

Publication focuses on Alaskan youth

"The State Of The Alaskan Child," a databook on the condition of Alaskan children in 1986, has just been published by the Child and Family Advocacy Project, a special program of Alaska Children's Services — the state's largest child and family service agency.

The report stresses that although only 30 percent of Alaska's population is children, these children represent all of Alaska's future.

The spiral-bound document deals with issues related to two major themes — children and families and children and youth at risk.

Among the issues included are: children in poverty, single-parent families, working mothers, day-care assistance programs, children and divorce, runaways, abused and neglected children and adolescent pregnancies.

The report cites some 21 sources in compiling its information. Some of the facts, trends and statistics reported include:

- An increase in the number of reported cases of sexual abuse of children from 613 to 1,192 between fiscal years 1983 and 1985.

- That only 20 percent of the number of children and families who are income eligible will be served by Headstart programs.

- In 1980, more than 25 percent of Alaskan families headed by women were in poverty. In rural Alaska, more than one in three families headed by women fell below the poverty level.

Founded in 1985, the Child and Family Advocacy Project is designed



A new report focuses on Alaska's children. Its cover features a 1971 photo of four Nome children photo by Walt Hays

to build a state-wide network of concerned individuals, community organizations and congregations to speak out for the needs of dependent children and their families.

The project's activities have included publishing a regular newsletter, conducting workshops throughout the state and carefully monitoring legislation at the state level. The project is responsible to a community advisory committee of eight members who determine policy and monitor the project work.

Thelma Langdon, a well known community activist, serves as the part-time director for the project.

Funding for the project has come entirely from the private sector including contributions from individuals, and gifts and grants from the Alaska Christian Conference and the United Way of Anchorage, as well as regional and national program units of the United Methodist Church, American Baptist Churches, The American Lutheran Church, American Lutheran Church Women and the

Christian Womens Fellowship (Disciples of Christ).

Langdon said the goal of the project is to become an autonomous, non-profit organization by the end of 1987 with a dues paying membership of individuals and organizations willing to speak on behalf of children.

Copies of the databook are available from the Child and Family Advocacy Project, 2363 Captain Cook Drive, Anchorage 99503. Those who order them are asked to include \$1 for postage and handling.