EDUCATION IN ALASKA
LOOKING AT PEAK TESTING AMONG ALASKA’S SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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MEASURING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- PEAK testing (imperfect yes, but we try to normalize it)
- Comparing districts to identify outliers
- Looking at statewide reports on jobs, crime statistics, health care access
- Overlaying Social Determinants data
As poverty increases, academic achievement tends to decrease.

Some outliers (both above expected and below expected) within an economic range.
$y = -0.5081x + 0.6323$

$R^2 = 0.4837$
The equation for the trend line is $y = -0.4984x + 0.6282$ with a $R^2 = 0.4531$. The scatter plot represents the 2017 PEAK – ELA each GRADE level data.
2016-2017 ELA PEAKS Test Scores: Actual vs. Predicted (Econ. Dis. OLS)
2016-2017 ELA PEAKS Test Scores:
Top/Bottom 50 Actual vs. Predicted (Actual vs. OLS)
Two Big Themes Emerged:

1. Teacher quality matters. Longevity, high quality, mentoring,
2. Community culture that supports and prioritizes education.
HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS:

**Good teachers:**
- Need to be identified
- Need to be nurtured
- Need to be supported
- Do you reward high performers? Do you remove low performers?
STRESS OR SUPPORT AT HOME

- Overlay Maps
  - Economic output per capita
  - Crime data
  - Mother’s age at birth data
  - Housing data
  - ACES scores
  - Opioid data
Comparing the two graphs: ELA proficiency with the Economic Disadvantaged Population
2017 ALASKA FELONY SEXUAL OFFENSES (PER 100,000 IN POPULATION)

Source: https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/12954bff-11ae-47d3-9709-3b3e4eb2d76d/2017-Felony-Level-Sex-Offenses
THE AGE WHEN WOMEN HAVE BABIES

Percentage of Adults with 1 or More Adverse Childhood Experience Before Age 18 by Region (Alaska BRFSS; 2013-2015)
PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS WITH 4 OR MORE ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE, BY REGION (ALASKA BRFSS; 2013-2015)
Number of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths By Public Health Region

Available OD Deaths Data
Rate of OD Deaths

- 0.5 - 1.0 Deaths per 10,000
- 1.0 - 1.5 Deaths per 10,000
- 1.5 - 2.0 Deaths per 10,000
- Not Calculated Due to Small Numbers

Date Range: July 2017 - June 2018

Southwest, Southeast, and Northern Public Health Region numbers and rates are not reported due to small sample size
WHAT IS THE TAKEAWAY

- How should we deploy our limited resources?
- Focus on what matters: Teacher support and decreasing ACES
- Must have cooperative funding and a unified plan between state departments and state agencies
- If we are going to spend more money on education, where will we get the biggest bang for our buck?
LEGISLATIVE OPTIONS:

- Passed HB 216, school consolidation
- Passed SB104, Education Curriculum Bill
- Tried to pass SB102 Internet for Schools (increase internet connectivity) Need to find a source of funds for the matching
- What about these two ideas:
  - 1) Unit Level budgets
  - 2) Provide staffing flexibility
Would you like to make this data easy to search?
Select what you want to compare and generate a list or a graph
QUESTIONS?

These grades are unacceptable. How do we remedy this?

Throw money at it?