

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities 2026 Disparity Study



Presented by:

David Keen, Founding Principal
Dr. Joseph Broad, Senior Consultant
Tiffany Couch, Research Associate

Keen Independent Research LLC

2929 E Camelback Road, Suite 115
Phoenix AZ 85016

100 Fillmore St., 5th Floor
Denver CO 80206

303-385-8515
303-522-7298 (mobile)

dkeen@keenindependent.com
www.keenindependent.com

Alaska DBE and ACDBE Conference
March 4, 2025

**KEEN
INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH**

Study team



Keen Independent Research

- National 29-person economic consulting firm
- Substantial experience performing disparity studies, and designing and defending programs (200+ studies)
- Successfully defended state DOT operation of the Federal DBE Program in court

Subconsultant team



Yehle & Associates

Camden Yehle, President
Outreach and in-depth interviews



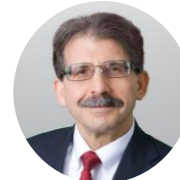
Customer Research International

Sanjay Vrudhula, President
Availability surveys



Donaldson Consulting

Suzanne Donaldson, CEO
Outreach and in-depth interviews



Holland & Knight

Keith Wiener, Partner
Legal framework

What all FHWA, FAA and FTA recipients must do to operate the Federal DBE Program and ACDBE Program

- Set overall three-year goals for DBE participation on FHWA-, FAA- and FTA-funded contracts
- Consider whether it can achieve overall DBE goal solely through neutral means
- Determine the portion of the overall goals, if any, to be met through race-conscious means such as DBE contract goals
- *In states (like Alaska) that are within Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ...* consider whether there is evidence of discrimination, by DBE group, to support inclusion in any race- or gender-based programs

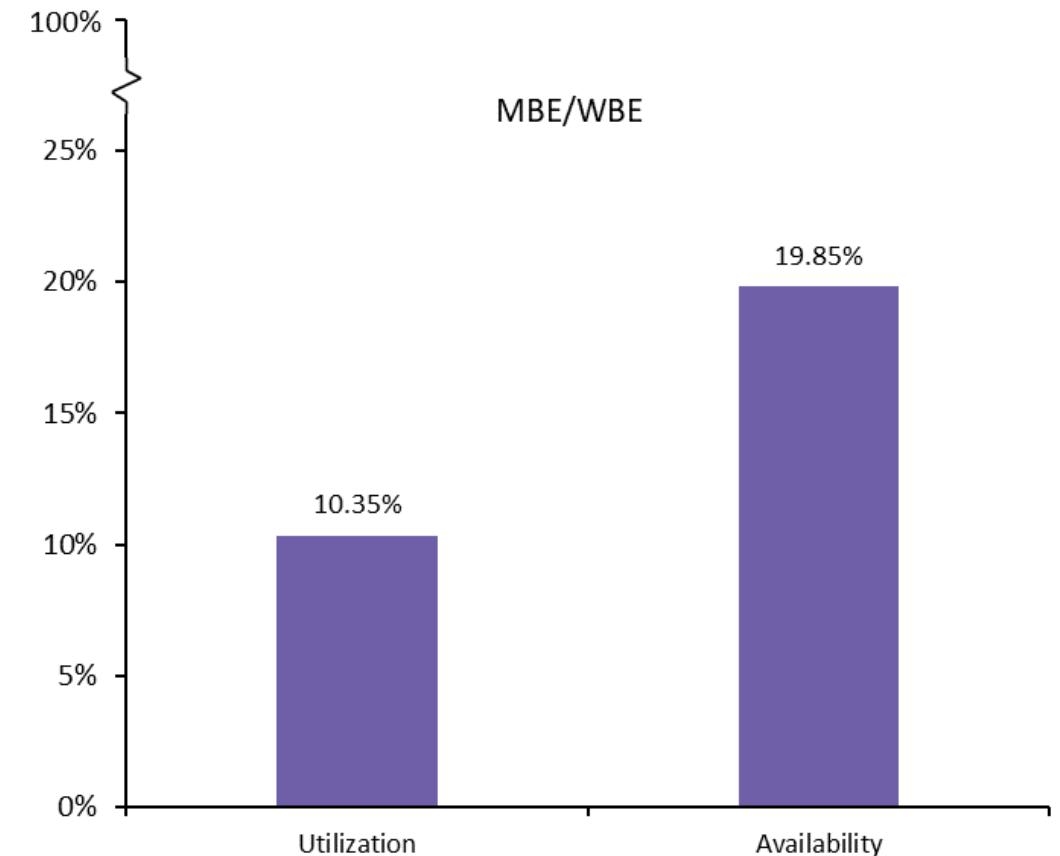
Introduction to disparity studies

Analyze any disparities between minority-owned business enterprises (MBEs) and woman-owned business enterprises (WBEs) in terms of:

- Utilization (share of DOT&PF dollars going to these firms)
- Availability (expected share given a level playing field)

Calculate availability through:

- Online and phone survey of firms potentially available for DOT&PF work
- Contract-by-contract availability analyses by group of firms, accounting for type, size and location of work
- Dollar-weighting of results to calculate overall availability



How to get involved

- Call us at: 602-704-0125 (study telephone hotline)
- Email the study team: alaskadisparitystudy@keenindependent.com
- Go to: <https://www.keenindependent.com/studies/alaskadisparitystudy2026>
- Contact Alaska DOT&PF:

Rashaud Joseph, Civil rights Office Manager, Alaska DOT&PF

Telephone: 907-269-0848

Email: rashaud.joseph@alaska.gov

- Participate in availability survey set to launch in July 2025
- Review study results, available in early 2026