



KIDS COUNT 2020
Alaska Family & Community



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LETTER FROM

Alaska Children's Trust

Alaska's future prosperity depends on our ability to improve the well-being of the next generation. Children represent 25 percent of Alaska's population and 100 percent of our future. Today, our children's future is not faring well and, in some areas, we're not just falling behind, Alaska's children are faring empirically worse.

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT program, overall Alaska ranks 36th in the nation for child well-being; up from 45th in the nation last year, but down from 27th five years ago. The KIDS COUNT project collects large amounts of data in the topic areas of Health, Education, Economic Well-Being, and Family & Community. From this data, the Annie E. Casey Foundation selects four data indicators per topic area to calculate the KIDS COUNT ranking. These indicators provide a snapshot of the well-being of Alaska's children at a point in time. They make for a useful, but narrow, lens. For each indicator highlighted by the national effort there are many other indicators which Alaska could use to assess the well-being of its children.

The goal of Alaska Children's Trust's KIDS COUNT efforts are to provide a wider lens while maintaining our focus on this question: If Alaska's children were thriving, how would we know?

Alaska's KIDS COUNT family and community ranking is 19th out of 50; the best ranking for Alaska in the four KIDS COUNT areas. Alaska's relatively high rank in this area is the outcome of years of hard work to lower teen birth rates and increase high school graduation rates, which in turn have given Alaska a relatively lower proportion of children who live in households headed by someone without at least a high school diploma. While there is news to celebrate around this area of well-being, Alaska stills faces serious challenges,

including significant regional and ethnic disparities in teen births and a doubling over the last decade of the proportion of children living in high-poverty areas. Our progress in these areas is threatened by the economic toll of Alaska's 2015-2018 recession and the economic effects of the current global pandemic.

We know that national, state, and local policies influence the well-being of Alaska's children just as we know that individual and family decisions play a role in determining well-being. And policies are empty without resources and energy behind them to make them effective. Understanding the thread that runs from policy to investment to outcome is a key connection that we hope our readers will make. To that end, we have incorporated data from the Alaska Children's Budget into this report to show how well our fiscal priorities align with indicators and policy changes this project identified.

We know that if the well-being of Alaska's children increases then the long-term cost to society of crime, substance use, lost economic investment, and use of services and programs like corrections and Medicaid will fall. The Alaska KIDS COUNT work is devoted to making visible the connection between our chosen policies, fiscal investment, and outcomes so that it becomes easier to focus on the changes needed to help our children thrive.



Trevor J. Storrs
President/CEO



OVERVIEW

What is KIDS COUNT?

The Alaska Children's Trust annually publishes the Alaska's KIDS COUNT profile in conjunction with the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation gathers and publishes child well-being data from national and state sources.

The mission of KIDS COUNT is to ensure child advocates, policymakers, and the public have access to high-quality, unbiased data about child well-being.

KIDS COUNT tracks the well-being of Alaska's children across four categories:



Economic Well-Being



Education



Health



Family & Community

In 2020, the state ranked 36th overall and 19th in family and community. The long-term data for the four core indicators for family and community show that over the past

decade Alaska made progress in three of the four indicators, but one indicator slipped significantly.

Specifically, the four core indicators show:

- The proportion of children living in single parent families fell from 32 percent in 2010 to 29 percent in 2018. This proportion is lower than the US proportion of 35 percent.
- The proportion of children living in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma fell from 10 percent to 6 percent, a 40 percent reduction. Alaska's proportion of children living in these households is now less than half the US proportion.
- The proportion of children living in high-poverty areas increased from 3 percent in 2009-2013 to 7 percent in 2014-2018. At the same time, US figures dropped from 13 percent to 10 percent.

Alaska Ranks
19th
out of 50 states
for economic
well-being

- Teen births per 1,000 dropped in Alaska by 50 percent from 38 per 1,000 to 19 per 1,000. This decline mirrors a similar drop at the national level.

32%
(2010)

↓

29%
(2018)

BETTER

Children in Single-Parent Families

10%
(2010)

↓

6%
(2018)

BETTER

Children in Families Where the Household Head
Lacks a High School Diploma

3%
(2009-2013)

↑

7%
(2014-2018)

WORSE

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas

38
(2010)

↓

19
(2018)

BETTER

Teen Births Per 1,000



EXPANDED INDICATORS

of Family and Community for Children, Youth, and Families

Introduction

In the Family and Community category,

Alaska's 2020 KIDS COUNT rank is 19th out of the 50 states just behind Connecticut and Virginia and just ahead of Wisconsin and Oregon.

The national KIDS COUNT program bases rankings on four indicators:

- 1** | Children in single-parent families
- 2** | Children in families in which the household head lacks a high school diploma
- 3** | Children living in high poverty areas
- 4** | Teen births

In addition to the four indicators selected by the national program, ACT, based on recommendations from a panel of Alaska family and community experts, selected six additional indicators whose movement would indicate true positive (or negative) changes in child well-being in Alaska.

A link to the KIDS COUNT data center can be found at www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/kidscount.

These additional indicators are:

5 | Children in foster care

6 | Afterschool activities

7 | Caring adults

8 | Suicides

9 | Internet access

10 | Child maltreatment

Children in Single-Parent Families

Even with the best efforts of parents, children growing up in single-parent families typically have access to fewer economic resources and valuable time with adults than those children in two-parent families in which child-raising responsibilities can be shared. Children in single-parent families are those living with their own parent.

Over the last decade, just under one-third (32 percent) of Alaska children on average lived in single-parent households. This proportion is close to, but slightly less than, the national average of 35 percent. With respect to differences by race and ethnicity, much of the data is confidential because of low response numbers, but the years in which data were not suppressed over the past decade show that roughly half (49%) of American Indian and Alaska Native children in Alaska lived in single-parent families. This rate is higher than the rate for Non-Hispanic White children (22% on average) over the same time period. Unfortunately, the data are suppressed for all other race/ethnicities because of low sample sizes.

In 2018 Alaska's proportion of children living in single-parent families was at its lowest point in a decade at 29 percent.

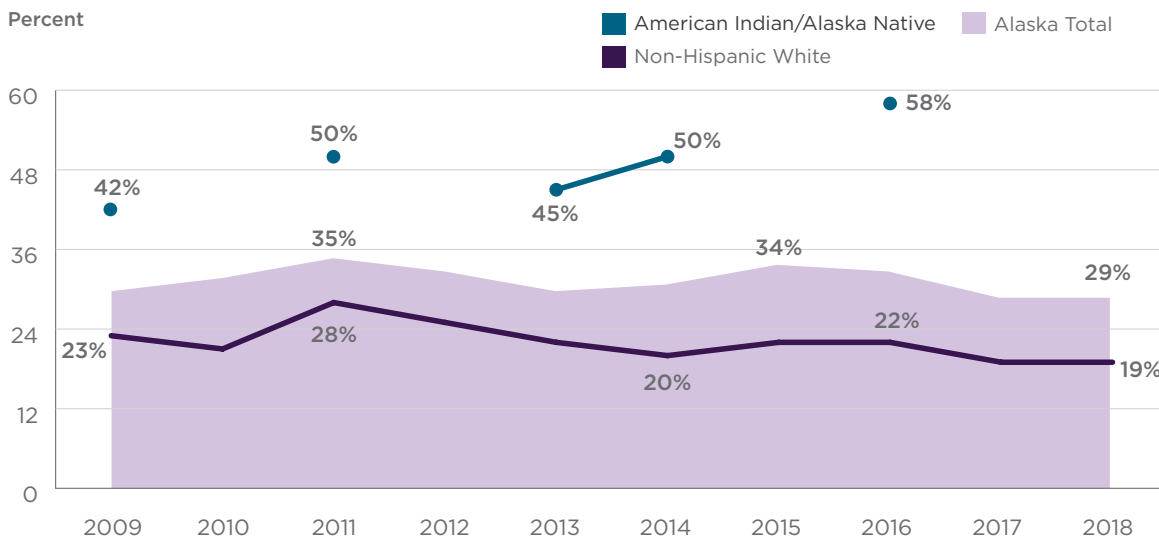


Figure 1. Children in Single-Parent Families, Alaska Total and by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2018

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2018 American Community Survey. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Children in Families in Which the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma

Children growing up in households with more highly educated adults are better positioned for future success. These parents often are better able to provide the financial stability and security they need to foster their children's development.

Higher levels of parental education also are strongly associated with better outcomes for children.

In the modern economy a high school diploma (or equivalent) is the minimum educational attainment needed to access even the lowest paying jobs. On average, between 2009 and 2020, 8 percent of Alaska children lived in families in which the head of household did not have a high school diploma; in 2018 the study shows that number dropped to 6

percent, the lowest in the past decade (tied with 2016). This proportion compares to 13 percent of children nationwide during the same time period.

U.S. Census data indicate wide ethnic/racial disparities in this indicator. In 2018, an average of 13 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native children lived in families in which the household head did not have a high school diploma, compared to 2 percent of Non-Hispanic White children. There are also indications that rate may be higher (compared to Non-Hispanic White children) for Asian and Pacific Islander and Hispanic or Latino children while rates may be comparable or lower to Non-Hispanic White children for Black or African American children in Alaska.

The study notes the data readings on this indicator are frequently suppressed for categories other than Non-Hispanic White children because of low sample sizes.

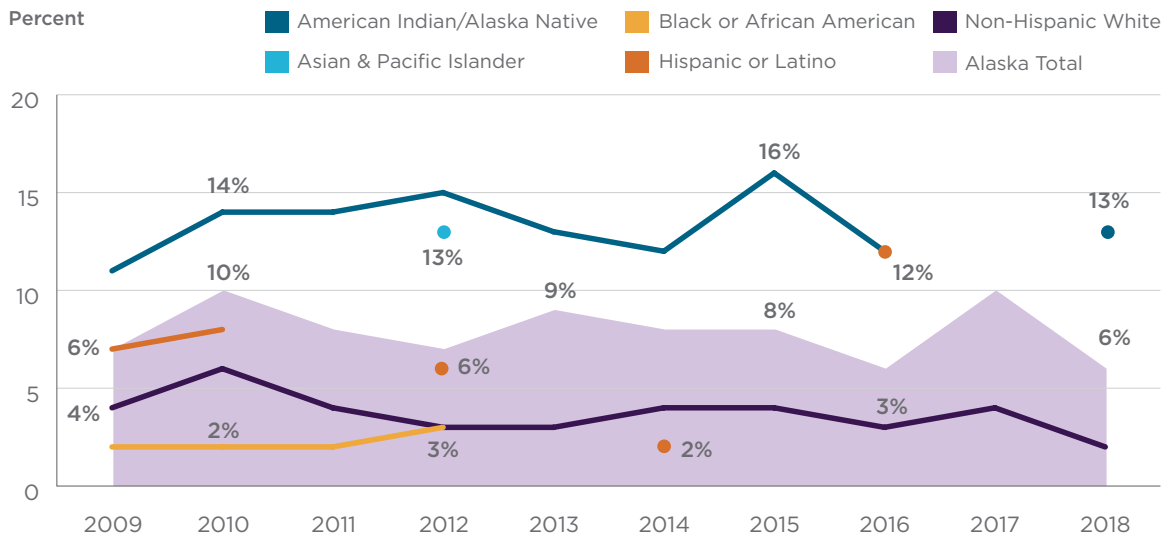


Figure 2. Children in Families in Which the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma, Alaska Total and by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2018

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2018 American Community Survey. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas

High-poverty neighborhoods and communities — where poverty rates for the total population are 30 percent or more — come with a number of challenges that affect the children and families who live there. Residents contend with poorer health, higher rates of crime and violence, poor-performing schools due to inadequate funding and limited access to support networks and job opportunities.

U.S. Census data show that the proportion of Alaska children living in high-poverty areas

is increasing, having more than doubled in the last decade. This increase is largely being experienced by Alaska's American Indian/Alaska Native community. The proportion of American Indian/Alaska Native children living in high poverty areas in Alaska has doubled over the past decade, from 16 percent in 2009-2013 to 33 percent in 2014-2018. Conversely, less than 5 percent of children in all other racial/ethnic groups live in high-poverty areas and less than one percent of Non-Hispanic White children live in high-poverty areas.

In Alaska, the proportion of children living in high-poverty areas increased steadily over the past decade, from 3 percent in 2009-2013 to 7 percent in 2014-2018.

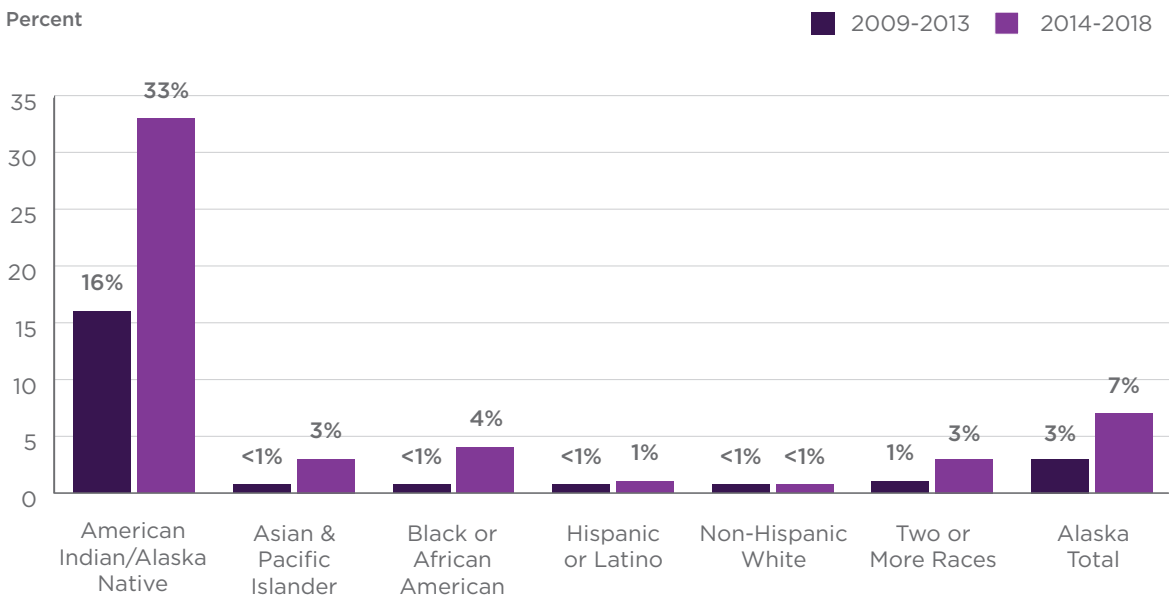


Figure 3. Children Living in High Poverty Areas, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, 2009/2013 and 2014/2018

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census Summary File 1 and Summary File 3 and the 2006-2010 to 2013-2018 American Community Survey 5-year data. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Teen Births Per 1,000

Teenage childbearing can have long-term negative effects for mother and child. Babies born to teens are far more likely to be born preterm and at a low birth weight — and into families with limited educational attainment and economic resources, which undermines their future success. The rate of teen births is defined as the number of births to females between ages 15 and 19 per 1,000. In Alaska, teen birth rates have fallen from 43 births per 1,000 in 2009 to 19 per 1,000 in 2018, a decline of 58 percent in a decade. However, even with

this progress, Alaska teen birth rates are consistently 10 percent higher than national rates.

Since 2009 Alaska has successfully lowered the teen birth rate in every measured age group. The rate for 15-to-17-year-old teens fell by two-thirds from 18 per 1,000 to 6 per 1,000 between 2009 and 2018. The rate for 18-year-olds and 19-year-olds fell by nearly half from 82 per 1,000 to 44 per 1,000.

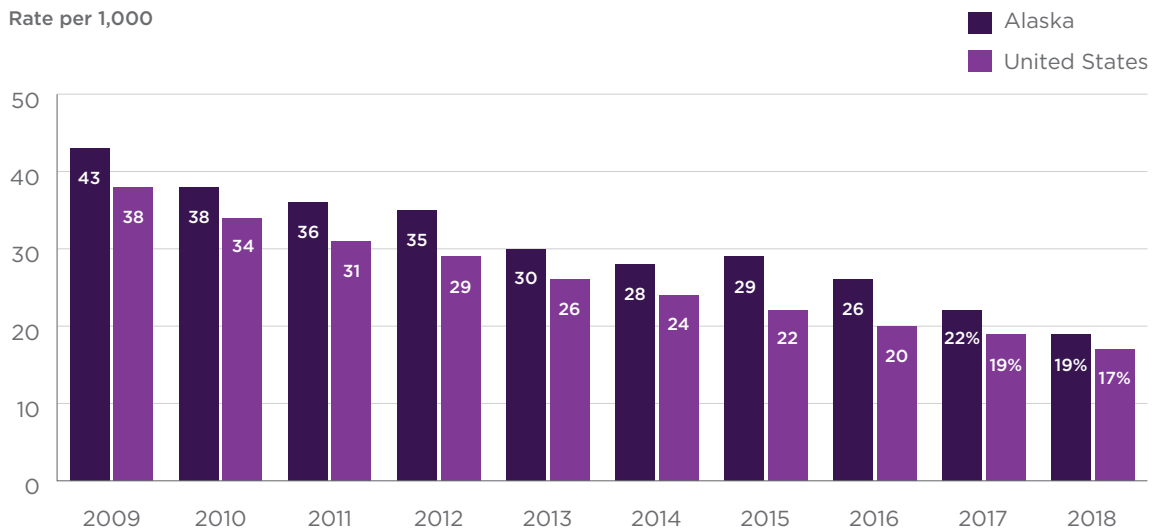


Figure 4. Teen Births, Alaska and U.S., 2009-2018

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

The teen birth rate in the United States remains the highest among affluent countries.

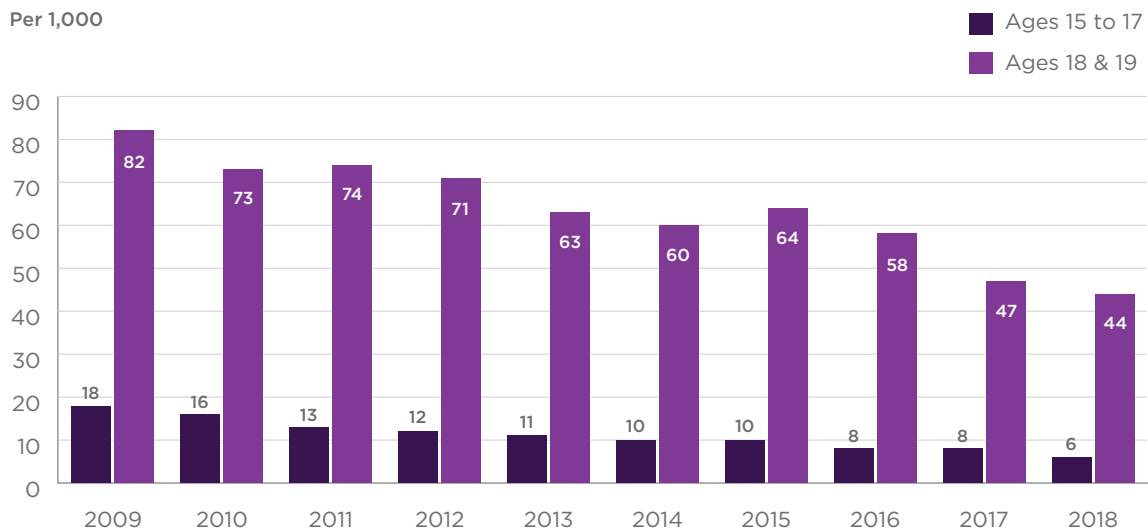


Figure 5. Teens Birth Rate per 1,000 Females by Age Group, Alaska, 2009-2018

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center. Note: S - NCHS reporting standards not met.

Teen birth rates have fallen in every region of Alaska over the last decade. However, the regional variation in rates is extraordinary. The rate in the region with the highest teen birth rate is 341 percent higher than the rate for the region with the lowest. For the 2014-2018 period the statewide teen birth rate was 24.6 per 1,000. The lowest birth rate per 1,000 was seen in the Southeast Region (15.3) whilst the highest rate was seen in the Northern Region (67.5). Only the three regions had rates above the statewide average: the Northern region (+174 percent), the Southwest region (+127 percent), and the Interior region (+4 percent).

Alaska deserves credit for lowering teen birth rates across all measured ethnic and racial groups. In the last decade the rate for Asian and Pacific Islander teens has fallen 80 percent while the rates for American Indian/Alaska Native teens and for Non-Hispanic White teens have both fallen 58 percent. However, teen birth rates still vary widely between groups, with a 227 percent difference between the groups with the highest and lowest rates. The highest rates of teen births are for American Indian/Alaska Natives, at 36 per 1,000 in 2018 and Hispanic or Latinos at 25 per 1,000 in 2008. The lowest rate is for Non-Hispanic Whites, at 11 per 1,000 in 2018 and Asian and Pacific Islanders at 15 per 1,000 in 2018.

353%
The percent difference between Alaska regions with the highest and lowest teen birth rates.

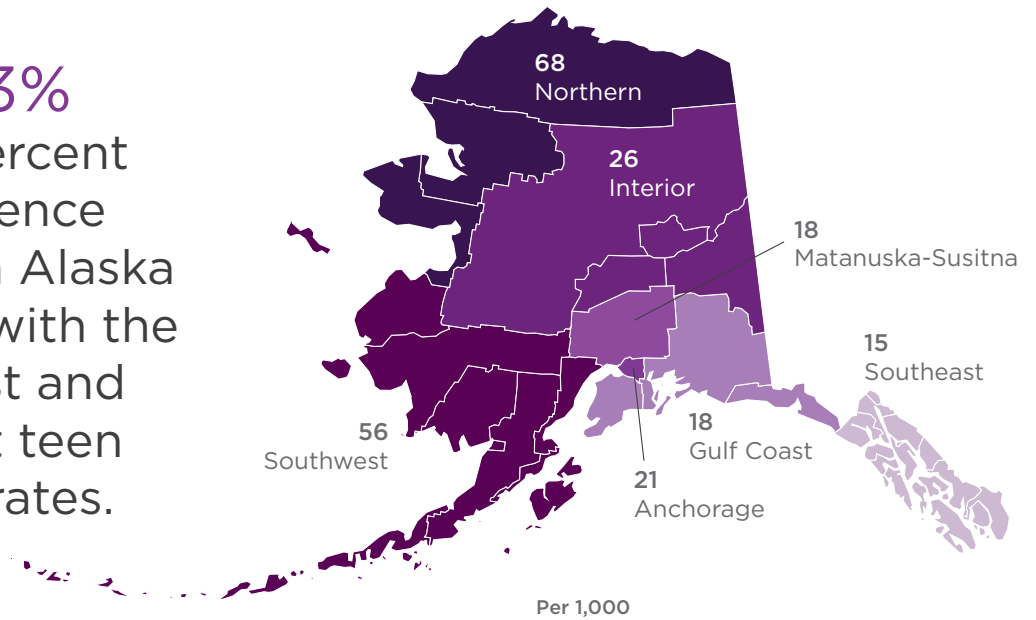


Figure 6. Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15-19 (5-year Average), Alaska, by Region, 2014-2018

Rates shown in this graphic are rounded to the nearest whole number.
 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.

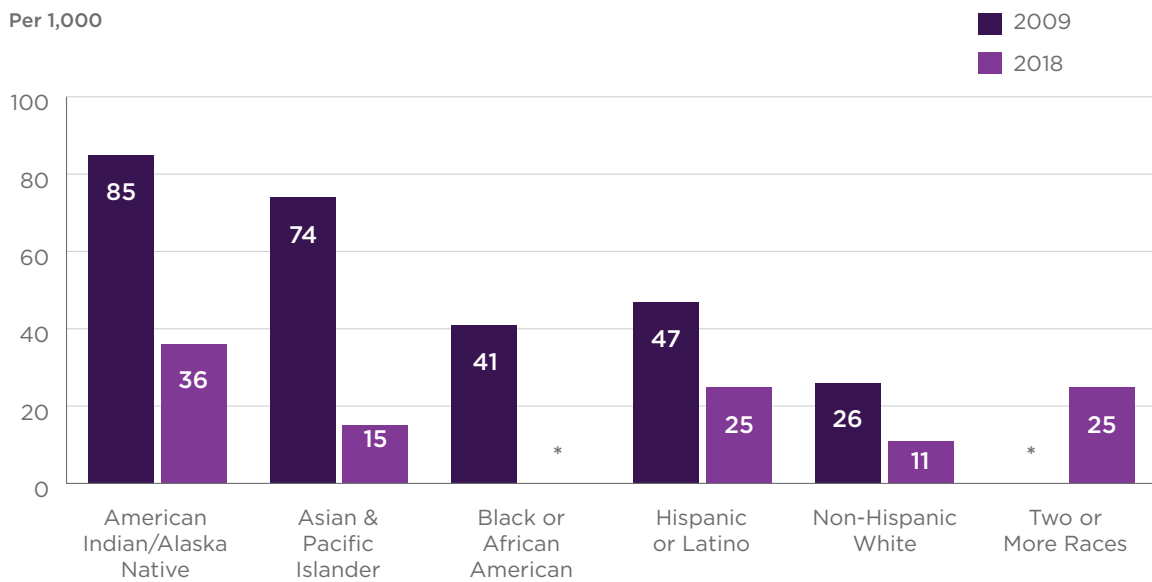


Figure 7. Teen Birth Rate, Per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2009 and 2018

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center. * Data suppressed.

Children in Foster Care

Foster care provides children from families who are struggling to provide for, and nurture, them with stable, loving homes. In 2018, 15 out of every 1,000 Alaska children were in foster care. This rate is 150 percent higher than the national rate of 6 children per 1,000. The rate in Alaska has increased by 20 percent over

the past decade from 12 per 1,000 in 2009. It is not clear whether this increase is the result of serving a higher portion of children who need foster homes or the result of increase in need. The study does note that the bulk of the increased rate seems to coincide with the start of Alaska's recession in 2014/2015.

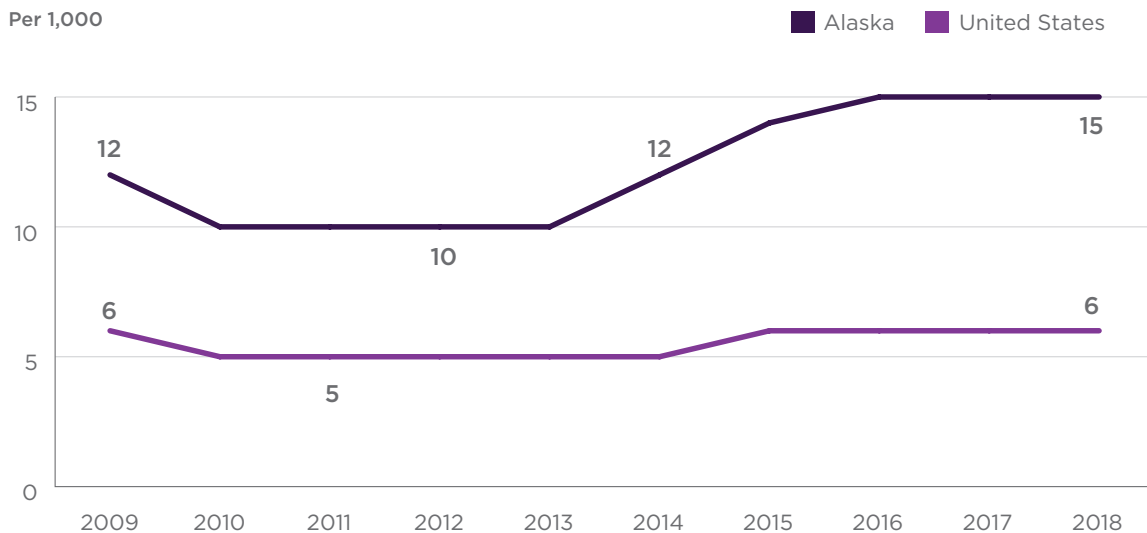


Figure 8. Children 0 to 17 in Foster Care, Alaska and U.S., Rate Per 1,000, 2009-2018

Source: Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center

Together American Indian/Alaska Native children (45 percent), Non-Hispanic White children (24 percent), and children from multiple ethnic groups (20 percent) comprise 89 percent of Alaska's foster care population, while Hispanic/Latino children (5 percent), Asian or Pacific Islander children (4 percent), Black children (2 percent), and children of unknown ethnic heritage (<1 percent) comprise the remaining 11 percent. These percentages have remained largely stable over the last decade, except the proportion of the foster care population comprised of American Indian/Alaska Native children has fallen by approximately 20 percent and the proportion of children belonging to multiple ethnic groups has more than doubled.

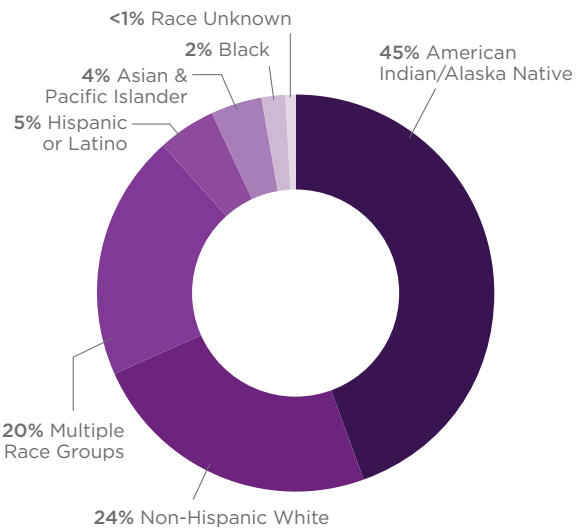


Figure 9. Percent of All Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2018

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

By age group, 35 percent of children in foster care were between age 1 and 5, a larger portion than any other age group. Children age 6 to 10 comprised 29 percent of the foster care population compared to 22 percent for 11- to 15-year-olds. Children less than 1 year old and age 16 to 20 comprised 6 percent and 7 percent of the foster care population respectively.

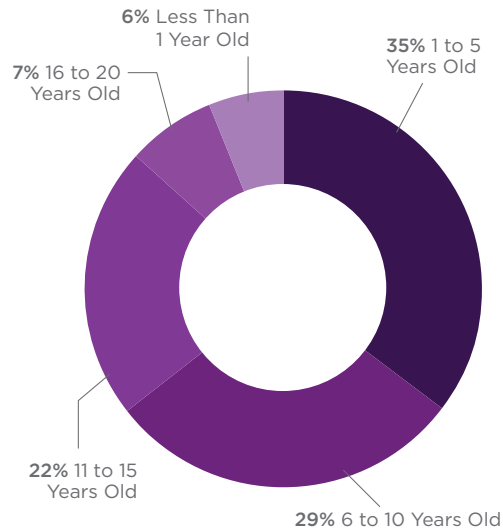


Figure 10. Percent of Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Age Group, 2018

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

In the last decade Alaska's foster care system has shifted away from non-relative fostering and group homing towards fostering by a relative and pre-adoptive homes. In 2018, among children in foster care, 30 percent were in a foster family home with a non-relative, 27 percent were in a foster family home with a relative, 27 percent in a pre-adoptive home, 11 percent were in a trial home visit,

and 4 percent were in a group home. These proportions represent significant shifts from 2009 when 38 percent of children were in the home of a non-relative, 22 percent were in the home of a relative, 27 percent were in a pre-adoptive home, 13 percent were in a trial home visit, and 8 percent were in a group home or institution.

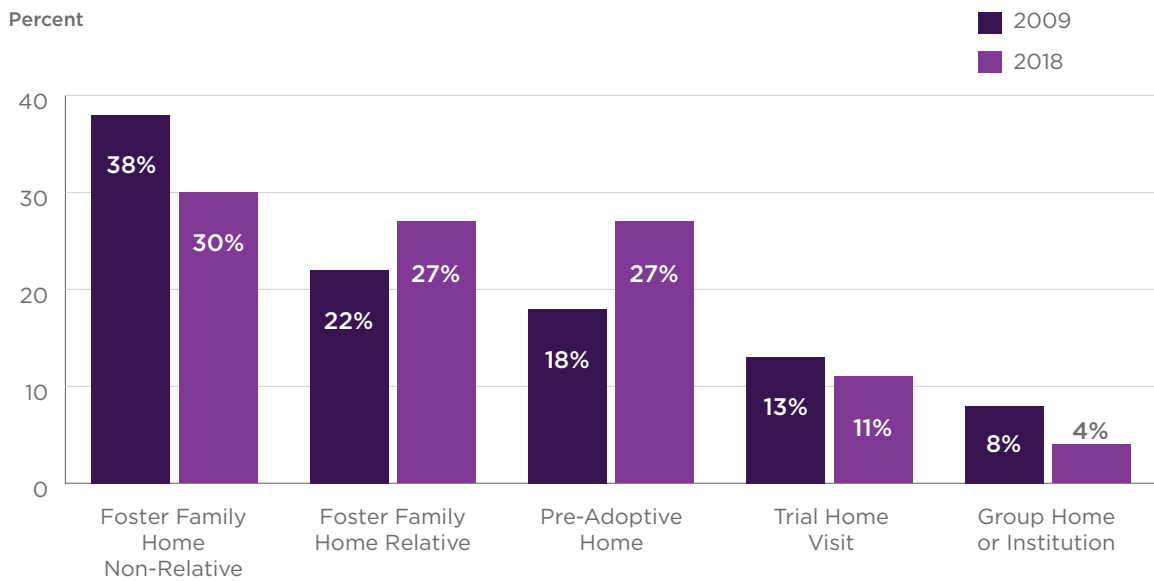


Figure 11. Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Placement Type, 2009-2018

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Afterschool Activities

Afterschool programs can support social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development, reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe and supportive environment for children and youth. From 2009 to 2019, over half of Alaska high school students participated in afterschool activities, totaling 57 percent

in 2019. Almost one-third participated three or more days per week in 2017 (no data available for 2019). These proportions have remained largely stable over the last decade with perhaps an increasing trend appearing in the “1 or more day per week” percentage starting in 2013.

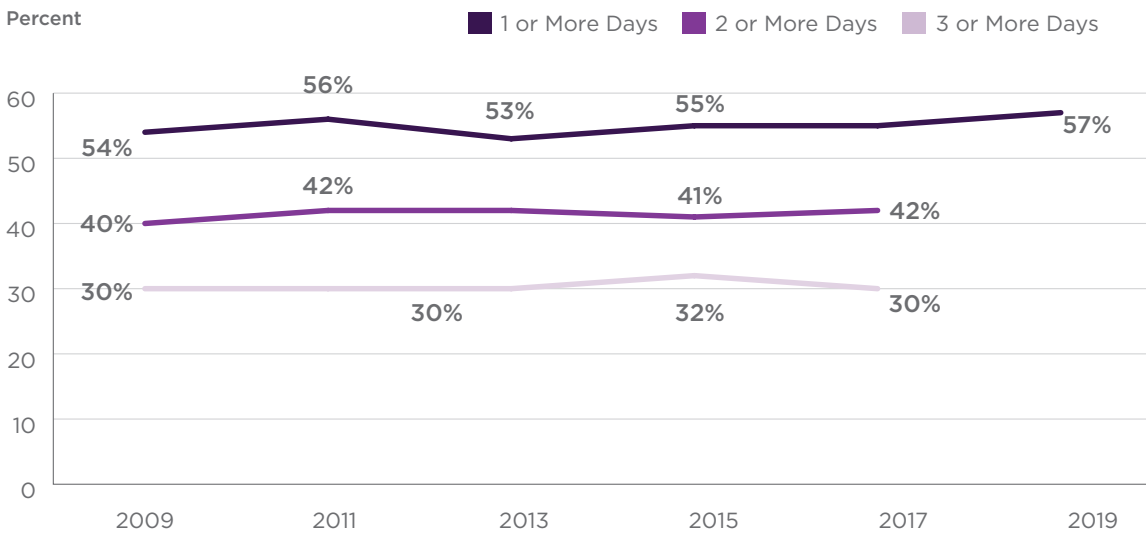


Figure 12. High School Students Who Participate in Afterschool Activities, Alaska, by Days Per Week, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Source: YRBS.

Afterschool activities promote family economic stability by allowing parents to work outside of school hours.

Non-Hispanic White students and students of multiple races are the most likely to participate in afterschool activities; 6 in 10 students in these ethnic groups participated in afterschool activities one or more days per week in

2017 or 2019. Alaska Native students were the least likely to participate in afterschool activities with roughly 5 in every 10 students participating in an afterschool activity at least one day per week in 2019.

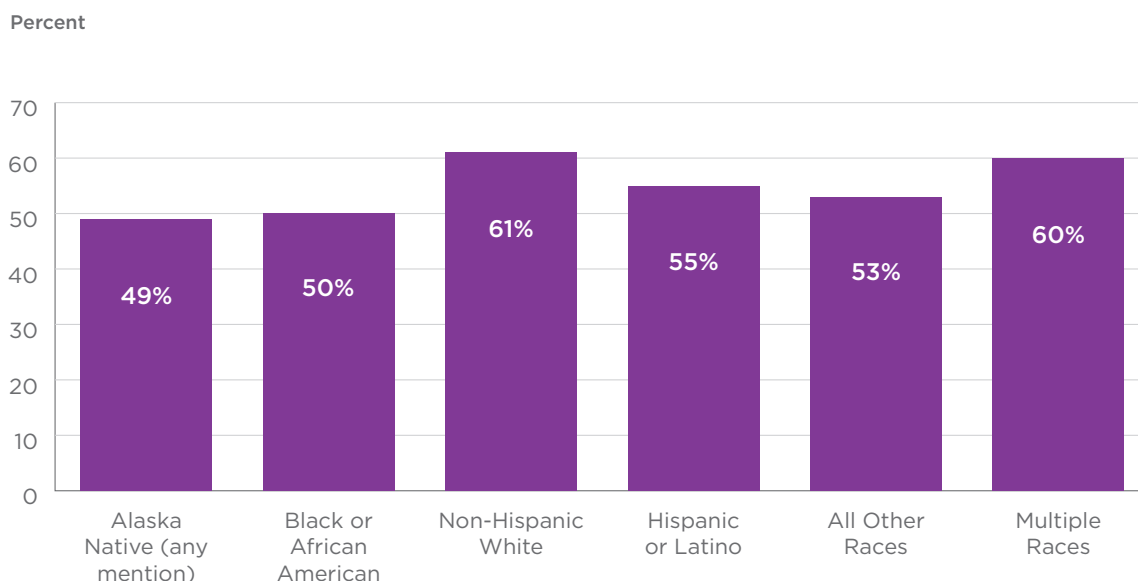


Figure 13. High School Students Who Participate in Afterschool Activities, Alaska, One or More Days Per Week, by Race/Ethnicity, Percent, 2019 for all groups except Black and Africa American (2017) and All Other Races (2017)

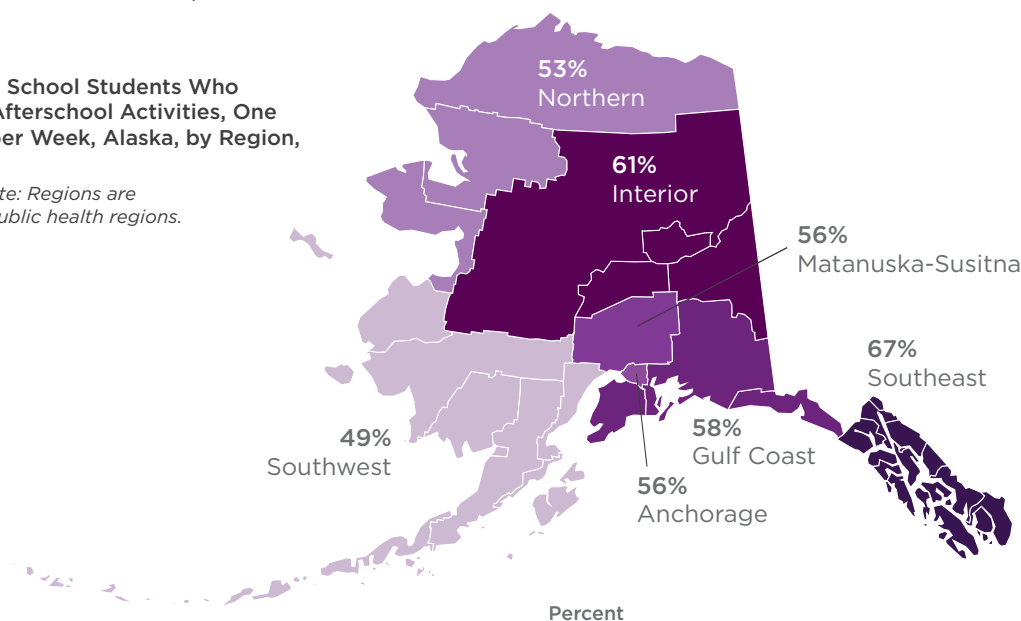
Source: YRBS *Data suppressed.

Regional variation exists for this indicator, but not to the extreme extent seen with some other indicators. By region, the largest proportion of high schoolers participating in afterschool activities one or more days per week live in Southeast, at 67 percent, followed by the Interior, at 61 percent, and the

Gulf Coast, at 58 percent. The proportion of students participating in afterschool activities increased over the past decade in all regions except for Southwest, in which it decreased from 56 percent in 2009 to 49 percent, the lowest current reading for any region, in 2017.

Figure 14. High School Students Who Participate in Afterschool Activities, One or More Days per Week, Alaska, by Region, Percent, 2017

Source: YRBS Note: Regions are State of Alaska public health regions.



Teen Suicides

The suicide of a loved one or close friend can be a devastating traumatic event accompanied by feelings of shock, anger, confusion and depression. Individuals exposed to suicide have double the lifetime risk of depression and anxiety compared to those who have never been exposed to suicide. Alaska's teen suicide rate increased 66 percent from 24 per 100,000 in 2008-2012 to 40 per 100,000 in 2015-2019. Rates vary significantly by region, with a 642

percent difference between the regions with the highest and lowest rates. Overall rates in Alaska range from a high of 178 per 100,000 in Southwest Alaska in 2015-2019, followed by 151 per 100,000 in the Northern region, to a low of 24 per 100,000 in both Anchorage and the Interior. Rates in Gulf Coast are also lower than most regions in the state, though data were not reported in 2015-2019.

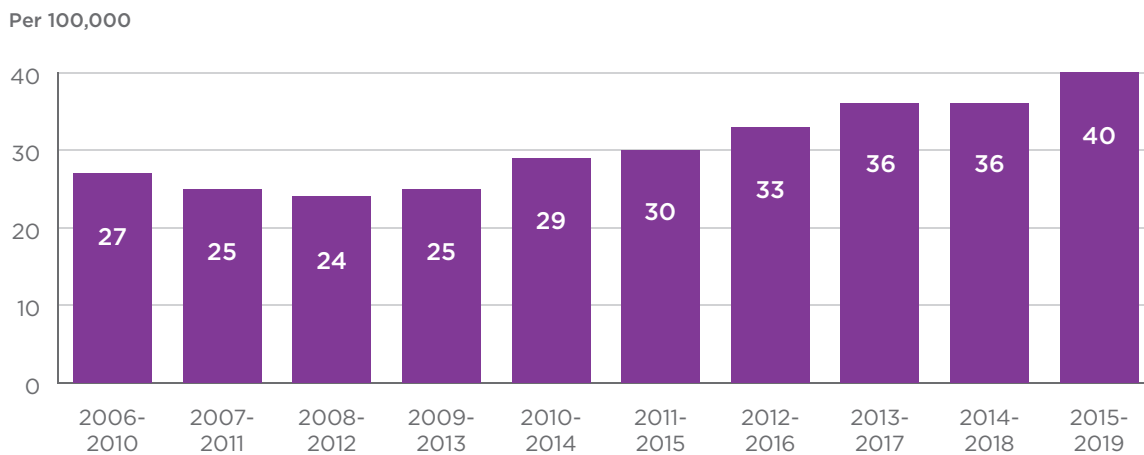


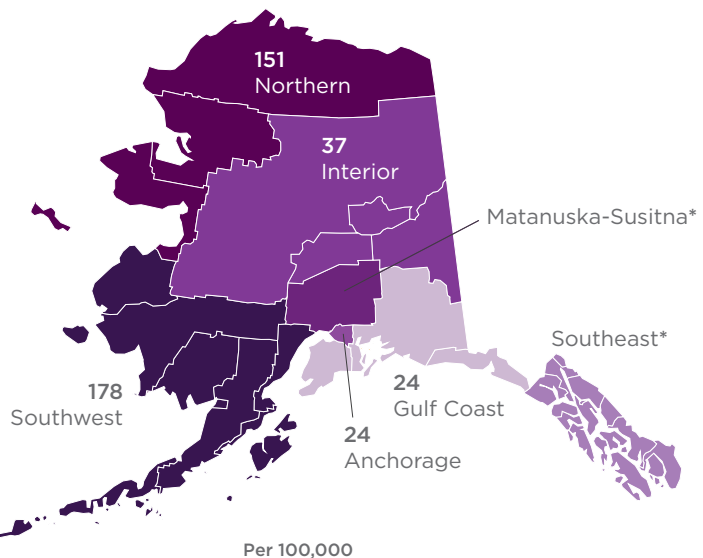
Figure 15. Teen Suicide, Alaska, Ages 15-19, Rate Per 100,000, 2006/2010-2015/2019

Source: Kids Count Data Center.

634%
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, 2015/2019

Rates shown in this graphic are rounded to the nearest whole number. Source: Kids Count. Note: Regions are State of Alaska public health regions. *Data suppressed.



In 2019, 22 percent of Alaska high school students planned a suicide attempt in the past 12 months.

This proportion includes 27 percent of females and 16 percent of males. These proportions have increased over the last decade along

with the teen suicide rate; planning rates for males are up 33 percent while planning rates for females are up 69 percent.

The proportion of high school students in 2019 who planned a suicide attempt in the past 12 months was highest for American Indian/Alaska Native students, at 24 percent, followed by White students, at 20 percent, and Hispanic/Latino students, at 18 percent. The proportion of students reporting planning a suicide attempt increased among each racial/ethnic group since 2009.

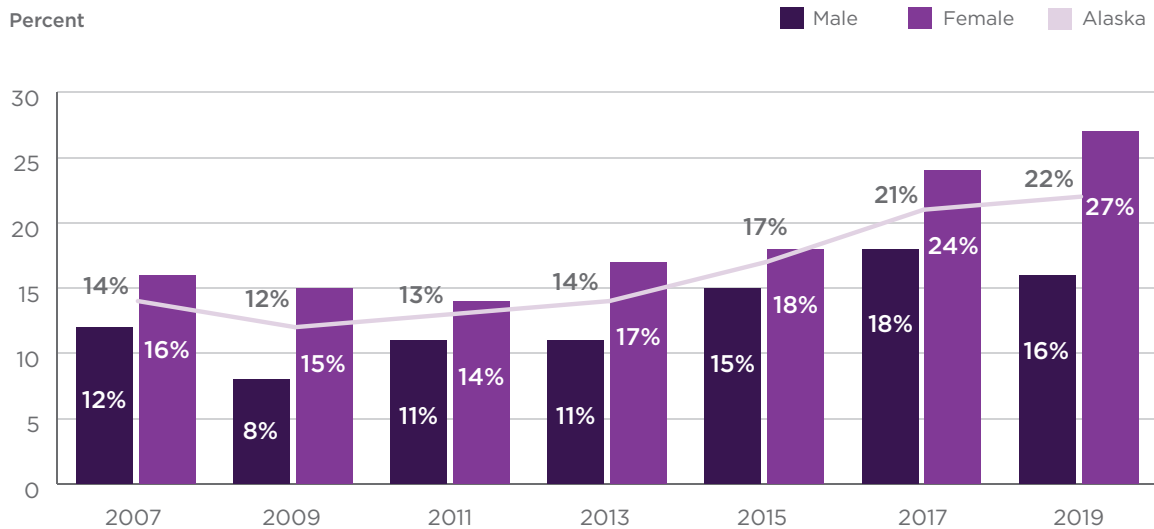


Figure 17. High School Students Who Planned a Suicide Attempt in the Past 12 Months, Alaska, by Gender, Percent

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students

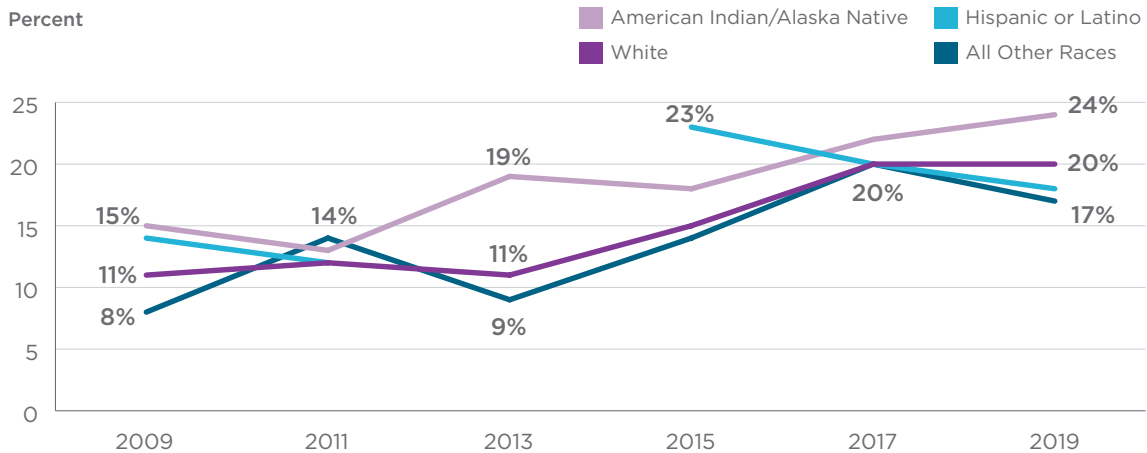


Figure 18. High School Students Who Planned a Suicide Attempt in the Past 12 Months, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students. *Data suppressed.

In addition to tracking suicide rates Alaska also records the percentage of high school students who felt sad or hopeless in the past 12 months. Not surprisingly, the percentage of high school students reporting these feelings increased over the past decade with that increase tracking the increase in suicide rates. Over one-third (38 percent) of high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless in the past 12 months in 2019. This proportion

includes almost half, 48 percent, of female students and 28 percent of males. By race/ethnicity, a larger proportion of Hispanic or Latino students (45 percent) and American Indian/Alaska Native students (43 percent) reported feeling sad or hopeless in the past 12 months in 2019, compared to 34 percent of White students. These proportions have increased over the past decade for all racial and ethnic groups.

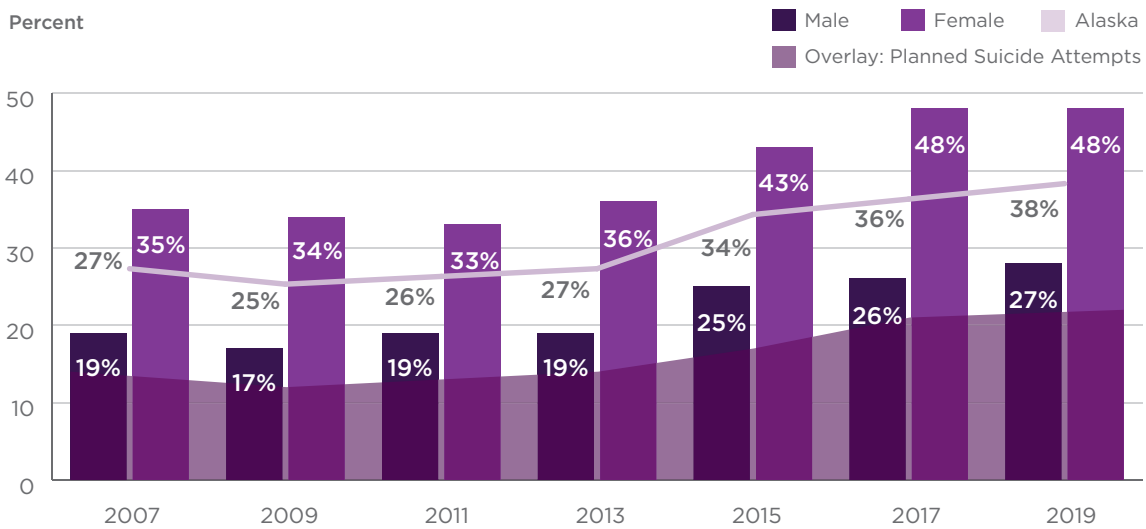


Figure 19. High School Students Who Felt Sad or Hopeless in Past 12 Months, Alaska, By Gender, Percent, Odd Years 2007-2019

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students

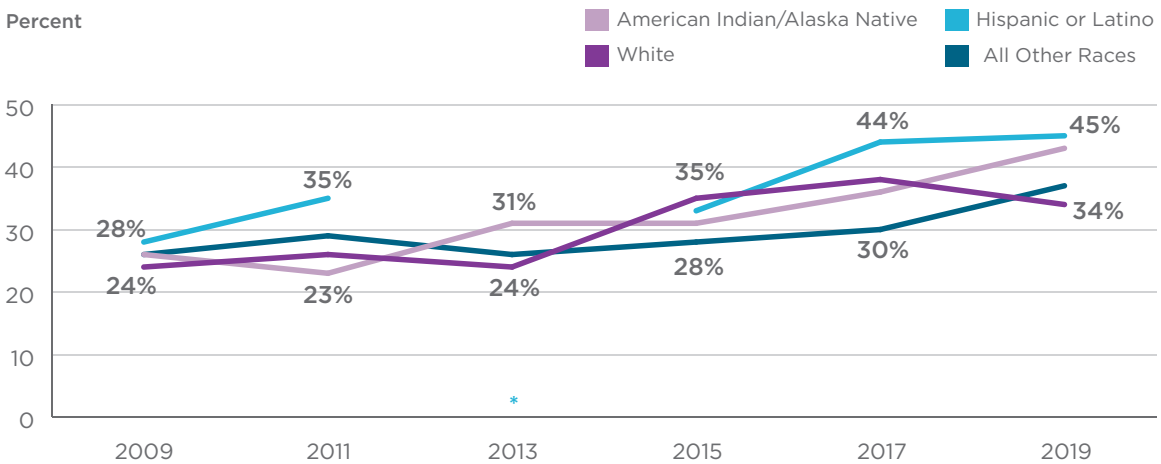


Figure 20. High School Students Who Felt Sad or Hopeless in Past 12 Months, Alaska, By Race and Ethnicity, Percent, Odd Years 2007-2019

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students. *Data suppressed.



Caring Adults

Caring adults are critical to the healthy development of youth. Parental caring is always the first choice for children, but the role of caring adults can be played by grandparents, teachers, neighbors, coaches, faith leaders, or mentors. In Alaska, the two primary measures of whether children feel they have a caring adult around them are whether students feel like they have a teacher who cares about them and whether they have three or more adults other than parents

whom they are comfortable seeking help from. In 2019, almost two thirds (59 percent) of Alaska high schoolers reported feeling their teachers care about and encourage them, the same proportion who reported this feeling in 2009. In 2019 49 percent of high school students said they had three or more adults other than their parents whom they would feel comfortable seeking help from; this reading is the highest in the last decade.

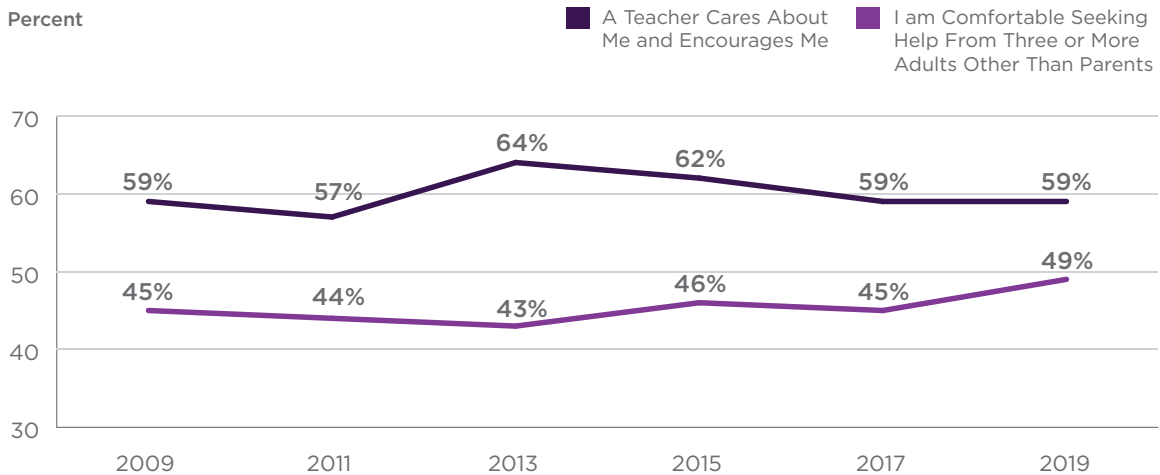


Figure 21. High School Students Who Feel Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them/ High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, Alaska, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Source: YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results

The steadiness of the aggregate indicator is matched by racial/ethnic data. The proportion of students reporting they feel their teachers care about and encourage them has been relatively steady by race/ethnic group and by year over the past decade.

Just over half (53 percent) of White students reported they were comfortable seeking help from three or more adults other than their

parents in 2019, compared to 46 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native students, 42 percent of Hispanic or Latino students, and 39 percent of students of all other races. While no strong trends are apparent for most ethnic groups the proportion of American Indian/Alaska Native students reporting they have adults other than their parents whom they can approach appears to be increasing.

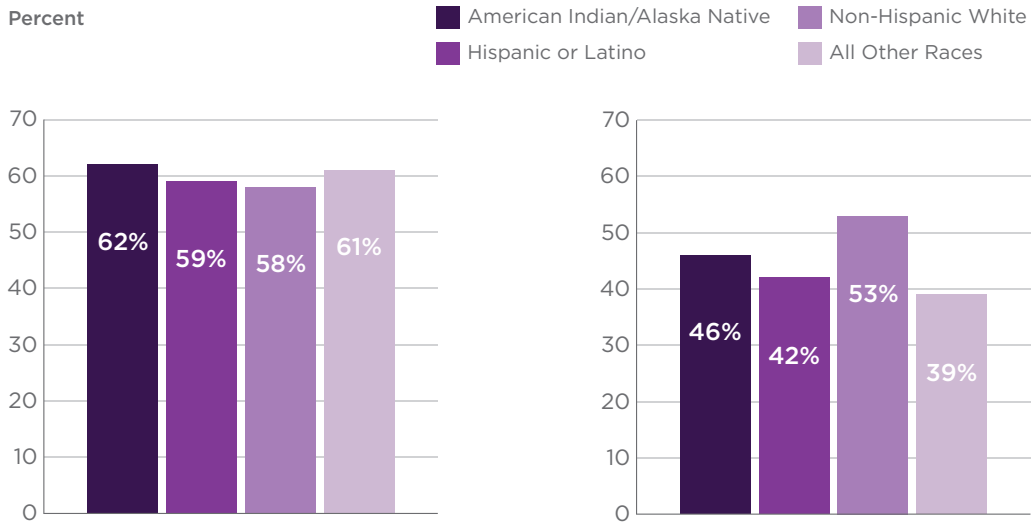


Figure 22. High School Students Who Feel Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them, Alaska by Race/Ethnicity, Percent, 2019

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students

Figure 23. High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, Alaska, by Race/Ethnicity, Percent, 2019

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students

By region, the proportion of students reporting they feel their teachers care about and encourage them was highest

in the Northern region, at 67 percent, and Southeast, at 66 percent, and lowest in Interior, at 58 percent.

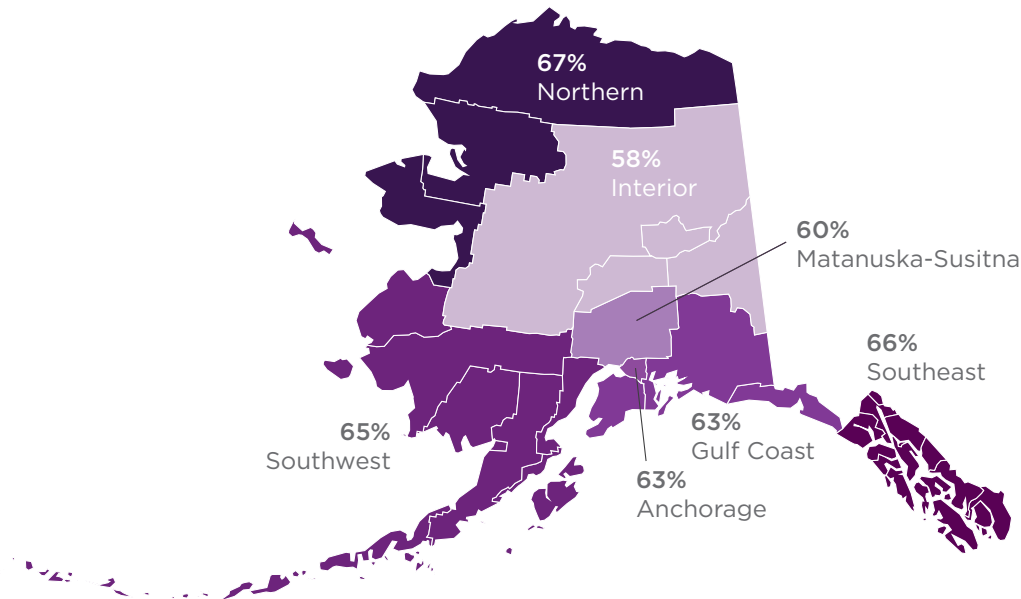


Figure 24. High School Students Who Feel Like Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them, Alaska, by Region, Percent, 2017

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.

Over 45 percent of students in each region were comfortable with seeking help from adults other than their parents in 2017, except in the Southwest Region, in which the proportion of students was 35 percent.

Proportions vary by region from year to year; however, they have generally increased in Anchorage, Interior, and Northern regions since 2009 and remained relatively stable in other regions.

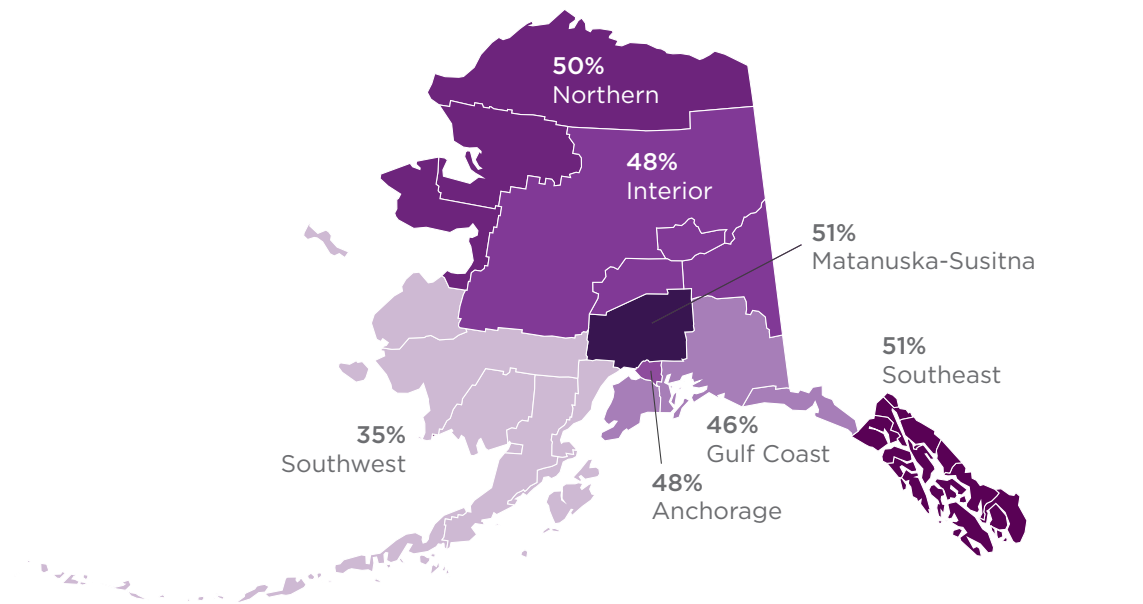


Figure 25. Table 28. High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, by Region, Percent, 2017

*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.*

Since 2009, the percentage of high school students comfortable seeking help from 3 or more adults other than their parents in has steadily increased in Anchorage, Northern and Southeast regions.

Internet Access

Increasingly the speed of internet access in a community is a broad measure of the community’s economic potential and connection to the world. Alaska ranks last (51st) among U.S. states and the District

of Columbia in Broadband Now’s internet connectivity gauge, a formula that accounts for access to broadband, terrestrial broadband, low-priced wired broadband plans, and average download speeds.

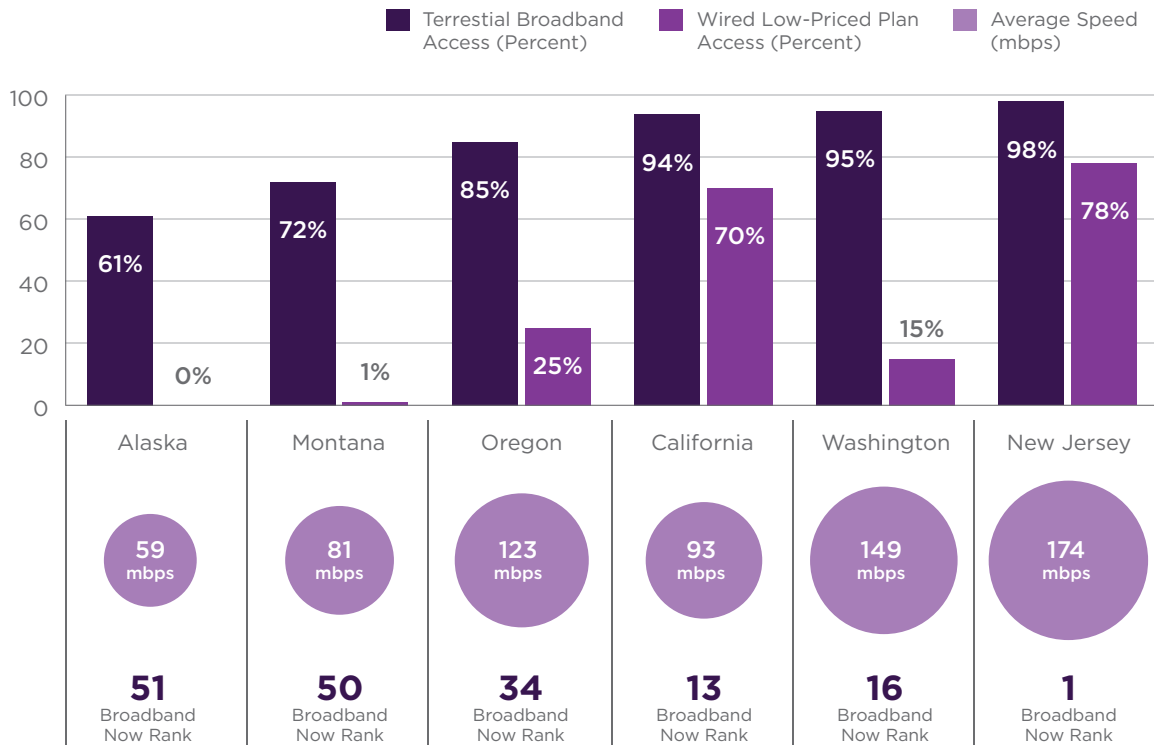


Figure 26. Internet Connectivity Metrics. Alaska Compared to Selected U.S. States, 2020

Source: Broadband Now <https://broadbandnow.com/Alaska>. Note: Broadband is defined by the Federal Communications Commission as speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (mbps) down and 3mbps up.

While Alaska ranks low in broadband infrastructure and connectivity overall, a stark divide exists within the state between urban and rural areas.

Eighty percent of Alaskans have access

to some type of wired connection capable of 25 Mbps or faster. The other 20 percent either have no connection available or have connections at a lower speed. Also, most Alaskans do not have access to low-priced internet plans, at \$60 or less per month, whereas nationally 52 percent of consumers nationwide have access to such plans.

While Alaska ranks low in broadband infrastructure and connectivity overall, a stark divide exists within the state between urban and rural areas. Juneau has the highest broadband coverage in the state, at close to 100 percent, followed closely by many other urban centers, Municipality of Anchorage (99 percent), Ketchikan Gateway Borough (99 percent), City and Borough of Sitka (98

percent), and Mat-Su Borough (95 percent). Fairbanks North Star Borough is slightly lower at 89 percent. Many smaller Southeast boroughs also benefit from high rates of broadband coverage, with Skagway at 98 percent, Haines 93 percent, Wrangell 90 percent, and Peterburg 81 percent.

Kodiak Island Borough and Valdez-Cordova Census Area round out the list of areas with coverage over 80 percent. The rest of Alaska's rural areas have low coverage. Kenai Peninsula Borough, Denali Borough, Nome Census Area, and Hoonah-Angoon, Southeast Fairbanks, and Yukon-Koyukuk census areas coverage ranges between 2 percent and 59 percent. For all remaining areas, coverage is at 0 percent.

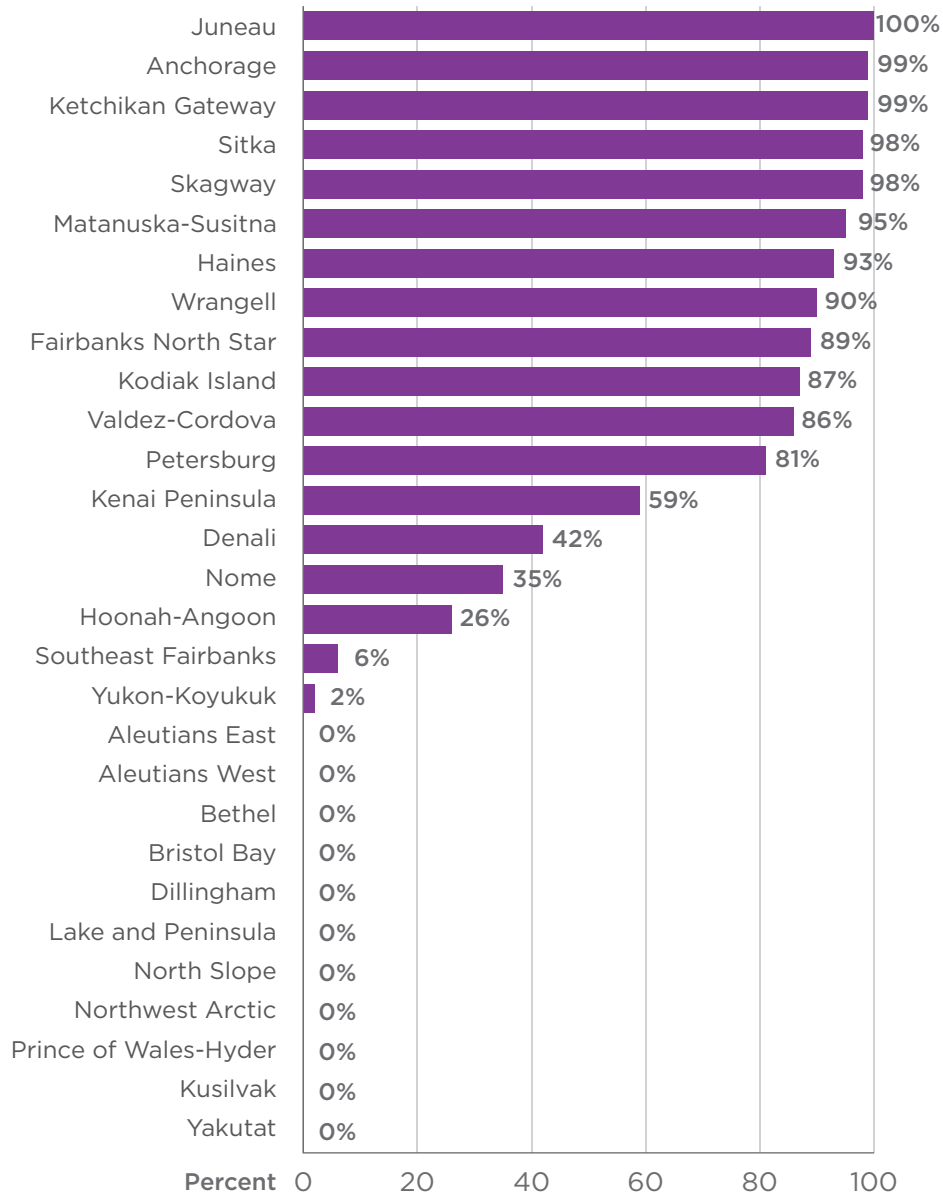


Figure 27. Broadband Coverage by Borough/Census Area, Alaska, Statewide, by Borough/Census Area, Percent, 2020

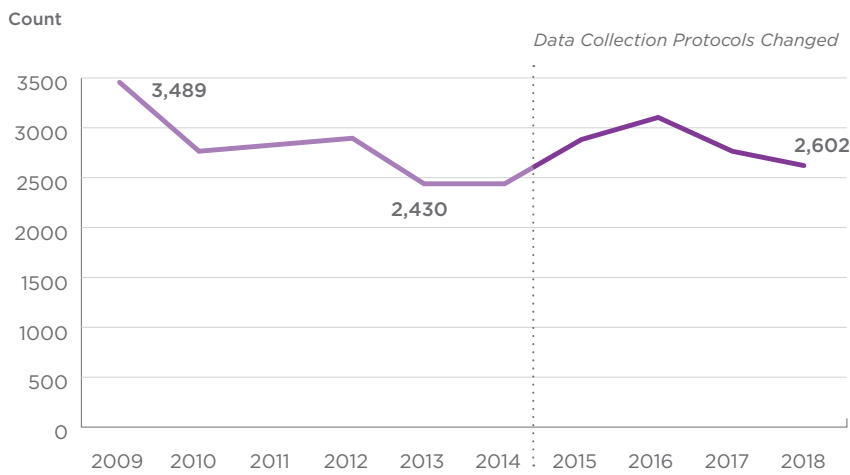
Source: Broadband Now. Note: Broadband is defined by the Federal Communications Commission as speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) down and 3Mbps up.



Child Maltreatment

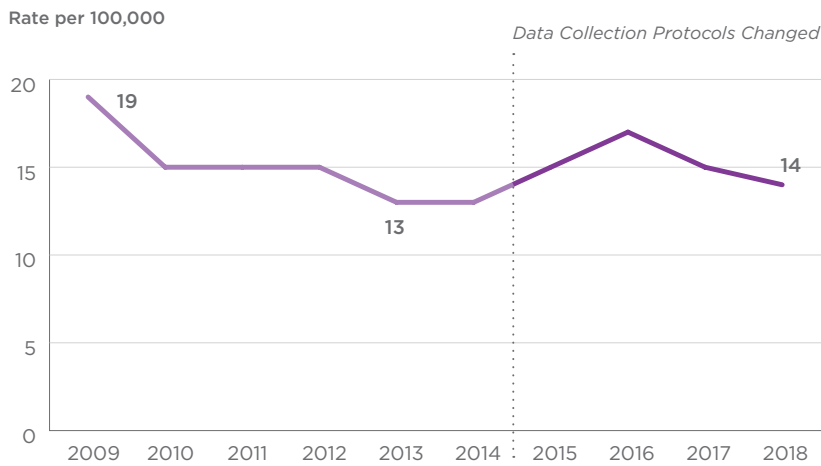
The number and rate of children who are confirmed by Child Protective Services as victims of maltreatment fluctuated over the last decade with the count of victims ranging from between 2,430 (2013) and 3,389 (2009) and between 13 and 19 per 100,000. There are two factors which make this data indicator challenging to assess:

- The data collection protocols for this indicator changed between 2014 and 2015.
- Confirmation of child maltreatment requires that incidents be reported and confirmed and factors affecting how likely maltreatment is to be reported, followed-up on, and confirmed can affect case counts. As shown, there are no trends over the past decade apparent in the data.



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 28. Count of Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2009-2018)



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 29. Rate per 100,000 of Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2009-2018)

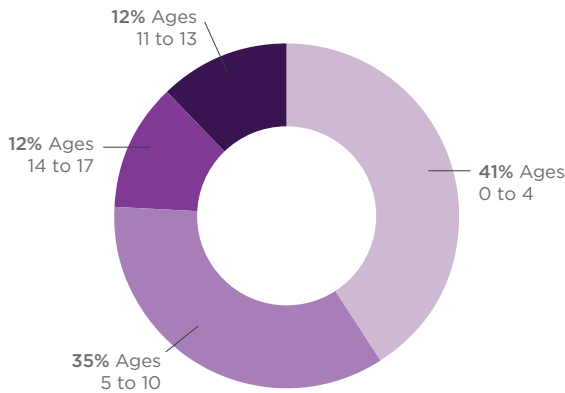


Figure 30. Percent by Age Group of Total Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2018)

Children between the ages of 0 to 4

comprise the largest proportion of total child maltreatment cases (41 percent), followed by ages 5 to 10 (35 percent of total cases), and 12 percent each for ages 11 to 13 and ages 14 to 17. As children grow older, they gain greater ability to speak for themselves, know when they are being maltreated, and report their own abuse.

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

The most common form of maltreatment

is neglect. Among children who were confirmed as victims of maltreatment in 2018, 77 percent were victims of neglect, 26 percent of emotional abuse, 16 percent physical abuse, 8 percent sexual abuse, and 3 percent medical neglect. Since a child can be the subject of more than one maltreatment incident, the percentages sum to greater than 100 percent.

Alaska is generating greater success

in providing post-investigation services to children confirmed as victims of maltreatment. The proportion increased significantly over the past decade, with approximately half (53 percent) of victims receiving post-investigation services in 2018, versus only 20 percent in 2009, though data analysis methodology changed slightly from 2014 to 2015.

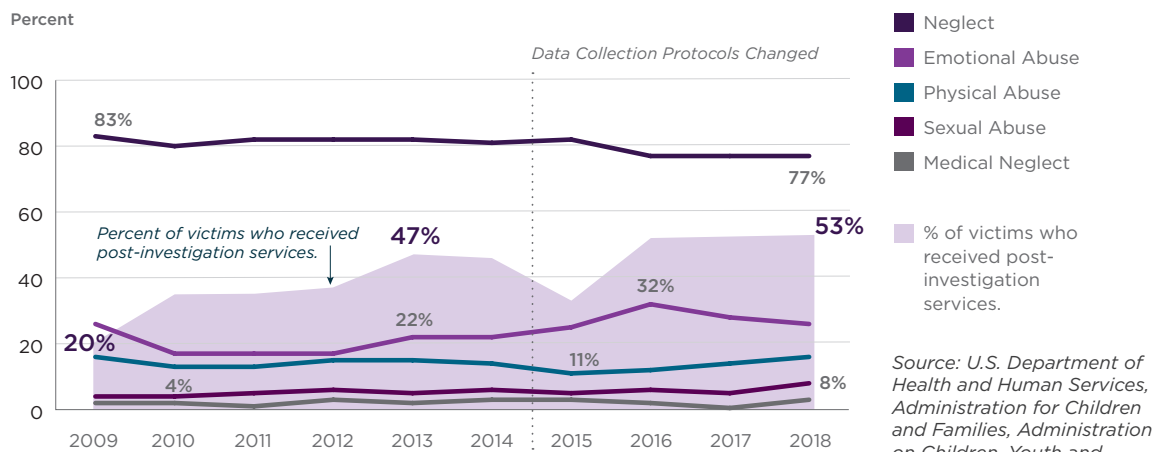


Figure 31. Distribution of Children Who Are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment by Maltreatment Type, Percent (2009-2014)

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

FISCAL DISCUSSION

Spending on Family & Community

The 2020 Alaska Children’s Budget, an Alaska Children’s Trust project, analyzed 10 years of state fiscal data from FY 2011 through FY 2020 through the lens of whether spending was specifically dedicated to the well-being of children, youth, and families

The project came to the following key conclusions around state spending dedicated to the family and community aspect of Alaska’s children, youth, and families.

1. In inflation-adjusted terms Alaska’s planned Fiscal Year 2020 spending in the KIDS COUNT family and community arena via the departmental operating budget was

4 percent higher than the average spent from FY 2011-FY 2014, but 4 percent lower than the peak spending year of FY 2018.

2. In FY 2020, the state planned to spend \$279.6 million on family and community related services for children, youth and families compared to an inflation-adjusted average of \$268.4 million per year between FY 2011 and FY 2014.

3. The state increased real spending on a broad group of services we call the “children’s services” group and less on children’s aid and rights, juvenile justice, and other family and community supportive services.

4. Historically, the state spent roughly \$2.4 million a year (inflation adjusted) through the Capital budget in this area, but the FY 2020 Capital budget contained no money for family and community spending related to children, youth, and families.

Millions

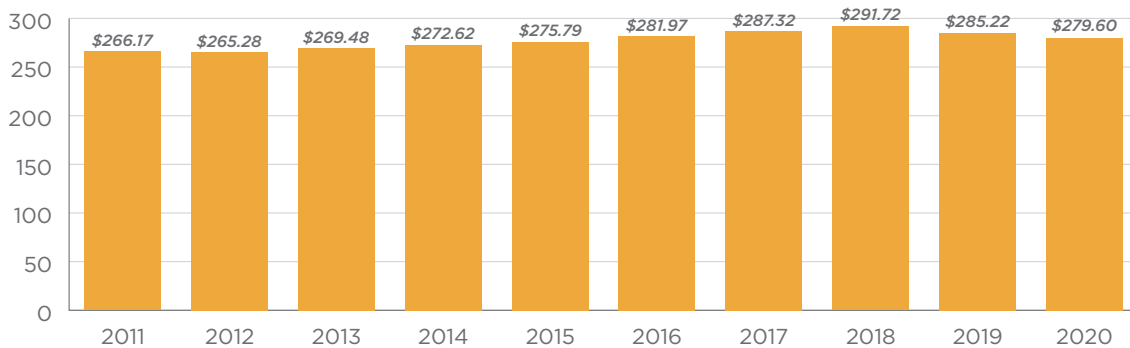


Figure 32. Departmental Operating Budget in the KIDS COUNT Area of Family and Community, \$US 2020 Millions

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children’s Budget, 2020.

This analysis dives more deeply into the Alaska Children’s Budget data to look at not just how much Alaska spent in this KIDS COUNT topic area, but also looking at how Alaska chose to prioritize its family and community related spending.

Alaska’s spending on family and community breaks into four broad buckets:

- Children’s Services, a category which includes money spent on social work, subsidized adoptions, foster care,

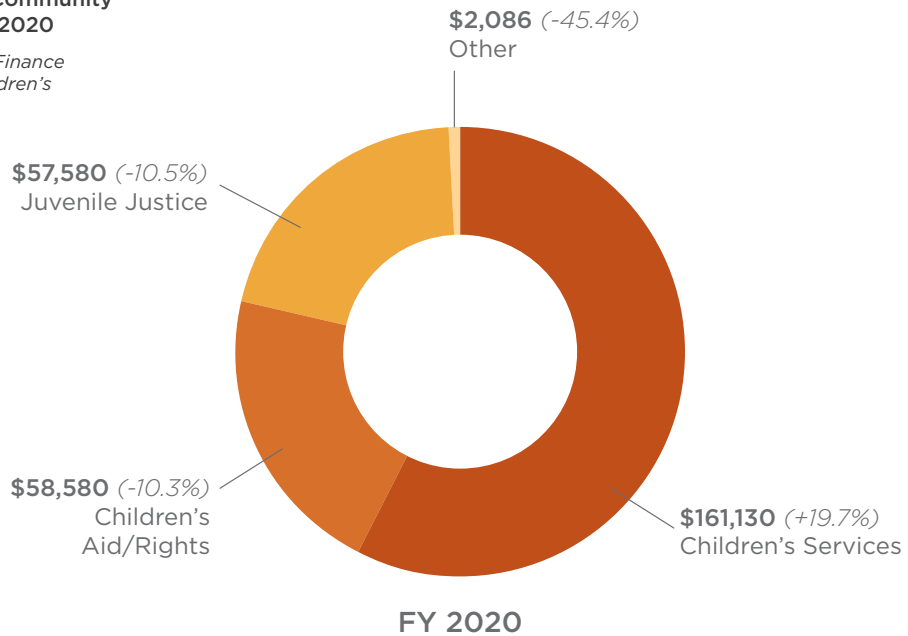
family prevention, and related administrative costs.

- Children’s Aid/Children’s Rights which includes money spent on legal services and child protection.
- Juvenile Justice which includes money spent on juvenile justice facilities and services.
- Other spending which includes family and community related spending by departments such as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and programs such as the Governor’s Council on Disabilities.

Over the last decade spending increased in the Children’s Services category but fell by double digit percentages for the remaining categories.

Figure 33. Family and Community Expenditure Areas, FY 2020

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children’s Budget, 2020.



Every allocation in Alaska’s state budget receives a unique component number from the Office of Management and Budget. While component numbers are never reused, they can be retired when programs end or when an administration wants a program to no longer have its own component code.

These issues can make tracking spending changes challenging such as the issue noted above with spending on child support collections. Thus, while component numbers can be retired, that doesn’t necessarily indicate a program ended or a change in intended spending.

Detailed analysis of spending within the four overarching categories reveals that between the FY 2011/FY 2014 period and FY 2020 the state increased spending in every sub-area of Children's Services by double-digit percentage except spending in the sub-area of family preservation where real dollar expenditures dropped by 7 percent. The largest percentage increase, 35 percent, occurred in the sub-area of subsidized adoptions while social work saw the largest real-dollar increase in spending with a near \$14 million increase.

Within Children's Aid and Children's Rights real dollar spending in the sub-areas of legal services and child protection declined by 10 percent and 11 percent respectively while in Juvenile Justice sub-area spending on facilities declined by 15 percent and service spending remained flat. Real-dollar spending on other family and community related items has declined 45 percent in part because of cuts to programs, but also in part because Alaska Children's Trust spending was transferred out of state control in FY 2012.

Total Family & Community Expenditures
 FY 2011-2014 Average **\$268,388** ↑ **4 %**
 FY 2020 **\$279,604**

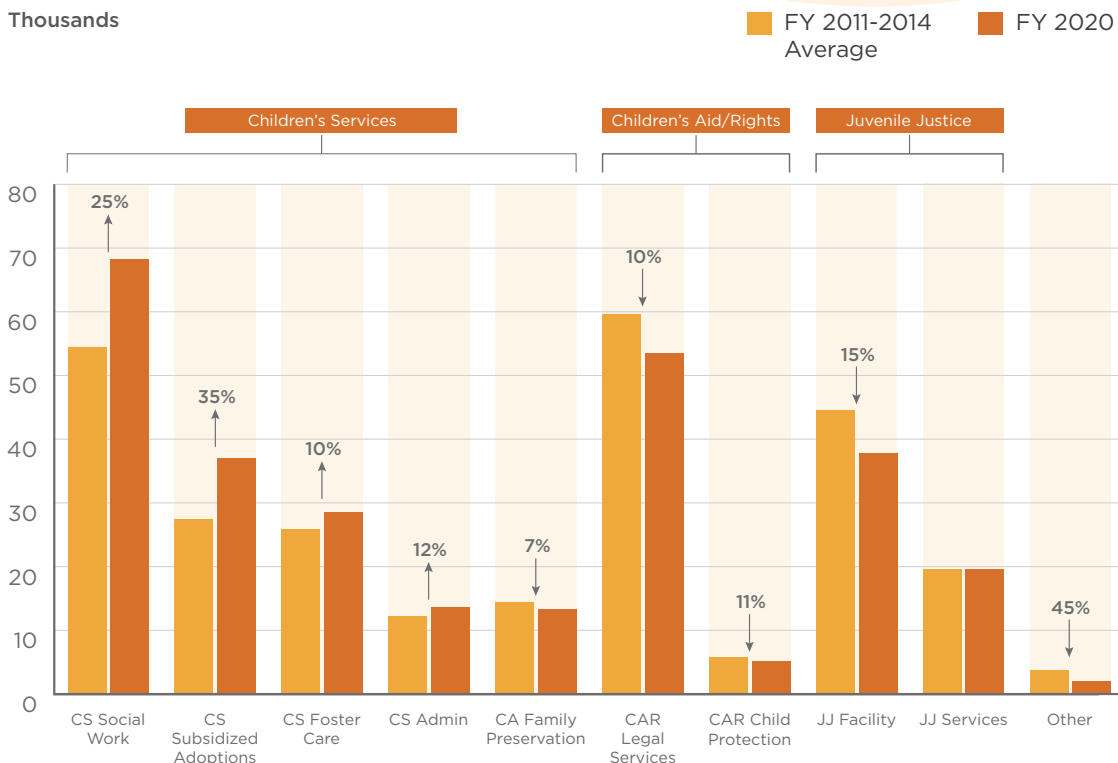


Figure 34. Inflation-Adjusted Family and Community Expenditures, FY 2020 vs FY 2011-2014 Average

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2020.



These budget data show that Alaska has been prioritizing what could be seen as the upstream services of the Children's Services group over the last decade, but comparatively deprioritizing what could be seen as more downstream services in children's aid/rights and juvenile justice. The study does not imply a causal relationship between this particular upstream prioritization and reduced expenditures downstream but does note that in this particular KIDS COUNT area the state's fiscal investments appear to be more upstream focused than in other KIDS COUNT areas.

This analysis doesn't see a strong connection between fiscal priorities, as identified above,

and the focus areas suggested by experts. The panel of experts interviewed for this project consistently stressed the importance of community supports and opportunities that encourage and nurture positive relationships between children and caring adults, both in and outside of the household. The indicators which most strongly aligns with experts' recommendations are the set of indicators around Caring Adults which indicate that Alaska isn't making strong progress in connecting children with positive adult influences. The study wonders if the lack of progress in this area is at least partially connected to the lack of any identifiable fiscal investment.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Solutions

The policy implications of the Family and Community indicators are difficult to capture in just a few paragraphs. The reality is that issues like poverty, suicide, and child abuse and neglect have no single determining cause and involve many interlocking levels of individual, community, and societal influences.

There is no one policy that will unilaterally cause the outcomes we want in reducing poverty and reversing troubling trends.

To solve complex issues, we need to challenge our assumptions, values, and beliefs. Many times, the decisions leaders make that affect society are not based on facts or data, but their own assumptions, values, and beliefs. At times, their assumptions, values, and beliefs cause them to make decisions that negatively impact the issue that concerns them. For example, many leaders do not support teaching comprehensive human development curricula in schools, although all research and data show how it reduces unplanned pregnancy, abortions, child sexual abuse, and so much more. This opposition is not based in data, but in belief.

In addition to more fact-driven discussions, we also need to acknowledge the existence, and effect of, past mistakes. Alaska's dismantling of services that supported families, like family

resource centers, caused families to lose access to the support and resources needed to help them thrive. We need to utilize data to help connect the dots. Imagine if all the key children and family services ran a report of their top 50 users and then those reports were merged to identify the families with the highest need. We could provide wraparound services to help those families become stable and less costly to the system.

Finally, we all need to be open to innovation and change. What we have been doing for the past decade or more is not working. We, as in the state, service providers, and families, need to be open to trying new things, relinquish their hold on resources, and find a way to embrace change.

The Family and Community report hits home the importance of changing investing in upstream services and interventions. Alaska invests a fraction in upstream intervention compared to downstream like corrections, institutions, or child welfare. Ideas for increasing upstream investments to lower downstream costs include:

1. Mental Health Access

Increase access and delivery of mental health care, especially to our rural communities. Behavioral health care services are critical for suicide prevention, addressing trauma, and reducing the adverse effects of mental illness. Ensuring children and families have access to insurance, and that insurance coverage of mental health conditions is on par with physical health conditions,

would be hugely impactful on a variety of issues discussed in KIDS COUNT reports. We need to reduce provider shortages in underserved areas by building our telehealth capacity, require health insurance companies to reimburse for telehealth, and increase broadband access.

2. Comprehensive Human Development Education

The education system needs to be greater than just teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic. Children, as soon as they start school, need to begin learning about their body, both the physical and mental aspects. Students need to understand how their body develops, inside and out, so they can begin to develop the skills to better manage the changes they will experience. They will learn about healthy relationships including comprehensive sexuality education. Empowering children and youth with this information and opening channels of communication within school and in the community will lead to stronger social and emotional competencies that benefit academic performance, reduced risks, and will change these dreadful trends we see in the KIDS COUNT reports.

3. Data Driven Resource Allocation

Unpacking data helps bring an issue into greater clarity. Throughout this report, data is unpacked by region, gender, age, and/or race. By using this data, investments could be more targeted to address “hot spots” or key populations.

4. Address Racial and Intergenerational Trauma

Use community dialogues, culturally competent mental health providers, and adopt a trauma-informed lens in social services to break the cycle of child maltreatment and the revolving door of children in the foster care system. If children and families receive the support they need to work through their trauma, it will have significant impacts on their ability to maintain gainful employment, perform well in school, connect with their community, and overall thrive in life.

5. Expand Affordable Internet Access

To build equity in education and health care, Alaska communities need reliable and affordable access to the internet. Internet is increasingly intertwined with critical functions of life, especially during the COVID pandemic. Communities without reliable, affordable internet see a more significant gap between resources and opportunities available to them than communities with consistent internet access. Policymakers, businesses, and community stakeholders in rural areas need to come together to address broadband barriers in underserved communities.

What Would it Take to Lead the Pacific Northwest?

Washington, Oregon, and Idaho are Alaska's three closest American neighbors geographically. They rank 15th, 21st, and 9th respectively in the KIDS COUNT Family and Community while Alaska ranks 19th. Of the four KIDS COUNT focus areas, Alaska is most competitive with its geographic peers in this area. While this result is welcome there is still room for Alaska to improve and be highly competitive with its peers.

What would need to change for Alaska to lead the Pacific Northwest?

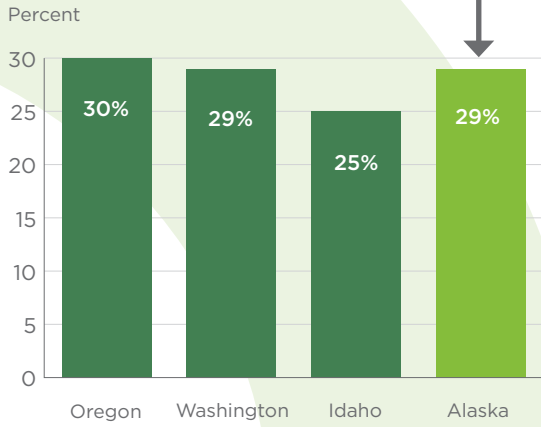
As noted above, the data for Alaska's geographic peers shows that Alaska is competitive in this KIDS COUNT focus area and actually leads its geographic peers in

one indicator (Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma), but to move to the front of the peer group Alaska would need to:

- Reduce the proportion of children living in high-poverty areas from 7 percent to 4 percent or below which is the peer-standard.
- Further decrease teen births another 33 percent from 19 per 1,000 to less than 13 per 1,000.

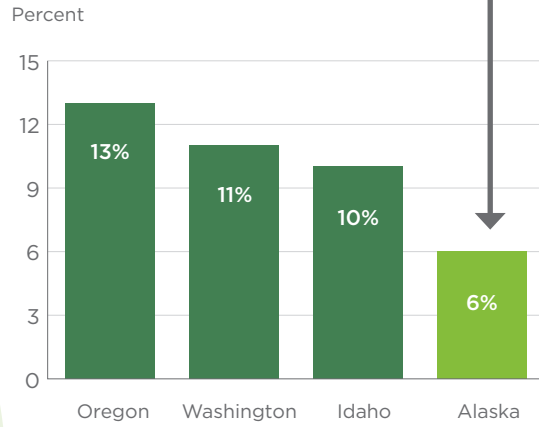
If Alaska achieved these two improvements and maintained its relative position with respect to children in families where the household lacks a high school diploma the state would lead its geographic peer group and be in the top quintile of US states with respect to Family and Community.

ALASKA IS TIED FOR 2/4



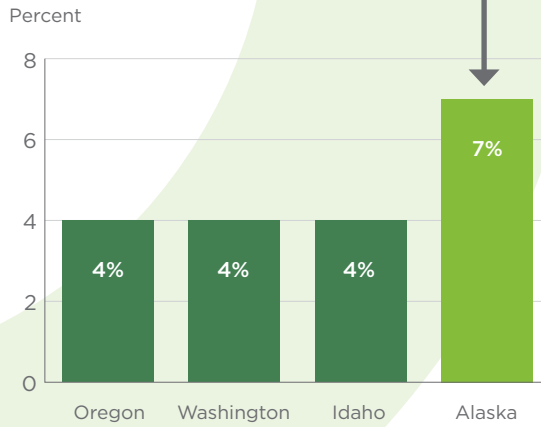
Children in Single-Parent Families

ALASKA RANKS FIRST



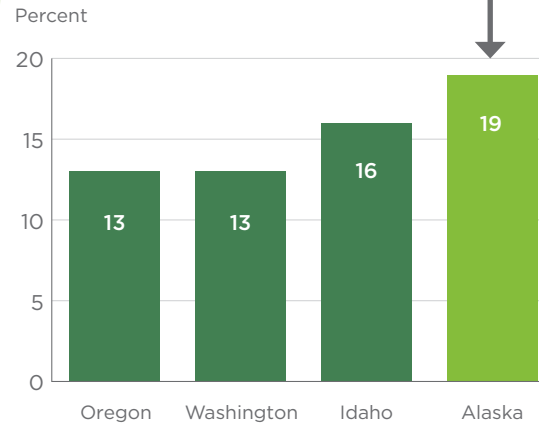
Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma

ALASKA RANKS LAST



Children Living in High-Poverty Areas

ALASKA RANKS LAST



Teen Births per 1,000

Acknowledgements

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Thank you to the entire ACT team for their support and dedication to the mission of the organization and this project.

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Appendix

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Table 1. Children in Single-Parent Families, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2018

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Asian & Pacific Islander (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	Non- Hispanic White (percent)	Two or More Races (percent)	Total (percent)
2009	42	*	*	*	23	*	30
2010	*	*	*	*	21	*	32
2011	50	*	*	*	28	*	35
2012	*	*	*	*	25	*	33
2013	45	*	*	*	22	*	30
2014	50	*	*	*	20	*	31
2015	*	*	*	*	22	*	34
2016	58	*	*	*	22	*	33
2017	*	*	*	*	19	*	29
2018	*	*	*	*	19	*	29

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2018 American Community Survey. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

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Table 2. Children in Families in Which the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma, Alaska, 2009-2018

Year	Alaska (percent)
2009	7
2010	10
2011	8
2012	7
2013	9
2014	8
2015	8
2016	6
2017	10
2018	6

Source: PopulationReference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2018 American Community Survey. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Table 3. Children in Families in Which the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2018

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Asian & Pacific Islander (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	Non-Hispanic White (percent)	Two or More Races (percent)
2009	11	*	2	7	4	6
2010	14	*	2	8	6	*
2011	14	*	2	*	4	10
2012	15	13	3	6	3	8
2013	13	*	*	*	3	*
2014	12	*	*	2	4	7
2015	16	*	*	*	4	*
2016	12	*	*	12	3	6
2017	*	*	*	*	4	*
2018	13	*	*	*	2	*

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2018 American Community Survey. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

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Table 4. Children Living in High Poverty Areas, Alaska, 2009/2013-2014/2018

Year	Alaska (percent)
2009-2013	3
2010-2014	4
2011-2015	5
2012-2016	5
2013-2017	6
2014-2018	7

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census Summary File 1 and Summary File 3 and the 2006-2010 to 2013-2018 American Community Survey 5-year data. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Table 5. Children Living in High Poverty Areas, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, 2009/2013-2014/2018

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Asian & Pacific Islander (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	Non-Hispanic White (percent)	Two or More Races (percent)
2009-2013	16	<1	<1	<1	<1	1
2010-2014	15	9	3	1	<1	3
2011-2015	28	<1	<1	1	<1	2
2012-2016	28	<1	<1	1	<1	2
2013-2017	34	<1	<1	1	<1	2
2014-2018	33	3	4	1	<1	3

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2018 American Community Survey. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

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Table 6. Teen Births, Alaska and U.S., 2009-2018

Year	Alaska (percent)	U.S. (percent)
2009	43	38
2010	38	34
2011	36	31
2012	35	29
2013	30	26
2014	28	24
2015	29	22
2016	26	20
2017	22	19
2018	19	17

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

Table 7. Teen Births Rate per 1,000 Females Alaska by Age Group, 2009-2018

Year	Ages 15 to 17	Ages 18 to 19
2009	18	82
2010	16	73
2011	13	74
2012	12	71
2013	11	63
2014	10	60
2015	10	64
2016	8	58
2017	8	47
2018	6	44

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center. Note: NCHS reporting standards not met.

Table 8. Teen Birth Rate Ages 15-19 (5-year Average), Alaska, by Region, Rate per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19, 2009/2013-2014/2018

Location	Data Type	2009-2013	2010-2014	2011-2015	2012-2016	2013-2017	2014-2018
Alaska	Rate	36.5	33.5	31.6	29.4	26.8	24.6
Anchorage	Rate	32.1	29.7	27.8	25.9	23.3	20.8
Gulf Coast Region	Rate	27.0	23.5	21.7	21.4	19.5	18.2
Interior Region	Rate	32.4	31.1	31.2	29.1	27.8	25.6
Matanuska-Susitna	Rate	30.5	26.5	24.4	22.5	18.9	18.0
Northern Region	Rate	89.2	81.7	77.5	70.6	69.4	67.5
Southeast Region	Rate	28.1	26.0	24.3	22.6	18.5	15.3
Southwest Region	Rate	79.1	72.9	68.5	63.9	59.5	55.8

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.

Table 9. Teen Births, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, Rate per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19, 2009-2018

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Asian & Pacific Islander (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	Non-Hispanic White (percent)	Two or More Races (percent)
2009	85	74	41	47	26	*
2010	76	50	40	38	22	*
2011	72	41	36	43	21	*
2012	66	43	36	32	19	*
2013	51	39	32	35	19	*
2014	46	28	29	20	21	*
2015	55	34	28	31	18	*
2016	48	34	*	22	16	27
2017	43	30	*	20	13	24
2018	36	15	*	25	11	25

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center. *Data suppressed.

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Table 10. Children 0 to 17 in Foster Care, Alaska and U.S., Rate Per 1,000, 2009-2018

Year	Alaska	U.S.
2009	12	6
2010	10	5
2011	10	5
2012	10	5
2013	10	5
2014	12	5
2015	14	6
2016	15	6
2017	15	6
2018	15	6

Source: Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Table 11. Percent of All Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2018

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Asian & Pacific Islander (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	Non-Hispanic White (percent)	Multiple Race Groups (percent)	Race Unknown (percent)
2009	56	1	4	5	25	8	1
2010	51	2	3	6	27	8	3
2011	50	2	3	5	26	12	2
2012	51	1	3	4	26	13	2
2013	46	1	2	3	26	17	3
2014	47	2	2	4	25	16	5
2015	42	2	3	5	28	15	4
2016	43	3	2	5	29	17	*
2017	42	3	2	5	27	20	<1
2018	45	4	2	5	24	20	<1

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Table 12. Percent of Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Age Group, 2009-2018

Year	Less Than 1 Year Old (percent)	1 to 5 Years Old (percent)	6 to 10 Years Old (percent)	11 to 15 Years Old (percent)	16 to 20 Years Old (percent)
2009	6	34	27	20	13
2010	6	38	25	20	11
2011	6	38	26	21	10
2012	6	38	26	21	9
2013	6	38	28	20	8
2014	6	38	28	20	8
2015	7	39	28	19	7
2016	7	37	29	20	7
2017	6	37	29	20	8
2018	6	35	29	22	7

Source: Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Table 13. Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Placement Type, 2009-2018

Year	Foster Family Home Non-Relative (percent)	Foster Family Home Relative (percent)	Pre-Adoptive Home (percent)	Trial Home Visit (percent)	Group Home or Institution (percent)	Runaway (percent)	Supervised Independent Living (percent)
2009	38	22	18	13	8	1	<0.5
2010	41	25	19	8	6	<0.5	<0.5
2011	37	21	24	11	7	<0.5	*
2012	36	19	26	11	6	1	<0.5
2013	35	21	28	10	6	1	*
2014	34	22	29	9	6	<0.5	*
2015	34	24	26	11	4	<0.5	*
2016	31	26	28	10	4	1	*
2017	30	25	29	11	4	1	*
2018	30	27	27	11	4	<0.5	*

Source KIDS COUNT Data Center. *Data suppressed.

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Table 14. High School Students Who Participate in Afterschool Activities, Alaska, by Days Per Week, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Year	1 or More Days (percent)	2 or More Days (percent)	3 or More Days (percent)
2009	54	40	30
2011	56	42	30
2013	53	42	30
2015	55	41	32
2017	55	42	30
2019	57	N/A	N/A

Source: YRBS, traditional high school students. N/A indicates not available

Table 15. High School Students Who Participate in Afterschool Activities, Alaska, One or More Days Per Week, by Race/Ethnicity, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	White (percent)	All Other Races (percent)	Multiple Races (percent)
2009	47	59	51	54	51	58
2011	48	46	45	56	56	50
2013	48	48	49	55	53	65
2015	49	56	54	58	54	60
2017	50	50	54	60	57	60
2019	49	*	55	61	53	*

Source: YRBS *Data suppressed.

Table 16. High School Students Who Participate in Afterschool Activities, One or More Days per Week, Alaska, by Region, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2017

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)
2009	53	55	56	44	51	56	56
2011	52	57	58	48	51	57	54
2013	52	58	54	49	51	57	60
2015	57	56	54	49	50	63	48
2017	56	58	61	56	53	67	49

Source: YRBS. Note: Regions are State of Alaska public health regions.

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Table 17. Teen Suicide, Alaska, Ages 15-19, Rate Per 100,000, 2006/2010-2015/2019

Years	Alaska
2006-2010	27
2007-2011	25
2008-2012	24
2009-2013	25
2010-2014	29
2011-2015	30
2012-2016	33
2013-2017	36
2014-2018	36
2015-2019	40

Source: Kids Count Data Center.

Table 18. Teen Suicide Rates, Ages 15-19, Alaska, by Region, Per 100,000, 2006/2010-2015/2019

Location	Data Type	2006-2010	2007-2011	2008-2012	2009-2013	2010-2014	2011-2015	2012-2016	2013-2017	2014-2018	2015-2019
Alaska	Rate	26.8	24.7	24.1	25.1	28.8	29.7	32.5	36.0	35.9	39.9
Anchorage	Rate	13.0	9.4	7.6	11.6	14.8	19.2	20.5	24.9	24.1	24.3
Gulf Coast Region	Rate	*	*	*	*	22.3	26.5	34.7	31.3	31.7	24.2
Interior Region	Rate	21.7	14.9	*	*	*	*	*	22.6	25.5	37.0
Matanuska-Susitna	Rate	*	*	*	*	22.7	25.5	22.6	25.3	19.6	*
Northern Region	Rate	138.9	145.9	154.9	124.7	120.3	112.9	113.1	122.7	132.1	150.9
Southeast Region	Rate	45.9	43.6	32.7	33.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Southwest Region	Rate	80.9	88.6	108.2	104.5	123.2	118.0	136.8	131.6	139.0	177.7

Source: Kids Count. Note: Regions are State of Alaska public health regions. *Data suppressed.

Table 19. High School Students Who Planned a Suicide Attempt in the Past 12 Months, Alaska, by Gender, Percent

Year	Alaska (percent)	Male (percent)	Female (percent)
2007	14	12	16
2009	12	8	15
2011	13	11	14
2013	14	11	17
2015	17	15	18
2017	21	18	24
2019	22	16	27

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students

Table 20. High School Students Who Planned a Suicide Attempt in the Past 12 Months, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	White (percent)	All Other Races (percent)	Multiple Races (percent)
2009	15	*	14	11	8	*
2011	13	*	12	12	14	*
2013	19	*	*	11	9	*
2015	18	*	23	15	14	*
2017	22	*	20	20	20	*
2019	24	*	18	20	17	*

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students. *Data suppressed.

Table 21. High School Students Who Felt Sad or Hopeless in Past 12 Months, Alaska, By Gender, Percent, Odd Years 2007-2019

Year	Alaska (percent)	Male (percent)	Female (percent)
2007	27	19	35
2009	25	17	34
2011	26	19	33
2013	27	19	36
2015	34	25	43
2017	36	26	48
2019	38	28	48

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students

Table 22. High School Students Who Felt Sad or Hopeless in the Past 12 Months, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, Percent Odd Years 2009-2019

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	White (percent)	All Other Races (percent)	Multiple Races (percent)
2009	26	*	28	24	26	*
2011	23	*	35	26	29	*
2013	31	*	*	24	26	*
2015	31	*	33	35	28	*
2017	36	*	44	38	30	*
2019	43	*	45	34	37	*

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students. *Data suppressed.

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Table 23. 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

Year	A Teacher Cares About Me and Encourages Me (percent)	I am Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Parents (percent)
2009	59	45
2011	57	44
2013	64	43
2015	62	46
2017	59	45
2019	59	49

Source: YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results

Table 24. High School Students Who Feel Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them, Alaska by Race/Ethnicity, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	White (percent)	All Other Races (percent)	Multiple Races (percent)
2009	64	*	53	60	52	*
2011	57	*	50	57	62	*
2013	68	*	*	63	68	*
2015	64	*	65	60	64	*
2017	59	*	60	60	58	*
2019	62	*	59	58	61	*

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students. *Data suppressed.

Table 25. High School Students Who Feel Like Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them, Alaska, by Region, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2017

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)
2009	58	60	53	60	60	62	67
2011	59	61	61	59	62	58	66
2013	61	64	63	62	60	68	68
2015	62	53	58	66	70	66	69
2017	63	63	58	60	67	66	65

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.

Table 26. High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, Alaska, by Race/Ethnicity, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

Year	American Indian/ Alaska Native (percent)	Black or African American (percent)	Hispanic or Latino (percent)	White (percent)	All Other Races (percent)	Multiple Races (percent)
2009	34	*	48	51	37	*
2011	37	*	31	49	36	*
2013	39	*	*	48	27	*
2015	41	*	49	50	41	*
2017	39	*	43	50	42	*
2019	46	*	42	53	39	*

Source: YRBS Traditional High School students. *Data suppressed.

Table 27. High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, by Region, Percent

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)
2009	42	43	42	54	36	47	40
2011	41	46	45	51	38	45	43
2013	39	49	47	47	43	50	36
2015	48	47	51	49	47	47	41
2017	48	46	48	51	50	51	35

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.

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Table 28. Internet Connectivity Metrics. Alaska Compared to Selected U.S. States, 2020

	Alaska	Montana	Oregon	California	Washington	New Jersey
Broadband Now Rank	51	50	34	13	16	1
Terrestrial Broadband Access	61%	72%	85%	94%	95%	98%
Wired Low-Priced Plan Access	0%	1%	25%	70%	15%	78%
Average Speed	59 Mbps	81 Mbps	123 Mbps	93 Mbps	149 Mbps	174 Mbps

Source: Broadband Now <https://broadbandnow.com/Alaska>. Note: Broadband is defined by the Federal Communications Commission as speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (mbps) down and 3mbps up.

Table 29. Broadband Coverage by Borough/Census Area, Alaska, Statewide, Percent, 2020

Borough/Census Area	Broadband Coverage (percent)	Borough/Census Area	Broadband Coverage (percent)
Alaska	61	Nome	35
Juneau	100	Hoonah-Angoon	26
Anchorage	99	Southeast Fairbanks	6
Ketchikan Gateway	99	Yukon-Yoyukuk	2
Sitka	98	Aleutians East	0
Skagway	98	Aleutians West	0
Matanuska-Susitna	95	Bethel	0
Haines	93	Bristol Bay	0
Wrangell	90	Dillingham	0
Fairbanks North Star	89	Lake and Peninsula	0
Kodiak Island	87	North Slope	0
Valdez-Cordova	86	Northwest Arctic	0
Petersburg	81	Prince of Wales-Hyder	0
Kenai Peninsula	59	Kusilvak	0
Denali	42	Yakutat	0

Source: Broadband Now. Note: Broadband is defined by the Federal Communications Commission as speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (mbps) down and 3mbps up.

Table 30. Children Who Are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2009-2014)

Year	Count	Rate per 100,000
2009	3,489	19
2010	2,784	15
2011	2,862	15
2012	2,885	15
2013	2,430	13
2014	2,458	13

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.

Table 31. Count and Rate per 100,000 of Children Who Are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2015-2018)

Year	Count	Rate per 100,000
2015	2,884	15
2016	3,113	17
2017	2,768	15
2018	2,602	14

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.

Table 32. Percent by Age Group of Total Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2015-2018)

	Ages 0 to 4 (percent)	Ages 5 to 10 (percent)	Ages 11 to 13 (percent)	Ages 14 to 17 (percent)
Average 2015-2018	41	35	12	12

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

Table 33. Distribution of Children Who Are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment by Maltreatment Type, Percent (2009-2014)

Year	Emotional Abuse (percent)	Medical Neglect (percent)	Neglect (percent)	Physical Abuse (percent)	Sexual Abuse (percent)
2009	26	2	83	16	4
2010	17	2	80	13	4
2011	17	1	82	13	5
2012	17	3	82	15	6
2013	22	2	82	15	5
2014	22	3	81	14	6

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

Table 34. Distribution of Children Who Are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment by Maltreatment Type, Percent (2015-2018)

Year	Emotional Abuse (percent)	Medical Neglect (percent)	Neglect (percent)	Physical Abuse (percent)	Sexual Abuse (percent)
2015	25	3	82	11	5
2016	32	2	77	12	6
2017	28	<.5	77	14	5
2018	26	3	77	14	5

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

Table 35. Children Who Are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment Who Received Post-Investigation Services (2009-2014)

Year	Count	Percent (percent)
2009	703	20
2010	972	35
2011	993	35
2012	1,055	37
2013	1,131	47
2014	1,123	46

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.

Table 36. Children Who Are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment Who Receive Services (2015-2018)

Year	Count	Rate per 100,000
2015	943	33
2016	1,615	52
2017	1,476	53
2018	1,387	53

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.

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Table 37. Departmental Operating Budget in the KIDS COUNT Area of Family and Community, \$US 2020 Millions

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	\$266.17	\$265.28	\$269.48	\$272.62	\$275.79	\$281.97	\$287.32	\$291.72	\$285.22	\$279.60

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2020.

Table 38. Family and Community Expenditure Areas, FY 2020

Expenditure Areas	2011-2014 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	2020 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	Change (percent)
Children's Services	\$134,666	\$161,130	19.7
Children's Aid/Rights	\$65,549	\$58,808	-10.3
Juvenile Justice	\$64,357	\$57,580	-10.5
Other	\$3,817	\$2,086	-45.4

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2020.

Table 39. Family and Community Expenditure Areas, FY 2020

Expenditure Areas	Sub-Group	2011-2014 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	2020 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	Change (percent)
Children's Services	CS Social Work	\$54,581	\$68,462	25
	CS Subsidized Adoptions	\$27,450	\$37,046	35
	CS Foster Care	\$25,967	\$28,569	10
	CS Admin	\$12,245	\$13,700	12
	CS Family Preservation	\$14,424	\$13,353	-7
Children's Aid/Rights	CAR Legal Services	\$59,740	\$53,625	-10
	CAR Child Protection	\$5,809	\$5,183	-11
Juvenile Justice	JJ Facility	\$44,698	\$37,922	-15
	JJ Services	\$19,659	\$19,658	0
Other	Other	\$3,817	\$2,086	-45
Total		\$268,388	\$279,604	4

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2020.





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