

National Study of Treatment and Addiction Recovery Residences Report ALASKA

The National Study of Treatment and Addiction Recovery Residences (NSTARR) constitutes the largest and most diverse study of recovery housing in the US to date. NSTARR compiled data from publicly available sources (e.g., Oxford House, National Alliance for Recovery Residences, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration websites) and lists maintained by entities tracking recovery housing. Residences for which locating information was available were geocoded and linked with U.S. Census data on urbanicity, alcohol- and drug-involved mortality, and COVID vulnerability. Data collection began in January 2020 and is ongoing until June 2023. The NSTARR database currently contains information on 10,358 residences operated by 3,628 providers in all 50 states. For a detailed description of methods and national findings, please see Mericle et al., 2022.

KEY FINDINGS

The NSTARR team identified 25 recovery residences (3.39 houses per 100,000 population) in Alaska (see Table 1). Compared to other states (which include DC), Alaska ranked 21 in terms of recovery housing availability per capita. Eighty-four percent of residences in Alaska could be geocoded for these analyses. The Aleutians West Census Area, a non-adjacent rural area, had the most recovery residences per 100,000 population, and 21 boroughs and census areas had no identified recovery residences, representing largely non-adjacent rural boroughs and census areas; 28 had fewer than 5 recovery residences (see Figure 1).

We used geographic information systems to identify hot and cold spots in Alaska. A hot spot is a cluster of high values (borough/census area with a high number of residences surrounded by other boroughs/census areas with high numbers of residences) and a cold spot is a cluster of low values (borough/census area with low counts surrounded by boroughs /census areas also with low counts). However, we were unable to identify hot and cold spots in Alaska because the Getis-Ord G_i^* Hot Spot Analysis tool requires a minimum of 30 input features (boroughs/census areas) for it to work best.

The age-adjusted alcohol- and drug-involved mortality rate (per 100,000 population) was 35.90 in Alaska for the years 2009-2019. Alaska ranked 3 on alcohol- and drug-involved mortality out of the 50 states and DC. Among the boroughs/census areas ranked, the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area Borough had the highest alcohol- and drug-involved mortality rate and the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area had the lowest alcohol- and drug-involved mortality rate. Of the three boroughs that had the highest mortality rates in Alaska (i.e., Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, and Dillingham Census Area), all of them also ranked in the bottom half recovery housing availability per capita, suggesting more recovery resources may be needed (see Table 1 and Figure 2).

COVID vulnerability was summarized using the county-level data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID Vulnerability Index (CCVI). The CCVI is a composite measure of seven social determinants of health, encompassing modified themes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index in combination with COVID risk factors to identify communities in need of additional support during the COVID pandemic. No boroughs/census areas were classified as having very high vulnerability (see Table 1 and Figure 3).

25
RESIDENCES
TOTAL

21
NATIONAL
AVAILABILITY
RANKING

21
BOROUGHS/
CENSUS AREAS
WITHOUT
RESIDENCES

Table 1: County-level Descriptive Statistics on Recovery Residences

County Name	Population ¹	RUCC Classification ²	Number of Recovery Residences ³	Recovery Residences Per 100,000 Population	Recovery Residences Availability per Capita (Rank) ⁴	Age-Adjusted Alcohol/Drug Mortality ⁵ Rate per 100,000 Population	Mortality Rate (Rank) ⁶	CCVI Quintile ⁷
ALASKA	737,068		25	3.39	21	35.90	3	
Aleutians East Borough	3,385	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Low
Aleutians West Census Area	5,698	Non-adjacent rural	1	17.55	1	38.60	18	Low
Anchorage Borough	293,531	Urban	9	3.07	6	54.10	11	Low
Bethel Census Area	18,134	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	80.10	4	Moderate
Bristol Bay Borough	875	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Low
Denali Borough	2,246	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Very low vulnerability
Dillingham Census Area	4,961	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	84.40	3	Moderate
Fairbanks North Star Borough	99,072	Urban	2	2.02	7	42.20	16	Very low vulnerability
Haines Borough	2,518	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Very low vulnerability
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,139	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Low
Juneau Borough	32,227	Non-adjacent rural	1	3.10	5	55.90	8	Very low vulnerability
Kenai Peninsula Borough	58,464	Non-adjacent rural	3	5.13	4	48.30	13	Low
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,800	Non-adjacent rural	2	14.49	2	54.70	9	Low
Kodiak Island Borough	13,451	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	44.50	15	Low
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,393	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Moderate
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	105,369	Urban	2	1.90	8	39.90	17	Very low vulnerability
Nome Census Area	9,988	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	76.70	5	Moderate
North Slope Borough	9,792	Non-adjacent rural	1	10.21	3	50.30	12	Low
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,715	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	54.30	10	Moderate
Petersburg Borough/ Census Area	3,257	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Low
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	6,407	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	93.50	2	Low
Sitka Borough	8,640	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	46.30	14	Low
Skagway Municipality	1,107	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Very low vulnerability
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	6,878	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	37.40	19	Low
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,243	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	58.40	7	Very low vulnerability
Wade Hampton Census Area	8,250	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	65.70	6	Moderate
Wrangell City and Borough	2,502	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Low
Yakutat Borough	649	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	Suppressed	-	Low
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,377	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	29	159.20	1	Moderate

¹Population data were downloaded from tables in Social Explorer's ACS five-year estimate (2015-2019). American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2015-2019. Social Explorer tables, ACS 2015-2019. Social Explorer.

²The Rural-Urban Continuum Code (RUCC) was used to classify each county as urban, adjacent rural, or non-adjacent rural. Urban counties are counties with codes 1 (Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more), 2 (Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million population), and 3 (Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population). Adjacent rural counties are counties with codes 4 (Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area), 6 (Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area), and 8 (Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area). Non-adjacent rural counties are the remaining three codes - 5 (Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area), 7 (Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area), and 9 (Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area). Rural-Urban Continuum Code (RUCC). <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes.aspx>

³Recovery residences are from the NSTARR project and are current as of 2020. Four (4) recovery residences in the state were not successfully geocoded due to lack of adequate address information, and thus were not assigned to a county.

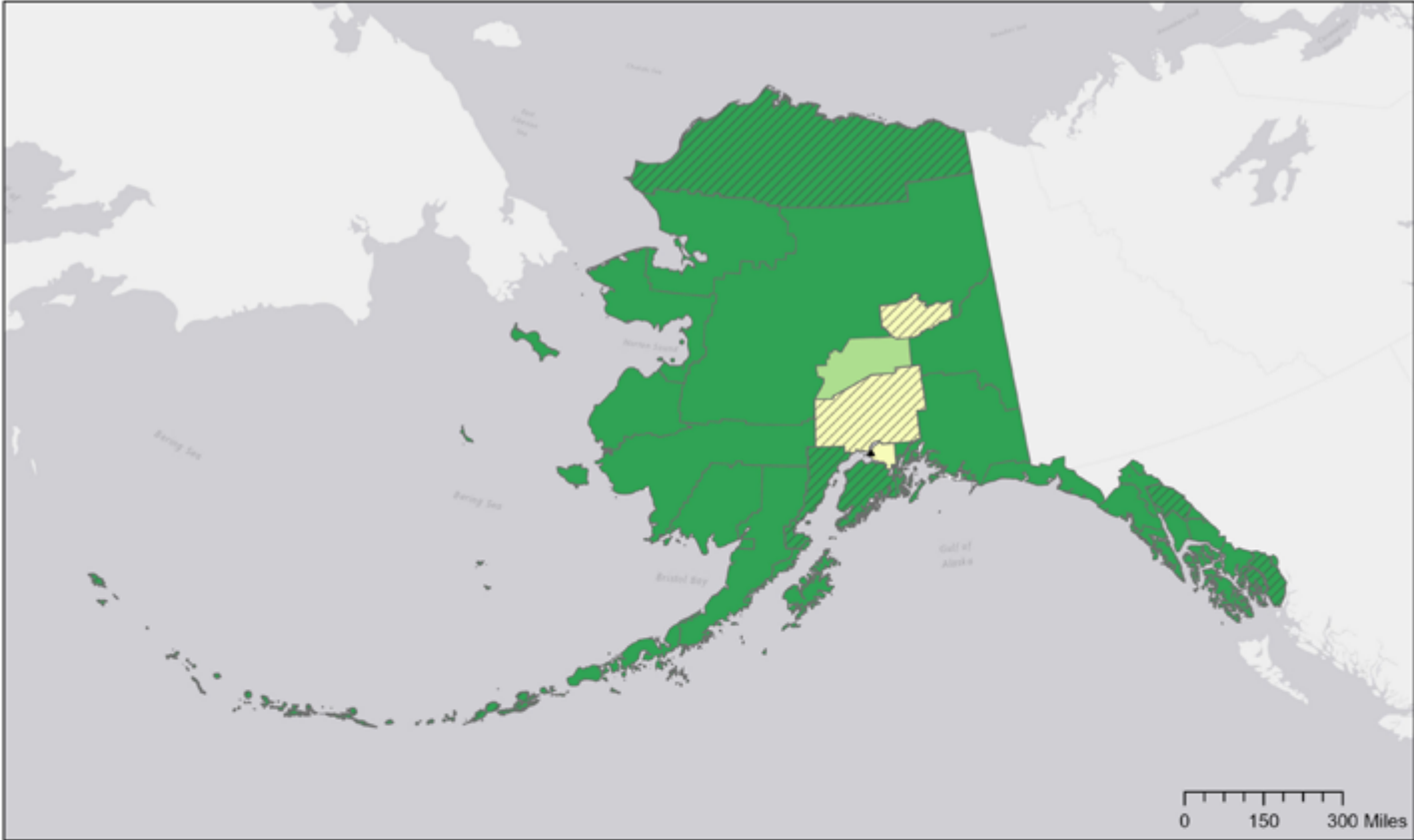
⁴Recovery residences availability per capita is ranked in order of decreasing recovery residence density per 100,000 population per county, with 1 (highest number of residences per 100,000) to 29 (lowest number of residences per 100,000 population). Counties without recovery residences were all assigned a tied rank of 29.

⁵Alcohol- and drug-involved mortality included all deaths as underlying causes of death and selected ICD-10 codes mentioning or attributed to alcohol or drugs as contributing cause of death. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020. CDC Wonder (Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta, GA. Available at: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>. For more information on coding multiple causes of death, see: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, About Multiple Cause of Death, 1999-2019. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>. accessed on August 9 2021.

⁶Mortality rate is ranked in order of decreasing alcohol- and drug-involved mortality from 1 (highest mortality per 100,000 population) to 19 (lowest mortality per 100,000 population).

⁷COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI) scores range in value from 0 – 1, with 0 being least vulnerable and 1 being the most vulnerable. Each county is ranked relative to all counties across the country, based on seven themes/domains. Each county was grouped into quintiles: very high (score of 0.8-1), high (0.6-0.8), moderate (0.4-0.6), low (0.2-0.4), and very low (0-0.2). For more information on how the CCVI I is calculated, see: COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI) methodology. Retrieved from [https://covid-static-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/US-CCVI/COVID-19+Community+Vulnerability+Index+\(CCVI\)+Methodology.pdf](https://covid-static-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/US-CCVI/COVID-19+Community+Vulnerability+Index+(CCVI)+Methodology.pdf)

Figure 1. Distribution of Residences by Rural-Urban Classification



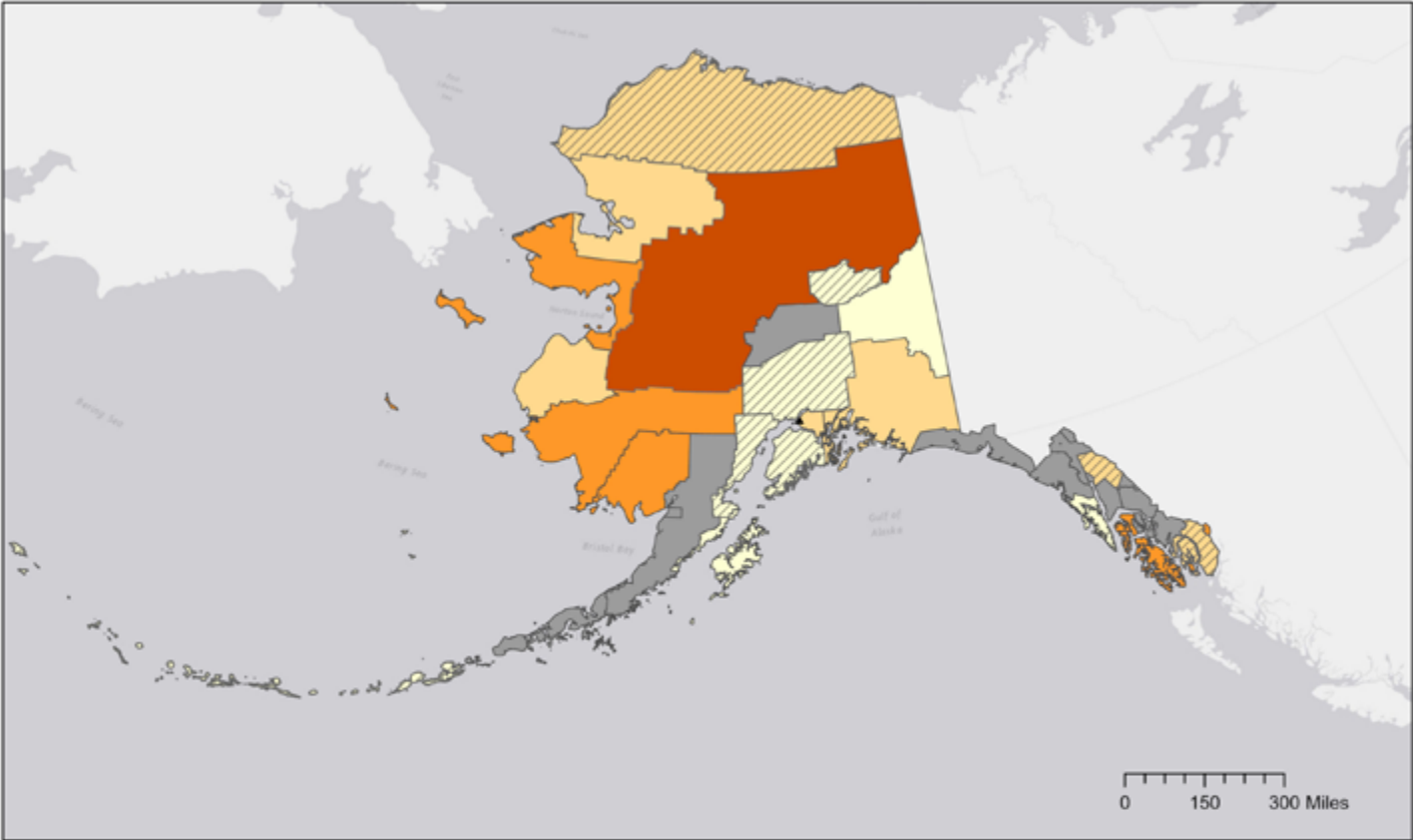
- ▲ Recovery residences
- Rural-Urban Classification Code (RUCC)**
- Urban
- Adjacent rural
- Non-adjacent rural
- Counties with residence locations suppressed (1-4 residences) to protect privacy



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS
 Recovery residence locations: 2020
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)



Figure 2. Distribution of Residences by Age-adjusted Alcohol- and/or Drug-involved Mortality



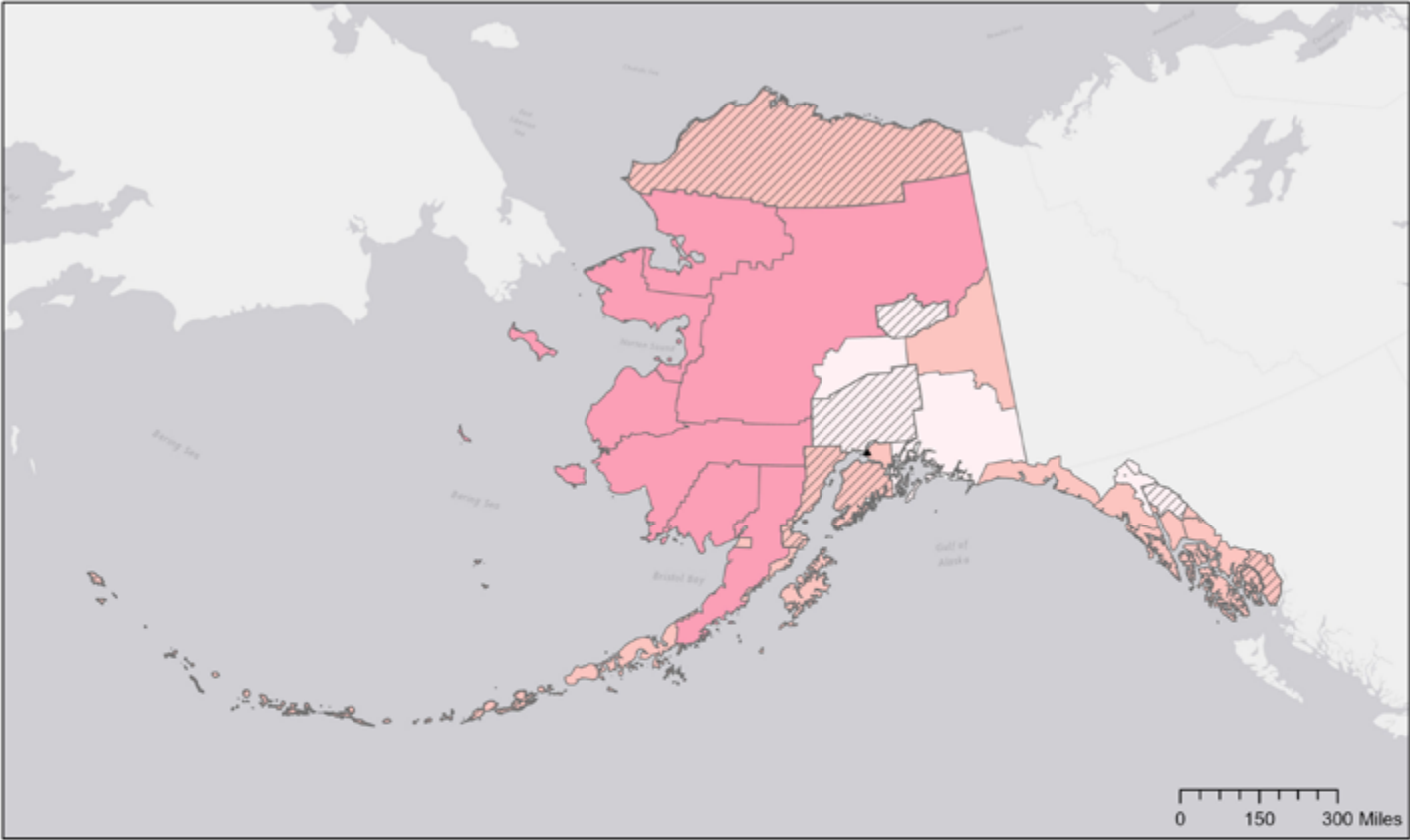
- ▲ Recovery residences
- Age-adjusted alcohol and drug mortality rate per 100,000 population
- 37 - 48
- 49 - 65
- 66 - 93
- 94 - 159
- Suppressed/unreliable
- Counties with residence locations suppressed (1-4 residences) to protect privacy



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS
 Recovery residence locations: 2020
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)



Figure 3. Distribution of Residences by COVID-19 Community Vulnerability



- ▲ Recovery Residences
- COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI)
- Very low vulnerability
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very high vulnerability
- Counties with residence locations suppressed (1-4 residences) to protect privacy



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS
 Recovery residence locations: 2020
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)





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