

EDUCATION OF ALASKA CHILDREN

2018 Kids Count Report



EARLY CHILDHOOD — Ages 0-4 —

47% of CHILDREN (ages 9 to 35 months) received a DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING¹



54%

54% of 3-year-olds have ROUTINE CARE ARRANGEMENTS; of these, most children attend a center, preschool, or Head Start²



58%

58% of 3-year-olds are READ TO EVERY DAY³



76%

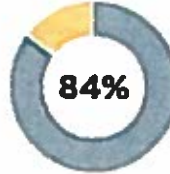
76% of 3-year-olds watch 1+ HOUR OF SCREEN TIME per day⁴



30% of Kindergartners were KINDERGARTEN READY at the start of the school year⁵



SCHOOL AGE — Ages 5-18 —



84% of children are ENROLLED in K-12 public school⁶



- 3/4 of children REGULARLY ATTEND⁷
- 1/4 of children are CHRONICALLY ABSENT⁸

AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENT⁹



4th grade reading



4th grade math



8th grade reading



8th grade math



2,003

students DROPPED OUT of school between 7th and 12th grade¹⁰

7,681

students GRADUATED from high school¹¹

POST-SECONDARY — Ages 18+ —

1 in 5 young adults (18 to 24) with high school diplomas were NOT ENROLLED in school OR CURRENTLY WORKING¹²



27%

21,000

young adults (18 to 24) were ENROLLED IN COLLEGE or had already completed a degree¹³



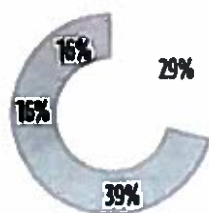
38%

of the working age population (25 to 64 years) had a POST-SECONDARY DEGREE¹⁴

ALASKA CHILDREN

Children make up 25 percent of Alaska's total population.

CHILD POPULATION



0 to 4 = 54,115

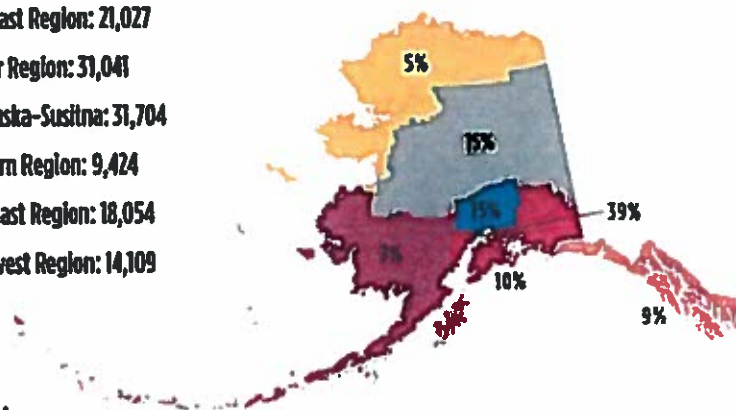
5 to 11 = 73,401

12 to 14 = 29,721

15 to 17 = 30,090

PERCENT OF CHILD POPULATION (0-19), BY REGION

- Anchorage: 81,772
- Gulf Coast Region: 21,027
- Interior Region: 31,041
- Matanuska-Susitna: 31,704
- Northern Region: 9,424
- Southeast Region: 18,054
- Southwest Region: 14,109



187,300 CHILDREN
between the ages of 0 and 17
LIVE IN ALASKA

RECOMMENDATIONS

AVAILABLE PRE-K

Pre-K programs should be available to all students in Alaska, especially to those students in low-socioeconomic households. Early education and care is an investment in long-term outcomes; Alaskans should focus on getting all kids into programmed care.

PARENT EDUCATION GOALS

Encourage parents to invest in their own education goals, to provide for a better future for their children by seeking higher education. Increasing education today would lead to an increase in a capable workforce and the schooling of the next generation, an improvement of later life outcomes such as health, productivity for Alaskan Children.

RESTORATIVE DISCIPLINE PRACTICES

Eliminate all discriminatory discipline practices. The state should embrace a restorative justice approach to discipline in our schools as an alternative to zero-tolerance programs and other types of disciplinary action.

ACCESS TO SPECIALISTS

All staff should have access to support from specialists, such as early childhood mental health consultants and behavior coaches.

GRADUATION RATES

Implement a plan for children of color to graduate at higher levels by ensuring the money reaches students who need it most. Extra funds should be provided to study the impact, to model best practices

AVAILABLE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

Developmental screening should be made available to all kids. Infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities should be identified and receive early intervention services in a timely manner.

MENTORSHIP & AFFIRMATION

Alaska should support strategies to engage children of color, by setting up mentor programs helping students reflect on personal values that reinforce self-worth and Affirmation intervention programs.

FUNDING

The state needs to fund the educational system in a way that provides consistent resources, so that each child can be successful.

Sources: 1) National Survey of Children's Health. 2) Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey. 3) Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. 4) Alaska Department of Education & Early Development and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. 5) National Assessment of Educational Progress. 6) American Community Survey. 7) U.S. Census Bureau. 8) Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

All data included in this brief reflects the most recent year available, usually 2016, and can be found at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/ALAK/>. The content is described in detail in the report 2018 Kids Count Education available at <http://www.voicesakchildren.org/publications/>. Compilation and analysis of the data was completed by the McDowell Group.

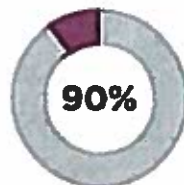
HEALTH OF ALASKA CHILDREN

2018 Kids Count Report



Alaska's National Health Ranking: 50/50

INSURANCE & ACCESS

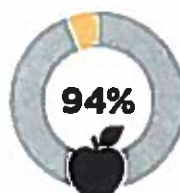


90%
of Alaska children
under 19 years of age have
INSURANCE COVERAGE

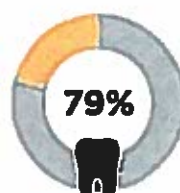


1/3 of children
do NOT have a regular
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

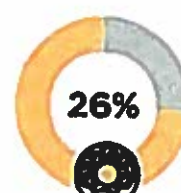
HEALTH & WELLBEING



94%
of children are in
EXCELLENT
or very good health



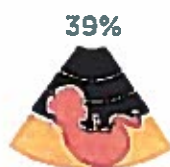
79%
of children have teeth
in EXCELLENT
or very good condition



26%
of children (10 to 17)
are OVERWEIGHT
or obese

19% of CHILDREN (ages 2 to 17) had a doctor who
said they had autism, developmental delays, depression or
anxiety, ADD/ADHD, or behavioral/conduct problems

BIRTH
11,215 BABIES BORN in 2016



39%
of Alaska women
who give birth have
LESS than ADEQUATE
PRENATAL CARE



6%
of babies have
LOW
BIRTH-WEIGHTS

PREVENTIVE CARE

78%

of CHILDREN visited a
healthcare provider
for a PREVENTIVE CHECK-UP during the year



33%

of 3-YEAR-OLDS saw a
DENTIST before their 2nd birthday

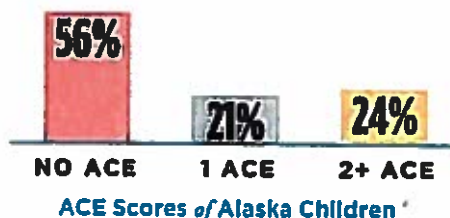


69%

of CHILDREN (ages 9 to 35 months)
received a COMPLETE COMBINED 7-VACCINE SERIES



ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES)



ACE Scores of Alaska Children

RISK BEHAVIORS



13%
of
high school students
reported
USING TOBACCO
during the past month



23%
of
high school students
reported
DRINKING ALCOHOL
during the past month



22%
of
high school students
reported
USING MARIJUANA
one or more times
during the past month

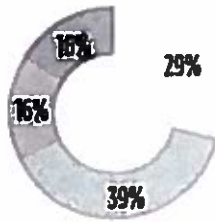
10% of Alaska high school students reported having SEX with
4 OR MORE PARTNERS during their lifetime

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CHILD POPULATION¹

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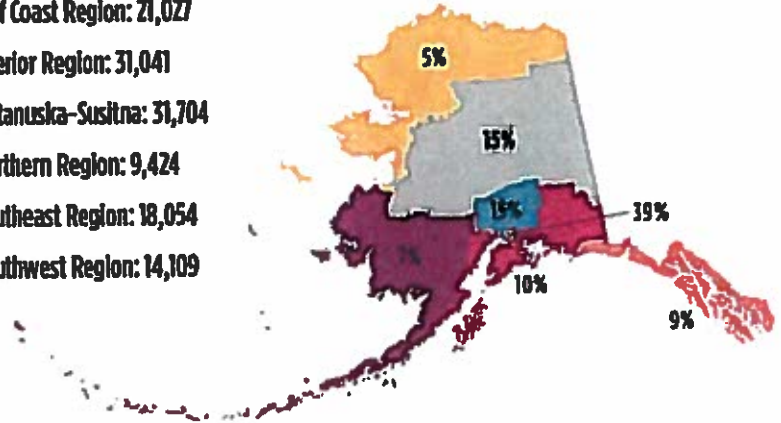


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RECOMMENDATIONS

PRIORITIZE PREVENTION

Preventing, or limiting health issues from occurring, minimizes or eliminates overall health and cost impacts.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL OPTIONS

Most employers' healthcare plans cover well-baby care, whereas less than half cover contraceptive devices or drugs to prevent unplanned pregnancies. Unplanned or unwanted pregnancies have a direct relationship with the risk of a child experiencing child abuse and neglect.

PREVENT ACEs AND BUILD RESILIENCE

A powerful body of research shows that what a child experiences during the early years (starting in utero) lays the foundation for their whole life. Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences and building resilience in children and families will have long term social, economic and health benefits.

PROMOTE SCREENING

Effective screening, counseling, and support services can identify individuals at risk, provide the support to change behaviors, and speed up access to needed services. Screening services should be covered by employer-sponsored health plans.

PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

The Alaska Maternal and Child Death Review (MCDR) aims to identify causes and contributing factors to maternal, infant, and child deaths in Alaska and develop recommendations to prevent future deaths. MCDR's recommendations to ensure the long life of all children should be followed.

CONTAIN COSTS

Increasing the tax on high risk substances can lead to a significant decrease in utilization and lessen health impacts. Tax revenue can be dedicated to prevention, outreach, and education.

SUPPORT MEDICAID

Alaska should evaluate changes to the structure, capacity, and financial stability of Medicaid to support the health care needs of the uninsured and other vulnerable populations. Any change that results in lower coverage should be viewed as a cut to children's health care.

INCREASE INSURANCE COVERAGE

All children need reliable and comprehensive health insurance. Alaska has the highest rate of uninsured children in the country, 11%.

COORDINATE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM REFORM

Expanding coverage and reforming health care payment/delivery must happen together. Coverage expansion is critical to fully address the underuse of effective care. Successful payment and delivery reform is needed to improve the quality of care and slow cost growth.

Sources: 1) Alaska Section of Health Analytics and Vital Records. 2) PRB analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder 2016 birth data. 3) U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2016 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates using the American Community Survey (ACS) Data; Retrieved April 2018. 4) National Survey of Children's Health. 5) Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS) for 2008-2016. 6) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Childhood combined 7-vaccine series coverage report. 7) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). 8) U.S. Census Bureau. 9) Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ALASKA CHILDREN

2018 Kids Count Report



EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

When parents have secure, well-paying jobs, they can provide for the basic needs of their children and invest in their children's, and Alaska's, future.

13,000

CHILDREN
have at least
1 parent who is actively
LOOKING FOR WORK



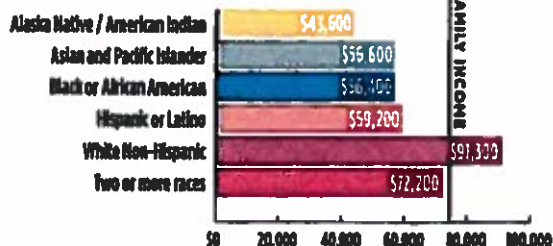
5,000

CHILDREN
live in low-income
households where
NO ADULT WORKED
during the last year

1/3 of Alaska's
children live in
families where
NO PARENT
has
regular, full-time
EMPLOYMENT

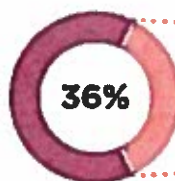
MEDIAN INCOME
of families with
children:

\$75,500



POVERTY

Experiencing poverty can have life-long impacts on a child's development.



36% of Alaskans living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level are children

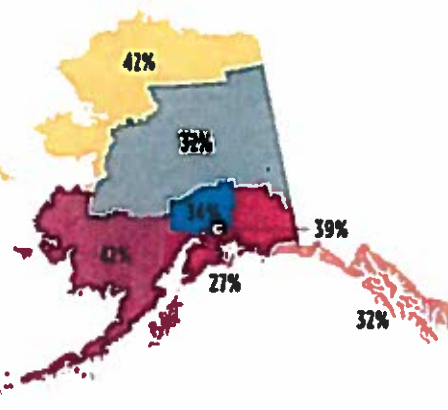


Single Parent
Married Couple

Most families in poverty are single parent families

PERCENTAGE OF ALASKANS IN POVERTY WHO ARE CHILDREN

26,150
Alaskan Children
IN POVERTY



BASIC NEEDS

Children need access to basic necessities—including a stable and nurturing environment, enough food, dependable housing—to develop into healthy adults.



20% of Alaska children lived in homes without enough food this past year and are hungry.



31% of children lived in households with a high housing cost burden



10,000

children live in
HIGH POVERTY NEIGHBORHOODS



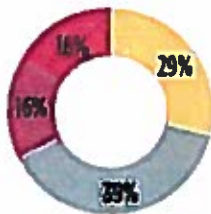
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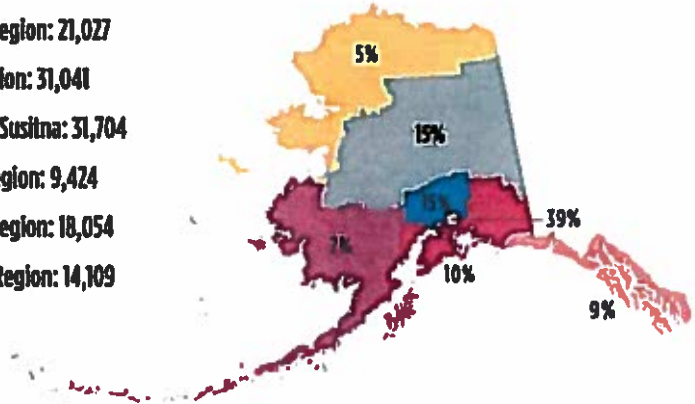
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RECOMMENDATIONS

Financial security is a complex issue that no one policy can solve. Yet, leaders in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors can take steps to address the issues that put our children's and families' financial security and stability at risk. ACT's Voices recommends investment in:

AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

Expand high-quality programs to serve young children's development and learning.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Strengthen and expand programs that occur out-of-school's regular hours that improve youth well-being, academic achievement, and successful high school graduation.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Increase the number of affordable housing units, improve tenant protections, expand access to housing supports, and make homeownership within reach of all credit-qualified Alaskans, particularly young adults and communities of color.

LIVING WAGE

Increase the minimum wage to a living wage.

EQUAL PAY & COMPENSATION

Ensure employers pay the same wage for similar work and offer the same opportunities regardless of sex or gender identity.

FOOD SECURITY

Provide SNAP incentives, fund Farm to School programs, support a market for Alaska Grown, provide technical assistance to accept SNAP or Quest cards at food markets, expand School Lunch and Breakfast program, and increase children's access to healthy meals when school is out.

HEALTHCARE

Expand access to quality, affordable healthcare for all Alaskans, children and adults, including preventive services, preconception and prenatal care, home visiting programs, and support for communities to fight the opioid epidemic.

NORMS & VALUE

Incorporate the Strengthening Families framework—a research-based, cost-effective strategy to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce child abuse and neglect—into government programs and policy development.

These are just a few examples of investments in policy that can help families across the state achieve financial security and stability and raise thriving children. Together, we can build communities that provide safe, stable, and nurturing environments for children and families.

ALASKA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

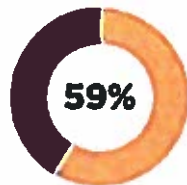
2018 Kids Count Report



COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

10,000

children live in
HIGH
POVERTY
AREAS¹



of parents say their
children live in
SAFE COMMUNITIES²

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



45%

of children (ages 6 to 17)
VOLUNTEERED
in their community³

52%

of high school students
FEEL THEY MATTER
to people in their community⁴



93%

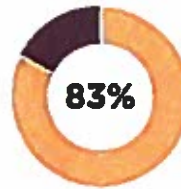
of children (ages 6 to 17)
have at least one adult to
RELY ON for GUIDANCE⁵

1 in 5

children (ages 6 to 17) is BULLIED⁶



FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS



of children's families demonstrate
RESILIENCE
during difficulty⁷



2/3 of children live in
TWO-PARENT FAMILIES⁸

68%

of single parent households are
HEADED BY WOMEN⁹

Alaska's TEEN BIRTH RATE DECREASED
from 40.3 births during 2007-2011 to 29.4 births during 2012-2016
per 1,000 females (ages 15-19)¹⁰

FOSTER CARE

2,810

Alaskan children were in FOSTER CARE in 2016¹¹

15 per 1,000
children
in Alaska

[Alaska's rate of children in
foster care is more than
DOUBLE the U.S. RATE¹²]

6 per 1,000
children
in the U.S.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE LIVE IN A:¹³



non-relative foster
family home



pre-adoptive
home



relative foster
family home



other

JUVENILE JUSTICE

39%

of referrals to the Alaska juvenile
justice system are for
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY¹⁴

70%

of juveniles referred to
the juvenile justice
system are MALE¹⁵

Alaska's rate of youth
detained, incarcerated, or placed in a residential facility
is HIGHER than the NATIONAL RATE
(262 youth per 100,000 in AK compared to
152 youth per 100,000 in U.S.)¹⁶

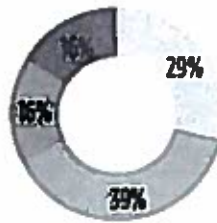


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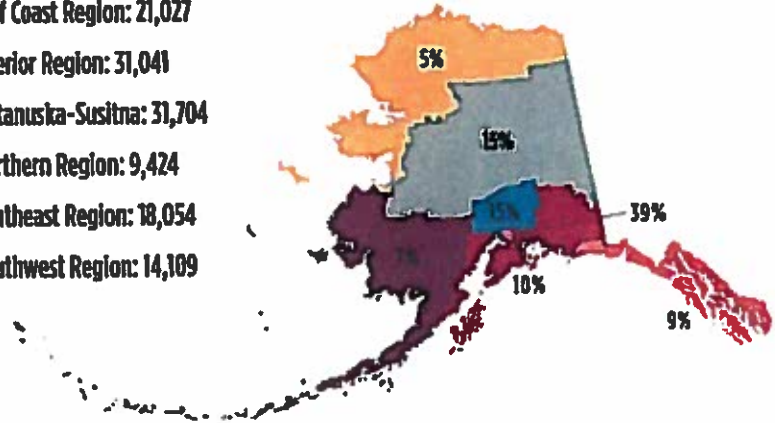
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RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Law enforcement and public health agencies have a shared interest in poverty, violence and other societal issues. Both fields recommend responding to existing problems while also taking a preventive approach to minimize issues before they start.

INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Developing and sustaining partnerships requires strong local leadership from mayors, city managers, city planners, and other elected local officials. A framework for using community and government partnerships to reduce crime includes recognizing crime and safety as a quality-of-life issue, working across jurisdictional boundaries, recognizing the crucial role of political leadership, and developing tools and measures of success that involve the community and victims of crime.

IMPROVE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPACTS

There is a need for further research and inquiry with children and the justice system. More needs to be reported on juveniles transfer into the adult system, the impact sentencing has on adolescent brain development, and sentencing of youth in the adult court.

REDUCE TEEN BIRTH RATE

We should continue implementing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs, those proven through rigorous evaluation to reduce teen pregnancy and the behavioral risk factors underlying teen pregnancy, or other associated risk behaviors. Any program changes to fill gaps in current evidence-based programs should include interventions for Latino, Alaska Native, American Indian, and LGBTQ youth, for males, and for youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems.

PREVENT OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT

Family support services often are not consistently available, and/or they are not intensive enough in many areas of Alaska to support in-home safety plans. The state should look for ways to partner with Tribes and nonprofit and support services that prove to make a difference in the lives of children. Diligent follow-through to support utilization of services is important, and any deficiency of the current system should be continually monitored and addressed whenever possible.

INFORMATION SHARING

By analyzing data in new ways, community groups and law enforcement can seek interventions more precisely and support programs that are effective.

Sources: 1) Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census Summary File 1 and Summary File 3 and the 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year data. 2) National Survey of Children's Health. 3) Alaska Statewide Traditional High School Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) Dataset, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. 4) American Community Survey. 5) Alaska Section of Health Analytics and Vital Records; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. 6) Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. 7) Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice. 8) Sickmund, Melissa, Sladky, T.J., Kang, Wei, and Puzzanchera, C. (2017) "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." 9) U.S. Census Bureau. 10) Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

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