



ALASKA JUSTICE FORUM

A Publication of the
Justice Center

Alaska Justice
Statistical Analysis Unit

Winter 1995

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Vol. 11, No. 4

Implementation of Police Domestic Violence Policy

Carrie D. Longoria

A report released by the SAFE City Program in the Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services examining police response to domestic violence calls reveals that the Anchorage Police Department (APD) has successfully implemented policy which treats such cases as criminal offenses and reflects consistent concern for victim safety. APD policy for domestic violence cases requires that arrests be made in all incidents where there is probable cause to assume that a violation of Alaska's domestic violence laws has occurred. Since the late 1980s Alaska state laws have permitted arrest on probable cause in domestic violence incidents, and a related state law enacted during the same period requires law enforcement officers to distribute information on community services and legal options to victims of domestic violence.

Research conducted in other locations has claimed that arrests are rarely made in domestic violence cases and that police generally exhibit a lack of responsiveness to domestic incidents.

The study summarized in this article examined the implementation of Anchorage Police Department policy on domestic violence in three areas: 1) arrest action; 2) evidence collection through the use of report forms; and 3) officer action in ensuring victim safety and distribution of victim resource information. The department worked

Table 1. Arrest or Arrest-like Action When Suspect Available

Cases in which an officer responded to the site and a suspect was available or both parties were available.

	Officer response cases					
	Aggressor identified		Unable to determine aggressor		Total incidents	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Arrests	455	69.0%	28	11.8%	483	53.8%
Arrest made	407	61.8	9	3.8	416	46.4
Private party arrest	18	2.7	0	0.0	18	2.0
Suspect arrested on warrant for prior offense	9	1.4	6	2.5	15	1.7
Both arrested	1	0.2	12	5.0	13	1.4
Admitted to McLaughlin Youth Center	11	1.7	0	0.0	11	1.2
Division of Family and Youth Services called	9	1.4	1	0.4	10	1.1
Cited and released	43	6.5%	11	4.6%	54	6.0%
Citation issued by officer	43	6.5	5	2.1	48	5.4
Both cited	0	0.0	6	2.5	6	0.7
Case forwarded or referred	20	3.0%	14	5.9%	34	3.8%
Forwarded for investigation	11	1.7	9	3.8	20	2.2
Case referred to prosecutor	7	1.1	5	2.1	12	1.3
Forwarded to homicide	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Forwarded to immigration	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
No action at request of victim; record made	8	1.2%	7	2.9%	15	1.7%
Other	3	0.5%	2	0.8%	5	0.6%
Service of restraining order	2	0.3	1	0.4	3	0.3
Suspect admitted to Alaska Psychiatric Institute	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Victim arrested on warrant for prior offense	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.1
Case closed or suspended or filed for information	130	19.7%	176	73.9%	306	34.1%
Total	659		238		897	

with the municipal SAFE City Program to make the data available for this analysis. Of the 8084 reported cases of domestic violence between 1989 and 1992, a random sample of twenty per cent—1609 reports—were analyzed. The assumption of the researcher was that police reports detailing specific actions will reveal the extent of policy implementation.

Arrest Action Policy

Of the 1609 reports, only cases (n=897) where an officer was dispatched and a subject identified were evaluated on arrest action. Arrest action was defined as making an arrest, forwarding the case for investigation, issuing a summons, or taking

other legal action to detain the suspect. As shown in Table 1, an arrest or arrest-like action occurred in 79 per cent of all domestic violence incidents where the suspect was identified and present at the site. Such a high percentage offers strong indication that Anchorage police officers are following departmental policy on domestic violence calls.

For a subset of these cases—those which involved a male suspect, a female victim and a spousal-like relationship—five independent variables were analyzed in conjunction with arrest action: injury, intoxication, ethnicity, relationship of couple, and victim cooperation.

Please see Domestic Violence, page 6

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics examines capital punishment in the United States (page 2).
- A state-by-state listing of offenses carrying the death penalty (page 3).
- An analysis of HIV risk perception among drug users in Anchorage (page 4).

A BJS Report

Capital Punishment, 1993

During 1993, 38 men were executed. Eighteen were white; 13 were black; one was Native American; four were white and Hispanic; and two had an unknown Hispanic origin (one white and one black).

At the end of 1993, 34 states and the federal prison system held 2,716 prisoners under sentence of death, 5.3 per cent more than at yearend 1992. All had committed murder.

The average time between sentencing and yearend 1993 for the 2,716 inmates was six years and one month.

During 1993, 282 prisoners under a sentence of death were received by state prison systems from the courts.

Among inmates under sentence of death and with available criminal histories, two in three had a prior felony conviction; nearly one in ten had a prior homicide conviction.

About two in five inmates sentenced to death had a criminal justice status when they committed their capital offense. About half of these were on parole and half included persons with charges pending, on probation, in prison or escaped from prison, and others.

Almost one in seven persons sentenced to death between 1988 and 1993 had re-

Table 1. Status of the Death Penalty, December 31, 1993

Executions during 1993		Number of prisoners under sentence of death		Jurisdictions without a death penalty
Texas	17	California	363	Alaska
Virginia	5	Texas	357	District of Columbia
Missouri	4	Florida	324	Hawaii
Florida	3	Pennsylvania	169	Iowa
Arizona	2	Illinois	152	Kansas
Delaware	2	Ohio	129	Maine
Georgia	2	Oklahoma	122	Massachusetts
California	1	Alabama	120	Michigan
Louisiana	1	Arizona	112	Minnesota
Washington	1	North Carolina	99	New York
		Tennessee	98	North Dakota
		Georgia	96	Rhode Island
		23 other jurisdictions	575	Vermont
				West Virginia
				Wisconsin

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

ceived two or more death sentences.

Of persons under sentence of death, 1,566 (57.7%) were white; 1,109 (40.8%) were black, 22 (0.8%) were Native American; 16 (0.6%) were Asian American; and three were identified as "other race."

The 206 Hispanic inmates under sentence of death accounted for 8.1 per cent of inmates with a known ethnicity.

Thirty-five (1.3%) of the persons under

a death sentence were women.

Half the inmates sentenced to death had been sentenced at age 29 or older.

This article is based on the Bureau of Justice Statistics report "Capital Punishment, 1993," NCJ-150042. Copies of the entire report are available through the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Unit, Justice Center.

Figure 1. Persons Executed in the United States, 1930–1993



Source of data: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Recent BJS Reports

In addition to the report summarized in the accompanying article, the following recent studies and reports from the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available from the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Unit:

"Survey of Criminal History Information Systems, 1993," a national survey of state criminal history record repositories contacted in 1994, NCJ-148951.

"Violence between Intimates," data from national surveys on domestic violence, NCJ-149259.

"Pretrial Release of Felony Defendants 1992," results of the National Pretrial Reporting Program, NCJ-148818.

"Profile of Inmates in the United States and in England and Wales, 1991," an international comparison of criminal systems, NCJ-145863.

Capital Offenses, by State, 1993

Alabama. Murder during kidnaping, robbery, rape, sodomy, burglary, sexual assault, or arson; murder of a peace officer, correctional officer, or public official; murder while under a life sentence; murder for pecuniary gain or contract; aircraft piracy; murder by a defendant with a previous murder conviction; murder of a witness to a crime; murder when a victim is subpoenaed in a criminal proceeding, when the murder is related to the role of the victim as a witness; murder when a victim is less than 14 years old; murder in which a victim is killed while in a dwelling by a deadly weapon fired from outside the dwelling; murder in which a victim is killed while in a motor vehicle by a deadly weapon fired from outside that vehicle; murder in which a victim is killed by a deadly weapon fired from a motor vehicle (13A-5-40).

Arizona. First-degree murder accompanied by at least 1 of 10 aggravating factors.

Arkansas. Capital murder as defined by Arkansas statute (5-10-101). Felony murder; arson causing death; intentional murder of a law enforcement officer, teacher

or school employee; murder of prison, jail, court, or correctional personnel or of military personnel acting in line of duty; multiple murders; intentional murder of a public officeholder or candidate; intentional murder while under life sentence; contract murder.

California. Treason; homicide by a prisoner serving a life term; first-degree murder with special circumstances; train wrecking; perjury causing execution.

Colorado. First-degree murder; kidnaping with death of victim; felony murder. Capital sentencing excludes persons determined to be mentally retarded.

Connecticut. Murder of a public safety or correctional officer; murder for pecuniary gain; murder in the course of a felony; murder by a defendant with a previous conviction for intentional murder; murder while under a life sentence; murder during a kidnaping; illegal sale of cocaine, methadone, or heroin to a person who dies from using these drugs; murder during first-degree sexual assault; multiple murders; the defendant committed the offense(s) with an assault weapon.

Delaware. First-degree murder with aggravating circumstances.

Florida. First-degree murder; capital felonies (FS 921.141); capital drug trafficking felonies (FS 921.142).

Georgia. Murder; kidnaping with bodily injury when the victim dies; aircraft hijacking; treason; kidnaping for ransom when the victim dies.

Idaho. First-degree murder; aggravated kidnaping.

Illinois. First-degree murder accompanied by at least 1 of 12 aggravating factors.

Indiana. Murder with 13 aggravating circumstances.

Kentucky. Aggravated murder: kidnaping when victim is killed.

Louisiana. First-degree murder; treason (La. R.S. 14:30 and 14:113).

Maryland. First-degree murder, either premeditated or during the commission of a felony.

Mississippi. Capital murder includes murder of a peace officer or correctional officer; murder while under a life sentence; murder by bomb or explosive; contract murder; murder committed during specific felonies (rape, burglary, kidnaping, arson, robbery, sexual battery, unnatural intercourse with a child, nonconsensual unnatural intercourse); and murder of an

Table 2. Persons Executed, by Race, 1930-1993

Year	White	Black	Other races	Total	Year	White	Black	Other races	Total
1930	90	65	-	155	1962	28	19	2	47
1931	77	72	4	153	1963	13	8	-	21
1932	62	75	3	140	1964	8	7	-	15
1933	77	81	2	160	1965	6	1	-	7
1934	65	102	1	168	1966	1	-	-	1
1935	119	77	3	199	1967	1	1	-	2
1936	92	101	2	195	1968	-	-	-	-
1937	69	74	4	147	1969	-	-	-	-
1938	96	92	2	190	1970	-	-	-	-
1939	80	77	3	160	1971	-	-	-	-
1940	49	75	-	124	1972	-	-	-	-
1941	59	63	1	123	1973	-	-	-	-
1942	67	80	-	147	1974	-	-	-	-
1943	54	74	3	131	1975	-	-	-	-
1944	47	70	3	120	1976	-	-	-	-
1945	41	75	1	117	1977	1	-	-	1
1946	46	84	1	131	1978	-	-	-	-
1947	42	111	-	153	1979	2	-	-	2
1948	35	82	2	119	1980	-	-	-	-
1949	50	67	2	119	1981	1	-	-	1
1950	40	42	-	82	1982	1	1	-	2
1951	57	47	1	105	1983	4	1	-	5
1952	36	47	-	83	1984	13	8	-	21
1953	30	31	1	62	1985	11	7	-	18
1954	38	42	1	81	1986	11	7	-	18
1955	44	32	-	76	1987	13	12	-	25
1956	21	43	1	65	1988	6	5	-	11
1957	34	31	-	65	1989	8	8	-	16
1958	20	28	1	49	1990	16	7	-	23
1959	16	33	-	49	1991	7	7	-	14
1960	21	35	-	56	1992	19	11	1	31
1961	20	22	-	42	1993	23	14	1	38

Source of data: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Please see *Capital Offenses*, page 4

Capital Offenses (continued from page 3)

elected official. Capital rape is the forcible rape of a child under 14 years old by a person 18 years or older. Aircraft piracy.

Missouri. First-degree murder (565.020 RSMO).

Montana. Deliberate homicide; aggravated kidnaping when victim or rescuer dies; attempted deliberate homicide, aggravated assault, or aggravated kidnaping by a state prison inmate who has a prior conviction for deliberate homicide or who has been previously declared a persistent felony offender (46-18-303, MCA).

Nebraska. First-degree murder.

Nevada. First-degree murder with 9 aggravating circumstances.

New Hampshire. Contract murder; murder of a law enforcement officer; murder of a kidnaping victim; killing another after being sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

New Jersey. Purposeful or knowing murder; contract murder.

New Mexico. First-degree murder; felony murder with aggravating circumstances.

North Carolina. First-degree murder (N.C.G.S. 14-17).

Ohio. Assassination; contract murder; murder during escape; murder while in a correctional facility; murder after conviction for a prior purposeful killing or prior attempted murder; murder of a peace officer; murder arising from specified felonies (rape, kidnaping, arson, robbery, burglary); murder of a witness to prevent testimony in a criminal proceeding or in retaliation (O.R.C. secs. 2929.02, 2903.01, 2929.04).

Oklahoma. Murder with malice aforethought; murder arising from specified felonies (forcible rape, robbery with a dangerous weapon, kidnaping, escape from lawful custody, first-degree burglary, arson); murder when the victim is a child who has been tortured, tortured, or maimed.

Oregon. Aggravated murder.

Pennsylvania. First-degree murder.

South Carolina. Murder with statutory aggravating circumstances.

South Dakota. First-degree murder; kidnaping with gross permanent physical injury inflicted on the victim; felony murder.

Tennessee. First-degree murder.

Texas. Murder of a public safety officer, fireman, or correctional employee; murder during the commission of specified felonies (kidnaping, burglary, robbery, aggravated rape, arson); murder for remuneration; multiple murders; murder during escape; murder by a state prison inmate, murder of an individual under 6 years of age.

Utah. Aggravated murder (76-5-202, Utah Code Annotated).

Virginia. Murder during the commission or attempts to commit specified felonies (abduction, armed robbery, rape, sodomy); contract murder, murder by a prisoner while in custody; murder of a law enforcement officer; multiple murders; murder of a child under 12 years during an abduction; murder arising from drug violations (18.2-31, Virginia Code as amended).

Washington. Aggravated first-degree premeditated murder.

Wyoming. First-degree murder, including both premeditated and felony murder.

This article is based on the Bureau of Justice Statistics report "Capital Punishment, 1993," NCJ-150042. Copies of the entire report are available through the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Unit, Justice Center.



Alaska Justice Forum

Editor: Antonia Moras

Editorial Board: John Angell, Allan Barnes, Robert Congdon, Richard Curtis, Kimberly Martus, Roger Miller, Lisa Rieger, Nancy Schafer, Lawrence Trostle

Typesetting and Layout: Melissa S. Green

Justice Center, John Angell, Director

Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Unit, Allan Barnes, Director

Published quarterly by the Justice Center and the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Unit at the University of Alaska Anchorage, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508; (907) 786-1810; fax 786-7777; Internet address ajjust@orion.alaska.edu.

© 1995 Justice Center,
University of Alaska Anchorage
ISSN 0893-8903

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, provides approximately thirty-five per cent of the funding for this publication.

The opinions expressed are those of individual authors and may not be those of the Justice Center or the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The University of Alaska provides equal education and employment opportunities for all, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran.

HIV Risk Perception

Andrea M. Fenaughty, Holly A. Massay, and Dennis G. Fisher

As part of an extensive study of drug users, AIDS, and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, researchers at the University of Alaska Anchorage have assembled data measuring the risk perceptions of individuals in Anchorage who are at some actual risk for contracting HIV.

These data may have some implications for correctional systems. Inmates appear to be at increased actual risk of HIV infection because of the nature of prison life. During confinement inmates have less access to clean needles or condoms than the general population, yet research indicates that within prisons, despite efforts at control, illicit drug use and sexual activity continue. Other research indicates that HIV seroprevalence rates among incoming inmates in U.S. correctional facilities are high compared to rates for the general public.

Early HIV prevention efforts revealed that information alone was not enough to effect the changes in behavior necessary to slow the spread of the disease. Beyond a certain level, increasing what a person knows about AIDS does not seem to affect behavior. This finding led researchers to

look for other factors related to behavior change.

One promising variable is risk perception. Several theories of health behavior suggest that it is an individual's perception of risk rather than the *actual* risk involved that determines behavior. Hence it is important to assess the risk perception of those at greatest actual risk.

The UAA study sought to determine factors related to the perceived risk of AIDS among a sample of drug users from the Municipality of Anchorage. Information obtained from 1002 users participating in the study between October 1991 and April 1994 was examined. All participants were eighteen or older, showed evidence of recent drug use (through positive urinalysis or needle marks) and had not been in treatment during the preceding thirty days. Males were 69 per cent of the sample; females, 31 per cent. Forty-one per cent were Caucasian (non-Hispanic); 36 per cent were Black (non-Hispanic); 17 per cent, Alaska Native or American Indian; and 6 per cent, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander or unknown. Seventy per cent of the sample had been arrested at least once.

Participants were classified according to

actual AIDS risk associated with drug use. Those who had injected a drug any time during the previous month (IDUs) were classified as high risk—30 per cent; all others (non-IDUs) were classified as low risk for drug behavior. (The 70 per cent who were non-injectors were primarily crack smokers.)

Participants were also classified according to sexual behavior. Higher actual risk from sexual behavior was associated with more partners, more IDU partners and less condom use.

To determine their level of risk perception, participants were asked what they believed their chance of contracting AIDS was. Almost three-quarters of the subjects reported either “no chance” or “some chance” of contracting the disease—and were classified as having low risk perception. Those reporting their risk as “half” chance or “high” chance were classified as having high risk perception. (The overall low perception of risk among study participants may be due to the relatively low HIV seroprevalence in Anchorage.)

The actual risk variables were then analyzed in conjunction with the risk perception variables, both individually and in combination. The results show that higher risk perception was associated with higher actual risk, when the variables were analyzed singly; that is, those who were IDUs, those who had more sex partners, or those who had more IDU sex partners, were more likely to see themselves at higher risk. In addition, those individuals who had been arrested more than once perceived themselves at higher risk for HIV infection. (This perception may be related to the fact that arrest often results in incarceration, and perception of risk may grow during incarceration. Also, those engaging in the riskiest behavior may be more likely to be arrested.)

When actual risk variables were analyzed in combination, IDUs, individuals with multiple sex partners, and people with more than one arrest were more likely to perceive themselves at high risk of HIV infection.

These results of the analysis suggest that, overall, while perceived risk of HIV infection is low, the level of perception is related to actual risk from both drug use and sexual behavior among this sample of drug users in Anchorage. This may be encouraging from a prevention standpoint if, as theorists suggest, those who perceive themselves at risk are most likely to change their behavior.

However, one result from the analysis was more worrisome. IDUs, considered as a group solely on this variable, did not

Table 1. State and Federal Prisoners Testing Positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), 1991

By type of HIV infection, region, and jurisdiction.

	Type of HIV infection/AIDS cases				HIV/AIDS cases as a per cent of total custody population
	Total	Asymptomatic	Symptomatic	Confirmed AIDS	
United States total	17,479	12,765	3,032	1,682	2.2%
Federal	630	422	91	117	1.0
State	16,849	12,343	2,941	1,565	2.3
Northeast	10,247	7,420	1,922	905	8.1%
Connecticut	574	229	264	81	5.4
Maine	1	1	0	0	0.1
Massachusetts	484	100	362	22	5.3
New Hampshire	18	8	6	4	1.2
New Jersey	756	0	694	62	4.0
New York	8,000	6,833	474	693	13.8
Pennsylvania	313	247	34	32	1.3
Rhode Island	98	0	88	10	3.5
Vermont	3	2	0	1	0.3
Midwest	1,128	733	268	127	1.0%
Illinois	299	216	66	17	1.0
Indiana	62	60	0	2	0.5
Iowa	19	17	0	2	0.5
Kansas	13	1	6	6	0.2
Michigan	390	124	194	72	1.1
Minnesota	14	13	1	0	0.4
Missouri	127	125	0	2	0.8
Nebraska	11	10	1	0	0.4
North Dakota	1	1	0	0	0.2
Ohio	152	129	0	23	0.4
South Dakota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wisconsin	40	37	0	3	0.5
South	4,314	3,513	513	288	1.5%
Alabama	178	178	0	0	1.1
Arkansas	68	59	5	4	0.9
Delaware	85	78	0	7	2.6
District of Columbia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Florida	1,105	1,015	0	90	2.4
Georgia	807	774	10	23	3.4
Kentucky	27	25	0	2	0.3
Louisiana	100	100	0	0	0.7
Maryland	478	324	135	19	2.5
Mississippi	106	106	0	0	1.3
North Carolina	170	116	35	19	0.9
Oklahoma	74	64	0	10	0.7
South Carolina	316	298	0	18	2.0
Tennessee	28	0	20	8	0.3
Texas	615	251	307	57	1.2
Virginia	152	121	0	31	0.9
West Virginia	5	4	1	0	0.3
West	1,160	677	238	245	0.7%
Alaska*	9	7	0	2	0.4
Arizona	84	74	0	10	0.5
California	714	407	136	171	0.7
Colorado	82	37	41	4	1.0
Hawaii	19	17	1	1	0.8
Idaho	10	3	3	4	0.5
Montana	7	7	0	0	0.5
Nevada	117	72	39	6	2.0
New Mexico	10	10	0	0	0.3
Oregon	24	11	12	1	0.4
Utah	35	0	5	30	1.3
Washington	42	32	0	10	0.5
Wyoming	7	0	1	6	0.6

* Currently, Alaska has 13 prisoners who are HIV positive and none with confirmed AIDS (source: Alaska Department of Corrections).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Please see *HIV Risk*, page 6

HIV Risk

(continued from page 5)

exhibit an increased perception of risk in association with an increase in the number of sexual partners, although they did recognize the increased danger associated with their drug usage patterns. Perhaps compared to the elevated risk IDUs perceive from their injection drug use, the added danger from having multiple sex partners appears negligible. Hence, prevention programs targeting IDUs might emphasize the risk associated with unsafe sexual behavior without minimizing that incurred from injecting drugs.

The significance of these findings depends upon the nature of the relationship between perception of risk and behavior change. Research examining this link and refining the picture of those at most risk can contribute to further development of AIDS prevention programs aimed at drug-users or other groups, including those within the correctional system.

Andrea M. Fenaughty is a post-doctoral fellow with the University of Alaska Anchorage. Holly A. Massay is a graduate student in clinical psychology. Dennis G. Fisher is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at University of Alaska Anchorage.

Domestic Violence

(continued from page 1)

Injury. This study shows a strong relationship between victim injury and police arrest action. Over the four-year study period, not only was injury increasingly noted by the police officer, but an arrest became more likely when injury was noted. Even when injury was claimed by the victim but not noted by the police officer, arrests increased over the four-year period.

Intoxication. This study indicates that an arrest was more likely to occur if the victim was not intoxicated, while the intoxication of the suspect had no effect on the likelihood of arrest. (Table 2). When a victim is intoxicated, an inability to communicate may inhibit the collection of critical information in making a probable cause arrest.

Ethnicity of Suspect. No statistically significant differences in arrest action were found for the three principle ethnic groups—white, black and Alaska Native.

Victim Cooperation. The data reveal that in Anchorage arrest action in domestic violence incidents seems to be influenced by the presence or absence of victim coopera-

National AIDS Study

The Anchorage study cited in the accompanying article is part of a national five-year community-based AIDS research project. Researchers on the project, which is being funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, are assembling data on drug users and AIDS at over twenty-five sites throughout the country. In addition to the risk perception data discussed in the *Forum* article, researchers are looking at many other variables which may be involved in the transmission of the disease, including sexual practices, reading level, and demographic variables.

Interviews with subjects form the main source of data. Participants join the study on a volunteer basis, receiving a nominal sum in compensation for participation at each stage. Currently, the participant group continues to expand, with data being collected on each subject for as long as possible for the duration of the study. Through the use of standardized questionnaires the same types of information are being collected at all study sites. Researchers at individual sites may also collect data suggested by the particulars of that locale.

Drug Abuse Field Stations have been established within study communities to provide interview, clinic and education facilities easily accessible to participants. The project includes a preventive intervention component which involves education, counseling and distribution of free AIDS prevention supplies, such as condoms.

Because HIV seroprevalence rates within the Anchorage study group, and in the Alaska population as a whole, are low in comparison to those at other study sites—such as those in New York or San Francisco—the Anchorage study can be a source of significant information on the results of the preventive intervention effort. (Currently, only twenty-three of over twelve hundred respondents in the Anchorage group are HIV positive—a prevalence rate of under 2%.)

In addition, the participation of a higher number of American Indians and Alaska Natives than at other sites is facilitating the acquisition of important data about this population.

Dr. Dennis Fisher of the Psychology Department at UAA heads the Anchorage study.

tion. If the victim was cooperative, an arrest action was more likely to occur. Police took such action in 80 per cent of the cases where the victim was cooperative but in only 50 per cent of those cases where a victim did not want an arrest. Again, as with intoxication victims, an uncooperative victim may inhibit the collection of evidence for a probable cause arrest.

Type of Incident. Table 3 reveals that over the four-year study period the type of classification reported for an incident has changed significantly. The number of cases described

as assault cases increased 39 per cent from 1989 to 1992, and those described as disturbances decreased by 53 per cent.

Police Report Information Policy

APD procedures require officers to complete full police reports on domestic violence calls. These reports include such information as incident area; date and time of incident; description of injuries; interview information from victim,

Table 2. Arrest and Victim and Suspect Intoxication

Cases in which an officer responded, an aggressor could be determined, the victim was female, the suspect was male, and the relationship was spousal.

	Under influence		Not under influence		Total incidents	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Known status of victim						
Arrest, warrant, investigation	97	75.2%	336	85.1%	433	82.6%
Closed or suspended	32	24.8	59	14.9	91	17.4
Total	129		395		524	
Known status of suspect						
Arrest, warrant, investigation	266	85.5%	163	80.3%	429	83.5%
Closed or suspended	45	14.5	40	19.7	85	16.5
Total	311		203		514	

Table 3. Arrest and Type of Incident Over Time

Cases in which an officer responded to the site.

	1989		1990		1991		1992		Total incidents	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Officer determination of incident										
Assault	117	45.9%	159	54.5%	204	63.6%	283	64.0%	763	58.2%
Disturbance	109	42.7	91	31.2	83	25.9	87	19.7	370	28.2
Domestic violence writ violation (harassment and threats)	29	11.4	42	14.4	34	10.6	72	16.3	177	13.5
Total	255		292		321		442		1310	
Action taken										
Arrest-like actions										
Arrest made	62	24.1	121	40.5	125	38.2	175	39.4	483	36.4
Warrant issued	9	3.5	21	7.0	42	12.8	37	8.3	109	8.2
Forwarded for investigation	48	18.7	30	10.0	42	12.8	73	16.4	193	14.5
Cited and released	9	3.5	6	2.0	17	5.2	22	5.0	54	4.1
No action at request of victim	10	3.9%	3	1.0%	5	1.5%	16	3.6%	34	2.6%
Closed or suspended	119	46.3%	118	39.5%	96	29.4%	121	27.3%	454	34.2%
Total	257		299		327		444		1327	

suspect and all witnesses; collection of evidence; photographs of injuries; and a description of the sequence of events. Table 4 illustrates the results of an analysis of 1335 reports—only those in which an officer was dispatched. These results demonstrate very high compliance with departmental policy on report completion. In only one area was information missing in a large percentage of reports—that documenting employment of the parties involved in the incident.

Victim Safety Policy

APD policy requires officers to make every possible effort to ensure the safety of the victim and to inform the victim of local support services. Even in cases where there is insufficient evidence to support an arrest, the officer must supply this information to the alleged victim.

As Table 5 illustrates, in 92 per cent of the cases studied the officer took action or provided transportation or information to insure the safety of the victim. In 6 per cent the victim was uncooperative and in another 2 per cent of the cases the officer did not report on the action taken. (Tables 5 and 6 present information on only those cases in which an officer was dispatched: 1335.)

Table 6 (page 8) describes officer action in providing information on community resources. In 70 per cent of the cases the victim received information on these resources or transportation to insure safety. In

30 per cent, the officer failed to note what information, if any, was provided to the victim. The information presented by the data in these two tables together shows a pattern of officers facilitating the continued safety of victims.

This study finds that Anchorage police officers are closely following department policy and procedure.

Carrie D. Longoria is program manager of the Anchorage SAFE City Program. Copies of the entire report may be obtained from the SAFE City Program.

Table 4. Completeness of Police Reports

Data unit	Per cent of responses missing
Arrest or closing action	0.0%
Type of case	0.0
Date of incident	0.0
Time of incident	6.3
Patrol unit of incident	2.4
Birth date, person 1	2.4
Birth date, person 2	6.7
Gender of parties	0.0
Ethnicity, person 1	1.7
Ethnicity, person 2	3.7
Injury to person 1	1.2
Injury to person 2	6.2
Employment, person 1	40.6
Employment, person 2	42.1
Relationship of couple	3.1
Alcohol or drug involvement	0.0
Cooperation of victim	n/a

Table 5. Officer Response to Victim Safety

Cases in which an officer responded to the site.*

Safety of victim ensured by:	N	%
Evaluation of no immediate danger at time of response	448	33.7%
DV writ in effect, parties not together	82	6.2
Parties not together on arrival	310	23.3
Suspect gone plus special steps to protect victim	45	3.4
Victim absent or incapacitated	11	0.8
Safety facilitated	779	58.5%
Arrest made and one or both taken to magistrate	476	35.8
Suspect agreed to go away, or transported away	114	8.6
Victim goes away	64	4.8
Victim taken to safe place other than Abused Women's Aid in Crisis shelter	38	2.9
Victim advised to see, or taken to, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis shelter	20	1.5
Couple agreed to separate for a time	17	1.3
Victim driven to magistrate to get restraining order	16	1.2
Restraining order obtained and other steps taken	11	0.8
Suspect served with restraining order	6	0.5
Victim taken to Covenant House, Intermision, etc.	6	0.5
Civil standby performed	6	0.5
Extra patrol ordered	4	0.3
Suspect committed to Alaska Psychiatric Institute (at his request)	1	0.1
Safety steps urged or advised	82	6.2%
Victim uncooperative	58	4.4
Couple told or agreed to cool off and/or refused to leave	24	1.8
None of the above mentioned in case report	22	1.7%
Total	1331	

* In 4 incidents, complete information on this subject was not available and the incidents have been omitted from the percentage base.

Table 6. Distribution of Information*Cases in which an officer responded to the site.**

Domestic violence information:	N	%
Already in use or known	181	14.1%
Victim has, or has had, a restraining order	176	13.7
Suspect served with restraining order	5	0.4
Provided	592	46.1%
Victim advised to get restraining order and given DV information	297	23.1
Victim given DV card or information	102	7.9
DV information and counseling provided	23	1.8
DV information and ride to Abused Women's Aid in Crisis shelter given or offered	19	1.5
Victim advised to see, or taken to, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis shelter	17	1.3
Victim driven to magistrates to get restraining order	69	5.4
Extra or special counseling given to victim or both parties	65	5.1
Could not be provided	125	9.7%
Victim absent or incapacitated	86	6.7
Victim refused the information	39	3.0
None of the above mentioned in case report	387	30.1%
Total	1285	

* In 50 incidents, complete information on this subject was not available and the incidents have been omitted from the percentage base.

ASLET Seminar

The American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers (ASLET) conducted its eighth international training seminar and law enforcement exposition in Anchorage, January 24 -28, at the Egan Convention Center. Over four hundred law enforcement, corrections and security personnel from throughout the U.S., Canada and Australia participated. The seminar offered over 95 courses on law enforcement concerns. A vendors exhibition of law enforcement equipment and supplies accompanied the training courses.

Lieutenant Robert Andrews of the Anchorage Police Department served as seminar coordinator. Host agencies for the seminar included: the Anchorage Police Department, the Alaska State Troopers, the Alaska State Crime Laboratory, the FBI, the FAA, the Alaska Department of Corrections, the Anchorage Airport Safety Office and the Justice Center at the University of Alaska.

**Alaska Justice Forum
Justice Center
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508**

Address correction requested.

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Anchorage, Alaska
Permit No. 107**