April 2011

Violent and Property Offenses in Anchorage, 2003-2009

This research overview presents information on serious violent and property crimes reported to Anchorage police for the period 2003 to 2009. The data were collected as part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). The data presented here are limited to Part I offenses of the UCR, which include four violent crimes (murder and non-negligent homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and four property crimes (burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson). (See Research Overview No. 2, March 2009.)

Volume of Violent Crimes in Anchorage

Overall the volume of violent crimes reported to Anchorage police increased significantly between 2003 and 2009. Robbery rates increased by 50% and aggravated assault increased 39% during the period. The rate of increase for forcible rape was significant (11%). Over the same timeframe, the murder rate dropped 21%, from 6.27 per 100,000 population in 2003 to 4.94 per 100,000 in 2009.

Anchorage property crime rates declined between 2003 and 2009, with the largest declines seen in motor vehicle theft (-31%) and larceny theft (-18%). A decline was also seen for arson rates (-17%), but an increase of 9% was seen for burglary rates over the period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Murder and non-negligent manslaughter</th>
<th>Forcible rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Aggravated assault</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>271,085</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>1,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>273,714</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>1,555</td>
<td>2,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>276,109</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>2,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>277,692</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>1,862</td>
<td>2,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>284,142</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>1,673</td>
<td>2,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>280,068</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>2,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>283,300</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>1,658</td>
<td>2,888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Murder and non-negligent manslaughter</th>
<th>Forcible rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Aggravated assault</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>271,085</td>
<td>6.27</td>
<td>90.01</td>
<td>125.42</td>
<td>421.64</td>
<td>643.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>273,714</td>
<td>5.48</td>
<td>96.09</td>
<td>120.93</td>
<td>568.11</td>
<td>790.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>276,109</td>
<td>5.79</td>
<td>81.13</td>
<td>139.08</td>
<td>509.58</td>
<td>735.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>277,692</td>
<td>6.12</td>
<td>89.31</td>
<td>167.45</td>
<td>670.53</td>
<td>933.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>284,142</td>
<td>7.74</td>
<td>90.45</td>
<td>159.43</td>
<td>588.79</td>
<td>846.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>280,068</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>93.91</td>
<td>194.24</td>
<td>653.41</td>
<td>945.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>283,300</td>
<td>4.94</td>
<td>99.54</td>
<td>188.49</td>
<td>585.25</td>
<td>878.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 1. Number of Violent and Property Crimes Known to Police, Anchorage, 2003–2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Murder and non-negligent manslaughter</th>
<th>Forcible rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Aggravated assault</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>271,085</td>
<td>6.27</td>
<td>90.01</td>
<td>125.42</td>
<td>421.64</td>
<td>643.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>273,714</td>
<td>5.48</td>
<td>96.09</td>
<td>120.93</td>
<td>568.11</td>
<td>790.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>276,109</td>
<td>5.79</td>
<td>81.13</td>
<td>139.08</td>
<td>509.58</td>
<td>735.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>277,692</td>
<td>6.12</td>
<td>89.31</td>
<td>167.45</td>
<td>670.53</td>
<td>933.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>284,142</td>
<td>7.74</td>
<td>90.45</td>
<td>159.43</td>
<td>588.79</td>
<td>846.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>280,068</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>93.91</td>
<td>194.24</td>
<td>653.41</td>
<td>945.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>283,300</td>
<td>4.94</td>
<td>99.54</td>
<td>188.49</td>
<td>585.25</td>
<td>878.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 2. Rates of Violent and Property Crimes Known to Police, Anchorage, 2003–2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Murder and non-negligent manslaughter</th>
<th>Forcible rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Aggravated assault</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>271,085</td>
<td>6.27</td>
<td>90.01</td>
<td>125.42</td>
<td>421.64</td>
<td>643.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>273,714</td>
<td>5.48</td>
<td>96.09</td>
<td>120.93</td>
<td>568.11</td>
<td>790.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>276,109</td>
<td>5.79</td>
<td>81.13</td>
<td>139.08</td>
<td>509.58</td>
<td>735.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>277,692</td>
<td>6.12</td>
<td>89.31</td>
<td>167.45</td>
<td>670.53</td>
<td>933.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>284,142</td>
<td>7.74</td>
<td>90.45</td>
<td>159.43</td>
<td>588.79</td>
<td>846.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>280,068</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>93.91</td>
<td>194.24</td>
<td>653.41</td>
<td>945.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>283,300</td>
<td>4.94</td>
<td>99.54</td>
<td>188.49</td>
<td>585.25</td>
<td>878.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/overview/
Justice Center ♦ University of Alaska Anchorage ♦ 3211 Providence Drive ♦ Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 786-1810 ♦ ayjust@uaa.alaska.edu
UCR Data for Five Cities: A Comparison

Table 3 presents 2009 UCR data for five cities of similar size also located in the western United States. In 2009 Anchorage had a substantially higher rate of violent crime than each of the other cities listed in Table 3. This was due in large measure to Anchorage’s exceptionally high rates of aggravated assault and forcible rape. The prevalence of forcible rape in Anchorage was at least twice as high as the rates observed in Spokane, Salt Lake City, Portland, and Boise, and 15% higher than in Colorado Springs. The disparity was not as striking for aggravated assault. For that crime, a 2 to 1 (or greater) ratio was observed for only two cities: Colorado Springs and Boise. For the remaining three cities, Anchorage’s aggravated assault rate was 39% to 77% higher.

The news was much better for property crimes. Anchorage had among the lowest rates for burglary, larceny theft, and motor vehicle theft. Anchorage’s arson rate, however, was second only to Portland. Overall, Anchorage had the lowest property crime rates.

Research compiled by Khristy Parker, Research Assistant

Table 3. Rates of Violent and Property Crimes Known to Police, in Anchorage and Selected Western U.S. Cities, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Murder and non-negligent manslaughter</th>
<th>Forcible rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Aggravated assault</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Burglary</th>
<th>Larceny-theft</th>
<th>Motor vehicle theft</th>
<th>Arson</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>283,300</td>
<td>4.94</td>
<td>99.54</td>
<td>188.49</td>
<td>585.25</td>
<td>878.22</td>
<td>569.36</td>
<td>2,765.62</td>
<td>306.39</td>
<td>39.18</td>
<td>3,680.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>202,932</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>36.96</td>
<td>218.30</td>
<td>367.12</td>
<td>625.83</td>
<td>1,263.97</td>
<td>4,367.97</td>
<td>855.95</td>
<td>36.47</td>
<td>6,524.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs</td>
<td>401,626</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>35.65</td>
<td>130.72</td>
<td>269.90</td>
<td>490.01</td>
<td>822.90</td>
<td>2,578.77</td>
<td>264.18</td>
<td>25.15</td>
<td>3,691.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td>180,724</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>55.33</td>
<td>227.42</td>
<td>421.64</td>
<td>706.05</td>
<td>1,202.39</td>
<td>6,024.66</td>
<td>797.90</td>
<td>30.43</td>
<td>8,055.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>560,908</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>44.93</td>
<td>184.88</td>
<td>320.37</td>
<td>553.57</td>
<td>658.93</td>
<td>3,498.61</td>
<td>566.05</td>
<td>47.96</td>
<td>4,771.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boise</td>
<td>206,437</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>33.91</td>
<td>30.03</td>
<td>193.28</td>
<td>260.61</td>
<td>506.69</td>
<td>2,197.76</td>
<td>84.29</td>
<td>26.64</td>
<td>6,329.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>