

Juneau's Young Children: Ready to Succeed?



BEST BEGINNINGS
Alaska's Early Childhood Investment



Purpose of the meeting

- Data presentation
 - Discuss findings
 - Prioritize goals for our young children
- Partnerships for Families and Children will create an action plan



About the data

Comprehensive data sources, including:

- U.S. Census Bureau
- Juneau Economic Development Council
- Juneau School District
- Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services
- Alaska KIDS COUNT Data Center
- AEYC–SEA/thread



About the surveys

221	Parents
17	Child care providers
26	Health providers
5	Faith Community Leaders
33	Elementary Teacher/Principals
28	Business and Community Leaders
29	Social Service Agency Staff



Juneau children under age 5

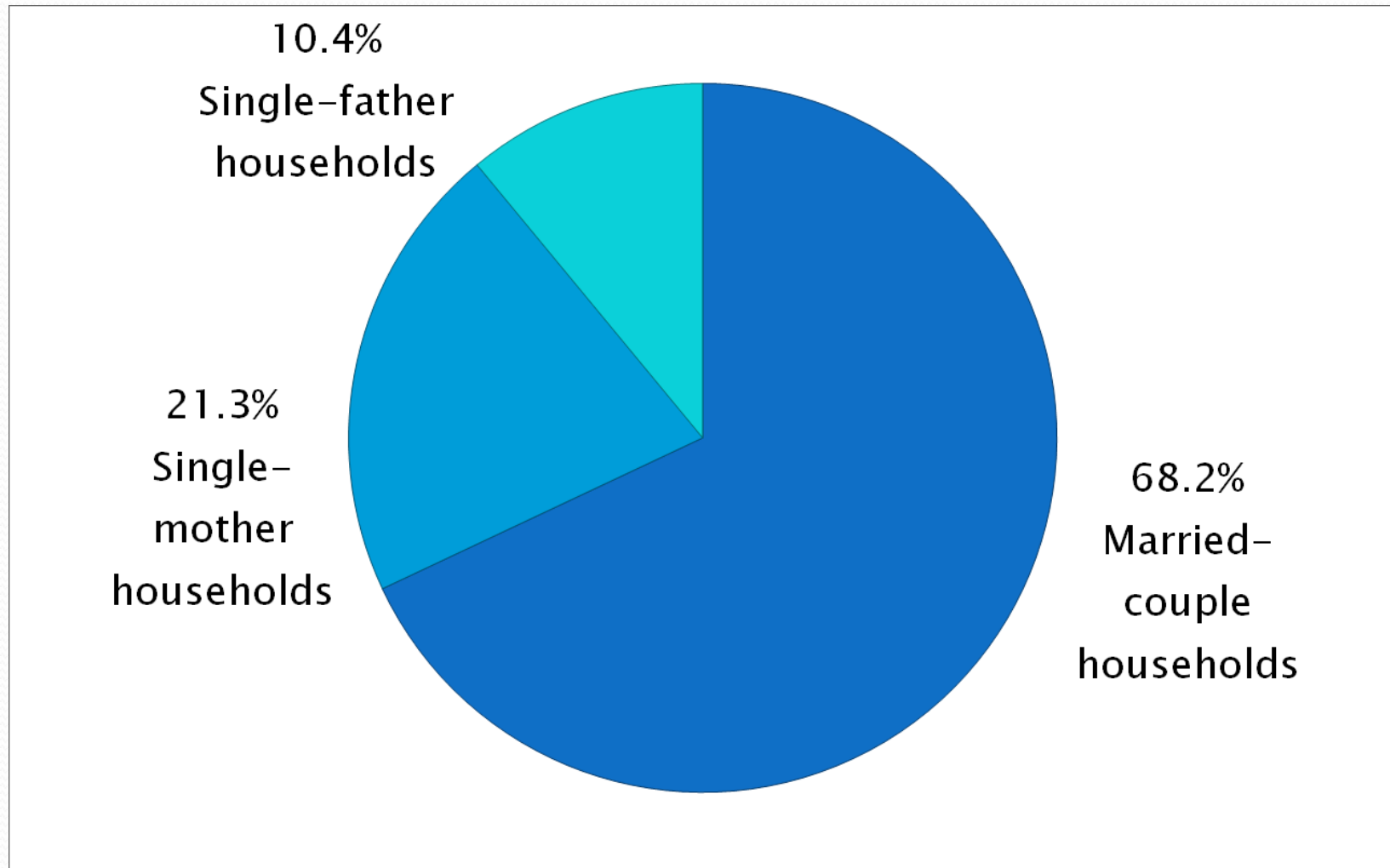
- 1,740 within the City and Borough of Juneau
- One in five (21%) are at the federal poverty rate
- In poverty at twice the statewide rate
- Juneau's cost of living is 11% higher than Anchorage and 5% higher than the statewide average
- Over 1 / 3 of Juneau births in 2008 (40%) were to unmarried women
- 20% of Juneau students qualify for free or reduced school lunch program

Parent Support



Too many parents, especially single parents, do not have the support and resources they need for successful parenting.

Marital Status of Parents in Juneau





Parent Support

- Over 1 / 3 of Juneau births in 2008 (40%) were to unmarried women
- 819 single mothers in Juneau
- 21% of families with children under age 18 are in single-mother households
- 3 out of 4 single mothers with children under age 5 are below poverty level (73%)



Parent Support

- 13% of Juneau children were born to mothers with less than a 12th-grade education
- In Juneau in 2008, there were 24 births to teenage mothers (6% of births in Juneau that year)

Reminder: 3 out of 4 single mothers with children under age 5 are below poverty level (73%)



Parent Support

- 187 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in 2008
- 194 juveniles charged or referred to juvenile justice in 2008
- Teen and single parents living with relatives frequently reported lack of support due to relatives' drug/alcohol use or mental/physical ailments



Parent Support

Majority of early elementary and child care providers report:

- They regularly connect parents with other families for mutual support
- Parents regularly turn to them for parenting information and support



Parent Support

Recurring themes from surveys:

- Most parents feel they have support
- Juneau offers a strong sense of community
- There are many parent support groups but information needs to be better coordinated



Parent Support

Recurring needs from surveys:

- Transportation
- Safe, affordable housing in safe neighborhoods free of drug/alcohol influences
- More connection/less isolation
- More coordination of information about parent/family services



Parent Support

Faith communities provide:

- Children's activities and youth groups
- Parenting classes & counseling
- Marriage enrichment classes
- Parent social networks
- Child care during services and classes
- Family-friendly events
- Children's worship services

Many single mothers are not accessing this support

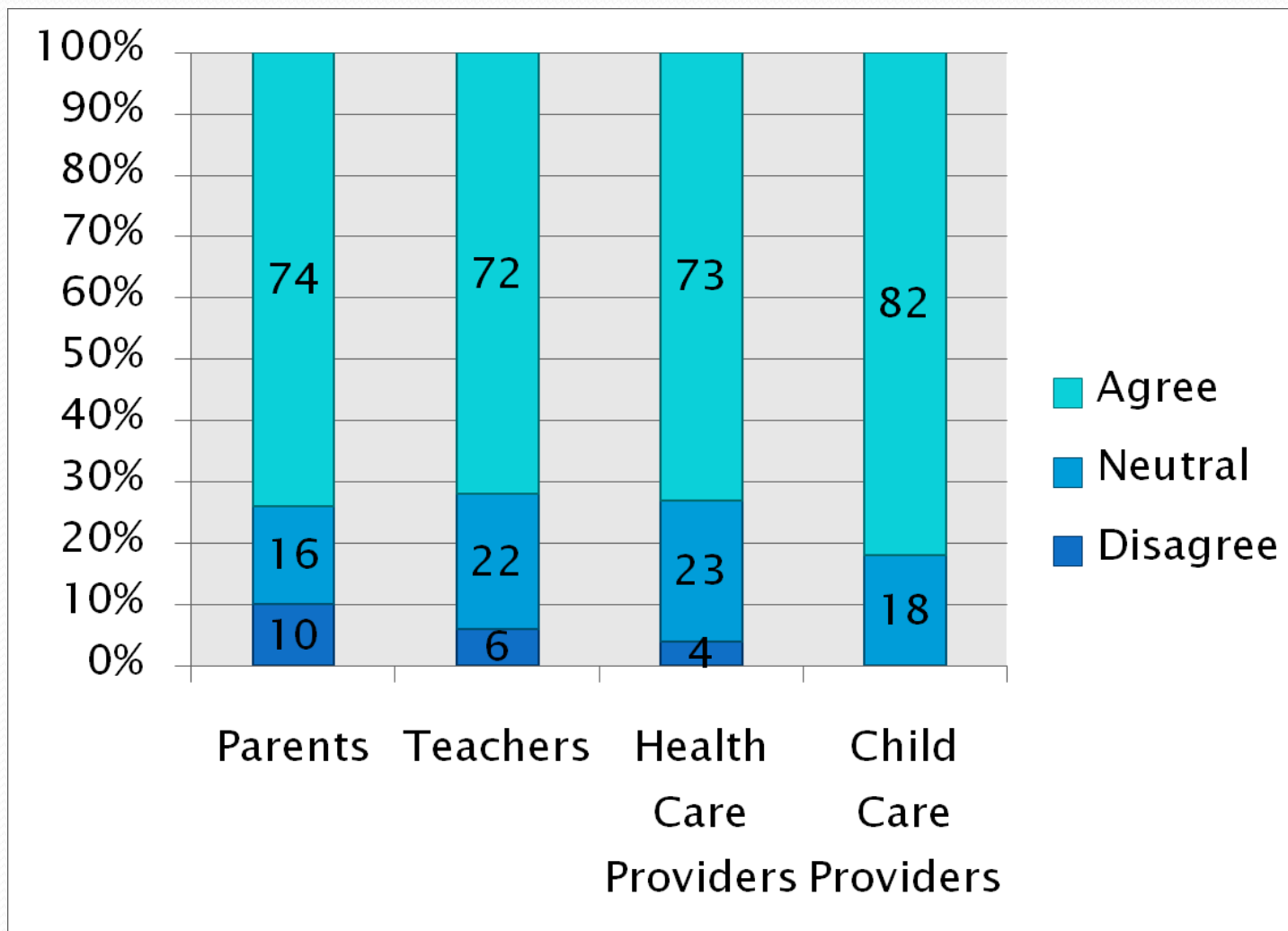


Parent Support

Faith communities would like to provide:

- More formal training for family relationships, led by a qualified facilitator
- More parent support groups/classes
- Parent child care network
- More information about community services

I am confident in my ability to connect families with community resources when there is a need.



Early Care & Education



Half of Juneau's children are entering kindergarten without the language, literacy, and listening skills they need to succeed.

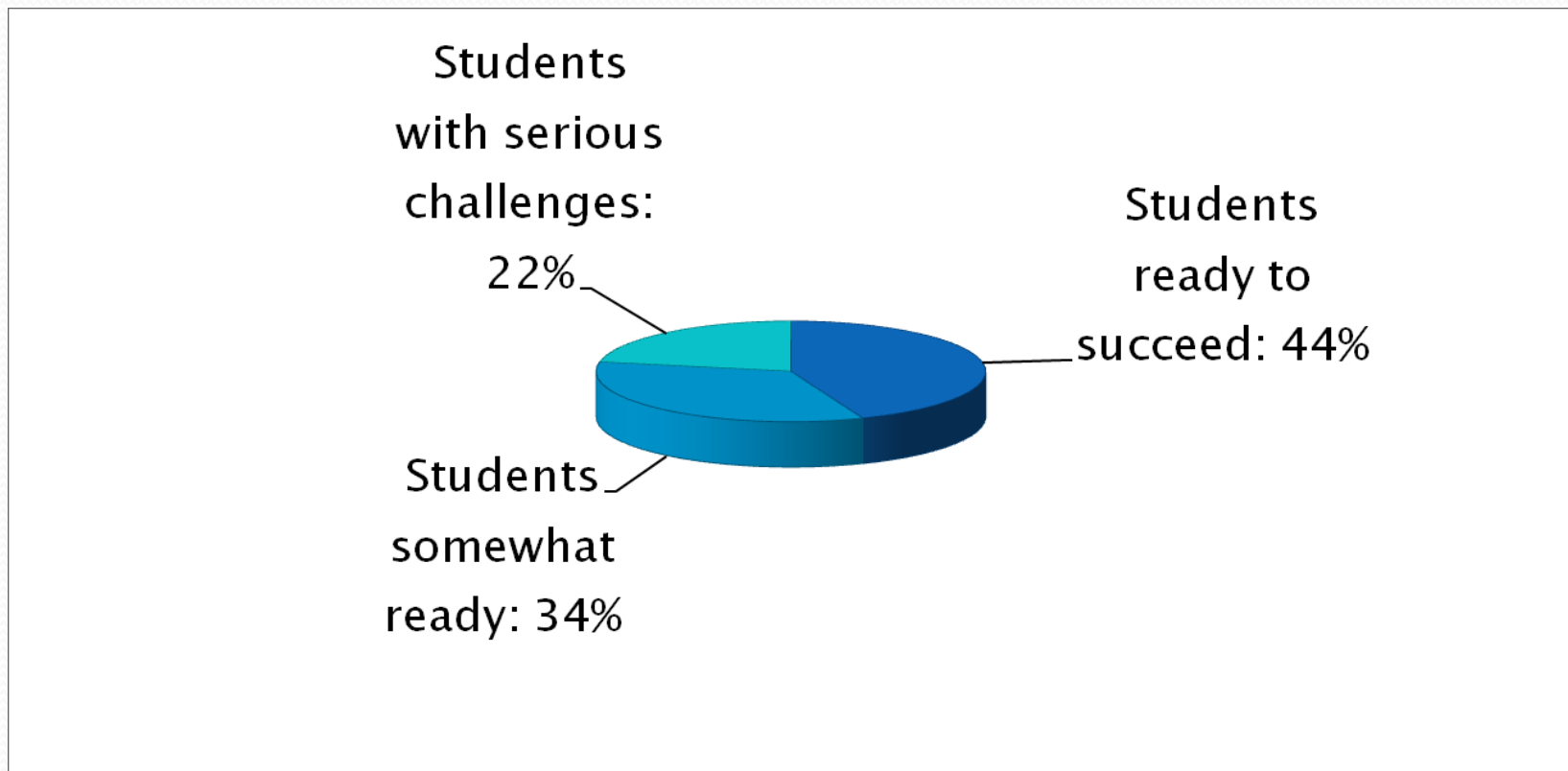


Early Care & Education

School Success:

- 70% of parents are reading with their children at least daily
- 95% of child care providers read with children at least daily
- 40% read several times a day with children
- Over half of Juneau's children under age 5 are enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Kindergarten Readiness according to Early Elementary teachers:





Early Care & Education

School Success:

- Kindergarten Developmental Profile
 - 50% are meeting language and literacy development readiness indicators
 - 73% are meeting social developmental readiness indicators
- 20% of third graders are reading below proficiency
 - Constant over last four years
 - Comparable to rest of the state



Early Care & Education

School Success:

- 21% of business and community leaders feel young adults are entering the workplace with the skills and education needed to be successful
- 23%* non-graduation rate for high-school age in 2008–2009

*Similar to statewide percentages

Working Families



There are not enough affordable licensed and approved child care options for children with working parents in Juneau.



Working Families

- Only 21% of business and community leaders agreed that Juneau is able to attract families with young children
- 7% of business and community leaders agree that working families have the support they need to balance work and family life



Working Families

Another look:

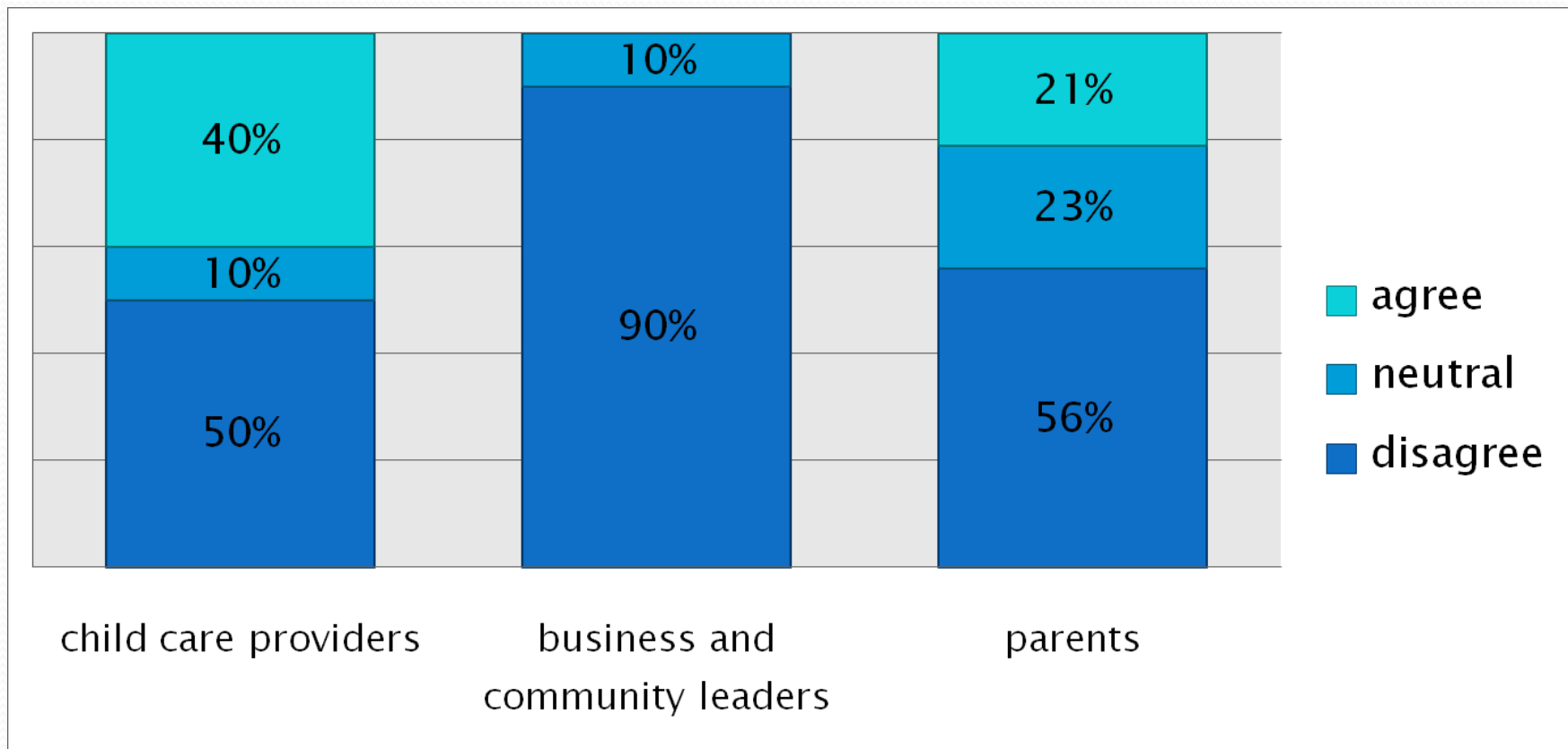
- 100% of business and community leaders agreed that family issues affect the retention or effectiveness of employees and co-workers
- 71% *strongly* agreed
- 76% of parents feel their employer is supportive of their family's needs



Working Families

- 63% of children under age 6 (1,165 children) have all parents in the workforce
- 633 fewer child care slots than children with potential need
- 54% of children are in unknown care situations

There are enough choices of quality child care in Juneau





Working Families

63% of children under age 6 (1,165 children) have all parents in the workforce

- 532 spaces in licensed or approved child care programs
- 107 children enrolled in Head Start
- 78 students ages 3 & 4 enrolled in Juneau School District



Working Families

63% of children under age 6 (1,165 children) have all parents in the workforce

- Average cost of infant child care is \$9,950/year in a child care center
- Average cost of preschooler care is \$8,772/year in a child care center
- Cost of one year of UAS tuition: \$5,930
- Number of children receiving state or tribal child care assistance: 371

Health



One fourth of mothers in Juneau receive less than adequate prenatal care; and lack the support needed to reduce FASD and other preventable health problems.



Health / Special Needs

Adequate prenatal care in Juneau has steadily declined over the last nine years

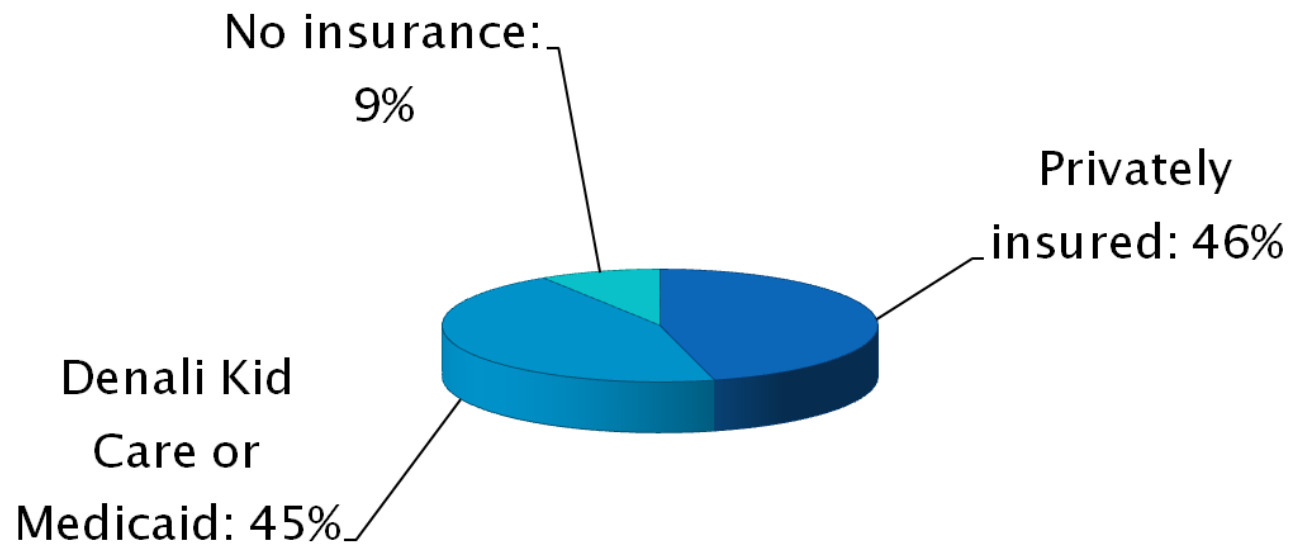
- 25% mothers in Juneau received less-than-adequate prenatal care in 2008 (96 births)
- 11% mothers in Juneau received less-than-adequate prenatal care in 2002 (31 births)



Health / Special Needs

- Alaska has the highest known incidence of FAS in the nation. (Alaska Department of Health and Social Services [DHSS]).
- 16.3 per thousand births were reported born affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol. (Alaska Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Surveillance Project 2004)
- 16% percent of urine samples obtained from pregnant women in labor were positive for drugs or alcohol. (Jacob J., Harrison H., and Tigert, AT. 1995)
- FAS is the leading cause of mental retardation in the Western World.

Medical providers surveyed estimate:

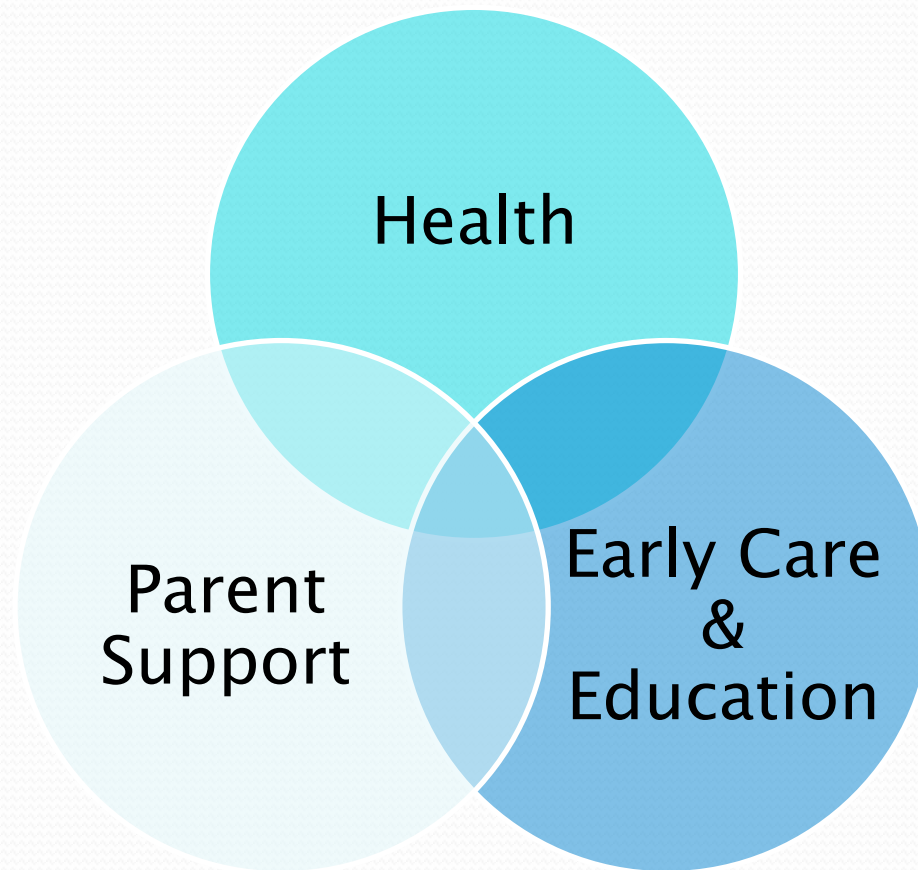




Health / Special Needs

- 100% of medical providers surveyed responded that parents turn to them for parenting information and support
- 73% of medical providers surveyed feel confident in their ability to refer families to community services

Health / Special Needs





Goals for Juneau Children

Parent Support

All parents, especially single parents, will have access to support and resources they need for successful parenting.

Early Care & Education

All of Juneau's children will enter kindergarten with the social, emotional, language, literacy, and listening skills they need to succeed.

Working Families

There will be affordable, regulated child care options for all children with working parents in Juneau, that offer positive learning environments to assist in school readiness.

Health

Fewer Juneau infants will be born with FASD or other preventable health problems.