

Office of Children's Services Children Out of Home

Data extracted Friday December 16, 2016 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	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Anchorage	996	1,059	1,177	1,322	1,581
Northern	465	422	509	575	671
Southcentral	710	715	723	832	926
Southeast	239	245	251	255	269
Western	324	339	243	277	281
Alaska, unique count (includes children in Trial Home Visits)	2,733	2,776	2,902	3,254	3,724

Count in Trial Home Visits during period*	645	625	640	704	853
Percent in Trial Home Visits during period*	23.6 %	22.5 %	22.1 %	21.6 %	22.9 %

Removals during the period	982	1,017	1,078	1,342	1,495
Discharges * during the period	963	940	972	1,015	993

* 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	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Anchorage	658	709	771	848	920
Northern	283	262	308	344	373
Southcentral	445	443	476	538	567
Southeast	168	166	166	170	183
Western	156	161	117	135	136
Alaska, unique count	1,710	1,736	1,837	2,032	2,172

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
2015	Native Child	665	606	46	1,316
	Non-native Child	60	888	45	993
	Child Race Unknown	8	14	1	23
	2015 Provider Total:	733	1,508	92	2,332
2014	Native Child	584	604	37	1,222
	Non-native Child	48	735	31	814
	Child Race Unknown	6	18	10	34
	2014 Provider Total:	638	1,357	78	2,070
2013	Native Child	492	571	19	1,082
	Non-native Child	37	634	16	686
	Child Race Unknown	5	21	2	28
	2013 Provider Total:	534	1,226	37	1,796
2012	Native Child	540	585	36	1,160
	Non-native Child	32	591	21	644
	Child Race Unknown	3	21	2	26
	2012 Provider Total:	575	1,197	59	1,830
2011	Native Child	527	515	21	1,060
	Non-native Child	27	562	20	609
	Child Race Unknown	3	19	1	23
	2011 Provider Total:	557	1,096	42	1,692

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	572	165	187	2,270
OOH children last day of the year	1,202	476	723	196	179	2,776
OOH children during year	1,581	671	926	269	281	3,724
OOH cases during year	920	373	567	183	136	2,172
Children removed during year	648	278	364	104	101	1,495
Children discharged during year	391	207	213	73	109	993

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	80
Institution	90
Non-Relative Home	1,074
Other	25
Pending Discharge	33
Pre-Adoptive	66
Relative Home	1,032
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	1
Trial Home Visit	362

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	284
Child Aged Out	51
Custody Released to Relative	25
Death Of Child	3
Guardianship	33
Reunification	525
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	618	229	377	92	92	1,408
Female Child	584	247	346	104	87	1,368
Child Age 0-2	315	95	163	39	24	636
Child Age 3-5	278	97	128	55	33	591
Child Age 6-8	202	87	134	37	42	502
Child Age 9-11	138	70	119	25	30	382
Child Age 12-14	128	60	78	13	28	307
Child Age 15+	141	67	101	27	22	358

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,525
Non-native Child	1,230
Child Race Unknown	21

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	938	409	586	162	188	2,283
OOH children during year	1,322	575	832	255	277	3,254
OOH cases during year	848	344	538	170	135	2,032
Children removed during year	536	234	339	108	125	1,342
Children discharged during year	399	176	250	100	90	1,015

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	71
Institution	94
Non-Relative Home	919
Other	21
Pending Discharge	35
Pre-Adoptive	50
Relative Home	851
Runaway	14
Supervised Independent Living	8
Trial Home Visit	220

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	344
Child Aged Out	59
Custody Released to Relative	16
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	37
Reunification	517
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	484	197	280	79	97	1,137
Female Child	454	212	306	83	91	1,146
Child Age 0-2	234	92	145	38	31	540
Child Age 3-5	207	90	111	42	32	482
Child Age 6-8	165	79	95	26	35	400
Child Age 9-11	118	55	83	15	33	304
Child Age 12-14	96	52	67	16	27	258
Child Age 15+	118	41	85	25	30	299

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,356
Non-native Child	883
Child Race Unknown	44

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	818	358	497	159	152	1,984
OOH children during year	1,177	509	723	251	243	2,902
OOH cases during year	771	308	476	166	117	1,837
Children removed during year	441	231	260	77	69	1,078
Children discharged during year	375	164	241	98	94	972

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	78
Institution	99
Non-Relative Home	839
Other	25
Pending Discharge	26
Pre-Adoptive	33
Relative Home	662
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	6
Trial Home Visit	203

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	352
Child Aged Out	33
Custody Released to Relative	17
Death Of Child	4
Guardianship	29
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	486
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	440	173	239	77	75	1,004
Female Child	378	185	258	82	77	980
Child Age 0-2	195	81	107	27	13	423
Child Age 3-5	188	75	97	32	30	422
Child Age 6-8	126	70	85	29	27	337
Child Age 9-11	93	45	63	28	22	251
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	1,234
Non-native Child	722
Child Race Unknown	28

OCS Children Out of Home during 2012

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	653	297	473	135	232	1,790
OOH children last day of the year	759	283	486	178	175	1,881
OOH children during year	1,059	422	715	245	339	2,776
OOH cases during year	709	262	443	166	161	1,736
Children removed during year	414	126	249	117	111	1,017
Children discharged during year	311	139	247	75	168	940

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	75
Independent Living	1
Institution	92
Non-Relative Home	797
Other	22
Pending Discharge	34
Pre-Adoptive	27
Relative Home	644
Runaway	18
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	167

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	304
Child Aged Out	42
Custody Released to Relative	26
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	23
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	493
Runaway - Custody Released	14
Transfer To Another Agency	3
Transfer to DJJ	3
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	28

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	386	125	241	86	89	927
Female Child	373	158	245	92	86	954
Child Age 0-2	202	63	99	41	22	427
Child Age 3-5	151	71	100	34	36	392
Child Age 6-8	116	47	70	30	29	292
Child Age 9-11	98	34	74	27	24	257
Child Age 12-14	92	27	64	15	28	226
Child Age 15+	100	41	79	31	36	287

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,154
Non-native Child	705
Child Race Unknown	22

OCS Children Out of Home during 2011

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	630	308	486	182	181	1,787
OOH children last day of the year	663	290	468	137	248	1,806
OOH children during year	996	465	710	239	324	2,733
OOH cases during year	658	283	445	168	156	1,710
Children removed during year	371	165	234	57	155	982
Children discharged during year	338	183	252	102	88	963

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	77
Institution	104
Non-Relative Home	762
Other	25
Pending Discharge	21
Pre-Adoptive	18
Relative Home	638
Runaway	7
Supervised Independent Living	3
Trial Home Visit	151

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	325
Child Aged Out	41
Custody Released to Relative	16
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	29
Released Self/Emancipation	3
Reunification	508
Runaway - Custody Released	15
Transfer To Another Agency	1
Transfer to DJJ	4
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	19

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	356	133	237	67	125	918
Female Child	307	157	231	70	123	888
Child Age 0-2	179	58	90	22	44	393
Child Age 3-5	120	87	109	26	44	386
Child Age 6-8	120	45	75	22	43	305
Child Age 9-11	72	33	66	18	43	232
Child Age 12-14	81	30	57	17	27	212
Child Age 15+	91	37	71	32	47	278

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,157
Non-native Child	623
Child Race Unknown	26

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

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.