

Office of Children's Services Children Out of Home

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Reporting period is the most recently completed five calendar years.

To protect privacy, Region breakouts may not show for elements with low counts.

Charts, information about the data in this report, and field definitions follow the tables below.

Count of Children in Out-of-Home Placement during each reporting period

Reporting Period	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Anchorage	1,314	1,570	1,711	1,714	1,687
Northern	567	661	759	828	811
Southcentral	829	927	1,106	1,080	1,075
Southeast	254	265	267	273	261
Western	274	280	285	299	286
Alaska, unique count (includes children in Trial Home Visits)	3,231	3,699	4,120	4,192	4,117
Native Children	1,957	2,120	2,370	2,516	2,559
Non-Native Children	1,274	1,579	1,750	1,676	1,558
Count in Trial Home Visits during period*	703	851	1,030	1,062	992
Percent in Trial Home Visits during period*	21.8%	23.0%	25.0%	25.3%	24.1%
Removals during the period	1,321	1,476	1,424	1,298	1,398
Discharges * during the period	1,009	981	1,234	1,482	1,279

* 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.

**Detail Counts for OCS Children Out of Home
during each reporting period**

Reporting Period	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
First Day	1,951	2,262	2,760	2,958	2,776
ARO First Day	798	936	1,195	1,206	1,135
NRO First Day	351	403	486	535	566
SCRO First Day	496	574	703	838	714
SERO First Day	153	162	201	174	168
WRO First Day	153	187	175	205	193
Last Day	2,263	2,761	2,947	2,775	2,902
ARO Last Day	925	1,187	1,199	1,123	1,199
NRO Last Day	406	476	524	575	562
SCRO Last Day	583	722	846	717	762
SERO Last Day	161	197	177	167	181
WRO Last Day	188	179	201	193	198
Out-of-Home	3,231	3,699	4,120	4,192	4,117
ARO OOH during	1,314	1,570	1,711	1,714	1,687
NRO OOH during	567	661	759	828	811
SCRO OOH during	829	927	1,106	1,080	1,075
SERO OOH during	254	265	267	273	261
WRO OOH during	274	280	285	299	286
Cases During	2,019	2,155	2,288	2,328	2,247
ARO Cases during	844	915	962	978	941
NRO Cases during	340	367	406	440	438
SCRO Cases during	536	568	624	604	583
SERO Cases during	169	177	177	173	155
WRO Cases during	133	135	123	135	137
Removed During	1,321	1,476	1,424	1,298	1,398
ARO Rmvd during	530	644	541	525	578
NRO Rmvd during	226	267	280	314	260
SCRO Rmvd during	336	362	415	242	369
SERO Rmvd during	107	103	67	105	97
WRO Rmvd during	122	100	121	112	94
Discharged During	1,009	981	1,234	1,482	1,279
ARO Dsch during	402	395	537	608	516
NRO Dsch during	171	196	241	275	267
SCRO Dsch during	250	214	272	363	323
SERO Dsch during	99	68	91	112	84
WRO Dsch during	87	108	93	124	89

Out-of-Home Placement Setting on the Last Day, by Child Count

Reporting Period	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Group Home	73	78	65	90	121
Institution	93	89	103	96	100
Non-Relative Home	911	1,050	972	718	792
ARO Non-Relative Home	372	421	395	297	313
NRO Non-Relative Home	156	188	160	160	163
SCRO Non-Relative Home	251	303	306	181	233
SERO Non-Relative Home	60	67	54	36	43
WRO Non-Relative Home	72	71	57	44	40
Pending Discharge	30	34	56	36	67
Pre-Adoptive	62	122	275	445	379
Relative Home	841	999	1,118	1,014	1,047
ARO Relative Home	347	439	469	418	425
NRO Relative Home	127	146	195	164	182
SCRO Relative Home	225	263	306	264	270
SERO Relative Home	63	72	62	72	75
WRO Relative Home	79	79	86	96	95
Runaway	14	13	22	14	25
Supervised Independent Living	8	1	4	8	6
Trial Home Visit	219	358	318	340	352
Other	12	17	14	14	13
All OOH on Last Day	2,263	2,761	2,947	2,775	2,902

Discharge Reasons by Child Count

Reporting Period	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Adoption	352	283	347	396	334
Child Aged Out	59	51	36	75	72
Custody Released to Relative	15	24	22	45	32
Death Of Child	2	3	4	5	5
Guardianship	37	33	40	45	91
Released Self/Emancipation	0	0	2	0	1
Reunification	504	515	716	823	695
Anchorage	196	222	331	335	261
Northern	88	98	144	156	165
Southcentral	104	92	143	187	161
Southeast	63	33	46	63	41
Western	53	70	52	82	67
Runaway - Custody Released	15	10	20	13	5
Transfer To Another Agency	3	1	1	2	0
Transfer to DJJ	4	2	3	1	3
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	18	59	43	77	41
All OOH on Last Day	1,009	981	1,234	1,482	1,279

Native Status of Children Out-Of-Home on the Last Day, by Child Count

Reporting Period	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Native Child	1,350	1,528	1,727	1,689	1,857
ARO Native Child	547	659	708	677	747
NRO Native Child	278	318	364	405	406
SCRO Native Child	215	236	320	292	365
SERO Native Child	122	138	134	122	141
WRO Native Child	188	177	201	193	198
Non-native Child	883	1,215	1,218	1,085	1,045
ARO Non-native Child	367	519	489	445	452
NRO Non-native Child	115	153	160	170	156
SCRO Non-native Child	362	484	526	425	397
SERO Non-native Child	39	59	43	45	40
Child Race Unknown	30	18	2	1	0
All OOH on Last Day	2,263	2,761	2,947	2,775	2,902

Gender of Children Out-Of-Home on the Last Day, by Child Count

Reporting Period	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Male Child	1,124	1,400	1,499	1,387	1,458
ARO Male Child	475	611	614	569	607
NRO Male Child	196	229	257	278	256
SCRO Male Child	278	376	442	370	407
SERO Male Child	78	92	82	70	87
WRO Male Child	97	92	104	100	101
Female Child	1,139	1,361	1,448	1,388	1,444
ARO Female Child	450	576	585	554	592
NRO Female Child	210	247	267	297	306
SCRO Female Child	305	346	404	347	355
SERO Female Child	83	105	95	97	94
WRO Female Child	91	87	97	93	97
All OOH on Last Day	2,263	2,761	2,947	2,775	2,902

Age of Children Out-Of-Home on the Last Day, by Child Count

Reporting Period	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Child Age 0-2	534	633	637	606	633
ARO Child Age 0-2	230	312	278	277	295
NRO Child Age 0-2	92	94	106	111	108
SCRO Child Age 0-2	143	163	193	156	175
SERO Child Age 0-2	38	40	36	33	32
WRO Child Age 0-2	31	24	24	29	23
Child Age 3-5	476	587	632	539	548
ARO Child Age 3-5	203	273	276	224	231
NRO Child Age 3-5	88	97	97	99	103
SCRO Child Age 3-5	111	128	185	147	147
SERO Child Age 3-5	42	56	40	39	32
WRO Child Age 3-5	32	33	34	30	35
Child Age 6-8	399	499	526	468	485
ARO Child Age 6-8	165	199	221	207	205
NRO Child Age 6-8	78	87	93	91	89
SCRO Child Age 6-8	95	134	134	111	125
SERO Child Age 6-8	26	37	37	30	31
WRO Child Age 6-8	35	42	41	29	35
Child Age 9-11	300	378	448	450	464
ARO Child Age 9-11	115	135	151	155	171
NRO Child Age 9-11	55	70	98	96	93
SCRO Child Age 9-11	83	118	134	126	109
SERO Child Age 9-11	14	25	25	28	44
WRO Child Age 9-11	33	30	40	45	47
Child Age 12-14	255	305	316	323	361
ARO Child Age 12-14	94	127	109	105	130
NRO Child Age 12-14	52	60	60	87	77
SCRO Child Age 12-14	66	78	99	86	98
SERO Child Age 12-14	16	12	17	17	25
WRO Child Age 12-14	27	28	31	28	31
Child Age 15+	299	358	388	389	411
ARO Child Age 15+	118	141	164	155	167
NRO Child Age 15+	41	67	70	91	92
SCRO Child Age 15+	85	101	101	91	108
SERO Child Age 15+	25	27	22	20	17
WRO Child Age 15+	30	22	31	32	27
Child Age Unknown		1			
NRO Child Age Unknown		1			
All OOH on Last Day	2,263	2,761	2,947	2,775	2,902

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.

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](#) page.