

Alaska Rape Trends: 1976-2023

Incidents Reported to Police and Arrests

Research Brief

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This purpose of this brief is to explore trends in founded rape incidents reported to the police and rape arrests in Alaska from 1976 to 2023. Alaska population data were obtained from the [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#). Rape incident report and arrest data were obtained from the Alaska Department of Public Safety's [Crime in Alaska](#) reports as part of the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Alaska did not achieve adequate law enforcement agency participation in the UCR program until 1985, which makes the initial rise of cases indicative of increased reporting. The percentage of the state's population represented began increasing in the late 1980's (85%) to almost full representation in the early 2000's (97%-99%). In 2013, the UCR revised its [definition of rape](#) to be more inclusive of sex and more comprehensive forms of penetration. As a result, rates are reported separately by UCR definition; *legacy* (prior to 2013) and *revised* (2013 and later). Additionally, each count of rape is reported for victims of a completed rape, attempted rape, or assault with intent to rape. All non-consensual sexual acts involving a family member that meet the definition of rape are also included. A compilation of annual rates of founded report rates and arrest rates can be found in Tables 2 and 3.

UCR legacy definition of rape: The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.

UCR revised definition of rape: Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

Key Findings

1. Alaska's average adult (20 years and older) rape arrest rate was higher than the average youth (0-19 years) rape arrest rate under both UCR definitions of rape.
2. The adult rape arrest rate was higher when measured according to the UCR *revised* rape definition.
3. The youth rape arrest rate was higher when measured according to the UCR *legacy* rape definition.
4. Alaska's rape arrest rate declined by half from 1994-2012 under the UCR legacy rape definition.
5. Alaska's rape arrest rate remained relatively flat overall during the revised rape definition period from 2013-2023.

Rape Incidents Reported to Police in Alaska

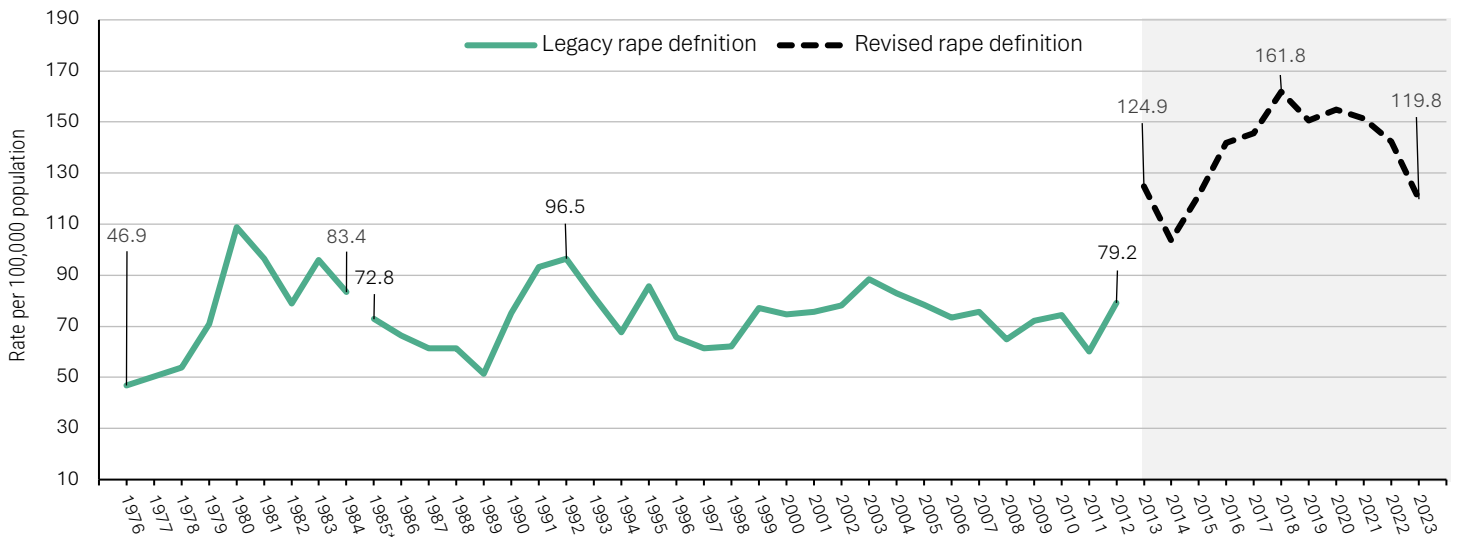
Figure 1 depicts rates of founded rape incidents reported to police in Alaska from 1976 to 2023. The period of 1976 through 1984, represented by the first segment of the solid line, reflects the increase in Alaska law enforcement agencies that participated in the UCR program; just 10 agencies in 1976 vs. 22 agencies in 1984.

UCR legacy rape definition period (1985-2012). The second segment of the solid line in Figure 1 shows rates of founded rape incidents reported to police defined as UCR legacy rape (1985 to 2012).¹ The rate of legacy defined rapes reported to police remained relatively flat from 1985 (72.8) to 2012 (79.2) with a peak in 1992 (96.5 per 100,000 population). On average, 73.5 founded rapes were reported to police per 100,000 population from 1985 to 2012.

UCR revised rape definition period (2013-2023). The UCR *revised* definition of rape, depicted by the dashed line in Figure 1, captured both female and male victimization and more forms of penetration for the first time in 2013.² There was an initial drop in reporting rates from 2013 to 2014 before the rate began to increase. The revised rape reporting rate peaked in 2018 (161.8 per 100,000) and then continued to move downward through 2023 (119.8 per 100,000).

It is important to note that incidents that occurred during the legacy rape definition cannot be compared to incidents that took place during the revised rape definition period.

Figure 1. Alaska rates of rape incidents reported to police, 1976-2023.



- Notes:**
- a. Incident report data source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, [Crime in Alaska](#); Alaska population data source: [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#).
 - b. The shaded area and dashed line represent rates following revision of the UCR forcible rape definition (2013-2013)
 - * Alaskan law enforcement began reporting more substantial UCR data beginning in 1985.

Rape Arrests in Alaska

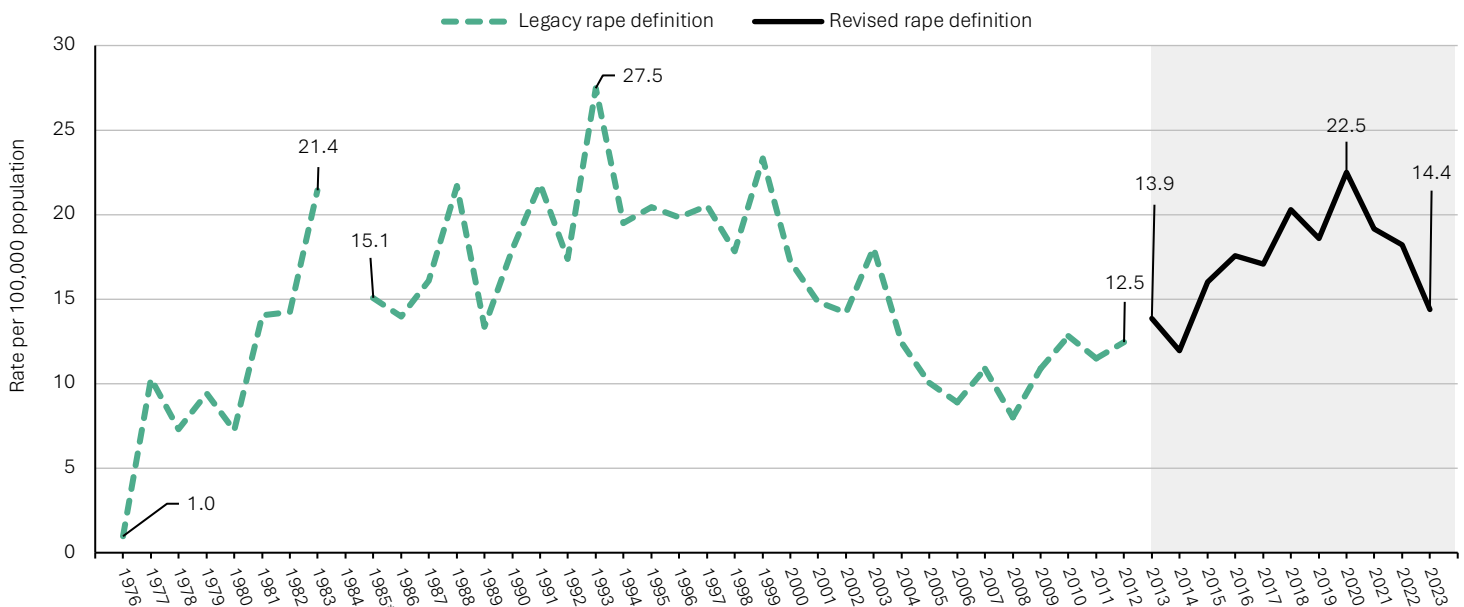
Due to limitations of Alaska’s early state population data, arrest rates by age group could not be calculated for the years 1976-1979. As a result of the population data age grouping, this brief categorizes age groups as youth (0-19 years) and adult (20 years and older). UCR arrest data by age were unavailable for the year 1984.

Figure 2 provides Alaska rape arrest rates for the state population from 1976 to 2023. As with the reported rape incidents, the rise in rape arrests from 1976 to 1979 is a byproduct of the increasing number of law enforcement agencies reporting to the UCR program and does not represent accurate rape arrest rates for the state.

UCR legacy rape definition period (1985-2012). The second segment of the dashed line in Figure 2 (1985-2012) shows Alaska’s rape arrest rate as defined by the UCR *legacy* rape definition¹. The arrest rate reached a high point in 1994 (27.5 per 100,000) and then gradually declined to the end of the legacy definitional period in 2012 (12.5 per 100,000). From 1994 to 2012, the UCR legacy rape arrest rate declined by half.

UCR revised rape definition period (2013-2023). The solid line in Figure 2 (2013-2023) depicts Alaska’s rape arrest rate with the UCR *revised* rape definition.² The arrest rate rose steadily between 2014 and 2020 (13.9 vs. 22.5 per 100,000, respectively), increasing 61.9 percent. However, the rate declined throughout the remainder of the revised definitional period.

Figure 2. Alaska rape arrest rates, 1976-2023.



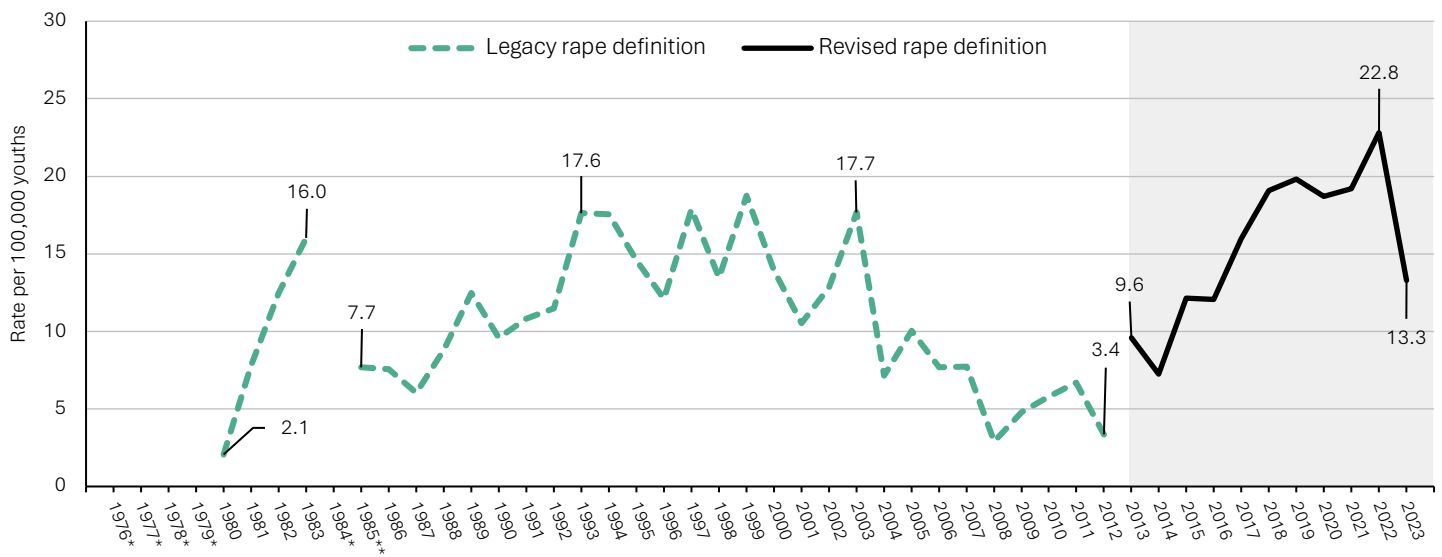
- Notes:
- a. Arrest data source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, [Crime in Alaska](#); Alaska population data source: [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#).
 - b. The shaded area represents rates under the revised UCR rape definition (2013-2023).
 - c. Arrest data not available for the year 1984.
 - * Alaskan law enforcement began reporting more substantial UCR data beginning in 1985.

Youth rape arrest rates. Data shown in Figure 3 illustrates arrest rates over time for Alaska youth (ages 0-19 years) for both UCR *legacy* and *revised* definitional periods.^{1,2} Due to increased law enforcement agency participation in the UCR program from 1980 to 1984, the initial increase in Alaska’s youth rape arrest rates, as represented by the initial dashed line, is artificially inflated and is not representative of accurate rape arrests in Alaska.

UCR legacy rape definition period (1985-2012). The second segment of the dashed line in Figure 3 (1985-2012) shows the UCR *legacy* defined¹ youth rape arrest rate. A period of growth and volatility occurred from 1993 to 2003, averaging 15.2 per 100,000 youths, and then declined throughout the end of the *legacy* definitional period (2012). The overall youth arrest rate more than halved from 1985 to 2012, going from 7.7 to 3.4 per 100,000 youths.

UCR revised rape definition period (2013-2023). The solid line in Figure 3 (2013-2023) depicts the youth rape arrest rate per the UCR *revised* rape definition.² A steady climb from 2013 to 2022 resulted in a marked 137.5% increase (9.6 to 22.8 per 100,000 youths) before dropping in 2023. Between 2013 and 2023, the youth rate arrest rate increased by more than a third (38.5%) overall.

Figure 3. Alaska youth (ages 0-19 years) rape arrest rates, 1976-2023.



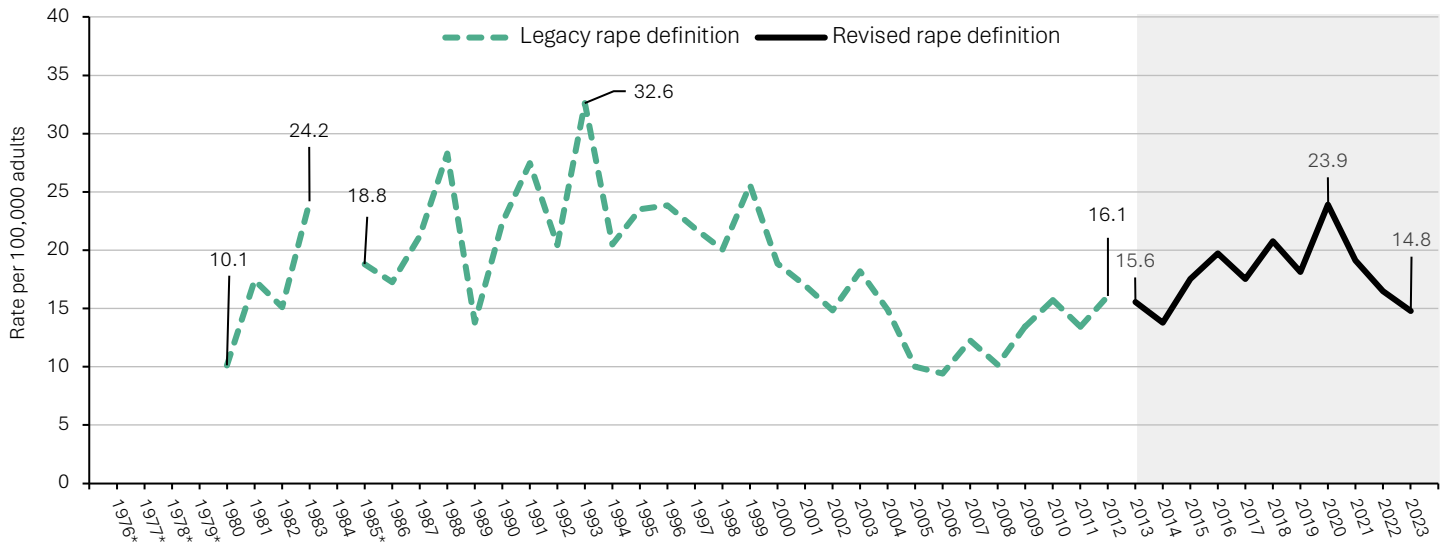
- Notes:
- a. Arrest data source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, [Crime in Alaska](#); Alaska population data source: [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#).
 - b. The shaded area represents rates under the revised UCR rape definition (2013-2023).
 - * Data not available by age group for years 1976-1979 and 1984.
 - ** Alaskan law enforcement began reporting more substantial UCR data beginning in 1985.

Adult rape arrest rates. Figure 4 shows rape arrest rates for adults (20 years and older) under the UCR *legacy* and *revised* definitional periods.^{1,2} As with the youth rape data, the increase from 1976 to 1979 does not accurately represent rape arrests.

UCR legacy rape definition period (1985-2012). The second segment of the dashed line in Figure 4 (1985-2012) portrays adult rape arrests rates defined by UCR *legacy* rape.¹ A spike in the adult rape arrest rate occurred in 1993 (32.6 per 100,000 adults) and then steadily declined through the end of the legacy definitional period in 2012 (16.1 per 100,000 adults); a reduction of more than half from 1993-2003.

UCR revised rape definition period (2013-2023). The dashed line in Figure 4 represents Alaska’s adult rape arrest rate according to the *revised* UCR definition.² While there was a brief period of increase and volatility between 2016 and 2020, the overall rate remained rather flat from 2013 (15.6 per 100,000 adults) to 2023 (14.8 per 100,000 adults).

Figure 4. Alaska **adult** (ages 20 years and older) rape **arrest rates**, 1976-2023.



Notes:
 a. Arrest data source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, [Crime in Alaska](#); Alaska population data source: [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#).
 b. The shaded area and dashed line represent rates following revision of the UCR rape definition (2013-2023).
 * Data not available by age group for years 1976-1979 and 1984.
 ** Alaskan law enforcement began reporting more substantial UCR data beginning in 1985.

Average Rape Definition Period Overviews

Table 1 provides an overview of average rates of founded rape incidents reported to police and average rape arrest rates for both UCR *legacy*¹ and *revised*² definitional periods in Alaska (1985-2023). Data for the initial UCR reporting period from 1976 to 1979 were excluded from calculations due to source data limitations.

Rapes reported to police. During the UCR legacy and revised definitional periods, adults had a higher average rate of reporting than youths (18.6 and 17.9 compared to 10.6 and 15.4).

Rape arrests. Adults (20 years and older) were arrested for rape at higher rates, on average, than youth (0-19 years) under both UCR *legacy* and *revised* rape definitions (unshaded columns in Table 1). The average *adult* rape arrest rate was slightly higher during the *legacy* rape definitional period, while the average *youth* arrest rate was higher during the *revised* rape definitional period.

Table 1. Average rates of founded rape incidents reported to police and rape arrest rates in Alaska, by UCR definition, 1985-2023

	Average rates per 100,000 respective population		
	Incidents Reported	Arrests	
	All ages	Adult	Youth
UCR legacy rape definition: 1985-2012	73.5	18.6	10.6
UCR revised rape definition: 2013-2023	138.0	17.9	15.4

Notes:
 a. Arrest data source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, [Crime in Alaska](#); Alaska population data source: [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#).
 b. Rape incidents reported to police includes only founded reports.
 c. Due to Alaska population data limitations, age groups are defined as youth: 0-19 years and adult: 20 years and older.

Table 2. Rates of rapes reported to police in Alaska.

	Rate per 100,000 population
	All ages combined
1976	46.9
1977	50.5
1978	53.9
1979	70.8
1980	108.8
1981	96.5
1982	79.0
1983	96.0
1984	83.4
1985	72.8
1986	66.5
1987	61.5
1988	61.3
1989	51.4
1990	75.1
1991	93.1
1992	96.5
1993	81.6
1994	67.6
1995	85.8
1996	65.8
1997	61.5
1998	62.2
1999	77.2
2000	74.6
2001	75.7
2002	78.2
2003	88.5
2004	82.9
2005	78.5
2006	73.4
2007	75.6
2008	64.9
2009	72.1
2010	74.3
2011	60.0
2012	79.2
2013	124.9
2014	103.7
2015	121.4
2016	141.8
2017	145.6
2018	161.8
2019	150.6
2020	154.8
2021	151.4
2022	142.4
2023	119.8

Table 3. Alaska rape arrest rates by age group.

	Rate per 100,000 respective population		
	Ages 0-19 years	Ages 20 and over	All ages combined
1976	nd	nd	1.0
1977	nd	nd	10.3
1978	nd	nd	7.3
1979	nd	nd	9.4
1980	10.1	2.1	7.2
1981	17.4	7.8	14.0
1982	15.1	12.5	14.2
1983	24.2	16.0	21.4
1984	nd	nd	nd
1985	7.7	18.8	15.1
1986	7.6	17.2	14.0
1987	6.0	21.2	16.1
1988	8.8	28.3	21.7
1989	12.5	13.8	13.4
1990	9.6	22.4	18.0
1991	10.8	27.5	21.8
1992	11.5	20.4	17.4
1993	17.6	32.6	27.5
1994	17.5	20.5	19.5
1995	14.6	23.5	20.4
1996	12.1	23.8	19.8
1997	17.9	21.9	20.5
1998	13.5	20.1	17.8
1999	18.7	25.6	23.3
2000	13.9	18.9	17.2
2001	10.5	17.0	14.9
2002	12.8	14.8	14.2
2003	17.7	18.2	18.0
2004	7.2	14.9	12.4
2005	10.1	10.0	10.0
2006	7.7	9.4	8.9
2007	7.7	12.3	10.9
2008	2.9	10.2	8.0
2009	4.8	13.5	10.9
2010	5.8	15.7	12.8
2011	6.7	13.4	11.5
2012	3.4	16.1	12.5
2013	9.6	15.6	13.9
2014	7.2	13.8	11.9
2015	12.1	17.5	16.0
2016	12.1	19.7	17.6
2017	16.0	17.5	17.1
2018	19.1	20.8	20.3
2019	19.8	18.1	18.6
2020	18.7	23.9	22.5
2021	19.2	19.1	19.2
2022	22.8	16.5	18.2
2023	13.3	14.8	14.4

Notes

- a. Crime data source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, [Crime in Alaska](#).
 - b. Alaska population data source: [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#).
 - c. Bold text indicates data collected under the revised UCR definition of forcible rape (2013 and later).
 - d. Population data not available by age group for years 1976-1979.
 - e. Arrest data not available by age group for year 1984.
- nd = no data

Table 4. Alaska police agency participation and population represented.

	Number of participating agencies	Total number of agencies	Overall agency participation rate	Percentage of state's population represented
1976	10	nd	nd	nd
1977	16	nd	nd	nd
1978	23	nd	nd	nd
1979	21	nd	nd	nd
1980	23	nd	nd	nd
1981	23	nd	nd	nd
1982	23*	nd	nd	nd
1983	24*	nd	nd	nd
1984	22	nd	nd	nd
1985	25	nd	nd	nd
1986	26	nd	nd	nd
1987	27	nd	nd	nd
1988	25	40+	nd	85%
1989	26	40+	nd	85%
1990	26	40+	nd	85%
1991	26	40+	nd	85%
1992	25	59	42.4%	85%
1993	28	59	47.5%	nd
1994	29	58	50%	95%
1995	29	58	50%	91%
1996	26	57	45.6%	90%
1997	25	57	43.9%	90%
1998	24	57	42.1%	88%
1999	30	57	52.6%	92%
2000	33	57	57.9%	94%
2001	32	57	56.1%	93.7%
2002	31	56	55.4%	93.2%
2003	31	56	55.4%	97.5%
2004	31	54	57.4%	97.5%
2005	33	59	56%	98%
2006	32	58	55.2%	96.7%
2007	32	62	51.6%	97.4%
2008	34	73	46.6%	98.7%
2009	35	51	68.6%	99.3%
2010	35	50	70%	99.4%
2011	34	50	68%	99.4%
2012	32*	50	64%	99.4%
2013	32	51	62.7%	99.4%
2014	32	51	62.7%	99.4%
2015	32	51	62.7%	99.5%
2016	32	51	62.7%	99.6%
2017	32	44	72.7%	99.5%
2018	32	44	72.7%	99.5%
2019	32	43	74.4%	99.5%
2020	32	44	72.7%	99.5%
2021	32	45	71.1%	99.5%
2022	32	45	71.1%	99.3%
2023	31	42	73.8%	99.4%

Notes:

- a. Agency data source: Alaska Department of Public Safety, [Crime in Alaska](#).
 - b. Alaska population data source: [Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#).
- nd = no data