Prevalence of Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal in the United States, 2000 to 2020

These data indicate that the prevalence of parental alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse as an identified condition of removal of children and placement in out-of-home care has increased from 2000 to 2020. Data from 2000 show a prevalence rate of 18.5%. This increased to 39.0% in 2020, an increase of 20.5%.

Note: Estimates based on all children in out of home care at some point during Fiscal Year

Source: AFCARS Data, 2000-2020
When calculating the national average, 39.0% of children removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care had parental alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse as an identified condition for removal. The map presents state averages, beginning with 0-10% and ending with 60%+.

States often anecdotally report that the percentage of child welfare removals involving parental AOD abuse is much higher in their state than indicated in the data. Possible explanations for these discrepancies may include 1) lack of child welfare protocols for screening and assessment regarding identification of substance use disorders; 2) inconsistent protocols regarding data entry for child welfare; 3) discrepancies in how AOD abuse is captured in the state child welfare’s data systems; and 4) differences in the point at which the AOD abuse is identified and entered in the data system. Often, at the local level, multiple removal reasons are reported and sometimes only the primary reason for removal is reported by the federal system(s).

**Note:** Estimates based on all children in out-of-home care at some point during the Fiscal Year

Source: AFCARS Data, 2020 v1
Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal for Children Under 1 Year, 2020

When looking at information regarding children removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care who had parental alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse as an identified condition for removal, there has been a particular interest in understanding how this is affecting families involved in child welfare with children under age 1. Half of the children under age 1 (50.7%) removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care had parental AOD abuse as an identified condition of removal. The percentage for children age 1 and older (36.2%) was closer to the overall national average (39.0%).

Note: Estimates based on all children in out-of-home care at some point during the Fiscal Year

Source: AFCARS Data, 2020 v1
Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal for Children Age 1 and Older, 2020

When looking at information regarding children removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care who had parental alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse as an identified condition for removal, there has been a particular interest in understanding how this is affecting families involved in child welfare with children under age 1. Half of the children under age 1 (50.7%) removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care had parental AOD abuse as an identified condition of removal. The percentage for children age 1 and older (36.2%) was closer to the overall national average (39.0%).

Note: Estimates based on all children in out-of-home care at some point during the Fiscal Year
Source: AFCARS Data, 2020 v1
From 2000-2018, the percentage of children under age 1 entering out-of-home care steadily increased. Data from Fiscal Year 2019 showed a slight decrease; a reduction of only 0.2%. Data from Fiscal Year 2020 showed an increase of 1.5% from the previous year. Whereas children under 1 represented 13.4% of total removals in 2000, this has increased to close to a quarter (20.2%) of all removals in the most recent fiscal year.

Note: Estimates based on children who entered out of home care during Fiscal Year
*2020 Estimates may be influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic
Number of Children who Entered Out of Home Care, by Age at Removal in the United States, 2020*

Data regarding age of removal was organized to create three age groups: children birth — age 5, children age 6 — 12, and children age 13 — 18+. When looking at these three groups, children birth — age 5 make up nearly half (49.8%, N=108,078) of the children removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care during Fiscal Year 2020. Children age 6 — 12 make up 27.8% (N=60,368) and children age 13 — 18+ make up 22.3% (N=48,364) of the children removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care during the same time period.

Note: Estimates based on children who entered out of home care during Fiscal Year
*2020 Estimates may be influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic

Source: AFCARS Data, 2020 v1
Number of Children who Entered Out of Home Care with Incidence of Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal, by Age at Removal in the United States, 2020*

Data regarding parental alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse as an identified condition for removal is organized by three age groups (children birth — age 5, children age 6 — 12, and children age 13 — 18+). When looking at these three groups, 61.4% (N=51,281) of children birth - age 5 had parental AOD abuse as an identified condition for removal during Fiscal Year 2020. For children age 6 — 12, 28.0% (N=23,419) had parental AOD abuse as an identified condition for removal and for children age 13 — 18+, 10.5% (N=8,808) had parental AOD abuse as an identified condition for removal during the same time period.

Note: Estimates based on children who entered out of home care during Fiscal Year 2020 Estimates may be influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic

Source: AFCARS Data, 2020 v1
Percent of Children Under Age 1 with Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal in the United States, 2000 to 2020*

From 2000-2018, the percentage of children under age 1 who entered out-of-home care with parental alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse as an identified condition of removal steadily increased. Data from Fiscal Year 2020 showed an increase of 0.5% from the previous year. In 2000, 27.8% of children under age 1 had parental AOD as an identified condition of removal. This increased to 51.4% of children under age 1 in 2020.

Note: Estimates based on children under age 1 who entered out of home care during Fiscal Year

*2020 Estimates may be influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic

Source: AFCARS Data, 2000-2020
The most recent Treatment Episode Data Set Admissions (TEDS-A) contains data from Fiscal Year 2020. The percentages represent the prevalence of the identified substance as a primary drug at the time of treatment episode entry. For both men and women, alcohol was the most frequently identified primary substance, identified in 45.1% of treatment admission for men and 36.3% of treatment admissions for women. Marijuana (28.6% of treatment admissions for men and 25.2% of treatment admissions for women) and heroin (25.7% of treatment admissions for men and 23.8% of treatment admissions for women) were the next most frequently identified substances. While this data summarizes the national trends for treatment admission, state specific patterns of use differ widely. Collaboratives and stakeholders are encouraged to look at their state specific data trends.

*2020 Estimates may be influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic

Source: TEDS-A Data, 2020

The most recent Treatment Episode Data Set Admissions (TEDS-A) contains data from Fiscal Year 2020. The percentages represent the percentage of substance use disorder treatment admissions for women ages 15 – 44 where the woman was identified as pregnant at the time of admission. Nationally, women were identified as pregnant at the time of admission for 3.9% (N=14,073) of treatment admissions. While this data summarizes the national trends for treatment admission, state specific patterns of use differ widely. Collaboratives and stakeholders are encouraged to look at their state specific data trends.

*2020 TEDS-A Data was not available for Idaho, Maryland, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.
**2020 Estimates may be influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: TEDS-A Data, 2020