

Municipality of Anchorage

Population and Housing Narrative Profile: 2006

2006 American Community Survey

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES: In 2006 there were 102,000 households in Anchorage Municipality. The average household size was 2.7 people. Families made up 68 percent of the households in Anchorage Municipality. This figure includes both married-couple families (51 percent) and other families (17 percent). Non-family households made up 32 percent of all households in Anchorage Municipality. Most of the non-family households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder.

NATIVITY AND LANGUAGE: Nine percent of the people living in Anchorage Municipality in 2006 were foreign born. Among people at least 5 years old in 2006, 16 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 34 percent spoke Spanish and 66 percent spoke some other language; 43 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well."

GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY: In 2006, 77 percent of the people at least 1 year old in Anchorage were living in the same residence one year earlier; 14 percent had moved during the past year from another residence in the same municipality, 2 percent from another region in Alaska, 5 percent from another state, and 1 percent from abroad.

EDUCATION: In 2006, 91 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 33 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Nine percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. The total school enrollment in Anchorage was 78,000 in 2006. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 8,800 and elementary or high school enrollment was 50,000 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 19,000.

DISABILITY: In Anchorage, among people at least five years old in 2006, 13 percent reported a disability. The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 6 percent of people 5 to 15 years old, to 12 percent of people 16 to 64 years old, and to 44 percent of those 65 and older.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: management, professional, and related occupations, 39 percent; Sales and office occupations, 25 percent; service occupations, 18 percent; production, transportation, and material-moving occupations, 9 percent; and construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations, 9 percent. Seventy percent of the people employed were private wage and salary workers; 23 percent was federal, state, or local government workers; and 6 percent was self-employed.

TRAVEL TO WORK: Seventy-six percent of Anchorage Municipality workers drove to work alone in 2006, 13 percent carpooled, 1 percent took public transportation, and 6 percent used other means. The remaining 4 percent worked at home. Among those who commuted to work, it took them on average 17.6 minutes to get to work.

INCOME: The median income of households in Anchorage Municipality was \$63,656. Eighty-nine percent of the households received earnings and 15 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Fourteen percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$13,823.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2006, 10 percent of people were in poverty. Fourteen percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 3 percent of people 65 years old and over. Eight percent of all families and 25 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

POPULATION: In 2006, Anchorage had a total population of 279,000 - 137,000 (49 percent) females and 142,000 (51 percent) males. The median age was 33.5 years. Twenty-seven percent of the population was under 18 years and 6 percent was 65 years and older. For people reporting one race alone, 78 percent was White; 6 percent was Black or African American; 6 percent was American Indian and Alaska Native; 7 percent was Asian; 1 percent was Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 2 percent was some other race. Ten percent reported two or more races. Seven percent of the people in Anchorage were Hispanic. Sixty-seven percent of the people in Anchorage were White non-Hispanic. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS: In 2006, Anchorage had a total of 110,000 housing units, 7 percent of which were vacant. Of the total housing units, 60 percent was in single-unit structures, 36 percent was in multi-unit structures, and 4 percent was mobile homes. Twenty-two percent of the housing units were built since 1990.

OCCUPIED HOUSING UNIT CHARACTERISTICS: In 2006, Anchorage had 102,000 occupied housing units - 63,000 (61 percent) owner-occupied and 40,000 (39 percent) renter-occupied. Four percent of the households did not have telephone service and 7 percent of the households did not have access to a car, truck, or van for private use. Forty-one percent had two vehicles and another 19 percent had three or more.

HOUSING COSTS: The median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was \$1,782, non-mortgaged owners \$577, and renters \$922. Thirty-six percent of owners with mortgages, 11 percent of owners without mortgages, and 46 percent of renters in Anchorage Municipality spent 30 percent or more of household income on housing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey

NOTE. Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the [official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns](#) and estimates of housing units for states and counties.