



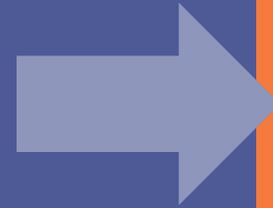
alaska children's trust

2016

Community Report

Together we can prevent child abuse and neglect

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN ALASKA



Reported vs. Substantiated Abuse

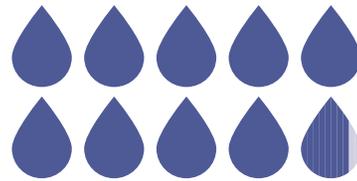
The graphics in this report are based on the rate of substantiated maltreatment. Maltreatment reports are substantiated when an investigation finds credible evidence of abuse or neglect by a caregiver. Research* suggests that substantiated cases are only the “tip of the iceberg” of serious maltreatment and represent a fraction of the true burden of child abuse and neglect.

* http://www.nis4.org/NIS_History.pdf

What is child abuse and neglect?

Abuse describes overt harm committed by others, usually adults. Abuse can be physical, sexual, or verbal/emotional/mental. Children who experience one type of abuse are likely to be victims of other types. Neglect means parents and caregivers don't meet a child's basic needs. Neglect can be physical or emotional. In Alaska, neglect is the most common type of child maltreatment.

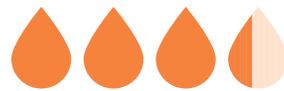
Out of every 1,000 kids in Alaska



9.8 Experience neglect



.8 Experience sexual abuse



3.4 Experience mental abuse



1.3 Experience physical abuse

Rate of substantiated maltreatment, Alaska, 2015

Direct Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect

The financial toll of childhood trauma is staggering. Trauma like abuse and neglect impairs a child's physical, social and intellectual development, increasing the risk of poor performance in school, mental health problems, substance abuse, and problems with the law. Childhood trauma also contributes to serious long-term health problems. Dealing with both the immediate and long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect is estimated at \$80 billion per year in the United States.

\$228,000

Estimated lifetime cost per Alaskan victim of child abuse and neglect

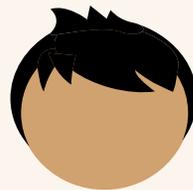
Age at which abuse occurs



48.8%
Age 0-4



31.4%
Age 5-9



19.8%
Age 10-17

Who's most vulnerable?

Child abuse and neglect begins early. Nearly 49 percent of Alaskan victims are between the ages of 0-4 when they experience their first abuse. Children who have been abused once before are often victims of repeated abuse. Most of the time, abusers are someone children know. Abuse and neglect occur most often in families experiencing high levels of stress.

Number of kids abused out of every 1,000, by region

Where does child abuse and neglect occur?

All of Alaska is impacted by child abuse and neglect. Some areas are more affected for a variety of reasons, including social isolation, historical trauma, economic hardship, and limited access to mental health and emergency health care services.

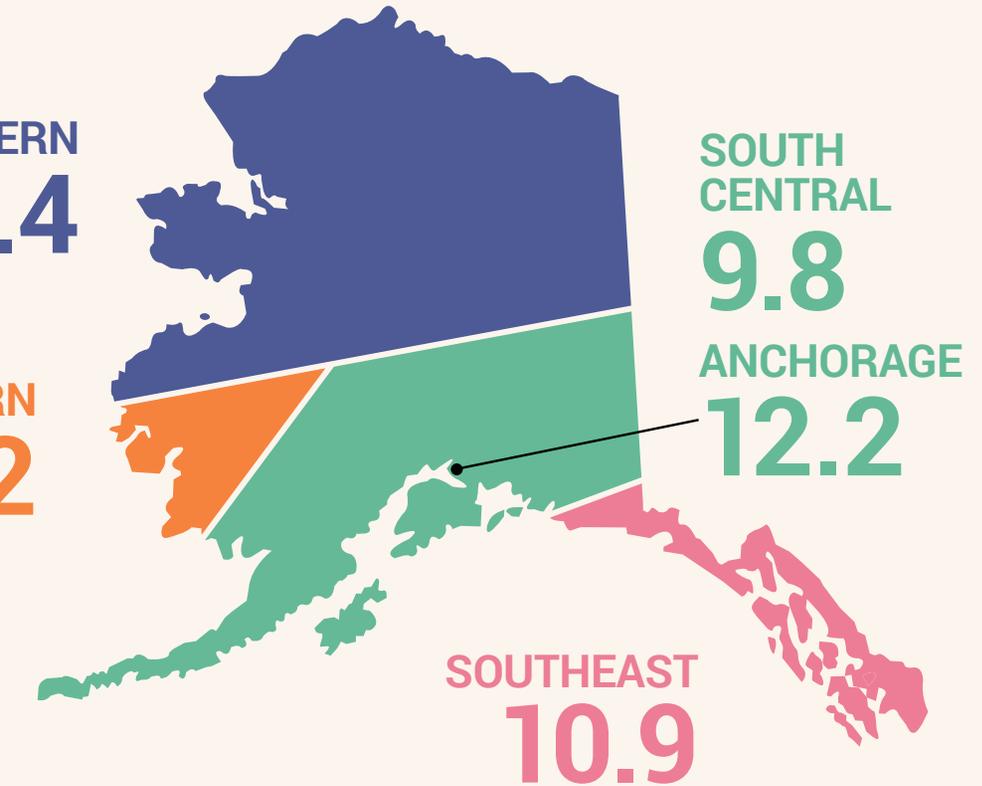
NORTHERN
13.4

WESTERN
22

SOUTH
CENTRAL
9.8

ANCHORAGE
12.2

SOUTHEAST
10.9



Rate of substantiated maltreatment among children ages 0-17, Alaska, 2015

Alaska's kids are **56%** more likely to be abused than the national average.



Number of kids abused out of every 1,000

Alaska struggles with some of the highest rates (per capita) of child abuse and neglect in the nation.

Our Mission

The mission of Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) is to improve the status of children in Alaska by generating funds and committing resources to eliminate child abuse and neglect.

Strategies to the Solution

Alaska Children's Trust's vision is all children in Alaska grow up in safe, stable and nurturing communities. Alaska has struggled with some of the highest rates (per capita) of child maltreatment in the nation for decades. There is no single solution to resolve the complex issue of child abuse and neglect. To effectively turn the curve on this epidemic, we must deploy multiple strategies in a cohesive and strategic method. We have to be flexible, quick to respond, and open to new ideas, and we must build relationships across all sectors.

ACT has adopted a framework that includes six strategies inspired by the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control. The framework provides the architectural structure Alaska needs to truly prevent child abuse and neglect.

1. FOSTER DATA.

Data is neutral information that is an essential tool in building the road map to true success.

2. ADVOCACY.

Ensure the implementation of legislation that addresses the root cause of trauma and supports resilience.

3. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT.

Utilize resources that support efforts to address the social determinants identified by the data.

4. STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES.

Poverty leads to many of the social determinants that create the environment that cultivates maltreatment. This strategy aims to improve the socioeconomic conditions of families, which tend to have the largest impacts on health.

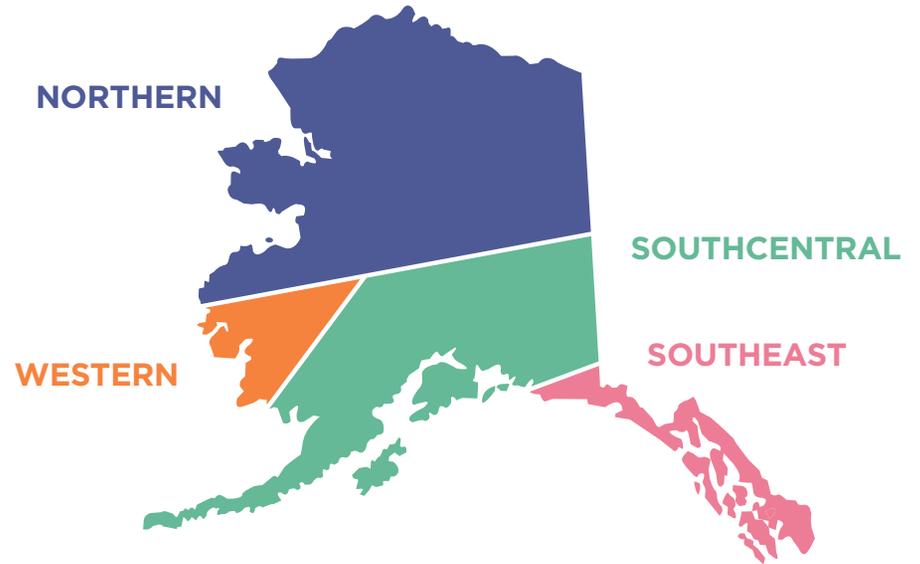
5. EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS.

Increase children's access to more effective, equitable education, social-emotional learning, and life skills training.

6. NORMS AND VALUE.

Aims to strengthen norms and values that support safe, stable and nurturing environments for children and families.

Guided by these strategies and working together, we can prevent child abuse and neglect.



A Statewide ImpACT

Alaska Children's Trust believes that together, we can prevent child abuse and neglect. In the past year, ACT has granted \$355,918 to 54 organizations across Alaska to support a wide variety of prevention efforts.

NORTHERN

Barrow
Fairbanks
Nome
Unalakleet
Bering Straits

SOUTHCENTRAL

Homer
Anchorage
Gakona
Ninilchik
Seldovia
Talkeetna
Wasilla/Palmer/Mat-Su Valley
Cordova

SOUTHEAST

Ketchikan
Juneau
Sitka
Kake

WESTERN

Bethel
Kuspuk
Kotlik
Old Harbor

In addition to these specific communities, many of our investments support programs, conferences and initiatives touching multiple areas statewide.

See the full list of community investments at alaskachildrentrust.org.



SOUTHCENTRAL

Safe Families for Children Alaska

A Safe Place for Families to Seek Help

Earlier this year, Beacon Hill received a call from a single mother who was facing emergency surgery that would prevent her from caring for her two young daughters for several weeks. Mom had no one in her life to entrust her girls to, and knew she would be forced to place them in foster care if she couldn't find a safe place for them. Through Safe Families for Children Alaska, a new program at Beacon Hill, arrangements were made for the girls to stay with a certified volunteer host family. As soon as mom had recovered, the family was reunited. Plus, mom connected with a support system to turn to for help if needed in the future. By ensuring parents retain full legal and parental rights, this program allows families to reach out for help without fear.



SOUTHEAST

Our Voices Will Be Heard

Learning Tools for Real Healing

A performance of Our Voices Will Be Heard, a play by Vera Starbard about healing from childhood sexual abuse, led to Vera hosting a "Healing Through Storytelling" workshop at a residential treatment program. The residents, who had all experienced sexual abuse as children, learned about metaphor, which they used to tell their own stories. "We heard stories about white ravens who sought love, but were betrayed by evil foxes. We heard stories about little otters who were terribly hurt by sneaky weasels. And we heard about great eagles who got lost in the wind, but found their way back," Vera shares. That workshop marked the first time one of the women had made any reference at all to her abuse. That workshop led to another and another, eventually culminating in workshops drawing 90+ participants, who learned tools for real healing.



WESTERN

Old Harbor Alliance Carving Workshop

Making Cultural Connections

Growing up in a rural village, Melissa Berns didn't have a close connection with her culture. "Back then, there was a kind of shame associated with our culture. We knew we were Alutiiq but we didn't know what that meant," she says. Today, through opportunities such as the Aurcaq carving workshop in Old Harbor, youth are experiencing – and enjoying – their culture. Among these youth is Melissa's son. "He's always watched me skin sewing and beading, and he would ask for my knife and make spears out of sticks," Melissa says. "He's been doing more carving since the workshop – all the kids have." The workshop is one of many events in Old Harbor where youth can participate in safe, healthy activities that make them proud to be Alutiiq and active members of the community.



NORTHERN

From Struggling Student to Straight As

An Afterschool Success Story

Dale Austermuhl's daughter was struggling academically when she started the afterschool program at her Fairbanks elementary in the second grade. Dale did his best to help, but there's only so much a single dad working full time on a swing shift can do. Fast-forward four years, and Dale's daughter is still enrolled in the program – and bringing home straight As. Perhaps more importantly, though, are the positive changes and growth he has seen in his daughter. And, of course, you can't put a price tag on the peace of mind the program offers to parents. "Knowing she is safe and that people are there making sure homework is done and helping her learn new things – I'm not sure what we would do without it," Dale says.

Champion for Kids

Each year Alaska Children's Trust recognizes individuals that have demonstrated dedication and commitment in working toward preventing child abuse and neglect by ensuring that children are living in safe, stable and nurturing communities. This year, we recognized individuals in three areas of Alaska:

SOUTHEAST

Champion for Kids:

Riverbend Elementary Staff. Each day, school staff encounters students who are angry, hurt, hungry, tired, hopeless and not ready to learn. To address this, they committed to working toward becoming a trauma-informed school, and have already started transforming their school into a truly "safe place."

CENTRAL/WESTERN

Champion for Kids:

Amanda Metivier. Amanda became a leader and spokesperson for foster youth when she was just a youth herself. She has since built the state's largest and strongest network for foster youth and alumni: Facing Foster Care in Alaska, a statewide nonprofit that offers resources to some of the most vulnerable youth in Alaska.

Riverbend Elementary School Staff



NORTHERN

Champion for Kids:

Julie Wild-Curry. Julie has dedicated over 25 years to ensuring all families have access to out-of-school programs. In 1999, Julie established one of the country's first federally funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which are afterschool programs that support low-income, underachieving students. Today, as the director of 11 such programs for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, Julie and her team serve over 800 low-income students and families.

Read more about what these individuals are doing to make a difference at alaskachildrenstrust.org.

Thank you! We are deeply grateful to the individuals, organizations and businesses who are working together with us to prevent child abuse and neglect in Alaska.

\$40,000+

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Annie E Casey Foundation
The Health Federation of Philadelphia

\$10,000 - \$39,999

State of Alaska - Department of Education
ConocoPhillips Alaska
Wells Fargo
Exxon
Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo
Casey Family Programs
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Mat-Su Health Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

National Conference of State Legislatures
Alaska Association for Community Education
Doyon, Limited
Rasmuson Foundation

Rocky Brew

Nova Copper US Inc
Old Harbor Native Corp.
Prevent Child Abuse America
Tanana Chiefs Conference
United Way of Anchorage

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\$500 - \$999

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Local 942
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The Every Child Matters Education Fund
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UA College Savings Plan

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\$250 - \$499

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\$100 - \$249

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