

AK LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FILES SCOMM 157 3359

I Methodology

Overview

During the period April 8 through April 17, 2005, four hundred nine (n=409) Alaskans over the age of 18, located in 165 communities with populations less than 1000, were personally contacted via telephone by professional interviewing employees of the Dittman Research Corporation of Alaska. The views and opinions of the Alaska residents were recorded on a strictly confidential basis.

Research Design

A random sample design was featured which provided that all households listed in the most current telephone directory for each community had essentially an equal chance of being interviewed.

Sample Selection

Individual respondents were randomly selected from current telephone subscribers listed in the most current directory for each community. In order to accurately represent Alaska and rural residents in small as well as larger communities, a stratified sample plan with specific allocations was established as follows:

<u>Community Population</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>% of Sample</u>
< 100 residents	n=98	24%
100-250 residents	n=105	26%
251-500 residents	n=103	25%
501-1,000 residents	n=103	25%
	n=409	100%

To provide aggregated results for Alaska's total rural community population, the findings from each of the community size categories were "weighted" to accurately represent their proportion of the total population as follows:

<u>Community Population</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>% of Population</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>% of Weighted Sample</u>
< 100 residents	2,551	5%	n=98	.209	5%
100-250 residents	7,730	15%	n=105	.584	15%
251-500 residents	14,390	29%	n=103	1.152	29%
501-1,000 residents	25,581	51%	n=103	2.025	51%
	50,252	100%	n=409		100%

Sample Error

When examining the overall results, the sample of $n=409$ out of a total population of 50,252 could have a sample error of $\pm 4.8\%$.

Processing the Data

Dittman Research employees completed coding, editing, data entry and verification, while data processing was completed through the in-house Dittman Research Corporation computer system featuring the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) program. The SPSS program is one of the most sophisticated research-oriented data processing and analytical systems available, and is designed specifically for the processing and analysis of survey research data.

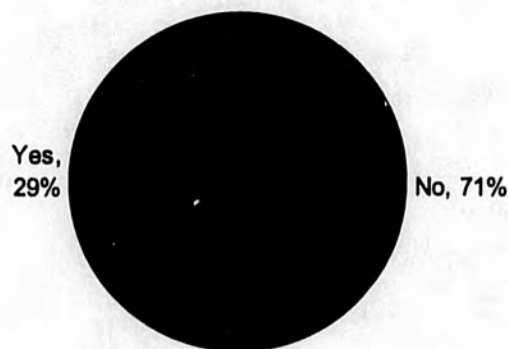
Measurement History

Citizen opinion measurements by the Dittman Research Corporation, utilizing the previously described methodology, analytical procedures and data processing systems, have proven to be virtually perfect predictors of political election results in Alaska for the past thirty-five years.

II Findings

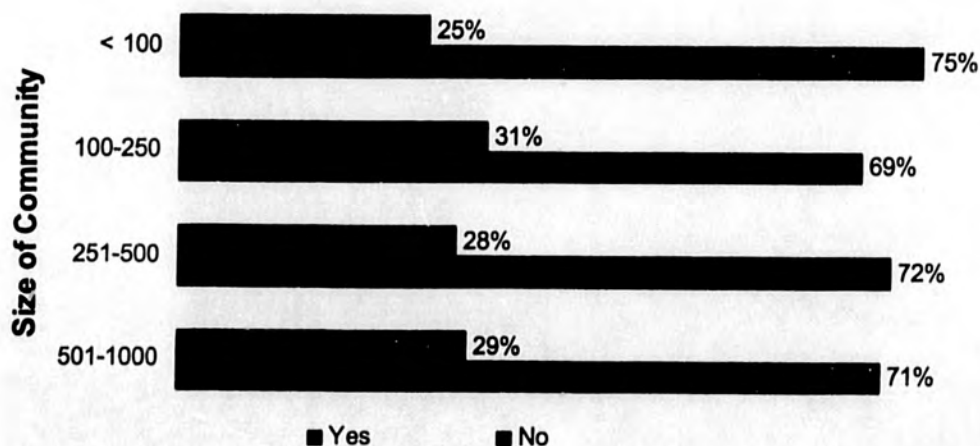
Overall, over one out of four respondents (29%) said they had been a victim of a crime in the community in which they currently live.

Question: *Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in?*



Respondents in communities of less than 100 residents were slightly less likely to report being a victim of a crime (25%), but the overall rate of reported victimization was basically similar throughout the range of community sizes.

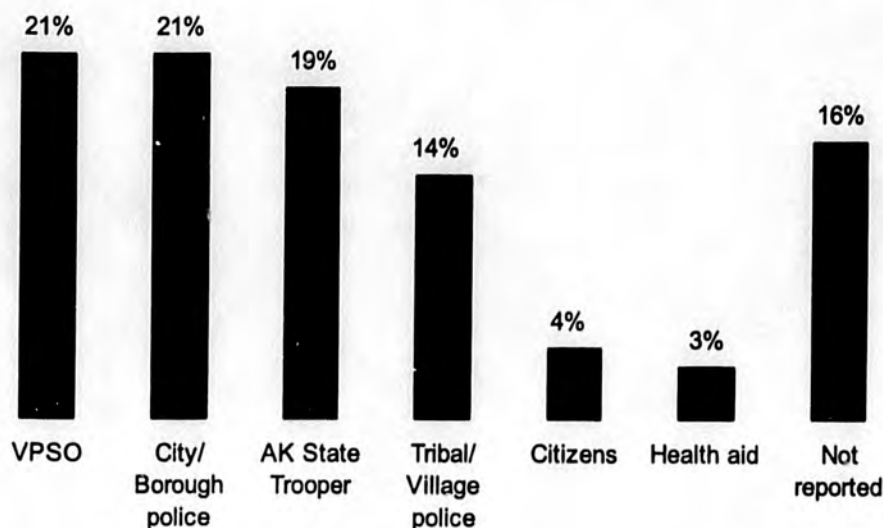
"...victim of crime...?"



The workload of responding to reports of criminal activity in the smaller rural communities appears to be almost equally shared by the "VPSO" (21%), "City or Borough Police" (21%) and "Alaska State Troopers" (19%). Significantly, approximately one out of six victims (16%) said they didn't report the crime to anyone.

Question: *Who did you first report the crime to? Did you report it to...*

(Asked of 29% who had been a victim of a crime)



Victims in the smallest communities (<100-250) were more likely to have reported the crime to a "VPSO" (23-33%) or a "Trooper" (27-32%), while victims in larger communities (251-1000) were more likely to report to "City/Borough police" (32%), but the "VPSO" is kept relatively busy in those communities too (22%).

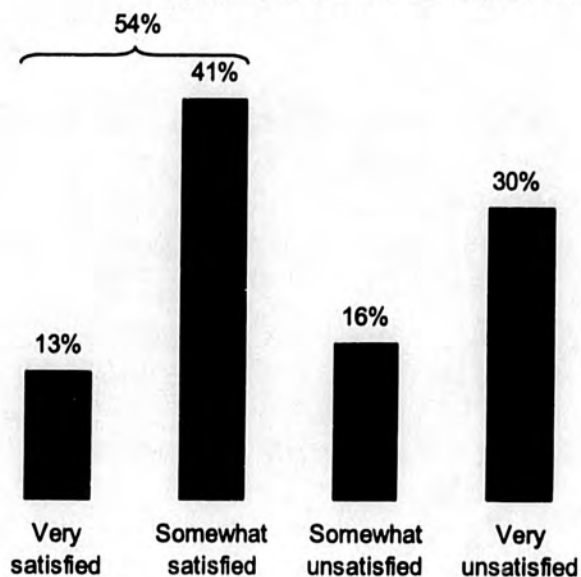
"...who reported to...?"

	Size of Community			
	< 100	100-250	251-500	501-1000
VPSO	23%	33%	13%	22%
City/Borough police	7%	0%	16%	32%
AK State Trooper	27%	32%	21%	13%
Tribal/Village police	3%	3%	18%	17%
Citizens	17%	9%	8%	0%
Health aid	5%	10%	3%	0%
Not reported	18%	11%	18%	17%

The majority of victims (54%) were "very" or "somewhat satisfied" with the follow-up after they reported a crime; however, nearly one out of three were "very unsatisfied" (30%).

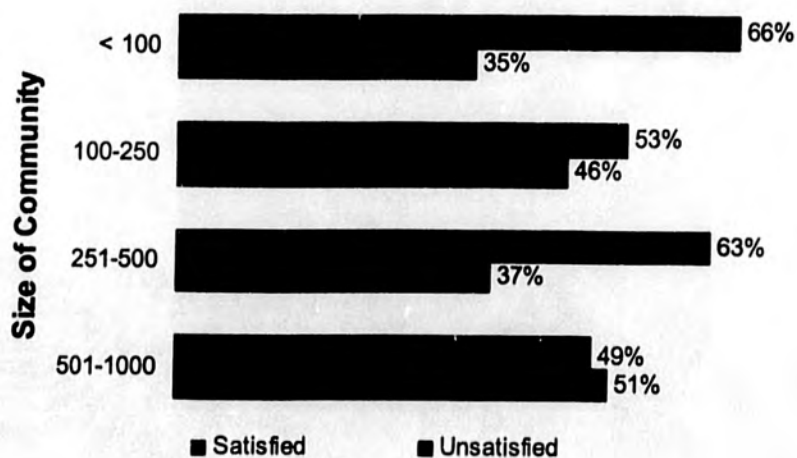
Question: *How satisfied were you with the follow-up?*

(Asked of 29% who had been a victim of a crime)



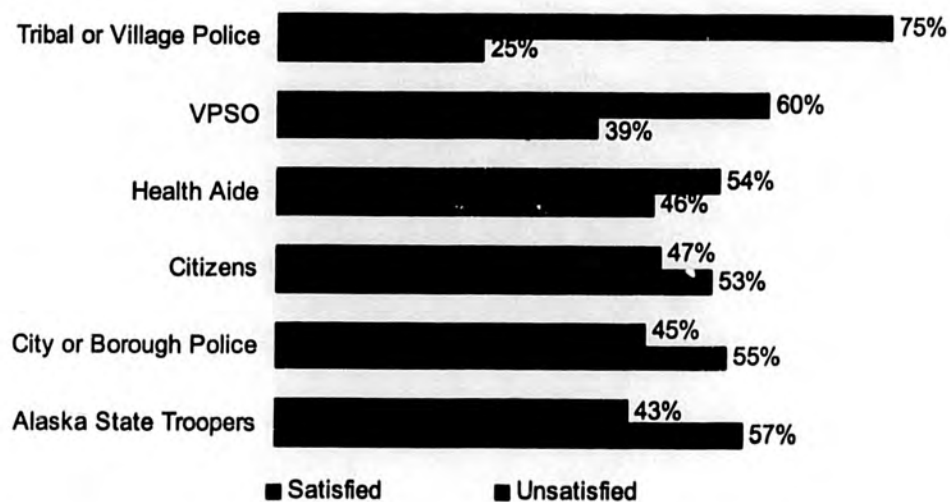
Satisfaction with follow-up was highest in communities with less than 100 people.

"...satisfied with follow-up...?"



Satisfaction with follow-up was also highest among victims who reported the crime to "tribal or village police" (75%) and "VPSO" (60%).

"...satisfied with follow-up...?"

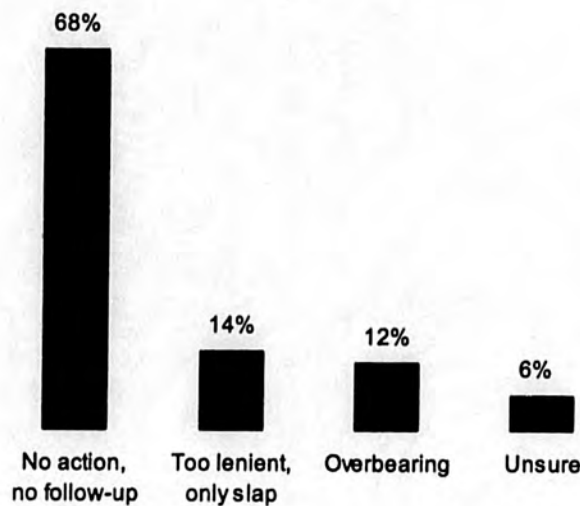


In most cases (68%), dissatisfaction with follow-up was attributed to there being "no action, no follow-up".

[SEE 'VERBATIM COMMENTS' SECTION FOR MORE DETAIL]

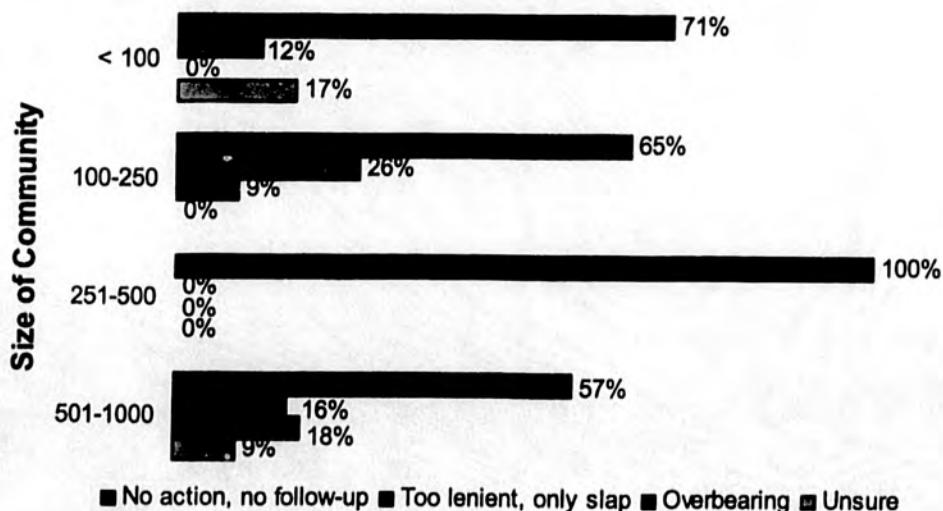
Question: *Why were you dissatisfied?*

(Asked of victims who were dissatisfied with follow-up -- 46%)



The lack of satisfaction based on "no action/no follow-up" was consistently high regardless of community size, although others also thought that the punishment for the offender was "too lenient".

"...why dissatisfied...?"

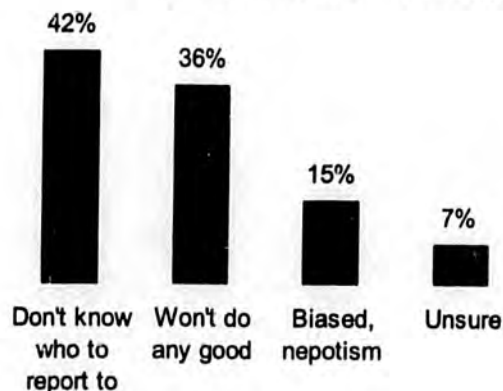


Of those who did not report their victimization, most said it was because they "didn't know who to report it to" (42%) or that it "wouldn't do any good" (36%).

[SEE 'VERBATIM COMMENTS' SECTION FOR MORE DETAIL]

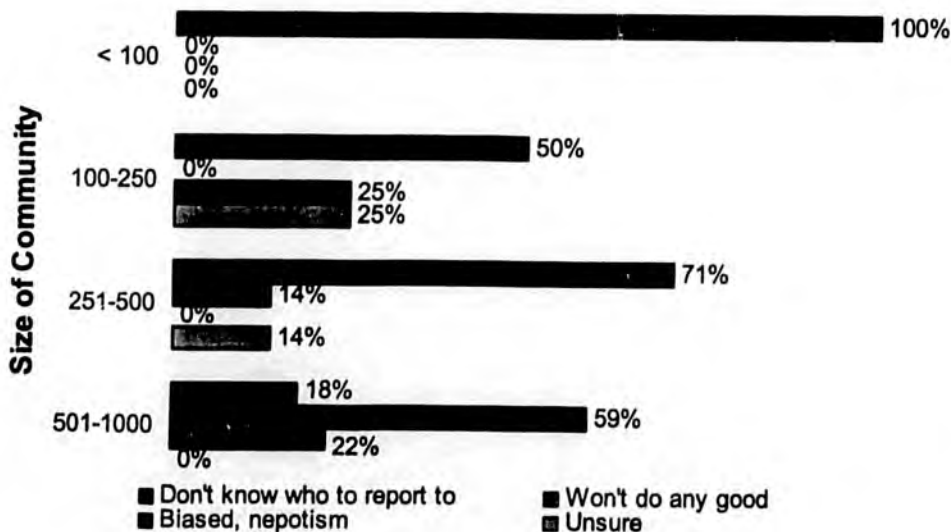
Question: Why wasn't it reported?

(Asked of victims who did not report crime -- 16%)



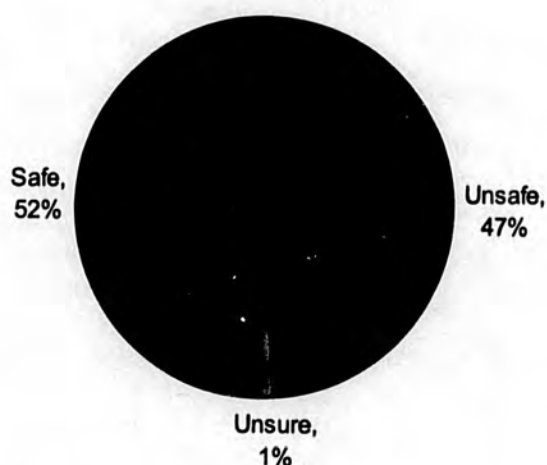
In the smaller communities, (<100-500), respondents were most likely to have not reported the crime because they "didn't know who to report it to" (50-100%). In the larger communities (501-1000) the decision to not report the crime was more likely to be because "it wouldn't do any good" (59%).

"...why not reported...?"



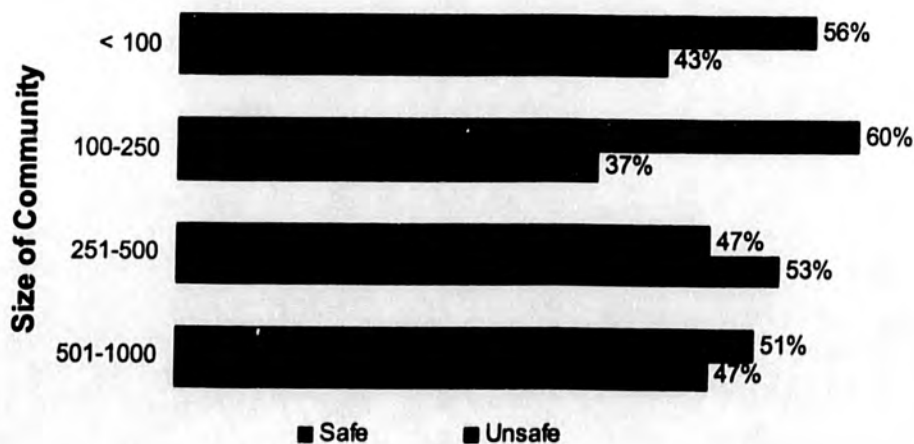
In total, rural respondents as a whole were approximately evenly split (52% "yes", 47% "no") regarding whether their community was safe and had the right amount of public safety.

Question: *Do you feel your community is safe and has the right amount of public safety?*



However, there were differences based on size of community -- respondents living in smaller communities (<100-250 people) were more likely to report that their community is safe (57-60%), while approximately half (49-52%) of those living in larger communities (over 251) felt that their community was unsafe.

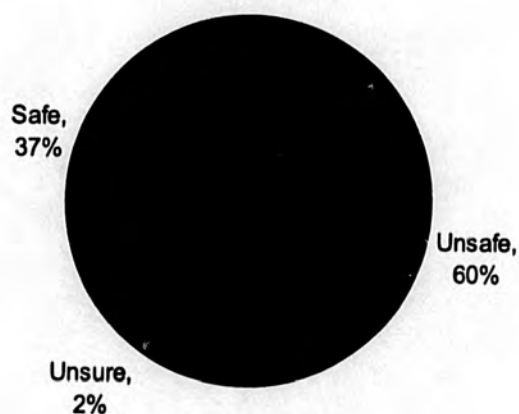
"...community is safe...?"



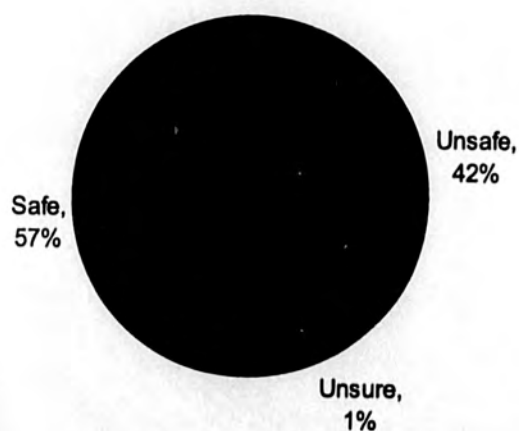
Predictably, prior victimization is also closely related to perceptions of public safety -- respondents who had been a victim of a crime in their community were much less likely to report that their community is safe (37%) compared to 57% of non-victims.

Question: *Do you feel your community is safe and has the right amount of public safety?*

Been Victim of Crime

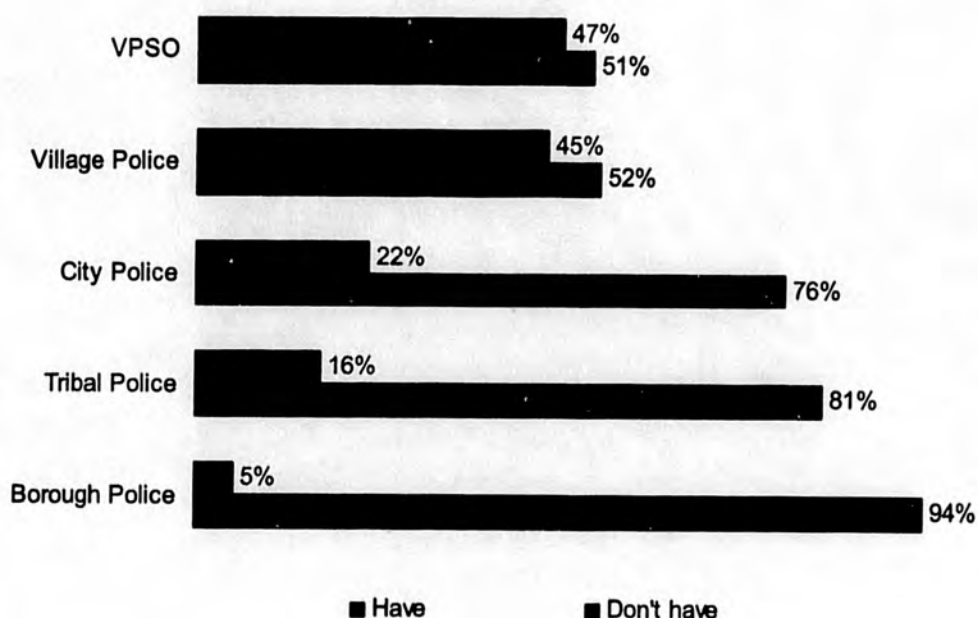


Not been Victim of Crime



In terms of on-site public safety, the largest number of respondents (45-47%) reported their community safety was provided by a "VPSO" or a "Village Police Officer" (VPO) located in their community.

Question: Which of the following safety positions do you have in your community?



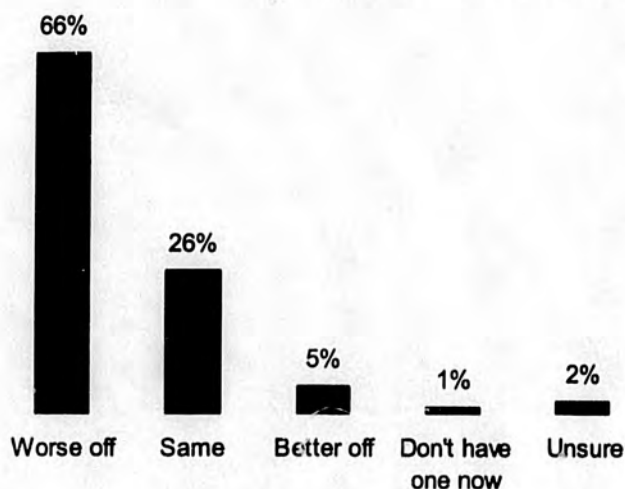
Respondents in the smallest villages (<100) were most likely to not have a staffed public safety position (69%) or just a VPSO (23%). As communities increased in population, the likelihood of having a VPSO or other public safety position strongly increased.

"...safety positions do you have...?"
(% have)

Size of Community	VPSO	Village Police	City Police	Tribal Police	Borough Police
< 100	23%	5%	0%	2%	0%
100-250	36%	15%	1%	9%	0%
251-500	49%	45%	12%	18%	9%
501-1000	51%	57%	35%	18%	4%

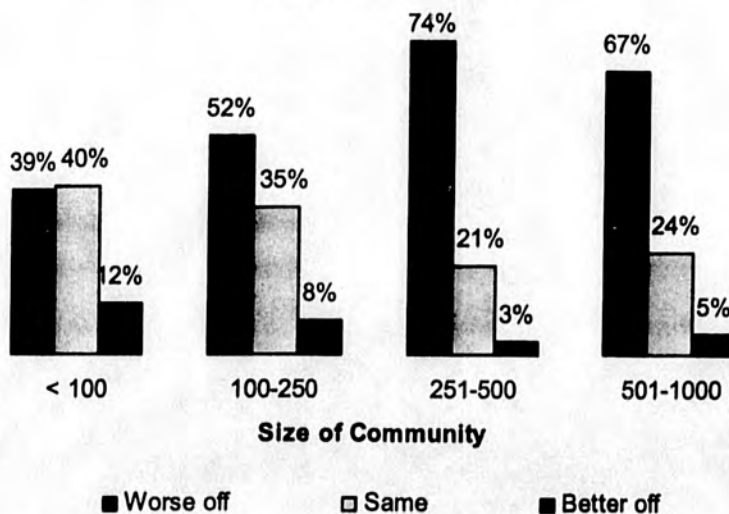
Considering the views of all respondents in the relatively small communities in Alaska (<100-1000), by far the largest number recognize the importance of having a local public safety officer. In fact, two-thirds (66%) of the respondents said they would be worse off if they did not have a local public safety officer.

Question: *If your community did not have a local public safety officer, do you feel the community would be better off, about the same or worse off?*



However, public perceptions vary depending on community size, and a slim majority (52%) in the smallest villages (<100) say they would be "the same" (40%) or "better off" (12%) if they did not have a local public safety officer.

"...if no local officer...?"

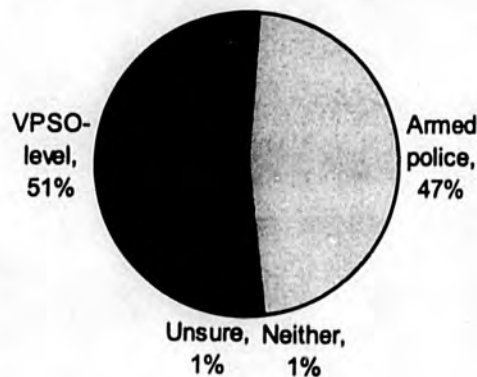


On an overall basis, the combined respondents of all rural communities are fairly evenly split (47% to 51%) as to which type of public safety they would prefer.

Question: *In your opinion, what type of public safety would best fit your community...*

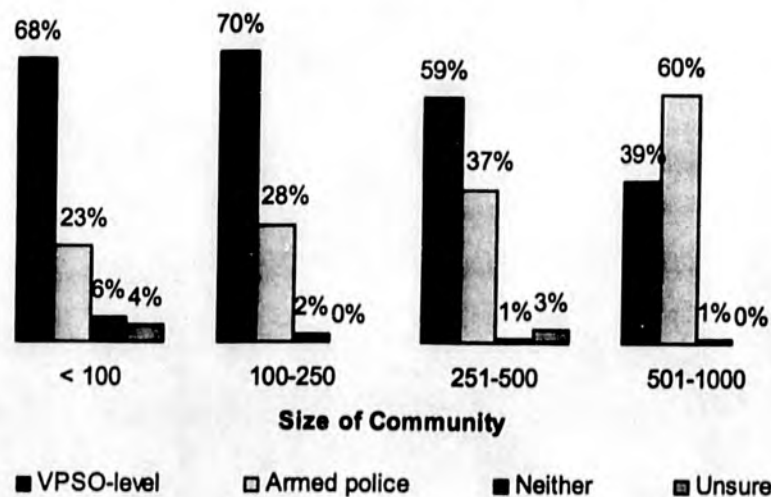
A VPSO-level officer, who is not armed, and not certified as a police officer, serving in a variety of jobs such as fire, search & rescue, emergency services and community outreach
or

A certified and armed police officer with full law enforcement duties including, patrols traffic violations, arrests and investigations



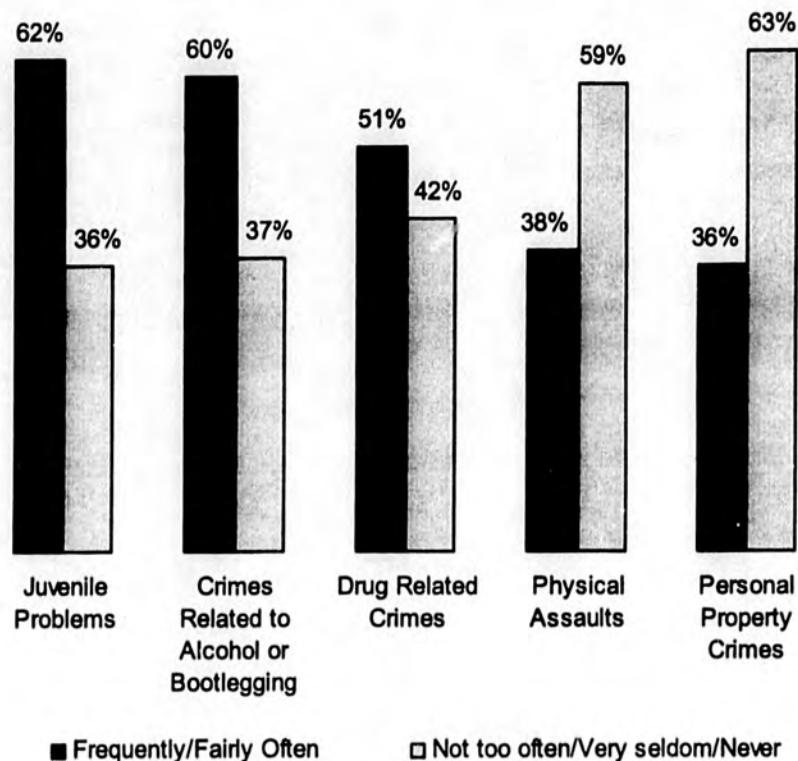
But again, there are substantial differences based on community size -- respondents in communities with a population of approximately five hundred or less prefer an unarmed VPSO-level officer, while respondents in communities over five hundred prefer a certified and armed police officer.

"...VPSO or armed police...?"



Looking at the type of crimes that are most prevalent in the smaller rural Alaskan communities of a thousand residents or less, there isn't much doubt that "juvenile problems" (62%) and "crimes related to alcohol or bootlegging" (60%) lead the way.

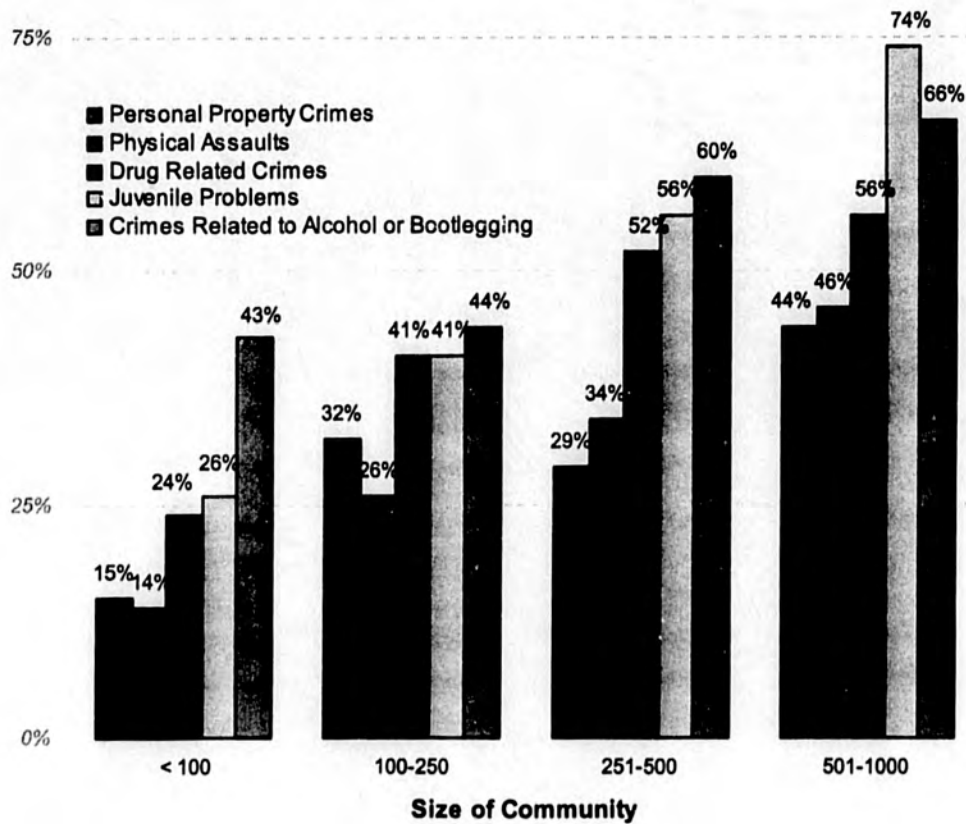
Question: *Now I'm going to read you a list of activities that may or may not happen in your community. For each activity, please tell me how often you feel it takes place in your community.*



It also appears clear that the relative rank-order of type of crime is basically consistent regardless of community size, and that the total incidence of all criminal activity increases with the size of community.

"...how often...?"

(% "frequently" or "fairly often")



As far as handling crime in rural communities is concerned, the "VPSO" is the single entity mentioned most often (27%); however, the combined "local police" (City/Borough, Village and Tribal) actually appear to lead the way.

Question: *Who currently responds to or handles the majority of crimes, such as assault, domestic violence, and or drug or alcohol related crimes, in your community?*

VPSO	27%	
Village police	24%	
City/Borough police	16%	} 43%
Tribal police	3%	
AK State Troopers	18%	
Village council	3%	
Official people	2%	
Community	1%	
Native leaders	1%	
Nobody	1%	
Unsure	4%	

Regardless of population, approximately one out of four respondents (23-30%) consistently report that the "VPSO" handle the majority of crimes in their communities. However, as the population sizes increase, respondents were more likely to say that the majority of crimes are handled by "local police", and less likely to say they are handled by "Alaska State Troopers".

"...who currently handles crimes...?"

	Size of Community			
	< 100	100-250	251-500	501-1000
VPSO	23%	30%	30%	25%
Village police	0%	8%	22%	31%
City/Borough police	0%	0%	12%	25%
Tribal police	0%	5%	5%	2%
AK State Troopers	46%	35%	20%	9%
Village council	13%	10%	1%	1%
Official people	2%	4%	3%	1%
Community	1%	1%	3%	0%
Native leaders	4%	3%	1%	1%
Nobody	8%	3%	1%	0%
Unsure	2%	2%	3%	5%

When asked who should handle crimes, basic responses change little from who currently handles them, but there is more preference for "VPSO" and "Troopers" handling crimes (27% to 33% and 18% to 21%), and less on "local police" (43% to 34%).

Question: *Who do you think should handle most of the crimes in your community?*

	Currently handles		Should handle
VPSO	27%		33%
Village police	24%	} 43%	16%
City/Borough police	16%		13%
Tribal police	3%		5%
AK State Troopers	18%		21%
Village council	3%		3%
Official people	2%		4%
Community	1%		1%
Native leaders	1%		1%
Clinical	0%		0%
Nobody	1%		0%
Unsure	4%		4%

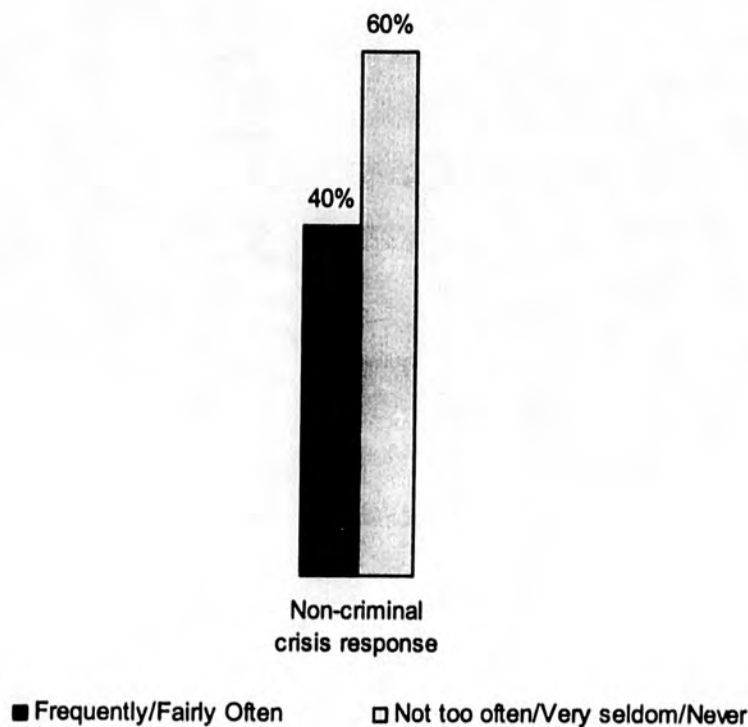
On a population basis, respondents from communities of 500 people or less were most likely to say that "VPSO" should handle the majority of crimes (42-48%). "Troopers" were also frequently mentioned (10-34%), and "local police" were steadily mentioned more often as the population of the communities increased.

"...who should handle...?"

	Size of Community			
	< 100	100-250	251-500	501-1000
VPSO	48%	42%	42%	25%
Village police	2%	8%	20%	17%
City/Borough police	0%	0%	7%	21%
Tribal police	2%	10%	8%	2%
AK State Troopers	34%	22%	10%	25%
Village council	7%	8%	1%	2%
Official people	0%	4%	5%	4%
Community	0%	2%	2%	0%
Native leaders	2%	2%	1%	0%
Clinical	1%	0%	0%	0%
Nobody	2%	0%	0%	0%
Unsure	3%	2%	4%	5%

Looking at other types of public safety needs, fewer respondents report a frequent need for non-criminal crisis response compared to most of the criminal activities.

Question: *How often does your community need non-criminal crisis response, such as search and rescue, emergency services, suicide response or fire response -- does your community need them...*



And as with criminal activities, the larger the community, the more the respondents reported a more frequent need for crisis response.

"...how often need crisis response...?"

	Size of Community			
	< 100	100-250	251-500	501-1000
Frequently/Fairly Often	13%	25%	36%	48%
Not too often/Very seldom/Never	86%	75%	62%	52%

When asked who should handle non-criminal crisis situations, respondents were much more likely to describe non-public safety officials, such as “*village council*”, “*official people*” or “*the community*”.

Question: *Who do you think should handle such non-criminal crisis situations?*

VPSO	19%	
Village police	14%	} 26%
City/Borough police	8%	
Tribal police	4%	
AK State Troopers	10%	
Village council	6%	
Official people	19%	
Community	9%	
Native leaders	1%	
Clinical	2%	
Unsure	7%	

Respondents from smaller communities (<100-250) are more likely to look toward local community leadership (56%) rather than public safety officials for crisis situations, while respondents from larger communities (501-1000) are more likely to say that local police should handle non-crisis response (35%).

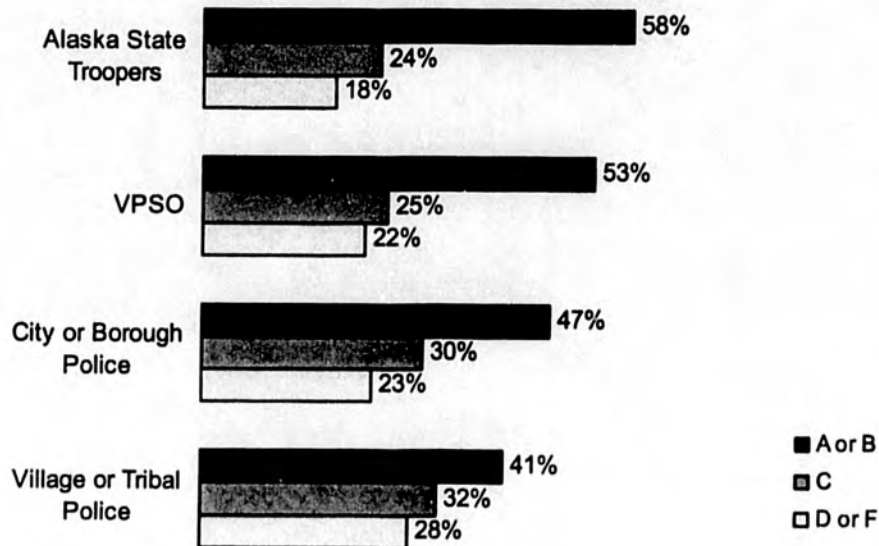
"...handle crisis situations...?"

	Size of Community			
	< 100	100-250	251-500	501-1000
VPSO	28%	21%	31%	11%
Village police	2%	5%	16%	17%
City/Borough police	0%	0%	4%	14%
Tribal police	0%	8%	3%	4%
AK State Troopers	11%	7%	8%	12%
Village council	16%	19%	5%	2%
Official people	19%	20%	17%	20%
Community	18%	9%	9%	9%
Native leaders	0%	1%	1%	2%
Clinical	3%	2%	0%	3%
Unsure	2%	7%	5%	8%

Overall, respondents graded Alaska State Troopers the highest among public safety officers (58% "A" or "B"), followed by VPSO (53%) and City or Borough Police (47%).

Question: *Considering your own experiences, and those of people you know, using a grading scale of A,B,C,D and F like a school report card, what "grade" would you give...?*

(not asked of those who responded not applicable)*



**Alaska State Troopers asked of 79%; VPSO asked of 63%; City/Borough Police asked of 40%; Village/Tribal Police asked of: 60%.*

And the pattern was consistent throughout all community sizes -- more than half of respondents from each population group graded Alaska State Troopers and VPSO highly, giving them an "A" or a "B" (Troopers 52-60%; VPSO 53-60%), while City/Borough and Village/Tribal police were consistently given lower grades in most community categories.

"...what grade would you give...?"

Alaska State Troopers			
	A-B	C	D-F
< 100	52%	22%	26%
100-250	58%	20%	22%
251-500	55%	29%	16%
501-1000	60%	24%	17%

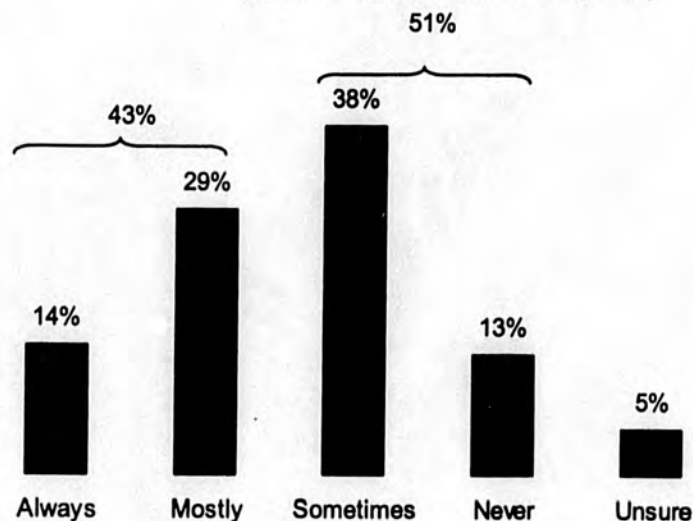
VPSO			
	A-B	C	D-F
< 100	60%	28%	11%
100-250	55%	30%	15%
251-500	53%	24%	24%
501-1000	53%	24%	23%

City or Borough Police			
	A-B	C	D-F
< 100	41%	35%	24%
100-250	41%	31%	28%
251-500	50%	24%	26%
501-1000	47%	31%	21%

Village or Tribal Police			
	A-B	C	D-F
< 100	55%	34%	10%
100-250	32%	42%	25%
251-500	43%	25%	32%
501-1000	41%	34%	25%

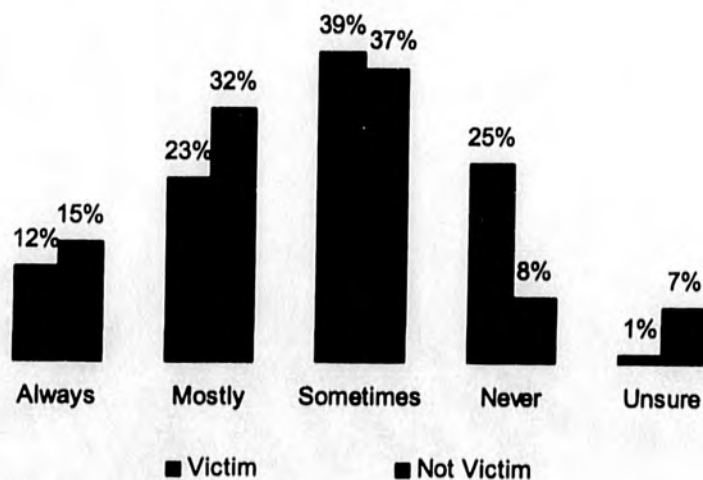
Even though the Alaska State Troopers were consistently highly rated throughout all community size categories, there's an impression that their response time could be improved. In fact, approximately half of the respondents said that Troopers only "sometimes" or "never" respond quickly enough (51%).

Question: *Do Alaska State Troopers respond fast enough to events in your community...?*



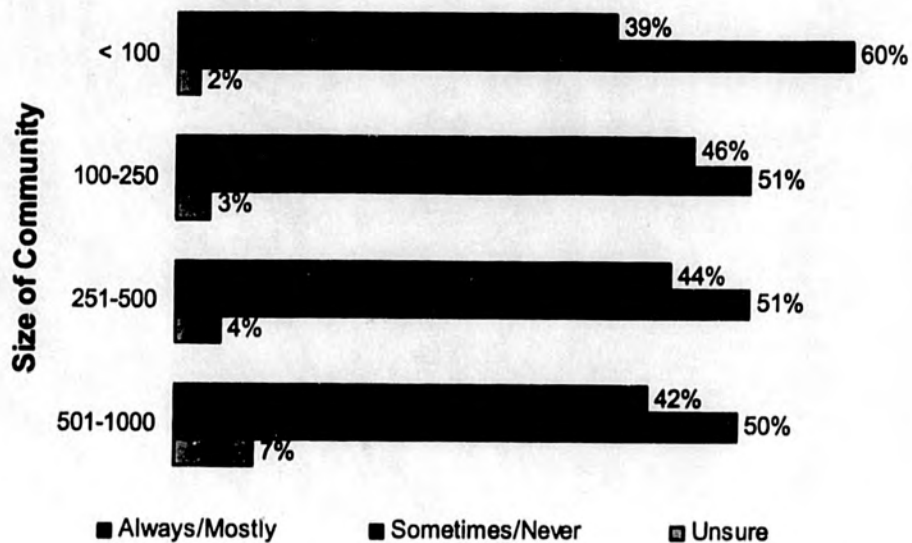
And this impression is particularly strong among reported victims of crime. Approximately two-thirds (64%) of respondents who had been victims of a crime in their community report that Troopers "sometimes" or "never" respond fast enough.

"...Troopers respond fast enough...?"



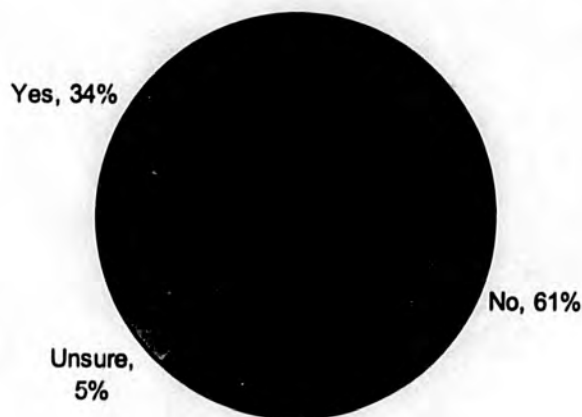
Based on population groupings, respondents who were residents of communities with populations less than 100 were most likely to say that Troopers only "sometimes" or "never" respond fast enough to events in their community (60%) compared to 50-51% in the larger communities.

"...Troopers respond fast enough...?"



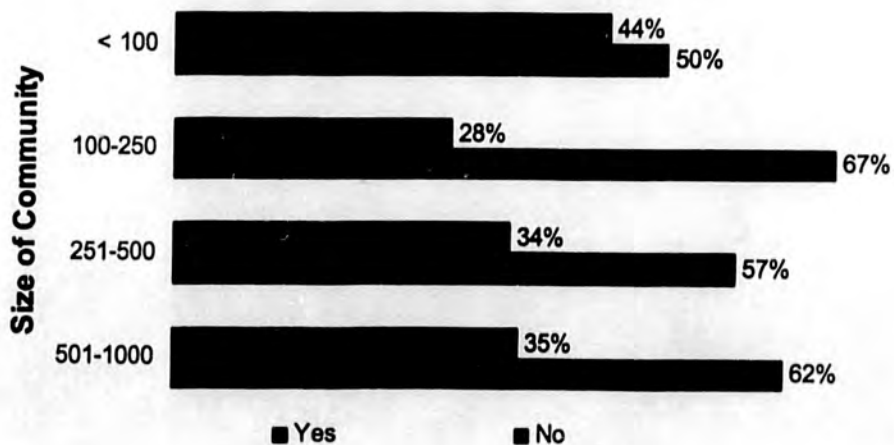
And responsiveness is clearly important -- in spite of the high overall ratings given to the Alaska State Troopers, the presence of other public safety personnel is considered to be important. Three out of five respondents (61%) said that they could not do without public safety positions in their community if there were more Troopers in their region.

Question: *Do you think you could do without public safety positions in your community if there were more Alaska State Troopers in your region that could come more quickly if needed?*



Respondents from the smallest communities of fewer than 100 residents were most likely to say that they could do without local public safety if there were more Troopers (44%), but even in that case, the largest number of respondents felt they could not do without local public safety positions in their communities.

"...do without if more Troopers..."



And in conclusion, by a large margin, the most common response given regarding how to improve public safety in rural communities was to have "more permanent VPSOs" (32%), who receive "better training" (11%), are "honest and unbiased", and would do their job, establish consequences for crime and enforce the law (7%).

[SEE 'VERBATIM COMMENTS' SECTION FOR MORE DETAIL]

Question: *What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?*

32%	More permanent VPSO/VPOs, more money
11%	More and better training, including drugs and alcohol
7%	Honest/unbiased, free from politics and prejudice
7%	Involve community, volunteers, provide role models
5%	More equipment, supplies, housing
6%	Do their job, patrol more, answer phone
4%	Communicate consequences of crime, awareness of laws, reach teens
4%	Enforce, prosecute, treat all crimes seriously
3%	Enforce traffic laws, four-wheelers, snow machines
3%	Go dry, control/eliminate alcohol and drugs
1%	More health/wellness
9%	Unsure
10%	Okay now, doing good job

Regardless of population size, rural public safety views were basically consistent in each category of community size. However, there were two exceptions to this general rule -- the smallest villages (<100 residents) were most likely to express satisfaction with the public safety situation at the present time (16% "okay as it is"), and the larger communities (501-1000 residents) were most likely to suggest "more and better training" (15%).

"...needed to improve...?"

		Size of Community			
		< 100	100-250	251-500	501-1000
More VPSOs		29%	37%	33%	30%
Training		7%	4%	9%	15%
Unbiased, honest		2%	5%	4%	9%
Community involvement		9%	8%	9%	5%
More equipment		10%	5%	4%	5%
Do their job		1%	3%	5%	8%
Communicate		5%	7%	5%	3%
Enforce, prosecute	13%	3%	3%	3%	5%
Enforce traffic		5%	1%	4%	3%
Go dry, control		3%	6%	4%	1%
Health aid		2%	1%	0%	1%
Unsure		8%	11%	10%	7%
Okay now		16%	9%	11%	9%

III

Summary

OVERVIEW: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- ♦ As a whole, rural Alaskans in the smaller communities (<100-1000 residents) reported mixed feelings regarding whether their communities are safe or not (51% "safe"; 48% "unsafe").
- ♦ Over one out of four rural respondents (29%) reported being a victim of crime in the community where they live.
- ♦ The workload of responding to criminal activity in the smaller communities appears to be almost equally shared by the "VPSO" (21%), "City or Borough police" (21%) and "Alaska State Troopers" (19%).
- ♦ The majority of victims (54%) reported they were "satisfied" with the follow-up after the crime; however, nearly one-third (30%) were "very unsatisfied". Dissatisfaction was primarily related to "no action/lack of follow-up" after the crime was reported.
- ♦ Approximately one out of six victims (16%) said they didn't report the crime -- most often because they "didn't know who to report it to" (42%) or because "it wouldn't do any good" (36%).
- ♦ "Juvenile problems" (62%), "alcohol-related crimes and bootlegging" (60%) and "drug-related activities" (51%) lead the list of crimes residents say are occur most often in their communities. The frequency of criminal activities increases substantially as the size of the community increases.
- ♦ The presence of a public safety official in the community is reported to be important -- approximately two-thirds (66%) reported their community would be "worse off" if it did not have a local public safety officer.
- ♦ The Alaska State Troopers are reported to handle most of the crimes in the smaller communities (45% in communities of under 100 residents; 35% in communities of 100-250), while City, Borough, Village or Tribal police are believed to handle most of the crimes in the larger communities (59% in communities of 501-1000 residents).
- ♦ Regardless of population, approximately one out of four respondents (23-30%) consistently reported that the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) handles most of the crimes in their communities.

- The largest number of residents (60-70%) in the smaller rural communities (<100-500 people) report they would prefer an *"unarmed VPSO-level public safety officer"*; while a similar percentage (60%) of the residents in the larger rural communities (501-1000 people) would prefer a *"certified armed police officer"*.
- Overall, respondents throughout rural Alaska graded the *"Alaska State Troopers"* the highest on a grading scale of A, B, C, D and F (56% A or B); closely followed by *"Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO)"* (53% A or B). *"Village or Tribal police"* were most highly rated in the smallest communities (54% A or B).
- In conclusion, despite the high grades for the Alaska State Troopers, by far the most common recommendation to improve public safety in rural areas was related to local community officers -- *"need more, permanent VPSOs/Village Police Officers in the communities"* (32%), who receive *"better training"* (11%) and are *"honest and unbiased"* and free from politics and nepotism (7%). Other suggestions included *"stronger, more strict law enforcement with consequences"* (10%) and VPSOs need to *"answer the phone, do their job, and patrol more"* (6%).

IV

Verbatim Comments

Verbatim Comments

Question: "Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?"

"How satisfied were you with the follow-up?
Why were you dissatisfied?"



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?...."*

"How satisfied were you with the follow-up?....Why were you dissatisfied?"

The state troopers and the VPSO didn't come quickly enough.

Because nothing was done about it. It was swept under the rug and let go.

I have no faith in the system. The court systems make examples of the wrong people.

My wife and I went to town one Christmas and \$8,000 was taken from our house and all the kids' got was a slap on the hand.

"Extra"—We had a serious domestic disturbance yesterday and the state troopers have not come yet.

I was arrested for domestic violence. The other party called in the state troopers. It was a false accusation, but since I didn't have the money to fight it, I pleaded it out and paid for it with time in jail and with money. But I still say I was the victim.

Never got our things back even though they talked to the people who did it.

The troopers didn't seem like they investigated deeply enough. We did not have a VPSO at the time.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 101-250

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?....
"How satisfied were you with the follow-up?....Why were you dissatisfied?"*

I was charged with something I did not do. The assistant district attorney apologized but not the state troopers. It was a political thing.

Because the person who did the crime had no punishment at all. Went completely without anything. We've been pretty lawless around here.

There were not enough people to protect me in the community against the abusers.

Nothing was done about my problem. The troopers just ignored it. It was an assault.

Nothing was done. Things get really political here.

They didn't do anything. They stole from me and the state trooper said it was a civil case. VPSO is a good program but under funded.

Nothing was ever done. No follow-up by the former VPSO, not the one we have now.

Couldn't subdue the bums. No contacts. No one would talk to them. Out of touch. I dealt with it myself.

They, the village council, did not respond. And I wrote a letter to the state troopers. They did nothing either. We had to go on our own and go to court.

Because nothing happened by the school administrator, and the girl is a little thief.

They didn't come and do anything about it. They just let it slide.

The state troopers left out a lot. The village council did good, listened and called the troopers.

This was already a convicted sex offender and he tried to sexually assault me. It was something he had been punished for before. He should have gotten harsher punishment but I know why he didn't. Something to do with the judicial system in Nome. There was no court trial, he was put on probation, and he is back here.

It turned into a felony and the state troopers took care of the felony.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251-500

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?....
"How satisfied were you with the follow-up?....Why were you dissatisfied?"*

Went to them, to VPO, for domestic violence against me and they took me in. The second time they just told me to handle it myself.

The response to endangerment to my life was satisfactory. It depends on who is here. Every policeman is different.

There was no response or follow-up.

He broke into my house and groped me and nothing happened to him. No investigation. He was a bothersome person.

They never found the stuff stolen or who stole it.

My home was broken into and the state troopers never came out.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?....
"How satisfied were you with the follow-up?....Why were you dissatisfied?"*

I had a strong voice with the judge about it and they said I needed to go back home. I think I went to court for nothing because I don't think the judge understood me and I don't think I understood enough of what he said. They kept us waiting two months and then didn't get an answer or nothing.

Because the kid was a minor and when he went to court they didn't notify us.

There was no response to my problem.

Under assault, called the troopers, and no answer. I called my daughter who called the Bethel troopers. Guy was at a party, got jealous with his wife and held a gun on her.

Because of the time it took for them to do anything. I got no response.

The level of training of the VPO was not adequate.

A stolen snow machine. The VPO did nothing. Then reported it to the state trooper who did some follow-up, maybe. I'm not sure if they did anything.

The police walked into my house before me and I will probably lose the case because of it. The "no-contact rule" sucks. You can't even go to church with people. If there is something that's a civil case there is no one to help. The police won't guide us where to go with civil and criminal issues.

They brandish weapons way too much. Came here and drew his gun and was going to shoot my dogs.

Because there was no follow-through whatsoever. That's it.

Our four wheelers where being taken by juveniles and when we reported it they still could not stop them from being out in the middle of the night and taking everyone's four wheelers.

Verbatim Comments

Question Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?

Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?...."*

"...Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?"

Nobody was around to report it to.

I didn't know who to report it to.

There's no one to report to, not that big of a crime. Didn't think troopers would think that it was big and investigate.

Wait and wait and wait for someone to come and just forget about it.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100-250

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?...."*

"...Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?"

Not enough people witnessed it to verify. You have to have two, at least two, witnesses to have the incident reported here, I would say.

I don't know. It wasn't a crime so who do I report it to?

If I report it to the state troopers and they speak to the IRA or council they would turn it on me. The state troopers would believe them. They don't go after their own, but everyone else!

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251-500

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?...."*

"...Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?"

Because there was no one to report it to.

Because there was not a set protocol when it happened.

No comment.

No one to report it to. If it was reported to the clinic we'd still wait here until it's too late to help.

No reason to, somebody else reported it.

Because I know the guy and he is not a bad guy.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

QUESTION: *"Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you currently live in? Who did you first report the crime to?...."*

"...Or did it go unreported? Why wasn't it reported?"

It was vandalism and I didn't report it because I knew nothing would be done about it. I have had friends whose places had been vandalized and the VPO came out and did nothing.

It does no good. Troopers don't fill reports, parents give the kids the machines but no money for gas. They just go out and take it. Need more parental control.

Had gas siphoned from a snow machine once, but I didn't think I needed to report it because there was not much of a chance in him being caught.

There was no one to report it to at the time.

They wouldn't find the person. There are too many people here. It was vandalism, parts were taken off of my four-wheeler. They took the keys also. I haven't caught them yet, but I'm still looking.

If it is a white man they just laugh at you, and if it is a native they gather around.

Orbatim Comments

What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

QUESTION: *"What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?"*

Our VPSO takes care of it and drunk driving doesn't happen now. We have helmet laws now too, that are enforced.

Have a community meeting to see if it's needed, and if it is needed, find a qualified person to fill the position by asking around, and advertise the position.

Provide housing for a VPSO to live in and they should have one in every village. There are no real problems here.

Gee, I don't know, it is taken care of by people in the village. There are only 40+ people and we are like a big family.

Nothing at all, I think we are good the way we are. Got good kids here and a few elderly people and everyone gets along.

Community members are too easy on people.

A VPSO officer. We get one and they end up going on to the troopers!

We've pretty well got it covered.

Nothing now.

Get rid of the booze by searching airline bags coming from Fairbanks. J--- and J--- bring it in.

I guess to have a contact with a 911 number. Our community doesn't have that, and a quicker response when we need someone.

A leash law for animals.

Our village is small so we really don't need anyone.

We need to have a VPSO so that when the trooper gets called to another village we can still have someone here to keep everyone safe.

Maybe we should have a VPSO here.

Quicker Med Evacs. We had a man die of a heart attack because we couldn't get a Med Evac for him.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

Accountability; the presence of someone who could hold them to be accountable for their actions--like a VPSO.

Maybe a trained VPSO who could walk around the community to get to know everyone and let people know there would be consequences for their actions.

Just make sure everything is going well. The VPSO should make sure everything is in order.

Getting a community action thing going--a volunteer fire department, for example.

To get our own VPSO.

Give the VPSO better training on what he feels he needs.

The VPSO handles everything, that's all I know!

Getting a VPSO.

To get a VPSO.

Parents taking interest in their children.

I'd say more local communication, by more village gatherings.

Parents need to wake up--more awareness of what's going on with the kids. They tend to turn their heads and not acknowledge the petty crimes.

We need to have the drug dealers cleaned up and then have a VPSO.

Nothing good will happen in our area. We grew up knowing that. The government will wipe out villages totally. People who are drunk respect a police officer who has a gun. Sometimes the VPSO's are dickheads. People suck in their stomachs around an armed trooper. We don't have a VPSO, a health aide, or any other kind of help. We do it like we have been taught by our elders.

We need a native VPSO, someone who understands what we go through, instead of an outsider. A native guy will shy back from a white guy who asks questions.

The state needs more money so they can send more VPSO's. We get by, but we need someone else to help with crisis situations here. If things don't get worse we can handle it.

Get rid of drugs and alcohol.

Our community is strong and tight knit, but we need communication with the outside world.

VPSO to Tribal, TPO. Streetlights.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

We should have a VPSO who stays here. We need someone in this small community. If something happens there's no one to help when there is a crisis.

Here, even our drunks are trained. Mental health money allocated and spent at a local level can be prioritized and can create preventative opportunities for positive actions and progress. Don't cut the villages' mental health money. Prevention is a whole lot cheaper than prosecution.

This town needs more lights on the roads. Everybody is like family here, so we all take care of each other.

Getting somebody here! We need an officer of some sort. Please, we really need somebody here. I could go into flowery exposé about our problems, but it basically boils down to the fact that we need somebody.

Keep kids who are underage and drive four wheelers very fast from doing it. We need a VPSO in the summertime. We may not be able to trust one, after the last two, who were peeping toms.

More than anything we need native officers. We take care of our own for the most part. We try not to let things get out of hand. We can handle it. The troopers are 1.4 air miles away.

We are having a little fire safety course going for even the children, which is nice. We really don't need anything out here at all.

First, on the federal side they need money. We need to hire our own officer but he will not handle major crimes. Second, we need a tribal agreement on public safety.

Education and facing the consequences for what they do.

The community here has to want and support a VPSO. People here gang up on authority figures. A VPSO that would help with the DARE program and coordinate duties would improve things. If we could have a visiting officer that would come and help with prevention programs, a trained VPSO would help. Start with the kids, train and control them and the crime rate will drop.

It reverts back to basic family morals and values. If we still had that we would not need any law enforcers.

Better court and justice systems. Put people in jail who commit crimes, don't put them back in the villages where they cause more crime.

Raise community awareness that we want a safe community.

Getting a VPSO and actually enforce the tribal and state laws.

A well trained VPSO would be most beneficial.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

We have a VPSO. We need a better fire protection infrastructure for water and foam availability, water pumps and hose access to the river.

Some form of local representation with small communities. People step up and wear multiple hats. VPSO is a better fit. It works a lot towards prevention of crime. Trooper Welch is a good man, hard for him to get here. Shorter response time saves life and property. He has to travel by land and air, whereas Seward had jurisdiction and they can come only by air. Troopers are well trained and have good hearts. Girdwood has us imposed on them. Public safety in any form should be held utmost the highest in addition to medical and education and should be budgeted accordingly.

Perhaps better or more fire equipment would be good.

Not a thing, just got new fire equipment in and several people have trained for it so we really have all we need.

We need a small fire truck to respond to fires. Flotation devices for safety on the river. Faster service for planes to leave faster in emergency. Something to reach someone fast if electric and phones go out.

We had a fire last year, not much to do about it. Need more fire equipment.

Fire safety equipment, training for the equipment.

Need to get funding for a VPSO here.

Would like to see the health aide come more often. A VPSO would be nice to have.

Nothing, we are safe here.

Get more information to the public; caution them about illegal activities and safety cautions.

Nothing. We need more volunteers, like for the fire department and the search and rescue, we could use more volunteers. It would be good if they paid people here to do that kind of stuff.

If we had a VPSO that had more training in the fire department stuff. We have lost a lot of homes due to fires here. Also, they don't have the VPSO overseen enough so that they are doing their jobs. The troopers just care regarding safety and not fire response and they are the ones that oversee them and they won't listen to nobody but the troopers. If the trooper doesn't check up on them for half a year, they get lazy and stuff goes wrong.

First is a VPSO officer.

We need better leadership and training and management.

Someone who organizes quick response to tidal waves, earthquakes, to alert and help elders to be safe. Fines, too. And bear safety—big problem.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 100

More training for the VPSO.

A VPSO and updated ordinances.

Control of alcohol use and drunks.

Drug and alcohol, dealing with it. If we know a local is using alcohol the council will handle it, but then the state troopers deal with it. If nipped in the bud it would eliminate the problem.

A community watch where we are trained to handle what is needed.

Our people should get along, quit drugs and alcohol, get a VPSO. He is needed. There are three at Sleetmute. Send one to Stony River.

We need a trained someone to live in the community so we wouldn't have to call and wait, wait, wait.

Control the people in this town. People should have drivers' licenses and headlights.

We're fine the way we are.

Information on domestic violence and stuff. Let people know where to go and who to call.

More patrols when the ice goes out on the river.

A VPSO would be good.

Getting VPSO assistants, education and report to community.

Get someone not related to anyone around here.

Need the citizens to be more responsible.

Less drinking in our community would be most important.

Have a state trooper in the vicinity.

It's very peaceful here, nothing happens to need a public safety officer.

We need a VPSO, we have one. No problems here.

Control the flow of alcohol and drugs.

Mostly it's just kids speeding on their four-wheelers. The VPSO can handle that.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

QUESTION: *"What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?"*

First VPSO, and less alcohol and drugs.

We need a VPSO.

I would call a committee to come together to decide if it is needed. I see where it is needed but there is a lack of funds and of dedicated people to hold these positions. In the past we have had people who were biased. They don't want to do much because it's a relative, or if they are not related they send them straight to jail, no matter what it is.

I don't know, I don't work and I don't know anything.

Getting somebody to work with us here, VPO or others you mentioned.

We need to have someone trusting and reliable in the VPSO position.

How to take care of the bootlegging—the VPSO knowing what to do and working with the Alaska State Troopers.

We have a Tribal Council to deal with what happens and sometimes the State Troopers come out.

I would say more training for the VPSO and more frequent trips by the Alaska State Troopers.

We need a VPSO.

Someone enforcing the laws.

Consequences!! We have the procedures and know what the laws are but the criminal is taken to town, and is tried, but nothing happens to him. He's back before the paperwork is even processed, and back committing crimes.

Education and more information to the community as to what is available, like with health issues, and what other options they may have especially in emergency situations.

To respond quickly to the crime and to help each other.

Supporting the VPSO, if we get one.

I can't think what would be most important. Suicide prevention for the kids, help them understand and talk to them about what is right and what is wrong. More involvement from the community, the VPSO's and the troopers. The kids also do lots of breaking things, too. The community has lost their time in the gym and they're unhappy and angry about it.



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

I don't know.

We need a VPSO to handle situations right away instead of having to call in the Alaska State Troopers.

Get the bootleggers under control. I don't know what we could do, it just needs to stop.

I don't know but someone needs to do something about the drugs and alcohol in our village. I think half the people here use them.

Education, people in villages need to understand the officers in the community are here for their good, to regulate the rules of the state.

The laws that apply in Anchorage are applied here. It doesn't matter what color skin you have, your car should be registered with current tags, and you should be thrown in jail if you are driving drunk, etc.

Getting a VPSO here would be a good start.

We need a state trooper here.

I feel (we need) communication between citizens and officers so we know who to contact in different situations.

I don't know, they are doing fine now.

We need to get maybe another VPSO so that one person doesn't have to be on duty all of the time.

Funding to extend the hours that our VPOs operate.

To have a VPSO, someone to call if there is something going on. We have no one.

Get a teen center out here.

Troopers have an image because the only time we see them is when they are taking someone out of the village.

Awareness of verbal abuse.

A curfew for the younger people.

If they could absolutely stop all the booze coming in here it would be so good.

Training another VPSO.

I really don't know.



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

They should answer as soon as they receive a call.

Probably training, better training.

To knock the bootlegging and booze on their heads because that is what's happening a lot now with the kids.

Getting someone to come out here more often.

Too small a community, but we're so isolated and small we need a VPSO. That would be best. But no one likes to talk about problems, too much conflict. We need the troopers to respond.

There's not enough traveling roads. The VPSO is in for just the money.

The VPSO just came. Keep drunks and drug violations and sex assault information confidential. Don't ever tell wife.

State troopers need a bigger influence. Need justice and court system.

Replace the VPSO.

Distribution centers for the rural communities. Regulate and educate who comes in town. The politics of local cops equals harassment.

The VPSO should be more visible, wearing his uniform. We don't see the VPSO enough. He should come out of his house more often. We only see him going to the post office.

What's going on right now, our water system is being upgraded.

We are on a runway and are working on getting the runway moved away from the village.

Hiring someone, even a trainee. Someone who follows policies and procedures.

Housing, it's too crowded and can cause problems.

Fire safety. We have nothing up here, no fire hydrants or fire trucks. Nothing. My house would just burn to the ground.

Fire equipment.

State troopers, but there's no trust here now. The VPSO is very under funded. We provided basic living for them with housing, vehicle and utilities.

It's more money for public safety.

It would be real neat to have a VPSO to keep people from drinking and driving. It is dangerous when elders and kids are walking around.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

We have a VPSO here. The tribal council has a lot to do with that. Who pays a VPSO?

Probably a VPSO.

It worked with a TPO, we just need funding to hire and train one. A VPSO would help, too. The TPO could go to the village council and use their court system. Our TPO hasn't been working for two months, but it's what we really need. Somebody we could call without putting all the pressure on our tribal chief.

Nothing really. The troopers make a monthly visit and things balance out.

To get a VPSO or a VPO. We need someone who is available when he is needed. We need someone who would be more accountable for their responses and not just responding to the local tribal council. We get no response from our tribal council.

We need a VPO or Tribal PO. We needed someone who would go out and patrol. The former VPSO's wouldn't go out because they were threatened. We need someone, anyone, to enforce laws out here. There's no one at all to do this. Our tribal council could get a lot of money for this, but nobody cares enough to do it.

We need funding to hire a VPSO and training for people who would work as a VPSO.

Parental awareness, be more involved with their children.

Parents taking action and disciplining their children so nothing further goes on. We have a lot of bootlegging going on involving other communities around here.

Getting a VPSO or VPO in our community who can address the violence and the curfews a lot of our kids break.

A VPSO, I guess.

Probably a quicker response is first, they have to go through Barrow first. And when we have a person detained there is no one to watch him. A second VPSO is needed.

Just communication between law enforcement and the community. It needs to be kept open and ongoing.

Nothing.

Another officer.

We need a second officer.

Need VPSO—having more, and being out on patrol.

A VPSO for crowd control.



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

It's okay now.

First, VPSO needs a different attitude at the court. They overlook a lot of incidents, minor stuff, that leads to big stuff later on.

An officer on site like a VPSO.

Stop alcohol coming into the village. It should go dry.

General awareness.

We are okay.

A better VPO.

I wouldn't know.

It's very quiet here. The VPSO's do a good job.

It's complicated. Parents are involved in alcohol. I just don't know.

We need the presence of a public service professional here.

We need to raise the wages for the VPSO. We would get a better quality person. If the VPSO would go around and look things over, especially at dances, there would be less crime.

I don't know, more information, maybe workshops on domestic violence.

Give more information, let people know what the VPSO's job is. They don't know his job description, what he should be doing.

Have two VPSO's in each village, one on and one off, so not on all the time. One person can't do it all. Each village should have a VPSO, but should come from another place, not their own village where everyone has grown up together.

Possibly, we don't really have issues, but maybe a second VPSO to do shift work.

Kick VPSO's in the rear end and light a fire underneath them. Needs to be more on the ball, talk less, work more.

Oh man, I don't know. I'd have to think about that.

I think it's okay the way it is, we don't have much crime. It's a small village.

Probably have a VPSO.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 100 - 250

The city council are biased. A one-sided family, defend themselves only, go after others and fine them.

We need a TPO or a VPO, prefer a TPO.

Get some kind of officer here. A well-trained VPSO would be best.

Kids are breaking into stores, post office, and they steal snow machines and that crap. They need a VPSO here, somebody from the city they don't know. If they know them they don't listen to them!

We had a VPSO and we need one now. Then we wouldn't have drunk driving, kids that are up late, and no truancy. State troopers are 90 miles away. The response we have here is not that quick. Sometimes they don't get here for five days! We have to do our own Med Evac sometimes because one might not be available in Bethel. It's a crisis situation in the rural villages. Sometimes the troopers don't get here at all when they're called.

Well, I think the VPO in the past had been here for 15-20 years before he handled anything, or had any involvement. But in the past few years he's realized he has to be more in the community and in our activities. He's made it known if needed you could come to him with suggestions and certain types of hurts. He's available if there is a problem. VPO does a good job, he's available and state troopers available here too.

I don't know, I wouldn't have no idea on that.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

QUESTION: *"What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?"*

Probably more training for the VPO.

I don't think there is anything.

Getting the little bitty kids off of the snow machines and slowing everything down.

It's working pretty well the way it is.

More VPO's.

Take care of our kids first.

More patrolling.

Hire more police.

Education on the city and possibly the state laws and ordinances.

Take all of these snow machines and four wheelers away from all these people and let them walk.

We've got a pretty good town the way it is.

Training so it's more professional and better salaries for the tribal police officers.

Community help, their full support. Don't criticize when someone does their job but back them up for the good of everyone.

A VPSO would be the first thing we need.

Not to have politics. Don't have police interfere with what is not their business.

Patrolling the village more frequently.

I think working with the kids' activities and give good role models.

Cops that would answer the phone!

Add a VPSO.

Good the way it is.



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

The VPSO and VPO do it now—it's good.

I'd like the VPSO to patrol at night and send the kids home early and the police patrol all night.

Enforcing the search and seizure rule. When community members come back into the community they are supposed to be searched to make sure they aren't bringing in illegal drugs or alcohol, but the VPSO doesn't enforce that rule.

A back-up VPSO since they can't be here all the time.

Maybe they need more VPSO's to check any problems, to keep things safer.

The VPSO needs to stay in the village and not go fishing and someplace with his wife. He is supposed to protect our community.

We need more than one VPSO because he can't be on duty 24 hours a day.

I think we are supposed to get a TPO pretty soon to help the VPSO. I think that would be good.

We need a state trooper enforcing state laws. The VPSO is related to half of the community and nothing gets done or checked out.

I think we should have a VPSO here. I think it would help the VPO and would give a job to someone in our community.

More law enforcement. We need a new fire truck.

Hiring a good VPSO that will be strict with the community.

Drug and alcohol control for younger children.

The funding to retain these people and for the training.

I really don't know.

Having a state trooper here on site.

Funding, we need money to operate. The state needs to do something about it.

It'd be good if they searched people coming into the village. It'd help stop bootlegging.

Having a person either as a VPO or a safety officer.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

To get a VPSO.

A good, trained police officer not from this area and not related to anyone in this area.

We need a police officer.

A law enforcement agent and a state trooper posted here in the village.

What is needed is a tribal safety officer.

Okay as is.

The laws need to be written more adequately. For example, until drug activity is reported, the VPO is not allowed to act on it. We definitely need another PSO. It is wrong to send one man into some of these situations without back-up. Everyone knows who brings drugs or alcohol into the community, but no one will turn them in. Education and activities for the kids would really slow this problem down.

A fire department. We need a tribal officer. We can take care of our own problems.

It has improved since the borough came in. Lots of kids around. They get in trouble.

I'd say an IRA should try and get a grant for a VPSO.

To have somebody around that people could see and know that they will be there forever. Someone with authority not some fly-by-night VPSO.

A drug and alcohol treatment center.

CPO violates our rights. They break into houses without warrants. Need to raise the respect of the officer. Don't bother calling them.

We need a VPSO! The troopers are in Craig, hours drive from here. They don't always respond the same day. Hydaburg is a dying town.

Some sort of police enforcement. The mayor is working on getting us something here. We need help for the alcohol and drug problem. There is no economy base here, but people always have money for booze. My brother just called and said someone was outside drunk and shooting a gun, so he told me to lock my doors. I never leave my house at night. We had a VPSO, but funding got cut and now there is no one. The troopers are an hour away, if they bother to come at all. Need someone!

We need more community involvement in the fire department and for juvenile offenders.

Awareness. More signs like "Reward: Turn these people in"-- to catch drug dealers. I would like some funds for search and rescue. We need a boat. It's getting dangerous in the spring.



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

Have a meeting of all the elders and the community of Noatak. If they do hire someone, they should have protection. Supply them their needs and equipment to do the job and transportation and housing.

We have a low crime rate. I would like to see a tribal court to see that minor things don't escalate into more serious crimes. Kaktovik is the nicest community on the North Slope to bring up a child in. We are close knit and there is great support for each other. We would rather get our services from Fairbanks than in Barrow. We need another officer, at least to give our officer a break. Sometimes it's six months before he gets a break. **(Additional remarks)** When Kaktovik became a dry village, that is when everything turned to the better. We had a reduction in crime, accidents, alcohol related injuries and reduced the need for health and emergency calls and police activities were reduced by 80-90%! We rarely have vehicle accidents anymore and the neglect of children and domestic violence incidents came way down. Attendance at school and tardiness that was due to parental neglect has changed so drastically that we have the best attendance records on the North Slope. Grade point average is the highest on the North Slope. It's all above average now. The whole community dynamics changed after alcohol became outlawed. It was like night to day.

More officers, especially at night.

A facility to put all the paperwork in, an office.

More grants for police department. Also replace the old, old building.

It's good. More time for the officers. More money because they spend their own money on needs of the community and people, and a better place for them to work.

It needs grants.

More financial support.

More safety officers doing arrests and helping the community. Safety officers being a good role model.

I don't know, I think we have enough.

When I was VPSO, you worked 24/7. We need more help. We need tools to work with, better communication equipment, vehicles, better back-up in the villages, i.e. trained VPO's. Emergency response people (EMT's), search and rescue team, trained and well-organized. We need a building for public safety. The most important thing we need is trail marks between villages for winter snow machine travel. In Bethel area it's very important because the only travel is by snow machine between Eek and Bethel and in Dillingham and Barrow areas in Yukon. More funding for the small villages!

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

Helping towards domestic violence, those who were victims. Prevention.

More training to the VPO and VPSO's so they can learn how to deal with varied situations. Better equipment would help, so the officers are better equipped to do their jobs. Our community involvement helps.

Better pay, more hours, more benefits, more personnel.

More local involvement and local decisions by the residents.

Going through and listing the importance of laws made for the village that the tribal council passes and have someone enforce those laws. They are not now enforced.

Get a VPSO who does not harass the kids for just being kids.

Communication with the community. Like addressing the road conditions, for one thing. Like talking to juveniles at school about gun safety and other things.

Have the tribal government know what the community wants and then go from there. Have open communication with the community.

Stop underage drinking.

Probably increased staffing, more VPSO's.

Don't know, there's hardly any crimes out here. Get grant funding so there's more work out here.

Need VPSO. Get rid of dope dealers importing alcohol.

Hire another VPSO.

More training for our VPO.

Need a VPSO.

Nothing.

Have a state trooper up here I guess.

First step is don't let young ones run around on snow machines and Hondas (four-wheelers) and get hurt. They should listen to parents and should not drive without a parent supervising. The VPSO should cut down on them riding without a parent.

Being sure VPSO's are trained like the troopers, to take care of any situation.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION 251 - 500

More road signs like stop signs.

The kids are out late asking for cigarettes while VPSO is having one.

We need the VPSO. Sometimes we need the state troopers. That's it.

If our city police officers were able to go train with the VPSO's when the state troopers call them for training, then they'd be more ready in advance.

Public safety is doing a really good job, nothing else is needed.

More communications between VPO and VPSO and the people and city council. VPSO is hard to get hold of, doesn't answer phone.

Someone to keep the alcohol out of Nulato.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

QUESTION: *"What do you think is really needed to improve public safety in your community? What would be the most important first step?"*

A VPSO officer. We get one and they end up going on to the troopers!

The young people watch a lot of bad TV and they try to copy what they see. We've got to watch out for the attitudes of the young people before something happens. We need to control the young people before it's too late.

More patrolling by VPO's. Need more VPO's to keep the community safer.

Getting more VPO's and VPSO's in the community to deal with the problems. The VPO's always complain that there aren't enough people to help deal with problems in the community.

Do something about drugs. Right now there is so much paper work and the offenders get off on technicalities.

If we are going to have a city cop I think the first step should be a better background check on them. Make sure they are a good law abiding citizen first.

Get a magistrate, a local magistrate to punish the people the VPSO arrests.

I would like to see more VPSO's instead of the city police who strong arm people and pull their guns way too often.

I think there is a real problem with domestic violence and right now it is almost ignored. I think they need a better trained VPO and maybe more of them so the issue is addressed and a punishment is handed out.

They need a better building. When the building is full they send the intoxicated people home. They need to keep them there until they are sober.

A bigger building, the building isn't large enough.

We need a few more VPSO's patrolling and helping. My daughter committed suicide a few years back and I don't know if she would have if she had someone to talk to.

Better communication. Know who to call for each situation.

We need more resources, more staff. Well, the city police officer we have right now is struggling to take care of the big problems and smaller problems such as truancy and traffic violations are almost ignored.

More officers.



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

Having a VPSO in the village.

The police officers who respond faster.

A lot of funding.

To have more than one officer on duty instead of rotating hours.

Try and get the VPSO certified.

More funding for police officers and more social workers.

Community awareness. For instance, drugs and bootlegging. People need to come out and say something about it.

A person who is able to investigate and arrest when needed and not wait for the troopers to fly in.

It's pretty much covered by the officers now.

For them not to be so lazy, the city police. They respond to calls well, but they're not out patrolling and if they did some things could be avoided.

During the summer we have a lot of people come here, so we need more officers.

They should make their dogs be on leashes, that should be the first thing.

The kids have taken over the school. They do what they want, no one is in control.

VPO's need more training.

If they had extra VPSO's or whatever, especially during subsistence fishing. So much is lost in fuel and equipment, especially in summer.

Get honest cops! Every child from 12 on up are in the police system. Police and troopers, they are making sure everyone has a record so they can't graduate from school or get a scholarship. They are all illegal and do illegal things to everyone. They know no one can afford an \$8,000 detoxing so troopers give out fines right and left and arrest too. They just walk into a home without permission and anyone in the house with alcohol is charged.

More people on the job.

Don't see a lot of problems here.

More control over drugs and alcohol. The city police are doing good here.

They need to be more visible and patrol more often.



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

Every time we had police officers here, doing their jobs, they got terminated. Five former police officers have filed a suit against the city manager. Get us a good chief of police and get the city manager to keep her nose out of police department. City manager has no business telling the police department who they can and cannot ticket. Her kid is on the city council. No one enforces traffic laws. Four wheelers sometimes have five kids on them. Traffic is totally out of control.

City manager or council should not be over police matters. They are related to everybody and it always causes problems.

Getting a public safety officer not related to the entire community.

I think they need to prosecute a crime fairly and quickly, and not just slap hands. We had a run of burglary and vandalism over the summer and the troopers didn't do much so the traditional tribal council tried to do something. Only the crimes weren't being done by traditional kids, they are very non-traditional. So it only escalated as we went into the fall season.

Give our ambulance driver a permit to carry a weapon. He's right on the spot all the time.

More than a first step, police should respond to problems.

Getting patrol officers in our town.

To get a state trooper. We need one here. We don't even have a VPSO.

The VPO's need better training. Need a VPSO that is trained in recognizing what is a crime and what is not a crime, with some assistance from state trooper if called for. Non-criminal activities occur in our towns mostly. Workloads get heavy sometimes.

We need more police officers. We need more officers in the villages with training like the one we have. If something happens to our current VSO the whole community would be at the mercy of the criminal. Come to the community so you can see first-hand what we need. Over the phone you only have a "paper picture" of what we're talking about. Ask the people if you can record what I say, rather than just what you write down. As for criminal activity, I sometimes get calls to help with back-up. Not too often, but occasionally. It's scary to get a call from a police officer who says, "Can you back me up?" We need child education such as DARE, or drug, alcohol, sex education for our youth. Education is always the best prevention. We need help. Schools, or mail-outs, creating community activities would help because there is nothing to do at night in the villages from 5 pm until morning. Events would help the situation here.

Our VPO is under-funded and underpaid. They have no benefits and training and it's a risky job. Need someone, a neutral party, or a group coming to meet with city and tribal officers to see what kind of training and services this community needs. We need native Yupik trained people to deal with misdemeanor type crime. We need a set of rules so everyone knows.

VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

More trained law enforcement personnel. Would be good to have VPSO. We have a trooper but he only works days and we can only call him at night for emergency felonies. Too much crime for very few officers. We are very busy especially at night. Most crimes happen at night.

A fulltime police officer or one we would share with Scammon and Hooper Bay.

A traditional VPO, whatever decision they make we should live with it.

To have more people trained for law enforcement.

Nothing, it's okay. Don't need one. Nothing happens here.

A building. The one we have is dilapidated and falling apart.

More funding for VPSO and VPO. And a second VPSO to help the one we have now.

If they would go to more calls and do their job right. I used to be a VPO. I went to every call.

Tribal government would handle things better. The non-native police are not fair and are prejudiced. We need a tribal court here who knows our way of life. The tribal court would work with the families and try to work problems out. How can we get 911? We need a local judge and court. A tribal court would help us. Court events are now handled through the Seward court system by phone.

More patrolling and more certified cops.

Make police less prejudice and stop harassing the people.

State funding for incorporating the community for village police.

We don't have a qualified or school-trained police force and we should have one so they can communicate with the state troopers better.

More authority given to VPSO, like VPO.

Taking care of the people's safety. Provide safety for the people in general, including taking of all-terrain vehicles. Getting them in line with the community laws. I believe the VPSO's here are doing a good job.

A new mayor, a police officer.

To tell the truth I think it's fine the way it is.

Getting the people together and all the elders to see what the plans for the future are and the priorities for our children and their future life.

We need better trained and better VPO's, better response time from the troopers.



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

More training and improved communications and stop people driving, particularly children, without licenses. Stop curfew violations.

It's fine the way it is, I can't think of anything.

More community involvement. But we won't have it under the current police.

I'm content, no areas need improvement. The volunteer vans need more funding though.

Patrol around, nothing else at this time.

Maybe enforce curfew violations. If curfew was enforced the crime would go down.

I don't know, watch traffic and speeding. We need a VPSO of our own. There is one, two villages over, who will come once in awhile. But we need our own.

Improve the police department, especially search and rescue. They need more equipment, even army surplus would help, like tents.

All they've got are kids in there, VPO, VPSO, etc, who don't have training. They need training.

Need somebody here who's not going to care that "So-and-So" is "So-and-So's" son. They need to be unbiased.

Have trainings to be VPSO's.

To take the drugs away from town and drinking. It's a dry town.

A trooper in our community, or at least an armed trained police officer.

Getting a lot of VPSO's in our region. State troopers are not going away.

Probably safety, probably VPSO just to keep an eye out.

Quick response to calls or problems, whatever is going on.

Getting a public safety officer who is not an immediate relative of anyone who lives here.

I think it's pretty safe.

Maybe more touring of the area.

Don't know, pretty good here.

Make curfews for kids in school. Stop underage driving.

Controlling substance abuse and alcohol. More undercover investigation.



VILLAGES WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 500

Armed police officer, more than one is needed, minimum of three.

A wellness coordinator.

A police officer.

Geesh, we have 24/7 police officers here now. The officers are on duty 24/7 and I'm pleased with them.

V Crosstabulations

**Have you been the victim of a crime in the community you
currently live in?**

		YES	NO	BASE
TOTAL		29%	71%	100.0%
POPULATION	UNDER 100	25%	75%	4.5%
	100-250	31%	69%	15.2%
	251-500	28%	72%	28.6%
	501-1000	29%	71%	51.7%
Time in Community	0-4 YRS	11%	89%	9.9%
	5-9 YRS	27%	73%	6.7%
	15-20 YEARS	68%	32%	5.5%
	20+ YEARS	28%	72%	42.9%
	ALL MY	28%	72%	35.0%
Safe in Community	UNSURE	40%	60%	1.5%
	YES	21%	79%	51.5%
	NO	37%	63%	47.0%
Age	18-29	35%	65%	19.1%
	30-44	24%	76%	28.2%
	45-59	31%	69%	36.9%
	60-75	21%	79%	13.7%
	76+ YEARS	39%	61%	2.0%
Gender	MALE	25%	75%	50.4%
	FEMALE	33%	67%	49.6%

(Asked of 29% who responded they had been a victim of crime)
Who did you first report the crime to? Did you report it to...

		UNSURE	VPSO	CPO BPO	TPO VPO	AST	NOT REPORTED	CITIZENS	HEALTH AIDE	BASE
TOTAL		1%	21%	21%	14%	19%	16%	4%	3%	100.0%
POPULATION	UNDER 100	0%	23%	7%	3%	27%	18%	17%	5%	4.0%
	100-250	3%	33%	0%	3%	32%	11%	9%	10%	16.6%
	251-500	3%	13%	16%	18%	21%	18%	8%	3%	27.6%
	501-1000	0%	22%	32%	17%	13%	17%	0%	0%	51.7%
Time in Community	0-4 YRS	0%	85%	0%	0%	15%	0%	0%	0%	3.8%
	5-9 YRS	0%	21%	33%	25%	9%	0%	12%	0%	6.3%
	15-20 YEARS	0%	7%	26%	12%	22%	20%	6%	6%	13.0%
	20+ YEARS	3%	17%	19%	19%	17%	22%	3%	1%	42.5%
	ALL MY LIFE	0%	25%	22%	10%	22%	13%	5%	4%	34.4%
Safe in Community	UNSURE	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.1%
	YES	1%	12%	42%	10%	14%	10%	7%	2%	37.4%
	NO	1%	24%	9%	17%	22%	20%	3%	3%	60.5%
Victim of crime	YES	1%	21%	21%	14%	19%	16%	4%	3%	100.0%
Age	18-29	0%	26%	24%	15%	8%	14%	11%	2%	23.1%
	30-44	0%	24%	23%	17%	16%	17%	3%	0%	23.8%
	45-59	2%	24%	16%	16%	23%	14%	0%	5%	40.3%
	60-75	0%	0%	19%	7%	32%	31%	11%	0%	10.0%
	76+ YEARS	16%	0%	58%	0%	26%	0%	0%	0%	2.8%
Gender	MALE	3%	12%	15%	20%	23%	20%	4%	3%	43.6%
	FEMALE	0%	29%	26%	10%	15%	13%	4%	2%	56.4%