



Marketing Alaska to our Students

Retaining Alaska's Students



Topics to Discuss

Alaskan Brain Drain: Why do our students leave us, and does what we do matter?

Current Data: What does it show?

What Can We Do?



Alaskan Brain Drain: Why are they leaving us, and does what we do matter?

A comprehensive survey of all high school seniors in the Anchorage School District to understand their intentions after high school, and the impact Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses and Work Based Learning (WBL) activities on those students awareness of opportunities here in Alaska and how that awareness has impacted intentions.





Existing Research

1

Where Alaskans Go After Graduating From High School. Identifying Post Secondary Pathways. (2018). Gretchen M. Becker.

2

Alaska Higher Education Almanac. ACPE. (Annual). Layout by Kierstin Keller

3

Alaska students' pathways from high school to postsecondary education and employment. (2016). Havala Hanson Ashley Pierson

4

Alaska's 'brain drain': myth or reality? (2004). Jeff Hadland

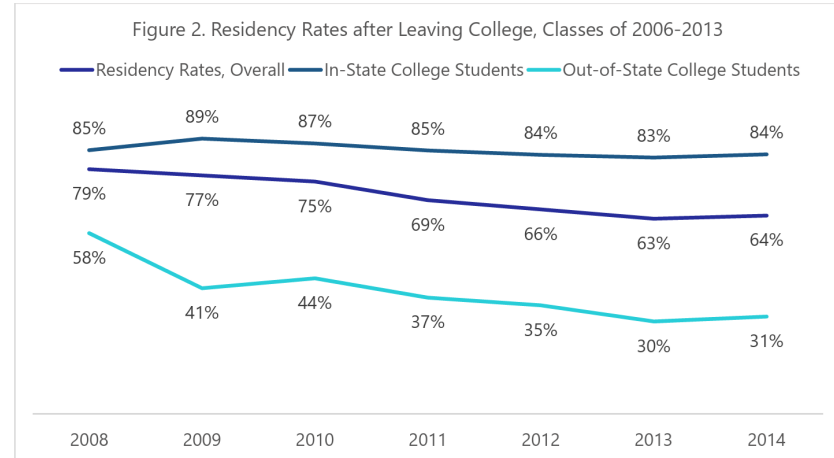
Where Alaskans Go After Graduating From High School.

Identifying Post Secondary Pathways.
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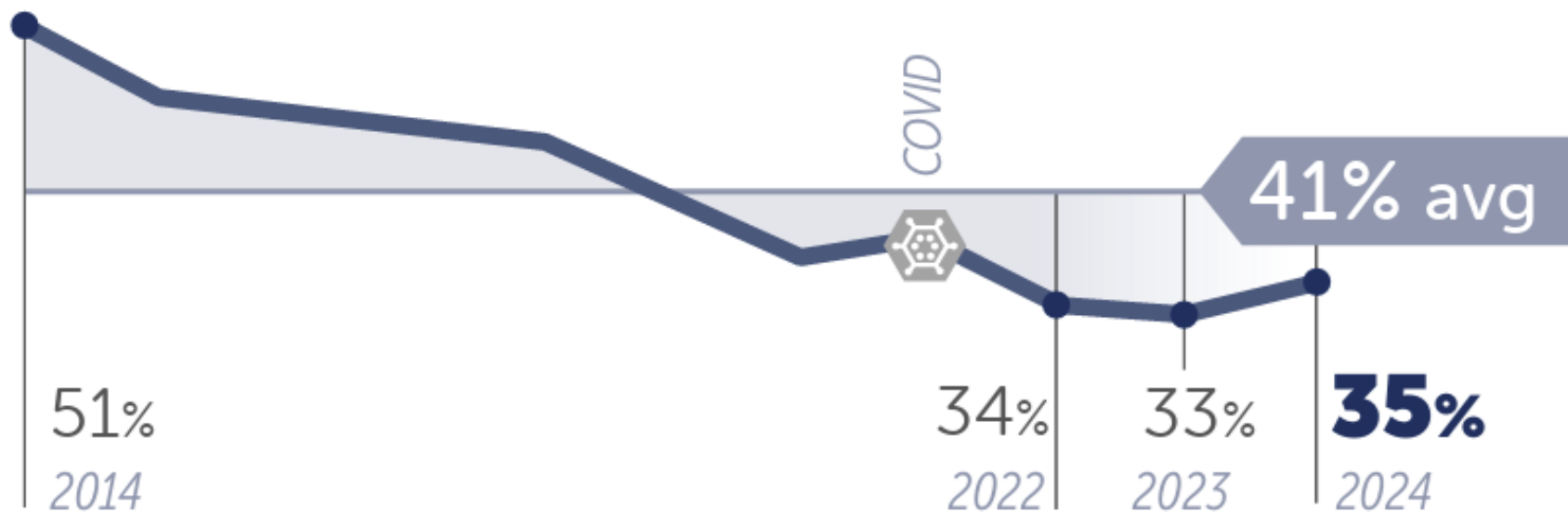
3 decisions by Alaska graduates:

1. Attend post-secondary education (*2/3 chose to attend*)
2. Attend in-state or out-of-state (*53% in state, 29% out of state, and 18% mixed in and out of state*)
3. Stay or Return to Alaska after Post-Secondary-Education (*declining rates in students who choose to return or stay in Alaska*)



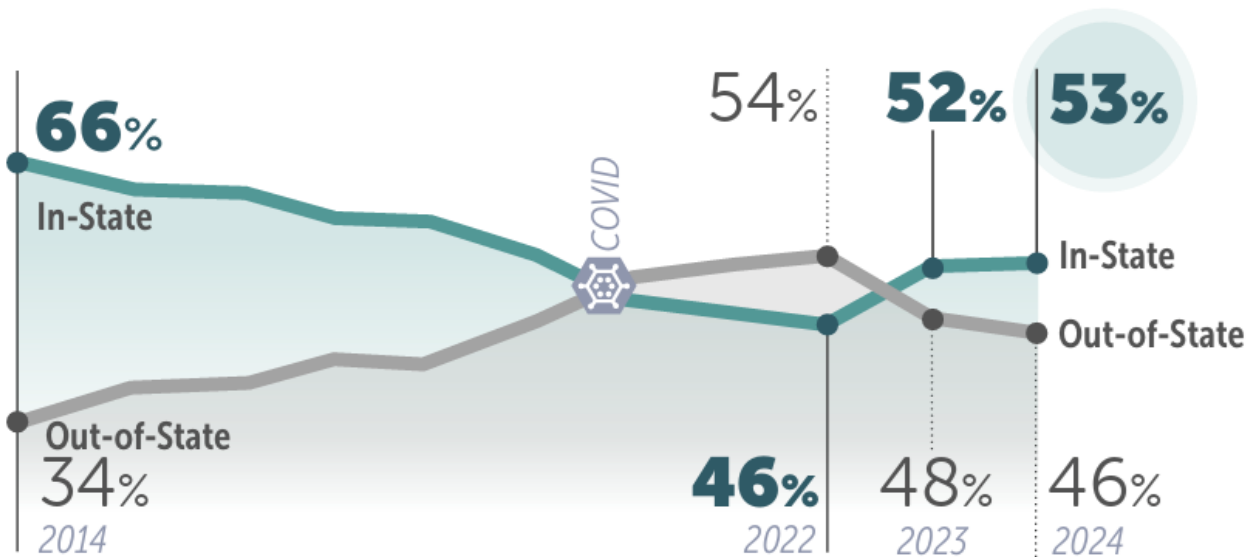
Alaska high school graduate enrollments: Less than four in ten

Class of 2024 high school graduates were enrolled in postsecondary education within a year following high school graduation. *NSC*



Alaska high school graduates enrolling in-state vs. out-of-state:

The proportion of in-state enrollments increased for Class of 2024 to **53%** (out-of-state enrollments dropping to **46%**). These rates continue the reversing trend where out-of-state enrollments surpassed in-state enrollments following the COVID pandemic from 2020-22. *NSC*



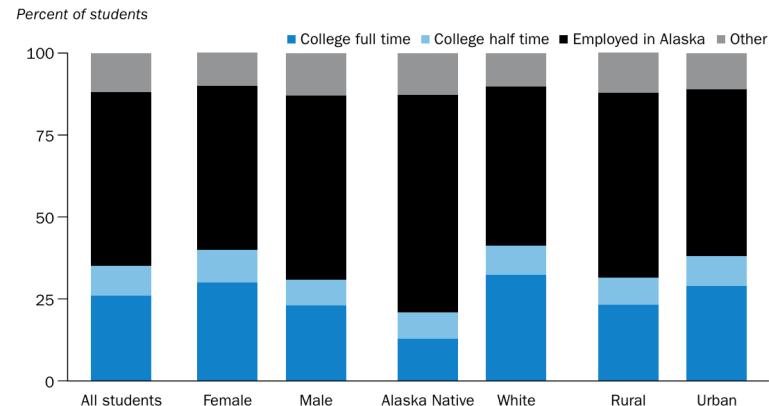
Alaska students' pathways from high school to postsecondary education and employment. (2016).

Havala Hanson and Ashley Pierson

- ~10,000 students leave Alaska high schools each year.
- ~3,000 unique pathways.
- 39,631 total students in study
- 18% Attending School and Working in Alaska
- 16% Full Time School in Alaska
- 12% Leave Alaska
- 10% Full-Time Employed in Alaska
- Remaining run a mixture of part time employment, unemployed, or undefined.



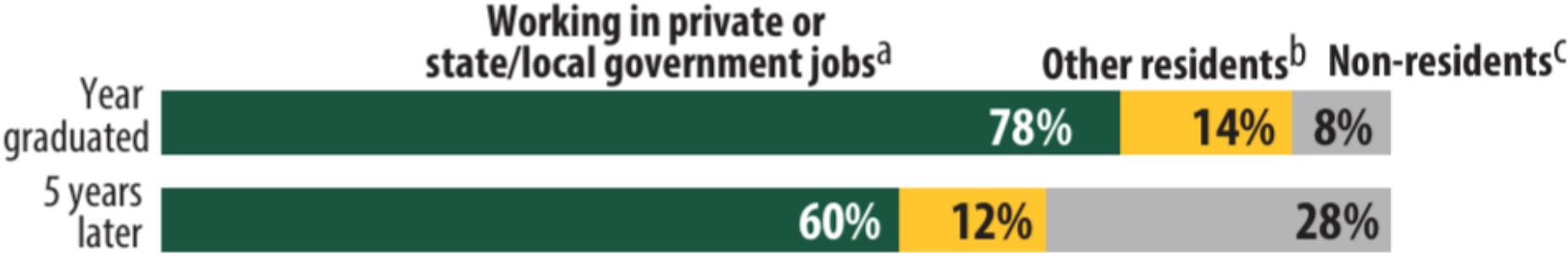
Figure 1. First pathway step after leaving high school by gender, race/ethnicity, and locale, for students who left high school between 2004/05 and 2007/08



Source: Authors' analysis based on data and methods described in appendix A.

Figure 1. How Many UAA Graduates Work in Alaska?

(2003-2007 Graduates: 8,862)



^aIn jobs covered by unemployment insurance.
^bReceived Permanent Fund dividend but not covered by unemployment insurance; includes federal workers, the self-employed, and those without jobs.
^cDid not receive Permanent Fund dividend and not covered by unemployment insurance.



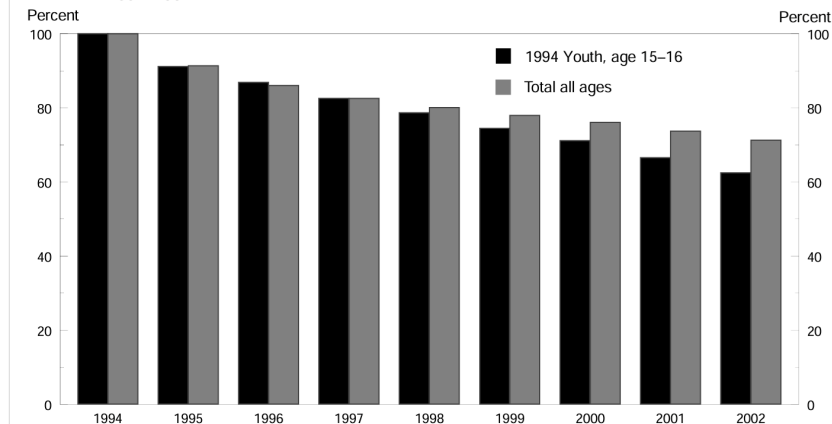
Alaska's 'brain drain': myth or reality?

(2004).

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- Rates from 1994-2002 similar to current rates for:
 - Graduation
 - Outmigration
 - Post-Secondary Education Enrollment

Chart 1. Percent of population retaining Alaskan residency, 1994 Youth cohort and total all ages, 1994–2002



SOURCE: Department of Labor Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, and Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend application data.



Why are they Leaving?



Rootedness?

- Social Connections & Relationships
- Civic Engagement
- Inclusivity & Belonging





rootEd Alaska: The Career Guide initiative

Public/Private Partnership with

- Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD),
- Department of Education and Early Development (DEED),
- rootEd Alliance,
- Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education (BBRCTE) Consortium, and
- Sealaska Heritage Institute.

Help students to:

- explore careers,
- apply for college or training programs,
- navigate financial aid opportunities such as the FAFSA, and
- take concrete steps toward
 - college enrollment,
 - workforce credentials,
 - apprenticeships, or
 - military service



Low -Hanging -Fruit?

How can we, as a state, make Alaska more welcoming to our students and current residents?

How can we make them feel rooted?



Low Hanging Fruit

1

School Visits

2

Teacher/Counselor Externships

3

Career Expo

4

High School Internships

5

Hiring Day / Signing Day in High School

6

Pathway from High School to Post-
Secondary Training to Entry Level
Industry Job to Advancing in Industry



Thank you.

