

Department of Health and Social Services

Mission

To promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans. AS 47.05.101

Priority 1. Health & Wellness Across the Lifespan

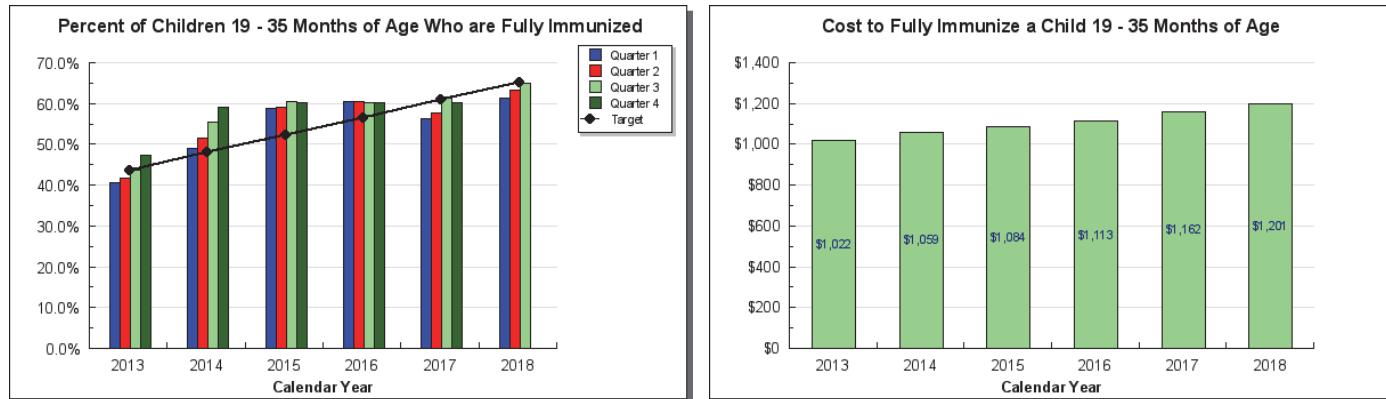
Priority 2. Health Care Access, Delivery & Value

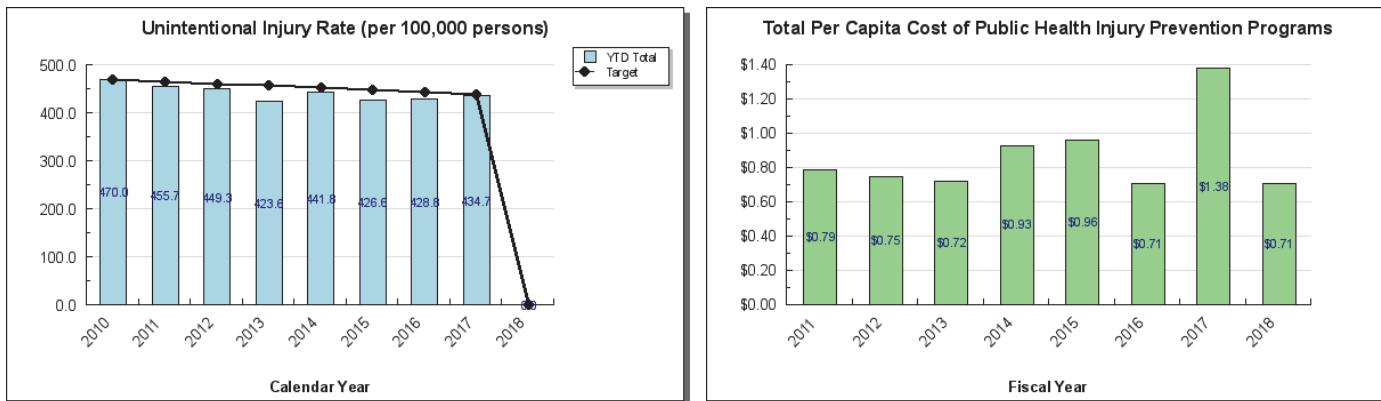
Priority 3. Safe & Responsible Individuals, Families & Communities

Core Services (in priority order)		UGF	DGF	Other	Fed	Total	PFT	PPT	NP	% GF
1	Protect and promote the health of Alaskans.	428,123.5	50,098.2	49,913.2	1,015,096.6	1,543,231.5	916	2	31	38.8%
2	Provide quality of life in a safe living environment for Alaskans.	373,877.4	10,865.1	19,831.0	467,543.6	872,117.1	723	13	22	31.2%
3	Manage health care coverage for Alaskans in need.	43,574.4	4,858.0	4,570.8	113,875.6	166,878.8	159	8	8	3.9%
4	Facilitate access to affordable health care for Alaskans.	40,231.2	3,227.7	21,115.9	110,659.1	175,233.9	85	0	2	3.5%
5	Strengthen Alaska families.	81,006.6	4,757.8	9,592.8	58,791.2	154,148.4	452	9	2	7.0%
6	Protect vulnerable Alaskans.	145,602.2	12,801.6	16,183.2	110,795.7	285,382.7	917	12	14	12.8%
7	Promote personal responsibility and accountable decisions by Alaskans.	34,317.8	604.7	2,648.7	15,387.9	52,959.1	229	0	6	2.8%
FY2019 Management Plan		1,146,733.1	87,213.1	123,855.6	1,892,149.7	3,249,951.5	3481	44	85	

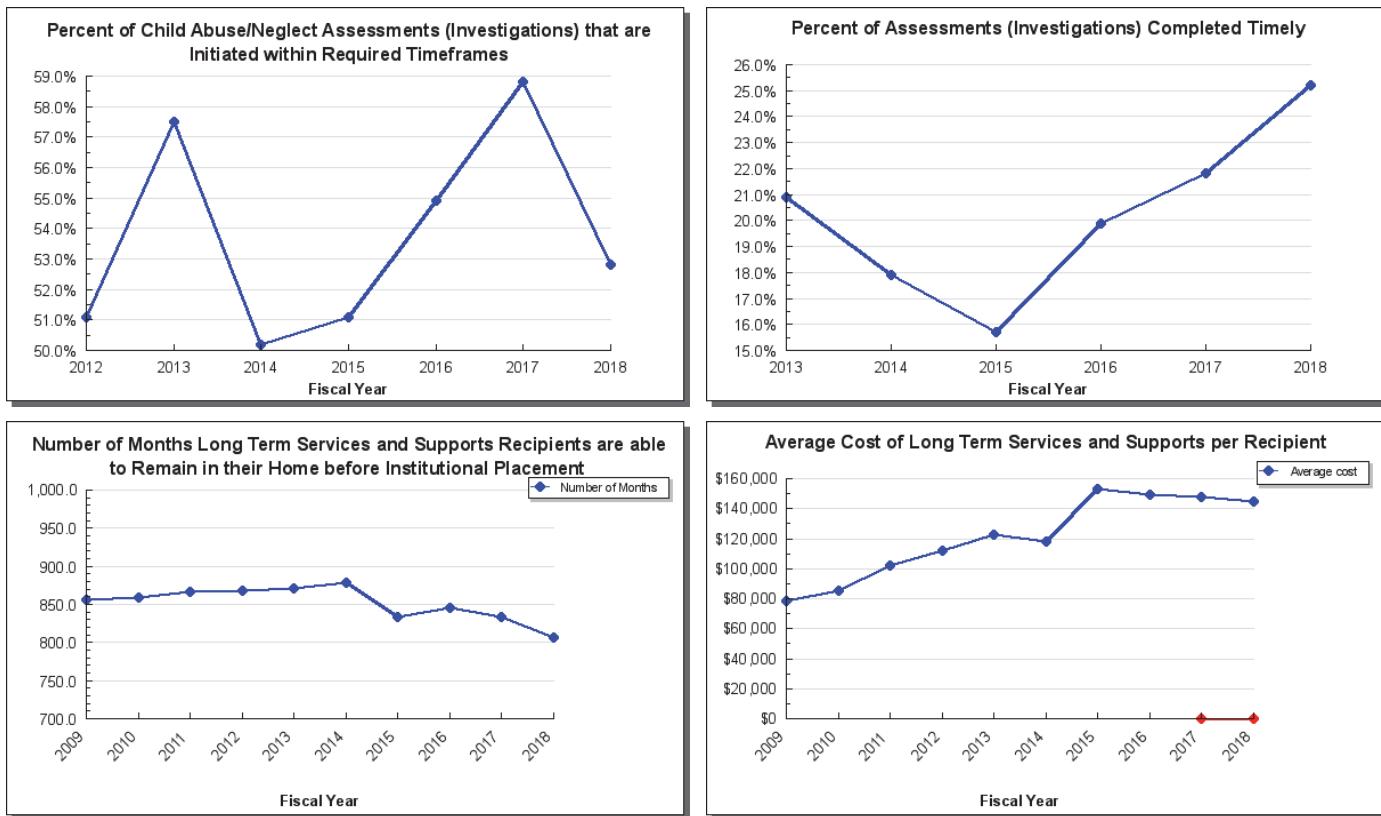
Measures by Core Service

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

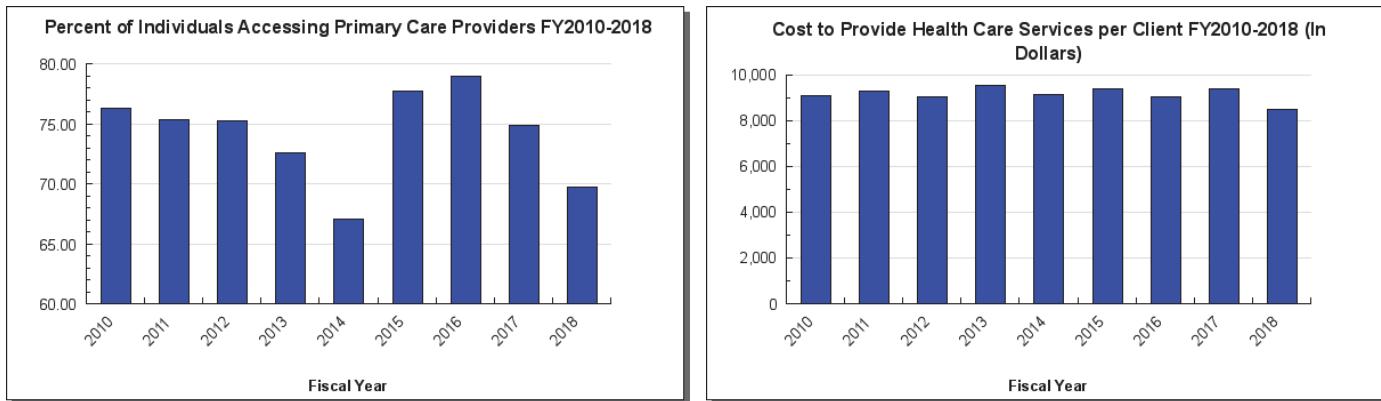
1. Protect and promote the health of Alaskans.



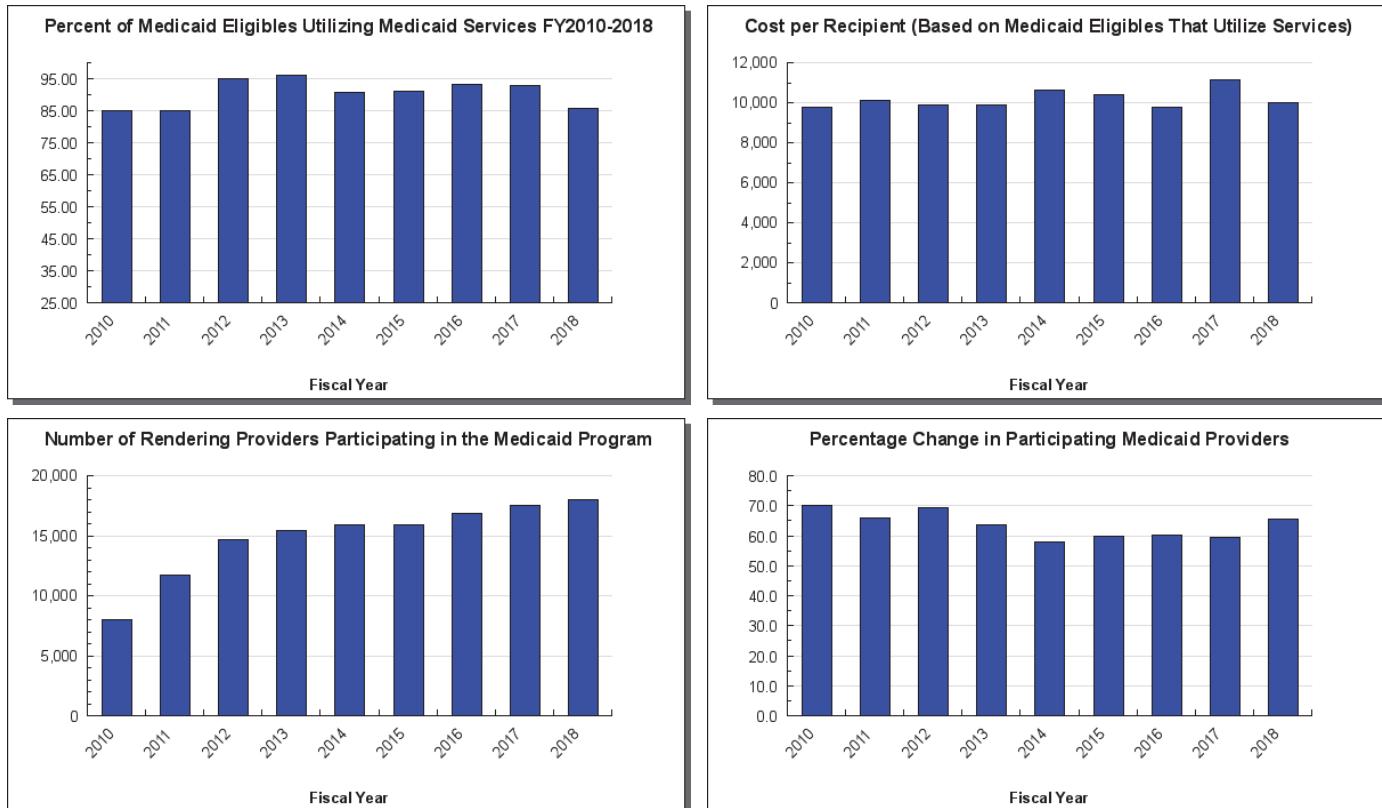
2. Provide quality of life in a safe living environment for Alaskans.



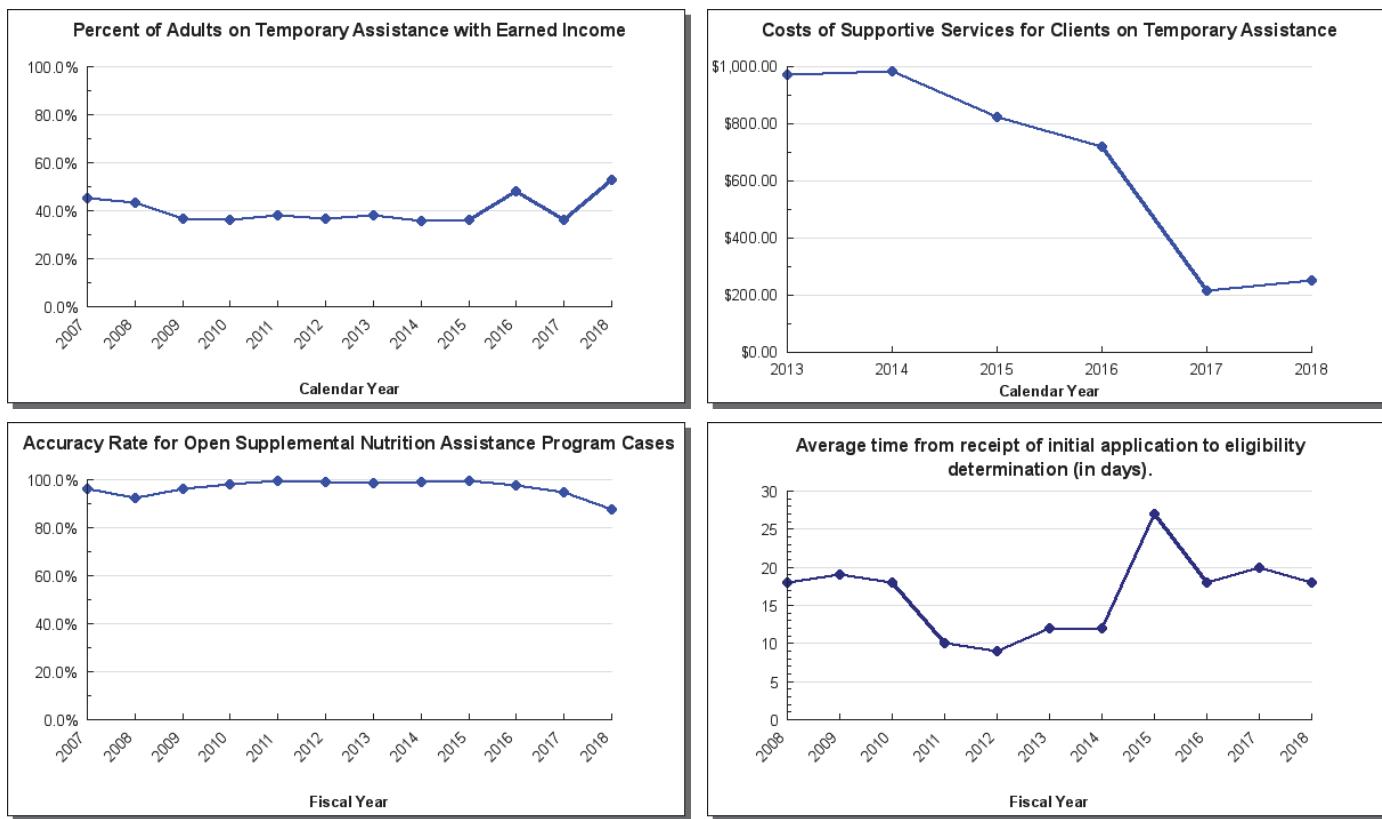
3. Manage health care coverage for Alaskans in need.



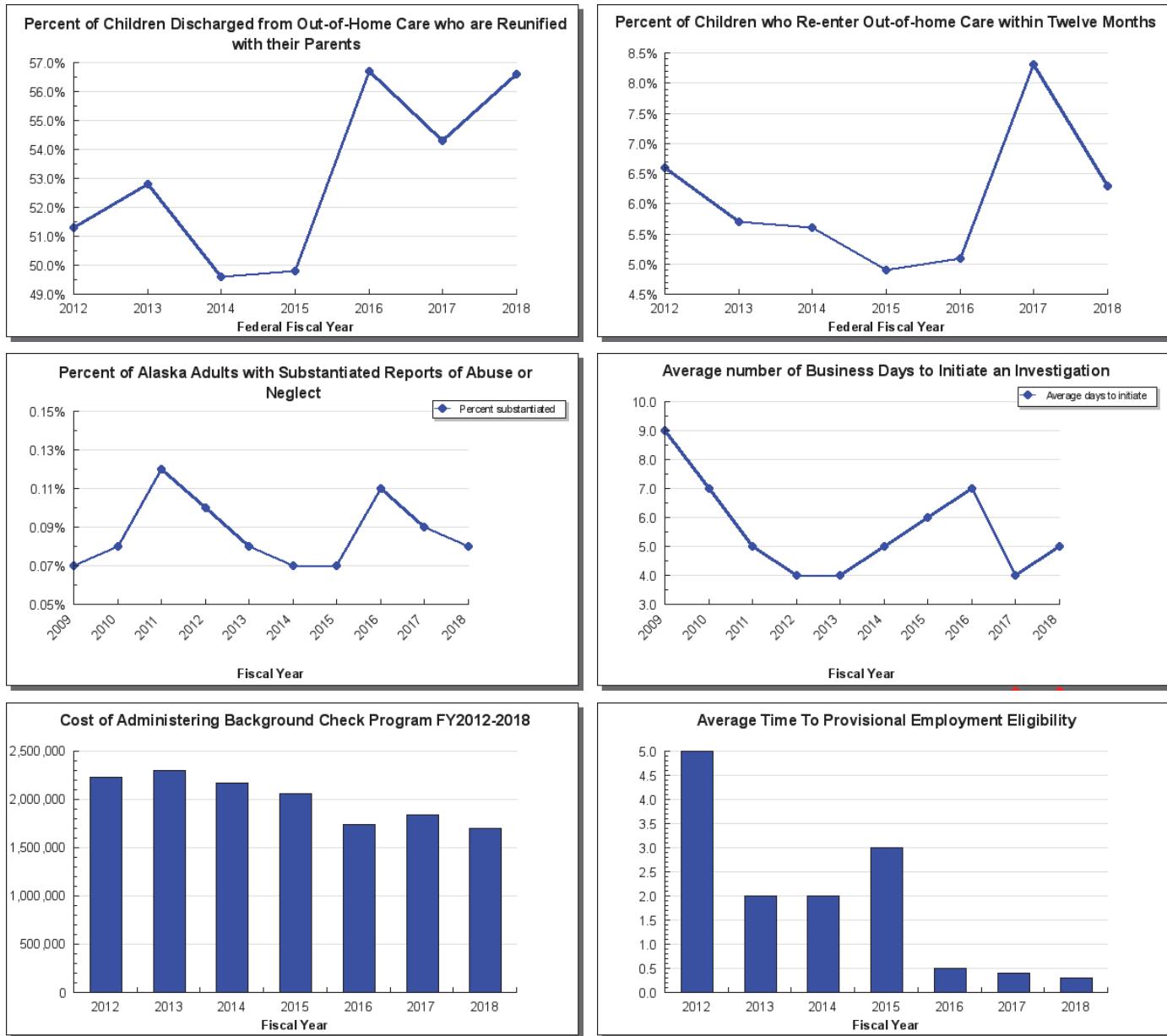
4. Facilitate access to affordable health care for Alaskans.



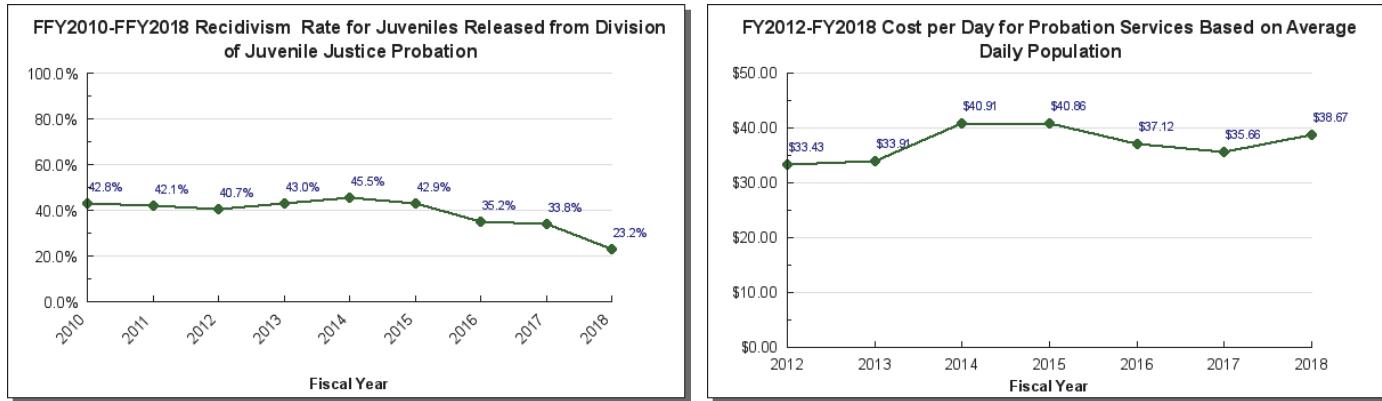
5. Strengthen Alaska families.



6. Protect vulnerable Alaskans.



7. Promote personal responsibility and accountable decisions by Alaskans.





Major Department Accomplishments in 2018

- Medicaid Reform Initiatives Underway:
 - Fraud and Abuse Control Improvement Initiative
 - Pharmacy Reform Initiatives
 - Care Management (“Super Utilizers”) Pilot Program
- Medicaid Reform Initiative Planning and Implementation:
 - Tribal Health System Coordination
 - Eligibility Requirements for Personal Care Assistance Services
 - Utilization Control Initiative (Behavioral Health, Durable Medical Equipment, Dental, Transportation)
 - Medicaid Redesign and Expansion Technical Assistance Contract
 - Increased capacity for the Care Management (“Super Utilizers”) Pilot Program
- Medicaid Expansion Planning & Implementation to increase access to health care for Alaskans
- Division of Behavioral Health Medicaid staff and DHSS tribal programs staff worked closely with tribal organizations to increase access to Medicaid revenues for behavioral health services for beneficiaries.
- Office of Children's Services has noted a decline in the rate of repeat maltreatment of children within a 12-month time span.
- DHSS, Office of Children's Services, in partnership with Alaska Tribes and Tribal organizations, created a four-year Strategic Plan: *Transform Child Welfare Outcomes for Alaska Native Children*.
- The Health Information Exchange has or is in progress of connecting Alaska's hospitals. Currently, twelve hospitals are connected with the Health Information Exchange and another ten hospitals are in the process of connecting.
- The mental health needs of Alaska's juvenile population have prompted the Division of Juvenile Justice to build on its strong base of mental health professionals. The success of the implementation of trauma-informed programming in two units at McLaughlin Youth Center has supported the commitment to expand to more facilities.
- Successful implementation of Hospital Presumptive Eligibility will help ensure individuals who qualify for Medicaid with critical health care needs can get immediate access to health care insurance while in hospitals.
- The Division of Public Health has played a lead role in mitigating potential negative health effects of legal marijuana sales through development and delivery of public messages.
- Published over 26 Epidemiology Bulletins on a wide range of public health topics.
- Provided public education to prevent and reduce opioid misuse and abuse by launching the state's first opioid public education website.
- Completed 39 telehealth re-assessments in rural Alaska resulting in improved timeliness and efficiencies.
- Approximately 27,091 individuals were served through Senior Community Based programs.

Key Department Challenges

The Department of Health and Social Services continues to make progress towards the following overall objectives:

- Integrate and coordinate services.
- Strategically leverage technology.

- Implement sound policy.
- Practice fiscal responsibility.
- Measure and improve performance.

Some of the Department's challenges include:

- Assuring intra-departmental and inter-departmental activities are planned and executed in a manner that considers both short and long-term results and will maximize the generation of federal and other non-state revenues.
- Rapid growth in the Alaskan senior population, which results in the increased need for long-term care services and increased waiting lists for nutrition, transportation and support services.
- Sustaining the Health Information Exchange. There is an increased need for stakeholders to support the ongoing operations of the Health Information Exchange established under AS 18.23.300.
- Managing services for an aging population with increasingly complicated and difficult health care needs and behaviors who are remaining home longer and thus entering the Pioneer Homes requiring a higher level of care.
- Emerging issues in the national and state landscape have significant implications and challenges for the Division of Behavioral Health. The coordination of behavioral health with other non-traditional settings will require changes in business and clinical practice by Alaska's behavioral health providers, requiring new resources and skills.
- The number one challenge facing the Office of Children's Services is staff retention. Staff vacancies affect the ability to meet state and federal requirements for family contact, worker visits with children, and worker visits with parents. Those three requirements alone directly correlate to the likelihood of a family being successful or a child being reunified or achieving permanency in a timely fashion.
- Adequate staff training is an ongoing and critical need for the Division of Juvenile Justice.
- Researching and implementing ways to effectively reduce current Medicaid application backlog.
- Providing timely, accurate, and effective delivery of services for needy Alaskans with existing staff resources despite the steady growth in applications for assistance, the growing number of households and individuals qualifying for public assistance, and changes in federal program policies.
- Deaths from opioid-related overdoses have increased 24 percent from FY2015 to FY2016 and opioid abuse and drug-related injuries and fatalities continue to be a significant concern for Alaska.
- Promoting safe marijuana use and the prevention of youth initiation of marijuana are key goals for the Division of Public Health.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2020

Making decisions that affect our most vulnerable populations is difficult. Since the bulk of Department of Health and Social Services funding is for grants/benefits, reductions will affect services and benefits to vulnerable Alaskans.

Impacts of Key FY2017 DHSS Operating Budget Reductions

Alaska Pioneers' Homes – Staff reductions directly impact the care provided to residents within the six homes. Effects on the homes include longer waiting periods for prospective residents to move off the active waitlist and enter the homes, a reduction in the number of highest-level care residents the homes are able to serve, a reduction in the total number of licensed beds, and longer response times from staff.

The division enacted an 8.5% residents' rate increase. The rate increase may result in a greater proportion of residents who require financial assistance to pay the Homes' fees.

Behavioral Health – Childless adults, formerly receiving behavioral health services through general funded grant programs, are now eligible for services through the federally funded Medicaid expansion.

Health Care Services – Childless adults, formerly receiving support for serious medical conditions through the general funded programs, are now eligible for services through federally-funded Medicaid expansion.

Public Health – The creation of the Vaccine Assessment to fund vaccine purchase for children and select adults has eliminated the need for general fund spending on vaccines. There is no anticipated reduction to services.

Departmental Support Services – Department Support Services will reduce the number of administrative positions, possibly reducing services to the department's programmatic divisions.

Medicaid Services – Some proposed Medicaid reform initiatives that will help the Department meet this reduction are changes to cost of care of premium based payments for Home and Community-Based Waivers, 100 percent federal reimbursement for Medicaid-related travel for Alaska Native and American Indian beneficiaries, changes to the pharmaceutical program, placing restrictions on certain services, and moving the Surveillance and Utilization Review Subsystem program from a contract with a fiscal agent to state management. Other initiatives that may help include placing a cap on certain Home and Community Based Services waiver services. Additionally, a change in regulations will place certain adult dental procedures on a fee schedule and place restrictions on certain services.

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