

Status of Native women

A preliminary study "The Status of Women in Alaska" states, "while women as a whole are concentrated in low-status professional, clerical and service occupations, Native women in particular are much more concentrated in either clerical or service work."

Prepared by the University of Alaska Institute of Social and Economic Research and Joan Katz for the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, the study explains that the low percentage of employed Native women may be due to the lack of jobs in bush Alaska. Based on the 1970 census, the study states that Native women make up 18% of the Alaskan population with less than 2% employed in Alaska's largest firms.

The recent study says that Native women are predominately in Alaska's poverty group since most are employed by smaller firms not reporting under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission thus not likely to enjoy the benefits and salaries of women employed by larger firms.