

# Alaska's Children

## Child Maltreatment

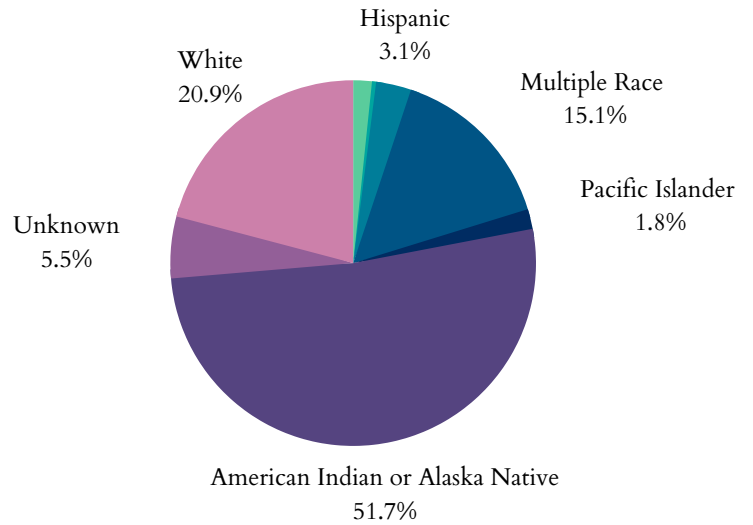
In 2021, Alaska had 18,168 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 7,167 were screened in for response by CPS.

There were 2,733 child victims of abuse or neglect in Alaska in 2021, at a rate of 15.2 children per 1,000. This translates to a 1.8% decrease since 2017.

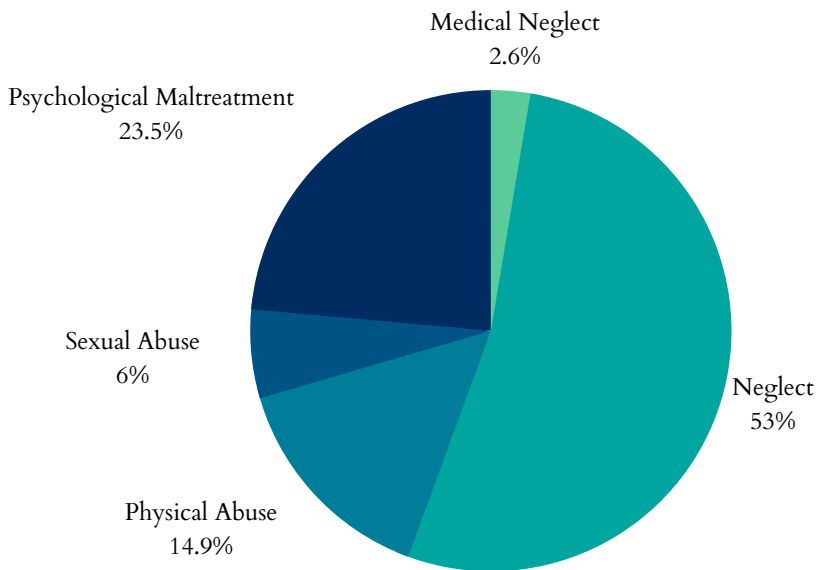
Of the 2,733 children, 1,737 were first-time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 354 of the 2,733 cases.

## Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2021



## Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2021



- 82% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child.
- 18% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.
- 52% of Alaska's child victims in 2020 were female while 48% were male.

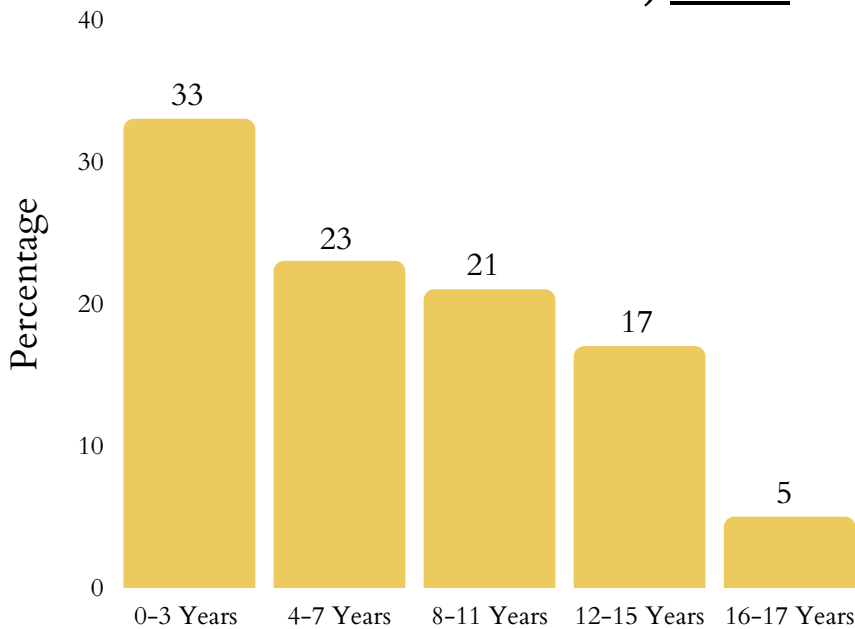
## Plans for Safe Care

- In 2021, Alaska reported 54 infants screened with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- Alaska did not report a number of plans of safe care for screened-in infants.



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## Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020



- Child fatalities have increased from 2 in 2020 to 6 in 2021.
- Alaska reported 2 total child victims of sex trafficking.
- 1,636 victims received post-response services while 491 non-victims received post-response services as well.

### FAMILY FIRST IMPLEMENTATION

- Alaska does not have a plan approved by the administration.

## Foster Care and Adoptions

- 4,119 total children were served by the foster care system in Alaska in FY 2021.
- 2,828 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2021.
- 1,324 children entered care during the 2021 FY while 1,291 exited during the same year.
- 339 of Alaska's children were adopted while 972 were waiting to be adopted.

**18.5%**

The increase since 2018 in children aging out of foster care.

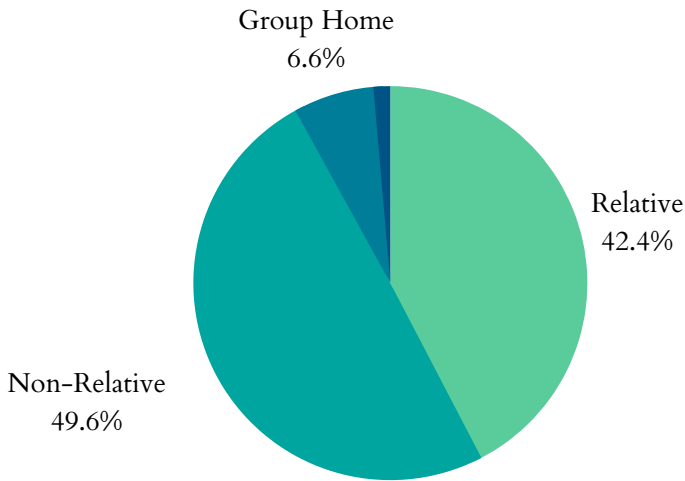
There was a 1.1% decrease in the number of children in care between 2020 and 2021. Adoptions from the system also decreased by 4.2% from 2020.

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.

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

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## Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2020



Data from 2020 shows that 899 children in foster care within Alaska were living with non-relatives while 767 stayed with a relative.

120 children were staying in group homes or institutions while 25 children were classified as runaways.

4% of households in Alaska in 2020 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 11.9 months.

## Child Poverty

Alaska had 61,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 34% of all children.

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

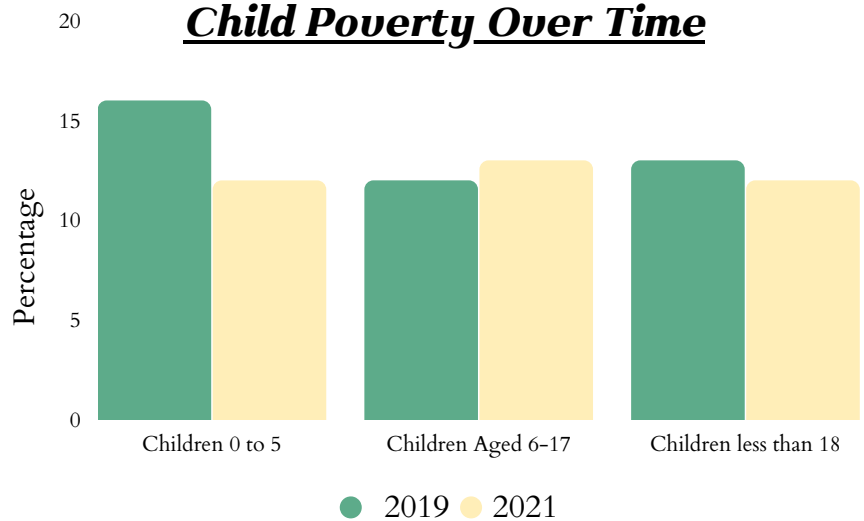
The average number of TANF recipients fell from 4,727 in 2021 to 4,078 in 2022. This represents a 13.73% decrease.

The state spent \$6,402,401 on WIC in 2022, serving 13,761 people. This represents a 5.43% decrease in total participants and a 12.17% decrease in spending.

79,670 people in Alaska were food insecure in 2020, including 26,910 children who struggled with hunger.

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

## Child Poverty Over Time



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## Health

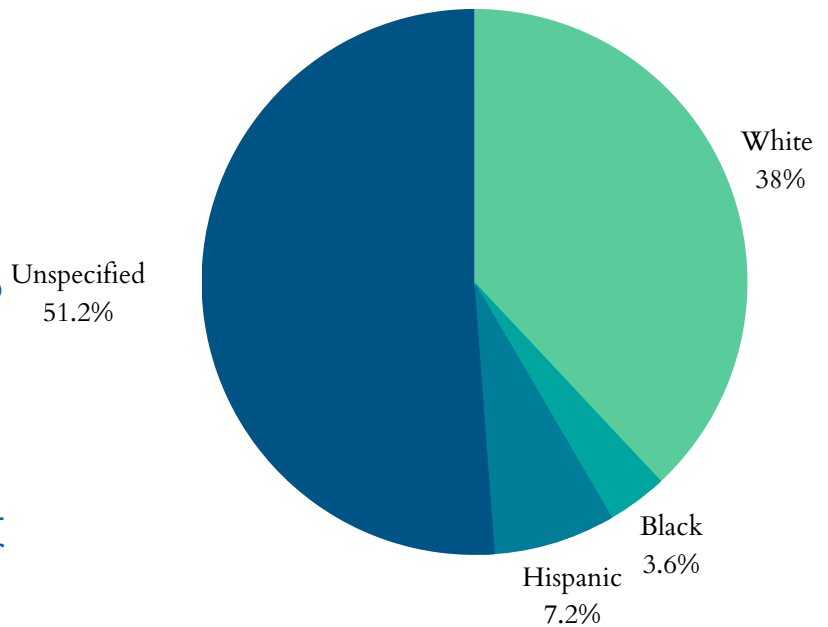
Alaska had 626 low birth-weight babies born in 2020, which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.6% of infants born in Alaska in 2020.

Alaska had a total of 926 preterm births in 2020, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 7.4% of all White babies were born prematurely while 10.3% of Black babies arrived prematurely in 2020. The total premature birth rate was 9.8%.

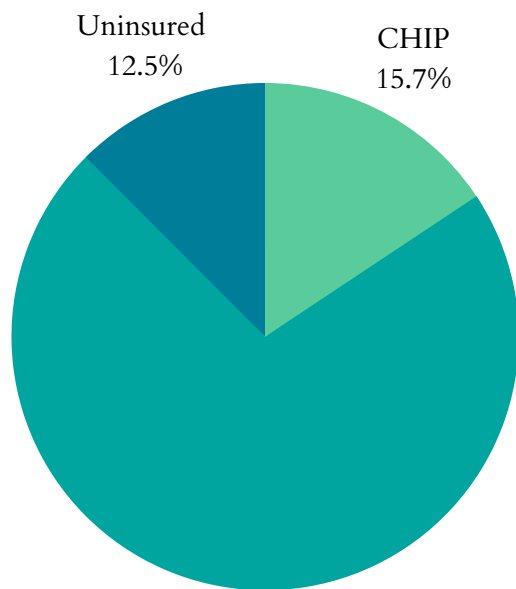
There were 378 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Alaska in 2020, representing a rate of 18 in every 1,000 teen girls.

49 infants under 1 died in Alaska in 2020, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.2 per 1,000.

### *Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2020*



### *Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2019*



15,000 of Alaska's children had no health insurance in 2021. This represents a 16.7% decrease since 2019.

Alaska is a Medicaid expansion state as of September 2015.

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

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

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## Juvenile Justice

- There were 1,433 total arrests for children under 18 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.

23%

The increase since 2017 of children living in juvenile correction facilities.

## Teens & Youth

- 5,000 (14%) of Alaska's youth, ages 16-19, were not in school nor working in 2021.
- In 2020, there were zero reports of children in Alaska aged 10-14 committing suicide, however, there were 46 reports of suicide among children and young adults aged 15-24.
- 22 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alaska in 2020.

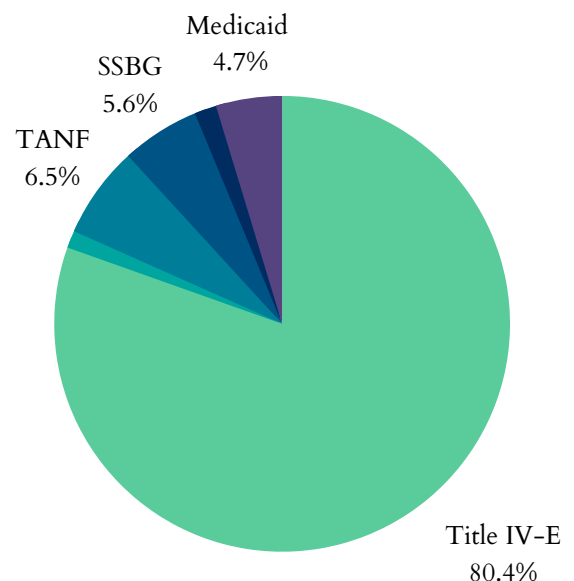
## Funding for Child Welfare Services

- 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 significant funding sectors of the \$59,367,489.08 in federal funding received in Alaska in 2018:

- \$20,868,952.00 as part of the Title IV-E Total 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 \$8,041,273.00

### Federal Funding Sources, 2018



# Alaska's Children

## **ALASKA STATE FACT SHEET**

<https://www.cwla.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Alaskas-Children.pdf>



## **NATIONAL AND STATE FACT SHEETS**

<https://www.cwla.org/our-work/advocacy/national-and-state-fact-sheets/>



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