Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Alaska had 28,748 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 20,487 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 2,615 child victims of abuse or neglect in Alaska in 2018, at a rate of 14.2 children per 1,000. This translates to an 5.3% increase since 2013.²

Of the 2,615 children, 1,751 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 381 of the 2,615 cases.⁴

• 85% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 15% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵

• 51% of Alaska’s child victims in 2017 were female while 49% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care

• In 2018, Alaska reported 79 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷

• Alaska did not report a number for plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸
Child fatalities remained consistent from 2017 to 2018 at 2 each year.\(^{xi}\)

Alaska reported 5 total child victims of sex trafficking with 3 female and 2 males.\(^{xii}\)

1,647 victims received postresponse services while 810 non-victims received postresponse services as well.\(^{xiii}\)

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 4,040 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 2,792 were in care on the day of September 30\(^{th}\), 2018.
- 1,337 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 1,248 exited during the same year.
- 354 of Alaska’s children were adopted while 1,004 were waiting to be adopted.\(^{xv}\)

There was a .94\% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system decreased 3.28\% from 2017.\(^{xvi}\)

91 children in Alaska aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 73 in 2016 and represents an 19.7\% increase.\(^{xvii}\)

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 19.6 months in care. \(^{xviii}\)
- The average length of stay in Alaska for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 36.5 months.\(^{xix}\)
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.6 years old.\(^{xx}\)
- The average age of adopted children was 6.5 years old.\(^{xxi}\)
Data from 2017 shows that 838 children in foster care within Alaska were living with non-relatives while 686 stayed with a relative.

101 children were staying in group homes while 21 children were classified as runaways.

4% of households in Alaska in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 12.2 months.

Child Poverty
Alaska had 61,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 32% of all children.

Child Poverty Over Time

25% of Alaska’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 8,580 in 2017 to 7,644 in 2018. This represents a 10.9% decrease.

The state spent $10,376,979 on WIC in 2019, serving 15,978 people. This represents a 6.5% decrease in total participants and a 8.8% decrease in spending.

100,310 people in Alaska were food insecure in 2017, including 34,690 children who struggled with hunger.

42.9% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Alaska in 2017 had children.
Health
Alaska had 647 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.2% of infants born in Alaska in 2017.xxxi

Alaska had a total of 933 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 7.5% of all white babies were born premature while 10.7% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 9.2%.xxxii

There were 486 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Alaska in 2017, representing a rate of 22 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiii

59 infants under 1 died in Alaska in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.6 per 1,000. xxxiv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 9.4% of Alaska’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 18,000 children. Alaska is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvi

- 102,629 children in Alaska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 2.4% increase from 2017. xxxvii

- 19,747 children in Alaska were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 5.5% increase from 2017. xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 1,687 total arrests for children under 18 in Alaska in 2018.
- 10 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 439 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 183 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xxxix
- 207 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alaska in 2017. This number has remained constant since 2015, representing a 0% decrease.xi

Teens & Youth

- 2,000 (7%) of Alaska’s youth, ages 16-19, were both not in school and not working in 2017.xli
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Alaska aged 10-14 committing suicide, however there were 18 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xlii
- 25 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alaska in 2017.xliii

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Alaska spent $46,143,864 on child welfare services in 2016. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- $46,143,864 were allocated from the federal government and $99,168,369 came from state and local funds.xliv

Federal Funding Sources

- The breakdown of the $46,143,864 in federal funding received in Alaska in 2016: xlv
  - $18,977,691 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $16,588,628 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.xlvi
  - Alaska’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $5,334,963.xlvii


Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.

Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


