

Alaska Rape Trends

Contextualized within the U.S.

1985-2024

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Data Source: Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

UCR Highlights:

- The UCR program is managed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Initiated in 1929 (longest ongoing criminological data collection in the U.S.)
- Data submitted by state, local, tribal, and (limited) federal law enforcement agencies
- Program participation is voluntary (although some states require their LEAs to participate)
- “Uniform” >>> standardized crime definitions used by all participating jurisdictions
- Includes Part I offenses (felony) and Part II offenses (misdemeanor)
- The UCR program classifies rape as a Part I felony offense

Purposes:

- Gauge the overall volume of crimes known to police
- Monitor changes in the volume/rate of crimes known to police

UCR Rape Definition Change: A Word of Caution

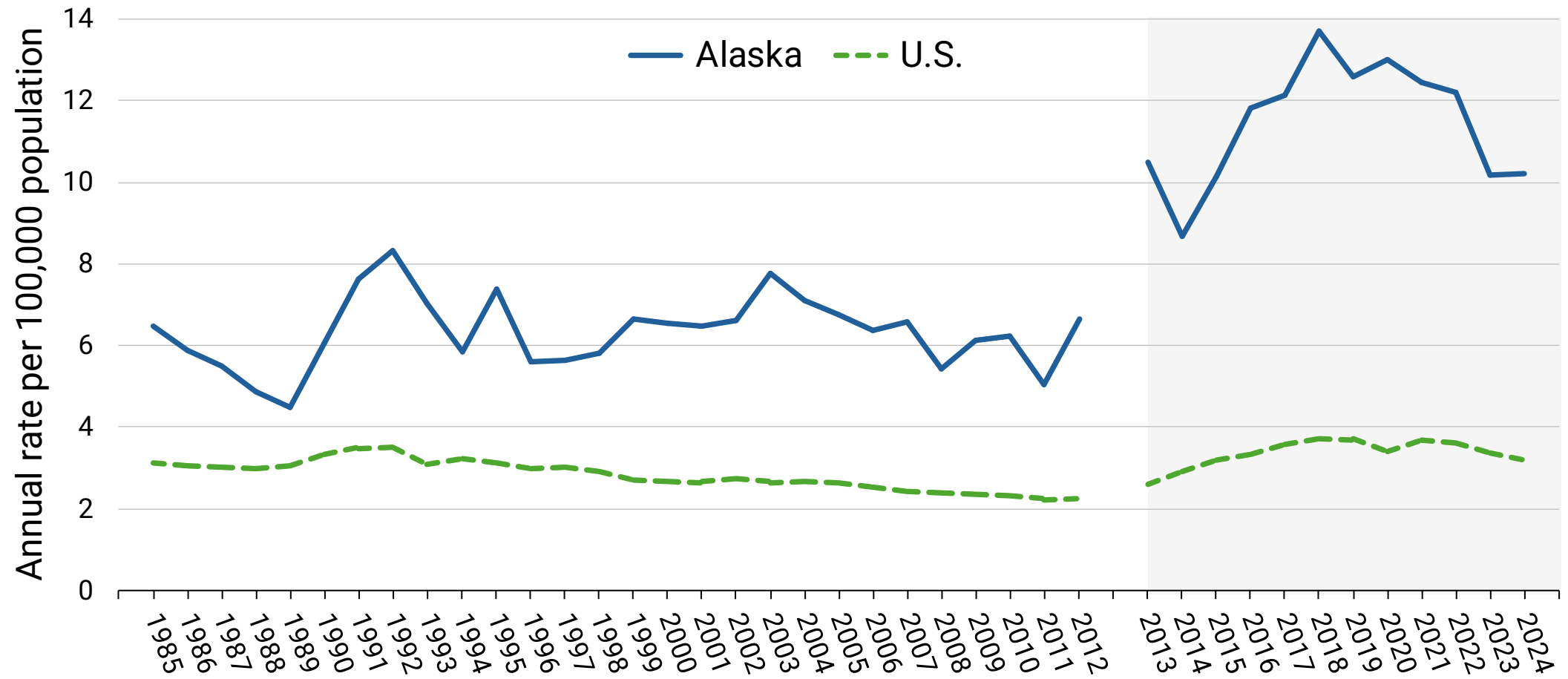
The UCR program revised its 80-year [definition of rape](#) in **2013**:

- Removed the physical force requirement.
- Expanded to include comprehensive forms of penetration.
- Inclusive of male and female victims and offenders.

UCR arrest and report data presented here are split by UCR definition for the following periods:

- Legacy definition: 1985-2012
- Revised definition: 2013-2024
- These periods represent entirely different metrics and **cannot** be compared to one another.

Alaska vs. U.S. Reported Rape Rate Comparison: 1985-2024



Data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)
 The shaded area represents rates following revision of the UCR rape definition (2013-2023)

What do these trends tell us about reported rape rates?

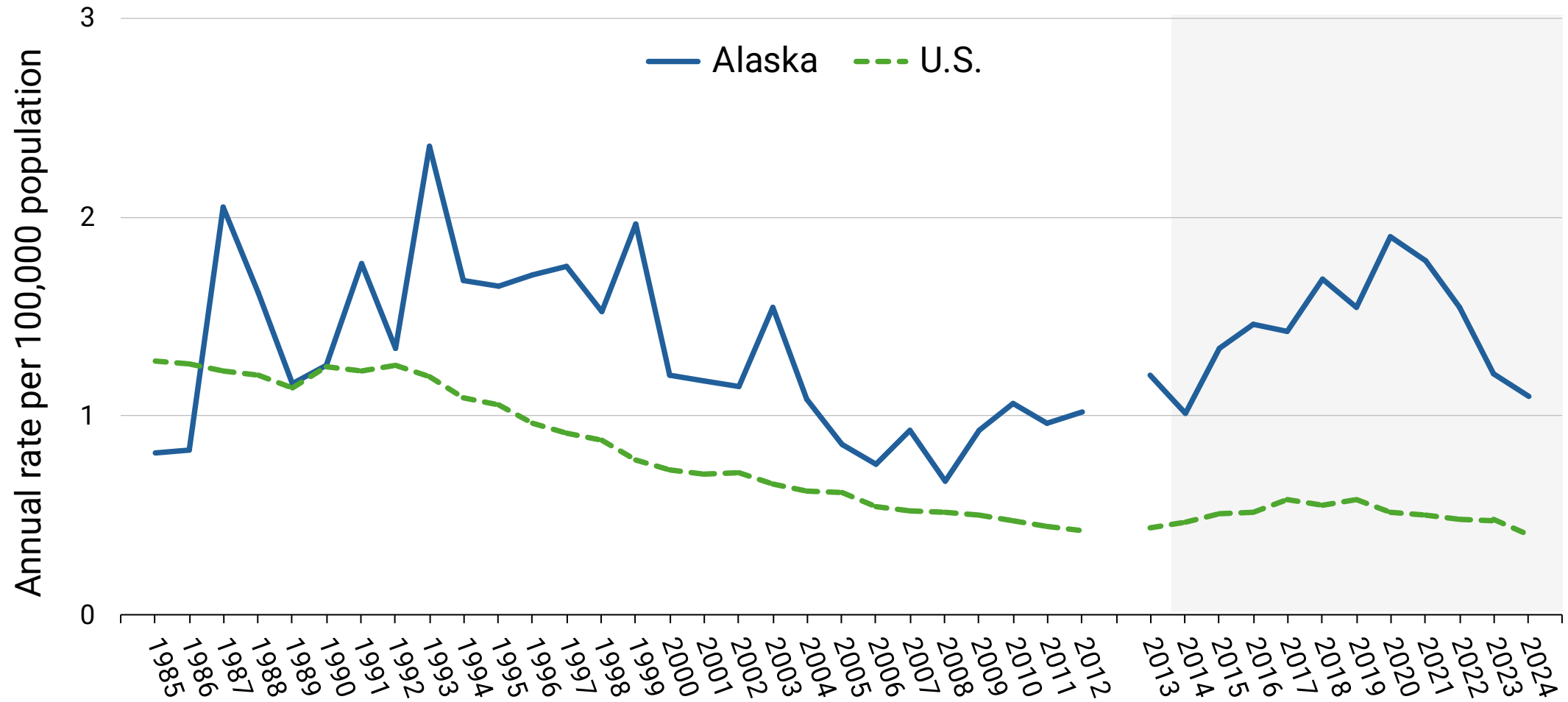
UCR legacy rape period (1985-2012)

- Both Alaska and the U.S. demonstrated stable reported rape rates during the period.
- Alaska consistently showed higher reported rape rates than the U.S for the entire period.

UCR revised rape period (2013-2024)

- The rate of U.S. rapes reported to police increased nearly a quarter over the period (from 2.6 to 3.2 per 100,000).
- Alaska's rates showed variability but there was little change overall (from 10.5 to 10.2 per 100,000).
- Alaska's reported rape rates remained higher than the U.S.

Alaska vs. U.S. Rape Arrest Rate Comparison: 1985-2024



Data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)

The shaded area represents rates following revision of the UCR rape definition (2013-2023)

What do these trends tell us about rape arrest rates?

UCR legacy rape period (1985-2012)

- Both the U.S. and Alaska's rape arrest rates trended downward 1990s through 2012.
- Alaska consistently demonstrated higher rates throughout the period.
- Alaska rate “rebounded” 2008-2012, the U.S. trend continued to decline.

UCR revised rape period (2013-2024)

- Alaska maintained higher rape arrest rates than the U.S. throughout the period.
- Alaska's arrest trend >> “inverted U” while U.S. arrest trend remained flat overall.

Monthly Trends in Reported Rape Rates

Average rates of rapes reported to police in Alaska, by month and UCR definitional period

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Legacy period (1985-2012)	5.9	4.8	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.3	5.8	5.5	9.0
Revised Period (2013-2024)	11.5	10.7	10.3	11.2	11.5	12.1	13.5	12.7	12.2	11.9	10.5	9.7
Most recent five-year period (2020-2025)	7.5	6.5	7.3	7.6	7.6	8.3	9.0	8.6	8.1	7.6	7.0	9.2

Average national rates of rapes reported to police, by month and definition period

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Legacy period (1985-2012)	2.4	2.2	2.7	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.4	4.2
Revised Period (2013-2024)	3.3	2.9	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.0	4.5
Most recent five-year period (2020-2025)	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.7

Data Source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)

Bolded text indicates months with the highest reported rape rates for each period

Some periods may include more than three bolded rates due to rate ties

What do these trends tell us about reported rape rates by month?

UCR legacy rape definition period (1985-2012).

Alaska: Average reported rape rate was highest in months of **July, August, and December**

U.S.: Average reported rape rate was highest in **June, July, August, and December.**

UCR revised rape definition period (2013-2024).

Alaska: Average reported rape rate was highest in months of **July, August, and September.**

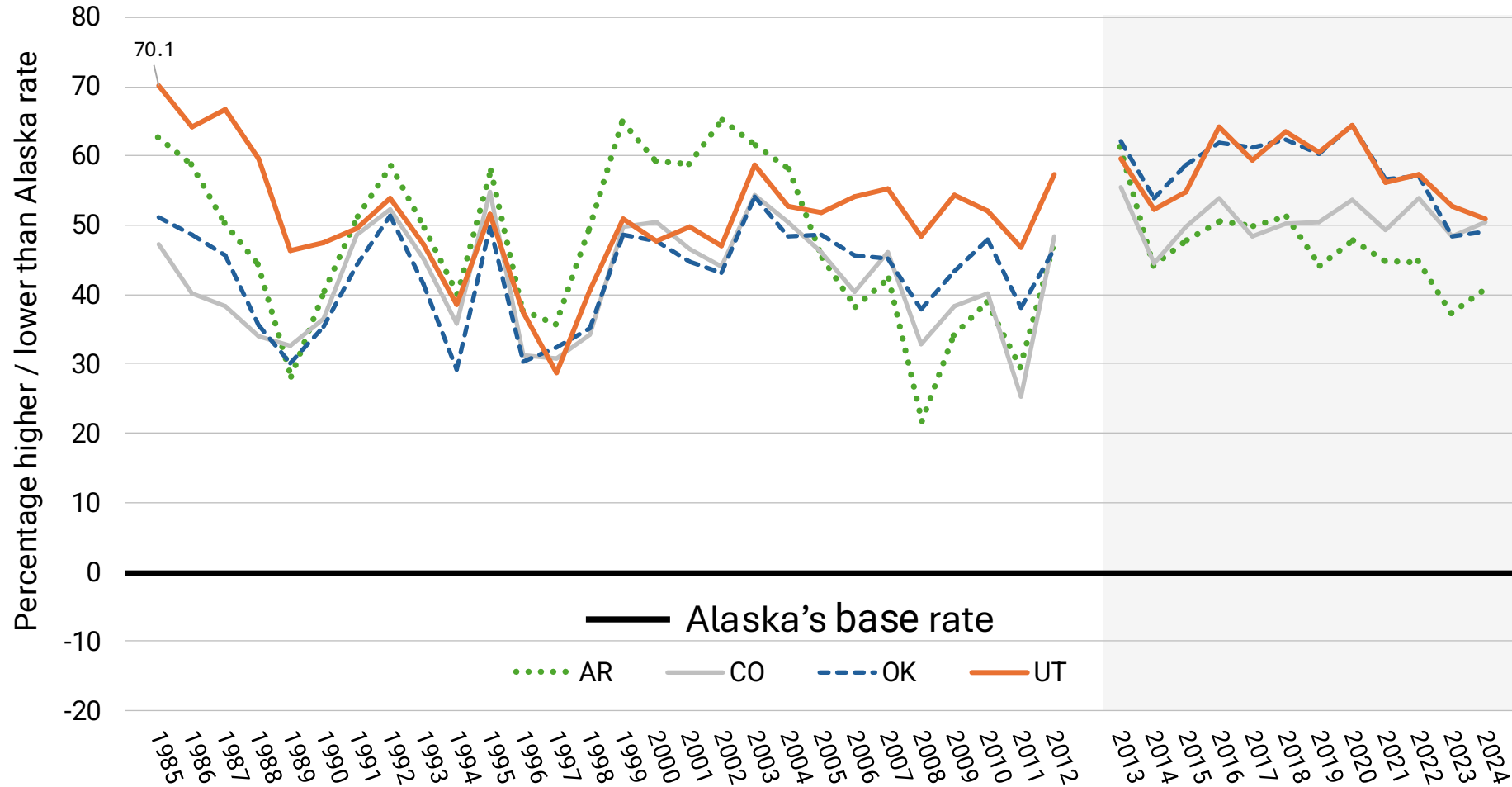
U.S.: Average reported rape rate was highest in months of **May, June, July, August, and December.**

Reported rape rates by state (highest-lowest): 2024

State	Rate	State	Rate	State	Rate
Alaska	10.2	Kansas	3.9	New Hampshire	2.9
Arkansas	6.1	Idaho	3.9	Maryland	2.8
Oklahoma	5.2	Nebraska	3.9	Louisiana	2.8
Colorado	5.1	Oregon	3.6	Georgia	2.7
Montana	5.0	Arizona	3.5	Maine	2.7
Utah	5.0	Hawaii	3.3	Alabama	2.6
Wyoming	5.0	Washington	3.3	Mississippi	2.5
New Mexico	4.8	Tennessee	3.2	Rhode Island	2.5
Michigan	4.7	South Carolina	3.2	Pennsylvania	2.5
West Virginia	4.6	Vermont	3.2	Virginia	2.4
Texas	4.4	Minnesota	3.2	North Carolina	2.4
Nevada	4.4	Iowa	3.1	Massachusetts	2.3
North Dakota	4.3	Indiana	3.1	Florida	2.2
South Dakota	4.2	Wisconsin	3.0	New York	1.8
Ohio	4.2	Kentucky	3.0	Connecticut	1.6
Missouri	3.9	California	3.0	New Jersey	1.5
Illinois	3.9	Dist of Columbia	2.9	Delaware	1.4

Data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)

Percent differences between Alaska's **reported rape rates** and other states with high rates: 1985-2024



The distance from the solid black line indicates the percentage difference between Alaska's **reported rape rate** and comparison states.

Data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)

The shaded area represents rates following revision of the UCR rape definition (2013-2023)

Rape arrest rates by state (highest to lowest): 2024

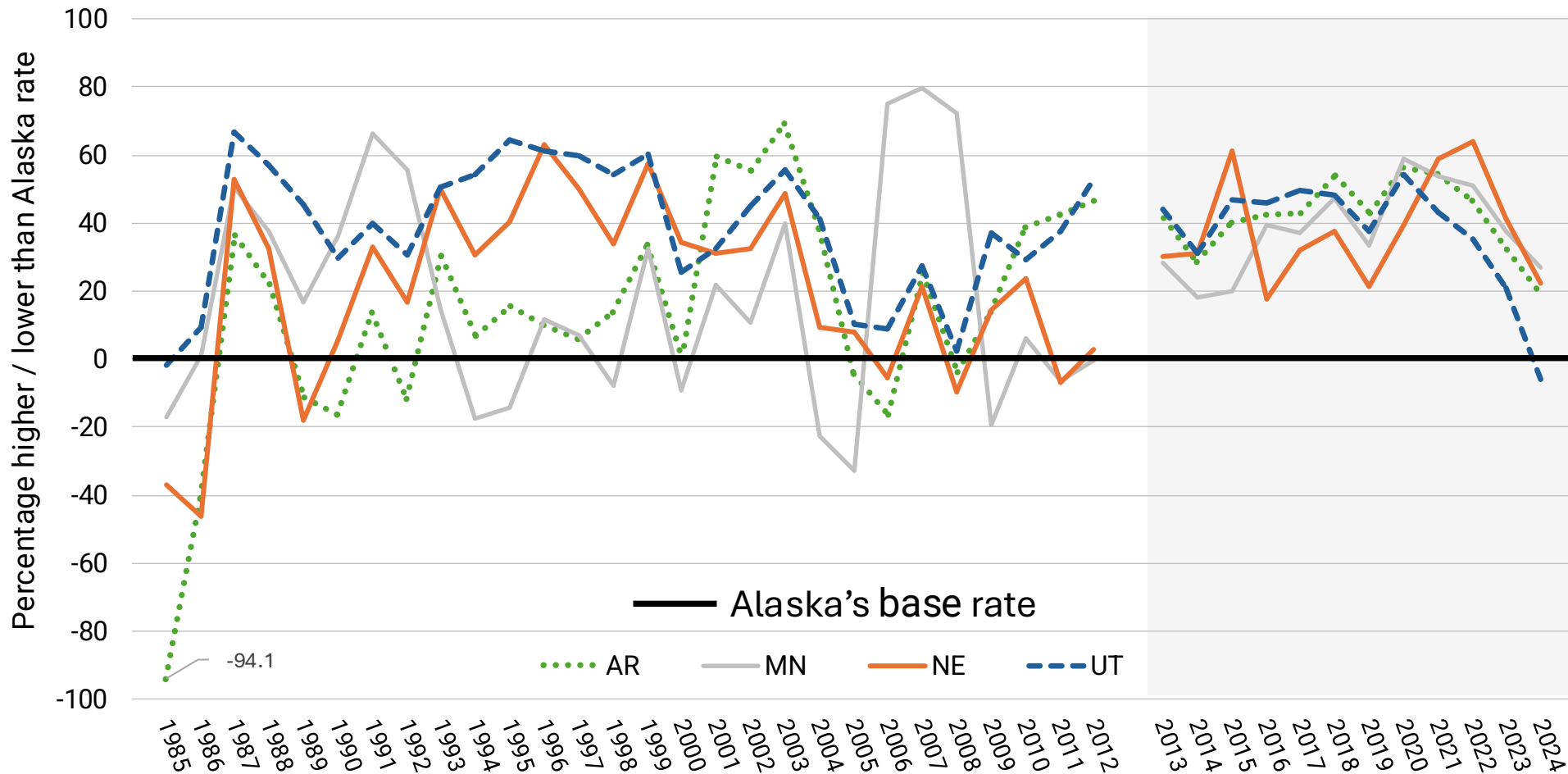
State	Rate
Wisconsin	1.2
Utah	1.1
Alaska	1.0
Vermont	1.0
Arkansas	0.9
Nebraska	0.8
Minnesota	0.8
Nevada	0.7
Iowa	0.7
Michigan	0.7
Hawaii	0.6
Wyoming	0.6
Idaho	0.6
New York	0.6
South Carolina	0.6
Maryland	0.6
Missouri	0.6

State	Rate
Missouri	0.6
Washington	0.6
Colorado	0.6
District of Columbia	0.5
Montana	0.5
Texas	0.5
Rhode Island	0.5
West Virginia	0.5
Louisiana	0.5
North Dakota	0.5
Pennsylvania	0.5
Kentucky	0.4
Delaware	0.4
Oregon	0.4
South Dakota	0.4
Virginia	0.4
Kansas	0.4

State	Rate
Tennessee	0.4
Oklahoma	0.4
New Hampshire	0.4
Indiana	0.4
Arizona	0.4
Maine	0.4
Georgia	0.4
Massachusetts	0.3
Alabama	0.3
California	0.3
Connecticut	0.3
Mississippi	0.3
Ohio	0.3
Florida	0.2
New Jersey	0.2
New Mexico	0.2
Illinois	0.2

Data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)

Percent differences between Alaska's rape arrest rate and other states with high rates: 1985-2024

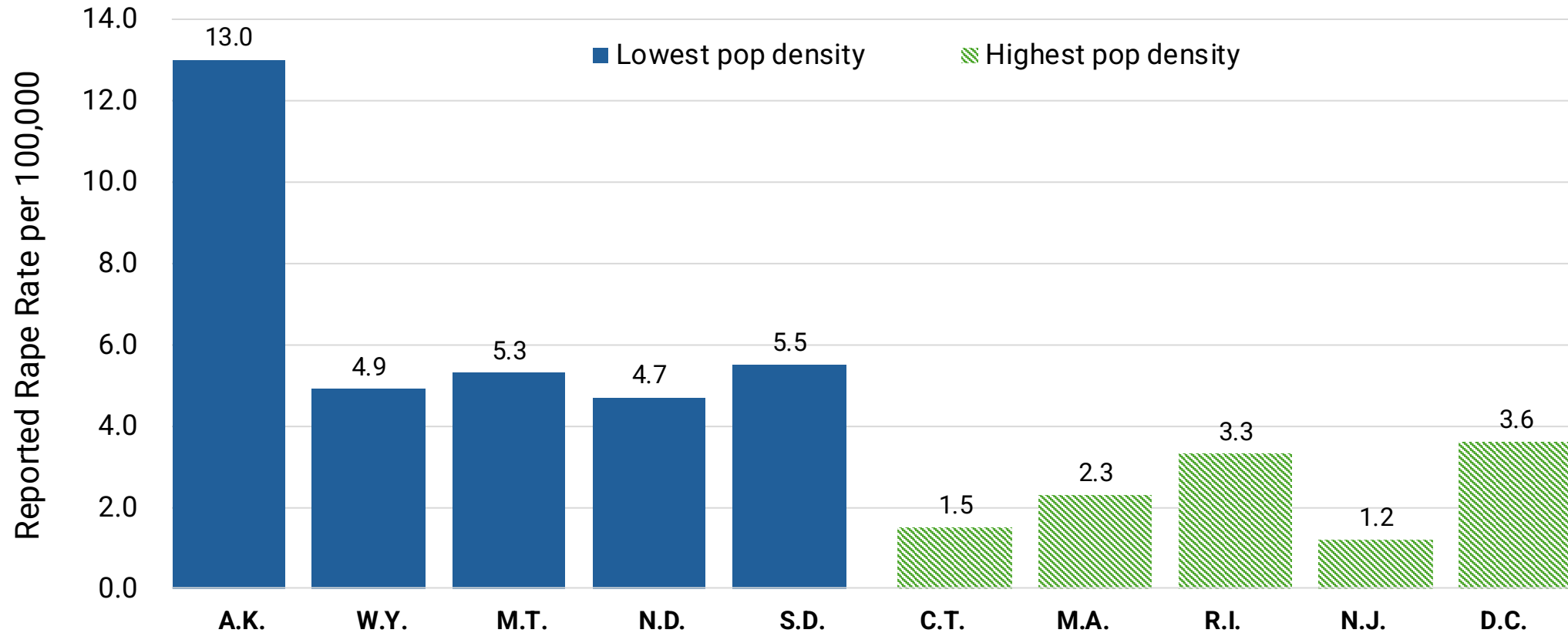


The distance from the solid black line indicates the percentage difference between Alaska's rape arrest rate and comparison states.

Data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)

The shaded area represents rates following revision of the UCR rape definition (2013-2023)

Reported rape rates among U.S. states with the lowest and highest population density: 2020.



Population data source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); Crime data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)

What do these trends tell us about reported rape rates by month?

- States with lower population densities have higher reported rape rates than states with higher population densities

Reported rape rates for states with the lowest population densities: 2020

	Population per <u>square mile</u>	<u>U.S. rank</u>	<u>Rape rate</u>
South Dakota	11.7	47	5.5
North Dakota	11.3	48	4.7
Montana	7.4	49	5.3
Wyoming	5.9	50	4.9
Alaska	1.3	51	13.0

Reported rape rates for states with the highest population densities: 2020

	Population per <u>square mile</u>	<u>U.S. rank</u>	<u>Rape rate</u>
Dist. of Columbia	11,280.0	1	3.6
New Jersey	1263.0	2	1.2
Rhode Island	1061.4	3	3.3
Massachusetts	901.2	4	2.3
Connecticut	744.7	5	1.5

Population data source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); Crime data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)

Together, what do these trends tell us about Alaska's rape rates in comparison with other U.S. states?

1. Alaska consistently demonstrated higher rates of **reported** rapes, regardless of UCR rape definition or comparison group.
2. Alaska maintained higher rates of rape **arrests** regardless of UCR rape definition or comparison group.
3. July and August were consistently among the three months with the highest reported rape rates and rape arrest rates for both UCR definitions.
4. States with lower population densities featured higher rape rates than states with higher population densities and this effect was statistically significant.
5. In 2024, Alaska's average reported rape rate was the highest in the nation (10.2 per 100,000).

Caveats

Dark Figure of Crime

- Crimes that occur, but never reported to police
- A lot of crime occurs that is never captured in the UCR
- 2024: 23.6% of rapes/sexual assaults reported to police in the U.S.

Hierarchy Rule

- Crime events are usually “bundles” of offenses, but (legacy) UCR only captures single most serious crime

UCR is **not well suited for measuring prevalence** of crime, but **works pretty well for trend analysis** and **taking the “long view”**

- “Uniformity” of measurement error
- Changes in rates over time are meaningful

Appendix: UCR Rape Definitions

UCR legacy definition of rape (Prior to 2013):

The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.

UCR revised definition of rape (After 2013):

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.

Appendix: UCR Rape Definitions

UCR legacy definition of rape (Prior to 2013):

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UCR revised definition of rape (After 2013):

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Appendix: Alaska vs. U.S. Annual Reported Rape Rates: 1985-2024

Year	Report rate per 100,000	
	Alaska	U.S.
1985	6.5	3.1
1986	5.9	3.1
1987	5.5	3.0
1988	4.9	3.0
1989	4.5	3.1
1990	6.1	3.3
1991	7.6	3.5
1992	8.3	3.5
1993	7.0	3.1
1994	5.8	3.2
1995	7.4	3.1
1996	5.6	3.0
1997	5.6	3.0
1998	5.8	2.9
1999	6.7	2.7
2000	6.6	2.7
2001	6.5	2.7
2002	6.6	2.7
2003	7.8	2.7
2004	7.1	2.7
2005	6.8	2.6

Year	Report rate per 100,000	
	Alaska	U.S.
2006	6.4	2.5
2007	6.6	2.4
2008	5.4	2.4
2009	6.1	2.4
2010	6.2	2.3
2011	5.0	2.3
2012	6.6	2.3
2013	10.5	2.6
2014	8.7	2.9
2015	10.2	3.2
2016	11.8	3.3
2017	12.1	3.6
2018	13.7	3.7
2019	12.6	3.7
2020	13.0	3.4
2021	12.4	3.7
2022	12.2	3.6
2023	10.2	3.4
2024	10.2	3.2
2006	6.4	2.5
2007	6.6	2.4

Data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#)

Appendix: Alaska vs. U.S. Annual Rape Arrest Rates: 1985-2024

Year	Report rate per 100,000		Year	Report rate per 100,000	
	Alaska	U.S.		Alaska	U.S.
1985	0.8	1.3	2006	0.8	0.5
1986	0.8	1.3	2007	0.9	0.5
1987	2.0	1.2	2008	0.7	0.5
1988	1.6	1.2	2009	0.9	0.5
1989	1.2	1.1	2010	1.1	0.5
1990	1.3	1.2	2011	1.0	0.4
1991	1.8	1.2	2012	1.0	0.4
1992	1.3	1.3	2013	1.2	0.4
1993	2.4	1.2	2014	1.0	0.5
1994	1.7	1.1	2015	1.3	0.5
1995	1.7	1.1	2016	1.5	0.5
1996	1.7	1.0	2017	1.4	0.6
1997	1.8	0.9	2018	1.7	0.5
1998	1.5	0.9	2019	1.5	0.6
1999	2.0	0.8	2020	1.9	0.5
2000	1.2	0.7	2021	1.8	0.5
2001	1.2	0.7	2022	1.5	0.5
2002	1.1	0.7	2023	1.2	0.5
2003	1.5	0.7	2024	1.1	0.4
2004	1.1	0.6	2006	0.8	0.5
2005	0.9	0.6	2007	0.9	0.5

Data source: [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#).

Appendix: Percentages of U.S. and Alaska population represented by police agency participation in UCR

Year	% Population Represented	
	Alaska	U.S.
1985	nd	95.9
1986	nd	95.4
1987	nd	95.0
1988	85.0	88.9
1989	85.0	94.8
1990	85.0	94.6
1991	85.0	91.9
1992	85.0	93.2
1993	nd	92.4
1994	95.0	92.2
1995	91.0	88.8
1996	90.0	87.0
1997	90.0	88.4
1998	88.0	88.2
1999	92.0	89.4
2000	94.0	89.8
2001	93.7	90.8
2002	93.2	92.2
2003	97.5	91.9
2004	97.5	93.5
2005	98.0	93.2

Year	% Population Represented	
	Alaska	U.S.
2006	96.7	95.8
2007	97.4	96.3
2008	98.7	96.7
2009	99.3	96.8
2010	99.4	97.9
2011	99.4	97.9
2012	99.4	98.1
2013	99.4	97.6
2014	99.4	97.4
2015	99.5	97.6
2016	99.6	97.7
2017	99.5	96.6
2018	99.5	97.5
2019	99.5	96.2
2020	99.5	95.9
2021	99.5	76.2
2022	99.3	94.6
2023	99.4	95.5
2024	96.7	95.8
2006	97.4	96.3
2007	98.7	96.7

Data sources: U.S. [FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer](#), Alaska: *UCR Crime in Alaska*

Nd = no data