

FACT SHEET



Violent Crimes Compensation Board: Claims, FY 2004–FY 2014

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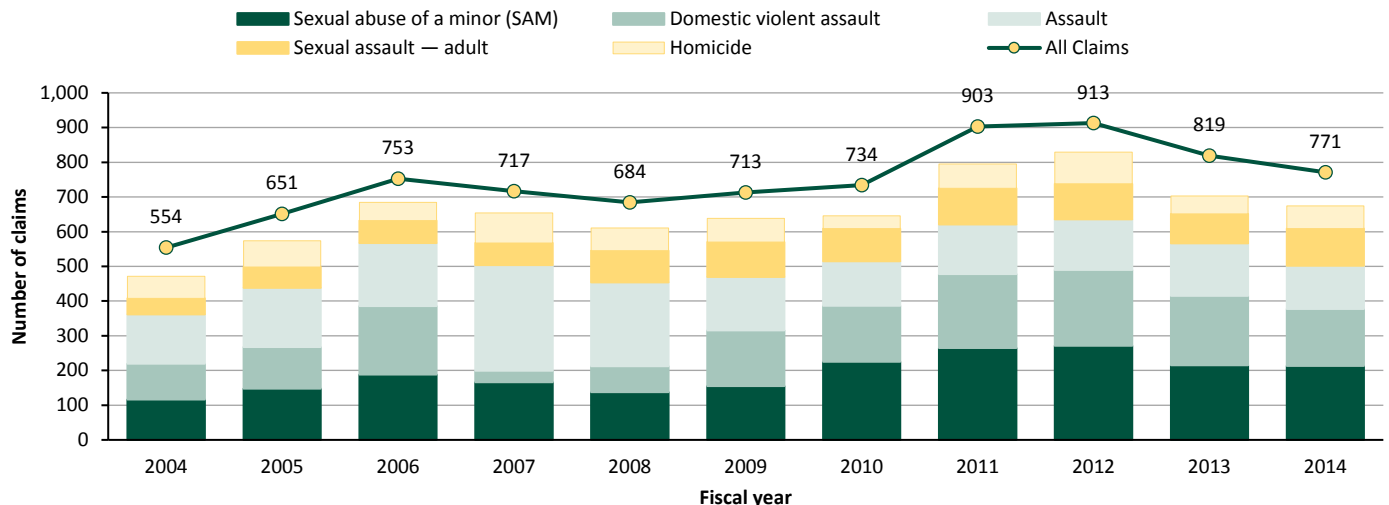
This fact sheet presents data from the Alaska Department of Administration’s Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) for fiscal years 2004 through 2014 on claims arising from violent crimes that were reported to police, and the resulting compensation granted to victims and their family members. The State of Alaska, Department of Administration, Violent Crimes Compensation Board was created by state law in 1972 and is made up of three volunteer members appointed by the governor. The board meets approximately six times each year to determine crime victim compensation claims. The board has the legal authority to award, reduce, deny, defer, or close claims. The decision is based on evidence and

information received from law enforcement officers, prosecution officials, medical and mental health treatment providers, employers, and other claim/crime related information. The VCCB makes awards in a number of ways on behalf of victims of certain violent crimes that occur in Alaska (or in a jurisdiction without a similar compensation board). Both Alaska residents and visitors to Alaska may be eligible for compensation.

Claims. Data for claims are based on state fiscal years, which run from July 1 through June 30. Over the period from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2014, the number of all new claims increased 39.2% (Figure 1). In FY 2004, the VCCB received 554 claims for compensation. By FY 2014, the number of claims had grown to 771. Overall,

FIGURE 1

New claims filed with VCCB by fiscal year, 2004-2014
All claims and claims for top five compensable crimes filed



Source of data: Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board, 2015

8,212 claims were filed with the VCCB for the time period examined. The number of claims submitted to the VCCB increased steadily from FY 2004, peaking in FY 2012 at 913 claims. In FY 2014, the number of claims submitted to the VCCB decreased for the second fiscal year in a row to 771.

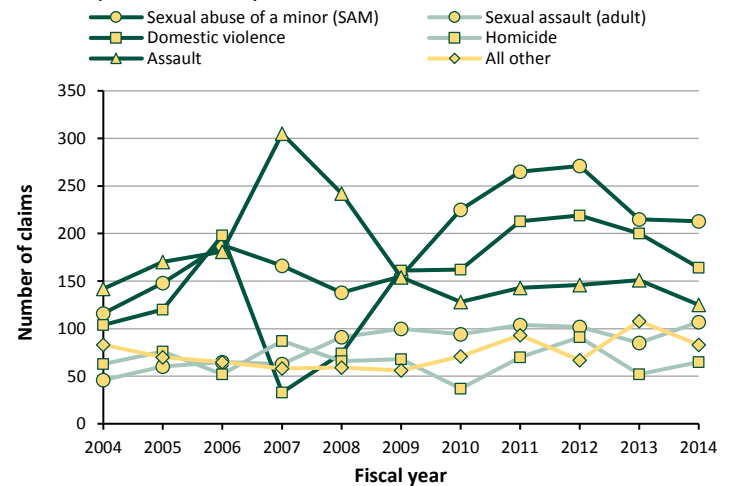
Compensable Crimes. Compensation is considered in cases involving the following violent crimes: homicide, assault in any degree, sexual assault, child abuse (sexual and/or physical), robbery, threats to do bodily harm, crashes involving intoxicated drivers (vehicles, boats, and airplanes), vehicular incidents in which a vehicle has been used as a weapon, terrorism, and human trafficking. On average, the five most common violent crimes resulting in applications for compensation were assault, sexual abuse of a minor (SAM), domestic violence (DV), homicide, and sexual assault of adults (SA) (Figure 2). On average, from FY 2004–FY 2014, 1.5% of all claims filed involved a non-compensable crime.

Assault. Claims for compensation due to assault crimes represented 23.3% of all compensable crime claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 142 claims filed for compensation following an assault, or 25.6% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 125 claims related to assaults were filed with the VCCB, or 16.5% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims based on assaults decreased 12.0%. Claims for compensation for assaults ranged from a low of 125 in FY 2014 to a high of 305 in FY 2007.

Domestic Violence. Claims for compensation due to domestic violence (DV) assault crimes represented 20.4% of all compensable crime claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 104 claims filed for compensation following a DV assault, or 18.8% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 164 claims related to DV assaults were filed with the VCCB, or 21.7% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims based on DV assaults increased 57.7%. Claims for compensation for DV assaults ranged from a low of 33 in FY 2007 to a high of 219 in FY 2012.

FIGURE 2.

VCCB top five claims by crime, FY 2004–FY 2014



Source of data: Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board, 2015

Homicide. Claims for compensation due to homicide crimes represented 9.0% of all compensable crimes for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 63 claims filed for compensation following a homicide, or 11.4% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 65 claims related to homicide were filed with the VCCB, or 8.6% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims based on homicides increased 3.2%. Claims for compensation for homicides ranged from a low of 37 in FY 2010 to a high of 91 in FY 2012.

Sexual Abuse of a Minor. Claims for compensation due to the crime of sexual abuse of a minor (SAM) represented 26.0% of all compensable crime claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 116 claims filed for compensation following a SAM, or 20.9% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 213 claims related to SAMs were filed with the VCCB, or 28.1% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims based on SAM increased 83.6%. Claims for compensation for SAM ranged from a low of 116 in FY 2004 to a high of 271 in FY 2012.

Sexual Assault of Adults. Claims for compensation due to sexual assault of an adult (SA) crimes represented 11.3% of all compensable crime claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 46

claims filed for compensation following an SA, or 8.3% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 107 claims related to SA were filed with the VCCB, or 14.1% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims based on SA more than doubled (+132.6%). Claims for compensation for SA ranged from a low of 46 in FY 2004 to a high of 107 in FY 2014.

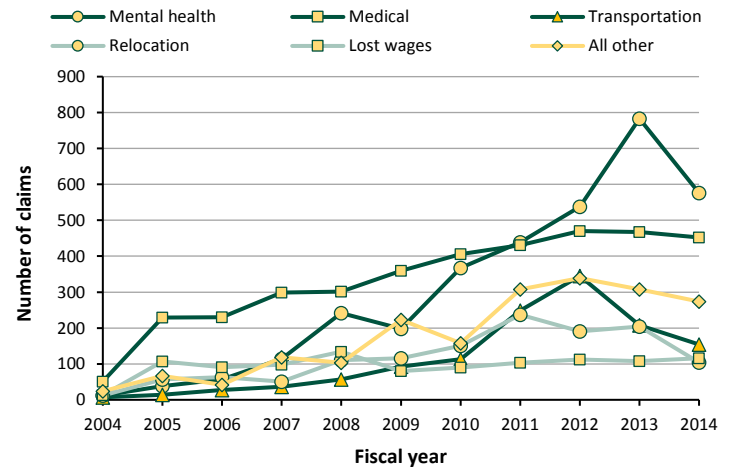
All Other Crimes. Claims for compensation due to all other compensable crimes represented 10.0% of all compensable crime claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 83 claims filed for compensation for all other crimes, or 15.0% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 83 claims related to all other crimes were filed with the VCCB, or 11.0% of all compensable claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims based on all other crimes remained steady. Claims for compensation for all other compensable crimes ranged from a low of 56 in FY 2009 to a high of 108 in FY 2013.

Compensable Expenses. Compensation may be granted for medical expenses, counseling costs, lost income, lost support, funeral expenses and/or other reasonable expenses and losses sustained by victims of violent crimes. Additionally, compensation is available to dependents of deceased victims and victims who are permanently disabled as a direct result of a violent crime. VCCB is a payer of last source and only pays for services not covered by other insurance or benefits available to the claimant. On average, the five most common compensation types awarded by VCCB were for medical care, mental health care, transportation, relocation expenses, and lost wages.

Figure 3 shows the five most commonly claimed compensable expenses, on average, from FY 2004–FY 2014. Claims may include more than one compensable expense, so the total number of compensable expense claims exceeds the total number of applications for compensation.

Medical Expenses. Claims for compensation of medical expenses represented 29.2% of all compensable expense

FIGURE 3.
VCCB top five claims by compensable expense,
FY 2004–FY 2014



Source of data: Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board, 2015

claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 51 claims filed for compensation of medical expenses, or 42.9% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 452 claims for medical expenses were filed with the VCCB, or 27.0% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims for compensation of medical expenses increased nearly eight-fold (+786.3%). Claims for compensation for medical expenses ranged from a low of 51 in FY 2004 to a high of 470 in FY 2012.

Mental Health Care Expenses. Claims for compensation of mental health care expenses represented 26.5% of all compensable expense claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 12 claims filed for compensation of mental health care expenses, or 10.1% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 576 claims for mental health care expenses were filed with the VCCB, or 34.4% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims for compensation of mental health care expenses increased 47-fold (+4,700.0%). Claims for compensation for mental health care expenses ranged from a low of 12 in FY 2004 to a high of 783 in FY 2013.

Transportation Expenses. Claims for compensation of transportation expenses represented 10.3% of all

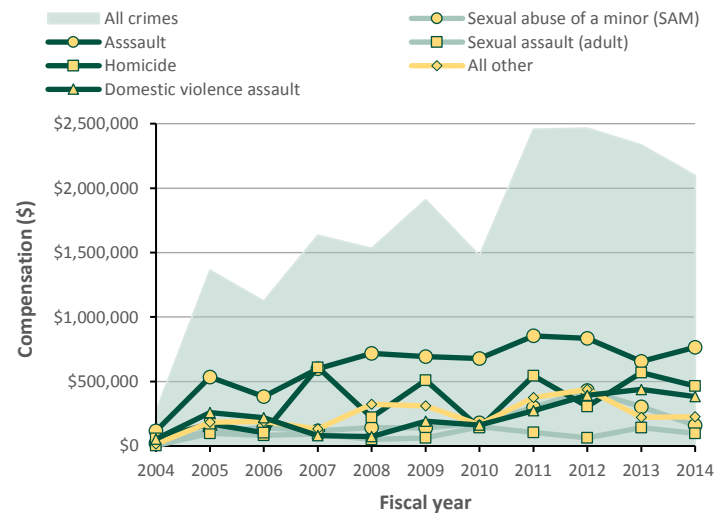
compensable expenses claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 7 claims filed for compensation of transportation expenses, or 5.9% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 154 claims for transportation expenses were filed with the VCCB, or 9.2% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims for transportation expenses increased 21-fold (+2,100.0%). Claims for compensation for transportation expenses ranged from a low of 7 in FY 2004 to a high of 345 in FY 2012.

Relocation Expenses. Claims for compensation of relocation expenses represented 10.2% of all compensable expenses claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 12 claims filed for compensation of relocation expenses, or 10.1% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 104 claims for relocation expenses were filed with the VCCB, or 6.2% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims for relocation expenses increased more than seven-fold (+766.7%). Claims for compensation for relocation expenses ranged from a low of 12 in FY 2004 to a high of 237 in FY 2011.

Lost Wages. Claims for compensation of lost wages represented 8.3% of all compensable expenses claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 13 claims filed for compensation of lost wages, or 10.9% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 116 claims for lost wages were filed with the VCCB, or 6.9% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims for lost wages increased nearly eight-fold (+792.3%). Claims for compensation for lost wages ranged from a low of 13 in FY 2004 to a high of 134 in FY 2008.

All Other Expenses. Claims for compensation of all other expenses represented 15.5% of all compensable expenses claims for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2004, there were 24 claims filed for compensation of all other expenses, or 20.2% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2004. In FY 2014, 274 claims

FIGURE 4.
VCCB compensation totals (current U.S. dollars) by crime, FY 2004–FY 2014



Source of data: Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board, 2015

for all other expenses were filed with the VCCB, or 16.3% of all compensable expense claims filed in FY 2014. Over the period, the number of claims for all other expenses increased more than ten-fold (+1,041.7%). Claims for compensation for all other expenses ranged from a low of 24 in FY 2004 to a high of 339 in FY 2012.

Compensation. Overall, victims of violent crimes received a total of \$18,657,916 in current dollars¹ from VCCB from FY 2004 to FY 2014. The average compensation per compensable crime claim was \$2,272 over the period. In FY 2004, compensation was made in the amount of \$268,887 in current dollars. In FY 2014, victim compensation totaled \$2,097,892. Over the time period, the amount of distributions increased more than six-fold (+680.2%). Compensation for all claims ranged from a low of \$268,887 in FY 2004 to a high of \$2,464,943 in FY 2012 (Figure 4).

Assault. Compensation to victims for assault crimes represented 36.6% of all compensation paid for the period

1. The use of current dollars represents an effort to remove the effects of price changes from a statistical series reported in dollar terms. The result is a series as it would presumably exist if prices were the same throughout the series as they were in 2014 — in other words, as if the dollar had constant purchasing power. For this report, all dollar values have been adjusted to current dollars as of 2014 using the CPI-U reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

from FY 2004–FY 2014. The average compensation per assault claim was \$3,623 over the period. In FY 2004, \$116,522 in current dollars was paid to victims following an assault, or 43.3% of all compensation paid in FY 2004. In FY 2014, \$765,560 was paid to victims of assaults, or 36.5% of all compensation paid in FY 2014. Over the period, the amount of compensation paid based on assaults increased more than five-fold (+557.0%). Compensation for all victims of assault ranged from a low of \$116,522 in FY 2004 to a high of \$853,707 in FY 2011. The total compensation for assault claims was \$6,835,718 for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014.

Domestic Violence. Compensation to victims for domestic violence assault crimes represented 13.6% of all compensation paid for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. The average compensation per DV claim was \$1,534 over the period. In FY 2004, \$53,980 in current dollars was paid to victims following a domestic violence assault, or 20.1% of all compensation paid in FY 2004. In FY 2014, \$383,665 was paid to victims of domestic violence assaults, or 18.3% of all compensation paid in FY 2014. Over the period, the amount of compensation paid based on domestic violence assaults increased more than six-fold (+610.8%). Compensation for all victims of domestic violence assault ranged from a low of \$53,980 in FY 2004 to a high of \$438,877 in FY 2013. The total compensation for domestic violence assault claims was \$2,527,570 for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014.

Homicide. Compensation to families of victims for homicide crimes represented 19.9% of all compensation paid for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. The average compensation per homicide claim was \$5,096 over the period. In FY 2004, \$59,132 in current dollars was paid to families of victims following a homicide, or 22.0% of all compensation paid in FY 2004. In FY 2014, \$465,630 was paid to families of victims of homicides, or 22.2% of all compensation paid in FY 2014. Over the period, the amount of compensation paid based on homicides increased more than six-fold (+687.4%). Compensation for all families of victims of homicide ranged from a low of \$59,132 in FY 2004 to a high of \$610,160 in FY 2007. The total compensation for homicide claims was \$3,704,664 for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014.

Sexual Abuse of a Minor. Compensation to victims for SAM crimes represented 11.1% of all compensation paid for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. The average compensation per SAM claim was \$979 over the period. In FY 2004, \$20,143 in current dollars was paid to victims following a SAM, or 7.5% of all compensation paid in FY 2004. In FY 2014, \$160,526 was paid to victims of SAMs, or 7.7% of all compensation paid in FY 2014. Over the period, the amount of compensation paid based on SAMs increased more than six-fold (+696.9%). Compensation for all victims of SAM ranged from a low of \$20,143 in FY 2004 to a high of \$430,947 in FY 2012. The total compensation for sexual abuse of a minor claims was \$2,055,708 for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014.

Sexual Assault (Adult). Compensation to victims for SA crimes represented 5.0% of all compensation paid for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. The average compensation per SA claim was \$1,034 over the period. In FY 2004, \$3,308 in current dollars was paid to victims following a SA, or 1.2% of all compensation paid in FY 2004. In FY 2014, \$96,847 was paid to victims of SAs, or 4.6% of all compensation paid in FY 2014. Over the period, the amount of compensation paid based on SAs increased more than 28-fold (+2,827.7%). Compensation for all victims of SA ranged from a low of \$3,308 in FY 2004 to a high of \$149,502 in FY 2010. The total compensation for sexual assault crime claims was \$948,451 for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014.

All Other Crimes. (Data not shown) Compensation to victims for all other crimes represented 13.8% of all compensation paid for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014. The average compensation per all other crimes claim was \$3,181 over the period. In FY 2004, \$15,802 in current dollars was paid to victims following all other crimes, or 5.9% of all compensation paid in FY 2004. In FY 2014, \$225,664 was paid to victims of all other crimes, or 10.8% of all compensation paid in FY 2014. Over the period, the amount of compensation paid based on all other crimes increased more than 13-fold (+1,328.1%). Compensation for all victims of all other crimes ranged from a low of \$15,802 in FY 2004 to a high of \$438,400 in FY 2012. The total compensation

for all other crime claims was \$2,585,805 for the period from FY 2004–FY 2014.

SUMMARY

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board was established in 1972 to help mitigate financial hardships victims can suffer as a direct result of violent crime. Victims of violent crime may apply for reimbursement of costs directly associated with their victimization. Claims are reviewed and acted upon by the three volunteer members of the board.

Claims. The number of victim claims for compensation submitted to VCCB steadily increased from FY 2004 until FY 2012. In FY 2014, the number of all claims decreased for the second year in a row since FY 2008 — a drop of 5.9% from FY 2013 to FY 2014. Overall, VCCB received 8,212 claims for compensation from FY 2004 to FY 2014.

Compensable Crimes. For the period, on average, the five most common violent crimes resulting in claims for victim compensation were sexual abuse of a minor (SAM) (26.0%), assault (23.3%), domestic violence assaults (DV) (20.4%), sexual assault of adults (SA) (11.3%), and homicide (9.0%). The remaining 10.0% included all other **compensable** crime claims. Non-compensable crime claims accounted for 1.5% of **all** claims submitted to the VCCB. In FY 2014, the most common crimes associated with compensable victim claims were SAM (28.1%), DV (21.7%), assault (16.5%), homicide (8.6%), and SA (14.1%). The remaining 11.0% included all other **compensable** crime claims. Non-

compensable crime claims accounted for 1.8% of **all** claims submitted to the VCCB in FY 2014.

Compensable Expenses. For the period, on average, the five most common compensable expenses were medical care (29.2%), mental health treatment (26.5%), transportation (10.3%), relocation (10.2%), and lost wages (8.3%). The remaining 15.5%, on average, covers all other compensable expenses claims. In FY 2014, the most common expenses associated with victim claims for compensation were mental health treatment (34.4%), medical care (27.0%), transportation (9.2%), lost wages (6.9%), and relocation (6.2%), with all other expenses accounting for 16.3% of all expenses claimed.

Compensation. Over the examined period, from FY 2004 through FY 2014, VCCB provided more than \$18.6 million in current dollars in victim compensation. On average, the five most common crimes for which victims were compensated were: assault (36.6%, or \$6.8 million), homicide (19.9%, or \$3.7 million), DV (13.6%, or \$2.5 million), SAM (11.1%, or \$2.1 million), and SA (5.0%, or nearly \$1 million). All other compensable crimes accounted for 13.8% (\$2.6 million) of all compensation paid from FY 2004–FY 2014. In FY 2014, the most commonly compensated crimes were assault (36.5%, or \$765,560), homicide (22.2%, or \$465,630), DV (18.3%, or \$383,665), SAM (7.7%, or \$160,526), SA (4.6%, or \$96,847), with the balance of compensation being paid for all other compensable crimes (10.8%, or \$225,664). Total compensation paid in FY 2014 was \$2,097,892.

NOTES

Number of filed claims does not represent all victims of violent crimes, nor all costs associated with being a victim of a violent crime.

FUNDING

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board is funded through both state and federal funds. Approximately 62% of the amount awarded annually in compensation comes from a legislative appropriation of state funds. These state funds are currently available because Permanent Fund dividends are withheld from certain persons convicted of crimes in Alaskan courts and earmarked for use by victim-focused programs such as the VCCB.

In 1984, the federal Victims of Crime Act established a Crime Victims Fund. This Fund is used to support both State crime victim compensation programs and State victim assistance programs. Funds are made available annually to state crime victim compensation programs by way of a formula grant program. Alaska's compensation program must qualify annually for its federal grant and has done so successfully since the federal fund's inception. Approximately 38% of the monies awarded to victims in Alaska annually come from this federal fund.

More information about the VCCB is available at: <http://doa.alaska.gov/vccb/home.html>.

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.

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

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