



# **Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assaults in Anchorage, Alaska: 2002/2003 Update**

Final report to the  
Anchorage Police Department

by

André Rosay  
Justice Center  
University of Alaska Anchorage

with

Jeannie Sanders, Mary Lee Collins, Sandra Smith, Bonnie Caladine, and Donna Monahan  
Anchorage Police Department



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Data collection for this project was entirely supported by the Anchorage Police Department. In particular, we wish to thank Jeannie Sanders, Mary Lee Collins, Sandra Smith, Bonnie Caladine, and Donna Monahan. Both the Justice Center and the Anchorage Police Department are sincerely grateful for their efforts and dedication to this project. We hope that this work will shed light on the changing nature of sexual assaults in Anchorage and will be valuable to the Anchorage community.

# **Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assaults in Anchorage, Alaska: 2002-2003 Update**

## **Executive Summary**

As the nature of sexual assault in Anchorage changes, so must our responses to sexual assaults. Good prevention and intervention programs cannot be static, but must change as the nature of sexual assaults change. In this brief report, we update our previous report titled “Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assaults in Anchorage” to document some of the changes in the nature of sexual assault from 2000 to 2003. From 2000 to 2003, many characteristics of sexual assaults remained unchanged. These include the following:

- The rates of reported sexual assaults in Anchorage continue to be significantly higher than national rates. In all years, at least 80 percent of sexual assaults were reported on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays and at least 50 percent were reported between the hours of 10 PM and 5 AM.
- Most victims continue to be female. Most victims continue to be White or Native. Sexual assault victimizations generally increased in all racial groups, but Natives continue to experience much higher rates of victimization. Rates of victimization continue to be highest for 15 to 24 year olds. Alcohol use by victims continues to be frequent.
- Almost all suspects continue to be male. The most common suspect continues to be White. The rates of sexual assault suspects per 1,000 population continue to be highest among Blacks. Suspects continue to be of varied ages, with over 75 percent in each year between the ages of 15 and 44. Alcohol use by suspects continues to be frequent.
- In all years, over 50 percent of sexual assaults occurred in private residences, including the suspect’s residence, the victim’s residence, the suspect and victim’s residence, or another’s residence.
- From 2000 to 2003, Spenard and Fairview were consistently the two community councils with the highest number of sexual assaults.

However, from 2000 to 2003, some key changes in the nature of sexual assaults were observed. These included the following:

- The number of forcible rapes and sexual assaults reported in Anchorage has steadily increased from 2000 to 2003. The good news is that the number of reported forcible rapes

and attempted forcible rapes declined by 7 percent from 2002 to 2003. The bad news is that the number of reported sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults increased by 45 percent from 2002 to 2003.

- Sexual assault victimizations increased particularly among Natives and Blacks and particularly among individuals less than 15 years of age and individuals 45 to 54 years of age. From 2000 to 2003, the number of Native and Black victims increased by 39 percent and 86 percent, respectively. From 2000 to 2003, the number of victims less than 15 years of age increased by 92 percent and the number of victims 45 to 54 years of age increased by 136 percent. From 2000 to 2003, the number of victims who had used alcohol prior to the assault increased by 12 percent.
- From 2001 to 2003, the number of stranger assaults declined by 21 percent while the number of non-stranger assaults increased by 30 percent. Increases in non-stranger assaults were particularly large for assaults between acquaintances (83% increase) and between family members (105% increase).
- The number of sexual assaults occurring the in Downtown community council increased by 144 percent (from nine in 2000 to 22 in 2003). Spatial concentrations clearly shifted from year to year, both within and across community councils.

Although this update provides a very brief overview of some key changes in the nature of sexual assaults, it does not in any way provide enough information about the changing nature of sexual assaults for changing policy. Furthermore, it presents information that is now two years old. In the ideal situation, a monitoring program would be developed in Anchorage so that prevention and intervention programs would receive real-time empirical information about the changing nature of sexual assault. Only when armed with up-to-date factual information will we be able to successfully fight against sexual assaults.

## **Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assaults in Anchorage, Alaska: 2002/2003 Update**

In the fall of 2003, the Justice Center published a descriptive report on sexual assaults reported to the Anchorage Police Department in 2000 and 2001 (available on the Justice Center website at <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/research/2000/0107sxassault/0107sexualassaults.html>). This new report provides an update to the earlier report by describing the findings of a review of sexual assault incidents (N=691) that were reported to the Anchorage Police Department during the period between January 2002 and December 2003. Data from the earlier study are also included in this update so that comparisons across years can be made.

The report is descriptive in that it describes the basic characteristics of victims and suspects, the nature of the relationship between victim and suspects, and characteristics of the assault. The aim for the report is to provide a brief documentation of changes in the patterns of reported sexual assault in Anchorage from 2000 to 2003. Contrary to the first report, the information presented here is far less detailed. This report allows us to document the changing nature of sexual assault but cannot be used to explain these changes. More detailed data collection protocols will be required for us to explain changes in the nature of reported sexual assaults.

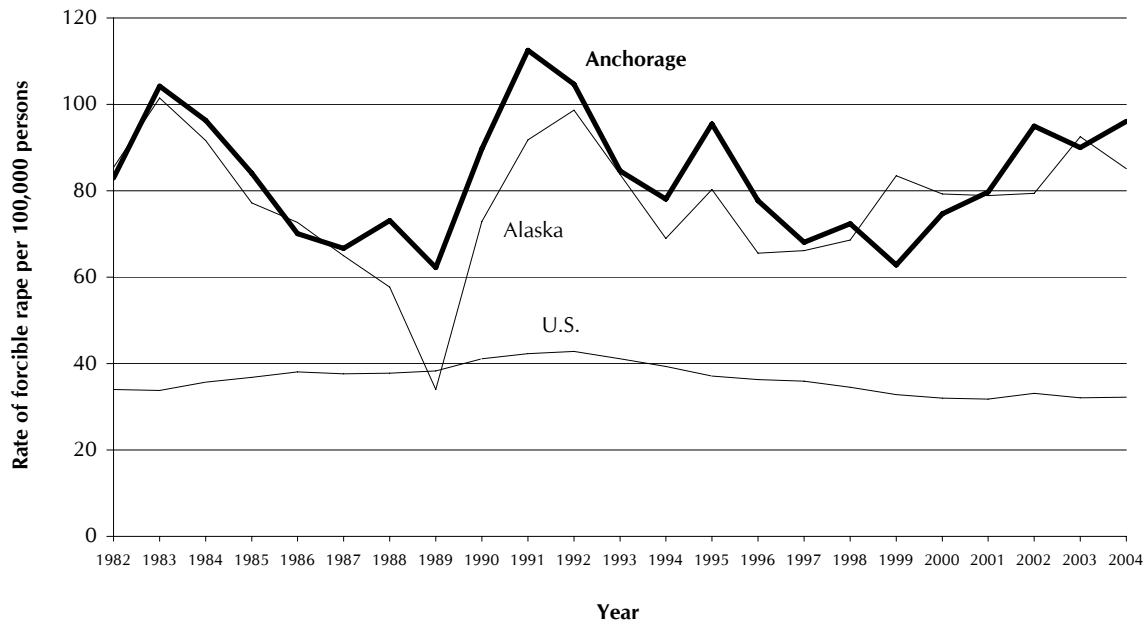
This study is a continued effort to understand sexual assault in Anchorage so that criminal justice practitioners, service providers, and policy makers might have a more complete understanding of this scourge. We trust that improved understanding will provide a foundation that leads to more effective crime prevention and service delivery.

### **I. Gravity Of The Problem: How Does Anchorage Compare Now?**

Since 2000, the number of sexual assaults reported in Anchorage has steadily increased. More specifically, there were 259 sexual assaults reported in 2000, 282 reported in 2001, 337 reported in 2002, and 354 reported in 2003. Since 2000, the number of sexual assaults reported increased by 9 percent in 2001, 30 percent in 2002, and 37 percent in 2003.

Uniform Crime Reporting statistics can also be used to compare the rates of reported forcible rape. The definition of forcible rape is more restrictive than that for sexual assault. As defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting program, a forcible rape is the “carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.” Rates of reported forcible rape in the U.S., Alaska, and Anchorage from 1982 to 2004 are shown in Figure 1. The rate of reported forcible rape per 100,000 in Anchorage increased from 2000 to 2001 by 7 percent, increased from 2001 to 2002 by 19 percent, decreased from 2002 to 2003 by 5 percent, and increased by 7 percent from 2003 to 2004. Cumulatively,

**Figure 1. Rates of Forcible Rape in the U.S., Alaska, and Anchorage:  
1982 - 2004**



from 2000 to 2004, the rate of reported forcible rape per 100,000 in Anchorage increased by 29 percent.

What is most striking, however, is that Anchorage (and Alaska generally) continue to display rates of reported forcible rape that are significantly higher than the national rate. Compared to the U.S. rate, the rate of reported forcible rape per 100,000 in Anchorage was 133 percent higher in 2000, 151 percent higher in 2001, 187 percent higher in 2002, 180 percent higher in 2003, and 198 percent higher in 2004. In 2000, Anchorage had the fourth highest rate of forcible rape among metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S. (behind Pine Bluff, AR, Rapid City, SD, and San Angelo, TX). In 2001, Anchorage had the fifth highest rate of forcible rape among metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S. (behind Benton Harbor, MI, Bremerton, WA, Panama City, FL, and Rapid City, SD). In 2002, Anchorage had the second highest rate of forcible rape among metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S. (behind Rapid City, SD). In 2003, Anchorage had the fifth highest rate of forcible rape among metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S. (behind Battle Creek, MI, Fairbanks, AK [not included in previous UCR statistics], Lafayette, LA, and Rapid City, SD). Finally, in 2004, Anchorage had the sixth highest rate of forcible rape among metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S. (behind Battle Creek, MI, Fairbanks, AK, Farmington, NM, Jackson, MI, Muncie, IN, and Rapid City, SD).

Nonetheless, it is important to emphasize that the rate of reported forcible rape in Anchorage did decline from 2002 to 2003, by 5 percent. This decline in the rate of reported forcible rape in Anchorage from 2002 to 2003 can be attributed to two factors. First, the Anchorage population



increased from 2002 to 2003 (from 267,280 to 271,085). Second, there was a slight decline in the number of forcible rapes and attempted forcible rapes reported to the Anchorage Police Department from 2002 to 2003 (from 262 to 245). However, by 2004, the number of forcible rapes and attempted forcible rapes reported to the Anchorage Police Department increased to 263.

Furthermore, while the number of reported forcible rapes decreased from 2002 to 2003, the number of reported sexual assaults did not. These data on the number of forcible rapes and attempted forcible rapes reported to the Anchorage Police Department (“UCR-defined”) and the number of sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults reported to the Anchorage Police Department (“State-defined”) from 2000 to 2003 are shown in Table 1. As aforementioned, the number of forcible rapes and attempted forcible rapes reported to the Anchorage Police Department declined from 262 in 2002 to 245 in 2003 (a 7% decrease). However, during the same period, the number of sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults reported to the Anchorage Police Department increased from 75 to 109 (a 45% increase).

**Table 1. Types of Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2000-2003**

Type of report	2000		2001		2002		2003		Total 2000-2003*	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
UCR-defined rape	186	71.8 %	194	68.8 %	234	69.4 %	218	61.6 %	834	67.5 %
UCR-defined attempted rape	21	8.1	27	9.6	28	8.3	27	7.6	103	8.3
State-defined rape	50	19.3	56	19.9	71	21.1	99	28.0	277	22.4
State-defined attempted rape	2	0.8	5	1.8	4	1.2	10	2.8	21	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>		<b>282</b>		<b>337</b>		<b>354</b>		<b>1235</b>	

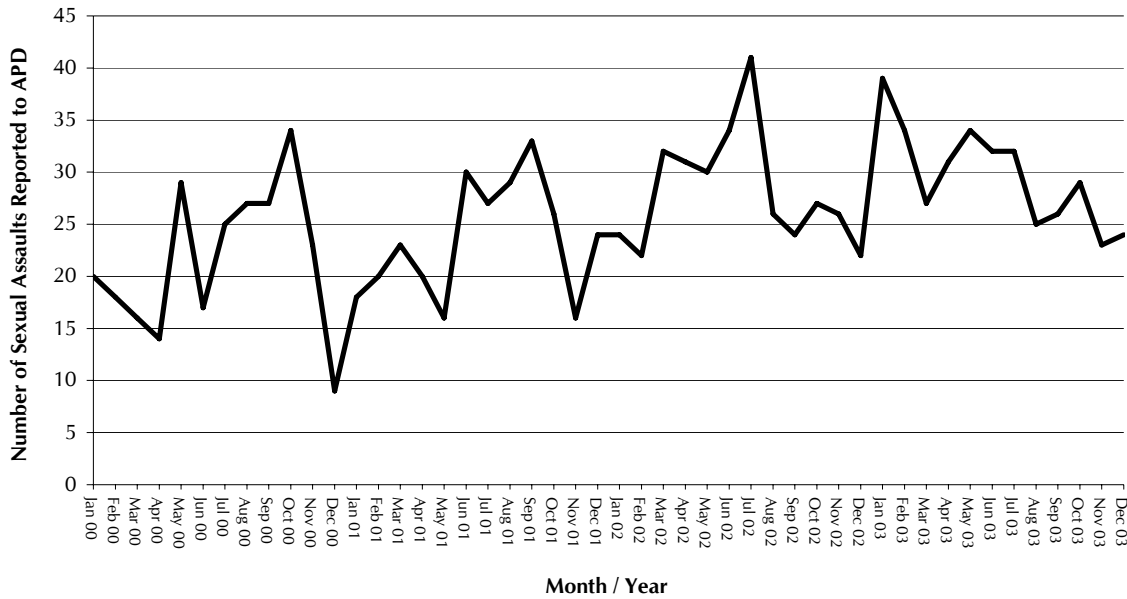
\* Row totals may differ from total per year due to missing year data for some cases.

*Source of data:* Anchorage Police Department

There is indeed a clear shift in the types of sexual assaults reported to the Anchorage Police Department from 2002 to 2003. While forcible rapes and attempted forcible rapes declined from 2002 to 2003, sexual assaults increased. Again, this report cannot in any way explain this shift. Our only goal in this brief descriptive report is to highlight some of the important changes in the nature of sexual assaults in Anchorage from 2000 to 2003.

Additional detail on the number of sexual assaults (including rapes) reported to the Anchorage Police Department is shown in Figure 2. This figure displays the number of sexual assaults reported to the Anchorage Police Department by month, from January 2000 to December 2003. Clear seasonal variations are present. The number of reported sexual assaults is generally higher in the summer and lower in the winter.

**Figure 2. Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to the Anchorage Police Department by Month: January 2000 to December 2003**



## II. The Current Study

Aware of possible changes in the nature of sexual assaults, albeit only anecdotally, the Anchorage Police Department and the Justice Center partnered to examine how these changes could be documented. A decision was made to keep our data collection instrument as brief as possible so as to document only some of the key changes in the nature of sexual assaults. A data collection instrument was created by the Justice Center to be used by the Anchorage Police Department. This was a true partnership in that the Justice Center covered all costs related to the creation of the data collection instrument, analysis, and report writing while the Anchorage Police Department covered all costs related to data entry. All data entry was performed by Anchorage Police Department clerks. These clerks included Jeannie Sanders, Mary Lee Collins, Sandra Smith, Bonnie Caladine, and Donna Monahan. The Anchorage Police Department and the Justice Center are sincerely grateful for their commitment to this project.

The data collection instrument used for the 2002/2003 update is shown in Appendix A. It was designed to capture very basic information on victims, suspects, and assaults. In this update, we summarize victim information (i.e., gender, age, race, and alcohol use), suspect information (i.e., gender, age, race, alcohol use, and relationship to victim), and assault information (i.e., offense type, report date, report time, and assault locations). Although additional information was recorded in our database, that information was deemed too unreliable to be reported and is hence excluded from this report.

Again, it is important to emphasize the limitations of this study. The key purpose of this study was to perform a quick update. While this update allows us to document some of the changes in the nature of sexual assaults in Anchorage, this update does not in any way provide a comprehensive look at the nature of sexual assaults in Anchorage. Furthermore, this update still relies on sexual assaults that were reported to the police and includes no information whatsoever from sexual assaults that were not reported to the police. Nationally, we know that only 37 percent of rapes are reported to police.

### III. Victim Information

From 2000 to 2003, we collected information on a total of 1,246 victims. Overall, 95.2 percent of victims were female and 4.8 percent were male (see Table 2). The gender of victims has not substantially changed from 2000 to 2003. The percentage of victims that were female varied from a low of 93.7 percent in 2001 to a high of 97.4 percent in 2000. In 2002 and 2003, the percentage of victims that were female was 95.0 percent and 94.9 percent, respectively.

**Table 2. Gender of Victims in Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2000-2003**

Row percentages.

Year	Female		Male		Total
	N	%	N	%	
2000	261	97.4 %	7	2.6 %	<b>268</b>
2001	266	93.7	18	6.3	<b>284</b>
2002	323	95.0	17	5.0	<b>340</b>
2003	336	94.9	18	5.1	<b>354</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>1246</b>

*Source of data: Anchorage Police Department*

Race of the victim was known for 1,221 victims (98% of victims). From 2000 to 2003, over 90 percent of victims were either White or Native, and little change was noted from 2000 to 2003 (see Table 3). However, the rates of victimization were significantly higher for Natives than for others, and steadily increased from 2000 to 2003. Over the four year period, the rate of sexual assault victims per 1,000 population was 625 percent higher for Natives than for Whites. In 2003, the rate of sexual assault victims per 1,000 population was 39 percent higher for Natives than it had been in 2000. Large increases in the rates of victimizations from 2000 to 2003 were also noted for Black victims. While the percentage of victims who are Black remains low (below 8%), the rate of sexual assault victims per 1,000 population was 87 percent higher for Blacks than it had been in 2000. Overall, from 2000 to 2003, the number of White sexual assault victims increased by 22

**Table 3. Race of Victims in Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2000-2003**

Race	percentage of Anchorage population, 2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000			2001			2002			2003			Total 2000-2003		
		N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>3</sup>
White	77.6 %	129	49.0 %	0.64	125	45.1 %	0.62	145	43.5 %	0.72	157	45.1 %	0.78	556	45.5 %	2.77
Native	10.6	112	42.6	4.09	131	47.3	4.78	151	45.3	5.51	156	44.8	5.70	550	45.0	20.08
Black	7.2	14	5.3	0.75	13	4.7	0.70	22	6.6	1.19	26	7.5	1.40	75	6.1	4.04
Hispanic	6.0	4	1.5	0.26	4	1.4	0.26	6	1.8	0.39	3	0.9	0.19	17	1.4	1.10
Asian	7.3	4	1.5	0.21	4	1.4	0.21	9	2.7	0.48	5	1.4	0.26	22	1.8	1.17
Pacific Islander	1.3	0	0.0	0.00	0	0.0	0.00	0	0.0	0.00	1	0.3	0.30	1	0.1	0.30
<b>Total</b>		<b>263</b>			<b>277</b>			<b>333</b>			<b>348</b>			<b>1221</b>		

1 Includes both males and females (95.2% of victims were female), categories are not mutually exclusive.  
 2 Number of victims per 1,000 population per year. Population estimates are 2001 estimates and include both males and females (95.2% of victims were female).  
 3 Number of victims per 1,000 population. Rate is computed as a four-year rate. To obtain average annual rates, divide by four. Population estimates are 2001 estimates and include both males and females.

Source of data: Anchorage Police Department & U.S. Census

percent, the number of Native victims increased by 39 percent, and the number of Black victims increased by 86 percent. We conclude that sexual assault victimizations generally increased in all racial groups, but particularly among Natives and Blacks. Although the number of Black victims remains low (relative to White and Native victims), their rates of victimization are increasing rapidly.

Age of the victim was known for 1,243 victims (99.8% of victims). From 2000 to 2003, 11.0 percent of victims were 14 years old or younger, 25.3 percent were 15 to 19 years old, 17.0 percent were 20 to 24 years old, 20.0 percent were 25 to 34 years old, 17.7 percent were 35 to 44 years old, and 9.1 percent were 45 years old or older (see Table 4). The rates of sexual assault victims per 1,000 population were highest for 15 to 19 year olds and 20 to 24 year olds. Some changes in age of victims were noted from 2000 to 2003. Although the number of reported sexual assaults increased from 2000 to 2003 for all age groups (except 55 or older), large changes were noted for victims 14 years old or younger and victims 45 to 54 years old. The number of victims 14 years old or younger increased from 2000 to 2003 by 92 percent and the number of victims 45 to 54

**Table 4. Age of Victims in Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2000-2003**

Race	Percentage of Anchorage population, 2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000			2001			2002			2003			Total 2000-2003		
		N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>3</sup>
14 or less	24.8 %	24	9.0 %	0.38	25	8.8 %	0.39	42	12.4 %	0.66	46	13.0 %	0.72	137	11.0 %	2.15
15 to 19	7.9	68	25.5	3.33	77	27.2	3.77	87	25.6	4.26	82	23.2	4.02	314	25.3	15.38
20 to 24	6.3	55	20.6	3.39	33	11.7	2.03	56	16.5	3.45	67	19.0	4.12	211	17.0	12.99
25 to 34	14.5	56	21.0	1.50	67	23.7	1.79	56	16.5	1.50	69	19.5	1.84	248	20.0	6.63
35 to 44	17.9	45	16.9	0.98	53	18.7	1.15	71	20.9	1.54	51	14.4	1.11	220	17.7	4.77
45 to 54	15.6	14	5.2	0.35	21	7.4	0.52	24	7.1	0.60	33	9.3	0.82	92	7.4	2.29
55 or older	13.0	5	1.9	0.15	7	2.5	0.21	4	1.2	0.12	5	1.4	0.15	21	1.7	0.63
<b>Total</b>		<b>267</b>			<b>283</b>			<b>340</b>			<b>353</b>			<b>1243</b>		

1 Includes both males and females (95.2% of victims were female), categories are not mutually exclusive.  
 2 Number of victims per 1,000 population per year. Population estimates are 2001 estimates and include both males and females (95.2% of victims were female).  
 3 Number of victims per 1,000 population. Rate is computed as a four-year rate. To obtain average annual rates, divide by four. Population estimates are 2001 estimates include both males and females.

Source of data: Anchorage Police Department & U.S. Census

years of age increased by 136 percent. We conclude that 15 to 24 year olds continue to display the highest rates of victimization. However, the number of young victims (14 years of age or less) and the number of victims between 45 and 54 years of age are increasing rapidly.

Alcohol use by victims of sexual assaults continues to be frequent (see Table 5). Overall, from 2001 to 2003, 65.3 percent of victims had used alcohol prior to the assault and 34.7 percent had not (data on victim alcohol use were not collected in 2000). The percentage of sexual assaults that involved alcohol use by the victim has slightly increased from 2001 to 2003. In 2001, 62.3 percent of victims had used alcohol. In 2002, 63.6 percent of victims had used alcohol. By 2003, 69.8 percent of victims had used alcohol. From 2001 to 2003, the percentage of victims who used alcohol prior to the assault increased by 12 percent.

**Table 5. Alcohol Use by Victims of Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2001-2003**

Row percentages.

Year	Alcohol use		No alcohol use		Total
	N	%	N	%	
2001	167	62.3 %	101	37.7 %	<b>268</b>
2002	171	63.6	98	36.4	<b>269</b>
2003	194	69.8	84	30.2	<b>278</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>815</b>

*Source of data: Anchorage Police Department*

#### **IV. Suspect Information**

The gender of suspects has remained relatively constant from 2000 to 2003 (see Table 6). From 2000 to 2003, 99.5 percent of suspects were male (and 0.5% were female). The number of female suspects varied from a low of one (in 2002) to a high of two (in 2000, 2001, and 2003).

From 2000 to 2003, the most common suspect was White (see Table 7). Among known suspects from 2000 to 2003, 39.6 percent were White, 22.3 percent were Native, 26.1 percent were Black, 7.8 percent were Hispanic, 3.8 percent were Asian, and 0.3 percent were Pacific Islander. The rates

**Table 6. Gender of Suspects in Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2000-2003**

Row percentages.

Year	Male		Female		Total
	N	%	N	%	
2000	306	99.4 %	2	0.6 %	<b>308</b>
2001	318	99.4	2	0.6	<b>320</b>
2002	373	99.7	1	0.3	<b>374</b>
2003	380	99.5	2	0.5	<b>382</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1377</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1384</b>

*Source of data: Anchorage Police Department*

**Table 7. Race of Suspects in Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2000-2003**

Race	Percentage of Anchorage population, 2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000			2001			2002			2003			Total 2000-2003		
		N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>3</sup>
White	77.6 %	126	46.0 %	0.63	100	34.1 %	0.50	131	40.4 %	0.65	126	38.4 %	0.63	483	39.6 %	2.40
Native	10.6	56	20.4	2.04	70	23.9	2.56	61	18.8	2.23	85	25.9	3.10	272	22.3	9.93
Black	7.2	56	20.4	3.02	81	27.6	4.36	95	29.3	5.12	87	26.5	4.69	319	26.2	17.18
Hispanic	6.0	22	8.0	1.43	23	7.8	1.49	26	8.0	1.69	24	7.3	1.56	95	7.8	6.16
Asian	7.3	13	4.7	0.69	17	5.8	0.90	10	3.1	0.53	6	1.8	0.32	46	3.8	2.44
Pacific Islander	1.3	1	0.4	0.30	2	0.7	0.60	1	0.3	0.30	0	0.0	0.00	4	0.3	1.20
<b>Total</b>		<b>274</b>			<b>293</b>			<b>324</b>			<b>328</b>			<b>1219</b>		

1 Includes both males and females (99.5% of suspects were male), categories are not mutually exclusive.

2 Number of suspects per 1,000 population per year. Population estimates are 2001 estimates and include both males and females (99.5% of suspects were male).

3 Number of suspects per 1,000 population. Rate is computed as a four-year rate. To obtain average annual rates, divide by four. Population estimates are 2001 estimates and include both males and females.

Source of data: Anchorage Police Department & U.S. Census

of sexual assault suspects per 1,000 population were highest among Blacks (17.18 per 1,000). The number of sexual assault suspects in each racial group by year appears to be somewhat volatile. It is difficult to find definitive trends in these numbers. Comparing 2003 to 2000 only, the number of White suspects did not change, the number of Native suspects increased by 52 percent, the number of Black suspects increased by 55 percent, the number of Hispanic suspects increased by 9 percent, the number of Asian suspects decreased by 54 percent, and the number of Pacific Islander suspects decreased by 100 percent (from one to zero). Given the volatility of the trends shown in Table 7b, it is difficult to conclude that these changes are due to true changes in the nature of sexual assaults. Instead, it is likely that these are just chance variations (e.g., based on differences in reporting). The only things that we can reasonably conclude is that in all years, the most common suspect was White and that the rates of sexual assault suspects per 1,000 population were highest for Blacks.

Age of suspects is shown in Table 8. From 2000 to 2003, the most common suspect was 25 to 34 years old. The rate of sexual assault suspects per 1,000 population was highest for 20 to 24 year olds. Generally speaking, suspects were of varied ages, with 93 percent between the ages of

**Table 8. Age of Suspects in Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2000-2003**

Race	Percentage of Anchorage population, 2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000			2001			2002			2003			Total 2000-2003		
		N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	N	%	Rate <sup>3</sup>
14 or less	24.8 %	6	3.2 %	0.09	3	1.4 %	0.05	8	2.8 %	0.13	14	5.2 %	0.22	31	3.3 %	0.49
15 to 19	7.9	36	19.4	1.76	31	14.9	1.52	44	15.5	2.16	47	17.4	2.30	158	16.7	7.74
20 to 24	6.3	32	17.2	1.97	38	18.3	2.34	43	15.1	2.65	28	10.4	1.72	141	14.9	8.68
25 to 34	14.5	47	25.3	1.26	58	27.9	1.55	89	31.3	2.38	64	23.7	1.71	258	27.2	6.90
35 to 44	17.9	44	23.7	0.95	49	23.6	1.06	51	18.0	1.11	68	25.2	1.47	212	22.4	4.60
45 to 54	15.6	15	8.1	0.37	24	11.5	0.60	34	12.0	0.84	37	13.7	0.92	110	11.6	2.73
55 or older	13.0	6	3.2	0.18	5	2.4	0.15	15	5.3	0.45	12	4.4	0.36	38	4.0	1.14
<b>Total</b>		<b>186</b>			<b>208</b>			<b>284</b>			<b>270</b>			<b>948</b>		

1 Includes both males and females (99.5% of suspects were male), categories are not mutually exclusive.

2 Number of suspects per 1,000 population per year. Population estimates are 2001 estimates and include both males and females (99.5% of suspects were male).

3 Number of suspects per 1,000 population. Rate is computed as a four-year rate. To obtain average annual rates, divide by four. Population estimates are 200 estimates and include both males and females.

Source of data: Anchorage Police Department & U.S. Census

15 and 54. It is again difficult to summarize trends in suspect characteristics from 2000 to 2003. The age of suspects from 2000 to 2003 appears to display a volatile trend, increasing in some years for some age groups while decreasing in the following years for the same age groups. The most common suspect from 2000 to 2002 was between the ages of 25 to 34. In 2003, however, the most common suspect was between the ages of 35 to 44. While the rates of suspects per 1,000 population were highest from 2000 to 2002 for 20 to 24 year olds, the rate of suspects per 1,000 population was highest in 2003 for 19 to 19 year olds. In all years, over 75 percent of suspects were between the ages of 15 and 44.

Alcohol use by suspects continues to be frequent (see Table 9), although it has slightly declined from 2001 to 2003 (data on suspect alcohol use were not collected in 2000). From 2001 to 2003, the percentage of suspects that had used alcohol prior to the assault declined by 6 percent, from 76.2 percent to 72.0 percent. Overall, 73.7 percent of suspects had used alcohol prior to the assault.

**Table 9. Alcohol Use by Suspects of Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2001-2003**

Row percentages.

Year	Alcohol use		No alcohol use		Total
	N	%	N	%	
2001	157	76.2	49	23.8	<b>206</b>
2002	152	72.7	57	27.3	<b>209</b>
2003	136	72.0	53	28.0	<b>189</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>604</b>

Source of data: Anchorage Police Department

Most victims were assaulted by non-strangers (see Table 10). 62.2 percent of victims from 2001 to 2003 were assaulted by non-strangers (data on victim-suspect relationship were not collected in 2000). Among these non-stranger assaults, suspects included acquaintances (51.2%), friends (20.9%), family members (12.9%), and intimate partners (15.0%). Victims were assaulted by strangers in 37.8 percent of the cases. The number of stranger cases has clearly declined from 2001 to 2003. More specifically, the number of stranger assaults has declined by 21 percent. At the

**Table 10. Victim-Offender Relationship in Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year: 2001-2003**

Relationship	2001			2002			2003			Total 2001-2003		
	N	% of total	% of non-stranger	N	% of total	% of non-stranger	N	% of total	% of non-stranger	N	% of total	% of non-stranger
<b>Total non-stranger</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>55.7 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>63.1 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>67.3 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>62.2 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
Acquaintance	77	23.7	42.5	112	30.9	48.9	141	40.4	60.0	330	31.8	51.2
Friend	49	15.1	27.1	52	14.3	22.7	34	9.7	14.5	135	13.0	20.9
Family	20	6.2	11.0	22	6.1	9.6	41	11.7	17.4	83	8.0	12.9
Intimate	35	10.8	19.3	43	11.8	18.8	19	5.4	8.1	97	9.4	15.0
<b>Stranger</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>			<b>363</b>			<b>349</b>			<b>1037</b>		

Source of data: Anchorage Police Department & U.S. Census

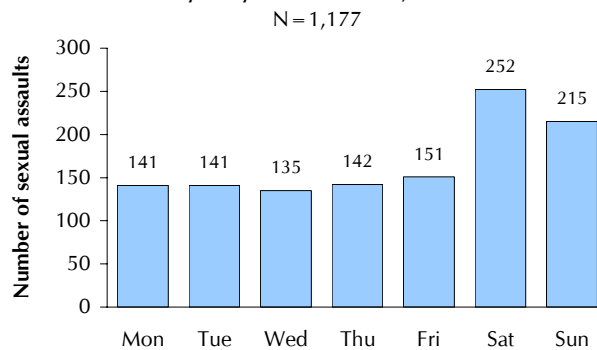


same time, the number of non-stranger assaults increased by 30 percent. Increases in non-stranger assaults were particularly important between acquaintances and family members. The number of sexual assaults between acquaintances steadily increased from 2001 to 2003 by 83 percent while the number of sexual assaults between family members steadily increased from 2001 to 2003 by 105 percent. The number of sexual assaults between friends and intimate partners both increased from 2001 to 2002, but decreased from 2002 to 2003. Overall, there is a clear shift in the victim-offender relationship status in sexual assaults reported to the Anchorage Police Department from 2001 to 2003. While the number of stranger assaults has decreased, the number of non-stranger assaults has increased, particularly between acquaintances and family members. By 2003, sexual assaults between acquaintances became more prevalent than sexual assaults between strangers.

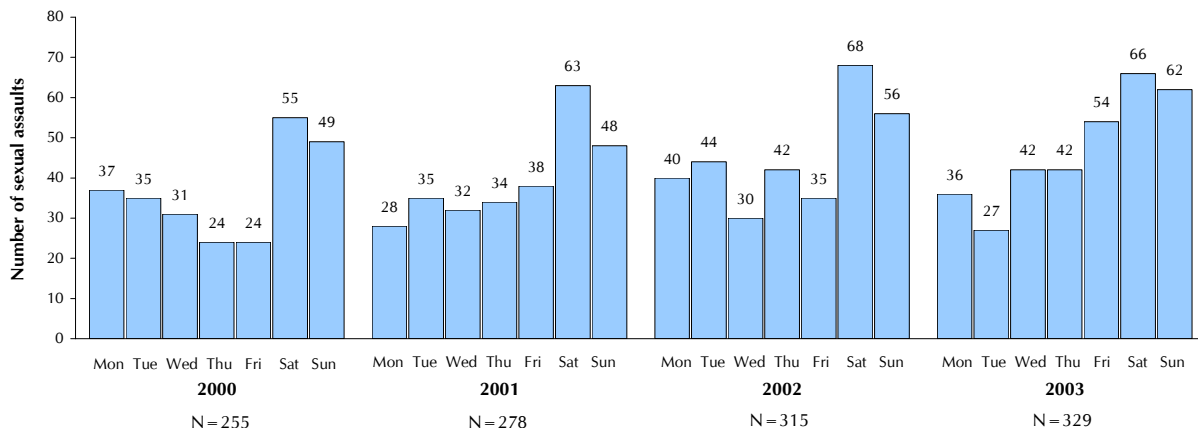
**V. Assault Information**

Days on which sexual assaults were reported to the Anchorage Police Department are shown in Figures 3a and 3b. From 2000 to 2003, the most common day to report a sexual assault to police

**Figure 3a. Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police by Day of the Week, 2000-2003**



**Figure 3b. Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year and Day of the Week, 2000-2003**





was Saturday. The second most common day was Sunday. This was true for all years, from 2000 to 2003. In all years, at least 50 percent of sexual assaults were reported on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

The time at which sexual assaults were reported to the Anchorage Police Department are shown in Figures 4a and 4b. From 2000 to 2003, the most common time to report a sexual assault to police was 3 AM. 42 percent of sexual assaults were reported between the hours of midnight and 4 AM and 59 percent between the hours of 10 PM and 5 AM. Again, few differences were found by year (see Figure 4b). In all years, more than 50 percent of sexual assaults were reported between the hours of 10 PM and 5 AM.

From 2000 to 2001, the most common assault locations were private residences (see Table 11). 45.4 percent of sexual assaults occurred either in the suspect’s house or the victim’s house. Another 11.0 percent occurred in someone else’s house. Almost 20 percent occurred outdoors. Changes from 2000 to 2003 are also shown in Table 11. Once again, there does not appear to be

**Figure 4a. Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police  
by Time of Assault, 2000-2003**  
N = 868

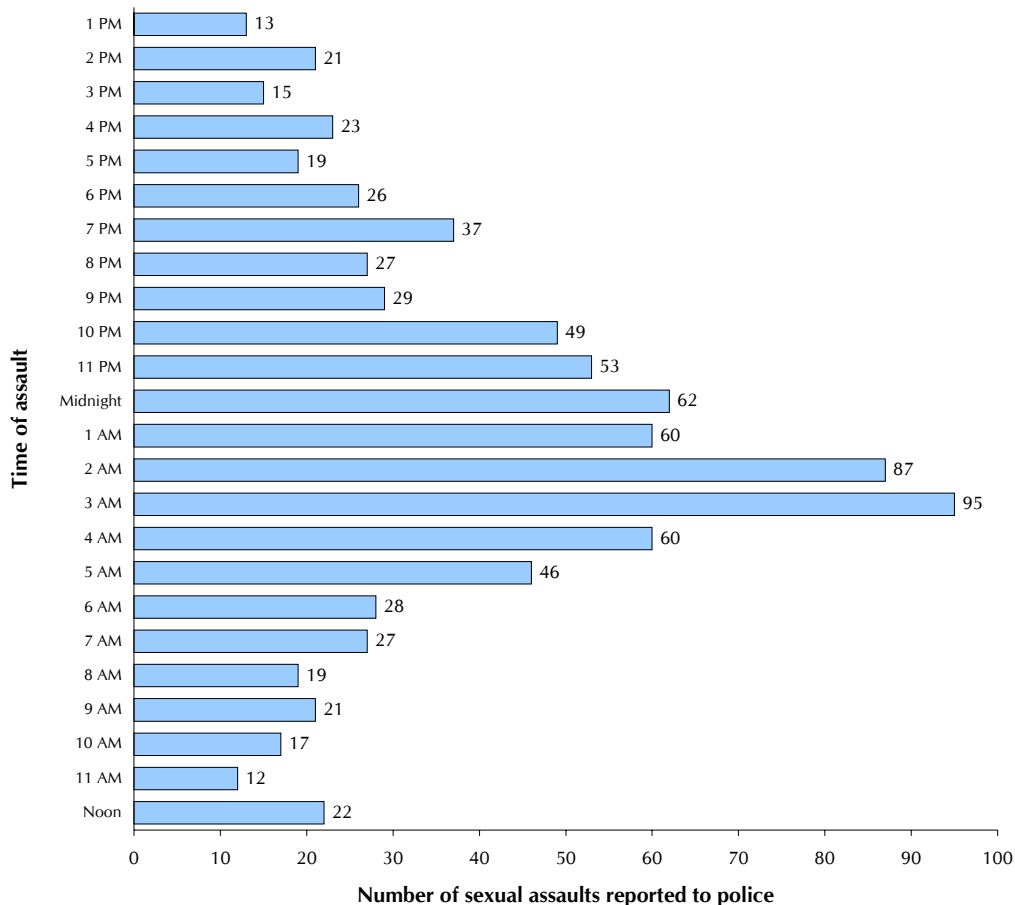
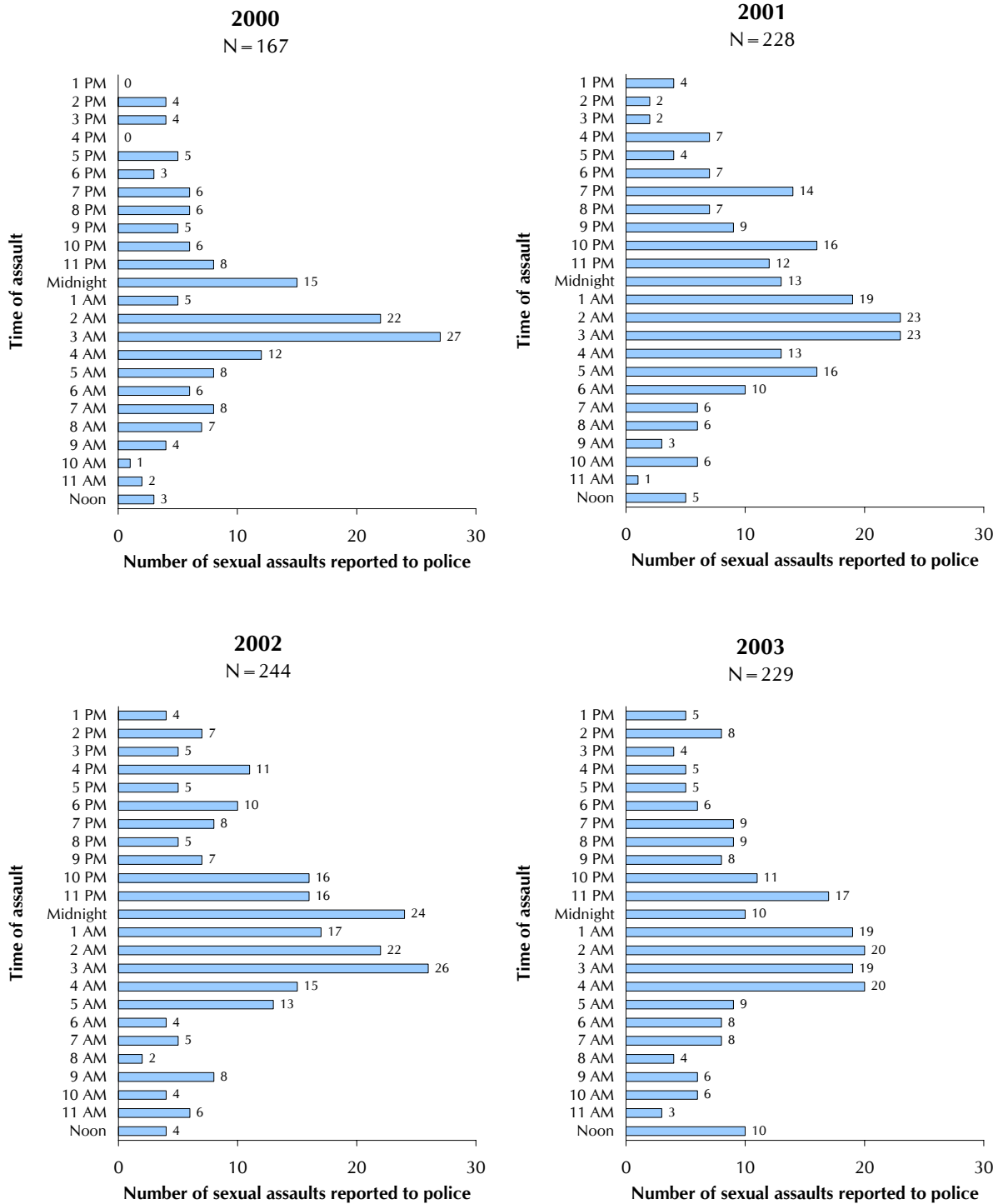


Figure 4b. Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police by Year and Time of Assault: 2000-2003



a discernible pattern from 2000 to 2003. Although the assault locations do change from year to year, they do not appear to change in a consistent pattern. In all years, over 50 percent of sexual assaults occurred in private residences (i.e., suspect’s house, victim’s house, victim and suspect’s house, or other’s house). The number of sexual assaults occurring outdoors increased from 2000 to 2001, but has steadily declined since 2001.

**Table 11. Assault Location Type for Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police by Year: 2000-2003**

Location	2000		2001		2002		2003		Total 2000-2003	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Victim's house	62	22.4 %	67	21.8 %	60	17.7 %	61	17.1 %	250	70.0 %
Suspect's house	61	22.0	60	19.5	61	18.0	74	20.7	256	71.7
Victim and suspect's house	6	2.2	9	2.9	33	9.7	27	7.6	75	21.0
Other's house	34	12.3	24	7.8	43	12.7	40	11.2	141	39.5
Hotel	18	6.5	39	12.7	18	5.3	27	7.6	102	28.6
Bar	1	0.4	0	0.0	12	3.5	0	0.0	13	3.6
Outdoors	56	20.2	74	24.0	63	18.6	57	16.0	250	70.0
Other	21	7.6	11	3.6	26	7.7	53	14.8	111	31.1
Unknown	18	6.5	24	7.8	23	6.8	18	5.0	83	23.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>		<b>308</b>		<b>339</b>		<b>357</b>		<b>1281</b>	

*Source of data: Anchorage Police Department*

We now turn to where sexual assaults occurred within the Municipality of Anchorage. These data are shown in Table 12 as well as in Figures 5a and 5b. Sexual assault locations are clearly not distributed equally across all community councils in Anchorage (see Table 12). From 2000 to 2003, the community councils with the highest number of reported sexual assaults included Spenard and Fairview. From 2000 to 2003, over 200 sexual assaults (25%) occurred in Spenard or Fairview. From 2000 to 2003, Spenard and Fairview were consistently the two community councils with the highest number of reported sexual assaults. However, the number of sexual assaults in the Downtown community council has rapidly increased from 2000 to 2003. More specifically, from 2000 to 2003, the number of sexual assaults occurring in the Downtown community council increased by 144 percent (from nine in 2000 to 22 in 2003). Persistent increases from 2000 to 2003 were also found in Abbott Loop (160% increase), Airport Heights (157% increase), Sand Lake (33% increase), and University Area (78% increase). However, the number of sexual assaults in these community councils is still significantly lower than the number of sexual assaults in the Spenard, Fairview, and Downtown community councils.

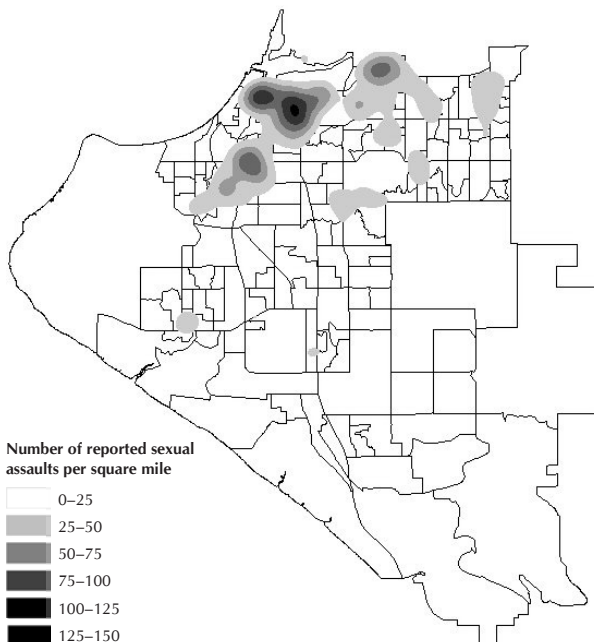
More precise information on the location of sexual assaults is shown in Figures 5a and 5b. Results from these maps may not match the data presented in Table 12 because Table 12 show the number of sexual assaults within each community council, but do not describe the extent to which sexual assaults are spatially concentrated within those community councils or the extent to which sexual assaults are spatially concentrated across neighboring community councils. So

**Table 12. Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police by Community Council and Year: 2000-2003**

Community council	2000		2001		2002		2003		Total 2000-2003	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Abbott Loop	5	2.9 %	6	3.3 %	11	4.5 %	13	5.3 %	35	4.1 %
Airport Heights	7	4.1	7	3.8	15	6.1	18	7.3	47	5.6
Basher	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Bayshore/Klatt	7	4.1	4	2.2	4	1.6	4	1.6	19	2.3
Bear Valley	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Campbell Park	2	1.2	6	3.3	11	4.5	6	2.4	25	3.0
Downtown	9	5.3	16	8.7	18	7.3	22	9.0	65	7.7
Fairview	20	11.8	18	9.8	35	14.3	30	12.2	103	12.2
Glen Alps	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Glen Alps	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Government Hill	1	0.6	6	3.3	2	0.8	1	0.4	10	1.2
Hillside East	1	0.6	4	2.2	0	0.0	2	0.8	7	0.8
Huffman/O'Malley	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.2	1	0.4	4	0.5
Mid-Hillside	0	0.0	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4	2	0.2
Mountain View	13	7.6	12	6.5	15	6.1	14	5.7	54	6.4
North Star	11	6.5	8	4.3	7	2.9	9	3.7	35	4.1
Northeast	19	11.2	12	6.5	22	9.0	22	9.0	75	8.9
Old Seward/Oceanview	1	0.6	3	1.6	2	0.8	2	0.8	8	0.9
Rabbit Creek	1	0.6	0	0.0	3	1.2	1	0.4	5	0.6
Rogers Park	1	0.6	0	0.0	2	0.8	2	0.8	5	0.6
Russian Jack Park	10	5.9	14	7.6	13	5.3	14	5.7	51	6.0
Sand Lake	9	5.3	10	5.4	13	5.3	12	4.9	44	5.2
Scenic Foothills	1	0.6	1	0.5	2	0.8	2	0.8	6	0.7
South Addition	3	1.8	8	4.3	9	3.7	4	1.6	24	2.8
Spenard	25	14.7	23	12.5	29	11.8	31	12.7	108	12.8
Taku/Campbell	8	4.7	8	4.3	7	2.9	11	4.5	34	4.0
Tudor Area	1	0.6	2	1.1	1	0.4	3	1.2	7	0.8
Turnagain	5	2.9	5	2.7	8	3.3	4	1.6	22	2.6
University Area	9	5.3	10	5.4	13	5.3	16	6.5	48	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>		<b>184</b>		<b>245</b>		<b>245</b>		<b>844</b>	

Source of data: Anchorage Police Department

**Figure 5a. Locations of Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, 2000-2003**



again, spatial concentrations (shown in maps) are different than spatial counts (shown in Table 12).

Results from the maps indicate that from 2000 to 2003, sexual assaults were spatially concentrated in at least four areas (see Figure 5a). The center of these spatial concentrations were found to be in Downtown, Fairview, Spenard, and Mountain View. More specifically, strong spatial concentrations were found (approximately) at the corners of 5th and E (in Downtown), Gambell and 9th (in Fairview), Northern Lights and Spenard (in Spenard), and North Bragaw and Peterkin (in Mountain View). From 2000 to 2003, clear shifts in the centers of spatial concentrations

Figure 5b. Locations of Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police, by Year, 2000-2003

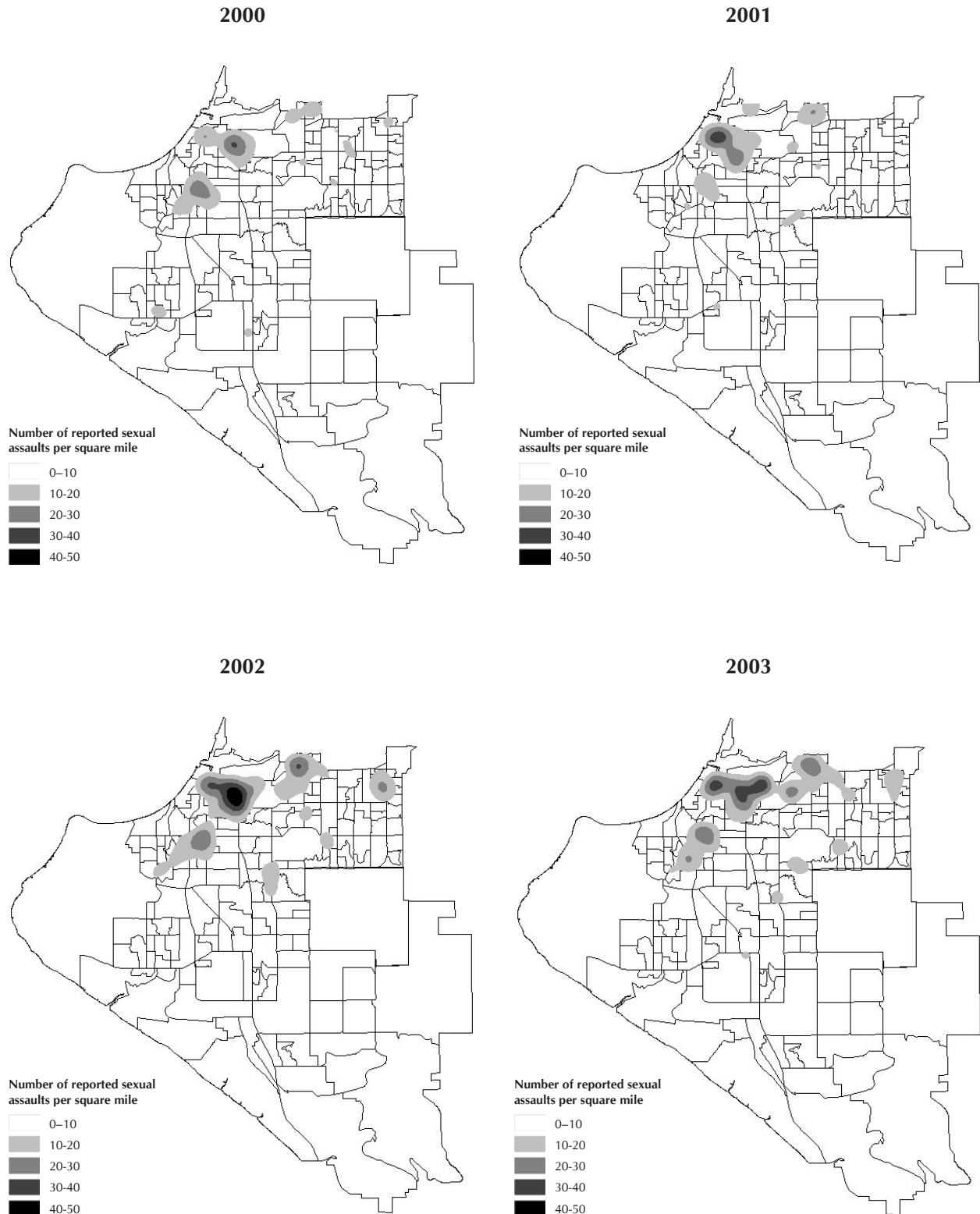
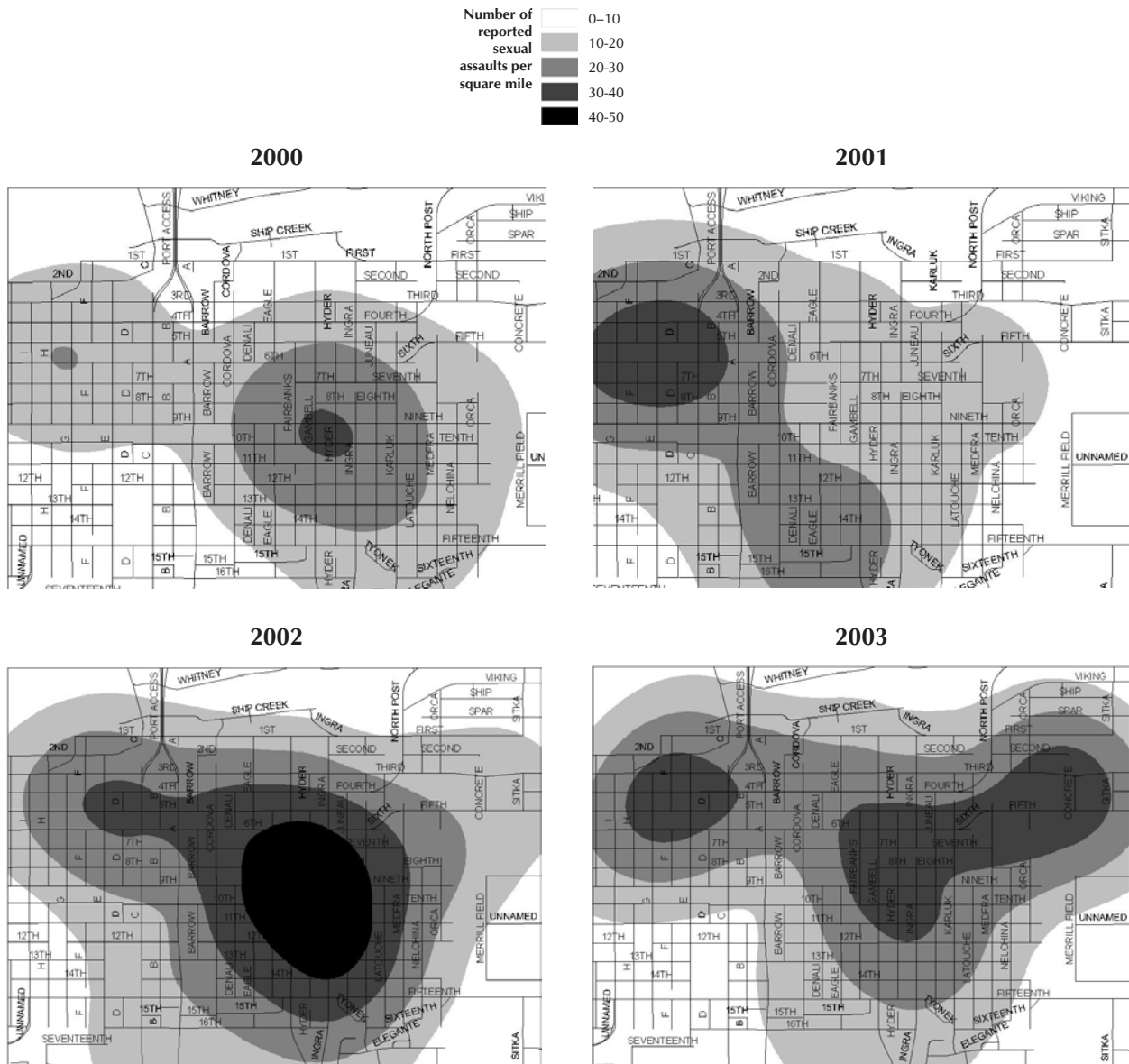


Figure 6. Locations of Sexual Assaults Reported to Anchorage Police in Downtown / Fairview Area, by Year: 2000-2003



were found (see Figure 5b). In addition, the extent to which sexual assault locations were spatially clustered varied from 2000 to 2003 (although significant spatial clustering existed in all years). Sexual assaults were most spatially concentrated in 2002 and least spatially concentrated in 2000. In 2000, small spatial concentrations were found in Fairview and Spenard. By 2001, the primary spatial concentration was found in Downtown. That primary spatial concentration extended into the southwestern corner of Fairview. By 2001, the spatial concentration in Spenard became less prevalent while the spatial concentration in Mountain View became slightly more prevalent. In 2002, a very strong spatial concentration appeared in Fairview. By 2003, this spatial concentration

became less focused and dissipated into the southwestern corner of Mountain View. Details on the specific locations of spatial concentrations in the Downtown and Fairview community councils are shown in Figure 6.

## **Conclusion**

From 2000 to 2003, Anchorage continues to display high rates of sexual assaults. The rates of reported forcible rape are still significantly higher than national rates. Nonetheless, the number of reported forcible rapes and attempted forcible rapes did decline slightly from 2002 to 2003, by 7 percent. Unfortunately, the number of reported sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults increased significantly from 2002 to 2003, by 45 percent. This increase may be due to a true increase in the number of sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults, an increase in reporting to police, or both. Seasonal variations in sexual assaults continue to be present, with more sexual assaults being reported in the summer months than in the winter months.

The current study was designed to document these changing patterns by examining whether victim, suspect, and assault profiles changed from 2000 to 2003. Only key characteristics of victims, suspects, and assaults were examined. Consequently, this does not provide a comprehensive assessment of the changing nature of sexual assault, but simply provides an overview of some key changes. Furthermore, this updated report still relies exclusively on sexual assaults that were reported to police and includes no information from sexual assaults not reported to police. National estimates show that 63.3 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to police.

Some key victim characteristics remained constant from 2000 to 2003. More specifically, most victims continue to be White or Native females and Native victims continue to be vastly overrepresented. Sexual assault victimizations generally increased among all racial groups. However, sexual assault victimizations increased particularly for Natives and Blacks. From 2000 to 2003, the number of sexual assault victimizations increased by 39 percent for Natives and by 86 percent for Blacks. Rates of sexual assault victimizations continue to be highest for 15 to 24 year olds. But the number of young victims (14 years of age or less) has increased by 92 percent and the number of victims 45 to 54 years of age has increased by 136 percent. Alcohol use by victims continues to be frequent (with over 62% using alcohol in each year from 2001 to 2003) and has slightly increased by 12 percent from 2001 to 2003.

The vast majority of suspects continue to be male and the most common suspect continues to be White. The rates of sexual assault suspects per 1,000 population continue to be highest among Blacks. Suspects continued to be of varied ages, with over 75 percent in each year between the ages of 15 and 44. Similar to victim alcohol use, suspect alcohol use continues to be frequent, with over 72 percent using alcohol in each year from 2001 to 2003. Key changes were noted



in the relationship between the victim and suspect. From 2001 to 2003, the number of stranger assaults declined by 21 percent while the number of non-stranger assaults increased by 30 percent. The number of non-stranger assaults increased primarily because of increases in sexual assaults between acquaintances and between family members.

The majority of sexual assaults (over 50%) are still occurring in private residences. These private residences included the victim's house, the suspect's house, the victim and suspect's house, and others' houses. Days and times of assaults remained fairly constant from year to year, with over 80 percent of sexual assaults reported on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays, and over 50 percent reported between 10 PM and 5 AM. From 2000 to 2003, Spenard and Fairview were consistently the two community councils with the highest number of reported sexual assaults (accounting for 25% of all sexual assaults in Anchorage). However, the number of sexual assaults occurring in the Downtown community council increased from 2000 to 2003 by 144 percent. Furthermore, the specific locations of spatial concentrations of reported sexual assaults clearly shifted from year to year, both within and across community councils. Geographically based interventions must clearly take into account this mobility of sexual assault concentrations.

Indeed, these changes emphasize the need for malleable responses to sexual assaults. As aforementioned, sexual assault programs must not be static, since the nature of sexual assault apparently changes over time. Unfortunately, it is likely that the nature of sexual assault has changed again since these data were collected. As such, this update clearly does not provide a current description of sexual assaults in Anchorage. It would be desirable to develop a monitoring program that could provide agencies current information about sexual assaults in Anchorage. Real-time information would be desirable as it would allow agencies to modify their responses based on empirical up-to-date information.



# Appendix A

## Data Collection Instrument for 2002/2003 Update


Microsoft Access - [fReprt : Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

**REPORT INFORMATION**

Report Number:  Offense:  Report Date:   
 Sart Number:  Report Time:



**VICTIM INFORMATION**

Gender:  Age:   
 Race:  Address:   
 Alcohol / Drug Use:

**SUSPECT INFORMATION**

Gender:  Age:   
 Race:  Address:   
 Alcohol / Drug Use:  Relationship to Victim:

Record:  1 of 1

**PICK-UP INFORMATION**

Pickup Address:   
 Pickup Location:   
 Pickup Method:

**NOTES**

**ASSAULT INFORMATION**

Assault Date	Assault Time	Assault Address	Assault Location
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Record:  218 of 218

Form View NUM