



Department of Law

FY23 Criminal Division

John Skidmore

Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Division

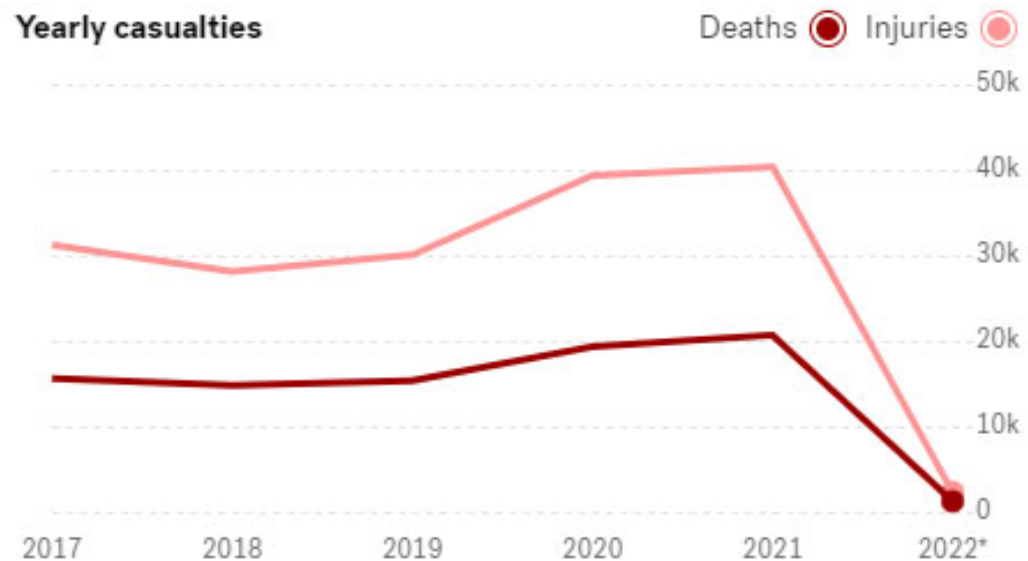


Criminal Division **Mission**

The mission of the Criminal Division is to **seek justice**,
promote public safety, and further public respect for
government through **prompt, effective, and compassionate**
prosecution of cases

National Data

87,784 deaths and 172,343 injuries
over the past 5 years

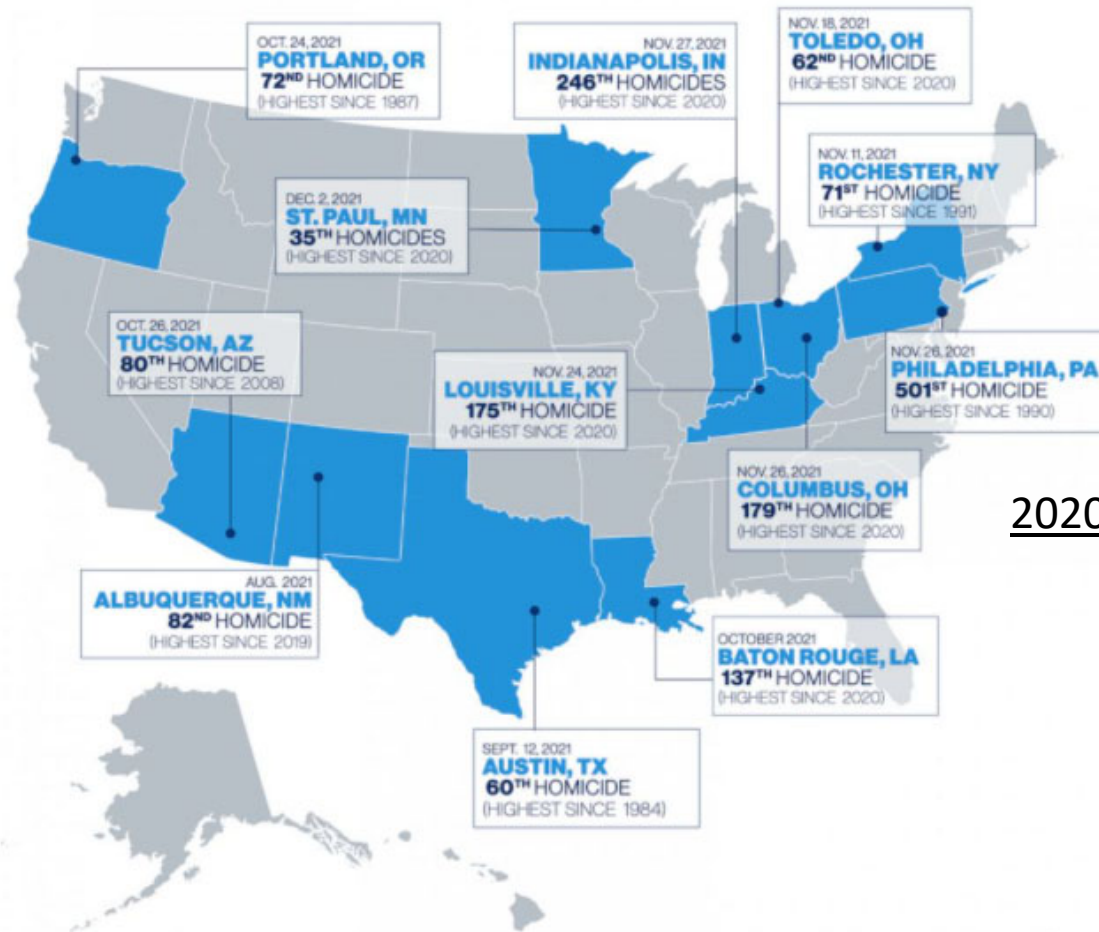


* Figure is current year-to-date. All data is lagged by three days. [Full methodology](#)

Source: Gun Violence Archive

“At least 12 major U.S. cities have broken annual homicide records in 2021 -- and there's still three weeks to go in the year.”

ABC News Dec. 8, 2021



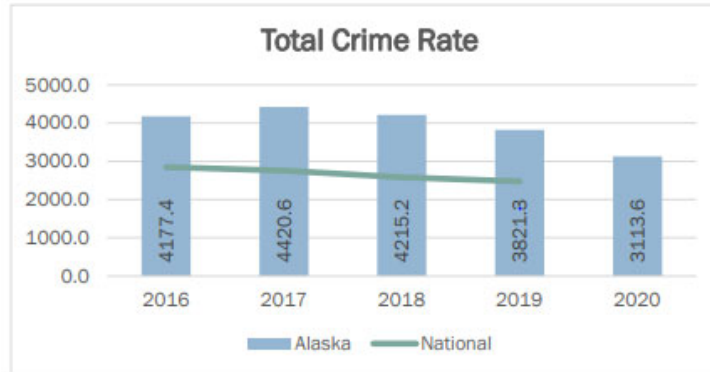
SOURCE: ACCORDING TO EACH STATE'S POLICE DEPARTMENT

abc NEWS

2020 previous highest record

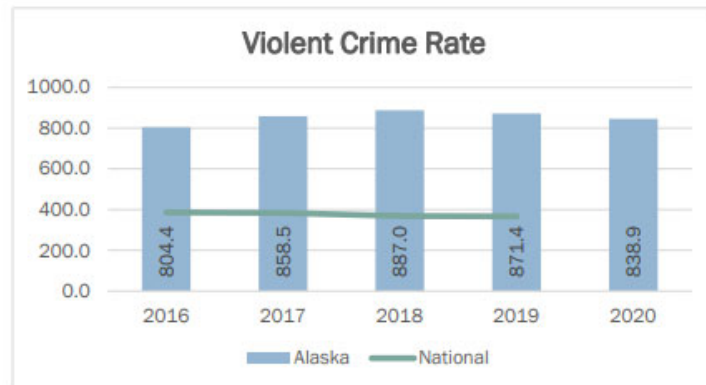
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Columbus, OH
- Louisville, KY
- St. Paul, MN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Toledo, OH

Alaska Data



18.5% overall crime rate

Lowest level in 40 years



3.7% violent crime rate

Lowest level in 4 years

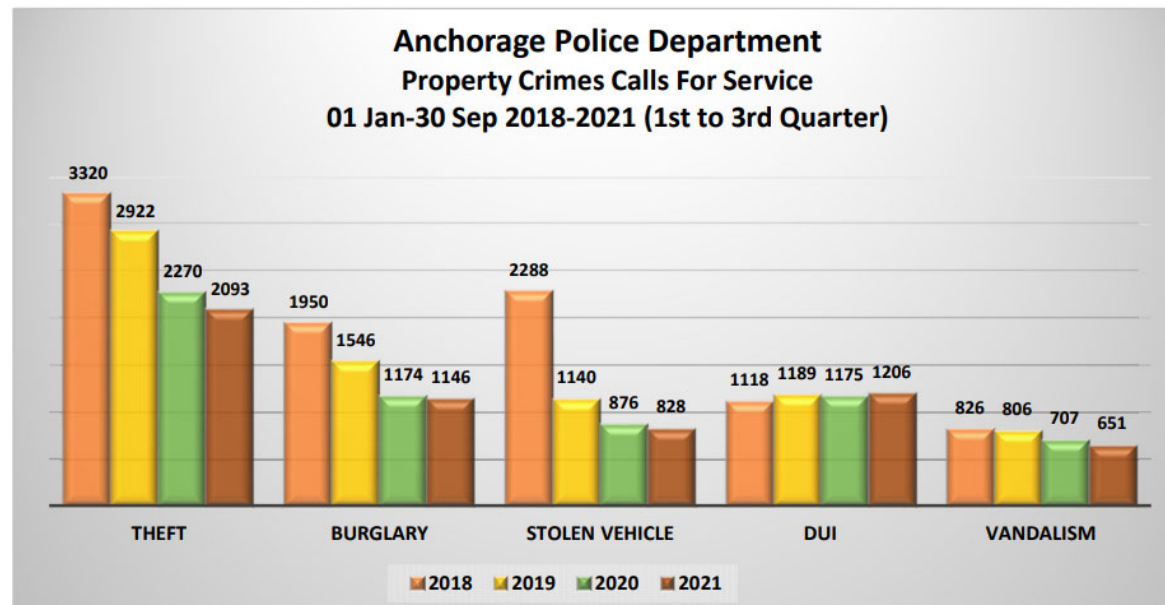
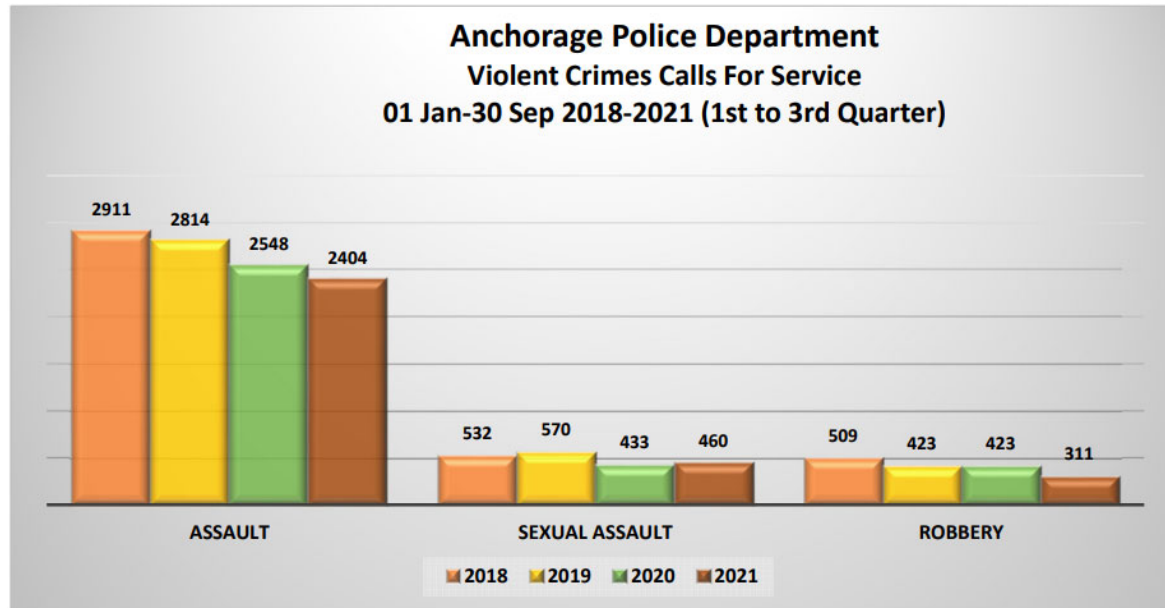


22.9% property crime rate

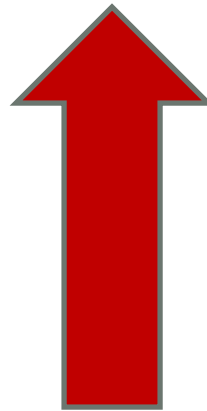
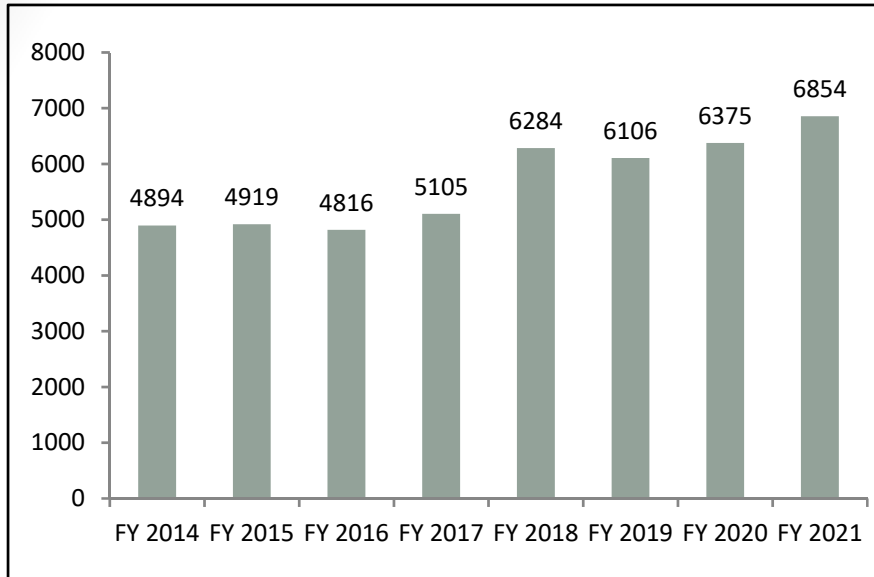
Lowest level in 40 years

Law Enforcement Data – Call for Service

2/4/2022

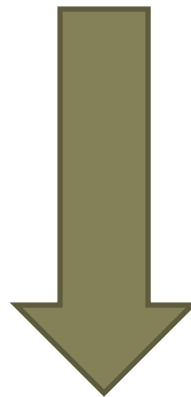
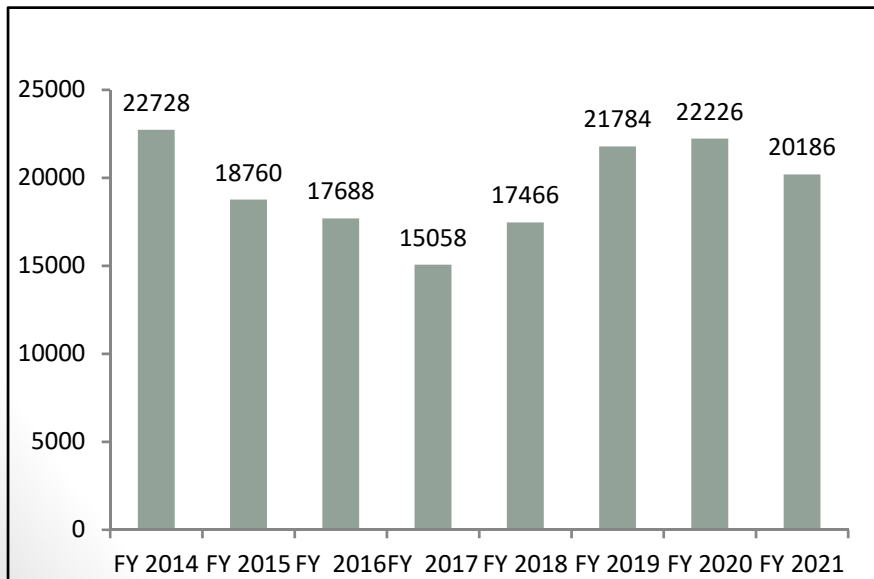


Criminal Prosecutions Filed



Felony Prosecutions

up 40% (1481)
from FY 2014



Misdemeanors Prosecutions

down 11% (2542)
from 2014

Suspension of Jury Trials

Alaska Court System
Count of Criminal Cases
 Pending on 9/11/2018, 9/11/2019, 9/11/2020, 09/11/2021
 Statewide

Case Type	9/11/2018	9/11/2019	9/11/2020	9/11/2021
Felony	4,514	5,145	6,486	7,328
Misdemeanor	7,872	9,593	12,564	12,756
Total	12,386	14,738	19,050	20,084

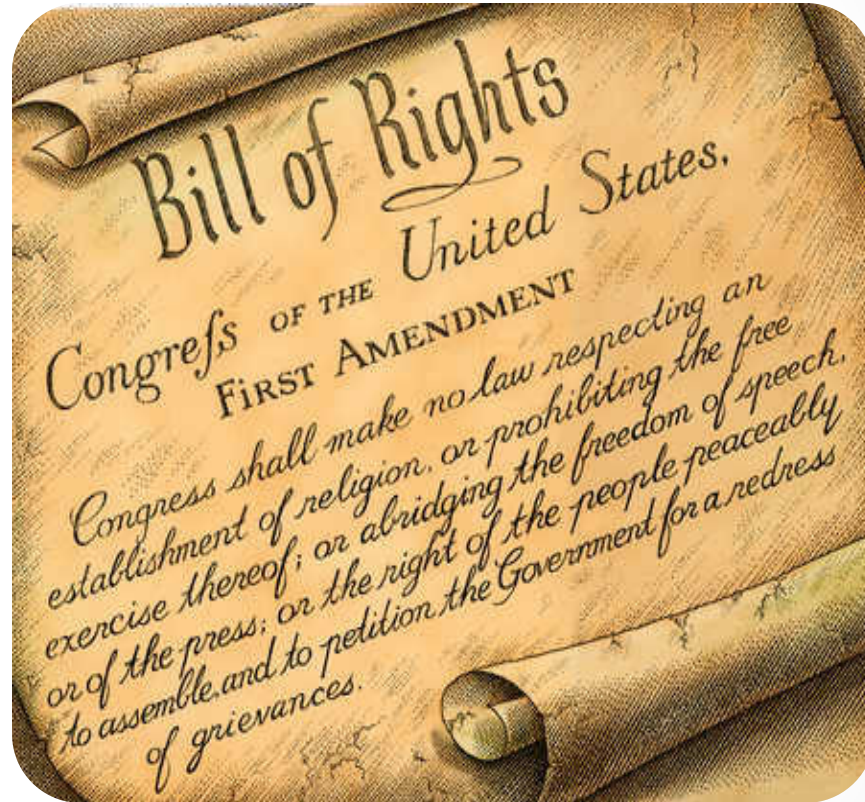
Current average caseload per trial prosecutor

226 cases

Not total handled in a year, but at this moment in time including Petitions to Revoke Probation, Post-Conviction Reliefs, warrants, and investigations.

Stages of a Criminal Prosecution

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



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

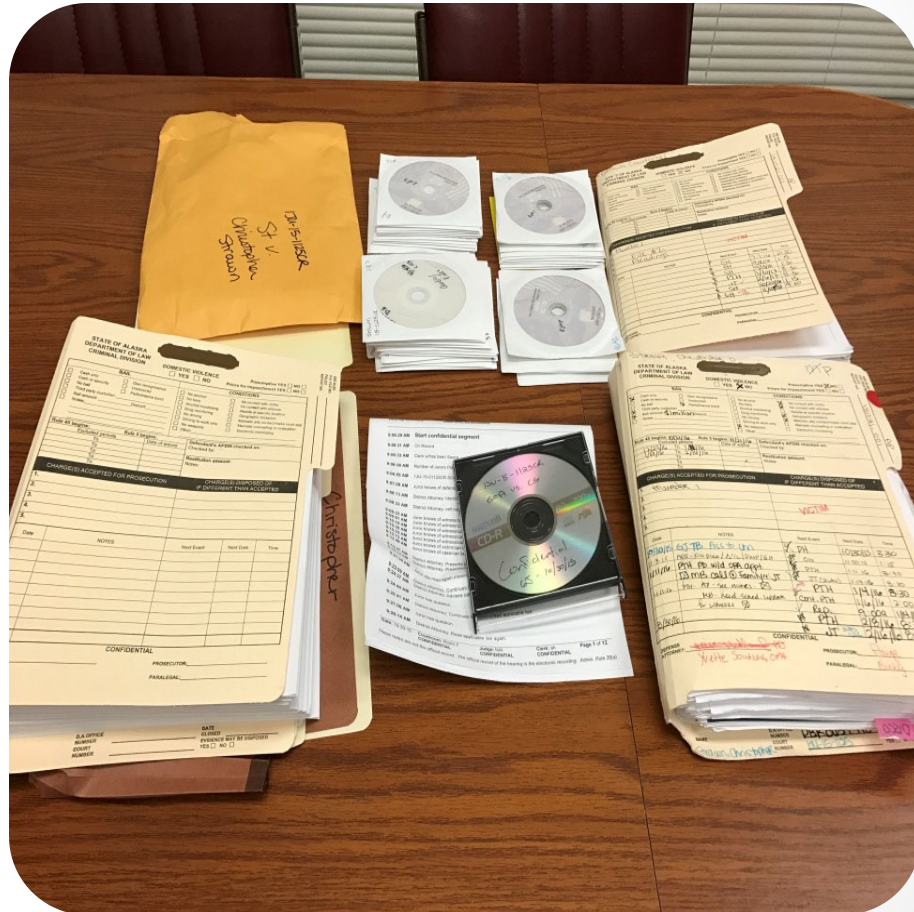
Referral / Screening

- Creation of the file
- Legal/factual analysis
- Victim contact
- Charged case- Accept/Dismiss
 - Clerical/administrative obligations
 - Grand Jury practice
- Uncharged case- Charge/Decline
 - Clerical/administrative tasks
 - Grand Jury practice



Pre-Trial Litigation

- Arraignment
- Bail Hearings
- Discovery
- Pretrial Motion Practice



Post Trial Litigation

- Sentencing
- Petition To Revoke Probation (PTRP)
- Appeal
- Post Conviction Relief (PCR)



Recruitment and Retention

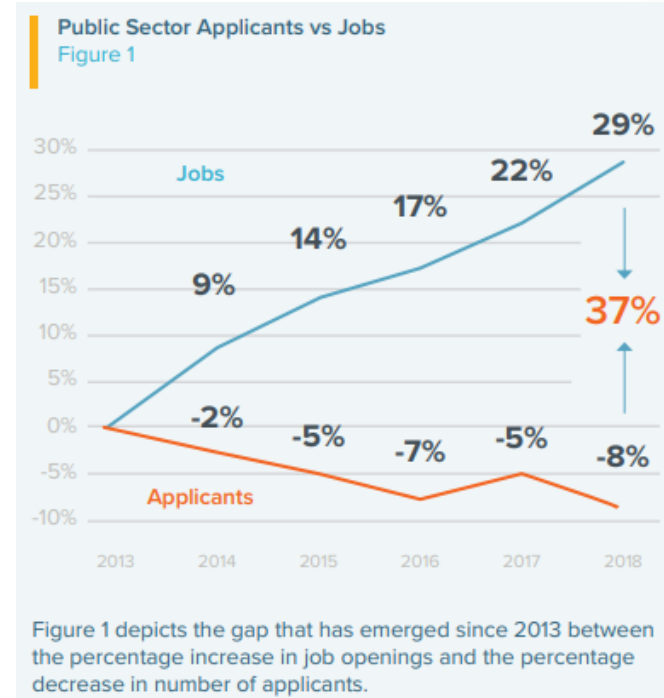
Attrition

- Prosecutors 2018 (new positions not included)
- 36.5% of prosecutor positions turned over (42 of 115)
- Prosecutors 2019 (new positions not included)
- 22.3% of prosecutor positions turned over (27 of 121)
- Prosecutors 2020 (new positions not included)
- 15.8% of prosecutor positions turned over (20 of 126)
- Prosecutors 2021 (new positions not included)
- 20.6% of prosecutor positions turned over (27 of 131)

Recruitment and Retention

Applicant Shortage

- 63 offers in last 2 years
 - 2 resigned with 3 months
 - 2 issues with admission to the Alaska Bar
 - 1 deceased
 - 7 refused (ranges 20-22)



4.5% lawyers in Alaska over last decade

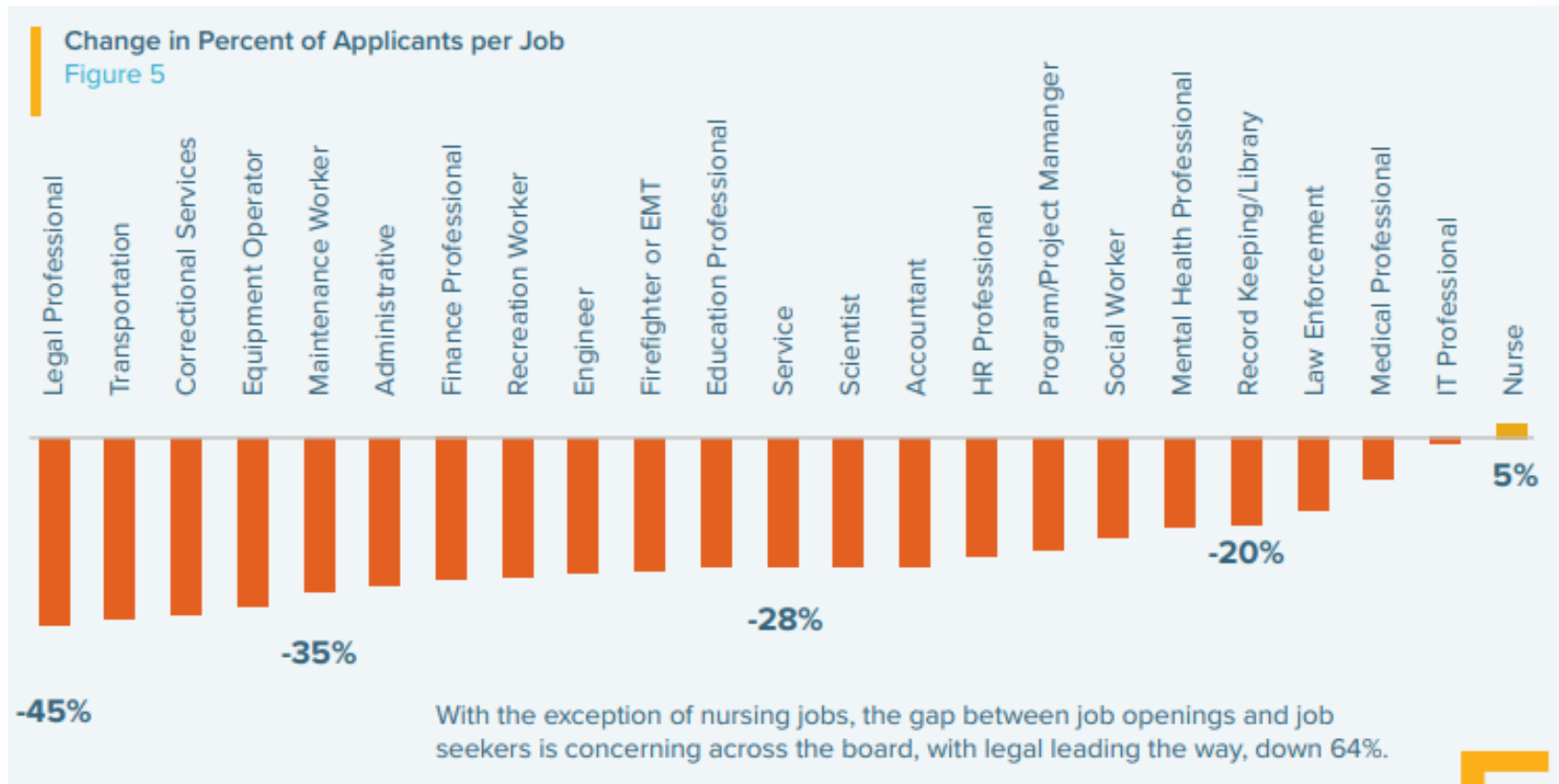
8.4% lawyers in U.S. over the last decade

*American Bar Association National Lawyer Population Survey 2021

Recruitment and Retention

Applicant Shortage

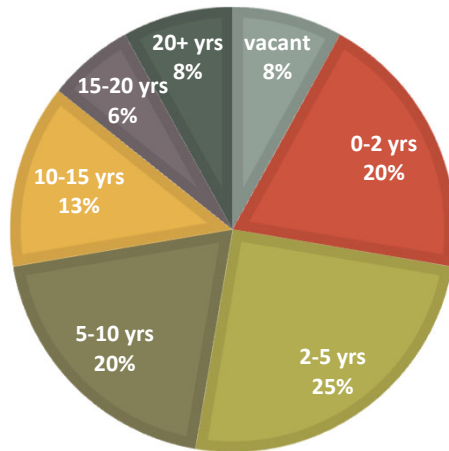
2/4/2022



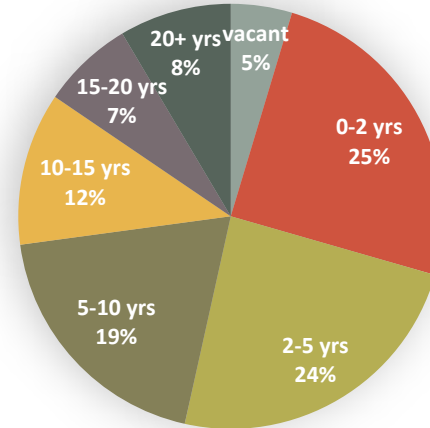
*Neogov.com Hiring Trends 2019

CRIMINAL DIVISION RETENTION PROSECUTOR EXPERIENCE

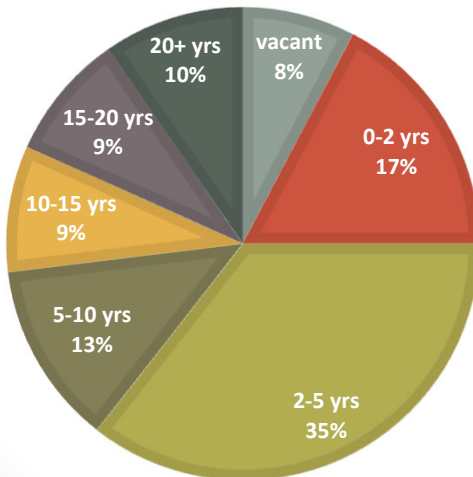
JAN 2007



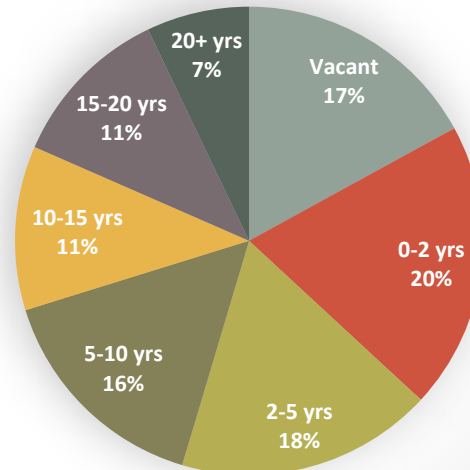
JAN 2011



JAN 2017



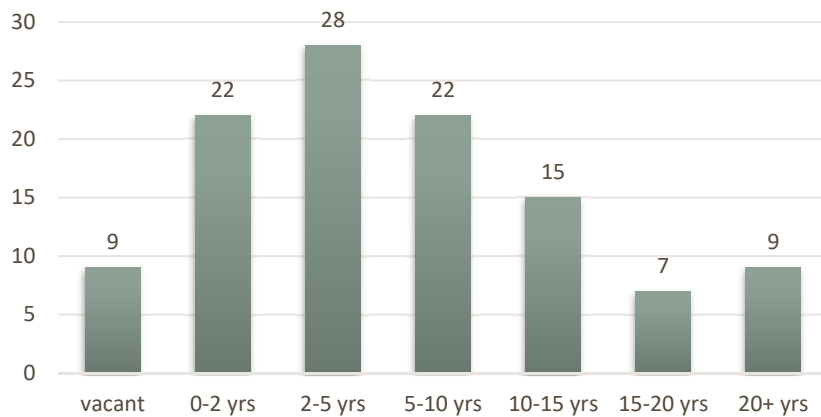
JAN 2022



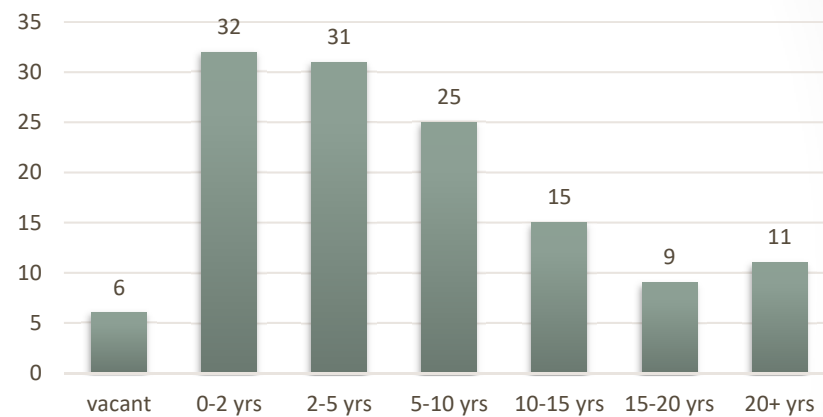
CRIMINAL DIVISION RETENTION PROSECUTOR EXPERIENCE

2/4/2022

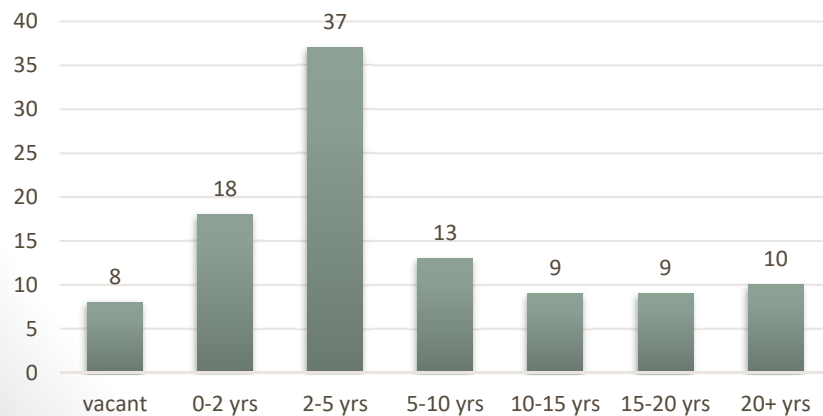
JAN 2007 (total of 112)



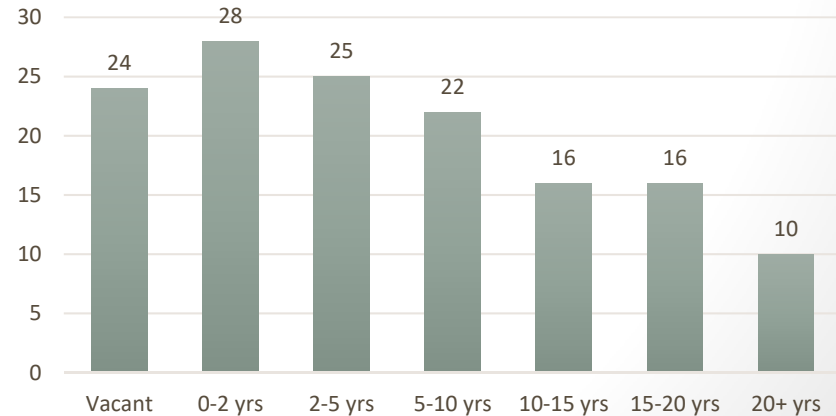
JAN 2011 (total of 129)



JAN 2017 (total of 114)



JAN 2022 (total of 141)



(17)

Survey Of Current Employees

- **149 employees surveyed – 100% response rate**
- **Recommend Law as place to work to friends and family?**
 - 44% not likely
 - 35% passive
 - 21% would recommend
- **Most important for staying in position (top 5 responses)**
 - Pay
 - Work / life balance (workload)
 - Benefits
 - Culture
 - Growth opportunities

NDAA Annual Salary Report

2021



“Founded in 1950, the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) is a national, non-partisan non-profit membership association that provides training, technical assistance and services to prosecutors around the country in support of the prosecution profession.”

- 15 communities: 5 Large Cities, 5 Mid-Sized Cities, 5 Small Cities
 - Anchorage was one of the five small cities
 - Current supply of talent - “significant shortage”
 - Recommended starting salary of \$87,564
- Recommended recruiting “boomerang” employees and recruiting from other metro areas

Recruitment and Retention

Department Response

The Department's most valuable resource is its people.

Recruitment, retention, and ongoing support of a skilled and qualified workforce is critical to sustaining successful legal outcomes for Alaska and protecting the public.

- Expanded recruitment posting locations
- Improve recruitment materials
- Media presence – traditional and social
- Increase training – staff and attorneys
- Evaluate pay, rural housing, workloads, more flexible work structure, promotional opportunities

Rural Unit (Federal Grant)

Recruitment

- September 2019 - \$1.4 million awarded over a 3 year period
 - Grant ends Oct. 2022 – Seeking to reapply
- 2 prosecutors and 1 support staff
- Acquired space, equipment, and hired one prosecutor and support staff by Jan 2020
- Additional 5 months to find a second prosecutor, in part because several of our prosecutors went to US Attorney's Office while additional prosecutors left for other reasons
- That prosecutor slated to start in September of 2020 backed out within a week of the start date (after holding the open for them for 3 months)
- Finally filled with an internal transfer (then recruited for that vacated position)

Rural Unit (Federal Grant)

Successes

- Provide coverage to rural/small offices
 - Sitka
 - Kodiak
 - Dillingham
 - Bethel
 - Kotzebue – both ADAs appointed to bench in 2019 within a month
 - 196 work days of coverage = 39.2 weeks = 9.8 months
 - Almost 3000 hours of work covered almost entirely by one prosecutor
- Trainings to Law Enforcement and Prosecutors
 - Onboarding or mentoring 4 prosecutors (Special Prosecutions, Kotzebue, and Bethel)
 - 15 formal trainings (Sitka, Bethel, Dillingham, Kotzebue)
 - Search and seizure, sex crime investigations, domestic violence (DV) crime investigations, trial prep, negotiations, motion work, and case management

Rural Unit (federal grant)

Successes

- Trials – 5
 - Felony sex crime in June of 2021 x2 (both guilty)
 - Third felony sex crime currently underway, but delays due to juror, defendant, and defense attorney all contracting COVID at different times
 - September of 2021
 - Unclassified felony in 2021 pled on eve of trial
- High Profile Cases as a Sample
 - 4 DV-murder cases and one with 10-year-old victim
 - 8 felony sex crimes
- 50 Unclassified Felonies Currently Assigned
- Cases Covered To Date
 - Felonies: 1005 Misdemeanors: 853
 - Violent Felonies: 574
 - Sex Felonies: 181
 - Convictions: 604

Questions?