

INTERIOR ALASKA SERVICE AREA

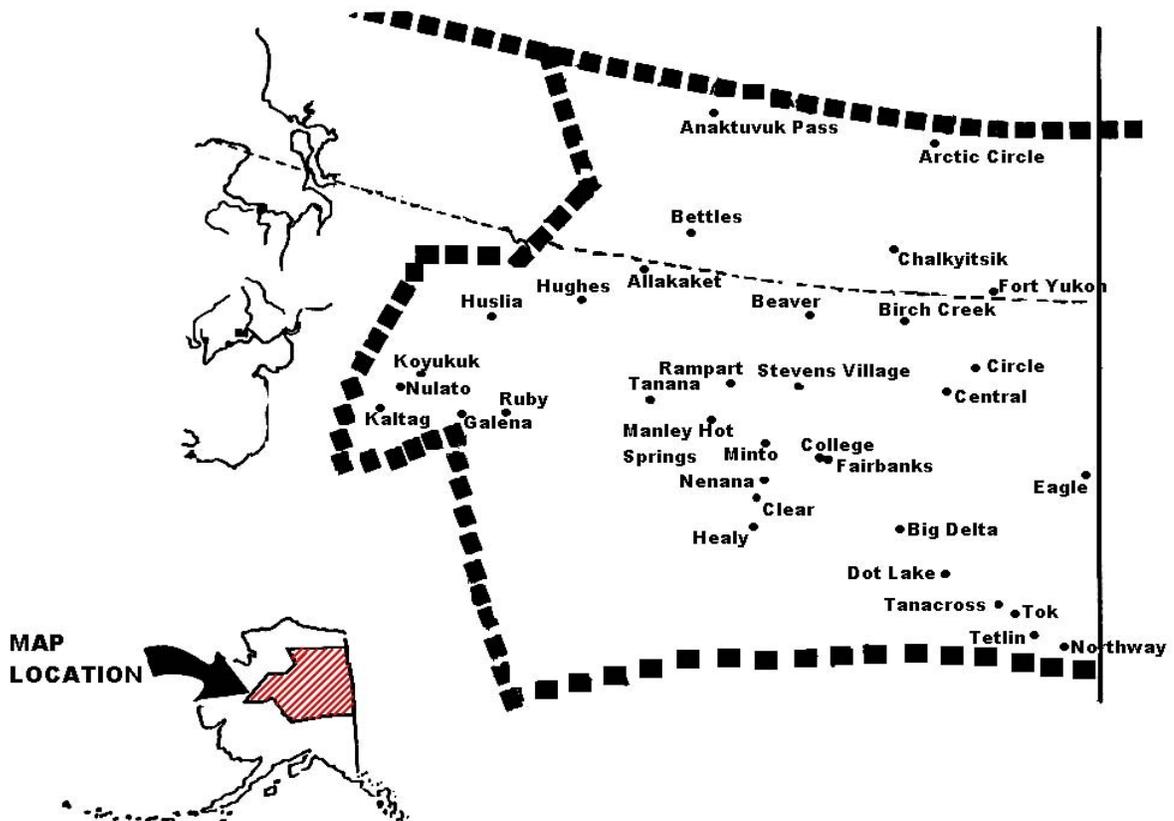
OVERVIEW

Alaska Native 2003 User Population.

INTERIOR ALASKA SERVICE AREA	13,706
Council of Tribal Athabascan Tribal Governments	1,089
Tanana Chiefs Conference	12,379
Tanana Tribal Council	238

Users are defined as beneficiaries who used a facility that reports through the IHS data system at least once between 10/1/2000 and 9/30/2003.

Environmental Factors. The Interior Alaska Service Area covers about 167,644 square miles, and contains over 37 percent of the State of Alaska. The largest city in the service area is Fairbanks where Alaska Natives make up about 9% of the 80,000 total population. In the more rural areas, the percentage of Alaska Natives to the total population increases to about 73%. Rolling hills, rambling rivers and towering Denali (Mt. McKinley) and the Alaska Range dominate the landscape.



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The weather changes dramatically from season to season. In winter, it can be as cold as -65 degrees below zero and summer as warm as 95 degrees. The average temperature is -10 degrees below zero in January and 65 degrees in July. In June and July, daylight lasts 21 hours and nights are only twilight. Conversely, December nights are 21 hours long and the 3-hour days are bright but short. Normal annual precipitation is 11.67 inches, with an annual average snowfall of 50 inches. When temperatures drop below -20 degrees and the wind is calm, the heat and moisture from buildings and automobiles creates ice fog around settlements, which may persist for days. Interior residents learn to adapt to all weather conditions.

Several major rivers flow through the territory. The Tanana River bisects the Interior Alaska Service Area from the Canadian border to its confluence with the Yukon River. The mighty Yukon River stretches across the service area from the Canadian border to a point beyond Holy Cross. Finally, the upper Kuskokwim River flows into the territory, north of its confluence with the Stony River. Interior sub-regions include:

Upper Kuskokwim. The Upper Kuskokwim subregion includes the territory of the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River and its various forks. McGrath is the subregional center. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) operates the McGrath Health Center in space leased from the City of McGrath. McGrath receives its inpatient, medical, dental and specialty outpatient medical care through the Anchorage Service Area.

Upper Tanana. The Upper Tanana subregion encompasses the vast region from the Canadian border west to the Fairbanks North Star Borough, north on the Taylor Highway to Eagle, and south to the Alaska Range. Tok is the subregional center. Tanana Chiefs Conference contracts with the Tok Clinic for outpatient services.

Yukon Flats. The Yukon Flats subregion contains the Yukon River area from Twelve Mile House north of Eagle to west of Beaver, including the Chandalar, Porcupine, and Black River drainages. Fort Yukon is the subregional center. From 1980 to June 1994, the Tanana Chiefs Conference operated the Yukon Flats Health Center in Fort Yukon. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), a non-profit tribal organization located in Fort Yukon, now operates the Yukon Flats Health Center, and other health programs in these villages. TCC continues to provide physician field services and contract health care. The Chalkytsik Traditional Village manages the community health aide/practitioner in their village under a P.L. 93-638, Title I contract with the Indian Health Service.

Yukon Koyukuk. The Yukon Koyukuk subregion consists of the area around the confluence of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers from Ruby to Kaltag and Huslia to Koyukuk. Galena is the subregional center. TCC contracts with the City of Galena for outpatient medical and dental visits at the Galena Health Center for patients in this subregion. TCC also supports activities of the Galena Community Mental Health Center through a small subcontract. A USPHS dentist assigned to TCC works at the Galena Dental Clinic.

Yukon Tanana. The Yukon Tanana subregion takes in the territory between the North Slope Borough boundary and Denali National Park. Communities include those on the Tanana River area from Nenana to Tanana. Fairbanks is the subregional center. Through agreement with the North Slope Borough, Anaktuvuk Pass is also included in the Interior

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Service Area. Anaktuvuk Pass is geographically part of the North Slope Borough. The Tanana Health Center is also located in the Yukon Tanana subregion and is operated by the Tanana Tribal Council.

The vast majority of indigenous Native people of Interior Alaska are Athabascan Indians. One exception is Anaktuvuk Pass which is an Eskimo community. Also, a significant Eskimo population resides in Fairbanks, and other American Indian/Alaska Native tribes reside in and receive care through the service area.

Utilities.

Fairbanks has all the utilities of a modern city. Interior Alaska Service Area residents residing along the road systems also have utilities. Residents in remote villages off the road system use outhouses, pack their water and have access to a Indian Health Service fee-for-service laundry facility with showers. Some of the homes have modern services such as piped water, but many of the homes have no running water, or solid waste facilities (toilets).

Interior Alaska Service Unit Number of Homes With and Without Complete Water and Sewer Service ¹

	# Homes With	# Homes Without	Total # of Homes ²
INTERIOR ALASKA SERVICE UNIT	1,000	1081	2,081
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments	164	315	479
Tanana Chiefs Conference (part)	836	766	1,602

¹Complete service means operable plumbed indoor water and sewer service. Information applies only to year-round primary homes, including individual homes, duplexes and apartment units. Data from FY 2002.

²Excludes homes covered by urban local government water and sewer service.
Source: Alaska Area Native Health Service Office of Environmental Health.

Transportation. Fairbanks is the transportation hub for Interior Alaska. Complete jet service is available in Fairbanks with daily flights to Seattle, Anchorage and various communities within Alaska. Forms of transportation vary widely, and travel is often difficult or expensive. Some highway villages have motor vehicle access only during the summer months. All other communities are accessible by air, by boat during the summer, and by dogsled or snowmachine in the winter. In extreme weather conditions, travel by any means is simply not practical and villages become very isolated once airplanes stop flying at -45 degrees or colder. There can be days or weeks during the winter when airplanes are grounded and villages are cut off completely.

Housing. Housing is scarce and living conditions are inadequate in most rural villages of the Interior Alaska Service Area. Indian Health Service built housing is not available in Fairbanks, but ample housing exists. Additionally, Fairbanks has over two dozen major hotels and motels.

Education. Seven rural school districts serve the villages, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District operates twenty elementary schools, four junior high schools, one junior senior high school, and five high schools. A special education center and vocational training center are also available in Fairbanks. The University of Alaska in Fairbanks is home for the internationally known Geophysical Institute as well as other major Arctic research facilities. Limited University of Alaska courses are also available in the subregional centers and through distance learning.

Interior Alaska Service Area Education Status for the Population 25 Years and Over

	Males	Females
<u>White Alone population:</u>		
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	6,072	5,163
Bachelors degree or higher	6,559	6,365
<u>AI/AN* Alone population:</u>		
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	1,282	1,040
Bachelors degree or higher	160	242

AI/AN*=American Indian/Alaska Native. Includes the Denali Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area and Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census Summary File 3

Natural Resources. Fairbanks serves as the trade center for Interior and Northern Alaska. Agriculture, mining, and fish and game are the major natural resources. Gold mining production and tourism in the Fairbanks area have increased significantly in the past few years.

Economic Conditions. Residents of rural Alaska rely heavily on subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping. Wage and salary employment is limited in the Interior Alaska Service Area, and the government is the chief employer in all subregions. Because of seasonal jobs, dramatic fluctuation occurs in unemployment rates. Recent emphasis on village-based economic development projects, tourism and entrepreneurial activities may create a stronger rural economy, increased employment and decreased seasonal fluctuation. Other significant contributors to the Interior economy include the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Eielson Air Force Base and Fort Wainwright Army Post, which are all near Fairbanks.

Interior Alaska Service Area Employment Status for the Population 16 years and Over

	Male	Female
<u>White Alone population:</u>		
In labor force	23,662	17,002
Employed	17,530	15,256
Unemployed	1,791	1,198
<u>AI/AN* Alone population:</u>		
In labor force	2,183	2,091
Employed	1,409	1,678
Unemployed	709	406

AI/AN*=American Indian/Alaska Native.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census Summary File 3

Tribes. The Interior Alaska Service Area is home to a number of tribal health organizations which provide services to eligible Alaska Native beneficiaries. Listed below, under each tribal health organization, are the federally recognized tribes receiving healthcare services primarily from that organization.

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) P.L. 93-638, Title V Funding Agreement:

Arctic Village Traditional Council - P.O. Box 22059, Arctic Village, AK 99722
Beaver Traditional Village - P.O. Box 24029, Beaver, AK 99724

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Birch Creek Traditional Village - P.O. Box KBC, Birch Creek, AK 99740
Chalkyitsik Traditional Village, P.L. 93-638, Title I - P.O. Box 57, Chalkyitsik, AK 99788
Circle Traditional Council - P.O. Box 89, Circle, AK 99733
Native Village of Fort Yukon IRA - P.O. Box 126, Fort Yukon, AK 99740
Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government - P.O. Box 81080, Venetie, AK 99781

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Inc., P.L. 93-638 Title V Funding Agreement:

Allakaket Traditional Council - P.O. Box 50, Allakaket, AK 99720
Alatna Traditional Village - P.O. Box 70, Alatna, AK 99720
Village of Anaktuvuk Pass - General Delivery, Anaktuvuk Pass, AK 99721
Dot Lake Traditional Council - P.O. Box 2279, Dot Lake, AK 99737
Eagle IRA Council - P.O. Box 19, Eagle, AK 99738
Evansville Tribal Council - P.O. Box 26087, Bettles, AK 99726
Galena Tribal Council (aka Loudon Village) - P.O. Box 244, Galena, AK 99741
Healy Lake Traditional Council - P.O. Box 60300, Fairbanks, AK 99706
Hughes Traditional Council - P.O. Box 45029, Hughes, AK 99745
Huslia Traditional Council - P.O. Box 70, Huslia, AK 99746
Kaltag Traditional Council - P.O. Box 129, Kaltag, AK 99748
Koyukuk Traditional Council - P.O. Box 109, Koyukuk, AK 99754
Manley Hot Springs Traditional Council - P.O. Box 23, Manley, AK 99756
McGrath Traditional Council - P.O. Box 134, McGrath, AK 99627
Minto Traditional Council - P.O. Box 26, Minto, AK 99758
Nikolai Native Village Council (Edzeno' Native Council) - P.O. Box 9105, Nikolai, AK 99691
Nenana Traditional Council - P.O. Box 356, Nenana, AK 99760
Northway Traditional Council - P.O. Box 516, Northway, AK 99764
Nulato Traditional Council - P.O. Box 65049, Nulato, AK 99765
Rampart Traditional Council - P.O. Box 67029, Rampart, AK 99767
Ruby Traditional Council - P.O. Box 210, Ruby, AK 99768
Stevens Village IRA Council - P.O. Box 16, Stevens Village, AK 99774
Takotna Traditional Council - General Delivery, Takotna, AK 99675
Tanacross IRA Council - P.O. Box 76009, Tanacross, AK 99776
Telida Native Village Council - P.O. Box 9104, Nikolai, AK 99629
Tetlin IRA Council - P.O. Box TTL, Tetlin, AK 99779

Tanana Tribal Council, P.L. 93-638, Title I Contract:

Tanana Tribal Council, P.L. 93-638, Title I - P.O. Box 77130, Tanana, AK 99777

Other places in the Interior Service Area not Federally Recognized as Tribes.

Alcan	Chatanika	Fox	North Pole	Wiseman
Anderson	Chicken	Indian River	Salcha	Wood River
Big Delta	Clear	Kokrines	Tok	
Canyon Village	Delta Junction	Lake Minchumina	Toklat	
Central	Fairbanks	Medfra	Tolovana	

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH-CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. On September 28, 1984, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. (TCC) assumed responsibility for health service delivery in Interior Alaska under a P.L. 93-638, Title I contract with the Indian Health Service. Since then, additional P.L. 93-638 agreements with other Interior tribal organizations have further changed the service delivery system. The health center in Fort Yukon was operated by TCC from 1980 through June 1994. The Council of Tribal Athabascan Governments (CATG), a non-profit entity located in Fort Yukon, assumed operations of the Yukon Flats health center in June 1994, and operation of most other local village health programs in October 1996. The Tanana Health Center is operated by the Tanana Tribal Council under a P.L. 93-638, Title I contract. The Chalkytsik Traditional Village contracts under Title I to provide community health aide/practitioner services in their own village.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference is the principal direct provider of health care services to 35 of the 43 villages in the Interior region. All villages in the region, including Anaktuvuk Pass, receive some services (community and environmental health) through the TCC. In 1999, TCC obtained "Network" accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. This designation expands accreditation to all regional health programs rather than just the ambulatory care services provided at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center in Fairbanks. While considered member-tribes of TCC, villages in the Lower Yukon (Anvik) subregion receive all healthcare through the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Service Area.

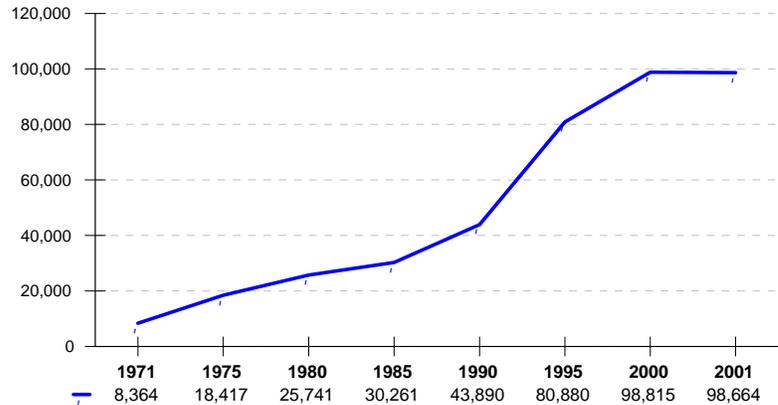
Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, Fairbanks. The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) is the regional outpatient clinic for Interior Alaska Natives. It is the only provider of specialty care in the region through contract health care and by referral to ANMC. This 26,773 square-foot health center is located on the third and fourth floors of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. This location allows TCC to take advantage of the private hospital's radiology and laboratory facilities.

In addition to medical care, the CAIHC also offers a full range of health services including services in pharmacy, public health nursing, outreach programs, prenatal care, well-child care, health screening, patient education, FAS prevention, nutrition counseling, WIC and Elders' assistance. TCC maintains special diabetes and cancer registries and provides special tracking and follow up of patients with these medical conditions.

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Inpatient care for the villages in the Interior Service Unit is provided through a contract with the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Not all specialty services are available in Fairbanks. Inpatient cardiology burn/thermal treatment, trauma, level III newborn intensive care, rehabilitation services and reconstructive surgery are sent to the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) in Anchorage for referral. Nuclear medicine and some orthopedics are also referred to ANMC.

Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Outpatient Workload: FY 1971 - FY 2001



Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1A.

Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 2001 - FY 2002

All Age Groups	FY 2001	FY 2002
Upper Respiratory Problems	5,021	4,521
Psychoses	3,284	3,457
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	2,996	3,101
Accidents & Injuries	3,531	2,952
Hypertension	1,140	2,866
Bone & Joint Disorders	2,426	2,575
Refractive Error	2,158	2,145
Respiratory Allergies	1,003	1,529
Otitis Media	1,902	1,523
Physical Examinations	1,200	1,301
Diabetes Mellitus	813	1,283
Hospital Medical/Surgical Follow-up	1,028	1,274
Gynecologic Problems & Breast	1,222	1,083

Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1C.

TCC operates a mental health counseling center in space leased from (and in) the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Limited assessment, therapy and psychiatric services are available. The counseling center provides psychiatric back up services for the Tok, Yukon Flats, Yukon-Tanana and Galena mental health programs. In addition, outpatient mental health and alcohol services are provided through field visits to Fairbanks subregion villages by Yukon Tanana counseling services staff. Local paraprofessional alcohol counseling services are provided to villages in the Upper Tanana subregion through the Upper Tanana Alcohol Program. Supervision for the Yukon-

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Tanana and Upper Tanana programs is provided through the TCC counseling center. The Yukon-Tanana program provides professional itinerate counselors and three paraprofessional counselors, and the Upper Tanana alcohol program provides eight paraprofessional counselors.

The Paul Williams House provides temporary housing for clients traveling from the villages for specialized mental health services. It also provides short-term, supervised housing for the chronically mentally ill who have been stabilized and released from the hospital. Temporary housing is also available when the family of a chronically mentally ill patient needs a break from the daily stresses of caring for a family member. The Paul Williams House is located a few blocks from the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center.

A family recovery camp is operated by TCC to provide treatment services for people who have experienced dependency on alcohol or other drugs. The program operates in a traditional setting without running water or electricity. Participants are expected to assist in all camp activities, including the gathering of subsistence foods, packing water and gathering firewood. Up to 15 people can be treated in the camp, and children may join their parents. The length of stay is 35 days and includes individual and group counseling. The approach emphasizes Athabascan Indian values, traditions and culture.

The Community Health Representative (CHR) program provides a variety of village-based services by paraprofessional health providers. CHR services include home visits, patient advocacy and patient education. They are also available to assist the elders with transportation to medical facilities and as an escort when family members are unavailable. CHRs work at the village clinics in Galena, Huslia, McGrath, Minto, Northway and Tok. TCC health educators are located in Galena, Tok, McGrath and Fairbanks. An injury prevention specialist is located in Fairbanks and performs regional prevention services.

The dental clinic is located at TCC's main office in downtown Fairbanks. A full range of preventive and restorative dental services are available. The dental clinic also provides limited oral surgery, pediatric care, endodontics (root canal therapy) and orthodontics under contract with specialty providers. TCC's dental program also provides complete, comprehensive dental services through field visits to villages in the Upper Tanana, Yukon Koyukuk and Yukon-Tanana subregions. Modern, portable dental equipment and TCC dentists, assistants and hygienists are used. Hospital-based care is available for the very young and disabled patients as time permits and as funds allow.

The optometry clinic is also located in TCC's main office in downtown Fairbanks. The optometry clinic expanded its services in May 1995 to offer contact lens on a fee-for-service basis. In 1998, staffing increased to include two optometrists, one licensed optician and two apprentice opticians.

The TCC Office of Environmental Health (OEH) is comprised of three branches. Environmental health specialists provide technical support and service relating to environmental issues affecting public health and safety. Engineers assist Tribes with sanitation facility management, operation, maintenance and project planning. Remote maintenance workers provide hands-on training and emergency assistance to water plant operators. Other environmental health issues addressed by OEH include rabies control, food sanitation, hazardous materials management, safety, infectious disease investigation and institutional health.

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Fairbanks Native Association. The TCC mental health and alcohol programs provide statewide adolescent residential substance services through a joint venture contract with Fairbanks Native Association at the Graf Rheeneerhaanjii, "The Healing Place." This 16-bed program includes counseling, cultural awareness, and continuing education. The Graf Rheeneerhaanjii is one of two IHS-funded adolescent treatment facilities in Alaska. The program is located just outside Fairbanks on land leased from the IHS. The FNA also operates a 12 hour emergency shelter for homeless and chronic inebriates, an inmate substance abuse program, and a dual diagnosis substance abuse/mental health residential treatment program for adults.

McGrath Health Center. McGrath is located along the banks of the Kuskokwim River, 220 miles northeast of Anchorage. The McGrath Health Center is owned by the City of McGrath, leased to the Indian Health Service and operated by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. with the assistance of a HRSA Community Health Center grant. Field medical, dental and optometry services are provided by the Southcentral Foundation. The population is served through the Anchorage Service Area and most beneficiaries are referred to ANMC for hospital care. Acute, preventive and emergency medical care is provided by a full-time mid-level practitioner and two health aides.

Tanana Tribal Council Health Center. Lying 138 miles west of Fairbanks, the Tanana Alaska Native Health Center is within the former Indian Health Service hospital compound. The Tanana Tribal Council operates the health center under a P.L. 93-638, Title I contract. Facilities include the clinic building, two units of housing and five service buildings. In early summer of 1984, a newly-renovated health center began serving residents of the community. Tanana Chiefs Conference provides field dental, medical and optometry visits to the community.

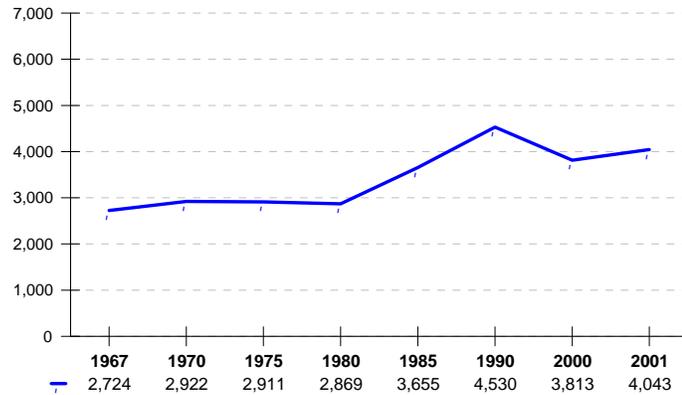
Yukon Flats Health Center. The health center located in Fort Yukon is operated by the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), and is 140 miles northeast of Fairbanks. Services at the health center include primary ambulatory care, emergency care, dental and referral. The CATG provides the community health aide/practitioners, the community health representative program, and the health education program at the Yukon Flats Health Center. CATG also operates the CARE Center Mental Health and Substance Abuse program which provides outpatient, outreach, referral, crisis intervention, case management, and prevention/education services in the Yukon Flats villages. Tanana Chiefs Conference provides contract health services and physician field visits to Yukon Flats Health Center.

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The Yukon Flats Health Center's (YFHC) staff includes three mid-level practitioners (physician assistants or family nurse practitioners). Currently, two nurse practitioners work in the clinical program, and a third nurse practitioner serves as the coordinator/instructor for the community health aide/practitioners.

The CATG provides health care to the following communities of the Yukon Flats Region: Arctic Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Canyon Village, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Venetie, and Fort Yukon. The Chalkyitsik Traditional Village manages their own CHA/P through a P.L. 93-638, Title I contract with the Indian Health Service.

**Yukon Flats Health Center
Outpatient Workload: FY 1967 - FY 2001**



Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1A.

**Yukon Flats Health Center (Fort Yukon)
Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 2001 - FY 2002**

All Age Groups	FY 2001	FY 2002
Upper Respiratory Problems	410	432
Accidents & Injuries	278	364
Tests Only	157	203
Otitis Media	159	181
Hypertension	64	132
Bone and Joint Disorders	123	117
Diabetes Mellitus	21	114
Alcohol Abuse	88	92
Refractive Error	52	79
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	84	71

Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1C.

Community Health Aide/Practitioners. The following Interior Alaska Service Area villages have community health aide programs managed by **Tanana Chiefs Conference**:

Allakaket	Healy Lake	Manley	Tanacross
Dot Lake	Hughes	Nulato	Tetlin
Eagle	Huslia	Minto	Rampart

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Evansville	Kaltag	Nenana	Ruby
Galena	Koyukuk	Northway	Stevens Village

The following villages have community health aide/practitioners managed by the **Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments**:

Arctic Village	Birch Creek	Circle
Beaver	Chalkyitsik *	Venetie

* The Chalkyitsik Traditional Village manages the community health aide/practitioner in their village under a P.L. 93-638, Title I contract with the Indian Health Service.

The Bertha Moses Patient Hostel provides temporary housing for rural patients who have medical appointments in Fairbanks. The hostel is located just across the street from the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. Patient stays are coordinated through the community health aides/practitioners or the local community health representative.

NON-TRIBAL HEALTH AGENCIES AND FACILITIES AND TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO SERVICE POPULATION

The Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Inpatient care for the villages in the Interior Service Unit is provided through a contract with the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center uses radiology and laboratory services of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Tok Clinic. Contract health medical services are provided by the privately operated Tok Clinic. The TCC provides regularly scheduled itinerant dental services to Alaska Natives in the Tok area utilizing the Tok Clinic. The Tok Area Mental Health Center provides mental health services for Alaska Native patients in the area.

Galena Clinic. The City of Galena, 282 miles west of Fairbanks, offers medical services to TCC beneficiaries in the Yukon Koyukuk subregion at their Galena Clinic. Behavioral health services are also provided by the City of Galena. TCC provides itinerant dental services at the clinic, and helps support the local community mental health center.

Outpatient surgery, CAT scans, MRI and ultrasound services for residents of the Interior Alaska Service Area are provided by various private vendors in the Fairbanks area.

Public health nurses work throughout the Interior Alaska Service Area under the direction of the State of Alaska, Division of Public Health. They provide immunizations, maternal and child health services and preventive health services to the villages within Interior Alaska.

HEALTH FACILITIES PLANNING ISSUES

The **Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC)** is separated by several miles from TCC's dental clinics, optometry clinics, health education services, rural health, environmental health,

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health administration and business office. Unification of all health services and programs under one roof and close to the CAIHC is a long-term goal. Smaller than adequate lease space in the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and a 20-year lease which keeps CAIHC in its current location are the major factors preventing the consolidation of programs.

HEALTH STATUS OF ALASKA NATIVES LIVING IN THE INTERIOR ALASKA SERVICE AREA

Mortality. The following table displays the Interior Alaska Native crude death rates per 100,000 population.

**Interior Alaska Service Area
Alaska Native Deaths
Three-Year Average Crude Death Rates per 100,000 Population**

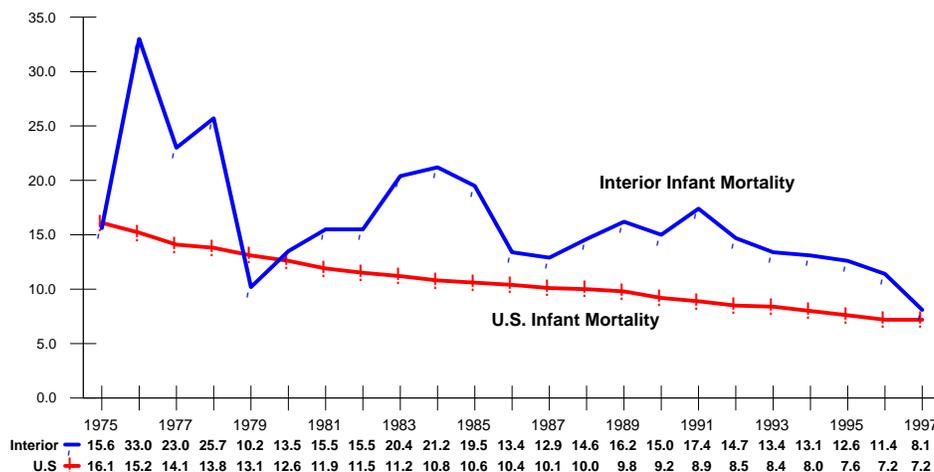
Leading Causes of Death	1994-1996 /4	1995-1997 /4	1996-1998 /4
1) Heart Disease	111.2	136.1	119.5
2) Malignant Neoplasms /1	111.2	100.6	99.1
Lung Cancer	30.1	29.6	29.1
3) Unintentional Injuries (Accidents) /2	144.3	118.4	93.3
Motor Vehicles	42.1	35.5	17.5
Water Transport/Drowning	30.1	23.7	26.2
4) Alcohol Related /3	51.1	44.4	52.5
5) Suicide	66.1	35.5	26.2
6) Cerebrovascular	21.0	26.6	26.2
7) Chronic Obst. Pul. Diseases	21.0	23.7	26.2
8) Homicide	24.0	17.8	23.3
9) Cirrhosis	18.0	14.8	17.5
10) Pneumonia & Influenza	21.0	11.8	14.6

1/ Lung Cancer is included in Malignant Neoplasms.
 2/ Does not include injuries purposefully inflicted or injuries undetermined whether purposefully or accidentally inflicted. Motor Vehicle and Water Transport/Drowning are also counted in the total Accidents; it does not include alcohol related deaths.
 3/ Alcohol Related deaths include alcoholic psychoses, alcohol dependence syndrome, alcohol abuse, alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis, alcoholic polyneuropathy, alcoholic cardiomyopathy, alcoholic gastritis, excessive blood level of alcohol, and accidental poisoning by alcoholic beverages and ethyl alcohol.
 4/ Causes not included when deaths average less than one per year in 1995-97.
 Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics.

Infant Mortality.

The following graph compares the Interior Alaska Service Area Native and U.S. infant mortality rates

**Infant Mortality Rates
Interior Alaska Service Area vs. U.S.:
1975 - 1997**



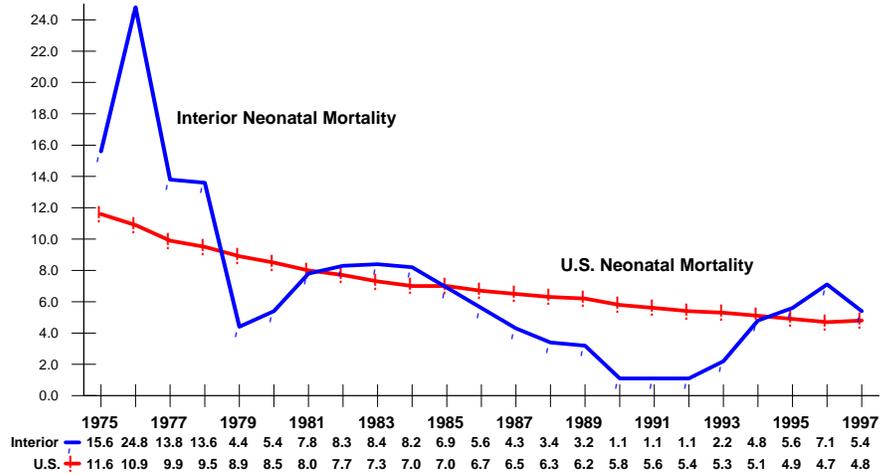
Birth rates are rates per 1,000 total population. Alaska Native births are from IHS report NSU-01. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and are single year rates. Infant death rates are deaths per 1,000 live births. Alaska Native deaths are from IHS Reports MINFDTHS-01 and MINFDTHS-02. United State death rates are from the NCHS. Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics.

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Neonatal Mortality.

The neonatal period is defined as less than 28 days of age.

**Neonatal Mortality Rates
Interior Area Service Area vs. U.S.:
1975 - 1997**

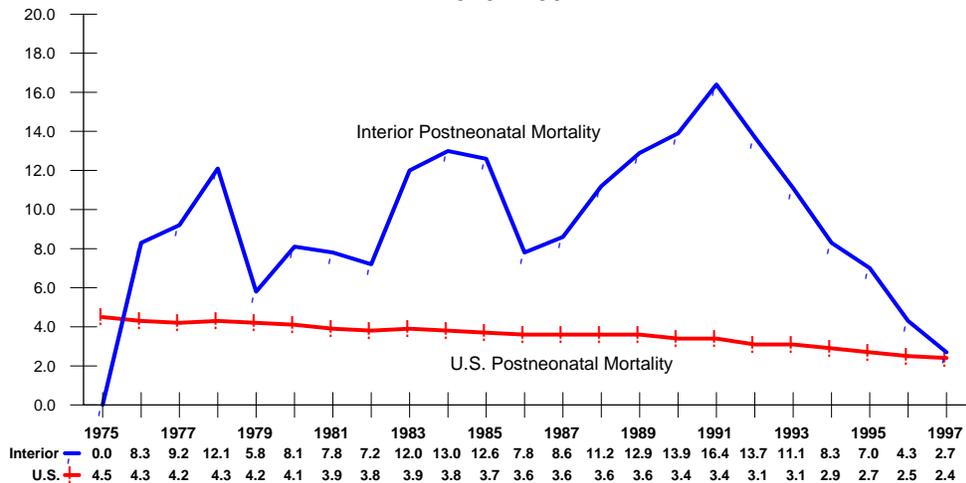


Birth rates are rates per 1,000 total population. Alaska Native births are from IHS report NSU-01. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and are single year rates. Infant death rates are deaths per 1,000 live births. Alaska Native infant deaths are from IHS Reports MINFDTHS-01 and MINFDTHS-02. United States death rates are from the NCHS.

Postneonatal Mortality.

The postneonatal period is defined as 28 to 365 days of age.

**Postneonatal Mortality Rates
Interior Area Service Area vs. U.S.:
1975 - 1997**



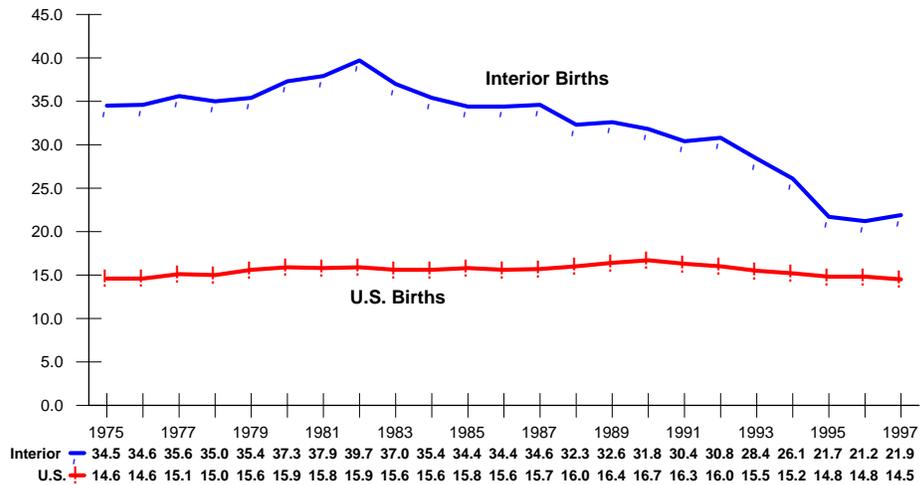
Birth rates are rates per 1,000 population. Alaska Native births are from IHS report NSU-01. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and are single year rates. Infant death rates are deaths per 1,000 live births. Alaska Native infant deaths are from IHS Reports MINFDTHS-01 and MINFDTHS-02. United States death rates are from the NCHS.

INTERIOR ALASKA SERVICE AREA

Birth Rates.

The following graph compares the birth rates between the Interior Alaska Service Area Natives and the U.S. general population.

**Birth Rates
Interior Area Service Area vs. U.S.:
1975 - 1997**



Birth rates are rates per 1,000 population. Alaska Native births are from IHS report NSU-01. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and are single year rates.