



# THE STATE OF ALASKA'S CHILDREN

Alaska KIDS COUNT Overview

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Senate Education Committee

24 March 2023

Trevor Storrs, President & CEO

- National and state-by-state effort tracking the well-being of children, youth, and families

- Four Focus Areas



EDUCATION



HEALTH



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

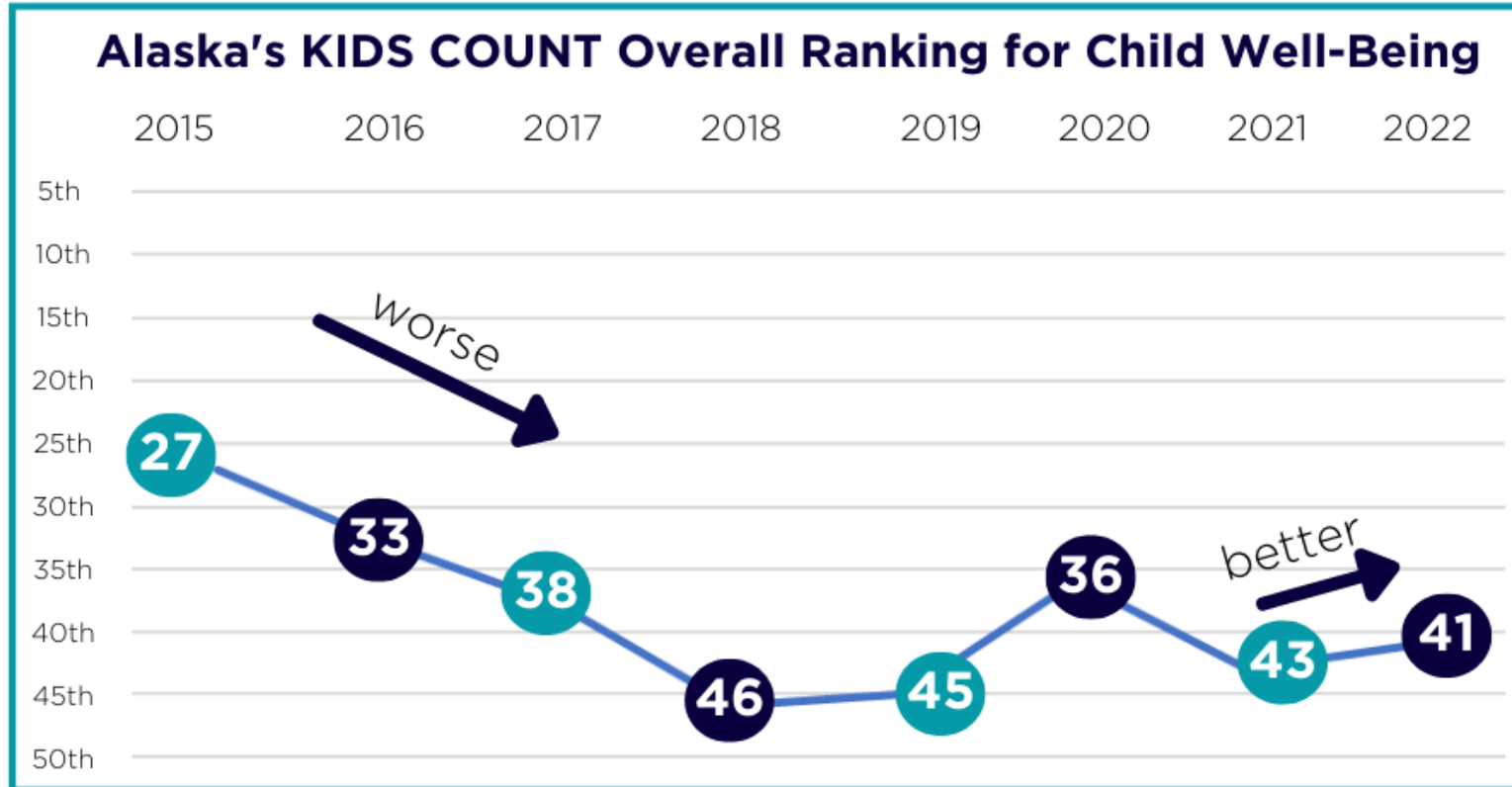


FAMILY & COMMUNITY

- Use sound data to help answer the question:  
***How are Alaska's children doing?***



# How Are Alaska's Children Doing?



**National  
KIDS COUNT  
Ranking** **41**

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Books, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2015-2022





# EDUCATION



# 2022 KIDS COUNT – Education Core Indicators



62%  
(2009-2011)

↓

59%  
(2017-2019)

BETTER

Young Children (Ages 3 & 4) Not in School

73%  
(2009)

↑

75%  
(2019)

WORSE

4<sup>th</sup> Graders Not Proficient in Reading

67%  
(2009)

↑

71%  
(2019)

WORSE

8<sup>th</sup> Graders Not Proficient in Math

29%  
(2013-2014)

↓

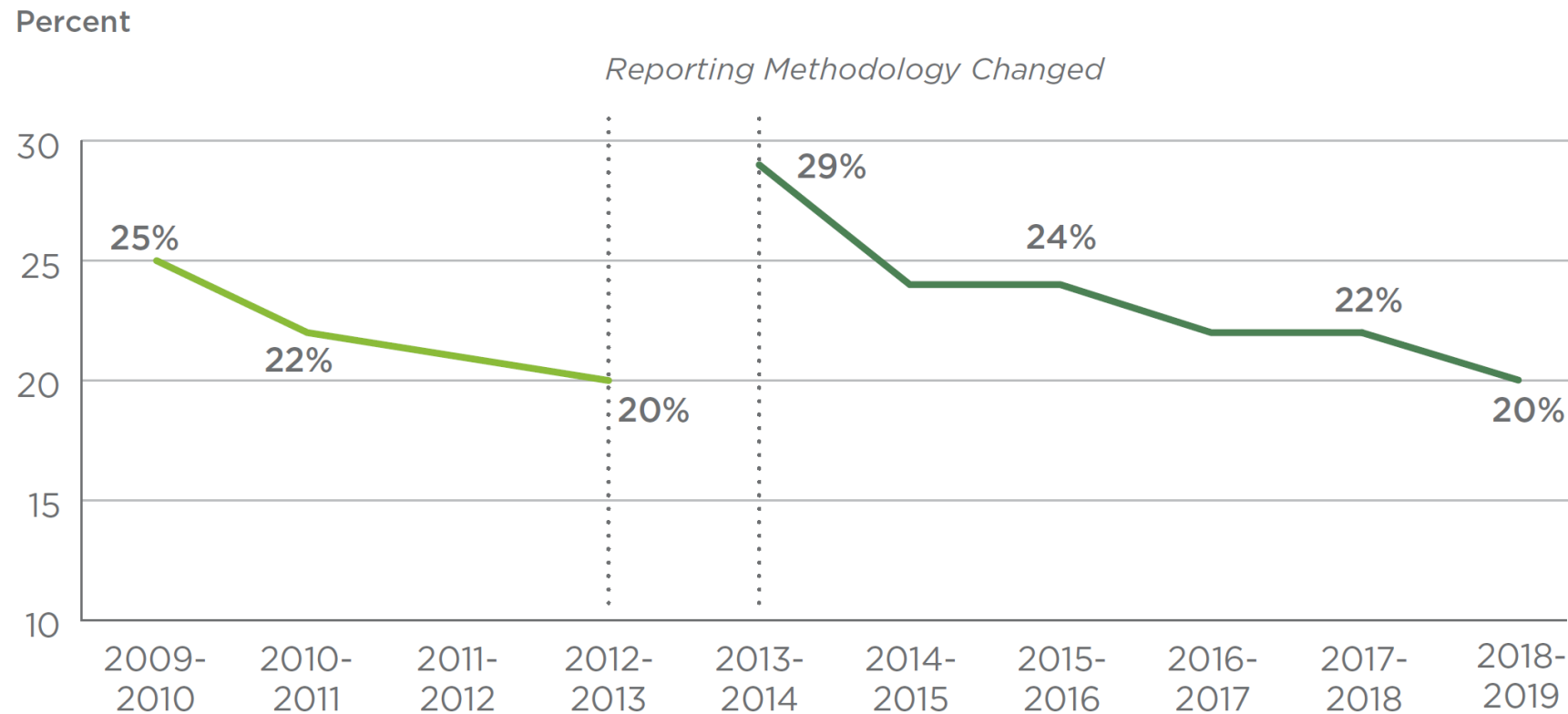
20%  
(2018-2019)

BETTER

High School Students Not Graduating on Time



# High School Students Not Graduating on Time



Over the past decade, Alaska significantly improved its on-time high school graduations, reducing the proportion of those not graduating on time by 31% (9 percentage points) since 2013-2014.

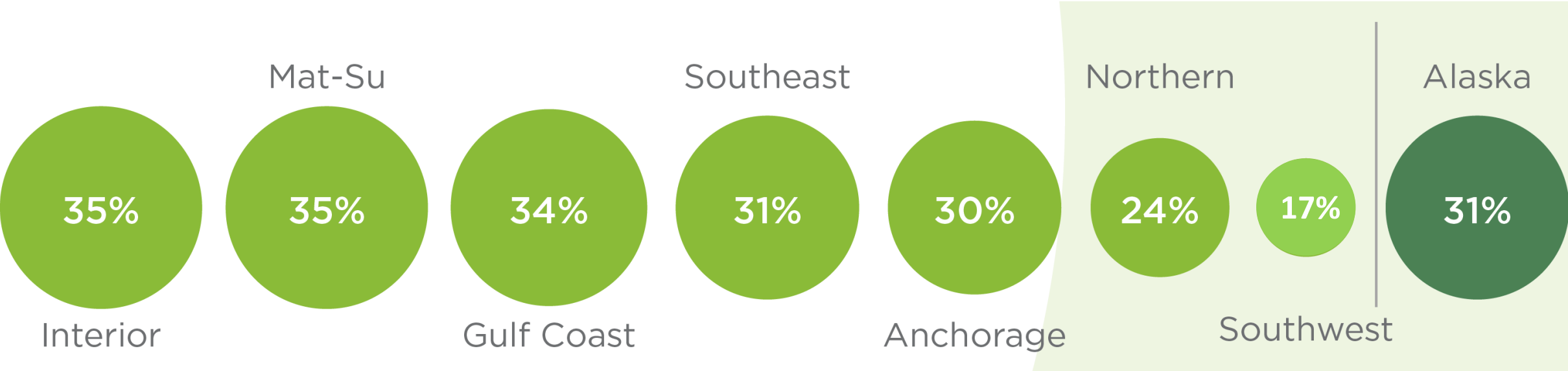
**Figure 8. High School Students Not Graduating on Time, Alaska (Percent)**

Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Dept. of Education. U.S. Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), State Dropout and Completion Data: 2005-2006 - 2012-2013. Analysis of data from U.S. Dept. of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES), National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Digest of Education Statistics for 2013-2014 - 2018-2019. Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center.





# Kindergarten Readiness



**Figure 10. Kindergarten Readiness, by Region (at least 11 goals met out of 13), 2021-2022 (Percent)**

Source: AK Dept. of Education and Early Development. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center  
Note: Smaller school districts may be excluded from regional reports due to suppression or unstable statistics.

Note: Percentages are Appendix Table 11 and Table 12 added together, representing portion of children meeting 11, 12, or 13 of 13 goals.





# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Proficiency



73%

(2009)



75%

(2019)

WORSE

4<sup>th</sup> Graders Not Proficient in Reading

67%

(2009)



71%

(2019)

WORSE

8<sup>th</sup> Graders Not Proficient in Math







# Developmental Screens

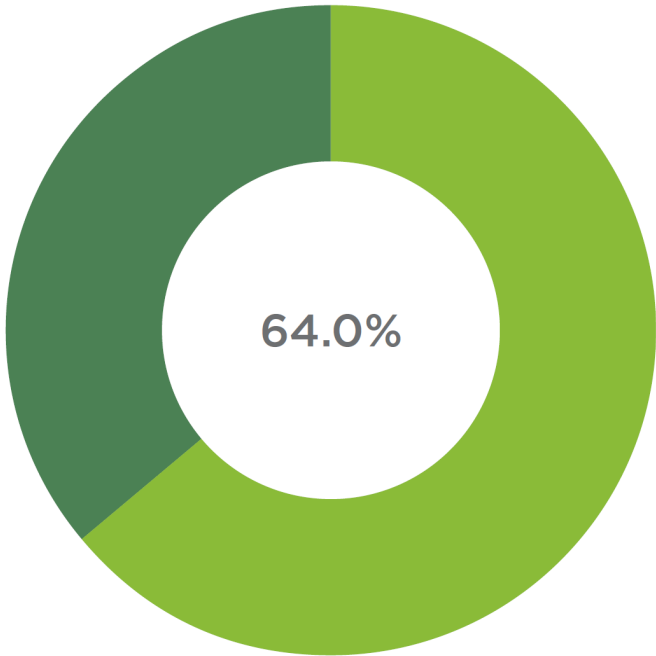


Education

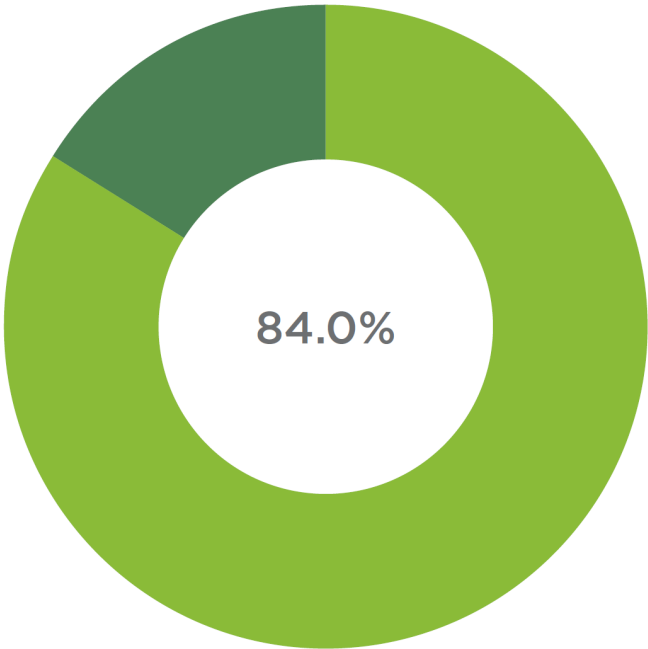
49th

Figure 12. Three-Year-Old Children Who Received a Developmental Screen, by Race (Percent), 2018-2019

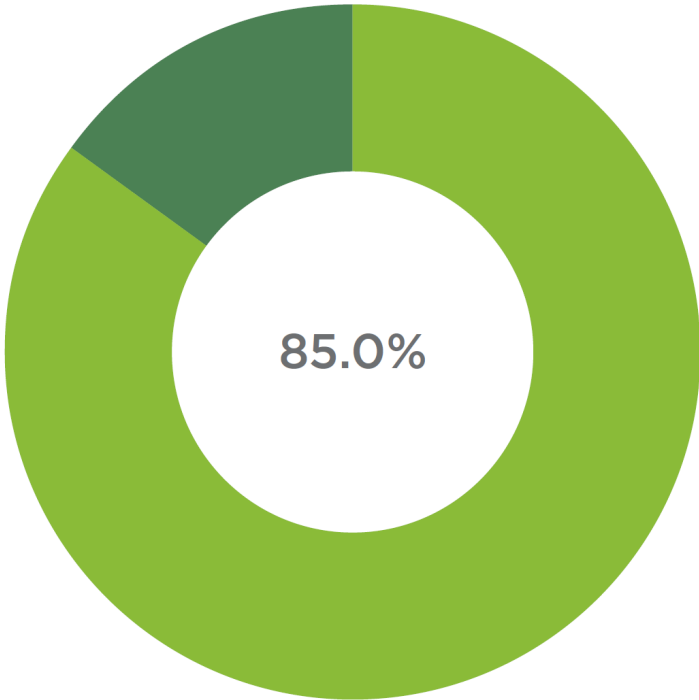
Source: Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey.



American Indian/  
Alaska Native



White



All Other Races



# HEALTH



# 2022 KIDS COUNT – Health Core Indicators



5.7%  
(2010)

↑

6.6%  
(2020)

WORSE

Low Birth Weight Babies

43%  
(2010)

↑

46%  
(2020)

WORSE

Child and Teen Deaths per 100,000

13%  
(2010)

↓

8%  
(2021)

BETTER

Children Without Health Insurance

25%  
(2016-2017)

↑

32%  
(2019-2020)

WORSE

Children Who Are Overweight or Obese





# Teen Alcohol and Drug Misuse

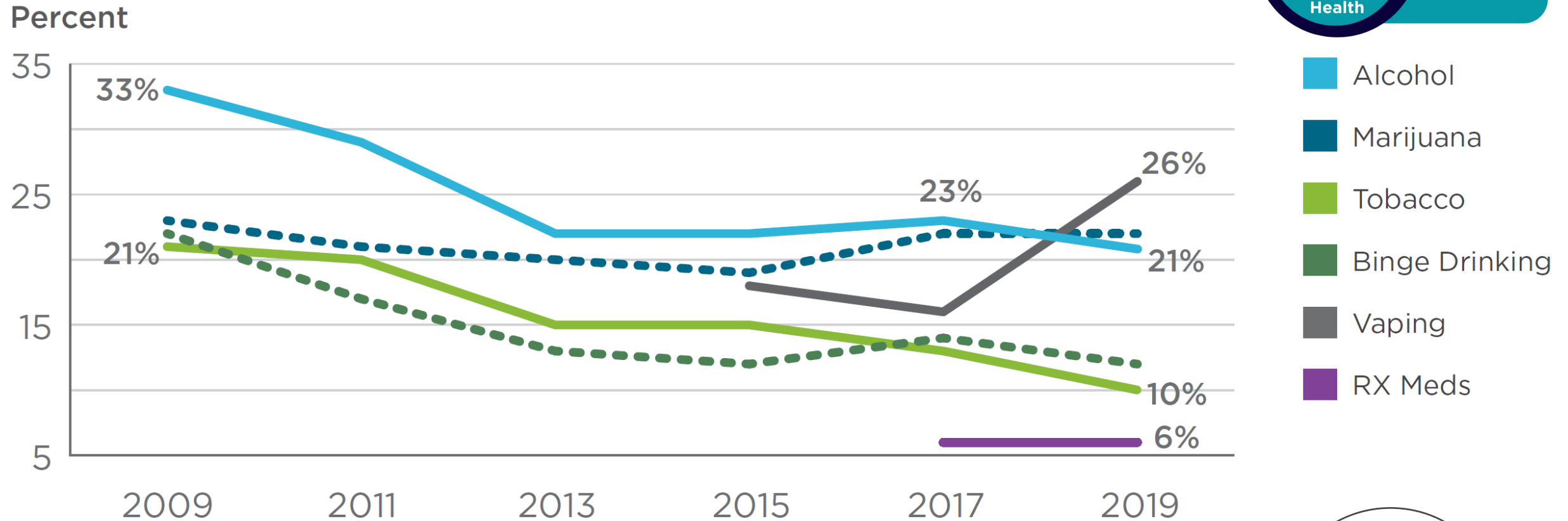


Figure 23. Substance Use in Past Month Among High School Students, Percent (2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019)

Source: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

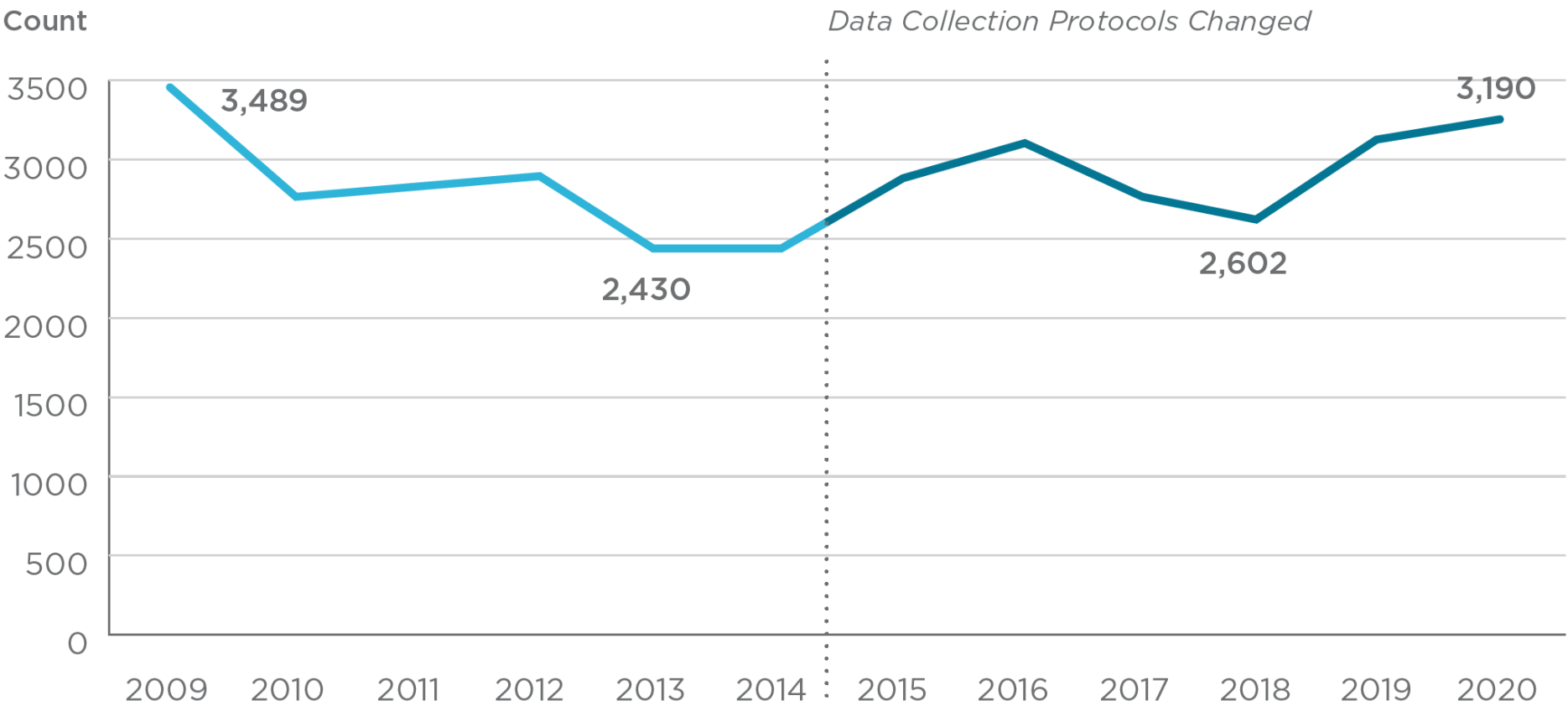
Note: Statewide data are for traditional high school students; data for regions are for traditional, alternative, and correctional high school students. The 2021 Alaska Youth Risk Survey was canceled due to the challenges Alaska school districts were facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The next Alaska YRBS is scheduled for the 2022-2023 school year.







# Child Maltreatment



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau; Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

Figure 12. Count of Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2009-2020)





# Child Maltreatment

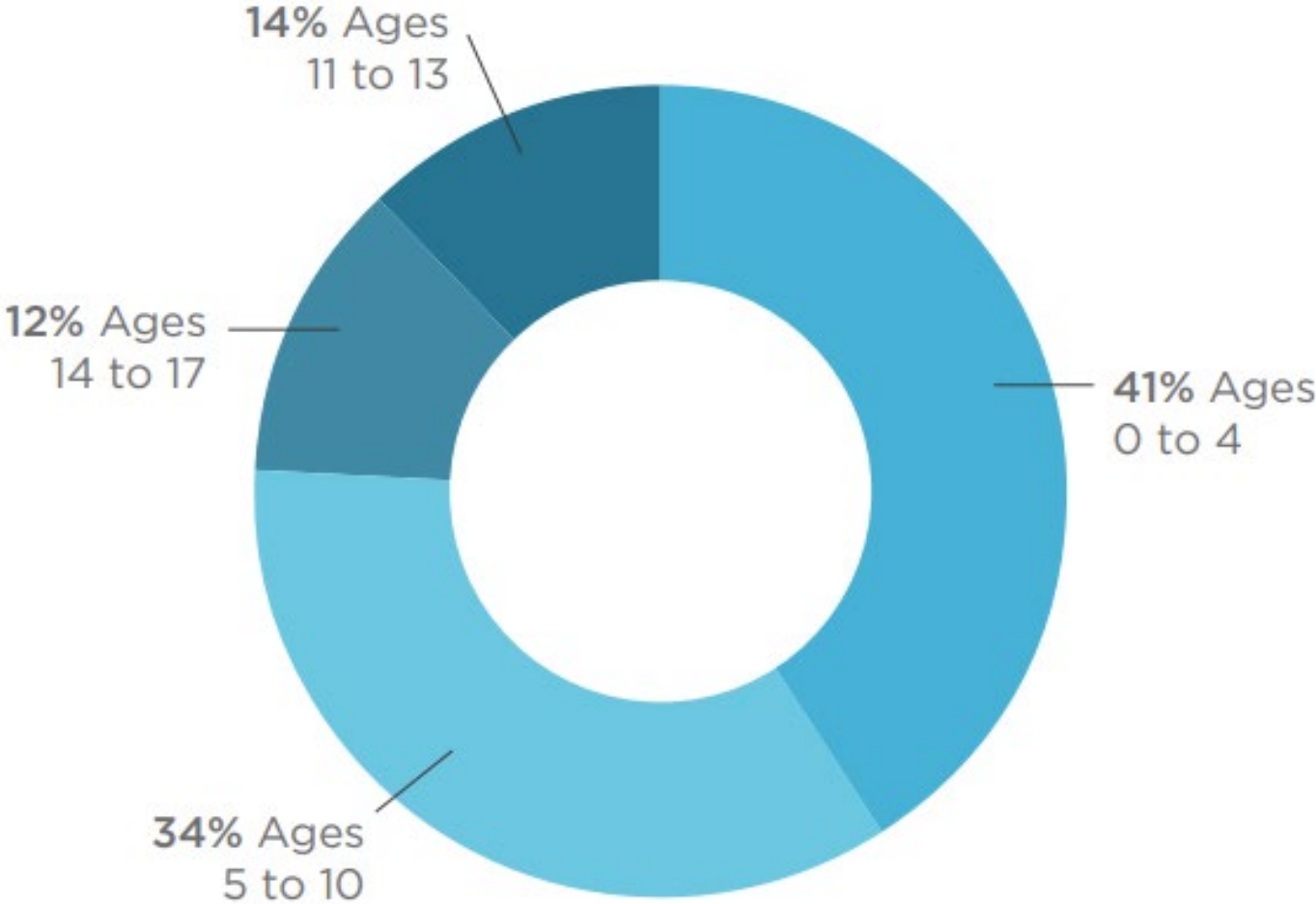


Figure 14. Percent by Age Group of Total Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2016 – 2020)





# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING





# 2022 KIDS COUNT – Economic Well-Being Core Indicators



14%

(2012)



12%

(2021)

**BETTER**

**Children in Poverty**

34%

(2012)



30%

(2021)

**BETTER**

**Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden**

36%

(2012)



34%

(2021)

**BETTER**

**Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment**

10%

(2009)



14%

(2019)

**WORSE**

**Teens Not in School and Not Working**





# Children In Poverty



Percent

Alaska  
United States

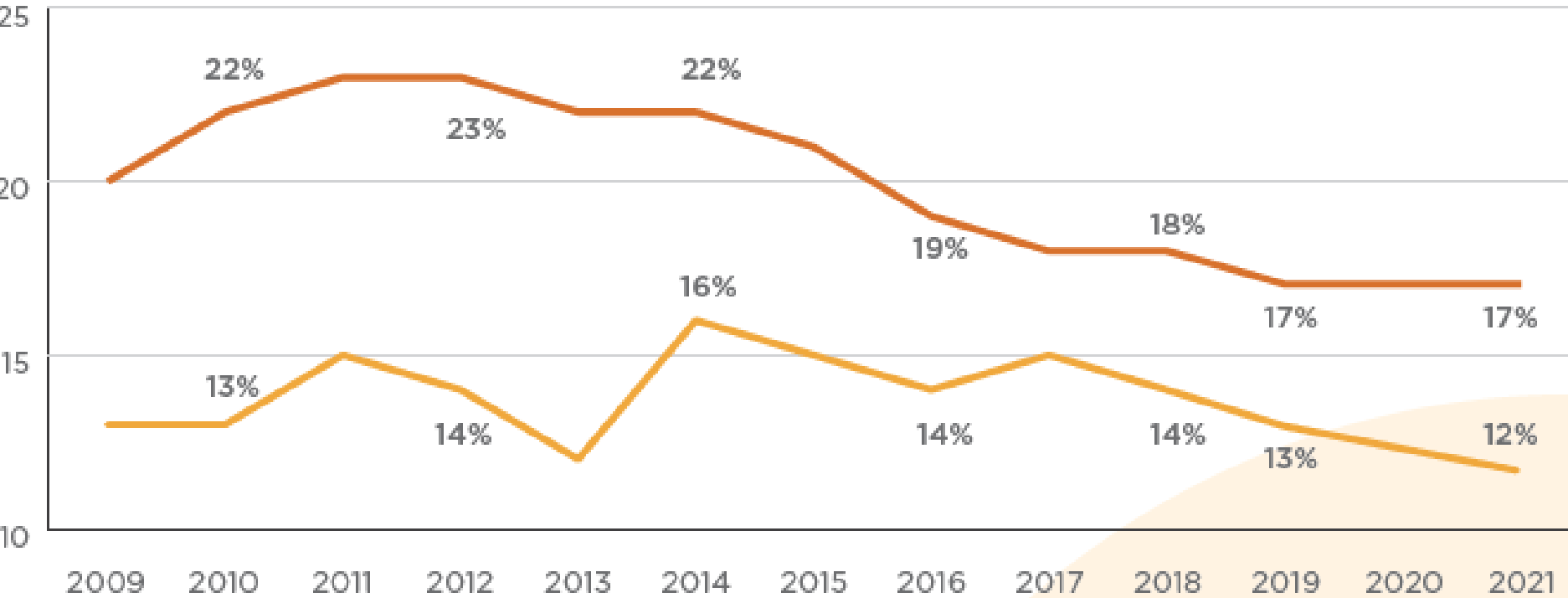


Figure 1. Percent of Children in Poverty (100 % of povertythe Federal Poverty Level), Alaska and U.S., 2009-2019 & 2021  
Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center



# High Housing Cost Burden

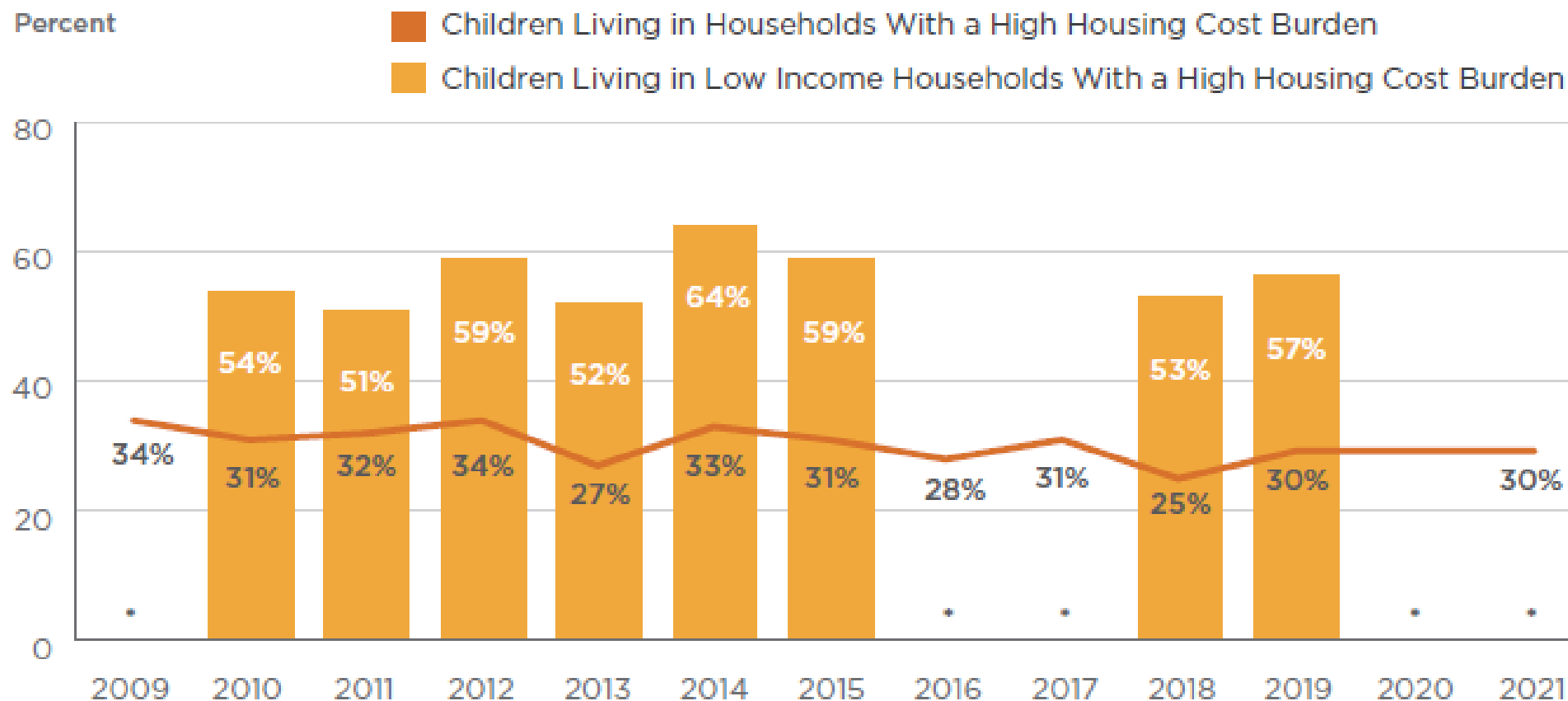


Figure 8. Alaska Children Living in Households and Low-Income Households with a High Housing Cost Burden, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center. Note: Low-income households are households with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level.



# Food Insecurity



Percent

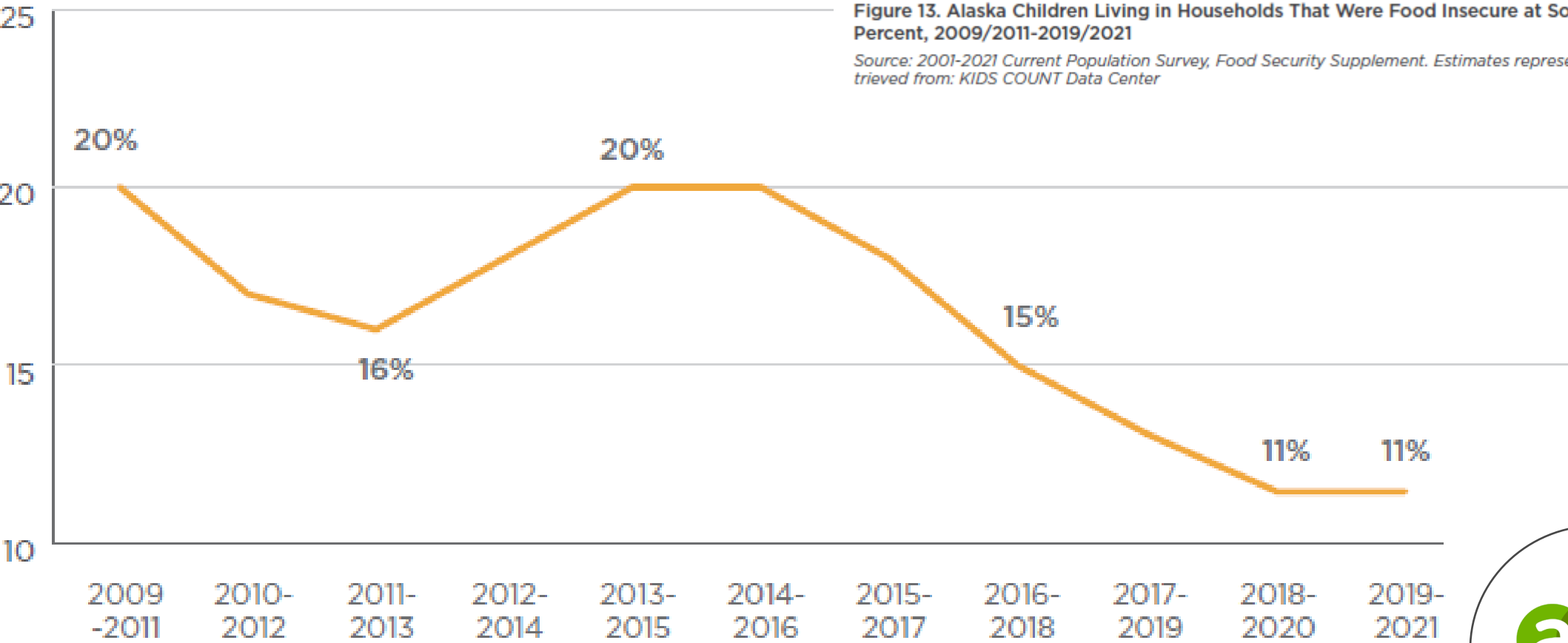


Figure 13. Alaska Children Living in Households That Were Food Insecure at Some Point During the Year, Percent, 2009/2011-2019/2021  
Source: 2001-2021 Current Population Survey, Food Security Supplement. Estimates represent a three-year average. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center





# FAMILY & COMMUNITY







# 2022 KIDS COUNT – Family & Community Core Indicators



32%

(2010)



30%

(2019)

BETTER

Children in Single-Parent Families

3%

(2009-2013)



7%

(2016-2020)

WORSE

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas

10%

(2010)



8%

(2019)

BETTER

Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a Highschool Diploma

38

(2010)



18

(2020)

BETTER

Teen Births Per 1,000



# Teen Births



Rate per 1,000

Alaska  
United States

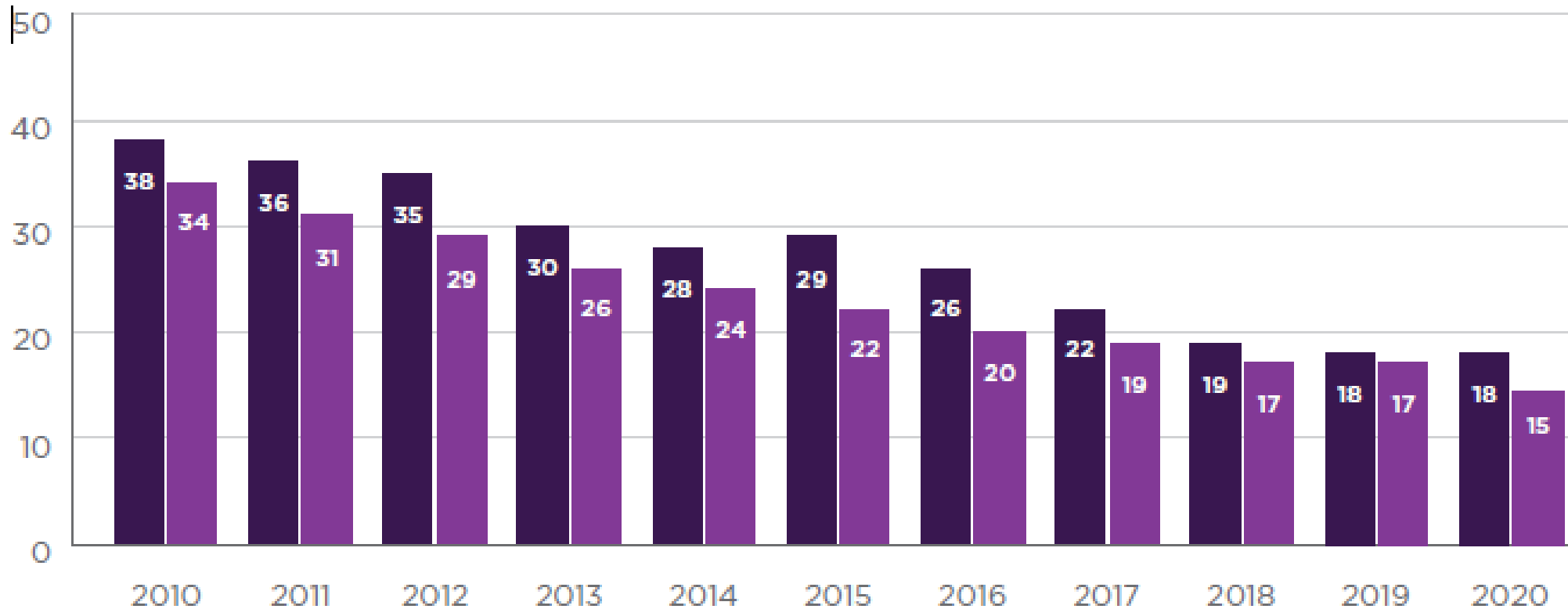


Figure 4. Teen Births, Alaska and U.S., 2010-2020

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Retrieved from: the KIDS COUNT Data Center



# Teen Births



460%  
The percent  
difference  
between Alaska  
regions with the  
highest and  
lowest teen  
birth rates.

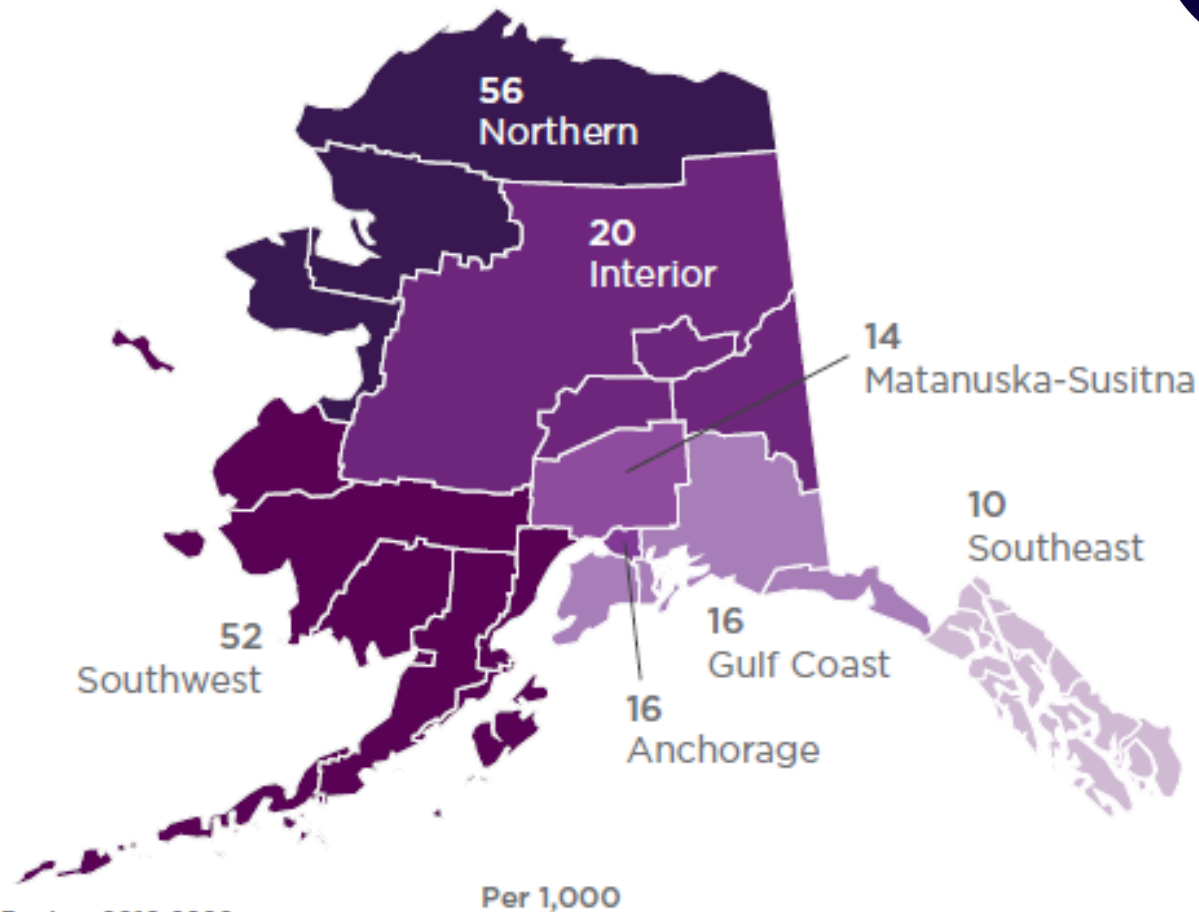


Figure 6. Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15-19 (5-year Average), Alaska, by Region, 2016-2020

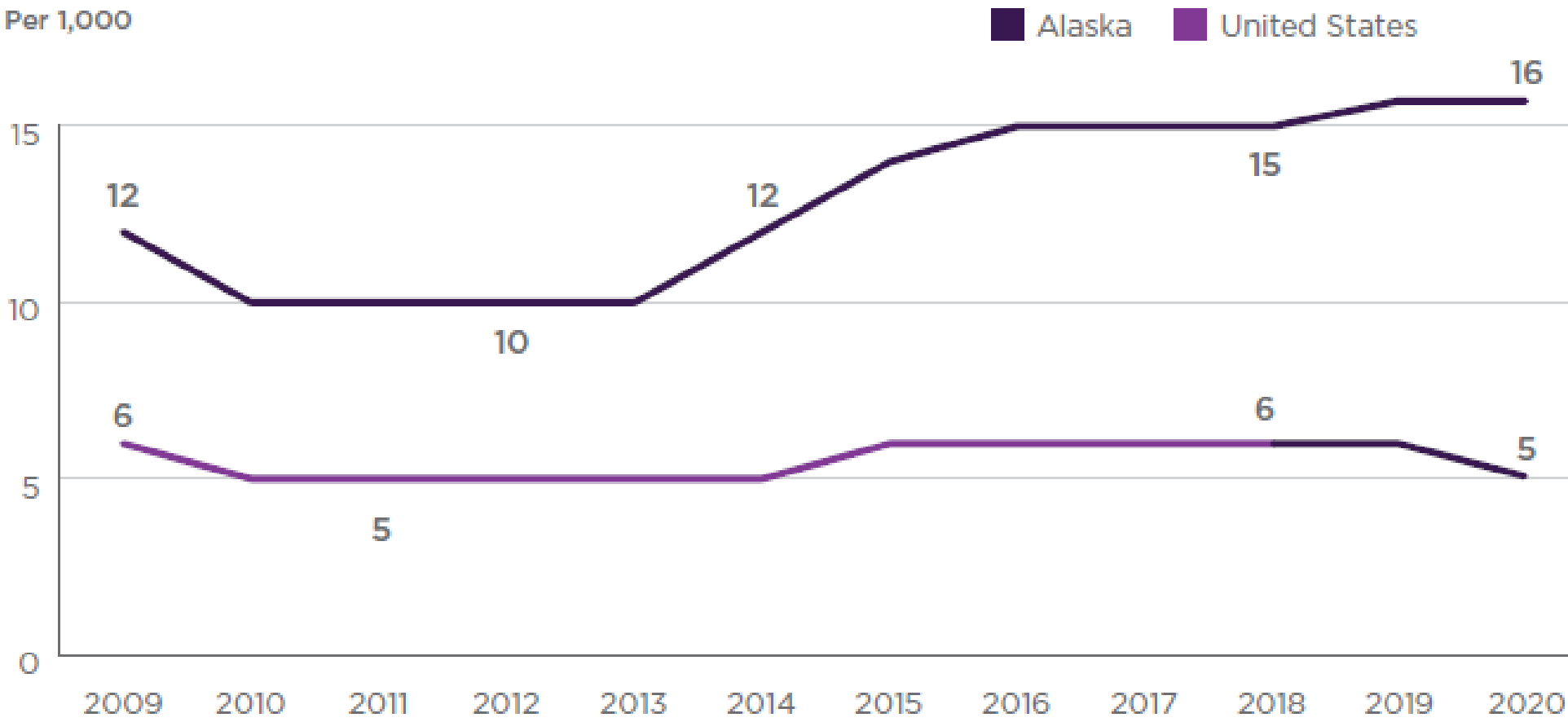
Source: Alaska Section of Health Analytics and Vital Records; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. Retrieved from: the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Note: Regions refer to State of Alaska public health regions.





# Children In Foster Care

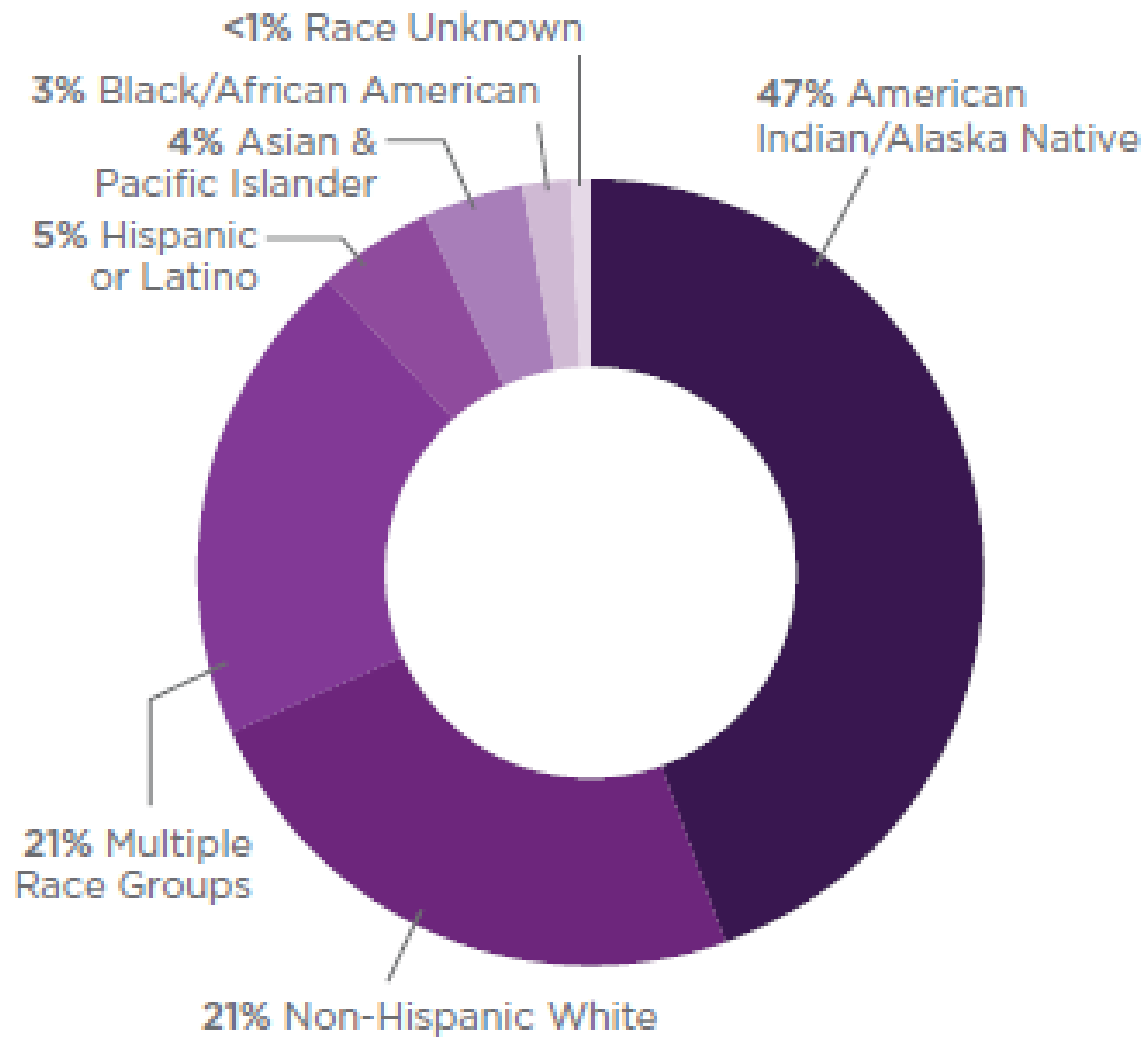


**Figure 8. Children 0 to 17 in Foster Care, Alaska and U.S., Rate Per 1,000, 2009-2020**  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2020," Vintage 2020. Retrieved from: the KIDS COUNT Data Center





# Children In Foster Care



**Figure 9. Percent of All Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2020**

Source: 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. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center



# Afterschool Activities



Percent

1 or More Days    2 or More Days    3 or More Days

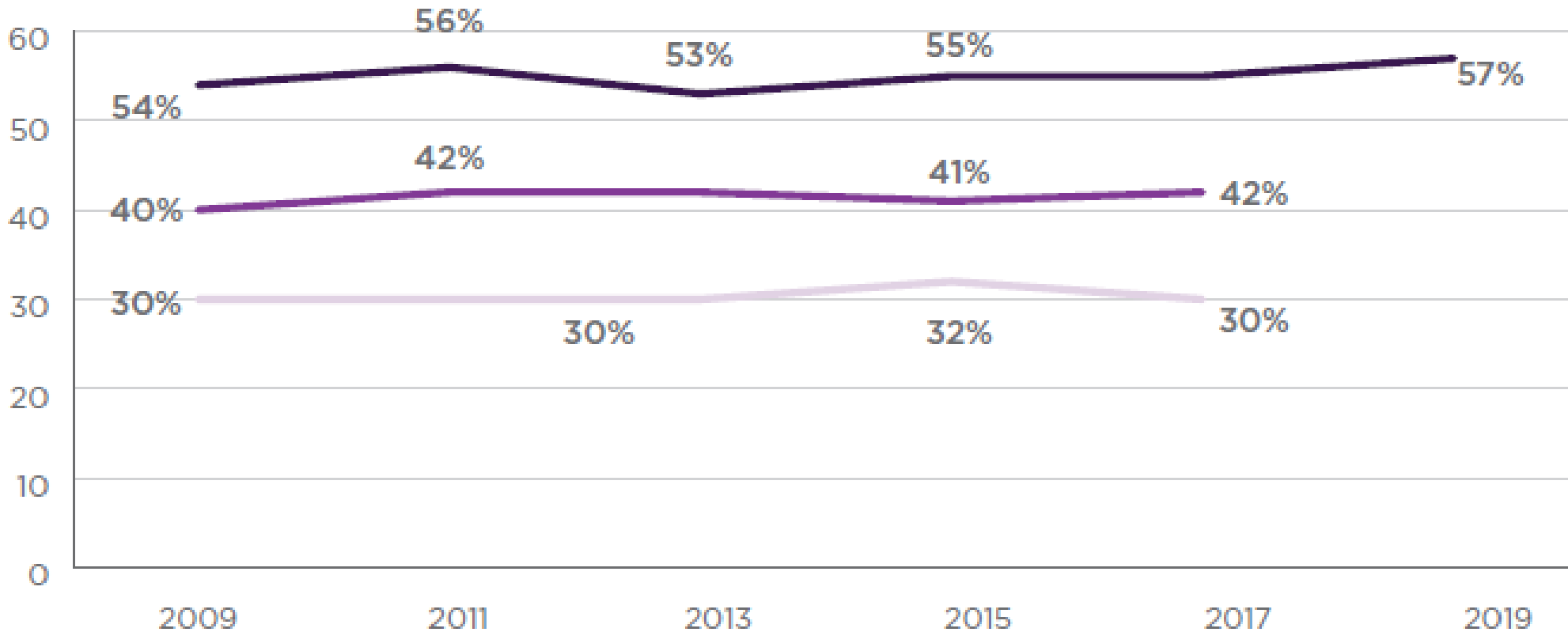


Figure 12. High School Students Who Participate in Afterschool Activities, Alaska, by Days Per Week, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Source: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Traditional High School Results. Retrieved from: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard.



# Teen Suicides



Per 100,000

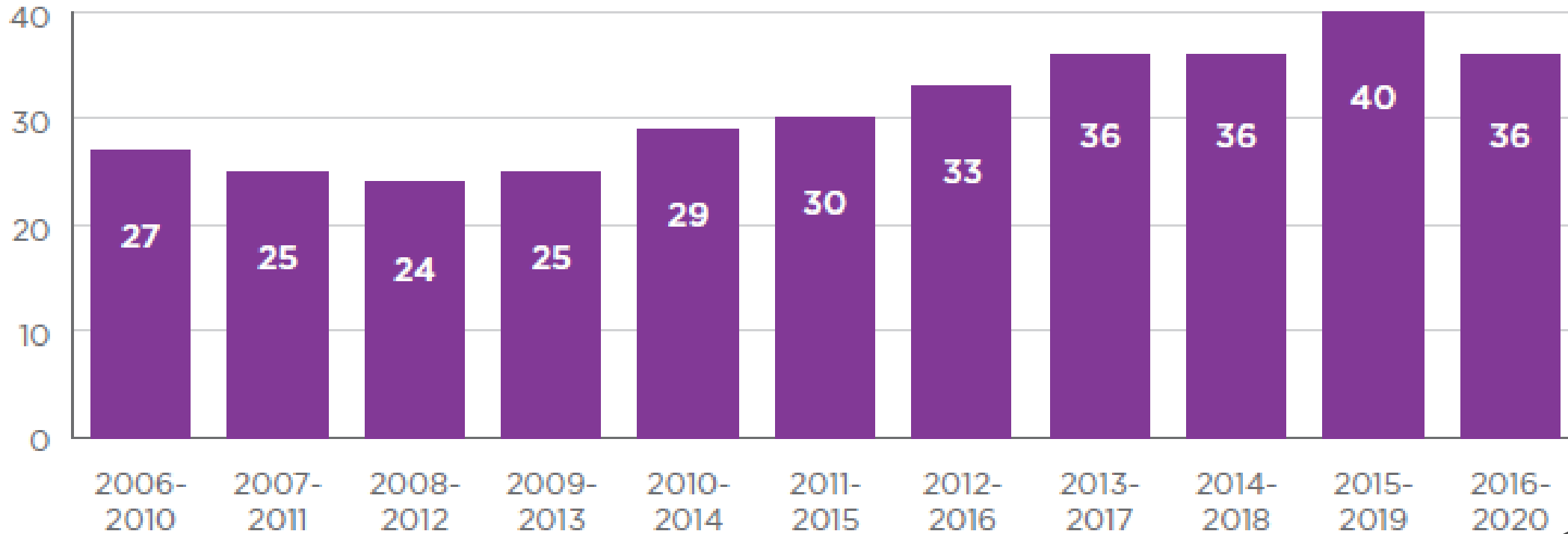


Figure 15. Teen Suicide, Alaska, Ages 15-19, Rate Per 100,000, 2006-2010 to 2016-2020

Source: Alaska Section of Health Analytics and Records; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. Retrieved from: Kids Count Data Center



# Teen Suicides



747%

The difference between Alaska regions with the highest and lowest suicide rates.

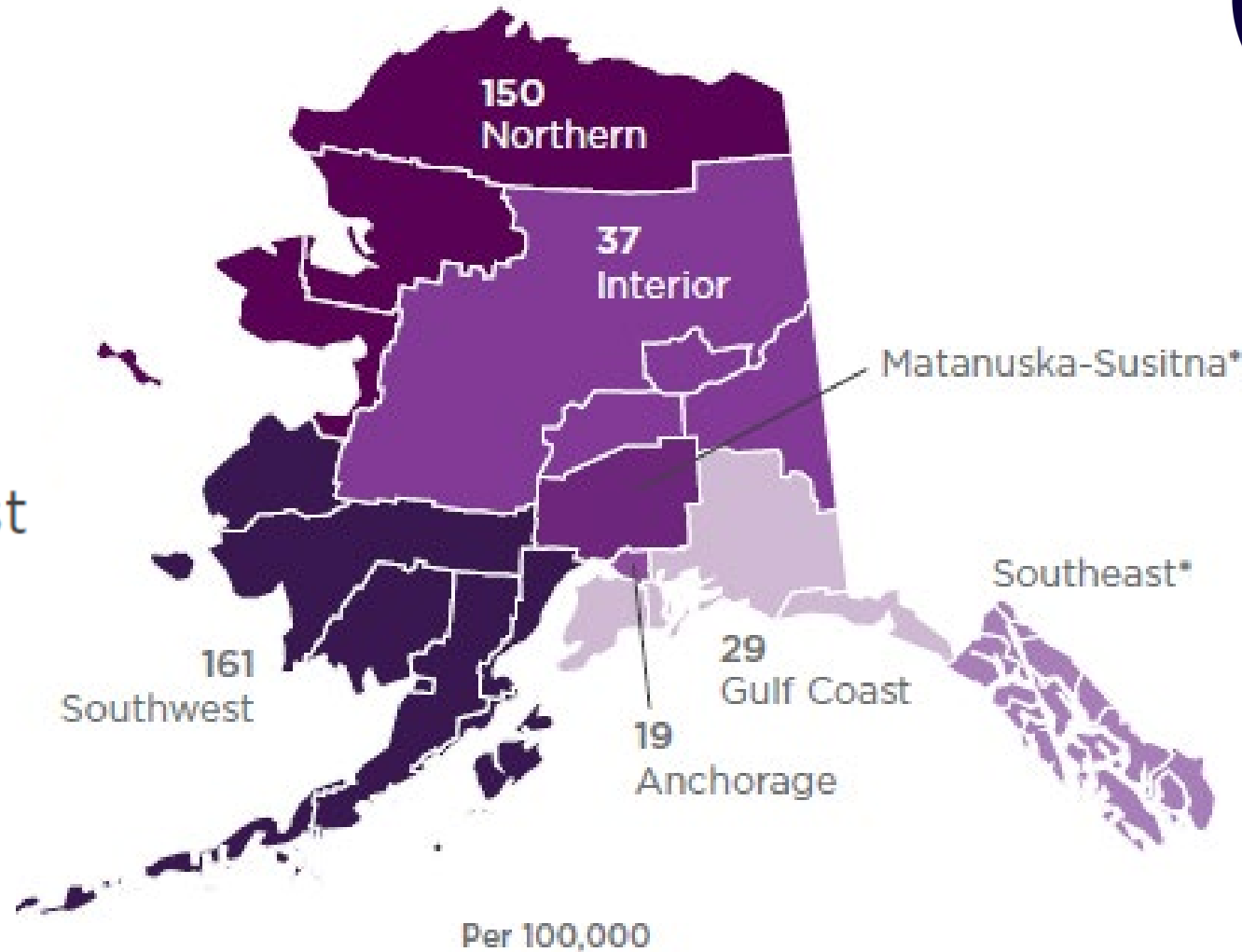


Figure 16. Teen Suicide Rates, Ages 15-19, Alaska, by Region, Per 100,000, 2016-2020

Source: Alaska Section of Health Analytics and Records; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. Retrieved from: Kids Count Data Center. Note: Regions are State of Alaska public health regions. \*Data suppressed.





# Teen Suicides

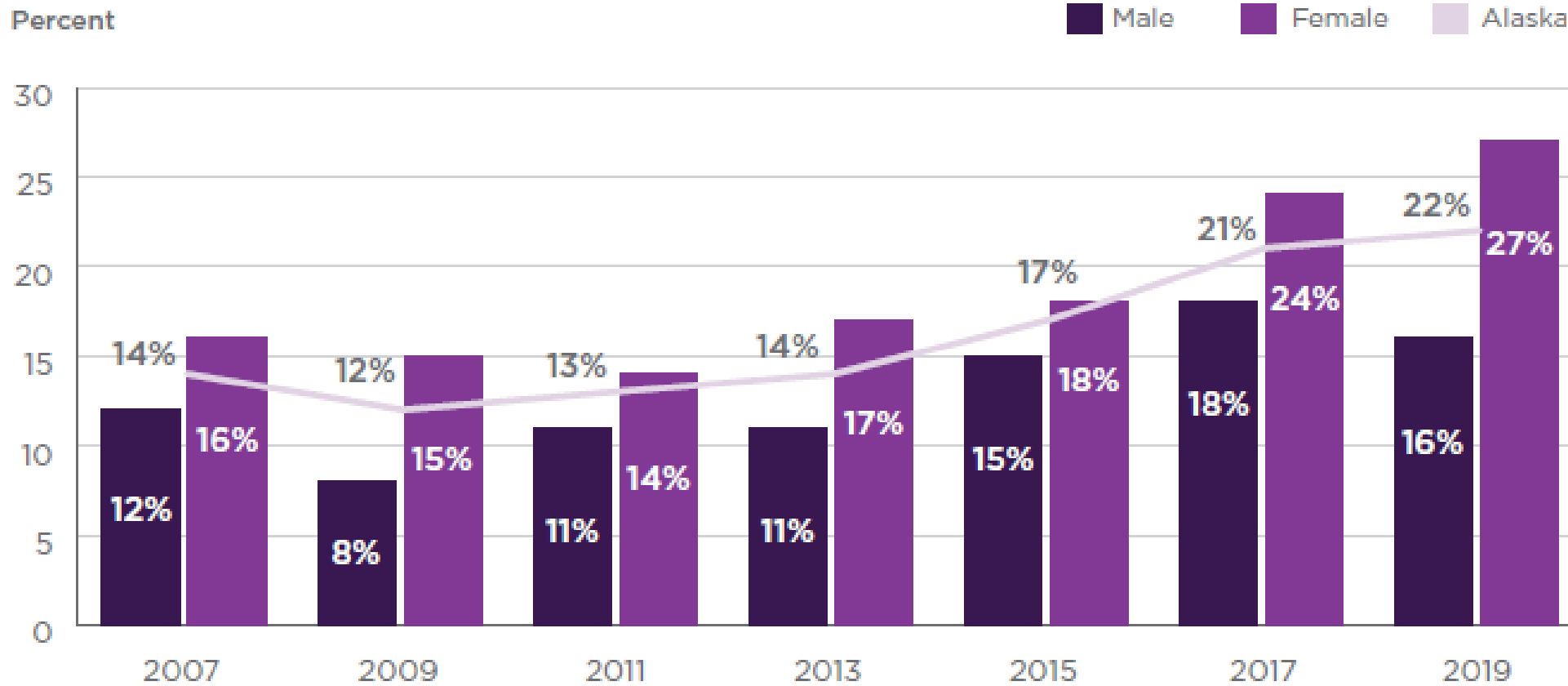


Figure 17. High School Students Who Planned a Suicide Attempt in the Past 12 Months, Alaska, by Gender, Percent, 2007-2019

Source: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Traditional High School Results. Retrieved from: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard.





# Teen Suicides

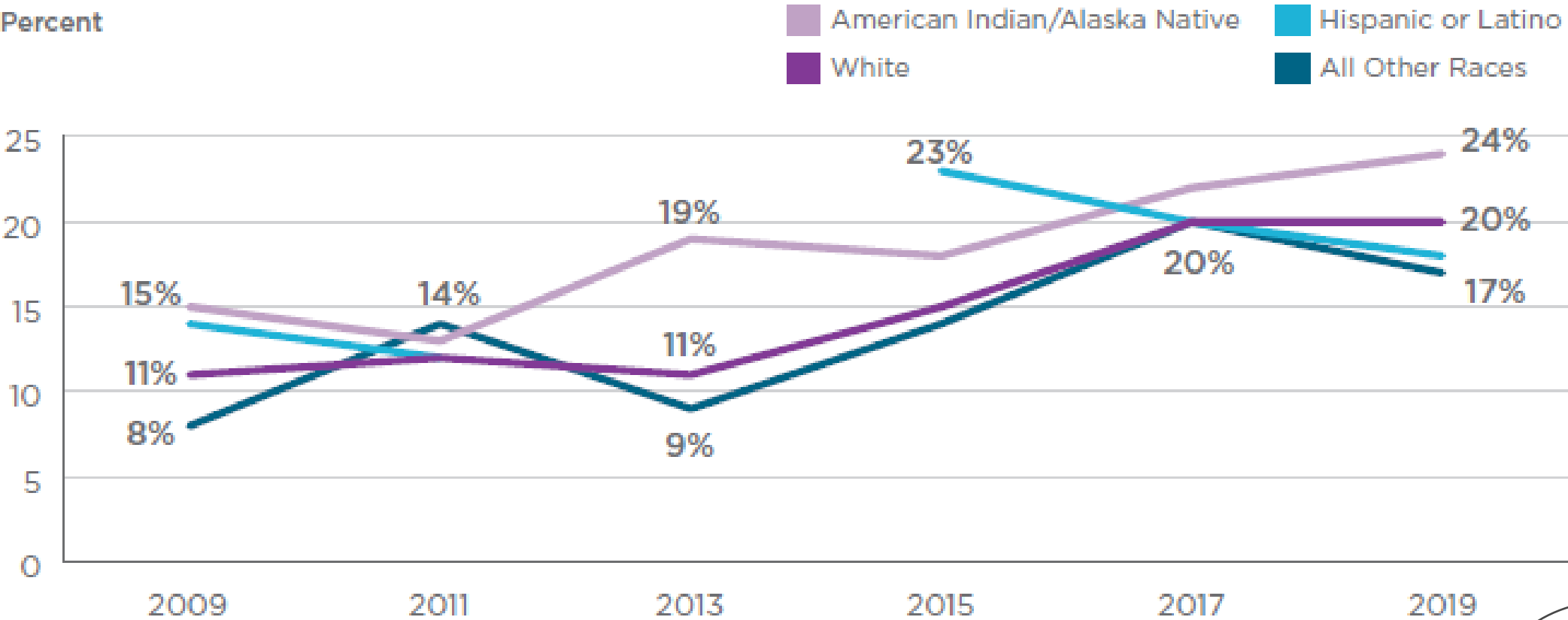


Figure 18. High School Students Who Planned a Suicide Attempt in the Past 12 Months, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Source: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Traditional High School Results. \*Data suppressed. Retrieved from: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard.





# High School Students Feeling Sad or Hopeless

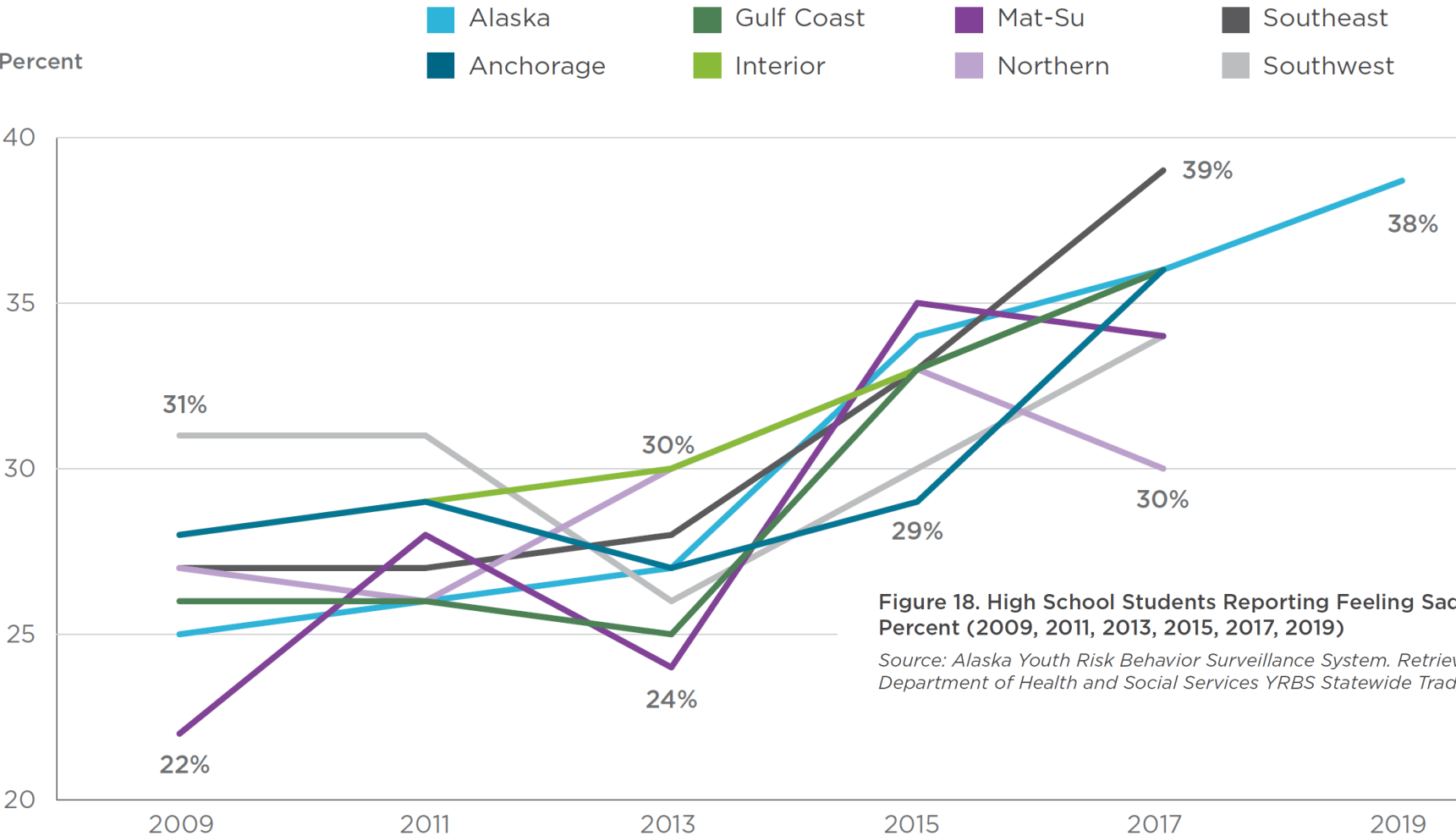


Figure 18. High School Students Reporting Feeling Sad or Hopeless, Past 12 Months, by Region, Percent (2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019)

Source: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center; State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard.



# Caring Adult

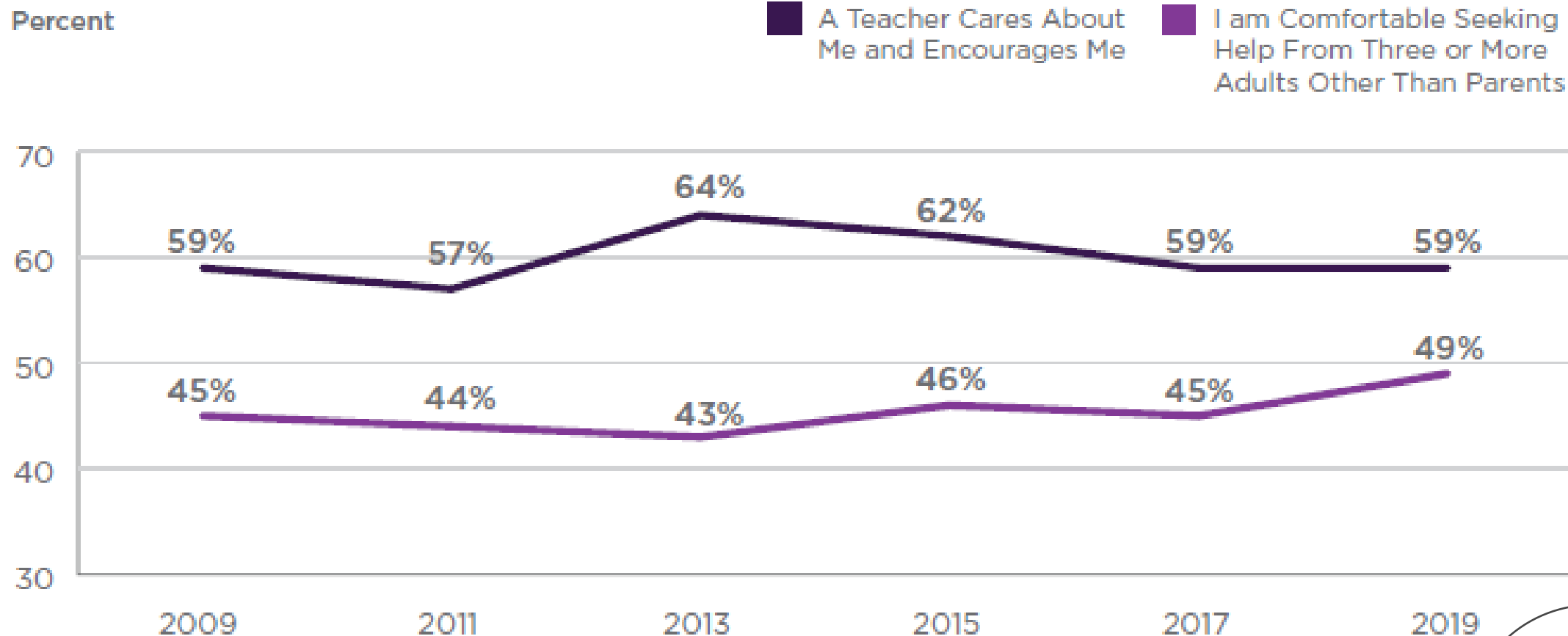


Figure 21. High School Students Who Feel Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them/ High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, Alaska, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Source: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Traditional High School Results. Retrieved from: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard.



# Caring Adult - Teacher By Region

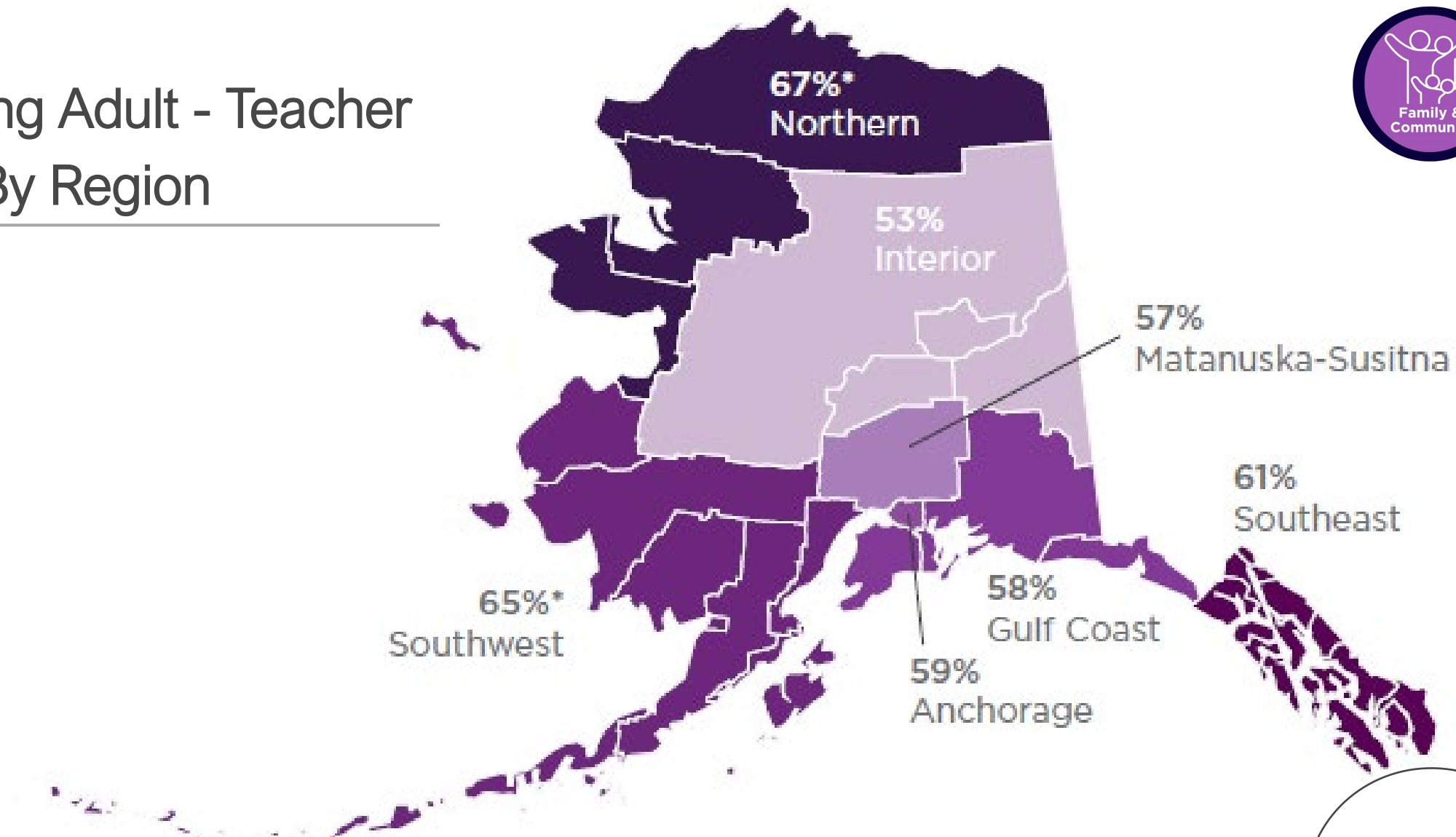


Figure 24. High School Students Who Feel Like Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them, Alaska, by Region, Percent, 2019

Source: Youth Risk Factor Behavior Surveillance System, local data, all high school students. Retrieved from: AK DHSS.  
Note: Regions are State of Alaska public health regions.

\*2017 data



# Thank You

For more information, visit:  
[alaskachildrenstrust.org/kids-count](http://alaskachildrenstrust.org/kids-count)

