Gathering Perceptions on School Resource Officers in Alaska

Student Researchers: Jasmine Jones, Jazmin Ruiz-Reyes, & Hunter Beck

Faculty: Mychal Machado, Psychology
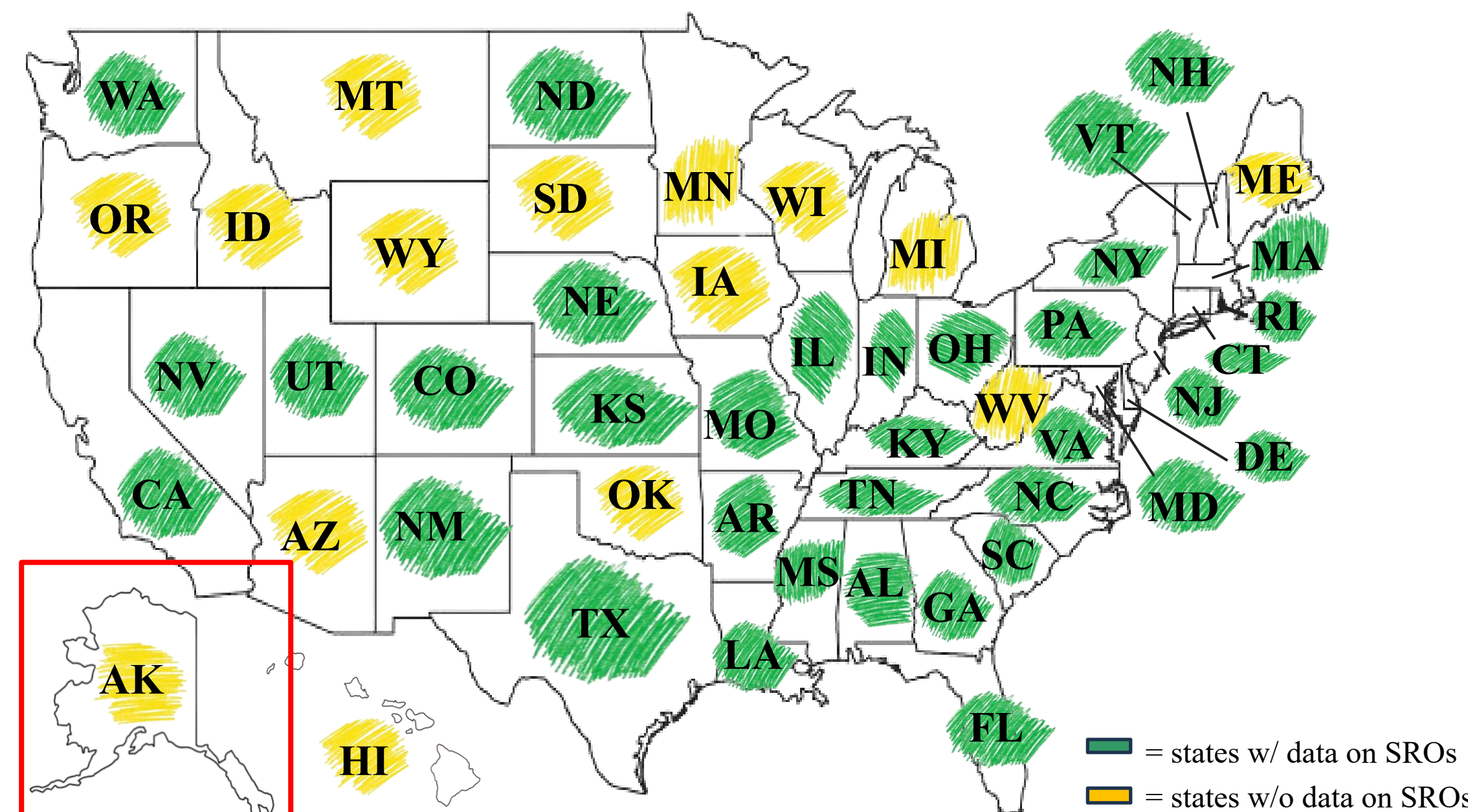
Community Partners: Anchorage School Resource Officers Unit, Anchorage Police Department, & Anchorage School District

INTRODUCTION

➢ School Resource Officers (SROs) are a security-related approach that schools have implemented to increase school safety (James & McCallion, 2013)

➢ SROs are law enforcement officers who receive training through the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and through the collaborating police department working with the schools (NASRO, 2023)

Purpose

➢ Study 1 measured Anchorage SROs' location, population served, training, and responsibilities

➢ This study seeks to:

→ Understand the acceptability, efficacy, and legitimacy of SROs in AK high schools (Fisher & Devlin, 2019)

→ Compare perceptions of SROs gathered from this study to national trends

= states w/ data on SROs
= states w/o data on SROs

METHODS

➢ Recruitment: word-of-mouth, flyers posted on campus, UAA Psychology Research Portal, and UAA Psychology Club Discord and Thread

→ Inclusion criteria: UAA college students 18 years or older who graduated from an AK high school with an active SRO program

→ Target sample size: 100 -150 UAA college students who meet inclusion criteria

➢ Qualtrics survey

→ 10 to 15 minute online questionnaire

→ Screening questions will be at the beginning of the survey to exclude ineligible participants

→ Survey will assess perceptions of SROs using statements rated on a Likert scale and collect demographic data

➢ Two surveys will be administered and stored separately

→ Primary survey: Responses about participants' perceptions of SROs

→ Secondary, optional survey: Contact information (names and email addresses) of participants who have completed the primary survey and wish to enter a raffle to win 1 of 10 $45 gift cards

NEXT STEPS

➢ Study status: in progress, IRB has approved

→ Survey is live in the UAA Psychology Research Portal

→ Funding for participation incentives has been obtained through CCEL and UAA McNair Scholars Program

➢ Data collection will last over two months, followed by analysis of trends and differences across groups

→ Perceptions data will be stored and managed by the PI and authorized student researchers

→ Study findings will be disseminated through anonymized, aggregated reports

o Findings will be published in peer-reviewed academic journals and shared with stakeholders and community organizations

o Results will provide insight to improve SRO programs

*Scan QR Code to access the survey →

UAA Department of Psychology
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

UAA Center for Community Engagement and Learning
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE