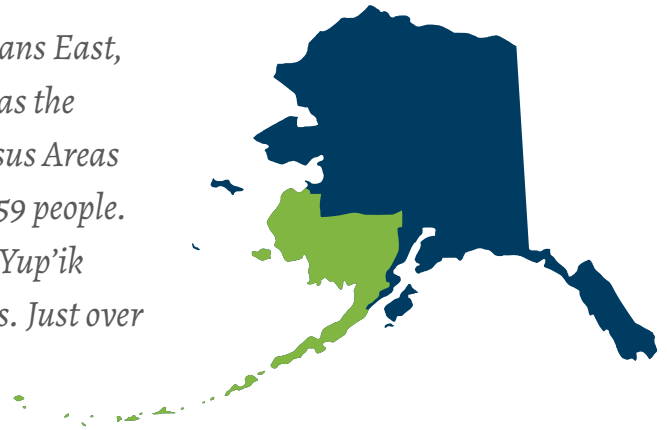


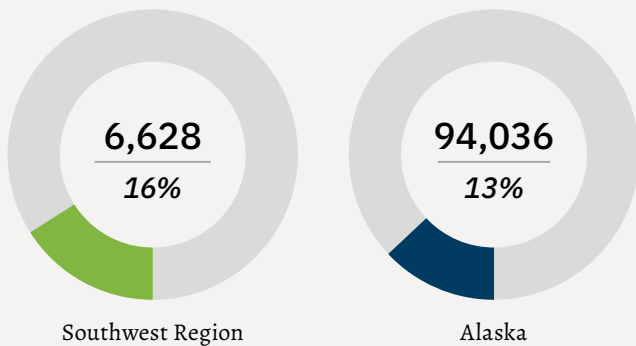
# Early Childhood Regional Profile:

## SOUTHWEST

The Southwest region of Alaska is made up of the Aleutians East, Bristol Bay, and Lake and Peninsula Boroughs, as well as the Aleutians West, Bethel, Dillingham, and Kusilvak Census Areas covering 126,740 square miles with a population of 42,159 people. The Southwest region is home to the Aleut, Alutiiq, and Yup'ik people and 103 federally recognized Alaska Native tribes. Just over 7% of Alaska's young children live in Southwest Alaska.

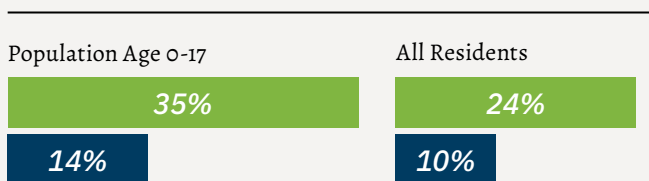


### POPULATION (AGE 0-8)



Alaska Department of Labor, Population Estimates, 2018

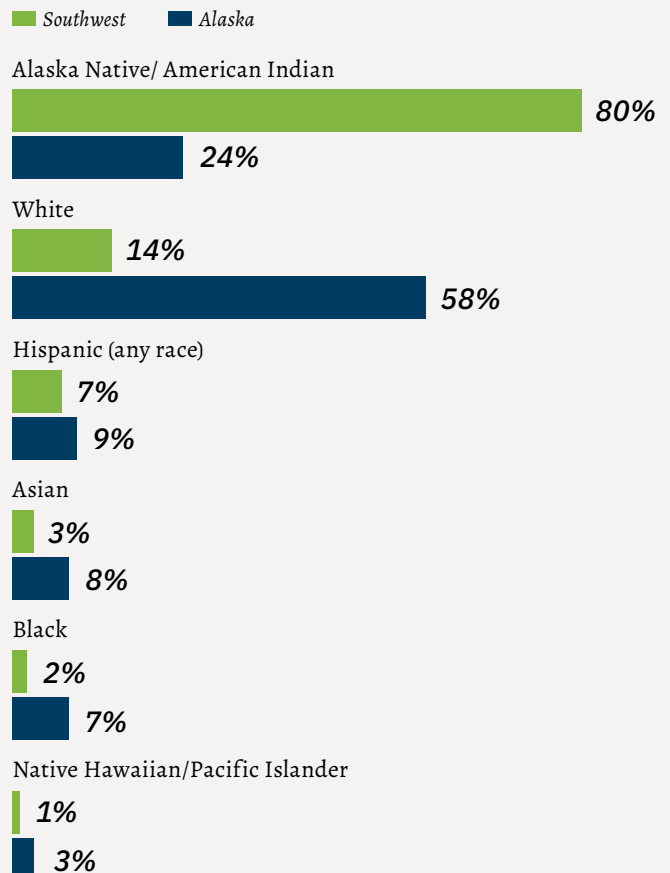
### POVERTY RATE



U.S. Census American Community Survey 2017

**Young children are a larger part of the population in Southwest, and children have the highest poverty rate of any region in the state; it is more than double the statewide rate.** In the region, the percentage of children age 0-8 that identify as Alaska Native/American Indian is more than three times the state average.

### RACE/ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN (0-8)\*



Alaska Department of Labor, Population Estimates, 2018  
\*Categories are not mutually exclusive

## BABIES

The Southwest region has the highest birth rate and second highest teen birth rate of any region in the state.

Both rates have declined in recent years, following state and national trends.

Mothers in the Southwest region are 20% less likely to have adequate prenatal care and are almost 10% more likely to have used tobacco while pregnant, although only slightly more likely to have a baby born pre-term.

*In 2018, mothers in the Southwest region gave birth to 883 babies*

*Alaska Vital Statistics 2018 Annual Report*

### FERTILITY RATES

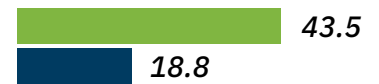
■ Southwest ■ Alaska

Fertility Rate  
(per 1,000 women ages 15-44)



*Alaska Vital Statistics 2018 Annual Report*

Teen Birth Rate  
(per 1,000 women ages 15-19)



### PRENATAL EXPERIENCES & BIRTH OUTCOMES

■ Southwest ■ Alaska

Mom received adequate prenatal care



Mom used tobacco while pregnant

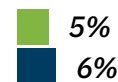


*Alaska Vital Statistics 2018 Annual Report*

Babies born pre-term



Babies with low-birth weight



## CHILD SAFETY & CHILD MALTREATMENT

Southwest Alaska has a rate of substantiated reports of maltreatment for young children (0-8) well above the statewide rate. The rate of out-of-home placement of children by the Office of Children's Services is just above the state rate. Young children (ages 0-8) account for 66% of all children in the region with a substantiated report of maltreatment, and 50% of all children in out-of-home placement. **The death rate for young children under age five is the second highest of all regions in the state.**

### UNDER AGE 5 CHILD DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS, 2016-2018

■ Southwest ■ Alaska



*Alaska Vital Statistics 2018 Annual Report*

	Number of children (0-8)	Prevalence (per 1,000 children ages 0-8)	Alaska Prevalence (per 1,000 children ages 0-8)
Substantiated Reports of Harm	185	27.9	19.9
Out-of-home placement	177	26.7	25.8

*Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Children's Services, FY 2019*

## MEDICAID COVERAGE

During state fiscal year 2018, just over 1,500 pregnant and postpartum women in the Southwest region were covered by Medicaid Title XIX. The number of children who received Medicaid exceeds the population estimate for the regions; the reason for this discrepancy is unknown. They had Medicaid spending for residents of Southwest Alaska was \$61.9 million, accounting for 17% of total spending in the state during this time period.

Medicaid Program	Number Served	% of 0-8 Population Served	Total Funding (State & Federal)	Percent of Total Funding in Alaska
Medicaid CHIP: children 0-8 population	583	9%	\$1,326,239	9%
Medicaid Title XIX: children 0-8	6,804	103%	\$48,318,002	17%
Medicaid Title XIX : Pregnant & Postpartum	1,522	--	\$12,265,812	16%

*Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Medicaid Allocation and Audit Services, FY 2018*

## FAMILY SUPPORTS

Several federal programs provide benefits to low-income children, adults and families. These include including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) which provides cash assistance, the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) which provides reimbursement for qualified child care expenses, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which provides benefits to purchase food and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) which provides specific foods for pregnant women and children under five.

**TANF, CCAP, and SNAP provide people in the Southwest region with a monthly average of \$3.5 million in benefits, accounting for 19% of all spending for these programs in the state,** likely due to the high rate of poverty among people in Southwest Alaska. The caseloads reported below can be an individual, siblings or other family unit. This does not include Tribal TANF or Tribal CCDF.

Assistance Program	Avg. Monthly Regional Caseload (All Ages)	Avg. Monthly Regional Benefits (All Ages)	Percent of Avg. Monthly Caseloads in Alaska
TANF	6-24	\$5,055	<1% - 1%
CCAP	1-4	\$150	<1%
SNAP	3,613	\$3,530,717	10%
WIC	1,886	--	16%

*Alaska Department of Public Assistance Summary Reports, FY 19*

## EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

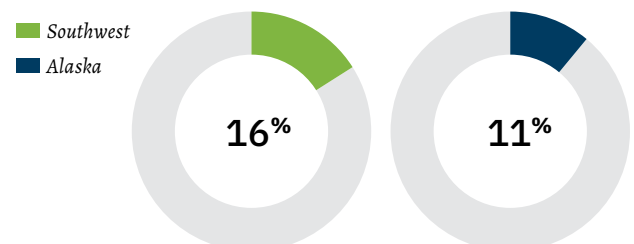
The Infant Learning Program (ILP) provides additional early intervention services for children age 0-2 who are experiencing a delay. Four agencies provide services in the Southwest Region: Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Programs for Infants and Children, Sprout Family Services, and Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation.

INFANT LEARNING PROGRAM		Southwest Region
Number children (age 0-2) served	190	
% of statewide total	6%	

*Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Infant Learning Program Report on Communities Served, FY 18*

## MATERNAL DEPRESSION

The prevalence of maternal depression in the Southwest region is greater than the statewide average by 5%. Only 26% of mothers report a health care provider talking to them about depression, or how they feel, less than the statewide rate of 31%.



*Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey, 2017-2018*

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

There are only three licensed care facilities in the region. They all accept CCAP vouchers. None of the child care facilities participate in Learn & Grow, the state's Quality Rating & Improvement System for early care. Head Start/Early Head Start (EHS) and School District Pre-K programs provide the majority of early learning opportunities, although not all children are served in a classroom setting. **thread estimates 29% of children ages zero to five are in unlicensed care, which might include using family, friends or neighbors to care for children.**

Census Area	Licensed Child Care		Head Start /EHS		School District Pre-K	
	No. of Sites	Capacity	No. of Sites	No. Served	No. of Schools with Pre-K	No. Served
Aleutians East Borough	0	0	2	20	4	21
Aleutians West	0	0	1	16	1	10
Bethel	1	87	13	317	30	299
Bristol Bay Borough	1	15	0	0	0	0
Dillingham	1	55	4	80	1	4
Kusilvak	0	0	13	309	8	64
Lake & Peninsula Borough	0	0	1	12	11	54
Southwest region	3	157	33	754	55	452
Alaska	496	17,193	121	3,288	246	3,754
% of Statewide	1%	1%	39%	23%	22%	12%

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Child Care Facilities Database, 2019; Alaska Head Start Association Center Locator, 2019; Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Early Learning Programs, SFY 2018; OASIS Enrollment 2018-19; Head Start counts per site provided by Alaska Department of Education and Early Development using Head SFY 2018, Quarter 4 Reports

## EARLY CARE NEEDS AMONG CHILDREN (0-5)

Not in need In licensed/regulated care In unlicensed care Unmet need

Southwest Region



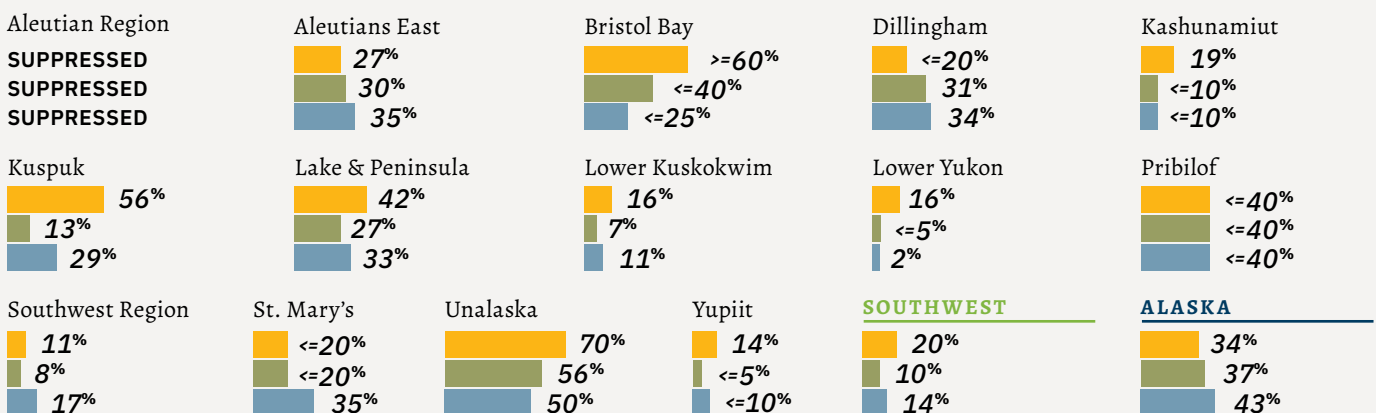
thread, Alaska Early Care and Learning Dashboard

## SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

On standardized assessments for kindergarten readiness, as well as the Alaska Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) standards-based assessments in 3rd grade English/Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, children in the Southwest have varied outcomes. **Children in Bristol Bay, Kuspuk, Lake and Peninsula, and Unalaska school districts all did better than the statewide average on the measure of kindergarten readiness.** Only three districts exceeded the state average in 3rd grade ELA proficiency.

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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. Data is suppressed or reported using modified protocols to protect student privacy when only a small number of students are tested.