AJiC Fact Sheet

Drug Possession Arrests Reported in Alaska, 1986–2017 — Drug Types by Sex

ANCHORAGE, AK—The 18–07 (December 2018) issue of the AJiC Fact Sheet has been released. This Fact Sheet presents data 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.

- From 1986 to 2017, the average female arrest rates for each drug are as follows: for narcotics; 18.8 per 100,000 female residents, for marijuana; 42.9 per 100,000 female residents, for synthetic narcotics; 4.6 per 100,000 female residents, and for other non-narcotics; 5.9 per 100,000 female residents.

- From 1986 to 2017, the average male arrest rates for each drug are as follows: for narcotics; 45.4 per 100,000 male residents, for marijuana; 190.4 per 100,000 male residents, for synthetic narcotics; 9.2 per 100,000 male residents, and for other non-narcotics; 15.4 per 100,000 male residents.

- From 1986 to 2017, males accounted for roughly four-fifths (79.2%) and females accounted for roughly one-fifth (20.8%) of all drug possession arrests in the state of Alaska.

- The female and male rates parallel one another in that they rise and fall at the same points in most years.

- In 2002, the synthetic narcotics and other non-narcotics possession arrest rates sharply increased for both males and females until the mid-2000s before a sharp decline and subsequent increase.

- Marijuana possession, the offense with the highest arrest rates, peaked at 90.4 per 100,000 female residents and 324.9 per 100,000 male residents.

- Synthetic narcotics possession, the offense with the lowest arrest rates, peaked at 13.8 per 100,000 female residents and 29.8 per 100,000 male residents.

- Narcotics possession is the only offense that peaked before 2000.

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