Alaska's Children 2022

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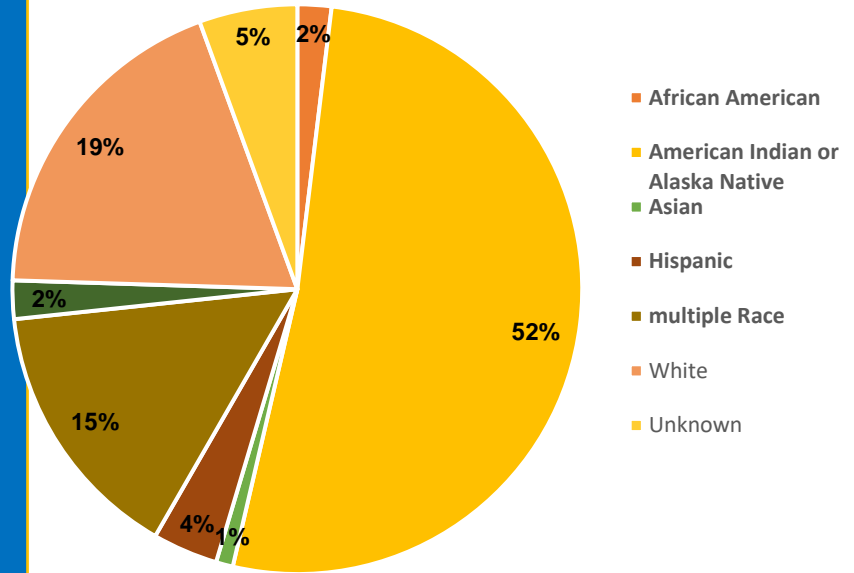
In 2020, Alaska had **22,687** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **11,433** were referred for investigation.[i]

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.[ii]
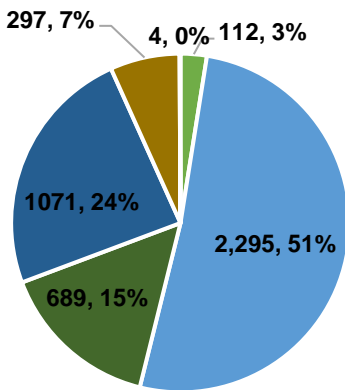
Of the **3,212** children, **2,120** were first time victims.[iii]

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **419** of the **3,212 cases.**[iv]

Child Victims by Race or Ethinicity, 2020

- African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Hispanic
- multiple Race
- White
- Unknown

v

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- Medical Neglect
- Neglect
- Other
- Physical Abuse
- Psychological Maltreatment
- Sexual Abuse
- Sex Trafficking
- Unknown

- **82%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. **18%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.[vi]

- **52%** of Alaska's child victims in 2020 were female while **48%** were male.[vii]
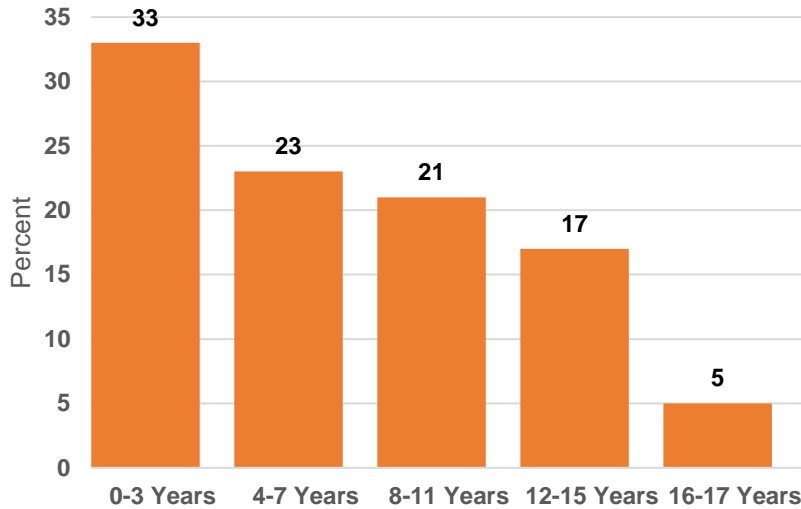
viii

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Alaska reported **82** infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.[ix]

- Alaska did not report a number for plans of safe care for screened-in infants.[x]

Alaska's Children 2022

Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- Child fatalities increased in 2020 from 1 in 2019 to **2** in 2020.[xi]

- Alaska reported **4** total child victims of sex trafficking.[xii]

- **1,940** victims received post-response services while **914** non-victims received post-response services as well.[xiii]

[xiv]

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.[xv]

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.[xvi]
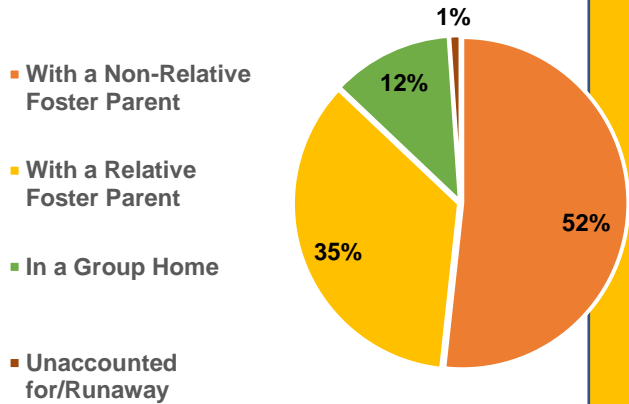
96 children in Alaska aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from 81 in 2018 and represents an **18.5%** increase.[xvii]

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **20.4** months in care. [xviii]
- The average length of stay in Alaska for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **33.3** months.[xix]
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was **7.8** years old.[xx]
- The average age of adopted children was **6.6** years old.[xxi]

18.5%
Increase since 2018 in children aging out of foster care

Alaska's Children 2022

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- With a Non-Relative Foster Parent
- With a Relative Foster Parent
- In a Group Home
- Unaccounted for/Runaway

Pie chart: 52%, 35%, 12%, 1%

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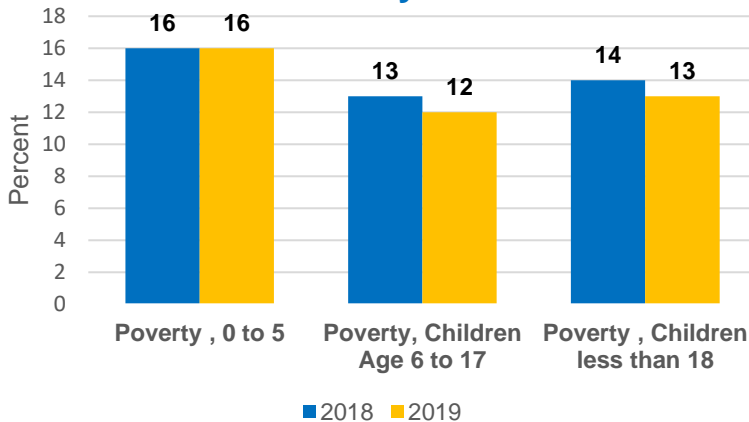
4% of households in Alaska in 2019 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.[xxiii]

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]

Child Poverty Over Time

Bar chart (Percent):
- Poverty, 0 to 5: 2018 = 16, 2019 = 16
- Poverty, Children Age 6 to 17: 2018 = 13, 2019 = 12
- Poverty, Children less than 18: 2018 = 14, 2019 = 13

Legend: ■ 2018 ■ 2019

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]
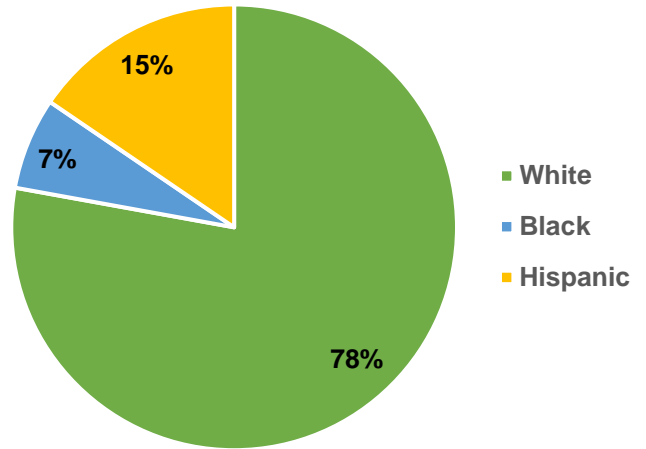
Alaska's Children 2022

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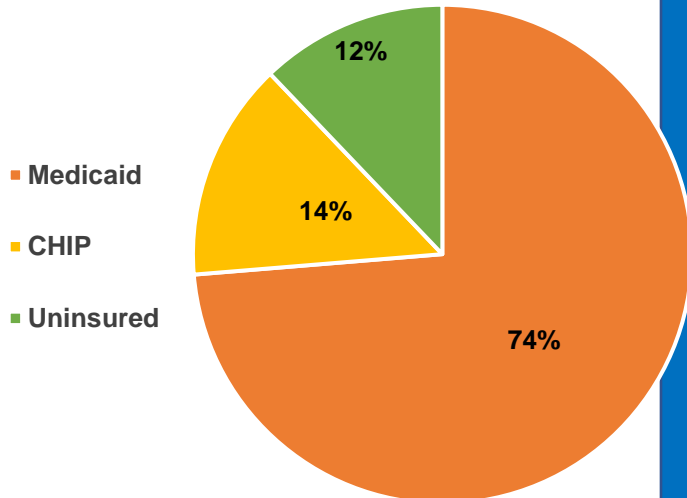
48 infants under 1 died in Alaska in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of **4.9** per 1,000. [xxxv]

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2019

- White 78%
- Black 7%
- Hispanic 15%

[xxxvi]

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

- Medicaid 74%
- CHIP 14%
- Uninsured 12%

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]

Alaska's Children 2022

23%
increase since 2017 of children living in juvenile correction facilities

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.[xl]
- **255** children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alaska in 2019. This number has increased since 2017, representing a **23%** increase.[xli]
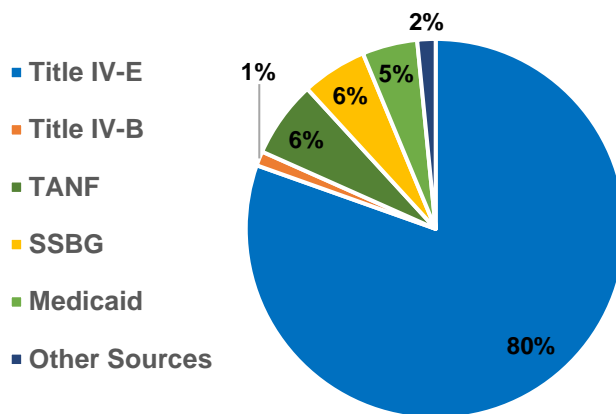
Teens & Youth

- **5,000** (12%) of Alaska's youth, ages 16-19, were both not in school and not working in 2019.[xlii]
- 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.[xliii]
- **22** children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alaska in 2019.[xliv]

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.[xlv]

Federal Funding Sources

- Title IV-E
- Title IV-B
- TANF
- SSBG
- Medicaid
- Other Sources

1% · 6% · 6% · 5% · 2% · 80%

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

- **$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.[xlvii]
- Alaska's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was **$8,041,273.**[xlviii]

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