



2025 OSMAP ANNUAL REPORT

Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention



Advancing Substance Use and Overdose Prevention in Alaska

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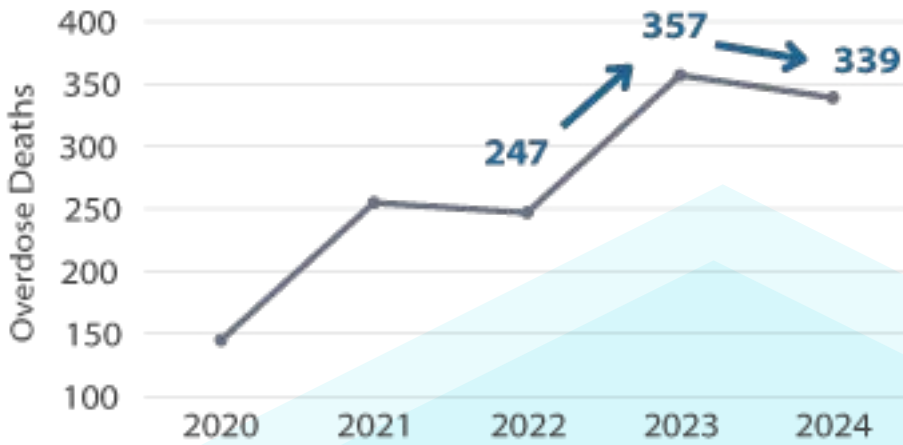
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OSMAP Annual Report 2025

The Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention (OSMAP) aims to prevent substance misuse, reduce harm, and build healthier, more resilient communities. OSMAP addresses all substances, with a primary focus on opioids. This report outlines current challenges, recent progress, and what's next in Alaska's ongoing efforts to prevent substance misuse and strengthen communities.

Where Are We Now?

Drug Overdose Deaths in Alaska, 2020-2024¹



In 2024, the highest overdose death rates occurred among:



Males
Ages 35–44
Anchorage

Fentanyl was involved in 3 out of 4 (73%) deaths in 2024.¹

Overdose deaths among Alaskans rose from 247 in 2022 to 357 in 2023 but then fell about to 339 in 2024.¹ Opioids are a driving force in most overdoses. It is too soon to know if the decline will continue, so sustaining overdose prevention, treatment, and access to care is essential. Beyond overdose deaths, substance use remains widespread.

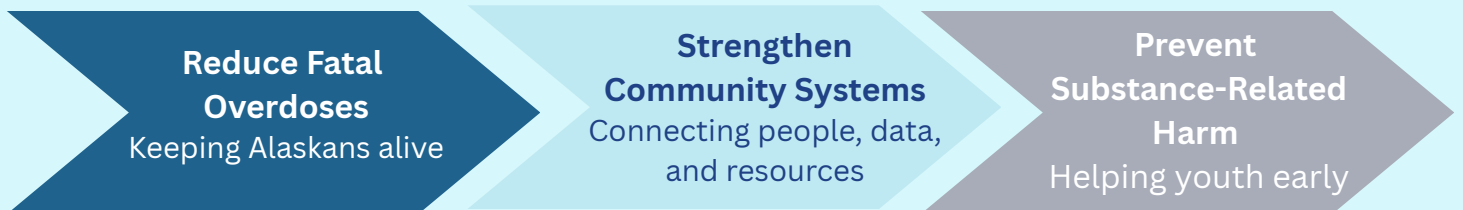
1 in 5 (21.1%) Alaskans **aged 12+** experienced a substance use disorder (SUD) during 2022 to 2023, higher than the national average of 17.2%.²

Early-life trauma drives long-term risk. **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**, such as abuse or substance use in the home, are strongly associated with increased likelihood of substance use later in life.^{3,4}

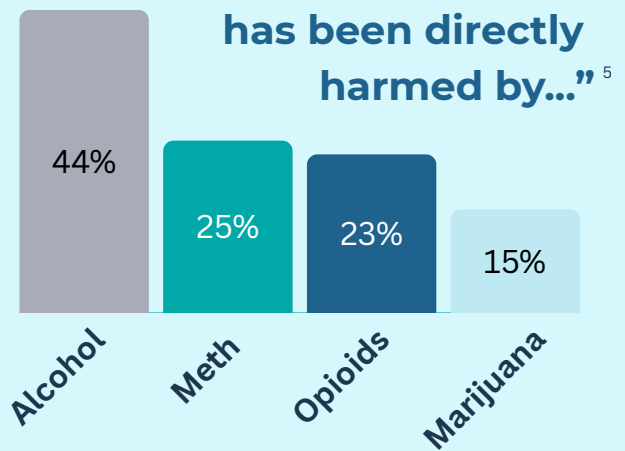
Addressing substance use requires coordinated, sustained action. OSMAP has identified three core goals that guide our response:

OSMAP Goals

Informed by Healthy Alaskans 2030 and Integrated Mental Health Program Plan



Alaskans Report: “Within the last 3 years, myself or someone close to me has been directly harmed by...”⁵




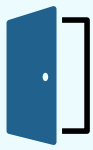
Goal 1: Reduce Fatal Overdoses


Reduce opioid overdose deaths by expanding naloxone access, life-saving overdose prevention and response, and emergency response, especially in high-risk communities.

The Reality of Overdose


Overdose is preventable - risk is highest when people:⁶


 Use alone


 Transition from justice system or treatment

 Are exposed to potent synthetic opioids like fentanyl or xylazine

Why it matters - saving lives through overdose prevention:

 Gives people a chance to recover

 Strengthens communities and families

 Can reduce death^{7,8,9,10}


Key Projects

Project HOPE helps reduce opioid overdose deaths by distributing free naloxone (Narcan) kits and life-saving supplies across Alaska.

Project HOPE works with a statewide network of Overdose Response Programs (ORPs) to distribute naloxone across Alaska. This network of public health centers, tribal health organizations, first responders, and community groups work with Project Hope to ensure naloxone is available to anyone most likely to witness or experience an overdose. The program also supplies naloxone to all Alaska public schools, as required by [HB 202](#).

Administering naloxone to someone experiencing an overdose gives first responders time to arrive and begin treatment, which can prevent death and support recovery.





Smart Investment:

According to one study, naloxone distribution saves lives and money – up to **\$2,742** for every dollar spent.¹¹

183,580

naloxone kits distributed statewide since the program began in 2017

45,094

naloxone kits distributed in 2024 alone

~ 15,000

people trained to use naloxone by Project Hope and ORPs in 2024



Build local capacity for prevention, care, and recovery by training providers, reducing stigma, improving data sharing, and strengthening partnerships.

Systems That Support Healing

Many Alaskans with a SUD struggle to access care or stay engaged in recovery due to stigma, provider shortages, and fragmented support systems.



Access to Care Saves Lives

Strong systems that support people, especially after incarceration or treatment, reduce overdose deaths.⁶



Education Reduces Stigma

Training can improve patient access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for SUD recovery and teach clinicians new tools for managing pain without opioids.¹²



Provider Training Works

Opioid prescriptions have decreased over time. Prescription data sharing and non-opioid pain care are making an impact.^{13,14}

Key Projects

OSMAP leads several initiatives that build sustainable community-based solutions and expand provider education. Below, projects are organized into the following groups:



Community-Based Systems

help local groups reduce stigma, connect people to care, and support recovery in their own communities.



Provider-Focused Initiatives

give health professionals training and tools to prevent substance use, treat addiction, and support recovery.



Community-Based Systems



PC CARES (Promoting Community Conversations About Research for Effective Solutions)

The State of Alaska's OSMAP, in partnership with a diverse Community Advisory Board, is adapting the PC CARES model of research-informed conversations and community-led action to help people at high risk for substance use. PC CARES creates local communities of practice that learn together and decide how to:

Community-Led



Conversations

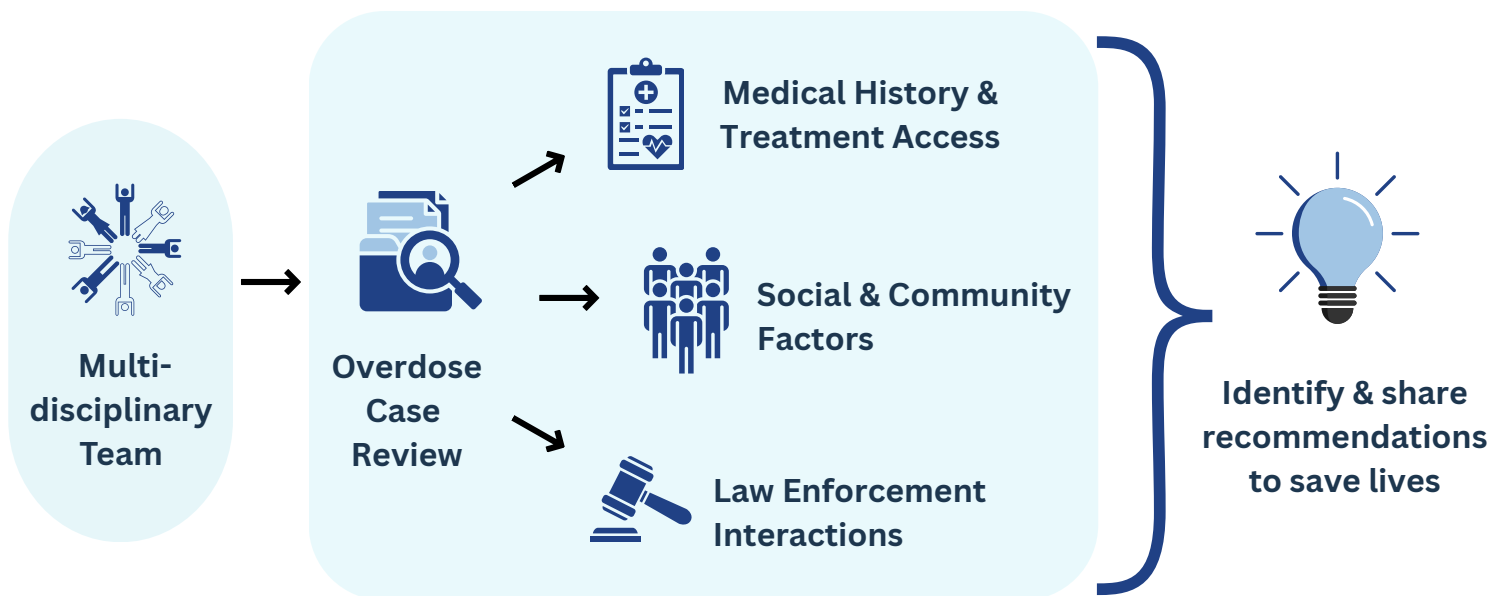
-  prevent and reduce harm
-  increase public safety
-  impact hard-to-reach communities
-  support community-based linkages to care

The new PC CARES curriculum will be piloted in the coming year, with plans to train local facilitators to lead the program starting in 2026–27.

Overdose Fatality Review (OFR)

OFR is a nationally recognized, public health-led process that brings together a multidisciplinary team to examine the circumstances surrounding overdose deaths. By reviewing medical history, social factors, treatment access, and interactions with law enforcement, teams identify missed opportunities and system gaps. The goal is to develop actionable, community-specific strategies that prevent future overdose deaths.

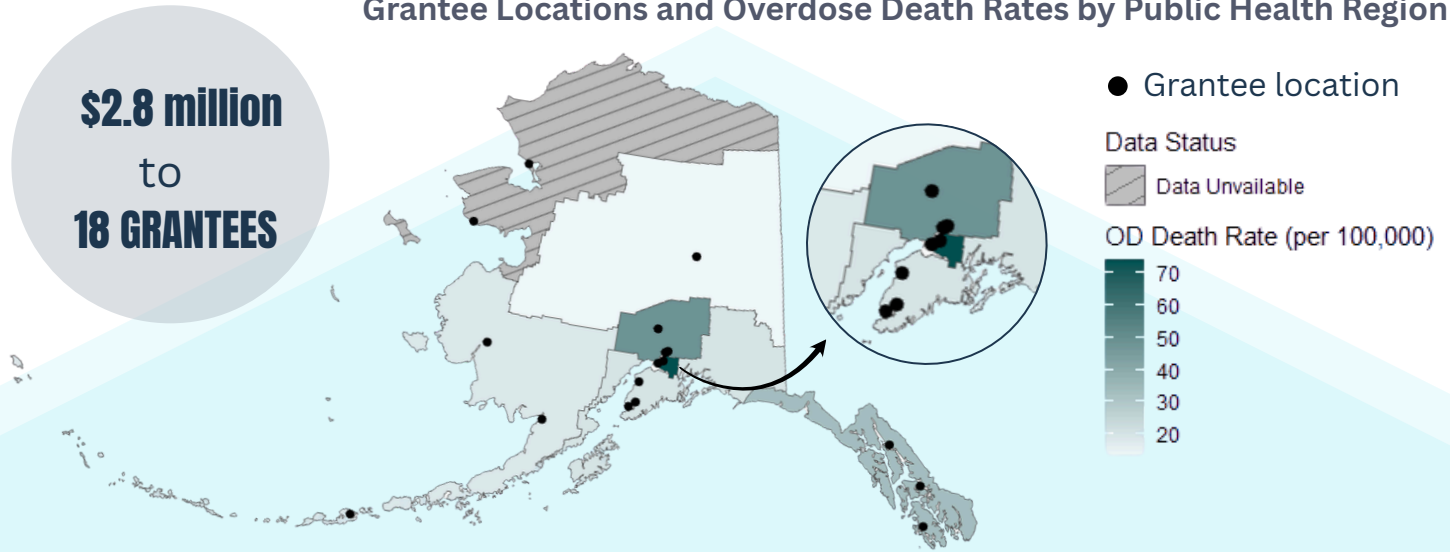
Working together to prevent future overdose deaths.



In 2021, states reached a historic settlement with opioid manufacturers and distributors, directing funds to address the nationwide opioid crisis. Alaska dedicated its share of the settlement to SUD and overdose prevention, treatment, recovery, and system coordination.

In FY25, the first year of a 3-year program, \$2.8 million was awarded to 18 grantees through a competitive process to address the opioid epidemic at the community level.

Grantee Locations and Overdose Death Rates by Public Health Region



Grantees used evidence-based strategies and promising practices to:

- 
Prevent opioid misuse
- 
Reduce opioid harms
- 
Connect people to care
- 
Improve prescribing practices
- 
Treat opioid use disorder
- 
Support recovery & treatment

Grant Program Impact Highlights

- 
2,500+ first responders trained to use naloxone and fentanyl test strips
- 
100+ transportation vouchers issued to expand treatment access
- 
270+ families supported through culturally adapted Positive Indian Parenting¹⁵
- 
4 peer support programs launched to strengthen recovery pathways
- 
140+ people received direct care through MAT, youth inpatient treatment, and telehealth
- 
New youth residential care added for OUD/SUD and co-occurring mental health needs

Together, these efforts reached Alaskans across every public health region, delivering services that are saving lives and building healthier communities.

Provider-Focused Initiatives

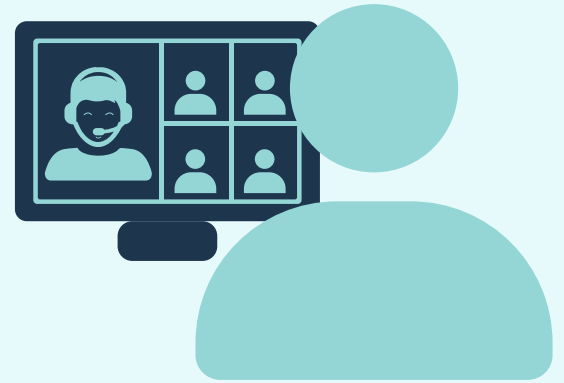
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

The PDMP is a tool to help providers better serve their patients. By securely sharing data across Alaska and several other states, the PDMP supports safe prescribing practices and helps providers identify when patients may be at higher risk for overdose. This allows clinicians to:

- offer education and resources to keep patients safer and healthier
- intervene early
- coordinate care

Pain and Opioid Management (POM) ECHO

In Alaska, Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) virtual learning networks connect providers to strengthen skills in evidence-based pain management and opioid use disorder treatment. Sessions bring providers together to discuss real case studies, share challenges, and explore solutions. Providers learn from each other's experiences while building their own knowledge and skills.



Academic Detailing

Academic detailing, also known as educational visiting, is an evidence-based educational outreach method focused on clinician education and behavior change. This evidence-based approach equips providers with the latest guidance on:



**safe opioid
prescribing**



**non-opioid pain
management**



**medication-assisted
treatment (MAT)**

Academic detailing draws on the pharmaceutical industry's successful approach of brief in-person visits to share the "details" of a drug or device. In academic detailing, healthcare professionals detail clinicians on the latest scientific evidence through tailored, one-on-one, office-based visits. Using theories of behavior change, detailers help clinicians set achievable goals through on-going support and communication.

Promote protective factors like resilience, connection, and mental well-being to reduce early substance use and long-term harm.

Roots of Substance Use Disorders

SUDs often begin early in life and are shaped by: ^{3, 4, 16, 17}



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



Social and economic stress



Community and environment

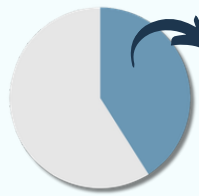


23% of all Alaskans report growing up with someone who misused drugs.¹⁸

Alaska needs just and culturally appropriate programs.



A large number of Alaskan youth are exposed to drug misuse, with some populations exposed at higher rates compared to others.



32% of Alaska Native people report growing up with someone who misused drugs.¹⁸

Several or severe ACEs

Greater risk for SUD

Increased risk for overdose^{3,4}

Investing in prevention is cost-effective and long-lasting. Educating our communities early and strengthening protective factors like connection, coping skills, and community support can reduce risk and help people thrive.¹⁹

Strengthening protective factors can help people thrive.



Connection



Coping Skills



Community Support

Key Projects

Positive Youth Development Afterschool Program (PYDAP)

These statewide programs serve 5th–8th graders and aim to prevent early substance use of all kinds by keeping youth engaged, learning skills, and building connections in safe, supportive environments. **PYDAP promotes:**



team building



mentorship



physical activity



STEM* learning



personal growth

By helping youth feel engaged, capable, and connected, the programs support healthier decision-making and lay a foundation for long-term well-being. In 2024, PYDAP had:



44 afterschool program locations



79,417 total attendance in 2024



1760+ students served per quarter. Students engaged with a PYDAP an average of **11 days** each quarter.

“Frozen” Media Campaign

Evidence-based public health media campaigns use storytelling and data to shift social norms and promote protective behaviors.



storytelling

+



data



shift social norms



and promote
protective behaviors

Over the past year, the Frozen Campaign, developed by a national partner, used audience research and social marketing to reach and educate youth about marijuana use. Last year, “Frozen” delivered more than 7 million impressions across digital ads, video, YouTube, and in-app gaming.

The campaign centered on the concept that:



“Smoking weed as a teenager changes your brain”

It can get you stuck or “frozen” where you are. The message emphasizes how marijuana use can limit growth, achieving goals, and mental well-being during a critical period of brain development.

OSMAP Funding Sources

Substance misuse remains a substantial challenge for Alaska’s communities and OSMAP secured funding from multiple sources to address the complex issue. The largest single source of funding comes from a legal settlement for opioid remediation. Almost half of OSMAP’s funding comes from four federal grants, and less than a fifth of funds come from state sources. Together, these funding streams pay to reduce overdose deaths, strengthen community systems, and prevent substance-related harm.

Legal Settlement

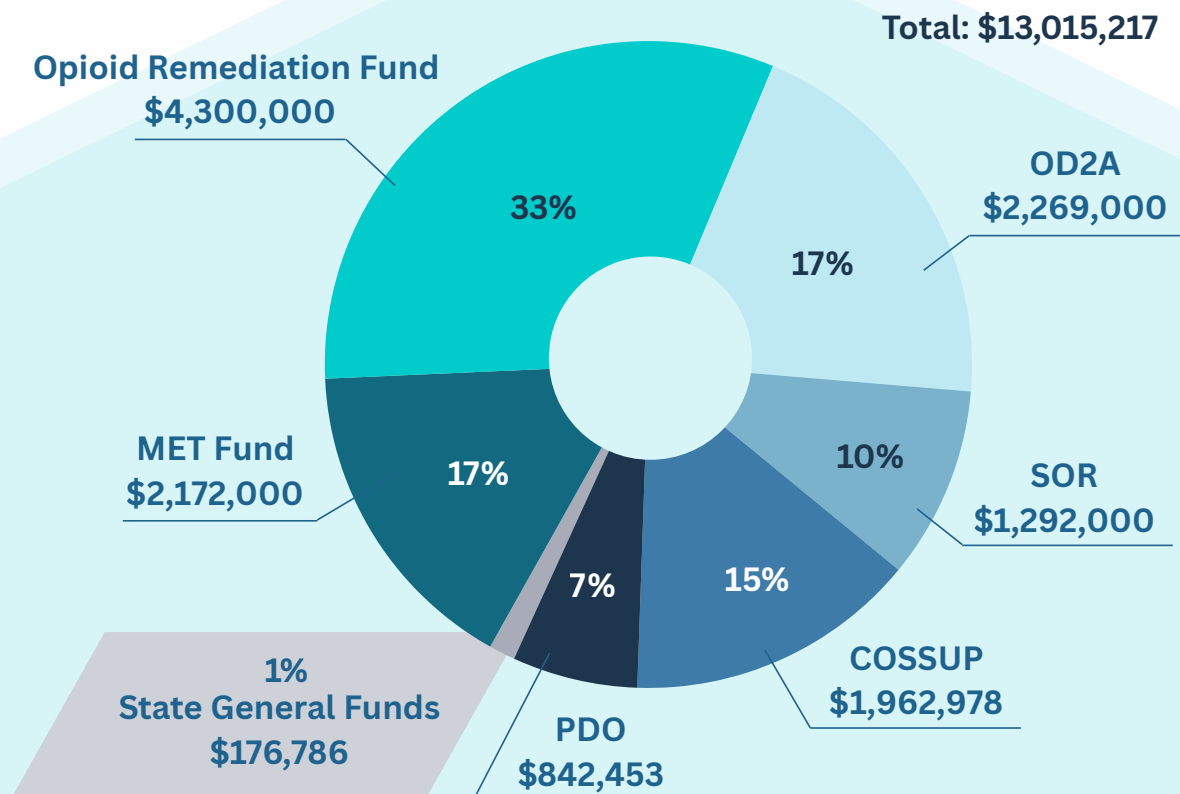
- **Opioid Remediation Fund** – Settlement funds from lawsuits related to opioid harms

Federal Funding

- **Overdose to Action Grant (OD2A)** - Center for Disease Control
- **State Opioid Response (SOR)** - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- **Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Grant Program (COSSUP)** - Bureau of Justice Assistance
- **Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths (PDO)** - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

State Revenue

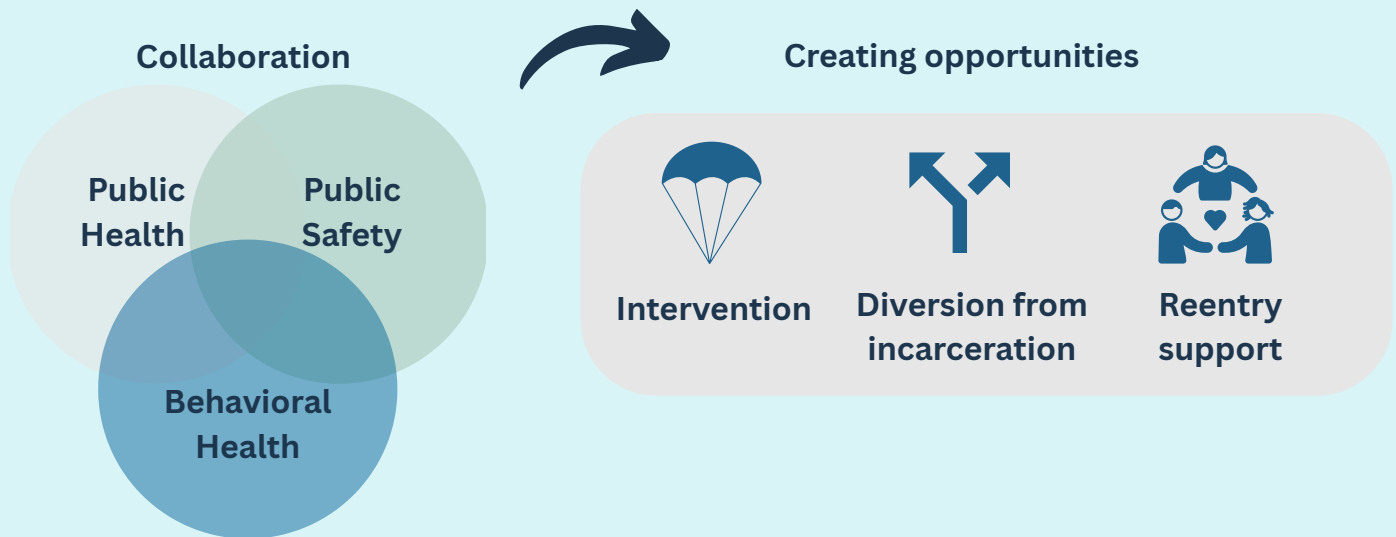
- **State General Funds**
- **Marijuana Education and Treatment (MET) Fund** - Revenue from taxes on cannabis cultivation



Over the past year, we have made important progress by expanding access to lifesaving overdose prevention tools, strengthening community systems, and preventing harmful substance use through early education. **But there is still more work to be done.**

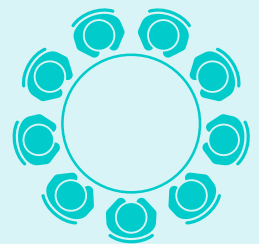
Reentry Support and Overdose Prevention: COSSUP Grant Program

Our next steps include focusing naloxone distribution to reach those at highest risk. This work is part of the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Grant Program (COSSUP). This grant program will support Alaska’s 12 tribal health regions in developing programs that address the connections between opioids, stimulants, alcohol, and the criminal legal system. These future projects aim to build cross-sector collaboration among public health, public safety, and behavioral health.



Lived and Living Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP)

The LEAP, beginning in late 2025, is made up of individuals with personal experience in substance use and recovery. Their voices will shape prevention and treatment to ensure these efforts reach and resonate with Alaskans with substance use experience.



Substance Use and Mental Health Campaign for Young Adults

Mental health and substance use are deeply connected. A new campaign will share positive ways to cope with stress, reduce stigma, and connect people to support. We are teaming up with young adults to create short videos and other messages that will connect adults to a new campaign website, helpful information, and resources that include the following:



Real Stories



Support & Treatment



Tools to Stay Safe



Mindfulness exercises



Substance Use Facts



Community Activities

How to Help

- Individuals can **carry and distribute naloxone**.
- Community members and organizations can **reduce stigma** through public education and lived-experience storytelling.
- Schools and community organizations can offer **sober recreation** through substance-free community events and activities.
- Policymakers and funders can **invest in prevention** by funding school- and community-based programs that build protective factors.
- Health care systems and providers can **expand access to MAT** by increasing prescribing providers and reducing wait times.
- Policymakers and organizations can **establish policies** that allow people to seek support after relapse without losing housing, employment, or access to services.
- Employers and organizations can build **recovery-friendly workplaces** by providing flexible schedules, protected leave for treatment, and supported return-to-work options after relapse.
- Policymakers and health systems can foster **peer-led support groups** by considering policies that reimburse peer support recovery services.



Project Hope and Partners



Community Naloxone Build



Settlement Grantee:

Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection hosting a Sober Lounge event, with peer support services for treatment and recovery



Settlement

Grantee:

My House
Youth
Housing peer-
support staff
at the 2024
Walk for
Recovery

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March, 2026

