

Appendix 8: Quality of Life Background

Quality of Life: What Exists Today

Health and Wellness

Cordova is served by two health care providers:

Cordova Community Medical Center (CCMC), a Critical Access Hospital (CAH), operated by the City of Cordova. CCMC offers preventive, inpatient, outpatient and long-term care, along with emergency room services. CCMC has a clinic that offers quarterly specialist visits.



Ilanka Community Health Center, a community health center and Indian Health Services (IHS) facility operated by the Native Village of Eyak. Ilanka offers primary care services as well as behavioral health, substance abuse assistance, care coordination and patient advocates to assist with public assistance applications.



Over the past year, the City of Cordova and the Native Village of Eyak have been engaged in conversations to explore options to improve collaboration and reduce redundancies in health care delivery between CCMC and Ilanka.

Cordova also has a dentist office, chiropractor, behavioral health clinic and various other providers. The Cordova Community Resource Guide, last updated in 2017, offers an extensive summary of health, safety, housing and recreation service providers and activities available in Cordova. The guide is available here: www.cordovasd.org/District/News/1382-Cordova-Community-Resource-Guide.html

Like much of Alaska, Cordova's senior population is projected to nearly double by 2030 as baby boomers age. Cordova has some supports and services in place to support its older residents such as senior lunch programs, senior transportation. However, during the project process, many residents expressed concern about the challenges of aging in Cordova, including the limited walkability, the lack of in-home care availability and the distance from more advanced medical care. The need for improved senior care was also identified as a concern in the 2013 Cordova Community Health Needs Assessment.

Overall the five top health issues identified in the 2013 Cordova Community Health Needs Assessment include:

1. Attracting and Retaining Medical Providers
2. Access to Specialty Care
3. Affordability of Care
4. Care Coordination Across Health Care Providers
5. Mental Health/Substance Abuse

Indoor and Outdoor Recreation

Cordova residents and visitors have many opportunities for outdoor recreation opportunities, including the Mt. Eyak Ski Area, parks, trails and more. For a summary of available activities and events, visit the Cordova Chamber of Commerce webpage: <https://www.cordovachamber.com/>

The City of Cordova owns and operates a suite of facilities that support arts and creation, including the following:

- Cordova Museum: celebrates the area's history, plus local and regional artists. The Museum is in the Cordova Center.
- Bidarki Recreation Center: includes exercise equipment, a weight room and gymnasium.
- Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool: this saltwater pool is Cordova's only swimming facility.
- Cordova Library: hosts a collection of books, magazines, newspapers; has free Wi-Fi and computer access. The library hosts many activities throughout the week.

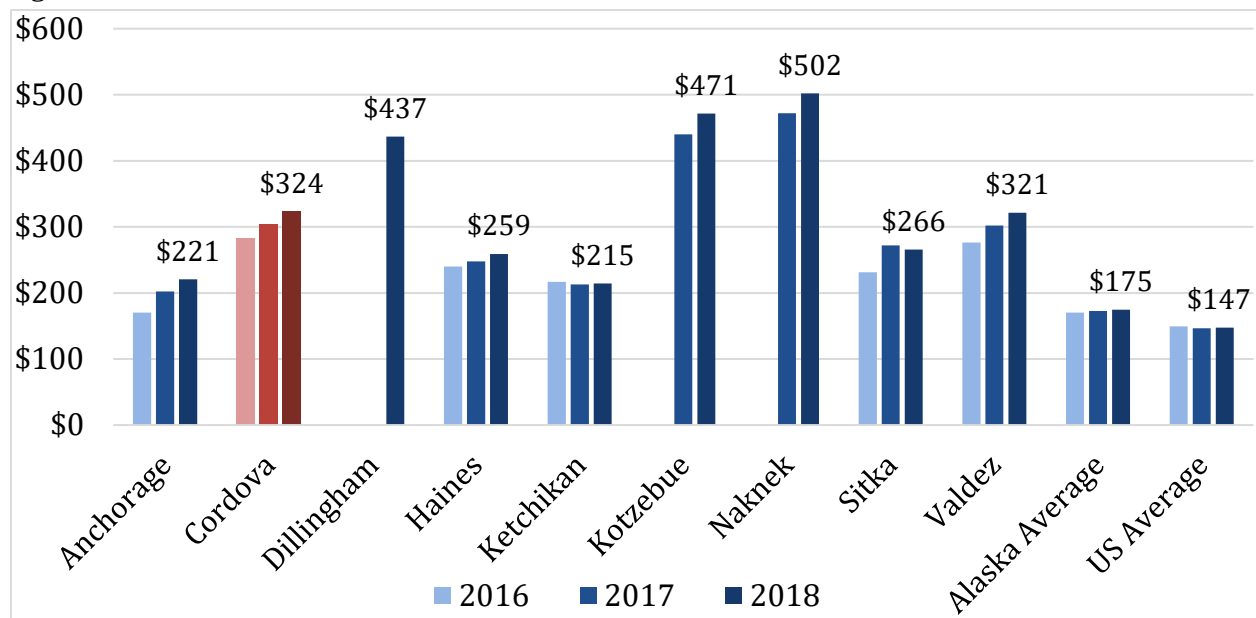


Cordova has a thriving art, crafts and performing arts community, with a dance studio, arts groups, an arts and crafts store and frequent events throughout the year, including multiple festivals that attract residents and visitors. These include the Iceworm Festival (first full weekend each February), Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival (early May), Salmon Jam (mid July), Fungus Festival (September), Native Village of Eyak Sobriety Celebration (November) and the Cordova Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Bazaar (December).

Cost of Living

When the project team asked residents about Cordova’s biggest challenges, the number one response in the community survey was “high cost of living,” with 83 percent of respondents selecting that as one of their top five concerns. The high costs of housing and transportation and the small population size all contribute to the high cost of living in the community. Overall, Cordova has higher incomes and wages than other parts of Alaska (see the economic development background appendix for details), but not all households are able or willing to tolerate Cordova’s high costs. The University of Alaska’s cooperative extension service cost of groceries survey found that a week’s worth of groceries in Cordova cost \$324 in 2018, almost 50 percent more than Anchorage and nearly twice the statewide average.

Figure 53: Cost of Groceries for One Week in Cordova and Other Alaska Communities



Note: Data not available for all years in communities.

Source: University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service



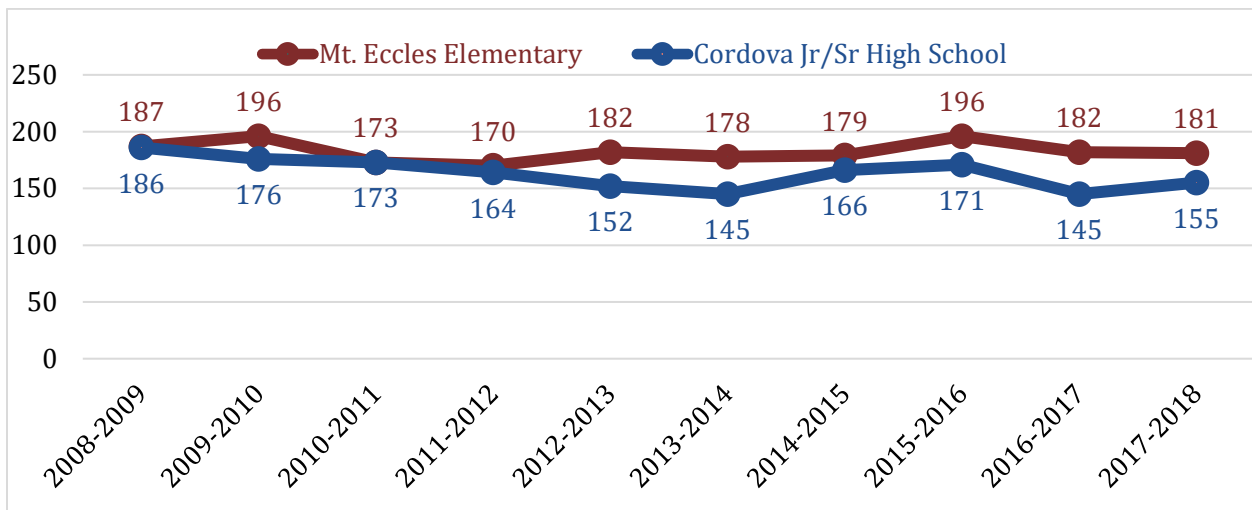
Education

There are two public schools in Cordova, both overseen by the Cordova School District:

- Mt. Eccles Elementary School, with students from preschool through sixth grade.
- Cordova Junior/Senior High School, with students from seventh through twelfth grade.

Overall school enrollment fluctuates annually (Figure 54). Over the past ten years, elementary enrollment has remained flat but junior and high school enrollment has declined slightly.

Figure 54: Cordova School Enrollment, 2008-2009 to 2017-2018



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Statistics and Reports

For secondary education, Cordova is served by the Prince William Sound College, based in Valdez with an extension campus in Cordova based out of the high school library. High school students can earn college credit through this program.