SEXUAL ASSAULT IN ALASKA

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Alaska State Legislature
Senate Judiciary Committee
• **Data Overview:**
  – Uniform Crime Reports, State & Local Data

• **Key Results from UAA JC Research:**
  – SANE, AST, APD, DOL Studies

• **Key Implications from UAA JC Research**

• **Additional Research Needs**
  – Victimization Survey, Statewide Surveillance System
GRANT FUNDING

- **Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:**

- **U.S. Department of Justice:**

- **University of Alaska Anchorage:**
  - UAA Faculty Development Grant

*Points of view in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the U.S. Department of Justice, or the University of Alaska Anchorage.*
UCR FORCIBLE RAPE STATISTICS

Source: UCR, 1996-2008
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003-2007 Average</th>
<th>Factor Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>82.4</td>
<td>x 2.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>89.4</td>
<td>x 2.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairbanks</td>
<td>162.0</td>
<td>x 5.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UCR, 2003-2007
VIOLENT CRIME REPORTS

Source: UCR, 2007
VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS

Source: UCR, 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>From → To</th>
<th>By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>164.6</td>
<td>511 → 327</td>
<td>184 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>190.6</td>
<td>600 → 334</td>
<td>266 (44%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>175.4</td>
<td>558 → 346</td>
<td>212 (38%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>167.6</td>
<td>538 → 344</td>
<td>194 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>157.3</td>
<td>509 → 356</td>
<td>153 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>161.0</td>
<td>529 → 335</td>
<td>194 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>169.4</td>
<td>541 → 340</td>
<td>201 (36%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STANDARD UCR CAUTIONS

• UCR Statistics exclude:
  – Rapes not reported to law enforcement,
  – Statutory rapes,
  – Incapacitated rapes,
  – Rapes with male victims,
  – Other sex offenses,
  – Rapes with more serious offenses (homicide).

• Reporting agencies vary by year.
• Rankings are invalid assessments (ignore variables that affect crime).
• No data on forcible rape or sexual assault for Alaska...
  – Samples often too small
  – No forcible rape / sexual assault questions

• True victimization rates are unknown

• Factors that affect reporting are unknown

• Most vulnerable populations remain hidden
• **Victim costs are $114,517 per victimization**
  – Costs include tangible & intangible victim costs
  – Costs exclude all offender & justice costs

• **Total victim costs in 2007:**
  – $60.6 Million in Alaska, $29.4 Million in Anchorage, $4.9 Million in Fairbanks

• **Reducing the rate by 36% would save:**
  – $21.8 Million in Alaska, $10.6 Million in Anchorage, $1.8 Million in Fairbanks

STATE AND LOCAL DATA

- Alaska SANE Study
- Alaska State Trooper Studies
- Anchorage Police Department Studies
- Alaska Department of Law Studies

http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/vaw
STUDIES ONLY INCLUDE...

• Offenses reported to law enforcement
  – 52% of sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement (BJS 2003); % in Alaska is unknown

• Information from official reports
  – Document report characteristics rather than offense characteristics; offense characteristics often remain unknown, particularly when victims used alcohol

• Data up to 2006
  – Need time to obtain legal resolutions
• If rates are higher among 15-19 year olds:
  – 15-19 year olds have higher victimization rates,
  – 15-19 year olds have higher reporting rates, or
  – 15-19 year olds have higher victimization and reporting rates.

• If 15-19 year olds are less likely to use alcohol:
  – 15-19 year olds may just be less likely to report alcohol use.
• Difficult when victimization and reporting differences cannot be specified

• Higher victimization rates:
  – Failing to protect a segment of the population
  – Ultimately a sign of failure

• Higher reporting rates:
  – Effective responses for a segment of the population
  – Ultimately a sign of success
• Collected 1,699 SANE records:
  – 1,383 from Anchorage (1996-2004)
  – 105 from Bethel (2005-2006)
  – 144 from Fairbanks (2005-2006)
  – 9 from Homer (2005)
  – 4 from Kodiak (2005)
  – 21 from Kotzebue (2005)
  – 19 from Nome (2005)
  – 14 from Soldotna (2005)
Percent of Sexual Assault Cases by Detachment:
2003-2004

- **D**: 16%
- **ABI**: 9%
- **C**: 49%
- **B**: 11%
- **E**: 11%
- **A**: 4%

Note: this study did NOT include offenses reported to local or municipal departments.
ANCHORAGE PD STUDIES

• Sexual Assault Study I
  – 2000 & 2001 reports
• Sexual Assault Study II
  – 2002 & 2003 reports
• Sexual Assault Study III
  – 2004 & 2005 reports
Case is **Reported** to Law Enforcement

Case is **Referred** for Prosecution

Case is **Accepted** for Prosecution

Case Results in a Conviction
KEY RESULTS

• Victim and Suspect Characteristics:
  – Race
  – Age
  – Alcohol Use

• Legal Resolutions:
  – Referral
  – Acceptance
  – Conviction
RACE

Victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AST Study</th>
<th>Anchorage SANE</th>
<th>Fairbanks SANE</th>
<th>Rural SANE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victims</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suspects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AST Study</th>
<th>Anchorage SANE</th>
<th>Fairbanks SANE</th>
<th>Rural SANE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspects</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AST SA Study & AK SANE Study
Victim Race in APD Studies

Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD by Victim Race

- White: 2.8
- Native: 20.1
- Black: 4.0
- Hispanic: 1.1
- Asian: 1.2
- Pacific Islander: 0.3

Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD by Suspect Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Suspects</th>
<th>White Suspects</th>
<th>Native Suspects</th>
<th>Other Suspects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APD SA Study</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANE Study</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST SA Study</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AGE OF AST VICTIMS

Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST by Victim Age

Source: AST SA Study
AGE OF AST & APD VICTIMS

Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported by Victim Age

Source: AST SA Study & APD Studies
AGE OF AST SUSPECTS

Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST by Suspect Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number of Reports</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 12</td>
<td>35 (4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 15</td>
<td>87 (9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 20</td>
<td>210 (22%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 to 30</td>
<td>236 (25%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 to 40</td>
<td>184 (19%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 to 50</td>
<td>127 (13%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 or older</td>
<td>69 (7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AST SA Study
AGE OF AST & APD SUSPECTS

Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported by Suspect Age

- Source: AST SA Study & APD Studies
Five Most Common Age Combinations in AST Sexual Assault Cases (48%):

1. Victims 0-12 years old, suspects 31+ years old
2. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 16-20 years old
3. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 21-30 years old
4. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 31+ years old
5. Victims 31+ years old, suspects 31+ years old

Source: AST SA Study
Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD for Victims and Suspects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Risk Behaviors &amp; Violence</th>
<th>Alaska</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% ever had sexual intercourse</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% had recent intercourse (past 3 months)</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If recent intercourse, % used alcohol/drugs</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% physically forced to have intercourse</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2007 YRBS; includes public school students with parental consent; excludes youth who dropped out of school and students who were enrolled in English as a second language classes, special education classes, correspondence schools, group home schools and correctional schools.
ALCOHOL USE

• APD Studies:
  – Every year, over 60% of victims use alcohol,
  – Over 70% of suspects use alcohol.

• AK SANE Study:
  – Over 65% of patients used alcohol, except in Homer and Soldotna,
  – Over 75% of suspects used alcohol, in every site.

• AST Study:
  – 27% of sexual assault victims used alcohol,
  – 43% of suspects used alcohol.
Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST with Victim Alcohol Use, by Victim Age

Source: AST SA Study
Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST with Suspect Alcohol Use, by Suspect Age

Source: AST SA Study
ALCOHOL USE OF PATIENTS

Source: AK SANE Study
INCAPACITATION OF PATIENTS

Percent of Patients who Passed Out

- Homer (8): 13%
- Anchorage (1,349): 23%
- Kodiak (4): 25%
- Fairbanks (118): 31%
- Nome (19): 37%
- Bethel (104): 46%
- Kotzebue (21): 52%

Source: AK SANE Study
Sexual Assault Case is Reported to Law Enforcement

18 to 46% are Referred

60 to 69% are Accepted

78 to 87% Result in a Conviction

Source: AK SANE Study, APD Studies, AST Study
Sexual Assault Case is Reported to Law Enforcement

18 to 46% are Referred

12 to 28% are Accepted

11 to 22% Result in a Conviction

Source: AK SANE Study, APD Studies, AST Study
## RESOLUTIONS BY GEOGRAPHY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Sexual Violence</th>
<th>Rape / Sexual Assault</th>
<th>Sexual Abuse of a Minor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bush</strong></td>
<td><strong>Non-Bush</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bush</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founded</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referred</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convicted</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AST SA Study; significant differences in red; “Bush” is defined as off the road system
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Sexual Violence</th>
<th>Rape / Sexual Assault</th>
<th>Sexual Abuse of a Minor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isolated</td>
<td>Not Isolated</td>
<td>Isolated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founded</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referred</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convicted</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AST Study; significant differences in red; “Isolated” locations are defined as ones without a Trooper post.
EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

• Enhancing local paraprofessional police presence (VPSO, VPO, TPO):

  • Reduces rates of serious injury caused by assault by 40%
  
  • Increases likelihood of accepting cases for prosecution in sexual assault cases by 3.5 times

3/13/09 graduation; photo courtesy Alaska State Troopers
• Strengthening local alcohol prohibitions

• Rates of serious injury from assault are 36% lower in dry villages

• Cases with alcohol use are less likely to be referred for prosecution

• Cases with alcohol use are less likely to be accepted for prosecution

Photo courtesy Alaska State Troopers, ABADE 2007
EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

• Enhancing investigation capacity

• Likelihood to refer cases for prosecution is enhanced by more than three times when:
  • witnesses can be located and interviewed
  • time and resources are available to gain victim cooperation

• Having time to investigate and close cases also increases likelihood that cases are accepted for prosecution
• Promoting access to sexual assault nurse examiners

• Medical-forensic exams more than double the likelihood of accepting cases for prosecution

• Documentation of non-genital injury is particularly important: increases likelihood of referral, acceptance, and conviction

• Offers the best standard of care

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Photo courtesy Angie Ellis & Tara Henry
Examined offenders released from Alaska Department of Corrections in 2001, tracked recidivism for three years:

- Rearrested and convicted: 39%
- Rearrested only: 21%
- Not rearrested: 40%

No difference between sex and non-sex offenders

No difference in re-arrest for sex crimes

Source: McKelvie (2008)
RECIDIVISM

- Examined juvenile sex offenders released from Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice in FY05-07:

  Found two groups of offenders (high & low delinquency)

  Both groups showed signs of desistance by age 17, even when controlling for detentions and institutionalizations

Source: Rosay & Everett (2009)
• **Statewide Victimization Survey:**
  – Need reliable and valid victimization estimates
  – Identify factors that hinder reporting
  – Evaluate criminal justice response

• **Statewide Surveillance System:**
  – Track all sexual assaults from report to conviction
  – Collect basic information from each report
  – Provide real-time information and explanations

• **Differentiate between high victimization and high reporting**
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