

Community Health Needs Assessment

Final Report
2023-2024

crescendo

VOICE OF THE ARCTIC IÑUPIAT

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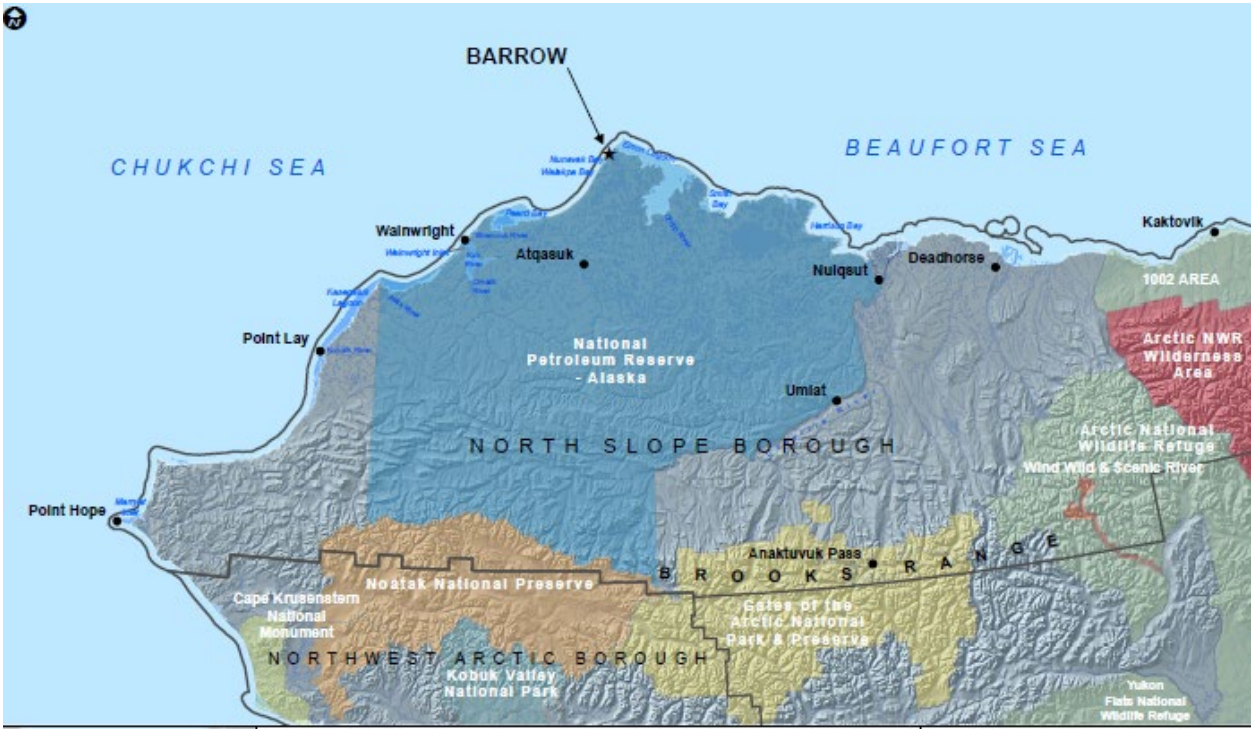
Organizational Background

The Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat was organized in 2015 to promote the social welfare of the Iñupiaq people of the Arctic Slope within the meaning of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including, but not limited to: developing local advocacy and engagement for the Iñupiat of the Arctic Slope to state, federal, and international forums addressing Arctic issues; promoting an understanding of the North Slope economy within the region and encourage culturally safe and responsible development for economic sustainability; developing local content and responses with respect to activities within the region that allow for protection of the lands, waters, and subsistence resources used by the Arctic Iñupiat for thousands of years; acting to protect the interests of the Arctic Iñupiat; becoming the local knowledge center for the communities and people regarding developments in the Arctic Slope region; and being a conduit for information transfer with outside organizations, including both governmental and non-governmental entities.

Service Area

The Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat serves eight villages on the North Slope of Alaska as depicted below and in the following descriptions.

Exhibit 1: Service Area



The Iñupiat and their ancestors have inhabited the lands and waters of the Arctic for thousands of years. The Iñupiat highly regard family, work ethic, the Iñupiaq language, drumming and dancing, and sharing food and knowledge of animals with a deep respect for the environment as it provides fresh water, clean air, and subsistence foods. The following descriptions of the Inupiat Values and individual villages are excerpts from their most recently available comprehensive plans.

Iñupiaq Values

Value	Description
Paaqłaktautaiññiq - *Avoidance of Conflict*	The Iñupiaq way is to think positive, act positive, speak positive and live positive.
Nagliktuutiqaġniq – *Compassion*	Though the environment is harsh and cold, our ancestors learned to live with warmth, kindness, caring and compassion.
Paammaaġigñiq – *Cooperation*	Together we have an awesome power to accomplish anything.
Iḷagiigñiq - *Family and Kinship*	As Iñupiat people, we believe in knowing who we are and how we are related to one another. Our families bind us together.
Qiñuiññiq - *Humility*	Our hearts command that we act on goodness. We expect no reward in return. This is part of our cultural fiber.
Quvianġuniq - *Humor*	Indeed, laughter is the best medicine.
Aŋuniallaniq - *Hunting Traditions*	Reverence for the land, sea, and animals is the foundation of our hunting traditions.
Iñupiuraallaniq - *Knowledge of Our Language*	With our language, we have an identity. It helps us to find out who we are in our mind and in our heart.
Piqpakkutiqaġniq suli Qiksiksrautiqaġniq Utuqqanaanun Allanullu - *Love and Respect for our Elders and One Another*	Our Elders model our traditions and ways of being. They are a light of hope to younger generations. May we treat each other as our Elders have taught us.
Qiksiksrautiqaġniq Iñuuniaġvigmun - *Respect for Nature*	Our Creator gave us the gift of our surroundings. Those before us placed ultimate importance on respecting this magnificent gift for their future generations.
Aviktuaqatigiigñiq - *Sharing*	It is amazing how sharing works. Your acts of giving always come back.
Ukpiqqutiqaġniq - *Spirituality*	We know the power of prayer. We are a spiritual people.

Executive Summary

Liminal spaces are transitional or transformative places. They are at once boundaries and thresholds. In them you may feel you are on the verge of something wonderful, or terrifying, or both.

The North Slope epitomizes liminal space. The climate is changing. The economy is a mix of traditional subsistence and modern lifestyles. There is great wealth and deep poverty. For many, it is a place of constant activity and, we found with the fiber optic cable cut, for many an area of intense boredom. The Iñupiat lands convey a sense of both agency and surrender. You find both a rugged independent spirit and a sense of acceptance and inevitability.

This report shows, in sharp relief, the liminal challenges faced by the State of Alaska and the United States as a whole. Here, first contact is closer in time, our human inconsistencies are clearer, and our strengths are even stronger.

'Most of us dislike being in limbo. Between answers. Between knowing. Between one ending and another beginning. Caught in a liminal space where little is familiar; where the regular modes of being in the world no longer suffice, but the new ones have not yet been embraced.'

Anonymous Ancestor

There is both a rugged individualism and a community spirit in the Iñupiaq culture. The Iñupiat expect participation and cooperation, yet social issues in villages and across the North Slope fester due in large part to bureaucracy, squabbles, and generational trauma.

The great abundance provided by native leadership and natural resources over generations has brought modern housing, employment and municipal services, yet today the housing stock and infrastructure are literally collapsing in some areas and basic protections are needed for some of the most vulnerable in the society. Perhaps nowhere else are the failings of the modern safety net so evident.

For millennia, Iñupiat strengths and leadership have made it possible for future generations to survive and thrive. For this reason, this liminal place is on the verge of many great possibilities.

Throughout the process by which this needs assessment was developed we heard from many individuals in the different communities on the North Slope to gather qualitative data to compliment the quantitative data from various sources. Individuals told stories about challenges faced in their communities that were documented throughout this process. There is more information about the process in the narrative below.

It is one thing to identify a challenge and it is another thing to prioritize the different challenges and begin to work on addressing them. Another important step in the development of this needs assessment was to prioritize the identified needs and a survey was utilized to assist in the

prioritization. Please refer to page 39 for more thorough information on the prioritization process. The following are a result of that prioritization:

Final Rank	Community Need
1	Youth Activities (page 25)
2	Job Opportunities & Economic Development (page 30)
3	Education (page 29)
4	Motivation and Support (page 31)
5	Mental Health and Domestic Violence Support (page 25)
6	Equitable Access to Food, Basic Services (page 27)
7	Alcohol and Substance Use (page 28)
8	Housing, Home Maintenance & Repair (page 24)
9	Transportation and Air Flights (page 27)

Please take note of the top 3 prioritized needs. Youth activities, job opportunities & economic development and education. The top 3 priorities all have a place in addressing the bottom 6 priorities.

By increasing access to youth activities and providing and consistent and worthwhile place-based education, you begin to address motivation and support and mental health issues earlier on. And with positive economic development and growth you have more job opportunities. Couple that with education and you have a workforce to fill those jobs. More information for all of these can be found in the report narrative below.

The sheer level of economic development that has taken place on the North Slope since the formation of the North Slope Borough has been huge and has led to many benefits for the people in the communities on the North Slope. That point is not lost on our leaders of today and is why the VOICE was created to preserve and advance the cultural and economic self-determination of the people of the North Slope.

All prioritized needs listed above require cooperation between different organization that represent the people of the North Slope. No one organization can advance a priority on their own nor should they be expected to. Each organization has a respective role in each of the priorities above. The leaders of the various organizations, i.e. tribes, cities, Alaska Native Corporation's, Borough and other non-profits, have to work as one. Just like we are taught as young Iñupiaq children.

Community Voices

This report recognizes that the Iñupiat people and local residents are the foremost experts on their lives and community. Understanding and alleviating the causes and conditions of poverty is particularly challenging in the region and a state where people are proud of their self-determination and have a difficult time asking for help. For this reason and others, a qualitative approach has a very strong emphasis in this research.

More than **110** community members in **eight native villages** across the North Slope were interviewed. Some village members chose to share a great deal of information and many conversations exceeded 30 minutes. **Readers will find the voices of the Iñupiat people throughout this document**. The Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat (VOICE) Community Needs Assessment establishes an in-depth profile of both individual communities and the North Slope Region.

People living face to face with poverty make it pretty clear: there is no overarching theory of the causes of poverty in the U.S. Even before the pandemic, academics suggested *"There has been a lack of debate between and frameworks for theories of the causes of poverty. However, "most theories of poverty can be productively categorized into three broader groups of theories: behavioral, structural, and political."*[1]

The three-stage approach and additional local and national research helped to frame the many interviews and discussion groups. This additional data can be found in the Appendix.

[1] Theories of the Causes of Poverty, David Brady, Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 45:155-175

Community Needs Assessment Approach

The VOICE Community Needs Assessment used a three-stage approach to establish a profile of its communities, noting both needs as well as community resources.

Methodology



The CNA methodology includes a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods designed to evaluate perspectives and opinions of area community partners and community members, especially those from underserved populations and agency clients.

When the report refers specifically to the *"North Slope Borough"* data or the NSB departments it is so identified. Other references to the VOICE members area, refers to the North Slope Region. It is worth noting that the city of Utqiaġvik comprises approximately 47.2% of the North Slope Borough population. The second largest city is Point Hope, which comprises approximately 8.5% of the North Slope Borough population in the Census data. In other words, Utqiaġvik has an out-sized impact on the averages shown for the North Slope Borough secondary data.

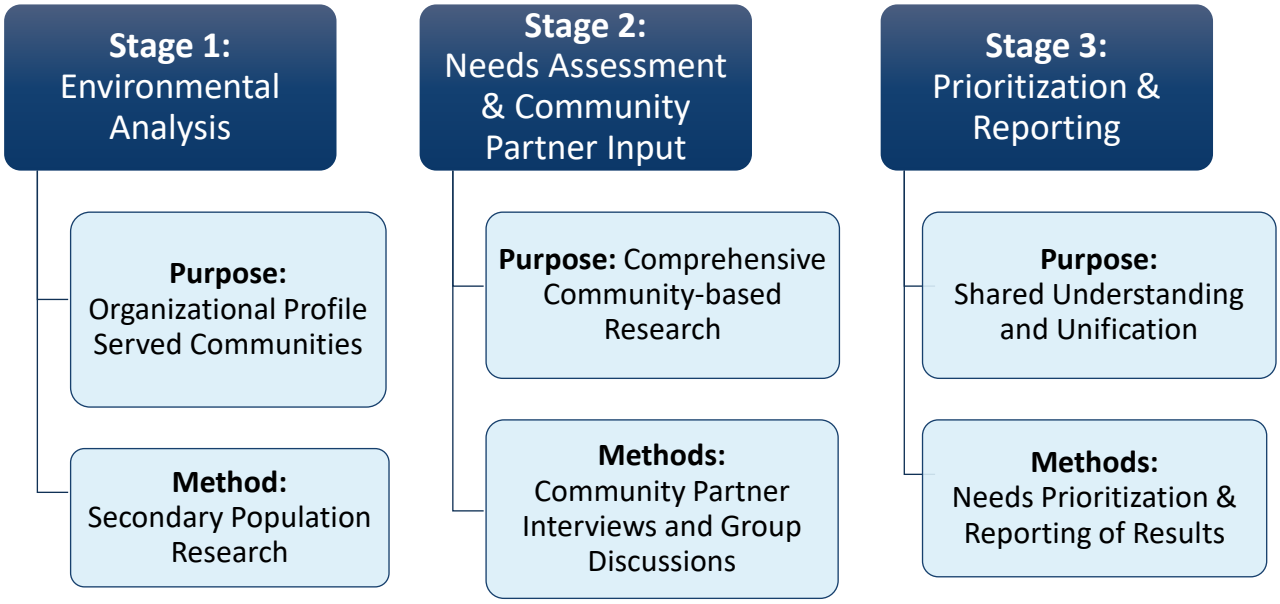
Definitions, Glossary and Data Limitations

As noted, when the term North Slope Borough is used in this document it refers to the organization the "North Slope Borough". In other references the term North Slope Region is used. The Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, or ASRC, refers to the native-owned organization founded in the 1970s. Please see the Glossary in Appendix E for other acronyms and definitions.

Most figures drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey data are estimates. A limitation of the data is that the sample sizes of several demographic population subgroups in the smaller villages may not be large enough to consider the samples to be representative of the broader populations from which responses were received. Differences in responses across groups have not been tested for statistical significance as part of this assessment. It is important to note that neither the primary nor the secondary data utilized completely randomized samples.

Three-stage Approach

The major sections of the methodology include the following:



Qualitative Interviews, Discussion Groups, and Personas. This primary research includes discussion groups and interviews with VOICE leadership, other community service providers, and community members across the state. These interviews and the secondary data helped create the **personas found throughout the report.** The personas are a composite of demographic groups. **They are fictional characters** that represent a distinct set of people who live full or part time on the North Slope. The personas are based on both qualitative and quantitative information. **The names used do not mean to suggest the Personas represent any specific person, real or dead.**

Strategic Secondary Research, and Literature Review. This type of research includes a thorough analysis of previously published materials that provides insight regarding the community profile and health-related measures.

A Needs Prioritization Process. A list of 18 community needs was developed following the secondary research, qualitative interviews, and discussion groups. Leadership group members participated in a two-phase prioritization process.

The on-going work is to tease apart the concepts of correlation and causation to identify areas of increasing inequalities and poor quality of life. Addressing these inequalities is essential for improving individual well-being and reducing long-standing neighborhood disparities. Several additional perspectives help highlight the unique challenges on the North Slope.

Cost of Living Disparities

The complexities of the North Slope make it difficult to utilize a singular deprivation measure, such as poverty, to identify areas of disparity in individual and community well-being. As one leader noted "the story of the Iñupiat is hidden within the averages." For that reason, several alternatives to the federal poverty measure were utilized including:

- **Market Basket analysis of common grocery items.** During the onsite portion of the research, retail grocery prices were collected for over 40 items. Retail prices for comparable items were then collected from a variety of retail stores serving the lower 48 states. Additionally, cost of living data were also collected from sources such as the Economic Policy Institute, US Census Bureau, retail sites (such as 247 Wall Street, Best Places, and others).
- **Travel costs.** Cost of living expenses are exacerbated due to high travel costs (i.e., airfare) and flight schedules – often requiring travelers seeking a "daytrip" from one of the smaller villages to Utqiaġvik, Fairbanks, or Anchorage to buy supplies and spend the night at a hotel.



A Self Determination Lens

To understand the causes of poverty and promote self-sufficiency it is essential to view the root causes through a lens of self-determination and history. Such a view encourages the development of solutions that bridge gaps in health, housing, employment, and other factors.

Historical relations between the Iñupiat people and the United States government and its emissaries have often been based on racial discrimination. Racial discrimination is defined as the differential evaluation or treatment based solely on race.

"Many white people deny the existence of racism against people of color because they assume that racism is defined by deliberate actions motivated by malice and hatred. However, racism can occur without conscious awareness."[2] *"It is important to understand how race and racism have been historically operationalized, embedding white privilege in our institutions, and how internalized racism is maintained."* [3]

For millennia the Iñupiat have developed their own traditions of what it means to be self-sufficient. Where possible, these traditions and the importance of continuing this self-determination have been a lens through which the data is read.

Key Themes from the Literature Review

The literature review was set within the larger context of self-determination and the resources available at a national level to identify the areas where local needs, knowledge, and ongoing practices interface with best-practice innovations elsewhere. The review highlights the major themes consistent across the published reports. While comprehensive, the review included references that are not intended to be characterized as an exhaustive meta-analysis on the subjects noted. The key themes found in the research and included in Appendix C: Poverty Literature Review note the following as areas that can help impact poverty:

- Targeting local areas of greatest need
- Increasing racial equity knowledge, awareness, and action
- Using targeted outreach to enroll families with young children in WIC, mental health, and substance use disorders services
- Expanding housing
- Improving pre-school and early childhood enrollment patterns
- Addressing Food Insecurity

[2] How to Promote Racial Equity in the Workplace. Livingston, Robert. Harvard Business Review September-October 2020
[3]The Racial Equity Toolkit; Accessed September 2022 at: https://www.racialequitytools.org/resources/fundamentals/core-concepts

Social Determinants of Health

Beyond the traditional poverty statistics, the measures known as the social determinants of health (SDoH) are some of the best-researched causes of health and economic disparities[4].

The SDoH are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and grow older. These factors affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. These conditions contribute to wide disparities, inequalities, and lower life expectancy relative to people who do not have access to advantages such as jobs, healthy foods, and early childhood education. **Many of these measures that identify causes of poverty** are used alone or in conjunction with Racial Equity and Social Vulnerability Index measures to identify areas of disparity in individual and community well-being throughout the North Slope Region.



Persona: Margee

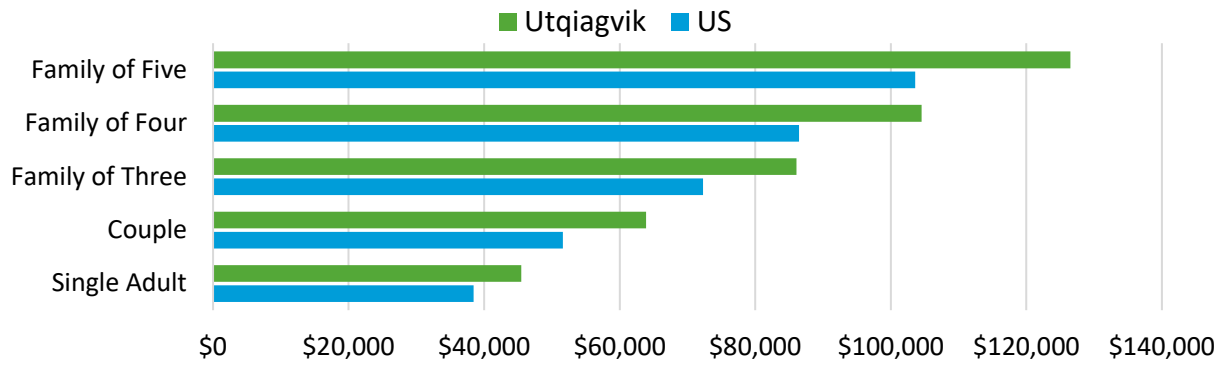
Margee's story is one of overcoming obstacles and serves as an example for others. She is thoughtful about what she wears and has nice, but not ostentatious jewelry. She's in her 30s and has a partner. Her interview might take place during a break from her duties in the middle of a busy workday in one of the smaller villages. She comes from three generations of alcoholics. She and her husband were headed in the same direction when she heard the voice of someone she cared for asking her to stop for future generations of the Iñupiat. She's been clean and sober for years, has a loving family and she and her partner have engaging jobs. She is concerned about education.

[4] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030, Social Determinants of Health. Link: health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health

Cost of Living

The total cost of living in the North Slope (i.e., in Utqiaġvik, as shown in the table and chart below) is approximately 20% higher than the lower 48-states averages.[5]

Exhibit 2: Cost of Living



Household Size	United States	Utqiaġvik	Percent Higher in Utqiaġvik
Single Adult	$38,433	$45,496	18.4%
Couple	$51,622	$63,871	23.7%
Family of Three	$72,299	$86,096	19.1%
Family of Four	$86,448	$104,524	20.9%
Family of Five	$103,585	$126,481	22.1%

- Grocery prices in the North Slope are more than twice as expensive as they are in the lower 48 states.[6] Grocery market basket data shows that North Slope groceries are 2.3 times more expensive than similar items in the lower 48 states. The Utqiagvik cost of living (e.g., $45,496 for a single adult) is very similar to the Alaska state average ($45,372). See appendices for details.
- In addition to nominal grocery expenditures, total costs of living are disproportionately impacted by travel costs (e.g., flights from smaller villages to Utqiaġvik or flights from Utqiaġvik to Anchorage to purchase consumer goods or other products). Round trip airfare in June 2023 from Utqiaġvik to Point Lay was approximately $644 – an unaffordable expense for many families. Also note that because of current airline schedules (e.g., Wright Air Service, Alaska Air), travel from most villages to Utqiaġvik requires at least one overnight hotel stay – further driving expenses.
- Note that North Slope families that with higher amounts of subsistence food would have a notably lower overall cost of living; however, this percentage varies substantially.

[5] Comen, Evan; Stebbins, Samuel, "Cost of Living in Utqiagvik, Alaska", 2023. Note: The total cost of living is defined as annual total cost of housing, food, child care, transportation, health care, taxes, and other necessities.
[6] The VOAI sample is similar to, and consistent with, other independent research. For example, the Best Places "Cost of Living Analysis" shows an index of 2.52. Available at https://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/county/alaska/north_slope_borough

Demographic Overview

The North Slope Borough of Alaska is home to 10,865 residents across 94,796 square miles all above the Arctic Circle. Alaska is one of the youngest states in the country with a median age of 33.5 years. The median age in the North Slope Borough, specifically, is relatively young, with approximately 12.6% of the population over age 60. This is noteworthy because as people age, their needs may change based on health status, mobility, and socioeconomic status.

The following data points frame some of the key demographic factors that impact life in the North Slope.

- There was a 15.2% increase in the population size of North Slope Borough from 2010 to 2021. The total population of the North Slope Borough is expected to increase by 2030. However, in some of the villages, the population is expected to decrease by 2030, which may indicate a trend from the villages to Barrow or other areas. Published research on trends may miss this due to being focused on borough to borough movement.
- The median age for the North Slope Borough is younger than the state average – 33.5 years compared to 35.0 years.
- Compared to Alaska as a whole, the North Slope Borough has a notably higher percentage of population that is American Indian and Alaska Native (55.3% compared to 14.6%.)
- Median household income in the region ranges from $62,321 in Point Hope to $94,661 in Utqiaġvik.
- Across the north slope, non-Hispanic white householders have an income bracket that is more than $100,000 higher than the population that identifies as American Indian and Alaska Native householders.

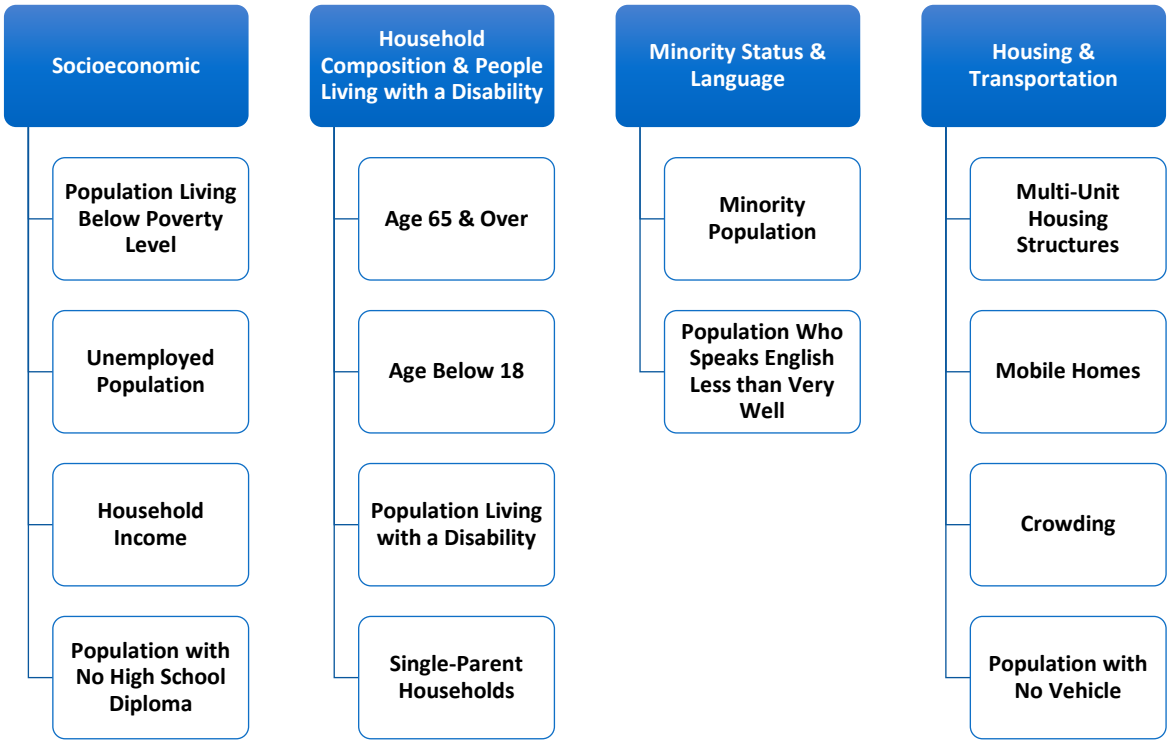
Persona: John

John should be in prison now, or at least in jail for a good stint. He's been working with others to bring illegal substances into the North Slope and selling them. He's under 35, but feels he's been in this business forever. Most of the smart kids in high school could tell you who he is and what he does. But no one in the village will register a complaint with the police and have him busted. If they did, it wouldn't matter because it's not like the state would ever bring the case to court. John is concerned about it whether he can make enough to go to the islands.

- Using standard poverty analysis, the percentage of people living in poverty across the North Slope Borough (8.6%) is less than Alaska as a whole (10.4%). However, rates in several of the North Slope Borough communities are substantially higher than Alaska.
- For a family of one adult and two children, the cost of living in the North Slope Borough is estimated to require an annual income before taxes of $100,885. To meet the cost of living, the one adult in this family would need to make $48.50 per hour, which is more than four times higher than Alaska's minimum wage ($10.85 per hour).

Social Vulnerability Index

The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) provides a good aggregate of community demographics. The composite analysis was originally developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an emergency preparedness tool. It is especially helpful in identifying vulnerable populations. The SVI's measures are described within four domains.



The SVI may be used to rank overall population wellbeing and mobility. It can also be used to determine the most vulnerable populations during disaster preparedness and global pandemics. **For comparison purposes, the key measures for the North Slope Borough are shown in comparison to state and national data, as well as the Ketchikan Borough. The Ketchikan Borough was included for comparison to demonstrate the mixture of life and experience across Alaska.**

The following SVI table highlights many factors that impact the needs of people living in the North Slope Borough service area.

Exhibit 3: Social Vulnerability Index

	North Slope Borough	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Alaska	United States
Population	10,865	13,939	735,951	329,725,481
Below Poverty	8.6%	9.4%	10.4%	12.6%
Unemployed[7]	9.2%	4.7%	6.9%	5.5%
Median Income	$83,992	$77,820	$80,287	$69,021
No High School Diploma	12.4%	6.0%	6.8%	11.1%
Age 65 or Older	7.3%	16.0%	12.3%	16.0%
Age 17 or Younger	27.5%	21.7%	24.8%	22.5%
Living with a Disability	11.0%	15.0%	12.4%	12.6%
Single-parent Households	30.7%	20.4%	20.5%	24.6%
Ethnic Minority	71.8%	37.5%	41.0%	40.6%
Limited or no English Proficiency	8.0%	4.3%	4.3%	8.2%
Multi-unit Housing Structures ("Housing units by units in the structure)	27.5%	37.4%	24.7%	26.4%
Mobile Homes	0.8%	3.3%	4.2%	5.9%
No Vehicle[8]	37.1%	11.6%	9.2%	8.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates

- While the **unemployment rate for the North Slope Borough is much higher** than those of the U.S., Alaska, and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, there are **notably fewer households below the poverty level in the North Slope Borough**.

[7] Some data are extrapolated based in the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Unemployment Report. Also, the Census Bureau margins of error on American Community Survey estimates may be large given small sample sizes. Additionally, Alaska is the only state where the 'cost of surveying' is permitted in sample formation, so higher cost responses may be somewhat underrepresented.

[8] Please note: four-wheelers and ATVs are not included in this count.

- **Median household income is higher for the North Slope Borough** than for the U.S., Alaska, and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.
- The **percentage of the population in the North Slope Borough with no high school diploma is higher** than all other represented geographic areas.
- The **North Borough Slope population is markedly younger and the percentage of population living with a disability is lower** than the U.S., Alaska, and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.
- There is a **higher proportion of children living in single-parent households in the North Slope Borough** compared to the U.S., Alaska, and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.
- The **North Slope Borough is notably more diverse racially and ethnically** compared to the other represented geographic locations. However, the **percentage of the North Slope Borough population that has limited or no English proficiency is similar to the national level**.
- **The percentage of households without vehicles (excluding four-wheelers and ATVs) is markedly higher in the North Slope Borough** than for the U.S., Alaska, and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Persona: Jim

Jim is in his 40s and has what could be an all-consuming job. Men like Jim make the economy grow. But Jim is also devoted to his family, his whaling crew, and the Iñupiat culture. He's college educated or served in the military. His friends, family and employer are glad he is here. He is in recovery, and has been for years. Jim worries that younger people don't have the same drive and that he will not be able to find skilled employees for his growing enterprise.

Qualitative Research

The qualitative research provides insight into the individual, family, and community experiences that shape the villages of the North Slope. Interviews and group discussions allowed people to share in-depth perspectives about the strengths and beauty of the area, as well as concerns, needs, and ideas about ways to improve the quality of life for themselves and the communities.

Approach

The qualitative primary research methodology consisted of community partner interviews and focus group discussions with key community organization leaders and service providers, healthcare providers, policymakers, and community residents. The interview and discussion group guide used to facilitate the conversations can be found in Appendix B.

Qualitative data collection resulted in a consensus of several top areas of need that can be described as qualitative themes. Each of these qualitative themes impact the subsequent high-level action areas. The action areas include an overview of the subject and utilize de-identified illustrative observations in italics which are representative of respondents' consensus perspectives. In addition, personas found throughout the report were created as a composite of demographic groups. Personas are fictional characters that represent a distinct set of people who live full or part time on the North Slope.

Persona: George

As long as George is around, no one in the village need starve. George is in his 20s - or his 50s. The first thing you notice is his great smile. The second thing you notice are his dental problems. He likes his soda. He never finished school, but he is one of the best subsistence hunters in the village. He might help with a whaling crew, but he prefers to hunt and fish alone. He can tell you where the caribou migrate or when the bearded seals are in. He knows the weather is changing. He sees it every year and he worries about it.

One-on-One Interviews

More than 110 community members in eight villages across the North Slope were interviewed via one-on-one in-person, Zoom and phone interviews. Each lasted approximately 30 minutes, although some village members chose to share a great deal of information and exceeded 30 minutes. These conversations provided the opportunity for in-depth conversations about community strengths and challenges faced by low-income community members in accessing

housing, health care, childcare, community services, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as ideas for solutions to improve their communities.

Group Discussions

Many of the group discussions in this study were informally constructed, but each used the standard interview guide. The participants ranged in age from middle schoolers to village elders. Settings included public works employees; school-aged summer work crews; village sewing circle, first responders (e.g., fire department staff members), and others. Most started with a brief introduction, followed by hearing participants' broad thoughts about topic areas. Participants were encouraged to speak about their particular areas of concern, interest, or experience, as many opinions and observations were grounded in both personal and professional experiences. In some cases, especially with mixed groups of youth and adults there was some reticence on the part of the younger members.



Overarching Themes

In most of the interviews there was a genuine desire to assist in the project of identifying the top needs in both the villages and across the Borough. There are several themes that impact all the discrete Action Areas.

Future Generations and Cultural Traditions

While there were many comments about children, schools, and youth activities there was also an overarching theme emphasizing the importance of working to ensure a good future for the Iñupiat children. The frequent emphasis on family shed light on the importance of preserving cultural traditions and passing them on to the younger generation. Some elders highlight the significance of "SOUL food," referring to hunting and traditional practices that provide nourishment beyond physical sustenance. Concerns were raised about the risk of losing cultural teachings when daily life becomes too busy.

Engagement and Cooperation

There is often a disconnect between the various local, regional, state, and national authorities. Depending upon the village and the service being discussed, there may be a need for seven or more organizations to be involved, including, but not limited to: ASRC, NSB, ASNA, ICAS, local municipalities, local village corporation, regional and local tribes, State of Alaska, IHS, HUD, and other Federal agencies. There were multiple mentions of the need to work together.

When asked 'What is the most helpful role for The Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat?' respondents suggest that the organization can play a crucial role in breaking down silos between villages and service providers, as well as helping to foster a sense of unity among the Iñupiat people. Participants emphasized that understanding and respecting the sovereignty of each village is essential, and this can be achieved through the organization's behavior and actions.

Persona: Brenda

Brenda is a regular fixture at the sewing circle. Before the arthritis crippled her hands, she could sew a waterproof seal skin parka and some of the most beautiful coats you have ever seen. She will tell you; the men brag a lot about hunting and fishing, but it is the women who are the true foundation of the village. She is one of the older ones who could tell you about the Mothers' club started by the missionaries; about living on Iñupiat land before there was a modern sense of time. She worries for the future generations of the people.

Food Sovereignty and Security

Food sovereignty and security is extremely important to maintaining our subsistence-based Inupiaq culture, communities, and people on the North Slope. There are many wide-ranging concerns surrounding this topic. Concerns include, but not limited to:

a) **Increased reliance** on expensive imported food items, potentially compromising food security in the region.

b) **Federal and State Policy**: Changes in State and Federal regulations.

c) **Infrastructure Vulnerability**: Many Arctic communities rely on ice roads, permafrost, and other frozen infrastructure for food transportation. As temperatures rise, these structures could become unstable, impacting day-to-day life, and increasing the cost of living.

d) **Loss of Traditional Hunting and Fishing Grounds** through regulatory and/or climate impacts could lead to a decline in the availability of traditional hunting and fishing grounds, impacting the ability of indigenous communities to sustain their traditional subsistence practices.

e) **Threats to Marine Mammals**: Marine mammals, such as seals and walruses, rely on sea ice as a platform for resting, giving birth, and finding food. Reduced sea ice cover could lead to habitat loss, affecting the availability of these marine mammals as a food source for Arctic communities.

f) **Changes in Fish Migration**: Warming waters and altered ocean currents may cause shifts in the distribution and migration patterns of fish species. This could impact the timing and location of fishing activities, making it harder for Arctic communities to predict and access fish resources. Species from further south may move into the Arctic waters and could prove to be an opportunity in the future

g) **Cultural Impact**: North Slope Iñupiaq culture is deeply intertwined with the natural environment. Climate change-induced disruptions to subsistence practices can erode cultural traditions and identity, leading to potential challenges in maintaining the unique cultural heritage of these communities.

Policy and Bureaucracy

In a region that may have as many as seven different organizations involved in delivering or paying for a specific service, the bureaucracy and related, conflicting policies, present significant challenges to getting things done. For example, wage rates within closely associated government organizations add to workforce turnover. While some models are working to coordinate efforts (Quadrilateral Commission, Wainwright Trilateral) there may be additional Federal and State support available if the North Slope groups can act collaboratively. In the words of one respondent: *"Someone or some organization is needed to identify grants, cut through bureaucracy, write grant applications, and help with administration. That would be amazing. There seems to be a lot of money available, we just need help getting it."*

Motivation and Support

North Slope village residents have rich traditions and ample natural resources. Many have career and personal growth opportunities and resources. However, many residents reflect a lack of motivation to excel. Throughout the North Slope, career opportunities exist through the North Slope Region, ASRC, village corporations, private sector companies, and others. Personal development opportunities also exist in education, subsistence living, and cultural growth. However, many opportunities go unrealized. Good paying jobs often remain open because residents may not have the required education or training, may be eliminated due to drug screening or criminal background check issues, or are otherwise unwilling to pursue the opportunity. Reflection of the sentiments of many interviewees, "*We have plenty of good jobs available, but many people simply lack the drive or motivation to 'live' for a future job – they aren't challenged in school, some smoke marijuana so fail a drug screen, a few others just aren't inspired to get out and go after things.*"

Persona: Margee

Margee's story is one of overcoming obstacles and serves an example for others. She is thoughtful about what she wears and has nice but not ostentatious jewelry. She's in her 30s and has a partner. Her interview might take place during a break from her duties in the middle of a busy workday in one of the smaller villages. She comes from three generations of alcoholics. She and her husband were headed in the same direction when she heard the voice of someone she cared for asking her to stop for future generations of the Iñupiat. She's been clean and sober for years, has a loving family and she and her partner have engaging jobs. She is concerned about education.

Aside from the internal motivation described above, mentors and other people who can provide guidance are critically important. Village elders are invaluable resources – their wisdom, life-skills, sense of culture, and the repository of traditions. They play a unique role. They, along

with people in the school system and other community leaders, can guide youth and young families in several important areas of life.

- Planning for career development
- Passing down tradition and culture legacies
- Supporting good decisions for personal development, subsistence living skills, and others
- Providing motivation and support in all areas of life

In many North Slope communities, there is a reported lack of internal motivation and mentors (and others) to support and guide residents in important life decisions.

Aggregate Action Areas

The following **Action Areas** are most representative of respondents' consensus in both qualitative interviews and focus group discussions. These key action areas and some associated observations that are representative of respondents' consensus perspectives from the interviews are included on the following pages.

Please note that the Action Areas are not in any prioritized order.

- **Housing, Home Maintenance, and Repair:** The most critical concern is for safe, affordable, and better-maintained housing. Some overcrowding and dilapidated conditions are significant issues affecting the community.
- **Youth Activities**: The lack of activities and opportunities for young people is a pressing concern. There is a need for more engagement, motivation, and positive outlets to keep youth away from trouble.
- **Mental Health and Domestic Violence Support**: The need for improved mental health services and support for those affected by domestic violence is mentioned.
- **Alcohol and Substance Use**: Substance abuse, including alcohol and drug issues, is a recurring problem in the community, affecting individuals' motivation and overall well-being.
- **Education**: There is a call for better-quality education, vocational training (e.g., VoTech), and job opportunities to prepare young people for the job market.
- **Equitable Access to Food, Services and Resources**: Many village members face challenges in accessing essential services such as healthcare, mental health support, clean water, and a functional sewer system.

- **Job Opportunities and Economic Development**: Concerns about the local economy, job opportunities for locals, and the impact of the cost of living on subsistence activities are raised.
- **Motivation and Support**: There are calls for increased motivation and support for individuals to improve their lives, particularly among youth and parents in the community.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure:** Access to clean water and a functional sewer system is a priority for community members. Concerns about air travel expenses and transportation logistics are raised frequently.

Action Area – Housing, Home Maintenance, and Repair

Housing and related issues are the most often mentioned needs across the North Slope. Despite some new multiple housing units, there are also many abandoned houses. Some overcrowding and dilapidated conditions are significant issues affecting all the villages to varying degrees. Developing safe, affordable, and better-maintained housing faces multiple obstacles including: the cost of materials and transporting materials, commonly doubling the overall price; financing, land ownership complexities between multiple jurisdictions; lots that are not on roads and not accessible; and a general lack of contractors and skilled tradespeople.

The North Slope Borough, TNHA and others have been developing homes and multi-family housing across the region. Examples include the Utqiaġvik Multifamily Renovation of 29 units for approximately 50 individuals; Point Lay Housing Redevelopment starting 2023 2024 with six units serving up to 36 individuals; and new eight and ten-plex homes in Atqasuk and Anaktuvuk Pass.

Housing is complicated but helped in part due to Federal regulations.

Selected Community Voices:

- *“Land ownership is the biggest barrier because the banks won't loan on it; they will finance for owners with an enterprise fund, but hard to do if owners don't refinance after the homes were done.”*
- *“NAHASDA Reauthorization will kick off HUD’s negotiated rulemaking process and likely coincide with higher appropriations. The mechanics of the IHBG formula will come up for debate among major regions. The results will determine Alaska’s tribal housing allocations for years to come. United advocacy from within Alaska will be crucial to a successful outcome.”*

- *"Housing is a complicated problem involving land ownership… there are abandoned buildings because owners can't fix them because they are tied up in probate or don't have the resources."*
- *"Across multiple villages there are heating issues because many units didn't have Arctic Grade boilers and fixing them all now is not feasible. But even if we could fix or replace them, we don't have enough local people with the skills to do it."*

Action Area - Youth Activities

The lack of activities and opportunities for young people is a pressing concern. **This area is closely linked to the meta-themes, as well as education, employment, and economic development.** There is a need for more engagement, real work, mentoring, and education to inspire and motivate the younger generations and help keep youth away from trouble. In many cases youth activity depends upon family involvement. There are many seasonal activities in gathering resources to sustain the family and other activities are similar to a western style, e.g. basketball. Most of the villages have some indoor space (gyms, community room, pools) that could be used for youth activities but are not because they are broken, do not have maintenance staff or supervision.

Selected Community Voices:

- *"Some families spend time fishing and drying fish; family time is constantly in motion across the seasons."*
- *"There are not enough activities for kids. The Community Center is good but never open. They need to open it up to the community and organize things. They say that they can't find staff."*
- *"Because of modernization, a lot of people have become spoiled and don't want to work or help the community. We are losing some of the cultural aspects that make us who we are."*

Action Area - Mental Health and Domestic Violence Support

The need for improved mental health services and support for those affected by domestic violence is mentioned very frequently. Some therapies are provided in the Utqiaġvik, but multiple participants noted that "Mental Health is a difficult topic." Because of the lack of providers, the difficulty of serving the villages due to transportation and tele counselling limitations, and a dysfunctional or non-existent continuum of care. This action area also includes intervention and care for the many forms of child abuse reported. Alaska has a Child Advocacy Center and the center that serves the North Slope is in Fairbanks. Note SUD treatment is a separate action area in this report.

Selected Community Voices:

- *"We don't have many providers and more and more people are coming forward needing support – for both mental health and substance use (alcohol, meth, heroin, fentanyl)."*
- *"There is a major staffing issue. There is nowhere to send people who initially seek help. There is no continuum of care."*
- *"We have a new hospital in Barrow, and it has greatly improved [health] services, but it doesn't have all social services. Mental health and behavioral health are constantly in need and you have to come to Barrow to receive treatment."*
- *"There is some telehealth, but they run through Barrow. The school has their own counselor for students."*

Child Advocacy Centers

Alaska has Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) statewide that are community-based facilities that provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to investigating and responding to cases of child abuse. These centers aim to create a child-friendly environment where child victims can be interviewed and examined by trained professionals, reducing the trauma experienced by the child during the investigation process.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Even though no exact national comparisons exist, the Alaska Longitudinal Child Abused and Neglect Linkage Project report (2021) found that Alaska children were 10% increased risk in being reported for maltreatment.[9]

Among children born in Alaska, before their 10th birthday:

- 39% (±4) experienced at least one report of alleged harm to OCS.
- 32% (±3) experienced at least one report of alleged harm to the Office of Children's Services (OCS) that was screened in for evaluation.
- 13% (±2) experienced at least one report of alleged harm to OCS that was screened in for evaluation, and substantiated. Other independent studies show that links to race or ethnicity, per se, are insignificant; however, substance use during pregnancy had the single biggest attenuating effect on maltreatment outcomes.[10]

[9] ALCAN Link, 2021. Available at ALCANLink website: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mchepi/ALCANlink and https://alaska-dph.shinyapps.io/ALCANLink/

[10] Rittman, Danielle; Baldwin-Johnson, Cathy; Parrish, Jared, "Dispelling Myths about Child Sexual Abuse among Indigenous People, 2019. Available at https://health.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Documents/mchepi/CSA%20Final%20Draft.pdf

Action Area – Equitable Access to Food, Services, and Resources

Access to food, services, and other resources varies across sociodemographic groups across the United States, and in the North Slope Region. Common issues mentioned were the cost of food and gas prices and how the prices continue to rise. The reliance on bulk purchases once or twice a year and the challenges of food transportation to the area were highlighted.

The interviews highlighted the importance of faith communities in the area but noted the challenges in preserving indigenous traditions and culture due to historical influences from missionaries and outside groups.

Persona: Scott

Scott is almost retired. He has worked in a municipal job or elected position for most of his life. Some of the positions were quite important. He still believes in public service but worries that the bureaucracy he helped create is now as clogged as his own arteries. He worries that the bureaucracy is no longer manageable, and that people have lost the ability to speak with one another civilly and lost the ability to compromise to move the region forward. He worries about his health.

Selected Community Voices:

- *"Our churches are amazing. My understanding is that we had chiefs and shamans as nomadic leaders. We're probably less affected by missionaries than other places."*
- *"Several villages without pastors are building up their faith communities. We need a group of faith-based intergenerational activities, such as counseling or responding to opioids. But we can't mix faith and government."*

Action Area – Transportation and Infrastructure

Transportation is a critical need that links people to jobs and other resources across the community. The villages are dependent upon a shrinking number of air carriers to meet their individual needs for work, education, counselling, and health care, among other things. Many participants spoke of the challenges (and resources) associated with transportation and its role in linking them to needed location-based services. There were many comments about infrastructure including roads, ports, runways, air transportation, fresh water supply, wastewater treatment, the Internet/broadband, utilities, power supply, and communications. People noted multiple issues with the water and sewer systems in words like: *"broken", "awful",* and generally in need of improvement.

Selected Community Voices:

- *"There is a need for more affordable flights to Barrow [from the villages] as the current options are costly and require overnight stays, adding to expenses."*
- *"The route analysis of the Triangle project Wainwright, Barrow, and Atqasuk is utilizing a two mile stretch to analyze the best construction method and materials; this could make a big difference."*
- *"There is a big push for infrastructure. As a region we need to be smart not to be left behind. The NSB founders were geniuses when deciding to tax infrastructure, but we have some of the highest transportation costs in the U.S."*
- *"We need gravel to be dredged and used here. We have huge quantities of grade A gravel here, but all of it is already bonded out (i.e., pre-sold). The B-grade gravel is not great, but we need something."*
- *"We need clean water and a working sewer system."*

Action Area – Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders

Substance use disorders, including alcohol, fentanyl, and opioid issues are a recurring problem in the community, affecting individuals' motivation, behavioral health, and overall well-being. Addressing substance use disorders (SUD) and alcohol-related problems are a top concern, and besides housing it is the second-most mentioned issue when people are asked: If you could change one thing in the community, what would it be? Substance use disorders are also identified as the root cause of domestic violence (DV) calls and other problems.

Selected Community Voices:

- *"SUD and alcohol are the root of 85% of DV calls. I rarely see a domestic issue where one or the other or both are not intoxicated."*
- *"Our village is a safe place, but we do have alcohol here. But considering the amount of drugs in the world, we aren't exposed to the harder drugs. Alcohol just became legal to drink over the past few years. There may be a few families with some issues with alcohol, but don't think the impact became any greater."*
- *"Alcohol-related care is a big need. There are practically no peer support programs like AA since COVID and if someone needs longer term detox you have to leave the North Slope."*
- *"Public safety does have Narcan, and some programs may be able to access suboxone treatment. We see more alcohol problems compared to opioids or meth."*
- *"We do see domestic violence with alcohol as a contributing factor."*

- *"SUD with fentanyl is scary. Alcohol is the most reported issue, but fentanyl use may be a bigger, unreported problem."*

Action Area – Education and Job Opportunities

Education is a critical resource for families across the North Slope. In addition to the NSB School District being one of the area's largest employers, it is a critical link to improving opportunities. Throughout the conversations there was a call for better-quality education, vocational training (e.g., VoTech), and job opportunities to prepare young people for the future. There were slightly more positive than negative comments and a general impression that there were high hopes for the new district leadership this year.

Selected Community Voices:

- *"We have a great school system. We have an institution with preschool that starts at age three."*
- *"Kids don't seem well disciplined and there is only one Iñupiat teacher is from the village."*
- *"Right now the focus is on language immersion with 3 and 4 year olds, but there are probably only 10 speakers in our village."*
- *"Some don't think teachers are doing their jobs. It is the echo of Eben Hobsen – 'where's the bang for the buck?' Schools are an easy target and attendance is low, but parents have a responsibility to make sure the kids attend. Many are not motivated."*
- *"This year there is a goal of 80% attendance, and the principals will investigate when children are not in school. It is exciting to see the changes, but sometimes you have to ruffle a few feathers to make change."*



Action Area - Job Opportunities and Economic Development

There were numerous concerns about the local economies and job opportunities for locals. There are multiple factors at play which creates a dichotomy between the many open jobs, but few good jobs that people outside NSB seem to get and a perceived lack of economic opportunity for kids. These concerns can be described as:

- Lack of Job Readiness and Local Employment Opportunities
- Leadership and Generational Gaps
- Current Unemployment and Highly Selective Job Market
- Talent Retention and Education

Selected Community Voices:

- *"We have quite a few jobs and a lot of people from the outside coming in and they get a job quickly. There is some frustration from locals."*
- *"People often don't stay in jobs because of stress levels. I'm leaving my job because of stress. I'm expected to do too much, and it affects my health. I'm at a much, a lower paying job with fewer hours (though I was originally promised full time)."*
- *"We have open positions. NSB jobs are perceived better due to the benefits. There is a big need for supporting job development locally. I wish someone would open up a job shadowing program to show the young people the world."*
- *"There is a parity in wages across all Borough jobs but not with the schools. People can make more money in Prudhoe or driving truck, so they think 'why become a teacher?'"*

Persona: Dana

Dana is back in town for the summer to make some money and to help her parents who are aging. She is a college graduate and thinks about her career. The Slope doesn't have much to offer. Even though she has ties to the Slope she doubts that she will ever move back to live full-time. Even her dumpy college apartment in the lower 48 was much nicer than rents costing twice as much here - if you could even find one. Dana worries about her parents and how they will live in their old age.

Action Area - Motivation and Support Especially for Children

There are calls for increased motivation and support for individuals to improve their lives, particularly among youth and parents in the community. This is another example of a liminal place where the challenges faced by Arctic Slope villages epitomize the challenges of the nation. This need is tied to both mental health and economic development.

Selected Community Voices:

- *"The first need is for economic opportunities for kids. There's nothing for them to aspire to so there's no motivation."*
- *"We're coming back to things that are very hard to change. People are lazy. With kids you need to start in elementary school, but lots of the parents are hanging out and smoking marijuana."*
- *"We need ways to motivate youth to #1 retain and practice culture and traditions, and #2 work hard to learn a skill and get a good job. Motivation starts in the home; this is a major weak point. We are seeing a cycle of poverty thinking. Many parents are not sufficiently motivating their kids or are not capable of doing that."*
- *"Some people are also lazy, and they are just content to live off dividends."*
- *"Some parents are good mentors, others are not. Young people need motivation and the skills to live the life they choose."*
- *"There is a lack of internal motivation to change things - a quiet and comfortable hopelessness."*







Needs Prioritization Process

The Needs Prioritization Process brought together information from secondary data, qualitative research, and included an on-line survey. A list of 18 needs was identified for prioritization. Each of the needs directly links to data observations and/or qualitative feedback. The list of needs resulted from a **two-step** prioritization process.

- **Round 1**: The first step asked participants to evaluate and comment on each need in a provided list via an online survey derived from primary and secondary research. The results were compiled for review and included in a Powerpoint for phase two review at the annual board meeting.
- **Round 2**: The Leadership Group, and selected community representatives discussed the results, along with any other observations that may have been missed along the way. The group also compared and discussed each other's deidentified comments captured in the prioritization survey before finalizing the ranked list of needs through consensus agreement.

The finalized list of prioritized needs is included on the following page.



Prioritized Needs

Needs were initially scored by individual Leadership Group members on a scale of one to seven, with a score of seven indicating a need with the greatest need for more focus and attention. The resulting list of prioritized needs was ranked during an online survey and then reviewed and given preliminary approval by the Leadership Group at the annual meeting in late August 2023.

The initial ranking was from the survey. The current order indicates the Leadership Group's Final Ranking scores. Lowest scores indicate the highest priority ranking. The final Leadership Group respondents' rankings ranged from 5.5 to 8.2. The list is below.

Exhibit 4: List of Community Needs Prioritized by those Needing for More Focus

Final Rank	Community Need	Initial Rank
5.5	Youth Activities	**3**
5.8	Job Opportunities & Economic Development	**6**
6.2	Education	**4**
6.3	Motivation and Support	**9**
6.9	Mental Health and Domestic Violence Support	**5**
7.1	Equitable Access to Food, Basic Services	**7**
7.5	Alcohol and Substance Use	**2**
7.6	Housing, Home Maintenance & Repair	**1**
8.2	Transportation and Air Flights	**8**

Appendices

Appendix A: Community Profiles

Atqasuk

Atqasuk is located at the southern extent of the Arctic Coastal Plain in Alaska, approximately 60 miles south of Utqiaġvik (formerly Barrow), the borough seat of government, 58 miles east of the village of Wainwright, and 142 miles northeast of Point Lay. The community is entirely within the boundaries of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).

The village municipal boundaries encompass 38.9 square miles of land and 3.5 square miles of water. It village lies between Imaġruaq Lake and the Meade River (Kuulugruaq). The natural drainage of the village is both west into the Imaġruaq Lake and east down the bluffs to the Meade River. The surrounding landscape is largely flat, except for some steep river banks, and is treeless with vast plains of tundra vegetation dotted by lakes.

Although the townsite of Atqasuk was settled relatively recently, the Iñupiat of the Meade River have a strong cultural history on the North Slope, documented through traditional knowledge passed down through generations and through archaeological sites in locations optimal for fishing and hunting along the Meade River and its tributaries. The Iñupiat people who resided in the Atqasuk area, traditionally referred to the Meade River as the Kuulugruaq River. The first settlements in this area were Tikiġluk (Burnell Camp) and Atqasupiaq (kiiriq/Kippi Camp). Residents that lived at Tikiġluk were called Aluaġmuit, or people of the coal mine. The residents of this area were well-known in northern Alaska and traveled extensively to trade at various fairs, such as Piġniq near Point Barrow, Nigliq near the mouth of the Colville, and areas in the upper Noatak and upper Colville River valleys.

ANCSA provided an opportunity for the re-establishment of small rural Alaskan villages. This was an opportunity for families with heritage of living in specific areas to return to their ancestral locations and to live in or near their old village sites. With some assistance from ASRC and the NSB, the people from the Meade River area moved home. In 1977, the village of Atqasuk was reestablished by families that once lived in Tigalook, Old Atqasuk, and other locations on the Meade River tributary.

Tikiġaq - Point Hope

Point Hope is located on the northwestern coast of Alaska, 330 miles southwest of Utqiaġvik and 125 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The community lies on the southern tip of the Lisburne Peninsula, which is the second most westerly point on the continent after Cape Prince of Wales. The tip of the Lisburne Peninsula encompasses the Tigara Peninsula, which extends fifteen miles

into the Chukchi Sea from the Kuukpuk River delta, and includes a gravel spit upon which the community of Point Hope is located.

Point Hope is surrounded by water, bordered by the Chukchi Sea on the north and south of the gravel spit, and Marryat Inlet to the east. Lagoons, inlets, and gravel barrier bars are a prominent feature in the region. The community encompasses 6.3 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water. A single road extends seven miles inland to the community's fresh water source.

The Tikigagmiut are the Iñupiat of Point Hope and have a rich cultural history that is evident both in the living traditions of the present-day Point Hope whaling community and in the extensive amount of archaeological sites surrounding the village. Dependable year-round resources have been necessary for this long-term habitation. Archaeological evidence surrounding the village suggests that the access to subsistence resources has allowed the continual habitation of a significant population at Point Hope for thousands of years.

Point Hope's location is known as one of the best locations in Alaska's arctic for year-round hunting on the ice. Due to the deep water near the shore, leads open along the beach during both the winter and spring, offering an abundance of whales, seals, and walrus. Access to these resources has allowed the Tikigagmiut to have a strong sense of security.

Archaeological sites provide evidence of an over 2,000-year history of Native occupation of the point. The entire Point Hope spit is covered with immense cultural resources, much of which is located within the Ipiutak Archaeological District, situated on a series of beach ridges within an area of about 3,100 acres. The four site areas within the district are Ipiutak, Old Tigara, Tigara, and Jabbertown. Cultures represented include Norton (600-100 B.C.), Ipiutak (A.D. 400), Birnirk (A.D. 500-700), Thule (post-A.D. 900), and late prehistoric and historic Iñupiat.

One example of the deep history of the Point Hope area is the site of Old Tigara. People lived there about 1500 years ago, and this was one of the largest Eskimo villages in the world. Archaeologists have documented 122 house depressions at this site. Arctic explorer Knud Rassmusen estimated the population of the ancient village was approximately 2,000.

The current residents of Point Hope honor their cultural ties to the land and their ancestors while they implement traditional Iñupiaq values. The Iñupiat highly regard family, work ethic, the Iñupiaq language, drumming and dancing, and sharing food and knowledge of animals. They have a deep respect for the environment in which they live as it provides fresh water, clean air, and subsistence foods. Subsistence is highly valued in Point Hope. During the spring, the community is focused on the harvest of the bowhead whale. During the late summer and fall, people start moving back to Tikiġaq getting winter houses ready and putting away summer harvests. Men hunt caribou during the autumn for their short clean fur, and people stop at river mouths to harvest salmon, char, and grayling. Seals and belugas are the main focus before the

ice freezes, in addition to berries as they become available. The annual fall migration of bearded and ringed seals becomes the major focus of the community. Winter activities focus on freshwater fishing and hunting marine mammals on the sea ice as well as caribou and fur bearing predators on the coastal highlands. Jigging for crab through the ice is popular during early winter.

Kali - Point Lay

The Iñupiat village of Point Lay is located on Alaska's Chukchi Sea coast and protected from the open ocean by the Kasegaluk Lagoon. The Kasegaluk Lagoon is a shallow stretch of water extending approximately 125 miles parallel to the coast from Icy Cape to Kuutchiuq Creek and is separated from the ocean by a narrow strip of barrier reef islands. The lagoon is connected to the ocean through a series of passes that can breach during storm surges. Several rivers flow into the lagoon including, most notably the Utokok and Kukpowruk rivers, but also the Kokolik, Pitmega, and Epizetka rivers.

The landscape adjacent to Kasegaluk Lagoon consists of the Arctic Coastal Plain (ACP) as it slowly rises to the Brooks Range foothills inland to the east. The Alaskan ACP is a gently rolling, treeless landscape with many lakes, streams, and wetlands scattered across tundra underlain by permafrost. The community is approximately one mile south of the Kokolik River delta. The Kokolik River begins in the western Brooks Range and meanders approximately 200 miles across the ACP north and northwest into the Kasegaluk Lagoon. The nearest villages are Wainwright, 93 air miles to the northeast, Point Hope, 133 air miles to the southwest, both along the Chukchi Sea coast, and Atqasuk, located air 140 miles to the Northeast.

Although the current town site of Point Lay was settled relatively recently, the Iñupiat of Kali have a strong cultural and traditional history. Archaeological sites surrounding the Kasegaluk Lagoon and its river tributaries are a testament to the extensive use of the land and sea by Iñupiat for thousands of years. Archaeological and cultural resource surveys have located sites, often with the guidance of local Iñupiat. During the 1940s, Waldo Bodfish, a Wainwright resident, helped archaeologist Helge Larsen locate, identify, and excavate many houses and sites throughout the Point Lay area although many archaeological remains had already been eroded into nearby rivers. The team excavated 13 houses near Icy Cape, located between Point Lay and Wainwright, as well as several more along the rivers including one large ceremonial men's house at Piaŋlu, an old Utaqqagmiut interior winter village site.

The area between Icy Cape and Cape Lisburne has traditionally been occupied by three different Iñupiat groups. The Tikiargmiut, or people from Point Hope, traditionally occupied the area around Point Hope, Cape Lisburne (Wevok), and up the beach past Wevok nearly 50 miles. The Utaqqagmiut, people of the Utokok River area that also the upper Kokolik, upper Kukpowruk, and upper Kuuk rivers, and the Colville River head waters. Many of the Utaqqagmiut travelled down to the coast during the summers, into Siaiñagmiut territory, and spent the summers trading and hunting marine mammals at Sullivik, a barrier

reef island on Kasegaluk Lagoon adjacent to the mouth of the Utokok River.[18] The Siaiñagmiut occupied the Kasegaluk Lagoon and Icy Cape coastal areas, with Icy Cape being their major settlement. An Arctic anthropologist has estimated that during the 1800s there were approximately 450 Siaiñagmiut[19] and 400 Utaqqagmiut[20] in the Point Lay area.

In 1906, a school at Icy Cape opened, drawing a more permanent Iñupiat population to the area. However, by 1926, the school closed. During the next four years, the school was taken down and reassembled at Point Lay. By 1931, the Point Lay School opened and many families moved to the village from Kuutchiaq, near the Brooks Range foothills and from Point Hope.

Ulġuniq - Wainwright

Wainwright sits on a wave-eroded coastal bluff of a narrow peninsula which separates Wainwright Inlet from the Chukchi Sea. Three miles northeast of the Kuk River estuary, Wainwright is about 70 miles southwest of Utqiaġvik. Temperatures range from -56 to 80 °F. Precipitation is light, averaging 5 inches annually, with 12 inches of snow. The Chukchi Sea is generally ice-free from mid-July through September.

The ancestors of Iñupiat inhabitants of Wainwright were the Utuqqaġmiut (people of the Utuqqaq River) and Kuuġmiut (people of the Kuk River).

In 1826 the Wainwright Lagoon was named by Capt. F.W. Beechey for his officer, Lt. John Wainwright. An 1853 map indicates the name of the village as "Olrona." Its Inupiat name was "Ulġuniq." The region around Wainwright was traditionally well-populated, though the present village was not established until 1904, when the Alaska Native Service built a school and instituted medical and other services. The site was reportedly chosen by the captain of the ship delivering school construction materials, because sea-ice conditions were favorable for landing. A post office was established in 1916, and a city was formed in 1962.

Utqiaġvik - Barrow

Utqiaġvik (Barrow) is the northernmost community in the U.S., uniquely situated on a point of land that is bordered by the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas of the Arctic Ocean. The landscape surrounding Utqiaġvik is characterized by tundra spotted with lakes and permafrost soils underlying almost the entire region.

The location has been home to the Iñupiat for more than 15,000 years. The city's former name, Barrow, was derived from Point Barrow, which was named after Sir John Barrow of the British Admiralty by Frederick William Beechey in 1825. Barrow was incorporated as a First Class City in 1958. Residents of the North Slope cast the lone vote in opposition to passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which passed in December 1971. As the largest community in the North Slope Borough Utqiaġvik now serves as the seat of NSB government and functions as the regional center for many health and social services.

The portion of Barrow located to northeast of the Isatquaq lagoon is called Igluqpauraq, later it was also named Browerville after Charles D. Brower, a New York native and Yankee Whaler that settled in Barrow to work at the Rescue Aid Station. He married a local Iñupiaq woman, Asiaŋŋataq, and raised a large family in Barrow.

An important historic site in the Barrow area is Pigniq, a Birnirk archaeological site which contains 16 dwelling mounds of a culture believed to have existed from 500 to 900 A.D. The archaeological findings are considered a key link between the prehistoric cultures of Alaska and Canada.

Nuiqsut

Nuiqsut is situated adjacent to a steep bank that rises 15-20 feet above the Nigliq (also Nechelik, properly Natchilik) Channel of the Colville River.22 It lies 381 miles northwest of Fairbanks, 154 miles southeast of Utqiaġvik, and 57 miles west of Deadhorse, the terminus of the Dalton Highway. The community is located at the eastern edge of the federal National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) which is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Colville River, the largest river in Alaska's Arctic, borders Nuiqsut and forms the eastern boundary of the northeast NPR-A.

The Kuukpiŋmiut nation settled the Colville River region, thriving on the bounty of plants and animals in the rivers, lakes, sea, and on the land. They traditionally followed the migratory patterns of wildlife with seasonal settlements along the river and coastline.

Historically, the Kuukpiŋmiut sponsored an important trade fair each year at Nigliq at the mouth of the Colville River attended by other northern people. Katitchuurut simmiqsuutiyyaqhutiŋ, the Iñupiaq name for these trade fairs, means people would gather for purposes of trading items vital to their livelihood. The Nigliq trade fair occurred in July and in addition to trading, it involved singing, drumming, feasting, dancing, athletic contests, and games.

In the late 1940s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) required all school-age children to attend formal schools. Since the closest school for the Kuukpiŋmiut was in Barrow, families with children were compelled to leave their homeland.

In 1973, 27 Kuukpiŋmiut families completed a historic trek from Barrow to re-claim their homeland traveling by foot, dog sled, and snow machine. These families customarily hunted, fished, or trapped in the Colville River area. Before resettlement, there were cabins in the Colville River Delta owned by the Kuukpiŋmiut; one was used year-round, and the others used seasonally by families who lived in Utqiaġvik.

Anaqtuuvak - Anaktuvuk Pass

Located at the summit of a broad and beautiful glacial valley which cuts through the Brooks Range, the village of Anaktuvuk Pass is home to the Nunamiut, the only inland Iñupiaq community in the Borough. The village is located in the Endicott Mountains of the Brooks Range, 250 miles northwest of Fairbanks. The only North Slope Borough village located in a mountain setting, Anaktuvuk Pass was settled in a U-shaped, glacial valley, which forms a corridor 15 miles long and three to four miles wide along the continental divide where Contact Creek flows southward to the Yukon River and the Bering Sea while the waters from Anaktuvuk River flow northward to join the Colville River and the Beaufort Sea.

The people of the Anaktuvuk Pass region, the Nunamiut, have a long history of living off the land. Nunamiut means “people of the land”, and the ancestors of today’s residents lived a nomadic life way in family-based groups. Three main groups of Nunamiut were named for the area of land they inhabited: The Tulugaġmiut lived in Tulugak Lake area, the Narvaqvaġmiut in the Chandler Lake region and the Killiġmiut around the Killiq River. The Nunamiut moved around the North Slope during seasonal migrations in search of different foods. In May, they would travel by dog team to the mouth of the Anaktuvuk River. Using skin boats cached there the previous fall, they floated to the mouth of what is today the Colville River at a place called Nigliq where an annual trade fair was held. There, they traded with coastal Iñupiat. Others travelled to Barrow to trade. During the month of August, the Nunamiut returned to the Anaktuvuk River where they fished until freeze-up. Over the winter, they hunted caribou in the broad valleys of the Brooks Range. The Nunamiut consisted of a number of semi-nomadic groups usually made up of several extended families that number between 25 and 200 individuals. At their peak population, it is estimated that there were around 1,000 Nunamiut living throughout the mountains and river valleys. In the late 1880s, limited contact was made with outside explorers, and over the next three decades the Nunamiut suffered catastrophic losses of human life from disease and starvation. In the 1920s, the lack of food drove many families toward the coast and eastward toward Canada where fur trapping for trade was still plentiful. Prior to the 1940s, the Nunamiut had little contact with Westerners.

Qaaktuġvik - Kaktovik

Kaktovik is located on Barter Is land, one of the larger barrier islands in the Beaufort Sea. The village is situated on approximately one square mile of land and water on the northeastern shore of the Kaktovik Lagoon between the Uqpiiḷaq and Jago rivers. Kaktovik is the easternmost village in the NSB, 70 miles west of the Canadian border, 120 miles east of Deadhorse, 310 miles east of Utqiaġvik, and 382 miles north of Fair banks. It lies on the northern boundary of the 19.5-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

Kaktovik, traditionally known as Qaaktuġvik, is the ancestral home land of the Qaaktuġvigmiut, the People of Kaktovik. The pre-history of the Qaaktuġvigmiut, the ancestors of today' s Iñupiat residents of Kaktovik, dates back hundreds of years. The ancient Qaaktuġvik site was first inhabited by the Utuqqaq," people from farthest away," believed to be the Thule Iñupiat from Greenland.

The island is separated from the mainland in summer by a quarter of a mile of shallow lagoon and connected by sea ice in the winter. The village settlement was moved three times by the U.S. Air Force to accommodate military operations. The village site was moved in 1953 because of changes in the DEW Line layout and new road construction. A third village site was further west and set back from the beach. The village remained at this location until 1964 when, again, a move was ordered by the Air Force to accommodate its expanding facilities. This time, however, village leadership approved of the move to the current village location. The current 630 -acre village site is located on the east shore of Barter Island facing Kaktovik Lagoon. The new location eliminated threats from shoreline erosion and brought the houses away from the airport approach for landing. Additionally, it is closer to the drinking water supply, on firmer ground, and can accommodate village expansion.

Appendix B: Secondary Demographic Analysis

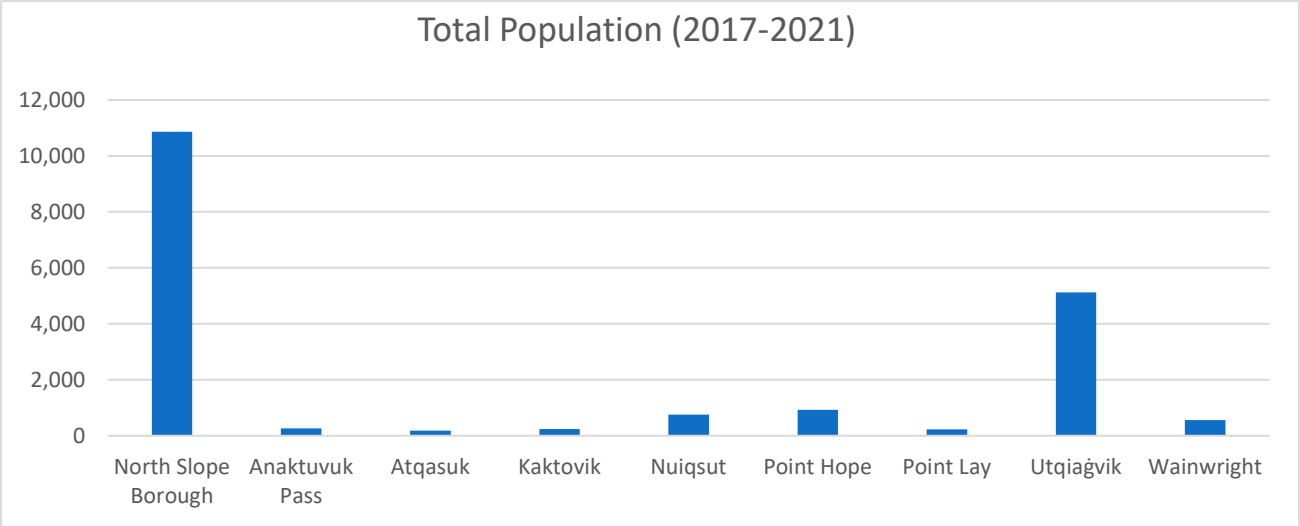
The secondary demographic analysis focused on core demographics, economic stability and poverty indicators, education, childcare, living with disability, housing indicators, and public safety (primarily child abuse and domestic violence). Secondary data was pulled a variety of sources including Alaska's Department of Education & Early Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Census Bureau, among many others. The following sections emphasize findings from the secondary data analysis through use of tables and charts.

Population

There was a 15.2% increase in the population size of the North Slope Borough from 2010 to 2021. The total population of the North Slope Borough is expected to increase by 2030. However, in some of the service area communities, the population is expected to decrease by 2030.

Exhibit 5: Total Population

- Census Bureau margins of error on American Community Survey estimates may be large when making estimated counts in small villages. Additionally, Alaska is the only state where the 'cost of surveying' is permitted in sample formation, so higher cost responses may be somewhat underrepresented.



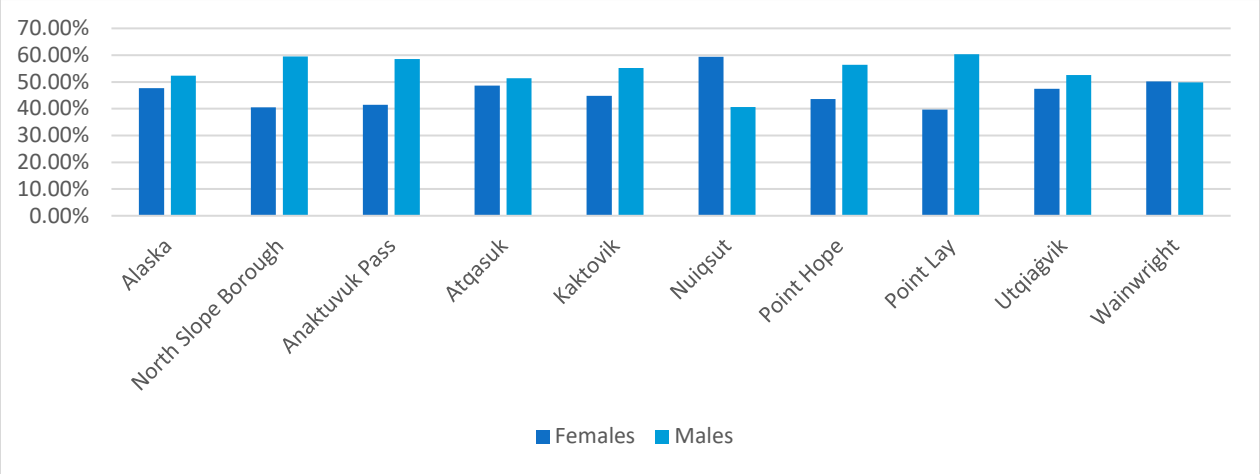
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Total Population (2010)	9,430	341	242	227	411	610	243	4,207	551
Total Population (2017-2021)	10,865	261	181	241	751	925	229	5,123	556
Total Population (2030)	10,960	342	161	228	412	655	260	4,651	365

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates; note that the 2030 projected population is also from the US Census Bureau, as of summer 2023.

In all parts of the service area except Nuiqsut and Wainwright, there is a higher proportion of males compared to females.

Exhibit 6: Population by Gender



	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Females	47.7%	40.5%	41.4%	48.6%	44.8%	59.4%	43.6%	39.7%	47.4%	50.2%
Males	52.3%	59.5%	58.6%	51.4%	55.2%	40.6%	56.4%	60.3%	52.6%	49.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Though the median age in the service area is relatively young, approximately 12.6% of the population in the North Slope Borough is over age 60. This is noteworthy because the population aged 65 and older represents a high percentage of the population living with a disability.

Exhibit 5: Population by Age Group

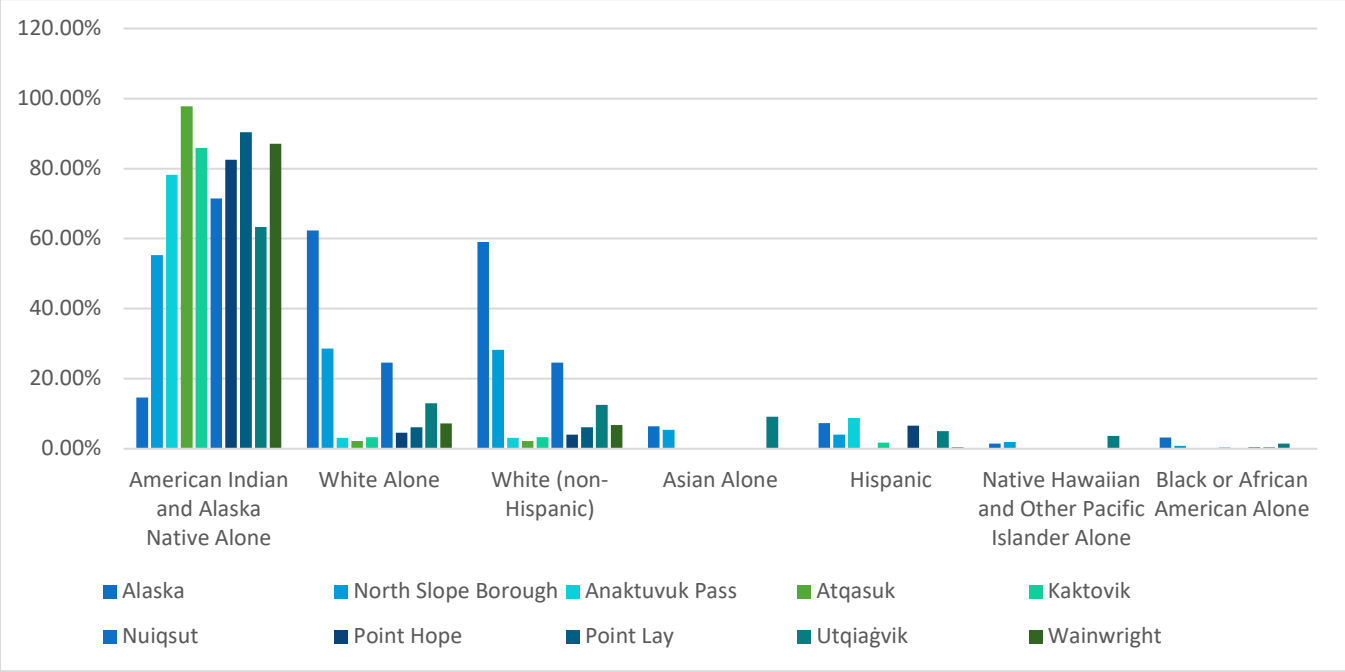
	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Median Age	35.0	33.5	25.3	21.5	30.5	24.7	22.9	23.3	28.9	28.9
Age Under 5	6.9%	6.8%	11.5%	15.5%	9.1%	14.9%	14.5%	11.4%	6.6%	7.9%
Age 5 to 9	7.2%	8.2%	13.0%	14.4%	6.6%	13.6%	10.9%	8.7%	10.5%	10.8%
Age 10 to 14	6.7%	7.7%	8.4%	10.5%	8.7%	5.5%	11.4%	10.0%	10.9%	9.2%
Age 15 to 19	6.4%	7.0%	8.8%	5.5%	10.0%	5.5%	9.7%	15.7%	9.2%	11.2%
Age 20 to 24	6.9%	5.8%	7.7%	12.7%	8.3%	12.1%	5.4%	5.7%	6.3%	4.1%
Age 25 to 34	15.8%	17.2%	24.1%	17.7%	13.7%	14.5%	15.1%	20.1%	14.3%	16.2%
Age 35 to 44	13.1%	13.5%	13.0%	2.2%	10.8%	15.6%	11.8%	13.5%	11.9%	12.4%
Age 45 to 54	11.9%	13.3%	3.8%	9.9%	17.8%	3.5%	7.2%	4.8%	10.0%	11.2%
Age 55 to 59	6.4%	8.0%	3.8%	3.3%	4.1%	5.2%	2.5%	3.1%	6.1%	4.3%
Age 60 to 64	6.3%	5.3%	1.9%	1.1%	4.1%	1.6%	3.8%	0.9%	4.9%	4.7%
Age 65 to 74	8.4%	5.7%	1.5%	5.0%	3.3%	6.0%	5.2%	6.1%	7.2%	5.9%
Age 75 to 84	3.0%	1.2%	2.3%	2.2%	3.3%	1.1%	1.6%	0.0%	1.6%	1.8%
Age Over 85	0.9%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

- The service area has very low percentages of the population that are aged 75 or older.

Compared to Alaska as a whole, the North Slope Borough has a notably higher percentage of population that is American Indian and Alaska Native

Exhibit 6: Population by Race and Ethnicity



	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Minority Population	41.0%	71.8%	96.9%	97.8%	96.7%	75.4%	96.0%	93.9%	87.5%	93.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	14.6%	55.3%	78.2%	97.8%	85.9%	71.5%	82.5%	90.4%	63.3%	87.1%
White Alone	62.3%	28.6%	3.1%	2.2%	3.3%	24.6%	4.6%	6.1%	13.0%	7.2%
White (non-Hispanic)	59.0%	28.2%	3.1%	2.2%	3.3%	24.6%	4.0%	6.1%	12.5%	6.8%
Asian Alone	6.4%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%
Hispanic	7.3%	4.0%	8.8%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	6.6%	0.0%	5.0%	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other	1.5%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Pacific Islander Alone										
Black or African American Alone	3.2%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	1.5%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates[11]

- Among the service area, Atqasuk has the highest percentage of population that is American Indian and Alaska Native (97.8%).

[11] As noted above, the Census Bureau margins of error on American Community Survey estimates may be large given small sample sizes. However, by using the US Census Bureau 2017-2021 estimates (i.e., a larger, aggregated sample, estimate accuracy is improved, yet margins of error (not reported in the data above) must still be considered.

Economic Stability

Economic stability includes a wide range of factors not limited to employment, individual and family income, expenses, medical debt, and support.[12] People living in poverty are less likely to have access to healthcare, healthy food, stable housing, and opportunities for physical activity. These disparities mean people living in poverty are more likely to die from preventable diseases.[13] Research suggests that low-income status is associated with adverse health consequences, including shorter life expectancy, higher infant mortality rates, and other poor health outcomes.[14]

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Median Household Income	$69,021	$83,992	$62,788	$91,875	$78,250	$68,393	$62,321	$78,750	$93,661	$84,000
Less than $10,000	4.1%	5.8%	5.5%	6.1%	0.0%	5.6%	1.0%	0.0%	6.9%	5.8%
$10,000 to $14,999	2.8%	1.8%	2.7%	6.1%	6.6%	4.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.8%	4.3%
$15,000 to $24,999	6.2%	5.8%	4.1%	6.1%	6.6%	4.8%	12.3%	4.4%	5.1%	5.1%
$25,000 to $34,999	6.2%	4.9%	1.4%	0.0%	4.9%	4.8%	8.4%	4.4%	4.8%	3.6%
$35,000 to $49,999	9.8%	8.7%	21.9%	6.1%	4.9%	12.0%	18.2%	6.7%	6.7%	8.0%

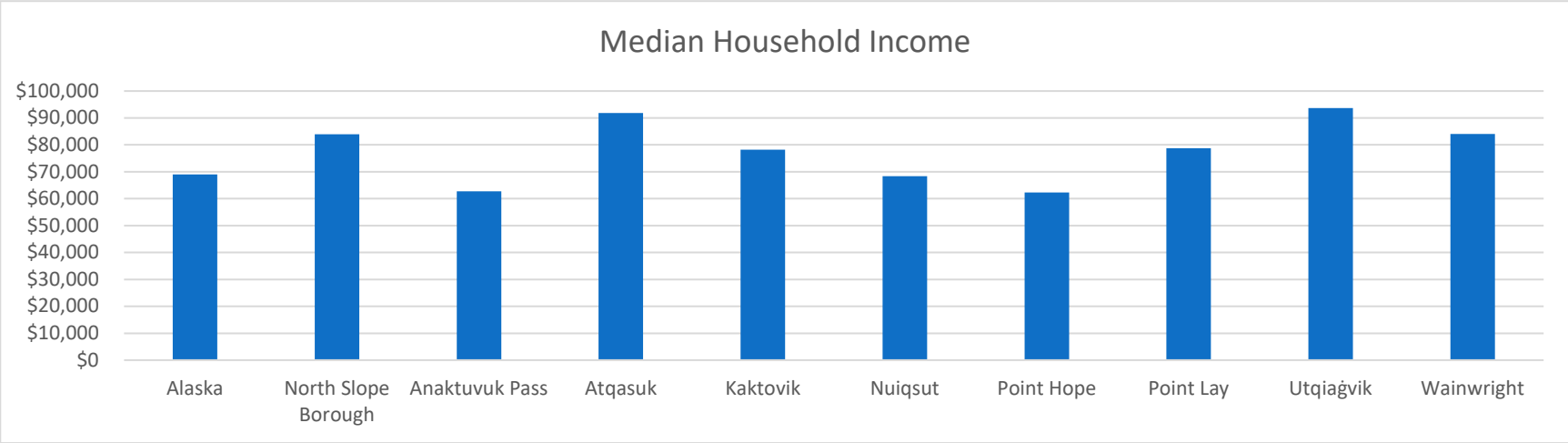
[12] Kaiser Family Foundation. Beyond Healthcare: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health & Health Equity, 2018.
[13] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030. Social Determinants of Health, Economic Stability.
[14] American Academy Of Family Physicians, Poverty & Health. The Family Medicine Perspective, April 2021.

$50,000 to $74,999	17.6%	18.3%	30.1%	21.2%	24.6%	27.2%	14.8%	31.1%	16.8%	17.4%
$75,000 to $99,999	13.7%	13.8%	6.8%	6.1%	18.0%	6.4%	12.3%	17.8%	14.5%	18.1%
$100,000 to $149,999	19.2%	19.4%	16.4%	36.4%	18.0%	15.2%	18.2%	20.0%	19.0%	27.5%
$150,000 to $199,999	10.0%	9.2%	6.8%	12.1%	13.1%	12.0%	8.9%	0.0%	9.5%	5.8%
$200,000 or More	10.3%	12.5%	4.1%	0.0%	3.3%	8.0%	3.0%	15.6%	16.1%	4.3%

Median household income in the service area ranges from $62,321 in Point Hope to $94,661 in Utqiaġvik.

Exhibit 7: Household Income

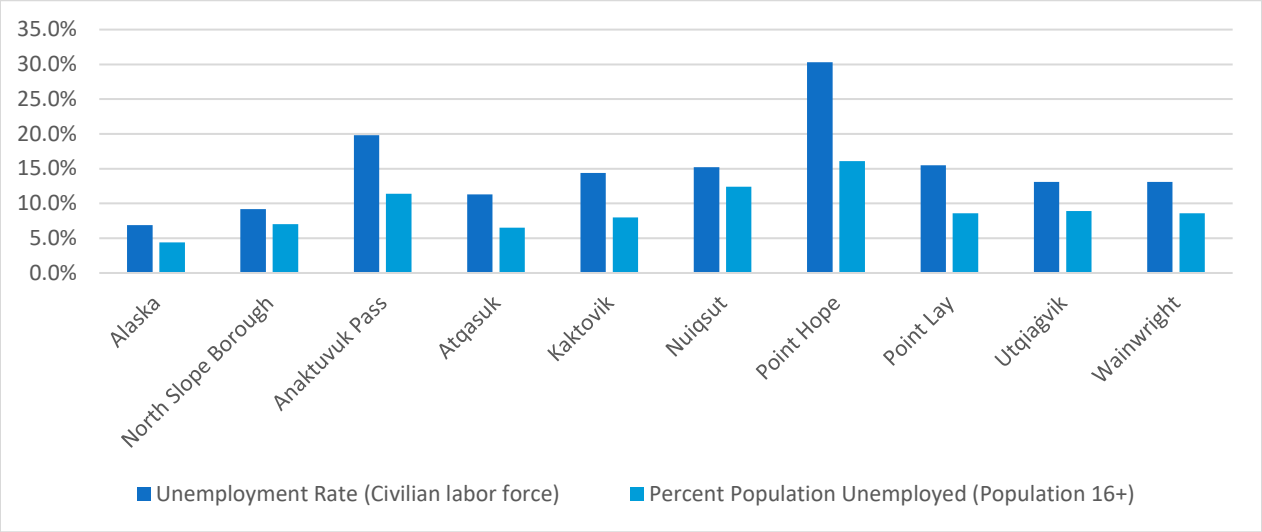
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates



- About half of the population in Anaktuvuk Pass has an income between $35,000 and $74,999.
- More than 15% of the populations in Point Lay and Utqiaġvik have an income of $200,000 or more.

The unemployment rates in Point Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass are notably high (30.3%, 19.8%). Approximately 16.1% of the population is unemployed in Point Hope and approximately 11.4% of the population is unemployed in Anaktuvuk Pass.

Exhibit 8: Unemployment



	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	9.2%	19.8%	11.3%	14.4%	15.2%	30.3%	15.5%	13.1%	13.1%
Percent Population Unemployed	4.4%	7.0%	11.4%	6.5%	8.0%	12.4%	16.1%	8.6%	8.9%	8.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Across the service area, non-Hispanic white householders have an income bracket that is more than $100,000 higher than the population that identifies as American Indian and Alaska Native householders.

Exhibit 9: Median Income by Race and Ethnicity

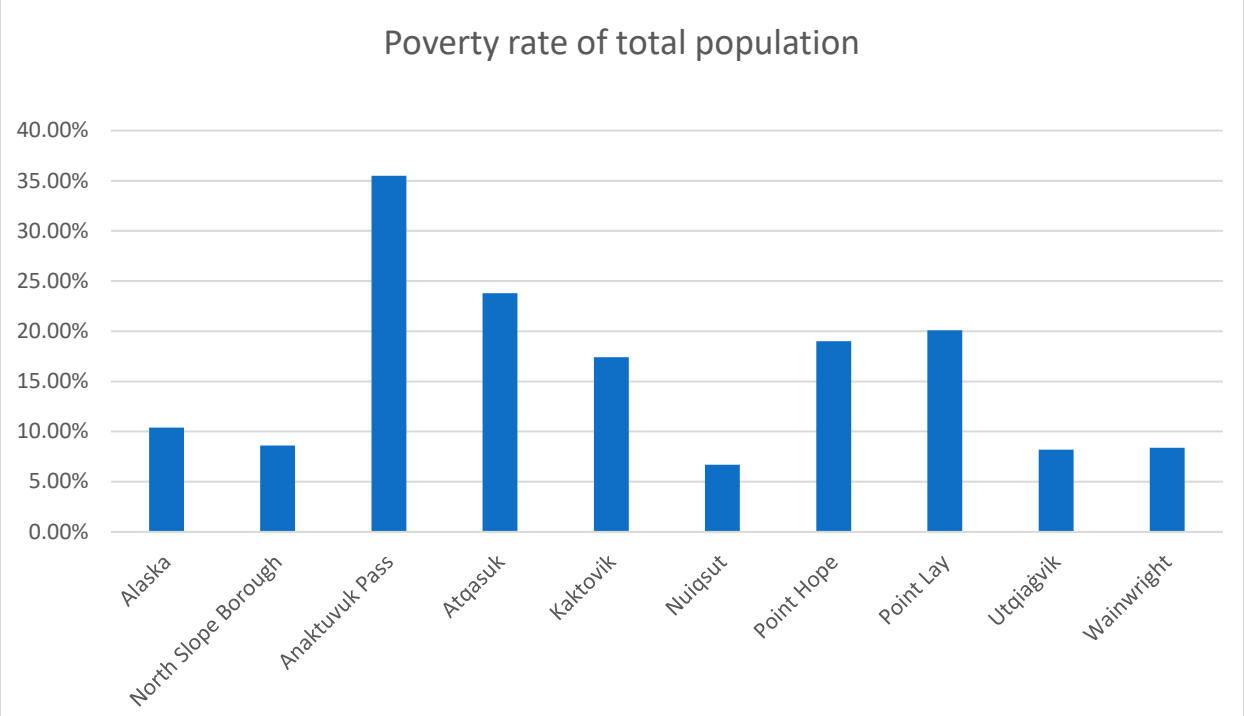
	United States	Alaska	North Slope Borough
White Householder (Not Hispanic or Latino)	$75,208	$88,660	$174,464
White Householder	$73,533	$87,920	$173,036
Black or African American Householder	$46,401	$66,769	$151,250
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Householder	$71,029	$69,557	$118,854
Two or More Race Householder	$65,220	$77,814	$110,833
Asian Householder	$98,367	$76,478	$88,864
American Indian and Alaska Native Householder	$50,183	$53,061	$67,120
Hispanic or Latino	$58,791	$66,153	$63,977
Other Race Householder	$55,769	$66,921	ND

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

- Compared to the United States and Alaska, the median income in North Slope Borough is higher across most races and ethnicities.

Using the standard poverty analysis, the percentage of people living in poverty across the North Slope Borough (8.6%) is less than Alaska as a whole (10.4%). However, rates in several of the North Slope Borough communities are substantially higher than Alaska.

Exhibit 10: Poverty Rate by Select Age Groups



	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Poverty rate of total population	10.4%	8.6%	35.5%	23.8%	17.4%	6.7%	19.0%	20.1%	8.2%	8.4%
Under 5	15.4%	17.5%	46.7%	28.6%	36.4%	7.1%	15.9%	34.6%	17.1%	0.0%
5 to 17	13.1%	12.8%	52.3%	21.1%	25.0%	7.6%	23.7%	18.4%	8.0%	6.4%
65 and older	7.4%	8.4%	0.0%	38.5%	31.3%	1.6%	9.9%	35.7%	8.9%	4.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (S1701)

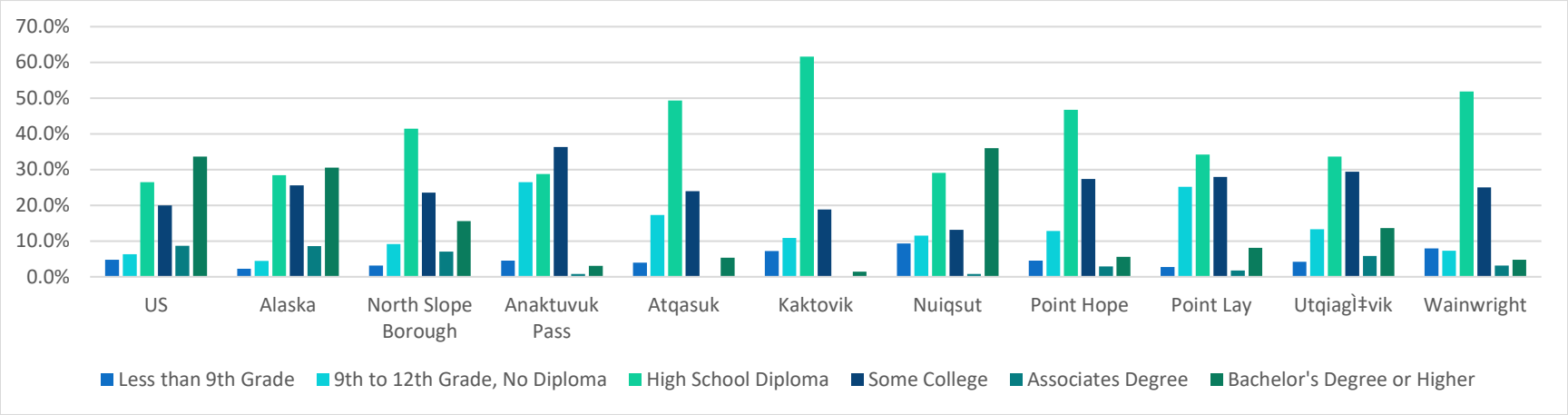
- Nearly half of the population under age five in Anaktuvuk Pass lives in poverty. More than one-third of the population under age five in Kaktovik and Point Lay also live in poverty, and 52.3% of the population aged 5 to 17 lives in poverty.

Education

Education is not only about the schools or higher education opportunities within a community; it includes the languages spoken, literacy, vocational training, and early childhood education.[15]

A low percentage of the population in the service area has post-secondary education, with some communities having a low percentage of the population with a high school degree.

Exhibit 11: Breakdown of Educational Attainment



[15] Kaiser Family Foundation. Beyond Healthcare: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health & Health Equity, 2018.

	United States	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Less than 9th Grade	4.8%	2.3%	3.2%	4.5%	4.0%	7.2%	9.3%	4.5%	2.7%	4.2%	7.9%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	6.3%	4.5%	9.2%	26.5%	17.3%	10.9%	11.5%	12.8%	25.2%	13.3%	7.3%
High School Degree	26.5%	28.5%	41.4%	28.8%	49.3%	61.6%	29.1%	46.7%	34.2%	33.6%	51.9%
Some College No Degree	20.0%	25.6%	23.6%	36.4%	24.0%	18.8%	13.2%	27.4%	27.9%	29.5%	25.0%
Associate's degree	8.7%	8.6%	7.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	2.9%	1.8%	5.8%	3.2%
Bachelor's Degree	20.6%	19.1%	10.8%	1.5%	0.0%	1.4%	21.2%	3.8%	8.1%	8.5%	1.9%
Graduate Degree	13.1%	11.5%	4.8%	1.5%	5.3%	0.0%	14.8%	1.8%	0.0%	5.1%	2.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

- Nuiqsut has the highest percentage of population among the service area with a bachelor's degree at 21.2%, along with the highest percentage of population with a graduate degree (14.8%).
- Just over one in four residents in Anaktuvuk Pass (28.8%) and Nuiqsut (29.1%) have a high school diploma, a proportion that is lower than other parts of the service area.
- Approximately one in three people in Anaktuvuk Pass (31.0%) do not have a high school diploma. In Point Lay, approximately one in four residents (27.9%) do not have a high school diploma.

Childcare

In the entire state of Alaska, there are over 500 licensed childcare centers; however, there are few on the North Slope. There are 18,403 total childcare slots at licensed childcare centers. The majority of childcare slots in Alaska are for infants (9,827), compared to 1,192 slots for school-age only programs and 1,878 slots for toddlers.

Note: While there are many family members who provide child care as of the time of data collection, there was no formal childcare facility in the region.

Exhibit 12: Child Care

	Alaska
Number of Licensed Centers	523
Total Capacity (Slots) of Licensed Centers	18,403
Number of Nationally Accredited Centers	19
Total Capacity (Slots) of Accredited Centers	2,362
Number of Licensed Family Child Care (FCC) Programs	276
Total Capacity (Slots) of Licensed FCC Programs	2,374
Number of Nationally Accredited FCC Programs	1
Total Capacity (Slots) of Accredited FCC Programs	6
Number of School Age Only Programs	17
Total Capacity (Slots) of School Age Only Programs	1,192
Total Capacity (Slots) for Infants	9,827
Total Capacity (Slots) for Toddlers	1,878
Total Capacity (Slots) for Preschoolers (4-year-old)	2,329
Total Capacity (Slots) for School-Age Children	5,597

Source: Child Care Aware of America State Fact Sheets 2021

The Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP) is an observational tool administered upon school entry at kindergarten or at first grade if a child did not attend kindergarten. Public results only contain data from kindergarten students. Educators determine ratings for each student in 13 goals within 5 domains. The ADP covers five domains—or areas—of development and is comprised of several goal statements that express a specific expectation of what children should know, understand, and be able to do at Kindergarten Entry based upon the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines. A student is marked that they "consistently met" a goal if they are generally able to demonstrate that skill or behavior 80% or more of the time.[16]

Exhibit 13: Developmental Profile Results 2022-2023

Group	Count of Students with Ratings	Consistently Met All 13 Goals	Consistently Met At Least 11 of the 13 Goals
Statewide	8,623	18.9%	31.6%
North Slope Borough School District	130	**7.7%**	**13.9%**
Alak School	11	<=20.0%	<=20.0%
Fred Ipalook Elementary	76	**<=5.0%**	**<=5.0%**
Harold Kaveolook School	6	<=40.0%	<=40.0%
Kali School	4	**ND**	**ND**
Meade River School	5	<=40.0%	<=40.0%
Nuiqsut Trapper School	9	**<=25.0%**	**33.3%**
Nunamiut School	7	<=40.0%	<=40.0%
Tikigaq School	12	**58.3%**	**66.7%**

Source: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

- Approximately one in three students (31.6%) statewide met at least 11 of the 13 goals of the ADP. Of the 130 students with ratings in the North Slope Borough School District, 13.9% consistently met at least 11 of the 13 goals.

[16] 2022-2023 North Slope Borough School District ADP Results (alaska.gov)

The majority of Alaskan third grade students had math and reading scores in the lowest and second lowest 20% of the state.

Exhibit 14: Alaska Grade 3 Math & Reading Scores

	Lowest 20%		Second Lowest 20%		Middle 20%		Second Highest 20%		Highest 20%	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Math	2,146	37%	942	16%	934	16%	988	17%	847	14%
Reading	1,328	46%	422	15%	406	14%	437	15%	278	10%

Source: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

- Nearly half of third graders (46%) scored in the lowest 20% with their reading scores.
- Approximately one in three third graders (37%) had math scores in the lowest 20%.

The statewide dropout rate had a +0.6% change from school year 2020-21 to school year 2021-22. The number of students enrolled increased from 57,987 students in 2020-21 to 58,731 students in 2021-22.

Exhibit 15: Alaska Dropout Rates by Race & Ethnicity

	Dropouts	Enrolled	Dropout Rate
School Year 2021-22			
Alaska Native / American Indian	871	12,839	6.8%
Asian / Pacific Islander	141	5,229	2.7%
Black	82	1,478	5.5%
Hispanic	159	4,266	3.7%
Two or more races	283	7,195	3.9%
White	628	27,724	2.3%
Statewide Totals	2,164	58,731	3.7%
School Year 2020-21			
Alaska Native / American Indian	583	12,702	4.6%
Asian / Pacific Islander	104	5,305	2.0%
Black	51	1,518	3.4%
Hispanic	117	4,145	2.8%
Two or more races	244	6,826	3.6%
White	707	27,491	2.6%
Statewide Totals	1,806	57,987	3.1%
School Year 2019-20			
Alaska Native / American Indian	593	12,594	4.7%
Asian / Pacific Islander	125	5,451	2.3%
Black	67	1,612	4.2%
Hispanic	114	4,177	2.7%
Two or more races	192	6,560	2.9%
White	499	27,475	1.8%
Statewide Totals	1,590	57,869	2.7%

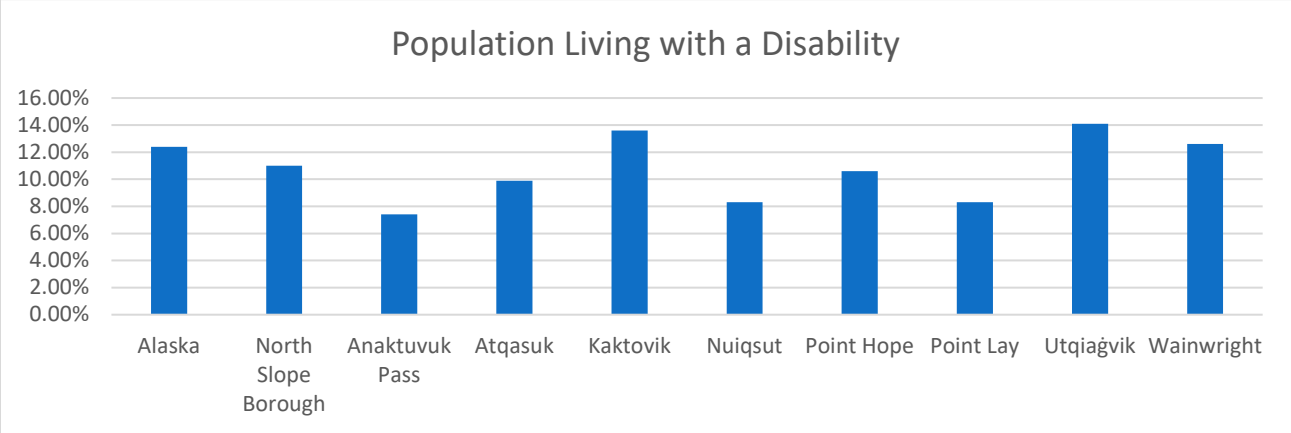
Source: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

- There was a +1.2% change in the number of students enrolled in school statewide from 2020-21 to 2021-22.

Disability and Poverty Indicators

Utqiaġvik has the highest percentage of population among the service area living with a disability (14.1%), followed by Kaktovik (13.6%).

Exhibit 16: Population Living with a Disability by Type



	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Population Living with a Disability	12.4%	11.0%	7.4%	9.9%	13.6%	8.3%	10.6%	8.3%	14.1%	12.6%
Hearing Difficulty	4.6%	6.0%	1.6%	2.8%	3.0%	4.5%	6.7%	5.7%	7.8%	5.8%
Ambulatory Difficulty	5.2%	4.4%	3.9%	6.6%	11.4%	3.7%	4.4%	4.4%	5.6%	8.3%
Cognitive Difficulty	4.5%	2.9%	3.5%	3.9%	4.7%	2.1%	3.8%	2.6%	3.7%	2.5%
Self-Care Difficulty	1.9%	1.8%	0.0%	1.7%	4.2%	2.4%	2.3%	0.0%	2.4%	1.4%
Vision Difficulty	2.5%	1.8%	2.3%	5.0%	5.9%	1.5%	2.7%	1.3%	0.7%	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

- Hearing difficulty is the most prevalent disability in the North Slope Borough at 6.0%.
- Kaktovik has the highest percentage of population among the service area with an ambulatory difficulty (11.4%).

The population over age 65 has high percentages of living with a disability. Since there is a high reliance on hunting in rural areas in Alaska, disability can have a significant impact on quality of life.

Exhibit 17: Population Living with a Disability by Age Group

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Age Under 5 with a Disability	0.7%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%
Age 5 to 17 with a Disability	5.1%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%	3.6%	2.3%	4.2%	8.4%	1.3%
Age 18 to 34 with a Disability	7.0%	5.4%	3.6%	0.0%	8.5%	2.8%	8.9%	9.1%	5.7%	4.4%
Age 35 to 64 with a Disability	13.6%	9.4%	14.3%	30.0%	10.1%	11.3%	15.8%	9.8%	10.7%	18.2%
Age 65 to 74 with a Disability	29.5%	47.6%	50.0%	55.6%	75.0%	26.7%	35.4%	35.7%	58.9%	57.6%
Age 75 and Over with a Disability	51.3%	94.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	87.5%	78.3%	0.0%	100.0%	83.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

- Most of the population living with a disability in the service area are age 65 or older.

Among the service area, Anaktuvuk Pass experienced the greatest percent change (+236.9%) from 2010 to 2021 of households living below the poverty level.

Exhibit 18: Households Below Poverty Level

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Total Households (2021)	260,561	2,103	73	33	61	125	203	45	1,425	138
Total Households Below Poverty Level (2021)	9.6%	12.9%	21.9%	27.3%	21.3%	9.6%	21.7%	11.1%	10.8%	13.8%
Total Households Below Poverty Level per household (2010)	7.9%	10.8%	6.5%	21.6%	6.5%	6.8%	9.0%	10.2%	10.7%	21.9%
Percent Change	+21.5%	+19.4%	+236.9%	+26.4%	+227.7%	+41.2%	+141.1%	+8.8%	+0.9%	-37.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

- Wainwright is the only community in the service area that experienced a decrease from 2010 to 2021 in the percentage of total households below poverty level. All other communities in the service area experienced increases ranging from 0.9% to 236.9%.
- Utqiaġvik experienced the smallest percent change (+0.9%) from 2010 to 2021 of households below poverty level.

Housing Indicators

The number of available housing units across communities within the service area varies from 45 in Atqasuk to 1,700 in Utqiaġvik. Occupancy is consistent across the service area, with more than 70% of housing units occupied.

Exhibit 19: Housing Units & Occupancy

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Total housing units	324,434	2,622	97	45	82	156	231	61	1,700	170
Occupied housing units	80.3%	80.2%	75.3%	73.3%	74.4%	80.1%	87.9%	73.8%	83.8%	81.2%
Vacant housing units	19.7%	19.8%	24.7%	26.7%	25.6%	19.9%	12.1%	26.2%	16.2%	18.8%
Owner-occupied	48.9%	48.9%	63.0%	72.7%	85.2%	50.4%	66.5%	44.4%	41.8%	68.1%
Renter-occupied	51.1%	51.1%	37.0%	27.3%	14.8%	49.6%	33.5%	55.6%	58.2%	31.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates

- More than half of the occupied housing units in Utqiaġvik and Point Lay are renter-occupied. Renters have a higher risk compared to owners of being cost-burdened.

Approximately 31.1% of housing units in Point Lay lack complete plumbing facilities and approximately 26.0% of housing units in Anaktuvuk Pass lack complete plumbing and kitchen facilities.

Exhibit 20: Select Housing Indicators

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Occupied housing units	260,561	2,103	73	33	61	125	203	45	1,425	138
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	3.7%	10.8%	26.0%	0.0%	1.6%	16.0%	17.2%	31.1%	8.6%	12.3%
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	2.8%	6.8%	26.0%	0.0%	3.3%	10.4%	9.4%	13.3%	5.3%	5.8%
No telephone service available	1.2%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%	6.7%	4.6%	5.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates

- Approximately 6.7% of the population in Point Lay, 5.1% of the population in Wainwright, and 4.9% of the population in Point Hope do not have telephone service available.

The majority (63.8%) of the North Slope Borough uses utility gas as house heating fuel.

Exhibit 21: Utilities

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
House Heating Fuel										
Utility gas	49.7%	63.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	87.2%	1.5%	0.0%	86.0%	2.9%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	28.5%	29.9%	98.6%	100.0%	96.7%	9.6%	97.0%	86.7%	6.4%	91.3%
Electricity	13.1%	4.6%	1.4%	0.0%	3.3%	3.2%	0.0%	2.2%	5.9%	2.9%
Wood	4.8%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%
Other fuel	0.9%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	2.9%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	2.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Coal or coke	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Solar energy	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No fuel used	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Internet										
Number of Internet Providers	34	4	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
Percentage of Households with Internet Access	90.7%	73.8%	71.2%	87.9%	82.0%	60.8%	71.4%	82.2%	73.9%	80.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates

- Compared to Alaska, North Slope Borough has a lower percentage of households with internet access (90.7% and 73.8%, respectively). Approximately three in five households in Nuiqsut have internet access (60.8%).

Approximately two-thirds of owner-occupied units in North Slope Borough are valued between $100,000 and $299,999.

Exhibit 22: Owner-Occupied Unit Value

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Less than $50,000	6.0%	6.0%	37.0%	8.3%	11.5%	4.8%	1.5%	15.0%	2.7%	13.8%
$50,000 to $99,999	4.7%	18.4%	13.0%	33.3%	36.5%	44.4%	45.9%	25.0%	2.9%	46.8%
$100,000 to $149,999	6.3%	20.2%	19.6%	41.7%	28.8%	17.5%	8.9%	35.0%	20.3%	24.5%
$150,000 to $199,999	9.7%	23.5%	13.0%	8.3%	9.6%	28.6%	33.3%	0.0%	27.2%	4.3%
$200,000 to $299,999	28.1%	20.6%	17.4%	8.3%	13.5%	4.8%	6.7%	25.0%	28.7%	7.4%
$300,000 to $499,999	34.0%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	15.1%	3.2%
$500,000 to $999,999	10.4%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%
$1,000,000 or more	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates

- In Anaktuvuk Pass, 37.0% of owner-occupied units are valued at less than $50,000.
- Significant percentages of owner-occupied units in Nuiqsut, Point Hope, and Wainwright (44.4%, 45.9%, 46.8%, respectively) have units that are valued between $50,000 to $99,999.

Transportation

Except for Nuiqsut and Utqiaġvik, the majority of the population in the service area does not have a vehicle.

NOTE: Four wheelers and other ATVs are not included.

Exhibit 23: Population without a Vehicle

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
No Vehicles	9.2%	37.1%	98.6%	63.6%	72.1%	31.2%	60.6%	86.7%	25.3%	58.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Commuting time in the service area is less than 10 minutes, and almost half of the population walks to work.

Exhibit 24: Commuting to Work

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Walked	7.4%	46.0%	47.3%	55.1%	32.5%	58.1%	43.1%	39.4%	11.1%	46.8%
Car, truck, or van – drove alone	67.5%	21.2%	6.8%	6.1%	6.5%	17.7%	14.4%	16.9%	38.5%	20.5%
Car, truck, or van – carpooled	11.9%	19.2%	21.6%	20.4%	37.7%	22.7%	4.3%	36.6%	31.6%	11.7%
Other means	5.0%	8.0%	24.3%	18.4%	13.0%	0.6%	38.3%	4.2%	11.9%	19.5%
Worked from home	7.1%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	10.4%	0.9%	0.0%	2.8%	6.9%	1.5%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	1.2%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	19.5	7.2	3.6	6.8	5.2	7.1	3.4	4.6	7.1	5.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

- Utqiaġvik is the only community in the service area where more residents commute alone to work in a car, truck, or van (38.5%) instead of walking (11.1%). Significant percentages of the population use other means to go to work. Other methods of travel in Alaska include flight, all-terrain vehicles, bus, boat.[17]

[17] Independent Alaskan Travel | Transportation Options | ALASKA.ORG, ATVs, Snowmachines & Other Off-Highway Vehicles, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Administration, State of Alaska

Cost of Living Indices

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) developed the Living Wage Calculator to estimate the cost of living in communities or regions based on typical expenses. This tool helps individuals, communities, and employers determine a local wage rate that allows residents to meet minimum standards of living.[18]

The median household income in the service area ranges from $62,321 in Point Hope to $93,661 Utqiaġvik. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, the required annual income before taxes for one adult with two children is $100,885. It is $109,698 for two working adults with two children.

Exhibit 25: Living Wage Calculator & Annual Expenses

North Slope Borough	1 Adult, 0 Children	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	2 Working Adults, No Children	2 Working Adults, 1 Child	2 Working Adults, 2 Children
Food[19]	$4,686	$6,916	$10,392	$8,591	$10,702	$13,802
Child Care	$0	$9,341	$18,682	$0	$9,341	$18,682
Medical	$3,042	$8,948	$8,958	$7,112	$8,958	$8,883
Housing	$13,231	$19,846	$19,846	$15,079	$19,846	$19,846
Transportation	$5,316	$9,561	$11,691	$9,561	$11,691	$14,058
Civic	$2,920	$5,801	$6,480	$5,801	$6,480	$8,835
Required annual income after taxes	$33,923	$68,565	$85,643	$54,296	$76,612	$94,624
Annual taxes	$4,906	$10,852	$15,242	$7,150	$11,535	$15,075
Required annual income before taxes	$38,829	$79,417	$100,885	$61,446	$88,148	$109,698
Living Wage	$18.67	$38.18	$48.50	$14.77	$21.19	$26.37
Poverty Wage	$8.17	$11.00	$13.84	$5.50	$6.92	$8.34
Minimum Wage	$10.85	$10.85	$10.85	$10.85	$10.85	$10.85

Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator, 2022

[18] Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator.
[19] See appendices for detailed "grocery" market basket comparative costs.

Around one in ten Alaskan households were estimated to have received SNAP benefits in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

Exhibit 26: Population Receiving Assistance

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Alaska Population	738,516	737,068	736,990	735,951
Households Receiving Food Stamps / SNAP	10.9%	10.3%	ND[20]	10.4%
Number of TANF[21] Recipients	7,644	6,453	6,017	4,727
Percent of Population Receiving TANF	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.6%
Number of WIC[22] Recipients	17,092	15,978	15,235	14,551
Percent of Population Receiving WIC	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%
Percent of Income-Eligible Households Receiving Any Type of LIHEAP[23] Assistance	11.2%	9.1%	8.3%	7.3%

Source: (TANF) U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | Office of Family Assistance, TANF Caseload Data; (WIC) U.S. Department of Agriculture Food & Nutrition Service, WIC Data Tables; (LIHEAP) Administration for Children & Families LIHEAP Performance Management | U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey One-year Estimates

- There was a steady decline from 2018 to 2021 in the percentage of income-eligible households receiving any type of LIHEAP assistance.
- The percent of the Alaskan population receiving WIC has remained fairly stable from 2018 through 2021.

[20] No data available
[21] Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
[22] Women, Infants and Children Program
[23] Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Households are considered cost burdened when they spend 30% or more of their income on rent, mortgage, and other housing needs. The vast majority of cost burdened households are renters. Households with higher housing cost ratios have less money to spend on essential goods such as food, transportation, and childcare.[24]

Home values in Utqiaġvik ($196,900) are notably higher than elsewhere in the service area impacting the percentage of cost-burdened households there. The higher median home value in Utqiaġvik raises North Slope Borough's median home value to be much higher than is seen in all other communities of the North Slope Borough service area.

Exhibit 27: Cost-Burdened Households

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Median Home Value	$282,800	$173,500	$100,000	$106,300	$102,100	$103,100	$121,900	$107,100	$196,900	$92,300
Median Home Costs as a percent of Income - Rental	45.8%	24.3%	17.6%	0.0%	0.0%	21.9%	38.5%	25.0%	23.5%	40.0%
Median Home Costs as a percent of Income - Mortgage	28.8%	11.9%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	47.6%	0.0%	7.8%	11.1%
Excessive Owner Housing Costs[25]	22.3%	12.8%	19.6%	25.0%	13.5%	14.3%	18.5%	0.0%	11.4%	8.5%
Excessive Renter Housing Costs[1]	41.6%	19.3%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	14.5%	22.1%	8.0%	20.2%	22.7%
Percent of Low-Income Households Severely Cost Burdened	11.0%	8.7%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	9.9%	7.5%
Median Home Rent	$1,279	$1,039	$892	ND	ND	$893	$1,089	$1,375	$1,043	$813

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

[24] "Housing Costs a Big Burden on Renters in Largest U.S. Counties", U.S. Census Bureau, December 2022
[25] Defined as 30% or more of total income share.

- Renters in Wainwright and Point Hope have home costs that make up 38.5% and 40.0% of their income, respectively. However, median home rent is highest in Point Lay ($1,375).
- Homeowners in Anaktuvuk Pass and Atqasuk are spending 50.0% of their income on home costs, and those in Point Hope are spending 47.6% of their income on home costs.
- Approximately 10% of low-income households in Utqiaġvik are severely cost burdened, compared to 7.5% across all other communities in the service area.

Local Environment Indices

SNAP Food Markets

A few markets across Alaska accept SNAP, where shoppers visit the market information booth and swipe their EBT card. The market then provides tokens/voucher for the amount swiped on the card. The shopper then spends the tokens with market vendors on SNAP eligible items (fruits, vegetables, baked goods, seeds, meat, jams & jellies, bread, fish, vegetable starts, syrup and honey, dairy, and poultry.)

The Women and Infant Children (WIC) and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) provides vouchers for low-income seniors, pregnant women, and women with young children to purchase fresh, healthy food at farmers markets.

SNAP Authorized Markets and Farm Stands

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Authorized Markets and Farm Stands can receive funding to provide customers who use SNAP/EBT benefits with a $1 for $1 match for up to $40, giving them up to $80 to spend on qualifying produce! AFMA Market Match is executed by the Farmers Market/Farm Stand, administered by Alaska Farmers Market Association, and funded by the State's Designated Legislative Grant Program.[26]

Eligible seniors can participate in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), which provides low-income seniors with checks that can be exchanged for fresh Alaska-grown fruits, vegetables, fresh-cut herbs and honey at participating farmers' markets, authorized farms, and roadside stands within Alaska.[27]

COVID-19 directly and indirectly impacted food access in Alaska. COVID-19 precautions also resulted in the loss of social aspects of food sharing, with the cancellation of extended family gatherings, community celebrations, and ceremonies. Food sharing and experiencing cultural gatherings are significant and important parts of Indigenous cultures.[28]

[26] Food Access and Food Assistance Programs – Alaska Farmers Market Association (alaskafarmersmarkets.org)
[27] Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (alaska.gov)
[28] The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Access for Alaska Natives in 2020 (noaa.gov)

Exhibit 28: COVID-19 Impact on Food Access

Challenge	Cause(s)	Solutions	Scales of Response
Unable to access harvesting territory	Quarantine restrictions	Shift location of harvest (e.g., by driving from a larger town rather than flying back to a small village); Use food sharing networks to ship food by freight; Use frozen or previously preserved harvested food	- Individual - Family
Unable to access harvesting infrastructure	Quarantine restrictions; Social distancing requirements	Rent, purchase, or build new infrastructure (e.g., boat rental, car purchase, indoor fish drying rack); Carry additional fuel when hunting (in lieu of refueling en route)	- Individual - Family
Harvesting with others outside of household	Social distancing requirements	Use of masks; limiting numbers at fish camp; Avoid mixing groups on the land	- Individual - Family
Cancellation of community feasts, celebrations, potlatches	Social distancing requirements	Reorganize distribution (e.g., socially distanced pick up or drop off); Increase funding for harvester support programs with distribution to elders and other community members in need; Use CARES funding for freezer purchase	- Family - Community - Native Village
Store-bought food access	Supply chain issues; Ravn Airlines bankruptcy and flight cancellations; Quarantine restrictions; Other issues (e.g., state reduction of ferry service)	Sharing store-bought food with family, neighbors; Shipping food by freight; Use of soup kitchens and food pantries; Distribution of food boxes; Authorization of Emergency Hunt	- Individual - Family - Native Village/ Non-governmental organization - Federal Subsistence Board
Declining Mental Health; Feeling stressed/depressed	Social isolation due to quarantine/social distancing requirements	Participation in harvesting activities; Participation in organized activities for children/youth (reduced in 2020); Provision of mental	- Individual - Family - Regional corporation

Challenge	Cause(s)	Solutions	Scales of Response
		health services (reduced in 2020)	
Low salmon numbers in 2020 and 2021	Exact cause unknown, but probable causes include climate and other environmental stressors, commercial fishing practices	Harvest different foods; Experiment with agriculture; Fish donations	- Individual - Family - Community - Corporations and non-governmental organizations

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Access for Alaska Natives in 2020

Subsistence Activities

On a per capita basis, the estimated annual wild food harvest for rural and urban residents is approximately 295 pounds, and 19 pounds per person, respectively. According to a meta-analysis of food security in Alaska, an estimated 65% of all Alaska residents practice some form of subsistence activity. In rural areas, as much as 98% of residents participate in some subsistence activity.

Alaskans have a strong history with and reliance on hunting wild game for subsistence, personal use, and overall food security in addition to a vibrant guiding and big-game hunting culture. The Department of Fish and Game in conjunction with Federal and Tribal partnerships manage these state resources through management of population size, habitat health, take limits, species introduction, and predator control. Wild game animals and foul play a key role in food security, culture, and lifestyle in Alaska and it is key that healthy populations are maintained and that access to them is available for the long-term.

Many households in rural Alaska report heavy dependance on subsistence hunting for their annual protein intake. For surveyed communities outside non-subsistence (rural) areas, 48–70% hunt/harvest wildlife species. Because subsistence foods are widely shared, a majority of residents of these communities reported use of subsistence foods during the course of the year (>79–92%).

Notably, subsistence harvesters depend on reliable storage facilities to store wild food caches safely for human consumption. One growing challenge in Alaska is the thawing of permafrost and consequent loss of traditional ice cellars.[29]

Exhibit 29: Percentage of Households Participating in Subsistence Activities in Rural Areas

Area	Harvesting Game	Using Game	Harvesting Fish	Using Fish
Arctic	63%	92%	78%	96%
Interior	69%	88%	75%	92%
Southcentral	55%	79%	80%	94%
Southeast	48%	79%	80%	95%
Southwest	65%	90%	86%	94%
Western	70%	90%	98%	100%
Total Rural	60%	86%	83%	95%

Source: Food Security Task Force Final Report | Alaska Food Security and Independence 2023

[29] Food Security Task Force Final Report | Alaska Food Security and Independence 2023. See https://alaska-food-systems-soa-dnr.hub.arcgis.com/documents/6f7cda90d3df4e2e9c0300cbc30925a4/explore

Approximately one in 10 children under age 18 in North Slope Borough experience food insecurity.

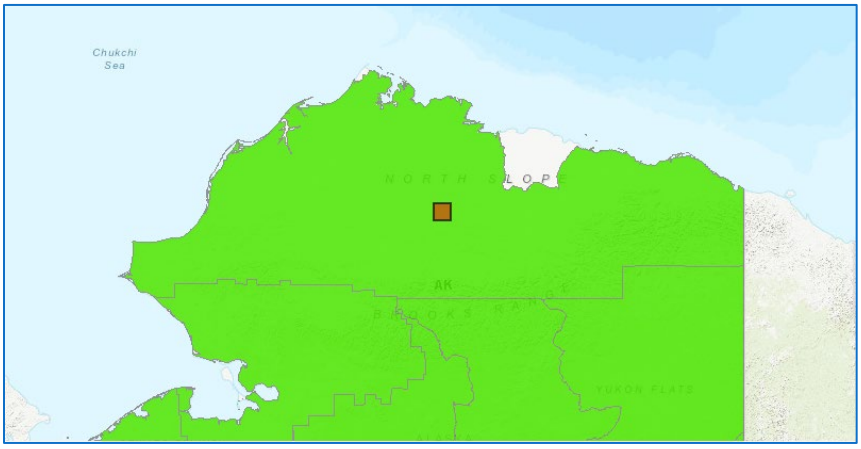
Exhibit 30: Food Insecurity

	Alaska	North Slope Borough
Overall	10.8%	11.0%
Children (<18 years)	14.7%	11.0%

Source: Feeding America Map the Meal Gap, 2020

The majority of North Slope Borough is a food desert according to the Food Access Research Atlas.

Exhibit 31: North Slope Borough Food Desert



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture. Economic Research Service, Food Access Research Atlas

Food Insecure Communities

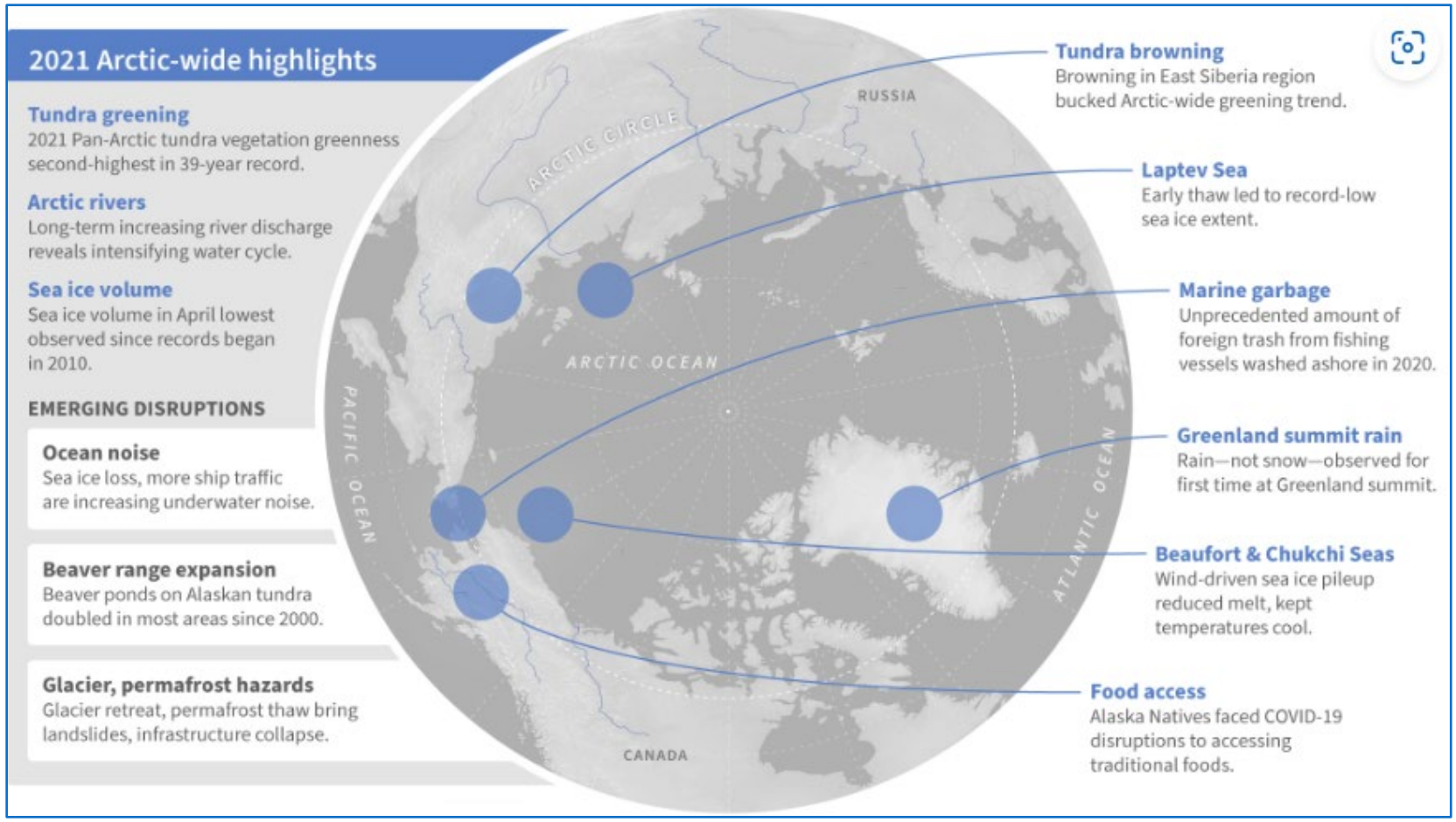
The Food Access Research Atlas indicates low-income census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than one mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket.

The green shaded areas within the map indicate areas of potential food deserts within North Slope Borough.

Climate Change Impacts

Climate change is slated to impact the Arctic and Alaska in numerous ways. Food access was disrupted during -19, along with other concerns such as thawing sea ice, marine garbage, and beaver range expansion.

Exhibit 32: Climate Change Impact



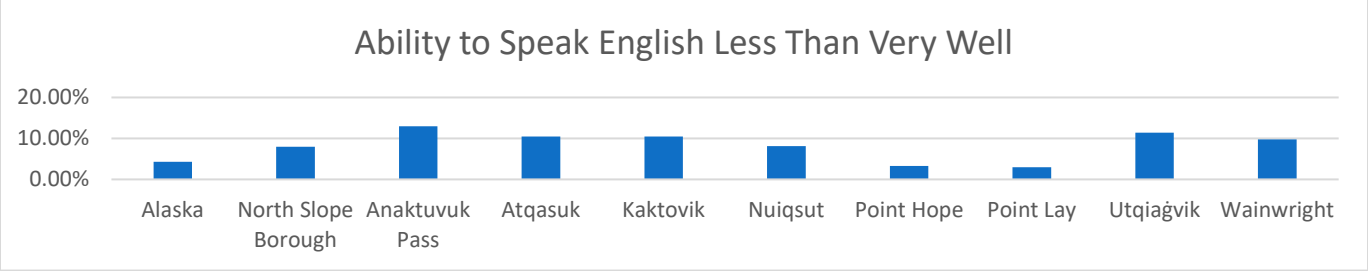
Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Arctic Report Card, 2021 Headlines (noaa.gov), Image by Climate.gov

Health and Behavioral Health Indices

Language at Home and Quality of Life Measures

Apart from Point Lay and Atqasuk, the majority of residents in the service area speak English only at home. However notable percentages (29.1% and greater) of the population speak another language at home.

Exhibit 33: Language Spoken at Home



	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Ability to Speak English Less Than Very Well	4.3%	8.0%	13.0%	10.5%	10.5%	8.1%	3.3%	3.0%	11.4%	9.8%
Language Spoken at Home										
English Only	84.4%	62.2%	65.4%	50.3%	61.2%	55.2%	63.6%	39.9%	51.0%	70.5%
Other	4.5%	25.4%	34.6%	49.7%	37.9%	36.9%	35.5%	60.1%	32.1%	29.1%
Asian-Pacific Islander	5.6%	6.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.2%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

Approximately one-quarter of the population in North Slope Borough speaks a language other than English at home, with 60.1% of the population in Point Lay and 49.7% of the population in Atqasuk having the highest percentages compared to the service area.

Approximately one-fifth of the adult population in the service area suffers from diagnosed depression. Comparable figures exist as well for poor mental health among adults.

Exhibit 34: Quality of Life

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Diagnosed Depression Among Adults	19.1%	17.8%	22.3%	21.8%	21.4%	22.4%	21.5%	21.8%	19.8%	22.0%
Poor Mental Health Among Adults	14.6%	15.0%	21.0%	20.2%	19.7%	21.0%	20.2%	20.6%	17.6%	20.3%
Poor Physical Health Among Adults	11.5%	13.5%	16.4%	16.7%	18.1%	16.5%	17.5%	15.5%	14.4%	17.2%
Fair or Poor Self-Rated Health	ND	13.7%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
No Leisure-Time Physical Activity Among Adults	21.5%	23.4%	26.2%	26.5%	27.5%	26.0%	27.0%	25.6%	24.5%	26.8%
Regular Smoking Among Adults	19.8%	25.4%	33.7%	33.9%	33.1%	31.6%	32.7%	32.9%	27.2%	33.8%
Binge Drinking Among Adults	19.1%	19.9%	19.8%	19.3%	18.0%	19.5%	18.7%	20.8%	18.3%	18.9%

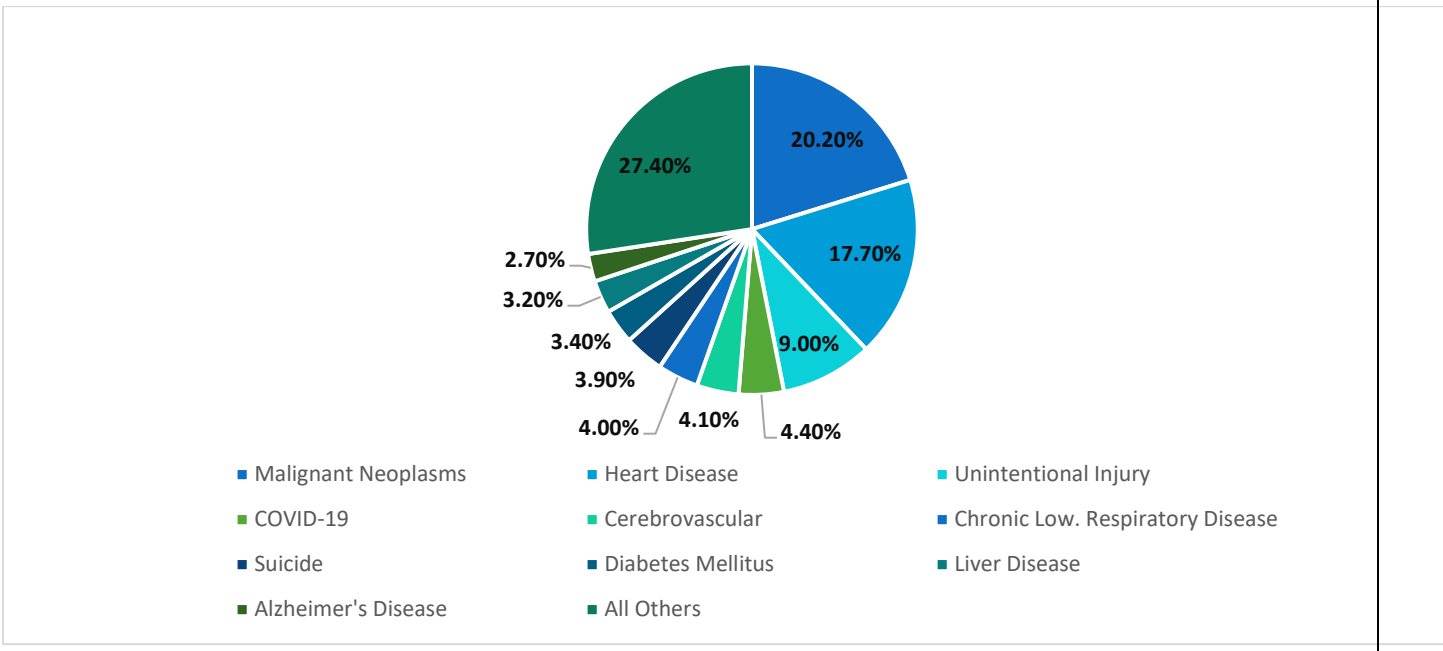
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates, (Fair or Poor Health) Centers for Disease Control, BRFSS Places County Data

- In all communities within the service area, more than 14.4% of adults report poor physical health, and more than 24.5% of adults report no leisure-time physical activity.
- Utqiaġvik has the lowest percentage of adults who report regularly smoking at 27.2%. For other communities in the service area, approximately one-third of adults reported regularly smoking.
- Approximately 20% of adults throughout all communities in the service area report binge drinking.

Alaska Leading Causes of Death

Malignant neoplasms, heart disease, and unintentional injury are the top three causes of death in Alaska.

Exhibit 35: Alaska Leading Causes of Death



Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percentage of All Deaths
All Deaths	5,170	100.00%
Malignant Neoplasms	1,043	20.2%
Heart Disease	915	17.7%
Unintentional Injury	464	9.0%
COVID-19	230	4.4%
Cerebrovascular	212	4.1%
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	205	4.0%
Suicide	204	3.9%
Diabetes Mellitus	174	3.4%
Liver Disease	167	3.2%
Alzheimer's Disease	139	2.7%
All Others	1,417	27.4%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics System, 2020. See National Center for Injury Prevention and Control-blank template (cdc.gov)

At age 65, females in Alaska have a longer life expectancy compared to males.

Exhibit 36: Life Expectancy at Age 65

	Alaska	Female	Male
Years	18.8	20.1	17.6

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, 2020 | National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 71, Number 2 August 23, 2022 (cdc.gov)

Kaktovik has the highest percentage of uninsured population (29.2%) in the service area, followed by the populations in Point Lay (24.9%) and Point Hope (25.6%). Kaktovik also has the highest percentage of uninsured children under age six (30.8%) and the highest percentage of uninsured adults aged 18 to 64 (34.8%).

Exhibit 37: Insured Population

	Alaska	North Slope Borough	Anaktuvuk Pass	Atqasuk	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Point Hope	Point Lay	Utqiaġvik	Wainwright
Insured	87.8%	82.7%	81.8%	75.7%	70.8%	76.8%	75.4%	75.1%	79.4%	81.3%
Uninsured	12.2%	17.3%	18.2%	24.3%	29.2%	23.2%	24.6%	24.9%	20.6%	18.7%
Uninsured by Age Group										
Age <6	8.4%	14.8%	5.4%	14.7%	30.8%	22.0%	17.9%	14.3%	11.8%	8.9%
Age 6-18	9.1%	21.5%	6.9%	19.1%	18.9%	10.9%	23.0%	18.8%	23.9%	15.5%
Age 18 to 64	16.0%	18.2%	28.8%	34.5%	34.8%	31.3%	31.7%	30.2%	23.7%	24.8%
Age 65	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	35.7%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-year Estimates

- For all communities in the North Slope Borough except for Utqiaġvik, residents aged 18 to 64 had the highest reported percentage for uninsured than all other age groups.

One in three (32.8%) Alaskan adults aged 18 to 25 reported using illicit drugs in the past month, with approximately one in four (26.3%) of the Alaskan population in the same age group reporting binge drinking in the last month.

Exhibit 38: Substance Use Among Alaskans by Age Group

	12+	12-17	18-25	26+	18+
Illicit Drugs					
Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month	21.6%	10.0%	32.8%	21.5%	22.9%
Marijuana Use in the Past Year	27.0%	18.3%	43.1%	25.8%	27.9%
Marijuana Use in the Past Month	21.0%	6.5%	34.6%	20.8%	22.5%
Perceptions of Great Risk from Smoking Marijuana Once a Month	17.4%	15.0%	10.0%	18.8%	17.6%
First Use of Marijuana in the Past Year among Those at Risk for Initiation of Marijuana Use	4.0%	7.3%	12.3%	1.6%	3.2%
Illicit Drug Use Other Than Marijuana in the Past Month	3.1%	1.7%	3.9%	3.2%	3.3%
Cocaine Use in the Past Year	2.0%	1.0%	2.9%	2.0%	2.1%
Perceptions of Great Risk from Using Cocaine Once a Month	61.4%	48.4%	55.6%	64.0%	62.8%
Heroin Use in the Past Year	ND	ND	ND	0.6%	0.5%
Perceptions of Great Risk from Trying Heroin Once or Twice	80.0%	58.2%	75.2%	83.4%	82.4%
Methamphetamine Use in the Past Year	0.9%	0.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Prescription Pain Reliever Misuse in the Past Year	3.2%	2.2%	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%
Opioid Misuse in the Past Year	3.4%	2.2%	3.6%	3.5%	3.5%
Alcohol					
Alcohol Use in the Past Month	50.0%	6.7%	49.7%	55.5%	54.8%
Binge Alcohol Use in the Past Month	21.3%	3.6%	26.3%	22.9%	23.3%
Perceptions of Great Risk from Having Five or More Drinks of an Alcoholic Beverage Once or Twice a Week	44.3%	40.2%	40.0%	45.4%	44.8%
Alcohol Use in the Past Month (People Aged 12 to 20)	13.9%	ND	ND	ND	ND
Binge Alcohol Use in the Past Month (People Aged 12 to 20)	8.6%	ND	ND	ND	ND
Tobacco Products					
Tobacco Product Use in the Past Month	23.8%	2.7%	18.4%	27.3%	26.1%
Cigarette Use in the Past Month	19.5%	1.7%	14.1%	22.6%	21.5%

	12+	12-17	18-25	26+	18+
Perceptions of Great Risk from Smoking One or More Packs of Cigarettes per Day	66.8%	66.0%	60.9%	67.7%	66.9%
Mental Health Measures in the Past Year					
Any Mental Illness	ND	ND	39.2%	24.3%	26.2%
Serious Mental Illness	ND	ND	14.6%	5.2%	6.4%
Received Mental Health Services	ND	ND	24.5%	18.2%	19.0%
Major Depressive Episode	ND	23.7%	25.0%	9.0%	11.0%
Had Serious Thoughts of Suicide	ND	ND	14.6%	4.9%	6.1%
Made Any Suicide Plans	ND	ND	4.8%	0.9%	1.4%
Attempted Suicide	ND	ND	3.0%	0.5%	0.8%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2021 NSDUH: State-Specific Tables | CBHSQ Data

- Approximately 14.6% of Alaskan adults aged 18 to 25 have serious mental illness, and 25.0% reported having a major depressive episode in the past year.
- Nearly 40% of the Alaskan adult population aged 18 to 25 have any mental illness.
- Approximately one in six (14.6%) Alaskan adults aged 18 to 25 had serious thoughts of suicide.

Approximately two in three (66.7%) Alaskan adults aged 18 and older are overweight or obese, with approximately one in three (33.4%) considered to be obese.

Exhibit 39: Obesity by Age Group

	Alaska
Obesity Among Adults Aged 18+	33.4%
Overweight or Obesity Among Adults Aged 18+	67.7%
Overweight or Obesity Among Women Aged 18-44	64.1%
Obesity Among High School Students (2019)	13.6%

Source: Chronic Disease Indicators: Explore by Location | DPH | CDC, 2021

- More than one in 10 high school students are considered to be obese (13.6%).

Approximately two in three (64.8%) adults aged 18 and older in the North Slope Borough have gone to the doctor for a checkup in the past year. A lower percentage (57.3%) have gone to the dentist or dental clinic.

Exhibit 40: Health Measures by Age Group, 2020

	North Slope Borough
Visits to doctor for routine checkup within the past year among adults aged >=18 years	64.8%
Visits to dentist or dental clinic among adults aged >=18 years	57.3%
Taking medicine for high blood pressure control among adults aged >=18 years with high blood pressure (2019)	49.0%
Cholesterol screening among adults aged >=18 years (2019)	79.6%
Mammography use among women aged 50–74 years	62.4%
Cervical cancer screening among adult women aged 21-65 years	78.1%
Fecal occult blood test, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy among adults aged 50–75 years	63.0%
Older adult men aged >=65 years who are up to date on a core set of clinical preventive services: Flu shot past year, PPV shot ever, Colorectal cancer screening	31.4%
Older adult women aged >=65 years who are up to date on a core set of clinical preventive services: Flu shot past year, PPV shot ever, Colorectal cancer screening, and Mammogram past 2 years	26.1%

Source: PLACES: Local Data for Better Health: Compare Counties | PLACES | CDC.

- 31.4% of adult males aged 65 and older are up to date on a core set of clinical preventive services; 26.1% of adult females aged 65 and older are up to date.
- Approximately half (49.0%) of the population aged 18 and older in the North Slope Borough are prescribed medication to help control high blood pressure.

Public Safety

Child Abuse and Neglect

Over the five-year period of 2016 to 2020, the rate of children confirmed by Child Protective Services (CPS) as victims of maltreatment varied within the range of 14 to 18 children per 1,000 children.

Exhibit 41: Child Abuse per 1,000

Alaska	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Subject to an Investigated Report	62	71	69	79	86
Confirmed by CPS as Victims of Maltreatment	17	15	14	17	18

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids COUNT Data Center

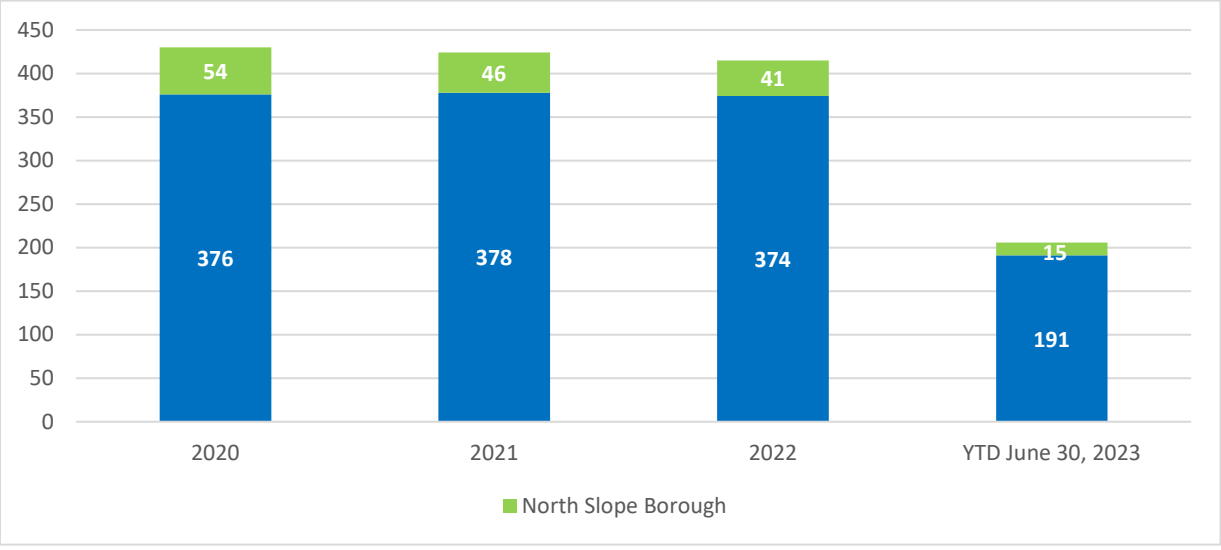
Of the children confirmed by CPS as victims of maltreatment, each year approximately half the children received services during the five-year period of 2016 to 2020.

Exhibit 42: Confirmed by CPS as Victims of Maltreatment who Receive Services

Alaska	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number	1,615	1,476	1,387	1,700	1,660
Percent	52%	53%	53%	56%	52%

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids COUNT Data Center

Exhibit 43: Number of Cases Opened (Grouped by Community where Alleged Victim Resides)



Source: Alaska Children's Alliance, Child Advocacy Center.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence can occur between partners in a relationship, a parent and a child, or siblings. Intimate partner violence (IPV) specifically occurs between partners in a relationship.

Exhibit 44: Alaska Victims of Intimate Partner Violence, by Gender[30]

	Percent
Female	43.3%
Male	30.2%

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) – 2010-2012 State Report. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf

Other

The majority of calls for service received by North Slope Borough Dispatch in Utqiaġvik were consistently for Police service. Approximately half of all calls for Police service to the North Slope Borough Police Department in Utqiaġvik were dispatched during the March 15, 2023 to June 15, 2023 time period.

Exhibit 45: North Slope Borough Police Department Dispatch in Utqiaġvik, AK – Calls for Service and Outcomes

Offense	June 15, 2022 – July 15, 2022	August 15, 2022 – September 15, 2022	October 15, 2022 – November 15, 2022	December 15, 2022 – January 15, 2023	February 15, 2023 – March 15, 2023	March 15, 2023 – April 15, 2023	April 15, 2023 – May 15, 2023	May 15, 2023 – June 15, 2023
Total Calls for Service	1,020	894	1,057	986	791	849	863	898
Total Calls for Police Service	901 (88.3%)	819 (91.6%)	965 (91.3%)	871 (88.3%)	682 (86.2%)	740 (87.1%)	785 (91.0%)	799 (89.0%)
Total Dispatched Calls for Police Service	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	363 (49.0%)	402 (51.2%)	419 (52.4%)
Dispatches from 9-1-1 calls	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	78	79	78
Dispatches from in-person	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	21	19	16
Dispatches from non-emergency line	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	264	238	312
Officer-initiated contacts	373	369	516	479	289	83	383	353

[30] For these data, IPV includes contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner.

Outcomes to Calls for Police Service								
Adult Arrests	18	24	30	23	23	17	18	11
Warrant Arrests	10	04	07	05	02	09	10	06
Domestic Violence related	28	18	14	13	12	25	26	13
Drug related	20	14	13	11	11	14	17	15
Alcohol related	109	88	87	89	82	64	82	63
Juvenile Arrests	00	02	01	01	01	02	00	03
Detoxed	04	06	04	02	01	02	02	05
Incidents involving Taxi Cabs	01	01	07	02	02	01	03	00
Non-criminal in nature	157	144	158	145	128	127	114	118
Mental Health related	16	13	11	07	01	14	04	09

Source: North Slope Borough Police Department

- Calls for Police service for non-criminal in nature incidents were consistently the highest incident category for outcomes.
- The second highest outcomes category for calls for Police service alcohol related incidents.

Exhibit 46: Snapshot of Dispatch calls from the North Slope Borough Police Department in Utqiaġvik

When viewing select data from the monthly North Slope Borough Dispatch in Utqiaġvik, the observed decrease in Total Calls from mid-2022 to mid-2023 is paralleled by fewer 911 Calls and Drug and/or Alcohol related calls.

Report Ending Date (1-month ending Date)	Total Calls (All calls)	911 Calls	Arrests (Adult, Juvenile, warrant arrests)	Drug or Alcohol-related (including Detox)	Domestic Violence Calls
7/15/2022	1,020	162	28	133	28
9/15/2022	894	115	30	108	18
11/15/2022	1,057	117	38	104	14
1/15/2023	986	144	29	102	13
3/15/2023	791	100	26	94	12
4/15/2023	849	78	28	80	25
5/15/2023	863	79	28	101	26
6/15/2023	898	78	20	83	13

- Domestic violence calls appear to be somewhat less correlated with the overall number of Police Department calls.

Birth and Pregnancy

Residents who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native have the highest ratio of neonatal and post-neonatal infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Exhibit 47: Neonatal Infant (0-27 days) Death Rate by Race & Ethnicity (per 1,000 live births)

	2014 – 2016	2015 – 2017	2016 – 2018	2017 – 2019	2018 – 2020
American Indian or Alaska Native	5.5	5.0	4.3	3.7	4.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.4	3.0	2.4	1.9	ND
Black or African American	6.1	4.1	5.4	4.7	6.4
Hispanic	ND	ND	2.5	4.2	5.6
White	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.5

Source: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (2020). Alaska Vital Statistics 2020 Annual Report. Available at: https://health.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats/Documents/PDFs/VitalStatistics_AnnualReport_2020.pdf

Exhibit 48: Post-neonatal Infant (28-364 days) Death Rate by Race & Ethnicity (per 1,000 live births)

	2014 – 2016	2015 – 2017	2016 – 2018	2017 – 2019	2018 – 2020
American Indian or Alaska Native	7.4	6.3	6.0	6.6	6.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.4	3.6	3.7	1.9	ND
Black or African American	ND	ND	ND	ND	4.3
Hispanic	ND	ND	ND	ND	2.6
White	1.7	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8

Source: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (2020). Alaska Vital Statistics 2020 Annual Report. Available at: https://health.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats/Documents/PDFs/VitalStatistics_AnnualReport_2020.pdf

The number of pregnancy-associated deaths that occurred throughout Alaska increased by more than two-fold between 2020 and 2021.

Exhibit 49: Number of Pregnancy-Associated Deaths in Alaska

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
10	6	9	11	12	8	10	14	8	20

Source: Alaska Department of Health (2022). Alaska Maternal and Child Death Review (MCDR) – Pregnancy Associated Mortality in Alaska. Available at: https://health.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Documents/mchepi/mcdr/MaternalMortality_2022.pdf

Appendix B: Interview Guide

Community Health Needs Assessment- Personal Interview Guide for Community Partners

Introduction and Objective

Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat is working with the villagers and communities of the Arctic Slope to conduct the 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment. They are being assisted by Crescendo Consulting Group. The community needs assessment is for you and your community. We would like to hear your voice, your insights, and recommendations about the community's strengths, challenges, and needs. We appreciate your insights and opinions on the subject. Some of the goals of the process are to:

- Learn about the services and stories that make village life good for individuals and families
- Identify and understand infrastructure needs that would most help the area
- Explore the merger of the subsistence economy with western-style economy and the village impact
- Determine needs related to economic, education, communications, infrastructure, social, and other issues
- Hear your thoughts about ways that VOAI or others could help address the needs
- Identify barriers and gaps that prevent area residents from accessing services
- Identify root causes and systemic barriers that prevent equitable access to services

The discussion will include questions from a few broad categories and will take less than 30 minutes.

Home village:

- ☐ Anaktuvuk Pass
- ☐ Atqasuk
- ☐ Barrow / Utqiaġvik
- ☐ Kaktovik
- ☐ Nuiqsut
- ☐ Point Hope
- ☐ Point Lay

- ☐ Wainwright
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Discussion or Interview Type:

- ☐ Focus Group
- ☐ Telephone
- ☐ In person

Interview Questions

1. To start with, please tell me a little about ways that you (and/or your organization) interact with the community and what some of the strengths you see in your village.

   Moderator note: Note their village role – ASRC (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation) Representative, mayor, general community member, Tribal Leader or Elder – for comparison purpose

2. In your opinion, what are the three greatest challenges your community will face in the next three years? [OPEN ENDED QUESTION]

   Note to the moderator: Check and Record; PROBE IF NECESSARY:

   - ☐ Affordable housing
   - ☐ Utility costs
   - ☐ Affordable, quality food
   - ☐ Education, Early Childhood, Head start Preschool, Childcare
   - ☐ Activities for children – basketball, other sports, recreational or other leisure activities
   - ☐ Activities for families
   - ☐ Activities for seniors
   - ☐ Advocacy and representation for state or federal issues
   - ☐ Dental care
   - ☐ Medical care
   - ☐ Mental Health
   - ☐ Substance Use Disorders
   - ☐ Disability-related issues
   - ☐ Transportation or other infrastructure
   - ☐ Help with basic finance
   - ☐ Jobs and economic development such as merging the subsistence economy with the western-style economy
   - ☐ Job training and other employment-related
   - ☐ Domestic violence
   - ☐ Generational or community trauma
   - ☐ Help getting/keeping benefits
   - ☐ Erosion or other climate / environmental impact
   - ☐ Community safety
   - ☐ Preserving the Inupiat culture and traditions
   - ☐ Impacts of international or national decisions on local culture
   - ☐ Other

The next set of questions are going to explore the most pressing issues in the area. As we talk about these issues, please think about the following:

- **What are the root causes of these issues in your community? Are they systemic?**
- **Are some of these challenges impacting some community groups more than others?**
- **What activities could best address the big issues in this category?**
- **Who are the community partners or agencies in the best position to help address this need?**

Food, Housing, and Basic Needs

3. To what degree are community members / families struggling with access to affordable, nutritious food; or, other services? *PROBE: What are some resources or services that work really well and not so well? What are opportunities for improvement? How do we make services and resources accessible for a variety of cultures?*
    - *What is the role of subsistence hunting/fishing of access to food in the community? How could this be impacted in the future?*
4. Is there enough affordable, safe housing in your community? *(Probe as needed: root causes of housing challenges, systemic issues and barriers, people at risk of becoming homeless or those currently experiencing homelessness)*
    - How is climate change affecting housing in your community?
5. To what degree do community members struggle with utility bills and/or home maintenance needs like weatherization? What programs are available to help people? How can programs be designed to be equitable?

Activities for Children and Families, and other Community Members

6. To what degree are there adequate affordable, and interesting activities for children? *Probe: access to basketball or other sports facilities for kids of all ages, access to coaches and other leaders / trainers; ability to get involved in community-based activities and recreation; involvement in cultural activities*
7. To what degree are there adequate affordable, and interesting activities for adults and seniors?
8. What cultural activities are able to the community? Are traditions being passed to the younger generations?

Education, Head Start, Early Childhood Education, and Childcare

9. To what degree does the public education system prepare youth for their livelihoods and career choices? Is the academy quality solid? Are their adequate extracurricular opportunities?
10. Are there good local employment opportunities for high school and returning college graduates?
11. What is your general perception of the ability of the area to meet Early Childhood services and education for those prenatal to age 5 in the area? *Probe: multilingual and/or low-income families, children with developmental or physical disabilities*
12. Are there enough resources that support native language teaching and other cultural activities?

13. Is there enough affordable childcare in the area? If not, what are some of the challenges or barriers? Why do you think these [identified barriers] are barriers or challenges for families?
14. What is your general perception of the ability of the area to meet school-age childcare needs – including before and after school care, and others? Are services and resources available to ALL families – regardless of income or other factors? Are there any families treated differently? *Probe: low-income and/or multilingual families, children with developmental or physical disabilities*

Medical, Dental, Mental, and Substance Use Disorder Care Services

15. Please tell me about medical care treatment services in your area? Describe the services available for regular care; preventive care, screenings, and immunizations; and pediatrics? What about emergency care for an injury or urgent health crisis? Are there services to help people with long-term, chronic health conditions such as diabetes, asthma, or cancer? What are the barriers and root causes of access challenges in your community? What is working well? What are opportunities for improvement?
16. Describe the dental care services in your area. What are the challenges and root causes of access challenges in your community? What is working well? What are opportunities for improvement?
17. Please tell me about mental health services in your area? Are services the same or different for substance use disorder care? What are the challenges and barriers to care? What is working well? What are opportunities for improvement? Are there culturally competent providers in the community or available through telehealth? Is there a stigma to getting care for a mental health or substance use issue in the village? If so, what are some of the root causes of stigma in your community?

Jobs and economic development such as merging the subsistence economy with the western-style economy

18. To what degree has the historical subsistence economy been influenced by the western-style economy?
19. What has been the overall impact on the quality of life? What have been the pros and cons?
20. Looking forward, what will be the challenges associated with economic changes for the villages?
21. How easy is it to find and maintain a livable wage job in the area? Have wages been keeping up with the rise in cost of living? What are some of the barriers someone might have when obtaining and retaining a job? *Probe: immigration status, multilingual families, adults with developmental or physical disabilities, People of color, indigenous communities, LGBTQIA+*
22. Are there job training opportunities in the community? Are they affordable? Do they lead to livable wage jobs? *Probe: People of color, indigenous communities, LGBTQIA+, undocumented*

Infrastructure

23. Infrastructure includes things like roads, ports and docks, runways and access to air transportation, fresh water supply, wastewater treatment or disposal, the Internet / broadband, utilities and power supply, communications, and similar, structural resources. Thinking about the local infrastructure, what are the most helpful, well-working pieces?

24. What parts of the local infrastructure need attention? Which things are most urgent for the wellbeing of the village?
25. What are the challenges to improving the infrastructure? How can these challenges or barriers be removed to provide better access?

Access, Awareness, and Communication

26. To what degree do people in the village know where to go to get services? What would improve the availability and access to services in the village?

    PROBE: Tribal leaders, organizations like VOAI, mayor, social media, native language information

27. What are other community-level activities that can be done to improve awareness of healthy / affordable food resources, employment or educational opportunities, and housing or utility payment support information?
    - Is there any needs ("low hanging fruit") that would be addressed quickly?

Advocacy / Representation for State and Federal Issues and Environmental / Climate Issues

28. Do you feel as though your opinions and ideas are clearly communicated to state and federal agencies? If so, what organizations or offices effectively advocate for your community? What have been some of the challenges to effective advocacy (if any)?
29. What is the most helpful role for Voices of the Arctic Iñupiat?
30. Has erosion or other climate / environmental issues impacted your village? If so, how? What is the future risk, and what needs to be done to try to address the issue(s)?

Magic Wand Question:

31. If you had a magic wand and could personally solve one issue in your village, what would it be? You can't wish for more wishes!
32. Is there anything else we have not talked about today that you think is important for us to know?

Thank you very much again for your time and thoughtful responses to our questions.

Appendix C: Poverty Literature Review Summary

Issue	Title and Source (journal, website, member provided, etc.)	Implications for Action	Abstract summary
Targeting Neighborhoods of Greatest Need	Quantification of Neighborhood-Level Social Determinants of Health in the Continental United States Marynia Kolak, PhD, MFA, MS1; Jay Bhatt, DO2; Yoon Hong Park, MPP1; et alNorma A. Padrón, PhD, MPH, MA2; Ayrin Molefe, PhD2 JAMA Netw Open. 2020;3(1):e1919928. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.19928. Accessed September 2022 at: https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2759757?utm_campaign=articlePDF&utm_medium=articlePDFlink&utm_source=articlePDF&utm_content=jamanetworkopen.2019.19928	Consider cross-referencing SVI and SDoH measures for a census-level analysis of the County.	In this cross-sectional study of 71 901 census tracts with approximately 312 million persons across the continental United States, multivariate social determinants of health measures were reduced to 4 indices reflecting advantage, isolation, opportunity, and mixed immigrant cohesion and accessibility and were clustered into 7 neighborhood typologies that included an extreme poverty group. Social determinants of health indices were associated with premature mortality rates in Chicago, Illinois. The study suggests that use of multidimensional geospatial approaches to quantify social determinants of health rather than the use of a singular deprivation index may better capture the complexity and spatial heterogeneity underlying these determinants. Fifteen variables, measured as a 5-year mean, were selected to characterize SDOH as small-area variations for demographic characteristics of vulnerable groups, economic status, social and neighborhood characteristics, and housing and transportation availability at the census-tract level. This SDOH data matrix was reduced to four indices reflecting advantage, isolation, opportunity, and mixed immigrant cohesion and accessibility, which were then clustered into 7 distinct multidimensional neighborhood typologies. Together, they accounted for 71% of the variance in the 15 SDOH variables across all census tracts in the continental United States. The first principal component, the socioeconomic advantage index, accounted for 40.0% of the total variance and was dominated by socioeconomic status factors, including poverty,

			low high school graduation rates, minority status, proportion of uninsured persons, and number of single parent households.
Increasing Racial Equity Knowledge, Awareness, and Action	How to Promote Racial Equity in the Workplace. Livingston, Robert. Harvard Business Review September-October 2020 Accessed September 2022 at: https://socialjustice.nsbe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Harvard-Business-Review.pdf	Consider initiatives in the Borough.	This practical, five-step plan is also replete with good sources and definitions for understanding how racial discrimination "is defined as the differential evaluation or treatment based solely on race and…Many white people deny the existence of racism against people of color because they assume that racism is defined by deliberate actions motivated by malice and hatred. However, racism can occur without conscious awareness."
Increasing Racial Equity Knowledge, Awareness, and Action	Critical Race Theory, Race Equity, and Public Health: Toward Antiracism Praxis. Chandra L. Ford, PhD, and Collins O. Airhihenbuwa, PhD. APHA Journal	Emphasize DEI in local Public Health departments and other health groups.	This seminal article introduces Critical Race Theory to Public Health and other audiences beyond the legal community. In it the authors note the Gilmore defines racism as ''the state-sanctioned and/or extralegal production and exploitation of group-differentiated vulnerability to premature death." "Critical Race Theory offers the field of public health a new paradigm for investigating the root causes of health disparities. Based on race equity and social justice principles, Critical Race Theory encourages the development of solutions that bridge gaps in health, housing, employment, and other factors that condition living."

Increase WIC Participation	Using Data Matching and Targeted Outreach to Enroll Families with Young Children in WIC Lessons Learned From State Pilots Jess Maneely and Zoë Neuberger https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/1-5-21fa.pdf Matching Data Across Benefit Programs Can Increase WIC Enrollment https://bdtrust.org/cbpp-bdt-case-study-matching-data.pdf	Use Data Matching and Targeted Outreach to Enroll Families with Young Children in WIC	Participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is associated with a range of improved outcomes, both by improving access to nutrition and through services available at WIC clinics. About half of pregnant eligible women participate in WIC, and participation increases after childbirth: most infants who are eligible for WIC benefits get them. Rates of WIC participation drop off sharply as children get older even though children remain eligible to age 5. Given high rates of food insecurity among low-income families with young children and the demonstrated importance of adequate nutrition, increasing WIC participation rates is vital for children's healthy development. (Brookings Institute; (US Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2019). Pilot projects in Colorado, Massachusetts, Montana, and Virginia demonstrated that by matching data across programs to identify families enrolled in Medicaid or SNAP but not WIC, and conducting outreach to them, states can increase WIC enrollment for Medicaid participants — which may improve health and developmental outcomes — and provide additional food assistance to SNAP recipients.
Improve pre-school and early childhood enrollment patterns	Cascio, Elizabeth, and Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach. 2013. "The Impacts of Expanding Access to High-Quality Preschool Education." *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* 47 (2): 127–92. Accessed Sept 2022 at https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2013b_cascio_preschool_education.pdf	Review Pre-school program design to balance the changes of avoiding crowd-out and increasing exposure.	The authors find stark differences in preschool enrollment patterns by family background, with children whose mothers have no more than a high school diploma being much more likely to enroll in preschool at age 4 – experiencing an 18-20 percentage-point enrollment gain, versus a 12-15 percentage-point gain in preschool enrollment rates for children whose mothers have more education. The authors also find that about half of the enrollees (4 or 5 out of every 10 participants) with more-educated mothers would have otherwise enrolled in private preschool, with this crowd-out causing costs of the program to taxpayers to increase overall as much as 19 percent.

			The authors suggest it may be more cost-effective to design a preschool program to target those most in need to reduce the extent of crowd-out. They acknowledge, though, that targeting the program may undermine its effectiveness for lower-income children if exposure to higher-income peers in universal preschool classrooms plays an important role.
Housing	The State of The Nation's Housing 2022; Joint Center For Housing Studies Of Harvard University	Utilize this current data to augment the housing section.	This year's Report notes that "after a record-shattering year in 2021, the housing market is at an inflection point. Higher interest rates have already taken some heat out of the homebuying market, and the large number of apartments under construction should bring some relief on the rental side. For lower-income households and households of color, though, the pressure of high housing costs is unlikely to relent. The surge in the prices of gas, food, and other necessities has made matters worse, especially now that most emergency government supports have ended. The housing stock itself is in dire need of investment to meet the demands of a rapidly aging population and the threats posed by climate change."
Equity and Opportunity	Raj Chetty & John N. Friedman & Nathaniel Hendren & Maggie R. Jones & Sonya R. Porter, 2018. "The Opportunity Atlas: Mapping the Childhood Roots of Social Mobility," Working Papers 18-42, Center for Economic Studies, U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved from website: https://ideas.repec.org/p/cen/wpaper/18-42.html. Updated information 2020 at: https://scholar.harvard.edu/hendren/publications/opportunity-atlas-mapping-childhood-roots-social-mobility Opportunity Atlas Website: https://opportunityatlas.org/	Utilize the Opportunity Atlas to illuminate key hot spots of need.	Neighborhoods matter at a very granular level: conditional on characteristics such as poverty rates in a child's own Census tract, characteristics of tracts that are one mile away have little predictive power for a child's outcomes. Our historical estimates are informative predictors of outcomes even for children growing up today because neighborhood conditions are relatively stable over time. Second, we show that the observational estimates are highly predictive of neighborhoods' causal effects, based on a comparison to data from the Moving to Opportunity experiment and a quasi- experimental research design analyzing movers' outcomes. We then identify high-opportunity neighborhoods that are affordable to low-income families, providing an input into the design of affordable housing policies.

Child Opportunity And Equity	Child Opportunity Index https://www.diversitydatakids.org/sites/default/files/file/ddk_the-geography-of-child-opportunity_2020v2_0.pdf Child Opportunity Index (COI) | diversitydatakids.org https://www.diversitydatakids.org/research-library/webinar/webinar-learn-about-child-opportunity-index-20	Consider using this tool to augment the secondary data	Neighborhoods matter for children's health and development. All children in the United States should live in neighborhoods with access to good schools, healthy foods, safe parks and playgrounds, clean air, safe housing and living-wage jobs for the adults in their lives. However, far too many children in the U.S. live in neighborhoods that lack these conditions. Child opportunity is also strongly associated with socioeconomic mobility outcomes. Like life expectancy, socioeconomic mobility (defined as the place in the household income distribution that individuals attain as adults compared to the place in the income distribution their parents had) varies considerably across neighborhoods (Chetty et al.,2018) and is strongly associated with child opportunity.
Equity	Solly, Meilan. 2019. "C.D.C. Says More Than Half of the U.S.' Pregnancy-Related Deaths Are Preventable." Smart News, Smithsonian Magazine, May 9, 2019.	Highlight this as callout in the report.	African American, Native American and Alaska Native women are approximately three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related issues than white women
Health	2018 Community Health Assessment FINAL 2021	Prioritize Youth Mental health, suicide, Opioid Misuse, Housing, American Indian/Alaska	For eight months, data on these indicators were presented to the data task force. The group worked to whittle the number of topics down to eight that members felt should be examined more closely. These eight were: suicide; youth mental health; opioid misuse; children's oral health;

		Native disparities, Youth Obesity, Health care access	housing; access to primary care; youth obesity; and disparities specific to the American Indian/Alaska Native population. Three community events, called data walks, took place in fall 2018. Participants examined and shared observations on these eight topics.
Health and Equity	Equity of Care: A Toolkit for Eliminating Health Care Disparities Hasnain-Wynia, R., Pierce, D., Haque, A., Hedges Greising, C., Prince, V., Reiter, J. (2007) Health Research and Educational Trust Disparities Toolkit. www.aha.org/system/files/2018-01/equity-care-toolkit-eliminating-health-care-disparities–2015. Accessed September 2022 at: http://www.hretdisparities.org.	Step One: Increase the collection and use of race, ethnicity and language preference (REAL) data Step Two: Increase cultural competency training Step Three: Increase diversity at the leadership and governance levels	This seminal 2015 initiative contains a comprehensive look at how to improve the disparities of care in the U.S. While focused on hospitals it provides a detailed approach relevant to any organization providing social services. The Equity of Care is a national collaborative effort of the American Hospital Association, American College of Healthcare Executives, America's Essential Hospitals, Association of American Medical Colleges and Catholic Health Association of the United States. Through this platform, the Equity of Care partners issued a call to action to eliminate health care disparities. Our goals are to: • Increase the collection and use of race, ethnicity and language preference data; • Increase cultural competency training; and • Increase diversity in governance and leadership.
Increase Resources for low-income children	Rebalancing: Children First A Report of the AEI-Brookings Working Group on Childhood in the United States, February 2022 https://www.brookings.edu/research/rebalancing-children-first/	Consider increasing resources available to low-income families with children through changes to the Child Tax Credit and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Making the tax credit for children available to households with no earnings and increasing SNAP benefits by 20 percent for families with children ages 5 and younger would reduce child	This bi-partisan report from scholars at the American Enterprise Institute and the Brookings Institution agrees that "The future of America rests in part on how the country prepares the next generation to live and to lead. Childhood is a consequential and cost-effective time to make investments that last a lifetime. Yet, many children in the United States do not have the resources or relationships they need to build a strong foundation for their future. Recommendations include: • Parenting is a key ingredient of children's healthy development; parenting's importance is one reason parental mental health is so critical. • The working group believes that a healthy relationship between a child's parents is critical to well-being. • The working group supports substantially increasing public investment in children in the context of budget neutrality—in other words, rebalancing existing resources toward children.

		poverty and help children to succeed later in life.	• The working group supports increasing resources available to low-income families with families with children through changes to the Child Tax Credit and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Making the tax credit for children available to households with no earnings and increasing SNAP benefits by 20 percent for families with children ages 5 and younger would reduce child poverty and help children to succeed later in life. • It is critical to ensure that parents have rewarding employment. The working group supports policies that help parents in the acquisition of new skills that lead to better jobs, policies such as those that expand access to apprenticeships, career and technical education, and programs that support parents who are students in the successful completion of their degrees. • The working group supports increasing the generosity of the Earned Income Tax Credit as it is a proven pro-work and antipoverty program.
Improve pre-school and early childhood enrollment patterns	Improving Teaching Effectiveness: The intensive partnerships for effective teaching Through 2015–2016 Rand corporation Accessed 9-2-2022: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2242.html	Integrate systems for developing skills and improving instruction so that more children have access to excellent teachers.	Rand and AIR 500+ page Report on the Gates Foundation initiative on Improving Teacher Effectiveness. A success area was that "Most School Leaders (SLs) said that they had taken steps to ensure that students with the greatest needs were taught by the most effective teachers and that their school did a good job matching students with teachers. In nearly every site, most SLs indicated that they had taken steps to ensure that students with the greatest needs were taught by the most effective teachers. Most SLs also said that their school did "a good job of matching students with teachers in ways that benefit the most students."
Food Insecurity	Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Food Environment Atlas. https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/	This integrates with South County report findings.	Food environment factors—such as store/restaurant proximity, food prices, food and nutrition assistance programs, and community characteristics—interact to influence food choices and diet quality. Research has been documenting the complexity of these interactions, but more research is needed to identify causal relationships and effective policy interventions.

	https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/		

Appendix D: Market Basket of Grocery Items

Select Grocery Items Price Comparison [31]						
Item	**Description**	**AK Price**	**Lower 48 Price**	**Difference**	**Percent Difference[32]**	**Comparison Source**
Elbow Macaroni	Store brand - 24 oz	$5.40	$1.88	$3.52	187.2%	Wal Mart
Thin Spaghetti	Store brand - 24 oz	$5.40	$2.44	$2.96	121.3%	Food Town
Thin Spaghetti	Store brand - 16 oz	$3.69	$1.89	$1.80	95.2%	Whole Foods
Contadina Pizza Sauce	15 oz	$3.49	$1.99	$1.50	75.4%	Kroger
Barella Elbow Macaroni	16 oz	$4.19	$1.99	$2.20	110.6%	Target
Knorr Chicken and Broccoli Side	5.6 oz	$3.39	$1.33	$2.06	154.9%	Meijer
Ragu Pizza Sauce	16 oz	$4.69	$1.89	$2.80	148.1%	Meijer
Rice-a-Roni, Fettuccine Alfredo	4.7 oz	$3.79	$1.29	$2.50	193.8%	Meijer
Kraft Mac & Cheese Dinner	7.25 oz	$3.99	$0.99	$3.00	303.0%	Hannaford
Banquet Boneless Fried Chicken Dinner	16 oz	$3.89	$3.28	$0.61	18.6%	Target
Campbell's New England Canned Chowder	10.5 oz	$4.19	$1.50	$2.69	179.3%	Kroger
Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup	10.5 oz	$4.10	$1.26	$2.84	225.4%	Wal Mart
Cambell's Chicken & Sausage Gumbo Soup	18.8 oz	$7.19	$2.39	$4.80	200.8%	Target
Nutter Butter Cookies	16 oz	$9.39	$4.79	$4.60	96.0%	CVS
Chips Ahoy Cookies	11.75 oz	$7.69	$3.75	$3.94	105.1%	Family Dollar
Smucker's Orange Marmalade	18 oz	$7.69	$4.29	$3.40	79.3%	Meijer
Smucker's Strawberry Preserves	18 oz	$7.99	$4.29	$3.70	86.2%	Meijer
Smucker's Grape Jelly	18 oz	$6.29	$3.92	$2.37	60.5%	Menard's
Country Time Lemonade Mix	19 oz	$8.79	$3.49	$5.30	151.9%	Target

[31] Grocery items were selected at random from the AC Store and from Stuaqpak in June 2023. The reported items included in the analysis were chosen because they are considered to be national, high-volume brands within the "primary grocery" category – generally excluding meats and fresh fruits and vegetables which tend to be more variable in price. Grocery items on a weekly sale (or other discount) were excluded from the analysis.

[32] Percent higher for the product in the North Slope.

Pop Tarts	13.3 oz	$6.59	$2.62	$3.97	151.5%	Menard's
Pampers Baby Dry Diapers Jumbo	24 ct.	$17.59	$10.49	$7.10	67.7%	Target
Spaghetti O's	16 oz	$3.29	$1.79	$1.50	83.8%	Rite Aid
Star Kist Tuna	Solid white albacore, small can	$4.25	$1.69	$2.56	151.5%	Meijer
Milano Cookies - Dark Chocolate	8 oz	$9.29	$3.99	$5.30	132.8%	Target
Crisco Vegetable Shortening	Large cannister	$17.29	$13.28	$4.01	30.2%	Sam's Club
Del Monte Stewed Tomatoes	16 oz	$3.39	$0.98	$2.41	245.9%	CVS
Angel Soft Toilet Paper	4 mega rolls (=16 reg rolls)	$30.50	$14.95	$15.55	104.0%	Amazon
Rice Crispies	18 oz	$12.59	$5.29	$7.30	138.0%	Target
Huggies Diapers	Little movers	$18.75	$14.99	$3.76	25.1%	Walgreen's
Scott Bathroom Tissue	Bundle - 20 rolls	$40.69	$23.99	$16.70	69.6%	Wal Mart
Pampers Baby Dry Diapers Jumbo	Easyup Jumbo girl, 22 ct.	$18.25	$10.39	$7.86	75.6%	Target
Pampers Cruser	Giant 90 ct.	$74.59	$55.94	$18.65	33.3%	Amazon
Kellogg's Frosted Flakes	24 oz	$13.09	$5.49	$7.60	138.4%	Wal Mart
Skippy Peanut Butter	15 oz	$6.19	$2.85	$3.34	117.2%	Meijer
Milk	Store brand, whole milk, gallon	$14.99	$4.01	$10.98	273.8%	Hannaford
Milk	Store brand, whole milk, half gallon	$7.99	$1.99	$6.00	301.5%	Hannaford
Average Variance					**131.5%**	
Price Index					**2.31**	

The VOAI sample is similar to, and consistent with, other independent research. For example, the Best Places "Cost of Living Analysis" shows an index of 2.52. Available at https://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/county/alaska/north_slope_borough

Appendix E: Glossary

ACS American Community Survey

ADA American Disability Act

ADEC Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

ADF&G Alaska Department of Fish and Game

ADOTPF Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

AEA Alaska Energy Authority

AEWC Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission

AFN Alaska Federation of Natives

AHFC Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

ANCSA Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

ASNA Arctic Slope Native Association

ASRC Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

ASTAC Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative

AWIC Arctic Women in Crisis

ATV All-Terrain Vehicle

AWOS Alaska Weather Operations Services

BIA Bureau of Indian Affairs

BLM Bureau of Land Management

BOEM Bureau of Energy Management

DCCED Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

EPA Environmental Protection Agency

ESA Endangered Species Act

e.g. for example

FAA Federal Aviation Administration

FHWA Federal Highway Administration

FLPMA Federal Land Use Policy and Management Act

HDPE High Density Polyethylene

HUD U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

ICAS Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope

IHA Indian Housing Authority

IHBG Indian Housing Block Grant Program

IRA Indian Reorganization Act of 1934

IRR Indian Reservation Roads

MOU Memorandum of Understanding

MSL Mean Sea Level

MSWLF Material Storage Waste Landfill

MBTA Migratory Bird Treaty Act

NAAQS National Ambient Air Quality Standards

NAHASDA Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996

NEPA National Environmental Protection Act

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NPS National Park Service

NSB North Slope Borough

NSBMC North Slope Borough Municipal Code

NSBSD North Slope Borough School District

SWOT Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

TIGER Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery

TNHA Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority

U.S. United States

USCG U.S. Coast Guard

USCOE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

WIC Women, Infants and Children

WWTP Waste Water Treatment Plant