Environmental Health
• The proportion of households in rural Alaska Native communities that are served by water and sewer services has increased significantly since 2004.
• 83.5% of households in rural Alaska have access to water and sewer services.
• Approximately half of community water system users in Alaska receive water that is fluoridated for dental caries prevention.
Rural Water & Wastewater Service

Definition
Access to in-home water and wastewater service, either through piped connections or closed haul systems, has a positive impact on public health and can help stop the spread of diseases and illnesses. The data shows the number of households in rural Alaskan communities with access to public water and sewer service. The term rural refers to communities with predominantly Alaska Native populations eligible for Indian Health Service capital improvement projects.

Objective
Increase the percentage of rural community housing units with access to water and sewer services to 87%.

Healthy Alaskans 2020, Leading Health Indicator #19

Summary
- In 2016, 83.5% of households in rural Alaska Native communities were served by water and wastewater services.
- Since 2004, the percent of households in rural Alaska Native communities served by water and sewer services has increased significantly, from 72.5% to 83.5%.
- The percent of households in rural Alaska Native communities served by water and sewer services varied by tribal health region from 73.3% to 100%.

Rural Households with Water and Sewer Service, 2004-2016
Data Source: Indian Health Service, Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System
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![Graph showing the percentage of rural households served by water and sewer services from 2004 to 2016. The graph shows an increase from 72.5% in 2004 to 83.5% in 2016. The Healthy Alaskans 2020 goal is 87%.](image-url)
Rural Households with Water and Sewer Services by Tribal Health Region, 2016

Data Source: Indian Health Service, Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System

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Not Applicable
73% - 81%
82% - 86%
87% - 94%
95% - 100%
Community Water Fluoridation

Definition

*Community water fluoridation* is the controlled addition of a fluoride compound to a community water supply to achieve a concentration optimal for dental caries prevention. Drinking fluoridated water keeps teeth strong and reduces cavities (also called tooth decay) by about 25% in children and adults. Although other fluoride-containing products such as toothpaste, mouth rinses, and dietary supplements are available and contribute to the prevention and control of tooth decay, community water fluoridation is the most cost-effective method of delivering fluoride. The data shows the number of people served by community water systems that receive fluoridated water. The percentage is based on the total number of people using community water systems, not the total population of the state.

Objectives

Increase the proportion of the U.S. population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water to 79.6%.

*Healthy People 2020, Goal OH-13*

Increase the proportion of the Alaska population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water to 58%.

*Healthy Alaskans 2020, Goal LHI-20*

Summary

- In 2014, approximately half of community water system users in Alaska were receiving fluoridated water. This percentage ranks Alaska 43 out of the 50 states. This percentage is significantly lower than for the U.S. population as a whole.

- Since 2010, the percentage of community water system users in Alaska receiving fluoridated water has decreased significantly. Several large community water systems, including those in Fairbanks and Juneau, stopped adding fluoride to their water systems in the last decade.

Population Served by Community Water System with Fluoridated Water, 2000-2014

*Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Water Fluoridation Reporting System*

*Appendix Table C-166*

![Population Served by Community Water System with Fluoridated Water, 2000-2014](image)