

2020 Annual Drug Report

JANUARY 2021



SDEU Teams

Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team
Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team
Kodiak Area-wide Narcotics Team
Mat-Su Narcotics Enforcement Team
Southcentral Area-wide Narcotics Team
Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs
Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

The number of arrests made

In 2020, SDEU made 165 unique drug and alcohol arrests¹. Seizure amounts determine if a charge will be tried in state or federal court. The cases that meet the federal threshold (Appendix C) are forwarded to the US 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.

The kind, amount, and value of narcotic drugs and alcoholic beverages seized

In 2020, SDEU seized the following drugs in descending quantity in grams: marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, fentanyl, benzodiazepine, ecstasy/MDMA, psilocybin, crack cocaine, LSD, alprazolam, and hash/hash oil. In 2020, SDEU seized the following drugs in descending quantity in dosage units: hydrocodone, gabapentin, fentanyl, buprenorphine methadone, clonazepam, and amphetamine.

In 2020, there were 1,447.82 grams and 150 dosage units of fentanyl seized by SDEU. Fentanyl is an emerging drug in Alaska and poses a danger to society and law enforcement. Only two milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal².

From 2019 to 2020, there was a 320 percent change increase in marijuana seizures and a 174 percent change increase in cocaine seizures. Whereas heroin (5), methamphetamine (15), and marijuana plant (30) seizures all witnessed a percent change decrease.

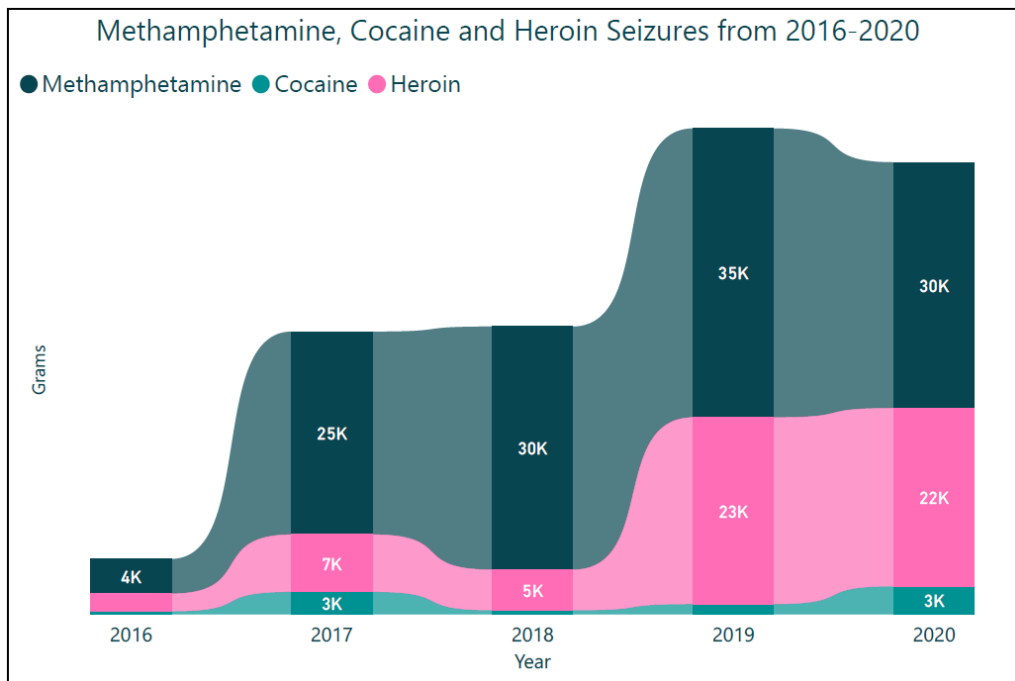
From 2019 to 2020, alcohol bottle seizures witnessed a 12 percent change increase and total alcohol seizures in liters witnessed an 18 percent change decrease.

| Year | Alcohol bottles | Alcohol liters |
|------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2016 | 1,812 | 1,432 |
| 2017 | 3,399 | 2,561 |
| 2018 | 1,558 | 1,245 |
| 2019 | 2,322 | 1,796 |
| 2020 | 2,593 | 1,477 |

¹ Data provided by Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) as of January 20, 2020. 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.

² United States Drug Enforcement Administration (July 2, 2018). *Fentanyl*. Accessed January 26, 2020 <https://www.dea.gov/galleries/drug-images/fentanyl>.

| Drug Seizures from 2016-2020 in Grams or Number of Plants | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| Year | Methamphetamine | Heroin | Cocaine | Marijuana | Marijuana plants |
| 2016 | 4,249 | 2,177 | 372 | 93,469 | 1,838 |
| 2017 | 24,909 | 7,061 | 2,750 | 40,370 | 274 |
| 2018 | 29,844 | 5,001 | 497 | 23,873 | 227 |
| 2019 | 35,481 | 22,943 | 1,256 | 22,808 | 332 |
| 2020 | 30,187 | 21,895 | 3,440 | 95,843 | 233 |



The disparity between prices in the contiguous United States and Alaska presents an incentive for drug trafficking organizations 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 further a drug or alcohol is trafficked from a regional hub the greater the retail price.

SDEU reports the following drug prices for methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and crack, marijuana, and fentanyl by community in 2020:

³ Seizure data provided by SDEU monthly reports

2020 Reported Prices for an Ounce of Methamphetamine

| Community | Drug Type | Price | Quantity | Unit |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|----------|------|
| Anchorage | Methamphetamine | \$750 | 1.0 | oz |
| Anchorage | Methamphetamine | \$900 | 1.0 | oz |
| Juneau | Methamphetamine | \$800 | 1.0 | oz |
| Sterling | Methamphetamine | \$700 | 1.0 | oz |
| Sterling | Methamphetamine | \$950 | 1.0 | oz |

2020 Reported Prices for a Gram of Methamphetamine

| Community | Drug Type | Price | Quantity | Unit |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------|----------|------|
| Haines & Juneau | Methamphetamine | \$200 | 1.0 | g |
| Juneau | Methamphetamine | \$80 | 1.0 | g |
| Juneau | Methamphetamine | \$100 | 1.0 | g |
| Ketchikan | Methamphetamine | \$200 | 1.0 | g |
| Kodiak | Methamphetamine | \$120 | 1.0 | g |
| Kodiak | Methamphetamine | \$130 | 1.0 | g |
| Kodiak | Methamphetamine | \$200 | 1.0 | g |
| Kodiak | Methamphetamine | \$400 | 1.0 | g |
| Kodiak Island | Methamphetamine | \$250 | 1.0 | g |

2020 Reported Prices for 3.5 Grams of Methamphetamine

| Community | Drug Type | Price | Quantity | Unit |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|----------|------|
| Anchorage | Methamphetamine | \$150 | 3.5 | g |
| Juneau | Methamphetamine | \$220 | 3.5 | g |
| Kodiak | Methamphetamine | \$300 | 3.5 | g |
| Kodiak | Methamphetamine | \$400 | 3.5 | g |
| Nikiski | Methamphetamine | \$300 | 3.5 | g |

2020 Reported Prices for an Ounce of Heroin

| Community | Drug Type | Price | Quantity | Unit |
|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|------|
| Anchorage | Heroin | \$1,600 | 1.0 | oz |
| Anchorage | Heroin | \$2,000 | 1.0 | oz |
| Juneau | Heroin | \$2,000 | 1.0 | oz |
| Willow | Heroin | \$1,950 | 1.0 | oz |

2020 Reported Prices for a Gram of Heroin

| Community | Drug Type | Price | Quantity | Unit |
|-----------|-----------|-------|----------|------|
| Angoon | Heroin | \$260 | 1.0 | g |
| Fairbanks | Heroin | \$100 | 1.0 | g |
| Juneau | Heroin | \$200 | 1.0 | g |
| Kodiak | Heroin | \$300 | 1.0 | g |
| Kodiak | Heroin | \$400 | 1.0 | g |
| Kodiak | Heroin | \$700 | 1.0 | g |

2020 Reported Prices for 3.5 Grams of Heroin

| Community | Drug Type | Price | Quantity | Unit |
|-----------|-----------|-------|----------|------|
| Anchorage | Heroin | \$360 | 3.5 | g |
| Juneau | Heroin | \$450 | 3.5 | g |

2020 Reported Cocaine and Crack Drug Prices

| Community | Drug Type | Price | Quantity | Unit |
|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|------|
| Anchorage | Cocaine | \$100 | 0.5 | g |
| Anchorage | Cocaine | \$120 | 1.0 | g |
| Anchorage | Cocaine | \$300 | 3.4 | g |
| Anchorage | Cocaine | \$300 | 5.3 | g |
| Anchorage | Cocaine | \$350 | 3.5 | g |
| Anchorage | Cocaine | \$700 | 7.0 | g |
| Anchorage | Cocaine | \$1,700 | 1.0 | oz |
| Anchorage | Crack | \$700 | 7.6 | g |
| Anchorage | Crack | \$2,800 | 29.2 | g |

2020 Reported Marijuana Prices

| Community | Drug Type | Price | Quantity | Unit |
|-----------|--------------------|-------|----------|------|
| Anchorage | Thc Liquid | \$20 | 1.0 | g |
| Juneau | Marijuana | \$200 | 1.0 | oz |
| Juneau | Marijuana | \$500 | 57.2 | g |
| Kotzebue | Marijuana - BC Bud | \$50 | 1.0 | g |
| Kotzebue | Marijuana - BC Bud | \$100 | 3.5 | g |
| Kotzebue | Thc Liquid | \$100 | 1.0 | g |

2020 Reported Prices of Fentanyl

| Community | Drug Type | Price | Quantity | Unit |
|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|------|
| Anchorage | Fentanyl | \$20 | 1.0 | D.U. |
| Anchorage | Fentanyl | \$30 | 1.0 | D.U. |
| Anchorage | Fentanyl | \$50 | 1.0 | D.U. |
| Anchorage | Fentanyl | \$2,000 | 100.0 | D.U. |

Beginning in 2021, SDEU will collect the value of alcoholic beverages seized.

The sentences received by narcotic drug and alcohol offenders

In 2020, of the 178 alcohol-related offenses, there were 154 guilty and 24 dismissed alcohol-related dispositions, and of the 210 drug-related offenses, there were 143 guilty, 60 dismissed, and seven suspended imposition of sentence drug-related dispositions.

The following charts depict 2020 alcohol and drug offense sentences in average number of days and years, 2020 total alcohol and drug offense dispositions, and 2020 alcohol and drug offense sentences in average amounts. 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.

| Offense | Disposition | Sentence | Average Number of Years | Average Number of Days |
|---------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Drugs | GUILTY | Jail | 4.00 | 96.06 |
| Drugs | GUILTY | Jail Suspended | 2.40 | 107.50 |
| Drugs | GUILTY | Probation | 2.00 | |
| Drugs | SUSP IMPOS SENTENCE | Probation | 3.00 | 180.00 |

| Offense | Disposition | Sentence | Average Number of Years | Average Number of Days |
|---------|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Alcohol | GUILTY | Jail | | 36.88 |
| Alcohol | GUILTY | Jail Suspended | | 37.09 |
| Alcohol | GUILTY | Probation | 1.16 | 180.00 |

| Offense | Average Amount | Sentence |
|---------|----------------|----------------|
| Alcohol | \$1,308.14 | Fine |
| Drugs | \$860.00 | Fine |
| Alcohol | \$2,833.33 | Fine Suspended |
| Drugs | \$800.00 | Fine Suspended |

⁴ Data provided by Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) as of January 20, 2020. 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.

An overall view of the narcotic drug and illicit alcohol problem in the state

International drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) continue to gravitate towards Alaska's lucrative drug market. DTOs look to exploit Alaska's:

- Hub locations to access remote areas
- High demand
- Limited law enforcement resources in remote areas

Unorganized individuals continue to import illegal alcoholic beverages into one of the 108 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 alcohol⁵.

Methamphetamine, opioids, 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. Illegal drugs are predominantly imported and then distributed throughout the state. Alaska is not known to produce illegal drugs. Illegal alcohol, however, is purchased in the hub cities or other legal locations and then distributed to local option communities.

As COVID-19 continues to affect society, it is still too early to properly assess what methods and tactics DTOs may alter and how, if at all, that will change the drug market in Alaska. Disruptions did occur with illegal alcohol importation and distribution, as passenger air traffic significantly declined. COVID-19 transportation disruptions include:

- Beginning March 23, 2020, the US, Canada, and Mexico limited all non-essential travel⁶.
- Effective November 16, 2020, local communities could enact travel restrictions, restricting who could enter their communities.
- Starting November 21, 2020, new testing requirements were enacted for those traveling on the road system or Alaska Marine Highway System, including restrictions affecting travel booked ≤ 72 hours and > 72 hours were enacted⁷. These changes make it difficult for travelers to purchase last minute tickets.
- In April 2020, Ravn airlines filed for bankruptcy, "Ravn operated more than 400 flights per day using a fleet of 72 aircraft. During the coronavirus pandemic, passenger traffic dropped more than 90%"⁸. Ravn was a major intrastate air carrier that provided access to many remote communities throughout Alaska.

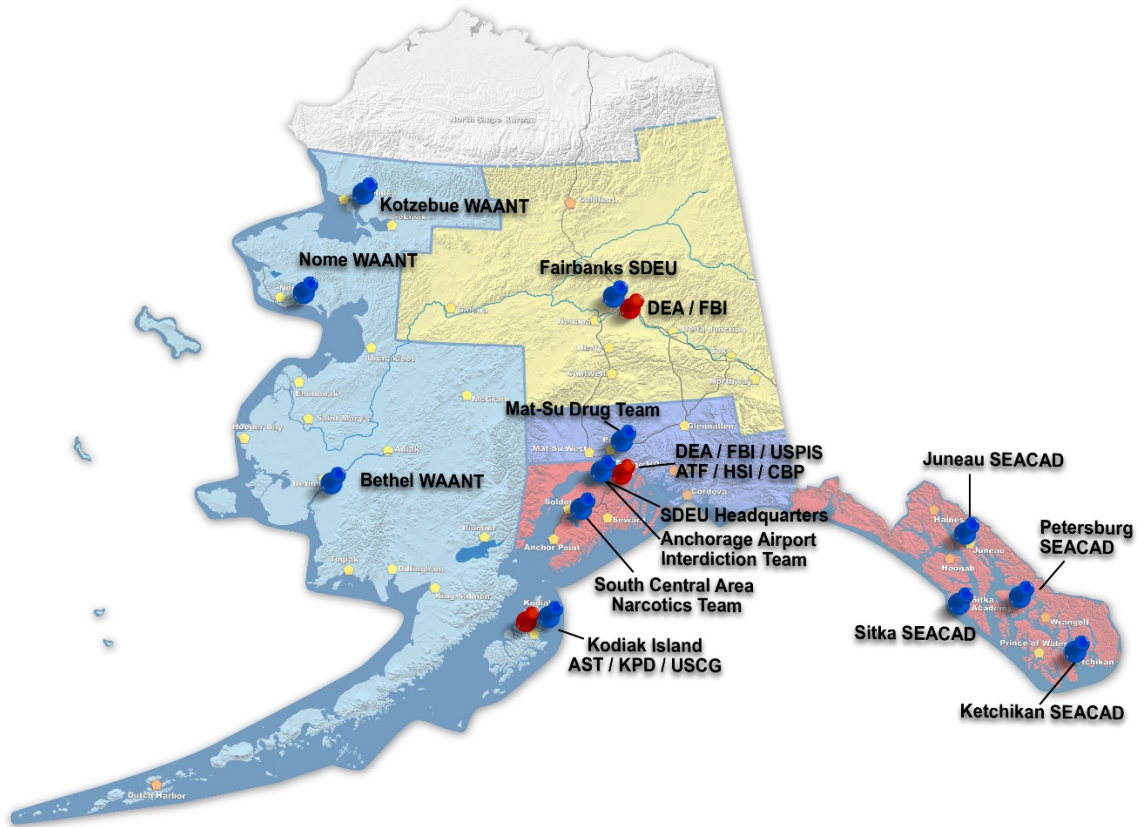
⁵ Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office. *Current list of local option communities – 10/15/2020*. Accessed January 15, 2021.

⁶ Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. *Coronavirus UPDATE at ANC*. Accessed December 4, 2020 <http://www.dot.alaska.gov/anc/about/coronavirus.shtml>

⁷ State of Alaska. *COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order No. 8 Intrastate Travel*. Issued: November 15, 2020. Effective: November 16, 2020 at 12:01 am.

⁸ Anchorage Daily News. *Ravn Air Group will go to the auction block after declaring bankruptcy*. June 25, 2020. Accessed December 4, 2020 <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/aviation/2020/06/25/alaskas-biggest-rural-airline-will-go-to-the-auction-block-after-declaring-bankruptcy/>.

SDEU remains steadfast in its commitment to the Alaska High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program and its focus on better coordination, cooperation, efficiency, and effectiveness. Following the state's judicial district boundaries, the SDEU teams align with the Alaska HIDTA enforcement initiatives. The Alaska HIDTA program was designated on May 1, 2018 and the Alaska HIDTA executive board authorized funding and the creation of initiatives on October 1, 2018.



SDEU Map Depicting Team Boundaries, Locations, and Other Agency Participation

Appendix A

AS 18.65.085. Narcotic Drugs and Alcohol Enforcement

(a) There is established in the Department of Public Safety, division of 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

Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team (AAIT)

AAIT focuses on drug interdictions at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. AAIT is comprised of members of the Alaska State Troopers (AST), Anchorage Airport Police, Anchorage Police Department (APD), North Slope Borough Police, Sand Point Police, FBI, and DEA.

Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team (FANT)

FANT focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in the Interior Region, Utqiagvik, and east to Canada. FANT is comprised of AST, Fairbanks Police Department, and the North Pole Police Department. FANT works closely with the FBI; DEA; United States Marshals; BATFE; and local, state, and military agencies within the region.

Kodiak Area-wide Narcotics Team (KANT)

KANT focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in the Kodiak Island area. KANT is comprised of AST, Kodiak Police Department, and CGIS. An AST investigator is cross-deputized with the FBI and the team works closely with federal law enforcement agencies.

Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team

The Mat-Su team focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The team is comprised of AST and works jointly with APD, FBI, DEA, BATFE, and the Department of Homeland Security Investigations.

Southcentral Area-wide Narcotics Team (SCAN)

SCAN focuses on drug interdictions and investigations on the Kenai Peninsula. SCAN is comprised of AST and the Kenai Police Department, and works closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs (SEACAD)

SEACAD focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in Southeast Alaska. SEACAD provides investigative support to Petersburg, Wrangell, Craig, Klawock, Yakutat, Juneau, Hoonah, Sitka, Haines, Skagway, Cordova, and Ketchikan 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)

WAANT focuses predominately on alcohol enforcement in Western Alaska, as well as drug interdictions and investigations. WAANT is comprised of AST, Kotzebue Police, Bethel Police, and Kodiak Police, and works closely with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS). Beginning in 2007, WAANT investigators are cross deputized with (USPIS).

Appendix C

FEDERAL TRAFFICKING PENALTIES—MARIJUANA

| DRUG | QUANTITY | 1st OFFENSE | 2nd OFFENSE * |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|
| Marijuana (Schedule I) | 1,000 kg or more marijuana mixture; or 1,000 or more marijuana plants | Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if other than an individual. | Not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if other than an individual. |
| Marijuana (Schedule I) | 100 kg to 999 kg marijuana mixture; or 100 to 999 marijuana plants | Not less than 5 yrs. or more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if other than an individual. | Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75million if other than an individual. |
| Marijuana (Schedule I) | More than 10 kgs hashish; 50 to 99 kg marijuana mixture More than 1 kg of hashish oil; 50 to 99 marijuana plants | Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if other than an individual. | Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if other than an individual. |
| Marijuana (Schedule I) | Less than 50 kilograms marijuana (but does not include 50 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight) 1 to 49 marijuana plants; | Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000, \$1 million if other than an individual. | Not more than 10 yrs. Fine \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than individual. |
| Hashish (Schedule I) | 10 kg or less | | |
| Hashish Oil (Schedule I) | 1 kg or less | | |

*The minimum sentence for a violation after two or more prior convictions for a felony drug offense have become final is a mandatory term of life imprisonment without release and a fine up to \$20 million if an individual and \$75 million if other than an individual.

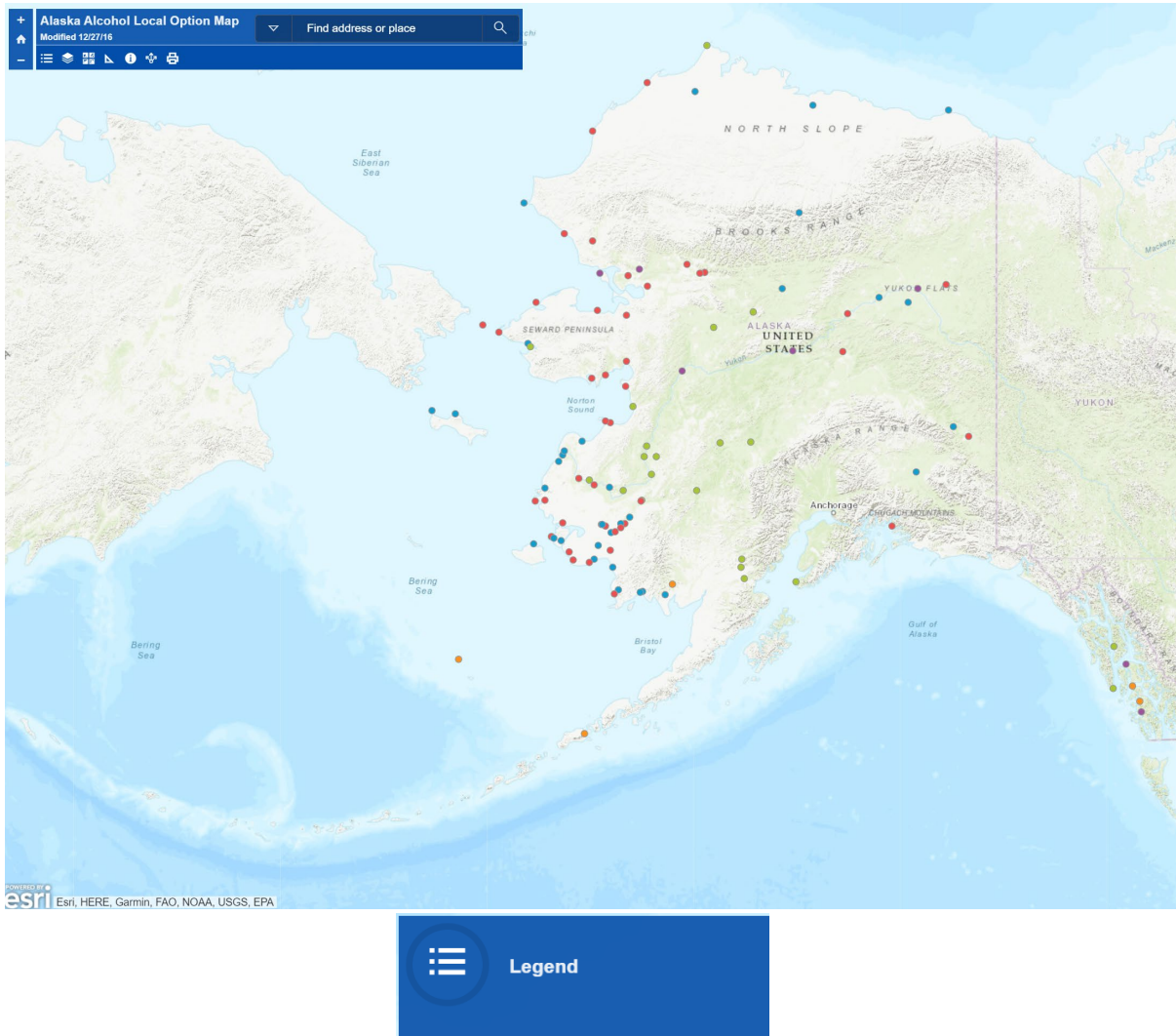
FEDERAL TRAFFICKING PENALTIES⁹

| DRUG/SCHEDULE | QUANTITY | PENALTIES | QUANTITY | PENALTIES |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Cocaine (Schedule II) | 500–4999 grams mixture | <p>First Offense: Not less than 5 yrs, and not more than 40 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 10 yrs., and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.</p> | 5 kgs or more mixture | <p>First Offense: Not less than 10 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not less than 20 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.</p> <p>2 or More Prior Offenses: Life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.</p> |
| Cocaine Base (Schedule II) | 28–279 grams mixture | | 280 grams or more mixture | |
| Fentanyl (Schedule II) | 40–399 grams mixture | | 400 grams or more mixture | |
| Fentanyl Analogue (Schedule I) | 10–99 grams mixture | | 100 grams or more mixture | |
| Heroin (Schedule I) | 100–999 grams mixture | | 1 kg or more mixture | |
| LSD (Schedule I) | 1–9 grams mixture | | 10 grams or more mixture | |
| Methamphetamine (Schedule II) | 5–49 grams pure or 50–499 grams mixture | | 50 grams or more pure or 500 grams or more mixture | |
| PCP (Schedule II) | 10–99 grams pure or 100–999 grams mixture | 100 gm or more pure or 1 kg or more mixture | | |
| PENALTIES | | | | |
| Other Schedule I & II drugs (and any drug product containing Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid) | Any amount | <p>First Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if not an individual.</p> | | |
| Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV) | 1 gram | | | |
| Other Schedule III drugs | Any amount | <p>First Offense: Not more than 10 years. If death or serious injury, not more than 15 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2.5 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not more than 30 yrs. Fine not more than \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.</p> | | |
| All other Schedule IV drugs | Any amount | <p>First Offense: Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000 if an individual, \$1 million if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than an individual.</p> | | |
| Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV) | Other than 1 gram or more | | | |
| All Schedule V drugs | Any amount | <p>First Offense: Not more than 1 yr. Fine not more than \$100,000 if an individual, \$250,000 if not an individual.</p> <p>Second Offense: Not more than 4 yrs. Fine not more than \$200,000 if an individual, \$500,000 if not an individual.</p> | | |

⁹ U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration. (2017). *Drugs of Abuse* [PDF]. Accessed January 21, 2020.

Appendix D

Alaska Alcohol Local Option Map



¹⁰ Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office. *Current Map of local option communities*. Accessed January 15, 2021.