

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2166

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2001 - 2002

retain a 5% commission, plus they receive \$1 per item sold as additional compensation. The state pays about \$1.2 million each year in compensation.

The Internet site has been available to the public for two years and has been very well received. It is an enhanced customer service that also saves the state money. Individuals can purchase their license using a credit card, and department staff mail the license the next business day.

Measure:

The number of issues that the Boards of Fisheries and Game must consider out of cycle.
Sec 72.b.4. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

During 2001, the Board of Fisheries accepted two out of seventeen agenda change requests. This compares to four out of seventeen in 2000, nine out of twenty-one in 1999, and fourteen out of thirty-seven in 1998.

During 2001, the Board of Game accepted six agenda change requests. This amount is an increase from the past few board cycles. The increase is due to the board's scheduling of a predator control/wildlife management plan in Unit 19-D. For comparison, the Board of Game accepted one agenda change request in 2000, three in 1999, and four in 1998.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because it measures progress in staying within the preplanned regulatory cycles specific for Alaska's fisheries and wildlife.

Background and Strategies:

Background: The public, state advisory committees, and the department plan and budget for each board's preplanned regulatory cycle (two years for Board of Game and three years for Board of Fisheries). The public has come to rely upon the consistency of the regulatory review time periods, and the two-year and three-year cycles provide an opportunity to experience a stable regulatory environment. To take up issues out of cycle may cause additional expense for the department and may be an additional burden for the public and state's advisory committee system.

Strategies: The Board of Fisheries recently changed its criteria for accepting agenda change requests in order to reduce the number of "off-cycle" issues it takes up each year. While agenda change requests are important to both boards in order to correct unforeseen effects of a regulation, etc., the department encourages each board to minimize the number of issues taken up out of the normal cycle.

Measure:

The number and percentage of advisory committees from a region that meet in a year that the board cycles through their region.
Sec 72.b.5. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

In 2001, the Board of Fisheries considered fisheries in Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands areas. The Board of Game considered Southeast and Southcentral Region issues. In all, fifty-two out of eighty-one advisory committees were able to hold meetings for these board issues. Because of the issues being considered, the Southeast Region only saw three of twenty-three advisory committees meet, while the Southwest and Interior Regions saw the most activity with eleven of twelve and thirteen of fourteen advisory committees meeting, respectively.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparison with other agencies or other states, as a state-funded advisory committee system is unique to Alaska.

Background and Strategies:

Background: The state's advisory committee system is designed to provide a local forum for input into the fisheries and wildlife regulatory boards.

Strategies: The department will continue to keep the advisory committees informed of upcoming board meetings and issues and encourage each advisory committee to meet when boards meet in their areas and where budget allows.

Measure:

The average time taken to respond to complaints and questions that have been elevated to the commissioner's office. Sec 72.b.6. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

During the first quarter of FY2002, the Commissioner's Office responded to 127 pieces of correspondence in an average of six working days.

Benchmark Comparisons:

The Commissioner's Office attempts to respond to all correspondence within two weeks.

Subsistence Budget Request Unit**Contact: Mary C. Pete, Director**Tel: (907) 465-4147 Fax: (907) 465-2066 E-mail: Mary_Pete@fishgame.state.ak.us**BRU Mission**

To gather, quantify, evaluate, and report data about uses, users, and methods of subsistence hunting and fishing, and make recommendations on the impacts of federal and state laws and regulations on subsistence uses and users.

Key Performance Measures for FY2003**Measure:**

Percentage of Alaska communities in each region for which fisheries harvest data are collected and reported.
Sec 73.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

- 10% in Southeast
- 5% in Southcentral
- 60% in Southwest
- 95% in Interior
- 95% in Western
- 55% in Northwest
- 25% in Arctic

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because Alaska is the only state with a subsistence priority law.

Background and Strategies:

Subsistence salmon fisheries harvest data are collected annually in certain regions of the state (Western, Interior, Southwest, Northwest) and sporadically in other parts, as funding and project schedules allow. The regions with annual assessment generally are those with the greatest dependence on key species, such as salmon. Harvest information for other regions is collected as multiple purpose projects are activated. The aim is to develop a schedule of regional updates of harvest data, as resources are available. The division maintains a statewide subsistence harvest assessment report that contributes to the statewide harvest report of all uses.

Measure:

Percentage of Alaska communities in each region for which wildlife harvest data are collected and reported.
Sec 73.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

- 40% in Southeast
- 10% in Southcentral
- 100% in Southwest
- 45% in Interior
- 25% in Western
- 15% in Northwest
- 25% in Arctic

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because Alaska is the only state with a subsistence priority law.

Background and Strategies:

Subsistence wildlife harvest data are collected annually in certain regions of the state (Southwest, Interior, and Arctic) and sporadically in other parts, as funding and project schedules allow. The regions with annual assessment generally are those for which funding is available due to controversial or allocation concerns, such as big game in the Interior. The aim is to develop a schedule of regional updates of harvest data, as resources are available. Harvest information for other regions is collected as multiple purpose projects are activated.

Measure:

Percentage of subsistence proposals at meetings of the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game for which subsistence data are assessed and recommendations are made.

Sec 73.b.3. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

- 100% in Southeast
- 100% in Southcentral
- 100% in Southwest
- 90% in Interior
- 75% in Western
- 100% in Northwest
- 100% in Arctic

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because Alaska is the only state with a subsistence priority law

Background and Strategies:

Subsistence data from harvest assessment projects are used to analyze impacts of subsistence proposals to the Boards of Fisheries and Game. There are some areas or issues for which the division has not collected data or the data is outdated due to regulatory changes in the intervening years or uses are known to have changed but details are unknown. The division attempts to anticipate information needs of the boards and public through extensive public contacts such as local fish and game advisory committees and local harvest monitors. This information is useful to plan research priorities and schedules to address these issues as each board responds to public proposals. The goal is to have current subsistence information for every proposal that comes before each board.

Measure:

Number of proposed statutory and regulatory changes by federal and other state entities for which subsistence data are assessed and recommendations are made.

Sec 73.b.4. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

- 75 in Southeast
- 25 for Southcentral
- 25 for Southwest
- 30 in Interior
- 7 in Western
- 9 in Northwest
- 5 in Arctic

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because Alaska is the only state with a subsistence priority law.

Background and Strategies:

Subsistence data from harvest assessment projects are used to analyze impacts of subsistence proposals to the Boards of Fisheries and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board. There are some areas or issues for which the division has not collected data or the data is outdated due to regulatory changes in the intervening years or uses are known to have changed but details are unknown. The division attempts to anticipate information needs of the boards and public through extensive public contacts such as local fish and game advisory committees, federal subsistence

regional advisory councils, and local harvest monitors. This information is useful to plan research priorities and schedules to address these issues as each board responds to public proposals. The goal is to have current subsistence information for every proposal that comes before each board.

Habitat and Restoration Budget Request Unit

Contact: Ellen Fritts, Acting Director

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BRU Mission

The mission of the Habitat and Restoration Division is to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore habitat for fish and wildlife consistent with sound conservation and sustained yield principles.

Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

95 percent of the Title 16 (anadromous waters) applications are approved or modified to protect, minimize, or mitigate habitat damage within an average of 20 days after receipt.

Sec 74.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

In FY2001, 1,999 Title 16 applications were received and reviewed within an average of 17 days. 99% were approved as proposed or with project modifications.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other states because it measures progress unique to Alaska and Alaska's project review laws.

Background and Strategies:

The division routinely tracks the status of all permit review requests it receives, and prepares an annual report summarizing such statistics as the numbers and types of permits it issues, for what industries, and in which of its three regions (southeast, southcentral/southwestern/western, and interior/arctic). This allows division management to best direct permitting effort to the regions, sub-regions, and industries with the greatest demand for project review and permitting services. To process this number of permits expeditiously, the division requires an adequate number of staff who have a good basic education in fish and wildlife biology, training in specialized areas such as bioremediation and hydrology, and many years of experience in reviewing and monitoring a wide variety of construction activities.

Measure:

80 percent of the land use plans reviewed result in consensus on habitat related issues.

Sec 74.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division reviewed multiple actions under ten land use plans in 2001. Over 80% of the departments recommendations to protect fish and wildlife habitat, public hunting and fishing opportunities, and access to public lands and resources were adopted.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other states because it measures progress unique to Alaska and Alaska's land use planning laws.

Background and Strategies:

The division initiates plans for legislatively designated State Game Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries and participates in the development of all other land use plans to ensure adequate protection for fish and wildlife, their habitats and public access to public lands and waters. Any subsequent actions under these plans are also reviewed to make certain they meet the stated goals of the plan. Approved plans, resulting from a consensus building public review process, provide guidance on future allowable land uses and compliance with all fish and wildlife habitat requirements. To achieve this objective Habitat and Restoration Division needs to have well trained and experienced staff to respond to land use actions within statutory deadlines.

Measure:

95 percent of the project reviews for industrial development, road construction, and timber harvest are completed within an average of 25 days or less or within the scheduled time frame for complex projects.
Sec 74.b.3. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

In FY 2001, 92% of reviews involving Fish and Game permits were reviewed within the permit deadline. Average time for Fish and Game permits was 17 days. 89% of projects involving other agency permits were reviewed within the permit deadline. Average time for comments on other agency permits was 16 days.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other states because it measures progress unique to Alaska and Alaska's project review laws.

Background and Strategies:

The division routinely tracks the status of all permit review requests it receives, and prepares an annual report summarizing such statistics as the numbers and types of permits it issues, for what industries, and in which of its three regions (southeast, southcentral/southwestern/western, and interior/arctic). This allows division management to best direct permitting effort to the regions, sub-regions, and industries with the greatest demand for project review and permitting services.

Measure:

100 percent of the third party contracted restoration projects are completed by the end of the contract period.
Sec 74.b.4. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division did not meet this measure for FY01. Of 28 approved projects, 21 (75%) were completed by the end of the federal contract completion date.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other states because it measures progress unique to Alaska and Alaska's restoration funding sources.

Background and Strategies:

The Kenai River Restoration 50/50 Cost Share Project was initiated in 1995. From 1995 to date, 214 projects were contracted through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) because the department has no direct granting authority. Eight (8) projects were never initiated due to changes in landowner's health or financial condition, and the contracts were terminated. Of the 206 projects that have active USFWS Cooperative Agreements (1995-8; 1996-32; 1997-53; 1998-29; 1999-34; 2000-22; 2001-28) 198 have been completed. The 8 remaining projects will be completed during the summer 2002. Since 1995, 100 percent of the contracts have been completed prior to reimbursement.

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Budget Request Unit

Contact: Mary McDowell, Commissioner

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BRU Mission

The mission of the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission is to limit entry into commercial fisheries for purposes of resource conservation and to prevent economic distress among fishermen and those dependent on them for a livelihood.

Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The commission processes 90 percent of all vessel licenses, permit renewals, and requests for duplicates within three days of receipt of a fully completed application.
Sec 75.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's commercial fisheries permitting and licensing programs, requirements, and procedures are significantly different from those of other states and do not lend themselves to meaningful comparison.

Background and Strategies:

The commission seeks to process all license, permit renewal, and duplicate requests as quickly as possible to help applicants avoid lost fishing time. The commission has streamlined procedures and effectively used computer technology to meet this stringent performance standard for processing nearly 40,000 permit and license applications per year by our small staff.

Measure:

The commission processes 90 percent of all emergency transfer requests within four days of receipt of a fully completed application.
Sec 75.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing emergency permit transfers are unique to Alaska's limited entry program and thus no meaningful comparison with other states can be made regarding transfer processing time.

Background and Strategies:

The commission seeks to process all emergency transfer requests as quickly as possible to help fishermen avoid lost fishing time and maintain income flow to families of permit holders struck with medical or other circumstances temporarily preventing their participation in the fishery. The commission has streamlined procedures and effectively used computer technology to meet this stringent performance standard for processing nearly a thousand emergency permit transfer requests per year with our small staff.

Measure:

The commission processes 90 percent of all permanent transfer requests within five days of receipt of a fully completed application.
Sec 75.b.3. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing permanent permit transfers are unique to Alaska's limited entry program and thus no meaningful comparison with programs in other states can be made regarding transfer processing time.

Background and Strategies:

The commission seeks to process all permanent permit transfer requests as quickly as possible to help applicants avoid lost fishing time. The commission has streamlined procedures and effectively used computer technology to meet this stringent performance standard for processing nearly a thousand permanent permit transfers per year by our small staff.

Measure:

By June 30, 2002, the commission provides fishers with the option to renew licenses online.
Sec 75.b.4. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Contingent upon feasibility of timely acquiring and installing necessary technology, the commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Online licensing of crewmember and sport fisheries is now available in Alaska and other states. Provisions of Alaska's Limited Entry Act present some additional requirements and challenges for online licensing of Alaska's commercial fisheries, but the commission is committed to providing this service and has a plan in place and actions underway to achieve this performance measure.

Background and Strategies:

Online permit and vessel license renewal will provide the fishing public with more convenient, faster access to CFEC licensing functions and will reduce paper handling by commission staff.

NOTE: Since this measure is not achieved by the end of FY02, the commission recommends that it be deleted from legislation introduced during the 2002 legislative session setting forth FY03 performance measures.

Measure:

The commission maintains the number of hearing officer and paralegal decisions issued during the year at 70 or more.
Sec 75.b.5. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing adjudication of limited entry permit eligibility claims are unique to Alaska's limited entry program. No meaningful comparison with programs in other jurisdictions can be made regarding the rate at which decisions are issued.

Background and Strategies:

The commission strives to move all appeals of limited entry permit application decisions through the adjudication process as quickly as possible for the benefit of applicants and all other participants in the fishery. The extensive due process afforded all limited entry permit applicants under Alaska's Limited Entry Act can require investment of significant time and effort by the commission. Under state statute, an applicant with an appeal pending at any stage of the adjudication process is eligible for an interim-use permit allowing their continued participation in the fishery until a final decision is rendered in their case. While care to ensure applicants' rights, render the fairest and best possible decisions that will withstand further challenge is paramount, this performance measure maintains pressure on hearing officers and paralegals to produce decisions and keep appeals moving through the process at a good rate.

Measure:

The commission maintains the number of final decisions issued by the commission during the year at 100 or more.
Sec 75.b.6. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing adjudication of limited entry permit eligibility claims are unique to Alaska's limited entry program. No meaningful comparison with programs in other jurisdictions can be made regarding the rate at which decisions are issued.

Background and Strategies:

The commission strives to adjudicate all appeals as quickly as possible for the benefit of applicants and all other participants in the fishery. The extensive due process afforded all limited entry permit applicants under Alaska's Limited Entry Act can require investment of significant time and effort by the commission. The commission works very hard to issue the best possible decisions at the rate established by this performance measure. Extra care is particularly critical at the final commission decision level as the next level of appeal is to the Alaska Superior Court.

Measure:

By the end of the fiscal year, the commission maintains or decreases the net number of cases pending before hearing officers and the commissioners from the number that are pending at the beginning of the fiscal year.
Sec 75.b.7. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing adjudication of limited entry permit eligibility claims are unique to Alaska's limited entry program. No meaningful comparison with programs in other jurisdictions can be made regarding the rate at which decisions are issued and/or appealed.

Background and Strategies:

The number of new, incoming cases added annually to the workload of paralegals, hearing officers, and commissioners is dependent on a number of factors, including the number, size, and complexity of fisheries newly coming under limitation. During the course of a year, it is important to maintain a rate of case resolution equal to or exceeding the rate at which cases are appealed to the commission, or the result would be a ever-increasing backlog. The commission strives to develop straightforward limitation systems, issue decisions of such quality as to minimize further appeals, and maintain a pace of adjudication of cases that will ensure the maintenance or reduction of the net number of pending cases.

Measure:

The commission maintains at 20 percent or less the number of appeals from final decisions of the commission that are filed with the superior court during the year.
Sec 75.b.8. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing adjudication and appeals of limited entry permit eligibility claims are unique to Alaska's limited entry program. No meaningful comparison with programs in other jurisdictions can be made regarding the rate at which commission decisions are appealed.

Background and Strategies:

Under the Limited Entry Act, an applicant who disagrees with a final commission decision may appeal the decision to the Alaska Superior Court, and ultimately to the Alaska Supreme Court. Such appeals consume extensive time

and resources of both CFEC and the Department of Law. Additionally, rulings against commission actions or decisions in a single case may be applied retroactively by the court and thus reopen large numbers of previously settled cases, potentially causing great harm to an entire fishery. The commission makes every effort to ensure that all due process and legal issues are meticulously addressed in each of its decisions in order to provide the best possible service to the public and to avoid court appeals. The commission has been very successful in these efforts in recent years. In 1982, more than 150 court challenges to CFEC permit application decisions were pending. Today, even with the commission issuing more than 100 final decisions per year, only four court challenges are pending.

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1-22-2002

Department of Health and Social Services

MISSIONS AND MEASURES

Presentation to

House Finance

January 22, 2002

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INTRODUCTION TO DEPARTMENT

Mission

To promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans.

The Department of Health and Social Services was originally established in 1919 as the Alaska Territorial Health Department. It was established primarily to control diseases and epidemics. The Department continues today to emphasize public health, public welfare and public protection. These core principles are reflected in the mission of the Department (to promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans) and stem from Article 7, Sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska.

In order to carry out our mission, program support is offered in the following areas:

Safety Net Services to Poor, Disabled, and Elderly

- Health Coverage for the Poor: DHSS provides health coverage for the poor with the Medicaid, Denali KidCare, and CAMA programs.
- Cash Based Assistance: DHSS provides cash payments through the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (Welfare to Work) and Adult Public Assistance Program (monthly cash assistance for poor elderly, blind and disabled).
- Other Assistance programs: DHSS manages the federal food stamp program, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Low Income Heating Assistance (LIHEAP) programs that provide food and heating assistance for the poor and disadvantaged.

Protecting Alaskans

- Child Protection Services: Services include investigation, emergency placement, foster care, adoption assistance, residential care and family preservation.
- Juvenile Justice System: DHSS manages the State's juvenile justice system and currently operates seven detention/treatment facilities.

Public Health

- Protection of Public Health: A variety of public health services are managed and provided by DHSS including: Public Health Nursing Services, Epidemiology, Laboratory, Emergency Medical Services and community health services. An important element

Mental Health Beneficiaries

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services: DISS operates through grants to non-profits a wide variety of services to combat alcohol and drug abuse in the state.
- Services for the Mentally Ill & those with Developmental Disabilities: Grants are provided to non-profit entities that provide services in the community for those with mental illness or developmental disabilities. DHSS operates API, the State Psychiatric Institute.

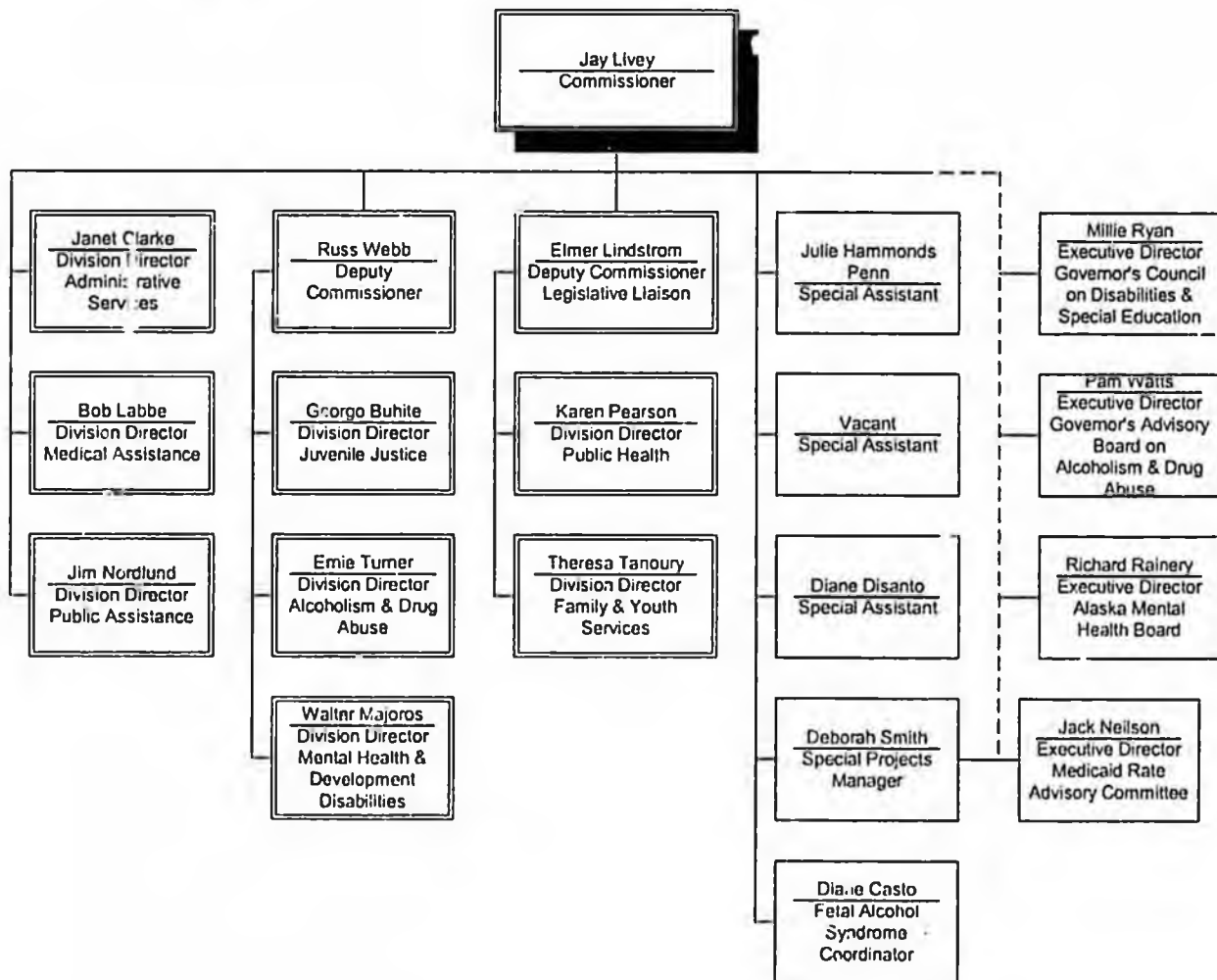
In carrying out these services, we provide the following:

- Benefit payments to 90,000 individuals per month (includes Medicaid eligibility).
- Health Coverage for over 118,000 eligible beneficiaries.
- Over 2,400 positions, of which approximately 1,500 are direct field workers including an estimated 150 Public Health Nurses, 281 Social Workers, 307 Eligibility/Work Services 270 staff at Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API), 243 Youth Detention/Treatment workers, and 105 Juvenile Probation workers.
- Management of 38 state-owned facilities and 80 leased facilities in over 100 communities in Alaska.
- Management of \$137.5 million in grants to communities and non-profit entities throughout Alaska, which provide local jobs to over 2,390 individuals.
- Oversight of over \$600 million in federal funds, which flow through the department on an annual basis every year.

To provide these services with a high level of performance, the Department is organized into eight different divisions:

- Division of Public Assistance
- Division of Medical Assistance
- Division of Family and Youth Services
- Division of Juvenile Justice
- Division of Public Health
- Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Division of Administrative Services

**State of Alaska
Department of Health & Social Services
Executive Management Organization
December 2001**



Major Department Accomplishments for FY2001

- ◆ To provide better service to the public and meet emerging needs in public health, opened the new Alaska Public Health Laboratory and Office of the State Medical Examiner in Anchorage in January, 2001. Tested scores of samples for anthrax at Alaska Public Health Laboratory, rather than sending them Outside for testing as would previously have been necessary.
- ◆ Worked with federal, state, and private contributors to fund Phase 1 of the Code Blue project, which will provide emergency medical services equipment and training in rural Alaska.
- ◆ Continued an aggressive immunization campaign to vaccinate all school children and those in day care to meet new requirements.
- ◆ Increased the documented Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment screening rate from 36% of eligible children to 68% in the current report year.
- ◆ Obtained changes to Temporary Assistance Program with federal law exempting Alaska Native villages with high unemployment from the five-year limit; exempting two-parent families with severely disabled children from seasonal benefit cuts; and allowing for uniform application of seasonal two-parent benefits cuts in response to a court decision.
- ◆ Alaska ranked 8th in the nation for the percentage of adults in unsubsidized employment and in the average number of hours for adults in unsubsidized employment. Only one state ranked higher in both of these critical measures of welfare reform success.
- ◆ The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families caseload declined to 7,421 families in 2001. The average Temporary Assistance caseload was 39% below FY1997, the year before welfare reform was implemented.
- ◆ Provided Medicaid coverage through FY2003 for treatment of eligible women who have been diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer.

- ◆ Increased efficiencies and streamlined programs and services by consolidating several DHSS offices into the Frontier Building in Anchorage.
- ◆ Established a Suicide Prevention Council in statute, with responsibility to develop a statewide suicide prevention plan.
- ◆ Began the design-build process to replace the worn-out Alaska Psychiatric Institute facility.
- ◆ Through 60+ grantee agencies and an array of for-profit services, provided mental health services to over 20,000 people suffering from mental illness or severe emotional dysfunction.
- ◆ Eliminated the Infant Learning Program waiting list.
- ◆ The Subsidized Adoption and Guardianship program, which provides permanent homes for children who have been placed in the State's permanent custody, has been very successful. From FY1992 to FY2001, the number of children removed from the foster care system and placed in a permanent home increased 348%, from 338 to 1,515.
- ◆ Through the Balloon Project (which provides funding for DFYS and partner legal agencies to focus on moving children on the "transition list" from the foster care system into permanent homes), reduced the growth of the foster parent caseload. In FY1999, the caseload increased by 16.4%; in FY2001, it decreased only 6.2%.
- ◆ Provided more thorough training to new child protection social workers through a joint project with the University of Alaska called the Family and Youth Services Training Academy. Approximately 73 new workers completed the primary two-week training course in FY2001.
- ◆ Worked with incarcerated kids to provide thousands of community service hours to various agencies and organizations.
- ◆ Collected about \$20,000 for the Alaska Children's Trust fund through the sale of heirloom birth certificates. Heirloom marriage certificates went on sale in the fall.

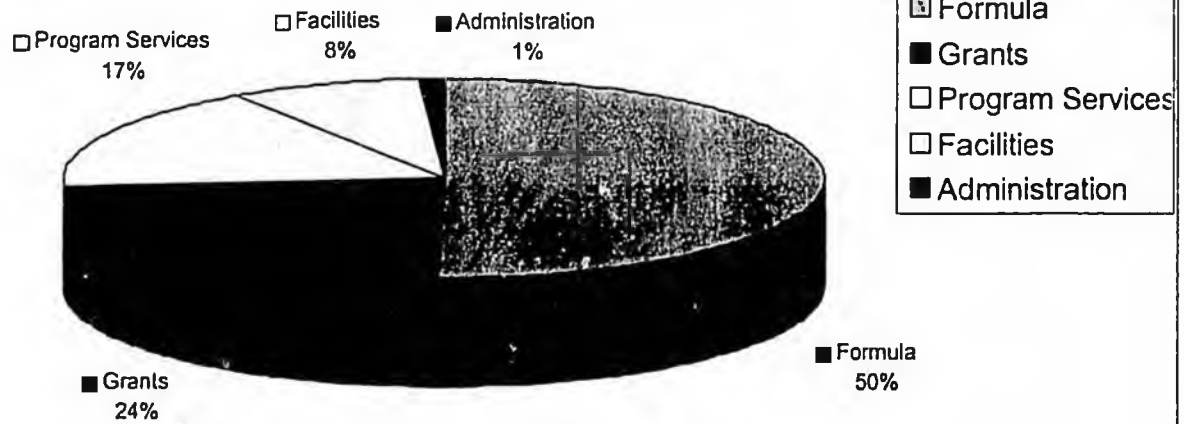
- ◆ Through the Office of FAS, participated in the development of community diagnostic teams, provided community grants for programs to prevent FAS and support people with FAS and their families, improved data collection, provided information and technical support.

- ◆ Together with state and local partners, supported legislation to establish the Tobacco Use Education and Cessation Fund under AS 37.05.580, which provides for 20% of the Master Settlement to be set aside for tobacco education.

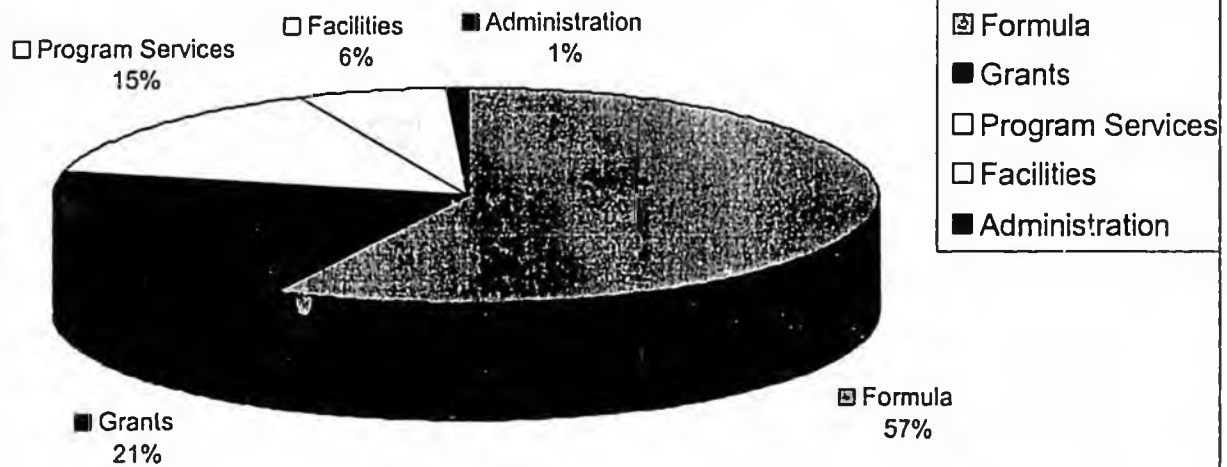
- ◆ Established Juvenile Alcohol Safety Action Programs around the state and increased outpatient alcoholism treatment capacity in some locations in Alaska.

Expenditure Category Comparisons of General Fund Authorization

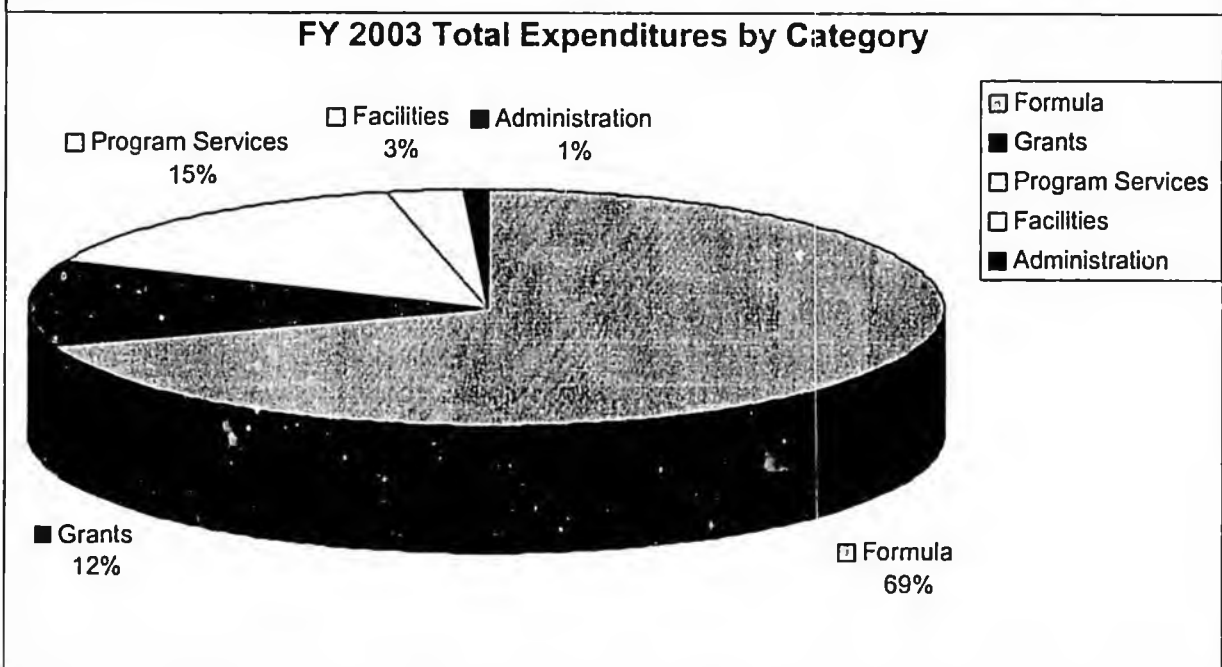
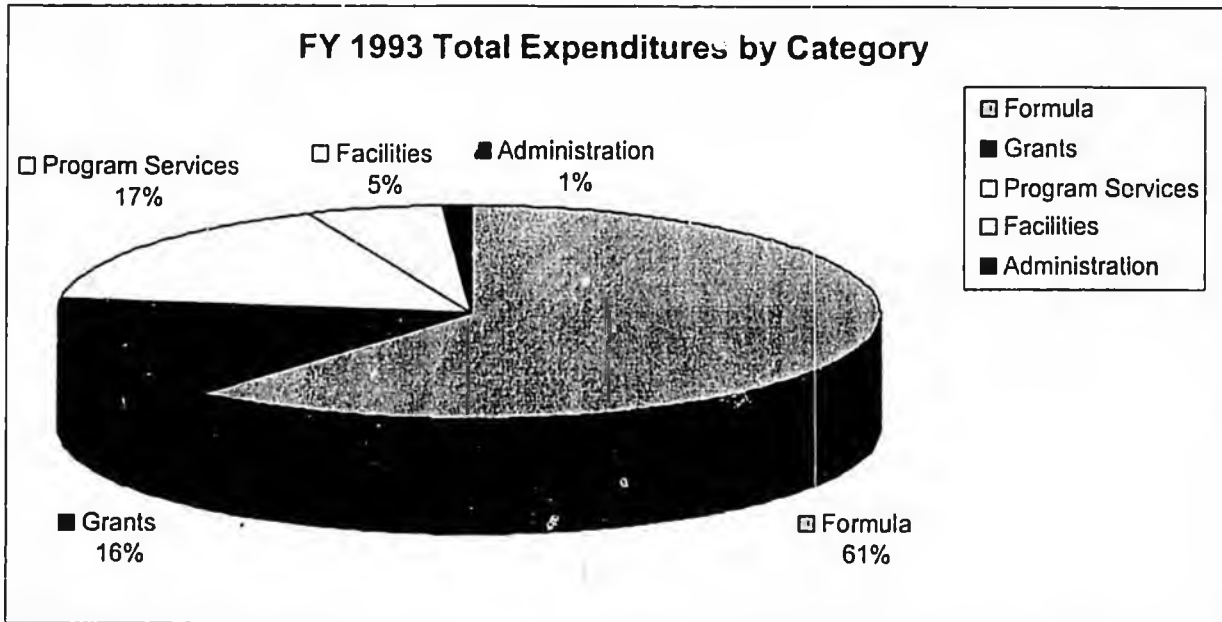
FY 1993 General Fund Expenditures by Category



FY 2003 General Fund Expenditures by Category



Expenditure Category Comparisons of Total Funds Authorization



Definition of Categories used in Expenditure Comparisons

Formula Programs include all of the formula programs: Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP), Adult Public Assistance, General Relief Assistance, OAA-ALB Hold Harmless, Tribal Assistance Programs, Medicaid Services, Catastrophic and Chronic Illness Assistance, Child Care Benefits, Foster Care, Court Orders and Reunification Efforts, and Subsidized Adoption and Guardianship.

Program Services include both administration and delivery of direct services, such as public health nursing and social services, and the administration of entitlements and grants.

Grants include the components with major grants to other organizations or major contracts for service delivery and the Energy Assistance Program.

Facilities include youth correctional facilities and the Alaska Psychiatric Institution.

Administration includes the Commissioner's Office, the other components of the Division of Administrative Services, and the three Mental Health Trust Boards

Missions and Measures

FY 2001

January 22, 2002

Introduction To Performance Measures

DHSS Mission

To promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans.

The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) believes that tracking performance with carefully considered indicators is a critical part of effective management. Over the last several years DHSS has established many performance measures throughout the department, which were used for management purposes. Additionally, over the last few years the legislature has added many more performance measures. During the 2001 Legislative Session, Missions and Measures were adopted in House Bill 250 (Ch. 90, SLA 2001). The next section provides information on the 48 measures added by the Legislature last year.

Division of Public Assistance

Mission

The mission of the Division of Public Assistance is to promote self-sufficiency and provide basic living expenses to Alaskans in need.

Division of Public Assistance

Measure

The percentage of the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) (AS 47.27) families meeting federal work participation rates.

Sec 77(b)(1) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target and Progress

In September 2001, 43% of all Temporary Assistance families were in countable work activities and had sufficient hours to meet the federal participation rate requirements. In December 2001, 53% of Temporary Assistance families were in countable work activities but not all had enough hours of participation to count in the federal participation rate.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Third Annual Report to Congress on the TANF program, Alaska ranks 8th nationwide for adults in employment and 7th in the average number of hours for adults in employment. No state ranked higher in both measures of success.

Benchmark Comparison

Federal law requires that states meet work participation requirements:

	Federal Rate All Families	Caseload Reduction Credit	Federal Adjusted Target Rate	Alaska Rate Achieved
FFY 1998	30%	3%	27%	42%
FFY 1999	35%	18%	17%	46%
FFY 2000	40%	29%	11%	39%
FFY 2001	45%	37%	8%	42%
FFY 2002	50%	40%	10%	

FFY 02 Caseload reduction credit and adjustment target rate are estimated.

Every state's federal work participation rate is adjusted by a caseload reduction credit that reflects the state's success in moving families off of assistance and into employment. In FFY 2001, Alaska's caseload reduction credit was 37%. Based on the caseload reduction credit, Alaska's work participation target was 8%. Thus Alaska more than met the adjusted federal participation requirement.

Background and Strategies

Temporary Assistance is a work-focused program designed to help Alaskans plan for self-sufficiency and to make a successful transition from welfare to work. Federal law requires the state to meet work participation requirements. Failure to meet federal participation rates results in fiscal penalties.

As Alaska's TA caseload declines, a growing portion of the families require more intensive services just to meet minimal participation requirements. Enhancement of TA Work Services will serve to identify and address client challenges to participation.

Division of Public Assistance

Measure

Rate of job retention among adults receiving Temporary Assistance by region.

Sec 77(b)(2) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
And Progress*

The rate of job retention for Temporary Assistance recipients statewide was 80% in FFY00 and FFY01. The method used to measure job retention mirrors that required by the federal government for the TANF High Performance Bonus, using quarterly data from the Alaska Department of Labor.

Rate of Job Retention by region:

Central	80%
Coastal	80%
Southeast	79%
Northern	79%

The DPA goal for job retention by Temporary Assistance recipients in FFY02-03 is 80%.

Job retention is measured for a period of 12 months and the recipient must be working in each quarter during the 12-month period.

*Background and
Strategies*

Job retention enables families to reduce or eliminate dependency on welfare. Case management, supportive services and childcare payments are important services which help to improve job retention.

Most often, those Temporary Assistance adults who have the best ability to retain employment are the most likely to leave the caseload. As the caseload declines, those adults with more significant barriers to employment make up a higher percentage of the caseload. Therefore, with a declining caseload it is increasingly difficult to maintain high job retention percentages.

Division of Public Assistance

Measure

Percentage of ATAP adults who have left assistance because they become employed who are receiving day care assistance.

Sec 77(b)(3) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

In FY2001, 20% of ATAP adult-included families who left assistance with earnings and a child less than 12 years old received PASS II child care.

*Background and
Strategies*

Working families who have left Temporary Assistance (PASS I) are guaranteed one year of transitional child care (PASS II) if they need it. The PASS II program is administered by the Department of Education and Early Development. This measure indicates the use of transitional (PASS II) child care assistance by Temporary Assistance clients who have worked their way off of welfare.

In FY01, an average of 151 notices per month were sent to working families who had recently left Temporary Assistance (the cases were closed), informing them about the availability of PASS II child care assistance.

Division of Public Assistance

Measure

The percentage of adults receiving temporary assistance who have earned income.

Sec 77(b)(4) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target and Progress

Percentage of Temporary Assistance adults with earned income was 31% in September 2001.

The percentage of families leaving Temporary Assistance who reported earnings when they left was 38% in September 2001.

Goal for FY02-03 is 45% of Temporary Assistance adults with earned income, and 45% of case closures with reported earned income.

Background and Strategies

This is a measure of current Temporary Assistance recipients who have earned income. As the caseload declines, those adults with more significant barriers to employment make up a higher percentage of the caseload. Therefore, with a declining caseload, it becomes more difficult to achieve higher percentages of recipients with earned income. The goal of the division's welfare-to-work effort is to move families off assistance and into a job that pays well enough for the family to be self-sufficient. Case management, supportive services, child care and other services are critical to the success of this effort.

Division of Public Assistance

Measure

The rate of payment accuracy for ATAP payments & Food Stamps.

Sec 77(b)(5) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

Temporary Assistance payment accuracy rate was 96% in FFY01.

In FFY98, FFY99 and FFY00 the Food Stamp accuracy rate was 88%, 84%, and 93% respectively. Food Stamp state-calculated payment accuracy rate was 91% for FFY01 as of 10/22/01. FFY01's federally calculated payment accuracy rate will be available April 2002.

The goal for FY02-03 is 94% accuracy in Food Stamps and 98% accuracy in Temporary Assistance.

*Benchmark
Comparison*

The US Department of Agriculture determines acceptable performance for Food Stamp payment accuracy for all states by using a national average after the end of the federal fiscal year (September). States with accuracy rates worse than the national average can receive fiscal penalties. The national average for FFY01 is anticipated to be approximately 90%. In FFY 01 the state calculated Food Stamp accuracy rate was 91%. USDA publishes the national average in the spring each year.

*Background and
Strategies*

Accurate benefits ensure clients have the amount of benefits to which they are entitled. Fluctuating benefits cause budget issues for clients and impact their ability to gain self-sufficiency. The Quality Assessment Reviews evaluate payment accuracy using statistically valid desk reviews.

The failing accuracy rates in FY98 and FY99 were due in large part to the dramatic changes caused by the implementation of welfare reform. Through a settlement with USDA, the Division reinvested a portion of the penalty in a program to improve the rate which resulted in remarkable success during FFY00.

Division of Medical Assistance

Mission

The mission of the Division of Medical Assistance is to maintain access to health care and to provide health coverage for Alaskans in need.

Division of Medical Assistance

Measure

The average time the division takes from receiving a claim to paying it.

Sec 78(b)(1) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

During the last half of FY01, the division took an average of 11.08 days to pay claims.

*Benchmark
Comparison*

Federal regulation requires that 90% of all clean claims received must be paid within 30 days, and 99% of all clean claims received must be paid within 90 days (42 CFR 447.45 Time of Claims Payment).

*Background and
Strategies*

The assumption is that the timely payment of medical claims gives providers incentive to participate in the Medicaid Program. Therefore, the legislature and the division are interested in a measure of how timely the division responds to or pays claims.

Division of Medical Assistance

Measure

The percentage of claims with no errors categorized by the type of provider.

Sec 78(b)(2) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

Provider Type	Percentage of "Clean Claims"
Pharmacies	80.23%
Dentists	72.96%
Nursing Facilities	69.75%
Physicians	69.01%
Hospitals	57.45%
All Providers	72.64%

The percentage of error-free claims reported for FY00 was 73.54%. Only two provider categories reported decreased percentages: physicians and dentists -- both had a less than 1% change from last year.

*Benchmark
Comparison*

The division has requested comparable information from other states, but has not yet received responses to those requests.

*Background and
Strategies*

This is a measure of the providers ability to file error-free claims which reduces the time and effort required to process claims. Those provider types experiencing more problems filing error-free claims are targeted for additional training. We assume that providers who do not experience problems in getting claims paid are much more likely to continue participating in the Medicaid Program.

Division of Medical Assistance

Measures

The percentage of total funds that are used to pay claims compared to the percent used for administration of the division.

Sec 78(b)(3) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

	Current Year (FY01)	Previous Year (FY00)
Claims Payments	96.7%	96.3%
Division Administrative Costs	3.3%	3.7%

*Benchmark
Comparison*

The HCFA publication "Medicaid Statistics Program and Financial Statistics Fiscal Year 1998", the most recent statistical information available, reports a 4.13% administrative cost versus a 95.87% for program payments. The source documented is the HCFA 64.

*Background
and Strategies*

This is a fiscal measure of the State's administrative overhead necessary to support the medical assistance programs.

Division of Medical Assistance

Measure

The percentage of the providers who are participating in the medical assistance program by region.

Sec 78(b)(4) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

Provider Type	Providers Licensed by State of Alaska		Providers Paid at Least Once Medicaid Claim		Percent of Participating Providers	
	FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01
Physicians**	1,287	1,282	662	650	51%	51%
Dentists	412	431	221	216	53%	50%
Pharmacies	97	115	74	81	76%	70%
Hospitals	16	16	16	16	100%	100%
Nursing Facilities	15	15	15	15	100%	100%

**** The total number of unduplicated physicians who had at least one paid claim during FY01 was 815.** The discrepancy between the total of 815 and the 662 licensed physicians charted above can, at least in part, be attributed to the exclusion of Indian Health Services (IHS) physicians in the Occupational Licensing database. IHS physicians are not required to be licensed by the State of Alaska.

We feel we are making progress in our goal of increasing provider participation, but are still unable to measure any success effectively.

Background and Strategies

This is a measure of Alaska's medical assistance clients' access to medical services through the same network of medical providers available to the balance of the State's population.

The Division continues to work towards complying with this Performance Measure requirement. However, we have had some difficulties.

To provide geographical information on providers, each provider must be matched by city. Therefore, the definition of each region needs to be defined clearly and each city pointed to a region to establish a total.

In addition, provider enrollment data in MMIS has not been purged since 1979. The number of enrolled providers exceeds 8,000. A data purge would be a lengthy and expensive undertaking, and for that reason, has not been done. This means MMIS fiscal year claim payment data must be

compared to Occupational Licensing data - two separate databases without comparable data parameters. For instance, a provider may have several Medicaid provider ID's, one for each rendering address, each in a different region, but only one address within the Occupational Licensing file. A further complication arises because physicians practicing in the Medicaid program through the Indian Health Services need not be licensed with the State of Alaska and will not be included in the Occupational Licensing database.

It is also extremely difficult to identify unduplicated providers within a region and match them with comparable claims paid data. For example, a physician licensed to practice in the State of Alaska may do so through several different facilities in several different regions.

The division will continue to define and refine its methodology to respond to this measure in the most effective way possible.

Division of Family and Youth Services

Mission

The mission of the Division of Family and Youth Services is to protect children who are abused and neglected or at risk of abuse and neglect.

Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The number of children substantiated as abused or neglected and the number of children unconfirmed as abused or neglected by region.

Sec 79(b)(1) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

1) The number of children substantiated as abused or neglected:

FY1997	3,267 of 7,563 (43.2%) children substantiated as abused or neglected
FY1998	3,690 of 8,128 (45.4%) children substantiated as abused or neglected
FY1999	3,568 of 7,592 (47.0%) children substantiated as abused or neglected
FY2000	3,266 of 6,598 (49.5%) children substantiated as abused or neglected
FY2001	4,122 of 8,865 (46.5%) children substantiated as abused or neglected

2) The number of children substantiated as abused or neglected by region:

FY2001	
Anchorage Region	1,338 of 3,249 children
Southcentral Region	1,232 of 2,335 children
Northern Region	1,246 of 2,361 children
Southeast Region	<u>306 of 920 children</u>
FY2001 Total	4,122 of 8,865 children

3) The number of children unconfirmed as abused or neglected by region:

FY2001	
Anchorage Region	1,700 of 3,249 children
Southcentral Region	908 of 2,335 children
Northern Region	879 of 2,361 children
Southeast Region	<u>448 of 920 children</u>
FY2001 Total	3,935 of 8,865 children

*Background and
Strategies*

Workers conclude every assigned investigation with a determination that the report of harm was substantiated, unconfirmed, or invalid. A substantiated report of harm is one where the available facts indicate a child has suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect as defined by AS 47.10.011. An unconfirmed report of harm is one where, based on the available facts, the worker is unable to determine if a child has suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect. An invalid report is one where there are no facts to support the allegation that a child has suffered abuse or neglect.

This measure is also required for the Federal Review. The Federal Review is conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Federal Review measure most related to this State measure is *Disposition of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports*. This measure is based on the disposition or finding of any child who was the subject of an investigation in a particular report, and includes the number and percentages of reports and of children. For this measure, the division reports the:

Number of children who had a substantiated or unconfirmed report.

The division recommends that the same measure for the Federal Review be used for this State measure in the future.

Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The incidence of child abuse or neglect in foster care.

Sec 79(b)(2) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The Division's target is zero incidences of child abuse or neglect in foster care.

**Number Of Children With Substantiated Incidents Of Maltreatment In
Licensed Foster Care
By Region and By Type of Maltreatment FY 01
(Legislative Outcome Data)**

Region	Number of Children	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Injury	Abandon- ment
NRO	15	5	0	10	0	
SC	9	4	2	1	2	
ARO	8	5	0	2	1	
SE	1				1	
Total All Regions	33	14	2	13	4	0

*Background and
Strategies*

Background:

These 33 children were represented in 22 foster homes, less than 2 percent of the total licensed foster homes during this period of time.

Of the 22 foster homes, 11 of them closed as a result of the substantiated finding, 7 of them remained licensed with the child placed in the home, 2 of them were closed due to an adoption by a foster parent who was also a relative to the child, and 2 of them remain licensed without the child placed in the home. All of the homes that did not close as a result of the substantiated finding were either counseled, consulted, or had a plan of correction, and they succeeded in their plan of correction.

In response to a substantiated finding in a foster home, the division usually offers advise and consultation to correct the foster parent's behavior, a formal plan of correction which might include training for the foster parent, a license modification such as reducing the number or age range of children cared for, or formal revocation of the foster license. If

the child has been previously removed, a decision will be made if the removal is to become permanent. The decision on whether to remove a child after a substantiated finding is impacted by many variables. These include consideration of the nature and seriousness of the incident as well as the foster parents' response. The duration and level of the foster parent and foster child relationship is considered. The wishes of the foster child, if age appropriate, are considered. The safety of the child is paramount in any decision that is made.

Strategies:

The Federal Review also includes this same measure. It is defined as follows: Of all children who were served in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated (unconfirmed in Alaska) maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff? Both the percentage and total number of children are provided. This group also includes relatives who are caring for children in state custody.

- *Continue the APSIN Flag program.* This program is a collaborative, ongoing effort between the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Family and Youth Services. All licensed caregivers are entered into APSIN and if there is ever a police response to the home, the division is immediately notified.

- *Provide Foster Parents and Relative CareGivers the support and information they may need.* Essential to meeting this strategy is a effective training program for caregivers. The division offers training to all licensed caregivers and tracks the amount of training each foster parent receives annually.

Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The number of children in state custody longer than 18 months and 36 months.

Sec 79(b)(3) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target and Progress

The target for this measure is no child waits longer than 2 years or more to leave state custody

FY2001 1,049 of 1,937 (54 percent) children were in state custody for 18 months or longer.

FY2001 501 of 1,937 (26 percent) children were in state custody for 36 months or longer.

Background and Strategies

The Federal Review has two related measures that are defined as follows:

Median length of stay in foster care; and

Number of children in care 17 of the most recent 22 months.

The division recommends that the same measure for the Federal Review be used for this State measure in the future. The division is currently working on developing the new data and it will be available by the end of January 2002.

Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The length of time in state custody before achieving adoption.

Sec 79(b)(4) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The target for this measure is 6 months from termination of parental rights.

FY1997	17.4 months
FY1998	19.8 months
FY1999	14.5 months
FY2000	15.1 months
FY2001	12.0 months

*Background and
Strategies*

This measures the length of time in months to achieve adoption from the point in time when both parents' rights have been terminated or when they relinquish their rights to the point in time when the adoption is final.

Alaska's length of time has been declining since 1998.

The division has undertaken a number of programs that have been and continue to be fundamental in achieving a shortened time frame before a child achieves adoption, they are:

- * *Continue Adoption Placement Program (Balloon Project) and Project Succeed*
- * *Promote the Alaska Adoption Exchange*
- * *Provide training to adoptive parents with special needs children*
- * *Implementation of SINAP, the Simple New Adoption Process*
- * *Continue the Home study Project*

Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The average length of time in state custody before achieving reunification.

Sec 79(b)(5) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The target for this measure is to maintain FY2001 timeframe of 9.6 months.

FY1999	9.3 months
FY2000	9.9 months
FY2001	9.6 months

*Benchmark
Comparison*

The Federal Review has a related measure that is a comparison across States. The measure is defined as follows:

Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

The division recommends that the same measure for the Federal Review be used for this State measure in the future. It is crucial that proposed actions to establish family visitation centers to maintain this timeframe or even to improve the current time frame.

*Background and
Strategies*

Many factors contribute to when reunification can or should occur. Workers consider progress and change on the part of the family members in remedying the situation that caused the child to be removed when considering reunification. A premature reunification can lead a child back into custody and placement outside of his or her home, so it is important that the timing is right for the family. Likewise, a delay in reunification can lead to frustration and a loss of any progress made by the parents or family members.

Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The number of child-days that foster homes were found to be beyond license capacity by location.

Sec 79(b)(7) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The target for this measure is 0 child-days.

In FY2001 only one foster home was beyond license capacity:

Anchorage: 1 foster home beyond capacity for 9 days

*Background and
Strategies*

Licensing requirements specify no more than two children in each foster home is allowed. However, there are instances where variance or exemptions are made to this requirement. It mostly occurs when groups of siblings are placed together. Any licensed foster home with more than two children receives special variance or exemption.

There is no related measurement for the Federal Review, although, the Review will look for instances where siblings are not placed together. There should be well-documented reasons for not placing siblings together.

Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The number of closed cases in which there is a reoccurrence of maltreatment.

Sec 79(b)(6) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The target for this measure is 13 percent by FY2003. The national standard used for this measure in the Federal Review is 6 percent.

FY1999 962 of 4,147 (23.2%) closed cases had a reoccurrence of maltreatment
FY2000 1,212 of 4,592 (26.4%) closed cases had a reoccurrence of maltreatment
FY2001 999 of 4,233 (23.6%) closed cases had a reoccurrence of maltreatment

*Background and
Strategies*

This measure is the same as one used in the Federal Review. Recurrence of Maltreatment is defined as follows:

Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated (unconfirmed in Alaska) child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?

The Federal Review will provide more of an analysis of why so many children are being re-reported. Once the analysis is completed the division will develop action plan to achieve the national standard of 6%.

Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The percentage of legitimate reports of harm that are investigated.

Sec 79(b)(8) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The target for this measure is 100 percent of all legitimate reports of harm will be investigated.

FY1997	73.6 percent
FY1998	77.3 percent
FY1999	78.1 percent
FY2000	88.8 percent
FY2001	90.7 percent

*Background and
Strategies*

Reports of harm are prioritized according to the immediate or potential risk of harm to the child. A priority 1 rating is the most serious and must be responded to within 24 hours from the time the Division receives the report. Priority 2 reports of harm must be responded to within 72 hours of receipt of the report. Priority 3 reports are considered low risk and must be responded to within one week of receiving the report.

Early intervention for family support enables the Division to focus more social workers on investigating higher priority reports of harm. This allows for early intervention that minimizes the risk to children and often negates the need for out-of-home placements or further intervention.

Not enough staff seriously effects the Division's ability to respond to all legitimate reports of harm. More staff is needed. More efficient work processes are needed. The division is working on a new MIS system.

Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The turnover rate of the Division of Family and Youth Services staff by region.

Sec 79(b)(9) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target The target for this measure is 10 percent turnover rate in all regions.
and Progress

Statewide	FY1998	32.60 percent
	FY1999	32.54 percent
	FY2000	21.53 percent
	FY2001	24.84 percent

FY2001 by Region

Anchorage	29.17 percent
Southcentral	12.73 percent
Northern	24.75 percent
Southeast	28.26 percent

*Background
and Strategies*

There are many reasons why staff leave their jobs. Chief among those reasons include caseload size, relationship with supervisor, and low salary. Caseload size in Anchorage office drove the increase between 2000 and 2001. Caseloads were more than double the national standard. The difficulty in recruitment delayed some hires which caused caseloads to remain high through staff vacancy periods.

In July 2001, the minimum qualifications for social workers changed, now requiring high qualifications to do the same job. The job market is very competitive, making salaries lower than usual for the type of work and qualifications needed.

P17

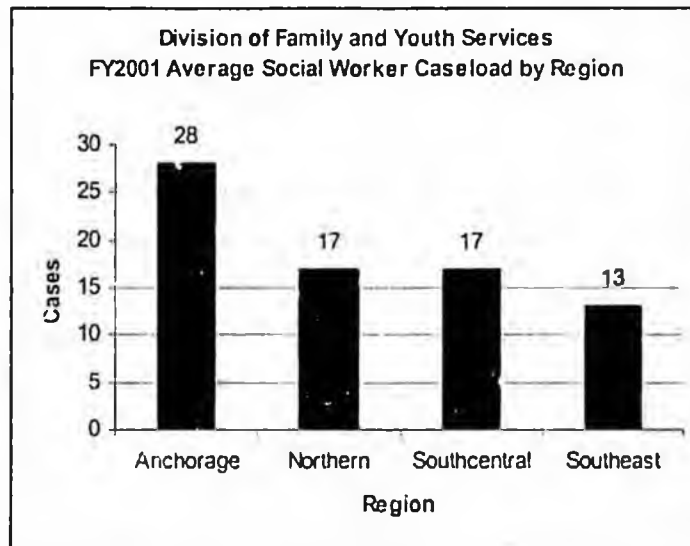
Division of Family and Youth Services

Measure

The average social worker caseload by region.

Sec 79(b)(10) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target and Progress The Division's target is 15 families per worker.



Background and Strategies

National caseload standards established by the Child Welfare League were used for comparison. The Child Welfare League's national caseload standard for the Anchorage region is 15. The national standard for the Southcentral Region is 13. The national standard for the Northern Region is 14 and for the Southeast Region 14. The national statewide total is 14 cases per worker.

The FY 2001 Southeast Region workload was 13 cases per employee. This represents the average for the region. Although the workload of the field offices such as Juneau, and Ketchikan exceeds the national workload standard, single employee offices has less than the national average resulting in a caseload less than the national average. These single employees offices are crucial to provide services to these communities and often their work in the community reduces the child abuse and neglect.

Division of Juvenile Justice

Mission

The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to protect and restore communities and victims while holding juvenile offenders accountable for correcting their behavior.

Division of Juvenile Justice

Measure

The percentage of Juvenile Offenders that Re-Offend.

Sec 80(b)(1) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The percentage of Juvenile Offenders during FY2001 that Re-Offended was 46%. This is down from the FY2000 rate of 65%.

This measure consists of the re-offense rates of youth who have been released from a Juvenile Justice long-term treatment facility. A recidivist is a youth who, within 24 months of release from a long-term treatment facility, has obtained either: a new juvenile institutional order or, a new juvenile adjudication or an adult conviction.

*Background
and Strategies*

It is important to understand that this recidivism performance measure focuses on a small, albeit significant, portion of the Division of Juvenile Justice's clientele. The Division works effectively with a much larger client base. For example, in FY 2001, 4,864 juveniles (unduplicated count) were referred to the Division. Of this number, 2,693 (55%) responded quickly to intervention and did not require ongoing formal probation services, nor did they penetrate further into the system. Of the 2,171 who required probation supervision, only 220 (10%) received B1 court orders for placement in the Division's secure long-term treatment facilities. While the FY 2001 recidivism data reported in this measure does not track the results of these specific 220 juveniles (because they have not been released in this fiscal year), these numbers are illustrative in understanding that the bulk of the work done by the Division is with juveniles who are **not** placed in secure facilities.

The Division of Juvenile Justice engaged in a series of involved internal discussions on re-offense measures before establishing the criteria used to produce this performance benchmark. Setting the benchmark to trigger the re-offense count at the point of conviction or subsequent adjudication eliminated those contacts with law enforcement which were dismissed or never pursued by the prosecutor. The established benchmark also excluded minor violations such as fish and game and traffic offenses which are not necessarily always indicative of criminal behavior.

The two-year time frame set a stringent standard for the Division, but with this time frame as the benchmark, the Division felt the measure was a reliable indicator as to the effectiveness of the Division's efforts to positively impact the non-re-offense rates by those who went through our programs. There is no single, nationally accepted re-offense standard or definition. Jurisdictions around the country vary widely in the way they measure re-offense data. Alaska's definition and re-offense outcome measure was structured in a fashion which the Division believes strikes a balance between what we

believe can be reasonably measured while assessing criteria which give the Division, the Legislature and the public a meaningful measure to assess the effectiveness of the Division's programs and services.

Division of Juvenile Justice

Measure

The percent of ordered restitution and community work service that is paid or performed by the Juvenile Offender.

Sec 80(b)(2) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target and Progress

The FY2001 statewide Division of Juvenile Justice amount of Restitution ordered was \$349,660 and the amount paid by juvenile offenders was \$306,674, or 87.7% of what was ordered.

The FY2001 statewide Division of Juvenile Justice amount of Community Work Service hours ordered was 28,926 and the amount performed by juvenile offenders was 25,616, or 88.6% of what was ordered.

For the restitution measure the benchmark is 79%.

For the community work service measure the benchmark is 83%.

Background and Strategies

This performance measure consists of two components that provide a gauge of the Division of Juvenile Justice's effectiveness with assisting delinquent youth in being accountable to his or her victim and community for their delinquent behavior, as well as the youth providing restoration to his or her victim and community for their delinquent behavior.

This measure consists of:

-The percentage of restitution paid for cases where there was a restitution order (either by the court or the Probation Officer). This measure shall be determined at case closure. Case closures occur when a court order has been given to close a case, a court order has expired, or informal adjustment has been made by the Probation Officer.

-The percentage of community work service performed for cases where there was a community work service order (either by the court or the Probation Officer). This measure shall be determined at case closure. Case closures occur when a court order has been given to close a case, a court order has expired, or informal adjustment has been made by the Probation Officer.

Division of Juvenile Justice

Measure

The number of escapes from Juvenile Institutions.

Sec 80(b)(3) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The following table reflects the institution escapes in FY2000 & FY2001

Division of Juvenile Justice		
Institutional Escapes		
Facility	FY2000	FY2001
Bethel Youth Facility	1	0
Fairbanks Youth Facility	2	*6
Johnson Youth Center	0	0
Mat-Su Youth Facility	**NA	2
McLaughlin Youth Facility	4	0
Nome Youth Facility	0	0
Total	7	8

*Four Fairbanks residents escaped during an outing to an Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting.

**The Mat-Su Facility opened in October 2000.

The benchmark for this measure is the average number of escapes that occurred during FY1995 through FY1997: 9.

*Background and
Strategies*

This performance measure provides a gauge of the Division of Juvenile Justice's effectiveness in providing safety to communities.

This measure consists of the number of youth in Juvenile Justice custody who escape from a Juvenile Justice institution. An escape is defined as an unauthorized departure of a youth from a secure juvenile facility or a secure unit in a facility, or from a direct staff-supervised activity such as court escort, a transfer to another facility, or supervised community activity.

Division of Juvenile Justice

Measure

Rate of recidivism of youth in the juvenile justice system by region and by race.

Sec 80(b)(4) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The following table reflects the rate of recidivism of youth in the juvenile justice system by region and by race.

Division of Juvenile Justice Institutional Recidivism By Region FY2001				
Facility	Baseline*	# Youth Released	FY2001 Reoffended	% Reoffended
Bethel Youth Facility	70%	8	6	75%
Fairbanks Youth Facility	65%	19	6	32%
Johnson Youth Center**	NA	NA	NA	NA
McLaughlin Youth Facility	47%	106	49	46%
Total	65%	133	61	46%

*The baseline for youth facilities was established by averaging the rates of recidivism for each facility. For McLaughlin Youth Center there is more than ten years of data available. For all of the other facilities there is less data and comparisons should be viewed with caution. Additionally, there are wide variations from year-to-year with McLaughlin data and the overall trend is more significant than any of one year of data.

** The treatment unit at Johnson Youth Center opened April 1999 and did not release youth until FY2000.

The target for the facilities is to maintain or decrease recidivism from the established base line which was established at a re-offense rate of 65% in FY2000 for all DJJ facilities. FY2001 data shows a decrease in the overall statewide rate to 46%.

Division of Juvenile Justice Institutional Recidivism By Race			
Race	Youth Released	Youth Who Re-Offended	Recidivism Rate
Caucasian	78	31	40%
African American	13	6	46%
Native American	32	18	56%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	2	40%
Unknown	5	4	80%
Total	133	61	46%

The recidivism rates should be interpreted with caution as they are based on a small number of occurrences. No statistically significant difference exists in the rate of recidivism by race.

The division recognized that establishing recidivism as a performance measure would prove to be difficult and potentially problematic. While it is intuitive that recidivism should be measured there is no single, nationally accepted re-offense standard or definition. Very few states even attempt to measure recidivism and for those that do the standards vary widely. For example, one common measure used by facilities is to only count those juveniles who return to their facility as a recidivist. Clearly this excludes a whole range of circumstances, i.e. juvenile is too old, moves out-of-state, commits an offense but is not returned to the facility, all of which increase the success rate of the facility. Similarly, Oregon, which is recognized as one of the leading states in the field of juvenile justice, does not track juveniles past the age of juvenile jurisdiction, or eighteen or those who enter the adult system. Alaska's measure, by contrast, tracks juvenile offense history for two years from the time a juvenile is released from a youth facility, irrespective of age, and accesses adult arrest records to determine if there is no new offense activity. By establishing a two-year measure the Division believes that the results are a strong indicator of the programs impact on juvenile offenders.

The Division's re-offense outcomes measure strikes a balance between what we believe can be reasonably measured while assessing criteria to provide a meaningful measure to assess the Division's progress in providing effective programs and services to juveniles.

Background and Strategies

It is important to understand that this recidivism performance measure focuses on a small, albeit significant, portion of the Division of Juvenile Justice's clientele. The Division works effectively with a much larger client base. For example, in FY 2001, 4,864 juveniles (unduplicated count) were referred to the Division. Of this number, 2693 (55%) responded quickly to intervention and did not require ongoing formal probation services, nor did they penetrate further into the system. Of the 2,171 who required probation supervision, only 220 (10%) received B1 court orders for placement in the Division's secure long term treatment facilities. While the FY 2001 recidivism data reported in this measure does not track the results of these specific 220 juveniles (because they have not been released in this fiscal year), these numbers are illustrative in understanding that the bulk of the work done by the Division is with juveniles who are not placed in secure facilities.

This measure consists of the re-offense rates of youth who have been released from a Juvenile Justice long-term treatment facility. A recidivist is a youth who, within 24 months of release from a long-term treatment facility, has obtained either: a new juvenile institutional order or, a new juvenile adjudication or an adult conviction.

See performance measure "The percentage of juvenile offenders that re-offend" for more detailed discussion of re-offender data.

Division of Juvenile Justice

Measure

The number of juvenile offenders who are maltreated while in state custody.

Sec 80(b)(5) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The following table reflects the number of juvenile offenders who were maltreated while in state custody.

Division of Juvenile Justice Custodial Maltreatment	
Facility or Probation Region	*1st Quarter FY2002
Anchorage Region	4
Southcentral Region	0
Southeast Region	0
Northern Region	1
Total	5

*Covering the period of July 1, 2001 through September 30, 2001.

During an average fiscal year quarter, the Division of Juvenile Justice has approximately 750 youth in custody at some point during the quarter.

*Background
and Strategies*

This measure consists of the number of Division of Juvenile Justice's youth who are the subject of a report to either the Division of Family Youth Services or a law enforcement agency that alleges maltreatment (i.e., neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, abandonment, or mental injury), where the alleged maltreatment occurred when the youth was in the legal custody of the Division of Juvenile Justice, regardless of where the child was placed. Placement could be in a youth facility, foster care home, or in a resident treatment home.

Division of Public Health

Mission

The Mission of the Division of Public Health is to preserve and promote the state's public health.

Division of Public Health

Measure

The percentage of two-year-old children in the state who are fully immunized

Sec 81(b)(1) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The target by 2010 is 90% of all 2 year olds fully immunized.

The percentage of fully immunized 2-year-olds for calendar year 2000 was 77%.

69% were immunized by the end of 1996.

*Background and
Strategies*

In 1997, the Department launched a major initiative to increase the rate of fully immunized two-year-olds. In three years, we have jumped up 20 positions, going from 48th to 28th in national rankings. Now, over 75% of our two-year-old children have received their recommended vaccines. The Department successfully implemented the new daycare and school immunization requirements in the fall of 2001, vaccinating all school children against hepatitis A and hepatitis B and all daycare attendees against hemophilus influenza type b and chickenpox.

Division of Public Health

Measure

The percentage of families who are qualified for the services of the infant learning program who are enrolled in the program

Sec 81(b)(2) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The target for the Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP) is to eliminate the waitlist during FY2002 with funds provided by the legislature and ensure that 100% of eligible or qualified children and families are enrolled in the program. In FY2001, 1737 children were enrolled in the Infant Learning Program and there were 329 children on the waitlist (point-in-time on 6/30/01) for services for a total of 2066 eligible children. During FY2001, 76% of children qualified for services received EI/ILP services during each quarter of FY2001. On 6/30/01, 329 children remained on the waitlist for EI/ILP services.

This was a new measure for FY2000, therefore historical data have not been reported. During FY2000, 1626 children were enrolled in services and 307 were on the waitlist* (point-in-time on 6/30/00) for a total of 1933 eligible children. The average quarterly percentage of eligible children enrolled in EI/ILP services was approximately 72% during each quarter of FY2000. The percentage of qualified children who were enrolled in EI/ILP during each quarter of FY2001 increased approximately 4% from 72% in FY2000 to 76% for each quarter of FY2001.

*Background and
Strategies*

Since FY1999, the three-year Early Intervention Enhancement and Improvement Opportunity (EIEIO) has enhanced the identification of rural children in need of EI/ILP services, increased services to enrolled children and families, and enhanced the infrastructure of the overall system in order to provide ongoing services to more children and families. A \$700.0 GF/MH increment to eliminate the waitlist* became available for FY2002 and has been disbursed to EI/ILP grantees across the state.

*Waitlist = children who have been referred for screening, evaluation and/or enrollment in EI/ILP services and who have not been enrolled within 45 days of their initial referral and are still waiting for these services. Children eligible for Part C should never be waitlisted. Waitlist data are collected and reported point-in-time each quarter and should not be compared to cumulative enrollment during a fiscal year.

Division of Public Health

Measure

The rate of Tuberculosis cases by race and region

Sec 81(b)(3) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The 2010 target is 6.8 cases per 100,000 population, which is the current baseline rate for the U.S. (1998).

Region	FY 2000 Rate per 100,000 Population	Cases
Anchorage/Mat-Su	11.7	37
Gulf Coast	6.8	5
Interior	7.1	7
Northern	76.3	18
Southeast	4.1	3
Southwest	98.8	38
TOTAL	17.4	108

The number of tuberculosis cases by race: Race for 108 cases – 11 white; 9 black; 71 Alaska Native; 17 Asian or Pacific Islander.

The average TB rate over the decade (1991-2000) was 12.5/100,000 population.

*Background and
Strategies*

Tuberculosis has been a long-standing problem in Alaska and was the cause of death for 46% of all Alaskans who died in 1946. Major efforts, which included 10% of the entire state budget in 1946, led to one of the state's most visible public health successes-major reductions in TB across the state. Now this disease is reemerging and with it the threat of treatment resistant strains of the disease. Inadequate resources to monitor and educate those most at risk have resulted in continual outbreaks. Significant new resources are needed to do the case finding, diagnostic tests and treatment follow-up required to keep the disease in check.

Division of Public Health

Measure

The rate of child hospitalizations and fatalities related to injury

Sec 81(4) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

The 2010 target is 9.9 injury fatalities per 100,000 0-19 year olds.

Rate of Injury of Children 0-19 (rate per 100,000)	1996	1999
Injury Fatalities	43	31.7
Non Fatal Injury Hospitalizations	499.4	534.8*

*82% unintentional injuries; 18% related to suicide attempts, assault or other intentional injury.

No comparable US rate is available. In 1999 the discharge rate for children under 15 years old was 379/100,000 for injury and poisoning hospitalizations.

*Background and
Strategies*

The Alaska Trauma Registry and Vital Statistics systems provide information on deaths and hospitalizations related to injury to children. The data provide very useful information for evaluating and refining child and adolescent injury prevention strategies. They show that one third of injury deaths of children are due to "intentional" injuries while 16.5% of non-fatal injury hospitalizations are due to intentional injuries.

Efforts geared towards putting smoke alarms in every home, having children wear bike helmets, ensuring proper and continual use of car seats and other educational campaigns have likely reduced child fatalities due to injury. Reducing firearm and ATV injuries are potentially promising areas for saving lives and health care resources. Hospital costs alone for children's injuries in Alaska are estimated to exceed \$10 million per year.

Division of Public Health

Measure

The rate of hepatitis C cases

Sec 81(b)(5) Ch 90 SLA 2001 (HB250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

No 2010 targets have been established, since reporting has not been in place long enough to determine a benchmark.

The number of hepatitis C cases in 2000 is 870 case reports from Labs. These tests reflect both newly infected and those who have been infected for some time but are being tested for the first time - so the numbers cannot be used to determine current infection rates.

Reports of positive hepatitis C laboratory tests:

Year	Number of Positive Tests	Ak Population	# positive tests/100,000 population
1996*	245	605,212	40.5
1997	570	609,655	93.5
1998	1003	617,082	162.5
1999	1196	622,000	192.3
2000	870	626,932	138.8

* 1996 was 1st reporting year

Division of Public Health

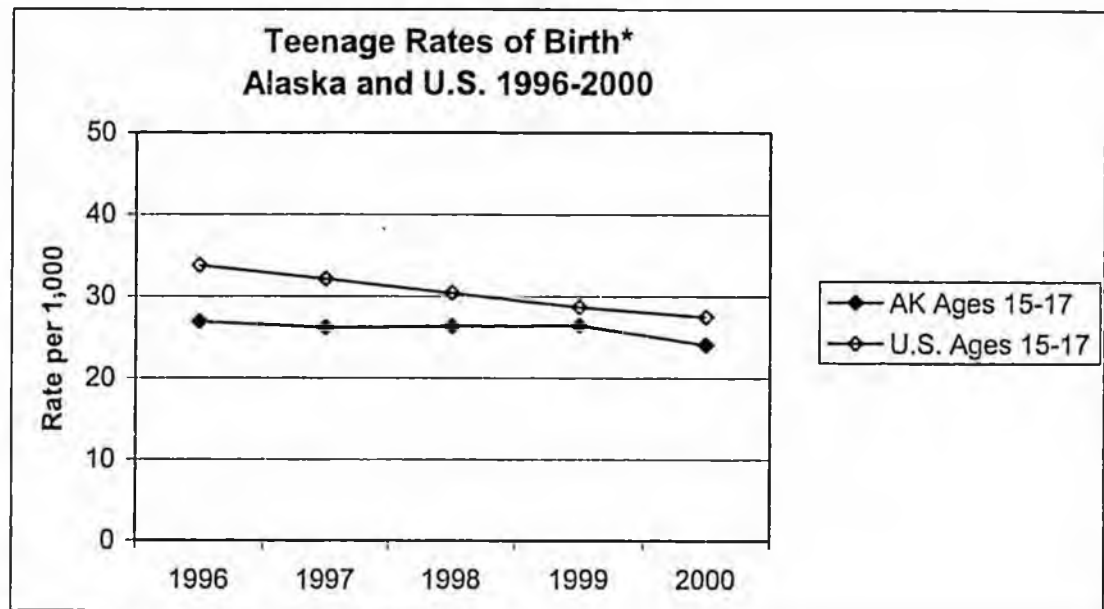
Measure

The rate of unmarried and married teen births.

Sec 81(b)(6) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's
Target and
Progress*

The 2010 target for births to young teens is 18 per 1,000 girls ages 15-17. (Current Alaska rate is 24.1; U.S. rate is 27.5 in 2000)



Source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics

•**Teen Birth Rates: Alaska and U.S., 1996-2000** From 1996 to 2000, the birth rate for Alaska females ages 15-17 fell by over 10 percent (from 26.9 in 1996 to 24.1 in 2000). Over the same period, the U.S. birth rate for females ages 15-17 fell by 18.6% (from 33.8 to 27.5).

•Although Alaska's birth rate for 15-17 year-old teens did not fall as steeply as the U.S. rate, it remained below the U.S. rate throughout the five-year period (1996-2000).

*Background
and
Strategies*

The teen birth rate in 1998 reached the Healthy Alaskans 2000 goal of fewer than 50 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19, down from 66.2 in 1990. Activities to educate on the risks associated with unmarried and teen child bearing, together with increased access to reliable contraception, may have influenced these numbers.

Division of Public Health

Measure

The rate of new cases of sexually transmitted diseases

Sec 81(b)(7) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

Implementation of a non-invasive mode of testing for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia has the potential to increase case finding, partner notification, and more timely follow-up.

1. Chlamydia: Reduce the chlamydia rate to 114 cases per 100,000 by FY 2010.

Year	Rate per 100,000
2000	413
1999	304

Based on current data, the 2001 rate will be higher than the 2000 rate.

2. Gonorrhea: Reduce the gonorrhea rate to 9 cases per 100,000 by FY 2010.

Year	Rate per 100,000
2000	58
1999	49

Based on current data, the 2001 rate will be higher than the 2000 rate.

3. HIV: Reduce the mean annual rate of new Alaska AIDS cases to fewer than 1.0 per 100,000 per year for the period from 2005-2010. The mean annual rate of Alaska AIDS cases diagnosed from 1996-2000 was 4.4 cases per 100,000 population.

*Benchmark
Comparison*

The U.S. chlamydia rate in 2000 was 257.5 cases per 100,000 population. Chlamydia rates for 2000 in Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho were 227.0, 214.3, 166.4, and 152.4 per 100,000, respectively.

The U.S. gonorrhea rate in 2000 was 131.6 cases per 100,000 population. Gonorrhea rates for 2000 in Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho were 42.0, 31.3, 6.8, and 7.8 per 100,000, respectively.

AIDS case rates for 2000 for the U.S. as a whole, Washington, and Oregon were 14.4, 8.7, and 6.1 cases per 100,000 population, respectively. Five-year mean annual AIDS case rates would be the most comparable measures for the low prevalence states of Idaho and Montana, but are not available.

*Background and
Strategies*

Targeted screening and increased disease investigation activities have actually increased the total numbers of STD cases diagnosed. These activities effectively identify infected individuals with no symptoms and also identify and treat exposed individuals before they develop symptoms or further transmit infection. Case numbers are expected to decline over time as these activities reduce the reservoir of infected individuals in the population.

HIV disease investigation activities work with HIV-infected persons to notify their partners of their exposure to HIV and offer them HIV counseling and testing. A small number of individuals are newly diagnosed each year and assisted to access care. Uninfected individuals who have been exposed to HIV are counseled about preventing future infection

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Mission

The mission of the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is to reduce alcoholism and substance abuse.

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Measure

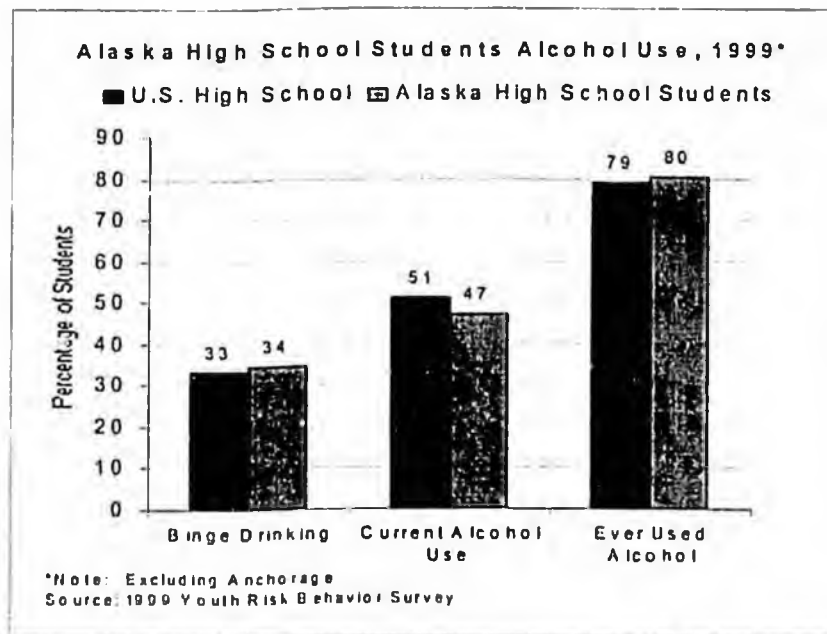
The rate of binge or chronic drinking by age group.

Sec 82(b)(1) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target and Progress

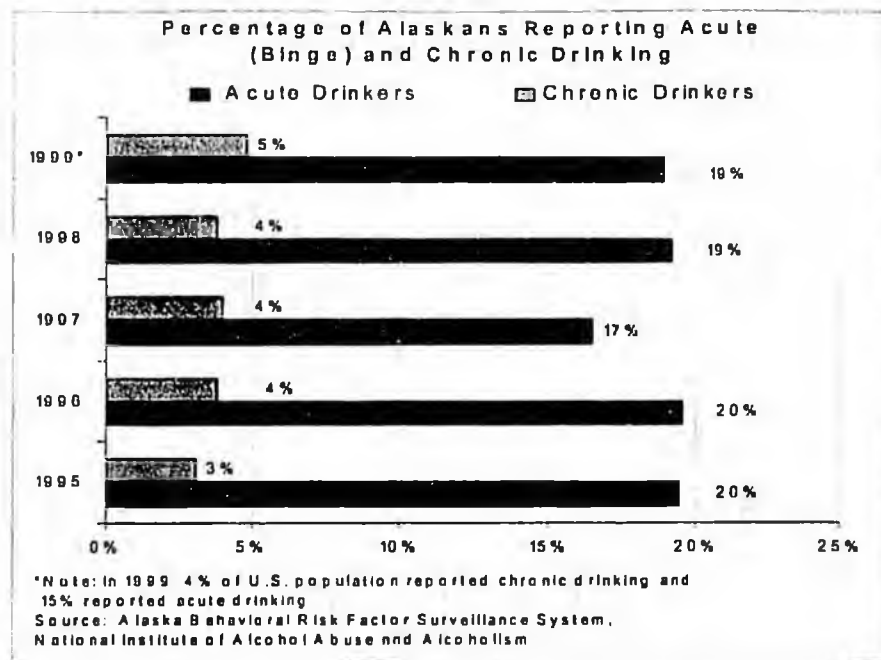
Healthy Alaskans 2010 targets:		
Substance Abuse	1999	
	Baseline	Target
Increase Avg age of 1st use of alcohol	12.4	16.1 years old
Reduce binge drinking in grades 9-12	34%	30%
Increase proportion grades 9-12 who do not use alcohol, marijuana or cocaine in the last 30 days	49%	60%
Decrease the number of 9-12 graders who get in a vehicle with a driver who has been drinking	30%	20%

The following charts show the drinking habits of Alaska adults (1995-1999) and youth (1999).



In 1999, according to Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data, 46.9 % of high school students reported having had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days. 34.4% reported at least one binge-drinking episode (five or more drinks in a row) in the past 30 days. (Anchorage students not included in the sample).

In 1995, according to YRBS data, 47.5% of high school students reported having had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days. 31.3% reported at least one binge-drinking episode in the past 30 days. (Statewide sample)



In 1995 Alaskans reported 20% acute (binge) drinkers and 3% chronic drinkers in the Alaska Risk Behavior Factor Surveillance Survey.

Benchmark Comparison

US Baseline (1999)

- Reduce binge drinking among adults to 15%.
- Increase the proportion of adolescents (grades 9-12) not using alcohol (or illicit drugs) during the past 30 days to 46%.

Background and Strategies

Binge drinking, for the purposes of this survey, refers to drinking five or more drinks on one occasion, at least once in the month preceding the survey. Chronic drinking refers to drinking an average of sixty or more alcoholic drinks in the month preceding the survey.

There is a high correlation between these drinking patterns and many of the negative consequences associated with alcohol abuse, particularly medical, family, and employment problems. Excessive alcohol intake is related to 4 of the 10 leading causes of death in the United States.

The YRBS is the survey tool that provides information on this measure for youth. The new active parental consent law for surveys increased significantly the burden on local school districts. A sufficient and reliable sample of the state's high school students could not be identified during 2001 under the active parental consent requirement (no figures are available for Anchorage).

The measurement of alcohol use among high school students may not be possible in the future, until another method can be devised. Efforts to reduce youth drinking are on-going and varied.

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

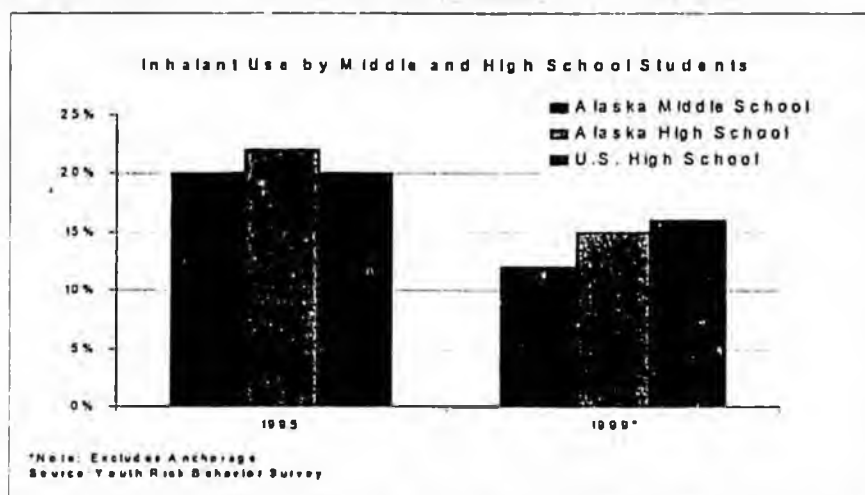
Measure

The rate of drug and inhalant abuse by age group and region.

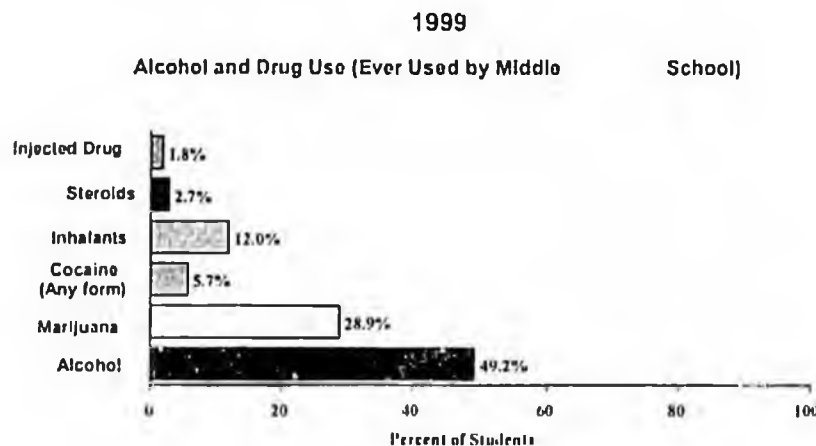
Sec 82(b)(2) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's
Target and
Progress*

In 1995, 22% of Alaska high school students reported that they had sniffed an inhalant to get high. In 1999, this percentage had dropped to 15%. This change may be the result of Anchorage not being a part of the 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey and is not to be taken as an actual drop in abuse by teenagers. According to the 1999 National "Monitoring the Future" study, 19.7 percent of students will have used inhalants at least once in their lifetime.



Twenty-two percent have used an inhalant by the time they have reached the eighth grade. At least 49 percent of middle school students have experimented with at least one type of drug or alcohol.



*Background
and
Strategies*

Nationally, 29% of those who use inhalants said they started before their 10th birthday. Communities don't know that inhalants, cheap, legal and accessible products, are as popular among primary and middle school students as marijuana. Even fewer know the deadly effects the poisons in these products have on the brain and body when they are inhaled or "huffed." Inhalants can cause permanent damage to the brain, heart, kidneys and liver, and can cause death. It's like playing Russian roulette. The user can die the 1st, 10th or 100th time a product is misused as an inhalant.

The Alaskan teen usage information is collected through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The sample that is drawn is meant to be representative of the State and is not designed to be broken out by region. We use the sampling methodology set forth by CDC so that our data is comparable to National data. The whole sampling methodology would have to be changed and would also have to be a much larger sample if we were to have regional data, and the data would not be comparable to National data.

The local school districts have the opportunity to collect school district data and some districts have done that in the past. Unfortunately, the Department doesn't have access to that data unless the school district releases it to us.

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Measure

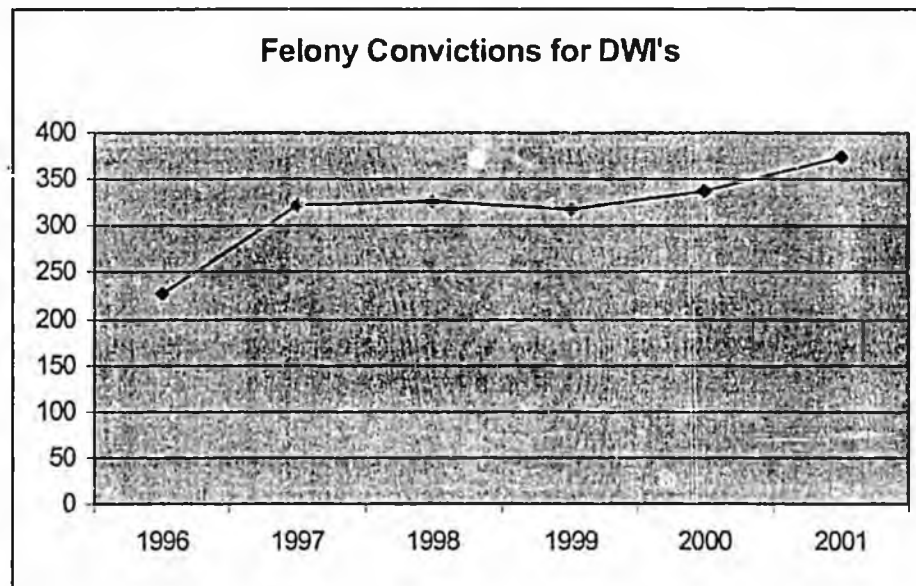
Number of new convictions and the number of repeat convictions in state district and superior courts on charges of driving while intoxicated (DWI).

Sec 82(b)(3) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

Felony DWI Case Convictions

FY1996	FY1997	FY1998	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001
227	322	326	317	337	373



*Background
and Strategies*

Driving while under the influence of alcohol (DWI) is one of the strongest indicators of the negative consequences associated with alcohol misuse. Recent DWI data shows that approximately 45 - 48 percent of all automobile accident fatalities had alcohol or drugs as the major contributing factor. Driving while under the influence of alcohol impacts lives, not only in accidents, injuries, and deaths, but also in family suffering, employment problems, and social functioning.

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Measure

Number and rate of infants affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol by region.

Sec 82(b)(4) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's Target
and Progress*

In October 2001, the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Surveillance Project released new FAS prevalence data for Alaska. At this time, only statewide data is being released, due to the small amount of data for some regions which provides a skewed representation of the true picture.

At this time, the FAS prevalence rate for the state is 1.4 per 1,000 live births and 12.6 per 1,000 live births for those at risk for some type of alcohol-related birth defect. These rates are higher than previously reported rates, but they are more accurate due to the increase in our ability to track.

Beginning in June of 2000, newly developed and trained FAS Diagnostic Teams began providing FAS diagnostic services. During FY01, 121 completed FAS diagnoses were performed in our first six communities. It is our expectation that with these increased services, we will see an increase in the number of reports to the Birth Defects Registry. We are currently analyzing the FAS Team data that has been submitted and will have regular reports as new data is provided.

Nine children, who were born in 1990, have been reported to the birth defects registry that were diagnosed as having been prenatally exposed to alcohol or with microcephaly or small head.

Because so much of this data is newly tracked and we are continuing to develop the most appropriate methodologies for tracking this disability, we may need to add additional benchmark data as we make progress in better understanding the complexities of an FASD diagnosis and the diagnostic process.

*Background and
Strategies*

Since 1998, the DHSS Office of FAS and the FAS Surveillance Project have been working in collaboration to establish accurate and reliable data regarding the number and rate of infants affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol, statewide as well as regionally. Prior to 1996, the state had no systematic process for collecting data on children born prenatally exposed to alcohol. Prenatal exposure to alcohol became a reportable birth defect/condition in 1998 through the Alaska Birth Defects Registry (ABDR). Unlike all other birth defects that must be reported within the first year following birth, alcohol-related birth defects (ARBD) can be reported up through the age of six.

In addition to not having a system for tracking alcohol-related birth defects,

until 1998 there were few options in the state for obtaining screening and diagnostic services for individuals suspected to have fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). Since 2000, the state has increased diagnostic services across the state, at the community level with the expectation that we will begin to see an increase in reporting to the Birth Defects Registry. Alaska's 5-year FAS Project has a number of planned activities and projects that will continue to increase public and community awareness about the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy, increase services to individuals and families affected by FASD, and improve our state's overall efforts to prevent FASD and to improve services to families already affected by disabilities associated with prenatal alcohol exposure.

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Measure

Number of new admissions as a percentage of the total admissions to treatment programs for alcohol and drug abuse.

Sec 82(b)(5) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target and Progress

In FY2001, the rate of new admissions (2,020) to total admissions to treatment (5,828) was 34.66%.

In FY2000, the ratio of new admissions to the total admissions for treatment was 38.65%. 7,048 clients were admitted to substance abuse treatment as reported in the division's statewide Management Information System (MIS). Of the total admissions, 2,724 were identified as new* admissions.

*New admission means never before admitted to the treatment system in the history of the MIS, which began in 1983.

Background and Strategies

Below are a few of the outcomes derived from Alaska's Chemical Dependency Treatment Outcome Study:

- * *Both residential and outpatient program participants reported substantial decreases in legal problems one year post treatment. Criminal arrests, traffic arrests and motor vehicle accidents dropped. This yields overall societal benefits as a result of chemical dependency treatment by easing demands on already overburdened legal and insurance systems.*
- * *Of Alaskan patients surveyed, 56 percent of those in outpatient programs abstained from alcohol for one year after treatment, compared to 42 percent of residential patients. Outpatients in the study received an average of 59 hours of care, while patients in residential programs received an average of 39 days of inpatient care.*
- * *Documented reductions in hospitalizations and emergency care and outpatient care for chemical dependency patients support the notion that, following treatment there is a shifting away from costly hospital and emergency room "crisis" or urgent care, toward more timely and appropriate preventive or routine outpatient treatment.*
- * *Employment rates changed dramatically from pretreatment through one year after treatment. Full-time employment increased from 30 percent before treatment to 45 percent at 12 months. Conversely, unemployment rates dropped from 45 percent to 24 percent.*

It is important to note, however that Alcoholism is a chronic, progressive, but treatable disease. As in all chronic diseases, relapse is a part of the disease process. A client being readmitted to treatment after a period of time in remission is not uncommon. Relapse is defined as "to regress after partial recovery from an illness."

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Measure

Length of time that alcohol or other drug treatment clients are on waiting lists before receiving services.

Sec 82(b)(6) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target and Progress

The division is currently working with the grantees to provide the length of time that individual's are on a waitlist on a regular basis. As of July, 2001, the number of people on the wait-lists were:

Program	No. on Waitlist	Bed/Capacity Need
Women w/ Children	67	19
Adult Residential	123	40

The needed bed/capacity for women with children was calculated based on an average of 100 days in treatment. (365 days per year/100 days per woman for treatment = 3.65 women per bed in one year; 61 women currently on the waitlist/3.65 women per bed = 16.71 beds/year).

Currently the Division's wait list for adult residential programs stands at 123. In addition the DOC states that up to 120 persons per year are discharged needing dual diagnosis residential care. These persons may or may not be on the wait list. This waitlist does not distinguish between levels of care needed. Within this population there is need for short-term, long-term and dual diagnosis treatment.

Average length of stay are:

Women's programs: 42 days
Women and Children's Programs: 107 days
Adult Long term residential: 63 days
Dual Diagnosis: 43 days
Adult short term residential: 27 days

Background and Strategies

One of the most important aspects of successful treatment is that person enters the program when they are physically, mentally and emotionally ready. If they are placed on a waiting list, the chances are that they will not get the treatment they need. The result of being on a wait list is that they risk losing the motivation that triggered them to seek out a treatment program in the first place.

Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Mission

The mission of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is to improve and enhance the quality of life for consumers impacted by mental disorders or developmental disabilities.

Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Measure

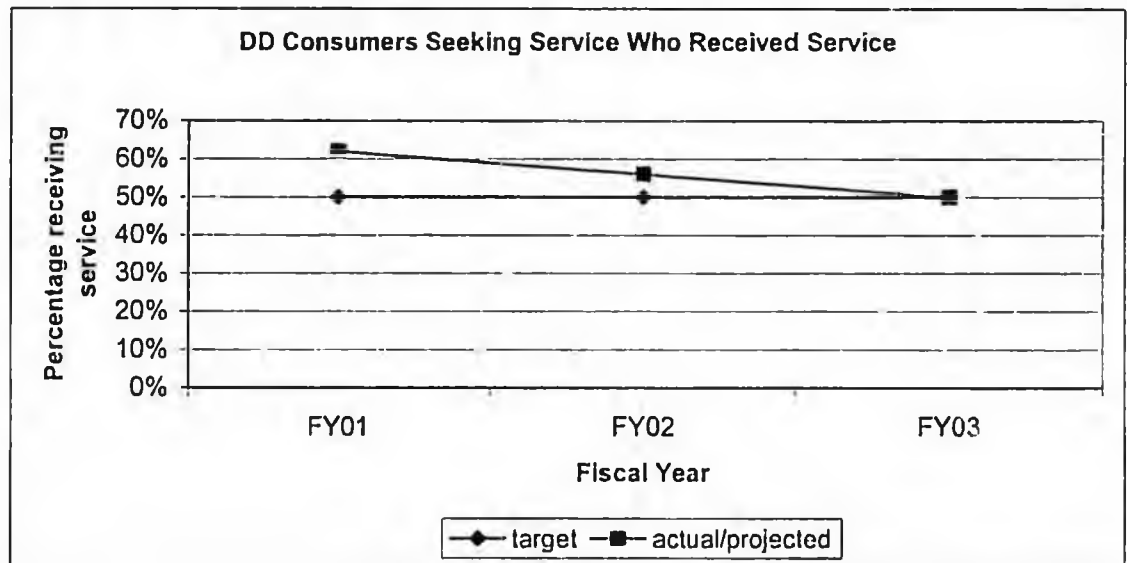
The percentage of those consumers who seek services for developmental disabilities who receive services at various levels from the division.

Sec 83(b)(1) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

*Alaska's
Target and
Progress*

The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Program target for the percentage of those consumers who seek services for developmental disabilities who receive services at various levels from the division is 50%. If the level of appropriation is maintained at its current amount and the waitlist continues to grow at its current pace, the percentage of consumers who seek services and who will receive services through grants will decline.

To receive funds under the DD program a person must be deemed eligible and be placed on the waitlist. By cross-referencing the waitlist with current program census information submitted by DD grantees, it was determined that 62% of the people on the waitlist in FY 01 received a service or support administered by DMHDD.



The performance measure represents those individuals who remain on the list while receiving services delivered by organizations across the state that receive DD Community Grants administered by the Division. Respite care, core services, or the purchase of special medical equipment are examples the type of assistance available to avert a crisis or delay the need for long-term care.

The measure does not relate to people who are selected and removed from the list to receive more comprehensive services. The measure also does not include individuals removed from the list as a result of obtaining comprehensive services or long-term care through Home and Community Based Waivers.

In prior years this data was collected as a raw total rather than a percentage. In FY00, 2,460 consumers received service through the program's grants and waivers, representing a 26% increase in one year. In FY99, 1,953 consumers received services through the program's grants and waivers.

Benchmark Comparison No known Benchmarks or comparisons exist from other states or similar programs in Alaska. Of the 1,250 individuals on the waitlist as of September, only 251 were over the age of 22. Those younger than 22 are most likely receiving services through Infant Learning Programs (ages 0 – 3) or they are enrolled in special education (ages 3 – 22). While this may lessen the need for more comprehensive services, families report the need for additional supports to care for their children having DD. Also, it may represent good planning on the part of the family so their future needs can be considered.

Background and Strategies The DD waitlist demographics and reasons for the growth in the waitlist are summarized in a waitlist report produced for the legislature each year on November 15. Basically, the waitlist grows as a function of improvements in medical technology and practice, population growth, and increased awareness of the benefits of DD services by families with young children. The capacity of provider organizations to deliver services to new people is limited by workforce shortages.

As the role of parents, particularly single parents, changes from being the child's primary care giver to becoming the sole source of income, the demand for paid supports to children with DD in the family expands. There are no readily-available institutional residences in Alaska for people with DD as there once were. Consequently, homes in the community must be developed before an individual can be placed with a provider. That process adds time for the person waiting for services.

Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Measure

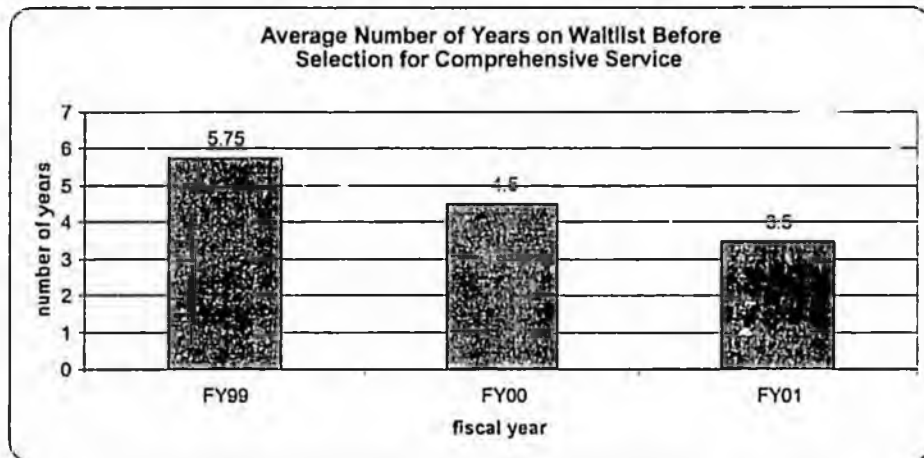
The average length of time that developmentally disabled consumers are on a waiting list before receiving full services.

Sec 83(b)(2) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

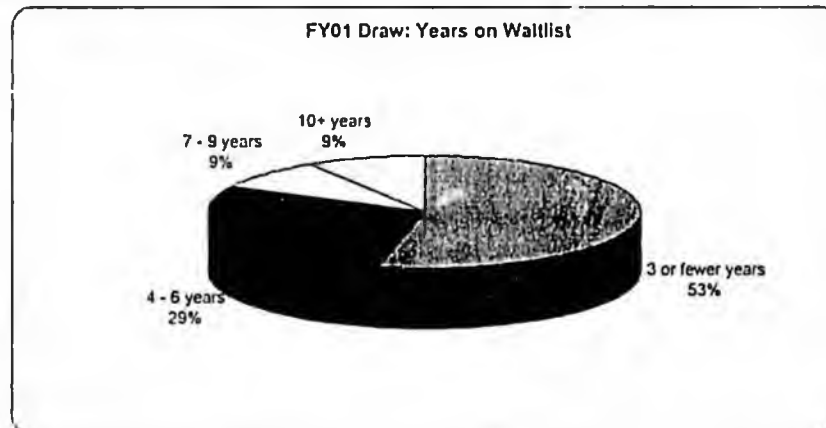
Alaska's Target and Progress

The target level for FY 03 for the average length of time that developmentally disabled consumers are on a waiting list before receiving full services is 4 years.

The waiting period in Alaska has been shrinking over the past 3 years, but that trend may not continue.



Of the 256 individuals removed from the waitlist to receive comprehensive or long-term care services in FY01, 53% had been on the list for less than 3 years.



Benchmark Comparison

Due to differences in the way states administer DD Programs and manage waiting lists, there are no known comparisons.

*Background
and Strategies*

The length of time consumers remain on the waitlist is inversely proportionate to several factors: the growth of the Community DD Services budgetary appropriation, the increase in the number of Home and Community Based Waivers, and further development of service provider capacity. Without these increases, and due to the escalating number of consumers being added to the Waitlist, the average time before someone is selected for services will increase.