

Alaska Children's Justice Act Task Force

➤ A brief introduction

House HSS, 2018



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Today's Agenda



- Introduction to CJATF
- Overview of Alaska child abuse data
 - *Annual prevalence trends*
 - *Adverse Childhood Experiences*
 - *Lifetime risk*
- Addressing the issue
 - *Projects, Partnerships, and Champions*

Introduction to the Alaska CJATF



Federally mandated and funded

***Mission:** Identify areas where improvement is needed in the statewide response to child maltreatment, particularly child sexual abuse, make recommendations and take action to improve the system.*

Statewide, multidisciplinary membership

CJATF Membership



| Mandated Membership disciplines | Representative | Additional Members | Representative |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Child Advocate (attorney for Children) | Marsha Tandeske (Chair) | Juvenile Justice | Heidi Redick |
| Child Protective Service Agency | Kim Guay (Vice Chair) | Public Health | Jared Parrish |
| Criminal Court Judge | Charlie Huguelet | Homeless Youth | Josh Louwerse |
| Civil Court (Tribal) Judge | Ellen Sovalik | | |
| Prosecuting Attorney | Gayle Garrigues | | |
| Defense Attorney | Scott Dattan | | |
| CASA Representative | Dorothea "D" Owens | | |
| Health Professionals | BJ Coopes MD | | |
| Health Professionals | Cathy Baldwin-Johnson | | |
| Mental Health Professional | Mike Hopper | | |
| Individual experienced in working with children with disabilities | Nichelle Mauk | | |
| Parent Group Representative | Pam Karalunas | | |
| AAG Office | Hanna Sebold | | |
| Adult Former Victim | Diane Payne | | |
| Law Enforcement Community | VACANT | | |

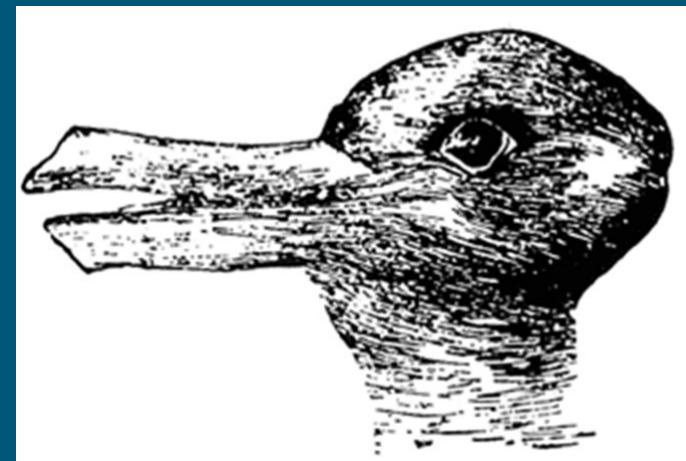
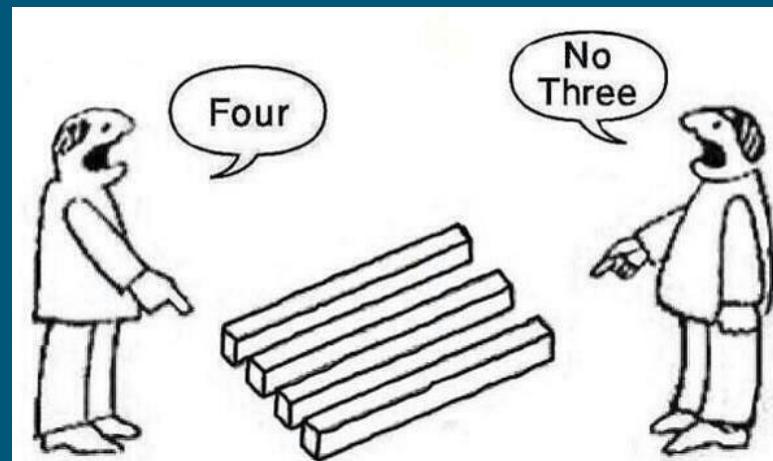
Child Abuse in Alaska



Perception, observation, and statistics



When we consume information we place it in context of our own personal experience and understanding



We use statistics to summarize our observations to confirm, inform, reframe, or dispute our individual perceptions

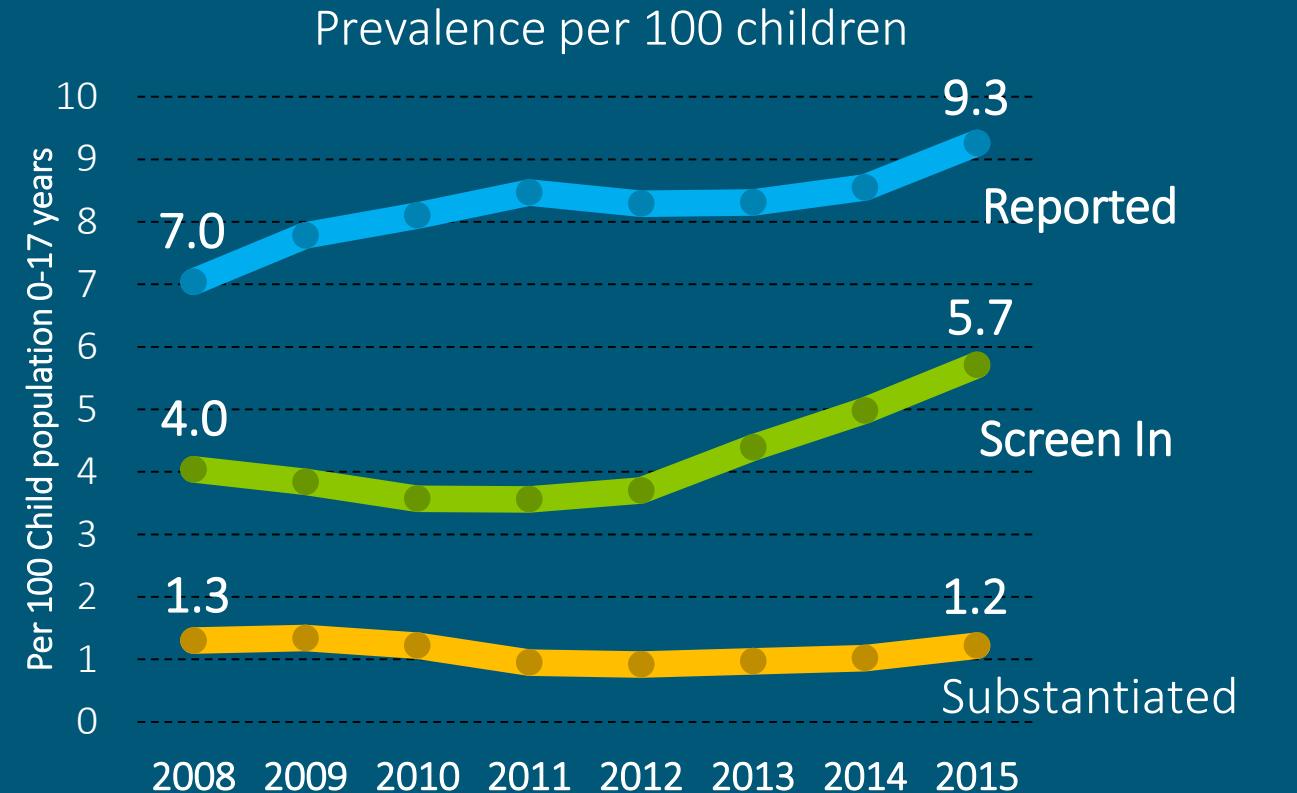
Annual prevalence – 3 estimates



On average –

- ~ 15,000 children are reported
- ~ 8,000 children are screened in
- ~ 2,000 children are substantiated
to/by OCS annually

- The number of reports and screen ins has significantly increased since 2008



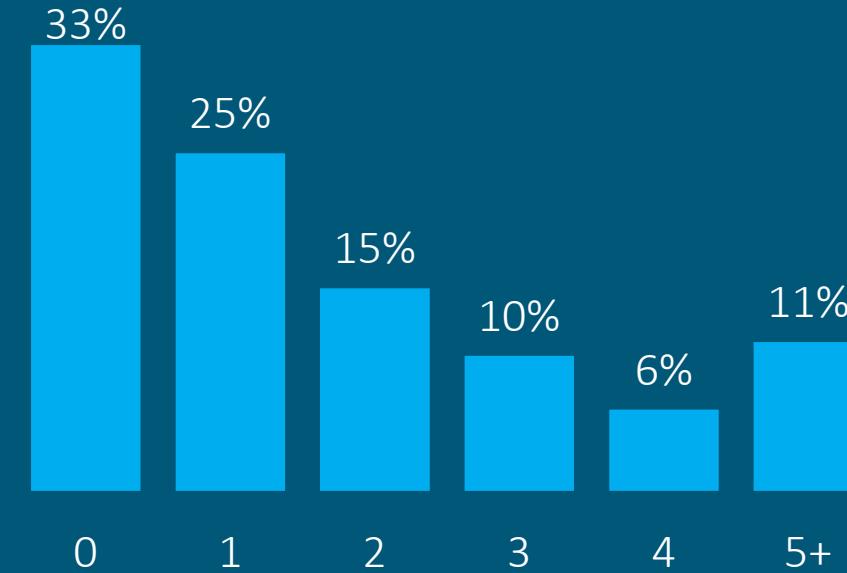
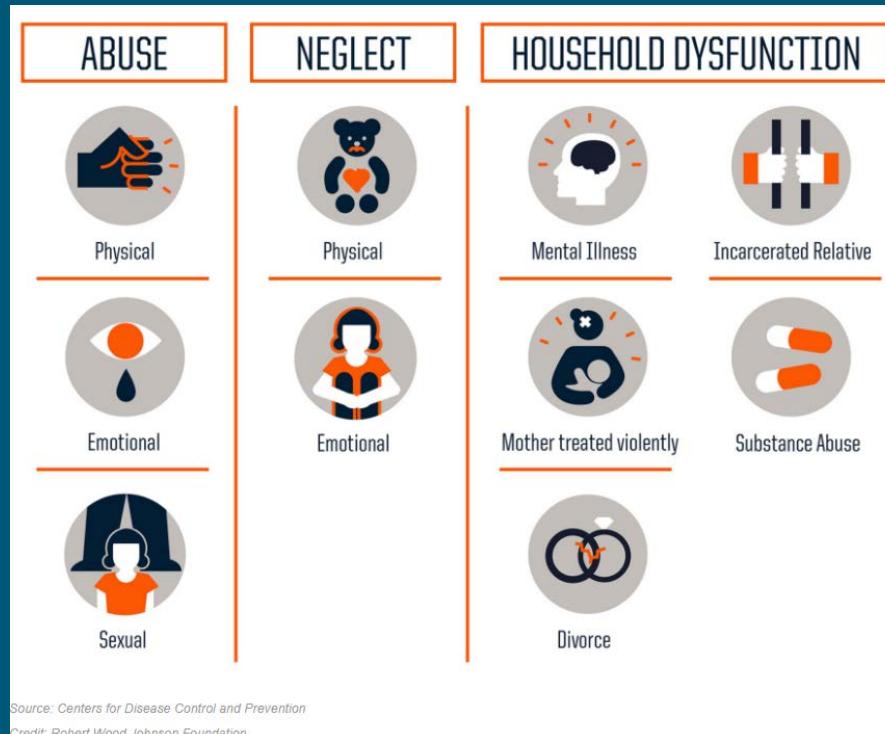
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)



Collaborative study between CDC researchers and Kaiser Permanente¹

>17,000 participants of an HMO asked about events before age 18

75% white (54% female, 46% male), mean age 57, 75% at least some college.



1) Felitti, Vincent J., et al. "Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study." *American journal of preventive medicine* 14.4 (1998): 245-258.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)



The more ACEs documented, the higher ones risk for developing later health and social problems

Accumulation
of ACEs

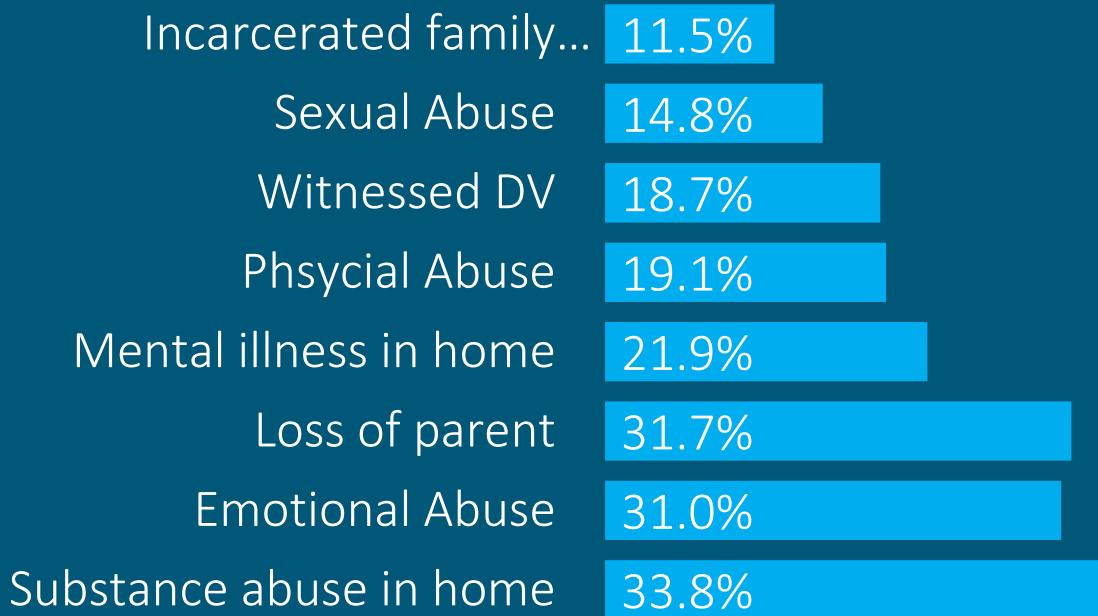


Trauma modifies
development



Alaska ACEs snapshot

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/abada/ace-ak/Pages/default.aspx>



Reporting 4+



A screenshot of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services website. The header includes the state logo, navigation links for Home, Divisions and Agencies, Services, News, and Contact Us, and links for myAlaska, My Government - Resident, Business in Alaska, Visiting Alaska, and State Employees. The main content area features a banner for "Adverse Childhood Experiences Overcoming ACEs in Alaska". Below the banner, there is a news item about a trauma-informed approach to schools, a summary of ACEs, and related links to the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study and CDC Centers for Disease Control.

News and Events

11/28/17 The Whole Child and Whole School: A Trauma Informed Approach

Adverse Childhood Experiences in Alaska

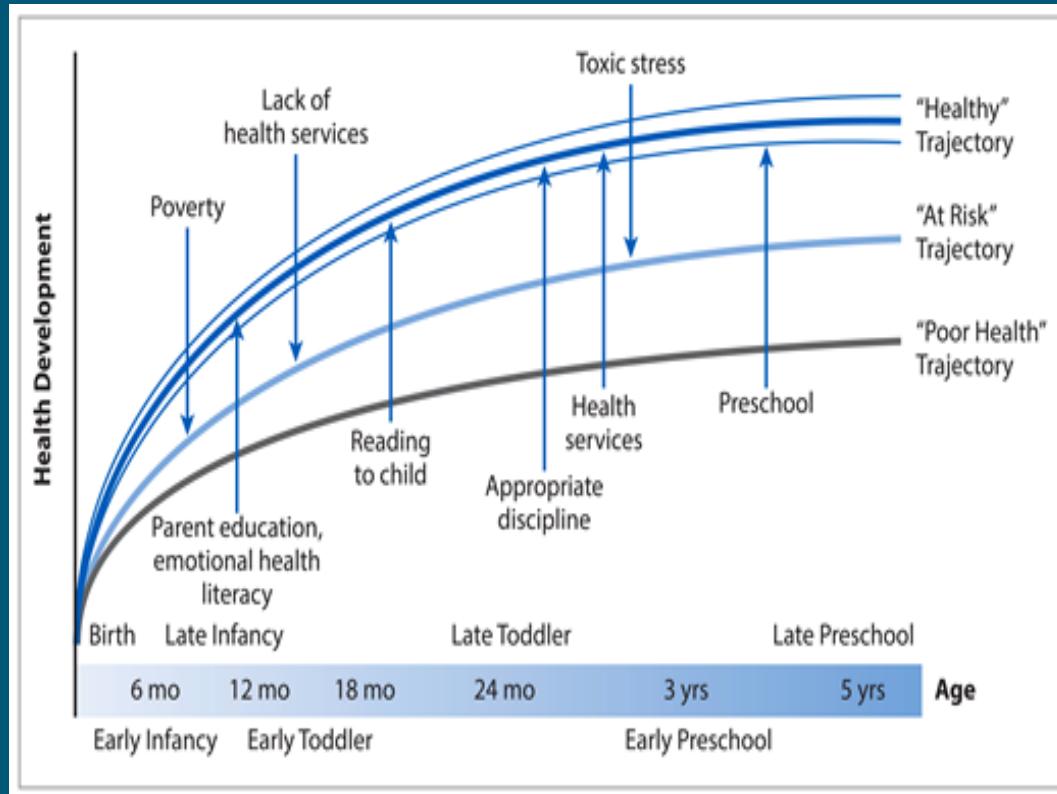
"Adverse Childhood Experiences" (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic experiences, including abuse, neglect, witnessing domestic violence, or growing up with substance abuse, mental illness, or a parent in jail.

Related Links

The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study
CDC-Centers for Disease

- 49% more likely to be unemployed
- 274% more likely to be unable to work
- 92% more likely to earn < \$20k annually
- Significantly more likely to report poor physical & mental health

Life course perspective



Life can start with and develop differential health trajectories over the life course.

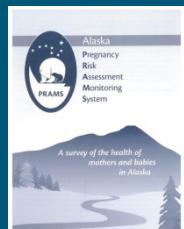
- Assets and deficits support or reduce healthy development
- Prevention/intervention timing during the life course can have different expected impacts on health
- Lifetime burden (Risk) is important to measure to inform public health prevention efforts



New emerging data resources



Moving beyond describing the issue from an adult perspective to documenting the health and development over the life course



Alaska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (Alaska PRAMS)

Follow-up



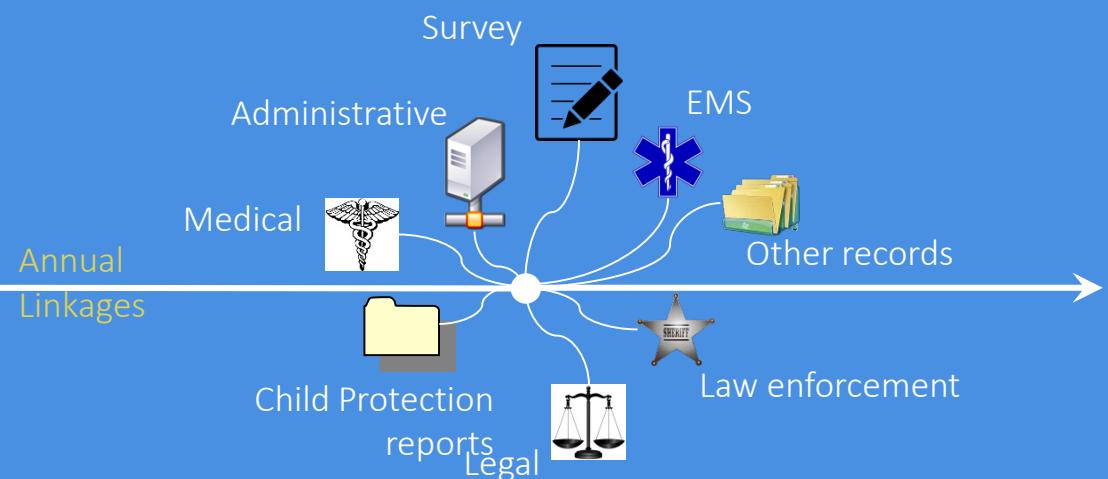
Administration and response



Maternal experiences



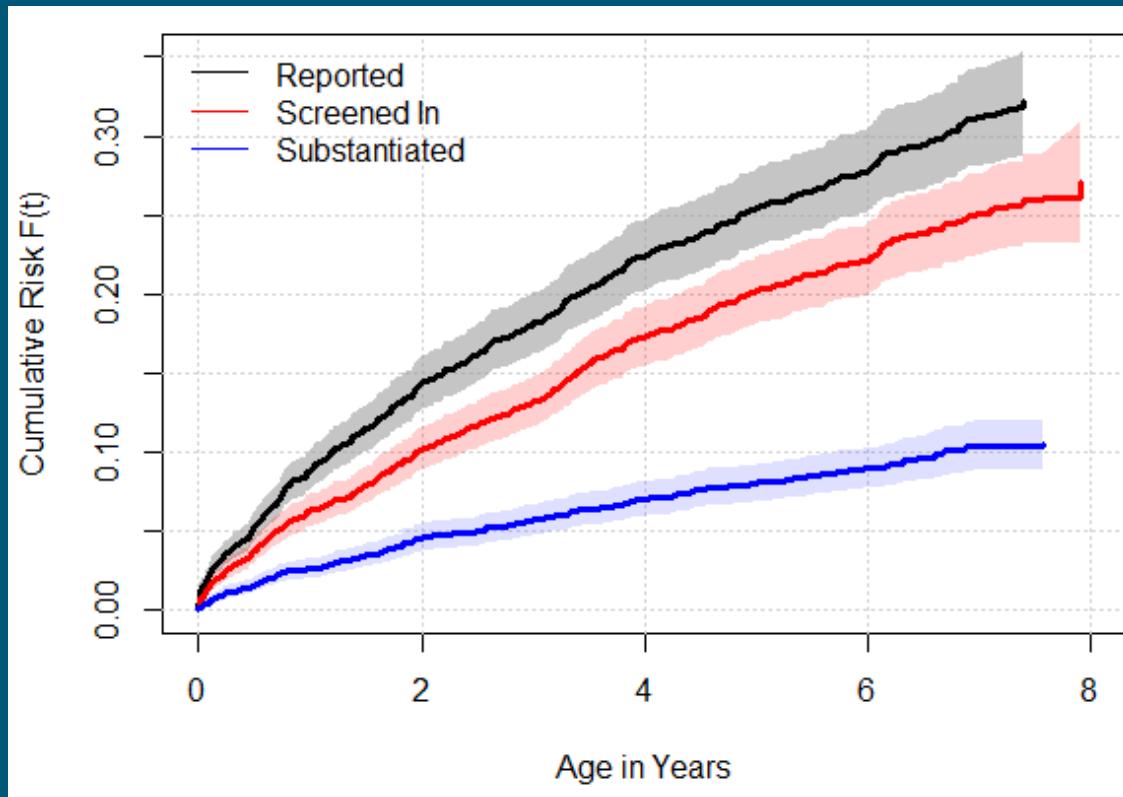
Alaska Longitudinal Child Abuse and Neglect Linkage Project (ALCANLink)



ALCANLink – lifetime risk



Among children born during 2009:2011 in Alaska, before age 8



- 32% experienced a report to OCS
- 27% experienced a screened-in report to OCS
- 10% experienced a substantiated report to OCS

ALCANLink – crude proportion by birth cohort



Among children born during 2009:2015 in Alaska, before age 2 years



The proportion (crude) of children born in Alaska who have contact with OCS before age 2 years is remaining fairly constant

Maltreatment burden

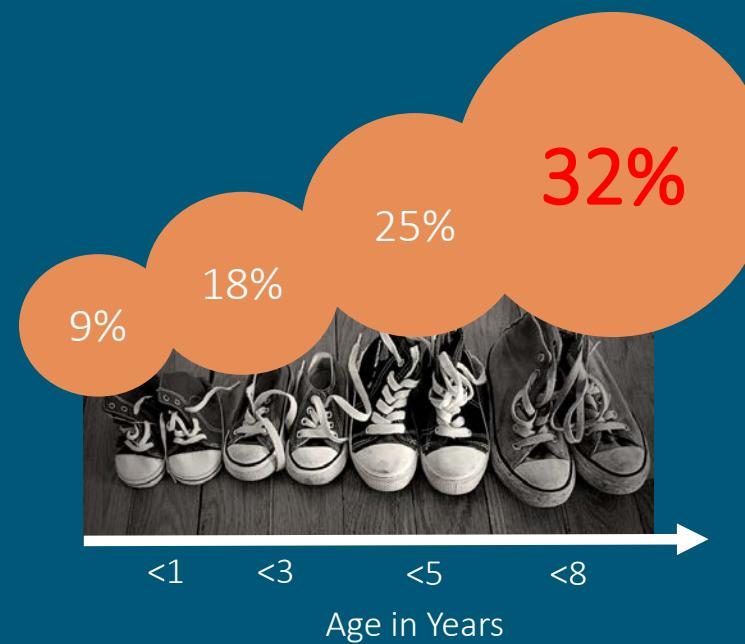


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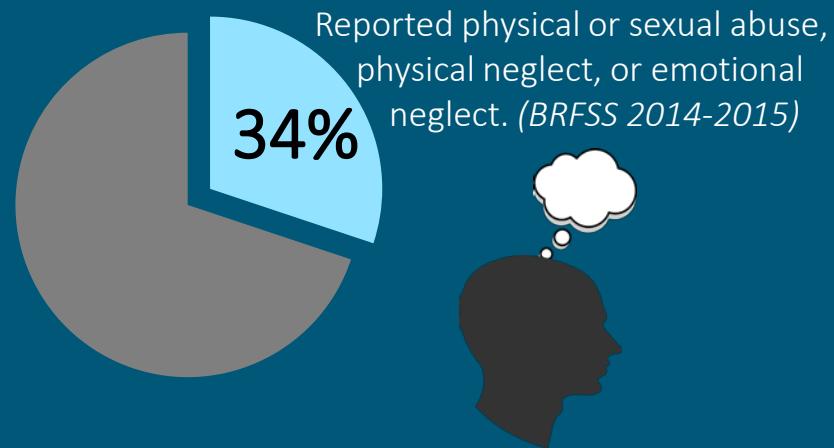
Annual Prevalence
(children ages 0-17 years, 2012-2015)



Cumulative Incidence
(reported to OCS before age x)



Adult prevalence
(recall of experiences during childhood)



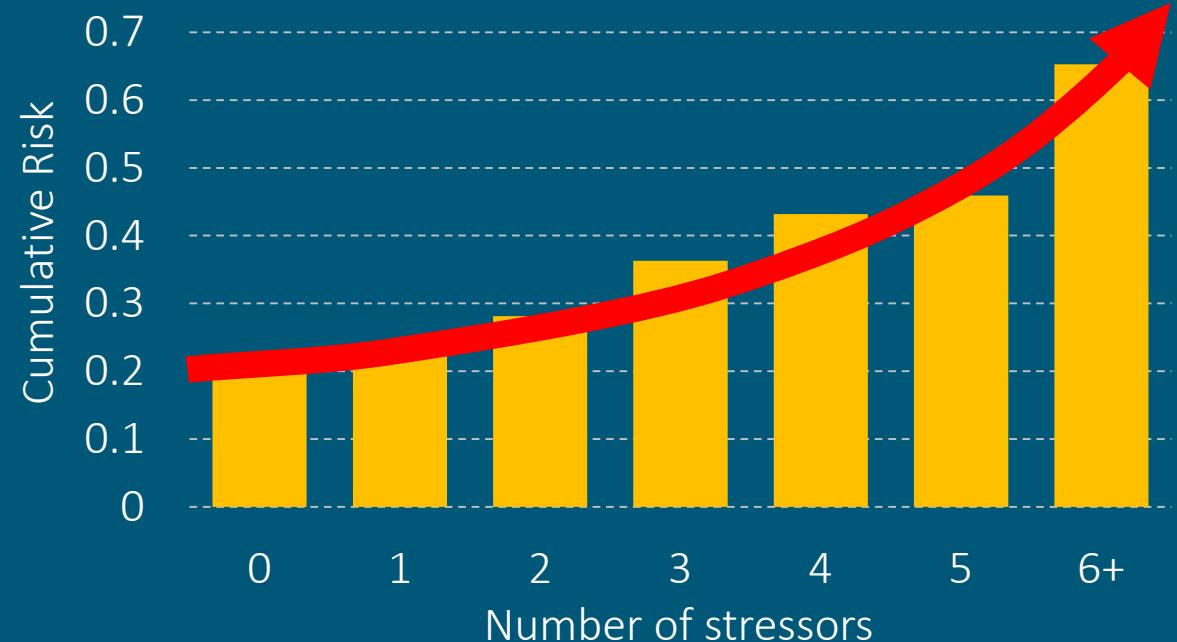
Household dysfunction



21% of children born to mothers reporting that during the 12 months prior to birth they experienced at least 4 of these 13 life events

1. Being homeless
2. Husband/partner went to jail
3. Being in a fight
4. Loss of job even though wanted to keep working
5. Husband/partner lost job
6. Argued with husband/partner more than usual
7. Close family member very sick or hospitalized
8. Separated/divorced
9. Moved to a new address
10. Husband/partner said they didn't want pregnancy
11. Has a lot of bills couldn't pay
12. Someone close had problem with drinking/drugs
13. Someone close died

The risk of a child welfare contact increases with the number of stressors reported

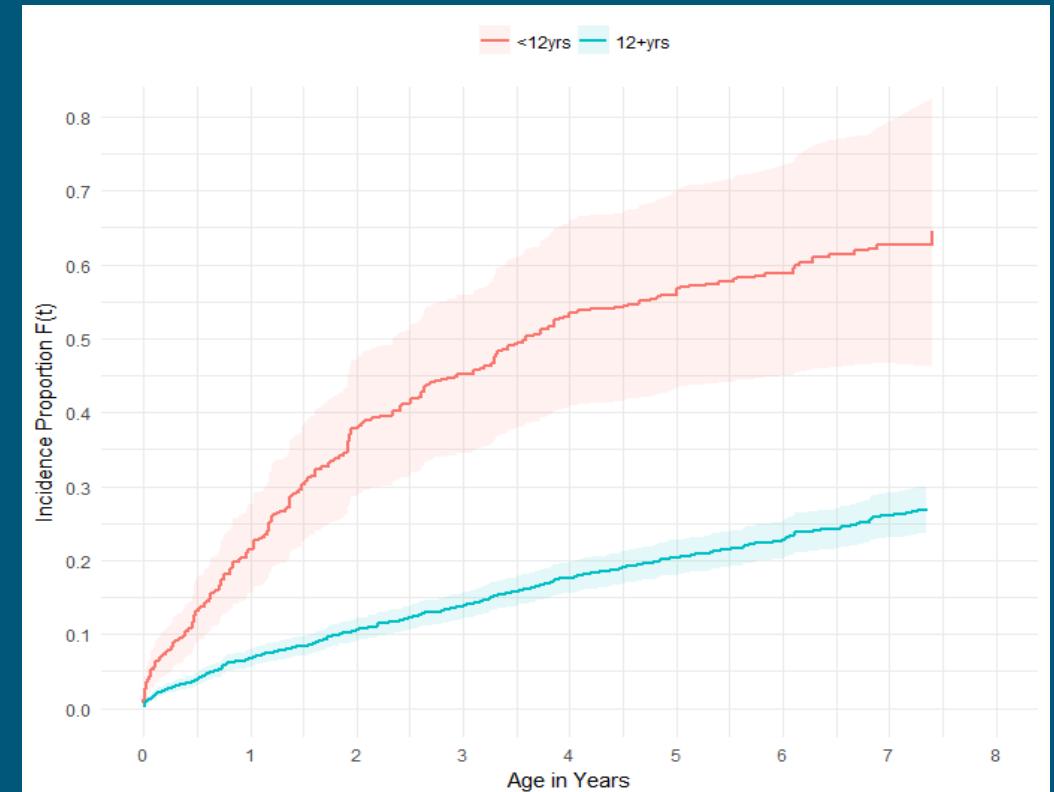


It's usually not just one thing!



Cumulative incidence to first report before age 8 years by maternal education level reported at birth, ALCANLink 2009:11 births

- Children born to mothers with <12 years education 3.5 times as likely to be reported to OCS before age 8!
- Intimate partner violence (IPV) however, is a protective factor killer: If IPV is reported among 12+ education group the risk is 3.9 times as high!
- Data barriers

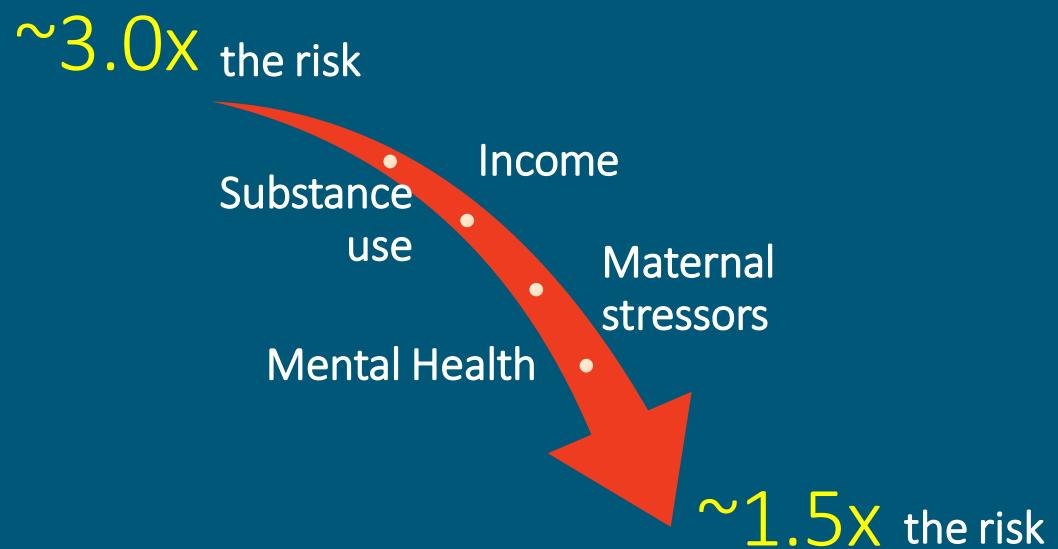


Disparity and risk



A disparity is something that should be described and understood between populations to ensure intervention/prevention is appropriate

Compared to
White Children,
Alaska Native Children:



Race doesn't define risk,
rather the disproportionate
load of factors that are
modifiable and preventable.

Addressing this issue



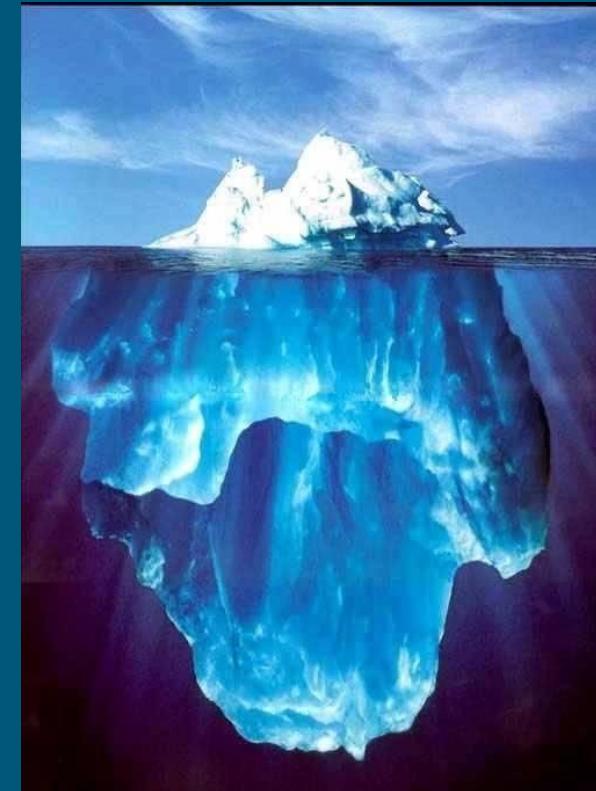
Costs to Alaska: \$82 million ANNUALLY



Financial liability to our state for substantiated reports of child abuse:

For childhood health care, child welfare, special education

Source: Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse and Alaska Mental Health Board



What can we do?



Reasons for hope:

Healing is possible

Our brains can always learn

We can all help build resilience in children

We can all help protect children



Improve the system response

What is the Alaska CJATF Doing to Help?



Prior Projects



- Drafted laws to improve protection & justice for children
 - Starvation*
 - Serious physical abuse*
 - Protection of child interviews, exams, photos*
 - Added coaches to mandatory reporters*
- Multidisciplinary team guidelines for responding to child abuse cases in Alaska
- Rural trainings on child sexual abuse
- Listening session on child abuse in rural Alaska at 2016 BIA Conference with presentation of results 2017

Ongoing Projects: Education



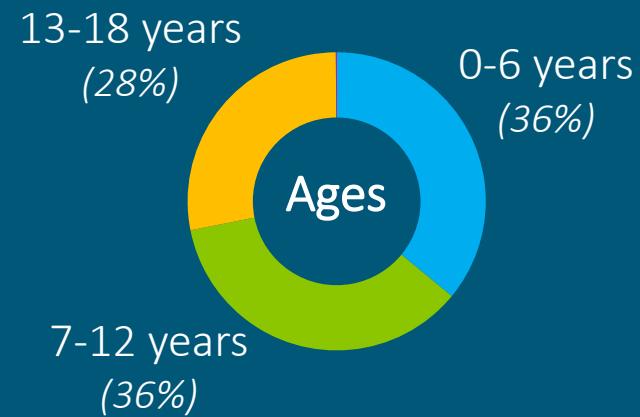
On-line program
Scholarships
Conference sponsorships
Legislative presentations



Advocacy & Partnerships



Child Advocacy Centers (CACs)
Information sharing
Support & advocacy



Children seen at Alaska CACs



| Location of CAC | # of communities served | Total # of children seen since CAC open |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| Anchorage (1st in AK - opened in 1996) | 27 | 14,902 |
| Bethel (opened in 2001) | 56 | 1,919 |
| Copper River Basin (opened in 2009) | 17 | 145 |
| Dillingham (opened in 2003) | 33 | 500 |
| Fairbanks (opened in 2003) | 52 | 3,099 |
| Juneau (opened in 2001) | 19 | 1,786 |
| Kenai Peninsula (opened in 2008) | 30 | 1,331 |
| Kodiak (opened in 2011) | 7 | 195 |
| Kotzebue (opened in 2014) | 11 | 110 |
| Mat-Su (opened in 1999) | 11 | 3,275 |
| Nome (opened in 2002) | 17 | 658 |

Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth

A Ten-City Study Executive Summary

Laura T. Murphy



This study provides a detailed account of **labor** and **sexual exploitation** experienced by homeless youth in Covenant House's care in ten cities.



Human trafficking — the exploitation of a person's labor through force, fraud, or coercion — is a crime whose victims tend to be society's most vulnerable. People who are homeless, lack a support system, or are desperate for work are susceptible to the promises of people who would exploit them for labor and for sex. Recently, homeless youth providers in the United States and Canada have become aware that their clients are particularly at risk of trafficking, and research has begun to uncover the extent and contours of the problem within that community.

Between February 2014 and June 2016, researchers from Loyola University New Orleans's Modern Slavery Research Project (MSRP) were invited by Covenant House International and ten of their individual sites in the United States and Canada to serve as external experts to study the prevalence and nature of human trafficking among homeless youth aged 17 to 25. MSRP researchers interviewed 641 homeless and runaway youth who access services through Covenant House's network of shelters, transitional living and apartment programs, and drop-in centers. Youth were invited to participate, on a voluntary basis, in a point-in-time study about work experience. Semi-structured interviews were conducted using the Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure (HTIAM-14) to assess whether youth had been trafficked for sex or labor in their lifetimes.

Youth were interviewed in the following cities:

Anchorage, Alaska
Atlanta, Georgia
Detroit, Michigan
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Los Angeles, California
New Orleans, Louisiana
Oakland, California
St. Louis, Missouri
Toronto, Ontario
Vancouver, British Columbia

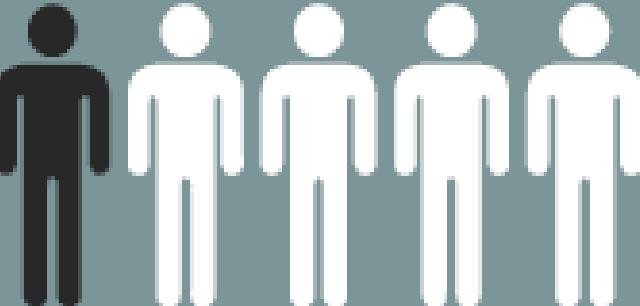
641 Youths

Executive Summary

Results of Loyola University Study:



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Nearly
1 in 5 

(19%) of interviewed youth were identified as
victims of some form of human trafficking.

Advocacy & Partnerships

- Strengthening Families™
- Citizen's Review Panel
- Alaska Mental Health Board
- Alaska Children's Trust
- Resiliency Initiative
- Covenant House International
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Prevention Initiatives
- Education Systems
- Tribal partnerships
- Foster Care
- ...



What can you do?



Realize this affects ALL of us in Alaska

- Make your decisions using a trauma-informed lens
= “It’s not what’s wrong with you, it’s what happened to you”
- Support system-wide approaches to strengthen children and families

= Redundancy is critical!



What can you do?



Think big - “Collective Impact”

- Support local community based initiatives

Examples:

- *Strengthening Families™*
- *ROCK MatSu (Raising our Children with Kindness)*
- *MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships)*
- *Pathway's to Hope*
- *Family Wellness Warriors Initiative*



What can you do?



Support services that will reduce future costs for:

- *Special education*
- *Health care*
- *Mental health & substance abuse treatment*
- *Child protection*
- *Homeless services & shelters*
- *Legal system*
- *Corrections*

HCR 2 – Adverse Childhood Experiences Resolution –
In favor

HB 151 – Training on foster care licensing and sibling
contact – In favor



Alaska data suggests that:



- Many Alaskan adults bear the burden of a lifetime accumulation of family violence and dysfunction
- Alaskan children start accumulating these adverse events early in life
- Multiple factors contribute to maltreatment
- Systems must be in place at multiple points along developmental trajectories to respond efficiently and effectively to maltreatment
- Our economy and our society bears the costs

CJATF focus this year



- Exploring barriers to information sharing to initiate services sooner!
 - Community based, supportive, and strength based
 - Educate the public about reporting possible child abuse
 - Trafficking and safe harbor laws

How will you be a champion for Alaskan families?



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