

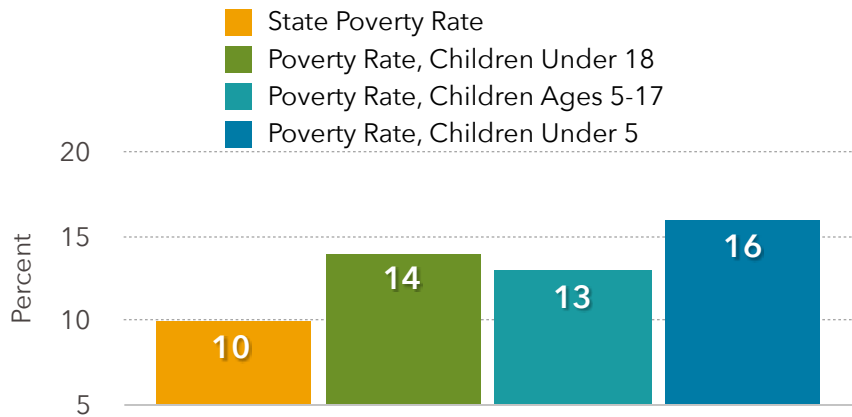
# ALASKA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 736,855 | Population of Children Under 18: 183,790

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

- Of the **1,044** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Alaska, 47% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **313** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Alaska in 2016, a decrease of 12.3% from **33.58%** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **2,820** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **947** or 33.58% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2015, approximately **6,874** grandparents in Alaska had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **634** of the children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>

### Poverty Rates



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, Alaska had 16,122 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 8,385 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 3,142 victims of abuse or neglect in Alaska, a rate of 16.8 per 1,000 children, an increase of 8.4% from 2015. Of these children, 76.6% were neglected, 12.0% were physically abused, and 5.8% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has increased 8.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>

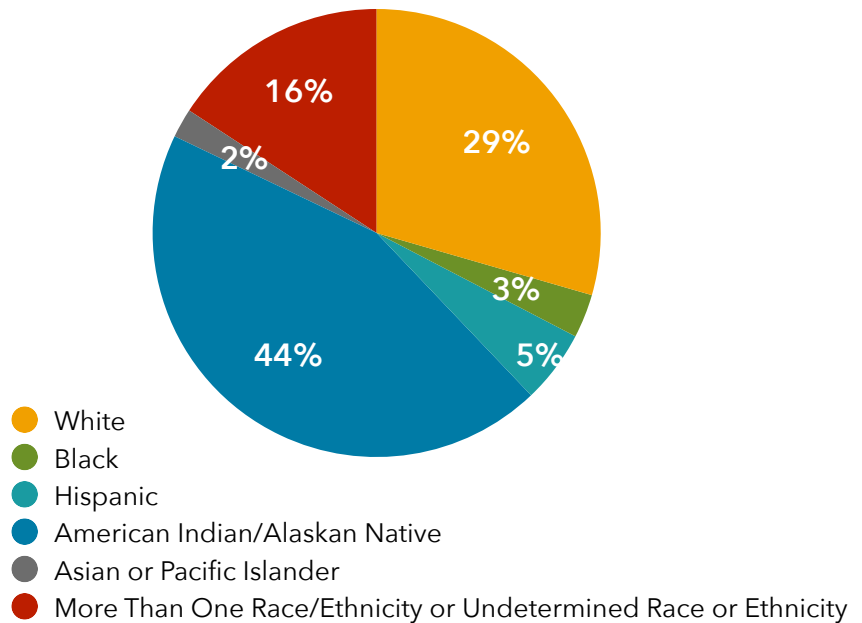


### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Alaska had a monthly average of 3,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 3,700 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 3,600 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Alaska, a family of three could make no more than \$54,288 at application, which is equivalent to 72% of the state’s median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Alaska had no children on it’s waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2015, Head Start served 1,494 children in Alaska, a decrease of 6.2% from 2014.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Alaska made 2,320 home visits to 306 parents and children in 184 families, as well as enrolled 147 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

- In 2015, there was one child death resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Alaska.<sup>11</sup>
- 2,820 children in Alaska lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 2,653 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 6.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.<sup>13</sup>

Children in Out-of-Home Care 2015



### CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alaska decreased from 8,471 in 2015 to 8,142 in 2016, a 4.0% change. There was a 3,009 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 4.3% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 27

received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$73,208,283 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Alaska, including 14.8% on basic assistance, 10.0% on child care, and 1.0% on transportation.<sup>22</sup>
- \$8,163,740 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Alaska, serving 19,121 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2014, Alaska distributed \$96,470,329 in child support funds, a decrease of 0.3% from 2013.<sup>24</sup>
- 61,000 children in Alaska lived in households with a high housing burden in 2014, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.<sup>25</sup>
- In December of 2016, the unemployment rate in Alaska was 6.7. <sup>26</sup>
- 19.6 of households in Alaska were food insecure in 2015, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 90,644 children in Alaska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 3.5% from 2014.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2015, Alaska had 15,662 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 53.8% from 2014, when 10,182 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2015, Alaska had 21,589 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 661 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Alaska in 2015.<sup>35</sup>
- 60 infants under age 1 died in Alaska in 2015.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Alaska was 9.8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 63.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 29 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 850 adults and adolescents and 7 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Alaska.<sup>38</sup>

- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Alaska reached \$69,448,831.<sup>39</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 70 children in Alaska aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>
- 72% of high school students in Alaska graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.<sup>43</sup>
- 4,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Alaska were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.<sup>44</sup>
- 15,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.<sup>45</sup>
- 33% of young adults in Alaska ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2015, there were less than 10 reports of children in Alaska aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 13 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 18 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alaska in 2015, compared to 26 in 2014.<sup>48</sup>
- 1,893 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alaska in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 216 of the arrests in 2015.<sup>49</sup>
- 207 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alaska in 2015.<sup>50</sup>

## CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

*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>52</sup>*

- According to a 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>53</sup>

- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.<sup>54</sup> Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.<sup>55</sup>

*Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.*<sup>56</sup>

- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.<sup>57</sup>
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor's degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master's degree.<sup>58</sup>

## SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, Alaska's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$3,655,417. The most utilized service in Alaska was Adoption Services totaling \$3,655,417.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Alaska spent \$131,622,834 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$40,591,569 was from federal funds and \$91,031,265 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- In 2014, of the \$40,591,569 in federal funds received for child welfare, 73.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2.8% was from Medicaid, 20.1% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 2.2% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Alaska received \$17,136,858 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$3,579,067 for maintenance payments and \$13,557,791 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>

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Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation. Overlap in the percentages of types of abuse is possible as a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.

10 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Child Maltreatment 2016: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2012-2016. Retrieved February 06, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

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18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2016. Retrieved January 22, 2018 from [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_16\\_1YR\\_DP02&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table).

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- Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.
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- 33 Ibid.
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Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

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