

## Jane Pierson

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**From:** Laughlin, Wilda J (HSS) [wilda.laughlin@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 09, 2010 11:31 AM  
**To:** Jane Pierson  
**Cc:** Hogan, William H (HSS); Stone, Melissa W (HSS); Toner, Stacy B (HSS); Knapp, Brenda L (HSS)  
**Subject:** Judiciary hearing 7-14

Hi Jane. Below is a very informal summary of the info HSS plans to present to the House Judiciary Committee next week. We are not planning to use a PowerPoint. Representing HSS will be Viki Wells and Joan Houlihan, behavioral health specialists who work in substance abuse programs in the Division of Behavioral Health.

I'll be touching bases with Viki and Joan Monday—please review this info and let me know if you have additional questions and if you want us to prepare something more formal for the Committee.

Thanks,  
w.

In reference to the House Judiciary Meeting on HB 149 to be held on July 14<sup>th</sup>, here's what AKAIMS shows. We can only go back as far as Fiscal Year 2008, as previous to that not all agencies were entering data into AKAIMS. Also, the 2010 numbers are likely to rise by the end of the reporting period for the Fiscal year, which is July 30<sup>th</sup>.

In FY 2008: **4,137** individuals received substance abuse treatment  
In FY 2009: **5,175** individuals received substance abuse treatment  
In FY 2010: **4,906** individuals received substance abuse treatment

**There was a 15% rise in the number of individuals in treatment whose primary drug of abuse was Methamphetamine from FY 2008-FY 2010.**

**There was a 1% drop in the number of individuals in treatment whose primary drug of abuse was Marijuana from FY 2008-FY 2010.**

**Possible Conclusions:** Since there has been an increase in individuals admitted to treatment whose primary drug of abuse is Methamphetamine, this would indicate that more Meth users are receiving treatment in Alaska. This may well be related to repercussions of the legislation passed in 2006. Meth is such a highly addictive substance and its physical and mental effects so unique and profound, that it is extremely unusual for addicted individuals to seek treatment voluntarily, thus the increase in individuals in treatment is more likely due to them having been apprehended and faced with a choice between treatment and incarceration and/or loss of parental rights.

Unfortunately, we could find no applicable published National Reports broken down by State or Region that are more current than 2005. However, there are many current reports of studies done in other States that cite significant decreases in Methamphetamine-related problems due to changes in legislation, particularly having to do with monitoring and controlling the purchase of over the counter substances that are used in the production of Meth.

Wilda J. Laughlin  
Legislative Liaison, Dept. of Health and Social Services  
Phone (907) 465-1613  
Fax (907) 465-3068  
Cell (907) 723-3802