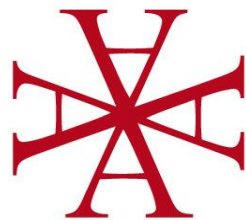


Four A's Syringe Access Program (FASAP)



FOUR A's

ALASKAN AIDS ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION

IT'S ALL ABOUT LIFE



Overview

- What is FASAP
- Key services provided
- Who participates in FASAP
- Most recent numbers
- Current political and economic environment
- Current goals and struggles

What FASAP Does

- Utilizes the concept of **Harm Reduction** to reduce the negative impacts of injection drug use
- Provides sterile syringes and clean works (supplies) to injection drug users (IDUs)
- Offers education that IDUs would not otherwise receive:
 - Overdose prevention and response
 - How to reduce the risk of getting a blood borne illness
 - How to access health care before a medical condition becomes emergent (effectively reducing the strain put on EMS and ERS)
 - Referrals to foodbanks, housing, mental health
 - Referral to treatment
- Act as an intermediary between IDUs and the healthcare system

What is Harm Reduction?

- Harm Reduction
 - Gives an individual all options
 - Individual chooses the safer or safest option for themselves
 - Our personal opinion is not involved
- Examples of 'reducing harm':
 - Wearing seatbelts while in a car
 - Using condoms during sex

Harm Reduction does NOT...

- Condone drug use
 - We recognize that injection drug use is a reality in our community and that Harm Reduction is one way to address the opioid crisis
- Enable drug use
 - The program does not provide IDUs with drugs

What Harm Reduction Does

- Opportunity for the individual to *become healthier* in **reasonable steps** rather than all at once.
- Reduces the incidence of blood-borne illness
 - such as HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV)
 - each individual is able to use a new syringe each time without sharing with another person

Did you know...

Treating one case of HCV costs over \$81,000?

FASAP services cost approximately \$90,000 for 16,000 exchanges in FY16

National Best Practice

- Syringe access programs like FASAP are one of the many tools in prevention that are proven/approved by Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Using this method, studies show reduction in risk behavior as much as 80%.
 - The U.S. Public Health Service recommends IDUs who cannot/will not stop injecting have access to sterile syringes, free condoms, lubricant, and safer sex information.



Story #1

- Delilah

Key Services of FASAP

- Acts as a disposal site for used syringes
 - From injection drug use
 - From diabetic, hormonal treatment, others who inject legal medications
 - This valuable service reduces the number of used, potentially contaminated, syringes in our community

Key Services of FASAP

- Acts as an intermediary between IDUs and the health care system
- FASAP provides referrals pertinent to the needs of participants including:
 - Primary care
 - Specialists (Hepatitis C, HIV, and others)
 - Treatment centers
 - Pharmacological treatment (replacement therapies)
 - Detox
- FASAP staff get to know providers to make tailored referrals to individuals.
 - Ensures the referral is safe, welcoming and that the referral will create a good outcome.

Key Services of FASAP

- Provides screenings:
 - Rapid HIV testing
 - We provided 935 HIV screenings in FY16
 - Rapid Hepatitis C testing
 - We provided 261 HCV screenings in FY16
 - Referrals for participants to receive STI screening at other locations

Key Services of FASAP

- Provides **vital education** to a population that often only seeks medical care in an emergency
 - The State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology July 2015 bulletin stated that between 2004-2013 treatment for **heroin poisoning (overdose) cost Medicaid \$248,000**. This does not account for the cost associated for abscesses, infections, and inpatient detox/treatment.
 - FASAP provides education about overdose prevention and response, safer injection practices to reduce infection, and when to seek medical care before it becomes urgent.



Story #2

- Joshua

In Fiscal Year 2016

- The number of exchanges almost doubled from FY15
 - 9,913 to 17,181
- 477,717 sterile syringes were dispensed with corresponding clean supplies
 - Cottons, tourniquets, cookers, alcohol pads
- 492,147 used syringes were brought to FASAP
 - Safely incinerated through medical waste processing
- We welcomed 979 new participants to the program
 - In addition to the approximately 700 individuals who used the exchange routinely

In FY16, FASAP served individuals coming from 82 different Alaskan Communities:

- Anchorage
- Chugachik Island
- Kongiganak
- Atka
- Port Heiden
- Port Lions
- Aleknagik
- Anchor Point
- Aniak
- Bethel
- Chefnak
- Chevak
- Chignik
- Chitina
- Clarks Point
- Cold Bay
- Copper Center
- Cordova
- Crooked Creek
- Dillingham
- Dutch Harbor
- Eagle River
- Eek
- Ekwok
- Emmonak
- Girdwood
- Glennallen
- Holy Cross
- Homer
- Hope
- Iliamna
- Kalskag
- Kaslof
- Kenai
- Kodiak
- King Salmon
- Wasilla
- Mekoryuk
- Mountain Village
- Naknek
- Ninilchik
- Nunapitchuk
- Palmer
- Port Alsworth
- Quinhagak
- Red Devil
- Russian Mission
- Sand Point
- Seldovia
- Seward
- Nunam Iqua
- Skwentna
- Sleetmute
- Soldotna
- Stebbins
- Sterling
- Sutton
- Talkeetna
- Togiak
- Tyonek
- Trapper Creek
- Unalakleet
- Pilot Station
- Big Lake
- Whittier
- Houston
- Fairbanks
- Clear
- North Pole
- Barrow
- Circle
- Anderson
- Kotzebue
- Noatak
- Nome
- Northway
- Ruby
- Juneau
- Sitka
- Ketchikan
- Valdez
- Willow

Who participates in FASAP?

- GENDER

- Males: 57% (9,714)
- Females: 43% (7,395)
- Transgender: <1% (19)
- Unknown: <1% (53)

FY16 statistics

Who our participants are (cont.)

- **AGE RANGE**

◦ 19 and under:	1%	(148)
◦ 20-29:	39%	(6,793)
◦ 30-39:	36%	(6,183)
◦ 40-49:	14%	(2,384)
◦ 50 and older:	10%	(1,635)
◦ Unknown:	<1%	(38)

FY16 statistics

Who our participants are (cont.)

- **RACE**

◦ White/Caucasian:	62%	(10,585)
◦ Alaska Native/American Indian:	24%	(4,061)
◦ Mixed race (2 or more races):	5%	(831)
◦ Hispanic/Latino:	4%	(650)
◦ Black/African American:	3%	(570)
◦ Asian:	1%	(246)
◦ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander:	<1%	(123)
◦ Unknown:	<1%	(115)



Current Political and Economic Environment



Four A's seen as statewide expert

- Consistently consulted for advice in starting, implementing, and monitoring syringe exchange programs
- Participate in statewide events/panels
- Advocate and educate

Local, Statewide and National

- Opioid epidemic receiving record media and political attention
- National issue with every state impacted by this epidemic
- Federal ban recently lifted
- State of Alaska recently passed liability exemption for overdose-reversing medication
- Anchorage mayor and assembly have indicated support for preventative services

Current Struggles

- Skyrocketing use of injection drugs
 - Through FASAP
 - FY14 distributed 226,267 syringes
 - FY15 distributed 383,590 syringes
 - FY16 distributed 477,717 syringes
- Reduction of funds available
 - Two major funding foundations stretched thin due to nationwide demand
- Federal ban on funding
 - Previously restricted all funding to syringe programs
 - Ban lifted in February, funds can support programs but not purchase actual supplies
 - Current implementation doesn't provide additional funds




Current Goals

- Increase individual donor support
 - Operating on a \$25,000 deficit for this program
- Raise 50 syringe limit on exchanges
- Expand access around Alaska
- Expand hours of operation of exchange

Story #3

- Linda

- 
- Addiction, by its very nature, **isolates the individual** experiencing it.
 - FASAP creates a **safe space** for the individual to be vulnerable to discuss mental health, medical issues, housing issues, and other barriers that keep the individual in addiction
 - FASAP offers pertinent **referrals** that are **meaningful, reasonable, and accessible.**

For more information:

- Rebecca Morrissey, RN, BSN
HIV Education and Prevention Coordinator
907-263-2048
1-800-478-2437
rmorrissey@alaskan aids.org
- Heather Davis, MPH
Executive Director
907-263-2052
hdavis@alaskan aids.org