

Nikolaevsk

People and Place

Location

Nikolaevsk is located on the Kenai Peninsula, inland from Anchor Point and approximately 15 miles from Homer. The area encompasses 36.3 square miles of land.

Demographic Profile

In 2000, Nikolaevsk was a community of 345 residents in 96 households. Most community members are of Russian ancestry. The racial composition of the community was as follows: White (81.7%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.7%), Asian (0.3%), Hawaiian Native (1.2%), two or more races (13%), and other (2.0%). A total of 4.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 0.3% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender makeup of the community was relatively equal, at 51% male and 49% female. The age median in the community was a young 20.9 years, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. Approximately 63.9% of residents aged 25 years or older had a high school diploma or higher level of educational attainment.

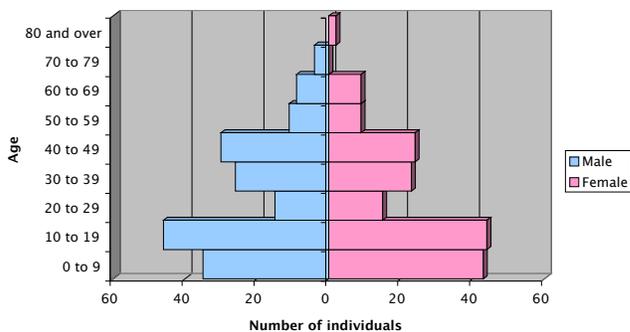
The most striking feature of Nikolaevsk is its Russian influence. About 67.5% of the local population report having Russian ancestry; a similarly high percentage report speaking Russian at home. Nikolaevsk is a relatively stable community with little in- or out-migration.

History

Nikolaevsk got its name from St. Nicholas, the patron saint of the local Russian Orthodox Church. The town's first settlers came from Woodburn, Oregon, where they lived after being expelled from Russia following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. After receiving a grant from the Tolstoy Foundation in New York, the settlers bought land on the Kenai Peninsula in 1967 and settled in Nikolaevsk. Today the town maintains a traditional Russian Orthodox atmosphere. There are three distinct settlements within the town boundaries: Russian Orthodox, Russian Old Believers, and some non-Russians.

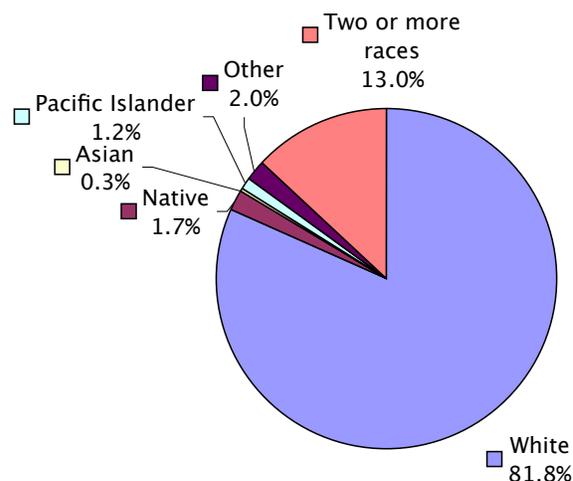
**2000 Population Structure
Nikolaevsk**

Data source: US Census



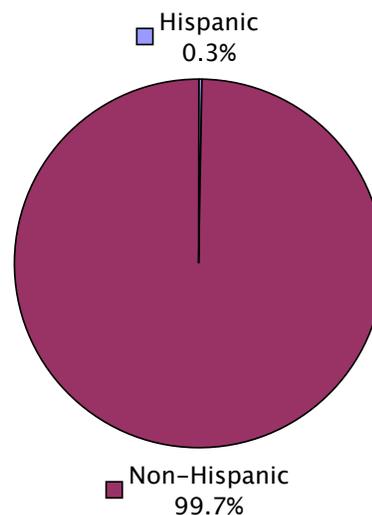
**2000 Racial Structure
Nikolaevsk**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Nikolaevsk**

Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Nikolaevsk is relatively diverse. Commercial and subsistence fishing are both important sources of income in the community. In addition, because of its location on the Kenai Peninsula, near the larger towns of Anchor Point and Homer, many Nikolaevsk residents work outside the community.

The median per capita income in Nikolaevsk for 2000 was \$10,390, and the median household income was \$37,500. Approximately 12.5% of the local labor force was unemployed, and 46.8% of residents aged 16 and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work). Approximately 19.2% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Nikolaevsk is an unincorporated city under the jurisdiction of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. It is governed by a community council. In addition, there is a community non-profit organization, the Nikolaevsk Community Council, Inc. The borough administers a 2% sales tax and a 0.65% (6.5 mills) property tax. There is an office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) located nearby in Homer. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office are both located in Anchorage.

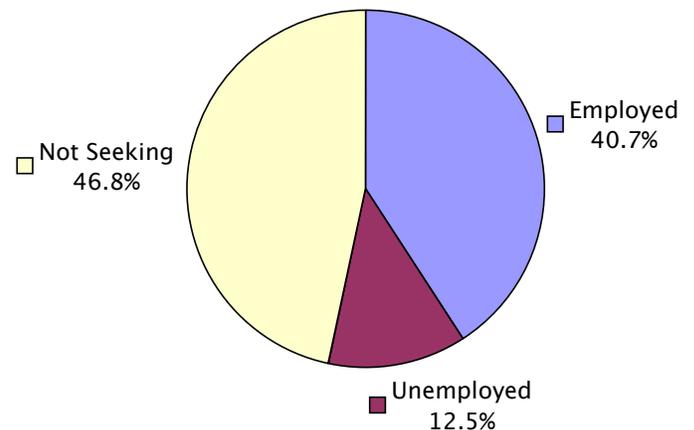
Facilities

Nikolaevsk is accessible via the Sterling Highway, which runs from Anchorage to Homer. There is an airport in Homer, approximately 15 miles away. Roundtrip airfare from Homer to Anchorage is about \$175. There is a piped water system in the community, and all homes have indoor plumbing. Most homes have individual septic tanks. Electricity is delivered to Nikolaevsk by the Homer Electric Association; power is produced by a hydroelectric station and by natural gas. Fire and emergency medical services are provided by the city of Anchor Point. The nearest health clinic is the South Peninsula Hospital in Homer.

There is one school in the community, offering instruction to students from K-12. There are 7 teachers and 100 students.

2000 Employment Structure Nikolaevsk

Data source: US Census



Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon and halibut fisheries, is an important part of Nikolaevsk's economy. In 2000, there were 5 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 10 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries who resided in the community. There were 44 registered crew members. Seventeen local residents held a total of 31 commercial fishing permits. This section contains a detailed description of commercial permits issued to Nikolaevsk residents in 2000.

Halibut: Ten local residents held a total of 10 permits in the halibut fishery, including: 7 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (6 fished), and 3 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (2 fished).

Sablefish: Five local residents held a total of five permits in the sablefish fishery, including: 4 sablefish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (3 fished), and one sablefish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished).

Other Groundfish: Five local residents held a total of six permits in the groundfish fishery, including: four miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll permits for statewide waters (four were actually fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished), and one

miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished).

Salmon: Ten local residents held a total of 10 permits in the salmon fishery. These permits included the following: two salmon drift gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (two fished), five salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (four fished), one salmon drift gillnet permit for the Alaska Peninsula (three fished), and two salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (two fished).

In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received \$810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received \$623,295 in salmon disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. It is anticipated that a portion of these sums will be used for programs that affect Nikolaevsk.

Sport Fishing

The ADF&G does not have detailed information about sport fishing activities in Nikolaevsk.

Subsistence Fishing

Although located on the populous Kenai Peninsula, Nikolaevsk is designated as rural for subsistence standards. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1998, 100% of households in Nikolaevsk used subsistence resources. Approximately 97.3% of households used subsistence salmon (including all five Pacific species), and 94.6% used non-salmon subsistence fish (especially cod, halibut, greenling, and rockfish). Approximately 29.7% of households used marine invertebrates (especially crabs) for subsistence. Marine mammals were not used.

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Nikolaevsk in 1998 was 133 pounds, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (50.3%), non-salmon fish (25.1%), land mammals (16.9%), marine invertebrates (2.9%), and vegetation (4.9%).