

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 302 364

RC 016 889

AUTHOR Kleinfeld, Judith; And Others  
 TITLE Minorities in Higher Education. The Changing North: Alaska.  
 INSTITUTION Alaska Univ., Anchorage. Inst. of Social and Economic Research.  
 SPONS AGENCY College Entrance Examination Board, New York, N.Y.  
 PUB DATE 88  
 NOTE 38p.; This study was prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Native American Science Education Association (Anchorage, AK, February 1988).  
 AVAILABLE FROM The College Board, Research and Development, 45 Columbus Ave., New York, NY 10023-6992.  
 PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)  
 EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.  
 DESCRIPTORS \*Alaska Natives; Delivery Systems; Demography; \*Educational Attainment; \*Enrollment; Ethnic Groups; Extension Education; \*Higher Education; Income; Rural Education  
 IDENTIFIERS \*Alaska; Native Americans

ABSTRACT

This report examines the educational status of ethnic and racial minorities in Alaska and draws attention to the ways demographic changes in Alaska may affect these groups. The Alaska Native population, as opposed to other ethnic minorities, is the focal point of this study. This is the largest minority group in the state and the one experiencing the greatest economic and social difficulties. This group has been growing in absolute size but not as a proportion of the general state population. A decline in world oil prices has caused the state to be less able to support the expensive delivery system developed during the 1970s to provide access to higher education in the remote villages where the majority of Alaska Natives live. Information in this report comes primarily from the 1980 census of higher education collected by the Office of Civil Rights and the National Center for Educational Statistics. The information is organized into ten tabular presentations with accompanying explanations. This report contains 12 references.  
 (ALL)

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made \*  
 \* from the original document. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

ED302364

# MINORITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

## The Changing North

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Office of Educational Research and Improvement  
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION  
CENTER (ERIC)

- This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it
- Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality
- Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

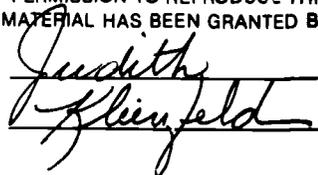
# Alaska

A report prepared by the Institute of Social and Economic Research in cooperation with the Western Regional Office of the College Board.

Judith Kleinfeld  
Lee Gorsuch  
Jim Kerr

Institute of Social and Economic Research  
University of Alaska

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY



TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

College Entrance Examination Board, New York, 1988

016889

Judith Kleinsfeld is a professor of psychology at the College of Human and Rural Development, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Lee Gorsuch is director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska, Anchorage

Jim Kerr is a research associate at the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska, Anchorage

Researchers are encouraged to express freely their professional judgment. Therefore, points of view or opinions stated in this study do not necessarily represent official College Board position or policy.

The College Board is a nonprofit membership organization that provides tests and other educational services for students, schools, and colleges. The membership is composed of more than 2,500 colleges, schools, school systems, and education associations. Representatives of the members serve on the Board of Trustees and advisory councils and committees that consider the programs of the College Board and participate in the determination of its policies and activities.

Additional copies of this report may be obtained from The College Board, Research and Development, 45 Columbus Avenue, New York, New York 10023-6992

Copyright © 1988 by College Entrance Examination Board. All rights reserved. College Board and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board. Printed in the United States of America.

## Contents

Foreword		v
Project Advisory Committee		vii
Introduction		1
Sources of Information		2
Summary		3
Exhibit 1	Alaska Population Growth, 1960-1985, and Four Projections, 1990-2010	4
Exhibit 2	Population by Race and Ethnic Group, 1980	6
Exhibit 3	School and College Age Population by Race and Age 1980 (Actual) and 2000 (Projected)	8
Exhibit 4	Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnic Group of Persons Aged 25 and Over, 1980	10
Exhibit 5	Persistence in High School by Age and Race, 1980	12
Exhibit 6	Percentage of 1980 U.S. High School Seniors Subsequently Enrolled in College	14
Exhibit 7	Alaska Family Income by Race and Ethnic Group, 1980	16
Exhibits 8A-8E	Postsecondary Enrollment Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980	18
Exhibits 9A-9E	Degrees Earned Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980	24
Exhibit 10	Earned Degrees by Race and Ethnic Group, 1984-85	30
References		32

## Foreword

Seeing the forest for the trees and discerning the implications of observed major changes in the forest are two prerequisites to shaping the future landscape as we would like to see it. Our chances of increasing the successful participation of minorities in higher education will improve if we first examine the overall population trend of minorities in our society and the pattern of their past participation in higher education. This report provides such an overview.

The basic observation one can draw from this and companion reports is that the current levels of education and income achieved by most racial and ethnic minorities continue to fall below those of Whites. This imbalance in economic and educational attainment, plus, in other states, the rapid growth in the population of racial and ethnic minority groups, has important implications for education and government policy makers in each state. This report intends to help focus the discussion on these implications and to encourage appropriate responses.

The Institute of Social and Economic Research is grateful to the organizations and individuals who have worked with us on this important project. The College Board cosponsored the study and provided assistance and advice at several stages. The University of Alaska provided additional financial support. A regional advisory committee, whose members are listed on the following page, provided valuable assistance in preparing these reports and helped develop a strategy for disseminating the results of the study.

April 1988

Lee Gorsuch  
Director  
Institute of Social and Economic Research  
University of Alaska, Anchorage

**Advisory Committee  
Project on Changing Demographics in the North**

Dr. Ted Mala, Chairman  
School of Health Sciences  
University of Alaska-Anchorage  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Ms. Peggy Cowan  
Math & Science Specialist  
State of Alaska  
Department of Education  
P.O. Box F  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dr. Paul Goodwin  
Coordinator/Rural & Native Education  
State of Alaska, Dept. of Education  
P.O. Box F  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dr. Virginia Johnson  
School of Education  
University of Alaska-Anchorage  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Oscar Kawagley  
P.O. Box 83995  
Fairbanks, AK 99707-3317

Mary Schaeffer, Member  
State Board of Education  
6542 Fairweather Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99502

Dr. Richard Kulig  
College of Arts & Sciences  
University of Alaska-Anchorage  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dr. Emma Walton  
Science Coordinator  
Anchorage School District  
P.O. Box 196614  
Anchorage, AK 99519 6614

Dr. Brian Wick  
College of Arts & Sciences  
University of Alaska-Anchorage  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508

**The College Board**

Richard E. Pesqueira  
Executive Director  
The College Board  
Western Regional Office  
2099 Gateway Place, Suite 480  
San Jose, CA 95110

## Introduction

This report examines the educational status of ethnic and racial minorities in Alaska and draws attention to the ways in which demographic changes in Alaska may affect these groups. This report is one of a series of studies on the changing demography of western and northern states and the implications for educational planning. This study has been prepared for the annual meeting of the Native American Science Education Association, February 1988, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Previous reports in this series have focused on a policy issue of great importance in the southwestern states. Demographic changes in many of these states are making minority students an increasingly larger proportion of the school-age population. Yet these groups continue to have substantially lower levels of educational attainment than the general population.

Alaska faces, however, a quite different pattern of demographic change and a correspondingly different policy issue. The major minority group in the state—Alaska Natives—has been growing in absolute size but not as a proportion of the general state population. At the same time, the drop in world oil prices has made the state less able to support financially the expensive delivery system developed during the 1970s to provide access to higher education in the small and remote villages where the majority of Alaska Natives continue to live.

These changed demographic and economic conditions make it crucial to reconsider the issue of how to achieve equity in higher education for the Native population. Critical questions include.

- Will it be possible to maintain rural delivery systems which rely on a high level of personal contact between instructors and students in remote villages? Would other types of delivery systems be equally or more effective?
- Are the growing number of Alaska Native high school graduates hoping to attend college? Are they academically prepared to succeed, particularly in science and math studies? Should they attend college?

- What types of programs and services—tutoring, counseling, regional dormitory arrangements, summer entry programs—increase college attendance and completion rates among Alaska Natives?
- How have the characteristics of the Alaska Native population changed over the last twenty years and has the greater sophistication of this population made it important to shift the kinds of supportive services provided to them?
- What sources of financial aid are available to Alaska Natives seeking higher education and how have budget changes at both the state and federal levels affected the availability of financial aid?

This report provides statistical information which may be useful in highlighting these issues. The critical policy questions raised above go well beyond the scope of this report and require serious additional study and discussion.

### **Sources of Information**

The information in this report comes primarily from the 1980 census of the population and statistics on higher education collected by the Office of Civil Rights and the National Center for Educational Statistics. Projections of Alaska's population derive from a computer model of the Alaska economy and population developed by the Institute of Social and Economic Research through its Man-in-the-Arctic program.

This report follows the organization and tabular presentations of the series of reports, Minorities in Higher Education: The Changing Southwest, prepared by Geoffrey Dalman, Jr. and Norman S. Kaufman for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

This report concentrates on the Alaska Native population, as opposed to other ethnic minorities in Alaska, because Alaska Natives are the largest minority group in the state, the original inhabitants of Alaska, and those experiencing the greatest economic and social difficulties.

## Summary

- Both the total population of Alaska and the Alaska Native population increased significantly (137 percent and 73 percent, respectively) between 1960 and 1985. However, the Alaska Native population growth was not proportional to the growth of the non-Native population and, as a result, Alaska Natives constitute a declining proportion of the general population. Thus, whereas in 1960, Alaska Natives comprised 19 percent of the population, by 1985 they comprised 14 percent of the population.
- Under scenarios of high, medium, and low economic growth in Alaska, increases in the non-Native population will be more moderate than those experienced during the 1980s. Alaska Native population growth will increase, reflecting the age composition of the population, but this increase will not be dramatic. By the year 2010, Alaska Natives are expected to constitute between 17 percent and 21 percent of the total state population.
- In 1980, the Alaska Native population was somewhat more concentrated in the school-age group. Among 5-9 year olds, for example, Alaska Natives comprised almost 20 percent of the population. The Alaska Native population was somewhat less concentrated in the college-age group (20-29 year olds), where Natives comprised less than 13 percent of the population. Thus, the pool of college-age students in the 1990s will be approximately 50 percent larger than it was in 1980.
- By the year 2000, using middle case projections of economic growth in Alaska, the Alaska Native population is expected to comprise about 27 percent of the total school-age population and about 15 percent of the college-age population.
- Dramatic increases in rates of high school completion had occurred among the Native population aged 35 and below at the time of the 1980 census.
- Among 14-15 year olds, the proportion of Alaska Native students enrolled in school—97 percent—is virtually identical to the proportion of White students enrolled in school. Among 16-17 year olds, the proportion of White students in school (89 percent) exceeds the proportion of Alaska Native students in school (84 percent), but the difference is not large.
- Nationally, socioeconomic status and levels of educational attainment are closely linked. Among Alaska Native families, income levels are far below those of White families. In 1980, almost half of Alaska Native families earned less than \$15,000 per year compared to 20 percent of White families.
- Alaska Natives are underrepresented in enrollment in higher education. While Alaska Natives in 1980 comprised 16 percent of the population, they accounted for less than 6 percent of the enrollment at two-year institutions and less than 8 percent of the enrollment at four-year institutions.
- Alaska Native females are far more likely to enroll in both two-year and four-year programs of higher education than Native males, and this disparity is steadily increasing. In 1984, about double the number of Native females compared to males were enrolled in both two year and four-year college programs.

## Exhibit 1 Alaska Population Growth, 1960-1985, and Four Projections, 1990-2010

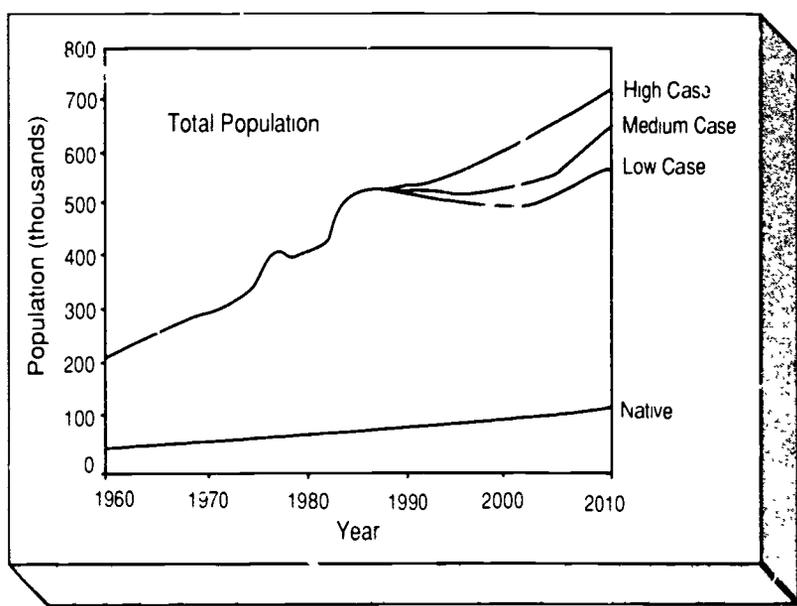
This exhibit shows the growth in Alaska's population from 1960 to 1985.\* It also presents three different projections for total population from 1990-2010. Each projection includes different assumptions about levels of state resource development, levels of state petroleum revenues, state fiscal policies, and rates of national economic growth (Goldsmith, 1987). The lowest line on the graph represents the Native population and its projected growth from 1990 to 2010.

In these projections, oil prices are expressed in 1986 dollars. The "low case" assumes: world oil prices per barrel in the year 2000 to be \$12.24, use of Permanent Fund earnings to help fund the state budget, the reimposition of a state personal income tax, and the elimination of the Permanent Fund dividend. The "middle case" assumes oil prices of \$17.38 in the year 2000, higher state spending levels, and continuation of current policies toward the Permanent Fund and the personal income tax. The "high case" assumes oil prices of \$19.30 in the year 2000, growth in the petroleum and mining industries, and commensurately higher levels of state funding. While it is not possible to know which if any of these scenarios will be correct, Alaska's population growth will most likely lie within this range.

- Alaska experienced substantial population growth from 1970-1985 as the result of the construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, the expansion of the petroleum industry, rising oil prices, and increased government spending and employment.
- The total population of Alaska more than doubled between 1960 and 1985. During the same period, the Native population also increased (by 73 percent) but at a slower rate than the non-Native population. Thus, Alaska Natives declined as a proportion of the general population during this period, falling from 19 percent to 14 percent.
- In the long run, the total Alaska population is expected to continue to grow within the range of the low and high case scenarios. The low and middle case scenarios anticipate a small population decline in the 1990s followed by population growth. The high case scenario anticipates steady growth in population, albeit at a rate much more moderate than that experienced in the early 1980s.
- The Alaska Native population is expected to continue increasing from 1986 to 2010. The Native population, estimated at 75,507 in 1986, is expected to reach about 126,350 in 2010.
- Under the low case scenario, the Native population is projected to increase to 21 percent of the population by the year 2010. Under the middle and high case scenarios, the Native population will increase to 19 and 17 percent of the population, respectively. Thus, the Alaska Native population is projected to moderately increase its proportion of the total Alaska population but not at the dramatic rate of minorities in southwestern states.

\*Difficulties in the conduct of the decennial census in Alaska, combined with unknowns as to how census respondents declare (or self-enumerate) their ethnicity, have resulted in an estimated undercounting of the Alaska Native population, perhaps by as many as several thousand. Nonetheless, the U.S. census remains the most comprehensive and systematic portrayal of the characteristics of the Alaska Native population.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Alaska Population Growth, 1960-1985**  
**and Four Projections, 1990-2010**



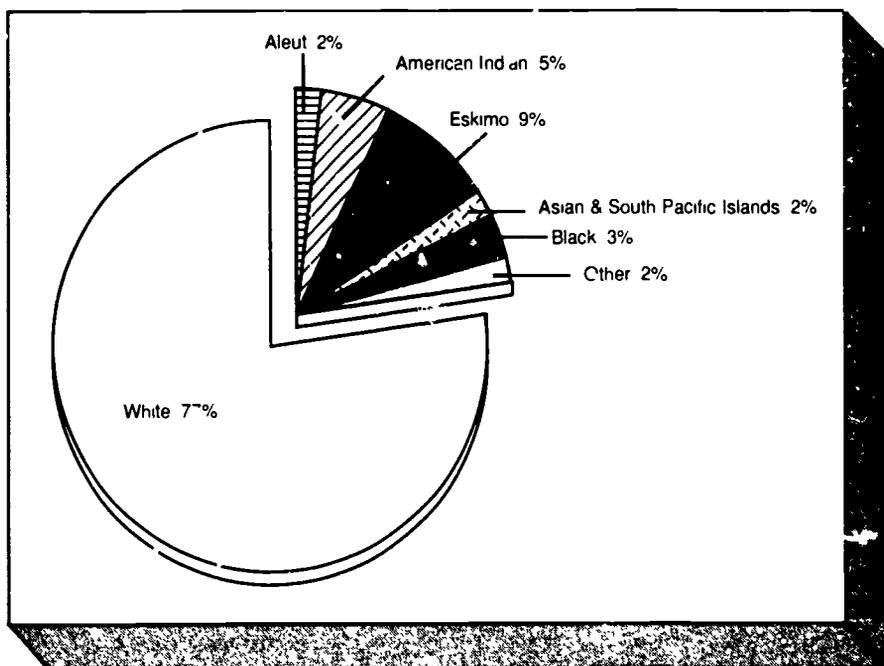
Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960, 1970, 1980, Goldsmith, 1987

**Exhibit 2**  
**Population by Race and Ethnic Group, 1980**  
**— Alaska —**

Exhibit 2 shows the proportions of minority groups in Alaska as of the 1980 census.

- Alaska's largest minority group consists of Alaska Natives—a political designation which groups together the Eskimo, Aleut, and Indian populations (including, for the purpose of this report, American Indians from other states). In 1980, Alaska Natives comprised 16 percent of the total Alaska population. As previously discussed, Natives had declined to 14 percent of the total Alaska population by 1985.
- Alaska's second largest minority group is the Black population. Blacks constituted 3 percent of Alaska's total population in 1980. Asian and Pacific Islanders comprised 2 percent of the population, and other minority groups combined made up an additional 2 percent of the population.
- Alaska has the highest proportion of Native Americans in the nation (County and City Data Book, 1983) and ranks sixth in terms of the absolute size of the Native population among all Native American groups (Statistical Abstracts of U.S., 1986).

Exhibit 2  
Population by Race and Ethnic Group, 1980  
— Alaska —



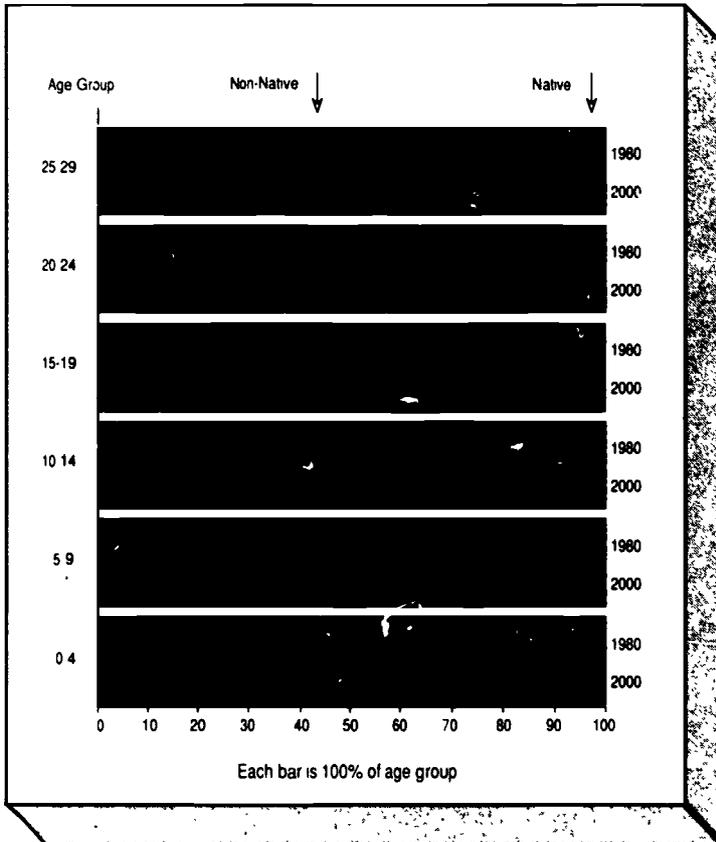
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980.

**Exhibit 3**  
**School and College-Age Population by Race and Age**  
**1980 (Actual) and 2000 (Projected)**  
**– Alaska –**

Exhibit 3 presents the distribution of the school age population by ethnic group for 1980 and projects the distribution for the next two decades. We used the "middle case" scenario for these projections. Our independent analysis of the low and high cases did not substantially change the results. Since the proportion of Black and other minority groups in the total population is small, we present results only for the Alaska Native population.

- The Native population is somewhat more concentrated in the younger age groups. In 1980, the Native population constituted about 16 percent of the total Alaska population. Among 0-4 year olds and 5-9 year olds, the Native population constituted almost 19 percent and 20 percent of the population, respectively.
- Among the college-age population, however, Alaska Natives comprise a much smaller proportion of the age group. Among 20-24 year olds, Natives comprised only 13 percent of the population in 1980, and of the 25-29 year olds, they constituted just 12 percent of the population. This declining proportion is due mainly to the high migration of young non-Native adults to Alaska; however, the age structure of the Native population and the high mortality of young Native adults due to accidents, suicide, and other forms of violent death also contribute to lower population share.
- By the year 2000, under middle case assumptions, the Native population is expected to comprise about 27 percent of the three youngest age groups and about 15 percent of the college-age population. In short, the Native population will increase as a proportion of the school-age and college-age populations, but it will not constitute an overall majority of school-age children as is expected for other minority groups in certain southwestern states.

**Exhibit 3**  
**School and College-Age Population by Race and Age**  
**1980 (Actual) and 2000 (Projected) \***  
**— Alaska —**



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980; Goldsmith, 1987

\*This projection assumes a middle case economic growth scenario (Goldsmith, 1987)

**Exhibit 4**  
**Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnic Group**  
**of Persons Aged 25 and Over, 1980**  
**— Alaska —**

Exhibit 4 shows the proportions aged 25 and over of various groups that have completed different amounts of education. This table shows dramatic differences in educational attainment of the White and Asian groups in Alaska compared to the Alaska Native group.

In reviewing these data, it is essential to keep in mind that this table is based on the educational attainments of people who were 25 years of age and older at the time of the 1980 census. The table does not reflect the major policy changes in Alaska Native education in the 1970s that have led to substantial gains in educational attainment among the younger generation of Alaska Natives.

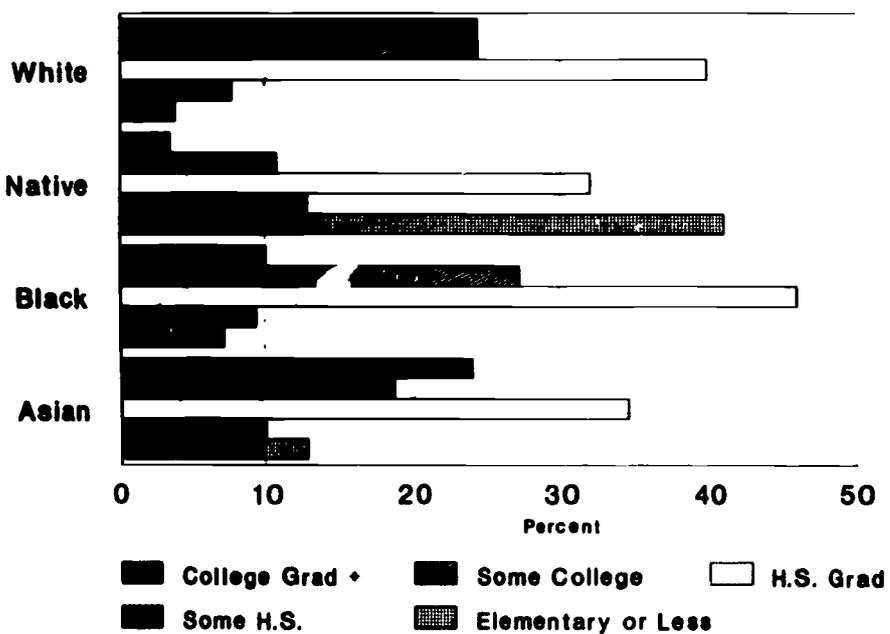
The first major policy change was providing access to high school for Native students living in small, remote villages through a state boarding school system in the early 1970s. Prior to that period, village Native students could only attend boarding schools sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and many applicants were turned away due to lack of space. The second major policy change was the establishment of local high schools in Alaska villages as a result of the *Tobeluk v. Reynolds* settlement agreement. As a result of this policy, Native children now attend high school at home. Neither of these major policy shifts is reflected in 1980 census data concerning the population aged 25 and over.

Analyses of high school graduation rates by age show that a major break in the proportion of the Native population who are high school graduates occurred among Natives who were about age 35 in the 1980 census. Native males aged 25 to 35 evidence high school graduation rates ranging from 70 to 81 percent. Native males aged 36 to 50 evidence high school graduation rates ranging from 24 to 57 percent. A similar pattern occurs among Native females with a dramatic increase in high school graduation rates occurring among the population 33 years of age and below.

To maintain comparability with other reports in this series, however, we provide the information in Exhibit 4.

- In 1980, less than 4 percent of the Native population aged 25 and over had completed four or more years of college compared to 24 percent of the non-Native population.
- In 1980, less than 46 percent of the Native population aged 25 and over had completed high school compared to 88 percent of the non-Native population.
- In 1980, Asian rates of high school and college graduation were comparable to those of the White population. The Black population in Alaska has rates of educational attainment considerably above those of the Native population but lower than those of the White and Asian populations.

**Exhibit 4**  
**Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnic Group**  
**of Persons Aged 25 and Over, 1980**  
**-Alaska-**



Source: U.B Bureau of the Census, 1980.

**Exhibit 5**  
**Persistence in High School by Age and Race, 1980**  
**— Alaska —**

Exhibit 5 shows the percentage of the Alaska Native, White, and total populations aged 14-15 and 16-17 who were enrolled in school in 1980. This data provides the most reasonable estimation of ethnic differences in high school drop-out rates available.

Drop-out rates are very difficult to assess due to the lack of a consistent definition of "drop out" and many measurement difficulties (Finn, 1987). The most common measure of "drop-out" is the proportion of ninth graders at one point in time who graduate four years later. This indicator is an especially poor measure for a state like Alaska with volatile patterns of in migration and out-migration. Local school systems in Alaska and elsewhere have particularized definitions of "drop-out," but these are non-comparable. In addition, local school systems often have no accurate measures of students who transfer out of the local school system to another system as opposed to leaving school entirely.

Within Alaska, drop out rates of Native students appear to differ strikingly between urban and rural areas. With the establishment of village high schools, principals report drop out rates of only about 12 percent among rural students, while drop-out rates of 50 percent or more among Native students are routinely reported in urban areas of Alaska (Kleinfeld, McDiarmid, and Hagstrom, 1985). Again, these statistics must be interpreted cautiously. It is difficult to determine whether Native students who leave urban school systems have dropped out of school or transferred to a village high school or some other program.

- Among 14-15 year olds, the proportion of White and Native students enrolled in school is virtually identical—97 percent
- Among 16-17 year olds, 89 percent of White students are enrolled in school compared to 84 percent of Native students. While Native students' persistence in school is not equivalent to White students' persistence at this age level, the difference is not large. Further study of this issue needs to take into account possible large disparities in school persistence between urban and rural White and Native populations.

**Exhibit 5**  
**Persistence in High School by Age and Race, 1980**  
**—Alaska—**

Age Group	Alaska Natives			Total	White	Total
	American Indian	Eskimo	Aleut			
14-15	97	97	97	97	97	97
16-17	83	84	83	84	89	87

**Source:** U S Bureau of the Census, 1980.

## Exhibit 6 Percentage of 1980 U.S. High School Seniors Subsequently Enrolled in College

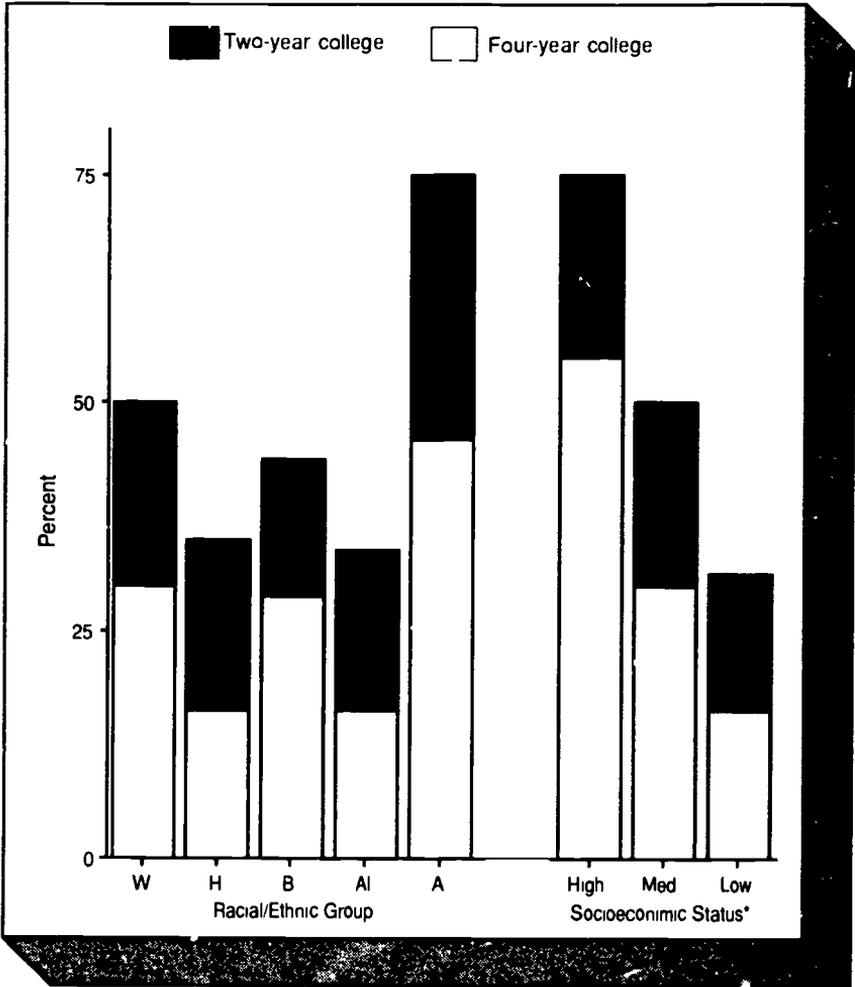
No accurate data are available concerning the actual college enrollment rates of Alaska seniors from various ethnic groups.

The most relevant source of information is a survey of Alaska seniors' postsecondary education plans (Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, 1983-84), but this survey is marred by having only a 50 percent response rate. According to this survey, 59 percent of Alaska seniors report plans to continue with some form of postsecondary education, with 52 percent planning to attend a two-year or four-year college. Among Native students, 43 percent report plans to continue some form of postsecondary education with only 34 percent planning to attend a two-year or four-year college. The data show marked differences between Native seniors and non-Native seniors in Alaska. Nonetheless, the low survey response rate must be kept in mind. In addition, many Native seniors choose to remain home a year before attending college—a pattern which the survey questions did not measure.

In the absence of Alaska-specific information, we present the results of a national survey concerning the percentage of 1980 high school graduates of different racial and ethnic groups who enrolled in college during the next several years. This table and the following discussion are drawn from *Minorities in Higher Education* (Dolman and Kaufman, 1985).

- The five bars on the left side of the exhibit show the attendance at two-year and four-year colleges of White, Hispanic, Black, American Indian, and Asian students. Rates of college attendance are lowest for American Indian students. Students of Asian ancestry show the highest rates of college attendance.
- As is well known, college attendance is a function of the socioeconomic status (SES) of students' families. SES is measured by a composite of family income, parents' educational level, and other household characteristics. High socioeconomic status students attend college—especially four-year colleges—in much greater proportions than students of medium and low socioeconomic status.

**Exhibit 6**  
**Percentage of 1980 U.S. High School Seniors**  
**Subsequently Enrolled in College**



\*Socioeconomic status is measured by a composite of parental education, family income, father's occupation, and household characteristics.

**Source:** Taken from Dolman and Kaufman, 1985; National Center for Education Statistics, 1984.

## Exhibit 7

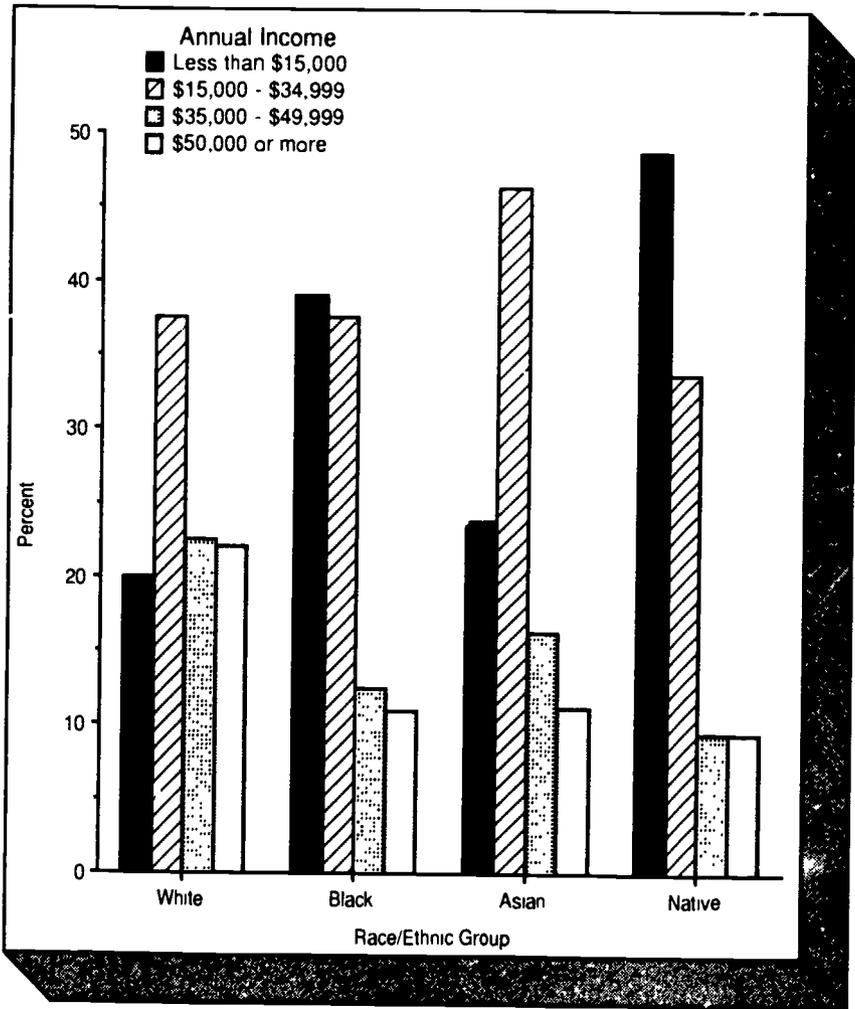
### Alaska Family Income by Race and Ethnic Group, 1980

Exhibit 7 shows the proportion of the Alaska population with family incomes of less than \$15,000 per year, \$15,000-\$34,999 per year, \$35,000-\$49,999 per year; and \$50,000 per year or more at the time of the 1980 census.

- Almost half of Native families—48 percent—earned less than \$15,000 per year compared to 20 percent of White families.
- Family incomes of Whites were highest in Alaska with the Asian population ranking second in income, the Black population ranking third, and the Native population ranking last.
- Given the strong relationship between educational attainment and socio-economic status (Exhibit 6), the low income of the Native population is one factor impeding educational success.

22

**Exhibit 7**  
**Alaska Family Income by Race and Ethnic Group, 1980**



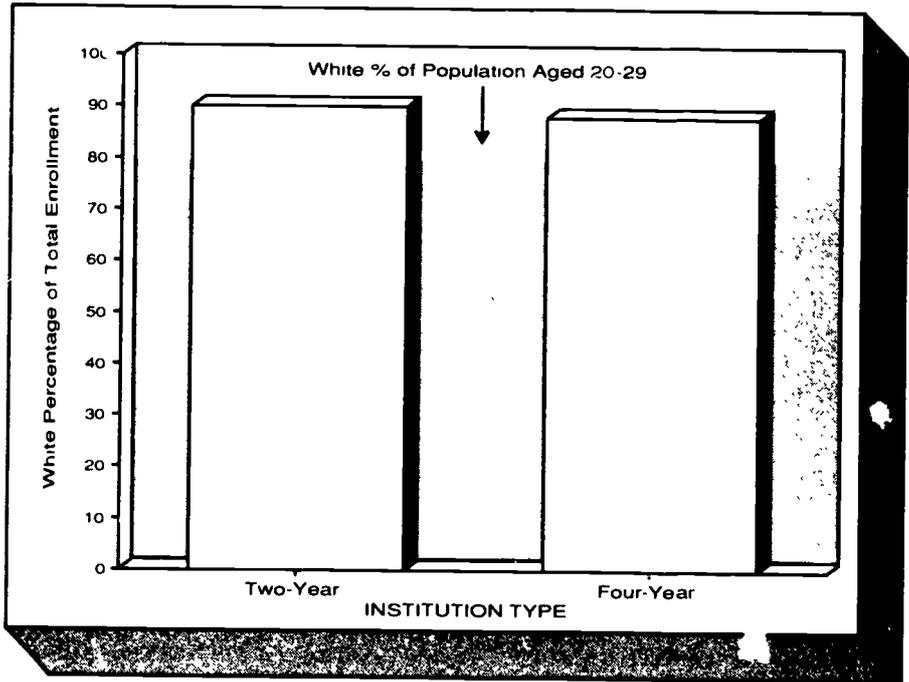
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980.

**Exhibits 8A-8E**  
**Postsecondary Enrollment**  
**Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980**  
**— Alaska —**

Figures 8A-8E show the proportion of each Alaska racial and ethnic group enrolled in postsecondary education compared with that group's representation in the college-age population (aged 20-29) in 1980. The foreground bars represent proportional enrollment in two-year and four-year institutions. The background field represents that group's proportion in the population. Information on enrollment in graduate school education and first professional education is unavailable.

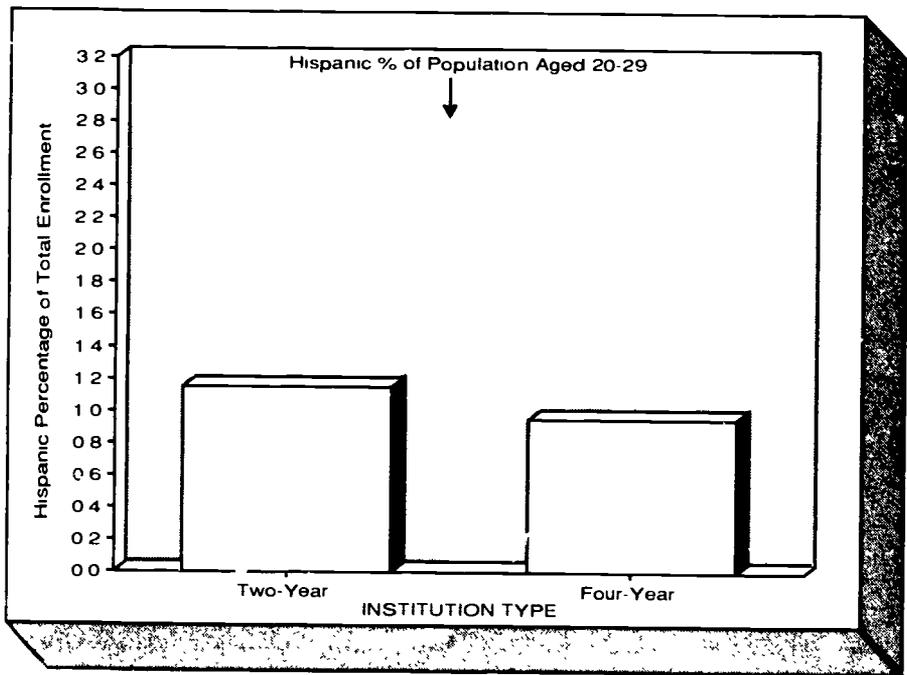
- Alaska Natives are substantially underrepresented in enrollment in both two-year and four-year institutions. While Alaska Natives in 1980 comprised 16 percent of the population, they accounted for less than 6 percent of enrollment at two-year institutions and less than 8 percent of enrollment at four-year institutions.
- Whites are represented in enrollments in both two-year and four-year institutions in proportions greater than their proportions in the population. Every other Alaska ethnic and racial group—Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics—are enrolled in proportions less than their proportions in the population.
- Among Alaska Natives, females are enrolled in both two-year and four-year institutions in much greater proportions than males. Among Alaska Native females in 1980, 1700 were enrolled in four-year programs compared to 1036 Native males. In two-year programs, 1756 Native females were enrolled compared to 882 males.
- The disparity in higher education enrollments between Native males and females increased in 1982 and increased again in 1984 (data not shown). In 1984, 2756 Native females were enrolled in four-year programs compared to 1408 Native males, and 2059 Native females were enrolled in two-year programs compared to 1021 Native males. In short, about double the numbers of Native females were enrolled in both two-year and four-year programs.

Exhibit 8A  
White Postsecondary Enrollments  
Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980  
— Alaska —



Source: U.S. Department of Education

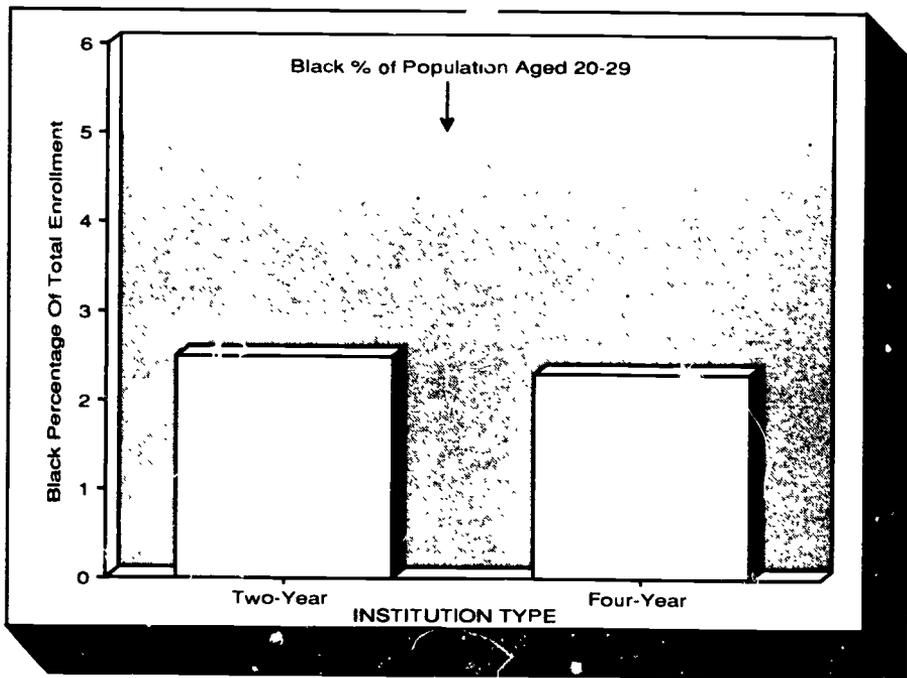
**Exhibit 8B**  
**Hispanic Postsecondary Enrollments**  
**Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980**  
**— Alaska —**



**Source:** U.S. Department of Education.

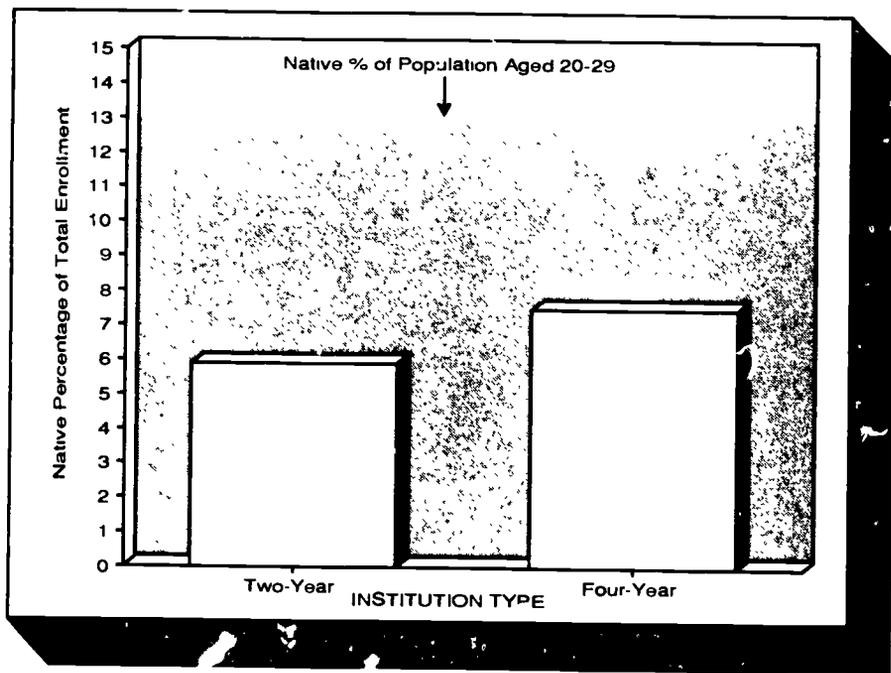
26

Exhibit 8C  
Black Postsecondary Enrollments  
Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980  
— Alaska —



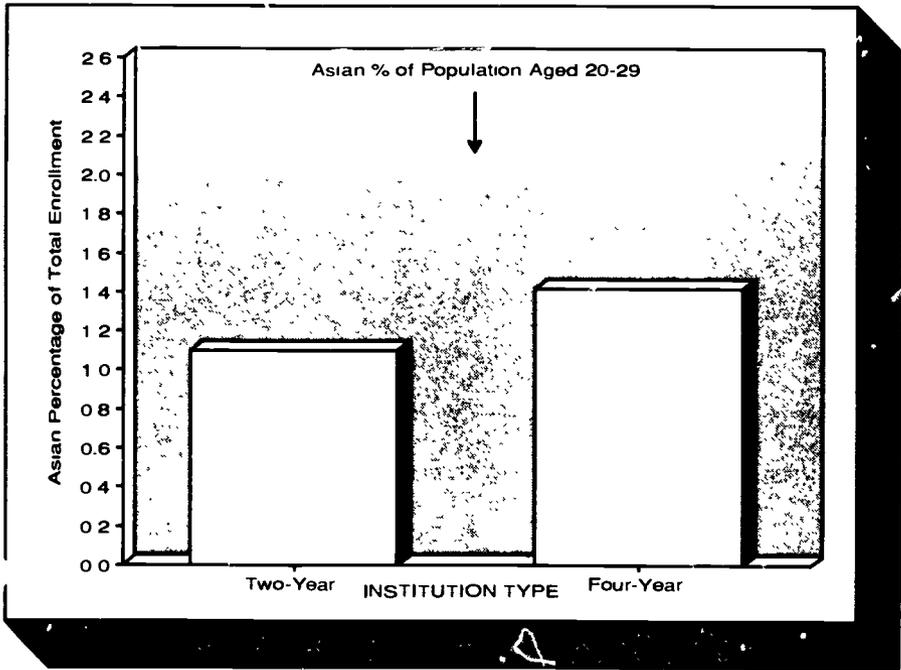
Source: U.S. Department of Education

Exhibit 8D  
Native Postsecondary Enrollments  
Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980  
— Alaska —



Source: U.S. Department of Education

**Exhibit 8E**  
**Asian Postsecondary Enrollments**  
**Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980**  
**— Alaska —**



Source: U.S. Department of Education.

20

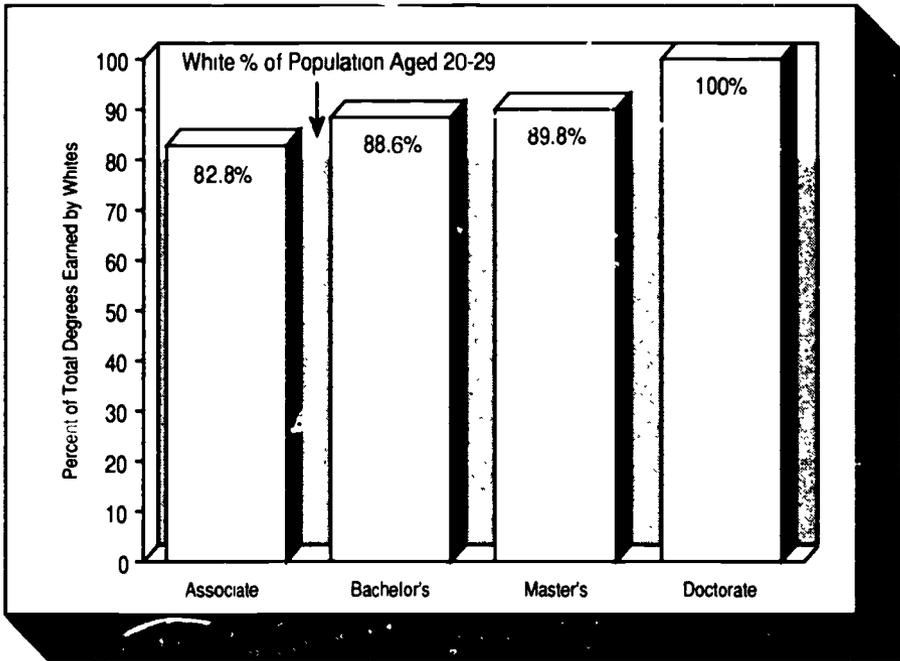
**Exhibits 9A-9E**  
**Degrees Earned**  
**Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980**  
**— Alaska —**

Figures 9A-9E show the proportions of degrees at the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctorate levels earned by various racial and ethnic groups in 1980-81. The bars in the foreground represent each group's proportion of degrees earned. The background field shows each group's proportion in the college-age population (aged 20-29). Thus, readers can see the extent to which each group has received degrees in proportion to its representation in the college-age population.

In interpreting these statistics, it is important to keep in mind the limitations of these data. Many Alaska residents go to institutions in other states for their university education. Some Alaska institutions do not report these data consistently to the U.S. Department of Education or lack information on the ethnicity of their graduates. Nonetheless, the general picture of the proportion of degrees earned by members of various groups is reasonably accurate.

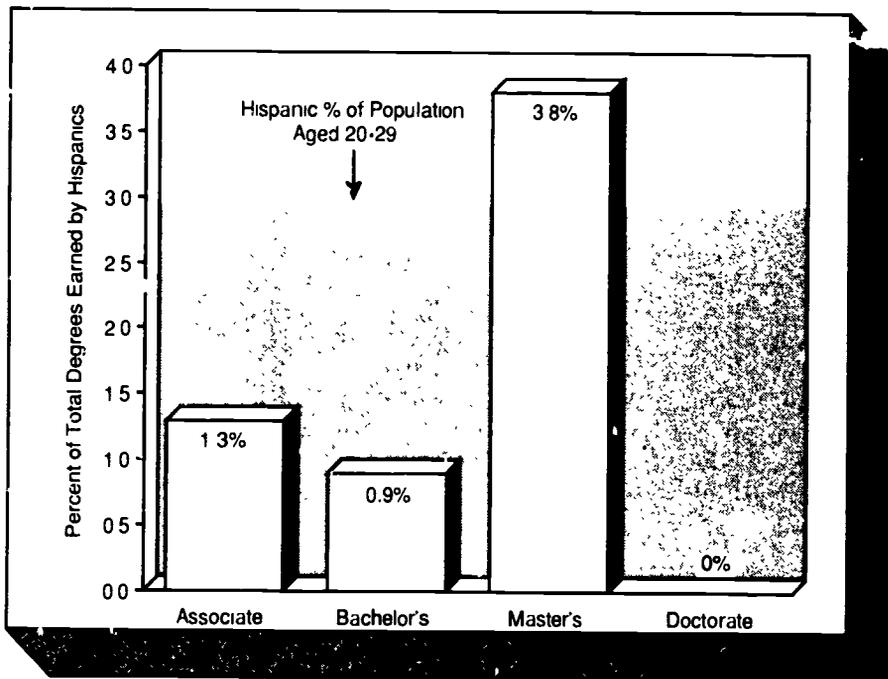
- The proportion of degrees earned by White students exceeds their proportion in the population. While less than 80 percent of the 20-29-year-old population is White, Whites earned almost 89 percent of the bachelor's degrees and almost 90 percent of the master's degrees.
- Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians earned a smaller share of the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees than their proportions in the population. The numbers are so small, however, that this data is difficult to interpret.
- Alaska Natives earned almost the same proportion of associate degrees as their proportion in the population, but they are substantially under-represented at higher degree levels.

Exhibit 9A  
Alaskan Degrees Earned by Whites  
Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980  
— Alaska —



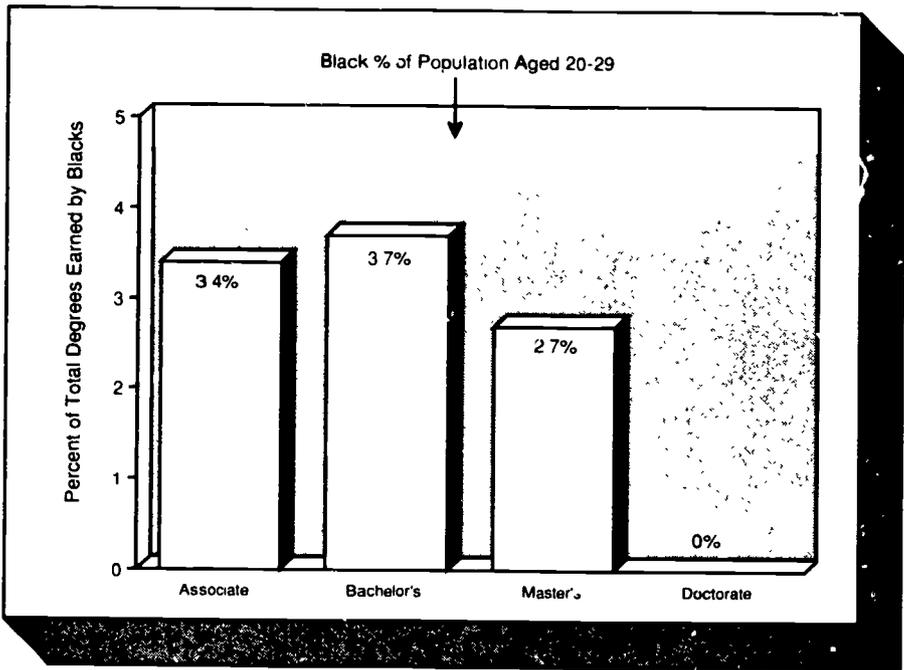
Source: U S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

**Exhibit 9B**  
**Alaskan Degrees Earned by Hispanics**  
**Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980**  
**- Alaska -**



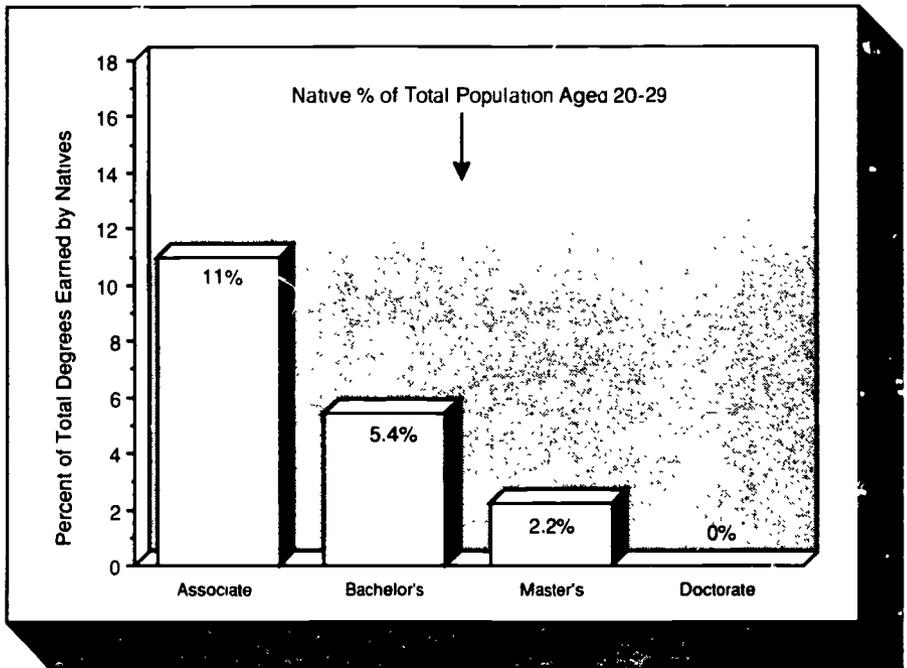
Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights

**Exhibit 9C**  
**Alaskan Degrees Earned by Blacks**  
**Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980**  
**— Alaska —**



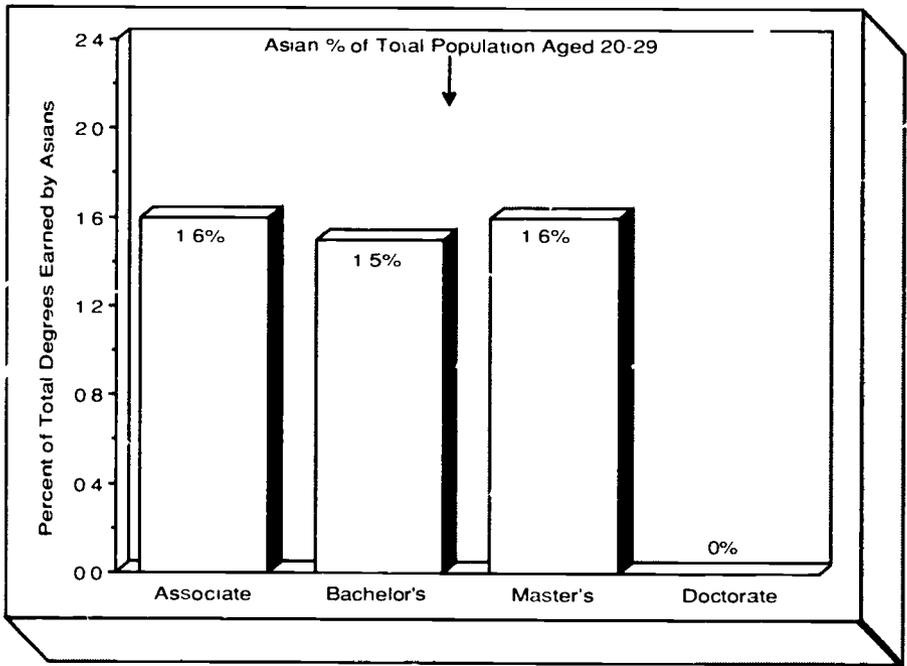
**Source:** U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

Exhibit 9D  
Alaskan Degrees Earned by American Indians and Alaskan Natives  
Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980  
— Alaska —



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

**Exhibit 9E**  
**Alaskan Degrees Earned by Asians**  
**Compared with Representation in the Population, 1980**  
**- Alaska -**



**Source:** U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

**Exhibit 10**  
**Earned Degrees by Race and Ethnic Group, 1984-85**  
**— Alaska —**

This table shows the number of degrees awarded to various racial and ethnic groups in Alaska in 1984-85. Due to institutional inconsistencies in reporting from year to year, we cannot report changes over time.

- Alaska Native students received only 57 associate degrees, 35 bachelor's degrees, and 3 master's degrees from Alaska universities in 1984-85. While Alaska Natives comprise approximately 13 percent of the college-age population, they received only 7 percent of associate degrees, 4 percent of bachelor's degrees, and less than 2 percent of master's degrees awarded in the state.

**Exhibit 10**  
**Earned Degrees by Race and Ethnic Group, 1984-85**  
**— Alaska —**

	<b>Degrees Awarded 1984-85</b>
<b>State Totals</b>	
Associate	813
Bachelor's	820
Master's	280
Doctorate	8
<b>White Students</b>	
Associate	692
Bachelor's	560
Master's	215
Doctorate	5
<b>Hispanic Students</b>	
Associate	11
Bachelor's	8
Master's	5
Doctorate	1
<b>Black Students</b>	
Associate	23
Bachelor's	20
Master's	6
Doctorate	0
<b>Alaska Native/American Indian</b>	
Associate	57
Bachelor's	35
Master's	3
Doctorate	0
<b>Asian Students</b>	
Associate	12
Bachelor's	15
Master's	6
Doctorate	1

**Source:** U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights

## References

- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. *Alaska High School Seniors Survey Report 1983-84*. Juneau, Alaska: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, 1984.
- Dolman, G. and Kaufman, A. *Minorities in Higher Education: The Changing Southwest - Arizona*. Boulder, Colorado: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 1985.
- Dolman, G. and Kaufman, A. *Minorities in Higher Education: The Changing Southwest - California*. Boulder, Colorado: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 1984.
- Dolman, G. and Kaufman, A. *Minorities in Higher Education: The Changing Southwest - Colorado*. Boulder, Colorado: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 1984.
- Dolman, G. and Kaufman, A. *Minorities in Higher Education: The Changing Southwest - New Mexico*. Boulder, Colorado: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 1985.
- Dolman, G. and Kaufman, A. *Minorities in Higher Education: The Changing Southwest - Texas*. Boulder, Colorado: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 1985.
- Finn, Chester. "The High School Dropout Puzzle." *The Public Interest* 87 (Spring): 3-22.
- Goldsmith, Scott. *Long-Range Economic and Demographic Projections for Alaska*. Anchorage, Alaska: Institute of Social and Economic Research, 1987.
- National Center for Education Statistics. 1984. "College Attendance After High School." *Statistical Highlight* (NCES 84-402). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.
- Kleinfeld, Judith, McDiarmid, G. Williamson; and Hagstrom, D. *Alaska's Small Rural High Schools*. Anchorage, Alaska: Institute of Social and Economic Research and Center for Cross-Cultural Studies, 1985.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census. *County and City Data Book 1983*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Statistical Abstract of the United States 1986*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.