

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

2006 Annual Report

Our Journey to Excellence



The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) provides specialty medical care, community health services, construction of clean-water and sanitation facilities, information technology, training and educational support, and a host of other services. (For more information about ANTHC services, visit our website at www.anthc.org.)

This annual report provides examples and information about ANTHC accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2006 (October 1, 2005–September 30, 2006) or FY2006.

Table of Contents

Our Journey to Excellence	1
Working with Our People	3
Working with Our Partners	4
A Unified Health System	7
Highest Quality Health Services	8
FY2006 Workload Statistics	10
Board of Directors	11
Financial Summary	12

The theme of this annual report is *Our Journey to Excellence*, and the photographs of Alaska Native art help share that message. These works of art reflect our long tradition of working to achieve excellence. For our ancestors, it was vital to continually learn and improve to survive and excel, whether the task was large or small, highly visible or behind the scenes.

We live in a changing world that has provided us with many more tools to help us face our challenges. The qualities that allowed our ancestors to thrive are still vital to our health and quality of life.

The works of art shown in this report are achievements. They express creativity and imagination. They show Alaska Native values and beliefs, including our connections to the natural world and our spirituality. Through his or her work, each artist shares ideas with the viewer. Quality work, connections, and the sharing of ideas are also part of *Our Journey to Excellence*.

Photo at right: Toy dog sled; wood and string, by Nick Evan, Yup'ik
(Photo by Chris Arend, courtesy Alaska Native Medical Center Auxiliary Heritage Collection)

Cover: This artwork, *Blanket Toss*, was chosen for the cover because it represents all Alaska Natives working in unity for our children and the future. Materials include mink, coyote, wolf, and sea otter furs; deer skin and buckskin; Icelandic Dall Sheep wool, cottonwood, wool, felt, beads, cloth and abalone; and samples or replicas of herbs used in traditional times such as bog berries, fireweed leaf (tea), chickweed, rosehips, and nettles, by Shelee Chamberlain, Yup'ik (Photo by Kraig Haver)



The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is the largest and most comprehensive tribal health organization in the country. That in itself is a source of pride for the people we serve, our employees, and our Board of Directors. But we have a greater vision—that *Alaska Natives are the healthiest people in the world*. This report outlines how we are working to achieve this vision, and describes recent successes along *Our Journey to Excellence*.

Our Journey to Excellence

Alaska Natives are the healthiest people in the world: This vision is a challenge to the Alaska Native community. What does this vision mean to you personally? What will it take to reach it? How will we achieve this vision?

It takes many people working together to reach great goals. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is at the center of the Alaska Tribal Health System, which is made up of tribes and tribal health organizations from all regions of Alaska. Together we work to promote Native self-determination, quality health services, and wellness. Together we work to achieve excellence.

The way we do things is as important as the tasks we undertake. Excellence is a promise to uphold the high standards we have set for ourselves. It is a vow to live according to our values, the deeply-held beliefs that define who and what we are. Our values give us the strength and discipline to take our journey together.

To achieve our vision and live in accordance with our values, we make plans and use data to measure our progress so we can better set our course toward success. We have a long-term strategic plan that emphasizes personal responsibility, partnership, unity, and quality. Our plan outlines four key themes: working with our people, working with our partners, a unified health system, and highest quality health services.

This report provides examples of our achievements in these four areas during FY2006.



Working with Our People

Our staff works closely with tribal health care providers, our tribal governments, and with all Alaska Natives. We are committed to responding quickly to our customers' needs. Here are some of the ways we have worked to fulfill these commitments this year.

We worked to expand the number of Alaska Natives working in the Alaska Tribal Health System, and to build the skills and knowledge of all of our staff. Training and education included a series of formal classroom and distance-education training initiatives, internships, on-the-job training, scholarships, mentoring, and a new ANTHC leadership development program (LEAD).

In partnership with tribal health organizations and collaborating agencies, ANTHC provided construction skills training in many rural communities where sanitation and facility projects are planned.

We assisted tribal government staff to reduce costs and improve operations of rural utility systems, and to be better prepared for disasters and public health emergencies such as avian influenza.

We continued to expand training for new types of village-based health service providers to work with our Community Health Aides and Community Health Practitioners. In collaboration with the University of Alaska, more than 50 Behavioral Health Aides are gaining skills to help individuals and families address substance abuse and mental health challenges in their communities.

ANTHC has sponsored forums where community health providers and researchers worked together to apply the latest scientific knowledge to address behavioral health problems and chronic disease in our communities. ANTHC completed a statewide comprehensive cancer plan.

This year ANTHC finished a five-year project to complete and publish a new manual for Alaska's 500 Community Health Aides/Practitioners. We also published, for the first time, a handbook of resources and services available to help Alaska Native inmates successfully return to their home communities.

ANTHC provided training and technical assistance to community-based tobacco cessation counselors, health and safety educators, health technology specialists, nurses, and a host of other health professionals serving the Alaska Tribal Health System.

Dancers; whale bone, walrus ivory, and pigment, by Richard Olanna, Inupiaq
(Photo by Chris Arend, courtesy Alaska Native Medical Center Auxiliary Heritage Collection)

Working with Our Partners

To achieve our vision, ANTHC has joined forces with many other agencies and organizations to combine our knowledge, resources, and support.

Our long-term initiative to replace and renovate health clinics in villages throughout Alaska has continued to progress through partnerships with the Denali Commission, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Rasmuson Foundation, and Paul G. Allen Trust.

This year, ANTHC re-negotiated our partnerships with the State of Alaska Village Safe Water program, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program, and Indian Health Service to continue our long-term effort to bring adequate water and sanitation services to rural Alaska villages.

Dental Health Aide Therapists that were trained in New Zealand are now providing much-needed oral health care services in eight rural villages. Now ANTHC is creating training opportunities for dental therapists here in Alaska. The US Department of Health and Human Services, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Local Initiative Funding Partners Foundation, University of Washington, and Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority are providing support.

Working with the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, ANTHC hosted emergency preparedness training and planning sessions in many regions of Alaska, planned for expanded youth residential services, and increased Medicaid coverage for health care for more Alaska Natives.

Through the Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership, ANTHC works with the Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, and Department of Homeland Security/Coast Guard to ensure that their health programs are closely coordinated with the Alaska Tribal Health System's programs.

In concert with the Alaska Native Health Board and the National Indian Health Board, we advocated for both federal and state legislation and funding to sustain and expand our health programs.

*Aleut woman's hat; carved ivory detail,
and feathered back, by Peter Lind, Aleut
(Photo by Kraig Haver)*





A Unified Health System

To achieve our vision, ANTHC works closely with the statewide network of regional hospitals, village-based clinics, and community health programs operated by over 30 different Alaska tribes and tribal health organizations. ANTHC offers a range of health system support programs to help these organizations successfully serve their communities.

ANTHC recruits physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, and other health professionals to fill positions throughout Alaska, and provides continuing education opportunities each year.

ANTHC maintains a computer Wide Area Network to ensure that confidential patient information is available to medical providers whenever our patients seek medical care in Alaska. ANTHC is developing plans to convert paper medical records to electronic format because more accurate and timely records reduce medical errors and improve patient safety.

Through the Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership, we installed digital teleradiology (X-ray) equipment for village health clinics, and installed video-teleconferencing equipment at many tribal health locations. We expanded our warehouse and distribution center to provide pharmacy items and medical supplies to more than 200 tribal hospitals and clinics.

Highest Quality Health Services

ANTHC is committed to providing the highest quality services possible for our patients, our affiliated tribal health organizations, and our local communities.

In September 2006, the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) was re-designated as Alaska's first and only Level II Trauma Center, the highest level that can be achieved in Alaska.

ANMC's Division of Nursing is preparing for re-designation of our Magnet Status, which is recognition of quality patient care and nursing excellence. ANMC is the first and only Magnet Hospital in Alaska, and the only tribally-operated hospital with this designation in the United States.

In October 2006, ANMC was awarded full accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

The University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, internationally known for use of research and other best evidence to improve patient outcomes, recognizes ANMC as a Center of Excellence in Evidence-Based Practice.

The Division of Environmental Health and Engineering, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, began the first study showing a link between the lack of in-home water service and rates of respiratory infections and skin disease.

ANMC's ultrasound and mammography services received accreditation from the American College of Radiology.

In 2006, ANMC relocated and expanded our Cardiology Clinic, and purchased new state-of-the-art equipment for both Cardiology and Neurosurgery. The Inpatient Pharmacy expanded its hours to better serve the needs of hospital patients and providers.

ANMC installed a new Laboratory Information System to automate administrative tasks, increase laboratory productivity, and improve reporting of test results.

Alaska Native immunization rates are consistently above 90%.

Baby carrier; folded birch bark, smoked moose hide, glass beads, spruce root, by Margie Sparks, Athabascan
(Photo by Chris Arend, courtesy Alaska Native Medical Center Auxiliary Heritage Collection)



FY2006 Workload Statistics

ANTHC employed 1,800 staff, of whom 43% are Alaska Natives or American Indians.

ANTHC provided summer internships to 16 Alaska Natives and American Indians, awarded \$6,000 in scholarships to 12 Alaska Natives pursuing health careers, and enrolled 28 staff in its new leadership program, LEAD.

ANMC admitted 6,454 patients, provided 386,938 outpatient clinic visits, delivered 1,405 infants, and performed 11,380 surgical procedures in FY2006.

ANMC specialist physicians provided 835 days of on-site specialty clinics at 14 regional hospitals and health centers.

DEHE improved water and sanitation services in 1,012 homes and has active projects in 160 communities throughout Alaska.

DEHE was awarded \$67 million for sanitation facility projects, \$19.9 million for new health clinic facility projects, and \$4 million for hospital maintenance and improvement projects.

The Rural Utility Cooperative project in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region now serves six communities, with plans to add five more communities.

ANTHC's Statewide Utility Association now has 231 customers participating in the Alaska Utility Supply Center program and 15 communities participating in its billing program.

ANTHC's Community Health Aide/Practitioner Training Center provided nine training sessions for 68 students, provided six Community Health Aide/Practitioner preceptorships, and two week-long continuing medical education courses.

ANTHC coordinated the printing and distribution of 1,400 copies of the 2006 Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual (CHAM), and facilitated statewide orientation to the Manual.

ANTHC processed 292 Community Health Aide/Practitioner certification applications for the CHAP Certification Board.

ANTHC's Division of Health Information Technology provided 560 training sessions covering video-conferencing, telemedicine, electronic health records, and data management.

ANTHC's Regional Supply Service Center distributed \$5.9 million worth of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to 95 tribal health facilities in FY2006. Pharmaceuticals purchased through a federal contract, on behalf of ANTHC customers, totaled \$15.4 million for 2006.



From left: Lincoln A. Bean, Sr., SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Vice Chair; Emily Hughes, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Secretary; Frederica Schaeffer, Maniilaq Association; H. Sally Smith, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation; Ileen Sylvester, Southcentral Foundation (alternate); Don Kashevaroff, Unaffiliated Tribes, Chairman/President; Ray Alstrom, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation; Linda Clement, Metlakatla Indian Community; Robert Henrichs, Chugachmiut; Evelyn Beeter, Unaffiliated Tribes, Treasurer; Andrew Jimmie, Tanana Chiefs Conference; Veronica Nicholas, Copper River Native Association; Michelle Shuravloff-Nelson, Kodiak Area Native Association (alternate); Herman Kignak, Arctic Slope Native Association. Not shown: Mike Zacharof, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association

Board of Directors

In FY2006, the ANTHC Board of Directors refined its Five-year Strategic Plan, developing and monitoring specific measurements for the 17 objectives it has identified. The Board maintains committees that address health facilities, sanitation facilities, health research, hospital operations, medical services networking, elders' health, finance and audit, and bylaws and policy matters.

In FY2006, Board members took part in a national Estes Park Institute conference on the role of community hospitals. They traveled to the Bering Sea island community of St. Paul to hold a board meeting, and visited its recently completed new health center. Our Board of Directors approved a new policy that provides that all ANTHC property will be tobacco-free, both outdoors and indoors, effective November 16, 2006.

ANTHC's Board members continue to provide senior leadership on the national level in such forums as the National Indian Health Board and the Indian Health Service Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee.

Financial Summary

2006 Revenue (in millions)

1. Indian Health Service Compact	114
2. Medicare, Medicaid, Insurance	104
3. Sanitation and Facility Projects	56
4. Grants Activity	18
5. Reimbursement for Supplies	19
6. Other	6
7. Interest	7
8. Facility Maintenance and Improvements	4
Total	328

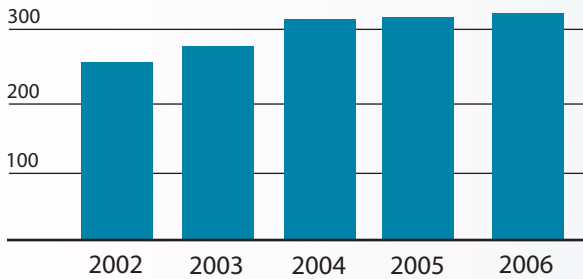
2006 Expenditures (in millions)

1. Alaska Native Medical Center	180
2. Sanitation and Facility Projects	56
3. Regional Supply Service Center/Other	26
4. Community Health Services	17
5. Environmental Health and Engineering	11
6. Administration	10
7. Information Technology	10
8. Pass-through Awards	8
Total	318

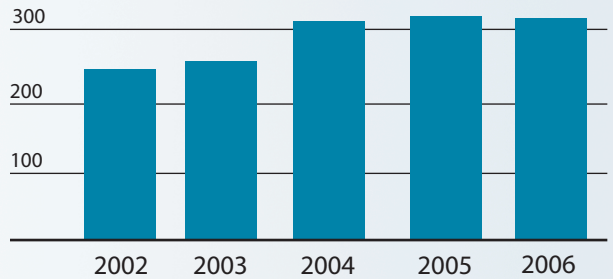
This Financial Summary is preliminary as of 10/31/06 and is subject to a formal audit for FY2006

Five year comparison (in millions)

Revenue



Expenditures



Gloves, unknown maker
(Photo by Chris Arend,
courtesy Alaska Native
Medical Center Auxiliary
Heritage Collection)



Swans; ivory, by Daniel Iyakitan, Siberian Yupik
(Photo by Chris Arend, courtesy Alaska Native Medical Center Auxiliary Heritage Collection)

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium was formed in December 1997 to manage statewide health services for Alaska Natives. All Alaska Natives, through their tribal governments and through their regional nonprofit organizations, own the Consortium. It is one of 22 co-signers of the Alaska Tribal Health Compact, a self-governance agreement with the Indian Health Service.

The Consortium employs approximately 1,800 people and had an operating budget of \$322 million in FY2006. It is based on the Alaska Native Health Campus on Tudor Road in Anchorage.

Vision

Alaska Natives are the healthiest
people in the world

Mission

Providing the highest quality health
services in partnership with our people and the
Alaska Tribal Health System

Values

Achieving excellence
Native self-determination
Treat with respect and integrity
Health and wellness
Compassion



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