

# Department of Public Safety

House Tribal Affairs Committee Presentation

Presented by Commissioner Amanda Price

March 19, 2019



# Department of Public Safety

## Our Mission

To administer functions relative to the protection of life and property

## Our Core Services

Law enforcement patrol and investigations

Rural law enforcement services

Domestic violence and sexual assault programs

Statewide public safety programs

Resource protection

Highway safety

# Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

- Provides information for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in English, Inupiaq, Tagalog, Yupik, Spanish, Russian, Korean
- Prevention efforts supported in: Adak, Akhiok, Arctic Village, Akiak, Akutan, Alakunuk, Aleknagik, Allakaket, Ambler, Anaktuvuk Pass, Anchorage, Angoon, Atmautluak, Barrow, Beaver, Bethel, Big Lake, Chevak, Cordova, Craig, Dillingham, Dutch Harbor, Elim, Emmonak, Fairbanks, Gambell, Glennallen, Goodnews Bay, Gustavus, Healy, Homer, Hoonah, Houston, Huslia, Hydaburg, Juneau, Kake, Kaltag, Kanatak, Kenai/Soldotna, Ketchikan, Kipnuk, Klawock, Kodiak, Kotlik, Kotzebue, Kwehluk, Monokotak, Marshall, Minto, Mountain Village, Napaskiak, Nenana, New Stuyahok, Nikiski, Noatak, Nome, Noorvik, North Pole, Nulato, Old Harbor, Palmer, Petersburg, Point Hope, Sand Point, Saxman, Selawik, Shaktoolik, Sitka, Soldotna, St. Paul Island, Tanacross, Tenakee Springs, Togiak, Unalakleet, Unalaska, Wasilla, Yakutat

# Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

- Sponsors 24 victim services programs
- Most victim services programs provide emergency shelter
- Programs also provide safety planning and community-based advocacy to both victims of domestic violence and victims of sexual assault
- A person does not need to be a shelter resident in order to receive services

# Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

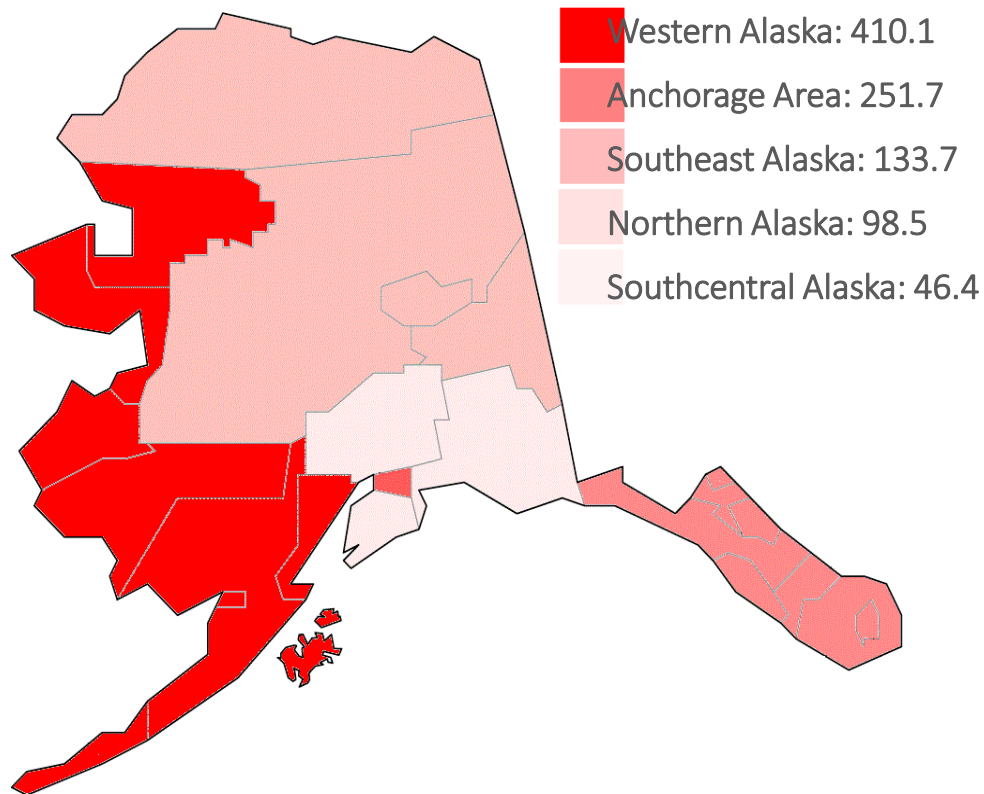
## STATEWIDE FUNDED PROGRAMS

- Bethel – Tundra Women’s Coalition
- Cordova – Cordova Family Resource Center
- Craig – Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies\*
- Dillingham – Safe and Fear Free Environment
- Emmonak – Emmonak Women’s Shelter\*
- Fairbanks – Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living
- Homer – South Peninsula Haven House
- Juneau – Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies
- Juneau – AK Network on DV and SA
- Kenai – Kenaitze Indian Tribe\*
- Kenai – LeeShore Center
- Ketchikan – Women in Safe Homes
- Anchorage
  - ✓ Standing Together Against Rape (statewide support)
  - ✓ Victims For Justice (Statewide support)
  - ✓ Abused Women’s Aide in Crisis
- Kodiak – Kodiak Women’s Resource and Crisis Center
- Kotzebue – Maniilaq Family Center
- Nome – Bering Sea Women’s Group
- Palmer – Alaska Family Services
- Petersburg – Working Against Violence For Everyone\*
- Seward – Seaview Community Services
- Sitka – Sitkans Against Family Violence
- Unalaska – Unalaskans Standing Against Family Violence
- Utqiagvik – Arctic Women in Crisis
- Valdez – Advocates for Victims of Violence

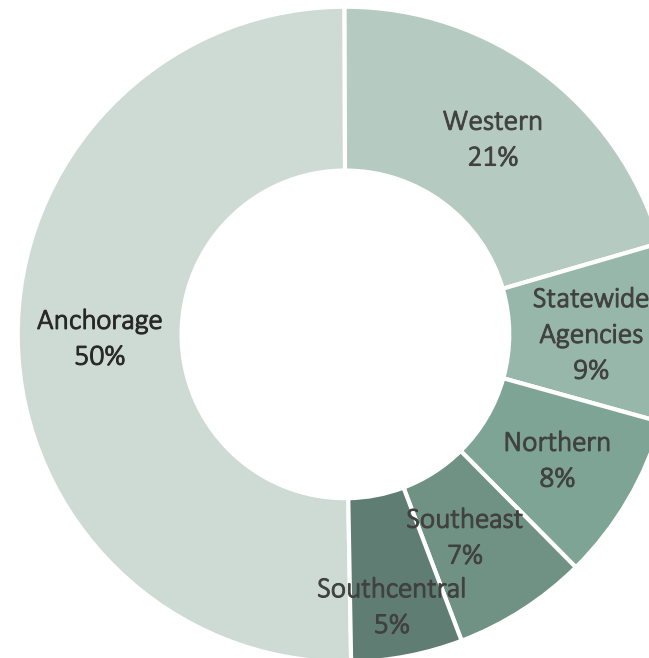
**\*INDICATES PROGRAMS ADDED for FUNDING IN FY2019**

# Felony Sex Offenses: Incidents and Rates by Area

Rate of Felony Sex Offense Incidents  
Per 100K Population 2017



Number of Felony Sex Offense  
Incidents Reported



While agencies in the Anchorage area reported the highest volume of incidents (50% of the state total), agencies in Western Alaska reported the highest rate of incidents based on population, 106% higher than the statewide rate.

Both the Anchorage area and Western Alaska have reported incidents higher than the statewide rate.

# Addressing Sexual Assault in Rural Alaska

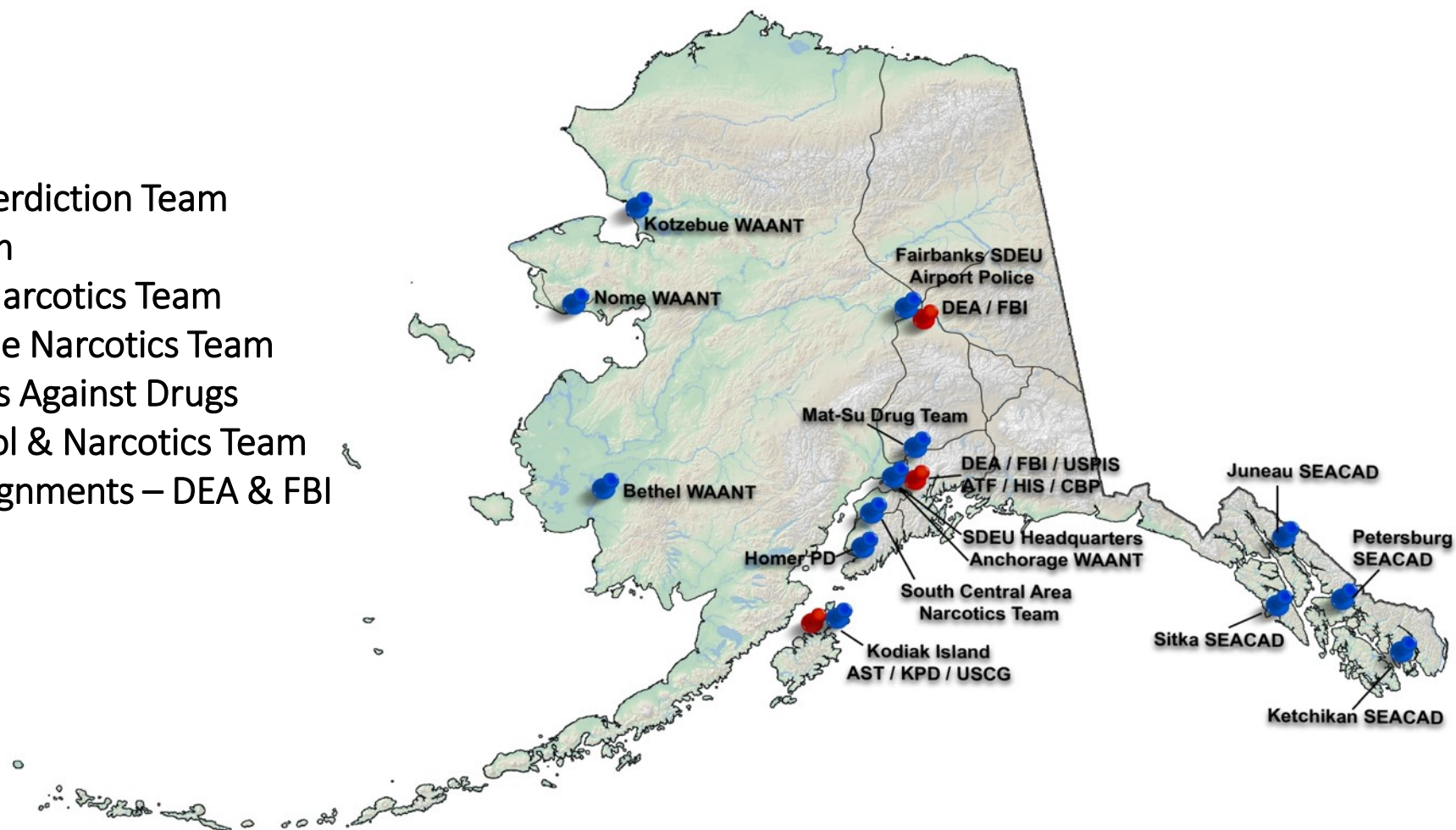
- AST Violent Offenders Unit in Bethel
- Hiring and placement of Sexual Assault Investigator in Bethel District Attorney's office (January 2019)
- Sexual Assault Kit Initiative
  - Sexual Assault Kits - in the Alaska State Troopers budget, as a line item, exists the reimbursement to municipal police departments for costs relating to sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases. This was specifically done for smaller departments so that cost is not a factor in deciding if an exam is warranted.
- Engagement and completion of multiple research projects in completion of multiple research projects in collaboration with UAA Justice
- Open and transparent data and research focused on domestic violence and sexual assault
- Focused on two main decision points in the criminal process:
  - The decision of police investigation to REFER cases for prosecution and
  - The decision on the part of prosecutors to ACCEPT (or not) cases for prosecution that were referred to them.
- This research addresses, at least in a narrow range, the concerns expressed in a 2018 AFN Resolution (18-11) calling for an investigation of the treatment in the Alaska criminal justice system of cases involving Alaska Native offenders and victims

Descriptive analysis of death investigations (to begin 2019)



# AST Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit

- Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team
- Mat-Su Narcotics Team
- Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team
- Southcentral Area-wide Narcotics Team
- Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs
- Western Alaska Alcohol & Narcotics Team
- Task Force Officer assignments – DEA & FBI





# Alaska State Troopers

## Statutory Authority

### State Troopers

#### AS 18.65.080

The DPS and each member of the state troopers is charged with the enforcement of all criminal laws of the state, and has the power of a peace officer of the state or a municipality and those powers usually and customarily exercised by peace officers.

Each member of the state troopers may prevent crime, pursue and apprehend offenders, obtain legal evidence, institute criminal proceedings, execute any lawful warrant or order of arrest, make an arrest without warrant for a violation of law committed in the presence of the state trooper, and may cooperate with other law enforcement agencies in detecting crime, apprehending criminals, and preserving law and order in the state.

### VPSOs

#### AS 18.65.670

There is created in the DPS a village public safety officer program to assist local governments and villages through nonprofit regional corporations or municipalities to appoint, train, supervise, and retain persons to serve as village public safety officers to administer functions relative to

- The protection of life and property in rural areas of the state; and
- Providing probation and parole supervision to persons under supervision by communication with and monitoring the activities and progress of these persons at the direction of probation and parole officers.

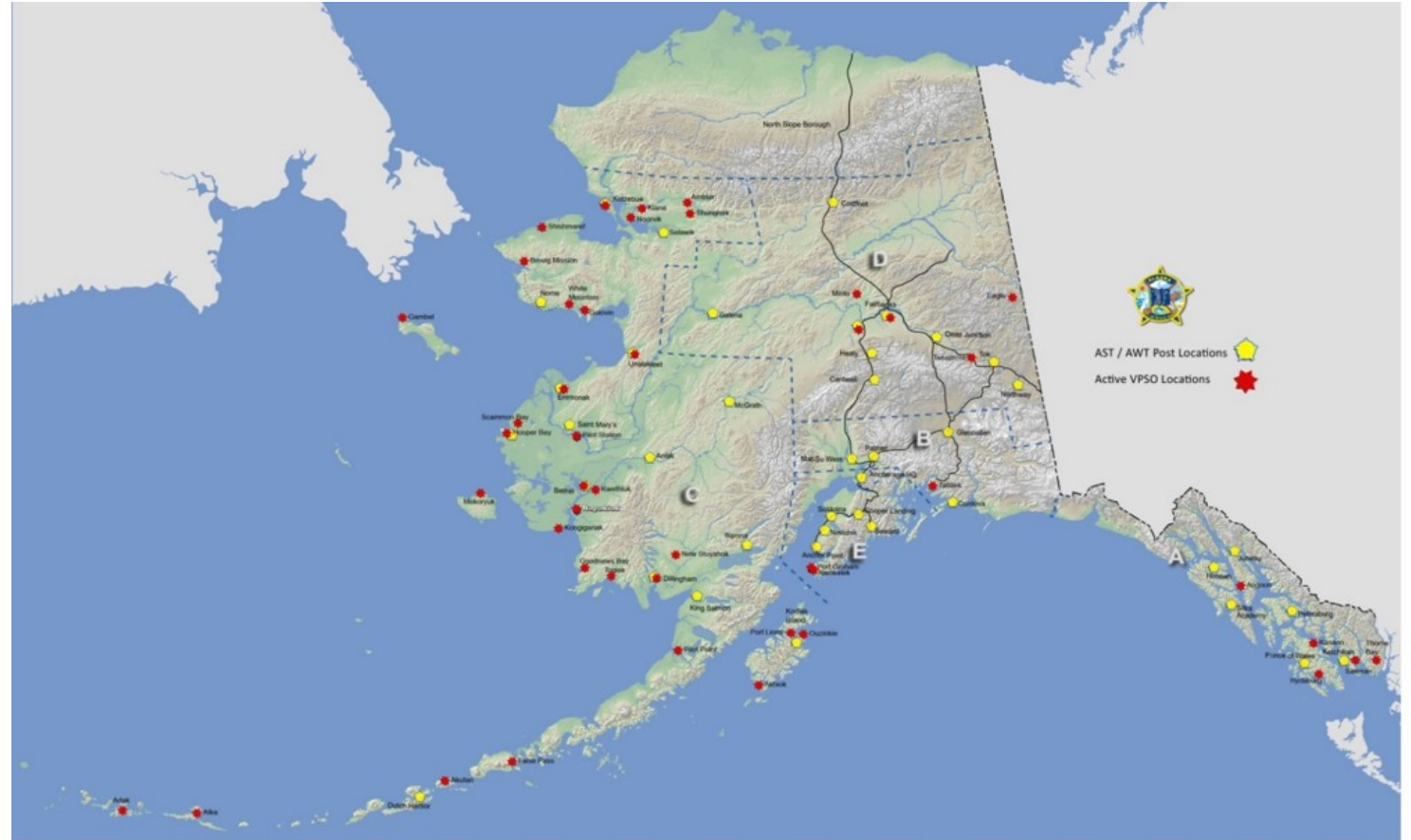
Rural area means a community with a population of less than 1000 within

- An unorganized borough; or

- A borough, if the community is not connected by road to Anchorage or Fairbanks

# Alaska State Troopers Village Public Safety Officer Program

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association  
Bristol Bay Native Association  
Central Council of Tlingit & Haida  
Chugachmiut  
Copper River Native Association  
Kawerak, Inc.  
Kodiak Area Native Association  
Northwest Arctic Borough  
Tanana Chiefs Conference





# Village Public Safety Officer Program



## VPSO Grant Funding and Filled Positions by Fiscal Year

