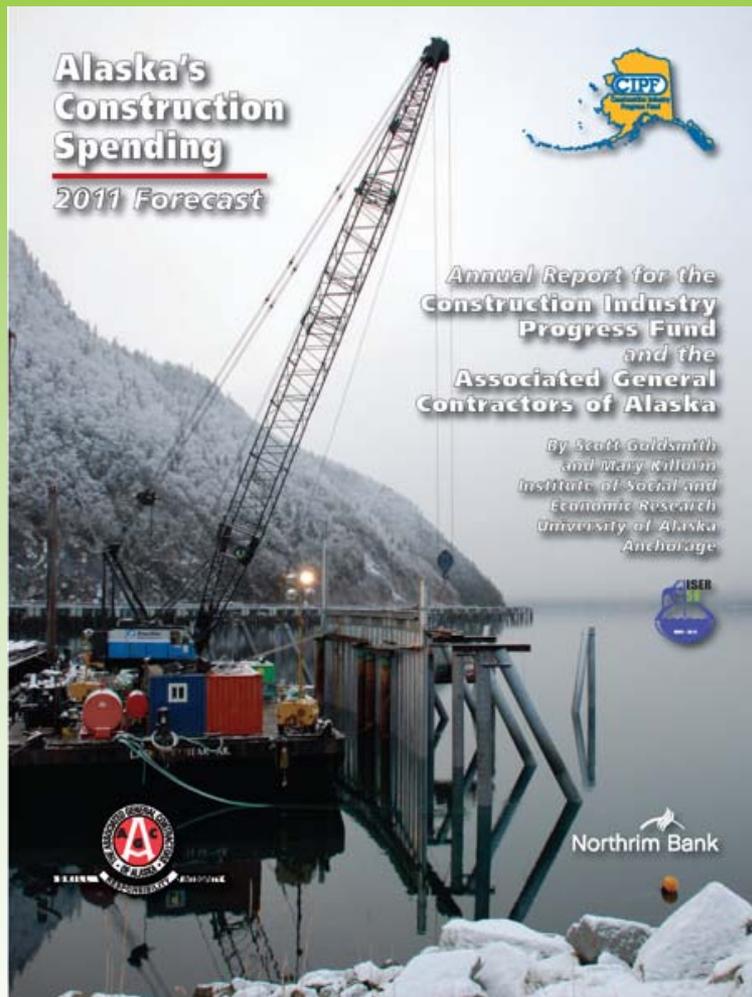


Alaska's Petroleum Wealth: How Much Should We Save?



Alaska could draw up to \$7,200 per resident (in \$2010) annually and keep its petroleum wealth at a constant value per resident—assuming annual population growth of 1%.

Construction Spending Forecast



A widely cited annual estimate of construction spending for the coming year, by ISER researchers Scott Goldsmith and Mary Killorin

Alaska Construction Spending 2011 Forecast		
	Level	Change
TOTAL	\$ 7,110,000,000	+4%
Total without Oil and Gas	\$ 4,200,000,000	+5%
PRIVATE	\$ 4,455,000,000	+6%
Oil and Gas	2,910,000,000	+3%
Mining	305,000,000	-1%
Other Rural Basic Industry	0	
Utilities	615,000,000	+28%
Hospitals	305,000,000	+38%
Other Commercial	120,000,000	-21%
Residential	200,000,000	-4%
Private without Oil and Gas	\$ 1,545,000,000	+13%
PUBLIC	\$ 2,655,000,000	+1%
National Defense	555,000,000	+1%
Highways	530,000,000	-5%
Airports and Ports	310,000,000	-11%
Alaska Railroad	50,000,000	+16%
Denali Commission	60,000,000	-
Education	355,000,000	+25%
Other Federal	285,000,000	-26%
Other State and Local	510,000,000	+29%

Source: Institute of Social and Economic Research. Percent change based on revised 2010 estimates.



Institute of Social and Economic Research
University of Alaska Anchorage

Resource Management

Visiting Professorship

- Funding from the Council of Alaska Producers
- Bob Loeffler: teaching and research on land management and issues in Alaska development

Socioeconomic impacts of development on rural communities

(Bob Loeffler, Sharman Haley, Ginny Fay)
Donlin Creek and Red Dog Mines NPRA

North by 2020: Seminars and workshops

“Defining Risk in Arctic Coastal and Offshore Resource Development: Perspectives and International Standards.”

Seminars on Defining Risk video-conferenced to UAF, UAA, UAS and BARC, with broad participation from industry and agencies

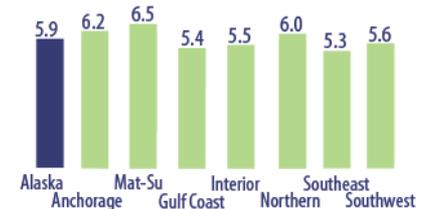
Strengthening Institutions: Strategies for Cooperative Management in the Marine Environment of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas



Kids Count Alaska

The Annie E. Casey Foundation sponsors Kids Count programs in every state, documenting the well-being of children. Since 1996, ISER has been the home of Kids Count Alaska, directed by Virgene Hanna. By collecting and publicizing data about the health, economic status, safety, and education of Alaska's children, Kids Count Alaska is intended to help inform policymakers and others with responsibilities for protecting Alaska's children.

Percentage of Alaska Babies With Low Birthweight, by Region*
(5-Year Average, 2003-2007)



*Mothers whose residence is unknown are included in the statewide Alaska calculations.

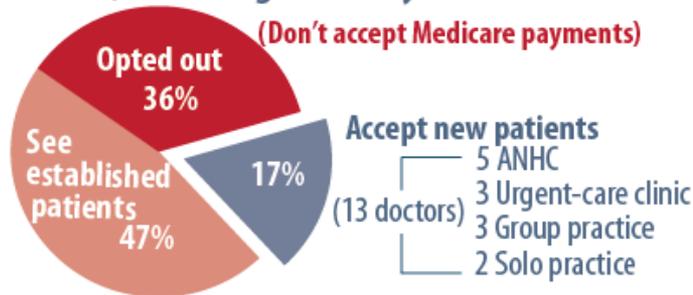
Source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics

Share of School Children Ages 5-17 in Families Receiving Public Assistance*
(Among 53 School Districts, 2009-2010 School Year)



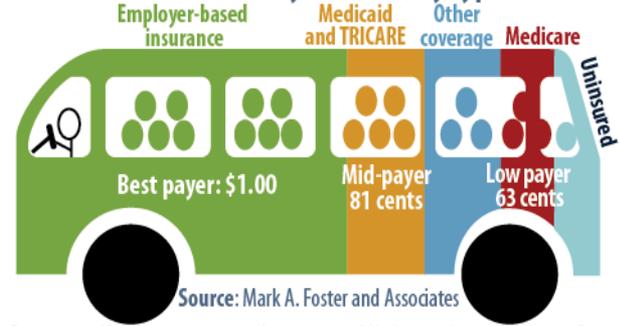
Health Care

Medicare Policies, Anchorage Primary-Care Doctors*



*ISER survey of 75 primary-care doctors in Anchorage, 2008/2009, adjusted to reflect 7 doctors we are aware of who previously saw established patients but by 2010 had opted out of Medicare.

Alaskans on the Primary-Care Bus, by Type of Insurance



Source: Mark A. Foster and Associates

Notes: Proportions of bus represent estimated proportions of Alaskans with various coverage. Revenues are based on 2009 payments for common visits to primary-care doctors. TRICARE (for military personnel) usually pays at Medicare level, but the federal government increased Alaska TRICARE payments 35% at least through 2010.

In 2009, Roz Frazier of ISER, with Mark Foster and Associates, conducted the first survey documenting the growing unwillingness of Alaska's primary-care doctors to accept new Medicare patients.

Follow-up research in 2010 examined options for improving older Alaskans' access to primary care; that work was cited in the September 2010 Interagency Access to Health Care in Alaska Task Force Report to Congress.

Research continues on the critical issue of access to health care—not only for older Alaskans but all Alaskans.

Current Health Care Projects:

Access to Health Care

- survey of nurse practitioners in Anchorage, Mat-Su
- funded by Pomeroy Foundation

Evaluation of Frontier Extended Care Clinics

- funded by Alaska Center for Rural Health

Information for Professional Nurses in Alaska

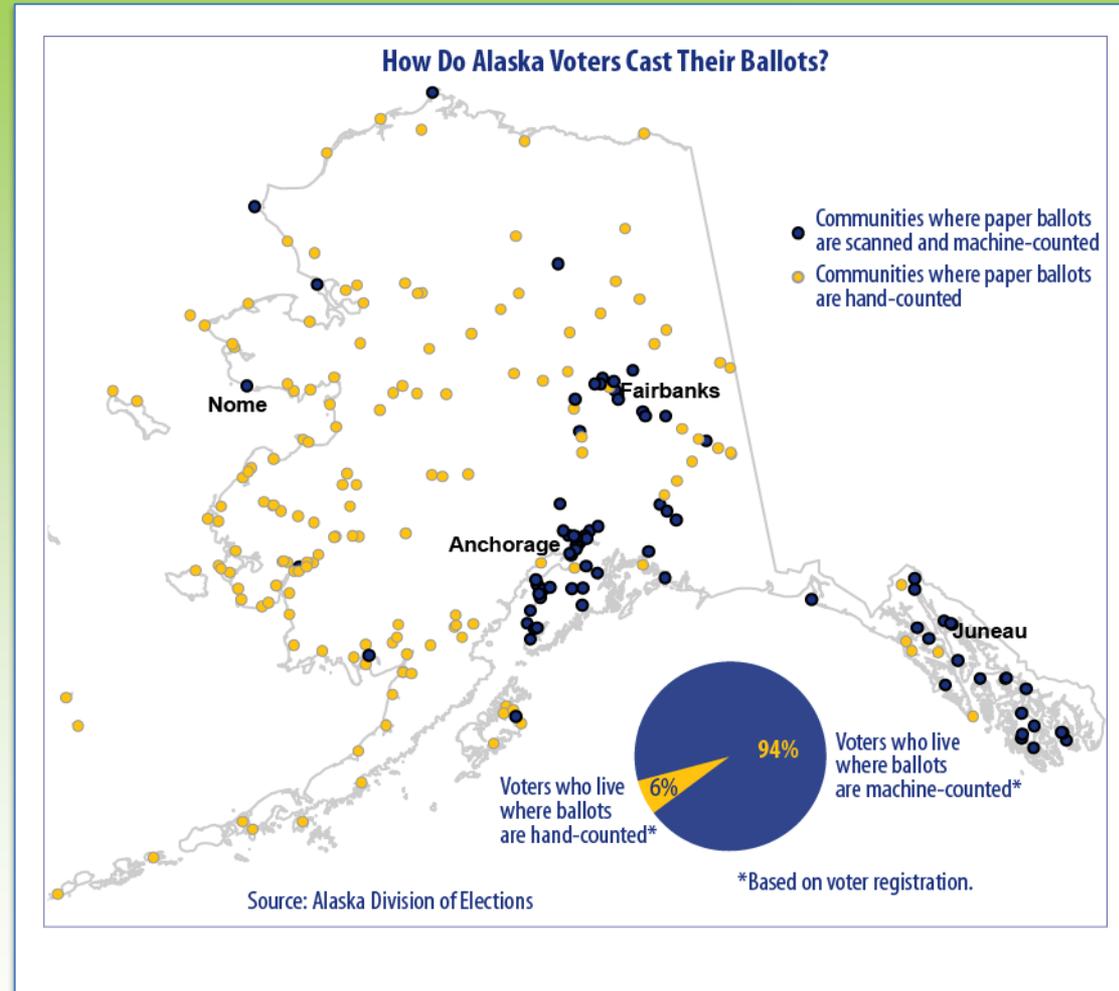
- analysis of 2010 nursing re-licensure survey
- funded by State Board of Nursing

Older Alaskans: Primary Care Clinic Models and Chronic Disease

Alaska Elections

At the request of Alaska's lieutenant governor, Stephanie Martin of ISER, faculty of UAA's School of Engineering, and departments of UAF worked together to assess the quality of Alaska's election security system. They found that its centralization, uniform hardware and software, and other features increase its security.

For the Division of Elections, ISER also recently developed a network of key tribal organization and village representatives in the Bethel census area, to work with the division on its Yup'ik language assistance program.



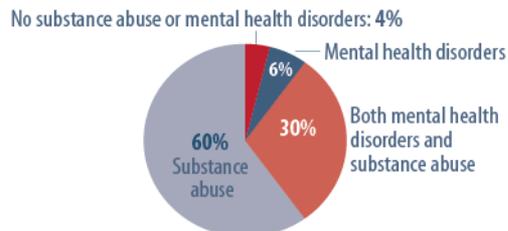
Alaska Justice System

In research for the Alaska State Senate, ISER researchers Stephanie Martin and Steve Colt found that a relatively small investment in treatment and other programs for prison inmates could cut the number of inmates 10% and save the state hundreds of millions over the next 20 years.

ISER is working with the Alaska Judicial Council on a follow-up study, evaluating the effectiveness of programs implemented based on findings of earlier ISER work.

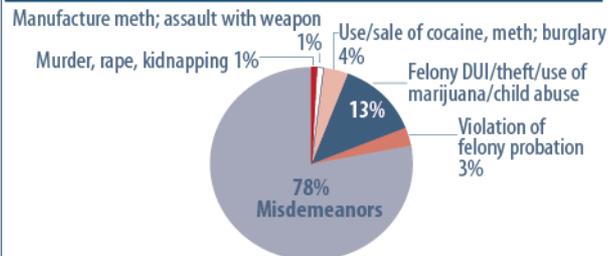
ISER is also working with the Alaska Judicial Council, Department of Corrections, Anchorage Probation, the Court System, Police, Public Defenders, and Prosecutors to evaluate a new probation program.

How Many Alaska Inmates Have Substance Abuse or Mental Health Disorders?



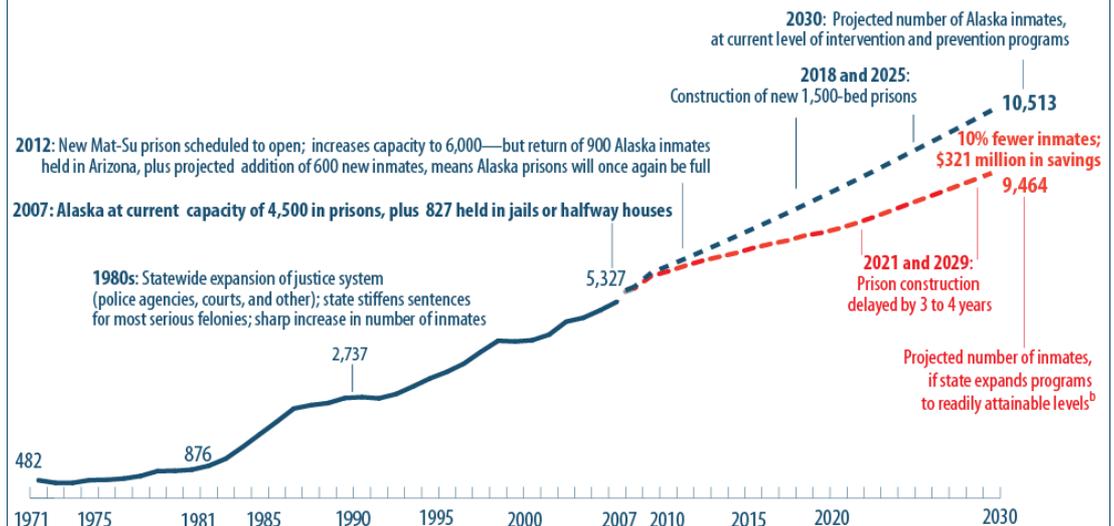
Sources: Alaska Department of Corrections; Alaska Mental Health Trust

Who Gets out of Jail or Prison in Alaska? (Total Releases, 2002-2007: 82,339)



Source: Alaska Department of Corrections

Average Number of Alaska Inmates,^a 1971-2007, and Projected Number, 2008-2030



^aAverage daily number of people in prisons, jails, and halfway houses. ^bThe number of people who could be readily added to program rolls varies considerably by program.

Sources: Alaska Department of Corrections; ISER projections of number of prisoners, based on Alaska Department of Labor projections of Alaska population 18-64 and assuming no change in current use of rehabilitation programs as well as expanded use; Washington State Institute of Public Policy

Updated Language Map

With Alaska Native Language Center
Includes GIS data online

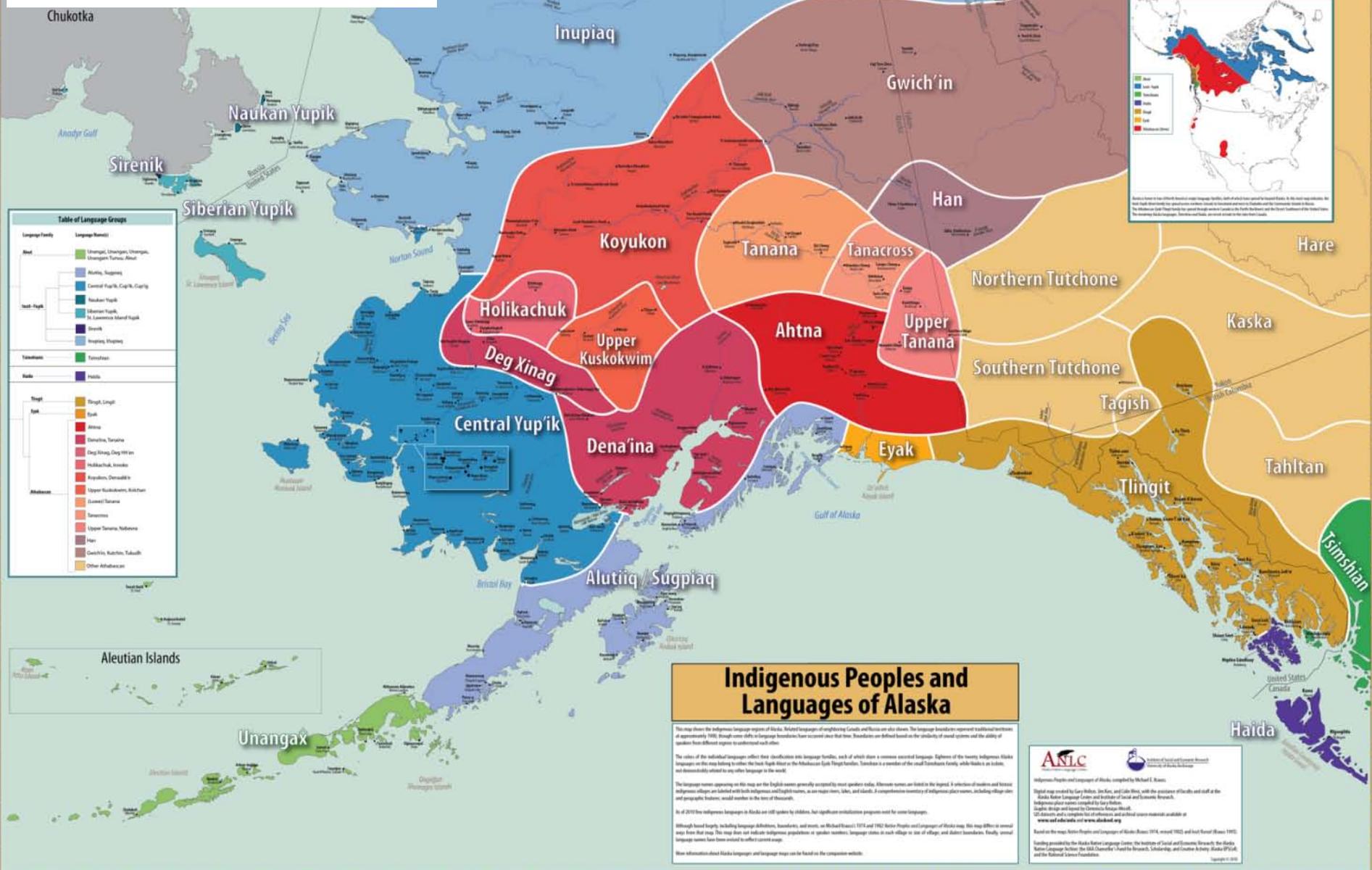


Table of Language Groups		
Language Family	Language Name(s)	
Aldut	Unangan, Unangan, Unangan, Unangan, Tuxuk, Aitut	
	Alutiiq, Sugpiaq	
	Central Yup'ik, Cup'ik, Cup'ik	
	Naukan Yupik	
	Siberian Yupik	
	St. Lawrence Island Yupik	
	Sirenik	
	Inupiat, Inupiat	
Ukpeagvik	Kutchin	
Haida	Haida	
Tlingit	Tlingit, Lingit	
	Fault	
	Ahtna	
	Halkchik, Tuxuk	
	Deg Xinag, Cup'ik, Cup'ik	
	Holikachuk, Inupiat	
	Koyukon, Dena'ina	
	Upper Kuskokwim, Kutchin	
	Lower Tanana	
	Tanacross	
Upper Tanana, Nohkwa		
Athabaskan	Hare	
	Gwich'in, Kutchin, Tuxuk	
	Other Athabaskan	

Indigenous Peoples and Languages of Alaska

The map shows the indigenous language systems of Alaska. Related languages of neighboring Canada and Russia are also shown. The language boundaries represent traditional territories of approximately 1900. Through some shifts in language boundaries have occurred since that time. Boundaries are defined based on the stability of sound systems and the ability of speakers from different regions to understand each other.

The colors of the individual languages reflect their classification into language families, each of which share a common ancestral language. Speakers of the twenty indigenous Alaska languages on this map belong to either the Na-Dené, Athabaskan, or the Eskimo-Aleut language families. Tuxuk is a member of the small Tuxuk family, while Haida is an isolate, and unclassified relative to any other language in the world.

The language names appearing on this map are the English names generally accepted by most speakers today. Alternate names are listed in the legend. A selection of modern and historic indigenous village names is listed with both indigenous and English names, as are region names, lakes, and islands. A comprehensive inventory of indigenous place names, including village sites and geographic features, would number in the tens of thousands.

As of 2010 few indigenous languages in Alaska are still spoken by children. An indigenous revitalization program need for some languages.

Although based largely on language atlases, handbooks, and texts, as Michael Ross's 1974 and 1982 Native Peoples and Languages of Alaska map. His map differs in several ways from that map. This map does not indicate indigenous populations or speaker numbers. Language status in each village or town of village, and dialect boundaries. Finally, several language names have been revised to reflect current usage.

More information about Alaska languages and language maps can be found on the companion website.

ANLC Alaska Native Language Center
University of Alaska Fairbanks

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

Indigenous Peoples and Languages of Alaska, compiled by Michael J. Ross
Digital map created by Gary Holten, Jim Kim, and John Wink, with the assistance of faculty and staff at the Alaska Native Language Center and Institute of Social and Economic Research.
Indigenous place names compiled by Gary Holten.
Graphic design and layout by Christine Skogman Skogman.
GIS software and a complete list of references and archival sources materials available at www.uaf.edu/indian and www.dakwad.org

Based on the map: Native Peoples and Languages of Alaska, Ross 1974, revised 1982 and last revised (Ross 1992).
Funding provided by the Alaska Native Language Center, the Institute of Social and Economic Research, the State of Alaska, the Arctic Research Center, the Arctic Research Center, the Arctic Research Center, the Arctic Research Center, and the National Science Foundation.

Language 10 2010

Rural Communications Applications and Policy

Research Areas:

- Rural broadband planning
- Communications policy
 - Alaska and rural U.S.
 - Northern Canada; Arctic
 - Developing and isolated regions
- Socio-economic impacts of communications services
 - Telehealth, distance education, e-government,
 - e-commerce, etc.
- History of Alaska telecommunications



Research Activities:

- Alaska Broadband Planning
- Evaluation of rural Alaska broadband ARRA Stimulus projects
- Universal service policies
- Evolution of Telecommunications in Alaska: Symposium June 2011



Research Area: Mobility as an Adaptation to Change

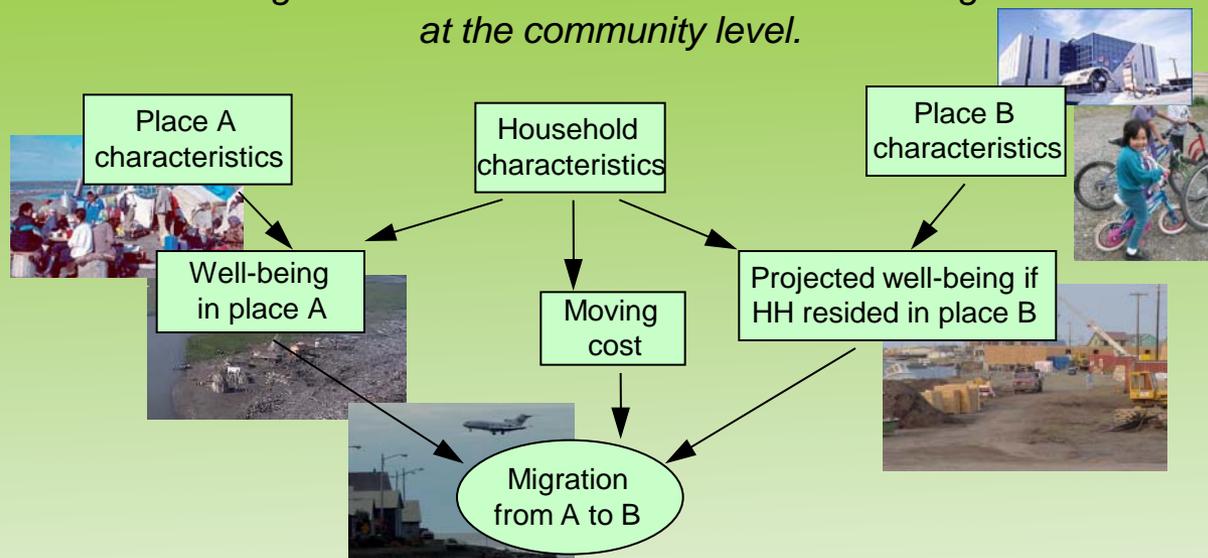
Migration in the Arctic

Understanding

Migration in the Circumpolar North

Investigators: Lee Huskey,
Matt Berman, Lance
Howe, Stephanie Martin

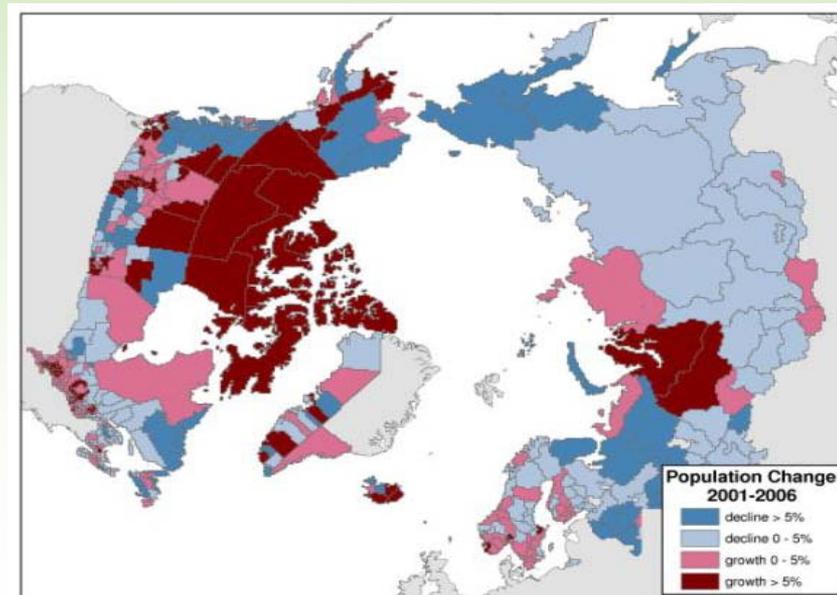
Migration is an indicator of relative well-being at the community level.



Research Area: Recording Changing Social and Economic Conditions

Arctic Observation Network - Social Indicators Project (AON – SIP)

ISER Investigators: Jack Kruse, Matt Berman,
Ginny Fay, Sharman Haley, Marie Lowe



Education Research Themes

- Center for Alaska Education Policy Research
- K-12 Workforce
- Rural and Indigenous Issues
- Program Evaluation



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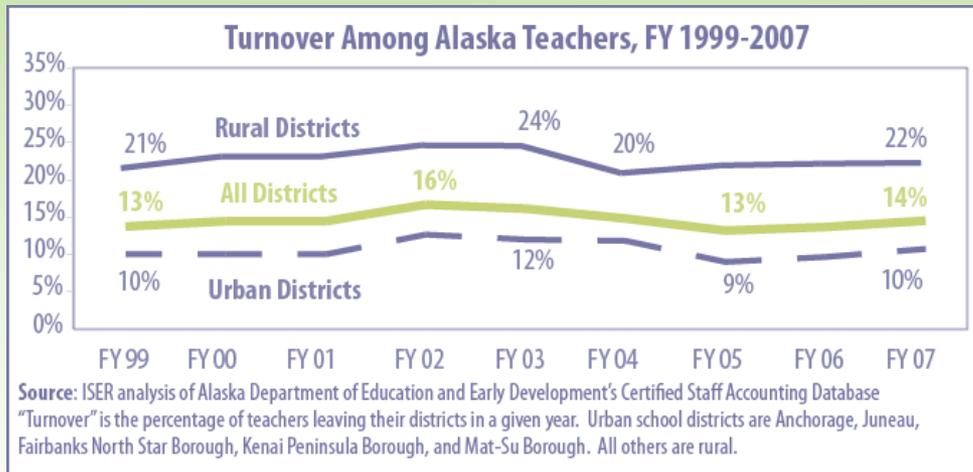
Center for Alaska Education Policy Research (CAEPR)

- **Start-up supported by the UA Foundation**
- **Mission:** The Center for Alaska Education Policy Research enhances decision-making by policymakers, education professionals, and the public through collaborative, interdisciplinary research, analysis, and dissemination. The center conducts non-partisan research on policy issues concerning educational access, equity, and excellence in the Alaska context, across early childhood, primary and secondary, and higher and adult education.



K-12 Workforce

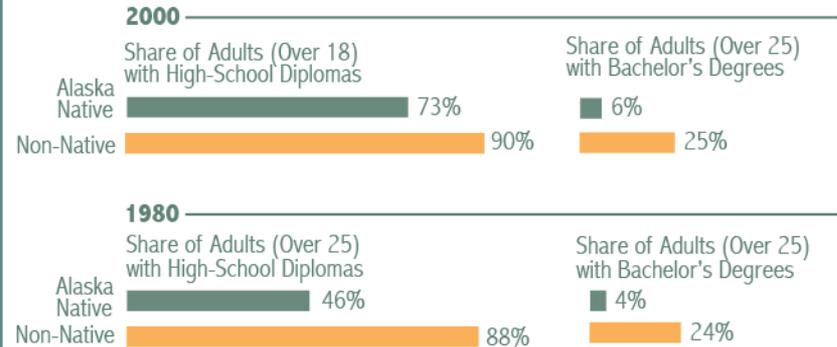
- Analyzing supply of and demand for teachers (multi-year collaboration with Alaska Teacher Placement)
- Responding to legislation (Senate Bill 241) calling for a University of Alaska report to the state legislature on teacher preparation, retention, and recruitment



Rural and Indigenous Issues

- Boarding school experiences (historic and contemporary)
- Alaska Native student success
- Models for providing rural education

Changing High-School and College Education Among Alaskans



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Program Evaluation

ISER researchers are evaluating several programs:

- **Alaska Educational Innovations Network:** partnership of UAA's College of Education and several school districts, uses networked learning among communities of rural and urban educators to improve student outcomes.
- **Alaska Pacific University's Education Innovations Project:** to increase the number of Alaska Native certificated teachers and to provide professional development to educators serving Alaska Native communities.
- **Alaska Network for Understanding American History:** helps Alaska educators in teaching American history (Anchorage School District).
- **A new U.S. Department of Defense program:** helps children of military personnel in the Anchorage School District with transitions and achievement when their parents are deployed.





Hooper Bay, Alaska. Photo by S. Colt

Renewable and Alternative Energy ISER Energy and Environment Group



**Institute of Social and Economic Research
University of Alaska Anchorage**

ISER Energy Research Goals

- **Work with communities to understand energy – economy – community interactions**
- **Work with technical experts to evaluate emerging technologies, especially wind and nuclear**
- **Analyze and propose policy innovations to encourage Arctic-hardy alternatives to diesel**

Total Current Research Portfolio (as of December 2010)

- **About 15 active projects**
- **About \$2 million external funding**

Energy – Economy – Communities

- How is energy used for transportation in Alaska?
What is the scope for cost-effective alternatives?
- Why is the *delivered* cost of remote fuel so high?
How will alternatives be delivered and distributed?

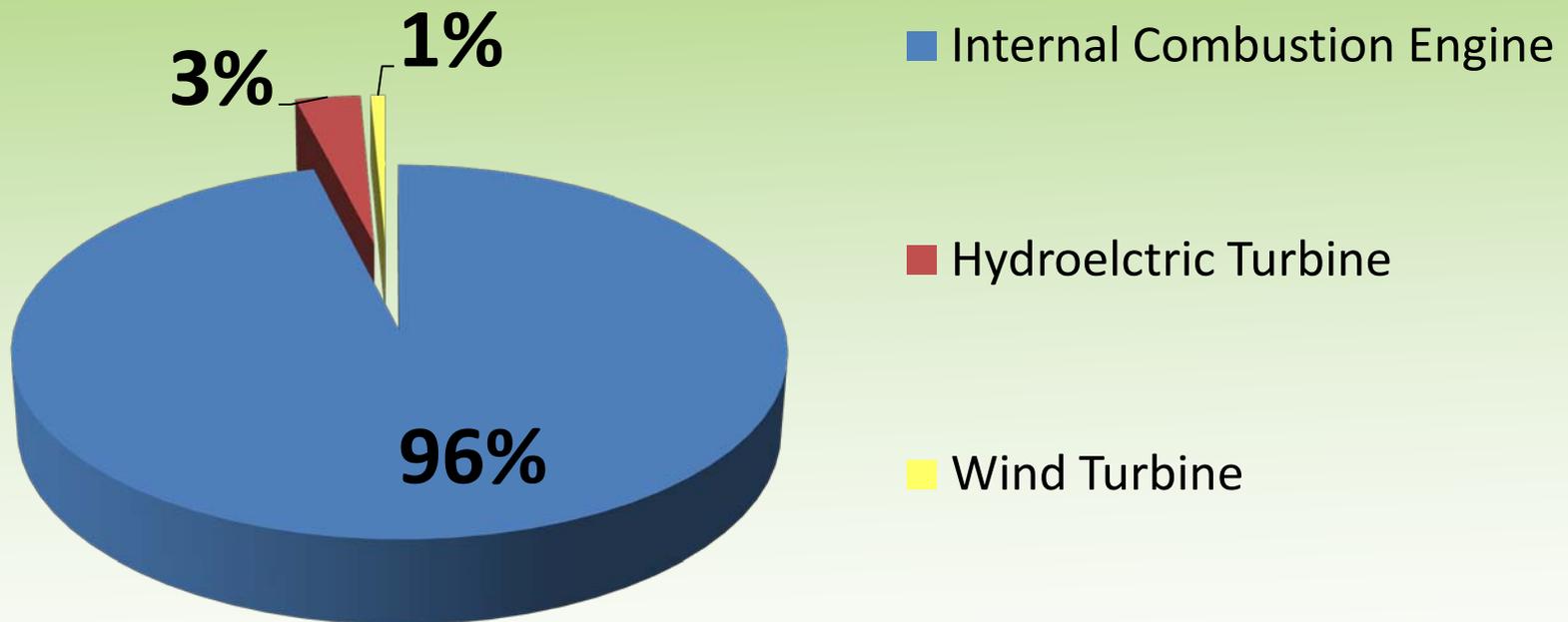


Chevak, Alaska. Photo by S. Colt

- Where are long-run fuel prices headed?
Which alternatives are likely to make economic sense?
- What is the “structure” of end-use energy demand?
How can alternatives be integrated into that structure?



Net Generation by Prime Mover in Southwest Alaska



Electricity in Southwest Alaska

	Bethel	Southwest	State
Installed Capacity, KW	12,600	84,613	2,151,950
Net Generation, MWh	41,723	178,254	6,498,988
Residential Customers, Accounts	1,616	9,393	270,014
Cost of Electricity, \$/KWh	0.49	0.49	0.17

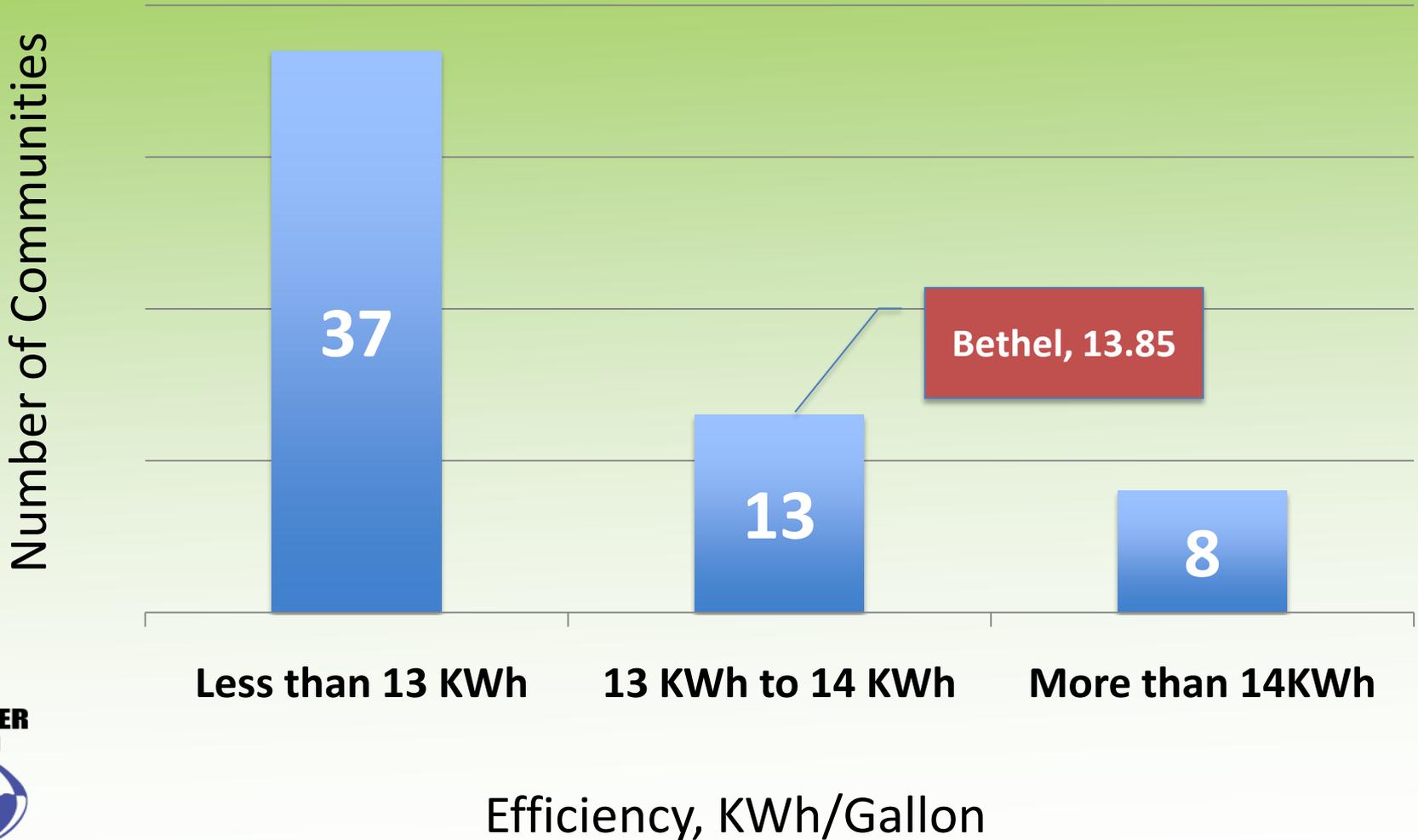


Fuel Usage, Cost & Efficiency

- Diesel Used – 362,804 barrels/year
- Average Fuel Cost per KWh – \$0.24
- Highest price per KWh
 - Lime Village \$1.17
- Lowest price per KWh
 - King Cove \$0.24
- Most efficient utility
 - Nushagak Electric in Dillingham



Power Generation Efficiency in SW Alaska Communities



Alternative Energy: Wind

Making Wind Work for Alaska

Sustainable, resilient, cost-effective wind-diesel systems for isolated communities

Collaborative effort

ACEP/ISER/UAA Engineering/Communities/Agencies/Industry

Funded by U.S. Department of Energy-EPSCoR (3 years, \$2.8M)

ISER portion

- **People and communities are crucial “moving parts” of any wind system**
- **What are the critical socioeconomic, management, and policy factors that make Alaska (and Arctic) wind projects successful?**

Alaska Energy Statistics: 2011

- Big picture of electricity and energy in Alaska
- Comprehensive look at energy production/ generation and use/consumption in the state
- Last published 2002

Statistics

- Installed Capacity
- Net Generation
- Sales
- Revenue
- Customers
- CO2 Emissions and relative efficiency (New)

Industry and Military

Railbelt Overview

Alaska Renewable Energy

- Renewable Energy Fund
- Hydroelectric
- Geothermal
- Combined Heat and Power
- Heat Recovery
- Wind



ISER's Plans for our 50th Anniversary

Northern Frontier to the New North: Alaska People, Institutions, and Resources

- September in Anchorage: Celebration and public lecture
- Keynote speaker and panel of past ISER directors

Symposia, Conferences, Co-Sponsored Events

- Climate Change Symposium, co-sponsored by University of Alaska Anchorage and the Chugach National Forest (May)
- The Evolution of Telecommunications in Alaska (June)
- Reconsidering the Coastal Community; Resources of Land and Sea (September)

Outreach: ISER on the Road (or “on the plane”)

- Juneau: Briefing for legislature
- Fairbanks: UAF and community
- Bethel, Dillingham, other regional campuses

ISER 50: And Beyond

Publications and Multi-Media

- Alaska Native Language Map: available in hard copy and online
- Web-based materials and interactive tools showcasing ISER's history and research
- Publications based on research presented by ISER in 2011

ISER 50 and ANCSA 40

- Contributing historical research and bibliography
- Collaboration with First Alaskans Institute

George Rogers Fund for Emerging Scholars

- Fellowships and support for junior scholars to undertake research in Alaska
- Provide Alaska research opportunities for emerging scholars
- Attract promising researchers to ISER and UAA
- In honor of ISER cofounder George Rogers

For more information: www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu
iser50@uaa.alaska.edu

