



# **Police Alcohol-related Services Study (PASS), Phase II: A Description of the Beliefs, Perceptions and Attitudes of Anchorage Police Department Employees**

Prepared for

Anchorage Police Department

by

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Justice Center  
University of Alaska Anchorage



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# Contents

<b>Part I. Project Overview &amp; Summary of Findings .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Project Overview .....	2
Methodology .....	2
Sample Description .....	2
Survey Results .....	4
<i>Perceptions of Alcohol-Related Workload</i> .....	4
<i>Perceptions of Community Problems</i> .....	5
<i>Perceived Link Between Alcohol Use and Select Social Problems</i> .....	6
<i>Attitudes, Perceptions and Beliefs</i> .....	6
<i>Personal and Vicarious Experience with Alcohol-Related Incidents</i> .....	8
<b>Part II. Alcohol-Related Workload: APD Employee Perspectives .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Section 1. Introduction .....	11
<i>Methodology</i> .....	11
Section 2. Perceptions of Alcohol-Related Workload .....	16
Section 3. Perceptions of Community Problems .....	19
Section 4. Perceived Link Between Alcohol Use and Select Social Problems .....	23
Section 5. Attitudes & Perceptions Regarding Policing Alcohol Incidents .....	27
Section 6. Personal and Vicarious Experience with Alcohol-Related Incidents .....	32
<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>35</b>
Appendix A. Sample Assessment .....	36
<i>Assessment of the P.A.S.S. Sample</i> .....	36
Appendix B. Survey Instrumentation Questionnaire .....	41

**Part I**  
**Project Overview & Summary of Findings**

## Project Overview

This report presents *Phase II* findings from the *Police Alcohol-Related Services Study* (PASS). PASS represents a one-of-a-kind collaborative research effort between the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage and the Anchorage Police Department (APD). The project examined in detail the intersection of two prominent social forces in Alaska: alcohol consumption and policing. Its principle aim was to expand current knowledge about the impact of citizen alcohol use on the Anchorage Police Department in terms of its fiscal, organizational, and cultural consequences.

What follows is a section-by-section overview of the *Phase II* survey results. Presentation of the data is limited to basic frequency distributions. The analysis that is provided is limited to a comparison of responses across divisions within the department: operations vs. administration; patrol vs. non-patrol; and sworn vs. non-sworn. Aside from this single variable comparison, this report is a simple *description* of APD employees' perceptions and attitudes, and therefore it does not present any definitive conclusion. More detailed analysis of the PASS data will be conducted by the Justice Center in the future.

## Methodology

*Phase II* of the Police Alcohol-Related Services Study (PASS) consisted of a department-wide survey designed to elaborate on the observational data from *Phase I* which examined the impact of citizen alcohol use as it related directly to police patrol – focusing primarily on issues of time-task allocations among Anchorage patrol officers. Data for *Phase II* were gathered using a self-administered questionnaire provided to all members of APD, regardless of rank, sworn status or operational division, in February 2004 via the department's internal mail distribution system. Surveys were delivered to each employee's mailbox in a personally addressed sealed envelope. Accompanying each survey questionnaire was a postage-paid, self-addressed return envelope for respondents. In addition, a secure drop-box was also provided in the department's briefing room for the convenience of those respondents who were unable to get to a postal deposit box. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and all questionnaires were stripped of any identifying information upon return. A total of 485 questionnaires were distributed of which 288 were completed and returned for an overall response rate of 59 percent.

## Sample Description

The survey sample is described in terms of the department's organizational structure and organizational composition. *Organizational structure* refers specifically to two key dimensions of the social organization of all police departments: the sworn status and organizational assignment of each respondent. *Organizational composition* refers to the personal characteristics of PASS respondents, both ascribed and achieved.

## Organizational Structure

- An overwhelming majority of PASS respondents (72.5%) was assigned to the **operations** section of the department, while the remainder was assigned to the administration<sup>1</sup> section (27.5%).
  - Respondents from the **patrol division** constituted 80 percent of all operations respondents, approximately 58 percent of all PASS survey participants.
- Approximately 70 percent of all PASS respondents were **sworn** police officers.
  - Well over three-quarters (83.2%) of all sworn officers who participated held the rank of **patrol officer** or **senior patrol officer**.

## Organizational Composition

- The typical PASS respondent had a median age of **40 years**.
- More than 80 percent of all PASS respondents identified themselves as **white/Caucasian**.
- Nearly two-thirds (64.6%) of all PASS respondents were **male**.
- PASS respondents were **long-term residents of Anchorage** (median length of residency = 19 years), but had also spent a substantial amount of time living outside the state (median out-of-state residency = 21 years).
- A dominant majority of PASS respondents reported having a **post-secondary education**.
  - 36.5 percent reported having attained an Associate’s or Other two-year degree.
  - 52.1 percent reported having attained *at least* a Bachelor’s degree.
- Most PASS respondents were **married** (76.0%).
- A majority of respondents were self-identified political **conservatives** (50.3% “Republican”). In contrast:
  - Only 17 percent reported themselves to be “Independent” or “Non-partisan.”
  - Less than 10 percent identified themselves as “Democrats.”
  - Nearly a quarter (23%) left this survey item blank.
- Of those PASS respondents who reported their religious affiliation, all self-identified as belonging to a **Christian** church. However:
  - 19.8 percent reported themselves as having no religious affiliation.
  - 19.8 percent left this survey item blank.
- Law-enforcement (policing and corrections) appears to be somewhat of a **family tradition** among PASS respondents. Consider that:
  - Nearly a quarter of all PASS respondents reported that prior to their entry into the field, either a parent, aunt or uncle, or a grandparent had been a police officer.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of sample assessment, respondents assigned to the office of the Chief of Police were coded as Administration section personnel even though, technically, they belong to neither the Administration nor Operations sections.

- 4.5 percent of PASS respondents reported that either a parent, aunt or uncle, or a grandparent had worked as a correctional officer before they entered the policing field.
- More than a quarter (25.2%) reported that one or more family members were *currently* a police officer or correctional officer.
- **Prior law enforcement experience** was quite common among PASS respondents themselves.
  - 24.3 percent of PASS respondents indicated they themselves had worked as a law enforcement official *prior* to their current employment with APD.
- **Military experience** was even more common among PASS respondents than prior law-enforcement experience.
  - 35.7 reported prior service in the United States armed forces.
  - 5.5 percent reported that they currently served in the National Guard or Reserves.

## Survey Results

### Perceptions of Alcohol-Related Workload

This section of the survey explored respondents' perceptions of their own workload in the twelve months preceding the study. These data represent responses to questionnaire items asking participants to estimate how much total work time in the preceding year they had spent on tasks directly related to, or originally stemming from, alcohol. They were also asked about the seasonal variability of their alcohol-related workload.

- In general, PASS respondents' perceptions of alcohol-related workload were widely dispersed.
  - Precisely half (50%) of all respondents reported spending *more than half of their time* on alcohol-related activities in the 12 months preceding the survey.
  - Slightly less than half (45.5%) of respondents reported spending *less than half of their time* on alcohol-related activities in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- When the sample was disaggregated, however, several intra-organizational differences in perceived workload emerged:
  - Operations personnel were significantly more likely than administration personnel to report spending *more than half of their time* on alcohol-related activities (60.7% versus 25.0%).
  - Patrol division personnel were more likely than non-patrol respondents to report spending *more than half of their time* on alcohol-related activities (63.0% versus 33.4%).
  - Sworn officers were more likely than civilian respondents to report spending *more than half of their time* on alcohol-related activities (62.1% versus 15.8%).
- PASS respondents, in general, did not perceive substantial seasonal variation in alcohol-related workload. Of those who provided a response:

- 72.0 percent reported that their alcohol-related workload had NOT increased in the six months preceding the survey;
- 60.5 percent reported that their alcohol-related workload was NOT higher in the summer as compared to winter; and
- 74.1 percent reported that their alcohol-related workload was NOT higher in the winter as compared to summer.
- When the seasonal variation data were disaggregated, only one statistically significant difference was detected:
  - Patrol division respondents were more likely than others to report that their alcohol-related workload was greater in the summer than in the winter.

### Perceptions of Community Problems

The intent of this section was to examine how much of a problem PASS respondents think explicitly alcohol-related social problems are compared to other, more general, difficulties faced by the residents of Anchorage. Respondents were asked to identify from a list of twenty-two social issues – some criminal and some not – the five *most* troublesome and five *least* troublesome. If a social problem was designated as the absolute worst problem, it was given a score of 22; if a problem was designated as the least problematic of all, it was given a score of 1.

#### *Summary of Findings*

- From the twenty-two item list, PASS respondents identified **sexual assault** as the most problematic issue in the city, followed by **alcoholism, intimate partner violence, drunk driving, and illegal drug use**.
- Once again, when these data were disaggregated, significant differences emerged among the various operational and functional divisions of APD:
  - Operations personnel selected alcoholism as the most problematic issue in the city, followed by sexual assault, intimate partner violence, illegal drug use and misdemeanor assaults.
  - Administration respondents ranked sexual assault as the leading problem, followed by intimate partner violence, drunk driving, gun violence and alcoholism.
  - Patrol division personnel listed alcoholism as the most serious problem faced by the city, followed by sexual assault, intimate partner violence, drunk driving and misdemeanor assaults.
  - Non-patrol respondents ranked sexual assault as the leading issue, followed by intimate partner violence, drunk driving, crimes against children and gun violence.
  - Sworn police officers listed sexual assault as the most serious problem faced by the city, followed by alcoholism, intimate partner violence, illegal drug use and misdemeanor assaults.
  - Civilian employees viewed intimate partner violence as the most pressing issue, followed by sexual assault, drunk driving, gun violence and alcoholism.



## Perceived Link Between Alcohol Use and Select Social Problems

Building on those presented in the previous section, data presented in this section concern the strength of association between many of the same social problems and alcohol consumption. Respondents were not asked about the association between alcohol and alcoholism and alcohol and drunken driving for obvious reasons. Items on teen violence and illegal drug manufacture were also excluded. Added to the list of potential social problems were *general disturbances* and *larceny theft*. These two items were used in previous research, so they were included in the PASS survey for purposes of comparison. Respondents reported the perceived strength of association between alcohol and each proposed problem on a five-point scale ranging from “0” (no relationship whatsoever) to “4” (very strong relationship).

### Summary of Findings

- PASS respondents believed **homelessness** to have the **strongest association with alcohol** followed by sexual assault, general disturbances, intimate partner violence and misdemeanor assaults;
- As with other sections of the survey, PASS respondents displayed **considerable variation in their perceptions based on their structural position within the department**. In many cases these differences were found to be statistically significant.
  - Operations personnel viewed homelessness to have the strongest association with alcohol use, followed by general disturbances, sexual assaults, intimate partner violence and misdemeanor assaults.
  - Administration personnel scored the association between alcohol and intimate partner violence as the strongest, sexual assault came in second, homelessness third, general disturbances fourth, and coming in fifth was felonious assaults.
  - As with the operations section as a whole, patrol division respondents believed homelessness, general disturbances, sexual assault, intimate partner violence and misdemeanor assaults to have the strongest association with alcohol use.
  - Non-patrol employees viewed the association between alcohol and intimate partner violence as the strongest, followed by sexual assault, homelessness, general disturbances, and misdemeanor assaults.
  - Sworn officers, like those in operations and patrol, viewed alcohol to be most closely associated with homelessness and general disturbances, sexual assaults, intimate partner violence and low-level assaults.
  - Civilian respondents, like their fellow employees in administration and non-patrol divisions, viewed acts of violence directed toward women as having the strongest connection with alcohol. For the civilian employees who participated intimate partner violence and sexual assault were scored 1-2, followed by general disturbances and homelessness (tied) and felony assaults.

### Attitudes, Perceptions and Beliefs

Survey items in this section asked APD employees their perceptions and attitudes about the policing of alcohol-related incidents and the people involved with them. Topics covered in this section included: the

appropriate role of police in responding to alcohol-related incidents; the effectiveness of current institutionalized responses to chronic, homeless alcoholics; and current levels of officer training with respect to alcohol-involved incidents in general, and domestic violence and mental illness in particular. Respondents were presented with a series of statements and asked to report if they strongly disagreed, disagreed, agreed, or strongly agreed with each one.

### *Summary of Findings*

- In general, PASS respondents demonstrated a fairly **strong commitment to the criminal law enforcement role of police work** while de-emphasizing its service and order-maintenance aspects, especially with respect to activities involving alcohol-related incidents. Some indicators of this generalized outlook were:
  - 80 percent of respondents agreed with the statement *“A person who has broken the law, whether drunk or not, should be arrested or cited since there are very few reasons for not enforcing the law.”*
  - 64 percent agreed with the statement *“An officer who makes an arrest or gives a citation because a person is drunk is making a ‘good’ arrest.”*
  - 60 percent disagreed with the statement *“There are some people for whom heavy drinking is normal, and it is just as well to handle situations involving them in a non-criminal manner.”*
  - 64 percent agreed with the statement *“Police should spend less time doing social work and more time combating crime (that is, doing real police work).”*
  - 91 percent disagreed with the statement *“Transporting chronic inebriates to shelter is a valid use of officer time.”*
  - 94 percent agreed with the statement *“Patrol officers could make better use of their time if the didn’t have to respond to ‘drunk calls.’”*

Two additional indicators of the view that alcohol-related service activities are outside the scope of legitimate police activity were:

  - 95 percent agreed with the statement *“Responding to alcohol-related incidents is a serious drain on the police department’s resources.”*
  - 84 percent agreed with the statement *“Those who drink should have to pay money for the police services they receive.”*
- A majority (57%) of respondents felt that the Community Service Patrol (CSP) is “an effective strategy for dealing with the drunk problem.”
- While respondents demonstrated fairly strong support for a law enforcement orientation for patrol officers in general, **there was not strong support for the formal disposition of minor alcohol-related incidents:**
  - 76 percent agreed with the statement *“If an incident involves a dispute between two drunken individuals in public, and there is no physical confrontation (i.e. fight), it is better to handle it informally than by arrest.”*

- 78 percent disagreed with the statement “*Chronic alcoholics, particularly those who are homeless, should be arrested and taken to jail so they have to sober up.*”
- This tendency toward the informal handling of **minor alcohol-related incidents** may be due to a widely accepted belief that **such incidents are somewhat endemic**, and while troublesome, present a **low level of perceived harm**:
  - 65 percent agreed with the statement “*Problems which are the result of alcohol abuse provide police with job security.*”
  - 96 percent agreed with the statement “*Abuse of alcohol leads to other, more serious, crimes and social problems.*”
  - 95 percent disagreed with the statement “*A chronically intoxicated and homeless person poses a greater risk to society than a repeat drunken driver.*”
- The data suggest that respondents’ negative views of alcohol-related service activities may be due to **expected negative interactions with those who drink**:
  - 94 percent agreed with the statement “*Persons who have been drinking are more likely to display a bad attitude toward an officer than those who have not been drinking.*”
  - 54 percent agreed with the statement “*Of all the varied tasks required of police officers, dealing the drunken people has to be the worst.*”
- In general, PASS respondents assigned to **operations** or **patrol**, and those who were **sworn officers** tended to express **more negative views toward the policing of alcohol-related incidents** and were more skeptical of institutionalized responses to alcohol-related events and those people involved in them.

## Personal and Vicarious Experience with Alcohol-Related Incidents

To help provide some context to the perceptions and attitudes of PASS respondents, the questionnaire included items asking respondents about their experiences with alcohol-related incidents and persons. A summary of these results are presented below.

### *Summary of Findings*

- **Negative interactions with members of the public who’d been drinking were not an infrequent experience among PASS respondents**, regardless of organizational assignment.
  - 80.9 percent reported being verbally assaulted in the 12 months preceding the survey by a person who had been drinking.
    - 75.4 percent reported being verbally assaulted in the 6 months preceding the survey by a person who had been drinking.
  - Nearly a third (31.9%) of all respondents report having been physically assaulted by a person who had been drinking in the 12 months preceding the survey.
    - More than a quarter (26.2%) report having been physically assaulted by a person who had been drinking in the 6 months preceding the survey.

- 16 percent reported having their service vehicle struck by a drunken driver in the preceding 12 months.
- 18.8 percent reported witnessing a drunken-driving fatality in the 12 months leading up to the study.
- **Negative interactions with persons who have been drinking were experienced vicariously by nearly all PASS respondents** through organizational grapevines.
  - Better than nine out of ten (91.4%) PASS respondents reported having heard about a verbal assault on a police officer in the previous 12 months.
  - 86.4 percent reported hearing of a police officer being physically assaulted in the 12 months leading up to the survey.
  - Nearly two-thirds (65.5%) stated they had heard of an injury sustained by an officer in a confrontation with an intoxicated person.
- **Physical confrontations** with intoxicated persons were **limited to sworn police officers**, and almost entirely to those assigned to operations or patrol.
  - According to the sworn officers who participated in the survey, and who experienced an assault in the 12 months leading up to the study, **injury – particularly serious injury requiring time off work – is fairly uncommon**, occurring in about 10 percent of cases.
    - **Hands, fist, and feet** were reported as the most serious weapons used in more than 80 percent of assaults on sworn officers.

**Part II**  
**Alcohol-Related Workload: APD Employee Perspectives**

## Section 1 Introduction

This report presents *Phase II* findings from the *Police Alcohol-Related Services Study* (PASS). PASS represents a one-of-a-kind collaborative research effort between the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage and the Anchorage police department (APD). The project examined in detail the intersection of two prominent social forces in Alaska: alcohol consumption and policing. Its principle aim was to expand current knowledge about the impact of citizen alcohol use on the Anchorage Police Department in terms of its fiscal, organizational, and cultural consequences.

PASS followed an earlier study conducted by the Justice Center in 2002. At the heart of the original inquiry was a sense that while alcohol-related problems had a tremendous impact on the department, the impact could not be adequately articulated because scientifically sound data on the subject simply were not available. Previous attempts to document the impact of citizen alcohol use had been hampered by inaccurate and incomplete information contained in data systems that were not designed for the sort of analysis that was needed.<sup>2</sup> The Justice Center study, conducted in August of 2002, yielded some rather surprising findings – namely, that only 14 percent of patrol officer time was consumed by alcohol-related activities and only slightly more than 25 percent of all police-citizen encounters with members of the public were determined to be alcohol-related.<sup>3</sup> In November 2003, APD contacted the Justice Center about the possibility of extending the 2002 alcohol-workload study to confirm or challenge the earlier study’s findings. PASS is that extension.

The results of PASS study are reported in two parts, *Phase I* and *Phase II*. The *Phase I* report, published in June 2004, described the nature (Who? What? Where? When?) and prevalence (How much?) of the alcohol-related workload of Anchorage patrol officers. *Phase II*, presented here, was designed to measure the perceptions, beliefs and attitudes of all APD employees with respect to citizen alcohol use and the police department’s role in responding to alcohol-involved incidents.

### Methodology

Data for Phase II of the study were gathered using a self-administered questionnaire provided to all members of APD, regardless of rank, sworn status or operational division, in February 2004 via the department’s internal mail distribution system. Surveys were delivered to each employee’s mailbox in a personally-addressed, sealed envelope. Accompanying each survey questionnaire was a postage-paid, self-addressed return envelope for return of completed questionnaires. In addition, a secure drop-box was also provided in the department’s briefing room for the convenience of those respondents who completed the survey, but who were unable to access a postal deposit box for its return. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and all questionnaires were stripped of any identifying information upon return. A total of 485 questionnaires were distributed of which 288 were completed and returned for an overall response rate of 59 percent.

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<sup>2</sup> For example, using call-for-service and case management records.

<sup>3</sup> Myr Stol, Brad A.; Schafer, N. E.; and Giblin, Matthew J. (2003). *Drug and Alcohol-Related Workload of Anchorage Patrol Officers: Results From Two Patrol Officer Surveys*. Anchorage, AK: Justice Center, University of Alaska Anchorage.

## Sample

*Organizational characteristics.* As mentioned previously, the intent of the PASS survey was to gather information from a broad cross-section of APD employees, not simply the experiences and views of the department's contingent of sworn officers.<sup>4</sup> The data presented in this section suggest the survey successfully accomplished this goal.

More than a quarter of all respondents came from the Administration section, which contains the department's staff services, technical services, and administrative services divisions. The remainder of the sample was comprised of respondents from the Operations section, which includes the department's patrol and detective divisions. In addition, nearly one-third of all surveys were completed by non-sworn employees, and those questionnaires that were completed by sworn personnel were distributed across various ranks.<sup>5</sup> (See the organizational chart in Figure 1.1.)

**Table 1.1. PASS Sample:  
Organizational Characteristics**

n = 288

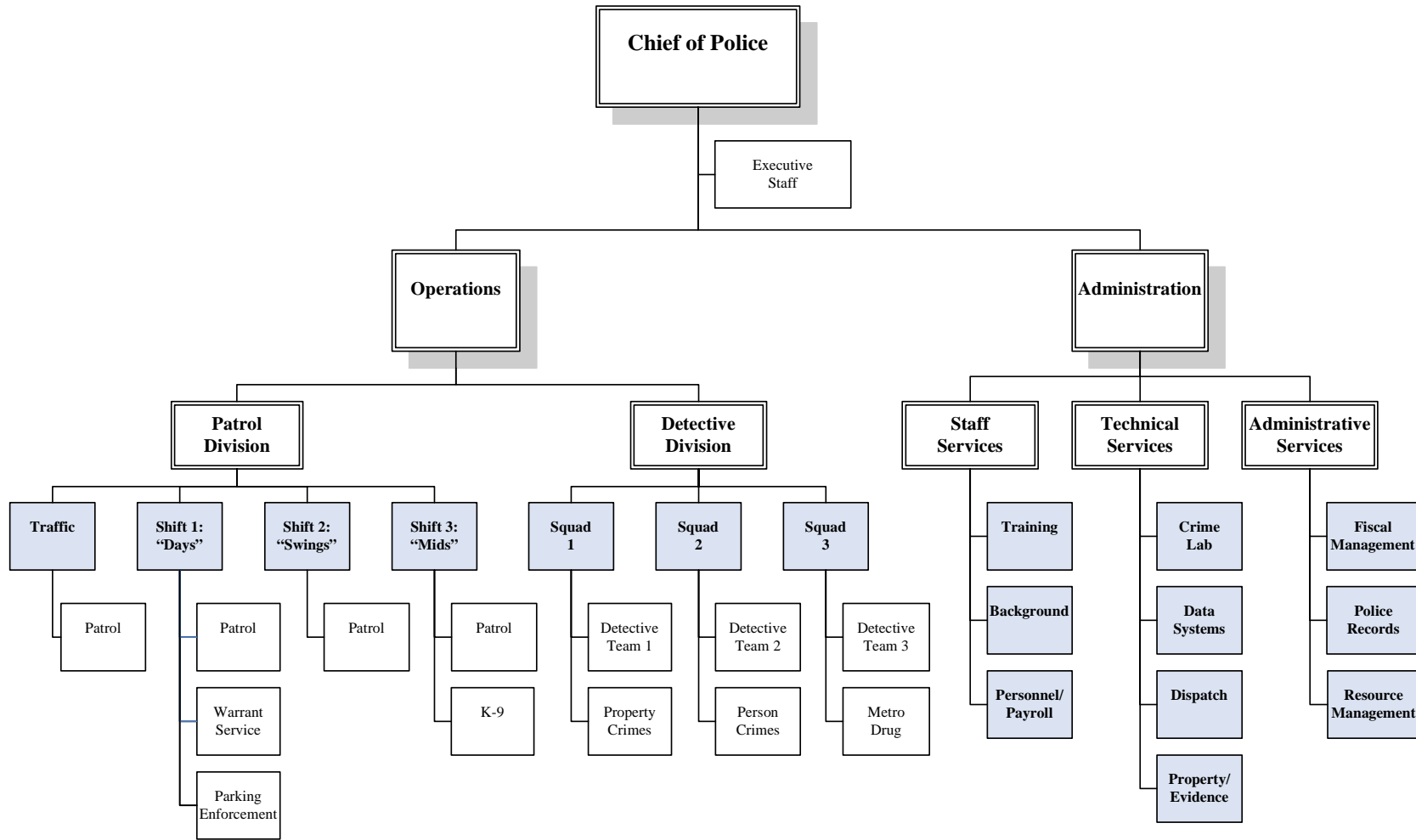
Organizational characteristic	PASS sample
<b>Organizational division</b>	
<b>Operations</b>	<b>72.5 %</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>27.5</b>
<i>Operations</i>	
Patrol division	80.4 %
Detective division	19.6
<i>Administration</i>	
Staff services	19.7 %
Technical services	36.8
Administrative services	39.5
<b>Sworn status &amp; rank</b>	
<b>Sworn</b>	<b>70.4 %</b>
<b>Non-sworn</b>	<b>29.6</b>
<i>Sworn personnel</i>	
Patrol officer	27.1 %
Senior patrol officer	56.1
Police sergeant	11.8
Senior command <sup>a</sup>	5.0

a. Includes the ranks of: lieutenant, captain, deputy chief, and chief of police.

<sup>4</sup> "Police officer" is defined in Alaska Statutes as : "(a) a full-time employee of the state or a local police department with the authority to arrest and issue citations; detain a person taken into custody until that person can be arraigned before a judge or magistrate; conduct investigations of violations of and enforce criminal laws, regulations, and traffic laws; search with or without a warrant persons, dwellings, and other forms of property for evidence of a crime; carry a concealed weapon; and take other action consistent with exercise of these enumerated powers when necessary to maintain the public peace; (b) an officer or employee of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities who is stationed at an international airport and has been designated to have the general police powers authorized under AS 02.15.230(a); (c) a University of Alaska public safety officer with general police powers authorized under AS 14.40.043." Reference: AS 18.65.290.

<sup>5</sup> Information pertaining to the degree to which the sample is characteristic of the department as a whole – that is, its representativeness – can be found in the Methodological Appendix.

Figure 1.1. Anchorage Police Department Organizational Chart



Adapted from "Anchorage Police Department Organization Chart" (January 2002), <http://www.muni.org/images/apd1/APDOrg2002.pdf> (accessed 14 December 2004).



*Individual characteristics.* Those who participated in the survey were typically white (80.8 percent), middle-aged males (median = 40 yrs old) with relatively long residential tenures in Anchorage (median residency = 19 yrs) (Table 1.2).

Information was also collected describing respondents' educational attainment, marital status, political and religious affiliations (Table 1.3), and inter-generational and personal prior law enforcement experience (Table 1.4). The educational attainment, marital status, and inter-generational law enforcement items were closed-ended questions where respondents were presented with a list of possible answer choices; the political and religious affiliation items were open-ended, allowing respondents to record any answer they felt appropriate (or no answer at all). Participants described themselves as relatively well-educated, married, and politically conservative Christians.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 1.2. PASS Sample:  
Demographic Characteristics**

n = 288

Demographic characteristic	PASS sample
<b>Age (median)</b>	40.0 years
<b>Race</b>	
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.8 %
Asian	3.8
Black	1.2
Hispanic (only)	2.1
Pacific Islander	1.0
White	80.9
Other	1.7
Missing/refused	3.5
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	64.6 %
Female	33.7
Missing/refused	1.7
<b>Length of residency (median)</b>	
City	19.0 years
In-state	22.0
Out-of-state	21.0

**Table 1.3. PASS Sample:  
Social Background**

n = 288

Social characteristic	PASS sample
<b>Education</b>	
High school (or equivalent)	6.3 %
Vocational/trade school	3.8
Associate/2-year degree	36.5
Baccalaureate or higher	52.1
Missing/refused	1.4
<b>Marital status</b>	
Single (never married)	9.7 %
Divorced	11.1
Widowed	0.3
Married	76.0
Missing/refused	2.8
<b>Political affiliation</b>	
Democrat	9.4 %
Republican	50.3
Non-partisan	17.0
Missing/refused	23.3
<b>Religious affiliation</b>	
Catholic	18.1 %
Protestant	40.6
Mormon	2.4
No religious affiliation	19.8
Missing/refused	19.1

The final sociological dimensions examined in the survey were the law enforcement and military background of respondents. These questions asked participants about their own prior experience as a police officer as well any experience they may have had as a member of the military. Respondents were also asked to provide information about their families' experiences as police or correctional officers. The results of these questions are presented in Table 1.4.

<sup>6</sup> The PASS sample was composed almost entirely of members of Christian faiths. Of those who provided a response, none indicated an affiliation with any religion other than Christianity, although nearly twenty percent reported no religious affiliation. Notably, nineteen percent refused to answer the question.

**Table 1.4. PASS Sample:  
Law Enforcement Background**

n = 288

Variables	PASS sample
<b>Intergenerational experience: Policing<sup>a</sup></b>	
Father	8.3 %
Mother	0.0
Grandparent	5.6
Aunt/uncle	10.4
<b>Intergenerational experience: Corrections<sup>a</sup></b>	
Father	2.6 %
Mother	0.0
Grandparent	0.4
Aunt/uncle	1.5
<b>Family experience</b>	
Any family member currently a police or correctional officer	25.2 %
<b>Personal experience</b>	
Military (ever)	35.7 %
Military (current)	5.5
Law enforcement (prior)	24.3

a. Respondents were asked if a family member was a police/correctional officer "at any time *prior*" to their current employment with Anchorage Police Department.

While most PASS respondents' elders (parents, aunts/uncles, grandparents) had not worked as police or correctional officers prior to PASS respondents' employment at APD, inter-generational law enforcement experience was not found to be uncommon. Nearly a quarter of all PASS respondents reported that a parent, aunt or uncle, or grandparent had been a *police officer*, and an additional 4.5 percent of PASS respondents reported that a parent, aunt or uncle, or grandparent had been a *correctional officer* prior to their becoming a police officer; and, one in four PASS respondents stated that at least one member of their family was *currently* working as a police or correctional officer. Prior law enforcement experience for respondents themselves was also common. Nearly a quarter of all respondents reported having prior law enforcement experience before coming to work for APD. More common than an individual's prior law enforcement work history or that of their family, was the extent to which PASS respondents were former or current members of the U.S. military. Over one-third of the sample reported having served in the United States military prior to coming to work for the Anchorage police department, and 5 percent reported being a member of national guard or reserve units at the time of the survey.

## Section 2

### Perceptions of Alcohol-Related Workload

This section presents data describing respondent perceptions about *their own* alcohol-related workload. PASS participants were asked to reflect on the twelve months immediately preceding the survey and then provide an estimate of the total work time they spent at work on tasks stemming from alcohol-related and drug-related incidents. Respondents could choose any one of the following response categories: *0% – 25%*; *26% – 50%*; *51% – 75%*; *More than 75%*; or *Don't Know*. The survey results are presented in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1. Perceptions of Alcohol-Related Workload**

Question text: "Over the *past 12 months* about what percentage of your time *at work* would you say you spent performing tasks stemming from alcohol-related incidents?"

Response category	Total	Comparison #1		Comparison #2		Comparison #3	
		Operations*	Administration	Patrol*	Non-patrol	Sworn*	Civilian
0% – 25%	<b>25.0</b> %	16.5 %	46.1 %	13.9 %	40.0 %	17.7 %	42.7 %
26% – 50%	<b>20.5</b>	19.4	21.1	20.0	20.0	18.2	24.4
51% – 75%	<b>26.7</b>	31.1	17.1	32.7	19.2	32.5	13.4
More than 75%	<b>23.3</b>	29.6	7.9	30.3	14.2	29.6	8.5
Don't know	<b>2.4</b>	1.5	5.3	1.8	3.3	0.5	7.3
Missing/refuse	<b>2.1</b>	1.9	2.6	1.2	3.3	1.5	3.7

\*  $p < .01$ .

Shown in the left-most column of Table 2.1 are the response categories available to respondents; to the immediate right of the response category column are the percent totals for the entire sample. In the three columns to the right are the results of three comparisons – *operations* vs. *administration*; *patrol* vs. *non-patrol*; and *sworn* vs. *civilian* employees – which highlight three major structural distinctions made within the Anchorage police department. (See Figure 1.1 on p. 13.) Analytically, this comparative framework facilitates an empirical examination of how key functional categorizations are related to the experiences, perceptions and attitudes of the people who work in them.

The data presented in Table 2.1 demonstrate the association between a person's structural position within the department and their workload perceptions. Employees who were assigned to either the operations section or the patrol division, as well as sworn police officers, were significantly more likely to report performing more alcohol-related tasks than their civilian counterparts in administration or other non-patrol divisions of the department. Better than six out of every ten respondents in each of these groups reported spending *more than half* of all their time at work on alcohol-related tasks compared to just one in four respondents in the comparison groups. These findings suggest that APD employees in these three organizational locations (operations; patrol; sworn officers) believe, much more strongly than their counterparts, that alcohol-related incidents are a driving force shaping the nature and quantity of their work.

In addition, the certainty with which respondents answered this survey item was prominent. Only a very small percentage of respondents in each group responded *don't know* when asked about their alcohol-related workload. The group indicating the most uncertainty about its alcohol-related workload for the previous year was civilian employees, 7.3 percent of whom reported they didn't know how much time at

work was spent on tasks originating in alcohol incidents. The degree of certitude was more pronounced for sworn officers (0.5 percent), those assigned to the operations section (1.5 percent), and those working in the patrol division (1.8 percent).

Because a great deal of Alaskan folklore revolves around the issue of seasonality, and since it is the police who are frequently summoned to deal with the after-effects of alcohol use, PASS respondents were asked if they thought alcohol-related workload varied with respect to the time of year. Three separate items were posed to respondents. They were asked: 1) if they spent “more time at work engaged in activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents than 6 months ago”; 2) if they spent “more time at work on activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents in *summer* than in winter”; and 3) if they spent “more time at work on activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents in *winter* than in summer.” The results for these survey items question are presented in Table 2.2, Table 2.3 and Table 2.4.

Before moving on, we would like to make mention of the relatively high rates of non-response to the three questions presented in the following three tables.<sup>7</sup> PASS respondents expressed significant uncertainty about fluctuations in their alcohol-related workload over time. Depending upon their structural location, between sixteen and forty percent of respondents reported that they didn’t know if their alcohol-related workload increased in the six months immediately preceding the survey (Table 2.2). Apparently, respondents were quite certain about the amount of time they spent on alcohol and drug-related activities, but they were not at all certain if this amount of time had increased in the preceding six months. This pattern of response was consistent across all three measures of workload seasonality.

**Table 2.2. Perceptions of Seasonality of Alcohol-Related Workload**

Increase in alcohol-related workload in past 6 months.

**Question text:** “Generally speaking, I now spend more time at work engaged in activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents than I did 6 months ago.”

Level of agreement	Total	Comparison #1		Comparison #2		Comparison #3	
		Operations	Administration	Patrol	Non-patrol	Sworn	Civilian
Strongly agree	5.6 %	6.3 %	2.6 %	6.1 %	4.2 %	6.4 %	2.4 %
Agree	15.6	16.5	13.2	18.8	11.7	17.2	12.2
Disagree	50.0	52.4	42.1	51.5	47.5	52.7	42.7
Strongly disagree	4.2	4.4	3.9	3.6	5.0	4.4	3.7
Don't know	22.2	18.9	32.9	18.8	27.5	18.2	32.9
Missing/refuse	2.4	1.5	5.3	1.2	4.2	1.0	6.1

Taking into account only those who provided a substantive response, more than 70 percent of the entire sample *disagreed* that their alcohol-related workload had increased in the previous six months. There were no significant perceptual differences that came to light based on structural location within the department. Employees in operations expressed the same views as those in administration; those in patrol responded in the same way as those in other divisions; and sworn officers and civilians answered in similar fashion. In sum, many APD employees were unsure whether or not alcohol-related work had increased in the six months leading up to PASS; however, those who did render an opinion generally agreed that their alcohol-related workload had not increased.

<sup>7</sup> Non-response refers to answers outside of predefined substantive categories – for example, don’t know responses and unanswered questions.

Respondents by and large also disagreed with the idea that their alcohol-related workload varied according to season. And once again, there was for the most part a lack of significant variation in belief according to departmental section, division or sworn status. One statistically significant difference did emerge, however, when respondents were asked about summer workload fluctuations. Those assigned to the patrol division were more likely than others to agree with the statement “In general, I have to spend more time at work on activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents in the SUMMER than I do in the winter” (Table 2.3). This difference between patrol division workers and others did not hold, however, when respondents were asked about their alcohol-related workload in the winter months (Table 2.4).

To summarize, these data suggest two preliminary conclusions with respect to the APD employees’ beliefs regarding seasonal fluctuations in their alcohol-related workload. First, most APD employees do

**Table 2.3. Perceptions of Seasonality of Alcohol-Related Workload**

Greater alcohol-related workload in summer than in winter.

**Question text:** *“In general, I have to spend more time at work on activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents in the SUMMER than I do in the winter.”*

Level of agreement	Total	Comparison #1		Comparison #2		Comparison #3	
		Operations	Administration	Patrol*	Non-patrol	Sworn	Civilian
Strongly agree	<b>8.0 %</b>	9.2 %	2.6 %	10.9 %	2.5 %	9.4 %	2.4 %
Agree	<b>20.8</b>	23.0	13.2	25.5	15.0	23.6	14.6
Disagree	<b>39.2</b>	41.7	35.5	42.4	35.8	42.4	32.9
Strongly disagree	<b>4.2</b>	3.9	3.9	3.0	5.0	3.9	3.7
Don't know	<b>24.7</b>	18.9	39.5	15.8	37.5	18.7	40.2
Missing/refuse	<b>3.1</b>	2.4	5.3	2.4	4.2	2.0	6.1

\*  $p < .10$ .

**Table 2.4. Perceptions of Alcohol-Related Workload**

Greater alcohol-related workload in winter than in summer.

**Question text:** *“In general, I have to spend more time at work on activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents in the WINTER than I do in the summer.”*

Level of agreement	Total	Comparison #1		Comparison #2		Comparison #3	
		Operations	Administration	Patrol	Non-patrol	Sworn	Civilian
Strongly agree	<b>3.5 %</b>	3.9 %	1.3 %	4.2 %	1.7 %	3.9 %	1.2 %
Agree	<b>15.3</b>	15.5	15.8	18.8	10.8	15.8	14.6
Disagree	<b>48.6</b>	53.9	35.5	55.2	40.0	54.2	35.4
Strongly disagree	<b>4.9</b>	5.3	2.6	3.6	5.8	5.4	2.4
Don't know	<b>24.7</b>	18.9	39.5	15.8	37.5	18.7	40.2
Missing/refuse	<b>3.1</b>	2.4	5.3	2.4	4.2	2.0	6.1

not readily perceive any alcohol-related workload fluctuations. And second, employee perceptions of workload generally do not differ according to the functional unit to which individuals are assigned. The only workgroup to distinguish itself from others in this regard were those who were assigned to the patrol division at the time of the study, and even then this difference was limited to a perceived increase in summer over winter.

### Section 3 Perceptions of Community Problems

This section explores APD employees’ perceptions about some select citywide social problems. Respondents were asked to identify from a list of twenty-two social issues – some criminal and some not – the five *most* troublesome and five *least* troublesome. Along with measures of criminal and non-criminal problems thought to have varying degrees of association with alcohol consumption, the list also included two issues *directly* related to alcohol use: alcoholism and drunken driving. The results for the entire sample are presented in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1. Respondent Rankings of Select Community Problems**  
Total sample.

	Community problem	Ranking	
		Median	Mean
↑ Ranking score ↓	1 Sexual assault	21.0	19.10
	2 Alcoholism	21.0	18.46
	3 Intimate partner violence	20.0	19.51
	4 Drunk driving	20.0	18.60
	5 Illegal drug use	20.0	17.19
	6 Crimes against children	19.0	16.27
	7 Gun violence	19.0	15.69
	8 Illegal drug sales	19.0	15.67
	9 Misdemeanor assaults	19.0	15.13
	10 Burglary	18.0	12.90
	11 Felonious assaults	18.0	12.56
	12 Teen violence	18.0	12.46
	13 Robbery	18.0	12.38
	14 Vandalism	4.0	8.38
	15 Homelessness	4.0	8.30
	16 Shoplifting	4.0	6.45
	17 Mental illness	4.0	6.43
	18 Motor vehicle theft	3.5	4.50
	19 Illegal drug manufacturing	3.0	6.69
	20 Suicide	3.0	4.94
	21 Homicide	2.0	5.72
	22 Trespassing	2.0	3.85

**Problem most amenable to police intervention:**

- 1 Drunk driving (45% of all respondents).
- 2 Intimate partner violence (11%).

*Note:* Rank differences examined using Mann-Whitney U test.

At the time of the PASS survey APD employees ranked sexual assault as the most serious social problem in Anchorage. This was followed by alcoholism, intimate partner violence, drunken driving, and illegal drug use. These findings suggest that APD employees viewed the use of mind-altering substances – both legal and illicit – and violence against women as the defining problems facing the city. When asked to identify which of the twenty-two issues could be most affected by police intervention, drunken driving was selected most often, followed by intimate partner violence. The next three tables disaggregate the findings reported in Table 3.1.

Table 3.2 presents respondents’ aggregate rankings according to whether they were assigned to the operations or administration section of the department. This analysis shows several significant differences in the perceptions of the two groups with respect to the select community problems examined. Those in operations viewed alcoholism, misdemeanor assaults and homelessness as more problematic than did those in the administration section. On the other hand, administration respondents ranked gun violence, vandalism and homicide higher than operations personnel. When asked which social problem was most amenable to APD intervention, a preponderance of both groups replied that APD could have the greatest positive impact on drunken driving.

**Table 3.2. Respondent Rankings of Select Community Problems**  
Operations vs. Administration.

	Community problem	Ranking by Operations		Community problem	Ranking by Administration	
		Median	Mean		Median	Mean
↑ Ranking score ↓	1 <b>Alcoholism</b>	21.0	18.7 **	1 Sexual assault	21.0	20.2
	2 Sexual assault	20.5	18.5	2 Intimate partner violence	20.0	19.7
	3 Intimate partner violence	20.0	19.4	3 Drunk driving	20.0	19.4
	4 Illegal drug use	20.0	17.4	4 <b>Gun violence</b>	20.0	17.0 *
	5 <b>Misdemeanor assaults</b>	20.0	16.0 *	5 Alcoholism	20.0	17.0
	6 Crimes against children	20.0	15.9	6 Crimes against children	19.0	16.8
	7 Drunk driving	19.5	18.3	7 Illegal drug sales	19.0	14.0
	8 Illegal drug sales	19.0	16.0	8 Misdemeanor assaults	19.0	12.9
	9 Gun violence	18.0	15.0	9 Illegal drug use	18.5	16.1
	10 Burglary	18.0	13.1	10 Teen violence	18.0	13.5
	11 Robbery	18.0	12.9	11 Felonious assaults	18.0	13.3
	12 Felonious assaults	18.0	12.1	12 Burglary	18.0	12.2
	13 Teen violence	18.0	11.9	13 <b>Vandalism</b>	5.0	11.0 ***
	14 <b>Homelessness</b>	5.0	9.3 **	14 Robbery	5.0	11.0
	15 Vandalism	4.0	7.5	15 <b>Homicide</b>	5.0	9.7 **
	16 Shoplifting	4.0	6.7	16 Illegal drug manufacturing	4.5	7.4
	17 Mental illness	4.0	5.8	17 Mental illness	4.0	8.3
	18 Illegal drug manufacturing	3.0	6.4	18 Motor vehicle theft	4.0	6.0
	19 Suicide	3.0	4.5	19 Shoplifting	4.0	5.6
	20 Trespassing	3.0	4.3	20 Suicide	3.0	6.4
	21 Motor vehicle theft	3.0	3.7	21 Homelessness	3.0	5.0
	22 Homicide	2.0	4.5	22 Trespassing	2.0	2.6

**Problem most amenable to police intervention:**

- 1 Drunk driving (47% of Operations respondents).
- 2 Intimate partner violence (12%).

**Problem most amenable to police intervention:**

- 1 Drunk driving (43% of Administration respondents).
- 2 Teen violence (15%).

*Note:* Rank differences examined using Mann-Whitney U test.

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ .    \*\*  $p < .05$ .    \*  $p < .10$ .

Table 3.3 presents a comparison of the overall rankings of the patrol division and the other four remaining divisions of the department (detective, staff, technical, and administrative divisions). Patrol and non-patrol divisions in the department showed more statistically significant differences than the operations – administration comparison. Patrol officers typically viewed alcoholism, misdemeanor assaults, homelessness and shoplifting as more serious problems than their non-patrol counterparts. People structurally located in divisions other than patrol tended to rank violent and drug crimes more seriously.

**Table 3.3. Respondent Rankings of Select Community Problems**  
Patrol Division vs. Other Departmental Divisions.

	Community problem	Ranking by patrol		Community problem	Ranking by other departmental divisions	
		Median	Mean		Median	Mean
↑ Ranking score ↓	1 <b>Alcoholism</b>	21.0	19.0 **	1 Sexual assault	21.0	19.8
	2 Sexual assault	21.0	18.4	2 Intimate partner violence	20.0	19.5
	3 Intimate partner violence	20.0	19.5	3 Drunk driving	20.0	18.7
	4 Drunk driving	20.0	18.5	4 <b>Crimes against children</b>	20.0	18.5 **
	5 <b>Misdemeanor assault</b>	20.0	17.3 ***	5 <b>Gun violence</b>	20.0	18.0 ***
	6 Illegal drug use	19.0	16.4	6 Illegal drug use	20.0	17.8
	7 Illegal drug sales	19.0	13.5	7 <b>Illegal drug sales</b>	20.0	17.6 *
	8 Crimes against children	19.0	13.3	8 Alcoholism	20.0	17.3
	9 Gun violence	18.0	13.8	9 Felonious assaults	18.5	14.8
	10 Burglary	18.0	13.2	10 Teen violence	18.0	13.0
	11 Robbery	18.0	12.6	11 Burglary	18.0	12.4
	12 Teen violence	18.0	12.0	12 Robbery	18.0	12.1
	13 <b>Homelessness</b>	5.0	10.4 ***	13 Misdemeanor assaults	5.0	10.8
	14 Felonious assaults	5.0	10.3	14 <b>Homicide</b>	5.0	9.5 **
	15 Vandalism	4.0	7.6	15 <b>Vandalism</b>	5.0	9.4 *
	16 <b>Shoplifting</b>	4.0	7.4 **	16 <b>Illegal drug manufacturing</b>	4.0	9.1 ***
	17 Mental illness	4.0	6.3	17 Mental illness	4.0	6.5
	18 Motor vehicle theft	3.5	3.9	18 Shoplifting	4.0	4.7
	19 Trespassing	3.0	4.9	19 Motor vehicle theft	3.5	5.1
	20 Suicide	3.0	4.7	20 Suicide	3.0	5.2
	21 Illegal drug manufacturing	3.0	4.6	21 Homelessness	3.0	4.7
	22 Homicide	2.0	3.9	22 Trespassing	2.0	2.6

**Problem most amenable to police intervention:**

- 1 Drunk driving (61% of Patrol respondents).
- 2 Intimate partner violence (11%).

**Problem most amenable to police intervention:**

- 1 Drunk driving (29% of Other respondents).
- Tie { 2 Sexual assault (15%).
- 2 Intimate partner violence (15%).

*Note:* Rank differences examined using Mann-Whitney U test.

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ . \*  $p < .10$ .

Crimes against children, gun violence, the manufacture and sale of illegal drugs, homicide and vandalism were each ranked significantly higher among non-patrol personnel. These two groups’ views also differed with respect to which problem would be most amenable to police intervention. While both groups thought drunken driving was the social problem most likely to be impacted by APD intervention, patrol division personnel were twice as likely as non-patrol personnel to think so.

When the focus shifts to a comparison between sworn officers and civilian employees of the department (Table 3.4) a number of the distinctions witnessed in the previous comparisons remain, but some notable shifts occur as well. For example, when all sworn officers were grouped together rather than split among the various organizational divisions of the department, alcoholism was replaced by sexual assault as the most serious social problem in Anchorage. Among civilian employees, intimate partner violence rather than sexual assault ranked first, though sexual assault came in a close second.

Interestingly, though sworn officers ranked sexual assault as the most problematic of all the social issues listed, and civilian employees rank sexual assault as the second-most serious problem, the *average* ranking of civilian employees was significantly higher than that of sworn officers. Civilian employees also



**Table 3.4. Respondent Rankings of Select Community Problems**  
Sworn Police Officers vs. Civilian Personnel.

	Community problem	Ranking by sworn officers		Community problem	Ranking by civilian personnel	
		Median	Mean		Median	Mean
↑ Ranking score ↓	1 Sexual assault	21	18.9	1 Intimate partner violence	21	19.8
	2 <b>Alcoholism</b>	21	18.8 **	2 <b>Sexual assault</b>	21	19.6 *
	3 Intimate partner violence	20	19.4	3 Drunk driving	20	19.4
	4 Illegal drug use	20	17.3	4 <b>Gun violence</b>	20	17.7 **
	5 <b>Misdemeanor assaults</b>	20	15.6 **	5 Alcoholism	19.5	16.5
	6 Drunk driving	19	18.4	6 Crimes against children	19	17.4
	7 Illegal drug sales	19	16.2	7 Illegal drug use	19	16.3
	8 Crimes against children	19	15.8	8 Felonious assaults	19	14.2
	9 Gun violence	18	15	9 Misdemeanor assaults	19	13.2
	10 Burglary	18	13.6	10 <b>Teen violence</b>	18.5	14.1 *
	11 Robbery	18	13	11 Illegal drug sales	18	12.6
	12 Felonious assaults	18	11.8	12 <b>Homicide</b>	12	11.3 **
	13 Teen violence	18	11.8	13 <b>Vandalism</b>	11.5	11.5 ***
	14 Homelessness	4	8.8	14 Burglary	5	10.3
	15 Vandalism	4	7.4	15 Robbery	5	10.2
	16 Shoplifting	4	6.5	16 Mental illness	4	8.8
	17 Mental illness	4	5.8	17 Illegal drug manufact.	4	6.9
	18 Motor vehicle theft	4	3.9	18 Homelessness	4	5.8
	19 Illegal drug manufact.	3	6.6	19 Suicide	3.5	7.1
	20 Suicide	3	4.4	20 Shoplifting	3	5.9
	21 <b>Trespassing</b>	3	4.3 *	21 Motor vehicle theft	3	5.8
	22 Homicide	2	4.4	22 Trespassing	1.5	2.2

**Problem most amenable to police intervention:**

- 1 Drunk driving (50% of sworn officer respondents).
- 2 Intimate partner violence (11%).

**Problem most amenable to police intervention:**

- 1 Drunk driving (32% of civilian respondents).
- 2 Teen violence (18%).

*Note:* Rank differences examined using Mann-Whitney U test.

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ . \*  $p < .10$ .

viewed gun violence, teen violence, homicide and vandalism as more problematic than sworn officers. Police officers, on the other hand, viewed alcoholism, misdemeanor assaults and trespassing more seriously than did civilians. Once again, respondents believed drunk driving to be the best target for police action, with sworn personnel much more likely to express this view than their civilian counterparts.

To summarize, respondents working in operations and patrol, and sworn officers, displayed much more concern for alcohol use in that they ranked alcoholism as the leading social problem in Anchorage – a ranking significantly different from those given by civilians in administration and non-patrol assignments. Respondents in these groupings also expressed more concern for low-level misdemeanor assaults. On the other hand, respondents not working in the field (administration, non-patrol, civilian) consistently ranked more serious crimes of violence (gun violence, homicide, sexual assault, crimes against children) higher. These data, like those presented in the previous section, are suggestive of a difference in perceptions and views of APD personnel based on structural location within the department.

## Section 4

### Perceived Link Between Alcohol Use and Select Social Problems

Beyond asking respondents to rank-order social problems in terms of *seriousness*, PASS also asked participants to provide their estimate of the *strength of association* between alcohol use and social problems.<sup>8</sup> Each person was asked, “On a scale between zero (0) and four (4), how would you assess the relationship between alcohol use and [social problem]?” A score of zero was defined for respondents as no relationship whatsoever; a score of four was defined as a very strong relationship. The results for the entire sample are shown in descending order in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1. Perceived Association:  
Alcohol Use – Select Problems**  
Total Sample.

		Association		
		Median	Mean	
↑ Strength of association with alcohol ↓	<b>Very strong</b>	1 Homelessness	3.65	0.822
		2 Sexual assault	3.61	0.678
		3 General disturbances	3.59	0.667
		4 Intimate partner violence	3.58	0.673
		5 Misdemeanor assaults	3.17	0.780
		6 Felonious assaults	3.01	0.817
		7 Suicide	2.77	1.061
		8 Trespassing	2.52	1.166
		9 Illegal drug use	2.27	1.155
		10 Gun violence	2.26	0.995
		11 Crimes against children	2.18	1.061
		12 Homicide	2.08	1.064
		13 Mental illness	1.85	1.157
		14 Illegal drug sales	1.83	1.117
		15 Vandalism	1.77	0.938
		16 Robbery	1.55	0.893
		17 Motor vehicle theft	1.43	0.981
		18 Larceny theft	1.38	1.009
	<b>None at all</b>	19 Burglary	1.34	0.937
		20 Shoplifting	1.26	0.992

In the previous section it was suggested that APD employees viewed the use of mind-altering substances and violence against women as the most pressing of the twenty-two social problems examined. The data presented in this section help to clarify those perceptions in that the problems of substance – or at least alcohol – use and violence against women are not viewed as being wholly independent of one another (see Table 4.1). Rather, alcohol use is perceived to be intimately linked to both sexual assault and intimate partner violence. Moreover, other forms of inter-personal violence (i.e. misdemeanor and felony assault) are also seen as being strongly associated with alcohol, though the connection is not thought to be as strong as with violence against women.

<sup>8</sup> The list varied slightly from that used by respondents to rank-order in Section 2. Respondents were not asked to give their estimate of the associations between alcoholism and drunk driving with alcohol use for obvious reasons. Other social problems not included were teen violence and illegal drug manufacture. Added to the list of social problems was general disturbances and larceny theft, both of which were items used in previous research investigating officers’ perceptions of the relationship between alcohol use and crime.

Table 4.2 shows respondents who work in operations, compared to those in administration, believe alcohol to be a more potent force in social problems. The average (mean) strength of association with alcohol for the operations group was greater than that for administration respondents for thirteen of the twenty social problem measures. Five of these differences were determined to be statistically significant (homelessness, general disturbances, suicide, larceny theft and shoplifting). Administration respondents attributed a stronger role for alcohol in incidents involving felonious assaults, gun violence, illegal drug use, illegal drug sales, robbery and crimes against children. The only statistically significant group difference was for the association between alcohol use and gun violence, with administration respondents perceiving a stronger relationship between the two. Generally speaking, there is a high degree of correspondence in scores across the two groups: eight of the ten highest mean scores for both groups were for the same alcohol-social problem associations, though in different order. Thus, for the most part differences between the two groups were differences in degree, not in kind.

**Table 4.2. Perceived Association: Alcohol Use – Select Problems**  
Operations vs. Administration.

	Community problem	Association by Operations		Community problem	Association by Administration	
		Median	Mean		Median	Mean
↑ Strength of association with alcohol ↓ None at all	1 <b>Homelessness</b>	3.72	0.784 **	1 Intimate partner violence	3.57	0.714
	2 <b>General disturbances</b>	3.64	0.600 **	2 Sexual assault	3.51	0.808
	3 Sexual assault	3.64	0.632	3 Homelessness	3.45	0.923
	4 Intimate partner violence	3.58	0.667	4 General disturbances	3.43	1.809
	5 Misdemeanor assaults	3.19	0.745	5 Felonious assaults	3.07	0.828
	6 Felonious assaults	2.99	0.813	6 Misdemeanor assaults	3.04	0.875
	7 <b>Suicide</b>	2.83	1.041 *	7 Suicide	2.54	1.099
	8 Trespassing	2.70	1.115	8 <b>Gun violence</b>	2.43	0.977 *
	9 Illegal drug use	2.23	1.162	9 Illegal drug use	2.38	1.126
	10 Gun violence	2.18	0.994	10 Crimes against children	2.21	1.089
	11 Crimes against children	2.15	1.043	11 Homicide	2.20	1.079
	12 Homicide	2.03	1.056	12 Trespassing	1.99	1.194
	13 Mental illness	1.90	1.193	13 Illegal drug sales	1.88	1.219
	14 Vandalism	1.81	1.810	14 Mental illness	1.70	1.033
	15 Illegal drug sales	1.79	1.077	15 Vandalism	1.64	0.948
	16 Robbery	1.53	0.860	16 Robbery	1.60	0.984
	17 <b>Larceny theft</b>	1.47	1.010 ***	17 Motor vehicle theft	1.35	1.041
	18 Motor vehicle theft	1.45	0.958	18 Burglary	1.25	1.021
	19 <b>Shoplifting</b>	1.38	1.013 ***	19 Larceny theft	1.07	0.913
	20 Burglary	1.36	0.912	20 Shoplifting	0.90	0.831

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ . \*  $p < .10$ .

The data presented in Table 4.2 map very well onto that presented in Table 4.3. Patrol officers perceived a much stronger relationship between alcohol use and homelessness, general disturbances, larceny theft and shoplifting than their non-patrol counterparts, just as did operations respondents in comparison to administration section workers. One departure from this tendency was that patrol officers attributed a significantly stronger relationship between alcohol and trespassing compared to their non-patrol counterparts. Non-patrol employees reported a stronger perceived relationship between alcohol and felony assaults, gun violence and homicide than did patrol division respondents.

**Table 4.3. Perceived Association: Alcohol Use – Select Problems**

Patrol Division vs. Other Departmental Divisions.

	Community problem	Association by patrol		Community problem	Association by other departmental divisions	
		Median	Mean		Median	Mean
↑ Strength of association with alcohol ↓ None at all	1 <b>Homelessness</b>	3.79	0.638 ***	1 Intimate partner violence	3.61	0.662
	2 <b>General disturbances</b>	3.66	0.591 **	2 Sexual assault	3.60	0.714
	3 Sexual assault	3.62	0.661	3 General disturbances	3.49	0.747
	4 Intimate partner violence	3.56	0.688	4 Homelessness	3.46	1.009
	5 Misdemeanor assault	3.17	0.744	5 Misdemeanor assaults	3.13	0.833
	6 Felonious assault	2.93	0.812	6 <b>Felonious assaults</b>	3.11	0.813 *
	7 Suicide	2.83	1.022	7 Suicide	2.65	1.113
	8 <b>Trespassing</b>	2.73	1.084 ***	8 <b>Gun violence</b>	2.41	1.040 **
	9 Illegal drug use	2.31	1.117	9 <b>Homicide</b>	2.26	1.059 *
	10 Crimes against children	2.19	1.001	10 Trespassing	2.22	1.231
	11 Gun violence	2.14	0.952	11 Illegal drug use	2.23	1.200
	12 Homicide	1.95	1.054	12 Crimes against children	2.16	1.135
	13 Mental illness	1.91	1.150	13 Vandalism	1.78	0.984
	14 Illegal drug sales	1.85	1.019	14 Mental illness	1.76	1.185
	15 Vandalism	1.76	0.914	15 Illegal drug sales	1.76	1.245
	16 Robbery	1.49	0.858	16 Robbery	1.63	0.943
	17 Motor vehicle theft	1.47	0.949	17 Motor vehicle theft	1.37	1.024
	18 <b>Larceny theft</b>	1.46	0.919 *	18 Burglary	1.27	0.981
	19 <b>Shoplifting</b>	1.40	1.039 ***	19 Larceny theft	1.24	0.984
	20 Burglary	1.37	0.907	20 Shoplifting	1.04	0.877

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ . \*  $p < .10$ .

**Table 4.4. Perceived Association: Alcohol Use – Select Problems**

Sworn Police Officers vs. Civilian Personnel.

	Community problem	Association by sworn officers		Community problem	Association by civilian personnel	
		Median	Mean		Median	Mean
↑ Strength of association with alcohol ↓ None at all	1 <b>Homelessness</b>	3.73	0.548 ***	1 Intimate partner violence	3.49	0.809
	2 <b>General disturbances</b>	3.65	0.569 ***	2 Sexual assault	3.47	0.918
	3 Sexual assault	3.65	0.592	3 General disturbances	3.39	0.900
	4 Intimate partner violence	3.60	0.634	4 Homelessness	3.39	1.136
	5 <b>Misdemeanor assaults</b>	3.20	0.708 *	5 Felonious assaults	3.05	0.928
	6 Felonious assaults	2.99	0.783	6 Misdemeanor assaults	3.00	0.983
	7 Suicide	2.80	1.043	7 Suicide	2.59	1.116
	8 <b>Trespassing</b>	2.65	1.098 ***	8 <b>Gun violence</b>	2.50	1.127 ***
	9 Illicit drug use	2.21	1.149	9 Illicit drug use	2.42	1.154
	10 Gun violence	2.18	0.947	10 Crimes against children	2.26	1.124
	11 Crimes against children	2.15	1.038	11 Homicide	2.23	1.184
	12 Homicide	2.03	1.028	12 Trespassing	2.05	1.307
	13 Mental illness	1.89	1.185	13 Illicit drug sales	1.82	1.269
	14 <b>Vandalism</b>	1.84	0.949 *	14 Mental illness	1.68	1.081
	15 Illicit drug sales	1.81	1.071	15 Robbery	1.62	1.027
	16 Robbery	1.53	0.855	16 Vandalism	1.49	0.868
	17 <b>Larceny theft</b>	1.47	0.995 ***	17 Motor vehicle theft	1.37	1.178
	18 Motor vehicle theft	1.43	0.919	18 Burglary	1.22	1.091
	19 Burglary (tie)	1.36	0.890	19 Larceny theft	1.02	0.930
	20 <b>Shoplifting (tie)</b>	1.36	1.001 ***	20 Shoplifting	0.90	0.877

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*  $p < .10$ .

As before a common perceptual link appeared, whereby survey respondents perceived a strong association between alcohol and violence and issues of public order, a moderate association between alcohol and illegal drugs, and only a weak relationship between alcohol use and property crime. Patrol divisions workers differed markedly from those not so assigned with respect to their view of the link between alcohol use and public order problems (homelessness, trespassing and general disturbances).

Finally, we come to a comparison of the perceptions of sworn police officers and civilian employees of the department with respect to the role of alcohol in common social problems within the Anchorage context (see Table 4.4).

The overall pattern of relative rankings and perceptual differences between sworn officers and civilian personnel remains the same as those found in the operations–administration and patrol–non-patrol comparisons. Sworn officers generally saw a stronger association between alcohol use and social problems than their civilian counterparts, and emphasized, much more so than civilians, the link between alcohol and problems of social order.

## Section 5

### Attitudes & Perceptions Regarding Policing Alcohol Incidents

This section presents summary data describing the perceptions and attitudes of APD employees with respect to the policing of alcohol-related incidents and the people involved in them. Respondents were asked if they *strongly agreed*, *agreed*, *disagreed* or *strongly disagreed* with a series of declarative statements related to the policing of citizen alcohol use (they could also record *don't know* or refuse to provide an answer). Statements posed to respondents covered several substantive domains including:

- The role of police in responding to alcohol-related incidents;
- The effectiveness of current institutional responses to those who suffer from alcoholism and homelessness; and
- The link between alcohol and crime.

**Table 5.1. Respondent Perceptions & Attitudes:  
Policing of Alcohol-Related Incidents**  
Total sample.

<u>Survey item</u>	<u>Strongly agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly disagree</u>
Alcohol-related incidents "serious drain" on department resources.	79.0 %	16.7 %	3.2 %	1.1 %
Non-violent dispute between two drunk people best handled informally.	22.8	58.8	11.6	6.7
Those who've been drinking are more likely to have a "bad attitude."	62.4	32.1	5.1	0.4
Patrol officers could make better use of their time if they didn't have to respond to "drunk calls."	65.2	29.3	4.8	0.7
Community Service Patrol is an effective strategy for dealing with "drunk problem."	15.4	42.1	27.1	15.4
Dealing with drunk people is the worst part of policing.	19.8	34.5	43.4	2.3
Alcohol-related problems provide police with job security.	30.7	39.7	23.2	6.4
It is better to handle chronic drinkers in an informal, non-criminal manner.	4.2	35.0	45.6	15.2
Police should spend less time on social matters and more time combating crime (that is doing <i>real</i> police work).	21.5	42.9	32.2	3.4
Homeless alcoholics are a greater risk to society than chronic drunken drivers.	0.4	3.6	54.4	41.6
Arrest/citation because a person is drunk is a good arrest.	12.7	51.6	32.6	3.2
Transport of chronic inebriates to shelter is a valid use of patrol officer time.	2.2	6.5	43.1	48.2
Abuse of alcohol leads to other, more serious crimes and social problems.	58.6	40.0	1.4	---
A person who has broken the law should be arrested because there are very few reasons for not enforcing the law.	31.3	49.6	17.5	1.5
Chronic alcoholics – especially those who are homeless – should be arrested and taken to jail to sober up.	4.3	16.2	64.8	14.6
Those who drink should have to pay money for police and other social services.	43.0	41.8	13.3	1.9

The results of this section of the survey suggest that when it comes to alcohol-related incidents, APD employees share a strong commitment to the more formalized *law enforcement* aspects of the organization's mandate, while at the same time they tend to deemphasize its informal *service* and *order-maintenance* roles. For instance, eighty percent of respondents *agreed* that "a person who has broken the law, whether drunk or not, should be arrested or cited since there are very few reasons for not enforcing the law;" sixty percent *disagreed* that situations involving chronic inebriates should be handled in a non-criminal manner; sixty-four percent *agreed* that "police should spend less time doing social work and more time combating crime (that is, doing real police work);" and sixty-four percent *agreed* that "an officer who makes an arrest or gives a citation because a person is drunk is making a good arrest." At the same time, only nine percent thought "transporting chronic inebriates to shelter" was a valid use of officer time and only six percent

**Table 5.2. Respondent Perceptions & Attitudes:  
Policing of Alcohol-Related Incidents**  
Operations vs. Administration.

Valid responses only. 1 = "strongly agree"; 2 = "agree"; 3 = "disagree"; 4 = "strongly disagree."

Survey item	Operations		Administration	
	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean	Standard deviation
Alcohol-related incidents "serious drain" on department resources.	1.22 ***	0.546	1.42	0.625
Non-violent dispute between two drunk people best handled informally.	1.97 *	0.773	2.16	0.793
Those who've been drinking are more likely to have a "bad attitude."	1.38 **	0.606	1.58	0.604
Patrol officers could make better use of their time if they didn't have to respond to "drunk calls."	1.36 **	0.586	1.59	0.696
Community Service Patrol is an effective strategy for dealing with "drunk problem."	2.55 ***	0.923	2.03	0.849
Dealing with drunk people is the worst part of policing.	2.29	0.822	2.26	0.757
Alcohol-related problems provide police with job security.	2.00 *	0.893	2.22	0.888
It is better to handle chronic drinkers in an informal, non-criminal manner.	2.64 **	0.780	2.96	0.713
Police should spend less time on social matters and more time combating crime (that is doing <i>real</i> police work).	2.09 ***	0.772	2.42	0.813
Homeless alcoholics are a greater risk to society than chronic drunken drivers.	3.35	0.582	3.41	0.551
Arrest/citation because a person is drunk is a good arrest.	2.23	0.717	2.35	0.723
Transport of chronic inebriates to shelter is a valid use of patrol officer time.	3.40	0.722	3.31	0.667
Abuse of alcohol leads to other, more serious crimes and social problems.	1.41	0.522	1.49	0.531
A person who has broken the law should arrested because there are very few reasons for not enforcing the law.	1.88	0.748	1.94	0.715
Chronic alcoholics – especially those who are homeless – should be arrested and taken to jail to sober up.	2.90	0.740	2.88	0.498
Those who drink should have to pay money for police and other social services.	1.66 ***	0.729	1.95	0.805

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ . \*  $p < .10$ .

*disagreed* with the statement “patrol officers could make better use of their time if they didn’t have to respond to drunk calls” (see Table 5.1). Moreover, ninety-five percent of respondents *agreed* that alcohol-related incidents were a “serious drain on the police department’s resources” and better than eight out of ten *agreed* that “those who drink should have to pay money for the police services they receive.”

Despite the generally negative outlook vis-à-vis alcohol-related incidents, respondents seemed resigned to the view that such events are endemic to police work. Two-thirds of our survey participants agreed that such incidents “provide police with job security.” However, according to respondents the frequency of events involving alcohol use doesn’t make them easier to deal with. Better than nine out of every ten respondents felt those who’ve been drinking are more likely to have a “bad attitude” and a majority of

**Table 5.3. Respondent Perceptions & Attitudes:  
Policing of Alcohol-Related Incidents**  
Patrol Division vs. Other Departmental Divisions.

Valid responses only. 1 = "strongly agree"; 2 = "agree"; 3 = "disagree"; 4 = "strongly disagree."

Survey item	Patrol		Other	
	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean	Standard deviation
Alcohol-related incidents “serious drain” on department resources.	1.22	0.565	1.33	0.575
Non-violent dispute between two drunk people best handled informally.	1.96	0.753	2.11	0.812
Those who’ve been drinking are more likely to have a “bad attitude.”	1.39	0.615	1.49	0.600
<b>Patrol officers could make better use of their time if they didn’t have to respond to “drunk calls.”</b>	1.34 **	0.550	1.52	0.700
<b>Community Service Patrol is an effective strategy for dealing with “drunk problem.”</b>	2.57 ***	0.914	2.21	0.914
Dealing with drunk people is the worst part of policing.	2.26	0.808	2.32	0.810
Alcohol-related problems provide police with job security.	2.01	0.907	2.13	0.878
<b>It is better to handle chronic drinkers in an informal, non-criminal manner.</b>	2.61 ***	0.732	2.89	0.805
<b>Police should spend less time on social matters and more time combating crime (that is doing <i>real</i> police work).</b>	2.12 *	0.753	2.29	0.859
<b>Homeless alcoholics are a greater risk to society than chronic drunken drivers.</b>	3.30 *	0.591	3.47	0.536
Arrest/citation because a person is drunk is a good arrest.	2.27	0.689	2.25	0.767
Transport of chronic inebriates to shelter is a valid use of patrol officer time.	3.40	0.718	3.35	0.691
Abuse of alcohol leads to other, more serious crimes and social problems.	1.40	0.515	1.47	0.536
A person who has broken the law should arrested because there are very few reasons for not enforcing the law.	1.89	0.759	1.89	0.712
Chronic alcoholics – especially those who are homeless – should be arrested and taken to jail to sober up.	2.87	0.745	2.94	0.595
Those who drink should have to pay money for police and other social services.	1.67	0.718	1.83	0.797

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ . \*  $p < .10$ .



respondents agreed with the statement “dealing with drunken people has to be the worst” task police must perform.

The data from Section 5 also affirm the view of respondents first expressed in Section 4 that alcohol is associated with crime and serious forms of social disorder. When presented with the statement “abuse of alcohol leads to other, more serious, crimes and social problems,” ninety-six percent of respondents *agreed* or *strongly agreed*. However, the perceived link between alcohol and dangerousness did not seem to be present when respondents were asked to compare chronic inebriates to chronic drunk drivers. PASS respondents overwhelmingly disagreed with the statement “a chronically intoxicated and homeless person poses a greater risk to society than a repeat drunken driver.”

These findings should not be construed to mean APD employees aren’t committed to the performance of the department’s service and order-maintenance missions. Rather, they reveal a *point of emphasis* within the department’s organizational culture with respect to dealing with alcohol-involved events, which is a tendency to view responding to minor alcohol incidents as outside the scope of legitimate police – especially patrol – work.

In terms of intra-organizational comparisons, the most striking differences were found between those working the operations and administrative sections of the department (Table 5.2). Those respondents who were assigned to operations were significantly more likely to agree that alcohol-related incidents are a “serious drain” on the department’s resources; to agree that patrol officers could make better use of their time if they didn’t have to respond to “drunk calls;” to agree that police should spend less time on social matters and more time doing “real” police work; and to agree that those who drink alcohol should have to pay money for the police services they receive. Operations personnel were also more likely to expect a negative interaction with people who had been drinking and favor informal (i.e. non-criminal) responses to incidents involving chronic drinkers and non-violent disputes between intoxicated persons. This group was also much more skeptical of the utility of the Community Service Patrol than administration personnel.

There were fewer differences between those assigned to the patrol division and those working in the four other divisions of the department (Table 5.3). Employees from the patrol division were more likely than their non-patrol counterparts to agree that patrol officers could make better use of their time if they didn’t have to respond to “drunk calls” and, and to agree that police should spend less time on social matters and more time combating crime (i.e. doing “real” police work). Patrol division respondents were also more likely to favor the informal disposition of incidents involving chronic drinkers. Overall, the responses of those assigned to the patrol division mirrored those in the operations section as a whole. However, one significant difference that emerged in the patrol – non-patrol comparison had to do with the perceived dangerousness of homeless alcoholics. Patrol divisions respondents were significantly more likely than non-patrol personnel to agree that homeless alcoholics pose a greater societal risk than chronic drunken drivers (though neither group tended to agree with this statement in the aggregate).

Finally, the comparison between sworn officers and civilian employees (Table 5.4) revealed a total of seven statistically significant differences in perspective, which was two more than found in the patrol – non-patrol comparison, but two fewer than found in the operations – administration comparison. All but two of the differences in outlook that surfaced in the sworn – civilian contrast were present in the operations – administration comparison. Sworn officers were not found to express different attitudes than non-sworn

**Table 5.4. Respondent Perceptions & Attitudes:  
Policing of Alcohol-Related Incidents**  
Sworn Police Officers vs. Civilian Personnel.

Valid responses only. 1 = "strongly agree"; 2 = "agree"; 3 = "disagree"; 4 = "strongly disagree."

Survey item	Sworn officers		Civilian personnel	
	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean	Standard deviation
<b>Alcohol-related incidents "serious drain" on department resources.</b>	1.21 ***	0.554	1.41	0.595
Non-violent dispute between two drunk people best handled informally.	1.97	0.780	2.15	0.764
<b>Those who've been drinking are more likely to have a "bad attitude."</b>	1.39 **	0.601	1.55	0.622
Patrol officers could make better use of their time if they didn't have to respond to "drunk calls."	1.38	0.609	1.50	0.650
<b>Community Service Patrol is an effective strategy for dealing with "drunk problem."</b>	2.57 ***	0.927	2.00	0.797
<b>Dealing with drunk people is the worst part of policing.</b>	2.31	0.822	2.21	0.756
<b>Alcohol-related problems provide police with job security.</b>	1.95 ***	0.867	2.37	0.896
<b>It is better to handle chronic drinkers in an informal, non-criminal manner.</b>	2.64 **	0.783	2.93	0.704
<b>Police should spend less time on social matters and more time combating crime (that is doing <i>real</i> police work).</b>	2.09 ***	0.766	2.46	0.836
Homeless alcoholics are a greater risk to society than chronic drunken drivers.	3.37	0.571	3.36	0.584
Arrest/citation because a person is drunk is a good arrest.	2.22	0.729	2.37	0.676
Transport of chronic inebriates to shelter is a valid use of patrol officer time.	3.40	0.711	3.30	0.693
Abuse of alcohol leads to other, more serious crimes and social problems.	1.42	0.524	1.45	0.526
A person who has broken the law should be arrested because there are very few reasons for not enforcing the law.	1.90	0.748	1.87	0.711
Chronic alcoholics – especially those who are homeless – should be arrested and taken to jail to sober up.	2.89	0.733	2.91	0.555
<b>Those who drink should have to pay money for police and other social services.</b>	1.64 ***	0.730	1.99	0.763

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ . \*  $p < .10$ .

personnel with respect to the handling of non-violent disputes between drunken people or whether responding to "drunk calls" was an legitimate use of patrol officer time. Besides these two items, the differences witnessed between sworn officers and civilian employees were the same as those between operations and administration.

## SECTION 6

### Personal and Vicarious Experience with Alcohol-Related Incidents

To help provide some context to the perceptions and attitudes of APD employees, the questionnaire included items asking respondents about their experiences with alcohol-related incidents and persons. The results for these questions are presented in Tables 6.1 through 6.4.

**Table 6.1. Personal On-duty Experience  
with Alcohol-Related Incidents**  
Total Sample.

<b>Type of experience</b>	<b>Percent responding "yes"</b>
<b>Direct experience<sup>a</sup></b>	
Verbal assault	
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	80.9 %
<i>Within past 6 months</i>	75.4
Physical assault	
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	31.9 %
<i>Within past 6 months</i>	26.2
Injury	
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	8.6 %
Service vehicle struck by drunk driver	
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	16.0 %
Witness drunk driving fatality	
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	18.8 %
<b>Vicarious experience<sup>a</sup></b>	
Hear of verbal assault on officer	
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	91.4 %
Hear of physical assault on officer	
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	86.4 %
Hear of injury to officer from assault	
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	65.5 %

a. All personal and vicarious experiences presented in this table were presented to respondents in the context of an interaction with "someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking."

According to PASS respondents, negative interactions with members of the public who had been drinking are not an infrequent occurrence, regardless of organizational assignment or sworn status. However, the chances of experiencing such an encounter were not found to be equal. Not surprisingly, those APD employees who routinely engage the public in the public sphere reported experiencing verbal abuse, physical assaults and personal injury with greater frequency than those who perform their duties in semi-public or private environments.

As shown in Tables 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 operations, patrol and sworn personnel were much more likely to report being verbally assaulted than civilian employees, those working in administration and respondents assigned to divisions other than patrol. Physical assaults and resulting injuries were limited to sworn personnel only and were concentrated in the operations section in general and the patrol division in particular. Given that sworn officers working in operations, particularly those assigned to patrol, are the ones "out there" responding to calls-for-service and interacting with the public, these findings are not surprising.

**Table 6.2. Personal On-duty Experience  
with Alcohol-Related Incidents**  
Operations vs. Administration.

Type of experience	Percent responding "yes"	
	Operations	Administration
<b>Direct experience<sup>a</sup></b>		
Verbal assault		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	90.6 % ***	52.1 %
<i>Within past 6 months</i>	85.1 ***	49.3
Physical assault		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	42.9 % ***	1.4 %
<i>Within past 6 months</i>	35.3 ***	1.4
Injury		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	11.1 %	0.0 %
Service vehicle struck by drunk driver		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	19.0 % ***	7.0 %
Witness drunk driving fatality		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	23.0 % ***	4.5 %
<b>Vicarious experience<sup>a</sup></b>		
Hear of verbal assault on officer		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	94.0 % **	84.9 %
Hear of physical assault on officer		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	89.0 % *	79.5 %
Hear of injury to officer from assault		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	64.5 %	68.1 %

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ . \*  $p < .10$ .

a. All personal and vicarious experiences presented in this table were presented to respondents in the context of an interaction with "someone who was intoxicated"

Besides physical and verbal assaults, APD employees also reported frequently bearing witness to automobile collisions involving citizen alcohol use. Approximately 19 percent of those assigned to the operations section, 17 percent of sworn personnel, and 20 percent of those assigned to patrol reported having their service vehicle struck by a drunk driver in the past year.

A bit more surprising was the frequency with which APD employees reported witnessing drunken driving *fatalities* in the year preceding the survey, even civilians and those not assigned to the patrol division. More surprising still was the reported rate of collisions with drunken drivers in APD service vehicles. While one would expect patrol vehicles to be at particularly great risk of such collisions, the same cannot be said for the service vehicles of those working in other departmental divisions.

Direct experiences with intoxicated persons, particularly the unpleasant ones just described, may be a determinative factor in shaping APD employees' perceptions and attitudes regarding citizen alcohol use and alcohol-related workload, but the results presented in the bottom panel of each Tables 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 suggest that *indirect experience* may be just as salient.

Although a substantial percentage of people did not directly experience an intoxicated person or event in the year preceding the study, an overwhelming majority of employees had *heard* of someone who was verbally or physically assaulted, and well over half had *heard* of injuries sustained by others in confrontations with intoxicated persons.

**Table 6.3. Personal On-duty Experience with Alcohol-Related Incidents**

Patrol Division vs. Other Departmental Divisions.

Type of experience	Percent responding "yes"	
	Patrol	Other
<b>Direct experience<sup>a</sup></b>		
Verbal assault		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	93.9 % ***	62.1 %
<i>Within past 6 months</i>	90.2 % ***	55.7 %
Physical assault		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	49.7 % ***	6.0 %
<i>Within past 6 months</i>	41.4 % ***	4.4 %
Injury		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	14.7 %	0.0 %
Service vehicle struck by drunk driver		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	19.9 % **	10.1 %
Witness drunk driving fatality		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	25.5 % ***	8.3 %
<b>Vicarious experience<sup>a</sup></b>		
Hear of verbal assault on officer		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	94.4 % **	86.8 %
Hear of physical assault on officer		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	91.9 % ***	78.3 %
Hear of injury to officer from assault		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	66.5 %	64.0 %

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ .

a. All personal and vicarious experiences presented in this table were presented to respondents in the context of an interaction with "someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking."

**Table 6.4. Personal On-duty Experience with Alcohol-Related Incidents**

Sworn Police Officers vs. Civilian Personnel.

Type of experience	Percent responding "yes"	
	Operations	Administration
<b>Direct experience<sup>a</sup></b>		
Verbal assault		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	88.8 %	53.1 %
<i>Within past 6 months</i>	82.8 %	52.4 %
Physical assault		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	40.9 %	0.0 %
<i>Within past 6 months</i>	33.8 %	0.0 %
Injury		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	11.2 %	0.0 %
Service vehicle struck by drunk driver		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	17.8 %	8.5 %
Witness drunk driving fatality		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	22.2 %	3.6 %
<b>Vicarious experience<sup>a</sup></b>		
Hear of verbal assault on officer		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	92.9 %	85.9 %
Hear of physical assault on officer		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	86.9 %	84.1 %
Hear of injury to officer from assault		
<i>Within past 12 months</i>	64.8 %	67.7 %

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ . \*\*  $p < .05$ . \*  $p < .10$ .

a. All personal and vicarious experiences presented in this table were presented to respondents in the context of an interaction with "someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking."

PASS also examined the types of weapons that were used against officers when they were physically assaulted by intoxicated persons. Those who indicated at least one physical assault in the six months and/or twelve months prior to the survey were also asked to indicate *the most dangerous weapon* used by the perpetrator in the most recent assault. The results are presented in Table 6.5.

According to respondents, all of whom were sworn officers (see Table 6.4) the most dangerous weapons used by intoxicated people most often were their hands, fists or feet. More than eight out of every ten reported assaults were committed using these means. Firearms were reportedly used in only 5 percent of assaults, followed by stabbing instruments and blunt instruments (used in roughly 2 percent of cases). Officers also indicated that *other* instruments of violence were used against them as well, including a barbecue grill (1), an automobile (4), a mallet (1) and spittle (2).

**Table 6.5. Weaponry Used in Physical Assaults by Intoxicated Persons**

All physical assaults regardless of respondent assignment.

Most serious weapon used	Most recent assault in past 6 months		Most recent assault in past 12 months	
	Valid N	Percent	Valid N	Percent
Hands/fist/feet	58	82.9 %	75	84.3 %
Blunt instrument	1	1.4	0	0.0
Knife/stabbing instrument	2	2.9	2	2.2
Firearm	4	5.7	4	4.5
Other	5	7.1	8	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>89</b>	

## Appendices

## Appendix A: Sample Assessment

This section provides an assessment of the *representativeness* of the PASS sample. This task is an important one because it provides both readers and analysts with the opportunity to identify the specific biases (for example, sampling and measurement errors) in the data. This information can then be used to contextualize the findings reported. To the extent that the sample is found to be representative, analyses of the data collected for PASS can be inferred to apply to APD as a whole.

### Assessment of the P.A.S.S. Sample

The next two sections present an assessment of the PASS survey sample through direct comparison with the known organizational structure and personnel composition of APD. The formal organizational structure of the department is used as the first comparative criterion, followed by the demographic characteristics of APD personnel. Data identifying the structural position of each respondent within the organization were provided by APD at the time the survey was conducted (February 2004). Aggregate data describing the demographic composition of the department as a whole were not provided until June 2005.

This assessment of the PASS sample begins with an examination of the position of PASS respondents with respect to APD's organizational structure and proceeds to a comparative analysis of the demographic composition of the PASS sample and APD as whole.

#### *Organizational Characteristics*

APD is structurally organized as a classic pyramidal hierarchy, with the Chief of Police located at the top and the bulk of employees located largely at the bottom, with a few managers situated in middle positions. The first organizational division within the department, right below the Chief of Police, is the distinction between *operations* and *administration* (see Figure A-1). Because it is the first point of structural division within the department, the distinction between operations and administration is the first PASS sample assessment criterion. Each of these functional areas is managed by a Deputy Chief who is both an executive and a sworn police officer.

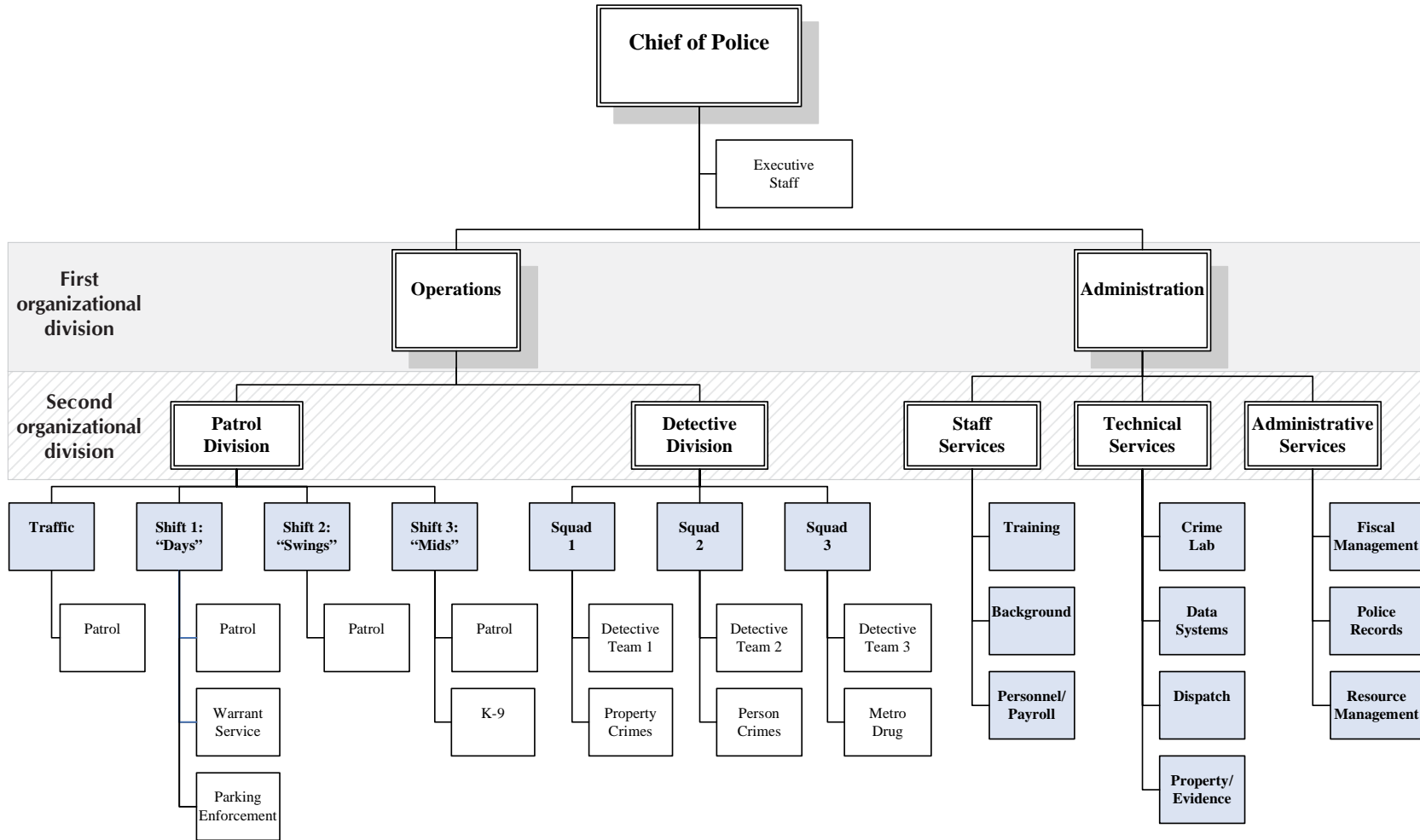
Table A-1 compares the known distribution of APD personnel in operations and administration respectively with the PASS sample. Direct comparison of departmental and PASS data show there to be

**Table A-1. PASS Sample  
Characteristics: Organizational**  
Operations vs. Administration.

Variable	Department* n = 485	PASS sample n = 288
<b>Organizational division</b>		
Operations	70.0 %	72.5 %
Administration	30.0	27.5

\* Data as of February 2005.

**Figure A-1. Anchorage Police Department Organizational Chart**  
 Highlighting first and second organizational divisions.



Adapted from "Anchorage Police Department Organization Chart" (January 2002), <http://www.muni.org/images/apd1/APDOrg2002.pdf> (accessed 14 December 2004).



no significant differences between the two. However, as Figure A-1 demonstrates, there are five additional organizational divisions falling below those of operations and administration.

Falling under operations are the *patrol* and *detective* divisions; administration contains *staff services*, *technical services*, and *administrative services* divisions. These divisions are headed by either a sworn officer of senior command rank (i.e. captain or lieutenant) or by civilian executives.

When the PASS sample is compared to the known distribution of personnel in each of these subdivisions, we see that the PASS sample’s composition is representative across both subdivisions within the operations division, but is slightly different in composition within two of the three subdivisions of the administration division. Specifically, the PASS sample over-sampled respondents from the staff services division and under-sampled technical services employees (Table A-2).

**Table A-2. PASS Sample Characteristics:  
Organizational Variables**  
Operations and Administration subdivisions.

Variable	Department <sup>a</sup>	PASS sample <sup>b</sup>
<b>Operations</b>	<b>n = 336<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>n = 209</b>
Patrol division <sup>c</sup>	77.7 %	80.4 %
Detective division	22.3	19.6
<b>Administration</b>	<b>n = 143<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>n = 76</b>
Staff services	10.5 %	19.7 %
Technical services	54.5	36.8
Administrative services	32.8	39.5

- a. Totals do not include division heads and their staffs. Data as of February 2005.
- b. Due to lack of informaton, three respondents could not be located within Anchorage Police Department's organizational structure.
- c. Includes "Cops in Schools" officers (n = 13).

As is typical in all public police agencies, APD distinguishes its employees according to whether or not they are a *sworn police officer*;<sup>9</sup> meaning they have been certified as having met the minimum qualifications and training requirements specified by the Alaska Police Standards Council. More typical language noting this separation is the difference between *cops* and *civilians*. Because of its centrality as an occupational and organizational category, the sworn status of respondents is also used in the assessment of the PASS sample. Comparing the study data with departmental statistics reveals no significant differences between the underlying population of APD employees and the PASS sample with respect to sworn status (see Table A-3).

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<sup>9</sup> “Police officer” is defined in Alaska Statutes as “(a) a full-time employee of the state or a local police department with the authority to arrest and issue citations; detain a person taken into custody until that person can be arraigned before a judge or magistrate; conduct investigations of violations of and enforce criminal laws, regulations, and traffic laws; search with or without a warrant persons, dwellings, and other forms of property for evidence of a crime; carry a concealed weapon; and take other action consistent with exercise of these enumerated powers when necessary to maintain the public peace; (b) an officer or employee of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities who is stationed at an international airport and has been designated to have the general police powers authorized under AS 02.15.230(a); (c) a University of Alaska public safety officer with general police powers authorized under AS 14.40.043.” Reference: AS 18.65.290.

**Table A-3. PASS Sample Characteristics: Organizational**  
Sworn vs. non-sworn.

Variable	Department* n = 485	PASS sample n = 288
<b>Organizational division</b>		
Sworn personnel	67.6 %	70.4 %
Non-sworn personnel	32.4	29.6

\* Data as of February 2005.

**Table A-4. PASS Sample Characteristics: Organizational Variables**  
Employee rank (sworn officers only).

Variable	Department <sup>a</sup> n = 328	PASS sample n = 203
<b>Assigned rank</b>		
Patrol officer	26.8 %	27.1 %
Senior patrol officer	55.8	56.1
Police sergeant	12.5	11.8
Senior command <sup>b</sup>	4.9	5.0

a. Data as of February 2005.

b. Includes the ranks of: lieutenant, captain, deputy chief, and chief of police.

The final organizational criterion used in our assessment of the PASS sample is the assigned rank of APD sworn police officers. Results from this last comparison are presented in Table A-4. The results of this final comparison are not surprising given the representation of employees in the operations division (Table A-1), the patrol and detective subdivisions within the operations division (Table A-2), and the proportion of sworn officers in the sample (Table A-3). It shows that the PASS sample is representative of the underlying rank structure of APD sworn personnel.

Overall, the data presented to this point provide sufficient evidence to suggest that the PASS survey sample is representative of the Anchorage police department as a whole. A total of thirteen organizational comparisons have been made; eleven of these revealed no significant differences between the PASS survey sample and the department as a whole. Equal proportions of both PASS respondents and APD employees were assigned to: operations and administration sections, as well as patrol and administrative services divisions; the PASS sample and APD contained equal proportions of sworn and non-sworn personnel; and, the PASS sample contained an identical proportion of respondents at each sworn police officer rank as APD as a whole.

However, despite the congruencies between the PASS sample and the structural composition of APD, two of the thirteen comparisons revealed that the PASS sample did suffer from some sampling error. While the PASS sample did contain a proportional amount of respondents from administration as a whole, there appears to have been some over-sampling of respondents who work in the staff services division and an under-sampling of employees in the technical services division.

The assessment now moves on to compare the demographic composition of the PASS sample with that of the entire Anchorage police department.

### *Demographic Characteristics*

Table A-5 compares the demographic and social characteristics of the PASS sample with those of the department as a whole. The comparison reveals only minor demographic differences between the PASS sample and APD as a whole. Notably, however, none of these differences were statistically significant. In sum, the PASS sample effectively mirrored the demographic composition of the department in terms of age, race, gender, education, and marital status.

When these demographic data are viewed in light of the organizational structure comparison above, readers can be confident that the PASS sample is *highly* representative of APD as a whole.

**Table A-5. PASS Sample Characteristics:  
Demographic and Social Variables**

Variable	Department	PASS
	n= 523 <sup>a</sup>	sample n=288
<b>Age (median)</b>	37.4 years	40.0 years
<b>Race</b>		
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.3 %	2.8 %
Asian	5.2 <sup>b</sup>	3.8
Pacific Islander		1.0
Black	5.0	1.2
Hispanic (only)	4.2	2.1
White	82.3	80.9
Other	—	1.7
Missing/refused	—	3.5
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	64.8 %	64.6 %
Female	35.2	33.7
Missing/refused	—	1.7
<b>Education</b>		
High school (or equivalent)	14.0 %	6.3 %
Some college, including 2- year degree (associate or professional)	35.2	40.3
Baccalaureate or higher	46.8	52.1
Missing/refused	4.0	1.4
<b>Marital status</b>		
Single (never married)	16.1 %	9.7 %
Divorced	8.6	11.1
Widowed	—	0.3
Married	75.3	76.0
Missing/refused	0.0	2.9

a. Data as of June 9, 2005.

b. Anchorage Police Department collapses "Asian" and "Pacific Islander" together.

## Appendix B: Survey Instrumentation Questionnaire

The PASS departmental survey consisted of a 10-page questionnaire split into eight separate sections:

- Respondent demographics;
- Respondent occupational experience;
- Inter-generational law enforcement;
- Alcohol-related workload;
- Respondent perceptions regarding relative seriousness of select community problems;
- Respondent perceptions regarding the relationship between alcohol use and select social problems;
- Respondent experiences in alcohol-related incidents and intoxicated persons; and
- Respondent attitudes, perceptions and beliefs about the policing of alcohol-involved incidents and the people involved in them.

Information on respondents' organizational assignment, sworn status, and rank (sworn officers only) were provided by the police department. Most of these survey items were presented in a closed-ended format with boxes for respondents to mark their answer. Open-ended questions were presented for: departmental serial number (unique identifier), age (asked to specify years on last birthday), religious denomination, and political party affiliation.

Demographic information was collected for two principle purposes. First, demographic information collected as part of the survey can be compared to the demographic information routinely collected by police departments, allowing for the evaluation of the sample's representativeness. Second, detailed demographic information provides for a more nuanced description of the department's composition, rather than merely an account of it in structural terms.

Information on respondents' prior work experience as well as the prior work experience of family members within the field of law enforcement was collected not only for descriptive purposes, but also as potential factors helping to explain patterns in respondents' perceptions, beliefs and attitudes related to alcohol workload.

*Alcohol workload* itself was operationalized explicitly in two dimensions. First, respondents were asked to provide a *quantitative* estimate of their workload in the previous year in terms the *time at work* they spent on alcohol-related activities. They were also asked to about the *seasonal variation* of their alcohol workload; that is, if the amount of time they spent on alcohol-related tasks changed according to the time of year.

In order to delve more deeply into APD employees' subjective beliefs about citizen alcohol use, PASS asked respondents to rank-order, out of a list of twenty-two, the five "most troublesome" and five "least troublesome" social problems, and identify which one was most amenable to police intervention. Embedded in this list were two social problems explicitly connected with alcohol – alcoholism and drunken driving – and twenty other issues widely regarded as being highly problematic (some criminal offenses, some not).

This indirect approach to respondents' beliefs about alcohol use was extended in the next section which asked respondents to note, on a scale between zero and four, the strength of association between alcohol use and twenty social problems, most of which were identical to the list respondents rank-ordered. Alcoholism and drunken driving were removed from the list, as their "association" with alcohol was a given.

Asking respondents about their personal experiences (both direct and indirect) with alcohol-related incidents and intoxicated persons provided context for each respondent's perceptions, beliefs and attitudes. Participants were asked if they had been verbally or physically assaulted within twelve months and within six months of the study; if they had suffered any injuries from being physically assaulted; if they had witnessed a drunken-driving fatality; if their own service vehicle had been crashed into by a drunken driver; and if they had heard of other officers being verbally or physically assaulted. Each item was coded as a simple "yes" or "no" response. Respondents' answers to these items help sketch out the recent experiences of APD employees, but may also help explain their subjective beliefs with respect to citizen alcohol use and alcohol workload.

Finally, each respondent was asked to express their attitudes with respect to the police response to alcohol-involved events and intoxicated persons by registering their level of agreement with a series of statements. Respondents queried on their views concerning the police role in dealing with alcohol-related incidents, their attitudes about the use of discretion, views regarding by-the-book law enforcement, as well as the relationship between alcohol and crime and even about the economic costs of policing alcohol-related incidents.

Because police are a favorite target of social scientists and are therefore asked to complete surveys much more often than other groups, and because police as a group detest paperwork in general, the instrumentation for PASS was designed for ease and speed of use. For example, the survey was printed as a large (8½" x 11") booklet. Additionally, nearly all survey items provided closed-ended response categories and check-boxes for respondents to mark their answer. Also, items were presented in a matrix format whenever several of them used the same response categories for easy answering. However, careful attention was paid to not sequence too many items together in order to avoid response set. (Some items were reverse-coded to test for response set as well.)

The primary strategy for dealing with non-response was to use Dillman's *total design method* (TDM) in constructing and administering the survey. The idea behind TDM is to maximize participation by minimizing the inconvenience of survey participation. Several things were done in pursuit of this goal. First, as mentioned above, every attempt was made to construct an easy-to-use instrument. Second, a great deal of effort was expended making the instrument's appearance attractive, professional and appealing. Third, each survey came complete with an introductory letter included greeting respondents and explaining to them what the survey was about. Fourth, each respondent had a survey delivered directly to them, via the department's internal mail system, in a personally addressed envelope. Fifth, PASS made it easy for respondents to *return* surveys once they completed them. Each instrument came complete with a self-address, postage-paid envelope and provisions were made for a secure drop box located in the department's squad room for those people who could not conveniently make it to a postal drop box. Sixth, a second mailing of blank surveys, accompanied by a hand-signed letter, were sent out approximately two weeks after the initial

mailing to all those who had not yet returned a completed survey. And seventh, a follow-up postcard was sent out two weeks later to respondents who had not yet returned a survey.

Survey recipients were identified using an employee roster provided by the department. All members of the Anchorage police department received a survey, regardless of sworn status or operational division in February of 2004. A total of 485 questionnaires were distributed. A total of 288 surveys were completed and returned, for an overall response rate of 59 percent. Participation in the survey was voluntary.



The Anchorage Police  
Department

THE  
**POLICE ALCOHOL-RELATED SERVICES STUDY**  
(P.A.S.S.)



The Justice Center at U.A.A.

**Anchorage Police Department  
Employee Survey**

*A Collaborative Study  
by*

The Anchorage Police Department  
&  
The Justice Center *at* UAA





The Anchorage Police  
Department

## THE POLICE ALCOHOL-RELATED SERVICES STUDY (P.A.S.S.)



Dear Respondent,

The Anchorage Police Department (**APD**) and the Justice Center at U.A.A. have partnered to conduct a study examining the role alcohol plays in shaping police work in Anchorage.

Despite a great deal of intuitive knowledge among law enforcement officials connecting alcohol (and other drug) use to various forms of social disorder and crime, there remains a relative lack of factual documentation of the extent to which activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents permeate day-to-day police work. Even with recent advances in information technologies in law enforcement, it has been difficult for police to accurately document alcohol involvement in their work.

Furthermore, alcohol and/or drug use by the public impacts law enforcement in other ways besides time. People under the influence of alcohol or drugs who come to the attention of police often require specialized medical or psychiatric attention. In other instances, individuals who have been drinking or using pose serious risks to officer health and safety. In a less direct sense, chronic alcohol and drug use among segments of the populace works to create an environment which threatens the public's sense of safety and security and also impacts the work of police on the street. Finally, frequent exposure to the negative aspects of alcohol abuse impacts officers on a personal level by working to shape attitudes, perceptions and beliefs about alcohol and drug use, and the people who use these substances.

In sum, there are many ways alcohol use affects policing in Anchorage. This study is an attempt to systematically examine the role of alcohol in contemporary police work.

Enclosed is a questionnaire which asks you some questions about your personal experiences with situations and events that were alcohol-related during your tenure as an employee of the Anchorage Police Department, as well as about your personal views regarding alcohol use by the public.

Your participation in this survey is completely **VOLUNTARY**. You may refuse to answer any or all of the questions posed to you in this questionnaire. Of course, we hope you will choose to participate, but it is important that you understand no one within or outside the department will be told of your decision.

All information collected in the course of this research is **CONFIDENTIAL** and will be treated in accordance with federal laws guiding research conducted by the University of Alaska Anchorage which stipulate individual identities cannot be revealed, and that any information gathered by this study can only be used for research or statistical purposes (Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 46). Furthermore, as stipulated in the MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between the Justice Center and the APD, administrative staff of the APD or other governmental officials will not be permitted to access any information provided by participating officers until such data has been compiled in aggregate form and all identifying information has been removed.

The entire questionnaire takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Once you have answered all the questions, please place the survey in the envelope provided and seal it. You can return the survey to the Justice Center by dropping it in a U.S. Postal Service drop box, or by placing it in the secure PASS Study Drop Box located in the BRIEFING ROOM inside APD headquarters.

We thank you very much for your participation!

If you have any questions or comments about this research please don't hesitate to contact us. We can be reached by phone at 907-786-4885, or by email at [anbam2@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:anbam2@uaa.alaska.edu).

Sincerely,

Robert H. Langworthy, PhD  
Co-principal Investigator

Brad A. Myrstol, MA  
Co-principal Investigator





## POLICE ALCOHOL-RELATED SERVICES STUDY Anchorage Police Department Officer/Employee Survey



**Instructions:** Please read through each question *and all the possible response categories* carefully, and then select the response you feel *best* answers each question. Record your response by placing a √ in the appropriate check box, or by writing your answer in one of the BOXES with the **DASHED BORDER**. Section instructions are provided in shaded boxes like this one, while instructions for particular survey questions are highlighted in **GREY** when necessary. ~ *Thank You!!*

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

**1.** What is your Departmental Serial Number (DSN)? \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** What is your gender?  1 = FEMALE  2 = MALE

**3.** How old were you on your last birthday? **PLEASE ENTER # YEARS IN BOX >>>, THEN GoTo #4**

**4.** Are you of Hispanic or Latino/a origin or background?  
 0 = NO  1 = YES

**5.** What *racial* background would you say *best* describes you?

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 = Alaska Native or American Indian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 = Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or other Pacific Islander;
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 = Asian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 = White/Caucasian; or
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 = Black or African American;	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 = OTHER [SPECIFY] _____

**6.** What is your most recent legal marital status:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 = Single, never been married;	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 = Widowed; or,
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 = Divorced;	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 = Married, this includes common law marriages.
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 = Legally separated;	

**7.** What religious denomination or church do you consider yourself to be most closely affiliated with, if any?

**PLEASE WRITE ON LINE ABOVE; "NONE" IF NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION, THEN GoTo #8**

**8.** What is the highest educational degree you have:

1 = High school or GED;

2 = Vocational or trade school, including law enforcement academy certification

3 = Some college or two-year associate degree, including nursing and teaching certification

4 = Four year college degree or higher; or

5 = No degree. **SPECIFY BELOW** \_\_\_\_\_

**8a.** What is the last grade or year of school you completed?  

**9.** With which political party do you most closely relate, if any? \_\_\_\_\_

**10.** Have you **EVER** consumed any alcoholic beverages such as beer, wine or spirits?  
 1 = Yes  0 = No

**11.** Have you consumed any alcoholic beverages such as beer, wine or spirits in the past **6 months**?  
 1 = Yes  0 = No

**Next Page**



**INTER-GENERATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**20.** Did \_\_\_\_\_ serve as a sworn POLICE officer at any time *prior* to your entering the profession?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	
a. Your father	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If YES, how many years did your father serve as a police officer? [Please fill in # of years in box &gt;&gt;&gt;].</i> <input type="text"/>
b. Your mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If YES, how many years did your mother serve as a police officer? [Please fill in # of years in box &gt;&gt;&gt;].</i> <input type="text"/>
c. A grandfather/ mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If YES, what was the longest time (in years) any grandfather/mother served as a police officer? [Please fill in # of years in box &gt;&gt;&gt;].</i> <input type="text"/>
d. An uncle/aunt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If YES, what was the longest time (in years) any uncle/aunt served as a police officer? [Please fill in # of years in box &gt;&gt;&gt;].</i> <input type="text"/>

**21.** Did \_\_\_\_\_ serve as a CORRECTIONS/PROBATION/PAROLE officer at any time *prior* to your entering the profession?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	
a. Your father	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If YES, how many years did your father serve as a correctional officer? [Please fill in # of years in box &gt;&gt;&gt;].</i> <input type="text"/>
b. Your mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If YES, how many years did your mother serve as a correctional officer? [Please fill in # of years in box &gt;&gt;&gt;].</i> <input type="text"/>
c. A grandfather/ mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If YES, what was the longest time (in years) any grandfather served as a correctional officer? [Please fill in # of years in box &gt;&gt;&gt;].</i> <input type="text"/>
d. An uncle/aunt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If YES, what was the longest time (in years) any uncle/aunt served as a correctional officer? [Please fill in # of years in box &gt;&gt;&gt;].</i> <input type="text"/>

**22.** At present do any of your family members (immediate or extended) currently work as police officers, correctional officers or probation/parole officers?

Yes	No	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**TIME SPENT ON ALCOHOL ,DRUG, AND MENTALLY ILL-ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES**

**Instructions:** The next three questions ask you to estimate, to the best of your ability, the amount of time **in the past 12 months** (or as many months as you have been with APD, if less than 12 months) you **typically** had to spend on a **routine shift** performing tasks which originated in incidents where alcohol, drugs, or the mentally ill were involved. Activities could have been as diverse as responses to calls-for-service, investigative work, crime analysis, paperwork, or court appearances, just to name a few. Quite often an incident may involve one, two or more factors, so these questions are not intended to be mutually exclusive.

**23.** Over the **past 12 months** about what percentage of your time **at work** would you say you spent performing tasks stemming from:

	0% - 25%	26% - 50%	51% - 75%	More than 75%	Don't Know
<b>23a.</b> ALCOHOL-related incidents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>23b.</b> DRUG-related incidents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>23c.</b> Incidents involving MENTALLY ILL persons?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Next Page 

**Instructions:** For the next few items indicate how much you AGREE or DISAGREE with the statements provided. If you have no opinion, or if you feel you are not able to provide an assessment, simply mark "Don't Know."

24. Would you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
24a. "Generally speaking, I now spend more time at work engaged in activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents than I did 6 months ago."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24b. "In general, I have to spend more time at work on activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents in the SUMMER than I do in the winter."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24c. "In general, I have to spend more time at work on activities stemming from alcohol-related incidents in the WINTER than I do in the summer."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**COMMUNITY PROBLEMS**

**25. Instructions:** Listed below are several social problems common to urban areas in the U.S. which police frequently have to handle. Despite the existence of a set of commonly shared problems, cities experience them at varying levels – some are concentrated in particular jurisdictions, while others are practically non-existent. By asking those who, by virtue of their profession, are most likely to have direct experience with these sorts of issues, we hope to get an idea of which are particularly problematic, and conversely which are not much of a problem at all - *in Anchorage*. **STEP 1:** Select the **5 most troublesome** problems from those listed below and write them on the lines provided, putting the **ABSOLUTE WORST PROBLEM ON LINE 1**, the second worst on line 2 and so on. Then, select the **5 least troublesome** problems and write them on the last five lines, putting the **LEAST TROUBLESOME ISSUE ON LINE 10**, the second least on line 9 and so on. **STEP 2:** Next, after you have rank ordered the five most troublesome and five least troublesome problems in Anchorage, **circle** the one you think is most amenable to police action; that is, which problem do you think the APD can have the biggest positive impact on?   
 ↓ *A hypothetical example is provided for your reference.* ↓

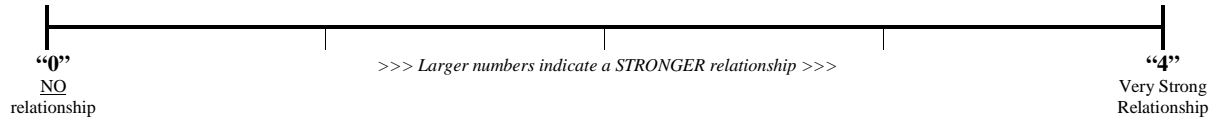
WRITE YOUR SELECTIONS HERE ↓		EXAMPLE (HYPOTHETICAL)	
PROBLEM	Five Most Troublesome:	PROBLEM	Five Most Troublesome:
Vandalism		Vandalism	1. <u>Vandalism</u>
Trespassing	1. (Worst Problem)	Trespassing	
Teen violence in general		Teen violence in general	
Suicide	2.	Suicide	2. <i>Robbery</i>
Shoplifting		Shoplifting	
Sexual assault	3.	Sexual assault	3. <i>Illicit drug use</i>
Robbery		Robbery	
Motor vehicle theft	4.	Motor vehicle theft	4. <i>Alcoholism</i>
Misdemeanor assault		Misdemeanor assault	
Mental illness	5.	Mental illness	5. <i>Shoplifting</i>
Intimate partner violence		Intimate partner violence	
Illicit drug use	<b>Five Least Troublesome:</b>	Illicit drug use	<b>Five Least Troublesome:</b>
Illicit drug sales		Illicit drug sales	
Illicit drug manufacture	6.	Illicit drug manufacture	6. <i>Suicide</i>
Homelessness		Homelessness	
Homicide	7.	Homicide	7. <i>Teen violence in general</i>
Gun violence		Gun violence	
Felony assault	8.	Felony assault	8. <i>Ill. drug manufact.</i>
Drunk driving		Drunk driving	
Crimes against children	9.	Crimes against children	9. <i>Motor vehicle theft</i>
Burglary		Burglary	
Alcoholism	10. (Not At All a Problem)	Alcoholism	10. <i>Homicide</i>

Next Page

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**Instructions:** The next question asks you to assess the strength of the relationship between alcohol use and various crimes and social problems. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers! All we are asking for is your determination of the **strength of each relationship** based on your own personal experience – whatever that might be. Simply circle the number that indicates your estimate of the strength of the association.

**26. Question Text:**  
 “On a scale between zero (“0”) and four (“4”), how would you assess the relationship between alcohol use and \_\_\_\_\_?”



**EXAMPLE (HYPOTHETICAL):**

{ Very Strong Relationship } a. General disturbances	Circle Number Below:	0 1 2 3 <b>(4)</b>	{ Very Weak Relationship }	Circle Number Below:	<b>(0)</b> 1 2 3 4
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	Circle Number Below:						
a. General disturbances (“11-19”)	0	1	2	3	4	k. Homicide	0 1 2 3 4
b. Misdemeanor assault	0	1	2	3	4	l. Illicit drug use	0 1 2 3 4
c. Felony assault	0	1	2	3	4	m. Mental illness	0 1 2 3 4
d. Vandalism	0	1	2	3	4	n. Shoplifting	0 1 2 3 4
e. Robbery	0	1	2	3	4	o. Larceny theft	0 1 2 3 4
f. Illicit drug sales	0	1	2	3	4	p. Motor vehicle theft	0 1 2 3 4
g. Intimate partner viol.	0	1	2	3	4	q. Gun violence	0 1 2 3 4
h. Sexual assault	0	1	2	3	4	r. Trespassing	0 1 2 3 4
i. Homelessness	0	1	2	3	4	s. Suicide	0 1 2 3 4
j. Crimes against children	0	1	2	3	4	t. Burglary	0 1 2 3 4

**APD PERSONNEL SAFETY**

**Instructions:** This section deals with the risks to APD personnel posed by alcohol-related incidents. The questions that follow measure how employees of the APD experience and perceive the danger posed by alcohol-related incidents and encounters, not any sort of “objective” risk. That is, the focus here is on what you think based on your own experiences as an employee of the Anchorage Police Department – not on national, state or other “statistics.” There is no “right” or “wrong” answer to any of these questions.

	YES	NO	
	(√ “Yes” or “No”)		
<b>27.</b> In the <b>past 12 months</b> , while on-duty, have you been <b>verbally</b> assaulted or harassed by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>28.</b> In the <b>past 12 months</b> , while on-duty, have you been <b>physically</b> assaulted by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>28a.</b> IF #28 = “YES,” For the <i>most recent occurrence</i> , did that person use:			
<b>INDICATE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON USED</b>	←		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 = hands, fist, or feet;	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 = a firearm; or		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 = a stick, club, bat, or other blunt instrument;	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 = OTHER [SPECIFY BELOW]		
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 = a knife or other stabbing instrument;			

Next Page

		YES (√ "Yes" or "No")	NO
29.	In the <b>past 6 months</b> , while on-duty, have you been <b>verbally</b> assaulted or harassed by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30.	In the <b>past 6 months</b> , while on-duty, have you been <b>physically</b> assaulted by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30a.	<b>IF #30 = "YES,"</b> For the <i>most recent occurrence</i> , did that person use: <b>INDICATE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON USED</b>		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 = hands, fist, or feet;	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 = a firearm; or	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 = a stick, club, bat, or other blunt instrument;	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 = OTHER [SPECIFY BELOW]	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 = a knife or other stabbing instrument;		
31.	In the <b>past 12 months</b> , while on-duty, have you been <b>injured</b> by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31a.	<b>IF #31 = "YES,"</b> In the <b>past 12 months</b> , have you had to miss work due to injuries inflicted by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32.	In the <b>past 12 months</b> , did you hear of an officer in the department being <b>verbally</b> assaulted or harassed by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33.	In the <b>past 12 months</b> , did you hear of an officer in the department being <b>physically</b> assaulted by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34.	In the <b>past 12 months</b> , did you hear of an officer in the department sustaining an injury after being <b>physically</b> assaulted by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35.	In the <b>past 12 months</b> , was your cruiser/service vehicle struck by a vehicle driven by someone who was intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36.	In the <b>past 12 months</b> , while on duty, did you witness a <b>traffic accident</b> , which resulted in a <b>fatality</b> , where one or more vehicle operators were intoxicated or had been drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Instructions:** This section focuses on how long you have lived in Alaska in general and the Anchorage area more specifically. As with other sections of the questionnaire, please record your responses in the check boxes and boxes with dashed borders.

**RESIDENTIAL TENURE**

37.	How many <u>years</u> have you lived in Alaska? [Please record NUMBER OF YEARS in box >>>].....		
		YES (√ "Yes" or "No")	NO
38.	Do you live in the municipality of Anchorage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38a.	<b>IF #38 = "YES,"</b> How many <u>years</u> have you lived in the municipality of Anchorage?.....		
38b.	<b>IF #38 = "NO,"</b> Where do you live outside of the municipality of Anchorage?.....		
39.	Have you ever lived outside the state of Alaska?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39a.	<b>IF #39 = "YES,"</b> How many <u>years</u> , in all, have you lived outside the state of Alaska?.....		
39b.	<b>IF #39 = "YES,"</b> Did you move to Anchorage for your current position at APD?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Next Page

**EVALUATION OF ALCOHOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Please read each of the following items carefully. After reading each statement, circle the letter (e.g. “D” or “A”) or letters (e.g. “SD” or “SA” or “DK”) that correspond with your **level of agreement**. If you *strongly agree* with a statement, circle “SA”; if you *disagree* with a statement, circle “D,” and so on. If you can’t evaluate a statement, or simply don’t know, circle “DK.”

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
40. Responding to alcohol-related incidents is a serious drain on the police department’s resources.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
41. If an incident involves a dispute between two drunk individuals in public, and there is no physical confrontation (i.e., fight), it is better to handle it informally rather than by arrest.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
42. Persons who have been drinking are more likely to display a bad attitude toward an officer than those who have not been drinking.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
43. Patrol officers could make better use of their time if they didn’t have to respond to “drunk calls.”	SD	D	A	SA	DK
44. The Community Service Patrol (C.S.P) is an effective strategy for dealing with the “drunk problem.”	SD	D	A	SA	DK
45. Of all the varied tasks required of police officers, dealing with drunken people has to be the worst.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
46. Problems which are the result of alcohol abuse provide police with job security.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
47. There are some people for whom heavy drinking is normal, and it is just as well to handle situations involving them in a non-criminal manner.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
48. Police should spend less time doing social work and more time combating crime (that is, doing real police work).	SD	D	A	SA	DK
49. A chronically intoxicated and homeless person poses a greater risk to society than a repeat drunk driver.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
50. Police should undergo more training concerning the dynamics involved in intimate partner violence.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
51. An officer who makes an arrest or gives a citation because a person is drunk is making a “good” arrest.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
52. Transporting chronic inebriates to shelter is a valid use of patrol officer time and effort.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
53. Abuse of alcohol leads to other, more serious crimes and social problems.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
54. A person who has broken the law, whether drunk or not, should be arrested or cited since there are very few reasons for not enforcing the law.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
55. Police receive adequate training on how to handle situations involving those who have been drinking.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
56. Chronic alcoholics, particularly those who are homeless, should be arrested and taken to jail so they have to sober up.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
57. Police DO NOT receive enough training with regard to mental illness and the mentally ill.	SD	D	A	SA	DK
58. Those who drink should have to pay money for the police (and other social) services they receive.	SD	D	A	SA	DK

