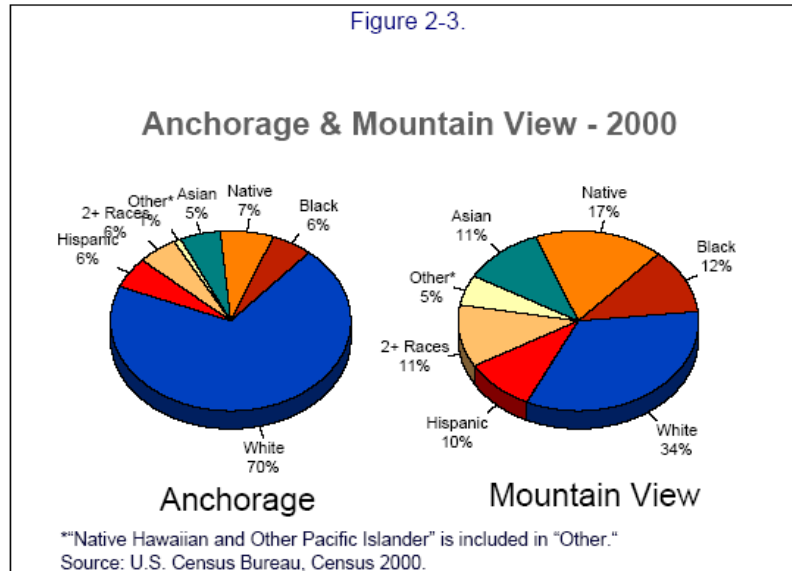


# **Mountain View Demographic/Economic/Social Data**<sup>1</sup>

In the past decade, Mountain View has changed in many ways. While Anchorage as a whole grew much faster than Mountain View in the '70s and '80s, growth in the neighborhood took off during the '90s, with Mountain View growing by 21 percent, while Anchorage as a whole grew by only 15 percent. The ethnic make-up of the community has also shifted, such that no one group makes up a majority of the population, as shown below.

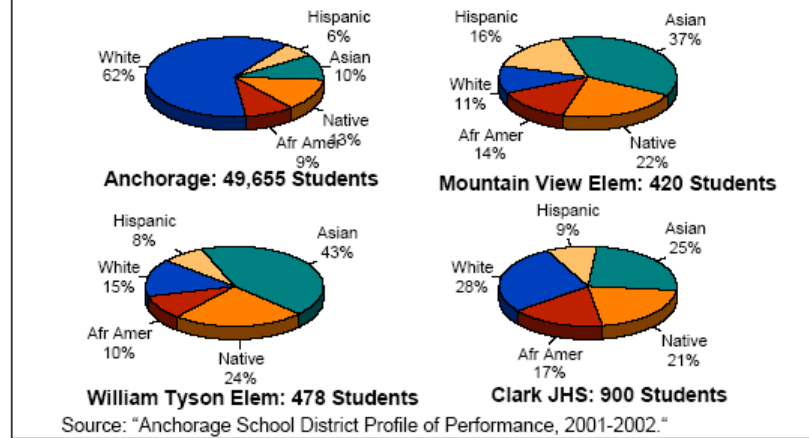


The most significant change in Mountain View's ethnic make-up is that the Asian population nearly doubled between 1990 and 2000, and this growth was largely composed of new immigrant groups such as Laotians, Hmong, and Cambodians, that were not present at all in 1990. Asians are now the largest ethnic group at both of the elementary schools in Mountain View, as shown below. The Anchorage School District reports that there are 46 different first languages spoken by the students in Mountain View's schools. While this may be low compared to Los Angeles, it is extraordinarily high compared to any other neighborhood in Anchorage.

<sup>1</sup> All data cited and graphs used in the Demographic/Economic/Social data section of this report are taken from *Mountain View: A Neighborhood Profile*, a report produced by Laura Davis of Davis Consulting for Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services in January of 2003. The Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska's largest private foundation, provided funding for the report.

Figure 2-7.

## Ethnic Composition



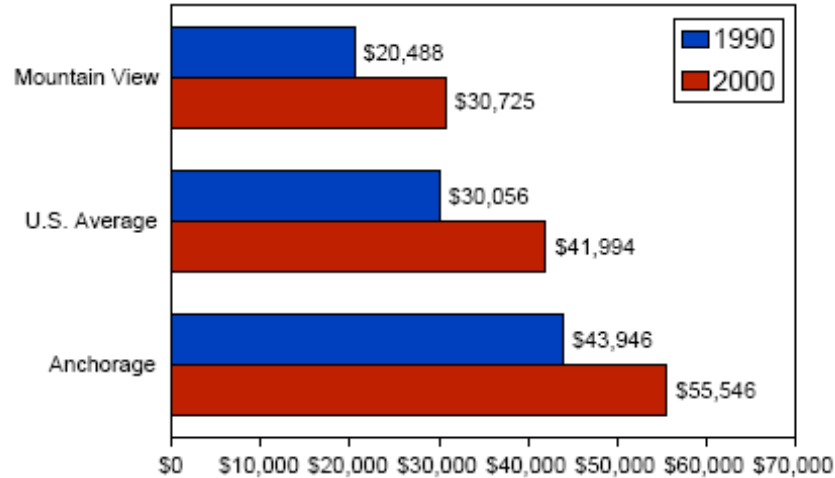
Residents see the cultural diversity of Mountain View as one of its greatest strengths and one of its greatest challenges. On the one hand, this diversity can make it more difficult to build the kind of social cohesion that community leaders would like to see, and it is more challenging still to integrate populations where many of the adults lack English skills. On the other hand, Mountain View's diversity works well with the long-term community plan to develop an arts and culture district featuring unique eateries and boutiques. The children of Mountain View, in particular, have the opportunity to grow up appreciating a variety of cultures, which will broaden their perspectives and help equip them to live and work in the rapidly shrinking world of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Another important thing to know about the students of Mountain View is that they are the poorest in Anchorage. As of the 2001-02 school year, 93 percent of the students at Mountain View elementary qualify for the Free/Reduced lunch program, and 88 percent of the students at William Tyson elementary. The average rate for Anchorage is only 35 percent. These numbers are not surprising in light of the overall income and poverty data for Mountain View.

Income levels in Mountain View as a whole have increased by 50 percent since 1990, but in relation to the income levels in Anchorage as a whole they have only grown from 46 percent to 54 percent. Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, White and Alaska Native households are earning more than half of the average Anchorage income (though none are earning equal to or more than the average), while the other ethnic groups in Mountain View are all earning substantially less than half that amount, as the following two charts show.

Figure 3-5.

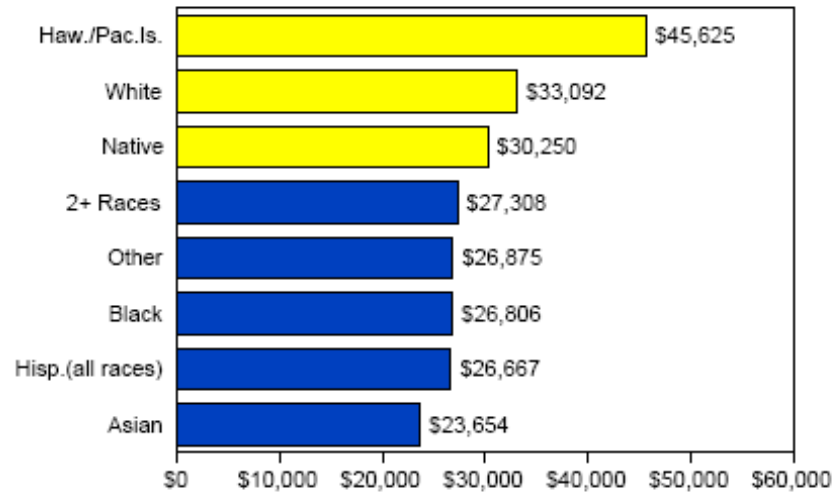
## Median Household Income Anchorage, U.S., & Mountain View 1990 & 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Indicators; Mountain View Demographics (July 1994).

Figure 3-6.

## Median Household Income by Race Mountain View - 2000

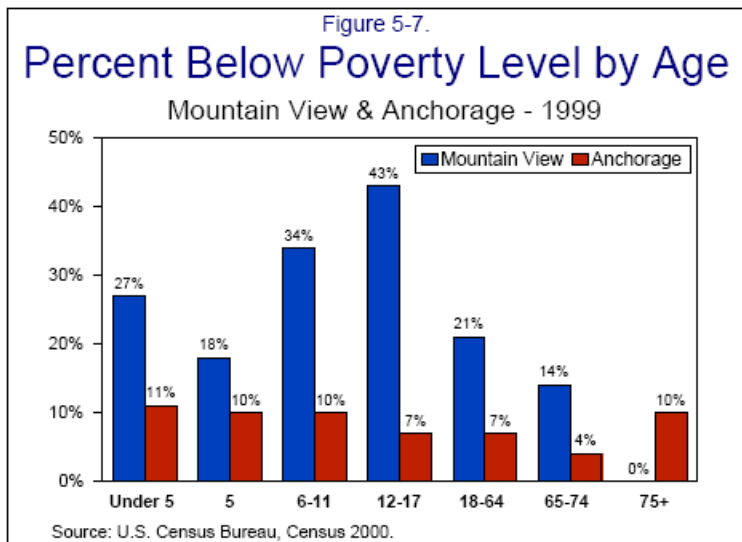
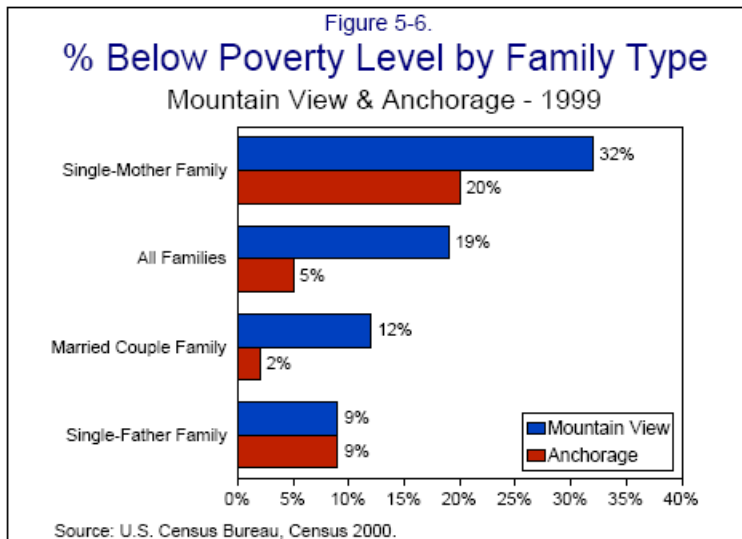
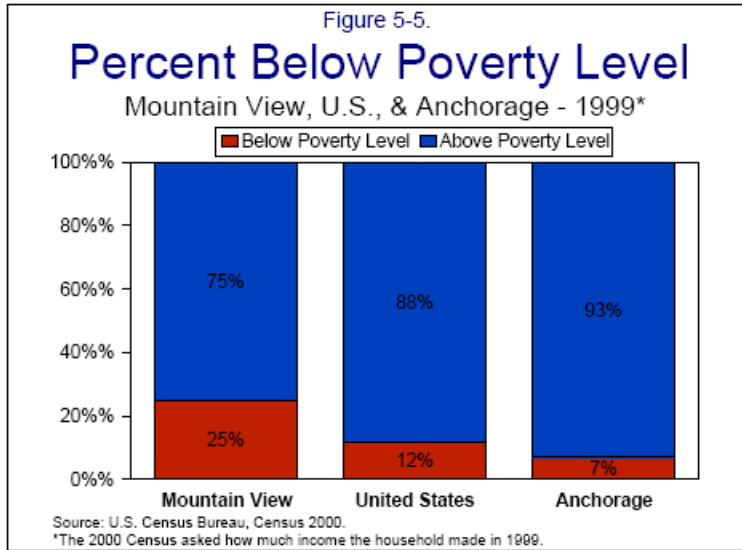


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

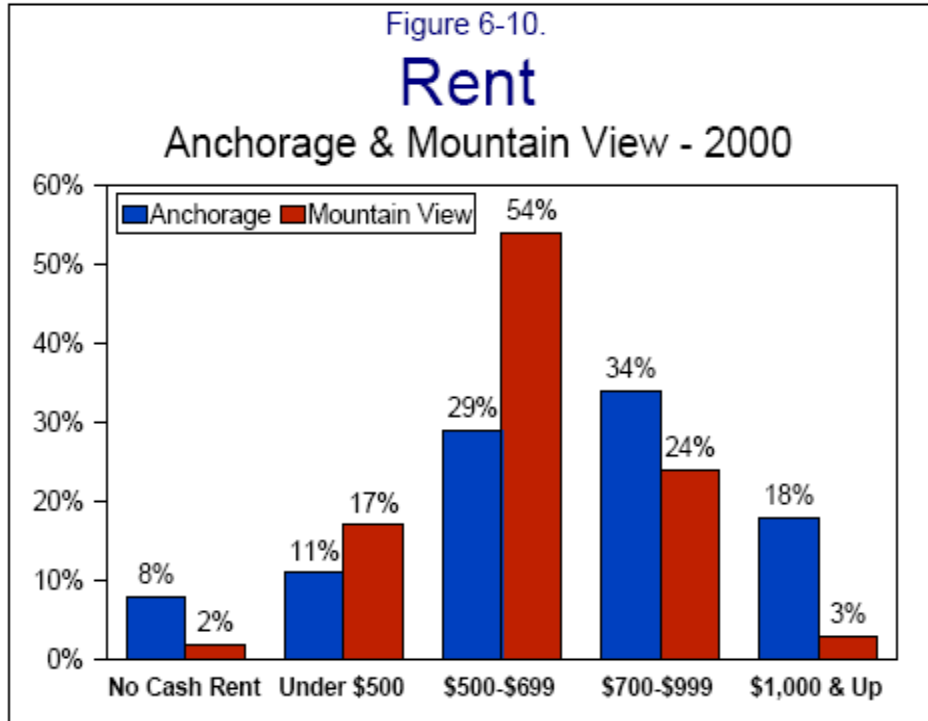
The city of Anchorage has had a lower poverty rate than the U.S. as a whole for over ten years, but Mountain View's poverty rate is more than double that of the U.S.

Single mother families are the most common household type in Mountain View, comprising 25 percent of all households, and they are also the most likely to be living below the poverty level. The percent of Mountain View families of all types that live in poverty is almost four times higher than the citywide rate.

While teenagers are among the least likely age groups to be living in poverty for Anchorage as a whole, in Mountain View they are the most likely, followed closely by grade school aged children.

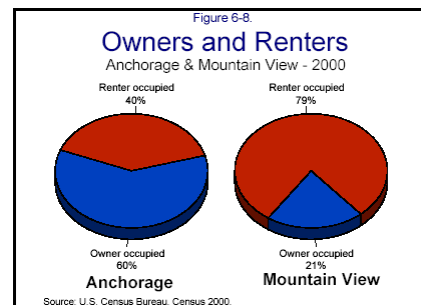


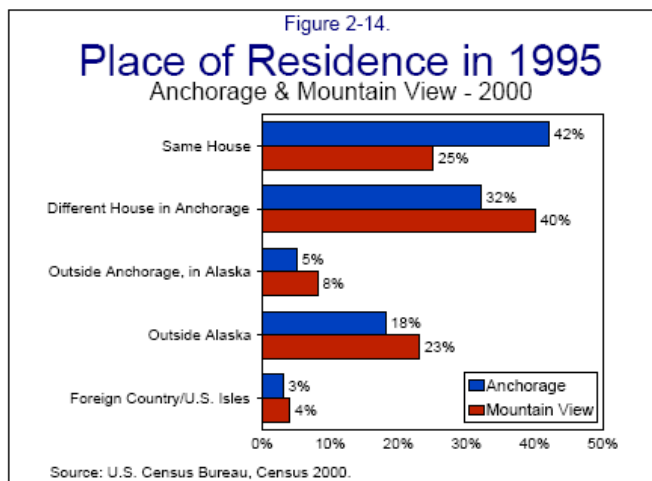
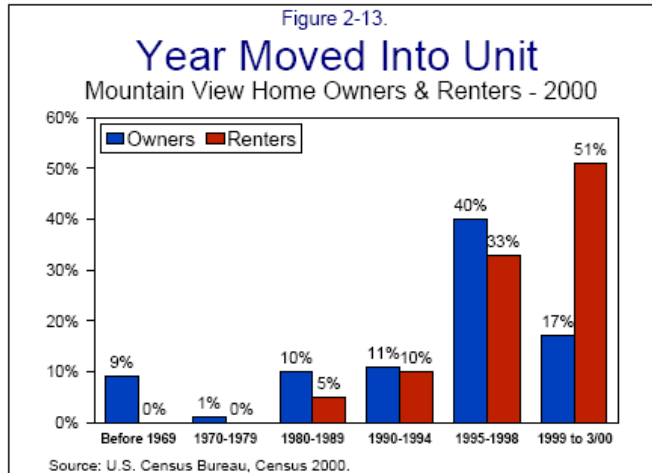
The primary reason for these statistics is not any social or economic disaster that has affected the neighborhood. It is simply because Mountain View is the most affordable neighborhood in Anchorage, so lower income families and individuals often choose to live there.



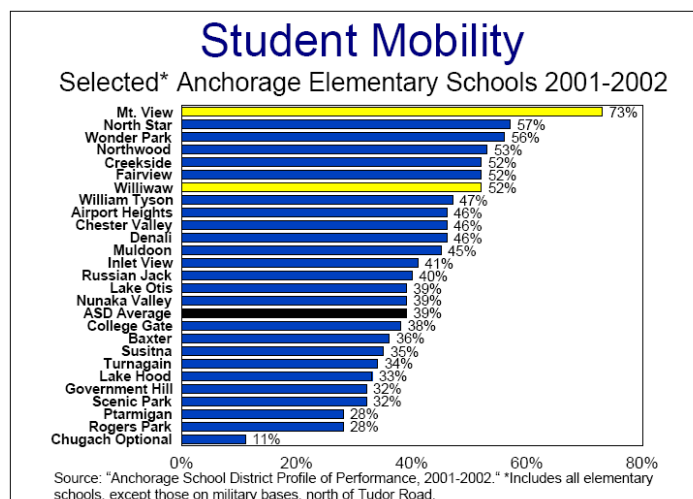
Forty-five percent of the housing in Mountain View was built on or before 1969, and only three percent of it was built within the past 10 years, while for Anchorage only 25 percent of the housing stock is over 35 years old, and 13 percent has been built since 1990. More importantly, 60 percent of the housing stock in Anchorage is owner occupied, while in Mountain View only 21 percent is owner occupied, meaning that nearly four out of five residents are not only renters, but renters who sought out the lowest rents they could find.

Not surprisingly, this type of environment is one where both adults and children tend to be highly mobile, as the following tables show. As of March 2000, over half of Mountain View renters had moved into their current residence within the past 15 months, and another third had moved in within the past five years. Only 25 percent of Mountain View residents, whether home owners or renters, could say that they had lived in the same house five years ago. Thirty-five percent had not even lived in the same city in 1995.





The Anchorage School District has found that students who move during the school year tend to have lower test scores than those who remain in one school, and of course Mountain View students are among the most mobile in a town where even the typical student mobility rate is more than twice the National average of 17 percent.



Although Mountain View renters move frequently, they are less mobile than residents in other areas in the sense that this is a neighborhood where many households cannot afford a car. Twenty-two percent of Mountain View households have no vehicle, compared with eight percent for the city as a whole, and ten percent of residents take the bus to work, compared to only two percent citywide.

While the majority of Mountain View residents do have at least one car, and use their car to go to work, among renters it is far less likely that they can afford a vehicle, let alone the associated costs such as fuel and insurance.