



**act**  
alaska children's trust

# 2022

KIDS COUNT ALASKA  
**Economic Well-Being**



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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% of Alaska's population and 100% 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 41st in the nation for child well-being; up from 45th in the nation in 2019, but down from 27th in 2015.

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?

We know that national, state, and local policies have great influence on the well-being of Alaska's children. In general, good policy stems from a combination of public need, human experience, and sound, measurable data. Yet even good policy is empty without the appropriate resources to make it effective.

To that end, in addition to key indicators of child well-being and related policy recommendations, this study also incorporates data from the Alaska Children's Budget to illustrate how our state's fiscal priorities align. Understanding the thread that runs from policy to investment to outcome is a key connection that we hope our readers will make. At ACT, we are committed to data-driven child advocacy.

When the well-being of Alaska's children increases, the long-term costs to society of crime, substance misuse, lost economic potential, and strain on corrections and healthcare systems are greatly reduced. As leaders debate the future of our state, Alaska KIDS COUNT is devoted to supporting informed policy decisions and ensuring children are at the center of the conversation.

We look forward to a day when all Alaska's children benefit from strong families, safe communities, and resources to thrive.



Trevor J. Storrs  
President/CEO

# INTRODUCTION

## What is KIDS COUNT?

**KIDS COUNT** is a national and state-by-state effort to compile high-quality, reliable data that answers the question, “How are our children doing?” A premiere data source on children and families, national KIDS COUNT not only tracks key measures of child well-being, but also outlines how Alaska compares to other states.

As Alaska’s KIDS COUNT affiliate, every other year the Alaska Children’s Trust publishes an expanded KIDS COUNT data profile specific to Alaska, in conjunction with the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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



**Want to explore even further?**  
Visit the Alaska KIDS COUNT Data Center for an interactive online platform featuring hundreds of indicators on the well-being of Alaska’s children.  
[datacenter.kidscount.org/data#AK](https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#AK)



KIDS COUNT books can be found online at [alaskachildrenstrust.org/kids-count](https://alaskachildrenstrust.org/kids-count)



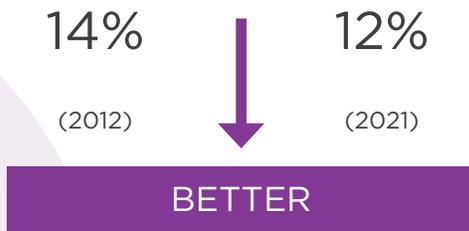
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Economic Well-Being -National Rank

In the Economic Well-Being category, Alaska ranks 44th in the nation, just behind Florida and New York, and just ahead of California. The state's ranking is up from 47th last year, but down from 34th in 2020. Compared to other KIDS COUNT topic areas, long-term trends, positive and negative, are harder to identify in the economic well-being data. The data for many indicators seems to float within a certain range; improving slightly in good economic years and worsening during recessions.

Alaska Ranks  
**44th**  
out of 50 states  
for economic well-being of children

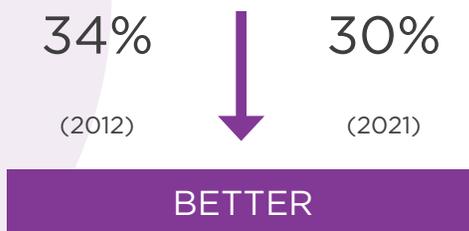
In the last decade, Alaska has made moderate progress in three of the four core economic well-being indicators that determine national rank. However, even in areas of improvement, there's evidence that our gains are slipping:



Children in Poverty



Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment



Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



Teens Not in School and Not Working

*Note: Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the 2020 American Community Survey, the Annie E. Casey Foundation is currently using a five-year average for some indicators. For purposes of internal and historical consistency, this study continues to use single-year estimates where appropriate.*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Trends and Takeaways

### AREAS OF PROGRESS

In 2021, 12 percent of Alaska children lived at or below 100% of the U.S. poverty level, a decrease from 15 percent in 2017. Nationwide, 17 percent of **children lived in poverty** in 2021, the lowest rate in over a decade.

In Alaska, 11 percent of children lived in homes that experienced **food insecurity** at some point between 2019 and 2021, the lowest proportion in the past decade.

Rates of **student homelessness** during the 2020-2021 school year were the lowest over a decade, with a decrease in homelessness among 12th graders from 5 percent in 2012-2013 to 3 percent in 2020-2021.

### AREAS OF REGRESSION

In 2021, 14 percent of Alaska **teens were not attending school and not working**, compared to 7 percent in the U.S. For Alaska, the 2021 rate is the highest of the past 12 years.

### AREAS WITHOUT TREND

The percentage of children living in households with a **high housing cost burden** declined from 34 percent in 2012 to 25 percent in 2018, but has since backslid to 30 percent in 2021.

Alaska has also lost gains in the percentage of children whose **parents lack secure employment**, falling from 36 percent in 2012 to 29 percent in 2019, but bumping back up to 34 percent in 2021.

The proportion of working families with children meeting the definition of low-income, or **below living wage**, was 16 percent in 2019.

In Alaska, about 4 percent of children under age 18 have a **disability**.

Slightly less than two-thirds (64 percent) of all Alaska households with related children own the home in which they live, while the other 36 percent rent. **Housing tenure** proportions have remained stable over the past decade.

In 2019 and 2020, 17 percent of mothers of three-year-olds reported that **child care** needs impacted someone in their family taking, quitting, or changing jobs.



## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDICATORS

# for Children, Youth, and Families

The national 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 tracks four core data indicators in each topic area to calculate each state's KIDS COUNT ranking.

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The national KIDS COUNT program bases rankings on four indicators:

**1** | Children in poverty

PAGE 10

**2** | Children whose parents lack secure employment

PAGE 16

**3** | Children living in households with a high cost of living

PAGE 18

**4** | Teens not in school and not working

PAGE 20



**In addition to the four indicators** selected by the national program, Alaska Children's Trust – based on recommendations from a panel of local child health experts – selected six additional indicators whose movement would indicate true positive (or negative) changes in child well-being in Alaska.

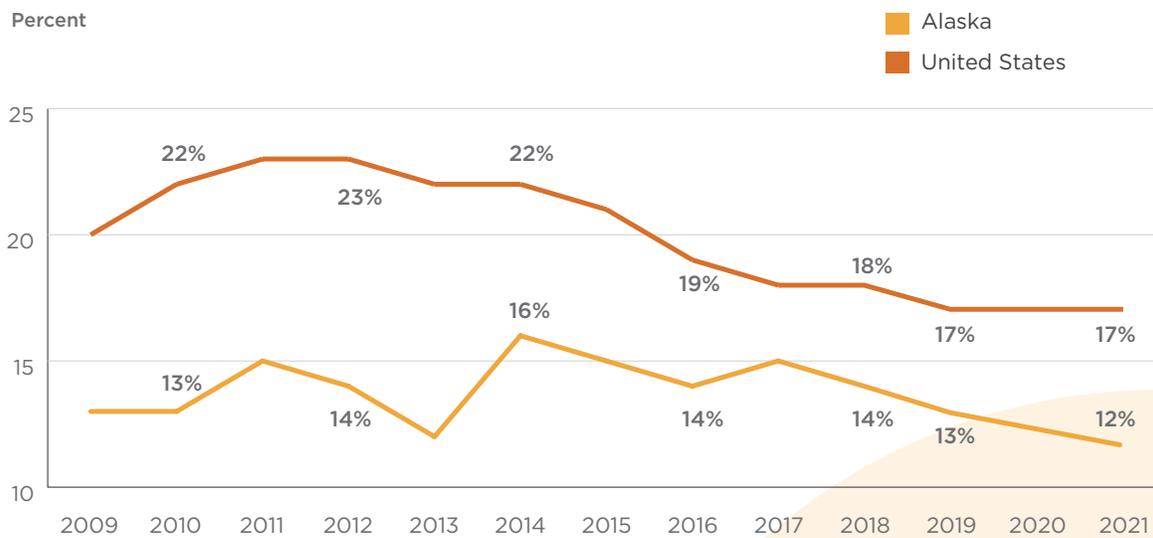
## These additional indicators are:

- |           |   |          |  |
|-----------|---|----------|--|
| <b>5</b>  | Children living with food insecurity<br>PAGE 22                         | <b>6</b> | Children in families with a living wage<br>PAGE 24 |
| <b>7</b>  | Children in house-holds with members experiencing disability<br>PAGE 26 | <b>8</b> | Housing tenure<br>PAGE 28                          |
| <b>10</b> | Children experiencing homelessness<br>PAGE 30                           | <b>9</b> | Child care access<br>PAGE 32                       |

# 1. Children in Poverty

**Growing up in poverty** is a major barrier to healthy child development, and increases the likelihood of poor academic, cognitive, and health outcomes. Poverty has a disproportionate effect on the very young and those children who experience persistent poverty. The federal poverty level is a threshold for the least amount of income a person or family needs to meet their basic needs. It excludes people in military barracks, institutions, and unrelated individuals in a

household (such as foster children). Alaska's poverty annual income threshold for a family of four was \$33,130 in 2021 and \$34,690 in 2022. In 2021, 12 percent of Alaska children lived at or below 100% of the U.S. poverty level, compared to 17 percent of children nationwide. The 12 percent rate in Alaska in 2021 matches the lowest rate observed since 2012, while the US rate has fallen steadily over the past decade.



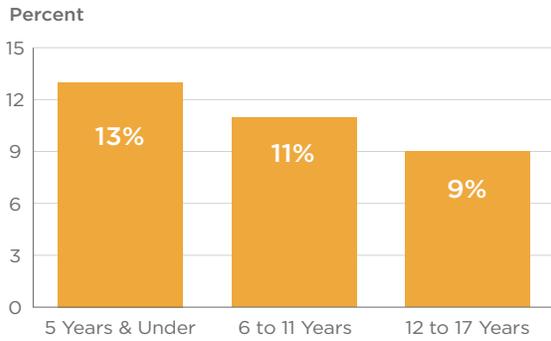
**Figure 1. Percent of Children in Poverty (100 % of the Federal Poverty Level), Alaska and U.S., 2009-2019 & 2021**

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

**Young children** less than five years of age are 40 percent more likely to live in poverty than older children 12 to 17 years of age, reflecting that children are often born before their parents reach their peak income earning years. The data show that Alaska has made a small amount of progress lowering the percentage of young children living in poverty, but rates for older children have remained stubbornly constant.

The ill-effects of poverty are most felt by children who experience sustained poverty because families do not experience an increase in earnings power as the family matures.





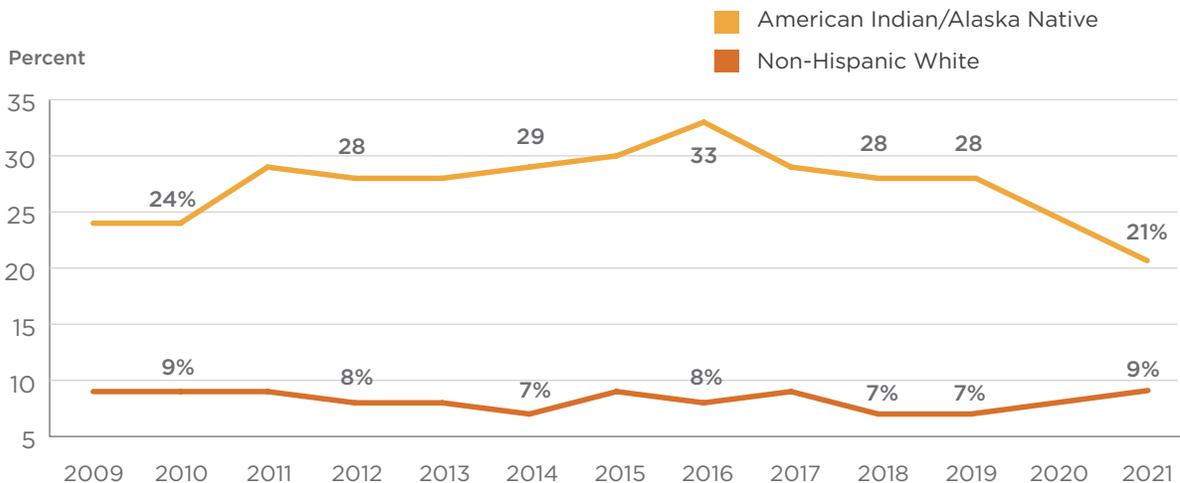
**Figure 2. Alaska Children Who Live in Families with Incomes Below the Federal Poverty Level, 5-Year Estimates, by Age Group, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2005-2009 through 2016-2020; Table B17001 - POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX BY AGE Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

**As with other indicators,** the data on race and ethnicity for this indicator are frequently unavailable because of small sample sizes. A consistent time series is only available for two specific racial/ethnic groups.

The data show that the proportion of American Indian/Alaska Native children in poverty dropped steeply in 2021, from 28 percent in 2019 to 21 percent. The 2021 proportion is particularly notable because this rate for American Indian/Alaska Native children floated between 28 percent and 30 percent from 2011 to 2019, except when it spiked to 33 percent in 2016 at the height of Alaska's 2015-2018 recession. However, the proportion for American Indian/Alaska Native children remained more than double the rate for Non-Hispanic White children in 2021.

The data for this latter group typically floats between 7 percent and 9 percent with no discernable trend. Hispanic or Latino children were the least likely to be living in poverty in 2021, with a group average of 4 percent. This proportion was 6 percent for Asian and Pacific Islander children, lower than the statewide average but substantially higher than the 1 percent rate for this group in 2019. This study notes that high poverty rates amongst American Indian/Alaska Natives are often minimized by presumptions that those children live in rural areas and can avail themselves of subsistence resources. This minimization ignores the facts that 1) regional differences in the proportion of children living in poverty are smaller than many presume and 2) pursuing a subsistence lifestyle requires income for vehicles, equipment, fuel, etc.

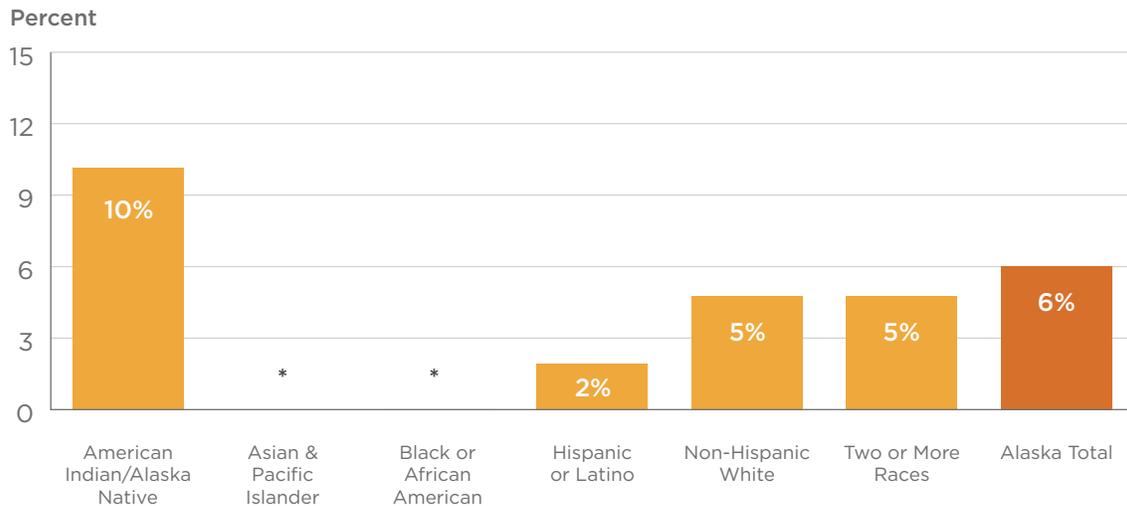


**Figure 3. Alaska Children in Poverty (100% of the Federal Poverty Level) by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

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 Notes: S - Estimates suppressed when the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points. N.A. - Data not available.

**Extreme poverty** is defined as living below 50 percent of the federal poverty level. In 2021, this measure equaled an income of \$16,565 for a family of four. The proportion of children statewide living in families experiencing extreme poverty hovered between 6 and 7 percent from 2013 to 2021, except in 2019 when it dropped to 4 percent. Children of every racial/ethnic group experienced extreme poverty, but in Alaska one group has historically experienced it at a higher rate. In 2021, the proportion of American Indian/Alaska Native children living in extreme poverty was at least double that of other racial/ethnic groups. However, this rate is

exhibiting a promising trend, as the proportion of American Indian/Alaska Native children living in extreme poverty fell from 17 percent in 2017 to 10 percent in 2019 and 2021. Meanwhile, this proportion for Non-Hispanic White children stood at 5 percent in 2021 after remaining between 3 percent and 4 percent from 2013 to 2019. This study expects data for 2022 to show further (though perhaps temporary) progress as federal income support during the COVID-19 pandemic and a large 2022 PFD bolstered incomes, particularly for low income families.



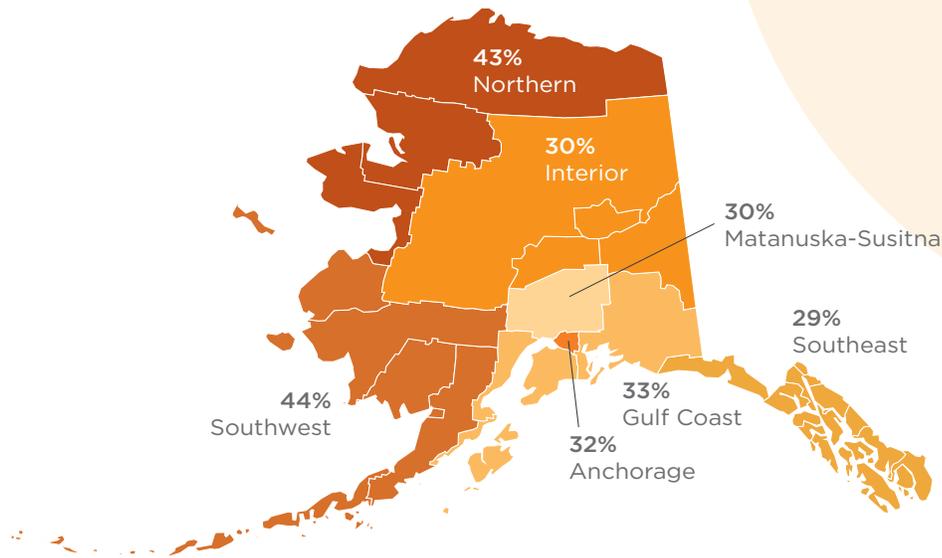
**Figure 4. Alaska Children in Extreme Poverty (50% of the Federal Poverty Level), by Race/Ethnicity, Percent, 2013-2019 & 2021**

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

The highest rates of childhood poverty in Alaska are in the state’s Northern and Southwest regions where 43 and 44 percent of those living in poverty were children between 2016 and 2020.

The lowest percentages of those living in poverty who are children are found in the Southeast, Interior, and Matanuska-Susitna regions. There are no strong trends in any region except the Matanuska-Susitna region where sustained economic growth driven by

families working in the Anchorage region and living in the Matanuska-Susitna region has helped drive down the percentage of those living in poverty who are under age 18 from 37 percent in 2009-2013 to 30 percent by 2012-2016.

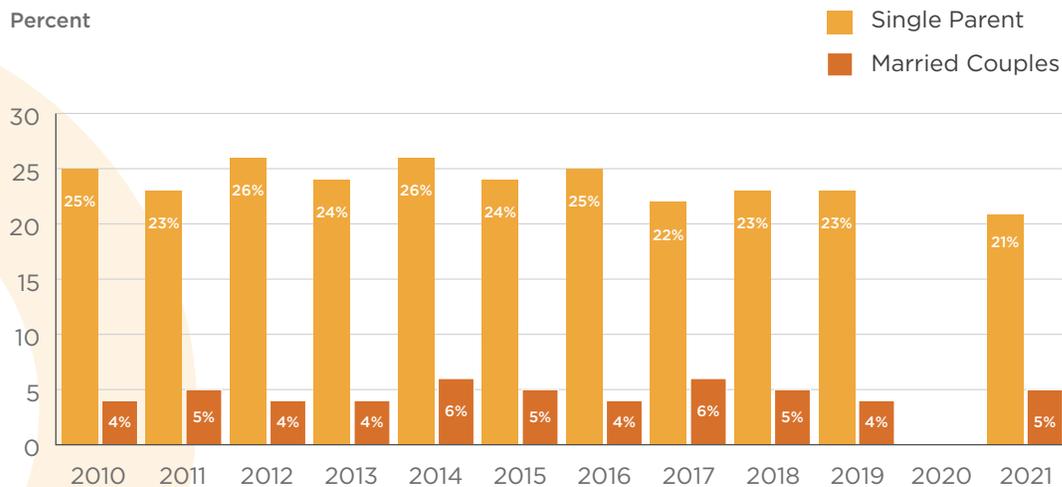


**Figure 5. Children Who Live in Families with Incomes Below the Federal Poverty Level, 5-Year Estimate, by Region, Percent, 2016-2020**

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2005-2009 through 2016-2020; Table B17001 - POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX BY AGE Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Not surprisingly,** children in single-parent households are much more likely to live in poverty than children who live in households headed by two adult earners. Since 2010, between 21 percent and 26 percent of families headed by single parents with related children

live below the poverty level, compared to approximately 5 percent of married couple families. These proportions have remained relatively steady over the past decade, although the proportion for families headed by a single parent reached a 12-year low in 2021.



**Figure 6. Alaska Families with Related Children Below the Poverty Level, by Family Type, Percent, 2010-2019 & 2021**

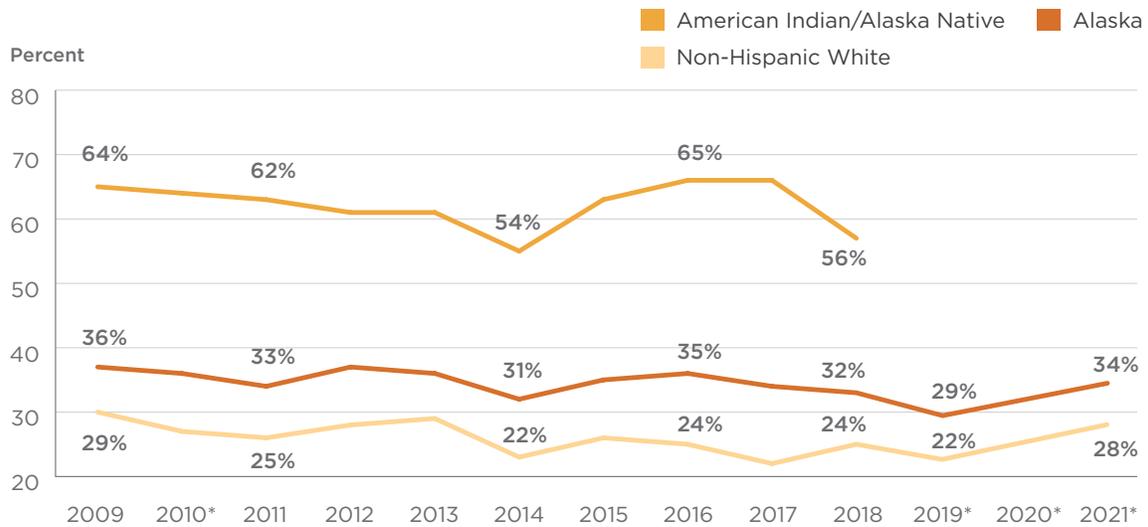
Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 through 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.



## 2. Secure Employment

**Secure employment** is key to family financial stability and well-being. Employment insecurity and consequent income loss can disrupt daily living and limit a family's ability to invest in their children's development or access support, resulting in lower academic and work achievement. The proportion of Alaska children living in families who lack secure unemployment jumped from 29 percent in 2009 to 34 percent in 2021, the highest rate since reaching 35 percent in 2016. The 2021 rate for Alaska is also considerably

higher than the U.S. average of 29 percent. The effects of Alaska's 2015 to 2018 recession and the economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic are visible in the data. In 2014, the proportion for this indicator was 31 percent before it increased in 2015 and 2016 to a high of 35 percent. The proportion then fell in 2017 and 2018, and again in 2019, as Alaska recovered from recession. Given the recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the increase in this proportion from 2019 to 2021 is not surprising.



**Figure 7. Alaska Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Notes: S - Estimates suppressed when the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points. \* Data not available for American Indian/Alaska Native group in 2010, 2019-2021.

**The data around** secure employment by race/ethnicity are limited with multiple categories suppressed because of low sample sizes. However, the available data show that American Indian/Alaska Native children historically are more than twice as likely to have parents who lack secure employment than Non-Hispanic White children. In 2018, 56 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native children lived with parents who lacked secure employment, compared to 24 percent of Non-Hispanic White children. This proportion was lower than in 2009 and in the preceding three years when the proportion reached as

high as 65 percent in 2016 and 2017. In 2021, when data was not reported for American Indian/Alaska Native children, the proportion for Non-Hispanic White children jumped to 28 percent from 22 percent in 2019. Interestingly, the lowest proportion for Non-Hispanic White children was 21 percent, reached in 2017. This proportion is lower than the 24 percent seen in 2018 when Alaska's economy was arguably stronger. The 29 percent rate for children of Two or More Races in 2021 is a significant drop from the 43 percent rate in 2012, the last year for which this metric was reported for this group.



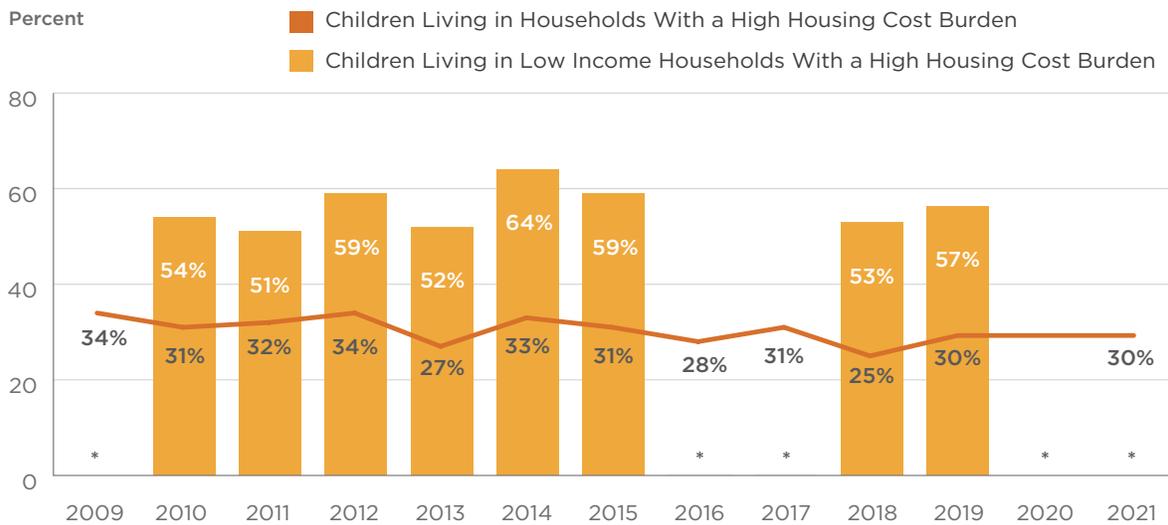


### 3. High Housing Cost Burden

**Housing is typically** one of the largest family expenses with high housing costs weighing more heavily on low-income families. These families are more likely to struggle finding affordable housing. Paying too much for housing reduces the resources these families have for other necessities, such as saving for an emergency. High housing cost burden is defined as more than 30% of monthly income spent on rent, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance and/or related expenses. This study notes that in Alaska this indicator tends to be variable with the percentage of children living in households with a high housing cost burden

fluctuating between one-quarter and one-third of Alaska children since 2009.

In 2021, 30 percent of Alaska children lived in households with a high housing cost burden, up from 25 percent in 2018 but holding steady from 2019 and comparable to rates seen over the prior decade. For children in low-income households, the 2019 high housing cost burden rate of 57 percent is within the ten year-range of 51 percent to 64 percent. In short, while a smaller proportion of children overall are living in households with high housing cost burdens this trend does not seem to be extending to low-income households.



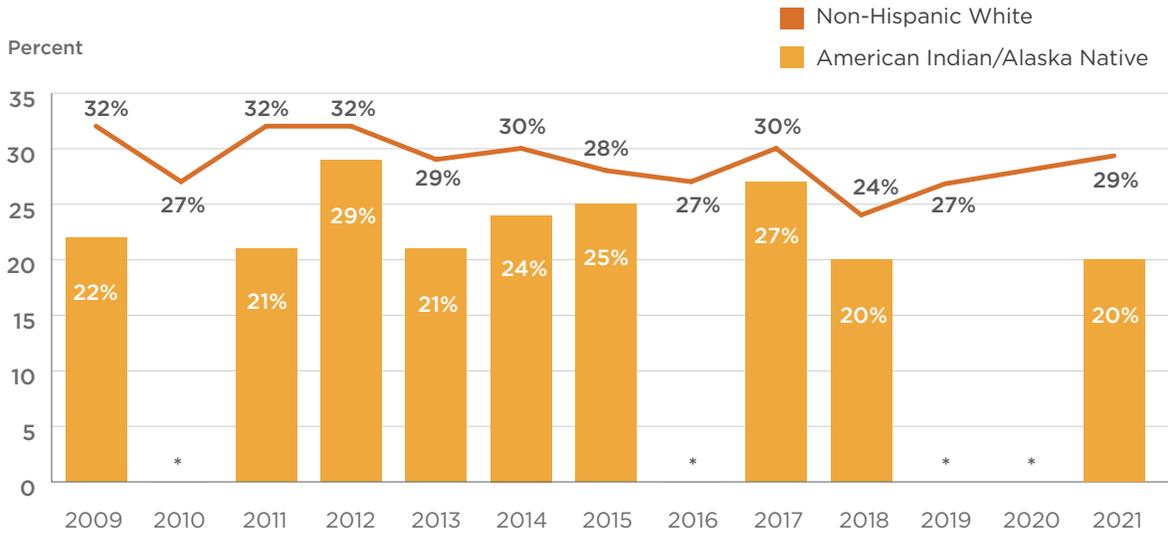
**Figure 8. Alaska Children Living in Households and Low-Income Households with a High Housing Cost Burden, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

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.

The data likely reflects that housing expenditures relative to income for middle-income and upper-income households are generally manageable and that these families are more secure whilst low-income families are not.

**The data around high housing** cost burden and race/ethnicity are limited with multiple categories suppressed because of low sample sizes. The data shows that a smaller proportion of American Indian/Alaska Native children tend to live in households with a high housing cost burden, at 20 percent in 2021, compared to Non-Hispanic White children at 29 percent. The 2021 rate for American Indian/Alaska

Native children is equal to the 2018 rate and the lowest for this group since 2009, while the rate for Non-Hispanic White children is up from 2018-2019, but on par with rates seen during the mid-2010s. However, year to year variability in these data, likely caused by small sample sizes, makes trend spotting difficult.



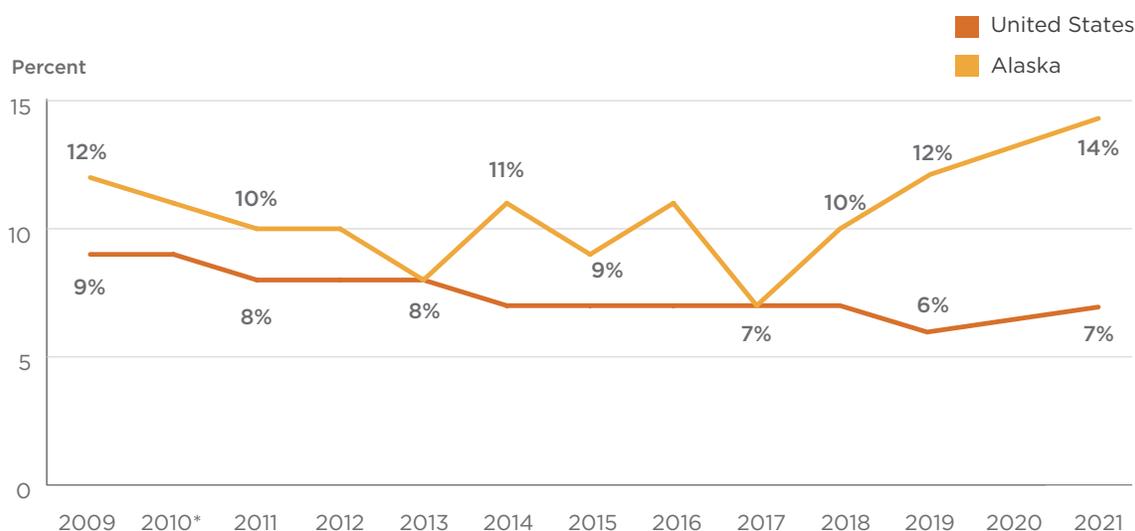
**Figure 9. Alaska Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden, by Race or Ethnicity, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

## 4. Teens Not in School and Not Working

**Teens ages 16 to 19** who are not in school or working are more likely to experience negative outcomes as they transition to adulthood. Limited skills and work history, combined with few financial resources, restrict access to good jobs as well as future higher wages. Both students who have dropped out and young people who have graduated but are not working are disadvantaged with respect to achieving financial stability. In 2021, 14

percent of Alaska teenagers ages 16 to 19 were not attending school and not working, compared to 7 percent in the U.S. For Alaska, the 2021 rate is the highest of the past 12 years and 2 percentage points higher than in 2009, when the U.S. was at the height of the “Great Recession.” Meanwhile, the U.S. level steadily declined from 9 percent in 2009 to 6 percent in 2019, before rebounding slightly to 7 percent in 2021.

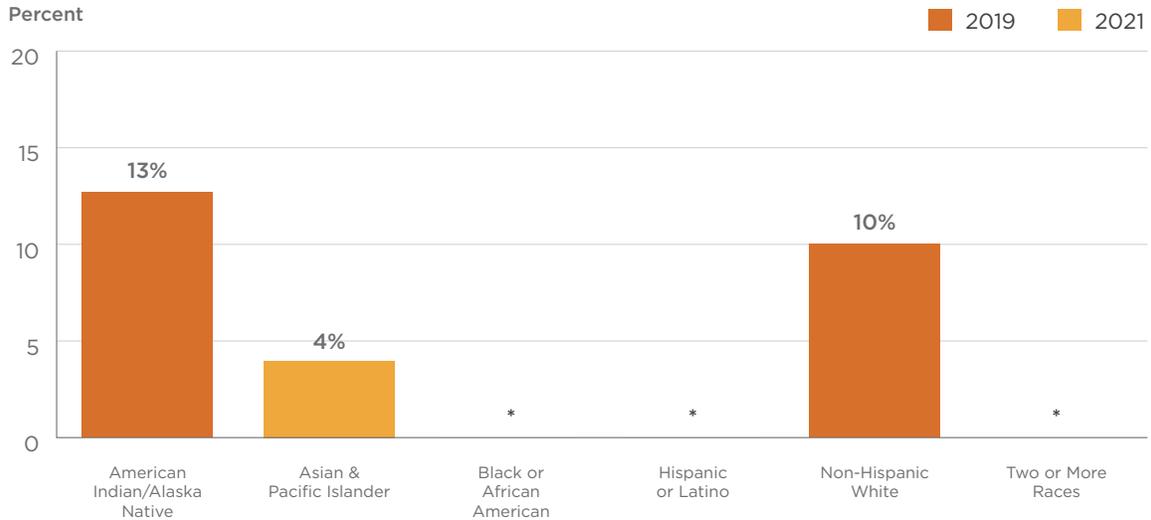


**Figure 10. Alaska Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Attending School and Not Working, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2019, 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

While not available for all years, available data for racial/ethnic groups shows a larger proportion (13 percent) of American Indian/Alaska Native teens were out of school and not working in 2019, compared to 10 percent of Non-Hispanic White teens in 2019 and 4 percent of Asian and Pacific Islander teens in 2021. These data were not reported for American Indian/Alaska Native or Non-Hispanic White teens for 2021.

However, the 2019 figure for American Indian/Alaska Native teens is the lowest level reported over the 2009-2019 period, while the figure for Non-Hispanic White teens is the highest since 2012.



**Figure 11. Alaska Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Attending School and Not Working by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

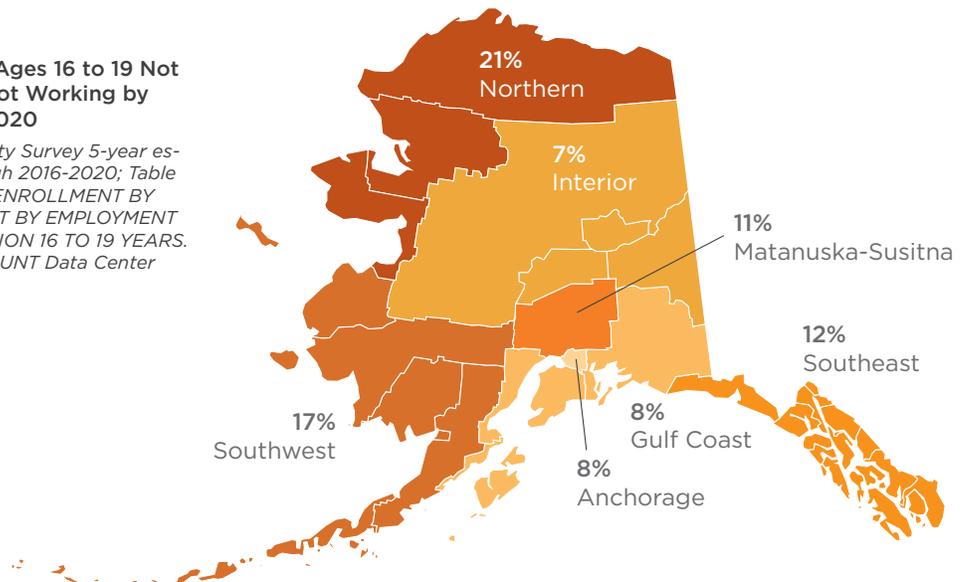
Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 – 2019, 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center  
 Notes: \*- Estimates suppressed when the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

**By region,** the largest proportion of teens not in school and not working live in the Northern region (21 percent), this proportion is more than twice the average rate in the state and nearly a quarter higher than the next highest region (Southwest), where teens are 70 percent more likely to not be working or in school than the statewide average. The lowest percentage of teens not working or in

school live in the Interior region, at 7 percent, followed by Anchorage and the Gulf Coast region, each at 8 percent. The data do not indicate strong trends in any region of the state except the Gulf Coast region where the proportion of teens in this category fell from 12 percent in 2011-2015 to 8 percent in 2014-2018, and again measured 8 percent in 2016-2020.

**Figure 12. Alaska Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Attending School and Not Working by Region, Percent, 2016-2020**

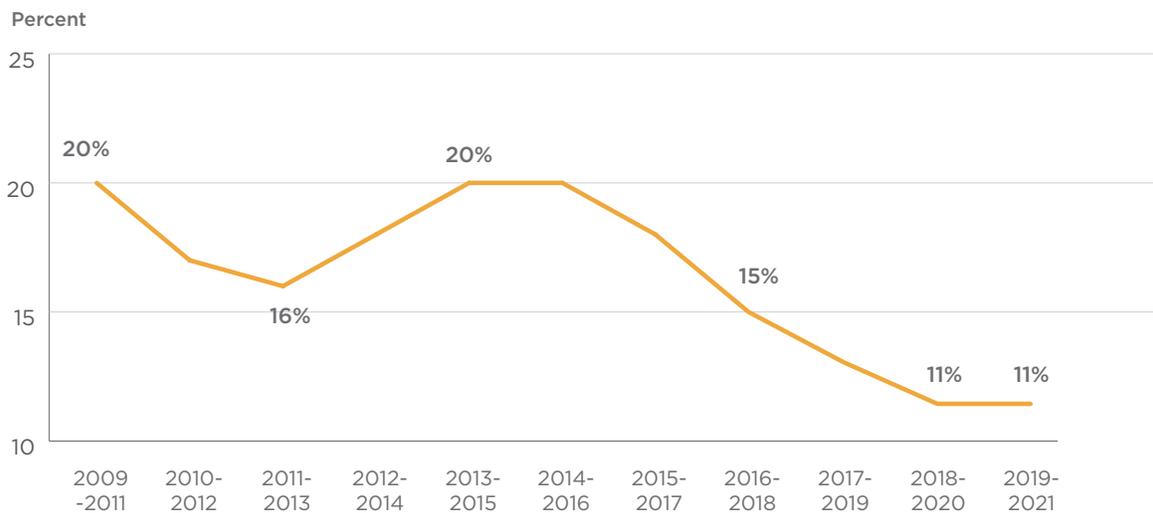
Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2011-2015 through 2016-2020; Table B14005 - SEX BY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS FOR THE POPULATION 16 TO 19 YEARS. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center



## 5. Food Insecurity

**Food insecurity** describes a household's inability to provide enough food for every person to live an active, healthy life and is a primary measure of hunger risk. Children in food insecure households experience poorer health, increased hospitalizations, higher developmental risks, and more behavior problems. All these factors contribute to lower educational performance. In Alaska,

11 percent of children lived in homes that experienced food insecurity at some point between 2019 and 2021, the lowest proportion of children in the past decade. While federal aid during the COVID-19 pandemic likely helped lower food insecurity in 2020, the state rate has been dropping since at least 2015-2017.



**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

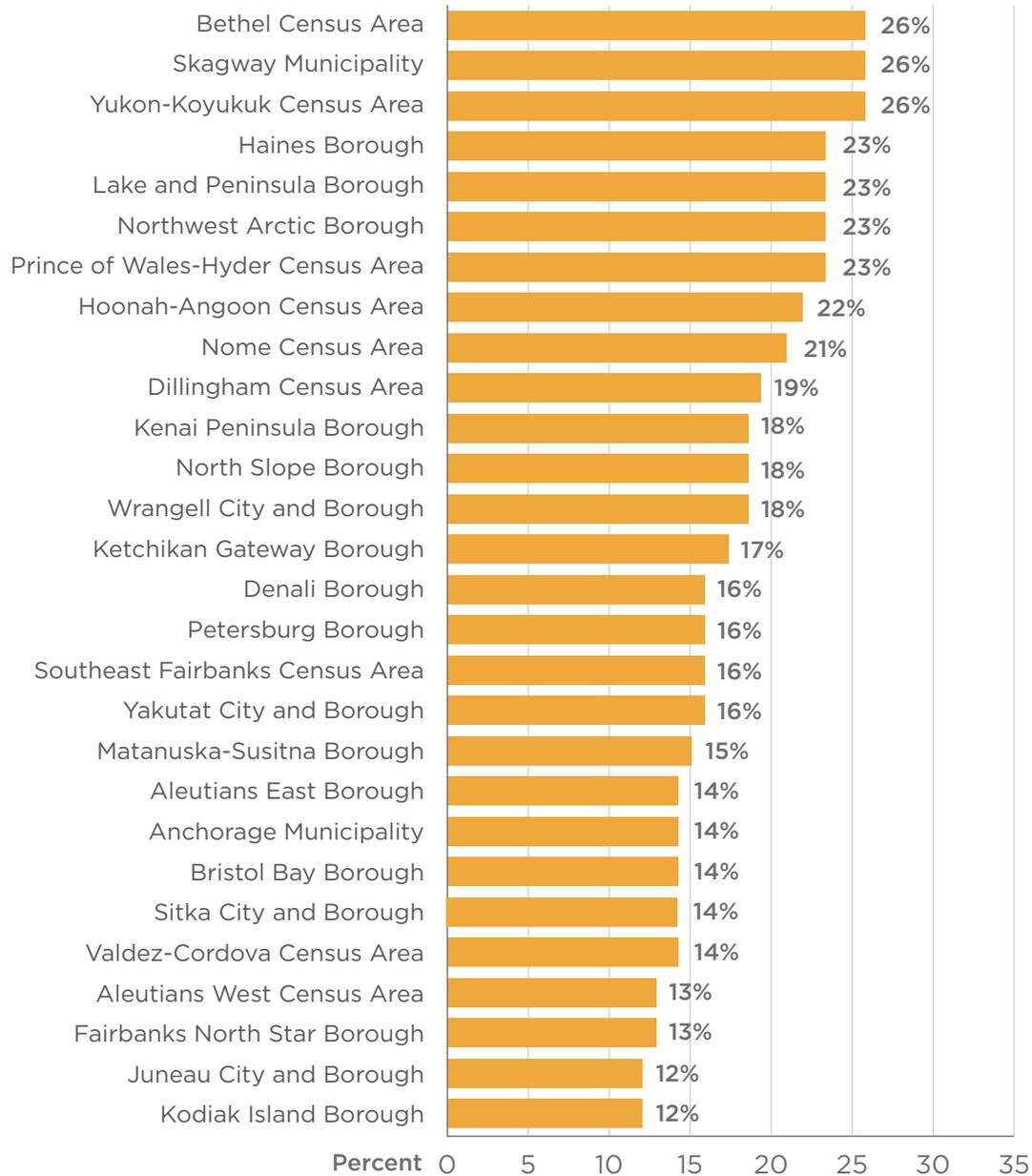
Children are food insecure if at any point in the previous 12 months there was uncertainty in having or obtaining enough food for all members of a household.

**Food insecurity varies** by borough/census area in Alaska. In 2018, the proportions of children with food insecurity were highest in the Bethel Census Area, Skagway Municipality, and Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, at 26

percent, followed by Haines Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, and Prince of Whales-Hyder Census Area at 23 percent. From 2018 to 2020, these proportions fell between 16 and 28 percent in

the Bethel Census Area, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, and Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, while the proportion increased by 37 percent over this timeframe in

the Skagway Municipality. Juneau City and Borough and Kodiak Island Borough had the lowest rates of food insecurity in 2020 at just 12 percent of households.



**Figure 14. Alaska Children Living in Households That Were Food Insecure at Some Point During the Year, by Borough/Census Area, Percent, 2020**

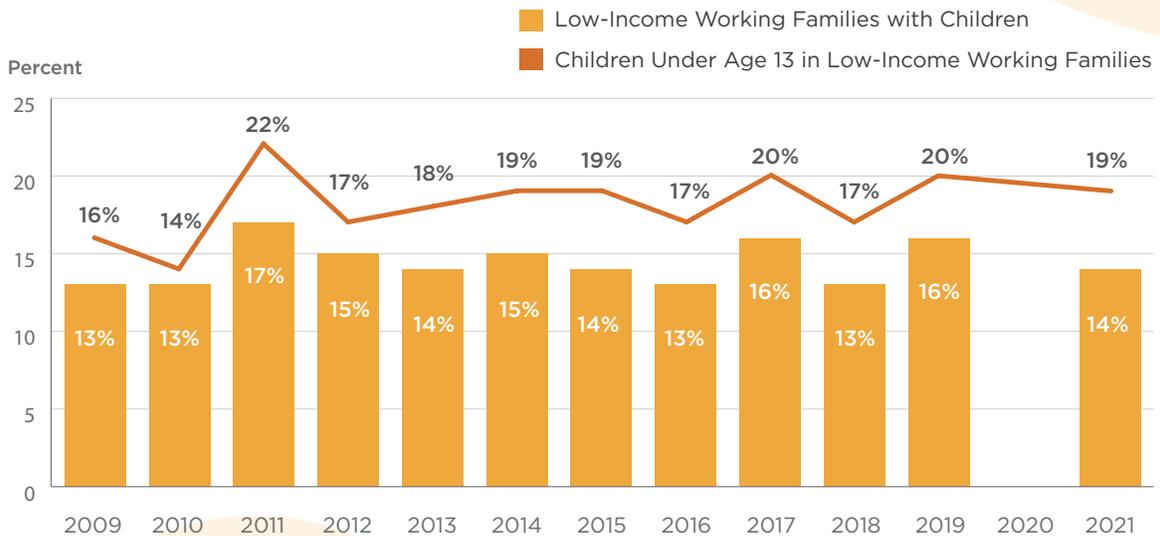
Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap study. Retrieved from <http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2020/child/alaska>

## 6. Living Wage

A **living wage** is the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their basic needs. In Alaska, the living wage varies depending on household size, composition, and geography because of the wide differences in living costs. On average, a single parent needs to earn between \$32.63 and \$54.63 an hour (\$US 2022) if they have between one and three children. The definition of a low-income family is a family in which at least one parent worked for 50 or more weeks in the previous year and family income was less than twice the federal poverty level. In Alaska, an income of twice the federal poverty level is roughly \$45,800 for a two-person household,

\$57,600 for a three-person household, and \$69,400 for a four-person household.

In Alaska, 14 percent of households meet the definition of low-income working families and one in five children under the age of 13 live in these households.



**Figure 15. Alaska Low-Income Working Families with Children, 2009-2019 & 2021; Alaska Low-Income Working Families with Children Under Age 13, 2009-2019 & 2021, Percent**

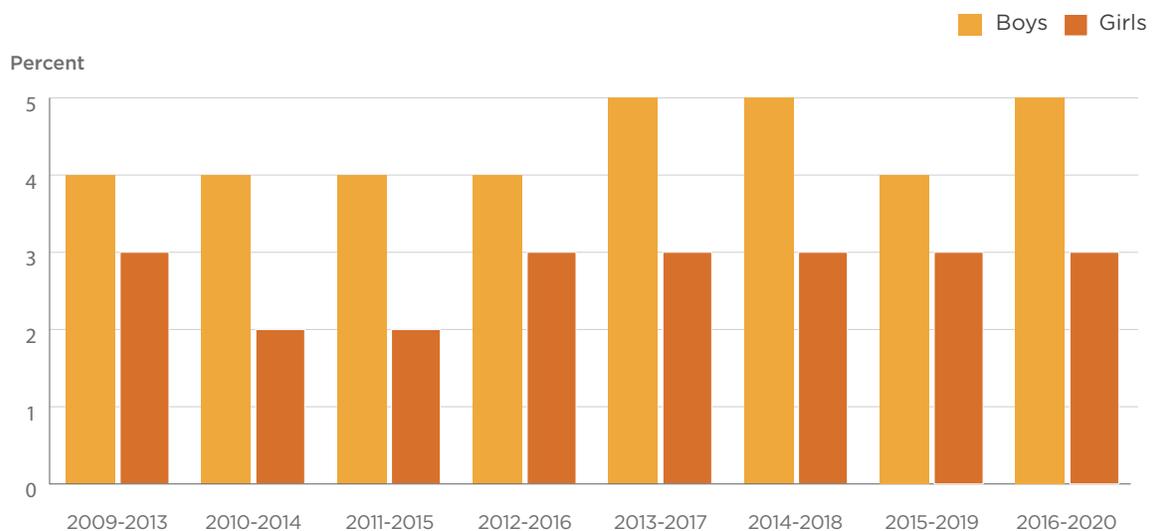
Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2019, 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center.



## 7. Disability

**Households containing** a member with a disability face specific challenges with respect to economic well-being including challenges in earning a living wage, greater time and emotional burdens on caregivers, and barriers to educational attainment and success. In Alaska, about 4 percent of children under age 18 have a disability as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. The definition includes hearing, vision, ambulatory, cognitive, and

self-care difficulties. Over the past decade, the proportion of boys with disabilities, at 5 percent in 2016-2020, was slightly higher than for girls, at 3 percent in 2016-2020. Alaska's 2022 KIDS COUNT reports on health and education highlight the importance of developmental screens to identify disabilities and the role these screens can play in a child being ready for kindergarten.

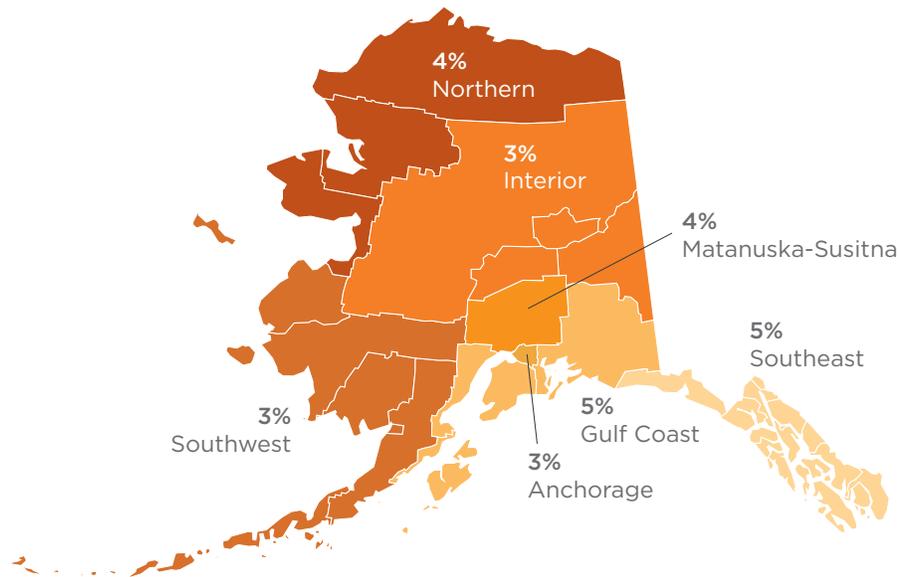


**Figure 16. Children with Disabilities in Alaska, by Gender, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2009-2013, 2010-2014, 2011-2015, 2012-2016, 2013-2017, 2014-2018, 2015-2019 & 2016-2020. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Regional differences** in Alaska are small on a percentage point basis, but larger on a percentage difference basis. For example, the proportion of children with disabilities was slightly lower in Anchorage, Interior, and Southwest regions, at 3 percent, than other regions of the state, with an overall proportion of 4 percent. This difference is two percentage points lower than the Gulf

Coast and Southeast regions but 40 percent on a percentage difference basis. This study notes, as documented in the Alaska KIDS COUNT Education and Health reports, that the Southwest region has the lowest percentage of developmental screens for 3-years olds in the state. The low disability proportions in this region could be attributable to its low percentage of developmental screens.



**Figure 17. Children with Disabilities in Alaska, by Region, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2009-2013, 2010-2014, 2011-2015, 2012-2016, 2013-2017, 2014-2018, 2015-2019 & 2016-2020. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

## 8. Housing Tenure

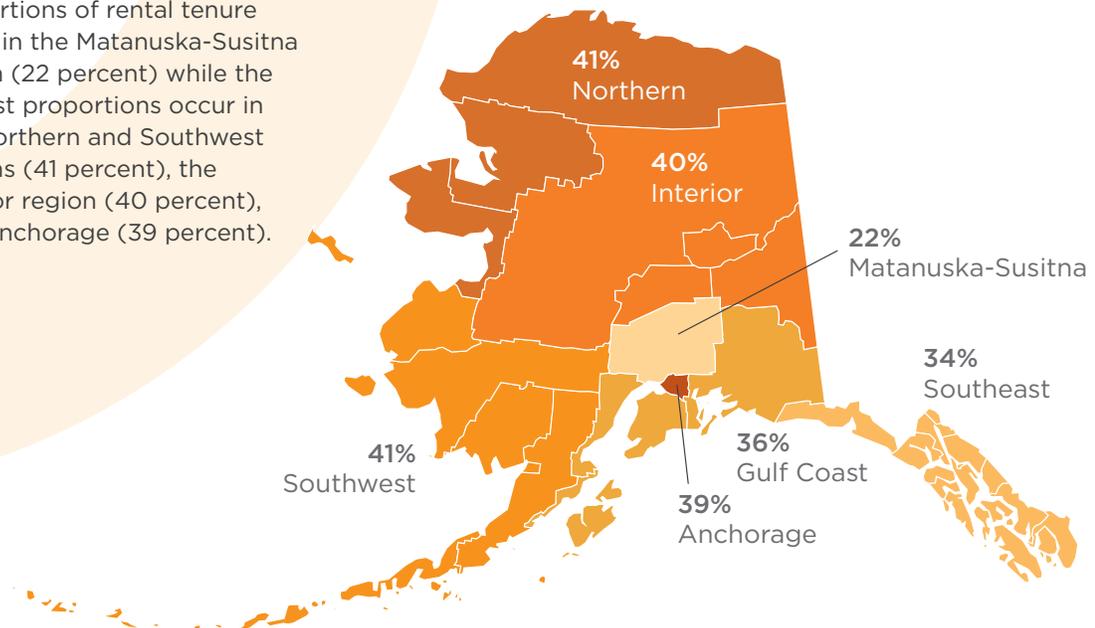
**Housing tenure** refers to the financial arrangements under which someone has the right to live in a house or apartment. While renting can be a smart fiscal decision, renting is less secure than owning a home. Less secure housing tenure affects child well-being including increasing the incidence rates of behavioral issues, illness, and poorer school performance. In Alaska, slightly less than two-thirds (64 percent) of all householders with related children under age 18 own the home in which they live, while the other 36 percent rent. These proportions have remained stable over the past decade, though the data indicates a slight upward trend in home ownership which may have been driven by historically low interest rates.

Of Alaska Households with Related Children Under Age 18:

64% own the home in which they live

36% rent their home

**By region,** the lowest proportions of rental tenure occur in the Matanuska-Susitna region (22 percent) while the highest proportions occur in the Northern and Southwest regions (41 percent), the Interior region (40 percent), and Anchorage (39 percent).



**Figure 18. Householders with Related Children Under 18 Years of Age, in Rental Housing, by Region, Percent, 2016-2020**

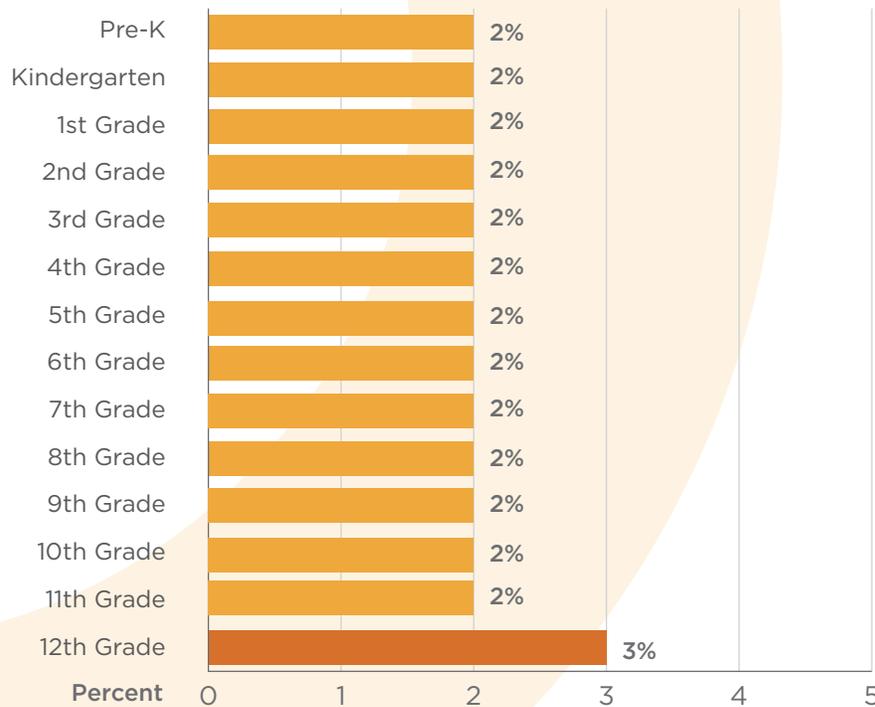
Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2016-2020, Table B25012 - TENURE BY FAMILIES AND PRESENCE OF OWN CHILDREN



## 9. Homelessness

**When families lack** housing tenure, they are homeless. Homeless children are at greater risk for poor academic achievement, dropping out, abuse, neglect, behavioral issues, socio-emotional problems, physical health problems, and developmental delays. During the 2020-2021 school year, approximately 2 percent of Alaska students in each grade from Pre- Kindergarten through 11th grade met the definition of homeless. A child is homeless if they do not have a fixed, regular,

and adequate nighttime residence. This study notes that homelessness rates increase from when children hit 12th grade, perhaps because they choose to leave home or because their families choose to no longer support them. Three percent of 12th graders were homeless in the 2020-2021 school year, down from 4 percent in 2019-2020 and 5 percent in 2018-2019. The rates of homelessness during the 2020-2021 school year were the lowest over the last decade.



*Note: For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, data gathering efforts were hampered by COVID-19 and counts of homeless students were unavailable for many Alaska school districts.*

*The U.S. Department of Education advises that data for these years should be used with caution.*

**Figure 19. Homeless Students in Alaska by Grade, Percent, 2010-2011 to 2020-2021**

*Source: Homeless student data from Ed Data Express at the US Department of Education; enrollment data from Alaska DEED. Students include Pre-Kindergarten through 12th graders*

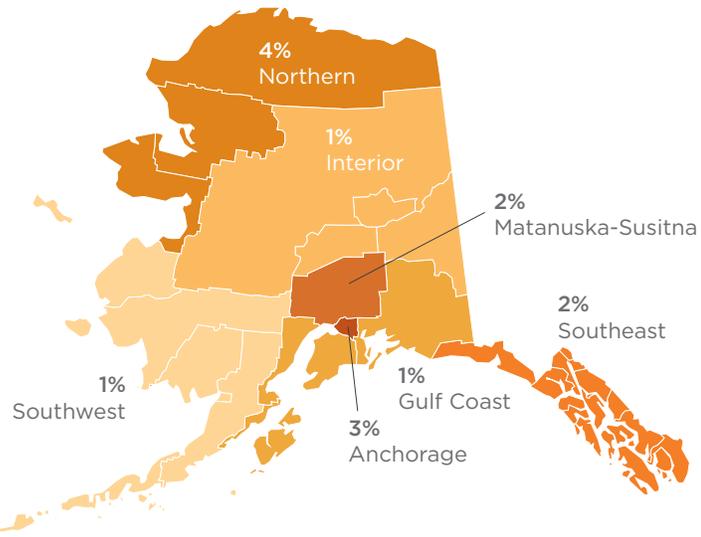
**The proportion of** homeless students is highest in urban and semi-urban areas. For example, the Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna, and Southeast regions historically have had the highest proportions of student homelessness, ranging from 3 to 4 percent most years, while the Gulf Coast, Interior, Northern, and Southwest regions, which

are more rural, have generally had lower proportions of homelessness. The reason behind this difference in proportions is unknown but could be affected by the availability (or perceived availability) of services or opportunities outside the family household related to community size.

**Figure 20. Homeless Students in Alaska by Region, Percent, 2020-2021**

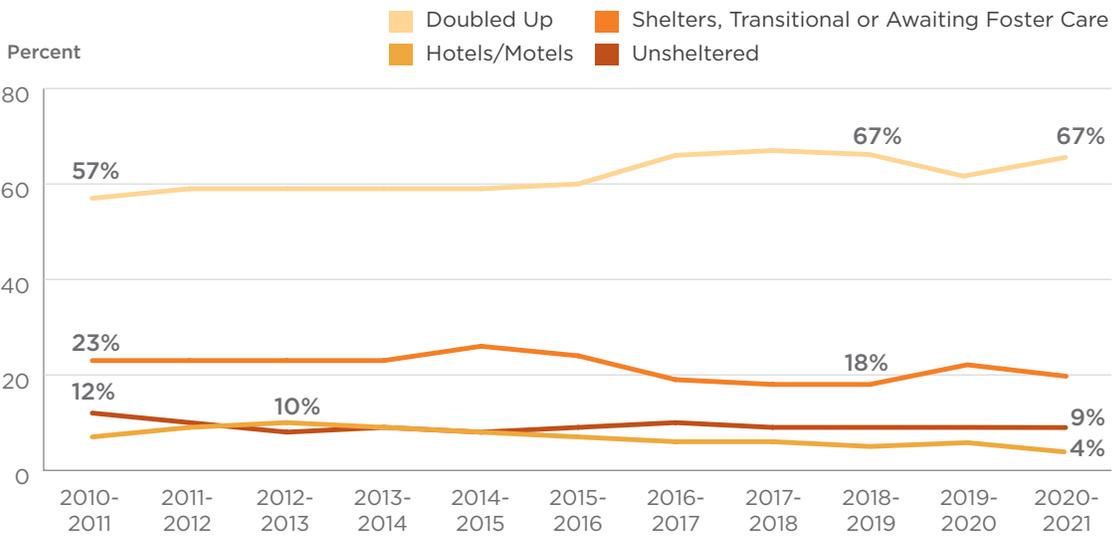
Source: Homeless student data from Ed Data Express at the US Department of Education; enrollment data from Alaska DEED. Students include Pre-Kindergarten through 12th graders for school years 2010-2011 to 2018-2019. Students include Kindergarten through 12th graders for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years

Note: For school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, the Department of Education notes that COVID-19 operations impacted the identification of eligible students and that data should be used with caution. Data for many Alaska school districts were suppressed or unavailable for these years.



The type of nighttime residence reported for homeless students changed over the past decade. Most importantly, the proportion of unsheltered fell by one-quarter from 12 percent to 9 percent. How students are finding shelter is changing. The proportion of students “doubled-up” rose from 57 percent in 2011-2012 to 67 percent in 2018-2019 before dipping

down to 61 percent in 2019-2020 and returning to 67 percent in 2020-2021. The proportion of homeless students in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care fell from 23 percent in 2010-2011 to 18 percent in 2018-2019 but was back up to 20 percent in 2020-2021. The proportion in hotels/motels has generally demonstrated a downward trend.



**Figure 21. Homeless Students in Alaska by Nighttime Residence, Percent, 2010-2011 to 2020-2021**

Source: Homeless student data from Ed Data Express at the US Department of Education; enrollment data from Alaska DEED. Students include Pre-Kindergarten through 12th graders.

## 10. Child Care

**High-quality child care** not only enables age-appropriate development but allows family members to participate in Alaska's

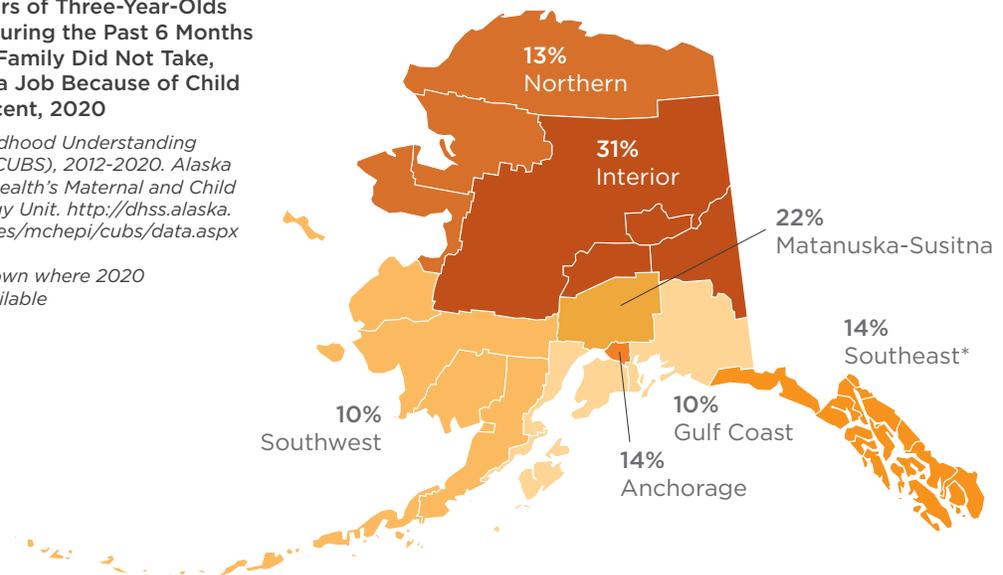
workforce. A lack of child care options limits full participation in Alaska's economy.

In 2019 and 2020, 17 percent of mothers of three-year-olds reported that child care needs impacted someone in their family taking, quitting, or changing jobs in the past six months.

**Figure 22. Mothers of Three-Year-Olds Reporting that During the Past 6 Months Someone in the Family Did Not Take, Quit, or Change a Job Because of Child Care Needs, Percent, 2020**

Source: Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS), 2012-2020. Alaska Division of Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mchepe/cubs/data.aspx>

\* 2019 numbers shown where 2020 percentage not available

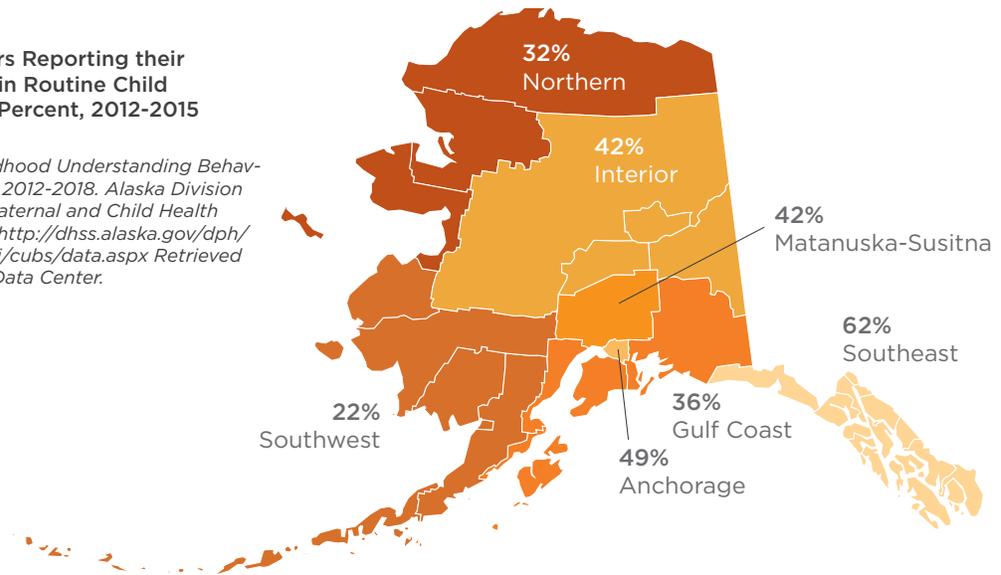


**Routine child care allows** many adults to participate the workforce. The proportion of three-year-old children in routine child care statewide was 45 percent in 2016-2019. By region, the highest proportion of mothers

reporting routine care for this age group occurs in Southeast, at 62 percent, while the lowest occurs in the Southwest region, both at 22 percent during the same time period.

**Figure 23. Mothers Reporting their 3-Year-Old Child in Routine Child Care, by Region, Percent, 2012-2015 to 2016-2019**

Source: Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS), 2012-2018. Alaska Division of Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mchepe/cubs/data.aspx> Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center.



In 2019-2020, mothers not able to access preferred child care for their three-year-old child reported main barriers to such care were cost (59 percent), not being able to afford to stay home (30 percent), fit with schedule (25 percent), and long wait lists (21 percent). Proportions reporting high cost of care and not being able to afford to stay home rose markedly with the onset of Alaska's 2015-2018

recession and declined markedly with the return of economic growth between early 2018 and early 2020. The only indicators with what appears to be a long-term trend is a decline in the percentage of respondents indicating that "doesn't fit needed schedule" is a substantial barrier, and a doubling of the percentage of respondents reporting "can't accommodate special needs" as a barrier.



**Figure 24. Barriers to Preferred Type of Child Care Among All Mothers of Three-Year-Olds, Percent, 2019-2020**

Source: Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS), 2019-2020. Alaska Division of Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mchepe/cubs/data.aspx> Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center



## FISCAL DISCUSSION

# Spending on Economic Well-Being

The 2023 Alaska Children's Budget, an Alaska Children's Trust project, analyzed ten years of state fiscal data from FY2014 through FY2023 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 improving the economic well-being of Alaska's children, youth, and families.

1. In inflation-adjusted terms, Alaska's planned Fiscal Year 2023 spending in the KIDS COUNT economic well-being arena, via the departmental operating budget was 28 percent lower than the average spent from FY2014-FY2017.

2. In FY2023, the state planned to spend \$179.9 million on economic well-being related services for children, youth and families compared to an

inflation-adjusted average of \$253.1 million per year between 2014 and 2017.

3. The greatest declines in spending in the economic well-being arena from FY2014-2017 to FY2023 were in non-cash public assistance (46 percent decline), cash support public assistance (32 percent decline), and child care assistance (31 percent decline).

4. Spending in FY2021 and FY2022 on economic well-being related services for children, youth and families spiked considerably over historical levels as a direct result of federal funding of more than \$92 million each year (inflation adjusted) in COVID-19-related aid. The long-term decline in spending in this area would have continued over these years without the injection of these dollars.

5. Historically, the state spent roughly \$1.3 million a year (inflation adjusted) through the Capital budget in this area, but the FY2023 Capital budget contained no money for economic well-being spending related to children, youth, and families.

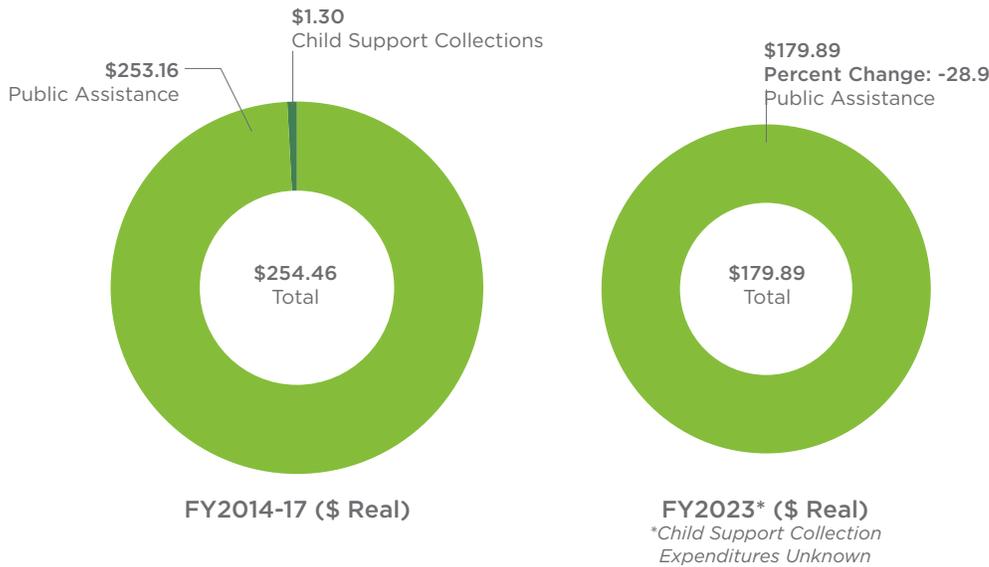


Figure 25. Departmental Operating Budget in the KIDS COUNT Area of Economic Well-Being, \$US 2022 Millions

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2022

**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 economic well-being related spending. Alaska’s spending on economic well-being breaks up into two large buckets - public assistance and child support collections. Alaska’s FY2023 public assistance

budget is 28.9 percent lower than what the state budgeted on average between FY2014 and FY2017. The change in spending associated with child support collections is unknown as of FY2018, when the budget folded this budgetary component into a larger component known as “Shared Services of Alaska.”



**Figure 26. Economic Well-Being Expenditure Areas, FY2023**

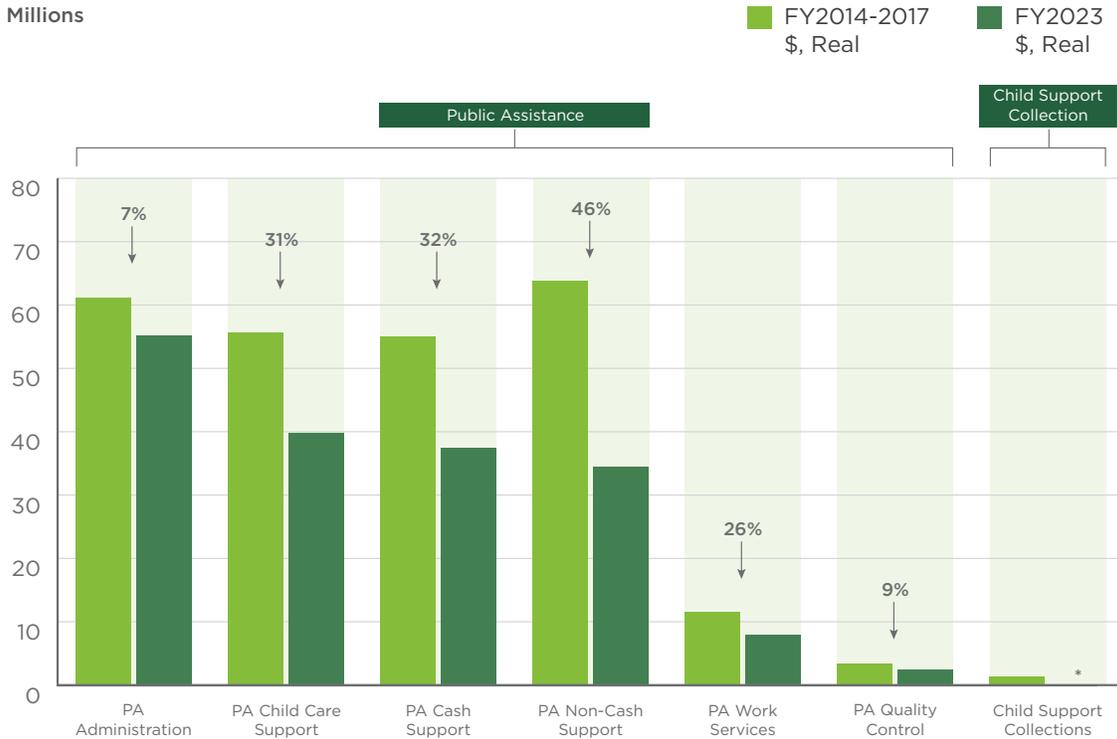
Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children’s Budget, 2022

**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 issues 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. Analyzing the detailed components of the Alaska state budget reveals the state budgeted less for FY2023 than it spent on average from FY2014 to FY2017 between 7 and 46 percent each.

<sup>1</sup> While the categories of cash support and child care support are largely self-explanatory the non-cash support is less so. The non-cash support category includes the energy assistance program, general relief assistance program, and the women, infants, and children (WIC) program.

Total Economic Well-Being Expenditures  
 FY2014-2017 (Real) \$253,115  
 FY2023 (Real) \$179,892 ↓ -28.9%



**Figure 27. Inflation-Adjusted Economic Well-Being Expenditures, FY2023**

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2022

The panel of experts interviewed for this project consistently stressed the need for economic stability within a child's household and emphasized the interplay between a number of critical factors, including employment, housing, health, and social supports, in ensuring such stability. The budget data show where the State of Alaska is investing and suggest that the

state is investing less in areas that provide stability such as helping people find work (work services), stay warm through energy assistance (non-cash support), and temporary cash assistance for low-income families (ATAP/cash support). This reduced investment may be increasing instability for Alaskan families that are still recovering from back-to-back economic crises.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

## Solutions

**Economic well-being is a cornerstone** to ensuring children, youth, and families gain the knowledge, skills, supports, and resources to thrive. When a family has economic stability, they have their most basic needs met and the ability to acquire a good education, access healthcare, and become strong contributors to our collective success.

Without a strong economic footing, families are at greater risk of experiencing many of the physical, social, and behavioral ills that plague so many of our communities.

By addressing the economic circumstances that create barriers limiting families' access to resources that support their children's development, we can improve many of the negative trends shown throughout all four of the KIDS COUNT reports.

To help families achieve economic stability, Alaska Children's Trust recommends the following policies:

### **1. Increase Investment in Basic Need Programs**

Twelve percent of Alaska children live at or below 100% of the U.S. poverty level. In FY2020, Alaska's public assistance budget was 21.4 percent lower than the average between FY2011 and FY2014. Access to basic needs like food, shelter, and healthcare is essential to the well-being of Alaska's children and families. Strong, accessible public benefit programs provide families the safety net

needed to reduce their risk of becoming homeless or having to make choices that put their children at risk. Alaska needs to increase investment in programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Unemployment Insurance, Public Assistance, Housing Assistance, and Medicaid.

### **2. Remove Barriers**

Families are waiting months to access food stamps (SNAP) and Medicaid. Families are reporting their children are missing meals to stretch their budget. At the time of this publication, Alaska's Division of Public Assistance (DPA) is processing fewer than 60% of SNAP applications within 30 days due to understaffing and a legacy of technology debt. In addition to investing in upgrading outdated technology and reaching appropriate staffing levels, increasing process efficiencies should also be considered. This might include shortening SNAP certification periods, waiving unnecessary interviews and duplicative verifications, and implementing online application and renewal forms with electronic signature option.

### **3. Single Point of Entry**

Reduce administrative burdens in processing applications and on families who are trying their best to foster their well-being by implementing some form of Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility across all basic need programs. By establishing a single point of entry, families can enter through any program, but receive screening for eligibility across all programs. Being able to fill out one application reduces administrative costs, and most of all, reduces barriers to families.

### **4. Increase Access to High Quality, Affordable Child Care and Pre-K**

Many parents struggle to find a child care

program they can afford that meets their needs and are left with impossible trade-offs to cover the cost of child care in their monthly budget. While Alaska already has a Child Care Assistance Program, we need to work to ensure that no family co-pay is more than the best practice of 7 percent of total household income. Removing administrative barriers and the Parents Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS) tier system will help the caseload numbers reflect the number of Alaskan children needing quality, affordable child care.

#### **5. Fair Hiring Practices for Formerly Incarcerated**

For the estimated 18,000 Alaskan children who have at least one parent who was formerly incarcerated, it is a detriment to their success if their parent is unable to find a quality high-wage job. Even when a parent has served their time, finding a job after serving their sentence can be an insurmountable challenge. Alaska needs to pass “Ban the Box” legislation to prohibit employers from asking about criminal convictions until the final steps of a job application process and create incentives and supports for employers who hire former prisoners.

#### **6. Strengthen Housing Policies**

Everyone needs housing they can afford. Communities should focus on ensuring they provide a full range of housing options, including an adequate supply of housing at all price points, and policymakers can support those efforts through implementing “Good Cause” eviction policies, property tax incentives for affordable housing, and providing a suite of options for local governments to adopt to facilitate safe, stable housing plans for communities across Alaska.

#### **7. Establish Paid Family and Sick Leave**

People should not be forced to choose between their economic security and their health, or the health of a loved one. Without paid family and sick leave, workers may not be able to stay home from work when they are sick or someone in their family needs care. Alaska should pass legislation to establish paid family and sick leave for all Alaskans.

#### **8. Minimum Wage Increase**

Alaska needs a minimum wage that better aligns with actual living expenses. As more low-wage jobs fill the Alaska market, it is more important than ever to ensure Alaskans receive a pay that allows them to meet their basic needs. Alaska needs to establish a method for the state’s minimum wage to be automatically adjusted for cost of living.

#### **9. Explore New Revenue Sources**

Alaska Children’s Trust remains committed to investing in our most precious resource - our children. To achieve this goal, ACT strongly supports the diversification of revenue streams in our state budget. Conservative investing suggests the state pursuing a wide range of alternate revenue streams to create stability, longevity, and avoid continuing cuts to the services that support Alaska’s families and children. To mitigate the harm caused by cuts to services, we encourage the state to invest in new sources of revenue, avoiding regressive taxes that unfairly burden families or sales taxes which disproportionately affect households with children. Continue issuing the Permanent Fund Dividend while continuing to ensure the health of the corpus of the fund.

## What Would it Take to Lead the Pacific Northwest?

### **Washington, Oregon, and Idaho** are

Alaska's three closest American neighbors geographically. They rank 21st, 30th, and 14th respectively in the KIDS COUNT Economic Well-Being while Alaska ranks 44th.

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

The KIDS COUNT data for Alaska's geographic peers shows that Alaska is competitive with the peers around the percentage of children living in poverty and, with the exception of Idaho, the percentage of children living in households with high housing cost burdens. However, Alaska lags the peer group in the percentage of children whose parents lack secure employment and in the percentage of teens not in school and not working.

In order to lead the Pacific Northwest, Alaska would need to reduce the percentage (and number) of:

- Children whose parents lack secure employment by nearly 40 percent from 32 percent to less than 23 percent;
- Teens not in school and not working by 30 to 40 percent from 10 percent to 6 to 7 percent. This goal could be accomplished by keeping more teens in school and with greater support in helping them transition to the job market.

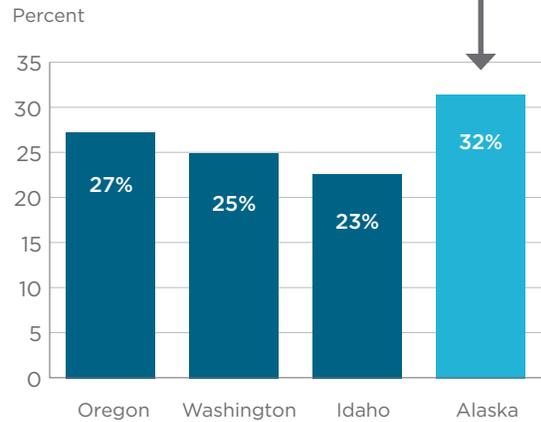
If Alaska did these two things while maintaining or improving relative competitiveness around the percentage of children in poverty and high housing costs then Alaska could not just lead the Pacific Northwest but come close to being in the top quartile in children's economic well-being.

**ALASKA RANKS 2/4**



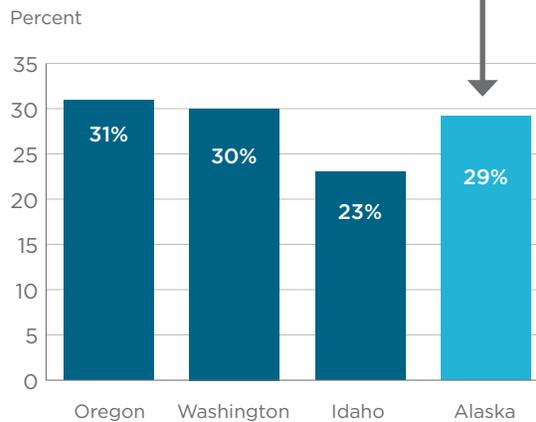
**Children in Poverty**

**ALASKA RANKS LAST**



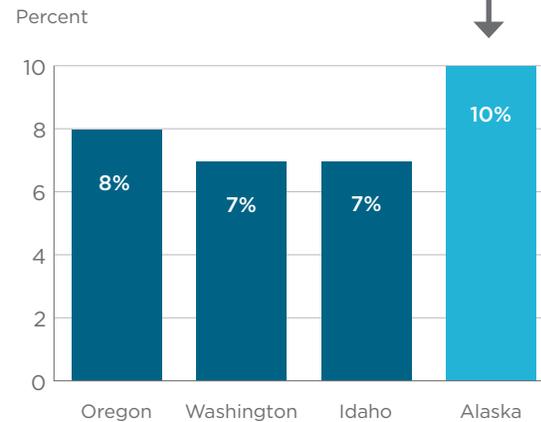
**Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment**

**ALASKA RANKS 2/4**



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

**ALASKA RANKS LAST**



**Teens Not in School and Not Working**

*Note: The above percentages are based on five-year averages (2016-2020) utilized by Annie E. Casey Foundation due to data impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore will vary from single year estimates elsewhere in this study.*

# Acknowledgements

KIDS COUNT Alaska reports were made possible with the generous support and encouragement of The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, and our generous donors.

## Alaska Children's Trust Team

Thank you to the entire ACT team for their support and dedication to our mission of preventing child abuse and neglect and this project.

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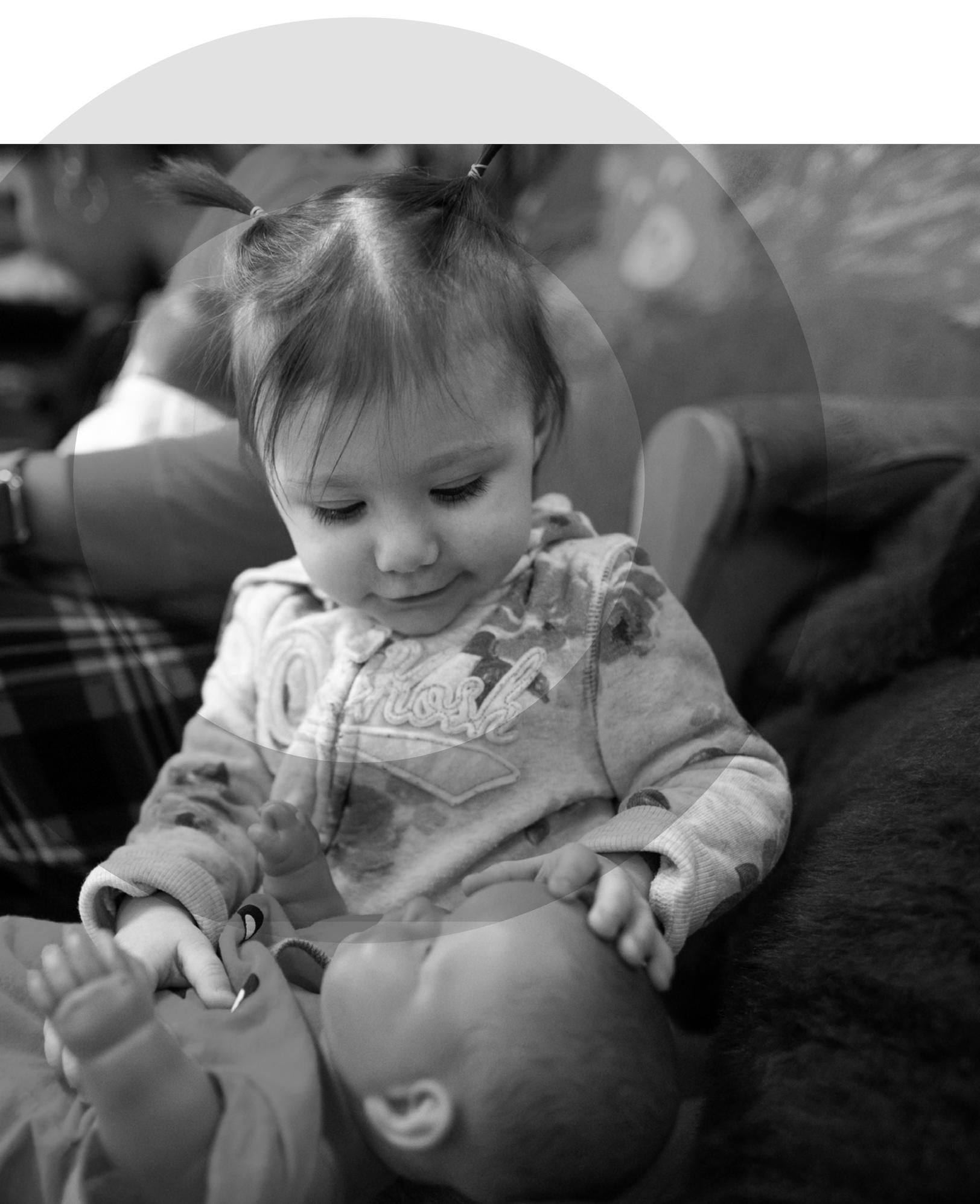
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**An additional thank you** to our Alaskan experts who participated in the Economic Well-Being interviews.

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Any findings or conclusions presented in this study are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Annie E. Casey Foundation or Rasmuson Foundation.



# Appendix

## PAGES 10-14

**Table 1. Percent of Children in Poverty (100% of poverty), Alaska and U.S., 2009-2019, 2021**

Year	Alaska (percent)	U.S. (percent)
2009	13	20
2010	13	22
2011	15	23
2012	14	23
2013	12	22
2014	16	22
2015	15	21
2016	14	19
2017	15	18
2018	14	18
2019	13	17
2021	12	17

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

**Table 2. Alaska Children Who Live in Families with Incomes Below the Federal Poverty Level, 5-Year Estimates, by Age Group, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

Year	5 Years & Under (percent)	6 to 11 Years (percent)	12 to 17 Years (percent)
2009-2013	15	11	10
2010-2014	14	11	10
2011-2015	14	12	11
2012-2016	14	12	10
2013-2017	13	12	10
2014-2018	13	12	10
2015-2019	13	12	10
2016-2020	13	11	9

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2005-2009 through 2016-2020; Table B17001 - POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX BY AGE Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Table 3. Alaska Children in Poverty (100% of the Federal Poverty Level) by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

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	24	*	*	*	9	10
2010	24	*	5	11	9	13
2011	29	*	*	8	9	16
2012	28	*	*	*	8	16
2013	28	*	3	*	8	9
2014	29	*	*	*	7	15
2015	30	*	*	12	9	13
2016	33	5	6	*	8	15
2017	29	*	*	11	9	12
2018	28	*	*	10	7	13
2019	28	*	*	*	7	11
2021	21	6	*	4	9	9

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 Notes: S - Estimates suppressed when the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points. N.A. - Data not available.

**Table 4. Alaska Children in Extreme Poverty (50% of the Federal Poverty Level), by Race/Ethnicity, Percent, 2013-2019 & 2021**

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)	Alaska Total (percent)
2013	10	*	3	*	3	4	6
2014	13	3	*	*	3	6	6
2015	11	2	*	4	4	6	6
2016	14	*	*	*	3	6	6
2017	17	3	*	8	4	7	6
2018	13	6	*	6	3	7	6
2019	10	*	*	3	3	4	4
2021	10	*	*	2	5	5	6

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Table 5. Children Who Live in Families with Incomes Below the Federal Poverty Level, 5-Year Estimates, by Region, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)
2009-2013	36	28	33	37	43	31	31
2010-2014	37	29	31	37	41	30	42
2011-2015	39	27	32	34	42	32	42
2012-2016	39	30	33	32	42	35	42
2013-2017	35	30	32	31	42	34	42
2014-2018	38	30	32	30	42	31	42
2015-2019	36	29	32	32	44	31	42
2016-2020	32	33	30	30	43	29	44

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2005-2009 through 2016-2020; Table B17001 - POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX BY AGE Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Table 6. Children Who Live in Families with Incomes Below the Federal Poverty Level, 5-Year Estimates, by Region and Age Group, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)
<b>5 Years and Under</b>							
2009-2013	16	12	13	11	17	15	18
2010-2014	16	12	12	11	16	13	18
2011-2015	15	11	13	10	15	14	17
2012-2016	15	12	12	10	16	17	17
2013-2017	12	11	13	10	16	15	16
2014-2018	13	11	12	10	16	13	16
2015-2019	13	11	12	12	16	12	17
2016-2020	13	12	10	13	16	11	17
<b>6 to 11 Years</b>							
2009-2013	10	8	11	12	15	8	14
2010-2014	11	8	10	13	14	8	14
2011-2015	12	7	10	12	15	10	14
2012-2016	12	9	12	12	15	11	15
2013-2017	12	10	11	12	15	11	15
2014-2018	12	10	12	12	15	11	14
2015-2019	11	10	13	11	15	12	14
2016-2020	10	12	12	9	15	10	14
<b>12 to 17 Years</b>							
2009-2013	10	9	9	14	11	9	10
2010-2014	10	9	9	14	11	9	10
2011-2015	12	9	9	12	11	8	10
2012-2016	11	9	9	11	11	8	10
2013-2017	11	9	8	10	11	8	11
2014-2018	12	9	8	9	12	7	11
2015-2019	12	9	8	10	12	7	11
2016-2020	9	9	7	9	12	7	13

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2005-2009 through 2016-2020; Table B17001 - POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX BY AGE Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Table 7. Alaska Families with Related Children Below the Poverty Level, by Family Type, Percent, 2010-2019 & 2021**

Year	Single Parent (percent)	Married Couples (percent)	All Families (percent)
2010	25	4	11
2011	23	5	11
2012	26	4	12
2013	24	4	10
2014	26	6	12
2015	24	5	12
2016	25	4	11
2017	22	6	11
2018	23	5	11
2019	23	4	10
2021	21	5	10

Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 through 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

**Table 8. Alaska Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

Year	Lacking Secure Employment (percent)
2009	36
2010	35
2011	33
2012	36
2013	35
2014	31
2015	34
2016	35
2017	33
2018	32
2019	29
2021	34

Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

**Table 9. Alaska Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

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	64	*	*	*	29	*
2010	*	*	*	*	26	*
2011	62	*	*	*	25	*
2012	60	*	*	*	27	43
2013	60	*	*	*	28	*
2014	54	*	*	*	22	*
2015	62	*	*	*	25	*
2016	65	*	*	*	24	*
2017	65	*	*	*	21	*
2018	56	*	*	*	24	*
2019	*	*	*	*	22	*
2021	*	*	*	*	28	29

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

Notes: S - Estimates suppressed when the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points. N.A. - Data not available.

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**Table 10. Alaska Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

Year	Percent (percent)
2009	34
2010	31
2011	32
2012	34
2013	27
2014	33
2015	31
2016	28
2017	31
2018	25
2019	30
2021	30

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Table 11. Alaska Children Living in Low-Income Households with a High Housing Cost Burden, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

Year	Percent (percent)
2009	*
2010	54
2011	51
2012	59
2013	52
2014	64
2015	59
2016	*
2017	*
2018	53
2019	57
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.

**Table 12. Alaska Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden, by Race or Ethnicity, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

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	22	*	*	*	32	*
2010	*	*	*	*	27	*
2011	21	*	*	*	32	*
2012	29	*	*	*	32	*
2013	21	*	*	*	29	*
2014	24	*	*	*	30	*
2015	25	*	*	*	28	*
2016	*	*	*	*	27	*
2017	27	*	*	*	30	*
2018	20	*	*	*	24	*
2019	*	*	*	*	27	*
2019	20	*	*	*	29	*

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Table 13. Alaska Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Attending School and Not Working, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

Year	Alaska (percent)	U.S. (percent)
2009	12	9
2010	11	9
2011	10	8
2012	10	8
2013	8	8
2014	11	7
2015	9	7
2016	11	7
2017	7	7
2018	10	7
2019	12	6
2021	14	7

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2019, 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

**Table 14. Alaska Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Attending School and Not Working by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

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	17	*	*	*	11	*
2010	18	*	*	*	9	*
2011	19	*	*	*	9	8
2012	18	*	*	*	11	*
2013	14	*	*	*	6	*
2014	17	*	*	*	9	*
2015	*	*	*	6	8	*
2016	*	*	*	*	8	*
2017	17	2	*	*	4	5
2018	*	5	*	*	8	*
2019	13	*	*	*	10	*
2021	*	4	*	*	*	*

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2019, 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center  
Notes: \* - Estimates suppressed when the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

**Table 15. Alaska Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Attending School and Not Working by Region, Percent, 2011/2015-2016/2020**

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)	Alaska (percent)
2011-2015	6	12	9	12	22	11	14	10
2012-2016	8	11	10	11	21	9	16	10
2013-2017	7	9	10	11	20	8	16	10
2014-2018	7	8	9	12	21	10	16	10
2015-2019	8	10	10	5	20	9	17	9
2016-2020	8	11	8	7	21	12	17	10

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2011-2015 through 2016-2020; Table B14005 - SEX BY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS FOR THE POPULATION 16 TO 19 YEARS. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center

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**Table 16. Alaska Children Living in Households That Were Food Insecure at Some Point During the Year, Percent, 2009/2011-2019/2021**

Year	Children in Food Insecure Households (percent)
2009-2011	20
2010-2012	17
2011-2013	16
2012-2014	18
2013-2015	20
2014-2016	20
2015-2017	18
2016-2018	15
2017-2019	13
2018-2020	11
2019-2021	11

Source: 2001-2021 Current Population Survey, Food Security Supplement. Estimates represent a three-year average. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

**Table 17. Alaska Children Living in Households That Were Food Insecure at Some Point During the Year, by Borough/Census Area, Percent, 2016-2020**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2016 (percent)</b>	<b>2017. (percent)</b>	<b>2018 (percent)</b>	<b>2019 (percent)</b>	<b>2020 (percent)</b>
Aleutians East Borough	16	16	16	15	14
Aleutians West Census Area	13	13	10	9	13
Anchorage Municipality	16	16	16	15	14
Bethel Census Area	30	30	31	30	26
Bristol Bay Borough	16	17	17	16	14
Denali Borough	17	17	18	17	16
Dillingham Census Area	24	23	24	23	19
Fairbanks North Star Borough	16	16	16	15	13
Haines Borough	19	21	22	20	23
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	26	26	27	23	22
Juneau City and Borough	15	15	14	13	12
Kenai Peninsula Borough	19	20	21	19	18
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	19	18	19	18	17
Kodiak Island Borough	16	16	17	15	12
Lake and Peninsula Borough	26	24	28	26	23
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	18	19	19	17	15
Nome Census Area	28	28	28	25	21
North Slope Borough	19	19	18	18	18
Northwest Arctic Borough	30	32	32	31	23
Petersburg Borough	18	19	22	19	16
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	24	25	29	28	23
Sitka City and Borough	15	16	14	14	14
Skagway Municipality	18	19	19	18	26
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	22	22	22	21	16
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	16	17	17	15	14
Wrangell City and Borough	19	20	18	17	18
Yakutat City and Borough	19	19	17	16	16
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	32	33	35	33	26

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap study. Retrieved from <http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2018/child/alaska>

**Table 18. Alaska Low-Income Working Families with Children, Percent, 2009-2019 & 2021**

Year	(percent)
2009	13
2010	13
2011	17
2012	15
2013	14
2014	15
2015	14
2016	13
2017	16
2018	13
2019	16
2021	14

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2019, 2021 American Community Survey. Updated November 2022. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Table 19. Low-Income Working Families with Children by Age Group, 2008-2019 & 2021**

Year	Less Than Age 6 (percent)	Less Than Age 13 (percent)
2008	17	16
2009	16	16
2010	16	14
2011	22	22
2012	20	17
2013	18	18
2014	20	19
2015	20	19
2016	18	17
2017	19	20
2018	17	17
2019	20	20
2021	21	19

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2019, 2021. American Community Survey. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

**Table 20. Children with Disabilities in Alaska, by Gender, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

Year	Total (percent)	Boys (percent)	Girls (percent)
2009-2013	3	4	3
2010-2014	3	4	2
2011-2015	3	4	2
2012-2016	4	4	3
2013-2017	4	5	3
2014-2018	4	5	3
2015-2019	4	4	3
2016-2020	4	5	3

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2009-2013, 2010-2014, 2011-2015, 2012-2016, 2013-2017, 2014-2018, 2015-2019 & 2016-2020. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Table 21. Children with Disabilities in Alaska, by Region, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)
2009-2013	3	4	4	4	2	3	2
2010-2014	3	4	3	3	2	3	2
2011-2015	3	5	4	3	2	3	2
2012-2016	3	5	4	4	2	3	2
2013-2017	4	5	4	3	2	4	2
2014-2018	4	4	4	4	2	4	2
2015-2019	4	5	3	4	3	4	3
2016-2020	3	5	3	4	4	5	3

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2009-2013, 2010-2014, 2011-2015, 2012-2016, 2013-2017, 2014-2018, 2015-2019 & 2016-2020. Retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center

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**Table 22. Householders with Related Children Under 18 Years of Age, in Owner-Occupied and Rental Housing, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

	2009- 2013 (percent)	2010- 2014 (percent)	2011- 2015 (percent)	2012- 2016 (percent)	2013- 2017 (percent)	2014- 2018 (percent)	2015- 2019 (percent)	2016- 2020 (percent)
Total Owner-Occupied	62	61	60	61	61	62	63	64
Total Rented	38	39	40	39	39	38	37	36

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2009-2013 through 2016-2020, Table B25012 - TENURE BY FAMILIES AND PRESENCE OF OWN CHILDREN.

**Table 23. Householders with Related Children Under 18 Years of Age, in Owner-Occupied and Rental Housing, by Region, Percent, 2009/2013-2016/2020**

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)
<b>Live in Owner-Occupied Housing</b>							
2009-2013	58	66	58	75	58	62	66
2010-2014	57	67	57	75	56	61	66
2011-2015	56	62	56	74	58	62	65
2012-2016	56	63	59	75	57	64	64
2013-2017	56	61	59	77	59	66	63
2014-2018	58	64	60	77	59	67	61
2015-2019	59	63	60	77	60	67	60
2016-2020	61	64	60	78	59	66	59
<b>Live in Rental Housing</b>							
2009-2013	42	34	42	25	42	38	34
2010-2014	43	33	43	25	44	39	34
2011-2015	44	38	44	26	42	38	35
2012-2016	44	37	41	25	43	36	36
2013-2017	44	39	41	23	41	34	37
2014-2018	42	36	40	23	41	33	39
2015-2019	41	37	40	23	40	33	40
2016-2020	39	36	40	22	41	34	41

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2009-2013 through 2016-2020, Table B25012 - TENURE BY FAMILIES AND PRESENCE OF OWN CHILDREN

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**Table 24. Homeless Students in Alaska by Grade, Percent, 2010/2011-2020/2021**

Year	Pre-K (%)	Kindergarten (%)	1st (%)	2nd (%)	3rd (%)	4th (%)	5th (%)	6th (%)	7th (%)	8th (%)	9th (%)	10th (%)	11th (%)	12th (%)
2010-2011	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	6
2011-2012	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	6
2012-2013	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	5
2013-2014	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	5
2014-2015	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	5
2015-2016	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	6
2016-2017	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	4	6
2017-2018	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	6
2018-2019	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	5
2019-2020	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4
2020-2021	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3

Source: Homeless student data from Ed Data Express at the US Department of Education; enrollment data from Alaska DEED. Students include Pre-Kindergarten through 12th graders

**Table 25. Homeless Students in Alaska by Region, Percent, 2010/2011-2020/2021**

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)
2010-2011	5	3	3	5	1	3	1
2011-2012	5	2	4	4	1	3	1
2012-2013	5	2	2	4	1	2	<1
2013-2014	4	2	2	4	1	3	1
2014-2015	5	2	2	5	1	3	1
2015-2016	6	3	2	5	2	4	<1
2016-2017	5	2	3	3	1	3	1
2017-2018	4	2	2	3	2	4	1
2018-2019	4	2	2	3	2	4	1
2019-2020*	4	2	2	3	4	2	1
2020-2021*	3	1	1	2	4	2	1

Source: Homeless student data from Ed Data Express at the US Department of Education; enrollment data from Alaska DEED. Students include Pre-Kindergarten through 12th graders for school years 2010-2011 to 2018-2019. Students include Kindergarten through 12th graders for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years

\* For school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, the Department of Education notes that COVID-19 operations impacted the identification of eligible students and that data should be used with caution. Data for many Alaska school districts were suppressed or unavailable for these years.

**Table 26. Homeless Students in Alaska by Nighttime Residence, Percent, 2010/2011-2020/2021**

School Year	Doubled Up (percent)	Hotels/Motels (percent)	Shelters, Transitional Housing, or Awaiting Foster Care (percent)	Unsheltered (percent)
2010-2011	57	7	23	12
2011-2012	59	9	23	10
2012-2013	59	10	23	8
2013-2014	59	9	23	9
2014-2015	59	8	26	8
2015-2016	60	7	24	9
2016-2017	66	6	19	10
2017-2018	67	6	18	9
2018-2019	67	5	18	9
2019-2020	61	7	22	9
2020-2021	67	4	20	9

Source: Homeless student data from Ed Data Express at the US Department of Education; enrollment data from Alaska DEED. Students include Pre-Kindergarten through 12th graders

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**Table 27. Mothers of Three-Year-Olds Reporting that During the Past 6 Months Someone in the Family Did Not Take, Quit, or Change a Job Because of Child Care Needs, Percent, 2015-2020**

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)	Alaska (percent)
2015	*	9	19	10	*	19	15	16
2016	*	17	17	14	*	21	19	18
2017	19	13	21	15	19	17	14	18
2018	16	22	16	15	*	19	13	16
2019	20	26	19	12	18	14	6	16
2020	14	10	31	22	13	*	10	17

Source: Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS), 2012-2020. Alaska Division of Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mchepe/cubs/data.aspx>

**Table 28. Mothers Reporting their 3-Year-Old Child in Routine Child Care, by Region, Percent, 2012/2015-2016/2019**

Year	Anchorage (percent)	Gulf Coast (percent)	Interior (percent)	Mat-Su (percent)	Northern (percent)	Southeast (percent)	Southwest (percent)	Alaska (percent)
2012-2015	52	42	45	39	27	54	31	45
2013-2016	50	43	47	41	28	54	26	45
2014-2017	50	36	47	42	24	59	21	44
2015-2018	49	32	44	42	25	63	25	44
2016-2019	49	36	42	42	32	62	22	45

Source: Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS), 2015-2019. Alaska Division of Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mchepe/cubs/data.aspx> Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center

**Table 29. Barriers to Preferred Type of Child Care Among All Mothers of Three-Year-Olds, Percent, 2015/2016-2019/2020**

Year	Can't Accommodate Special Needs (percent)	Can't Afford to Stay Home (percent)	Cost Too High (percent)	Doesn't Fit Needed Schedule (percent)	Not Available in Community (percent)	Wait List is Too Long (percent)
2015-2016	3	28	46	33	11	22
2016-2017	3	36	59	31	17	16
2017-2018	5	45	67	30	17	21
2018-2019	5	39	67	28	14	25
2019-2020	6	30	59	25	20	21

Source: Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS), 2015-2020. Alaska Division of Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mchepe/cubs/data.aspx> Retrieved from KIDS COUNT Data Center.

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**Table 30. Departmental Operating Budget in the KIDS COUNT Area of Economic Well-Being, \$US 2020 Millions**

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	\$262.75	\$258.87	\$255.88	\$234.95	\$233.75	\$222.16	\$218.78	\$360.02	\$328.18	\$179.89

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2022.

**Table 31. Economic Well-Being Expenditure Areas, FY2023**

Expenditure Areas	2014-2017 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	2023 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	Change (percent)
Public Assistance	\$253.16	\$179.89	-28.9%
Child Support Collections	\$1.30	Unknown	Unknown

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2022.

**Table 32. Economic Well-Being Expenditure Areas, FY2023**

Expenditure Areas	Sub-Group	2014-2017 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	2023 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	Change (percent)
Public Assistance	PA Administration	\$60,991	\$56,835	-7
	PA Child Care Support	\$57,660	\$39,914	-31
	PA Cash Support	\$54,986	\$37,276	-32
	PA Non-Cash Support	\$63,483	\$34,463	-46
	PA Work Services	\$11,875	\$8,837	-26
	PA Quality Control	\$2,820	\$2,568	-9
Child Support Collections	Child Support Collections	\$1,299	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$236,452</b>	<b>\$179,892</b>	<b>-28.9</b>

Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2022.



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