

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2178

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES,

2001 - 2002

Division of Public Assistance - Mission

The mission of the Division of Public Assistance is to promote self-sufficiency and provide basic living expenses to Alaskans in need.

Measure

The percentage of the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) (AS 47.27) families meeting federal work participation rates.

Current Status

In October 2000, 38% of all Temporary Assistance families were in countable work activities and had sufficient hours to meet the federal participation rate requirements. At that time, almost 58% of Temporary Assistance families were in countable work activities but not all had enough hours of participation to count in the federal participation rate.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Third Annual Report to Congress on the TANF program, Alaska ranks 8th nationwide for adults in employment and 7th in the average number of hours for adults in employment. No state ranked higher in both measures of success.

Benchmark

Federal law requires that states meet work participation requirement:

	Federal Rate All Families	Caseload Reduction Credit	Adjusted Target Rate	Alaska Rate Achieved
FFY98	30%	3%	27%	42%
FFY99	35%	18%	17%	46%
FFY00	40%	29%	11%	39%
FFY01	45%	37%	8%	
FFY02	50%			

FFY00 Participation rate not yet verified as of 1/4/01.

FFY01 Caseload reduction credit and adjusted target rate are estimated.

Every state's federal work participation rate is adjusted by a caseload reduction credit that reflects the state's success in moving families off of assistance and into employment. In FFY 2000, Alaska caseload reduction credit was 29%. Based on the caseload reduction credit, Alaska's work participation target was 11%. Thus Alaska more than met the adjusted federal participation requirement.

Division of Public Assistance

Measure

The rate of job retention among adults receiving temporary assistance.

Current Status

The rate of job retention for Temporary Assistance recipients was 80% in FFY99. The method used to measure job retention mirrors that required by the federal government for the TANF High Performance Bonus, using quarterly data from the Alaska Department of Labor.

Benchmark

The DPA goal for job retention by Temporary Assistance recipients in FFY01 is 80%. This goal may be modified when FFY00 information is available.

Job retention is measured for a period of 12 months and the recipient must be working in each quarter during the 12 month period.

Background and Strategies

Job retention enables families to reduce or eliminate dependency on welfare. Case management, supportive services and child care payments are important services which help to improve job retention.

Most often, those Temporary Assistance adults who have the best ability to retain employment are the most likely to leave the caseload. As the caseload declines, those adults with more significant barriers to employment make up a higher percentage of the caseload. Therefore, with a declining caseload it is increasingly difficult to maintain high job retention percentages.

Division of Public Assistance

Measure

The percentage of ATAP adults who have left assistance because they become employed who are receiving day care assistance.

Current Status

In FY00, an average of 1,042 children in 623 families received PASS II child care.

Benchmark

In FY02, all families who leave the Temporary Assistance for employment will continue to be guaranteed one year of transitional child care if they need it.

Background and Strategies

Working families who have left Temporary Assistance are guaranteed one year of transitional child care (PASS II) if they need it. This program is administered by the Department of Education and Early Development. This measure indicates usage of child care assistance by Temporary Assistance clients who have worked their way off welfare. Some Temporary Assistance families will leave the program with employment without requiring child care.

In FY 00, an average of 172 letters per month are sent to working families who have recently left Temporary Assistance informing them about the availability of child care assistance.

Division of Public Assistance

Measure

The percentage of adults receiving temporary assistance who have earned income.

*Current
Status*

The percentage of Temporary Assistance adults with earned income was 31% in October 2000.

The percentage of families leaving Temporary Assistance who reported earnings when they left was 40% in October 2000.

Benchmark

Goal for 2002 is 40% of Temporary Assistance adults with earned income, and 50% of case closures with reported earned income.

*Background
and
Strategies*

This is a measure of current Temporary Assistance recipients who have earned income. As the caseload declines, those adults with more significant barriers to employment make up a higher percentage of the caseload. Therefore, with a declining caseload, it becomes more difficult to achieve higher percentages of recipients with earned income. The goal of the division's welfare-to-work effort is to move families off assistance and into a job that pays well enough for the family to be self-sufficient. Case management, supportive services, child care and other services are critical to the success of this effort.

Division of Public Assistance

Measure

The rate of accuracy for ATAP payments and food stamps.

Current Status

Temporary Assistance payment accuracy rate was 97% in SFY00.

Food Stamp payment accuracy rate was 93% in FFY00.

Benchmark

The goal for 2002 is 94% accuracy in Food Stamps and 98% accuracy in Temporary Assistance.

Background and Strategies

Accurate benefits ensure clients have the amount of benefits to which they are entitled. Fluctuating benefits cause budget issues for clients and impact their ability to gain self-sufficiency. The Quality Assessment Reviews evaluate payment accuracy using statistically valid desk reviews.

In FFY 98 and FFY 99 the Food Stamp accuracy rate was 88% and 84% respectively, which caused the Division to receive a penalty from the US Department of Agriculture.

The failing accuracy rates were due in large part to the dramatic changes caused by the implementation of welfare reform. Through a settlement with USDA, the Division reinvested a portion of the penalty in a program to improve the rate which resulted in remarkable success.

The Division of Public Health - Mission

The mission of the Division of Public Health is to preserve and promote the state's public health.

Measure

The percentage of children in the state who are fully immunized.

Increase the percentage of children fully immunized at age two*. (Modified)

Current Status The percentage of fully immunized two-year-olds for calendar year 1999 was 80.1%.

Benchmark 69% were immunized by the end of 1996.

Background and Strategies In 1997, the Department launched a major initiative to increase the rate of fully immunized two-year-olds. In three years, we have jumped from 48th to 28th in national rankings. Now, over 80% of our two-year-old children have received their recommended vaccines. Alaska's comprehensive public-private initiative to increase childhood immunization rates will be extended through 2002 to achieve the highest possible immunization rates and to assure that Alaska children in school and daycare will have all required immunizations by the fall of 2001.

* The data for this assessment is for children aged 19-35 months, i.e. between a year and a half and three years old.

Basic immunization series included 4 DPT (Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus), 3 polio, 1 MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella) and 3 Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b) doses.

The Division of Public Health

Measure

The percentage of families who are qualified for the services of the Infant Learning Program who are enrolled in the program.

Current Status

84% of children qualified received EI/ILP services in FY2000.

Benchmark

This is a new measure.

Background and Strategies

1602 children were enrolled in the Infant Learning Program in FY2000 and there were 307 on the waitlist* for services as of June 30, 2000 for a total of 1909 eligible children.

*waitlist = children who are not eligible for Part C, who have been referred for screening, evaluation or enrollment in early intervention services and who have been waiting greater than 45 days for these services

The Division of Public Health

Measure

The rate of tuberculosis cases by race.

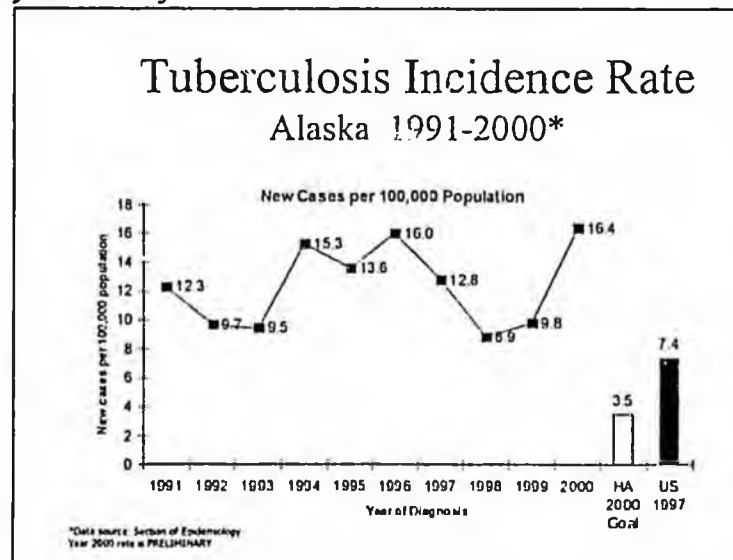
Identify rate of TB (Tuberculosis) cases by race. (Modified)

Current Status	1999 Alaska TB rate = 9.8 per 100,000 population Alaska Native = 39.4/100,000 Asian/Pacific Islander = 43.0/100,000 Black = 0 White = 1.5/100,000
Benchmark	1996 Alaska TB rate = 16.0/100,000 population

Background and Strategies In 1946, 43% of all death certificates of Alaska Natives listed tuberculosis as the cause of death. In the years since the numbers have declined greatly, but the disease has reemerged. It is highly infectious and an ongoing threat to all Alaskans.

In 1999, 61 Alaskans were diagnosed with active tuberculosis and they exposed at least 744 others. Combined, these cases required nearly 60,000 visits by public health nurses and aides to ensure patients took medications properly. If treatment is not completed the risk of developing treatment resistant strains of the disease increase the threat of disease.

In 2000 there were 103 confirmed cases of TB making it the highest rate year in ten years.



The Division of Public Health

Measure

The rate of child hospitalizations and fatalities related to injury.

Current Status

Fatalities for children 0-19 in 1998 were

Homicide	2.3/100,000
Suicide	8.4/100,000
Unintentional Injury	21.0/100,000

Hospitalizations for Alaskan children 0-19 related to injury (non-fatal) in 1998 were

Intentional Injuries	83.3/100,000
Unintentional Injuries	410.4/100,000

Benchmark

Fatalities for children 0-19 in 1996 were:

Homicide	4.8/100,000
Suicide	9.2/100,000
Unintentional Injury	29.0/100,000

Child hospitalizations for children 0-19 related to injury in 1996 were:

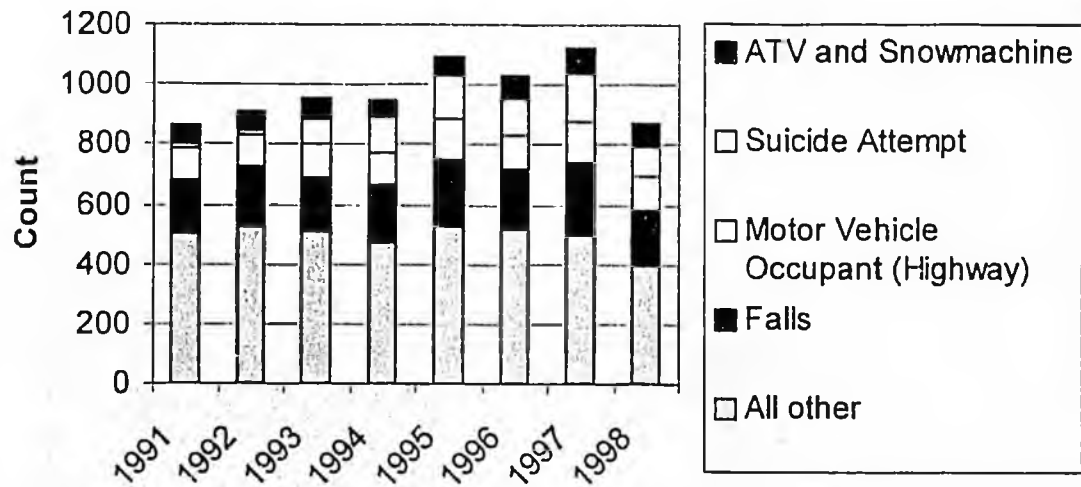
Intentional Injuries	82.6/100,000
Unintentional Injuries	416.8/100,000

Background and Strategies

The Alaska Trauma Registry and Vital Statistics systems provide information on deaths and hospitalizations related to injury to children. The Division of Public Health has set targets for FY 2002 for reducing child hospitalizations related to injury to 74 per 100,000 due to intentional injuries and 375 per 100,000 due to unintentional injuries. The data provide very useful information for evaluating and refining child and adolescent injury prevention strategies. The decreases in fatalities shown above between 1996 and 1998 suggest strong improvement in the effort to reduce unintentional injuries, homicides and suicides among children 0-19.

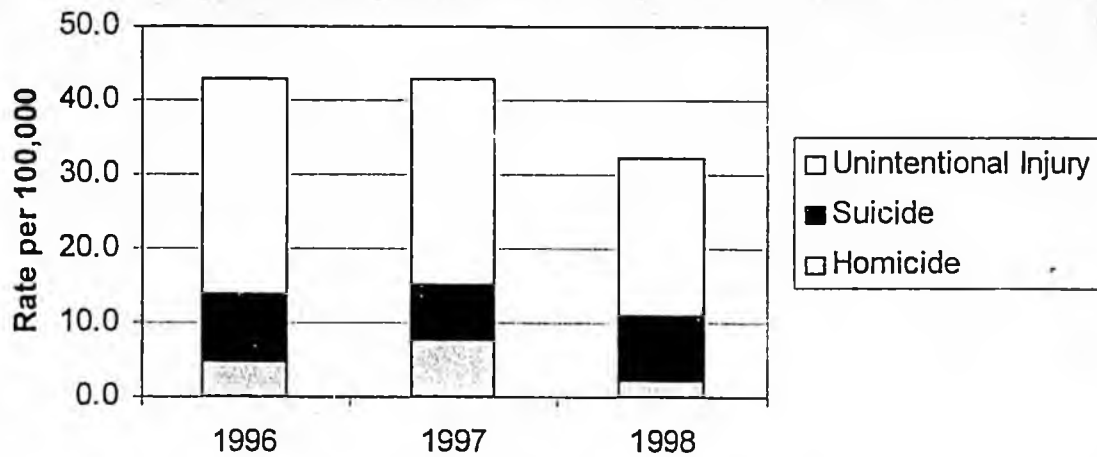
See charts on next page --

Non-Fatal Hospitalizations for Injury Alaska Children 0-19, 1991-1998



Alaska Trauma Registry, non-fatal, hospitalized injuries, AK residents, Age 0-19, 1991-1998
Poisonings were collected beginning July, 1993

Injury Mortality Rate for Alaska Children, 0-19 1996-1998



The Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse - Mission

The mission of the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is to reduce alcoholism and substance abuse.

Measure

The rate of binge or chronic drinking.

Reduce the rate of binge or chronic drinking by adults. (Modified)

Current Status

The percentage of Alaskans who report acute and chronic drinking is another indication of how pervasive alcohol abuse is in Alaskan society. The percentage of acute drinkers has dropped slightly over the past five year period (from 19% to 18.6%) but the percentage of chronic drinkers has increased (3% to 4.7%). In addition, the reported 18.6 percentage of acute drinkers in Alaska in 1999 is higher than the National BRFSS Median of 15 percent.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) developed a standard core questionnaire for states to use to provide data that could be compared across states. The National BRFSS, administered and supported by the CDC has changed the information that is being collected. The Division along with the Advisory Board are deliberating on whether this indicator will continue to be used.

Benchmark

In 1995 Alaskan's reported 19% acute drinkers and 3% chronic drinkers in Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Survey.

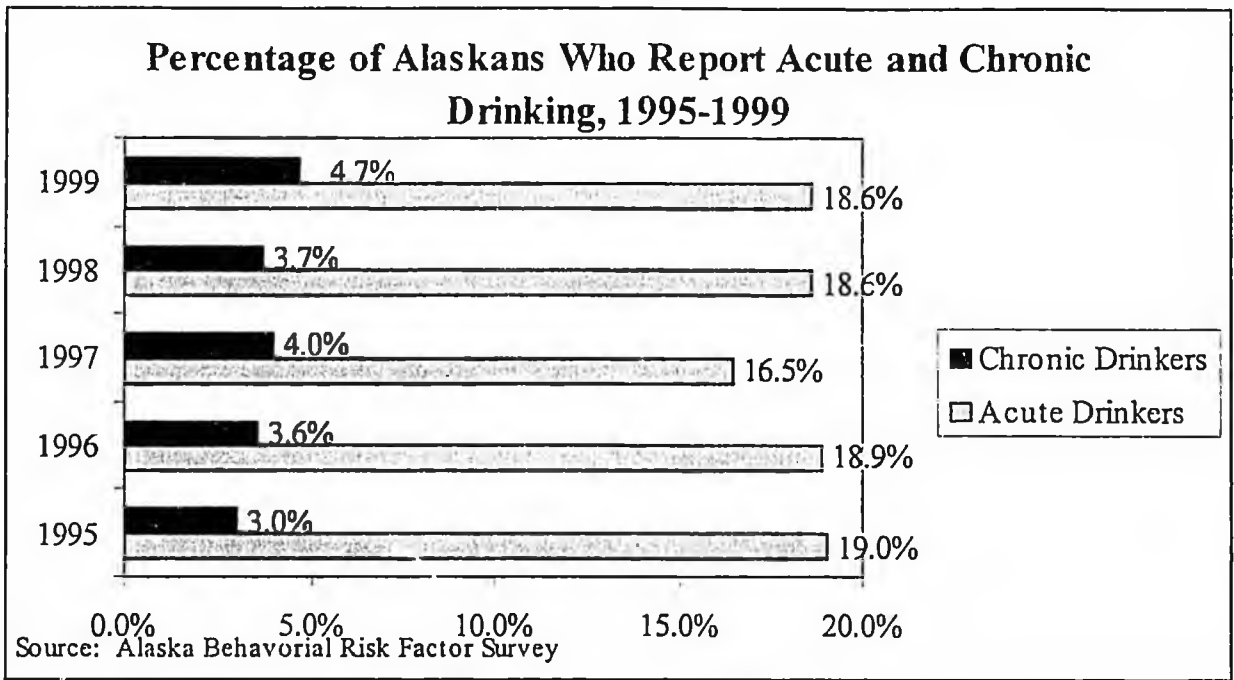
Background and Strategies

Binge drinking, for the purposes of this survey, refers to drinking five or more drinks on one occasion, at least once in the month preceding the survey. Chronic drinking refers to drinking an average of sixty or more alcoholic drinks in the month preceding the survey.

There is a high correlation between these drinking patterns and many of the negative consequences associated with alcohol abuse, particularly medical, family, and employment problems. Excessive alcohol intake is related to 4 of the 10 leading causes of death in the United States.

The impact on this measure will be those services that provide intervention and treatment services to chronic, late stage alcoholics. Early intervention services are also required to impact individuals whose disease progression has not reached the point of chronic or binge drinking.

See Chart next page --



Note: **Acute or binge drinking** is defined as drinking five or more drinks on one occasion within a 30-day period. **Chronic drinking** is defined as drinking an average of 60 or more alcohol drinks in the month of preceding the survey.

The Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Measure

The number of new and repeat convictions for driving while intoxicated.

Track the total number of new convictions and the number of repeat convictions in state district and superior courts on charges of driving while intoxicated (DWI). (Modified)

Current Status

Felony convictions for DWI Statewide

FY1997 322
FY1998 326
FY1999 317

(Note: These numbers have been updated from earlier versions released on 1/17. Earlier numbers reflected Anchorage only.)

Benchmark

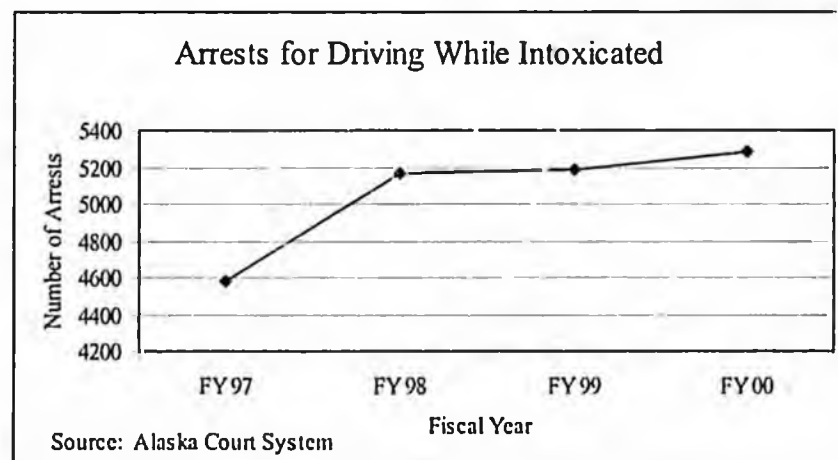
227 DWI convictions in FY1996

Background and Strategies

1999 DWI data shows that approximately 53 percent of all automobile accident fatalities had alcohol or drugs as the major contributing factor.

There are many variables that have an impact on a reduction in the number of DWI convictions, including enforcement efforts and prosecutor caseloads. However, we know that reductions also correlate with successful prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts.

Misdemeanant DWI is included in the chart below: 3,969 Statewide



The Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Measure

The number of infants and children exposed to fetal alcohol syndrome.

The number of infants affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol. (Modified)

Current Status

The current data used is based on birth year 1998. Since this is a new reporting system, and because reports can be made on a child through the sixth birthday, this data will change as more reports are made.

Benchmark

134 children, born in 1998, have been reported to the Alaska Birth Defects Registry with the prenatal exposure to alcohol code number, as of November 1999.

Background and Strategies

The Alaska Birth Defects Registry began collecting data on infant birth defects in 1996. Prenatal exposure to alcohol became a reportable birth defect/condition in 1998. Unlike all other birth defects that must be reported within the first year following birth, alcohol-related birth defects (ARBD) can be reported up through the age of six. Data collection procedures are fairly recent so benchmark numbers are for reports made for birth year 1998.

In an effort to increase our knowledge regarding the true number of children born with alcohol-related birth defects, we have, since 1998, been increasing the capacity for diagnosis of FAS/ARBD across the state. For this reason we expect to see an increase in the number of reports to the Alaska Birth Defect Registry over the next five years and then beginning in FY06, we will begin to see a steady decrease in births prenatally exposed to alcohol. Over the next 5 years we are implementing a statewide public education campaign to change the public norm about drinking during pregnancy-no amount of alcohol during pregnancy is safe. We also will be developing targeted interventions aimed at women identified at-risk of giving birth to a child with FAS/ARBD-increasing treatment, health care and other appropriate services for this population.

The Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Measure

The number of new admissions as a percentage of the total admissions to treatment programs for alcohol and drug abuse.

Current Status The total number of client admissions in FY2000 equal 7,048 as reported to the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ADA) statewide MIS system. Of the total admissions 2,724 were identified as new client admissions.

Benchmark New admissions totaled 39% in FY2000.

Background and Strategies As a new performance measure for the Division it will be necessary to analyze and review all implications of the measure. Criteria must be reviewed and/or established to provide a consistent definition of treatment and new admission. In addition the Department and Division will need to clarify the tracking and identification process of client admissions.

The Division of Medical Assistance - Mission

The mission of the Division of Medical Assistance is to maintain access to health care and to provide health coverage for Alaskans in need.

Measure

The average time the division takes from receiving a claim to paying it.

Current Status

Six month average: 11.03 days.

Benchmark

We have reviewed historical data and the average time to pay a claim has remained around 11 days. We believe that is the benchmark to maintain.

Background and Strategies

The assumption is that the timely payment of medical claims gives providers incentive to participate in the Medicaid Program. Therefore, the legislature and the division are interested in a measure of how timely the division responds to or pays claims.

The Division of Medical Assistance

Measure

The number of errors per claim processed categorized by the type of provider.

The percent of claims paid with no errors categorized by the type of provider.
(Modified)

<i>Current Status</i>	Percent of Claims Paid with No Errors
All Providers	73.54
Inpatient Hospital	63.24
IHS Clinic	77.15
Physician (Individual)	71.49
Physician (Group)	68.80
Dentist (Individual)	71.44
Dentist (Group)	76.55
Home & Community Based Care	74.55
Pharmacy	82.98
Mental Health Agency	69.41

Benchmark

Background and Strategies This is a measure of the providers ability to file error-free claims which reduces the work necessary to process claims. Those provider types experiencing more problems filing error-free claims are targeted for additional training. We assume that providers who do not experience problems in getting claims paid are much more likely to continue participating in the Medicaid Program.

The Division of Medical Assistance

Measure

The percentage of total funds that are used to pay claims compared to the percentage used for administration of the division.

Current Status 96.3 percent of total funds paid out in claims.
3.7 percent of total funds are used to administer the Division.

Benchmark

Background and Strategies This is a fiscal measure of the State's administrative overhead necessary to support the medical assistance programs.

The Division of Medical Assistance

Measure

The percentage of providers who are participating in the Medical Assistance Program.

<i>Current Status</i>	FY1999	Enrolled	Participating
	Physicians		84.9%
Dentists		82.8%	59.0%
Pharmacies		75.8%	75.0%
Hospitals		100%	95.7%
Nursing Homes		100%	100%

Benchmark The Division has submitted FY 99 measured participation percentages. FY 2000 data comparable with FY 99 data remains a work in progress and will be provided no later than March 31, 2001. Participation rates compare licensed Alaskan providers with Medicaid enrolled and participating providers. A participating provider is a provider that has submitted a claim within the specified data period.

Background and Strategies Provider participation is a measure of Alaska's medical assistance clients' access to medical services. A stable participation rate indicates that Medicaid beneficiaries are generally receiving services of comparable amount, duration, scope, and quality that is available to the balance of Alaska's population.

The Division of Family and Youth Services - Mission

The mission of the Division of Family and Youth Services is to protect children who are abused and neglected or at risk of abuse and neglect.

Measure

The number of children substantiated as abused or neglected.

<i>Current</i>	FY1997	3,267	43.2%
<i>Status</i>	FY1998	3,690	45.4%
	FY1999	3,568	47.0%
	FY2000	3,266	49.5%

Benchmark The recommended baseline year is FY1997.

Background and Strategies Workers conclude every investigation with a determination that the report of harm was either substantiated, unconfirmed, or invalid. The percentage of substantiated reports of harm has been between 42 and 49 percent of all reports since FY1992.

The Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The number of children harmed while in state custody.

**Current
Status**

Due to the limitations of the current information system, the data is not easily accessible for prior years. However, the division will gather information for the baseline year FY2001

Benchmark

The recommended baseline year is FY2001.

**Background
and
Strategies**

The number of child fatalities involving children in custody during calendar year 1999 was 6 out of 2,081 children in custody. Another 14 children who died in 1999 had received some prior services with the division. Of the 6 children who died while in custody during 1999, one child had a case closed for services in the six months preceding the child's death and another child was killed while in foster care.

One child died while in Foster Care.

The Division of Family and Youth Services

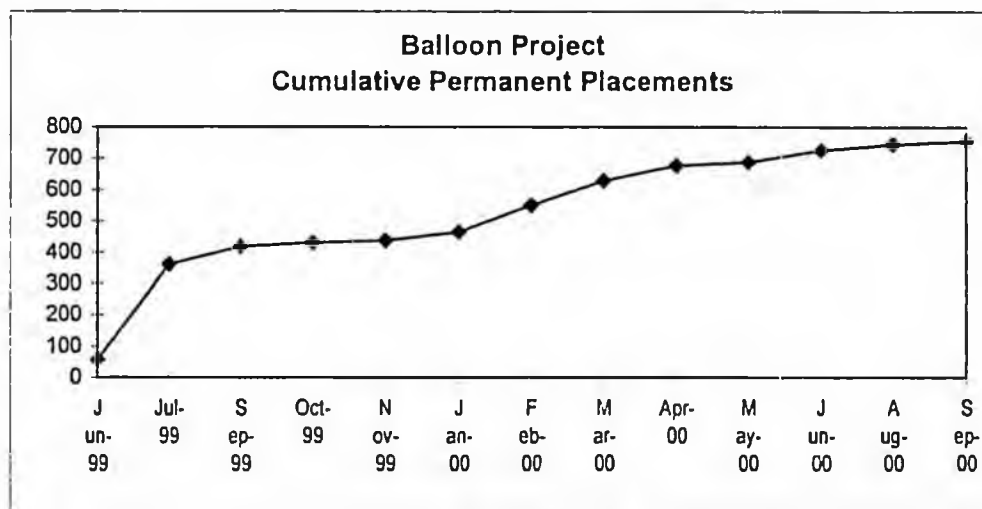
Measure

The number of children in state custody longer than 18 months and 36 months.

Current Status

Due to the limitations of the current information system and the backlog of data entry, the analysis and data is not available.

However, DFYS does report progress in finding permanent homes for children with the Balloon Project. The chart below represents placement of the children that have been in the system the longest. As of December 15th, we have found permanent homes for 83% of the original 662 children.



Benchmark

The recommended baseline year is FY2001.

Background and Strategies

The Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The average time a child spends in state custody, considered by category.

<i>Current Status</i>	Category = Permanency Plan Goal	* Time shown in Months	
		FY1997	FY2000
	Return Home	19.7	18.8
	Perm Relative Home	26.3	28.1
	Guardianship	41.1	39.1
	Perm Foster Home	56.5	53.4
	Adoption	43.	39.8
	Independent Living	28.9	26.6*
	Long Term Res Care	163.7*	48.3*
	Missing	43.4*	----
	TOTAL	25.6	25.5

* category contains fewer than 10 children

Benchmark The recommended baseline year is FY1997.

Background and Strategies Figures represent children in custody and out-of-home care only (they don't include children in custody in their own homes). And figures depict the population in out-of-home care on the first day of the last month of each fiscal year (i.e., June 1, 1997 for FY1997, etc.)

The Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The number of closed cases in which there is a reoccurrence of abuse or neglect.

Percentage of closed cases for children placed in alternative permanent homes in which a recurrence of substantiated abuse and neglect occurs 6 and 12 months after case closure. (Modified)

Current Status	FY1997	516 (26.2%)
	FY1998	579 (27.2%)
	FY1999	547 (26.7%)
	FY2000	485 (26.3%)

Benchmark The recommended baseline year is FY1997.

Background and Strategies These figures refer to substantiated abuse or neglect for which the investigation was begun in the fiscal year noted. They also refer to **family cases**, rather than to individual children, so they *cannot* be compared with figures such as the number of children with substantiated cases. In addition, they include all families who have ever had a closed case, even if they currently have a subsequent open case.

The Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The number of foster homes operating at greater than licensed capacity.

Current Status As of January 2001, 279 licensed foster homes (out of approximately 1,220 total foster homes) have special approval to be licensed for 3 or more children.

Benchmark The recommended baseline year is FY2001.

Background and Strategies Licensing regulations specify no more than 2 children during the first year.

It is difficult to know how many of the 279 foster homes have been approved for sibling groups.

The Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The percentage of legitimate reports of harm that are investigated.

The percentage of child protection services legitimate reports of harm assigned for an investigation will increase to 90% for FY2001. (Modified)

Current Status

Preliminary information for the first quarter of FY2001 shows the total number of legitimate reports of harm assigned for investigation was 92%. Historically, first quarter caseloads are lower than the last three quarters of a fiscal year and the percentage of assigned cases is expected to go down slightly.

Note: Due to the seasonality involved in Reports of Harm, data for a full fiscal year will be used for comparison.

Benchmark

In FY1997, 73.6% of legitimate reports of harm were assigned for investigation in Alaska.

Background and Strategies

Increased number of child protection workers to respond to more reports; better training and less turnover among these workers.

The number of reports of harm decreased slightly in FY2000 from FY1999 (1.5 %), for a total of 16,189 reports of harm received in FY2000.

These reports represent 11,538 children (unduplicated), which have increased by 250 more children in FY2000 from FY1999.

Percent of legitimate reports of harm assigned for investigation:

FY1997: 73.6%

FY1998: 77.3%

FY1999: 78.1%

FY2000: 88.8%

FY2001 Preliminary: 92%

The Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The turnover rate of the Division of Family and Youth Services staff by region.

Current Status	FY1998	32.60%
	FY1999	32.54%
	FY2000	21.53% *

Benchmark The recommended baseline year is FY1998.

**Background
and
Strategies** The division continues to use exit interviews and surveys as a method of learning the reasons workers leave the agency.

Improvements in worker and supervisor training continue. Workers receive training prior to being assigned cases, and then receive specialized and advanced training annually. Supervisory skills continue to be an area of focus for all supervisors. This year a new requirement for all new supervisors includes the completion of entry-level supervisory training within the first six months.

The division is also in the process of starting a worker wellness program aimed at stress reduction and improving morale.

* Through January 2000.

The Division of Juvenile Justice - Mission

The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to protect and restore communities and victims while holding juvenile offenders accountable for correcting their behavior.

Measure

The percentage of juvenile offenders that re-offend.

*Current
Status*

Refinement of the recidivism measure continues. The Division of Juvenile Justice hopes to have benchmark data as well as current data by March 2001.

Benchmark

Under development.

*Background
and
Strategies*

The Division of Juvenile Justice

Measure

The percentage of juvenile offenders in long-term treatment who improve their grade point average during their time at the facility.

Current Status

During the second half of FY2000, of the youth released from the four long term treatment facilities, 100% of the youth who had an assessment had either improved their Grade Point Average (GPA) or obtained additional educational credits. Ninety-nine percent of those had an educational assessment that met all Alaska State Educational Standards. This measure was implemented half-way through FY2000.

Benchmark

Of youth released from the four long term treatment facilities, during their stay in the facilities:

90% of youth who had an educational assessment had either improved their Grade Point Average (GPA) or obtained additional educational credits, and

90% of youth released who have had an educational assessment that met all Alaska State Educational Standards.

Background and Strategies

This performance measure provides a gauge of DJJ's effectiveness in assisting institutionalized youth develop skills to prevent crime.

The educational assessment will meet all Alaska State Educational Standards. This measure consists of the percentage of all youth that were released from a Juvenile Justice long-term treatment facility that had an educational assessment during their stay in long-term treatment.

The Division of Juvenile Justice

Measure

The percentage of juvenile offender court-ordered restitution and community service that is paid or performed.

***Current
Status***

In FY1999, 86% of the amount of restitution ordered was collected from juvenile offenders and paid to victims. During the same period, 95% of the community work service hours ordered were completed. FY2000 data is expected to be available by mid-February 2001.

Benchmark

For the restitution measure, the benchmark is 79%.

For the community work service measure, the benchmark is 83%.

***Background
and
Strategies***

This performance measure consists of two aspects that provide a gauge of DJJ's effectiveness in assisting delinquent youth in being accountable to their victim and communities for their delinquent behavior, and in encouraging youth providing restoration to victims and communities for the damage resulting from their delinquent behavior.

The Division of Juvenile Justice

Measure

The number of escapes from juvenile justice institutions.

Current Status

During FY2000, 8 youth escaped from DJJ facilities. During FY1998 through FY2000, DJJ averaged 4 escapes per year.

Benchmark

The average number of escapes that occurred during FY1995 through FY1997 was 9 per year.

Background and Strategies

This performance measure provides a gauge of DJJ's effectiveness in providing safety to communities. This measure consists of the number of youth in Juvenile Justice custody who escape from a Juvenile Justice institution. An escape is defined as an unauthorized departure of a youth from a secure juvenile facility or a secure unit in a facility or from a direct staff supervised activity such as court escort or facility movement. Escapes do not include unlawful evasions or absences from an approved facility pass.

It is important to note that DJJ facilities housed more youth in FY2000 than in FY1995. The average daily population has increased from 235.0 in FY1995 to 294.7 in FY2000. This ultimately effects the rate of escapees which is currently reported only as a hard number rather than a change in proportion of youth who escape. This change will allow for meaningful comparisons over time that will accommodate scheduled increased capacity of our DJJ facilities.

The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities -

Mission

The mission of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is to improve and enhance the quality of life for consumers impacted by mental disorders or developmental disabilities.

Measure

The percentage of those consumers who seek services for developmental disabilities who receive services from the division.

Current Status

In FY2000, 2,460 consumers received service through the program's grants and waivers, representing a 26% increase in one year. There were an additional 1,049 consumers on the Waitlist, all of whom received a minimum of services such as respite or core services.

Benchmark

In FY99, 1,953 consumers received services through the program's grants and waivers. There were an additional 1,123 consumers on the Waitlist, and only some of those consumers received any services such as respite or core services.

Background and Strategies

It is the goal of the department to have all consumers on the Waitlist receiving a minimum of services such as respite or core services.

The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Measure

The length of time that developmentally disabled consumers are on a waitlist before receiving services.

Current Status

In FY2000, the greatest length of time any consumer had been on the Waitlist awaiting full services was four years. All consumers on the Waitlist are receiving a minimum of services such as respite or core services. Fifty percent of consumers have been on the list for 19 months or less.

Benchmark

In FY99, the greatest period of time a consumer was on the Waitlist was thirteen years. Some of those consumers did not receive any services. Since then there has been an intense effort to do full service draws as agency capacity was available.

Background and Strategies

The goal of the division is to remove consumers from the Waitlist as quickly as capacity allows, and to provide those still on the Waitlist with at least minimum services. The number of consumers on the Waitlist fluctuates as individuals are drawn from the list and others are added to the list. In FY00 the legislature passed legislation requiring DMHDD to provide an annual report on the status of the Developmental Disabilities Waitlist. The division submitted the first report to the legislature on November 15, 2000 as required by statute.

The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Measure

The percentage of mental health consumers receiving services who show improved functioning as a result of their services.

Current Status

In FY00 20% of the sample of persons receiving services showed improvement between initial intake and final contact.

Benchmark

FY00 is the first year data has been available for this measure. The 20% improvement among persons in the sample data represents the best information currently available but may not be representative of rate of improvement among all persons served. As complete data is obtained a revised benchmark will be established in FY02 against which future performance will be compared.

Background and Strategies

Obtaining complete data from service providers is the critical issue affecting the ability to establish a useful and reliable benchmark and measure success of the mental health service system on an ongoing basis. Technical and legal problems and resource limits have delayed collection of complete data. A plan is being implemented to overcome these problems and obtain necessary data to allow accurate measurement of progress.

The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Measure

The percentage of the programs designated by the department that are reviewed for consumer satisfaction.

<i>Current Status</i>	In FY00, the department exceeded the benchmark by reviewing more (112%) of the number of Mental Health provider programs designated for review during the year. Reviews of Developmental Disabilities programs increased by 18% from 68% of programs designated for review in FY99 to 86% in FY00.
<i>Benchmark</i>	Each year one half of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities provider programs are scheduled for review. In FY99, 49% of all Mental Health provider programs were reviewed and 34% of all Developmental Disabilities provider programs were reviewed.
<i>Background and Strategies</i>	The department has designated that the division review provider agencies on a two-year cycle. In anticipation of increased workloads for review staff the division is developing a plan to review agencies that rank highly less frequently, and to intensify training and frequency of reviews with agencies that do not meet review standards.

The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Measure

The total number of publicly funded psychiatric hospital days per hospitalized person.

Current Status

In FY2000 the average was 10 days.

Benchmark

In FY1998 the average stay was 14 days. (excludes data on consumers in residence at API longer than 6 months)

Background and Strategies

- The number of admissions to API has increased 52% between FY1995 and FY2000 (*from 975 to 1,480*)
- In FY2000, 50% of all persons admitted to API had never been in API before (it was 46% in FY1999)
- Because of its small bed capacity and high admission rate, API made a strategic decision to operate the majority of its patient units as part of an acute care psychiatric hospital. In FY2000, i.e. if you exclude the few patients with lengths of stay in excess of six months, the avg. length of stay (ALOS) for the majority of patients was 10 days. In FY1995 those numbers were 15 days and 35 days.
- In order to appropriately handle the high rate of admissions from the Anchorage bowl area, API also created the Denali Admitting Unit; this unit operates as a psychiatric emergency room. In FY2000, for example, this unit:
 - Discharged 25% of all patients admitted in less than 24 hours
 - Discharged 47% of all patients admitted in less than 3 days
 - Average Length of Stay (ALOS) was just over 2 days

As a part of its efforts to re-engineer its hospital services to meet the competing needs of community mental health providers, community social service and law enforcement concerns, and individual residents experiencing mental illness, API also focused on improving the quality of the services it provides to its patients. In December of 2000, following a site review by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), API was awarded a preliminary score of 98 out of 100 possible points. This is a rare achievement for any hospital in the country, especially a public psychiatric hospital.

Introduction to Health Status Indicators

The Department of Health and Social Services believes that by carefully examining health status indicators, we can measure the health of Alaskans, analyze and detect important trends, monitor and make appropriate adjustments regarding the dedication and allocation of resources and effort to improve Alaskans' health. Good, accurate and reliable data are important to determining the health status of Alaskans.

In the next section a variety of information on important health status indicators is provided to give a picture of the health of Alaskans. In the Healthy Alaskans 2010 process, health status indicators will be updated to provide the latest information on the health status of Alaskans.

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Alaska's Health: Changes in the Last Decade

Data and Evaluation Unit
Division of Public Health
Alaska Department of Health and
Social Services
January 2001

How Have we Done?

Compared with the national average, for
selected key health status indicators:

Alaska is BETTER for 6 of 19
Alaska is ABOUT THE SAME for 6 of 19
and Alaska is WORSE for 7 of 19



Analysis of Alaska Trends

In Key Health Status Indicators:

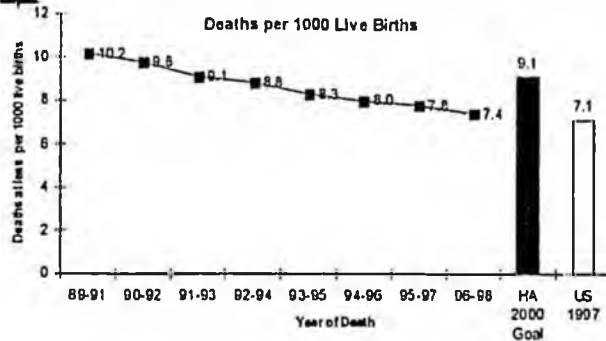
- RIGHT DIRECTION for 12 of 19
- NO CONSISTENT CHANGE for 4 of 19
- WRONG DIRECTION for 3 of 19



Trends in 19 Alaska Health Status Indicators

Infant Mortalit ^y ↑ ↓	Children in Poverty ↑
Overall Mortalit ^y ↑	Lung Cancer ↔ ↓
Work-related Mortalit ^y ↑ ↓	
Unintentional Injury ↑ ↓	Stroke ↔ ⊕
Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths ↑ ↓	Air Quality ↔ ⊕
Breast Cancer ↑ ↓	Suicide Mortalit ^y ↔ ⊕
Coronary Hear. Disease ↑ ↓	Homicide ↔ ⊕
AIDS ↑ ↓	Tuberculosis ↓ ⊕
Measles ↑ ↓	Prenatal Care ↓ ⊕
Teen Birth Rate ↑ ↓	Low birth weight ↓ ⊕
↓ Healthy Alaskaans 2000 target met	⊕ Healthy Alaskaans 2000 target met
AK Trend: ↑ Better	↔ Same ↓ Worse

Infant Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-98*

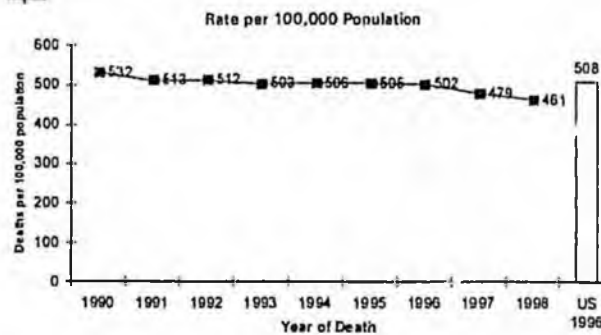


*Data source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics; deaths among infants under one year of age per 1000 live births; 3-year moving averages

Infant Mortality Rate: Talking Points

- Infant mortality rates fell during the 1990s from 10.6 per 1000 live births in 1990 to 7.4 in 1998 (a 30% reduction).
- The percent of mothers putting infants to sleep on their backs increased from about 41% in 1996 to 59% in 1998. SIDS rates appear to have declined during the 1990s.

Overall Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-98*

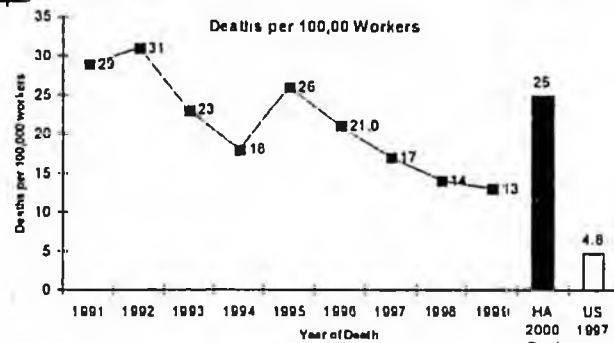


Data source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics; rate per 100,000 population; age-adjusted to US 1990 population; (C) a total 000-999

Overall Mortality: Talking Points

- As people are living longer, we can expect an increase in the population of older people.
- Median age of Alaska population increased from 29.3 in 1990 to 32.9 years in 1999.

Work-Related Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-99*

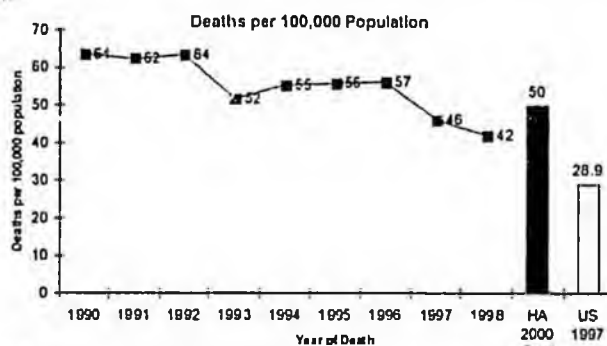


* Data source: Section of Epidemiology; rate per 100,000 workers

Work-Related Mortality: Talking Points

- The rate of death per 100,000 workers declined by 55% between 1990 and 1999.
- Alaska rates remain much higher than the comparable US rate.
- Among commercial fishers and loggers, two of the high-risk occupations in Alaska, there were substantial declines in occupational injury deaths and in hospitalization from work-related injuries

Unintentional Injury Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-98*

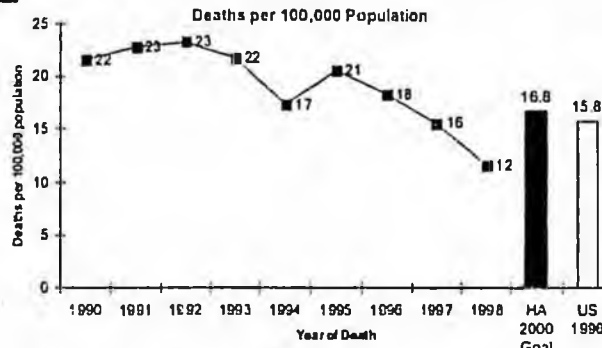


*Data source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics; rate per 100,000 population; age-adjusted to US 1990 population; ICD 9 codes 800-949

Unintentional Injuries: Talking Points

- Death rates from unintentional injuries declined by 42% during the 1990s.
- The rates of unintentional injury death remain higher than the comparable US rate.
- The most common causes of injury death in Alaska (includes both intentional and unintentional) are firearms (26.2%), motor vehicles (16.9%), drowning (11.7%), poisoning (5.2%), strangulation (5.0%) and fire/burns (4.1%).
- Each year approximately 3000 Alaskans are hospitalized because of unintentional injuries.
- Importance of trauma registry in monitoring injury in Alaska.

Motor Vehicle Injury Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-98*

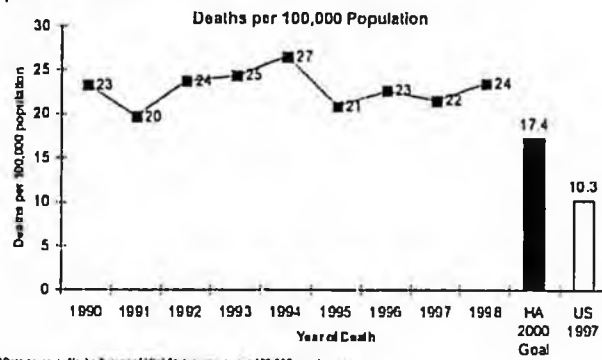


*Data source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics; rates per 100,000 population; age-adjusted to US 1990 population; ICD-9 codes 810-825

Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths: Talking Points

- In 1998, for the first time, the motor vehicle crash death rate per million miles traveled was equal to, instead of higher than, the US rate.
- The rate of alcohol related motor vehicle crash deaths also declined during the 1990s among all ages and among youth aged 15-24 years.

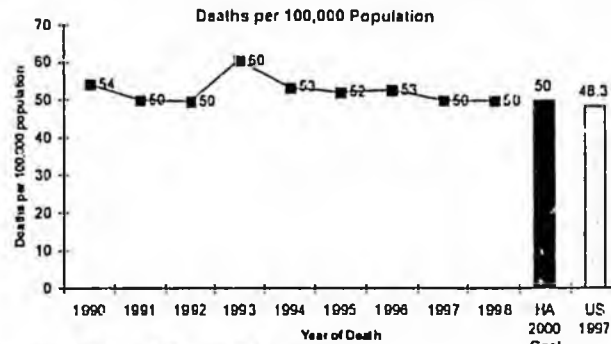
Suicide Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-98*



Suicide Deaths: Talking Points

- Suicide is the cause of death for over 100 Alaskans each year.
- Suicide rates are highest among Alaska Natives and young men.
- Importance of a public health approach to mental health issues, including improved surveillance, health promotion, disease prevention and access to services

Lung Cancer Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-98*

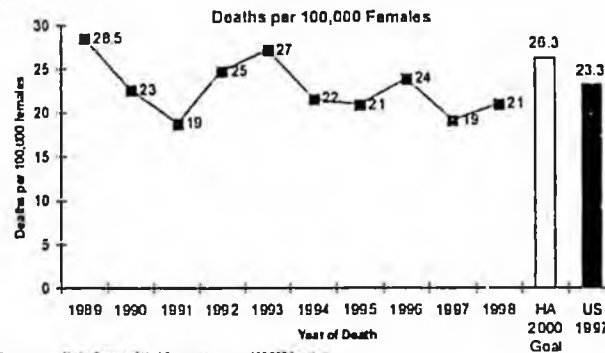


*Data source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics; rate per 100,000 population; age-adjusted to US 1970 population; ICD-9 code 162

Lung Cancer: Talking Points

- Over 90% of lung cancer deaths attributable to tobacco.
- Although smoking prevalence has not measurably decreased, there has been a 16% decrease in the taxable consumption of tobacco products since the 1997 tobacco tax increase
- Importance of continued efforts, such as clean air ordinances and smoking cessation efforts

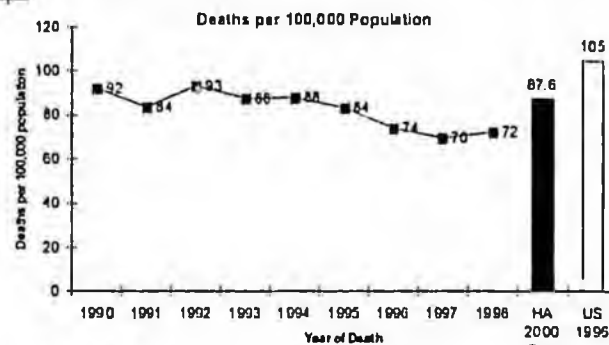
Breast Cancer Mortality Rate Alaska 1989-98*



Breast Cancer: Talking Points

- The utilization of mammography and breast exam increased during the 1990s, especially among:
 - Alaska Natives: by 68%
 - Low income women: by 76%
 - Women with little education: by 73%
- Importance of Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Programs to Alaska women
- Importance of Alaska Cancer Registry which began collecting statewide data on cancer incidence in 1996.

Coronary Heart Disease Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-98*

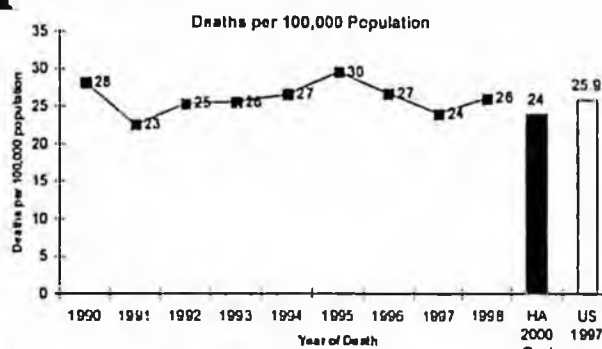


*Data source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics; rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to US 1990 population. CI: 95% CI: 402, 410-414, 419.2

Heart Disease: Talking Points

- Heart disease was the leading cause of death among men and the second leading cause among women in 1998
- The rate of heart disease death declined during the 1990s, and reached the Healthy Alaskans goal. However, for the past 2 years, the heart disease death rate has increased among men.
- The trends in risk factors are going in the wrong direction or not changing: smoking and sedentary lifestyle remain unchanged; obesity rates are increasing; one might expect heart disease rates to increase rather than to continue improving

Stroke Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-98*

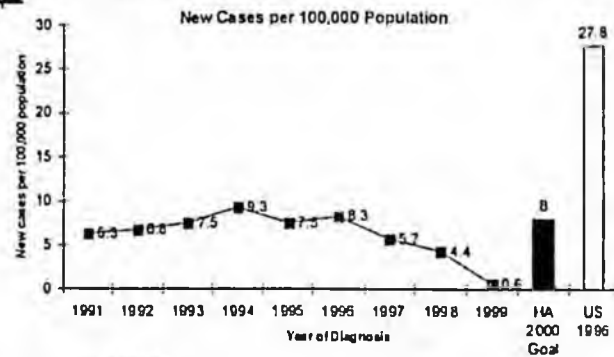


*Data source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics; rate per 100,000 population; age-adjusted to US 1990 population; ICD-10 codes I30-I38

Stroke: Talking Points

- Deaths from stroke have not declined, and have not reached the Healthy Alaskans goal.

AIDS Incidence Rate Alaska 1991-99*

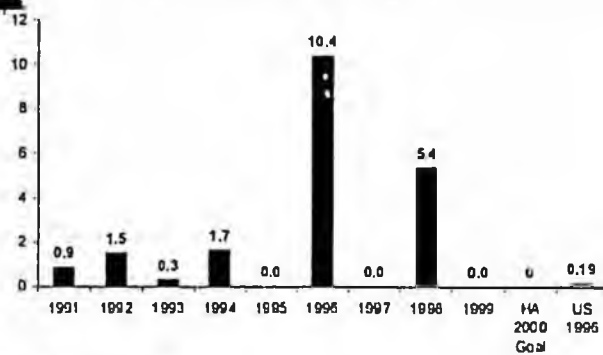


HIV/AIDS: Talking Points

- The reduction in AIDS incidence has been attributed to improved treatment of HIV individuals to slow or prevent the emergence of AIDS.
- HIV became a reportable condition in Alaska in 1999.
- From January 1, 1982 through December 31, 1999, a cumulative total of 717 cases of HIV infection were reported among individuals in Alaska.
- Importance of preventive efforts, such as contact tracing.

Measles Incidence Rate

Alaska 1990-99*

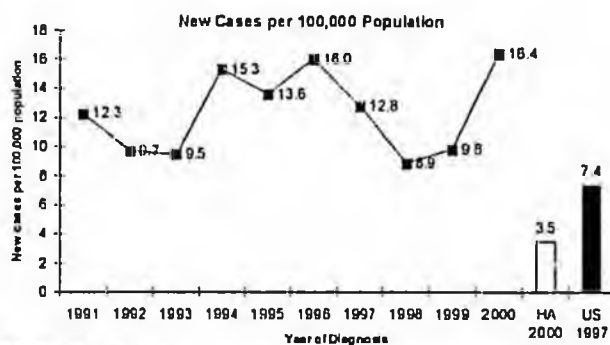


*Data source: Section of Epidemiology

Measles: Talking Points

- Outbreaks of measles occurred in 1996 (63 cases) and in 1998 (33 cases), largely occurring in school-aged children. The 2-dose measles vaccine now required for school entry is expected to prevent further outbreaks.
- In 1998 Alaska's rate of immunization of 2-year-olds was 81%, increased from 69% in 1996. The rate remains below the Healthy Alaskans 2000 goal of 90% or higher.
- During the 1990s, reduction in other infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis A and B, occurred because of new immunizations and public health efforts.

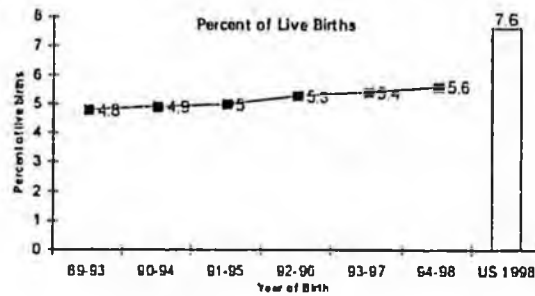
Tuberculosis Incidence Rate Alaska 1991-2000*



Tuberculosis: Talking Points

- The incidence rate of new cases of tuberculosis remained fairly constant
- Number of cases ranged from a low of 55 to a high of 97.
- The Healthy Alaskans 2000 goal of less than 3.5 cases per 1000,000 population has not been reached.
- The highest rates of tuberculosis occur among Alaska Natives and Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- Importance of public health efforts, including directly observed therapy and testing of high risk individuals and contacts.

Low Birth Weight Alaska 1993-98*

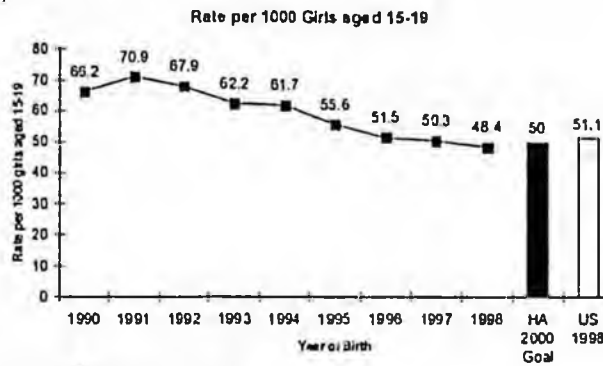


*Data source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics; percent of live births, 5-year running average

Low Birth Weight

- Increasing during the 1990s.
- Remains well below US rate

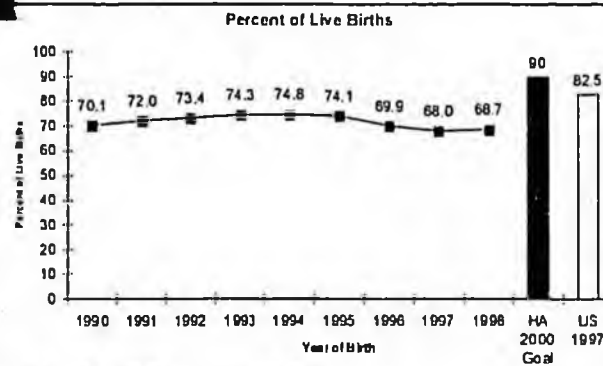
Teen Birth Rate: Age 15-19 Alaska 1990-98*



Teen Birth Rate: Talking Points

- Among high school youth, 42% of boys and 44% of girls have engaged in sexual intercourse at least once (1999 YRBS).
- Among sexually active high school youth, 71% of boys and 73% of girls used some form of contraception at the most recent intercourse (1999 YRBS).
- Decline in teen births not attributable to increased abortion nationally.

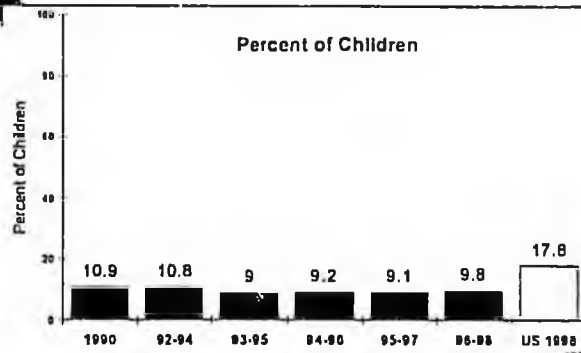
Adequate Prenatal Care Alaska 1990-98*



Prenatal Care: Talking Points

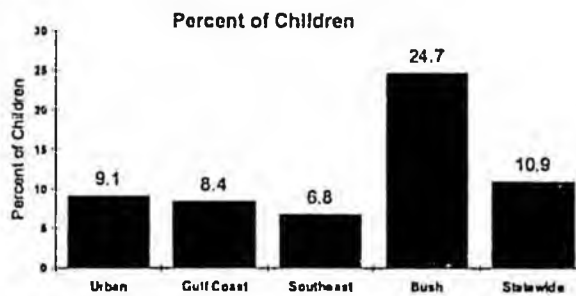
- The percent of mothers who received adequate prenatal care remains lower than the Healthy Alaskans goal of 90% or higher. Rates of adequate prenatal care appear to have declined since 1994

Children Living in Poverty Alaska



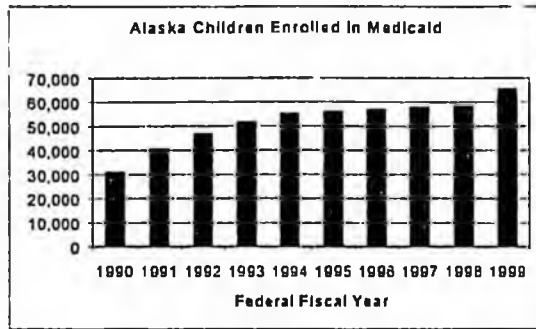
Data source: US Bureau of Census 1990 Census and Current Population Surveys

Children Living in Poverty Alaska: By Region 1989



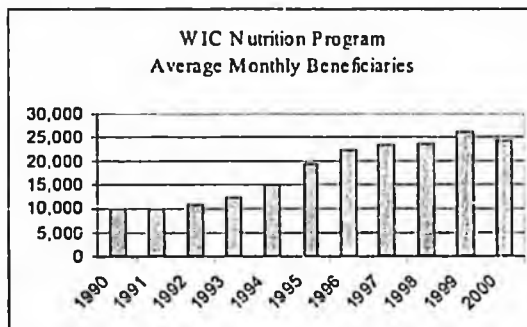
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1990 Census

Alaska Children Enrolled in Medicaid,
1990-1999
--Effect of S-CHIP (Denali KidCare)



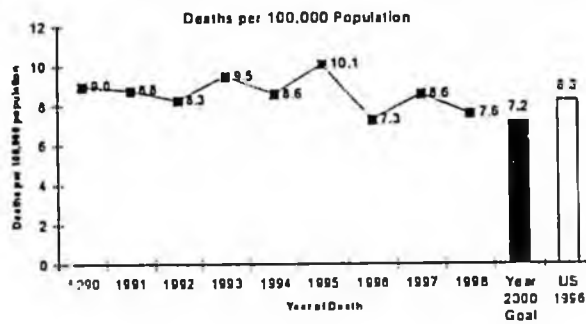
Source: Medicaid Management Information System enrollment data

WIC Average Monthly Beneficiaries
in Alaska, 1990-2000



Source: WIC Management Information System

Homicide Mortality Rate Alaska 1990-98



1/18/01

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

The mission of the Alaska Court System is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.

Who are the customers of the Alaska Court System include:

- ◆ Individual citizens of Alaska, who access the courts as litigants, jurors and witnesses, and for such auxiliary services as deposits of wills and public record information
- ◆ Businesses and organizations, which access the courts as litigants and which are recipients of justice system information
- ◆ The attorneys of the Alaska Bar Association who represent litigants before the courts
- ◆ The agencies of the executive branch, and the Legislature, both as litigants and as recipients of justice information and statistics
- ◆ Representatives of the media, who seek information about court cases and court business
- ◆ Researchers (in-state, national and international) as recipients of justice information and statistics

Eight accepted purposes of courts are:

1. To do individual justice in individual cases
2. To appear to do justice in order to promote public trust in our system of government
3. To provide a forum for the resolution of legal disputes
4. To protect individuals from the arbitrary use of governmental power
5. To provide a formal record of legal status
6. To deter criminal behavior
7. To rehabilitate persons convicted of crimes
8. To separate persons convicted of crimes from society, in appropriate cases

PROFILE OF THE ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000

INTRODUCTION

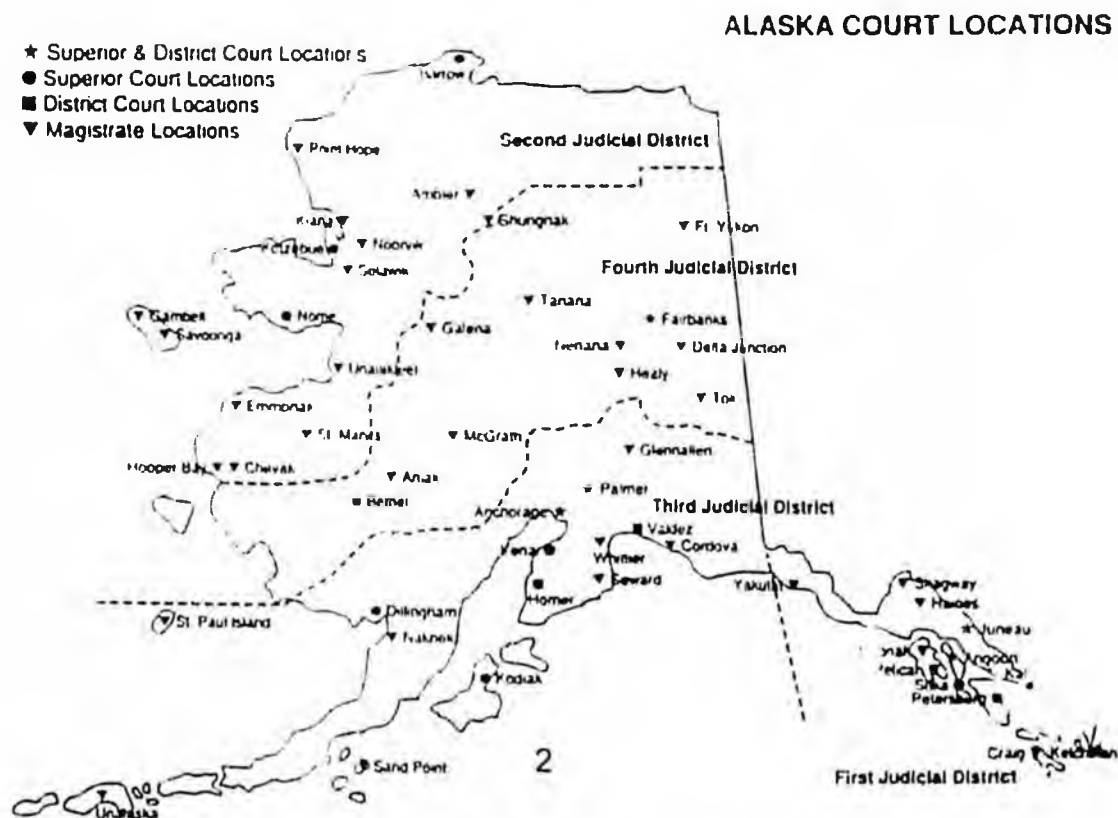
There are four levels of courts in the Alaska Court System, each with different powers, duties and responsibilities. Alaska has a unified, centrally administered, and totally state-funded judicial system. Municipal governments do not maintain separate court systems.

The four levels of courts in the Alaska Court System are the supreme court, the court of appeals, the superior court and the district court. The supreme court and court of appeals are appellate courts, while the superior and district courts are trial courts. Jurisdiction and responsibilities of each level of court are set out in Title 22 of the Alaska Statutes.

The supreme court and the superior court were established in the Alaska Constitution. In 1959, the legislature created a district court for each judicial district and granted power to the supreme court to increase or decrease the number of district court judges. In 1980, the legislature created a court of appeals.

The chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court is the administrative head of the Alaska Court System. An administrative director is appointed by the chief justice with concurrence of the supreme court. The director supervises the administration of all courts in the state.

Rules governing the administration of all courts and the rules of practice and procedure for civil and criminal cases are promulgated by the supreme court.



ALASKA COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZATION

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

The supreme court is the appellate court of final authority in Alaska. It consists of a panel of five justices.

COURT OF APPEALS

The court of appeals hears appeals in criminal and quasi-criminal cases (such as juvenile delinquency cases.) It consists of a panel of three judges.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

The supreme court is charged with the responsibility of administering the statewide system. The supreme court delegates most of the administrative matters to the administrative director.

SUPERIOR COURT

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. It has appellate jurisdiction over district court appeals and appeals from administrative agency decisions. There are 32 superior court judgeships.

DISTRICT COURT

The district court has limited civil and criminal jurisdiction. The district court consists of 17 district court judges and 60 authorized magistrate positions.

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM
(Information as of June 30, 2000)

Fiscal Year:	July 1 - June 30	
Geographical Area Served:	586,413 square miles	
Number of Judges:	5	supreme court judges
	3	court of appeals judges
	32	superior court judges
	17	district court judges
	60	magistrates
Number of Court Locations:	16*	combined superior and district court
	42	district courts only (judge and/or magistrate)
Number of Authorized Positions:	655	permanent full-time
	50	permanent part-time
	21	non-permanent
	726	total

*Includes three locations without resident superior court judges: Wrangell, Petersburg and Valdez.

FIVE LARGEST TRIAL COURTS
(by number of permanent full-time employees)

Anchorage	210
Fairbanks	82
Juneau	30
Palmer	25
Ketchikan	22

Alaska Court System
FY00 Court Revenues Deposited to the State General Fund

Fines and Forfeitures	\$3,715,900
Civil Case Filing Fees	1,644,200
Clerical and Miscellaneous Fees (Transcripts, Notaries, Copies)	305,900
Court Cost Recoveries	174,800
Interest Income	<u>406,200</u>
Total FY00 General Fund Revenues	<u><u>\$6,247,000</u></u>

Alaska Court System
FY00 Revenues Collected for Other State Agencies

Alaska Police Standards Council (Surcharges)	\$550,000
Health and Social Services (Vital Statistics)	<u>205,100</u>
Total FY00 Revenues Collected for Other State Agencies	<u><u>\$755,100</u></u>

**Costs & Fees Imposed by Courts and Collected
by the Department of Law¹**

Cost of Appointed Counsel	\$888,900
Cost of Incarceration	\$748,400
Court Fines	\$959,600
Traffic & Minor Offense Fines and Bonds	\$140,000
Civil	<u>\$32,800</u>
Total	<u><u>\$2,769,700</u></u>

Information supplied by Nancy Sullivan, Collections Coordinator, Collections and Support Section

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

FY2000 Funds Collected on behalf of Cities and Boroughs

<u>City/Borough</u>	<u>Total Funds Collected by Court</u>
Anchorage	\$692,100
Barrow	\$6,500
Bethel	\$8,500
Cordova	\$2,100
Craig	\$1,800
Dillingham	\$2,500
Emmonak	\$500
Fairbanks	\$23,600
Fairbanks Borough	\$10,000
Galena	\$200
Haines	\$2,300
Homer	\$26,000
Hoonah	\$6,100
Juneau	\$112,400
Kake	\$100
Kenai	\$23,300
Ketchikan	\$6,900
Kodiak	\$17,500
Kodiak Island Borough	\$200
Kotzebue	\$8,500
Matsu Borough	\$8,800
Nenana	\$21,200
Nome	\$800
North Pole	\$110,000
Palmer	\$51,900
Petersburg	\$1,100
Saint Mary's	\$700
Saint Paul	\$300
Seward	\$18,500
Sitka	\$18,900
Skagway	\$3,500
Soldotna	\$35,500
Unalakleet	\$1,000
Unalaska	\$1,600
Valdez	\$19,400
Wasilla	\$52,200
Wrangell	\$2,600
Yakutat	\$800
Totals	\$1,299,900

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM
October 2000 Permanent Fund Dividends Processed
 (as of 12/31/00)

<u>COURT</u>	<u>PFD Totals by Court</u>
Anchorage	\$5,050,500
Angoon	\$8,300
Aniak	\$11,700
Barrow	\$64,400
Bethel	\$138,800
Chevak	\$2,900
Cordova	\$8,200
Craig	\$23,900
Delta Junction	\$23,700
Dillingham	\$61,000
Fairbanks	\$1,834,700
Ft. Yukon	\$4,900
Galena	\$8,900
Glennallen	\$21,800
Haines	\$15,200
Healy	\$8,500
Homer	\$84,800
Hoonah	\$20,400
Juneau	\$1,053,800
Kenai	\$1,900
Kenai	\$466,900
Ketchikan	\$501,700
Kodiak	\$117,500
Kotzebue	\$37,500
McGrath	\$3,000
Mt. Village	\$3,500
Naknek	\$13,200
Nenana	\$14,500
Nome	\$131,600
Palmer	\$648,700
Petersburg	\$57,700
Sand Point	\$6,100
Seward	\$27,600
Sitka	\$141,400
Skagway	\$2,000
St. Mary's	\$15,000
St. Paul	\$4,600
Tanana	\$1,400
Tok	\$18,100
Unalakleet	\$44,100
Unalaska	\$10,900
Valdez	\$42,700
Wrangell	\$39,000
Yakutat	\$9,100
Court Totals	<u><u>\$10,780,900</u></u>

Alaska Judicial Council Activities: 2000

1/18/01

House Finance Committee January 2001

1. Judicial Selection <http://www.aic.state.ak.us/Selection/select.htm>

The Council is required to screen judicial applicants and nominate the most qualified to the Governor for appointment.

Anchorage Superior Court (Shortell) - Stephanie Joannides appointed 4/10/00

Ketchikan Superior Court (Jahnke) - Trevor Stephens appointed 7/31/00

Anchorage Superior Court (Hunt) - Mark Rindner appointed 10/20/00

Anchorage Superior Court (Souter) - Two nominees to Governor January 2001

Anchorage District Court (Joannides) - Council failed to find two qualified nominees as required by Alaska Constitution in Fall 2000. Vacancy process redone. Two nominees to Governor January 2001

Bethel District Court (new) - Council failed to find two qualified nominees. Will redo in 2001

2. Judicial Evaluation/Retention <http://www.aic.state.ak.us/Retention/retent.htm>

The Council is required to evaluate the performance of judges, and to make evaluation information and recommendations available to voters. The Council collects more information on judicial performance, and makes more of it available to voters, than anywhere else in this country or the world. The goals of the process are to provide objective information and recommendations to voters, and to encourage accountability by closely scrutinizing judicial performance.

3. Projects to Improve the Administration of Justice.

The Constitution requires the Judicial Council to "conduct studies for the improvement of the administration of justice, and make reports and recommendations to the supreme court and to the legislature." Year 2000 projects include:

A. Criminal Justice Assessment Commission (CJAC) <http://www.aic.state.ak.us/Reports/cjac/ame.htm>

The Alaska Criminal Justice Assessment Commission relied on the Judicial Council to staff its work from 1998 - 2000. The Judicial Council's Director also served on the Commission. After reviewing the different functions of the criminal justice system, the Commission spent about a year preparing recommendations for improvement. A main focus of the CJAC report is on the effects of alcohol and substance abuse on the justice system, and recommendations for ways to respond. The report also makes recommendations about increased attention to the needs of the mentally disabled in the justice system, suggestions for legislation and recommendations for policy changes by agencies. A primary recommendation of the report is for a follow-up organization to carry out the recommendations of the CJAC. The Judicial Council is staffing the interim organization that is working to develop legislation and programs recommended by the CJAC.

B. Judicial Applicant Guidelines <http://www.aic.state.ak.us/Selection/AppGuide.htm>

The Judicial Council cooperated with the Alaska Bar Association and the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct to prepare guidelines for judicial applicants. The guidelines focus on the allowable activities for attorneys who become candidates for judicial positions. Appropriate letters and expressions of support for the applicant, allowable political activities, and penalties for violations all are covered. The guidelines include applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, Bar Rules, Code of Judicial Conduct, various advisory opinions and other materials to help applicants understand the foundations of the process.

C. Appellate Case Management System <http://www.appellate.courts.state.ak.us/>

The Council has designed and implemented a computerized case management system for the appellate courts. In addition, appellate case data, forms, opinions, rules and oral argument schedules all are available on the Internet. Council staff have continued to assist the court system to maintain and upgrade this system. During the next year, Council staff plans to help court staff to take over these functions.

D. Community Corrections and Parole Board Case Management Systems

The Council also has programmed and continues to support computerized case management systems for the Anchorage and Fairbanks offices of Community Corrections, and for the Board of Parole. Staff currently is working to provide access to the Parole Board system in Anchorage.

E. Criminal Justice Computer Systems Upgrades and Coordination <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/cjiab/>

The Council has and continues to work in various capacities to upgrade and coordinate the criminal justice agencies' computer systems. Council staff participate on several coordinating committees including the Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board. Council staff have worked with the Departments of Public Safety and Corrections on their computer system upgrades.

F. Drug Court Evaluations/Therapeutic Justice Programs

The supreme court has asked the Judicial Council to evaluate two of the special programs established in 2000 as drug courts, and to be available to evaluate a third characterized as a mental health court when funds become available. All three courts, and others being considered, can be described as "therapeutic justice" programs. The term is used for programs in which judges play a major role in supervising offenders or others with substance abuse or mental health problems. Similar programs being considered in Anchorage or elsewhere include programs that would focus on families whose children have been adjudicated "children in need of aid," and on domestic violence offenders.

Existing courts to be evaluated include a felony drug court in Anchorage superior court that focuses on non-violent offenders with substance abuse problems, a misdemeanor drug court titled the Wellness Court in the Anchorage District Court that focuses on offenders with alcohol abuse problems who are willing to use Naltrexone as part of their treatment, and a mental health court in the Anchorage District Court that serves persons with mental disabilities who have committed misdemeanors. The Judicial Council has begun the process of developing a database and methods for evaluation that can be modified to meet the needs of the individual programs.

G. Criminal Justice Process Study

Following recommendations by both the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Fairness and Access and the Criminal Justice Assessment Commission for a thorough review of the criminal justice process the Judicial Council began in 1998 to consider methods of conducting the study. In November 2000, the Council decided to collect data during the spring and summer of 2001 on several thousand closed felonies filed throughout the state, using its existing resources. The Council has requested funding for the completion of the data collection and analysis from several sources, and plans to complete a report by summer of 2002.

This review will respond to the need perceived throughout the criminal justice system for up-to-date information about charging, bail, plea, sentencing and post-sentencing processes and outcomes. It will identify disparities, if they exist, in any phase of the process that can be traced to unwarranted distinctions based on ethnic and cultural minority status, gender or other inappropriate characteristics. It will provide information needed by the different branches of government for making policy and budget decisions. The review, finally, will provide information about substance abuse and mental health problems to help the legislature and agencies set policies for managing these issues.

H. Civil Case Data <http://www.jc.state.ak.us/Reports/civcaseframe.htm>

In 1997, the legislature passed tort reform legislation that required the Judicial Council to report on closed civil cases. The Council's preliminary report was published in February 2000. Council staff began collecting detailed data from court case files on over 1,000 closed civil matters. This data supplements the forms filed by attorneys in many cases on paper or Internet forms. The database will include most civil jury trials since 1995, which will allow the Council to update and expand the report prepared in 1996 on tort jury verdicts. Most of the data collected will come from cases closed as a result of settlements, default judgments or other dismissals. Data from the analysis will compare settlement amounts with jury verdicts, will analyze types and amounts of attorneys' fees in different types of cases, and will provide a wide variety of descriptive data about civil case processing that has not been available before. The Council plans to have a report completed in 2001.

I. Internet Bar Surveys

During 2000, the Council created a system for attorneys to complete the counsel questionnaires filed for each judicial applicant by selected attorneys over the Internet. The system has proven successful; about half of the attorneys filing counsel questionnaires now use the Internet. The Council plans to offer attorneys the choice of completing the Bar survey form - now mailed to all attorneys - using either the Internet or mail. If a substantial number of attorneys choose to use the Internet the Council will benefit by having more accurate data (because of fewer opportunities for errors in transcription), entered at a substantially lower cost. If the project proves successful with the selection surveys for attorneys, the Council may be ready to use it on a trial basis in the 2002 retention evaluation process.

J. Committee Participation

Council staff serve as members of several justice system committees. These include the supreme court's Committee to Implement the Recommendations of the Fairness and Access Committee (senior staff associate), the Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board (executive director), the statewide Violence Against Women Act STOP Grant Planning Committee (senior staff associate), the supreme court's judge conference planning and education committees (senior staff associate and staff attorney), and the supreme court's child support guidelines committee (executive director). This work is in addition to the work on various committees that are associated with major Council projects including the Criminal Justice Council and the therapeutic justice evaluations.

Judicial Council staff have made major contributions to the work of these committees. For the Fairness and Access Committee, staff created a Table of Resources that shows, for each community in Alaska, information about its population, justice system resources and indicators of possible problems such as reports of harm to children, numbers of probationers and inmates from that community and whether it allows or bans alcohol. For the child support guidelines committee, staff have drafted and reviewed substantial parts of the materials prepared by the committee. Staff also created an Internet web site that includes a wide range of materials for citizens and attorneys, such as text of applicable statutes and court cases, a program for estimating support payments and links to other useful web sites. For the VAWA Planning Committee, staff have provided much of the background information needed to decide what approaches the committee should take to evaluating the effectiveness of VAWA.

K. Judicial Conference Planning and Education Committees

Council staff work closely with these committees to plan the two judicial conferences scheduled each year and to plan other education for judges. In 2000, Council staff contributed substantially to a day-long program on child in need of aid and custody cases. Tribal court judges from around the state attended, and the keynote presenters and panelists included an Alaska Native speaker and other tribal court justices. The Council is investigating ways to make training sessions available for judges over the Internet or on CD-ROM.

L. Crime Victims Handbook and Criminal Justice Guides <http://www.ajc.state.ak.us/consumer.htm>

The Council initially published these guides in 1995, and updated them in 1998. In 1998 and 1999, the Council translated both guides into Spanish. In 2000, staff began revising the Crime Victims' Handbook. After review and input by other agencies the Council will re-publish the handbook. Updating the Criminal Justice Guide will be scheduled during the next two years.

M. Master/Magistrate Bar and Peace Officer Surveys

The Council has worked with the court system to implement attorney and peace officer surveys of Alaska's masters and judicial officers. These surveys are intended to lead to more effective evaluation and oversight of these judicial officers who do not appear on the ballot for retention elections. The Council made plans in 2000 to conduct another master/magistrate survey in 2001.

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1/18/01
LAW

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Juneau

CIVIL DIVISION
Deputy Attorney General
Juneau

Transportation
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau
- construction/operations of public facilities, including ferries, airports, highways, harbors, buildings, and communications facilities

Human Services
Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau
- child abuse and neglect
- juvenile delinquency prosecutions
- public assistance programs
- social and health services legal issues
- education issues; labor issues

Environmental Law
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau
- environmental enforcement/defense including contaminated sites cleanup and restoration
- water and air quality
- Exxon Valdez cost recovery; Trustee Council

Oil, Gas and Mining
Anchorage, Juneau
- oil and gas tax and royalty claims
- oil and gas lease sale challenges
- pipeline tariff cases
- gas commercialization issues
- resource development (NorthStar, Alpine)

Commercial
Anchorage, Juneau
- banking, securities, investments, gaming, corporations, and insurance
- student loan program
- collection/enforcement of state taxes
- public housing; alcoholic beverage control

Special Litigation
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau
- tort claims and admiralty/personal injury cases against state
- workers' compensation cases where state is employer

Collections and Support
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau
- collection of debts, fines and judgments owed the state
- child support enforcement litigation

Governmental Affairs
Anchorage, Juneau
- public finance/budget legal issues
- employment/labor law; employee benefits
- elections; campaign finance
- procurement; Medicaid rate
- state/local government relations

Legislation/Regulations
Juneau
- preparation of governor's legislation
- review and analysis of all legislation before the governor takes action
- review of all regulations

Fair Business Practices
Anchorage
- public utility/oil and gas pipeline regulation
- occupational licensing
- postsecondary education

Natural Resources
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau
- land management issues
- fish and game management and enforcement
- mental health lands issues
- Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
- coastal zone management

Consumer Protection
Anchorage
- consumer protection
- antitrust law enforcement

Statehood Defense
Anchorage, Juneau
- submerged lands and navigability
- Native sovereignty
- RS2477 and access cases
- ANILCA challenges
- salmon treaty; ESA

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Juneau

CRIMINAL DIVISION
Deputy Attorney General
Anchorage

**Criminal Justice Litigation
and Legal Services**
Juneau

- Corrections legal services
- Public Safety legal services
- criminal justice legislation
- DMV appeals
- Violence Against Women Act
paralegal coordinator
volunteer coordinator

**Special Prosecutions
and Appeals**
Anchorage

- appeals
- white collar crime
- environmental crimes
- special fish and game violations
- Medicaid provider fraud
- welfare fraud
- child support prosecutions

First Judicial District

Juneau DA

Sitka DA

Ketchikan DA

Second Judicial District

Barrow DA
Supervised by Fairbanks

Nome DA

Kotzebue DA

Third Judicial District

Anchorage DA
- Narcotics Unit

Dillingham DA

Kenai DA

Kodiak DA

Palmer DA

Fourth Judicial District

Fairbanks DA

Bethel DA

Department of Law Performance Measures

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Measure: The success of the Office of the Attorney General in achieving its missions will be measured by considering (1) the cost of legal services to each state agency; and (2) whether the divisions and offices in the department meet the performance measures described hereafter.

Benchmark: The following are the costs, rounded to the nearest hundred dollars, to each state agency for legal services rendered by the Civil Division on behalf of those agencies during FY 2000. These amounts include the cost of contract legal counsel and other costs external to the Department of Law as well as Law's internal costs:

Office of the Governor	\$248,000
Department of Administration	\$2,027,600
Department of Revenue (Including AHFC, and the Permanent Fund Corporation)	\$2,908,600
Department of Education (including Postsecondary Education)	\$492,700
Department of Health and Social Services	\$1,390,500
Department of Labor and Workforce Development	\$288,900
Department of Community and Economic Development (Including AIDEA)	\$1,114,300
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	\$184,200
Department of Natural Resources	\$141,700
Department of Fish and Game	\$160,200
Department of Public Safety	\$70,200
Department of Environmental Conservation	\$1,207,900
Department of Transportation	\$3,238,900
Legislative Branch	\$0
Court System	\$10,900

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Measure: Administrative Services: (1) the cost of the division compared to personnel costs for the department; (2) the number of late penalties incurred for payroll or vendor payments; (3) the number of audit exceptions.

Benchmark:

FY 2000 Total actual cost of the Administrative Services Division	\$1,096,300
FY 2000 Total Personal Services Costs for the Department of Law	\$30,684,000

Ratio: 3.6%

No late penalties were incurred for payroll or vendor payments. The FY 1999 statewide single audit does not contain any audit exceptions for the Department of Law.

Background:

The Administrative Services Division of the Department of Law is highly centralized encompassing those positions associated with fiscal functions, personnel and payroll, acquisition of equipment and supplies and procurement of contractual services, mailroom services, budgeting, computer network and desktop support, and administrative management. Each individual Civil and Criminal Division office employs one to two positions, depending on the size of the office, in part to assist with administrative functions such as small procurements of office supplies, disbursements of field warrants, and completing some personnel and travel forms. Those positions are not part of the Administrative Services Division.

CIVIL DIVISION

Oil & Gas & Mining

Measure: The monetary value of disputed oil and gas taxes and royalties received by the state through court judgment or settlement.

Benchmark:

FY 1999 Receipts - \$63,532,574:

Tax Settlements - \$62,032,574

Royalty Settlements - \$1,500,000 (collectable in 24 installments through 3/01)

FY 2000 Receipts - \$447,579,583:

Tax Settlements - \$433,079,583

Royalty Settlements - \$14,500,000

Background and Strategies:

These amounts will vary from year to year depending on a number of factors including the length of audit cycles, which sometimes cover more than one year, and the number and value of disputed payments.

Collections and Support

Measure: The monetary value of the criminal and civil judgments collected, including indigent defense costs, costs of incarceration for offenders convicted of driving while intoxicated, and other fines and costs owed to the state.

Benchmark and Current Status:

	Amount Collected	Judgments Satisfied
FY 1997	\$2,278,500	Not Available
FY 1998	\$2,469,900	8,569
FY 1999	\$3,111,000	10,125
FY 2000	\$2,769,600	8,569

In the FY 2001 Governor's budget, it was anticipated that FY 2000 collections would remain at the FY 1999 level. However, the FY 1999 collections were unusually high because the IRS did not attach PFD's that year as they have in all other years, including FY 2000. Staffing vacancy was a secondary cause, creating a backlog of uncollected matters. A catch up of the backlog will be experienced in FY 2001 as evidenced by the more than \$2.5 million already collected year-to-date. Thus, FY 2001 is likely to show high collections while FY 2002 may once again drop closer to the levels of fiscal years FY 1997, 1998, and 2000. The unit oversees 76,000 unpaid judgments at this time.

Background and Strategies:

The function of the collections unit is to collect money owed to the state in criminal, civil, and some administrative cases. The criminal cases include the cost of imprisonment in driving while intoxicated or refusal cases, cost of appointed counsel in cases where a public defender or public advocate appointment is made to represent a defendant, and outstanding fines and bond forfeitures. While the courts can collect on fines and bond forfeitures (these cases are only transferred to the collections unit if they are overdue to the court) the cost of appointed counsel cases are automatically transferred to the unit. Civil case collections must have a judgment in excess of \$250 entered with the court and the money collected must be free for deposit into the general fund.

There are a number of factors that affect the amount collected. The most important factor is the amount and number of judgments transferred by the courts. If a judgment is not transferred, it is unlikely the unit will receive voluntary payments and cannot seize money from a permanent fund dividend. The second factor is the number and dollar value of voluntary payments made by defendants. The only recourse the department has for nonpayment is the potential to seize the obligor's permanent fund dividend. Additional factors include the actual amount of the permanent fund dividend, the number of defendants applying for dividends; the number of defendants determined to be eligible for dividends; and other agencies or cases with statutory priority to seize dividends before our seizures are possible.

Timekeeping and Support

Measure: Civil Division - the number of new case files opened, categorized by type of case, for each year for the past five years.

Benchmark:

File Type	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000
Oral Advice/Aid to agency	1842	1548	1122	948	899
General Litigation	1559	1610	1770	1523	1360
Executions	98	63	68	40	41
Torts	130	134	132	127	135
Child Support Proceedings	1650	1848	918	998	1184
Children's Proceedings	1007	1062	1405	1434	1350
Legislative Drafting	79	111	61	74	86
Legislative Review	166	120	148	103	144
Regulations Review	134	139	168	145	171
TOTALS	6665	6636	5792	5392	5370

Human Services

Measure: The number of new cases opened relating to protecting children in the state against abuse and neglect and the caseload per attorney.

Benchmark/Current Status:

In FY 2000, 695 child protection cases representing more than 1,100 Alaskan children were opened statewide.

Measure: (1) the percentage of child abuse and neglect cases completed in the permanency placement backlog; and (2) the percentage of other child abuse and neglect cases that are resolved within the statutory deadline of no more than 21 months of out-of-home placement.

(1) 662 children were identified for the Balloon Project as having been in out-of-home care 15 of the prior 22 months as of November 19, 1997. As of 10/15/00, 535 of these children were in permanent placements, and another 84 were legally free for adoption, completing the Department of Law's role in their placement. These children represent 94% of the original cases. New phases (Phases II and Phase III) involving additional children in out-of-home care were added on 2/15/00. We will provide statistics on those cases in subsequent updates of performance measures. (2) New statutory deadlines for legal action in child abuse and neglect cases became effective on September 14, 1998; thus the department looked at 164 children's cases opened in October and November of that year as the benchmark. Of 164, 91% had the required legal action taken in their cases within 21

months, and in 2 %, the required legal action took between 21 and 23 months to complete. Seven percent are still pending.

The success in meeting statutory deadlines is largely driven by Law's attorney workload. According to the American Bar Association, Center for Children and the Law, a reasonable caseload for child protection attorneys is between 40 and 50 active cases. Caseload statistical data has been developed over the course of the last three years. The following average statewide child protection caseloads of Law's Human Services section are "snapshots in time" and reflect that the success of our efforts in permanency placement for Alaskan children is largely driven by additional staff added resulting in much more reasonable caseloads per attorney. At last count, average statewide levels are approaching those suggested by the American Bar Association:

October 1, 1997	95.2
September 25, 2000	57.6

Background and Strategies:

With the passage of Ch. 99, SLA 98, the new state child protection law and the new federal Adoption and Safe Families Act, important changes were made as to how long children may remain in the child protection legal system, and when certain actions must occur. These new statutory changes at the state and federal level more concretely define parental responsibility and the changes move cases to conclusion faster to ensure that when reunification with the family is not in the child's best interest, the child can be made legally eligible for placement in a permanent home more quickly. The large number of cases placed on the accelerated schedules when the legislation became effective severely impacted attorney workloads.

The legislation defines the timelines for permanency hearings and termination of parental rights. As previously discussed, to achieve those timelines, and to eliminate the permanency placement backlog and provide the assistance outlined above, the per attorney caseload must be manageable. As a result, Law's FY 2002 budget for the Civil Division's Human Services section includes a request for interagency receipts from H&SS in the amount of \$297,800 to maintain current staff levels after the Balloon Project funding ends.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Measure: Establish a baseline for the number of (1) violent felony prosecutions; (2) felony drug case prosecutions; and (3) misdemeanor domestic violence assault prosecutions.

Benchmark:

FY 2000

Violent Felonies Prosecuted – 1,115

Felc y Drug Prosecutions – 667

Misdemeanor domestic violence prosecutions – 2,007

Note: The Criminal Division case tracking system tracks people, rather than cases.

Background and Strategies:

The workload for the Criminal Division is driven by factors largely beyond its control, such as the staffing levels and policies of local police agencies, staffing levels of defense attorneys, whether municipalities control alcohol, and the policies and practices of local courts and local defense attorneys. As such, the division is able to exercise very little control over attorney caseload ratios and no control whatsoever over the volume of work coming in at any given time. Thus available

quantitative information often does not show the effectiveness and competency of the work. For example, it is very difficult to draw meaningful conclusions based on conviction rates. More convictions don't necessarily mean that attorneys are doing a better job. Instead it may mean any or a combination of the following: (1) crime is up, (2) the police are conducting better investigations, (3) new laws are more effective, (4) the division is understaffed and therefore plea-bargaining more, (5) the public defender agency is understaffed and they are pleading out more of their clients.

For this reason, knowing the number of cases handled is the best measure of the division's performance.

Because Alaska is one of a very few states that handles all types of criminal offenses at the state level, useful comparative data of attorney caseload is impossible to attain. Even within Alaska, there are remarkable differences between caseloads in the urban centers and rural communities. Caseloads in rural Alaska per attorney tend to be much higher because defendants are more likely to plead out, or the district attorney is more likely to come to an agreement with the public defender.

Office of Special Prosecution and Appeals

Measure: Criminal Division (1) the number of new criminal cases reviewed for prosecution; (2) the number of criminal cases resolved; (3) the number of new appeals and petitions opened; (4) the number of appeals and petitions resolved; (5) the average cost per criminal case reviewed; and, (6) the average cost per appeal or petition opened.

Benchmark:

- (1) New criminal cases reviewed – 357
- (2) Criminal Cases resolved (as of 10/5/2000) – 231
- (3) New appeals and petitions opened – 335
- (4) Appeals and petitions resolved – 149
- (5) Avg. cost per criminal case reviewed - \$3,200
- (6) Avg. cost per appeal/petition opened - \$3,185

1/18/01

Alaska Postsecondary Education Commission Budget Request Unit

*POST
Secondary*

The mission of the Alaska Postsecondary Education Commission Budget Request Unit is to provide postsecondary educational financial assistance to Alaskans; and to authorize the operation of postsecondary institutions in the state.

Key Performance Measures

Measure: the completion and placement rate of students attending Alaska institutions that offer job-specific training programs;

Current Status:

ACPE will rely on participating postsecondary institutions to provide the data on which this measurement is based. Institutions are in the process of developing their information-gathering and reporting mechanisms.

Benchmark:

Not yet established.

Background and Strategies:

By regulation the Commission now requires institutions under its purview to collect and report completion rates. Once this information is readily available to consumers, it will increase their ability to select a school with high completion or "success" rates.

Measure: the percentage of loans issued by the commission that are in default; and

Current Status:

The 1998 program default rate is 11.0%.

Benchmark:

The 1997 program default rate was 13.7%.

Background and Strategies:

Continue to expand collections tools and improve revenues:

- Implement credit reporting on entire portfolio
- Increase use of and accountability for private sector collection contractors
- Expand license denial
- Implement wage garnishment

Measure: the defaulted loan recovery rate.

Current Status:

The 2000 annual recovery on defaulted loans is 8.79%.

Benchmark:

The 1999 annual recovery on defaulted loans was 9.03%. The note for 1999 was previously reported as 10.15%. This rate was computed prior to considering loan balance adjustments required as a result of returning certain loans returned to in-house servicing from a third party vendor.

Background and Strategies:

Strategic efforts related to this measurement are noted under the default rate measurement discussed above.

WWAMI Medical Education Component

The mission of the WWAMI Medical Education Component is to improve the general health of state residents.

Key Performance Measures

Measure: the number of Alaska communities with access to medical services associated with WWAMI/UW;

Current Status:

In addition to the communities already served by WWAMI, eight communities in Alaska will receive either a new or an enhanced service in calendar year 2000 (Seward, Bethel, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, Wasilla, Kodiak, Soldotna).

Benchmark:

No benchmarks provided at this time.

Background and Strategies:

Here is a list of some of the services and programs provided to communities through WWAMI/University of Washington:

1. MEDCON

Within the state of Alaska, virtually every community has increased access or enhanced medical services associated with WWAMI/University of Washington through the MEDCON consulting service. In 1999, over 4,000 calls were made or roughly 11 calls a day. This service allows physicians from Ketchikan to Barrow to consult with a specialist and get recommendations on patient care.

MEDCON calls in calendar year 2000 have increased by 20% over the years 1991-1999. Historically, 47 Alaska communities have accessed MEDCON. Though there is a higher volume this year, it is expected that the same number of communities will access MEDCON.

2. Alaska Family Practice Residency

The Alaska Family Practice Residency graduated its first class of residents. The city of Seward has been recruiting for 9 years for full-time physicians. Two Family Practice Residency graduates are now practicing and living in Seward.

One graduate is practicing in Juneau, one in Fairbanks, and one in Anchorage.

The Alaska Family Practice Residency also started an Emergency Medicine Resident elective rotation in Soldotna.

This year residents will be doing rotations in Bethel (8), Fairbanks (2), Kodiak (2), Wasilla (3), and Soldotna (2).

The Residency patient care has increased about 10% over last year. In FY2001, the faculty physicians and residents conducted about 21,000 patient visits. Seventy-five percent of the patient population is medically underserved.

3. WRITE program (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience)

The WRITE program opened a new 6-month clinical training site in Wasilla.

4. Clerkships

Clerkships in Advanced Internal Medicine and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery will start this year in Fairbanks.

Over 10 physicians in Fairbanks will receive clinical faculty appointments from the University of Washington School of Medicine.

5. Pediatric Sub-specialty clinics

Each year, Alaskan children needing care from sub-specialist pediatricians are seen in Anchorage by University of Washington School of Medicine faculty that travel to Anchorage. For calendar year 2000, there will be an estimated increase of 40% in the number of patient visits. This year there will be approximately 587 patient visits. Last year, 286 patient visits were performed.

Measure: the percentage of WWAMI participants who return to the state to practice medicine;

Current Status:

In calendar year 2000, there was 38% increase in the number of WWAMI participants who returned to Alaska to practice medicine. Nine of the ten student who entered the 1992 WWAMI class finished their training by year 2000 and seven of those have returned to Alaska to practice, for a return rate of 70% for that class.

Benchmark:

The average return rate for Alaska is 51.6% (much higher than the national average of 40%).

Measure: the number of patient visits provided to Alaskans through programs and physicians associated with the University of Washington School of Medicine WWAMI program;

Current Status:

In calendar year 2000, 57% of the returning students chose to practice medicine on a medically underserved area of Alaska. In actual numbers, seven students returned and 4 of those are practicing in an underserved area. This reflects no change from previous years.

Measure: the number of health-related programs developed in the state that are associated with WWAMI/UW; and

Current Status:

During calendar year 2000, there was a 29% increase in health related programs developed in Alaska by WWAMI/UW.

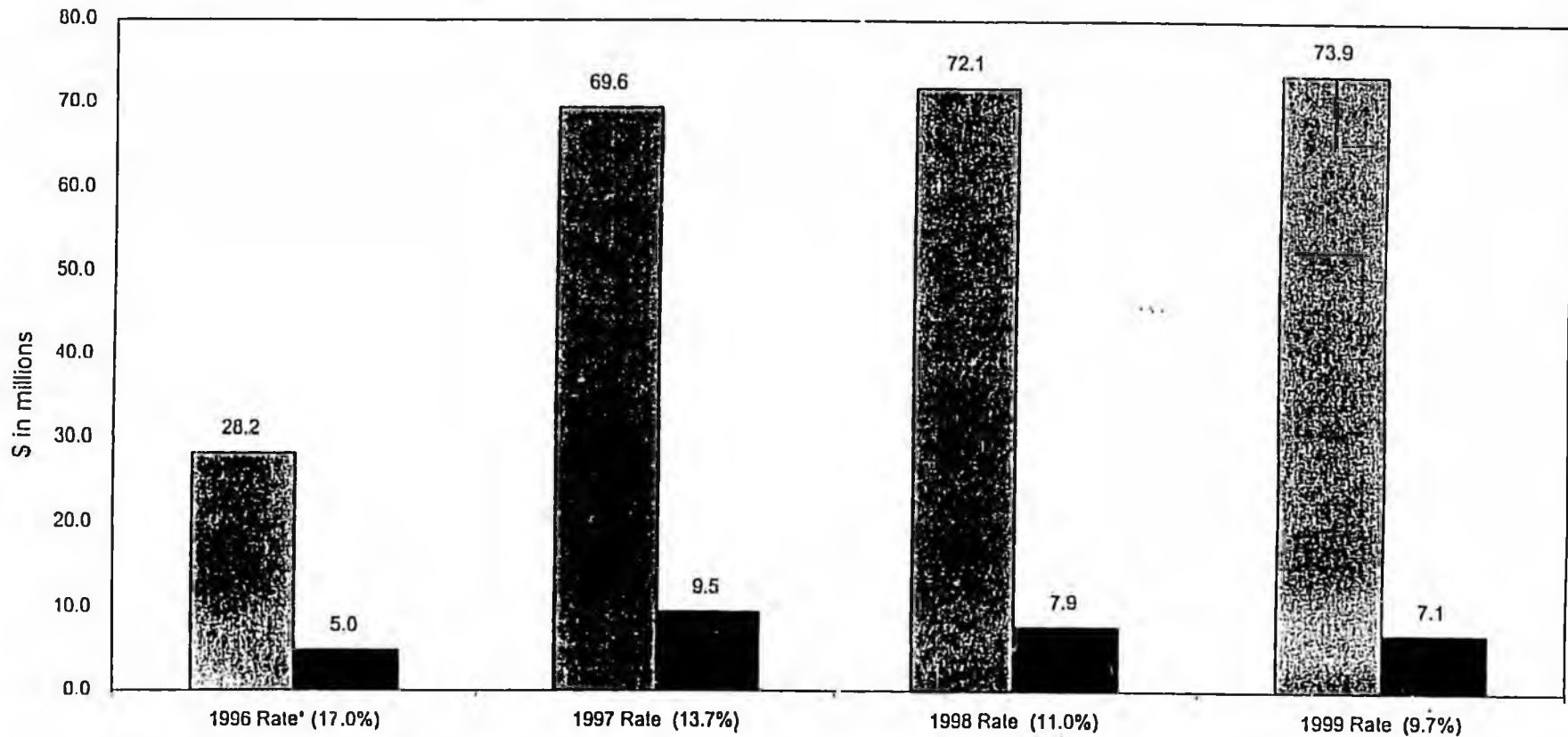
Measure: the number of research projects in or about the state associated with the University of Washington School of Medicine WWAMI program.

Current Status:

This year WWAMI faculty will receive approximately 40% increase in the research funding for the year 2000. The average amount of research funding per year is \$500,000. This year the amount increased to approximately \$700,000.

Alaska Student Loan Program Cohort Default Rates

Loans Beginning Repayment Loans Entering Default



Rates are calculated for specific groups of loans entering repayment in a given period. The default rate represents the loan value and percent in default at the end of the first year of repayment.

*Cohort rate calculation began in July 1996. Initial cohort represents only loans entering repayment during a six month period.