

Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center  
University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center

# Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center Fact Sheet

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## State and Local Law Enforcement Personnel in Alaska: 1982 - 2011

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This Fact Sheet presents data on state and local law enforcement personnel from two Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program sources: (1) *Crime in Alaska*, an annual publication of the Alaska Department of Public Safety (available online at: <http://dps.alaska.gov/statewide/ucr.aspx>), and (2) *Crime in the United States*, an annual publication of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which oversees the Uniform Crime Reports program, and compiles and publishes data from agencies across the United States.

Since 1982, the number of Alaska law enforcement agencies participating in the UCR program has increased steadily (see Figure 1). In 1982 only 23

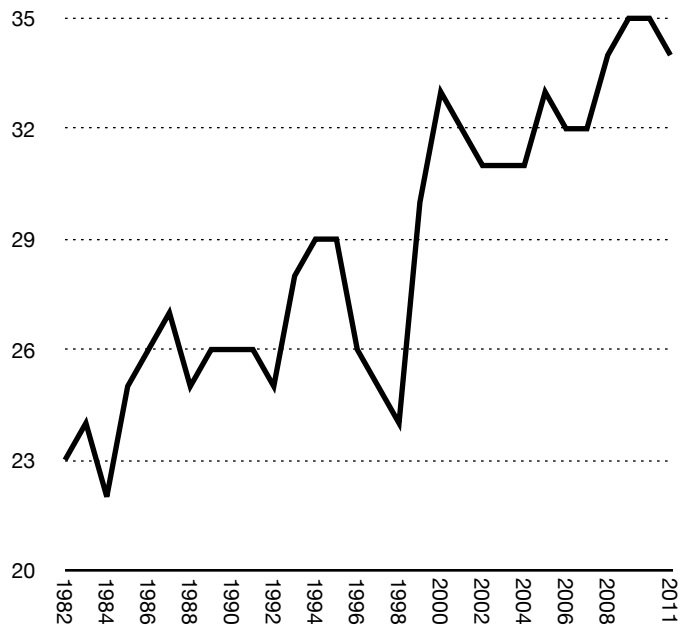
agencies participated; however, by 2011 that number increased to 34.

**Agency size.** Figure 2 presents the distribution of Alaska police agencies according to the total number of employees in 2011, the most recent year for which data were available. In 2011 34 agencies reported employee information to the Alaska Department of Public Safety (68% of all Alaska police agencies).

Among the police agencies reporting personnel information, two-thirds employed 25 or fewer employees in 2011. Only two police agencies employed more than 100 people: the Alaska Department of Public Safety (which employed 623 persons in 2011) and the Anchorage Police Department (which employed 535 persons in 2011).

**FIGURE 1.**

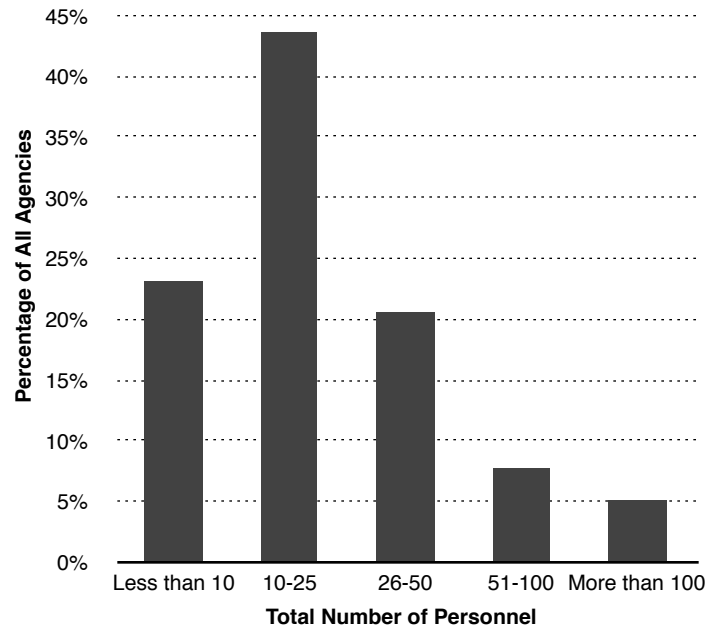
Total number of Alaska law enforcement agencies reporting data to Uniform Crime Reporting program: 1982-2011.



Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1983-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

**FIGURE 2.**

Total personnel employed by state and local law enforcement agencies in Alaska, 2011.



Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

**Civilianization.** Figure 3 shows the total number of sworn police officers and non-sworn personnel (“civilians”) employed by Alaska police agencies from 1982 through 2011.

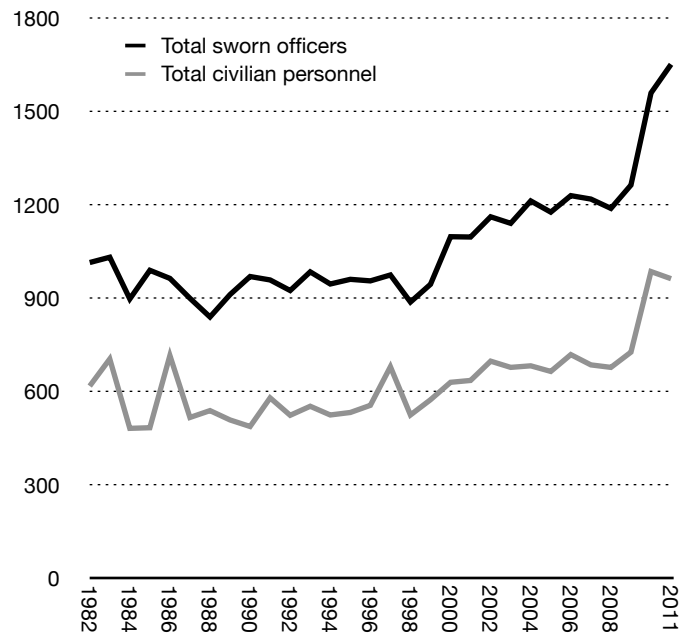
When data for all Alaska police agencies are combined, the ratio of sworn police officers to civilian employees demonstrates stability over the 1982-2011 time period (see dark grey line, Figure 4). Since 1982, state and local law enforcement agencies in Alaska have employed, on average, 1.7 sworn police officers for every civilian employee. At its lowest in 1983, there were 1.5 sworn police officers for every civilian employee; the sworn officer to civilian employee ratio peaked in 1985 and again in 1990 at 2.0. The stability in Alaska’s sworn police officer to civilian personnel ratio differs from the national trend, which shows a steady decline since 1982 (see light grey line, Figure 4).

Figure 4 also shows the sworn police officer to civilian employee ratios for three agencies: the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Anchorage Police Department (APD), and the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD).

Overall, the sworn police officer to civilian employee ratio for DPS has paralleled the statewide trend since 1982, albeit with values slightly lower than the statewide average. Between the early 1990s and the mid-2000s, the ratio for APD also paralleled the statewide trend, but with values slightly higher than the statewide average. Since the mid-2000s, however, the sworn police officer to civilian employee ratio for APD diverged upward from the

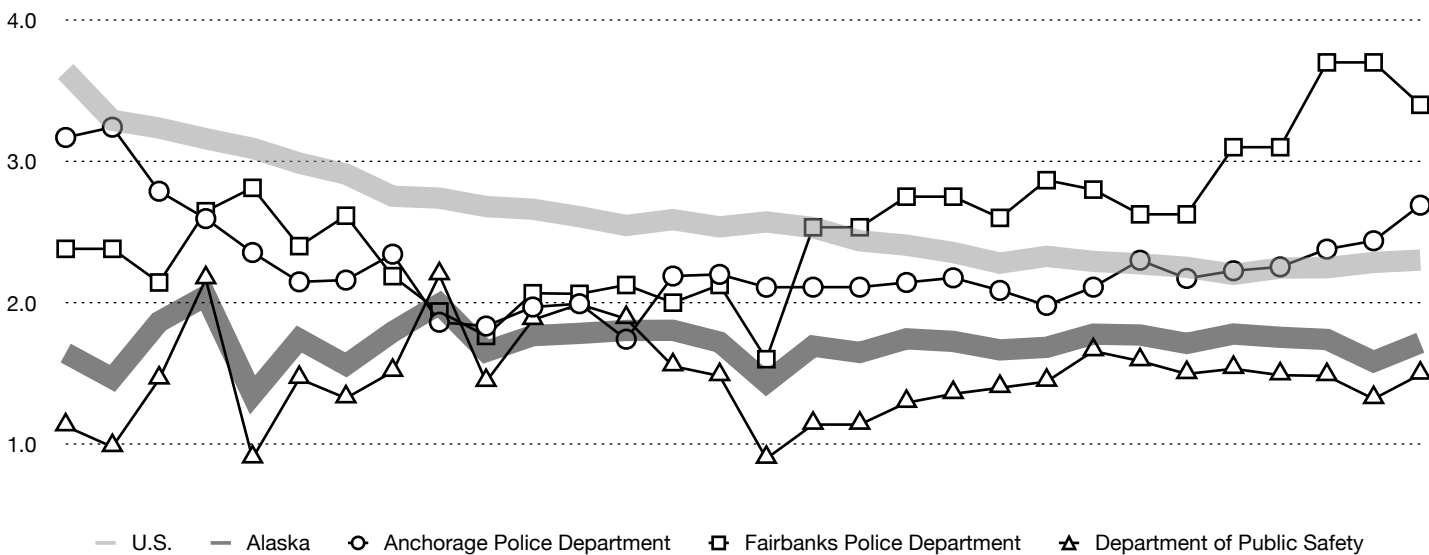
statewide trend. The agency most distinct from national and state trends since the mid-1990s is FPD. The sworn police officer to civilian employee ratios for FPD have increased steadily since the mid-1990s, peaking in 2009 and 2010 at 3.7 sworn police officers for each civilian employee.

**FIGURE 3.**  
Total number of sworn officers and civilian personnel employed by state and local law enforcement agencies in Alaska: 1982 - 2011.



Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1983-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

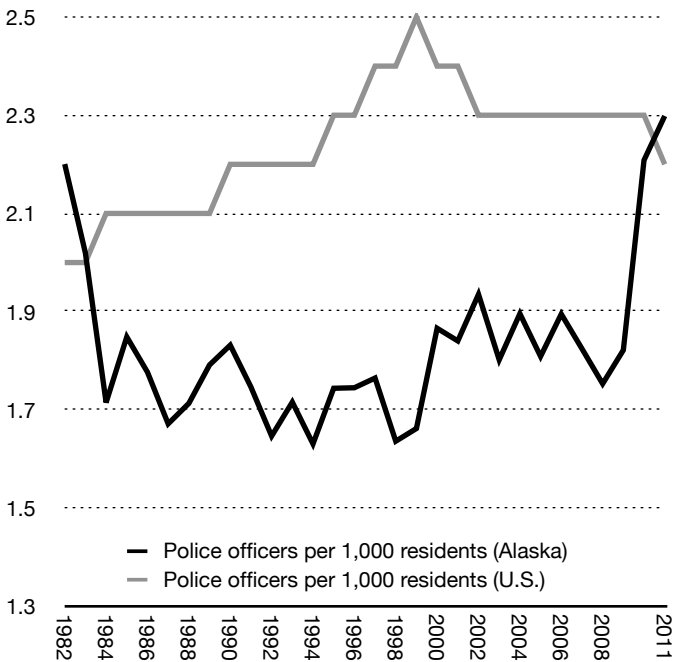
**FIGURE 4.**  
Ratio of sworn officers to civilian personnel: United States, Alaska, Anchorage Police Department, Fairbanks Police Department, Alaska Department of Public Safety (1982 - 2011).



Sources: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1983-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (1983-2012). *Crime in the United States*. Washington, D.C.

**FIGURE 5.**

**State and local sworn police officers per 1,000 population, Alaska and the United States: 1982 - 2011.**



Sources: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1983-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (1983-2012). *Crime in the United States*. Washington, D.C.

The recent decline in “civilianization” among Alaska’s largest police agencies (that is, the increase in the number of sworn police officers for each civilian employed by Alaska law enforcement agencies) coincides with a rapid increase in the ratio of sworn police officers to residents. Depicted in Figure 5 are the police to citizen ratios for the United States (grey line) and the state of Alaska (black line) for the 1982-2011 time period. These ratios are calculated as the total number of sworn police officers per 1,000 population.

Between 1984 and 2009 Alaska’s police-citizen ratio lagged far behind the rest of the United States. Over that period, Alaska averaged 1.8 police officers for every 1,000 residents, while for the U.S. as a whole, the ratio was 2.2 officers per 1,000 residents.

**Women in Alaska policing.** Figure 6 presents data comparing Alaska and the United States as a whole with respect to the percentage of sworn police officers who are female. Since 1982, police agencies in the United States have seen a dramatic increase in the number of women working as sworn police officers. In 1982 fewer than six percent of all sworn officers in the United States were female; by 2011 that number had doubled to nearly 12 percent.

Between 1982 and 2004 the rate of female police officer employment in Alaska tracked the overall national trend, increasing steadily. In 1982, only 6.4 percent of all sworn officers in the state of Alaska

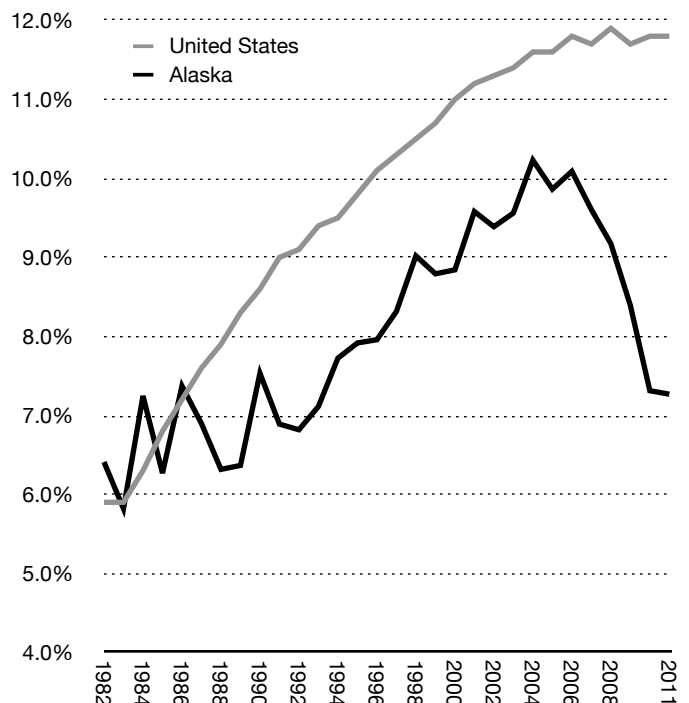
were women; by 2004 the percentage of sworn officers that were female increased to an estimated 10.2 percent. Since 2004, however, the percentage of female sworn officers has declined dramatically - falling to an estimated 7.3 percent in 2011.

The percentages of female sworn police officers for the state of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Anchorage Police Department (APD), and the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) between 1989 and 2011 are presented in Figure 7. (Complete sex-specific employment data are limited to the 1989-2011 period.)

Since 1989, APD has maintained a percentage of female sworn police officers well above both the national and statewide averages. However, the proportional representation of female police officers within APD has declined steadily since 2003. Prior to 2011, DPS maintained a percentage of female sworn officers well below the national and statewide averages. As recently as the early 1990s, only 4.6 percent of all sworn officers employed by DPS were women. Since 2008, however, the number of women working as sworn officers has increased, totaling 5.9 percent of the sworn officer workforce in 2011. The percentage of female sworn officers employed by FPD has tracked with the statewide trend since 1989. It peaked in 2005 at 11.9 percent. The lowest percentage of female sworn officers employed by the FPD was in 1993 when only 3 percent were women.

**FIGURE 6.**

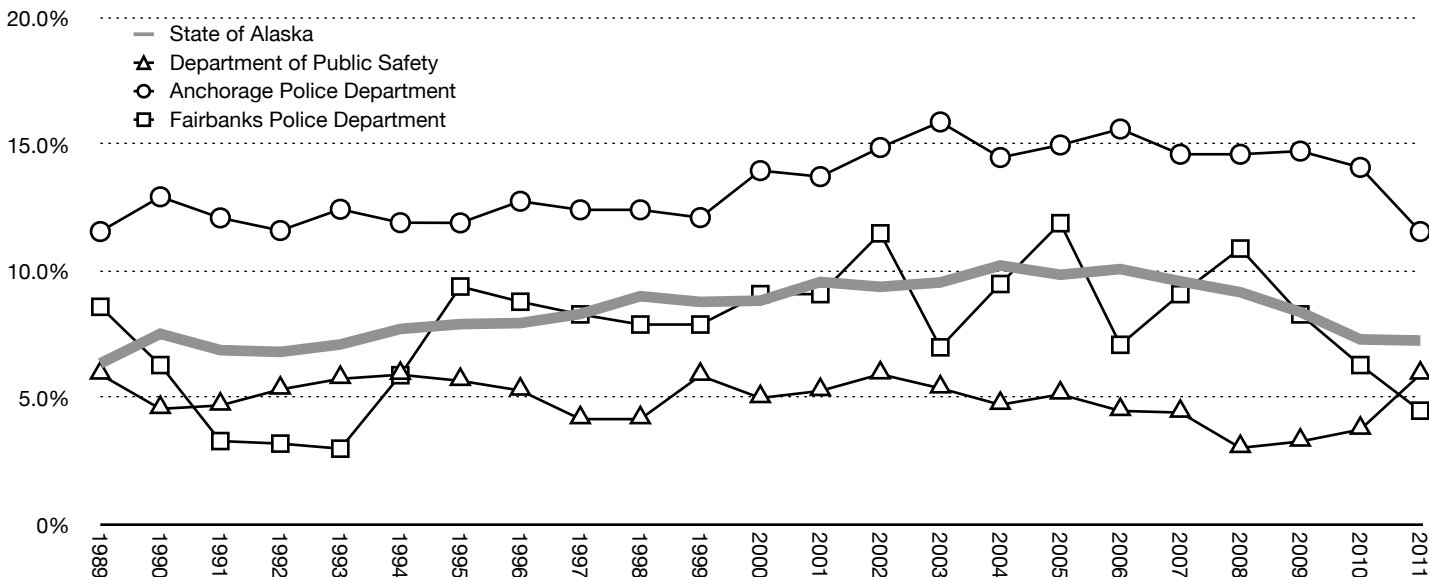
**Percentage of sworn police officers who are women: United States and Alaska.**



Sources: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1983-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (1983-2012). *Crime in the United States*. Washington, D.C.

**FIGURE 7.**

**Percentage of sworn officers who are women: Alaska, Alaska Department of Public Safety, Anchorage Police Department, and Fairbanks Police Department (1989 - 2011).**



Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1990-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

**Summary.** This Fact Sheet presented state and local law enforcement personnel information compiled from annual *Crime in Alaska* and *Crime in the United States* reports published since 1982.

Most (66.6%) state and local law enforcement agencies in Alaska employ 25 employees or fewer, and about the same percentage of those employees (approximately 63%) are sworn police officers. Since 1982, the statewide sworn police officer to civilian ratio has remained steady with an annual average across the period of 1.7. Despite the consistency of this statewide ratio, disaggregated results for DPS, APD, and FPD show measurable inter-agency

variability. Moreover, each of these agencies has experienced substantial increases in their sworn police officer to citizen ratios over the past decade - in contrast to the steady declines seen in U.S. as a whole.

Since 1982, the state of Alaska has lagged behind the rest of the United States with respect to the employment of women as sworn police officers. This trend has been exaggerated since the mid-2000s. As of 2011, only slightly more than 7 percent of all sworn police officers in the state of Alaska are women. The figure for the United States as a whole for 2011 stood at 11.8 percent.

## Notes

### Uniform Crime Reports

First initiated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1930 to measure the volume of crime in the United States, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program collects monthly information from nearly 18,000 law enforcement agencies on eight serious crimes (called Part I offenses) and more than twenty less serious offenses (called Part II offenses). Part I offenses include four violent crimes (murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and four property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson). These eight offenses are the most frequently cited crimes statistics in the United States.

The primary objective of the UCR program is to produce reliable data on crime for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. UCR data are not intended to be used to rank agencies or the jurisdictions in which they are located, and thus UCR data should not be used to designate American cities, counties, or other jurisdictions as “safe” or “dangerous” in the absence of careful consideration of the limitations of these data.

### UCR in Alaska

Since 1982 the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Administrative Services, has administered the UCR program for the state of Alaska. The Division of Administrative Services collects, tabulates, reports, and publishes UCR data voluntarily submitted by Alaska law enforcement agencies. As is the case nationally, submitting agencies retain responsibility for the accuracy of the data. Because the UCR is a voluntary program, the number of agencies reporting data to DPS varies from year to year. As of 2011, 34 agencies provided crime data to DPS. An estimated 99.4 percent of the state’s total population fell within the jurisdiction of the submitting agencies.

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# The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center

## About

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) was established by Administrative Order No. 89, signed by Governor William Sheffield on July 2, 1986. Since that time the AJSAC has been housed within the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center. The AJSAC assists Alaska criminal justice agencies, as well as state and local governments and officials, with the development, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice programs and policies through the collection, analysis, and reporting of crime and justice statistics.

Since 1972, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and its predecessor agency, the National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, has provided support to state and territorial governments to establish and operate Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice to federal, state, and local levels of government, and to share state-level information nationally. There are currently 53 SACs located in the United States and its Territories. The AJSAC is a member of the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), a national nonprofit organization comprised of SAC directors, researchers, and practitioners dedicated to policy-oriented research and analysis.

## Contact Information

### Location

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) is housed in the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center, which is located on the second floor of the UAA/APU Consortium Library, Suite 213.

### Mailing Address

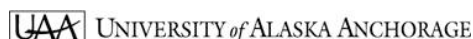
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To learn more about the AJSAC research, please visit our website at: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ajsac/>



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