

## OVERVIEW

### Alaska Native 2006 User Population.

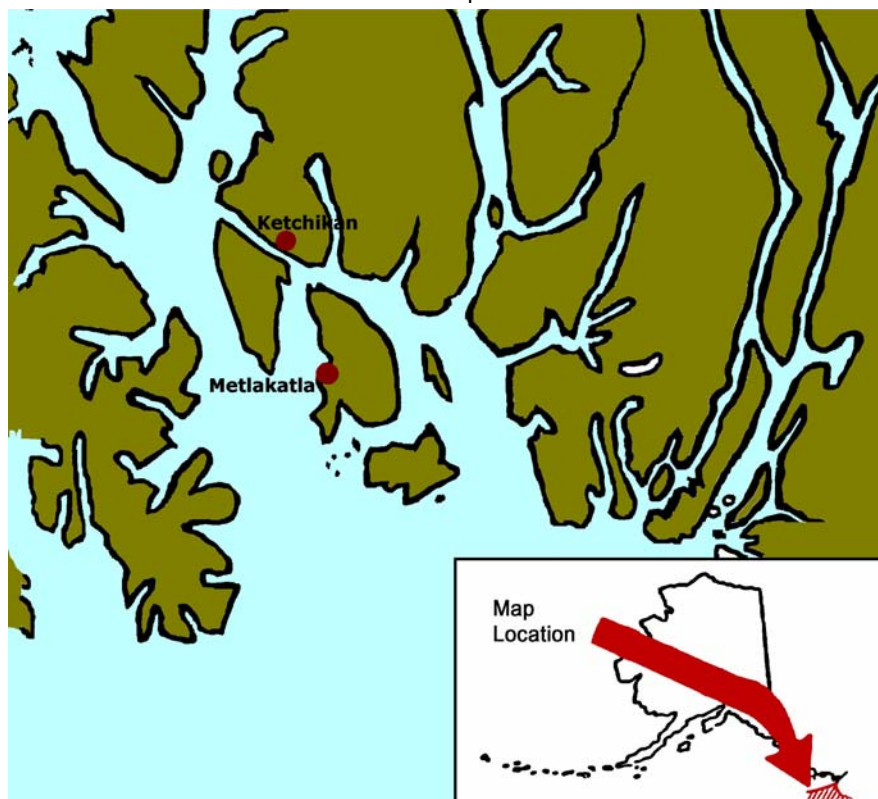
<b>ANNETTE ISLAND SERVICE AREA</b>	<b>1,331</b>
Metlakatla Indian Community	1,331

Users are defined as beneficiaries who used a facility that reports through the IHS data system at least once between 10/1/2003 and 9/30/2006.

### Environmental Factors.

The Annette Island Indian Reservation lies in the southernmost portion of the Alexander Archipelago in Southeast Alaska. This 136 square mile reservation is about 680 air miles north of Seattle and 900 air miles south of Anchorage. The major island of the reservation is Annette Island, which measures 10 miles wide by 20 miles long. Like most islands in Southeast Alaska, Annette has a rugged, mountainous topography. Swampy, muskeg soils and dense rain forests cover low-lying areas and large lakes occupy former glacial valleys.

Map 3.1



A group of 800 Tsimpsian Indians formed the first permanent settlement on Annette Island in 1887. They migrated from British Columbia over 650 miles to Metlakatla where the harbor provided an ideal environment for a new, model community. The community developed rapidly, setting up streets, industries and public institutions.

A Congressional Act on March 3, 1891 set apart the Annette Island Reservation for the use and occupancy of the “Metlakatla Indians and other Natives who might be permitted to join them.” In 1916, a Presidential proclamation enlarged the reservation to include all the waters and inlets within 3,000 feet of the Annette Island shoreline. Today, the Metlakatla Indian Community of Annette Island Reservation is the only Indian reservation in Alaska with full trust status.

Like the rest of Southeast Alaska, the reservation enjoys a maritime climate characterized by cool summers, mild winters and heavy year-around precipitation. Due to the extreme southerly



location, most of this precipitation falls as rain with the greatest amount occurring during October and November. Gale winds (exceeding 32 m.p.h.) are frequent from October through March. Skies are overcast normally 70 percent of the time.

**Utilities.** A gravity flow system from Chester Lake provides water to Metlakatla. The Indian Health Service helped upgrade the system extensively. Trained personnel regularly monitor storage and treatment facilities for quality, chlorination and fluoridation.

The Metlakatla waste water collection system ends at a lagoon-type treatment plant. Aeration and chlorination occur prior to ocean discharge

A locally-owned municipal hydroelectric plant provides the community with electrical power.

**Transportation.** Local float plane taxis provide both scheduled and nonscheduled service between Metlakatla and Ketchikan. From Ketchikan, connecting flights are available to Seattle and points north. Air service is unreliable during periods of stormy weather, and float plane service to Metlakatla has the additional problems associated with waterfront landings. Supplies such as fuel, construction materials and automobiles are delivered by ocean barge from Seattle and by ferry from Ketchikan.

The Alaska State Ferry provides access to Metlakatla with eight trips weekly from Ketchikan carrying freight, passengers and up to 15 vehicles. Service is not available during adverse weather or for 1-2 months each year during vessel maintenance. Transportation within the reservation is usually by foot, boat or private vehicle. A fairly extensive road system provides access to most of the Annette Island Peninsula.

**Housing.** Housing conditions on the reservation have improved steadily during the last decade. Federal Indian housing projects have resulted in the construction of over 100 new units. A significant number of homes have serious repair problems, and housing rehabilitation is one of the community's development priorities.

Table 3.1  
**Annette Island 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>ANNETTE ISLAND SERVICE AREA TOTAL</b>	296	0	296
<b>Metlakatla Indian Community</b>	296	0	296

<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.** The Annette Island School District has a separate primary and secondary schools serving over 350 students. The community encourages advanced vocational training or college and makes scholarships available to students in need.

**Natural Resources.** Timber and ocean fish are the primary natural resources on the reservation. The Annette Island economy depends on the harvesting and primary processing of these resources. Because of a lack of diversity, the local economy has seasonal unemployment typical of the fishing and timber industries. Most economic opportunities are in fishing, fish processing, timber and government.

**Federally Recognized Tribes.**

Metlakatla Indian Community - P.O. Box 439, Metlakatla, AK 99926

Table 3.2  
**Metlakatla Education Status  
 for the Population 25 Years and Over**

	Males	Females
<b>White Alone population:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Bachelors degree or higher</b>		
<b>AI/AN* Alone population:</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Bachelors degree or higher</b>		

\*AI/AN=American Indian/Alaska Native.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, P148A, P148C Sex by educational attainment for the population 25 years and over, 2000 Census Summary File 3

**DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH-CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM**

In October 1981, the Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) began providing a full range of outpatient medical and dental services to the town of Metlakatla on Annette Island, and is now has a funding agreement with the IHS under P.L. 93-638, Title V.

**Annette Island Health Center** - 563 Brendible Street, Metlakatla, AK 99926

Ambulatory services at the *Annette Island Health Center* include laboratory, radiology, emergency, pharmacy, physical therapy and well-child care. Community health services include healthy lifestyles promotion, mental health, alcohol services, emergency medical transportation and community health representatives. A separate *MIC Dental Clinic* is located on Milton Street. The *Arnie Christiansen Crisis Intervention Center* has overnight accommodations for mental health patients awaiting transportation off the island. The *WINGS Safe House*, operated by MIC, provides shelter for victims of domestic violence.

With the completion of their new outpatient facility in April 2006, MIC expanded services to include environmental health, nutrition, community health nursing, social services, and health education. These services were previously provided by other agencies.



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

The State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, provides communicable disease control, health screening, and crippled children's treatment. A social services program funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs works closely with the health center's staff.

MIC currently contracts with a itinerant physical therapist who sees patients two days a week. Since inpatient services are not available at Metlakatla, the most widely-used facilities for referral are the Ketchikan General Hospital (through contract health), and the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

## HEALTH STATUS OF ALASKA NATIVES LIVING IN THE ANNETTE ISLAND SERVICE AREA

**Mortality.** Heart Disease is the only cause of death with 3 or more deaths per year in Metlakatla.

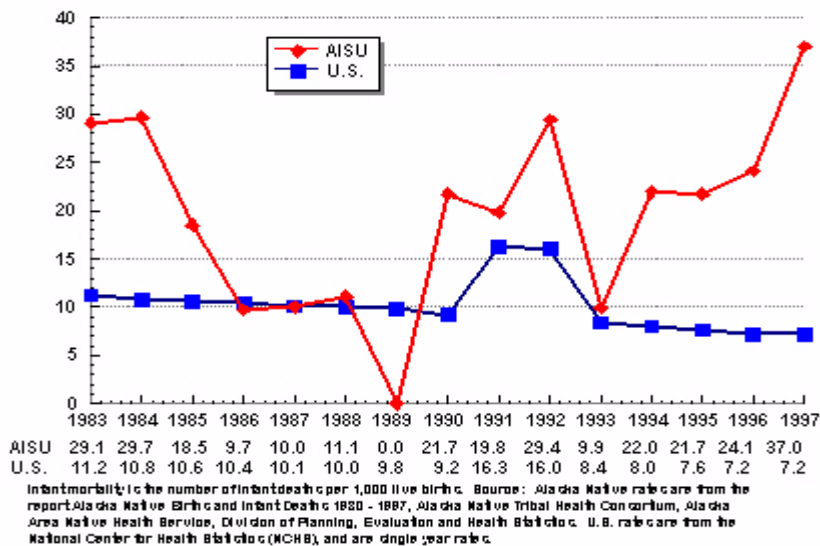
Table 3.3  
**Annette Island Service Area  
 Alaska Native Deaths  
 Three-Year Average Crude Death Rates per 100,000 Population**

	Leading Causes of Death	AI/AN	U.S.	AI/AN	U.S.	AI/AN	U.S.
1)	Heart Disease	199.8	276.4	221.1	271.6	241.7	268.2

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

**Infant Mortality** is defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 population.

Graph 3.1  
**Infant Mortality Rates  
 Annette Island Service Area vs. U.S.  
 1983 - 1997**

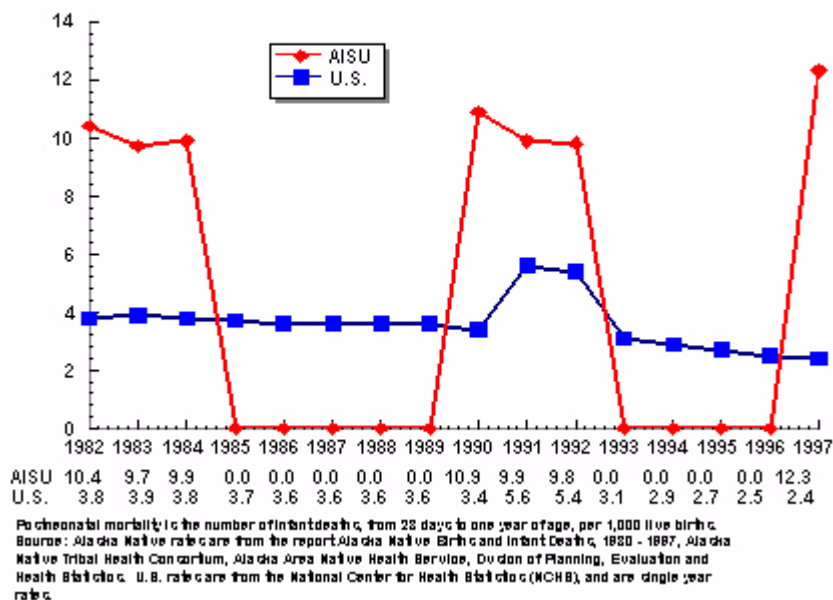




**Postneonatal Mortality Rates** are infant deaths (28 days to 1 year of age) per 1,000 live births.

Graph 3.2

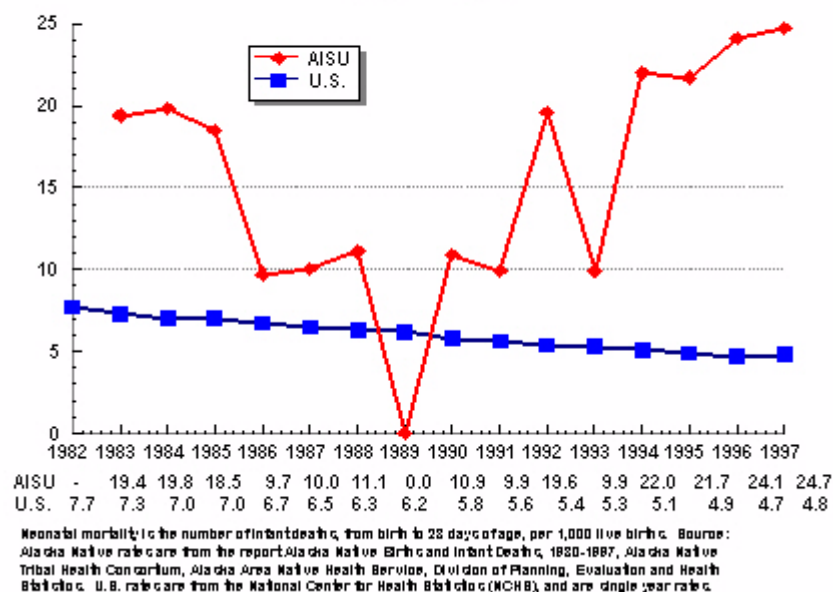
### Postneonatal Mortality Rates Annette Island Service Area vs. U.S. 1982 - 1997



**Neonatal Mortality Rates** are infant deaths, from birth to 28 days of age per 1,000 live births.

Graph 3.3

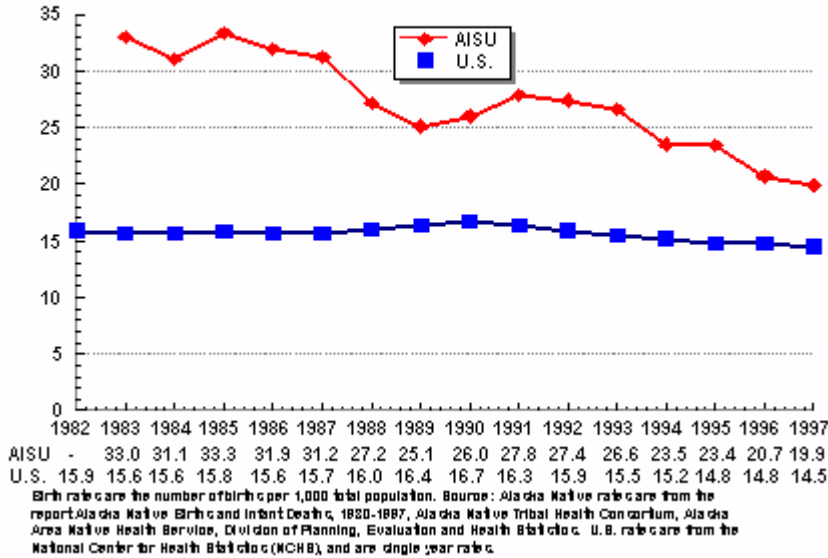
### Neonatal Mortality Rates Annette Island Service Area vs. U.S. 1983 - 1997





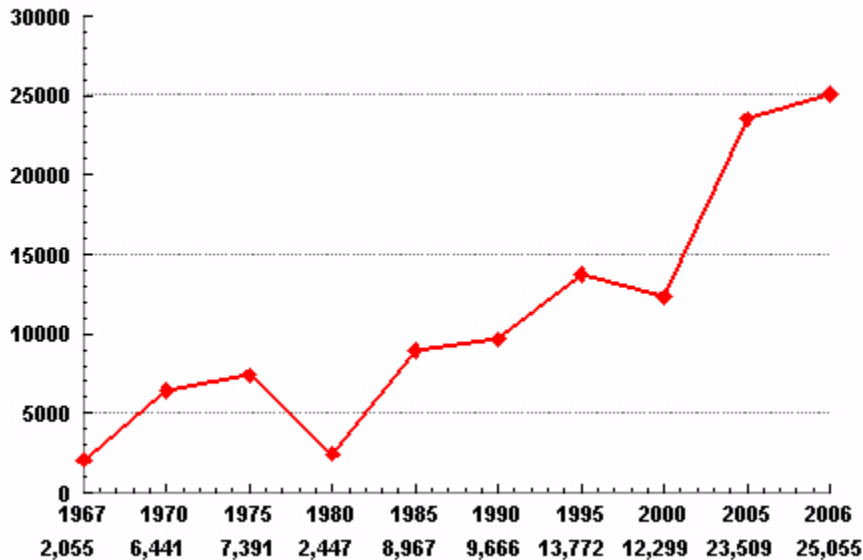
**Birth Rates** are defined as the number of births per 1,000 total population.

Graph 3.4  
**Birth Rates**  
**Annette Island Service Area vs. U.S.**  
**1983 - 1997**



## OUTPATIENT WORKLOAD/DIAGNOSES

Graph 3.5  
**Annette Island Service Area**  
**Outpatient Workload: FY 1967 - FY 2006**



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



Table 3.4  
**Annette Island Service Area**  
**Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 2001 - FY 2004**

<b>All Age Groups</b>	<b>FY 2001</b>	<b>FY 2002</b>	<b>FY 2003</b>	<b>FY 2004</b>
Diabetes Mellitus	740	900	1,355	1,336
Bone & Joint Disorders	1,003	1,213	1,437	1,320
Accidents & Injuries	1,410	1,411	1,313	1,310
Hypertension	1,024	1,201	1,103	1,175
Assessment of Symptoms	565	574	800	1,167
Arthritis	532	631	957	1,107
Upper Respiratory Problems	1,104	1,117	1,137	895
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	894	980	1,039	767
Musculoskeletal Disorder	598	643	681	733
Pregnancy, childbirth & puerperium	107	99	142	536
Gastrointestinal Disease	628	680	681	534

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

# Annette Island Area

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