



Department of Law

FY22 Criminal Division

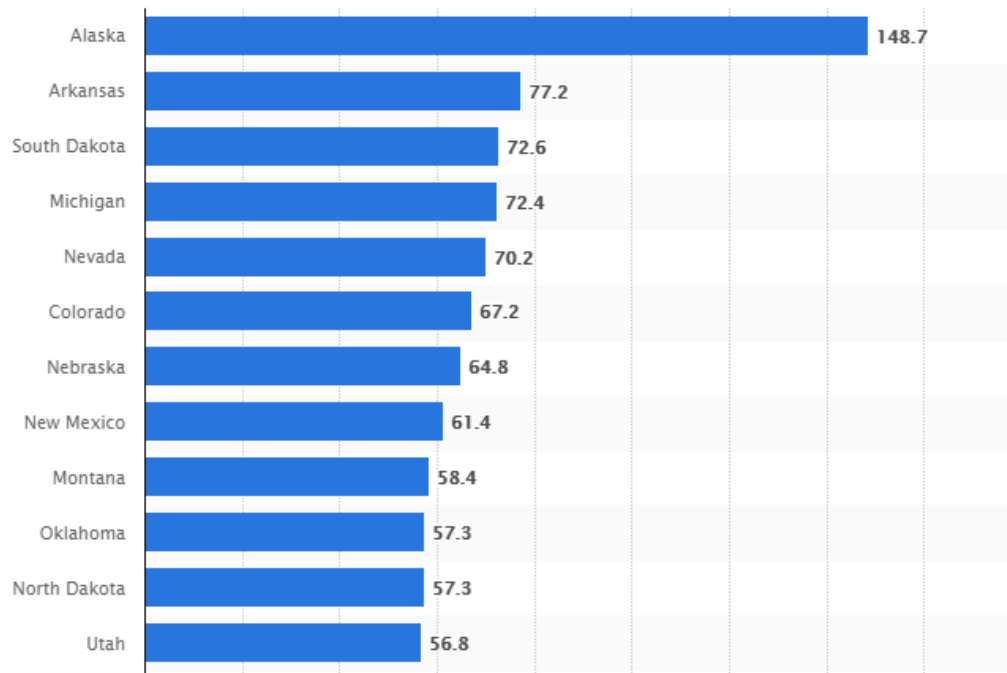
Increment Overview

House Finance Subcommittee

John Skidmore
Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Division

**Criminal Division
Increment:
Prosecution Of Sexual
Assault And Sexual
Abuse Of Minors**

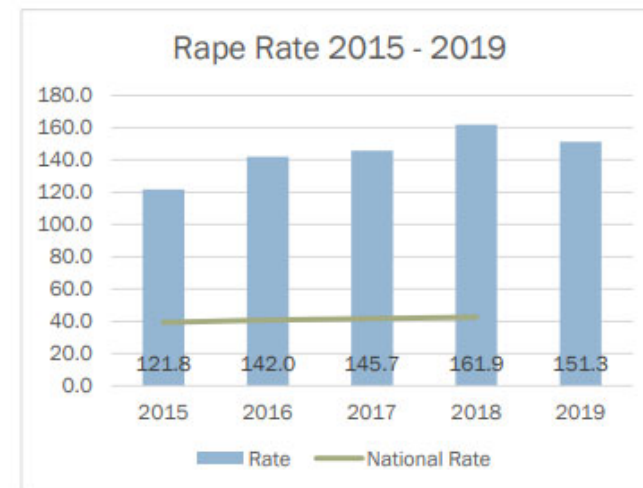
Epidemic of Sex Crimes in Alaska



UCR numbers for CY 2019

- ❖ Though Alaska's rate per 100,000 inhabitants of sexual assault came down in 2019, it was still the highest in the country: 148.7
- ❖ Second highest rate is 77.2
- ❖ The national average is 42.6

Year	Offenses	Alaska Rate	National Rate ¹	Index Change	Rate Change
2015	895	121.8	39.3	17.1%	16.8%
2016	1,049	142.0	40.9	17.2%	16.6%
2017	1,073	145.7	41.7	2.3%	2.6%
2018	1,188	161.9	42.6	10.7%	11.1%
2019	1,101	151.3	n/a	-7.3%	-6.6%



Prosecution of Sex Crimes in Alaska

- Currently, the Criminal Division has over 1,000 pending sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor cases
 - 800 cases are in active litigation
 - 200 cases are in screening phase
- Approximately 250-300 new cases *filed* each year
- These cases can often take 2 to 3 years to resolve
- Conviction rate of 70%-80% (CY2013-CY2016)
 - CY2017-CY2020 includes too many pending cases to provide an accurate rate of conviction

Average Hours To Work Sex Crime Cases

Investigation and Screening

Minimum 10 hours

Investigative consult, review reports, photos, audio, medical records, lab reports/consults, legal research, defendant background in criminal history/404(b)

Pre-trial and Sentencing

Minimum 25 hours

Grand jury prep and hearing, victim contacts routine hearings, motion practice, negotiations, sentencing memos, sentencing hearing

Trial

Minimum 150-200 hours

Witness and evidence prep, jury instructions, jury selection, actual trial days

Post-Trial

Minimum 5 hours

Sentence appeals, probation revocations, post-conviction relief

Average Hours To Work Sex Crime Cases

30 filed sex crime cases = 1,950 hours per year

1,792 workable/compensated hours per year
(given holidays and mandatory leave)

Currently, state prosecutors focusing on sex crimes carry caseloads of
57-80 such cases

High Caseloads = Burnout

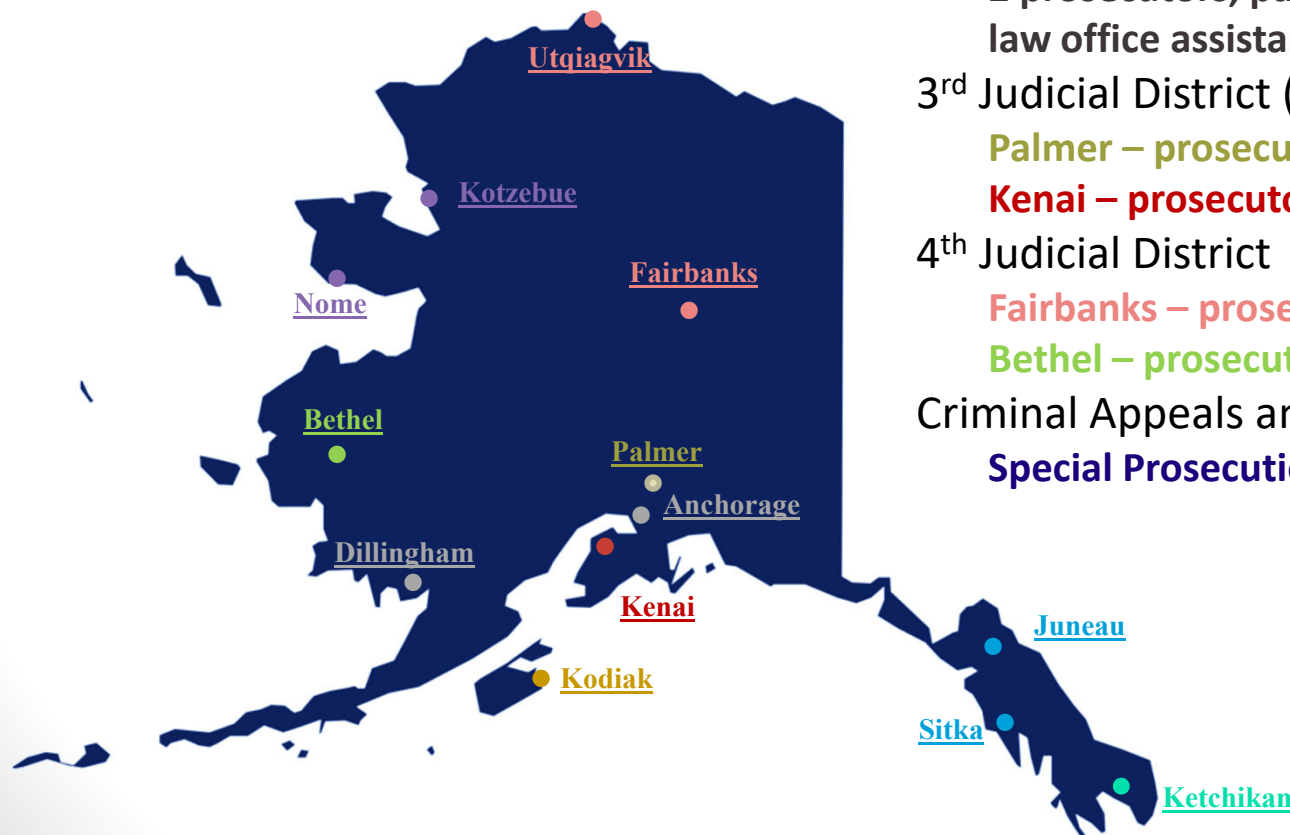
Anchorage-based unit comprised of five prosecutors experienced
turnover of six prosecutors in a two-year time span

10 new prosecutors will bring caseload down to an average of 40 cases

Increased Public Safety Benefits

- Accelerated case screening
 - Time to review
 - More timely follow-up on requested investigation
 - More timely follow-up on lab requests
- More timely communication with victims
 - Improve victim-witness outreach to improve satisfaction
- Push trial more aggressively
 - Answer motions faster
 - Ensure all discovery complete
 - Align witness schedules when setting trial
 - Increased preparedness and familiarity with individual cases
- Push post-trial litigation to be completed more timely
 - Sentencing, probation revocations, post-conviction relief

New Position Placement



1st Judicial District

Juneau – prosecutor, paralegal

2nd Judicial District

**Nome – prosecutor, paralegal,
law office assistant**

3rd Judicial District (Anchorage)

**2 prosecutors, paralegal,
law office assistant**

3rd Judicial District (Outside Anchorage)

Palmer – prosecutor, Paralegal

Kenai – prosecutor

4th Judicial District

Fairbanks – prosecutor

Bethel – prosecutor, paralegal

Criminal Appeals and Special Litigation

**Special Prosecutions – 2 prosecutors,
paralegal, law
office assistant**

Criminal Division Fund Source Change

Misdemeanor Prosecutions in Home Rule Communities

- Home Rule communities have the power to criminalize conduct at the misdemeanor level
 - AK Const. Art X § 11, AS 29.04.010
- Two home rule communities have prosecutor offices:

• Anchorage	5000 - 7000 cases	\$3,500,000
• Juneau	1100 – 1400 cases	\$1,500,000
- One community already supports prosecution through an Memorandum of Understanding with the division
 - North Slope Borough \$300,000 per year in support

Fund Source Change for Home Rule Support

3/5/2021

1st Judicial District prosecutors \$ 311.3 = 2.0

2nd Judicial District prosecutor \$ 191.6 = 1.0

3rd Judicial District prosecutors (Outside Anchorage) \$ 354.6 = 2.7

4th Judicial District prosecutors \$ 432.6 = 3.0

Total Impacts \$1,290.1 = 8.7 prosecutors

Unrestricted General Fund to Statutory Designated Program Receipts

Community Breakout

1st Judicial District

Community	# of cases	Office & Resource required
City of Ketchikan	528	Ketchikan = 1 prosecutor
Haines Borough	41	Juneau = 1 prosecutor
Petersburg Borough	109	(548 cases)
Sitka Borough	311	
Wrangell Borough	77	
Yakutat Borough	10	

2nd Judicial District

Community	# of cases	Office & Resource required
Northwest Arctic Borough	504	Kotzebue = 1 prosecutor

3rd Judicial District (Outside Anchorage)

Community	# of cases	Office & Resource required
City of Kenai	523	Kenai = 1 prosecutor
City of Soldotna	203	(822 cases)
City of Seward	96	
City of Cordova	75	Palmer = 1 Prosecutor
City of Palmer	384	(597 cases)
City of Valdez	138	
City of Kodiak	283	Kodiak = 0.5 prosecutor
Lake and Peninsula	144	Dillingham = 0.2 prosecutor

4th Judicial District

Community	# of cases	Office & Resource required
City of Fairbanks	1388	Fairbanks = 3 prosecutors
Denali Borough	62	(1664 cases)
City of Nenana	112	
City of North Pole	102	

Costs Not Included

- Travel
 - Employee travel
 - Victim/Witness travel
- Infrastructure
 - Office space
 - Utilities
 - Equipment
- Case costs
 - Supplies
 - Discovery and exhibit costs
 - Case management system and other software
- Support personnel

Other costs not included

- Indigent defense
- Incarceration

Thank you

Any questions?