

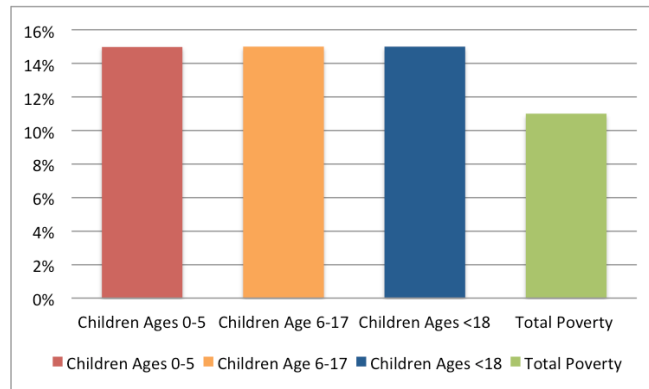
ALASKA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 737,438 | Population of Children Under 18: 184,360

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- 1,341 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Alaska. Of the 1,044 children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Alaska, 52% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 366 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Alaska in 2017¹⁶
- Of the 2,766 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,039 or 35.56% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 7,006 grandparents in Alaska had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 1,978 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Alaska had 9,372 total referrals for child abuse and neglect.⁸
- 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.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 6.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰

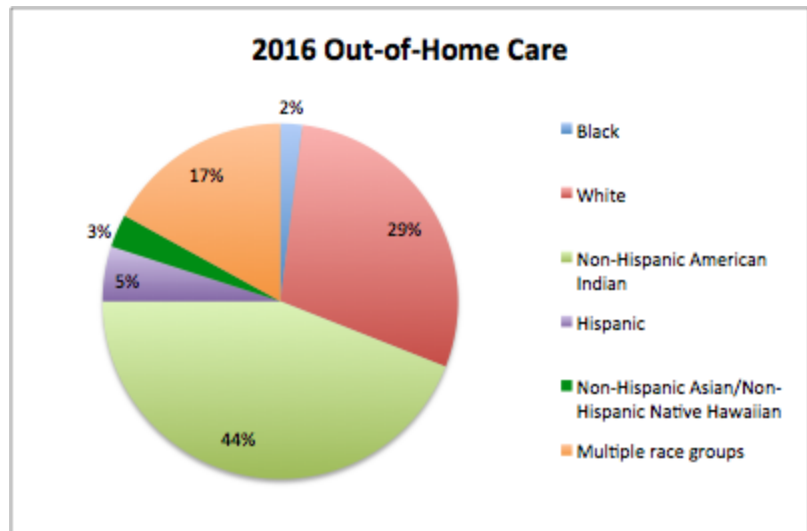


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- 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 it’s 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 management²²

- In 2017, Alaska distributed \$91,580,013 in child support funds, a decrease of 8% from 2016.²⁴
- 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.²⁵
- In December of 2017, the unemployment rate in Alaska was 7.2. ²⁶
- 18.6 of children in Alaska were food insecure in 2016.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 98,838 children in Alaska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 9.03% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Alaska had 18,704 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 19.6% from 2016. ³³
- In 2017, Alaska had 19,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 661 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Alaska in 2016.³⁵
- 60 infants under age 1 died in Alaska in 2016.³⁶
- 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 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 867 adults and adolescents and 7 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Alaska.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Alaska reached \$69,448,831. ³⁹

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 73 children in Alaska aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2017.⁴²
- 75% of high school students in Alaska graduated on time at the end of the 2012-16 year.⁴³

- 2,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Alaska were not enrolled in school and not working in 2017.⁴⁴
- 15,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 10% of young adults in Alaska ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2012 to 2016.⁴⁶
- From 2016 to 2017, there were less than 20 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- Less than 20 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alaska in 2017.⁴⁸
- 1,570 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alaska in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 164 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹
- 207 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alaska in 2015.⁵⁰

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.*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.⁵³
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.⁵⁴
- Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.⁵⁵

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

- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.⁵⁷
- 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.⁵⁸

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 \$3,734,427.⁶⁰

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.⁶¹
 - 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.⁶²
 - 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.⁶³
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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.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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