

**SB**

**211**

**Representative Jay Ramras**  
**Chair, House Judiciary**  
**House Labor & Commerce**  
**House Oil & Gas**  
**House Military & Veteran**  
**Affairs**

1292 Sadler Way, Suite 324  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: (907) 452-1088  
Fax: (907) 452-1146

# Alaska State Legislature



While in Session  
**State Capitol, Room 118**  
**Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182**  
(907) 465- 3004  
Fax: 465-2070  
Toll Free: (877) 465-3004

**House District 10**

## House of Representatives

### Memo

To: Representative John Coghill  
Chair House Rules Committee

From: Representative Jay Ramras  
Chair House Judiciary Committee

Date: April 4, 2008

Re: Referral File SB211

---

Please accept this memo as the referral file for SB211. Attached are the following documents:

- Sponsor Statement
- HCSSB211(JUD) 25-LS1245\E
- HCR re: HCSSB211 Title Change
- Legal Memo re: Title Change
- Fiscal Notes
  - ADM - 0
  - ADM - 0
  - COR - 0
- Back-up
- Bill History
- HJUD Report

# Alaska State Legislature

*Interim: (May - Dec.)*  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-0144  
Fax: (907) 269-0148



*Session: (Jan. - May)*  
State Capitol, Suite 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3822  
Fax: (907) 465-3756  
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

[Senator Betty Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Betty_Davis@legis.state.ak.us)  
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

## Senator Betty Davis

**SB 211** "An Act relating to an aggravating factor at sentencing for crimes directed at a victim because of the victim's homelessness."

### Sponsor Statement

---

SB 211 allows the court to increase the active term of imprisonment for felonies up to the maximum term of imprisonment, even for a first offense, for factors in aggravation. Current sentencing provisions allow imposition of a sentence above the presumptive range set out in AS 12.55.125 based race, sex, color, creed, physical or mental disability, ancestry, or national origin as set out in AS 12.55.155(c)(22). SB 211 adds "homelessness" as an aggravating factor to this section.

The purpose of this statute is to deter and punish defendants motivated to harm homeless people who are particularly vulnerable and increasingly targets of crime. Violent crimes against the homeless increased 65% from 2005-2006, according to a 2006 report by the National Coalition for the Homeless. The 2006 numbers reflect a 170 percent increase since the organization's first study in 1999. This national trend is reflected in the more than 14,000 individuals who experience homelessness in Alaska each year, according to the 2005 Alaska Interagency Council on Homelessness report, "Keeping Alaskans Out of the Cold." This violence against the homeless has a direct impact on the victim, the victim's family, the community, and Alaska as a whole.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 3  
 Bill Version: SB 211  
 (S) Publish Date: 2/19/08

Identifier (file name): SB211-DOA-PDA-1-28-08 Dept. Affected: Administration  
 Title: "An Act relating to an aggravating factor at sentencing..." RDU: Legal and Advocacy Services  
 Component: Public Defender Agency  
 Sponsor: Senator Davis  
 Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component Number: 1631

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill adds as an aggravating factor for felony sentencing that the defendant knowingly directed their conduct at a victim because of that person's homelessness. This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the Agency.

Prepared by: Quinlan Steiner, Director  
 Division: Public Defender Agency  
 Approved by: Rachael Petro, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Administration

Phone 907-334-4414  
 Date/Time 1/28/08 10:30 AM  
 Date 1/28/2008

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

April 2, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Draft HCS SB 211(JUD) (Work Order No. 25-LS1245\E)

**TO:** Representative Jay Ramras

**FROM:** Gerald P. Luckhaupt *Jerry*  
Legislative Counsel

Enclosed is the draft HCS(JUD) you requested. The change to the aggravating factor that is being amended necessitates a change to the title of the bill. The title, as the bill passed the Senate, reflected the change the bill was making to AS 12.55.155(c)(22). That change related to an aggravating factor at sentencing for crimes directed at a victim **because** of the victim's homelessness. The change you have requested adds "homelessness" to AS 12.55.155(c)(5), which means the bill relates to an aggravating factor at sentencing where the defendant knew or should have known that the victim was particularly vulnerable or incapable of resistance due to homelessness. The Senate title no longer accurately reflects what the HCS(JUD) is actually doing because AS 12.55.155(c)(5) does not relate to directing conduct at a victim **because** of something but relates to the defendant's knowledge of a particular vulnerability of the victim.

GPLljw  
08-195.ljw

Enclosure

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 2  
 Bill Version: SB 211  
 (S) Publish Date: 2/19/08

Identifier (file name): SB211-DOA-OPA-1-28-08 Dept. Affected: Administration  
 Title: "An Act relating to an aggravating factor at sentencing for crimes directed at a victim because . . ." RDU: Legal and Advocacy Services  
 Component: Office of Public Advocacy  
 Sponsor: Senator Davis  
 Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component Number: 43

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill will allow the court to increase a defendant's sentence if the state proves that the defendant directed his criminal conduct at the victim due to the victim's homelessness. This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on OPA.

Prepared by: Rachel Leviitt, Deputy Director  
 Division: Office of Public Advocacy  
 Approved by: Rachael Petro, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Administration

Phone 907-269-3504  
 Date/Time 1/28/08, 11:00 a.m.  
 Date 1/28/2008

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: SB 211  
 (S) Publish Date: 2/19/08

Identifier (file name): SB211-DOC-OC-01-30-08 Dept. Affected: Corrections  
 Title: "Act relating to an aggravating factor at sentencing for crimes  
directed at a victim because of the victim's homelessness." RDU: Administration and Operations  
 Sponsor: Senator Davis Component: Office of the Commissioner  
 Requester: Senate Judiciary Component Number: 694

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this legislation should have no fiscal impact on the Department of Corrections.

Prepared by: Sharleen Griffin, Director Phone: (907) 465-3339  
 Division: Administrative Services Date/Time: 1/25/08 12:50 PM  
 Approved by: Dwayne Peeples, Deputy Commissioner Date: 1/25/2008  
Department of Corrections

State of Alaska > Governor > News > News Details

*The Office of the Governor*  
**SARAH PALIN**



## The Day of the Homeless Youth

WHEREAS, more than five percent of youths in America - over 1 million - will experience homelessness this year. It is hard enough to experience family homelessness but unaccompanied young people, ages 15 to 21 years old, are especially vulnerable to the danger of living on the streets and in the severity of our arctic climate.

WHEREAS, in Alaska, every hour a report of abuse or neglect is filed; every eight hours a baby is born to a teenage mother; every day five kids in Anchorage are reported as runaway.

WHEREAS, since opening in 1988, Covenant House Alaska has provided food, shelter, clothing, crisis counseling, and outreach to more than 17,000 of Alaska's homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. Last year, more than 2,600 youths sought refuge at Covenant House Alaska.

WHEREAS, the 2007 Covenant House International Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth will take place on Thursday, November 15 in 18 cities throughout North and Central America. The Covenant House Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth, now in its 17th year, coincides with National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 11-17).

WHEREAS, the event will bring together thousands of supporters who want to create greater awareness for the plight of homeless young people. Covenant House, which sponsors the annual event, is the largest privately funded agency in the Americas providing crucial services such as shelter, counseling, transitional living, health services, and educational/vocational training to homeless and runaway youths under 21 years of age.

WHEREAS, all donations, funding, or volunteer support generated by this Call to Action during the day of November 15, will benefit the estimated 5,000 homeless kids in Anchorage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sarah Palin, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2007, as:

### The Day of the Homeless Youth

in Alaska, and encourage the citizens and businesses of Alaska to join in supporting Covenant House Alaska's Candlelight Vigil from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Anchorage's Town Square.

Dated: October 22, 2007

Printed on 3/17/08 at 10:49:50 AM by 146.63.202.66

### ***Alaska's Homeless—Victims of Violence***

ANCHORAGE, Monday, May 22, 2000, Nearly one-fourth of Alaska's homeless reported being a victim of violence, according to the Winter 2000 Homeless Service Providers' Survey. While this figure is lower than the national rate of violence among the homeless (29%), it is much higher than the reported incidence of violent crime in Alaska (<1%).

"Our survey suggests that homeless in Alaska are twenty-five times more likely to be victims of a violent crime than a non-homeless person," according to James Wiedle, Research Analyst for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC). Both men and women reported victimization--33% of the victims were males.

The semi-annual survey, conducted by AHFC on January 26, 2000, also showed the percentage of homeless with disabilities or substance abuse problems reach its highest level since the survey began in 1993. Nearly 40 percent of the homeless disclosed having a disability, while 45 percent noted a substance-abuse problem.

"Homeless agencies link these increases to a healthy Alaska economy," states Wiedle. "Increases in employment and wage earnings have helped those families who in the past might have become homeless because of temporary financial hardships. However, a strong economy has less of an impact on those homeless with complex, multiple problems unlikely to be solved through employment and/or rental assistance alone. Consequently, these hard-to-serve clients are beginning to represent a larger-portion of most homeless agencies' caseloads," states Wiedle.

AHFC had a 79% response rate to the January 2000 survey, with the total reported cases increasing by 9% over the Winter 1999 survey to 1,375 cases, excluding duplicates. Of those, 907 were located in Anchorage. This compares to 1260 cases for Alaska and 810 for Anchorage in the Winter 1999 survey.

According to AHFC, the survey is not intended to represent a definitive count of the homeless population. Homeless cases reported can fluctuate based on a variety of factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, response rates of participating agencies, changes in the number of homeless seeking services, and changes in the capacity of agencies to provide the homeless with services.

AHFC is a self-supporting public corporation, which provides financing for multi-family complexes, congregate facilities, and single-family homes, with special loan programs for low- and moderate-income borrowers, veterans, and those living in rural areas of the state. It also provides energy and weatherization programs; low-income rental housing; and special programs for the homeless and those seeking to become self-sufficient. AHFC contributes more than \$100 million annually to Alaska's state revenues through cash transfers, capital projects and debt-service payments.



## Veterans fight vice, homelessness

by Sean Doogan

KTUU-TV

updated 11:11 a.m. HT, Wed., Jan. 30, 2008

Anchorage, Alaska - Military veterans make up almost one quarter of the United States' homeless population, according to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. That equals almost 200,000 former soldiers, Marines, airmen and seamen on the streets this Veteran's Day.

Some of them live right here in Alaska.

The stress of combat and grueling training, coupled with the military lifestyle, contribute to the high numbers, according to Veterans Administration officials.

Oliver Warren wanted to be a Marine.

"I finished high school and joined the Marine Corps and left town," Resident Manager of the Salvation Army Oliver Warren said.

But after serving at Cuba's Guantanamo Bay, chronic back pain changed his future forever. He was discharged from the military.

"I didn't talk to my family much. There were issues in the military that I didn't share so that just pushed me farther away," Warren said.

Warren says his marriage fell apart and he drifted into a cycle of homelessness and alcoholism.

"After years of being in pain, you just kind of break," he said.

Although veterans constitute only 11 percent of the entire U.S. population, they account for 25 percent of the nation's homeless.

They live on streets, in shelters, and in make-shift camps - even in Alaska - and even in winter.

A Downtown area that was once a fitness trail that many residents drive past daily is now a homeless encampment. It's also a place many of Alaska's veterans now call home.

"I woke up and there were a couple bottles of alcohol half-full and some other drug paraphernalia lying around," said Jamey Bachmann, a homeless veteran. "When I saw that I knew it was time to make a big change because I knew where I was headed."

Homeless vets say transitioning from military to civilian life is difficult. Family problems often arise during that transition, they say, and are compounded by unaddressed psychological issues that come from deployments and service.

These issues drive the escalating number of veterans on the streets.

Some Alaska vets admit, though, that military service itself can cause big problems later in life.

"When you are standing on the fence line in Cuba and you know that there's a guy that's across the fence line, and he's got a weapon and you've got a weapon and he could shoot you at any moment, there's mental things that you have to change in yourself in order to get through that year," Warren said.

Both Warren, and Bachmann are recovering. Warren now lives and works at the Salvation Army.

Bachmann has help at a local Veterans Administration facility.

Both men agree that the time to help veterans is while they are still protecting the home front and before they become homeless.

Approximately 192,000 U.S. troops are currently fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to U.S. Command Iraq.

URL: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21775285/>

---

MSN Privacy . Legal  
© 2008 MSNBC.com

HOME PAGE MY TIMES TODAY'S PAPER VIDEO MOST POPULAR TIMES TOPICS

Get Home Delivery Log In Register Now

The New York Times

U.S.

U.S. ALL NYT

Search

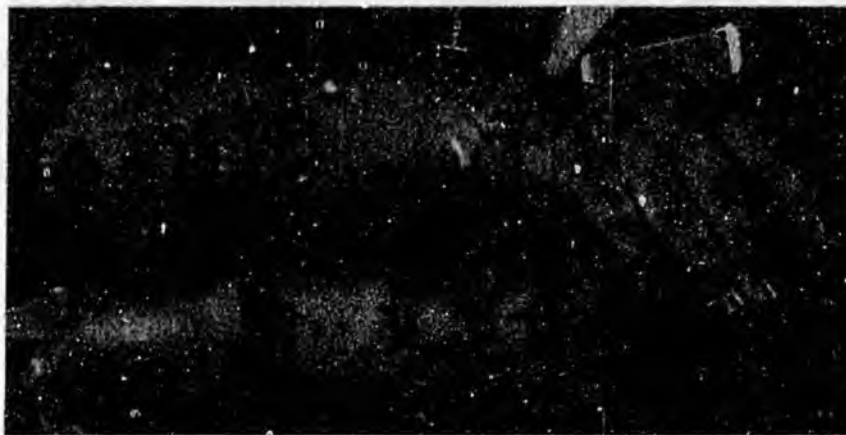
Ameriprise Financial

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE TRAVEL REAL ESTATE AUTOS
POLITICS WASHINGTON EDUCATION JOBS

Attacks on the Homeless Rise, With Youths Mostly to Blame

More Articles in US >

Travel Deals e-mail newsletter



Phil Sears for The New York Times

Warren Messner, 18, has an armful of tattoos early in his 22-year prison term for the beating death of a homeless man.

By AMY GREEN

Published February 15, 2008

CROSS CITY, Fla. — Warren Messner was 15 when he and some friends attacked a homeless man and left him for dead. Mr. Messner jumped on a log laid across the man's ribs. He does not know why. He was high, does not remember much and wants to forget the rest.

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL OR SAVE THIS

PRINT

REPRINTS

SHARE

ARTICLE TOOLS SPONSORED BY INSECT PROTECTORS 3/19



Phil Sears for The New York Times

"It was just a senseless crime," Mr. Messner said of the fatal beating of Michael Roberts. Advocates for the homeless have taken note of a rise in such attacks, particularly in Florida.

Today Mr. Messner is a baby-faced 18-year-old serving 22 years for second-degree murder. He used to like skipping school and listening to rap music with friends. He imagined he eventually would help his father install flooring. Now he talks to his parents nearly every night from the maximum-security Cross City Correctional Institution.

"It was just a senseless crime," he said, his eyes down, his shoulders slumped. "I wish it would have never happened.

It made no sense. It was stupidity."

Mr. Messner's story is not unusual. Nationwide, violence against the homeless is soaring, and overwhelmingly the attackers are teenagers and young adults. In Florida the problem is so severe that the National Coalition for the Homeless is setting up speakers bureaus to address a culture that sees attacking the homeless as a sport. It is the first time the organization has singled out a particular state.

Of more than 142 unprovoked attacks on homeless people in 2007, the most — at least 32 — were in Florida, according to a preliminary count by the coalition and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. Nationwide, such attacks rose about 65 percent

MOST POPULAR

E-MAILED BLOGGED SEARCHED

- 1. Maureen Dowd: Soft Shoe in Hard Times
2. Black Rabbi Reaches Out to Mainstream of His Faith
3. Argentine Nights
4. Gail Collins: George Speaks, Badly
5. Paul Krugman: The B Word
6. Roger Cohen: Obama's Brother in China
7. When Girls Will Be Boys
8. William Kristol: Generation Obama? Perhaps Not.
9. Chinook Salmon Vanish Without a Trace
10. Television: Eddie Izzard's Master Plan

Go to Complete List >



Search 3,000+ health guides

Also in Health: Strategies to lower cholesterol



Michael Roberts

from 2005.

In Fort Lauderdale a group of teenagers captured national attention in 2006 when a surveillance camera caught one laughing as he beat a homeless man with a baseball bat. The teenagers attacked three homeless men that night and face a murder trial in one man's death. A year later in Daytona Beach, a 17-year-old and two 10-year-olds attacked a homeless Army veteran. One 10-year-old dropped a cement block on the man's face, the police said.

"What could possibly be in the mind of a 10- or 12-year-old that would possess them to pick up a rock and pick up a brick and beat another human being in the head?" said Ron Book, chairman of the Miami-Dade County Homeless

Trust. "It defies any rational thought process, but it's also why we felt so strongly we had to do something."

The trust has teamed with the local schools to develop a curriculum for elementary, middle and high schools teaching respect for the homeless.

Advocates for the homeless blame a society that they say shuns the homeless through laws that criminalize sleeping in parks, camping and begging.

"I think it reflects a lack of respect for the homeless that has reached such extreme proportions that homeless people aren't viewed as people," said Maria Foscarinis, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

Troubled by news photos showing those two 10-year-olds in Daytona Beach in prison suits and handcuffs, the National Coalition for the Homeless joined with AmeriCorps Vista to open speakers bureaus last fall in Key West, Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Nine more are planned in Florida. The idea is to educate students using speakers who are homeless or once lived on the streets, and the organization wants to open more bureaus nationwide, said Michael Stoops, executive director of the coalition.

The speakers are like George Siletti, who grew up in foster care and lived as a homeless drifter on and off for 25 years, starting at the age of 16. Now 51, Mr. Siletti said he took medication for schizophrenia and depression and lived in subsidized housing in Washington, addressing schools, churches and organizations about homelessness.

"I've had bottles thrown at me. I've had people spit on me, cursed me out for no reason," said Mr. Siletti, who was attacked by teenagers in Fort Lauderdale as he and others slept under a bridge in the 1980s. "People seem to pick on the most vulnerable because they really think that they won't do nothing."

In Miami, students are learning from a weeklong curriculum and a DVD teaching that families are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. The curriculum requires younger students to make posters and older students to write essays about what they learned.

Legislation adding the homeless to hate-crime laws has been introduced in Alaska, California, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, Ohio and Texas. Bills are also pending in Congress.

Mr. Messner, who is an imposing six feet, 240 pounds in his blue prison suit, talks about his crime with quiet resignation.

He and his friends were looking for a place to smoke marijuana near his home in the

What causes asthma?  
How to know if you have osteoporosis

ADVERTISEMENTS

All the news that's fit to personalize.

In a world of second opinions, get the facts first.

Know what's going on in your kids world online and off.

Which movies made the 1,000 Best list?

All the news that's fit to debate.

[nytimes.com/opinion](http://nytimes.com/opinion)

All the news that's fit to debate.

Daytona Beach area when they stumbled on Michael Roberts. Mr. Messner joined the attack and remembers hearing Mr. Roberts groan when he jumped on the log, but then Mr. Messner tried to pull his friends away, he said.

"He was making noises," Mr. Messner said. "He asked one time why we was doing it to him. Why we was messing with him."

A few days later, Mr. Roberts's body was found. Mr. Messner agreed to a plea bargain and drew the lightest sentence of the four convicted in the attack.

He does not like prison much. He keeps busy doing yard work, exercising and reading. He likes James Patterson novels and murder mysteries. He has dropped at least 40 pounds and developed a penchant for prison tattoos. One arm reads "thug" while the other reads "life." His mother's name, Lori, is on one hand. On one arm is the same cross he wears around his neck, surrounded by the words "hope," "faith" and "love."

"I'm not a killer. I know that," Mr. Messner said. "A lot of people, they see this story and call us killers. I'm not a killer. I regret what I did. I wish I could take it back."

[More Articles in US »](#)

Need to know more? 50% off home delivery of The Times.

**Tips**

To find reference information about the words used in this article, double-click on any word, phrase or name. A new window will open with a dictionary definition or encyclopedia entry.

**Past Coverage**

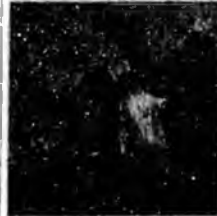
- [Manhattan: Homeless Man Set On Fire Dies \(October 15, 2007\)](#)
- [More Details Are Provided In an Immigrant's Death \(October 13, 2007\)](#)
- [Bronx: Arrest In Case of Homeless Man Set On Fire \(October 8, 2007\)](#)
- [Woman and Fetus Are Killed in Stabbing \(September 9, 2007\)](#)

**Related Searches**

- [Homeless Persons](#) [Add Alert](#)
- [Murders and Attempted Murders](#) [Add Alert](#)
- [Children and Youth](#) [Add Alert](#)
- [National Coalition for the Homeless](#) [Add Alert](#)

**INSIDE NYTIMES.COM**

**WORLD »**



**Camels Go Easily Through Admirers' Eyes**

**OPINION »**



**Letters: The Untalented Concerto**

**POLITICS »**



**As Campaign Drags On, Aides Put Lives on Hold**

**OPINION »**

**Stanley Fish: Superdelegates**

The author says that for better or worse, superdelegates are about politics, not principles.

**THEATER »**



**'Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?'**

**U.S. »**



**Chinook Salmon Vanish Without a Trace**

BOSS Community



Organizing Team

*Street Spirit* September 2005

## Alarming Rise in Hate Crimes Against Homeless People in United States

by Michael Stoops, National Coalition for the Homeless

Over the past six years, advocates and homeless shelter workers from around the country have seen an alarming increase in reports of homeless men, women and even children being killed, beaten and harassed. The violent attacks and murders are often directed against people precisely because they are homeless, and thus constitute hate crimes.

On May 28, 2005, Michael Roberts, age 53, was beaten to death with sticks and logs by a group of teenagers who admitted to beating the homeless man just for fun. The autopsy report indicates that Roberts died of blunt-force trauma to the head and body, and suffered a fractured skull, broken ribs, badly injured legs and defensive wounds on his hands. The teens returned several times to make sure the job was done.

In September of 2004, three Milwaukee teens murdered a homeless man at his forest campsite. The teens hit 49-year-old Rex Baum with rocks, a flashlight, a bat and a pipe, then smeared feces on his face. They continued beating Baum until they thought he was dead. One of the boys "hit the victim one last time to see if he would make a sound like In Grand Theft Auto," then cut him twice with a knife to make sure he was dead. They covered his body with plastic and rocks, hoping animals would eat him before the body was discovered.

In August 2004, Curtis Gordon Adams, 33, beat and stabbed a disabled homeless man to death, and then licked the blood from his fingers on a Denver sidewalk.

In June 2004, two New York City teens kicked, punched, and finally bludgeoned 51-year-old William Pearson to death in a churchyard. Pearson crawled to the church steps before finally dying of a fractured skull. "His head was a bloody mess," one police officer noted.



Sadly, these gruesome accounts are only a few of many recent assaults and murders which demonstrate the hatred, prejudice and senseless violence faced by many of our country's homeless citizens.

Over the six-year period from 1999-2004, the National Coalition for the Homeless documented 156 murders and 386 violent acts against homeless individuals. The violent attacks occurred in 140 cities in 39 states in the United States. The homeless victims ranged in age from a four-month-old infant to a 74-year-old man.

This year's annual report on hate crimes by the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) is published in full in this issue of *Street Spirit*. [See "Hate, Violence and Death on Main Street USA."] The NCH report carefully documents 105 hate crimes and violent acts that occurred in 2004, collected from newspapers and reports across the country. This report shows the geographical extent and the sheer savagery of this wave of hate crimes against the homeless.

Yet many of these violent acts go unpublicized or unreported, making it difficult to assess the true magnitude of the problem. Often, homeless people do not report crimes committed against them because of mental health issues, substance abuse, fear of retaliation, or frustration with the police. Some cases were also omitted because the victims were found beaten to death, but no suspects could be identified. In addition, this report does not take into account the large number of sexual assaults, especially against homeless women.

### Link between hate crimes and laws that criminalize homelessness

There is a documented relationship between increased police actions that criminalize homelessness and the rising number of hate crimes and violent acts against homeless people.

It appears that violent citizens become emboldened to attack homeless people because their city has responded negatively to the homeless population. These violent attacks occur especially where the city has portrayed homeless people as the cause of unemployment, decreasing property values, vacant storefronts or other problems.

Advocates from around the country have cited the relationship between municipal laws to banish or restrict visibility of homeless people and hate crimes and violence. This overly broad enforcement of the laws passed by city governments specifically targeting homeless people are documented in NCH's *Illegal to Be Homeless: The Criminalization of Homelessness in the U.S.*

This survey of cities and states that violate the civil rights of homeless people concluded that California is the "meanest" state in the nation for poor and homeless people, followed by Florida, Hawaii and Texas. The NCH study also ranked four California cities as among the top 20 "meanest cities" in the nation for violating the human rights of homeless people: Berkeley, San Francisco, Fresno and Los Angeles. [See "California Named as Meanest State in the Nation," *Street Spirit*, December 2004.]

**What is a hate crime?**

The term "hate crime" generally conjures up images of cross burnings and lynchings, swastikas on Jewish synagogues, and horrific murders of gays and lesbians. Hate crimes are commonly called bias-motivated crimes, referring to the prejudice of the perpetrator against the victim's real or perceived grouping or circumstance. Most hate crimes are committed not by organized hate groups, but by individual citizens who harbor a strong resentment against a certain group of people.

In 1968, the U.S. Congress defined a hate crime, under federal law, as a crime in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim because of their race, color or national origin.

In recent years, federal bias crime laws have been enacted to provide expanded coverage. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 mandates the Justice Department to collect data from law enforcement agencies about "crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based upon race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity."

The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, enacted in 1994, defines a hate crime as a crime in which the victim is intentionally chosen "because of the actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation of any person." This measure only applies to, among other things, attacks and vandalism that occur in national parks and on federal property.

The most recent legislation, Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005, was introduced in the U.S. House (H.R. 2662) and U.S. Senate (S. 1145) in the 109th Congress. This legislation "authorizes the Attorney General to provide technical, forensic, prosecutorial, or other assistance in the criminal investigation or prosecution of any crime that: (1) constitutes a crime of violence under Federal law or a felony under State or Indian tribal law; and (2) is motivated by prejudice based on the race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability of the victim or is a violation of the hate crimes laws of the State or tribe."

**Hate Crime laws do not protect homeless people**

There is currently no federal criminal prohibition against violent crimes directed at individuals because of their housing status, poverty or homelessness. The NCH aims to include housing status in the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 2662 and S. 1445) and in future pieces of legislation.

H.R. 2662 and S. 1445 have broad bipartisan support, but through the inclusion of housing status, hate crimes and violent acts toward people experiencing homelessness will be more appropriately handled and prosecuted. Also, if victims know that a system is in place to prosecute such crimes, they are more likely to come forward to report these crimes.

People who are forced to live and sleep on the streets for lack of an appropriate alternative are in an extremely vulnerable situation, and it is unacceptable that hate crime prevention laws do not protect them.

**Recommendations for Action on Hate Crimes**

The National Coalition for the Homeless recommends that the following actions be taken to address the rising number of hate crimes committed against homeless people.

1. A public statement by the U.S. Justice Department acknowledging that hate crimes and violence against people experiencing homelessness is a serious national trend.
2. The Justice Department would issue guidelines for local police on how to investigate and work with people experiencing homelessness based on recommendations from the National Coalition for the Homeless. The Justice Department would recommend improvements to state law on how to better protect against violence directed against people experiencing homelessness, including tougher penalties.
3. A database to be maintained by the U.S. Department of Justice, in cooperation with the National Coalition for the Homeless, to track hate crimes and/or violence against people experiencing homelessness.
4. Inclusion of housing status in the pending state and federal hate crimes legislation. The pending federal bill is the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 2662 in the House; S. 1145 in the U.S. Senate -- 109th Congress).
5. Sensitivity/Awareness training at police academies and departments nationwide for trainees and police officers on how to deal effectively and humanely with people experiencing homelessness in their communities.
6. A U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) study into the nature and scope of hate crimes and/or violent acts and crimes that occur against people experiencing homelessness. This proposed study will address the following:
  - a. Causes of hate crimes/violence.
  - b. Circumstances that contribute to or were responsible for the perpetrators' behavior.
  - c. Beliefs held by the perpetrators of these crimes and how their beliefs have changed since conviction.
  - d. Thoughts and advice from the perpetrators to others who are considering hate crimes/violence against the homeless population.
  - e. Community education, prevention and law enforcement strategies.

For more information about hate crimes against homeless people, contact:

Michael Stoops  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
2201 P St. NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1r 33

Phone: (202) 462-482; ext. 19  
Email: [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org)  
Web: [www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes/signon.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes/signon.html)

---

STREET SPIRIT  
1515 Webster St. #303  
Oakland, CA 94612 Phone: (510) 238-8080, ext. 303  
email: [spirit@afec.org](mailto:spirit@afec.org)

© 2002-2006 STREET SPIRIT. All rights reserved. - Published by American Friends Service Committee

 [back](#)  [top](#)

2065 Kittredge Street, Suite E Berkeley, CA 94704 | phone: (510) 649-1930 | fax: (510) 649-0627 | [staff@createpeaceathome.org](mailto:staff@createpeaceathome.org)

**AHFC/HUD homelessness definition:**

For the purposes of this section, the definition of "homeless" includes:

- Any individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or has a primary nighttime residence in any facility not designed for permanent living;
- Families, individuals, and youth residing in emergency shelter or transitional housing;
- Persons in drug and alcohol treatment who were homeless before they entered treatment or will be homeless after they leave treatment;
- Family members wait-listed for public housing that are currently residing in substandard or overcrowded housing;
- An individual in any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution; and/or

An individual who is being discharged within a week from an institution, such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or jail/prison, in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

**National Council on Homeless Model Legislation definition:**

For the purposes of this section, the definition of "homeless person" refers to an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or has a primary nighttime residence that is:

- A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including motels, hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing; or
- Housing of other persons in which the individual is temporarily staying due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.

# Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA:

A Report on Hate Crimes And Violence Against  
People Experiencing Homelessness, 2006

*Beaten to death with a claw hammer  
Brutally beaten with baseball bats  
and sticks*

*"It's just totally senseless beating."*

*"...I could feel my skin burning."*

*"There was so much blood.  
I thought I was going to die."*

*Bludgeoned with a shovel*

*Act of Absolute Hatred*

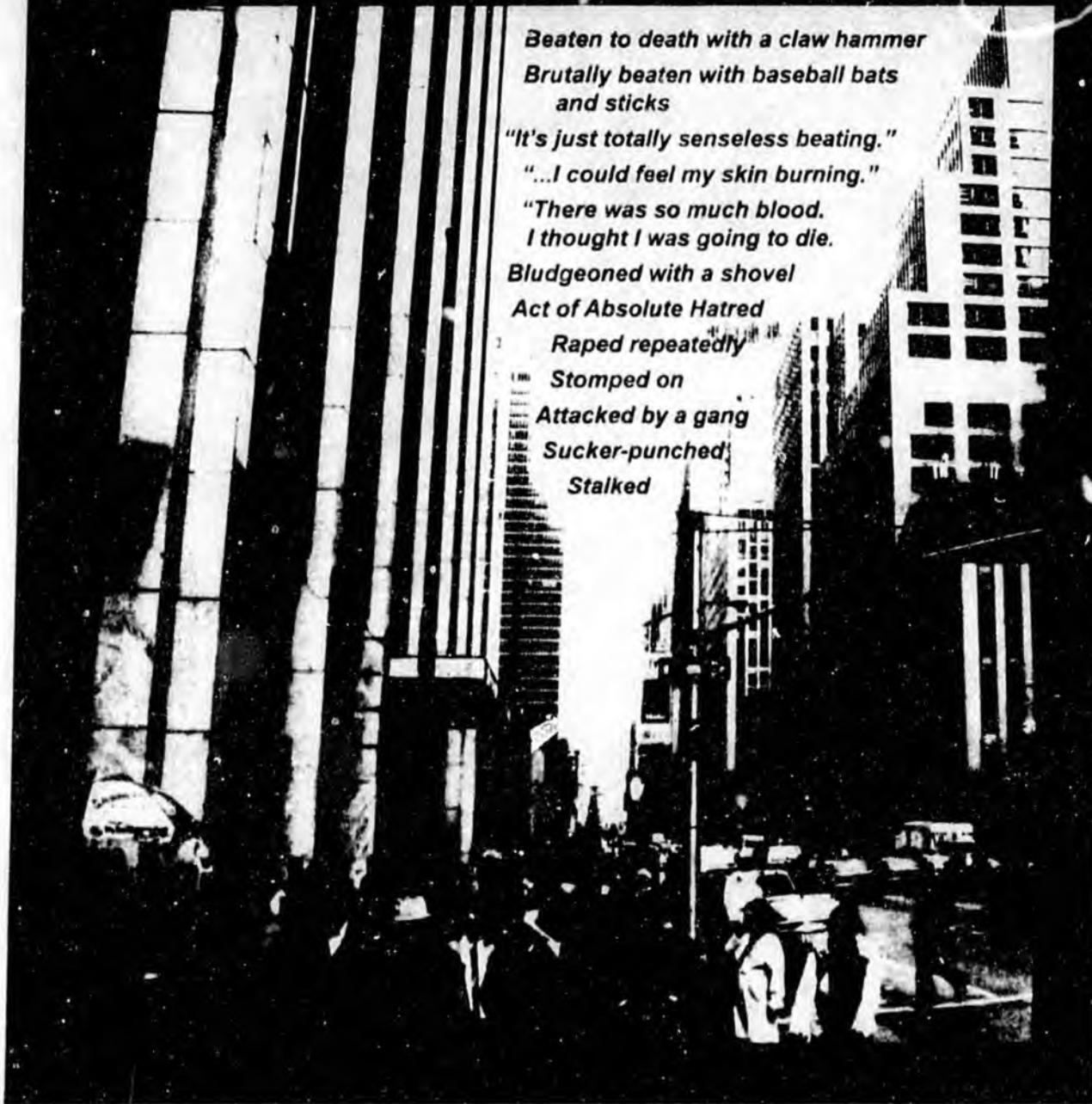
*Raped repeatedly*

*Stomped on*

*Attacked by a gang*

*Sucker-punched*

*Stalked*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements:	3
Introduction:	5
<b>2006 ANNUAL REPORT</b>	
Title Page:	10
Dedication:	11
Executive Summary:	12
Summary of Hate Crimes/Violence Data in 2006:	15
Summary of Teen Involvement in Hate Crimes/ Violent Acts:	17
Summary of Victims Who Were Middle-Aged:	18
Cities/Counties where Hate Crimes/Violence Occurred in 2006:	19
Map of Cities/Counties where Hate Crimes/Violence Occurred in 2006:	21
States where Hate Crimes/Violence Occurred in 2006:	22
Map of States where Hate Crimes/Violence Occurred in 2006:	24
Historical Summary of Hate Crimes/Violence Data for 1999-2006:	25
Comparison of Hate Crime Homicides vs. Lethal Attacks on Homeless Individuals:	26
Hate Crimes Survey Summary and Results:	27
Recommendations for Action:	35
Model State Legislation:	37
Model Legislative/Organizing/Public Education Efforts in California and Maine:	42
Listing of Incidents by City	46
Case Descriptions Involving Death:	47
Case Descriptions Involving Rape:	54
Case Descriptions Involving Violent Acts Setting on Fire:	56
Case Descriptions Involving Violent Acts Beatings:	58

# HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA

February 2007

Case Descriptions Involving Police Brutality:	75
Case Descriptions Involving Threats/Intimidations:	76
The Link between Violence against Homeless People and the Criminalization of Homelessness:	77
Video Exploitation of Homeless People:	78
National Media Coverage:	83
Appendix A: Sources:	90
Appendix B: Mr. Gast Lives Everywhere: A Homeless Folk Tale:	101
Appendix C: NCH Hate Crimes Public Service Ad:	104

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1982, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) was founded with one mission in mind: to end homelessness. NCH consists of a national network of currently and formerly homeless people, advocates, activists, and service providers who have worked tirelessly to fulfill this mission. Our vision of a society without homelessness has been the ultimate goal of attempts to pass comprehensive legislation, to satisfy the immediate needs of the homeless population and to raise awareness through public education.

Through the *Hate, Violence and Death on Main Street USA* report, the National Coalition for the Homeless brings attention to an issue that has been ignored in both government policy and the opinions and thoughts of the everyday American. We hope this report will educate the public to the inhumanities facing America's homeless population and ultimately end violence against people experiencing homelessness. In fact, our report has played a role in getting laws passed in Maine and California as well as influencing pending legislation in California, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada and Texas.

The Maine law gave judges the discretion of adding a few more years onto a person's sentence, and the California law mandated police officers to be trained about hate crimes against homeless people. If passed, the pending legislation will add homelessness as a protected class to their respective states' hate crimes laws.

Throughout our country's history, people of varying race, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation have been the victim of hate crimes. The justice system has worked to reduce these crimes through efforts to provide greater retribution to victims of hate crimes by further penalizing perpetrators and by discouraging potential attackers by imposing stricter punishment. Yet homeless victims have been denied this equal opportunity alongside other minority groups. Between 1999 and 2005 there have been 82 homicides classified as the result of hate crimes according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University San Bernardino. Over that same period there have been 169 deaths as a result of violent acts directed at homeless people. This is more than twice the amount of deaths than those resulted from categorized hate crimes.

The past eight years have witnessed 614 violent acts against homeless individuals. These attacks occurred in 200 cities throughout our country in 44 states and Puerto Rico. They know no boundary and are not limited to coast, region or state. These attacks have permeated every corner of our society, resulting in 189 deaths and 425 non-lethal attacks, ranging from beatings with golf clubs to setting a man on fire while sleeping. The victims have endured humiliations both great and small and the injuries they sustained created not only physical pain and scars, but the crippling effects of wounded self-esteem and dignity of the human spirit.

In 2006, headline after headline carried the same message, "Group of teens savagely beat homeless men." The data shows that the majority of crimes were committed by teens and youths as young as thirteen-years-old. Of the known attackers, 62% were youths between age thirteen and nineteen. An overwhelming 84% of the accused and convicted were 25 and under. The attackers repeatedly cited

## HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA

February 2007

their motive of attack as boredom, committing the crimes for the "thrill" or "fun," because the victim is homeless, or perhaps even more harrowing, because they simply "can." The victims of these violent crimes were for the most part innocent pawns in a game of fun for their attackers.

The *Hate, Violence and Death on Main Street USA* report seeks to ultimately create awareness. Too many homeless individuals have been made into victims of brutal and often deadly attacks, attacks motivated by one's housing status and the simple thrill of harming someone. According to a 2006 study done by the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, 18 percent of homeless people have experienced violence on the street. These atrocities are acts of hatred and should be classified as hate crimes. It is time that the victims of these violent acts are given due respect. The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 does not address housing status, nor does the Hate Crime Prevention Act of 2005. The facts show that homeless people are a vulnerable population; as such they should be included in legislation protecting the most vulnerable classes of society. Moreover, since the homeless often reside in federally subsidized shelters, streets, and parks, the federal government has both unique authority and a jurisdictional justification to assure their protection when local authorities cannot. Additionally, housing-related issues have been an area of active federal enforcement for decades. Proactive measures must be taken to address violence against homeless people. We can no longer watch idly as the civil rights of homeless people are continually thrown aside.

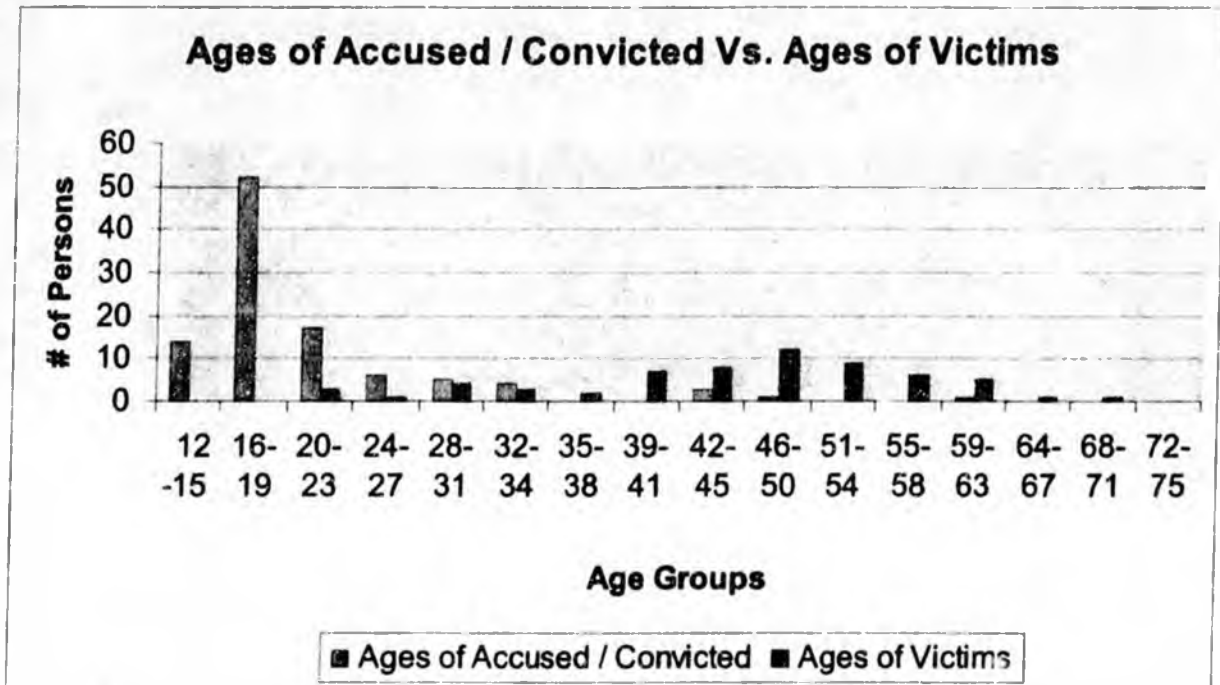
Research and experience have shown the correlation between homeless-directed violence and city efforts to criminalize homelessness. Laws that violate the basic civil rights of homeless people justify violence toward them. Through the creation of societies where homeless individuals are seen as second-class citizens, we are fueling the dehumanization of homeless people. It is the responsibility of cities and of all governing bodies to ensure that the criminalization of the homeless is neither fostered nor encouraged in America's cities.

The *Hate, Violence and Death on Main Street USA* report is the voice for the 189 men and women who lost their lives, for the 425 who managed to survive and for the countless number of victims and casualties that go unreported every year. Justice for homeless people should be granted to them; protection of their civil rights should be ensured; they should be protected by legislation that acknowledges the injustice of violence against them. By acknowledging this sickening trend, we can discourage America from continuing to ostracize our homeless citizens. We can work to return their sense of self worth and purpose. We can show they are not forgotten.

# HATE, VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA

February 2007

## SUMMARY OF HATE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE DATA IN 2006:



**Age Ranges of the accused/ convicted:** 13, 14 (five), 15 (eight), 16 (fifteen), 17 (fourteen), 18 (fourteen), 19 (nine), 20 (four), 21 (six), 22 (four), 23 (three), 24, 25 (five), 27 (two), 28 (three), 29, 30, 32, 33 (three), 34, 43, 44 (two), 50 and 59.

**Age ranges of the victims in 2006:** 21 (two), 22, 25, 28, 30 (two), 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39 (two), 41 (five), 42, 43 (two), 44, 45 (four), 46 (two), 47 (three), 48 (three), 49 (two), 50 (two), 51 (five), 52, 54 (three), 55, 56, 57, 58 (three), 60 (two), 62 (two), 63, 67 and 68

**Gender of Victims:** male: 98 female: 16

# LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

APRIL 2, 2008



REPORT NUMBER 08.231

## VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST ALASKANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

PREPARED FOR REPRESENTATIVE MAX GRUENBERG

BY DANIEL LESH, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

You asked about violent crimes committed against homeless people in Alaska in recent years. Specifically, you asked for data on the total convictions, by region, made for homicides, assaults, sexual assaults, and robberies where the victim was a homeless person.

We were unable to locate the data you requested for any part of the state, because no Alaska law enforcement, or other, entities collect information regarding whether a victim was experiencing homelessness at the time a crime was committed.<sup>1</sup> However, we present the available data on the subject in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), a leading national organization addressing the subject of your request, produces an annual report on violence against the homeless across the nation. The NCH describes the methods used in their annual report, and discusses the challenge of conducting this type of research, as follows:

For documenting hate crimes and violence NCH relies on news reports and information relayed to us by homeless shelters around the country for the data and documentation that it includes in its reports. Although NCH acts as the nationwide repository of hate crimes/violence against homeless people, there is no systematic method of collecting and documenting such reports. Many of these violent acts go unpublicized and/or unreported, thereby making it difficult to assess the true situation. Often, homeless people do not report crimes committed against them because of mental health issues, substance abuse, fear of retaliation, past incidents, or frustration with police. Some cases this year were also omitted because the victims were found beaten to death, but no suspects

<sup>1</sup> In response to your inquiry, we contacted the following officials: Chris Christensen, Deputy Administrative Director, Alaska Court System, (907) 269-5413; Megan Peters, Public Information Officer, Alaska State Troopers, (907) 269-5413; Lieutenant Paul Honeman, Anchorage Police Department, (907) 786-2403; Deputy Chief Brad Johnson, Fairbanks Police Department; Sergeant David Campbell, Juneau Police Department, (907) 586-0639; Teri Carnes, Alaska Judicial Council, (907) 279-2526; and Kathryn Monfreda, Criminal Records and Identification Bureau Chief, Department of Public Safety, (907) 269-5906.

could be identified. In addition, the report does not take into account the large number of sexual assaults, especially on homeless women.<sup>2</sup>

In Table 1, we present references to incidents in Alaska described in the NCH's annual violence reports. We also include the results of our own news search for violent crimes committed against homeless people in Alaska. As noted by the NCH, it is likely that these data significantly understate the prevalence of crimes committed against the homeless in Alaska.

**Table 1: Violent Crimes Committed Against the Homeless in Alaska, As Reported by the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) or Encountered During a News Search**

Year	Incidents Reported in NCH Annual Reports	Incidents Encountered in a Legislative Research News Search
2007	Report Not Available	1 assault (a homeless man was set on fire) reported in Anchorage (Attachment A)
2006	none reported	
2005	3 separate incidents of assault in Fairbanks	"some" assaults reported in Fairbanks (Attachments B and C)
2004	5 separate incidents of assault in Anchorage	
2003	none reported	"regular attacks" reported in Anchorage (Attachment D)
1999 - 2002	3 separate incidents of assault and 1 homicide in Anchorage	1 homicide in 2002 and 1 homicide in 2002 (Attachments E and F)

**SOURCES:** NCH "Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness, 1999-2006." Please see attached news articles for more information on these sources.

Since 1993, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) has conducted surveys of homeless people in Alaska.<sup>3</sup> These surveys provide a one-day snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in Alaska and include a question asking whether or not the respondent has ever been the victim of domestic violence. These data are subject to a number of caveats, including that they do not necessarily reflect the entire population of homeless people in Alaska and that

<sup>2</sup> Please see <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/reports.html> for links to the NCH's annual reports on violence against the homeless. The quoted text comes from page 4 of the NCH report that covers the period 1999-2002.

<sup>3</sup> These surveys are mailed once per winter and once per summer to homeless shelters and other agencies that provide services to people experiencing homelessness. Participation by the agencies is greatest in Anchorage. For more information, visit [http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us/grants/homeless\\_survey\\_reports.cfm](http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us/grants/homeless_survey_reports.cfm) or call James Wiedle, planner, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, (907) 330-8235.

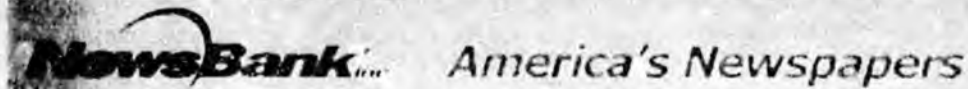
changes over time may reflect changes in survey participation rather than increases or decreases in violence. We present the AHFC's survey data in Table 2.

<b>Table 2: Domestic Violence Against Homeless Individuals, as Self-Reported on Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Surveys</b>					
<b>Location</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Anchorage	272	250	240	177	137
Other Parts of State	129	140	122	187	74
<b>Totals</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>211</b>

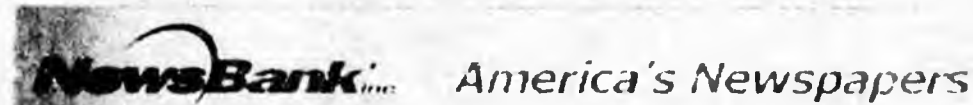
**NOTES:** The following caveats apply to these data: the survey does not reach all homeless people in Alaska; the survey method is subject to errors associated with self-reporting; changes over time may reflect changes in participation and do not necessarily reflect increases or decreases in violence; the survey does not ask about when domestic violence occurred, only whether or not the person experiencing homelessness has ever been the target of domestic violence. **SOURCE:** Alaska Housing Finance Corporation "Statewide Homeless Survey" Winters 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007, available online at [http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us/grants/homeless\\_survey\\_reports.cfm](http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us/grants/homeless_survey_reports.cfm), and James Wiedle, Planner, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, (907) 330-8235.

---

I hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need additional information.



## NewsBank Article Listing



### **Charges leveled for lighting face on fire - BURNED: After tussle, suspect put cardboard around man's head and ignited it, police say.**

Anchorage Daily News (AK) - September 19, 2007

Author: JAMES HALPIN [jhalpin@adn.com](mailto:jhalpin@adn.com) ; Staff

A man who told police he laughed as he set an unconscious homeless man on fire has been charged with attempted first-degree murder, Anchorage police said Tuesday.

Information about the July attack surfaced earlier this month when Wayne Barras, 19, told officials at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute he had set a man on fire.

"It's bizarre, there's no doubt about it," said police Lt. Paul Honeman. "Very, very rarely do we have a case like this."

Barras was arraigned last week on charges of first-degree attempted murder and first-degree assault, according to court documents, and he had a pre-indictment hearing Tuesday.

Police learned of the attack after Hjalmar Christensen, 50, showed up to the Brother Francis Shelter on July 6 severely burned and beaten.

According to a statement filed by police Detective Kristie Ratcliff, Christensen was hanging out earlier in the day drinking with friend Lorena Ellsworth in a field across from the shelter. He had just walked up to a liquor store and bought a bottle of vodka, and the two were working to finish it.

Christensen took his turtleneck off before falling asleep against a fence, and Ellsworth laid her purple jacket on him before she left, she told Ratcliff.

At some point after that, Barras, who had also been drinking, happened upon Christensen as he was getting up.

Barras asked him for a cigarette, but "he was not polite in his request," according to what he told Ratcliff.

Christensen then apparently lunged toward Barras and tried to grab him. He missed, and Barras grabbed a rock and began smashing it into Christensen's head. He told Ratcliff he doesn't know how many times.

After the attack, Christensen "went to sleep," according to what Barras told police.

Barras set a piece of a Natural Ice beer box on fire with a lighter and put it on Christensen's face, he told Ratcliff. He then put it out, grabbed Christensen's backpack, and left the immediate area, but stuck around as an ambulance arrived, he told police. He could not say where he was, though.

On his way back to the Covenant House, where he stayed, he threw the backpack into a Dumpster without looking in it, he said.

"It certainly seems to be a crime of opportunity," Honeman said. "His acts were reckless endangerment that it rose to the level it did."

According to Ratcliff's statement, Barras told his cousin Romeo Iyapana what he did. When contacted by Ratcliff,

Iyapana said his cousin told him he acted in self-defense. Christensen had thrown a rock at Barras, he said, and Barras beat him up in response.

But then Iyapana told Ratcliff that he didn't want to discuss what happened until he knew what Barras had said.

Barras planned to turn himself in because he felt bad about the incident, Iyapana said, but he urged him not to do so because he wanted to hang out with him before he "went away."

After Christensen showed up at the Brother Francis Shelter, badly burned on his face and hands, he was transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

"It was hugely severe," Honeman said. "They didn't think he was going to make it."

Christensen is still recovering after undergoing several surgeries, including having skin from his leg grafted to his face. Doctors also operated on his hand and inserted pins in it, and those remain.

He was released from the hospital Sept. 7, but has since told police he doesn't remember the assault or anything else from that day.

Barras told police he didn't know why he did what he did. He thought he had killed Christensen and was laughing as he did so, but he didn't know why, he told Ratcliff.

According to court records, Barras has no criminal history.

Barras was arraigned last Thursday and was being held with bail set at \$200,000 with a third-party custodian required.

Find James Halpin online at [adn.com/contact/jhalpin](http://adn.com/contact/jhalpin) or call him at 257-4589.

**Caption:** Graphic 1: Christensen[1]\_091907.pdf  
Christensen


**Edition:** Final

**Section:** Alaska

**Page:** B1

**Record Number:** 1489698509/19/07

**Copyright (c) 2007. Anchorage Daily News**

[Back to Document](#) **NewsBank** America's Newspapers

## NewsBank Article Listing

 **NewsBank** America's Newspapers

### **Fairbanks leaders seek a single voice - COMPASS: Points of view from the community**

Anchorage Daily News (AK) - October 5, 2005

*Author: SHIRLEY L. LEE, MAYOR STEVE THOMPSON, and ORIE WILLIAMS ; Commentary*

The Fairbanks community was recently outraged when some of our homeless citizens were viciously beaten. Alarmed about this unacceptable behavior, the Native and non-Native community came together to raise a reward, share information and work toward stopping these intolerable crimes. Within the week, the Fairbanks Police Department arrested three people, who have since confessed to these crimes. Fairbanks Police Chief Dan Hoffman stated, "We were extremely concerned about victimization of vulnerable members of our population and extremely pleased with the proactive response of the entire community in working with us to put out the message that this would not be tolerated."

Some have attempted to cast these as racially motivated hate crimes. It appears this is not the case, as the victims were both Native and non-Native, and those who committed the crimes were also Native and non-Native. "Fairbanks Native Association witnessed clients, both Native and non-Native, coming into our programs who had been beaten. It appeared they were victims of opportunity -- assaulted while they were alone. Chief Hoffman and his officers have been very responsive to reports and are working with FNA to improve the safety and welfare of the community" said Shirley L. Lee, FNA's executive director.

Over time, the Fairbanks community has worked hard to strengthen the ties between community members, finding ways to work together on community issues, problems and opportunities. One example of this is coming together to host the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in 2005. As part of this joint effort, 15 community committees were created to ensure that the AFN convention is a success. One committee created an AFN hot line -- 1-907-450-6546 -- for people needing information or assistance but not requiring a direct police response. This and other programs will help continue to make the Fairbanks community more welcoming to all visitors.

The executive directors of Fairbanks Native Association, Doyon Foundation, and Denakkanaaga; the mayors of the City of Fairbanks, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and North Pole; and the presidents of Doyon Limited and Tanana Chiefs Conference speak with one voice when we say, "All people in Alaska must work together. We need to get along. This community is going to continue to do even more to develop strong relationships with all our neighbors. The AFN convention is a place where an example can be set. Our community takes victimization and discrimination of any person seriously. We are a community known for our warm hospitality and we are committed to strengthening this reality. It is with that in mind that Mayor Steve Thompson, Mayor Jeff Jacobson and Mayor Jim Whitaker ask that anyone who experiences discrimination at any time or is not served well during the convention call them at 1-907-459-6793, 1-907-488-2281, or 1-907-459-1300."

Shirley L. Lee is executive director of the Fairbanks Native Association. Steve Thompson is mayor of the City of Fairbanks. Orie Williams is president and CEO of Doyon Limited.

*Edition: Final*

*Section: Alaska*

*Page: B6*

*Record Number: 902865610/05/05*

*Copyright (c) 2005, Anchorage Daily News*

[Back to Document](#)

**NewsBank**... America's Newspapers

## NewsBank Article Listing

**NewsBank**... America's Newspapers

### **Fairbanks welcomes Alaska Federation of Natives convention**

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (AK) - October 8, 2005

**CHEAP SHOT:** The Anchorage Daily News reprinted an opinion column this week by a Bethel resident who asked, "Is it going to be safe for Alaska Natives to travel to Fairbanks?"

The short answer for those planning to attend the Alaska Federation of Natives convention this month is "Yes."

The column by John Active, a writer for the Tundra Drums, was reprinted Monday by the Anchorage Daily News under the headline "Discrimination hasn't left Fairbanks."

The same headline could be written on any day about any community in the world and be entirely accurate, so I'm not about to argue that discrimination has ended here.

Instead, I'd like to point out that the recent assault reports Active cites as evidence are the wrong ones upon which to build a discrimination claim.

Active began his column by telling a story about when he attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks 36 years ago as a freshman and went one night with a group to a downtown restaurant for dinner.

He said a waitress did not wait on them for a half-hour, even though the only other people in the place were several individuals seated at the bar. Active said his group eventually left the restaurant and went to another business where they were waited on promptly.

Active said he didn't stay long in Fairbanks after that because "I did not want to live in a place where people looked down on you."

"I thought Fairbanks had changed" since then, Active said, but he used the column to suggest that it hasn't.

He said that the recent assaults on homeless and transient people by kids on bicycles in Fairbanks are hate crimes directed at Alaska Natives.

"Today there are worse things happening to Alaska Natives than not being served in a restaurant," he said.

"These are serious crimes that can reveal a lot about Fairbanks, though I do want to believe the city has changed," Active said.

"A community can be measured by how its population and institutions treat its most vulnerable members. A community that doesn't take seriously such attacks can quickly find itself with a reputation that may take years to shed."

In his comments, Active failed to mention that the attacks were directed against Natives and non-Natives. He did mention that three people were arrested--ages 13, 14 and 19--but he did not mention that the oldest of the three is an Alaska Native.

He also failed to mention that the Fairbanks police chief and local Native leaders agree that the people injured in these crimes were "victims of opportunity" and were not singled out because of their race.

He also failed to mention that the paragraph beginning with the words "A community can be measured ..." was copied

almost word for word from a Daily News-Miner editorial that appeared Sept. 19. A couple of other passages were copied as well.

The editorial was written in the context of a community condemnation of the attacks. Viewed in that light, the words have a different meaning than in Active's column.

The Fairbanks City Police worked closely with leading Native organizations on this case and the community took the attacks seriously and reacted swiftly. Everyone I know was outraged at these attacks.

To suggest that the people who did this represent what's acceptable in Fairbanks or that this is how visitors to our town are likely to be treated is way off the mark.

In a letter responding to Active's column, six Native leaders and the three local mayors said that Fairbanks is working hard to build ties among community members.

"Our community takes victimization and discrimination of any person seriously," they said. "We are a community known for our warm hospitality and we are committed to strengthening this reality."

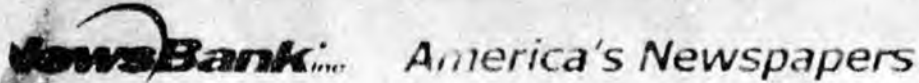
Many months of work by people from throughout the community have gone into the planning for the AFN convention. That cooperation is a more accurate reflection of community standards than the actions of a few individuals who belong behind bars.

Dermot Cole can be reached at [cole@newsminer.com](mailto:cole@newsminer.com) or 459-7530.

**Section:** Today's Cole Column

**Record Number:** 3085843

*(c) 2005 Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.*



## NewsBank Article Listing



### **Picture of trail safety murky - DATA: Police have no hard numbers, but "we think the trails are generally safe."**

Anchorage Daily News (AK) - August 17, 2003

Author: TATABOLINE BRANT Anchorage Daily News ; Staff

A string of sex assaults and a body found under a bridge have heightened safety worries this summer about Anchorage's bike trails. The concerns have stirred plans for renewed trail patrols and inspired users, particularly women, to take steps -- traveling in pairs, avoiding some sections -- to increase their security.

Using their current system of keeping data, Anchorage police cannot determine whether crime statistics for one of the city's most popular outdoor attractions are up or down. But despite clusters of crime and some high-publicity incidents, "we think the trails are generally safe," Deputy Police Chief Audie Holloway said. They're not as pleasant as they could be, he said. Some people are afraid, and there are problems with public alcoholics and homeless camps along the trails.

"We'd like for them to be 100 percent safe," Holloway said.

The problem with getting hard numbers, police say, is that when a crime occurs on a trail, it's usually the nearest street address that's listed as the location. To find out whether a particular crime occurred on a trail, someone has to physically pull the police report from the records room at APD headquarters and read through it.

For example, if police wanted to know how many assaults occurred on trails around town in 2001, they would have to pull the approximately 3,750 assault reports that came in that year and read each one, trying to find reference to a trail.

To get a clear picture of how safe the city's trails were that year, they'd also have to at least read the homicide (12), sexual assault (286) and robbery (390) reports.

Add in the drug, prostitution and theft reports for 2001 and you're talking about reading through more than 14,000 reports.

Then there would be the question of what a trail is. Of course the definition would include the 127 miles of paved trails in the municipality, but what about the 15,000 acres of city parks? Or the footpaths that wind through the woods at Valley of the Moon Park and other areas?

It would take several months and some serious manpower to get a year's worth of accurate stats compiled, Holloway said.

Most of the crimes the Police Department responds to occur in the city's residential, industrial and business districts, Holloway said - not on the trails - so it doesn't make sense to devote an already understaffed force to investigating trail crime trends, he said.

"We'd rather put people on the problem rather than try to describe the problem," he said.

Mayor Mark Begich's office is launching a Trail Watch program, which will put volunteers on the city's trails to help be the eyes and ears of the police. Details on the program are still being ironed out. City officials say they'll be released in the next few weeks.

Volunteer trail patrols have succeeded in places Outside. At least one patrol has been tried in Anchorage before, in 1994 shortly after Bonnie Craig was murdered, according to Robert Arnold, who was involved in the effort. The

patrol disappeared because it was "not able to mount sufficient time and effort to sustain the plan," Arnold explained via e-mail recently.

Begich has made safety on the city's trails a priority, which might prove to make all the difference this time around. His first meeting on the Trail Watch program drew more than 70 people from all aspects of the community. At least one business has donated \$1,000 to help pay for gear, and a nationally recognized local search team has offered to help train Trail Watch volunteers.

The program got a warm response among trail users who were out at Westchester Lagoon and Valley of the Moon Park one recent afternoon, though almost all contacted said they'd still like to see police on the trails.

Holloway said APD would like to put police on the trails but doesn't have the resources right now.

"We have to assign people to areas where they're going to be serving the public the most," and those are the areas where population is most dense, he said.

Betty Vogt, who has lived in Alaska for about five decades, said she used to walk on the Chester Creek trail all the time but not anymore. She said a few years ago, a young man passed her on the trail and yelled "Boo!" at her.

"Just scared me half to death," Vogt said. The man laughed and walked away, she said.

Vogt said she realized that if the man had intended to do her harm, there would have been no one around to help. Since then, she has taken to walking back and forth in front of Valley of the Moon Park, near her house, where there are usually a lot of people. Putting volunteers on the trails would be great, Vogt said. But, she added, she still wouldn't feel comfortable walking alone.

At Westchester Lagoon, Meagan Hughes, 25, and her friend Heidi, 26, sat on a bench after rollerblading. The pair said they use the trails about twice a week.

"I would not go alone," said Heidi, who did not want her last name used. "If somebody doesn't come with me, I won't go."

Hughes said she doesn't like to go where there are woods on both sides of the trail because she doesn't feel safe. "It's gorgeous," Hughes said, "but I'm not going to do it alone. One of the drawbacks of being a woman, I guess."

"One thing I've never seen down here that I'd really like to see (are) bicycle cops in full uniform," Heidi said.

Both women said they would love to see Trail Watch get off the ground. "Especially if they were clearly marked," Heidi said. "Then you would at least know somebody's down here."

At 6 foot, 3 inches and 220 pounds, Ross Nixon said he's never had a problem on the trails. Sitting in the grass with a friend at Westchester after a long run toward Kincaid Park, he said Trail Watch is a good idea. "I would be interested in volunteering," he said.

"This trail here is such a jewel for Anchorage," Nixon said. "It really is worth working on the problem to make sure people keep using it and aren't afraid of using it. ... If everyone who uses the trails agrees to help each other, we've really got something."

Heather Walsh, 21, who was just about to start a run at Westchester, said she runs on the trails only between about 3 and 8 p.m. "If it's earlier or later than that, I won't run," she said. "I'm too scared. And I won't run that way," she said, pointing toward the Chester Creek trail, where some of the recent sex assaults occurred. "I always see really weird people coming out of the woods."

Chester Creek Greenbelt is peppered with homeless camps. The woods along the trails are dense and close to downtown, where most of the services for homeless people are clustered, which makes them a popular spot for camping.

On Monday, a little girl walking on the Chester Creek trail found a man believed to be homeless floating in the creek under a foot bridge. Police have ruled his death accidental.

In June, more than two dozen police officers swept through the greenbelt, rousting people from homeless camps and looking for a suspect in three of the four attempted sexual assaults that occurred on the trails this summer. A few days later, police arrested a 33-year-old man and charged him in one of the attacks.

Women have said this summer that they feel intimidated when they approach drunken men on the trail, especially if they number two or more.

Thom Blackbird, an outreach coordinator for Homeward Bound, doesn't doubt that homeless alcoholics can be scary sometimes, especially if they have mental health issues, but by and large they leave trail users alone when addressed in a forthright manner, he said.

Blackbird said homeless people are regularly attacked along the Chester Creek greenbelt. He did not have hard numbers, just his experience talking to people on the street.

"I probably see a person every couple of weeks that are jumped or beaten up there," Blackbird said. "The majority of it is by young people. I'd say 90 to 95 percent of the time they jump them and take their cigarettes and any money that they have."

Often the assaults are not reported to police, Blackbird said. He suspects assaults have increased over the years. "It used to be the summer months with the kids. Now it's year-round."

Deputy Chief Holloway said APD is looking into the possibility of tweaking the way it enters data so it will be able to track trail crime trends in the future.

What it would take, Holloway said, is adding a box to police report forms that asks whether the crime occurred on a trail. The department's reporting forms haven't been overhauled in about 10 years, he said, but negotiations for a new computerized reporting system are under way. Adding a field that would allow for tracking crime on the trails should be fairly easy, he said.

"We have been Band-Aiding things around here for so long," Holloway said. "We have a lot of updating to do."

Daily News reporter Tataboline Brant can be reached at [tbrant@adn.com](mailto:tbrant@adn.com) or 257-4321.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES for Trail Watch will be announced around Sept. 1, the city said. For more information on the program or to submit comments, visit:

[www.muni.org/mayor/trailwatch.cfm](http://www.muni.org/mayor/trailwatch.cfm)

MAP OF ANCHORAGE TRAILS

[www.muni.org/iceimages/parks/trailsmap.jpg](http://www.muni.org/iceimages/parks/trailsmap.jpg)

Caption: Photo 1: Weblink CMYK\_081703.jpg


**Edition:** Final

**Section:** Alaska

**Page:** B1

**Record Number:** 281871

Copyright (c) 2003, Anchorage Daily News

[Back to Document](#) **NewsBank** America's Newspapers

## NewsBank Article Listing

 **NewsBank** America's Newspapers

### **Cold case is solvable, detective says - MURDER: Investigator works to find justice for woman killed two years ago.**

Anchorage Daily News (AK) - September 25, 2004

Author: TATABOLINE BRANT Anchorage Daily News ; Staff

Two years after a 36-year-old woman was found slain under the A Street bridge downtown where she had been sleeping, police say they have the evidence to make a case but have not yet matched the evidence with a person.

"This case is definitely solvable," detective Glen Klinkhart said Friday, asking anyone with information to come forward. "The only thing I need is the guy's name."

It was two years ago Friday that a downtown security worker on a routine bike patrol found Cynthia "Cindy" Henry's body around 7:30 a.m. The man had gone to look under the A Street bridge, near Third Avenue, because he knew it to be a place frequented by transients, Klinkhart said.

Under the bridge, the man noticed a pallet leaning up against a roughly 7-foot-tall cement wall. At the top of the wall, on a wide ledge, was a person. The man climbed up the makeshift ladder to check on the individual and realized she was dead. He called police.

"It was immediately apparent it was a homicide," Klinkhart said.

Klinkhart said he still remembers getting pulled out of a meeting to investigate the slaying. It was his first homicide, and remains the only murder case he's been in charge of to date that he has not cracked.

"I want to find some justice for her," Klinkhart said Friday afternoon, standing under the A Street bridge where he had met with reporters to explain what he could about the case.

Klinkhart said Henry was part of a subculture of homeless and semi-homeless people who live downtown. She had been in and out of shelters over the years and had apparently tried to get off the streets, but never made it that far, he said. She wasn't close to her family, who live in the Glennallen area, he said.

Within this subculture, Henry was known to share what little she had -- extra food, money or alcohol that she'd come into from time to time -- with others, Klinkhart said. That was no small thing among people fighting daily for survival and who often live in fear of being beaten, robbed or otherwise taken advantage of, Klinkhart said.

"They live very, very hard lives," he said, noting that Henry was sleeping outside on a cold, rainy night "underneath a bridge that shook every time a car came over it" when she was killed.

Many people knew Henry, Klinkhart said. "She was well-liked."

Klinkhart refused to reveal how she died, saying that only police and the killer knew that and he wanted to keep it that way to help verify stories later. He said he thought she arrived at the bridge around 1 a.m. to sleep the night she died.

Members of the Alaska Native Justice Center showed up at the A Street bridge Friday to learn more about the investigation. Asked by a member if Henry had been raped, Klinkhart answered that when he catches Henry's killer, "I will be arresting him for sexual assault."

Klinkhart credited the security ambassador and crime scene investigators with helping to preserve "a lot of good physical evidence," but refused to say whether that included DNA or fingerprints. The evidence did help eliminate suspects, he said.

"The man who murdered Cynthia Henry was sloppy," he said.

Karen Lee, director of planning and development at the Alaska Native Justice Center, which assists police when possible by putting up rewards or helping officers find victim's friends and families, said she was glad to see the police department keeping Henry's case in the public eye.

"It sounds like they've done a lot of work," she said. "I'm hopeful that someone will come forward."

Anyone with information about the slaying is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 561-STOP. Callers can remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward.

Daily News reporter Tataboline Brant can be reached at tbrant@adn.com or 257-4321.

**Caption:** Photo 1: 25 B1 AK teaser Ralston\_092504.tif Photo 2: cynthia\_henry\_092504.tif  
Henry

**Edition:** Final

**Section:** Alaska

**Page:** B1

**Record Number:** 609590409/25/04

**Copyright (c) 2004, Anchorage Daily News**



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Representative Jay Ramras  
Chairman  
(907) 465-3004  
Fax: (907) 465-2070  
Representative\_Jay\_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us



1292 Sadler Way, Suite 324  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

**Committee Members:**  
Representative Nancy Dahlstrom,  
Vice-Chairman  
Representative John Coghill  
Representative Bob Lynn  
Representative Ralph Samuels  
Representative Max Gruenberg  
Representative Lindsey Holmes

State Capitol, Room 120  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

**Fax**

To: Jerry Luckhaupt  
Leg. Legal

Fax #: 2029

Number of pages including cover: 1

From: Jane Pierson

Date: April 4, 2008

Re: Please go final on HCSHB211(JUD) 25-LS1245\E

---

We also adopted the Title Change Resolution 25-LS1626\A

Thank you

HP Officejet 7310xd  
Personal Printer/Fax/Copier/Scanner

Log for  
Representative Jay Ramras  
(907) 465-2070  
Apr 04 2008 2:48PM

---

Last Transaction

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Identification</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Result</u>
Apr 4	2:47PM	Fax Sent	2029	0:24	1	OK