

ALCANLink

Alaska Longitudinal Child Abuse and Neglect Linkage Project

What is ALCANLink

The ALCANLink project started with a group of Alaskan children whose mothers responded to the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (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, receive services from other public programs, or moved from the state. We can measure the risk of maltreatment as the children get older to better understand childhood lifetime occurrence; this is sometimes called the “cumulative incidence” or “incidence proportion.”

Using these data, we are able to explore information about pre-birth factors that increase or decrease the chance a child is involved with child welfare, as well as the early childhood family context of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Initial work suggests that we need comprehensive multi-sector efforts before birth and throughout childhood to prevent child maltreatment.

1 in 3



32% (1 in every 3.1 births) will experience a report of harm to child welfare before their 7th birthday.

What we've already learned

- Approximately a third of children born in Alaska are reported to child welfare before their 7th birthday.
- 1 out of every 20 births will be removed from their home before their 7th birthday.
- A child is 220% more likely to be reported to child welfare if a mother reports 4 or more pre-birth household dysfunction ACEs.
- Intimate partner violence obliterates the protective effect of education.
- Risk and protective factors cluster together, but cluster differentially by race.

Implications

ALCANLink is a mixed-design population-based public health approach that leverages existing epidemiological and administrative data resources. These data enable us to better understand the factors that contribute to ACEs leading to poor health outcomes. Current data suggest that precise and targeted prevention occurring before birth and throughout childhood is likely necessary to reduce or lessen the impact of negative childhood events that result in trauma. For more information about ALCANLink please visit the website below.



ALCANLink website: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mcheper/ALCANlink>

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