



**ALASKA  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

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**ADVISORY BOARD ON  
ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE**

**STATUTORY ADVISOR UPDATE 2025**

Kermit E. Wilson Executive Director

# ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

## ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

**1 LEADERSHIP**  
Moving Forward

**2 PURPOSE**  
Renew - Relate - Reconnect

**3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**  
Report Outs

**ALIGNMENT** **4**  
Empowering Partnerships

**STAKEHOLDER REPORT OUTS** **5**  
Visit Insights

**LOOKING FORWARD** **6**  
Change & Challenge





# 1 LEADERSHIP

Moving Forward



## NEW LEADERSHIP



**Kermit Wilson**  
Executive Director





# 1 LEADERSHIP

Moving Forward



## Kermit Wilson New Executive Director





1

## LEADERSHIP

Moving Forward



ALASKA  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

ADVISORY BOARD ON  
ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

# Supportive Partners

## 2025 Executive Committee

Kara Nelson, Chair  
Bobby Dorton, Chair Elect  
Anthony Cravalho, Secretary  
Philip Licht, At Large

Tonie Protzman, Chair  
Sam Garcia, Chair Elect  
Jen Galvan, Secretary  
James Savage, At Large





## 2

### PURPOSE

Renew - Relate - Reconnect



ALASKA  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

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ADVISORY BOARD ON  
ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

The joint mission of the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) and the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) is to **advocate for programs and services that promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans**. AMHB/ABADA are statutorily charged with **advising, planning, and coordinating behavioral health services and programs** funded by the State of Alaska. The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council (SSPC) advises the governor and legislature on issues relating to suicide. In collaboration with communities, faith-based organizations, and public-private entities, the Council works to **improve the health and wellness of Alaskans by reducing suicide and its effect on individuals** and communities.



## 2 PURPOSE

Renew - Relate - Reconnect



## Site Visits & Public Testimony

2025 – Kodiak  
2024 – Ketchikan  
2021-2023 – Covid, Zoom  
2020 – Anchorage  
2020 – Kenai

## AMHB & ABADA Board Duties:

**Governor**

**Alaska State Legislature**

**Affiliated Partners**

**Alaska Mental Health  
Trust Authority**

**Department of Health**

**Statewide Suicide  
Prevention Council**

Strategic  
Planning

Public  
Engagement

Policy & Budget  
Recommendations

Advocacy &  
Accountability

**Participation with Affiliated  
Partners**

**26 Board Members Expertise  
& Experience**

**Advocacy Coordinator  
Boards' Advocacy Committee**

**AMHB ABADA Staff**



# 3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Report Outs



ALASKA  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD  
ADVISORY BOARD ON  
ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

- 988 Stakeholder Group
- Suicide Cluster Response Team
- Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Anchorage Suicide Prevention Coalition
- SE Regional Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Suicide Prevention Community Practice
- Statewide Suicide Prevention Council
- Children's Mental Health Initiative
- PC CARES Steering Committee
- Alaska Statewide Opioid Coalition
- Messaging Huddle (Overdose Outreach)
- Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury
- Community Crisis Groups

AMHB  
ABADA

Staff

Participation

With Affiliated

PARTNERS

- Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)
- Family Service Training Center Advisory Committee
- Alaska Violent Death Reporting System Advisory Committee
- Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council
- Statewide Epidemiology Workgroup
- Behavioral Health in Schools
- Alaska Re-entry Partnership
- Alaska Commission on Aging
- Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education



### 3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

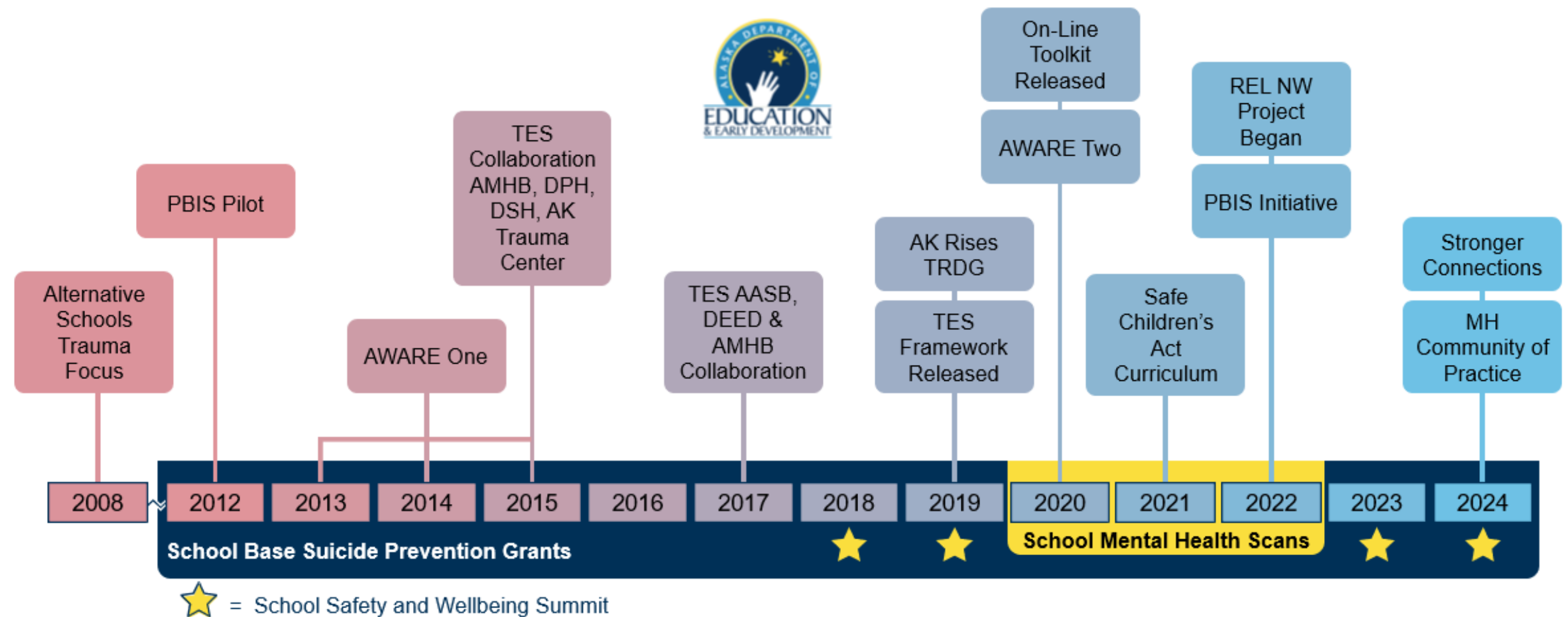
Report Outs



**ALASKA  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**  
**ADVISORY BOARD ON  
ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE**

**Sharon Fishell, DEED “Over the past 15 years, representatives from the Boards and Council have actively participated in most of DEED’s work around youth behavioral health.”**

**AMHB  
ABADA  
Staff  
Participation  
With Affiliated  
PARTNERS**



eLearning Courses: Suicide, Trauma, Opioids, Naloxone Administration, e-cigarette. eLearning Courses taken: FY 2023: 56, 193 & FY 2024: 70, 158





## Building and Renewing Partnerships

- AMHB/ABADA, AMHTA, DBH, DOH, Stakeholders, Affiliated Partners
- Improve outcomes and deliverables
- Identify greater partnering opportunities
- Creating work groups for each performance measure



4



ALIGNMENT

# Trust Performance Measures

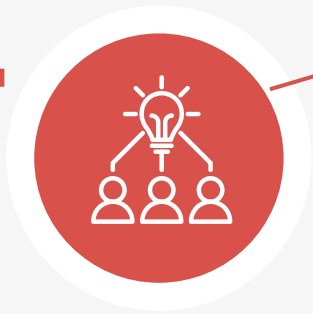
**DATA & RESEARCH**

**ADVOCACY**

**PLANNING**



4



ALIGNMENT



## Performance Measures

### DATA RESEARCH UPDATE

- Health Planners
- Public Health Informaticist
- Data and Evaluation Workgroup





## **RYC: Residential Youth Care, Established in 1989**

Provides Comprehensive Services for Youth with Pediatric Psychiatrist Oversight

2 Residential Treatment Homes (capacity 11 girls & 15 boys)

5 Therapeutic Residential Foster Homes

After School Program

### **GOAL: Increase Our Continuum of Care**

1. Providing a Step-Down Program through therapeutic foster homes
2. Discharge plan of care involving community supports
3. Increase Community based care for children living at home
4. Increase Coordination of Care (services, schools, local non-profits)
5. Coordinate with School System for GED Program
6. Increase Access to Certification Training Programs (trades)
7. Coordination of Youth Summer Work Program
8. Coordination of Youth Disability Benefits
9. Provides Med-Management
10. Provides Safety Risk Assessments
11. Operate a Youth Emergency Shelter via Grant

**“The mission of Residential Youth Care is to advocate for and foster the safety and well-being of youth at risk and their families so they may lead productive lives.”**

### **DRAMATIC RESULTS:** (Provided by Dustin Larna, Chief Executive Officer)

- ✓ Reduced Emergency Room Visits for youth
- ✓ Less Local Youth in Residential Care
- ✓ Shortened Residential Care Times
- ✓ Shorter Waitlists for care
- ✓ Increased Care for Southeast Alaska Youth (80%/20%)

(Result reflect over a 3-year period)



# Public Comment

## STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

Visit Insights



5



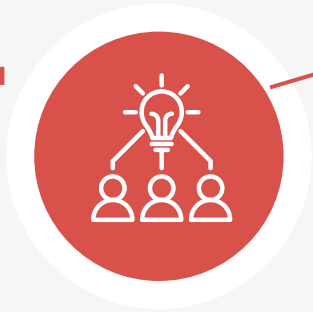
### Thematic Challenges:

- Shortage of Services
- Shortage of Care Providers
- Opioid & Substance Misuse Crisis
- Housing Shortage
- Increasing Homelessness





4



ALIGNMENT



## Performance Measures

### ADVOCACY UPDATE

#### **2025 Legislative Session**

HB 138 - Behavioral Health Crisis Surcharge Fund

HB 73/SB 76 - Complex Care Residential Homes

HB 52/SB 44 - Minors and Psychiatric Hospitals

SB 45 - Related to Medicaid Mental Health Parity

HB 53/HB 55 - Operating and Mental Health Budget

SB 90 Related to Minor Mental Health; Age of Consent

4



ALIGNMENT



## Performance Measures

### PLANNING UPDATE

- Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan
- Communications Plan
- Evaluation
- Alignment of planning and data analysis



# Change & Challenge

## Administrative Order 358

- Hiring
- Travel
- Regulations

## Staffing Updates

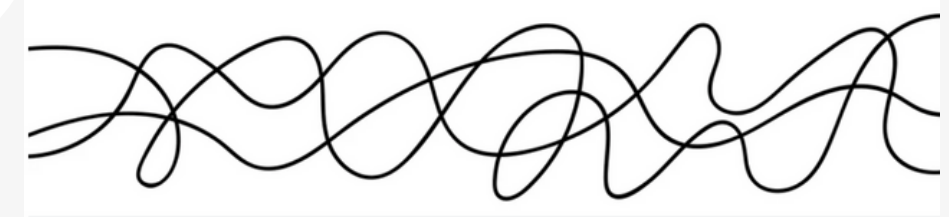
- Health Planner 2 positions
- Advocacy Coordinator
- Public Health Informaticist (newly re-classified position)

6



LOOKING FORWARD

Change & Challenge



# Change & Challenge

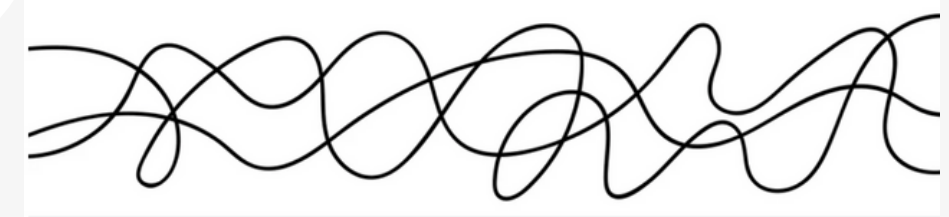


6



LOOKING FORWARD

Change & Challenge



Two Attitudes:

*“It feels like we are being abandoned.”*

A Women’s Recovery Coordinator in the State of Washington

***“ We owe it to American families to ensure that tax-payer dollars are supporting evidence-based practices that are truly focused on improving students' mental health.”***

Wisconsin Department of Education



# Summer Meeting

Zoom

June 12<sup>th</sup> 9am - 2pm



# Fall Meeting

Kodiak

October TBD



***Keep Hope Alive!***



# ACoA Update

Yasmin Radbod

Program Coordinator

Alaska Commission on Aging

[Yasmin.Radbod@alaska.gov](mailto:Yasmin.Radbod@alaska.gov)

907-230-0871

Arts Group presents

e Festival 2025

Interest Tables

m C-48



& Gov't Relations, Education & Culture

**Commission on Aging, ANCEP**

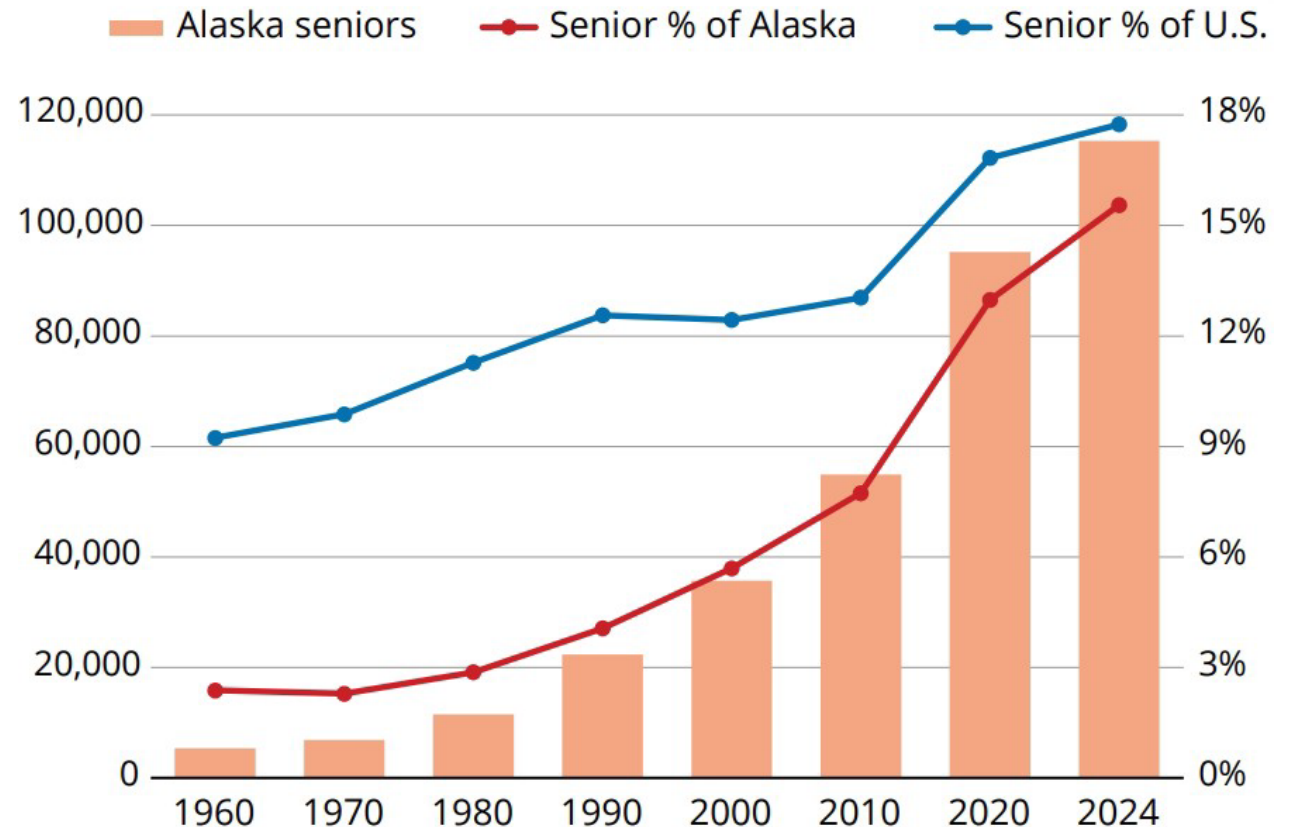
**Raffle, Wildlife Conservation**

**Smithsonian Museum, OCS&AVCP**

# Alaska Trends Magazine March 2025: Seniors 65+

- Every state has a senior population (65+) that is more White than its overall population.
- The number of Native seniors has more than doubled since 2000, from 5,700 to 12,700.
- Adding seniors who identify as part Native increases the numbers to 14 percent of the 65-plus population, a combined 15,100 people.
- In 1960, just after statehood, only 2 percent of Alaskans were over 65 compared to 9 percent nationally. That year, Alaska's 2 percent represented just 5,400 senior citizens.
- By 2024, Alaska's senior count reached 115,000 and 16 percent of the state — close to the national 18 percent — although its growth rate has slowed. Most of Alaska's baby boomers are now over 65, so aging-driven growth has fallen behind some retirement havens in the Lower 48.
- Seniors make up about 6 percent of the labor force in Alaska, which is the average.

## Seniors as shares of Alaska and the U.S.



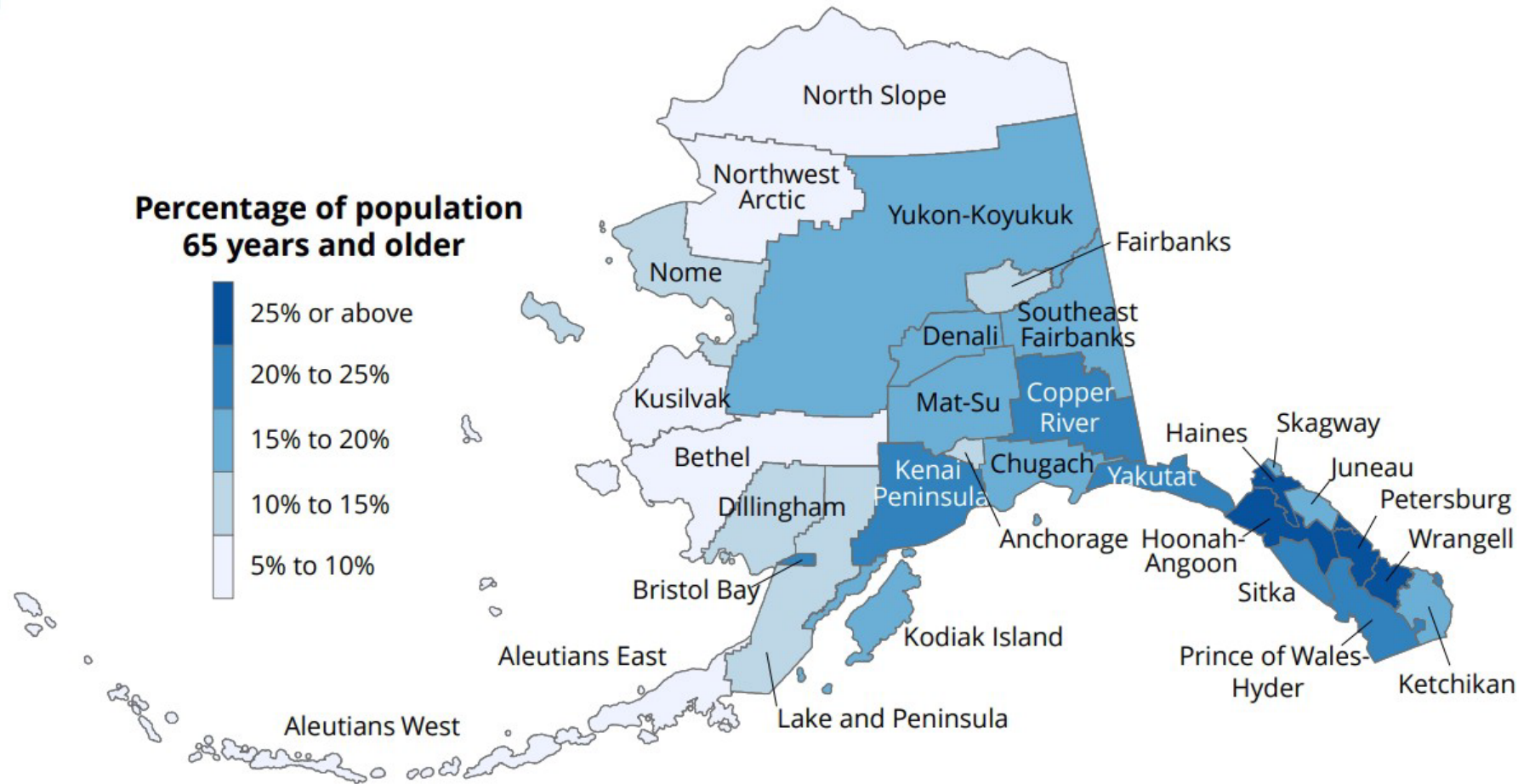
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section



# Trends cont.

- Eleven boroughs and census areas are at least 20 percent seniors, and eight are in Southeast.
- 53 percent of seniors live with a spouse in Alaska. Another 3 percent live with an unmarried partner. **Around 27 percent of Alaska seniors live alone**, matching the U.S. senior average and about twice the general population.

## Southeast has the most seniors in Alaska proportionally, 2024



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# Trends cont.

- Life expectancy for Alaska seniors has increased over time. In the early 1990s, an Alaskan turning 65 had a life expectancy of 15.6 more years. That rose to 17.4 years by the mid-2010s. By the outset of the pandemic, it had topped 21 years, which dipped during COVID-19 to 19.8. The most recent figure from 2023 is an additional 20.4 years — back on the upward track.
- Living longer means more disabilities.
- In 2023, Alaska seniors reported a slightly higher incidence of disability than nationally, with both increasing after age 75.

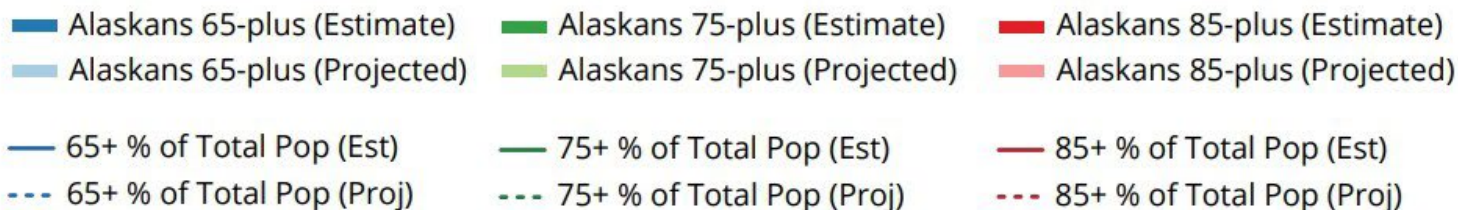
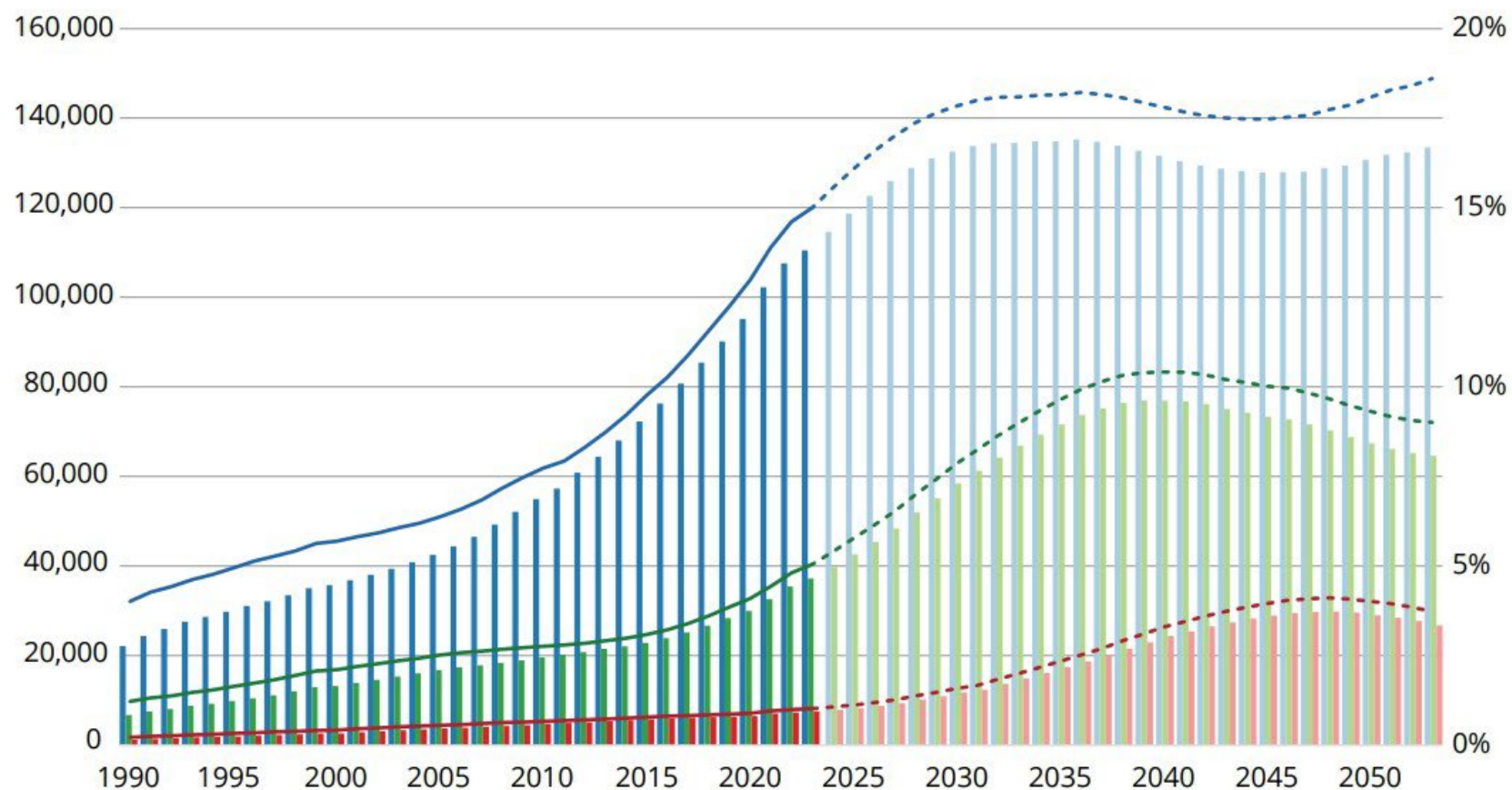
## Rates and types of disabilities among senior citizens, 2023

	Alaska			United States		
	All seniors	65-74	75+	All seniors	65-74	75+
Total with Disability	35%	28%	50%	33%	24%	47%
Men with Disability	38%	32%	52%	33%	25%	46%
Women with Disability	33%	25%	49%	33%	23%	47%
Total with Hearing Difficulty	18%	14%	27%	13%	8%	21%
Men with Hearing Difficulty	24%	20%	34%	17%	12%	26%
Women with Hearing Difficulty	12%	8%	21%	11%	6%	18%
Total with Vision Difficulty	7%	5%	11%	6%	4%	9%
Men with Vision Difficulty	8%	6%	12%	6%	4%	8%
Women with Vision Difficulty	7%	4%	11%	6%	4%	9%
Total with Cognitive Difficulty	8%	5%	14%	8%	5%	12%
Men with Cognitive Difficulty	7%	4%	13%	7%	5%	11%
Women with Cognitive Difficulty	10%	6%	15%	8%	5%	13%
Total with Ambulatory Difficulty	20%	15%	30%	21%	15%	30%
Men with Ambulatory Difficulty	18%	14%	29%	18%	13%	26%
Women with Ambulatory Difficulty	21%	16%	32%	23%	16%	33%
Total with Self-Care Difficulty	7%	4%	13%	7%	4%	12%
Men with Self-Care Difficulty	6%	3%	11%	6%	4%	10%
Women with Self-Care Difficulty	8%	5%	14%	8%	4%	13%
Total with Independent Living Difficulty	12%	8%	20%	13%	7%	22%
Men with Independent Living Difficulty	9%	6%	16%	11%	6%	17%
Women with Independent Living Difficulty	14%	10%	23%	16%	8%	26%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# Alaska's older population by age group, 1990 through 2053 projected



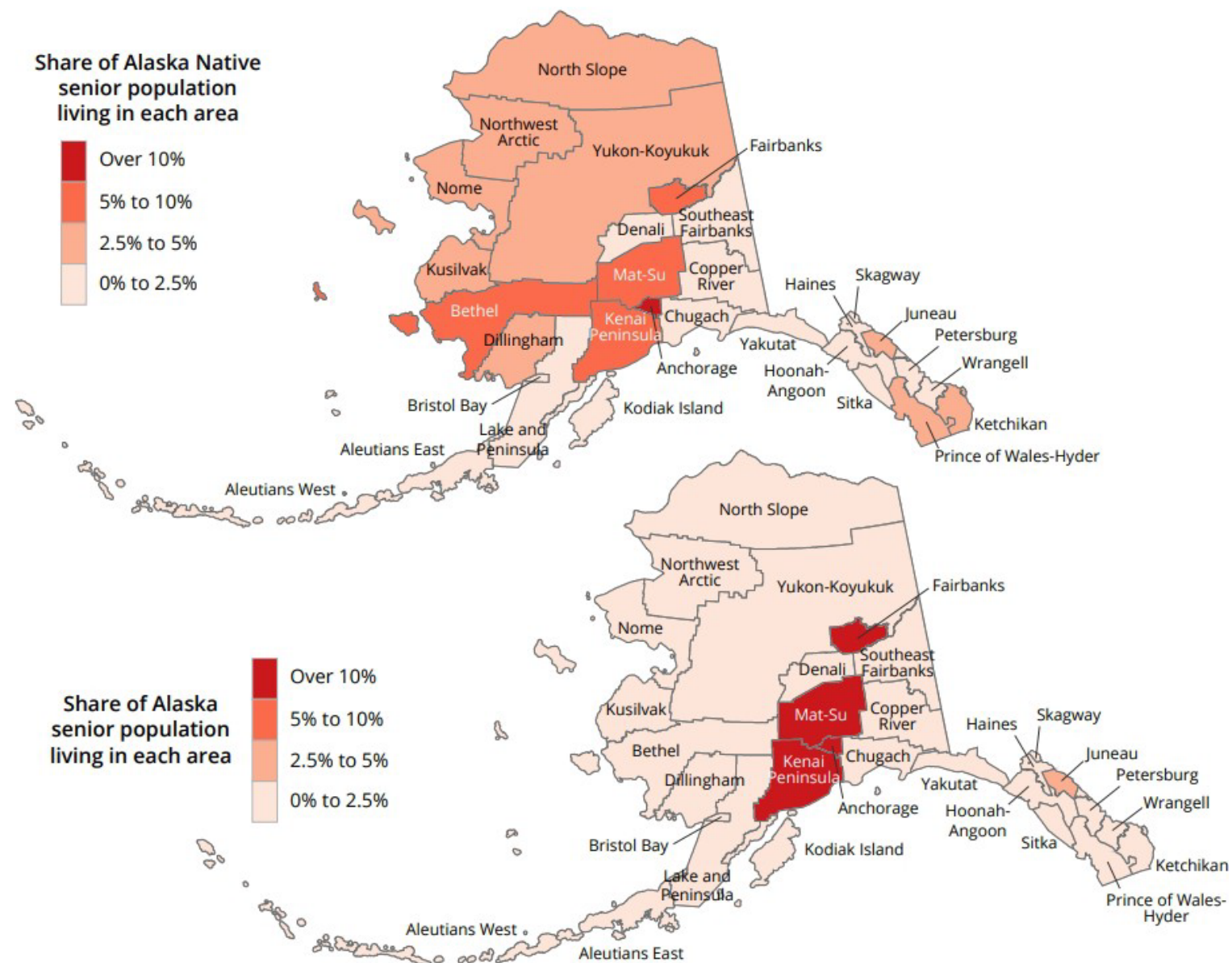
**Source:** Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

“We project the Alaska Native senior population will grow faster than other seniors over the next 30 years. That could make health care access a more pressing issue, as Native seniors are more likely to live in rural areas.

In 2023, about 50 percent lived outside of the five most populous boroughs, which is a larger percentage than Alaska Natives overall (46 percent) and far more than Alaskans in general (20 percent) and all seniors (18 percent).

By 2030, the Alaska Native senior population will have risen to 23,200, or 17 percent of seniors. While the total 65-plus population will decline somewhat in the mid-2030s before ticking up again, the number of Native seniors will continue to grow.”

## Where Alaska Native seniors live, compared with all Alaska seniors, 2023

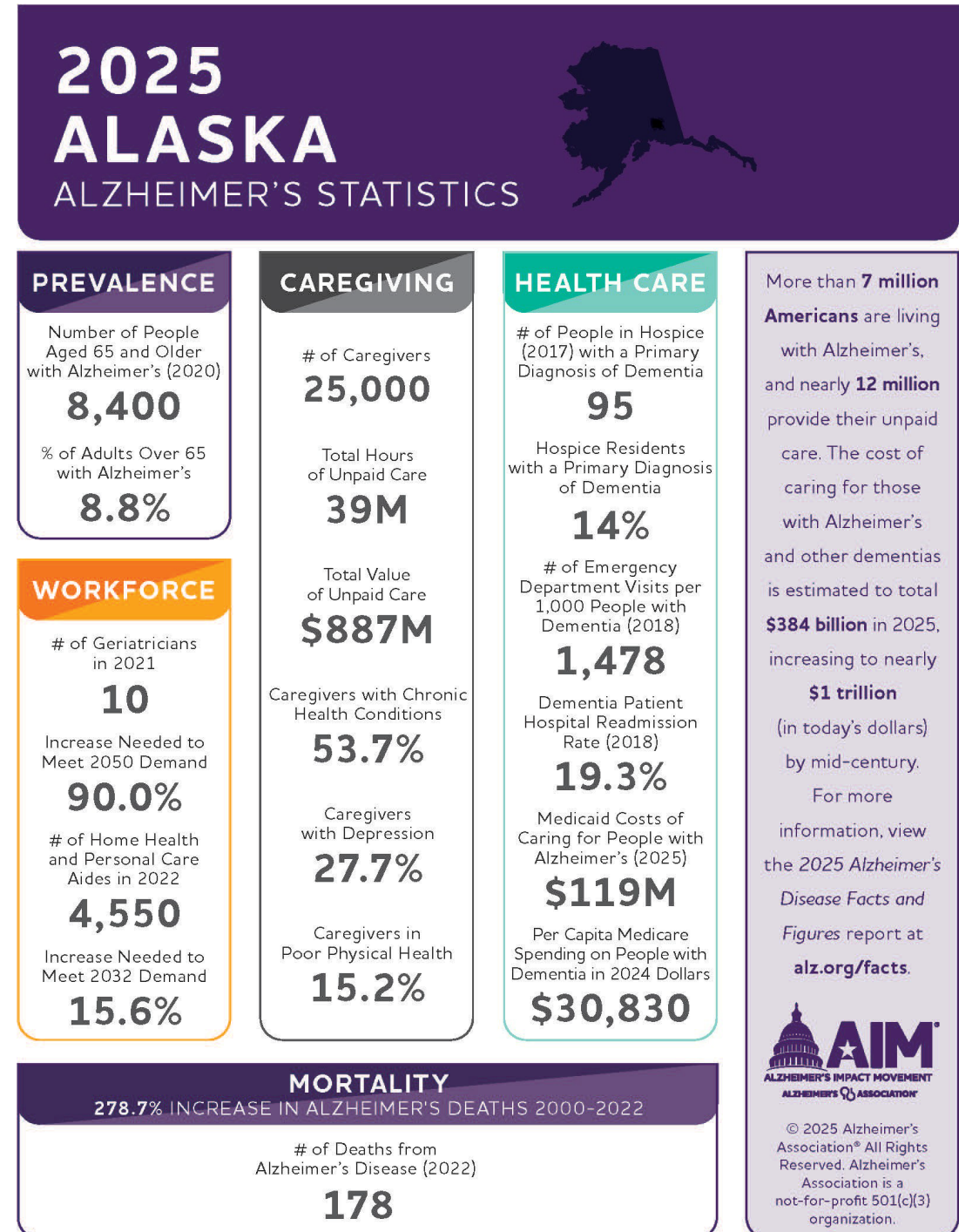




# Alzheimer's updates

- [2025 Facts & Figures](#)
- AA working on funding part-time rural AK position (next yr)
- [Referral recommendation](#) to ARA
- Alaska was represented among applicants to the [AA Dementia Innovation Grant](#)
- Job opening: [Public Policy](#)

AA: Alzheimer's Association, ARA: Alzheimer's Resource of AK



# State and Federal Funding Impacting Seniors

## **Alaska FY26 Proposed Budget – July 1<sup>st</sup>**

### Requests moving forward

- Senior Services Grants: \$2.5 million increase UGF
- Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO): \$144,000 increase GF/MH

### Requests not moving forward

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers: \$250,000 GF/MH
- Adult Day Services and Respite Care: \$1.5 million UGF
- General Relief Assistance for Food Banks & Pantries (DOH) \$1 million UGF
- General Relief Assistance for Temporary Assisted Living (DOH) \$1.1 million UGF

## **Federal FY26 Programs – October 1<sup>st</sup>**

When finalized, ACOA will review the new “Skinny Budget” and analyze the impact on Alaskan seniors.

- Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security
- OAA (Older Americans Act) Services: Nutrition, transportation, and caregiver services remain dependent on federal match + state support
- Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Senior Housing
- Labor Department programs impacting seniors (MAAST, DVR)
- Adult Protective Services and LTCO



# Survey to Identify Senior Service Gaps Statewide

## Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders

Cycle VIII  
(2020 - 2023)

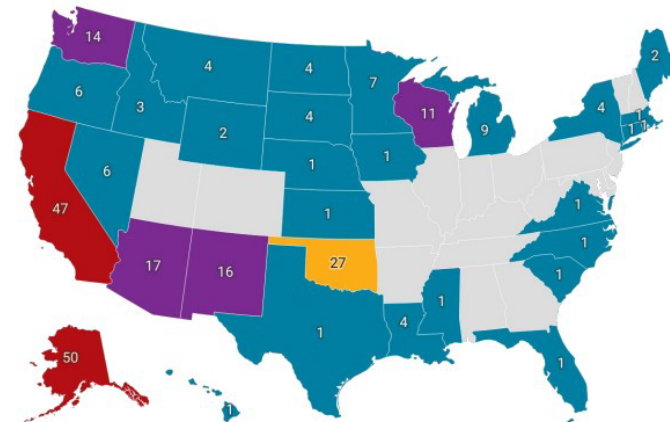
2024 Data Book



- Needs to be incentivized for robust involvement
- What we find out today could change tomorrow
- Review [Title VI National Resource Center on Native American Aging 2024 data \(University of North Dakota\)](#)
  - Alaska had 50 grantees 2020-2023 and has participated in all 8 Needs Assessment cycles (8.3% of 21,095 total 2024 survey results)

## Native Elder Participation

Number of Indigenous Communities Participating in Cycle VIII



The map to the left shows the total number of Indigenous communities within each state who participated in the Cycle VIII survey. During this cycle, data was collected from a total of 250 communities, varying across states. For example, there were four participating Indigenous communities in North Dakota who participated in Cycle VIII; 11 from Wisconsin; and six from Nevada. **Alaska** had the highest number of communities participating at 50.

Created with Datawrapper

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation* *by* *Governor Mike Dunleavy*

WHEREAS, Alaskan seniors, who numbered 160,906 in 2024, representing 21 percent of the State's total population, have strengthened and enriched our communities through their diverse life experiences, social engagement, and valued contributions; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's older people are esteemed members of our society, and their wealth of knowledge, practical wisdom, and vast experiences can be effectively shared through interactions with family, friends, and neighbors across generations which enrich the lives of everyone involved; and

WHEREAS, the overall quality of life for aging Alaskans can be greatly enhanced when they are included in public and family events with people of all ages, and when they are provided assistive services, technology, and support systems that allow them to comfortably participate in social activities in our communities; and

WHEREAS, since 1963, May has been the designated month to recognize and celebrate seniors and their contributions, and this year's theme is "Flip the Script on Aging," which focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging, while encouraging individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is committed to maintaining safe and healthy environments, providing access to important services, and ensuring individual choices for older Alaskans.

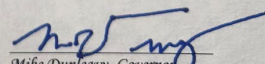
NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike Dunleavy, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as:

### *Older Americans Month*

in Alaska and encourage all Alaskans to take time to engage with older Alaskans and to celebrate their ongoing contributions to our communities.

Dated: May 1, 2025



  
Mike Dunleavy, Governor  
who has also authorized the  
seal of the State of Alaska to  
be affixed to this proclamation.

# May is Older Americans Month and Mental Health Awareness Month

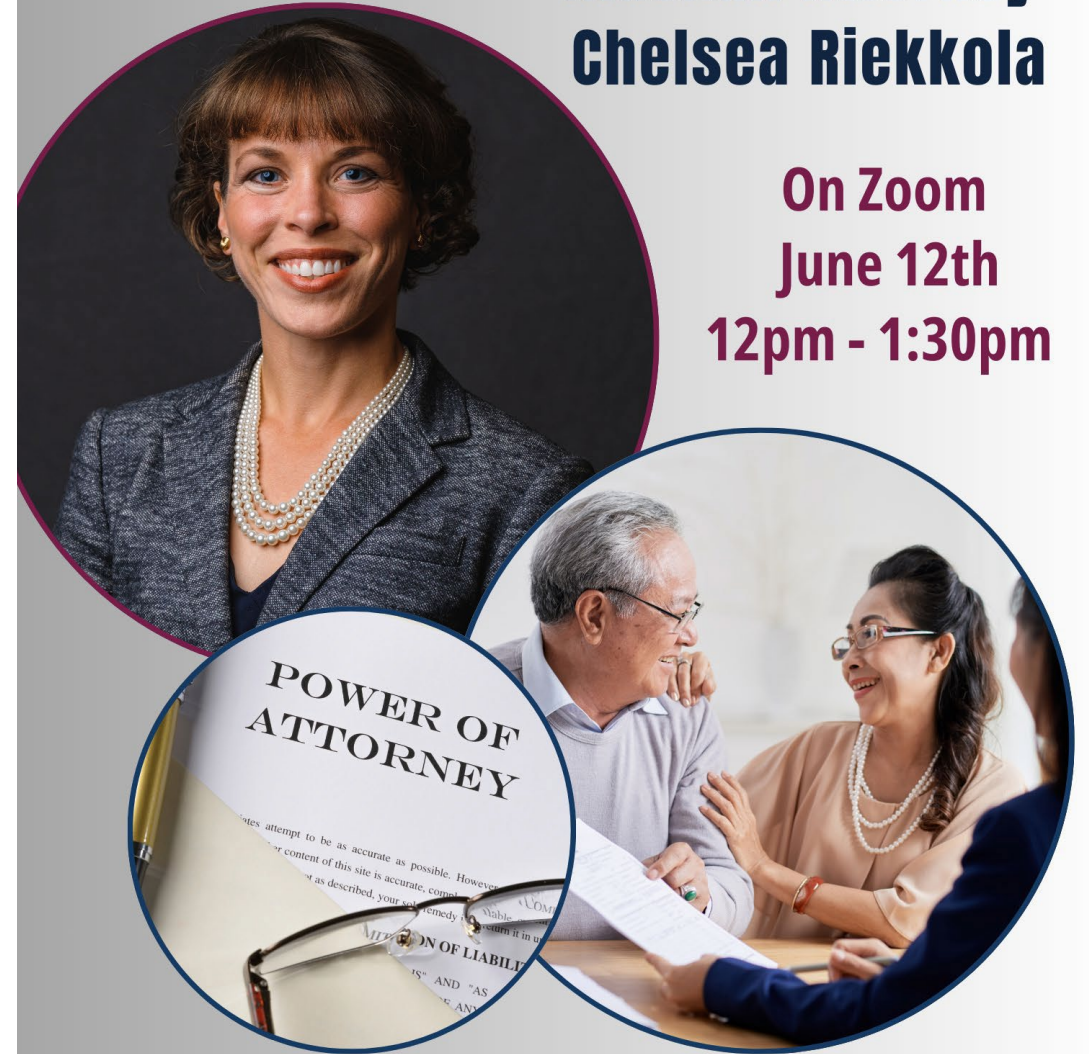


# June 15<sup>th</sup> World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Chelsea Riekkola of Foley & Pearson, P.C. will provide an overview of estate planning topics with a focus on the planning for Older Americans. She will discuss Powers of Attorney, Health Care Directives, Wills, Probate, and other helpful topics related to estate planning. Because this is a live webinar, participants will be able to ask questions during and at the end of the presentation.

## Estate Planning with Alaskan Attorney Chelsea Riekkola

On Zoom  
June 12th  
12pm - 1:30pm



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85495123702>

Questions? Contact ACoA Staff Yasmin Radbod at 907-230-0871.

# ACoA Plans for FY26

- FY25 Annual Report this fall
- 2025 Statewide Senior Services Summary + more
- UAA Masters of Social Work Practicum Internship
- AmeriCorps VISTA?
- September 22 – Centenarian Day
- Planning Older Americans Month 2026
- Podcasts, radio outreach, videos, community engagement

## Statewide Senior Service Summary By Region and Census Area



Rural Outreach Specialist FY20 Report

Prepared by Michelle A. Rogers, Rural Outreach Specialist





# GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Alaska Mental Health  
Trust Authority

May 21, 2025

Patrick Reinhart,  
Executive Director



# Topics Addressed



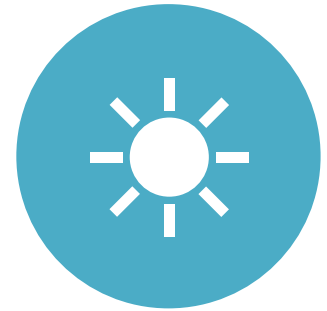
COUNCIL  
ACTIVITIES THIS  
QUARTER



OVERVIEW OF THE  
FY 25 LEGISLATIVE  
SESSION



FEDERAL BUDGET  
ISSUES



COMING UP THIS  
SUMMER



# IDD Registry (Waitlist)

- April 15: 6 people were drawn for the IDD waiver, 11 for the ISW.
- Since July 76 people drawn for IDD, 106 for ISW.
- Currently 2,130 people on IDD waivers, 594 people on ISW.
- 294 people on IDD registry only, 41 people on ISW registry only, 193 people for both waivers.
- [2024 IDD Registry Report](#)

# Community Inclusion and Supports News

- Key Campaign, Juneau was huge success!!
- Housing Initiative- Finalized a script for a listening session that will occur this fall. The listening session will collect public input on needs related to Housing options, accessible housing documents, and other Housing needs or concerns. This information will inform a future PSA.
- Shared Vision 2.0- Goals for FY25 separated into 3 workgroups. Council representation on each workgroup.
  - 1- Self Directed Services- Explore the need to amend the Vision statute
  - 2- Alignment of Current Services with Vision- Modify interpretation of practices to be more aligned with Vision
  - 3- Education and Awareness- Grow culture around vision through education and outreach



# Beneficiary Employment News

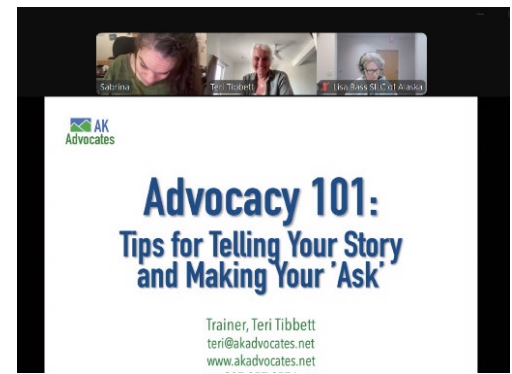
- Project SEARCH:
  - 14 interns from 23-24 cohort achieved employment:
  - 10 of 16 interns from 24-25 cohort already employed
- Microenterprise Reviews April 2025 – 8 applicants, 7 approved for total \$28,086.95 (1 TBI, 2 DD, 4 MI, 1 SU)
- Multiple presentations at in state conferences like Full Lives, ASSEC and tabling at events like Matsu Job Fair





# Self Advocacy News

- Self-Advocacy and Leadership:
  - Advocacy Training with Teri Tibbett
    - 6 council members
    - 2 SILC staff
    - GCDSE will have a booth at Disability Pride with Shared Vision T-shirts
      - July 19<sup>th</sup> in Soldotna and July 26<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage
- Continuing to share & discuss Federal impacts on disabilities
  - NACDD (<https://www.facebook.com/NACDD>, <https://nacdd.org/> )
  - AUCD newspaper (<https://www.aucd.org/newsletters> )



# Legislation We Like and on the Move

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- **SB 178:** Expand Early Intervention Services (ILP), plus \$5.72 Mil
- **HB 26:** State Public and Community Transit Plan
- **HB 141:** Public Buildings: Changing Facilities (adult changing tables)
- **HB 73/SB 76:** Complex Care Facilities
- **HB 39/SB 8:** Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- **HB 48/SB 1:** Civil Legal Service Fund
- **SB 190:** Guardianship/Conservatorship
- A few other budget items



# What Were Watching in DC

- Weakening and Elimination of all DD Act Programs (see statement), Senior Programs and more!
- Medicaid Changes that could dramatically impact all Trust Beneficiaries!





# Medicaid Work Requirements

Proposed “Community Engagement” requirements to Medicaid Enrollees; new condition of eligibility requiring working, volunteering, or engaging in educational activities for minimum number of hours.

Most proposals would require 80 hours a month/20 a week of activities. Exemptions for disabilities, pregnancy, ill, and caregivers.

In 2024 there were **248,307** individuals enrolled in Alaska Medicaid:

Adults ages 19-64 representing 48% of the enrollment demographic. **54%** of these adults are working.

**Reasons found within current Medicaid enrollees for not having employment:**

- Lack of childcare (both affordability and number of providers).
- Lack of healthcare services to manage conditions and illness to remain working.
- Transportation service availability and infrastructure.
- Access to jobs and training in the local community or area.
  - Rural areas experience limited opportunities for typical employment, subsistence and seasonal work are an inherent and necessary.



# Medicaid Work Requirements Cont.

Arkansas was the first state to implement work requirement policies in 2018:

- **18,000** Medicaid beneficiaries' lost coverage.
- Federal court halted Arkansas' policy, found that many recipients already working but unable to complete the complicated monthly reporting process.
- Only **a tenth** of those whom lost coverage had it back following year.
- Data showed that **8-29%** of the applicable population failed the work reporting but only **3-4%** of them were non-workers who didn't qualify for an exception.

Nationally, almost **two thirds** of Medicaid enrollees are employed and work.

Working age adults with Medicaid enrollment in 2023; **44% worked full time**, additional **20% part time**.

For **Alaska concerns** include:

- Impacts to do program oversight costs
- Enrollees who are not on disability Medicaid exemption (due to lack of diagnosis) being dropped or any enrollee failing to report correctly (internet issues)
- Overall increased cost to medical system due to uninsured needing to use other health care options is of concern.



# What's the Buzz? Tell Me What's Happening



- **Spring Council Meeting**, May 28-29, Anchorage
- **Fall Council Meeting**, Oct. 6-7 Anchorage/Hybrid
- **Winter Council Meeting**, Feb. 3-5 member changes:
- **New Council Members** Scott Lindbloom of Wasilla, Rep. Andy Story of Juneau, Mariah Krueger of Anchorage and Myrna Johannsen of Ketchikan.
- **Two seats open**: designee for Protection and Advocacy Organization, i.e. Dave Fleurant retired and Center for Human Development designee
- **Americans with Disability Act Celebrations (Disability Pride)**, July 19 in Soldotna and July 26 in Anchorage







## Questions ?

- **Patrick Reinhart**, *Executive Director*
- 907-727-6610
- 550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1220
- Anchorage, AK 99501
- [patrick.reinhart@alaska.gov](mailto:patrick.reinhart@alaska.gov)