



# ANTHC

## Rural Alaska Harm Reduction Initiative

Cornelia “Connie” Jessen, MA

[cmjessen@anthc.org](mailto:cmjessen@anthc.org), 729-3955



ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM

# Background

## Opioid Epidemic

- The US and Alaska have seen a dramatic increase in the use of prescription opioids and heroin

## Health Complications

- Increase in death due to overdose
- Increase in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome due to prenatal exposure
- Long-term viral infections (HIV, Hepatitis C and B)
- Bacterial infections of the skin, bloodstream and heart

## Public Health Impact

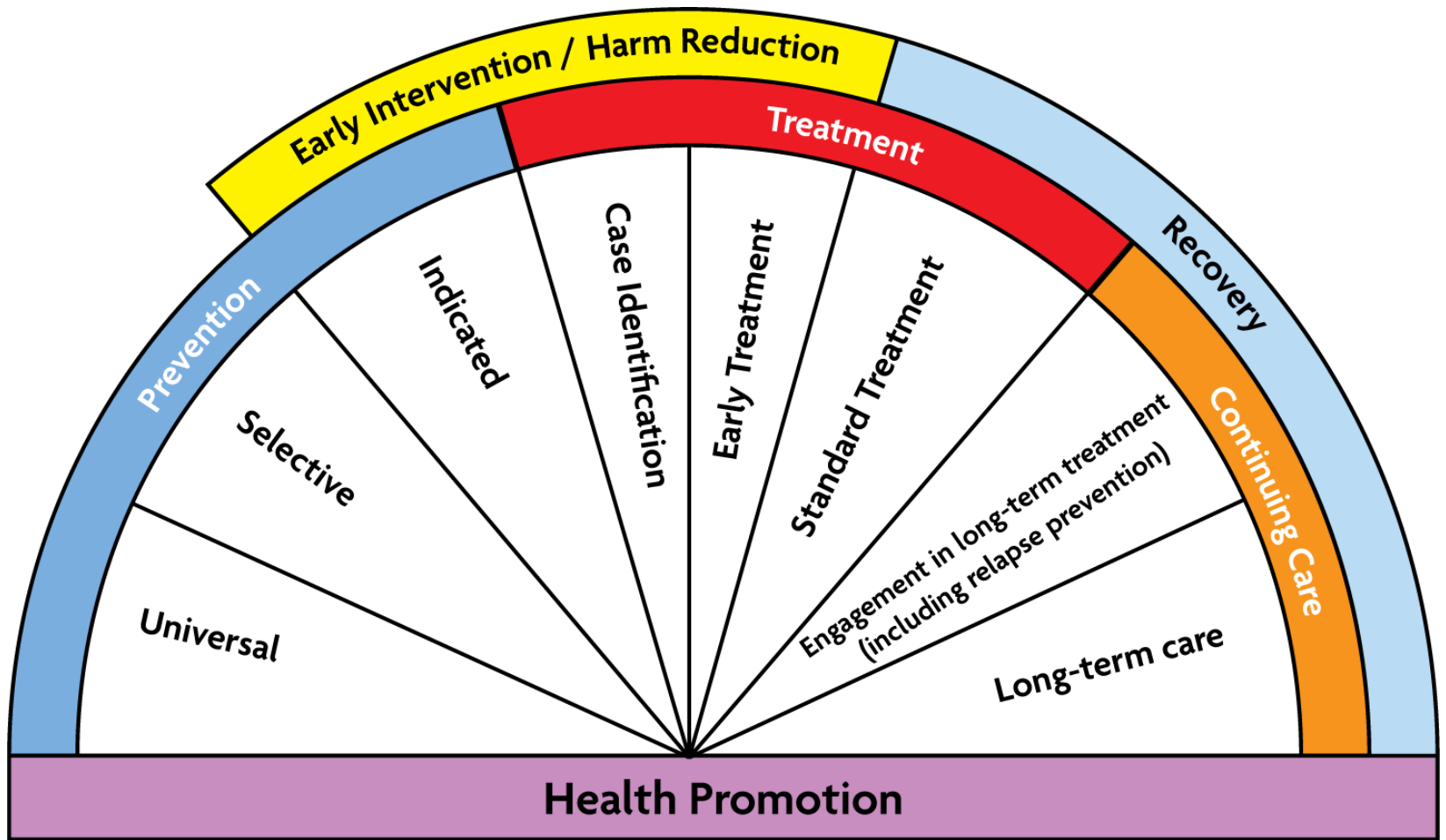
- Increased morbidity, mortality, healthcare costs and transmission of HIV, Hep C
- Impact on the health and safety of families and communities



# Harm Reduction Programs

- Decrease spread of HIV and Hep C
- Increase linkage to medical care and behavioral health services
- Improve health outcomes
- Make drug use safer
- Reduce drug use and/or abstinence
- Provide cost effective interventions in relation to healthcare/treatment costs





# Increasing Access

- Prevention supplies
- Prevention education
- HIV/Hepatitis testing and STI screening
- Referrals to substance abuse treatment centers, MAT and other behavioral health services
- Removal of dirty needles to make communities safe for all residents



# Initiative Goals

- Current Partnerships: SEARHC and BBAHC
- Safe medicine supplies available on <https://www.iknowmine.org/safe-medicine>
- Staff and provider education
- Pilot DAST-10 substance use screening tool in 2 clinics
- Pilot clinic-based syringe service programs in 2 rural communities, CHS HIV and Hepatitis field clinics
- Develop Alaska-specific tool kit to share within ATHS



# Safe Medicine

**iKnowmine.org** [<EXIT SITE>](#)

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Safe Medicine

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# October 2017 to March 2018

- 24 unique sites ordered deactivation supplies
- Two locations ordered for regional distribution
- 1,599 deactivation pouches
- 128 deactivation buckets

