

Opportunities to Spur Progress in Health Equity in Cancer Care: An Alaska Perspective

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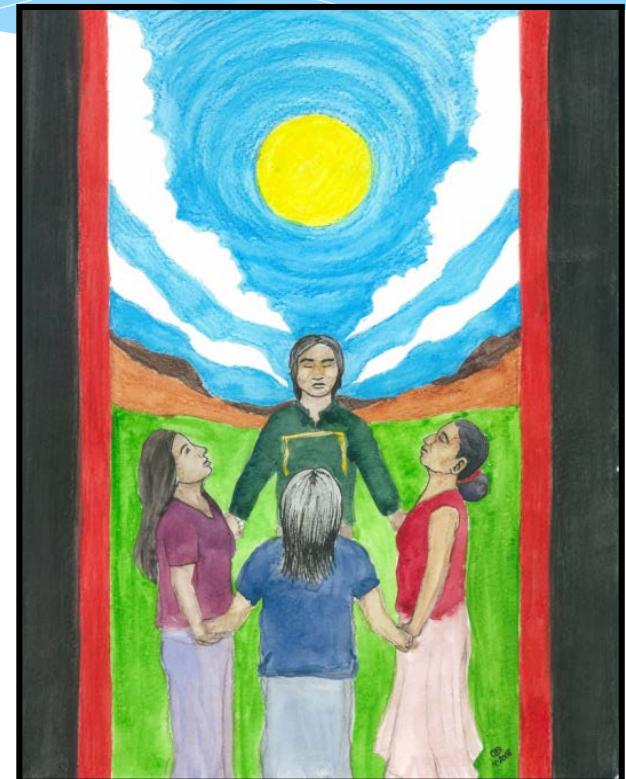


I live on the Indigenous lands of the K'enaht'ana people within Dena'ina Elnena.

Acknowledgements



Thank you to all those who've generously shared your stories with me over the years.



Cassandra Leigh Darrough,
Paiute-Shoshone



Journey with me:

- Alaska's diverse Native peoples
- Alaska's healthcare system
- Existing initiatives
- Opportunities

Listen to the Communities

Culturally Diverse



Strength of Traditions



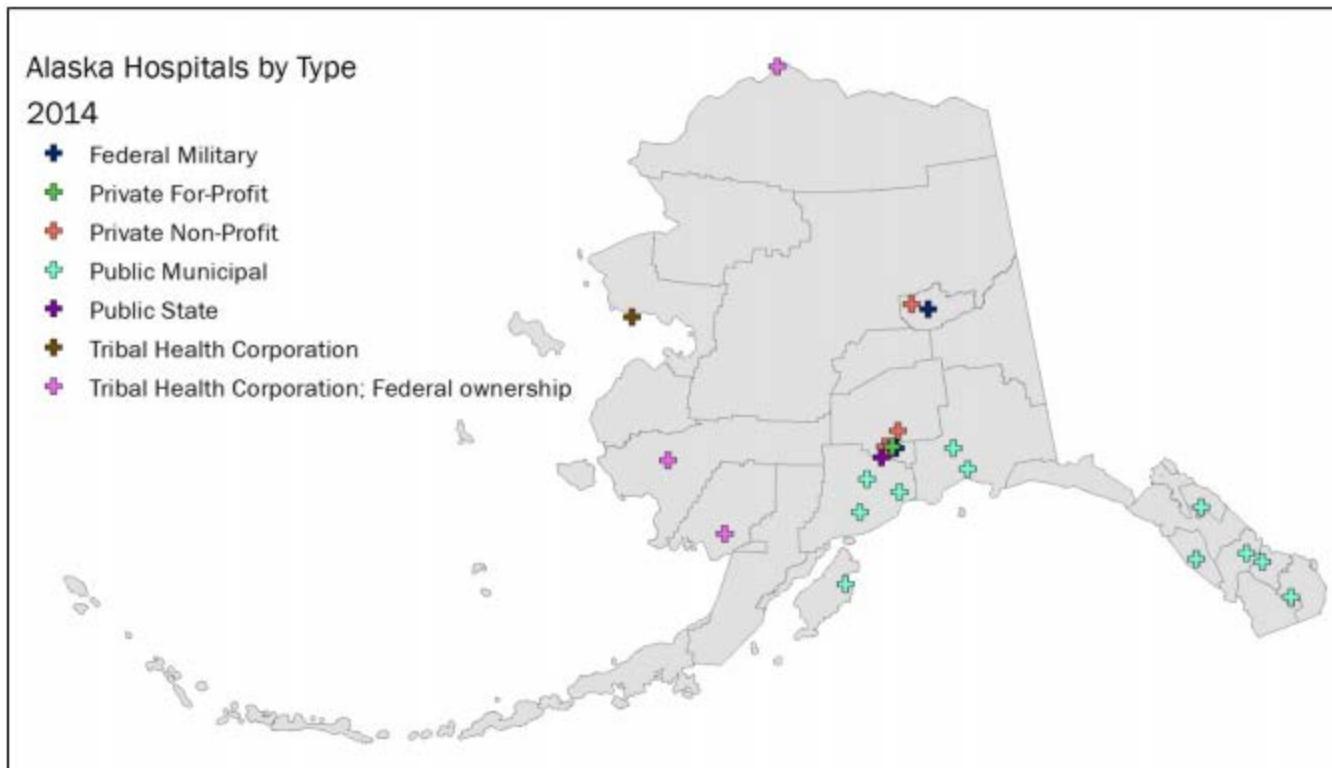
1. *Show Respect to Others* - *Each Person Has a Special Gift*
2. *Share what you have* - *Giving Makes You Richer*
3. *Know Who You Are* - *You Are a Reflection on Your Family*
4. *Accept What Life Brings* - *You Cannot Control Many Things*
5. *Have Patience* - *Some Things Cannot Be Rushed*
6. *Live Carefully* - *What You Do Will Come Back to You*
7. *Take Care of Others* - *You Cannot Live without Them*
8. *Honor Your Elders* - *They Show You the Way in Life*
9. *Pray for Guidance* - *Many Things Are Not Known*
10. *See Connections* - *All Things Are Related*

1 in every 5 deaths



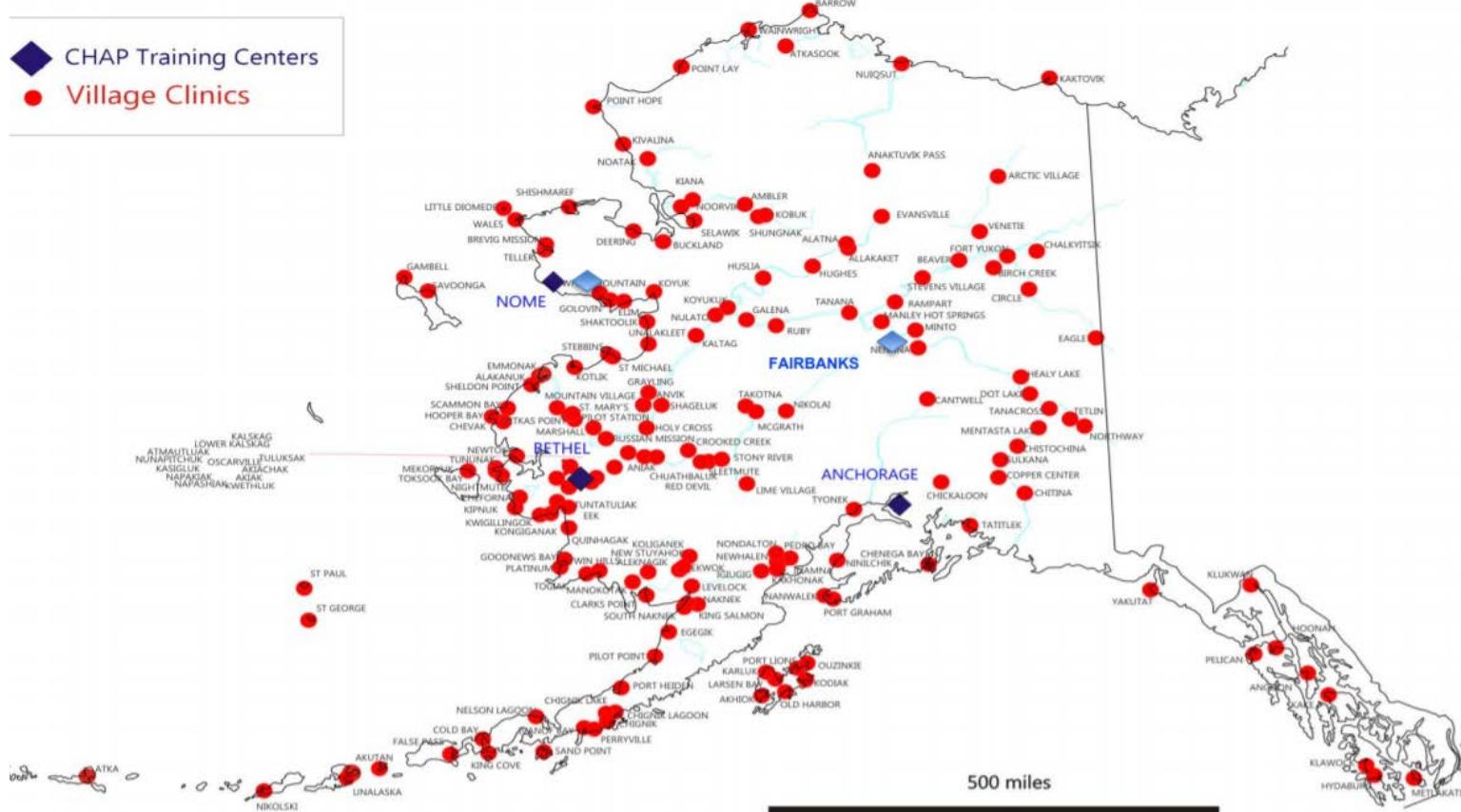
Health Care in Alaska

- * Private Sector
- * Veteran's Affairs (12% eligible)
- * Tribal Health (20% eligible)



Alaska's Community Health Aides/Practitioners

Community Health Aide/Practitioner Village Clinics



Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
rhall@anthc.org
2014

<https://anthc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CHAP-Updates-Dr-Michelle-Hensel.pdf>

CHA/P Scope of Work

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE



Innovative primary care delivery in rural Alaska: a review of patient encounters seen by community health aides

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Background. For more than 50 years, Community Health Aides and Community Health Practitioners (CHA/Ps) have resided in and provided care for the residents of their villages.

Objectives. This study is a systematic description of the clinical practice of primary care health workers in rural Alaska communities. This is the first evaluation of the scope of health problems seen by these lay health workers in their remote communities.

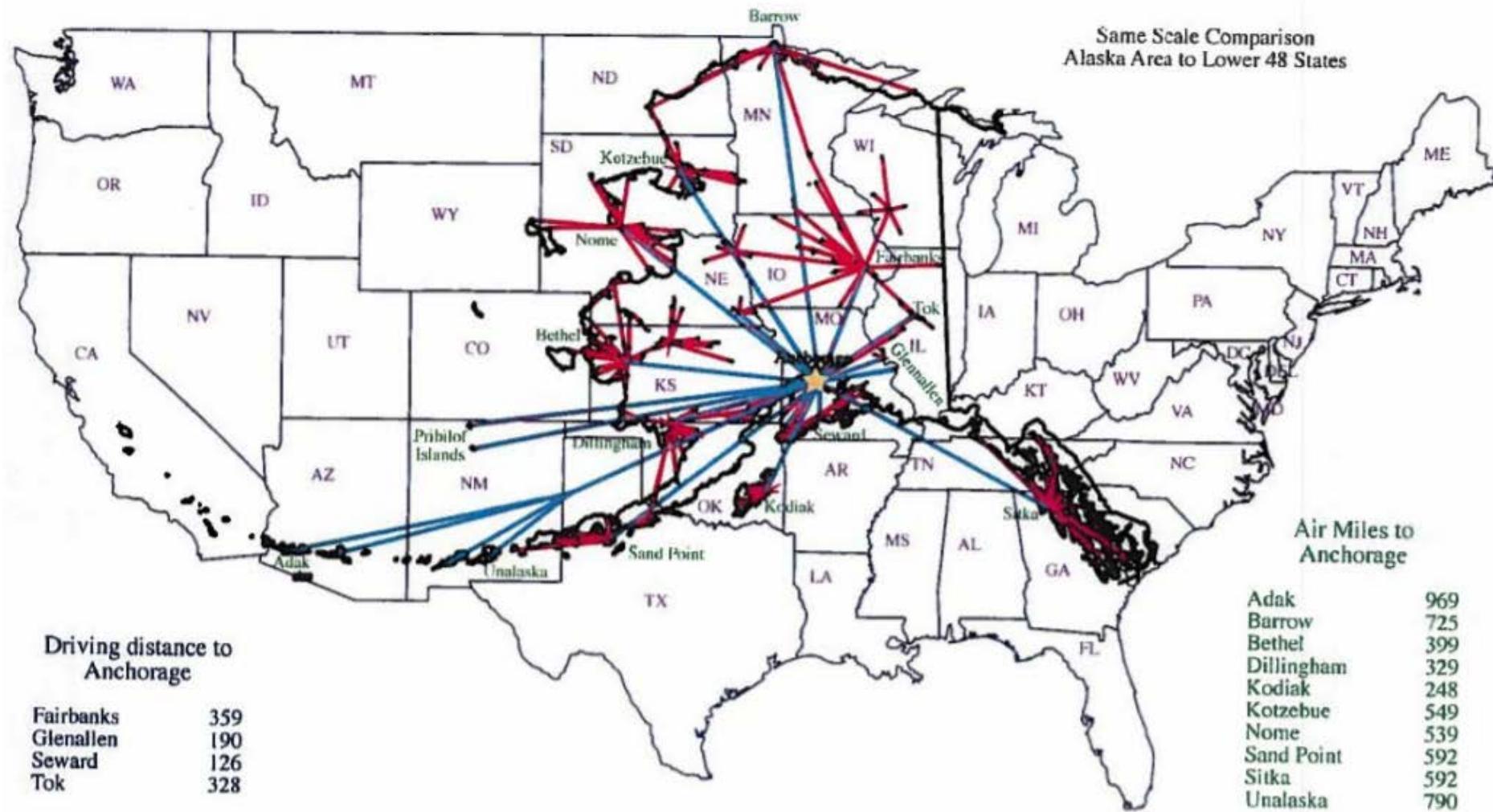
Study design. Retrospective observational review of administrative records for outpatient visits seen by CHA/Ps in 150 rural Alaska villages (approximate population 47,370).

Methods. Analysis of electronic records for outpatient visits to CHA/Ps in village clinics from October 2004 through September 2006. Data included all outpatient visits from the Indian Health Service National Patient Information Reporting System. Descriptive analysis included comparisons by region, age, sex, clinical assessment and treatment.

Results. In total 272,242 visits were reviewed. CHA/Ps provided care for acute, chronic, preventive, and emergency problems at 176,957 (65%) visits. The remaining 95,285 (35%) of records did not include a diagnostic code, most of which were for administrative or medication-related encounters. The most common diagnostic codes were: pharyngitis (11%), respiratory infections (10%), otitis media (8%), hypertension (6%), skin infections (4%), and chronic lung disease (4%). Respiratory distress and chest pain accounted for 75% (n = 10,552) of all emergency visits.

Conclusions. CHA/Ps provide a broad range of primary care in remote Alaskan communities whose residents would otherwise be without consistent medical care. Alaska's CHA/P program could serve as a health-care delivery model for other remote communities with health care access challenges.

The Alaska Native Health Care System Referral Pattern



Culturally Relevant Online Cancer Education



WELCOME TO CANCER BASICS

Dance of Life
Celebrating Health

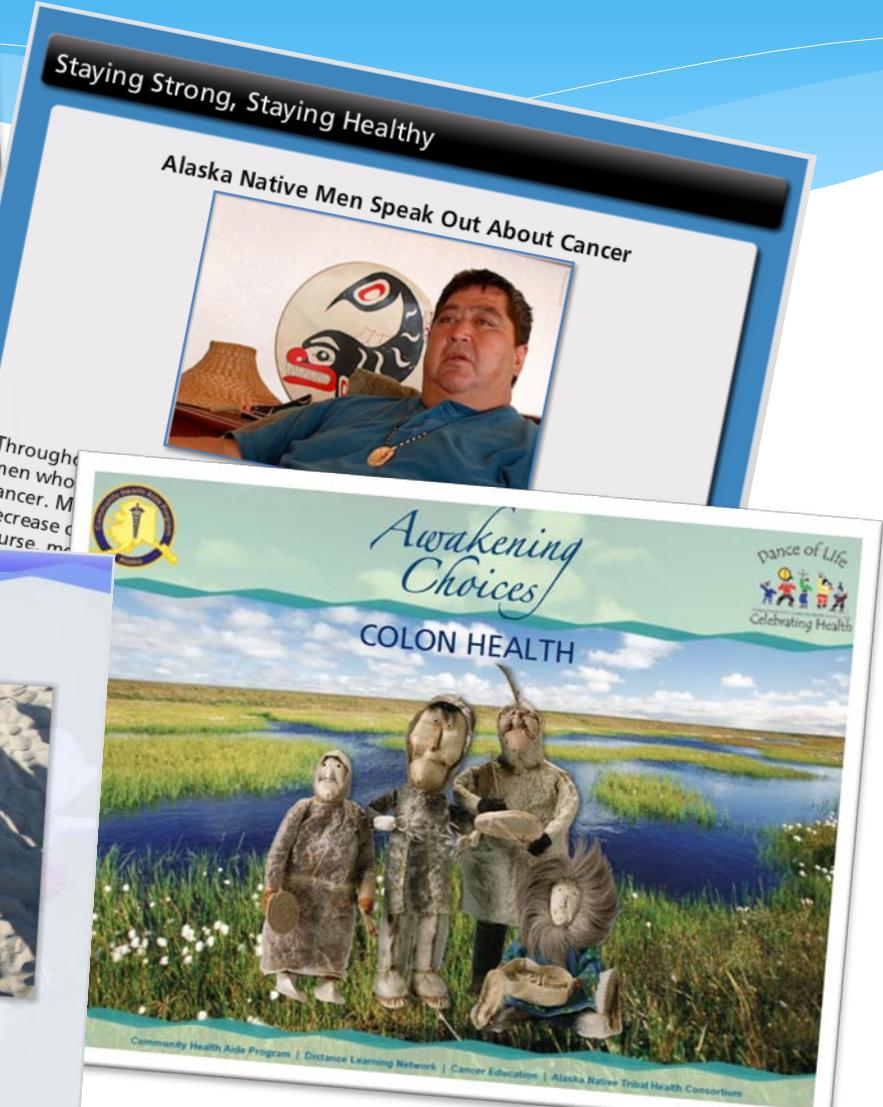
Throughout the course, men who have had cancer. Men decrease in number.

What is Grief?

Grief is one of the ways people react to losing someone or something they care about. A person, their family, and community may grieve the loss of how things used to be. Loss can be felt by a person or by a group.

"Grief shared is grief diminished."
~ Claudette Amadon, Former Oncology Nurse at ANMC

Click to listen to a story about grieving the loss of how things used to be.



Staying Strong, Staying Healthy

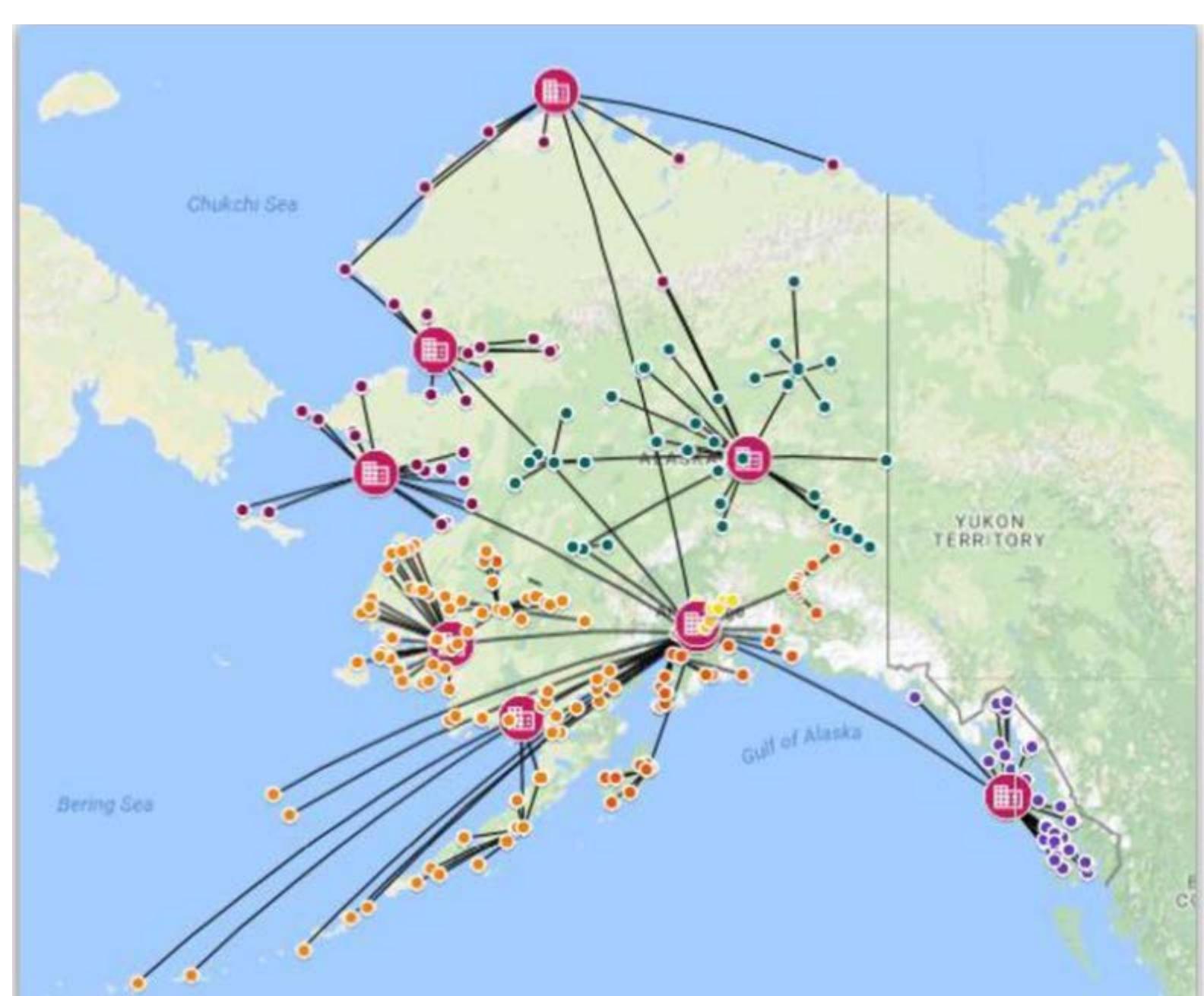
Alaska Native Men Speak Out About Cancer

Awakening Choices
COLON HEALTH

Dance of Life
Celebrating Health

Community Health Aide Program | Distance Learning Network | Cancer Education | Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Typical Telemedicine Referral Patterns



Telemedicine Utilization in the Last Frontier, Margaret C Brodie, 2017

<https://slideplayer.com/slide/13615737/>

Mobile Screening



SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Services | Careers | Providers | Locations



<https://searhc.org/service/wisewoman/>



Opportunities for Equity

- * Listen to communities: what do they need and want?
- * Geographically, culturally relevant care throughout the cancer control continuum

Dance of Life



Cancer Education for Alaska Community Health Aides

To Learn More...

- * Alaska's Health Aides Akchap.org
- * Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium <https://anthc.org/>
- * Wisewoman mobile cancer screenings <https://searhc.org/service/wisewoman/>
- * Innovative Primary Care Delivery in Rural Alaska: a review of patient encounters seen by community health aides
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.3402/ijch.v7i0.18543>
- * A Framework for Culturally Relevant Online Learning: Lessons from Alaska's Tribal Health Workers <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13187-018-1350-8>
- * The last frontier: innovative efforts to reduce colorectal cancer disparities among the remote Alaska Native population
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4523058/>

Thank You for Listening!



Cassandra Leigh Darrough,
Paiute-Shoshone

Igamsiqanaghalek

St. Lawerence Island Yup'ik

Quyanaq
North Slope Inupiaq

Quyana
Yup'ik/Cup'ik

Ha'w'aa
Haida

Spasciba
Russian/Alutiiq

Tsin'ee
Tanacross

Qagaasakung
Aleut (Unangax)

Mahsi'
Gwitch'in/Han

TSIN'AEN
AHTNA

THANK YOU

Ana-ba-see
Koyukon

Tsen'ii
Upper Tanana

kcueva@alaska.edu

Chin'an
Dena'ina (Tanaina)

Maasee'
Tanana

Quyanaqpuk
Inupiaq Nome

DOGEDINH
DEG HIT'AN

Baasee'
Ruby Athabascan

GUNALCHE'ESH
TLINGIT

Awa'ahda
Eyak

Doy'ksin
Tysm'sen