

# Alaska Justice Information Center



For Immediate Release

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## AJiC Fact Sheet

### *Drug Sale and Manufacture Arrests Reported in Alaska, 1986–2017*

### *Drug Possession Arrests Reported in Alaska, 1986–2017*

**ANCHORAGE, AK**— The 18-04 and 18-05 (September 2018) issues of the *AJiC Fact Sheet* have been released. These Fact Sheets present data from the Alaska Department of Public Safety's annual report *Crime in Alaska* for the years 1986 through 2017. *Crime in Alaska* represents the State of Alaska's contribution to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

- From 1986 to 2017, the average total arrest rate in Alaska for **drug sale and manufacture** was 72.1 per 100,000 residents. Overall, the 32-year trend reveals that the total drug sale and manufacture arrest rate in Alaska steadily declined since its peak in 1997. Over the same period, the average total arrest rate for **drug possession** was 170 per 100,000 residents, with an overall trend over the 32 years revealing that drug possession arrest rates in Alaska increased over the period.
- For **drug sale and manufacture**, the average female arrest rate was 35 per 100,000 female residents, while the average male arrest rate was 106.3 per 100,000 male residents. The 32-year trend for female arrest rates remained steady, while male arrest rates steadily declined. For **drug possession**, the average female arrest rate was 72.2 per 100,000 female residents, while the average male arrest rate was 260.5 per 100,000 male residents. The 32-year trend portrays a slight increase in the female arrest rate, while the male arrest rate sharply increased, plateaued, then sharply decreased.
- For **drug sale and manufacture**, the female arrest rate peaked in 1997 at 66.4 per 100,000 female residents. The male arrest rate peaked in 1988 at 180.8 per 100,000 male residents. On average, females accounted for 23.6% and males accounted for 76.4% of all arrests for drug sale and manufacture. For **drug possession**, the female arrest rate peaked in 2010 at 131.2 per 100,000 female residents. The male arrest rate peaked in 1998 at 409.4 per 100,000 male residents. On average, females accounted for 20.8% and males accounted for 79.2% of all arrests for drug possession.
- For **drug sale and manufacture**, the average adult arrest rate was 91.2 per 100,000 adult residents, while the average juvenile arrest rate was 27.1 per 100,000 juvenile residents. The 32-year trend steadily declined for the adult arrest rate, while the juvenile arrest rate sharply increased in the mid-1990s, returning to a steady rate by 2000. Adults accounted for 88.8% and juveniles accounted for 11.2% of all reported drug sale and manufacture arrests in Alaska over the 32-year period. For **drug possession**, the average adult arrest rate was 186.7 per 100,000 adult residents, while the average juvenile arrest rate was 128.4 per 100,000 juvenile residents. The 32-year trend shows arrest rates for adults in Alaska increased through 2010 and subsequently decreased up to 2016, while the trend in juvenile arrest rates reveals a fluid, declining rate through 2017. Adults accounted for 78.4% and juveniles accounted for 21.6% of all reported drug possession arrests in Alaska over the 32-year period.
- Overall, the **drug sale and manufacture** arrest rate consistently declined between 1997 and 2017; the lowest recorded overall arrest rate was in 2017. While drug sale and manufacture arrest rates for females and juveniles were relatively stable, arrest rates for males and adults showed a pronounced decrease. The **drug possession** arrest rate plateaued between 1998 and 2010, consistently declined from 2010 to 2016, and slightly increased in 2017; the lowest recorded overall arrest rate was in 1990. Rates increased from 1986 through 1998, then declined for all populations from 2010 to 2016.

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Ervin, Benjamin. (2018). "Drug Possession Arrests Reported in Alaska, 1986–2017." *AJiC Fact Sheet* 18-05 (September 2018). (<https://scholarworks.alaska.edu/bitstream/handle/11122/9609/ajic.18.05.drug-possession-1986-2017.pdf>).

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