Alaska UCR Trends
1979-2021

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We compile, analyze, and report on criminal justice topics to policymakers and practitioners to improve public safety, increase criminal justice system accountability, and reduce recidivism.

We specialize in quantitative data analysis, analysis of agency data, data visualization, integration of data, program evaluation, and statistical modeling.
Today’s presentation

Brief description of the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Visual presentation of FBI UCR data for Alaska compared to nationwide averages

Description of Alaska data over time
The FBI’s Uniform Crime Report (UCR) changed in 2021

• After years of notice, the FBI UCR program fully transitioned to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2021.
• This new data is much more detailed than prior summary UCR data.
• During the transition, national data may not be comparable to data reported by the Alaska Department of Public Safety.
• Alaska DPS has taken pains to continue to report summary data in a format similar to prior years.
• We can compare Alaska to itself over time but comparing 2021 Alaska numbers to nationwide is not advised.
UCR Offenses

• Because it’s meant as a national benchmark, the UCR has specific definitions of offenses that do not always align with state statutes.

• In the classic UCR data collection, agency staff classify offenses and report offense counts to DPS.

• In NIBRS, detailed incident-based data are transmitted through the agency’s information technology systems.
UCR Offenses

• Violent
  • Murder
  • Robbery
  • Rape
  • Aggravated Assault

• Property
  • Burglary
  • Motor Vehicle Theft
  • Larceny-Theft
  • Arson
All Offenses Known to Police (Violent and Property)
Rate per 100,000 Residents

Alaska and Nationwide

Property Offenses
Property Offenses Known to Police
Rate per 100,000 Residents

Alaska and Nationwide

Burglary Offenses Known to Police
Rate per 100,000 Residents

Alaska and Nationwide

Motor Vehicle Theft Offenses Known to Police
Rate per 100,000 Residents
Alaska and Nationwide

Violent offenses
Violent Offenses Known to Police Rate per 100,000 Residents

Alaska and Nationwide

Homicide Offenses Known to Police
Rate per 100,000 Residents
Alaska and Nationwide

Rape (Revised Definition) Offenses Known to Police Rate per 100,000 Residents

Alaska and Nationwide

Robbery Offenses Known to Police
Rate per 100,000 Residents

Alaska and Nationwide

Aggravated Assault Offenses Known to Police
Rate per 100,000 Residents
Alaska and Nationwide

Summary

• Crime has been generally trending down since the 1980’s.

• Property offenses are far more common than violent offenses, and property offenses therefore drive the all offenses trend.

• Separating all offenses known to police into specific offenses gives a more nuanced view into crime trends.
Summary — Property offenses

• After a slight increase in the mid-2010’s, burglary and larceny have been trending down since 2018.

• After a large increase in the mid-2010’s, motor vehicle theft has been trending down since 2018.

• In both trend and magnitude, Alaska is similar to the national average for property offenses.
Summary — Violent offenses

• Alaska has consistently had higher-than-average rates of violence since 1993.

• This difference is driven by rates of:
  • rape, at 3-4x the national average; and
  • aggravated assault, at 2x the national average
Questions?

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