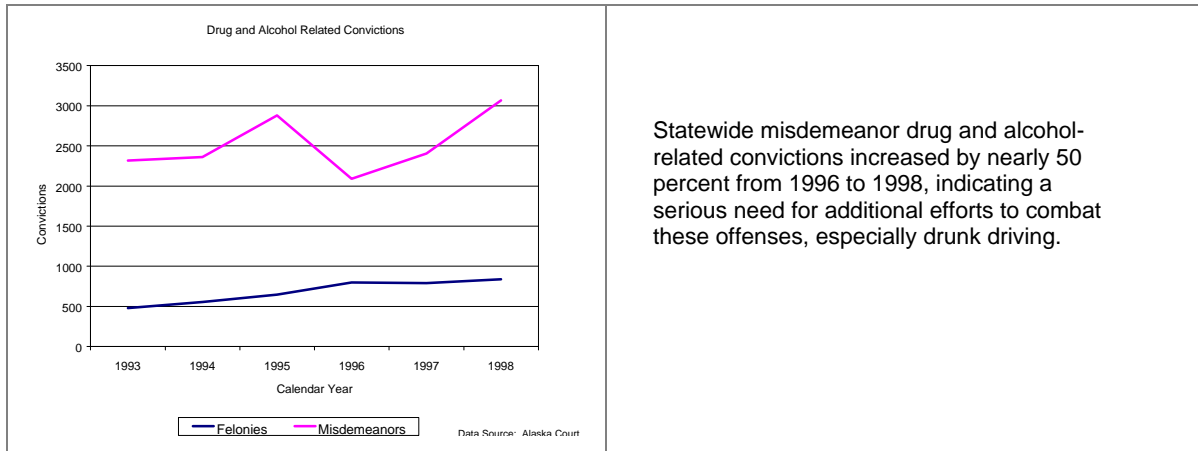


# Governor's Priorities: Healthy, Safe Communities

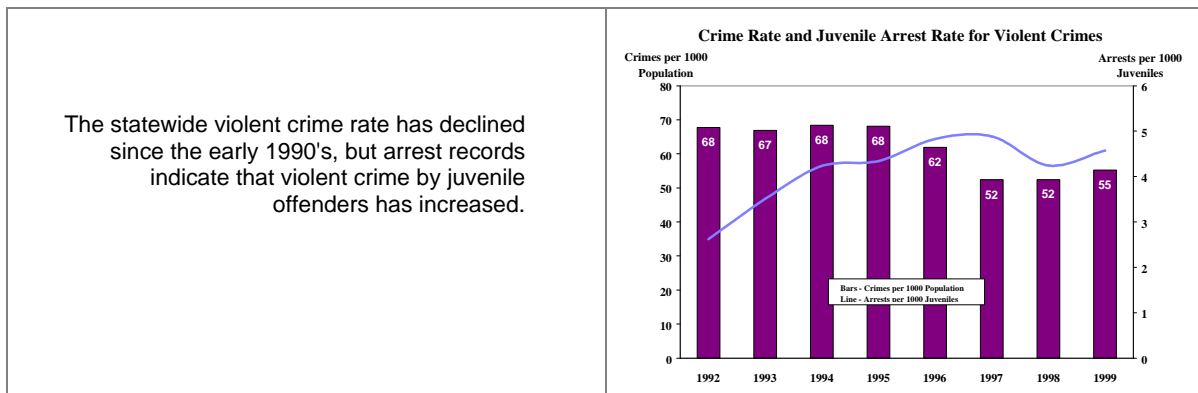
*Desired Result: Healthy, safe communities that support and promote health and prosperity for Alaska's youth and families.*

## KEY BASELINE INDICATORS FOR HEALTHY, SAFE COMMUNITIES:

(Click on images to view larger version, use the back key to return to this page.)

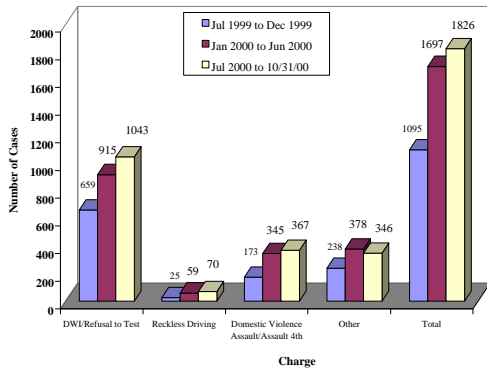


Statewide misdemeanor drug and alcohol-related convictions increased by nearly 50 percent from 1996 to 1998, indicating a serious need for additional efforts to combat these offenses, especially drunk driving.



The statewide violent crime rate has declined since the early 1990's, but arrest records indicate that violent crime by juvenile offenders has increased.

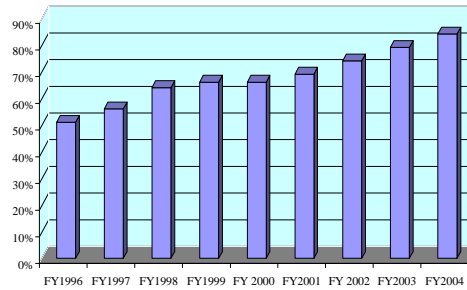
Anchorage Alcohol Safety Action Program - New Case Statistics



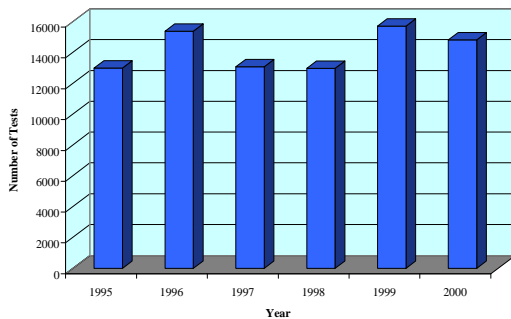
Statistics for alcohol-related crimes in the Anchorage area show a large increase in arrests for driving while intoxicated, domestic violence, and other alcohol-related crimes from 1999 to 2000. While some of this increase in arrests may be due to increased enforcement efforts, the statistics confirm a growing problem in alcohol-related crimes.

The percentage of Alaska village households with running water and sewer services has increased from under 50 percent in FY 1996 to 69 percent in FY 2001. Over 80 percent of rural homes will have these services by FY 2004.

Alaska Village Households with Running Water & Sewer Services

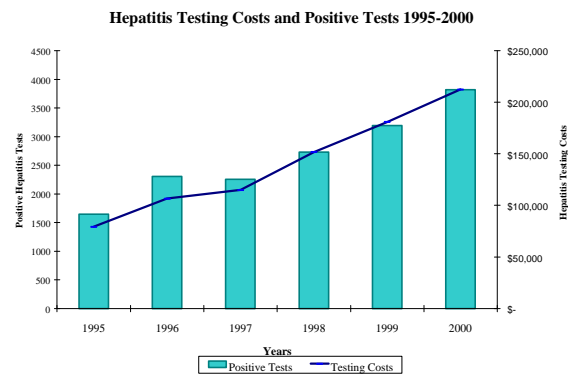


Tuberculosis Testing 1995-2000



Tuberculosis has once again become a significant threat to public health in Alaska. The State Division of Public Health processed over 14,000 tests for tuberculosis in FY 2000. Although the number of Alaskans with active tuberculosis is relatively small, each person with TB can potentially expose many other people. Each person who is exposed to TB disease must be located, interviewed, tested, and then treated, when indicated; in order to contain the spread of tuberculosis.

Hepatitis is a growing health problem in Alaska. Both the number of cases of hepatitis and the cost of testing for the disease have more than doubled since 1995.



## GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

### 1 Ensure that Alaska's families are healthy.

- Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.
- Reduce the use of tobacco products.
- Reduce alcohol consumption, especially by pregnant women and youth.
- Address the root causes of public health problems such as TB and hepatitis by ensuring safe drinking water and sewage disposal systems, and aggressively treat disease outbreaks.
- Ensure that Alaskan families continue to have basic safety nets for health care, food and shelter.

### 2 Ensure that Alaska's communities are healthy.

- Meet rural Alaska's needs for improved drinking water, sewer, landfill, and bulk fuel storage facilities.
- Assist communities with training and other support for proper maintenance of utility systems to maintain health standards and minimize future system problems and expenses.
- Protect the quality of Alaska's environment by working with communities, industry and other Alaska stakeholders to promote and implement effective air and water quality standards.
- Address the serious issue of persistent organic pollutants (generated in other

regions of the globe and transported to the arctic by ocean and atmospheric currents) with a cabinet-level team that will coordinate efforts in-state and with the federal government and international organizations.

- Ensure safe transportation of oil and minerals through effective regulation and working relationships with industry, assure effective oil spill contingency plans are in place, and be fully prepared to respond effectively to oil spills and other environmental disasters.
- Focus on prevention of environmental problems and monitoring of environmental quality, but also deal promptly and effectively with those whose irresponsible actions damage our land, water, and air.
- Work closely with communities and the federal government on coastal management issues.
- Reduce the loss of life from residential fires through focused prevention programs.
- Improve emergency response capabilities with an integrated emergency management system to protect the lives and property of Alaskans in time of disaster.

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### 3 Ensure public safety in our communities.

- Recognizing that alcohol is the single greatest contributor to crime in Alaska, provide needed intervention and prevention services and impose tough, unavoidable consequences on offenders.
- Address two proven contributors to both juvenile and adult crime: child abuse and neglect, and poor student performance in school.
- Expand early intervention efforts to work with juvenile offenders before more serious offenses are committed.
- Ensure early intervention for juveniles by referring first-time and minor offenders to youth courts, which provide a swift response to the offense, and promote accountability.
- Close the revolving door in the criminal justice system by establishing a coordinated, modern justice information network.
- Expand law enforcement presence in rural Alaska.
- Resolve appropriate allocations of criminal justice responsibilities between the state and local governments.
- Continue to implement the recommendations of the Governor's Conference on Youth and Justice.

#### Highlights of progress in 2000

- ☑ Increased general fund support by 700 percent for a comprehensive tobacco control program to discourage smoking, including smoking by young Alaskans.
- ☑ Strengthened laws to prosecute operators of methamphetamine labs to combat the increasing use of this drug.
- ☑ Formally recognized Alaska's tribes and began discussions to define the nature of a government-to-government relationship between the state and the tribes.

- ☑ Expanded village mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
- ☑ Trained approximately 120 tribal and village police officers, better preparing them to handle public safety issues in their villages.
- ☑ Continued partnerships with tribal entities to improve rural Alaska health care.
- ☑ Increased Native households with adequate water and sewage service from 64% to 69%.
- ☑ Participated in international treaty negotiations to control persistent organic pollutants.
- ☑ Coordinated the first-time collection of household hazardous waste and batteries from 10 communities along the Yukon River and eliminated dumping of over 250 fifty-five gallon drums of household hazardous wastes into southeast Alaska landfills.
- ☑ Ensured prompt and effective cleanup and restoration of the environment from over 65 significant spills and 49 contaminated sites throughout Alaska.
- ☑ Improved statewide hazardous materials response capability through training and demonstration exercises coordinated with local officials and negotiation of community spill response agreements with eleven local governments (bringing the total to 34).
- ☑ Expanded efforts to monitor and reduce cruise ship water and air pollution.