

Kids' Corps, Inc.  
2022 Community Assessment

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*The Strengths & Needs of Head Start eligible Children & Families in Anchorage*



“We provide a head start to families with children who need it most.”

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## I. Introduction

Kids Corps, Inc. (KCI) provides Head Start and Early Head Start services for eligible families in Anchorage. We also offer Parents as Teachers home based programming for Anchorage families. As required by federal Head Start Performance Standards, this community assessment is designed to provide the following information:

1. Demographic composition of eligible children and families: number, location, racial/ethnic description. The assessment must specifically include:
  - Children experiencing homelessness
  - Children in foster care
  - Children with disabilities
2. Education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and families
3. Work, school and training schedules of parents of eligible children
4. Description of other early childhood programs available to Head Start eligible children—location, eligibility, criteria, cost
5. Data re: the health, nutritional, educational and social service needs of eligible children as defined by the families themselves and by local service providers including KCI staff
6. Availability and use of community resources that address needs of eligible children and families
7. Community strengths

Throughout the Community Assessment, we focus on providing additional details about the specific populations served by KCI including 1) children aged 0-5 and 2) families who are eligible for Head Start, including homeless families, foster children, and families who meet federal Health and Human Services poverty guidelines. We expect to use this information to better understand how our service area—the Anchorage bowl-- is changing and how we can develop program options and components that respond to these changes. Additionally we will use the community assessment to:

- To guide program philosophy, goals and objectives
- To identify recruitment areas and priorities
- To identify the best locations for Head Start services

Throughout this document “Head Start” refers to Birth to 5 Early Head Start and Head Start services unless otherwise noted.

## Methodology

In the winter and spring of 2021, our staff team collected information from many existing sources. The last 5 years have seen the release of several reports about early childhood education and early care and learning services in Alaska and Anchorage. A full list of citations is included in the appendix.

Other community organizations also provided data about their programs and services in Anchorage. Wherever possible, Anchorage specific data was used. When Anchorage specific data was not available, or not reliable, statewide data was used.

Finally, we surveyed staff and currently enrolled families to get their feedback in the strengths and needs of eligible families, community strengths and gaps in services. Representatives of the Board of Directors reviewed key data and suggested areas of focus. KCI parent policy council representatives provided feedback about our findings and conclusions after data had been collected.

Our community assessment team encountered 2 significant obstacles. The first was the lack of 2020 census data. As of July 1, 2021, we have used 2019 census estimates as the latest data available. We will update population, demographic and economic data when the 2020 census data is released. The second challenge is lack of access to most of the online data typically available on the state Department of Health and Social Services website due to a hacking incident in the spring of 2021. The website, with its wealth of data on health, behavioral health and public assistance services remains offline as of July 1, 2021. (The community assessment was updated in 2023 to include 2020 Census data and State of Alaska data.)

## II. Overview of the Municipality of Anchorage—Demographics, Income, Population

The Municipality of Anchorage stretches from the Native Village of Eklutna to the Portage Glacier. The city limits span over 1,900 square miles, and include a military base, several outlying communities and a large state park.<sup>1</sup> It is bordered by the waters of Turnagain Arm to the South and Knik Arm to the north and east, and the Chugach Mountains to the west.

Originally incorporated in 1915, Anchorage has a rich history from before its incorporation. The first people to settle in the region were the Denai’na Athabascans, the Native people of Southcentral Alaska, who settled in the area over 1000 years ago. Today, Anchorage is home to the largest Alaska Native community in Alaska, and Native people from all regions of Alaska live here.

Anchorage is the hub of Alaska, and 95% of all goods that come into the State come through the Port of Anchorage. The Ted Stevens International Airport is also a major transportation hub, and the Alaska Railroad moves goods and people throughout the State. Major industries in Anchorage include transportation, military, municipal, state and federal government, corporate headquarters, tourism, and resource development.

### Population Growth

Anchorage has a 2020 population of 282,958. It is the largest city in Alaska and the 73rd largest city in the United States. Another 110,500 people are estimated to live in the nearby Matanuska-

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<sup>1</sup> Census Quick Facts, 2010 <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/02/02020.html>.

Susitna Borough,<sup>2</sup> and many of them commute to work and take advantage of services and amenities available in the Anchorage.

Anchorage’s population has been declining since 2013 when it reached a peak population of 301,142. Population has decreased -3.04% since the 2010 census, which recorded a population of 291,826. In comparison, the Mat-Su Borough experienced significant growth during this same time period.<sup>3</sup> Anchorage has a population density of 146 people per square mile.

According to the Alaska Department of Labor (DOL) projections for 2019-2045, Anchorage is expected to add 13,500 residents during this period, for a modest gain of 5%. Across the state, population growth of 11% is projected through 2045. According to DOL, “Despite Alaska’s high fertility rate, the population from birth to age 19 has been flat or declining since 2000, mainly because baby boomers’ children have matured into the working ages. The millennials, born between 1981 and 1996, have reached high fertility ages, leading to projected growth in the 0-19 age group. The projections show a 2 percent increase by 2025 and 6 percent by 2045. This is based on current fertility rates holding steady, however, and recent years’ declines make these numbers more uncertain.”<sup>4</sup> The degree of uncertainty is illustrated by the fact that in 2015 DOL estimated an Anchorage birth to 4 population of 24,143 by July 1, 2022. As seen in the following table, those figures have since been adjusted downward.

<b>Projected Population Growth for 0-4 Year Olds, 2019-2030*</b>				
	<i>July 2019</i>	<i>July 2025</i>	<i>July 2030</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Anchorage	19,663	19,017	18,413	-6.3%
Alaska	49,686	51,158	51,194	3%

\*Alaska Department of Labor population estimates

The population of young children is highly impacted by net migration, so the estimates for this age group are also the most likely to change from the baseline as outside factors influence population growth. For example, in 2014, fewer people moved into Anchorage than expected, possibly because of improving job opportunities in other states. Although the population was expected to resume growing in 2015,<sup>5</sup> this was not the case.

### Demographics

Alaska is a very diverse state, and Anchorage is very representative of that diversity. There are some differences between Anchorage and the State. Most significantly, a smaller percentage of the total population in Anchorage is Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/AI) than in the rest of the State. Demographic diversity for this birth to 4 age group has changed little since our 2015 report. No group experienced a notable percentage increase or decline.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Alaska Department of Labor, Population Estimates by Borough/Census Area, 2010-2014.

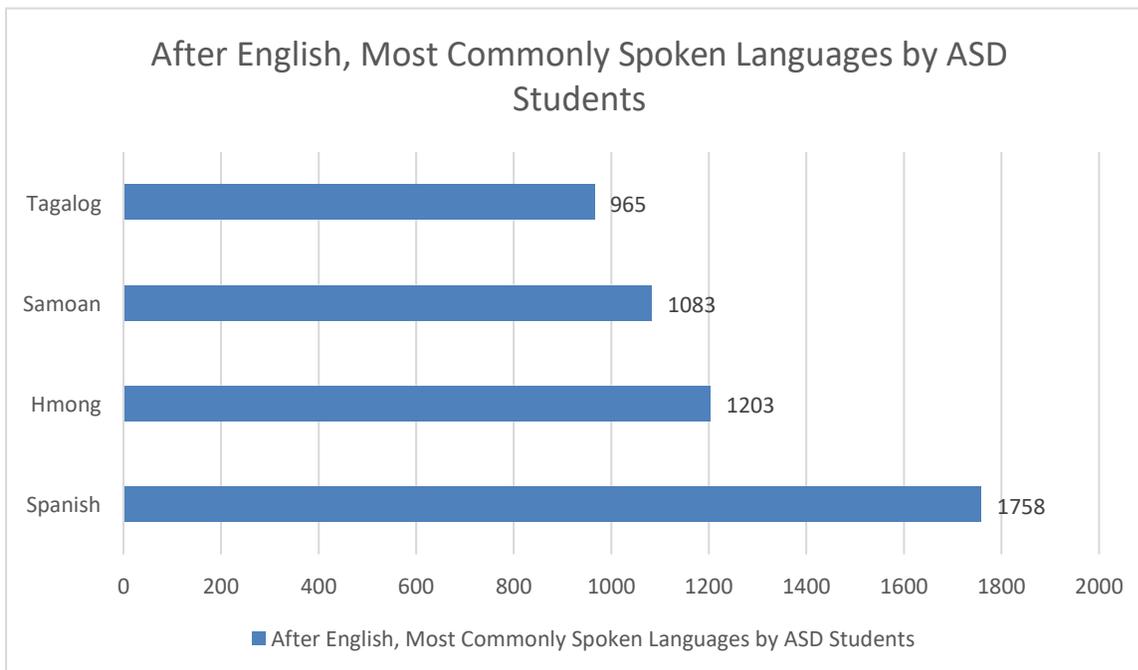
<sup>4</sup> Howell, David, “Population Projections 2019-2045,” Alaska Economic Trends Magazine, May 2020, pp. 17-18.

<sup>5</sup> 2015 Economic Forecast for Anchorage, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

2019 Race/Ethnicity in Anchorage			
<i>Race</i>	<i>Alaska</i>	<i>Anchorage</i>	<i>ASD, 2019-2020</i>
White	65%	64%	41%
Alaska Native/American Indian	16%	9%	9%
Black, African American	4%	6%	5%
Asian	7%	10%	17%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	4%	3%	(ASD data combines Asian/PI)
Two or More	8%	8%	16%
<i>Ethnicity</i>			
Hispanic	7%	9%	12%

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor, Alaska Population by Age, Race (Alone) and Hispanic Origin, Sex and Borough/Census Area, July 2019; ASD Ethnicity Report, 2011-2020, October 30, 2020. (Data for ASD enrollment in the fall of 2020 not included.)

In the Anchorage School District (ASD) 80% of families speak English at home; among the 20% who do not, 110 languages are spoken.<sup>6</sup>



In Anchorage, 18% of residents speak a language other than English at home and about 11% of Anchorage residents were born outside of the United States or United States' territories. Of

<sup>6</sup> Retrieved from ASD website on 7/1/2021. <http://www.asdk12.org/aboutasd/>

foreign born residents, 66% are citizens. A little over half of those residents who speak a language other than English at home report speaking English less than “very well.” Asia is the most common region of foreign origin for Anchorage residents.<sup>7</sup>

### Transience

In addition to being diverse, the population in Anchorage is also very transient, 40% of Anchorage residents were born in Alaska, an increase from 35.5% in 2015.<sup>8</sup> The national average is significantly higher with 58% of people born in the state they currently live in.<sup>9</sup> Alaska has one of the highest migration rates in the nation, with 5 to 7% of the population entering or leaving the state each year. In addition, Anchorage also sees seasonal and economically based in and out migration from rural areas.

According to the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development about 44,000 people moved into Alaska each year and 47,000 moved away between 2010-2015. “This magnitude of churn — about 12 percent of the population moving into or out of the state each year — is among the highest in the nation.”<sup>10</sup>

### Educational Attainment

In Anchorage, 36% of adults over the age of 25 have a four year degree or higher. Another 9% has an associate’s degree. About 5% failed to graduate from high school, compared to 9% in 2015. This is similar to the statewide education levels for the same age group and above the US average, for attainment of a high school diploma or above.

Local, State & National Education Levels, Over 25 year olds			
<i>Education Level</i>	<i>Anchorage</i>	<i>Alaska</i>	<i>USA</i>
Less than 9th grade	1.7%	2.2%	4.8%
High school, no diploma	3.2%	4.3%	6.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	25.2%	28.7%	26.9%
Some College	24.2%	25.7%	20%
Associate's Degree	9.3%	9.0%	8.6%
Bachelor's Degree	22.2%	18.5%	20.3%
Graduate Degree	14.1%	11.7%	12.8%

Source: 2019 American Community Survey 1 year survey, Select Social Characteristics

In contrast, Kids Corps, Inc (KCI) parents are less likely to have graduated from high school and less likely to have a college degree or any other form of higher education. According to KCI’s

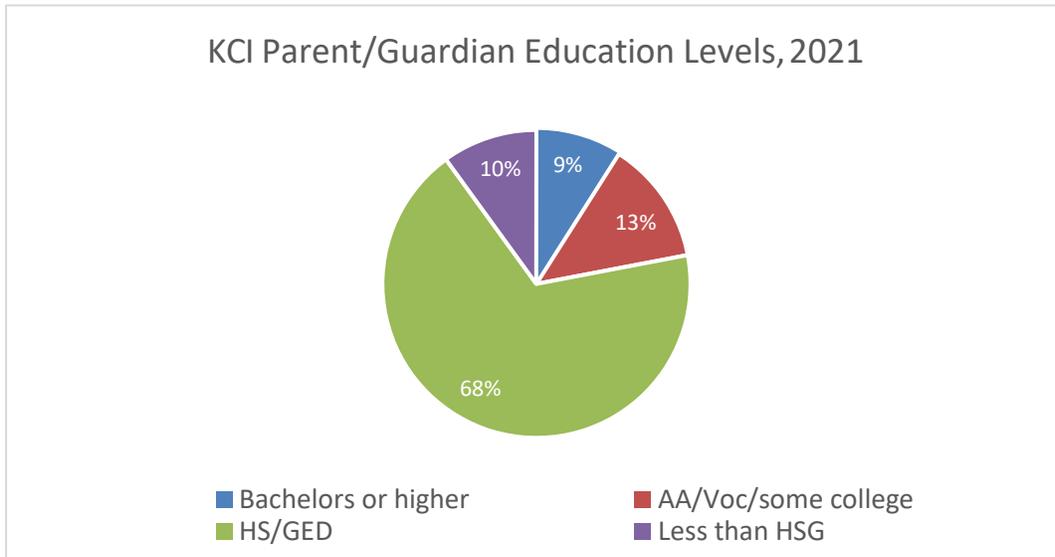
<sup>7</sup> American Community Survey, 2019 single year estimates, Select Social Characteristics for Municipality of Anchorage, AK.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid..

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, “Age Migration Data,” press release, March 3, 2017.

2021 Program Information Report (PIR), 10% of KCI parents hadn't graduated from high school or been awarded a GED. This represents a considerable improvement from 2014, when 18% had not graduated from high school or received a GED. While over 36% of those in Anchorage have a BA/BS or higher, 9% of KCI parents do, and 13% have an AA or any college or vocational training, while over 33% of all adults in Anchorage do. Cost and the demands of caring for young children are obvious factors that might make post-secondary education more challenging for Head Start eligible families to access than the general population.



Source: KCI 2021 federal Program Information Report

### Income/Earnings in Anchorage

While in many census areas in Alaska the per capita income is far below the state or national average, in Anchorage it is above the national average and also above the Alaska average. However, the per capita income gap between national and Anchorage has shrunk; in 2010 the national per capita was 78% of Anchorage's, growing to 86% in 2019.

This per capita estimate does not consider the differences in cost-of-living between communities in rural and urban Alaska or the lower 48 states.

2010-2019 Real Per Capita Income – Anchorage, Alaska & USA Comparison (ACS, 2019 estimates)						
	2010	2012	2014	2016	2019	2019, % of State
Anchorage	\$36,560	\$34,710	\$34,758	\$36,476	\$41,442	112%
Alaska	33,684	33,336	33,519	34,187	\$36,978	100%
USA	28,687	28,588	29,288	31,128	\$35,672	96.5%

Source: ACS 1 year survey, December 2017

According to the American Community Survey (ACS), the median family income in Anchorage in 2016 was \$95,872 and \$104,660 in 2019. In 2019 the national family median income was \$80,944. Over these 3 years the median family income increased by 3% annually in Alaska compared to 4.6% per year nationally. The percentage of families whose income was below the federal poverty level in the last 12 months was only 5%. This is less than half of the the US average of 12% during the same period.

Over the last decade wages in Alaska have stagnated. When adjusted for inflation, per capita income peaked in 2008 (at the start of national Great Recession) and actually decreased by .33% between 2008 and 2016. Nationally per capita income increased slightly (.06%) during the same period. In short, due to oil prices and the state's dependence on income from oil production, Anchorage escaped much of the economic pain the rest of the country suffered between 2008-2012 when oil prices were high and the Great Recession peaked. By the same token, with the collapse of oil prices in 2014 Alaska and Anchorage have missed out on the national economic recovery between 2015-2019.

The Covid 19 pandemic and other world events have had a significant and still evolving impact on employment, wages and (important to Alaska) the price of oil. Businesses in many sectors in Anchorage and across the country are struggling to fill open positions. While wages have increased, especially in some of the lowest paid entry level positions in service industries, inflation is at levels not seen since the early 1980s, which neutralizes the purchasing power of rising wages.

With the price of oil in the early months of 2022 rising (and staying) well above the \$100 mark, the state of Alaska experienced dramatically higher revenues than expected. One result of this is an increase in the Permanent Fund Dividend, paid to each Alaska who meets modest state residency requirements. Although this financial resource (over \$3,000 per person in 2022) will help offset the impact of inflation, the annual payout fluctuates considerably from year to year based on state oil revenues.

### Poverty in Anchorage

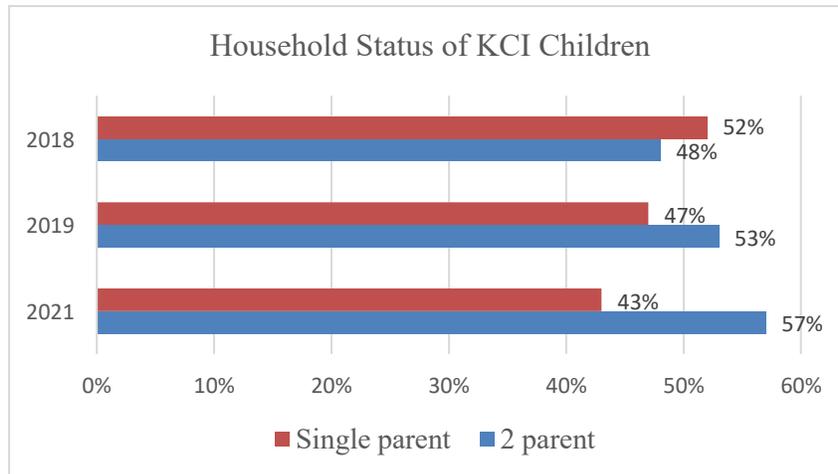
According to the US Census 2019 ACS 5-year estimate, approximately 25,861 Anchorage residents live below the poverty level, about 9% of the population. It is estimated that 2,705 children living in Anchorage under the age of five—13%-- live in poverty.

In Anchorage, like in other parts of the United States, young children are more likely to live in poverty than older children or adults. In Anchorage:

- 10% of the general population has an income below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL);
- 13.1% of children under 18 live below 100% of the FPL;

- 16.7% of children under 5 live below 100% of the FPL.<sup>11</sup>

The following chart illustrates household status of KCI children from 2018-2021. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic there was no Program Information Report with this data compiled for 2020. The chart shows that from year to year roughly half of all KCI families are single parent rather than two-parent households.



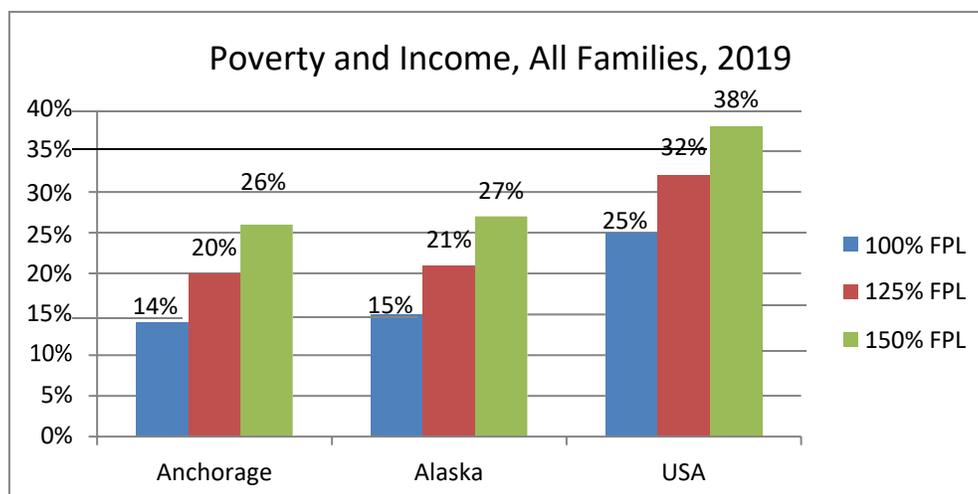
Source: KCI federal Program Information Report (PIR)

US Census and ACS estimates do not consider the adjusted federal poverty rate for Alaska, when completing their national rankings, or calculating poverty levels in Alaska. This means that US Census poverty estimates for Alaska are low. The Alaska Federal Poverty Level table is 25% higher than the standard Federal Poverty Level tables.<sup>12</sup> The adjusted federal poverty guidelines for Alaska (AKFPL) is 125% of the FPL. Under those numbers, poverty in Alaska starts to grow.

Anchorage's rate of poverty is lower than Alaska's rate of poverty. There are still fewer individuals in Anchorage and Alaska, who are at 125% of the FPL (100% of AKFPL) than who are only at 100% of the FPL. This means, even when adjusted for Alaska poverty rates, poverty in Alaska is still slightly lower than the US average of 16%, with 14% of Alaskan's and 11% of Anchorage residents living below the AK FPL .

<sup>11</sup> American Community Survey 2019, Poverty Status in the last 12 months.

<sup>12</sup> 2015 Alaska Federal Poverty Guidelines. <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/15poverty.cfm>.



Source: 2019 ACS 1 year estimates, table B17026 ratio of income to poverty

Across the United States, young children are more likely than adults, or the general population to live in poverty. Alaska is no exception to this. In Anchorage, 20% of children under 6 live below the AK FPL (125% FPL), 9% higher than the general population of Anchorage residents. This is on par with the US average, which has 25% of children living under 6 living in poverty, versus only 16% of the general population, also a 9% difference.

Earlier in 2022 the Office of Head Start recognized SNAP (Food Stamp) benefits as proof of eligibility for Head Start. Of course, many SNAP eligible families do not apply for SNAP benefits and so cannot establish Head Start eligibility in this way. According to ACS data table S2201, 4,956 households with children under the age of 18 receive SNAP benefits, about 14% of the estimated 36,435 families in Anchorage with children under 18.

### Economic Fundamentals for Anchorage

Anchorage avoided much of the pain felt during the Great Recession of 2008 because oil prices remained high in Alaska, fueling the economy and contributing to overall job growth. During that period, unemployment rates in Anchorage were lower than the national average. In Anchorage, unemployment rose from 5.2% in 2008 to a high of 6.8% in 2010, a rise of only 1.6%. Nationally, during this time, unemployment rose from 5.8% to 9.6%, a rise of 3.8%. However, as national employment began to recover after 2010, employment in Anchorage actually declined between 2014-2020. In 2017 Anchorage lost 2,200 jobs during the year, a decline of 1.5%. As a result, Anchorage unemployment as of March 2018 was 6.4%, compared to 4.1% nationally.

As mentioned earlier in this document, the Covid 19 pandemic changed all of this. Although during the first year of the pandemic, employment dropped precipitously, as of May 2022, unemployment stood at 4% in Anchorage, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ([https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.ak\\_anchorage\\_msa.htm](https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.ak_anchorage_msa.htm)). Alaska and Anchorage also will be receiving received hundreds of millions of federal infrastructure funding, which will begin

hitting the state in 2023, creating additional demand for employees in several sectors. This spending is also likely to continue to push wages upward. In the meantime, employers like Kids' Corps who depend on essential workers to provide services on site will likely struggle to find staff for the rest of 2022 if not beyond.

That said, the economic fundamentals that characterized Anchorage and Alaska prior to the Covid 19 pandemic—low population growth, stagnant wages, high unemployment, state budget shortfalls due to low oil prices and the lack of a long-term state fiscal plan—have not been addressed and will likely continue to shape the future.

### Housing

Housing has become a pressing issue recently in the Municipality of Anchorage. The relative cost of housing has risen every year since 2009 in Anchorage<sup>13</sup>, and Anchorage ranks 21<sup>st</sup> highest housing costs in the nation. The average cost of a home was \$358,456 in 2014, a 3.23% increase over 2013.<sup>14</sup> Rental prices have also been on the increase, and the average rent for an apartment was \$1112/month, and \$1780/month for a single family home. The vacancy rate for rental units is just 3.2%, the lowest in the State, for 2 bedroom units, the vacancy rate is even lower at 2.9%.<sup>15</sup>

The McDowell Group Housing Market analysis of 2012 projected a need for 18,000 housing units in the Anchorage Bowl, and another 3200 in Chugiak/Eagle River by 2030. The report also recommended looking at more low-cost higher density housing models for development, in part because of a decline in available land for building.<sup>16</sup> The availability of housing and particularly low-cost housing, is a concern in Anchorage, especially as low wage jobs are projected to be added to the Anchorage economy.

Housing is also a concern for KCI families. Although the lower enrollment of 2020-2021 caused a reduced number of enrolled homeless families, there were 59 homeless families enrolled in 2019 prior to the pandemic, which is consistent with trends dating back to 2011.

### Transportation

The majority of Anchorage residents, 87%, drive to work, either in their own car, or by carpooling with someone else. Public transportation is less common than walking or biking. In 2019 3.5% of employed individuals 16 and older worked from home, increasing to 5.5% in 2020.<sup>17</sup>

In Anchorage, public transportation is through the People Mover bus system. Students, Staff and Faculty at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Pacific University, and Alaska Career

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.adn.com/article/20141124/broad-effort-focuses-increasing-housing-anchorage>.

<sup>14</sup> Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, 2014 Cost of Living Index for Anchorage, AK.

<sup>15</sup> Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, 2014 Residential Rental Market Survey.

<sup>16</sup> The McDowell Group, 2012 Anchorage Housing Market Analysis, March 2012.

<sup>17</sup> American Community Survey, 2020 one year estimates, selected economic characteristics, commuting to work, table DP03.

College Anchorage Charter College can all ride the bus for free. A day pass on the people mover is \$5.00 and a one-way trip is \$2.00.<sup>18</sup>

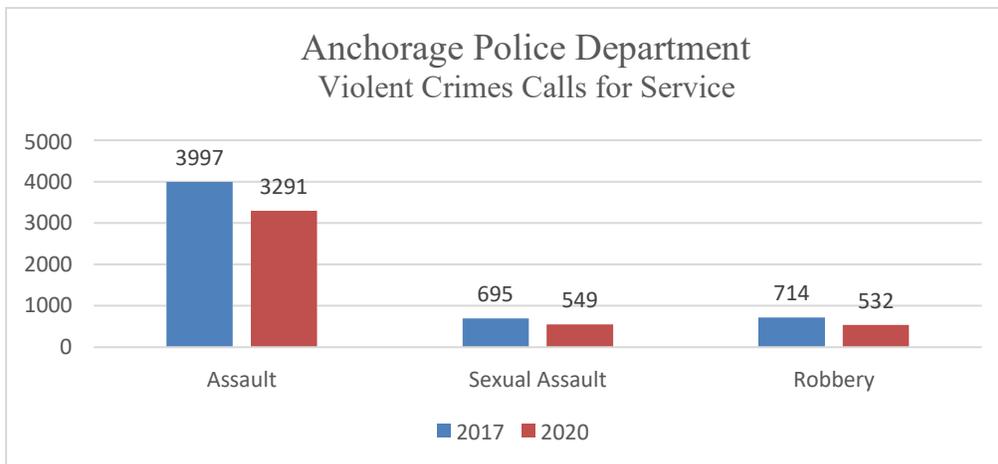
For students in the Anchorage School District, the Anchorage School District provides transportation for those who live at least a 1.5 miles from their home schools. ASD also provides limited bus service for some of its preschool students, as does KCI and other Anchorage Head Starts. For school-aged children, many child care centers and before and after-school programs will provide bus service to and from a select number of schools and the program location.

For KCI families, 20% of those who left in 2022 cited transportation issues as the primary reason for withdrawing their child. A virtually identical percentage was reported in the 2015.

### Crime and Safety

According to Anchorage Police Department data, violent crime including assault, sexual assault and robbery all declined significantly between 2017-2020. The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting municipal “hunker down” directive influenced this development. However, it is worth noting that the number of annual calls for service declined each year from 2017 to 2020 for both assault and robbery. Homicides were cut in half between 2019-2020, with only 18 homicides in 2020 compared to 35 in 2019.

Virtually all property crimes, including stolen vehicles, burglary, theft and vandalism declined significantly between 2017-2020. As with violent crime, the decline is not wholly attributable to the Covid 19 pandemic. Calls to APD for theft, burglary and stolen vehicles all declined each year from 2017 to 2020.



### Cost of Living

According to AEDC, the overall cost of living in Anchorage is 30% above the national average. In other words, overall it takes \$1.30 in Anchorage to pay for goods and services that average

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.muni.org/departments/transit/peoplemover/Pages/default.aspx>, retrieved on June 29th, 2022.

\$1.00 nationally. Of course, the cost of living varies by sector. E.g., utility costs in Anchorage are close to the national average. Groceries are 32% higher, housing is 49.9% higher, health care 43.5% higher, and miscellaneous goods and services like fast food and haircuts are 25% higher.

### III. Head Start and Other Early Childhood Education Services in Anchorage

Kids Corps, Inc. (KCI) has been serving children and their families in Anchorage, Alaska since 1990 by providing federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start services for children birth to five years old in eight locations. In 2021, KCI enrolls 257 children each year in Head Start and Early Head Start. KCI also partners with the Anchorage School District (ASD) to have Head Start classrooms in four local elementary schools during the school year. Eligibility and services vary by location. Head Start class sizes vary from 16-18 children. Early Head Start classes are limited to 8 children.

#### Head Start Part-Day Services

- 11 classes per week at 4, 5 or 6.5 hours per day
- 3 Education Home Visits
- 2 Parent/Teacher Conferences per year
- Limited transportation services available
- September-May (6 classes) or September-July (5 classes)
- For children who are 3--5 years old

#### Head Start Full-day services

- 1 classroom
- Children aged 3 to 5 years (pre-kindergarten)
- Year Round
- 2 Education Home Visits
- 2 Parent/Teacher Conferences per year
- Children may attend year round
- Center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- No transportation provided

#### Early Head Start – Center based

- Children 4 months to 3 years old
- 2 Education Home Visits
- 2 Parent/Teacher Conferences per year
- Children may attend year round
- Center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- No transportation provided

#### Early Head Start - Home Based

- Families with children pre-birth to 3 years old
- Weekly Education Home Visits with home visitor (Parents as Teachers curriculum)
- 46 home visits per year
- 2 group socializations activities per month

- No fees

KCI also offers many other services to the children and families that they serve. These include:

- Family Services & community resource referrals
- Developmental, dental, sensory and behavioral health screenings and referrals for further assessment if needed
- Wide variety of family education and parent education opportunities
- Mental health consultation for staff and families
- Nutritional meals for children and nutrition and health education for parents

### Other Providers of Head Start Services

According to thread’s “2021 Alaska’s Early Childhood Data Dashboard,” in Anchorage there are:

- 578 children are in Head Start or Early Head Start programs
- 735 children are in military early childhood education services
- 1003 children are in public pre-k programs
- 6,271 children are in licensed or approved early childhood education services (Birth to 12)
- 8,480 children live in households where at least one adult does not work

KCI is not the only Head Start provider in the Municipality of Anchorage. Head Start and Early Head Start services are also provided by Cook Inlet Native Head Start, RuralCAP and Claire Swan (Cook Inlet Tribal Council). Claire Swan and Cook Inlet Native Head Start are Region XI programs serving only American Indian/Alaska Native children. The table below shows funded enrollment by each Head Start agency.

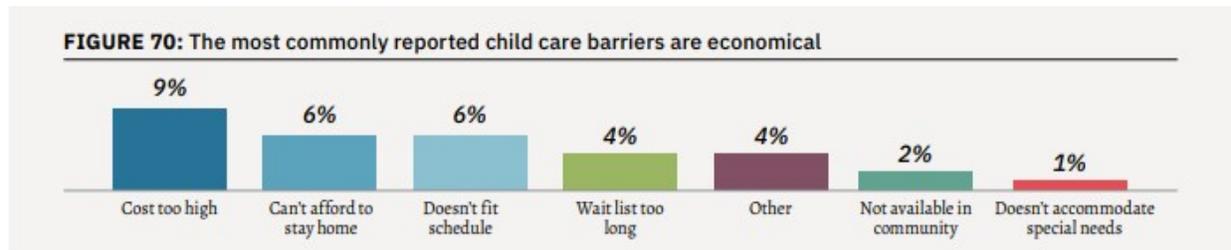
Agency	Funded Enrollment Head Start	Funded Enrollment EHS
Clare Swan	0	64
Cook Inlet Native HS	194	65
Kids’ Corps, Inc.	205	52
Rural Cap	20	0
Totals	419	181

We do not know how many children in families living below the poverty level may also be in the ASD special education preschool or a private early learning or preschool program, either through parent-pay, or subsidized care, such as the State’s Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Parent’s Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS) program.

### Other Early Care & Education Programs in Anchorage

As reported by thread, Alaska’s Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) network, in the year 2021 23,666 children under the age of six live in Anchorage. Several barriers exist which

families report are the reasons that finding care is so difficult. According to the *All Alaska Pediatric Partnership*, the most common barrier families experience in regards to finding preferred childcare is the high cost of service.<sup>19</sup>



Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey Queryable Dataset, 2015-2017 combined, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, <http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/>, accessed December 2019

In 2020, thread reported that the average annual cost of center-based care in Alaska is more than college tuition with infant care at \$11,700, and preschool at \$10,764. For all Anchorage households combined, families spend 14% of their household income for childcare while 7% is the target set by the U.S. Office of Child Care<sup>20</sup>. However, for single parents the percentage of income spent on child care is much higher: 22% for single fathers and a staggering 36% for single mothers. Given such costs, many families rely on childcare assistance to afford the costs associated with finding quality care.

In 2020, roughly 12,000 families with children under the age of eleven lived in low-income working families, and on average, about 3,300 children each month receive a subsidy for the family to help with the cost of care” (thread, 2020). Of this group, 58% lived in 2 parent families where both parents worked while 36% lived in a single parent family where the parent worked.

<sup>21</sup>In Anchorage, 34% of households have at least one member who would seek work, or would work more if they had access to childcare (thread, 2021).<sup>22</sup>

Being the largest city, Anchorage has the most childcare slots in the state. According to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Public Assistance, Child Care Facilities Database, accessed on April 2021:

- Number of licensed facilities in MOA, excluding Eagle River and Girdwood: 243
- Number of exempt facilities in MOA, excluding Eagle River and Girdwood: 18
- Of the 243 facilities with an enrollment of about 9,000 children, about 170 offer services to infants, while about 73 facilities serve ages 3 and up.

<sup>19</sup> “Alaska Early Childhood Environmental Scan & Baseline Report on the Condition of Young Children, 2020.” All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, June 2020. [https://e54eab64-475a-4c01-996d-bc8065f98250.filesusr.com/ugd/e19593\\_d7a218f105464f8e805c300f03559708.pdf](https://e54eab64-475a-4c01-996d-bc8065f98250.filesusr.com/ugd/e19593_d7a218f105464f8e805c300f03559708.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Alaska’s Early Childhood Data Dashboard, 2021.” Thread, Alaska, 2021. <https://public.tableau.com/profile/mcdowell.group5295#!/vizhome/AlaskasEarlyCareandLearningDataDashboard2021DRAFT/AlaskasEarlyChildhoodEducationDataDashboard>

<sup>21</sup> Early Childhood Education in Alaska, 2020 Policy Fact Sheet.” thread, Alaska, 2020. <https://www.threadalaska.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Child-Care-in-Alaska-Policy-Fact-Sheet-2020-Booklet.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

- thread estimates 23% of children age 0-5 are in unlicensed care, which can include family, friends, and neighbors
- 18% still had an unmet need for care

There are no data on the number of children who may be in multiple care settings, such as attending a pre-k program and enrolled in licensed or approved care.

The number of infant and toddler slots available is regularly less than the number of children in need. More than 80 percent of infants and toddlers in Anchorage do not have access to licensed childcare slots – means that 4 in 5 infants and toddlers may not have access to licensed child care while their mothers are at work” (Child Care Aware of America, 2017).

Childcare and preschool in the city is offered by various types of programs including, private and franchised centers, and family home childcare providers, exempt programs including church and military centers, and Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The school district provides preschool classes at most of its elementary schools funded by federal Title 1, local Municipal Alcohol Tax grants, and other sources. Starting in the 23-24 school state Alaska Reads Act pre-k funds will be available in competitive grants. .

Of the 252 licensed early care facilities within the Anchorage Municipality, 222 (88%) accept CCAP vouchers. Head Start/Early Head Start (EHS) and School District Pre-K programs provide additional early learning opportunities, although not all children are served in a classroom setting. thread estimates 23% of children age 0-5 are in unlicensed care, which can include family, friends, and neighbors, and 18% still have an unmet need for care. (All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, June 2020). Need is especially acute for infants and toddlers. .

Cost is not the only barrier to accessing early care and education opportunities. One of the most pressing is a shortage of qualified early educators. Turnover, as well as wages remaining low, even with the continued rise in required or recommended credentials, continues to be the largest issues the field of early childhood education faces. Anchorage and its pool of possible ECE applicants took a huge loss when the UAA School of Education lost its accreditation. The proportion of the Alaska labor pool represented by preschool teachers is the same as the national rate, despite the higher percentage of children in the Alaska population (7.4% of Alaska’s population is under age five, compared to 6.1% of the U.S. population), suggesting a shortage of workers in the state<sup>23</sup>

While child care centers and homes may serve any age range that they would like, including school aged children, school-aged programs do not serve young children. In Anchorage, just over one-third of all available capacity is in programs serving only school aged children. Daycare programs, which are about two-thirds of all capacity may serve any variety of ages. Some serve

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<sup>23</sup> All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, Environment Scan, p. 40

infants, others do not serve any children under 18 months, while others serve just preschool aged children. Many of the daycare programs serve school aged children, in addition to infants, toddlers and school aged children.

The exact number of slots available for any age group is difficult to determine because providers are not required to set aside or predetermine who they will serve with their available capacity. One-third of all available slots are for programs serving only school-aged children. The remaining 6,300 are for children of any age.

The 2017 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report released by the state Child Care Program Office in June 2018 surveyed 224 home and center based licensed child care providers statewide, including 110 in Anchorage. In Anchorage over 80% of respondents report charging above the market rate for care for children 3-5 years old, with a median cost of \$825 per full time month. 90% charge above market rate for toddlers (15 months-3 years), with a median cost of \$950 per month. Home based care (8 or fewer children) has considerably lower median costs: \$650 per month for pre-k aged children and \$700 for toddlers.

The survey reports that 32% of Anchorage respondents are operating at full capacity as listed on the provider's child care license. 39% report waitlists; almost all the respondents reporting waitlists are center-based providers. The survey reports 233 pre-k children and 321 toddlers on wait-lists for center based care for Anchorage.

The survey response for Anchorage was 64% for center providers and 22% for home providers. 119 centers and 152 home providers were emailed surveys.

### Early Learning Needs for Low-Income Children in Anchorage

Head Start provides preschool for three and four year old children who are income eligible. Early Head Start enrolls eligible children birth to 3 years old, as well as pregnant women. Currently, to qualify for Head Start, a family must have an income at or below 130% of the FPL. In Alaska, the AkFPL is used to determine eligibility for Head Start.

There are an estimated 19,325 children under age 5 in Anchorage.<sup>24</sup> 16.7%, 3,227 children, are estimated to live below 100% of the AkFPL.<sup>25</sup> At 125% of AkFPL the estimated number increases to an estimated 3,671,

At 100% of the AkFPL, there are an estimated 1,300 three- and four-year-olds who are eligible for Head Start. At 130% of the AkFPL, there are 1,468 three- and four-year-olds who are eligible for Head Start.

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<sup>24</sup> American Community Survey, 2019 5 year estimates, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, Anchorage, AK, S1701

<sup>25</sup> American Community Survey, 2019 5 year estimates, Selected Characteristics of people at specified levels of poverty in past 12 months, Anchorage, AK S1703.

ASD preschool programs have been expanding over the past decade. ASD general education classrooms enroll only 4-year-olds, i.e., children who will be eligible to enter kindergarten the following year. Because ASD does not collect income data, it is impossible to know how many Head Start eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in ASD pre-k. While three-year-olds are eligible for KCI and other Anchorage Head Start programs, they have historically composed a minority of the total children enrolled at KCI. This may change as the Alaska Reads Act is implemented and public pre-K continues to expand enrollment opportunities for 4-year-olds in Anchorage and throughout the state. ASD has applied to open 6 pre-k classrooms through Alaska Reads Act funding for the 23-24 school year. The 6 classrooms are located in Aurora, Bayshore, Campbell, Chugiak, Government Hill & Lake Hood elementary schools. Most are located either outside our service area (Chugiak) or in neighborhoods with low Head Start eligibility rates.

As of the 2021-22 school year there were 22 Title 1 elementary schools in Anchorage. All except Springhill host at least one pre-k (general education, migrant or KCI/ASD collaboration), with Springhill opening pre-k classrooms in the fall of 2022.

As noted on page 15, there are several unknowns that make it difficult to accurately estimate the number of Head Start eligible children who are not receiving any out of home services. The following table recaps the best information available.

Estimated # of children over the age of 3 & under the age of 5, Anchorage municipality	7,730
# of 3-4 year olds eligible for Head Start @ 130% of AFPG	1,468
Anchorage Head Start funded enrollment (KCI, Rural Cap, Cook Inlet)	419
3 year olds enrolled in ASD special education pre-k	159
4 year olds enrolled in ASD special education, general ed or migrant pre-k (2022 estimate)	606
Estimated # of children birth to age 3, Anchorage municipality	11,595
# of birth- 3year olds eligible for EHS @ 130% of AFPG	2,385
EHS funded enrollment (KCI, Claire Swan, Cook Inlet)	181

### Neighborhood Poverty

Typically US census data from the American Community Survey is used to identify neighborhoods have the highest levels of poverty, but the small sample size in Anchorage makes the neighborhood level data unreliable. The distribution of free lunch eligibility in Anchorage’s neighborhood elementary schools is another method for identifying neighborhoods with a high concentration of children living in poverty.

Across ASD, 48% of all elementary school students qualify for free lunch.<sup>26</sup> Eight ASD Elementary schools record 100% enrollment in free and reduced lunch program. KCI centers are all located in neighborhoods with multiple Title 1 elementary schools.

<sup>26</sup> Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Child Nutrition Programs, National Free & Reduced Lunch Report, 2020.

### School Readiness & Preschool Attendance

ASD reports district pre-k participation increasing from 804 children in 2016-2017 to 966 in 2019-2020, before dropping to 699 children during the Covid 19 pandemic school year of 2020-21.<sup>27</sup> Information about preschool attendance in other (non-district preschools) is collected from parents at school entry and does not speak to any quality measures of the preschool that the incoming kindergartners attended. ASD projections for 2021-2022 show that 32 elementary schools will host at least one General Education Program preschool. Four of these classrooms are operated in collaboration with KCI and meet Head Start Performance Standards. Three are Migrant Ed classrooms. All ASD PreK general education classrooms enroll 4 year olds only (children eligible for kindergarten in the following school year.) Typical enrollment is 17 children per class.

In addition to these general education pre-k classes, ASD offers 28 Special Education developmental classrooms for 4 year olds at 15 schools and 17.5 classrooms for 3 year olds at 15 schools. Finally, ASD features 2.5 classrooms for Communication Special Education, 1 classroom for children who are deaf/hard of hearing and 1 Listening and Spoken Language Special Education classroom. A list of ASD prek sites as of the 2021-22 school year and funding sources is included in the appendices.

DEED defines kindergarten readiness in terms of consistently demonstrating proficiency in 11 of 13 Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP) goals. The ADP covers five domains, or areas, of development and is comprised of several goal statements that express a specific expectation of what children should know, understand, and be able to do at Kindergarten Entry based upon the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines. All incoming kindergartners in Alaska are assessed with the ADP during their first six weeks of kindergarten. This benchmark has been found to be predictive of scoring at or above proficient on standardized tests in reading and math for children when they are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.<sup>28</sup>

ADP results from the fall of 2019 (latest available data) show that 31% of assessed ASD kindergartners consistently met this benchmark, close to the statewide result of 33%.<sup>29</sup> Kindergarten readiness rates as defined by ADP results at each of the neighborhood schools is highly varied. While Mountain View has a high percentage of low-income families, it has a high rate of kindergarten readiness compared to similar schools. Kindergartners at Wonder Park were also more likely to be ready. This could be because of the benefits of the ASD preschool program. However, Russian Jack, and Chester Valley, also have preschool programs and have low -rates of readiness. This could be because the programs serve a low percentage of all

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<sup>27</sup> “District Enrollment Totals for all Alaskan Public School Districts.” Alaska Department of Education & Early Development Data Center, 2021. <https://education.alaska.gov/data-center>

<sup>28</sup> ASD Assessment & Evaluation, Alaska Developmental Profile, Cut Score Analysis, January 2015.

<sup>29</sup> “Alaska 2019-2020 Developmental Profile Results.” Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, 2021. <https://education.alaska.gov/assessment-results/ADP/ADPResults?DistrictYear=2019-2020&DistrictId=5>

incoming kindergartners, or because of the special populations that the schools serve. For example Russian Jack has a special program for hearing impaired students. Muldoon, Fairview, North Star and Taku also have lower than average rates of readiness. Non-Title 1 schools with low rates of readiness include Kincaid, Campbell, Taku, Lake Hood and Chester Valley.

Schools in South Anchorage and Eagle River and Girdwood lead in readiness and have low-levels of children in poverty. Because many factors influence kindergarten readiness, it is difficult to draw any definitive conclusions.

Another source of school readiness data in Anchorage is the fall kindergarten quarterly FastBridge early reading and math screener. The fall screening indicators cover 6 early math and reading dimensions (and create a composite score) and provide guidance for instruction and intervention services. The Composite score tells if a child is meeting the average levels of reading proficiency. The following table shows the percentage of KCI children entering kindergarten in 2019 who were screened as proficient/low risk in the fall of that school year.

Concepts of Print	35%
Onset Sounds	42%
Letter Names	42%
Letter Sounds	36%
Number ID	48%
Composite	38%

Beyond the ADP, other early primary assessment data like third grade reading scores can be valuable sources of information for early educators in planning services that support children’s ongoing educational success. The Performance Evaluation for Alaska’s Schools (PEAKS) assessment evaluates students understanding of skills and concepts in statewide language arts, math, and science standards. Math and language arts PEAKS assessments are administered in grades 3 to 9. Alaska 2018 assessment results rate 37% of 3rd grade students as “advanced/proficient” in language arts and 63% “below/far below proficient.”<sup>30</sup> Relevant PEAKS data is illustrated in the chart on the following page.

It is worth noting several results from the state Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS) survey conducted between June 2020-March 2021 for several indicators related to school readiness. Nearly 500 mothers of young children (average age 37-42 months) participated statewide in CUBS. Municipality of Anchorage data showed:

- 16% of children spent an hour or less per day watching television
- 50% spent over 2 hours per day watching television
- 73% children had someone read aloud to them for over 30 minutes

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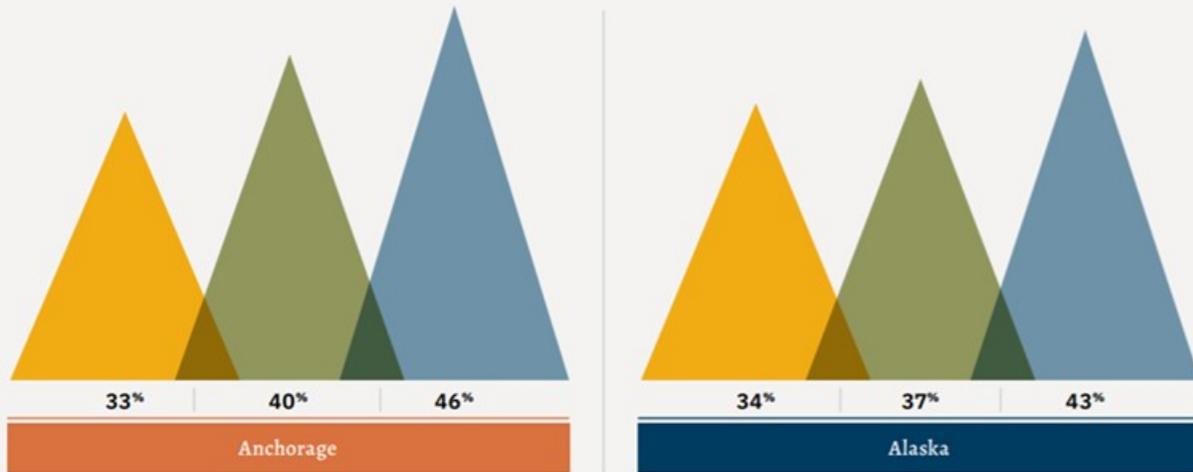
<sup>30</sup> A Needs Assessment of Alaska’s Mixed-Delivery System of Early Childhood Care and Education, 2019.” Association of Alaska School Boards, December 2019. <https://www.mcdowellgroup.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/needs-assessment-early-childhood-care-and-education.pdf>

- 52% had 10 or more hours of sleep the previous day

## SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

On standardized assessments, the Anchorage School District closely mirrors state rates in kindergarten readiness. On the Alaska Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) standards-based assessments in 3rd grade English/Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Anchorage students are slightly above the state average.

■ Kindergarten readiness  
■ 3rd grade ELA proficiency  
■ 3rd grade math proficiency



Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Developmental Profile Assessment, 2018-19 and Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools, 2019.

Additionally, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides assessment scores that can be compared across states in mathematics, reading, writing, and science for grades 4, 8, and 12. On the 2019 NAEP for reading, 25% of Alaska 4th graders scored at or above proficient. Alaska's average reading scores ranked lowest among all states since 2003.

## Alaska test results below national average

The National Assessment of Education Progress tests students in fourth and eighth grade every two years. They receive a score out of 500 on the standardized test. Below are Alaska's averages compared to national averages.

**KEY:** — State average — National public average

### Fourth-grade results since 2003



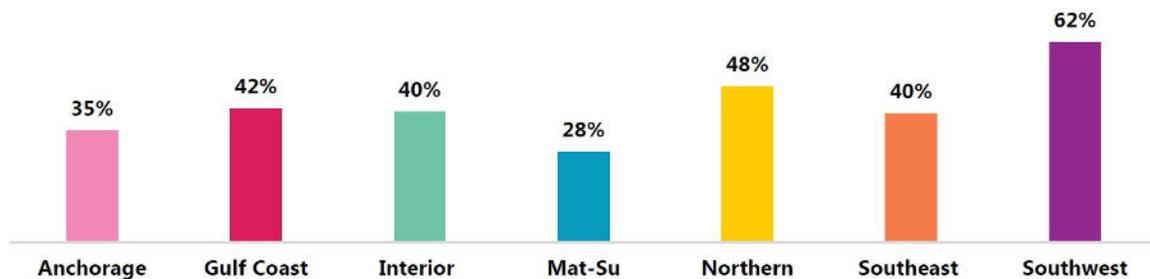
## IV. Children's Health & Well Being

Early childhood is considered to be the most important phase of life and a time of great opportunity as well as great vulnerability for children. How well children grow and develop depends largely on the opportunities and experiences that they have early in life. Home, community and care settings all play an important role.

### Prenatal Care & Birth

In 2019, the rates for Alaskan women delivering live births who have not received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy was 20.2%. For the Alaska Native population this indicator has been higher than for other groups at 23.3%. Even though the rates for this group have been

**Figure 11. Women with Less-than-Adequate Prenatal Care by Region, 2012-2016**



Data Source: Alaska Section of Health Analytics and Vital Records

Available at: [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#)

Note: Five years of data were combined to minimize the unreliability of measurement due to the small number of actual events.

decreasing since 2008, there is a need for prenatal education in the community. The Healthy Alaskans 2020 objective of 19% have not been met yet. Nationwide, data from 2018 shows that 22.5% of persons delivering live births did not receive prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, compared to 19.9% in Alaska.<sup>31</sup>

In Anchorage, Kids Count data from 2012-2016 shows that 35% women received less than adequate prenatal care.

- The most common reason for no prenatal care as early in their pregnancy were:
  - o Did not know they were pregnant (36.5%).
  - o Not having a Medicaid or Denali Kids Care card (35.6%)
  - o Not being able to get an appointment when they wanted one (35.0%)<sup>32</sup>

### Breastfeeding Initiation & Perseverance

In Alaska breastfeeding initiation rates are among the highest in the nation. Women with higher levels of education were more likely to breastfeeding. Statewide, from 2009-11:

<sup>31</sup> Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. Complete indicator Report of Health Care-No prenatal care in first trimester. [http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/complete\\_profile/PNC.html](http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/complete_profile/PNC.html)

<sup>32</sup>No prenatal care in first trimester. Alaska Department of Health and Social Services [http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/complete\\_profile/PNC.html](http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/complete_profile/PNC.html)

- 93.4% of women reported initiating breastfeeding;
- 72.5% are still breastfeeding at 8 weeks post-partum;
- White women are more likely than Alaska Native women to continue breastfeeding.<sup>33</sup>

### Childhood Immunizations

In 2015, 66.3% of Alaska children 19-35 months received the recommended combined vaccine series. Comparing these results to the data from 2012, we can see a 1.8% increase; however, this level is still below the 75.0% goal established by Healthy Alaskans 2020. Higher immunization rates are reported for Alaska Native children than all Alaskan children.<sup>34</sup>

Between June 2020-March 2021, 489 women responded to the CUBS survey between June 2020-March 2021. The average child age at the time of the survey ranged between 37-42 months. Sixteen percent of Anchorage mothers responded that they have delayed or did not get an immunization for their child due reasons not related to illness or allergies to the vaccines.

Some of the reason why mothers of 3 year olds reported delaying or deciding not getting shots for their children were:

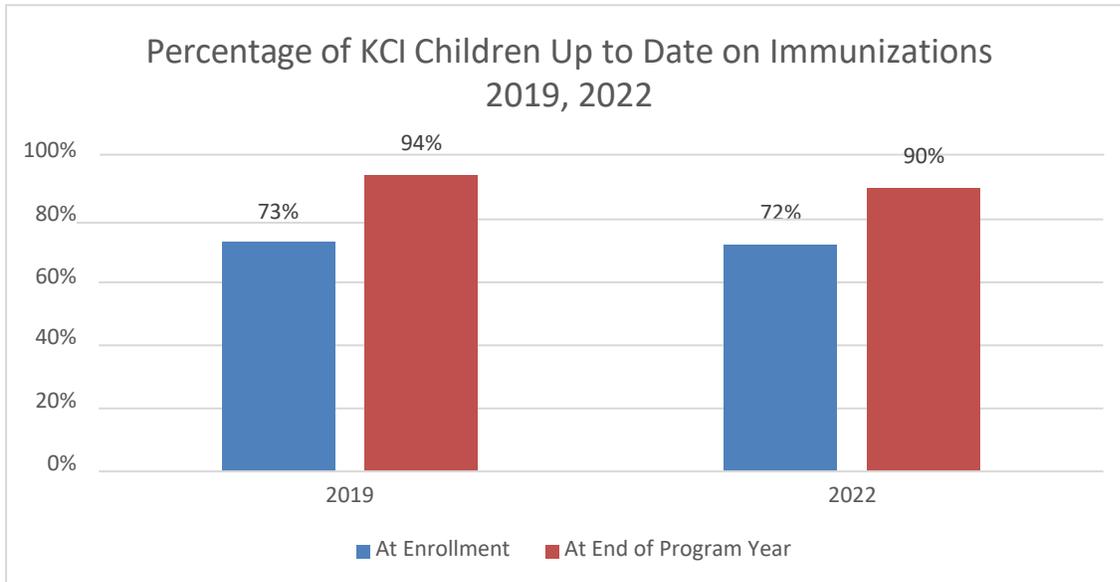
- 84% personal choice and belief.
- 4% problem getting to a provider who can give vaccines.
- 4% vaccine was not available.
- 6% problems making an appointment for the child.
- 14% other reasons (concerns about the ingredients in the vaccine or safety, get time off etc.)<sup>35</sup>

Children entering KCI are not always up to date on their vaccinations at enrollment. In 2019, 73% of children were up to date on their immunization at enrollment. During the Covid 19 pandemic program year of 2020-2021 that number dropped to 61.6% before recovering to 72% in 2021-2022. Head Start and Early Head Start programs continue to play an important role in helping children gain full immunization.

<sup>33</sup> Alaska Maternal and Child Health Data Book 2014, p. 30-31.

<sup>34</sup> Alaska Children's Trust – Alaska's National Health Ranking: Fall 2018 Kids Count – Alaska 2020 Kids Health Report.

<sup>35</sup> State of Alaska. Department of Health and Social Services. Alaska Childhood Understanding behaviors Survey (CUBS).: [http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Documents/mchebi/cubs/data/2015/CUBS\\_Results2015\\_Immunizations.pdf](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Documents/mchebi/cubs/data/2015/CUBS_Results2015_Immunizations.pdf)



Source: KCI Program Information Report (PIR)

### Prevalence of communicable diseases

#### COVID-19

In March 2020, the DHSS announced Alaska’s first positive case of Covid-19. A total of 63,675 resident cases and 329 deaths were reported as of April of 2021. During the same period in Anchorage there were 29,146 total cases, of which 4,500 cases affected children younger than 10 years old. The transmission of the virus have been due to travel, community and secondary spread. The DHSS has provided daily information on ways stop the spread of COVID-19 including information about vaccination sites. So far, all Alaska residents 12 years old or older are eligible to be vaccinated. As of April 30, 2021 Alaska is in the top five states with the highest percentage of population vaccinated at 49.2%.<sup>36</sup> However, since then immunization rates have fallen off and as of June 2021 Anchorage is in the middle of the pack in terms of eligible immunized residents.

#### PERTUSSIS

Data from the State of Alaska Epidemiology’s 2018 annual report shows a decrease in pertussis cases in Alaska since 2012. The Mat-Su area reports the highest numbers at 48 cases compared to Anchorage (21 cases) for a total of 91 cases in 2018.

Disease Name	Anchorage	Gulf Coast	Interior	Mat-Su	Northern	Southeast	Southwest	Total*
Pertussis	21	13	3	48	1	4	1	91

#### VARICELLA

- Alaska averaged 55 cases of varicella annually from 2011 to 2015 (Figure 24). A spike in varicella cases occurred in the fall of 2012 in Kenai Peninsula communities with low vaccination rates. A Public Health Advisory was published and an investigation completed. (1)

<sup>36</sup> Alaska Department of Health and Social Services - Coronavirus response hub: AK Covid-19 cases dashboard. Retrieved April 2021

## MUMPS

The DHHS issues a mumps outbreak alert in early 2018 after Anchorage confirmed its 200th case. After recommending a third MMR booster in 2018 the outbreak alert ended in September of 2018. There were no mumps cases reported in January of 2020.

## **Child developmental screenings**

Child developmental screenings take a snapshot of children's skills and indicate if they are on track developmentally. Children that show significant delays may then be qualified with a disability. According to the 2019 Alaska KidsCount report, 85% of zero to three-year-olds statewide have received developmental screenings. This indicator measures "the percent of mothers who report completing a questionnaire or going through a checklist of questions with their 3-year-old child's health care provider about the child's development during the past 12 months." Locally, a major pediatric medical provider serving thousands of children, LaTouche Pediatrics, does not provide developmental screenings after age two.

According to ASD pre-k director Chelsea Sohm, on average, around 200 3–5-year-olds at ASD have been screened in the 2018-2021 school years; there is no data prior to 2018. The screenings are conducted with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), which is completed by the parent. Completion is not required for participation in ASD pre-k. Apart from children receiving special education services, ASD pre-k serves 4-year-olds only.

## **Birth Defects and Other Special Needs**

In Anchorage in 2013, 99.4% of children are born without any noticeable birth defects; the rate is the same Statewide. The most commonly reported birth defects observed are gastroschisis, cleft lip, down syndrome, chromosomal disorder or hypospadias. In 2013, 3-5 children in Anchorage were diagnosed with each of these conditions at birth. A child may have more than one reported birth defect.<sup>37</sup> This number is likely lower than the actual occurrence, because of the short time frame between birth and discharge by hospital or birthing staff. Many more birth defects, or special needs are discovered as children grow and approach different developmental milestones.

The Program for Infants & Children (PIC) provides early intervention services for infants and toddlers with special needs who are age 0-3, and their families. According to Amy Simpson, the executive director of PIC, they served 220 children during the Covid-19 pandemic 2020-2021 school year, about one third of the number served in a typical year. For the 2019-2020 school year, they had 610 children enrolled, a significant increase from the 362 children who were reported as receiving services in our 2015 community assessment.<sup>38</sup> PIC reports show that about 100 eligible children did not receive services in 2019-2020 due to lack of contact, withdrawal by parent/guardian, out of state moves, etc. There likely are additional eligible children who never find their way to PIC due to gaps in screening and referrals.

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<sup>37</sup> Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, Birth Defects for Anchorage, 2013.

<sup>38</sup> PIC program participant data, 2015.

When children age out of PIC, they often transfer to an ASD program that provides special education for children aged 3 to 5 who experience developmental delays or other disabilities. According to Chelsea Sohm, ASD Director of Preschool, about 850 children 3-5 years old qualified for disabilities services annually during the 2018-2020 school years. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 school year was an outlier, with 550 children qualified. In 2014-15, approximately 450 children were served by the ASD Special Education preschool program.<sup>39</sup>

Statewide, 8.1% of 3year olds have been enrolled in an early intervention or infant learning program, and another 3.9% have been enrolled in a school district special education or special needs program. The most common specialized services that parents reported receiving for their children were:

- 6% Hearing specialist;
- 5.5% Speech or language therapist;
- 4.4% Eye specialist;
- 3.8% Physical or occupational therapist.<sup>40</sup>

### Disabilities

The State of Alaska Special Education Child Count for the Anchorage School District for the count date of October 1, 2019 reported 7,109 individuals 3-21 years old with a disability. Of the 7,000 children in Anchorage with a disability, around 1,000 are categorized as developmental delay. Preschoolers with an IEP will mostly be qualified for developmental delay and/or speech/language delay. The average wait time to get assessed at ASD is anywhere from 8 weeks to about 3 months. PIC reports that there is no waitlist to get an assessment.

One factor influencing the ASD assessment timeline is a shortage of special education teachers. For example, as of April 30, 2021, there are 54 openings posted on ASD and 45 for special education teachers. This may represent a state-wide trend. In fact the Alaska Early Childhood environmental scan shows that there are around 3 providers per 100 children in Alaska versus the US where on average 5 providers per 100 is the norm. Additionally, the masters in early childhood special education at UAA, the only program who had a focus on birth to three services, was recently discredited. The loss of this resource, especially convenient for Alaskan residents, may make it harder for PIC to find highly qualified providers in the future.

Overall, Anchorage has historically found and qualified for services a high number of children birth to 5 year olds with disabilities. Staffing shortages pose a long-term risk to our community's continued success in this area.

### Mental Health

There are several therapeutic pediatric mental health providers Anchorage. They include Alaska Child and Family, a residential therapeutic program, Denali Family Services and Alaska

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<sup>39</sup> E-mails with Beth Snyder, Early Childhood Specialist, Anchorage School District, February 2015.

<sup>40</sup> Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey, 2013 Data Sheet.

Behavioral Health (formerly Anchorage Community Mental Health). In the spring of 2021 Alaska Behavioral Health shared their waiting list is about three weeks long for child and family services.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are “stressful or traumatic experiences, including abuse, neglect, witnessing domestic violence, or growing up with substance abuse, mental illness, or a parent in jail”. These ACEs negatively impact brain development, leading to challenging behaviors and can increase the chances of expulsion. Alaskan children aged 0-5 scored two or more ACEs (DEED, 2020). According to the AECES “Alaska children are more likely to have experienced two or more ACEs by the time they turn 12 compared to children nationally” (p. 67). AECES notes that, for mothers with 3 year olds, 15% experience economic stressors, 2% of mothers report physical or emotional abuse and 12% experience interpersonal stressors such as mental illness, substance abuse problems or incarceration.

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Systems (YRBSS) is a survey given to middle and high school students. It compared Alaska as a whole to the United States. For high school, questions around bullying and feeling safe at school, suicidal thoughts or attempts indicated that Alaska was lower than the US. Tobacco use in the US was worse than Alaska but drug usage was about the same (Center for Disease, 2019). This indicates we have done a good job of preventing tobacco use in Alaska. Sexual behaviors and dietary choices were about the same for both the US and Alaska (Center for Disease, 2019). There was no data for Alaskan middle schools.

### Suspensions and Expulsions

Alaska’s early care and learning quality recognition and improvement system, called Learn and Grow, conducted a statewide survey of child care providers in 2018 regarding suspensions and expulsions. Surveyed administrators indicated 19% of children were asked to withdraw, while teachers indicated that 14% of children were asked to withdrawal from programs (Learn and Grow, 2018). The survey found that 48% of teachers & 37% of administrators reported asking parents to pick up a child early due to in class behaviors (Learn & Grow, 2018). The differences in teacher and administrator responses could reflect differing documentation available to the respondent. For example a teacher may rely be more likely to rely on memory than an administrator, who may have records readily available for review.

One purpose of the Learn and Grow study was to examine how child behavior leads to provider stress. Results indicated that 85% of teachers were making a call to at least one parent about behaviors every month, which suggest many teachers may be struggling to effectively meet children’s social and emotional needs and likely feel heightened levels of stress. Unsurprisingly, the Learn and Grow study showed a correlation between heightened stress levels, indicated by a respondent stating they “always feel stressed” at work and increased rates of suspensions/expulsions. The study attempted to identify a correlation between outside supports

like coaches and mental health consultants and decreased suspension rates, but the data was not conclusive.

Overall, the report says that Alaska is falling in line with current research studies indicating that stress and burnout lead to increased suspensions and expulsions. De Ruiter et al. (2020) noted that disruptive behaviors make teachers more reactive to behavior students and increase emotional exhaustion. Increased emotional exhaustion could harm the mental health of teachers.

## Health

The most common conditions that children served by KCI are receiving medical treatment for include anemia, asthma and hearing or vision problems. Since 2012, the number of children being treated for asthma has more than tripled (to 55 from 14) and the number of children with anemia has more than doubled (from 3 to 8).

The prevalence of overweight and obesity in children is a public health concern in Alaska. A study of Alaska DHSS program records found a high prevalence of obesity and overweight in Alaskan children in a variety of age groups:

- 41% of 2-4 year olds in WIC statewide;
- 40% of 3-year olds statewide;
- 35% of kindergartners statewide;
- 36% of ASD K-12<sup>th</sup> graders.<sup>41</sup>

## Childhood obesity rates

In 2017, nearly 18% of Alaskan students were overweight (an increase from 13.7% in 2013).

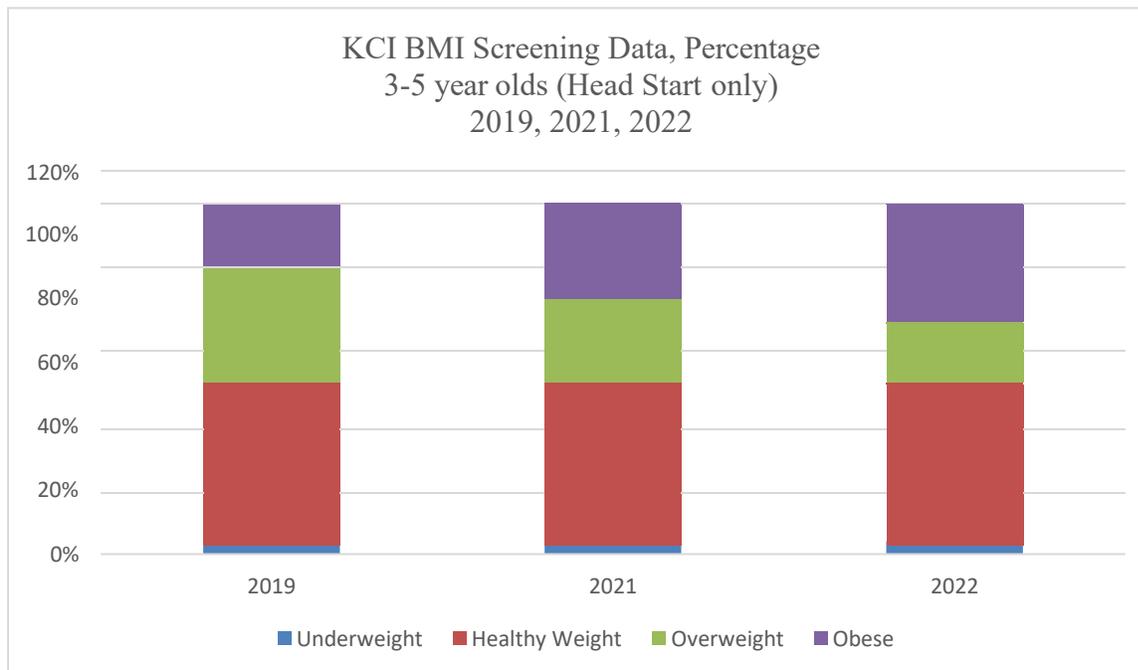
- The amount of sugar sweetened beverages consumed have decreased since 2007
- The amount of students watching 3 or more hours of screen time a day has increased from 23.4% in 2007, to 40.6% in 2017<sup>42</sup>
- In 2016 20.6% of 2-4 year olds in WIC were obese in Alaska<sup>43</sup>
- In KCI, 23% of our children were obese during the 2010/2011 program year compared to 31% in 2021/2022.

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<sup>41</sup> State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Alaska Obesity Facts Report 2012, p. 18.

<sup>42</sup> <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/Obesity/default.aspx>

<sup>43</sup> Alaska State Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Profile. CDC 2016



Source: KCI Program Information Report (PIR)

Public health experts agree that good nutrition and physical activity play a significant role in decreasing the prevalence of overweight and obesity. Sugar sweetened beverage consumption is a particular concern. In the 2013 CUBS survey, Anchorage mothers of 3 year olds were asked what drinks their child had had the previous day:

- 97% had water, in any amount;
- 95% had milk, in any amount;
- 52% had 100% fruit juice, in any amount;
- 20% had a sweetened drink, in any amount;
- 12% had soda, in any amount.<sup>44</sup>

A Gallup survey ranked Anchorage the lowest out of 189 metro communities for having easy access to affordable fruits and vegetables. Only 67.3% of Anchorage residents reported easy access to affordable fruits and vegetables, and Anchorage has been the lowest ranked community since 2008.<sup>45</sup>

#### Local initiatives to address child obesity

- Lets Move! Child Care initiative in 22 ECE sites
- State of Alaska Obesity Prevention Program provided training to 30 ECE providers through AAIEYC

<sup>44</sup> 2013 Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey, Anchorage, AK responses, provided by State of Alaska, DHSS, DPH, Maternal Child Health Epidemiology, March 2015.

<sup>45</sup> Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, January 2012-December 2013. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/168368/anchorage-access-fruits->

vegetables-remains-lowest.aspx

- Alaska Alliance for Healthy Kids- group focusing on 5 different priorities to attack childhood obesity
- Play Everyday- Campaign that promotes 60 minutes of play a day and no sugar sweetened beverages, via funding from the State of Alaska Childhood Obesity Prevention Program
- Healthy Futures Challenge- Challenge in elementary schools to get kids moving for 60 minutes a day, prizes are given out to those who complete the challenge, via the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame

### Food Insecurity

A study conducted for the Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) in 2014 estimates that 1 in 7 Alaskans can not count on their next meal. In any given week, 6,300 Alaskan households visit a food pantry, soup kitchen or other program for food assistance. Nearly 155,000 people are served annually. FBA estimates that 32% of those served are children under 18.<sup>46</sup>

According to FBA, hungry Alaskans make difficult choices, including:

- 64% decide between food and transportation;
- 59% choose whether to heat or eat;
- 56% choose between medicine and meals;
- 53% decide whether to pay rent or buy food.<sup>47</sup>

Participants in food distribution programs:

- In 2017, St. Francis House in Anchorage distributed 750,000 pounds of food to over 17,000 Alaskans (39)

### Access to Pediatric Oral Health Care and Treatment

In Alaska, the 2020-2021 CUBS survey showed that among 3-year-old children 28% had never been to a dentist.<sup>48</sup> The 2015-2017 CUBS reported that 31% of 3 year olds had never been to a dentist. 2021 CUBS data for Anchorage shows:

- 24% of children have never been to a dentist
- For those who have been to a dentist, 72% were seen before their second birthday
- 3% of children who had been to a dentist had a dental concern or problem

### Oral Health Initiatives

Alaska's Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program guidance for children enrolled in Medicaid is to refer children for a dental exam at age 3, or earlier if a problem is detected during screenings. Guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry are for a dental referral with the eruption of the first

<sup>46</sup> Food Bank of Alaska, Hunger in America Alaska Report 2014 Executive Summary.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> State of Alaska Epidemiology :Alaska CUBS 2020-2021, questions 20-22c

tooth and no later than age 1. This earlier dental referral would be recommended for Alaska, especially given the extent of dental decay in young children. Discussions regarding the change in EPSDT guidance for the first dental visit are occurring at this time. In July 2010, the Alaska Medicaid program adopted coverage for reimbursement of trained physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants for provision of oral evaluation to children under age 3 and fluoride varnish application. This policy offers the opportunity for medical and dental collaboration to reduce early childhood caries in young children but implementation of the services by medical providers is still in the very early stage of development.

### Homelessness

Homelessness affects many families in Anchorage, including those with children. The homeless can be found in the streets, in cars, in emergency housing such as homeless shelters, in transitional housing, and at friends and relatives houses. A 2013 point in time count of the homeless in Anchorage’s streets and shelters found that 1,112 people, including 165 children under the age of 18.<sup>49</sup> It is difficult to count all homeless people, such as those who are staying with friends and relatives, or in makeshift or substandard housing. In the 2012 PRAMS survey, 3% of women in Anchorage reported being homeless in the 12 months prior to their baby being born.<sup>50</sup>

KCI families also experience homelessness. In 2014, 79 KCI families with 85 children were identified as homeless, nearly 20% of the total families served. Only 19 (24%) of those families found housing during the enrollment year. Sixty families received referrals for housing assistance in 2014. In 2017 36% of homeless KCI families (26 of 72) found housing. Due to the small sample size, it is not possible to know whether the family housing crisis is lessening.

ASD has a Child in Transition (CIT) program that provides services to children who lack a fixed, regular and adequate residence. During the 2018/19 (pre-pandemic) school year, the program identified 650 homeless children birth to five years old.<sup>51</sup> Of those children, there were:

- 406 infants/toddlers;
- 270 Preschool aged; of those:
  - 68 were served by ASD Pre-K programs

The following table highlights CIT data for the past 5 years. As of November 2022, CIT data for the 22-23 school year appears similar to the 21-22 school year.

School Year	Total homeless, Birth to 5	Total homeless, Birth to 2	Total homeless, 3-4	Enrolled in ASD pre-K	Homeless, KCI Total
2017/18	676	406	270	60	87

<sup>49</sup> Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, Point in Time Summary, January 28, 2013.

<sup>50</sup> 2012 PRAMS Survey Results, Anchorage, AK responses, provided by State of Alaska, DHSS, DPH, Maternal Child Health Epidemiology , March 2015.

<sup>51</sup> Anchorage School District Child in Transition Program, Program Data, email from November 2022.

2018/19	650	355	295	65	64
2019/20	551	314	237	57	NO PIR
2020/21	426	242	184	41	28
2021/22	493	262	231	58	42

Source: Anchorage School District, Child in Transition Program & KCI PIR

## Family Stress & Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

### Incidence of child abuse/neglect

-Research shows that the societal impacts of child maltreat are major:

- First, it impairs a child’s physical, social and intellectual development. This, in turn, increases the risk of poor performance in school, mental health problems, substance abuse, and problems with the law. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004)
- Second, childhood trauma contributes to serious long-term health problems. Researchers have found compelling evidence that traumatic childhood experiences are surprisingly common, happen in all kinds of families, and have damaging consequences throughout a person’s lifetime. Adults who were abused or otherwise traumatized as children have much higher rates of chronic disease, disability and premature death. (Source: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, Centers for Disease Control, 1998)
- Finally, the financial toll of childhood trauma is staggering. Dealing with the immediate and long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect is estimated at \$80 billion per year in the United States. (Source: Prevent Child Abuse America, 2012)

A study of ACES in Alaska, found that those with 4 or more ACES, were:

- More likely to smoke (34.5% vs. 14.4% with zero ACES);
- More likely to have been told they have a depressive disorder (35.3% vs. 6.8%);
- Less likely to own their own home (57.9% vs. 70.2%);
- Less likely to report being able to work (9.6% vs. 3.5%).<sup>52</sup>

The 2021 CUBS survey asked mothers about 14 life stressors that may have happened to them in the 12 months prior to their new baby’s birth. In Anchorage:

- 40% moved to a new address
- 11% changed marital status
- 4% reported spouse, partner or mother spent time in jail
- 3% experienced homelessness
- 8% reported caring for an ailing family member
- 7% reported having someone close to them who was depressed, mentally ill or suicidal;
- 18% reported arguing with their with partner more than usual;
- 8% reported that someone very close to them had a problem with drinking or drugs

<sup>52</sup> Alaska Mental Health Board, “Adverse Childhood Experiences in Alaska,” Presentation on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

- 1.6% reported being threatened by spouse or partner in last 12 months<sup>53</sup>

Anchorage mothers also reported financial stressors and depression

- 16% reported being unable to pay bills such as rent, mortgage or other bills;
- 17% reported either they or their partner/spouse lost their job;
- 27% reported a cut in work hours or pay
- 9% reported often or always feeling down, depressed, or hopeless
- 15% reported often or always experiencing symptoms of depression<sup>54</sup>

The 2021 CUBS survey of mothers of 3 year olds provides data on the type and frequency of stressful or traumatic events occurring in a child’s life. reported that in their child’s life, they had experienced any of the following events (multiple events may be reported for each child):

- 7% household member mentally ill, suicidal or depressed;
- 6% witnessing violence between household members;
- 1% being away for more than a month;
- 5% overnight stay in a hospital;
- 2% death of a close family member;
- 3% alcoholism or mental health issues in a family member.<sup>55</sup>

Many of these experiences reported are potential ACES for children in the families, such as witnessing or experiencing violence in the house, substance abuse or having a family member with mental health or substance abuse issues, and experiencing homelessness or the death of a close family member.

### Child Maltreatment

Statewide, there were 947 protective service reports received in February 2020 that were screened in for further investigation and follow up. 308 of these reports were made in Anchorage. In February 2021 that number dropped to 188 reports in Anchorage.<sup>56</sup> This decline began with a precipitous drop in March of 2020 to 127 reports, with lower report numbers sustained through 2020 as the tables on the following page shows. Children with a report to OCS are:

- 16% more likely to score lower on Alaska’s kindergarten Developmental Profile
- 42% more likely to score below/far below proficiency in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading assessments
- 120% more likely to have chronic absenteeism<sup>57</sup>

<sup>53</sup> 2021 CUBS Survey Results for Anchorage, provided by State of Alaska, DHSS, DPH, MCH , November 2022Ibid., pp. 22-23

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid

<sup>56</sup> State of Alaska, DHSS, OCS 2020 Monthly Data. (2021, March 15). Retrieved March 31, 2021, from <http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/pages/statistics/default.aspx>

<sup>57</sup> “Key insights from the ALCANLink Project,” Dr. Jarred Parrish, presentation power point to Kids’ Corps Inc. Board of Directors, 11/3/2022

State-wide, one in every 5 children will receive a report of harm to OCS before age 3. One in 17 will receive a substantiated report and one in 33 will be removed from their home.<sup>58</sup>

Between 2016—2019 the number of annual screened in reports of harm in Anchorage remained consistent, varying no more than 5% from year to year and averaging 3,635 reports annually. In 2020 the number dropped to 2,269. Given the exact correlation of this decline with the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic and resulting school and daycare closures, it is reasonable to assume the pandemic and 2013, the average monthly number of children in State custody who were five or younger, went up by 15%.<sup>59</sup> In April 2014, the Office of Children’s Services (OCS) had 726 children under the age of five in foster care statewide, and 57% of those children who had been in care for more than a year had a permanent placement identified.<sup>60</sup> No KCI referrals were made for child abuse or neglect from 2012-14.

Reporting Period	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Anchorage	3,556	3,647	3,769	3,566	2,269
Northern	1,815	2,252	2,616	2,580	1,809
Southcentral	2,058	2,224	2,608	2,518	1,757
Southeast	1,086	1,195	1,171	1,119	704
Western	990	1,033	1,110	1,344	729
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>9,505</b>	<b>10,351</b>	<b>11,274</b>	<b>11,127</b>	<b>7,268</b>
<b>Fairbanks Office</b>	901	1,104	1,217	1,255	860
<b>Juneau Office</b>	658	630	502	540	312

In 2015 the Office of Children’s Services (OCS) implemented a new process to improve consistency across the state in evaluating reports of harm to children. The Maltreatment Assessment Protocol (MAP) requires users to follow a standardized decision tree process to determine when maltreatment allegations should be substantiated. MAP was developed to reduce variances in regional substantiation rates and improve due process for alleged perpetrators by automating notices informing them of findings and providing appeals forms.

<sup>58</sup> Op cit

<sup>59</sup> Alaska Mental Health Board, “Adverse Childhood Experiences in Alaska,” Presentation on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

<sup>60</sup> State of Alaska, DHHS, Office of Children’s Services, 2014 Progress & Services Report.

The MAP process has reduced regional variation, although the statewide substantiation rate remained constant.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Foster Parent Perpetrator</b>	<b>Parent Perpetrator</b>	<b>Other Perpetrator*</b>
2016	35.0%	65.0%	13.0%
2015	30.9%	60.3%	13.2%
2014	27.3%	65.7%	14.1%

Source: OCS CFSR 002 Maltreatment in Foster Care.

\*Note: "Other Perpetrator" is generally another adult resident, often a paramour, in the home.

### **ALCAN—Alaska Longitudinal Abuse and Neglect Linkage Project**

ALCANLink is a population-based mixed-design strategy that integrates those births that were sampled and mothers who subsequently responded to the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) survey with child welfare and other administrative data. The ALCANLink project started with a group of Alaskan children whose mothers responded to the PRAMS survey over a three year period shortly after they were born. Every year, project analysts check to see whether any of the children have been reported to child welfare or receive services from other public programs. As the children get older, epidemiologists are able to calculate the percentage of children in each age group who have ever been involved with child welfare during their lifetime.

Using these data, researchers are able to explore information on pre-birth factors from their mothers' PRAMS responses that increase or decrease the chance a child is reported to child welfare. "This work has provided clear evidence for the need for early and continued efforts to prevent child maltreatment before birth and throughout childhood."<sup>61</sup> The pre-birth factors identified were illicit drug use, divorce/separation/financial struggles/homelessness, moved to a new address, job loss or reduced work hours, argued with partner more than usual, mental illness, incarcerated relative, mother treated violently or threatened, family member in hospital, substance abuse and/or death in close community and alcohol misuse.

In a presentation to the Kids' Corps, Inc. Board of Directors on November 3, 2022, epidemiologist and ALCAN study lead Dr. Jared Parrish reported that for each additional pre-birth challenge a systematic relative increase in average childhood ACE score was observed. Additionally, a change in the number of household challenges is associated with change in the risk of a report of harm to OCS: in other words, fewer challenges decrease the risk of a child

<sup>61</sup> Alaska Longitudinal Child Abuse and Neglect Linkage Project, Alaska Division of Public Health webpage, [ALCANLink \(alaska.gov\)](http://alcanlink.alaska.gov)

maltreatment report. Finally, ALCAN data indicate that concrete social support, like having someone who can give help when sick, provide a ride to a clinic, listen when an individual needs to talk etc. protect against child maltreatment and reduce the likelihood of an OCS report.

### **Infant and child mortality rates and causes**

Alaska's infant mortality rate for 2019 was 4.9 per 1,000 live births. In fact, data shows that infant mortality rates for Alaska Native people have been higher than the Alaska average.<sup>62</sup> There are many reasons why infant mortality rates could be higher in Alaska Native women; however, an alarming factor shows that this group have a high rate of late or no prenatal care at 12.6% compare to non-Hispanic white at 4.5%.<sup>63</sup> Nationwide, the infant mortality rate for U.S. in 2020 was 5.681 deaths per 1000 live births, a 1.17% decline from 2019.

The five leading causes of infant death in 2018 were:

- Birth defects.
- Preterm birth and low birth weight.
- Maternal pregnancy complications.
- Sudden infant death syndrome.
- Injuries (e.g., suffocation).

In Alaska, to prevent infant and child mortality providers and parents can work together to address problems and improve the chances for healthy birth outcomes. The Alaska Maternal and Child Death Review's (MCDR) goal is to reduce fetal, infant and maternal mortality in Alaska through a committee review process of all infant and maternal death records. Alaska's Title V Maternal Child Health program addresses infant mortality through a variety of programs such as the Alaska Infant Safe Sleep Project that partner with birthing facilities to promote consistent and evidence-based infant safe sleep messages.<sup>64</sup>

### **Number of low-birth weight and extreme low birth weight babies**

In 2019, 6.3% of live births for all Alaskans were low birth weight, a significant increase from the 4.8% recorded for the state in 1990. An interesting fact was that low birth weight was significantly higher in Alaska persons enrolled in Medicaid than those not enrolled in Medicaid, 8.1% compared to 4.3% in 2019.

Nationwide, data from 2019 shows that 1 in 12 babies were low birth weight, about 8.3% of live births. This rate has not met the Healthy People 2020 objective set by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services of 7.8% of live births.

Low birth weight is an important factor affecting neonatal mortality, and a significant determinant of post neonatal mortality. The two main reasons a baby may be born with very low birth weight

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<sup>62</sup> Report of Infant Mortality. Retrieved on March 2021 from Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (AK-IBIS) website: <http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/>.

<sup>63</sup> U.S. Infant Mortality Rate 1950-2021- [United Nations - World Population Prospects](https://data.who.int/dashboards/world-population-prospects) Retrieved 2021-03-31.

<sup>64</sup> Report of Infant Mortality. Retrieved on March 2021 from Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (AK-IBIS) website: <http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/>.

are premature birth (birth before 37 weeks of pregnancy, and often less than 30 weeks) and fetal growth restriction, usually due to problems with placenta, maternal health, or to birth defects.

Some clinical problems associated with very low birth weight include hypoglycemia, hypoxia, anemia & fluid imbalance.<sup>65</sup>

In January of 2019 in Alaska, the Alaska Perinatal Quality Collaborative (AKPQC) was established to improve maternal and newborn care. The focus is on reducing unnecessary risky procedures and treatments.<sup>4</sup> AKPQC members identify health care processes that need to be improved and use the best available methods to make changes as quickly as possible.<sup>66</sup>

### **Teen pregnancy rates**

Research indicates that bearing a child during adolescence is associated with long-term difficulties for the mother, her child, and society. These consequences are often attributable to poverty and other adverse socioeconomic circumstances that frequently accompany early childbearing.

- Teens are more likely than women aged 25-34 years to have preterm birth and low birth weight infants. (23) These babies are more likely to grow up in homes that offer lower levels of emotional support and cognitive stimulation, and they are less likely to earn a high school diploma. For the mothers, giving birth during adolescence is associated with limited educational attainment, which in turn can reduce future employment prospects and earning potential.(24-25)

Data from the Alaska vital statistics shows that there were 422 births to teenage mothers aged 15-19 years old. In 2018, American Indian/Alaska Native women had the highest teen birth rate by race, at 35.7 births per 1,000 population. Northern Alaska had the highest teen birth rate by Public Health Region, at 56.4<sup>67</sup> Over the 5 years for which we have data, the teen birth rates in Anchorage have been decreasing from 26.1 in 2014 to 15.5 in 2018, a decline of 40.6%.

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<sup>65</sup> Facts for very low birth weight in infants. Retrieved on March 2021. Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. Indicator report [http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/important\\_facts/VLBW.html](http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/important_facts/VLBW.html)

<sup>66</sup> Facts for low births weight infants. Retrieved on March 2021. Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. Indicator report [http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/complete\\_profile/LBW.html](http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/complete_profile/LBW.html)

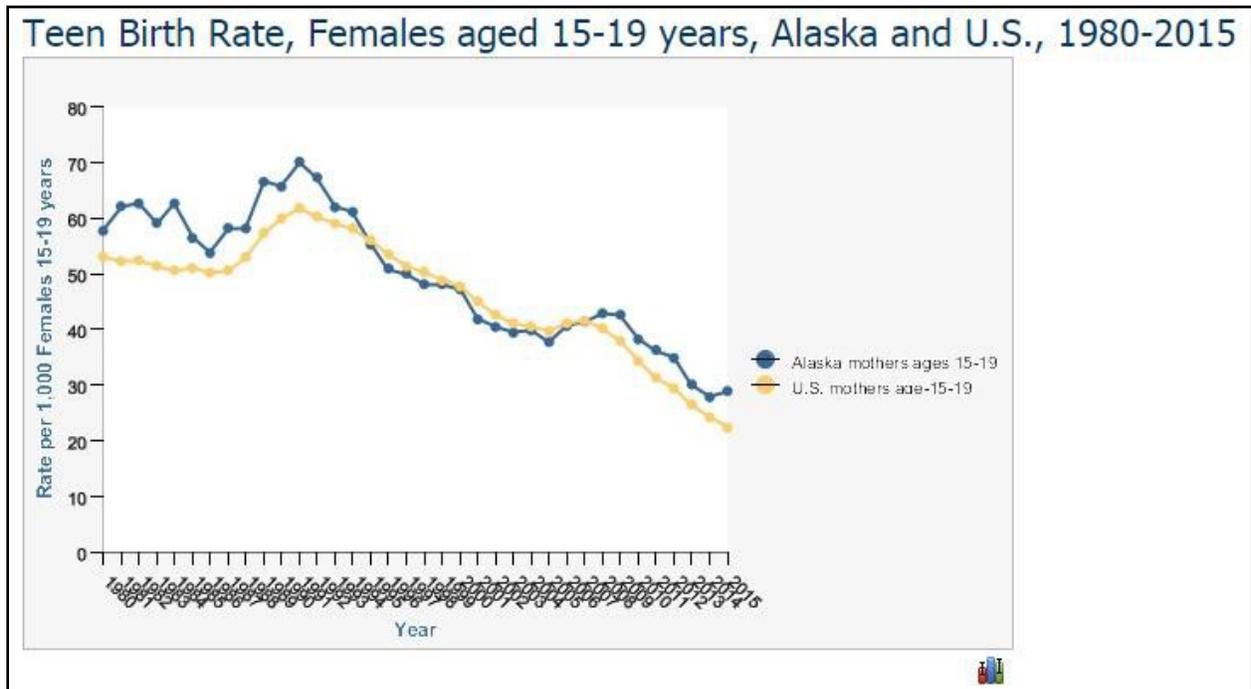
<sup>67</sup> Alaska Vital Statistics 2018 Annual Report. Retrieved on March 2021. Teen pregnancy rates (2014-2018)

The teen birth rate in Alaska decreased from 57.7 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in 1980 to 18.8 in 2018, a reduction of 67.4%.

**Table 3: Teen (15-19) Births and Birth Rates by Race and Ethnicity, and Public Health Region (2014-2018)**

	Teen (15-19) Births					Teen (15-19) Birth Rate				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>										
White	292	257	241	181	163	20.2	18.3	17.5	13.3	12.2
AI/AN	234	280	236	213	183	45.8	53.7	45.6	41.1	35.7
Asian/PI	61	72	72	60	34	28.6	32.5	31.0	24.6	13.5
Black	40	35	25	27	30	28.2	24.7	17.1	18.2	20.6
Hispanic	41	60	44	38	45	20.9	31.7	22.8	19.8	23.7
<b>Public Health Region</b>										
Anchorage	249	224	190	162	140	26.1	23.9	20.4	17.5	15.5
Gulf Coast	52	39	58	37	30	20.9	16.4	24.6	15.7	13.0
Interior	87	114	75	80	66	26.1	34.7	22.6	24.6	19.9
Mat-Su	65	67	69	48	48	19.9	20.7	20.7	14.3	14.4
Northern	57	75	60	63	53	63.5	82.1	65.6	69.1	56.4
Southeast	47	40	32	17	20	23.1	19.3	15.9	8.4*	9.8
Southwest	85	103	98	79	65	53.6	64.9	64.3	52.0	43.5
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>18.8</b>

Note: Teen birth rates represent births per 100,000 women aged 14-19 years old.  
 \* Rates based on fewer than 20 events are statistically unreliable and should be used with caution.  
 \*\* Rates based on fewer than 6 events are not reported.



### Appropriate access to health care (health literacy)

More than 90 million adults in the United States have low health literacy. According to the National Institutes of Health, individuals with low health literacy may have trouble managing chronic diseases and leading a healthy lifestyle. They may go to the hospital more often and have poorer health overall.)

Some groups are more likely than others to have limited health literacy. Certain populations are most likely to experience limited health literacy:

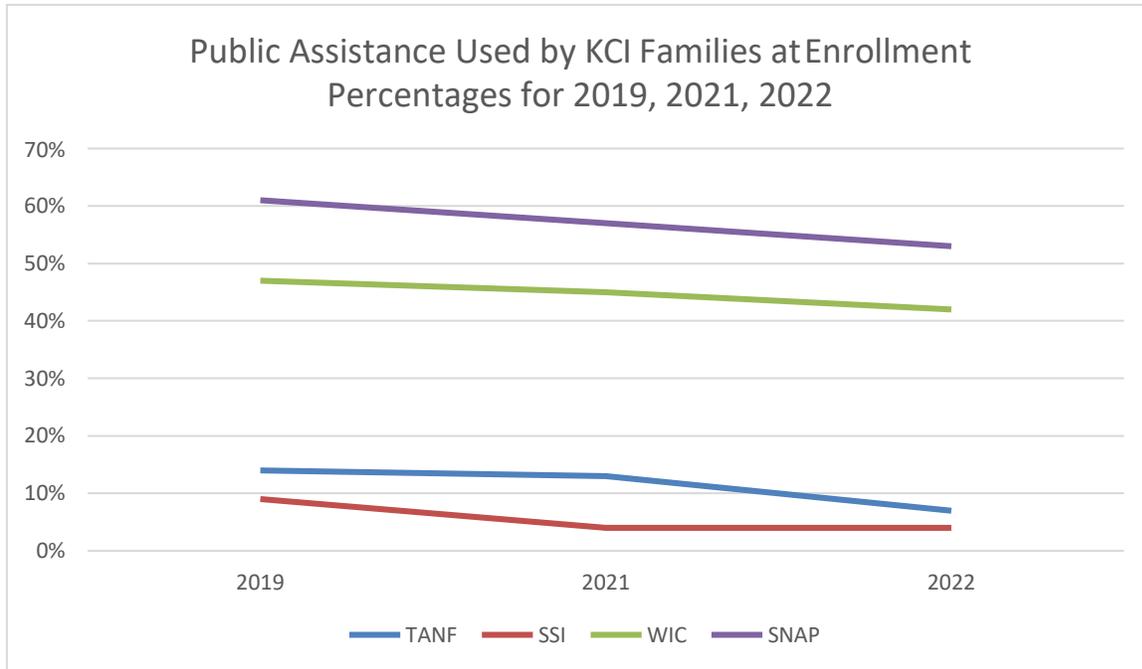
- Adults over the age of 65 years
- Racial and ethnic groups other than White
- Recent refugees and immigrants
- People with less than a high school degree or GED
- People with incomes at or below the poverty level
- Non-native speakers of English

Of great concern are the 14 percent of adults (30 million Americans) who are unable to perform even the simplest everyday literacy tasks, many of whom are not literate in English. Most of the adults with Below Basic health literacy skills would have difficulty reading a chart or simple instructions. These same adults are more likely to report that their health as poor (42 percent) and are more likely to lack health insurance (28 percent) than adults with proficient health literacy. Additionally, the 54 million adults with any type of disability, difficulty, or illness are especially vulnerable and more likely to perform at the lowest literacy levels.

### Use of Public Assistance Programs

There are a number of public assistance programs that are available for families with young children. Overall the number of families using these programs has gone down slightly since 2019 (pre-pandemic), which is consistent with a 10 year statewide decline in enrollment in these programs.

The following table shows the percentages of KCI families who received TANF, SSI, WIC or SNAP benefits when they enrolled at KCI. Participation in WIC has declined from



Source: KCI Program Information Report (PIR)

### Women, Infants, and Children Program

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program provides supplemental food and nutrition support for pregnant and breastfeeding women and their children from birth to age five. To qualify for WIC, family income must be at or below 185% of the AkFPL. In Anchorage, the WIC program has 6675 clients, and estimates that another 3600 are un-served. Forty-four percent of all clients are located in 99508 and 99504 zip codes of Northeast and Midtown Anchorage.<sup>68</sup> In 2012, 40% of pregnant women in Anchorage reported using WIC services while pregnant.<sup>69</sup>

WIC participation in Alaska have been decreasing since 2016. Some potential reason for the decline in WIC participation are:

- Improving in economic conditions
- Falling birth rates
- Transportation
- Eligibility and immigration<sup>70</sup>

<sup>68</sup> Women, Infants & Children Program Data, provided by State of Alaska, DHSS, WIC program, on February 1, 2015.

<sup>69</sup> 2012 PRAMS survey results, Anchorage, AK responses, provided by State of Alaska, DHSS, DPH, Maternal Child Health Epidemiology, March 2015.

<sup>70</sup> WIC Data tables: Monthly data-State level participation by category and program cost: FY 2021 (preliminary) :

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>

WIC PROGRAM: TOTAL PARTICIPATION					
(Data as of January 6, 2021)					
State / Indian Tribe	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
					<i>Preliminary</i>
Alaska	19,121	18,188	17,092	15,978	15,235

### Denali Kid Care

Denali Kid Care is the State’s Medicaid program for low-income pregnant women and children under 18. While the State no longer reports Denali Kid Care separately from other Medicaid data, since February 2010 through February 2015, the total number of cases has grown. Statewide, the caseload peaked at 70,232 in February 2013, and has since dropped to 62,861 cases in February 2015. Of those cases, 24, 488 are in Anchorage, or 39%.<sup>71</sup>

According to the Center for Medicaid Services, which provides part of the funding for Denali Kid Care – the number of children served increased between FY11 and FY13, the most recent year data was available. In FY 11, 14,278 children in Alaska were served, while in FY13, 16,566 children were served.<sup>72</sup>

### Alaska Temporary Assistance Program

Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) provides cash assistance and work services to low-income families with children to help with meeting basic needs. There are 1,479 families in Anchorage currently receiving ATAP benefits. Statewide, 61% of all ATAP households have only one parent present, and 24% of cases provide benefits only for children.

### Parents Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS)

The PASS program provides daycare assistance to families currently receiving Temporary Aid for Needy Families benefits (TANF) and participating in job training or related activities, as well child care assistance for working families who meet income guidelines. Depending on the situation and family income, the amount of assistance may vary and include a family co-pay. The PASS program serves infants, toddlers, preschool and school-aged children up to the age of 12. Children with a PASS authorization may go to any type of approved provider. Since 2015 the number of approved providers has declined as the standards for health and safety become more stringent, and the number of children approved for PASS has declined by nearly 2,000 children ( a reduction of 36%).<sup>73</sup> (All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, 2020, page 28).

In our previous community assessment (2015), we documented that only 19% of the PASS benefits were redeemed at licensed child care centers. In comparison, 34% went to approved relative care providers. 2020 data was not readily available as of June 1, 2021 due to the Health and Social Services website hacking in April.

<sup>71</sup> AK Department of Health & Social Services- Division of Public Assistance, Monthly Caseload & Benefits Summary, February 2015. Retrieved from

<sup>72</sup> CHIP Enrollment by State, 2012 & 2013 Number of Children Ever Served Report, <http://medicaid.gov/chip/reports-and-evaluations/reports-and-evaluations.html>.

<sup>73</sup> All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, Environmental Scan, p. 28

## V. Conclusions

Families in Anchorage are generally better off than in other parts of Alaska. However, the city like the state has been experiencing a serious economic downturn since 2014 when oil prices crashed. The lack of a long term state fiscal plan for addressing the transition from an oil production based economy has reduced business and consumer confidence, possibly prolonging the recession. Although the economic future is uncertain due to the low-price of oil, the royalties from which fund most state government programs and services, Anchorage’s economy is diverse and broad enough to support a recovery.

The State’s uncertain economic future makes program planning challenging at this time. Preschool and high quality home visiting programs like Parents as Teachers have a significant impact on school readiness for low-income Anchorage children. National research has also shown that more exposure to preschool helps low-income children start school more ready.<sup>74</sup> That means that children who begin preschool at 3 years old, instead of 4 years old are even more likely to be ready when they begin kindergarten.

As of May 2023, a proposal to nearly double state funding for Head Start programs is on track for passage during the legislative session. State Head Start funding is awarded according to a formula that provides an equal percentage to each grantee. Locally, a municipal marijuana tax was passed by voters in April of 2023. Tax proceeds are specifically dedicated to funding child care and early learning providers (not including ASD) and are estimated to amount to \$5 million annually. The Municipality must develop rules for distributing the funds before they can be available to providers.

These resources can play a vital role in helping KCI maintain a high-quality work force and maintain high quality services for the families with children who need them most. Given the state’s economic challenges, long term sustainability of these investments is likely to require continued advocacy. Furthermore, the Alaska ECE Environmental Scan describes a state early learning system that is fragmented and understaffed. Without better integration at the state level we may continue to lack the data and support needed to ensure quality and continuous improvement of services.

### Enrollment & Eligibility

Because KCI and ASD programs focus primarily on four-year-olds, there are more un-served low-income 3-year-olds than 4-year-olds in Anchorage. In addition to a likelihood of increased school readiness for children who are enrolled for two years, there may be additional benefits such as less transience in the KCI program, as children who enroll at 3 years old are more likely to reenroll for another year when they are 4 years old.

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<sup>74</sup> Domitrovich, C., et al. “One versus two years: Does the length of exposure to an enhanced preschool program impact the academic functioning of disadvantaged children in kindergarten?” *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* 28 (2013) , 704-13.

The lack of services for infants and toddlers in Anchorage shows the need for EHS center-based expansion. In addition to expansion, KCI may also consider converting Head Start slots into EHS to meet the community need for birth to three services. As ASD pre-K continues to expand, a larger role for EHS services at KCI is likely.

### Other Emerging Issues

The high cost and limited availability of housing will continue to affect families in Anchorage over the next few years. This will impact not just KCI families, but also KCI staff who are lower wage earners. KCI staff may find that more families experience housing challenges, or more homeless children are coming into the program.

Relatively high unemployment and increased outmigration have caused reduced enrollment in Anchorage schools and created empty classrooms in public schools. With increased state & local pre-k investment, through the Alaska Reads Act and the Municipal alcohol tax, the community is likely to experience steady expansion of pre-k services for 4-year-olds in neighborhood schools. Work force shortages in many fields, including child care and early education, are perhaps the most serious challenge facing Alaska's Head Start providers, including KCI. Lack of staff can create under-enrollment problems as programs struggle to adequately staff classrooms. For example, in 2023 six Alaska Head Start grantees have received enrollment improvement letters from the Office of Head Start requiring them to achieve 97% enrollment within 18 months or risk losing federal funds. In such a highly competitive environment, programs must find ways to provide wages and benefits that distinguish them from other employers, which may include private retail and service businesses as well as other early childhood education providers.

## VI. SURVEYS

### Parent Survey

In April of 2021 staff invited parents to complete an online survey (using Survey Monkey) that asked them to rate how well Anchorage provides services or supports for families in 23 areas, from health & housing to low cost family friendly activities. A second section asked parents to describe how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected their families. Respondents could select responses from a pre-populated menu as well as add comments in an open-ended narrative. A third section asked about KCI's program schedule. Respondents were invited to indicate their preferred program model from a variety of schedules. Finally, the survey also asked parents to respond to one open ended question: *In your opinion what things could Anchorage provide to help families live better lives?*

A total of 66 parents and guardians responded, for a response rate of 55%. Respondents represented all program options and centers.

When asked to rate how well Anchorage supports families in meeting 23 different needs, nearly three quarters of respondents rated Anchorage as doing “very well” in providing health care for children and providing enough food to eat.

A small plurality of respondents (34 to 36) rated Anchorage as doing “very well” in the following areas:

- Good education for children
- Family friendly employers
- Supporting family’s cultures
- Learning about being good parents

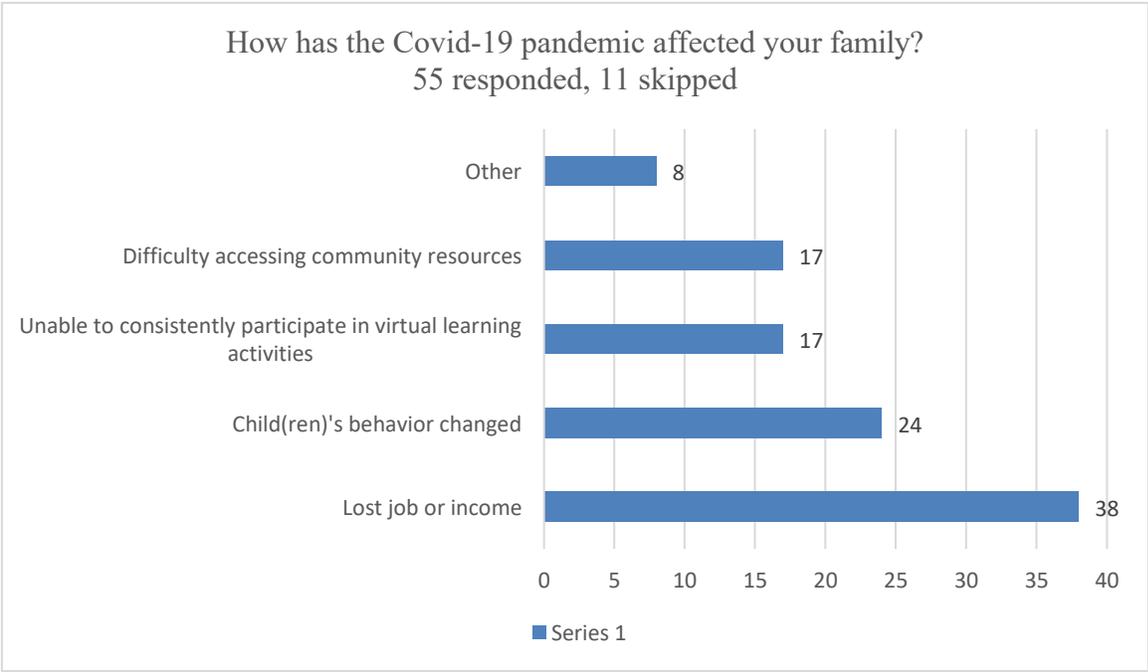
There was just one area, affordable housing, where more than 10% of respondents rated Anchorage as “unsatisfactory” or “very unsatisfactory” (11%). There were 7 other areas where 5 or 6 respondents gave unsatisfactory or very unsatisfactory ratings. Those were:

- Safe neighborhoods
- Available quality childcare
- Financial help
- Help for mental health problems
- Help for drug or alcohol problems
- Support for healthy marriages
- Low or no-cost family friendly activities

Twenty-six of the 66 responded to the open-ended question, *In your opinion what things could Anchorage provide to help families live better lives?* Responses varied, with several mentioning better housing options, more affordable child care and more community activities. One response mentioned more convenient transportation for school.

Unsurprisingly, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on families, as the following chart indicates. Other impacts mentioned included:

- Spouse addiction
- Children can’t normally attend school (mentioned by 2 respondents)
- Caregiving for elderly parents
- Difficulty in meeting basic food needs
- “I strongly disagree with virtual school and look forward to full time in the classroom...”
- Lack of social interaction with friends and family
- Stress and sadness
- Lack of social interaction when recovery from surgery and medical challenges
- Lost work time due to positive test (mentioned by 2 respondents)
- Children bored, unable to socialize



All 66 respondents answered several questions about how well KCI’s program options are meeting their family’s needs. The following table shows their responses.

Question	Yes	No
The current program schedule met the needs of my family:	92%	8%
Our family's needs would be better served with a 12-month Head Start program:	53%	47%
Our family's needs would be better served with a 6.5 hour per day program:	58%	42%
Our family's needs would be better served with an eight to 10 hour per day Head Start program:	30%	70%

**Staff Survey**

Nearly one third of KCI’s 98 employees in 2021 are past or current Head Start parents. Building trusting and respectful relationships with parents/guardians is a key part of virtually every employee’s responsibilities at KCI. As a result, KCI staff have valuable insight into the strengths and needs of families and the responsiveness of the community’s resources.

As part of our community assessment 33 employees completed a survey that, like the parent survey, asked them to rate how well Anchorage supports in 23 different areas. Additionally they responded to these 5 open ended questions:

1. What strengths do you see in the families you serve
2. What are some qualities of Anchorage that make it a positive place for families and children?
3. What do you think are the major challenges that KCI families face?
4. What changes or improvements in Anchorage would make it easier for families to meet these challenges.
5. What changes in KCI program services would you recommend to better serve families and children? Why do you recommend them.

Two thirds of staff rated Anchorage as doing “very well” in providing enough food to eat, an area also rated highly by parents. 55% of staff respondents provided a “very well” rating for “supporting families’ cultures.” These were the only 2 areas where at least half the staff rated Anchorage as doing “very well.”

Between 40-48% of staff provided “very well” ratings in the following areas:

- Health care for children
- Good education for children
- Employment
- Tax preparation

Affordable housing was the area receiving the most “unsatisfactory” and “very unsatisfactory” ratings, with nearly 40% of staff indicating this as an area of need. Other areas where at least 20% of staff gave a rating of “unsatisfactory” or lower:

- Safe and healthy housing
- Transportation

Staff identified many family strengths. Resilience and resourcefulness were noted by many respondents. Positive qualities of Anchorage that staff mentioned included safety, diversity, a clean and healthy environment and a variety of community support services.

It is no surprise that many staff cited housing and transportation as major challenges. The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic was also mentioned by several. Staff had many suggestions for meeting these and other challenges, with more assistance for families to meet housing costs commonly mentioned.

All staff responses are included in an appendix.

Appendix A ASD Preschool Program Locations

ASD P+A1:J35reschool Program Locations 2022-2023									
SCHOOL	General Education Programs				Special Education Programs				
	Neighborhood	Migrant	ASD/KCI Head Start	CTE Collab	4yo Sped Developmental	3yo Sped Developmental	Sped Communication	Sped Listening & Spoken Language	Sped AK School for Deaf/Hard of Hearing
	11:30am-3:30pm M-F			8:30am-1:30pm M-Th	11:30am-3:30pm M-F	8:15-10:45am 12:15-2:45pm M-Th	8:15-10:45am 12:15-2:45pm M/T or W/Th	9:00am-1:00pm M-F Multiage w/ Elem	11:30am-3:30pm M-F
Airport Heights	1(T1)								
Abbott Loop		1(M)			2	1			
ANCCS (@ Mt. View)	1(T1)								
Bartlett					1	1			
Birchwood					1	1			
Bowman					3	1			
Campbell					2	1			
Chester Valley	1(T1)								
Chinook	1(DEED)								
College Gate	1(DEED)								
Creekside			1(T1)				1		
Denali		1(M)							
Eagle River Elem	1(AT)								
Fairview	1(T1)				2	1			
Girdwood					0.5				
Gladys Wood			1(T1)		1	1			
Government Hill					1				
King Tech				1(CTE)					
Klatt	1(AT)								
Lake Otis	1(T1)								
Mountain View	1(T1)				1	1			
Muldoon	1(AT)								
Northwood	1(AT)				3	2			
North Star	1(T1)		1(T1)						
Nunaka Valley	1(AT)				3	3			
Ocean View		1(M)			2	1			
Orion	1(DEED)								
Ptarmigan	1(AT)				2	1			
Ravenwood					1	1.5	0.5		
Russian Jack	1(T1)								1
Susitna	1(DEED)								
Taku	1(AT)						1		
Trailside	1(DEED)								
Turnagain	1(DEED)								
Ursa Major					2	2			
Ursa Minor	1(DEED)								
William Tyson	1(T1)								
Williwaw	1(T1)							1	
Willowcrest			1(T1)						
Wonder Park	1(AT)				2	1			
Girdwood 9:00-11:30am, M-F									
Total	25	3	4	1	12	9.5	2.5	1	1
T1 - Funding Source: Title I									
M - Funding Source: Migrant									
DEED - Funding Source: DEED Grant									
AT - Funding Source: Alcohol Tax									
CTE - Funding Source: CTE									

**STAFF SURVEY**

Thank you for your participation. The results of this anonymous survey will help us improve our program services.

1. What strengths do you see in the families you serve?
2. What are some qualities of Anchorage that make it a positive place for families and children?
3. Other than \$, what do you believe are the major challenges that KCI families face?
4. What changes or improvements in Anchorage would make it easier for families to meet these challenges?
5. What changes in KCI program services would you recommend to better serve families and children? Why do you recommend them?

**PARENT / FAMILY SURVEY**

What is your Kids' Corps classroom? (Circle all that apply)

Early Head Start center based      Early Head Start home based      Ridgeline Center

East Center classrooms 1, 2, 3      East classroom 5 (full day, full year) Muldoon Center

**1. Think about the families you know in your circle of friends** and in your neighborhood. Please review the item below and rate how well you feel Anchorage supports families in these areas.. Thank you for your input!

*(Please circle the number that matches your opinion.)*

	<i>Very Well 1</i>	<i>OK 2</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory 3</i>	<i>Very Unsatisfactory Please explain if you choose no. 4)</i>	<i>Don't know 5</i>
Good education for my child(ren):	1	2	3	4:	5
Health care for my child(ren):	1	2	3	4:	5
Enough food to eat	1	2	3	4:	5
Finding affordable housing	1	2	3	4:	5
Safe & healthy housing	1	2	3	4:	5
Safe neighborhoods	1	2	3	4:	5
Employment	1	2	3	4:	5
Family friendly employers	1	2	3	4:	5
Tax preparation assistance	1	2	3	4:	5
Legal assistance	1	2	3	4:	5
Transportation	1	2	3	4:	5
Available quality childcare	1	2	3	4:	5
Supporting family's cultures	1	2	3	4:	5
Childcare assistance	1	2	3	4:	5
Immigration assistance	1	2	3	4:	5
Learning about being good parents	1	2	3	4:	5
Financial help	1	2	3	4:	5
Family violence help	1	2	3	4:	5
Help for mental health problems	1	2	3	4:	5
Help for drug or alcohol problems	1	2	3	4:	5
Support for healthy marriages	1	2	3	4:	5
Prevention of child abuse	1	2	3	4:	5
Low or no-cost family friendly activities	1	2	3	4:	5

Comments:

2. In your opinion, what things could Anchorage provide to help families live better lives?

3. How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your family? (Check all that apply.)

Lost job(s) or income	
Child(ren)'s behavior changed	
Unable to consistently participate in virtual learning activities	
Accessing community resources	
Other	

Comments:

4. Please check Yes or No

	Yes	No
1. The current program schedule met the needs of my family		
2. Our family's needs would be better served with a 12-month Head Start program		
3. Our family's needs would be better served with a 6.5 hour per day program		
4. Our family's needs would be better served with an eight- to 10-hour per day Head Start program.		

Comments:

## Appendix C Resources and Source Documents

1. Alaska Needs Assessment: a Needs Assessment of Alaska's Mixed-Delivery System of Early Childhood Care and Education, [www.earlychildhoodalaska.com](http://www.earlychildhoodalaska.com)
2. Alaska Early Childhood Environmental Scan, June 2020, All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, [Early Childhood Scan Report | a2p2](#)
3. An Analysis of the Alaska Early Childhood Care System, prepared for Southcentral Foundation by Actionable Data Consulting, August 2020
4. Early Childhood Alaska, a Strategic Direction for 2020-2025, June 2020, [ECA A-Strategic-Direction-2020-2025-FINAL-Reduced9-10-20.pdf \(aasb.org\)](#)
5. Anchorage Community Health Needs Assessment, 2018, Providence Alaska Medical Center, [2018chnaandchipproviencealaskamedicalcenter.pdf](#)
6. Developmental Screening in Alaska, Status, Leadership, Data and Structure, Challenges and Opportunities: (Help Me Grow, 2020) [Microsoft Word - HMG-AK\\_Dev.Screening\\_4-30-20\\_Final.docx \(alaska.gov\)](#)
7. 2021 Alaska's Early Childhood Data Dashboard, [Alaska's Early Care and Learning Data Dashboard 2021 DRAFT | Tableau Public](#)

Staff KCI Survey for Community Assessment 2021

	1 (VERY WELL)	2 (OK)	3 (UNSATISFACTORY)	4 (VERY UNSATISFACTORY)	5 (DON'T KNOW)	TOTAL
Good education for child(ren):	42.42% 14	54.55% 18	3.03% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33
Health care for child(ren):	48.48% 16	42.42% 14	3.03% 1	0.00% 0	6.06% 2	33
Enough food to eat:	66.67% 22	30.30% 10	3.03% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33
Finding affordable housing:	24.24% 8	27.27% 9	27.27% 9	12.12% 4	9.09% 3	33
Safe & healthy housing:	27.27% 9	36.36% 12	24.24% 8	3.03% 1	9.09% 3	33
Safe neighborhoods:	15.15% 5	69.70% 23	12.12% 4	0.00% 0	3.03% 1	33
Employment:	45.45% 15	48.48% 16	3.03% 1	0.00% 0	3.03% 1	33
Family friendly employers:	33.33% 11	54.55% 18	3.03% 1	3.03% 1	6.06% 2	33
Tax preparation:	42.42% 14	36.36% 12	9.09% 3	0.00% 0	12.12% 4	33
Legal assistance:	24.24% 8	39.39% 13	12.12% 4	0.00% 0	24.24% 8	33
Transportation:	36.36% 12	39.39% 13	18.18% 6	3.03% 1	3.03% 1	33
Available quality childcare:	33.33% 11	48.48% 16	12.12% 4	3.03% 1	3.03% 1	33
Supporting family's cultures:	54.55% 18	36.36% 12	6.06% 2	0.00% 0	3.03% 1	33
Childcare assistance:	39.39% 13	45.45% 15	6.06% 2	0.00% 0	9.09% 3	33
Immigration assistance:	27.27% 9	27.27% 9	9.09% 3	0.00% 0	36.36% 12	33
Learning about being good parents:	27.27% 9	63.64% 21	6.06% 2	3.03% 1	0.00% 0	33
Financial help:	30.30% 10	39.39% 13	12.12% 4	0.00% 0	18.18% 6	33
Family violence help:	18.18% 6	48.48% 16	9.09% 3	0.00% 0	24.24% 8	33
Help for mental health problems:	24.24% 8	48.48% 16	6.06% 2	6.06% 2	15.15% 5	33
Help for drug or alcohol problems:	21.21% 7	45.45% 15	3.03% 1	9.09% 3	21.21% 7	33
Support for healthy marriages:	18.18% 6	48.48% 16	12.12% 4	0.00% 0	21.21% 7	33
Prevention of child abuse:	39.39% 13	48.48% 16	9.09% 3	0.00% 0	3.03% 1	33
Low or no-cost family friendly activities:	39.39% 13	45.45% 15	15.15% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33

## Q2 If you answered 4 (Very Unsatisfactory) to any of the questions please explain why below:

Answered: 13 Skipped: 20

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I am very satisfied with our service.	4/28/2021 6:24 PM
2	Housing it is a huge needs in the community and the families getting hard times to qualify and find resources in Housing. A lot families Homeless with not housing.	4/26/2021 9:21 AM
3	N/A	4/23/2021 1:22 PM
4	N/A	4/20/2021 9:11 PM
5	The bus system is not city wide but not enough demand? Also if the bus system gets to know how and why it's being used, they can accommodate people more based on their needs. I think we need more programs that work for drug and mental health. The system we have is broken. They get released from the psychological center because they have nowhere to go when they are not actually fit to be out in the community at that moment. We also need more help with quality childcare that doesn't cost 1,000 month per child.	4/20/2021 9:04 AM
6	I feel like not everyone in our community is aware of all the resource that is out to help, due to lack of awareness	4/19/2021 11:47 AM
7	n/a	4/19/2021 10:20 AM
8	Housing is expensive and hard to find. There's no paid family medical leave for most employers, little flexibility in low wage jobs	4/19/2021 9:06 AM
9	n/a	4/19/2021 7:10 AM
10	Their is no affordable housing at all in town. Most apartments have a limit on family members when we live in a diverse community of families with more than 4 children. A 1 bedroom already cost \$900-\$1,000. Buying a home is expensive as well.	4/16/2021 3:38 PM
11	Finding affordable housing in a safe neighborhoods is hard. The alcohol and drug abuse in the homeless population is hard to watch. Finding homeless people when you go for a walk is concerning. Downtown sometimes looks like a zombie movie. Doesn't seem to be a secure city for a women to walk alone.	4/16/2021 3:28 PM
12	I think we should increase the serving sizes for the kids and give more of their favorites. There is a lot of turnover in employment. Looking at keeping employees longer should be more of a priority.	4/16/2021 2:56 PM
13	There does not seem to be any affordable housing in Anchorage. Waiting lists seem endless. Child care is very difficult to find especially for children under the age of three.	4/16/2021 2:33 PM

### Q3 What strengths do you see in the families you have met at KCI?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The struggles of life being overcome and conquered.	4/29/2021 3:57 PM
2	Supportive, caring	4/29/2021 11:19 AM
3	Expressing appreciation and affection towards KCI	4/29/2021 10:01 AM
4	commitment	4/29/2021 9:19 AM
5	Their warmly smile in the morning and share the big progress the kid made.	4/28/2021 6:24 PM
6	Families wants children to be educating and believe in our services as reference or knowing us already.	4/26/2021 9:21 AM
7	Good communication and families checking backpacks.	4/23/2021 1:22 PM
8	Being more confident to Advocate for their children's education.	4/22/2021 12:25 PM
9	williness to help out, education importance.	4/21/2021 10:10 AM
10	Independent, resilient, understanding	4/20/2021 9:11 PM
11	They mostly take the resources that we provide even though letting us know what they need is challenging sometimes. Most of them appreciate what we are doing for them and their child and we are not just a "daycare" to them	4/20/2021 9:04 AM
12	wanting to know what resource is out there to help them and how to get help and where to go too.	4/19/2021 11:47 AM
13	They are accessing food banks, and looking for jobs as children go back into the school system in person.	4/19/2021 10:43 AM
14	Open to help, willingness for change	4/19/2021 10:37 AM
15	good communication	4/19/2021 10:20 AM
16	Their availability for their children to receive a high quality education	4/19/2021 10:19 AM
17	Resilient--in many cases have adapted to being far from extended family. Problem solvers--find a way to get children to school in spite of challenges that can come from not having enough \$	4/19/2021 9:06 AM
18	They feel comfortable reaching for support	4/19/2021 8:56 AM
19	KCI has provided any kind of assistance they can for families	4/19/2021 8:23 AM
20	support networks of friends and family. Wanting a bright future for their family and child.	4/19/2021 7:10 AM
21	Very unite, happiness and harmony with each other.	4/16/2021 7:57 PM
22	Commitment, quality time together, positive communication, and positive communication	4/16/2021 4:29 PM
23	I see resilience, the willingness to learn. Motivated to help their children learn and grow.	4/16/2021 3:49 PM
24	They are family oriented.	4/16/2021 3:38 PM
25	Work Ethics, family bonds with other families. Desire for children to learn a quality education.	4/16/2021 3:32 PM
26	They get a lot of support and resources from KCI.	4/16/2021 3:28 PM
27	Resilience. When they need help, they work with us to get available services.	4/16/2021 2:56 PM
28	Extremely resourceful - able to navigate the often complicated social services/community resource systems. Desire to make a better life for their children than they had as kids.	4/16/2021 2:54 PM

## Staff KCI Survey for Community Assessment 2021

29	our families love to be involved	4/16/2021 2:48 PM
30	Resilient. They are strong and able to overcome whatever is thrown at them. Sadly that may be a lot at times.	4/16/2021 2:47 PM
31	They are well at informing us of attendance.	4/16/2021 2:38 PM
32	They seem satisfied with what they have. They care deeply about their children.	4/16/2021 2:33 PM
33	Close-knit, determined.	4/16/2021 2:31 PM

## Q4 What are some qualities of Anchorage that make it a positive place for families and children?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Fun outdoor activities and places to do them.	4/29/2021 3:57 PM
2	Peaceful community	4/29/2021 11:19 AM
3	Social Connections provide emotional support, help solve problems, offer parenting advice and give concrete assistance to parents.	4/29/2021 10:01 AM
4	Community aid and support	4/29/2021 9:19 AM
5	The nice summer, beautiful scenery and very supportive	4/28/2021 6:24 PM
6	Take care of individual and families and always looking for the benefit and give opportunities to the families learn and express themselves to find resources for them	4/26/2021 9:21 AM
7	Anchorage has good nonprofit organizations where they help families and children.	4/23/2021 1:22 PM
8	Many resources and support from the community. Including housing feed and financials support.	4/22/2021 12:25 PM
9	outdoor experiences.	4/21/2021 10:10 AM
10	Parks and Recreational Activities	4/20/2021 9:11 PM
11	There are lots of parks and playgrounds. There are lots of family events especially in the summer months for families to get outside and be a part of the community while promoting a healthy lifestyle.	4/20/2021 9:04 AM
12	They do what they can to help with the aware of and I like to say people in the community do their best to advocate for the less unfortunate, to the hire ups.	4/19/2021 11:47 AM
13	a lot of food banks, people are generous to give.	4/19/2021 10:43 AM
14	Friendly people, lots of parks	4/19/2021 10:37 AM
15	Service to the community	4/19/2021 10:20 AM
16	It is a small city with many job opportunities and many resources for families.	4/19/2021 10:19 AM
17	Clean, decent schools, relatively safe	4/19/2021 9:06 AM
18	Anchorage offers many options and opportunities for families that need some kind if support or help.	4/19/2021 8:56 AM
19	it is a safe community	4/19/2021 8:23 AM
20	Diversity	4/19/2021 7:10 AM
21	churches, school, safe neighborhood, hospitals, quality day care, Boy's and Girls club, movies, camping, playgrounds, gym and etc....	4/16/2021 7:57 PM
22	There are lots of oppotunities for families to bond during door actives. Very low (major) crime and friendly neighbors	4/16/2021 4:29 PM
23	Many resources for families who are experiencing difficulties. Community outreach is also good.	4/16/2021 3:49 PM
24	Their are some support since the community is small.	4/16/2021 3:38 PM
25	Very diverse, a lot resources for schools, libraries, family events during the summer. Covid has placed a lot of those activities and events on hold.	4/16/2021 3:32 PM

## Staff KCI Survey for Community Assessment 2021

26	Outdoor activities accessible for all families for free. Hiking , fishing, etc.	4/16/2021 3:28 PM
27	Strong cultural connection	4/16/2021 2:56 PM
28	Lots of parks. A lot of community resources.	4/16/2021 2:54 PM
29	lots of parks and free activities in summer	4/16/2021 2:48 PM
30	Lots of beautiful open spaces for families to enjoy and get out to explore. So many opportunities for different cultural exposures.	4/16/2021 2:47 PM
31	Anchorage a peaceful place with lots of outdoor activites.	4/16/2021 2:38 PM
32	Lots of stuff to do outside. Everyone in Anchorage seems comfortable making accommodations for small children.	4/16/2021 2:33 PM
33	Smaller size, friendly, lots of outdoor activities	4/16/2021 2:31 PM

## Q5 What do you believe are the major challenges that KCI families face?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Money, housing/shelter, and incomplete family units.	4/29/2021 3:57 PM
2	Broken family	4/29/2021 11:19 AM
3	The COVID sick screening rules (taking the test or have the child stay home for 10 days). Risking other children in the classroom to get sick.	4/29/2021 10:01 AM
4	i don't know	4/29/2021 9:19 AM
5	Maybe how to support and teach kids at home, how to make the use of the resources we provided.	4/28/2021 6:24 PM
6	At this time the incorporate online classes and online services for families. This is required to be learn and trainings.	4/26/2021 9:21 AM
7	Transportation.	4/23/2021 1:22 PM
8	The biggest thing I can think that affect all of our families and staff in general is COVID.	4/22/2021 12:25 PM
9	resources	4/21/2021 10:10 AM
10	Transportation, car situations, Working long hours/more than one job	4/20/2021 9:11 PM
11	Some of the major challenges our families face is taking off work when they have to come pick up their child due to sickness especially with the covid rules. Not all workplaces are understanding and flexible. Other challenges are parenting practices and they struggle with behaviors.	4/20/2021 9:04 AM
12	language barriers and the not knowing	4/19/2021 11:47 AM
13	transportation that has now been cut out of routes (people mover), child care centers shut down so parents can't find care for their child so they can go back to work.	4/19/2021 10:43 AM
14	Childcare so they can pursue an education and a career	4/19/2021 10:37 AM
15	This year affect in different areas due to COVID-19	4/19/2021 10:20 AM
16	To find a safe neighborhood to live and raise their kids.	4/19/2021 10:19 AM
17	Affordable housing, earning enough from employment to meet basic needs	4/19/2021 9:06 AM
18	Do to covid having classes online	4/19/2021 8:56 AM
19	financial/transportation	4/19/2021 8:23 AM
20	Transportation. Health food resources.	4/19/2021 7:10 AM
21	Divorce, remarried, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Financial status.	4/16/2021 7:57 PM
22	unemployment, poverty, time, teen age parents, instability.	4/16/2021 4:29 PM
23	Housing	4/16/2021 3:49 PM
24	Finding housing that can fit their family, but is affordable.	4/16/2021 3:38 PM
25	Employment, food, healthcare, housing, child care. Mental Health resources and therapy.	4/16/2021 3:32 PM
26	Transportation	4/16/2021 3:28 PM
27	Doing paperwork in on time so finding ways to do it easier. Managing important paperwork and keeping appointments.	4/16/2021 2:56 PM
28	Jumping through the hoops and navigating how to receive help. English as a second language.	4/16/2021 2:54 PM

## Staff KCI Survey for Community Assessment 2021

Low education levels. Single parenting. Lacking the know how for how to be financially stable.

29	housing	4/16/2021 2:48 PM
30	Stability (housing, income, education)	4/16/2021 2:47 PM
31	emotional support	4/16/2021 2:38 PM
32	Maintaining or finding consistent work.	4/16/2021 2:33 PM
33	Not enough assistance for housing (affordable)	4/16/2021 2:31 PM

## Q6 What changes or improvements in Anchorage would make it easier for families to meet these challenges?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I would not know.	4/29/2021 3:57 PM
2	More family counseling	4/29/2021 11:19 AM
3	To not question the COVID rules so often when it's the same every time. If the child is sick, please let them stay home instead of lying during screening that they either weren't exposed to COVID or that they took any fever medication.	4/29/2021 10:01 AM
4	I can't answer if I don't know what they are	4/29/2021 9:19 AM
5	Provide some professional trainings or some parents school.	4/28/2021 6:24 PM
6	Be with them. (with the families), supporting them the best can do it.	4/26/2021 9:21 AM
7	More buses	4/23/2021 1:22 PM
8	None	4/22/2021 12:25 PM
9	.	4/21/2021 10:10 AM
10	Lower prices on car repairs, transportation cost used to be a lot cheaper.	4/20/2021 9:11 PM
11	Everyone should take parenting classes. There should be more support for parents in jail and their families.	4/20/2021 9:04 AM
12	affordable housing	4/19/2021 11:47 AM
13	Some of the stimulus funding go to assist child care centers to put into place covid-19 screenings and better practices. To put back into service some of the routes for people mover. To fund day care assistance for parents needing child care but unable to get assistance. Shelters for people with families that are homeless and can't get assistance while living with family or friends. More lower rent housing for families that can't afford a huge deposit and high rental fees. Clean up the areas of housing that is considered low income (bed bugs, dirty carpets and walls, appliances that don't work, etc)	4/19/2021 10:43 AM
14	Not sure	4/19/2021 10:37 AM
15	I think we received a good support for this difficult time.	4/19/2021 10:20 AM
16	More vigilance by the police, stricter laws for people who break the law.	4/19/2021 10:19 AM
17	More affordable housing, more family friendly workplaces where parents have a predictable schedule with sufficient hours and benefits to meet their needs	4/19/2021 9:06 AM
18	Slowly Reopening more classroom so parents can see that is safe to bring kids to school	4/19/2021 8:56 AM
19	n/a	4/19/2021 8:23 AM
20	Affordable and high quality child care especially for KCI employees. Transportation resources.	4/19/2021 7:10 AM
21	changes in the use of public services like reported to the child welfare, domestic violence.	4/16/2021 7:57 PM
22	affordable housing, more job opportunities, more community outreach program	4/16/2021 4:29 PM
23	Shorter waiting list to receive assistance with housing. Temporary assistance with housing.	4/16/2021 3:49 PM
24	lower housing cost or having housing support. Not just for the homeless families, but lower housing for the middle class as well.	4/16/2021 3:38 PM
25	Place more funding in child care facilities, more affordable housing and housing vouchers for	4/16/2021 3:32 PM

## Staff KCI Survey for Community Assessment 2021

families. Increase poverty level for families that make too much money for services, but not enough to purchase necessary items for living.

26	Programs for low income families so they can get a car by making small monthly payments. Food insecurity	4/16/2021 3:28 PM
27	Better transportation system. More online resources and easier access to the internet.	4/16/2021 2:56 PM
28	Social workers dedicated from the city to help families navigate resources. Step more than 211. ELL classes for free offered throughout the city at local schools. Better education system with higher grad rate. Financial courses taught at local schools for free and part of required curriculum for high school and college.	4/16/2021 2:54 PM
29	faster with housing applications and responses	4/16/2021 2:48 PM
30	Better job training. Families have job experience, but don't have degrees to go along with it. Makes it hard to get jobs. Housing is hard to find sometimes so they are forced to live with families or in shelters.	4/16/2021 2:47 PM
31	counseling sessions	4/16/2021 2:38 PM
32	A system of job positions that clarify on the job training is an option.	4/16/2021 2:33 PM
33	More options for low income housing.	4/16/2021 2:31 PM

## Q7 What changes in KCI program services would you recommend to better serve families and children? Why do you recommend them?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	A housing building ran by KCI to take in the families and children struggling with housing/shelter.	4/29/2021 3:57 PM
2	None	4/29/2021 11:19 AM
3	No changes but to keep the virtual classes as an option.	4/29/2021 10:01 AM
4	Maybe look deeper, or change some than others and see which families do need our help.	4/29/2021 9:19 AM
5	I think most parents don't use or don't know how to use the study materials at home, like the books and the package we sent home, they are really helpful for parents and kids, maybe we need give the parents some guidance for them.	4/28/2021 6:24 PM
6	Asking the families what services they wants to us provide to them. According families needs we could serve better and find resources for them.	4/26/2021 9:21 AM
7	keep going with the quality service	4/23/2021 1:22 PM
8	Serving more families and children.	4/22/2021 12:25 PM
9	.	4/21/2021 10:10 AM
10	Car Seat Services is great for parents that don't have the budget to buy one.	4/20/2021 9:11 PM
11	We just expanded early head start so we can help more families with younger kids.	4/20/2021 9:04 AM
12	listen to the voice of the veteran staff that has more experiences that work with the different type of family that we severed, to hear the voice of the wants and needs of the family.	4/19/2021 11:47 AM
13	more transportation areas for families that don't have vehicles or work schedules prohibit pick up or drop off of child.	4/19/2021 10:43 AM
14	I think KCI is doing a great job	4/19/2021 10:37 AM
15	Transportation	4/19/2021 10:20 AM
16	Open more centers in areas where there are none, because there are many families that need these services.	4/19/2021 10:19 AM
17	More full day options	4/19/2021 9:06 AM
18	Reopening classrooms	4/19/2021 8:56 AM
19	Continue to provide for families that needed most	4/19/2021 8:23 AM
20	More bus.	4/19/2021 7:10 AM
21	Nothing!	4/16/2021 7:57 PM
22	There are no changes to recommend at this time.	4/16/2021 4:29 PM
23	n/a	4/16/2021 3:49 PM
24	Everyone to share valuable housing and food resources with all staff, so staff and the families we service can utilize the resource.	4/16/2021 3:38 PM
25	Someone trained to assist families in filling out any type of public assistance application, housing applications, medicaid, SSI/SSDI enrollments. Have knowledge for homeless/unemployed families to enroll and resources that the city may offer.	4/16/2021 3:32 PM
26	After school snacks for families to take home. Promote mental health services for the parents .	4/16/2021 3:28 PM

## Staff KCI Survey for Community Assessment 2021

More nutrition education.

27	3 teachers per classroom to keep children safe and teachers are able to give more one on one time for each student. A computer lab that the parents can use to get paperwork and school done. More fun activities to involove the community	4/16/2021 2:56 PM
28	Partnerships and offerings to connect to financial coaches, ELL programs.	4/16/2021 2:54 PM
29	lower class numbers	4/16/2021 2:48 PM
30	I feel KCI does an amazing job supporting our families. A book far would be great, but offering the books for free once/twice a year. It would help push reading in the homes. The book a month is great, but it is geared towards the child in the program and not the other children in the home that are of different ages. A rummage sale ( but free) also would be great. Have KCI staff go through their things each season and donate then set up something outside East in the parking lot (or each center hold their own) for the families to come and go through in the spring/summer when it warms up. (clothes, household items, toys, etc) Have it only open to KCI enrolled families.	4/16/2021 2:47 PM
31	Transportation, open up buses.	4/16/2021 2:38 PM
32	More parenting classes maybe based on classrooms instead of program-wide.	4/16/2021 2:33 PM
33	Longer hours, more classrooms, not changing staff around so much.	4/16/2021 2:31 PM

## KCI Family Survey for Community Assessment 2021

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Early Head Start Center Based:	4.55%	3
Early Head Start Home Based:	6.06%	4
East Center Classroom 1 or 2:	19.70%	13
East Center Classroom 5 (full day, full year):	10.61%	7
Virtual Services (Muldoon or East):	9.09%	6
Ridgeline Center:	10.61%	7
Muldoon Center:	9.09%	6
ASD Airport Heights:	4.55%	3
ASD Creekside Park:	6.06%	4
ASD Gladys Wood:	15.15%	10
ASD Willow Crest:	10.61%	7
Total Respondents: 66		

KCI Family Survey for Community Assessment 2021

	1 (VERY WELL)	2 (OK)	3 (UNSATISFACTORY)	4 (VERY UNSATISFACTORY)	5 (DON'T KNOW)	TOTAL
Good education for child(ren):	57.58% 38	40.91% 27	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1.52% 1	66
Health care for child(ren):	72.73% 48	22.73% 15	1.52% 1	0.00% 0	3.03% 2	66
Enough food to eat:	74.24% 49	24.24% 16	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1.52% 1	66
Finding affordable housing:	45.45% 30	31.82% 21	7.58% 5	3.03% 2	12.12% 8	66
Safe & healthy housing:	50.00% 33	34.85% 23	4.55% 3	1.52% 1	9.09% 6	66
Safe neighborhoods:	48.48% 32	37.88% 25	7.58% 5	1.52% 1	4.55% 3	66
Employment:	42.42% 28	37.88% 25	4.55% 3	0.00% 0	15.15% 10	66
Family friendly employers:	53.03% 35	28.79% 19	4.55% 3	1.52% 1	12.12% 8	66
Tax preparation:	45.45% 30	31.82% 21	4.55% 3	0.00% 0	18.18% 12	66
Legal assistance:	33.33% 22	37.88% 25	4.55% 3	0.00% 0	24.24% 16	66
Transportation:	46.97% 31	31.82% 21	4.55% 3	1.52% 1	15.15% 10	66
Available quality childcare:	39.39% 26	33.33% 22	6.06% 4	3.03% 2	18.18% 12	66
Supporting family's cultures:	54.55% 36	28.79% 19	4.55% 3	1.52% 1	10.61% 7	66
Childcare assistance:	40.91% 27	33.33% 22	4.55% 3	3.03% 2	18.18% 12	66
Immigration assistance:	34.85% 23	19.70% 13	1.52% 1	1.52% 1	42.42% 28	66
Learning about being good parents:	51.52% 34	34.85% 23	4.55% 3	0.00% 0	9.09% 6	66
Financial help:	48.48% 32	28.79% 19	4.55% 3	3.03% 2	15.15% 10	66
Family violence help:	42.42% 28	34.85% 23	0.00% 0	3.03% 2	19.70% 13	66
Help for mental health problems:	37.88% 25	27.27% 18	3.03% 2	4.55% 3	27.27% 18	66
Help for drug or alcohol problems:	36.36% 24	27.27% 18	4.55% 3	3.03% 2	28.79% 19	66
Support for healthy marriages:	37.88% 25	27.27% 18	6.06% 4	1.52% 1	27.27% 18	66
Prevention of child abuse:	50.00% 33	24.24% 16	1.52% 1	3.03% 2	21.21% 14	66
Low or no-cost family friendly activities:	50.00% 33	31.82% 21	4.55% 3	4.55% 3	9.09% 6	66

## Q5 If you answered 4 (Very Unsatisfactory) to any of the questions please explain why below:

Answered: 10 Skipped: 56

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	don't know	4/22/2021 12:30 PM
2	Its hard to find safe, nice and affordable housing in Anchorage. You either make just a little to much for assistance or on a waiting list.	4/22/2021 10:54 AM
3	No	4/21/2021 5:33 PM
4	None	4/21/2021 3:18 PM
5	My circle is small an I don't know much about assistance or anything.	4/21/2021 5:57 AM
6	NO i go to school/don't need	4/20/2021 12:52 PM
7	Na	4/14/2021 7:39 PM
8	High rates in Alaska of abuse of all kinds requires more treatment or prevention services or both.	4/12/2021 6:00 PM
9	Satisfactory	4/12/2021 12:24 PM
10	NA	4/12/2021 11:38 AM

## Q6 In your opinion, what things could Anchorage provide to help families live better lives? Please write in the comment box below:

Answered: 32 Skipped: 34

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Don't know	4/22/2021 12:30 PM
2	Nothing	4/22/2021 10:31 AM
3	Na	4/21/2021 5:33 PM
4	Anchorage is doing better we just need to keep up with it and it might be better then before so we can all get out and be normal like usual	4/21/2021 3:18 PM
5	N/a	4/21/2021 1:11 PM
6	Help the children!! Especially the homeless ones!!	4/21/2021 5:57 AM
7	no comment	4/20/2021 1:12 PM
8	Not sure what else but I really appreciate all the services that are given now. Staff is doing a great job.	4/20/2021 1:06 PM
9	Better access to healthcare and financial resources	4/20/2021 12:59 PM
10	Track them and ask if they need anything	4/20/2021 12:49 PM
11	More sports and recreation for kids	4/20/2021 12:43 PM
12	Just being more available	4/20/2021 12:42 PM
13	Doing really good now!	4/20/2021 12:40 PM
14	So far the experience of living here in anchorage, I would say more convenient transportation for school.	4/20/2021 10:21 AM
15	NA	4/20/2021 9:50 AM
16	Alaska needs to get more community activities for free at no cost, as many of them do not have much money, especially in the winter where parents have no idea what to do with their children.	4/20/2021 9:48 AM
17	KCI family is very giving and supportive of families.	4/20/2021 9:46 AM
18	N/a	4/19/2021 1:19 PM
19	Everything is good and great for an child to learn. Thank you for you guys time for my daughter	4/16/2021 2:26 PM
20	I'm not sure what thing Anchorage can do to make families lives better lives.	4/16/2021 2:24 PM
21	Free education e.g. trades, College,	4/16/2021 1:59 PM
22	Anchorage is providing good case	4/16/2021 8:57 AM
23	More things to do	4/15/2021 3:46 PM
24	Some government workers should have better customer service skills, more understanding for family situations with straight heart.	4/15/2021 2:50 PM
25	Better housing options. More help for child care.	4/15/2021 9:25 AM
26	More support	4/14/2021 7:39 PM
27	Park sanitation	4/12/2021 10:02 PM
28	More activities and more bully awareness	4/12/2021 6:00 PM

## KCI Family Survey for Community Assessment 2021

29	I beleive they are doing a great job at KCI	4/12/2021 4:13 PM
30	More affordable child care services	4/12/2021 1:10 PM
31	Very helpful information given by advocates	4/12/2021 12:24 PM
32	Jobs	4/12/2021 11:38 AM

## Q7 Additional Comments:

Answered: 9 Skipped: 57

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	none	4/22/2021 12:30 PM
2	Na	4/21/2021 5:33 PM
3	None	4/21/2021 3:18 PM
4	N/a	4/21/2021 1:11 PM
5	Make sure every child is accounted for!!	4/21/2021 5:57 AM
6	Kevin Daymude has been the best teacher to My kid, He always goes beyond with teaching her everything	4/20/2021 10:24 PM
7	Na	4/14/2021 7:39 PM
8	No	4/12/2021 4:13 PM
9	None job well done	4/12/2021 12:24 PM

## Q9 If other factors have affected your family please explain:

Answered: 17 Skipped: 49

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Wife addiction	4/22/2021 12:30 PM
2	None	4/22/2021 10:31 AM
3	N/A	4/21/2021 5:33 PM
4	None	4/21/2021 3:18 PM
5	Children cannot normally attend school due to COVID-19.	4/21/2021 1:11 PM
6	Children are unable to attend school due to COVID-19 without risk of becoming sick and it is the same for any other activities in public settings.	4/21/2021 1:05 PM
7	My whole life is surrounded by COVID. I have 2 elderly parents and 2 children under 10 I need to make sure they are all good so that means PPE for personals and that gets so expensive	4/21/2021 5:57 AM
8	Sometimes we don't have food my husband try and make ends meet but food bank can't always provide but I thank Ms.Jerrilin for always helping	4/20/2021 10:24 PM
9	Virtual education is lacking the development of social skills. I strongly disagree with virtual school and look forward to full time in the classroom learning again	4/20/2021 10:10 PM
10	not meeting family friends	4/20/2021 12:49 PM
11	stress, sad	4/20/2021 12:43 PM
12	Our car or transportation been down for a while.	4/15/2021 9:25 PM
13	Needed more support because I had 4 surgeries in the last year and I had no support during such a difficult year .	4/14/2021 7:39 PM
14	Positive test in November 2020. Lost time to work and unemployment wasn't enough. I would have rather worked. Covid-19 has been a hassle.	4/12/2021 6:00 PM
15	No kids to socialize with,bored,	4/12/2021 4:13 PM
16	Lost hours and job	4/12/2021 12:24 PM
17	NA	4/12/2021 11:38 AM

## Q10 Additional Comments:

Answered: 10 Skipped: 56

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	none	4/22/2021 12:30 PM
2	N/A	4/21/2021 5:33 PM
3	None	4/21/2021 3:18 PM
4	N/a	4/21/2021 1:11 PM
5	HELP THE HOMELESS AN FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOME. Engage in kids who might be in harm at home!!!	4/21/2021 5:57 AM
6	lost job	4/20/2021 1:12 PM
7	COVID-19 has made things challenging in the sense that we have had to work from home and other ways to maintain income for our family due to the kids schedule with school.	4/20/2021 1:06 PM
8	Na	4/14/2021 7:39 PM
9	No	4/12/2021 4:13 PM
10	None	4/12/2021 12:24 PM

## Q12 Final Comments:

Answered: 15 Skipped: 51

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	none	4/22/2021 12:30 PM
2	N/A	4/21/2021 5:33 PM
3	None	4/21/2021 3:18 PM
4	N/a	4/21/2021 1:11 PM
5	.	4/21/2021 5:57 AM
6	For 3 yes I would love for my son to be in class longer but we have adjusted to our schedule	4/20/2021 1:06 PM
7	We are very happy with school program from HSP. Our family is happy with 8 hours per day and it depends if we have appointment so we are very happy with the services we have. Thank you!	4/20/2021 12:49 PM
8	The families will work according to the program and the needs of each one of them.	4/20/2021 9:48 AM
9	Good job	4/16/2021 1:59 PM
10	Na	4/14/2021 7:39 PM
11	Thank you for taking care of our children. My son has only been in preschool for a few weeks (late start) but he loves it and asks if he can go everyday. He's 4.	4/12/2021 6:00 PM
12	I think they do a wonderful job	4/12/2021 4:13 PM
13	I understand the length of the program now due to the pandemic. But it might be better for longer lengths for families that need to work	4/12/2021 1:10 PM
14	None	4/12/2021 12:24 PM
15	No Head Start for birth-4 in West Anchorage!!! Why is that? No Head Start transportation from West Anchorage to KCI, RuralCap, or CIRI Head Starts...	4/12/2021 11:36 AM