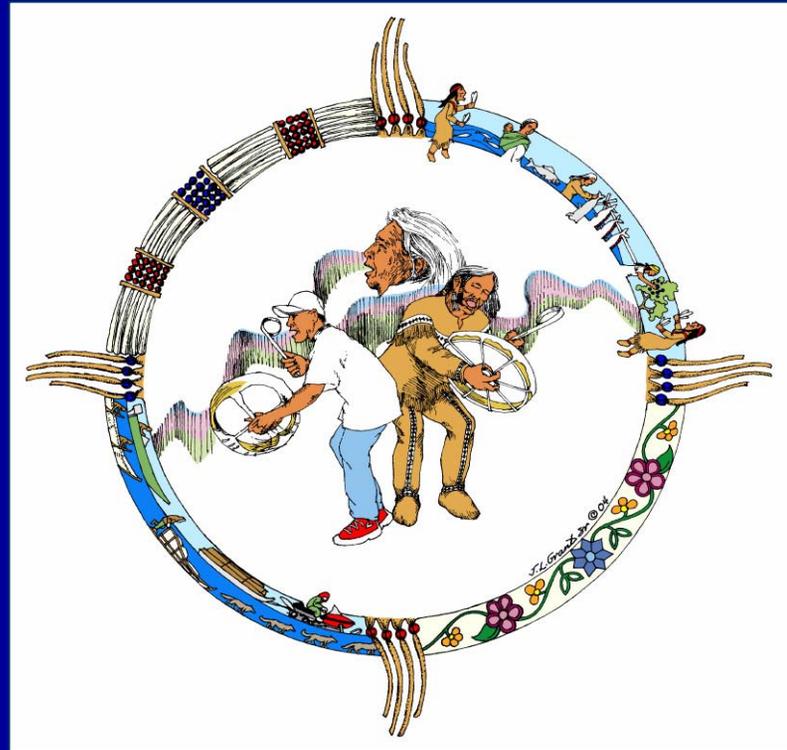


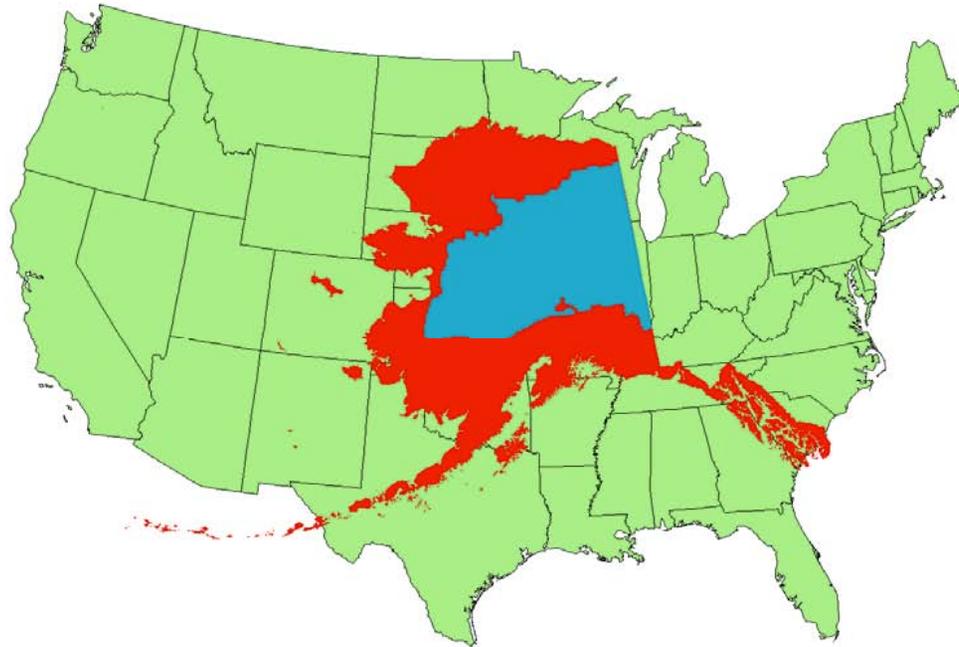
whip



Interior Alaska

Kathleen Cunniffe, RN - Tanana Chiefs Conference

Welcome to Alaska!



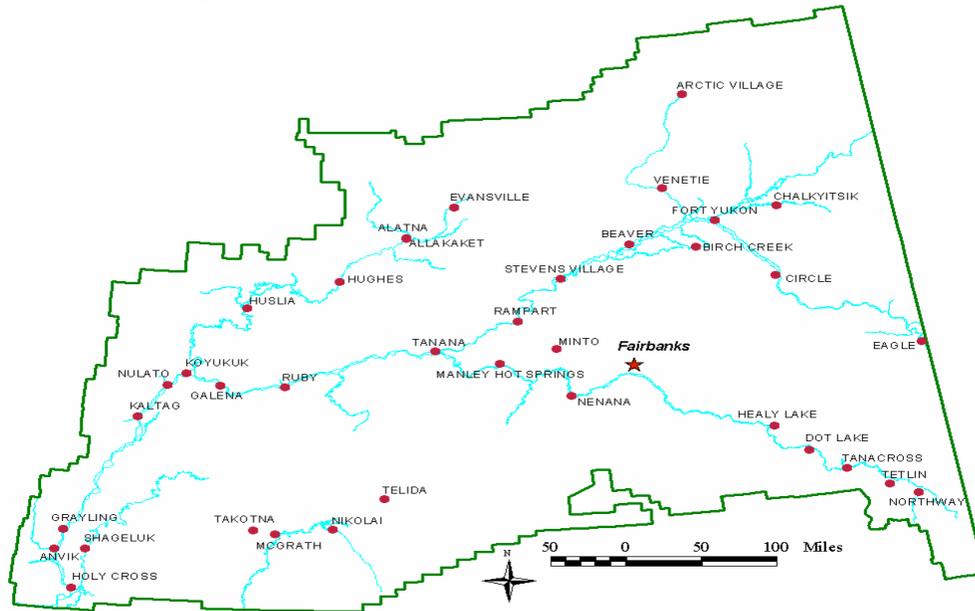
Relative Size of Alaska and the Tanana Chiefs Conference Region compared to the contiguous United States.



Tanana Chiefs Conference

Tanana Chiefs Conference

Villages of the Tanana Chiefs Conference region.



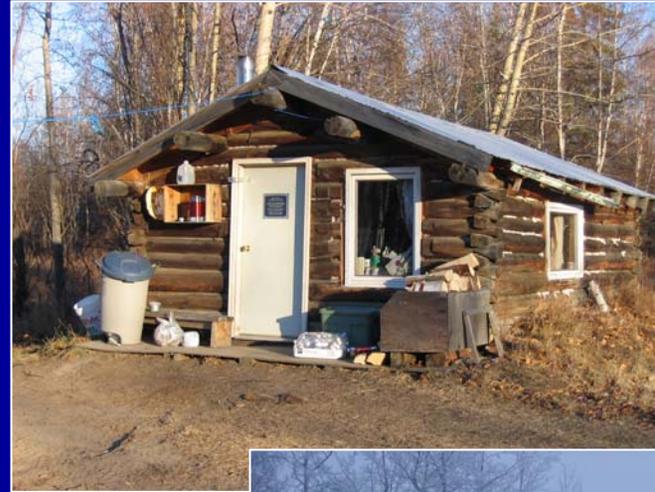
Athabascan Native Villages

Learning Objectives

- Describe various methods used to provide an integrated hepatitis program to remote villages scattered over an area the size of Texas.
- Understand the complexities of addressing stigmatized diseases in small, remote Athabascan communities.
- Identify the importance of involving village-based providers in VHIP implementation.

What is an Athabaskan village like?

- 80 – 700 people
- one post office
- one washeteria
- one school
- one or two stores



Local Issues

- **STDs:** Chlamydia & gonorrhea – AK with highest rates of CT infection in the United States.
- **Substance use:** Alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, inhalants.
- **Other:** Unemployment, abuse, lack of education...

Question?

Over such a large geographical area,
how can a VHIP be made sustainable?

Answer...



Use Community Health Aides (CHAs)
Village-based healthcare providers.

Community Health Aides (CHAs)

- Training
- Family relations
- Barriers to screening:
 - knowledge.
 - “responsibility” of testing.
 - client dynamics.
 - confidentiality.

HEPATITIS C - HIV - STDs

– EVER HAD SEX WITHOUT A CONDOM - EVEN ONCE?...

...EVER INJECTED DRUGS - EVEN ONCE?



IF SO, PLEASE GET TESTED
FOR HEPATITIS C, HIV AND STDs!

Get tested at your village clinic, or at CAIHC

Testing is 100% confidential 

Questions? Kathleen Cunniffe, RN at CAIHC

1 800 478 6682 x 3768

Overcoming barriers with CSAs

- Educate!
- Address confidentiality.
- Discuss cultural aspects of screening.



CHAs continued...

- Make screening “routine”.
- Reinforce CHAs’ role as partners.
- Empower the whole community.





Thank you.