

Department of Public Safety

Mission

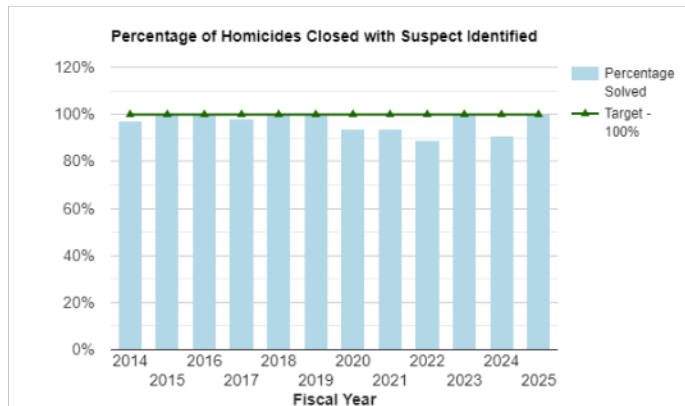
The mission of the Department of Public Safety is to ensure public safety and enforce fish and wildlife laws.

	Core Services (in priority order)	UGF	DGF	Other	Fed	Total	PFT	PPT	NP	% GF
1	Law Enforcement Patrol & Investigations	82,527.0	75.0	1,249.5	10,055.1	93,906.6	457.9	0.0	36.0	28.5%
2	Rural Law Enforcement	44,021.5	2,036.0	616.7	3,045.0	49,719.2	10.4	0.0	0.0	15.9%
3	Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Programs	46,930.5	1,617.5	1,106.5	13,985.7	63,640.3	27.4	0.0	0.0	16.7%
4	Statewide Public Safety Programs	57,660.5	5,407.1	10,713.1	12,631.3	86,411.9	332.2	0.0	2.0	21.7%
5	Resource Protection	47,566.1	200.0	769.7	1,520.0	50,055.8	169.4	11.0	0.0	16.5%
6	Highway Safety	2,226.5	0.0	1,743.7	20.0	3,990.2	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.8%
	FY2026 Management Plan	280,932.0	9,335.6	16,199.2	41,257.1	347,723.9	1,003.0	11.0	38.0	

Measures by Core Service

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

1. Law Enforcement Patrol & Investigations

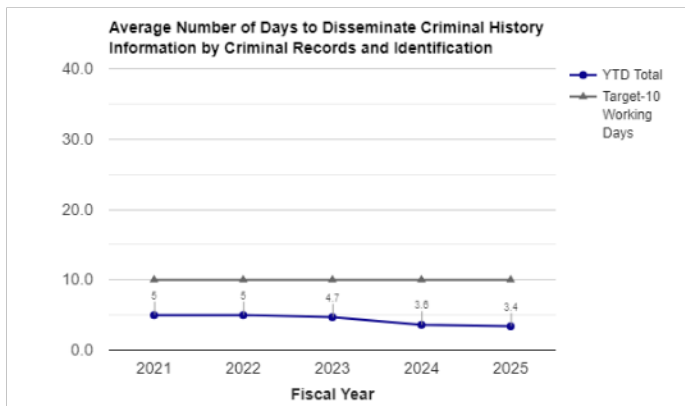
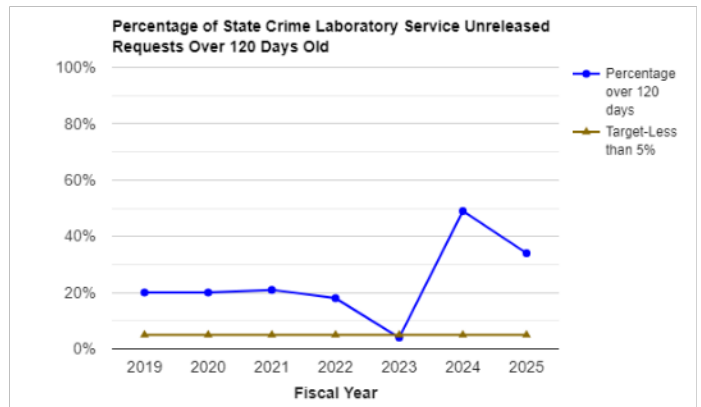
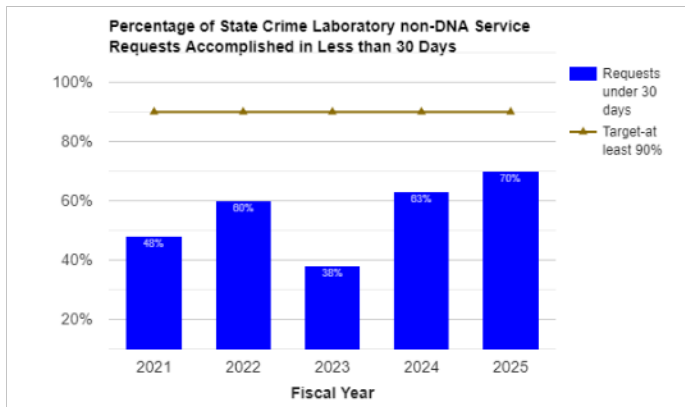
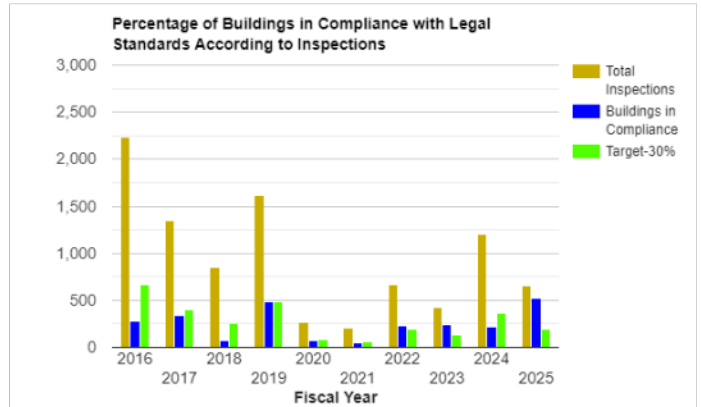
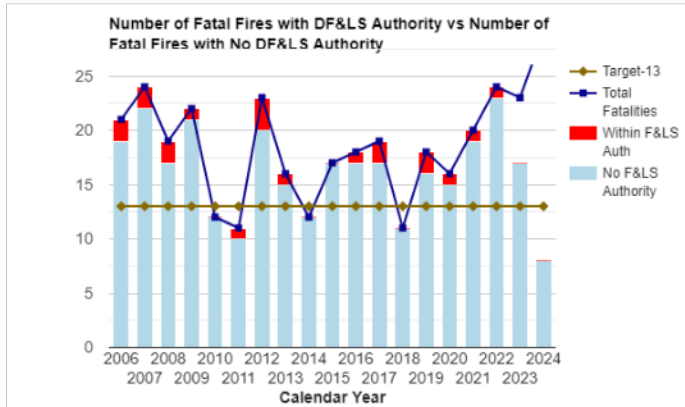


2. Rural Law Enforcement

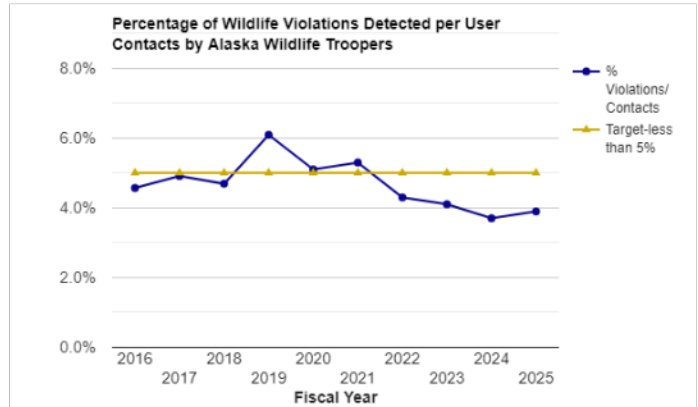
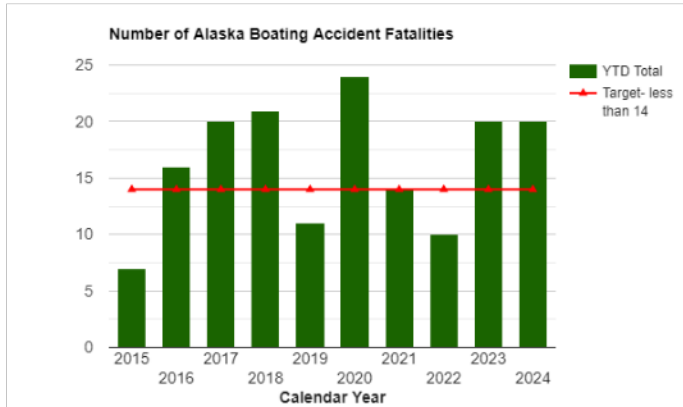
3. Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Programs



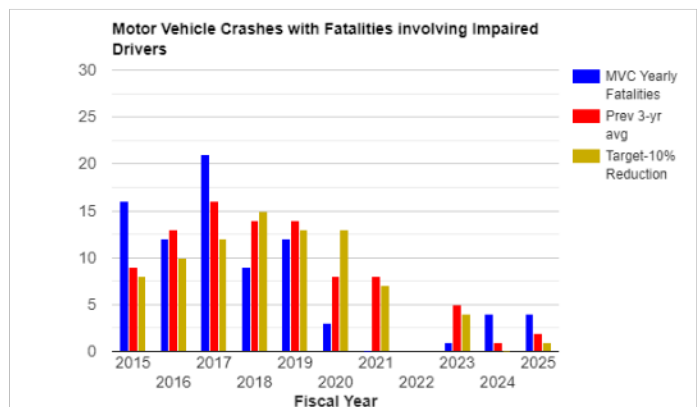
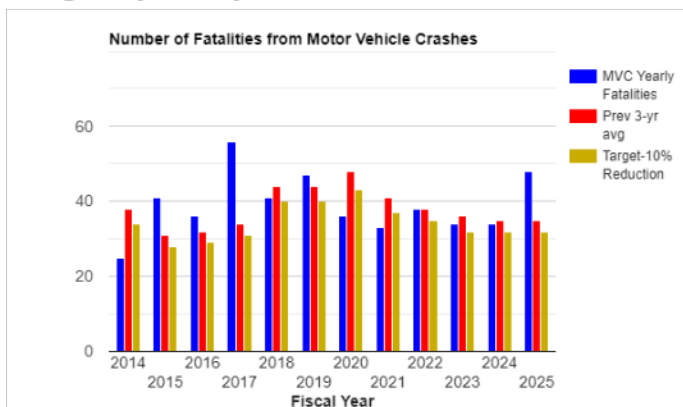
4. Statewide Public Safety Programs



5. Resource Protection



6. Highway Safety



Major Department Accomplishments in 2025

Law Enforcement Patrol and Investigations:

The Alaska State Troopers (AST) sustained high operational readiness across every region, improving data systems, training, and wellness support which strengthens response and public trust. The AST hired 45 trooper recruits and 10 Court Services Officers, increasing academy classes and stabilizing staffing. The Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI) maintained a 100 percent homicide clearance rate, advanced 12 cold cases with seven new suspects identified, and delivered statewide technical assistance for major crime, child exploitation, and cyber investigations. The ABI's Digital Forensics Lab examined nearly 500 devices from 31 agencies, while the Financial Crimes Unit and Special Crimes Investigation Unit handled complex financial, human trafficking, and organized crime cases. The Criminal Justice Information Systems Program processed more than 50,000 dispositions, improved repository accuracy through the Judgment Correction Project, and expanded the online criminal history portal for public access. Together these accomplishments strengthened Alaska's investigative capacity and improved coordinated justice outcomes.

Rural Law Enforcement:

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) strengthened its rural public safety network through coordinated enforcement, air operations, and community programs. The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) programs achieved their strongest coverage in more than a decade, with 92 officers serving 156 villages and the regional programs expanded armed operations. The introduction of Regional Public Safety Officers (RPSO) added

supervisory depth and improved coordination with trooper detachments. Roving officers and cross regional deployments maintained consistent coverage during vacancies and emergency events. The ABI increased its rural presence through the Bethel based West Coast Major Crime Unit, dedicated sexual abuse of a minor investigators, and partnerships with advocacy centers. The Aircraft Section flew nearly 6,000 hours supporting search and rescue, prisoner transport, and law enforcement, while the small unmanned aerial systems program conducted nearly 900 flights that extended reach into areas inaccessible by traditional aircraft. Search and Rescue operations assisted or recovered more than 670 individuals, issued three Silver Alerts, and continued prevention efforts through avalanche and backcountry safety education.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs:

The Division of Integrated Victim Assistance and the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (ASCDL) integrated to become Alaska's central hub for coordinated victim centered response. Navigators supported 490 cases with more than 3,850 victim contacts, ensuring access to transportation, forensic exams, and trauma informed services. The training unit delivered 57 sessions to more than 1,600 participants, including over 1,000 law enforcement officers, and translated key victim information into nine languages to increase accessibility for Alaska's diverse communities. The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) maintained full funding for 35 subgrantees, stabilized staffing, and improved data accuracy and grants management through upgrades to the grant management software. The Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) received 860 new applications, distributed nearly \$1 million in victim compensation, and improved timeliness through delegated eligibility determinations. The ASCDL implemented the nation's first Forensic Science Hit Outcome Program, modernized its deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) management system, and maintained national accreditation while improving case turnaround times.

Statewide Public Safety Programs:

Department-wide programs advanced modernization and reliability across systems that support every level of public safety. The Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) network maintained uninterrupted communications for more than 18 million radio calls and 29 million push to talk activations, upgraded equipment at 84 coverage sites, and implemented Time Division Multiple Access to double system capacity during emergencies. Information Systems progressed the multi-year Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) modernization of the Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN), replaced end of life network equipment, and expanded broadband access through satellite technology at remote sites, improving digital evidence transfer, dispatch, and mobile data operations. The Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) trained and certified more than 700 officers, expanded regional and distance learning options, and maintained accountability through case reviews and certification actions. Administrative Services supported department programs with fiscal management, procurement, grants, facilities, and housing, collecting more than \$22 million in federal funds, completing multiple federal audits with no findings, and advancing projects critical to field operations.

Resource Protection:

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) continued their dual mission of resource protection and rural public safety, enforcing fish and game laws while providing emergency response in coastal and remote communities. Ninety commissioned wildlife troopers operated from 32 locations statewide, conducting more than 49,000 resource contacts and 62,000 other public safety contacts. Marine Enforcement vessels patrolled more than 63,000 miles and conducted over 2,000 boardings, supporting enforcement of high value fisheries such as Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet and assisting in multiple maritime rescues. The fleet completed critical maintenance on the Patrol Vessel (P/V) Stimson and P/V Camai and added a new patrol vessel in Bristol Bay, increasing coverage during peak seasons. Aircraft logged more than 1,900 flight hours supporting enforcement, logistics, and emergency response.

Highway Safety:

Troopers advanced the Strategic Highway Safety Plan through targeted patrols along the Seward, Sterling, and Parks Highways and other high traffic corridors. The Highway Interdiction Team seized fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, cash, and vehicles linked to trafficking networks operating along Alaska's roadways. The DPS worked with the Department of Health through Project Hope to distribute naloxone kits statewide and provide overdose response training for troopers and partner agencies. Training delivered through the Advanced

Training Unit, and the APSC emphasized emergency vehicle operations, crash reconstruction, de-escalation, and duty to intervene. Technology improvements to dispatch and digital evidence systems shortened case processing times and strengthened coordination between law enforcement and prosecutors.

Key Department Challenges

Law Enforcement Patrol and Investigations:

Requests for service continue to rise while complex cases consume significant investigative hours. Cybercrime, child exploitation, and financial crimes require advanced training and specialized tools. Vacancies and turnover reduce the number of experienced Field Training Officers and limit capacity in rural hubs where sustained presence is essential. The Digital Forensics Lab operates at full capacity, forcing prioritization of the highest risk offenders, and the Financial Crimes Unit remains staffed by one investigator despite high dollar losses to victims.

Rural Law Enforcement:

Recruitment and retention for the VPSOs face challenges due to housing limits, travel issues, and high living costs. Turnover among officers and the RPSOs reduces service continuity and places strain on remaining staff. Aircraft maintenance in rural locations is delayed by limited vendors and hangar space, which increases costs and reduces availability during severe weather. Geography and seasonal conditions continue to drive long response times and higher prisoner transport costs.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs:

The Federal Victims of Crime Act funding has declined, creating volatility that constrains stability for victim services and prevention programs. Multiple federal audits and monitoring reviews require extensive documentation within short timeframes, stretching small administrative teams. Loss of national technical assistance providers increases the burden of policy interpretation and compliance. Recruiting and retaining skilled forensic scientists is challenging in a competitive market, and required continuing education is often expensive and out-of-state. The VCCB faces fluctuating revenue and sustained demand, which complicates planning and timeliness goals.

Statewide Public Safety Programs:

The Alaska Public Safety Communication Services maintains an aging statewide network that demands regular lifecycle renewal while working to keep experienced technicians on the team. Supply chain delays and a small pool of specialized vendors slow tower, power, and radio repairs. Information Systems continue to manage dependencies tied to legacy APSIN while moving CJIS modernization forward, all with limited network staffing and an increasing number of pending upgrades.

Compliance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) CJIS Security Policy version 6.0 will require department-wide updates to systems and procedures. The CJIS program experiences recurring outages in legacy systems that create significant delays, and vendor and licensing costs continue to rise. The APSC balances higher training demand and increased case workload with limited agency capacity to release officers. Administrative Services needs modern reporting and projection tools that interface with the State's accounting system (Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS)), greater capacity to pursue federal opportunities, and a centralized electronic grant file solution, while deferred maintenance in rural housing and leasing portfolios remains a persistent pressure.

Resource Protection:

With only 90 wildlife troopers covering vast geography, enforcement capacity is stretched. Seasonal operations require temporary duty reassignments that leave some posts unstaffed. Stocks of concern require presence even when user activity is low to protect sustainability. Marine fleet readiness is challenged by corrosion, shipyard periods, and turnover among civilian vessel crew, which directly affect patrol schedules and contact rates.

Highway Safety:

Sustaining proactive highway patrols depends on staffing and grant funding. Court procedure changes increase administrative workload for case filings and reduce available patrol time. Dispatch vacancies affect 24-hour coverage in some regions. Rural bandwidth limitations slow digital evidence transfers for traffic cases and delay case processing. Ongoing drug trafficking across corridors contributes to impaired driving and crash risk, which requires sustained interdiction and education efforts.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2027**Law Enforcement Patrol and Investigations:**

Criminal justice data modernization will begin to show measurable gains in timeliness and accuracy. Replacement of the legacy Alaska Public Safety Information Network will shorten arrest and disposition processing, reduce outage related backlogs, and improve background check turnaround for the public and partner agencies. The ABI will deepen integration with the Alaska Criminal Intelligence Center (AKCIC) to expand genetic genealogy use in appropriate cold cases, improve case intelligence and victim notification. Digital evidence tools deployed will speed evidence transfer to prosecutors and reduce delay times between arrest, charging, and court.

Rural Law Enforcement:

Rural training opportunities will improve with increased attention on DPS-led training in Bethel and Kotzebue training centers, reducing travel barriers and time away from home for the VPSOs, Village and Tribal Police Officers. The RPSO coverage is expected to grow as more regional programs adopt the position, strengthening day-to-day supervision, report quality, and coordinated response with trooper detachments. Targeted use of roving VPSOs will preserve service during vacancies and high demand periods. Aviation training and risk management programs will sustain readiness for prisoner transport and search and rescue, while small unmanned systems will add low-cost resources where “eyes on scene” for conventional aircraft cannot safely operate.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs:

The division will expand navigator coverage and publish clearer information about available services while continuing training for law enforcement in trauma informed response, victims’ rights, and referral practices. The result is faster case processing and better access for victims. Prevention work will be guided by refined measures that track youth engagement across funded programs rather than event counts, producing more meaningful indicators of progress. The CDVSA will operate a larger prevention cohort under its three-year cycle and maintain stronger data quality through system upgrades. The VCCB will reduce decision times through delegated eligibility reviews and will continue restitution recovery and medical cost negotiation to preserve fund capacity. Laboratory Services will deploy the new breath alcohol instruments statewide and complete training of newly hired DNA scientists, which will stabilize sexual assault case turnaround and improve consistency in impaired driving prosecutions.

Statewide Public Safety Programs:

Public safety radio reliability will increase as lifecycle refresh work continues across coverage sites and as specialized maintenance contracts come online for towers, high voltage power, and other complex field services. After the CJIS modernization project is completed, IT results will transition to consistent departmental IT improvements. With core subprojects delivered, the department will focus on compliance, and a reduction of technical debt. Cloud adoption will expand where it improves resilience and access, and interfaces with the Alaska Court System will strengthen data exchange for criminal history. The APSC will expand regional delivery to reach smaller agencies and sustain distance learning options that allow participation without travel. Administrative Services emphasize process control, audit readiness, and proactive facilities and housing management that protect frontline operations.

Resource Protection:

Marine enforcement capacity will grow through operator training that raises proficiency across the fleet and through scheduled repowering and inspection projects that reduce downtime. Routine maintenance on medium and small craft will be prioritized to maximize patrol days during fisheries openings. Continued collaboration with federal partners will amplify enforcement coverage and improve maritime safety outcomes across remote waters.

Highway Safety:

Traffic safety results will benefit from sustained targeted patrols on high crash corridors and improved evidence handling for roadway cases. Digital evidence management will reduce the time to charging decisions by streamlining the collection, storage, and analysis of evidence; and records system improvements will support faster reporting and analysis for highway safety planning. Interdiction teams will continue coordinated operations that remove impaired drivers and drugs linked to roadway fatalities, while training in emergency vehicle operations, crash investigation, and de-escalation will keep officer and public safety at the center of daily practice.

Contact Information

Commissioner: James E. Cockrell
Phone: (907) 269-5086
E-mail: james.cockrell@alaska.gov

**Administrative
Services Director:** Dianna Thornton
Phone: (907) 465-5501
E-mail: dianna.thornton@alaska.gov