

Office of Children's Services Children Out of Home

Data extracted Wednesday March 14, 2018 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	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Anchorage	1,177	1,319	1,581	1,723	1,727
Northern	506	568	665	759	830
Southcentral	721	831	927	1,109	1,085
Southeast	249	255	266	267	273
Western	235	274	280	285	299
Alaska, unique count (includes children in Trial Home Visits)	2,887	3,240	3,715	4,135	4,212

Count in Trial Home Visits during period*	639	703	852	1,028	1,059
Percent in Trial Home Visits during period*	22.1 %	21.7 %	22.9 %	24.9 %	25.1 %

Removals during the period	1,060	1,327	1,485	1,431	1,305
Discharges * during the period	950	995	982	1,232	1,465

* 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	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Anchorage	771	846	920	967	986
Northern	306	341	368	405	440
Southcentral	475	537	568	626	608
Southeast	165	170	178	177	173
Western	112	133	135	123	135
Alaska, unique count	1,828	2,024	2,162	2,295	2,340

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
2017	Native Child	845	695	77	1,610
	Non-native Child	70	925	102	1,097
	Child Race Unknown	5	2	0	7
	2017 Provider Total:	920	1,622	179	2,714
2016	Native Child	747	671	58	1,474
	Non-native Child	61	873	61	995
	Child Race Unknown	0	3	0	3
	2016 Provider Total:	808	1,547	119	2,472
2015	Native Child	643	599	40	1,281
	Non-native Child	53	841	38	932
	Child Race Unknown	4	12	1	17
	2015 Provider Total:	700	1,452	79	2,230
2014	Native Child	579	605	37	1,219
	Non-native Child	48	729	28	805
	Child Race Unknown	1	15	8	24
	2014 Provider Total:	628	1,349	73	2,048
2013	Native Child	487	570	19	1,076
	Non-native Child	36	635	15	685
	Child Race Unknown	3	18	2	23
	2013 Provider Total:	526	1,223	36	1,784

OCS Children Out of Home during 2017

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	1,217	535	840	174	205	2,971
OOH children last day of the year	1,137	584	731	167	193	2,812
OOH children during year	1,727	830	1,085	273	299	4,212
OOH cases during year	986	440	608	173	135	2,340
Children removed during year	527	316	245	105	112	1,305
Children discharged during year	607	268	354	112	124	1,465

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	93
Institution	96
Non-Relative Home	851
Other	16
Pending Discharge	39
Pre-Adoptive	112
Relative Home	1,233
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	8
Trial Home Visit	351

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	397
Child Aged Out	74
Custody Released to Relative	45
Death Of Child	5
Guardianship	45
Reunification	806
Runaway - Custody Released	13
Transfer To Another Agency	2
Transfer to DJJ	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	77

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	577	281	373	70	100	1,401
Female Child	560	303	358	97	93	1,411
Child Age 0-2	280	112	157	33	29	611
Child Age 3-5	226	99	148	39	30	542
Child Age 6-8	209	91	118	30	29	477
Child Age 9-11	156	98	127	28	45	454
Child Age 12-14	109	89	89	17	28	332
Child Age 15+	157	95	92	20	32	396

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,699
Non-native Child	1,113

OCS Children Out of Home during 2016

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	1,205	486	704	199	175	2,769
OOH children last day of the year	1,213	524	850	177	201	2,965
OOH children during year	1,723	759	1,109	267	285	4,135
OOH cases during year	967	405	626	177	123	2,295
Children removed during year	544	280	417	69	121	1,431
Children discharged during year	536	241	271	91	93	1,232

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	65
Institution	104
Non-Relative Home	1,044
Other	20
Pending Discharge	57
Pre-Adoptive	118
Relative Home	1,211
Runaway	22
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	320

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	348
Child Aged Out	36
Custody Released to Relative	22
Death Of Child	4
Guardianship	40
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	713
Runaway - Custody Released	20
Transfer To Another Agency	1
Transfer to DJJ	3
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	43

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	625	257	443	83	104	1,512
Female Child	588	267	407	94	97	1,453
Child Age 0-2	281	106	193	36	24	640
Child Age 3-5	279	97	185	39	34	634
Child Age 6-8	222	93	136	37	41	529
Child Age 9-11	155	98	134	25	40	452
Child Age 12-14	110	60	100	18	31	319
Child Age 15+	166	70	102	22	31	391

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,737
Non-native Child	1,227
Child Race Unknown	1

OCS Children Out of Home during 2015

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	943	403	574	163	187	2,270
OOH children last day of the year	1,202	476	724	196	179	2,777
OOH children during year	1,581	665	927	266	280	3,715
OOH cases during year	920	368	568	178	135	2,162
Children removed during year	648	271	363	103	100	1,485
Children discharged during year	391	200	213	70	108	982

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	79
Institution	90
Non-Relative Home	1,072
Other	23
Pending Discharge	36
Pre-Adoptive	80
Relative Home	1,026
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	1
Trial Home Visit	357

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	282
Child Aged Out	51
Custody Released to Relative	24
Death Of Child	3
Guardianship	33
Reunification	517
Runaway - Custody Released	10
Transfer To Another Agency	1
Transfer to DJJ	2
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	59

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	619	229	378	92	92	1,410
Female Child	583	247	346	104	87	1,367
Child Age 0-2	314	95	162	39	24	634
Child Age 3-5	278	97	129	55	33	592
Child Age 6-8	201	87	135	37	42	502
Child Age 9-11	139	70	119	25	30	383
Child Age 12-14	129	60	78	13	28	308
Child Age 15+	141	67	101	27	22	358

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,533
Non-native Child	1,227
Child Race Unknown	17

OCS Children Out of Home during 2014

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	802	351	496	154	153	1,956
OOH children last day of the year	941	409	587	163	188	2,288
OOH children during year	1,319	568	831	255	274	3,240
OOH cases during year	846	341	537	170	133	2,024
Children removed during year	533	227	338	107	122	1,327
Children discharged during year	393	169	248	98	87	995

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	71
Institution	94
Non-Relative Home	921
Other	25
Pending Discharge	37
Pre-Adoptive	53
Relative Home	846
Runaway	14
Supervised Independent Living	8
Trial Home Visit	219

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	341
Child Aged Out	59
Custody Released to Relative	14
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	37
Reunification	502
Runaway - Custody Released	15
Transfer To Another Agency	3
Transfer to DJJ	4
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	18

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	485	197	281	79	97	1,139
Female Child	456	212	306	84	91	1,149
Child Age 0-2	235	92	145	38	31	541
Child Age 3-5	205	90	111	43	32	481
Child Age 6-8	168	79	95	26	35	403
Child Age 9-11	118	55	83	15	33	304
Child Age 12-14	96	52	67	16	27	258
Child Age 15+	119	41	86	25	30	301

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,364
Non-native Child	890
Child Race Unknown	34

OCS Children Out of Home during 2013

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	746	287	477	179	176	1,865
OOH children last day of the year	822	358	497	159	152	1,988
OOH children during year	1,177	506	721	249	235	2,887
OOH cases during year	771	306	475	165	112	1,828
Children removed during year	441	227	257	74	61	1,060
Children discharged during year	371	160	238	95	86	950

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	78
Institution	99
Non-Relative Home	838
Other	30
Pending Discharge	30
Pre-Adoptive	33
Relative Home	660
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	6
Trial Home Visit	201

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	352
Child Aged Out	33
Custody Released to Relative	15
Death Of Child	4
Guardianship	29
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	466
Runaway - Custody Released	34
Transfer to DJJ	3
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	12

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	441	173	239	77	75	1,005
Female Child	381	185	258	82	77	983
Child Age 0-2	196	81	107	27	13	424
Child Age 3-5	187	75	97	32	30	421
Child Age 6-8	128	70	85	29	27	339
Child Age 9-11	95	45	63	28	22	253
Child Age 12-14	105	45	59	26	24	259
Child Age 15+	111	42	86	17	36	292

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,240
Non-native Child	720
Child Race Unknown	28

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.