

Contents

Introduction	i
The Alaska 20/20 process	ii
How to use the APR	iii
Executive summaries	v

49 Measures for the 49th State

General measures

1. Demographics
2. Disparities

Education

Children will enter school ready to learn

3. Ready to Learn

Students will graduate prepared for postsecondary opportunities

4. Students
5. Teachers
6. Schools
7. Curricula

Postsecondary institutions will enable personal and professional development

8. Postsecondary Institutions
9. Higher Degrees

Economy

Alaskans will have access to quality jobs at livable wages

10. Income
11. Poverty
12. Employment & Wages
13. Unemployment
14. Workforce Development

Businesses will be encouraged to innovate and grow

15. Small Business
16. Costs of Business
17. Transportation

Economic growth will be sustainable

18. Diversification
19. Federal Spending

Environment

Biological diversity and wilderness areas will be preserved

20. Biodiversity
21. Wilderness

High air, land and water quality will be maintained

22. Air Quality
23. Land Quality
24. Water Quality

Energy and natural resource conservation will be encouraged

25. Fisheries
26. Energy
27. Waste

Communities

Communities will be safe

28. Crime
29. Courts
30. Corrections

Communities will be healthy

31. Access to Health Care
32. Mothers and Infants
33. Children and Teens
34. Physical Health
35. Mental Health
36. Substance Abuse
37. Risky Behavior

Communities will be livable

38. Housing and Utilities
39. Social Services
40. Caring and culture
41. Subsistence

Government

Government will be trusted

42. Public Opinion
43. Voter Turnout
44. Public Management

Government will be effective

45. Cost of Government
46. Missions & Measures

Government will be sustainable

47. Balanced Budget
48. Net Assets
49. Public Debt

Introduction

The only constant is change

Welcome to the third edition of the Alaska Progress Report, Alaska's report card measuring our social, economic and environmental progress and promoting a higher quality of life for all Alaskans.

As we like to say, if you can't agree on the facts, you can't have a meaningful debate. So now you hold the facts in your hand, and our hope is you will find public institutions more transparent and accountable as a result. At the end of the day it's about increasing trust in those institutions so our leaders can govern more effectively.

You'll notice a new logo on the report belonging to the United Way of Anchorage. This is the result of a decision by the Alaska 20/20 board of directors to partner with them to take the Alaska Progress Report to the next level: your community. As we like to say, nobody lives statewide, and we hope this collaboration will be the first step in making the Alaska Progress Report relevant to making a difference in the quality of life where you live, work and play.

So it's hail and farewell; the Alaska 20/20 process will become part of Alaska history, but this report will live on, and more importantly the spirit of civic action and responsibility is alive and well and made stronger by this transition.

Sincerely,



Wendy Lindskoog
Chair of the Board, Alaska 20/20

(David Sheakley Photography)



Ken Osterkamp, PhD
Editor, Alaska Progress Report

United Way of Anchorage

Text.

The Alaska 20/20 Process

Mission

Alaska 20/20 was an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded in 1999 to: (1) educate Alaskans about our state's progress towards a higher quality of life, (2) engage Alaskans in deliberating social, economic and environmental priorities, and (3) elevate Alaskans' concerns to the attention of public policy decision makers.

The Alaska 20/20 process remains the most thorough attempt so far made to develop a shared vision for the future of our great state.

Hindsight

Alaskans built a solid foundation of civic dialogue beginning with the Alaska State Constitutional Convention in 1955. The Brookings Institution visioning forum sponsored by the Legislative Council in 1969 deliberated uses for the more than \$900 million from the North Slope oil lease sale. The 1997 Principles and Interests Conference asked Alaskans to consider the future of the Permanent Fund, and the 2004 Conference of Alaskans in Fairbanks used the original convention model to bring together 55 Alaskans to discuss public finance.

The Alaska Humanities Forum played a key role in bringing together Alaskans from across the state and across the political spectrum. In December 1999 the Forum resolved "to launch a process to engage their fellow citizens in a long-term, ongoing dialogue — to learn first what we Alaskans value now, and to help the state plan a strategy to influence and direct the future economic, social and community development of the last frontier."

The participants named the process Alaska 20/20, a nonpartisan, facilitated dialogue involving every part of the state, giving Alaskans an opportunity to share their values and ideas — and to become engaged in creating a common vision for the future. The process would include a report card to measure Alaska's progress towards realizing this common vision, setting Alaska 20/20 apart from earlier efforts and ensuring transparency and accountability.

A chorus of strong voices

In the fall of 2001 a statewide Alaska Values Survey of 1,000 households was conducted to identify issues important to Alaskans. Focus group meetings in selected communities around the state followed the survey. The results were presented in November 2001 at the Conference on Alaska's Future, where more than five hundred Alaskans met in Anchorage for two amazing days. They raised what University

of Alaska President Mark Hamilton called "a chorus of strong voices," to develop the visions and goals that would become the focus of a statewide conversation.

Young and old, urban and rural, Alaskans from across the state shared their hopes and dreams for the future of the Alaska's education, economy, environment, communities and government. The conference report was distributed statewide to more than 180,000 newspaper readers.

Following the publication of the report more than 2,000 Alaskans weighed in with their views on the future of Alaska, filling out a survey distributed statewide and made available on the Internet. Throughout 2002 over a hundred meetings were held statewide to gather the thoughts and opinions of Alaskans.

In 2003 Alaska 20/20 and the First Alaskans Institute worked together to design A Survey of Native Perspectives on Alaska Issues. 500 Alaska Native households were surveyed by telephone and the results were incorporated into the Alaska 20/20 goals and objectives.

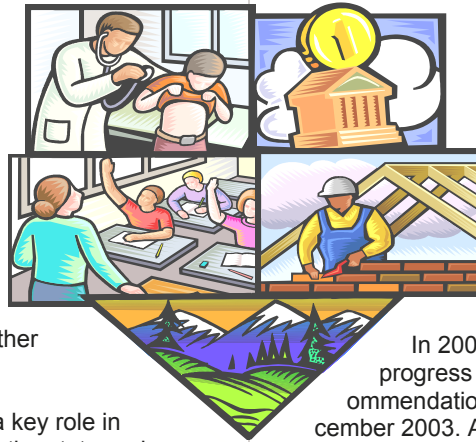
The road ahead

In 2003 five public workgroups reviewed the progress of Alaska 20/20 and presented their recommendations at a Report Card Workshop in December 2003. A group of more than sixty Alaskans representing a wide range of organizations discussed and participated in an advisory vote on what they believed were the best measures of progress.

These findings were compiled into a draft report card that was released at the February 2004 State of the State Conference. Participants discussed priorities among the various issues and strategies for making progress on them.

The first Alaska Progress Report was published in October 2004; more than 10,000 print copies were distributed and thousands more accessed online. Two more reports, the 2005-06 edition and this 2007 edition, followed.

In 2006 the board of Alaska 20/20 decided to seek a partner organization that could take the Alaska 20/20 process to the next logical step: integrating it at the local level in communities all across Alaska. The United Way of Anchorage agreed to take on the Alaska Progress Report to complement its Community Impact Agenda, which was doing at the community level many of the same things Alaska 20/20 had been doing at the statewide level. UWA is part of the statewide United Way network, and their focus on engaging stakeholders, setting priorities, and measuring results ensures that the Alaska Progress Report will be more relevant than ever into the future.



How to Use the APR

Measuring progress

The Alaska Progress Report contains 49 measures of progress grouped under five visions: education, economy, environment, communities and government. The APR is designed to be a dynamic document. It will change to reflect the issues and priorities that Alaskans find important.

Visions, objectives & measures

There are three levels to the APR. The five **visions** are “word pictures” of how Alaskans desire the future to look. The **objectives** are more specific, breaking down the vision into smaller, measurable components. The 49 **measures** are indicators of progress for each of the objectives.

Measures generally emphasize high level outcomes, for example crime rates and educational achievement. A few measures are incomplete, or the data does not exist for what needs to be measured. Alaska 20/20 partners with relevant organizations to improve data for these measures.

Benchmarking and grades

Benchmarking is the process of comparing our performance against some standard to find out where (and perhaps how) we can do better. There are at least three ways to do this: (1) Did we better or worse compared to the previous year? (2) How do we compare to the national (or perhaps regional) average? And (3) did we improve as much as we think we could have or should have?

Authors

The text for most of the measures is taken from public documents, primarily those produced by the State of Alaska. Authors are attributed in the source section for each measure.

Changes to the APR

Any Alaskan individual or organization can petition for changes to the Alaska Progress Report. The petition must be submitted in writing and should clearly state the changes requested and provide reasons for why the changes are felt to be necessary. Change petitions will be considered by the Board of Directors.

Measure number & name

The 49 measures, divided into five topic sections, are the heart of the APR.

Why is this important?

Each measure starts with a statement of its significance.

Revision date & source of text

The revision date states when the measure was last revised, so that readers may tell at a glance if they are looking at the most current version.

Following the revision data is the work cited. “Abridged” means the narrative is not a continuous quote, and minor changes have been made to fit the narrative into the space available. If no source is indicated the narrative was developed by Alaska 20/20 staff.

Narrative

This section is intended to outline the major issues and trends related to the measure. For some of the measures this is mainly background information cited from relevant public documents.

Objective

Each of the five topic sections has three objectives.

Measure locator

Shows how many measures there are for this objective.

Objective: Alaskan communities will be healthy.

Measure 1 of 7

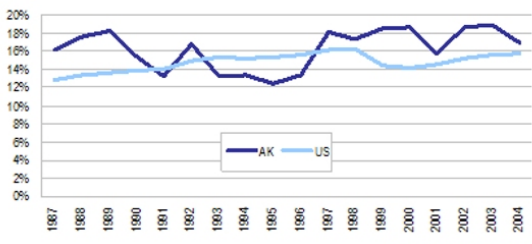
31. Access to Health Care

Access to quality health care reduces health disparities and increases the years of healthy life for all Alaskans.

Clinical services for both prevention and treatment impact many of the leading causes of disease and death.

Having health insurance, a higher relative income, and a usual primary care provider are strong indicators that a person will receive appropriate care, reducing the need for and costs of follow-on treatment.

Even with our large population of federal beneficiaries the percentage of all Alaskans without health insurance remains above the national rate:



Source: US Census Bureau

SOURCE: Abridged from "Healthy Alaskans 2010 Volume I," Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services, April 2002.

Challenges

Alaska experiences many health and health care delivery challenges that are different from those of the rest of the United States. With 226 federally recognized tribes, 162 local governments, numerous federal and state supported health associations, community health centers and many privately run clinics, Alaska is unique.

Health insurance

Adequate health insurance is crucial in determining access to primary care. In 1999, 17% of Alaskan adults reported that they did not have health care coverage. Non-Natives, lower income adults and those who were out of work or self-employed were more likely to lack health insurance coverage.

Almost a quarter of Alaskans are eligible for health care services through the Departments of Defense and Veteran's Affairs. Alaska's 200,000 federal beneficiaries (Indian Health Service, military and dependents, and veterans) face confusing options for services in some areas and absent or limited services in others.

Health facilities

Alaska has over 300 communities. Approximately 25% of all Alaskans and 46% of Native Alaskans live in communities of less than 1,000 people. Despite its large land mass, Alaska ranks 47th among the 50 states in road miles. Nearly one-quarter of the state's population lives in towns and villages that are reachable only by boat or aircraft. Ap-

proximately 75% of Alaskan communities are not connected by road to another community with a hospital. The geography and climate of the state limits access to care as well as increasing the costs of health care.

Health professionals

In 1998, Alaska ranked 48th among the states in the ratio of doctors to residents. Access to care is also limited by shortages of other health care providers. Alaska wages are no longer high enough to attract qualified workers from other states, and educational programs within the state are not adequate to meet Alaska's needs. The aging of health professionals in Alaska, where 25% of registered nurses and 43% of physicians responding to a survey were over 50, is another concern. Many census areas and boroughs in Alaska are federally designated as health professional shortage areas.

In 2000 Alaska ranked 40th in physicians per capita and 41st in hospital beds per capita.

Alaska relies on community health aides, public health nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to deliver health care outside communities with hospitals. Alaska has the highest ratios of nurse practitioners and physician assistants per capita in the nation.

Alaska 20/20 notes

In 2000 the Denali Commission identified rural primary care facility needs in 288 rural communities. In 2000 Alaska ranked 40th in physicians per capita and 41st in hospital beds per capita, however Alaska had one of the highest ratios of nurse practitioners in the nation. Access to dental care in rural areas remains a major concern.

More information

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services: www.health.state.ak.us
Denali Commission: www.denali.gov
US Census Bureau health insurance data: www.census.gov/hhes/www/whlthins.html

Indicator

The title describes trends and other relevant information for each of key indicator charted for each measure.

Source of data

Where the data came from.

Pull quotes

Pull quotes call out significant statements from the narrative.

Alaska 20/20 notes

These contain additional information and planned upgrades to the text and data.

Page footer

Indicates the year of the report and the page number.

More information

Web sites and other resources, plus planned improvements to the measure and its indicators.