



## **Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assault Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2003-2004**

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and

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## **Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assault Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2003-2004**

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## **Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assault Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2003-2004**

### **Executive Summary**

This project examined the characteristics of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor incidents reported to the Alaska State Troopers (AST). The sample utilized for this analysis included all sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor incidents reported from January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004. It included information from 989 reports, 1,903 charges, 1,050 suspects, 1,082 victims, and 771 witnesses. We also examined the legal resolutions for all sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor reports from our sample. This descriptive analysis documents the characteristics of these reports, suspects, victims, incidents, witnesses, and legal resolutions. Key results are summarized below.

#### **Report Characteristics**

C Detachment and the Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI) handled over three-fourths of all sexual assault reports. Two units alone, Bethel Enforcement (17%) and Palmer Investigation (8%) handled 25% of all reported sexual assaults during 2003-2004. Most sexual assault cases reported to AST (61%) were referred for prosecution consideration. On average, it took 18 weeks to close a case ( $s = 23$ ). Half of the cases were closed within 8 weeks, and 75% were closed within 24 weeks of being reported. AST received 86% of the initial complaints to law enforcement, 7% were reported to a VPSO, and 7% to a VPO. The most common forms of evidence collected were physical evidence from the victim and victim sexual assault evidence collection kits, collected in 22% and 20% of cases respectively. Search warrants were obtained in 36% of cases and 13% of cases had two or more search warrants. Reports typically included multiple sexual assault charges, but included multiple victims, suspects, and witnesses less often. Of all sexual assault reports to Alaska State Troopers, 47% included at least one witness.

#### **Suspect Characteristics**

The identity of most suspects (90%) was known by AST. Most suspects (97%) were male, and either Native (59%) or White (37%). On average, suspects were 29 years old ( $s = 13$ ), with 22% between 16 and 20 years of age, 25% between 21 and 30 years of age, 20% between 31 and 40 years of age, and 13% between 41 and 50 years of age. Forty-three percent of suspects used alcohol, but only 7% had used drugs. Only one-fourth of suspects were present upon trooper arrival. Overall, 77% of suspects were interviewed and 86% of the interviews were tape recorded. Of those interviewed, 57% were interviewed within one week of the report, 80% interviewed within one month of the report, and 97% were interviewed within one year of the report. Most suspect interviews (77%) were internally consistent. On average each suspect received 1.83 charges ( $s = 1.84$ ), including an average of 1.56 sexual assault charges ( $s = 1.47$ ) and an

average of 0.26 non-sexual assault charges ( $s = 0.99$ ). The most common non-sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor charges included assault, burglary, and kidnapping.

### **Victim Characteristics**

Most victims (89%) were female, and either Native (61%) or White (38%). On average, victims were 16.2 years old ( $s = 10.81$ ), with 80% of victims under the age of 21. More specifically, 11% of victims were 5 years of age or younger, 25% were six to 12 years old, 29% were 13 to 15 years old, and 16% were 16 to 20 years old. Only 27% of victims had used alcohol, and only 5% had used drugs. The most common type of injury reported was general physical pain (19%). Evidence of penetration was obtained for 17% of victims. Twenty-six percent of victims received a SART exam and 80% of victims cooperated with AST throughout the investigative process. Overall, 96% of victims were interviewed. Of those interviewed, 48% were interviewed on the day of the report, 80% within one week of the report, and 92% within one month of the report. Eighty-six percent of the interviews were tape recorded and 91% of the interviews took place in person. Lastly, 85% of the victim interviews were internally consistent.

### **Victim-Suspect Characteristics**

From the 989 reports, we collected information on 1,138 unique victim-suspect combinations. Nearly half (46%) of the reported incidents involved friends and acquaintances, 35% involved family members, 12% involved current or former partners, 4% involved a suspect that was an authority figure to the victims, and only 2% involved complete strangers. The vast majority of incidents were intra-racial (87%), with 91% of Native victims and 94% of Native suspects reporting involvement in an intra-racial incident. Comparatively, the proportion of White victims (84%) and White suspects (87%) involved in intra-racial incidents was only slightly lower than that of Native victims and Native suspects. Most victims (71%) were not living with the alleged suspect at the time of the assault.

### **Incident Characteristics**

Of the 1,903 charges, 86% were for sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor in the first, second, third, and fourth degrees. Thirty-four percent of the incidents had documented alcohol use (by either or both the victim and suspect), 32% did not involve any substance use, 29% had substance use documented as unknown, 4% involved drug use, and 2% involved both drug and alcohol use. Eighty-six percent of the incidents occurred in private residences. Beyond using their hands/arms to restrain or strike victims, suspects almost never used weapons prior to or during the assaults (the most frequently used weapon beyond physically restraining victims was a knife, reported in a total of four incidents). Most of the reported sexual assaults involved some element of sexual penetration (60% of the incidents), as opposed to sexual contact only. The average number of sexual acts per incident was 2.16 ( $s = 1.82$ ). The most common sexual acts included touching the victim's external female genitalia (52% of incidents), penile penetration of the victim's vagina (40% of incidents), touching of the victim's



breasts (35% of incidents), kissing (29% of incidents), and digital penetration of the victim's vagina (25% of incidents). The use of condoms was relatively low (only 10% of incidents). However, ejaculation was reported to have occurred in 35% of the incidents. Overall, 60% of the incidents were reported within one week of the assault, and 70% were reported within one month.

### **Witness Characteristics**

Of the 771 witnesses included in the 989 sexual assault reports, 97% were interviewed. Most witnesses (94%) were cooperative with the investigation. Only 26% offered eyewitness testimony, while 78% offered corroborative evidence. Of all witnesses, 38% were male and 62% were female, 53% were Native and 44% were White. Thirty-one percent were between 11 and 20 years of age (while 22% were 21 to 30 years of age and 19% were between 31 and 40 years of age). Fifteen percent of the witnesses had used alcohol, but only 1% had used drugs. The vast majority of witnesses (96%) provided internally consistent interviews.

### **Legal Resolutions**

Legal resolutions for sexual assault incidents reported from 2003-2004 were obtained from the Alaska Department of Law. Referrals to other agencies (e.g., the Division of Juvenile Justice) were not collected for this analysis. Of the 989 sexual assault reports, 46% were referred for prosecution to the Alaska Department of Law, 28% were accepted for prosecution by the Alaska Department of Law, and 22% resulted in a conviction with the Alaska Department of Law. Sixty-percent of cases referred to the Alaska Department of Law were accepted and 80% of cases accepted by the Alaska Department of Law resulted in a conviction.

## **Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assault Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2003-2004**

This report provides an overview of the characteristics of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers (AST) from January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004. The majority of available information on sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors in the State of Alaska is limited to Anchorage. Very little is known about the characteristics of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors statewide. This report provides the first overview of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor cases reported to the Alaska State Troopers. This report also briefly describes the likelihood that sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor cases were referred for prosecution, accepted by prosecutors, and resulted in a conviction. We begin this report by providing a brief description of the State of Alaska, the Alaska State Troopers, what is currently known about sexual assault as well as a brief overview of sexual assault laws in the State of Alaska. We then discuss the purpose of this study and its methodology, including the general nature of sexual assault reports generated by the Alaska State Troopers and the descriptions and definitions of the terms used throughout the report. Results are then presented in seven sections. These sections present report characteristics, suspect characteristics, victim characteristics, victim-suspect characteristics, incident characteristics, and witness characteristics. After presenting report, suspect, victim, victim-suspect, incident, and witness characteristics, we conclude this report by examining three legal resolutions: whether cases were referred for prosecution, whether cases were accepted for prosecution, and whether cases resulted in a conviction.

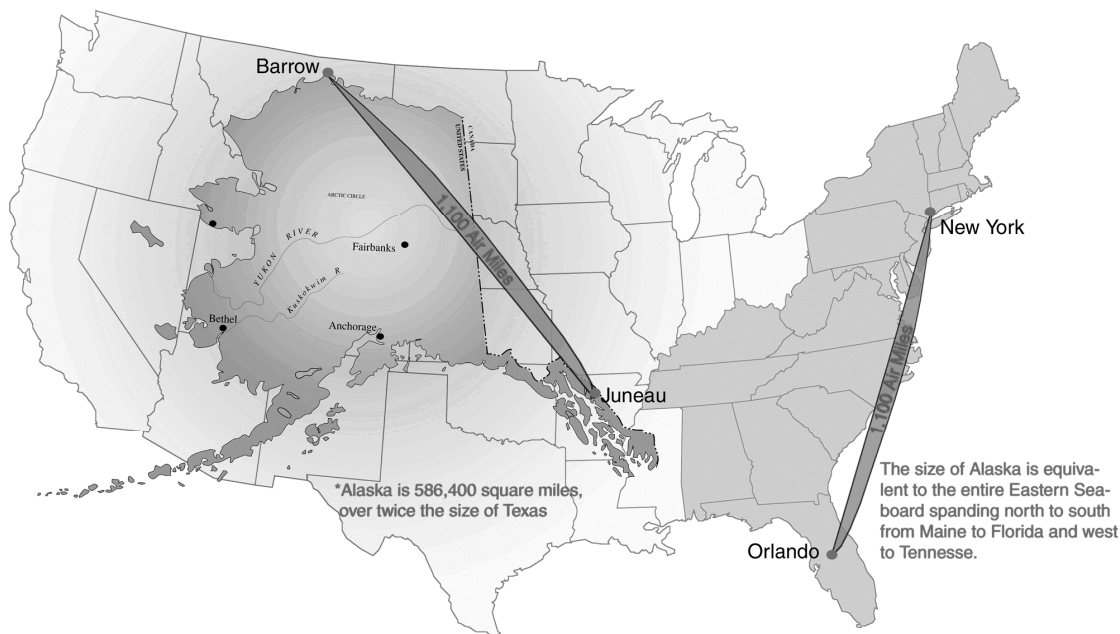
## Brief Overview of the State of Alaska

In one word, the State of Alaska is both easily and accurately described as “Big.” While this single adjective captures what most realize shortly after arriving, it falls short of illustrating why Alaska is such a unique place, especially in terms of law enforcement. To fully appreciate the results discussed in this report it is important that readers have some understanding of the Alaskan context. A discussion of the geography, the climate, the population, and the law enforcement agencies will provide the necessary context. While not exhaustive, these brief commentaries will surely aide the discussion of results throughout the report.

### *Geography and Climate*

For starters, the State of Alaska is one-fifth the size of the lower 48, encompasses roughly 570,000 square miles, and is 2.3 times larger than the second biggest state, Texas. The massive expanse of the state is covered by equally impressive terrain. There are several rugged mountainous regions throughout the state, home to 17 of the 20 highest peaks in the United States. Within these mountain ranges, there are roughly 70 active volcanoes and more than 100,000 glaciers. In addition to mountains and glaciers, the State of Alaska also boasts large areas of dense forest and tundra. The state is also home to over 3,000 rivers and more than three million lakes.

**Figure 1. State of Alaska in Comparison to Lower 48**



*Source: U.S. Marshals Service*

Similar to the terrain, the weather can also be varied and extreme. While Alaska is not always cold, dark, and frozen, extreme winter weather conditions are a fact of life. Statewide, residents and law enforcement agents alike must annually contend with sub-

zero temperatures, hundreds of inches of precipitation (both rain and snow), blizzards, avalanches, winds in excess of 100 mph, dense fog and low cloud ceilings, and large seasonal variations in sunlight. The Fairbanks area, located in the Interior of the state, is a perfect example of how extreme seasonal variations can be. Annually, residents of this region watch winter creep in as the sun drops below the horizon, taking with it thermometer readings. Temperatures fall below 0 °F for months at a time, with lows reaching as far as -60 °F. However, residents of the Interior are rewarded come summertime when the sun returns for up to 23 hours on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The long summer days see temperatures above 70 °F for months at a time with highs reaching upwards of 90 °F. It is also important to note here that fog and wind often pose the biggest risks for air travel which is necessary to reach many of the rural areas of the state, particularly many Alaska Native Villages. Needless to say, traveling around the state can be a serious challenge due to its size, weather, natural terrain, the limited road system, and the remote location of many communities.

### *Population*

According to the U.S. Census Bureau estimates for 2006, the State of Alaska has roughly 670,000 residents. Alaska has the fourth lowest population in the United States (<http://www.census.gov/>). The population density in 2004 was about 1.15 people per square mile, compared to an average of 83.01 nationally.<sup>1</sup> While many Alaskans reside in communities defined as “urban” by the U.S. Census Bureau (communities of more than 2,500 people), a large number of residents continue to live in much smaller and more geographically isolated areas throughout the state. There are over 230 Alaska Native Villages spread throughout the entire State of Alaska. Many of the communities are located in areas that are inaccessible by standard motor vehicle transportation due to the limited road system. To better understand the context of the current research, it may be useful to think of the state as having two main parts: the areas connected to the main road system and those that are ‘off-highway.’

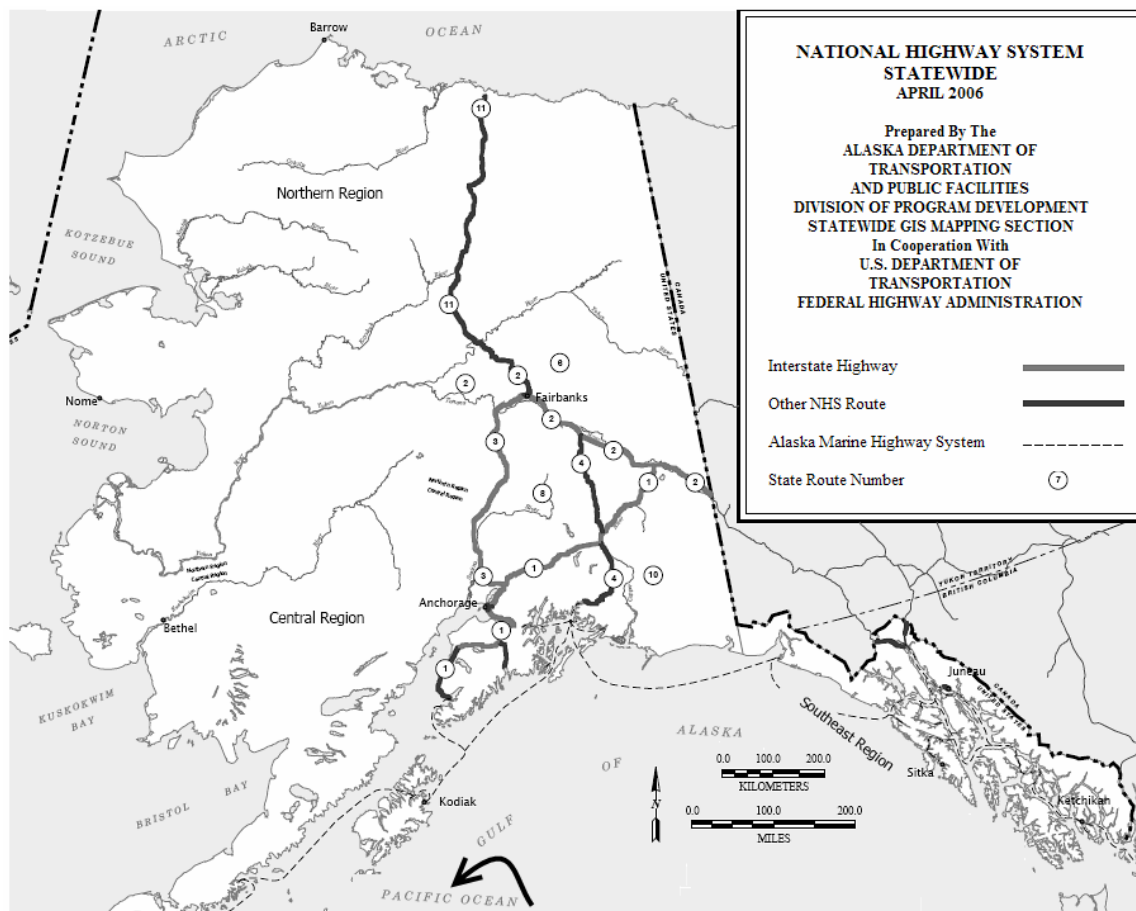
A 2002 report by the Alaska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights noted that 64% of the 272 communities served by the Alaska State Troopers are only accessible by airplane, boat, or snow machine.<sup>2</sup> The main highway system is accessible from two points on the Canadian border, extending north into parts of the Interior (Fairbanks area) and continuing to the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula where the roads literally end at the water’s edge in the cities of Seward and Homer (see Figure 2 below). Areas of Southeast Alaska are accessible by road traveling through Canada as well. However, they are not connected to the main State of Alaska highways. Thus, the western area of the state, the Aleutian and Kodiak Islands, and parts of the Interior are cut-off from the main road system and the majority of the state population. Communities in this territory are therefore only accessible by boat or plane. The exception to this

<sup>1</sup> Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Oct. 2006. *Alaska Population Overview* (p. 62).

<sup>2</sup> Alaska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, April 2002. *Racism’s Frontier: The Untold Story of Discrimination and Division in Alaska* (p. 50). As of August 23, 2007 the full report was available for download as an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) at: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/sac/ak0402/ak02.pdf>

general rule is that once you are in western Alaska, travel between villages is possible using a snow machine, boat, or ATV. Together, the weather, the state's size, the geographic isolation of many communities, and the requisite modes and conditions of travel represent unique challenges that Alaska State Troopers must contend with on an almost daily basis while performing their duties as law enforcement officers.

**Figure 2. State of Alaska Highway System<sup>3</sup>**



*Source of data: State of Alaska Highway Maps, April 2006*

<sup>3</sup> As of August 23, 2007 this map can be downloaded as an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) from the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities webpage.  
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/mapping/mapproducts.shtml>

## **Brief Overview of the Alaska State Troopers**

This section of the report begins with a brief history of the Alaska State Troopers and concludes with a discussion of the organization's current duties and geographic jurisdiction, structure and size, and statewide locations. Historically, providing law enforcement services to residents throughout the state has been a challenge. Since the late part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the major responsibilities for providing law enforcement have gradually shifted away from the local level (i.e., Alaska Native villages) towards governmental agencies (both Federal and State). The organizational roots of the Alaska State Troopers are traced back to the Territory of Alaska Highway Patrol, created by the 15<sup>th</sup> Territorial Legislature and charged with enforcing the traffic code in 1941. By the end of the decade, the Highway Patrol officers were given the full authority of peace officers, consequently expanding their duties to cover the enforcement of all Territorial laws. The Territorial Legislature reaffirmed the agency's duty to provide law enforcement across the Territory by establishing the Alaska Territorial Police in 1953, with a total of 36 officers. Once statehood was granted in 1959, the organization was designated a division of the Department of Public Safety and renamed once again to the Alaska State Police. By this time, the organization had more than doubled its strength to 78 commissioned officers. The final name change came in 1967 when Governor Wally Hickel declared the organization the Alaska State Troopers. In addition, the organization added a Criminal Bureau of Investigation in 1971 (now the Alaska Bureau of Investigation) and developed the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program in the late 1970s.

Throughout the State of Alaska, some local and municipal governments have elected to create local police forces. However, the Alaska State Troopers remain the only agency mandated by state law to provide police services. In other words, AST is the agency primarily responsible for providing public safety services in most areas of the state, and in areas with a local law enforcement agency, AST still provides limited services. Stated differently, AST directly provides public safety services to all areas that do not have a local police force and provides support services to all local police forces statewide. The organization is also responsible for providing court services (e.g., transportation of prisoners, defendants) emergency services, and other specialized enforcement activities in all areas of the state including those with local police departments. In addition, AST is the primary law enforcement agency responsible for over 200 rural communities as well as many urban communities. Overall, all state residents have access to some of the services provided by AST. However, direct services are provided for over 204,000 state residents, roughly one-third of the state's residents. The main police services provided by AST include criminal and traffic law enforcement and investigation, search and rescue operations, court services, and wildlife law enforcement patrol and investigations.

As noted earlier, the Alaska State Troopers are a Division of the Alaska Department of Public Safety. At the time of the study, the Division of Alaska State Troopers consisted of five Trooper Detachments, the Alaska Bureau of Investigations (ABI), the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE), and the Alaska

Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement (ABWE)<sup>4</sup>. Each of the five Detachments is responsible for providing the core law enforcement services within their geographic region (Southeast, South Central, Kenai Peninsula, the Interior, and Western Alaska). ABI consists of the Computer and Financial Crimes Unit, the Child Abuse Investigations Unit, the Wildlife Investigations Unit, the Missing Persons Unit, and the Major Crimes Investigation Units in Fairbanks, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Soldotna, and Anchorage. The core of ABI is the Major Crime Unit which is responsible for investigating sexual assaults, homicides, and other serious crimes committed against persons statewide. Investigators from ABI also provide training for new recruits at the Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka. Further, in addition to the investigations conducted by ABI members themselves, unit members routinely provide assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the state. In terms of personnel, during FY 2005, ABI listed one Captain, one Lieutenant, six Sergeants, and 28 State Troopers for a total of 36 commissioned officers.

The following section provides more detailed information on each of the five AST Detachments and their respective geographic areas. “A” Detachment provides services for Southeast Alaska, also known as the Inside Passage. The Detachment headquarters is in Ketchikan, and the remaining posts are located in Haines, Juneau, Klawock, and Petersburg. The detachment covers more than 62,000 square miles of land, the equivalent of Maryland and Delaware together, with a population of approximately 73,300 residents. Fourteen local police departments operating within A Detachment provide direct services to roughly 63,000 area residents within their 12,100 square mile coverage area. Seventeen Troopers (compared to 134 city officers) are responsible for providing public safety services for roughly 10,000 area residents spread throughout the remaining 49,900 square miles. Together, the five posts within A Detachment provide direct services to 30 communities in Southeast Alaska. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 470:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within A Detachment is roughly 604:1.

“B” Detachment is located in South Central Alaska and shares borders with Canada, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, and the Denali Borough. The detachment headquarters is in Palmer and the remaining posts are located in Big Lake, Glennallen, and Talkeetna. Four local police departments (38 total officers) provide direct services for roughly 16,000 residents within a 239 square mile coverage area. In comparison, 43 Troopers provide services for the remaining 49,000 area residents living in 31 communities. The Troopers coverage area is roughly 55,000 square miles, approximately the size of Illinois and Iowa combined. In addition, some areas within B Detachment are reportedly the fastest growing in the State of Alaska. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 420:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within B Detachment is roughly 1,148:1.

“C” Detachment covers western Alaska, including the Aleutian Chain and Kodiak Island, an area that is roughly 267,000 square miles. It is the largest of the five detachments, roughly the size of Texas and Connecticut combined. In addition, the communities in this region are not connected to the State of Alaska Highway system. The detachment headquarters is in Anchorage, and the remaining posts are found in

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<sup>4</sup> ABWE is no longer a detachment but is now its own separate division, the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers, still under the Alaska Department of Public Safety.

Aniak, Bethel, Dillingham, King Salmon, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, and St. Mary's. Ninety officers from 12 local police departments provide services to approximately 30,000 residents throughout the region. However, these local departments are only responsible for providing services to an area roughly 450 square miles in size. In contrast, a total of 45 Troopers provide the primary law enforcement services for the remaining 40,000 residents spread throughout 125 communities within the region. Troopers in C Detachment are essentially responsible for providing services throughout the 267,000 square miles that define their geographic region. In addition, C Detachment manages the Department of Public Safety's VPSO program which has 124 positions statewide.<sup>5</sup> Eighty-four positions are currently filled, 67 of which are within C Detachment. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 335:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within C Detachment is roughly 883:1.

"D" Detachment has more personnel than any other detachment and provides coverage for the Interior of Alaska. The Detachment headquarters is in Fairbanks, and the remaining posts are located in Cantwell, Delta, Galena, Healy, Nenana, Northway and Tok. Approximately 51 Troopers cover roughly 205,000 square miles including 1,550 miles of highway enforcement. The coverage area is roughly the size of California and North Carolina combined. Their geographic region contains roughly 63,000 residents spread throughout 57 separate communities. Six local police departments (total of 46 officers) provide enforcement services to roughly 35,000 residents living within 85 square miles of the region. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 763:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within D Detachment is roughly 1,175:1.

"E" Detachment is responsible for providing coverage to South Central Alaska, otherwise known as the Kenai Peninsula. In terms of land mass, the detachment covers an area comparable to the states of New Jersey and Massachusetts combined. The detachment headquarters is located in Soldotna, and the remaining posts are found in Girdwood, Homer, and Seward. There are six local police forces, with a total of 52 officers, operating within E Detachment. These six police forces provide direct services to approximately 19,000 residents living within 119 square miles. In contrast, 31 Troopers provide direct services to the remaining 32,500 area residents living throughout 29 separate communities. These communities are spread throughout roughly 22,500 square miles of land. Similar to the Troopers within the B and D Detachments, E Detachment is also responsible for providing traffic law enforcement on the Kenai Peninsula. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 362:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within E Detachment is roughly 1,048:1.

As noted earlier, in addition to typical law enforcement services, AST is responsible for providing a variety of additional public safety services ranging from search and rescue missions to court services and prisoner transports statewide. Like many law enforcement agencies nationwide, AST's workload is quite substantial.

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<sup>5</sup> For a more detailed review of the VPSO program see: Wood, 2000. *Turnover Among Alaska Village Public Safety Officers: An Examination of the Factors Associated with Attrition*. As of August 23, 2007 the full report was available for download as an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) at: <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/research/1990/9901vps0/9901vps0.html>.



Information submitted to the Governor's Operating Budget sheds light on AST's annual workload. According to the FY2006 Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary, AST:

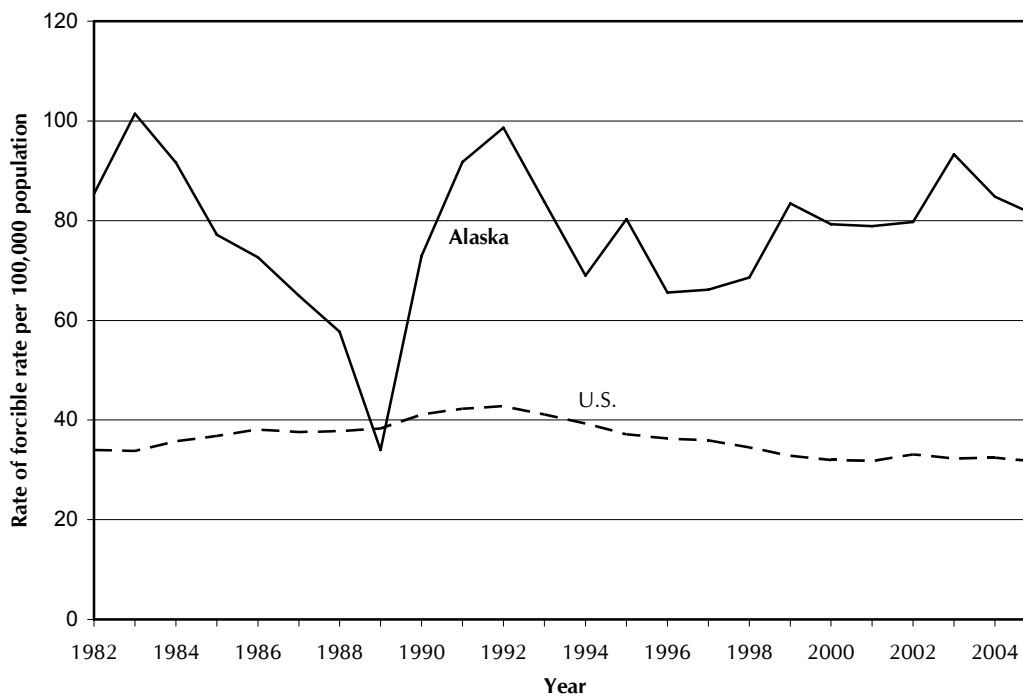
- Handled more than 111,000 offenses in AST jurisdiction;
- Responded to more than 4,570 motor vehicle collisions;
- Performed over 55,839 prisoner transports with no escapes;
- Saved or assisted over 367 people through 234 search and rescue efforts;
- Investigated over 3,500 drug and alcohol importation related crimes;
- Solved 93 percent of the homicides that occurred within AST jurisdiction;
- Served or closed over 8,350 warrants;
- Served or closed over 28,239 writs (FY 2006 Governor's Operating Budget).

As these numbers suggest, the demand for services from the Troopers is frequent and quite varied. The geographic and climatic context of their daily working conditions provide regular challenges over and above the typical challenges faced by law enforcement agencies that provide services in more traditional American communities throughout the Lower 48.

## Brief Overview of Sexual Assault

The State of Alaska has a long history of high rates of reported forcible rapes. Forcible rapes are defined in the Uniform Crime Reports as “the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.” The Uniform Crime Reports tabulate the rate of reported forcible rapes and attempted forcible rapes in Alaska and the U.S. These data (from 1982 to 2005) are shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3. Rates of Forcible Rape in the U.S. and Alaska, 1982-2005**



*Source: Uniform Crime Reports*

The average rate of forcible rape reported to law enforcement from 1982 to 2005 was 36.2 per 100,000 in the U.S. and 77.6 per 100,000 in Alaska. These statistics only provide a partial description of the sexual assault problem because they do not include statutory rapes, incapacitated rapes, and other sex offenses, generally included under the umbrella category of “sexual assault.” Unlike the federal definition of forcible rape, sexual assault includes acts (and attempted acts) perpetrated against males as well as acts (and attempted acts) without forceful carnal knowledge against the victim’s will (e.g., sexual contact, incapacitated rape, statutory rape).

## Sexual Assault Legislation in Alaska

Alaska's criminal code uses a four category, gender-neutral, definition for sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor (Alaska Statutes §11.41.410 to §11.41.427 and §11.41.434 to §11.41.438). The main distinctions between sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor are the age of the offender, the age of the victim, and to a lesser extent the nature of the relationship between the two (e.g., the offender holds a position of authority over the victim). For both offense categories, the distinctions between first, second, third, and fourth degrees depend in large part on the elements of *sexual penetration* and *sexual contact*. Section 11.81.900 (a)(59)(A) of Article 6 in the Alaska Criminal Code defines *sexual penetration* as "genital intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or an intrusion, however slight, of an object or any part of a person's body into the genital or anal opening of another person's body," and sections 11.81.900 (a)(58)(A)(i) and (ii) define *sexual contact* as "knowingly touching, directly or through clothing, the victim's genitals, anus, or female breast; or knowingly causing the victim to touch, directly or through clothing, the defendant's or victim's genitals, anus, or female breast." The current sample was limited to cases involving complaints of sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor in the first, second, third, and fourth degrees. Other sexual offenses, such as indecent exposure, were excluded from the current analyses. A critical element of these statutes is that sexual assault is not restricted to acts of sexual penetration but includes acts of sexual contact as well. See Appendix C for the full statutes and definitions.

## **Purpose of this Study**

Data from all sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers from 2003 to 2004 were collected for two primary reasons. The first was to gather descriptive information about the characteristics of sexual assault incidents in Alaska and to create a report that summarizes this new information. This is the first examination of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors reported to AST. As such, this report provides an important overview of specific crimes whose characteristics are known for only a limited area within the state, namely the Municipality of Anchorage. This report provides an overview of report, victim, suspect, victim-suspect, incident, and witness characteristics. By obtaining a greater understanding of sexual assault throughout the state, we will be better prepared to simultaneously hold offenders accountable while striving to reduce overall rates of sexual assault in the State of Alaska.

A second goal was to examine how investigative strategies facilitate the prosecution of sexual assault offenders. As part of this second goal, we will examine which current investigative strategies enhance the likelihood that cases will be referred to the Alaska Department of Law for prosecution, the likelihood that cases will be accepted by the Alaska Department of Law, and the likelihood that the Alaska Department of Law will secure a conviction. As part of this second goal, we will also examine the extent to which investigative strategies not currently used may facilitate these outcomes. In this first preliminary report, we focus on our first goal to describe sexual assault incidents. We now describe the data collection procedures and then present results.

## Methodology

Our population of cases included all cases with at least one charge listed under Article 4 (Sexual Offenses) of Alaska's Criminal Code reported to Alaska State Troopers in 2003 and 2004. This population included 1,358 cases. From these 1,358 cases, we sampled all cases that were closed by referral, closed by arrest, closed declined, closed by exception, closed by investigation, or closed as unfounded. This sampling procedure excluded 166 cases that were closed logged and 95 cases that were still open. Closed logged cases were reported as sexual assault cases, but no official report was ever generated because it was determined that no crime had occurred. Our sample therefore included 1,097 (81%) of the 1,358 sexual assault cases. From our sample of 1,097 cases, we successfully collected data from 989 cases (90%). In 26 of the targeted 1,097 cases, the Alaska State Troopers were assisting an outside law enforcement agency with their investigation (e.g., conducting interviews). Forty-one of the targeted 1,097 cases had no sexual assault or sexual abuse of minor charges. These 41 cases did contain at least one charge listed under Article 4 (Sexual Offenses) of Alaska's Criminal Code. However, these cases were excluded because they did not involve actual contact between suspects and victims. Examples include cases limited to indecent exposure or possession of child pornography. Only "supplement" information, rather than the final case report, was available for 27 of the 1,097 targeted reports. Oftentimes, the supplemental information included the results of forensic computer examinations, conducted by the Alaska Bureau of Investigation, or additional witness information collected by a Trooper assisting the main case investigation. Lastly, copies of an additional 14 of the targeted 1,097 reports could not be located. Requests for copies of the final reports were sent to the appropriate AST Posts, Detachment Headquarters, and the Criminal Records and Identification Bureau (R & I), the central repository for criminal history information.

Our final sample therefore included 989 cases with a sexual assault or sexual abuse of a minor charge, reported to Troopers in 2003 and 2004, which were closed as unfounded, closed by investigation, closed by exception, closed by referral, closed but declined, or closed by arrest. The original population included 1,358 cases. We sampled 1,097 (81%) of these 1,358 cases. We collected 989 cases (90% of sampled cases, or 73% of cases in the original population). All data collection occurred on-site at the Alaska State Troopers Headquarters in Anchorage. These 989 reports included information on 1,903 charges, 1,050 suspects, 1,082 victims, and 771 witnesses. An extensive array of information was collected to describe reports, incidents, suspects, victims, and witnesses (see Appendix B for data collection instrument).

Report information includes geographic information (detachment and unit information), the month and year of report, case closure codes, time from report to case closure, the law enforcement agency first notified, and characteristics of the investigation. Characteristics of the investigation include whether physical evidence was available and collected, whether trace or latent evidence was available and collected, whether electronic data were available and recovered, whether photographs of the scene and injuries sustained by victims or suspects could have been taken and were taken, whether forensic exams were requested for evidence gathered, whether notifications given to victims were documented, and whether different types of search warrants were obtained. Potential notifications given to victims include information for victims of domestic

violence, information on the Violent Crime Compensation Board, and information on the Office of Victims Rights. Types of search warrants include warrants for victims' medical records, for suspects' medical records, for scene entry, and glass warrants. Finally, report information includes the total number of charges, suspects, victims, and witnesses in each report.

Suspect information includes demographic information (gender, race, and age), whether the suspect identity was known, whether the suspect was present upon Trooper arrival, whether the suspect was cooperative, information about the suspect's use of drugs and alcohol, whether the suspect was interviewed, the amount of time from report to suspect interview, whether their interviews were tape recorded, whether suspect interviews were internally consistent, and detailed information about the suspect's charges. This information includes the total number of charges per suspects, the total number of sexual assault charges per suspect, and the total number of non-sexual assault charges per suspect.

Victim information includes demographic information (gender, race, and age), information on who the victim consulted prior to reporting, victim use of drugs and alcohol, whether the victim received a forensic medical exam (SART exam), whether the victim received emergency medical treatment, whether the victim was interviewed, when victims were interviewed, whether the victim continued to cooperate with the investigation, and whether victim interviews were tape recorded and internally consistent. Additionally, victim information includes a five-item inventory of injuries. The five types of injuries include bruising or swelling, lacerations or bite marks, bone fractures, genital injuries, and general physical pain.

Victim-suspect information includes the nature of the relationship between the victim and the suspect, the victim-suspect living arrangement, the victim-suspect race combinations, and the victim-suspect age group combinations.

Incident information includes charge severity (statute), the number of sexual assault charges per incident, time elapsed from the most recent sexual assault incident to report, whether it was documented as a crime involving domestic violence, whether the victim reported prior assaults by the same suspect, whether alcohol was involved, and whether drug use was involved. The incident information also includes the method of pick-up, the location of the pick-up, the location of the assault, the location of the drop-off, who stopped the assault and the victim's condition at the time of the assault. The incident information also details whether the suspect used any of the following weapons during the assault: a gun, a knife or other cutting instrument, a blunt object, their own hands or arms to restrain the victim, or drugs without the victim's knowledge. Further, the incident information includes a detailed inventory of the specific sexual acts victims reported for each suspect. This inventory includes whether the suspect kissed, licked, or bit the victim, touched the victim's breast, touched the victim's external genitalia, touched the victim's anus, whether the suspect performed oral sex on the victim, whether the victim performed oral sex on the suspect, whether the victim's vagina or anus were digitally penetrated, whether there was penile penetration of the victim's vagina or anus, whether ejaculation occurred, whether a condom was used, and whether there was any fondling of the suspect's (or in some instances of the victim's) penis. Lastly, the incidents information also includes an inventory of victim resistance techniques. These include whether the victim attacked the suspect, threatened the suspect, yelled or

screamed at the suspect, pleaded with the suspect, cooperated or pretended to cooperate with the suspect, ran away from the suspect, and called or yelled for help.

Witness information includes the number of witnesses per case, whether witnesses were eyewitnesses, whether witnesses were interviewed, whether their interviews were tape recorded, demographic characteristics of witnesses (gender, race, and age), drug and alcohol use by witnesses, whether witnesses cooperated, whether witness statements were internally consistent, and whether witness statements corroborated statements by the victim, suspect or other witnesses.

All outcome data were gathered directly from the Alaska Department of Law. Each case was tracked by case number to determine if it had been referred to the Alaska Department of Law for prosecution, if the Alaska Department of Law had accepted the case for prosecution, and if the case resulted in a conviction.

This project was approved by the University of Alaska Anchorage Institutional Review Board and utilized a Privacy Certificate issued by the National Institute of Justice. Funding for this research was provided by the National Institute of Justice and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. All sexual assault reports from 2003 and 2004 were photocopied by the Alaska State Troopers and were mailed to the Anchorage office. Research assistants then read each report and entered information directly onto a Microsoft Access database (again, see Appendix B for data collection instrument). We now describe the results of this collaborative investigation. We begin by describing report characteristics and then describe suspect, victim, victim-suspect, incident, witness characteristics, and legal outcomes.

## Report Characteristics

A total of 989 reports were examined. These 989 reports generated 1,645 sexual assault charges. Thirty percent of these cases had two or more sexual assault charges. The month and year of each report is summarized in the following tables.

**Table 1. Year of Report**

*Column percentages*

Year	Reports	
	N	%
2001	1	0.1 %
2002	8	0.8
2003	533	53.9
2004	446	45.1
2005	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>989</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

A total of ten reports that were made prior to or after the targeted sampling years (2003-2004) were included in the current sample (1% of cases). Lab results on DNA evidence collected during an investigation of a 2001 report indicated the presence of a second suspect, leading AST to open a separate case for this particular suspect in 2003. Stated differently, one report opened in 2003 was the result of findings from forensic DNA analysis on evidence collected during the course of an investigation from a reported incident in 2001. The eight reports listed for 2002 were all made at the end of the calendar year and were not officially “opened” (i.e., did not draw official case report numbers) until the beginning of the 2003 calendar year. Similarly, one additional report made in December of 2004 was not officially opened until January of 2005. Overall, the number of reports remained relatively stable from 2003 to 2004 with just over half (54%) of the incidents being reported in 2003.

The following table displays the total number of reports from each month for 2003 and 2004. The number of reports made during the spring and summer months (March to August) were slightly higher (54%) than the fall and winter months (September to February).



**Table 2. Month of Report***Column percentages*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Reports</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
January	86	8.7 %
February	69	7.0
March	92	9.3
April	92	9.3
May	98	9.9
June	88	8.9
July	93	9.4
August	72	7.3
September	70	7.1
October	82	8.3
November	76	7.7
December	71	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>989</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following two tables display information related to the geographic location of each reported case. The first table contains Detachment information and the second table contains unit information. The majority of reports (78%) were handled by C detachment and ABI. More specifically, 48% of reports were handled by C detachment and 30% were handled by ABI. More detailed results (by unit) are shown in Table 4. Forty-seven units received at least one sexual assault or sexual abuse of a minor report in 2003-2004. The Bethel Enforcement unit received the highest percentage of sexual assault reports (17% of reports) and twice as many reports as the second highest unit, Palmer Investigation (who received 8% of reports). Together, the top five units [Bethel Enforcement (17%), Palmer Investigation (8%), Fairbanks Investigation (8%), ABI Child Abuse Investigation (7%), and St. Mary's Enforcement (6%)] had 46% of all sexual assault reports. In addition, the top ten units received 70% of all sexual assault reports in 2003-2004.

**Table 3. Total Number of Reports by Detachment***Column percentages*

<b>Detachment</b>	<b>Reports</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
C	476	48.1 %
ABI	299	30.2
D	79	8.0
E	54	5.5
A	39	3.9
B	24	2.4
ABWE	18	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>989</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

**Table 4. Total Number of Reports by Unit***Column percentages*

Unit	Detachment	Reports	
		N	%
Bethel Enforcement	C	168	17.0 %
Palmer Investigation	ABI	83	8.4
Fairbanks Investigation	ABI	75	7.6
ABI Child Abuse Investigation Unit	ABI	66	6.7
St. Mary's Enforcement	C	57	5.8
Kotzebue Enforcement	C	55	5.6
Nome Enforcement	C	55	5.6
Soldotna Investigation	ABI	55	5.6
Fairbanks Enforcement	D	40	4.0
Kodiak Enforcement	C	38	3.8
Aniak Enforcement	C	32	3.2
Homer Enforcement	E	27	2.7
Dillingham Enforcement	C	24	2.4
King Salmon Enforcement	C	22	2.2
ABI Cold Case Investigation	ABI	20	2.0
Juneau Enforcement	A	16	1.6
Galena Enforcement	D	15	1.5
Ketchikan Enforcement	A	14	1.4
Palmer Enforcement	B	12	1.2
Glenallen Enforcement	B	11	1.1
Klawock Enforcement	A	9	0.9
Kodiak ABWE	ABWE	9	0.9
Girdwood Enforcement	E	8	0.8
Ninilchik Enforcement	E	8	0.8
Tok Enforcement	D	8	0.8
Cantwell Enforcement	D	6	0.6
Delta Junction Enforcement	D	6	0.6
Emmonak Enforcement	C	6	0.6
McGrath Enforcement	C	6	0.6
Soldotna Enforcement	E	6	0.6
Illiamna Enforcement	C	4	0.4
Seward Enforcement	E	4	0.4
Anchorage Enforcement	C	3	0.3
Illiamna ABWE	ABWE	3	0.3
Northway Enforcement	D	3	0.3
Bethel V.P.S.O.	C	2	0.2
Girdwood ABWE	ABWE	2	0.2
Unakleet Enforcement	C	2	0.2
Bethel Drug Unit	C	1	0.1
Cooper Landing Enforcement	E	1	0.1
Dutch Harbor ABWE	ABWE	1	0.1
Haines Enforcement	A	1	0.1
Homer ABWE	ABWE	1	0.1
Klawock ABWE	ABWE	1	0.1
Kodiak V.P.S.O.	C	1	0.1
Nenana Enforcement	D	1	0.1
Talkeetna Enforcement	D	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>989</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

**Figure 4. Alaska State Trooper and Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement Posts<sup>6</sup>**



*Source: Alaska Justice Forum 21(4:5), Winter 2005*

It is important to note that using Detachment and/or Unit ID as an indicator(s) of geographic distribution for the cases in our sample has some limitations. Unlike Detachments A-E, ABI and ABWE handle cases from all over the state and thus are not limited to any geographic region. More importantly, the Unit IDs for ABI and ABWE indicate the location of their office, not the location of their particular cases. To address this limitation, we used “patrol zone” information gathered from each report (a four letter code used by AST to indicate the location of an alleged incident at the city/village level) to code each case as on-highway or off-highway. All communities connected to the main State of Alaska Highway system were coded “highway.” All communities that do not have direct access to the highway system were coded “off-highway.” This distinction has been used to make comparisons between “Bush Alaska” and the state’s urban centers

<sup>6</sup> The posts displayed in the figure above reflect the active AST and ABWE posts for the time period of the study (2003-2004). Also, AST only maintains a court service office in Barrow and generally conducts investigations in the North Slope Borough during agency assists. In addition, the following communities only have ABWE troopers: Cordova, Valdez, Unalaska, Petersburg, Wrangell, Hoonah, Yakutat, Coldfoot and McGrath.

elsewhere<sup>7</sup>. Using this definition, the current sample included 578 reports (58% of cases) from “off-highway” communities and 411 reports (42% of cases) from “highway” communities.

The official report writing manual developed by AST provides troopers with a list of possible case closure codes used to indicate how and why, generally speaking, a case was closed subsequent to the investigation. The sample for the current project was limited to those cases that were closed by arrest (CA), closed and referred (CR), closed by investigation (CI), closed unfounded (CU), closed and declined (CD), and closed by exception (CE). The closure code CA is only used after AST has placed at least one individual under arrest. All of these cases would then generally be referred to the Department of Law (DOL) for charge screening decisions. The closure code CR is used when AST forwards a case to DOL for screening decisions, prior to actually arresting a suspect. The closure code CI is used to indicate an investigation that has exhausted all credible leads but ultimately failed to produce the evidence needed to arrest a suspect. The closure code CU is used when the initial complaint is deemed to be false or baseless. However, this does not mean that AST believed *all of the initial complaints* to be fabrications. For example, during the course of caring for their child, a parent may observe irritated skin on or around their child’s genitalia. Concerned, the parent notifies AST that their child may have been sexually abused while not under their direct supervision. Pursuant to a forensic medical exam, it may ultimately be revealed that the child was merely suffering from a vaginal yeast infection and had not been sexually abused. A scenario such as this would likely lead to a closure code of CU rather than a CI. The closure code CD is used when AST has referred a case to DOL for initial screening and DOL has replied to AST that they would not accept and file charges for the case. The closure code CE is used when exceptional circumstances prevent the case from moving forward in the criminal justice system. For example, this closure code would be used if the main suspect in a case became deceased at any point prior to the DOL formally taking control of the case.

As the following table shows, most of the cases (61%) were closed and referred for prosecution. These included cases that were closed by arrest (32%), closed and referred (26%), and closed but declined (3%). The remaining cases were closed after investigation (23%), closed as unfounded (15%), or closed by exception (1%). These latter groups of cases (excluding those closed by exception) were all closed without a suspect being arrested and in some cases without a suspect being identified (by the victim, AST, or both). Additional tables containing case closure codes for cases with at least one minor victim (defined as 17 years of age or younger), and for cases with at least one adult victim (defined as 18 years of age or older) can be found in Appendix A.

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<sup>7</sup> See Alaska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, April 2002. *Racism’s Frontier: The Untold Story of Discrimination and Division in Alaska*.

**Table 5. Case Closure Codes***Column percentages*

Closure Code		Reports	
		N	%
CA	Closed by arrest	316	32.0 %
CR	Closed, referred	255	25.7
CI	Closed by investigation	232	23.5
CU	Closed, unfounded	150	15.2
CD	Closed, declined	29	2.9
CE	Closed, exception	7	0.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>989</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following table shows information aggregated at the case level for the 150 reports that were closed unfounded. Many of the unfounded cases (65%) contained at least one victim that was a minor (defined as 17 years of age or younger). Many of the unfounded cases also contained at least one suspect whose identity was known by AST (69%). Eighty-one percent of the unfounded cases were reported by someone other than the victim(s). However, 75% of these cases had at least one victim that cooperated with AST after the initial report was made. Lastly, nearly two-thirds of the unfounded cases (62%) were reported within three days of the alleged incident.

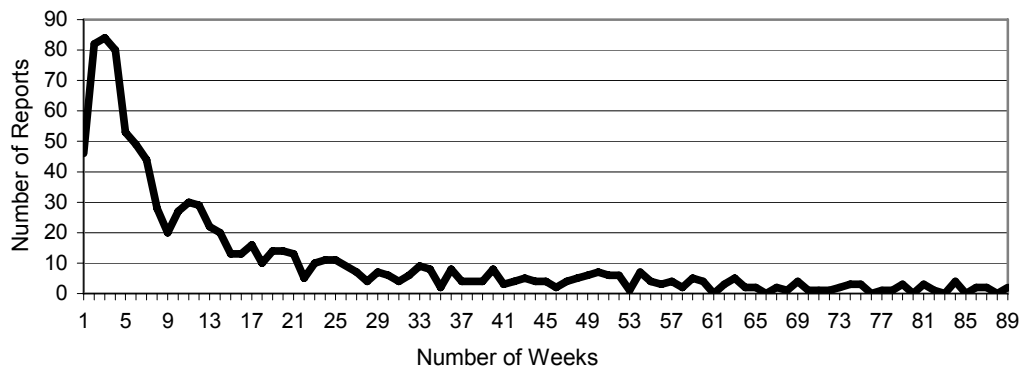
**Table 6. Characteristics of Unfounded Cases***Row percentages*

Case-Level Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
At least one minor victim	52	34.7 %	98	65.3 %	<b>150</b>
At least one adult victim	89	59.3	61	40.7	<b>150</b>
Reported by third party	29	19.3	121	80.7	<b>150</b>
Reported within 72 hours	57	38.0	93	62.0	<b>150</b>
At least one victim cooperated	37	24.7	113	75.3	<b>150</b>
At least one suspect identity known	46	30.7	104	69.3	<b>150</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

On average, it took 18.3 weeks to close a case after it was reported ( $s = 23.4$ , results not shown). More specifically, 30% of cases were closed within 3 weeks, 50% were closed within 8 weeks, and 75% were closed within 24 weeks of being reported (results not shown). The shortest investigations were finished within one week while the longest investigation lasted 168 weeks (just over 3 years). The number of weeks from report to case closure for all cases closed within 90 weeks is shown in the following graph.

**Figure 5. Number of Weeks from Report to Case Closure**



*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The vast majority of sexual assaults were reported directly to the Alaska State Troopers (86%). Conversely, only 14% of the sexual assaults in our sample were reported to Village Police Officers (VPO), Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO), or Tribal Police Officers (TPO). Similarly, most of the initial reports to law enforcement were made by a third party (79%). Only 21% of the initial complaints were made by victims themselves (results not shown).

**Table 7. First Agency Notified**

*Column percentages*

Agency	Reports	
	N	%
AST	831	86.2 %
VPSO	65	6.7
VPO	63	6.5
TPO	5	0.5
<b>Total</b>	964	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Each report was read to examine the availability and collection of several types of evidence including physical evidence, electronic data, and photographic documentation. It is important to point out that not all types of evidence are both relevant and available for each reported incident of sexual assault or sexual abuse of a minor. Two main factors determine the applicability and availability of evidence for the majority of reported incidents of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors. The first is the nature, or severity, of the reported incident and the second is the timeliness of the report, or the time lapse between the most recent incident and the initial report and subsequent investigation. The following paragraphs contain brief descriptions and examples for each.

The severity of a reported incident is the main factor determining the applicability of many types of evidence. For example, if an incident was reported to involve only acts of sexual contact, as opposed to acts of sexual penetration, many of the evidentiary categories we were concerned with would not be applicable. If a complainant reported an

incident of sexual contact only, the types of evidence collected in sexual assault evidence collection kits would not be relevant or available to the investigation. In other words, for a reported incident of sexual contact, DNA evidence has no utility for investigators and/or attorneys in terms of satisfying legal requirements regarding burden of proof (e.g., probable cause or proof beyond a reasonable doubt). The presence or absence of DNA evidence has no impact on determining innocence or guilt in such a scenario.

Still, there remain scenarios where certain types of evidence, such as physical and/or DNA evidence, would be applicable but not available. For example, if an incident of sexual penetration is reported, the time frame within which it is possible to recover DNA evidence is limited. However, prompt reports do not guarantee the recovery of DNA evidence. For example, if an incident of sexual penetration is reported within 24 hours but the victim and/or suspect's clothing is destroyed or washed, recovering physical and/or DNA evidence would be extremely difficult if not entirely impossible. Lastly, physical evidence from the scene of the crime may be removed and/or destroyed if incidents are not reported promptly, or if the investigating officer is not able to respond to the scene immediately after the initial report is made.

We examined each report to document the collection of physical evidence from the scene, physical evidence from victims and suspects (e.g., clothing), sexual assault evidence collection kits (fingernail scrapings, head and pubic hair samples, oral DNA swabs, etc.), electronic data, and trace or latent evidence. We also examined whether victims received a forensic medical exam (SART exam) and, if so, whether photographs were taken during the exam. In addition, we examined whether photographs were taken of the scene, and, when applicable, of injuries sustained by victims or suspects. These results are summarized in the following three tables. Readers are reminded that the numbers in the following tables display information at the case level, and thus are not directly comparable to related findings within later sections of this report. For example, the number of victim and suspect sexual assault evidence collection kits in the following table indicates whether this type of evidence was collected from *any* victim or suspect within each case. It is possible that more than one victim and/or suspect sexual assault evidence collection kit was collected in any given case. In addition, it is possible that some victims may not have completed the full SART exam thereby not providing the evidence typically collected in the sexual assault evidence collection kits. Additional tables containing information on the collection of victim sexual assault kits and whether a victim received a SART exam for cases with at least one minor victim (defined as 17 years of age or younger), and for cases with at least one adult victim (defined as 18 years of age or older) can be found in Appendix A.

**Table 8. Collection of Evidence***Row percentages*

Evidence	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Physical evidence from victim	720	78.2 %	201	21.8 %	<b>921</b>
Victim sexual assault evidence collection kit	733	79.9	184	20.1	<b>917</b>
Physical evidence from scene	796	84.1	150	15.9	<b>946</b>
Physical evidence from suspect	820	87.0	122	13.0	<b>942</b>
Photographs of scene	797	87.3	116	12.7	<b>913</b>
Suspect sexual assault evidence collection kit	874	92.9	67	7.1	<b>941</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Physical evidence from the victim (e.g., clothing) and victim sexual assault evidence collection kits were the most commonly collected types of evidence, gathered in 22% and 20% of cases respectively. Suspect sexual assault kits were collected in only 7% of cases and physical evidence from the suspect (e.g., clothing) was gathered in only 13% of cases. In the majority of cases, there was no physical evidence recovered from the scene (84% of cases) and in 87% of cases, the scene was not photographed.

**Table 9. Applicability and Collection of Evidence***Row percentages*

Evidence	Applicable?				Total	Collected, if applicable?				Total
	No		Yes			No		Yes		
	N	%	N	%		N	%	N	%	
SART Exam Photos	692	77.1 %	206	22.9 %	<b>898</b>	45	21.8 %	161	78.2 %	<b>206</b>
Electronic Data	898	94.0	57	6.0	<b>955</b>	15	26.3	42	73.7	<b>57</b>
Victim Injury Photos	680	75.7	218	24.3	<b>898</b>	99	45.4	119	54.6	<b>218</b>
Weapon	929	97.5	24	2.5	<b>953</b>	18	75.0	6	25.0	<b>24</b>
Trace / latent	827	88.5	97	10.4	<b>934</b>	77	79.4	20	20.6	<b>97</b>
Suspect Injury Photos	864	90.9	86	9.1	<b>950</b>	69	80.2	17	19.8	<b>86</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Photographs of suspect injuries and the recovery of a weapon were the least common types of evidence collected (also the least available) during investigations. However, photographs of suspect injuries were taken in 20% of the applicable cases (9% of all cases), and a weapon was recovered in 25% of the applicable cases (3% of all cases). Trace or latent evidence was only applicable in 10% of the cases, but was only collected in 21% of those cases. Trace or latent evidence was considered applicable if the suspect was someone not normally associated with the scene. The opportunity to recover electronic data (e.g., e-mails, phone records) was generally not available (only available in 6% of cases). When the opportunity was available, however, electronic data were recovered in 74% of the cases. Similarly, the occasion to take photographs during a SART exam was only available in 23% of the cases. When possible, photographs were taken during SART exams in 78% of the cases. Finally, the chance to photograph injuries sustained by victims was available in 24% of cases. However, photographic documentation of victims' injuries occurred in only 55% of those cases.



The following table simultaneously displays information on the timeliness of the report (i.e., the time lapse from the most recent incident and the initial notification of law enforcement) and the collection of victim and suspect sexual assault evidence collection kits. Not surprisingly, of those cases where sexual assault evidence collection kits were gathered, the overwhelming majority were reported within three days, or 72 hours, of the most recent incident. More specifically, of those cases with at least one victim sexual assault evidence collection kit, 82% were reported within three days, and 93% of the cases with at least one suspect sexual assault evidence collection kit were reported within three days.

**Table 10. Timeliness of Report and Collection of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits**

*Column percentages*

Timeliness of Report	Victim Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit				Total	Suspect Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit				Total
	No		Yes			No		Yes		
	N	%	N	%		N	%	N	%	
Within three days	382	47.5 %	150	81.5 %	532	470	51.0 %	62	92.5 %	532
More than three days	423	52.5	34	18.5	457	452	49.0	5	7.5	457
<b>Total</b>	<b>805</b>		<b>184</b>		<b>989</b>	<b>922</b>		<b>67</b>		<b>989</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Search warrants were obtained in 36% of cases, and in 13% of cases two or more search warrants were obtained (results not shown). The types of warrants obtained during the investigations are described in the following table. The most commonly obtained warrants were for the victims' medical records (26% of cases), followed by glass warrants (13% of cases), warrants for scene entry (8% of cases), and warrants for suspects' medical records (7% of cases). It should be noted, however, that if evidence is voluntarily provided, it can be collected without a warrant (see Tables 8 and 9).

**Table 11. Search Warrants**

*Row percentages*

Warrants	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Victim's medical records	719	74.4 %	247	25.6 %	966
Suspect's medical records	896	92.8	70	7.2	966
Scene Entry	888	91.9	78	8.1	966
Glass	837	86.6	129	13.4	966

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Forensic exams of evidence were only requested in 16% of the cases (results not shown). The types of forensic exams requested are shown in the table below. Forensic DNA exams were the most commonly requested (14% of cases), followed by forensic exams of electronic data (3% of cases), and forensic exams of trace or latent evidence (2% of cases).

**Table 12. Forensic Exams***Row percentages*

Exams	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
DNA (suspect and/or victim)	827	85.6 %	139	14.4 %	<b>966</b>
Trace / latent	944	97.7	22	2.3	<b>966</b>
Computer	942	97.5	24	2.5	<b>966</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Overwhelmingly, the reports rarely contained documentation of notifications given to victims. The following table describes the notifications given to victims after reports of sexual assault were made. Only 5% of the cases contained documentation that victims were provided specific notifications pertaining to domestic violence (although they were not applicable for all cases). Only 3% of the cases contained documentation that victims were provided information pertaining to the “Violent Crime Compensation Board,” and only 1% of the cases contained documentation that victims were provided information pertaining to the “Office of Victims Rights.”

**Table 13. Notifications Given to Victims***Row percentages*

Notifications	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
VCCB	940	97.3 %	26	2.7 %	<b>966</b>
DV	922	95.4	44	4.6	<b>966</b>
OVR	954	98.8	12	1.2	<b>966</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Sometimes sexual assault reports include multiple charges (and multiple sexual assault charges), multiple suspects, multiple victims, and multiple witnesses. In the following sections we describe the number of charges (both sexual assault and non-sexual assault charges), suspects, victims, and witnesses per report. From the 989 sexual assault reports, we gathered information on 1,903 charges. Of these 1,903 charges, 86% were sexual assault charges (N = 1,645 charges). On average, each report included 1.92 charges ( $s = 2.01$ ), and 1.66 sexual assault charges ( $s = 1.69$ , results not shown). Further, 37% of cases contained two or more charges, and 30% of cases contained two or more sexual assault charges. The number of sexual assault charges per report ranged from one to twenty, and the total number of charges per report (including sexual assault and non-sexual assault charges) ranged from one to twenty-three. From the 989 sexual assault reports included in our sample, we gathered information from 1,050 suspects. On average, each report included 1.06 suspects ( $s = 0.36$ , results not shown). The majority of reports contained only one suspect (N = 948), and the highest number of suspects in any report was six (N = 2). From the 989 sexual assault reports included in our sample, we collected information on 1,082 victims. On average, each report included 1.09

victims ( $s = 0.38$ , results not shown). Finally, most reports contained only one victim ( $N = 916$ ) and the highest number of victims in any report was also six ( $N = 1$ ). The total number of charges, sexual assault charges, suspects, and victims per report is summarized in the following table.

**Table 14. Total Number of Suspects and Victims per Report**

*Column percentages*

Number	Charges		Sexual Assault Charges		Suspects		Victims	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
One	625	63.2 %	695	70.3 %	948	95.9 %	916	92.6 %
Two	186	18.8	171	17.3	30	3.0	59	6.0
Three	63	6.4	49	5.0	6	0.6	11	1.1
Four	45	4.6	31	3.1	3	0.3	1	0.1
Five	29	2.9	11	1.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
Six or more	41	4.1	32	3.2	2	0.2	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>989</b>		<b>989</b>		<b>989</b>		<b>989</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The total number of witnesses per report is shown in the following table. The 989 reports in our sample yielded a total of 771 witnesses. On average, each report contained 0.78 witnesses ( $s = 1.098$ , results not shown). Of the 989 reports included in our sample, 53% had no witnesses, 29% had one witness, 10% had two witnesses, and 8% had three or more witnesses. Overall, 47% of reports included at least one witness.

**Table 15. Total Number of Witnesses per Report**

*Column percentages*

Number	Reports	
	N	%
Zero	522	52.8 %
One	290	29.3
Two	100	10.1
Three	47	4.8
Four	17	1.7
Five	8	0.8
Six	4	0.4
Seven	0	0.0
Eight	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>989</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

## Suspect Characteristics

From the 989 sexual assault reports included in our sample, we gathered information from 1,050 suspects. The vast majority of reports (94%) contained only one suspect. Only 41 reports contained two or more suspects. A description of these 1,050 suspects is provided below. It should be noted that “Total” figures in the following tables are reflective of the data that were available and collected within the 989 reports we examined. When information was not documented in the reports or when it was documented as “unknown,” it is not included in the following tables.

The suspect’s identity was known by Troopers in most of the reports (90%). However, this does not mean that 10% of the suspects were strangers to their victims. Rather, it indicates that the suspect’s identity was unknown to the investigating Trooper. The vast majority of suspects were adults (87%) and the remaining 13% were juveniles. Overwhelmingly the suspects in our sample were male (97%) and only 32 suspects (3%) were female. Less than half (43%) of the suspects were documented as having drunk alcohol prior to the assault, and only 7% as having used some type of illicit drug other than alcohol. Only 25% of suspects were still at the scene when the investigating Trooper arrived to begin the on-scene investigation. Finally, 34% of suspects were non-cooperative with the investigating Troopers in some fashion.

**Table 16. General Suspect Characteristics**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Identity known	106	10.1 %	944	89.9 %	<b>1050</b>
Juvenile suspect	911	86.8	139	13.2	<b>1050</b>
Male suspect	32	3.2	960	96.8	<b>992</b>
Disabled (mental and/or physical)	932	98.8	11	1.2	<b>943</b>
Homeless	914	98.6	13	1.4	<b>927</b>
Used alcohol	458	57.0	345	43.0	<b>803</b>
Used drugs	709	93.3	51	6.7	<b>760</b>
Present upon Trooper arrival	739	74.9	248	25.1	<b>987</b>
Cooperated with AST	299	33.6	590	66.4	<b>889</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Information on suspect race was known for 957 of the 1,050 suspects. Results show that 59% of suspects were Native and 37% were White.

**Table 17. Race of Suspects***Column percentages*

Race	Suspects	
	N	%
Native	566	59.1 %
White	349	36.5
Black	35	3.7
Other	7	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>957</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The age of the suspect was available for 948 of the 1,050 suspects. On average, suspects were 29.2 years old ( $s = 13.48$ , results not shown) at the time of the alleged assault. The youngest suspect was 5 years old, and the oldest was 80 years old. More specifically, 4% of suspects were less than 12 years old, 9% were 13 to 15 years old, 22% were 16 to 20 years old, 25% were 21 to 30 years old, 19% were 31 to 40 years old, 13% were 41 to 50 years old, and 7% were 51 years of age or older.

**Table 18. Age of Suspects at Time of Assault***Column percentages*

Age group	Suspects	
	N	%
0 to 12	35	3.7 %
13 to 15	87	9.2
16 to 20	210	22.2
21 to 30	236	24.9
31 to 40	184	19.4
41 to 50	127	13.4
51 and over	69	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>948</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following table simultaneously displays suspect age groups and substance use. It should be noted that drug and alcohol use were combined for this table (shown separately in the table above). Not surprisingly, very few suspects under the age of 15 reported using any substance. More specifically, no suspect 12 years of age or younger and only 6 suspects age 13 to 15 reported any substance use. Substance use was most frequent among suspects age 21 to 30, followed by suspects age 31 to 40, and suspects age 16 to 20. Together these three age groups accounted for 81% of the substance use for all suspect age groups. More precisely, 55% of suspects 21 to 30 years old, 60% of suspects 31 to 40 years old, and 41% of suspects 16 to 20 years old reported using any substance.

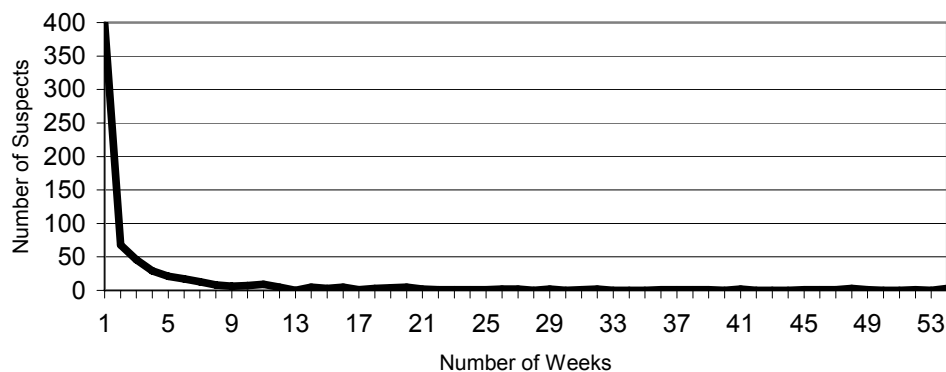
**Table 19. Suspect Substance Use and Age Group\****Column percentages*

Suspect's Age Group	Substance Use		No Substance Use		Total
	N	%	N	%	
0 to 12	-	- %	33	7.4 %	<b>33</b>
13 to 15	6	1.8	74	16.6	<b>80</b>
16 to 20	68	20.4	99	22.2	<b>167</b>
21 to 30	114	34.2	95	21.3	<b>209</b>
31 to 40	87	26.1	59	13.2	<b>146</b>
41 to 50	42	12.6	51	11.4	<b>93</b>
51 or older	16	4.8	35	7.8	<b>51</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>		<b>446</b>		<b>779</b>

\* Analysis includes only those cases with both suspect age and suspect substance use information available.

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Overall, 77% of suspects were interviewed. Of those interviewed, 86% were tape recorded. The number of weeks from report to suspect interview is shown in the following figure. Fifty-seven percent of suspects interviewed were interviewed within one week of the report, 80% were interviewed within one month, and 97% were interviewed within one year. On average, suspects were interviewed 5.7 weeks after the report was made ( $s = 14.66$ , results not shown).

**Figure 6. Number of Weeks from Report to Suspect Interview, for Suspects that Were Interviewed**

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

When available, the suspect interviews were coded to examine their internal consistency. Stated differently, each suspect interview that was available was coded to reflect whether statements were consistent, rather than contradictory, in terms of the general timeline, major events and the main persons involved. For example, if a suspect initially stated that they did not engage in any sexual activity with the victim, and subsequently stated that any sexual activity that may have taken place was consensual, the interview was coded internally inconsistent. Again, we focused on the *general* timeline, *major* events and the *main* persons involved. In other words, we did not focus

on minor details, such as the exact time of day they came into contact with the victim (e.g., 8:30 p.m. versus 8:45 p.m.), but on the overall version of the incident provided by the suspect. Lastly, one limitation of these data is that most of the reports we analyzed only contained synopses of interviews rather than full transcripts. Results of suspect interviews are shown in the table below. As the table indicates, most of the suspect interviews (74%) were internally consistent.

**Table 20. Characteristics of Suspect Interviews**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Suspect was interviewed	215	22.7 %	734	77.3 %	<b>949</b>
Interview was tape recorded	103	14.4	610	85.6	<b>713</b>
Internally consistent	184	25.8	528	74.2	<b>712</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The majority of suspects (73%) had only one sexual assault charge. However, 169 suspects (16%) had two, and 112 (11%) had three or more sexual assault charges. The total number of sexual assault charges (across suspects) was 1,645.

**Table 21. Number of Sexual Assault Charges per Suspect**

*Column percentages*

Number of sexual assault charges	Suspects		
	N	%	Cum. %
Zero	0	0.0 %	0.0 %
One	769	73.2	73.2
Two	169	16.1	89.3
Three	43	4.1	93.4
Four	31	3.0	96.4
Five	10	1.0	97.3
Six or more	28	2.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1050</b>		

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following table describes the total number of charges per suspect, the total number of sexual assault charges per suspect, and the total number of non-sexual assault charges per suspect. Many suspects (34%) received multiple charges. On average, each suspect had a total of 1.83 charges ( $s = 1.84$ , results not shown), including an average of 1.56 sexual assault charges ( $s = 1.47$ , results not shown), and an average of 0.26 non-sexual assault charges<sup>8</sup> ( $s = 0.99$ , results not shown). Only 144 suspects (14%) had a

<sup>8</sup> Some of the “additional non-sexual assault charges” referenced throughout the report include offenses that are more accurately described as “secondary” or “non-contact” sexual assault charges (i.e., incest, indecent exposure, and unlawful exploitation of a minor). All of these offenses are listed under “Article 4. Sexual Offenses” in the State of Alaska Criminal Code.

non-sexual assault charge in addition to their primary sexual assault charge(s). Across suspects, the total number of non-sexual assault charges was 258.

**Table 22. Number of Total, Sexual Assault, and Non-Sexual Assault Charges per Suspect**

*Column percentages*

Number	Total charges			Sexual assault charges			Non-sexual assault charges		
	N	%	Cum. %	N	%	Cum. %	N	%	Cum. %
Zero	0	0.0 %	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0.0 %	906	86.3 %	86.3 %
One	691	65.8	65.8	769	73.2	73.2	85	8.1	94.4
Two	183	17.4	83.2	169	16.1	89.3	31	3.0	97.3
Three	59	5.6	88.9	43	4.1	93.4	15	1.4	98.8
Four	52	5.0	93.8	31	3.0	96.4	5	0.5	99.2
Five	26	2.5	96.3	10	1.0	97.3	3	0.3	99.5
Six or more	39	3.7	100.0	28	2.7	100.0	5	0.5	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1050</b>			<b>1050</b>			<b>1050</b>		

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The first table below shows the 1,645 sexual assault charges, and the following table shows the 258 non-sexual assault charges. The most common sexual assault charges were 2<sup>nd</sup> degree sexual abuse of a minor (29%), 1<sup>st</sup> degree sexual assault (22%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree sexual assault (18%), and 1<sup>st</sup> degree sexual abuse of a minor (12%). Together, these four charges accounted for 81% of the sexual assault charges received by the suspects in our sample. The least common sexual assault charges were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree sexual assault, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree sexual abuse of a minor. Together, these four charges accounted for 19% of the sexual assault charges.

**Table 23. All Sexual Assault Charges**

*Column percentages*

Charge	Number	
	N	%
Sexual abuse of a minor 2nd degree	481	29.2 %
Sexual assault 1st degree	366	22.2
Sexual assault 2nd degree	292	17.8
Sexual abuse of a minor 1st degree	193	11.7
Sexual assault 3rd degree	130	7.9
Sexual abuse of a minor 3rd degree	99	6.0
Sexual abuse of a minor 4th degree	78	4.7
Sexual assault 4th degree	6	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1645</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following table displays the 258 non-sexual assault charges. The most common non-sexual assault charges were for assault (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> degrees), burglary (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> degrees), and kidnapping. Together, these three offense categories accounted for 50% of the non-sexual assault charges in our sample. The remaining non-sexual assault charges included incest, unlawful exploitation of a minor, indecent exposure, murder, reckless



endangerment, coercion, theft, criminal mischief, criminal trespass, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, tampering with a witness or physical evidence, resisting arrest, violating a protective order, interfering with a domestic violence report, failure to register as a sex offender, official misconduct, harassment, distribution or possession of child pornography, misconduct involving a weapon, misconduct involving a controlled substance, alcohol violations, driving violations, and disorderly conduct.

**Table 24. Additional Non-Sexual Assault Charges**

*Column percentages*

Charge	Non-sexual assault charges	
	N	%
Assault 2nd-4th degrees	67	26.0 %
Burglary 1st-2nd degrees	34	13.2
Kidnapping	29	11.2
Incest	17	6.6
Indecent exposure	15	5.8
Alcohol violations	14	5.4
Harassment	9	3.5
Contributing to the delinquency of a minor	8	3.1
Coercion	7	2.7
Distribution or possession of child pornography	6	2.3
Resisting arrest	6	2.3
Criminal trespass	5	1.9
Misconduct involving a controlled substance	5	1.9
Unlawful exploitation of a minor	5	1.9
Violating a protective order	5	1.9
Misconduct involving a weapon	4	1.6
Official misconduct	4	1.6
Tampering with a witness or physical evidence	4	1.6
Criminal mischief	3	1.2
Failure to register as a sex offender	2	0.8
Murder first degree	2	0.8
Theft 2nd-4th degrees	2	0.8
Disorderly conduct	1	0.4
Driving while license is revoked	1	0.4
Misconduct involving a corpse	1	0.4
Interfering with a domestic violence report	1	0.4
Reckless endangerment	1	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>258</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

## Victim Characteristics

From the 989 sexual assault reports included in our sample, we gathered information from 1,082 victims. Most reports (93%) contained only one victim, and the highest number of victims in any report was six (N = 1). Only 73 reports (7%) contained two or more victims. A description of these 1,082 victims is provided below. It should be noted that “Total” figures in the following tables are reflective of the information that was available and collected within the 989 reports we examined. When information was not documented in the reports or when it was documented as “unknown,” it is not included in the following tables.

The vast majority of victims in our sample were female (89%). Only 11% were male. Physical and/or mental disabilities were documented for only 4% of the victims. Most victims (73%) had no documented alcohol use prior to the assault, and only 5% had documented illicit drug use (other than alcohol). Most victims (74%) did not receive a forensic medical exam (SART exam). After the sexual assault was reported, most victims (80%) cooperated with AST throughout the investigative process. However, a fair number of victims (20%) were in some way non-cooperative with AST subsequent to the report. Non-cooperation includes, but is not limited to, refusing to provide an initial interview with AST, refusing to disclose information regarding a known suspect’s identity (for any number of reasons), or refusing to participate in follow-up interviews (assuming the initial interview was given). It may be important to emphasize that not all victims reported the alleged assaults themselves.

**Table 25. General Victim Characteristics**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Female victim	114	10.7 %	955	89.3 %	<b>1069</b>
Disabled (mental and/or physical)	1016	96.0	42	4.0	<b>1058</b>
Homeless	1053	99.9	1	0.1	<b>1054</b>
Used alcohol	721	73.4	261	26.6	<b>982</b>
Used drugs	906	94.9	49	5.1	<b>955</b>
Received SART exam	760	74.3	263	25.7	<b>1023</b>
Cooperated with AST	205	20.0	818	80.0	<b>1023</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

In terms of race, information was known for 1,055 of the 1,082 victims. Similar to the suspects in our sample, 61% of victims were Native and 38% were White.

**Table 26. Race of Victims***Column percentages*

Race	Victims	
	N	%
Native	638	60.5 %
White	400	37.9
Black	13	1.2
Other	4	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1055</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Age information was available for 1,059 of the 1,082 victims. On average, victims were 16.2 years old at the time of the alleged assault ( $s = 10.8$ , results not shown), 13 years younger than the average age of suspects. The youngest victim was less than 1 year old, and the oldest was 82 years old. Overall, 65% of victims were under the age of 16, and 80% were under the age of 21. More specifically, 11% of victims were five years of age or younger, 25% were six to 12 years old, 29% were 13 to 15 years old, 9% were 16 to 17 years old, 7% were 18 to 20 years old, 10% were 21 to 30 years old, and 10% were 31 years of age or older.

**Table 27. Age of Victims at Time of Assault***Column percentages*

Age group	Victims	
	N	%
0 to 5	112	10.6 %
6 to 12	268	25.3
13 to 15	303	28.6
16 to 17	91	8.6
18 to 20	74	7.0
21 to 30	101	9.5
31 or older	110	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1059</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following table simultaneously displays victim age groups and substance use. It should be noted that drug and alcohol use were combined for this table (shown separately in the table above). Not surprisingly, very few victims under the age of 12 reported using any substance. More specifically, no victim five years of age or younger and only seven victims age six to 12 reported any substance use. Substance use was most frequent among victims age 13 to 15, followed by victims age 21 to 30 and victims age 31 or older. Together, these three age groups accounted for 71% of the substance use for all victim age groups. More specifically, 26% of victims 13 to 15 years old reported using any substance, 64% of victims 21 to 30 years old, and 60% of victims 31 or older years old reported using any substance.

**Table 28. Victim Substance Use and Age Group\****Column percentages*

Victim's Age Group	Substance Use		No Substance Use		Total
	N	%	N	%	
0 to 5	-	-	104	14.8 %	<b>104</b>
6 to 12	7	2.7 %	242	34.4	<b>249</b>
13 to 15	71	27.1	203	28.9	<b>274</b>
16 to 17	27	10.3	58	8.3	<b>85</b>
18 to 20	43	16.3	25	3.6	<b>68</b>
21 to 30	59	22.4	33	4.7	<b>92</b>
31 or older	56	21.3	38	5.4	<b>94</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>		<b>703</b>		<b>966</b>

\* Analysis includes only those cases with both victim age and victim substance use information available.

*Source of data:* AST data (2003–2004)

Evidence of penetration was obtained for 17% of victims (result not shown). We defined “evidence of penetration” as documented genital injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, or pregnancy. Each report was also reviewed to examine whether injuries sustained by victims had been documented. When available, the results of SART exams were also examined for documented injuries. Details of victim injuries, as well as the types of emergency medical treatment victims received, are described in the following two tables. The most common type of injury reported was general physical pain (19%). Bruising or swelling was the next most common documented injury sustained by victims as a result of the sexual assault. Lacerations or bite marks, as well as bone fractures, were rarely reported or documented. Overall, very few victims received any type of emergency medical treatment for injuries suffered as a result of the sexual assault. Only 4% of victims received emergency medical care for genital injuries, 2% received emergency medical care for non genital injuries, and less than 1% received emergency medical care for alcohol or drug intoxication. It is important to note that SART exams were not considered “emergency medical treatment.”

**Table 29. Victim Injuries***Row percentages*

Injuries	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Bruising or swelling	832	89.8 %	94	10.2 %	<b>926</b>
Lacerations or bite marks	904	97.1	27	2.9	<b>931</b>
Bone fractures	934	99.9	1	0.1	<b>935</b>
Other physical pain	730	80.9	172	19.1	<b>902</b>

*Source of data:* AST data (2003–2004)

**Table 30. Emergency Medical Treatment for Injuries***Row percentages*

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Yes</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
Genital injuries	972	96.5 %	35	3.5 %	<b>1007</b>
Non genital injuries	990	98.2	18	1.8	<b>1008</b>
Alcohol / drug intoxication	1005	99.6	4	0.4	<b>1009</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003-2004)*

The following table simultaneously displays the timeliness of the report and documented injuries sustained by victims (beyond the sexual assault itself). It should be noted that victims with no documented injuries beyond “other physical pain” were not included in this specific analysis. Only 28% of victims whose incidents were reported within three days sustained documented injuries. However, as the table suggests, 72% (N = 137) of victims that sustained documented physical injuries (as defined above) had their incident reported to law enforcement within three days.

**Table 31. Timeliness of Report and Victim Injuries***Column percentages*

<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Reported within three days</b>		<b>Did not report within three days</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
No	348	71.8 %	405	88.4 %	<b>753</b>
Yes	137	28.2	53	11.6	<b>190</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>		<b>458</b>		<b>943</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following table simultaneously displays information on the timeliness of the report (i.e., the time lapse from the most recent incident and the initial notification of law enforcement) and whether the victim received a SART exam.

**Table 32. Timeliness of Report and SART Exams***Column percentages*

<b>SART Exam</b>	<b>Reported within three days</b>		<b>Did not report within three days</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
No	329	61.6 %	431	88.1 %	<b>760</b>
Yes	205	38.4	58	11.9	<b>263</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>534</b>		<b>489</b>		<b>1023</b>

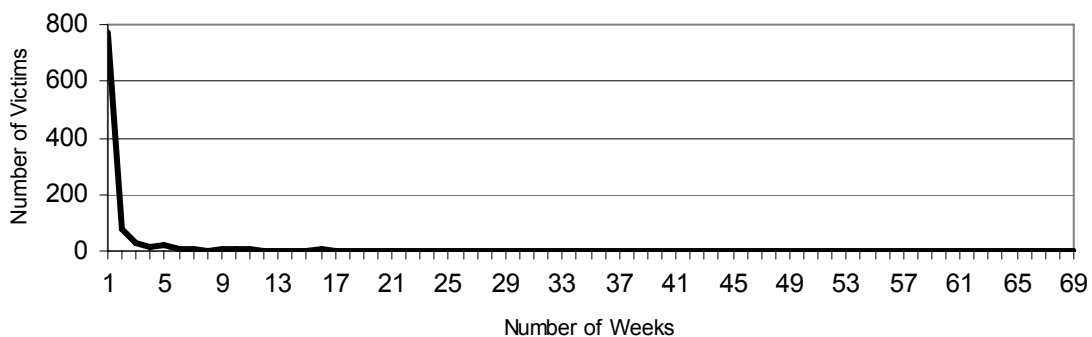
*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Not surprisingly, of those victims who received a SART exam (N = 263), 78% of their cases were reported within 72 hours of the most recent incident. In addition, 38% of

the victims from cases reported within 72 hours ( $N = 534$ ) received a SART exam. Lastly, only 12% of victims from cases that were reported more than three days after the most recent incident ( $N = 489$ ) received a SART exam.

The number of weeks from report to victim interview is shown in the following figure. Overall, 96% of victims were interviewed. Not surprisingly given the high level of victim cooperation with AST, most victims were interviewed shortly after reports were made. More specifically, 48% of the victims interviewed were interviewed on the day of the report, 80% were interviewed within one week of the report, and 92% were interviewed within one month of the report. On average, victims were interviewed 10 days after the report was made ( $s = 40.8$ , results not shown).

**Figure 7. Number of Weeks from Report to Victim Interview, for Victims that Were Interviewed**



*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The table below provides information about the victim interviews. As previously noted, 96% of victims were interviewed. Of those interviewed, 86% were tape recorded. In addition, 91% of victim interviews were conducted in person. Nine percent were conducted via telephone. Victim interviews were also coded to examine the proportion of interviews that were internally consistent (see suspect section of this report for further explanation). Stated differently, each available victim interview was coded to reflect if the victim's statements regarding the major events related to the alleged assault were consistent rather than contradictory. During their interviews with AST, the majority of victims (85%) made internally consistent statements.

**Table 33. Characteristics of Victim Interviews**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Victim was interviewed	38	3.6 %	1004	96.4 %	<b>1042</b>
Interview was tape recorded	143	14.5	846	85.5	<b>989</b>
Internally consistent	154	15.3	852	84.7	<b>1006</b>
Interviewed in person (vs. telephonically)	88	9.3	858	90.7	<b>946</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

## Victim-Suspect Characteristics

From the 989 sexual assault reports included in our sample, we gathered information from 1,138 unique victim-suspect combinations. This section of the report describes information on these unique combinations by simultaneously examining characteristics of the victim and suspect within each of the unique combinations. Stated differently, the information provided in this section examines characteristics of the victim and suspect relationship. It should be noted that “Total” figures in the following tables are reflective of the information that was available and collected within the 989 reports we examined. When information was not documented in the reports or when it was documented as “unknown,” it is not included in the following tables.

The following table describes the nature of the victim and suspect relationship at the time of the alleged assault. Overwhelmingly, the victims reported to know the suspect in some fashion (98%). Only 2% of the incidents involved complete strangers. Nearly half (46%) of the incidents involved friends or acquaintances, and 35% of the incidents involved relatives. Further, 12% of the victim-suspect relationships involved current or past intimate partners (including married couples). In addition, 4% of the relationships involved suspects that were in a position of authority over their victims. Together, friends, relatives, and intimate partners accounted for 94% of the victim-suspect relationships in our sample of cases. The low frequency of incidents that were complete strangers is consistent with the existing literature on sexual assault. Moreover, the extremely low frequency found in our sample of sexual assault cases is not surprising given that many of the cases in our sample come from relatively small communities where most everyone knows one another in some way. Additional tables containing information on the victim-suspect relationship for minor victims (defined as 17 years of age or younger), and the victim-suspect relationship for adult victims (defined as 18 years of age or older) can be found in Appendix A.

**Table 34. Nature of Victim and Suspect Relationship\***

*Column percentages*

Relationships	Victim-suspect combinations	
	N	%
Friends or acquaintances	477	46.4 %
Relatives	360	35.1
Current or former partners	124	12.1
Authority figure (to victim)	44	4.3
Strangers	22	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1027</b>	

\* The “relatives” category in this table includes in-laws, immediate, and extended family members. However, married couples were excluded from the “relatives” category. See Appendix C for the legal definition of “Authority figure.”

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The table below displays the race of victims and suspects simultaneously. Only those incidents with race information available for both parties are included in the

following table. Two racial groups, Alaska Natives and Whites, accounted for the overwhelming majority of both suspects and victims in our sample of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor cases (see Tables 17 and 26 respectively for individual breakdowns). More specifically, 98% of the victims and 96% of the suspects were either White or Native. Due to the low numbers of Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics in our sample (only 2% of victims and 4% of suspects), the current discussion focuses primarily on Whites and Natives. As the table indicates, the vast majority (87%) of incidents were intra-racial. Natives were more likely to assault and be assaulted by Natives and Whites were more likely to assault and be assaulted by Whites. More specifically, 91% of Native victims and 94% of Native suspects were involved in intra-racial incidents and 84% of White victims and 87% of White suspects were involved in intra-racial incidents. Compared to Native victims and Native suspects, White victims and White suspects were more likely to be involved in inter-racial incident(s). More specifically, 9% of Native victims were assaulted by a non-Native suspect, whereas 16% of White victims were assaulted by a non-White suspect. Conversely, 14% of White suspects assaulted a non-White victim, but only 6% of Native suspects assaulted a non-Native victim. The high rate of intra-racial incidents is not surprising given the demographic homogeneity of many Alaskan communities. The populations of many off-highway communities are predominantly Alaska Native whereas most highway communities are largely White with a minority Alaska Native population (see brief discussion of census data in the introduction of this report).

**Table 35. Victim-Suspect Race Combinations\***

*Column percentages*

Suspect's Race	Victim's Race										Total
	Native		White		Black		Asian		Hispanic		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Native	569	91.3 %	33	8.6 %	4	28.6 %	1	50.0 %	1	50.0 %	608
White	43	6.9	321	83.8	7	50.0	1	50.0	–	–	372
Black	10	1.6	23	6.0	3	21.4	–	–	1	50.0	37
Asian	1	0.2	4	1.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	5
Hispanic	–	–	2	0.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>623</b>		<b>383</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>1024</b>

\* Analysis includes only those cases with race information available for both the victim and the suspect.

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

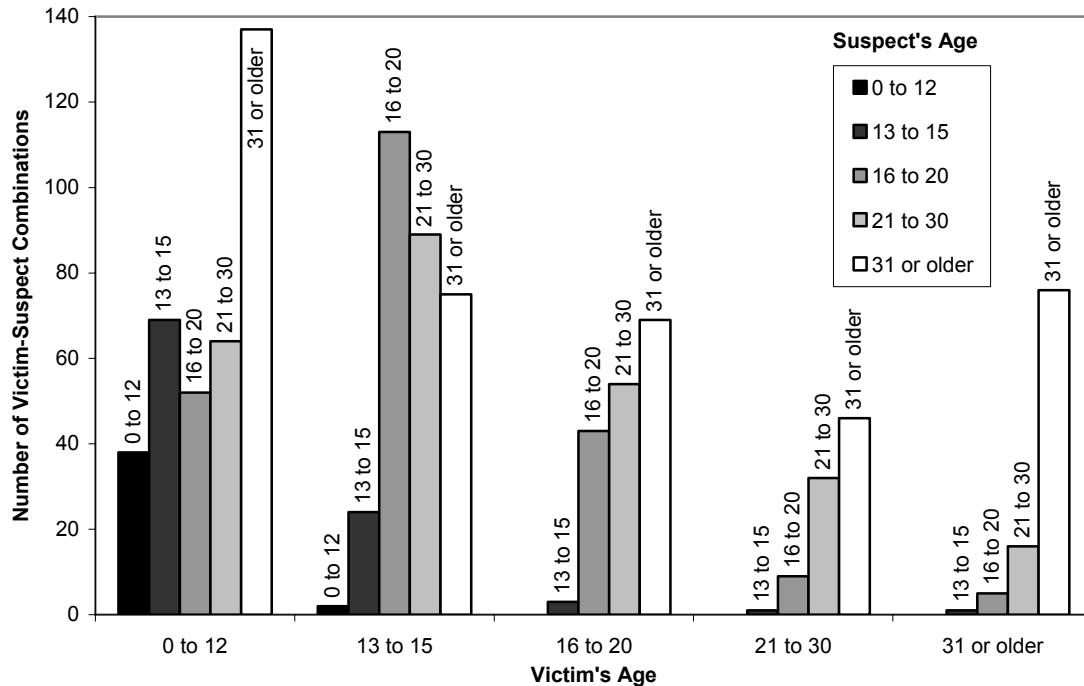
The following table and figure each display the age groups of victims and suspects simultaneously. Only those incidents with age information available for both parties are included in the following table and figure. As previously discussed, one of the major statutory distinctions between sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor is the age of both the suspect and the victim. The age groups used in the following table and figure were constructed based on the 2003 and 2004 Alaska Criminal Code.

Unlike the race combinations discussed above, the vast majority (79%) of incidents involved victims and suspects from different age groups (as defined by the categories below). This finding is not surprising considering the 13 year difference



between the average age of suspects (29.2 years old) and victims (16.2 years old) in our sample. The following graph displays the number of victim-suspect combinations (on vertical axis) by victim age (on horizontal axis) for five different suspect age groups (in vertical bars). Additional information is shown in Table 36. Both analyses include only those cases with age information available for both the victim and the suspect.

**Figure 8. Victim-Suspect Age Combinations**



Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)

**Table 36. Victim-Suspect Age Combinations**

Column percentages

Suspect's Age	Victim's Age										Total
	0-12		13-15		16-20		21-30		31 or older		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
0-12	38	10.6 %	2	0.7 %	–	– %	–	– %	–	– %	40
13-15	69	19.2	24	7.9	3	1.8	1	1.1	1	1.0	98
16-20	52	14.4	113	37.3	43	25.4	9	10.2	5	5.1	222
21-30	64	17.8	89	29.4	54	32.0	32	36.4	16	16.3	255
31 or older	137	38.1	75	24.8	69	40.8	46	52.3	76	77.6	403
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>		<b>303</b>		<b>169</b>		<b>88</b>		<b>98</b>		<b>1018</b>

Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)

The top five age group combinations were (1) suspects 31 years old or older and victims 0 to 12 years old (N = 137), (2) 16 to 20 year old suspects and 13 to 15 year old victims (N = 113), (3) 21 to 30 year old suspects and 13 to 15 year old victims (N = 89), (4) suspects 31 years old or older and victims 31 years old or older (N = 76), and (5) suspects 31 years old or older and 13 to 15 year old victims (N = 75). Together, these

five age group combinations accounted for 48% of the incidents in our sample (where both the age of the suspect and victim were known).

Information on the victim-suspect living arrangement at the time of the most recent incident is displayed below. As the table indicates, most victims (71%) were not living with the suspects at the time of the alleged assault. More precisely, 12% of the victims were temporarily residing with the suspect and 16% were permanently residing with the suspect at the time of the most recent alleged assault.

**Table 37. Victim and Suspect Living Arrangement**

*Column percentages*

<b>Living arrangement</b>	<b>Victim-suspect combinations</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Separate	719	71.3 %
Permanently common	165	16.4
Temporarily common	125	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1009</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

## Incident Characteristics

This section of the report contains information on the incidents of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors reported to AST. It is important for readers to keep in mind that the term “incident” refers to the time period immediately preceding the assault, the assault itself, and the time period immediately following the assault for each of the unique victim-suspect combinations within the 989 reports. As the previous section noted, some reports contained multiple suspects, victims, incidents, charges, and/or witnesses. This reality means that the total number of victims and/or suspects for our sample is necessarily greater than the total number of reports. By including information on each unique incident, we are able to describe the characteristics for multiple incidents within any given case, rather than limiting the analysis to only one incident. It should be noted that when multiple incidents were reported for any unique victim-suspect combination the “assault” details were combined into one record, all other details were taken from the most recent incident. Overall, the 989 reports, 1,050 suspects, and 1,082 victims yielded a grand total of 1,138 unique incidents. The characteristics of the incidents are now discussed.

The table below displays the most serious charge for each unique incident. Thus, for those suspects charged with assaulting more than one victim (within one case) the most serious charge associated with each victim is contained in the following table. In other words, suspects charged with assaulting more than victim are counted once for *each separate victim* in the following table. Of the most serious sexual assault charges, the most common were 2<sup>nd</sup> degree sexual abuse of a minor (28%), 1<sup>st</sup> degree sexual assault (27%), 1<sup>st</sup> degree sexual abuse of a minor (18%), and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree sexual assault (17%). Together, these four charges accounted for 89% of the most serious charges across all unique incidents.

**Table 38. Most Serious Charge for Each Incident**

*Column percentages*

Most Serious Charge	Incidents	
	N	%
2nd degree sexual abuse of a minor	318	27.9 %
1st degree sexual assault	304	26.7
1st degree sexual abuse of a minor	198	17.4
2nd degree sexual assault	191	16.8
4th degree sexual abuse of a minor	52	4.6
3rd degree sexual abuse of a minor	46	4.0
3rd degree sexual assault	25	2.2
4th degree sexual assault	4	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1138</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following table displays the total number of sexual assault charges associated with each unique incident. In the majority of instances (78%), there was only one sexual assault charge per incident. However, slightly more than one-fifth of the incidents (22%) yielded two or more sexual assault charges. On average, each incident generated 1.45 sexual assault charges ( $s = 1.24$ , results not shown).

**Table 39. Total Number of Sexual Assault Charges per Incident***Column percentages*

Number	Incidents	
	N	%
One	884	77.7 %
Two	159	14.0
Three or more	95	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1138</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The official report writing manual for the Alaska State Troopers instructs officers to list one of five possible categories relating to the involvement of substances for each charge. The five categories are none, alcohol, drugs, both, and unknown. The following table displays the documented involvement of substances for each unique incident. Overall, 61% of the incidents did not involve documented substance use of any kind. More specifically, substance use was not involved in approximately one-third (32%) of the incidents. For 29% of the incidents, the involvement of substance use was not known to the Troopers. The exclusive use of drugs was exceedingly rare (only 2% of the incidents), as was the use of both alcohol and drugs (only 4% of the incidents). However, the exclusive use of alcohol (by the suspect, victim, or both) was involved in 34% of the incidents. Finally, some form of substance use (alcohol, drugs, or both) was documented for approximately 39% of the incidents.

**Table 40. Substance Use Involved***Column percentages*

Substance	Incidents	
	N	%
Alcohol	365	33.5 %
None	349	32.0
Unknown	311	28.5
Drugs	20	4.1
Both	45	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1090</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Each report was read to gather information on the series of events surrounding the incident. We focused on three main events: the pickup, the assault, and the drop-off. The pickup was defined as the moment when the victim and suspect came into contact with each other on the day of the incident and the drop-off was defined as the moment when the victim and suspect were no longer together in the same location following the assault. The remaining tables in this section of the report all relate to these three major time frames. More specifically, we gathered information on the location of the pickup, assault, and drop-off, how the victim and suspect came into contact before the assault, whether weapons were used during the assault, the sexual acts engaged in during the assault, characteristics of victim resistance during the assault, information on who stopped the assault, the victim's condition at the time of the assault, and the amount of

time between the assault and the initial report to law enforcement. It should be noted that detailed information was not always available within the official reports. Several factors contribute to the absence of specific details surrounding the major events. These factors include, but are not limited to, the inability to locate and interview victims and/or suspects, the inability of some victims to accurately recall specific details relevant to this report, non-cooperative victims, false reports (made by either the victim or a third party), and victims denying that any assault ever occurred.

The table below displays details on how the victim and suspect came into contact with each other prior to the most recent incident. It should be noted that this information was only available for 722 of the 1,138 incidents. It also important to note that victims and suspects who were living together at the time of the incident (see Table 37 above) may have contacted each other outside of the home prior to the assault. They would therefore not be included in the “Lived together” category in the following table. The five most common ways that victims and suspects came into contact with each other prior to the incident were by living together (32%), the suspect inviting the victim somewhere (20%), the suspect attacking the victim indoors (15%), the victim inviting the suspect somewhere (10%), and the victim and suspect meeting up with each other at a party (9%). Together, these five pickup methods were used in 86% of the incidents (for which this information was available).

**Table 41. Method of Pickup**

*Column percentages*

Method	Incidents	
	N	%
Lived together	234	32.4 %
Suspect invited victim	146	20.2
Attacked indoors	109	15.1
Victim invited suspect	71	9.8
Met at a party	63	8.7
Suspect performing service	33	4.6
Jumped outdoors	23	3.2
Entered suspect's vehicle	20	2.8
Met elsewhere	13	1.8
Met in a bar	10	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>722</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following three tables provide details on the location type for each of the major events in the most recent alleged assault. More specifically, the following three tables describe the location of the pickup, assault and drop-off. The vast majority of victims and suspects came into contact with each other prior to the assault at a mutually shared residence (25%), the suspect's private residence (25%), or the victim's private residence (20%). Together, these three locations accounted for 70% of the known pickup locations. The next most common pickup locations were someone else's private residence (14%) and outdoors (10%). Overall, these five locations accounted for 94% of the known pickup locations.

**Table 42. Location of Pickup***Column percentages*

Location	Incidents	
	N	%
Suspect's house	221	25.1 %
Victim and suspect's house	221	25.1
Victim's house	175	19.9
Other's house	122	13.8
Outdoors	89	10.1
Bar	17	1.9
Vehicle (victim or suspect's)	16	1.8
Work (victim or suspect's)	12	1.4
Hotel	8	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>881</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Details on the location of the most recent alleged assaults are shown below. The five most common assault locations were identical to the five most common pickup locations, differing only in terms of rank. More specifically, the most commonly reported assault locations were the suspect's private residence (30%), the victim and suspect's mutual residence (25%), the victim's private residence (17%), someone else's private residence (14%), and outdoors (7%). Overall, these five locations represented 93% of the known assault locations for our sample.

**Table 43. Location of Assault***Column percentages*

Location	Incidents	
	N	%
Suspect's house	271	29.7 %
Victim and suspect's house	232	25.4
Victim's house	159	17.4
Other's house	130	14.2
Outdoors	61	6.7
Vehicle (victim or suspect's)	38	4.2
Hotel	11	1.2
Work (victim or suspect's)	8	0.9
Bar	3	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>913</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

As the following table indicates, the most common drop-off locations were also identical to the most common pickup and assault locations. More specifically, the most commonly reported drop-off locations were the suspect's private residence (28%), the victim and suspect's mutual residence (26%), the victim's private residence (20%), someone else's private residence (13%), and outdoors (7%). Overall, these five locations represented 95% of the known drop-off locations for all of the incidents in our sample. Taken together, these three tables seem to suggest that once victims and suspects come

into contact with one another prior to the assault (i.e., the pickup) there is minimal movement between locations during and after the assault.

**Table 44. Location of Drop-off**

*Column percentages*

Location	Incidents	
	N	%
Suspect's house	241	28.0 %
Victim and suspect's house	223	25.9
Victim's house	179	20.8
Other's house	113	13.1
Outdoors	63	7.3
Vehicle (victim or suspect's)	17	2.0
Hotel	12	1.4
Work (victim or suspect's)	8	0.9
Bar	4	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>860</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following tables describe the victims' condition at the time of the most recent incident. The first table displays the victims' condition alone, the second table simultaneously displays the victims' condition and age group, and the third table simultaneously displays the victims' condition and the setting of the incident (i.e., highway vs. off-highway). Information regarding the victim's condition at the time of the incident was not always available. However, when it was available it may have come from multiple sources. These sources include, but are not limited to, statements made by the victim to AST and/or a health professional, statements from witnesses, and direct observations made by the investigating Trooper. Readers are reminded that the numbers in the following tables are not directly comparable to similar results in the victim section of this report.

**Table 45. Victim Condition at Time of Assault**

*Column percentages*

Condition	Victim-suspect combinations	
	N	%
Sober	581	60.1 %
Intoxicated	152	15.7
Sleeping	134	13.9
Passed out (intoxicated)	100	10.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>967</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

For the vast majority of the incidents (60%), the victims were described as being sober and awake, and in 14% of the incidents, the victims were described as being asleep when the alleged assault began. However, in 26% of the incidents, the victim was considered to have been intoxicated (from alcohol and/or drug use). More specifically,

victims were considered to be intoxicated (and awake) in 16% of the incidents, and victims were described as intoxicated and passed out (i.e., sleeping and largely unresponsive) in 10% of the incidents.

The following table simultaneously displays the victims' condition at the time of the assault and age group. As the table indicates, in the vast majority of incidents with sober victims (78%), the victims were 15 years of age or younger. In over half (58%) of the incidents that involved victims who were described as being asleep at the time of the incident, the victims were 6 to 15 years of age. In two-thirds (66%) of the incidents involving victims that were described as being intoxicated (but not passed out) at the time of the assault, the victims were under the legal drinking age (i.e., 20 years of age or younger). In addition, slightly more than half (53%) of the incidents involving victims described as intoxicated and passed out involved victims that were under the legal drinking age.

**Table 46. Victim Age Group and Condition at Time of Assault \***

*Column percentages*

Victim's Age Group	Victim Condition at Time of Assault								Total
	Sober		Sleeping		Intoxicated		Passed Out (intoxicated)		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
0 to 5	87	15.1 %	9	6.7 %	–	–	–	–	<b>96</b>
6 to 12	189	32.9	45	33.6	10	6.6 %	2	2.0 %	<b>246</b>
13 to 15	174	30.3	32	23.9	50	32.9	20	20.0	<b>276</b>
16 & 17	45	7.8	11	8.2	18	11.8	13	13.0	<b>87</b>
18 to 20	19	3.3	14	10.4	23	15.1	18	18.0	<b>74</b>
21 to 30	29	5.0	11	8.2	21	13.8	26	26.0	<b>87</b>
31 or older	32	5.6	12	9.0	30	19.7	21	21.0	<b>95</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>575</b>		<b>134</b>		<b>152</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>961</b>

\* Analysis includes only those cases with both victim age and victim condition at time of assault information.

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following table simultaneously displays the victims' condition at the time of the assault and the setting of the incident (i.e., highway vs. off-highway). As the table indicates, the percentage of incidents with sober victims was slightly higher in off-highway locations (55%) than in highway locations (45%). The percentages are similar for incidents involving intoxicated victims, with 56% reported from off-highway locations and 44% reported from highway locations. The vast majority (69%) of incidents involving victims that were asleep were reported from off-highway locations. Again, the percentages are similar for incidents involving victims that were reportedly intoxicated and passed out, with 76% reported from off-highway locations and 24% reported from highway locations.



**Table 47. Location of Assault and Victim Condition at Time of Assault\****Column percentages*

Location	Victim Condition at Time of Assault								Total
	Sober		Sleeping		Intoxicated		Passed Out (intoxicated)		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Off-highway	322	55.4 %	93	69.4 %	85	55.9 %	76	76.0 %	<b>576</b>
Highway	259	44.6	41	30.6	67	44.1	24	24.0	<b>391</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>581</b>		<b>134</b>		<b>152</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>967</b>

\* Analysis includes only those cases with both victim age and assault location information available.

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

As the following table indicates, the reported use of weapons by suspects was exceedingly rare in our sample of sexual assault cases. The one major exception however, was suspects' use of their hands and/or arms to physically restrain or strike their victims during the alleged assaults. In slightly less than one-third of the incidents, suspects used their hand and/or arms to restrict victims' movement or to physically assault victims (beyond the sexual assault). The remaining types of weapons, shown in the table below, were reported to have been used in less than 1% of the incidents.

**Table 48. Weapons Used During Assault***Row percentages*

Weapon	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Hands / arms	649	70.5 %	271	29.5 %	<b>920</b>
Knife	1009	99.6	4	0.4	<b>1013</b>
Gun	1011	99.7	3	0.3	<b>1014</b>
Drugs (not including alcohol)	1009	99.8	2	0.2	<b>1011</b>
Blunt object	1015	99.9	1	0.1	<b>1016</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Statutorily, the main factor distinguishing sexual assault from sexual abuse of a minor is the age of both the victim and suspect (the legal age of consent for the time period covered in the study was 16 years old). In terms of the varying degrees of sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor (1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> degree), the main distinguishing characteristic is the element of *sexual penetration* (as opposed to *sexual contact* only). The full 2004 State of Alaska statutes and the definitions of *sexual penetration* and *sexual contact* are provided in Appendix C. Generally speaking, sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees involve *sexual penetration* (and therefore necessarily include *sexual contact*), but sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degrees involve *sexual contact* only. Again, see Appendix C for the more specific statutory elements that distinguish sexual assault (1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> degree) from sexual abuse of a minor (1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> degree).

Based on the 2003 and 2004 State of Alaska statutes for sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor, we examined fifteen specific incident characteristics and sexual acts for

every alleged incident within each of the 989 sexual assault reports. These specific characteristics and acts are shown in the table below. This information was gathered from victim and suspect statements, as well as from forensic medical exam reports when available. In some instances, victims had a difficult time recalling the specific details of their assault during the course of the investigation or the forensic medical exam. If specific information was not available or documented as unknown in the official report, it was not included in the specific analysis. For example, if a particular incident had 14 of the 15 elements documented as “yes” or “no,” they were included in the analyses of those 14 elements and excluded from the analysis of the 15<sup>th</sup> element. Lastly, some of the more specific sexual acts were collapsed for this report (e.g., oral copulation of genitals and oral copulation of anus were combined into a single category of oral sex). Additional tables for minor victims (defined as 17 years of age or younger) and adult victims (defined as 18 years of age or older) can be found in Appendix A.

**Table 49. Incident(s) Characteristics and Sexual Acts**

*Row percentages*

Incident Characteristics	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Element(s) of sexual penetration documented	373	39.9 %	561	60.1 %	<b>934</b>
Victim explicitly denied any assault took place	1053	92.5	85	7.5	<b>1138</b>
Condom used	784	90.5	82	9.5	<b>866</b>
Ejaculation occurred	501	65.0	270	35.0	<b>771</b>
<b>Sexual Acts</b>					
Touching of the external female genitalia	365	47.7	400	52.3	<b>765</b>
Penile penetration of victim's vagina	582	60.1	387	39.9	<b>969</b>
Touching of victim's breasts	483	65.0	260	35.0	<b>743</b>
Kissing	563	70.9	231	29.1	<b>794</b>
Digital penetration of victim's vagina	597	75.3	196	24.7	<b>793</b>
Touching of penis (suspect or victim's)	714	85.6	120	14.4	<b>834</b>
Touching of victim's anus	626	86.1	101	13.9	<b>727</b>
Victim performed oral sex on suspect	759	86.9	114	13.1	<b>873</b>
Suspect performed oral sex on victim	736	88.0	100	12.0	<b>836</b>
Penile penetration of victim's anus	786	91.7	71	8.3	<b>857</b>
Digital penetration of victim's anus	816	97.4	22	2.6	<b>838</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Overall, sexual penetration (as defined by Alaska law) was documented in 60% of the incidents (this includes oral sex). The victim explicitly denied that an assault took place in 8% of the incidents. The use of condoms was relatively low (in only 10% of incidents). However, ejaculation was reported to have occurred in 35% of the incidents.

The average number of sexual acts per incident was 2.16 ( $s = 1.82$ , results not shown). The most common sexual acts included touching the victim's external female genitalia (52% of incidents), penile penetration of the victim's vagina (40% of incidents), touching of the victim's breasts (35% of incidents), kissing (29% of incidents), and digital penetration of the victim's vagina (25% of incidents). Overall, 73% of the incidents had at least one of the sexual acts documented in the official report (result not shown). In other words, 27% of the incidents had *none* of the specific sexual acts

documented in the affirmative. Of those incidents with no sexual acts documented in the affirmative, 18.7% had only “no” or “unknown” documented for each specific act, while 8.3% had “no” documented for all acts. Further, in 8% of the incidents (n = 85), the victim explicitly stated that no sexual assault took place (results not shown). It is worth noting that all 78 cases involving these incidents were closed as unfounded (n = 64) or closed by investigation (n = 14). Lastly, of these 78 cases, 94% were reported by a third party.<sup>9</sup>

Seven separate types of victim resistance were also examined for each incident. It should be noted that the specific categories and terminology were taken directly from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), conducted annually by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)<sup>10</sup>. In addition, Alaska law does not require “resistance” as a necessary criminal element of sexual assault and/or sexual abuse of a minor. When multiple incidents were reported involving the same victim and suspect, the resistance characteristics were compiled to reflect the variety of techniques a victim may have employed over the course of separate incidents.

The table below describes these various resistance techniques in more detail. By far the most commonly reported resistance technique was to cooperate or pretend to cooperate with the suspect. Almost half of the incidents (45%) reported some form of cooperation.<sup>11</sup> The next most common resistance techniques included yelling at the suspect (18% of incidents), running away from the suspect (18% of incidents), physically resisting or attacking the suspect (16% of incidents), and arguing or pleading with the suspect to stop (14% of incidents). Overall, these results suggest that a fair number of victims employ a variety of techniques in an effort to prevent or stop attempted sexual assaults from taking place. Additional tables containing information on resistance techniques for incidents involving minor victims (defined as 17 years of age or younger), and the resistance techniques for incidents involving adult victims (defined as 18 years of age or older) can be found in Appendix A.

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<sup>9</sup> Our sample included 5 known false reports by alleged victims.

<sup>10</sup> More information about the NCVS is available at the following BJS webpage:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/soo.htm>

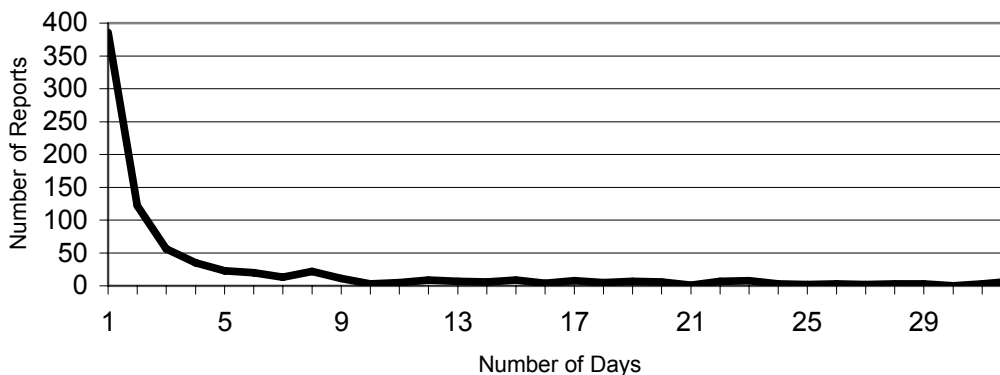
<sup>11</sup> Several factors exist that may help explain why so many victims reportedly cooperated with their suspects. Only one will be discussed here. The high proportion of young victims (39% were under the age of 12) likely plays some role in the high incidence of cooperation. An argument can surely be made that many young victims (especially if the suspect is older, a relative, and/or someone who is an authority figure to the victim in some way) may cooperate *because they know the suspect is an authority figure to them*, or may also cooperate because they are not fully aware that a sexual act is taking place. Of course, experiencing fear (e.g., fear of the consequences for not complying with the suspect) during a sexual assault is in no way restricted by age, and is therefore equally likely to induce cooperation for each and every victim in our sample.

**Table 50. Resistance Characteristics***Row percentages*

Actions	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Cooperated or pretended to cooperate	515	54.7 %	426	45.3 %	<b>941</b>
Yelled at suspect	776	82.0	170	18.0	<b>946</b>
Ran away from suspect	789	82.4	169	17.6	<b>958</b>
Attacked suspect	801	83.7	156	16.3	<b>957</b>
Argued or pleaded with suspect	718	76.0	227	14.4	<b>945</b>
Called / yelled for help	934	96.0	39	4.0	<b>973</b>
Threatened suspect	933	97.7	22	2.3	<b>955</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Among other things, timely reports are a key factor in law enforcement's ability to locate and interview suspects and key witnesses, and to document, collect, and preserve evidence. The final figure in this section displays the number of days between the most recent sexual assault incident and the initial complaint made to law enforcement for reports made within one month. Nearly half (45%) of the most recent incidents were reported within one day, 10% were reported from 25 to 96 hours (i.e., generally within the time frame where recovering DNA evidence is still possible), and 5% were reported from five to seven days of the incident. Overall, 60% of the most recent incidents were reported to law enforcement within one week, and 70% were reported within one month. Tables containing information on the timeliness of reports for incidents involving minor victims (defined as 17 years of age or younger), and on the timeliness of reports for incidents involving adult victims (defined as 18 years of age or older) can be found in Appendix A.

**Figure 9. Number of Days from Last Incident to Report, for Reports Made Within One Month***Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

## Witness Characteristics

From the 989 sexual assault reports included in our sample, we gathered information from 771 witnesses. Overall, just under half of the reports (47%) had at least one witness. On average, each report contained 0.78 witnesses ( $s = 1.1$ , results not shown). Of the witnesses, only 26% were actual eyewitnesses. Most of the witnesses were female (62%), and an overwhelming majority (94%) were fully cooperative with AST. Only 15% of the witnesses reported drinking any alcohol, and only 1% reported any drug use.

**Table 51. General Witness Characteristics**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Eyewitness	560	73.9 %	198	26.1 %	<b>758</b>
Female witness	281	37.9	461	62.1	<b>742</b>
Used alcohol	594	84.6	108	15.4	<b>702</b>
Used drugs	699	98.7	9	1.3	<b>708</b>
Cooperated with AST	42	5.8	683	94.2	<b>725</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

In terms of race, information was known for 748 of the 771 witnesses. Overall, slightly more than half of the witnesses were Native (53%), 44% were White, and 2% were Black.

**Table 52. Race of Witnesses**

*Column percentages*

Race	Witnesses	
	N	%
Native	391	52.5 %
White	331	44.4
Black	16	2.1
Other	7	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

As the following table indicates, 6% of witnesses were 10 years of age or younger, 31% were 11 to 20 years old, 22% were 21 to 30 years old, 19% were 31 to 40 years old, 13% were 41 to 50 years old, 7% were 51 to 60 years old, and 2% were 61 years of age or older. On average, witnesses were 28.2 years old ( $s = 14.0$ , results not shown).

**Table 53. Age of Witnesses***Column percentages*

Age group	Witnesses	
	N	%
11 to 20	231	30.8 %
21 to 30	165	22.0
31 to 40	144	19.2
41 to 50	99	13.2
51 to 60	52	6.9
Less than 11	43	5.7
61 and over	16	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

The following table displays results detailing the characteristics of witness interviews. Almost all (97%) of the witnesses were located and agreed to an interview with AST. Of those interviewed, 81% were tape recorded, and 76% of the interviews were conducted in person (rather than telephonically). All witness interviews were coded to determine whether they were internally consistent, and when applicable consistent with interviews of others (including suspects, victims, or other witnesses). As the table indicates, the vast majority of witnesses (96%) provided internally consistent interviews. In addition, 78% of the witness interviews contained statements that corroborated those made by suspects, victims, or other witnesses.

**Table 54. Characteristics of Witness Interviews***Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Witness was interviewed	22	2.9 %	726	97.1 %	<b>748</b>
Interview was tape recorded	132	18.7	574	81.3	<b>706</b>
Internally consistent	29	4.1	680	95.9	<b>709</b>
Consistent with other(s)	157	22.5	542	77.5	<b>699</b>
Interviewed in person (vs. telephonically)	173	24.1	546	75.9	<b>719</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

## Legal Resolutions

The results presented in this section contain information on three separate stages of prosecution: (1) referral, (2) acceptance, and (3) conviction. At this point in the report, we focus exclusively on referrals to the Alaska Department of Law. We do not examine referrals to other agencies, such as the Division of Juvenile Justice. The results presented in this section are therefore not directly comparable to previous results. The first stage, referral, is the forwarding of cases by AST to the Alaska Department of Law (DOL). However, before AST can refer a case to DOL, at least one suspect must be formally arrested. It is at this point that prosecutors officially become aware of the case and take legal control in terms of case processing. The second stage, acceptance, represents the first formal decision made by prosecutors. For every charge referred by AST, there are only two possible outcomes. The charge is both accepted and filed, or prosecution is declined and the charge is dismissed. In other words, when a charge is accepted, the suspect has formally been “charged” with the particular criminal offense. The third and final stage in the current analyses, conviction, represents the final disposition, or outcome, for each accepted charge (e.g., finding of guilt, acquittal, dismissal). More specifically, when a charge results in a conviction (e.g., guilty plea, guilty conviction obtained by jury or bench trial), the suspect is officially “found guilty” of the particular charge. Alternatively, when charges are dismissed or acquitted, the suspect is officially “found not guilty” regarding the particular charge. It should be noted that all “convictions” do not necessarily result in a suspect being incarcerated (i.e., sentenced to jail or prison), and may instead result in fines, probation, and/or court-ordered treatment. At each of the three stages, referral, acceptance, and conviction, each *case* may contain multiple *charges*. Accordingly, the legal outcomes are discussed in two sections. Results from the *case-level* analyses are presented first, followed by the results from the *charge-level* analyses. It may be helpful to think of the *case-level* results as the “if any” outcomes. In other words, the results displayed in the next five tables (Tables 55-59) describe whether *any charge* within a given *case* moved forward to the next stage.

### *Case-Level*

Legal resolutions were examined for all 989 cases in our sample. Previous results (see pages 6 and 27) indicated that 61% of these cases were referred for prosecution. In this section, we focus only on referrals to the Alaska Department of Law (thereby excluding referrals to other agencies). Of the 989 cases in our sample, 452 (46%) were referred to the Alaska Department of Law (DOL). Because this statistic was obtained from DOL records, it is not directly comparable to previous statistics gathered from AST records. The State of Alaska does not have a centralized and unified law enforcement and prosecutorial data management system. In addition, these data were collected at different points in time. The first table below describes the total number of cases reported to AST and the total number of cases referred to DOL, accepted by DOL, and convicted by DOL. As noted above, 46% (N = 452) of the cases reported to AST were referred to DOL for prosecution. Sixty percent of the cases referred to DOL (N = 273) had at least one charge accepted and filed with the court for prosecution. Of those cases with at least one charge accepted by DOL, 80% resulted in a conviction. As the table

indicates, the highest level of attrition occurs from report to referral. More importantly, once cases are referred the likelihood of at least one charge being accepted and resulting in a finding of guilt is quite high. An additional table describing the same information for each specific Detachment is available in Appendix A.

**Table 55. Number of Cases by Stage**

Stage	N	% of reported	% of referred	% of accepted
Reported	989	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	452	45.7	100.0 %	—
Accepted	273	27.6	60.4	100.0 %
Convicted	219	22.1	48.5	80.2

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law

The following two tables describe the same information as the preceding table, only they are conditioned on the presence of a witness. The first table describes those cases with at least one witness (47% of cases), followed by a description of those cases with no witnesses (53% of cases).

**Table 56. Number of Cases with At Least One Witness by Stage**

Stage	N	% of reported	% of referred	% of accepted
Reported	467	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	253	54.2 *	100.0 %	—
Accepted	160	34.3 *	63.2	100.0 %
Convicted	123	26.3 *	48.6	76.9

\* Difference by presence of witness is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law, AST data (2003–2004)

**Table 57. Number of Cases with No Witness by Stage**

Stage	N	% of reported	% of referred	% of accepted
Reported	522	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	199	38.1 *	100.0 %	—
Accepted	113	21.6 *	56.8	100.0 %
Convicted	93	17.8 *	46.7	82.3

\* Difference by presence of witness is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law, AST data (2003–2004)

Of those reported cases with at least one witness, just over half (54%) were referred to DOL for prosecution. However, only 38% of the reported cases that had no witnesses were referred. Thirty-four percent of the reported cases with at least one witness were accepted by DOL. However, only 22% of the reported cases with no witness were accepted by DOL for prosecution. Twenty-six percent of the reported cases with at least one witness resulted in a conviction. However, only 18% of the reported cases with no witness resulted in a conviction. These results suggest that cases lacking at



least one witness may experience significantly higher attrition from report to conviction than cases with one or more witnesses.

The following two tables describe this same information again, only this time conditioned on the geographic location of the incident (i.e., rural/off-highway vs. urban/on-highway). The results of the rural cases are presented first, followed by the urban cases. Thirty-two percent of the reported rural cases were accepted by DOL for prosecution. However, only 21% of the reported urban cases were accepted by DOL. Sixty-six percent of the referred rural cases were accepted compared to only 51% of the referred urban cases. Twenty-six percent of the reported rural cases ended with at least one conviction. However, only 17% of the reported urban cases resulted in a conviction. These results suggest that urban cases experience substantially higher attrition once prosecutors begin screening the referred cases.

**Table 58. Number of Rural Cases by Stage**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>% of reported</b>	<b>% of referred</b>	<b>% of accepted</b>
Reported	578	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	279	48.3	100.0 %	—
Accepted	185	32.0 *	66.3 *	100.0 %
Convicted	151	26.1 *	54.1	81.6

\* Difference by geographic location is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law, AST data (2003–2004)

**Table 59. Number of Urban Cases by Stage**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>% of reported</b>	<b>% of referred</b>	<b>% of accepted</b>
Reported	411	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	173	42.1	100.0 %	—
Accepted	88	21.4 *	50.9 *	100.0 %
Convicted	68	16.5 *	39.3 *	77.3

\* Difference by geographic location is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law, AST data (2003–2004)

### *Charge-Level*

The 452 reports referred by AST to DOL contained a total of 1,171 charges. Every charge referred to DOL receives a screening disposition code. The disposition codes indicate the official actions of DOL prosecutors (i.e., the detailed outcomes at the acceptance and conviction stages). In addition, charges that are declined for prosecution also receive reason codes. A complete list of disposition and reason codes used by DOL, and the data collection instrument used to gather these data, can be found in Appendix B.

The following table contains the disposition information for the 1,171 referred charges. Overall, 66% of the referred charges were accepted and 34% were declined. More specifically, 63% of the charges were “Accepted as Referred,” 3% were accepted

with some type of modification, 31% were declined with a required dismissal, and 3% were declined requiring no dismissal.

**Table 60. Disposition of Referred Charges**

*Column Percentages*

Disposition	Referred Charges	
	N	%
Accepted as Referred	736	62.9 %
Accepted - Same Class	3	0.3
Accepted - Higher Level	5	0.4
Accepted - Lesser Felony	20	1.7
Accepted - Lesser Misdemeanor	2	0.2
Accepted - Felony as Misdemeanor	10	0.9
Prosecution Declined - Dismissal Required	357	30.5
Prosecution Declined - No Dismissal Required	38	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1171</b>	

*Source of data: Alaska Department of Law*

The detailed reason codes used by DOL are divided into four main categories. These categories are (1) “victim/witness reasons,” (2) “evidentiary reasons,” (3) “discretionary reasons,” and (4) “miscellaneous reasons” (referred to here as “procedural/other reasons”). The following table displays the reason codes prosecutors recorded for not accepting charges as referred. Looking at the specific reasons for not accepting the referred charges, the top three reasons were all “evidentiary reasons.” More specifically, the three most common reasons prosecutors declined referred charges were “inadequate corroboration” (32%), “insufficient evidence – other essential element” (14%), and “other evidentiary reasons” (11%). Together, the top three reasons accounted for 57% of the charges that were not accepted as referred. It is worth noting the proportion of reasons, by category, prosecutors cited for declining referred charges. At this stage of processing, the most frequently cited type of reason for not accepting charges as referred were “evidentiary reasons” (66%).

**Table 61. Detailed Reason for Not Accepting Charges as Referred***Column Percentages*

Reason	Charges	
	N	%
<b>Evidentiary Reason</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>66.3 %</b>
Inadequate Corroboration	125	31.6
Insufficient Evidence - Other Essential Element	56	14.2
Other Evidentiary Reasons	43	10.9
Another Charge More Accurate	11	2.8
Insufficient Evidence - Intent	6	1.5
Affirmative Defense Available	4	1.0
Insufficient Evidence - Recklessness	4	1.0
Exculpatory Evidence Discovered	3	0.8
Insufficient Evidence - Knowledge	3	0.8
Defendant Mentally Incompetent	2	0.5
Physical Evidence Unavailable	2	0.5
Analysis Results Insufficient	1	0.3
Inadequate Identification	1	0.3
Insufficient Evidence - Proof of Age	1	0.3
<b>Discretionary Reason</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>16.5 %</b>
Charges Consolidated	28	7.1
Other Discretionary Reason	18	4.6
Interests of Justice	5	1.3
Requested Interview Not Complete	5	1.3
Defendant Convicted in Another Case	2	0.5
Defendant Serving Another Sentence	2	0.5
Other Program Participation	2	0.5
Probation / Parole Revocation	2	0.5
To Facilitate Prosecution of Another	1	0.3
<b>Victim / Witness Reason</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>11.4 %</b>
Victim Declines to Prosecute	19	4.8
Essential Witness Uncooperative	11	2.8
Essential Witness Not Credible	6	1.5
Unable to Locate Essential Witness	6	1.5
Other Witness Problem	3	0.8
<b>Procedural/Other Reason</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5.8 %</b>
Other Miscellaneous Reasons	11	2.8
Referred to Juvenile Authority	5	1.3
Pre-Charging Delay Problems	3	0.8
Disproportionate to Resources	2	0.5
Venue Appropriate Elsewhere	2	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>395</b>	

*Source of data: Alaska Department of Law*

In addition to charges referred by law enforcement agencies, additional charges may be filed by prosecutors once a case has been referred. As the following table indicates, DOL prosecutors filed an additional 157 charges within the 452 referred cases. Thus, there were a total of 1,328 charges at some stage of prosecution within these 452 cases. More importantly, prosecutors accepted and filed a total of 993 charges.

**Table 62. Charge Progression at Referral**

Referred	Accepted		Total
	Yes	No	
Yes	776	395	1171
No	157	0	157
<b>Total</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>1328</b>

*Source of data: Alaska Department of Law*

All charges that are accepted and filed by DOL receive a disposition code once the final legal outcome has been determined. The final disposition code indicates both whether a finding of guilt was obtained (i.e., conviction), and how the particular finding was reached. It should be noted that final outcomes were still pending for 82 (9%) of the 933 accepted charges at the time of this report (these 82 charges were excluded from the remaining analyses in this section). Thus, final dispositions were available for 851 (91%) of the accepted charges in our sample. The results are displayed in Table 63 below.

Over half (58%) of the accepted charges were eventually dismissed by prosecutors. The court dismissed an additional 4% of the accepted charges. Taken together, 62% of the accepted charges were ultimately dismissed. However, a finding of guilt was obtained for 284 (33%) of the accepted charges. For 94% of these charges, a finding of guilt was obtained by plea bargaining. Less than 5% of the guilty findings in our sample resulted from court action.

**Table 63. Disposition of Accepted Charges**

*Column Percentages*

Disposition	Charges	
	N	%
Jury Trial - Guilty As Charged	12	1.4 %
Court Trial - Guilty Lesser Included	1	0.1
Pled as Charged	161	18.9
Plea - Amended Charge	105	12.3
Probation/SIS Revoked	5	0.6
Jury Trial - Not Guilty	10	1.2
Jury Trial -Judgement of Acquittal	1	0.1
Dismissed by Prosecutor	497	58.4
Dismissed by Court	35	4.1
No True Bill	10	1.2
Probation Petition Withdrawn	14	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>851</b>	

*Source of data: Alaska Department of Law*

Table 64 displays the detailed reasons for charges being dismissed by prosecutors and why prosecutors allowed pleas to amended charges. Looking at the specific reasons cited by prosecutors, the top three reasons were all “discretionary reasons.” More specifically, the three most common reasons were “charge consolidation” (31%), “defendant serving another sentence” (28%), and “other discretionary reasons” (17%). Together, these accounted for 76% of the reasons prosecutors cited for dismissing

accepted charges or for accepting plea agreements to amended charges. Again, it is worth noting the proportion of reasons, by category, prosecutors cited at this stage. Overwhelmingly, prosecutors cited “discretionary reasons” (88%) for accepting plea agreements or dismissing the accepted charges outright.

**Table 64. Detailed Reason for Accepted Charge Being Dismissed by Prosecutor or Allowing Plea to an Amended Charge**

*Column Percentages*

Reason	Charges	
	N	%
<b>Discretionary Reason</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>87.5 %</b>
Charges Consolidated	156	30.5
Defendant Serving Another Sentence	144	28.2
Other Discretionary Reason	88	17.2
Interest of Justice	25	4.9
To Facilitate the Prosecution of Another	17	3.3
Defendant Convicted in Another Case	6	1.2
Pretrial Diversion Completed	6	1.2
Probation / Parole Revocation	5	1.0
<b>Evidentiary Reason</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8.0 %</b>
Defendant Deceased	12	2.3
Other Evidentiary Reasons	9	1.8
Insufficient Evidence - Other Essential Element	7	1.4
Inadequate Corroboration	5	1.0
Another Charge More Accurate	2	0.4
Inadequate Identification	2	0.4
Insufficient Evidence - Intent	2	0.4
Exculpatory Evidence Discovered	1	0.2
Insufficient Evidence - Reckless	1	0.2
<b>Procedural/Other Reason</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2.5 %</b>
Referred to City Attorney	5	1.0
Other Miscellaneous Reasons	3	0.6
Referred to Juvenile Authority	2	0.4
Hung Jury	1	0.2
Necessary Evidence Surpressed	1	0.2
Rule 5(e) Dismissal	1	0.2
<b>Victim / Witness Reason</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2.0 %</b>
Essential Witness Not Credible	6	1.2
Other Witness Problem	2	0.4
Unable to Locate Essential Witness	1	0.2
Victim Declines to Prosecute	1	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>511</b>	

*Source of data: Alaska Department of Law*

## Appendix A – Additional Tables

**Table 65. Case Closure Codes (Minor Victims)**

*Column percentages*

Closure Code		Reports	
		N	%
CA	Closed by arrest	218	31.4 %
CR	Closed, referred	203	25.7
CI	Closed by investigation	148	21.3
CU	Closed, unfounded	102	14.7
CD	Closed, declined	19	2.7
CE	Closed, exception	4	0.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>694</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

**Table 66. Case Closure Codes (Adult Victims)**

*Column percentages*

Closure Code		Reports	
		N	%
CA	Closed by arrest	93	33.9 %
CR	Closed, referred	51	25.7
CI	Closed by investigation	76	27.7
CU	Closed, unfounded	41	15.0
CD	Closed, declined	10	3.6
CE	Closed, exception	3	1.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>274</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

**Table 67. Collection of Evidence (Minor Victims)**

*Row percentages*

Evidence	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Victim sexual assault evidence collection kit	618	83.7 %	120	16.3 %	<b>738</b>
SART exam	568	77.4	166	22.6	<b>734</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

**Table 68. Collection of Evidence (Adult Victims)**

*Row percentages*

Evidence	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Victim sexual assault evidence collection kit	180	69.8 %	78	30.2 %	<b>258</b>
SART exam	185	66.3	94	33.7	<b>279</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

**Table 69. Nature of Victim and Suspect Relationship (Minor Victims)\****Column percentages*

<b>Relationships</b>	<b>Victim-suspect combinations</b>	
	N	%
Friends or acquaintances	328	43.3 %
Relatives	308	40.6
Current or former partners	80	10.6
Authority figure (to victim)	36	4.7
Strangers	6	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>758</b>	

\* The "relatives" category in this table includes in-laws, immediate, and extended family members. However, married couples were excluded from the "relatives" category. See Appendix C for the legal definition of "Authority figure."

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

**Table 70. Nature of Victim and Suspect Relationship (Adult Victims)\****Column percentages*

<b>Relationships</b>	<b>Victim-suspect combinations</b>	
	N	%
Friends or acquaintances	152	57.1 %
Relatives	45	16.9
Current or former partners	44	16.5
Authority figure (to victim)	17	6.4
Strangers	8	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	

\* The "relatives" category in this table includes in-laws, immediate, and extended family members. However, married couples were excluded from the "relatives" category. See Appendix C for the legal definition of "Authority figure."

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

**Table 71. Incident(s) Characteristics and Sexual Acts (Minor Victims)***Row percentages*

Incident Characteristics	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Element(s) of sexual penetration documented	388	57.0 %	293	43.0 %	<b>681</b>
Victim explicitly denied any assault took place	752	91.7	68	8.3	<b>820</b>
Condom used	580	89.5	68	10.5	<b>648</b>
Ejaculation occurred	382	68.1	179	31.9	<b>561</b>
<b>Sexual Acts</b>					
Touching of the external female genitalia	258	45.1	314	54.9	<b>572</b>
Penile penetration of victim's vagina	457	64.5	252	35.5	<b>709</b>
Touching of victim's breasts	377	67.7	180	32.3	<b>557</b>
Kissing	431	73.1	159	26.9	<b>590</b>
Digital penetration of victim's vagina	447	75.9	142	24.1	<b>589</b>
Touching of penis (suspect or victim's)	506	83.5	100	14.4	<b>606</b>
Touching of victim's anus	467	86.5	73	13.5	<b>540</b>
Victim performed oral sex on suspect	552	86.5	86	13.5	<b>638</b>
Suspect performed oral sex on victim	551	89.3	66	10.7	<b>617</b>
Penile penetration of victim's anus	582	91.9	51	8.1	<b>633</b>
Digital penetration of victim's anus	602	97.6	15	2.4	<b>617</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)***Table 72. Incident(s) Characteristics and Sexual Acts (Adult Victims)***Row percentages*

Incident Characteristics	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Element(s) of sexual penetration documented	170	69.1 %	76	30.9 %	<b>246</b>
Victim explicitly denied any assault took place	280	94.9	15	5.1	<b>295</b>
Condom used	196	94.2	12	5.8	<b>208</b>
Ejaculation occurred	114	60.0	76	40.0	<b>190</b>
<b>Sexual Acts</b>					
Touching of the external female genitalia	102	54.3	86	45.7	<b>188</b>
Penile penetration of victim's vagina	120	47.4	133	52.6	<b>253</b>
Touching of victim's breasts	100	55.6	80	44.4	<b>180</b>
Kissing	127	63.8	72	36.2	<b>199</b>
Digital penetration of victim's vagina	144	72.7	54	27.3	<b>198</b>
Touching of penis (suspect or victim's)	200	90.9	20	14.4	<b>220</b>
Touching of victim's anus	154	85.6	26	14.4	<b>180</b>
Victim performed oral sex on suspect	200	87.7	28	12.3	<b>228</b>
Suspect performed oral sex on victim	178	84.0	34	16.0	<b>212</b>
Penile penetration of victim's anus	197	91.2	19	8.8	<b>216</b>
Digital penetration of victim's anus	207	96.7	7	3.3	<b>214</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*



**Table 73. Resistance Characteristics (Minor Victims)***Row percentages*

<b>Actions</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Yes</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
Cooperated or pretended to cooperate	352	51.0 %	338	49.0 %	<b>690</b>
Yelled at suspect	776	89.5	91	10.5	<b>867</b>
Ran away from suspect	588	84.0	112	16.0	<b>700</b>
Attacked suspect	611	87.0	91	13.0	<b>702</b>
Argued or pleaded with suspect	555	80.2	137	14.4	<b>692</b>
Called / yelled for help	697	98.2	13	1.8	<b>710</b>
Threatened suspect	693	98.6	10	1.4	<b>703</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)***Table 74. Resistance Characteristics (Adult Victims)***Row percentages*

<b>Actions</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Yes</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
Cooperated or pretended to cooperate	157	64.6 %	86	35.4 %	<b>243</b>
Yelled at suspect	164	94.8	9	5.2	<b>173</b>
Ran away from suspect	193	77.2	57	22.8	<b>250</b>
Attacked suspect	182	73.7	65	26.3	<b>247</b>
Argued or pleaded with suspect	156	63.7	89	14.4	<b>245</b>
Called / yelled for help	229	89.8	26	10.2	<b>255</b>
Threatened suspect	232	95.1	12	4.9	<b>244</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

**Table 75. Time from Most Recent Incident to Report (Minor Victims)***Column Percentages*

<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Victims</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Within 24 hours	308	37.6 %
Within 25-72 hours	79	9.6
Within 4-7 days	34	4.1
Within 1 month	104	12.7
More than 1 month	295	36.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>820</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)***Table 76. Time from Most Recent Incident to Report (Adult Victims)***Column Percentages*

<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Victims</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Within 24 hours	187	63.4 %
Within 25-72 hours	35	11.9
Within 4-7 days	19	6.4
Within 1 month	17	5.8
More than 1 month	37	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2003–2004)*

Table 77. Number of Cases per Detachment by Stage

*Row Percentages*

<b>Stage</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>% of Reported</b>	<b>% of Referred</b>	<b>% of Accepted</b>
<b><i>A Detachment</i></b>				
Reported	39	100.0 %	-	-
Referred	10	25.6	100.0 %	-
Accepted	4	10.3	40.0	100.0 %
Convicted	3	7.7	30.0	75.0
<b><i>ABI</i></b>				
Reported	299	100.0 %	-	-
Referred	111	37.1	100.0 %	-
Accepted	55	18.4	49.5	100.0 %
Convicted	41	13.7	36.9	74.5
<b><i>ABWE</i></b>				
Reported	18	100.0 %	-	-
Referred	8	44.4	100.0 %	-
Accepted	7	38.9	87.5	100.0 %
Convicted	7	38.9	87.5	100.0
<b><i>B Detachment</i></b>				
Reported	24	100.0 %	-	-
Referred	11	45.8	100.0 %	-
Accepted	4	16.7	36.4	100.0 %
Convicted	3	12.5	27.3	75.0
<b><i>C Detachment</i></b>				
Reported	476	100.0 %	-	-
Referred	236	49.6	100.0 %	-
Accepted	165	34.7	69.9	100.0 %
Convicted	136	28.6	57.6	82.4
<b><i>D Detachment</i></b>				
Reported	79	100.0 %	-	-
Referred	47	59.5	100.0 %	-
Accepted	21	26.6	44.7	100.0 %
Convicted	18	22.8	38.3	85.7
<b><i>E Detachment</i></b>				
Reported	54	100.0 %	-	-
Referred	29	53.7	100.0 %	-
Accepted	17	31.5	58.6	100.0 %
Convicted	11	20.4	37.9	64.7

*Source of data: Alaska Department of Law, AST data (2003–2004)*

## **Appendix B – Data Collection Instruments**

*Alaska State Troopers*

Case Info Case No.

Detachment:  Unit ID:

Entered by:  Time entered:   
Date entered:

Reporting Officer:  PermID:  Date reported:  Time Reported:

Activity Code:  UCR Number:  Statute / Regulation:  Type of Activity:   
Date of assault:  Time of assault:  ATN #:   
Location of activity:  Patrol Zone:  Domestic Violence

Brief synopsis of report:

Case closure:  Date closed:  Alcohol or Drugs Involved:

Notes (ex. same victim as case #):

Suspect Info (1 of 2) Case No.

Is suspect identity reported?  Yes  No Suspect gender:  Female  Male Prior crimes against same victim?  Yes  No  Unknown

Suspect race (check all that apply):  Caucasian  Black  Asian  Hispanic Other (specify):   
 Alaska Native / American Indian  Pacific Islander

Disabilities (check all that apply):  Mental  Physical  Psychiatric  None Was suspect homeless at time of assault?  Yes  No  Unknown

Suspect birthday:

Suspect residence [village, town, city]:  Suspect occupation:

**Suspect relationship to victim:**

- Acquaintance / friend (>24 hours)  Acquaintance (< 24 hours)  
 Acquaintance (< 12 hours)  Current spouse  
 Former spouse  Current partner  
 Former partner  Relative  
 Stranger  Authority figure  
 Other (please specify):

**Suspect living arrangement with victim:**

- Separate  Temporarily common  
 Permanently common  Unknown

Alcohol use by suspect:  Yes  No  Unsure

Drug use by suspect:  Yes  No  Unsure

Please note anything else you feel is important about this suspect:

Suspect Info (2 of 2) Case No.

Alcohol / drug use before pickup?  Yes  No  Unsure  
 If yes, with victim?  Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, where? (check all that apply):

- Outdoors  Work  Vehicle  Other's house  
 Victim's house  Suspect's house  Victim's and suspect's house  Other's hotel  
 Victim's hotel  Suspect's hotel  Suspect and victim's hotel  Bar

Other (please describe):

Alcohol / drug use between pickup and assault?  Yes  No  Unsure  
 If yes, with victim?  Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, where? (check all that apply):

- Outdoors  Work  Vehicle  Other's house  
 Victim's house  Suspect's house  Victim's and suspect's house  Other's hotel  
 Victim's hotel  Suspect's hotel  Suspect and victim's hotel  Bar

Other (please describe):

Victim Info (1 of 2) Case No.

Victim gender:  Female  Male

Victim race (check all that apply):  Caucasian  Black  Alaska Native / American Indian  Asian  Hispanic  Pacific Islander Other (specify):

Disabilities (check all that apply):  Mental  Physical  Psychiatric  None Was victim homeless at time of assault?  Yes  No  Unknown

Victim birthday:  Victim residence [village, town, city]:  Victim occupation:

Intentional alcohol use by victim:  Yes  No  Unsure

Intentional drug use by victim:  Yes  No  Unsure

Alcohol / drug use before pickup?  Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, where? (check all that apply):

- Outdoors  Work  Vehicle  Other's house  
 Victim's house  Suspect's house  Victim's and suspect's house  Other's hotel  
 Victim's hotel  Suspect's hotel  Suspect and victim's hotel  Bar

Other (please describe):

Alcohol / drug use between pickup and assault?  Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, where? (check all that apply):

- Outdoors  Work  Vehicle  Other's house  
 Victim's house  Suspect's house  Victim's and suspect's house  Other's hotel  
 Victim's hotel  Suspect's hotel  Suspect and victim's hotel  Bar

Other (please describe):

Please note anything else you feel is important about this victim:



**Witness Info** Case No.

**Was this person an eyewitness to the assault?**  Yes  No Explain witness role in case (why are they being interviewed?):

**Witness gender:**  Female  Male

**Witness race (check all that apply):**  Caucasian  Black  Alaska Native / American Indian  Asian  Hispanic  Pacific Islander Other (please specify):

**Disabilities (check all that apply):**  Mental  Physical  Psychiatric  None **Was witness homeless at time of assault?**  Yes  No  Unknown

**Witness birthday:**  **Witness residence [village, town, city]:**  **Witness occupation:**

**Witness relationship to victim:**

- Acquaintance / friend (>24 hours)  Acquaintance (< 24 hours)  
 Acquaintance (< 12 hours)  Current spouse  
 Former spouse  Current partner  
 Former partner  Relative  
 Stranger  Authority figure  
 Other (please specify):

**Witness relationship to suspect:**

- Acquaintance / friend (>24 hours)  Acquaintance (< 24 hours)  
 Acquaintance (< 12 hours)  Current spouse  
 Former spouse  Current partner  
 Former partner  Relative  
 Stranger  Authority figure  
 Other (please specify):

**Intentional alcohol use by witness?**  Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, with who?

**Intentional drug use by witness?**  Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, with who?

**Witness notes (please note anything else you feel is important to know about this witness):**

Pick-up Info Case No.

Date of pickup:

Time of pickup:

Location of pickup [village, town, city]:

**Location type for pickup:**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors       | <input type="checkbox"/> Work            | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other's house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim's house | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect's house | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim and suspect's house | <input type="checkbox"/> Other's hotel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim's hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect's hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect and Victim's hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar           |
- Other (please describe):

**Method of pickup:**

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Met in a bar           | <input type="checkbox"/> Met at a party  | <input type="checkbox"/> Met elsewhere             | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim invited suspect                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect invited victim | <input type="checkbox"/> Live together   | <input type="checkbox"/> Entered suspect's vehicle | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect performing legitimate service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jumped in park         | <input type="checkbox"/> Jumped outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Jumped indoors            |  |
- Other (please describe):

**Tools and weapons used by suspect at pickup:**

- |                                  |                              |                             |                                 |                                      |                              |                             |                                 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Gun:</b>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure | <b>Personal (hands, feet, etc.):</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <b>Knife/cutting instrument:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure | <b>Drugs:</b>                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <b>Blunt object:</b>             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure | <b>Asphyxiation:</b>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
- Other (please describe):

What happened between pickup and assault?:

Assault Info (1 of 2) Case No.

Date of assault:  Time of assault:  Location of assault [village, town, city]:

Length of assault:

**Location type for assault:**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors             | <input type="checkbox"/> Work            | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other's house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim's house       | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect's house | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim and suspect's house | <input type="checkbox"/> Other's hotel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim's hotel       | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect's hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect and victim's hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar           |
| Other (please describe): <input type="text"/> |  |   |  |

**Tools and weapons used by suspect during assault:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Gun:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure                      | <b>Personal (hands, feet, etc.):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <b>Knife/cutting instrument:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure | <b>Drugs:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure                        |
| <b>Blunt object:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure             | <b>Asphyxiation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure                 |
| Other (please describe): <input type="text"/>   |   |

What happened during assault?

Threats made by suspect before assault:

Threats made by suspect during assault:

Threats made by suspect after assault:

Who stopped the assault?  Victim  Suspect  Other  Unknown

Assault Info (cont.) Case No.

**Kissing, licking, biting, scratching:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Please describe:

**Lubricants, condoms, contraceptives:**

**Was condom used?**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Touching / fondling with the hands of the:** Of victim by suspect

**Breast:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Vagina:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Penis:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Anus:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Did ejaculation occur?**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

If yes, specify ejaculation location (check all that apply):

Vagina  Rectum  Mouth  Stomach

Back  Napkin / cloth  Bed  Clothing

Condom  Unknown

Other (please explain):

**Oral copulation of genitals:**

Of victim by suspect  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Of suspect by victim  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Oral copulation of anus:**

Of victim by suspect  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Of suspect by victim  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Penetration of vagina by:** Of victim by suspect

**Finger:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Penis:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Foreign object:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Penetration of anus by:** Of victim by suspect

**Finger:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Penis:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

**Foreign object:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Victim Info (2 of 2) Case No. **Victim resistance (check all that apply)- Also note if the technique was effective in stopping the assault:****Attacked suspect:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective**Treatened suspect:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective**Yelled/screamed at suspect:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective**Argued/reasoned/pleaded with suspect:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective**Cooperated or pretended to:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective**Ran away:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective**Called police / gave alarm:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective**Other form of resistance (please describe):** **Non genital injuries to victim (check all that apply):****Bruising/redness/abrasions/swelling:**  Yes  No  Unsure **Fracture:**  Yes  No  Unsure**Lacerations/bite marks:**  Yes  No  Unsure **Pain:**  Yes  No  Unsure**Other injury (please describe):** **Genital injuries to victim?**  Yes  No  Unsure**Condition at time of assault (check all that apply):** Alcohol intoxicated  Drug intoxicated  Sober Sleeping  Passed out  Unconscious from trauma**Other (describe):** **Victim received emergency medical care for (check all that apply):****Nongenital injuries:**  Yes  No  Unsure**Genital injuries:**  Yes  No  Unsure**Alcohol intoxication:**  Yes  No  Unsure**Other injury (please describe):** **Did victim receive SART exam?**  Yes  No  Unsure**Date of exam:**  **Time of exam:** **Location of exam:**

**Drop-off Info** Case No.  **Time of drop-off:**

**Date of drop-off:**  **Location of drop-off [village, town, city]:**

**Location type for drop-off:**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors       | <input type="checkbox"/> Work            | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other's house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim's house | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect's house | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim and suspect's house | <input type="checkbox"/> Other's hotel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim's hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect's hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect and Victim's hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar           |
- Other (please describe):

**What happened between assault and drop-off?**

**Location of report [village, town, city]:**

**Who did victim consult before reporting? (check all that apply):**

- |                                       |  |                                      |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nobody       | <input type="checkbox"/> Romantic partner    | <input type="checkbox"/> Rape crisis | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other family | <input type="checkbox"/> Health professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend      | <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy |

Other (please describe):

**Reason for time elapsed between report and exam:**

**Suspect Interview** Case No.

Who placed initial call to police?:

Which agency was notified or responded first? (choose one)  AST  VPO  VPSO  TPO

Was suspect present upon trooper arrival?  Yes  No

Was initial interview of suspect taken by first responding officer?  Yes  No

Date of suspect interview

Time of suspect interview

Suspect interview tape recorded?  Yes  No

Why was interview not taped?

Was suspect's story consistent?  Yes  No

Notes on suspect account:

Was suspect cooperative?  Yes  No

Notes on suspect cooperation:

Victim Interview Case No.

Was initial interview of victim by first responding officer?  Yes  No

Date of victim interview  Time of victim interview

Victim interview done:  In person  By telephone

Victim interview tape recorded?  Yes  No

Why was interview not taped?

Was victim cooperative?  Yes  No

Notes on victim cooperation:

Was victim story consistent?  Yes  No

Notes on victim account:



**Witness Interview** Case No.

Were there any witnesses?  Yes  No  Unknown

If yes, how many were identified in report?

Was witness located and interviewed?  Yes  No

Date of witness interview  Time of witness interview

Witness interview done in person?  In person  By telephone

If there was a witness, but they were not interviewed explain:

Witness interview tape recorded?  Yes  No

Why was interview not taped?

Was witness cooperative?  Yes  No

Notes on witness cooperation:

Did witness story support either story given by victim or suspect?  Yes  No  Unknown

Notes on witness account in relation to those given by others involved in case:

Was witness' story consistent?  Yes  No

Notes on witness account:

Investigation - Physical Evidence Case No. 

Was physical or DNA evidence collected from Suspect?  Yes  No  Unknown

Explain what evidence was taken. If none taken, explain why:

Was physical or DNA evidence collected from victim?  Yes  No  Unknown

Explain what evidence was taken. If none taken, explain why:

Was sexual assault kit collected from suspect?  Yes  No  Unknown

Notes on suspect sexual assault kit:

Was sexual assault kit collected from victim?  Yes  No  Unknown

Notes on victim sexual assault kit:

Was physical evidence removed from the scene?  Yes  No  Unknown

If no, explain why:

If suspect is not someone usually associated with scene, was trace/latent evidence removed?  Yes  No  Unknown  Not applicable

If no, explain why:

If applicable was electronic data recovered?  Yes  No  Unknown  Not applicable

If no, explain why:

If used, was weapon recovered?  Yes  No  Not applicable

If no, explain why:

## Investigation - Part 2

Case No.

Were photographs taken at SART exam by nurse examiner?  Yes  No  Unknown  Not applicable

Were photographs taken of suspect's injuries?  Yes  No  Unknown  Not applicable

If no, explain why:

Were photographs taken of victim's injuries?  Yes  No  Unknown  Not applicable

If no, explain why:

Were photographs taken of the scene?  Yes  No  Unknown  Not applicable

If no, explain why:

Were photographs taken of the evidence?  Yes  No  Unknown  Not applicable

If no, explain why:

Notifications given by police (check all that apply):  VCCB  DV  OVR

Evidence sent for forensic examinations (check all that apply):  DNA  Electronic  Trace / latent

Search warrants/records obtained by police (check all that apply):  Victim's medical records  Suspect's medical records  Scene entry  Glass

Was report reviewed and signed by ID's supervisor?  Yes  No

Date report was delivered to DA's office:

Note all follow-up investigation efforts made by the reporting officer(s): (attempts to contact witnesses/evidence searches etc.):

### Alaska Department of Law

Summary Charges Final Charge Sentencing

#### Case Summary Information

<p><b>Case Information</b></p> <p>Agency: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Report: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Case Status Date: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Prosecutor: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Archive Box: <input type="text"/></p>	<p><b>Case Flags</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px;"></div>
---	---

Summary Charges Final Charge Sentencing

#### Charge Information Charge Number:

<b>Referred Charges</b>						
Statute	Charge Modifier	Description	Class	Offense Date	Disp.	Reason
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Accepted Charges</b>						
Statute	Charge Modifier	Description	Class	Disp.	Reason	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Convicted Charges</b>						
Statute	Charge Modifier	Description	Class			
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>			

Summary Charges Final Charge Sentencing

#### Final Charge Sentencing Charge Number:

Date: <input type="text"/>	Imprisonment: <input type="text"/>	with <input type="text"/>	suspended
Court: <input type="text"/>	Fine: <input type="text"/>	with <input type="text"/>	suspended
Judge: <input type="text"/>	Probation: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> SIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive

**Sentence Remark:**

**Probation Conditions:**



## Appendix C – 2004 Alaska Sexual Assault Laws

### *Alaska Statute § 11.41.410. Sexual assault in the first degree.*

- (a) An offender commits the crime of sexual assault in the first degree if
  - (1) the offender engages in sexual penetration with another person without consent of that person;
  - (2) the offender attempts to engage in sexual penetration with another person without consent of that person and causes serious physical injury to that person;
  - (3) the offender engages in sexual penetration with another person
    - (A) who the offender knows is mentally incapable; and
    - (B) who is in the offender's care
      - (i) by authority of law; or
      - (ii) in a facility or program that is required by law to be licensed by the state; or
  - (4) the offender engages in sexual penetration with a person who the offender knows is unaware that a sexual act is being committed and
    - (A) the offender is a health care worker; and
    - (B) the offense takes place during the course of professional treatment of the victim.
- (b) Sexual assault in the first degree is an unclassified felony and is punishable as provided in AS 12.55.

### *Alaska Statute § 11.41.420. Sexual assault in the second degree.*

- (a) An offender commits the crime of sexual assault in the second degree if
  - (1) the offender engages in sexual contact with another person without consent of that person;
  - (2) the offender engages in sexual contact with a person
    - (A) who the offender knows is mentally incapable; and
    - (B) who is in the offender's care
      - (i) by authority of law; or

- (ii) in a facility or program that is required by law to be licensed by the state;
- (3) the offender engages in sexual penetration with a person who the offender knows is
  - (A) mentally incapable;
  - (B) incapacitated; or
  - (C) unaware that a sexual act is being committed; or
- (4) the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who the offender knows is unaware that a sexual act is being committed and
  - (A) the offender is a health care worker; and
  - (B) the offense takes place during the course of professional treatment of the victim.
- (b) Sexual assault in the second degree is a class B felony.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.425. Sexual assault in the third degree.*

- (a) An offender commits the crime of sexual assault in the third degree if the offender
  - (1) engages in sexual contact with a person who the offender knows is
    - (A) mentally incapable;
    - (B) incapacitated; or
    - (C) unaware that a sexual act is being committed;
  - (2) while employed in a state correctional facility or other placement designated by the commissioner of corrections for the custody and care of prisoners, engages in sexual penetration with a person who the offender knows is committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections to serve a term of imprisonment or period of temporary commitment; or
  - (3) engages in sexual penetration with a person 18 or 19 years of age who the offender knows is committed to the custody of the Department of Health and Social Services under AS 47.10 or AS 47.12 and the offender is the legal guardian of the person.
- (b) Sexual assault in the third degree is a class C felony.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.427. Sexual assault in the fourth degree.*

(a) An offender commits the crime of sexual assault in the fourth degree if

(1) while employed in a state correctional facility or other placement designated by the commissioner of corrections for the custody and care of prisoners, the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who the offender knows is committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections to serve a term of imprisonment or period of temporary commitment; or

(2) the offender engages in sexual contact with a person 18 or 19 years of age who the offender knows is committed to the custody of the Department of Health and Social Services under AS 47.10 or AS 47.12 and the offender is the legal guardian of the person.

(b) Sexual assault in the fourth degree is a class A misdemeanor.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.432. Defenses.*

(a) It is a defense to a crime charged under [AS 11.41.410](#) (a)(3), 11.41.420(a)(2), 11.41.420(a)(3), or 11.41.425 that the offender is

(1) mentally incapable; or

(2) married to the person and neither party has filed with the court for a separation, divorce, or dissolution of the marriage.

(b) Except as provided in (a) of this section, in a prosecution under [AS 11.41.410](#) or 11.41.420, it is not a defense that the victim was, at the time of the alleged offense, the legal spouse of the defendant.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.434. Sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.*

(a) An offender commits the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree if

(1) being 16 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual penetration with a person who is under 13 years of age or aids, induces, causes, or encourages a person who is under 13 years of age to engage in sexual penetration with another person;

(2) being 18 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual penetration with a person who is under 18 years of age, and the offender is the victim's natural parent, stepparent, adopted parent, or legal guardian; or

(3) being 18 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual penetration with a person who is under 16 years of age, and

(A) the victim at the time of the offense is residing in the same household as the offender and the offender has authority over the victim; or



(B) the offender occupies a position of authority in relation to the victim.

(b) Sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree is an unclassified felony and is punishable as provided in AS 12.55.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.436. Sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.*

(a) An offender commits the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree if

(1) being 16 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual penetration with a person who is 13, 14, or 15 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender, or aids, induces, causes or encourages a person who is 13, 14, or 15 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender to engage in sexual penetration with another person;

(2) being 16 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who is under 13 years of age or aids, induces, causes, or encourages a person under 13 years of age to engage in sexual contact with another person;

(3) being 18 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who is under 18 years of age, and the offender is the victim's natural parent, stepparent, adopted parent, or legal guardian;

(4) being 16 years of age or older, the offender aids, induces, causes, or encourages a person who is under 16 years of age to engage in conduct described in [AS 11.41.455](#) (a)(2) - (6); or

(5) being 18 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who is under 16 years of age, and

(A) the victim at the time of the offense is residing in the same household as the offender and the offender has authority over the victim; or

(B) the offender occupies a position of authority in relation to the victim.

(b) Sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree is a class B felony.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.438. Sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree.*

(a) An offender commits the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree if

(1) being 16 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who is 13, 14, or 15 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender;

(2) being 18 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual penetration with a person who is 16 or 17 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender, and the offender occupies a position of authority in relation to the victim; or

(3) being under 16 years of age, the offender engages in sexual penetration with a person who is under 13 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender.

(b) Sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree is a class C felony.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.440. Sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree.*

(a) An offender commits the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree if

(1) being under 16 years of age, the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who is under 13 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender; or

(2) being 18 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who is 16 or 17 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender, and the offender occupies a position of authority in relation to the victim.

(b) Sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree is a class A misdemeanor.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.443. Spousal relationship no defense.* [Repealed, Sec. 61 ch 50 SLA 1989. For current law, see [AS 11.41.432](#) (b)].

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.445. General provisions.*

(a) In a prosecution under [AS 11.41.434](#) - 11.41.440 it is an affirmative defense that, at the time of the alleged offense, the victim was the legal spouse of the defendant unless the offense was committed without the consent of the victim.

(b) In a prosecution under [AS 11.41.410](#) - 11.41.440, whenever a provision of law defining an offense depends upon a victim's being under a certain age, it is an affirmative defense that, at the time of the alleged offense, the defendant

(1) reasonably believed the victim to be that age or older; and

(2) undertook reasonable measures to verify that the victim was that age or older.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.450. Incest.*

(a) A person commits the crime of incest if, being 18 years of age or older, that person engages in sexual penetration with another who is related, either legitimately or illegitimately, as

(1) an ancestor or descendant of the whole or half blood;

- (2) a brother or sister of the whole or half blood; or
- (3) an uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece by blood.

(b) Incest is a class C felony.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.455. Unlawful exploitation of a minor.*

(a) A person commits the crime of unlawful exploitation of a minor if, in the state and with the intent of producing a live performance, film, audio, video, electronic, or electromagnetic recording, photograph, negative, slide, book, newspaper, magazine, or other material that visually or aurally depicts the conduct listed in (1) - (7) of this subsection, the person knowingly induces or employs a child under 18 years of age to engage in, or photographs, films, records, or televises a child under 18 years of age engaged in, the following actual or simulated conduct:

- (1) sexual penetration;
- (2) the lewd touching of another person's genitals, anus, or breast;
- (3) the lewd touching by another person of the child's genitals, anus, or breast;
- (4) masturbation;
- (5) bestiality;
- (6) the lewd exhibition of the child's genitals; or
- (7) sexual masochism or sadism.

(b) A parent, legal guardian, or person having custody or control of a child under 18 years of age commits the crime of unlawful exploitation of a minor if, in the state, the person permits the child to engage in conduct described in (a) of this section knowing that the conduct is intended to be used in producing a live performance, film, audio, video, electronic, or electromagnetic recording, photograph, negative, slide, book, newspaper, magazine, or other material that visually or aurally depicts the conduct.

(c) Unlawful exploitation of a minor is a

(1) class B felony; or

(2) class A felony if the person has been previously convicted of unlawful exploitation of a minor in this jurisdiction or a similar crime in this or another jurisdiction.

(d) In this section, "audio recording" means a nonbook prerecorded item without a visual component, and includes a record, tape, cassette, and compact disc.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.458. Indecent exposure in the first degree.*

(a) An offender commits the crime of indecent exposure in the first degree if

(1) the offender violates [AS 11.41.460](#) (a);

(2) while committing the act constituting the offense, the offender knowingly masturbates; and

(3) the offense occurs within the observation of a person under 16 years of age.

(b) Indecent exposure in the first degree is a class C felony.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.460. Indecent exposure in the second degree.*

(a) An offender commits the crime of indecent exposure in the second degree if the offender knowingly exposes the offender's genitals in the presence of another person with reckless disregard for the offensive, insulting, or frightening effect the act may have.

(b) Indecent exposure in the second degree before a person under 16 years of age is a class A misdemeanor. Indecent exposure in the second degree before a person 16 years of age or older is a class B misdemeanor.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.468. Forfeiture of property used in sexual offense.*

(a) Property used to aid a violation of [AS 11.41.410](#) - 11.41.458 or to aid the solicitation of, attempt to commit, or conspiracy to commit a violation of [AS 11.41.410](#) - 11.41.458 may be forfeited to the state upon the conviction of the offender.

(b) In this section, "property" means computer equipment, telecommunications equipment, photography equipment, video or audio equipment, books, magazines, photographs, videotapes, audiotapes, and any equipment or device, regardless of format or technology employed, that can be used to store, create, modify, receive, transmit, or distribute digital or analog information, including images, motion pictures, and sounds.

*Alaska Statute § 11.41.470. Definitions.*

For purposes of [AS 11.41.410](#) - 11.41.470, unless the context requires otherwise,

(1) "health care worker" includes a person who is or purports to be an anesthesiologist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, health aide, hypnotist, massage therapist, mental health counselor, midwife, nurse, nurse practitioner, osteopath, naturopath, physical therapist, physical therapy assistant, physician, physician assistant,

psychiatrist, psychologist, psychological associate, radiologist, religious healing practitioner, surgeon, x-ray technician, or a substantially similar position;

(2) "incapacitated" means temporarily incapable of appraising the nature of one's own conduct or physically unable to express unwillingness to act;

(3) "legal guardian" means a person who is under a duty to exercise general supervision over a minor or other person committed to the custody of the Department of Health and Social Services under AS 47.10 or AS 47.12 as a result of a court order, statute, or regulation, and includes Department of Health and Social Services employees, foster parents, and staff members and other employees of group homes or youth facilities where the minor or other person is placed as a result of a court order or the action of the Department of Health and Social Services, and police officers, probation officers, and social workers when those persons are exercising custodial control over a minor or other person.

(4) "mentally incapable" means suffering from a mental disease or defect that renders the person incapable of understanding the nature or consequences of the person's conduct, including the potential for harm to that person;

(5) "position of authority" means an employer, youth leader, scout leader, coach, teacher, counselor, school administrator, religious leader, doctor, nurse, psychologist, guardian ad litem, babysitter, or a substantially similar position, and a police officer or probation officer other than when the officer is exercising custodial control over a minor;

(6) "sexual act" means sexual penetration or sexual contact;

(7) "victim" means the person alleged to have been subjected to sexual assault in any degree or sexual abuse of a minor in any degree;

(8) "without consent" means that a person

(A) with or without resisting, is coerced by the use of force against a person or property, or by the express or implied threat of death, imminent physical injury, or kidnapping to be inflicted on anyone; or

(B) is incapacitated as a result of an act of the defendant.