Child Maltreatment
In 2020, Alaska had 22,687 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 11,433 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 3,212 child victims of abuse or neglect in Alaska in 2020, at a rate of 18.0 children per 1,000. This translates to an 5% increase since 2016.²

Of the 3,212 children, 2,120 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 419 of the 3,212 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020
- 82% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 18% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵
- 52% of Alaska’s child victims in 2020 were female while 48% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2020, Alaska reported 82 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 increased in 2020 from 1 in 2019 to 2 in 2020.¹

Alaska reported 4 total child victims of sex trafficking.²

1,940 victims received post-response services while 914 non-victims received post-response services as well.³

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 4,198 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 2,860 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- 1,353 children entered care during FY 2020 while 1,338 exited during the same year.
- 354 of Alaska’s children were adopted while 1,019 were waiting to be adopted.⁴

There was a 0.7% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system decreased 10.6% from 2019.⁵

96 children in Alaska aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from 81 in 2018 and represents an 18.5% increase.⁶

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 20.4 months in care.⁷
- The average length of stay in Alaska for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 33.3 months.⁸
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.8 years old.⁹
- The average age of adopted children was 6.6 years old.¹⁰

18.5% Increase since 2018 in children aging out of foster care
Data from 2019 shows that 196,139 children in foster care within Alaska were living with non-relatives while 134,017 stayed with a relative.

44,902 children were staying in group homes while 4,129 children were classified as runaways. xxii

4% of households in Alaska in 2019 had a grandparent living with a grandchild. xxiii

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 11.9 months. xxiv

**Child Poverty**

Alaska had 52,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 29% of all children. xxv

30% of Alaska’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 5,443 in 2020 to 4,679 in 2021. This represents a 14% decrease. xxvii xxviii

The state spent $7,727,377 on WIC in 2021, serving 14,551 people. This represents a 4.5% decrease in total participants and a 7.5% decrease in spending. xxix

86,970 people in Alaska were food insecure in 2019, including 28,160 children who struggled with hunger. xxx

41.3% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Alaska in 2019 had children. xxxi
Health

Alaska had 619 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.3% of infants born in Alaska in 2019.xxxii

Alaska had a total of 954 preterm births in 2019, 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 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.7%.xxxiii

There were 393 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Alaska in 2019, representing a rate of 18 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiv

48 infants under 1 died in Alaska in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 4.9 per 1,000. xxxv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

12% Medicaid
14% CHIP
74% Uninsured

9.4% of Alaska’s children had no health insurance in 2019. Alaska is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvii

109,341 children in Alaska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 5.6% increase from 2019. xxxviii

21,029 children in Alaska were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 6.9% decrease from 2019. xxxix
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 1,433 total arrests for children under 18 in Alaska in 2019.
- 11 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 321 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 156 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 255 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alaska in 2019. This number has increased since 2017, representing a 23% increase.

Teens & Youth

- 5,000 (12%) of Alaska’s youth, ages 16-19, were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were no reports of children in Alaska aged 10-14 committing suicide, however there were 46 reports of suicide among children aged 15-24.
- 22 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alaska in 2019.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Alaska spent $160,153,202.08 on child welfare services in 2018. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- $59,367,489.08 were allocated from the federal government and $97,417,400.00 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $43,935,316 in federal funding received in Alaska in 2018:

- $20,868,952.00 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $23,066,364.00 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Alaska’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $8,041,273.


Alaska’s Children 2022


xix Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xxvi Ibid.

xxvii Ibid.


xii Ibid.

xiii Ibid.

xiv Ibid.


Alaska's Children 2022


xix Ibid.


xxviii Ibid


See Reference Page 9