

Mental Health in Alaska



Many Alaskans struggle with their mental health.

It is more important than ever to build a stronger mental health system that provides the care, support, and services needed to help people build better lives.

132,000

adults in Alaska have a mental health condition. That's more than **4x** the population of **Juneau**.



1 in 5 adults experience a mental illness each year.

More than **1 in 20 U.S. adults** experience a **serious mental illness** each year.



1 in 6 U.S. adolescents aged 12-17 experience a **major depressive episode** each year.

13,000 Alaska adolescents experience a **major depressive episode** each year.

36,000 Alaska adults have a **serious mental illness**.

1 in 7 of the more than **2,500 people** in Alaska **who are unhoused** have a **serious mental illness**.



1 in 20 adults have **serious thoughts of suicide** each year.

29,000 Alaska adults have **serious thoughts of suicide** each year.



1 in 9 adolescents aged 12-17 have **serious thoughts of suicide** each year.

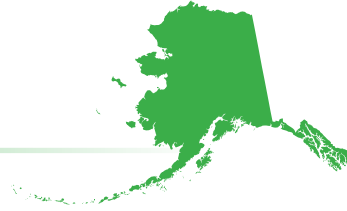
9,000 Alaska adolescents have **serious thoughts of suicide** each year.



23% of youth aged 0-17 in Alaska have **experienced 2+ adverse childhood experiences**, which are linked to mental illness and substance misuse in adulthood.

200 lives were **lost to suicide** in Alaska in 2022.

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More than **414,000** people in Alaska live in a community without enough mental health professionals.

The need to address access to mental health care in Alaska is urgent.

2x

more likely for an Alaskan to be **forced out-of-network** for mental health care than for primary care.

12,201

calls were made to Alaska's **988 Suicide & Crisis Line** call centers in 2023.

ALASKA
is facing a mental
health crisis.

1 in 1,566

ratio for school psychologists to students in Alaska's K-12 public schools. This is **worse** than the recommended ratio of one school psychologist for every 500 students.

35,000

adults in Alaska reported needing mental health treatment but not receiving it between 2018-2019. **Cost is a prevailing factor** in not receiving treatment.

Alaskans deserve to get the mental health care they need, when they need it.



NAMI Alaska is part of NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Learn more at namialaska.org. For data citations, visit nami.quorum.us/mhpolicystats/.

This fact sheet was compiled based on data available in March 2025.