



alaska children's trust

2022

KIDS COUNT 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% 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)



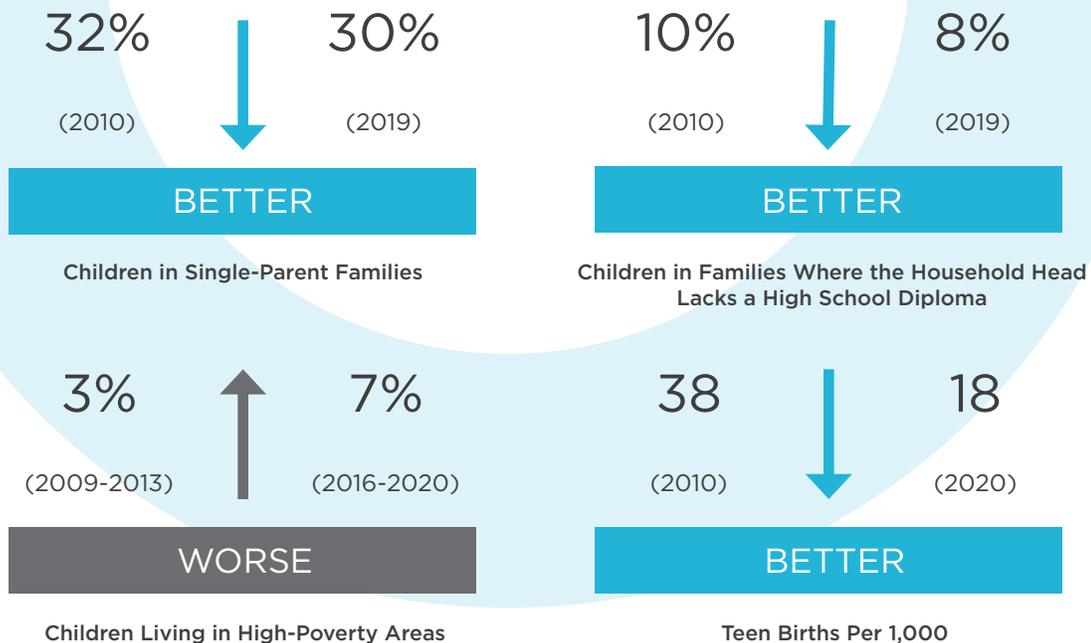
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Family & Community - National Rank

In the Family and Community category, Alaska's ranks 22nd out of 50 states, just behind Nebraska and Maryland and just ahead of Kansas and Illinois. This is Alaska's best ranking 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 has given Alaska a relatively lower proportion of children living in households headed by someone without at least a high school diploma. While this is celebrated, Alaska still faces serious challenges, including significant regional and ethnic disparities in teen births and a more than doubling over the last decade of children living in high-poverty areas.

Alaska Ranks
22nd
out of 50 states
for family and
community

Over the past decade, Alaska made progress in three of the four core indicators that determine national rank, and slipped significantly in another:



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 this indicator. For purposes of internal and historical consistency, this study uses the traditional three-year average.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trends and Takeaways

AREAS OF PROGRESS

The proportion of **children living in single parent families** fell from 32 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2019. This proportion is lower than the U.S. proportion of 34 percent.

The proportion of children living in families where **the household head lacks a high school diploma** fell from 10 percent to 8 percent, a 20 percent reduction. Alaska's proportion of children living in these households is now less than half the U.S. proportion.

Between 2010 and 2020, **teen births** among 15 to 19 year olds dropped in Alaska by 53 percent, from 38 per 1,000 to 18 per 1,000. This decline mirrors a similar drop at the national level.

From 2009 to 2019, over half of Alaska high school students participated in **after-school activities**, up from 54 percent in 2009 to 57 percent in 2019.

While the proportion (59 percent) of Alaska high schoolers who reported feeling they had **caring adults** in their school did not change significantly, students reporting having three or more adults other than their parents whom they would feel comfortable seeking help from reached its highest level in the last decade at 49 percent.

While Alaska's "Broadband Now" ranking for **internet access** among U.S. states and D.C. improved from last place in 2020 to 42nd in 2022, stark divide in connectivity persists between rural and urban areas.

AREAS OF REGRESSION

The proportion of **children living in high poverty areas** more than doubled from 3 percent in 2009-2013 to 7 percent in 2016-2020. In contrast, over the past decade U.S. figures dropped from 13 percent to 9 percent.

In 2020, 16 out of every 1,000 Alaska children were in **foster care**. This rate is 220 percent higher than the national rate of 5 children per 1,000. The rate in Alaska has increased by 60 percent over the past decade.

Alaska's **teen suicide rate** increased 50 percent from 24 per 100,000 in 2008-2012 to 36 per 100,000 in 2016-2020. Over the past decade suicide planning rates among teens have also increased, with rates up 80 percent for females and 100 percent for males.

Child maltreatment cases have increased to levels not seen since 2009, with 3,190 cases confirmed in 2020. Children ages birth to 4 comprise the largest proportion of all cases (41 percent), with the most common form of maltreatment type being neglect (71 percent).



FAMILY & COMMUNITY 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.

The national KIDS COUNT program bases rankings on four indicators:

1 | Children in single-parent families
PAGE 10

2 | Children in families in which the household head lacks a high school diploma
PAGE 11

3 | Children living in high poverty areas
PAGE 12

4 | Teen births
PAGE 13

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:

5 | Children in foster care
PAGE 16

7 | Teen Suicides
PAGE 20

9 | Internet access
PAGE 27

6 | Afterschool activities
PAGE 18

8 | Caring adults
PAGE 24

10 | Child maltreatment
PAGE 30

1. 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.

In 2019 Alaska's proportion of children living in single-parent families rose one percentage point from 2017-2018, when it was at its lowest point in a decade.

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 34 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/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.

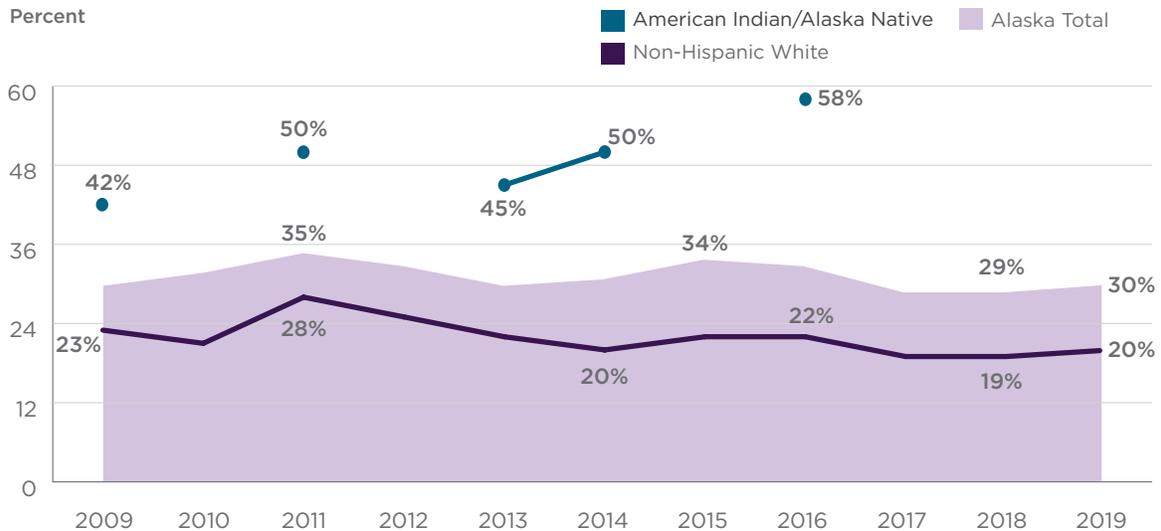


Figure 1. Children in Single-Parent Families, Alaska Total and by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2019

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2019 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: the KIDS COUNT Data Center

2. 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 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 2010 and 2019, an average of eight percent of Alaska children lived in families in which the head of household did not have a high school diploma; in 2019 this study shows that number increased to 8 percent after dropping to 6

percent in 2018. However, this proportion compares to 13 percent of children nationwide over the last decade.

U.S. Census data indicate wide ethnic/racial disparities in this indicator. In 2018, the most recent year for which data are available, 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 3 percent of Non-Hispanic White children in 2019. Data have historically indicated that the 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.

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

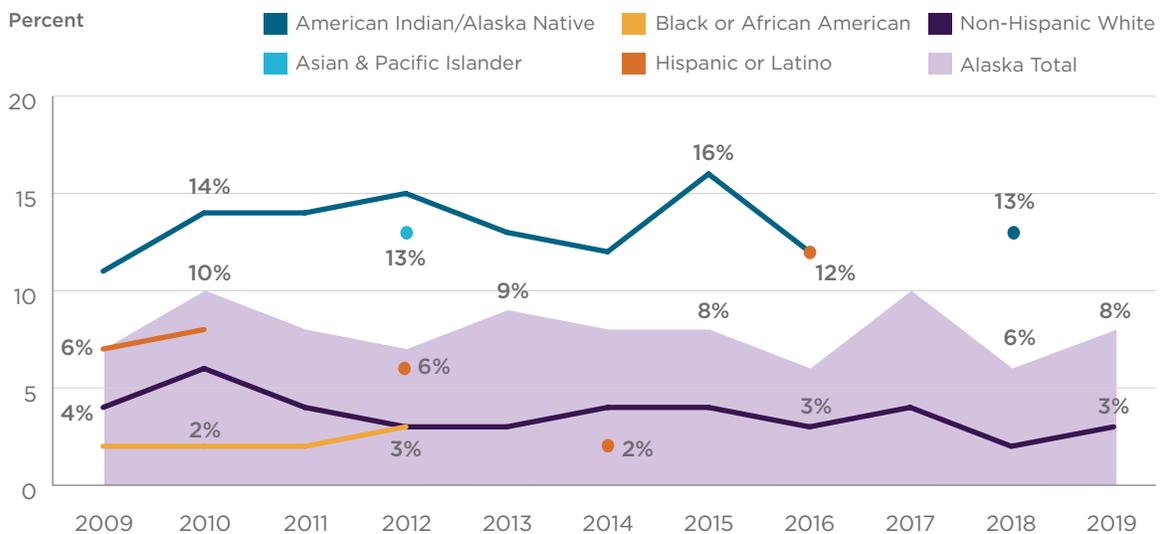


Figure 2. Children in Families in Which the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma, Alaska Total and by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2019

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2019 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: the KIDS COUNT Data Center

3. 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 may be falling after increasing through 2019, but post-pandemic data will

be critical to identifying any sustainable trend. The 2016-2020 figure is still more than double what it was in 2009-2013. This overall 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 30 percent in 2016-2020. Conversely, less than 5 percent of children in all other racial/ethnic groups live in high poverty areas and 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% in 2009-2013 to 7% in 2016-2020.

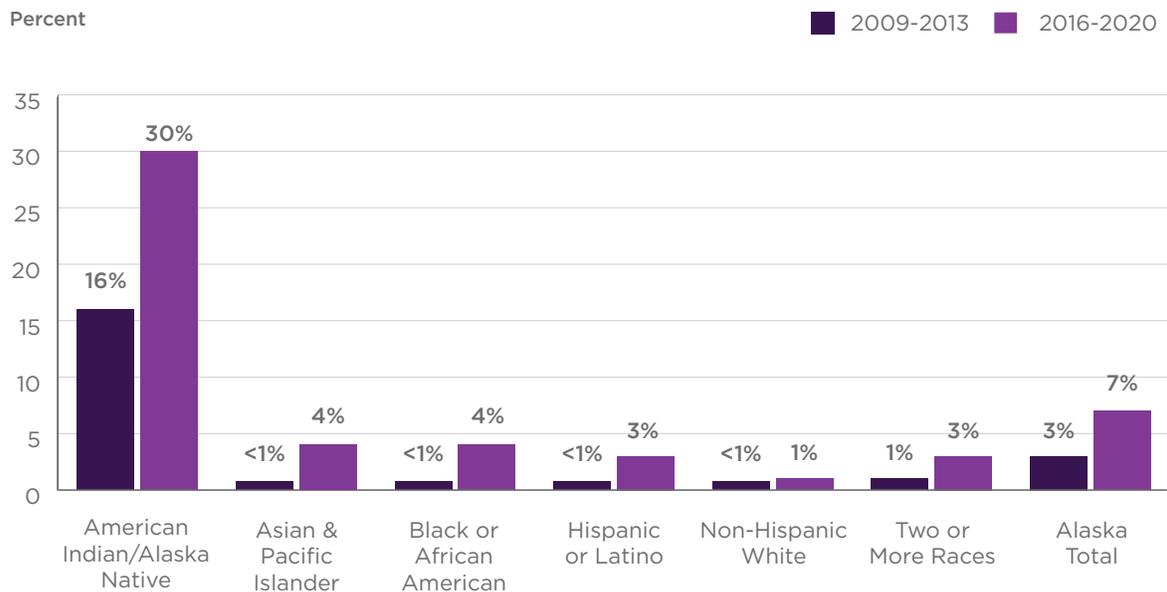


Figure 3. Children Living in High Poverty Areas, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, 2009-2013 and 2016-2020

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2020 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: the KIDS COUNT Data Center

4. Teen Births

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 38 births per 1,000 in 2010 to 18 per 1,000 in 2020, a decline of 53 percent over 11 years. Alaska is narrowing

the gap between the state and national teen birth rates but remained 20 percent higher than the national rate in 2020.

Since 2010 Alaska has successfully lowered the teen birth rate in every measured age group. The rate for 15-to-17-year-old teens fell by more than three-quarters from 16 per 1,000 to 4 per 1,000 between 2010 and 2020. The rate for 18-year-olds and 19-year-olds fell by more than 40 percent, from 73 per 1,000 to 42 per 1,000.

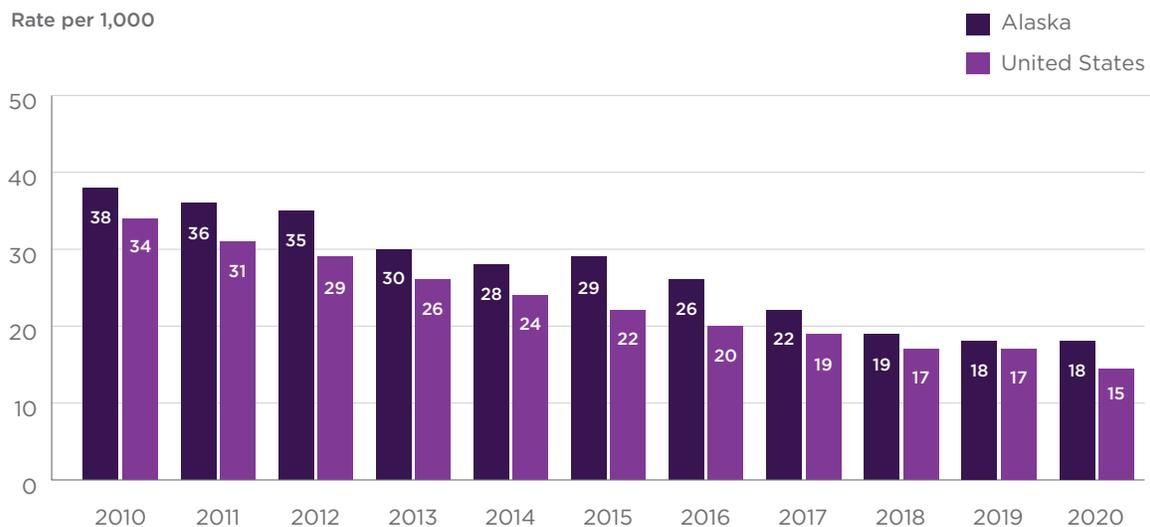


Figure 4. Teen Births, Alaska and U.S., 2010-2020

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

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

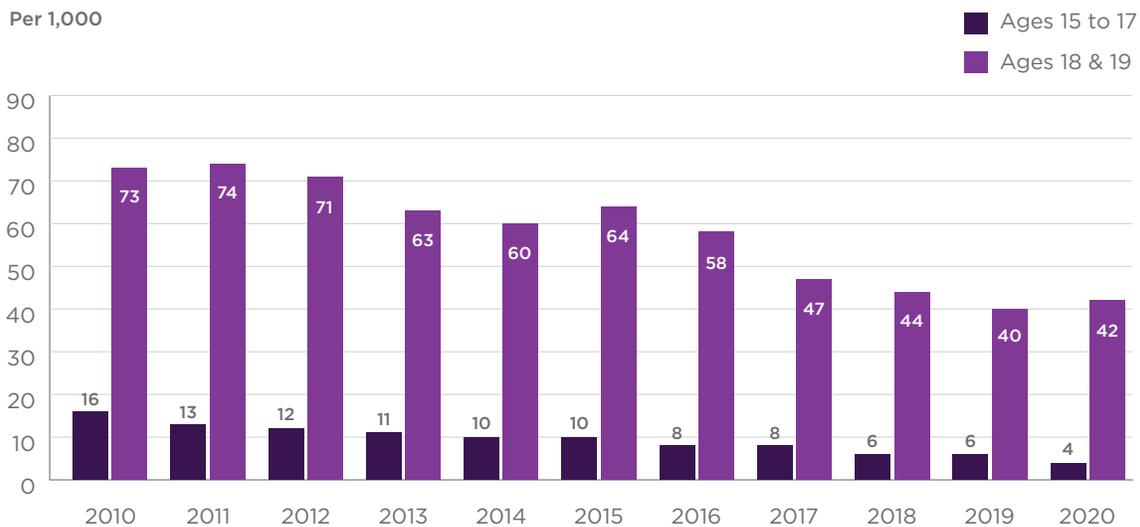


Figure 5. Teen Births Rate per 1,000 Females Alaska by Age Group, 2010-2020

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; during the 2016-2020 timeframe, the rate in the region with the highest teen birth rate is 460 percent higher than the rate for the region with the lowest. The Anchorage, Southeast, Gulf Coast, and Matanuska-Susitna regions all have teen birth rates below the statewide average, while the Interior region is 12 percent higher than the statewide average. The rates for the Southwest and Northern regions are 225 percent and 250 percent higher than the statewide average.

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 70 percent, while the rates for American Indian/Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic White, and Hispanic or Latino teens have fallen between 55 and 58 percent. However, teen birth rates still vary widely between groups, with a 230 percent difference between the groups with the highest and lowest rates. The highest rate of teen births in 2020 were for American Indian/Alaska Natives, at 33 per 1,000 in 2020, while the lowest rates are for Non-Hispanic Whites at 10 per 1,000, and Asian and Pacific Islanders at 15 per 1,000.

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

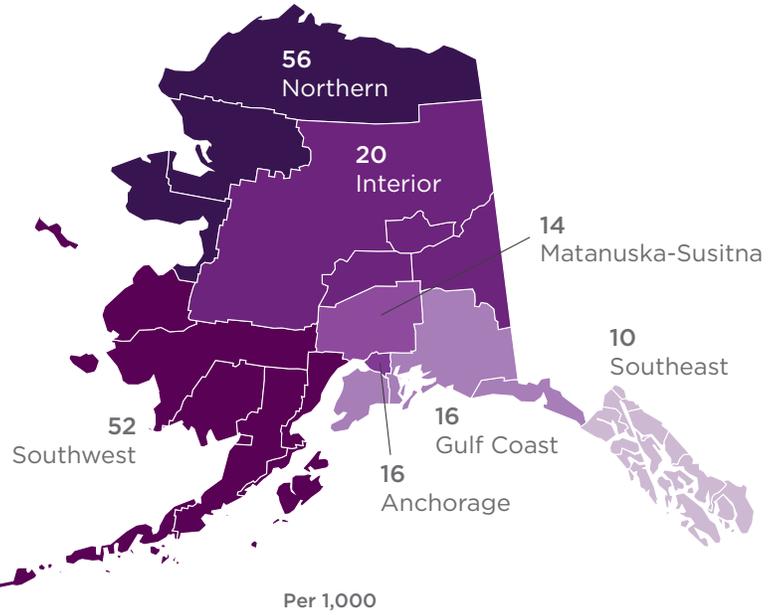


Figure 6. Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15-19 (5-year Average), Alaska, by Region, 2016-2020

Source: Alaska Section of Health Analytics and Vital Records; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. Retrieved from: the KIDS COUNT Data Center.
Note: Regions refer to State of Alaska public health regions.

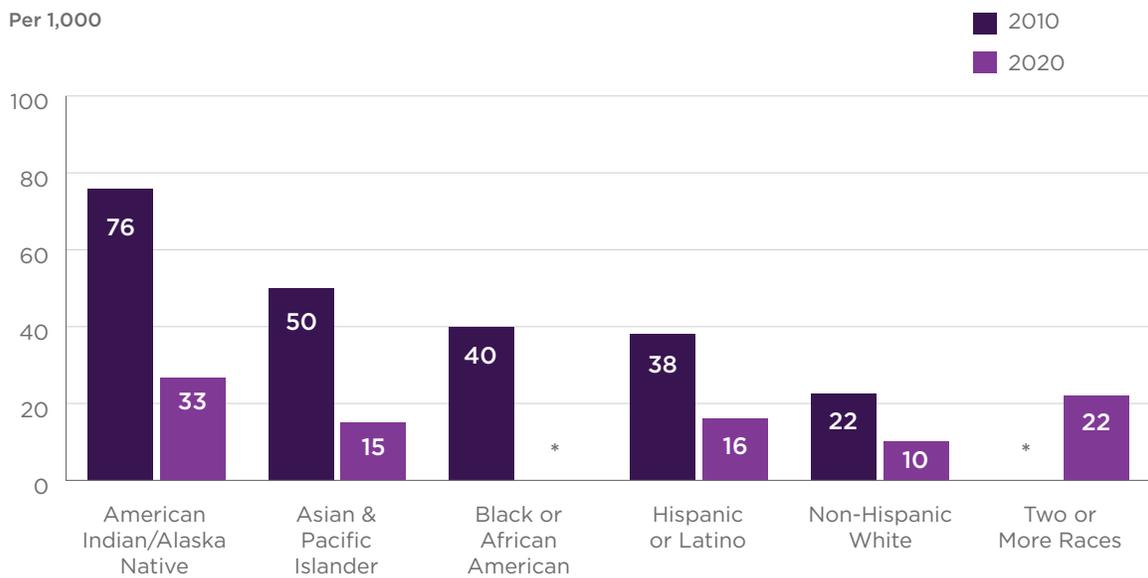


Figure 7. Teen Birth Rate, Per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020

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

5. Children in Foster Care

Foster care supports children from families who are struggling to provide for, and nurture, them with stable, loving homes. In 2020, 16 out of every 1,000 Alaska children were in foster care. This rate is 220 percent higher than the national rate of 5 children per 1,000. The rate in Alaska has increased by 60 percent over

the past decade from 10 per 1,000 in 2010. 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. This study does note that the bulk of the increased rate seems to coincide with the start of Alaska's recession in 2014/2015.

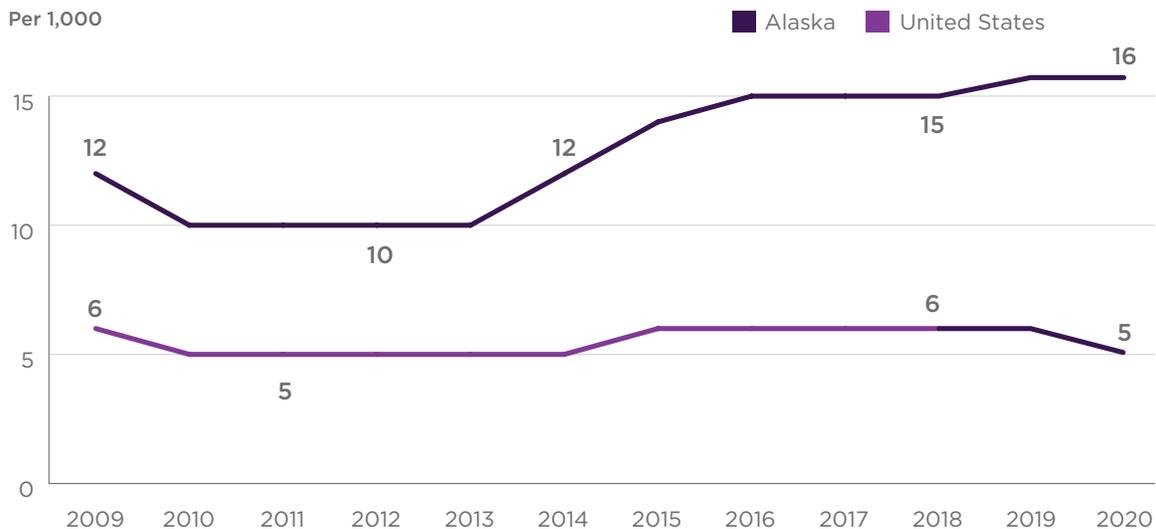


Figure 8. Children 0 to 17 in Foster Care, Alaska and U.S., Rate Per 1,000, 2009-2020

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2020," Vintage 2020. Retrieved from: the KIDS COUNT Data Center

Together, American Indian/Alaska Native children (47 percent), Non-Hispanic White children (21 percent), and children from multiple ethnic groups (21 percent) comprise 89 percent of Alaska's foster care population, while Hispanic or Latino children (5 percent), Asian & Pacific Islander children (4 percent), Black/African American children (3 percent), and children of unknown ethnic heritage (<1 percent) comprise the remainder. 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 decreased overall by approximately 10 percent and the proportion of children belonging to multiple ethnic groups has more than doubled.

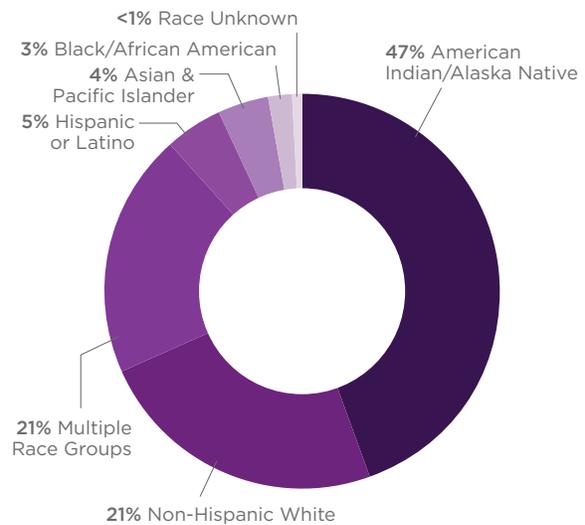


Figure 9. Percent of All Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2020

Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

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 27 percent of the foster care population compared to 24 percent for 11- to 15-year-olds. Children less than 1 year old and age 16 to 20 comprised 6 percent and 8 percent of the foster care population respectively.

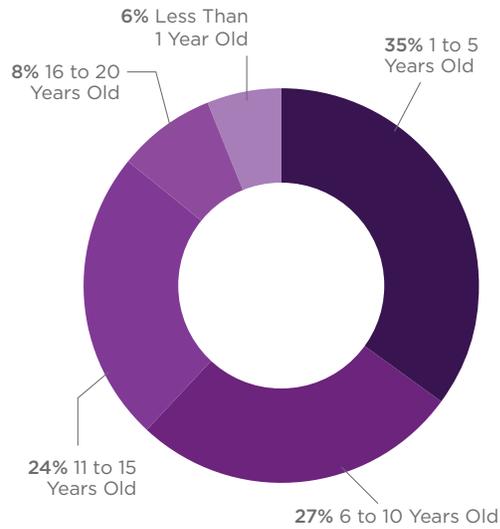


Figure 10. Percent of Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Age Group, 2009-2020

Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect; Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

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 2020, among children in foster care, 31 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, 10 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, 18 percent were in a pre-adoptive home, 13 percent were in a trial home or institution, and 8 percent were in a group home or institution.

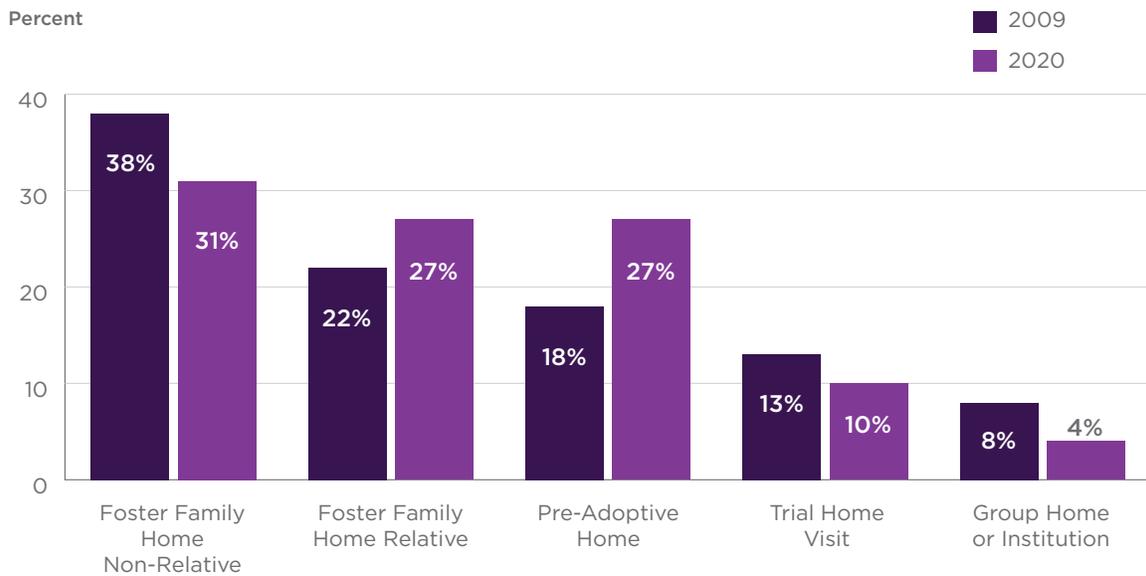


Figure 11. Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Placement Type, 2009-2020

Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center

6. 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.

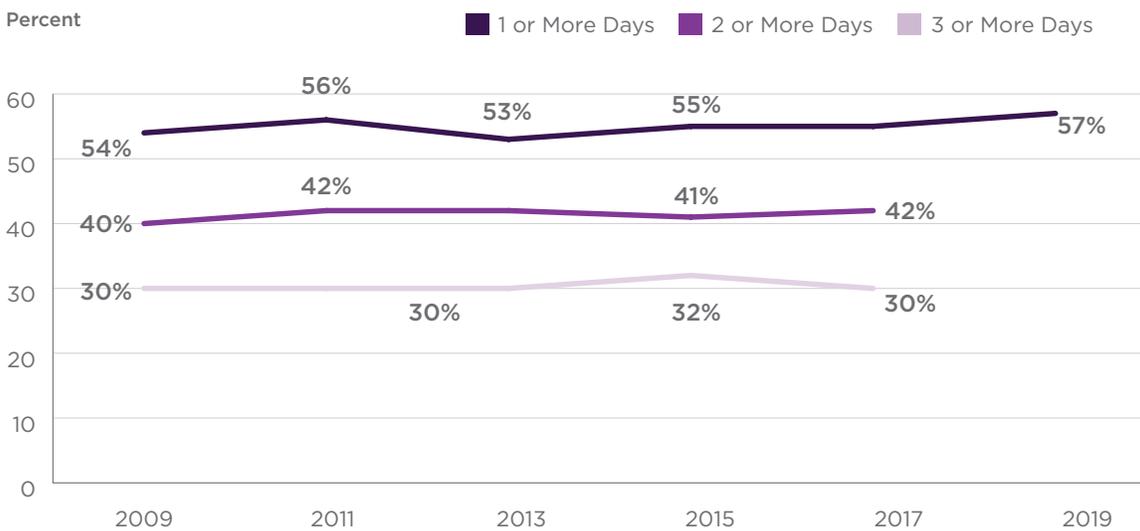


Figure 12. High School Students Who Participate in Afterschool Activities, Alaska, by Days Per Week, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

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

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. American Indian/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.

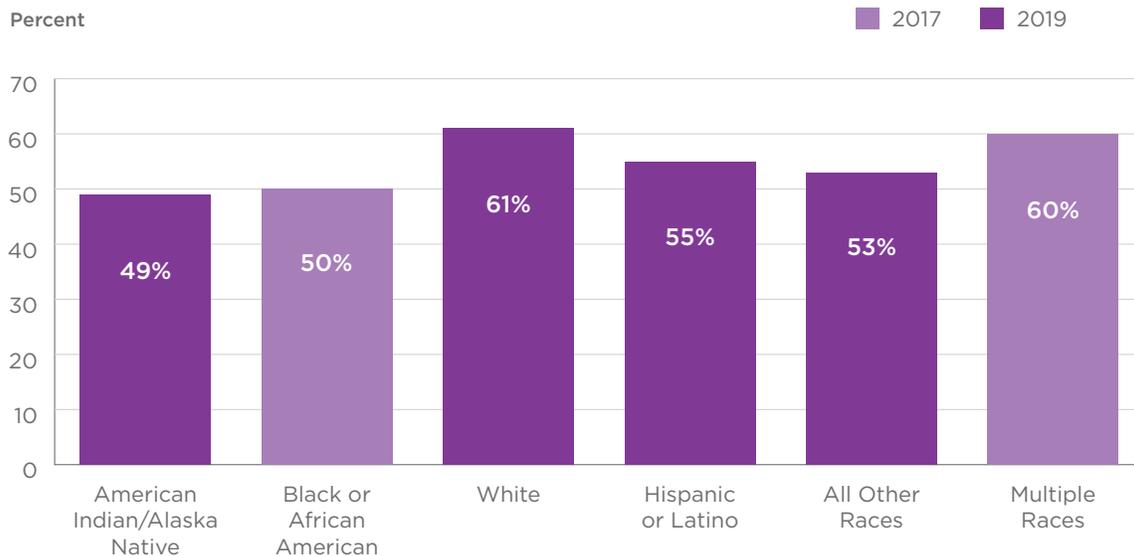


Figure 13. High School Students Who Participate in Afterschool Activities, Alaska, One or More Days Per Week, by Race & Ethnicity, Percent, 2017-2019

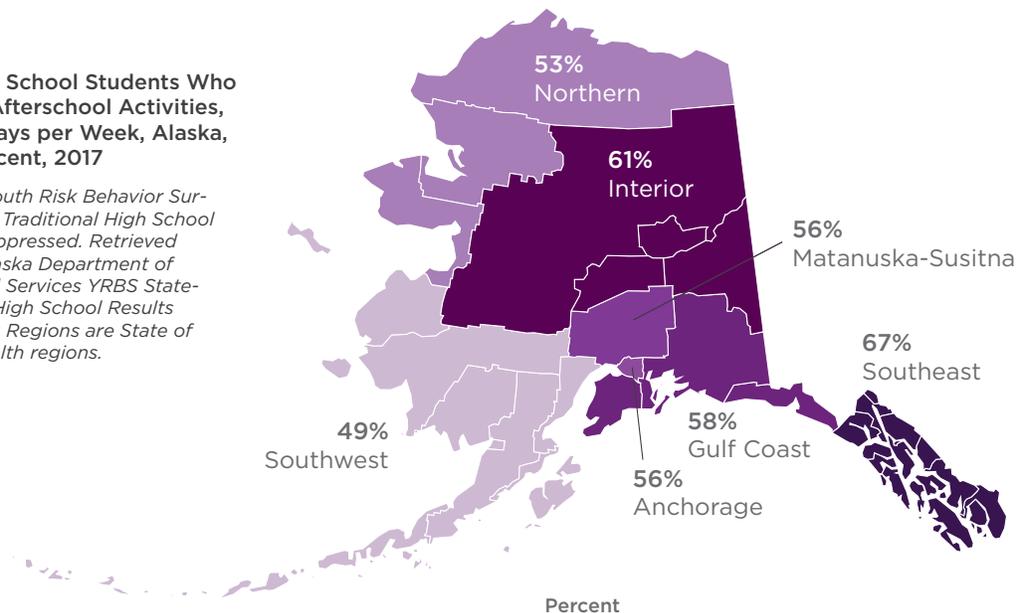
Source: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. (2019 is traditional high schoolers only) *Data suppressed. Retrieved from: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard.

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: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Traditional High School Results. *Data suppressed. Retrieved from: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard. Note: Regions are State of Alaska public health regions.



7. 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 50 percent from 24 per 100,000 in 2008-2012 to 36 per 100,000 in 2016-2020. Rates vary significantly by region, with a 747

percent difference between the regions with the highest and lowest rates. Overall rates in Alaska range from a high of 161 per 100,000 in Southwest Alaska in 2016-2020 and 150 per 100,000 in the Northern region to a low of 19 per 100,000 in Anchorage. Rates in Gulf Coast and Interior are also lower than most regions in the state, though both regions experienced increases from the most recent prior reporting years to 2016-2020.

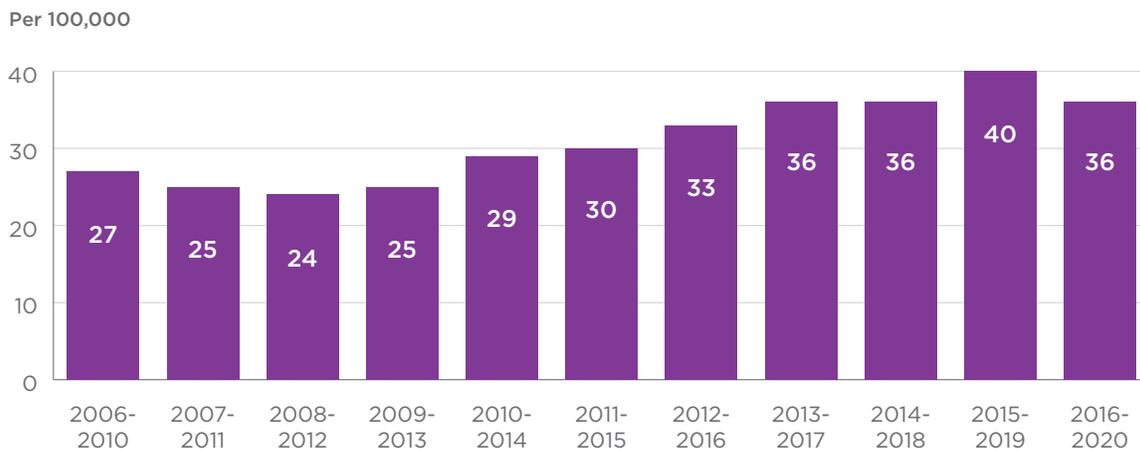


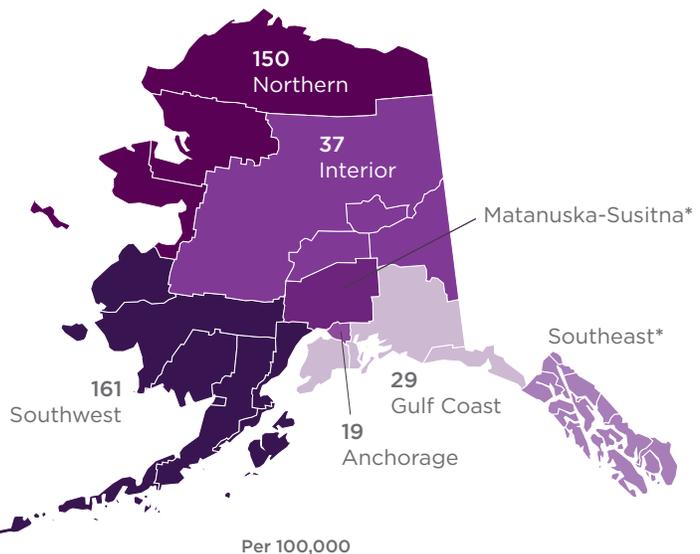
Figure 15. Teen Suicide, Alaska, Ages 15-19, Rate Per 100,000, 2006-2010 to 2016-2020

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

747%
The difference between Alaska regions with the highest and lowest suicide rates.

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

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



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; from 2009 to

2019, planning rates for males increased 100 percent while planning rates for females increased 80 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 or Latino students, at 18 percent. The proportion of students reporting planning a suicide attempt increased among each racial/ethnic group since 2009.

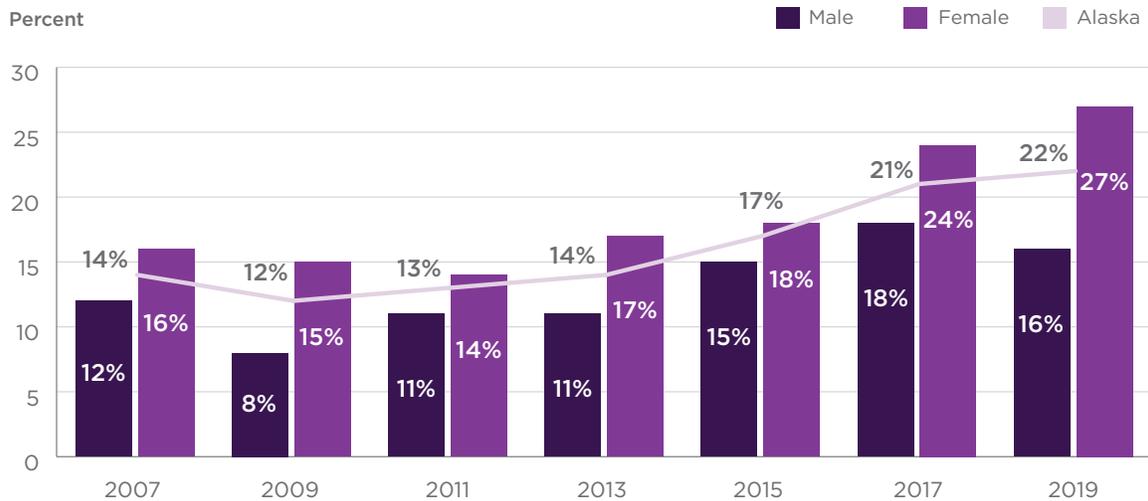


Figure 17. High School Students Who Planned a Suicide Attempt in the Past 12 Months, Alaska, by Gender, Percent, 2007-2019

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

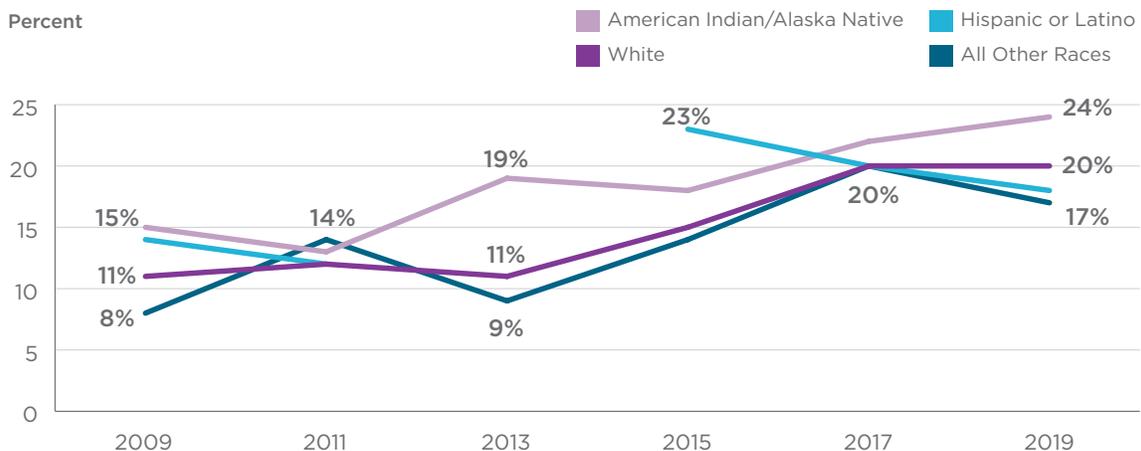


Figure 18. High School Students Who Planned a Suicide Attempt in the Past 12 Months, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

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

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. The percentage of high school students reporting these feelings has increased by 52 percent over the past decade, with that increase tracking the increase in suicide rates. Nearly 4 in 10 (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 and 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.

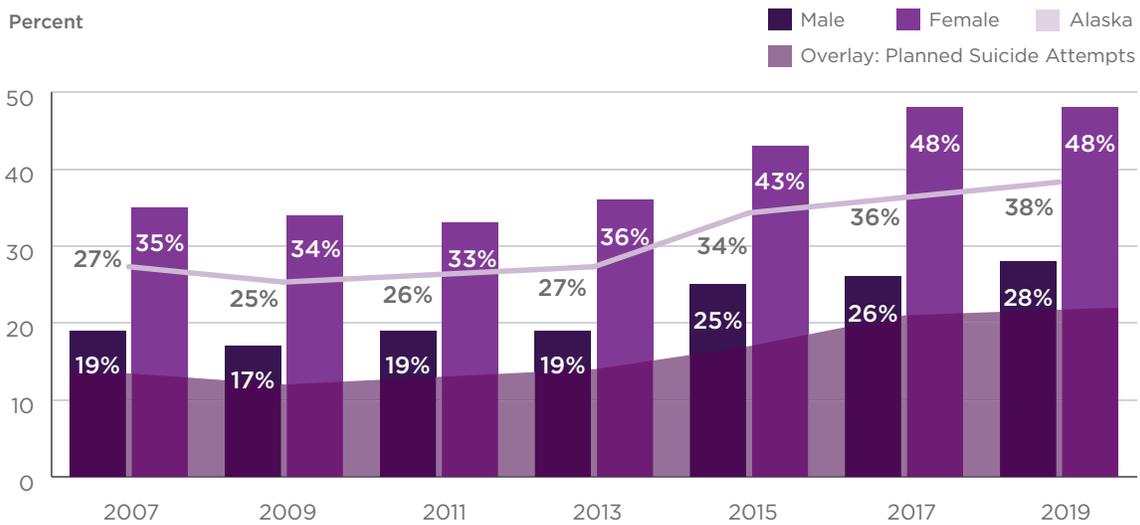


Figure 19. High School Students Who Felt Sad or Hopeless in Past 12 Months, Alaska, By Gender, Percent, Odd Years 2007-2019

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

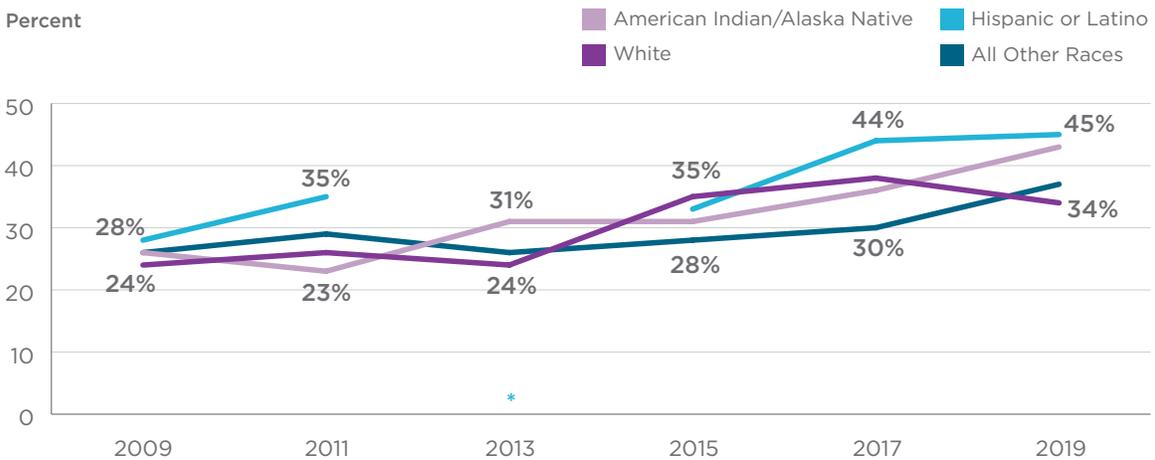


Figure 20. High School Students Who Felt Sad or Hopeless in Past 12 Months, Alaska, By Race and Ethnicity, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

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



8. 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, 6 in 10 (59 percent) 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.

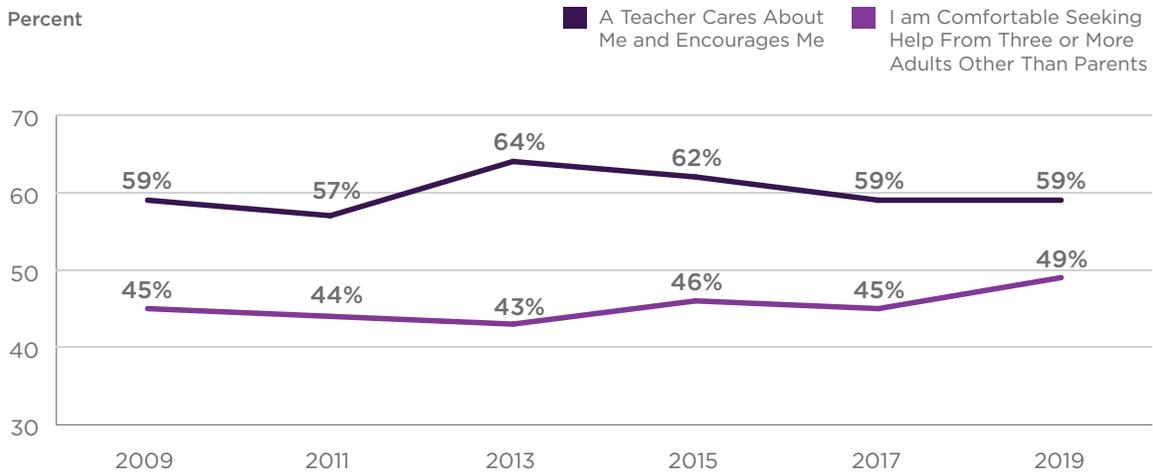


Figure 21. High School Students Who Feel Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them/ High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, Alaska, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

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

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.

Percent

American Indian/Alaska Native White
Hispanic or Latino All Other Races

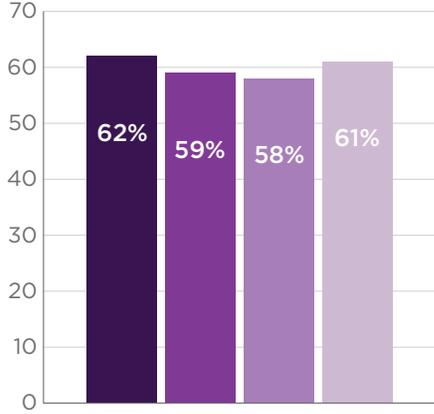


Figure 22. High School Students Who Feel Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them, Alaska by Race & Ethnicity, Percent, 2019

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

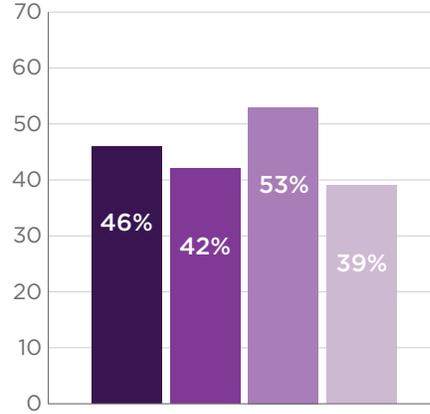


Figure 23. High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, Alaska, by Race & Ethnicity, Percent, 2019

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

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 the Interior, at 58 percent.

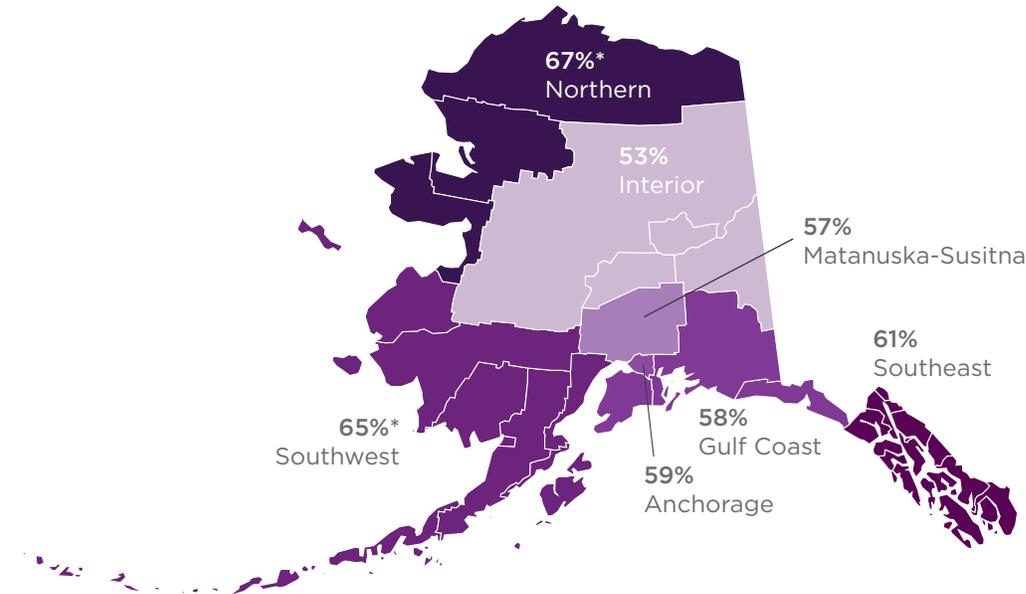


Figure 24. High School Students Who Feel Like Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them, Alaska, by Region, Percent, 2019

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

*2017 data

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.

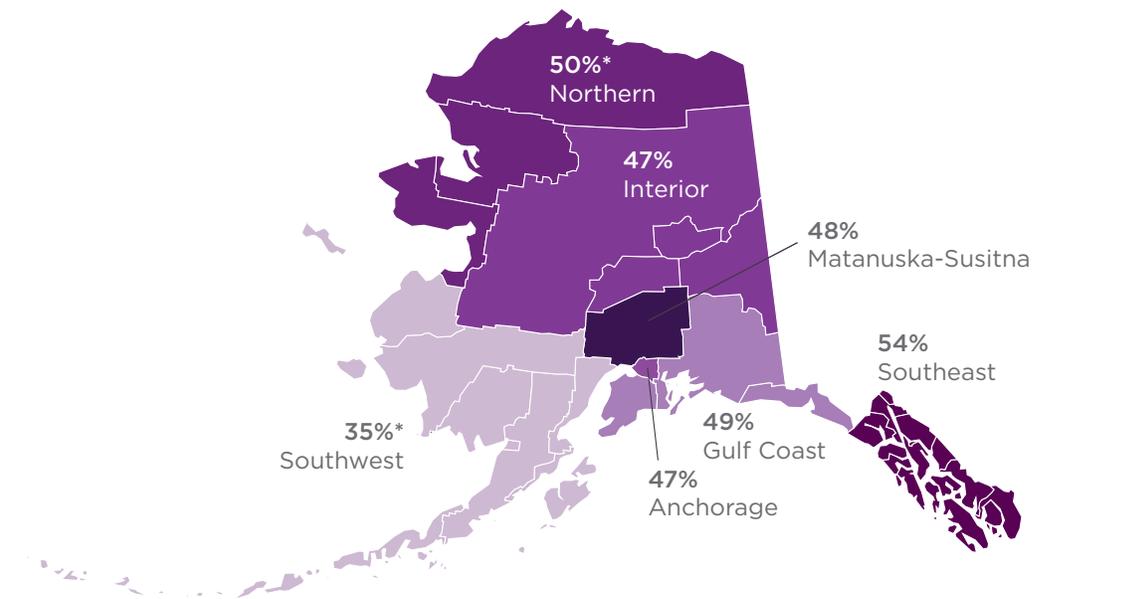


Figure 25. High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, by Region, Percent, 2019

Source: Youth Risk Factor Behavior Surveillance System, local data, all high school students. Retrieved from:: AK DHSS.

Note: Regions are State of Alaska public health regions.

*2017 data

The data show increasing trends in the Anchorage, Northern, and Southeast regions with little in the way of identifiable trends in the other regions.

9. 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 42nd 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 broad-band, low-priced wired broadband plans, and average download speeds. This is an improvement from 2020 when Alaska ranked last.

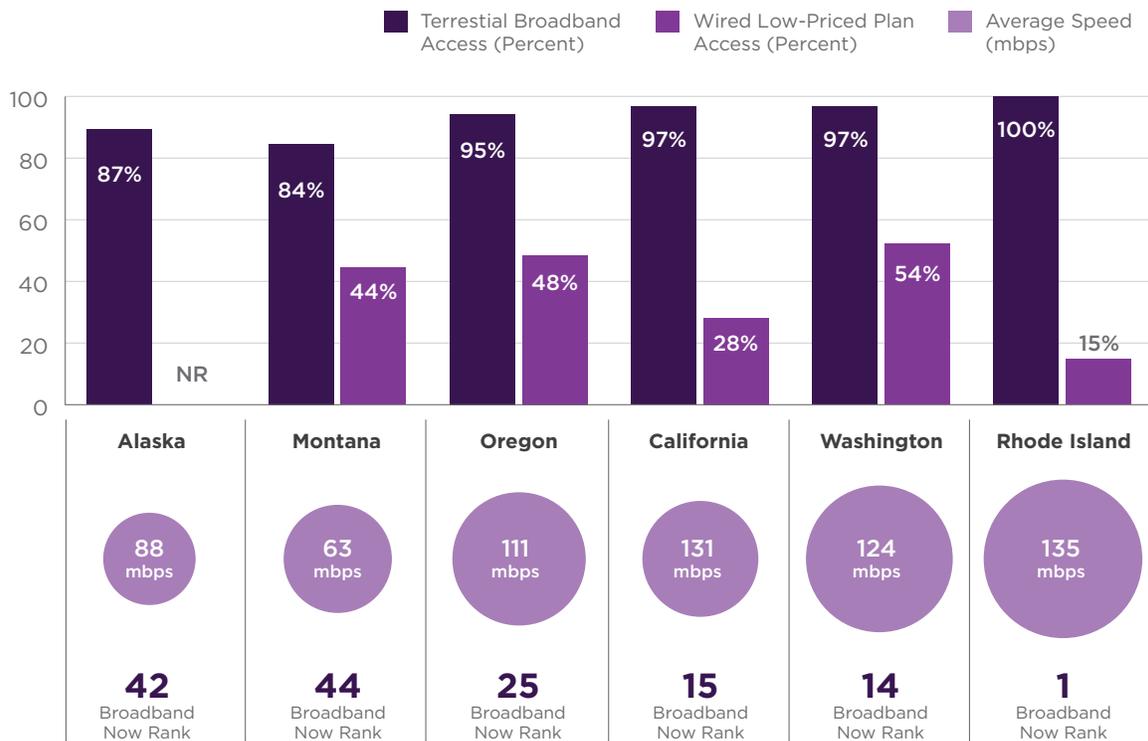


Figure 26. Internet Connectivity Metrics. Alaska Compared to Selected U.S. States, 2022

Source: Broadband Now <https://broadbandnow.com/Alaska> for Broadband Now Rank, terrestrial broadband access, and wired low-priced plan access; <https://www.highspeedinternet.com> for average speed.

Note: Broadband is defined by the Federal Communications Commission as speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (mbps) down and 3mbps up. The percentage of Alaska residents with access to a wired low-priced broadband plan was not reported for 2022 but was 0 percent in 2020.

While Alaska’s broadband infrastructure and connectivity is improving compared to the rest of the country, a stark divide exists within the state between urban and rural areas.

Eighty-seven percent of Alaskans have access to some type of wired connection capable of 25 Mbps or faster. The other 13 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 89 percent of consumers 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. The City and Borough of Juneau, Municipality of Anchorage, and Ketchikan Gateway Borough have the highest rates of broadband coverage in the state, at 99 percent, followed closely by the City and Borough of Sitka (98 percent) and Municipality of Skagway Borough (97 percent).

The City and Borough of Wrangell and Valdez-Cordova Census Area (90 percent each) and Fairbanks North Star Borough and Kodiak

Island Borough (87 percent each) are slightly lower. The relatively large population centers of Kenai Peninsula Borough and Matanuska-Susitna Borough are somewhat lower, at 83 percent each. Petersburg (81 percent) rounds out the list of areas with coverage over 80 percent.

Petersburg (81 percent) rounds out the list of areas with coverage over 80 percent. Meanwhile, many of Alaska's rural areas have low coverage. Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Nome Census Area, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, North Slope Borough, Denali Borough, Haines Borough, and Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area have coverage ranging between 2 percent and 69 percent. For all remaining areas, coverage is at 0 percent.

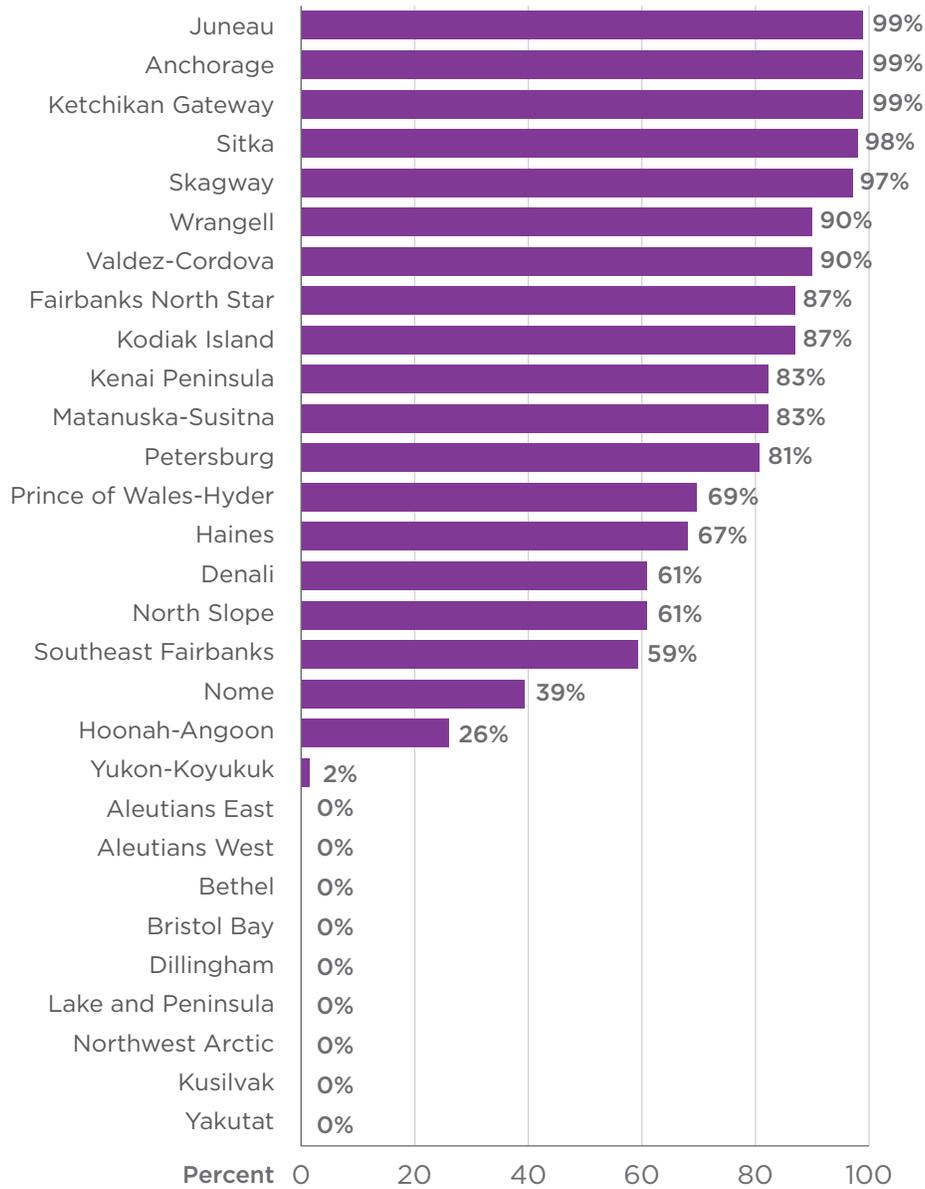


Figure 27. Broadband Coverage by Borough/Census Area, Alaska, Statewide, by Borough/Census Area, Percent, 2022

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.*

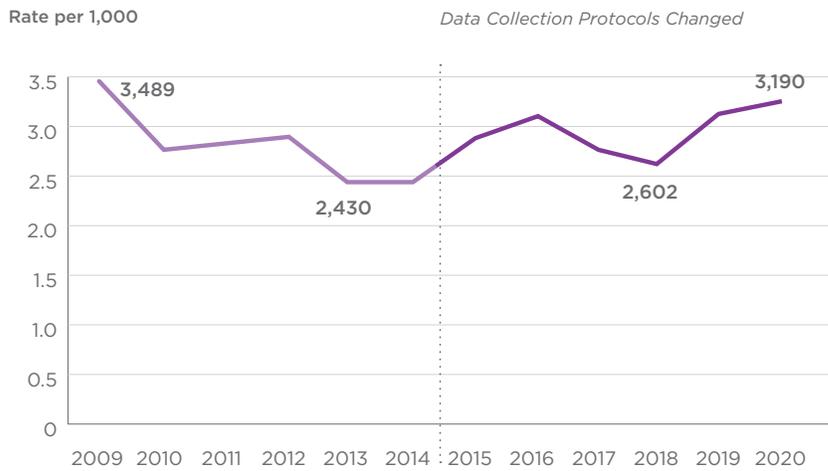


10. Child Maltreatment

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 3,489 (2009) and between 13 and 19 per 1,000. There are two factors which make this data indicator challenging to assess:

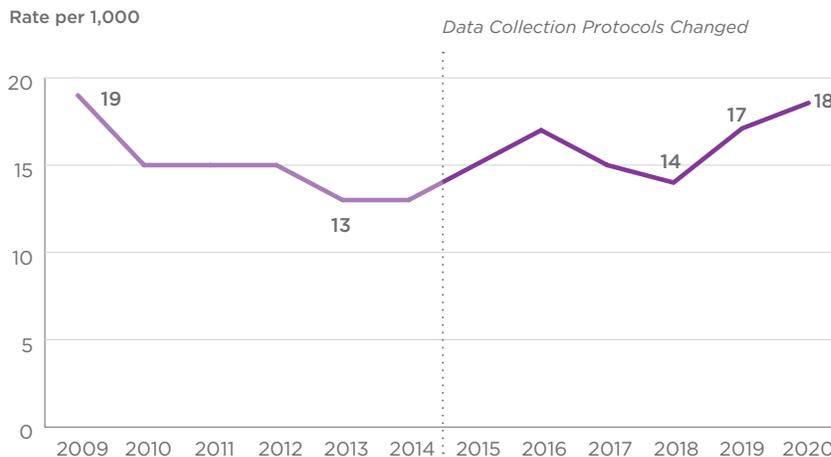
- The data collection protocols for this indicator changed between 2014 and 2015.

- Confirmation of child maltreatment requires that incidents be reported and confirmed. Factors affecting how likely maltreatment is to be reported, followed-up on, and confirmed can affect case counts. This study notes that the rate of children who are confirmed by Child Protective Services as victims of maltreatment rose to its highest level in a decade using either measure in 2020 when 18 children per 1,000 were confirmed as victims of maltreatment.



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

Figure 28. Count of Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2009-2020)



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 1,000 of Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2009-2020)

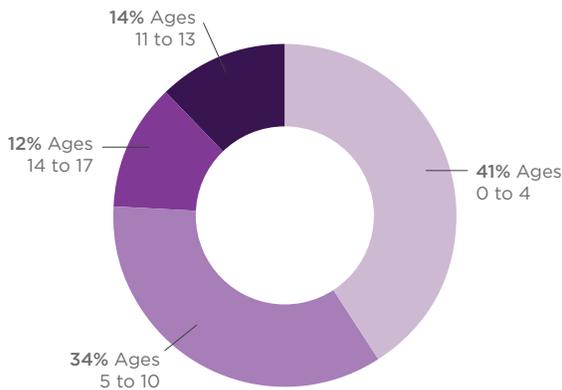


Figure 30. Percent by Age Group of Total Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment (2016-2020)

Children birth to age 4 comprise the largest proportion of total child maltreatment cases (41 percent), followed by ages 5 to 10 (34 percent of total cases), and 14 percent each for ages 11 to 13, and 12 percent for 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 2020, 71 percent were victims of neglect, 33 percent of emotional abuse, 21 percent physical abuse, 9 percent sexual abuse, and 4 percent medical neglect. Since a child can be the subject of more than one maltreatment incident, the percentages sum to greater than 100 percent.

In addition, this study notes that the percent attributed to physical abuse in 2020 (21 percent) is roughly one-third greater than any prior readings.

In addition, the emotional abuse percentages for 2019 and 2020 are slightly greater than the prior 2016 high.

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 (52 percent) of victims receiving post-investigation services in 2020, versus only 20 percent in 2009, though data analysis methodology changed slightly from 2014 to 2015.

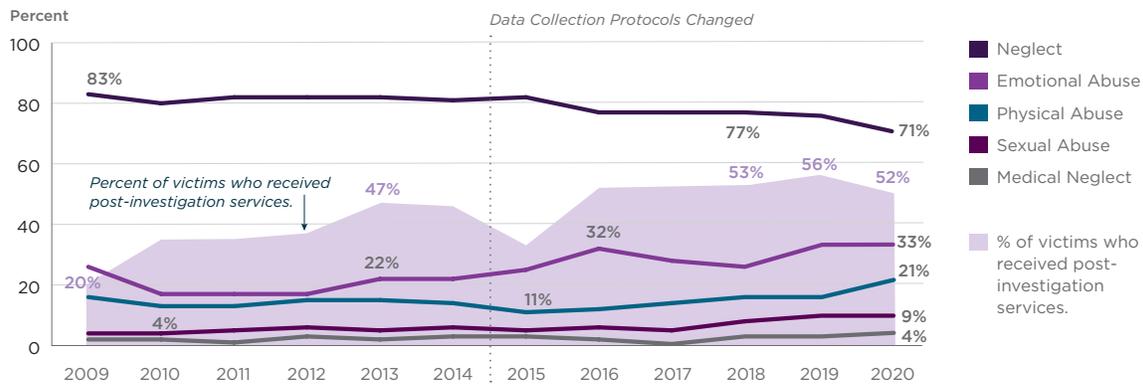


Figure 31. Distribution of Children Who Are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment by Maltreatment Type, Percent (2009-2014, 2015-2020)

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 2023 Alaska Children’s Budget, an Alaska Children’s Trust project, analyzed ten years of state fiscal data from FY 2014 through FY 2023 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 2023 spending in the KIDS COUNT family and community arena via the departmental operating budget was 5

percent lower than the average spent from FY2014-FY2017 and 11 percent lower than the peak spending year of FY2021.

2. In FY2023, the state planned to spend \$302.7 million on family and community related services for children, youth and families compared to an inflation-adjusted average of \$319.3 million per year between FY2014 and FY2017.

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

4. Historically, the state spent roughly \$7.8 million a year (inflation adjusted) through the Capital budget in this area, but the FY2023 Capital budget contained just \$1.3 million.

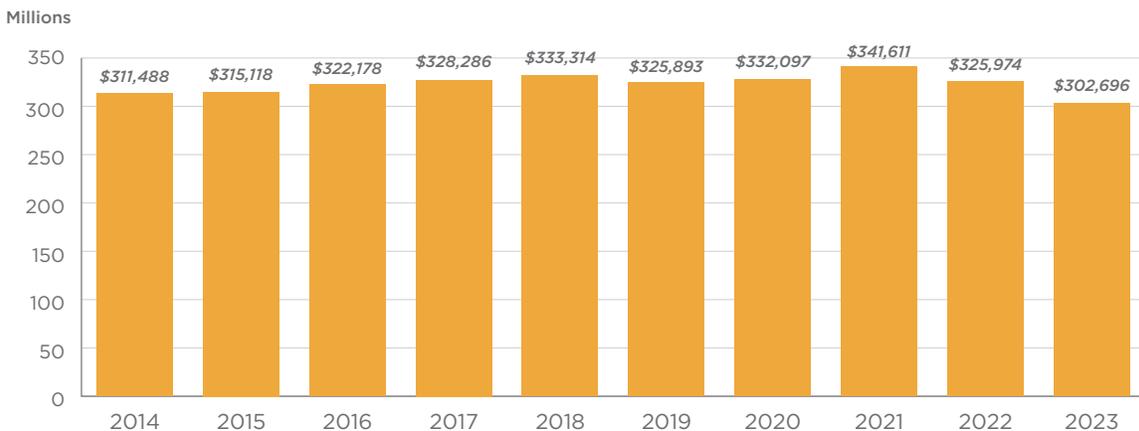


Figure 32. Departmental Operating Budget in the KIDS COUNT Area of Family and Community, \$US 2022 Millions

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 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,

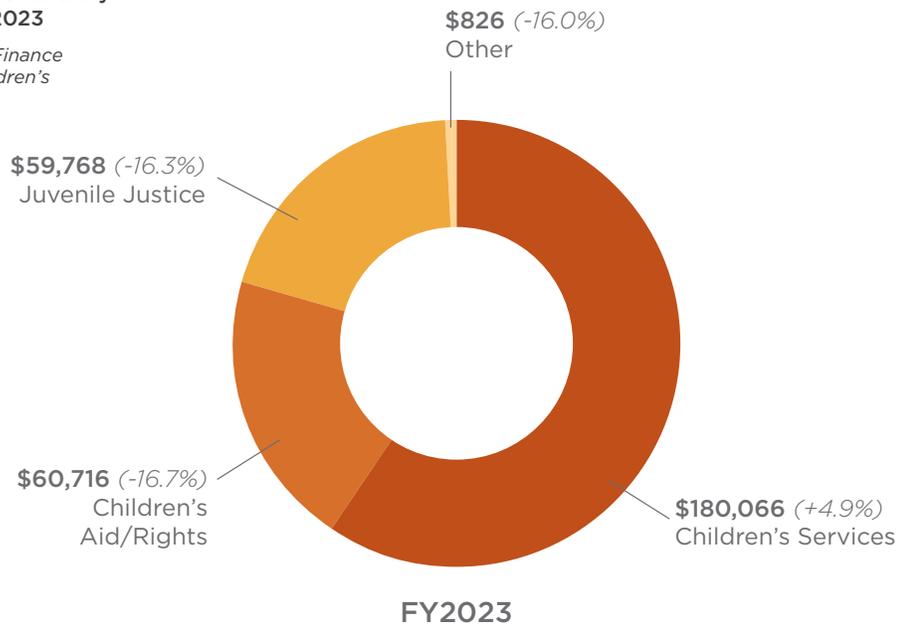
family prevention, and related administrative costs.

- 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, 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 issued 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 FY2014/FY2017 period and FY2023 the state increased spending in two sub-areas of Children’s services and decreased spending in three sub-areas. The largest percentage increase, 16 percent, occurred in the sub-area

of social work while spending on subsidized adoptions increased 9 percent. Funding for foster care saw a 4 percent decrease while funding for administrative services and family preservation saw sharper declines of 19 and 15 percent, respectively. Within Children's Aid and Children's Rights real dollar spending in the sub-areas of legal services and child protection declined by 17 percent and 16 percent, respectively, while in Juvenile Justice

sub-area spending on facilities and services declined by 20 percent and 8 percent, respectively. Real-dollar spending on other family and community related items has declined 44 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 FY2012.

Total Family & Community Expenditures
 FY2014-2017 Average **\$268,388**
 FY2023 **\$279,604** ↑ **4%**

Thousands

■ FY2014-2017 Average ■ FY2023

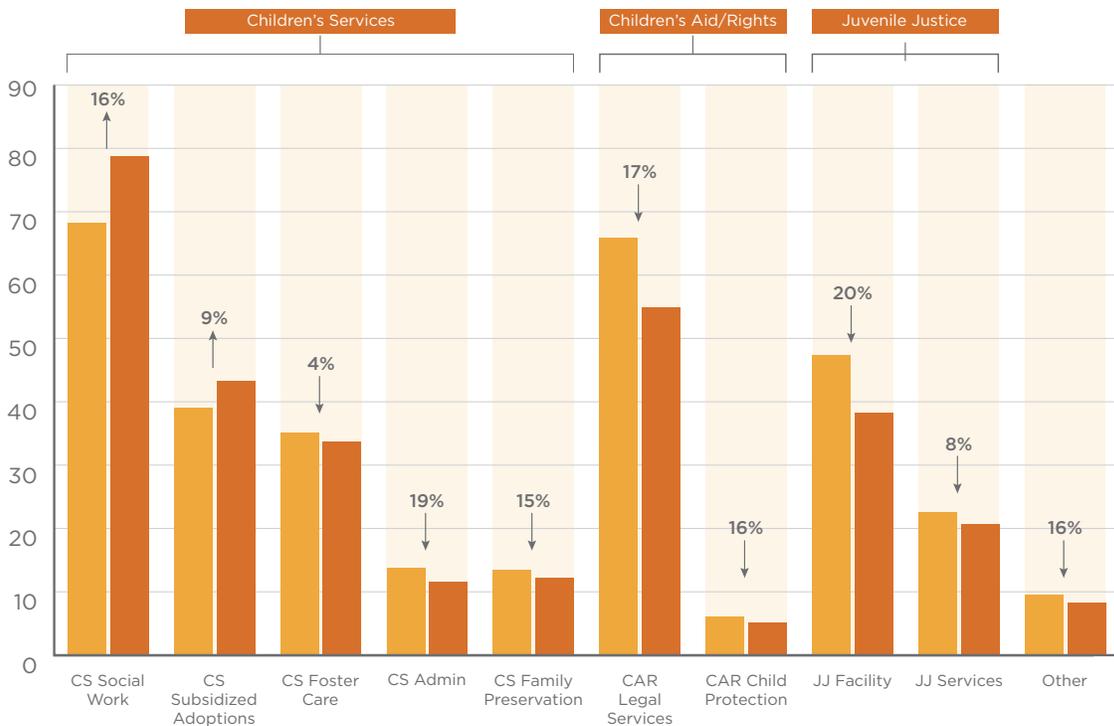


Figure 34. Inflation-Adjusted Family and Community Expenditures, FY2023 vs FY2014-2017 Average

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



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 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 is 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

It takes a family to raise a child, but it takes a community to ensure a family has the knowledge, skills, supports, and resources to do it successfully. The indicators for Family and Community are complex issues that are intertwining with each other. There is no single determining cause for issues like poverty, child abuse and neglect, or suicide. However, they are all impacted by individual, community, and societal influences which bind them together.

Several of the indicators in this report show an extensive history of continually being above the national average.

Alaska has been struggling with these complex issues for years, if not decades, with little to no change.

In many cases, the issues are growing versus shrinking. Lives are being lost and families are suffering. We can no longer be status quo - we need to be brave and challenge our assumptions, values, and beliefs. Alaska needs our leaders to be more data-driven and ensure their decisions do not negatively impact the issue they are trying to resolve.

The Family and Community report hits home the importance of changing investment levels in upstream services and interventions. Alaska invests a fraction in upstream intervention

compared to downstream services like corrections, institutions, or child welfare. Ideas for increasing upstream investments to lower downstream costs include:

1. Family Resource Centers

These centers are community or school-based, flexible, family-focused, and culturally sensitive hubs of support and resources that provide programs and targeted services based on the needs and interests of families. They can be a one-stop shop for families. Alaska had well established centers over two decades ago but defunded them, leaving families stranded.

2. Cross Department Data Sharing

Imagine all Alaska divisions serving children and families shared data to identify the 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, reduce their risk of entering the child welfare system, the foster care system, and be less costly to the overall system.

3. 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, youth, and families have access to insurance, and that 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 and increasing broadband access.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Increase Economic Stability

Poverty plays a significant role in every KIDS COUNT indicator. To help families exit poverty, we need to find ways to increase their income and reduce undue costs. Examples include ensuring families are not paying more than 30% of their monthly income towards housing, or more than 7% of their annual income towards child care. Other methods include ensuring systems do not take advantage of those in poverty, through practices such as payday loans. Families who live paycheck to paycheck sometimes rely on payday loans to fill unexpected gaps. These loans have such high interest rates, families get caught in a cycle of debt, ultimately paying back two to three times what they borrowed.

What Would it Take to Lead the Pacific Northwest?

Washington, Oregon, and Idaho are

Alaska's three closest American neighbors geographically. They rank 13th, 18th, and 9th respectively in the KIDS COUNT Family and Community category while Alaska ranks 22nd. 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?

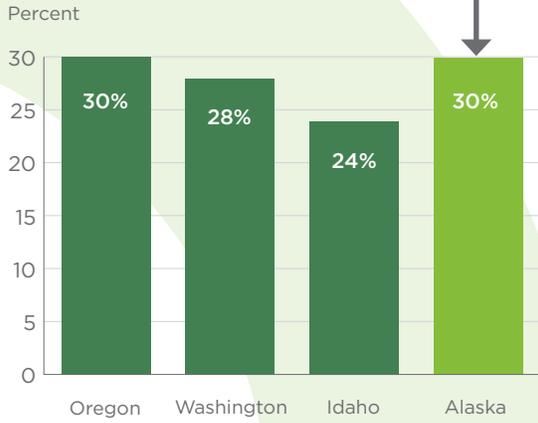
As noted above, the data for Alaska's geographic peers shows that Alaska is competitive in this KIDS COUNT focus area and actually leads its geographic peers in one indicator (Children in Families Where the

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 2 percent or below which is the peer-standard
- Further decrease teen births another 45 percent from 18 per 1,000 to less than 10 per 1,000.

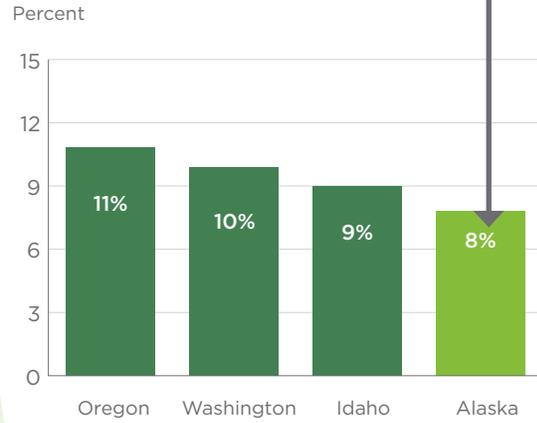
If Alaska achieved these two improvements and maintained its relative position with respect to children in families where the household lacks a high school diploma the state would lead its geographic peer group and be in the top quintile of US states with respect to Family and Community.

ALASKA IS TIED FOR LAST



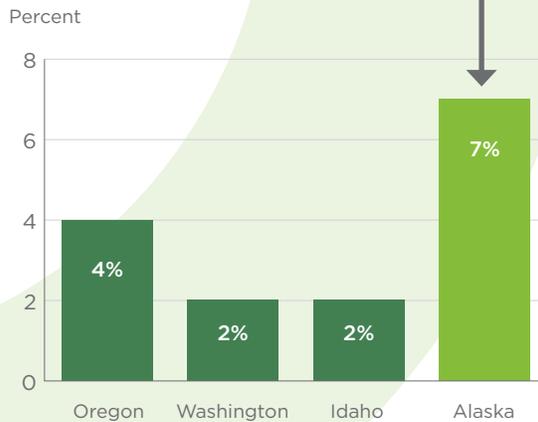
Children in Single-Parent Families

ALASKA RANKS FIRST



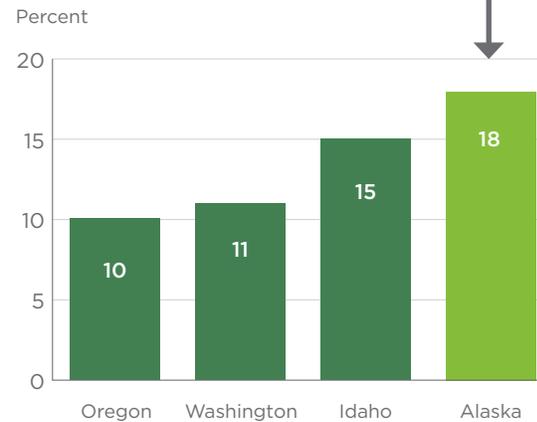
Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma

ALASKA RANKS LAST



Children Living in High-Poverty Areas

ALASKA RANKS LAST



Teen Births per 1,000

Note: With the exception on Teen Births, 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.

Acknowledgements

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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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An additional thank you to our Alaskan experts who participated in the Family & Community 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

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Table 1. Children in Single-Parent Families, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2019

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
2019	*	*	*	*	20	*	30

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2019 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
2019	8

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, 2009-2019

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	*
2019	*	*	*	*	3	*

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2019 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
2015-2019	8
2016-2020	7
2017-2021	8

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, 2009/2013-2016/2020

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
2015-2019	35	4	4	4	<1	3
2016-2020	30	4	4	3	1	3

Source: Population Reference Bureau, data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2020 American Community Survey. Retrieved from: the KIDS COUNT Data Center

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Table 6. Teen Births, Alaska and U.S., 2009-2020

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
2019	18	17
2020	18	15

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, 2009-2020

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
2019	6	40
2020	4	42

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. Not: S - 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, 2009/2013-2016/2020

Year	Anchorage	Gulf Coast	Interior	Mat-Su	Northern	Southeast	Southwest
2009-2013	32	27	32	31	89	28	79
2010-2014	30	24	31	27	82	26	73
2011-2015	28	22	31	24	78	24	69
2012-2016	26	21	29	23	71	23	64
2013-2017	23	20	28	19	69	19	60
2014-2018	21	18	26	18	68	15	56
2015-2019	19	17	23	16	63	13	56
2016-2020	16	16	20	14	56	10	52

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, 2009-2020

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
2019	36	23	*	22	9	22
2020	33	15	*	16	10	22

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, 2009-2020

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
2019	16	6
2020	16	5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2020," Vintage 2020. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Table 11. Percent of All Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2020

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
2019	45	4	2	5	23	21	*
2020	47	4	3	5	21	21	<1

Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Table 12. Percent of Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Age Group, 2009-2020

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
2019	6	37	27	23	7
2020	6	35	27	24	8

Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Table 13. Children in Foster Care, Alaska, by Placement Type, 2009-2020

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	*
2019	31	25	31	9	4	<0.5	*
2020	31	27	27	10	4	1	*

Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. Retrieved from: KIDS COUNT Data Center. *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: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Traditional High School Results. Retrieved from: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard.

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

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: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Traditional High School Results. *Data suppressed. Retrieved from: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard.
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, 2006/2010-2016/2020

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
2016-2020	36

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

Table 18. Teen Suicide Rates, Ages 15-19, Alaska, by Region, Per 100,000, 2006/2010-2016/2020

Years	Anchorage	Gulf Coast	Interior	Mat-Su	Northern	Southeast	Southwest
2006-2010	13	*	*	22	139	46	81
2007-2011	9	*	*	15	146	44	89
2008-2012	8	*	*	*	155	32	108
2009-2013	12	*	*	*	125	34	105
2010-2014	15	23	22	*	120	*	123
2011-2015	19	26	27	*	113	*	118
2012-2016	21	23	35	*	113	*	137
2013-2017	25	25	31	23	123	*	132
2014-2018	24	20	31	26	132	*	139
2015-2019	24	*	24	37	151	*	178
2016-2020	19	29	37	*	150	*	161

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 25. High School Students Who Feel Like Their Teachers Care About and Encourage Them, Alaska, by Region, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

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
2019	59	58	53	57	*	61	*

Source: Youth Risk Factor Behavior Surveillance System, local data, all high school students. Retrieved from: AK DHSS. For 2019, regional percentages were calculated by weighting percentages for individual school districts for which data was available. These school districts included Anchorage Schools; Mat-Su Borough Schools; Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kodiak Island Borough, and Valdez Schools for Gulf Coast; Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools for Interior; and Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Sitka Schools for Southeast. 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: Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Traditional High School Results. Retrieved from: State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services YRBS Statewide Traditional High School Results Dashboard. *Data suppressed.

Table 27. High School Students Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults Other Than Their Parents, by Region, Percent, Odd Years 2009-2019

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
2019	47	49	47	48	*	54	*

Source: Youth Risk Factor Behavior Surveillance System, local data, all high school students. Retrieved from: AK DHSS. For 2019, regional percentages were calculated by weighting percentages for individual school districts for which data was available. These school districts included Anchorage Schools; Mat-Su Borough Schools; Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kodiak Island Borough, and Valdez Schools for Gulf Coast; Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools for Interior; and Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Sitka Schools for Southeast. 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, 2022

	Alaska	Montana	Oregon	California	Washington	Rhode Island
Broadband Now Rank	42	44	25	15	14	1
Terrestrial Broadband Access	87%	84%	95%	97%	97%	100%
Wired Low-Priced Plan Access	NR	44%	48%	28%	54%	15%
Average Speed	88 Mbps	63 Mbps	111 Mbps	131 Mbps	124 Mbps	135 Mbps

Source: Broadband Now <https://broadbandnow.com/Alaska> for Broadband Now Rank, terrestrial broadband access, and wired low-priced plan access; <https://www.highspeedinternet.com> for average speed.
 Note: Broadband is defined by the Federal Communications Commission as speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (mbps) down and 3mbps up. The percentage of Alaska residents with access to a wired low-priced broadband plan was not reported for 2022 but was 0 percent in 2020.

Table 29. Broadband Coverage by Borough/Census Area, Alaska, Statewide, Percent, 2022

Borough/Census Area	Broadband Coverage (percent)	Borough/Census Area	Broadband Coverage (percent)
Alaska	87	Denali	61
Juneau	99	North Slope	61
Anchorage	99	Southeast Fairbanks	59
Ketchikan Gateway	99	Nome	39
Sitka	98	Hoonah-Angoon	26
Skagway	97	Yukon-Koyukuk	2
Wrangell	90	Aleutians East	0
Valdez-Cordova	90	Aleutians West	0
Fairbanks North Star	87	Bethel	0
Kodiak Island	87	Bristol Bay	0
Kenai Peninsula	83	Dillingham	0
Matanuska-Susitna	83	Lake and Peninsula	0
Petersburg	81	Northwest Arctic	0
Prince of Wales-Hyder	69	Kusilvak	0
Haines	67	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.

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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 (2015-2020)

Year	Count	Rate per 100,000
2015	2,884	15
2016	3,113	17
2017	2,768	15
2018	2,602	14
2019	3,046	17
2020	3,190	18

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

Table 32. Group of Total Children Confirmed by Child Protective Services as Victims of Maltreatment, Percent by Age (2016-2020)

	Ages 0 to 4 (percent)	Ages 5 to 10 (percent)	Ages 11 to 13 (percent)	Ages 14 to 17 (percent)
Average 2016-2020	41	34	14	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 (2015-2020)

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	8
2019	33	3	75	16	9
2020	33	4	71	21	9

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 (2015-2020)

Year	Count	Rate per 100,000
2015	943	33
2016	1,615	52
2017	1,476	53
2018	1,387	53
2019	1,700	56
2020	1,660	52

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 2022 Millions

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	\$311.5	\$315.1	\$322.2	\$328.3	\$333.3	\$325.9	\$332.1	\$341.6	\$326.0	\$302.7

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

Table 38. Family and Community Expenditure Areas, FY2023

Expenditure Areas	2014-2017 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	2023 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	Change (percent)
Children's Services	\$171,577	\$180,065	4.9
Children's Aid/Rights	\$72,915	\$60,717	-16.7
Juvenile Justice	\$71,447	\$59,768	-16.3
Other	\$983	\$826	-16.0
Total	\$ 316,922	\$ 301,376	-4.9

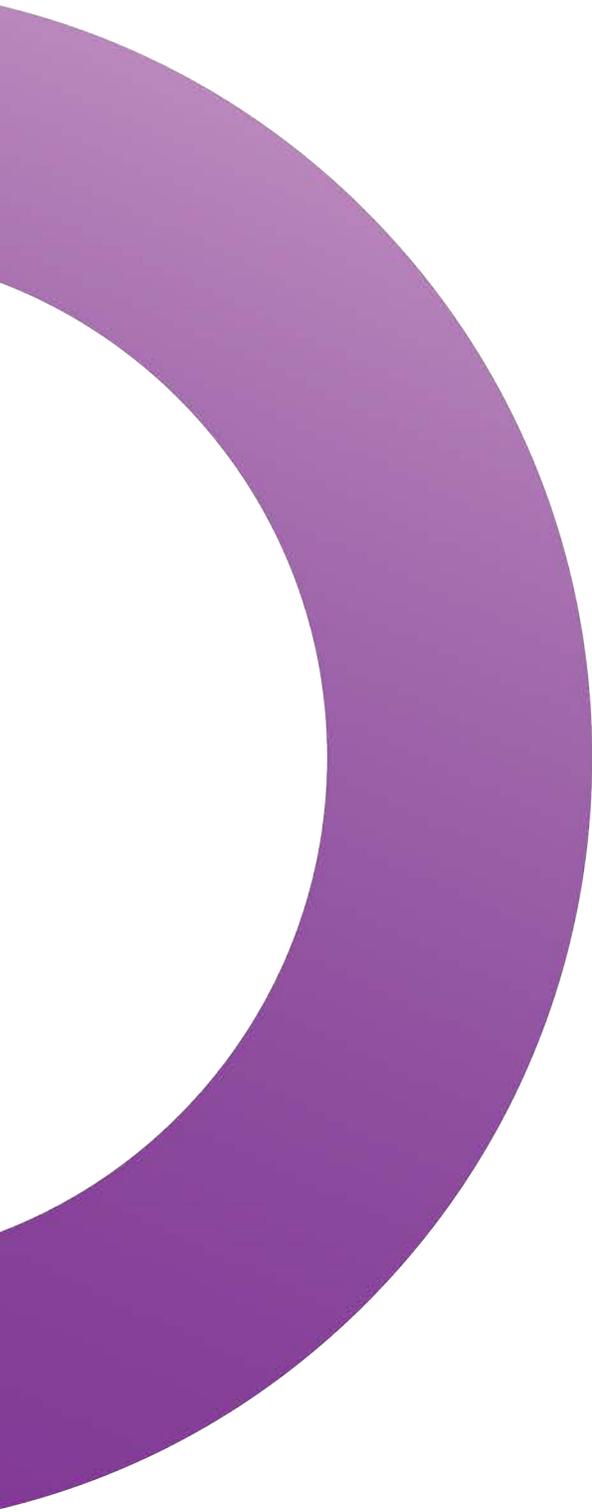
Source: Alaska Legislative Finance Division via the Alaska Children's Budget, 2022.

Table 39. Family and Community Expenditure Areas, FY2023

Expenditure Areas	Sub-Group	2014-2017 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	2023 Annual Expenditures (\$ Real)	Change (percent)
Children's Services	CS Social Work	\$68,183	\$79,374	16
	CS Subsidized Adoptions	\$39,446	\$43,041	9
	CS Foster Care	\$35,480	\$34,104	-4
	CS Admin	\$14,008	\$11,295	-19
	CS Family Preservation	\$14,460	\$12,252	-15
Children's Aid/Rights	CAR Legal Services	\$66,446	\$55,282	-17
	CAR Child Protection	\$6,469	\$5,434	-16
Juvenile Justice	JJ Facility	\$48,677	\$38,917	-20
	JJ Services	\$22,770	\$20,851	-8
Other	Other	\$983	\$826	-16
Total		\$268,388	\$2,345	\$1.320

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





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