

## Referrals to the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice: 2003–2008

Law enforcement agencies make referrals to the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice if there is probable cause that a youth (1) committed an offense which would be criminal if committed by an adult, (2) committed a felony traffic offense, or (3) committed an alcohol offense after two prior convictions in District Court for minor consuming. Adults may be referred to the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice if their offenses were committed as juveniles.

The Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice publishes yearly statistics on the number of juveniles referred by law enforcement. These statistics are publicly available on the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice website, and include information on the number of unduplicated (or unique) juveniles referred in each fiscal year, the total number of referrals, and the total number of charges. Each juvenile may be referred more than once, and each referral may include multiple charges.

### Rate of Juveniles Referred, Referrals, and Charges

Figure 1 displays the rate of juveniles referred, referrals, and charges per 1,000 juveniles (age 10 to 17) for each fiscal year from 2003 to 2008. From 2003 to 2008:

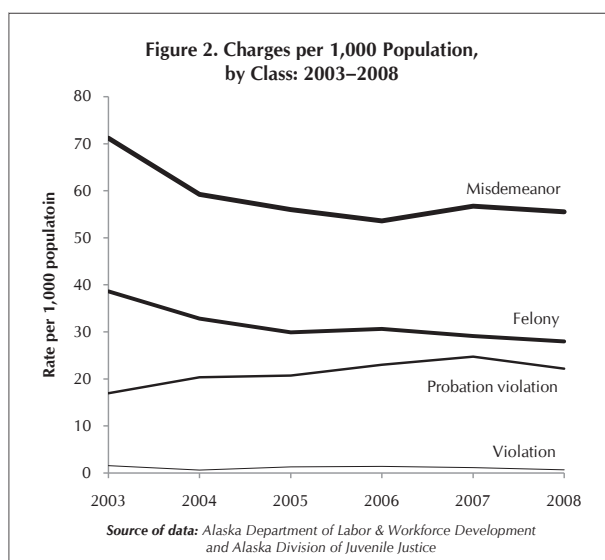
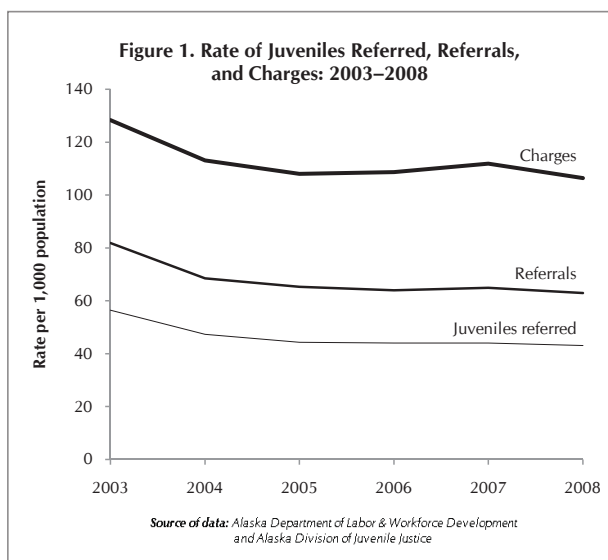
- The rate of juveniles referred decreased by 24% (from 56.5 to 43.1 per 1,000).
- The rate of referrals decreased by 23% (from 81.9 to 62.9 per 1,000).
- The rate of charges decreased by 17% (from 128.4 to 106.4 per 1,000).

All three of these declines are very statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ), meaning that it is very unlikely that they just occurred by chance. In the next sections, we further examine the declining trend in the rates of charges by class and type.

### Rate of Charges by Class

Figure 2 displays the rate of charges per 1,000 juveniles (age 10 to 17) for each fiscal year from 2003 to 2008 for felonies, misdemeanors, probation violations, and violations (the least serious offenses).

- The rate of felony charges decreased by 27% (from 38.6 to 28.0 per 1,000).



- The rate of misdemeanor charges decreased by 22% (from 71.2 to 55.5 per 1,000).
- The rate of probation violation charges increased by 31% (from 17.0 to 22.2 per 1,000).
- The rate of violation charges decreased by 56% (from 1.6 to 0.7 per 1,000).

Once again, all changes are very statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). While the rates of felony charges, misdemeanor charges, and violation charges all significantly declined, the rate of probation violation charges significantly increased.

### Rate of Charges by Type

Figure 3 displays the rate of charges per 1,000 juveniles (age 10 to 17) for each fiscal year from 2003 to 2008 for offenses against persons, offenses against property, offenses against public order, drug and alcohol offenses, weapon offenses, and other miscellaneous offenses (including municipal criminal code violations and probation or conduct violations). From 2003 to 2008:

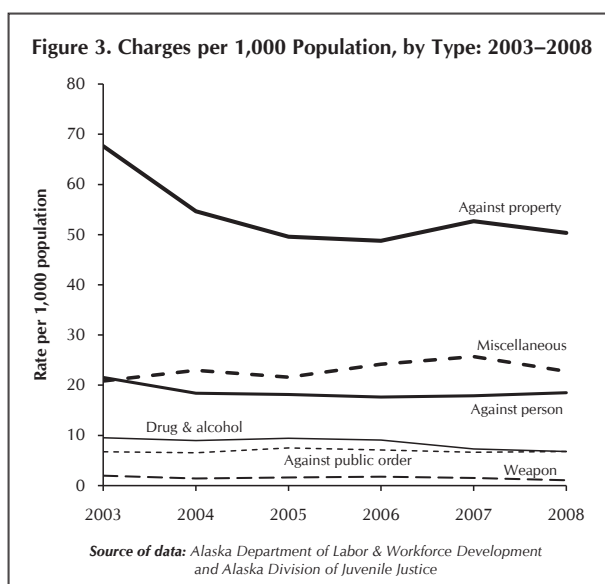
- The rate of charges for offenses against persons decreased by 14% (from 21.6 to 18.5 per 1,000).
- The rate charges for offenses against property decreased by 25% (from 67.6 to 50.4 per 1,000).
- The rate of charges for offenses against public order increased by 1% (from 6.7 to 6.8 per 1,000).
- The rate of charges for drug and alcohol offenses decreased by 28% (from 9.5 to 6.8 per 1,000).
- The rate of charges for weapon offenses decreased by 56% (from 1.6 to 0.7 per 1,000).
- The rate of charges for other miscellaneous offenses increased by 9% (from 20.9 to 22.8 per 1,000).

All changes are statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ), except for the 1% change in the rate of charges for offenses against public order. The rates of charges for offenses against persons, for offenses against property, for drug and alcohol offenses, and for weapon offenses all significantly declined from 2003 to 2008. Only the rate of charges for other miscellaneous offenses significantly increased from 2003 to 2008. (Miscellaneous offenses include probation and conduct violations.)

### Summary

Since 2003, the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice has seen dramatic and significant reductions in the number of juveniles referred, the number of referrals, and the number of charges. These reductions were observed for felonies, misdemeanors, and violations. They were also observed for offenses against persons, offenses against property, drug and alcohol offenses, and weapon offenses. In addition to being statistically significant, many of these reductions were substantively large.

*Research compiled by André B. Rosay, Director*



**Table 1. Number and Rate of Juveniles, Referrals, and Charges: 2003–2008**

Year	Population (10-17)	Juveniles		Referrals		Charges	
		Number referred	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000
2003	90,262	5,101	56.5	7,388	81.9	11,587	128.4
2004	90,320	4,275	47.3	6,189	68.5	10,213	113.1
2005	89,805	3,980	44.3	5,861	65.3	9,698	108.0
2006	89,236	3,929	44.0	5,713	64.0	9,700	108.7
2007	87,940	3,876	44.1	5,709	64.9	9,834	111.8
2008	86,466	3,728	43.1	5,443	62.9	9,200	106.4
<b>Average</b>	<b>89,004.8</b>	<b>4,148.2</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>6,050.5</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>10,038.7</b>	<b>112.7</b>

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development and Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice

**Table 2. Number and Rate of Charges, by Class: 2003–2008**

Year	Felony		Misdemeanor		Violation		Probation violation	
	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000
2003	3,486	38.6	6,425	71.2	142	1.6	1,534	17.0
2004	2,963	32.8	5,349	59.2	59	0.7	1,842	20.4
2005	2,687	29.9	5,029	56.0	118	1.3	1,864	20.8
2006	2,734	30.6	4,783	53.6	125	1.4	2,058	23.1
2007	2,562	29.1	4,991	56.8	104	1.2	2,177	24.8
2008	2,418	28.0	4,800	55.5	61	0.7	1,921	22.2
<b>Average</b>	<b>2,808.3</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>5229.5</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1899.3</b>	<b>21.4</b>

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development and Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice

**Table 3. Number and Rate of Charges per 1,000 Population, by Type: 2003–2008**

Year	Against persons		Against property		Against public order		Drug & alcohol		Weapon		Miscellaneous	
	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000
2003	1,947	21.6	6,105	67.6	609	6.7	860	9.5	182	2.0	1,884	20.9
2004	1,665	18.4	4,938	54.7	592	6.6	811	9.0	131	1.5	2,076	23.0
2005	1,629	18.1	4,456	49.6	676	7.5	846	9.4	147	1.6	1,944	21.6
2006	1,575	17.6	4,354	48.8	636	7.1	810	9.1	164	1.8	2,161	24.2
2007	1,574	17.9	4,634	52.7	586	6.7	643	7.3	136	1.5	2,261	25.7
2008	1,602	18.5	4,355	50.4	587	6.8	589	6.8	95	1.1	1,972	22.8
<b>Average</b>	<b>1,665.3</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>4,807.0</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>614.3</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>759.8</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>142.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2,049.7</b>	<b>23.0</b>

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development and Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice



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