



NANA Regional Corporation

2014 Alaska Housing Assessment



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# NANA Regional Corporation Dashboard<sup>1</sup>

**Population:** The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's current (2012) population estimate for the NANA Regional Corporation ANCSA region is 7,716, an increase of 7% from 2000.

**Housing Units:** There are currently 2,699 housing units in the NANA Regional Corporation ANCSA region. Of these, 1,797 are occupied, 124 vacant units are for sale or rent, and the remaining 778 are seasonal or otherwise vacant units (Profile Figure R6).

**Energy:** The average home in the NANA Regional Corporation ANCSA region is 920 square feet and uses 169,000 BTUs of energy per square foot annually. This is 23% more than the statewide average of 137,000 BTUs per square foot per year.

**Energy Costs:** Using AKWarm estimates, average annual energy cost for homes in the NANA Regional Corporation ANCSA region is \$7,960, which is approximately 2.9 times more than the cost in Anchorage, and 3.7 times more than the national average (Profile Figure R13).

**Energy Programs:** Approximately 22% of the occupied housing units in the NANA Regional Corporation ANCSA region have completed either the Home Energy Rebate or Weatherization programs or have received BEES certification since 2008, compared to 21% statewide (Profile Figure R12).

**Housing Quality:** Within current housing stock, newer homes have better energy performance. On average, homes built in the 1960s are currently rated at 1-star-plus compared to a current average rating of 4-star-plus for homes built after 2000.

**Air-tightness:** Within current housing stock, newer homes are tighter. On average, homes built in the last decade nearly meet the 2012 BEES standard of 4 air-changes per hour at 50 pascals (ACH50). In contrast, homes built in the 1960s are 2 times leakier than those built since 2000 (Profile Figure R7).

**Ventilation:** An estimated 840 occupied housing units (or 47%) in the NANA Regional Corporation ANCSA region are relatively air-tight and lack a continuous ventilation system. These houses are at higher risk of moisture and indoor air quality-related issues (Profile Figures R9-R10).

**Overcrowding:** Thirty nine percent of occupied units are estimated to be either overcrowded (18%) or severely overcrowded (21%). This is roughly 13 times the national average and makes the NANA region the second most overcrowded ANCSA region in the state.

**Affordability:** According to American Community Survey (ACS) data, approximately 24% of households in the NANA Regional Corporation area spend more than 30% of total income on reported housing costs, including rent, water and sewer utilities, and energy costs. Using AKWarm estimates, the average annual energy costs constitute approximately 13% of census median area income for occupied housing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Figures referenced in the Dashboard are located in the ANCSA Region profile.



## NANA Regional Corporation Summary

### Community

The NANA Corporation ANCSA region is located on the western coast of Alaska, south of the Arctic Slope region and north of the Bering Straits region. The regional average home size of 920 square feet is the second smallest in Alaska, second only to the Calista region. Average home sizes vary in the region, from a low of 770 square feet in Kivalina to a high of 1,178 square feet in Kotzebue.

### Overcrowding

The NANA region is the second most overcrowded area in the state with 39% of occupied homes with more than one person per room (Figure R-I), nearly twice the level of overcrowding in the neighboring regions of Bering Straits (22%) and ASRC (21%). Overcrowding in the NANA region varies widely by community, from a low of 13% of homes in Deering considered overcrowded to a high of 73% in Buckland. Considering only the six most populous communities in the region, overcrowding ranges from 30% to 73% of households overcrowded.

Approximately 5% of housing in the region is vacant and available for sale or rent. Availability varies by community from a low of no available housing in Buckland to a high of 6% in Ambler available for sale or rent.





## **Energy**<sup>2</sup>

The average annual energy cost per household in the NANA region is \$7,958, which is the second most costly energy cost in the state. Figure R-II shows that energy costs vary by community, from a low of \$5,373 in Noatak to a high of \$9,534 in Kobuk. One factor that contributes to high annual energy costs is the high price of fuel in the region. According to the January Alaska Fuel Price Report,<sup>3</sup> the Northwest region of Alaska has the second highest average fuel oil price in the state at \$6.25 per gallon. The colder climate of Northwest Alaska also plays a part in the high cost of energy, with communities having around 16,000 heating degree days, roughly double the heating requirement of many communities in Southeast Alaska.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Regional data appearing in this section is based on communities with sufficient levels of ARIS data, so not all communities were included in the analysis. <sup>3</sup> The State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. (January 2013). *Alaska Fuel Price Report: Current Community Conditions.* Retrieved from <a href="http://commerce.alaska.gov/dca/pub/Fuel\_Report\_2013\_January.pdf">http://commerce.alaska.gov/dca/pub/Fuel\_Report\_2013\_January.pdf</a>.



The average energy cost index, or ECI, for the region is also high with NANA households spending on average \$9.15 per square foot (Figure R-III). This is more than 9 times the national average ECI, and is the highest regional ECI in Alaska.

Housing units in the NANA region are relatively efficient, having second the lowest average home heating index in Alaska at 7.5 BTUs/ft<sup>2</sup>/HDD. The only region with a better home heating index is the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. The home heating index average varies by community with having Buckland the lowest index of 4.2 and Kiana with the highest index of 9.1.





Understanding the variations between communities participating in energy efficiency programs is essential to targeting work and resource

allocation in the region. Approximately 20% of housing units in the NANA region have completed the Weatherization program or the Home Energy Rebate Program since 2008, and an additional 2% of homes have been certified to meet BEES. Participation in energy programs varies widely by community, from a low of an estimated zero housing units in Noorvik to a high of 93% in Deering.

Figure R-IV shows that there has been little participation in the Home Energy Rebate Program or BEES in the region. However, the Weatherization program has been used extensively in many communities and the overall regional participation (18%) is the second highest in Alaska. The Weatherization program has had particularly high participation in the communities of Selawik, Noatak, and Kivalina, where estimates show that over 50% of







Figure R-V shows that fuel oil accounts for 80% of the space heating energy used in the NANA region, with the majority of the remaining space heating needs met by wood. Overall, wood accounts for approximately 20% of space heating energy, although its use varies by community depending on availability. For example, Kivalina uses wood to meet 3% of space heating needs compared to Noatak where residents rely on wood for 26% of space heating energy.





Approximately 11% of housing units in the NANA region have a continuous mechanical ventilation system or a heat recovery ventilation system installed. Ventilation varies significantly by community (Figure R-VI). Kivalina and Noatak primarily have continuous mechanical ventilation systems installed, whereas in Kotzebue 16% of housing units have heat recovery ventilation systems. This variation may be due in part to the extensive participation of Noatak and Kivalina homes in the Weatherization efficiency program.





## Affordability

According to ACS estimates, approximately 24% of households in the NANA region are considered cost-burdened, spending 30% or more of household income on housing costs.<sup>4</sup> This is similar to the rate of cost-burdening found in the neighboring Bering Straits region (Figure R-VII). Both the NANA and Bering Straits regions have higher percentages of cost-burdened homes than the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation to the north, where 13% of homes are cost-burdened.

Affordability varies by community in the NANA region from a low of 8% of costburdened households in Shungnak to a high of 41% in Deering. The six most populous communities have between 17% and 31% of households spending 30% or more of household income on housing costs.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> CCHRC's analysis of ACS energy costs indicate that there are systematic underestimations for rural Alaska which suggests that ACS-based cost burdened housing estimates are low. See Appendix A, "Analysis of American Community Survey Energy Cost Estimates" for more details.



Figure R-VIII shows the median household incomes for the region and the six most populous communities along with housing and energy costs.<sup>4</sup> The six most populous communities have median household incomes ranging from \$36,875 to \$71,761. Kotzebue has the highest median income of \$71,761 and Kobuk, one of the region's smaller communities, has the lowest median income of \$31,250.





## **Community, Regional, and Statewide Housing Characteristics**

This ANCSA region summary only includes the highlights of housing characteristics at the ANCSA regional level. A detailed data profile with charts and tables for this region follows. The 2014 Alaska Housing Assessment provides a significant amount of data and analysis at statewide, ANCSA region, census area, and community levels. This assessment provides a statewide analysis of housing characteristics, how they compare to national numbers, and the estimated housing needs. Within the 2014 Alaska Housing Assessment, written summaries are available for each individual ANCSA region and census area, and data profiles are available for each community and census area characterizing the housing stock from the perspective of community, overcrowding, energy and affordability. These different tiers of information and analysis allow researchers, housing authorities, policymakers and others to generate answers to specific questions. For a detailed discussion of estimating housing need and comparison of methods to previous Housing Assessments, see Appendix B, "Statewide Need Assessment" of the 2014 Alaska Housing Assessment.









#### 2014 Alaska Housing Assessment







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## How to Interpret the Profile: Data Sources, Definitions & Clarifications

Heat Recovery: Continuous mechanical ventilation with heat recovery operated with automatic controls.

Continuous: Mechanical ventilation without heat recovery operated with automatic controls.

Non-Continuous ventilation: Includes homes with range and/or bath fans not operated using automatic controls.

ACH50: The results of a Figure H7: Average Tightness of Current Homes by Figure H8, xisting Ventilation Type by Decade Built **ARIS** blower door test to measure Decade Built 10.0 100% building air leakage. Smaller als 8.0 80% 6.0 60% numbers indicate tighter ACH @ 50 4.0 40% buildings. Tighter buildings 2.0 20% 0.0 0% lose less heated air to the 2000 - 2005 or Pre 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s Pre -1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000 - 2005 or 1940 2004 later 1940s 2004 outside and thus use less Existing housing by decade built Existing housing by decade built % Heat recovery % Non-continuous Air-tightness (ACH50) 2012 BEES Requirement % Continuous energy for space heating. Figure H9: Percent of Housing Stock at High Risk of ARIS Figure H10: Quantity of Housing Stock at High Risk of ARIS Moisture and Air Quality Problems Moisture and Air Quality Problems 450 100% 400 # Units at High Risk 80% 350 The 2012 Building Energy 300 60% 250 **Efficiency Standard** 40% 200 150 (BEES) for air-tightness is 20% 100 50 0% for reference only, as it 194 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000 - 2005 or Pre -1940s 1950s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000 -2004 later Pre -194 Js 1960s Existing housing by decade built was implemented after 1940s 2011 8 High Risk Existing housing by decade built % Low Risk the majority of homes in Alaska were built. Decades with no bar High Risk of Moisture and Air Quality Problems: Note lack sufficient data that moisture or poor indoor air quality have not been Data Source: for reporting. They physically measured; these houses are considered Alaska Retrofit should not be "at-risk" because they are relatively air tight (less Information considered zero than 0.5 estimated natural air changes per hour) and System quantities. do not have a continuous ventilation system.





primary fuel.

How To Interpret the Profile

(medium data communities).

space.















**ANCSA Region Profile for:** 

Nana Regional Corporation

Climate Zone (Heating Degree Day Range)

Zone 8 (12,600 - 16,800 HDD)



Houses Lacking Complete	House	holds
Plumbing or Kitchen Facilities	Number	Percent
Lack complete plumbing	341	19%
Lack complete kitchen	264	15%

Estimated Total Annual Community Space Heating Fuel Use								
Fuel Oil	1,102,215	(gallons)						
Natural Gas	-	(ccf)						
Electricity	594,271	(kWh)						
Wood	1,943	(cords)						
Propane	-	(gallons)						
Coal	-	(tons)						

Av	g Annual Energy Cost with PCE	\$7,958	
	Avg Annual Energy Cost without PCE	\$10,032	

Housing Need Indicators	Number of units	% Occupied Housing
Overcrowded	699	39%
Housing cost burdened	373	21%
1 Star Homes	428	24%

Weatherization Retrofits	(funding
increased 2008)	
Date Range	Units
2008-2011	316
2003-2007	72
1990-2002	117

Housing Stock Estimates	Number of Units
All Housing	2,699
All Occupied Housing	1,797
All Vacant housing	902
Vacant Housing for Sale or Rent	124





	ENERGY - Nana Regional Corporation														
Current Nana Regional Corporation Housing Energy Characteristics By Decade Built															
Current Residential	# of	Avg Energy	Avg Energy Bating	Δυσ Sα	Avg. Annual	Avg. Annual	Avg Annual Energy / End Use (million Btus)								
Units by Year Built	AkWarm Records	Rating Stars	Points	Feet	Energy Cost (with PCE)	Energy Use (million BTUs)	Space Heating	DHW	Appliances	(kBTUS /SF)	Avg. ECI	Heating Index			
OVERALL	517	2-star plus	63.0	920	\$7,958	145	102	21	22	169	\$9.15	7.5			
Pre- 1940	1	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR			
1940- 49	0	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR			
1950- 59	5	1-star plus	47.4	797	\$5,585	150	118	12	20	288	\$5.83	15.9			
1960- 69	22	1-star plus	46.7	986	\$8,176	156	130	3	24	177	\$10.08	9.1			
1970- 79	213	2-star	53.8	782	\$7,491	146	113	11	21	207	\$10.18	10.3			
1980- 89	146	3-star	69.5	982	\$8,584	153	100	30	23	167	\$9.22	7.0			
1990- 99	61	3-star plus	74.7	1,020	\$8,068	130	80	27	23	130	\$8.11	5.0			
2000- 2004	37	4-star plus	84.0	1,171	\$8,737	132	66	42	23	117	\$7.88	3.5			
2005 or later	31	4-star	82.2	1,078	\$7,215	117	67	27	23	110	\$6.83	4.0			





	Current Nana Regional Corporation Housing Envelope Characteristics By Decade Built											
Current Residential Units by Year Built	# of AkWarm Records	ACH 50	Ceiling R	Above Grade Wall R	Below Grade Wall R	Below Grade Wall Above Grade Floor R R		Below Grade Floor R	Door U	Garage Door U	Window U	
OVERALL	517	7.6	29	16	NR	30	3	NR	0.41	0.41	0.51	
Pre- 1940	1	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
1940- 49	0	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
1950- 59	5	9.8	24	15	NR	27	NR	NR	0.52	0.52	0.62	
1960- 69	22	10.0	20	13	NR	22	NR	NR	0.65	0.65	0.76	
1970- 79	213	9.1	21	14	NR	24	NR	NR	0.50	0.50	0.63	
1980- 89	146	7.3	34	16	NR	31	NR	NR	0.39	0.39	0.47	
1990- 99	61	6.1	34	17	NR	34	NR	NR	0.32	0.32	0.43	
2000- 2004	37	4.8	54	25	NR	42	NR	NR	0.26	0.26	0.36	
2005 or later	31	5.4	48	21	NR	38	NR	NR	0.19	0.19	0.35	
BEES 2009 - Climat	te Zone 8	7.0	38	30	15	38	15	15	0.22	0.22	0.22	
BEES 2012 - Climat	te Zone 8	4.0	48	30	15	38	15	15	0.22	0.22	0.22	

Alaska Housing



