

Perryville

People and Place

Location

Perryville is an unincorporated city in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. It is situated in on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of Chignik and some 275 miles southwest of Kodiak. Its area consists of 9.2 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

The population of Perryville in 2000 was 107 people in 33 households. This figure has held relatively stable since the village was founded in 1912. Approximately 54.2% of residents are male and 45.8% are female. The median age in Perryville is relatively young, at 26.5 years, and below the national average of 35.3 years of age. The current racial makeup of the community is as follows: White (1.9%), Alaska Native or American Indian (97.2%), and two or more races (0.9%). A total of 98.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. All residents live in households (none in group quarters).

History

Although Aleut people have sporadically lived in the area for centuries, the official founding of the village of Perryville came in 1912 when the Katmai eruption forced villagers from Katmai and Douglas to relocate. The village is named after Captain K.W. Perry, commander of a U.S. Revenue Cutter Service vessel whose crew helped rescue and resettle people who had been affected by the eruption. Since that time, Perryville has remained a small community of mostly Aleut residents who depend heavily upon the Chignik salmon fishery.

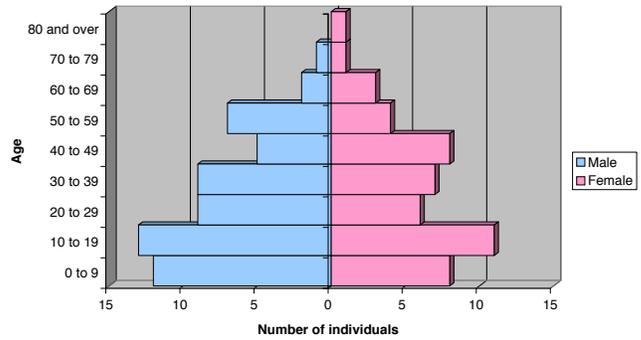
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial fishing is the most significant part of the Perryville economy. Because of its close proximity to Chignik, many residents participate in the salmon fishery during the peak months. Subsistence harvesting of both marine and land resources is also an important part of the economy.

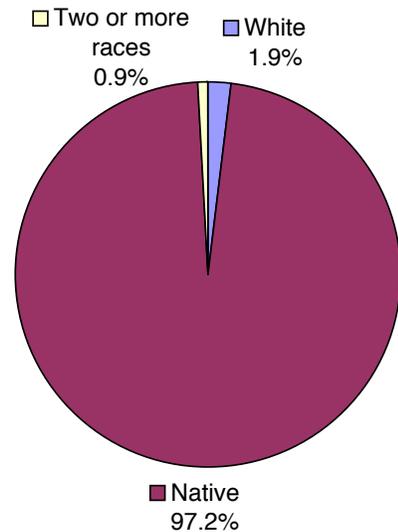
2000 Population Structure Perryville

Data source: US Census



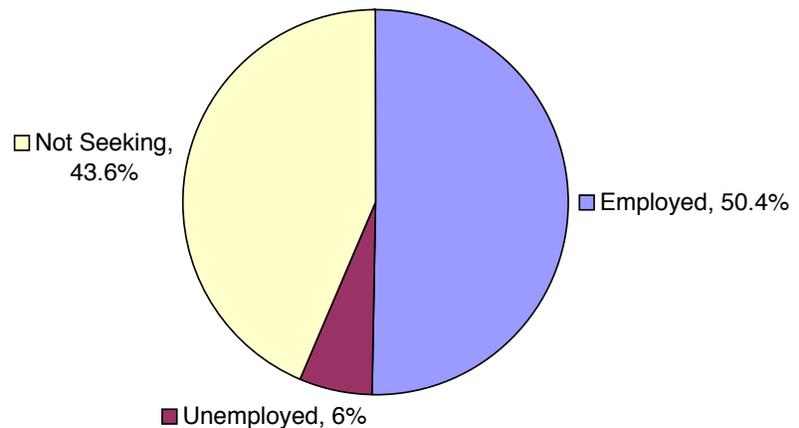
2000 Racial Structure Perryville

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Perryville

Data source: US Census



Approximately 25.2% of community residents are employed by the government, including city, borough, state, and federal sectors. Unemployment in Perryville is 6.0%, and 43.6% of residents are not in the potential labor force (unemployed or not seeking work). The average annual per capita income is \$20,935 and the average household income is \$51,875. Approximately 16.0% of community residents live below the poverty level.

Governance

Perryville is an unincorporated city. Services and facilities are operated by the Lake and Peninsula Borough. Government revenues come from a 2% raw fish tax and a 6% accommodation tax, both of which are administered through the Borough. The Oceanside Native Corporation and the Native Village of Perryville are both tribal forms of government recognized under the Indian Reorganization Act. Perryville is also a member of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and the Bristol Bay Native Association, a regional non-profit organization.

Facilities

Utilities such as water and electricity are provided by the Native Village of Perryville. Electricity is produced by a diesel-fueled generator. Sewage is disposed of in septic tanks which are operated by private individuals. Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage, via Sand Point, is approximately \$571, plus the cost of a charter flight to Sand Point (Travelocity 2003).

There is a health clinic that is owned by the village council. The Perryville School, which is operated by the Lake and Peninsula Borough, has three teachers and 34 students from grades K-12.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is a vital part of the economy in Perryville. In 2000 there were 11 community members who held a total of 16 commercial fishing permits. Three vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries, and nine vessel owners with operations in

non-federal fisheries resided in the community. There were 29 registered crew members in the community.

Permits in 2000 were issued for the following fisheries: one longline halibut permit for vessels over 60 feet in length (one fished), two herring roe pot gear permits for vessels under 60 feet (none fished), one groundfish pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet (one fished), three groundfish mechanical jig permits (one fished), and nine salmon purse seine permits for the Chignik fishery (eight fished).

In 2000, there were no processors in Perryville and therefore no registered landings. In 2002, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$29,832 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to the protection of Steller sea lions 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 Perryville.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing in Perryville is relatively limited, with only three license sales in 2000, all to Alaska residents.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence use of natural resources, especially salmon, is very important to the local economy of Perryville. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1989, 100% of Perryville households used natural resources for subsistence. One hundred percent of households used salmon (including all five Pacific species) and 96.3% used non-salmon fish (herring, smelt, cod, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sculpin, char, and trout). Approximately 63.0% of households used marine mammals for subsistence, and 96.3% used marine invertebrates.

The per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Perryville in 1989 was 394.3 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (51.3%), non-salmon fish (17.6%), land mammals (15.2%), marine mammals (6.5%), birds and bird eggs (2.1%), marine invertebrates (5.2%), and vegetation (2.6%).