

Impacts of Unemployment in Craig, Alaska: Community Assessment



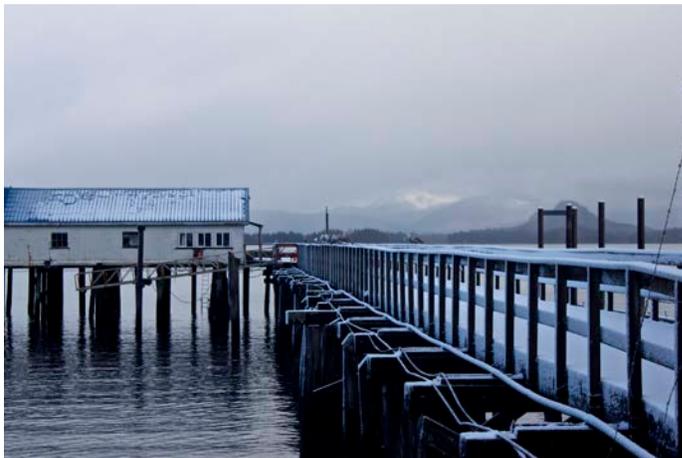
Watery Sunset, Craig, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

Impact of Unemployment in Craig, Alaska

Community Assessment

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction.....	Page 2
II.	Methods.....	Page 3-4
III.	Community of Craig Demographics & Economic Trends.....	Page 5-8
IV.	Community Resources & Views on Unemployment in the Community.....	Page 9-19
V.	Results of Assessment.....	Page 20-32
VI.	Discussion of Results.....	Page 33
VII.	Conclusion.....	Page 34-35
VIII.	Acknowledgements.....	Page 36
IX.	Appendix.....	Page 37
	a.) Community Assessment, Individual Questionnaire.....	Page 37-40
	b.) Community Assessment, Organization Specific.....	Page 40-41



Cannery Pier, Craig, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

I. Introduction

The purpose of this assessment is to explore the unemployment resources in Craig, Alaska as well as to assess the impacts of unemployment in the community. An intended outcome of administrating the assessment is to understand individuals' needs through the lens of community members. This data can then be extrapolated to determine what work related programs would be beneficial for Craig as a whole. These programs will be provided through partnerships with the library and administered through a group of volunteers. Program topics may include, but are not limited to financial literacy, job skills, early literacy and workforce development.

This assessment was made possible through the Alaska State Library, the City of Craig, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.



Kayaking with the Eagles, Craig, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

II. Methodology

The assessment was divided into two separate questionnaires. One was administered to organizations in Craig, while the other was administered to residents. The organizations were contacted for a meeting regarding the assessment and data was collected through an interview with a staff member or the director.

Individual questionnaires were distributed at the Prince of Wales Health Fair, AC Grocery Store, and the Craig Public Library. An online version was available through the Library's webpage it was also available from the Library's Facebook page from February 2015 to April 2015.

We used demographic and economic data from the 2010 United States Census Bureau and from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Primary Data Sources

Organizational Interview Based Data

Interviews were scheduled with the organizations including: POWER, HOPE, the Craig Public Library, the Craig High School, and the local business Strictly Local. Background information was also gathered from the websites and brochures on the following organizations: Community Connections, Craig Tribal Association, and the Prince of Wales Health Network. While gathering background information community assets were identified when researching the organizations and institutions in the community. Organization Specific Questionnaire can be found in the Appendix.

Individual Questionnaire Data

An individual questionnaire was administered throughout Craig. Over the course of February, March and April 2015, questionnaires were distributed throughout the community. A total of 26 questionnaires were completed. Questions focused on how residents perceived job opportunities in Craig as well as their perceived need for financial literacy resources. The questionnaire is located in the Appendix.



Humpback fluke, Craig, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

Secondary Data Sources

U.S. Census Bureau

Census data collected in 2010 for the Prince of Wales-Hyder district was used
<http://www.census.gov/>

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Information from the Department's research and analysis section was used, including key articles from their publication, Economic Trends.
<http://labor.state.ak.us/>
<http://labor.state.ak.us/trends/trends2012.htm>

Craig Public Library Community Assessment

This assessment was administered in 2014 to identify gaps in service and areas for improvement of the library.

Enduring Ties to Community and Nature: Charting an Alternative Future for Southeast Alaska

This paper discusses ways to encourage government agencies and community groups to work collaboratively to develop a strong economic future for the region of Southeast Alaska.
<http://scholars.unh.edu/carsey/129/>



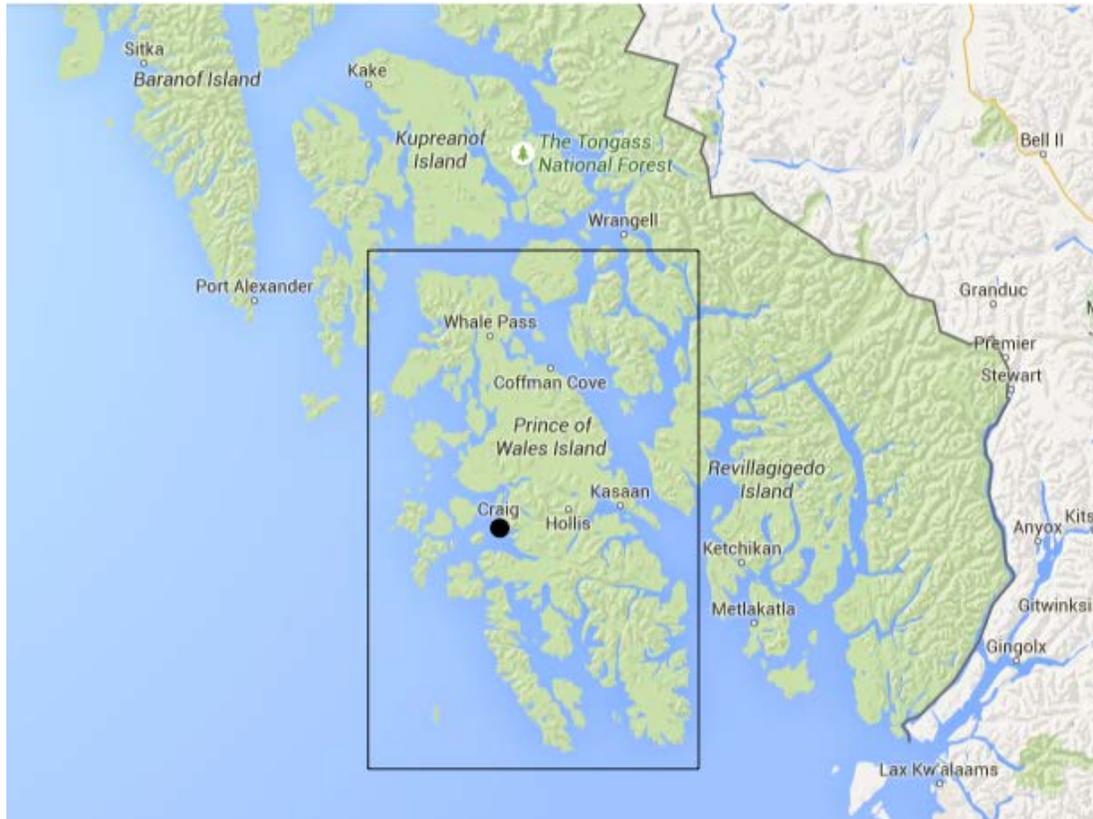
Misty Fishing, Craig, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

III. Prince of Wales Demographics & Economic Trends

Southeast Alaska is divided into seven sub-geographic regions: Ketchikan, Metlakatla, Wrangell/Petersburg, Juneau, Sitka, Prince of Wales and Haines/Skagway/Yakutat. The City of Craig falls under the Prince of Wales-Hyder Unorganized Bureau. Craig is the largest of the 12 communities on the island. It is classified as a First Class City and has an estimated population of 1,117.

Geographical Location

Prince of Wales Island is located in Southeast Alaska and is the 4th largest island in the United States. It is special in Southeast Alaska, in that there are roads between communities. The island is over 2,600 square miles and has over 1,000 miles of road.¹



Google Maps retrieved from <http://ow.ly/RcSvm>

¹ United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Retrieved from <http://ow.ly/RcSjF>

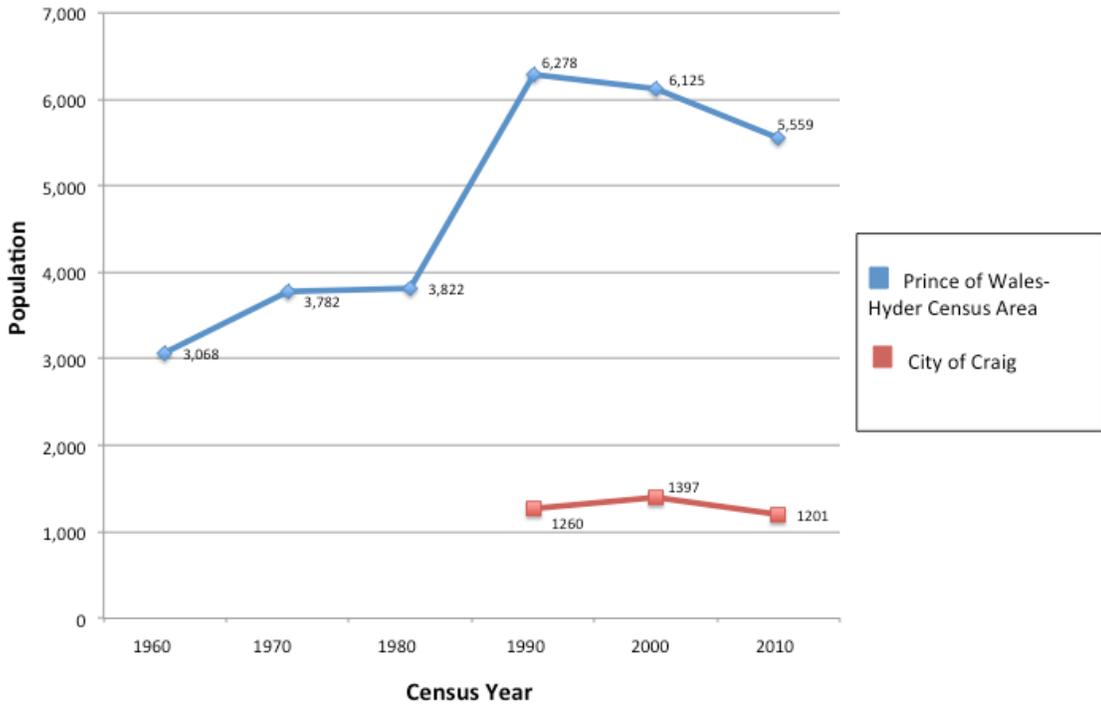
Population Trends and Forecast

Due to the road connectivity on Prince of Wales Island, demographic information was provided for each community. Additionally, in the 2014 Craig Public Library Needs Assessment, 24.2% of patrons were from outside of Craig demonstrating a need to approach this report with the entire island in mind².

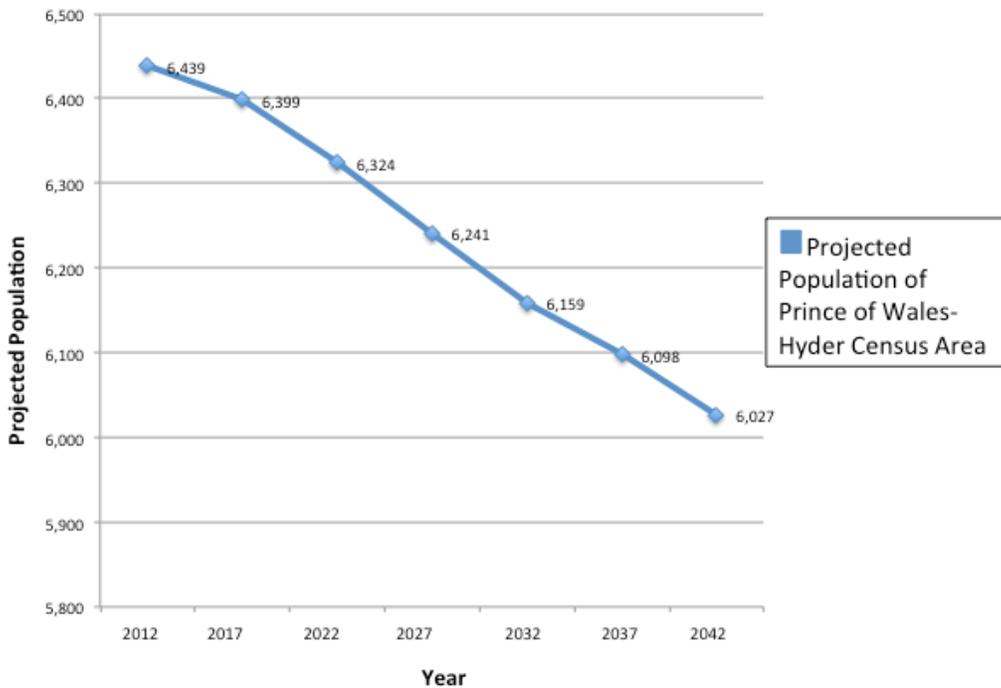
<u>Community</u>	<u>Population*</u>	<u>Race*</u>	<u>Unemployment Rate</u>	<u>Poverty Level</u>	<u>Median Age*</u>
Coffman Cove	176	169 White 10 Native+	12%	10.1%	50
Craig	1,201	931 White 378 Native+	10%	17.6%	36.4
Edna Bay	42	41 White 0 Native+	---	---	53
Hollis	112	104 White 10 Native+	33.3%	---	37
Hydaburg	376	72 White 324 Native+	17.1%	10.8%	32
Kasaan	49	31 White 22 Native+	18.5%	4%	46.8
Ketchikan**	8,050	5,624 White 1,977 Native+	17.1%	10.8%	36.7
Klawock	755	355 White 446 Native+	16.7%	20.5%	41.4
Naukati Bay	113	105 White 9 Native+	20.0%	10.0%	43.3
Point Baker	15	13 White 2 Native+	68%	78.0%	52.5
Port Protection	48	39 White 13 Native+	26.8%	---	47.5
Thorne Bay	471	453 White 23 Native+	8.3%	78%	44.4
Whale Pass	31	28 White 1 Native+	57.9%	57.9%	57.3
ISLAND TOTAL	3,389	2,341 White 1,238 Native+	15.1%^	12.8%^	45.1

Table 1. 2010 Demographic Statistics for Prince of Wales Island and Ketchikan. *Data provided is from the 2010 US Census.** Not an island community. Native+ refers to Alaska Native and American Native.

² Craig Public Library Needs Assessment. 2014, unpublished.



Graph 1. Historical Population Trends of Prince of Wales-Hyder and the City of Craig. State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Research and Analysis.



Graph 2. Population estimate of Prince of Wales 2012-2042. State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

United States Census data indicates that over the last ten years the population of Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area has decreased and is projected to continue to decrease. In 2010, the population was 47.3% American Indian or Alaska. This number is expected to increase by 2015⁴.

Economic Trends Impact the Local Population

The abundance of land, forest and water on the island and surrounding areas has been at the core of the economy for decades. The region has a rich history in fur farms, mining claims, quarries, and has recently transitioned to fly-in fishing lodges and mariculture as economic generators. Historically, Prince of Wales relied heavily on logging for decades. The decline of the timber industry throughout the 1990s forced the area to redefine its economy. The result was a movement towards more government and tourism-based industries³.

Fishing is another major factor in the local economy. In 2009, the seafood processor Silver Bay, opened in Craig. This new facility offers opportunity for some employment year round and employs around 150 summer workers. However, many of these workers are transplants and are in the community only for the summer fishing season.

Another contributor to the local economy is the US Forest Service. The Tongass National Forest land encompasses most of Prince of Wales. There are two ranger districts, headquartered in Thorne Bay and in Craig, that both provide employment opportunities. The road system and maintenance contributes to jobs on the island as well. The Craig Tribal Association is currently employing workers for the road out to Port Saint Nickolas and work is being done on the Hydaburg Highway and the road near Naukati.

During the summer months, the population of the island swells as people come for seasonal employment and the fishing season picks up. Although jobs increase during the summer months, many employers such as Silver Bay and various fishing lodges employ out of state help. This results in many of the dollars leaving the community. In a 2011 survey, 1 in 5 survey respondents planned to leave the Ketchikan/Prince of Wales-Hyder area within the next five years. Twenty-four percent of non-Alaskan Natives fell into the relocation category while only 11 percent of natives said they would relocate within the next five years⁴.

Given this situation, how does unemployment impact the local community of Craig?

³ Alaska Economic Trends. August 2012

⁴ Ulrich, Jessica D. and Safford, Thomas G., "Enduring ties to community and nature: charting an alternative future for southeast Alaska" (2011). The Carsey School of Public Policy at the Scholars' Repository. Paper 129.



Sunset Drive, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

IV. Community Resources & Views on Unemployment

Organization Specific Questionnaire:

Prince of Wales Emergency Resources (POWER)

February 2015

The mission of POWER is to help those in need on Prince of Wales. It is a thrift store, food bank, and has an emergency aid program. The thrift store is entirely donation based and sold at minimal prices. Revenue generated through the thrift store and donations from local businesses, individuals, and churches fund the emergency aid and food bank. Additionally, POWER is staffed solely by volunteers. POWER has a large outreach in Craig and in all the communities on the island helping 900-1200 people per year. POWER has a Christmas room where families can choose a gift for their children for free. The organization was started in 1987 and the City of Craig allows POWER to lease the building for one dollar a year.

The organization is based in Craig, but serves the entire island. It aims to provide aid to those in need whether it is in the form of food, fuel, medical, bills, transportation, medicine, and funeral costs, basically anything that is considered an emergency.

Response to Organization Specific Questionnaire:

Primary needs of the community:

1. Affordable housing
2. Good paying jobs
3. Change in culture – a reduction in drugs and violence
4. Life skills – budgeting, those with seasonal work to learn budgeting skills

How does POWER address these needs?

1. Helping in times of emergency only, not sustainable help
2. Provides financial counseling to all its beneficiaries
3. Provides emotional support

Other organizations that assist with these specific needs?

1. Craig Tribal Association is working on providing affordable housing with assistance of the Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority

Who does POWER partner with?

1. SEARHC; the native health clinic on the island, it now also serves non-natives
2. Churches
3. Anyone they need to on the island
4. Moose Lodge

How POWER measures if its organization is working:

1. It knows the kids in the community are eating
2. The patrons come back to say thank you
3. New people come in all the time

What keeps families in poverty?

1. Personal choices, poor choices
2. Lack of opportunity
3. Lack of responsibility
4. Attitude and culture

What conditions cause poverty in our community?

1. Seasonal work results in large sums of money in specific months and many people lack budgeting skills, financial literacy is necessary.
2. Inability to plan ahead

Who addresses poverty in our community?

1. Churches
2. Moose Lodge

Additional Comments:

1. Prince of Wales can be a very supportive community
2. People are willing to volunteer their time



Bull Sea Lion, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies (H.O.P.E.)

March 2015

H.O.P.E. is located in Craig and serves the entire community,. It is a private non-profit agency that provides direct service to survivors and victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. H.O.P.E. assists in immediate crisis support, legal advocacy, law enforcement accompaniment, court accompaniment, legal assistance referral, education/awareness and prevention. The vision of H.O.P.E. is an island-wide community where all members are respected and safe to develop to their fullest potential without fear of violation. Their mission is to bring people together to build a safe island community through prevention, safety, support, and advocacy for persons who have experienced interpersonal violence.

H.O.P.E. has been chosen as the pilot project for Green Dot on Prince of Wales. Green Dot is a program to stop violence in communities by proactive bystanders.

Response to Organization Specific Questionnaire:

Primary Needs of Craig:

1. More community volunteers
2. More community interest in building a safer community
3. Greater community participation in events
4. More new involvement, getting personal invitations out could help
5. More participation in Green Dot/Awareness of Green Dot

What H.O.P.E. does to address these needs:

1. Provides advocacy for people that have been affected by interpersonal violence
2. Work at a grassroots level to develop a better bystander awareness to empower individuals to help those in harm's way

Foreseen challenges with these issues:

1. Domestic violence is a taboo subject and people have intense barriers around it
2. Domestic violence is an uncomfortable topic for most people to talk about
3. People don't see the connection between primary prevention and the overall health of the community in relation to domestic violence, healthy families, healthy relationships, drug and alcohol abuse, general health and the economic effects.

What does poverty look like in our community?

1. Directly linked to the issues stated above
2. Face of poverty directly related to domestic violence
3. Some related to cultural trauma; elders on Prince of Wales were the children taken away from parents and put into boarding schools. These elders were stripped of their language, dress, and anything that identified them belonging to the Tlingit or Haida culture was taken away. Poverty was the predominant status of the families that went to these boarding schools. The people who experienced this treatment were lost and similar feelings are still present today.
4. Some anger and mental health issues stem from the problems stated above.

What are the main barriers to unemployment in our community?

1. Education
2. A desire for people to want to improve their situation
3. Hopelessness
4. Cost of living



Top of Sunnahae, Craig, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

Craig Public Library

February 2015

The Craig public library provides patrons with books, magazines, audiobooks, DVDs, computer access, free WiFi, and video conferencing opportunities on Prince of Wales. The library offers a variety of programs, training, and events. The mission of the Craig Public Library is to provide patrons and the public access to books, diverse printed and digital materials, technology, and programmatic resources for education, information, and recreation in order to promote literacy and life-long learning in our community.

Response to Organization Specific Questionnaire:

Primary needs of Craig:

1. Economic development
2. Job creation
3. More opportunities
4. Increase arts community
5. Drug abuse
6. Domestic violence
7. Homelessness
8. Transient people

What are some intervention strategies that are being used in our community to address these issues?

1. H.O.P.E.

What local volunteer groups serve the community?

1. Moose Organization donates, but does not have volunteers

What are the greatest gaps in service to people in our community?

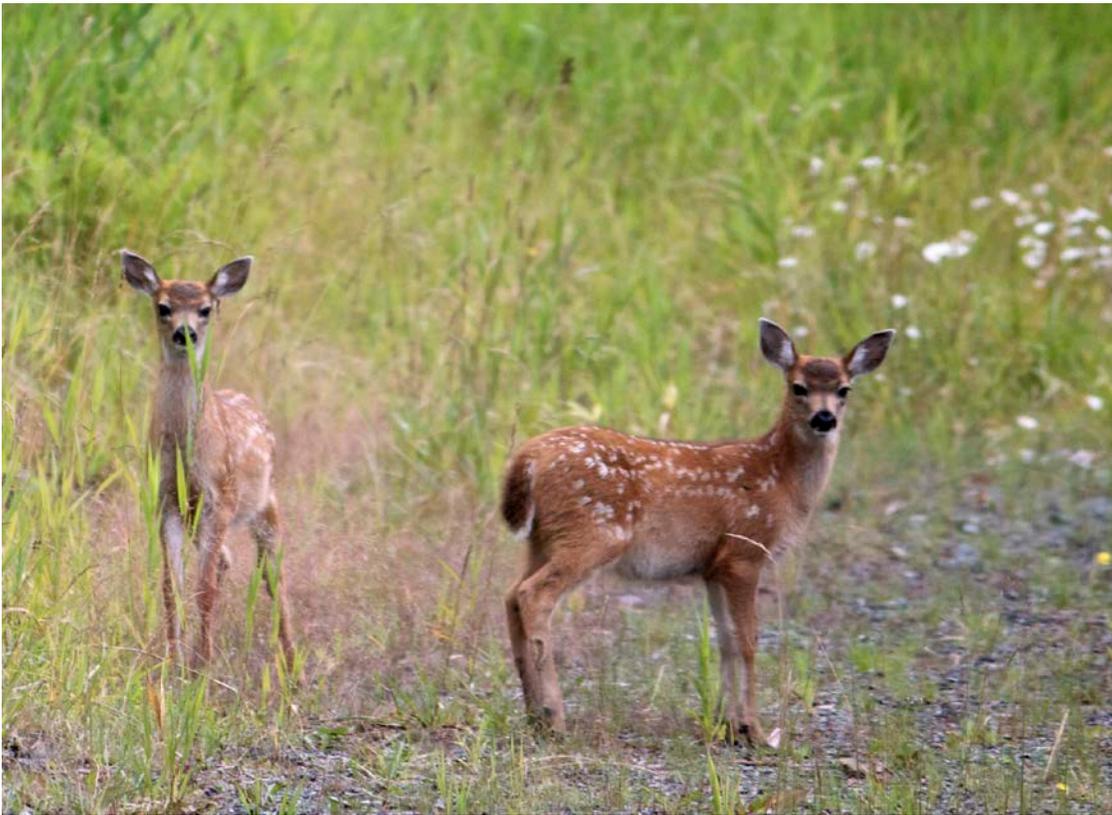
1. Family counseling
2. Career counseling/incorporate job center
3. Junior leading/pair youth with community members

What would a complete system of service look like?

1. Communication is key. Stakeholders would figure out a communication plan so that no one falls through the gaps. A community that is connected in what everyone else does and a willingness to share information.

Are people willing to address the issues stated above?

1. Mass migration (10 families leaving this year)
2. Some people are not willing to change



Twins, Prince of Wales, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

Craig School District (Student Counselor)

March 2015

The Craig School District consists of three schools: elementary school (1st – 5th grades), the middle school (6th – 8th grades), and the high school (9th – 12th grades). The student counselor is the counselor for both the middle and high school.

Response to organization specific questionnaire:

What are the primary needs of our community?

1. Craig is a great community
2. Better than previous location as a school counselor
3. More parent involvement in education, health, hygiene
4. Some kids are not eating or sleeping
5. More opportunities for adults

What are the challenges facing these issues?

1. Funding
2. Understaffed
3. Not enough adults with appropriate degree to run programming
4. Student aides do not stay in schools long due to lack of pay

What are the barriers to unemployment/underemployment in the area?

1. Transient population
2. Higher paying jobs are already taken
3. Small businesses need to fill positions and end up hiring students. These students often leave or miss school to work and don't study enough since they are working.

What are the volunteer opportunities at the school?

1. Honor Society
2. Youth in Action
 - Offers tutoring services to the middle school
 - Christmas Concert with PTSA
 - Donuts for Dads/Muffins for Moms fundraiser
 - Help with school activities (Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, family night, Earth Day clean up, concession stands)
 - Offer day care/babysitting for events (swim meets, classes, etc.)
 - Presentations to classes on topics like bullying or gossiping, students are the presenters

City of Craig School District (Technology Director)

March 2015

The technology director provides the school district assistance with computers and other technology instrumental for education at the schools.

Response to Organization Specific Questionnaire:

What are the primary needs of our community?

1. Not all parents are involved
2. Big Brothers Big Sisters would open doors for the kids that lack parental support

What are the predominate barriers to unemployment/underemployment in our community?

1. Lack of desire to work
2. Seasonal work
3. Poor work habits
4. Transient movement in community
5. Need summer jobs to have a winter job so people can have a steadier income

What are the conditions and causes of poverty in our community?

1. Alcohol abuse
2. Seasonal work
3. Lack of opportunity
4. Lack of education about employment opportunities
5. Lack of job skills
6. People get stuck in their situation

What keeps families in poverty?

1. Lack of knowledge/education
2. Cannot get past certain barriers
3. Moved here to log, but industry has slowed down
4. Lack of networking/people skills
5. Need initiative, passion, and a skill set

Is there a push for economic development in our community?

1. Medium push
2. Still an economy for fishing
3. Roads are being built

What are the volunteer opportunities in our community?

1. POWER
2. Sport events (gate keepers, time keepers, coach)
3. Church
4. Gun Club
5. EMS
6. Leadership opportunities: Fish Board and School Board

Additional Comments:

1. A lot of people care

Strictly Local

July 2015

Strictly Local is an art gallery in Craig that sells art that was produced on Prince of Wales. The gallery serves both locals and tourists equally. This interview was included to get the perspective of a small business in the community on unemployment issues.

What are the primary needs in our community?

1. There needs to be more resources available for people that are having mental issues such as addiction, eating disorders, depression
2. Support groups/safe places to talk

What organizations deal with the issues you stated above?

1. SEARHC Behavioral Health
2. Peace Health offers limited care and are not specialized in the matter
3. Narcotics anonymous available in Craig

What are some steps that could be done to alleviate these issues?

1. Find people that are interested/qualified to run programs in communities that would provide a safe outlet to discuss personal obstacles.

What are the conditions and causes in our community?

1. Drug and alcohol abuse
2. People unable to keep work
3. Local economy doesn't support businesses outside of logging and fishing

What are the barriers to unemployment in our community?

1. Substance abuse
2. People are incapable to stay employed, poor work habits

What are some steps that could be done to reduce poverty in our community?

1. Discovering underlying problems of substance abuse
2. Create programs that promote marketable skills for job seekers

Do you know of any job seeking resources in our community?

1. No, online in theory, but the postings are not updated
2. Not an easy place to look for jobs other than billboards
3. No job postings for the good jobs in town
4. No postings for career jobs

How does the lack of affordable housing impact the economy?

1. Affordable housing would allow more people to move here and hopefully boost the economy

Additional Comments:

1. Jobs like ones at Silver Bay are looking to hire people around the clock. Many people here are not willing to take jobs like that or don't have a good enough work ethic to do so. This means that many summer jobs are filled with people that are not from the area.

Information Gathered from Webpages and Brochures:

Craig Tribal Association

The Craig Tribal Association (CTA) is a federally recognized American Indian tribe. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for its members by protecting and preserving history and culture. It aims to promote self-sufficiency as well as strong work ethic. CTA provides social, health, economic and education resources that contribute to the overall well-being of tribal members.

CTA provides information on the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program. This federal act assists tribes in developing tools to manage their own environmental protection programs. The tribe offers job opportunities, scholarships, a food program and transportation on the island.

Community Connections

Community Connections provides a variety of outreach programs on Prince of Wales. They offer an Early Learning Program for ages birth – three for children with developmental delays. Children's Mental Health Services offers care for children and their families in a variety of settings. Developmental Disabilities Services allow partnerships between individuals, families and Community Connections to help people achieve their life goals. Older Alaskans and Adult Resource Services provide services to help adults or seniors live in their community of choice. Community Connections is based in Craig and in Ketchikan.

Prince of Wales Health Network

The Health Network is a collaborative effort between many of the healthcare services on the island including: Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Alicia Roberts Medical Center, Community Connections, Alaska Island Community Services, PeaceHealth Medical Group Prince of Wales, Whale Tail Pharmacy, and Southeast Dental Center Inc.

The Network strives to strengthen the healthcare system on the island and increase access to quality healthcare for all citizens on the island. The Network is heavily grant funded. Network goals include improving awareness of services increase the availability of behavioral health services in the more rural communities and to Prince of Wales.



Black Bear, Prince of Wales, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

V. Results of Individual Questionnaire Responses

March – May 2015

Residential Breakdown of Responses:

Craig: 60%

Klawock: 24%

Other Community on Prince of Wales: 16%

Not located on Prince of Island: 0%



Canoe Point, Prince of Wales, AK. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

What are the top three things you enjoy most in your community?

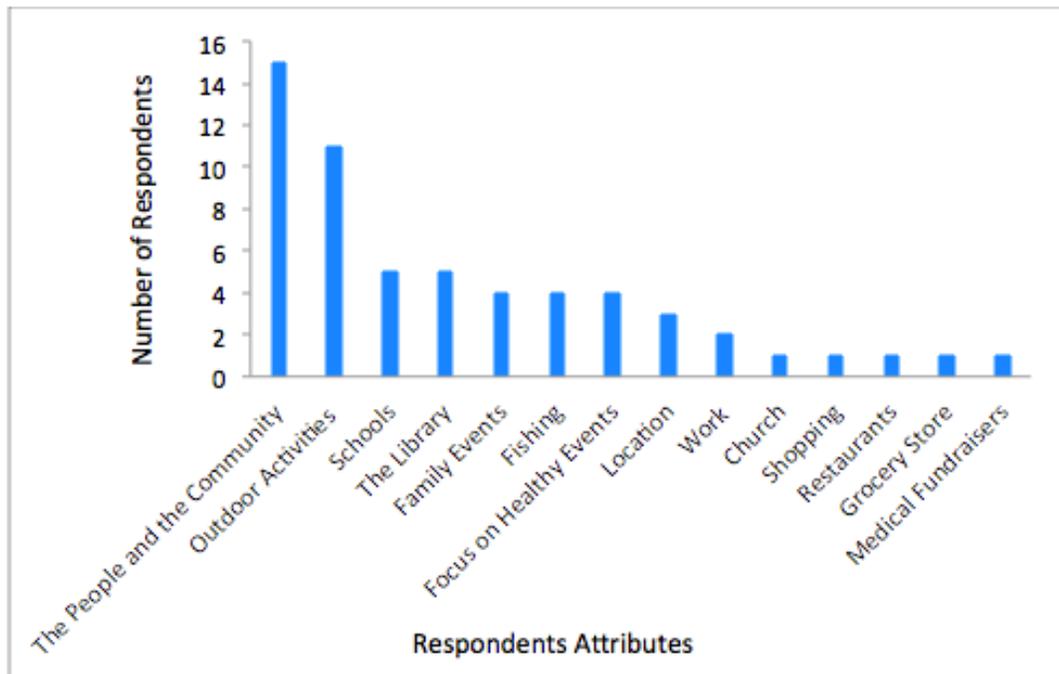
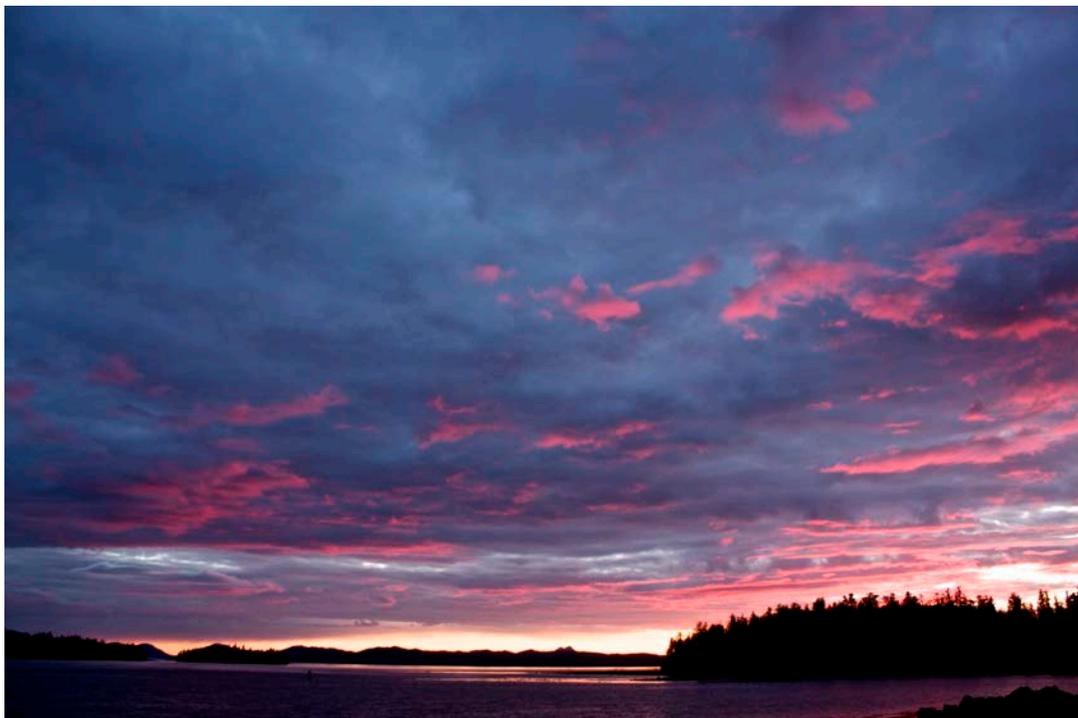


Figure 1. Top Community Attributes.



Sunset Over Fish Egg Island, Craig, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

What do you view as the primary need(s) in our community?

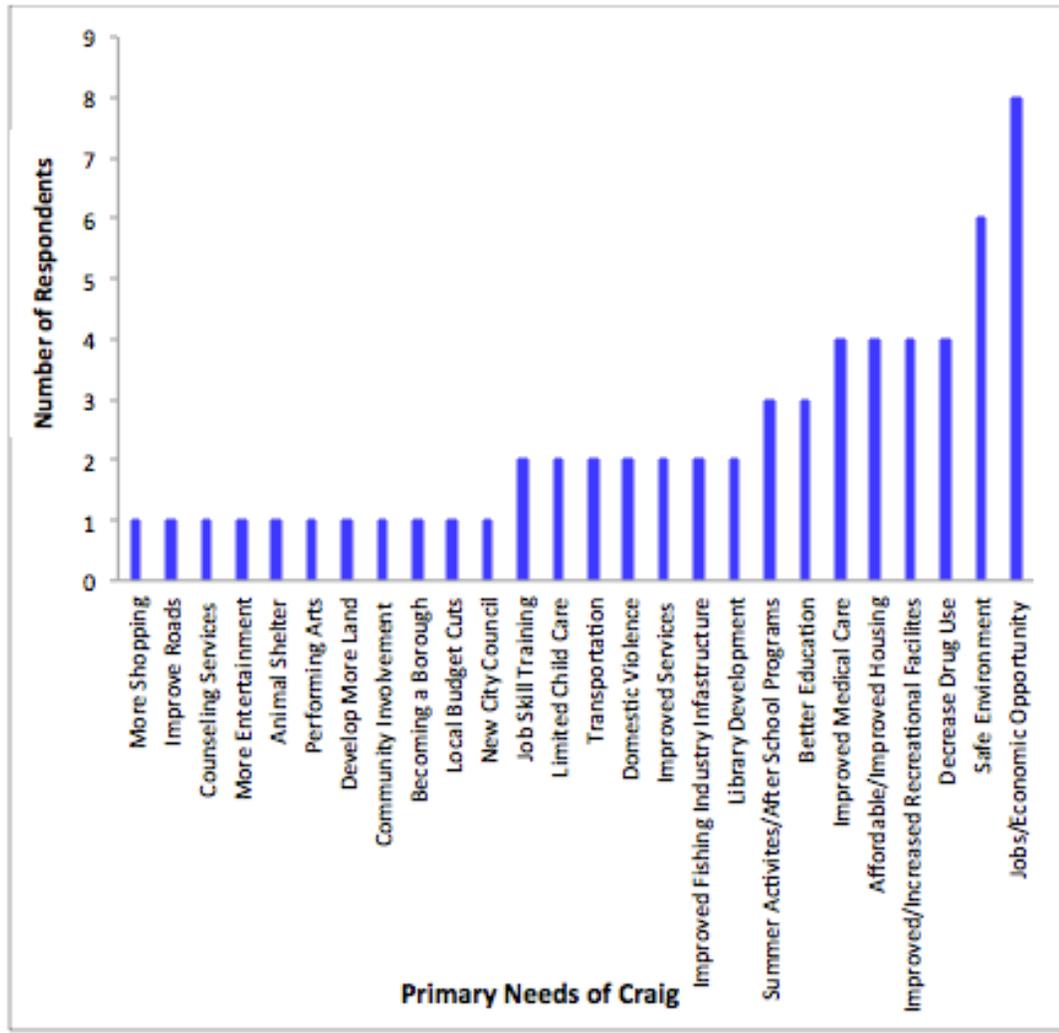


Figure 2. Primary Needs of Craig.

Do you know of any organizations that deal with these issues?

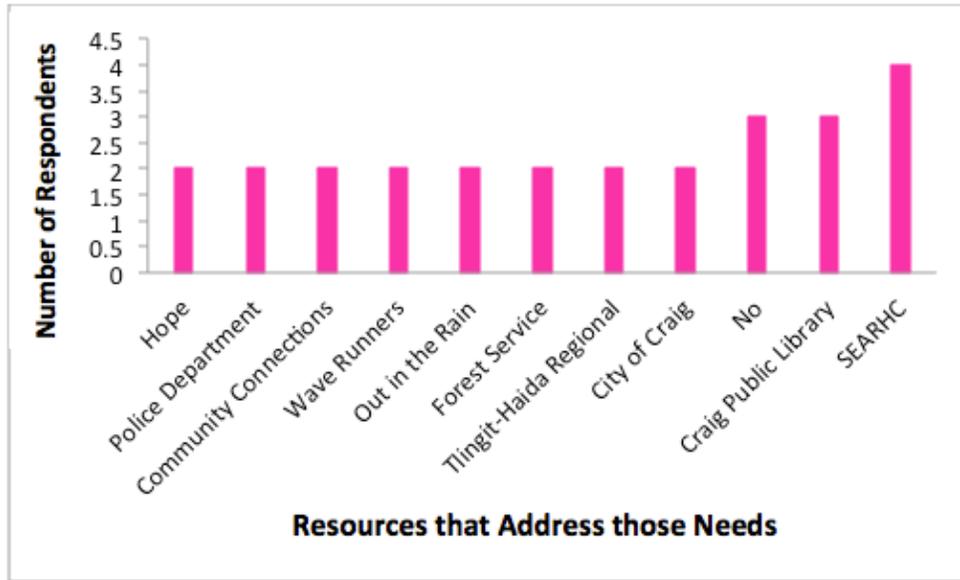


Figure 3. Resources that address top needs in Craig.

What programs do you think would benefit the community surrounding the issues you mentioned above?

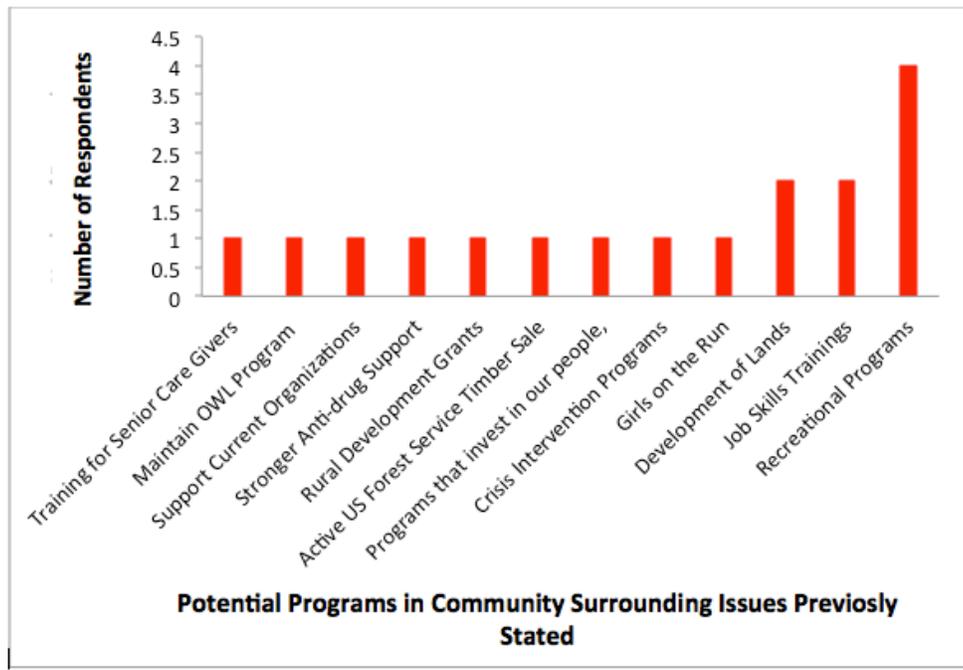


Figure 4. Programs that would assist in relieving the primary needs in Craig.

To what extent do you feel there are opportunities for economic and community development within our community?

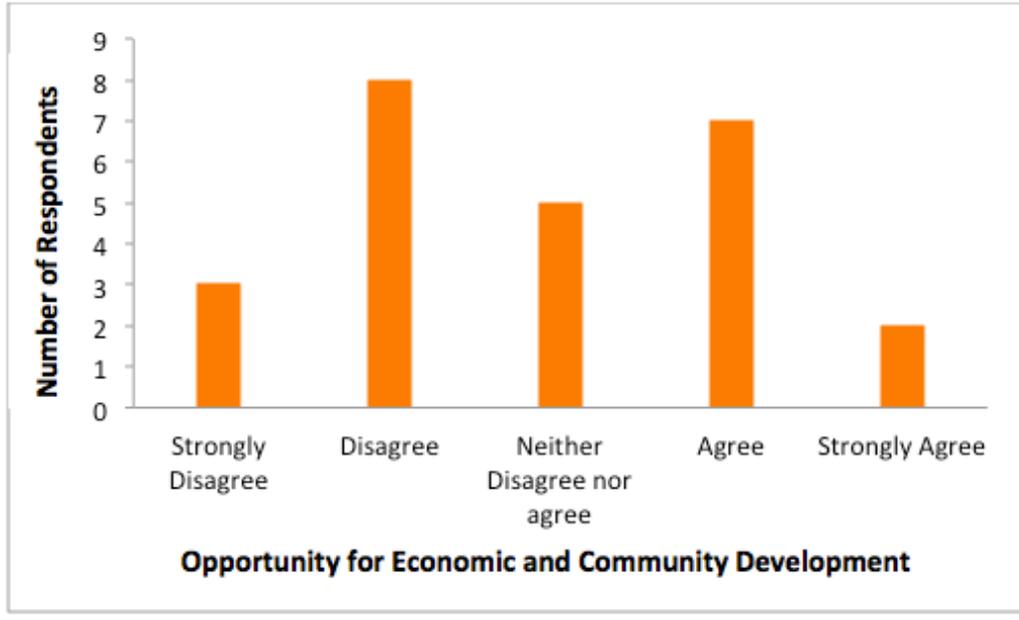


Figure 5. Extent of economic and community development opportunities in Craig.

To what extent are the interests of the low-income community considered during the development and planning of economic and community development projects?

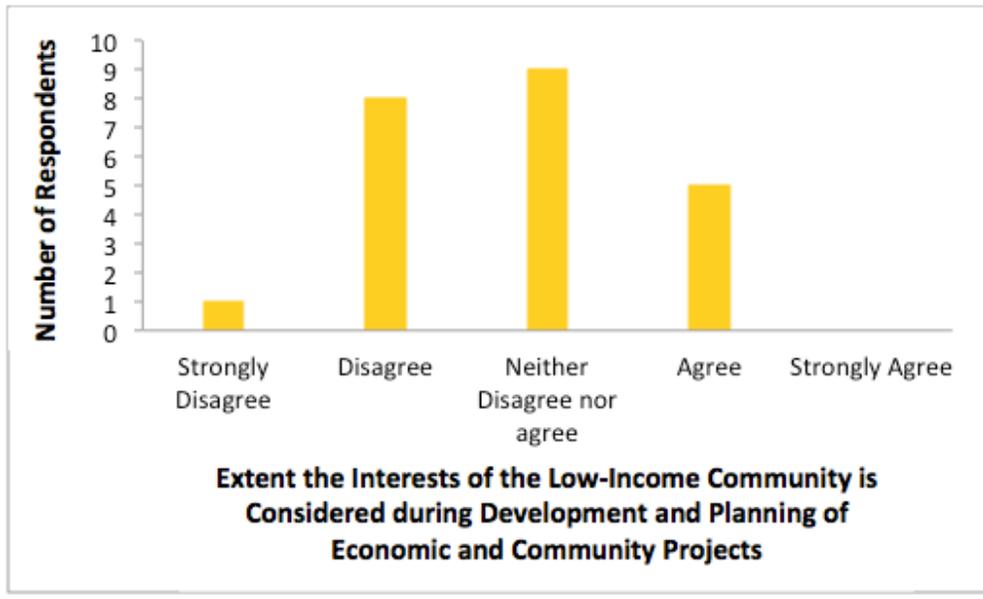


Figure 6. Extent low-income community is considered during development projects.

To what extent are childcare facilities and providers located in areas accessible to low-income parents?

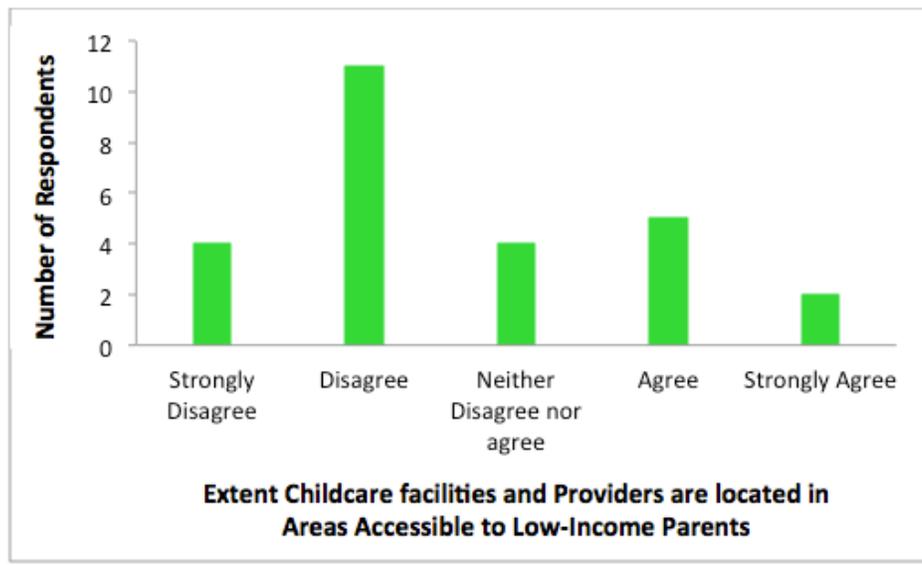


Figure 7. Extent childcare facilities and providers are accessible to low-income parents.

To what extent are childcare facilities located in areas near employment and educational opportunities for low-income persons?

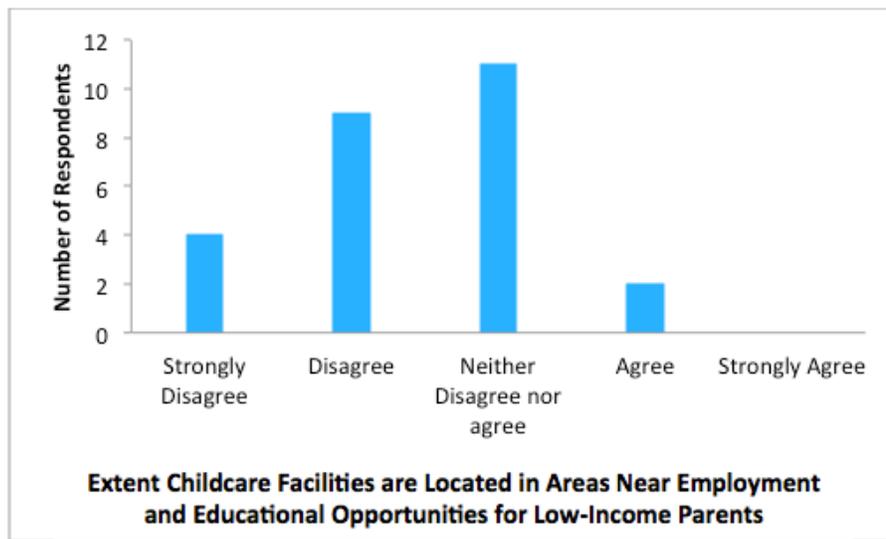


Figure 8. Extent childcare facilities are located in areas near employment and educational opportunities for low-income parents.

To what extent are small business incubators present in the low-income community (e.g., business spaces with common administrative and managerial support)?

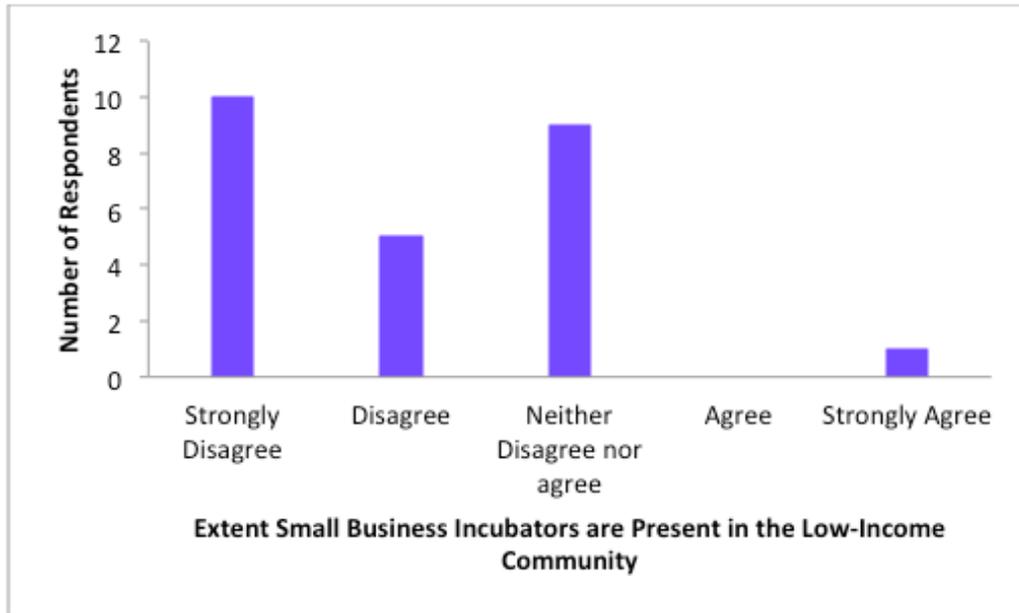


Figure 9. Extent small business incubators are present in the low-income community.

To what extent are members of all racial and ethnic backgrounds able to obtain full-time employment?

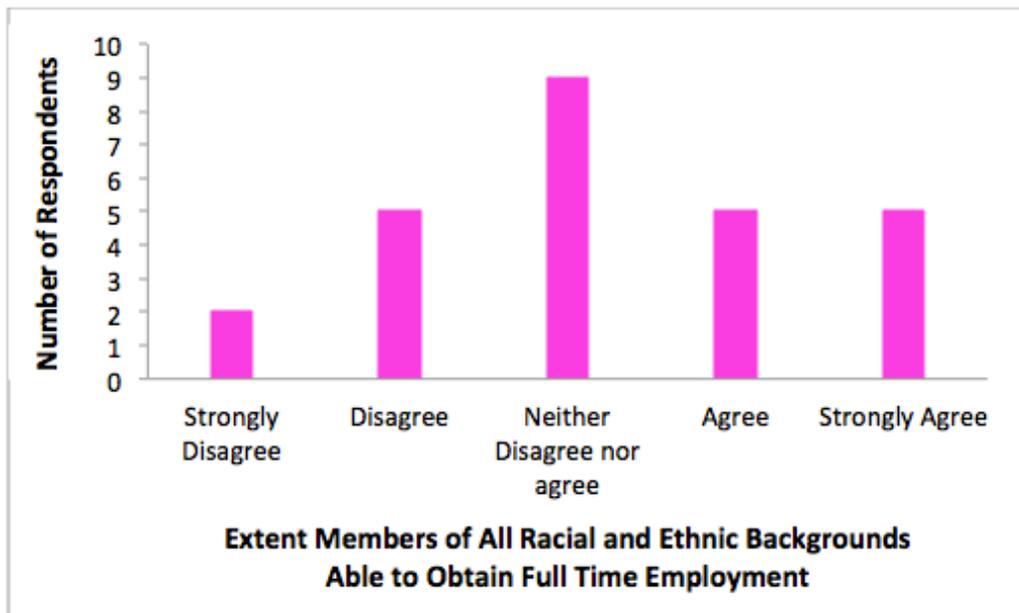


Figure 10. Extent members of all racial and ethnic backgrounds able to obtain full time employment.



Deer Sighting, Prince of Wales, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

How would one find out which careers are available to people with less than 2 years of college education have opportunities for advancement?

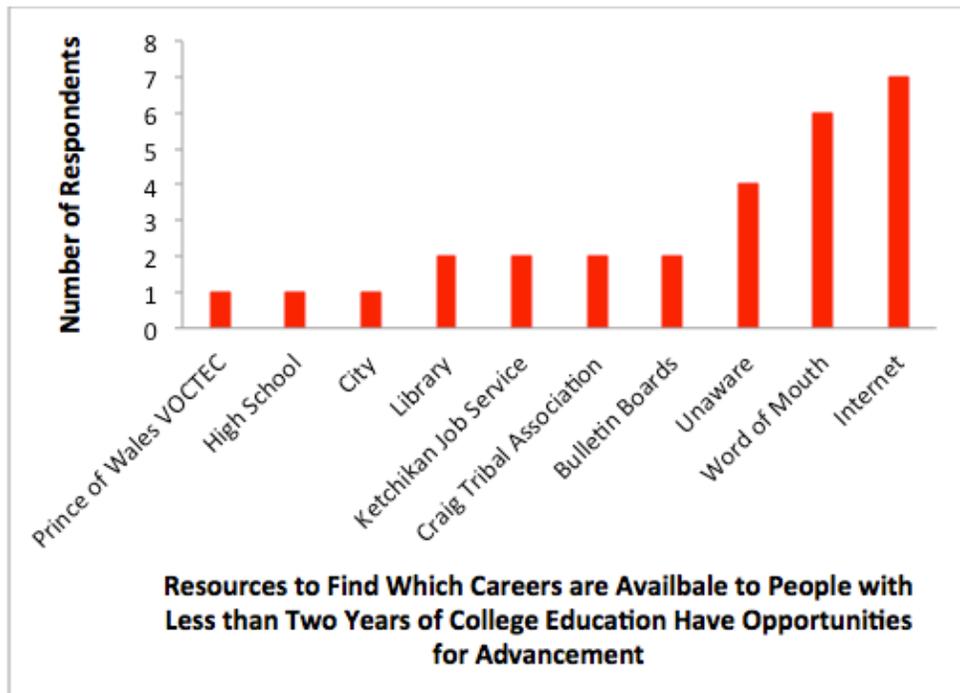


Figure 11. Resources to discover potential career advancement available to people with less than two years of college education.



Sunset Over Craig, Craig, Alaska. Personal Photograph by Katie George. 2015

If you could improve your current employment what areas would you focus on?

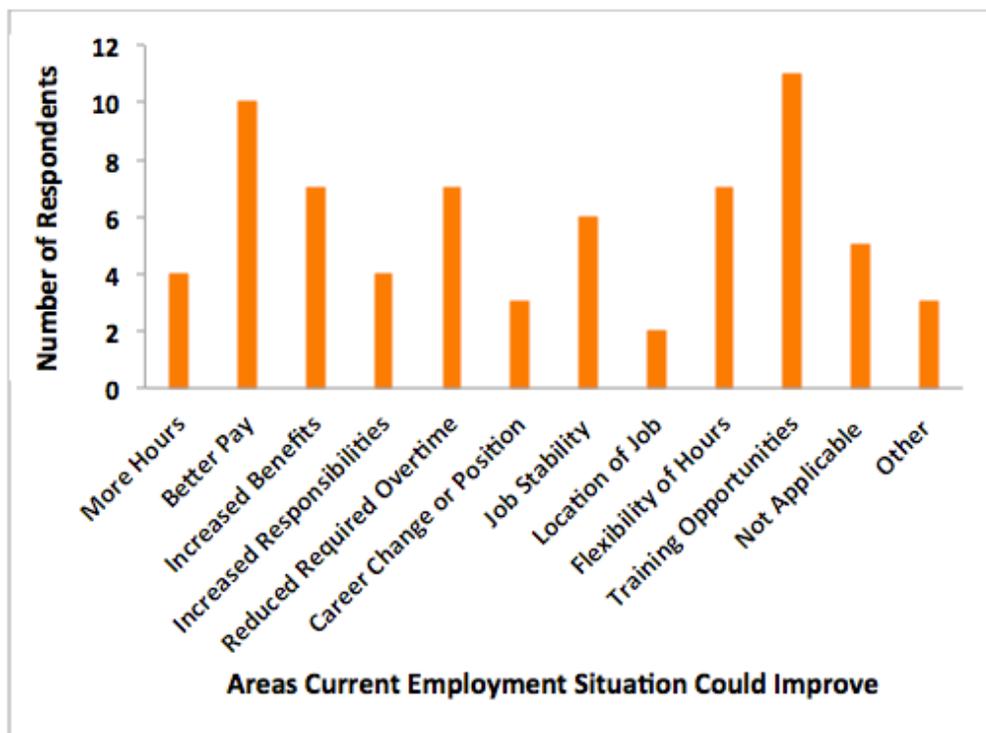


Figure 12. Areas current employment situation could improve.

Please identify your strengths for employment:

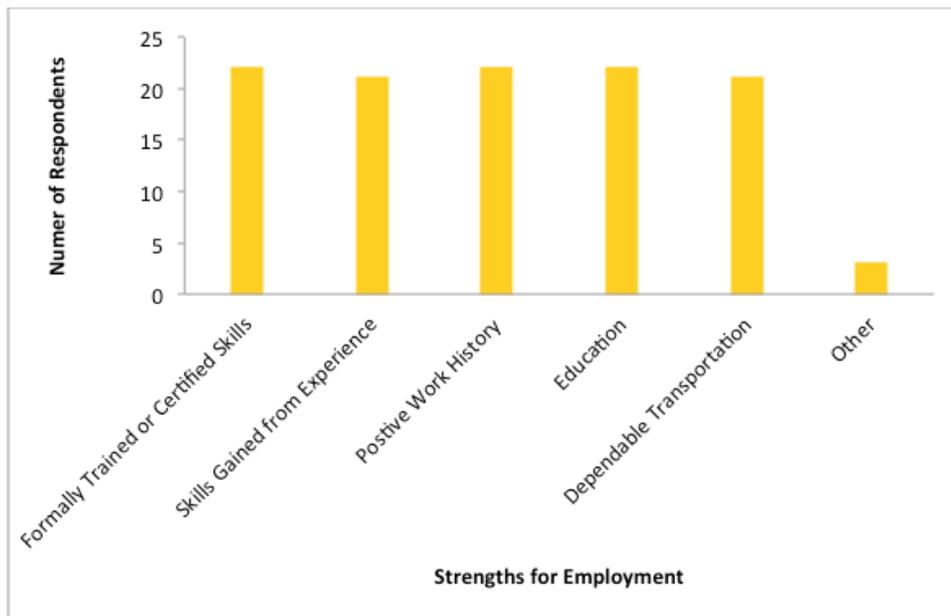


Figure 13. Individual strengths for employment.

Please identify your barriers for employment:

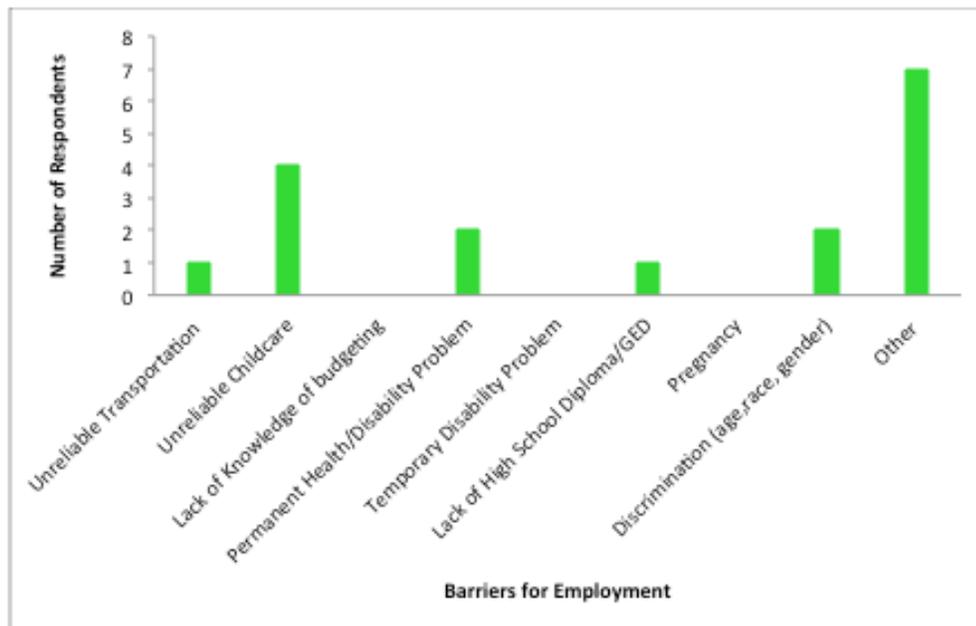


Figure 14. Individual barriers for employment

Please answer the following regarding the employment status for family members:

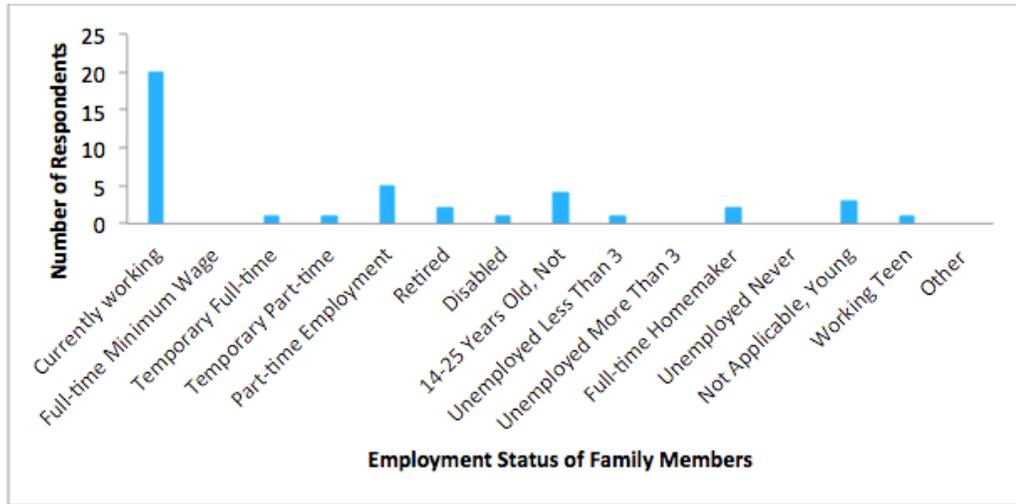


Figure 15. Employment status of family members.



Reflecting Pool, Prince of Wales, Alaska. Personal Photograph by Katie George. 2015.

Employment is a problem in this area because:

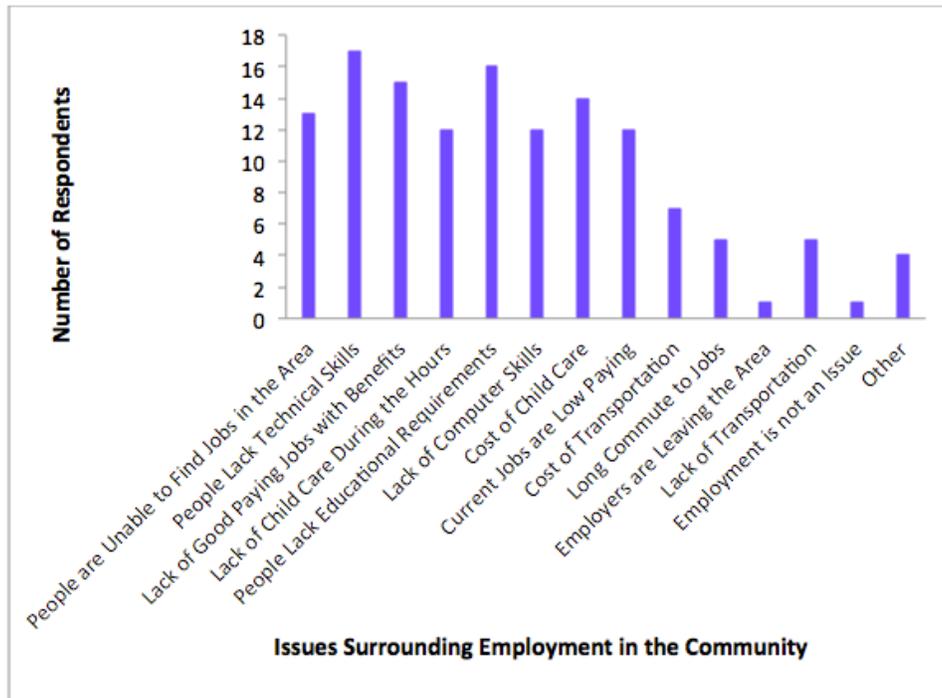


Figure 16. Issues surrounding employment in the community



Muskeg Pool, Prince of Wales, Alaska. Personal Photograph by Katie George. 2015.

Do you need any of the following employment services?

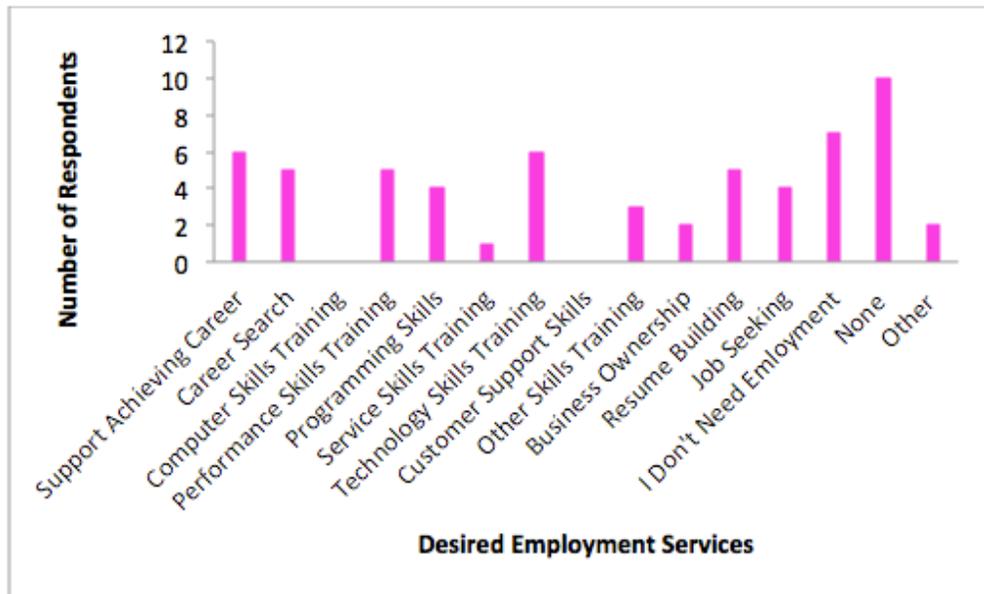


Figure 17. Desired employment services.

Financial literacy skills that would benefit my family and myself are:



Figure 18. Beneficial Financial Skills.

VI. Discussion of Assessment Results

The top attribute of the community is the close community, followed by outdoor activities, Schools and library were third (Figure. 1).

Based from the results of this assessment, the community of Craig views unemployment and lack of job opportunities as the primary needs of the area (Figure 2). In reviewing individual responses, this may be due to a number of different factors. The most obvious would be the decrease of employment opportunities in the logging and fishing industries. Many people moved to the island during industry growth and when the logging market crashed, these people were left without jobs. Another concern community members voiced was that the most desired, year round jobs were already taken leaving only the undesired, lower paid positions or ones lacking benefits. According to one survey responder some people would rather seek unemployment benefits than have a job without benefits and with low pay. An additional factor in the poor economic development in Craig could be due to the high amount of non-local employees during the summer months. Many of the lodges as well as Silver Bay Seafood Processing recruit out of state help. These jobs may boost the local economy temporarily, but when the help leaves so do their dollars. The survey indicated a belief that some people lack a strong work ethic and simply do not want to work.

When asked what resources dealt with the primary needs of the area, most responded SEARHC followed by the library, or that they did not know of any current resources (Figure 3). Programs that respondents deemed necessary to address the needs were increased recreation activities, job skill trainings, and development of land (Figure 4). Another need that was indicated from the assessment was the lack of affordable, quality childcare (Figures 7 and 8).

Respondents stated that areas where their current employment situation could improve were increased pay and more training opportunities (Figure 12). Respondents felt they had many employable strengths with the dominant barriers for employment being other circumstances and unreliable childcare (Figures 13 and 14). Future studies investigating the other circumstances as an employment barrier would be beneficial.

Regarding the respondents family members most were currently employed full time, part-time, or were too young to be employed (Figure 15). When asked what financial literacy programs would be beneficial for family members many respondents said knowledge of budgeting, money management and knowledge on saving (Figure 18.) This suggests that many families in the community would benefit from financial skill classes.

VII. Conclusion

The primary needs and concerns from both the individual responses and organizational interviews are condensed into five categories below:

- 1.) Economic development
- 2.) More programs for youth and adults/increased recreational activities
- 3.) Affordable childcare
- 4.) Domestic violence prevention
- 5.) Drug abuse prevention

The primary strengths of the community identified from the individual responses and organizational interviews are condensed into three categories below:

- 1.) Willingness to help
- 2.) Caring community
- 3.) Diverse skill set within community

Another strength would be the shift to more sustainable industries such as government and tourism that has had a positive impact on the economy in Craig. In a 2011 study, the employment in Prince of Wales-Hyder was primarily through local agencies that provided 41% of jobs, half of which were in education².

Future Steps

Results of this assessment indicate that future programs that would be beneficial to the community include: job skill training, financial literacy classes focused on budgeting and money management skills, and life skill classes (Figure 2 and 18, and POWER interview). Additionally, the desired increase for outdoor recreational activities and more programs that involve adults was discovered through this assessment (Figure 2 and City of Craig School Student Counselor Interview).

Possible partnerships to pursue include HOPE, the City of Craig School District, the Craig Tribal Association, POWER, Community Connections, and small businesses in the community. A partnership with HOPE could help expand the Green Dot program within the community and help alleviate domestic violence, a need many voiced in the assessment. Partnering with the City of Craig School district could result in more students volunteering in the library and fulfilling scholarship requirements. A partnership with the Craig Tribal Association could result in an increase of job ready community members by providing job skill trainings. Partnering with POWER could result in including their patrons in programs that would help prevent future emergencies such as the inability to pay bills. A partnership with Community Connections could result in spreading the word on early literacy programs available through the library. Partnering with various small businesses within the community could provide residents with entrepreneur opportunities and resources for owning your own business. These partnerships could result in fulfilling the mission of the different organizations with the library's assistance and create a stronger community.

To create sustainable classes, volunteers from the community will need to be recruited to conduct these classes. To recruit volunteers, an outreach campaign will be needed as well as contacting people within the community that possess the skills to conduct the necessary classes. Grant opportunities would also open the option of bringing in professionals that would facilitate the programs needed. Additionally, involvement from the people who demonstrate the greatest need is necessary for the programs to be beneficial. Expected results of these partnerships and programs aim to bridge gaps in current services and to increase economic opportunity in Craig.



Morning Fog, Prince of Wales, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

VIII. Acknowledgements

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Doe in Grass, Prince of Wales, Alaska. Personal photograph by Katie George. 2015.

IX. Appendix

Community Assessment Individual Questionnaire

- 1.) Where do you live?
 - Craig
 - Port St. Nick
 - Klawock
 - Other community on Prince of Wales
 - Not on Prince of Wales
- 2.) What are the top three things you enjoy most in your community?
- 3.) What do you view as the primary need(s) in the community?
- 4.) Do you know of any organizations that deal with these issues, if so please list them below:
- 5.) What programs do you think would benefit the community surrounding the issues you mentioned above?
- 6.) To what extent do you feel there are opportunities for economic and community development within your community? (1-5)
- 7.) To what extent are the interests of the low-income community considered during the development and planning of economic and community development projects? (1-5)
- 8.) To what extent are childcare facilities and providers located in areas accessible to low-income parents? (1-5)
- 9.) To what extent are childcare facilities located in areas near employment and educational opportunities for low-income persons? (1-5)
- 10.) To what extent are small business incubators present in the low-income community (e.g., business spaces with common administrative and managerial support)? (1-5)
- 11.) To what extent are members of all racial and ethnic backgrounds able to obtain full-time employment? (1-5)

12.) How would one find out which careers available to people with less than 2 years of college education have opportunities for advancement?

13.) If you could improve your current employment what areas would you focus on?

- More hours
- Better Pay
- Increased Benefits
- Increased Responsibilities
- Reduced required overtime
- Career change or position
- Job stability
- Location of job
- Flexibility of hours
- Training opportunities
- Not applicable

14.) Please Identify your strengths for employment

- Formally trained or certified skills
- Skills gained from experience
- Positive work history
- Education
- Dependable transportation
- Other

15.) Please identify your barriers for employment

- Unreliable transportation
- Unreliable childcare
- Lack of knowledge of budgeting
- Permanent health/disability problem
- Temporary disability problem
- Lack of High School Diploma/GED
- Pregnancy
- Discrimination (age, race, gender)
- Other

16.) Please answer the following regarding the employment status for family members:

- Currently working
- Full-time employment earning minimum wage
- Temporary full-time
- Temporary part-time
- Part-time employment
- Retired
- Disabled
- 14-25 years old, not working
- Unemployed less than three months
- Unemployed more than three months
- Full time homemaker
- Unemployed never worked
- Not applicable, young child
- Working teen

17.) Employment is a problem in this area because:

- People are unable to find jobs in the area
- People lack technical skills
- Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
- Lack of childcare during the hours needed
- People lack education requirements
- Lack of computer skills
- Cost of childcare
- Current jobs are low paying
- Cost of transportation
- Long commute to jobs
- Employers leaving the area
- Lack of transportation
- Employment is not an issue

18.) Do you need any of the following employment services?

- Support achieving career goals
- Career search
- Computer skills training
- Performance skills training
- Programming skills training
- Service skills training
- Technology skills training
- Customer support skills training
- Other skills training
- Business ownership
- Resume building

- Job Seeking
- I don't need any employment services, but I know someone who does
- None
- Other _____

19.) Financial literacy skills that would benefit me and my family are:

- Knowledge of budgeting
- Money management
- Use of income credits
- Knowledge on savings strategies
- Credit card management
- Other _____

Community Assessment Organization Specific

1.) Where is your organization based?

- Craig
- Klawock
- Other

2.) What communities does your organization serve?

- Craig
- Klawock
- Prince of Wales
- Other _____

3.) What are three things you enjoy most in your community?

4.) Who does your organization primarily serve? What is the mission of your organization

5.) What do you view as the primary need(s) in the community? (adults, children, elders?)

6.) How does your organization address these needs(s)? (i.e. advocacy, direct service, referral etc.)

7.) What do you see as the challenges facing this issue? Do they occur externally (politically or funding) or internally (staffing,time)

8.) Who do you partner with when you need to help someone facing this issue?

9.) How does your organization measure success?

9.) Does your organization deal specifically with unemployment/poverty issues? (For Example: limited higher educational attainment, food insecurity, uninsured, low wage jobs, single-parent families, inadequate housing)

- 10.) What are the predominate barriers to unemployment/underemployment in the area?
- 11.) What are conditions and causes of poverty in our community?
- 12.) What keeps families in poverty?
- 13.) What steps could be taken to reduce poverty in our community?
- 14.) What job seeking resources are available in our community?
- 15.) How does the lack of affordable housing impact the economy?
- 16.) Additional Comments