

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Bureau of Vital Statistics Component Budget Summary

Component: Bureau of Vital Statistics

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Department’s mission is to promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans. The Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS) contributes to this mission through the registration and safeguarding of vital events records for Alaska. The Bureau also publishes annual reports of vital events, produces newsletters, develops web-based reports of public health indicators, and conducts research to provide comprehensive population-based health data to support the evaluation of health outcomes and services. Public Health utilizes data from these reports to monitor and assess the health status of Alaskans.

Core Services

The Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS) is responsible for registering and safeguarding all vital events in Alaska. To ensure that vital records are registered timely and accurately, the Bureau manages a statewide training program for local registrars, hospital staff, funeral directors, and court clerks to provide guidance in the use of the BVS information system and the registration of vital events. The Bureau continually monitors the data quality of each vital record submitted to the Bureau, to ensure that the information contained in each record accurately reflects the facts surrounding the vital event.

Vital records data plays an important role in assessing the health of Alaskans, by providing population-level data on patterns and trends in the health status of Alaskans ranging from prenatal care and pregnancy outcomes to differences in mortality rates among various ethnic groups in Alaska.

The Bureau provides the public with certified copies of vital events as needed for establishing legal identity, applying for driver’s licenses or passports, or documenting dependents for health or retirement benefits.

The Bureau produces an annual report of vital events in Alaska, including data on births, fetal and infant deaths, adoptions, marriages and divorces, induced terminations of pregnancy, and deaths. The purpose of this report is to provide reference material and indicators for health and vital events in Alaska. The Bureau also produces and distributes other statistical reports and information, primarily through a web-based system, to provide population-based health data to support the evaluation of health outcomes and services.

The Bureau continues to work with the Alaska Children’s Trust Fund by providing Alaskans the opportunity to obtain Heirloom Birth and Marriage Certificates. These heirloom certificates cost an additional \$20 and \$25, respectively; however these additional fees are dedicated to the Children’s Trust, which works to prevent child abuse and neglect. Finally, the Bureau maintains the state's Medical Marijuana Registry.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results		
FY2008 Component Budget: \$2,544,900	Personnel:	
	Full time	26
	Part time	0
	Total	26

Key Component Challenges

Congress approved intelligence reform legislation in the past year; the impact will be significant because the federal government will stop accepting birth records from states that do not conform to the new guidelines, meaning that Alaskans without proper identification will be ineligible for federal documents like passports and programs like Social Security and Medicaid.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

No significant changes.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

In 2006, the Bureau continued its efforts to improve customer service to the public. Despite processing more than 60,000 requests for vital records, the time required for issuing certified copies of vital records has remained low. Mail requests for vital records were usually processed within 2 days of receipt and were frequently processed within one day. During the past fiscal year backlogs have been eliminated throughout the Bureau. The processing time for paternity actions has been reduced from one month to less than a week. Adoption and correction requests were usually processed within two weeks of receipt. The reduction in backlogs has significantly cut the amount of time staff has spent investigating and answering questions related to delayed or unprocessed requests.

By the end of FY06, BVS had nearly completed a project to enter all older births into the Bureau's information system. Before this project began, births were only available electronically from 1970 forward. The benefits of this project are many. First, a certified copy of a birth record can be issued from the system instead of the vault copy. This saves two to three minutes staff time for each request processed. If a birth record is available electronically, certified copies of these birth records can be issued from the Bureau's Anchorage and Fairbanks offices, instead of having to mail the requests to Juneau for processing. Finally, federal intelligence reform legislation will also require that all Alaska birth records since 1935 be available electronically. The "back birth" project ensures the Bureau will meet this requirement of the federal legislation.

The Special Services Unit met one of its most important goals – to cross-train all Special Services staff. In the past, extended absences in one position (paternity, adoption, or correction clerk) meant that nothing got processed when the position was vacant. This increased the potential for creating or increasing backlogs and was also a disservice to Alaskans waiting for documents to be processed. The Special Services staff maintains their skills by trading job functions weekly to keep current in their skills.

The Bureau also made significant improvements to the quantity and timeliness of public health data published on the BVS website. Detailed information on injury deaths, leading causes of death, chronic disease deaths, infant mortality, teen birth rates, causes of death, birth outcomes, and health profiles is readily available at:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/bvs/data/default.htm>

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 18.05.010 - 070	Administration of Public Health and Related Laws
AS 18.50.010 - 990	Vital Statistics Act
AS 25.05.071 - 391	Alaska Marriage Code
AS 25.20.050(b)	Parent and Child
AS 25.20.055	Parent and Child
AS 25.23.160 - 170	Adoption
AS 44.29.020	Department of Health & Social Services
AS 09.55.060	Special Actions and Proceedings
AS 17.37.030	Medical Use of Marijuana
7 AAC 05.110 - 990	Vital Records
7 AAC 05.976	Heirloom Marriage Certificates

Contact Information

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**Bureau of Vital Statistics
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	1,331.5	1,555.9	1,745.2
72000 Travel	16.1	23.3	23.3
73000 Services	568.6	719.2	719.2
74000 Commodities	33.6	57.2	57.2
75000 Capital Outlay	1.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	5.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,955.8	2,355.6	2,544.9
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	285.7	306.4	310.4
1004 General Fund Receipts	71.1	84.1	266.6
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	103.7	160.2	163.0
1156 Receipt Supported Services	1,495.3	1,804.9	1,804.9
Funding Totals	1,955.8	2,355.6	2,544.9

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	285.7	306.4	310.4
Interagency Receipts	51015	103.7	160.2	163.0
Receipt Supported Services	51073	1,495.3	1,804.9	1,804.9
Restricted Total		1,884.7	2,271.5	2,278.3
Total Estimated Revenues		1,884.7	2,271.5	2,278.3

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	84.1	306.4	1,965.1	2,355.6
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Fund Source Adjustment for Retirement Systems Increases	176.5	0.0	-176.5	0.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-FY 08 Retirement Systems Rate Increases	6.0	4.0	179.3	189.3
FY2008 Governor	266.6	310.4	1,967.9	2,544.9

**Bureau of Vital Statistics
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
	<u>FY2007</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2008</u> <u>Governor</u>		
			Annual Salaries	980,097
Full-time	26	26	Premium Pay	0
Part-time	0	0	Annual Benefits	847,302
Nonpermanent	3	3	<i>Less 4.50% Vacancy Factor</i>	(82,199)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	29	29	Total Personal Services	1,745,200

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	8	0	8
Administrative Clerk III	3	2	6	0	11
Administrative Supervisor	1	0	2	0	3
Chf Health Res & Vital Stat	0	0	1	0	1
Project Asst	0	0	1	0	1
Research Analyst II	0	0	1	0	1
Research Analyst III	0	0	2	0	2
Statistical Technician I	0	0	2	0	2
Totals	4	2	23	0	29