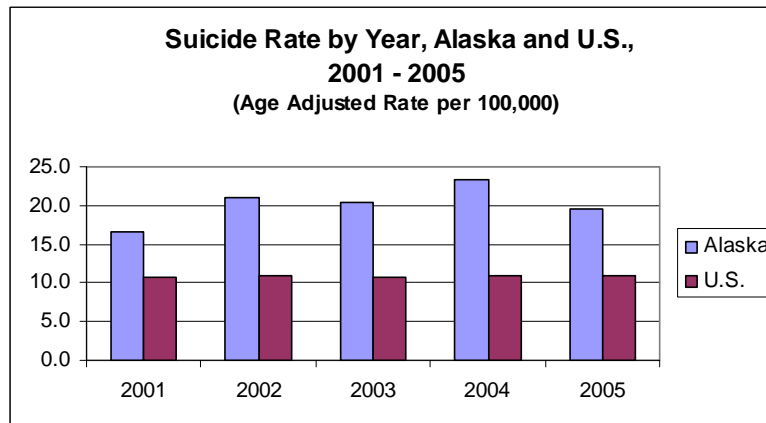


Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Health: Suicide

1. Drilldown Information — Suicide Rate per 100,000



Source: Alaska DHSS, Div. of Public Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Summary and Explanation:

- Between 2001 and 2005, the age-adjusted rate of death by suicide in Alaska averaged almost twice the U.S. rate.
- According to interviews with families of some of Alaska's suicide victims (*Alaska Suicide Follow-Back Study*¹):
 - More than half of the decedents had a disability or illness that made it difficult for them to take care of normal daily activities.
 - Almost two-thirds of decedents were reported to have had current prescriptions for mental health medications at the time of their death but many were not taking the medications as prescribed.
 - 43 percent of interviewees said the decedents drank alcohol daily and many said there was a high rate of binge drinking.
 - More than half of decedents had smoked marijuana in the past year.
 - The reported rate for alcohol and drug use by Alaska Natives was exactly the same as for non-Natives.
- Although Alaska Natives comprised only 16 percent of the population, they accounted for 39 percent of the suicides.²
- Between 1997 and 2006, the regions with the highest suicide rates were Nome census area, Northwest Arctic, and Bethel/Wade Hampton.³

Trend Data:

- [Suicide Rate per 100,000 by Year](#)

¹ Alaska Injury Prevention Center. (February, 2007) *Alaska Suicide Follow-back Study Final Report 2006*. The *Follow-back Study* was based on interviews about 56 suicide cases of the total 426 suicide cases during the reporting period of 9/1/03 to 8/31/06. There were proportionally fewer rural and Native cases than urban and non-Native cases interviewed.

² Ibid.

³ DHSS Division of Public Health Bureau of Vital Statistics

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The Alaska suicide rate is a key indicator because there is a concern that Trust beneficiaries are at higher risk, due to experiencing major life impairment from one or more clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status (including: schizophrenia; delusional (paranoid) disorder; mood disorders; anxiety disorders; somatoform disorders; organic mental disorders; personality disorders; dissociative disorders; and other psychotic or severe and persistent mental disorders manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms of comparable severity to those manifested by persons with (such) mental disorders, as well as substance abuse.) A.S. 47.30.056 (c-d).

Additional Information:

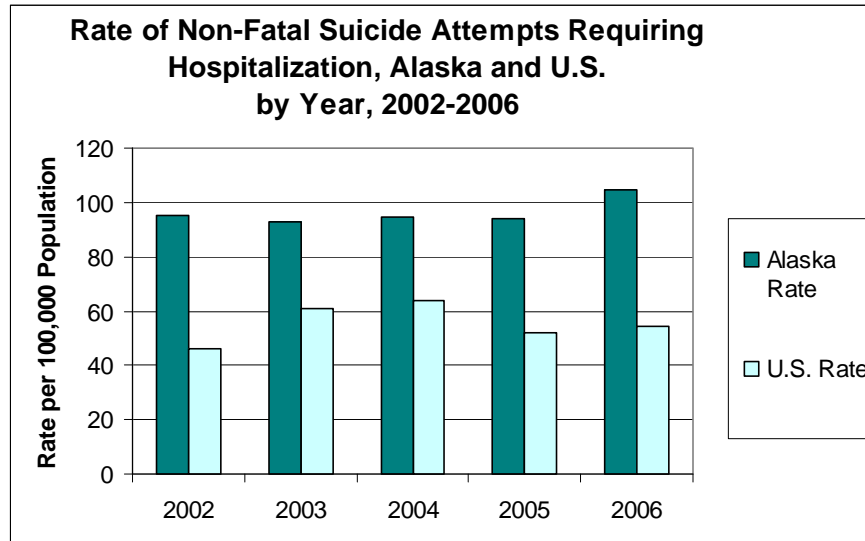
- [Map of Alaska Suicide Rates \(and Numbers\) by Region, 1997-2006](#)
- [Alaska Age-Specific Suicide Rates, 1996-2005](#)
- [Alaska Teen Suicides \(Ages 15-19\) by Year, 1999-2006](#)
- [Suicide Protective Factors](#)
- [Statewide Suicide Prevention Council Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2008](#)
- [Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps](#)
- [Continuum of Care Matrix for Alaskans with Mental Illness or Chronic Alcoholism](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Alaska Mental Health Board](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Health: Suicide

2. Drilldown Information — Non-fatal Suicide Attempts



Sources: DHSS DPH, Section of Injury Prevention and EMS, Alaska Trauma Registry and U.S. Centers for Disease Control WISQARS

Summary and Explanation:

- Alaska ranks number 2 in the nation for non-fatal suicide attempts requiring hospitalization for at least 24 hours.
- In Alaska between 2000 and 2005, non-fatal suicide attempts were almost twice as high among females as compared to males.
- In 2006, the number of attempts by males jumped to the highest in seven years.
- Alaska teens attempt suicide at a higher rate than other age groups
- Teenage girls attempt suicide at twice the rate as any other age group

Trend Data:

- [Non-fatal Suicide Attempts](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. (A.S.47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The rate of non-fatal suicide attempts is a key indicator because there is a concern that Trust beneficiaries are at higher risk, due to suffering a major life impairment from one or more clinical conditions defining beneficiary status (including: schizophrenia; delusional (paranoid) disorder; mood disorders; anxiety disorders; somatoform disorders; organic mental disorders; personality disorders; dissociative disorders; other psychotic or severe and persistent mental disorders manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms of comparable severity to those manifested by persons with (such) mental disorders, as well as substance abuse). A.S. 47.30.056 (c-d).

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Additional Information:

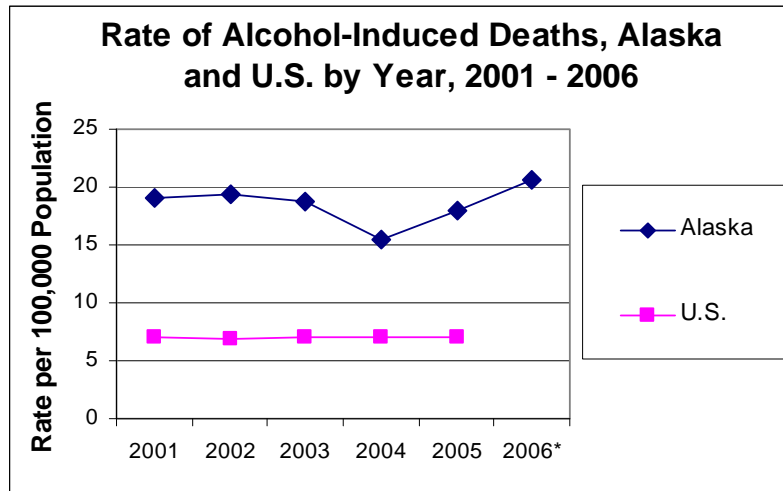
- [Attempted Suicide Rate by Age and Sex, Alaska, 2001-2005](#)
- [Suicide Protective factors](#)
- [Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps](#)
- [Continuum of Care Matrix for Alaskans with Mental Illness or Chronic Alcoholism](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Alaska Mental Health Board](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Health: Substance Abuse

3. Drilldown Information — Alcohol-induced Deaths per 100,000



Sources: Alaska data: [DHSS Division of Public Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics](#)
U.S. data: [CDC National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 56, Number 10, April 24, 2008.](#)
*U.S. data for 2006 is not yet available

Summary and Explanation:

- Since 2000, Alaska's rate of alcohol-induced deaths has consistently remained about 2.5 times higher than the U.S. rate.
- Alcohol-induced deaths include fatalities from alcoholic psychoses, alcohol dependence syndrome, non-dependent abuse of alcohol, alcohol-induced chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and alcohol poisoning.
- The rate of alcohol-induced deaths in Alaska increased 16 percent between 2005 and 2006.
- On average, 14.2 years of productive life were lost for each alcohol-induced death in Alaska in 2005.⁴
- Nearly half of the alcohol-induced deaths were by Alaska Natives.⁵

Trend Data:

- [Rate of alcohol-induced deaths in Alaska, 2000-2006](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- Alcohol-induced deaths is a key indicator because many of these deaths are of persons with one or more clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status, including: alcohol withdrawal delirium (delirium tremens); alcohol hallucinosis; alcohol amnestic disorder; dementia associated with alcoholism; alcohol-induced organic mental disorder; alcoholic

⁴ DHSS Division of Public Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics 2005 Annual Report.

⁵ Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

depressive disorder; and other severe and persistent disorders associated with a history of prolonged or excessive drinking or episodes of drinking out of control and manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms similar to those manifested by persons with (such) disorders. A.S. 47.30.056 (c) and (f).

Additional Information:

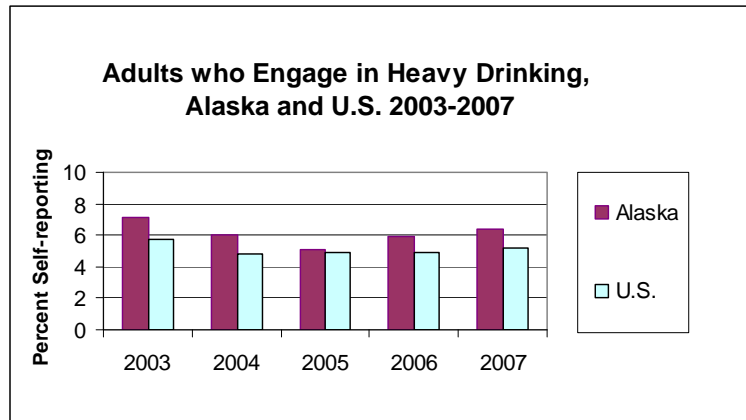
- [Adults who Engage in Heavy Drinking, Alaska and U.S., 2003-2007](#)
- [Adults who Engage in Binge Drinking, Alaska and U.S., 2003-2007](#)
- [Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps](#)
- [Continuum of Care Matrix for Alaskans with Mental Illness or Chronic Alcoholism](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Health: Substance Abuse

4. Drilldown Information — Adults who Engage in Heavy Drinking



Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and Centers for Disease Control

Summary and Explanation:

- In 2007, 6% of Alaskans were classified as “heavy drinkers”, meaning that men drank an average of more than two alcohol drinks per day and women drank an average of more than one drink per day⁶
- Alaskans age 65 years and older were classified as heavy drinkers significantly less often than respondents ages 45 to 54 years or those ages 25 to 34 years⁷
- No differences were found in the prevalence of heavy drinking by sex, race, education, income level, or region⁸
- Alaska ranks number 8 in the U.S. for heavy drinking (2007)⁹
- The number of drinks in the “heavy drinking” definition are the levels at which Centers for Disease Control found that mortality increases¹⁰

Trend Data:

- [Adults who Engage in Heavy Drinking, Alaska and U.S., 2003-2007](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The rate of adults who engage in heavy drinking is a key indicator because these persons experience, or are at heightened risk of experiencing, major life impairment from one or more clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status, including: alcohol withdrawal delirium (delirium tremens); alcohol hallucinosis; alcohol amnestic disorder; dementia associated with alcoholism; alcohol-induced organic mental disorder; alcoholic depressive

⁶ *Health Risks in Alaska among Adults: Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Survey 2007 Annual Report*, page 23. (August 2008).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Centers for Disease Control BRFSS Program

¹⁰ Email communication with AK DHSS DPH BRFSS program (12/16/08)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

disorder; and other severe and persistent disorders associated with a history of prolonged or excessive drinking or episodes of drinking out of control and manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms similar to those manifested by persons with (such) disorders. A.S. 47.30.056 (c) and (f).

Additional Information:

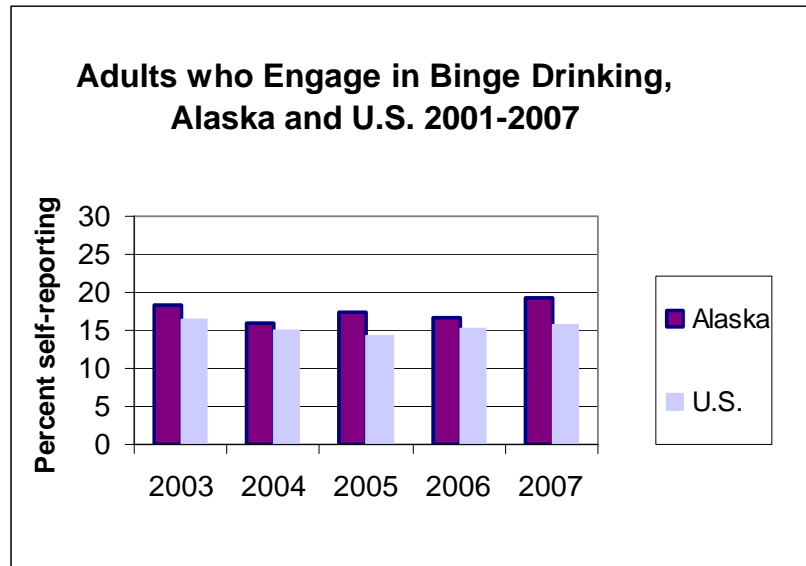
- [Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps](#)
- [Continuum of Care Matrix for Alaskans with Mental Illness or Chronic Alcoholism](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Health: Substance Abuse

5. Drilldown Information — Adults who Engage in Binge Drinking



Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and [Centers for Disease Control](#)

Summary and Explanation:

- Alaska ranks number 6 in the U.S. for binge drinking (2007)¹¹
- Definition of binge drinking: 5 or more drinks (men) or 4 or more drinks (women) on one or more occasions in the past 30 days¹²
- Males were significantly more likely than females to report binge drinking¹³
- Alaskans between the ages of 25 and 34 years reported more binge drinking than those in older age groups¹⁴
- Alaska Native and non-Native binge drinking rates did not differ significantly in 2007¹⁵
- In 2007, there were no significant regional difference in the prevalence of binge drinking¹⁶
- Previous to 2006, binge drinking was defined as 5 or more drinks on one occasion for both men and women¹⁷

Trend Data:

- [Adults who Engage in Binge Drinking, 2003-2007](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement

¹¹ Centers for Disease Control

¹² *Health Risks in Alaska among Adults: Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Survey 2007 Annual Report* (August 2008), page 23.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).

- The rate of adults who engage in binge drinking is a key indicator because these persons experience, or are at heightened risk of experiencing, major life impairment from with one or more clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status, including: alcohol withdrawal delirium (delirium tremens); alcohol hallucinosis; alcohol amnestic disorder; dementia associated with alcoholism; alcohol-induced organic mental disorder; alcoholic depressive disorder; and other severe and persistent disorders associated with a history of prolonged or excessive drinking or episodes of drinking out of control and manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms similar to those manifested by persons with (such) disorders. A.S. 47.30.056 (c) and (f).

Additional Information:

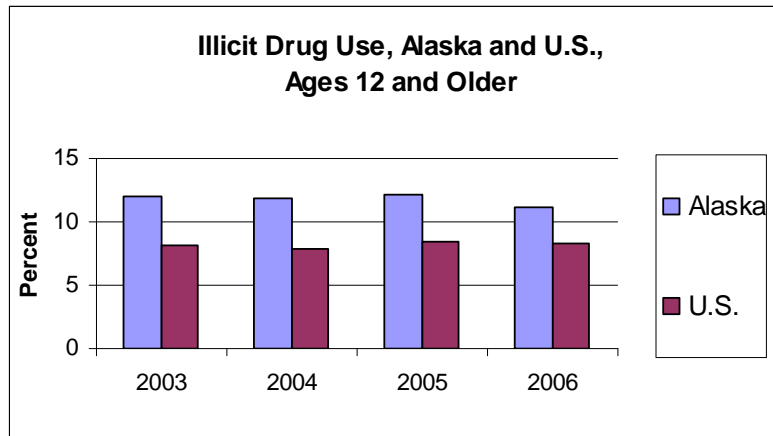
- [Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps](#)
- [Continuum of Care Matrix for Alaskans with Mental Illness or Chronic Alcoholism](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Health: Substance Abuse

6. Drilldown Information — Illicit Drug Users



Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Summary and Explanation:

- Alaska ranks number 2 in the U.S. for illicit drug use.¹⁸
- Illicit Drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used non-medically.¹⁹
- Alaskans ages 18 to 25 have the highest rates of illicit drug use; their rate is twice as high as the 12 to 17 age group and almost three times as high as the 26 and older age group.²⁰
- Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug.²¹

Trend Data:

- [Illicit Drug Use, Alaska and U.S., 2003-2006](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The rate of illicit drug use by Alaskans 12 and older is a key indicator because individuals who use illicit drugs can experience, or be at heightened risk of experiencing, major life impairment from with one or more clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status, including: schizophrenia; delusional (paranoid) disorder; mood disorders; anxiety disorders; somatoform disorders; organic mental disorders; personality disorders; dissociative disorders; and other psychotic or severe and persistent mental disorders manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms of comparable severity to those manifested by persons with (such) mental disorders. A.S. 47.30.056 (c-d).

¹⁸ SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Additional Information:

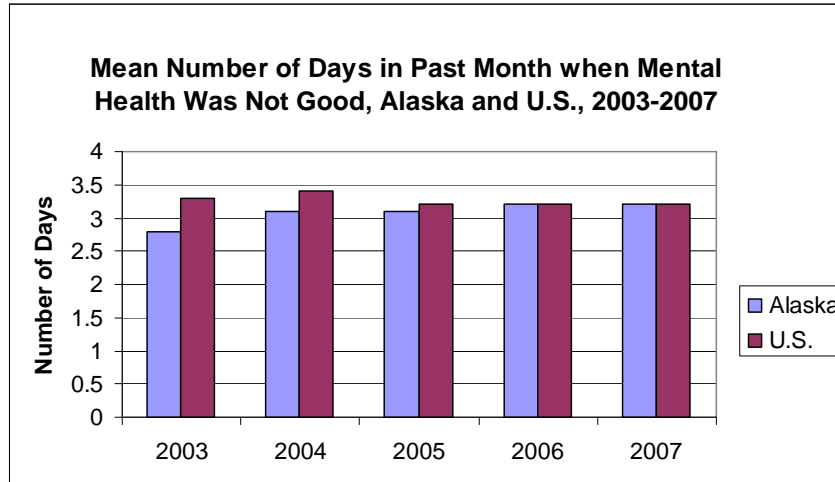
- [Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps](#)
- [Continuum of Care Matrix for Alaskans with Mental Illness or Chronic Alcoholism](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Health: Mental Health

7. Drilldown Information — Days of Poor Mental Health in Past Month



Source: AK DHSS Div. of Public Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)

Summary and Explanation:

- Ten percent of Alaskan adults reported frequent mental distress in 2007, defined as 14 days or more in the past 30 days when their mental health was not good.²²
- Ninety-three percent of respondents in 2007 reported that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their lives; 81% reported that they usually or always got the social and emotional support they needed.²³
- In 2007, 10% of Alaskans reported currently taking medicine or receiving treatment for a mental health condition.²⁴
- The 2007 BRFSS included questions on the stigma of mental illness. Ninety-three percent of Alaskans agreed either slightly or strongly that treatment can help people with mental illness lead normal lives. Sixty-one percent agreed slightly or strongly that people are generally caring to people with mental illness.²⁵

Trend Data:

- [Days of Poor Mental Health in Past Month](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The rate of days with poor mental health is a key indicator because there is a concern that persons experiencing days of poor mental health are experiencing, or are at heightened risk of experiencing, major life impairment from with one or more clinical conditions defining

²² *Health Risks in Alaska among Adults: Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Survey 2007 Annual Report* (August 2008), page 18.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Trust beneficiary status, including: schizophrenia; delusional (paranoid) disorder; mood disorders; anxiety disorders; somatoform disorders; organic mental disorders; personality disorders; dissociative disorders; other psychotic or severe and persistent mental disorders manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms of comparable severity to those manifested by persons with (such) mental disorders; primary degenerative dementia of the Alzheimer type; multi-infarct dementia; senile dementia; presenile dementia; and other severe and persistent mental disorders manifested by behaviors and symptoms similar to those manifested by persons with (such) disorders. A.S. 47.30.056 (c), (d) and (g).

Additional Information:

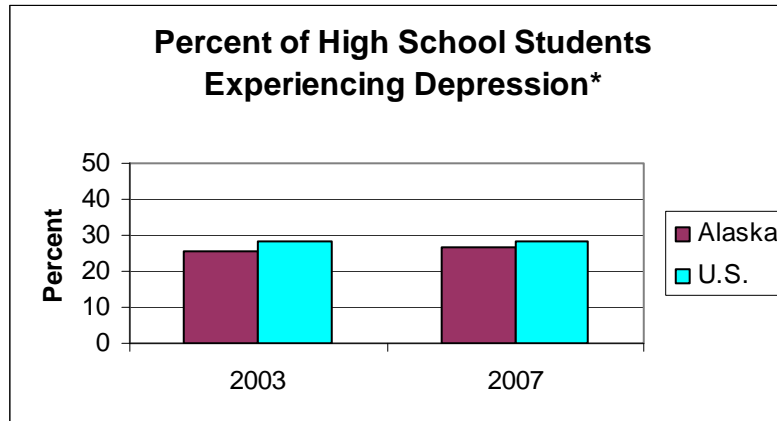
- [Days of Poor Mental Health in Past Month by Age Group, 2007](#)
- [Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps](#)
- [Continuum of Care Matrix for Alaskans with Mental Illness or Chronic Alcoholism](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Alaska Mental Health Board](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Health: Mental Health

8. Drilldown Information — Teens who Experienced Depression during Past Year



* Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during past 12 months

Source: AK DHSS Div. of Public Health, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)²⁶

Summary and Explanation:

- This chart shows the percent of high school students who felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during past 12 months.

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The percent of high school students experiencing depression is a key indicator because of a concern that they experience, or are at risk of experiencing, major life impairment from one or more clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status, including: schizophrenia; delusional (paranoid) disorder; mood disorders; anxiety disorders; somatoform disorders; organic mental disorders; personality disorders; dissociative disorders; alcohol depressive disorder; other psychotic or severe and persistent disorders manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms of comparable severity to those manifested by persons with (such) mental disorders; alcohol withdrawal delirium (delirium tremens); alcohol hallucinosis; alcohol amnestic disorder; dementia associated with alcoholism; alcohol-induced organic mental disorder; alcoholic depressive disorder; and other severe and persistent disorders associated with a history of prolonged or excessive drinking or episodes of drinking out of

²⁶ The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a national survey developed by the Division of Adolescent and School Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with 71 state and local departments of education and 19 federal agencies. The survey is a component of a larger national effort to assess priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of mortality, morbidity and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. These results are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of programs in reducing negative student behaviors. The survey provides valuable information about positive behaviors among students. In Alaska, survey participation requires parental consent.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

control and manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms similar to those manifested by persons with (such) disorders. A.S. 47.30.056 (c), (d) and (f).

Additional Information:

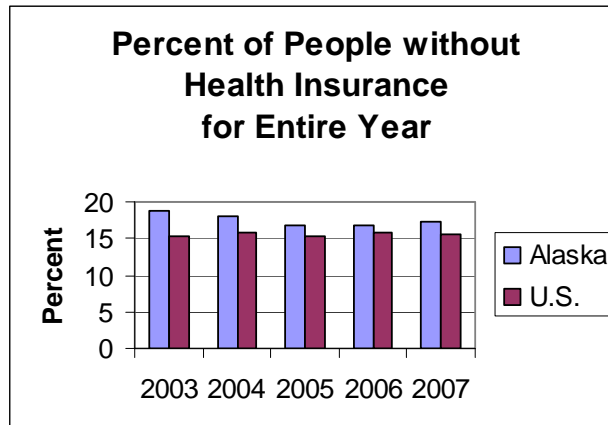
- [Youth Connectedness at Levels of Family, School, and Community - Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2007 Report](#)
- [Suicidal ideation/attempts from Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#)
- Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps
- Continuum of Care Matrix for Alaskans with Mental Illness or Chronic Alcoholism
- Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health
- Alaska Mental Health Board

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Health: Access

9. Drilldown Information — Population without Health Insurance



Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60 Series, *Consumer Income*

Summary and Explanation:

- Over 17% of the Alaska population was counted as uninsured in 2007²⁷
- People most likely to be uninsured are those who are
 - Self-employed
 - Part-time workers
 - Seasonal workers and/or
 - People who work for small firms
 - Young adult males²⁸
- More than half of the uninsured work for small firms²⁹

Trend Data:

- [Population without Health Insurance](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The percent of people without health insurance for the entire year is a key indicator because those without health insurance who experience one or more clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status cannot access, or have significant difficulty accessing, reasonable levels of necessary services authorized by Alaska Statute, including: emergency services; screening examination and evaluation services; inpatient care; crisis stabilization services; treatment services; dispensing of psychotropic and other medication; detoxification; therapy and aftercare; case management; development of individualized treatment plans; daily living skills training; socialization activities; recreation; transportation; day care support;

²⁷ US Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60 Series, *Consumer Income*

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

residential services; crisis or respite care; services provide via group homes, halfway houses or supervised apartments; intermediate care; long-term care; in-home care; vocational services; outpatient screening, diagnosis, and treatment; individual, family, and group psychotherapy, counseling, and referral; and prevention and education services. A.S. 47.30.056(b-i).

Additional Information:

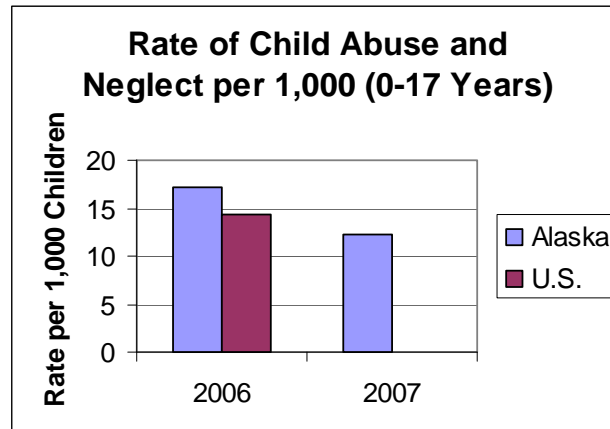
- [Alaska's State Planning Grant to Identify Options for Expanding Coverage for Alaska's Uninsured \(AK DHSS DPH Section of Health Planning and Systems Development\)](#)
- [Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan Results Area: Health](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Safety: Protection

10. Drilldown Information — Children Abused and Neglected



Source: DHSS Division of Children's Services, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Coordinator (email correspondence with S. Pittz, October, 2008)

Summary and Explanation:

- The chart represents the number of Alaska's children who were substantiated with the DHSS Division of Children's Services as victims of child abuse and neglect (physical abuse, mental injury, neglect, or sexual abuse). Counted in this data are children who had a report of harm which was investigated and harm substantiated.
- Alaska's rate of child abuse and neglect is number 6 in the U.S.³⁰
- Childhood maltreatment has been linked to a variety of changes in brain structure and function and stress-responsive neurobiological systems.³¹
- The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study provided evidence that adverse childhood experiences cast a major shadow on health and well-being in peoples' lives even 50 years later. "Adverse childhood experiences" include repeated physical abuse; chronic emotional abuse; and growing up in a household where someone was alcoholic or a drug user; a member was imprisoned; a mother was treated violently; someone was mentally ill, chronically depressed, or suicidal; or parents were separated or divorced during childhood.³²

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The rate of child abuse and neglect is a key indicator because a significant amount of child abuse and neglect is committed by persons suffering major life impairment from one or

³⁰ U.S. DHHS, Administration for Children and Families, Table 3-3 Disposition and Rate of Victims, Child Maltreatment 2006

³¹ Anda RF, Felitti VJ, Bremner JD, Walker JD, Whitfield C, Perry BD, Dube SR, and Giles WH, (November 29, 2005). The enduring effects of abuse and related adverse experiences in childhood: a convergence of evidence from neurobiology and epidemiology. *Eur Arch Psychiatry Clin Neurosci*.

³² 26. Felitti, Vincent J. MD; Anda, Robert F. MD. (December 2003). WHO Abstract of ACE Study Presentation, Forum 7, Geneva.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

more clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status. It is also an important indicator because child abuse and neglect often results in the victim experiencing major life impairment from one or more clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status, both in childhood as well as later in life. (See A.S. 47.30.056 (c-f)).

Additional Information:

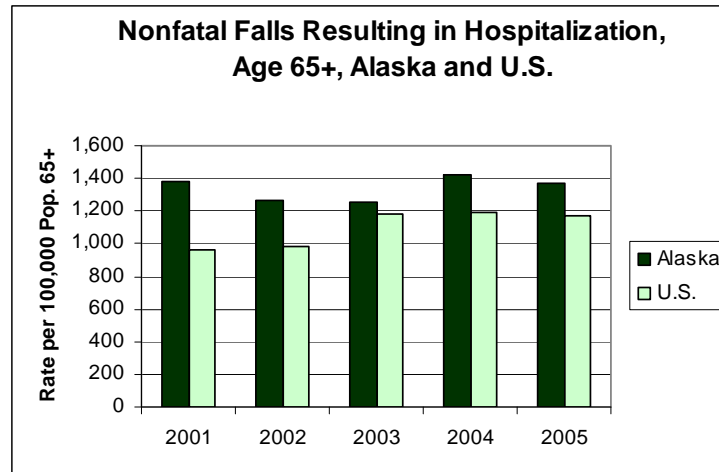
- Number of Children with a Protective Service Report of Harm by Maltreatment Type
- Rate of Repeat Maltreatment of Children, Alaska, 2002-2007
- Reports of physical injury, sexual assault, and threats/injuries by weapon at school from 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps
- Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Children's Services

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Safety: Protection

11. Drilldown Information — Injuries to Elders due to Falls



Source: AK DHSS Division of Public Health, Section of Injury Prevention and EMS, Alaska Trauma Registry (email correspondence with T. Ali, 8/12/08)

Summary and Explanation:

- The rate of hospitalized falls by elders is consistently higher in Alaska than it is in the U.S.³³
- Falls are the leading cause of nonfatal injury in the elderly and are Alaska's leading cause of hospitalization for traumatic brain injury.³⁴

Trend Data:

- [Injuries to Elders due to Falls](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The rate of non-fatal falls resulting in hospitalization in persons 65 and over is a key indicator because there is a concern that these falls are disproportionately suffered by persons experiencing clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status, including: primary degenerative dementia of the Alzheimer type; multi-infarct dementia; senile dementia; presenile dementia; other severe and persistent mental disorders manifested by behaviors and symptoms similar to those manifested by persons with (such) disorders. A.S. 47.30.056(c), (g). It is also a key indicator because these falls are a major cause of severe organic brain impairment—a clinical condition defining Trust beneficiary status. A.S. 47.30.056 (e).

³³ CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, *WISQARS Nonfatal Injury Reports*.

³⁴ Alaska Brain Injury Network (emails 5/12/08, 6/13/08).

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Additional Information:

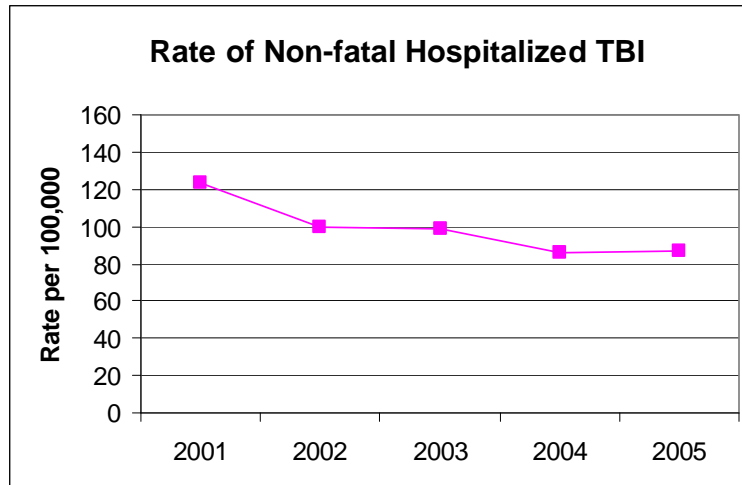
- [Rate of Non-fatal Traumatic Brain Injury per 100,000](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Section of Injury Prevention and EMS](#)
- [Alaska Commission on Aging](#)
- [Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Safety: Protection

12. Drilldown Information — Rate of Non-fatal Traumatic Brain Injury per 100,000



Source: Alaska DHSS Division of Public Health, Section of Injury Prevention and EMS, Alaska Trauma Registry (email correspondence with T. Ali)

Summary and Explanation:

- It is estimated that 11,900 Alaskans, or 1.8 percent of the population, live with Traumatic Brain Injury.³⁵
- The rate of Traumatic Brain Injury has fluctuated over time but appears to be declining since 2001.
- The top three causes of traumatic brain injury in Alaska are falls, motor vehicle accidents, and assault.³⁶
- The TBI rate due to motor vehicle crashes on the highway decreased 38 percent between 2001 and 2005.³⁷
- One-third of TBI's are alcohol related.³⁸
- Alaskan males are twice as likely to suffer TBI than females.³⁹
- The highest rates of TBI are among Alaska Natives, residents of rural Alaska, youth ages 15 to 19, and elders.⁴⁰
- The highest rates of TBI occur in the Northwest, North Slope, Norton Sound, and the rural Interior regions.⁴¹
- Sixty-nine percent of Alaskans with TBI from all-terrain vehicles or snow machines were not wearing a helmet.⁴²

³⁵ Univ. of AK Center for Human Development (2003). *The Alaska Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Planning Grant Needs and Resources Assessment, June 2001 – January, 2003* and Alaska Brain Injury Network director

³⁶ [Alaska Brain Injury Network](#) Executive Director (correspondence 1/8/09).

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

- Fifty-six percent of Alaskans with TBI resulting from car, van or truck crashes were not wearing seat belts.⁴³

Trend Data:

- [Rate of Non-fatal Traumatic Brain Injury per 100,000](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The rate of non-fatal traumatic brain injury is a key indicator because TBI is a major cause of severe organic brain impairment, a clinical condition defining Trust beneficiary status. A.S. 47.30.056 (e).

Additional Information:

- [Alaska Brain Injury Network](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Section of Injury Prevention and EMS](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavior Health, Brain Injury Initiative](#)
- [Examples of Current Initiatives, Projects, and Activities That Fill Service Gaps](#)

⁴³ Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Safety: Justice

13. Drilldown Information — Percent of Incarcerated Adults with Mental Illness or Mental Disabilities

Summary and Explanation:

- Nationwide, people with mental illness and cognitive impairments have been over-represented in the criminal justice system compared to their prevalence in society. Of the adults incarcerated in the Alaska correctional system, approximately 42 percent are Trust beneficiaries with mental illness and/or mental disabilities, mostly incarcerated for misdemeanors.⁴⁴
- By default, the Alaska Department of Corrections has become the largest provider of mental health services in the State of Alaska.⁴⁵
- Alaska has the highest growth rate for incarceration per capita in the USA.⁴⁶
- Between July 1, 2007 and June, 2008, there were 2147 youth on supervision with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Juvenile Justice, and over 40 percent of them had at least one Axis 1 diagnosis, under DSM-IV-TR (clinical disorders & other conditions that may be a focus of clinical attention). Of the 40 percent, over half also had a co-occurring disorder (substance related disorder accompanied by a mental health disorder).⁴⁷

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The percent of incarcerated adults with mental illness or mental disabilities is a key indicator because it illustrates the magnitude and effects of major life impairments suffered by persons who experience clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status. A.S. 47.30.056(b-c). It is also a key indicator because it illustrates the significant economic costs related to mental health with regard to incarceration of Trust beneficiaries. Finally, it is a key indicator because it highlights the need for and economic benefits of timely provision (i.e., prior to the need for incarceration) of reasonable levels of necessary services for people at risk due to mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and/or traumatic brain injury. Services to be provided include alcoholism services; housing support services; and vocational services, including prevocational services, work adjustment, supported work, sheltered work, and training in which participants achieve useful work experience. A.S. 47.30.056(i)(1) and (i)(2)(I).

Additional Information:

- [Trust Disability Justice Focus Area](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Juvenile Justice](#)
- [Alaska Mental Health Board](#)
- [Alaska Department of Corrections](#)

⁴⁴ Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. (December, 2007). *A Study of Trust Beneficiaries in the Alaska Department of Corrections.*

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ DHSS Division of Juvenile Justice (email communication with K. Forrest 6/23/08)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Safety: Justice

14. Drilldown Information — Criminal Recidivism Rates for Incarcerated Adults with Mental Illness or Mental Disabilities

Summary and Explanation:

- The criminal recidivism rate of Trust beneficiaries is 36 percent, and the rate for other offenders released from Alaska Department of Corrections is 22 percent.⁴⁸
- Beneficiaries are more likely to recidivate sooner and spend more time in ADOC custody.⁴⁹
- Inmates with severe mental illness were less likely to recidivate than inmates with mild mental illness or substance-related disorders, who had a far higher rate of recidivism.⁵⁰

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- Criminal recidivism rates for incarcerated adults with mental illness or mental disabilities are a key indicator because they illustrates the nature and magnitude of major life impairments suffered by persons who experience clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status. A.S. 47.30.056(b-c). They are also a key indicator because they illustrate the significant economic costs related to mental health with regard to incarceration of Trust beneficiaries. Finally, they are a key indicator because they highlight the need for and economic benefits of timely provision (i.e., during and immediately following release from incarceration) of reasonable levels of necessary services for people at risk due to mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and/or traumatic brain injury. Services to be provided include alcoholism services, housing support services, and vocational services, including prevocational services, work adjustment, supported work, sheltered work, and training in which participants achieve useful work experience. A.S. 47.30.056(i)(1) and (i)(2)(I).

Additional Information:

- [Alaska Judicial Council \(January 2007\) *Criminal Recidivism in Alaska*](#)
- [Alaska Judicial Council \(February 2007\) *Recidivism in Alaska's Felony Therapeutic Courts*](#)
- [Trust *Disability Justice* Focus Area](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Juvenile Justice](#)
- [Alaska Mental Health Board](#)
- [Alaska Department of Corrections](#)

⁴⁸ Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. (December, 2007). *A Study of Trust Beneficiaries in the Alaska Department of Corrections.*

⁴⁹ Ibid.

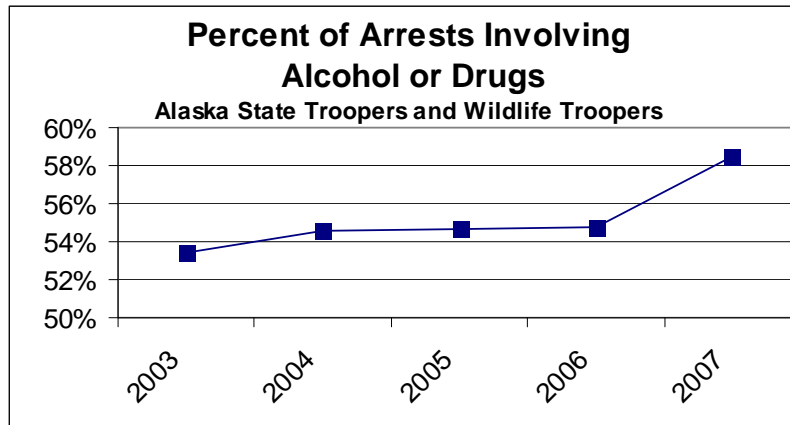
⁵⁰ Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Safety: Justice

15. Drilldown Information — Percent of Arrests Involving Alcohol or Drugs



Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) case data for AK Dept of Public Safety Division of AK State Troopers and Wildlife Troopers (email communication with A. Holloway 11/5/08)

Summary and Explanation:

- Data includes arrest offenses with Division of AK State Troopers or Wildlife Troopers that were flagged as being related to alcohol and/or drugs.⁵¹
- Out of a total of 78,048 arrests by State Troopers in the last 10 years, 40,957 (52%) were flagged as being related to alcohol and/or drugs.⁵²
- The data may be underreported because many offenses could be committed while under the influence of drugs or alcohol but not flagged for this. Also this data does not include charges by municipalities within the state, which are the source of most incarcerations.⁵³

Trend Data:

- [Percent of Arrests Involving Alcohol or Drugs](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The percent of arrests involving alcohol or drugs is a key indicator because it illustrates the magnitude and effects of major life impairments suffered by persons who experience clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status. A.S. 47.30.056(b-c). It is also a key indicator because it illustrates the significant costs related to mental health with regard to Public Safety resources. Finally, it is a key indicator because it highlights the need for and economic benefits of timely provision (i.e., prior to the need for arrest) of reasonable levels of necessary services for people at risk due to mental illness, substance abuse,

⁵¹ Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) case data for AK Dept of Public Safety Division of AK State Troopers and Wildlife Troopers (per email A. Holloway 11/5/08)

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Personal communication with AK Dept of Corrections (C. Patrick-Riley, 12/17/08)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

developmental disabilities, and/or Traumatic Brain Injury. A.S. 47.30.056(i)(1) and (i)(2)(I).

Additional Information:

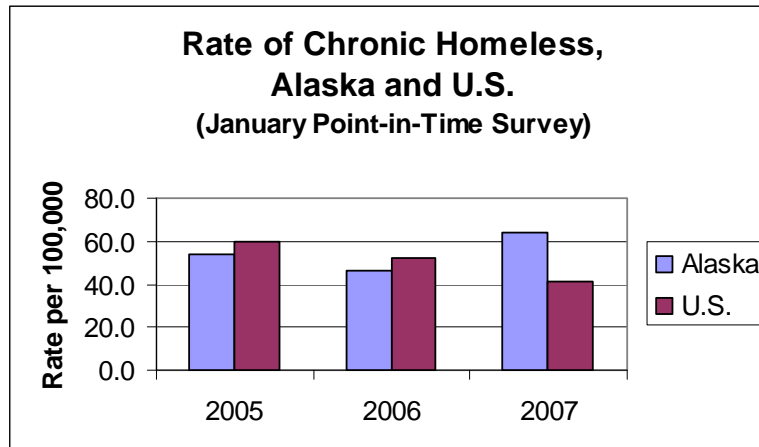
- [Trust *Disability Justice* Focus Area](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Alaska Department of Corrections](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Living with Dignity: Accessible, Affordable Housing

16. Drilldown Information — Rate of Chronic Homelessness, Alaska and U.S.



Source: [Alaska Housing Finance Corporation](#) Annual Point-in-Time Survey (email correspondence with K. Duncan, 11/20/08); U.S. data from HUD News Release HUD No. 08-113, July 29, 2008

Summary and Explanation:

- A chronically homeless person is defined as a disabled individual who has been continuously homeless for more than one year or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.⁵⁴
- The homeless survey is administered as a "Point-in-Time" count, on a specified day during the last week in January of each year. Most of the enumerators are staff from agencies that serve the homeless, including shelter providers, public health nurses, homeless school liaisons, behavioral health workers, and food bank employees. Students, church volunteers and homeless alumni are also recruited to canvass places frequented by homeless persons. The information is entered into a central data bank where duplicates are identified and eliminated.⁵⁵
- The spike in the 2008 Alaska data could be attributed to three things: (1) the loss of substance abuse treatment beds; (2) "Project Homeless Connect," a one-day, one-stop service fair for the homeless held in Anchorage which brought more people out of the shadows to be counted, and (3) new information received from Immaculate Conception Church's Breadline soup kitchen in Fairbanks.⁵⁶
- The 2007 U.S. "snapshot" shows a drop in the number of chronically homeless persons and in homelessness generally. Comparing the national number of chronically homeless individuals from year to year should be done with caution. Declines can be attributed to several factors including increased funding from HUD and other sources for permanent supportive housing, improved data collection and reporting, and variation in the number of communities reporting these data on an annual basis. Still, these snapshot counts offer communities a powerful tool to gauge their homeless challenge and to create innovative housing solutions in response.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Alaska Housing Finance Corp. (email communication with K. Duncan 9/16/08)

⁵⁵ Alaska Housing Finance Corp. (email communication with K. Duncan 11/28/08)

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ HUD News Release HUD No. 08-113, (July 29, 2008)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Trend Data:

- [Rate of Chronic Homelessness, Alaska and U.S.](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The rate of chronic homelessness is a key indicator because it illustrates the magnitude and effects of major life impairments suffered by persons who experience clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status. A.S. 47.30.056(b-c). It is also a key indicator because it highlights the need for and potential benefits of timely provision of reasonable levels of necessary services for people at risk due to mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and/or brain injury. Services to be provided include alcoholism services, housing support services, and vocational services, including prevocational services, work adjustment, supported work, sheltered work, and training in which participants achieve useful work experience. A.S. 47.30.056(i)(1) and (i)(2)(I).

Additional Information:

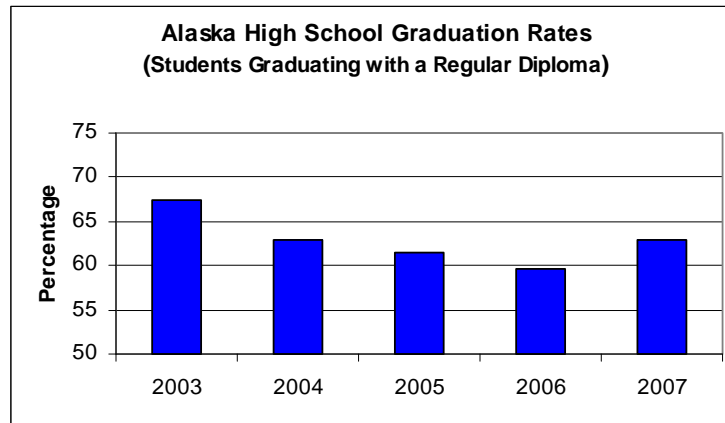
- [Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan Results Area: *Living with Dignity*](#)
- [Estimated Number of Homeless Alaskans by Year, 1998 – 2007](#)
- [Table E-1: Alaska Rent-Wage Disparity by Census Area, 2007](#)
- [Trust Affordable Appropriate Housing Focus Area](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Living with Dignity: Educational Goals

17. Drilldown Information — High School Graduation Rates



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Statistics and Reports

Summary and Explanation:

- Alaska loses a significant number of students over their four years of high school. Reasons for discontinuing school include pursuing a GED, entering the military, becoming employed, facing family problems, illness, pregnancy, or alcohol/drug dependency, failing, truancy, being expelled due to behavior, transferring to non-district sponsored home schooling, or leaving for unknown reasons without a formal request for transfer of records.⁵⁸
- Comparable graduation data for the U.S. is not available because currently there is not a uniform method to assess graduation rates in the various states.⁵⁹

Trend Data:

- [High School Graduation Rates](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The high school graduation rate is a key indicator because it illustrates the magnitude and effects of major life impairments suffered by persons who experience clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status. A.S. 47.30.056(b-c). It is also a key indicator because it highlights the need for and potential benefits of timely provision of reasonable levels of necessary services for youth at risk due to mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and/or brain injury. A.S. 47.30.056(i)(1) and (i)(2)(I).

⁵⁸ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Division of Teaching and Learning Support, Assessment and Accountability (email correspondence with K. Lipson, 10/16/06)

⁵⁹ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (email correspondence with E. McCormick, 9/16/08)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Additional Information:

- High School Graduation Rates for Students Receiving Special Education Compared with Students Not Receiving Special Education
- Grade 10 Students Passing Qualifying Exams: Students Receiving Special Education and Students Not Receiving Special Education

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Living with Dignity: Educational Goals

18. Drilldown Information —

Percent of Youth who Received Special Education who are Employed and/or Enrolled in Post-secondary Education One Year after Leaving School

Summary and Explanation:

- This indicator tracks outcomes of youth who had Individualized Education Plans and have exited secondary school.
- In 2006, 68.4 percent of Alaskan youth in this category became competitively employed and/or enrolled in some type of post-secondary school, within one year after leaving high school. This includes students who dropped out or aged out of high school.⁶⁰

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The percent of youth who received special education who are employed and/or enrolled in post-secondary education one year after leaving school is a key indicator because it illustrates the magnitude and effects of major life impairments suffered by many persons who experience clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status. A.S. 47.30.056(b-c). It is also a key indicator because it highlights the need for and potential benefits of timely provision of reasonable levels of necessary services for people at risk due to mental illness, developmental disabilities, and/or brain injury. Services to be provided include alcoholism services; housing support services; and vocational services, including prevocational services, work adjustment, supported work, sheltered work, and training in which participants achieve useful work experience. A.S. 47.30.056(i)(1) and (i)(2)(I).

Additional Information:

- [Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan Results Area: Living with Dignity](#)
- [High School Graduation Rates for Students Receiving Special Education Compared with Students Not Receiving Special Education](#)
- [Grade 10 Students Passing Qualifying Exams: Students Receiving Special Education and Students Not Receiving Special Education](#)
- [Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education](#)
- [Continuum of Care Matrix for Alaskans with Developmental Disabilities](#)

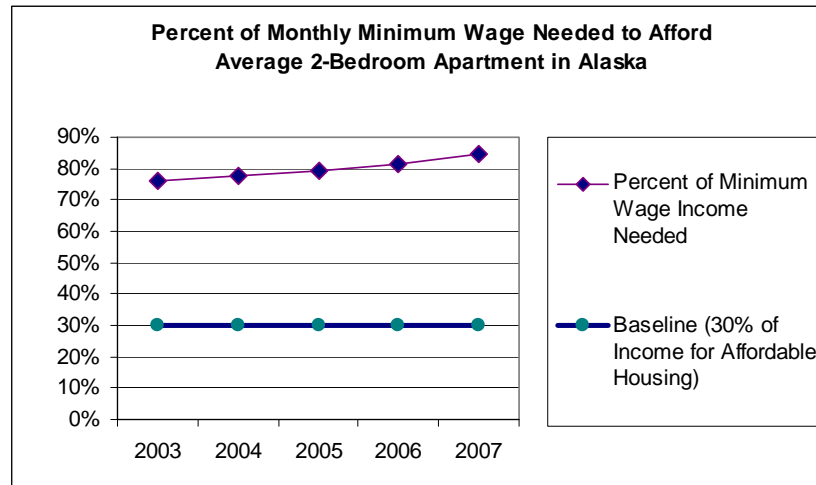
⁶⁰ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (Rev. April 11, 2008). [State Performance Plan for 2005 – 2010](#), pages 77-79.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Economic Security

19. Drilldown Information — Percent of Minimum Wage Income Needed for Average 2-Bedroom Housing in Alaska



Summary and Explanation:

- The amount of minimum wage income needed to afford housing in Alaska has risen steadily between 2003 and 2007, as housing costs have increased and the minimum wage has stayed the same.⁶¹
- An Alaskan earning minimum wage (\$7.15 per hour) would need to work 104 hours per week, 52 weeks per year to afford an average 2-bedroom apartment in Alaska.⁶²
- A housing unit is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of one's income.⁶³
- The current Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in Alaska is \$970. In order to afford this, a household must earn a "Housing Wage" of \$18.65, assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.⁶⁴
- Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$637 in Alaska. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, affordable rent (30% of \$637) is \$191. However, the Fair Market Value for a one-bedroom rental is \$772.⁶⁵

Trend Data:

- [Percent of Minimum Wage Income Needed for Average 2-bedroom Housing in Alaska](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).

⁶¹ Summary of Alaska Wage and Hour Act (minimum wage was raised 1/1/03)

⁶² [National Low Income Housing Coalition "Out of Reach" reports](#)

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

- The percent of minimum wage income needed for a average 2-bedroom housing in Alaska is a key indicator because it illustrates the significance and effect of a major life impairment suffered by many persons who experience clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status—the difficulty of being able to afford decent housing. A.S. 47.30.056(b-c). It is also a key indicator because it highlights the need for and potential benefits of timely provision of reasonable levels of necessary services for people at risk due to mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance abuse, and/or brain injury. Services to be provided include alcoholism services, housing support services, and vocational services, including prevocational services, work adjustment, supported work, sheltered work, and training in which participants achieve useful work experience. A.S. 47.30.056(i)(1) and (i)(2)(I).

Additional Information:

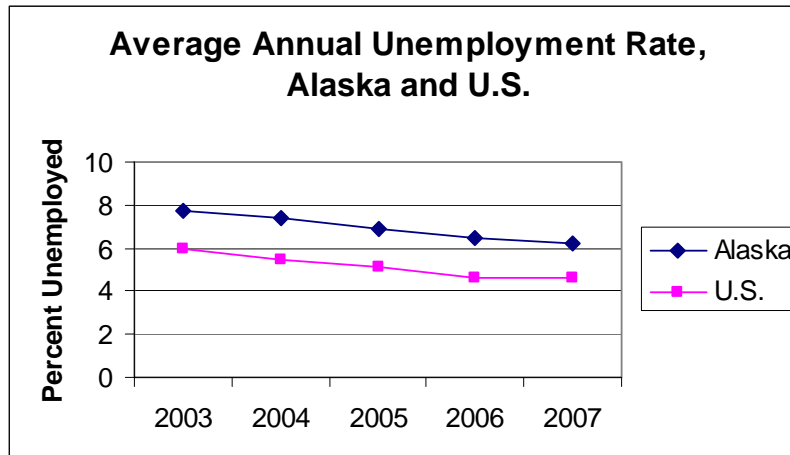
- [Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan Results Area: Economic Security](#)
- [Alaska Rent-Wage Disparity by Census Area, 2007](#)
- [Trust Affordable Appropriate Housing Focus Area](#)
- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Public Assistance](#)
- [Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan: Current Services](#)
- [Alaska Housing Finance Corporation](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Economic Security

20. Drilldown Information — Average Annual Unemployment Rate



Sources: [Alaska Dept of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Labor Force Statistics by Month](#); and [U.S. Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#)

Summary and Explanation:

- Persons are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work. Persons who were not working and were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been temporarily laid off are also included as unemployed. The unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force.⁶⁶
- Alaska's unemployment rate is consistently above that of the U.S. partially due to the seasonality of Alaska's work. Data presented in these charts are not seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted rates tend to be slightly higher.⁶⁷

Trend Data:

- [Average Annual Unemployment Rate](#)

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The average annual unemployment rate is a key indicator because it reflects underlying economic conditions that might disproportionately affect Trust beneficiaries and their opportunities for work, decent housing, and adequate health care.

⁶⁶ U.S. Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

⁶⁷ Alaska Dept of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Labor Force Statistics by Month

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Additional Information:

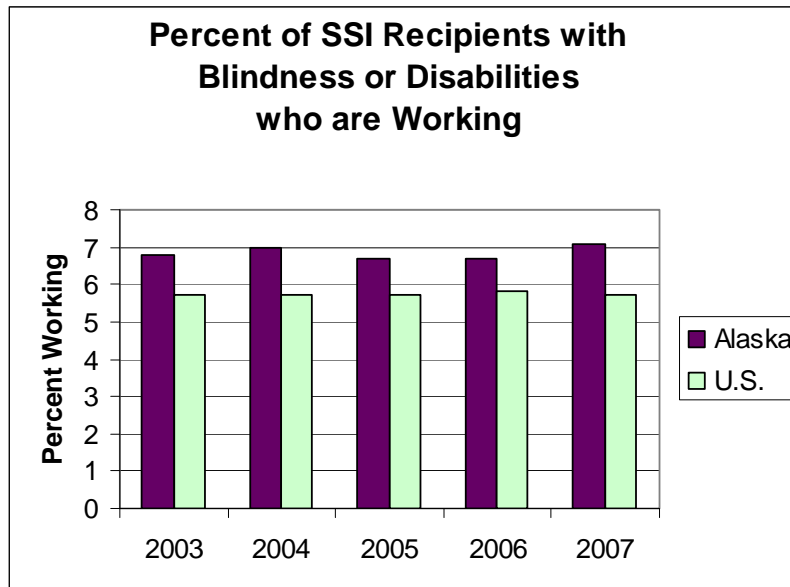
- [Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan Results Area: Economic Security](#)
- [Current Initiatives](#)
- [Current Services and Service Gap Analysis](#)
- [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#)

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Economic Security

21. Drilldown Information — Percent of SSI Recipients with Blindness or Disabilities who are Working



Source: Social Security Online, Office of Policy Data,
SSI Annual Statistical Reports, Tables 9 and 32

Summary and Explanation:

- Alaskans on SSI and/or SSDI are among the lowest-income groups in the country. According to the Social Security Administration, less than one-half of one percent of SSI and/or SSDI recipients go on to secure employment sufficient enough for them to leave the rolls. Although work incentives exist to help people go to work, the vast majority of recipients are afraid jeopardize their cash assistance and Medicaid-supported services by seeking employment. Since an individual's disability does not go away just because he or she becomes employed, they need continued services. Often available only through Medicaid, these services include personal care assistance, in-home supports, ongoing supported employment services and rehabilitation services.⁶⁸
- The [Alaska Works Initiative](#) partners are working together to assist SSI and/or SSDI beneficiaries with using incentives to go to work and perhaps increase their income to a point where they no longer need to be on SSI and/or SSDI. Tracking the percent of SSI recipients with blindness or disabilities who are working is one way of showing the outcomes of the Alaska Works Initiative.⁶⁹

Trend Data:

- [Percent of SSI Recipients with Blindness or Disabilities who are Working](#)

⁶⁸ Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (email communication with M. Ryan, 12/15/08)

⁶⁹ Ibid.

Alaska Scorecard:

Key Issues Impacting Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries

Statutory Information:

- Per Alaska Statute, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner organizations work cooperatively to plan, budget and implement an integrated comprehensive mental health program for Alaska. A.S. 47.30.660(a); A.S. 47.30.011(b); A.S. 37.14.003(a); A.S. 47.30.046(a).
- The Percent of SSI Recipients with Blindness or Disabilities who are Working is a key indicator because it illustrates the significance and effect of a major life impairment suffered by many persons who experience clinical conditions defining Trust beneficiary status—the difficulty of securing and holding down a job. A.S. 47.30.056(b-c). It is also a key indicator because it highlights the need for and potential benefits of timely provision of reasonable levels of necessary services for those at risk due to mental illness, developmental disabilities, and/or Alzheimers Disease and related disorders (such as traumatic brain injury). Services under statute include housing support services and vocational services, including prevocational services, work adjustment, supported work, sheltered work, and training in which participants achieve useful work experience. A.S. 47.30.056(i)(1) and (i)(2)(I).

Additional Information:

- [Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan Results Area: Economic Security](#)
- [Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education](#)
- [Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan: Current Services](#)