



REGIONAL DATA SCAN: INTERIOR

In state fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the UAA DPHS research team continued its work with The Alliance by engaging the membership in a series of facilitated conversations to identify the current landscape of prevention efforts in Alaska. **Particular emphasis was placed on regional patterns, strengths, gaps, and opportunities for ongoing Alliance support.** Our goal was to identify existing efforts within The Alliance and detail the variety of ways communities and organizations document and share the value of their work.

A key function of The Alliance is to engage communities as partners – to promote individual and community wellness and prevent excessive alcohol use and harms in Alaska. Alliance members are already recognized champions in their respective communities working every day to build a community ecology that supports wellness across the lifespan.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DATA SCAN IS TO

- provide a flexible structure for organizing and celebrating the work of The Alliance;
- assist with identifying possible modes of community engagement, participation, and outreach in the areas of prevention and community wellness;
- summarize ways communities already collect information to highlight successes and inform action in their respective prevention networks; and
- invite conversation about what we mean by data and what counts as data to organizations as we continue to hold space for communities to engage with questions of meaning, relevance, and usefulness.

This document is not intended to be an exhaustive list of efforts. Rather, **it is a living document The Alliance can use to grow its membership, identify areas in need of additional support and outreach, and learn from member communities** as we work to reduce the harms associated with alcohol misuse in Alaska. While we have specifically focused on regional approaches to prevention, it is important to recognize the limitations in current methodology. Information presented in this data scan is the culmination of several facilitated conversations with Alliance membership through the fall of 2020 and is limited to the people who were present at that particular time. It cannot and should not be interpreted as representative of a particular region or community. For example, groups of people and prevention organizations listed in the introductions of each section are not exhaustive. We recognize that there are many more within each region and others that work across multiple regions and statewide. Similarly, interviews with regional contacts were focused in predominantly hub communities. This is both a gap and an opportunity for future outreach and community engagement.

Alliance members have told us they would like to build deeper connections to people, organizations, and communities in their regions.

While there is general agreement that it is especially important to engage smaller communities, there is also agreement that those decisions need to be driven by communities themselves. Participation in the prevention landscape means different things for different communities/regions, so next steps will require concerted efforts to continuously hold space for the sharing of ideas, strategies, and interregional exchange that creates tangible and mutual benefit for Alliance members.



THE DATA LANDSCAPE OF ALASKA BY REGION

INTERIOR

OVERVIEW OF PREVENTION LANDSCAPE

The Interior region is one of the largest within The Alliance and includes Athabascan homelands of Gwich'in, Deg Xit'an, Han, Tanana, Koyukon, Holikachuk, Upper Kuskokwim, Upper Tanana and Tanacross peoples, and others. Doyon Limited is the Alaska Native regional corporation for the region. The Tanana Chiefs Conference is an Alaska Native nonprofit corporation that also provides prevention infrastructure and related programs.

There are three distinct census areas (Fairbanks/North Star, Denali, and Yukon-Koyukuk), with Yukon-Koyukuk being the largest in the state area-wise. Outside of the Fairbanks area, communities are separated by significant physical distance and often not connected by road, which is a challenge for building a shared regional identity around prevention work. There are also inequities in prevention service availability that favor urban centers. Key partners include the Fairbanks Wellness Coalition, Fairbanks Native Association, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. The Goldstream Group works in an evaluation capacity with the Fairbanks Wellness Coalition and assists with data collection and reporting efforts.

The Fairbanks Native Association has deep connections with smaller communities that are not connected to the road system and are often not represented in statewide conversations. These partnerships need to be nurtured more explicitly, particularly in areas outside of major population centers. School districts are key partners due to connections with youth and ongoing administration of several formal data collection efforts, including the YRBS and the SCCS.



If you are at a table, look around and if there is no one from the group you are trying to help, then you are not doing the work right.

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL CONVERSATION

Interior regional contacts emphasized cultural diversity within and across communities. Rural communities are not homogenous and each have unique sociocultural, political, and economic factors that reflect differences in colonial histories and subsequent responses. **This can be a challenge for prevention work, as terms such as “best practice” can be perceived as value judgments that reinforce differences.** Everyday forms of grassroots prevention work may be going largely unnoticed, as smaller, less-resourced organizations may lack capacity to attend larger statewide gatherings. There is a need to acknowledge the widespread pain, trauma, and loss many communities feel and find ways to “open the door” to healing. However, **ongoing legacies of racism and colonialism, which show up in public health, law enforcement, educational, and religious institutions, create circumstances of stress that are barriers to reconciliation and prevention work broadly.** As one Alliance member stated, “If you are at a table, look around and if there is no one from the group you are trying to help – then you are not doing the work right.” One regional contact described a feeling of constantly being in “survival mode,” making it difficult to have conversations around data and assessment, i.e. “we live it.”



THE DATA LANDSCAPE OF ALASKA BY REGION

INTERIOR

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ALLIANCE

It is critical to acknowledge differences in how people think about and reconcile history. This has important implications for The Alliance and the language being developed around prevention. **How we talk about issues such as race and racism, history and colonialism, and equity shape how we interact with people and communities.** Much of the feedback we have received has highlighted this tension as a barrier to Alliance participation, membership, and expansion. Specifically, the recommendation to “simplify the language” is an important insight with respect to outreach and communication and highlights the need for more translation work to invite broader participation. Sometimes language around marginalization itself can be marginalizing. Photovoice and other digital storytelling formats were described as a particularly powerful way to show the impact of alcohol prevention work, especially with youth. These alternative and often more accessible data collection practices should be expanded and supported across The Alliance.

SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

This data scan is a living resource for The Alliance. In order to build on our efforts, we suggest the following areas of increased action and support. These suggestions were identified by Alliance members and the UAA team itself. This list is not exhaustive, and should serve as a starting point, not an end point, for conversation and planning.

INCREASE DATA COLLECTION AND AVAILABILITY IN CERTAIN AREAS

- Seek more detailed data on mental health, ethnicity, and economic status by neighborhoods or different areas of town in urban areas.
- Seek more data related to faith-based organizations.
- Increase access to school and student-related data.
- Increase access to and collection of data at the local and regional levels.
- Increase capacity for useable data collection for rural communities and smaller, grant-funded organizations.

REDUCE THE BURDEN OF PREVENTION WORK FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Aid in building shared regional identities/efforts while avoiding uncoordinated duplication of efforts or redundancies.
- Promote cross-regional mentorship.
- Support policies and actions that move activities and services from crisis to prevention.

REDUCE EXISTING INEQUITIES IN DATA COLLECTION AND DECISION MAKING BASED ON INEQUITABLE DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES

- Reduce urban/rural differences and inequities.
- Reduce disparities along racial/ethnic, and other demographic lines.
- Provide a platform for peer-to-peer support that focuses on demystifying data collection and use, building surveys, and conducting other data collection efforts.
- Center communities in prevention-related conversations to identify what they want and need for their own prevention efforts, and how to support those efforts.
- Support the use of alternative sources/types of data in decision-making processes, and fulfillment of grant-related requirements.



SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

EXPAND ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- Simplify language used within Alliance meetings and in outreach efforts.
- Create and utilize clear and welcoming onboarding procedures.
- Move toward incorporating more in-person meetings/activities for further relationship development.
- Utilize data-related activities as a pathway of recruitment for Alliance members and to encourage engagement with The Alliance.
- Expand the information included in this data scan by contacting individuals and organizations named by regional contacts, including 4As, Center for Safe Alaskans, ASAP, Youth 360, Change 4 the Kenai, Emmonak Women's Shelter, and Bay Haven.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: DATA SOURCES BY REGION

Region	Program	Data collection method(s)	Population served	Consequences monitored	Intervening variables of concern	Demographics collected
NORTHERN	North Slope Borough - Prevention Crew	Surveys	Youth/Adults		Community Norms, Social availability/access, Perception of risk, Retail access, Promotion	Age, Ethnicity, Gender
GULF COAST	Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP)	Surveys/Focus Groups	The general public or consumers, Community leaders	Treatment Admissions	Community Norms	Age, Ethnicity, Gender, Education, Income
SOUTHEAST	Alaska Crossings	Surveys	Youth aged 12 to 17			Age, Ethnicity
	Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition	Surveys	The general public or consumers, Parents, Community leaders			Age, Ethnicity
	Leo's Hope	Focus Groups	Substance misuse prevention/treatment workers		Community Norms	Age, Ethnicity
	Sitka Counseling-HOPE Coalition	Surveys, Focus Groups, Interviews	Community organization workers or leaders, The general public or consumers, Young adults age 18 to 24	Treatment admissions, Underage alcohol-related citations, Adult alcohol-related arrests	Community Norms, Individual factors, Social availability/access, Perception of risk, Retail access, Promotion	Age, Ethnicity, Gender Identification, Grade level

APPENDICES

DATA SOURCES BY REGION CONTINUED

Region	Program	Data collection method(s)	Population served	Consequences monitored	Intervening variables of concern	Demographics collected
SOUTHWEST	Bethel Housing and Homeless Coalition	Surveys	Young adults age 18 to 24, Adults age 25 to 64		ACEs	Age, Ethnicity, Gender
	Tundra Women's Coalition	Operational Statistics	Children age 0 to 11, Youth age 12 to 17, Young adults age 18 to 24, Adults age 25 to 64	Treatment admissions		Age, Ethnicity
	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	Surveys, Focus Groups, Interviews, Operational Statistics	Patients	Treatment admissions		Age, Ethnicity, Gender
INTERIOR	Fairbanks Native Association - Family Wellness Program	Surveys, Focus Groups, Interviews	Caregivers, Community organization workers or leaders, Children age 0 to 11			Age, Ethnicity
	Tanana Chiefs Conference	Surveys, Focus Groups	The general public or consumers, Youth age 12 to 17, Young adults age 18 to 24	Treatment admissions, DWI Crashes, Deaths, Underage alcohol-related citations, Adult alcohol-related arrests	Community Norms, Individual factors, Social availability/ access, Perception of risk, Level of enforcement	Age, Ethnicity
	Therapeutic Court	Surveys	People in recovery, Adults age 25 to 64, Substance misuse prevention/ treatment workers	Treatment admissions, Adult alcohol-related arrests		Age, Ethnicity, Education

APPENDICES

DATA SOURCES BY REGION CONTINUED

Region	Program	Data collection method(s)	Population served	Consequences monitored	Intervening variables of concern	Demographics collected
ANCHORAGE/ MATANUSKA- SUSITNA	Anchorage Alliance for Violence Prevention	Surveys	The general public or consumers, Youth age 12 to 17, Young adults age 18 to 24			
	Boys & Girls Clubs Alaska	Surveys	Children age 0 to 11, Youth age 12 to 17		Community Norms, Individual factors, Social availability/ access, Perception of risk	Age, Ethnicity, Income
	CITC Partnerships For Success Second Order Change project		Community organization workers or leaders, Educators: teachers, school staff and leadership		Youth serving adults' emotional intelligence skills	Ethnicity
	Healthy Voices Healthy Choices	Surveys, Focus Groups, Interviews	Youth age 12 to 17, Young adults age 18 to 24, Adults age 25 to 64	Treatment admissions, Underage alcohol-related citations	Community Norms, Social availability/ access, Perception of risk	Age, Ethnicity, Education
	Set Free Alaska	Focus Groups, Interviews	People in recovery, Adults age 25 to 64, Substance misuse prevention/ treatment workers			Age, Ethnicity, Income, Education

APPENDICES

DATA SOURCES BY REGION CONTINUED

Region	Program	Data collection method(s)	Population served	Consequences monitored	Intervening variables of concern	Demographics collected
ANCHORAGE/ MATANUSKA- SUSITNA	Spirit of Youth Anchorage Coalition	Surveys	Youth age 12 to 17, Substance misuse prevention/ treatment workers		Community Norms, Individual factors, Awareness of prevention and intervention strategies regarding the matter of bullying that are readily employed in the community	Age
	United Way - Youth360	Surveys	Youth and Parents		Community Norms	Grade, Gender
	University of Alaska Anchorage - Alcohol, Drug, and Wellness Education/ Health Promotion	Surveys	Young adults age 18 to 24, Adults age 25 to 64			
	Volunteers of America Alaska	Surveys, Interviews	Caregivers, Youth age 12 to 17, Substance misuse prevention/ treatment workers	Treatment admissions, Deaths, Adult alcohol-related arrests	Social availability/ access, Retail access, Price	Age, Ethnicity, Income



APPENDICES

APPENDIX B: STATEWIDE DATA SOURCES

Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/brfss/default.aspx>

Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS)

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mchepi/cubs/default.aspx>

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

<http://laborstats.alaska.gov/>

Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats/Pages/default.aspx>

Alaska Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS)

<http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/>

Alaska Injury Data Resource Guide

<http://anthctoday.org/epicenter/healthData/AlaskaInjuryDataResourceGuide.pdf>

Alaska Opioid Data Dashboard

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/opioids/dashboard.aspx>

Alaska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mchepi/prams/default.aspx>

Alaska Public Health Data Sources - Data Dictionary

https://safealaskans.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2018-Data-Dictionary_-_Alaska-Public-Health-Data-Sources.pdf

Alaska School Climate & Connectedness (SCCS)

<https://education.alaska.gov/schoolcounselbhlhth/scc>

Alaska Section of Epidemiology

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/Pages/default.aspx>

Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/yrbs/yrbs.aspx>

Healthy Alaskans 2020 Scorecard: Alaska Native Edition

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/alaska.health.sandbox#!/vizhome/HA2020AlaskaNativescorecard/Scorecard>

Indian Health Service Alaska Area Office

<https://www.ihs.gov/alaska/>

Informed Alaskans Initiative

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/InfoCenter/Pages/ia/default.aspx>