

Alabama Children's Policy Councils

2021 Needs Assessment Summary for the Top 3 Ranked Needs in the State of Alabama

Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Parental Involvement, and Family Engagement, and School Success

The following summary is a collection of numbers, based on the self-reported data and identified needs of 63 Children's Policy Councils Needs assessment reports that have a direct impact on children, families, and communities.

Mental Health

- Mental Health was identified as the number #1 pressing issue affecting children and families in the state.
- This is the 2nd year it ranked #1
- According to the Needs Assessment reports 60% reported children ages 9 to 17 as the population with the greatest mental health need.
- 38% reported adults 18 to 54 as the population with the 2nd greatest mental health need in the state.

Substance Abuse

- Substance Use remains the 2nd most pressing issue affecting children and families in the state
- Your reports reflected a decline in juvenile delinquency cases filed for drugs and substance violations in Alabama
- A decline in the number of children removed from their home due to parent drug use in Alabama

Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

- Parental Involvement and Family Engagement were identified as the 3rd most pressing issue affecting children and families in the state
- There are 5,970 children in foster care
- The foster care numbers as compared to the 2020 Needs Assessment report shows that 257 fewer children were placed in foster care.
- The CPC's reports reflect that there are not enough placements for foster children in their counties and Alabama.

School Success

Bonus- The Needs Assessment reports also identified School Success with a focus on improving third-grade reading proficiency in counties across the state of Alabama.