

Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center
University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center

Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Fact Sheet

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Violent Crime Arrests in Alaska

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Arrests as criminal process inputs. Arrests by law enforcement of persons suspected of committing crime represent the first stage in the formal criminal justice process: arrests are the initial “inputs” into the criminal justice system. This Fact Sheet presents data from the Alaska Department of Public Safety’s annual report *Crime in Alaska* for the years 1980 through 2011 (the last year for which data are available). *Crime in Alaska* represents the State of Alaska’s contribution to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s national *Uniform Crime Reports* (UCR) program. The UCR program collects data from law enforcement agencies across the United States. (In 2011 more than 18,200 agencies participated in the UCR program.) The UCR includes in its count of *arrests* all arrests, citations, and summonses for each of 28 different offenses. Presented here are Alaska arrest data for four offenses known as *Part I violent offenses*: murder/

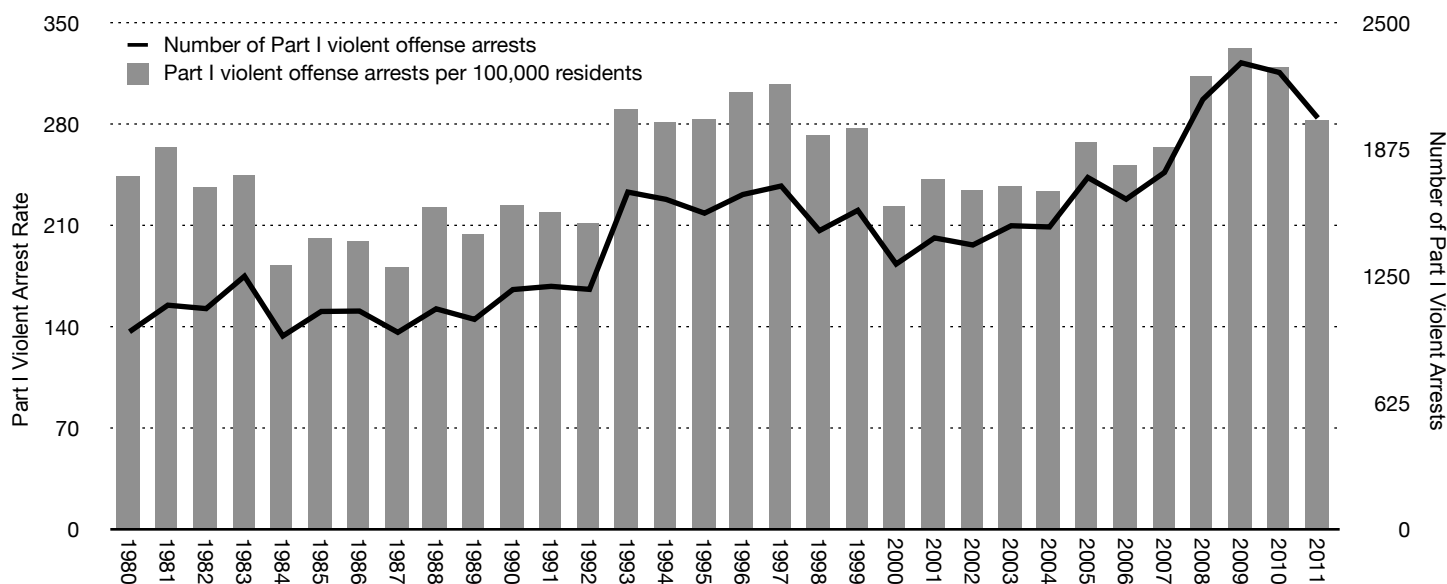
non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Violent crime arrests in Alaska. Figure 1 presents composite arrest trends for Part I violent offenses in Alaska for the 1980-2011 time period. The black line depicts the total count of arrests for murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault (right y-axis); the grey bars depict the overall arrest rate (per 100,000 residents) for the four crimes combined (left y-axis).

Since 1980 the total number of arrests made by Alaska law enforcement for Part I violent crimes more than doubled, from 975 in 1980 to 2,030 in 2011 (+108%). This increase in the total number of violent crime arrests outpaced growth in the state’s total population, which increased by 80 percent over the 1980-2011 period. As a consequence, the state’s arrest *rate* for serious violent crimes also increased since 1980, albeit at a slower pace than the increase

FIGURE 1.

Total number Part I violent arrests and Part I violent arrests per 100,000 residents 1980-2011: Alaska.



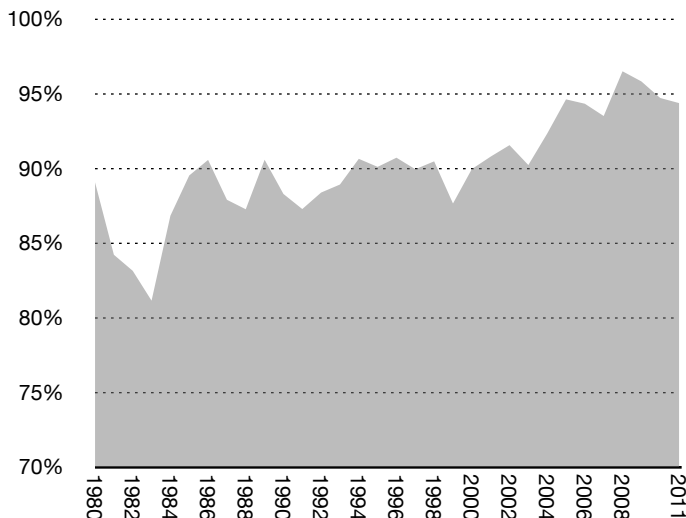
Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1981-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

in the *total number* of violent crime arrests. Overall, the Part I violent crime arrest rate in Alaska increased 16 percent, from 244 arrests per 100,000 residents to 283 arrests per 100,000 residents. Both the total number of violent crime arrests, as well as the overall violent crime arrest rate, peaked in 2009.

Figure 2 and Figure 3 present arrest rate data for each of the four Part I violent offenses: murder/non-negligent manslaughter (Figure 2), forcible rape (Figure 2), robbery (Figure 3), and aggravated assault (Figure 3). Arrest rates for murder/non-negligent manslaughter and forcible rape declined markedly between 1980 and 2011 (-25% and -44%, respectively). The arrest rate for murder/non-negligent manslaughter in 2011 was 52 percent less than its peak of 9.4 per 100,000 in 1983. The arrest rate for forcible rape was 11.6 per 100,000 in 2011, 68.5 percent below its peak of 36.8 per 100,000, also in 1983.

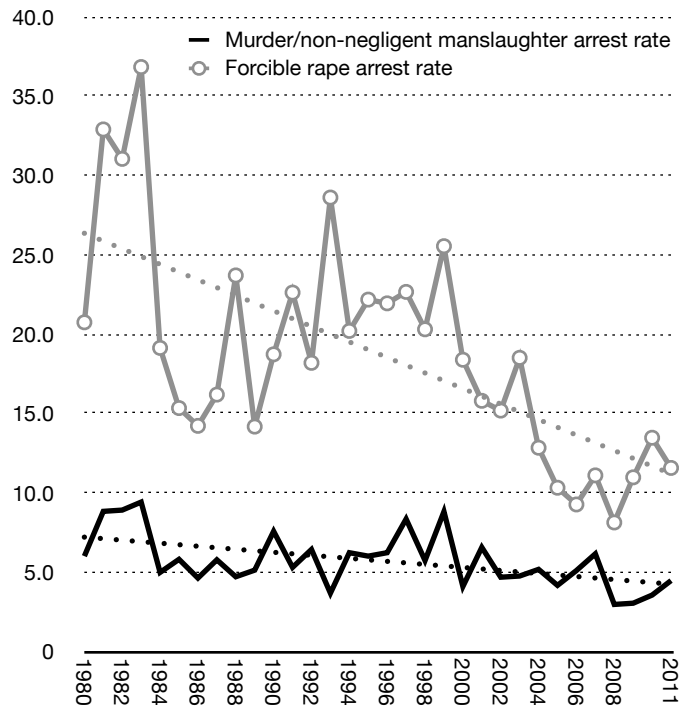
A breakdown of the violent crime arrest composite shown in Figure 1 into each of the four offenses shows that the overall increase in Alaska arrest rates for Part I violent crimes between 1980 and 2011 was the result of consistent increases in the arrest rates for robbery and aggravated assault (see Figure 3). These crimes comprised a large majority of all violent crime arrests between 1980 and 2011 (see Figure 4). Moreover, the percentage of all Part I violent crime arrests for these two offenses has increased steadily over time. Over the entire 1980-2011 period, the aggravated assault and robbery arrests accounted for approximately 90 percent of all violent crime arrests made by Alaska law enforcement each year.

FIGURE 4.
Percentage of Alaska Part I violent crime arrests, 1980-2011:
Aggravated assault and robbery.



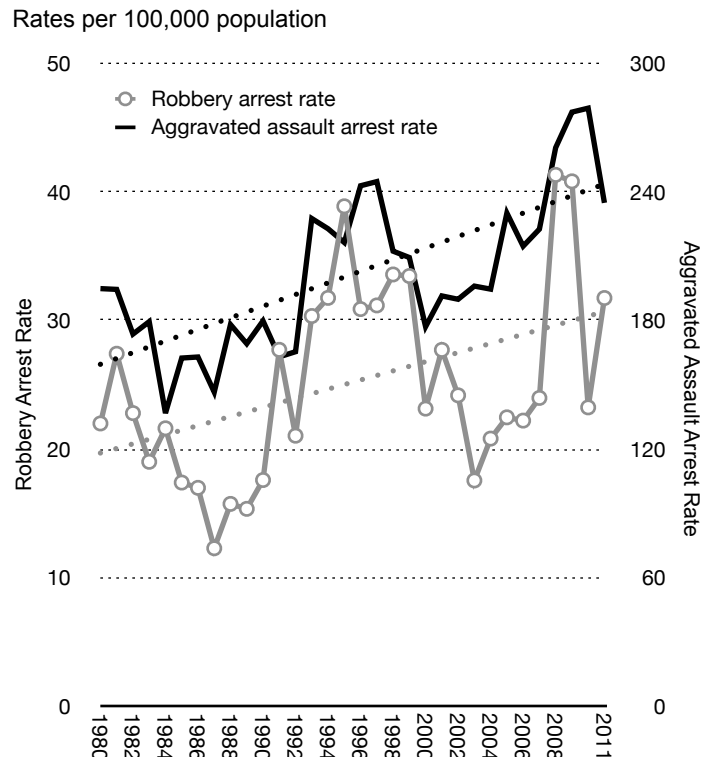
Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1981-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

FIGURE 2.
Murder and forcible rape arrest rates 1980-2011: Alaska.
Rates per 100,000 population



Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1981-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

FIGURE 3.
Aggravated assault and robbery arrest rates 1980-2011:
Alaska.



Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1981-2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

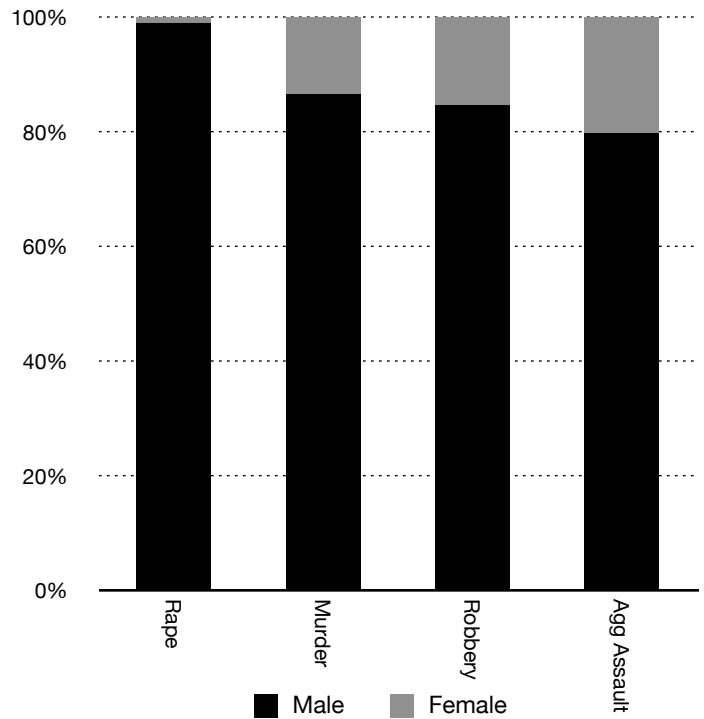
Since 1980, the robbery arrest rate increased 33 percent, from an estimated 22 per 100,000 residents to 32 per 100,000 residents in 2011 (grey line, left y-axis, Figure 3). The aggravated assault arrest rate went from 195 per 100,000 residents in 1980 to 235 per 100,000 residents in 2011, an increase of more than 20 percent (black line, right y-axis, Figure 3).

Characteristics of those arrested. Figure 5 shows the percentage of forcible rape, murder/non-negligent manslaughter, robbery, and aggravated assault arrests made in Alaska in 2011 of male and female suspects. Nearly all of those arrested for Part I violent crimes were men. The sex distribution was most heavily skewed for forcible rape arrests (98.8% male). More than eight out of ten individuals arrested for murder/non-negligent manslaughter and robbery (86.5% and 84.6%, respectively) were male. The offense category with the highest percentage of females was aggravated assault (20.4%), although males retained a large majority (79.6%).

Figure 6 presents the age distributions for those arrested in Alaska for Part I violent crimes in 2011. Data are presented for seven age groups - age 17 and younger, 18 to 24 years, 25 to 34 years, 35 to 44 years, 45 to 54 years, 55 to 64 years, and individuals aged 65 years and older - for each of the four Part I violent crimes.

Individuals less than 35 years of age comprised the majority of arrestees for the following offenses: murder/non-negligent manslaughter (59.4%), aggravated assault (63%), and robbery (79.4%). Individuals aged 18 to 24 had the highest probability of arrest for both murder/non-negligent

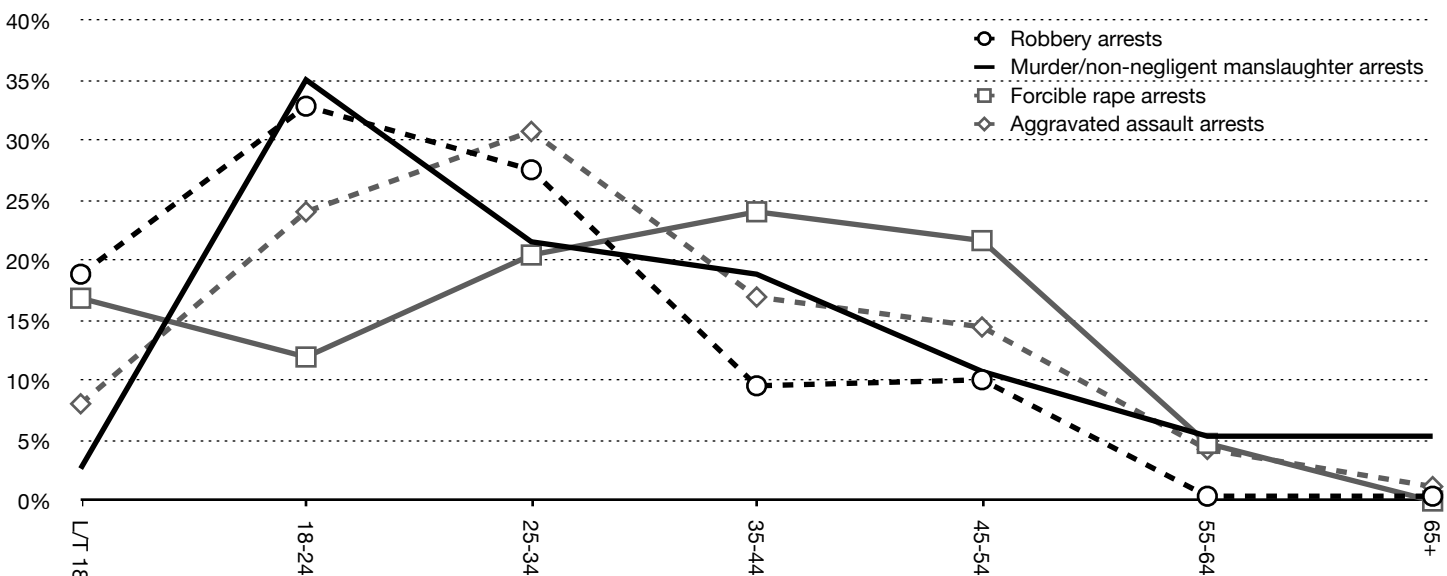
FIGURE 5. Sex of persons arrested for forcible rape, murder, robbery, and aggravated assault 2011: Alaska.



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

manslaughter and robbery. Aggravated assault arrests were most likely to include members of the 25 to 34 year-old age group. In contrast, the peak age range for forcible rape arrests was 35 to 44 years (24% of all forcible rape arrests), with 45 to 54 year olds comprising an additional 21 percent of forcible rape arrestees.

FIGURE 6. Age of persons arrested for murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault 2011: Alaska.



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

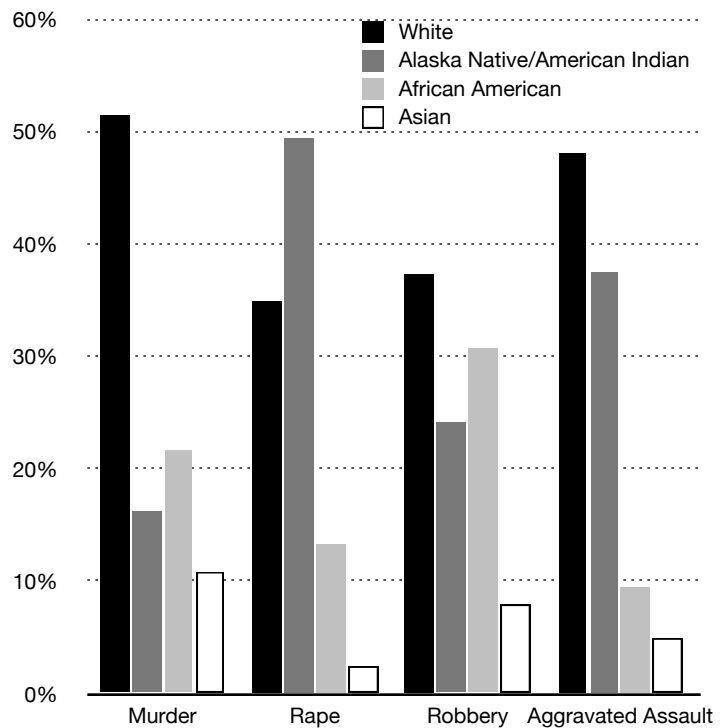
The percentage of arrestees belonging to each of the four racial groups measured by the UCR (White/Caucasian, Alaska Native/American Indian, Black/African American, Asian) for each Part I violent crime category are presented in Figure 7.

Overall, those arrested for serious violent crimes in Alaska in 2011 were more likely to be White/Caucasian (46.4%) than Alaska Native/American Indian (36.1%), Black/African American (12.3%), or Asian (5.2%). However, the racial composition of arrestees varied considerably according to the type of offense for which a person was arrested (see Figure 7). Whites represented more than half of those arrested for murder/non-negligent manslaughter, fewer than half of those arrested for aggravated assault, and less than 40 percent of those arrested for forcible rape or robbery. Considerable variability was also found for the other three racial groups as well. Alaska Natives/American Indians were identified as suspects and subsequently arrested in 16 percent of murders/non-negligent manslaughters, 24 percent of robberies, and 37 percent of aggravated assaults, but nearly half (49%) of all forcible rape arrests. Blacks/African Americans were arrested at a much lower rate than either Whites or Alaska Native/American Indians, but their representation within each violent crime category was also highly variable: 9.5 percent of aggravated assault arrests, 13.3 percent of forcible rape arrests, 21.6 percent of murder/non-negligent manslaughter arrests, and 30.7 percent of robbery arrests. Persons identified by law enforcement as Asian comprised 2.4 percent of forcible rape arrests, 4.9 percent of aggravated assault arrests, 7.9 percent of robbery arrests, and 10.8 percent of murder/non-negligent manslaughter arrests.

Figure 8 shows the racial group disparities for each of the four categories of Part I violent crime arrests. Racial group disparities were determined by subtracting the percentage of each racial group within the total 2011 population from the percentage of each racial group within each Part I violent crime arrest category. A bar depicting a negative value indicates under-representation within a violent crime arrest category; a bar depicting a positive value indicates over-representation within a violent crime category.

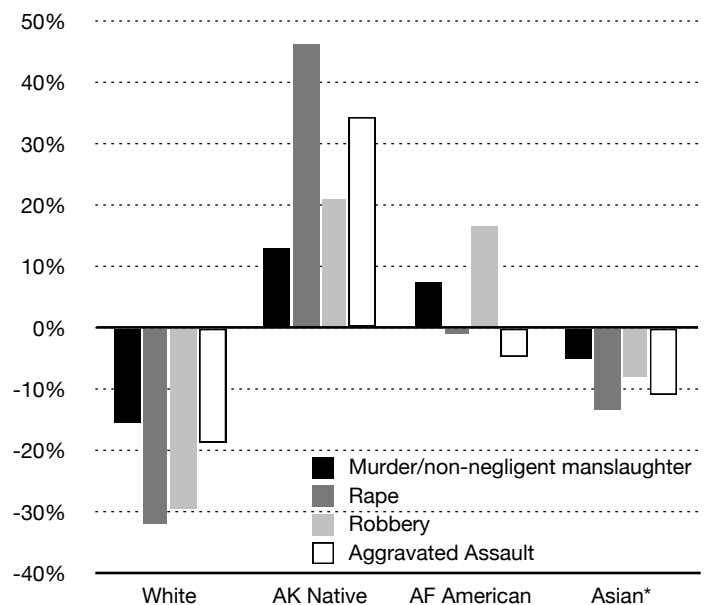
Whites and Asians were under-represented within each violent crime arrest category. Alaska Natives/American Indians were over-represented within every violent crime arrest category. African Americans were over-represented among those arrested for murder/non-negligent manslaughter and robbery, but under-represented among those arrested for forcible rape and aggravated assault.

FIGURE 7.
Racial group membership of persons arrested for murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault 2011: Alaska.



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

FIGURE 8.
Racial group disparities for those arrested for Part I violent crimes 2011: Alaska.



* UCR data includes only four racial groups: White/Caucasian, Alaska Native/American Indian, Black/African American, and Asian. Population differences presented for Asian arrestees were calculated using the sum total of U.S. Census racial group categories not including White/Caucasian, Alaska Native/American Indian, and Black/African American.

Sources: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2012). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK. U.S. Census Bureau (2012). *American Community Survey*. Washington, D.C.

Summary. This Fact Sheet presented violent crime arrest data extracted from the Alaska Department of Public Safety’s annual report *Crime in Alaska*. Arrest trend data for Part I violent crimes (murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault) were presented in the aggregate and for each offense category. Age, sex, and racial group membership information for those arrested by Alaska law enforcement in 2011 were also presented.

Since 1980, arrests for Part I violent crimes increased considerably, at a pace exceeding the state’s population growth. Examination of offense-specific arrest rates shows that the aggregate increase in Part I violent crime arrests was due to substantial increases in robbery and aggravated assault arrest rates. Murder/non-negligent manslaughter arrest rates declined over the 1980-2011 time period. Between 1980 and 2011 the percentage of Part I violent crime arrests made for robbery and aggravated assault increased steadily; by 2011 94 percent of all Part I violent crime arrests were for these two offenses.

In 2011 large majorities of arrests for Part I violent crimes were of males.

Information pertaining to the age of those arrested was also presented. These data show that the bulk of serious violent crime arrests are of young adults. The majority of people arrested for murder/non-negligent manslaughter, robbery, and aggravated assault in 2011 were individuals under the age of 35. Persons arrested for forcible rape tended to be older than those arrested for the other three Part I violent crimes.

Overall, those arrested for Part I violent crimes in 2011 were more likely to be White/Caucasian than a member of any other racial group. However, the racial composition of arrestees varied considerably according to the type of offense. Racial disparities were evident in the arrest data presented. Whites and Asians were arrested for Part I violent crimes at a rate well below their overall representation in the population. The opposite was true for Alaska Natives/American Indians, who were over-represented within each Part I violent crime arrest category. Results were mixed for African Americans.

Notes

Crime Definitions

Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter. The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human by another. Classification of this offense is made by police and is not the result of a court, coroner, medical examiner, jury or other judicial body.

Forcible rape. The carnal knowledge of a female, regardless of age, forcibly and against her will. Attempts or assaults to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

Aggravated assault. An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purposes of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This offense typically involves the use of a weapon likely to produce death or serious physical injury. Attempts involving the use of a gun, knife, or other weapon are included in this classification.

Robbery. The taking, or attempted taking, of anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force, or threat of force, or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

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.

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

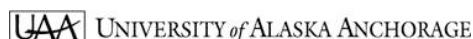
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