

State of Alaska FY2015 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Health Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Environmental Health Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

Provide Alaskans with clear standards so that they can protect our environment and provide safe food and drinking water.

Results

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

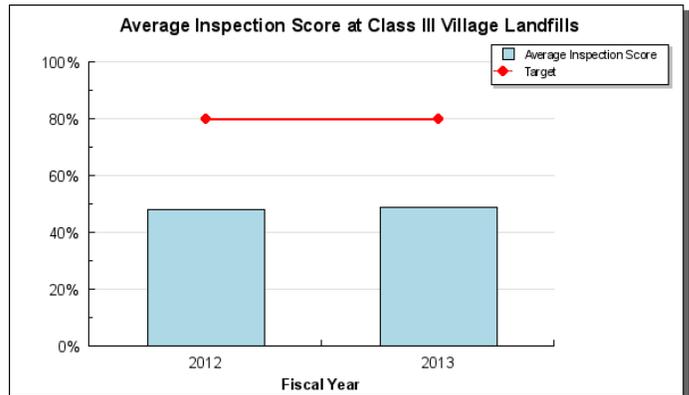
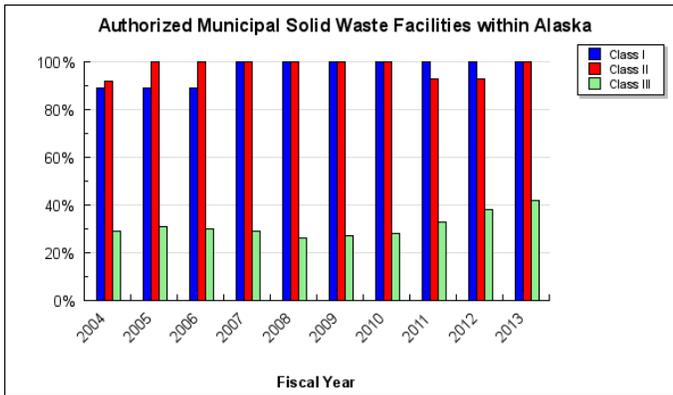
Core Services

- Achieve environmental protection by requiring appropriate management of Alaska's landfills and safe pesticide use.
- Protect public health with regulated food, seafood, and public facilities.
- Provide laboratory testing services, analytical and technical information for assessment of risks to public health, welfare, and the environment.
- Verify safe drinking water and compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

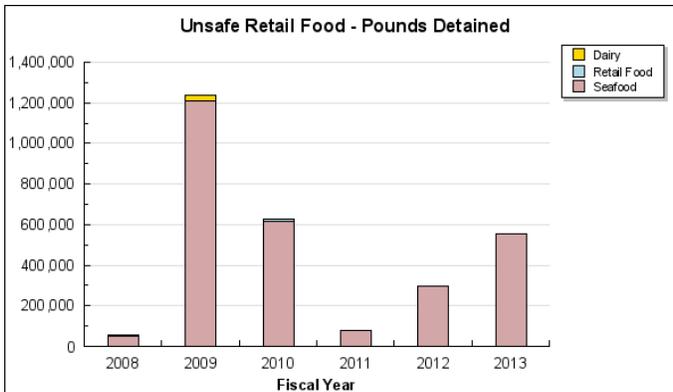
Measures by Core Service

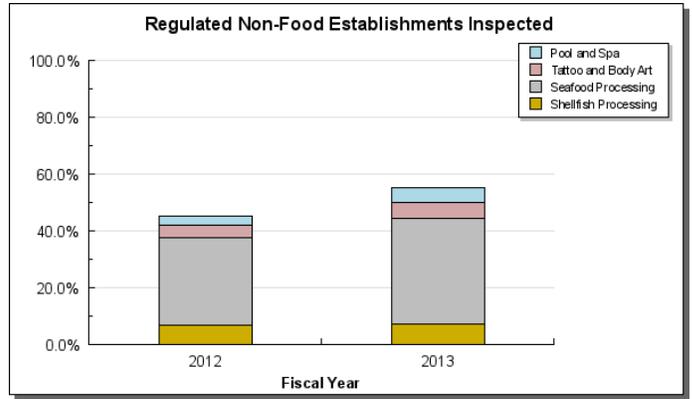
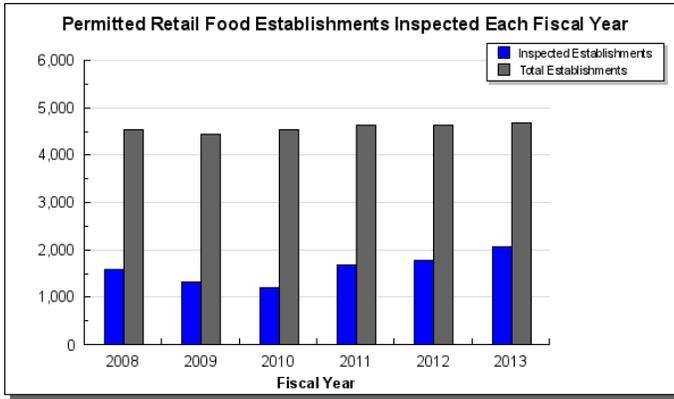
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1. Achieve environmental protection by requiring appropriate management of Alaska's landfills and safe pesticide use.

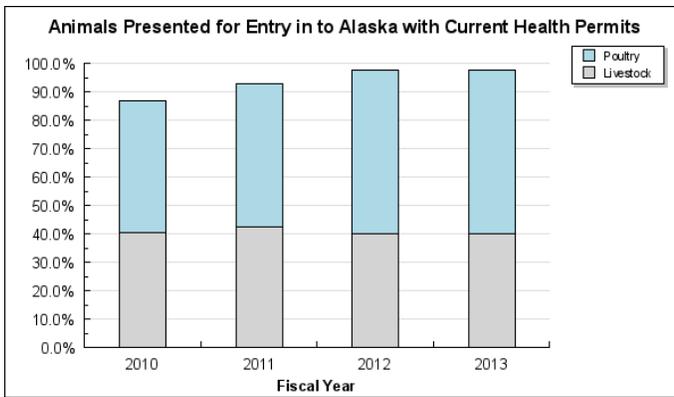
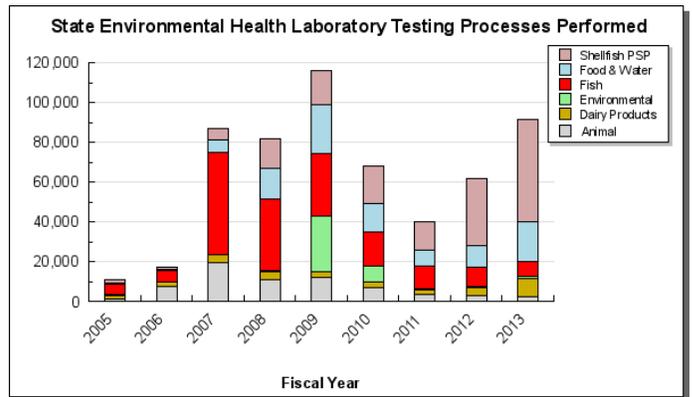
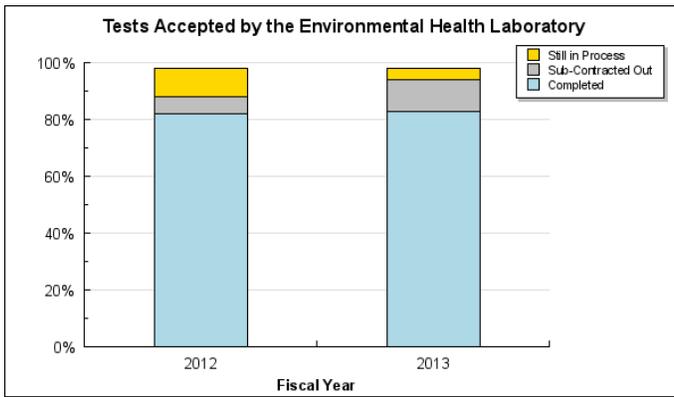


2. Protect public health with regulated food, seafood, and public facilities.

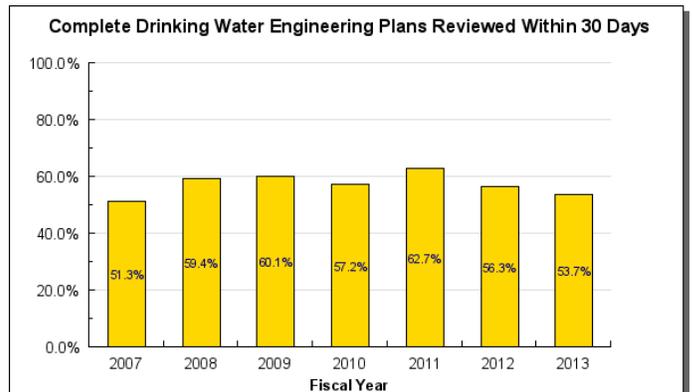
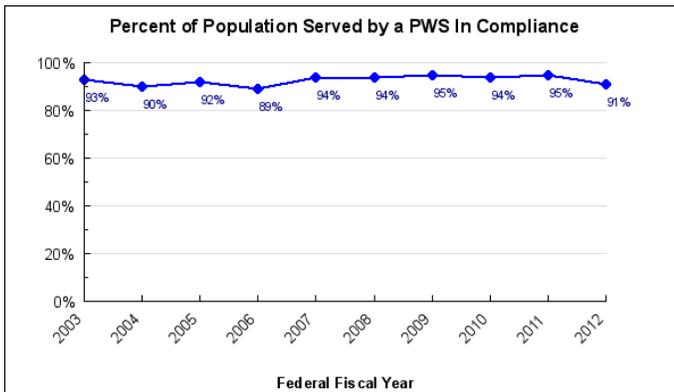


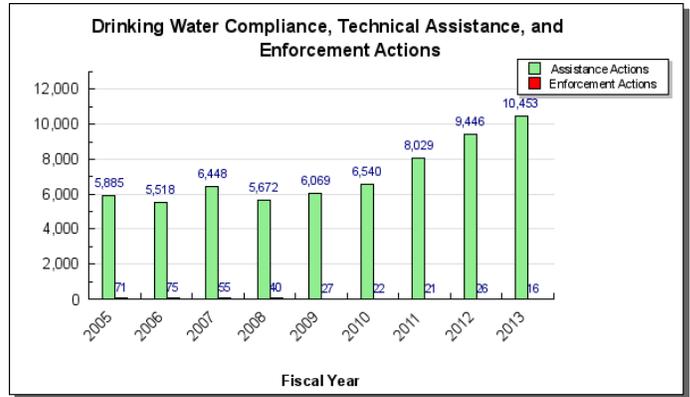
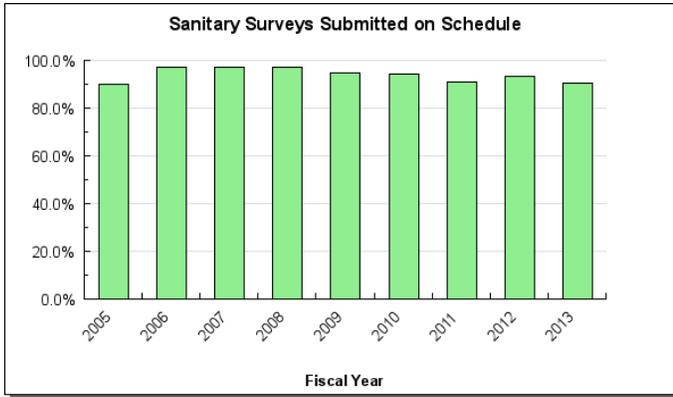


3. Provide laboratory testing services, analytical and technical information for assessment of risks to public health, welfare, and the environment.



4. Verify safe drinking water and compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.





Major RDU Accomplishments in 2013

- The Food Safety and Sanitation (FSS) program conducted inspections of 54% of its high risk food establishments, primarily focusing efforts on establishments that had not been inspected for multiple years and school food services. FSS inspected 417 facilities that had not been inspected in three years or more. The program also inspected 255 school and Head Start food services throughout Alaska. These facilities use funding from the National School Lunch Act implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and are required under federal law to be inspected.
- Drinking Water program staff provided technical assistance and public outreach to residents affected by flooding and emergency situations in Galena, Circle, Eagle, Kenai Peninsula, Talkeetna, and multiple communities in Northwest Alaska.
- The Drinking Water program completed two 4-day Basic Sanitary Survey Inspector workshops and certified 23 new private-sector inspectors.
- Drinking Water program staff worked to ensure that all drinking water is safe for human consumption by finalizing and distributing 425 compliance monitoring summaries to Alaska Community Water Systems and completing 10,453 Compliance, Technical Assistance, and Informal Enforcement activities for Alaska public water systems.
- The Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory passed proficiency tests to maintain certifications as an official testing laboratory for dairy, shellfish analysis, food microbiology, drinking water, equine infectious anemia, and brucellosis.
- The Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory hosted and passed two federal inspections. One inspection was performed by EPA for support of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as a primacy lab and the laboratory certification program. The second inspection was by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) for support of the shellfish industry to include marine toxins such as paralytic shellfish toxin (PST), shellfish growing waters, shellfish meats, and testing for Vibrio in support of outbreak response.
- The Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory provided technical support in creating, awarding, and implementing the Recreational Shellfish Beach Monitoring Pilot Program for Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP), and performed over 100 PSP tests in FY2013.
- Recent Food Safety and Sanitation regulatory changes for low-risk foods have allowed Alaska entrepreneurs more flexibility in producing and marketing their goods, while still ensuring that human health is protected. The division provided consultation, technical assistance, and public outreach to ensure safe food products are being offered for sale to the public, and the Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory provided testing services to support cottage food industries in Alaska.
- The Solid Waste Program implemented the Waste Index Inspection Form at Class III landfills throughout the state. This checklist is an easy to use, simplified regulatory tool that helps communities and landfill operators achieve greater compliance to ensure risks to human health and the environment are minimized.
- Applied to NOAA for \$1 million in funding that was received by the United States from the Government of Japan to aid with tsunami marine debris removal, including aerial survey work to determine the extent of debris damage

and accumulation. Successfully developed detailed Requests for Proposals to disburse these funds in FY2014.

Key RDU Challenges

The Drinking Water program received \$175.0 in general funds to adopt and implement the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act and prepare for the Revised Total Coliform Rule (EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Rules 19 and 20). Federal sequestration has caused this program to lose approximately \$267.2 in federal revenue for FY2014. The funding received in FY2014 will dampen the impact of sequestration and rising fixed costs, but has yielded little additional capacity for implementing the new drinking water rules.

The Food Safety and Sanitation program has prioritized the inspection of higher risk facilities, but the program continues to lack the resources to complete necessary inspections of regulated facilities. Due to Alaska's vast geography and limited ground transportation infrastructure, extensive air travel is necessary. This results in high travel costs for the program. This factor, coupled with staff turnover and an outdated information database, presents challenges to achieving ideal inspection rates that are critical to behavioral changes in food establishments.

The Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory works to balance existing testing demands while also preparing to meet future demands represented by new test methods, new contaminants and lower limits, and new technology. Meeting these demands in the future may require new analytical equipment, such as a mass spectrometry (MS) system, an inductively coupled plasma (ICP) system for testing inorganic elements, and a gas chromatography (GC) system for organic testing.

Non-compliance with solid waste regulations in rural communities continues to pose risks to public health and to the air, water, and lands of the state. To resolve these problems, the Solid Waste Program is conducting a significant amount of outreach to increase the percentage of Class III landfills that are permitted and is performing more inspections to improve landfill operations. Rising travel costs may impact the number of inspections that the program can conduct for all types of facilities in the future.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2015

With equipment procured with FY2013 funds, The Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory plans to have available testing using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which will substantially increase the sample capacity in outbreak situations, such as food pathogens or *Vibrio*, to screen a large number of samples at once. This testing availability has the potential to quickly provide preliminary information and reduce the number of samples that need the time, supply, and labor intensive cultural confirmations.

The Drinking Water program plans to request an extension agreement from U.S. EPA Region 10 for the adoption by reference of the Revised Total Coliform Rule. This extension would allow Alaska two additional years to prepare for obtaining primacy for implementation of the rule, and would allow Alaska's drinking water system owners and operators additional time to come in to compliance.

Contact Information
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**Environmental Health
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2013 Actuals				FY2014 Management Plan				FY2015 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Environmental Health Director	418.5	0.0	0.0	418.5	441.8	0.0	0.0	441.8	442.8	0.0	0.0	442.8
Food Safety & Sanitation	3,598.7	80.7	808.5	4,487.9	4,205.7	64.2	906.6	5,176.5	4,202.4	63.7	905.6	5,171.7
Laboratory Services	2,747.6	236.7	707.4	3,691.7	3,288.3	240.8	1,132.2	4,661.3	2,957.4	239.5	1,127.9	4,324.8
Drinking Water	2,991.0	89.7	4,054.8	7,135.5	2,652.3	0.0	4,514.4	7,166.7	2,652.5	0.0	4,506.7	7,159.2
Solid Waste Management	1,704.6	324.1	287.3	2,316.0	2,037.3	0.0	306.5	2,343.8	2,036.0	0.0	305.0	2,341.0
Totals	11,460.4	731.2	5,858.0	18,049.6	12,625.4	305.0	6,859.7	19,790.1	12,291.1	303.2	6,845.2	19,439.5

Environmental Health
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2014 Management Plan to FY2015 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2014 Management Plan	8,838.0	3,787.4	305.0	6,859.7	19,790.1
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:					
-Environmental Health Director	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
-Food Safety & Sanitation	-0.8	-2.5	-0.5	-1.0	-4.8
-Laboratory Services	-330.3	-0.6	-1.3	-4.3	-336.5
-Drinking Water	0.1	0.1	0.0	-7.7	-7.5
-Solid Waste Management	-0.4	-0.9	0.0	-1.5	-2.8
FY2015 Governor	8,507.6	3,783.5	303.2	6,845.2	19,439.5