

Alaska's Citizen Review Panel



Citizen Review Panel: Who

- The CRP is composed of volunteer members who are broadly representative of the state, including members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.
- Susan Heuer, Anchorage (Chair)
- Dana Hallett, Haines
- Pat Hefley, Juneau
- Kristin Hull, Wasilla
- Steve McComb, Palmer
- Stella Schuchardt, LCSW, Fairbanks
- Diwakar Vadapalli, Ph.D., Anchorage



Citizen Review Panel: What

To provide oversight to the Office of Children's Services and gather public input on how well child protection is being delivered statewide. The Panel does this primarily by visiting different regions of the state and talking to OCS staff and partner agencies about how well the system is working. The Panel produces an annual report for OCS which is also distributed to all members of the Legislature.



Citizen Review Panel: Where

Statewide! Since 2008 we've been to the following communities.

- Anchorage
- Aniak
- Barrow
- Bethel
- Cantwell
- Chitina
- Copper Center
- Delta Junction
- Dillingham
- Fairbanks
- Gakona
- Glennallen
- Healy
- Hooper Bay
- Juneau
- Kenny Lake
- Ketchikan
- King Salmon
- Kodiak
- Kwigillingok
- Naknek
- Northway
- Nuquisut
- Palmer
- Petersburg
- Point Hope
- Saint Mary's
- Sitka
- Tok
- Unalaska
- Valdez
- Wainwright
- Wasilla
- Wrangell



Citizen Review Panel: When

The Panel has been active in Alaska since 2002. We have teleconferences at least monthly and meet in person at least four times a year, typically in conjunction with a site visit.



Citizen Review Panel: Why

The Citizen Review Panel is mandated by state and federal law. The Panel was created through the federal Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA); Keeping Children & Families Safe Act of 2003 and through Alaska statute Sec. 47.14.205.



Benefits of CRP

- Seven volunteer members all contributing a minimum of 250 active hours annually
- We're the eyes and ears of the public for the Legislature and OCS
- Unique function of identifying and advocating for ancillary services that OCS cannot request
- Jointly we can achieve a vastly improved child protection system for the children of Alaska



Positive Trends at OCS

- Increased transparency, improved relationships with partners
- Efforts to keep children in their homes
- Improvement in items identified by 2008 CFSSR (federal review)
- Efforts to combat staff turnover



Issues CRP is monitoring

- Safety of children
 - Investigations into reports of harm (Initial Assessment)
 - In-home/resources
- Recruitment, retention (housing)
- Data
- Need for more support staff



2013 CRP Areas of Concern

Safety of children

- Initial Assessment to investigate reports of harm
- In-home/resources



2013 CRP Areas of Concern

Staff turnover

- Need for improved recruitment and retention
- Housing as an element of problem



2013 CRP Areas of Concern

Data

- Regional boundaries need to align with Borough and Census Area boundaries
- More data need to be available on the web

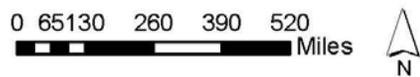
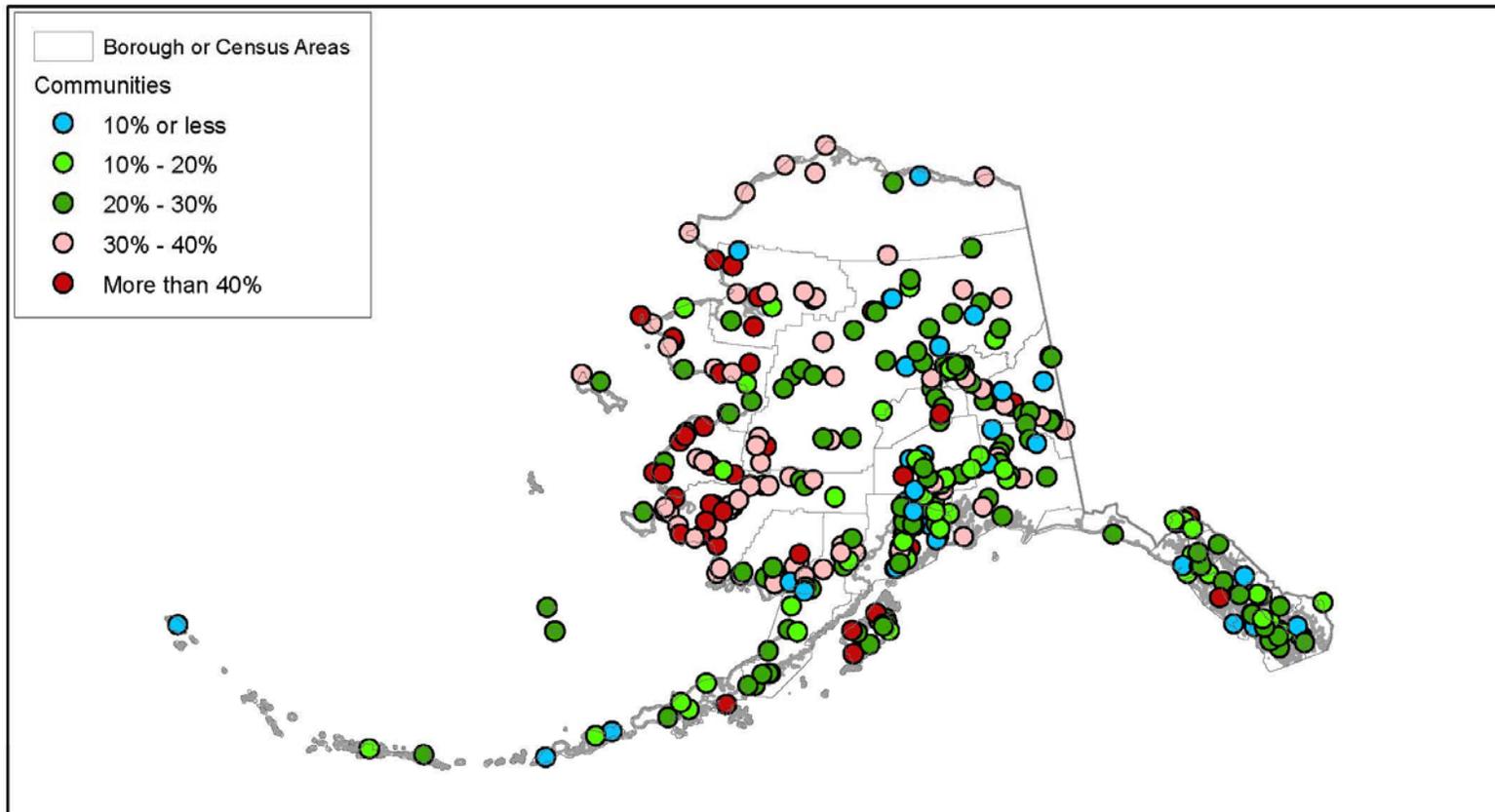


Illustration

Region	Total Population	Population 18 years or younger	Number of victims	Victims as a percentage of total victims for the State	Victimization rate – Number of victims per 1000 children
Western	24,364	9,297	260	9.05%	28
Anchorage	291,997	75,834	996	34.67%	13
Northern	137,332	37,005	751	26.14%	20
South Central	170,660	44,963	688	23.95%	15
Southeastern	65,449	15,241	178	6.20%	12

If regional boundaries were aligned with either Census or AK DOL regional boundaries, this data can be used to understand issues such as the impact of neglect or abuse and school performance; or relationship between Abuse and neglect and other public health indicators.





Children as percentage of total population, by community



Availability of Data

- Currently available regional-level data
 - Children in placements, by age race
 - Number of substantiations, victims, and perpetrators for the calendar year from 2006 through 2010
- It would be useful to have:
 - Allegations, substantiations, victims, and perpetrators, on a monthly basis for each type of maltreatment



2013 CRP Areas of Concern

Number of support staff need to be increased

- Workload study completed, but not yet released
- More efficient use of resources to allow more tasks to be handled by support staff

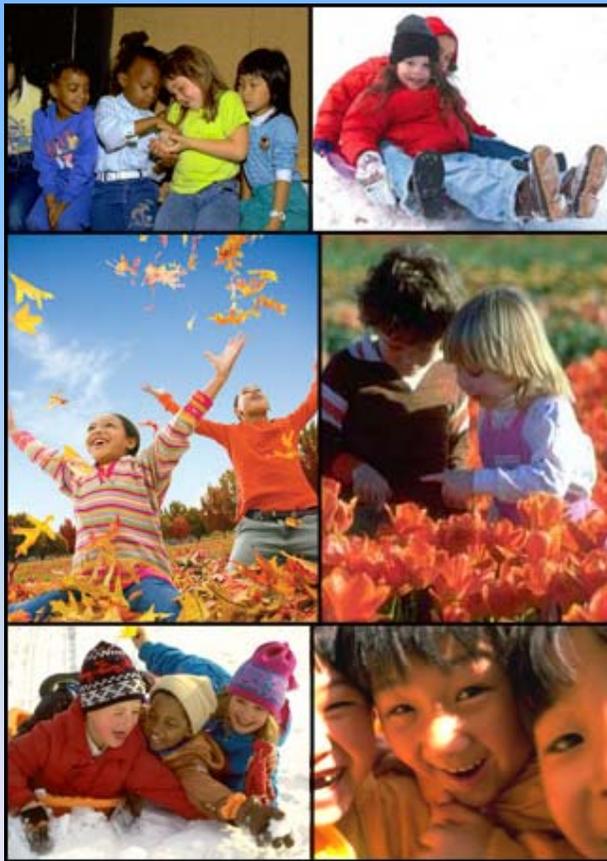


Support for Legislative Issues

- Support for the \$490,000 increment in the Governor's supplemental projects to improve safety at the Anchorage OCS office
- Support for other increments in the Governor's budget



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For more
information,
please visit our
website
www.crpalaska.org

