

## About Office of Children's Services Webdata

### Region Abbreviations

ARO - Anchorage Regional Office

NRO - Northern Regional Office

SCRO - Southcentral Regional Office

SERO - Southeast Regional Office

WRO - Western Regional Office

For a map of OCS Regions and Offices see our [Contact Us](#) page.

### Maltreatment Types

**Mental Injury** - An injury to the emotional well-being or intellectual or psychological capacity of a child, as evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment in the child's ability to function.

**Neglect** - Failure by a Caregiver to provide necessary food, care, clothing, shelter, medical attention, or education for a child.

**Physical** - Physical harm to a child is defined in AS 47.10.015 as conduct or conditions created by the Caregiver resulting in physical injury to, physical mistreatment of, or sexual contact with, the child. AS 47.10.015 also defines "substantial risk of physical harm" as a negligent act or omission by a child's Caregiver that creates a substantial risk of physical injury to the child.

**Sexual** - the child has suffered sexual abuse, or is at substantial risk of suffering sexual abuse, as a result of conduct by or conditions created by the child's Caregiver or by the failure of the Caregiver to supervise the child adequately. If the Caregiver has actual notice that a person has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor within the past 15 years, is registered or required to register as a sex offender, or is under investigation for a sex offense against a minor, and the Caregiver subsequently allows a child to be left with that person, this alone may constitute sufficient evidence that the child is at substantial risk of being sexually abused.

## OCS 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.

**Allegation** - Child abuse statements and/or descriptions by a reporter that consist of one Alleged Perpetrator, one Alleged Victim, and one of the four types of Maltreatment.

**Alleged Perpetrator** - An Initial Assessment participant alleged of maltreating an Alleged Victim.

**Alleged Victim** - Child about whom a report regarding Maltreatment has been made.

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

**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.

**Initial Assessment (IA)** - An evaluation of child safety completed for each screened in PSR. The IA process consists of gathering sufficient information (via face-to-face interviews with the alleged victim, family members and collateral contacts) to determine if a child is safe or unsafe and determining the finding for each allegation (Substantiated or Not Substantiated). A determination is also made as to whether the children and/or other persons involved in the report of alleged maltreatment are in need of services. An IA may include multiple PSRs.

**Maltreatment** - An act or omission that results in circumstances in which there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child may be a child in need of aid, as described in Alaska Statute 47.10.011; an injury and/or damage to a child's physical or mental well-being. Alaska divides maltreatment into four types: Mental Injury, Neglect, Physical, or Sexual. Please refer to next page for elaboration on each type.

**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.

**Protective Service Report (PSR)** - A report of child Maltreatment. A PSR may contain multiple Allegations, each of which consists of one Alleged Victim/Alleged Perpetrator/Maltreatment combination.

**Region, as used in this Allegation and Maltreatment report** - One of five areas of Alaska, based on the office of the OCS intake worker assigned at time of supervisory acceptance of the PSR screening decision.

**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.

**Screened In / Screened Out** - A decision as to whether the reporter's concerns within a PSR constitute a potential threat to child safety. If so, the PSR is Screened In and an Initial Assessment is completed. If not, the PSR is Screened Out and the Case is closed with no further action.

**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, an Alleged Victim of multiple instances of Neglect in the Anchorage region will be counted once in that Maltreatment type and region, though the same Alleged Victim may be counted again for other types of Maltreatment, or in other Regions. An Alleged Victim-Maltreatment-Region combination counted in multiple monthly reporting periods within a calendar year will be counted only once for that combination in a report based on calendar year.

## **OCS Protective Service Report Webdata (Reports of Harm)**

OCS web reports summarize statistics for child Protective Service Reports (PSR) received by Alaska's Office of Children's Services (OCS), including their screening status and the demographics of alleged child victims and alleged perpetrators. PSRs are documented reports of alleged maltreatment to children.

To protect the privacy of individuals in low-count groups, screening status regional breakouts are not included for monthly reporting periods.

For this report time periods are assigned based on administrative acceptance of PSR screening decisions. Allegations of maltreatment are required to be screened-in or screened-out within seven days of PSR receipt.

Each PSR may report multiple alleged occurrences of maltreatment. Each allegation within a PSR matches one victim to one perpetrator for one maltreatment type.

Counts of alleged victims and alleged perpetrators are unique; that is, alleged victims or alleged perpetrators are counted only once per maltreatment per region per period. Individuals counted as screened in are not duplicated in screen out counts. However, some individuals may be duplicated between maltreatment types or between regions. Therefore, regional demographic counts may not add to Alaska totals.

Counts of Initial Assessments (IA) are also presented here, although many will not yet be finalized for recent periods. An IA may include multiple PSRs during the reporting period, which may be from different regions. Additionally, cases may have multiple PSRs and/or IAs during the reporting period. Therefore, regional IA and case counts may not add to Alaska totals.

Age calculations are based on the time of Protective Service Report screening acceptance. Where multiple reports were received the earliest report of maltreatment is used for age calculation. Ages are grouped in three-year increments to protect the privacy of individuals in low-count groups.

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

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

## **OCS Initial Assessment Webdata**

OCS web reports summarize statistics for child Protective Service Reports (PSR) received by Alaska's Office of Children's Services (OCS), including their screening status and the demographics of alleged child victims and alleged perpetrators. PSRs are documented reports of alleged maltreatment to children.

To protect the privacy of individuals in low-count groups, screening status regional breakouts are not included for monthly reporting periods.

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Age calculations are based on the time of Protective Service Report screening acceptance. Where multiple reports were received the earliest report of maltreatment is used for age calculation. Ages are grouped in three-year increments to protect the privacy of individuals in low-count groups.

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

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

## **OCS Out-of-Home Children Webdata**

OCS web reports summarize 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 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 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.

**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.

## **OCS Out-of-Home 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.

## **OCS Licensed Facilities Webdata**

OCS web reports summarize statistics for placement providers which were licensed by OCS during all or part of each period being reported.

Licensed Facility or Home counts are total number of unique licensed facilities or homes during the reporting period.

Region assignment is based on OCS Region designations and the Zip Code of the facility or home's physical address.

Non-child specific refers to licenses not issued only for specific children.

Bed capacities are as of the end of the reporting period and do not include children discharged on the last day of the period. ORCA does not have functionality to maintain history for capacity; therefore, capacity will update for all periods simultaneously.

Definition of ICWA, as used in this report – Provider has been documented as meeting requirements of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), a law that seeks to keep American Indian children with American Indian families. This is extended to include non-Indian Native children. ORCA does not have functionality to maintain history for this status; therefore, status will update for all periods simultaneously.

The Division of Juvenile Justice may place delinquent youth in foster and group homes or residential facilities that have been licensed by the Office of Children's Services.

Data-entry lag may cause decreased accuracy for more recent time periods. Subsequent reports covering the same reporting periods will contain updated statistics.

## **OCS Facility types**

**Child Placement Agency** - A person or organization that arranges for the placement of a child in a residential child care facility, foster home, or an adoptive home.

**Foster Group Home** - A home that cares for more than three, but no more than eight, children unrelated to the foster parent.

**Foster Home** - A home where the adult head of the household provides 24-hour care on a continuing basis to one or more children who are apart from their parents.

**Independent Living Program** - A home or facility for youth in transition from foster care to self-sufficiency, made possible by the federal Foster Care Independence Act.

**Maternity Home** - A facility that provides care to pregnant individuals or provides care to mothers and their newborn infants.

**Residential Child Care Facility** - A facility, staffed by employees, where one or more children who are apart from their parents receive 24-hour care on a continuing basis.

**Residential Psychiatric Treatment Center** - A secure or semi-secure facility, or an inpatient program in another facility, that provides, under the direction of a physician, psychiatric diagnostic, evaluation, and treatment services on a 24-hour-a-day basis to children with severe emotional or behavioral disorders.