

# Alabama

## Alabama [Context Data]

### A. Context Statistics <sup>1 2</sup>

#### General Child Population (Census Bureau) <sup>3</sup>

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total children under 18 years	1,102,585	1,099,450	1,096,017	1,091,854	1,088,306
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>4</sup>					
Alaska Native / American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Asian	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Black	29.3	29.2	29.0	28.9	28.8
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.1	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.2
White	58.6	58.3	58.1	57.9	57.6
Two or more races	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4
Child population in poverty (%)	26.6	24.5	24.6	23.8	21.4

#### Child Welfare Summary <sup>5</sup>

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Child maltreatment victims	8,466	10,157	10,847	12,158	11,677
Foster care entry rate	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.7
Children in foster care on 9/30	4,745	5,053	5,631	5,930	5,783
Children adopted	512	503	504	712	738

#### Caseworker Visits <sup>6</sup>

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children receiving monthly visits (%)	96	94	95	97	97
Numerator	49,154	52,852	57,847	63,545	65,497
Denominator	51,421	55,929	60,719	65,721	67,290
Children receiving visits in the home (%)	99	99	99	100	100
Numerator	48,747	52,511	57,517	63,239	65,297
Denominator	49,154	52,852	57,847	63,545	65,497

<sup>1</sup> The source data for each table is indicated in parentheses for each section. A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau. Most of the other data on these pages are from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) or the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and are based on the federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

<sup>2</sup> Data that did not meet the quality standards for inclusion in the report are represented as DQ\*. Incomplete data excluded from inclusion in the report are represented as --. For additional information on the data quality thresholds for the Child Welfare Outcomes Report, please reference the full report or the Child Welfare Outcomes data site.

<sup>3</sup> The total child population and data on race/ethnicity represent estimates from the Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/data/tables.html> (<https://www.census.gov/data/tables.html>). Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).

<sup>4</sup> For race/ethnicity tables, all races exclude children of Hispanic origin. The Child Welfare Outcomes Report data site <http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite> (<http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite>) provides alternative race/ethnicity breakdowns in which race and ethnicity are treated as two separate categories.

<sup>5</sup> A child victim is defined as a child for whom the state determined at least one maltreatment was substantiated or indicated. This includes a child who died of child abuse and neglect. This is a change from prior years when children with dispositions of alternative response victim were included as victims. The rate for foster care entry is per 1,000 children in the state population. Data on child maltreatment victims are from NCANDS. Data on foster care entry rate, children in foster care on 9/30, and children adopted are from AFCARS.

<sup>6</sup> The reporting population subject to the caseworker visits requirements includes all children under age 18 for at least the first day of the FY (October 1) who have been in foster care for at least one full calendar month during the FY. All states have the option of using an approved sampling procedure for the caseworker visits reporting requirement.

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS]) <sup>7</sup>

### Overview Maltreatment Information <sup>8</sup>

	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	30,647	27.8 per 1,000	36,776	33.4 per 1,000	38,871	35.5 per 1,000	38,634	35.4 per 1,000	39,335	36.1 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims	8,466	7.7 per 1,000	10,157	9.2 per 1,000	10,847	9.9 per 1,000	12,158	11.1 per 1,000	11,677	10.7 per 1,000
Child Fatalities	13	1.2 per 100,000	26	2.4 per 100,000	28	2.6 per 100,000	43	3.9 per 100,000	34	3.1 per 100,000

### Age of Child Victims (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Under 1 year	14.6	15.5	15.9	16.7	16.7
1 year	6.3	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.5
2 years	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.1
3 years	6.2	5.9	6.3	6.0	6.3
4 years	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.7
5 years	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.3
6 years	5.8	5.3	5.2	5.2	4.9
7 years	5.4	5.8	5.2	4.8	4.9
8 years	5.0	5.2	5.0	5.1	4.7
9 years	4.4	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.7
10 years	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.7
11 years	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.4	4.3
12 years	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.2
13 years	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.8
14 years	5.8	5.1	5.3	5.0	5.4
15 years	5.8	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.9
16 years	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.5
17 years	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.2
18+ years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2
Number	8,466	10,157	10,847	12,158	11,677

### Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Alaska Native / American Indian	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Black	30.5	27.4	26.6	28.6	29.1
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.8	4.3	4.5	3.8	5.2
White	64.3	63.2	64.3	62.8	60.9
Two or more races	0.0	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1
Missing data	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.5
Number	8,466	10,157	10,847	12,158	11,677

**Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%) <sup>9</sup>**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Emotional abuse	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2
Medical neglect	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7
Neglect	39.4	41.0	43.9	42.9	39.8
Physical abuse	52.9	54.1	53.6	53.3	54.8
Sexual abuse	17.5	15.6	14.9	16.6	17.7
Sex trafficking	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	8,466	10,157	10,847	12,158	11,677

**Time to Investigation (in hours) <sup>10</sup>**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mean	13.3	64.5	58.2	53.3	51.2
Median	<24	>24 but<48	<24	<24	<24

<sup>7</sup> The unique count of child victims counts a child only once regardless of the number of times he or she was found to be a victim during the reporting year.

<sup>8</sup> The rates for Child Protective Services responses and victims are per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

<sup>9</sup> These percentages are calculated against the number of unique victims. A child may have been the victim of more than one type of maltreatment, or the same type of maltreatment more than once. As a result, the total percentages both within and across maltreatment categories may exceed 100.

<sup>10</sup> Response time is defined as the time between the report of suspected maltreatment and the first face-to-face contact with the alleged victim or with another person who can provide information on the allegation.



#### D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption" <sup>11</sup> (AFCARS Foster Care File)

##### Children Waiting for Adoption

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total waiting children	1,020	1,075	1,268	1,346	1,688
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	461	421	533	514	523

<sup>11</sup> There is no federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the tables on this page includes children and youth through age 17 who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parents' parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A state's own definition may differ from that used here.

##### Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%) <sup>12</sup>

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Under 1 year	1.7	3.1	3.9	3.3	3.6
1 year	7.7	6.9	8.6	10.5	9.4
2 years	6.5	8.6	6.3	6.9	9.4
3 years	6.7	6.8	5.8	6.8	6.4
4 years	5.3	6.6	6.5	4.7	6.5
5 years	6.5	5.0	5.8	5.5	5.7
6 years	5.5	5.4	4.8	5.5	5.9
7 years	5.7	5.4	4.7	4.9	4.4
8 years	5.0	5.1	5.4	4.5	4.7
9 years	7.4	5.7	5.6	4.3	4.2
10 years	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.6	5.5
11 years	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.6	6.5
12 years	6.7	4.2	5.9	5.3	6.0
13 years	6.1	6.8	6.2	5.6	4.7
14 years	5.0	6.4	5.8	6.8	5.3
15 years	6.3	6.0	6.4	5.4	5.7
16 years	3.3	3.9	4.1	5.1	3.6
17 years	4.1	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4

<sup>12</sup> Children older than 17 years fall outside of the definition used to identify waiting children and are therefore excluded from this table.

##### Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Alaska Native / American Indian	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	<.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1
Black	28.1	26.0	27.1	29.2	31.3
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.1	7.5	6.8	5.2	5.7
White	57.6	59.3	59.1	61.1	57.5
Two or more races	6.9	7.0	6.5	4.2	5.2
Unknown	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

**E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)****Children Adopted**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total children adopted	512	503	504	712	738

**Age of Children Adopted (%)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Under 1 year	1.8	1.6	2.8	1.1	1.4
1 year	13.3	10.7	11.5	13.8	15.0
2 years	9.8	13.3	15.1	10.8	13.6
3 years	10.4	9.7	10.1	10.7	9.3
4 years	8.4	8.9	10.9	8.1	5.6
5 years	6.8	7.6	7.9	6.5	7.2
6 years	8.6	7.2	6.5	4.9	6.6
7 years	4.7	6.2	4.4	4.9	5.1
8 years	6.4	4.8	3.8	6.2	3.7
9 years	3.1	5.6	5.6	5.2	5.6
10 years	5.1	4.0	5.2	4.6	4.5
11 years	3.9	4.6	3.4	4.6	3.8
12 years	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.4	3.4
13 years	2.7	3.2	2.2	3.2	3.0
14 years	3.5	2.8	3.0	4.1	3.5
15 years	2.5	1.4	2.0	2.2	2.8
16 years	2.7	1.8	1.4	2.1	2.6
17 years	1.2	1.8	0.8	2.1	2.8
18 years	2.0	1.6	0.8	1.0	0.5
19 years	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0

**Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Alaska Native / American Indian	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4
Black	24.2	24.3	18.3	21.1	23.0
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.4	6.8	4.0	4.9	5.4
White	60.4	60.4	69.8	63.9	64.9
Two or more races	8.6	8.3	7.9	9.8	6.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## Alabama [Outcomes Data]

### Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children without a recurrence	98.5	97.8	97.8	97.6	97.5
Children with one or more recurrences	1.5	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5
Number	3,837	4,715	4,901	5,179	5,417

### Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File)

#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.06	0.11	0.30	0.17	0.27
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.94	99.89	99.70	99.83	99.73
Number	7,989	8,381	9,012	9,512	9,741

### Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

#### 3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Adoption	15.9	15.3	15.0	19.9	18.4
Guardianship	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.5	3.3
Reunification	72.1	71.3	71.4	68.0	67.3
Other	11.4	12.5	12.6	10.3	10.9
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.3	<.1
Number	3,244	3,329	3,382	3,582	3,958

#### Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Adoption	35.7	33.1	31.9	35.4	39.4
Guardianship	0.9	0.3	0.6	2.5	1.4
Reunification	33.6	40.5	35.5	31.6	29.7
Other	29.5	26.0	31.3	30.2	29.4
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0
Number	339	311	335	367	350

#### Exits of Children Older than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Adoption	2.8	2.2	2.2	4.0	4.4
Guardianship	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.7	1.2
Reunification	58.8	57.8	53.7	54.2	53.2
Other	38.1	40.0	43.8	40.9	41.2
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0
Number	678	670	738	694	776

**Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (Continued)**

**Exits to Emancipation (%)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children age 12 or younger at entry	25.7	27.5	18.6	18.0	16.5
Children older than 12 at entry	74.3	72.5	81.4	82.0	83.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>351</b>

**Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)**

	Alaska Native / American Indian					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Adoption	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	75.0	12.7	12.5	9.3	15.0	13.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.2	1.6	2.3	5.2
Reunification	0.0	83.3	100.0	85.7	77.8	50.0	100.0	75.0	90.9	25.0	70.8	70.1	73.8	67.5	68.8
Other	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	22.2	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	15.6	16.1	15.1	14.9	12.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>1,247</b>

**Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)**

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	18.8	19.0	12.3	19.1	22.1	16.7	15.9	17.7	21.1	20.5
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	2.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	1.3	2.6
Reunification	50.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	74.4	75.1	75.3	70.5	64.6	73.3	72.5	70.5	68.7	66.7
Other	50.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	5.8	12.3	9.2	10.5	9.6	11.0	11.1	8.7	10.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.0	<.1	0.2	<.1
<b>Number</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>1,949</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>2,305</b>

**Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)**

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	4.5	21.4	21.8	20.1	37.1	24.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	100.0	88.9	92.9	90.0	81.8	65.5	58.7	64.3	55.4	65.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	11.1	7.1	0.0	13.6	12.6	17.3	15.1	7.0	9.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



**Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)****Time to Reunification (%)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Less than 12 mos.	73.9	73.2	72.0	69.2	68.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.3	19.2	20.8	22.9	21.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.3	4.8	5.2	5.0	7.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.9	2.0	1.3	2.1	1.7
48 or more mos.	1.5	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	2,339	2,375	2,415	2,436	2,663

**Children Reentering Foster Care (%)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children entering care for the first time	83.0	85.0	84.1	84.1	84.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.4	7.9	8.5	8.9	8.1
Missing data	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5
Number	3,605	3,772	4,095	4,062	3,985

### Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

#### Time to Adoption (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Less than 12 mos.	3.7	4.3	5.3	3.8	3.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	31.4	31.4	36.5	35.3	36.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	33.7	30.6	34.3	30.4	27.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.7	17.9	12.8	18.1	20.3
48 or more mos.	15.3	15.7	11.0	12.5	12.9
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	516	509	507	714	730

### Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

#### Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months					In Care at Least 12 months but Less Than 24 months					In Care for 24 Months or Longer					Time in Care Missing or Out of Range				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children with 2 or fewer placements	79.5	78.8	76.9	78.3	78.1	56.0	54.0	52.2	55.4	57.4	27.5	27.7	31.7	32.0	32.1	90.0	94.4	75.0	80.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	19.8	20.0	21.7	20.4	20.6	43.8	45.9	47.5	44.4	42.5	72.4	72.2	68.3	68.0	67.9	0.0	0.0	12.5	20.0	0.0
Missing Placement setting counts	0.6	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	0.2	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	5.6	12.5	0.0	0.0
Total number	4,298	4,430	4,849	4,780	4,788	1,722	2,005	2,119	2,511	2,512	1,959	1,928	2,036	2,216	2,421	10	18	8	5	20

### Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

#### Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Group homes	3.3	2.9	3.0	2.4	1.3
Institution	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.3
Other settings	94.7	94.6	94.2	95.0	96.8
Missing data	<.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6
Number	2,808	2,978	3,255	3,271	3,132