

# Ituagniagnikkun Qaisaksrat



## BASELINE COMMUNITY HEALTH ANALYSIS REPORT

North Slope Borough | Department of Health and Social Services



North Slope Borough  
Department of Health and Social Services  
PO Box 69 Barrow, AK 99723  
(907) 852-0366 (Tel)  
(907) 852-0389 (Fax)  
<http://www.north-slope.org/departments/health/>

Additional copies of this report can be requested by contacting the NSB Department of Health and Social Services.

Dr. McAninch can be contacted at [jmcaninch@poi.net](mailto:jmcaninch@poi.net)

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## NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH MAYOR'S OFFICE

*"The North Slope Borough is committed to having healthy communities, economically, spiritually and culturally. The Borough works with the tribes, cities, corporations, schools, and businesses to support a strong culture, encourage families and employees to choose a healthy lifestyle, and sustain a vibrant economy."*



### **Paglagivsi!**

I am very pleased to introduce to you the North Slope's first ever Baseline Community Health Analysis Report. This report will serve as a valuable tool for understanding and improving the health of our residents and communities, both today and in the future. This report outlines community health trends and discusses topics such as cancer, injury, chronic disease, respiratory disease, maternal and child health, mental and behavioral health, and infectious disease. This report also includes a profile for each North Slope village, which covers general health status, prevalence of major chronic diseases, obesity, smoking rates, helmet use, availability of adequate subsistence and market foods, and the health impacts from drugs and alcohol.

The completion of this report is an important milestone for our region, as our history includes past health impacts from epidemic diseases such as tuberculosis, influenza and measles. The timing of this report is also significant as our region is experiencing the increased demand for industrial development of our resources on our lands and in our waters, which results in both positive and negative effects to our residents.

This report should be used as a foundation for understanding and improving the health of our communities into the future. It can guide our local agencies in prioritizing health issues; it can be used for community health promotion and strategic planning efforts by local, state, and federal agencies; and it can be used to help secure the funding required to allow these efforts to turn into action. This report will be vital in connecting and furthering two goals important to the Borough and to my administration: Healthy Communities and increased Economic Opportunity.

It is with heartfelt optimism that I envision this report will be utilized by our communities to not only educate ourselves on our health issues, but also bring forth action plans that address the issues affecting our communities that will build upon the resources we have to create a healthier North Slope.

Quyanaqpak!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlotte Brower". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlotte E. Brower  
NSB Mayor

## NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR



*"Our mission is to promote the health and well being of North Slope residents in a culturally appropriate manner."*

### Paglagivsil

Welcome everyone, to the first Baseline Community Health Analysis Report for the North Slope. The Health Department has worked over two years on this report, and it is with great excitement that we share it with you. This report contains pertinent health information for all North Slope residents, including individual community health profiles for Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Barrow, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, and Wainwright. The report describes health trends for North Slope residents, and includes comparisons within our North Slope populations, with state statistics, the US as a whole, and at times, with other circumpolar regions to give you a clear outlook on North Slope health trends. It also discusses some of the important factors that may be influencing health in our region. *We, as communities, can work together in addressing the health issues using a focused, resourceful approach guided by the information in this report, to have a positive impact on our communities' health.*

An important part of gathering health data is using the data to develop strategies to improve community health; in this report you'll find a *Summary and Recommendations* section that covers North Slope community health in a historical context, leading community health issues, leading causes of death, disease, disability, and the use of healthcare services in the NSB, and health trends within the North Slope. Recommendations are made in this section on how communities can work together to set priorities and work towards improving community health within our region.

It is our goal that this report serves as a foundation and resource for future monitoring of health trends, for public health planning and policy decisions, for developing strategies to improve health, and to secure funding for needed programs and services. We hope that you, as an individual or as a community leader, can use this report to better understand the health of your community and to think about ways you might contribute to making the North Slope a healthier place to live for our people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doreen'.

Doreen Leavitt, RN, Director

## Biography of Report Author

Dr. Jana McAninch is a family physician who has lived and worked in Alaska for eight years. Trained at University of California, San Francisco, she also has a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology from University of California, Berkeley. Dr. McAninch has more than five years of experience caring for Alaska Native patients in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Interior regions of the state, and she has travelled to and spent time in a number of villages in rural Alaska. Dr. McAninch has also worked as a program consultant to the Tanana Chiefs Conference Diabetes Program in Fairbanks. She has visited the North Slope multiple times and worked closely with members of the health department during the preparation of this report.

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