

Migration in the Arctic: Subsistence, Jobs, and Well-being in Urban and Rural Communities

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Within the Arctic

What are important general migration patterns?

Movement within local arctic regions is significant: Migration to and from arctic places in the same census region accounts for more than 20% of total Inupiat within state migration.

Arctic regional centers generally gain: On balance, migration within the Arctic increases the population in regional centers and reduces the population in villages.

Arctic migration patterns differ between regions: Inupiat from the Northwest Arctic Borough move between villages and regional centers at the greatest rates.

Who moves within the Arctic?

Women move to regional centers: Compared to men, women move at slightly greater rates between villages and regional centers. More men move between villages compared to women but men and women move between villages at similar rates.

Young people move: For both men and women the young working age population (ages 25-44) move at the greatest rates.

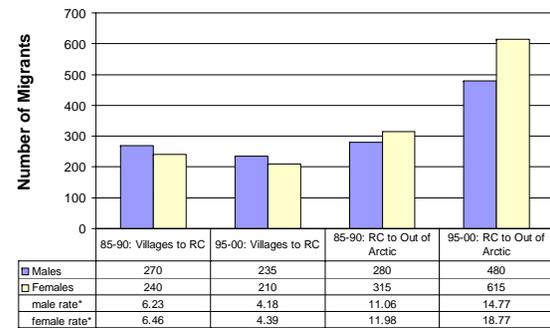
Migration differs by educational attainment: For both men and women, out-migration rates from the villages to regional centers were greatest for those with a four-year degree or greater; however, these rates have declined significantly between 1985-90 and 1995-00.

Why do people move within the Arctic?

People reported that they moved from arctic communities primarily for jobs, but also for education (either their own or children's), or to be with family.

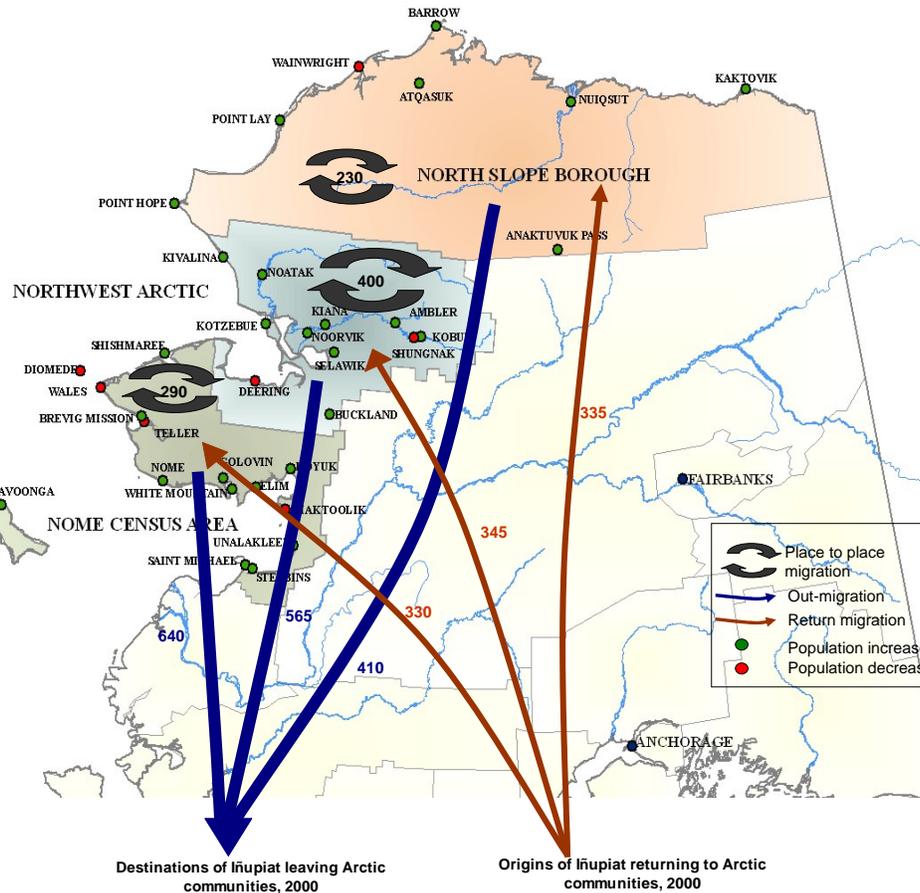
Both men and women reported that family, jobs, and subsistence were reasons for returning.

Out-Migration from Arctic Villages and Arctic Regional Centers, by Gender, 1985-1990 and 1995-2000



Participating Organizations:
 Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage
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Inupiat migration 1995-2000



Sources: Buckland Census 2002, NSB Census 1978, 1993, Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic 2002, and US Census micro-data 1990 and 2000. The census data that forms the basis of this poster was collected while the authors were Special Sworn Status researchers of the US Census Bureau at the Center for Economic Studies. Research results and conclusions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Census Bureau. The data used in this poster has been carefully screened by the US Census to insure that no confidential data are revealed.

To and from the Arctic

What are important general migration patterns to and from the Arctic?

Arctic out-migration occurs from regional centers: Most Inupiat who leave the Arctic leave from Barrow or Kotzebue and these rates have increased between the two periods examined. In the Nome region, Inupiat are more likely to bypass the regional center when moving out of the Arctic. **Inupiat leave the Arctic for Anchorage:** Between 1995-2000, 50% of Inupiat leaving the Arctic moved to Anchorage, increasing over 1990. A large number also settle in surrounding suburban regions.

Most out-of-state migration occurs from Anchorage: The majority of Inupiat leaving Alaska, leave from the Anchorage metropolitan area rather than from the Arctic.

Return migration to the Arctic is significant: There are large movements of Inupiat from non-arctic places back to the Arctic.

Who moves to and from the Arctic?

Women move out of the Arctic at the greatest rates: Women move out of the Arctic at greater rates than men and these differences have increased over time. Men and women move back to regional centers from outside the Arctic at similar rates, while between 1995 and 2000 men moved back to villages from outside the Arctic at greater rates than women.

Young people move: For both men and women the young working age population (ages 25-44) move out of the Arctic at the greatest rates. Out-migration rates for those under 45 increased between the two periods while the out-migration rates for older women declined during the same period.

Migration differs by educational attainment: Out-migration rates are greatest for those with a 4 year degree but these rates have declined over time. The share of females with a high-school degree who moved to Anchorage increased between the two periods.

Why do people move to or from the Arctic?

The main reason people move to regional centers is for jobs. People move to villages for family reasons (usually marriage).

Net-Migration to Regional Centers from Other Arctic Places and from Places Outside of the Arctic, 1995-2000

