Overview of Sexual Assault in Alaska

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Key Statistics on Sexual Assault in Alaska

- **Uniform Crime Reports**
- **Sexual Assaults Reported to Law Enforcement**
  - Geography, Age, Race, Alcohol Use
- **Overview of Promising Solutions:**
  - Enhancing the VPSO Program
  - Promoting Access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners
Forcible Rape Statistics from UCR

Source: UCR, 1996-2008
## Forcible Rape Statistics from UCR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Average Rate: 2003-2007</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
## Rate Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>From → To</th>
<th>By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>605 → 352</td>
<td>253 (42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>558 → 359</td>
<td>199 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>538 → 358</td>
<td>180 (33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>76.0</td>
<td>509 → 375</td>
<td>134 (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>529 → 358</td>
<td>171 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>441 → 393</td>
<td>48 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>79.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>530 → 365</strong></td>
<td><strong>164 (31%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UCR, 2003-2008
AST Sexual Assault Cases

Percent of Sexual Assault Cases by Detachment: 2003-2004

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

ABI: 9%
Child Abuse Investigation
Cold Case Investigation

Source: Sexual assaults reported to AST in 2003 and 2004
Age of Sexual Assault Victims

Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST by Victim Age

Source: Sexual assaults reported to AST in 2003 and 2004
Suspect / Victim Age Comparisons

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: Sexual assaults reported to AST in 2003 and 2004
Race of Sexual Assault Victims

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

Source: Sexual assaults reported to APD in 2000-2004
Alcohol Use by SANE Location

Sexual Assault Case is Reported to Law Enforcement

46% are Referred

28% are Accepted

22% Result in a Conviction

Data include 989 sexual assaults reported to Alaska State Troopers in 2003 and 2004.
## Legal Resolutions by Isolation

<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>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sexual assaults reported to AST in 2003 and 2004
Effective Strategies

• Enhancing local paraprofessional police presence (VPSO, VPO, TPO):
  - Reduces rates of serious injury caused by assault by 40%
  - Increases likelihood of prosecution in sexual assault cases by 3.5 times
Effective Strategies

- Promoting access to sexual assault nurse examiners

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

- Documentation of physical injury is particularly important

- Offers the best standard of care

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Photo courtesy Angie Ellis & Tara Henry
Importance of Data & Research

• Data can correct misconceptions:
  • Cases from rural areas are NOT less likely to be prosecuted

• Data can identify why investigations are difficult:
  • victim age, alcohol use

• More importantly, research can identify how we can overcome difficulties in investigation

• As a result, we are no longer in a position to request funding because we have a problem. We are now in a position to request funding because we have solutions.
Additional Information

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