



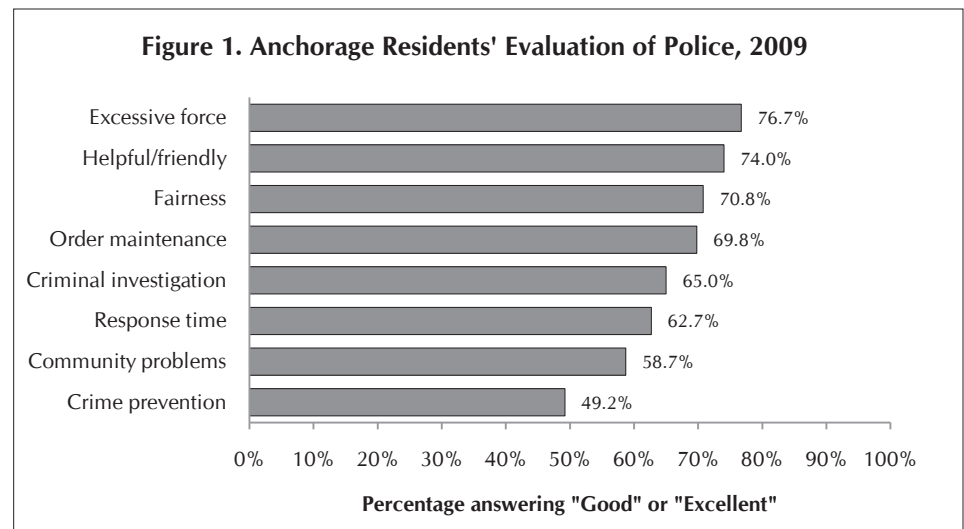
## Anchorage Residents' Perceptions of Police

Brad A. Myrstol

Since 2005 the Justice Center has administered three community surveys designed to provide an empirical portrait of residents' experiences and views of life in Anchorage. (Detailed results from each of the surveys can be accessed on the Justice Center website at <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/indicators/anchorage/index.html>. The 2009 survey will be published summer 2011.) In all, more than 6,300 Anchorage residents have participated in these three studies.

Although each iteration of the *Anchorage Community Survey (ACS)* has included some unique questions, they have all shared in common a set of core items measuring social cohesion and trust, informal social control, civic engagement, residents' satisfaction with local government services, and residents' evaluations of the Anchorage Police Department (APD). This article presents results for the last of these core community survey topics—residents' evaluations of APD—using data from the most recent version of the ACS, which was fielded in 2009.

Each version of the ACS included six items asking respondents to rate APD on the following dimensions of police performance: response time, helpfulness, fairness, use of excessive force, crime investigation, and crime prevention. The same four-point response scale was used for all six items: *poor, fair, good, or excellent*. Each survey



also asked respondents how satisfied they were with the services provided by APD (measured on a five-point scale ranging from *very dissatisfied* to *very satisfied*), as well as how much confidence they had in the police department (measured on a five-point scale ranging from *none* to *a great deal*).

### 2009 Anchorage Community Survey Result

#### Performance of APD

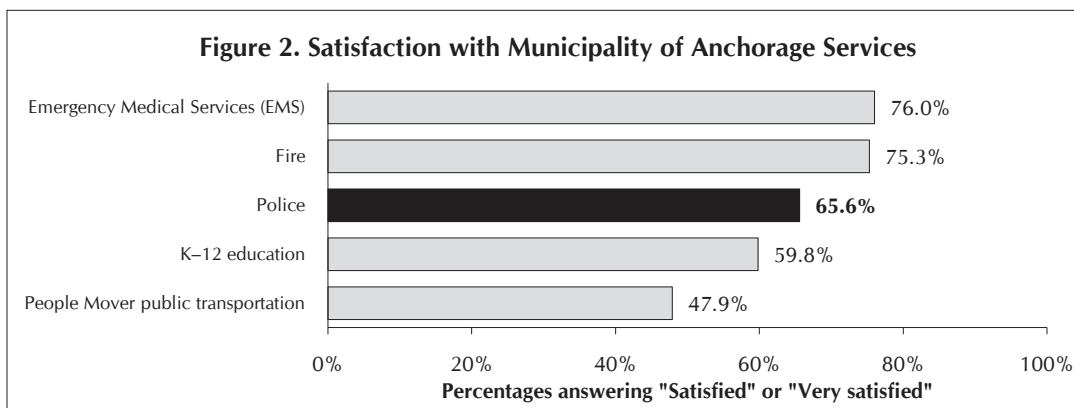
Figure 1 presents results from the 2009 ACS for the six police performance measures

described above. Two additional police performance measures—*order maintenance* and *responsiveness to community problems*—are also presented. The bars in the graph represent the percentage of respondents who reported *good* or *excellent* ratings for each measure.

These results show that a substantial majority (in excess of 60%) of respondents reported APD was doing a *good* or *excellent* job when it came to the use of excessive force, being helpful and friendly, treating people fairly, maintaining public order, investigating crimes, and responding quickly to calls-for-service. Over half of residents (58.7%) rated APD's efforts to address neighborhood-specific problems as *good* or *excellent*, and nearly half (49.2%) gave a favorable rating to the department's crime prevention activities.

#### Satisfaction with APD

Figure 2 presents the percentage of ACS respondents that indicated they were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with five



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## Internet Crime in the U.S. and Alaska

Personal computers entered everyday life in the 1980s, and the National Science Foundation reports that in the 1990s “the world came online.” In 1997, 18 percent of U.S. households reported using the Internet at home; by 2000, that number jumped to 42 percent, and by 2009 Internet use at home was at 69 percent. (See Table 1.) That coming online brought with it a whole new nexus for crime and fraud in the U. S. and globally. In response to this new crime potential, in 2000 the federal government founded the Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IFCC), a partnership between the National White Collar Crime Center (NWC3) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The IFCC was created to handle reports of crime using the Internet and to refer cyber crimes to the appropriate law enforcement or regulatory agency. In 2003, the IFCC was renamed the Internet Crime Complaint Center or IC3 in recognition of the range of cyber crimes (not just fraud) that were being referred to it. Each year, the IC3 issues an “Internet Crime Report” in conjunction with the NCW3, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Department of Justice. The 2010 report presents details on cyber crimes including complaint, perpetrator and complainant characteristics, complainant-perpetrator locations, and summary by state. This article is a brief overview of the response to Internet crime in Alaska and of data from the 2010 report.

### Response in Alaska

In Alaska, the Technical Crimes Unit and the Financial Crimes Unit of the Alaska State Troopers (AST) Alaska Bureau of Investigation respond to “crimes which involve computers and financial crime,” and AST is a member of the NWC3. (The primary focus of the Technical Crimes unit is online child exploitation and the individuals who exploit children through

manufacturing, possessing, and distributing child pornography. See “Internet Crimes Against Children” in this issue.) Other, but not all, Alaska law enforcement agencies are also members of the NWC3 and may have specific personnel assigned to handle cyber crime. All complaints are collected by the national IC3. Information on complaints is sent to law enforcement agencies in the victim’s state, and if the perpetrator’s state is known, to agencies in that state also. These agencies coordinate efforts to work on each case. Law enforcement officers and investigators interview victims, collect evidence which may include emails and receipts or other items, and ensure all this information is shared with the appropriate agencies working on the complaint.

The most common Internet crime in Anchorage is stolen credit card numbers. The Anchorage Police Department (APD) Financial Crimes Unit received reports of an estimated 1,000 Internet fraud cases in 2010, almost all related to credit cards. However, because most Internet credit card fraud is actually perpetrated in other states or countries, i.e., the perpetrator is not in Anchorage, APD does not have jurisdiction. In cases where the perpetrator is identified as being in Anchorage, APD does the investigation. Victims of credit card fraud in Alaska do have recourse through their credit card companies.

In addition to collaborating with national organizations, Alaska has its own Alaska Financial Crimes Task Force instituted in 2006. The task force is made up of representatives from the Alaska State Troopers,

**Table 1. Households in the U.S. with a Computer and Internet Use, 1984–2009**

	Households (in thousands)	Percent of households with:	
		Computer at home	Internet use at home
1984	87,073	8.2 %	— <sup>b</sup>
1989	94,061	15.0	— <sup>b</sup>
1993	98,736	22.9	— <sup>b</sup>
1997	102,158	36.6	18.0 %
2000	105,247	51.0	41.5
2001	109,106	56.3	50.4
2003	113,126	61.8	54.7
2007	117,840	— <sup>a</sup>	61.7
2009	119,296	— <sup>a</sup>	68.7

Note: Question wording regarding both computer use and Internet access have differed from year to year.

a. Beginning in 2007, respondents were not asked any questions about computer access or ownership.

b. In 1984, 1989, and 1993, respondents were not asked any questions about the Internet.

Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey October 1984, 1989, 1993, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2009; Internet release date February 2010

Anchorage Police Department, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Alaska Department of Revenue, who meet monthly to discuss trends and issues in cyber crime, as well as other types of fraud.

The Cyber Crimes Unit of the Alaska Department of Law was launched in January 2010 and currently has one Assistant Attorney General who is based in Anchorage. This unit deals with all types of Internet crimes, but the majority of the caseload involves Internet crimes against children.

### National Trends in Cyber Crime

The IC3 has been collecting Internet crime statistics for ten years. The data show a steady rise in Internet crime complaints over the past decade, with the second-highest number of complaints (303,809) being received in 2010. (2009 holds the record for the highest number of complaints at 336,655.) Complaints involving loss of money are referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency; in 2010, 40 percent of all complaints were referred.

The dollar loss from cyber crime has been increasing since the first IC3 report; however, it is clear that there was a tremendous surge in loss amounts from 2008 to 2009. (Dollar amounts are based on figures

## Resources on Internet Crime

A complete copy of the 2010 Internet Crime Report is available at a new companion website. <http://ic3report.nw3c.org/>

Alaska IC3 2010 Internet Crime Report. <http://ic3report.nw3c.org/docs/AK.pdf>

Alaska State Troopers Financial Crimes Unit, Alaska Bureau of Investigation. <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/abi/computerfincrimes.aspx>

Internet Crime Complaint Center. <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>

National White Collar Crime Center. <http://www.nw3c.org/>

reported by complainants.) The most recent national financial loss data available is from the 2009 report. In that year, dollar loss represented by all referred cases was \$560 million, compared to \$265 million in 2008. The average 2009 dollar loss was \$5,580, with a median loss of \$575.

The top five categories of referred cyber crime offenses in 2010 were:

- non-delivered merchandise and/or payment (21%),
- identify theft (17%),
- auction fraud (10%),
- credit card fraud (9%), and
- miscellaneous fraud (8%).

In 2010, two-thirds of cyber crime perpetrators (66%) were found to be in the U.S., while 10 percent were in the United Kingdom, six percent were in Nigeria, three percent were in China, and two percent were in Canada. For U.S. cases where information on perpetrators was available, 75 percent of the perpetrators were male, and over half resided in either California, Florida, New York, Texas, the District of Columbia, or Washington. The IC3 reports that only a small number of perpetrators and complainants in a case reside in the same state, and as a result most cyber crime cases involve multi-jurisdictional issues for law enforcement.

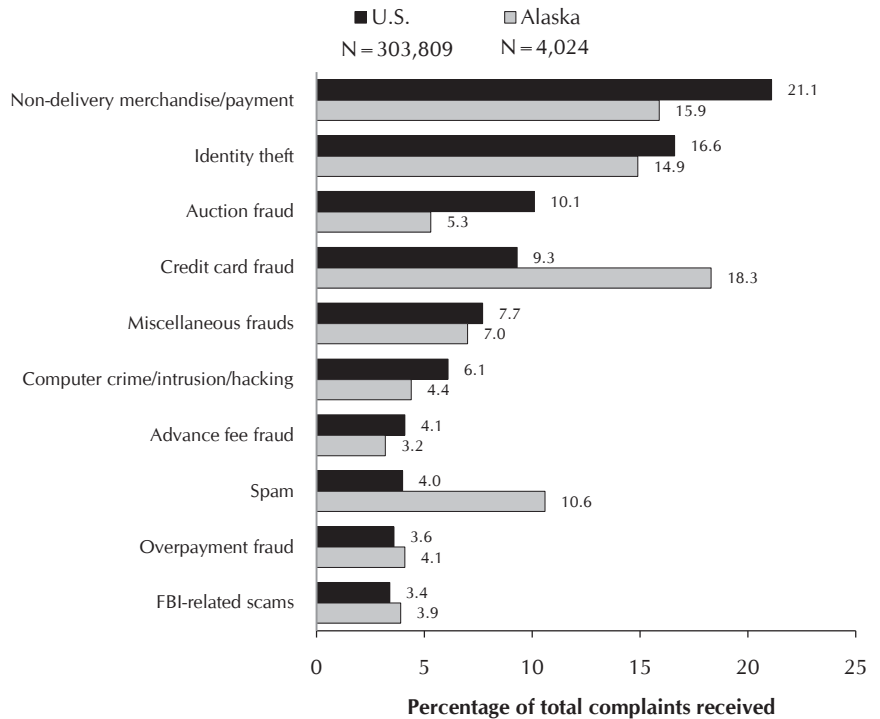
In terms of complainants, over half (53%) were males, and 44 percent were between the ages of 40 and 59. California, with 14 percent, had the highest number of U.S. complainants. The majority of foreign complainants were from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, or India. The IC3 report also notes that in 2010 the median dollar loss due to cyber crime was higher for persons over age 60.

### Alaska Cyber Crime

Although cyber crime reports from Alaska represented only 1.6 percent of all reports to the IC3 in 2010, Alaska ranked first in terms of complaints per 100,000 population (567 complaints were received per 100,000 population). A total of 4,024 complaints from Alaska were received by IC3 in 2010. Complaints have an Alaska connection if the complainant is in the state or if the perpetrator is perceived or has been shown to be in Alaska. When the perpetrator location could be identified, Alaska had 68 perpetrators per 100,000 population and ranked 4th of all the states in number of perpetrators per 100,000 population.

The highest dollar loss complaint in Alaska involved "FBI scams" and totaled \$213,123. The IC3 defines *FBI scams* as

**Figure 1. Most Common IC3 Complaint Categories, U.S. and Alaska, 2010**



Source of data: 2010 Internet Crime Report, U.S. Department of Justice; Alaska IC3 2010 Internet Crime Report

"scams in which a criminal poses as the FBI to defraud victims." The total estimated dollar loss for cyber crime in the state was over \$1,700,000. The total median dollar loss per complainant was \$550. However, when looking at dollar loss for specific age groups, Alaskans 20–29 years of age had the highest median amount of loss at \$600. Alaskans 30–39 and 50–59 years of age had the next highest median loss of \$578 and \$577, respectively.

The top five referred complaint categories for Alaska in 2010 were:

- credit card fraud at 18 percent,
- non-delivery of merchandise/payment at 16 percent,
- identify theft at 15 percent,
- spam at 11 percent, and
- miscellaneous consumer fraud at 7 percent.

Figure 1 lists the top complaints categories from Alaska and the U.S. Perpetrators of Alaska cyber crime were mostly male (71%). The majority of complainants were also male (79%) and over half (53%) were 40–49 years old.

*To file a complaint about a computer crime, contact your local law enforcement agency or file your complaint directly with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://www.ic3.gov/complaint/default.aspx>.*



## Alaska Justice Forum

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## Internet Crimes Against Children

Concern about Internet crimes against children is mounting as children's access to and use of the Internet continues to grow. The National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction Report to Congress (2010) highlights the increase in sexual exploitation of children cases:

- nationwide, the U.S. Attorney's office dealt with an 83 percent increase in child pornography cases from 1994–2006,
- the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) documented a 230 percent increase in complaints of online enticement of children from 2004–2008, and
- ICAC also reported a 1,000 percent increase in child prostitution complaints during that same period. (The terms "child" and "children"

refer to individuals who are minors under the age of 18.)

The above data from law enforcement details the increasing number of complaints that are occurring simultaneously with the exponential use of the Internet. The Library of Congress Federal Research Division in 2009 published "Internet Crimes Against Children: An Annotated Bibliography of Major Studies." The authors looked at studies from the past ten years, many of which extrapolated data from two major surveys, the First (2000) and Second (2005) Youth Internet Safety Survey and the National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (2000–2001). In discussing the scope of the problem, the authors also cited a 2007 online survey of over 40,000 K–12 students which found that children were using the Internet as early as kindergarten age or younger, and

while online were involved in inappropriate behavior and exposed to inappropriate content. Other major studies that were reviewed underscore the continuing problem of children being solicited for sex and being requested to post sexual photos of themselves online, as well as children being exposed accidentally or unintentionally to unwanted pornography on the Internet. Moreover, the authors refer to a study of the increasing use of cell phones and social networking sites by adolescents and how this mode of communication has become "an essential part of their [adolescents'] social life." This rising use of technology has created additional potential for victimization. (This federal publication also indicates areas of recommended future research, and points out the often conflicting study results concerning unwanted exposure to online pornography and the impact on minors.)

The exploitation of children occurs both on and offline. In 1984, Congress created the National Resource Center on Missing and Exploited Children, and three years later the U.S. Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section was established with a mandate to enforce federal criminal statutes dealing with child exploitation. With the advent of increasing online criminal activity directed at children, the federal Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force was launched in 1998 to assist law enforcement agencies in dealing with child pornography and cyber enticement of children over the Internet. ICAC is comprised of 61 task forces across the nation with representatives from state, local, and federal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies who are involved in investigations and prosecutions of these types of crimes. Members of the task force also cooperate with other initiatives and agencies fighting exploitation of children.

### Internet Use in Alaska

Alaska's urban population centers have the highest level of individual Internet use in the nation. According to National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

**Table 1. Internet Use at Any Location Ranked by State, 2010**

Internet use by individual people aged 3 years and older					
Urban areas			Statewide		
Top 10 states	Total people (in thousands)	Percent using internet at any location	Top 10 states	Total people (in thousands)	Percent using internet at any location
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>431 *</b>	<b>81.3 %</b>	New Hampshire	1,270	80.3 %
North Dakota	346	80.6	Washington	6,373	79.7
New Hampshire	785	80.2	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>79.4</b>
Washington	5,247	79.8	Massachusetts	6,389	78.4
Wisconsin	3,654	79.5	Utah	2,681	78.2
Kansas	1,981	79.2	Connecticut	3,364	78.1
Maine	480	79.1	Wyoming	521	78.0
Minnesota	3,564	78.4	Wisconsin	5,401	77.7
Utah	2,288	78.3	Minnesota	5,001	77.4
Massachusetts	5,804	77.5	Maryland	5,431	77.2

Internet use by anyone in a household					
Urban areas			Statewide		
Top 10 states	Total households (in thousands)	Percent using internet at any location	Top 10 states	Total households (in thousands)	Percent using internet at any location
Utah	791	91.1 %	Utah	951	90.1 %
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>173 *</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>88.6</b>
Washington	2,341	88.6	Washington	2,782	88.4
Kansas	866	87.9	New Hampshire	526	86.4
Oregon	1,210	86.8	Oregon	1,554	86.2
New Hampshire	335	86.1	Kansas	1,152	84.8
Wyoming	130	85.3	Wyoming	228	84.3
Nebraska	516	85.2	Nevada	1,012	84.3
Idaho	400	85.0	California	12,935	84.2
California	12,285	84.4	Idaho	584	84.1

\* "Urban areas" in Alaska included only Anchorage and Fairbanks. For rural areas, Alaska was ranked 11th for Internet use by individual people (75.9% used the Internet out of a population of 229,000) and 5th in Internet use by anyone in a household (87.3% used the Internet out of 93,000 households).

**Source of data:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration, "Percent of People Who Use the Internet at Any Location, Ranked by State, 2010, [http://www.ntia.doc.gov/data/CSP2010\\_Tables.html](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/data/CSP2010_Tables.html)



2010 data released in February 2011, 81 percent of individuals in urban Alaska accessed the Internet from some location. (See Table 1.) Across the country, when looking at all population areas, Alaska ranks third in the percentage of *people* accessing the Internet (79%), and ranks second for the percentage of *households* accessing the Internet (84%). (See Table 2.) Nationwide, 54 percent of children 5–9 years of age access the Internet; 79 percent of 10–13 year-olds and 88 percent of 14–17 year-olds use the Internet either in or outside their home. (See Table 3.) Data on computer access by children is not available for Alaska. However, if computer use patterns nationally by children apply to Alaska, the overall high computer usage in the state has the potential for increased cyber crime involving children. The investigation and prosecution of these crimes is a priority with law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies in Alaska and the nation.

**Alaska’s Resources**

The Alaska Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) was created as a satellite task force of the Seattle ICAC in 1998. Alaska ICAC became a full-fledged task force in 2008 following several high profile cases. In Alaska, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force contact is located at the Anchorage Police Department which submits reports and statistics to the U.S. Department of Justice, the ICAC funding agency. The Alaska task force meets regularly to discuss trends and cases, and member agencies often work jointly on cases. The Alaska ICAC is comprised of representatives from the police departments in Anchorage, Kenai, Soldotna, Kodiak, Juneau, Fairbanks, and Palmer, as well as individuals from the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Department of Corrections, University of Alaska Anchorage Police, Alaska Department of Law, the FBI, Homeland Security Investigations (formerly Immigration and Customs Enforcement), U.S. Attorney’s Office, U.S. Marshal Service, U.S. Air Force Office of Criminal Investigation, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Types of Cases**

Law enforcement investigates two types of cases: reactive and proactive. Reactive cases involve a response to a complaint and may involve one or more investigating agencies. Proactive cases often involve a law enforcement officer going onto the Internet to seek out suspects—sometimes called “undercover chat.” This occurs without a complaint being the trigger for the action.

**Table 2. States with Highest Percentage of Reported Internet Usage for Individuals 3 Years and Older, 2009**

	Total population (in thousands)	Individual accesses the internet from some location*		Individual lives in household with Internet access	
		N	%	N	%
New Hampshire	1,262	953	75.5 %	1,069	84.7 %
Alaska	630	499	79.2	526	83.5
Utah	2,630	2,049	77.9	2,186	83.1
New Jersey	8,258	6,132	74.3	6,853	83.0
Connecticut	3,324	2,500	75.2	2,726	82.0
Massachusetts	6,237	4,641	74.4	5,095	81.7
Oregon	3,660	2,763	75.5	2,951	80.6
Hawaii	1,215	819	67.4	959	78.9
Wisconsin	5,341	4,000	74.9	4,207	78.8
Minnesota	4,982	3,790	76.1	3,875	77.8
Colorado	4,726	3,537	74.8	3,599	76.2

\* "Some location" means Internet access that occurs either inside or outside the householder's home.

Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, October 2009

**Table 3. U.S. Children Aged 5–17 Using the Internet In and Outside the Home, 2010**

Age	Total persons aged 5 or older (in thousands)	Internet use in the home		Internet use anywhere*	
		N	%	N	%
5–9 years	20,839	9,642	46.3 %	11,165	53.6 %
10–13 years	16,110	11,095	68.9	12,738	79.1
14–17 years	16,982	13,169	77.5	14,999	88.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,931</b>	<b>33,906</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>38,902</b>	<b>72.1</b>

\* "Anywhere" means Internet access that occurs either inside or outside the householder's home.

Source of data: "Table 1. Persons using the Internet in and outside the home," National Telecommunications and Information Administration, January 2011, [http://www.ntia.doc.gov/data/CPS2010Tables/t11\\_1.txt](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/data/CPS2010Tables/t11_1.txt)

**Local Law Enforcement**

The Anchorage Police Department (APD) is the grant holder for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Their Cyber Crimes Unit handles proactive and reactive cases statewide. The Alaska State Troopers (AST) Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI) Technical Crimes Unit focuses on child exploitation crimes on the Internet and child pornography. AST and APD deal with about 98 percent of the cyber crimes against children in the state. From 2008 to 2010, there have been a total of 438 crimes reported by Alaska Internet Crimes Against Children agencies. (See Table 4.) Most other law enforcement

agencies in Alaska are not large enough to commit full-time resources to this effort; as a result, APD and AST work closely with other police departments in the state.

**U.S. Attorney’s Office**

In the office of the U.S. Attorney for

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**Table 4. Crimes Reported by Alaska Internet Crimes Against Children Agencies 2008–2010**

	Number of cases		Cases referred for prosecution		Convictions	
	Proactive	Reactive	Federal	State	Federal	State
2008	59	117	5	28	0	5
2009	73	143	5	29	3	15
2010	30	16	0	11	2	9

Note: A case referred for prosecution in a given year may not have a final disposition in that same year.

Source of data: Alaska Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Anchorage Police Department

## Children

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Alaska, two lawyers are assigned to work with ICAC through Project Safe Childhood (PSC), which was established in 2006 to combat the sexual exploitation of children. (Other agency lawyers take cases as needed to assist this work.) The PSC coalition members include FBI (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau), Homeland Security Investigations (Formerly ICE), U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Marshal Service, U.S. Attorney's Office, University of Alaska Fairbanks Police Department, University of Alaska Anchorage Police Department, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Office of Special Investigations and Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG), Coast Guard Investigative Service, Anchorage District Attorney's Office, Fairbanks District Attorney's Office, Palmer District Attorney's Office, State of Alaska Probation Department, Alaska State Troopers, Unalaska Department of Public Safety, and the police departments of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak, Palmer, Sitka, Soldotna.

The U.S. Attorney's office handles its own caseload (Table 5), but also assists in investigating and prosecuting cases, and works in collaboration with ICAC members. Outreach and community education are goals as well, and Alaska Project Safe Childhood cooperates with a number of other federal, state, local, military, and

non-governmental agencies, including victim advocacy groups and tribal entities.

### Alaska Department of Law

The Alaska Department of Law Cyber Crimes Unit handles cases of Internet crimes against children and is also a member of ICAC. One Assistant Attorney General in Anchorage is specifically assigned to Internet crime cases, including crimes against children, which make up the bulk of this caseload. Department of Law prosecutors from across the state are also involved in dealing with these crimes.

### Community Outreach and Education

ICAC Task Force representatives work with community members and are involved in distributing information about the threat of cyber crimes. Nationally the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) present a number of programs to bring attention to the issue of Internet crimes against children. A current focus for the Alaska U.S. Attorney's office is cooperating with tribal agencies to increase awareness of cyber solicitation of Alaska Native children. Additional research on the issue of Internet safety for youth is needed to assist in assessing the most effective

**Table 5. Child Sexual Exploitation Cases in Alaska Prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office**

Estimated case totals.

	Cases charged	Cases pled guilty	Cases sentenced
Sep 2007–Feb 2008	1	3	4
Mar 2008–Aug 2008	6	3	0
Sep 2008–Feb 2009	5	4	1
Mar 2009–Aug 2009	1	4	5
Sep 2009–Feb 2010	7	3	2
Mar 2010–Aug 2010	4	3	4

Source of data: U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Alaska

means of dealing with cyber crime against children. Proposed updates to the Youth Internet Safety Survey and the National Juvenile Online Victimization Study will provide critical information.

*Note: Alaska Senate Bill 110, "An Act relating to human trafficking; and related to sentencing and conditions of probation in criminal cases involving sex offenses," was introduced in March 2011 by primary sponsor, Sen. Bill Wielechowski (D), and co-sponsor Sen. Lesil McGuire (R), to address among other issues, human trafficking within the state of persons under the age of 18. Cyber solicitation can be a factor in human trafficking. The bill has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. For its full text go to [http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_fulltext.asp?session=27&bill=SB110/](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=27&bill=SB110/).*

## Combating Child Exploitation: A Timeline

A partial list of entities and initiatives established to combat exploitation of children:

- 1984 National Resource Center on Missing and Exploited Children established by Congress.
- 1984 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), private non-profit, instituted to coordinate efforts of National Resource Center on Missing and Exploited Children and provide resources for law enforcement, parents, children, and victims.
- 1987 Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (Department of Justice) created. Its mission is to enforce federal criminal statutes relating to exploitation of children.
- 1998 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs launched by Department of Justice. There are 61 task forces nationwide.
- 1998 ICAC satellite task force established in Alaska.
- 2003 Innocence Lost National Initiative created by FBI, Department of Justice Child Exploitation Obscenity Section, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Its focus is on combating the increasing problem of domestic sex trafficking of children in the U.S.
- 2006 Project Safe Childhood (U.S. Department of Justice) launched as a response to technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. Its mandate is to increase coordination and cooperation with federal, tribal, state, local, and international organizations and agencies to prevent and end sexual exploitation of children.
- 2006 Alaska Project Safe Childhood established.
- 2008 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in Alaska established as a full, rather than satellite, task force.
- 2009 Alaska Innocence Lost Project Task Force created.
- 2010 The first National Child Exploitation Threat Assessment launched, includes review of online enticement of children for sexual purposes and child pornography.
- 2010 The first National Strategy for Child Exploitation, Prevention and Interdiction released. Both the National Child Exploitation Threat Assessment and National Strategy for Child Exploitation are part of Project Safe Childhood.

## Resources on Internet Crime and Children

Major national studies. [http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/national\\_juvenile\\_online\\_victimization\\_publications.html](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/national_juvenile_online_victimization_publications.html)

National Juvenile Online Victimization Publications. <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/ceos/>

Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, U.S. Department of Justice. [http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US&PageId=4166](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=4166)

Innocence Lost National Initiative. <http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov/>

Project Safe Childhood. <http://www.ojjdp.gov/programs/progsummary.asp?pi=3>

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. [http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/youth\\_Internet\\_safety\\_survey.html](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/youth_Internet_safety_survey.html)

First Youth Internet Safety Survey. [http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/projects/second\\_youth\\_Internet\\_safety.html](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/projects/second_youth_Internet_safety.html)

Second Youth Internet Safety Survey. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/228813.pdf>

Internet Crimes Against Children: An Annotated Bibliography of Major Studies. [http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PublicHomeServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PublicHomeServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/August/10-opa-887.html>

National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction. <http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov/docs/natstrategyreport.pdf>

### Police

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essential services provided by the Municipality of Anchorage: emergency medical services (EMS), fire service, police service, K–12 education, and public transportation (People Mover). Resident satisfaction with the police department is highlighted in black.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65.6%) reported that they were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the services provided by APD, a result consistent with surveys of public satisfaction with police that have been conducted in other cities. Among those who provided favorable APD satisfaction scores, 65 percent indicated that they were *satisfied* and 35 percent reported that they were *very satisfied*. Anchorage residents' level of satisfaction with APD was higher than that for K–12 education (59.8%) and People Mover (47.9%), but less than the satisfaction scores for EMS (76%) and the fire department (75.3%).

#### Confidence in APD

Figure 3 depicts how much confidence Anchorage residents have in APD. A majority of ACS respondents (57.2%) reported

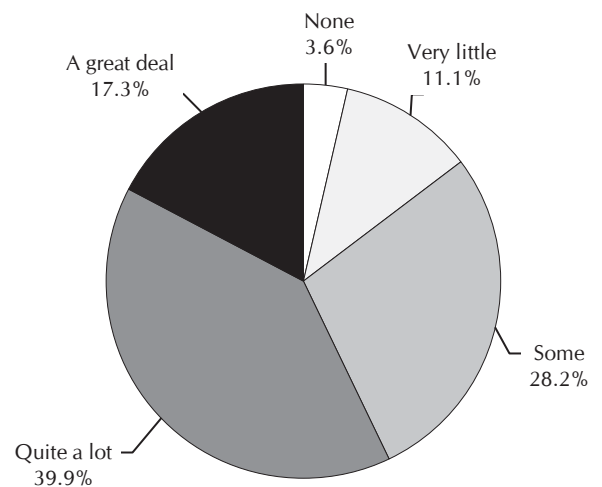
having *quite a lot* or *a great deal* of confidence in the police department. Between a quarter and a third of survey participants (28.2%) said they had *some* confidence in APD. Roughly one out of every seven respondents (14.7%) indicated that they had *very little* (11.1%) or *no confidence* (3.6%) in APD.

#### Procedural Justice

A growing body of research demonstrates that the single most important factor influencing people's evaluations of police is the quality of their past interactions with police officers. Simply stated, people who report that they were *treated fairly* by police in the past are much more likely to render positive judgments of police in the present, net of other factors (e.g., demographic characteristics, socioeconomic background, frequency of prior encounters with police, and so on). Importantly, research also shows that the positive effects of procedural fairness remain even when individuals are the recipients of negative outcomes. Those who are issued citations by police officers, and even those who are arrested and taken to jail, express positive views of the police *if they are treated in ways they perceive to be respectful and equitable*.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of the relationship between people's subjective evaluations of their treatment by

Figure 3. Confidence in Anchorage Police Department



police and their resulting attitudes toward the police as a legal institution. This is because people's opinions of the police are the foundation upon which the institution's legitimacy is constructed.

The results presented in Figure 4 use data from the 2009 ACS to illustrate the relationship between procedural justice and public opinion of police. Figure 4 shows the average level of satisfaction and the average confidence level for two groups of respondents: those who rated APD fairness as *good* or *excellent* (highlighted in black) and those who rated APD fairness as *fair* or *poor* (highlighted in gray). The average fairness score was 3.9 for the first group and 3.1 for the second group. Those who rated APD fairness as *good* or *excellent* also had more confidence in the police department than

### How would you describe relations between APD and Anchorage residents?

How would you describe the relationship between the Anchorage Police Department and the residents of Anchorage? Send your comments to the author at [bmyrstol@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:bmyrstol@uaa.alaska.edu).



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## Police

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those who rated APD fairness as *fair* or *poor* (3.8 vs. 3.1). Both of these observed differences were statistically significant. These findings suggest that Anchorage residents' opinions of the police, like those of residents in other cities, are directly influenced by their perceptions of the day-to-day processes and procedures the police use when interacting with members of the public.

## Summary

Results from the 2009 *Anchorage Community Survey* show that most Anchorage residents think APD is doing a *good* or *excellent* job when it comes to providing core police services, that most residents are satisfied with the provision of police services in the municipality, and that most residents have confidence in the police department. In addition, the 2009 ACS data also demonstrate a relationship between residents' perceptions of procedural justice and their opinions of the police in general.

What do these results tell us about the nature of the relationship between the police and the community? The findings presented here suggest that, overall, there is a solid basis of support for the police among the residents of Anchorage. A small, but noteworthy, number of Anchorage residents did not look upon the police department favorably; nonetheless, there is little evidence to suggest that the relationship between the police department and the people of Anchorage, in general, is contentious or rife with conflict.

*Brad A. Myr Stol is an assistant professor with the Justice Center.*

*Other Alaska Justice Forum articles related to the 2009*

*Survey can be found at <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/indicators/anchorage/acs2009/>.*

*Prof. Myr Stol's research related to perceptions of police includes his recent online article, "In Search of Respect: Examining Arrestee Satisfaction with Police," in the American Journal of Criminal Justice. <http://www.springerlink.com/content/j564230t33p45154/fulltext.pdf>*

## Justice Center Changes

**Cory Lepage** is joining the Justice Center as an assistant professor in the Fall 2011 semester. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Riverside, and his research focuses on courts and the sociology of law.

**Marie Brunner**, Justice Center office manager for 9 years, retired on April 30. Marie served UAA in a variety of capacities since 1978. We appreciate all her contributions to the Justice Center during her time here.

**Rhoda Brown** joined the Justice Center staff as office manager in May. Rhoda is a long-time employee of UAA and most recently was the Senior Grant Accountant in Grants and Contracts. We look forward to working with Rhoda in the coming semesters.

**Figure 4. Confidence in and Satisfaction with Anchorage Police Department, by Perceptions of Fairness**

