



Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect in Alaska

The prevention of child abuse and neglect is an **act** priority.

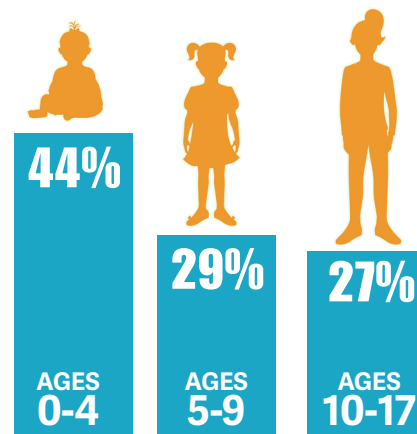
What is child abuse and neglect?

Abuse describes overt harm committed by others, usually adults. Abuse can be:

- ▶ Physical abuse
- ▶ Sexual abuse
- ▶ Verbal/emotional mental abuse

Neglect means parents and caregivers don't meet a child's basic needs. Neglect can be physical or emotional.

Who is most vulnerable?

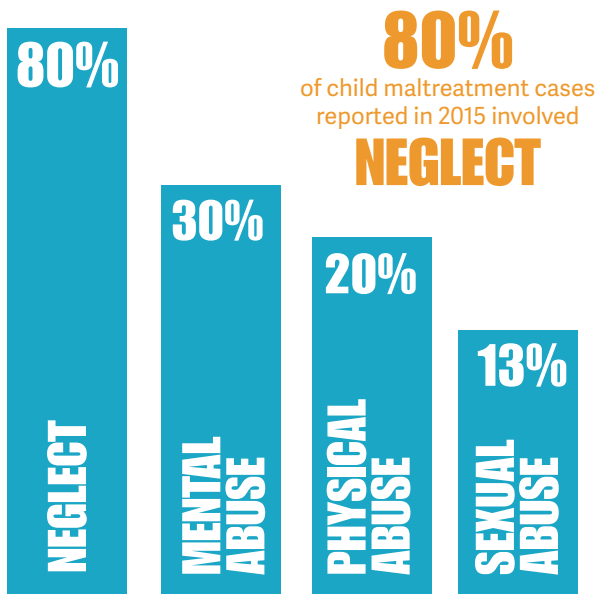


Age of child abuse & neglect victims in 2015¹

2,226
Confirmed Cases
of child abuse and neglect in 2015

Child abuse and neglect begins early. Forty-four percent of Alaskan victims are between the ages of 0-4 when they experience their first abuse. Children under age 4 are at the greatest risk for severe injury and death from abuse. Children who have been abused once before are often victims of repeated abuse. In Alaska, children reported more than once as victims of abuse or neglect account for more than two-thirds of OCS investigations.⁴ Most of the time, abusers are someone children know.

Abuse and neglect occur most often in families experiencing high levels of stress, such as poverty, family deaths, or chronic illness. Families without nearby friends, relatives or social support are the most at risk.



80%
of child maltreatment cases reported in 2015 involved

NEGLECT

2015 Reports to Office of Children's Services (OCS) by Type¹

OCS reports can involve multiple forms of abuse and neglect; therefore columns will not add to 100%.

How does child abuse and neglect impact children?

Research shows that abuse and neglect affect children throughout their lives. In addition to immediate injuries, abuse and neglect can disrupt brain development, weaken children's bodies, and cause long-term health problems. Children often adopt high-risk behaviors to cope with the pain of abuse and neglect, and those also can lead to chronic illness, disease, homelessness, and other social ills. Finally, the effects of abuse and neglect can be embedded in a child's DNA and passed on to future generations.

What are symptoms of child abuse and neglect?

Symptoms vary by the kind of abuse or neglect experienced by the child, but can include:

- Sudden changes in behavior or school performance
- Difficulty concentrating or problems learning
- Consistent anxiety, as though preparing for something bad to happen
- Absence of adult supervision
- Extreme compliance or passivity
- Disclosure of maltreatment

17,000

Reports to OCS of individual children identified as potential victims of child abuse and neglect in 2015¹

1 in 10

Alaskan children identified as potential victims of child abuse and neglect in 2015¹

5/hour

OCS reports of child abuse and neglect received in 2015¹

12/day

Reports received, on average, by OCS of confirmed child abuse and neglect in 2015¹

Direct Costs of Child Abuse and Neglect³

\$228,000

Estimated lifetime cost per Alaskan victim of child abuse and neglect

\$1.4 Million

Estimated lifetime cost in medical and productivity losses per Alaskan child death

Average Rate of Confirmed Child Abuse and Neglect²

per 1,000 children 17 and younger



U.S.

ALASKA



How can we prevent child abuse and neglect?



Safe,



Stable,



Nurturing

relationships and environments are essential to prevent child abuse and to assure *all children reach their full potential.*

What can we do to support Alaska's children?

The CDC recommends 5 steps:

Strategy	Approach
Strengthen economic supports to families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strengthening household financial security •Family-friendly work policies
Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Public engagement and education campaigns •Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment
Provide quality care and education early in life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Preschool enrichment with family engagement •Improved quality of child care through licensing and accreditation
Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Early childhood home visitation •Parenting skill and family relationship approaches
Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Enhanced primary care •Behavioral parent training programs •Treatment to lessen harms of abuse and neglect exposure •Treatment to prevent problem behavior and later involvement in violence

TAKE ACTION!

1 Enhance parenting skills to support healthy child development.

- › Bright Futures www.brightfutures.aap.org
- › The Whole Child www.pbs.org/wholechild
- › Zero to Three www.zerotothree.org
- › Child Development Institute www.childdevelopmentinfo.com
- › Healthy Children www.healthychildren.org

2 Promote protective factors to strengthen families.

- › Strengthening Families www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/programs/strengthening-families
 - Parental Resilience
 - Social Connections
 - Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
 - Concrete Support in Times of Need
 - Social & Emotional Competence of Children

3 Take simple steps.

- › Volunteer your time and talent with a group focused on children and families.
- › Create a neighborhood parent's group.
- › Offer to babysit for family or friends who are having stressful times.
- › Know your kids friends and their parents.

4 Report suspected child abuse and neglect.

CALL: (800) 478-4444

EMAIL: reportchildabuse@alaska.gov

FAX: (907) 269-3939

SUPPORT ALASKA'S
CHILDREN!



3201 C St., Suite 110
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

907.248.7676

AlaskaChildrensTrust.org



¹ Data courtesy of Alaska Surveillance of Child Abuse and Neglect Program (Alaska SCAN).

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (2016)

³ Fang, X. et al. The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. (2012)
Converted to 2015\$

⁴ Vadapalli, D. and Passini, J. *Repeat Maltreatment in Alaska: Assessment and Exploration of Alternative Measures* (2015)