

Indigenous Social Responses to Imposed Regulations in Northern Alaska as a Measure of Resilience

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Anaktuvuk Pass

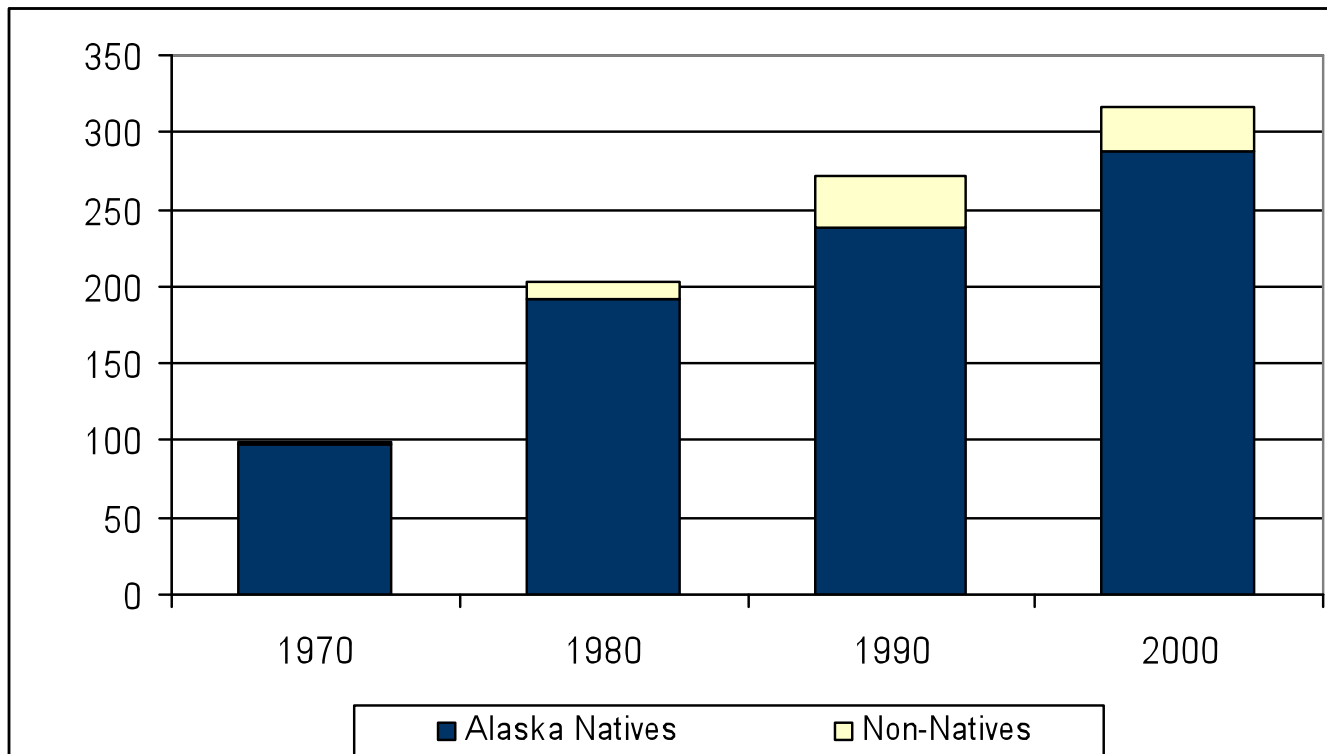


Data Sources

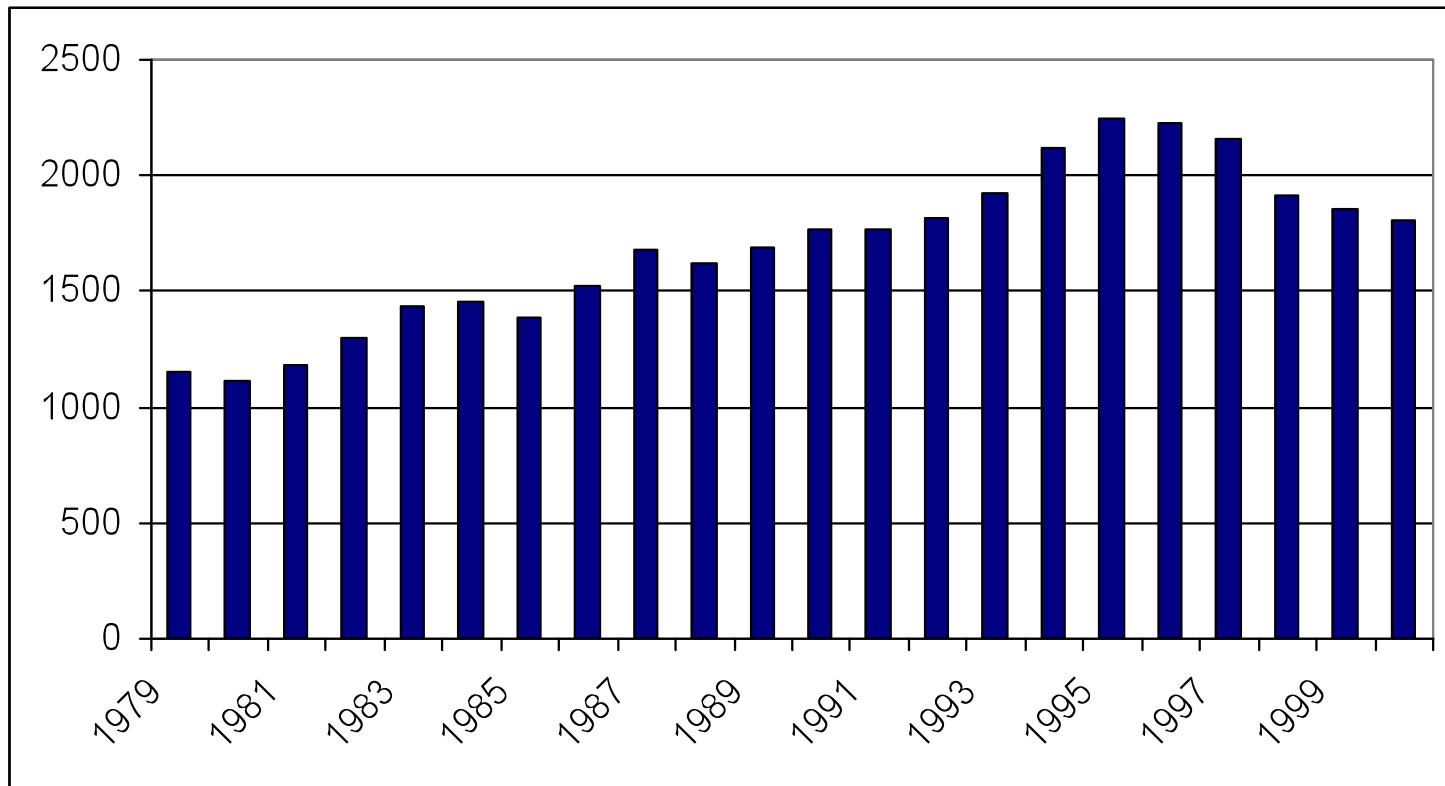
- 1978, 1988, 1993 North Slope Borough Censuses
- US Census
- Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development



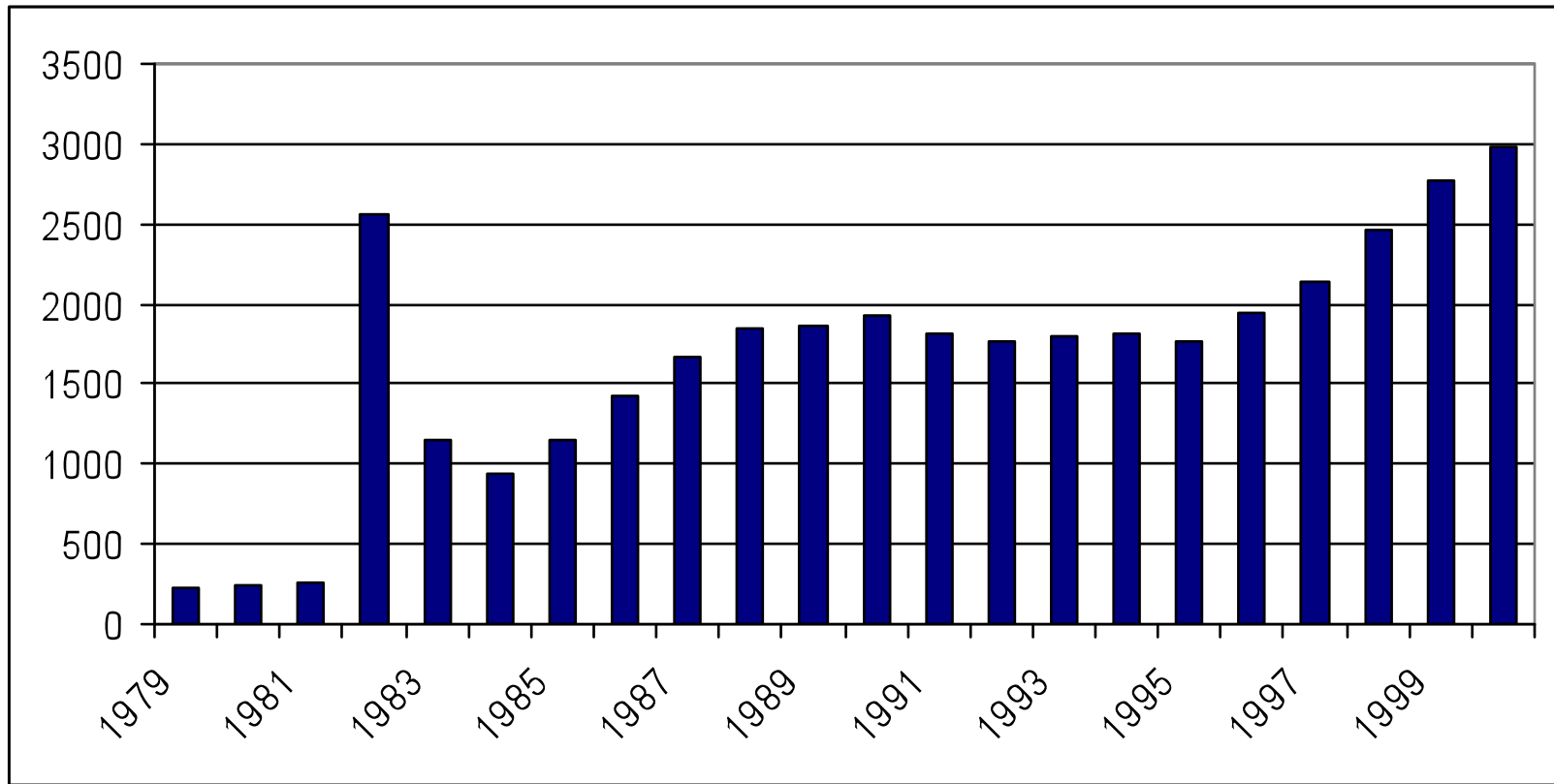
Anaktuvuk Pass



Local employment 1979 to 2000



Government transfers to individuals (\$2008)



Background

- Rapid increase in employment opportunities
 - Pipeline construction
 - Establishment of North Slope borough
- Rise in transfers

Caribou ban

- Household and hunter responses to state imposed limits on caribou hunting which took effect in 1976.
- Maintain sharing
- Maintain consumption
- Strategy to buy more store bought food
- Move into labor market
- Little increase in other subsistence, decrease in subsistence using caribou products



Characteristics of caribou households

- About $\frac{3}{4}$ of all households have one or more who hunt
- Nearly everyone uses caribou.
- Hunter households are larger, extended families
- Lower cash income
- As likely as non-hunter households to be employed



1978

- 71% reported that they hunted caribou 2 years ago.
- 4 out of 5 reported that ban had affected consumption
- Most households bought more, consumed less or both.
- More fishing. Less sewing and art that uses caribou.
- No marine mammals



Harvest and sharing

- Subsistence consumption down in 1978
- Slightly lower share of subsistence consumption from own harvest
 - 1978 61%
 - 1988 68%
 - 1993 67%



Sharing

- More caribou households received food in 1978
 - 1978 61%
 - 1988 20%
 - 1993 24%



Sharing

- Caribou households giving was lower in 1978 but prevalent
 - 1978 66%
 - 1988 75%
 - 1993 76%
- 1978 lower caribou harvest, fish, other large land mammals



Resilience

- Giving patterns are similar in all years
- Hunter households received more during ban
- Importance of employment opportunities.
- 1978 hunters reporting working for oil companies
- In later years, North Slope Borough has become main employer
- Transfer income



Conclusions

- Role of mixed economy in resilience
- Excess and flexibility somewhere in the system
 - Transfers , Employment
- Climate change
 - Fuel Prices
 - Access, Herd size
 - Global downturn will affect govt transfers
 - North Slope oil in decline
- Little support for movement to other subsistence
 - At capacity
 - Lacking skills and equipment
 - Lacking access



Social ties

- Caribou similar to whaling community is involved – everyone uses
- Requires and reinforces cooperation and social ties
- Look at operation of North Slope borough and distribution of benefits (employment) see correspondence with harvest distribution.
- Success on NSB is not just a matter of having resources.
- Ability to incorporate new resources to maintain lifestyle.

