Department of Public Safety

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) is a nationwide data collection effort headed by the FBI to meet the need for reliable, uniform crime statistics from a local to nationwide scope

18,000 law enforcement agencies participate in the UCR program nationally, including 32 agencies in Alaska (representing 99.5% of the state's population)
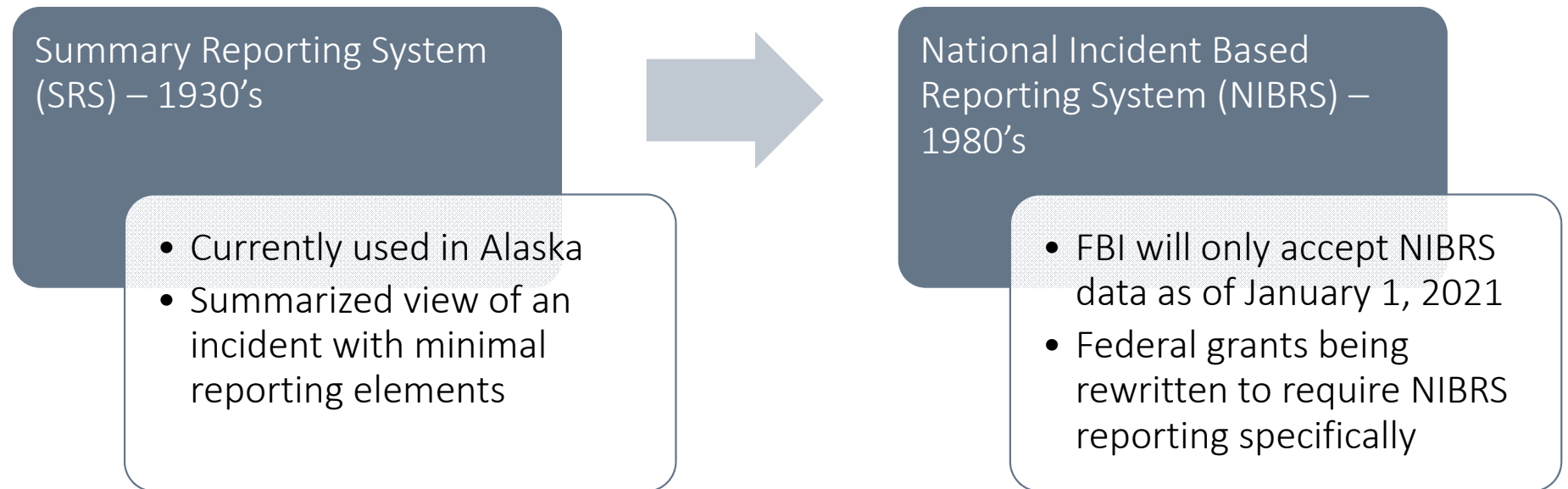
Local agencies—including AST—report crime statistics to the Department of Public Safety (DPS), which acts as the State UCR program, who then forward the data to the FBI

- The State UCR Program provides training and conducts biennial audits to ensure accuracy and uniformity of the data

- The program also creates the yearly Crime in Alaska publication, a major resource for measuring the trend and distribution of crime in Alaska

UCR in Alaska

DPS is required to report crime statistics under AS 12.62.130

Summary Reporting System (SRS) – 1930's

- Currently used in Alaska
- Summarized view of an incident with minimal reporting elements

National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) – 1980's

- FBI will only accept NIBRS data as of January 1, 2021
- Federal grants being rewritten to require NIBRS reporting specifically

UCR Reporting Formats

Summary Reporting System (SRS)

- Only 10 offenses reportable when they are known to law enforcement

- Provided only a monthly aggregate count of: Murder, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft, Arson, Human Trafficking Commercial Sex Acts, Human Trafficking Involuntary Servitude

- When multiple crimes occur at the same time, agencies only report the most serious crime

- Victim/Suspect, relationship, weapon type, circumstance information only collected for murder

- Limited information collected on location, date/time, property types, etc.

- Relatively unchanged since 1929

- FBI retiring this method as of 2021

UCR Reporting Formats

National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

- Currently 24 offense categories reportable when they are known to law enforcement

- *All of the SRS offenses plus Animal Cruelty, Bribery, Forgery, Vandalism, Drug Offenses, Embezzlement, Extortion, Fraud, Gambling, Kidnapping, Pornography, Prostitution, Sex Offenses (in addition to Rape), Stolen Property, and Weapons Law Violations*

- Provides robust data for every offense: victim, suspect, location, victim-offender relationships, alcohol/drug related, gang activity, etc. for every incident

  - FBI has mandated NIBRS-only reporting 2021
  - The Alaska state UCR program has committed to transition to NIBRS and is presently working with the local agencies and the FBI program to meet the requirement

Sample UCR Report: SRS vs NIBRS

REPORT

A 28 year old female is invited to a party at a friends home, and decides to work together with three other party attendees to subsequently assault the friend, punching her repeatedly in the face, and stealing her wallet.

They then exit the party, stealing the friends truck, and purchasing gas and food with the friend's credit card.

No arrests are made.

SRS:

This would be reported as a Strong-Arm Robbery of a Residence with the wallet and the vehicle listed as stolen property.

NIBRS:

All three offenses reported: Robbery, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Fraud. Location of incident(s), demographics of victim and suspects & their relationships, injury of victim; stolen property value of truck, wallet, and use of credit card; whether the suspects were suspected of using drugs/alcohol.

NIBRS Challenges

- NIBRS has over 500 potential edits or "rules" that each incident must pass, checking both data format and reasonableness

  o Errors at the incident level must be resolved prior to an agency being able to submit a monthly report

  o Warnings must be reviewed to ensure data quality and reasonableness

- 24 offense categories, but 52 specific crimes reportable when known to law enforcement (versus 10 reportable under SRS)

- Continually updated at the national level; more data will be collected moving forward (3 new offenses in the last 2 years)

- Some police departments will need to upgrade or purchase a new Records Management System to transition to NIBRS

NIBRS Benefits

The NIBRS method will allow DPS to collect consistent, statewide domestic violence statistics on most of the 24 reportable offenses

Domestic violence, and property crimes associated with domestic relationships, can be more accurately calculated, utilizing victim/offender relationship information.

Data would be reported uniformly and consistently based on established UCR guidelines

Research and analysis on this information can be used to address domestic violence from a law enforcement, social services, and policy perspective

Alaska Records Management System (ARMS)

- The Department of Public Safety implemented a robust records management system (ARMS) in 2012

- Historically limited staff to review the data:
  - *Previous to 2018, three user support personnel were assigned to compile and submit monthly data for AST in addition to providing statewide user support for ARMS and the Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) application*

- New ARMS-NIBRS unit created in 2018
  - *Team will learn, review, test, and vet NIBRS programming changes in the ARMS system*
  - *Team will provide training & assistance provided to other agencies using ARMS for UCR reporting*
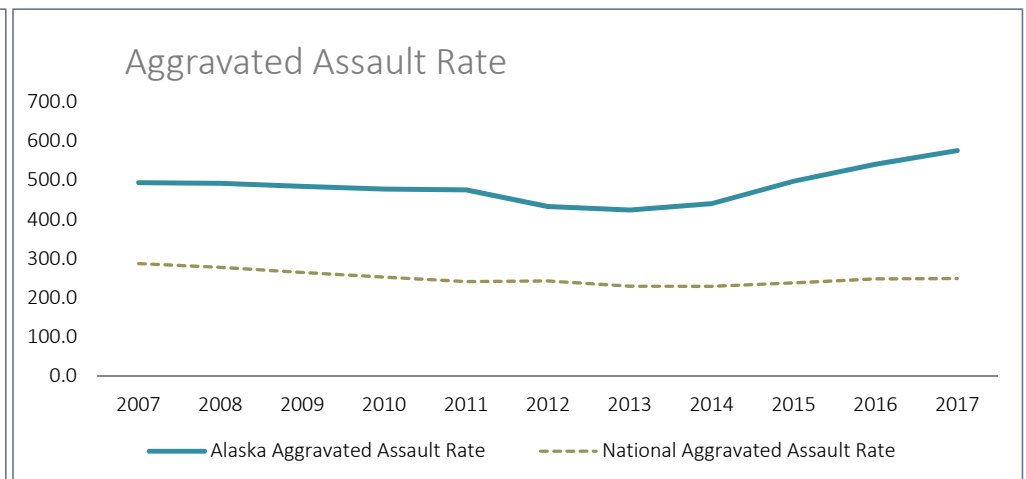
Crime in Alaska 2017

Violent Crimes	# of Offenses	% of Violent Crime	Change from last year
Murder	62	1.0%	+19.6%
Rape	1073	17.0%	+2.6%
Robbery	949	15.0%	+12.3%
Assault	4,236	67.0%	+6.5

Property Crimes	# of Offenses	% of Property Crime	Change from last year
Arson	139	0.5%	-3.2%
Vehicle Theft	4,250	16.2%	+39.8%
Burglary	4,153	15.8%	+3.2%
Larceny/Theft	17,683	67.4%	+0.3%
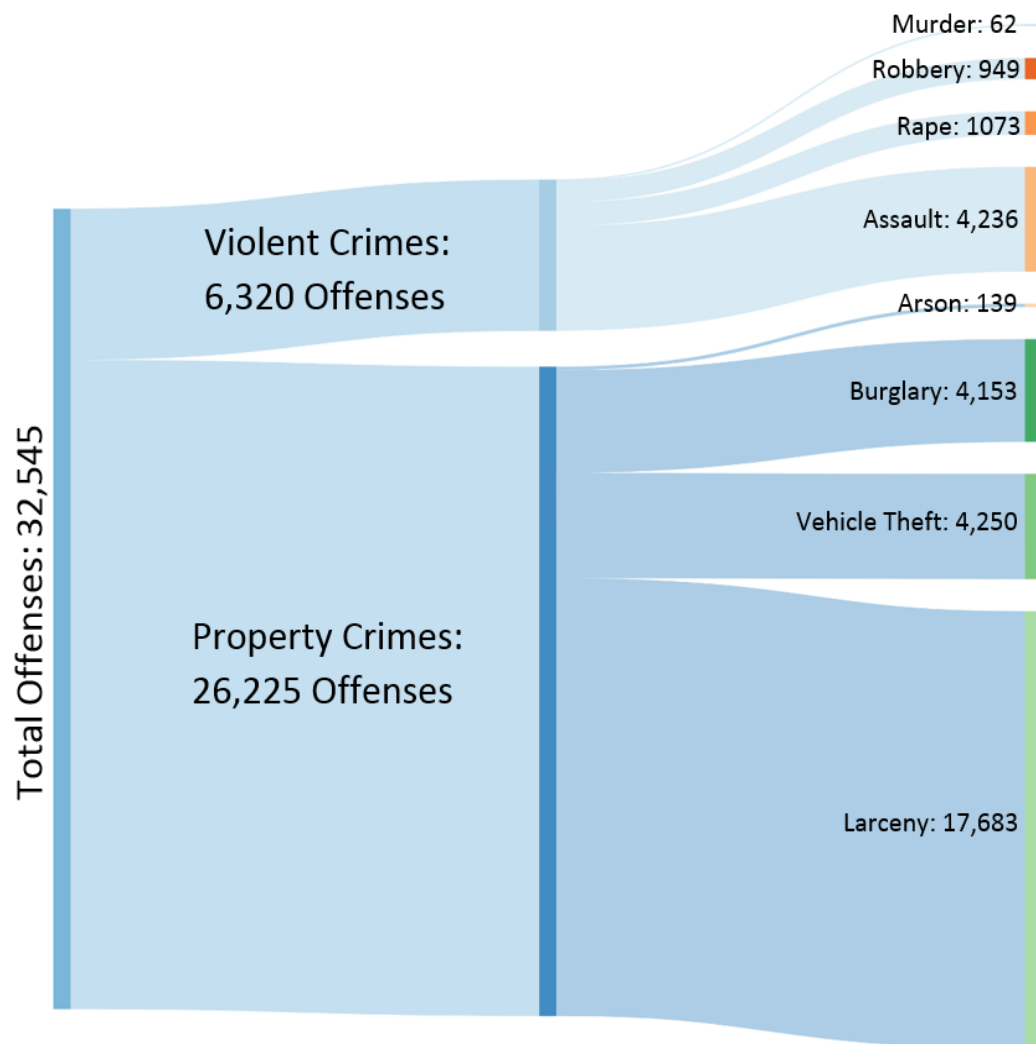
Alaska Violent Crime Rates 2007-2017
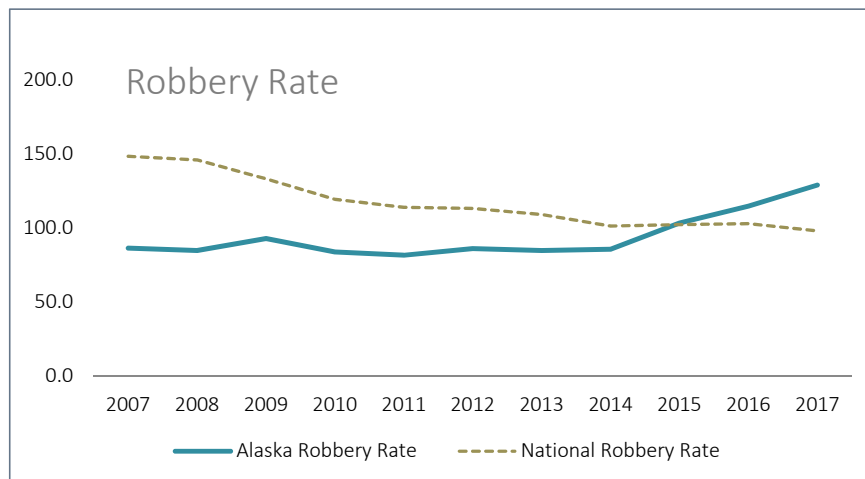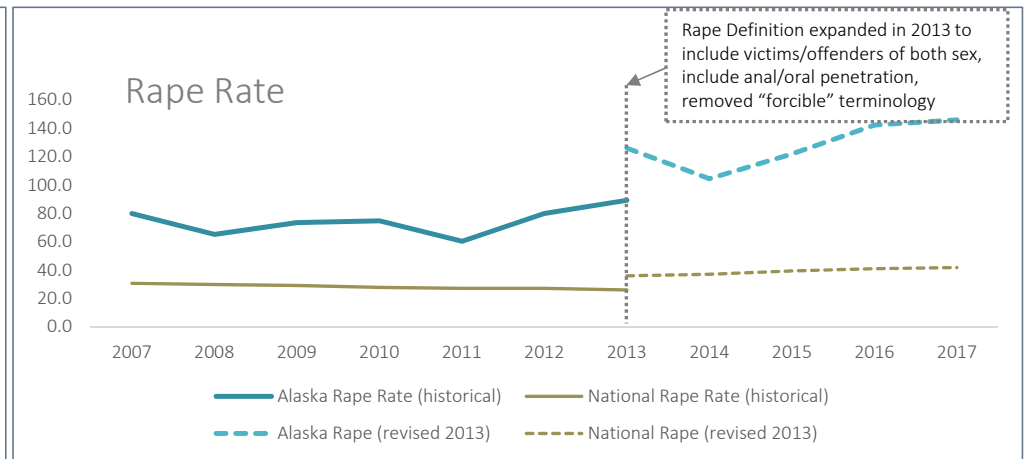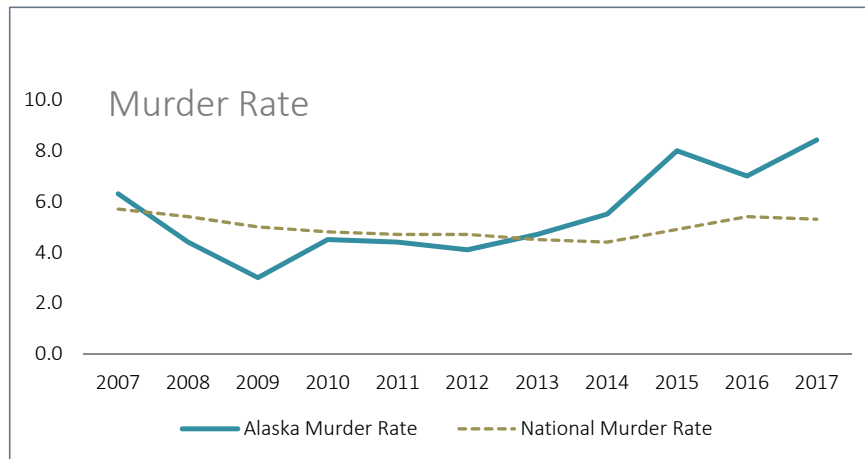
Alaska Property Crime Rates 2007-2017
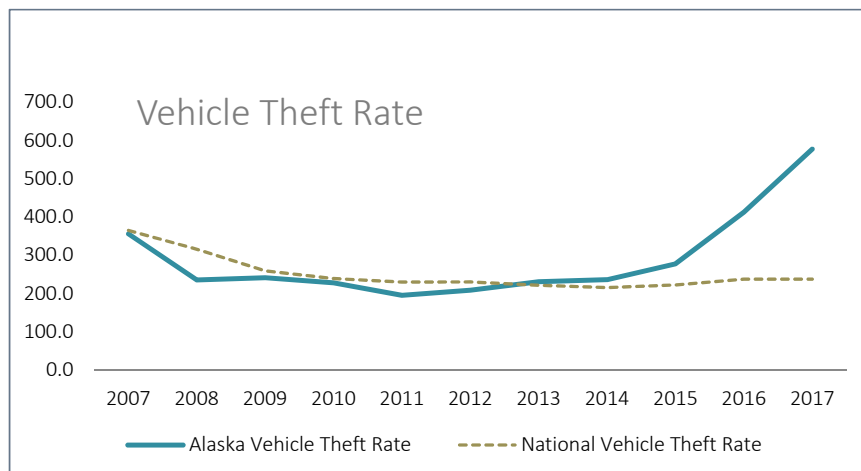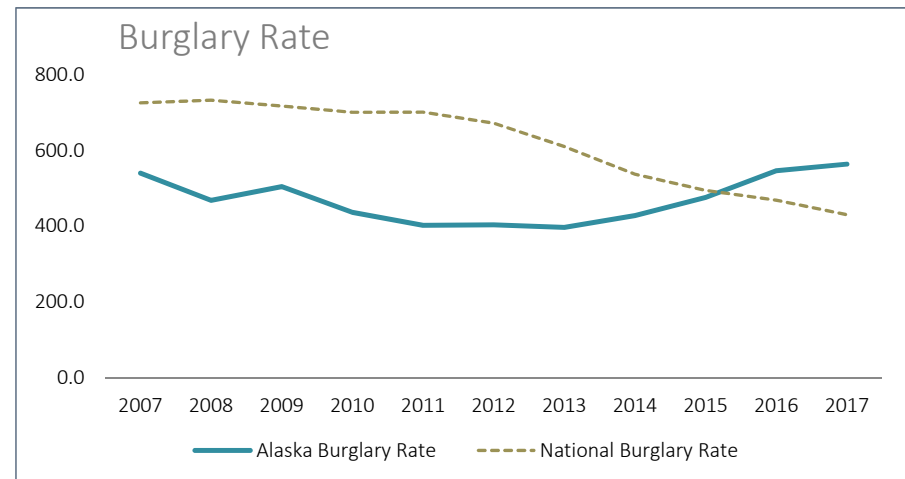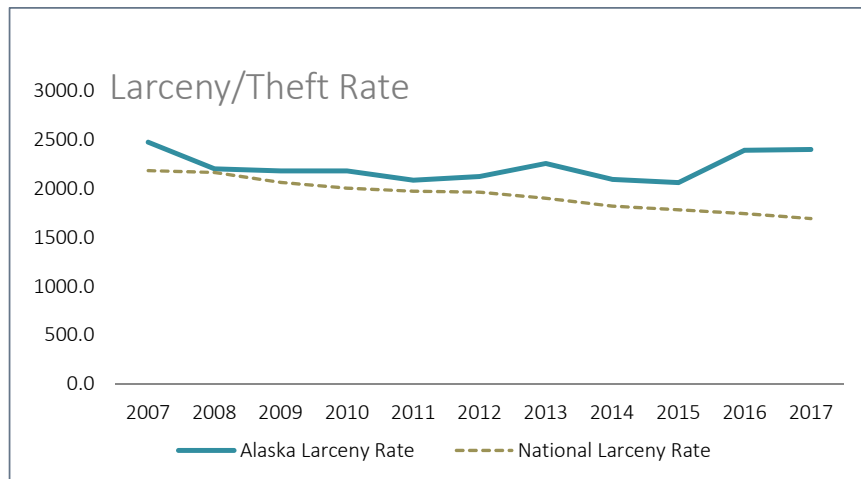
Alaska Drug Arrests 2007-2017

Marijuana decriminalization goes into effect February 2015

Number of Persons Arrested

Possession values: 1465, 1313, 1648, 1948, 1832, 1219, 1142, 989, 959, 797, 824

Sales/Manufacture values: 313, 387, 425, 543, 516, 382, 336, 215, 252, 209, 180

Years: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

Legend: —Sales/Manufacture —Possession
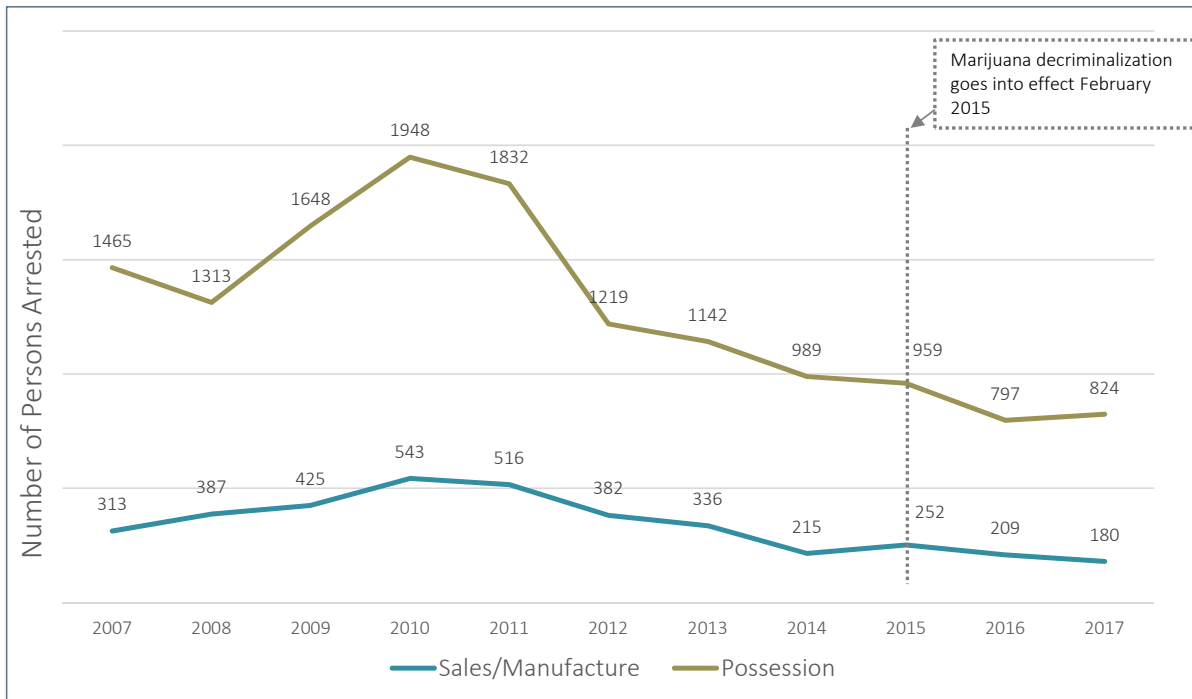
Important Note:

The UCR program collects data on the number of persons *arrested*, not the number of *charges*.

For example, a person may be arrested on several charges at one time; in this situation, the agency only scores one arrest under the most severe offense category as determined by the agency. Therefore this graph does not necessarily count every person arrested for a drug related offense in this time period.

Murder 2017

Year	Offenses	Rate per 100K	Rate Change
2013	34	4.7	14.6%
2014	40	5.5	17.4%
2015	59	8.0	47.0%
2016	52	7.0	-12.3%
2017	62	8.4	19.6%

60% of homicides involved a firearm, down from 83% in 2016

56% of female homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner

59% of male victims were killed by an acquaintance.

Of the known suspects, 81% were adults, 80% were male, and the majority (47%) were White/ Caucasian.

Rape 2017

Year	Offenses	Rate Per 100K	Rate Change
2013	919	125.8	n/a
2014	764	104.3	-17.1%
2015	895	121.8	16.8%
2016	1049	142.0	16.6%
2017	1073	145.7	2.6%

The rape rate in Alaska is 249% higher than the national rate.

7% of the reported rape offenses were attempts to rape.

While 1073 offenses were reported in 2017, 194 offenses were cleared, and 126 persons were arrested for rape.

Of the persons arrested for rape, 79% were adults, 99% were males, and the majority (60%) were Alaska Native/American Indian.

Robbery 2017

Year	Offenses	Rate Per 100K	Rate Change
2013	620	84.8	-0.97%
2014	627	85.6	0.90%
2015	759	103.3	20.65%
2016	848	114.8	11.2%
2017	949	128.9	12.3%

The most common weapon type involved in a robbery was "*hands/fists/feet*", followed by "*firearm*".

The total reported property loss from robbery was over $850K

Of the persons arrested for robbery, 93% were adults, 84% were males, and the majority (43%) were White/Caucasian.

Assault 2017

Year	Offenses	Rate per 100K	Rate Change
2013	3096	423.7	-2.1%
2014	3224	440.2	3.9%
2015	3654	497.3	13.0%
2016	3992	540.5	8.7%
2017	4236	575.4	6.5%

The assault rate in Alaska is 131% higher than the national rate.

The most common weapon type associated with assault was "*other dangerous weapon*", followed by "*hands/fists/feet*", then "*firearms*". The least common weapon was "*knife/cutting instrument*".

Of the persons arrested for assault, 94% were adults, 75% were males, and the majority (49%) were Alaska Native/American Indian.

Burglary 2017

Year	Offenses	Rate	Rate Change
2013	2901	397	-1.6%
2014	3136	428.2	7.9%
2015	3498	476	11.2%
2016	4036	546.5	14.8%
2017	4153	564.1	3.2%

57% of reported burglaries were from a residence.

The total reported property loss for burglaries in 2017 was over $10.4 million

Of the persons arrested for burglary, 81% were adults, 86% were males, and the majority (53%) were White/Caucasian.

Larceny / Theft 2017

Year	Offenses	Rate	Rate Change
2013	16,498	2,257.7	6.2
2014	15,350	2,095.9	-7.2%
2015	15,156	2,062.5	-1.6%
2016	17,683	2,394.2	16.1%
2017	17,683	2,401.9	0.3%

The majority of reported larcenies were "*from motor vehicle*", followed by "*shoplifting*."

The total reported property loss for larcenies in 2017 was over $15.3 million

Of the persons arrested for larceny, 89% were adults, 65% were males, and the majority (60%) were White/Caucasian.

Vehicle Theft 2017

Year	Offenses	Rate	Rate Change
2013	1686	230.7	10.7%
2014	1730	236.2	2.4%
2015	2040	277.6	17.5%
2016	3049	412.8	48.7%
2017	4250	577.3	39.8%

The rate of vehicle thefts has increased 150% since 2013, and is up 62% compared to 2007 years ago.

The total reported property loss for vehicle thefts in 2017 was over $34.1 million

Of the persons arrested for burglary, 89% were adults, 73% were males, and the majority (55%) were White/Caucasian.

Arson 2017

Year	Offenses	Rate	Rate Change
2013	167	22.85	-11.2%
2014	145	19.80	-13.4%
2015	182	24.77	25.1%
2016	144	19.50	-21.3%
2017	139	18.88	-3.2%

The majority of reported arsons were of structures (48%), followed by mobile property (43.8%).
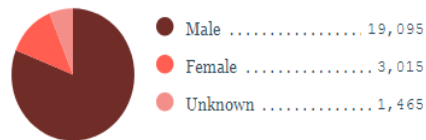
Of the structural property arsons, 65% were of residential property.

Of the persons arrested for arson, 73% were adults, 64% were males, and the majority (50%) were White/Caucasian.

The Future of Alaska's Crime Reporting

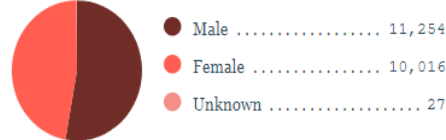This is Colorado's 2017 NIBRS Aggravated Assault Offense Data from the FBI's Crime Data Explorer*

Offender Sex

- Male 19,095
- Female 3,015
- Unknown 1,465

Offenders w/ reported sex   23,575

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Victim Sex

- Male 11,254
- Female 10,016
- Unknown 27

Victims w/ reported sex   21,297

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Location type

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Residence Home	9,228
Highway/Alley/Street/Sidewalk	4,516
Parking Garage/Lot	1,886
Convenience Store	679
Hotel/Motel	591
Unknown	586
Department/Discount Store	549
Park/Playground	483
Restaurant	462
Bar/Nightclub	367
Specialty Store	364
School Elementary/Secondary	281
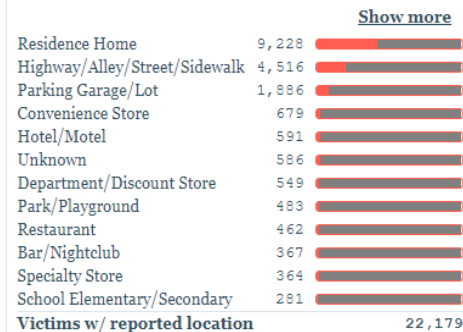
Victims w/ reported location   22,179

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Victim's relationship to the offender

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Stranger	9,134
Relationship Unknown	7,506
Acquaintance	2,960
Otherwise Known	2,045
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	2,043
Spouse	816
Friend	774
Child	514
Other Family Member	470
Offender	377
Sibling	374
Neighbor	339

Victims w/ reported relationship to offender   28,678

Type of Weapon Involved by Offense

Show more

Personal Weapons	7,174
Handgun	3,497
Knife/Cutting Instrument	2,942
Blunt Object	1,531
Other	967
Firearm	646
Unknown	558
Motor Vehicle	411
Asphyxiation	304
Shotgun	138
Rifle	134
Handgun (Automatic)	95
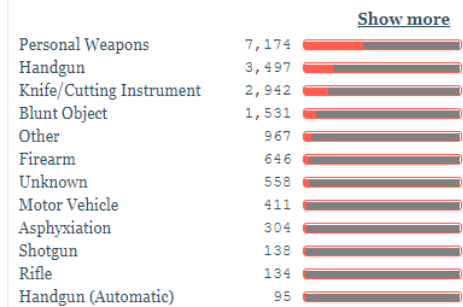
Offenses w/ reported weapons   18,652

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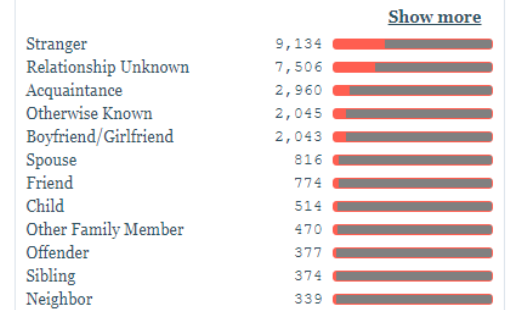
Offense Linked to Another Offense

Show more

Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	1,026
Kidnapping/Abduction	581
Weapon Law Violations	529
Simple Assault	516
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	376
Drug/Narcotic Violations	235
All Other Larceny	147
Aggravated Assault	128
Motor Vehicle Theft	115
Drug Equipment Violations	111
Robbery	102
Shoplifting	73
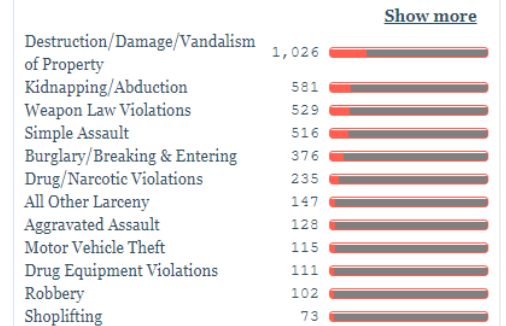
Offenses w/ other reported offenses   4,497

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* https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/

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This is Texas' 2017 NIBRS Vehicle Theft Offense
Data from the FBI's Crime Data Explorer*

Offense Linked to Another Offense

Show more

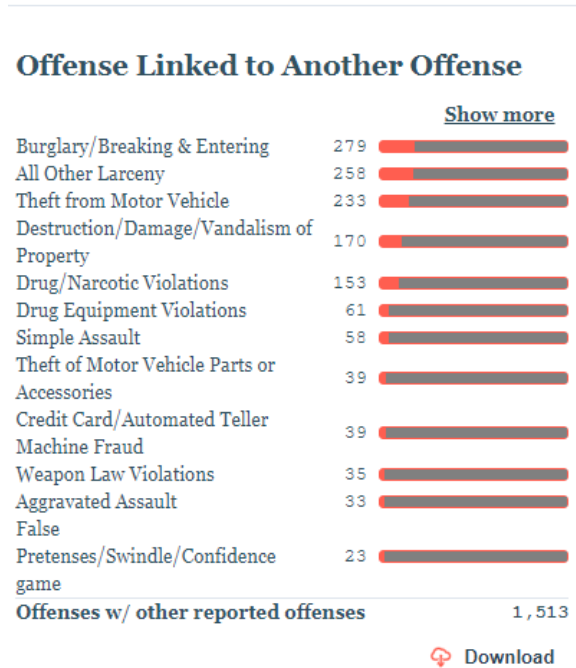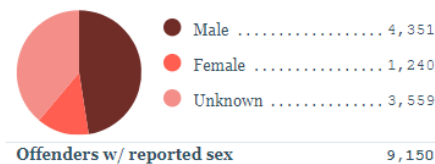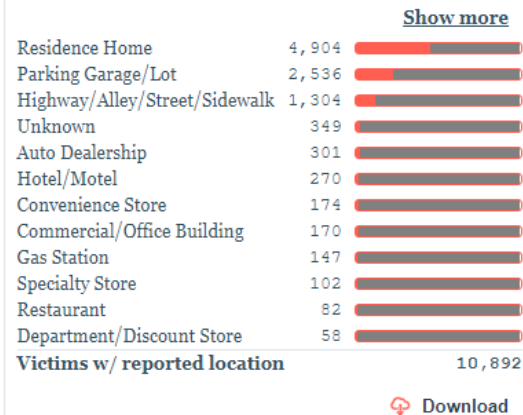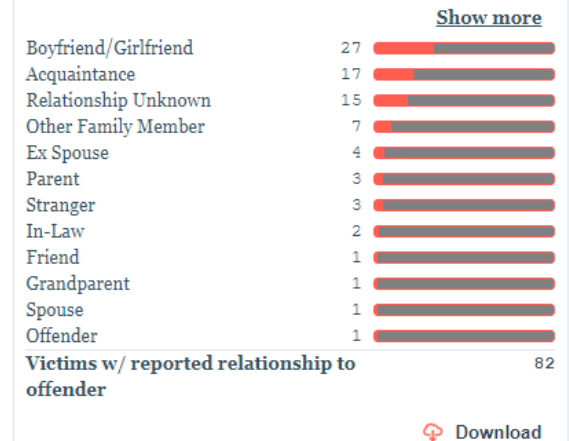| Offense	Count
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	279
All Other Larceny	258
Theft from Motor Vehicle	233
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	170
Drug/Narcotic Violations	153
Drug Equipment Violations	61
Simple Assault	58
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	39
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	39
Weapon Law Violations	35
Aggravated Assault	33
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence game	23

Offenses w/ other reported offenses   **1,513**

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Offender Sex

Male	4,351
Female	1,240
Unknown	3,559

Offenders w/ reported sex   9,150

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Victim Sex

Male	6,181
Female	3,521
Unknown	50

Victims w/ reported sex   9,752

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Location type

Show more

Location	Count
Residence Home	4,904
Parking Garage/Lot	2,536
Highway/Alley/Street/Sidewalk	1,304
Unknown	349
Auto Dealership	301
Hotel/Motel	270
Convenience Store	174
Commercial/Office Building	170
Gas Station	147
Specialty Store	102
Restaurant	82
Department/Discount Store	58

Victims w/ reported location   **10,892**

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Victim's relationship to the offender

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Relationship	Count
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	27
Acquaintance	17
Relationship Unknown	15
Other Family Member	7
Ex Spouse	4
Parent	3
Stranger	3
In-Law	2
Friend	1
Grandparent	1
Spouse	1
Offender	1

Victims w/ reported relationship to offender   **82**

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* https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/

Resources

Crime in Alaska Publications:

https://dps.alaska.gov/Statewide/R-I/UCR

FBI's Crime Data Explorer:

https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov

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