



## Property Crime Reported in Alaska, 1986-2015

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This fact sheet presents data from the Alaska Department of Public Safety's annual report *Crime in Alaska* for the years 1986 through 2015 on property crimes in Alaska. *Crime in Alaska* represents the State of Alaska's contribution to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. The UCR program collects data from law enforcement agencies across the United States. This fact sheet explores the thirty-year trend of property crime rates in Alaska.

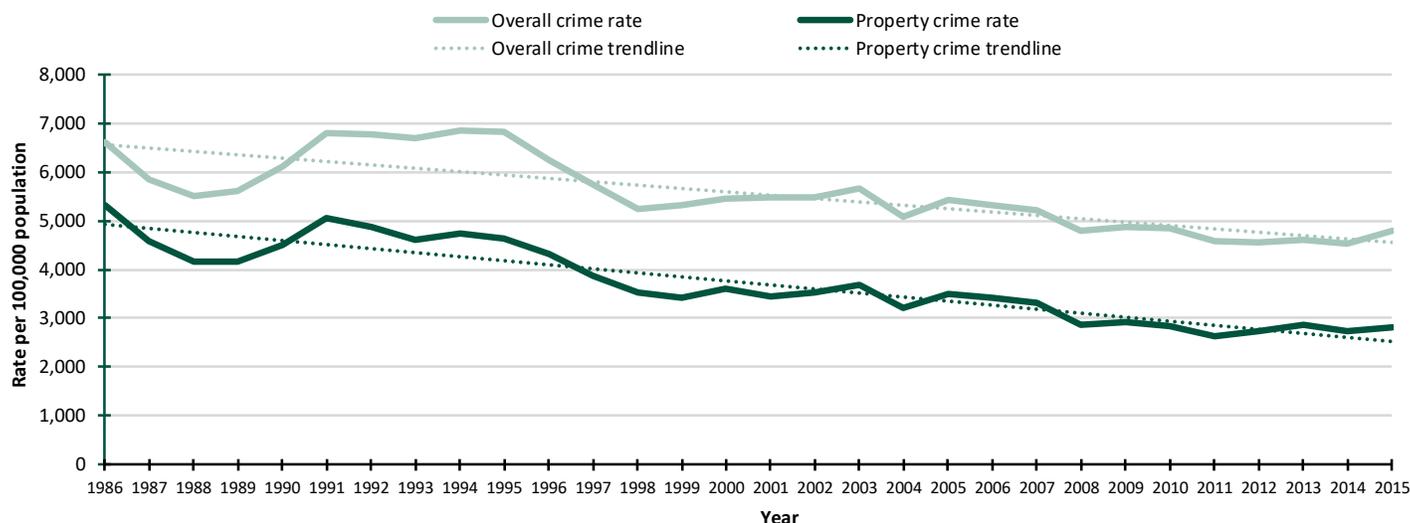
**Property crime rates.** We looked at property crime data over a thirty-year period, from 1986 to 2015. "Property crime" is an aggregate category that includes burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft crimes. Reported arson crimes were not included due to inconsistent reporting over the period. Property

crime rates were calculated for Alaska per 100,000 residents in the population using population data retrieved from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Research and Analysis Division. The property crime rate is presented in Figure 1.

**Overall property crime rate.** Figure 1 shows the property crime rate for Alaska from 1986 to 2015. Overall, the thirty-year trend reveals that the property crime rate in Alaska **decreased** over the period as the overall crime rate decreased. In 1986, the Alaska property crime rate was at a period high of 5,326.3 per 100,000 Alaska residents. In 2015, the Alaska property crime rate was 2,807.2 per 100,000 Alaska residents. Over the period, the lowest Alaska property crime rate was 2,623.0 per 100,000 Alaska residents

**Figure 1.**

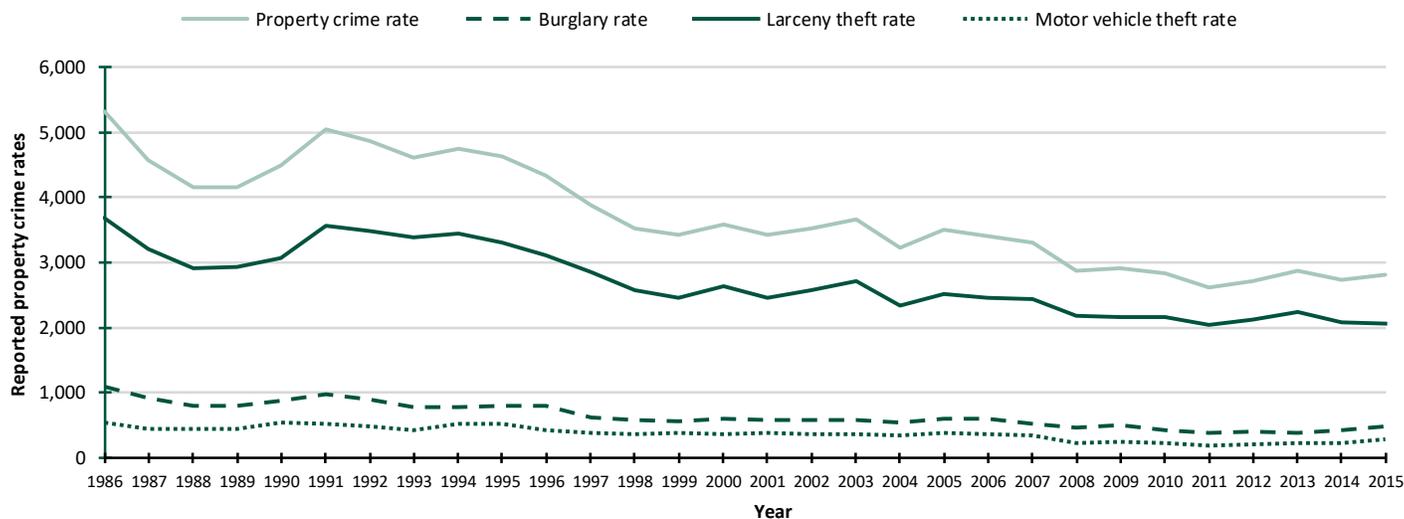
Crime rates per 100,000 population in Alaska, 1986-2015: All crime vs. property crime



**Source of data:** Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1987-2016). *Crime in Alaska*, Juneau, AK.

Figure 2.

Reported property crime rates in Alaska, 1986-2015: By crime type



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (1987-2016). *Crime in Alaska*, Juneau, AK.

in 2011. On average, property crime accounted for 66.4% of all crime reported to police in Alaska from 1986 to 2015.

**Burglary crime rate.** Figure 2 shows the burglary rate for Alaska from 1986 to 2015. Overall, the thirty-year trend reveals that the burglary rate in Alaska **decreased** over the period. In 1986, the Alaska burglary rate was 1,103.1 per 100,000 Alaska residents – the highest in the period. In 2015, the Alaska burglary rate was 474.5 per 100,000 Alaska residents. Over the period, the lowest Alaska burglary rate was 393.0 per 100,000 Alaska residents in 2011. On average, burglary accounted for 17.1% of all property crime reported to police in Alaska from 1986 to 2015.

**Larceny-theft crime rate.** Figure 2 also shows the larceny-theft rate for Alaska from 1986 to 2015. Overall, the thirty-year trend reveals that the larceny-theft rate in Alaska **decreased** over the period. In 1986, the Alaska larceny-theft rate was 3,672.6 per 100,000 Alaska residents – the highest in this period. In 2015, the Alaska larceny-theft rate was 2,055.9 per 100,000 Alaska residents. Over the period, the lowest Alaska larceny-theft rate was 2,039.3 per 100,000 Alaska residents in 2011. On average, larceny-theft accounted for 73.0% of all property crime reported to police in Alaska from 1986 to 2015.

**Motor vehicle theft crime rate.** Finally, Figure 2 shows the motor vehicle theft rate for Alaska from 1986 to

2015. Overall, the thirty-year trend reveals that the motor vehicle theft rate in Alaska **decreased** over the period. In 1986, the Alaska motor vehicle theft rate was 550.6 per 100,000 Alaska residents – the highest in this period. In 2015, the Alaska motor vehicle theft rate was 276.7 per 100,000 Alaska residents. Over the period, the lowest Alaska motor vehicle theft rate was 190.6 per 100,000 Alaska residents in 2011. On average, motor vehicle theft accounted for 9.9% of all property crime reported to police in Alaska from 1986 to 2015.

## SUMMARY

This fact sheet presents data reported on property crimes in Alaska from 1986 to 2015 as reported in the Department of Public Safety publication, *Crime in Alaska*.

From 1986 to 2015, the overall crime rate in Alaska decreased along with the property crime rate. In 2015, the property crime rate for Alaska was lower than the 30-year average.

On average, property crime accounted for two-thirds of all crime in Alaska from 1986 to 2015 – larceny-theft accounted for nearly three-quarters of all property crime, burglary accounted for more than 17%, and motor vehicle theft just under 10% of all property crime in Alaska over the period.

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## NOTES

### CALCULATING RATES

Rates per 100,000 population are calculated by dividing the number of specified events by the total population of the focus area and then multiplying the total by 100,000. For example, to determine the property crime rate in Alaska for 2015, we take the total number of founded property crime cases reported in Alaska for 2015 (20,694), divide it by the total estimated state population for 2015 (737,183), and multiply the quotient by 100,000 to reach the property crime rate of 2,807.2 per 100,000 population  $[(20,694 \div 737,183) * 100,000 = 2,807.2]$ . Because Alaska has a small population, small changes in the number of reported property crimes can lead to substantial fluctuations in rates.

All population estimates were retrieved from the State of Alaska, Department of Labor and Workforce Development at: <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/pop/index.cfm> (Vintage 2016)

*Crime in Alaska* is available online at: <http://dps.alaska.gov/Statewide/UCR.aspx> (2000–2015) and <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ajsac/ucr.cshtml> (1976–1999)

### PROPERTY CRIME DEFINITIONS

In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims. The property crime category includes arson because the offense involves the destruction of property; however, arson victims may be subjected to force.

**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 where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry. The UCR definition of "structure" includes an apartment, barn, house trailer or houseboat when used as a permanent dwelling, office, railroad car (but not automobile), stable, and vessel (i.e., ship).

**Larceny-theft** — The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines larceny-theft as the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Examples are thefts of bicycles, thefts of motor vehicle parts and accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking, or the stealing of any property or article that is not taken by force and violence or by fraud. Attempted larcenies are included. Embezzlement, confidence games, forgery, check fraud, etc., are excluded.

**Motor vehicle theft** — In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, motor vehicle theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is defined in the UCR Program as a self-propelled vehicle that runs on land surfaces and not on rails. Examples of motor vehicles include sport utility vehicles, automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles. Motor vehicle theft does not include farm equipment, bulldozers, airplanes, construction equipment, or water craft such as motorboats, sailboats, houseboats, or jet skis. The taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by persons having lawful access is excluded from this definition.

**Arson** — The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines arson as any willful or malicious burning or attempting to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc. This data collection does not include any estimates for arson because the degree of reporting arson offenses varies from agency to agency. Because of this disparity in reporting, arson offenses were excluded from this report.

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## 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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