

Igiugig

People and Place

Location

Igiugig is located approximately 370 miles southwest of Anchorage, on the Kvichak River near the south shore of Lake Iliamna. The area encompasses 19.8 square miles of land and 1.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Igiugig is a mixed village of Alutiiq and Eskimo residents. The U.S. Census has only spotty data on Igiugig's population prior to 1960; since that time, the community has grown steadily. In 2000, Igiugig had a population of 53 in 16 households. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian and Alaska Native (71.7%), White (17%), and two or more races (11.3%). A total of 83% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 1.9% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender makeup of the community was somewhat skewed, at 56.6% female and 43.4% male. The median age was 36.3 years, similar to the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In 2000, all of Igiugig's population lived in households rather than group quarters, and 20% of all local housing units were vacant due to seasonal use. In terms of educational attainment, 72.2% of residents aged 25 or older held a high school diploma.

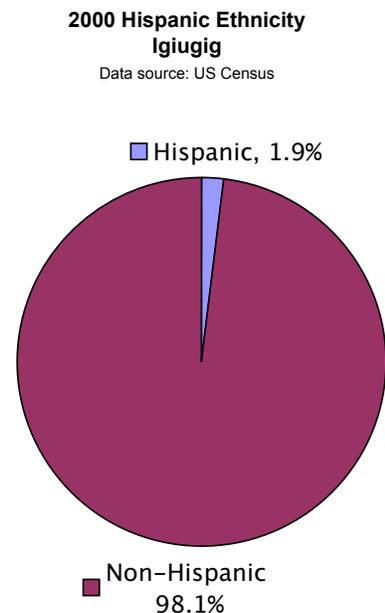
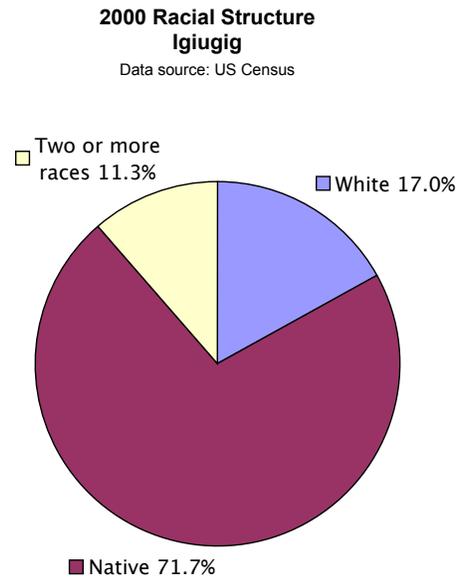
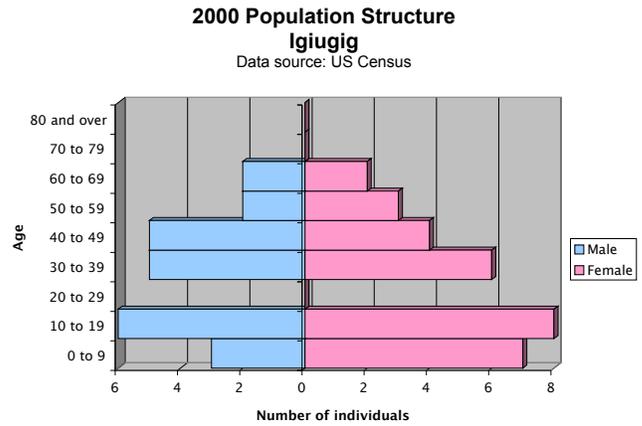
History

The Lake Iliamna area has been occupied by humans since prehistory. Its population, even today, is comprised primarily of Yupik Eskimos and Aleuts. Prior to the turn of the 20th century, Kiatagmuit Eskimos lived on the Kvichak River, downriver to the present site of Igiugig. At the turn of the century, these people moved to Igiugig, as did many residents from the nearby village of Branch. Today, Igiugig is a community comprised primarily of Alutiiq and Eskimo residents whose livelihood depends heavily upon subsistence hunting and fishing.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Igiugig centers on commercial, subsistence, and sport fishing, primarily in the Bristol



Bay fishery. Some residents hold commercial fishing permits. Many residents travel to Naknek during the summer to fish or work in the canneries.

The median annual per capita income in 2000 was \$13,172, and the median household income was \$21,750. The U.S. Census reported no unemployment in 2000. Approximately 55% of residents were not in the labor force (not formally employed and not seeking work). A more appropriate interpretation is that employment is highly seasonal in Igiugig; particularly during the summer season, many residents seek work outside the community. Approximately 6.9% of residents live below the poverty level.

Governance

Igiugig is an unincorporated village governed by a village council. It is under the jurisdiction of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The Igiugig Native Corporation is a federally recognized entity and holds a land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). In addition, Igiugig is a member of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, a for-profit organization, and the Bristol Bay Native Association, a non-profit organization.

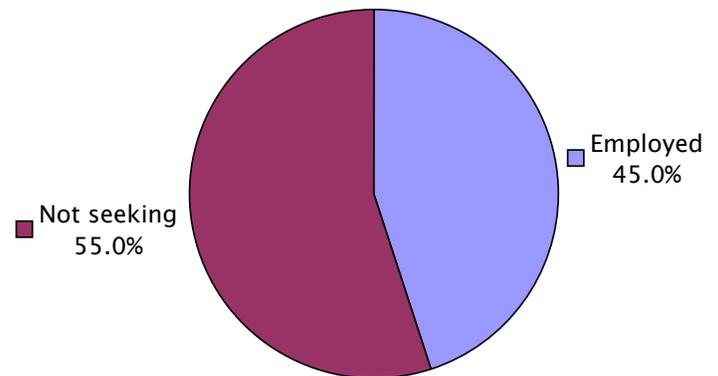
The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is in Anchorage. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in King Salmon. The nearest NMFS enforcement office is in Homer.

Facilities

Igiugig is accessible primarily by air and water. There is a state-owned gravel runway located in the village. Roundtrip airfare from Igiugig to Anchorage is approximately \$507, including a charter connecting flight to King Salmon. There is also a small public dock, where barges deliver goods from Naknek or Dillingham via the Kvichak River.

The village operates a piped water and sewer system, but not all homes are connected. The Igiugig Electric Company, operated by the village council, provides diesel-generated power to the community. There is a local health clinic, owned by the village council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. There is one school located in the village that offers instruction to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The school has two teachers and 14 students.

**2000 Employment Structure
Igiugig**
Data source: US Census



Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Despite its small size, Igiugig has a presence in North Pacific fisheries, primarily in the Bristol Bay salmon and herring fisheries. In 2000, there were 8 registered crewmembers and 13 vessel owners for federal fisheries residing in the community. In addition, five local residents held a total of seven commercial fishing permits, including the following: one herring roe purse seine permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), two herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (one fished), and four salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (three fished).

In 2000, there were no processing plants and therefore no registered landings in Igiugig. In 2002, the Lake and Peninsula Borough, in which Igiugig is located, was granted \$29,832 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to the protection of Steller sea lion habitat under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$442,002 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Igiugig.

Sport Fishing

The sockeye salmon fishing in the Kvichak River and surrounding areas is well known. Other sport species include trout and northern pike. There are seven commercial lodges that serve sport fishermen in Igiugig. In 2002, there was one registered freshwater fishing guide service in the community.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence resources are a mainstay of the Igiugig economy. The ADF&G's, Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1992, 100% of Igiugig households used subsistence fish, including salmon and non-salmon fish species. The salmon harvest consisted of chum, coho, chinook, and, primarily, sockeye. Non-salmon fish harvests included halibut, blackfish, char, grayling, pike, and trout. In addition, 70% of households used marine mammals (including seals and whales) for subsistence, and 20% of households used marine invertebrates (primarily crab).

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Igiugig in 1992 was an astounding 2,826.3 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (24.6%), non-salmon fish (13.9%), land mammals (44.7%), marine mammals (10%), birds and eggs (2.4%), and vegetation (2.4%).