

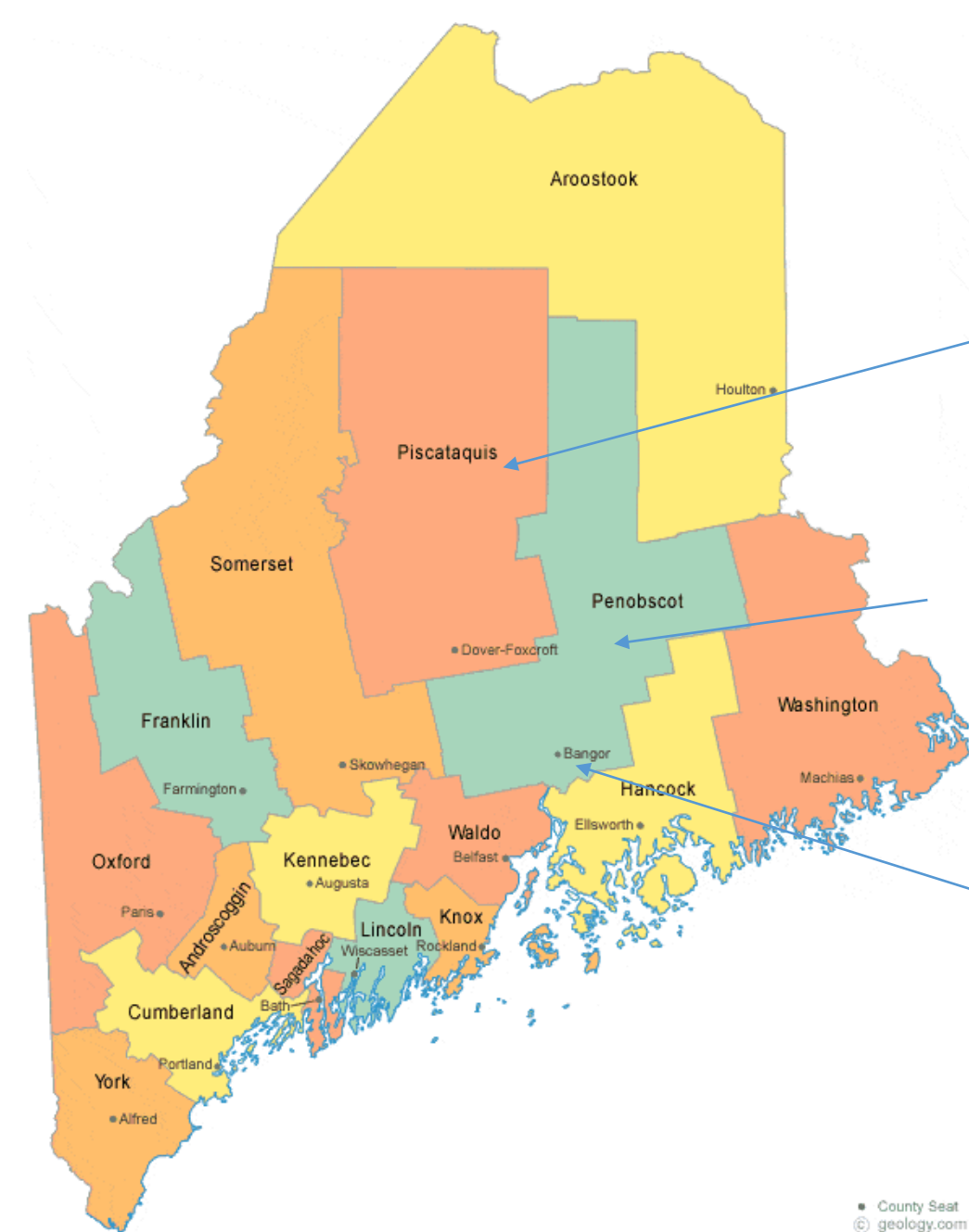
Increase Access to Methadone Treatment

CTAA Emerging Leaders Academy Class of 2020

Tammy Tewhey, Division Manager, Penquis Transportation Services

Introduction

Penquis is the Maine DOT Region 3 Transportation Provider, covering Penobscot & Piscataquis counties. We are also the MaineCare (Medicaid) Brokerage for Regions 3 & 4, covering Penobscot, Piscataquis, Kennebec & Somerset counties. This presentation only contains information for Region 3 transportation for methadone treatment.



Piscataquis County covers 3,966 sq. miles and has a population of 17,235

Penobscot County covers 3,396 sq. miles and has a population of 144,919

Bangor – 3 methadone clinics

Project Challenge

This project will look at the number of miles people in Penobscot and Piscataquis counties travel to methadone clinics. These counties are very rural, and have only three clinics located in Bangor, ME. This project will evaluate how things would change if methadone clinics were located near local hospitals.

Action Plan

- Gather data on the number of trips and miles traveled.
- Compare the town-to-town miles traveled.
- Compare 2019 (pre-COVID) data to 2020 (COVID) data.
- Compare the town-to-town miles traveled to local hospitals.



Resources & Contact Information

- Michael Noel, Dr. Barbara Gannon, Kate Young - ELA Instructors
- Connie Garber, ELA Mentor
- Julia Harrison, Kelly Murphy, LeeAnn Stackpole – Penquis Transportation Services
- <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/rhpc/documents/county-cah.pdf>
- Presented by Tammy Tewhey, Division Manager, Penquis Transportation Services / ttewhey@Penquis.org

Results

- A typical year for transportation to methadone treatment is represented in 2019. In 2020, the clinics were able to give more take-home treatment, because of COVID-19. The number of take-home medication has decreased in 2021.
- If treatment had been allowed/available at or near the local hospitals, the number of miles traveled would have been dramatically different. The miles traveled to hospitals would have been approximately 43% of the miles driven to the clinics in Bangor.
- Future efforts – discuss results with hospitals & clinics.

