



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

This summary report consolidates findings from five Office of Inspector General (OIG) reports issued during fiscal year 2015 that express a common, significant theme—that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) needs to improve data quality and identify performance measures that drive program results. The Government Performance and Results Act Modernization Act of 2010 requires that federal agencies, including the EPA, ensure that progress toward the achievement of all agency goals is communicated to leaders, managers, agency employees and Congress; and made available on a public website of the agency.

This report addresses the following OIG goals:

- *Contribute to improved EPA business practices and accountability.*
- *Be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.*
- *Contribute to improved human health, safety, and environment.*

Send all inquiries to our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391 or visit www.epa.gov/oig.

Listing of [OIG reports](#).

Summary Report: Fiscal Year 2015 Reviews of EPA's Measurement of Environmental Program Performance and Outcomes

What We Found

In fiscal year 2015, the EPA OIG issued the five reports listed below that disclosed common gaps that the EPA has in establishing program goals and identifying metrics that enable the agency to measure the effectiveness and benefits of environmental programs.

The agency's need to measure performance and benefits of environmental programs or activities was a theme in several OIG reports issued in the past year.

- *EPA Needs to Demonstrate Public Health Benefits of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Projects* ([15-P-0032](#))
- *Benefits of EPA Initiative to Promote Renewable Energy on Contaminated Lands Have Not Been Established* ([15-P-0198](#))
- *EPA Needs Accurate Data on Results of Pollution Prevention Grants to Maintain Program Integrity and Measure Effectiveness of Grants* ([15-P-0276](#))
- *EPA's Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards Program Lacks Adequate Support and Transparency and Should Be Assessed for Continuation* ([15-P-0279](#))
- *EPA Needs to Track Whether Its Major Municipal Settlements for Combined Sewer Overflows Benefit Water Quality* ([15-P-0280](#))

These five reports, which covered various EPA offices, all identified control weaknesses in data accuracy and in the EPA's success in collecting and reporting accurate program performance data or program benefits. These control weaknesses impede the EPA's ability to show it has achieved results and produced a benefit from public funds. The OIG made recommendations in each of the reports, and those recommendations are either complete or the agency is taking action on them. Consequently, this summary report does not provide further recommendations.

This summary report communicates a recurrent theme from the five OIG reports, and does not represent an opinion on every EPA program. The OIG is issuing this report to communicate and raise awareness of trends from our work that can signal management challenges or weaknesses affecting the EPA's success in achieving environmental goals and results.