

HB 170: REPORTING VIOLENT CRIMES

"KATHLEEN'S LAW"



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PURPOSE

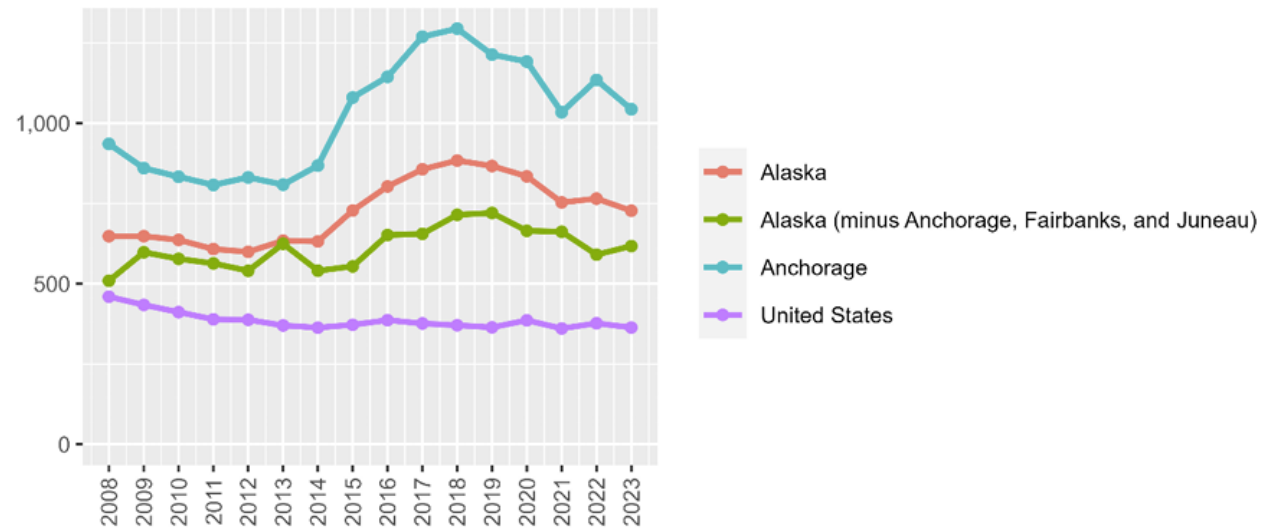
- Increase penalties for failure to report violent crimes against adults
- Equip law enforcement with tools for prevention and data collection
- Promote accountability & justice across Alaska

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

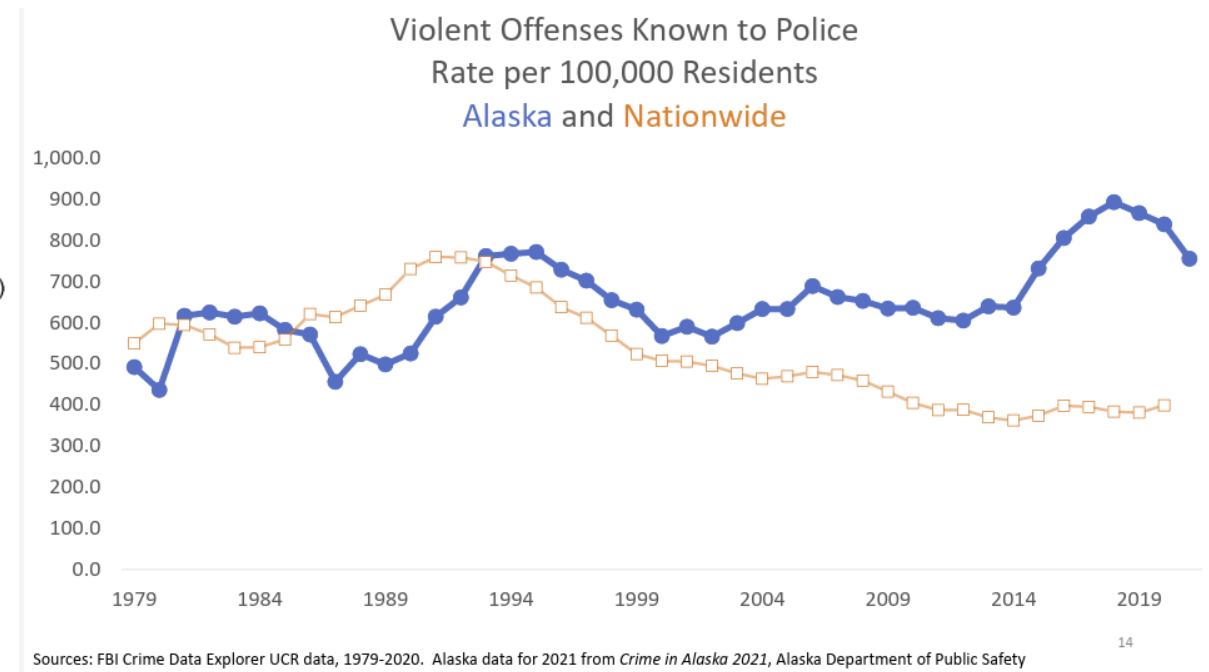
- Section 1 amends AS 11.56.767 (d) changing failing to report a crime from a violation to a Class B misdemeanor.
- Section 2 adds an applicability clause as amended by section 1 of this act which applies to offenses committed on or after the effective date of this Act. This means the State cannot retroactively charge a defendant.

UNDERSTANDING VIOLENT CRIME IN ALASKA

Figure 3 - Violent-Crime Trend (Homicide, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault)



Data Sources: Alaska Department of Public Safety and FBI
Data Analyses: Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission

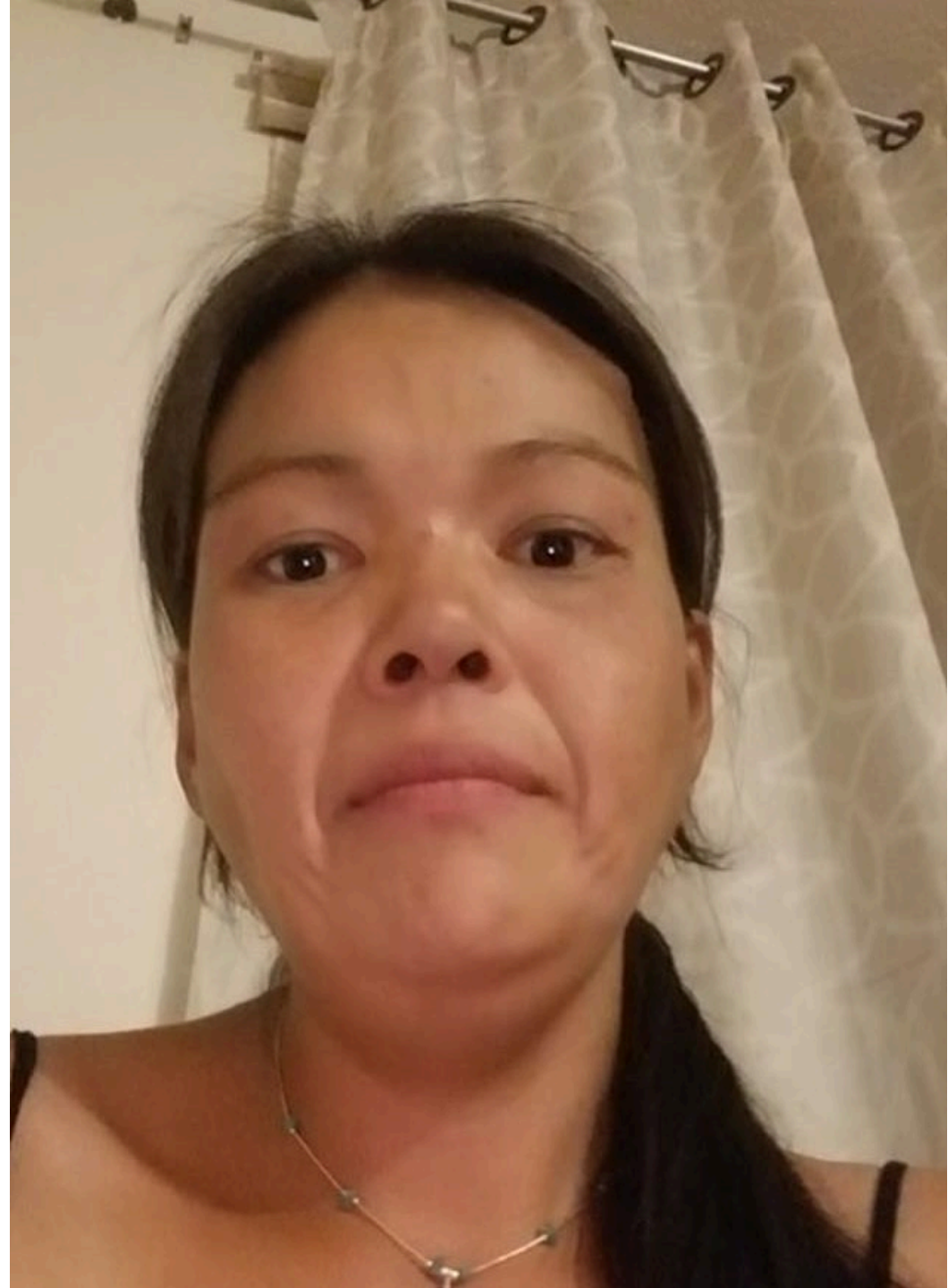


Violent crime consists of murder, robbery, rape and aggravated assault ¹

KATHLEEN JO HENRY CASE

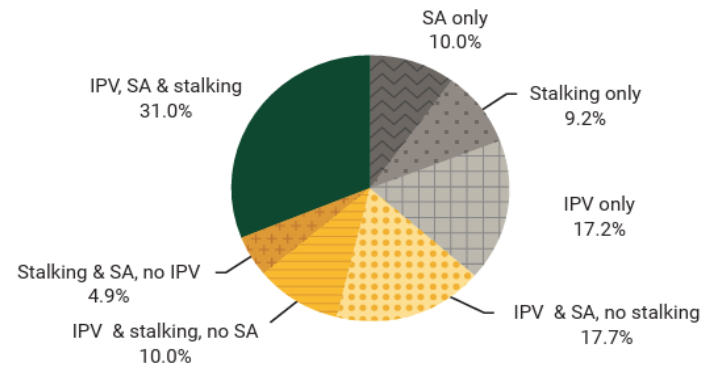
Kathleen Jo Henry was sexually assaulted and murdered in August 2019. Her killer was sentenced to 99 years for her torture and murder. Subsequent charges led to a total of 226 years.

The suspect showed her dead body to another individual, who failed to report the crime and remains free today.



CURRENT LAW

Figure 1: Interpersonal violence polyvictimization among adult Alaskan women who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual assault (SA), or stalking at least once in their lifetimes.



- The current penalty for not reporting a violent crime on an adult is a violation, with a fine up to \$500
- A recent study shows almost two-thirds (63.6%) of Alaskan women have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual assault or stalking in their lifetimes ²
- Fewer than one-third (29.4%) of Alaskan women have reported these experiences to police ²
- Some expressed they did not think the victimization experience was reportable ³



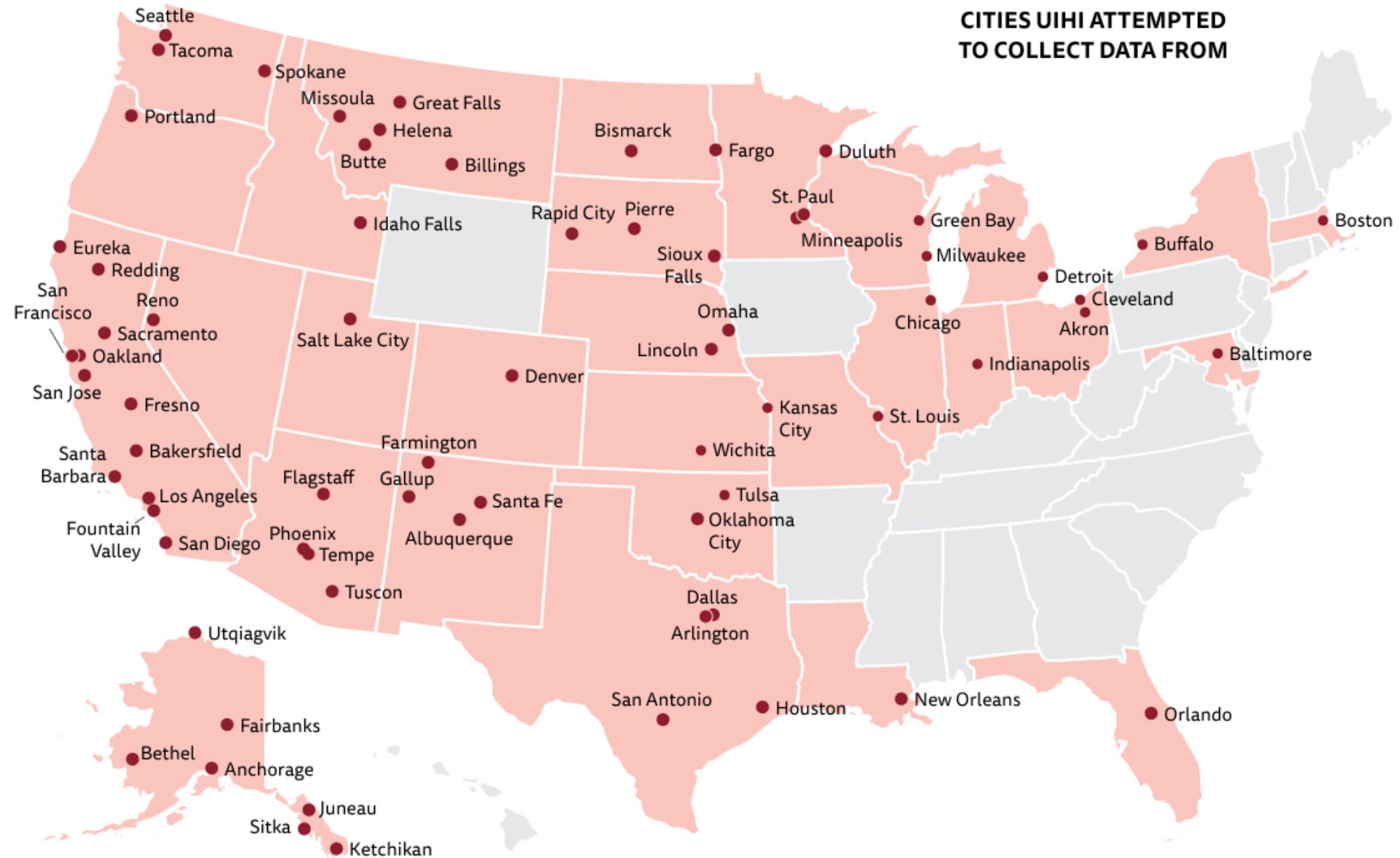
HB 170 WHY IT MATTERS

- HB 170 increases the current penalty to a Class B misdemeanor, punishable with a jail sentence up to 90 days and a maximum fine of \$2000
- With a higher penalty for perpetrators this bill would empower victims and survivors alike to report violent crime, possibly before escalating to death



MMIP OVERSIGHT & REPORTING

- The Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) collected data from 71 urban cities around the US highlighting the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls (MMIWG) crisis
- UIHI requested FOIA data from year 1900 to the present, but approximately two thirds of the cases identified were from 2010 to 2018⁶
- UIHI found there is a lack of quality data due to under reporting, racial misclassification, poor relationships between law enforcement and a lack of substantive relationships between journalists and American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Allowing Murdered Missing Indigenous People (MMIP) data to disappear in life, media and national data⁶



MMIWG STATISTICS FROM A SURVEY OF 71 CITIES ACROSS THE U.S.

The ribbon skirt is a form of cultural clothing that represents the sacredness of American Indian and Alaska Native women and the deep connection their bodies and spirits have to the land. Just like a skirt, each American Indian and Alaska Native community has its own beauty and stories of resilience despite multiple ribbons of trauma and violence stacked upon them. We chose to represent the study's findings in this way to honor the sacredness of our urban missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, the prayers we hold them in, and the responsibility we have to care for their stories.



UIHI DATA ⁶

- OF THE 71 CITIES SURVEYED 506 MMIWG CASES WERE IDENTIFIED
- 128 WERE CASES OF MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN
- 280 WERE CASES OF MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN
- 98 WERE CASES WITH AN "UNKNOWN STATUS"
- 29 WAS THE MEDIAN AGE OF MMIWG VICTIMS



STATE SUPPORT SERVICES

PROGRAM & ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS

- Department of Law offers Victim-Witness Assistance, Victim-Witness Coordinators and a comprehensive victim's right handbook ⁴
- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) offers the Victim Navigator Program which contains 7 positions around the state. The hub cities are Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Mat-Su Valley, Kotzebue, Soldotna
- These paralegals serve as the primary point of contact to victim/witnesses of violent crimes ⁴

COMPENSATION & LEGAL RESOURCES

- DPS also administers the Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board. VCCB provides crime victims compensation for financial losses that occur as a direct result of a violent crime ³
- The Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault administers state-funded grants to local service agencies for crisis intervention ⁵

REFERENCES



¹https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=33&docid=1547

²https://scholarworks.alaska.edu/bitstream/handle/11122/15292/Alaskan_Women_Who_Experienced_Intimate_Partner_Violence_Report.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y

³https://www.ajc.state.ak.us/datacommission/docs/reports/DAC_2024_Annual_Report.pdf

⁴https://law.alaska.gov/departments/criminal/victims_assist.html

⁵ <https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Services>

⁶ <https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf>