



## OVERVIEW

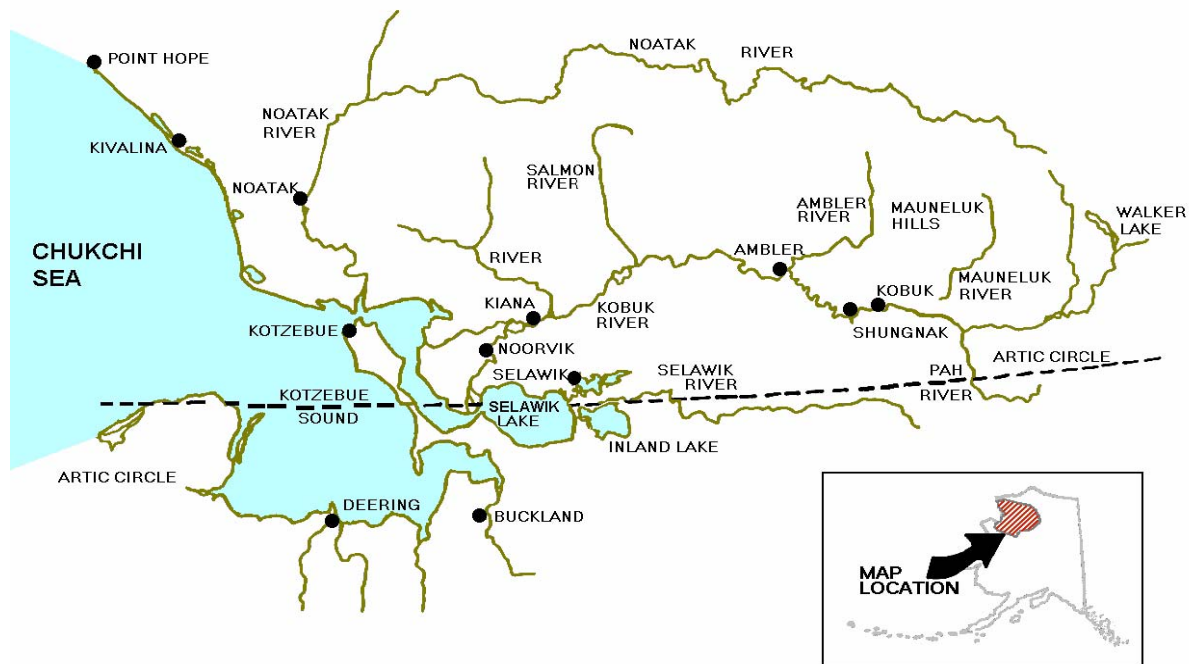
### Alaska Native 2006 User Population.

<b>KOTZEBUE SERVICE AREA</b>	<b>7,630</b>
Maniilaq Association	7,630

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 10/1/2003 and 9/30/2006.

**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.

Map 7.1



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.

# Kotzebue Service Area



During the summer months, the temperature averages between 40 and 60 degrees F. 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°, the very dry climate moderates the impact of the temperature. Brisk winds drive the windchill to below -50 degrees F. 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 from the surrounding villages make connections through Kotzebue.

There is daily jet passenger service between Kotzebue and Anchorage. Bush planes provide both scheduled and charter service to the villages as the weather permits.

The only road in the Northwest Arctic Borough is the DeLong Mountain Transportation Road between the Red Dog Mine and a port 12 miles north of Kivalina. 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, ocean barges deliver fuel, construction materials, furniture and supplies to the coastal Kotzebue villages. Shallow water (river) barges can deliver supplies from mid-July to mid-October to the Kobuk River villages.

**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 includes 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, berry picking, hiking and boating. 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.

Table 7.1

**Kotzebue Service Area  
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 AREA</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>834</b>
<b>Maniilaq Association</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>834</b>

<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.



**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. The Chukchi Community College and the Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue provide nursing assistant certification and nursing distance learning programs in cooperation with Maniilaq Health Center and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Table 7.2  
**Kotzebue Service Area  
 Education Status  
 for the Population 25 Years and Over**

	Males	Females
<b>White Alone Population:</b>		
<b>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</b>	78	16
<b>Bachelors degree or higher</b>	165	185
<b>AI/AN* Alone Population:</b>		
<b>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</b>	693	574
<b>Bachelors degree or higher</b>	30	64

\*AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, P148A White Alone and P148C American Indian and Alaska Native, Sex by education attainment for the population 25 years and over, 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 Service, 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 Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation.

**Economic Conditions.** Major employers include the school district, Maniilaq Association, the Northwest Arctic Native Association (NANA), the City of Kotzebue, the community college and governmental organizations. The Tech-Cominco Red Dog Mine northwest of Kotzebue requires about four hundred employees to produce lead and zinc for world markets. Seasonal employment includes construction, commercial fishing, and tourism.

Table 7.3  
**Kotzebue Service Area  
 Employment Status  
 for the Population 16 Years and Over**

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

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

**Federally Recognized 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 - P.O. Box 63, Buckland, AK 99727
- Native Village of Deering - P.O. Box 89, Deering, AK 99736
- Native Village of Kiana - P.O. Box 69, Kiana, AK 99749
- Native Village of Kivalina - P.O. Box 50051, Kivalina, AK 99750

# Kotzebue Service Area

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Native Village of Kobuk - General Delivery, Kobuk, AK 99751  
Native Village of Kotzebue - P.O. Box 296, Kotzebue, AK 99752  
Native Village of Noatak - P.O. Box 89, Noatak, AK 99761  
Noorvik Native Community - P.O. Box 71, Noorvik, AK 99763  
Native Village of Point Hope - P.O. Box 109, Point Hope, AK 99766  
Native Village of Selawik - P.O. Box 59, Selawik, AK 99770  
Native Village of Shungnak - P.O. Box 63, Shungnak, AK 99773

## DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH-CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Launched in 1966, the Maniilaq Association was initially called the Kotzebue Area Health Corporation. After passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, Maniilaq Association organized and, in 1975, merged with the Kotzebue Area Health Corporation. The name Maniilaq has dual significance. Maniilaq was an Inupiaq prophet who traveled and taught throughout the region in the days before the first European contact. 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.

On July 1, 1988, the Maniilaq Association assumed responsibility for the Kotzebue hospital and outpatient care 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 under a P.L. 93-638, Title V funding agreement.

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

The Maniilaq Health Center is an acute care hospital with 17 beds, 24 hour emergency care, pediatric, psychiatric, labor, delivery, and cardiac monitoring via telemetry services. Ambulatory services include general medical, dental, optometry, audiology, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, endoscopy and chemotherapy. Itinerant medical specialists provide 35 clinics per year.

Ancillary services include laboratory, radiology (including mammography, fluoroscopy, ultrasound and electrocardiography), pharmacy and dietary. Community health programs include social services, mental health, environmental health, health education, diabetes prevention, maternal child health, emergency medevac, injury prevention, maternal/child nutrition, and public health nursing.

Maniilaq provides traditional medicine and home health care services in the *Kotzebue Cultural Center*.

Social services, including 24 hour mental health crisis intervention, are based at the *F.R. Ferguson Building* in Kotzebue. Maniilaq operates a residential assisted living facility (*Kotzebue Senior Center*), a prematernal home (*The Prematernal Home*), residential care for the developmentally disabled (*Lake Street House*), a detox center (*Maniilaq Recovery Center*), and a family recovery camp (Mavsigviq). Maniilaq provides traditional medicine and home health care services in the *Kotzebue Cultural Center*. The specialty and tertiary referral location is the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

# Kotzebue Service Area



The Maniilaq MedFlight plane and crew are certified to provide emergency flights between the villages and the Maniilaq Health Center, and between Kotzebue and Anchorage for tertiary care. The Maniilaq EMS is also responsible for coordinating search and rescue for the Northwest Arctic Borough.

The Maniilaq Health Center is accredited by The Joint Commission with a system-wide accreditation that covers the operation of the village clinics.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM (CHAP)

Maniilaq operates community health aides programs in the following village built health clinics:

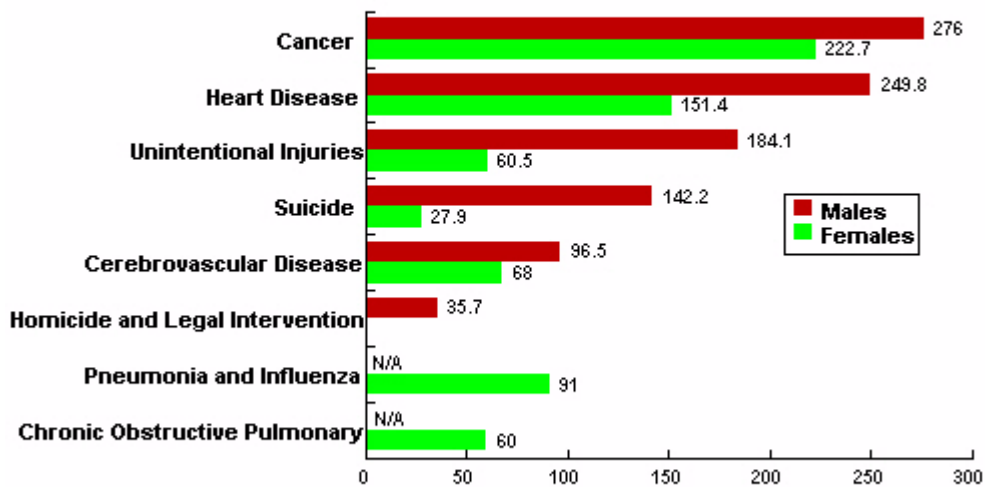
Ambler	Kiana	Kotzebue	Point Hope
Buckland	Kivalina	Noatak	Selawik
Deering	Kobuk	Noorvik	Shungnak

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

The State of Alaska provides public health nursing services, family and youth social services, and public assistance in the Northwest Arctic Borough.

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

Graph 7.1  
**Kotzebue Region**  
**Age-Adjusted Alaska Native Mortality Rates by Male and Female**  
**1999 - 2003**  
**Rates per 100,000**



N/A = Rate not calculated for fewer than five (5) deaths.  
 Source: *Alaska Native Mortality Update: 1999-2003*, Alaska Native Epidemiology Center, Office of Alaska Native Health Research, Division of Community Health Services, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

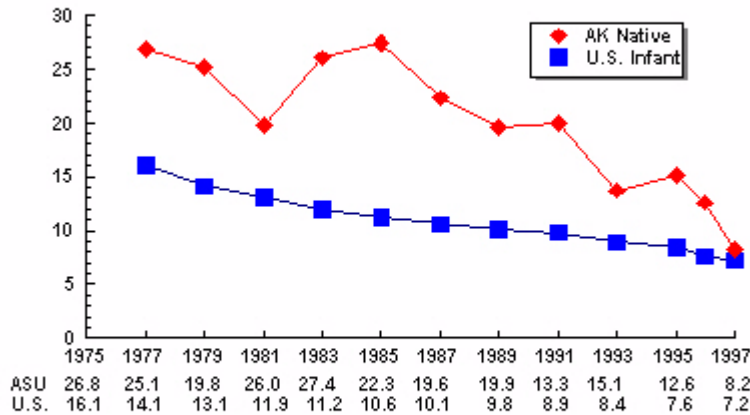
# Kotzebue Service Area



**Infant mortality** is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Graph 7.2

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

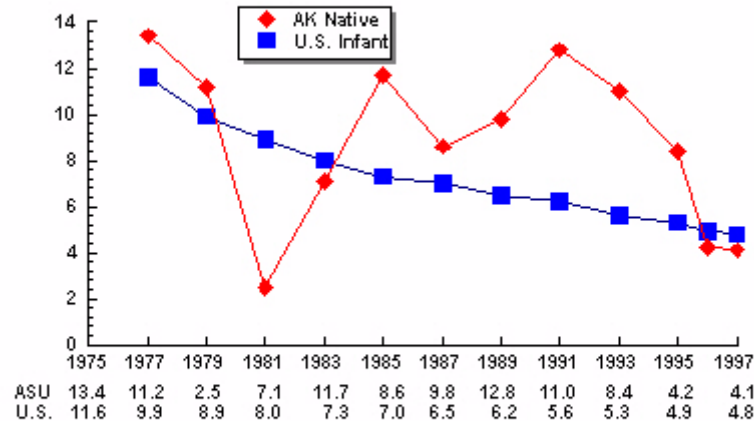


Birth rates are rates per 1,000 total population. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are single year rates.  
 Source: Alaska Native rates are from the report *Alaska Native Births and Infant Deaths 1980-1997*. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

**Neonatal Mortality** is the number of infant death, from birth to 28 days of age, per 1,000 live births.

Graph 7.3

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



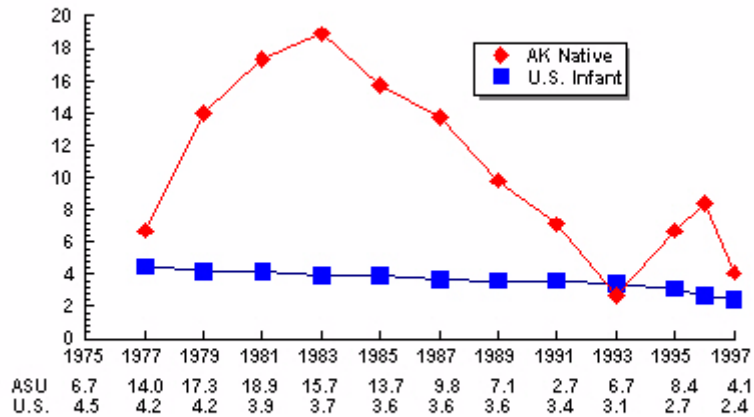
Birth rates are rates per 1,000 total population. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are single year rates.  
 Source: Alaska Native rates are from the report *Alaska Native Births and Infant Deaths 1980-1997*. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)



**Postneonatal Mortality Rates** are the number of infant deaths, from 28 days to one year of age, per 1,000 live births.

Graph 7.4

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

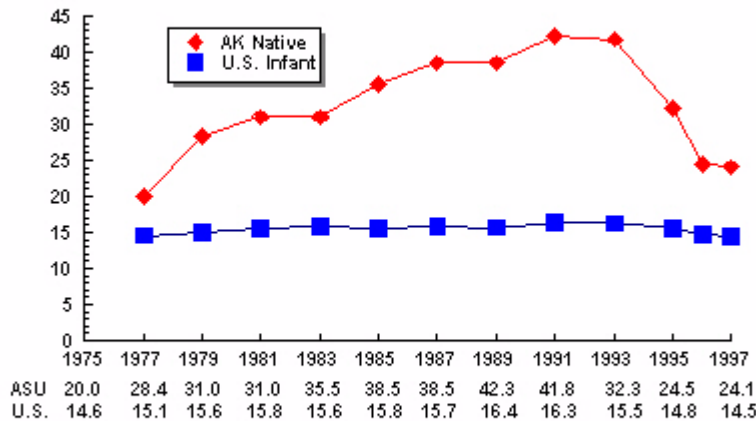


Birth rates are rate per 1,000 total population. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are single year rates.  
 Source: Alaska Native rates are from the report *Alaska Native Births and Infant Deaths 1980-1997*. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

**Birth Rates** are the number of births per 1,000 total population.

Graph 7.5

### Birth Rates Kotzebue Service Area vs. U.S. 1975 - 1997



Birth rates are rate per 1,000 total population. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are single year rates.  
 Source: Alaska Native rates are from the report *Alaska Native Births and Infant Deaths 1980-1997*. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)



## OUTPATIENT WORKLOAD/DIAGNOSES

Graph 7.6

**Kotzebue Service Unit  
Outpatient Workload: FY 1959 - FY 2005**

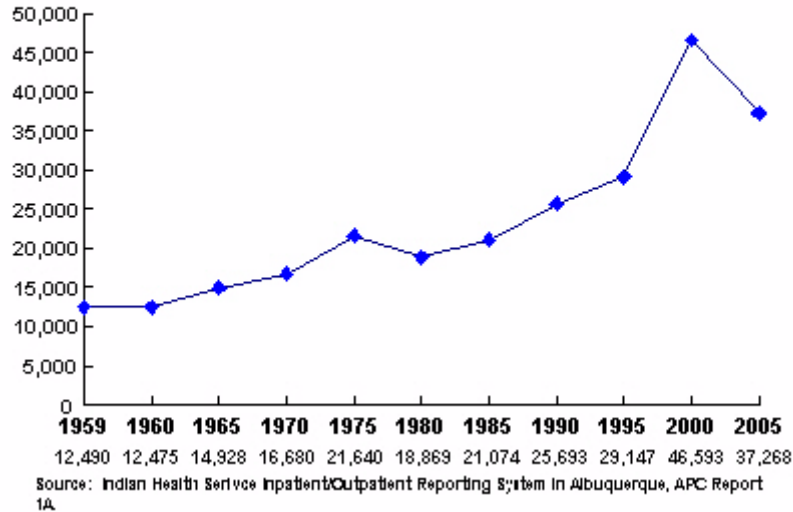


Table 7.4

**Kotzebue Service Area  
Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 2001 - FY 2004**

All Age Groups	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Accidents & Injuries	2,635	2,128	2,122	2,025
Pregnancy, childbirth & puerperium	881	845	1,073	1,923
Upper Respiratory Problems	3,502	2,183	2,040	1,922
Tests Only	1,602	931	1,394	1,038
Bone & Joint Disorders	1,056	1,089	1,202	1,036
Otitis Media	1,228	775	779	732
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	651	1,109	646	720
Hospital Medical/Surgical Follow-up	1,249	739	713	647
Musculoskeletal Disorder	755	567	595	523
Hypertension	715	660	540	440

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

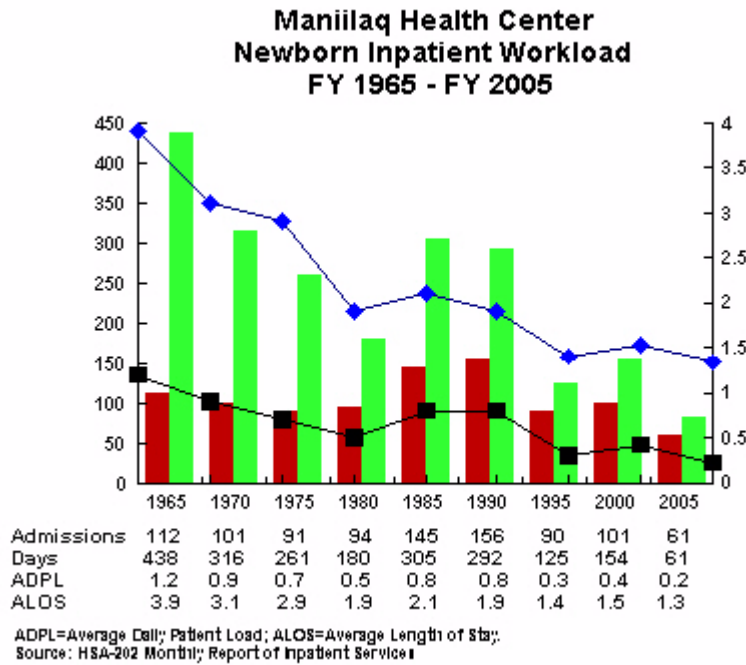




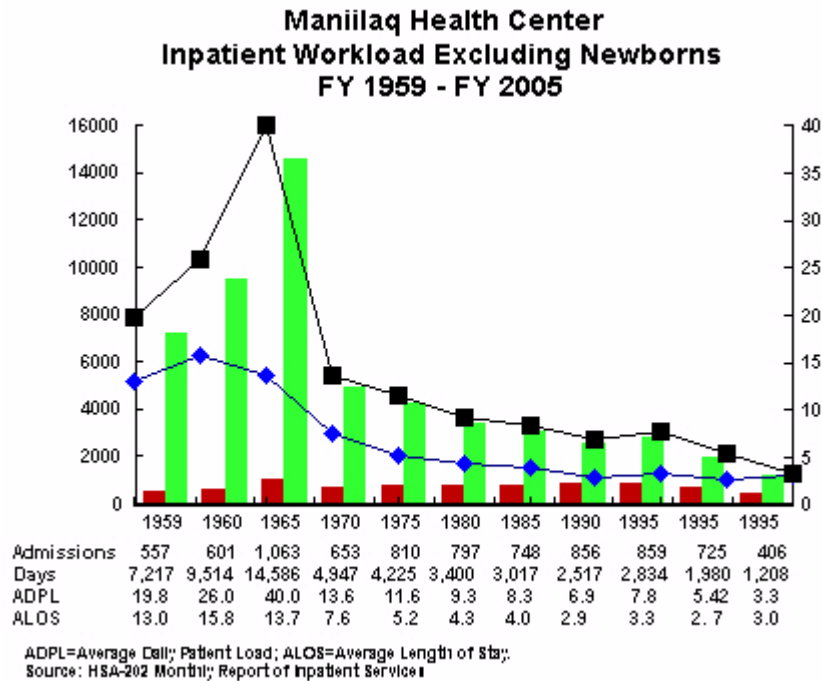
## INPATIENT WORKLOAD

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

Graph 7.7



Graph 7.8





## DISCHARGE DIAGNOSES

Table 7.5  
**Kotzebue Service Area**  
**Leading Causes of Discharges: FY 2001 - FY 2002**

	FY 2001	FY 2002
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