

University of Alaska Anchorage

# Justice Center

An Introduction and Brief Overview





# History and Mission

- The Justice Center was established in 1975
- **Mission:** To provide statewide justice-related education, research, and service.
- The Justice Center is a comprehensive academic and research unit
  - **Academic Programs:** Justice; Legal Studies
  - **Research Programs:**
    - Faculty research
    - Alaska Justice Information Center (AJiC)
    - Commitment to conducting rigorous, impactful, and Alaska-relevant research



# Faculty Research

- Individual faculty members pursue research agendas in their particular areas of expertise and interest
  - Explicit focus on **partnerships** with Alaska agencies and organizations
    - Begin with practitioners' questions about practice and policy
    - Bring substantive and technical expertise to bear on practitioners' questions
- Recent and Ongoing Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships:
  - Alaska Victimization Survey (Dr. Andre Rosay)
  - Troopers B-Detachment Patrol Staffing Study (Dr. Troy Payne)
  - Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (Dr. Ingrid Johnson)
  - NOVA Reentry Project Evaluation (Dr. Yeungjeom Lee)
  - Graduated Response Matrix (GRM) Assessment and Refinement Project (Dr. Brad Myrstol)
  - Statewide Community-Based Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Process and Outcome Evaluation\* (Dr. Rita Augustyn)



# AJiC

- The Alaska Justice Information Center was established in 2015
- **Mission:** To compile, analyze, and report on criminal justice topics to policymakers and practitioners in order to improve public safety, to increase criminal justice system accountability, and to reduce recidivism.
- **Organization:**
  - Integrated justice data platform (Dr. Troy Payne)
  - Alaska Results First (Dr. Araceli Valle)
  - Statistical Analysis Center



# AJiC

- **Recent and Ongoing Projects**

- Alaska Results First: *Adult Criminal Justice*
  - Currently working to update findings published in 2017
  - Up Next: *Behavioral Health* >> mental health and substance abuse programs
- Pre-trial Risk Assessment Tool Re-Validation
- *Anchored Home* permanent supportive housing project
  - Data integration for eligible participant identification and outreach
  - United Way of Anchorage; Municipality of Anchorage; DOC; DHSS
- Alaska Justice Data Dashboard Project
- Descriptive analysis of homicide in Alaska\*
- Technical assistance to Alaska Criminal Justice Commission
- *Fact Sheet* series
  - *Property Crime* (focus on MV theft)
  - *Alaska Trial Courts Criminal Case Filings*



# To Learn More...

- **Please call or email - any time!**
  - Brad Myrstol, Director  
Phone: 907-786-1837  
Email: [bamyrstol@alaska.edu](mailto:bamyrstol@alaska.edu)
- **Visit Our Website**
  - [www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/justice-center](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/justice-center)
  - Or... Just type “UAA Justice Center” into Google!



# Illicit Drug – Crime Nexus (?)

## Comparing Population-Level Trends

**Brad A. Myrstol**

Director

UAA Justice Center

Alaska Justice Information Center

**March 8, 2019**

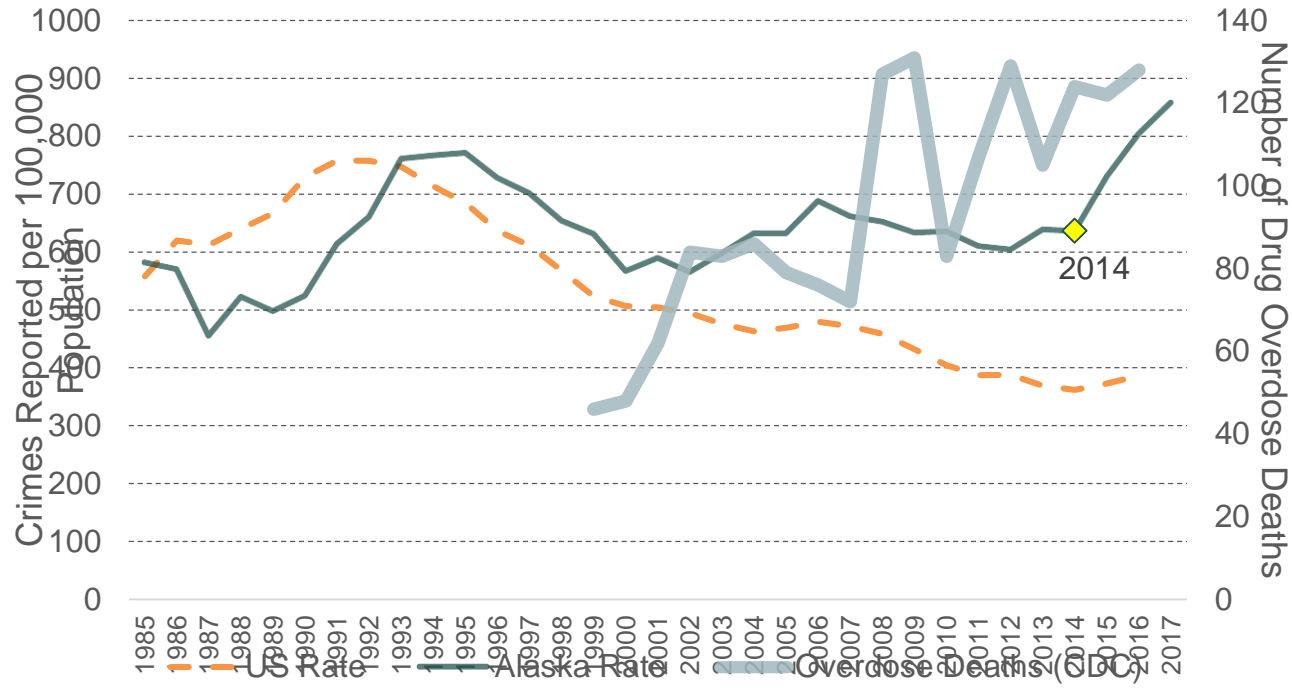
(Originally presented on September 11, 2018 at the *2018 Public Safety Forum*)



# CRIMES REPORTED TO POLICE

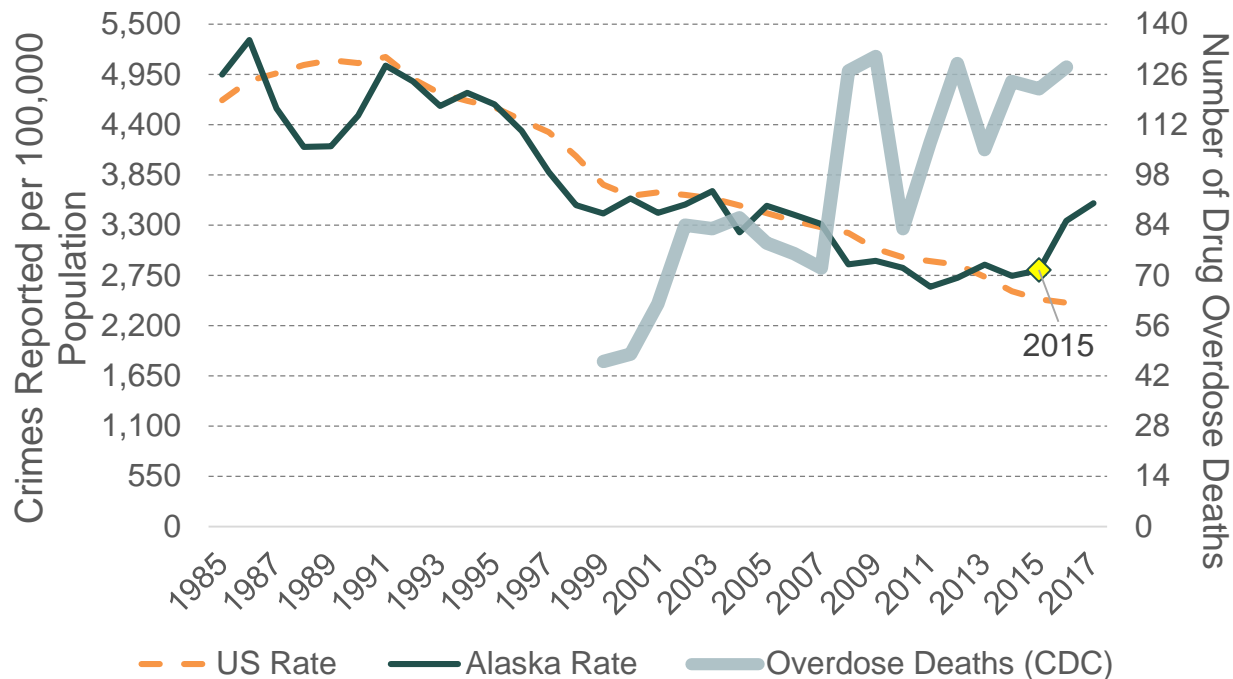


# Violent Crime Rates: 1985-2017





# Property Crime Rates: 1985-2017





From Crime to Criminal Justice System Impacts

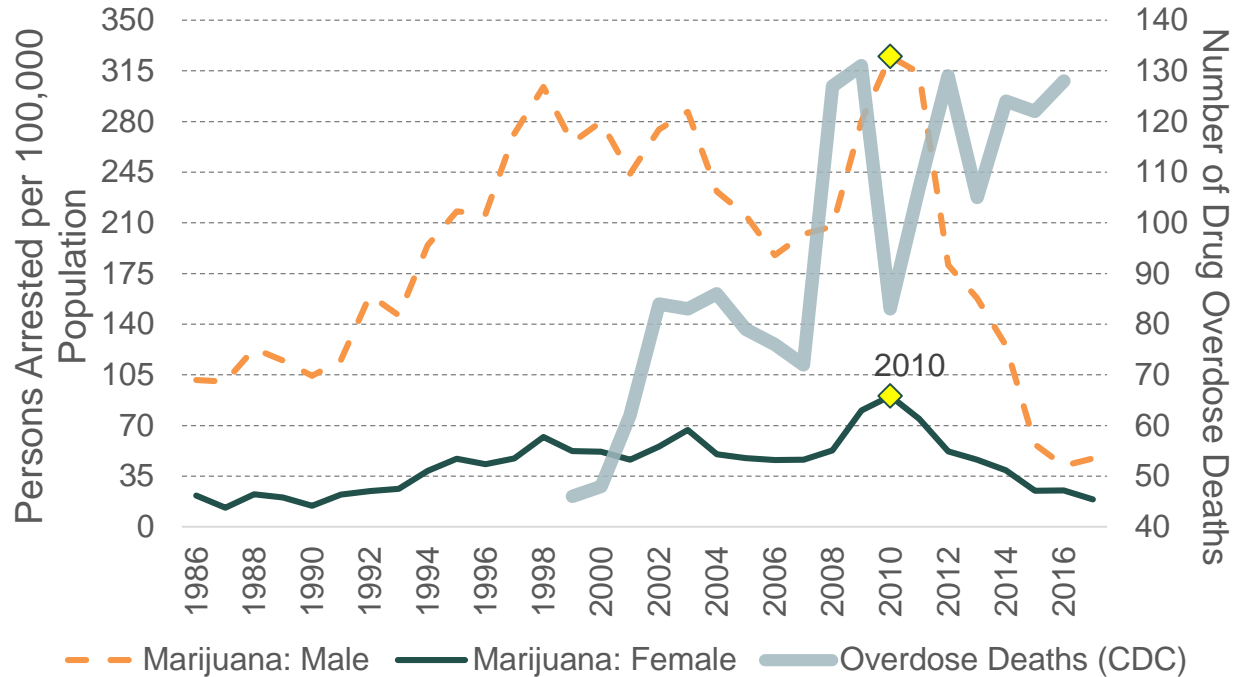
# ARRESTS FOR DRUG OFFENSES





# Marijuana Arrest Rates

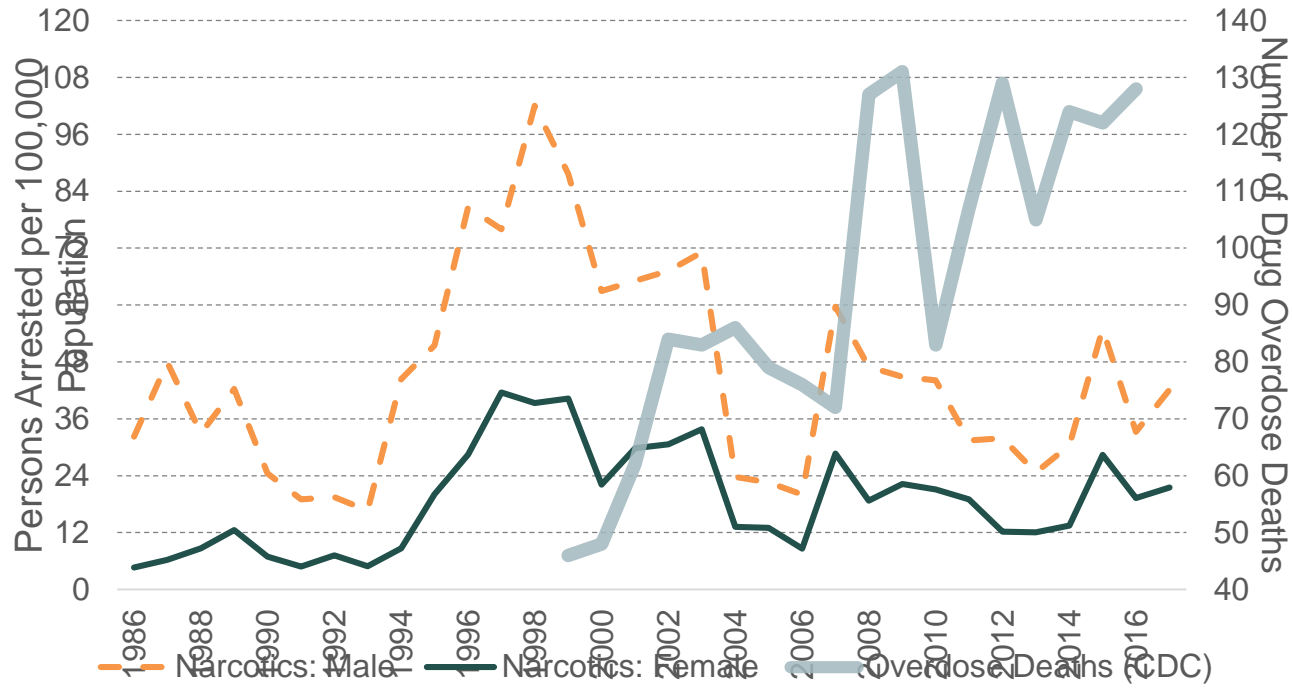
## Possession





# Narcotic\* Arrest Rates

## Possession

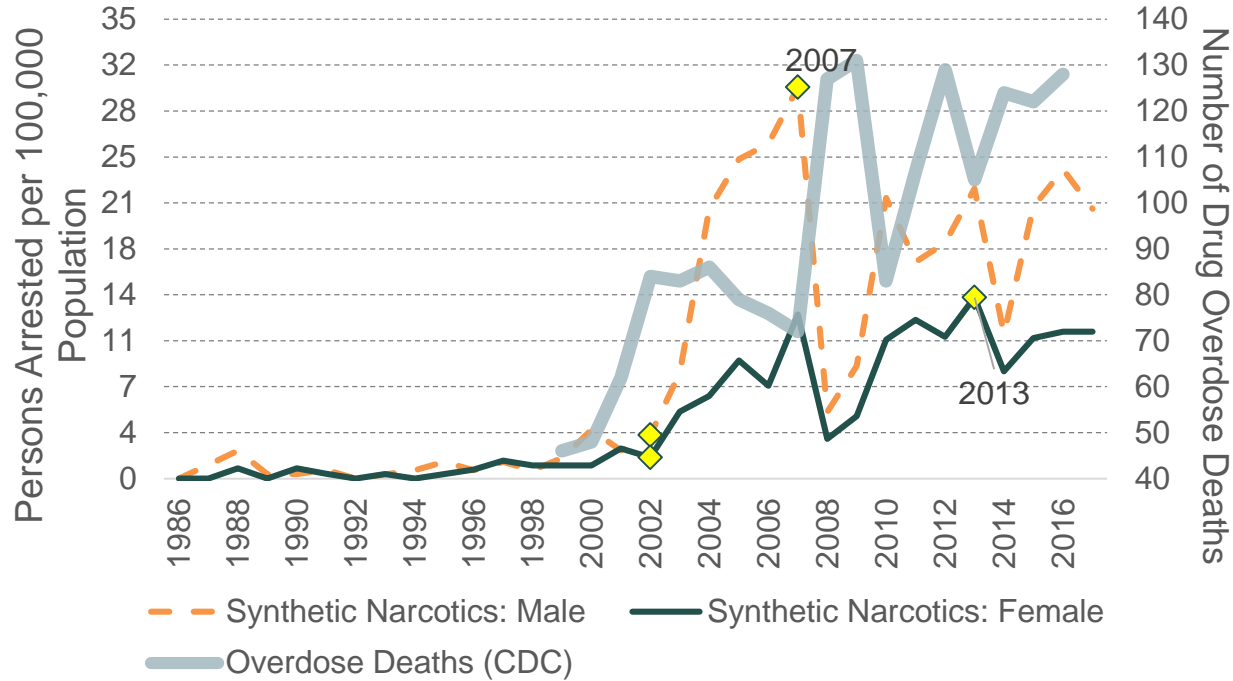


\*UCR definition includes: cocaine, opium, heroin, morphine



# Synthetic Narcotic\* Arrest Rates

## Possession

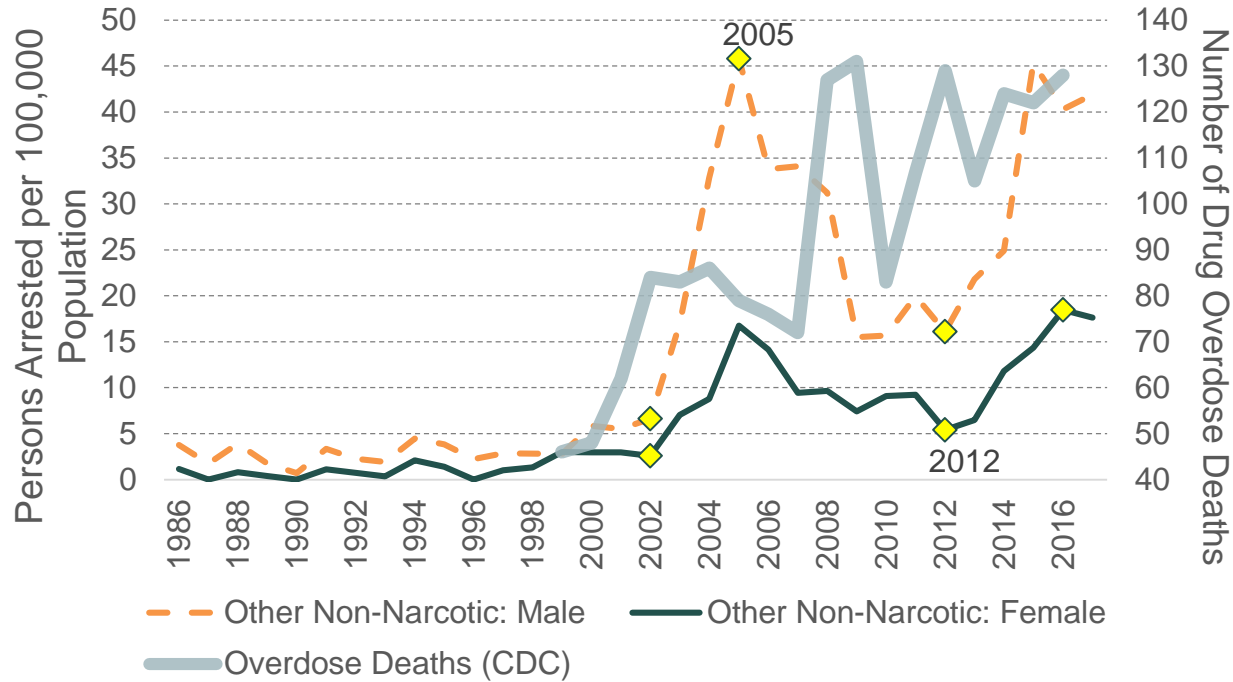


\*UCR definition includes: fentanyl, demerol, hydrocodone, oxycodone, methadone, dilaudid, buprenorphine



# Other Non-Narcotic\* Arrest Rates

## Possession



\*UCR definition includes: amphetamine, methamphetamine, phencyclidine (PCP), naloxone, ketamine, MDMA, MDPK, barbiturates



# Getting From Description to Explanation

- Are recent increases in Alaska crime rates directly linked to trends in illicit drug use (esp. opioids and methamphetamine)?
  - Perhaps. Certainly a reasonable hypothesis.
    - Need to articulate what those linkages might be.
  - Unfortunately, we do not have good data to begin “unpacking” the drug-crime nexus.
    - Not really a technical challenge, but a political and financial one.
      - Example: Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program.
  - **Data-driven decision making** is important for improving public safety.
    - We are currently experiencing an “information deficit” when it comes to the relationship between the two phenomena.
- What is AJiC’s role?
  - Collect, compile, analyze data that supports prevention and intervention efforts

# Citations and Resources

- Alaska crimes reported to police and arrest data obtained from the Alaska Department of Public Safety:
  - <https://dps.alaska.gov/Statewide/R-I/UCR>
- Alaska population data obtained from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development:
  - <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/pop/index.cfm>
- Alaska drug overdose mortality data obtained from the Centers for Disease Control
  - <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>
    - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2016 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December, 2017. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2016, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>





# Rearrest within 7 days

Presented to:

Alaska State Legislature House Judiciary Standing Committee

March 8, 2019



# Data source

AS 44.19.645 requires agencies to report individually-identified data to the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

Among those data are arrest & citation data, reported by DPS



# DPS arrest & citation

## Charge-level data

### Includes:

- Felony arrests
- Felony citations
- Misdemeanor arrests
- Misdemeanor citations

### Does NOT include:

- Infractions
- Violations
- Charges with no arrest tracking number

# Methods

DPS provides one record per charge

222,313 charges July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2018

Fields used for this analysis:

- APSIN ID
- Arrest date
- Arrest statute
- ATN



# Methods

## Calculate days to next arrest

1. Days between each arrest and the next arrest (date difference).
2. Is difference between arrest and next arrest 7 days or less?
3. Count the number of people rearrested per week.

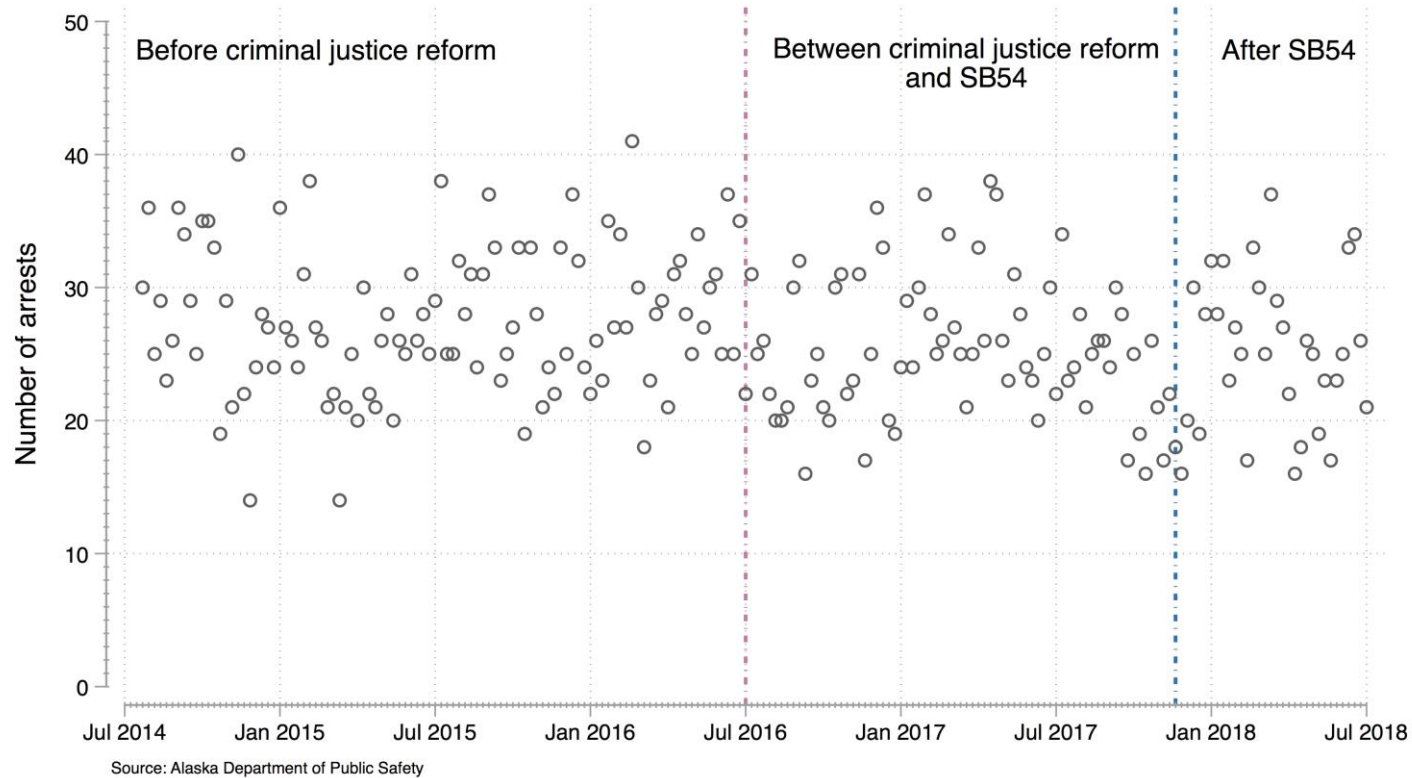
# Number of people rearrested within 7 days



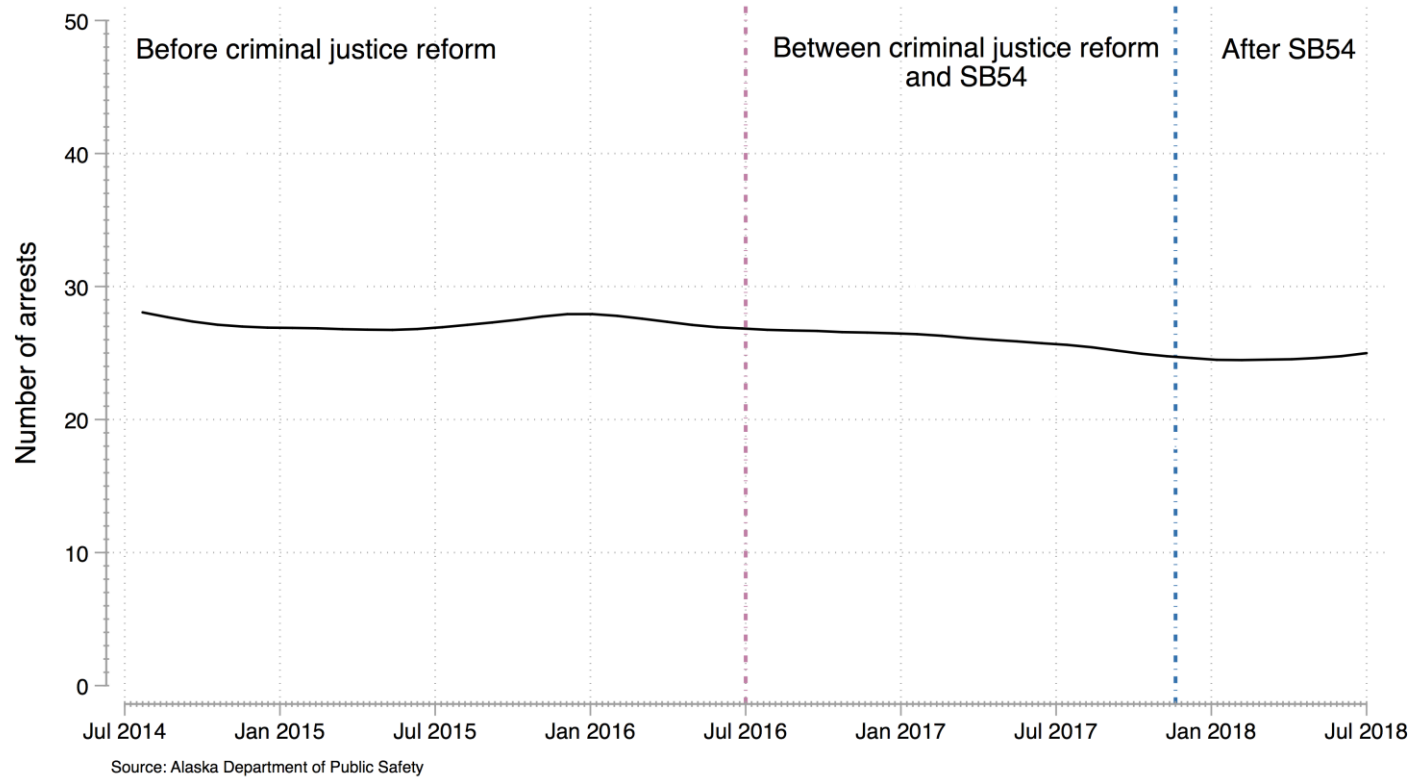
Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety



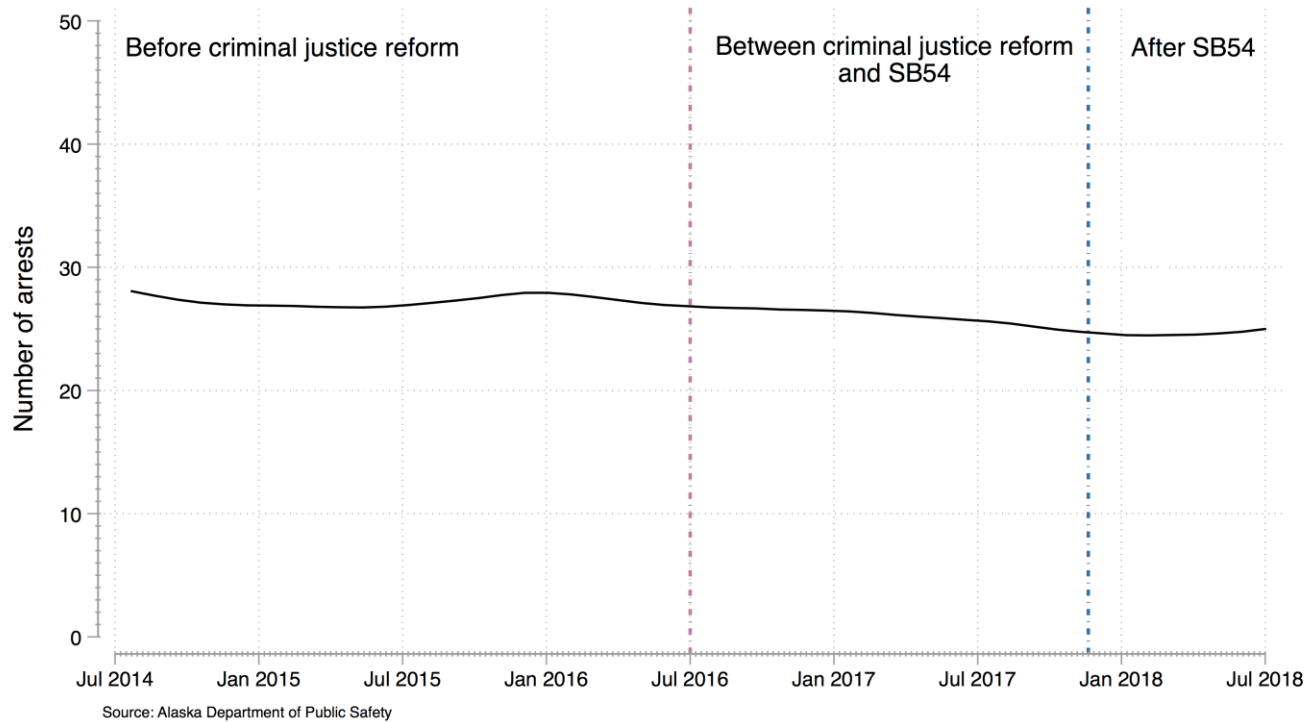
# Number of people rearrested within 7 days



# Number of people rearrested within 7 days



# Number of people rearrested within 7 days



So far, we've not included VCOR.

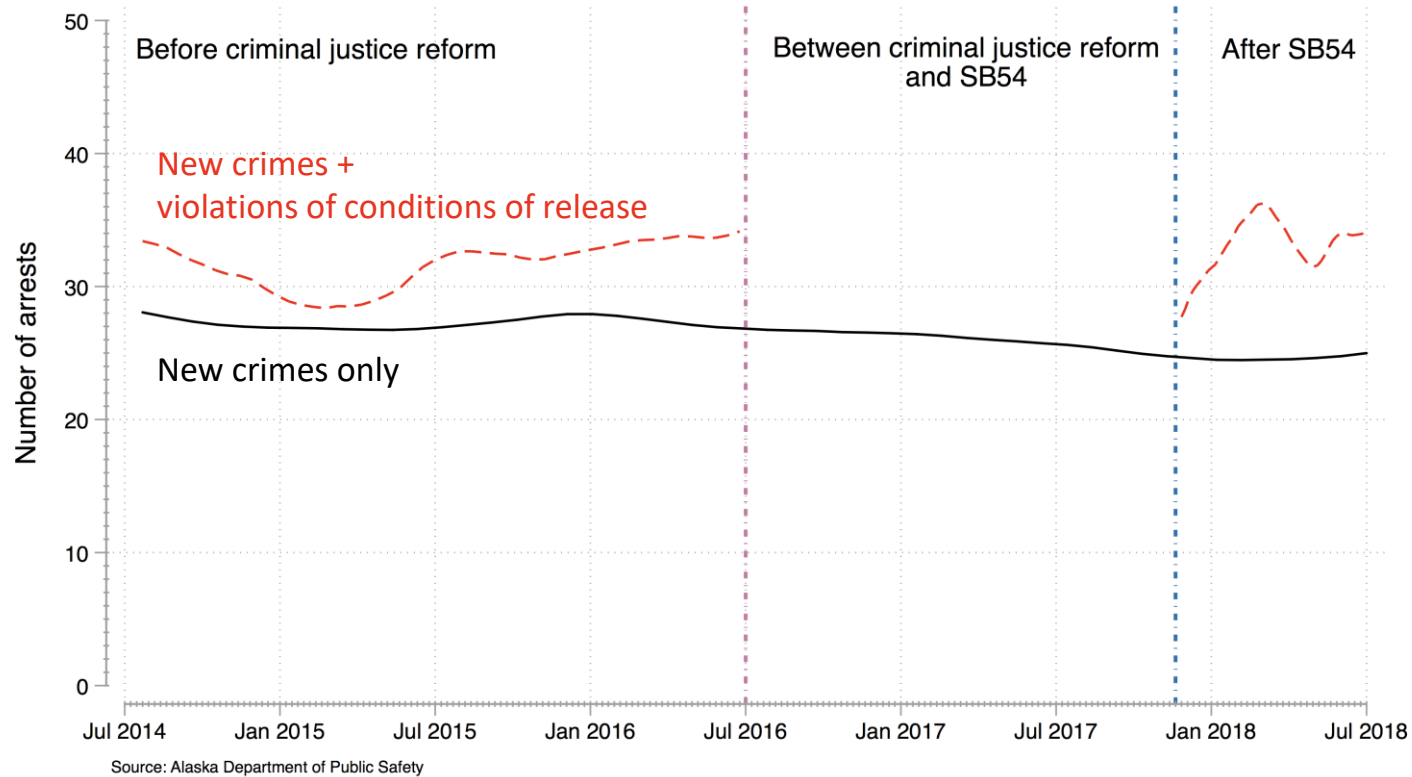
What happens when we do?



# Number of people rearrested within 7 days



# Number of people rearrested within 7 days



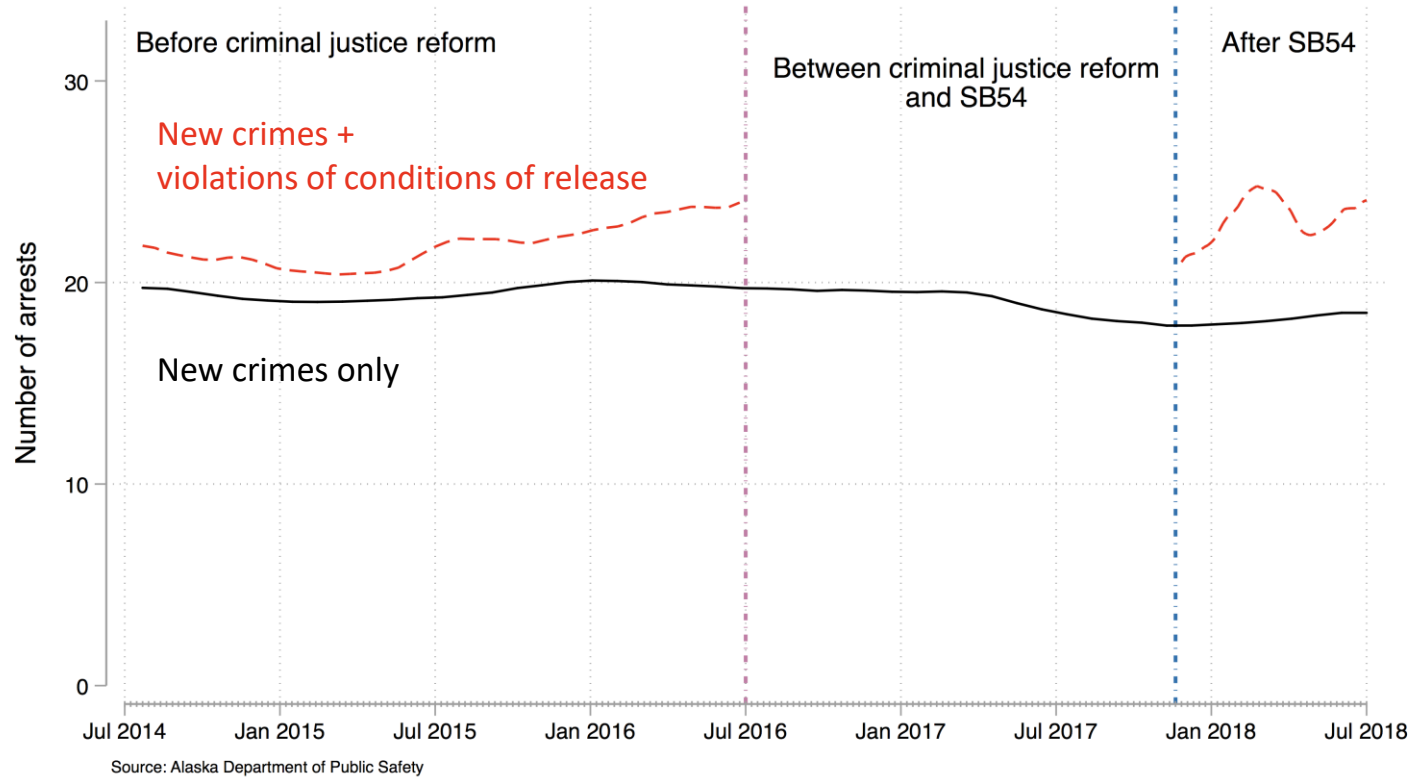
# Summary

Each week, about 26 people are rearrested within 7 days.

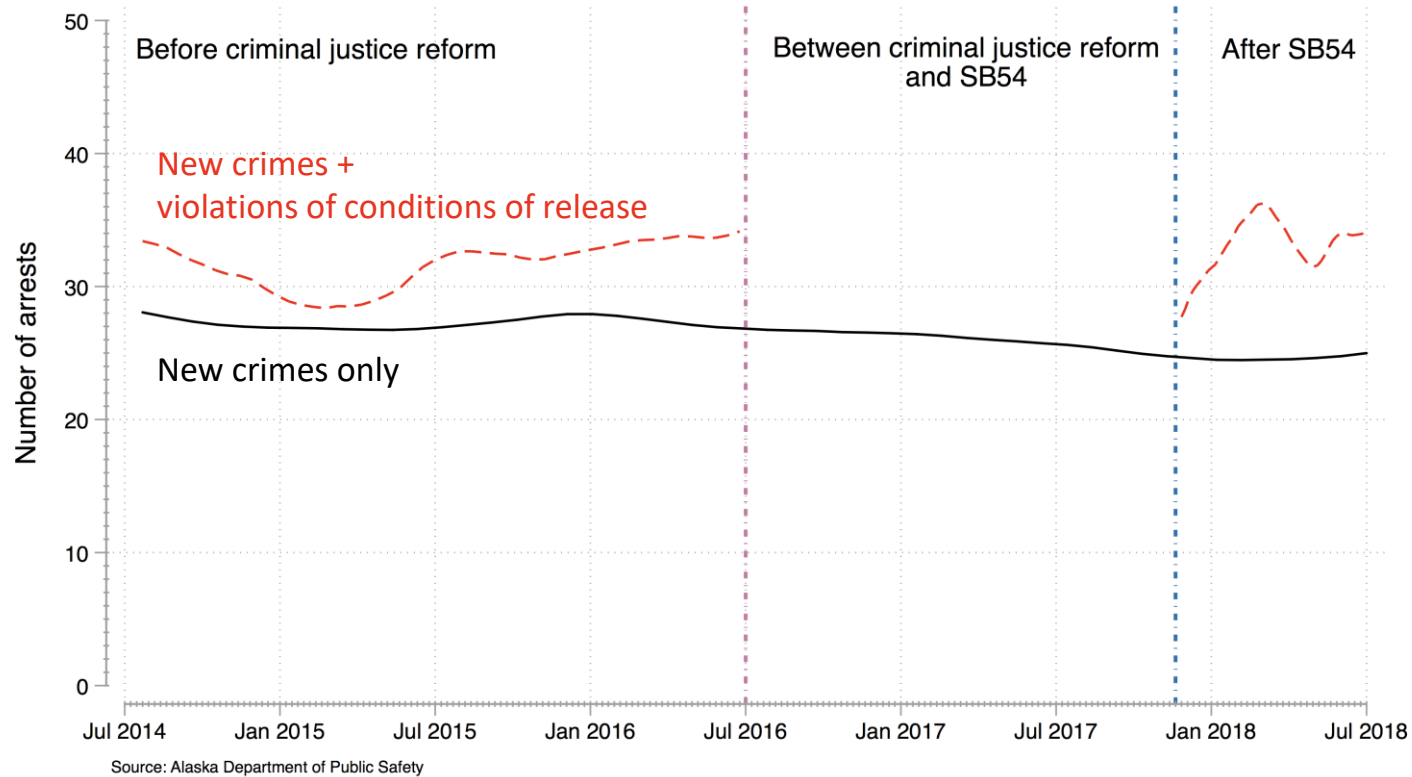
No evidence of change in the number of people rearrested within 7 days pre/post criminal justice reform.



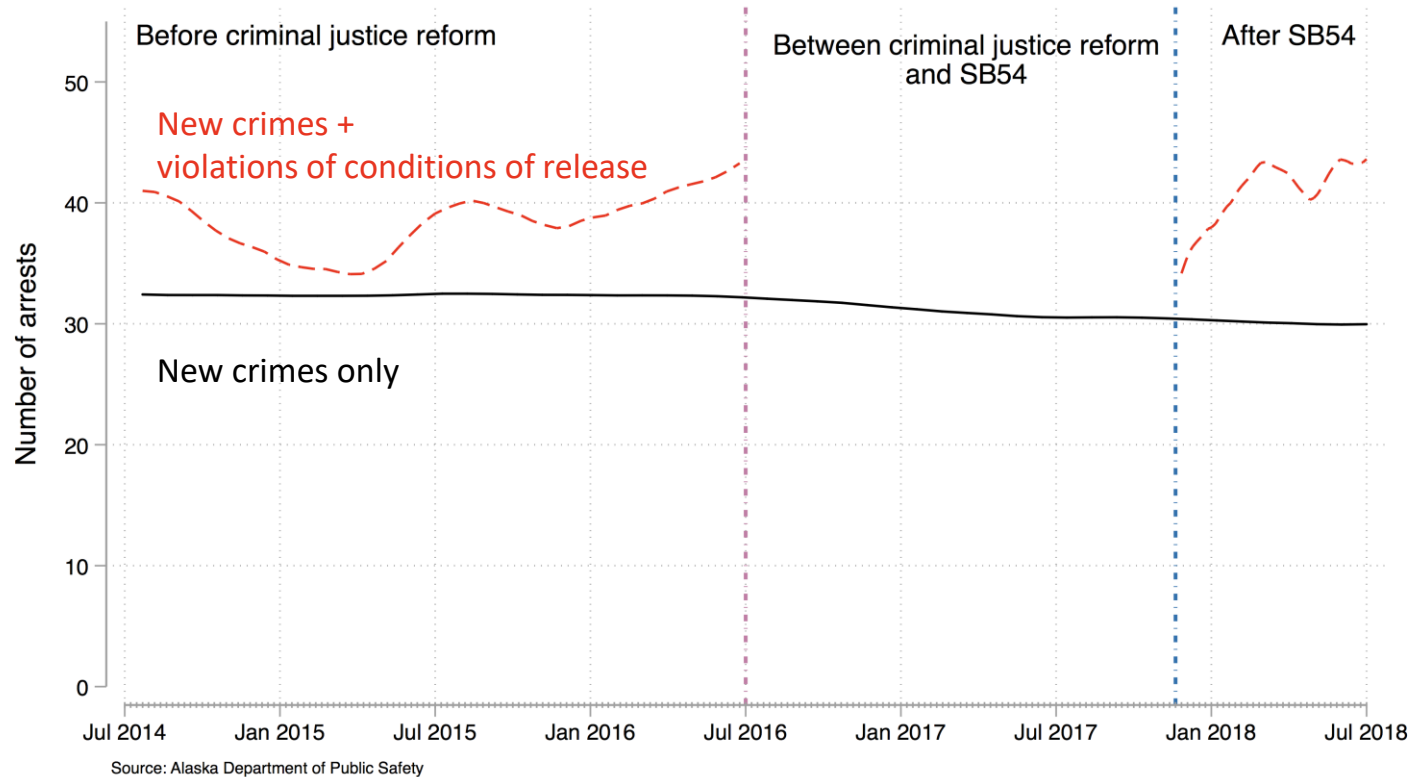
# Number of people rearrested within 3 days



# Number of people rearrested within 7 days

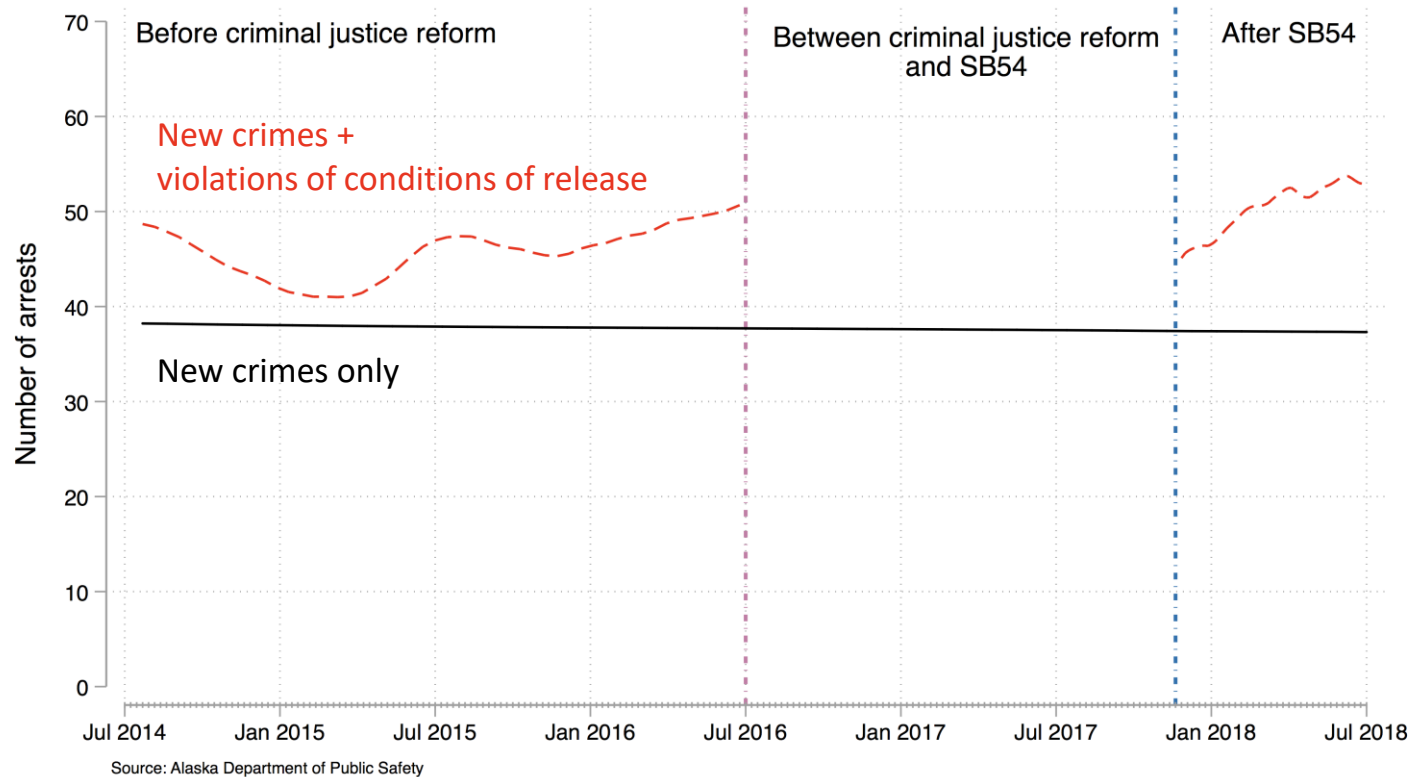


# Number of people rearrested within 10 days

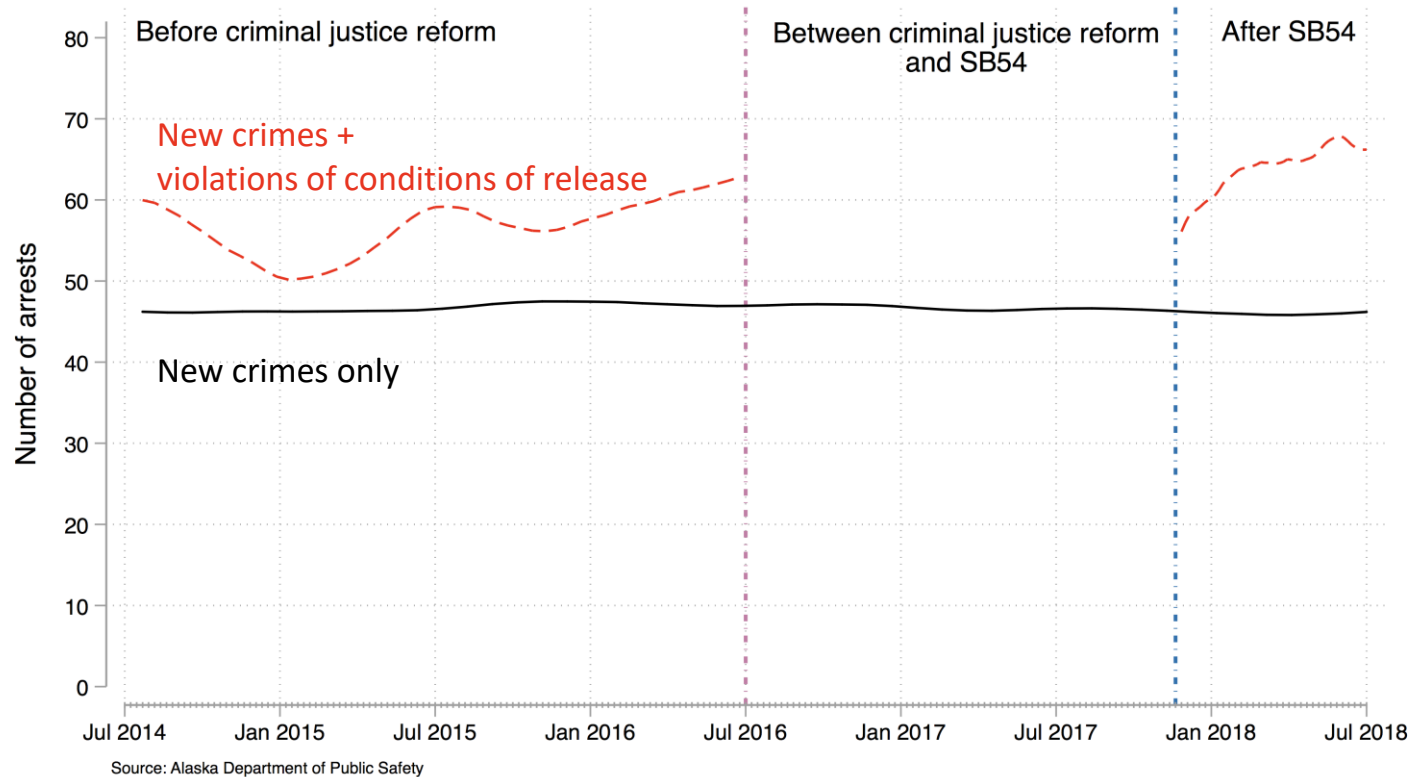




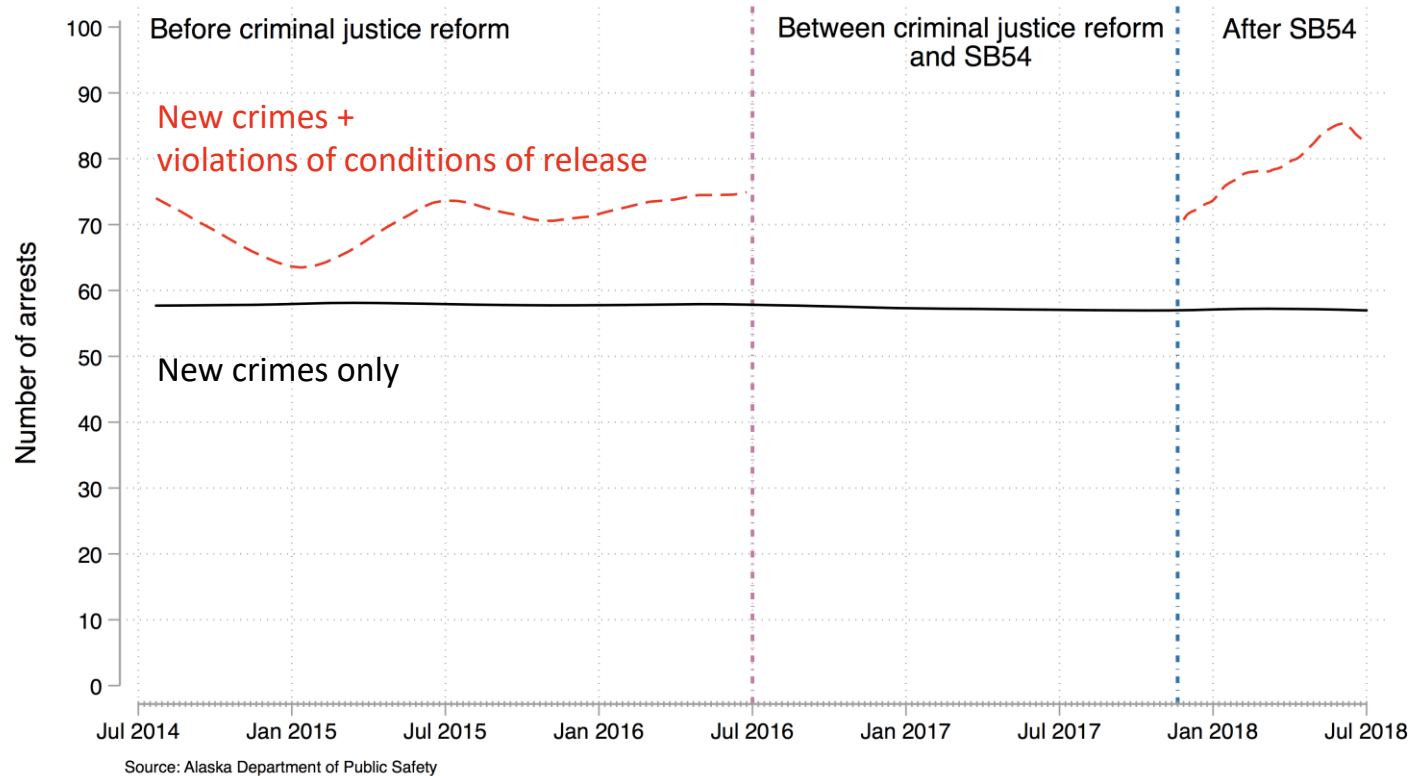
# Number of people rearrested within 14 days



# Number of people rearrested within 21 days

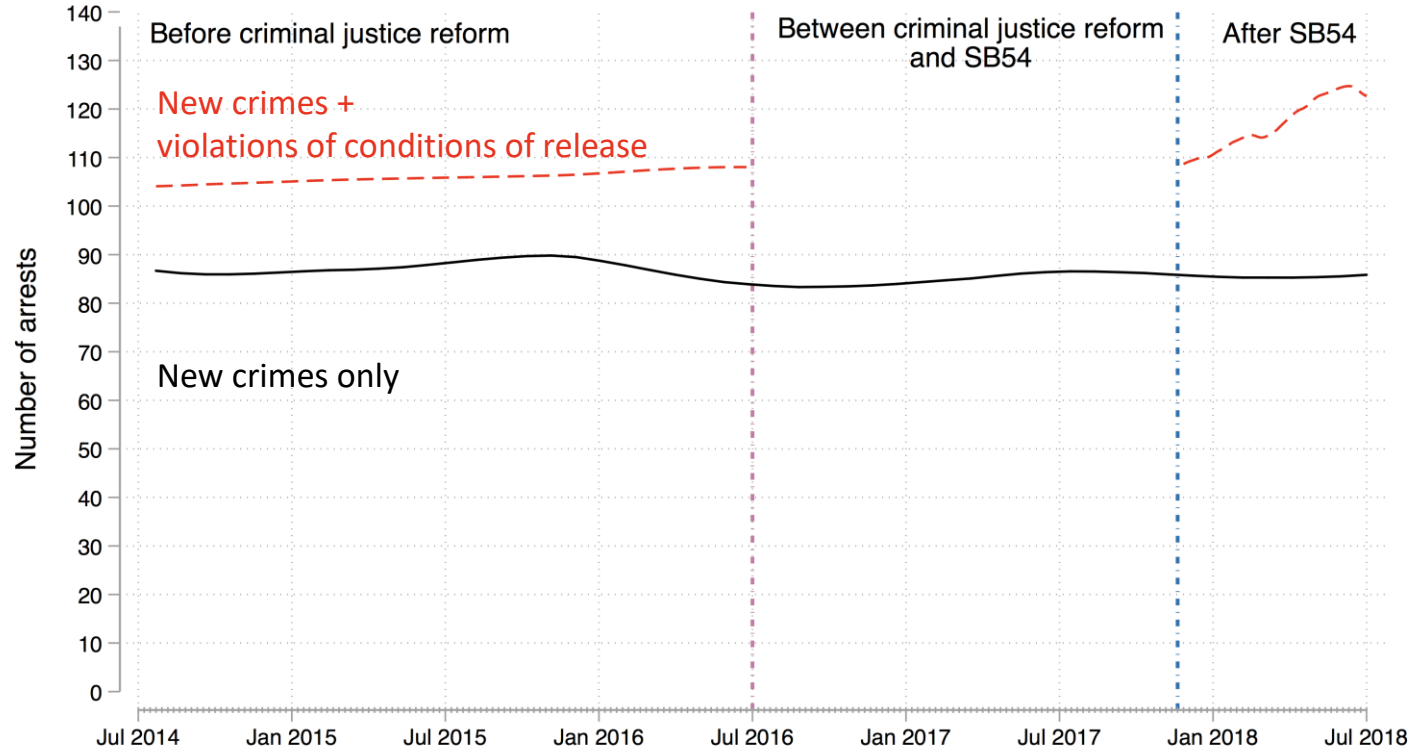


# Number of people rearrested within 30 days



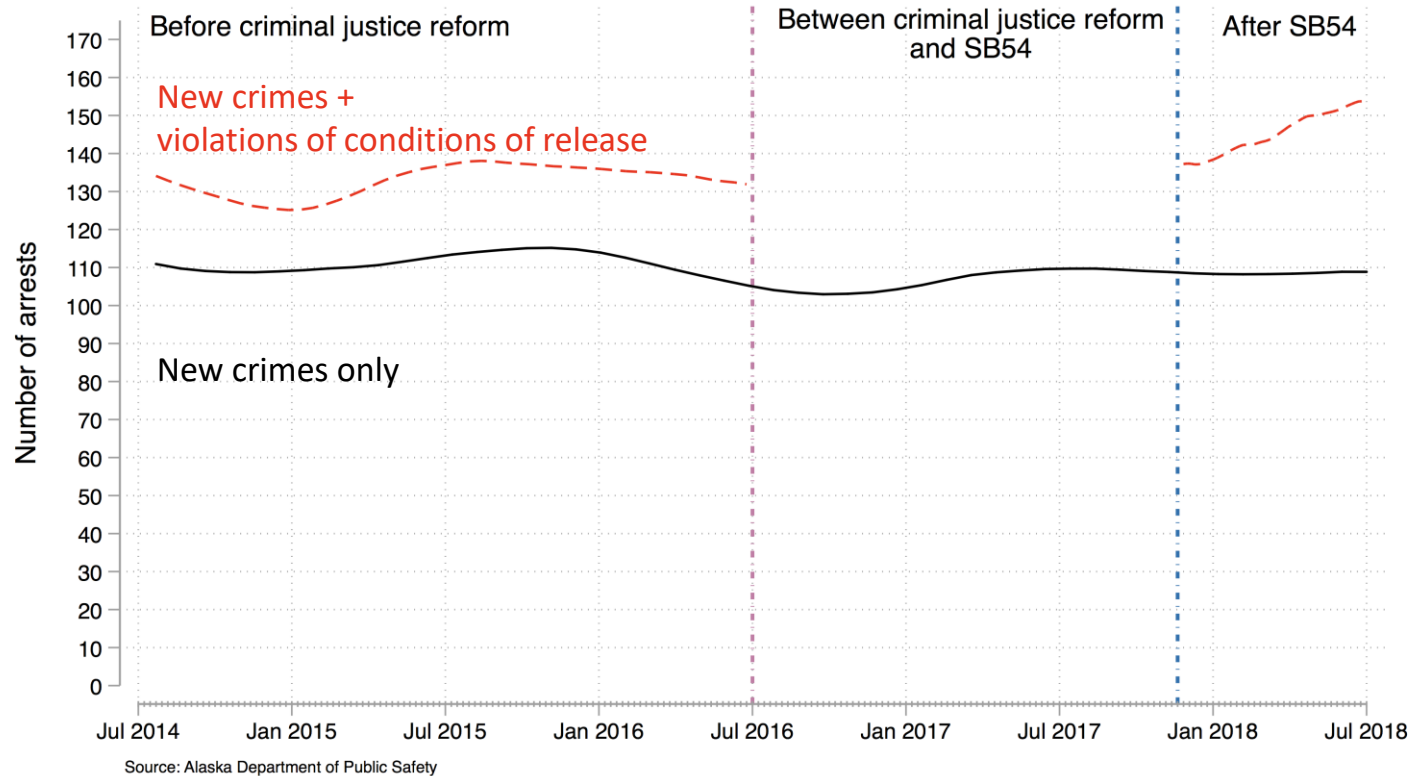


# Number of people rearrested within 60 days

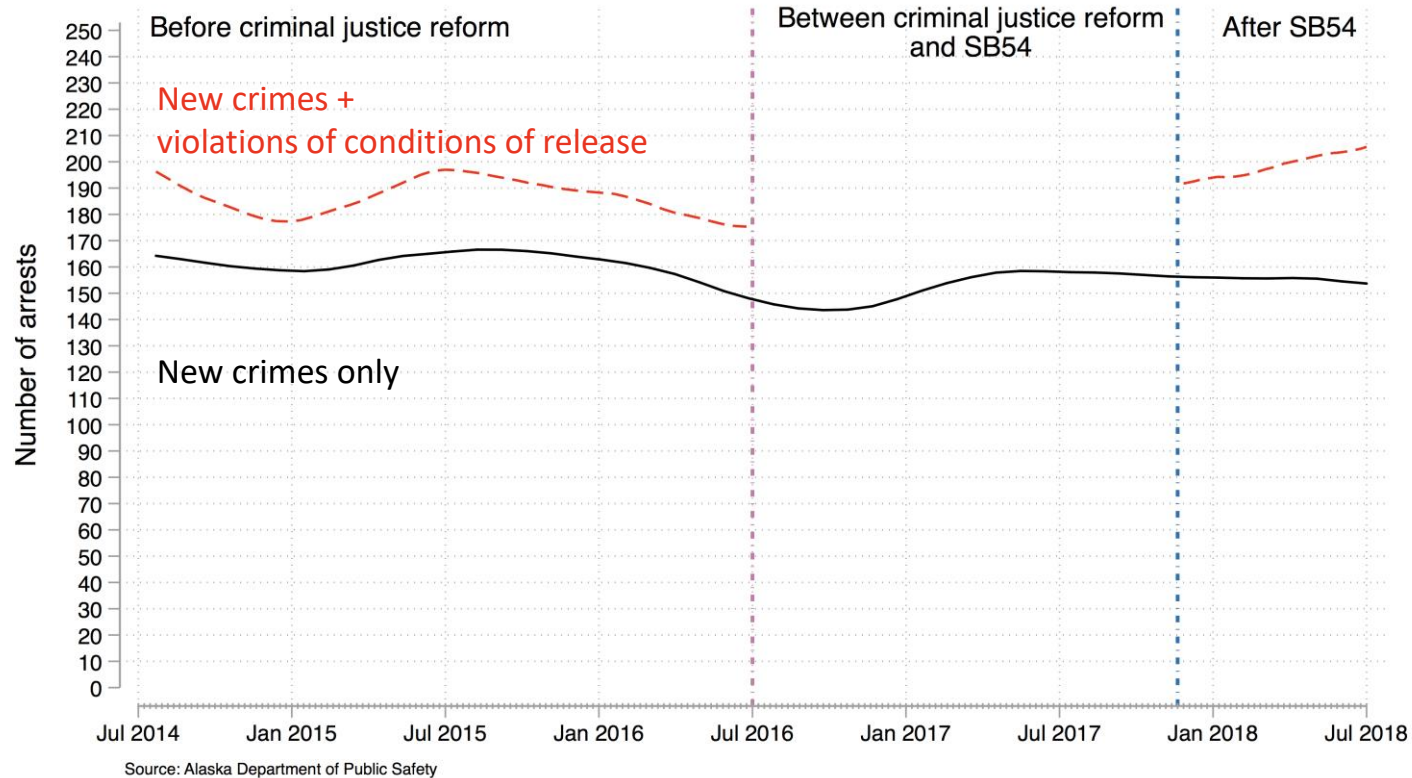


Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety

# Number of people rearrested within 90 days



# Number of people rearrested within 180 days





# Contact Information

Troy C. Payne, Ph.D.

Phone: 907-786-1816

Email: [tpayne9@alaska.edu](mailto:tpayne9@alaska.edu)