

# KOTZEBUE SERVICE AREA

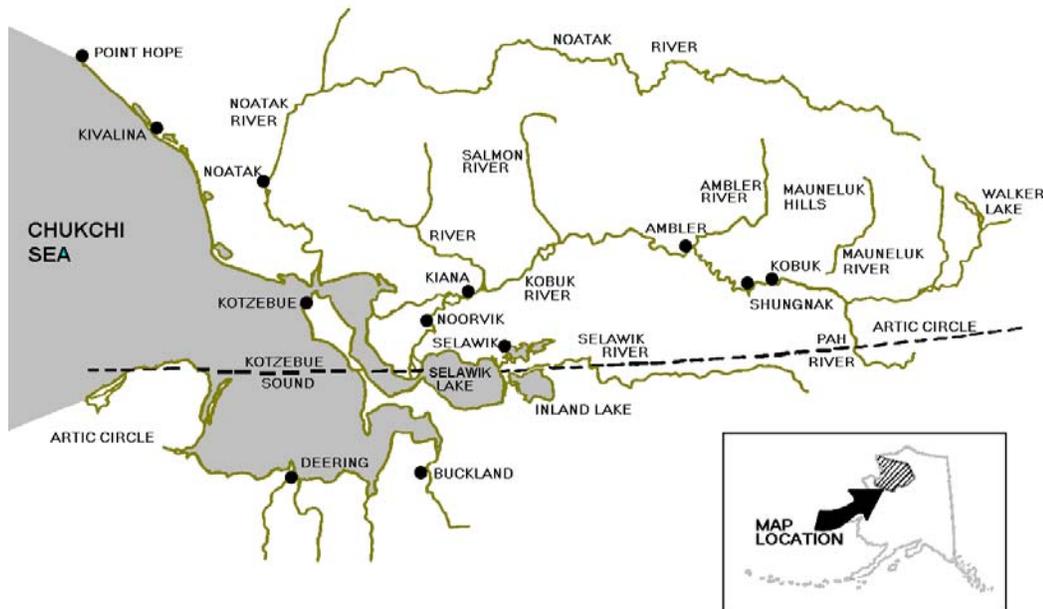
## OVERVIEW

### Alaska Native 2003 User Population.

<b>KOTZEBUE SERVICE AREA</b>	<b>7,241</b>
Maniilaq Association	7,241

Users are defined as beneficiaries who used an Indian Health Service (IHS) or tribal facility that reports through the IHS data system at least once between 10/1/2000 and 9/30/2003.

**Environmental Factors.** The Kotzebue Service Area straddles the Arctic Circle in northwestern Alaska and covers about 36,138 square miles. The Native population inhabits eleven communities of the Northwest Arctic Borough and the village of Point Hope. Residents of the area are primarily of Inupiaq (Eskimo) heritage. River communities in the region often sit in wooded areas, where game and fishing are abundant. About 40 percent of the present user population live in the City of Kotzebue.



Kotzebue is 26 miles above the Arctic Circle on the northwestern shore of the Baldwin Peninsula. While Kotzebue itself is quite flat and densely populated, it enjoys vistas of snow-capped mountains and vast expanses of tundra. The city is nearly surrounded by the waters of Kotzebue Sound, Kobuk Lake, and several lagoons.

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During the summer months, the temperature averages between 40 and 60 degrees F<sup>o</sup>, with an all-time high of 85 degrees. A light breeze from Kotzebue Sound keeps summer temperatures comfortable. This is the Land of the Midnight Sun, and residents enjoy the longer daylight for about 36 days when the summer sun does not set.

While winter temperatures average between 15 and 20 degrees below zero F<sup>o</sup>, the very dry climate moderates the impact of the temperature. The lowest temperature recorded was 58 degrees below zero. Brisk winds drive the windchill to below -50 degrees F<sup>o</sup>, but residents compensate by dressing appropriately for the weather. The average annual precipitation is about nine inches, including 40 inches of snow.

**Utilities.** Electricity, water and sanitation facilities are available in most villages in the Kotzebue Service Area. These utilities lack good backup systems, however, and power outages are not uncommon. In some villages, homes still lack water/sewer facilities.

**Transportation.** Kotzebue is a regional center for air transportation. Travelers into or out of the area make connections through Kotzebue. Jet passenger service arrives daily from Anchorage. Bush planes provide both scheduled and charter service to the villages as the weather permits. The villages surrounding Kotzebue depend on bush flights for much of their food and other essentials.

No interconnecting roadways exist between Kotzebue and the villages. Transportation is typically by air, although boats and snowmobiles also provide access. Many residents own dog teams for recreational use and racing. During the winter months, the frozen inlets and rivers provide natural highways for travel to villages by dog sled or snowmobile. After the ice breaks up in the summer months, the waterways carry motorboats to and from Kotzebue.

**Housing.** Approximately 75 units of employee housing are available for Maniilaq Health Center staff. Eligibility for employee housing is based on job duties and call status. Maniilaq Association assists employees who prefer to live in the community to locate suitable housing. Rental or private housing is available but is very limited in Kotzebue and the outlying villages.

**Recreation.** Kotzebue's long winter season encourages a variety of winter activities, including dog mushing, sledding, cross-country skiing, snowmachining, hunting and fishing. Though the summer season is short, the long days are filled with camping, fishing, rafting, gardening, berry picking, hiking, boating, softball, hunting, picnicking, and other summer activities. Eskimo dancing and singing is a favorite activity in Kotzebue. City league sports such as basketball and volleyball are preferred indoor activities during the winter.

**Kotzebue Service Unit  
Number of Homes With and Without Complete  
Water and Sewer Service<sup>1</sup>**

	# Homes With	# Homes Without	Total # of Homes <sup>2</sup>
<b>KOTZEBUE SERVICE UNIT</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>834</b>
Maniilaq Association	625	209	834

<sup>1</sup>Complete 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.

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

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Kotzebue has a teen center, Senior Citizens Cultural Center, hotel, library, bank, museum, hairstylist, supermarkets, five restaurants, hardware, variety and video stores, snowmachine and auto shops, and several convenience stores.

**Education.** Educational programs are available in Kotzebue and the surrounding villages. The Northwest Arctic Borough School District provides public education from preschool through grade twelve. For working parents, Kotzebue has a private daycare center called Children's House. The Chukchi Community Campus of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, is in Kotzebue. A wide range of courses is available on-site and through a statewide audio conference network. Finally, the Alaska Technical Center equips postsecondary students with needed vocational/technical skills for the region.

## Kotzebue Service Unit Education Status for the Population 25 Years and Over

	Males	Females
<b><u>White Alone population:</u></b>		
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	132	18
Bachelors degree or higher	150	168
<b><u>AI/AN* Alone population:</u></b>		
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	701	514
Bachelors degree or higher	28	58

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

**Natural Resources.** The Northwest Arctic Borough encompasses a large area essentially unaffected by human development. Most of the lands within the area are managed by the National Park Services, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska. The major private land owners include the Northwest Arctic Native Association (NANA) and the Kikiktagrak Inupiat Corporation (KIC).

Various species of plants, animals, birds, and fish live in the region. Caribou, moose, wolves, musk oxen, bowhead whales, polar bears, foxes, ptarmigan, bearded and spotted seals are just a handful of the wild life in this area. Shellfish, Arctic char, pike, grayling and chum salmon are several species of fish that are harvested there. Waterfowl, shorebirds and other species that live in open flat areas are prevalent during the spring and summer months.

Supplementing the cash economy is the traditional subsistence economy. Residents enjoy and rely on harvesting natural foods and depend upon the fish, game, berries and other natural foods for nutrition.

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**Economic Conditions.** Major employers include the school district, Maniilaq Association, the City of Kotzebue, the community college and other public agencies and governmental organizations. The NANA Regional Corporation, Kotzebue’s profit corporation (KIC) and a number of small retail, utility and service businesses also provide employment. When fully operational, the NANA-Cominco Red Dog Mine northwest of Kotzebue requires about four hundred employees to produce lead and zinc for the world market.

### Kotzebue Service Unit Employment Status for the Population 16 years and Over

	Male	Female
<b><u>White Alone population:</u></b>		
In labor force	425	250
Employed	399	248
Unemployed	23	2
<b><u>AI/AN* Alone population:</u></b>		
In labor force	1,051	967
Employed	790	827
Unemployed	261	140

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

Seasonal employment includes construction, commercial fishing, and tourism. Construction is one of the main sources of income for the area, and most contracts are with the Federal government.

**Tribes.** The following are the federally recognized tribes in the Kotzebue Service Area.

**Maniilaq Association Region**

- Native Village of Ambler - P.O. Box 47, Ambler, AK 99786
- Native Village of Buckland IRA - P.O. Box 63, Buckland, AK 99727
- Native Village of Deering IRA - P.O. Box 89, Deering, AK 99736
- Native Village of Kiana - P.O. Box 69, Kiana, AK 99749
- Native Village of Kivalina IRA - P.O. Box 50051, Kivalina, AK 99750
- Native Village of Kobuk - General Delivery, Kobuk, AK 99751
- Native Village of Kotzebue IRA - P.O. Box 296, Kotzebue, AK 99752
- Native Village of Noatak IRA - P.O. Box 89, Noatak, AK 99761
- Noorvik Native Community IRA - P.O. Box 71, Noorvik, AK 99763
- Native Village of Point Hope IRA - P.O. Box 109, Point Hope, AK 99766
- Native Village of Selawik IRA - P.O. Box 59, Selawik, AK 99770
- Native Village of Shungnak IRA - P.O. Box 63, Shungnak, AK 99773

## DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH-CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Launched in 1966, the Maniilaq Association was initially called the Northwest Alaska Native Association. After passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, the regional nonprofit organization called Mauneluk Association organized in 1972. In early 1975, the Kotzebue Area Health Corporation and Mauneluk merged as a single health delivery organization for the NANA Region.

In 1981, the corporation adopted the true Inupiaq spelling of Mauneluk and became Maniilaq Association. The name has dual significance. First, Maniilaq was an Inupiaq prophet who traveled and taught throughout the region in the not-so-distant days before the first contact with

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the European world. His prediction that a race of people from the south would come into the land and bring great changes has come true. Maniilaq, in the Inupiaq language, also suggests “no money,” reflecting the organization’s nonprofit status.

During the past two decades, Maniilaq has assumed management responsibility of nearly all regional service programs which the state and federal government operated previously.

On July 1, 1988, the Maniilaq Association assumed responsibility for hospital care in the region under a P.L. 93-638, Title I contract. Today, the organization provides virtually all of the health and social services available in the region. The Indian Health Service funds both hospital and community health services under a P.L. 93-638, Title V funding agreement. A variety of state-and other-funded programs complement these services.

**Maniilaq Health Center**, P.O. Box 43, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752.

Maniilaq Association health services are based out of the recently completed Maniilaq Health Center facility. The 80,000 square foot state-of-the-art primary health care center was dedicated in February 1995, and opened for services in March 1995. Maniilaq Health Center medical services include acute inpatient (17 beds) and outpatient care, twenty-four hour emergency services and 35 specialty clinics per year staffed by itinerant providers. Ancillary services include physical therapy, respiratory therapy, audiology, laboratory, radiology (including mammography and ultrasound), pharmacy, social services, and dietary. Community health programs provided from the center include dental, environmental health, health education, eye care, maternal child health, emergency medical services training, injury prevention, women infant children (WIC), audiology and public health nursing services. Social Services, including mental and behavioral health services are based at F.R. Ferguson Building in Kotzebue. Village-based health services are provided in health clinics located in each of the 11 outlying communities. The Association also provides assisted living, prematernal home and traditional health care services at the Kotzebue Senior Citizens Cultural Center facility. The specialty and tertiary referral location is the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

Maniilaq Association is committed to providing quality patient care, and the Maniilaq Health Center services are fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

Community health aide/practitioners (CHAP’s) serve as counterparts for physicians in all of the villages. They provide clinic services and maintain daily telephone contact with physicians in Kotzebue. They also make arrangements and assist itinerant health services providers in the villages. The CHAP’s and village clinic system ensure an important continuing provider presence in the villages.

Maniilaq operates community health aides programs in the following village built health clinics. Trained community health aides deliver medical care in the villages. The following villages have clinics and community health aides:

Ambler	Kiana	Noatak	Sealwik
Buckland	Kivalina	Noorvik	Shungnak
Deering	Kobuk	Point Hope	

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

Public health nurses serve the area under the auspices of the State of Alaska.

Other resources include the State of Alaska, Health & Social Services Department, Division of Family and Youth Service, the Public Assistance Division and the Division of Social Services.

## HEALTH STATUS OF ALASKA NATIVES LIVING IN THE KOTZEBUE SERVICE AREA

### Mortality.

**Kotzebue 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) Malignant Neoplasms /1	116.3	79.2	112.8
Lung Cancer	35.4	24.7	24.5
2) Heart Disease	116.3	98.9	98.1
3) Unintentional Injuries (Accidents) /2	101.1	84.1	73.5
Water Transport/Drowning	35.4	29.7	29.4
Motor Vehicles	15.2	19.8	n/a
4) Suicide	91	74.2	68.6
5) Alcohol Related /3	25.3	29.7	34.3
6) Chronic Obst. Pul. Diseases	20.2	14.8	24.5

1/ 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.

2/ Lung Cancer is included in Malignant Neoplasms.

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.

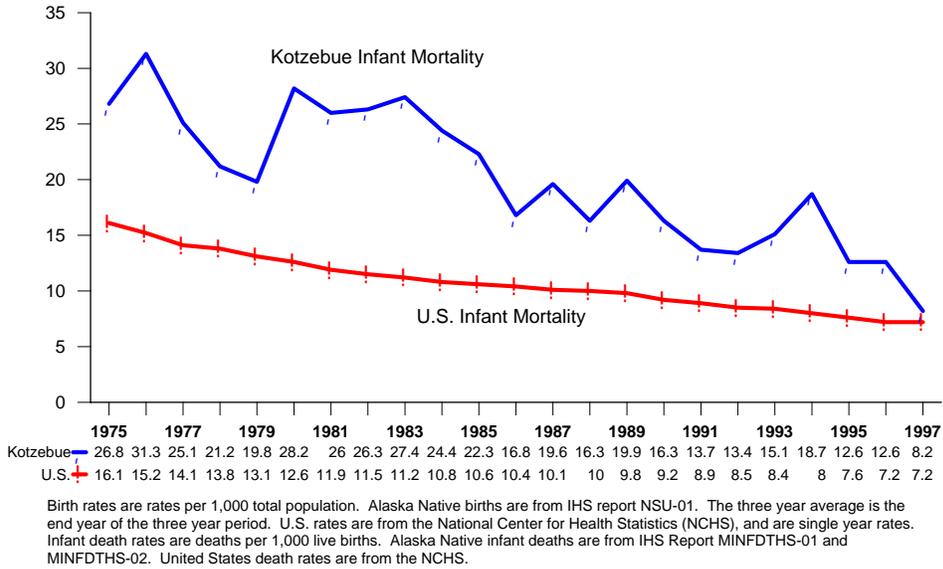
4/ Causes not included when deaths average less than one per year in 1995-97.

Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics.

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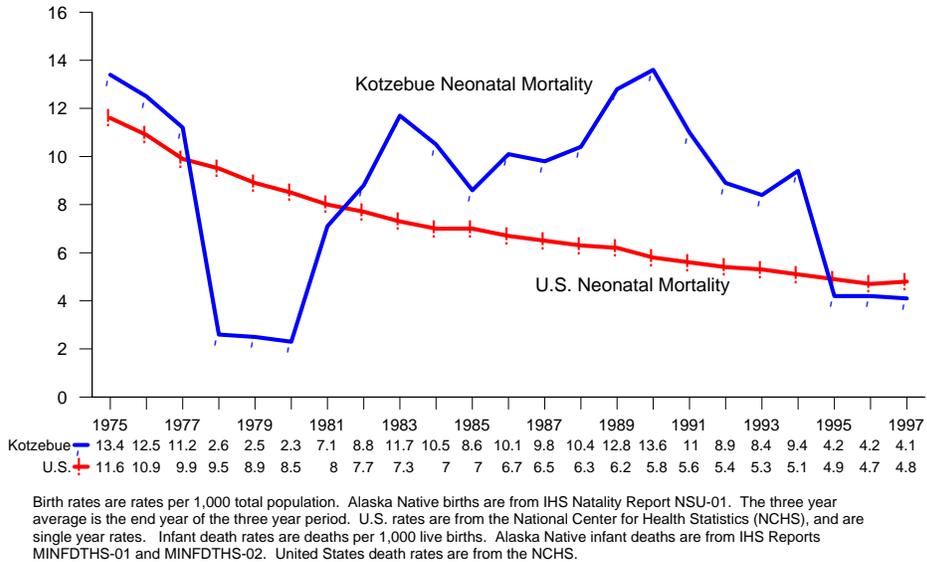
**Infant Mortality Rates.** The infant mortality rate for the Kotzebue Natives is declining.

**Infant Mortality Rates  
Kotzebue Service Area Natives vs. U.S.  
1975 - 1997**



**Neonatal Mortality Rates.** Kotzebue Native neonatal death rates are slightly lower than the U.S. rates. The neonatal period is birth to 28 days.

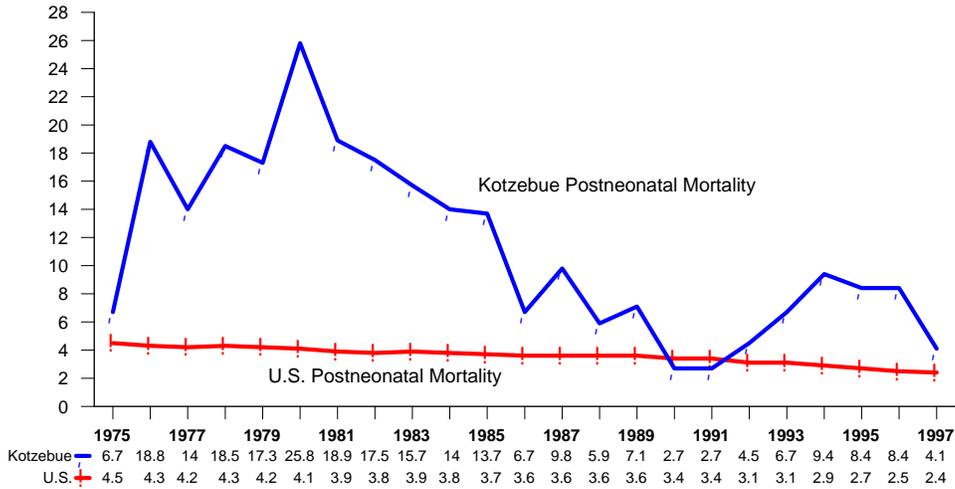
**Neonatal Mortality Rates  
Kotzebue Service Area Natives vs. U.S.  
1975 - 1997**



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**Postneonatal Mortality Rates.** Kotzebue Native postneonatal mortality rates are generally higher than the U.S. rates. The postneonatal period is 28 to 365 days.

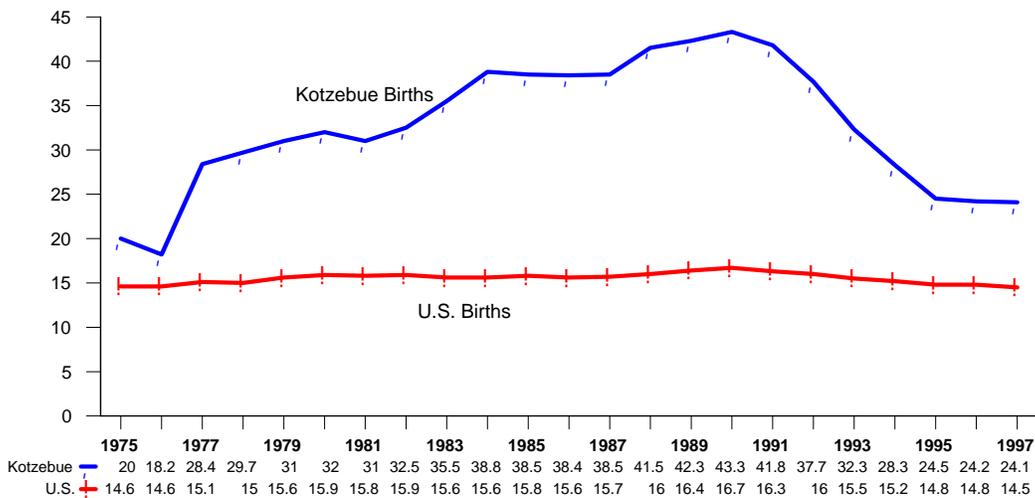
**Postneonatal Mortality Rates  
Kotzebue Service Area Natives vs. U.S.  
1975 - 1997**



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.

## Birth Rates.

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

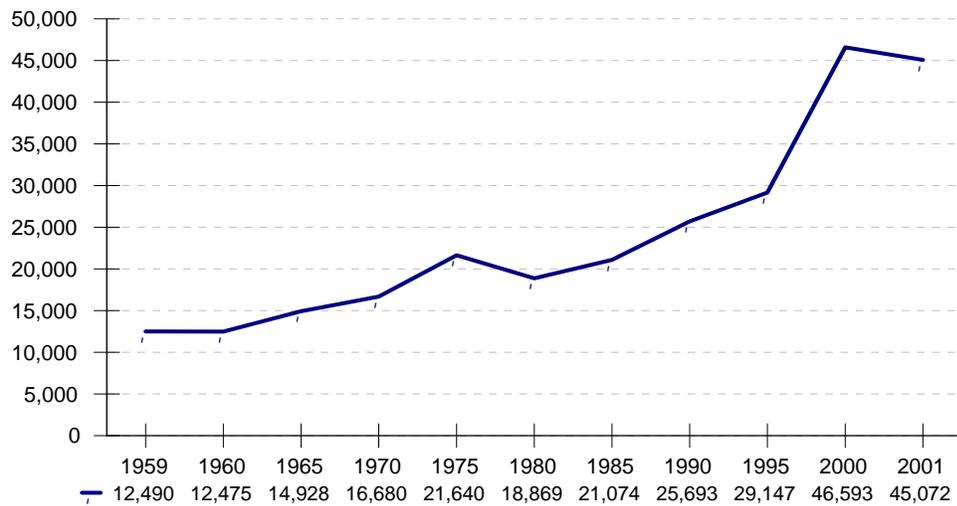


Birth rates are rates per 1,000 total population. Alaska Native births are from IHS report NSU-01. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and are single year rates.

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## OUTPATIENT WORKLOAD/DIAGNOSES

**Kotzebue Service Unit  
Outpatient Workload: FY 1959 - FY 2001**



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

**Kotzebue Service Area  
Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 2001 - FY 2002**

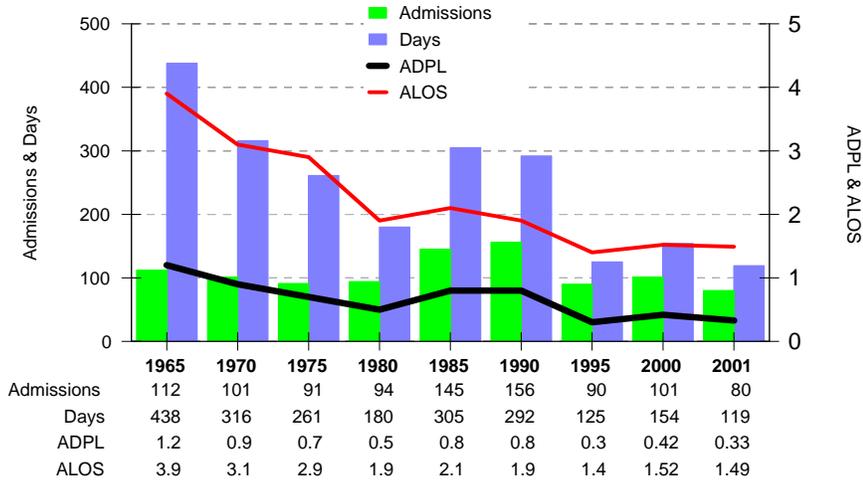
All Age Groups	FY 2001	FY 2002
Upper Respiratory Problems	3,502	2,183
Accidents & Injuries	2,635	2,128
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	651	1,109
Bone & Joint Disorders	1,056	1,089
Tests Only	1,602	931
Otitis Media	1,228	775
Physical Examinations	1,097	759
Hospital Medical/Surgical Follow-up	1,249	739
Hypertension	715	660
Strep Throat	878	537

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

## INPATIENT WORKLOAD

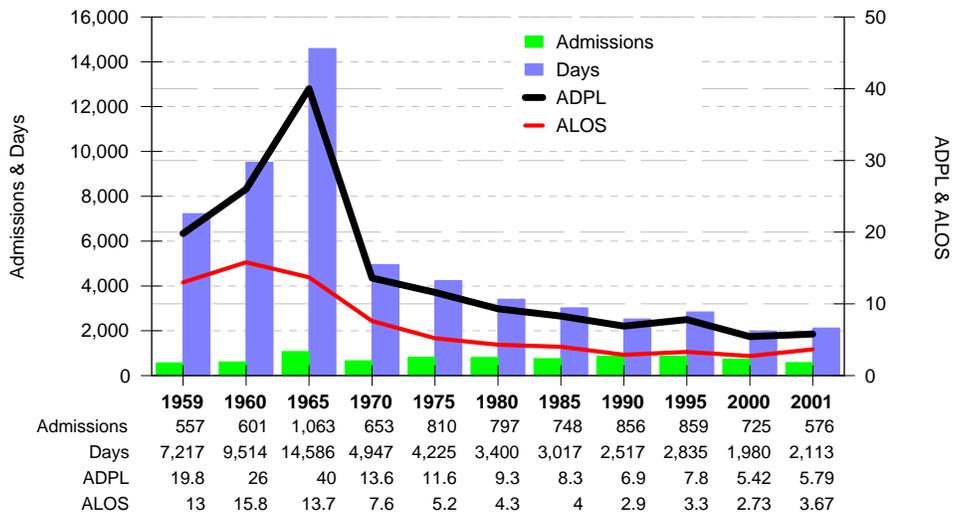
Maniilaq Health Center's newborn workload is shown in the following graph.

### Maniilaq Health Center Newborn Inpatient Workload FY 1965 - FY 2001



ADPL = Average Daily Patient Load; ALOS = Average Length of Stay  
SOURCE: HSA-202 Monthly Report of Inpatient Services

### Maniilaq Health Center Inpatient Workload Excluding Newborns FY 1959 - FY 2001



ADPL = Average Daily Patient Load; ALOS = Average Length of Stay  
SOURCE: HSA-202 Monthly Report of Inpatient Services

## DISCHARGE DIAGNOSES

### Kotzebue Service Area Leading Causes of Discharges: FY 2001 - FY 2002

	<b>FY 2001</b>	<b>FY 2002</b>
Deliveries (Childbirth)	83	94
Neuroses & Personality Disorders	28	29
Pneumonia	45	25
Accidents & Injuries	53	20
Infected Skin & Abrasions	17	14
Complications of Pregnancy	17	13
Perinatal Conditions	5	13
Psychoses	21	10
Heart Disease	35	9
Bronchitis, Emphysema	18	6

Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System, APC Report 2C.

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