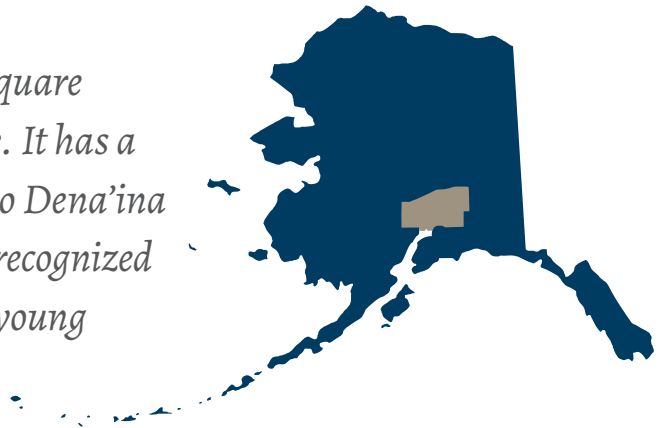


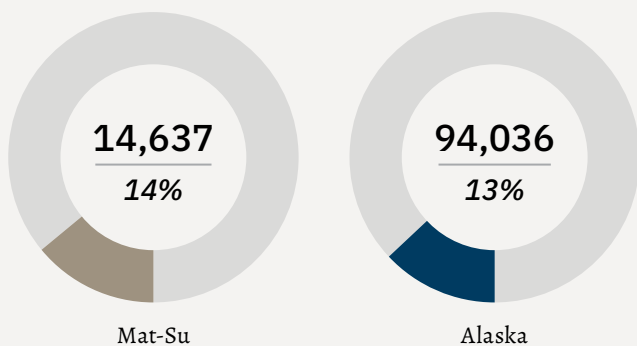
Early Childhood Regional Profile:

MAT-SU

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough covers 25,258 square miles and is the fastest growing region of the state. It has a population of 105,414 people. The region is home to Dena'ina and Ahtna Athabascan people and three federally recognized Alaska Native tribes. Sixteen percent of Alaska's young children live in the Mat-Su.

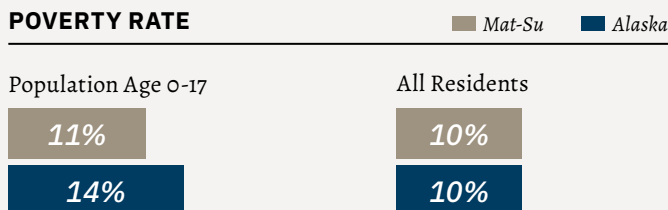


POPULATION (AGE 0-8)



Alaska Department of Labor, Population Estimates, 2018

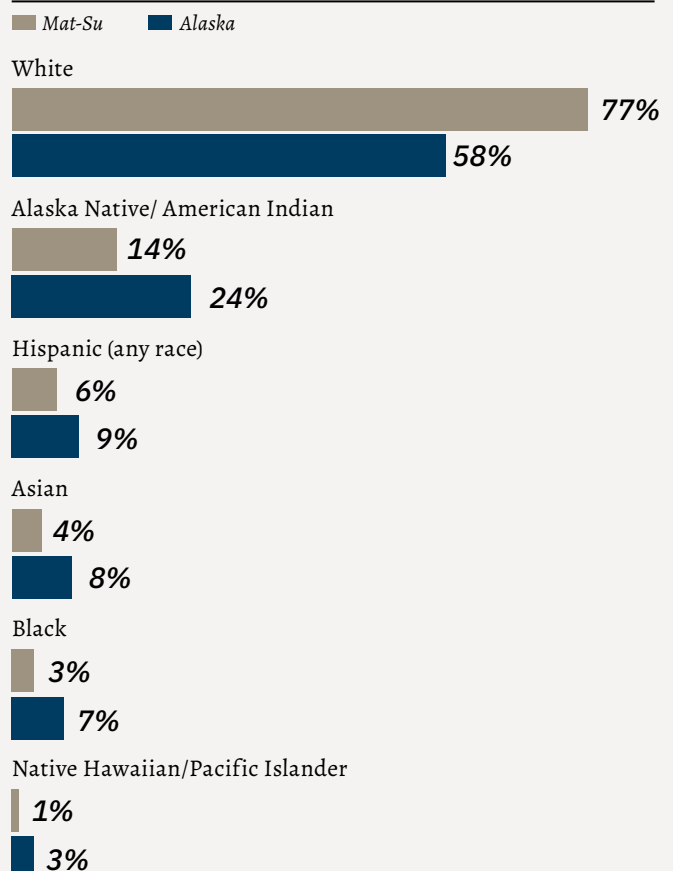
POVERTY RATE



U.S. Census American Community Survey 2017

Children in the Mat-Su are less likely to be in poverty than children statewide. The region also has a less diverse young child (0-8) population, with 19% more children identifying as white, and fewer children identifying with other races/ethnicities than the statewide average.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN (0-8)*



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

BABIES

The Mat-Su region has a birth rate similar to the state rate, and teen birth rate slightly below the state average; both rates have decreased slightly in recent years, mirroring state and national trends. Mothers in the Mat-Su are more likely to receive adequate prenatal care, however rates of pre-term births and low birth weight babies are similar to state rates.

In 2018, mothers in the Mat-Su region gave birth to 1,442 babies

Alaska Vital Statistics 2018 Annual Report

FERTILITY RATES

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

Mom received adequate prenatal care



Mom used tobacco while pregnant

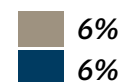


Alaska Vital Statistics 2018 Annual Report

Babies born pre-term



Babies with low-birth weight



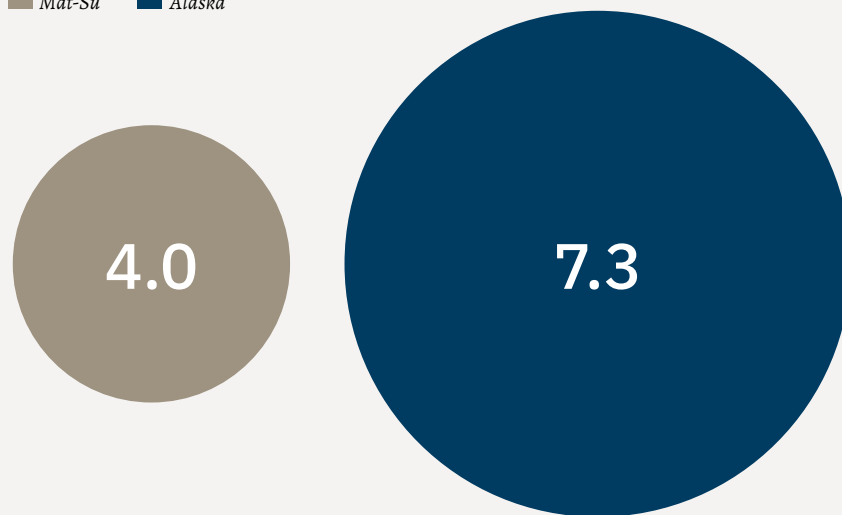
CHILD SAFETY & CHILD MALTREATMENT

The Mat-Su region has the lowest rate of substantiated reports of maltreatment for young children in the state, and is almost half the state rate. The rate of out-of-home placement of children by the Office of Children's Services is just below state rate. Young children (ages 0-8) account for 61% of all children in the region with a substantiated report of maltreatment, and 57% of all children in out-of-home placement.

The young child death rate is the lowest in the state.

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

■ Mat-Su ■ Alaska



Alaska Vital Statistics 2018 Annual Report

* Mat-Su rate based on fewer than 20 events and should be interpreted with caution.

	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	153	10.4	19.9
Out-of-home placement	359	24.5	25.8

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

MEDICAID COVERAGE

Half (49%) of all young children ages 0-8 (7,175) in the Mat-Su region are covered by Medicaid health insurance. During state fiscal year 2018, just over 1,400 pregnant and postpartum women in the Mat-Su region were covered by Medicaid Title XIX. Medicaid spending in the Mat-Su region was \$35.5 million, accounting for 10% 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	1,045	7%	\$1,925,361	13%
Medicaid Title XIX: children 0-8	6,130	42%	\$26,505,256	10%
Medicaid Title XIX : Pregnant & Postpartum	1,409	--	\$7,111,798	9%

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 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 food benefits 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 Mat-Su with a monthly average of \$2.2 million in benefits, accounting for 12% of all spending on these programs in the state. The caseloads reported below can be an individual, siblings or other family unit. This does not include Tribal TANF or Tribal CCDF spending.

Assistance Program	Avg. Monthly Regional Caseload (All Ages)	Avg. Monthly Regional Benefits (All Ages)	Percent of Avg. Monthly Caseloads in Alaska
TANF	449	\$292,772	18%
CCAP	417	\$333,795	22%
SNAP	5,068	\$1,602,559	14%
WIC	1,325	--	11%

Alaska Department of Public Assistance Summary Reports, FY 19

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

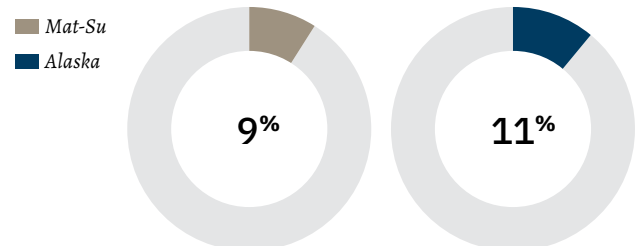
The Infant Learning Program (ILP) provides additional early intervention services for children age 0-2 who are experiencing a delay. One agency provides services in the Mat-Su region: Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults.

INFANT LEARNING PROGRAM	Mat-Su Region
Number children (age 0-2) served	478
% of statewide total	15%

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 Mat-Su is lower than the statewide average by 2%. Thirty-eight percent of mothers report a health care provider talking to them about depression, or how they are feeling.



Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey, 2017-2018

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Of the 54 licensed child care facilities within the Mat-Su, 45 (83%) accept CCAP vouchers. Ten licensed facilities in the region 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

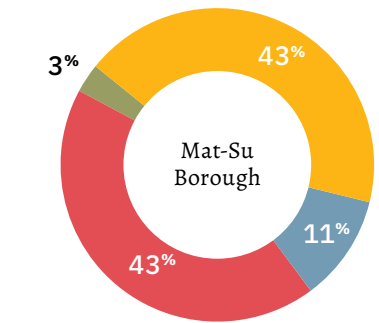
provide additional early learning opportunities, although not all children are served in a classroom setting. **thread estimates that 43% of children age 0-5 in the region are in unlicensed care, which might include using family, friends, and neighbors to care for children.**

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
Mat-Su Borough	54	2,134	6	455	16	230
Alaska	496	17,193	121	3,288	246	3,754
% of Statewide	11%	12%	5%	14%	7%	6%

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

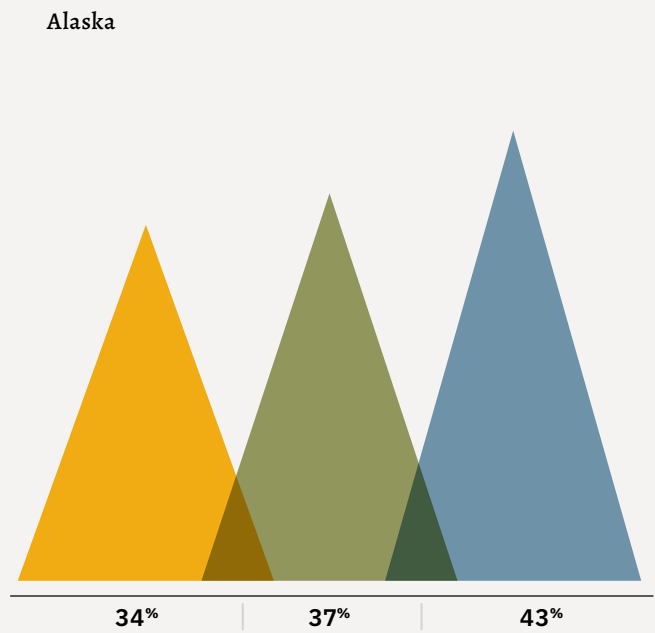
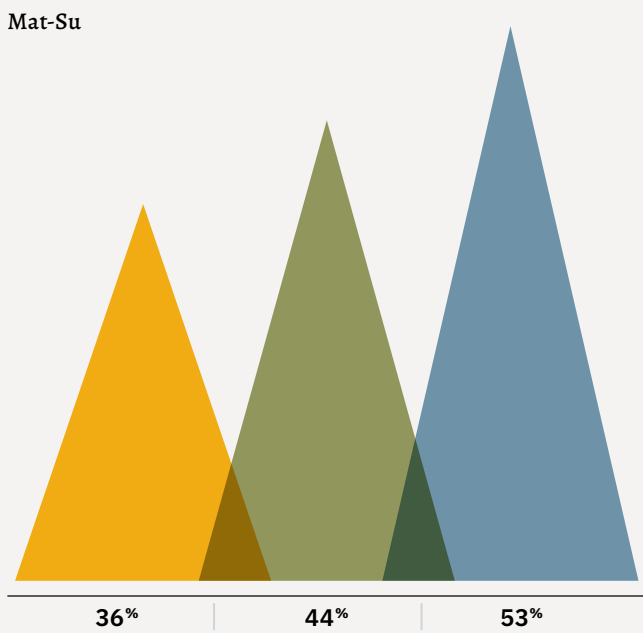


thread, Alaska Early Care and Learning Dashboard

SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

On standardized assessments, the Mat-Su Borough school district is above the state average in kindergarten readiness as well as Alaska Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) standards-based assessments in 3rd grade English/ Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

■ 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.

Photo Credit: Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development; Division of Community and Regional Affairs' Community Photo Library.

Data compiled and analyzed by the Stellar Group

