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Research Brief

TO: Representative Lynn Gattis
FROM: Roger Withington, Legislative Analyst
DATE: January 31, 2014
RE: Urban and Rural Population of Alaska, 2010 Census
LRS Report 14.193

You asked for information on the population of Alaska. Specifically, you asked for the population of Alaska as determined by the 2010 Census, delineated by urban and rural populations.

According to Demographer David Howell, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) currently classifies areas of the state as either rural or urban at the census area or borough level.¹ The Department defines as urban the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna, Fairbanks North Star, Kenai Peninsula, and Juneau boroughs. All other boroughs or census areas are classified as rural. Using figures from the 2010 Census, we constructed Table 1 which provides, for each borough or census area in the state, the population and the percent of the total state population the area represents. As you can see from Table 1, urban areas contain approximately 80 percent of the state's population. We also include a map which illustrates the boundaries of the borough and census areas in the state

¹ Mr. Howell can be contacted at 907-465-5970.

Table 1: Population of Alaska by Borough or Census Area, 2010

Area	Borough or Census Area	Population	Percent of State Total
Urban Areas	Anchorage, Municipality of	291,826	41.1%
	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	88,995	12.5%
	Fairbanks North Star Borough	97,581	13.7%
	Kenai Peninsula Borough	55,400	7.8%
	Juneau City and Borough	31,275	4.4%
	Urban Total	565,077	79.6%
Rural Areas	Aleutians East Borough	3,141	0.4%
	Aleutians West Census Area	5,561	0.8%
	Bethel Census Area	17,013	2.4%
	Bristol Bay Borough	997	0.1%
	Denali Borough	1,826	0.3%
	Dillingham Census Area	4,847	0.7%
	Haines Borough	2,508	0.4%
	Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,150	0.3%
	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,477	1.9%
	Kodiak Island Borough	13,592	1.9%
	Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,631	0.2%
	Nome Census Area	9,492	1.3%
	North Slope Borough	9,430	1.3%
	Northwest Arctic Borough	7,523	1.1%
	Petersburg Census Area	3,815	0.5%
	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	5,559	0.8%
	Sitka City and Borough	8,881	1.3%
	Skagway, Municipality of	968	0.1%
	Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7,029	1.0%
	Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,636	1.4%
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,459	1.1%	
Wrangell City and Borough	2,369	0.3%	
Yakutat City and Borough	662	0.1%	
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,588	0.8%	
Rural Total	145,154	20.4%	
State Total		710,231	100.0%
Notes: Classifications are from David Howell, Demographer, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 907-465-5970. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, http://labor.alaska.gov/research/census/ .			

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.