



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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February 12, 2025

The Honorable Donna Mears
Co-Chair House Community and Regional
Affairs
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Rebecca Himschoot
Co-Chair House Community and Regional
Affairs
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: Follow-up for House Community and Regional Affairs Committee hearing January 30, 2025

Dear Co-Chair Mears and Co-Chair Himschoot,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the Department of Public Safety to present to the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee on Thursday, January 30, 2025. The following information was requested during the Committee hearing.

1. Representative Prax requested information about reports available on the Department of Public Safety website.

[Crime in Alaska Reports](#)¹ – The Alaska Department of Public Safety publishes annual "Crime in Alaska" reports, providing detailed statistics on property and violent crimes across the state.

- **[Crime in Alaska 2023](#)**²

¹ State of Alaska. Department of Public Safety. Statewide Services. Records and Information. *Uniform Crime Reports*. <https://dps.alaska.gov/Statewide/R-I/UCR>

² State of Alaska. Department of Public Safety. Statewide Services. Records and Information. Uniform Crime Report. *Crime in Alaska 2023*. dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/e172226d-cf30-45c7-a8d3-63560d635b8f/Crime-in-Alaska-2023

- **[Felony Level Sex Offenses 2023](#)**³ – The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is tasked with collecting information on felony level sex offenses reported to state and local law enforcement agencies, as defined by Alaska Statute (AS) 12.63.100, and as required by AS 12.62.130. This is a required reporting program for state and local law enforcement agencies and is in addition to the requirements for Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR). This is the ninth year that findings from this database have been published.

Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit – [Drug Seizures Statistics](#)

- **[2024 Alaska Drug Report](#)**⁴ – highlights significant law enforcement efforts in combating drug trafficking and illegal alcohol distribution across the state.

[Alaska Missing Alaska Natives & American Indians](#) – Quarterly Report | July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024 This report shows data and information related to persons who are Alaska Native, American Indian, or of an unknown race who were reported missing as of July 1, 2024. This report only includes cases investigated by the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), Anchorage Police Department (APD), Fairbanks Police Department (FPD), Seward Police Department, Homer Police Department, Soldotna Police Department, and Kenai Police Department. The data and information provided in this report are dynamic and subject to change.

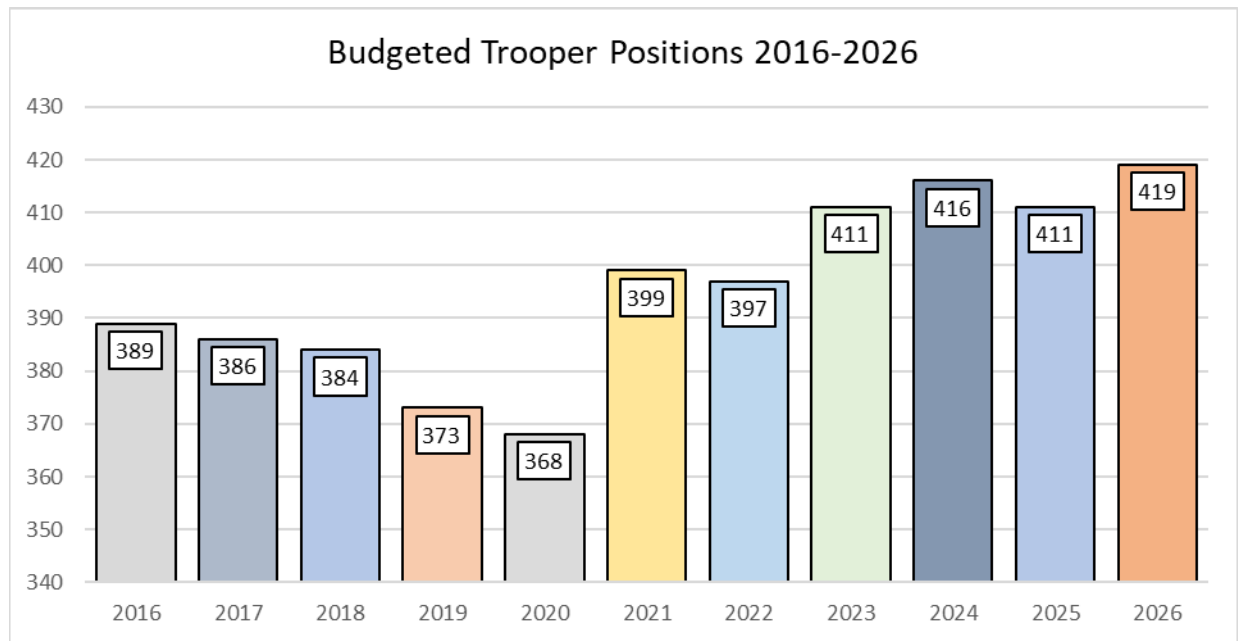
[Village Public Safety Operations January 29, 2025](#)⁵ – This report highlights progress over the past year, including increased officer numbers, improved retention, and the introduction of Regional Public Safety Officers (RPSOs). It also reviews key initiatives, such as enhanced compliance procedures, expanded training, and competitive wage adjustments, which have strengthened the program's foundation.

³ State of Alaska. Department of Public Safety. Statewide Services Records and Information. Uniform Crime Report. *Felony Level Sex Offenses 2023*. <https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/e4930fad-537f-46a5-9e4b-eea0f456dcc7/Felony-Level-Sex-Offenses-2023>

⁴ State of Alaska. Department of Public Safety. State Troopers. Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit. *Drug Seizure Statistics*. <https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/b8e3a715-fbf7-4b2a-9629-7252246bf184/2024-Annual-Drug-Report.pdf>

⁵ State of Alaska. Department of Public Safety. Village Public Safety Operations. *Village Public Safety Operations January 29, 2025*. <https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/be933761-1cce-46c8-a6ee-2f6f8835a7b6/Village-Public-Safety-Officer-2024-v2.pdf>

2. Representative Himschoot requested a history of budgeted State Trooper positions for the department in comparison to the state population.



Year	Population	Budgeted Trooper Position Count
2016	742,874	389
2017	741,509	386
2018	738,300	384
2019	736,012	373
2020	733,974	368
2021	736,311	399
2022	736,600	397
2023	738,873	411
2024	741,147	416
2025	739,613*	411
2026	740,669*	419

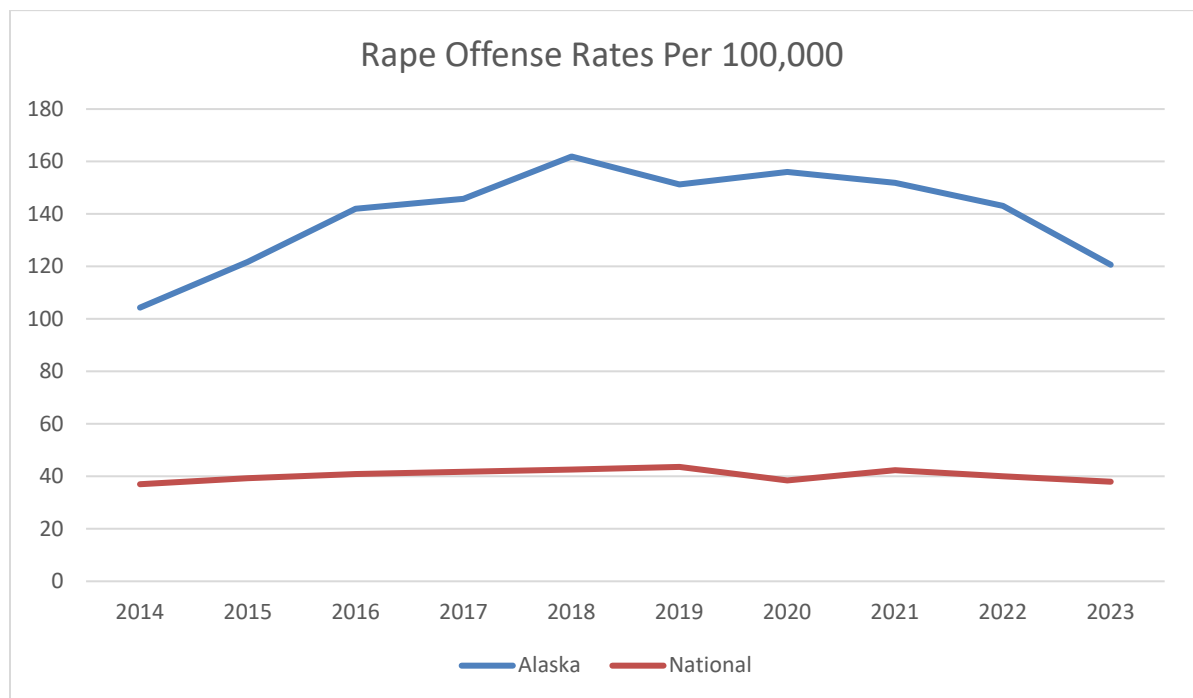
Population Count Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development DOLWD, Research and Analysis Section

** Middle Population estimate*

3. Representative Holland requested the 10-year trend of reported Sexual Assaults in Alaska and compared to the national statistics by the Department of Justice.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) collects crime statistic information as required per [AS 12.62.130](#) *Reporting of uniform crime information*. DPS follows the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) requirements when reporting the Alaska's crime statistics to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program and publishes the information in the annual [Crime in Alaska](#)⁶ report.

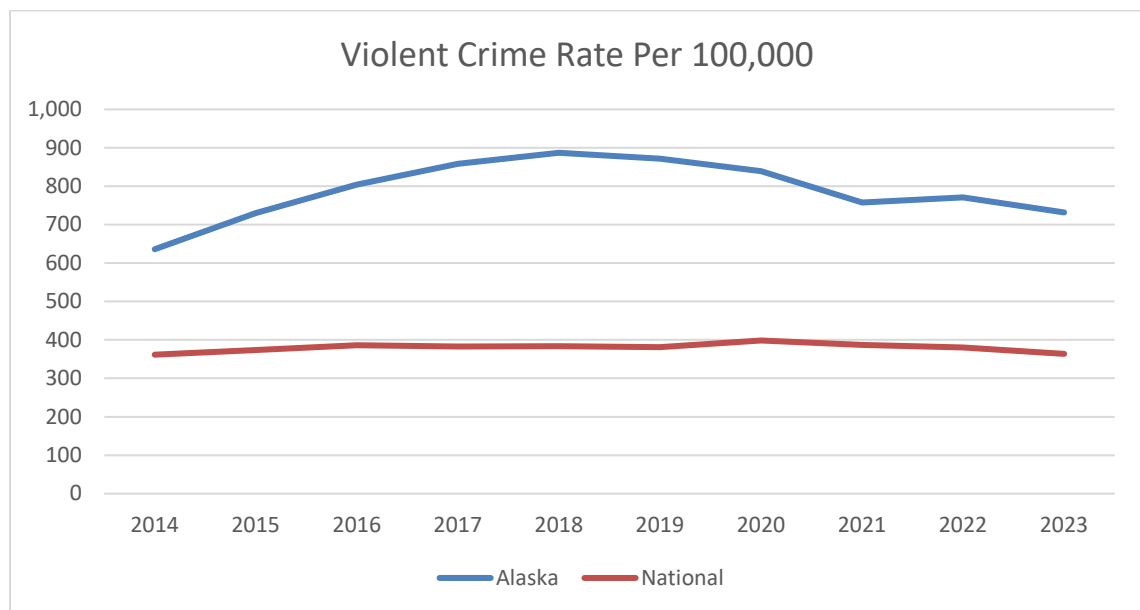
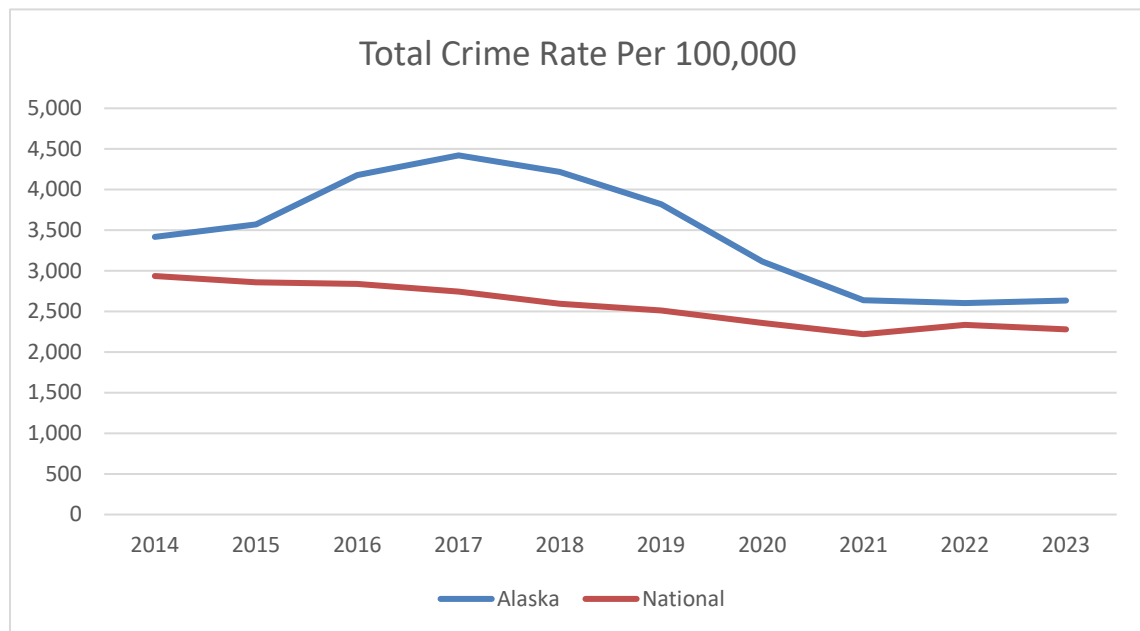
Using the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program definitions for Rape as outlined in the Crime in Alaska report, the chart below shows a 10-year trend for offenses reported to law enforcement:

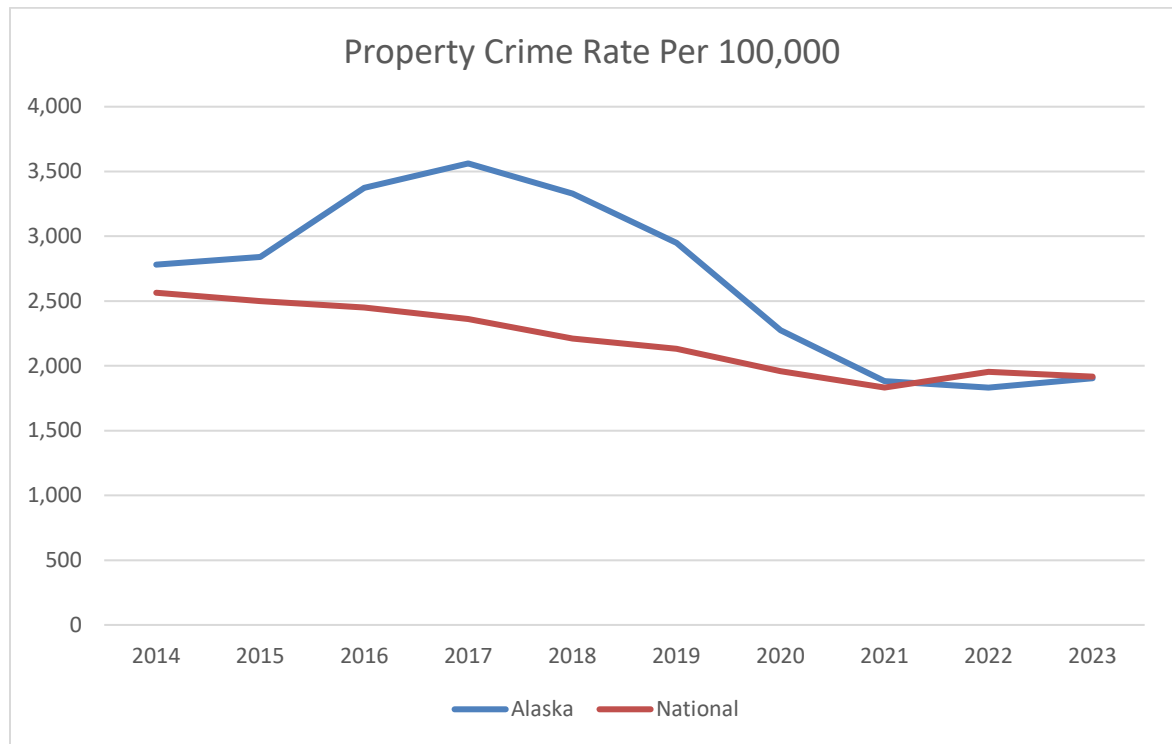


⁶ State of Alaska. Department of Public Safety. Statewide Services. Records and Information. *Uniform Crime Reports*. dps.alaska.gov/Statewide/R-I/UCR

4. Representative Holland requested a comparison of Crime Rate (Reported Offenses/Population) and Felony Sex Offense Data for Alaska referenced on Slide 8 of the presentation against the national average.

The charts below illustrate Alaska's total, violent, and property crime rates, along with a comparison to national crime trends based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) definitions.

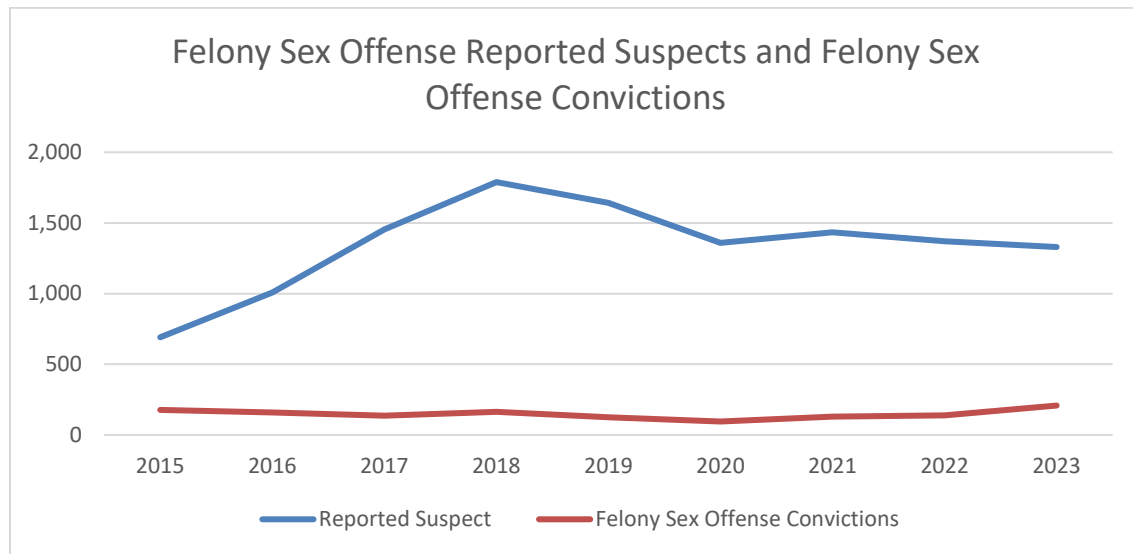




Unlike Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data, which follows standardized federal definitions, felony-level sex offense information is derived from individual state statutes. As a result, direct comparisons between state-level and national reports are not readily feasible.

To more accurately address Representative Holland's inquiry, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) compiled a list of felony-level sex offense convictions from the State's criminal history repository for comparison with the number of suspects reported in the [2023 Felony Sex Offense Report](#)⁷.

⁷ State of Alaska. Department of Public Safety. Statewide Services. Uniform Crime Reports. *2023 Felony Sex offense Report*. <https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/e4930fad-537f-46a5-9e4b-eaa0f456dcc7/Felony-Level-Sex-Offenses-2023>



Please note:

- The Felony Sex Offense Report has been published only since 2015, limiting available data to the past nine years.
- Some felony-level cases may take several years to reach adjudication. As a result, certain offenses reported to law enforcement may not yet have been adjudicated.
- In some instances, offenses initially reported as felony-level sex offenses may not lead to an arrest or prosecution due to insufficient evidence. Additionally, arrests and convictions may ultimately result in charges for non-felony sex offenses or other criminal offenses.
- In the chart above, conviction data is based on a unique arrest tracking number to provide the most accurate comparison between suspects reported in the Felony Sex Offense Report and individuals convicted of at least one felony-level sex offense.

Sincerely,

James E. Cockrell
Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

cc: Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office