

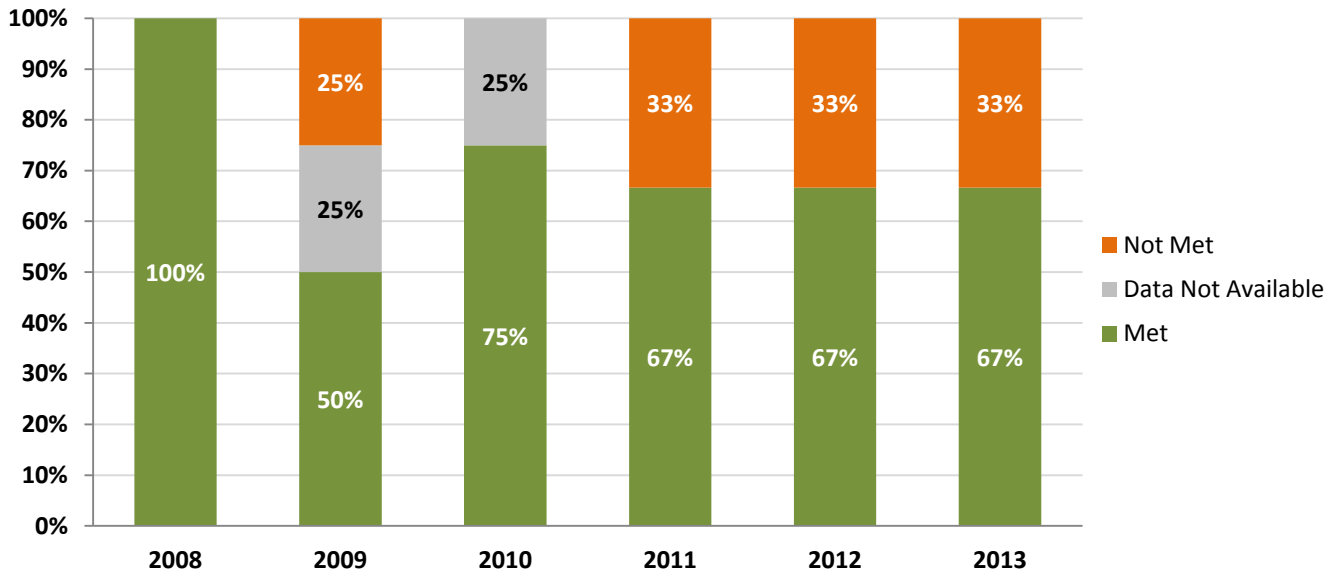
US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Subobjective: Safe Swimming

EPA was successful in meeting two of its three commitments under the Water Safe for Swimming subobjective in FY 2013. Performance under this subobjective has been fairly stable over the past three years (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Safe Swimming Subobjective Six-Year Trend



FY 2013 ACS Code	Abbreviated Measure Description	Results and Commitment Status							Appendix Page Number (D-0)/ Figure Number
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Subobjective 2.1.3 Water Safe for Swimming									
SS-SP9.N11	Percent beach days safe for swimming	95%	95%	95%	95%	96%	95%	96%	D-11
SS-1	Number enforceable long-term CSO control plan with specific dates and milestones in place	559	610	693	724	734	748	758	D-12/Fig. 16
SS-2	Percent significant public beaches monitored	100%	99%	98%	99%	100%	100%	98%	D-12/

Note: CSO=combined sewer overflow.

FY 2013 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

The nation's waters, especially beaches in coastal areas and the Great Lakes, provide recreational opportunities for millions of Americans. Swimming in some recreational waters, however, can pose a risk of illness resulting from exposure to microbial pathogens.¹⁰

Beach Monitoring and Safety: For coastal and Great Lakes beaches monitored by state-based beach safety programs, EPA found that **96%** of beach season days were open and safe for swimming. This result met the FY 2013 target of 95%, and EPA has consistently met its annual targets over the past six years. All EPA regions met their FY 2013 target (Regions 7 and 8 do not have beaches under the program) (SP-9). States monitored and managed **98%** of all Tier 1 (significant) public beaches covered under the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act program in 2013, which exceeded the annual goal of 97% (SS-2). Nine out of ten regions met their commitments in 2013.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs): Overflows from combined storm and sanitary sewers in urban areas can result in high levels of pathogens being released during storm events. Because urban areas are often upstream from recreational waters, these overflows are a significant source of unsafe levels of pathogens. Over the past five years, EPA and the states have made consistent progress in increasing the number of CSO permits or enforcement orders with compliance schedules in place (Figure 16). As of 2013, approximately **88% (758 of 853)** of the CSO permittees have approved or accepted CSO long-term control plans (LTCPs) with enforceable compliance schedules in place, which is approximately a 33.5% improvement over the 2008 baseline (Figure 18). Each year, progress toward the ultimate goal of 100% of CSOs approved has become more difficult because the remaining permits still needing LTCPs are often held up in various legal and political issues, even though the overall universe of these permits has decreased. As the Agency moves forward, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and the Office of Water (OW) plan to work together to refine this measure to ensure consistency and consider a possible evaluation of the effectiveness of plans already put into place.

Seven of nine EPA regions with CSOs (Region 6 does not have any CSOs) met their commitments for this measure in 2013 (Figure 17). Region 2 only missed the commitment by 1 permit due to longer than expected negotiations over the CSO permits in the city of Albany, New York. EPA Region 5 had a very ambitious goal but missed this due to the state of Illinois's delays in issuing a number of municipal permits to implement wet weather controls and delays in settlement of some federal-led cases.

¹⁰ By "recreational waters," EPA means waters officially designated by states, authorized tribes, and territories for primary contact recreational use or similar full-body contact use.

Figure 16: CSO Permit Schedules in Place by Fiscal Year (SS-1)

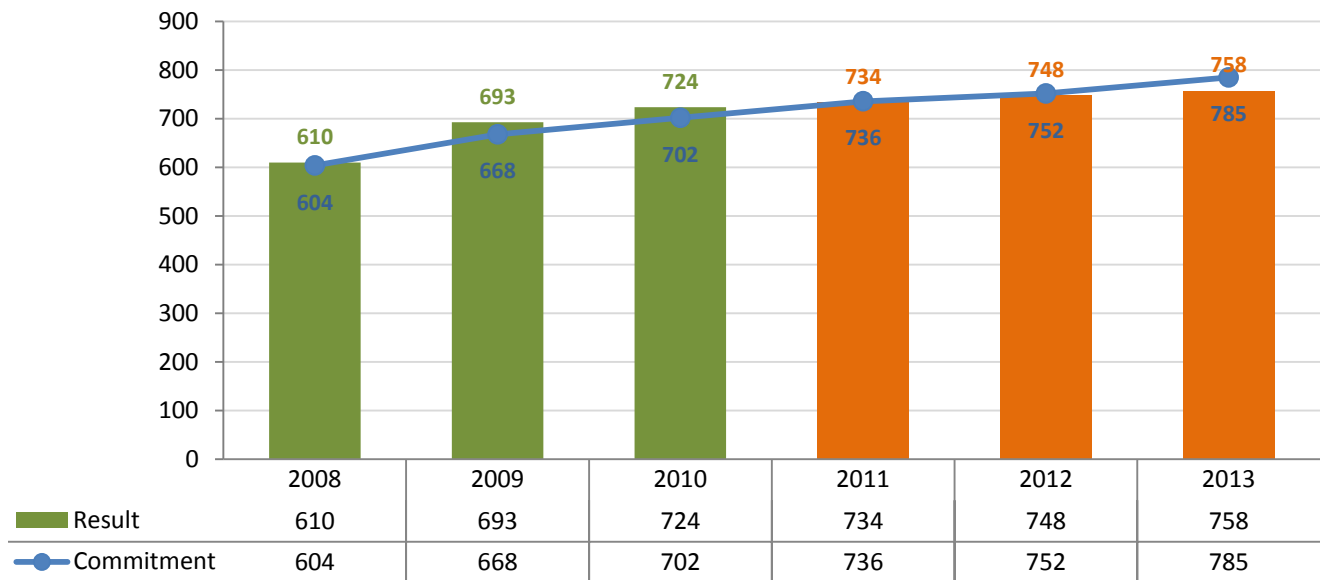


Figure 17: CSO Permit Schedules in Place (SS-1) by Region for FY 2012



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Figure 18: CSO Permit Schedules as a Percent of Universe and Percent Over Baseline (SS-1)

