

# ALASKA'S CHILDREN

## Alaska's Children At a Glance<sup>1</sup>

State Population <sup>2</sup> .....	722,718	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>5</sup> .....	14.5%
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	188,223	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>6</sup> .....	14.2%
State Poverty Rate <sup>4</sup> .....	10.5%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>7</sup> .....	14.3%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Alaska had 15,578 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,669 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2011, 2,898 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Alaska, a rate of 15.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 8.6% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 90.3% were neglected, 13.4% were physically abused, and 4.9% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 7.6% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2011, 3 children in Alaska died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2011, 1,829 children in Alaska lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,801 children in 2009. In 2010, 767 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 144 were 16 or older.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 14.0% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.<sup>13</sup>
- Of Alaska children in out-of-home care in 2011, 25.3% were white, 3.0% black, 4.1% Hispanic, 49.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 2.3% Asian or Pacific Islander and 9.8% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>14</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 839 children exiting out-of-home care in Alaska in 2011, 53.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2011, 294 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Alaska, a 12.5% decrease from 336 in 2010.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 1,829 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 710 or 38.8% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2011, approximately 6,047 Alaska grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- Of the 1,829 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 388 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>
- Of all Alaska children in kinship care in 2010, 6.2% were white, 0.4% black, 0.9% Hispanic, 10.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.2% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 0.4% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>20</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alaska increased from 9,006 in 2010 to 10,045 in 2011, an increase of 11.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 3,691, a 11.7% increase from 2010.<sup>21</sup>
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Alaska families living in poverty, only 25 received TANF benefits.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2011, \$66,298,196 was spent in Alaska on TANF assistance, including 62% on basic assistance, 8% on child care, 1%



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on transportation, and 30% on nonassistance.<sup>23</sup>

- In 2011, 16,269,305 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Alaska, serving 26,295 participants.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2011, Alaska distributed \$97,483,308 in child support funds, a 4.4% increase from 2010.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2011 in Alaska, 17,438 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 33% of them are families with children.<sup>26</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Alaska had a monthly average of 4,600 children served by subsidized child care; 3,300 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 3,500 in 2008.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Alaska, a family of three could make no more than \$54,288, which is equivalent to 75% of the state's median income.<sup>28</sup>
- As of early 2012, Alaska had no waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2011, Head Start served 1,759 Alaska children, a 11.1% increase from 2010.<sup>30</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 64,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Alaska—60% of the total number of enrollees in the state.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2011, Alaska had 12,787 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.4% increase from 2010, when 12,614 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2011, Alaska had 20,000 uninsured children, representing 11% of its child population.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2010, 651 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Alaska.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2010, 38 infants under age 1 died in Alaska.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Alaska was 16 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 73. This reflects a total rate of 38 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>36</sup>
- Cumulative through 2011, 786 adults and adolescents, as well as 7 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Alaska.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12–17 and 47,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Alaska.<sup>38</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 38 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Alaska.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2011, 4,000 Alaska teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2011, 14,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 2,000 children ages 12–17 in Alaska needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 3,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2010, 21 Alaska children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 10.1 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 18 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alaska, a 50% increase from 12 in 2009.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2011, 3,453 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alaska, a 6.0% decrease from 3,665 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 194 were for violent crimes.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2010, 282 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alaska.<sup>47</sup>

## CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE<sup>48</sup>

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.<sup>49</sup>
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.<sup>50</sup>
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>51</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN

- Out of 1,829 children in out-of-home care in Alaska in 2011, only 631, or 34%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>52</sup>
- In 2010, Alaska spent \$167,001,884 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$42,770,884 was from federal funds, \$124,231,000 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2010, of the \$42,770,884 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$22,895,884 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$948,000 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$6,337,000 was from Medicaid, \$8,813,000 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$0 was from TANF, and \$3,777,000 came from other federal sources.<sup>54</sup>
- Alaska received \$15,653,449 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$3,403,796 for maintenance payments, \$10,336,064 for administration and child placement, \$1,335,845 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$448,241 for training.<sup>55</sup>
- Alaska received \$10,580,231 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$8,635,772 for assistance payments, \$1,699,313 for administration and child placement, and \$245,146 for staff and provider training.<sup>56</sup>

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<b>Senate:</b>					
Mark Begich (D) <i>Appropriations</i>	111 Russell	224-3004	224-2354	Begich.senate.gov	2014
Lisa Murkowski (R) <i>Appropriations</i> <i>H.E.L.P.</i>	709 Hart	224-6665	224-5301	Murkowski.senate.gov	2016
<b>House:</b>					
Don Young (R-At Large)	2314 Rayburn	225-5765	225-0425	Youngdon.house.gov	2014
<b>Key Committee Jurisdictions</b>					
Senate <i>H.E.L.P.</i> : CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA					
<i>Senate Judiciary</i> : Juvenile Justice					
<i>Senate Finance</i> : Child Welfare Reform; Medicaid & Mental Health; SSBG Child Welfare Services & Promoting Safe and Stable Families; TANF					
<i>House Education &amp; the Workforce</i> : CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA					
<i>House Judiciary</i> : Juvenile Justice					
<i>House Ways &amp; Means</i> : Child Welfare Reform, SSBG, CWS & PSSF, TANF					
<i>House Energy &amp; Commerce</i> : Medicaid & Mental Health					



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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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<sup>1</sup> “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved on January 18, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *Selected Economic Characteristics, 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved January 18, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2011*. Retrieved January 23, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2012: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2011 & Table 3-8: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2011*. Retrieved February 13, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>10</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2011*. Retrieved January 25, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>11</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 4-2, Child Fatalities, 2007-2011*. Retrieved January 25, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) by National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and CWLA.

<sup>13</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (n.d.). *Foster Care FY2003-FY2011 Entries, Exits, and Numbers of Children In Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal year*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/entryexit2011.pdf>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>14</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>15</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>16</sup> Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Adoptions of children with public child welfare agency involvement by state*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/adoptchild11.pdf>.

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<sup>17</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *American Community Survey, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2011*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

<sup>19</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. Note: Total percentage may not equal 100 because the race/ethnicity of some children was not reported or missing. Percentages are a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA special tabulations.

<sup>22</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2012) *TANF Weakening as a Safety Net for Poor Families: Appendix Table B1: TANF Cases to Families with Children in Poverty Ratios, 1994-95 to 2009-10*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3700>.

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Note: The percents are a CWLA calculation.

<sup>24</sup> Food and Nutrition Service. (2013). *Program Data: WIC Program: Food Costs*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from [http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/24wicfood\\$.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/24wicfood$.htm).

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<sup>27</sup> Administration on Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2011). *2010 CCDF Data Tables (Preliminary Estimates); Table 1: Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/ccdf-data-10acf800-preliminary>.

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<sup>28</sup> Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2012). *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2012: Reduced Support for Families in Challenging Times: Table 1A: Income Eligibility Limits for a Family of Three in 2011 and 2012*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from [http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLC2012\\_StateChildCareAssistanceReport.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLC2012_StateChildCareAssistanceReport.pdf).

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<sup>30</sup> Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start. (2012). *Head Start Program Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2011*. Retrieved February 13, 2013 from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/mr/factsheets/2011-hs-program-factsheet.html>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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<sup>33</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *Table HIB-5. Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State—Children Under 18: 1999 to 2011*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/data/historical/files/hihist5B.xls>

<sup>34</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation. (n.d.). *Kids Count. Data Across States: Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Low-birth weight babies (Number)- 2010*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=5425&dtm=11984&tf=133>.

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<sup>36</sup> Martin, J., Hamilton, B., Ventura, S., Osterman, M., Wilson, E., Mathew, T.J.. (2012). *National Vital Statistics Report: Births: Final Data for 2010- Table 12. Birth rate, by age of mother : United States, each state and territory, 2010--*. Retrieved March 7, 2013 from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61\\_01.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_01.pdf).

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<sup>41</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation (n.d.). *Kids Count. Data Across States: Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Persons Age 18–24 not attending school, not working, and no degree beyond High School (Number) - 2011*. Retrieved February 14, 2013 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=5063&dtm=11484&tf=867>.

<sup>42</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 21-Needing But Not Receiving Treatment for Illicit Drug Use in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved February 20, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

<sup>43</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 22 - Needing But Not Receiving Treatment for Alcohol Use in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved February 20, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>47</sup> Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzanchera, C. (2011). *Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement*. Retrieved February 14, 2013 from [www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacirp](http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacirp).

<sup>48</sup> Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

<sup>49</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff*. Retrieved January 19, 2012 from [www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf).

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (2012). *Foster Care FY2003–FY2011 Entries, Exits, and Numbers of Children In Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal year*. Retrieved February 28, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/entrvxexit2011.pdf>.

Note: The penetration rate is a CWLA calculation of special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care expenditures.

<sup>53</sup> DeVooght, K., Fletcher, M, Vaughn, B., & Cooper, H. (2012). *Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFYs 2008 and 2010*. Washington, DC: Child Trends. Retrieved March 18, 2013 from [http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-2012\\_06\\_20\\_FR\\_CaseyCWFinancing.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2012_06_20_FR_CaseyCWFinancing.pdf).

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional partner training funds.