

# Akhiok

## People and Place

### Location

The community of Akhiok is situated on Alitak Bay on the southern end of Kodiak Island. It is in the Kodiak Recording District and part of the Kodiak Island Borough. The area of Akhiok includes 7.9 square miles of land and 2.5 square miles of water.

### Demographic Profile

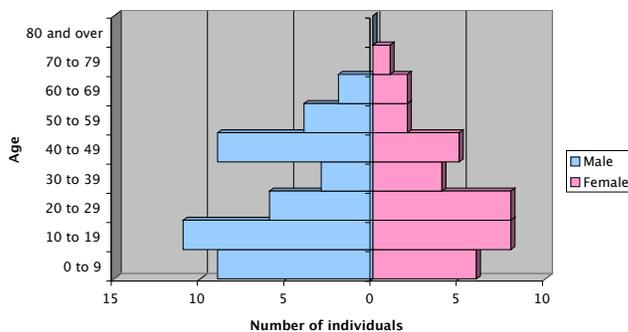
Akhiok had a total of 80 inhabitants according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Of those, 55% were male and 45% were female. The population, when one was recorded, has remained relatively stable from 1880 to 2000. No population was recorded for 1890, 1900, 1930, and 1940. Since 1970 the population has decreased from the 115 persons recorded in 1970 to the 80 recorded in 2000. According to the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development the certified population of Akhiok in 2002 was 48. In 2000, about 2.5% of the population identified as White, 86.3% American Indian and Alaska Native, 3.8% Filipino, and 7.5% two or more races. Approximately 93.8% of the population consisted of all or part Alaska Natives. About 1.3% of residents were Hispanic. The median age for the community was 24 years of age, which is significantly low compared to the national median of 35.3 years. In 2000 there were a total of 34 housing units in Akhiok; nine were vacant, two were vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. Of the population age 25 years and over, about 73.7% had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling. About 7.9% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher by 2000.

### History

The history of Akhiok is intimately tied to the history of the city of Kodiak described in detail in the Kodiak profile. The village was originally located at Humpy Cove and was known as Kashukugniut, which was occupied in the early 19th century by Russians and was initially a sea otter hunting settlement. In 1880 the community was reported with the name Akhiok by the U.S. Census. The community was relocated in 1881 to its current site at Alitak Bay. Around 1900 a Russian Orthodox Church, Protection of the Theotokos Chapel, was built. In 1933 a post office was established in Akhiok. After the 1964 Good Friday

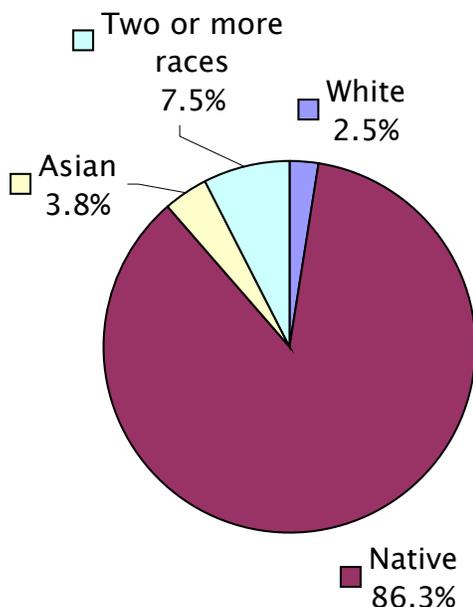
**2000 Population Structure  
Akhiok**

Data source: US Census



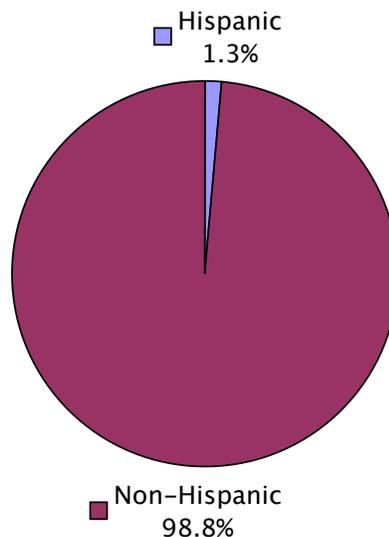
**2000 Racial Structure  
Akhiok**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity  
Akhiok**

Data source: US Census



Earthquake and subsequent tsunami, residents of the nearby community of Kaguyak relocated to Akhiok. In 1972 the city became incorporated.

## Infrastructure

### Current Economy

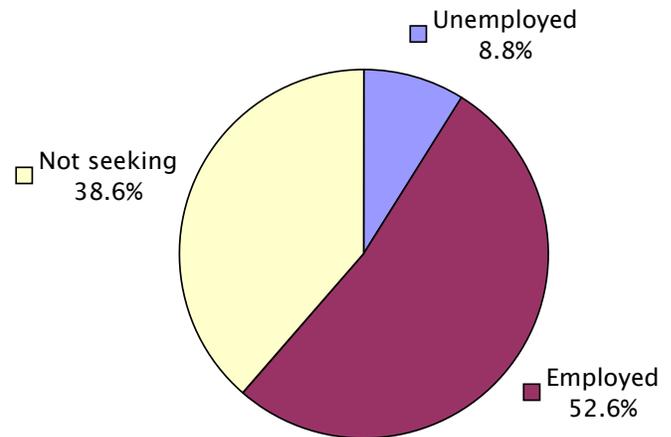
The economy of Akhiok depends on public sector employment, seasonal work, commercial fishing, and subsistence harvesting. The cash flow is provided by both public sector employment (60% of residents of Akhiok who were employed in 2000 were classified as government workers) and by seasonal work. A total of six commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Akhiok and Alitak, and 12 residents of Akhiok were licensed crew members. Nearly all the residents of the community are dependent on subsistence hunting and fishing. Each Akhiok shareholder has received \$200,000 since January 2003 from the sale of a \$36 million dollar trust fund provided by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill settlement. The community is currently interested in the development of a fish smokery and a cold storage facility. Of those in the community age 16 and over, 52.6% were employed, 8.8% were not employed, and 38.6% were not in the labor force (i.e. not seeking employment) in 2000. The median per capita income was \$8,472 and the median household income was \$33,438. About 9.9% of the population lived below the poverty level.

### Governance

Akhiok is a second-class city incorporated in 1974. It has a manager form of government including a mayor, seven-person city council, four-person advisory school board, and two municipal employees (a health aide and a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)). Akhiok is included in the Kodiak Island Borough. The city implements no taxes; however, the Borough implements a 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax, 5% accommodations tax, and a 0.925% severance tax. The Native regional corporation in which Akhiok is included is Koniag Inc., and the non-profit is Kodiak Area Native Association. The Native village corporation is named Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. is the merged corporations of the communities of Akhiok and Kaguyak. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Recognized Traditional Council for the village is the Native Village of Akhiok. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish

**2000 Employment Structure  
Akhiok**

Data source: US Census



& Game (ADF&G), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are all located within the City of Kodiak.

### Facilities

Akhiok is accessible by both air and water. The 3,320 foot gravel runway is owned by the state. There is a seaplane base, owned by Columbia Ward Fisheries, located at Moser Bay. Regular flights are available for around \$263 from Anchorage to Kodiak, according to Expedia and Travelocity websites (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Then there is the additional cost to fly into Akhiok from Kodiak by charter plane. Regular and charter flights are available from the City of Kodiak. The current dock structure in the community is temporary. A breakwater and boat launch is available, while barge services are sporadic. Accommodations in Akhiok are available at the Community Building. Police services are provided by a State VPSO. Health care is available from the Akhiok Health Clinic, which is owned by the city and operated by both the City and KANA. Alternate health care is available by the Akhiok Village Response Team. There is one K-12 school that had a total of 16 students and two teachers in 2000. The electric utility is the City of Akhiok operated with diesel power. The City is also the water system operator, the sewer system operator, refuse collector, and landfill operator. All the homes in the community are serviced by piped water and sewer systems; however, residents are boiling their drinking water as a new water source is needed. The water presently comes from a dam and reservoir on a stream.

## Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

### Commercial Fishing\*

There were a total of 6 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Akhiok and Alitak in 2000, and 12 residents of Akhiok were licensed crew members. There were no vessel owners residing in Akhiok in 2000. One commercial fishing permit was issued to a resident for other groundfish, specifically for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a mechanical jig statewide (not fished). Five permits were issued for the commercial fishing of salmon, specifically using set gillnets around Kodiak (six fished). There were no landings in Akhiok because no processor was present in the community; however, a processor was present at nearby Alitak Bay.

The City of Akhiok was recently allotted \$531 in federal salmon disaster funds and the Kodiak Island Borough was allotted \$362,963, which will most likely be applied to projects within the borough. The salmon disaster funds have been awarded because of the recent drop in salmon prices because of competition with foreign farmed salmon. The Kodiak Island Borough was also recently granted \$69,687 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

### Sport Fishing

There is no evidence of sport fishing in Akhiok, although Kodiak is famous for its sport fishing, so it is possible that visitors do travel to the Akhiok area. There were no sport fishing businesses reported by the ADF&G in 2002, and no sport fishing licenses were sold in 2000.

### Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence 100% of all households in Akhiok used some type of subsistence resource. Salmon was by 100% of households, 87.5% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, skates, sole, wolf fish, char, grayling, and trout), 70.8% used marine mammals, and 100% of all households used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 321.69 lbs in the community in 1992. The breakdown of that harvest was 62.02% salmon, 7.57% non-salmon fish, 6.03% marine mammals, 13.10% marine invertebrates, 1.08% birds and eggs, 8.74% land mammals, and 1.46% vegetation. According to the ADF&G, five household permits were issued for subsistence salmon to residents of Akhiok in 1999 for an estimated harvest of 300 total salmon, the majority of which was sockeye salmon. Residents of Akhiok do have the right to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

\* Commercial fishing permit data from the CFEC is given for the communities of Akhiok and Alitak