



Alaska  
Department of  
Public Safety

# 2024 ANNUAL DRUG REPORT



January 2025  
**Statewide Drug  
Enforcement Unit (SDEU)**



# Captain's Message

## Introduction

I am privileged to present the SDEU Annual Report for 2024 on behalf of the Alaska Department of Public Safety. This year, we have remained steadfast in our mission to ensure public safety, uphold the rule of law, foster community trust, and disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations (DTO). Throughout the past year, we seized over 572,353 grams of drugs.

## Achievements and Performance

Notably, through the Alaska High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program initiative, the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) established a unique task force program, which allows Alaska HIDTA law enforcement officers to assist USPIS in identifying and interdicting narcotics transiting the mail. This program increased interdiction efforts at the passenger terminals in Anchorage to seize narcotics carries by persons in their luggage or body.

## Year Ahead

As we look forward, we remain committed to interdicting and seizing illegal alcohol and substances that are illegally distributed throughout Alaska. In the coming year, we will focus on continuing to work with local, state, and federal agencies to disrupt and dismantle DTOs and holding offenders accountable for crimes committed. We will train our investigators on the latest trends of drug trafficking and DTO operations and will work with rural communities to interdict illegal drugs before they are trafficked into our communities. Our aim is to continue building safer communities and stronger relationships with those we proudly serve.

## Conclusion

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our brave officers and dedicated professional staff, whose hard work and courage are at the heart of our successes. I also thank our community partners, stakeholders, and residents for their unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact and uphold the principles of justice and public service.

Sincerely,

Captain Cornelius "Moose" Sims  
Commander, SDEU



## The Overall View of the Narcotic Drug and Illicit Alcohol Problem in the State

International DTOs continue to traffic dangerous drugs in Alaska due to the economics associated with drug prices and the high demand seen throughout the state.

Unorganized individuals continue to import illegal alcoholic beverages into one of the 96 local option communities in Alaska that either ban the sale of alcohol, sale by specific type of license only, sale by municipality operated license only, ban sale and importation, or ban the sale, importation, and possession of alcohol<sup>1</sup>.

Methamphetamine, fentanyl, and cocaine pose the greatest drug threats in Alaska. The high rate of return for drug and alcohol traffickers greatly incentivizes supply into and throughout Alaska. Alaska is not known to produce illegal drugs. Illegal drugs are predominantly imported and then distributed throughout the state. Illegal alcohol, however, is purchased in the hub cities or other legal locations and then distributed to local option communities.

In 2024, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Alaska designated additional federal prosecutors to process search warrants for U.S. Postal Service parcels to ensure that search warrants are applied expeditiously and charging decisions are swift<sup>2</sup>.

### Number of Arrests Made

Seizure amounts determine if a charge will be tried in either state or federal court. The cases that meet federal thresholds are forwarded to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution. Defendants convicted in federal court typically receive longer sentences than when prosecuted in state court. The number of cases that are tried in federal court are not tracked; thus, the total number of charges, incidents, and individuals arrested by SDEU are not fully represented in this report.

- 175 unique drug and alcohol arrests<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office. *DCRA Data Portal*. Accessed December 10, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Alaska HIDTA. (2024, December 26). "Alaska HIDTA Initiative Increases Enforcement Efforts After Increased Overdose Deaths." [Press Release] <https://dps.alaska.gov/AST/PIO/PressReleases/Alaska-HIDTA-Initiative-Increases-Enforcement-Effo>.

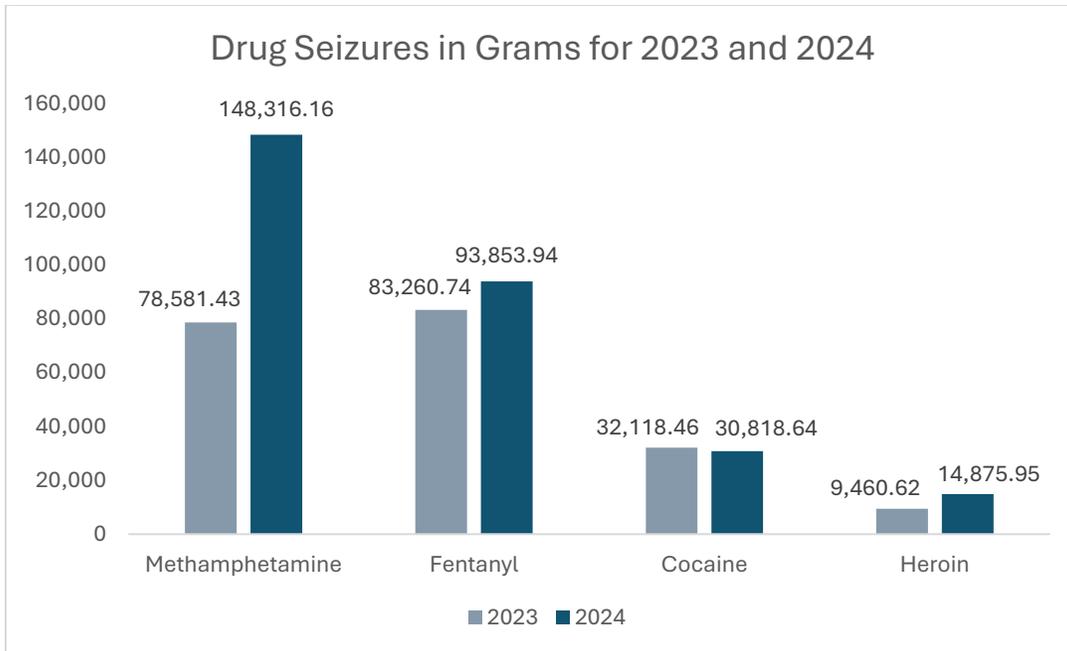
<sup>3</sup> Data provided by Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) as of January 3, 2025. Arrest data is not solely SDEU data, as APSIN is not able to break the data up by units within the Department of Public Safety (DPS). These data represent all alcohol and drug-related arrests for all units within DPS. Arrest data is based on information submitted to the repository, either by the arresting agency directly entering the data into APSIN or when an arrest fingerprint card is received by the criminal records staff. A unique arrest represents an Arrest Tracking Number (ATN); thus, one ATN represents an arrest for one person, but the ATN may have any number of charges listed on it.

## Yearly Seizure Totals of Narcotic Drugs and Alcoholic Beverages<sup>4</sup>

Total Seizures in Grams for 2023 and 2024 and the Percent Change from 2023 to 2024

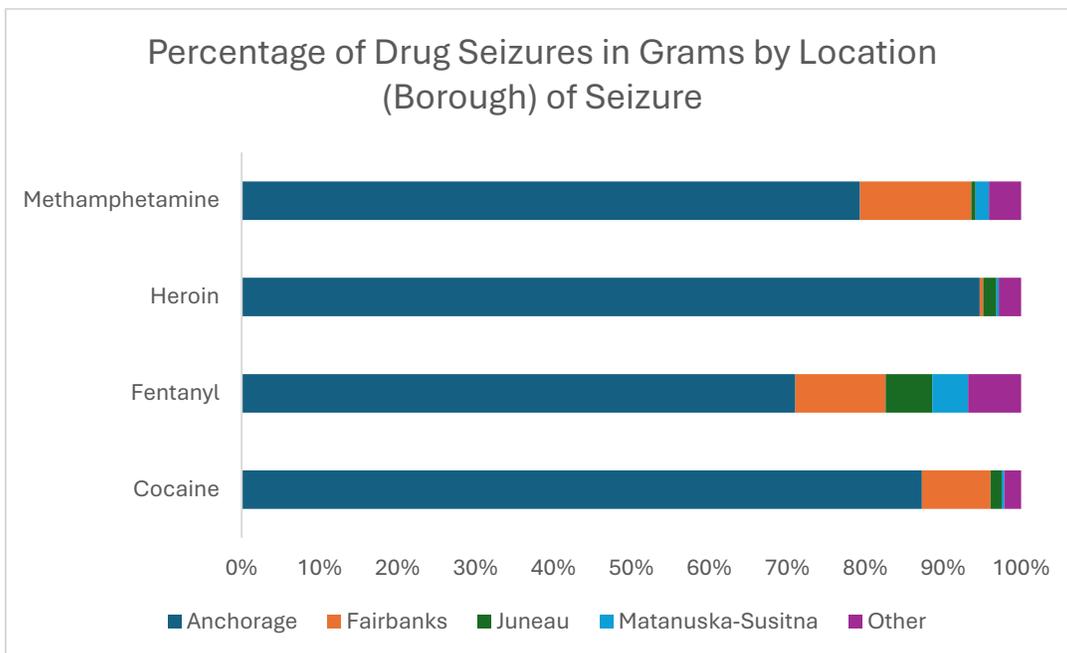
Drug Type	2023	2024	Percent Change
Acetyl fentanyl	56.50	-	-100%
Alprazolam	138.81	1,404.60	912%
Amphetamine	3.20	95.00	2,869%
Benzodiazepine	6.82	5.37	-21%
Buprenorphine	460.79	278.16	-40%
Cocaine	32,118.46	30,818.64	-4%
Codeine	1,086.34	0.50	-100%
Crack	17.90	303.30	1,594%
Fentanyl	83,260.74	93,853.94	13%
Heroin	9,460.62	14,875.95	57%
Hydrocodone	22.60	310.10	1,272%
LSD	11.10	2.19	-80%
Marijuana	84,514.88	144,877.25	71%
Marijuana BC Bud	43.91	1,166.50	2,557%
Marijuana Edibles	11,701.16	64,128.14	448%
MDMA	31.90	72.95	129%
Methamphetamine	78,581.43	148,316.16	89%
Morphine	0.44	67.80	15,309%
Oxycodone	6.80	65.80	868%
Psilocybin	4,177.52	5,419.12	30%
Synthetic Marijuana	224.00	-	-100%
Testosterone	6.90	270.22	3,816%
THC Liquid	4,061.50	62,745.01	1,445%
THC Resin	14,772.32	1,584.20	-89%
Tramadol	-	1,353.30	-
Methadone	-	396.30	-
Ketamine	-	124.88	-
Clonazepam	-	1.50	-
Hydroxyzine Hydrochloride	-	0.03	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>324,766.64</b>	<b>572,536.90</b>	<b>76%</b>

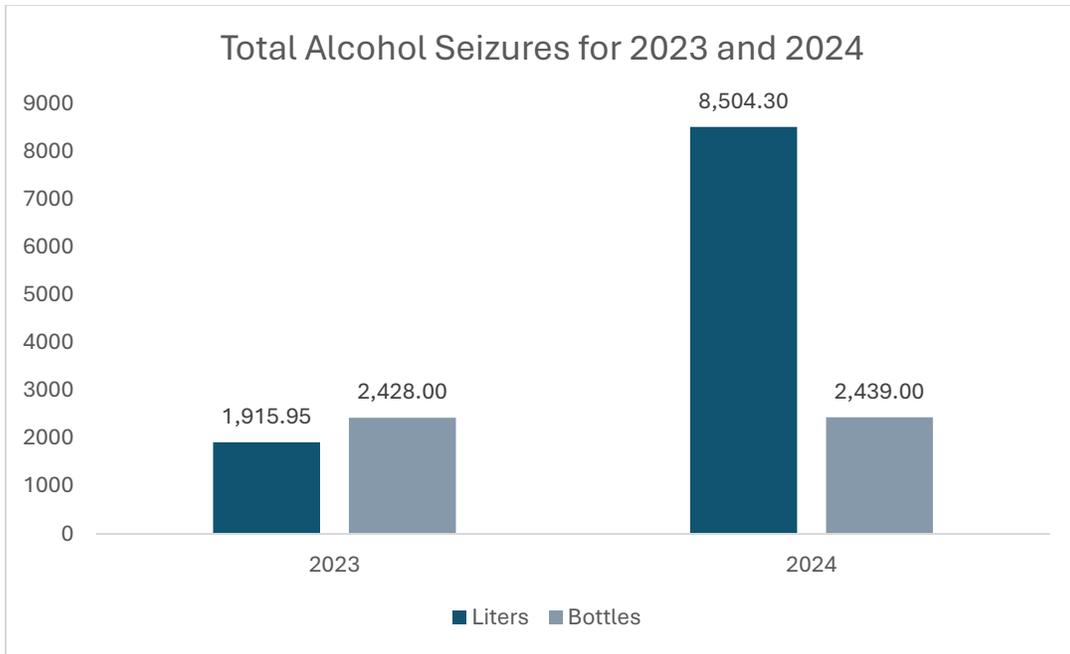
<sup>4</sup> Source: Alaska High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) monthly reports



*In 2024, SDEU transitioned to reporting seizures primarily in grams. In 2023, there were 549.48 reported fentanyl seizures in Dosage Units (D.U.). A D.U. is a pill or tablet and not someone's actual dosage unit.*

In 2024, SDEU reported that 94.7% of all heroin seizures, 87.3% of all cocaine seizures, 79.3% of all methamphetamine seizures, and 71% of all fentanyl seizures were in the Municipality of Anchorage Borough. Additionally, 78.3% of all seizures were reported in the Municipality of Anchorage Borough, followed by the Fairbanks North Star Borough with 12.1%, the City and Borough of Juneau with 2.5%, and then closely followed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with 2.4%.





Alcohol Seizures in Bottles and Liters for 2024

Alcohol Type	Bottles	Liters
2024	2,439	8,504.3
Distilled Spirits	2,319	8,407.22
Malted Beverage	108	39.33
Wine	12	57.75

SDEU also reported that over 8,500 liters of alcohol were seized in 2024, a nearly 400% increase when compared to 2023. These seizures are the result of illegal alcoholic beverages imports into local option communities where the sale, importation, and/or possession of alcohol has been prohibited.

## Drug and Alcohol Prices<sup>5</sup>

The disparity between prices in the contiguous United States and Alaska presents an incentive for DTOs to import and distribute drugs into and throughout the state. Moreover, there is a strong correlation between distance from a regional hub and price – the farther a drug or alcohol is trafficked from a regional hub the greater the retail price.

Starting in 2024, drug seizures were recorded in grams. So, while some drugs are sold in pill form, the seizure weight is recorded in grams.

Fentanyl powder will usually have more pure fentanyl than a fentanyl pill. Fentanyl pills have an added binder that reduces its overall purity. Therefore, a gram of powder will cost more than a pill with the same weight.

In the Kodiak region, heroin used to sell for \$600 per gram but has since been non-existent for the last two years.

*The larger the amount purchased, the better the price.*

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<sup>5</sup> Source: Alaska HIDTA monthly reports

Drug prices for the most sold drug types by location, most common quantity and unit, and most common cost/street value

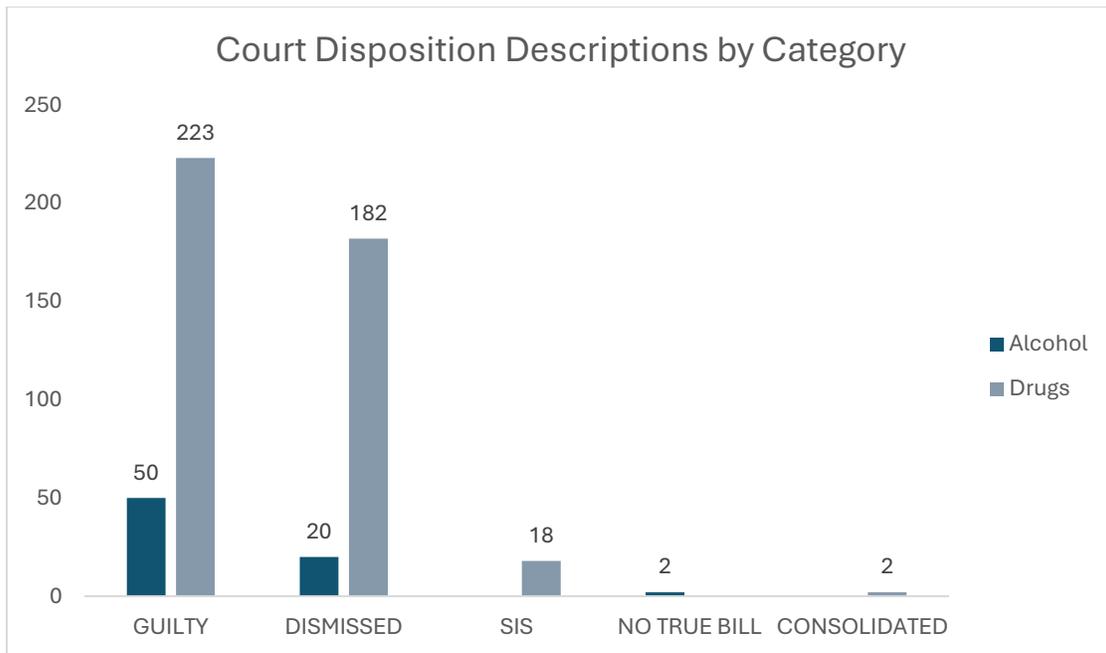
Drug Type	Location	Quantity/Unit	Cost/Street Value
Cocaine	Anchorage	8-ball	\$350
	Mat-Su	8-ball	\$300
	Fairbanks	Gram	\$100
	Kenai Peninsula	Gram	\$150 - \$200
	Kodiak	Gram	\$250
	Fairbanks	Ounce	\$200 - \$1,500
Fentanyl pill	Anchorage	Gram	\$8 a pill
	Fairbanks	Pill	\$20
	Juneau	Pill	\$10- \$20
	Ketchikan	Pill	\$50
	Outlying Southeast Communities	Pill	\$20- \$40
	Kenai Peninsula	Pill	\$10- \$15
	Kodiak	Pill	\$30 - \$80
	Dillingham	Pill	\$50
Fentanyl powder	Dillingham	1/10 gram	\$50
	Fairbanks	1/10th gram	\$80 - \$100
	Juneau	Gram	\$300
	Mat-Su	Gram	\$300
	Kenai Peninsula	1/4 ounce	\$750
Heroin	Juneau	Gram	\$100
	Kenai Peninsula	Gram	\$100
Marijuana Bud	Dillingham	Gram	\$50
Marijuana Concentrate	Dillingham	Gram	\$100
Methamphetamine	Dillingham	1/10 gram	\$100
	Juneau	Gram	\$100
	Kenai Peninsula	Gram	\$50 - \$70
	Ketchikan	Gram	\$150
	Kodiak	Gram	\$150
	Outlying Southeast Communities	Gram	\$100 - \$200
	Anchorage	Ounce	\$300 - \$500
	Fairbanks	Ounce	\$400 - \$500
	Kenai Peninsula	Ounce	\$450
	Mat-Su	Ounce	\$350

*Conversion: 1 ounce = 28.35 grams*

## Sentences Received by Narcotic Drug and Alcohol Offenders<sup>6</sup>

The following charts depict 2024 sentences for alcohol and drug-related offenses. A charge may be initially presented in state court and later adopted in federal court; these dispositions would show as a dismissal. The following charts only represent state court sentences and dispositions.

Court Disposition	Alcohol	Drugs	Total
Guilty	50	223	273
Dismissed	20	182	202
Suspended Imposition of Sentence		18	18
No True Bill	2		2
Consolidated		2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>497</b>



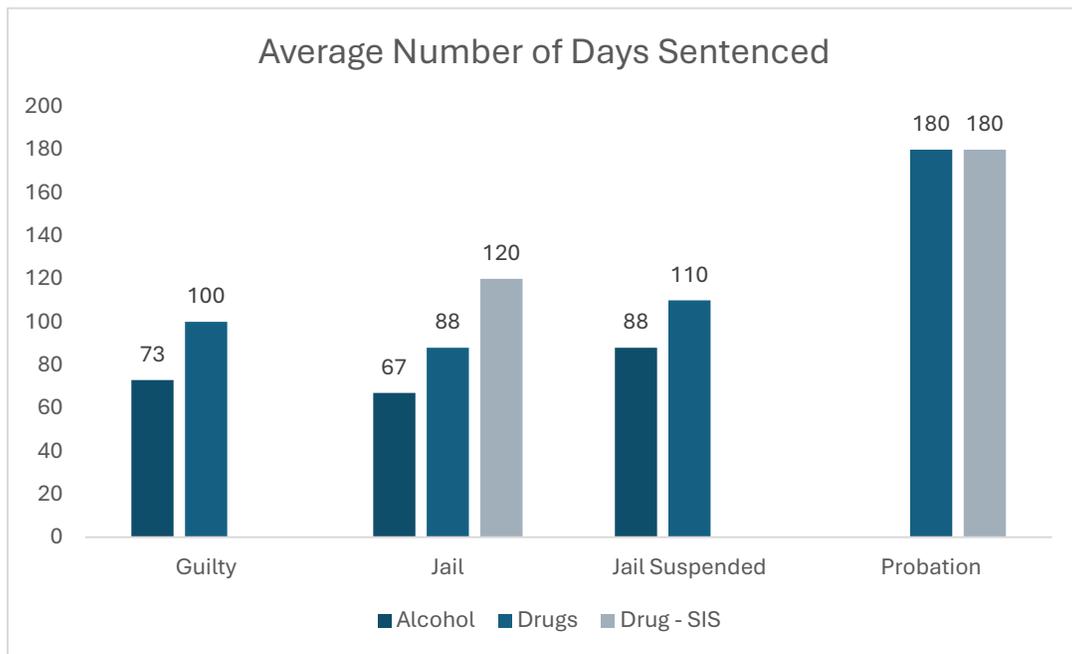
<sup>6</sup> Data provided by Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) as of January 3, 2025. Arrest data is not solely SDEU data, as APSIN is not able to break the data up by units within the Department of Public Safety (DPS). These data represent all alcohol and drug-related arrests for all units within DPS.

Average Number of Days and Years Sentenced and Average Fine Amounts for Alcohol and Drug Convictions

Alcohol Convictions	Average # of Days	Average # of Years	Average Amount
<b>Guilty</b>	73	2	\$2,843.75
Jail	67		
Jail Suspended	83		
Probation		2	
Fine			\$2,800
Fine Suspended			\$3,500

Drug Convictions	Average # of Days	Average # of Years	Average Amount
<b>Drugs</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Guilty</b>	100	3	\$250
Jail	88	3	
Jail Suspended	110	2	
Probation	180	2	
Fine			\$250
<b>Suspended Imposition of Sentence (SIS)</b>	103	2	
Community Work	10		
Jail	120	1	
Probation	180	2	

Average drug conviction restitution was \$26,230.50



Count of Offense Description Convictions by Alcohol and Drug Categories

Category, Offense Description	Consolidated	Dismissed	Guilty	No True Bill	SIS	Total
<b>Alcohol</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>72</b>
Import Alcohol-Dry Area-Small Amt		3	30			33
Import Alcohol-Dry Area-Large Amount		5	9	1		15
Sell Alcohol w/o License - Dry Area		6	5	1		12
Alcoholic Beverage Transport by Common Carrier		2	3			5
Sell Alcohol w/o License - Wet Area		1	3			4
No Alcohol License - Orders, Dry Area		2				2
Possess Homebrew Ingredient in Dry Area		1				1
<b>Drugs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>223</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>425</b>
MICS <sup>7</sup> 5-Possess any Amount IA, IIA, IIA, IVA, VA		46	60			106
MICS 3- Manufacture/Deliver any IIA or IIIA	2	29	55		7	93
MICS 2- Manufacture/Deliver IA		40	13			53
MICS 5		14	32		3	49
MICS 4-Previous Conviction MICS 5 Preceding 10 yr		23	22		2	47
MICS 5- Manufacture/Deliver/Possess <1 oz VIA		4	17			21
MICS 3		3	4		3	10
MICS 5-Fail To Keep/Furn Required Record		5	5			10
MICS 4- Manufacture /Deliver/Possess IVA or VA		6				6
MICS 4- Provide Facility to Distribute			6			6
MICS 4		4	2			6
MICS 6- Use/Display any Amount VIA		1			3	4
MICS 2			4			4
MICS 4- Manufacture/Deliver/Possess 1 oz VIA			3			3
MICS 3-Possess IA or IIA Near School		2				2
MICS 3-Possess IA or IIA Near Rec/Youth Center		2				2
MICS 5- Possess 1 oz or More VIA		1				1
Null		1				1
MICS 4- Possess any Amount IA		1				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>497</b>

<sup>7</sup> Misconduct of Controlled Substance

# Appendix A

## AS 18.65.085 Narcotic Drugs and Alcohol Enforcement

(a) There is established in the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers, a narcotic drugs and alcohol enforcement unit for the purpose of investigating and combating the illicit sale and distribution of narcotic drugs and alcoholic beverages in the state. Enforcement of the alcoholic beverage control laws shall focus primarily on the investigation, apprehension, and conviction of persons who violate AS 04.11.010 by selling, importing, or possessing alcoholic beverages in violation of a local option adopted by a municipality or established village under AS 04.11.491.

(b) The commissioner of public safety shall prepare a report concerning the activities of the narcotic drugs and alcohol enforcement unit. The commissioner shall notify the legislature on the first day of each regular session that the report is available. The report must include, but is not limited to, the number of arrests made, the kind, amount, and value of narcotic drugs and alcoholic beverages seized, the sentences received by narcotic drug and alcohol offenders, and an overall view of the narcotic drug and illicit alcohol problem in the state.

(c) The Department of Public Safety may establish and administer a reward program, and provide grants to municipalities, established villages, and, at the request of a municipality or established village, to a nonprofit association that administers a village public safety officer program, for reward programs leading to the apprehension and conviction of persons who violate AS 04.11.010 by selling, importing, or possessing alcoholic beverages in violation of a local option adopted by a municipality or established village under AS 04.11.491.

# Appendix B

## SDEU Teams

**Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team (FANT)** focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in the Interior Region, which extends up to Utqiagvik and east to Canada. FANT is comprised of Alaska State Troopers (AST), Fairbanks Police Department, Fairbanks Airport Police Department, North Slope Borough Police Department, North Pole Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and DEA. FANT works closely with the United States Marshals Service (USMS); Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE); and local, state, and military agencies within the region.

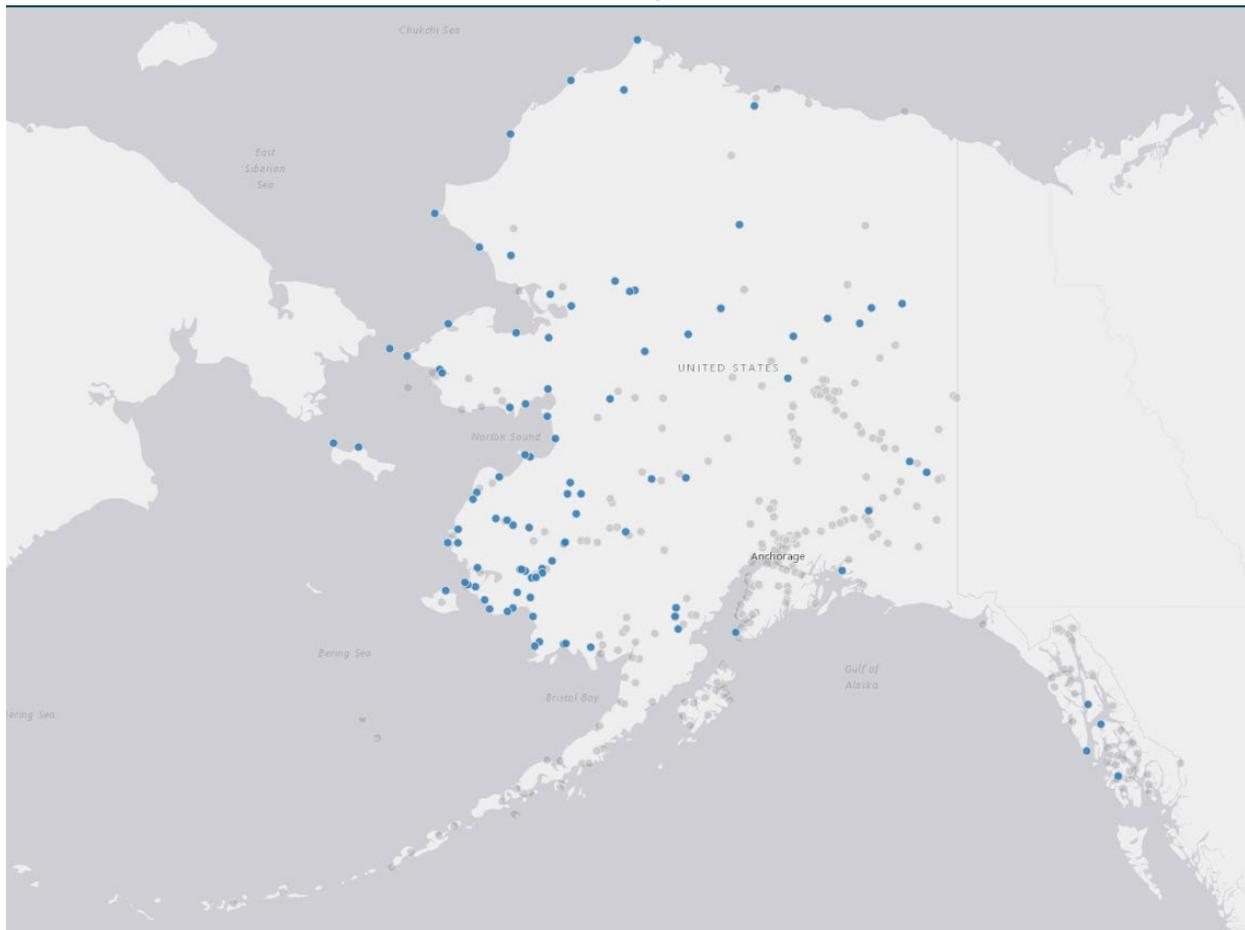
**Southcentral Areawide Narcotics Team (SCAN)** focuses on drug interdictions and investigations throughout the Southcentral Region, to include the Mat-Su Valley, Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula, and Kodiak Island. SCAN is comprised of AST, Kenai Police Department, Anchorage Police Department, North Slope Borough Police Department, Sand Point Police Department, Anchorage Airport Police and Fire Department, and works closely with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), Department of Homeland Security Investigations, United States Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS), DEA, Internal Revenue Service, and BATFE. SCAN also provides investigative support to Valdez and Cordova police departments.

**Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs (SEACAD)** focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in Southeast Alaska. SEACAD is comprised of AST, Juneau Policed Department, Petersburg Police Department, Ketchikan Police Department, DEA, FBI, USPIS, and CGIS. SEACAD also provides investigative support to the Wrangell, Craig, Klawock, Yakutat, Hoonah, Sitka, Haines, and Skagway police departments. SEACAD is comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and works closely with law enforcement agencies in the lower 48 and Canada.

**Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT)** focuses predominately on alcohol enforcement in Western Alaska, as well as drug interdictions and investigations. WAANT is comprised of AST and the Bethel Police Department and works closely with the USPIS and other federal partners.

# Appendix C

## Alaska Local Alcohol Option Restrictions<sup>8</sup>



*The grey dots represent communities that do not have a local alcohol option restriction.*

Local Alcohol Option Restrictions	Total
Ban sale and importation of alcohol	41
Ban sale, importation, and possession of alcohol	31
Sale of alcohol is banned	20
Sale by municipality operated license only: Package Store Only	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>

<sup>8</sup> Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office. *DCRA Data Portal*. Accessed December 10, 2024.