

ALASKA'S CHILDREN 2008

Alaska's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	670,053
Population, Children Under 18 ²	188,324
State Poverty Rate ³	8.9
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	11.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	10.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	16.7

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, 1,664 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Alaska, a rate of 14.3 per 1,000 children. Of these children, 61.8% were neglected, 14.6% were physically abused, and 4.5% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2005, 3 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Alaska.⁸
- In 2005, 1,791 children in Alaska lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,825 children in 2004. In 2005, 36.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 12.6% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 27.6% were white, 5.4% black, 3.4% Hispanic, 50.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.7% children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 790 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 56.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2005, 204 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Alaska, a 10.8% increase from 182 in 2004.¹²
- Of the 1,791 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 495, or 27.6%, were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 6,395 Alaska grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 1,791 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 28.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Alaska children in kinship care in 2005, 23% were white, 3.8% were black, 2.2% were Hispanic, 58.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.7% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alaska decreased from 9,876 in March 2006 to 8,738 in March 2007, a decrease of 8.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 3,284, a 28.1% decrease from March 2006.¹⁷

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250, Arlington VA 22202 • 703/412-2400 • Fax 703/412-2401 • www.cwla.org

- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Alaska was at 61.8% of the federal poverty level.¹⁸
- In 2006, Alaska spent \$69,846,279 in TANF funds, including 52.1% on basic assistance, 8.4% on child care, 1% on transportation, and 38.5% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2006, Alaska collected and distributed \$86,408,926 in child support funds, an increase of 1.5% from 2005.²⁰
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Alaska was \$931 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$17.90 per hour working a 40-hour week.²¹

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2005, Alaska had an estimated monthly average of 4,700 children served by subsidized child care; 4,400 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 5,300 in 2003.²²
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Alaska a family of three could make no more than \$46,243, which is equivalent to 71% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2007, no children in Alaska were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2006, Head Start served 1,580 Alaska children, an 8.4% increase from 2005.²⁵

H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2004, 79,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Alaska, representing 62.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2004, 7,329 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Alaska on the basis of being in foster care.²⁷
- In 2004, Alaska spent \$90,198,685 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$12,307 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁸
- Alaska reported spending \$17,264,570 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.²⁹
- Alaska reported spending \$96,753 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³⁰
- In 2006, Alaska had 22,227 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 0.43% decrease from 2005, when 22,322 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2004, 618 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Alaska a rank of 1 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2004, 69 infants younger than age 1 died in Alaska, giving it a rank of 25 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³

- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Alaska was 17.2 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 71.9. This reflects a total rate of 38.9 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2005, 579 adults and adolescents, as well as 2 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Alaska.³⁵
- In 2005, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12–17, and 29,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Alaska.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 52 children aged out of out-of-home care in Alaska.³⁷
- In 2005, 4,000 Alaska teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2005, 22% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2005, approximately 3,000 children ages 12–17 in Alaska needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, 27 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 13.26 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 7 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Alaska, a 17% increase from 6 in 2003.⁴³
- In 2006, 4,136 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alaska, an 8.74% increase from 4,532 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 176 were for violent crimes and 80 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 336 children in juvenile correction facilities in Alaska.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Alaska spent \$85,368,304 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 44% was from federal funds, and 56% was from state funds.⁴⁶
- In 2004, of the \$37,786,604 in federal funds received for child welfare, 54% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 19% was from Medicaid, 19% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 6% came from other federal sources.⁴⁷
- Out of 1,791 children in out-of-home care in Alaska in 2005, only 563 children, or 31.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁸

ALASKA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.⁴⁹
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵⁰
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/ foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵¹
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Alaska was \$36,969; the median income for a family of four was \$72,110.⁵²

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Division. (2006). *Table 1: Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States and States, and for Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006 (NST_EST2006_ALLDATA)*. Retrieved online November 12, 2007, from www.census.gov/popest/national/files/NST_EST2006_ALLDATA.csv. Washington, DC: Author.
2. Administration on Children, Youth and Families. (2007). *Child Maltreatment 2005: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*. Retrieved online November 16, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm05/table2_1.htm. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
3. U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2007). *Current Population Survey, 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Poverty Status by State: 2006*. Retrieved November 12, 2007, from pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032007/pov/new46_100125_01.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
4. U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2007). *Current Population Survey, 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Poverty Status by State: 2006: People Under 18 Years of Age*. Retrieved November 12, 2007, from http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032007/pov/new46_100125_03.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
5. U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2007). *Current Population Survey, 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Poverty Status by State: 2006: Related Children 5 to 17 Years of Age*. Retrieved November 12, 2007, from http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032007/pov/new46_100125_02.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
6. U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2007). *2006 American Community Survey, Selected Economic Characteristics*. Retrieved November 16, 2007, from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPGeoSearchByListServlet?ds_name=ACS_2006_EST_G00_&lang=en&ts=213272403469. Washington, DC: Author.
7. Administration on Children, Youth and Families. (2007). *Child Maltreatment 2005: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*. Retrieved November 16, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm05/table3_3.htm and [table3_6.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm05/table3_6.htm). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
8. Administration on Children, Youth and Families. (2007). *Child Maltreatment 2005: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*. Retrieved November 16, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm05/table4_1.htm. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
9. Child Welfare League of America. (2007). Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System. Washington, DC: Author.
10. "Other races and ethnicities" includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Hawaiian Native, unknown or unable to determine, missing data and two or more races. CWLA (2007) Special AFCARS tabulation.
11. CWLA (2007) Special AFCARS tabulation.
12. Ibid; CWLA (2006) Special AFCARS tabulation.
13. CWLA (2007) Special AFCARS tabulation.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250, Arlington VA 22202 • 703/412-2400 • Fax 703/412-2401 • www.cwla.org

14. U.S. Census Bureau. (2006). *2006 American Community Survey, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics: 2005*. Retrieved online November 16, 2007, from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetTableListServlet?_ds_name=ACS_2006_EST_G00_&_type=table&_program=ACS&_lang=en&_ts=213276138126. Washington, DC: Author.
15. CWLA (2006) Special AFCARS tabulation.
16. Ibid.
17. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (n.d.). *Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Separate State Program-Maintenance of Effort Aid to Families with Dependant Children: Caseload Data*. Retrieved online, November 16, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/caseload/caseloadindex.htm. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
18. Calculations by CWLA, based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2006). *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program: Sixth Annual Report to Congress*. Retrieved online November 16, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/annualreport7/ar7/index.htm. Washington, DC: Author; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2005). *Food Stamp Program—Annual State Level Data – State Level Participation. Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: FY 2003*. Retrieved online November 16, 2007, from www.fns.usda.gov/oane/menu/Published/FSP/FILES/Participation/2003Characteristics.pdf. Washington, DC: Author; U.S. Department on Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2003). *The 2003 HHS Poverty Guidelines*. Retrieved online, November 16, 2007, from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/03fedreg.htm>. Washington, DC: Author.
19. Administration for Children and Families. (2004). *Combined Spending of Federal and States Funds Expended in FY 2004 Through the Fourth Quarter*. Retrieved online, October 13, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/2004/tableF_2004.html. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
20. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2007). *Preliminary Data Report FY 2006, State Boxscores for FY 2006*. Retrieved online, November 16, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2007/preliminary_report/state.html. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
21. Pitcoff, W.; Pelletiere, D.; Crowley, S.; Treskon, M.; & Dolbeare, C. (2007). *Out of Reach 2006*. Retrieved online, November 16, 2007, from www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2006/data.cfm?getstate=on&state=_all&CFID=20599466&CFTOKEN=20159817. Washington, DC: National Low Income Housing Coalition.
22. Administration on Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2005). *FFY 2005 CCDF Data Tables and Charts; Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved online, October 2, 2006, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/research. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration on Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2003). *FFY 2003 CCDF Data Tables and Charts; Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved online, October 2, 2006, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/research. Washington, DC: HHS; Administration on Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2004). *FFY 2004 CCDF Data Tables and Charts; Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved online, October 2, 2006, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/research. Washington, DC: HHS.
23. Schulman, K., & Blank, H. (2007). *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2007: Some Steps Forward, More Progress Needed*. Retrieved online, November 19, 2007, from www.nwlc.org/pdf/StateChildCareAssistancePoliciesReport-07Web.pdf. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center.
24. Ibid.
25. Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Bureau. (2007). *Head Start Fact Sheet*. Retrieved online, November 19, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/about/fy2007.html. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Bureau. (2006). *Head Start Fact Sheet*. Retrieved online, October 2, 2006, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/2006.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
26. Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2007). *State Medicaid Fact Sheets*. Retrieved online, November 26, 2007, from www.statehealthfacts.org/medicaid.jsp. Menlo Park, CA: Author.
27. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (n.d.). *Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS)*. Retrieved November 21, 2007, from <http://msis.cms.hhs.gov>. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
31. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2007). *FY 2006 Number of Children Ever Enrolled Year—SCHIP by Program Type*. Retrieved online November 21, 2007, from www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalSCHIPPpolicy/downloads/FY2006StateTotalTable.pdf. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
32. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2007). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Low birth weight babies: Number: 2004*. Retrieved online, November 21, 2007, from www.kidscount.org/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=50&dt=1&yr=15&s=a&dtype=&x=160&y=9. Baltimore: Author; Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2007). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Low birth weight babies: Percent: 2004*. Retrieved online, November 21, 2007, from www.kidscount.org/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=50. Baltimore: Author.

33. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2007). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Infant Mortality: Number: 2004*. Retrieved online, November 21, 2007, from www.kidscount.org/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=70&dt=1&yr=15&s=a&dtype=&x=175&y=8. Baltimore: Author; Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2007). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Infant Mortality: Rate: 2004*. Retrieved online, November 21, 2007, from www.kidscount.org/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=70. Baltimore: Author.
34. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2007). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Teen Births, by Age Group, Rate per 1,000: 2004*. Retrieved online, November 21, 2007, from www.kidscount.org/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=10. Baltimore: Author.
35. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2005. Vol. 17*. Retrieved online November 21, 2007, from www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2005report/table12.htm. Atlanta: Author.
36. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Applied Studies. (2007). *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2004–2005 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*. Retrieved online November 21, 2007, from www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k5state/pdf/2k5state.pdf. Rockville, MD: Author.
37. Children who aged out of foster care are captured by the AFCARS emancipation data element. Children who exit care to emancipation are those who reached the age of majority. CWLA (2007) Special AFCARS tabulation.
38. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2007). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Teens who are high school dropouts: Number: 2005*. Retrieved online, November 26, 2007, from www.kidscount.org/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=440&dt=1&yr=6&s=a&dtype=&x=153&y=11. Baltimore: Author.
39. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2007). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Teens not attending school and not working: Percent: 2005*. Retrieved online, November 26, 2007, from www.kidscount.org/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=130. Baltimore: Author.
40. SAMHSA, *State Estimates of Substance Use*.
41. Ibid.
42. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2007). *Injury Mortality Reports, 1999–2004*. Retrieved online, November 28, 2007, from http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_sy.html. Washington, DC: Author.
43. Ibid.
44. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2007). *Crime in the United States 2006 (Table 69)*. Retrieved online, November 26, 2007, from www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/data/table_69.html. Washington, DC: Author. FBI. (2006). *Crime in the United States 2005 (Table 69)*. Retrieved online, October 3, 2006, from www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/arrests/index.html. Washington, DC: Author.
45. Sickmund, M.; Sladky, T.J., & Kang, W. (2005). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Retrieved online October 3, 2006, from www.ojdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
46. Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services that are required for the safety, permanency, and well being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. Scarcella, C.A.; Bess, R.; Zielewski, E.H.; & Geen, R. (2006). *The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children V: Understanding State Variation in Child Welfare Financing*. Retrieved online, October 3, 2006, from www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311314_vulnerable_children.pdf. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
47. Ibid.
48. CWLA (2007) Special AFCARS tabulation.
49. U.S. General Accounting Office. (March 2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf. Washington, DC: Author.
50. Ibid.
51. Ibid.
52. Child Welfare League of America. (2006). *State Child Welfare Agency Survey*. Washington, DC: Author; U.S. Census Bureau. (2005). *Median Income for 4-Person Families, by State*. Retrieved online, October 3, 2006, from www.census.gov/hhes/income/4person.html. Washington, DC: Author.