



DUI/DWI Arrests in Alaska: 2000–2011

Brad A. Myr Stol, Ph.D., AJSAC Director

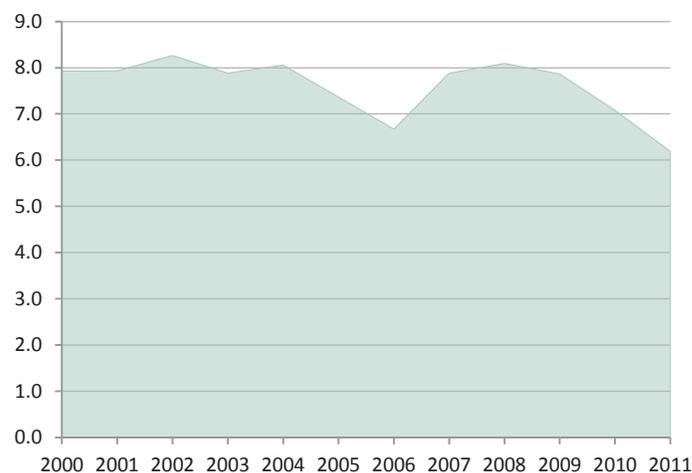
This fact sheet presents data on driving under the influence (DUI) and driving while intoxicated (DWI) arrests made by Alaska police agencies for the period 2000 through 2011. All of the data presented were extracted from the Alaska Department of Public Safety's annual report *Crime in Alaska*. *Crime in Alaska* represents the State of Alaska's contribution to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national *Uniform Crime Reports* (UCR) program. The UCR program collects data from law enforcement agencies across the United States. (In 2011 more than 18,200 agencies participated in the UCR program. A total of 34 out of the 44 state, tribal, and local police agencies in Alaska participated in 2011.) The UCR includes in its count of *arrests* all arrests, citations, and summonses for each of 28 different offenses. Presented here is Alaska arrest data for *DUI/DWI*. The time series ends in 2011 because that is the last year for which data are available.

Figure 1 presents the *DUI/DWI arrest rate* for Alaska for the 2000–2011 time period. The arrest rate is calculated as the number of arrests reported by Alaska law enforcement agencies per 1,000 population. This rate does not measure how often drivers operated motor vehicles while under the influence of one or more intoxicating substances, nor does it measure the frequency with which motor vehicle stops or accidents resulted in a *DUI/DWI* arrest. Since 2000, the statewide *DUI/DWI* arrest rate underwent two distinct periods of decline. The first period of decline began in 2002, when

an estimated 8.3 persons per 1,000 population were arrested for *DUI/DWI* by Alaska police agencies, and ended in 2006 when the *DUI/DWI* arrest rate stood at 6.7 per 1,000. Overall, the statewide *DUI/DWI* arrest rate dropped 19.3% during the period 2001–2006. After rebounding in 2007 and 2008, the statewide *DUI/DWI* arrest rate began to decline again through 2011. Overall, the Alaska *DUI/DWI* arrest rate declined by 23.5% between 2008 and 2011, from 8.1 arrests per 1,000 residents to 6.2 arrests per 1,000 residents.

Figure 2 presents simple *counts* of *DUI/DWI* arrests for the Alaska State Troopers (AST), the Anchorage Police Department (APD), the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD), the Juneau Police Department (JPD), and

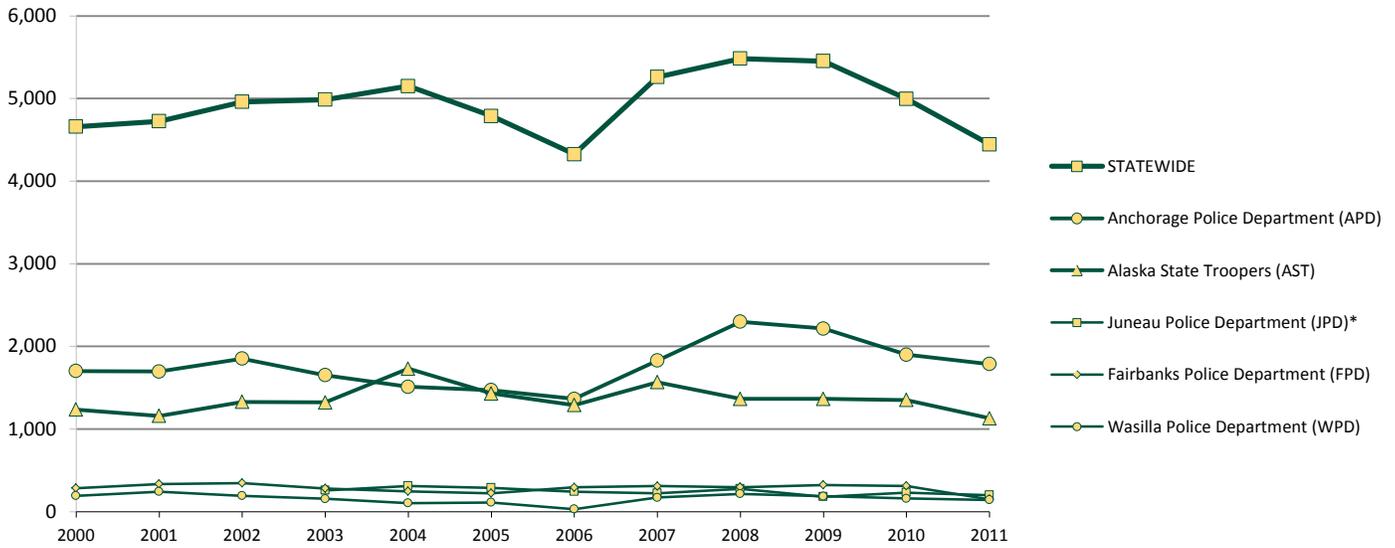
FIGURE 1.
Alaska *DUI/DWI* Arrest Rate per 1,000 Population, 2000–2011



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2000-2011). *Crime in Alaska*. Juneau, AK.

FIGURE 2.

Alaska DUI/DWI Arrests by Major Law Enforcement Agency, 2000–2011



* DUI/DWI arrest data for Juneau Police Department were available beginning in 2003.

Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2000-2011). Crime in Alaska. Juneau, AK.

the Wasilla Police Department (WPD), as well as the statewide total. Together, these five agencies were responsible for 75.9% of all DUI/DWI arrests in the state between 2000 and 2011. The state’s two largest police agencies, AST and APD, reported nearly two-thirds (63.3%) of all DUI/DWI arrests in Alaska during this period. With the exception of APD, all of these agencies reported fewer DUI/DWI arrests in 2011 than in 2000 (see Table 1).

males. Notably, however, the percentage of DUI/DWI arrests involving males trended downward during the 2000–2011 period, from 77.8% of all DUI/DWI arrests in 2000 to 73.0% in 2011.

Figure 4 presents the percentages of DUI/DWI arrests according to the race/ethnicity (as recorded by police) of offenders. During the 2000–2011 period, a large majority (72.6%, on average) of those arrested for DUI/

TABLE 1.

Alaska DUI/DWI Arrests by Major Law Enforcement Agency, 2000 and 2011

Agency	2000 arrests	2011 arrests	% change 2000–2011
Anchorage Police Department (APD)	1,701	1,787	+5.1 %
Alaska State Troopers (AST)	1,235	1,129	-8.6
Fairbanks Police Department (FPD)	284	150	-47.2
Juneau Police Department (JPD)*	257	200	-22.2
Wasilla Police Department (WPD)	192	142	-26.0

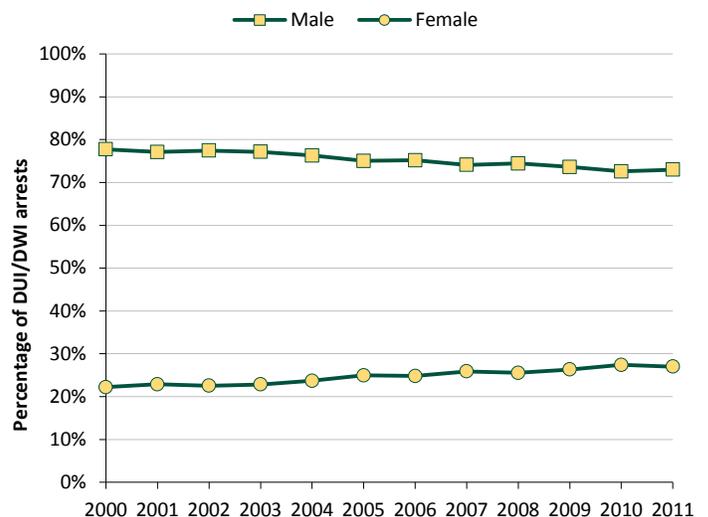
* DUI/DWI arrest data for Juneau Police Department were available beginning in 2003.

Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2000-2011). Crime in Alaska. Juneau, AK.

The percentages of DUI/DWI arrests attributable to males and females, respectively, are presented in Figure 3. Between 2000 and 2011, slightly more than three out of every four DUI/DWI arrests (75.3%) were of

FIGURE 3.

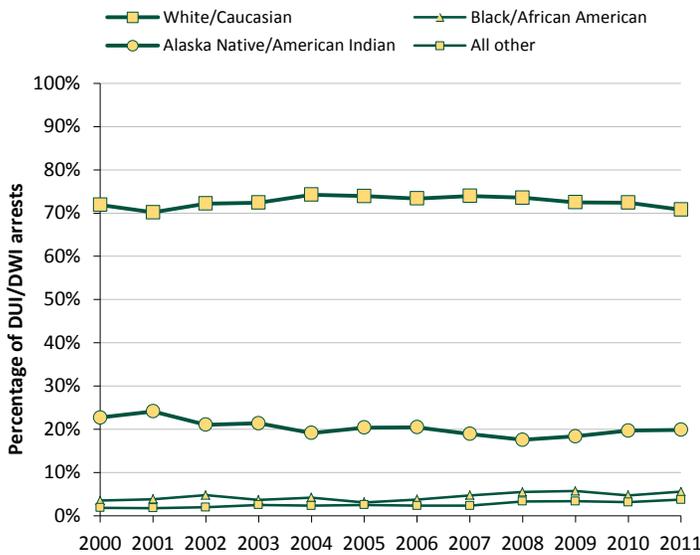
Percentage of Alaska DUI/DWI Arrests by Sex, 2000–2011



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2000-2011). Crime in Alaska. Juneau, AK.

FIGURE 4.

Percentage of Alaska DUI/DWI Arrests by Race, 2000–2011



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2000-2011). Crime in Alaska. Juneau, AK.

DWI were White/Caucasian. Fully one-fifth (20.3%, on average) of those arrested for DUI/DWI between 2000 and 2011 were Alaska Native/American Indian. The remainder of arrestees were classified by police as either Black/African American or as a member of some other racial/ethnic group.

TABLE 2.

Percentage of Alaska DUI/DWI Arrests by Race, 2000 and 2011

Race/ethnicity	% 2000 arrests	% 2011 arrests	% change 2000–2011
White	71.9 %	70.8 %	-1.5 %
Black	3.5	5.6	+60.0
Alaska Native	22.7	19.9	-12.3
All other	1.9	3.8	+100.0

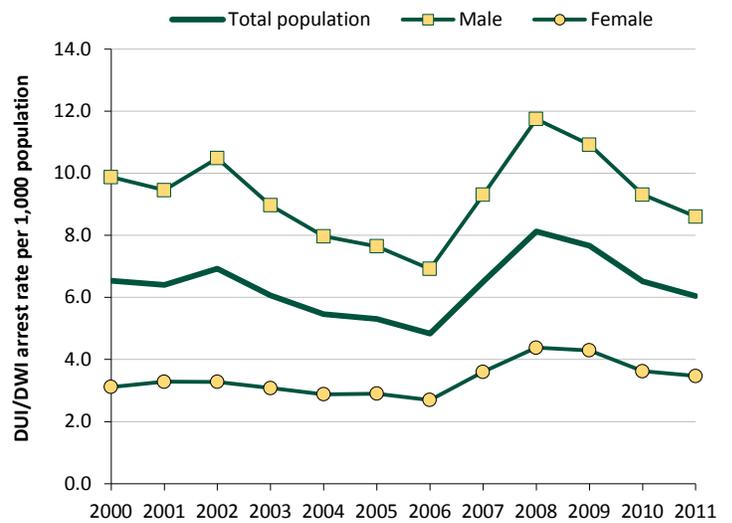
Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2000-2011). Crime in Alaska. Juneau, AK.

DUI/DWI Arrests in Anchorage, 2000–2011.

Figure 5 and Figure 6 present information pertaining to the DUI/DWI arrests reported by APD. Figure 5 presents the DUI/DWI arrest rate (per 1,000 population) for the years 2000 through 2011. Overall, the rate declined slightly (7.7%) over the 2000–2011 period. As with the statewide DUI/DWI arrest rate, however, there were two distinct periods of decline in Anchorage’s DUI/DWI arrest rate since 2000. (Because APD arrests for DUI/DWI comprised more than a third (35.8%) of all DUI/DWI in the state of Alaska between 2000 and

FIGURE 5.

Anchorage Police Department DUI/DWI Arrest Rate by Sex, 2000–2011



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2000-2011). Crime in Alaska. Juneau, AK.

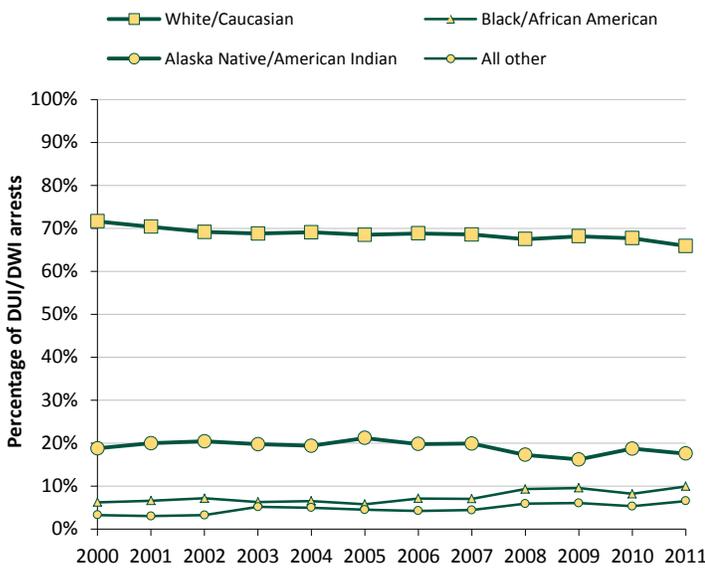
2011, the similarities in the respective trends is not unexpected.) The first drop in the DUI/DWI arrest rate occurred between 2002 and 2006, when it declined from an estimated 6.9 arrests per 1,000 population to an estimated 4.8 arrests per 1,000 (-30.4% change). The second drop in the DUI/DWI arrest rate began in 2008 when it stood at 8.1 arrests per 1,000 population, and continued through 2011 when it was 6.0 per 1,000 residents (-25.9% change).

The DUI/DWI arrest rate for males far surpassed that for females in Anchorage during 2000–2011. On average, 9.3 out of every 1,000 males in Anchorage were arrested between 2000 and 2011. This rate of arrest was 2.7 higher than that for females. Notably, however, the DUI/DWI arrest rates trended in opposite directions. The DUI/DWI arrest rate for females increased by nearly 13%, while the DUI/DWI arrest rate for males fell by 13.1% during the period.

Figure 6 presents the percentages of DUI/DWI arrests according to driver race/ethnicity, as reported by APD. For the 2000–2011 period, an estimated 68.7% of DUI/DWI arrestees were White/Caucasian, 19.1% were Alaska Native/American Indian, 7.5% were Black/African American, and 4.7% belonged to some other racial/ethnic group. While the percentage of White/Caucasian and Alaska Native/American Indian DUI/DWI arrestees

FIGURE 6.

Percentage of Anchorage Police Department DUI/DWI Arrests by Race, 2000–2011



Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2000-2011). *Crime in Alaska. Juneau, AK.*

declined slightly over the period, the percentages of Black/African American drivers and members of other racial/ethnic groups arrested increased dramatically —by 61.3% and 97%, respectively.

TABLE 3.

Percentage of Anchorage Police Department DUI/DWI Arrests by Race, 2000 and 2011

Race/ethnicity	% 2000 arrests	% 2011 arrests	% change 2000–2011
White	71.7 %	65.9 %	-8.1 %
Black	6.2	10	+61.3
Alaska Native	18.8	17.6	-6.4
All other	3.3	6.5	+97.0

Source of data: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records & Identification Bureau (2000-2011). *Crime in Alaska. Juneau, AK.*

Summary. This fact sheet presented DUI/DWI arrest data for the state of Alaska for the 12-year period 2000–2011. During that time, the DUI/DWI arrest rate underwent two distinct periods of decline, the first of which began in 2002 and ended in 2006, and the second, which began in 2008 and continued through 2011. Overall, since 2000 the statewide DUI/DWI arrest rate declined 21.5%.

In excess of three-quarters of all DUI/DWI arrests in Alaska were made by only five Alaska police agencies: AST, APD, FPD, JPD, and WPD. Nearly two-thirds of all DUI/DWI arrests were made by only two of these agencies – AST and APD. With the exception of APD, all of these agencies reported fewer DUI/DWI arrests in 2011 than in 2000. However, while APD’s total number of DUI/DWI arrests increased during the 2000–2011 period, the *rate* of these arrests declined 7.7%, from 6.5 DUI/DWI arrests per 1,000 residents in 2000 to 6.0 DUI/DWI arrests per 1,000 residents in 2011.

In both the statewide data, and the data presented for Anchorage, approximately three out of every four DUI/DWI arrests are of males. However, in both instances, the percentage of male arrests is declining while that for females is increasing. Statewide, the percentage of DUI/DWI arrests attributable to females increased by 21.6%, and in Anchorage the percentage of female DUI/DWI arrests increased by more than 21.2% during the 2000–2011 period.

Changes in the racial/ethnic composition of DUI/DWI arrests were also observed. Statewide, an estimated 72.6% of DUI/DWI arrests were reported by Alaska police agencies between 2000 and 2011 were of White/Caucasian drivers. In 2000 the percentage of DUI/DWI arrests attributable to White/Caucasian drivers was 71.9%; by 2011 this had dropped to 70.8%. The percentage of DUI/DWI arrests of Alaska Native/American Indian drivers also declined between 2000 and 2011, from 22.7% of all DUI/DWI arrests in 2000 to 19.9% of all DUI/DWI arrests in 2011. Meanwhile, the percentages of Black/African American drivers, and drivers of other racial/ethnic groups arrested for DUI/DWI, increased dramatically during the 2000–2011 period (+60% change and +100% change, respectively). For Anchorage, similar findings were reported by APD — declines in the percentages of White/Caucasian and Alaska Native/American Indian drivers arrested for DUI/DWI (-8.1% change and -6.4% change, respectively) and increases in the percentages of Black/African American drivers and drivers of other racial/ethnic groups arrested for DUI/DWI (+61.3% and +97%, respectively).

NOTES

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

First initiated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1930 to measure the volume of crime in the United States, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program collects monthly information from nearly 18,000 law enforcement agencies on eight serious crimes (called Part I offenses) and more than twenty less serious offenses (called Part II offenses). Part I offenses include four violent crimes (murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and four property crimes (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson). These eight offenses are the most frequently cited crimes statistics in the United States.

The primary objective of the UCR program is to produce reliable data on crime for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. UCR data are not intended to be used to rank agencies or the jurisdictions in which they are located, and thus UCR data should not be used to designate American cities, counties, or other jurisdictions as “safe” or “dangerous” in the absence of careful consideration of the limitations of these data.

UCR IN ALASKA

Since 1982 the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Administrative Services, has administered the UCR program for the state of Alaska. The Division of Administrative Services collects, tabulates, reports, and publishes UCR data voluntarily submitted by Alaska law enforcement agencies. As is the case nationally, submitting agencies retain responsibility for the accuracy of the data. Because the UCR is a voluntary program, the number of agencies reporting data to DPS varies from year to year. As of 2011, 34 agencies provided crime data to DPS. An estimated 99.4 percent of the state’s total population fell within the jurisdiction of the submitting agencies.

THE ALASKA JUSTICE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER



ABOUT

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) was established by Administrative Order No. 89, signed by Governor William Sheffield on July 2, 1986. Since that time the AJSAC has been housed within the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center. The AJSAC assists Alaska criminal justice agencies, as well as state and local governments and officials, with the development, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice programs and policies through the collection, analysis, and reporting of crime and justice statistics.

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 AJSAC 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 Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) 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.

Mailing Address

Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive, LIB 213
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Phone/Email

Brad A. Myrstol, Ph.D.
AJSAC Director
(907) 786-1837
bmyrstol@uaa.alaska.edu

ON THE WEB

To learn more about the AJSAC research, please visit our website at: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ajsac/>.



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE
UAA is an EEO/AA employer and educational institution.

© Copyright 2013 Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center, Justice Center, University of Alaska Anchorage