In 2017, Alaska had 9,372 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. In 2017, there were 2,783 victims of abuse or neglect in Alaska, a rate of 9.9 per 1,000 children, an increase of 13.7% from 2013. Of these children, .02% were medically neglected, 77.1% were neglected, 14.0% were physically abused, 27.7% suffered psychological maltreatment, and 5.31% were sexually abused.

The number of child victims has increased 6.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

• In 2017, Alaska had a monthly average of children 3,100 served by subsidized child care. An average of 3,500 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 3,600 were recipients in 2015.28

• 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.29

• As of early 2016, Alaska had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30

• In 2015, Head Start served 1,494 children in Alaska, a decrease of 6.2% from 2014.31

• Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Alaska made 2,124 home visits to 375 participants in 221 households.64

• In 2017, there were 2 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Alaska.11

• 2,766 children in Alaska lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 2,820 children in 2016.12

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

• The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alaska decreased from 8,142 in 2016, to 7,644 in 2018, a 6.1% change. There was a 2,823 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018.20

• From 2016-2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 20 received TANF cash assistance.21

• $2,589,103 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Alaska. Top 3 services utilized: (1) Services for children & youth, (2) Family preservation services, (3) Program management 22
In 2017, Alaska distributed $91,580,013 in child support funds, a decrease of 8% from 2016.  

53,000 children in Alaska lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs. 

In December of 2017, the unemployment rate in Alaska was 7.2. 

18.6% of children in Alaska were food insecure in 2016. 

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE 

98,838 children in Alaska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 9.03% from 2016. 

In 2017, Alaska had 18,704 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 19.6% from 2016. 

In 2017, Alaska had 19,000 uninsured children. 

661 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Alaska in 2016. 

60 infants under age 1 died in Alaska in 2016. 

In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Alaska was 8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 58 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 469 births for girls ages 15 to 19. 

Cumulative through 2017, there were 867 adults and adolescents and 7 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Alaska. 

In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Alaska reached $69,448,831. 

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE 


75% of high school students in Alaska graduated on time at the end of the 2012-16 year.
2,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Alaska were not enrolled in school and not working in 2017.\textsuperscript{44}

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.\textsuperscript{45}

10% of young adults in Alaska ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2012 to 2016.\textsuperscript{46}

From 2016 to 2017, there were less than 20 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.\textsuperscript{47}

**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

Less than 20 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alaska in 2017.\textsuperscript{48}

1,570 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alaska in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 164 of the arrests in 2017.\textsuperscript{49}

207 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alaska in 2015.\textsuperscript{50}

**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.*\textsuperscript{52}

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.\textsuperscript{53}

Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.\textsuperscript{54}

Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.\textsuperscript{55}
Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.  

- 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.

- 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.

**SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

- In 2016, Alaska’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $3,640,366. The most utilized service in Alaska was Adoption Services totaling $3,734,427.

**FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALASKA’S CHILDREN**

- In 2016, Alaska spent $145,312,233 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.

- In 2016, of the $46,143,864 in federal funds received for child welfare, 26% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, <1% was from Medicaid, 2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 2% was from TANF, and 68% came from other federal sources.

- Alaska received $18,977,691 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including $5,370,209 for maintenance payments and $13,607,482 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.
1 Population and Child Abuse and Neglect statistics are from 2018.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
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.
Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
17 Ibid.


Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.


Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.

30 Ibid.

Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.

33 Ibid.


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.