

# 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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Anchorage	1,055	1,177	1,319	1,580	1,723
Northern	421	506	567	665	760
Southcentral	712	721	831	927	1,109
Southeast	245	249	256	267	267
Western	329	235	274	280	285
Alaska, unique count (includes children in Trial Home Visits)	2,758	2,887	3,240	3,715	4,136

Count in Trial Home Visits during period*	625	639	703	852	1,028
Percent in Trial Home Visits during period*	22.7 %	22.1 %	21.7 %	22.9 %	24.9 %

Removals during the period	995	1,060	1,327	1,485	1,432
Discharges * during the period	917	950	1,000	981	1,229

\* 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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Anchorage	705	771	846	919	967
Northern	261	306	341	368	406
Southcentral	441	475	537	568	626
Southeast	167	165	172	179	177
Western	155	112	133	135	123
Alaska, unique count	1,724	1,828	2,026	2,162	2,296

**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
<b>2016</b>	Native Child	758	689	61	<b>1,505</b>
	Non-native Child	61	893	69	<b>1,023</b>
	Child Race Unknown	0	3	0	<b>3</b>
	<b>2016 Provider Total:</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>2,531</b>
<b>2015</b>	Native Child	641	600	41	<b>1,281</b>
	Non-native Child	52	848	39	<b>939</b>
	Child Race Unknown	5	13	1	<b>19</b>
	<b>2015 Provider Total:</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2,239</b>
<b>2014</b>	Native Child	574	607	37	<b>1,216</b>
	Non-native Child	46	732	29	<b>807</b>
	Child Race Unknown	4	15	8	<b>27</b>
	<b>2014 Provider Total:</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2,050</b>
<b>2013</b>	Native Child	485	572	19	<b>1,076</b>
	Non-native Child	36	635	15	<b>685</b>
	Child Race Unknown	4	18	2	<b>24</b>
	<b>2013 Provider Total:</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,785</b>
<b>2012</b>	Native Child	532	584	34	<b>1,149</b>
	Non-native Child	27	595	19	<b>641</b>
	Child Race Unknown	3	20	2	<b>25</b>
	<b>2012 Provider Total:</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1,815</b>

## 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	1,216	525	850	177	201	2,969
OOH children during year	1,723	760	1,109	267	285	4,136
OOH cases during year	967	406	626	177	123	2,296
Children removed during year	544	281	417	69	121	1,432
Children discharged during year	533	241	271	91	93	1,229

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	67
Institution	104
Non-Relative Home	1,054
Other	19
Pending Discharge	57
Pre-Adoptive	103
Relative Home	1,217
Runaway	22
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	322

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	347
Child Aged Out	36
Custody Released to Relative	22
Death Of Child	4
Guardianship	40
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	711
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	626	257	443	83	105	1,514
Female Child	590	268	407	94	96	1,455
Child Age 0-2	282	107	193	36	24	642
Child Age 3-5	280	97	185	39	34	635
Child Age 6-8	222	93	136	37	41	529
Child Age 9-11	155	98	134	25	40	452
Child Age 12-14	111	60	100	18	31	320
Child Age 15+	166	70	102	22	31	391

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,744
Non-native Child	1,224
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	477	724	196	179	2,778
OOH children during year	1,580	665	927	267	280	3,715
OOH cases during year	919	368	568	179	135	2,162
Children removed during year	647	271	363	104	100	1,485
Children discharged during year	390	199	213	71	108	981

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	79
Institution	90
Non-Relative Home	1,074
Other	26
Pending Discharge	36
Pre-Adoptive	74
Relative Home	1,028
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	32
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	618	229	378	92	92	1,409
Female Child	584	248	346	104	87	1,369
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	61	78	13	28	309
Child Age 15+	141	67	101	27	22	358

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,532
Non-native Child	1,227
Child Race Unknown	19

## 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	350	496	155	153	1,956
OOH children last day of the year	939	408	585	163	188	2,283
OOH children during year	1,319	567	831	256	274	3,240
OOH cases during year	846	341	537	172	133	2,026
Children removed during year	533	227	338	107	122	1,327
Children discharged during year	395	169	250	99	87	1,000

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	71
Institution	94
Non-Relative Home	918
Other	25
Pending Discharge	35
Pre-Adoptive	51
Relative Home	848
Runaway	14
Supervised Independent Living	8
Trial Home Visit	219

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	346
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	484	196	279	80	97	1,136
Female Child	455	212	306	83	91	1,147
Child Age 0-2	234	91	144	39	31	539
Child Age 3-5	205	90	111	42	32	480
Child Age 6-8	167	79	95	26	35	402
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	85	25	30	300

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,357
Non-native Child	889
Child Race Unknown	37

## 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	823	358	497	158	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	370	160	238	96	86	950

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	78
Institution	99
Non-Relative Home	839
Other	27
Pending Discharge	30
Pre-Adoptive	33
Relative Home	661
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	6
Trial Home Visit	202

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	353
Child Aged Out	33
Custody Released to Relative	15
Death Of Child	4
Guardianship	29
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	465
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	442	173	239	76	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	188	75	97	32	30	422
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	25	24	258
Child Age 15+	111	42	86	17	36	292

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,239
Non-native Child	721
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	472	136	232	1,790
OOH children last day of the year	760	283	484	179	176	1,882
OOH children during year	1,055	421	712	245	329	2,758
OOH cases during year	705	261	441	167	155	1,724
Children removed during year	410	125	247	113	100	995
Children discharged during year	306	138	246	71	156	917

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Group Home	75
Independent Living	1
Institution	92
Non-Relative Home	796
Other	24
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	305
Child Aged Out	42
Custody Released to Relative	20
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	23
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	475
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	387	125	239	87	90	928
Female Child	373	158	245	92	86	954
Child Age 0-2	203	63	99	41	23	429
Child Age 3-5	151	71	99	35	36	392
Child Age 6-8	116	47	70	30	29	292
Child Age 9-11	98	34	73	27	24	256
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	1,159
Non-native Child	701
Child Race Unknown	22

## 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.