



IN **SERVICE** TO OUR **COMMUNITIES**

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

OUR MISSION

**Providing the highest quality health services in partnership
with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System.**

OUR VISION

**Alaska Native people are the
healthiest people in the world.**

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a nonprofit Tribal health organization designed to meet the unique health needs of Alaska Native and American Indian people living in our state.

Our services include specialty medical care at the Alaska Native Medical Center, community wellness programs, disease research and prevention, rural provider training and rural water and sanitation systems construction across Alaska.

ANTHC is a national leader in Tribal health. We are the largest, most comprehensive Tribal health organization in the United States, and an employer of more than 3,000 health service professionals.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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This report reflects ANTHC's fiscal year from Oct. 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021.
Find more about ANTHC 2021 activities online at anthc.org/annualreport.



In Service to Our Communities

Together, we can achieve good health for Alaska Native people. When ANTHC works, we work in service to our communities. We understand that as Alaska Native people, much of our strength comes from the collective efforts of our families, our Tribes, our communities and ourselves.

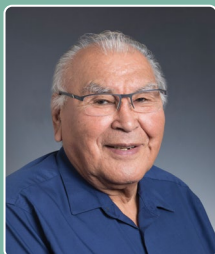
Learn more about many of the ways ANTHC adapted our operations to keep our patients and staff safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all while working together with our Tribal health partners and communities.

2021 Board of Directors



BERNICE KAIGELAK

Chair
Arctic Slope Native Association



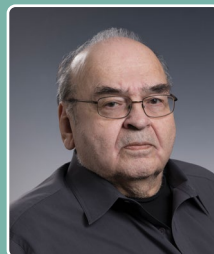
ANDREW JIMMIE

Vice Chair
Tanana Chiefs Conference



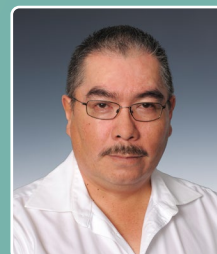
CHARLENE NOLLNER

Secretary
Copper River Native Association



ROBERT HENRICHS

Treasurer
Chugachmiut, Native Village of Eyak



MARK SNIGAROFF

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association



ROBERT CLARK

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation



LORETTA NELSON

Kodiak Area Native Association



LORENA WALKER

Maniilaq Association



CHARLES CLEMENT

Metlakatla Indian Community



PRESTON ROOKOK

Norton Sound Health Corporation



APRIL KYLE

Southcentral Foundation



KIMBERLEY STRONG

SouthEast Alaska Regional
Health Consortium



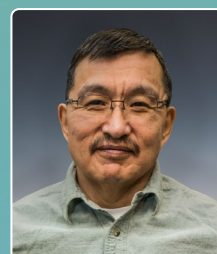
CHIEF GARY HARRISON

Unaffiliated Tribes,
Chickaloon Native Village



DIANA ZIRUL

Unaffiliated Tribes,
Kenaitze Indian Tribe



WALTER JIM

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

The ANTHC Board of Directors represents independent Tribal health regional organizations. These representatives and officer positions are for ANTHC's fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2021. The current board of directors can be found online at anthc.org/board.



Serving our people: COVID-19 response

Across Alaska, people and communities took public health precautions against COVID-19 spread. This included wearing face masks, practicing physical distancing and limiting social bubbles.



“Every day, I’m taking care of patients who are dying from COVID-19. We know what COVID-19 is capable of, and so in my thinking, I decided I would much rather take a small possible risk in order to avoid contracting this very serious disease.”

In late 2020 and into 2021, we were excited to welcome a new tool against the pandemic: the arrival of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine options.

ANTHC and members of the Tribal health system participated in Alaska’s Vaccine Task Force to prepare for statewide distribution of vaccines. In ordinary circumstances, coordinating care across Alaska is challenging, but the logistical challenges associated with COVID-19 vaccines meant that greater coordination was necessary. Thankfully for Alaska, the Tribal health system was well prepared and experienced in working together.



While initial vaccine supply was limited, thanks to this collaboration and coordination in our communities, especially rural locations, Alaska had the nation’s highest rate of COVID-19 vaccine administration at the beginning of 2021. Tribal health organizations allowed more groups of people to be eligible for vaccination given their Tribal self-governance status allowing Tribal entities to make decisions on health care.

And so COVID-19 vaccines flowed through communities on small planes, in community vaccination clinics and

other delivery that included ATVs, sleds and water taxis.

ANTHC coordinated distribution of the vaccines allocated to Tribal health partners, which helped increase health protections for all Alaskans.

Many Tribal health organizations also offered the vaccinations to non-Tribal beneficiary community members after the initial distribution to eligible people served by Tribal health providers.

Alaska Tribal Health System entities were also among the first organizations to establish COVID-19 vaccination requirements for employees because many of our employees saw the first-hand impacts of the disease.

ANMC hospital medicine physician, Dr. Linnea Smith, was among the first ANMC health care providers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in December 2020. She cares for hospitalized patients at ANMC, including many COVID-19 patients.

“As I was trying to decide whether or not to be one of the first people to get this vaccine, I thought about the remote possibility of vaccine risks that we’re not aware of, but we very well know what the serious risks are from COVID-19,” said Smith. “Every day, I’m taking care of patients who are dying from COVID-19. We know what COVID-19 is capable of. So, I decided I would much rather take a small possible risk in order to avoid contracting this very serious disease.”





ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER

High-quality, culturally relevant care

The Alaska Native Medical Center operates a state-of-the-art, 173-bed hospital that provides specialty medical services to Alaska Native and American Indian people. ANMC is Alaska's first Level II Trauma Center, a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center and shared the American Hospital Association's "Carolyn Boone Lewis Living the Vision" Award with the Alaska Tribal Health System.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact health care operations and our staff continued to work collaboratively and tirelessly to provide high-quality care and services to our people.

In order to continue providing lifesaving care for our unrelenting surge of COVID-19 patients, our nurses, providers and health care support staff worked long hours, picked up extra shifts, skipped their days off and sacrificed time off with their families.

ANMC's health care providers are committed to the well-being of our people and have been unwavering in their dedication to caring for our patients and their families.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

New operating room technology helps improve outcomes and reduce surgery recovery time

ANMC added new technology that provides additional capabilities in our operating room, allowing for minimally invasive surgical procedures for our patients. The da Vinci XI Surgical System, also referred to as a surgical robot, assists surgeons with laparoscopic surgery. The robot helps surgeons perform more detailed, complex surgeries.

The robot is attached to laparoscopic instruments and allows for improved visualization, additional range of motion and wrist movements. The small dissecting instruments allow surgeons to do very fine dissections and gives surgeons additional visibility that they do not have without the robot.

When a patient has a minimally invasive surgical procedure, it often means less pain and pain medications, shorter recovery times, reduced hospital stays and getting back to their daily lives much quicker than traditional surgery. There are many benefits of using a surgical robot, but the most important one is being able to provide ANMC patients with the best care and the best outcomes and recovery.



Improving care for pregnant Alaskans with high blood pressure

ANMC partnered with the Alaska Perinatal Quality Collaborative (AKPQC) to implement best practices to improve the outcomes for pregnant Alaskans with high blood pressure. In 2021, the AKPQC reported the collaborative has helped to lead a 28% reduction in severe complications associated with high blood pressure during pregnancy.

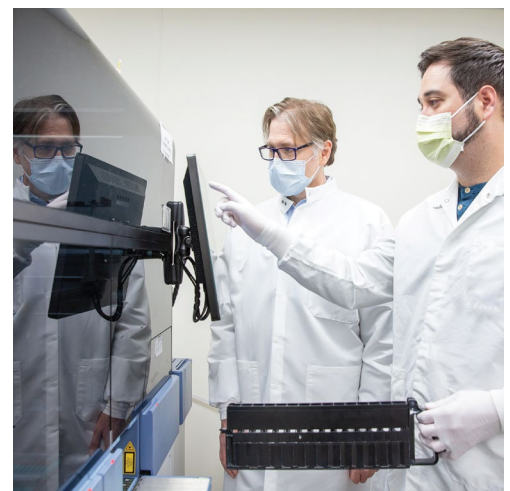
High blood pressure during pregnancy is on the rise in Alaska, with high blood pressure disorders contributing to two out of six pregnancy-related deaths in Alaska during 2012-16.

ANMC was one of six Alaska hospitals collaborating to reduce hypertension-related severe maternal morbidity. Due to the significant efforts by our obstetric leadership and staff in this project, ANMC met or exceeded several targets for quality care, earning “Gold Recognition” from the State of Alaska, the highest level of achievement.

ASHNHA recognizes the ANMC Laboratory with the Patient Safety “Beacon” Award

This year, the ANMC Laboratory earned the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) Beacon Award for patient safety. The award recognizes the Laboratory team’s commitment, effort and collaboration to support our Tribal members’ health and welfare through robust COVID-19 testing capacity for the state of Alaska.

In response to the pandemic, COVID-19 testing quickly became the ANMC Laboratory’s primary focus. The Laboratory team has continued to demonstrate a high level of teamwork and collaboration while working around the clock with campus collection sites, ANMC inpatient units, the Emergency Department and Tribal partners to receive and process hundreds of COVID-19 samples daily. As of Sept. 1, 2021, ANMC Laboratory staff processed and resulted nearly 350,000 COVID-19 tests, helping make Alaska one of the most tested states in the country.



ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation jointly own and manage ANMC under the terms of Public Law 105-83. These parent organizations established a Joint Operating Board to ensure unified operation of health services provided by the medical center.

New Behavioral Health Wellness Clinic offers compassionate, easy to access care for our communities

Behavioral health services can be difficult to access in Alaska. ANTHC's newest clinic uses direct to patient video telehealth appointments for easy connection to compassionate care in communities across the state.



“With this telehealth clinic, we are specifically focused on serving people living in rural and remote areas of the state where access to behavioral health care is limited.”

In July 2021, ANTHC opened the Behavioral Health Wellness Clinic (BHWC). The BHWC serves Alaska Native and American Indian individuals living in Alaska. All services are provided exclusively through telehealth, which can be done from the privacy of a patient’s home using a phone or computer to connect to their appointment.

Our goal is to promote Alaska Native wellness by offering immediate access to culturally attuned and evidence-based behavioral health care. With this telehealth clinic, we are specifically focused on serving people living in rural and remote areas of the state where access to behavioral health care is limited.

The BHWC provides individual and group counseling, mental health and substance use assessments, health behavior coaching, and referral support. Behavioral health providers and case managers are key members of the care team delivering these services. The clinic’s top priority is to increase access to behavioral health care in partnership with our Tribal health providers across the state.

The BHWC also directly supports communities needing additional behavioral health provider resources, extending resources needed by individuals and families, as well as providing support and encouragement for people waiting to access other treatment services.



Taking care of your mental well-being, in addition to your physical health, is essential for overall health. ANTHC is proud to work with our community partners to offer these behavioral health services for everyone, no matter where they live.





STATEWIDE SERVICES

Statewide health and prevention services

The health of our people is rooted in the strengths of our traditional values and culture, our families and communities. Despite the vastness of Alaska and unique features found among different regions, we come together, like tributaries flowing into a single body of water, in our effort to improve health outcomes for Alaska Native and American Indian people.

Our resilience and spirit flow throughout Alaska and are the essence of our people. And like many of the rivers that bring life to our communities, sometimes obstacles will arise and make them forge a new direction, adapting to their environment.

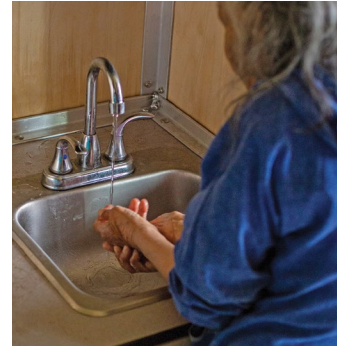
In partnership with Tribal health organizations, we work with federal, state and local governments along with public and private organizations to create a better stream of health by: setting health priorities based on data; education for dental therapists; construction projects that increase access to sewer and water; and striving to better serve patients traveling to Anchorage for care.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Mini PASS units installed in Stebbins

Ten Mini Portable Alternative Sanitation System (PASS) units were installed in Stebbins, a community located on St. Michael Island in the Norton Sound region.

The Mini PASS, a smaller, easier to transport version of the original, is composed of two components: a hand-washing cabinet and ventilated honey bucket. The hand-washing cabinet allows for an in-home faucet for running water and is designed for areas where families typically use washbasins. The toilet comes with a ventilation system that includes a fan to pull odors out of the home. The Stebbins Mini PASS project was funded by a private donor through the CDC Foundation.



Chevak: A success story in Tribal utility partnership

Chevak was an early member of the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) and over the years has been able to see the benefits of working together with ANTHC and other communities to manage, operate and maintain their water and sewer systems. For Chevak, the partnership with ARUC has resulted in nearly 50 percent reductions in water and sewer costs for residents, a robust reserve account and a more efficient and self-sustaining system.

Through the partnership and assistance from ARUC, they increased their utility reserve funds that help the community purchase needed equipment, labor costs and response for emergencies.

ARUC and Chevak projects have included partnering in 2013 to develop new system operations and maintenance that led to substantial yearly savings. In 2018, Chevak collaborated with ANTHC's Rural Energy Program on a heat recovery project. Where the community had previously used an average of 15,000 gallons of fuel per year, the heat recovery system saves an estimated 12,500 gallons annually. Customer water rates dropped from \$165 a month to \$85 a month and are now some of the lowest among the ARUC communities.

98 MINI PASS INSTALLATIONS
IN 10 COMMUNITIES

51 HOMES WITH FIRST-
TIME WATER SERVICE

68,724 HEALTH SUPPLIES SENT ACROSS
ALASKA FROM IKNOWMINE.ORG

Connecting with community health and wellness in new ways

ANTHC works to connect rural communities and Tribal partners to wellness and prevention services. Typically, these connections are made in person through training, events and community visits. However, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged us to find innovative ways to share information.

In 2021, we used technology and traditional ways to reach communities and Tribal partners. ANTHC programs hosted online and social media activities for Mental Health Awareness Month, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, injury prevention, substance misuse and tobacco cessation and prevention.

We also used mail service to get supplies and activities to communities such as Elder care packages and suicide prevention information. Health care items that might traditionally be available in a health clinic were made available to individuals through mail such as Narcan overdose response kits, harm reduction safer injection kits and at-home HIV test kits.



Collaborative space for health education programs

ANTHC health education training programs have a new home designed to bring together health professionals serving rural communities across Alaska. The new Education and Development Center (EDC) allows students and educators to work together and across programs.

Opened in summer 2021, the EDC is an educational facility for students from the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP), the Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program of Iñsaġvik College, and the Behavioral Health Aide Program.

The building has expansive classrooms and training space, as well as student study space, common lounges and kitchen amenities. CHAP students have more training space to learn clinic practices such as blood draws and exams. Dental health aide students have new tools and technology in the facility that the program did not have access to before, such as negative pressure procedure rooms and a simulation lab for hands-on education and self-guided practice. Behavioral health aide students have expanded use of distance learning, but will have more classroom and consultation space once in-person learning resumes.

The Education and Development Center gives Tribal Community Health Providers a place to learn, collaborate and find empowerment and opportunity, and strengthen the foundation for rural Alaska care for a brighter, healthier future for Alaska Native people.

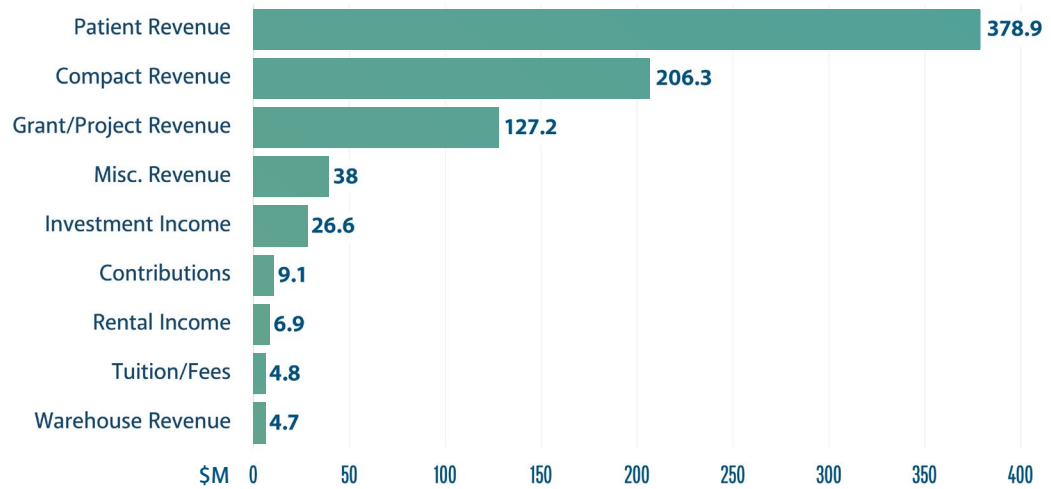


“The EDC gives Tribal Community Health Providers a place to learn, collaborate and find empowerment.”

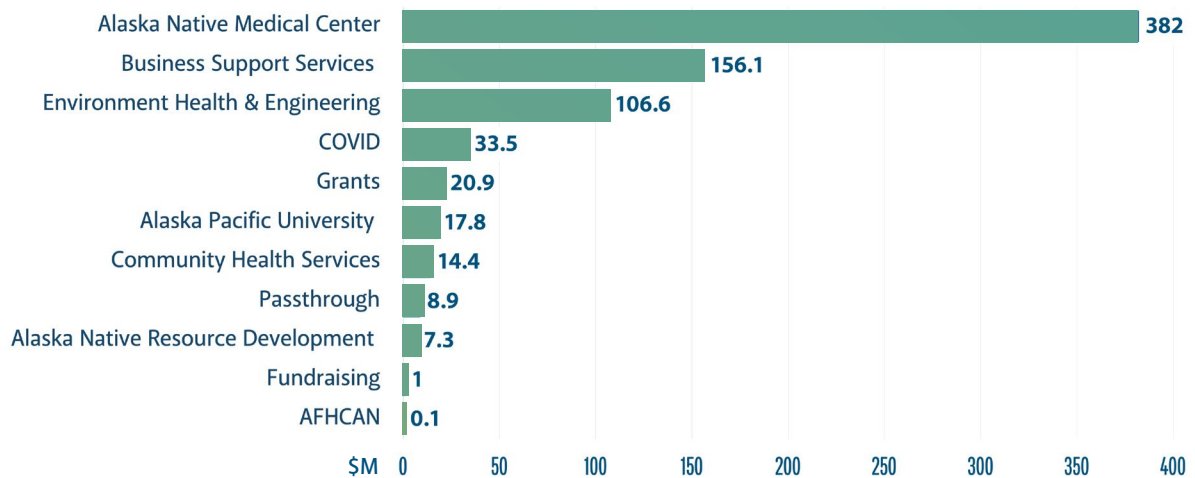


2021 Financial Summary

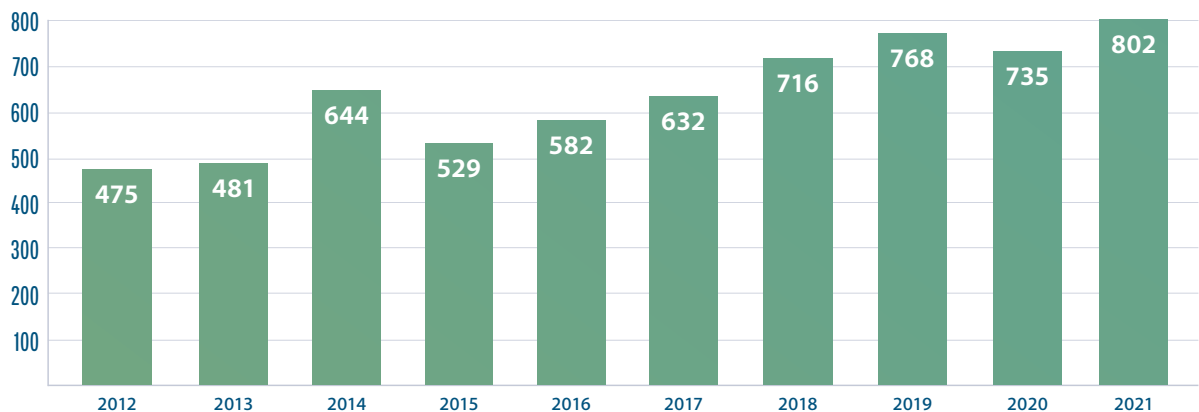
2021 REVENUES
(\$802.5 M)



2021 EXPENSES
(\$748.6 M)



2012-2021 REVENUES
(\$M)



This financial summary is preliminary as of October 31, 2021, and is subject to a formal audit for the 2021 fiscal year.



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

Throughout the year, find more stories from ANTHC at anthc.org.