

Public Safety Action Plan & Criminal Division Overview

Jahna Lindemuth, Attorney General

Robert Henderson, Deputy Attorney General

John Skidmore, Director

February 7, 2018



CRIME IN ALASKA

2016

Prepared By: Christen L. Spears
Statewide Services Division
Criminal Records & Identification Bureau
Kathryn Monfreda, Bureau Chief

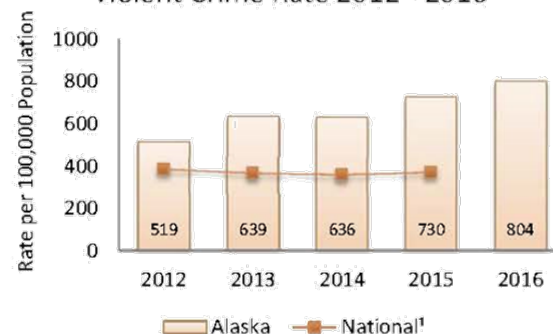
Uniform Crime Reporting Program Annual Report

available at <https://dps.alaska.gov/Statewide/R-I/UCR>

Total Crime Rate 2012 - 2016



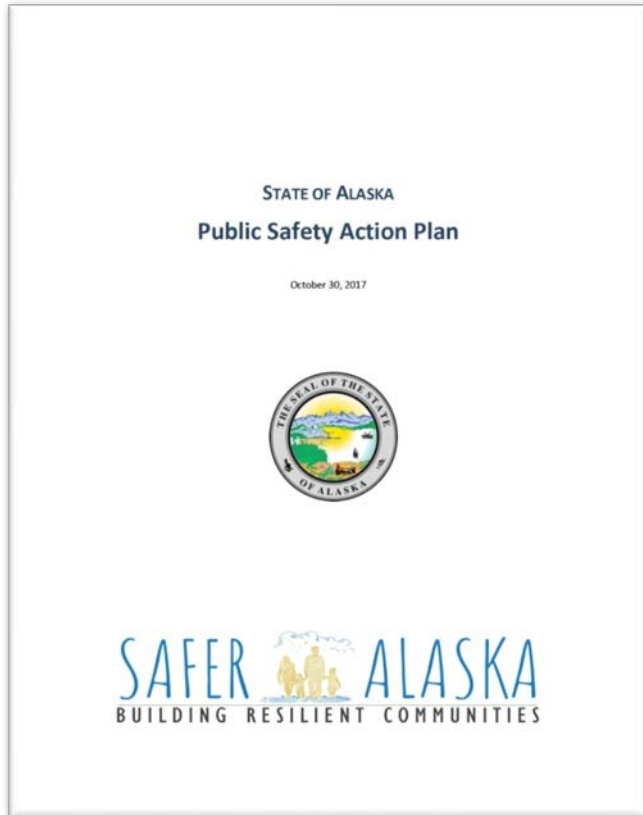
Violent Crime Rate 2012 - 2016



Property Crime Rate 2012 - 2016



How do we combat these trends?



PSAP focuses in 4 main areas:

1. Criminal justice system outcomes,
2. Resources,
3. Treatment options, and
4. Drug trafficking.

available at <http://www.law.state.ak.us/>
(under Resources & Links)



PART 1:

Improving Outcomes in the Criminal Justice System

Part 1 includes:

- Ongoing engagement on ACJC
- Tools for judges and prosecutors
- Support to help people stay out of trouble
- Expungement and clemency processes





PART 2:

Identifying Public Safety Resource Needs

Part 2 examines:

1. Better use of existing resources;
2. Building stronger partnerships; and
3. Targeted addition of new resources.





PART 2: Identifying Public Safety Resource Needs

21 AST presence &
response times in rural Alaska





PART 2:

Identifying Public Safety Resource Needs

23 DOC Telecommunication Resources for Court Hearings





PART 3: Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment

Part 3 focuses on improving access to treatment services for mental health and substance abuse conditions, which have broad implications for public safety.





PART 4:

Address Opioid Epidemic & Drug Trafficking

Part 4's focus on drug trafficking includes:

- Alaska Opioid Task Force
- "Opioid stories" web videos
- Statewide Drug Prosecutor
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area designation
- Legislative changes
- K9 officers





2018 Legislative Session: Governor's Public Safety Bills

1. DHSS Commissioner vote on ACJC (HB 290)
2. Schedule dangerous new drugs by regulation (HB 291)
3. Class A felony for trafficking large quantities of drugs (HB 292)
4. APSC criminal background checks for trainees (HB 293)
5. Surcharges for the Police Training Fund (HB 294)
6. Out-of-state criminal history in pretrial risk assessment (HB 295)
7. Child abuse prevention and required reporting (HB 324)
8. Prisoner rehabilitation and reentry programs (HB 325)



2018 Legislative Session: Criminal Division Budget Requests

Public Safety Action Plan implementation:

- 1 prosecutor in Kotzebue: \$214.7
- 1 prosecutor & 1 support staff in Bethel: \$310.5
- 2 prosecutors & 2 support staff in Anchorage: \$473.1
- Statewide drug prosecutor in Anchorage: \$164.9

Total: 8 positions and \$1,163.2 UGF



Criminal Division

The Duty of a Prosecutor

- The primary duty of a lawyer engaged in public prosecution is not to convict, but to see that justice is done.

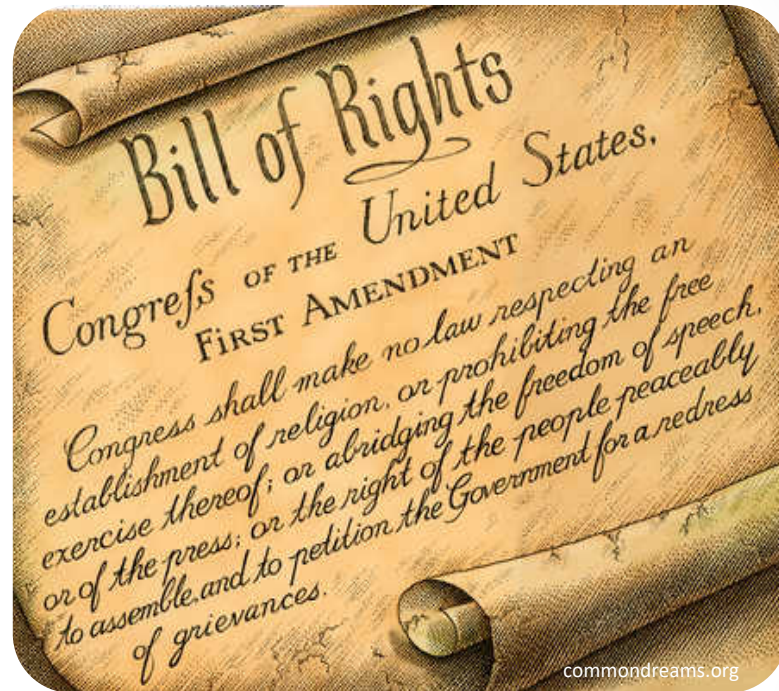
-Canons of professional ethics: Canon 5. American Bar Association (1908).

- The prosecutor may prosecute with earnestness and vigor – indeed he should do so. But, while he may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones. It is as much his duty to refrain from improper methods calculated to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one.

-Justice George Southerland, Berger v. United States, 295 U.S. 78, 88 (1935).

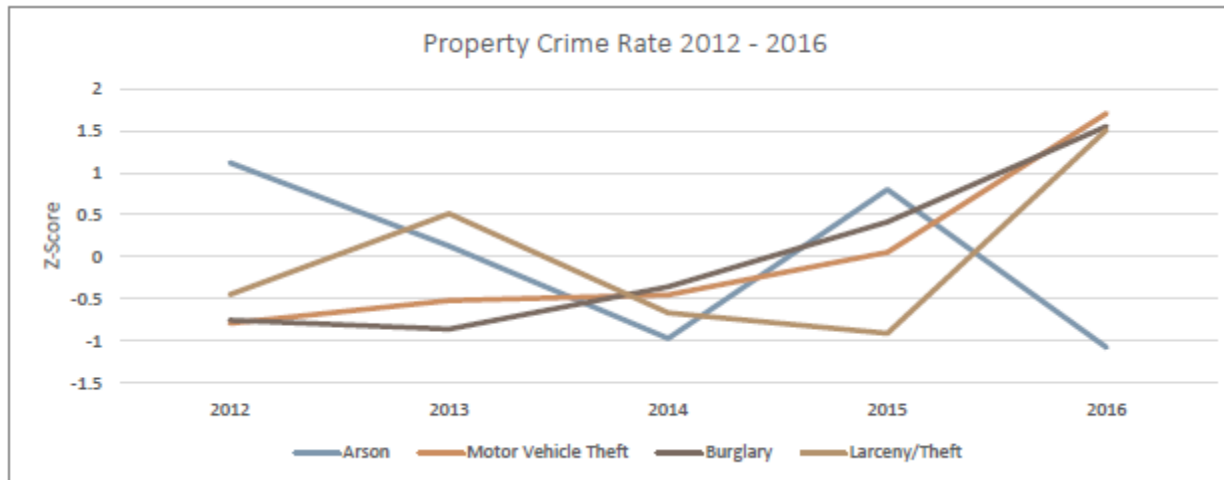
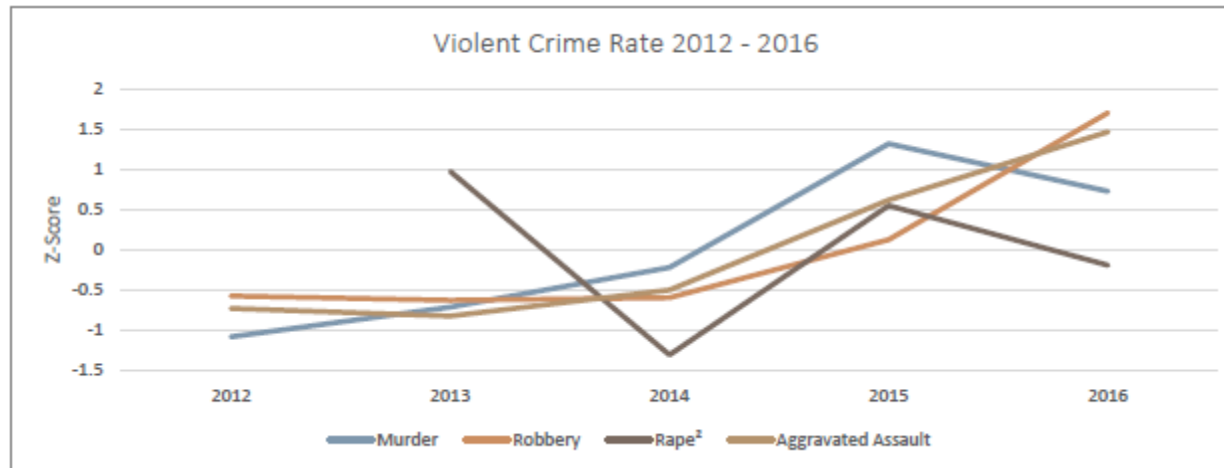
Stages of a Criminal Prosecution

- Investigation
- Informal Referral
- Formal Referral
- Screening
- Pretrial Litigation
- Pretrial Resolution
- Trial
- Post Trial Litigation

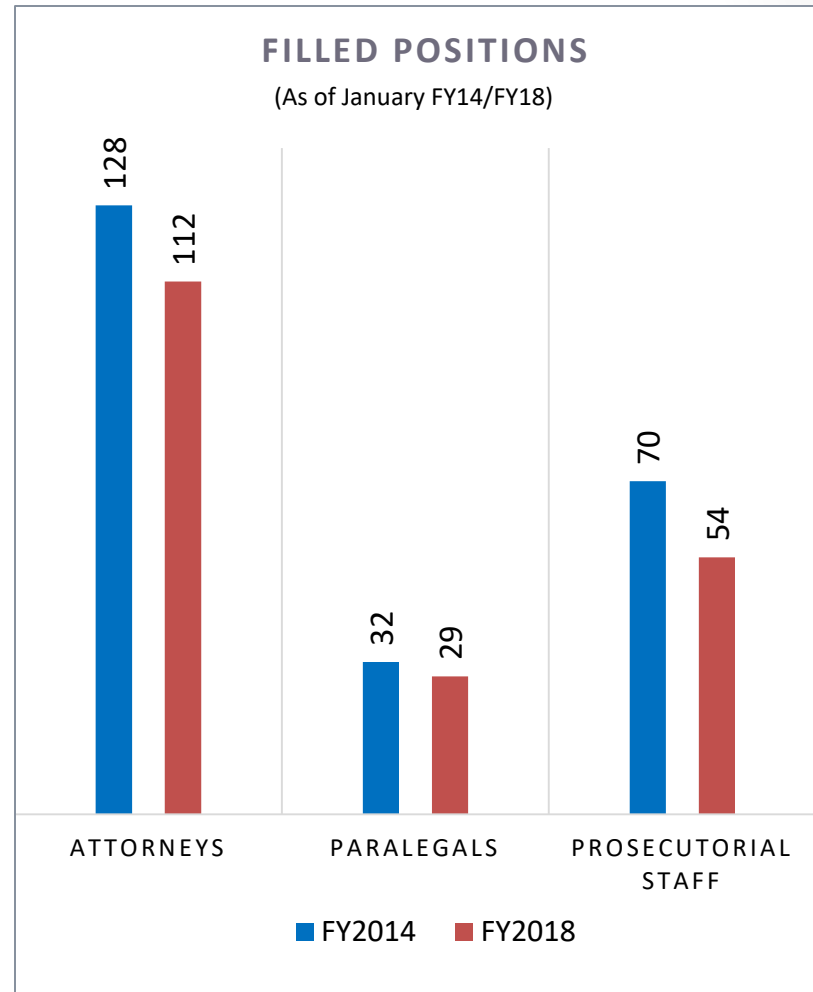
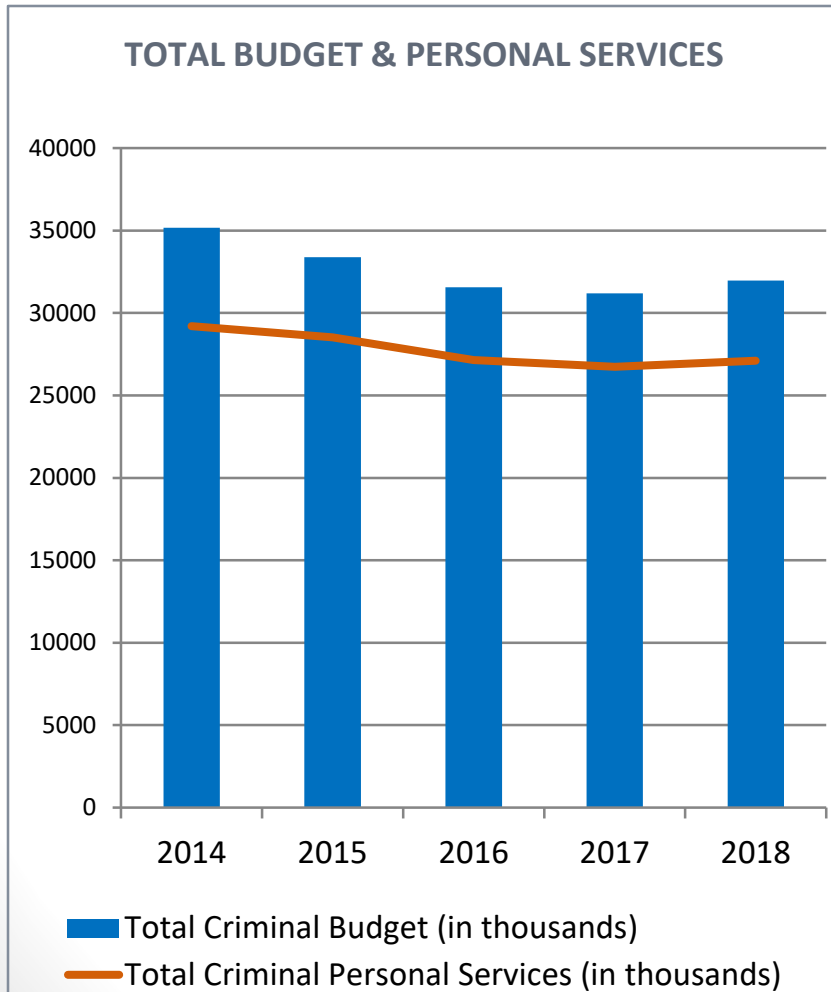


It is the duty and obligation of the District Attorney to ensure that every citizen's constitutional rights are safeguarded at every step of the criminal prosecution.

Alaska Crime Rates Increasing

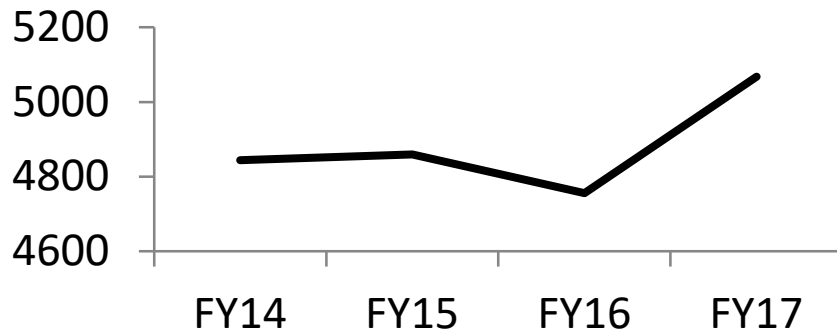


FY14-FY18 Criminal Budget



Criminal Prosecutions

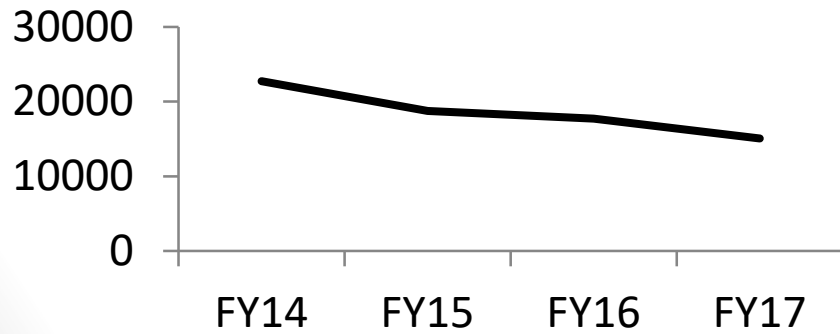
Felony Prosecutions



Felony Prosecutions

up 4.6% (224)
from 2014

Misdemeanor Prosecutions

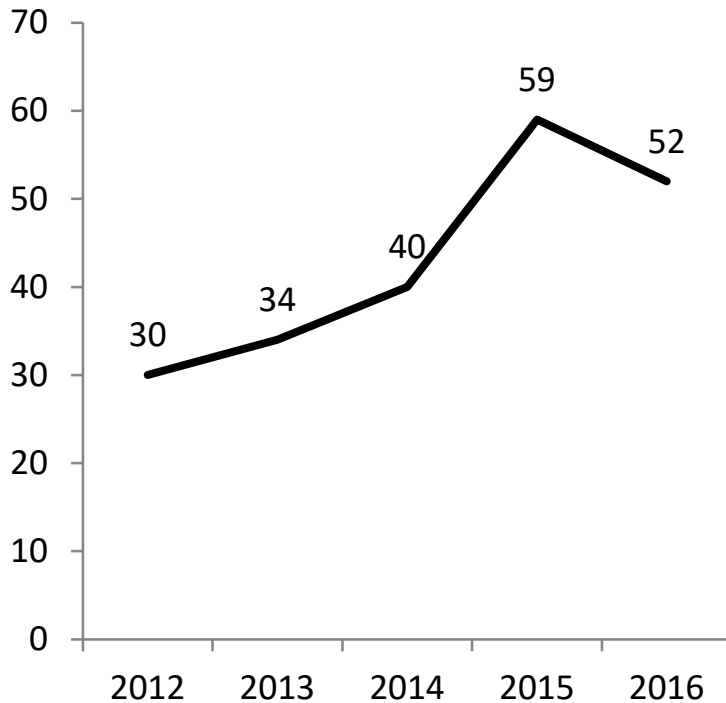


Misdemeanors

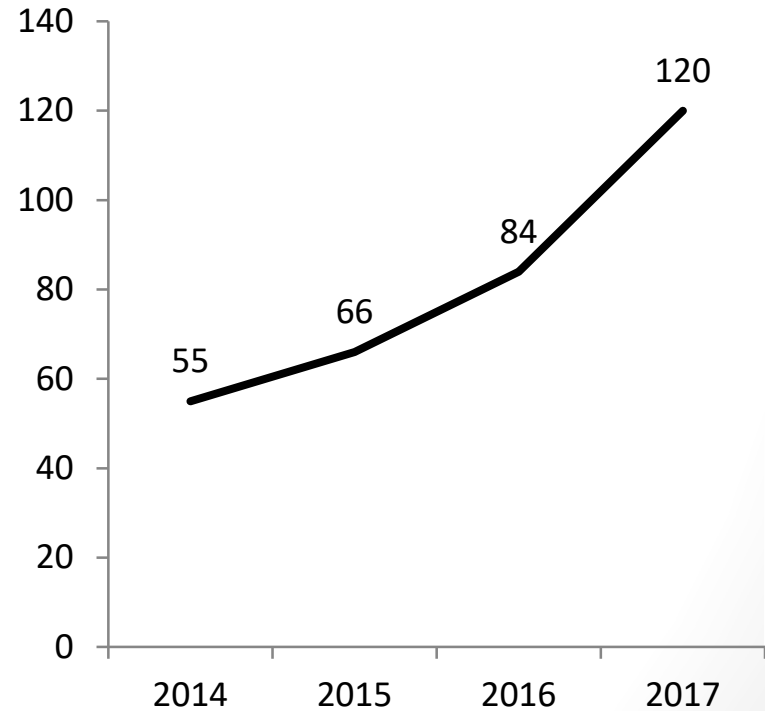
down 34% (7670)
from 2014

Direct correlation between offense and prosecution

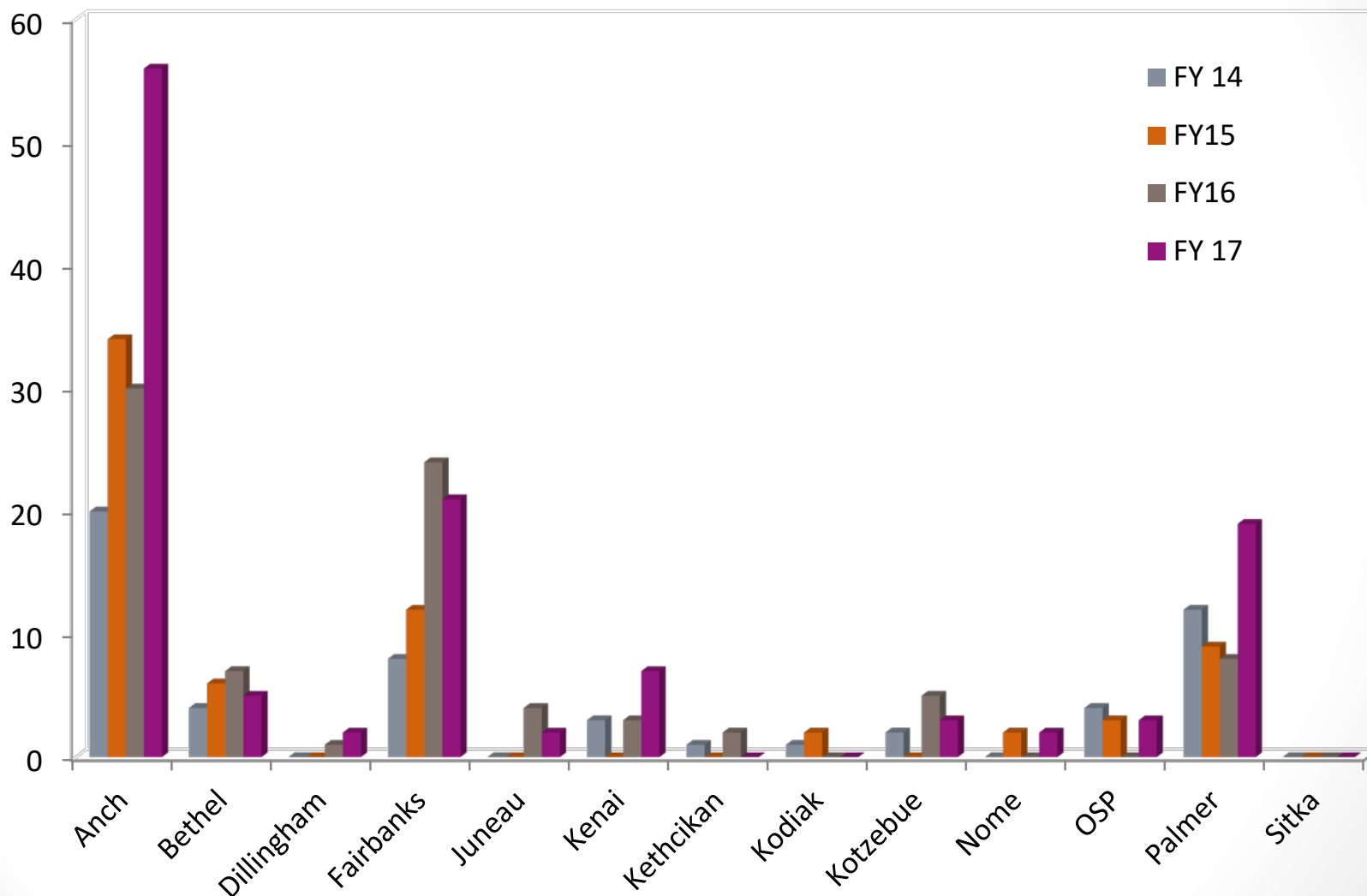
UCR # of Murders in Alaska
(Calendar Year)



Murder Cases Filed by Law
(Fiscal Year)

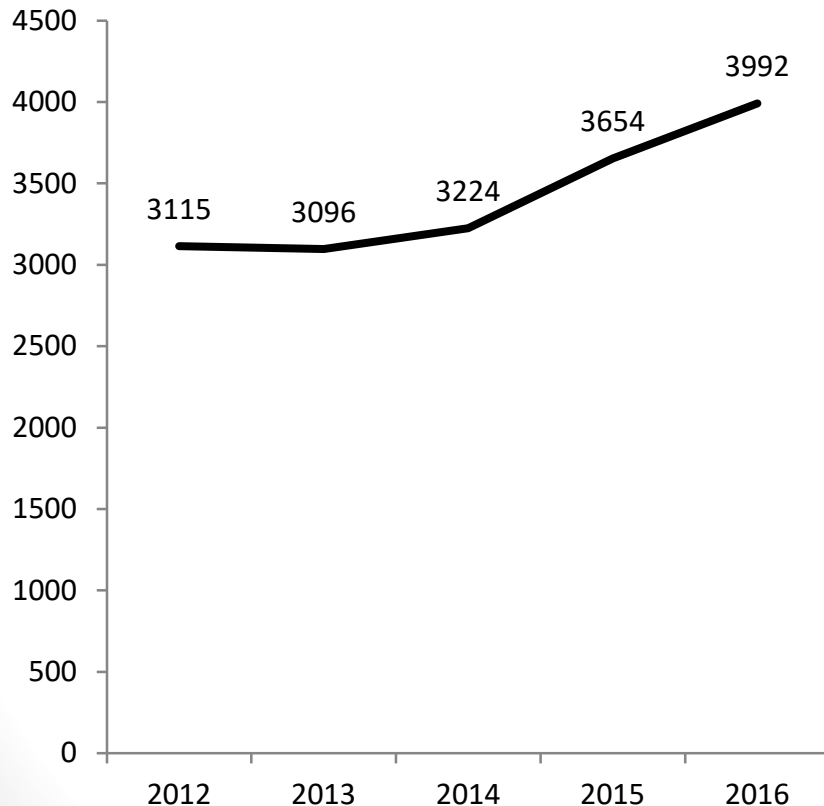


Distribution of Murder Cases

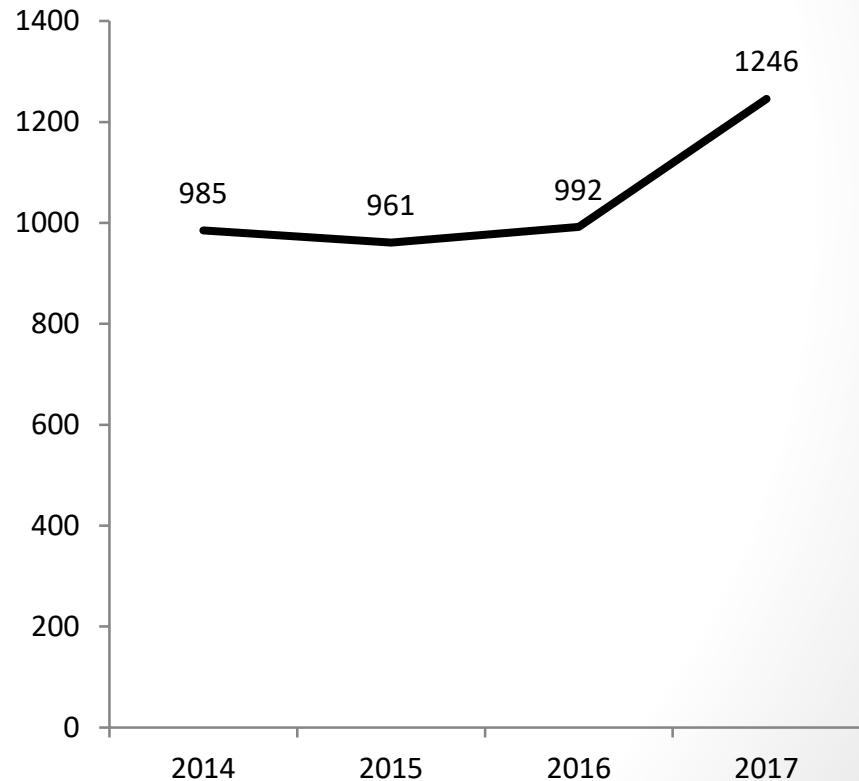


Direct correlation between offense and prosecution

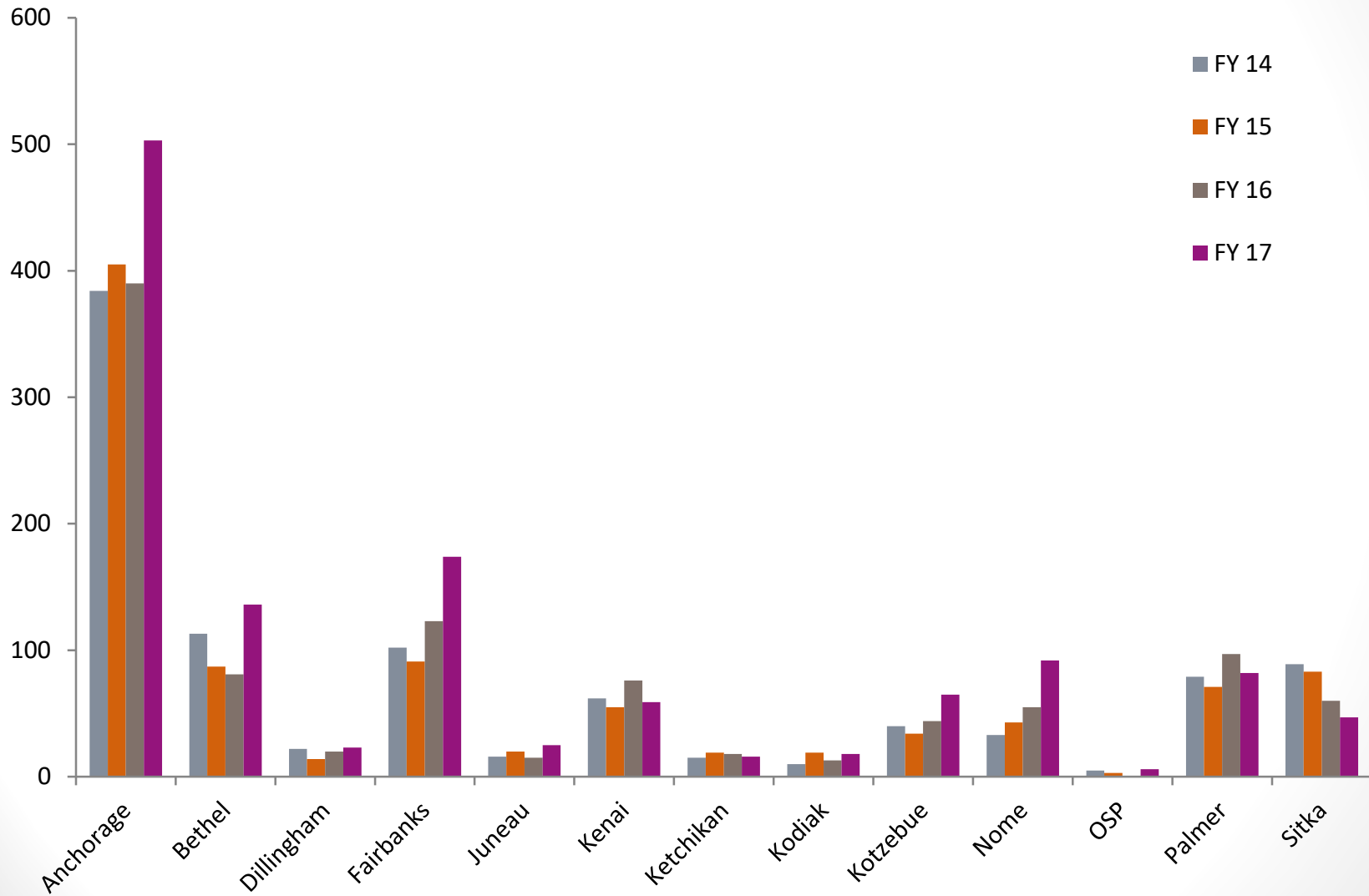
UCR # of Aggravated Assaults
(Calendar Year)



Felony Assault Cases Filed by Law
(Fiscal Year)

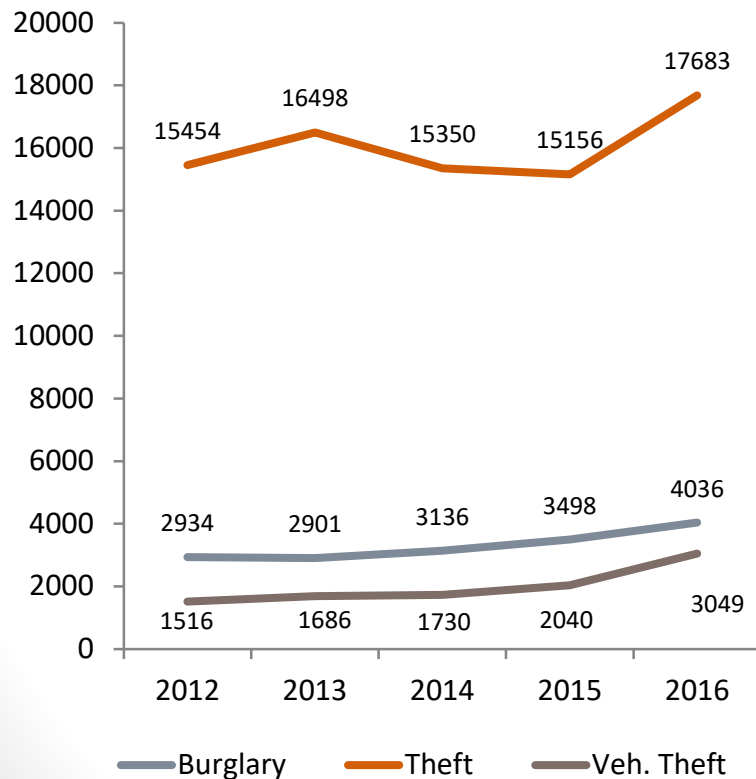


Distribution of Felony Assault Cases

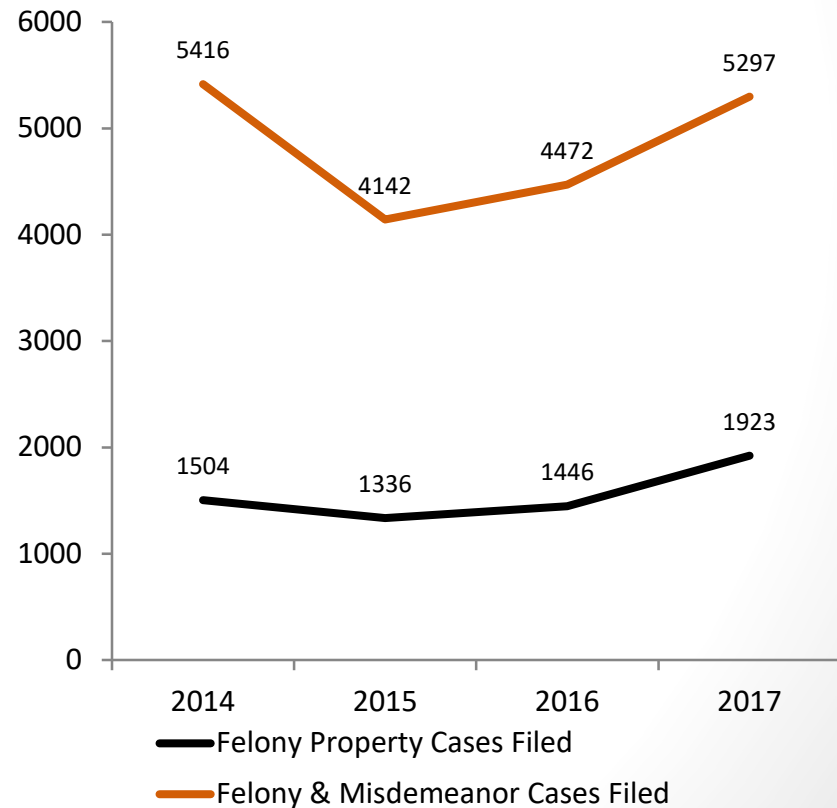


Direct correlation between offense and prosecution

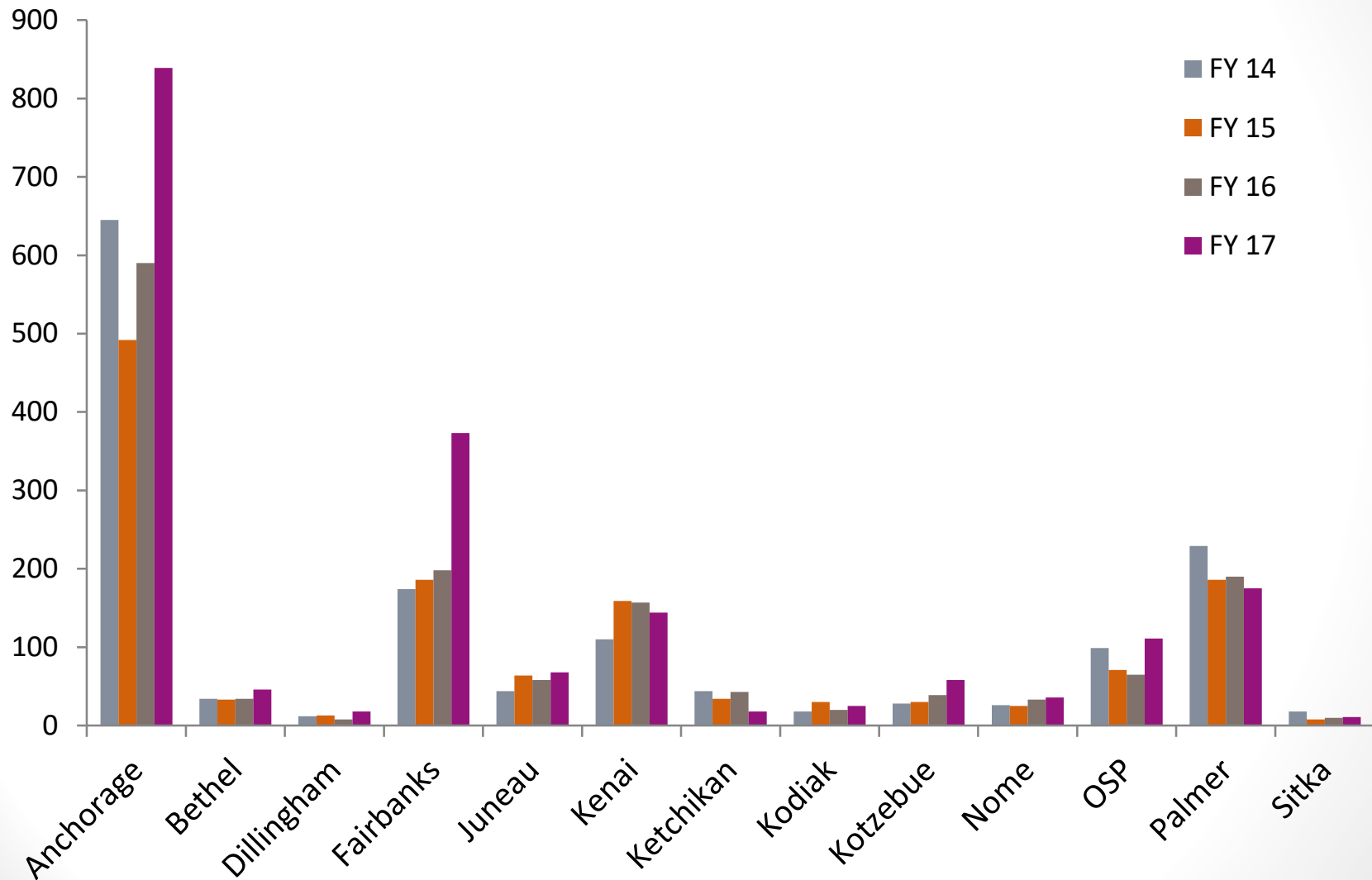
UCR # of Property Crimes
(felony and misdemeanor)



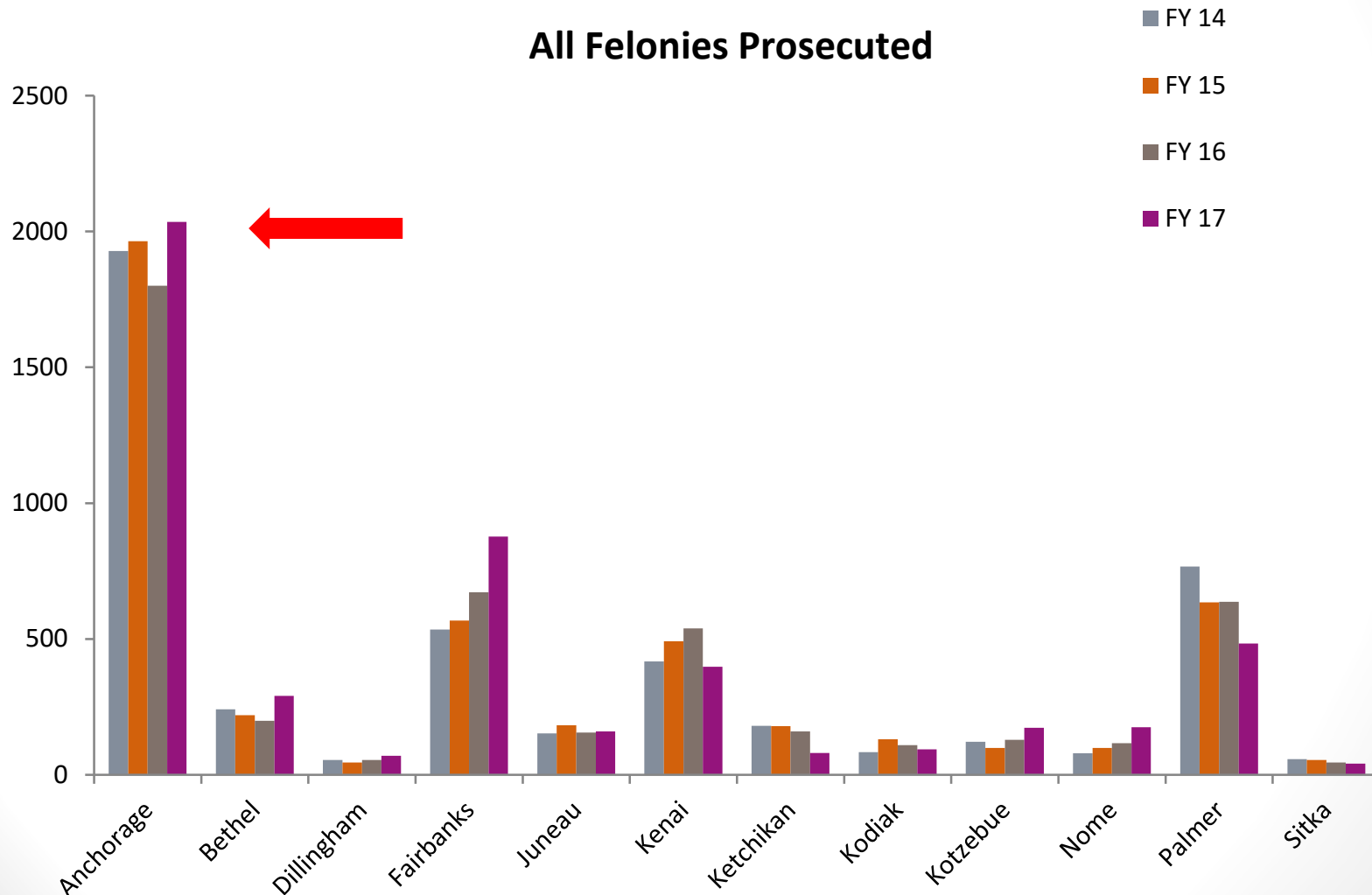
Property Cases Filed by Law (FY)



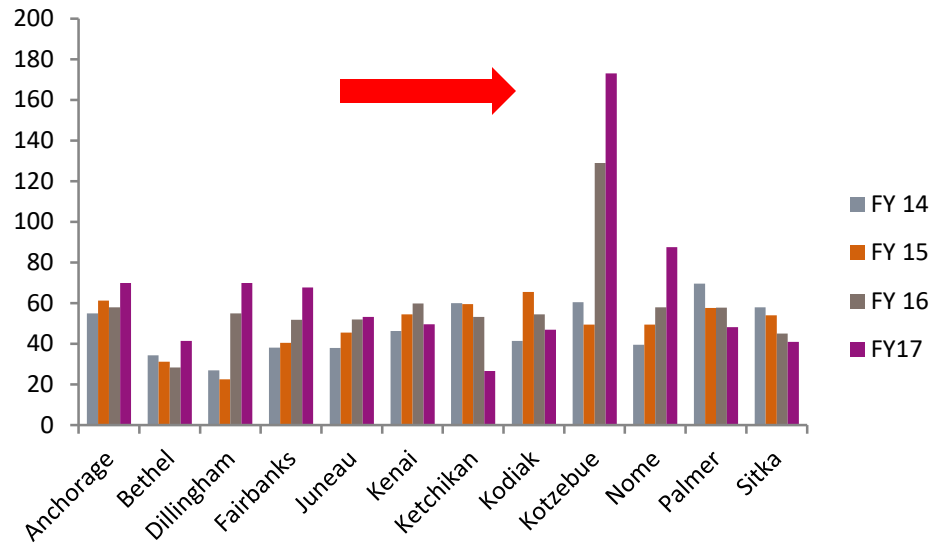
Distribution of Felony Property Cases



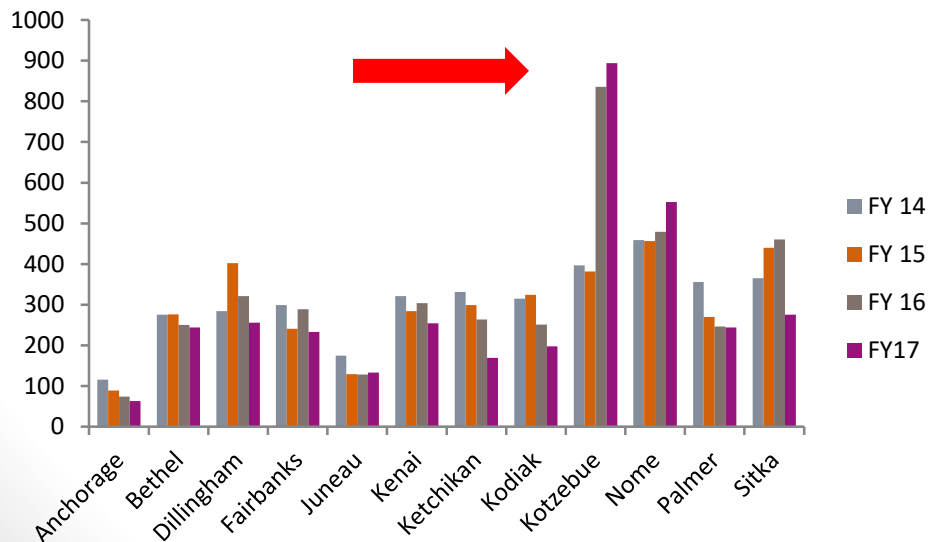
Anchorage needs 2 prosecutors and support staff



Kotzebue needs a second prosecutor



More than double
the number of
felonies per attorney
as any other office



More than double
the number of
misdemeanors per
attorney as any
other office

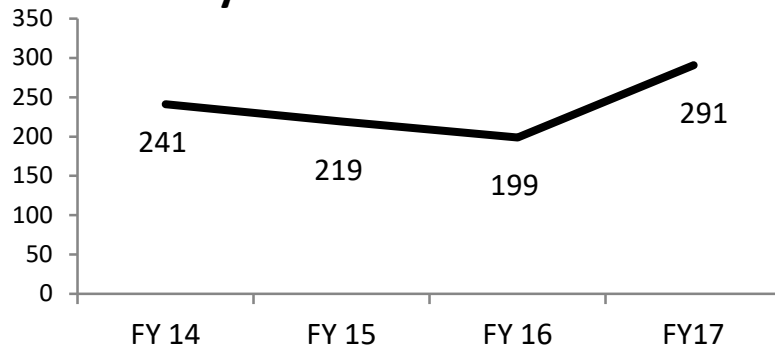
Bethel needs another prosecutor

January 2014 – January 2018

186% turnover of prosecutors

7 (now 8) PCNs each needed to be filled at least once (13 recruitments)

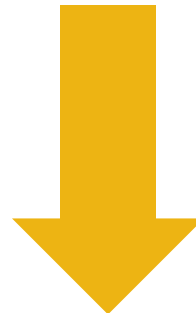
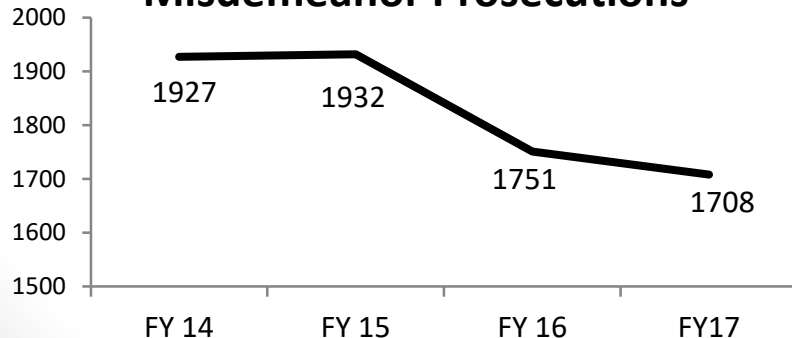
Felony Prosecutions in Bethel



Felony Prosecutions

up 20% (50)
from 2014

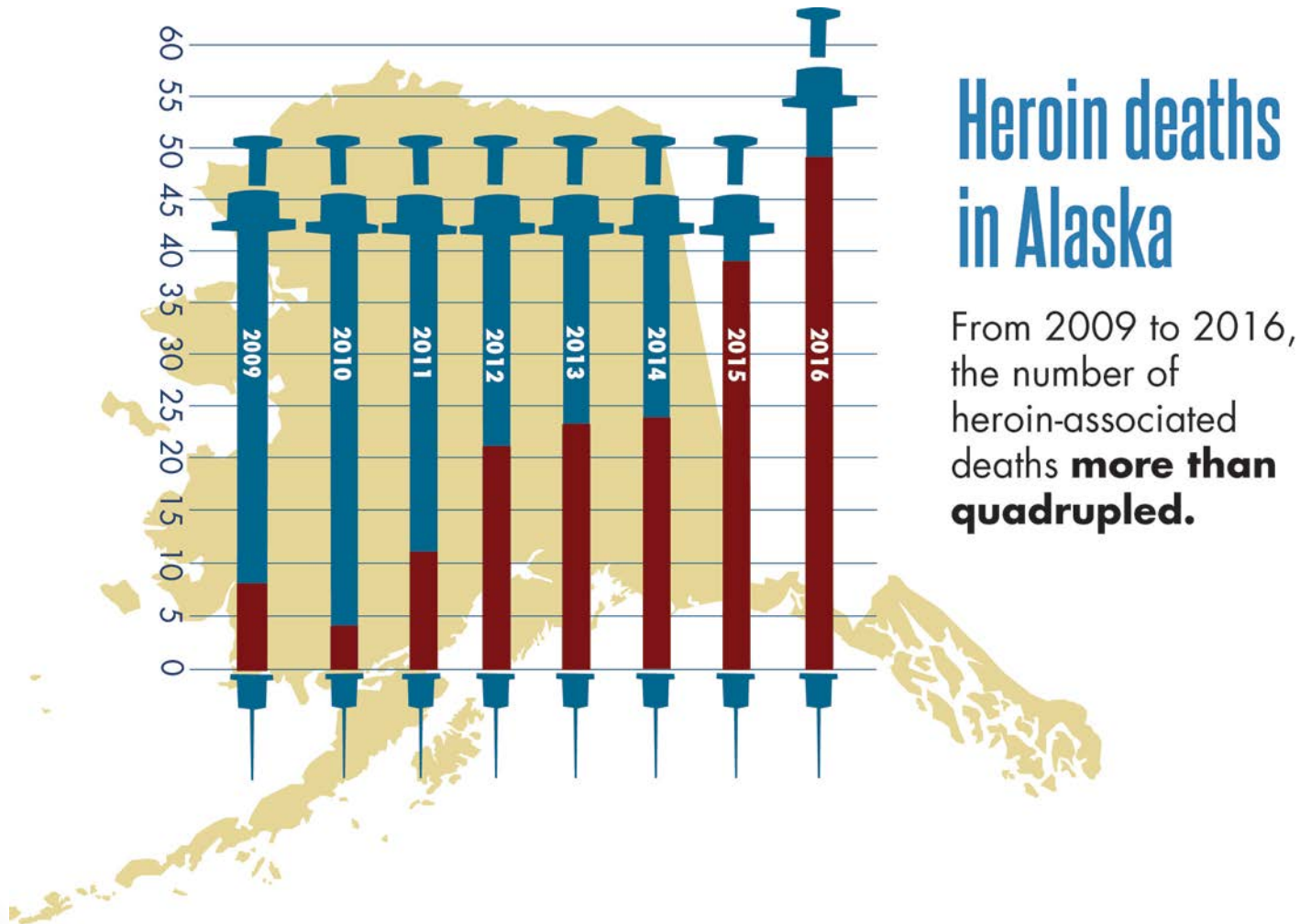
Misdemeanor Prosecutions



Misdemeanors

down 11.4% (219)
from 2014

Statewide Drug Prosecutor to combat Drug Epidemic



Thank you

Any questions?