

KEY FACTS ABOUT ALASKA NATIVES

Alaska Natives are a unique and significant population within our geographic location. While the term implies an ethnic connotation, its meaning includes legal political status. Alaska Natives, as well as American Indians, are members of “domestic dependent nations” with dual citizenships – both tribal and federal.

- “Alaska Native” is a designation that only exists primarily because of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Prior to this people did not use this language to describe themselves.
- The Indigenous peoples of Alaska (Alaska Natives) embody a distinct political and legal status and relationship, especially in regard to the federal and state government (even distinct from what exists in the lower 48 because of ANCSA). The ANCSA is unique – it’s never been done anywhere else in the world.
- The term Alaska Native also encompasses the relationships between Tribes and ANCSA –that doesn’t exist anywhere else.
- There are 224 Federally Recognized Tribes in Alaska and 20 indigenous languages spoken in the state, indicating the diversity and scope of the population.
- The Alaska Native regional (13) and village corporations (over 223) established by ANCSA, as a group, are the largest private landowners in the state (12%) and control 44 million acres of Alaska, 98% of Alaska’s private property – this doesn’t exist anywhere else.
- Alaska Native corporations combined employ more people in Alaska than any other private entity, and they produce 25% of the state’s GDP.
- Alaska Natives are nearly 20 percent of our overall state population; 1 in 4 students coming through the Anchorage School district are Alaska Native. Anchorage is ranked number one in US cities with highest percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- A majority of Alaska Natives still live on their original homelands – this is different from American Indians in the lower 48.
- Alaska Natives, as Indigenous peoples, have distinct individual and collective human rights that have been affirmed by the United Nations and other international fora, which recognizes their right to self-determination; lands, territories, and resources; culture; language; identity, employment, health; education and a host of other rights.

Further Reading:

- **Alaska Native Cultures & Issues** ed. Libby Roderick. Published by University of Alaska Press, 2010. An excerpt of the book is available at Google Books.
<https://books.google.com/books?id=I571YST99fIC&pg=PA77&lpg=PA77&dq=Do+Alaska+Natives+Get+Free+Medical+Care?&source=bl&ots=eMbP0jNFbX&sig=IbgotiuM4z2hBgAmuxMG2ic1M4c&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjA86aD2sjNAhVKHZQKHQb0AHk4FBDoAQhIMAY#v=onepage&q=Do%20Alaska%20Natives%20Get%20Free%20Medical%20Care%3F&f=false>
- **Alaska Native Language Map**
https://www.google.com/search?q=alaska+native+language+map&espv=2&biw=1680&bih=965&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&sqj=2&ved=0ahUKEwjnkry03cjNAhUF62MKHc_pCQwQsAQIMg#imgrc=mRR40s0icTdc0M%3A
- **Alaska Native Language Center** <https://www.uaf.edu/anlc/resources/anlmap/>
- **Alaska Native Regional Corporation Map**
https://www.google.com/search?q=alaska+native+corporations+map&espv=2&biw=1680&bih=965&tbm=isch&imgil=Hjs7TfVds4lioM%253A%253B0717Fd73cn8FIM%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Ffairbanks-alaska.com%25252Falaska-native-corporations.htm&source=iu&pf=m&fir=Hjs7TfVds4lioM%253A%252C0717Fd73cn8FIM%252C&usg=__IPOis4Ab-C8S3hWE92ormWcqpYg%3D&ved=0ahUKEwjF8Zf73cjNAhVKzmMKHfgwAYAQyjcJw&ei=pGJxV8WPDMqcyjwP44YSACA#imgrc=Hjs7TfVds4lioM%3A
- **UAA Alaska Native Studies Department**
Quick Facts on Alaska Native/Native American success rates
<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/alaska-native-studies/success-rates.cshtml>
- **Alaskool**
Resources and curriculum – history of Alaska Native education, ANCSA, etc.
<http://www.alaskool.org/>
- **Alaska Native Knowledge Network**
<http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/>
- **Lit Site Alaska**
 - ANCSA Interviews ANCSA at 30 <http://www.litsite.org/index.cfm?section=History-and-Culture&page=ANCSA-at-30&cat=Interviews>
 - The Alaska Anti-Discrimination Act – 1945
<http://www.litsite.org/index.cfm?section=History-and-Culture&page=ANCSA-at-30&cat=Interviews>
- **Indian Country Today**
“Good Morning Anchorage! Top 10 Cities with Highest Percentage Natives”
<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/08/01/anchorage-leads-top-10-cities-highest-percentage-natives-150684>
- **United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf