

FACT SHEET



Burglary in Alaska: 1985–2012

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This fact sheet presents Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics from the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (CRIB) for the period from 1985 to 2012. The data presented focuses exclusively on the property crime of burglary, and includes burglary rates, time and place of occurrence, and the value of property stolen during burglaries reported to police. These data were extracted from DPS's *Crime in Alaska* publications (<http://www.dps.state.ak.us/statewide/ucr.aspx>). According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), approximately one-third of all burglaries are reported to the police.¹ Therefore, data presented in this fact sheet

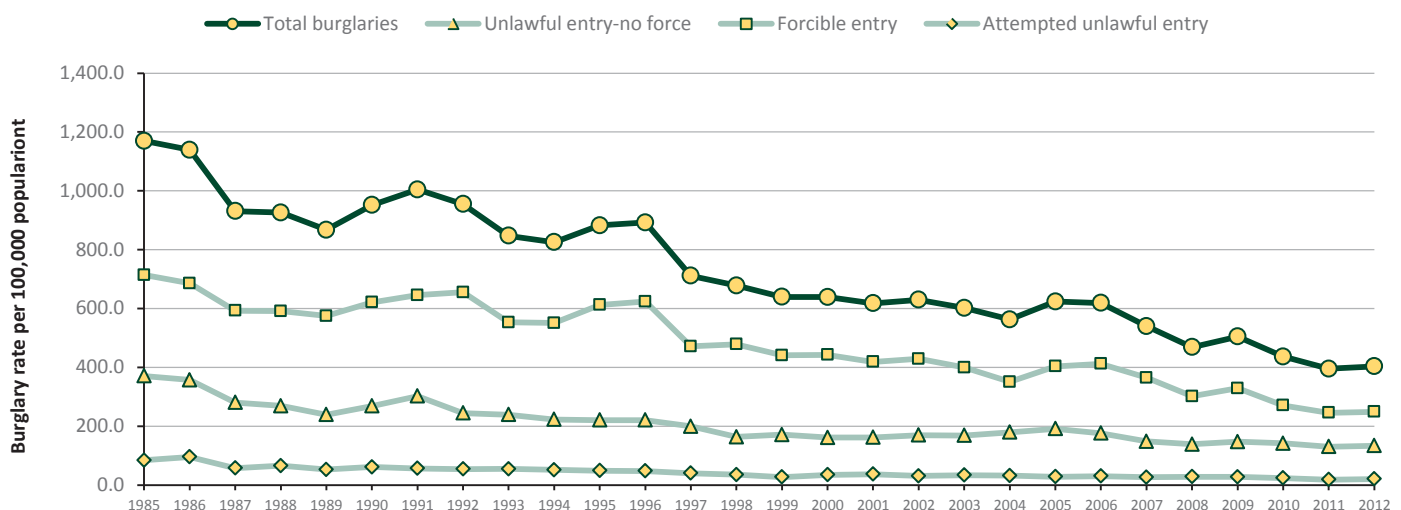
1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Number of property victimizations by reporting to the police, 1993–2012. Generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov, 28 May 2014.

should not be considered indicative of the true rate of burglary in Alaska. Rather, this fact sheet presents data only on burglaries *reported to police*.

Burglary trends. Overall, from 1985 to 2012, the *number* of burglaries reported to law enforcement in Alaska decreased 53.1%. As a result of the lower number of burglaries, Alaska's burglary *rate* dropped 65.5% from 1,169.7 burglaries per 100,000 population in 1985 to 403.6 per 100,000 in 2012 (Figure 1). Burglary rates in Alaska have ranged from a high of 1,169.7 in 1985 to a low of 395.5 in 2011.

Forcible Entry. Figure 1 also presents the three types of entry reported for burglaries: forcible entry, unlawful entry-no force, and attempted unlawful entry. The rate of forcible entry burglaries decreased 65.1% from 1985 to 2012. The *proportion* of all burglaries in Alaska committed using forcible entry remained stable.

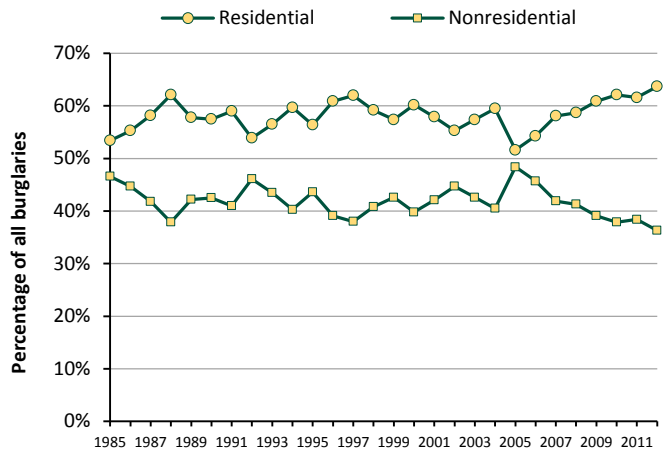
FIGURE 1.
Burglary rates in Alaska by type of entry, 1985–2012



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1986–2013). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

FIGURE 2.

Burglaries in Alaska by place of occurrence, 1985–2012



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1986–2013). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

Unlawful entry. The rate of unlawful entry-no force burglaries decreased 64.0% from 1985 to 2012. The *proportion* of burglaries involving unlawful entry-no force showed a slight increase of 4.4% from 1985 to 2012.

Attempted unlawful entry. The rate of attempted unlawful entry burglaries decreased 75.3% from 1985 to 2012. The *proportion* of burglaries involving attempted unlawful entry decreased 29.2% from 1985 to 2012.

Residential vs. nonresidential burglaries. From 1985 until 2007, the proportion of burglaries reported to law enforcement remained fairly stable between residential and nonresidential settings. Since 2008, a steady increase has been reported in the proportion of burglaries committed in a residential setting paired with

a steady decrease in nonresidential burglaries (Figure 2).

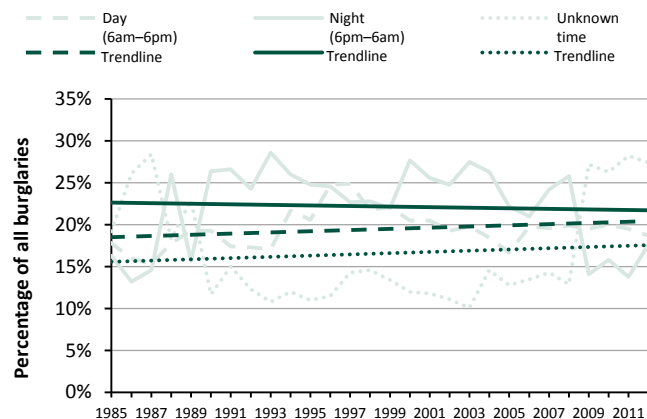
Burglary times. Burglaries were reported as having occurred in one of three time categories: night (6pm–6am), day (6am–6pm), and unknown. Over the examined period, the most observed time for both residential and nonresidential burglaries to occur was at night.

The number of residential burglaries decreased across all three time categories (-66.8% at night, -67.8% during the day, and -56.2% at unknown times; data not shown). The *proportion* of all burglaries in a residential setting ranged from a high of 63.7% of all burglaries in 2012 to a low of 51.6% in 2005 (Figure 2). Figure 3 shows trend lines for all three time categories, revealing that nighttime burglaries are trending slightly down (decreasing) while daytime and unknown time burglaries are trending up (increasing).

The number of nonresidential burglaries decreased across all three time categories (-84.6% at night, -16.9% during the day, and -72.2% at unknown times). The *proportion* of all burglaries in a nonresidential setting ranged from a high of 48.4% of all burglaries in 2005 to a low of 36.3% in 2012 (Figure 2). Nonresidential daytime burglaries more than doubled over the time period, increasing from 2.9% of all burglaries in 1985 to 7.8% in 2012 (Figure 4). Trend lines for all three time categories reveal that nighttime and unknown time burglaries are trending down (decreasing) while daytime burglaries are trending up (increasing).

FIGURE 3.

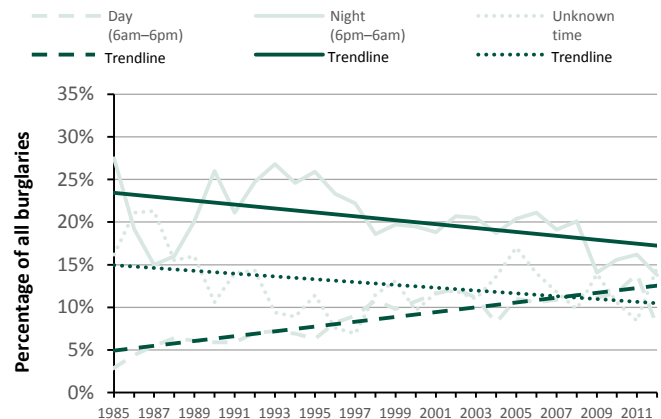
Residential burglaries in Alaska by time of day, 1985–2012



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification

FIGURE 4.

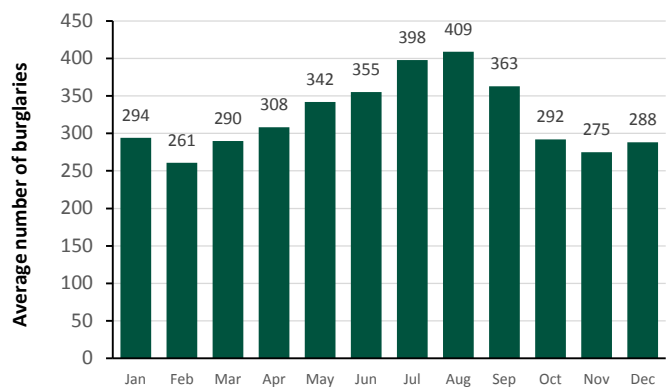
Nonresidential burglaries in Alaska by time of day, 1985–2012



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification

FIGURE 5.

Average number of burglaries in Alaska by month, 1991–2012



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1992–2013). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

Monthly averages. The number of burglaries in Alaska varies from month to month; *Crime in Alaska* has consistently reported this data since 1991. After averaging the number of burglaries per month from 1991–2012, data show that on average, the highest number of burglaries occurred in August (n=409) and the lowest number of burglaries occurred in February (n=261) (Figure 5). As a proportion of the whole, burglaries occurring in August accounted for 10.6% of all burglaries, while February burglaries accounted for 6.7% of all burglaries. When looking at yearly quarters, the most burglaries were reported in the third quarter: July, August, and September (30.2%), while the least burglaries were reported in the first quarter: January, February, and March (21.8%).

Stolen property value. From 1985–2012, the reported value of property stolen during all burglaries was \$219,916,308 in current dollars², with residential burglaries representing 67.4% of all stolen property (Figure 6). Overall, the largest losses occurred in 1986 (totaling \$15,032,017 in current dollars). In 2012, the value of property stolen in all burglaries was at its lowest at \$3,222,819. Overall, the value of property stolen during burglaries per year decreased 75.8% from 1985 to 2012.

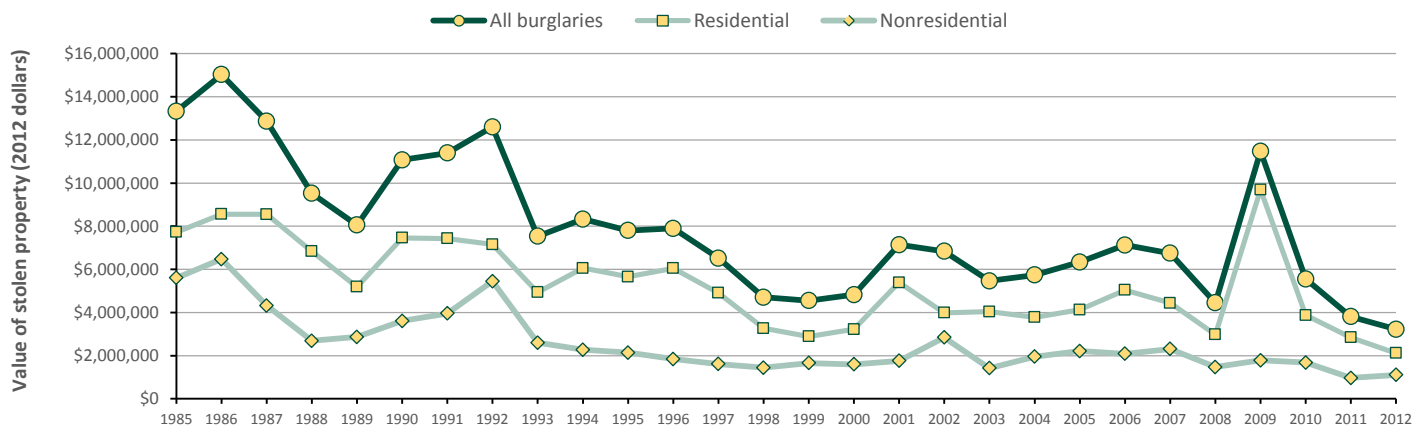
From 1985–2012, the reported value of property stolen during residential burglaries was \$148,201,682 in current dollars (not shown). Values of property stolen ranged from a current dollar high of \$9,693,526 in 2009 to a low of \$2,115,233 in 2012. Overall, the value of property stolen during these residential burglaries decreased 72.6% from 1985 to 2012. Of all residential burglaries, daytime burglaries accounted for 36.4% of stolen property value, nighttime burglaries for 30.1%, and burglaries committed at an unknown time for 33.5% of all stolen property.

2. The use of current dollars represents an effort to remove the effects of price changes from a statistical series reported in dollar terms. The result is a series as it would presumably exist if prices were the same throughout the series as they were in the base year — in other words, as if the dollar had constant purchasing power. For this report, all dollar values have been adjusted to current dollars as of 2012 using the CPI-U reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

FIGURE 6.

Value of property stolen in burglaries in Alaska, 1985–2012

Value indexed to 2012 dollar value.



Note: The spike in 2009 is a result of a single burglary resulting in the loss of property valued at \$5,000,000 (not adjusted for inflation).

Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1986–2013). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, (2014), Consumer Price Index — All Urban Consumers, Washington, D.C.

From 1985–2012, the reported value of property stolen in nonresidential burglaries was \$71,714,626 in current dollars (not shown). Values of property stolen ranged from a high in current dollars of \$6,471,892 in 1986 to a low of \$968,575 in 2011. Overall, in current dollars the value of property stolen each year during burglaries decreased 80.2% from 1985 to 2012. Of all nonresidential burglaries, daytime burglaries accounted for 13.3% of stolen property value, while nighttime burglaries accounted for 44.0%, and burglaries committed at an unknown time accounted for 42.7% of all stolen property.

SUMMARY

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), approximately one-third of all burglaries are reported to the police. Therefore, data presented in this fact sheet should not be considered indicative of the true rate of burglary in Alaska.

Overall, the number of burglaries reported to law enforcement in Alaska decreased by more than half from 1985–2012, resulting in a decrease of more than two-thirds in the burglary rate per 100,000 population.

Three types of entry were reported for burglaries: forcible entry, unlawful entry-no force, and attempted unlawful entry — all of which decreased by more than half over the period. The number of residential burglaries decreased by nearly two-thirds from 1985–2012, while the number of nonresidential burglaries decreased by three-quarters. As a proportion of all burglaries, residential burglaries increased 19.3%, while the proportion of nonresidential burglaries decreased 22.1% for the period.

Residential burglary trends reveal that nighttime burglaries have been decreasing over the period, while daytime and unknown time burglaries have increased steadily. Nonresidential burglary trends reveal that both nighttime and unknown time burglaries have steadily decreased while daytime burglaries have steadily increased over the period.

Reported losses due to property stolen in burglaries decreased three-quarters from 1985 to 2012. Property stolen from residential burglaries accounted for more than two-thirds of all losses from burglaries for 1985–2012 while nonresidential burglaries accounted for the remaining one-third.

NOTES

DEFINITIONS

Burglary: The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines burglary as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. To classify an offense as a burglary, the use of force to gain entry need not have occurred. The UCR Program has three subclassifications for burglary: forcible entry, unlawful entry-no force, and attempted forcible entry.

Forcible entry: All offenses where force of any kind is used to unlawfully enter a structure for the purpose of committing a theft or felony.

Unlawful entry-no force: The entry of a structure achieved by use of an unlocked door or window. The element of trespass to the structure is essential in this category, which includes thefts from open or unlocked garages, warehouses, or dwellings.

Attempted forcible entry: All offenses where a forcible entry burglary was attempted but not completed.

CALCULATING RATES

Rates are calculated based on jurisdictional population and are used to compare a jurisdiction to itself over time. *Crime rates* directly reflect the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies per 100,000 total population. Of the actual crimes that occur, the proportion reported to law enforcement varies considerably by crime type. *Arrest rates* reflect the number of arrests reported by law enforcement agencies per 100,000 total population.

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

Recognizing the need for national crime statistics, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) developed the foundations in the 1920s for the current UCR program. In June 1930, Congress designated the FBI as the agency authorized to collect, compile, and distribute crime records in an effort to measure the volume of crime in the United States. The UCR program collects monthly information from more than 18,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies that voluntarily reporting data on crimes reported to them. The primary objective of the UCR program is to produce reliable data on crime for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. UCR data are not intended to be used to rank agencies or the jurisdictions in which they are located, and thus UCR data should not be used to designate American cities, counties, or other jurisdictions as “safe” or “dangerous” in the absence of careful consideration of the limitations of these data.

The UCR records data for eight serious crimes (called Part I offenses) and more than twenty less serious offenses (called Part II offenses). Part I offenses include four violent crimes — murder and nonnegligent manslaughter (homicide), forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault — and four property crimes — burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. In 2012, UCR data was reported by law enforcement agencies representing 98.1% of the total U.S. population.

UCR IN ALASKA

Since 1982, the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Statewide Services (DSS), has administered the UCR program for Alaska. The Criminal Records and Identification Bureau (CRIB), located within the DSS, collects, tabulates, reports, and publishes UCR data submitted by Alaska law enforcement agencies. As is the case nationally, submitting agencies retain responsibility for the accuracy of the data. While UCR reporting to the FBI is voluntary, AS §12.62.130 requires Alaska law enforcement agencies to submit crime data to DPS. In 2012, 33 agencies provided UCR crime data to DPS. An estimated 99.4% of the state’s total population fell within the jurisdiction of the submitting agencies.

THE ALASKA JUSTICE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER



ABOUT

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) was established by Administrative Order No. 89, signed by Governor William Sheffield on July 2, 1986. Since that time the AJSAC has been housed within the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center. The AJSAC assists Alaska criminal justice agencies, as well as state and local governments and officials, with the development, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice programs and policies through the collection, analysis, and reporting of crime and justice statistics.

Since 1972, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and its predecessor agency, the National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, has provided support to state and territorial governments to establish and operate Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice to federal, state, and local levels of government, and to share state-level information nationally. There are currently 53 SACs located in the United States and its Territories. The AJSAC is a member of the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), a national nonprofit organization comprised of SAC directors, researchers, and practitioners dedicated to policy-oriented research and analysis.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Location

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) is housed in the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center, which is located on the second floor of the UAA/APU Consortium Library, Suite 213.

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ON THE WEB

To learn more about the AJSAC research, please visit our website at: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ajsac/>.

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