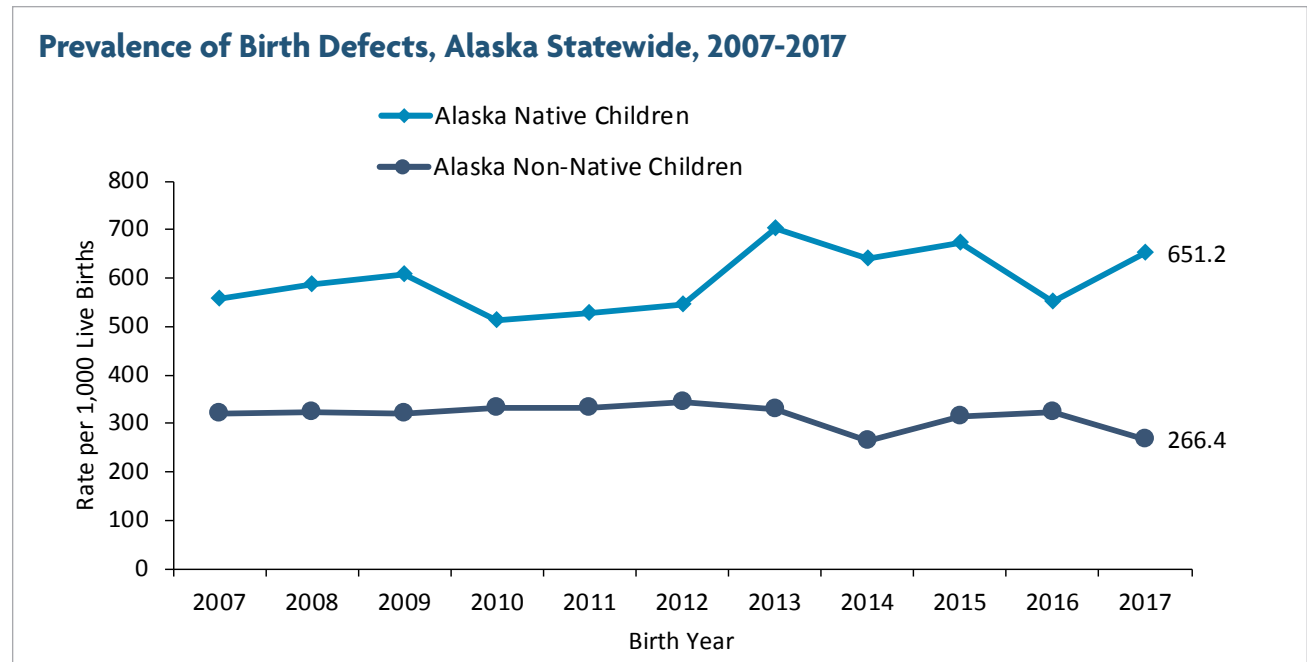


Birth Defects



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Birth Defects Registry
Table C-58

Definition

Birth defects are structural changes present at birth that can affect almost any part or parts of the body (e.g., heart, brain, foot). They may affect how the body looks, works, or both. Birth defects can vary from mild to severe. The well-being of each child affected with a birth defect depends mostly on which organ or body part is involved and how much it is affected. Depending on the severity of the defect and what body part is affected, the expected lifespan of a person with a birth defect may or may not be affected. Women can increase their chances of having a healthy baby by managing health conditions and practicing healthy behaviors before and during pregnancy. These can include getting folic acid every day, getting early and regular prenatal care, avoiding harmful substances, preventing infections, and living a healthy lifestyle.¹⁰

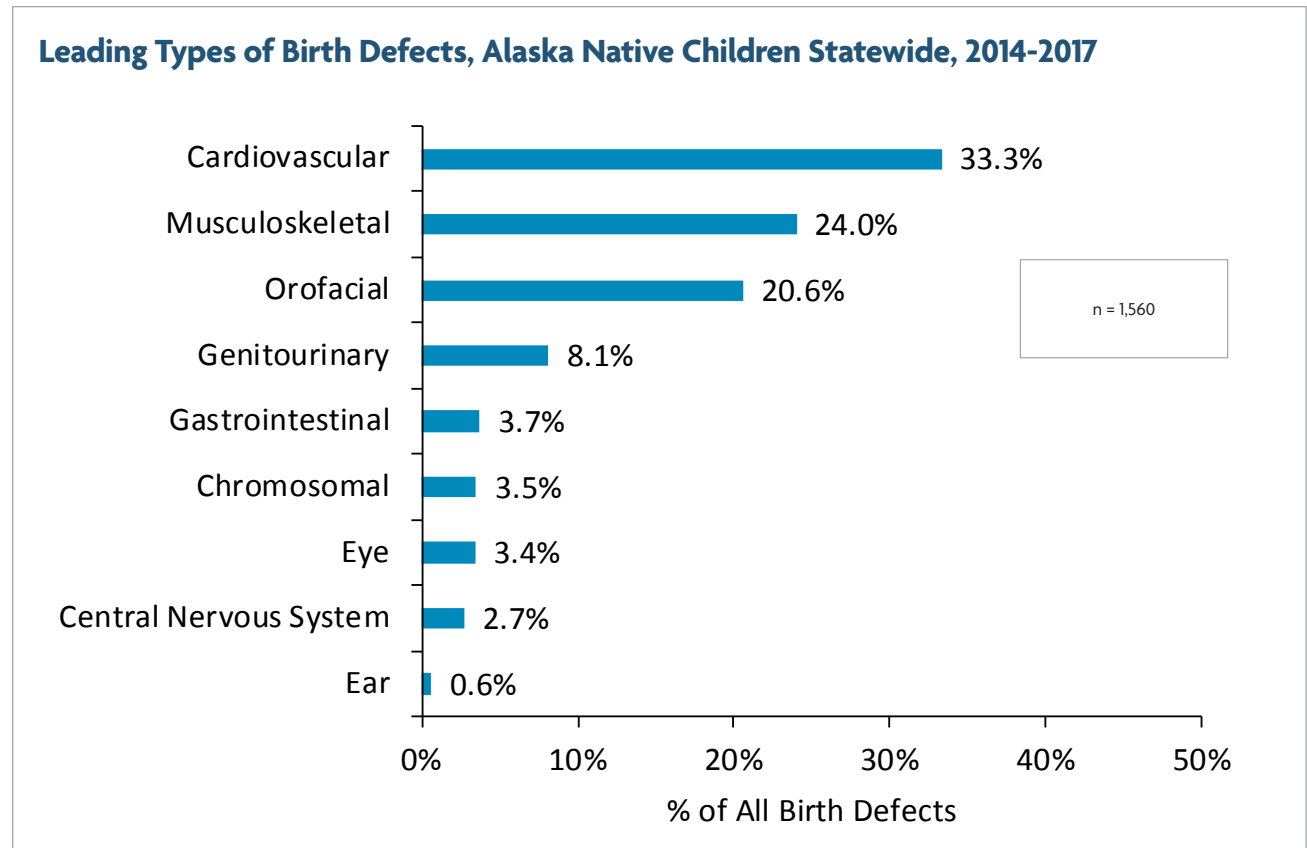
The data presented here only include children who have at least one of 45 birth defects that are considered major congenital anomalies and are collected by the National Birth Defects

Prevention Network (NBDPN). Alcohol-related birth defects, including fetal alcohol syndrome, are not included. Data are based on birth defects detected to the Alaska Birth Defects Report Registry, and contains unconfirmed birth defects. The registry accepts reports for individuals up to 3 years after their birth. Thus, only data up to the birth year 2017 were available for this report.

Summary

- » The prevalence rate of birth defects among Alaska Native children was 651.2 per 10,000 live births in 2017, a rate nearly two and half times higher than among Alaska White children (266.4).
- » The current rate of birth defects (651.2) among Alaska Native children increased since 2007 (556.8). The rate among Alaska non-Natives decreased from 320.3 to 266.4 since 2007.
- » During 2014–2017, the leading types of major birth defects were cardiovascular (33.3%), musculoskeletal (24.0%), orofacial (20.6%), and genitourinary (8.1%).

Birth Defects



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Birth Defects Registry
Table C-59

Note: These data contain unconfirmed birth defects detected to the Alaska Birth Defects Report Registry. Caution is advised when comparing data between years because changes to inclusion criteria, collection methods, analyzation methods and race classification have occurred over time.

Birth Defects

Table C-58: Prevalence of Birth Defects, Alaska Statewide, 2007-2017

	Alaska Native Children Statewide		Alaska Non-Native Children Statewide	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 Live Births	Number	Rate per 10,000 Live Births
2007	174	556.8	312	320.3
2008	189	587.5	324	323.5
2009	203	608.5	315	319.1
2010	167	511.3	336	333.0
2011	169	527.1	337	333.2
2012	171	546.3	339	344.5
2013	180	701.5	339	328.0
2014	158	639.2	272	263.2
2015	166	672.6	323	313.6
2016	139	550.5	329	323.0
2017	149	651.2	254	266.4

Note: These data contain unconfirmed birth defects detected to the Alaska Birth Defects Report Registry. Caution is advised when comparing data between years because changes to inclusion criteria, collection methods, analyzation methods and race classification have occurred over time.

Table C-59: Leading Types of Birth Defects, Alaska Native Children, Statewide, 2014-2017

	Alaska Native Children		Alaska Non-Native Children	
	Number	% of all Defects	Number	% of all Defects
Cardiovascular	519	33.3%	759	28.2%
Musculoskeletal	375	24.0%	707	26.2%
Orofacial	322	20.6%	440	16.3%
Genitourinary	127	8.1%	399	14.8%
Gastrointestinal	57	3.7%	63	2.3%
Chromosomal	55	3.5%	144	5.3%
Eye	53	3.4%	79	2.9%
Central Nervous System	42	2.7%	94	3.5%
Ear	10	0.6%	11	0.4%
Total	1,560	100.0%	2,696	100.0%

Note: These data contain unconfirmed birth defects detected to the Alaska Birth Defects Report Registry. The total number of birth defects do not equal the number of children with birth defects because children may have multiple defects.

Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Birth Defects Registry

10 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). Facts About Birth Defects. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/facts.html