





Environmental Health



Environmental Health Highlights



Approximately half of community water system users in Alaska receive water that is fluoridated for dental caries prevention.



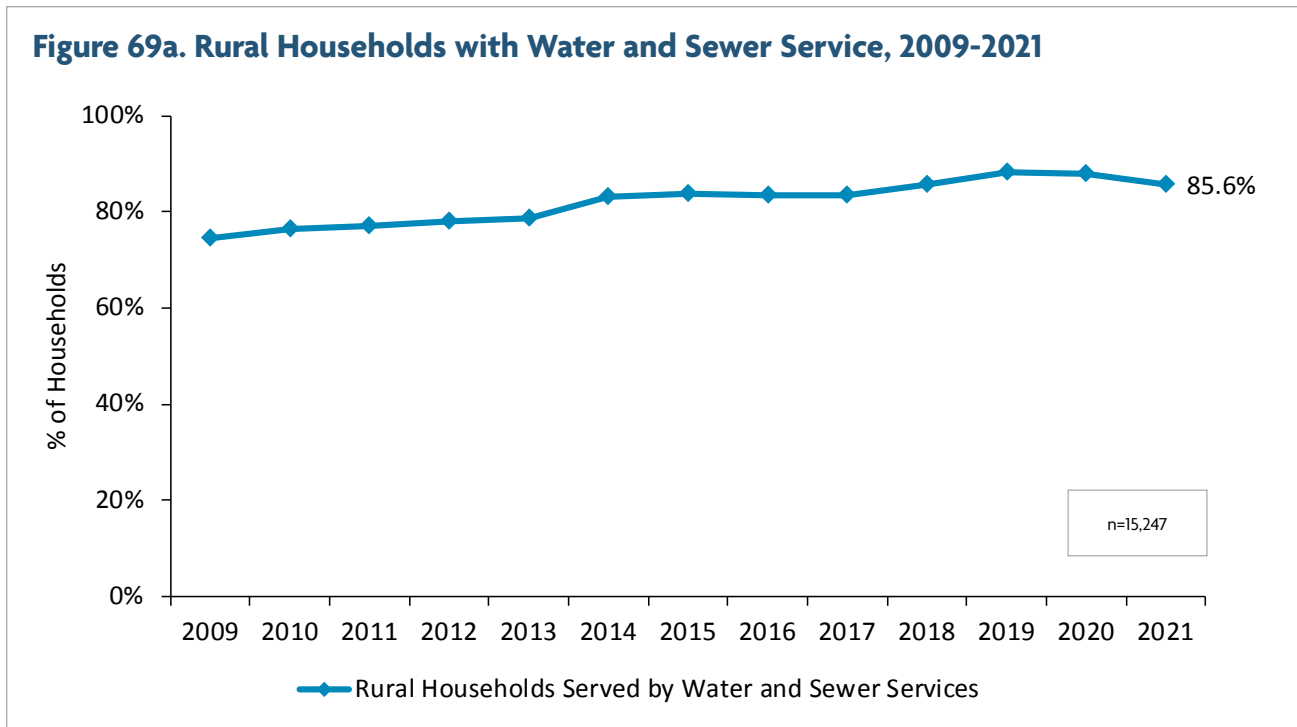
Environmental Health Highlights

85.6% of households in rural Alaska have access to water and sewer services.

The proportion of households in rural Alaska Native communities that are served by water and sewer services has increased since 2009.



Rural Water & Wastewater Service



Data Source: Indian Health Service, Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System
Appendix Table C-137

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.⁴² The data show 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.

Related Objectives

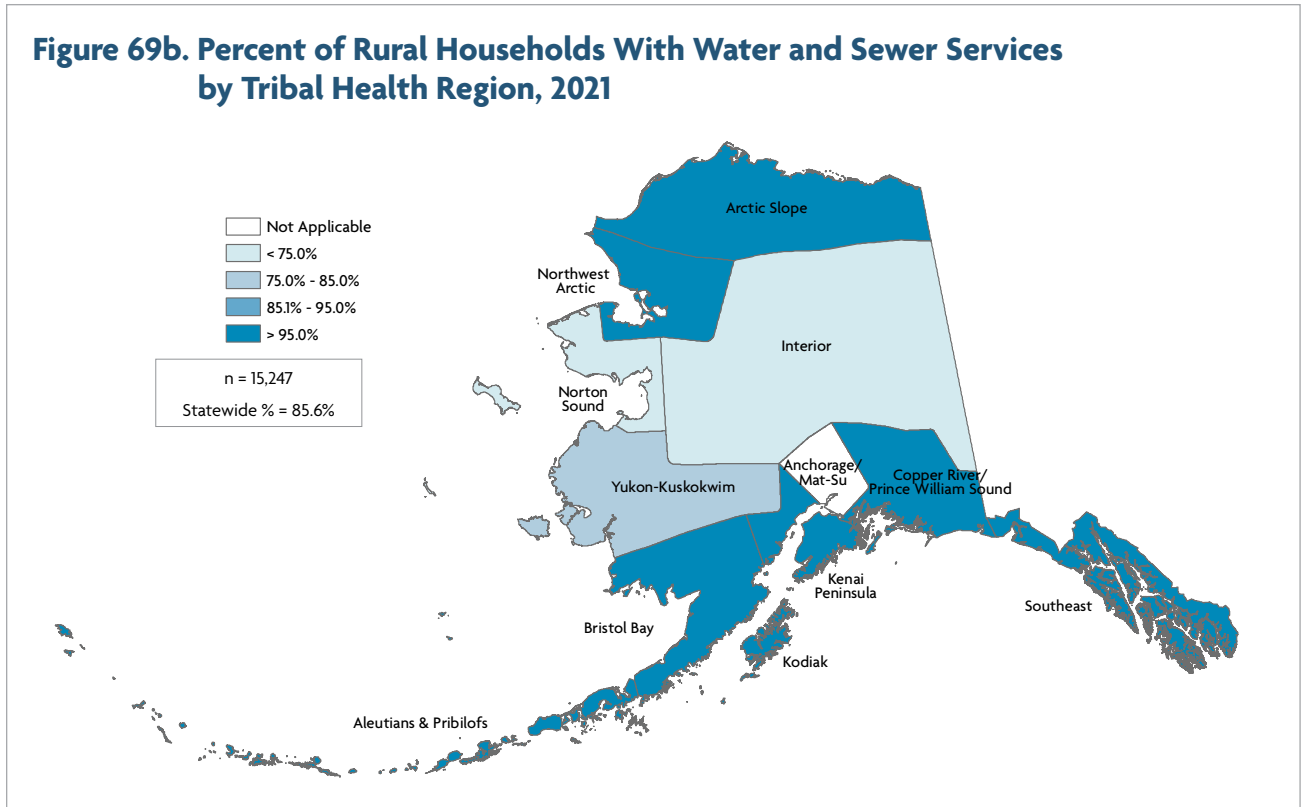
Increase the percentage of rural community housing units with water and sewer services to 90.0%. - *HEALTHY ALASKANS 2030, OBJECTIVE #2*

Summary

- » During 2021, about eight out of ten (85.6%) households in rural Alaska Native communities were served by water and wastewater services.
- » Between 2009 and 2021, the percentage of households in rural Alaska Native communities served by water and sewer services has increased from 74.4% to 85.6%.
- » The percentage of households in rural Alaska Native communities served by water and sewer services varied by Tribal health region, ranging from 68.9% to 100%.

Rural Water & Wastewater Service

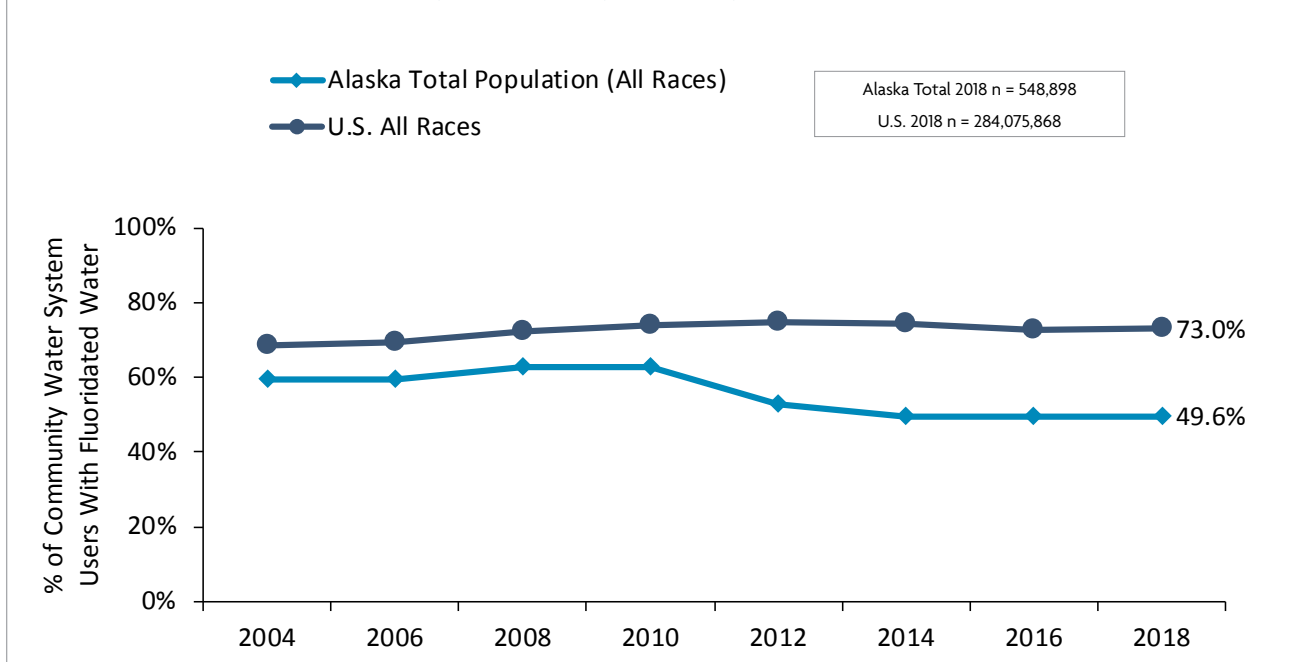
Figure 69b. Percent of Rural Households With Water and Sewer Services by Tribal Health Region, 2021



Data Source: Indian Health Service, Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System
Appendix Table C-138

Community Water Fluoridation

Figure 70. Population Served by Community Water System with Fluoridated Water, 2004-2018



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Water Fluoridation Reporting System Appendix Table C-139

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.⁴³

The data in this report show 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 Alaska population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water to 60%. - *HEALTHY ALASKANS 2030, OBJECTIVE #3*

Summary

- » During 2018, approximately half (49.6%) of community water system users in Alaska were receiving fluoridated water. This percentage ranks Alaska 44 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.