

Board Packet, Table of Contents

Meeting: August 23/24, 2021

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ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

Date: August 23 - 24, 2021

Time: Monday, August 23: 10:00am; Tuesday, August 24: 9:00am

Place: Anchorage Legislative Information Office, Denali Conference Room, 1st Floor
1500 West Benson Blvd, Anchorage 99503

Live Video/Audio Web Stream: www.akl.tv

*Teleconference public testimony dial-in numbers:
Anchorage 563-9085, Juneau 586-9085, Other 844-586-9085*

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Revised Travel/Per Diem Policy
4. Adoption of Public Testimony Policy
5. Public Testimony
Dial into one of the phone numbers above and indicate to the operator that you wish to testify
6. Census Data Overview
 - a. Overview Report on Alaska Population Changes
Eric Sandberg, Demographer, Alaska Department of Labor
 - b. Legacy Data and Population Change
Peter Torkelson, Executive Director

7. Redistricting Timeline and Schedule for Adoption of Draft and Final Maps

- a. Understanding Alaska's Constitutional Timeline
(including brief Executive Session to obtain legal advice)
Matt Singer, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt
- b. Board Discussion: Adoption of Timeline

8. Workflow Process

- a. Staff recommendations for workflow process: Possibilities & Logistics
Peter Torkelson, Executive Director
TJ Presley, Deputy Director
- b. Regionalization Possibilities
Eric Sandberg, Demographer, Alaska Department of Labor
- c. Board Discussion: Workflow process, Adoption
- d. Steps forward: initial map drawing, task assignments, public input schedule

9. Executive Session for the purposes of receiving a presentation on Litigation Lessons from Alaska Redistricting Caselaw.
Matt Singer, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt

10. Map Drawing

11. Board Member Comments

12. Adjournment

Board Member & Staff Per Diem Policy

The Alaska Redistricting Board's current travel policy reads:

It is the policy of the Alaska Redistricting Board that members and staff receive per-diem reimbursement for actual lodging, meals and incidentals to a value of \$85 and ground transportation to a value of \$60 per day for board related travel that is authorized by the Board Chair or Executive Director. Reimbursement for actual costs incurred over the maximum amounts may be made at the discretion of the Board Chair.

Adopted, as amended, by unanimous consent, January 26, 2021

The Legislative Affairs Accounting office suggested that the Board consider amending the policy to cap hotel/lodging expenses as the published Federal Department of Defense rate which they use for other reimbursement processes. The draft amended policy would read:

It is the policy of the Alaska Redistricting Board that members and staff receive reimbursement for actual lodging up to the published Federal per-diem rate, meals and incidentals to a value of \$85 and ground transportation to a value of \$60 per day for board related travel that is authorized by the Board Chair or Executive Director. Reimbursement for actual costs incurred over the maximum amounts may be made at the discretion of the Board Chair.

Draft proposed 8/23/21

Public Testimony Policy, Draft

The Alaska Constitution Article VI, § 10 states that:

... The board shall hold public hearings on the proposed plan, or, if no single proposed plan is agreed on, on all plans proposed by the board...

The Alaska Redistricting Board welcomes public testimony and believes that public input is an essential part of the redistricting process created by the Alaska Constitution. In order to allow for civil discourse and efficient public meetings, the Board has adopted the following rules for public testimony:

Public testimony containing inappropriate language, casting aspersions, or threatening others will not be accepted. While written testimony may be of any length, to allow adequate time for all parties to be heard, public testimony may be limited to 2 minutes per speaker. Speakers are to provide their name and affiliation with a group, if any, on a public sign-in sheet and state those for the record when called upon to testify. Members of the public who are unwilling to respect these rules may be asked to leave the meeting.

Draft Proposed 8/23/21

August 13th, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board
P.O. Box 240147
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
ATTENTION: John Binkley, Chair

Reference: Joint Letter Hooper Bay for Bethel Region in 2021

Dear Mr. Binkley, and the Ak Redistricting Board,

This is a joint community letter of Hooper Bay: City, Native Village, and Sea Lion Corporation (Alaska Native village corporation) supporting that Hooper Bay be part of the Bethel region in 2021 Redistricting.

Bethel is main hub for Y-K Delta villages like Hooper Bay, therefore much of its commerce, health, employment, social and other dealings are within this geographic region.

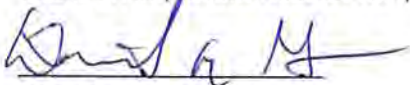
Much of Hooper Bay's funding for health, housing, social services and programs are usually lumped together with other villages served by Bethel-based businesses and organizations (AVCP, YKHC, AVCP Regional Housing, Community Development Quota- CVRF, etc.)

Commercial airlines that bring passengers and freight are nearly 100% from Bethel and USPO mail and other packages delivery services to Hooper Bay are funneled through Bethel.

From Bethel, the political, semi-political groups, and state & federal agencies and their already affect Hooper Bay (e.g., AVCP Convention, YKHC Tribal Gathering, Y-K Regional Subsistence Board, ADFG, USFWS, etc.)

The Kusilvak Census district is considered part of and always counted with or aligned with the Y-K Delta and least common with Seward Peninsula region, therefore Hooper Bay considers itself as part of the Y-K Delta.

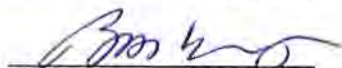
This is an important issue of the people of this region, please consider our concerns.



David Green, Mayor



Eric Olson, Sr. Village Chief



Bosco Olson, Sr. Sea Lion Corporation Chair

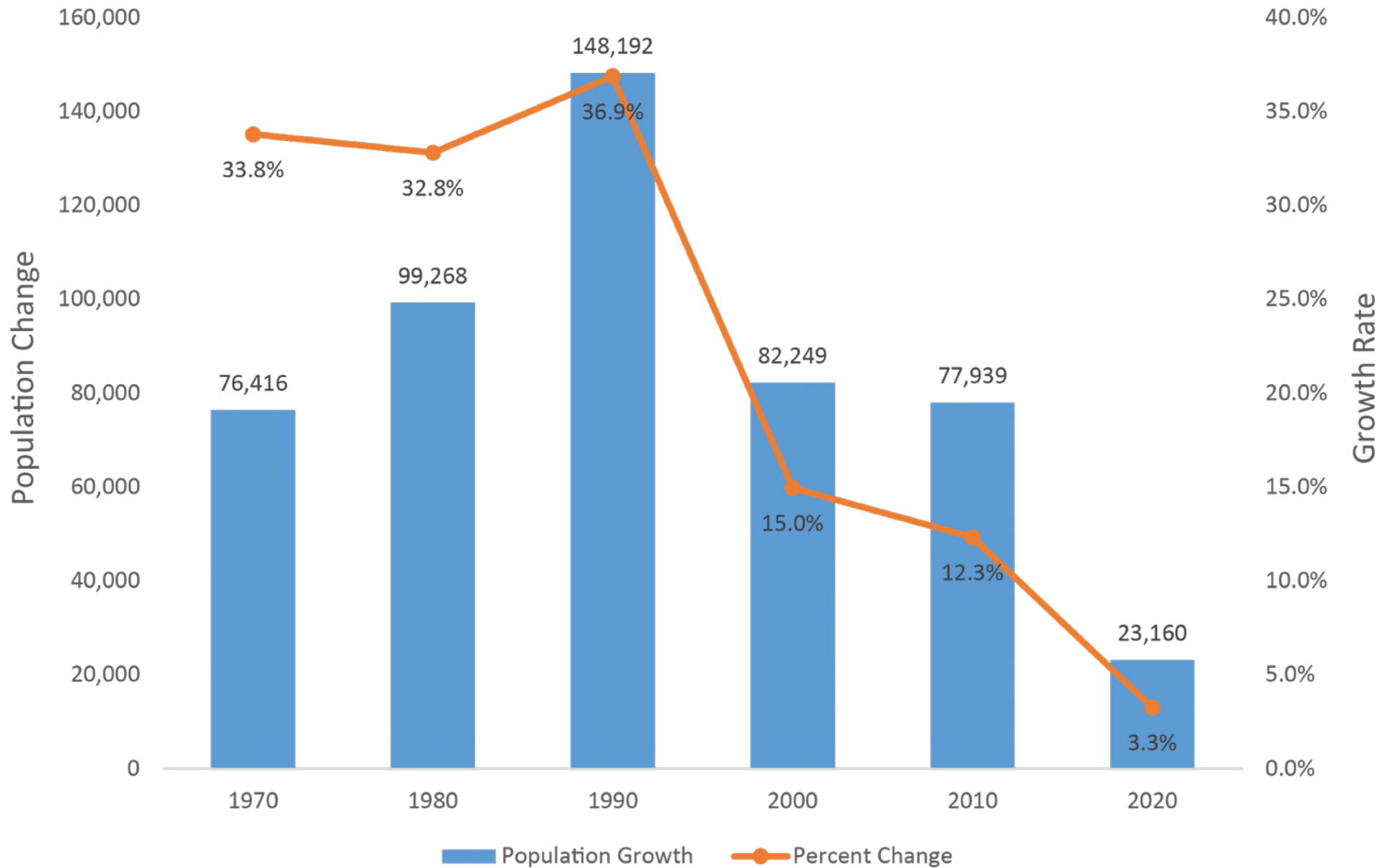
Overview of Alaska Population Change 2010-2020

Eric Sandberg

Demographer

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

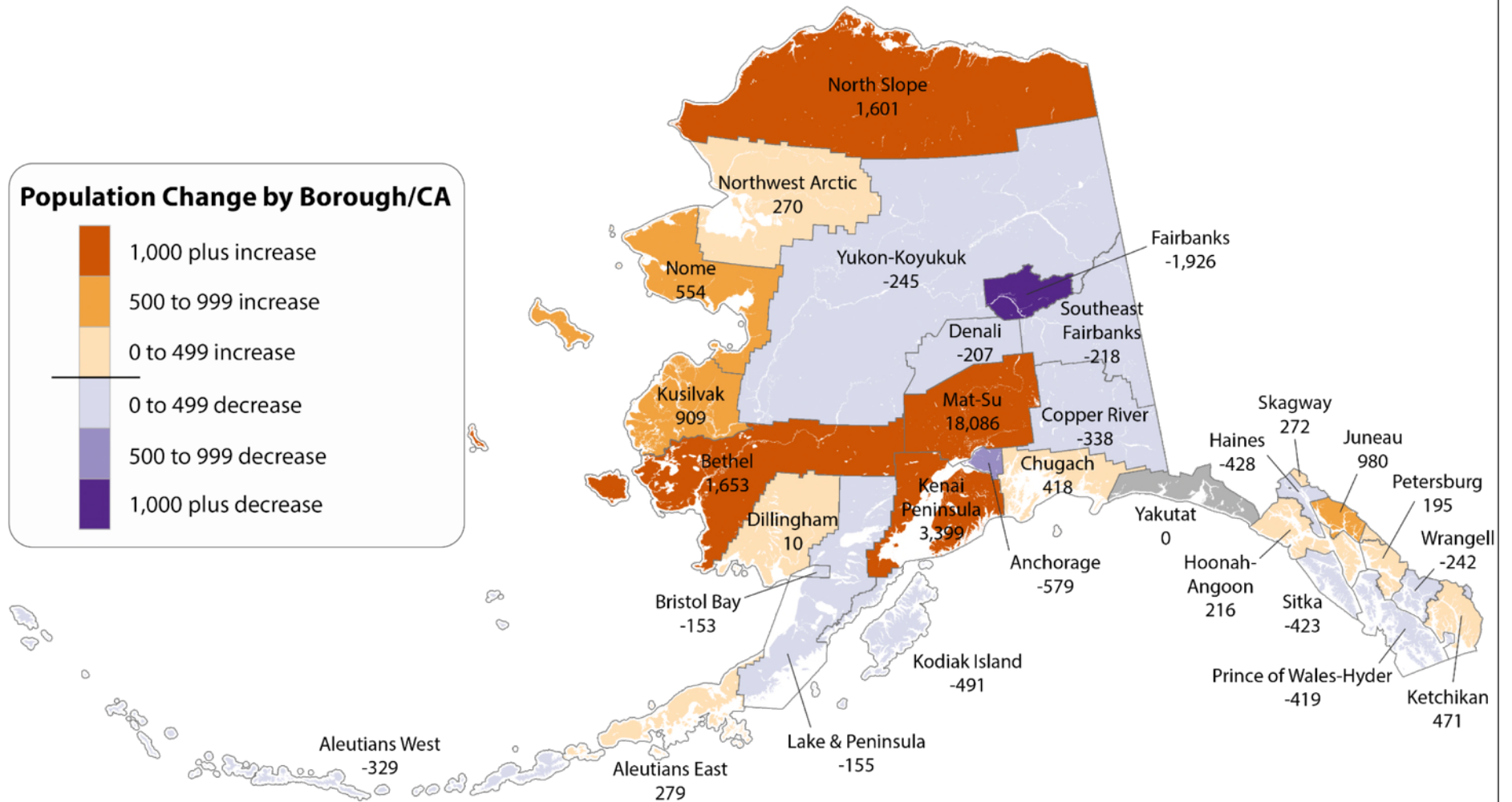
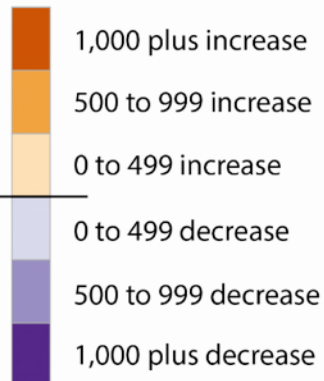
Population Change from Previous Census



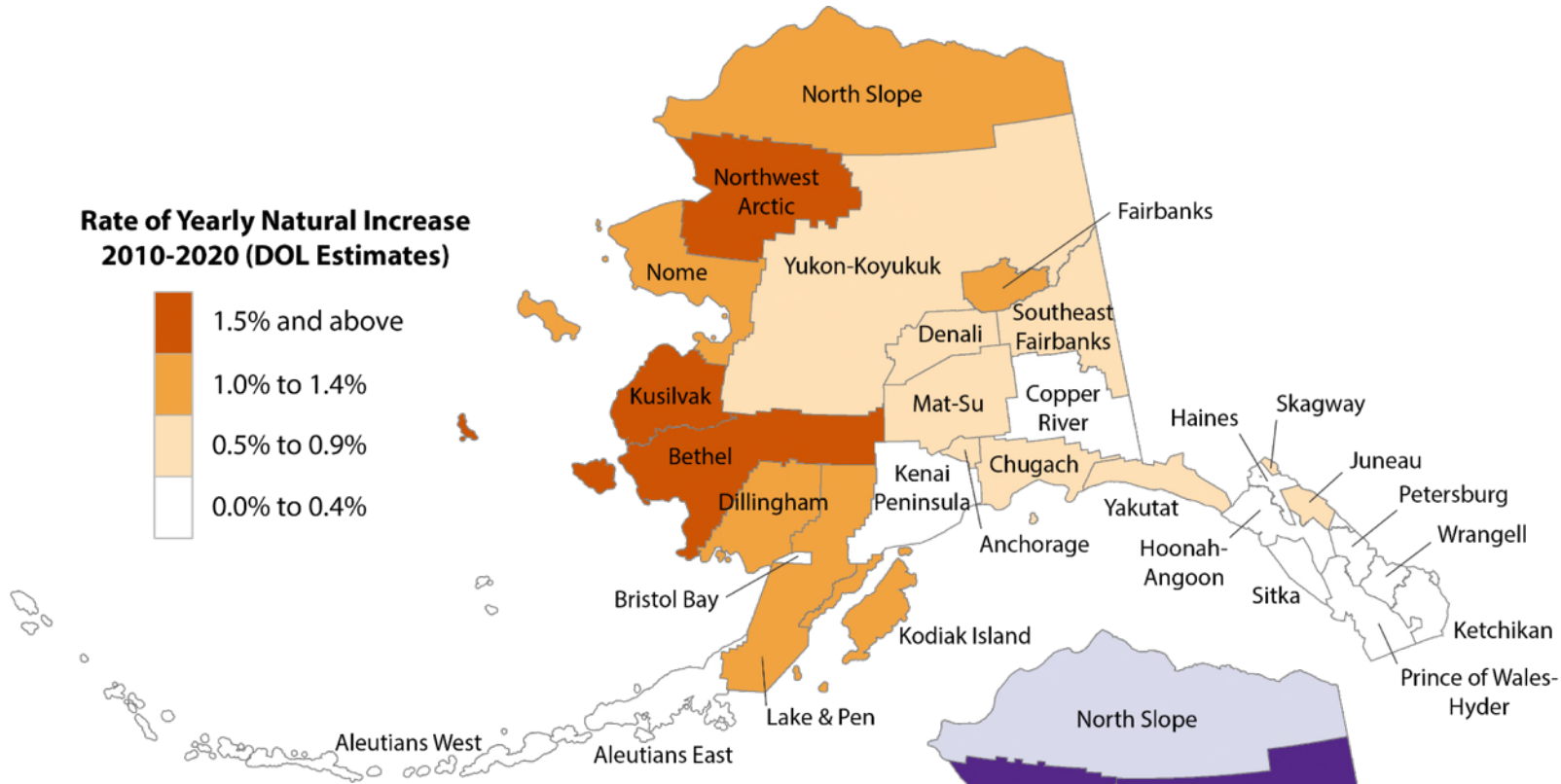
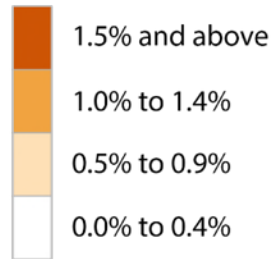
Alaska

Boroughs/Census Areas

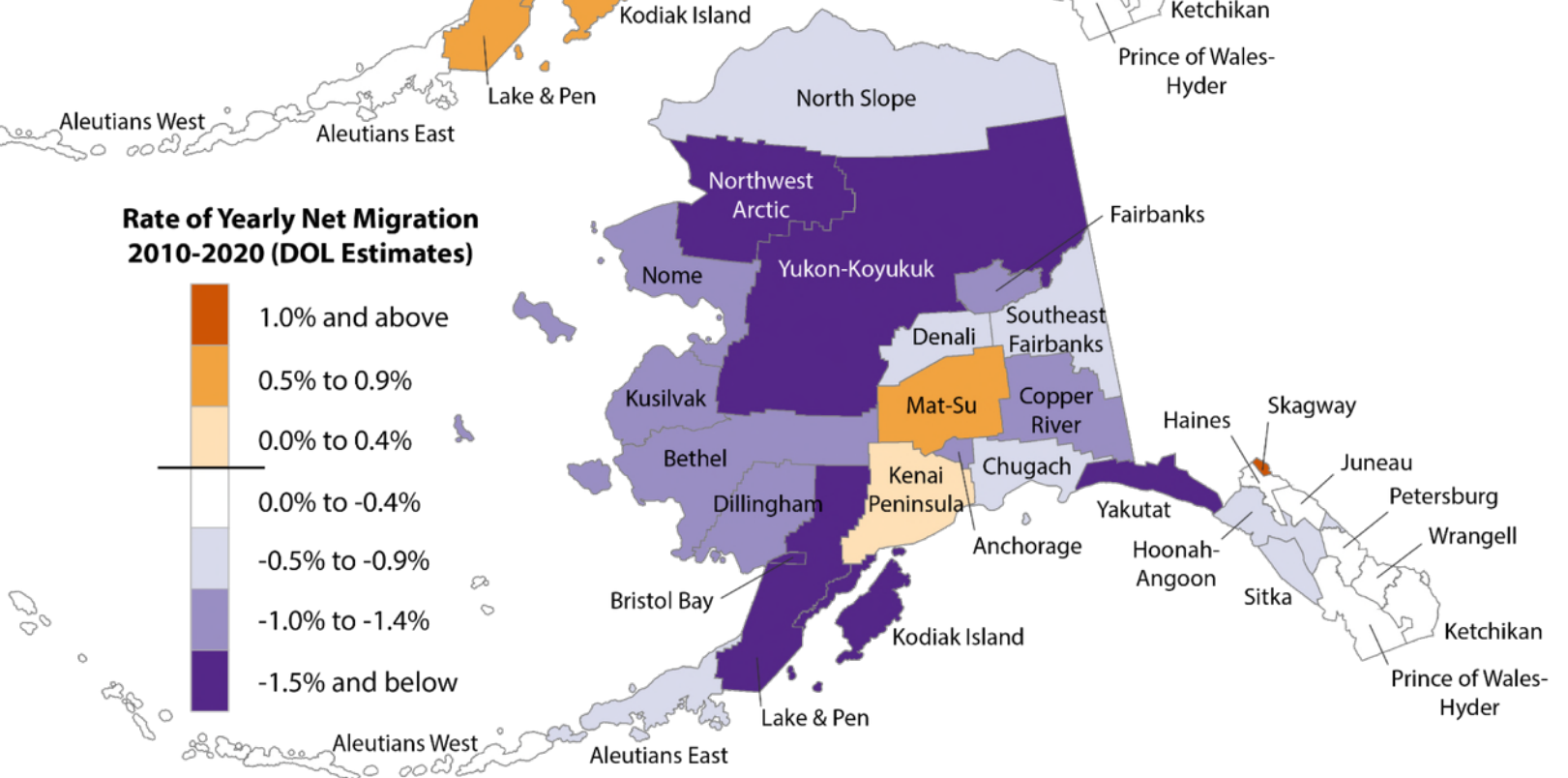
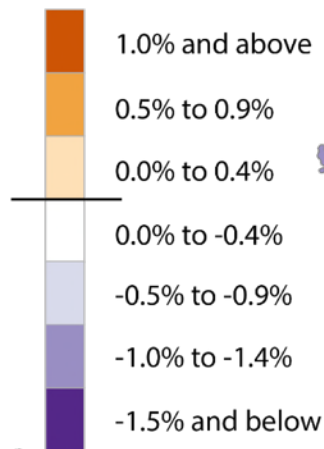
Population Change by Borough/CA



**Rate of Yearly Natural Increase
2010-2020 (DOL Estimates)**



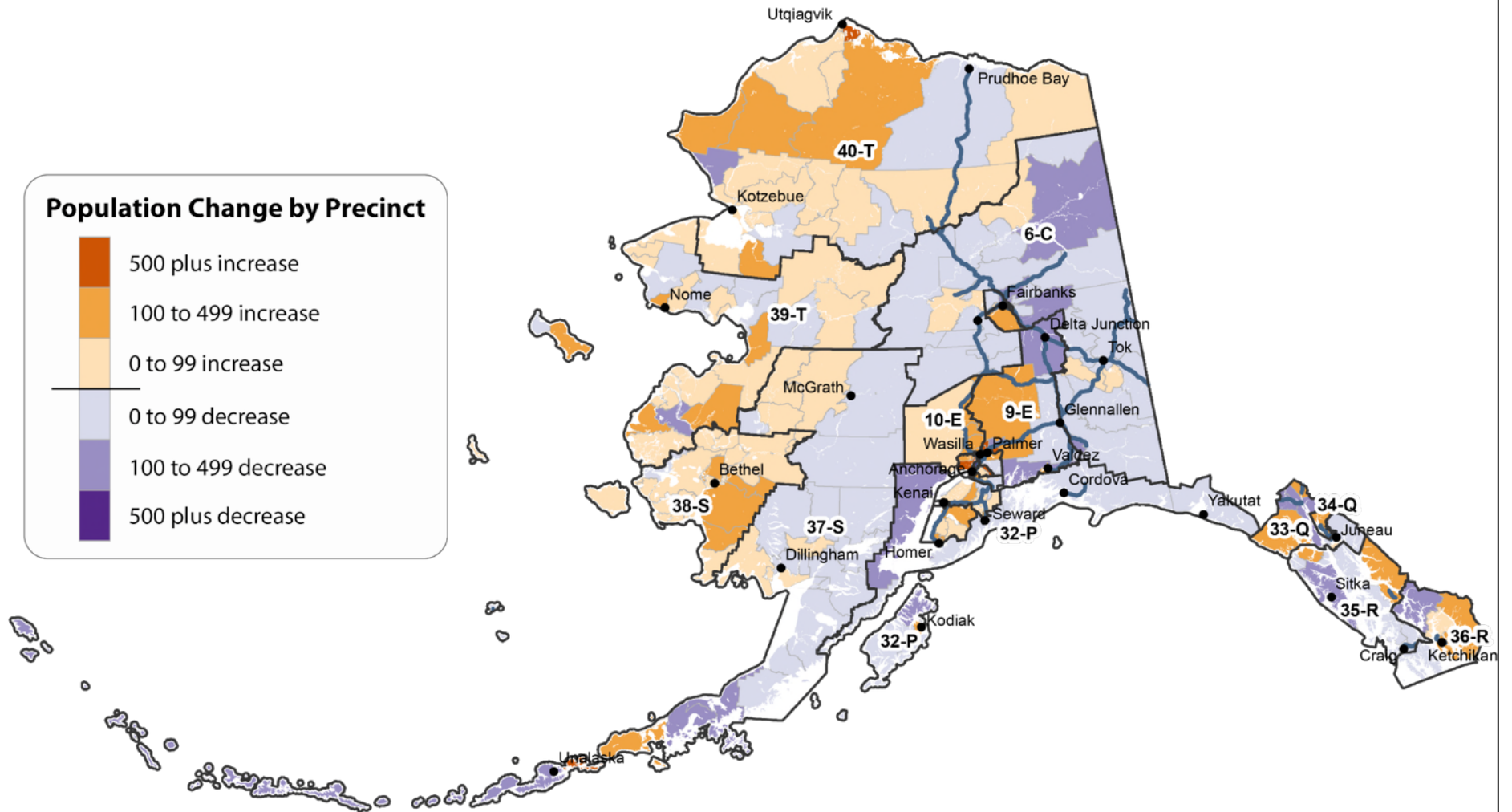
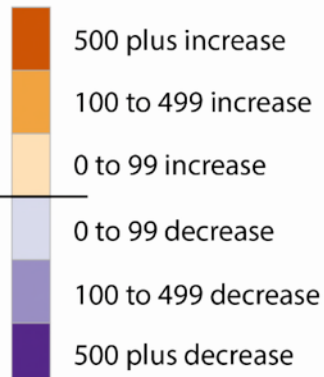
**Rate of Yearly Net Migration
2010-2020 (DOL Estimates)**

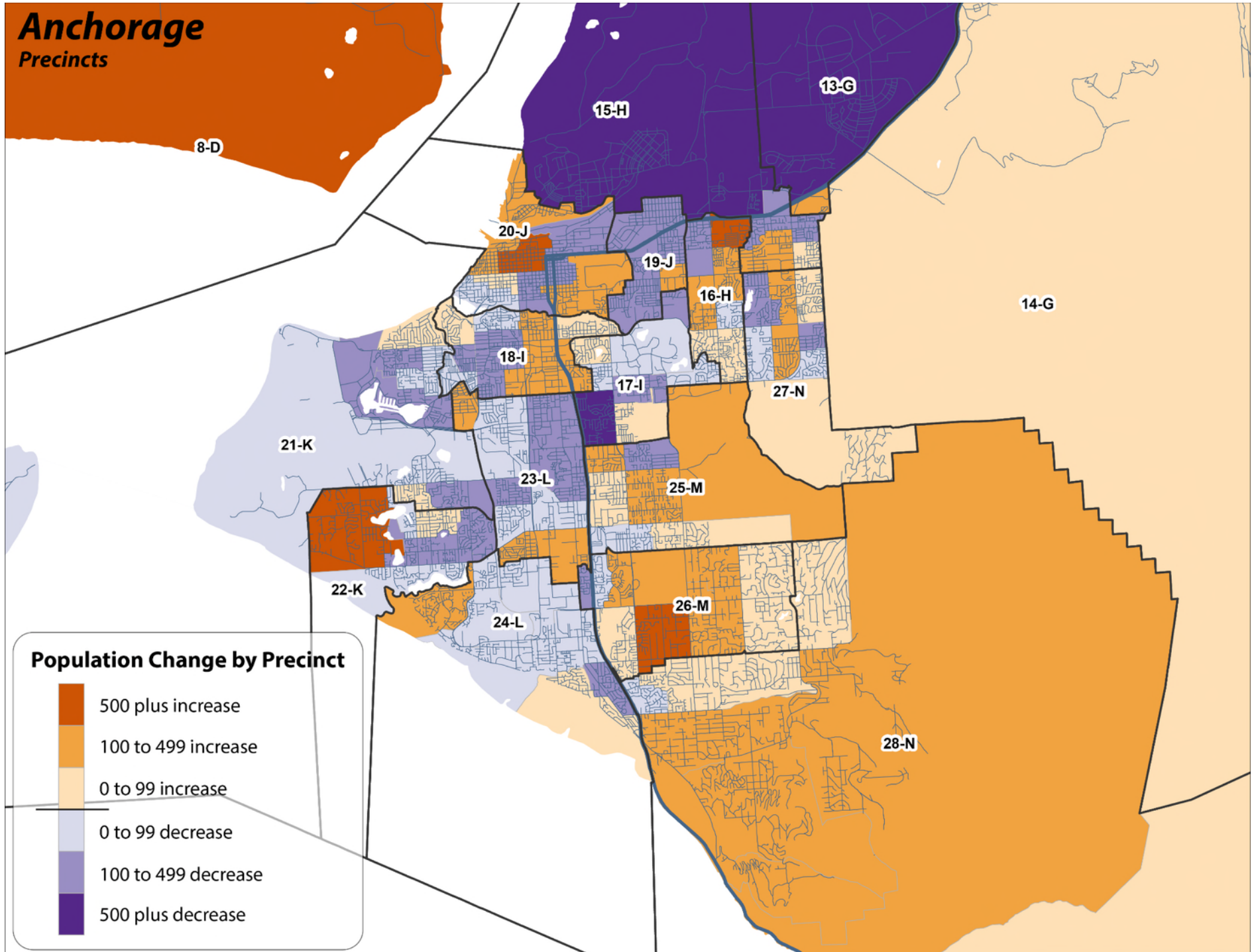


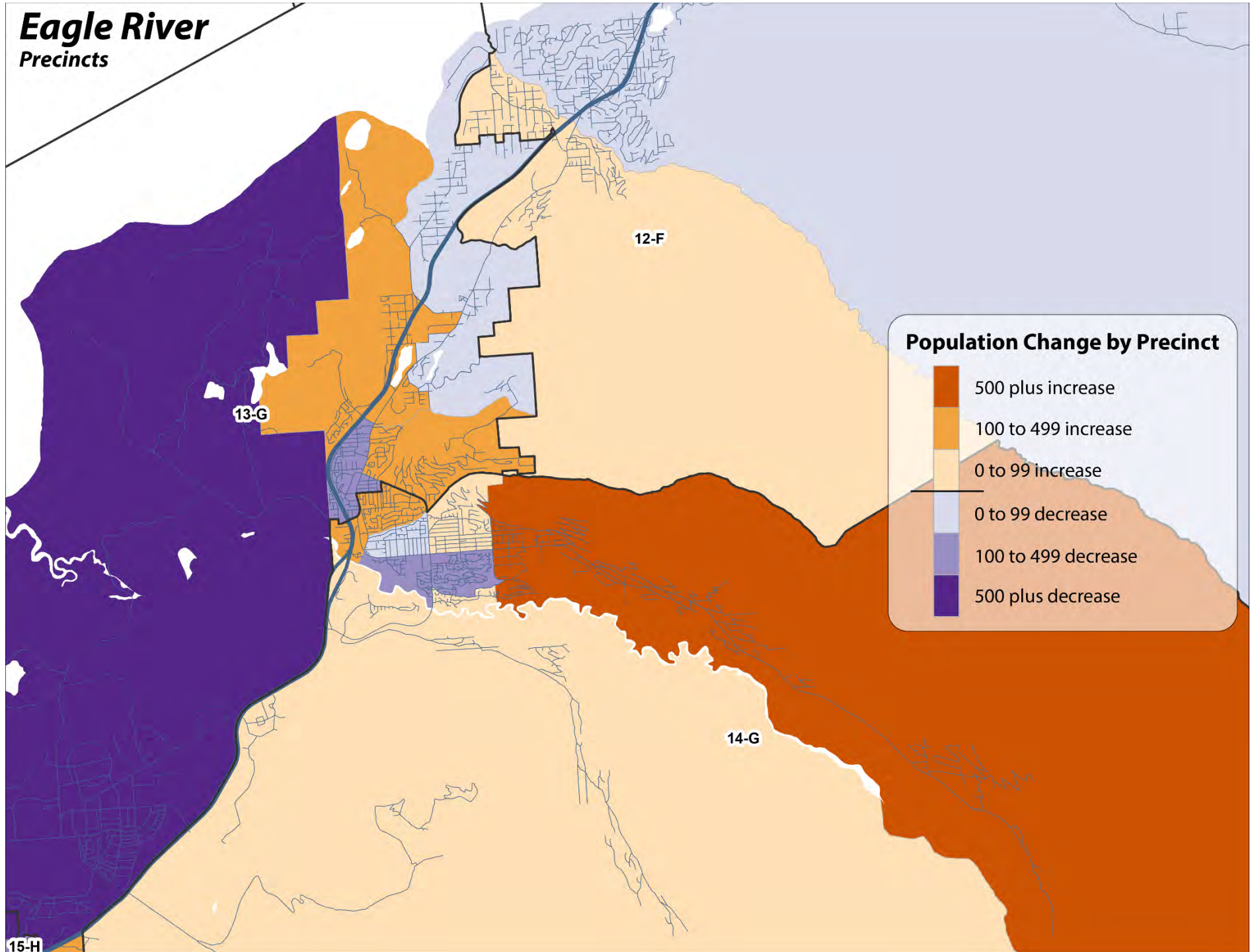
Rural Alaska

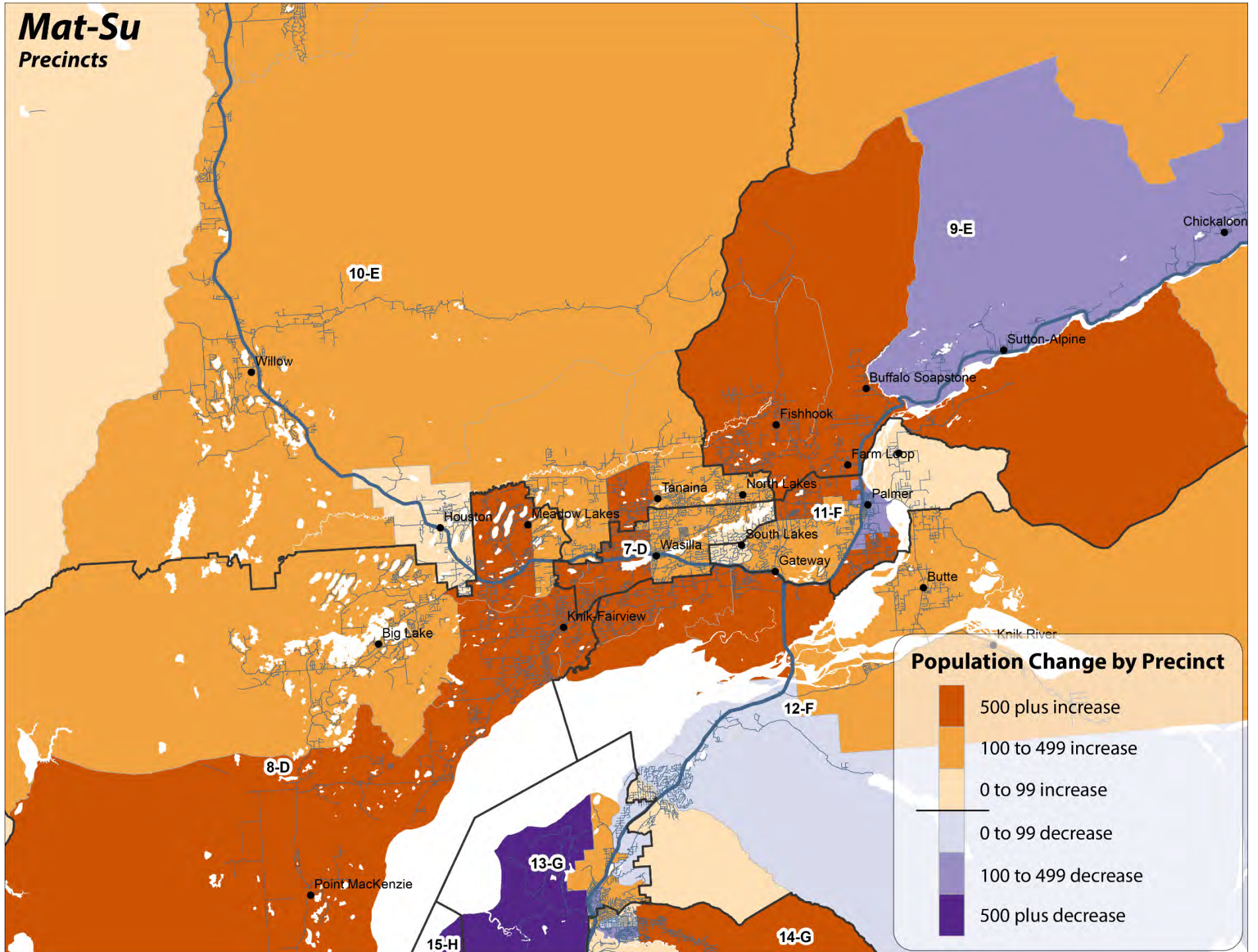
Precincts

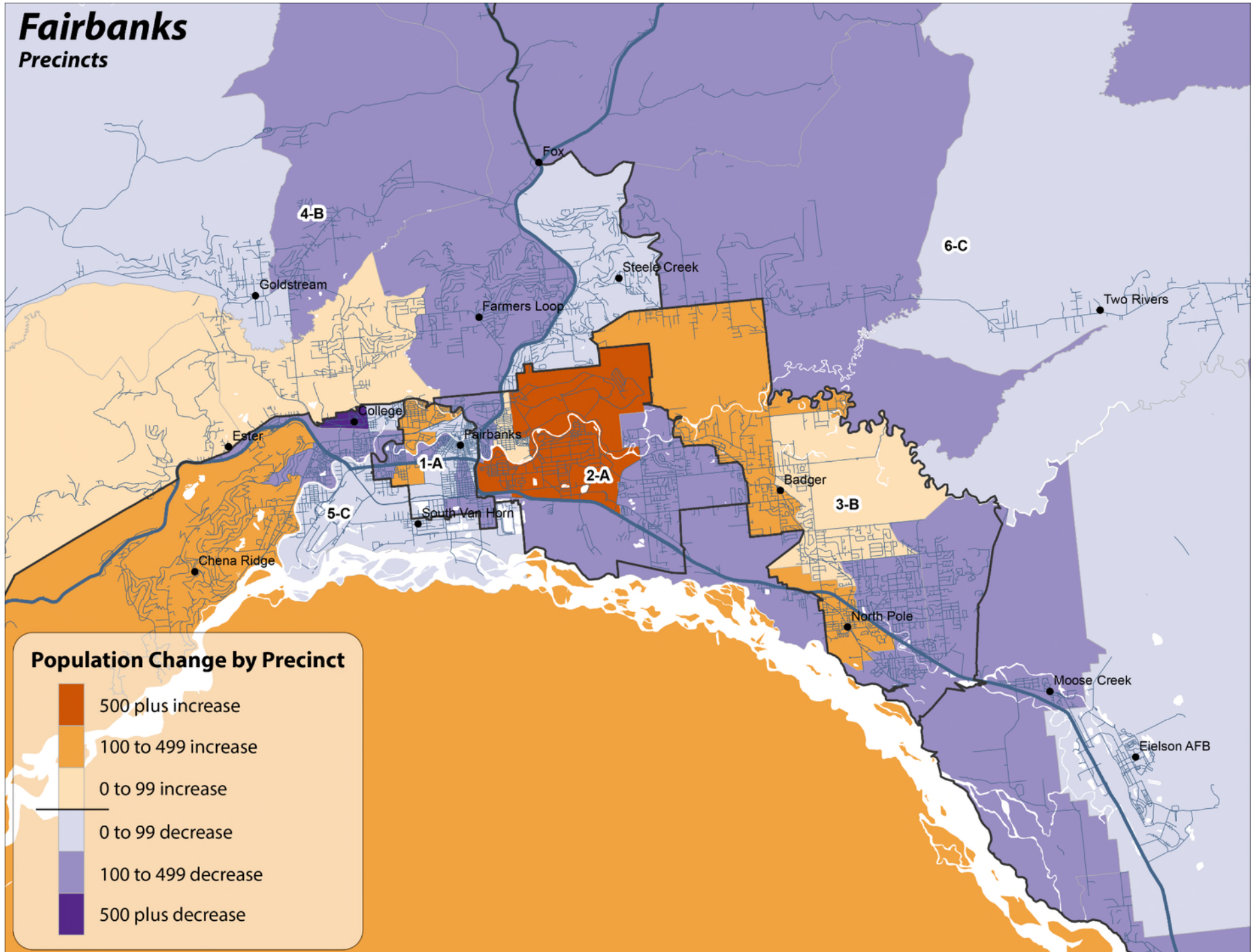
Population Change by Precinct

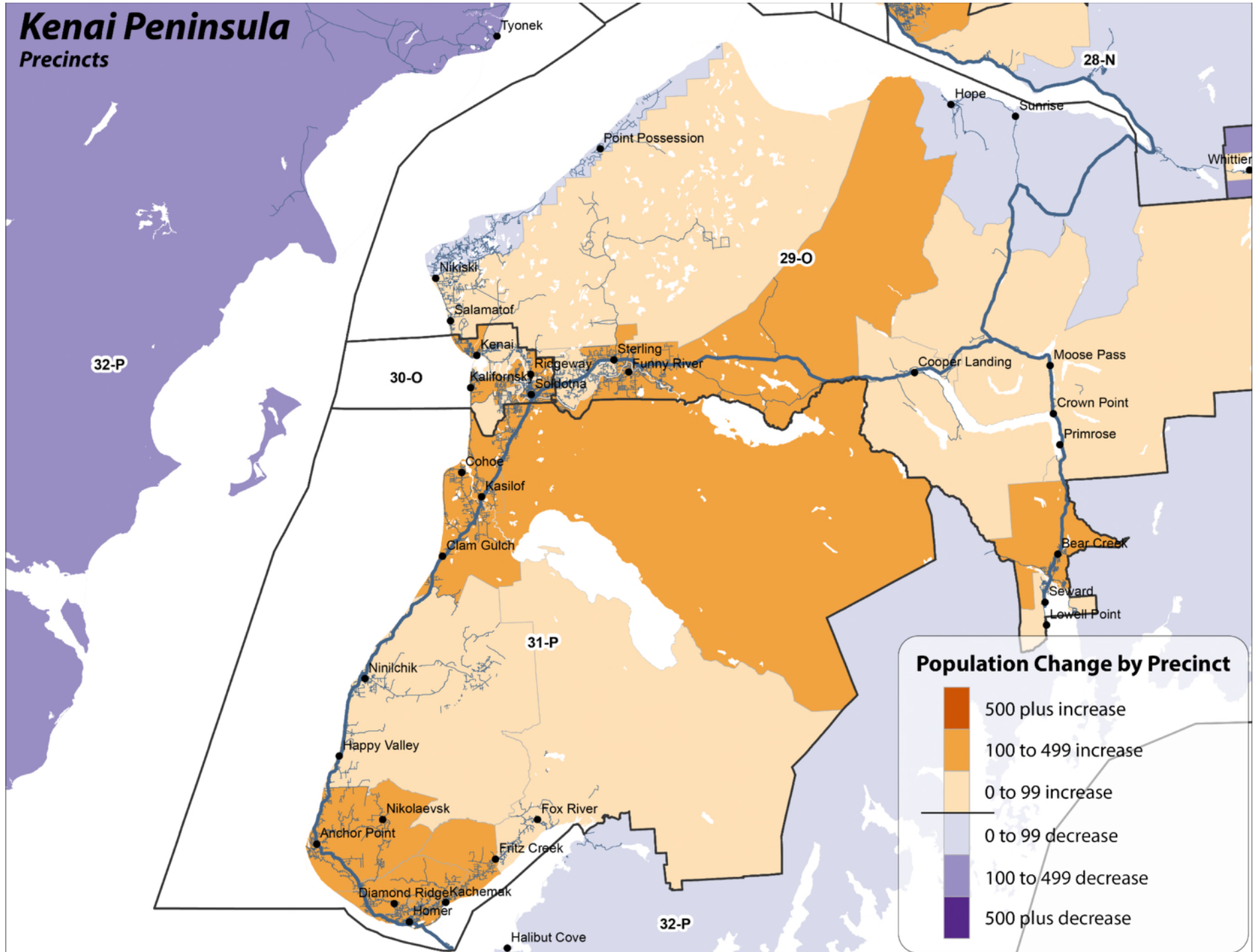




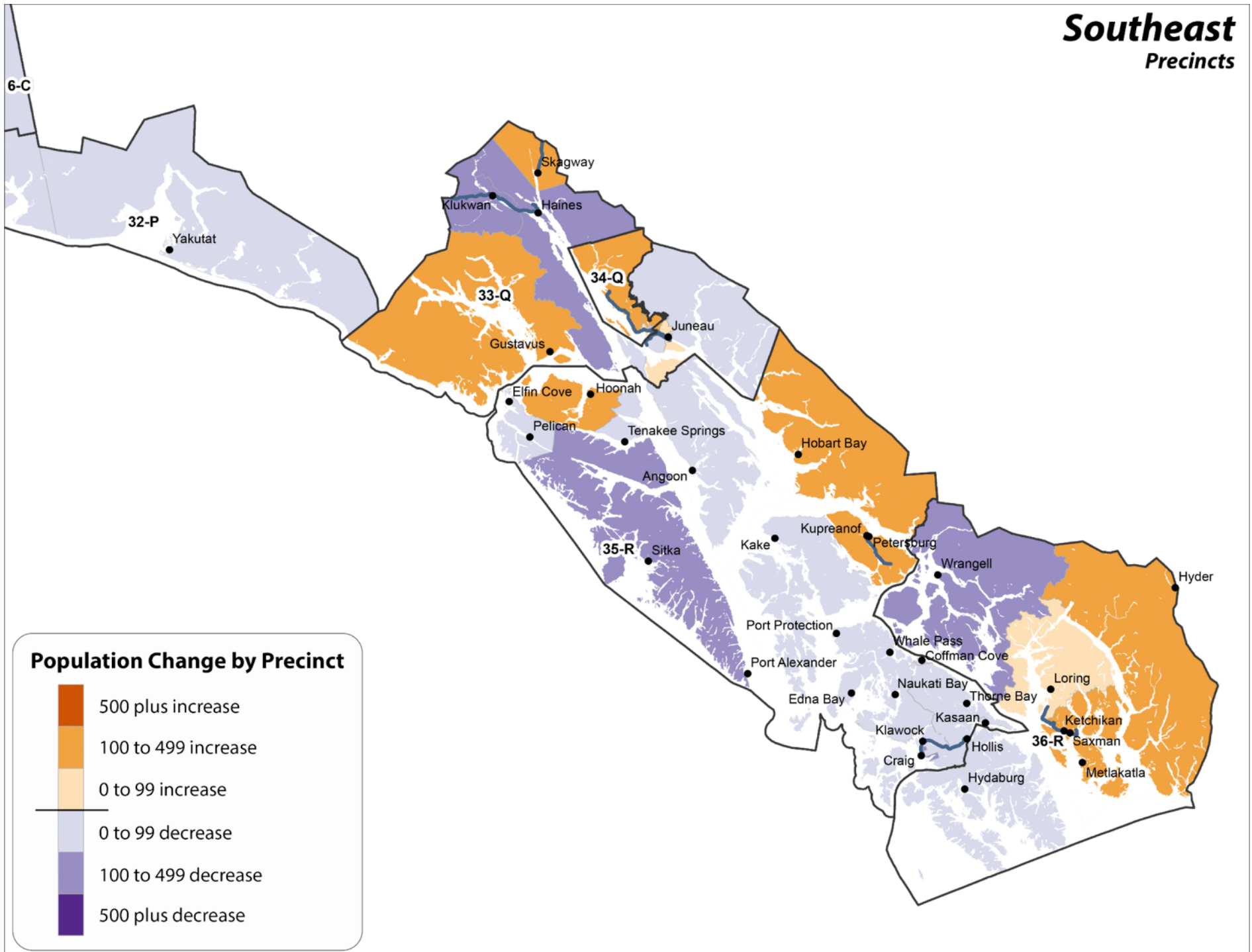


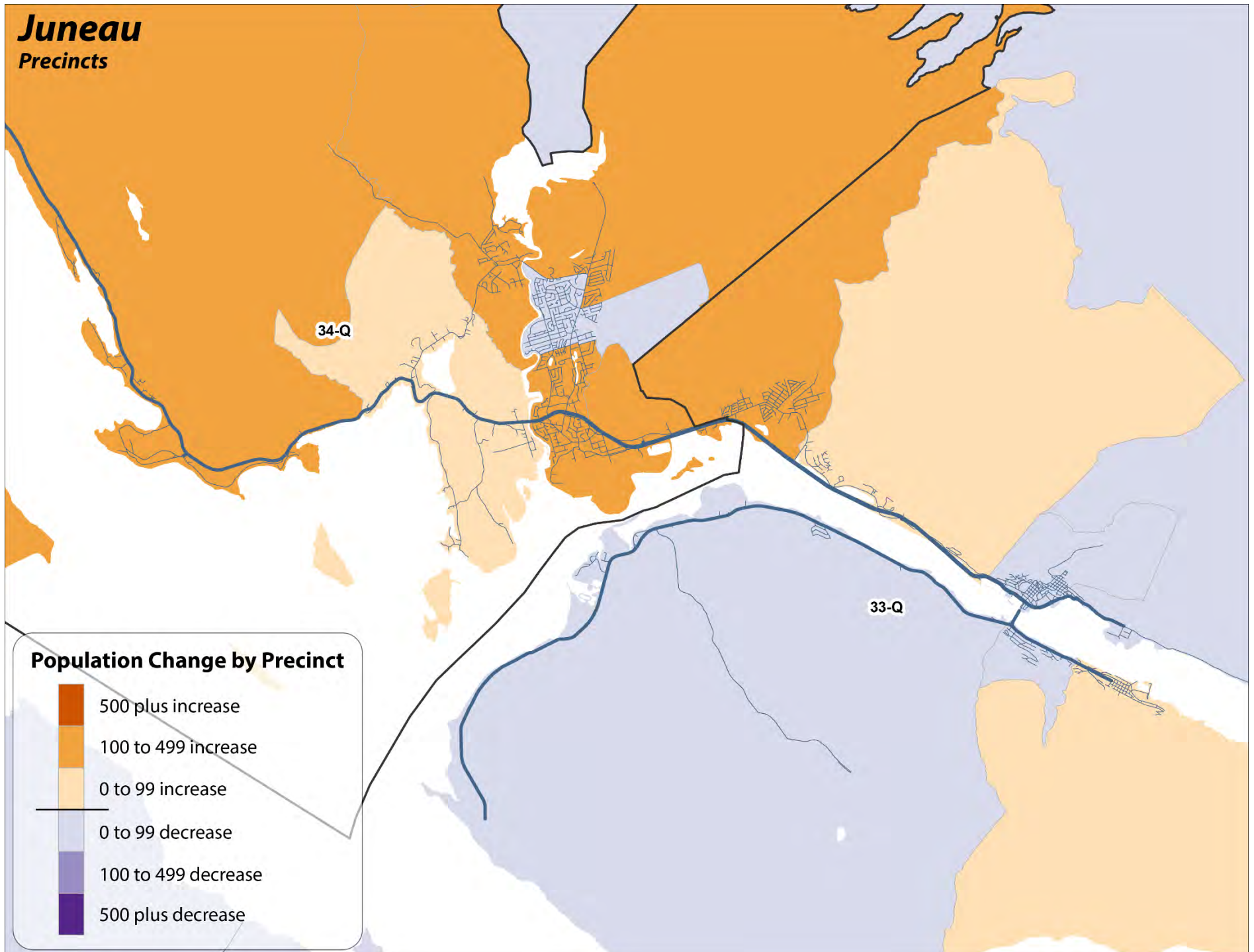






Southeast Precincts

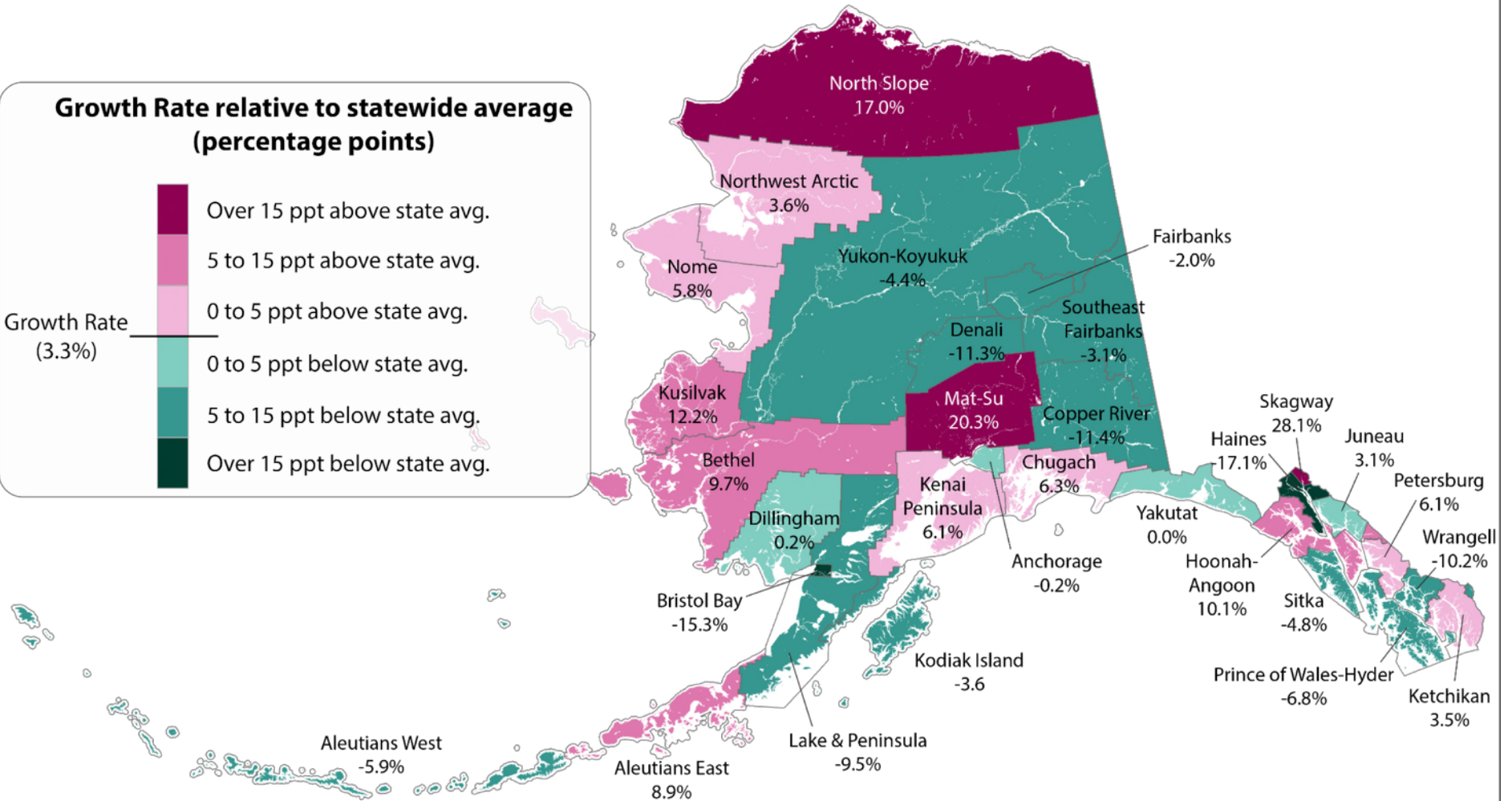
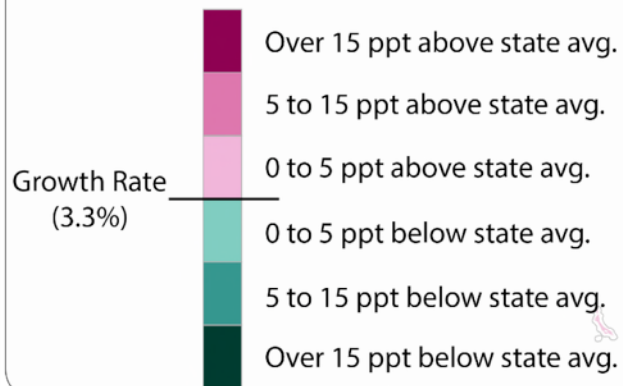




Alaska

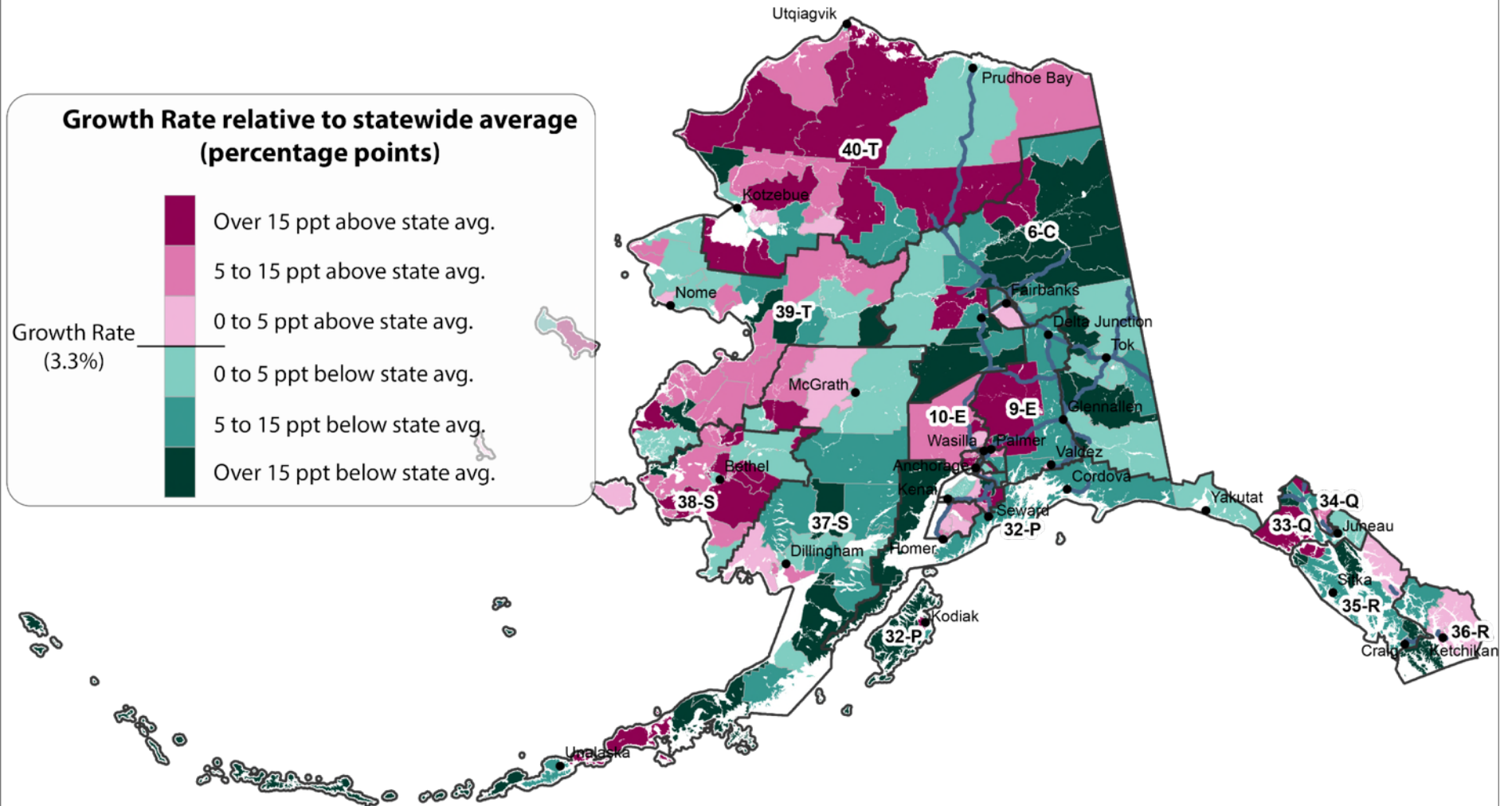
Boroughs/Census Areas

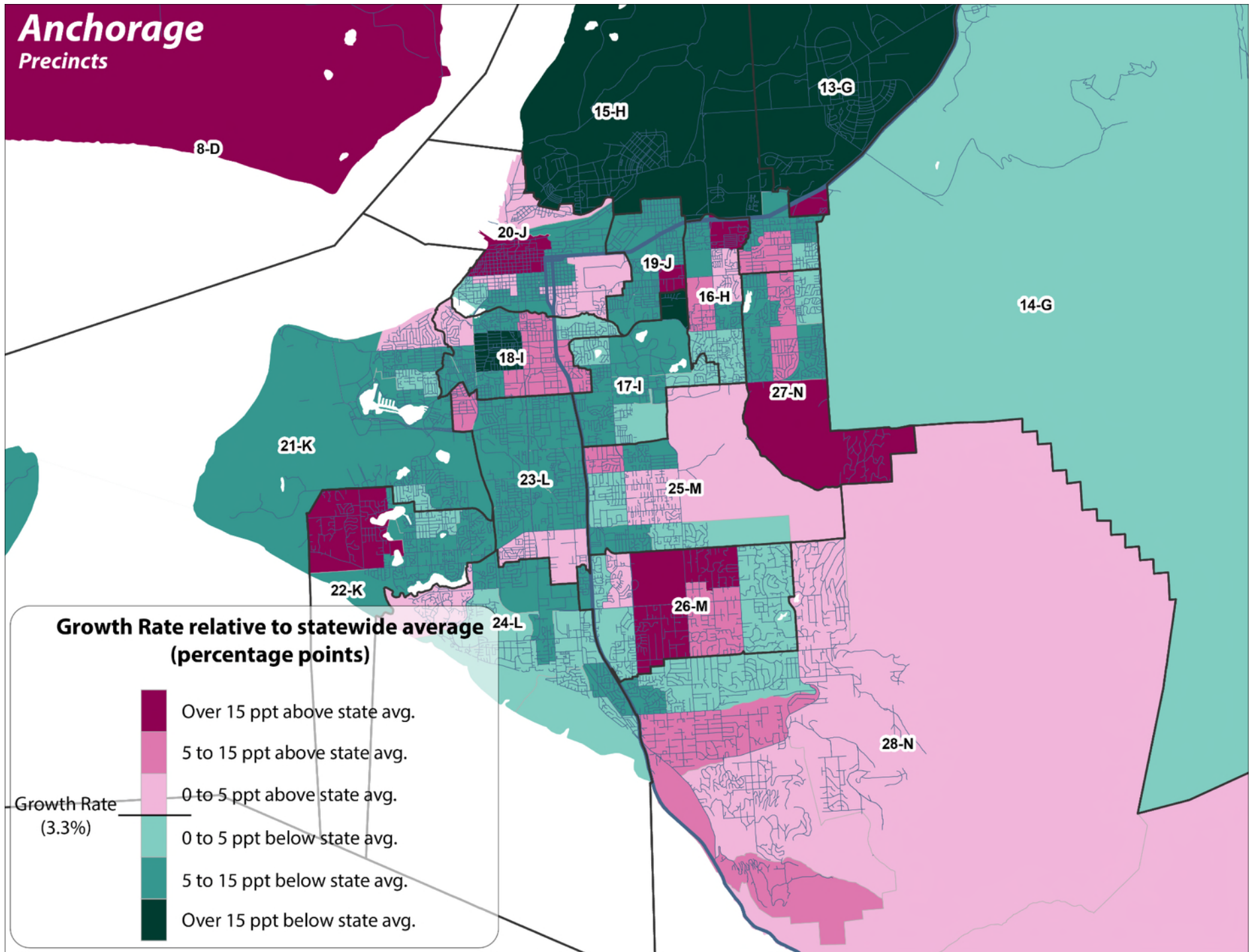
Growth Rate relative to statewide average (percentage points)

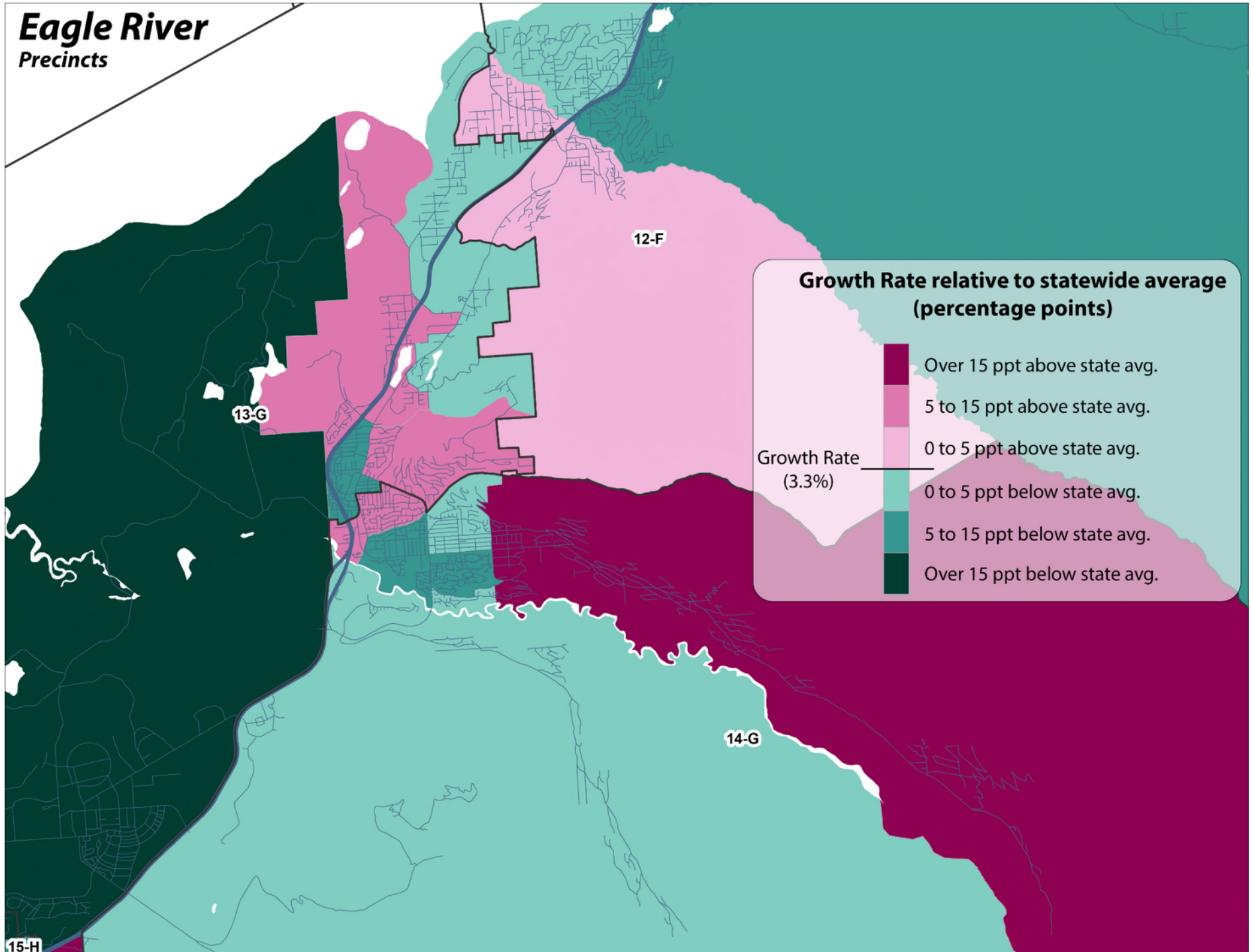


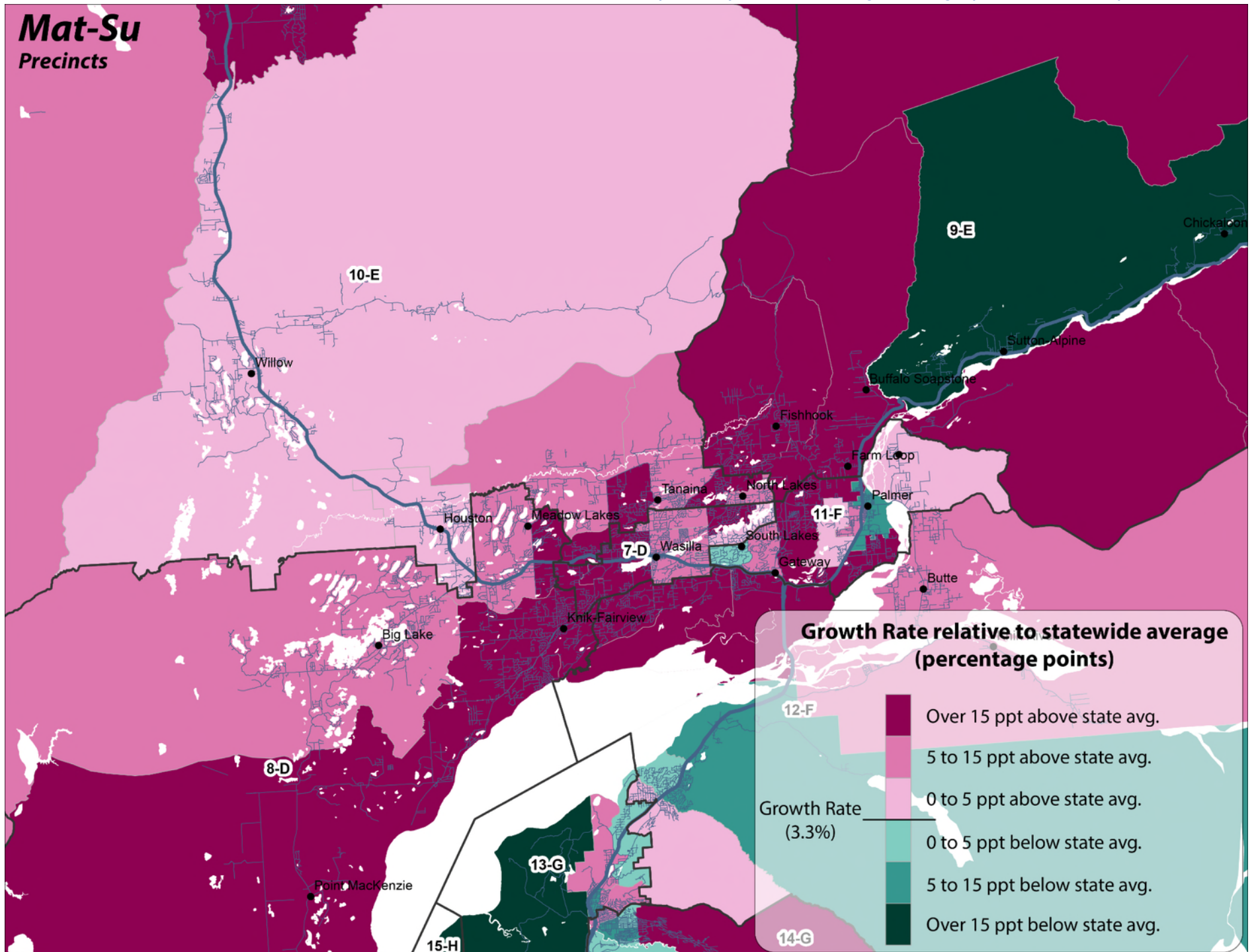
Rural Alaska

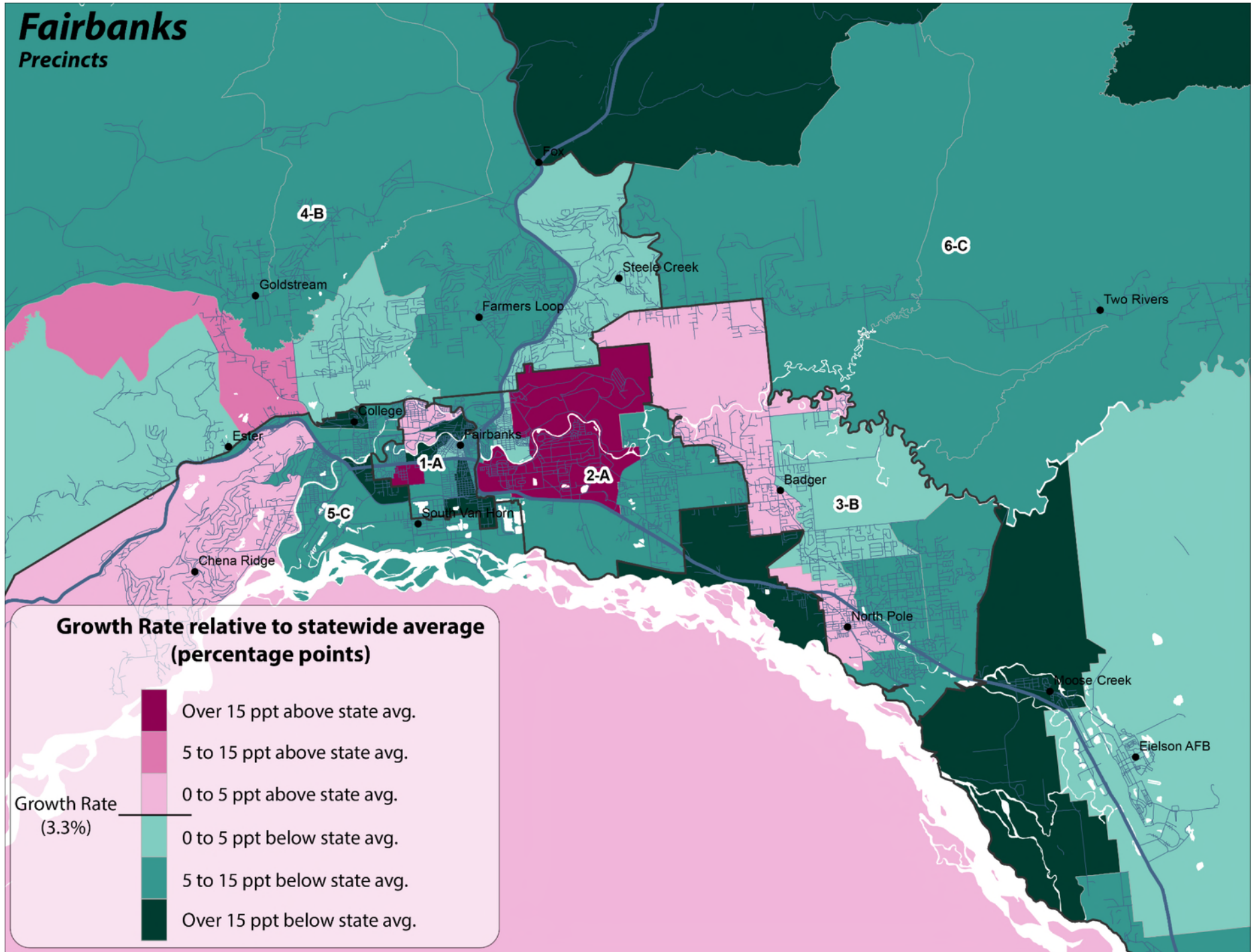
Precincts

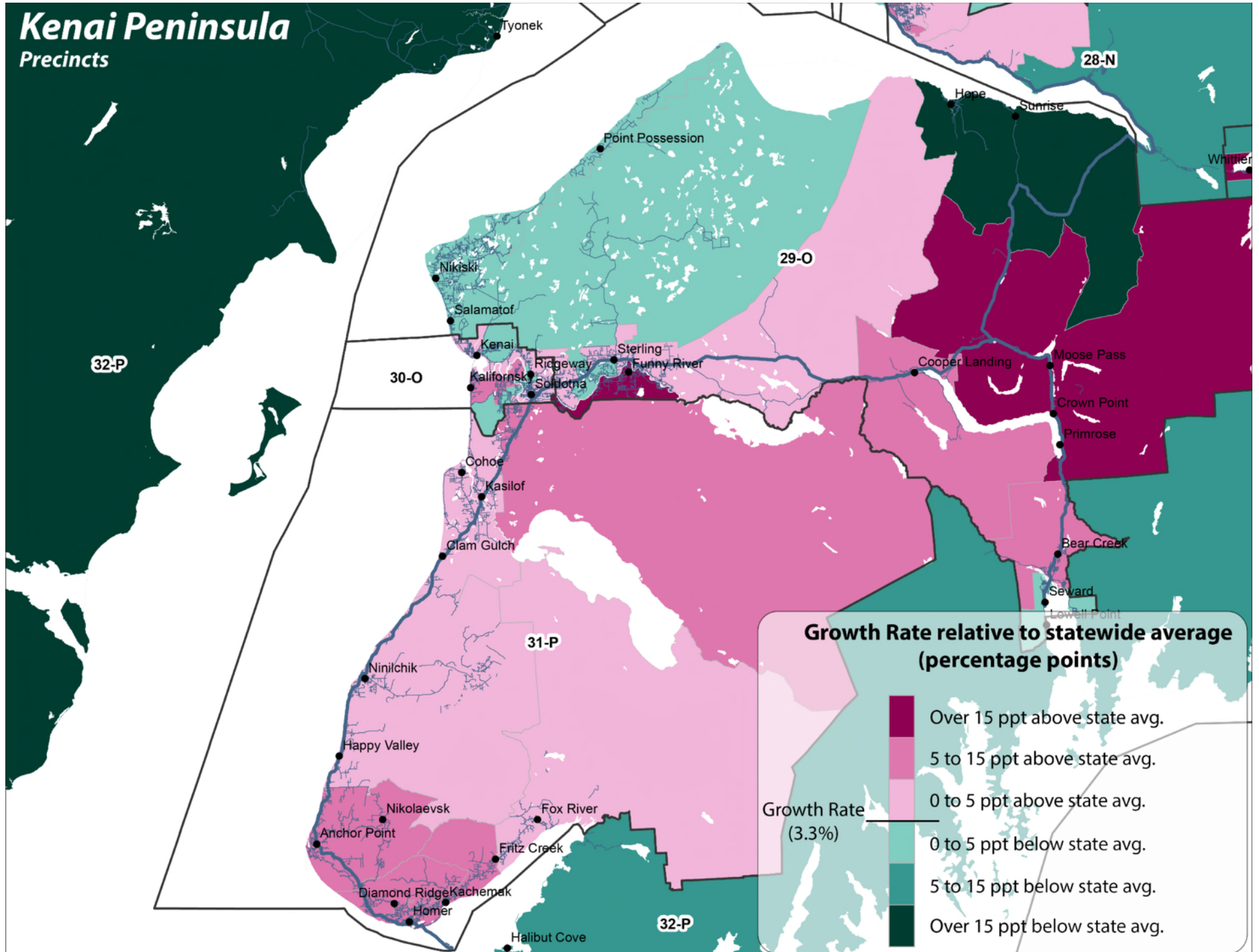




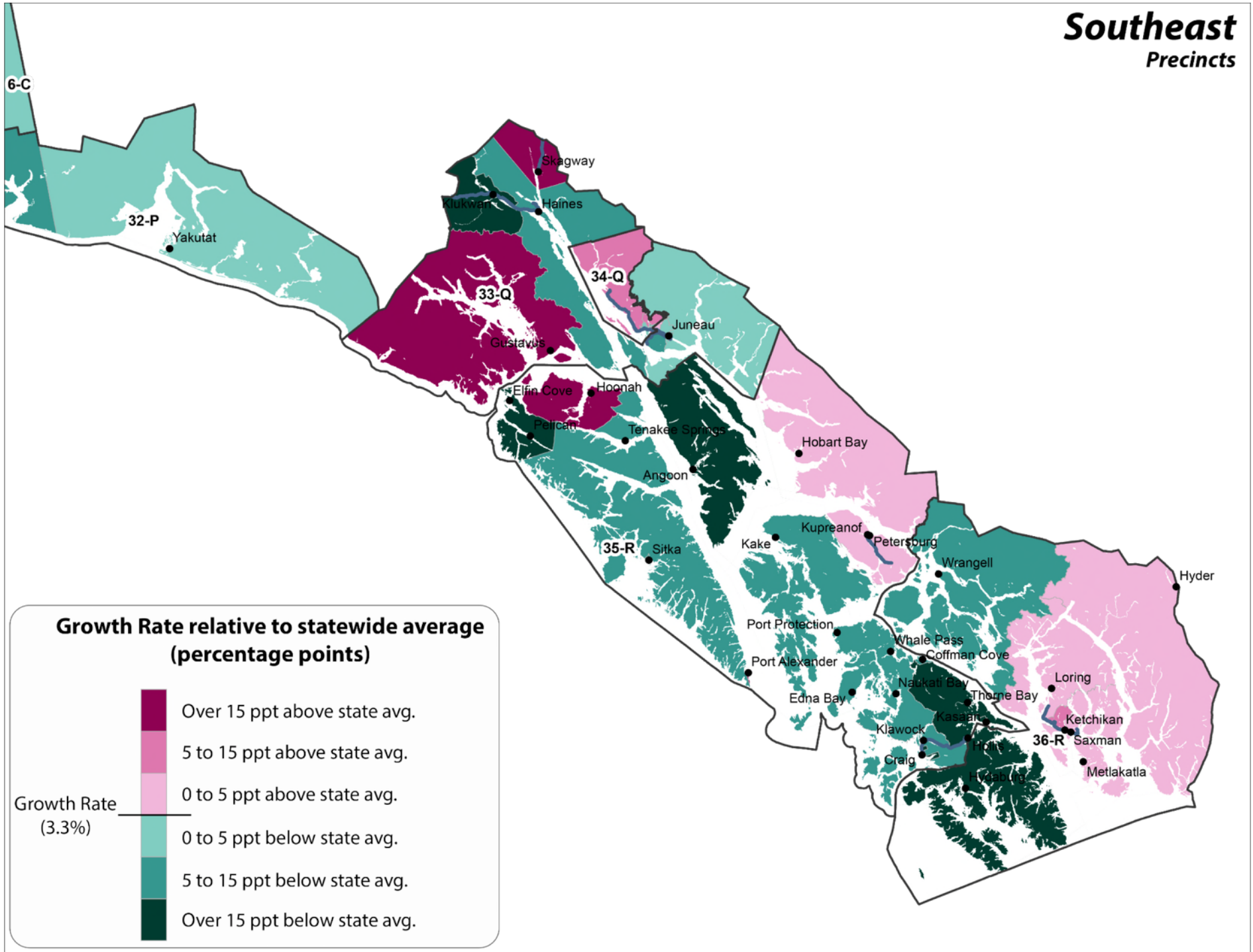


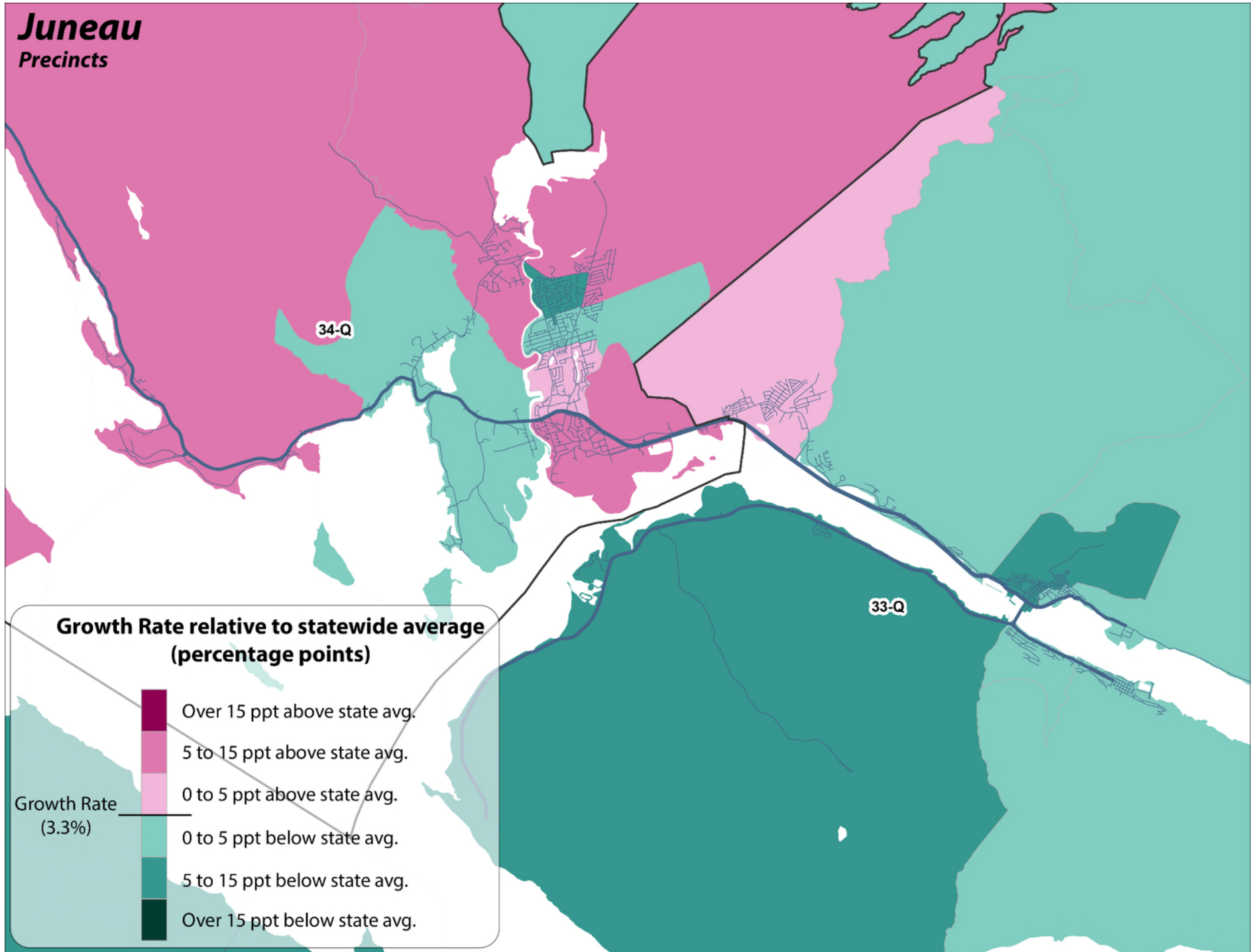




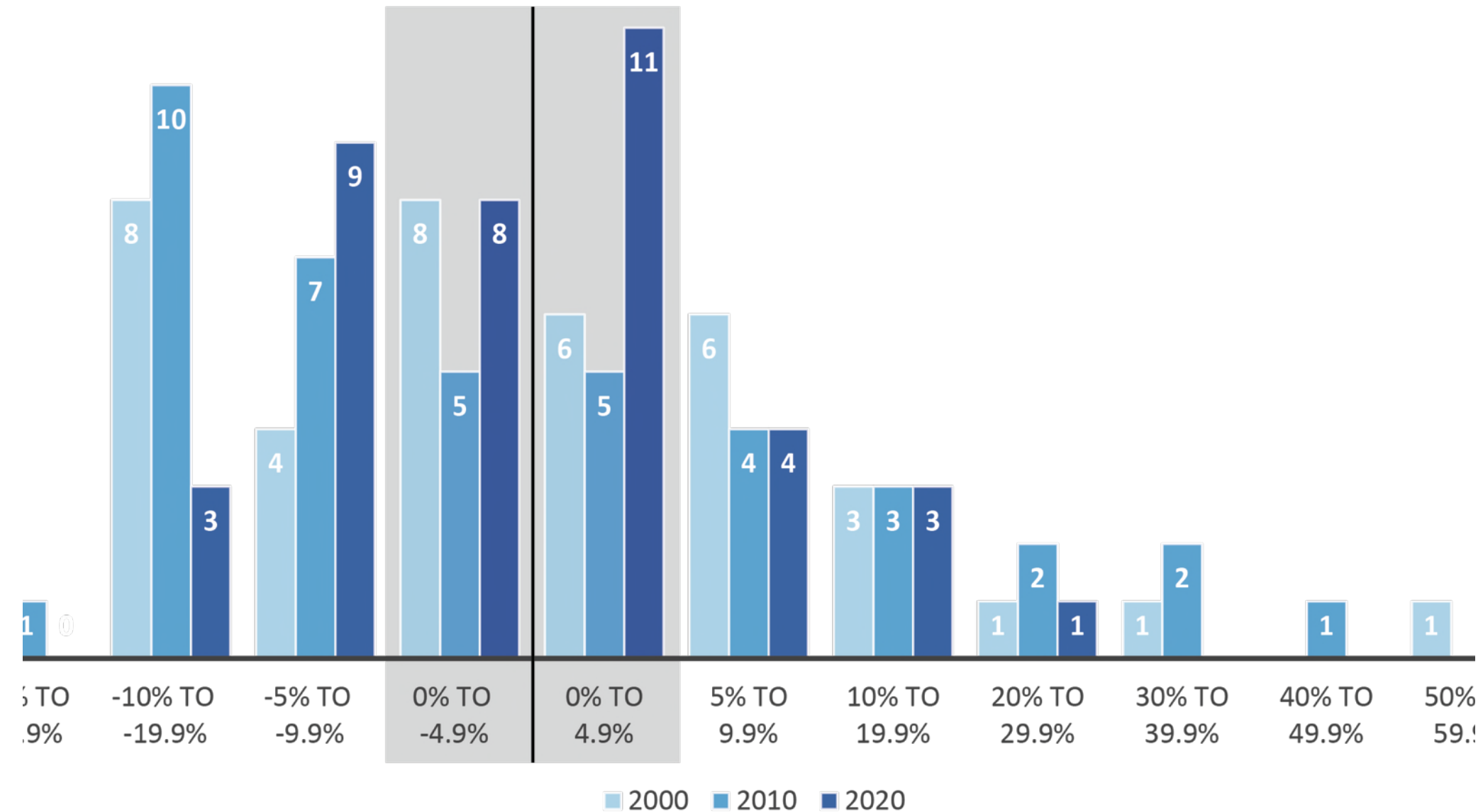


Southeast Precincts



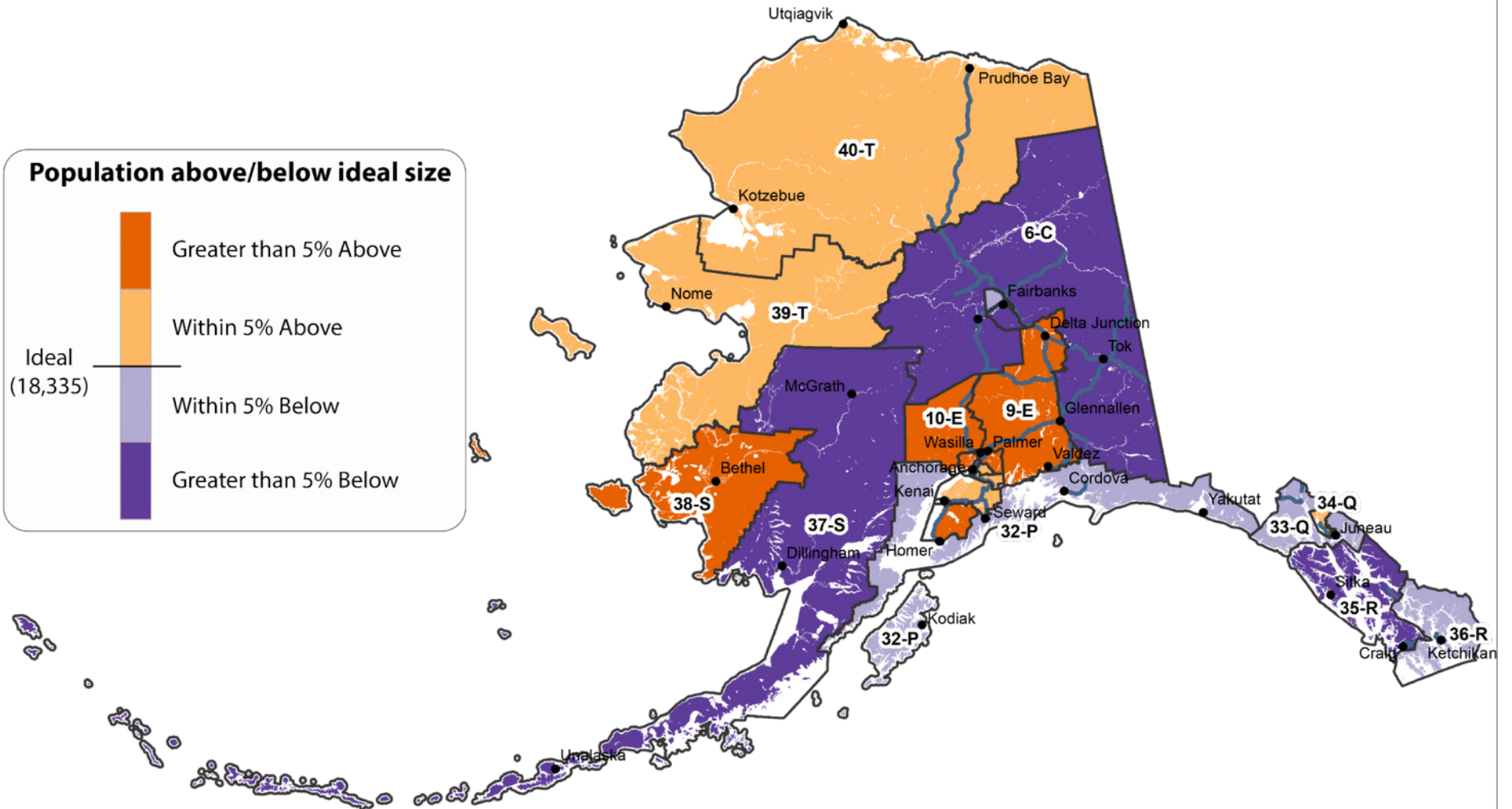


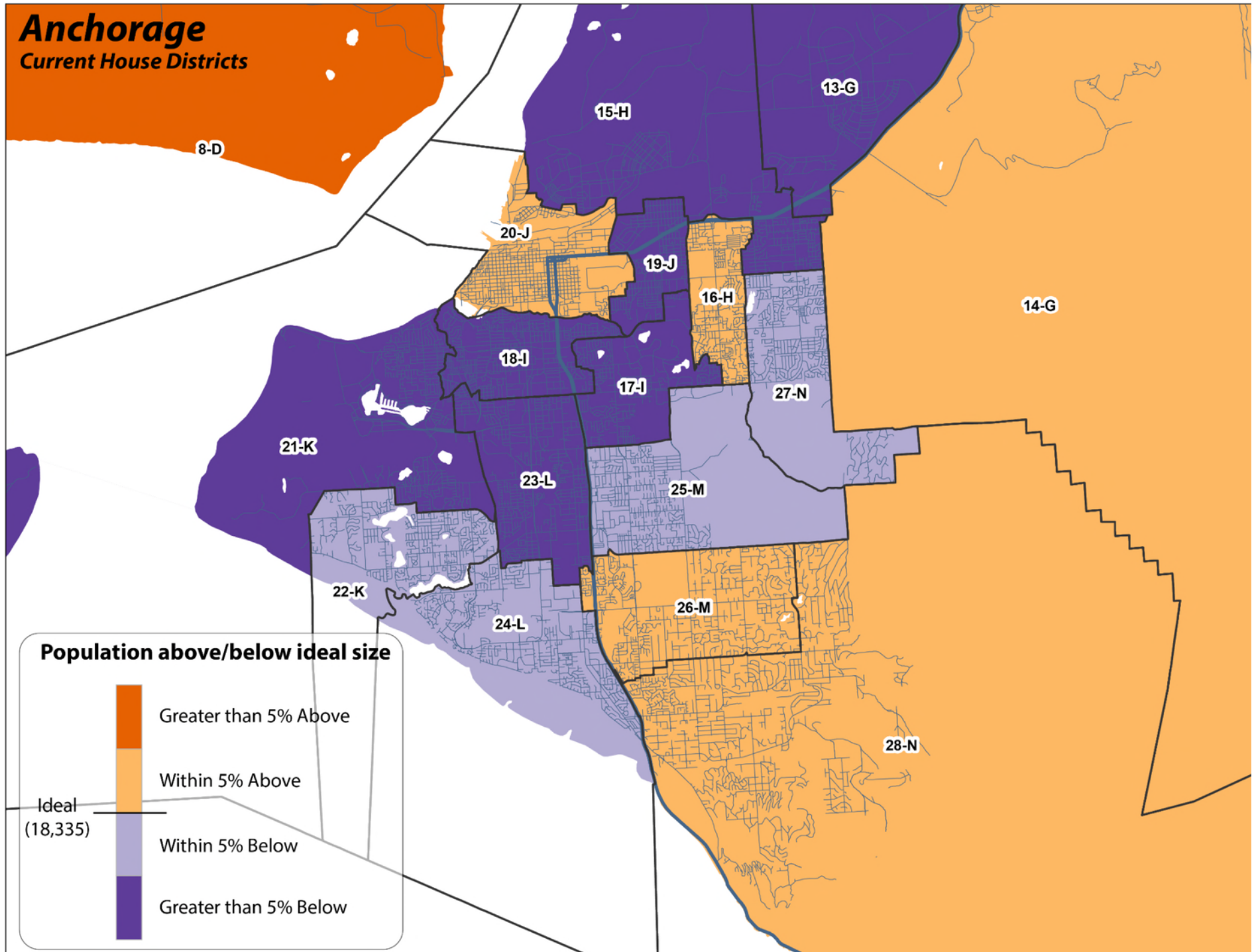
Previous House District's percent difference from New Ideal Population

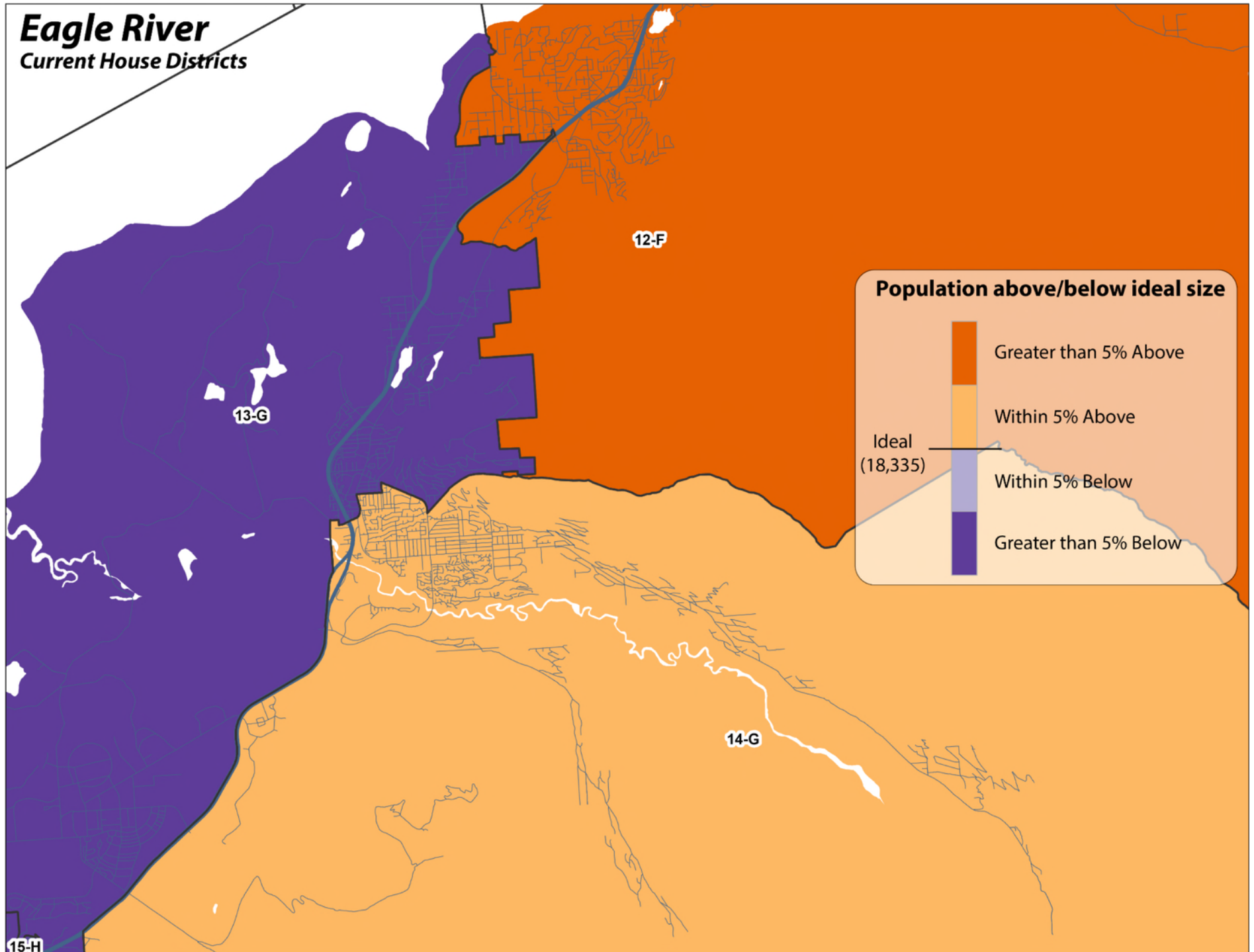


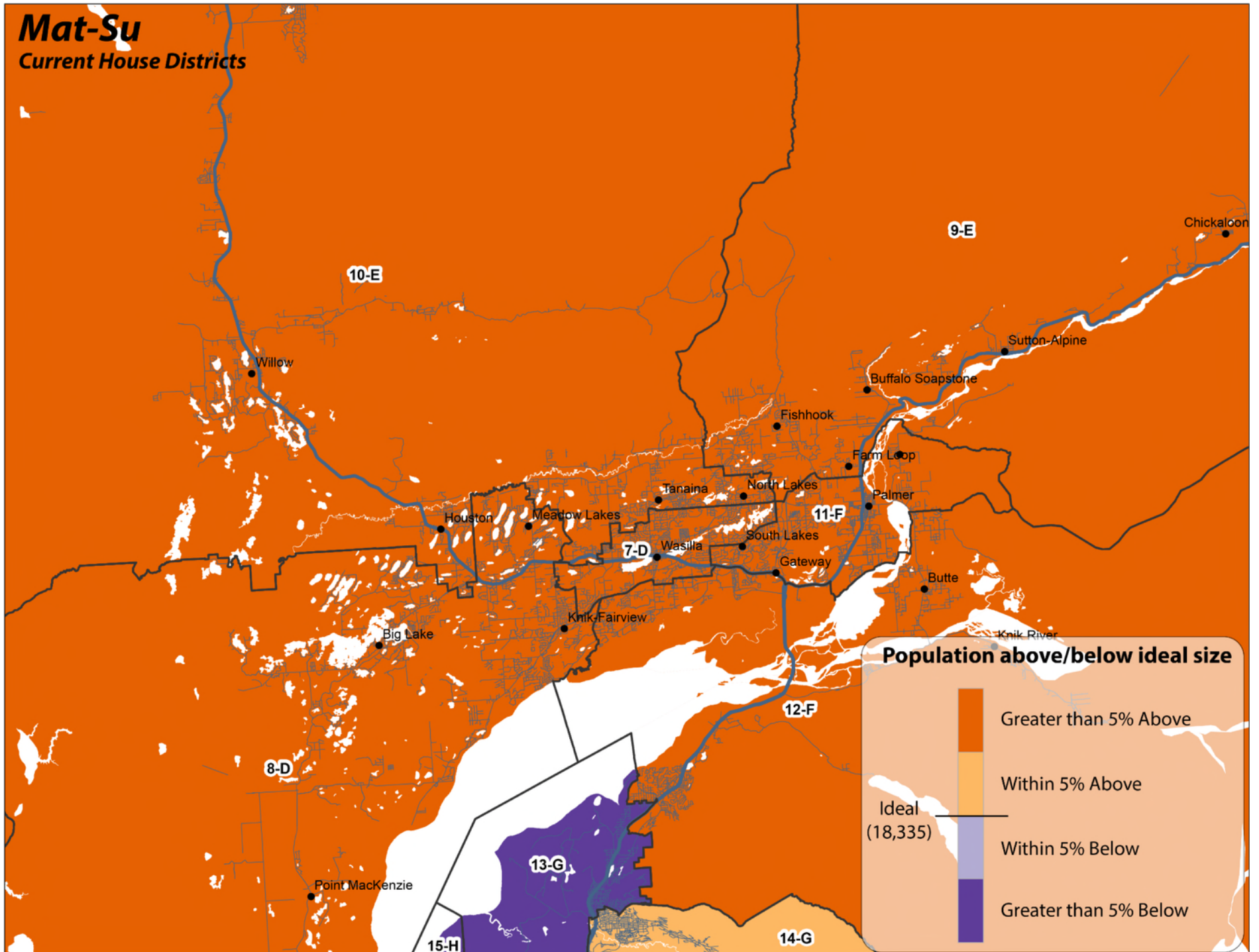
Rural Alaska

Current House Districts



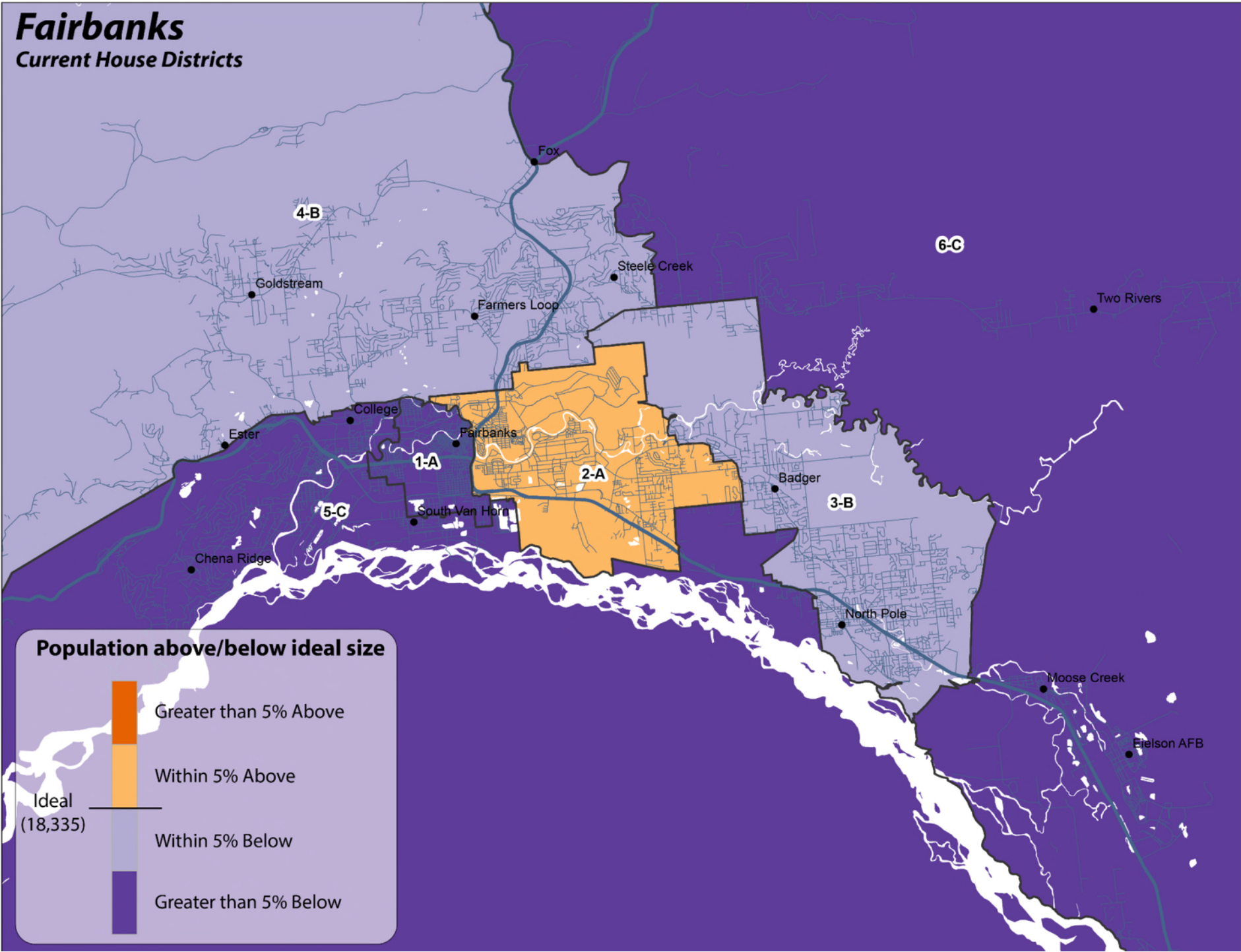


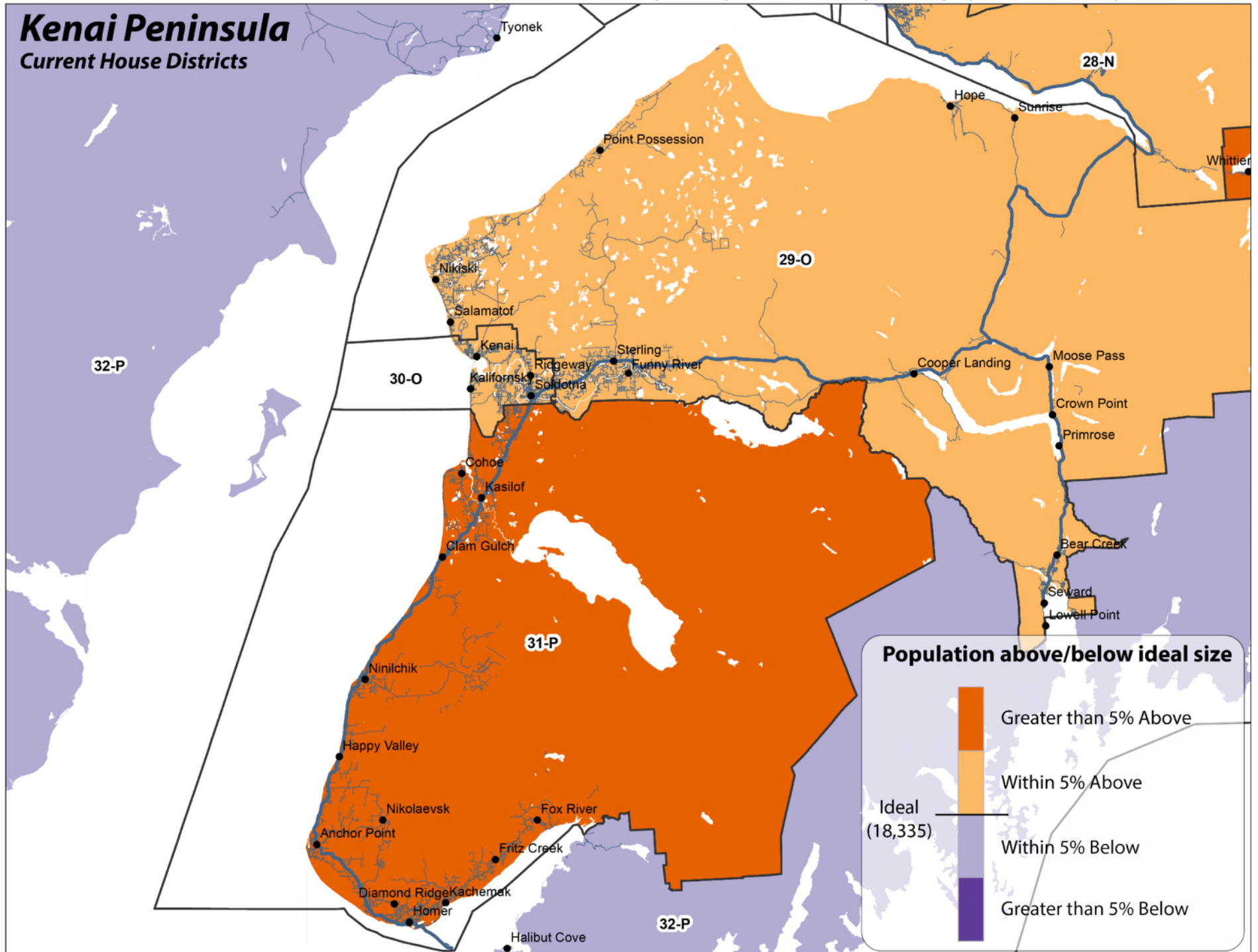




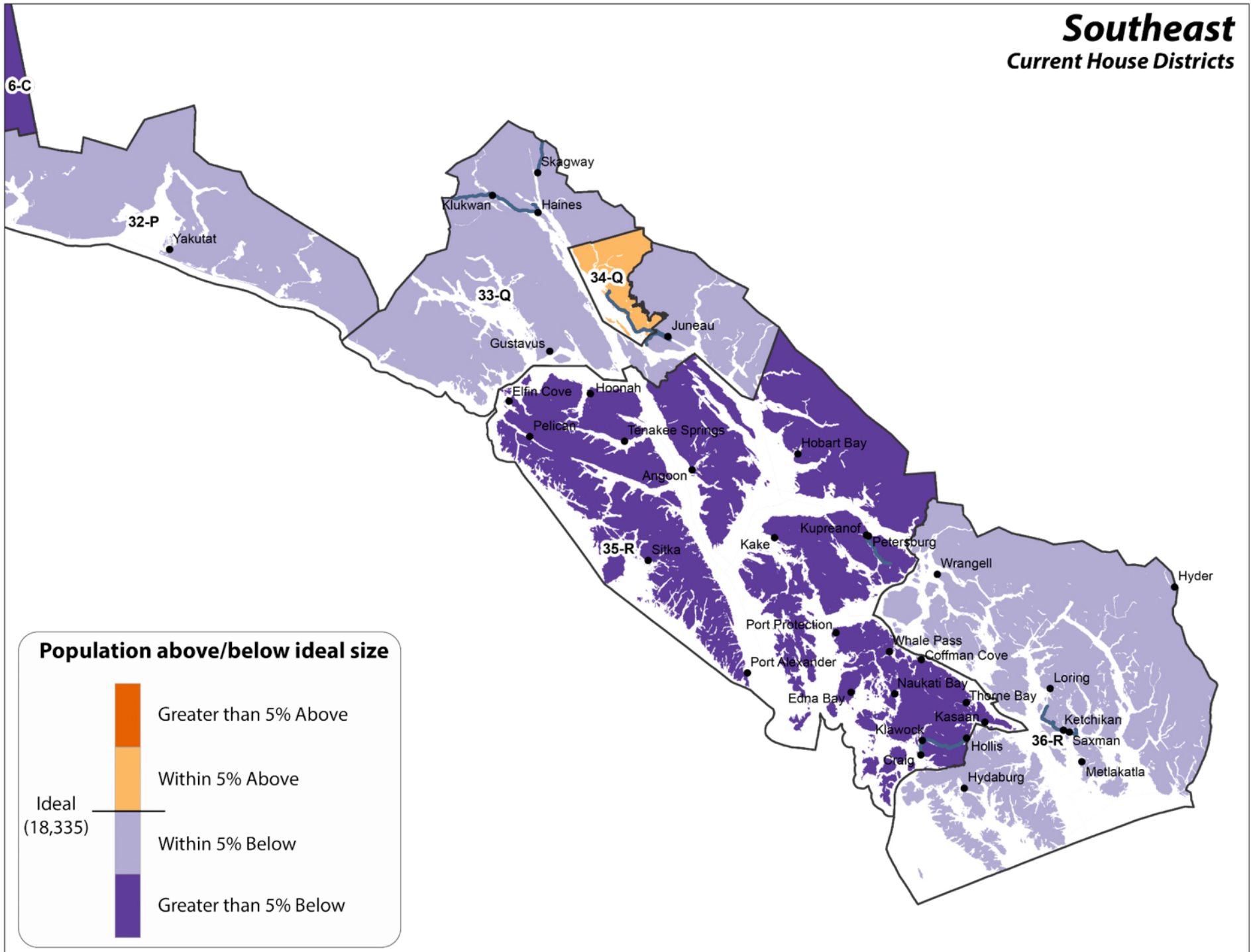
Fairbanks

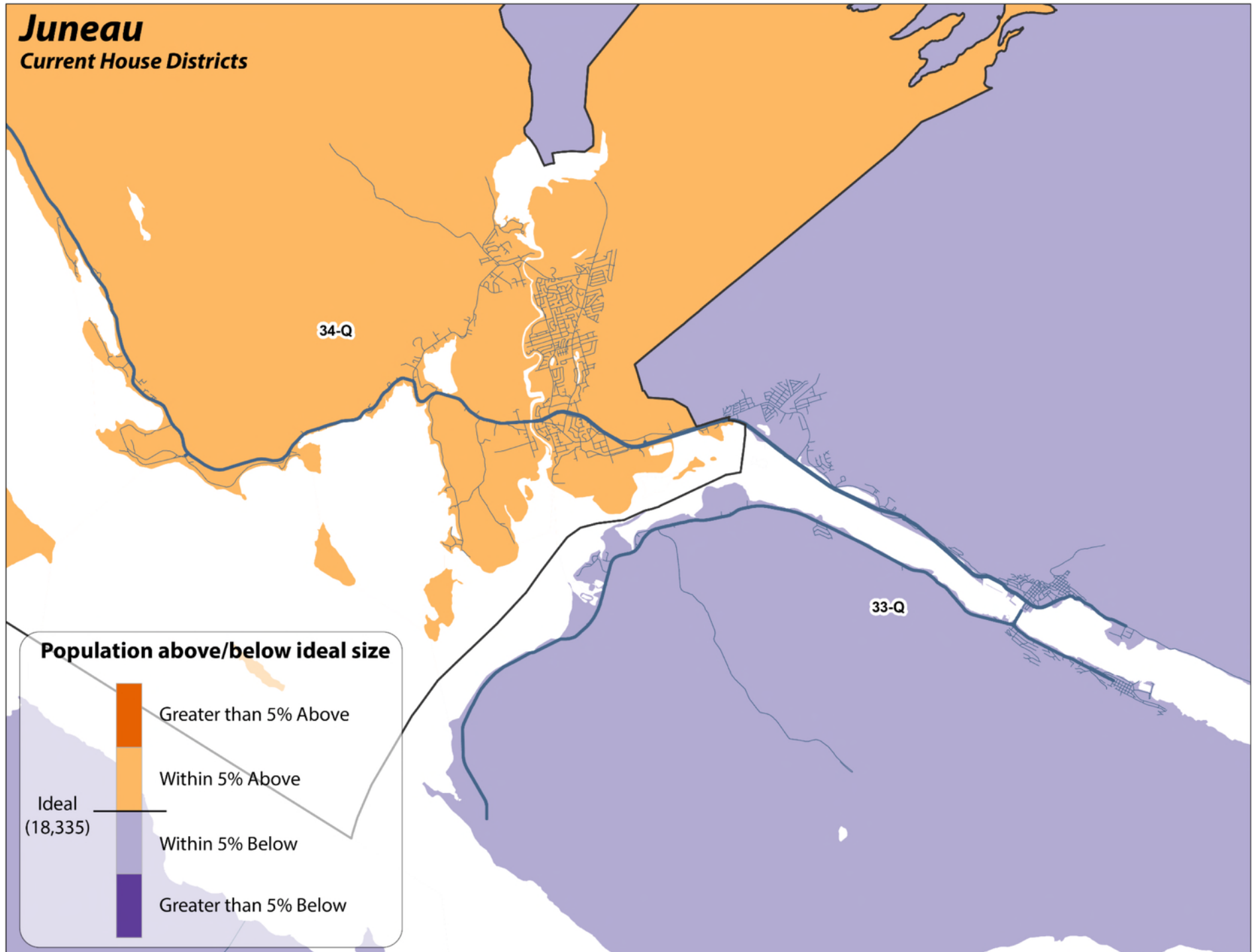
Current House Districts





Southeast ***Current House Districts***





Overview

- Alaska's population during the 2010s grew at slowest pace since Territorial days.
- Mat-Su added the most people, but less than previous decade. Kenai Peninsula added second-most.
- Anchorage and Fairbanks declined slightly in population.
- Large portions of Western and Northern Alaska grew faster than the state as a whole due to natural increase.
- Low population growth means a smaller difference between the fastest and slowest growing areas.

Thank You

Eric Sandberg

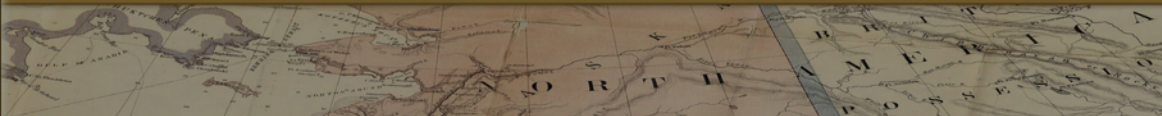
Demographer

eric.sandberg@alaska.gov

<https://www.akredistrict.org/pop>

(if you have visited the [akredistrict.org](https://www.akredistrict.org) site recently, you may need to hit Refresh to see the updated page)

**ALASKA
REDISTRICTING
BOARD**



ALASKA'S POPULATION

On August 12, 2021 the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2020 [PL 94-171](#) data in a legacy format. Our staff, working in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Labor, has processed this data into the following resources:

Alaska Population Change & Deviation Reports

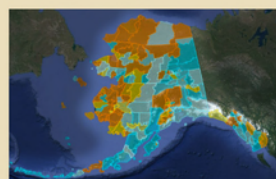
- [Table of Population Change](#) ~ this compares the Census 2010 to 2020 population counts at the voting precinct level. *Click table heads to sort, click again to reverse sort order.*
- [Table of District Population Deviations](#) ~ this compares each House District's 2020 Census population with the new ideal of 18,335. *PDF district maps are linked. Click table heads to sort, click again to reverse sort order.*
- [Download Excel File](#) with House, Senate, Precinct, Name, 2010, 2020, Difference and Percent Change columns. [Legacy .xls format here.](#)

Additional Resources

- [Map Gallery](#)
- [Census Info](#)
- [Governing Law](#)

Google Earth Interactive Maps

- [Precinct Population Changes KMZ](#) ~ This file contains 441 KML drawn Alaska voting precincts semi-transparent color filled based on their population change from 2010 to 2020. Warmer colors grew, cooler colors declined. Click the precinct to receive tool-tip popup details.
- [District Deviation KMZ](#) ~ This file contains 40 KML drawn Alaska House District semi-transparent color filled based on their population deviation from the 2020 ideal of 18,335. Warm colors are over populated, cooler colors are under populated. Click a district to receive tool-tip popup deviation details.
- [District Deviation Borders KMZ](#) ~ This files contains the same 40 KML Alaska House Districts as above but with borders only. Use this as an overlay of the Precinct Population Change KMZ to see how precincts fit into District boundaries.



Re: PL 94-171 Official Reporting Date?

JW

James Whitehorne (CENSUS/ADDC FED) <James.Whitehorne@census.gov>



Fri 8/20/2021 2:56 AM

To: Peter Torkelson

Cc: Thomas A Morton (CENSUS/ADDC FED) <Thomas.A.Morton@... +2 others

Good morning, Peter -

I will start routing this through the Census Bureau for an official response this morning. An official letter of response can take some time due to the clearance process. In the interim, I am providing you with what will serve as the basis for that response. This is an issue that has come up repeatedly, including at the NCSL gathering in Salt Lake. I provided my best summation of how I interpreted the Bureau's position at that meeting. However, the guidance I provided at the NCSL meeting has been further clarified by the Census Bureau. After I returned from Salt Lake and with the frequent questions on that matter, I requested an official statement be posted to our website. That official statement is now available in the published Redistricting FAQs as FAQ #8. [2020 Census Redistricting Data Product Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Here is the text of that FAQ:

Q: Which is the Census Bureau's official redistricting data, the August delivery or the September delivery?

A: The data included in the August and September deliveries will be identical. States can use either the August delivery or the September delivery as appropriate, taking their own statutes and constitutional requirements into account. The Census Bureau considers both releases to be official and fit for use.

I hope this is useful and I will work to expedite the official response to Chairman Binkley's letter as best I can.

Regards

James

James Whitehorne, Chief

Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office/ADDC/HQ

U.S. Census Bureau

O: 301-763-4039 | M: 202-263-9144

[census.gov](https://www.census.gov) | [@uscensusbureau](https://twitter.com/uscensusbureau)

Redistricting Timeline

Introduction

1. *Section 10 of Article VI of the Alaska Constitution directs the Redistricting Board to fulfill its obligations within 90 days of the “official reporting of the decennial census of the United States.”*
2. *The US Census Bureau has provided recent guidance confirming that both its August 12, 2021 release of legacy data and its September 30, 2021 data release are “official.”*

Timeline & Process

1. *In an effort to expeditiously serve the public, the Board will treat August 12, 2021 as the starting point for its 90-day process to adopt a redistricting plan.*
2. *The Board anticipates publishing one or more proposed plans no later than September 11, 2021, and will adopt its final proclamation plan no later than November 10, 2021.*
3. *Subject to current public health mandates arising from the COVID pandemic, the Board will notice and conduct public hearings on pre-draft plans between August 23 and September 11 and on all adopted draft plans between September 11 and November 10 in locations around the State of Alaska.*
4. *The Board welcomes public input throughout this process.*

Draft proposed 8/23/21