



HEALTH WITHIN REACH

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

Our vision is not only an ambitious statement — but the guiding principle in all that the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium does. We envision Alaska Native people and the Tribal health system as health leaders.

The inspiration for that vision, and the foundation for achieving it, is based on the strength of our Alaska Native people and our cultures. We have the tools for physical, mental and community health to protect and perpetuate our Alaska Native cultures and traditions. To achieve the vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world, ANTHC works with patients, Tribal partners, employees, government and nonprofit partners, and others who share common objectives.

Throughout the year, find more stories from ANTHC at anthc.org/news.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a nonprofit Tribal health organization designed to meet the unique health needs of more than 180,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in our state.

In pursuit of our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world, ANTHC provides world-renowned health services. Our services include specialty medical care at the Alaska Native Medical Center, community wellness programs, disease research and prevention, rural provider training, and rural water and sanitation systems construction across Alaska.

ANTHC is a national leader in Tribal health. We are the largest, most comprehensive Tribal health organization in the United States, and Alaska’s second-largest health employer, with more than 3,000 employees. Tribal self-governance allows ANTHC to provide culturally appropriate, high-quality health services in partnership with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System.

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PHOTO: Eek, Alaska, in winter; ANTHC completed the community project connecting 100 homes with first-time water service this year.



“This year, we made significant improvements in access to needed health services, rural water and sanitation, prevention efforts and training for health aides across our state.”

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

Greetings,

Over the last year, ANTHC has worked in collaboration with Tribal health organizations and communities to focus on health within reach for our patients and beneficiaries to achieve our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

We added specialty medical care appointments by expanding clinic access. Through ANTHC’s health prevention work, a healthier future is within reach for the next generation of Alaska Native people. By installing first-time water service in rural homes, public health infrastructure is within reach with the turn of a faucet. These factors improve Alaska Native health and the Consortium is helping bring them – and our vision – within reach for more of our people.

Our 2019 Annual Report shares many of the programs and initiatives we have led through successful partnerships across the [Alaska Tribal Health System](#).

Our hard work is leading to results. This year, we made significant improvements in access to needed health services, rural water and sanitation, prevention efforts and training for health aides across our state. Our progress can be credited to our Board of Directors’ vision and the efforts of the more than 3,000 ANTHC employees.

I would also like to honor longtime ANTHC Director Linda Clement for her years of service and vision that she dedicated to the Consortium and Tribal health. She passed away this year after a well-earned retirement from the Board. We share in this loss with the community of Metlakatla and the Clement family, but Linda’s leadership and passion will endure in her lasting impact on Alaska Native health and inspire us to continue in our work.

Respectfully,

ANDY TEUBER
ANTHC CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

 ANDY TEUBER ANTHC Chairman & President Kodiak Area Native Association	 ANDREW JIMMIE ANTHC Vice Chair Tanana Chiefs Conference	 CHARLENE NOLLNER ANTHC Secretary Copper River Native Association	 EVELYN BEETER ANTHC Treasurer, Unaffiliated Tribes, Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium	 CHRIS MERCULIEF Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
 BERNICE KAIGELAK Arctic Slope Native Association	 ROBERT J. CLARK Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	 ROBERT HENRICHs Chugachmiut, Native Village of Eyak	 LOUIE COMMACK Manilaq Association	 CHARLES CLEMENT Metlakatla Indian Community
 PRESTON ROOKOK Norton Sound Health Corporation	 JAYLENE PETERSON-NYREN Southcentral Foundation	 KIMBERLEY STRONG SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	 CHIEF GARY HARRISON Unaffiliated Tribes, Chickaloon Native Village	 WALTER JIM Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

The ANTHC Board of Directors leads statewide Tribal health initiatives on behalf of the people we serve and the regional Tribal health organizations they represent. Our Board of Directors works diligently to ensure that Alaska Native people receive the highest-quality health services in pursuit of our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

Across Alaska, ANTHC helps bring health within reach to achieve our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world. This year's annual report recognizes achievements from 2019, building on our previous successes for the health of our people.

ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER

Access to care: Referral wait times
[Specialty clinics at ANMC](#) increased the number of clinic appointments since 2011 and are improving the referral process for our regional Tribal health partners.

Care coordination: New regional field offices
To offer local care coordination services, ANTHC opened three [regional field offices](#) with plans to open four more in 2020.



Care from your door to ours: Travel management
This year, the [Travel Management Office](#) purchased more than 50,000 tickets for patient transportation to Anchorage.



Home away from home: Patient housing
More patients are seen at ANMC specialty clinics, which means [Patient Housing](#) at ANMC is frequently at high occupancy. Patient housing satisfaction is regularly above 90%.



Baby-friendly designation
ANMC earned international recognition as a designated [Baby-Friendly](#) birth facility.

Highest level of trauma care in Alaska
ANMC was [reverified as a Level II Trauma Center](#); first receiving verification in 1999, ANMC was Alaska's first Level II Trauma Center.

ANMC was also reverified as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center; ANMC first received this verification in 2018.



Performance recognition
The U.S. News & World Report recognized ANMC as the [only "High Performing Hospital" in Alaska, in the area of orthopedics](#) in the 2019-20 Best Hospital rankings.

[Learn more about our specialty care services on page 8](#)

COMMUNITY HEALTH



Record number of ADTEP graduates
This year, the Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program graduated 10 Dental Health Aide Therapists, its [largest class of DHATs to date](#). More than 40,000 rural Alaskans rely on ADTEP graduates to provide oral health care closer to home. The program has also grown to include Tribal members from the Lower 48 to bring the unique ADTEP oral health solutions to their own communities.



Behavioral health workforce development
Workforce development is necessary to ensure a sustainable and successful behavioral health system. Since October 2017, ANTHC increased the number of [Behavioral Health Aides](#) by 40%.

Behavioral health services
In partnership with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, the Consortium is offering [Community Reinforcement and Family Training \(CRAFT\)](#) to address substance misuse.

[Learn more about our preventative health services on page 12](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

New water and sanitation service in Eek
ANTHC completed a [five-year construction project in Eek](#) that brought running water and sanitation services to the entire community.



[Learn more about our water and sanitation work on page 16](#)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Collaborative legal program recognition
The [Partnering for Native Health Program](#) was one of five global programs awarded at the World Justice Challenge, a competition to "identify, recognize and promote good practices and successful solutions to improve access to justice." This collaborative program between ANTHC, Alaska Legal Services Corp. and Alaska Pacific University trains health providers to screen for potentially health-harming legal needs and treat those needs with legal justice solutions.

Best-In-State Employer award
ANTHC was named by Forbes as the [Best-In-State Employer for Alaska](#), in the first-ever ranking of America's best employers by state.



"Every day, ANTHC staff inspire me with the work they do for our people. This national distinction reflects the commitment and passion of our staff to achieve our vision," said Andy Teuber, ANTHC Chairman and President. "On behalf of ANTHC's Board of Directors, we appreciate our staff and their commitment to the health of our people."

LEFT TOP: Dental Health Aide Therapists bring oral health care within reach for more than 40,000 rural Alaskans. This year, 10 ADTEP graduates joined the DHAT ranks of this nationally-recognized health program.

LEFT BOTTOM: The health of our communities can be measured by the availability of behavioral health resources. Since 2017, ANTHC increased the number of Behavioral Health Aides by 40 percent.

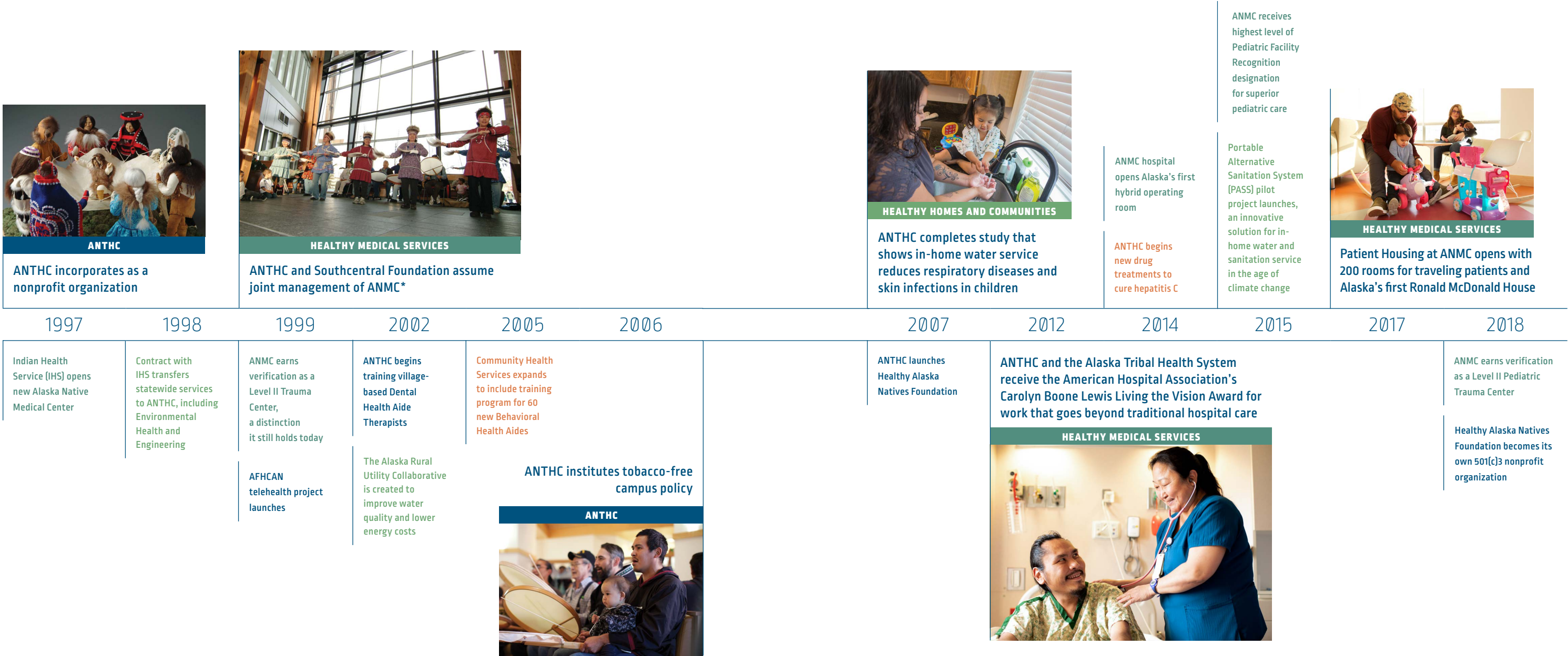
RIGHT: Local laborers help ANTHC complete community water and sanitation projects, such as the project to connect 100 Eek homes to in-home water service that helped put the Eek honey buckets away for good.

LEFT TOP / BOTTOM:
Traveling to Anchorage for care is a part of the health care journey for 60% of patients in ANTHC specialty clinics. ANTHC brings health within reach with travel coordination services from your door to ours and comfortable lodging in Patient Housing at ANMC.

RIGHT TOP / BOTTOM:
ANTHC delivers high-quality care for the benefit of our people. Often, our work meets award-winning standards, such as this year when ANMC was recognized as a designated Baby-Friendly birth facility and U.S. News & World Report "High Performing Hospital" for ANMC Orthopedics.

ANTHC MILESTONES, 1997-2018

Throughout our history, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and its Board leadership have worked to make a difference in the health of Alaska Native people. These are some of the key milestones in pursuit of our vision.



The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation jointly own and manage ANMC under the terms of Public Law 105-83. These parent organizations have established a Joint Operating Board to ensure unified operation of health services provided by the Medical Center.



ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER

SPECIALTY CARE WITHIN REACH

The Alaska Native Medical Center operates a state-of-the-art, 173-bed hospital that provides specialty medical services to Alaska Native and American Indian people. ANMC is Alaska's first Level II Trauma Center, is a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, and shared the American Hospital Association's Carolyn Boone Lewis Living the Vision Award with the Alaska Tribal Health System.

Expanding specialty care clinics and services

As the specialty care hospital for the Alaska Tribal Health System, our growth at ANMC focuses on improving access to care for our people, while also enhancing the quality and experience of the care we provide. We are living longer and healthier lives, and ANMC has played a significant role in that improvement.

93% INCREASE in specialty clinic visits since 2011

Since 1997, ANTHC has invested in growth and improvements at ANMC in renovation and building projects that are the equivalent of constructing the hospital three times over. Since 2011, medical specialists at ANMC have seen more patients and increased access to care with specialty clinic visits by 93 percent.

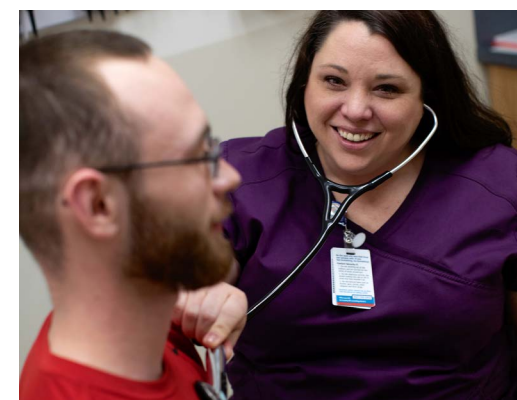
36TH SPECIALTY SERVICE AT ANMC: Allergy and Immunology

Allergy and Immunology services

Specialty services at ANMC is proud to announce the addition of ANTHC's 36th specialty, [Allergy and Immunology](#). This new specialty service is located within the Internal Medicine Clinic and the Allergist/Immunologist will also provide inpatient consultations.

Cleft Lip and Palate Program

This year, Alaska's Cleft Lip and Palate Program at [ANMC became a designated cleft palate team](#) by the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association. ANMC's program is the only one in the state to receive this designation and serves children from across Alaska.



Walk-in Clinic at ANMC

The [Walk-in Clinic at ANMC](#) has been open for nearly two years, and is available for patients visiting Anchorage who have an illness or injury that needs immediate care but are not experiencing a medical emergency. It is helping make more appointments available during evenings and weekends when patients may otherwise go to the Emergency Department.

The Walk-in Clinic also strengthens and fosters the partnership with the Community Health Aide Program and is a clinic training site for students and clinicians.



Patient experience

Beyond access to specialty clinic appointments, ANMC is also improving hospital care and environment through Patient Experience initiatives. In an effort to provide a more restful, healing environment, ANMC implemented a Quietness Campaign for our inpatient units. Adult inpatients receive QuietPac amenity kits containing headphones; an eye mask; ear plugs; lip balm; a "voices down please" card, which is reminder to staff to come back later; and a "questions for my care team" notebook.

ANMC Patient Experience is also utilizing [new patient surveys](#) in an effort to improve our quality of care. All ANMC patients now receive a survey via mail, text or email after their hospital or clinic visit. Feedback from our patients helps us focus on care coordination, careful listening, courtesy/respect, engagement/patient-centered care, loyalty, patient education, responsiveness, safety, cleanliness, pain management and privacy.



OPPOSITE: The U.S. News & World Report recently recognized ANMC as the only "High Performing Hospital" in Alaska, in the area of orthopedics.

LEFT: The Walk-in Clinic at ANMC offers non-emergent health care services for our people while visiting Anchorage.

RIGHT TOP: The Quietness Campaign encourages a quiet, restful environment for our people while they are healing at the ANMC hospital.

RIGHT BOTTOM: Patient Experience staff work closely with patients, families and visitors to assist in creating the best hospital experience possible.

ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER SPOTLIGHT

Reducing barriers to care

ANTHC is working on key initiatives around patient appointment referrals, care coordination with primary care providers, travel management and housing. These are important to ANTHC's strategic goals to increase coordination and access to care within the Tribal health system.

Referral wait times

High-quality health care should be within reach for everyone and we continue efforts to improve access to care. ANMC has increased the number of clinic appointments since 2011 and now is working to improve the process for referrals that come from our regional Tribal health partners.

Across all ANTHC specialty clinics, we are reducing the time between when a referral order is received from primary care providers to the date of the patient appointment. For all ANTHC specialty clinics the median days from referral order to appointment is 16 days, which included travel time and accommodating for patient preference, down from as high as 26 days.

16 DAYS from primary care referral to appointment

Care coordination

Organizing patient care among all people involved is an important part of delivering safe, effective and high-quality care. ANTHC specialty clinics are improving and standardizing processes to provide the highest quality care possible.

This year, ANTHC created Regional Field Offices with Regional Liaisons to better support our partners with care coordination services locally. ANTHC regional liaisons work in Dillingham, the Copper River area and Kodiak. Additional offices will open in Bethel, Nome, Sitka and Unalaska.

By establishing regional liaisons, ANTHC employs a local resource in the community who knows how to navigate the Consortium, can enhance the knowledge of services available and improve specialty care referrals between the regions and the ANMC.

Travel management

The Travel Management Office, established in July 2016, facilitates patient travel coordination, so ANMC patients traveling to Anchorage for care have a good health care experience from their door to ours. The Travel Management Office works to coordinate Medicaid travel for Tribal health partners, which was previously coordinated by State of Alaska agencies.

50,044: Number of travel tickets purchased in 2019

Medical care can be stressful enough without trying to keep track of travel information. ANMC patients traveling for care receive a comprehensive itinerary with transportation, lodging and appointments in one document.

Travel Management Office staff coordinate travel details with many partners and vendors to ensure that our patients can focus on healing.

Patient Housing

ANTHC opened our 200-bed patient housing facility on campus in 2017 to ensure lodging availability is not a barrier to making appointments at ANMC. As we have increased

specialty care appointments, we have also increased the need for using outside hotel rooms for some patients. Patient Housing at ANMC staff work with patients to place them in housing on or off campus according to their preferences. Housing confirmation helps ensure all parts of the patient travel and care experience meet patient expectations.

93% GUEST SATISFACTION from ANTHC traveling patients

ANTHC measures guest overall satisfaction. The target goal is 85 percent satisfaction, which was met and exceeded each month. ANTHC housing staff continues to track overall guest satisfaction to maintain high-quality service and experience, satisfaction continues to be over 90 percent frequently.



ANMC BY THE NUMBERS	
1,554	Births
13,537	Surgical cases
61,898	Emergency visits
8,546	Inpatient discharges
49,284	Total inpatient days
185,130	Specialty clinic visits

Highest-quality, award winning health services

ANMC is home to one of America's most unique health care environments – a place where traditional and cultural values meet state-of-the art technology and care. We serve people from across Alaska and 60 percent of ANMC's patients travel from outside the Anchorage area for care. ANTHC's goals are to provide patients with exceptional quality and continuously improve their hospital experience.

As an indicator of the quality of care that we provide, ANMC was [reverified as a Level II Trauma Center](#). ANMC was Alaska's first Level II Trauma Center – first receiving verification in 1999. This achievement recognizes ANMC's dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients.

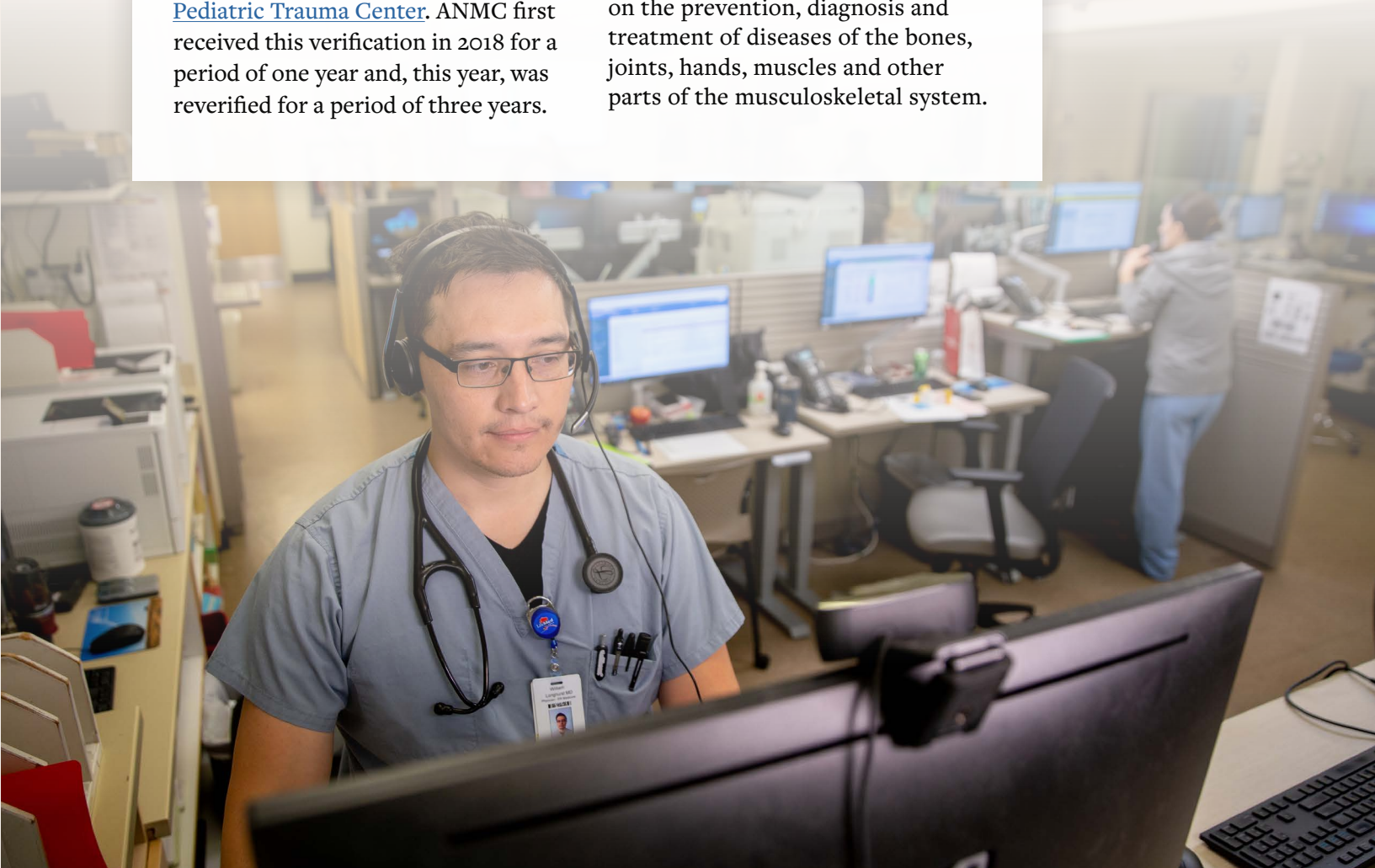
ANMC was also [reverified as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center](#). ANMC first received this verification in 2018 for a period of one year and, this year, was reverified for a period of three years.

Through dedication of ANMC staff to provide high levels of care for new mothers and their babies, ANMC earned prestigious international recognition as a [designated Baby-Friendly birth facility](#). The initiative encourages and recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that offer an optimal level of care for breastfeeding mothers.

The U.S. News & World Report recognized ANMC as the [only "High Performing Hospital" in Alaska, in the area of orthopedics](#). The U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in hospital rankings, included ANMC in the 2019-20 Best Hospitals rankings. The Orthopedics Clinic is staffed by highly-skilled specialists and surgeons who focus on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the bones, joints, hands, muscles and other parts of the musculoskeletal system.

OPPOSITE: Guest satisfaction at ANMC Patient Housing continues to be over 85% and frequently reaches above 90%.

BELOW: ANMC's Level II Trauma Center physicians provide lifesaving care to people from across Alaska every day.





10 NEW DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPISTS bringing oral health care to Alaska Native and American Indian people

Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program

This year, the Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program (ADTEP), a collaborative program between ANTHC and Iñisaġvik College, [graduated its largest class to date](#), with 10 new Dental Health Aide Therapists. These new graduates join a profession expanding oral health care to Tribal communities. More than 40,000 Alaskans across the state rely on ADTEP graduates to provide oral health care without traveling long distances. The program has also grown to include Tribal members from the Lower 48 as other Tribal entities bring the unique ADTEP oral health solutions to their own communities.



OPPOSITE: "In addition to performing dental exams, cleanings, fillings and simple extractions, I learned to be an important piece to achieving better health; a provider for my community, from my community," Ruby Okitkun of Kotlik, 2019 DHAT graduate.

LEFT: An Alaska Indigenous Research Program attendee takes a turn during a blanket toss team-building exercise.

RIGHT: Health education and training is an important step to bringing health within reach. ANTHC's partnership with APU is an effort to grow the next generation of Tribal health leaders.

4 NEW APU DEGREE PROGRAMS supporting Alaska's health needs

Alaska Pacific University

ANTHC also works with our partners to support the next generation of Tribal health leaders. The [ANTHC-APU strategic partnership](#) is one way we are creating solutions for Tribal health needs. In 2019, Alaska Pacific University created four new degree programs in nursing, health occupations, health sciences and environmental public health. Each of these academic programs supports career advancement in high-demand fields.

135 PARTICIPANTS in the inaugural Alaska Indigenous Research Program

Alaska Indigenous Research Program

In May, over 135 participants and presenters gathered in Anchorage for the [first Alaska Indigenous Research Program](#) (AKIRP). ANTHC and APU hosted the three-week educational program for people working in research with indigenous communities to increase cultural humility and sensitivity of health researchers. The program emphasized the importance of Tribally driven and culturally responsive research as well as supporting and growing Indigenous researchers and scholars.



HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PREVENTION

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES WITHIN REACH

ANTHC offers preventative health services and programs to elevate the health status of Alaska Native communities. In collaboration with statewide Tribal health organizations, we offer wellness programs for chronic diseases such as diabetes and liver disease, while encouraging healthy choices through education and services in tobacco prevention, injury prevention, and traditional food and nutrition.

Health training for community providers within reach

ANTHC Healthy People and Prevention efforts empower Tribal communities with solutions that are based on community-informed needs. Our staff connect to Tribal health partner organizations, state, federal and other partners, and community members to build initiatives that positively improve Alaska Native health for the long term.

To expand community health access across the state, ANTHC supports health education and training. Our three health aide training programs, Community Health Aide, Dental Health Aide and Behavioral Health Aide, collaboratively known as the Tribal Community Health Provider Programs, provide rural communities with well-trained health providers that help treat emergent and chronic health issues.



HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PREVENTION SPOTLIGHT

Helmets On: Community health solutions from the emergency room to the classroom

An ATV crash. A long hospital stay with near fatal traumatic brain injuries. A sustained recovery.

In any other health system, this story of traumatic brain injury would end with the medical care that led to recovery and the patient going home.

Our unique health system allows us to keep the story going long after a patient goes home. In this case, one ATV crash became the catalyst for health education to prevent these types of injuries from repeating in rural communities.

In 2019, the ANTHC Injury Prevention Program connected with medical providers at ANMC to answer this question: How could they make ATV safety a priority so this would not happen to another child?

The community of New Stuyahok in Bristol Bay wanted to help answer the question as well. Jared Hanson, a young New Stuyahok resident, loves subsistence hunting and fishing and playing basketball. But an ATV crash in 2018 left him with injuries that changed his life forever.

He was medevaced to ANMC in Anchorage for care. Jared had a traumatic brain injury, fractures in his face and wrist, loss of vision in his right eye, and difficulty speaking and swallowing.

His crash sent shockwaves through the community of about 500. This could have happened to anyone, regardless of experience or age on an ATV. Both of Jared's parents are

involved in their community and they expressed an urgent desire to bring ATV safety to New Stuyahok.

The ANTHC Injury Prevention Program, New Stuyahok residents, and Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) created [ATV safety material developed specifically for Alaska Native youth](#), which included safety activities for each lesson, like how to fit a helmet that helps protect from traumatic brain injury in the event of a crash.

120 STUDENTS provided with ATV helmets

BBAHC and ANTHC provided helmets to every child that took the ATV safety course. In total, 120 students in New Stuyahok went through the education.

"We've been sharing knowledge a long time from our ancestors to who we are now – and passing it down to our kids so they can pass it down to their kids," said John Hanson, Jared's father.

Now they aim to do the same with ATV safety.

"We're teaching our kids now about safety. Since getting helmets, this is what I'm saying to my boys. If you want to ride a Honda (ATV) – helmet on."

Solutions within reach for emerging health challenges: Behavioral and mental health

ANTHC's [Behavioral Health department](#) assists in building statewide capacity to help prevent, identify, and treat behavioral health problems close to home. The Behavioral Health team established three focus areas: health policy and advocacy, workforce development, and services.

Workforce development is necessary to ensure a sustainable and successful behavioral health system. Since October 2017, ANTHC increased the number of Behavioral Health Aides by 40 percent. Currently, 66 Behavioral Health Aides are certified at I, II, III and practitioner levels.

In partnership with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA), the Consortium is offering [Community Reinforcement and Family Training](#) (CRAFT) to address substance misuse. A new therapy, CRAFT is for family members and



close friends who want to improve their relationship with a loved one who is misusing substances, and encourage their loved one to reduce or end their substance misuse. CRAFT is an evidence-based treatment, which helps family members strengthen their communication and problem-solving skills, increase their use of effective helping behavior, and improve their own quality of life. This helps strengthen the relationship between family members and their loved ones and can motivate the loved one to enter substance abuse treatment.

OPPOSITE: Ingrid Stevens, ANTHC Injury Prevention Program Manager, gets a thumbs-up from students for wearing a proper fitting ATV helmet.

OPPOSITE INSET: Susan Romero, ANMC Pediatric Critical Care Nurse Practitioner, fits children for proper-fitting helmets. The students completed ATV safety education and received grant-funded helmets.

LEFT: Behavioral Health staff and trained Behavioral Health Aides continue to address the significant rise in behavioral health challenges our communities and health system are experiencing.

BELOW: ANTHC's vision is within reach. ANTHC partners with Tribal entities to bring care closer to home at the regional level by responding to community needs in innovative ways.





HEALTHY HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN REACH

Healthy homes and communities are the foundation for improving the health of Alaska Native people. ANTHC's health services include planning, design, construction and operations support of public health infrastructure and utilities throughout Alaska.

Foundations of health at home

While we may not often think about it, the health of our homes is an important part of our overall health. ANTHC is creating sustainable home health solutions to improve health outcomes for our people. We find innovative ways to make our communities healthier, especially in rural Alaska, where vast distances, lack of essential services and a changing environment can be barriers to health.

ANTHC is improving community health by planning, designing and constructing public health infrastructure. We partner with Tribal organizations to build and maintain these crucial utilities in every corner of our state. Through this work, we are connecting our communities to health solutions at home and keeping our people from having to visit the hospital in the first place.



Our Healthy Homes and Communities work brings health solutions to rural communities through access to clean water. Having in-home water and sanitation makes hand washing and healthy hygiene practices easier, which have been shown to reduce illness. In locations with limited water service, infants are hospitalized at higher rates for respiratory infection and pneumonia than the overall U.S. population.

2,400 HOMES with first-time water service since 1998

Eek water and sanitation work

This year, ANTHC completed a project in Eek that [brought running water and wastewater services to the entire community](#). In total, we outfitted 100 homes and six other buildings with water and sewer services. The construction effort took five years to complete, but was worth the wait for residents who hauled water and disposed of waste in honey buckets their entire lives. The community, located southeast of Bethel, understands the positive impact running water and sewer will have on health outcomes.

“A flu goes around, it doesn’t last as long because you can flush it away and wash your hands and disinfect your home,” Eek resident Minnie Brown said. “Our community will be so much healthier now.”

103,202 HOURS WORKED by 243 local laborers in 2019

Community utility assistance

To make water and sewer services more affordable, ANTHC partnered with the Northwest Arctic Borough and Maniilaq Association to create a utility assistance program, known as the [Community Utility Assistance Program](#) (CUAP). In the first year, nine of 10 borough communities joined the CUAP. Residential customers’ water and sewer rates decreased by two-thirds, while commercial customers saw rates cut in half. In Kotzebue, the regional hub community, residential customer rates dropped by more than \$50 per month.



“The CUAP has made water and sewer affordable to its member communities and allows for healthier communities,” said Tim Gilbert, Maniilaq Association President and CEO.

In addition to community projects, ANTHC regularly provides training and support resources for communities across the state through the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative, Alaska Utility Supply Center and the Rural Energy Initiative.

OPPOSITE: Eek resident, Emma Carter, places a piece of dry firewood in her stove. Burning properly seasoned wood reduces the risk of in-home pollutants that can impact air quality and health.

LEFT: Nicolas and Terrance Henry were two of many local hires who worked on the construction project to bring running water and sanitation services to the community of Eek.

RIGHT: Derek Stalker looks at the water and sewer lines in Selawik. ANTHC partnered with the Northwest Arctic Borough and Maniilaq Association to create the Community Utility Assistance Program, which has made water and sewer services more affordable in member communities.



HEALTHY HOMES AND COMMUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

Rebuilding a community from environmental threats: Newtok to Mertarvik

ANTHC Environmental Health and Engineering is committed to designing alternative sanitation solutions in the most challenging locations and helping communities most threatened by a changing Arctic.

Storm-driven erosion in the western coastal village of Newtok poses an imminent threat to the health and safety of the community. The Newtok Village Council (NVC) signed a resolution selecting ANTHC as overall manager of the project to relocate the village of Newtok to new, safer ground at Mertarvik. After years of planning and a busy summer construction season, the first residents began moving to Mertarvik in September. Approximately 140 of the some 300 Newtok residents will be among the first wave of community members to move to the new location.

Over the summer, construction was completed on 13 new homes, a pioneering water and sewer system for the Mertarvik Evacuation Center and a water

treatment plant for village water supply, electrical distribution system and power plant, landfill, townsite roads, and pioneering school facility. The 13 new homes are built with the ANTHC-designed Portable Alternative Sanitation System (PASS), joining the eight previous homes in Mertarvik with PASS units.

To ensure the members moving to the new location have access to health services, ANTHC also worked with Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation to design a temporary clinic. The NVC-owned construction camp cafeteria will be renovated to serve as the health clinic for the early years of the relocation.



Innovative solutions: PASS connects in-home sanitation systems where it was impossible before



Today, 32 Alaskan communities still use the honey bucket. For some of them, the possibility of eliminating the honey bucket and the health hazards that go with it seem to be getting farther out of reach as climate change threatens opportunities for traditional piped water and sewer service.

ANTHC responded to these issues by developing the [Portable Alternative Sanitation System](#) or PASS. The PASS is an intermediate solution for protecting public health in communities without piped water

and sewer systems. It functions as a stepping-stone toward more permanent solutions by providing basic water and sanitation needs in the home.

Communities identified as imminently threatened are ineligible for federal and state-funded projects constructing permanent sanitation infrastructure. Federal funding agencies have taken notice of the portability factor and are beginning to support PASS projects in honey bucket communities.

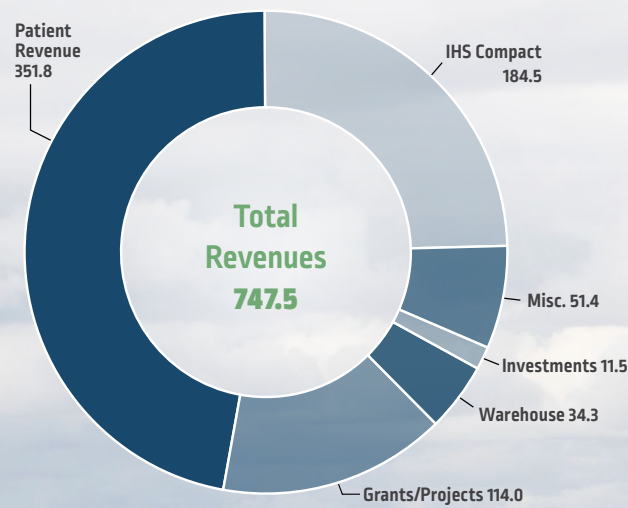
OPPOSITE: In summer 2019, 13 new homes were built in Mertarvik. The Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program and UIC Construction completed critical infrastructure in Mertarvik that will support the first wave of relocation from Newtok. (Photo courtesy of IRT)

RIGHT: ANTHC Project Coordinator Liz Wulbrecht (left) and ANTHC Senior Project Manager Jackie Qataliña Schaffer (middle) show Mertarvik resident Taylor John (right) how to maintain her new Portable Alternative Sanitation System (PASS) unit.

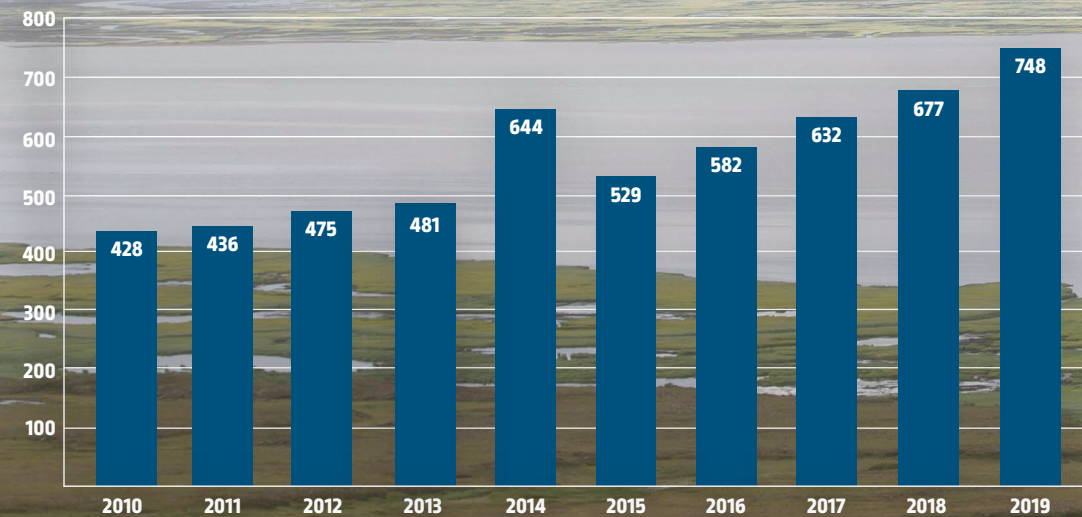
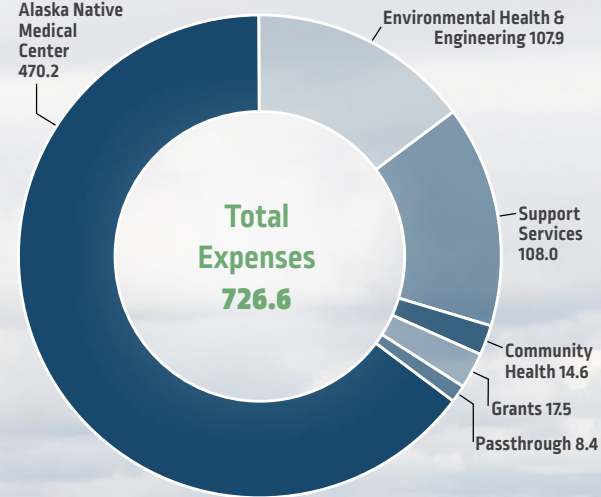
BELOW: Mertarvik, in Southwest Alaska, is Alaska's newest community. In October, 21 families moved to Mertarvik, relocating from Newtok because of storm-driven erosion.

2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY 2019 Revenues (\$M)



FY 2019 Expenses (\$M)



Total Revenues 2010-2019 (\$M)

This financial summary is preliminary as of October 31, 2019, and is subject to a formal audit for the 2019 fiscal year.

ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Alaska has 229 federally recognized Tribes across 586,412 square miles, all served by the Alaska Tribal Health System and represented on ANTHC's board through our Tribal health organization partners.



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Arctic Slope Native Association | 10. Chugachmiut |
| 2. Manillaq Association | 11. Copper River Native Association |
| 3. Norton Sound Health Corporation | 12. Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium |
| 4. Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation | 13. SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium |
| 5. Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation | 14. Ketchikan Indian Community |
| 6. Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association | 15. Metlakatla Indian Community |
| 7. Eastern Aleutian Tribes | 16. Tanana Chiefs Conference |
| 8. Kodiak Area Native Association | 17. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments |
| 9. Southcentral Foundation (dotted line) | |



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

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