



ALASKA VACCINE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024

## Dear Friends and Colleagues,

AVAP remains a successful program offering improved access to all ACIP-recommended vaccines for Alaskans while maintaining consistent financial stability.

As the landscape of vaccines continues to evolve post-pandemic, AVAP has increased the number of vaccines on the formulary which has commensurately increased the costs. We will continue to evaluate the program and work for cost efficiency and savings.

I am grateful for the outstanding partnerships we have developed with key partners that support this program, the commitment of our payers in providing financial support for another robust year of AVAP operations, and the strong work of the Immunization Program staff in improving vaccine access statewide.

**Joe McLaughlin, MD**  
Chairman

*State Epidemiologist and Chief, Section of Epidemiology, Division of Public Health, Department of Health*

## A POWERFUL MODEL

Vaccine costs continue to rise nationally. AVAP's work to stabilize vaccine funding has played a crucial role in ensuring all Alaska children and adults have access to recommended vaccines.

Our model has powerful benefits:

- **No Provider Financing costs.** Instead of fronting significant dollars to keep vaccines on hand, providers receive and administer vaccines from the Alaska Department of Health (DOH).
- **Consolidated Storage and Ordering.** Providers can avoid navigating complex ordering systems based on who paid for them or who they will immunize. DOH provides support for one vaccine ordering process, regardless of the patient's insurance status.
- **Stable Vaccine Supply.** Providers can focus on patient needs and have the full complement of recommended vaccines on hand.
- **Healthcare Savings.** DOH's bulk purchase of vaccines provides significant cost savings as compared to the private market.

## Strong Financial Performance

AVAP continues to perform extremely well thanks to outstanding partnerships between payers, providers, KidsVax, the AVAP Council, and the Alaska Immunization Program. Both children and adults have continued access to routinely recommended and COVID vaccines. We would like to send particular gratitude to the payer community, who provided stability to AVAP during otherwise uncertain times. Payer commitment to AVAP is the cornerstone of its remarkably stable operation.





**AVAP Council Members**

**Joe McLaughlin, MD, Chairman**  
*State Epidemiologist and Chief, Section of Epidemiology, Division of Public Health, Department of Health*

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

**Sarah Bailey, AIE**  
*Supervisor  
Life / Health Filings & Market Conduct  
Division of Insurance*

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES

**Patricia Clay, MD, MPH**  
*Pediatrician  
LaTouche Pediatrics*

**Jennifer Perkins, MD**  
*Family Medicine  
Southcentral Foundation*

HEALTH CARE INSURER REPRESENTATIVES

**Supriya Ramanathan, MD**  
*Medical Director, West Territory  
Aetna*

**Mike Patton**  
*Director of Large Group Underwriting  
Premera*

**Patrick Shier**  
*Alaska Membership Representative  
Pacific Heath Coalition*

TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE

**Christina Eldridge, PharmD, MPH, BCACP**  
*Outpatient Pharmacy Manager  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium*

[WWW.AKVACCINE.ORG](http://WWW.AKVACCINE.ORG)

ADMINISTRATOR:



PHONE: 1-855-KidsVax (543-7829)

WEBSITE: [www.KidsVax.org](http://www.KidsVax.org)

KIDSVAX® STAFF

**Seema Mack**  
Executive Director of AVAP

**Heather Veen**  
Chief of Staff

**Megan Conrad**  
Controller

**Fred L. Potter**  
Founding Member

**A message from Sarah Aho,  
Alaska's Immunization Manager**

With the introduction of commercially available COVID-19 and RSV immunizations in the fall of 2023, AVAP quickly adapted to offer these vaccines to Alaskans. While this impacted assessment rates, it also increased access to these vaccines for improved protection during the respiratory disease season.

Since we began focusing on increasing routine vaccine rates in 2022, the childhood vaccine series for children 19-35 months of age has increased by 5% and Tdap rates for adults 18 years and older has increased by 4%. Among older adults, rates for zoster have increased by 6%. While Alaska still lags behind the national average for vaccine coverage among various age groups, these improvements are encouraging and indicate our combined efforts are working.

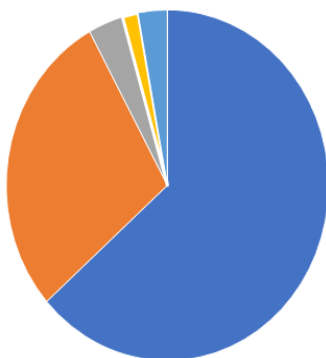
The Immunization Program will continue to focus on improving routine immunization coverage rates statewide through media campaigns, monthly Alaska Vaccine ECHO sessions for health care providers, reminder recall efforts, and published reports such as Epidemiology Bulletins and quarterly reports. More health care providers enroll with AVAP each year; notably in 2024 was the enrollment of all Department of Correction facilities. More uninsured adults are covered through AVAP in 2024 compared to 2023. We are thankful for the strong partnership and support from the AVAP Council, insurance companies and other payers, health care providers, and vaccination advocates throughout the state.

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**HIGHLIGHTS**  
Commercialization of COVID-19  
Improving vaccine access  
Improving coverage rates

**FINANCIALS**

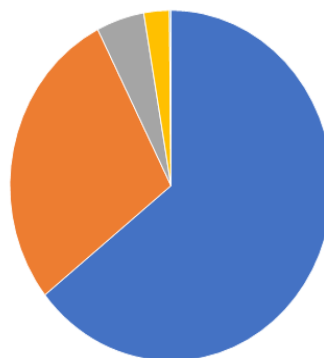
January - December, 2023

**Revenues**  
**\$15,873,129**



- 63% Child Assessments
- 28% Adult Assessments
- 4% Provider Opt-In Payments
- 2% Cash Reserves Utilized
- 3% Investment Income

**Expenses**  
**\$15,869,748**



- 64% Child Vaccines
- 28% Adult Vaccines
- 5% DHSS Administrative Fee
- 3% KV Contract
- 0% Other