



OVERVIEW

Alaska Native 2006 User Population.

MT. EDGECUMBE SERVICE AREA	15,019
Ketchikan Indian Corporation	2,850
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	12,169

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

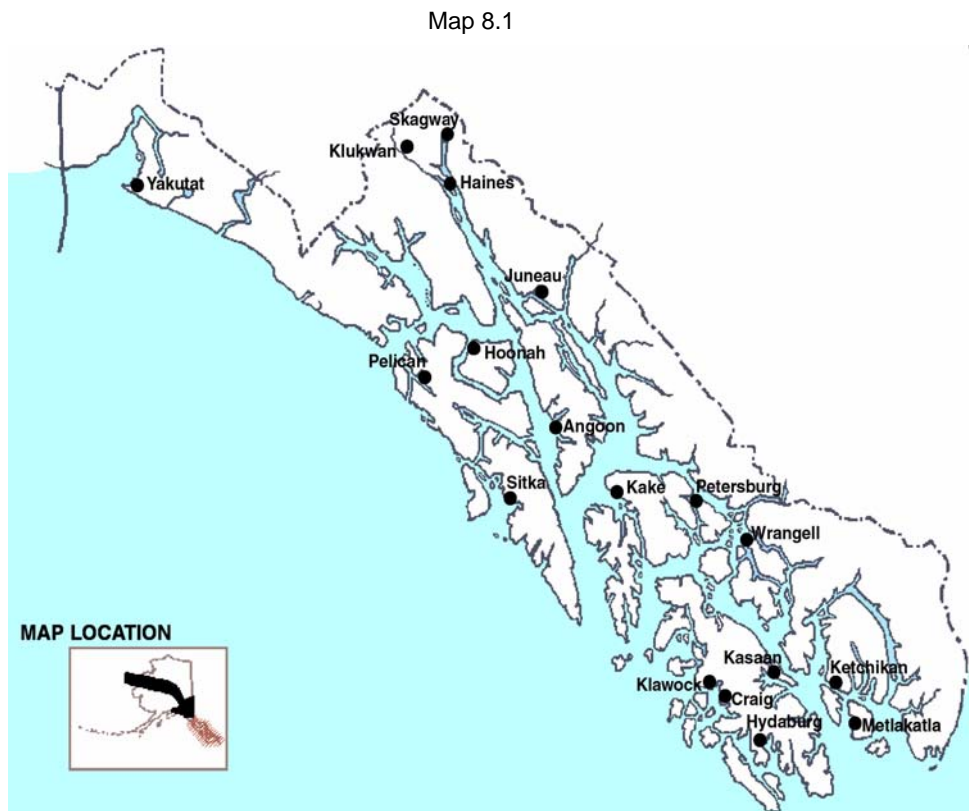
Environmental Factors. The Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area covers about 42,162 square miles and encompasses the entire Southeast Alaska area except for Annette Island. The northwestern boundary is the Gulf of Alaska, and the southwestern border is the Pacific Ocean. Canada borders the east and northeast.

Southeast Alaska villages are isolated by mountains, glaciers and water.

Mt. Edgecumbe consists of three major interconnected islands with rainforests of spruce, hemlock and yellow cedar, and the entire region consists of thousands of islands covered with dense, deep green forests. Above timberline, alpine peaks rise to snowcaps and glaciers move slowly from the valleys to the sea.

Sitka has a mild coastal climate with an average temperature of 55 degrees F in July and 32 degrees F in January. The annual rainfall is 96.6 inches, and the annual snowfall is 47.4 inches.

Ketchikan is a linear waterfront city. The use of scheduled ferry service is required to travel from the airport into downtown Ketchikan because there is no bridge access. Much of the 3-mile-long





business district sits above water on pilings driven into the bottom of Tongass Narrows. Narrow winding streets lead up steep, wooded hillsides. Long wooden staircases reach homes perched on cliffs. The climate of the area is warmer and wetter than the rest of southeast Alaska, with an average summer temperature of 65 degrees F, and an annual precipitation of 168 inches.

Ethnic Groups. Ethnically, three major Tribes inhabit Southeast Alaska: the Tsimpsian, the Haida and the Tlingit. The Tsimpsians, originally from British Columbia, migrated to Annette Island after the United States Congress gave it to them. About 1,400 Tsimpsians inhabit Annette Island, most living in Metlakatla. Like the Tsimpsians, the Haidas came from Canada, and many of them still inhabit the village of Hydaburg and its surrounding area. The largest Tribe, the Tlingit, immigrated from Interior Alaska and Canada. By the time Europeans first made contact with them, the Tlingits were well-distributed in Southeast Alaska. Their villages now lie from Ketchikan to Yakutat.

Utilities. Most communities in the region have electricity, water and sanitation facilities.

Transportation. Haines, Klukwan, Skagway and Hyder are accessible by the Canadian portions of the Alcan Highway. Skagway has road access to the Yukon Territory, and Hyder has a road to British Columbia. All other communities are accessible only by airplane or boat. Steep coastlines, multiple fjords and mountainous terrain prevent the state from developing further road links between communities.

The ruggedness of the terrain, long distances and stormy weather of the area make access to health-care facilities difficult by sea and air. Air travel is a fast but expensive method of travel for residents in outlying communities who need immediate health care.

Housing. Housing varies in cost and availability in each community.

Table 8.1

**Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area
Number of Homes With and Without Complete
Water and Sewer Service¹**

	# Homes With	# Homes Without	Total # of Homes
MT. EDGECUMBE SERVICE AREA	2,434	487	2,921
Ketchikan Indian Community	89	0	89
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	2,345	487	2,832

¹ 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.

² Exclude homes covered by urban local government water and sewer service.

Source: Alaska Area Native Health Service, Office of Environmental Health.



Education. Schools range from elementary to the high school level. College courses are offered through Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka and the University of Alaska Southeast, which has campuses in Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan. All villages provide elementary through high school education. The State of Alaska operates Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, a boarding school for students from all over the state.

Natural Resources. Fish and timber are the natural resources that support the economy in Southeast Alaska. Throughout the region, logging, fishing, mining, and fish processing are important industries.

Economic Conditions. Southeast Alaska is struggling with unemployment losses due to the timber industry. The sawmill in Haines closed in 1991 causing employment and wages to fall about 20%. The pulp mill in Sitka closed in 1993 causing employment and wages to fall nearly 11%. The sawmill in Wrangell closed in 1994 resulting in an employment drop of 22% and a wage drop of nearly 30%. Recently, the retail trade has offset other areas of employment loss. Tourism has grown in recent years with the expansion of the cruise ship industry in Southeast Alaska.

Table 8.2

Southeast Alaska Region Education Status by Borough and Census Area

	High School Graduates	Bachelors Degree or Higher
Haines Borough	517	395
Juneau Borough	4,370	7,167
Ketchikan Gateway	2,673	1,814
POW/Outer Ketchikan Census Area	1,561	538
Sitka Borough	1,417	1,657
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	693	491
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	1,589	710
Yakutat Borough	174	92

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Table 8.3

Southeast Alaska Region Employment Status by Borough and Census Area

	Employed	Unemployed
Haines Borough	992	157
Juneau Borough	16,537	935
Ketchikan Gateway	7,017	581
POW/Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,614	461
Sitka Borough	4,352	367
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,471	274
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,031	373
Yakutat Borough	440	37

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Table 8.4

Alaska Per Capita Income by Borough and Census Area 2003

	Income
Haines Borough	\$35,542
Juneau Borough	\$36,668
Ketchikan Gateway	\$38,343
POW/Outer Ketchikan Census Area	\$21,492
Sitka Borough	\$31,467
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	\$34,508
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	\$31,861
Yakutat Borough	\$31,352

Source: State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Alaska Economic Trends, November 2005, p7.



Federally Recognized Tribes Grouped by P.L. 93-638, Title V Resolution:

Hoonah Indian Association

Hoonah Indian Association - P.O. Box 402, Hoonah, AK 99829

Ketchikan Indian Corporation (KIC)

Ketchikan Indian Corporation - 429 Deermount Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Organized Village of Saxman - Route 2, Box 2-Saxman, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)

Angoon Community Association - P.O. Box 188, Angoon, AK 99820

Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes - 320 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite 300, Juneau, AK 99801

Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) - P.O. Box 210, Haines, AK 99827

Chilkoot Indian Association - P.O. Box 490, Haines, AK 99827

Craig Community Association - P.O. Box 828, Craig, AK 99921

Douglas Indian Association - P.O. Box 020478, Juneau, AK 99802

Hydaburg Cooperative Association - P.O. Box 305, Hydaburg, AK 99922

Organized Village of Kake - P.O. Box 316, Kake, AK 99830

Organized Village of Kasaan - General Delivery, Kasaan, AK 99924

Klawock Cooperative Association - P.O. Box 122, Klawock, AK 99925

Petersburg Indian Association - P.O. Box 1418, Petersburg, AK 99833

Sitka Tribe of Alaska - 456 Katlian Street, Sitka, AK 99835

Skagway Village - P.O. Box 399, Skagway, AK 99840

Wrangell Cooperative Association - P.O. Box 868, Wrangell, AK 99929

Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

Yakutat Tlingit Tribe - P.O. Box 418, Yakutat, AK 99689

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH-CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

SEARHC Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital, 222 Tongass Drive, Sitka, AK 99835. Located on picturesque Japonski Island, this sixty year old hospital has served as a naval air station hospital, a tuberculosis sanitarium, an IHS general hospital, and is now a tribally operated hospital serving southeast Alaska Natives.

SEARHC assumed operation of the hospital, and most other health care delivery services to southeast Alaska Natives, in 1986. SEARHC now provides both primary and specialty health care to southeast Alaska tribes (with the exception of Ketchikan Indian Community) under a P.L. 93-638, Title V funding agreement.

Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital is a five-story, 119,000 square-foot facility with 27 acute care beds, 3 critical care beds and a surgical suite. The town of Sitka lies to the east on Baranof Island with a bridge spanning the 1/4-mile channel separating it from Japonski island. *Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital* is the home base for itinerant health care providers to other southeast Alaska communities, and provides space for the region's administrative offices.

Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area

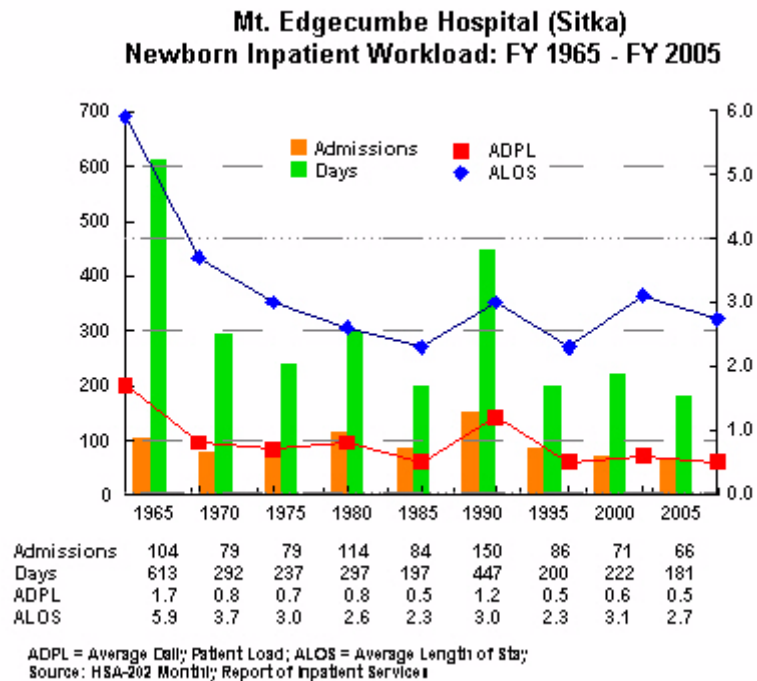


Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital provides 24 hour emergency services, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, anesthesiology, psychiatry, dental, optometry and audiology. The hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission. The outpatient behavioral health, dentistry, and family practice services are accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC).

Itinerant cardiologists, neurologists, hepatologists, urologists and dermatologists visit *Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital* to offer specialty clinics. Dentists and dental assistants work both in the hospital, and on an itinerant schedule in Angoon, Yakutat, and Hoonah. Private sector dentists serve Haines, Kake, Petersburg, Skagway and Wrangell. Dental clinics are provided in the schools at the elementary through high school levels.

Ancillary services in the *Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital* include radiology (including mammography, MRI and CAT scan), physical therapy, respiratory therapy, laboratory, pharmacy and traditional medicine. Community health care includes social services, CHA/P supervision, CHA/P training, patient medevac, diabetes prevention, environmental health, outpatient mental health, HIV early intervention, HIV case management, adolescent residential alcohol treatment (Raven's Way), adult residential substance abuse treatment (Bill Brady Healing Center), women-with-children residential alcohol treatment (Deilee Hut), homeless services (Front Street Clinic in Juneau), and teen health (Juneau High School Teen Health Clinic). The Front Street Clinic is also a HRSA Section 330 Community Health Center.

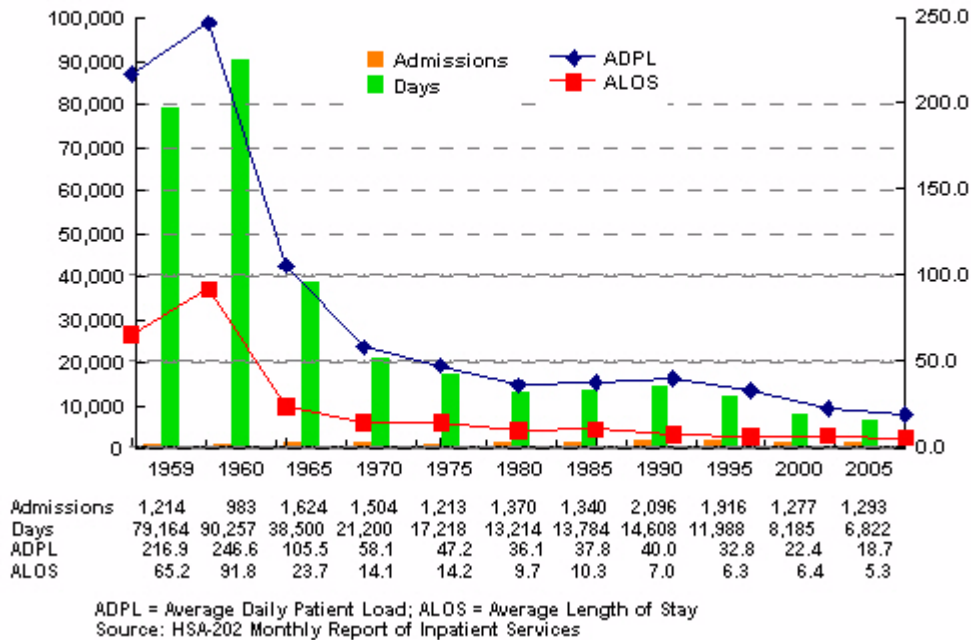
Graph 8.1





Graph 8.2

Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital (Sitka) Inpatient Workload Excluding Newborns: FY 1965 - FY 2005



High rates of hospitalization in the late 1950's and early 1960's reflect the twentieth century Alaska Native tuberculosis epidemic.

Graph 8.3

SEARHC Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital Sitka Outpatient Workload: FY 1959 - FY 2006

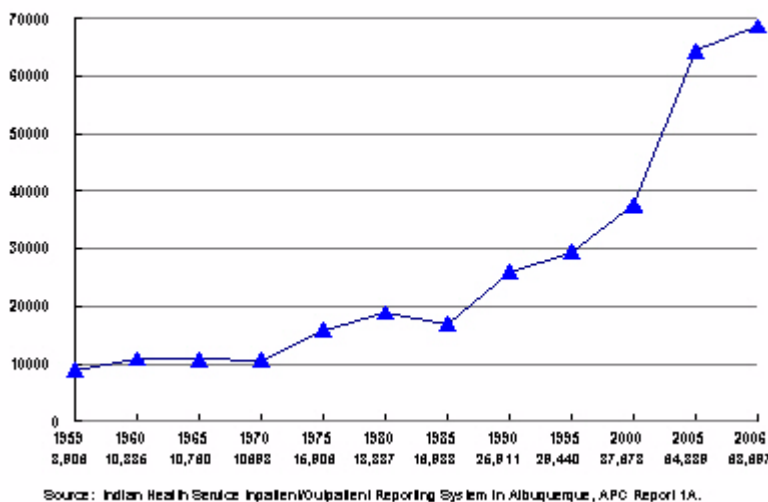




Table 8.5
SEARHC Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital
Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 2001 - FY 2005

All Age Groups	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	4,445	1,649	1,885	2,991	4,649
Hospital Medical/Surgical Follow-up	4,256	3,057	3,136	3,807	3,367
Assessment of Symptoms	3,339	1,294	1,885	2,250	2,780
Bone & Joint Disorders	3,622	1,028	1,254	1,566	2,638
Hypertension	3,104	354	556	1,132	2,442
Upper Respiratory Problems	4,583	1,518	1,409	1,714	2,047
Accidents & Injuries	4,795	1,571	1,894	1,969	1,960
Arthritis	2,484	792	1,021	1,157	1,949
Psychoses	1,522	819	966	1,519	1,946
Pregnancy, childbirth & puerperium	1,139	746	994	1,344	1,928
Diabetes Mellitus	2,765	551	700	911	1,610
Tests Only	2,720	1,376	1,527	1,367	1,549

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

SEARHC Juneau Medical-Dental Clinic, 3245 Hospital Drive, Juneau, AK 99801.

Since 1982, SEARHC has managed and expanded the former IHS Health Center in Juneau. In their facilities adjacent to the *Bartlett Memorial Hospital*, SEARHC provides outpatient medical, dental, optometry, physical therapy, laboratory, pharmacy, radiology (including mammography), mental health, social services, HIV early intervention, HIV case management. Itinerant specialists provide orthopedics, ENT, and pediatrics. The *SEARHC Juneau Medical-Dental Clinic* is accredited by The Joint Commission.

Graph 8.4

SEARHC Medical-Dental Clinic, Juneau Outpatient Workload: FY1967 - FY 2006

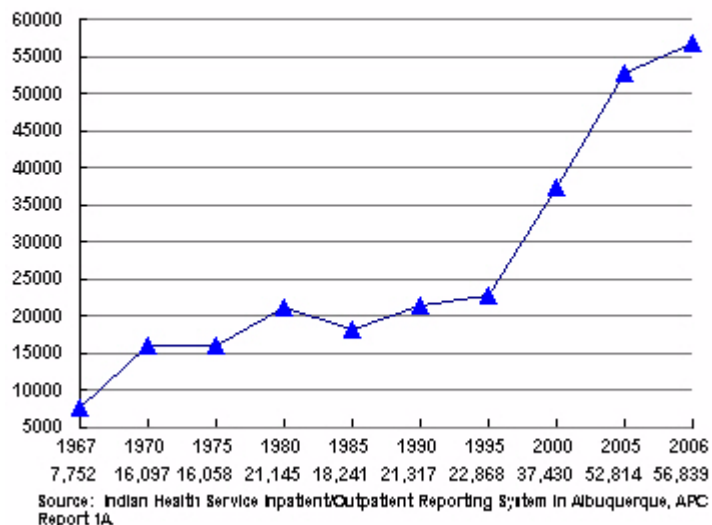




Table 8.6

SEARHC Juneau Medical & Dental Clinic Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 2001 - FY 2005

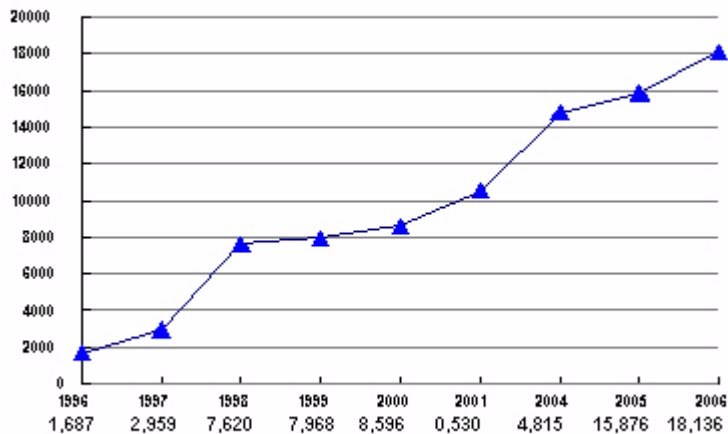
All Age Groups	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	922	671	476	1,062	2,591
Bone & Joint Disorders	953	1,192	1,126	1,045	2,392
Hospital Medical/Surgical Follow-up	429	617	501	672	2,144
Upper Respiratory Problems	1,058	1,296	1,211	987	1,970
Arthritis	688	725	729	824	1,859
Hypertension	574	826	506	680	1,790
Pregnancy, childbirth	481	422	375	765	1,644
Assessment of Symptoms	712	812	938	825	1,505
Accidents & Injuries	966	1,067	1,182	804	1,436
Diabetes Mellitus	396	629	676	606	1,274
Musculoskeletal Disorder	566	587	499	535	1,241
Tests Only	743	726	675	713	1,163
Gastrointestinal Disease	187	268	238	401	927
Heart Disease	251	405	409	471	887

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

The *SEARHC Alicia Roberts Medical Center*, P.O. Box 69, Klawock, AK 99925, provides services to residents of Klawock in addition to three other villages on the same (Prince of Wales) Island - Hydaburg, Kasaan and Craig. The clinic is accredited by the AAAHC (Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care), and provides outpatient family medicine, dental, optometry and social services. It is a Community Health Center under HRSA Section 330.

Graph 8.5

Alicia Roberts Medical Center (Klawock) Outpatient Workload: FY 1996 - FY2006



As of FY 1998, Kasaan residents do not receive health care services at the Klawock Health Center. Data not available for FY 2002-2004. Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque APC Report 1A.

SEARHC assumed management of the privately operated *Lynn Canal Medical Center* in Haines (1998) to better serve Native beneficiaries in the region. The clinic was renamed the *SEARHC Haines Medical Clinic*, P.O. Box 1549, Haines, AK 99827. Health care services are provided to residents of Haines and the nearby village of Klukwan. The clinic is accredited by the AAAHC, and provides outpatient family medicine, dental, optometry and social services. It is a Community Health Center under HRSA Section 330.



SEARHC Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Village Clinics.

All of the SEARHC CHAP village clinics are HRSA Section 330 Community Health Centers:

- Angoon Health Center, P.O. Box 27, Angoon, AK 99820
- Haines Health Center - PO Box 1549, Haines, AK 99827
- Hydaburg Health Center, P.O. Box 333, Hydaburg, AK 99922
- Take Health Clinic, P.O. Box 605, Take, AK 99830
- Kasaan Health Center, P.O. Box KXA, Ketchikan, AK 99950-0349
- Klukwan Health Center, P.O. Box 690, Klukwan, AK 99827
- Pelican Health Center, P.O. Box 101, Pelican, AK 99832

Hoonah Indian Community.

Hoonah Health Center, P.O. Box 103, Hoonah, AK 99829

The Hoonah Indian Community began operating the Hoonah Medical Center and supervising the village health aides in December 1996.

Services at the *Hoonah Health Center* include mid-level providers (from the State of Alaska), CHAP, community health representatives, alcohol and mental health. Scheduled physician and dental services are provided by SEARHC.

Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) Tribal Health Clinic.

KIC Tribal Health Clinic – 2960 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Ketchikan is located on the southwest side of Revillagigedo Island with the Pacific Ocean

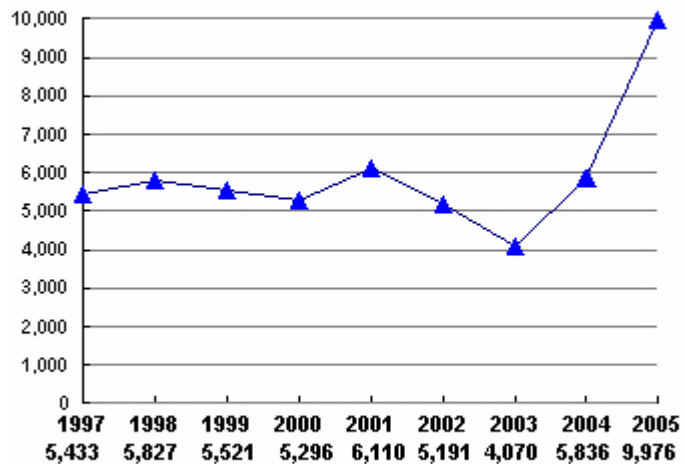
bordering the west and Canada bordering the north, south and east. It is 235 miles south of Juneau, and 600 miles north of Seattle, Washington.

The Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) assumed management of health care services to Alaska Native/American Indian residents of Ketchikan on October 1, 1997. By October 1, 1998, the service area was re-defined to include Saxman Village.

Clinic services include family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, diabetes prevention, physical therapy, laboratory, dental, pharmaceutical, social services, and health education. The *KIC Tribal Health Center* provides 24-hour physician coverage to Alaska Natives in the *Ketchikan General Hospital* emergency room, and contracts with them for specialty clinics. Private medical specialists are available intermittently including allergy, audiology, dermatology, neurology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, plastic reconstructive & hand surgery, podiatry, and urology.

Graph 8.6

SEARHC Hoonah Medical Center Outpatient Workload: FY 1997 - FY 2005

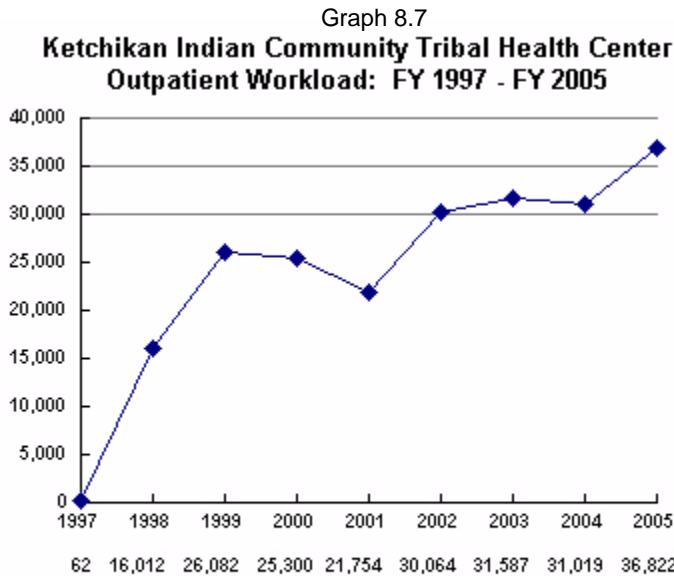


Includes Community Health Aide (CHA) encounters. No data for FY 2002-2003.
Source: Workload counts from the Hoonah local database and Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque APC Report 1A.



KIC nurses provide chemotherapy, patient education, immunizations, maternal and child health, infection control, employee health, triage, and patient escort upon referral to *Alaska Native Medical Center*.

The *KIC Tribal Health Center* is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC).



Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) assumed management of health services on 10/1/1997 for the residents of Ketchikan. On 10/1/1998 Sitka residents began receiving services at KIC Health Clinic. Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1A.

Table 8.7
**Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Health Center
Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 2001 - FY 2005**

All Age Groups	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Physical Examinations	253	338	327	247	1,920
Hospital Medical/Surgical Follow-up	1,240	1,431	1,152	695	598
Assessment of Symptoms	771	1,392	1,289	901	414
Upper Respiratory Problems	1,071	1,960	1,373	1,273	398
Diabetes Mellitus	1,103	1,538	1,107	788	305
Bone & Joint Disorders	1,009	1,453	1,226	1,092	294
Hypertension	1,163	1,614	879	608	247
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	1,434	1,903	1,330	870	246
Alcohol Abuse	606	746	478	417	198
Accidents & Injuries	820	1,067	771	685	197
Tests Only	553	705	697	500	177

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



Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

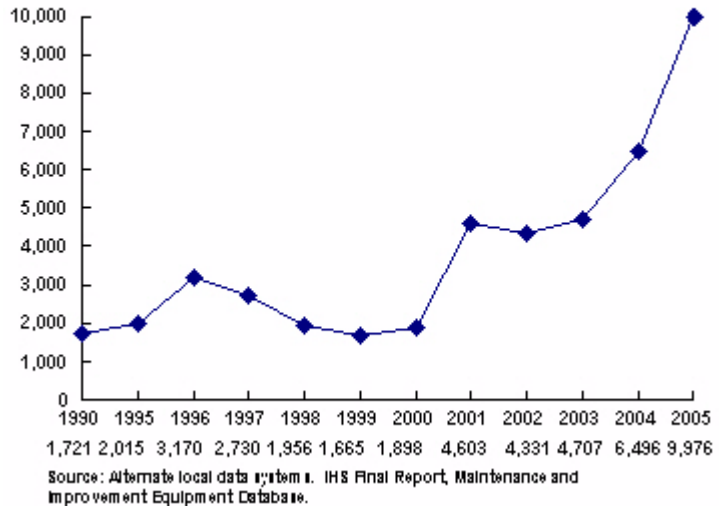
Yakutat Community Health Center, P.O. Box 112, Yakutat, AK 99689

Under a P.L. 93-638 Title V contract with the Indian Health Service, two mid-level providers and two community health aides provide services to the southeast Alaska community of Yakutat. The *Yakutat Community Health Center* is a HRSA Section 330 Community Health Center. The community health aide in Yakutat provides home health visits to elderly patients and also sees patients at the clinic. Health education is provided in the schools by health center staff. The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe also operates the EMS program and some mental health services.

Periodically, services are offered

by private specialists traveling to the community. SEARHC provides a primary care physician, acute dental services and other specialists on scheduled visits to the community.

Graph 8.8
Yakutat Health Center
Outpatient Workload: FY 1990 - FY 2005



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

There are non-tribal hospitals in Sitka, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Ketchikan. Non-tribal health-care providers serve Alaska Natives through contract health care and third party insurance payments when needed.

SEARHC clinicians provide services in Juneau's *Bartlett Regional Hospital*, Juneau *Pioneers' Home* the *St. Ann's Care Center* in Juneau, the *Haines Senior Center*, and the *Sitka Pioneers' Home*. KIC physicians treat Alaska Natives in the *Ketchikan General Hospital*.

State of Alaska itinerant public health nurses serve the Southeast Alaska villages.

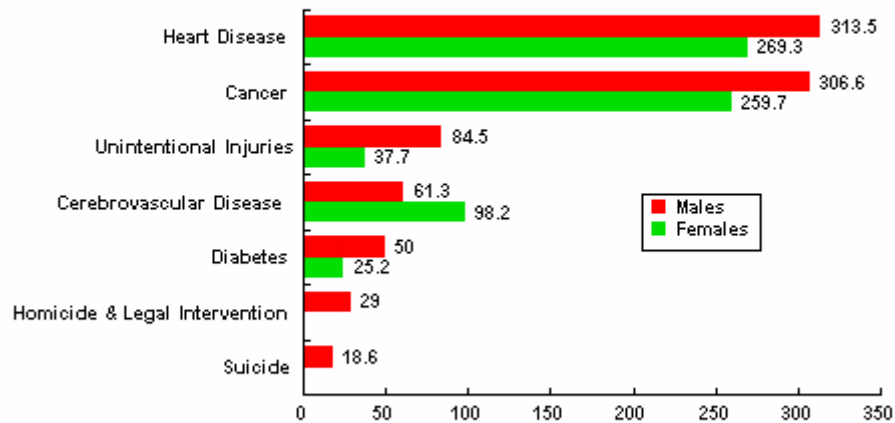


HEALTH STATUS OF ALASKA NATIVES LIVING IN THE MT. EDGECUMBE SERVICE AREA

Leading Causes of Mortality

Graph 8.9

**Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area
Age-Adjusted Alaska Native Mortality Rates
per 100,000 Population
1999 - 2003**

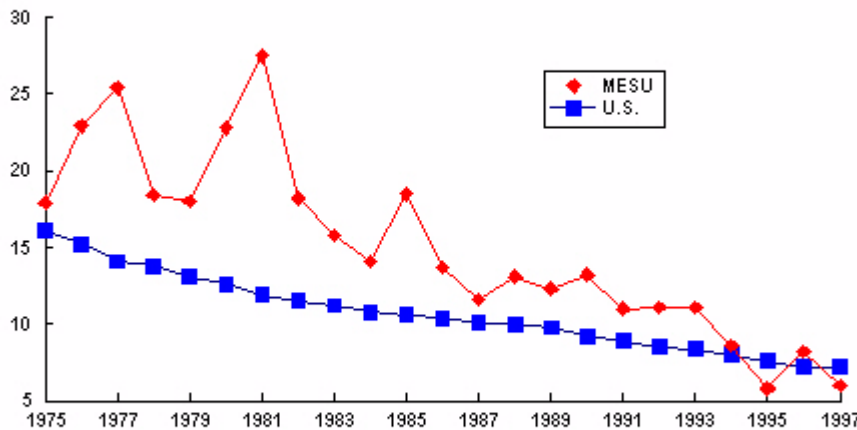


Rates not calculated for fewer than five deaths.
Source: Alaska Native Epidemiology Center, Office of Alaska Native Health Research, Division of Community Health Services, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, *Alaska Native Mortality Update: 1999 - 2003*

Infant Mortality Rates

Graph 8.10

**Infant Mortality Rates
Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area vs. U.S.
1975 - 1997**



MESU = Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area. Birth rate are rate per 1,000 total population. Infant death rate are death per 1,000 live births.
Source: Alaska Native birth rate from the report Alaska Native Birth and Infant Death 1980-1997, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation and Health Statistics. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and are single year rate.

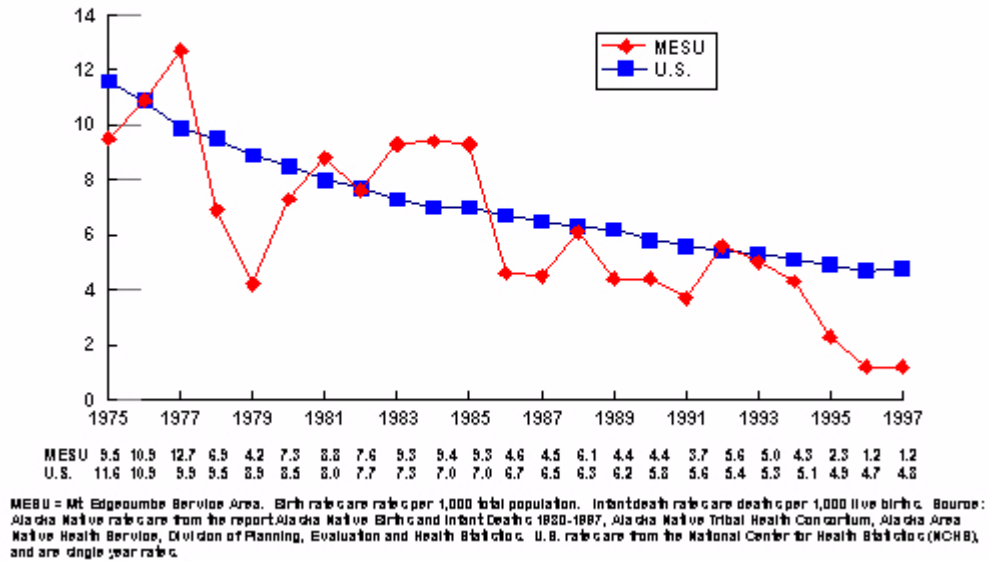
Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area



Neonatal Mortality is the number of infant deaths, from birth to 28 years of age, per 1,000 live births.

Graph 8.11

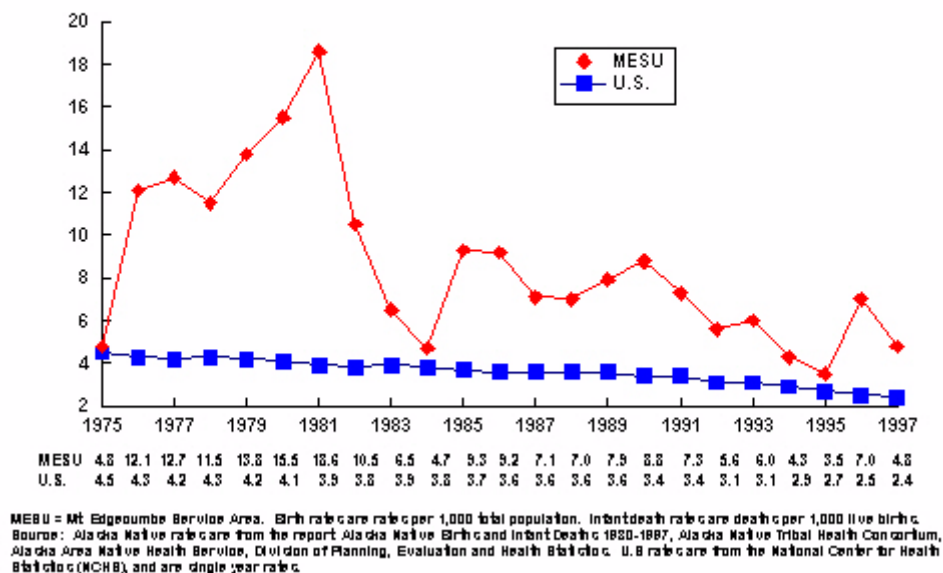
Neonatal Mortality Rates Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area vs. U.S. 1975 - 1997



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

Graph 8.12

Postneonatal Mortality Rates Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area vs. U.S. 1975 - 1997

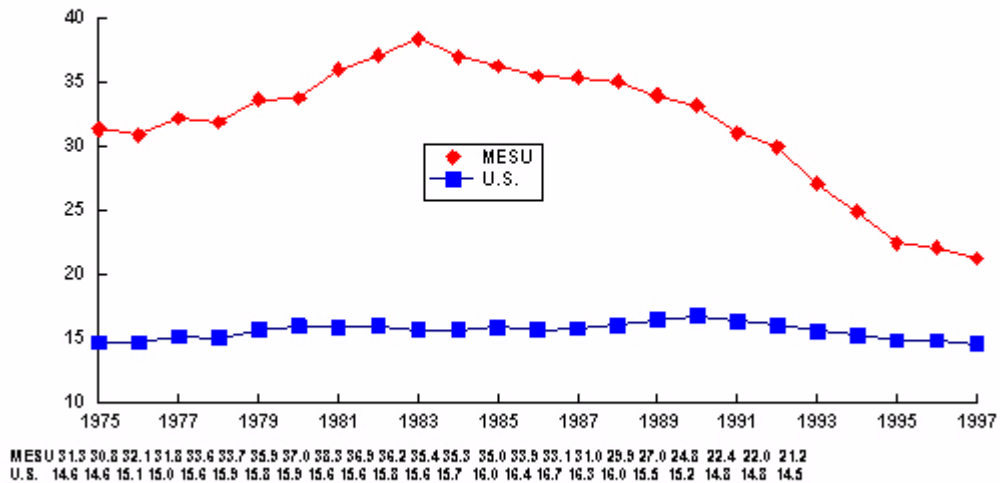




Birth Rates.
are the
number of
births per
1,000 total
population.

Graph 8.13

Birth Rates Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area vs. U.S. 1975 - 1997



MESU 31.5 30.8 32.1 31.8 33.6 33.7 34.9 37.0 38.3 36.9 36.2 36.4 35.3 35.0 33.9 33.1 31.0 29.9 27.0 24.8 22.4 22.0 21.2
 U.S. 14.6 14.6 15.1 15.0 15.6 15.9 15.8 15.9 15.9 15.8 15.6 15.7 16.0 16.4 16.7 16.3 16.0 15.5 15.2 14.8 14.8 14.5

MESU = Mt. Edgecumbe Service Area. Birth rates are rate per 1,000 total population. Source: Alaska Native birth rate from the report Alaska Native Birth and Infant Death 1980-1987, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation and Health Statistics. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and are single year rates.

DISCHARGE DIAGNOSES

Table 8.8

Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital Leading Causes of Discharges: FY 2001 - FY 2004

	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Accidents & Injuries	115	107	113	101
Alcohol Abuse	134	82	78	93
Deliveries (Childbirth)	78	50	64	80
Heart Disease	70	60	78	67
Pneumonia	33	23	35	67
Disease of Gall Bladder	38	42	42	58
Abdominal Pain	28	15	32	58
Psychoses	63	52	61	48
Infected Skin & Abrasions	16	22	30	44
Complications of Pregnancy	48	21	18	39
Tonsil & Peritonsil Disease	25	21	29	36

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