



## Drug Sale and Manufacture Arrests Reported in Alaska, 1986–2017

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This fact sheet presents data on drug sale and manufacture arrests reported by Alaska law enforcement agencies and obtained from the Alaska Department of Public Safety’s annual report *Crime in Alaska* for the years 1986 through 2017. *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 32-year trend of drug sale and manufacture arrests in Alaska from 1986 to 2017.

### Drug sale and manufacture arrests

Drug sale and manufacture arrest rates are calculated per 100,000 residents. The drug sale and manufacture

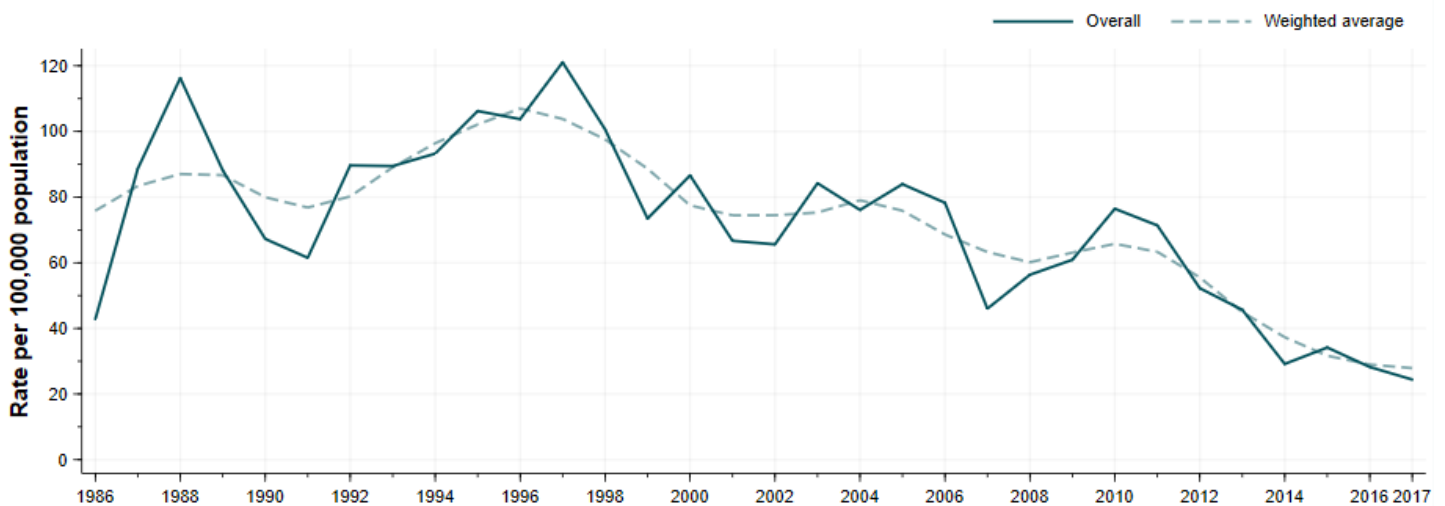
rates reported here are calculated using population data retrieved from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development’s Research and Analysis Division.

### Overall drug sale and manufacture arrest rates

Figure 1 shows drug sale and manufacture arrest rates for Alaska from 1986 to 2017. Two trend lines are shown in Figure 1. The solid line shows the actual drug possession arrest rate for each year included in the time series. The dashed line shows a “moving average” trend line for the time series. Overall, the 32-year trend reveals that the drug sale and manufacture arrest rates in Alaska decreased over the period. In 1986, the arrest rate was 42.9 per 100,000 residents. The rate rose to 116.3 per 100,000 residents in 1988

**Figure 1**

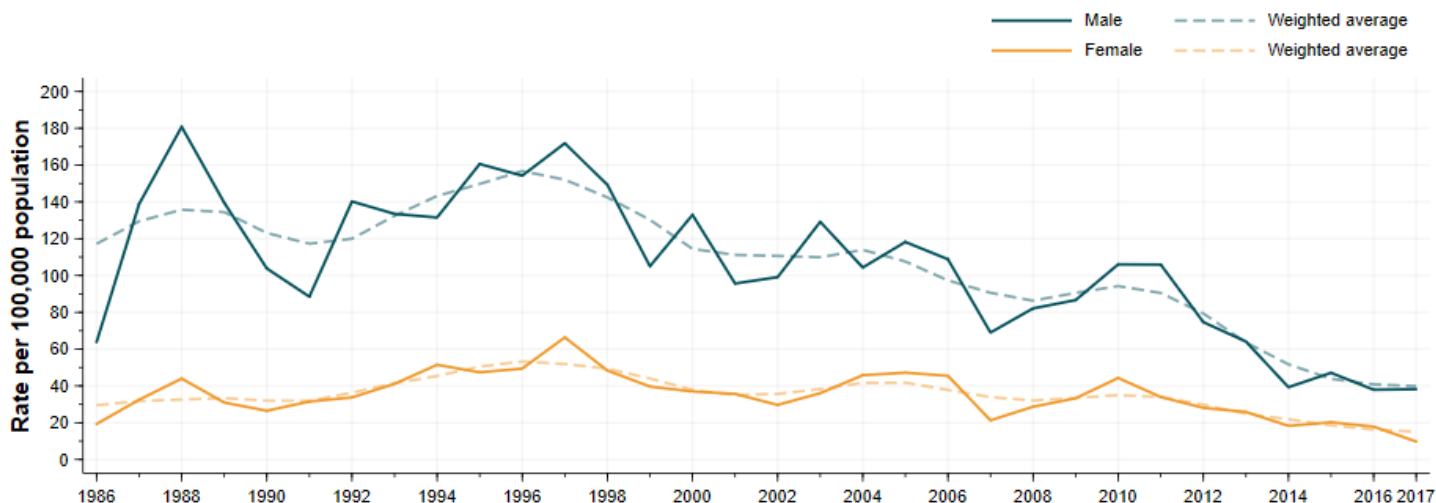
Alaska drug sale & manufacture arrests: Total arrest rates, 1986-2017



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Alaska* (1986-2017)

**Figure 2**

Alaska drug sale & manufacture arrests: Arrest rates by sex, 1986-2017



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Alaska* (1986-2017)

and peaked in 1997 at 121.1 per 100,000 residents. Since 1997, the rate has steadily declined to the lowest recorded rate, 24.4 per 100,000 residents, in 2017. The average drug sale and manufacture arrest rate over the 32-year period was 72.1 per 100,000 residents.

### Arrest rates by sex

Figure 2 depicts the drug sale and manufacture arrest rates for females and males from 1986 to 2017.

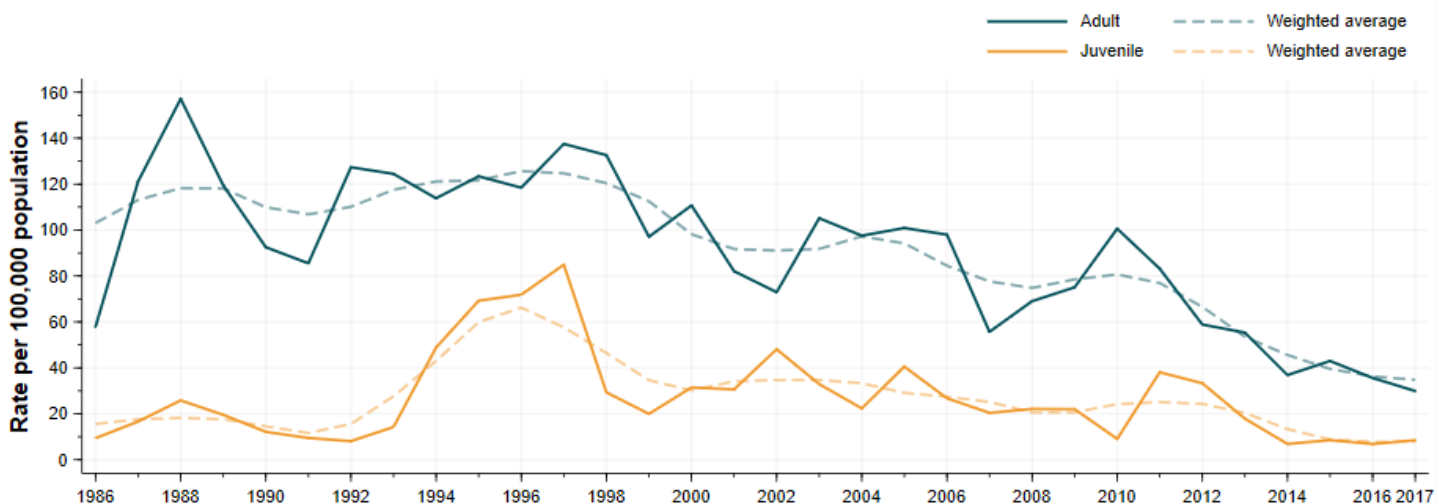
On average, females accounted for 23.6% and males accounted for 76.4% of all arrests for drug sale and manufacture reported in Alaska from 1986 to 2017.

Overall, the drug sale and manufacture arrest rates for females in Alaska declined between 1986 and 2017. In 1986, the female arrest rate was 19.3 per 100,000 female residents. In 2017, the female drug sale and manufacture arrest rate was 9.8 per 100,000 female residents. The female arrest rate reached its highest point in 1997 at 66.4 per 100,000 female residents. The lowest rate recorded was in 2017.

The drug sale and manufacture arrest rates for males in Alaska decreased over the 32-year period. In 1986, the male arrest rate was 63.8 per 100,000 male residents. In 2017, the male drug sale and manufacture

**Figure 3**

Alaska drug sale & manufacture arrests: Arrest rates by age, 1986-2017



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Alaska* (1986-2017)

arrest rate was 38.2 per 100,000 male residents. The trend shows a trough in male arrest rate in 1991 between two peaks in 1988 and 1997 at 88.5 per 100,000 male residents. The male arrest rate reached its highest point in 1988 at 180.8 per 100,000 male residents and its lowest recorded rate in 2016 at 37.9 per 100,000 male residents.

### Arrest rates by age

Figure 3 contrasts the drug sale and manufacture arrest rates for adults and juveniles. Adults are categorized as anyone 18 years of age or older. Juveniles are categorized as anyone under the age of 18.

Adults accounted for 88.8% and juveniles accounted for 11.2% of all reported drug sale and manufacture arrests in Alaska over this same period.

The 32-year trend shows that drug sale and manufacture arrest rates for adults in Alaska have been decreasing with relative peaks in 1988 and 2010. The adult arrest rate in 1986 was 57.9 per 100,000 adult residents. The highest arrest rate recorded was in 1988 at 157.2 per 100,000 adult residents and the lowest rate recorded in 2017 at 29.9 per 100,000 adult residents.

In contrast, the arrest rate for juveniles in Alaska was steady throughout most of the 32-year period. In 1986, the juvenile arrest rate was 9.4 per 100,000 juvenile residents. In 2017, the juvenile drug sale and manufacture arrest rate was 8.5 per 100,000 juvenile residents. The juvenile arrest rate sharply increased in the mid-1990s, but returned to a steady rate by 2000. The highest arrest rate recorded was in 1997 at 84.9 per 100,000 juvenile residents. The lowest recorded arrest rate was in 2016 at 6.9 per 100,000 juvenile residents.

### SUMMARY

This fact sheet presents data on drug sale and manufacture arrests reported in Alaska from 1986 to 2017 as reported in the Department of Public Safety publication, *Crime in Alaska*.

Overall, the drug sale and manufacture arrest rate consistently declined between 1997 and 2017. The lowest recorded overall drug sale and manufacture arrest rate was in 2017.

While drug sale and manufacture arrest rates for females and juveniles were relatively stable, arrest rates for males (Figure 2) and adults (Figure 3) decreased between 1986 and 2017.

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## Notes

### CALCULATING RATES

Rates per 100,000 populations are calculated by dividing the number of specified events by the total population and then multiplying the total by 100,000. For example, to determine the drug sale and manufacture arrest rates in Alaska for 2017, we take the total number of recorded drug sale and manufacture arrest cases reported in Alaska for 2017 (824), divide it by the total estimated state population for 2017 (737,080), and multiply the quotient by 100,000 to reach the drug sale and manufacture arrest rate of 111.8 per 100,000 residents  $[(824 \div 737,080) * 100,000 = 111.8]$ . Similarly, to determine the 2017 drug sale and manufacture arrest rates in Alaska for a specific population, such as adults or females, we take the total number of recorded drug sale and manufacture arrest cases reported in Alaska for this specific group in 2017, divide it by the estimated 2017 state population for this specific group, and multiply the quotient by 100,000. Due to Alaska's small population, small changes in the number of reported drug sale and manufacture arrests can lead to substantial fluctuations in rates.

### REFERENCES

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> (1960 to present).

*Crime in Alaska* is available online at: <http://dps.alaska.gov/Statewide/UCR.aspx> (2000–2017) and <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ajic/ucr.cshtml> (1976–1999).

### DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS DEFINITION

In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, drug sale and manufacture falls under the classification of drug abuse violations.

**Drug Abuse Violations** — The violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances. The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance. Arrests for violations of state and local laws, specifically those relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs. The following drug categories are specified: opium or cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine); marijuana; synthetic narcotics—manufactured narcotics that can cause true addiction (Demerol, methadone); and dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, benzedrine).

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# Alaska Justice Information Center



## ABOUT

The Alaska Justice Information Center (AJiC) was established in 2015, with a mission to compile, analyze, and report on criminal justice topics to policymakers, and practitioners in order to improve public safety, to increase criminal justice system accountability, and to reduce recidivism. In 2017, AJiC merged with the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC), which was designated as Alaska's statistical analysis center in 1986 by Governor William Sheffield. The fact sheet series was previously published under the AJSAC masthead.

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 Alaska SAC 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 Information Center (AJiC) 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 AJiC research, please visit our website at <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ajic>.

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