

Office of Children's Services Children Out of Home

Data extracted Friday October 13, 2017 from Alaska's ORCARPT database.

Field definitions and information about the data in this report follow the tables below.

Click to view charts of Out Of Home data based on [months](#) or [years](#).

Count of Children in Out-of-Home Placement during each Reporting Period

Region	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017
Anchorage	1,236	1,247	1,253	1,251	1,244	1,262	1,256	1,245	1,247	1,252	1,256	1,228
Northern	546	534	542	553	554	582	597	593	589	598	599	579
Southcentral	865	895	900	879	865	869	872	868	847	846	850	810
Southeast	187	187	193	190	183	180	179	178	183	188	188	183
Western	198	222	217	207	207	216	217	211	205	197	205	206
Alaska, unique count (includes children in Trial Home Visits)	3,032	3,085	3,105	3,080	3,053	3,109	3,121	3,095	3,071	3,081	3,098	3,006

Count in Trial Home Visits during period*	397	371	365	367	343	344	351	413	407	454	460	407
Percent in Trial Home Visits during period*	13.1 %	12.0 %	11.8 %	11.9 %	11.2 %	11.1 %	11.2 %	13.3 %	13.3 %	14.7 %	14.8 %	13.5 %

Removals during the period	93	157	117	122	93	126	133	95	108	108	123	84
Discharges * during the period	106	98	143	126	78	117	125	131	99	107	175	88

* Due to administrative processing, there may be a significant lag for entry of discharge data into ORCA, which may affect reporting accuracy for recent periods. All data will be refreshed in subsequent reports. Future documentation of discharges may increase reporting for Discharges while decreasing reporting for Out-Of-Home and Trial Home Visit.

OCS Out-of-Home Cases during each Reporting Period

Region	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017
Anchorage	709	722	726	720	711	728	723	721	722	721	724	696
Northern	286	281	292	300	299	315	323	326	322	323	324	320
Southcentral	493	499	502	488	479	485	486	484	467	467	467	451
Southeast	123	122	122	121	116	112	111	111	115	116	114	112
Western	83	88	86	82	84	89	92	93	90	86	90	89
Alaska, unique count	1,694	1,711	1,728	1,711	1,689	1,729	1,734	1,735	1,716	1,713	1,719	1,668

Children OOH end of Period not on THV, not in a relative placement, not in a pre-adoptive setting, and not in a facility with a facility preference. By Child Native Status and by Home Provider Native Status (most recent period first)

Period	Child Native Status	Native_Provider	Non-native_Provider	Undetermined	Child Race Total
Sep 2017	Native Child	656	594	69	1,319
	Non-native Child	47	781	85	913
	Child Race Unknown	1	7	0	8
	Sep 2017 Provider Total:	704	1,382	154	2,240
Aug 2017	Native Child	668	574	68	1,310
	Non-native Child	50	786	76	912
	Child Race Unknown	1	2	0	3
	Aug 2017 Provider Total:	719	1,362	144	2,225
Jul 2017	Native Child	655	563	63	1,281
	Non-native Child	49	766	74	889
	Child Race Unknown	2	0	0	2
	Jul 2017 Provider Total:	706	1,329	137	2,172
Jun 2017	Native Child	645	565	54	1,264
	Non-native Child	48	764	76	888
	Child Race Unknown	1	0	0	1
	Jun 2017 Provider Total:	694	1,329	130	2,153
May 2017	Native Child	648	553	53	1,254
	Non-native Child	53	755	79	887
	May 2017 Provider Total:	701	1,308	132	2,141
Apr 2017	Native Child	643	551	46	1,240
	Non-native Child	51	764	76	891
	Apr 2017 Provider Total:	694	1,315	122	2,131
Mar 2017	Native Child	619	566	49	1,234
	Non-native Child	48	773	67	888
	Mar 2017 Provider Total:	667	1,339	116	2,122
Feb 2017	Native Child	610	546	51	1,207
	Non-native Child	50	756	61	867
	Child Race Unknown	1	0	0	1
	Feb 2017 Provider Total:	661	1,302	112	2,075
Jan 2017	Native Child	616	553	53	1,222
	Non-native Child	49	741	58	848
	Jan 2017 Provider Total:	665	1,294	111	2,070
Dec 2016	Native Child	618	566	52	1,236
	Non-native Child	46	753	61	860
	Dec 2016 Provider Total:	664	1,319	113	2,096
Nov 2016	Native Child	603	570	44	1,217
	Non-native Child	45	747	49	841
	Nov 2016 Provider Total:	648	1,317	93	2,058
Oct 2016	Native Child	568	532	43	1,143
	Non-native Child	45	737	47	829
	Oct 2016 Provider Total:	613	1,269	90	1,972

OCS Children Out of Home during September 2017

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,923
OOH children last day of the month	2,920
OOH children during month	3,006
OOH cases during month	1,668
Children removed during month	84
Children discharged during month	88

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	16
Child Aged Out	7
Custody Released to Relative	1
Guardianship	1
Reunification	62
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	1

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	99
Institution	94
Non-Relative Home	925
Other	31
Pending Discharge	68
Pre-Adoptive	115
Relative Home	1,195
Runaway	26
Supervised Independent Living	9
Trial Home Visit	358

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,461
Female Child	1,459
Child Age 0-2	627
Child Age 3-5	590
Child Age 6-8	505
Child Age 9-11	457
Child Age 12-14	344
Child Age 15+	397
Native Child	1,739
Non-native Child	1,174
Child Race Unknown	7

OCS Children Out of Home during August 2017

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,979
OOH children last day of the month	2,938
OOH children during month	3,098
OOH cases during month	1,719
Children removed during month	123
Children discharged during month	175

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	48
Child Aged Out	7
Custody Released to Relative	6
Guardianship	6
Reunification	106
Runaway - Custody Released	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	1

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	99
Institution	96
Non-Relative Home	913
Other	48
Pending Discharge	73
Pre-Adoptive	108
Relative Home	1,185
Runaway	24
Supervised Independent Living	9
Trial Home Visit	383

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,474
Female Child	1,464
Child Age 0-2	643
Child Age 3-5	585
Child Age 6-8	512
Child Age 9-11	448
Child Age 12-14	350
Child Age 15+	400
Native Child	1,756
Non-native Child	1,179
Child Race Unknown	3

OCS Children Out of Home during July 2017

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,975
OOH children last day of the month	2,982
OOH children during month	3,081
OOH cases during month	1,713
Children removed during month	108
Children discharged during month	107

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	26
Child Aged Out	6
Custody Released to Relative	6
Guardianship	2
Reunification	57
Runaway - Custody Released	4
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	6

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	104
Institution	97
Non-Relative Home	913
Other	25
Pending Discharge	88
Pre-Adoptive	114
Relative Home	1,188
Runaway	28
Supervised Independent Living	6
Trial Home Visit	419

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,496
Female Child	1,486
Child Age 0-2	650
Child Age 3-5	602
Child Age 6-8	526
Child Age 9-11	443
Child Age 12-14	357
Child Age 15+	404
Native Child	1,773
Non-native Child	1,209

OCS Children Out of Home during June 2017

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,968
OOH children last day of the month	2,974
OOH children during month	3,071
OOH cases during month	1,716
Children removed during month	108
Children discharged during month	99

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	23
Child Aged Out	4
Custody Released to Relative	6
Death Of Child	1
Guardianship	3
Reunification	58
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	4

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	106
Institution	96
Non-Relative Home	947
Other	22
Pending Discharge	73
Pre-Adoptive	114
Relative Home	1,211
Runaway	27
Supervised Independent Living	5
Trial Home Visit	373

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,492
Female Child	1,482
Child Age 0-2	638
Child Age 3-5	617
Child Age 6-8	527
Child Age 9-11	442
Child Age 12-14	347
Child Age 15+	403
Native Child	1,745
Non-native Child	1,229

OCS Children Out of Home during May 2017

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	3,004
OOH children last day of the month	2,970
OOH children during month	3,095
OOH cases during month	1,735
Children removed during month	95
Children discharged during month	131

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	34
Child Aged Out	13
Custody Released to Relative	6
Death Of Child	1
Guardianship	3
Reunification	61
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	13

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	106
Institution	94
Non-Relative Home	954
Other	26
Pending Discharge	72
Pre-Adoptive	107
Relative Home	1,210
Runaway	31
Supervised Independent Living	3
Trial Home Visit	367

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,487
Female Child	1,483
Child Age 0-2	628
Child Age 3-5	631
Child Age 6-8	514
Child Age 9-11	447
Child Age 12-14	347
Child Age 15+	403
Native Child	1,739
Non-native Child	1,231

OCS Children Out of Home during April 2017

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,992
OOH children last day of the month	3,004
OOH children during month	3,121
OOH cases during month	1,734
Children removed during month	133
Children discharged during month	125

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	21
Child Aged Out	3
Custody Released to Relative	6
Guardianship	10
Reunification	68
Runaway - Custody Released	3
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	14

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	107
Institution	103
Non-Relative Home	1,011
Other	28
Pending Discharge	62
Pre-Adoptive	108
Relative Home	1,245
Runaway	22
Supervised Independent Living	7
Trial Home Visit	311

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,517
Female Child	1,487
Child Age 0-2	643
Child Age 3-5	627
Child Age 6-8	517
Child Age 9-11	459
Child Age 12-14	357
Child Age 15+	401
Native Child	1,753
Non-native Child	1,251

OCS Children Out of Home during March 2017

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,987
OOH children last day of the month	2,997
OOH children during month	3,109
OOH cases during month	1,729
Children removed during month	126
Children discharged during month	117

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	41
Child Aged Out	2
Custody Released to Relative	1
Guardianship	2
Reunification	58
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	13

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	101
Institution	102
Non-Relative Home	1,029
Other	15
Pending Discharge	71
Pre-Adoptive	101
Relative Home	1,256
Runaway	18
Supervised Independent Living	7
Trial Home Visit	297

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,519
Female Child	1,478
Child Age 0-2	638
Child Age 3-5	633
Child Age 6-8	529
Child Age 9-11	446
Child Age 12-14	361
Child Age 15+	390
Native Child	1,749
Non-native Child	1,248

OCS Children Out of Home during February 2017

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,964
OOH children last day of the month	2,979
OOH children during month	3,053
OOH cases during month	1,689
Children removed during month	93
Children discharged during month	78

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	13
Child Aged Out	4
Death Of Child	1
Guardianship	4
Reunification	53
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	3

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	91
Institution	99
Non-Relative Home	1,041
Other	16
Pending Discharge	88
Pre-Adoptive	95
Relative Home	1,220
Runaway	21
Supervised Independent Living	7
Trial Home Visit	301

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,513
Female Child	1,466
Child Age 0-2	633
Child Age 3-5	628
Child Age 6-8	538
Child Age 9-11	444
Child Age 12-14	352
Child Age 15+	384
Native Child	1,746
Non-native Child	1,231
Child Race Unknown	2

OCS Children Out of Home during January 2017

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,963
OOH children last day of the month	2,965
OOH children during month	3,080
OOH cases during month	1,711
Children removed during month	122
Children discharged during month	126

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	27
Child Aged Out	3
Custody Released to Relative	8
Death Of Child	1
Guardianship	1
Reunification	75
Runaway - Custody Released	2
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	9

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	80
Institution	104
Non-Relative Home	1,035
Other	18
Pending Discharge	66
Pre-Adoptive	104
Relative Home	1,227
Runaway	19
Supervised Independent Living	5
Trial Home Visit	307

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,518
Female Child	1,447
Child Age 0-2	640
Child Age 3-5	614
Child Age 6-8	539
Child Age 9-11	442
Child Age 12-14	338
Child Age 15+	392
Native Child	1,745
Non-native Child	1,219
Child Race Unknown	1

OCS Children Out of Home during December 2016

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,991
OOH children last day of the month	2,962
OOH children during month	3,105
OOH cases during month	1,728
Children removed during month	117
Children discharged during month	143

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	66
Child Aged Out	2
Death Of Child	1
Guardianship	7
Reunification	64
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	3

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	67
Institution	104
Non-Relative Home	1,054
Other	16
Pending Discharge	57
Pre-Adoptive	103
Relative Home	1,217
Runaway	22
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	318

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,509
Female Child	1,453
Child Age 0-2	641
Child Age 3-5	633
Child Age 6-8	529
Child Age 9-11	451
Child Age 12-14	319
Child Age 15+	389
Native Child	1,740
Non-native Child	1,221
Child Race Unknown	1

OCS Children Out of Home during November 2016

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,930
OOH children last day of the month	2,992
OOH children during month	3,085
OOH cases during month	1,711
Children removed during month	157
Children discharged during month	98

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	19
Custody Released to Relative	1
Death Of Child	1
Guardianship	3
Reunification	69
Runaway - Custody Released	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	4

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	65
Institution	121
Non-Relative Home	1,049
Other	16
Pending Discharge	97
Pre-Adoptive	88
Relative Home	1,214
Runaway	20
Supervised Independent Living	3
Trial Home Visit	319

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,519
Female Child	1,473
Child Age 0-2	655
Child Age 3-5	641
Child Age 6-8	542
Child Age 9-11	458
Child Age 12-14	314
Child Age 15+	382
Native Child	1,749
Non-native Child	1,242
Child Race Unknown	1

OCS Children Out of Home during October 2016

Unique OOH Counts for the Month	
OOH children first day of the month	2,941
OOH children last day of the month	2,936
OOH children during month	3,032
OOH cases during month	1,694
Children removed during month	93
Children discharged during month	106

Reason for Discharges during the Month	
Adoption	23
Child Aged Out	5
Custody Released to Relative	3
Death Of Child	1
Guardianship	4
Reunification	67
Runaway - Custody Released	2
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	1

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month	
Group Home	59
Institution	116
Non-Relative Home	1,032
Other	22
Pending Discharge	62
Pre-Adoptive	96
Relative Home	1,181
Runaway	19
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	345

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month	
Male Child	1,487
Female Child	1,449
Child Age 0-2	642
Child Age 3-5	613
Child Age 6-8	535
Child Age 9-11	453
Child Age 12-14	313
Child Age 15+	380
Native Child	1,694
Non-native Child	1,241
Child Race Unknown	1

About the data in this report

This report summarizes statistics for children who were in Alaska's Office of Children's Services (OCS) Out of Home (OOH) removals during all or part of each period being reported.

Removal for OOH placement is the last option considered when reasonable efforts to protect a child in his or her own home have been exhausted by OCS. The first preference considered in all out-of-home placements for a child or youth is a relative's home. When it is not possible to place a child with a relative it is necessary to place the child in a licensed foster home. Residential care facilities may offer short-term emergency shelter as well as more long-term residential treatment.

"Unique count" indicates that each child (or case, for case counts) is counted only once per reported category. However, some out of home individuals may have moved between regions during the reporting period. Therefore, regional demographic counts may not add to statewide Alaska totals.

Children removed on the first day of reporting period are included in counts for OOH on the first day of the period. Children discharged on the last day of reporting period are included in counts and demographics for OOH on the last day of the period. Therefore, last day counts will not equal the sum of first day counts plus removals and minus discharges during the period.

Child age is calculated based on discharge date if the child was discharged during the reporting period, otherwise child age calculation is based on the end of the reporting period.

Native Status is determined by reported race of either Alaskan Native or Native American.

To protect the privacy of individuals in low-count groups, regional breakouts are not included for monthly reports and for some yearly summary tables.

Subsequent reports covering the same reporting periods will contain updated statistics.

OCS Out of Home Web Report Field Definitions

Adoption – Transfer of the legal relation of parent to a person not related to the child by birth, with the same mutual rights and obligations that existed between the child and his or her birth parents.

Case - A household unit included in one or more Initial Assessment.

Day - For purposes of Foster Care a day is midnight to midnight. This report counts a child as Out of Home on the day of Removal but not on the day of Discharge. Therefore, children discharged on the first day of the reporting period will not be included in counts for the start of that reporting period.

Discharge - The point in time when a child is no longer in Out of Home Care.

Guardianship - A person outside of the child's household fulfills some of the responsibilities of a legal parent while the courts or birthparents may continue to hold other legal responsibilities for the child. Guardianship is subject to ongoing supervision by the court and ends by court order or when the child reaches the age of majority. Guardianship may be used as an alternative to Adoption in some kinship care situations in which a child's relative is assuming a parental role but prefers not to adopt. Guardians may be entitled to the same benefits as Foster or Adoptive parents.

Native Child - Any mention of Alaska Native or American Indian race.

Office of Children's Services (OCS) - A division of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services.

ORCA - Online Resources for the Children of Alaska, OCS's main database.

Out-of-Home Placement (OOH or OOHP) / Removal: Placing the child in the physical care of someone other than the child's Caregiver. Removal may include situations in which the child is living in the same residence as the Caregiver, but the Caregiver's ability to exercise physical care and control of the child. Only includes children who remained out of home for at least one night.

Placement - The physical setting in which a child resides after Removal; that is, the resultant Foster Care setting. A new Placement setting results when the Foster Care setting changes, for example, when a child moves from one Foster family home to another or to a Group Home or Institution.

Region, as used in this Out of Home report - One of areas of five Alaska, based on the office of the primary OCS worker responsible for the Case at Discharge or, if not Discharged during the period, at the end of the reporting period.

Removal - The physical act of a child being taken from his or her normal place of residence, by court order or a voluntary placement agreement, and placed in a substitute care setting, or the removal of Custody from the parent or relative Guardian pursuant to a court order or voluntary placement agreement which permits the child to remain in a substitute care setting.

Reporting Period – Complete month or calendar year, as specified in the report. Owing to Unique Counts, data reported on a monthly basis will not necessarily sum to annual figures.

Unique Count – An unduplicated count within the Reporting Period; that is, each person, ID, or combination of person or ID with other factors is counted only once regardless of the number of times represented within the reported group during the reporting period. For example, a child out of home in two regions during a reporting period will be counted once for each region where region is being reported, but only once where count for all of Alaska is being reported. Therefore total of all regions may not equal statewide count.

Discharge Reasons:

- **Adoption** - Termination of all legal relationships between the adopted person and the natural parents and other relatives of the adopted person, so that the adopted person thereafter is a stranger to the former relatives for all purposes; to create the relationship of parent and child between petitioner and the adopted person, as if the adopted person were a legitimate blood descendant of the petitioner, for all purposes.
- **Child Aged Out** – Child between 18-21 exited OCS custody based on their age. Child may enter an independent living arrangement. .
- **Custody Released to Relative** - Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child has been transferred to a relative of the child.
- **Death of Child** – The child has died, not necessarily as a result of maltreatment.
- **Guardianship** - A legal arrangement where a person or institution is appointed as a guardian to make decisions for an incapacitated person - decisions about housing, medical care, legal issues, and services.
- **Reunification** - Discharge from Out of Home Placement to reunite child and family.
- **THV Expired - Custody Retained** – A trial home visit exceeded six months or a time period ordered by a court. If a trial home visit exceeds this time limit, or if a child is placed at home and custody lapses and the child is placed in out-of-home care again, it is considered a second removal from home,
- **Transfer to another Agency** – Transfer of child Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child to a tribe or other non-OCS entity.
- **Transfer to DJJ** – Transfer of Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child to Alaska's Department of Juvenile Justice, an agency is in the same Department as OCS. DJJ has a different database of record, but OCS is responsible for paying Foster Care for these children.
- **Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction** - Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child was transferred to a Native tribe.

Placement Settings:

- **Foster Home** - An OCS approved home in which an adult head of the household provides 24-hour care on a continuing basis to one or more children who are apart from their principal Caregiver. The adult may be a Relative or Non-Relative. Non-relative Foster Homes must be licensed by OCS.
- **Group Home** - A home that cares for more than three, but no more than eight, children unrelated to the Foster parent.
- **Institution** - A child care facility operated by a public or private agency and providing 24-hour care and/or treatment for children who require separation from their own homes and group living experience. These facilities may include: child care institutions, residential treatment facilities, maternity homes, nursing homes, hospitals, etc.
- **Missing Documentation** – A placement was ended but insufficient information was entered into ORCA to determine subsequent placement setting.
- **Pending Discharge** - Foster Care placement has ended for reasons such as Adoption, Guardianship, Aging-Out, Emancipation, Death of Child, or other reason to release State legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child, but Discharge paperwork had not been completed at the end of the Reporting Period.
- **Pre-Adoptive** - A home in which a child is placed with a family with the understanding that the family plans to adopt the child.
- **Runaway** – A child who left the Provider he/she was placed with, whose whereabouts are either currently unknown or who is staying in an unapproved setting, and for whom the State retains legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child.
- **Supervised Independent Living** – A type of voluntary extended Foster Care placement where young adults can live on their own, while still getting casework and support services to help them become independent and self-sufficient.
- **Trial Home Visit (THV)** – The child has been in a Foster Care placement, but, under continuing OCS supervision, is returned to the child's principal Caregiver for a limited period of time. If the THV is successful legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child may be returned to the principal Caregiver.