

A General Study of Criminal Justice Practices In Alaska versus The United States

By

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Abstract:

This thesis examines the level of crime and practices of preventing crime in three places, Alaska, New York, and Washington D.C. First the thesis reviews the crime history of each to include violent crimes rates. It will then give a general history of drug trafficking and how it continues to be a problem. Statistical data on drug related offenses will be provided for each place. Also, this thesis will give a general history of human trafficking, to include the definition as it pertains to federal government laws. This thesis will also discuss how human trafficking affects people that live in these places and provide recent cases that made headline news. Furthermore it will discuss the impact terrorism has had on the lives of the American people and how it pertains to each location. Finally, the thesis will examine how each place is affected by these crimes and compare whether each location has a particular method of dealing with each international crime, and the measure each location is taking in order to prevent future crimes.

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Introduction

The objective of this paper is to provide a general study of how Alaska, if it does at all, differentiates from New York City and Washington D.C. in criminal justice practice.

Thus, this paper will give a brief history of each locations crime rate and how they compare nationally.

It will then give a deep history of how three international crimes, drug trafficking, human trafficking and terrorism, are affecting the locations. It will paint picture of how drug trafficking occurs in each locations and how it is detrimental to the population. Also it will provide information on the new human trafficking acts, cases that occurred in each location, and what each location is doing to prevent the spread of human trafficking.

Lastly it will provide information of how terrorist acts have affected our nation and the incidents that may or may not have happened in these locations. To conclude, it will explain what each location is doing to protect its citizens and resources from future acts of terrorism.

Further more, it will be a comparative analysis of how Alaska compares to New York and Washington D.C in its dealings of three different problems that are on the rise across the United States. This paper will attempt to explore in depth how each major U.S cities deals with the three different areas in criminal justice and the effects of each.

Crime History

The State of Alaska was purchased by the United States Senate from Russia in 1867 for \$\$7,200,000, but was not sworn in to statehood until July 7, 1958. Alaska has a population of 663,611, with 4, 554 being in prison (DEA Alaska, 2007). Alaska is ranked 7th nationally in violent crimes. The state is very different from others in regards to climate, trends, and landscape, and when people think of Alaska, they don't think of crime. Alaska may not be as populated as the Lower 48 States, but crime does exist in the far north. In the year 2005, the city of Anchorage, which is Alaska's main city, had 2, 031 violent crimes. Violent crimes, defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR), includes murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Of the 2,031 violent crimes, 16 were murders, 224 forcible rapes, 384 robberies, and 1,407 aggravated assaults (U.S. Department of Justice, 2006). Although these numbers may not represent all violent crimes that occurred, due to non-reporting, these are the numbers reported by local law enforcement.

New York City is the most populous city in the United States. The state of New York has the population of 19,254,630, and of that population, 63,751 are in prison. New York City is divided up into five boroughs: Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. Between these 5 boroughs the population of 8.1 million is within a land area of 321 square miles (Wikipedia), and is ranked 21 in the National Violent crime rating. New York City's business, financial, and trading organizations plays a major role in the economy of the nation, as well as the world. New York City is also known as the "City

That Never Sleeps,” therefore, the neither does the crime life. In the year 2005, there were 54,623 violent crimes committed in New York City. Violent crimes are defined as violent crimes by the UCR. Of the 54,623 violent crimes, 539 were murders; 1,412 forcible rapes; 24,722 robberies; and 27,950 aggravated assaults (U.S. Department of Justice, 2006).

Washington D.C., sometimes referred to as the District of Columbia, is the nation’s capital. At one point in time the city was highly known for the racially segregated schools (Wikipedia). Even though times have changed, Washington D.C. is referred to as a symbol of American Pride, due to the city being home of the White House. This tourist spot is also a well known hot spot for crime as well. In 2006, 571,822 people resided in the city and of that population, 3,000 are in prison (DEA Washington D.C., 2006).

Although, the criminal breakdown of crimes has not been tallied for the year 2006; in 2005, 7,716 violent crimes where committed in the city. Violent crimes are considered the same violent crimes categorized by the UCR. According to Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation (2006), the city’s highest crime rates came from 3, 854 aggravated assaults and 3, 502 robberies. The city had a much lower rate of murder and forcible rape.

Drug Trafficking

Due to Alaska's non-contiguous location with the rest of the United States, along with its shared border with Canada, it is both a transshipment state as well as a consumer state for controlled substances. Dominican and Mexican organizations are the primary source of drug trafficking in Alaska. The state has one of the highest per capita uses of controlled substances (DEA Alaska, 2007). Alaska also has an equally high incidence of alcoholism, rape, and suicide compared to the rest of the U.S. The common drugs that are trafficked to and from Alaska are cocaine, heroin or oxycontin, methamphetamine, club drugs, and marijuana.

The trafficking of cocaine in Alaska is controlled primarily by Mexican and Dominican organizations. Cocaine is usually transported via the Caribbean and/or Mexico, eventually making its way to the Continental U.S. and then on to Alaska. Both organizations get the cocaine from the Lower 48 states and continue to be a threat to Alaska because both organizations deal with powdered cocaine and crack cocaine. Cocaine acts as a fast stimulant and has a short duration. Due to the fact that the "high" is short lived, the demand for the drug is great; therefore, distributors and dealers make a great profit from the extremely high demand. Due to Alaska's location, the Mexican and Dominican organizations are able to resell cocaine in Alaska at grossly inflated rates, meaning they can make a large profit from one big distribution.

Heroin is another drug that is constantly being trafficked into Alaska. Small amounts of black heroin are available, which is also controlled by Mexican organizations. Black

heroin is a dark, sticky, extremely potent and highly addictive form of heroin, the purity of which is often as high as 60 to 70 percent. Another drug that has similar effects of heroin is oxycontin, which is the drug of choice for heroin abusers. Oxycontin is a prescribed pain reliever used to alleviate moderate to severely moderate pain. There has been a drastic increase in the number of forged prescriptions for oxycontin, which is a drug that takes the form of a tablet and can be sold on the street anywhere from \$30-\$50 per tablet. The tablet is chewed or crushed so it can be inhaled, or even injected for an immediate rush (DEA Alaska, 2007). Oxycontin is highly addictive and the known side effects of drowsiness, confusion, nausea, and vomiting. Users can go many lengths to attain the high, to include activities such as robbery, forgery and even death.

One of the largest illicit drugs threats in Alaska is methamphetamine. There has been an increase in the number of methamphetamine labs surfacing all over the state in places such as trailers, motels, and car trunks. There has even been some effort by local lawmakers in an attempt to slow the increase of methamphetamine labs by removing any cold remedies that contain pseudo ephedrine. These cold remedies are still for sale but are kept behind the counter so they are not so accessible and are easily monitored.

Methamphetamine is manufactured in large labs in Mexico and Southern California, then transported and distributed in Alaska. In recent times there has been an enhanced amount of trafficking of methamphetamines in the form of tablets from Burma and Laos. The street name for these tablets is “yaba” which is also becoming highly available in the state (DEA Alaska, 2007).

A new set of drugs is beginning to surface in Alaska, which are ecstasy (MDMA), GHB, GBL, better known as club drugs. These drugs are beginning to become a threat to Alaska due to the ecstasy demand at the “rave” parties. Rave parties are very popular amongst the younger crowd in the Anchorage and Fairbanks area. The reason why ecstasy is popular at raves is because it “creates an amphetamine-like stimulation that enables “ravers” to dance for extended periods of time without tiring” (DEA Alaska, 2007). Drug trafficking organizations are acquiring small amounts of ecstasy for distribution, along with other drugs.

Marijuana is the most abused and widespread drug in Alaska. A vast number of people grow their own for personal and on a commercial scale. It is considered the gateway drug because it opens the door to experimenting with and/or use of stronger drugs. In June 2002, Governor Frank Murkowski signed a HB49, which is a bill that re-criminalizes the use and possession of marijuana. Almost all of the marijuana in Alaska is harvested in an indoor setting. There has been recent debate about legalizing the drug. The proposition on the table is that by state law, it is legal to have four ounces or less in the privacy of your own home for personal use. I do not think this will pass because the possession of marijuana is illegal by federal laws. The availability of marijuana is smuggled from Canada and continues to increase in the Anchorage area.

Not only is drug trafficking a problem in Alaska but in New York as well. New York City has long been home to numerous drug trafficking organizations. As a result of the city’s large, diverse, and multi-class population, the demand for these organizations is of

great magnitude. New York City also acts as the focal point of smuggling drugs to other East Coast destinations, and to Canada and Europe as well.

When it comes to the trafficking of cocaine, Columbian and Mexican drugs trafficking organizations are the primary transporters and distributors (DEA New York, 2007). They smuggle in hundreds of kilograms of cocaine into New York City via tractor-trailers and cargo. Once the shipment is received, it is then distributed in smaller amounts throughout the metropolitan area. New York City is the source of supply to other organizations operating in the eastern U.S. Most of the cocaine that enters New York City is transported in vehicles and tractor-trailers from large distributors in border areas such as Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas.

Heroin is a drug that is readily available from Columbian and Dominican organizations in the metropolitan area. Some of the world's most pure heroin is on the streets of New York City and originates from Columbia based traffickers. Due to the Columbians using the same distribution methods and money-laundering techniques as they do for cocaine, they quickly have captured the heroin market. The Columbian heroin is smuggled into New York by ingesters arriving at JFK airport, on direct flights from Columbia.

Columbian heroin trafficking smugglers get heroin in by the use of cargo shipments, soaking heroin into the clothing, putting it in shoes, furniture, and golf bags. They even chemically impregnate heroin into plastic, which is then molded into common shapes (DEA New York, 2007). Columbian heroin is also smuggles in to New York through Mexico and then by vehicle driven from the southwest U.S. This route is similar to that of

cocaine, which causes an increase in the trafficking and abusing of these drugs. Even dealers from upstate regions often buy heroin from New York City and then return to their respective home areas.

Methamphetamine trafficking is not that much of a problem when compared to heroin, cocaine, crack, and MDMA (ecstasy). However, New York City's primary supplier of crystal methamphetamine (powder form) is the west coast. This powder is then supplied by local clandestine labs, which are beginning to appear more often. Although methamphetamine is not a popular drug for trafficking, it is a drug that organizations earn a profit; moreover, making it just as dangerous as any other drug.

New York City continues to experience high traffic volumes of MDMA, also known as ecstasy that is being supplied by Belgium and Netherlands manufactures. As of recent times, Canada has gotten involved in becoming a significant source of ecstasy production. Ecstasy is smuggled into the U.S. by body carriers, overnight mail and air/sea cargo. Israeli drug traffickers began dominating the ecstasy drug trade, but due to the large profits of ecstasy; Dominican, Russian, Mexican, Columbian, Asian, and the traditional organized crime groups, are now importing and distributing the drug. Ecstasy is found to be more common in the New York clubs where it is sold with logos, making it easier for users to locate a brand name (DEA New York, 2007)

The majority of marijuana that is entering New York City is of Mexican Origin. It is mostly smuggled by auto/truck transport from Southwestern U.S. The use of Federal

Express and United Parcel Services has been accounted as a means of transport. Law enforcement agencies continue to report an increase in the shipment of marijuana from Jamaica, which in turn is then transported and distributed by Jamaican traffickers. It has also been indicated that there is an increase of shipments from Canada, where the marijuana is primarily indoor grown.

Khat and pharmaceutical diversion also add to the drug trafficking problem in New York City. Khat is a plant that is cultivated in Kenya and Ethiopia. The leaves of the plant are usually chewed and then held in the cheek. It produces a feeling of euphoria and stimulation; however due to the extreme side effects, this is not a very desired drug. The diversion of hydrocodone products such as Vicodin does continue to be a challenge. The primary methods of diversion are forged prescriptions, illegal sales and distribution by health care professionals, and a rather new technique known as “doctor shopping.” Doctor shopping consists of going to a number of doctors to get prescriptions for controlled pharmaceuticals (DEA New York, 2007).

The drug epidemic is a problem in cities all across the country; therefore, the nation’s capital is not excluded. When it comes to drugs, Washington D.C. is plagued by the violence surrounded by crack cocaine distribution. Cocaine and crack is the root to the drug problem in the city. Although statistics have shown a steady decline in violent, drug related crimes; the violence associated with the trafficking of crack remains high. The large amount of low income and project housing makes the neighborhood corners fluid with users, which makes these parts of town a paradise for dealers. Users from the

surrounding areas of Virginia and Maryland commute to these drug filled neighborhoods to satisfy their addiction.

Washington D.C. is home to many drugs users, but not so much for heroin addicts. The heroin found on the streets of D.C. is primarily of South American origin, however, it is not uncommon to find some from other sources as well, such as Southwest Asia. The heroin shops that are set up around the city are set up with a specific population in mind. The markets that are located along commuter routes into the city peddle high purity heroin to suburban users, while shops located near methadone clinics tend to service long-term addicts with a low purity of heroin (DEA, Washington D.C., 2006). In the District of Columbia, heroin is packaged in small amounts, usually in colored or marked Ziploc Baggies.

A drug that has increased on the streets of D.C. is PCP. The use of this drug has increased; however it is not as accessible as cocaine, crack, or heroin. PCP has a long history of abuse in the city but has recently resurfaced due to the interests of “ravers” within the city and in surrounding suburbs. Not only has D.C.’s rave scene flourish on PCP, it also thrives on club drugs such as ecstasy, and crystal methamphetamine. A great amount of methamphetamine in D.C. comes from California and is mostly brought in via overnight or regular mail services. The demand for these drugs has greatly amplified on the streets of D.C. and has become readily available.

Marijuana is the most widely abused drug in Washington D.C. There is no preference in its choice of abusers for it reaches across socioeconomic, age, and ethnic lines (DEA, Washington D.C., 2006). It can be purchased on the streets in numerous quantities ranging from “nickel bags” to hundreds of pounds. The most common form of using marijuana is smoking it in a “blunt,” which is marijuana wrapped in a paper taking on the form of a cigar. When users purchase marijuana, it is usually purchased along with cocaine, crack, and heroin.

Just as with most cities, pharmaceutical drugs, such as oxycontin, continues to be a problem in D.C. Many investigations into the obtainment of this drug has revealed that health care professionals are engaging in illegal sales and distribution of this drug. Forged prescriptions have also been a method in which users obtain this drug. The selling of other pharmaceutical drugs like hydrocondone, methadone, and percocet are identified as drugs that are continuously being abused in Washington D.C.

Comparison/Conclusion

Drug trafficking is seen as a problem that is sweeping the nation. Although each place mentioned has their own problem with drug trafficking, it is obvious that the drugs are being distributed mostly by outside sources. It appears that the Dominican and Mexicans control the cocaine and crack trade in both Alaska and New York. The trafficking of cocaine in Washington D.C. has infested into the corners of low income and project housing areas. Heroin is a frequently trafficked drug into two of these locations. It is controlled by the Columbian and Dominican in New York, and it is controlled by the

Mexican organizations in Alaska. Heroin users in Alaska have substituted oxycontin for heroin because it is easier to get, and gives the same euphoric feeling as heroin. The drug is on the streets of D.C. but does not pose as much of a threat compared to the two other cities. All three locations are beginning to see an up rise in methamphetamine and club drugs such as ecstasy. Ecstasy is very popular in the “rave” scene for all three locations; therefore making it the drug of choice for the younger generation.

So what have law enforcement done in order to combat this drug epidemic? On the local level, many departments have units devoted to narcotics, along with other crimes. Due to the ever growing drug problem in D.C., law enforcement have had to respond to the threat of drug trafficking organizations setting up networks of cells in smaller, non-traditional location in the United States. The Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department has its own Major Narcotics Branch to help with the fight against drugs. Their main responsibility is to clean up the streets of D.C. (DEA Washington D.C, 2006).

On the federal level, each location has implemented the DEA Mobile Enforcement Teams (MET). The implementation of the MET took place in 1995 and since then, 473 deployments have been made, resulting in 19,643 arrests nationwide. There has been only one MET deployment in Washington D.C and none in Alaska or New York City. In addition, the DEA Regional Enforcement Teams (RET) was also designed to help existing DEA resources by targeting drug organizations where there is a lack of local drug law enforcement. As of January 31, 2005 there have been 27 deployments

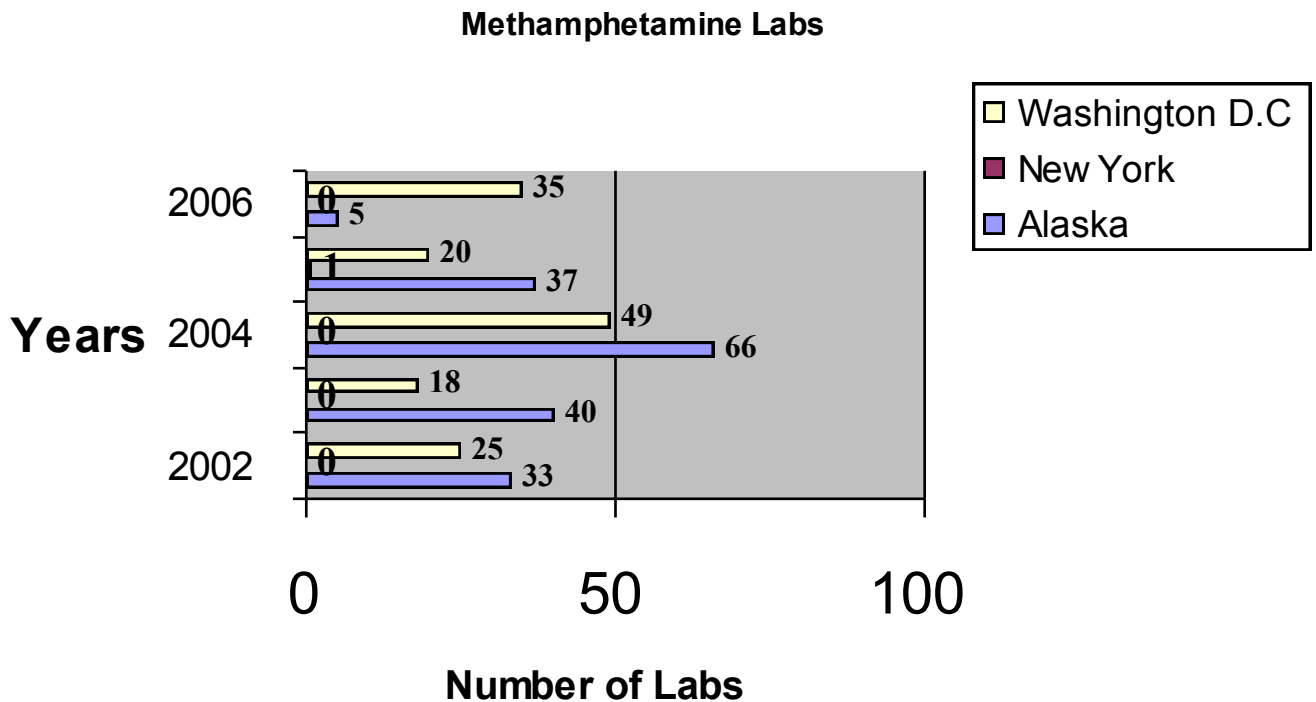
nationwide resulting in 671 arrests; however there have been no RET deployments in any of the three locations.

In New York City law enforcement have responded fiercely to the augmented amount of drug trafficking.

- In February 2006, law enforcement officials arrested 22 Columbians who were responsible for smuggling over 20 kilograms of heroin into the U.S. They used various methods of concealment, but one method they used was purebred puppies that had heroin packets surgically implanted in them. Six of the puppies were found impregnated with a total of three kilograms of liquid heroin packets.
- In March 2006, members of the Mexico based organization were busted for smuggling hundreds of kilograms of cocaine, some of which were hidden inside religious statues of the Virgin Mary.
- In September 2006, due to Operation Triple Play, Canadian police announced charges in Manhattan federal courts against 22 members of an enormous ecstasy trafficking organization. This organization had smuggled more than \$5 million worth of ecstasy into the U.S. for resale.
- In December 2006, DEA N.Y implemented Operation Crystal Apple and seized drugs and firearms relating to an ongoing investigation in the trafficking of

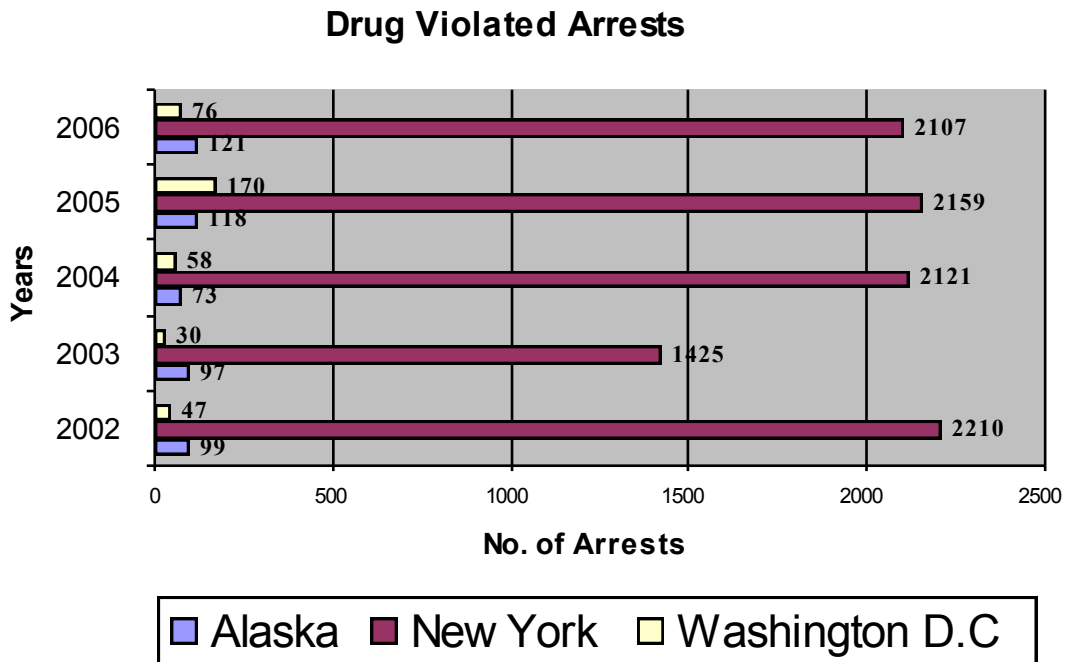
methamphetamine. There were a total of 30 meth labs seizures in New York for (DEA New York City, 2007).

There have been several drug seizures in all three locations; for the year 2006, federal authorities in Alaska seized 13.8 kgs of cocaine, 0.2 kgs of heroin, 6.9 kgs of meth, 222.6 kg of marijuana and 895 DU of ecstasy; in New York City seized 2082.2 kgs of cocaine, 294.6 kgs of heroin, 3.2 kgs of methamphetamine, 9,127 kgs of marijuana, and 57.8 kgs of MDMA; and Washington D.C., 2005, 110.3 kgs of cocaine, 52.3 kgs of heroin, 1.9 kgs of methamphetamine, 12.5 kgs of marijuana, and no MDMA (DEA, Alaska 2007, New York 2007, and Washington D.C., 2006).



The above graph, illustrates the number of methamphetamine labs incidents in all three locations. According to the graph, New York only had one methamphetamine lab

incident in the last four years (DEA New York City, 2007). It is apparent that for the last four years, Alaska has the largest amount of labs with 66 in 2004. New York City also had their highest number of labs incidents in 2004 with 49.



This graph illustrates the number of drug related arrests for all three locations. According to the graph, New York had the highest number of drug violated arrests compared to Alaska and Washington D.C. New York had the highest arrests in the year 2002; therefore one could assume that law enforcement is making progress in the battle against drugs. Although New York appears to have the highest number of drug violated arrests, Alaska had more than Washington D.C.

To conclude, drug trafficking has and will remain a problem for cities in the U.S. Local and federal law enforcement must collaborate and share information on drug trafficking organizations that embellish in the drug trafficking industry. As mentioned before in

Washington D.C., there has been a decrease in the number of violent crimes, but once law enforcement get the drug trafficking problem under control, the number of drug related arrests will increase; however the number of violent crimes may decrease.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is becoming a more serious crime where the victims are often women and children. On October 28, 2000, the President signed into law the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). This law was passed to address the rising issue of worker exploitation, which results in the trafficking in persons. This law is a joint effort of the FBI, INS, Department of Labor and other agencies. The combination of these agencies makes up what is now referred to the Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force. The goal of this task force is to reduce the problem with domestic and global forms of trafficking (U.S Department of Justice).

The Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division was enacted over 100 years ago and was involved in drafting this new legislation. The new law expands the definition of forced labor to include the various forms of coercion occurring today. The new legislation comes to the aide of more victims and brings more cases than what was allowed under prior laws.

According to the TVPA of 2000 sex trafficking is defined as the following: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

“Severe forms of trafficking in persons is defined as:

(a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such acts has not reached 18 years of age.

(b) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision of obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjections to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery

Commercial sex act is defined as any sex on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

Coercion is defined as:

- (a) Threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person
- (b) Any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person
- (c) The abuse or threaten abuse of the legal process.

Debt bondage is defined as the status or condition of a debtor arising from a pledge by the debtor of his/her personal services of those of a person under his/her control.

Involuntary servitude is defined as the abuse or threatened abuse of legal process, or any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that if they did not go along with it, the person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint.

Peonage is defined as the holding of someone against his/her will in order to pay off a debt,” (Hughes, 2003).

Although Alaska may be far north from the rest of the United States, human trafficking is not unfamiliar territory for this big state. The trafficking of humans in Alaska has always occurred due to the open borders, but it has become more prominent in the recent years. There have been many cases of human trafficking but the case mentioned below was the first tried under the new legislature. This case made headlines news in Alaska. This article was found in the Anchorage Daily News, which is Alaska primary newspaper.

“Immigration fraud charges against a Chugiak couple accused of luring Russian women to Anchorage and then forcing them to strip at a local nightclub have been boosted to kidnapping, forced labor and interstate transportation of minors for immoral purposes. A new 23-count indictment returned Wednesday names Tony and Rachel Kennard, both longtime Alaska residents; Victor Virchenko, a Russian who delivered the women to Anchorage; and Pavel Agafonov, a Russian-American who lives in Marietta, Ga.

The case is the first prosecution in the United States under a new anti-exploitation law passed by Congress in October and aimed at traffickers in human beings, especially women and children, said U.S. Attorney Bob Bundy.

"All across the country we're hearing more and more about people who want to come to

this country so much that people can lure them here then treat them like third-rate human beings," Bundy said.

The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., has joined Bundy's office in the prosecution.

According to the charges, Tony Kennard and Agafonov hatched the scheme in October via e-mail. Agafonov operated a Web site that advertised "Russian brides" and "Sex Tours of St. Petersburg," the indictment says.

The plan was to bring Russian women to Alaska under the guise of a cultural exchange and then put them to work dancing at strip clubs and keep all their earnings, according to charging documents.

Agafonov then contacted Virchenko, a well-known dance teacher in the Krasnodar region of Russia, and he agreed to recruit women by telling them they would be performing traditional folk dances at a nonexistent cultural event called "Russian Winter in Alaska," the indictment says.

Virchenko taught the women dances and had professional photographs taken of them. He sent the photos to Tony Kennard, who rejected some of the prospects as "not attractive enough for the conspiracy's purposes," the indictment says.

Tony Kennard conned the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce into getting the mayor's office to issue an official invitation for a Russian folk dancing group and then altered the letter to extend the dates and number of functions, the charges say. He sent it to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and to the Russian Ministry of Culture and applied for visas giving the false information.

Virchenko brought seven women to Alaska, landing first in Minnesota. Two of the women were under 18, the minimum age for nude dancing. As a result, the three men are charged with bringing minors across state lines for illegal sexual activity.

The women were originally told their expenses were being paid by a cultural organization, the charges say. When told they were to dance nude, they at first refused to cooperate and said they wanted to go home. But Virchenko had confiscated their passports and return plane tickets and said they couldn't get them back until they had earned enough money dancing to pay for them, the charges say.

"Unable to leave the country without their plane tickets and travel documents, unable to speak English, and fearing that harm would come to them if they did not acquiesce, (the women) submitted to the defendants' demands . . . hoping to be allowed to leave on January 19, 2001, the return date of their plane tickets," the indictment says.

Virchenko and the Kennards isolated the women, threatened them, monitored their calls, confiscated their money and kept all the earnings from their engagement at the Crazy

Horse nightclub, which adds up to forced labor, the charges say.

Investigators from the local Immigration and Naturalization Service office raided the Crazy Horse on Jan. 4 and eventually took the women into protective custody. Virchenko is charged with witness intimidation for allegedly telling the juveniles to lie to the INS about having danced at the club. The new indictment mentions only six victims, though earlier charges name seven. Officials could not be reached late Thursday to explain.

All four defendants were arrested last month, and all entered not-guilty pleas to the initial charges. Both Kennards are free in the custody of separate third parties approved by the court. Virchenko is at a halfway house. Agafonov is free on bail after putting up his home and has returned to Georgia, said assistant U.S. attorney Dan Cooper.

The women remain in Anchorage pending trial set for March. They are being provided for with funds that Congress attached to the new law "to make sure victims are maintained," Cooper said" (Toomey, 2001).

"There are over 27 million slaves in the world at present, over 50,000 in the United States, and up to one half of these are children," (Youngquest, 2005). New York City is considered the human trafficking capital of the nation. Human trafficking is a \$7 billion dollar a year business that is moved from city to city in a circuit to include New York,

Miami, Las Vegas, and San Francisco. Due to the diversified and multi-cultured population, the trafficking of humans is very common. The humans trafficked in New York is done for the purpose of working in a sweatshop or prostitution. You can go into any high immigrant concentration neighborhood around New York and see the number of houses of forced prostitution (Youngquest, 2005). There are numerous victims of human trafficking but they are seen in the public as prostitutes. The following is a case that took place in New York City involving the trafficking of humans.

Three Mexicans Plead Guilty in New York Human-Trafficking Case

Case closes forced prostitution ring that operated for 13 years

Three defendants pleaded guilty in New York City April 5th to 27 charges connected with operation of a human-trafficking ring from 1991 to 2004, according to a press release from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Josue Flores Carreto, Gerardo Flores Carreto and Daniel Perez Alonso entered guilty pleas just as their trial was about to begin. They admitted to forcing young Mexican women into prostitution in brothels throughout the New York City area. The defendants recruited young, poor women in Mexico, offered them better opportunities in the United States, smuggled them to New York and forced them into prostitution. They also admitted to physically assaulting their victims, causing bodily injury.

“These defendants used the American dream to entice their victims, all women or girls, promising them a better life,” said United States Attorney Roslynn R. Mausekopf.

"Instead, the victims were subjected to serious physical abuse and forced into prostitution. The convictions announced [April 5] show that prostitution is not a victimless crime and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to aggressively investigate and prosecute anyone who seeks profit through human trafficking and exploitation."

Several co-defendants have pleaded guilty to lesser charges in connection with the case, which the ICE press release describes as one of the largest sex-trafficking cases ever brought by the government since passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000.

Authorities began pursuing the case in mid-2003 when a complaint was made at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico that members of the Carreto family were forcing young women into prostitution. (International Information Programs).

Washington D.C. may not be considered the nation's capital in regards to human trafficking, however it does have its own predicament. According to U.S. Attorney Wainstein, “Human trafficking victimizes society's most vulnerable individuals-frightened runaways and illegal immigrants who become trapped in a cycle of violence, prostitution and forced labor. In the District of Columbia, it also supports a prostitution and sex trade that undermines the quality of life in many of our

neighborhoods...” (Department of Justice, 2004). According to law enforcement, there are extensive sex trade operations functioning on the streets of D.C. There are known locations up and down the East coast including “spas” in five Northwest Washington locations (Department of Justice, 2004). Some of these known locations are the 1400 block of K Street and then another at the 3500 block of Connecticut Avenue. Although these areas are known for the sex trade business, law enforcement is still having a difficult time cleaning up the streets of Washington D.C.

According to the Department of Justice (2004) some time in July of 2004, two defendants, Gary “Sweat” Gates and Tamisha Heyward, were convicted of, among other charges, running an illegal sex trafficking operation which involves prostitution of more than 30 women, including girls as young as 14. They were publicizing the services through a website called “redlightspecialinc.com.” This only goes to prove that human trafficking is even more dangerous because the internet is used all over the world.

Comparison/Conclusion

Not many states have an anti- human trafficking law. Even though many states do not have anti-trafficking laws, they do have laws against prostitution, solicitation of sex and other forms of crimes that can be referred to as human trafficking. Alaska has a state statute against human trafficking. Human trafficking in the First Degree is defined as getting a person to come to the state to engage in sexual conduct, adult entertainment, or labor by force, threat or deception and is a class A felony. Human Trafficking in the

Second Degree is when someone benefits from the commission of human trafficking and is a class B felony.

Human trafficking is a major dilemma in New York due to it being home to a multi-cultural population. The immigrant population is very noticeable; therefore trafficking of humans is easy to do. According to the North Country Gazette (2006), while in New York City, Penal Law already addresses some of the conduct in which traffickers engage, there is no specific crime that makes human trafficking illegal. The proposal of a new legislation creates separate new crimes under which these actions can be prosecuted and provide victims with the ability to seek compensation for abuses they have suffered.

The bill creates three new felony offenses: Human Trafficking in the First Degree; Human Trafficking in the Second Degree; and Promotion of Human Trafficking. Respectively, they would be class "C", "D", and "E" felonies. Due to the fact that victims of human trafficking in New York are not likely to go to the police due to being in the country illegally. There have also been two newly funded efforts to fight trafficking in New York, The International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA) and End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT-USA). Both are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement and make up the Community Response to Trafficking (CRT). In addition to this, Safe Horizon has also established an Anti-Trafficking Initiative. All of the projects work with direct services to provide shelter, counseling, and legal assistance for victims.

Washington D.C. has taken steps to combat this epidemic. The city received \$450,000 in grant money to allow state and local law enforcement to fight human trafficking. The purpose of this grant money is to create task forces to help identify and rescue human trafficking victims. Washington D.C., just like Alaska and New York City is slowly combating the problem of human trafficking. Local and federal law enforcement is following the guidelines set forth by the legislature. As mentioned before, the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division helped draft the new legislature. Some of the responsibilities of the new statute are:

- Create new laws that criminalize trafficking with respect to slavery, involuntary servitude, peonage or forced labor
- Allow prosecution, where non-violent coercion is used to force victims to work thinking that they would be harmed
- Increase prison terms for all slavery violations from 10 to 20 years, to include the addition of life if the violation involved death, kidnapping, or sexual abuse of the victims
- And require courts to order restitution and the offender to forfeit assets once convicted

Since victims of human trafficking are more fearful of U.S. immigration services all of these new responsibilities are important in preventing and intervening the trafficking of humans. With the efforts being made at the federal level, as well as state, the three locations are well on their way of battling the trafficking of humans.

TERRORISM

Since September 11, 2001, Americans have had to change the way in which they do business and live out day to day. The nation has stepped up its security measures to help protect America from future terrorist acts. Although one cannot be completely protected from such attacks, it is important to be prepared and have services readily available if an attack is to happen.

Alaska's location makes it susceptible to various threats to include terrorist acts. Bodies of water, which indicates there are numerous ports that need to be checked, surround the state. There is also the Alaska-Canada border that requires constant patrol. What makes Alaska a terrorists' target? The state of Alaska possesses the most vulnerable resource, oil. Alaska supplies approximately 17% of America's domestically produced oil (National Security Terrorism, 2003). The oil is channeled from fields north to the southern part of Valdez. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline runs for 800 miles in the coast and interior of Alaska.

Since September 11, 2001, surveillance has drastically increased along the pipeline. In October of 2001, a local shot a hole in the pipeline causing the pipeline to shut down for the duration of two days for repair. According to Amory Loins, who is an energy security expert, "the pipeline is 'indefensible'," (Toronto Star. 2003). A terrorist attack on the pipeline during winter months can shut down the pipeline until the following

summer, which can be very detrimental to the rest of the country. Not only is a terrorist attack in the winter months detrimental, but an attack at spots that are difficult to fix, is just as serious. Any damage to the pipeline would severely disrupt the oil supplied to the rest of the country because if the oil were allowed to chill, it would become gooey and hard to pump even after a week of stagnation (Toronto Star, 2003). The Trans-Alaska Pipeline is not the only terrorist hot spot in Alaska. Fort Greely, which is 100 miles from Fairbanks, is home for the missile-defense interceptors. If this place is attacked, it leaves Alaska very vulnerable for air attacks as well as ground.

International terrorism has particularly affected New York City in the last decade or so. On February 26, 1993 there was the bombing of the World Trade Center, leaving six people dead and over 1,000 injured. This incident was quickly followed by what is known as the “Day of Terror,” a plot to blow up the Holland and Lincoln Tunnels, The FBI’s New York Office, and the United Nations Building; however, the Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF) interrupted the plots. There have been other acts and threats of terrorism but nothing hit home like the events of September 11, 2001. Witnessing two hijacked aircrafts full of innocent people crash into the World Trade Center made the world view terrorism in a whole new light. It was then determined that the nation has to do something better than what it was doing if it was going to protect our country.

The hardest part about preventing and combating terrorism is doing it in such a way that it does not change our own way of living. According to a New York City prosecutor, Mary Jo White, prosecuting terrorist is not much different than prosecuting violent

criminals (2001). She states the laws are the same; the rules of evidence are the same and unlike other civilized countries, defendants charged with terrorists' acts and are tried in the United States receive all the rights and protection given to every other accused defendant.

Just like New York City, Washington D.C. has had its share of terrorist attacks and scares. On September 11, 2001 one hijacked airplane was crashed into the Pentagon, located just across the Potomac River from Washington. This act of terrorism killed 64 passengers and 125 people on the ground. There is reason to believe that United Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania, was intended to target the White House of the U.S. Capitol (Wikipedia). There have been other acts of terrorism and even though they did not have quite the magnitude of the September 11th attacks, still impacted this great nation.

- October 2001, anthrax attacks; involving anthrax-contaminated mail was sent to numerous members of Congress, infecting 31 staff members and killing two U.S. Postal Service employees who handled the contaminated mail.
- October 2002, fear was spread across Washington area with the Beltway Sniper attacks. Ten random victims were killed and three others wounded.
- 2003 and 2004 a serial arsonist set over 40 fires in the District and inner Maryland suburbs, killing an elderly woman.

- November of 2003, a toxin ricin was found in the mailroom of the White House and then in February 2004 in the mailroom of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. (Wikipedia).

Comparison/Conclusion

In preparation for future terrorist attacks, Alaska has beefed up its security greatly. About \$53 million dollars of federal money was spent improving Alaska's defenses. Over the past few years, The Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard have taken on new duties such as implementing homeland security patrols; closing off part of the port of Valdez; and even reviving old radio networks to help support the Global Positioning Systems (Toronto Star, 2003). To add to the safety of the State and the states resources, there has been an increase in awareness of the cruise ship along the Alaskan coasts during the summer months. The tighten security at the airports is not oblivious. With the presence of more bomb-sniffing dogs, an increase in parking restrictions and the extra precautions of baggage screeners, Homeland Security is doing its best to improve security measure across the state of Alaska.

New York City has taken the necessary measure to protect the people of the city from terrorist attacks. Just like all other cities across the U.S, security measures have increased and according to White (2001), "we must not be naïve so we must be prepared and expect similar attacks in the future." The reason why she believes this is because not every terrorist can be apprehended; therefore, leaving some to roam freely around the

country. In addition to this, history shows that after a terrorist was prosecuted, another terrorist attack took place. Not to mention that many terrorist groups view America as the “Great Satan,” and many are based on Islamic law, which encourages attacks on Americans. Although the reality is that we cannot prevent nor detect all acts of terrorism, there are security precautions that can be taken to make committing a terrorist act more difficult, such as the extreme security conditions one is subjected to before boarding an aircraft or crossing a border. The United States Coast Guard and The Department of Homeland Security have increased the number of patrols up and down the coasts, while the FBI and CIA have improved their intelligence. The best protection against terrorism is to exercise leadership whether it is at home or internationally. “New York City, not surprisingly, is a leader in preparedness, too,” (White, 2001).

In response to the terrorist attacks, security has greatly increased in Washington. Commonplaces such as office buildings as well as government buildings now have screening devices for biological agents, metal detectors, and vehicle barriers. Due to the Madrid train bombing of 2004, local authorities have decided to test explosives detectors on the Washington Metro subway system. America has been on a heightened awareness in response to the terrorist attacks and intel of possible terrorist attacks. As a result to the possible terrorist threats, there have been many false alarms due to suspicious chemical or powder substances or suspected explosives that have led to fairly frequent evacuations of buildings, Metro stations and local post offices in Washington D.C. (Wikipedia). The security around the White House has been amplified when the level of awareness for terrorist attacks has risen. At one point, security checkpoints have occurred in and around

the Capitol Hill and Foggy Bottom neighborhoods, and fences were assembled on monuments that were once freely accessible. Tours of the White House have been closely monitored, resulting in members of Congress being the only ones to schedule them.

In conclusion, due to the fact that terrorists groups are more and more joining together to attack us, their number one enemy, the two main tools to combat terrorism is arrest and prosecution. As mentioned before we cannot predict when the next attack will come; however, we can be ready to respond wherever it occurs and whether or not it involves conventional weapons, weapons of mass destruction, or chemical and biological attacks. Even though Homeland Security is working non-stop to protect the resources of Alaska, New York and Washington D.C. and its people, one can't help to think that not every port, border or airport can be protected at all times; therefore, the threat of attacks will forever be on the minds of Americans.

CONCLUSION

Crime infects the streets of every city and every state. No state is excluded from crime, not even Alaska. Many people do not think of crime when they think of the far north. Alaska is referred to as the cold place that possesses all of nature's beauty. What they fail to realize is the crimes that are taking the nation by surprise, happens in Alaska too. As mentioned before, due to Alaska's location, drug trafficking, human trafficking and terrorism are all threats to the well being of Alaska's society. Alaska's location is a blessing and a curse when it comes to these three crimes. Drugs are marked up enormously and sold; therefore traffickers and distributors are making a gigantic profit. As mentioned earlier in the paper, Alaska has the highest per capita uses of controlled substances. Since Alaska has so many "open" borders and ports, human trafficking and acts of terrorism is very possible. As it was clearly explored through out this paper how local and federal law enforcement are working together to try and combat these crimes in Alaska, a lot still needs to be done to protect this great state.

New York City is considered the "Big Apple," and the city has a big appetite for crime. Due to New York's location trafficking of drugs may be even more difficult to predict or intervene. New York shares state lines with other states, therefore making the transportation of drugs rather simple. Since New York City is considered an ethnic boiling pot, it is rather easy for the Columbians and Mexicans to dominate the drug trade. Not only does the diverse population of New York City benefit drug traffickers, it also benefits human traffickers. New York City is considered the human trafficking capital and it is so hard to detect because on lookers see the victims as prostitutes. New York

has had its share of terrorist attacks and threats. They have been considered the Nation's leader in regards to being prepared for other future attacks.

Washington D.C. is the symbol of what our country stands for but it too has been fighting the ongoing battle of drug trafficking. It too shares state lines making the transportation of drugs an everyday event. People even commute from other areas to obtain drugs on the streets of D.C. Due to a lot of low income and project housing which occupy the streets, drugs are almost on every corner. Moreover, depending on what type of abuser you are, determines what part of town you frequent to support your habit.

Washington D.C. is no stranger to human trafficking either. There are some parts of the city that are predominately known for the sex trade. Law enforcement even has it narrowed down to particular blocks within the city limits. The city has already experienced how terrorist attacks can cripple the nation's capital; therefore they take extreme safety measures to protect the White House and surrounding areas.

Crime has been affecting the way Americans live every day life. Each three of these crimes leaves bruises on the well being of this nation. Whether it is drugs that break up a family, human trafficking that tears someone from their native land, or terrorist attacks that threaten someone's future; each one puts a bigger burden on society. These crimes are always going to exist, regardless of what precautions we have in place; however, what can be done is to provide the necessary services for the victims that fall subject to these crimes. Stricter laws can be implemented for people who engage in drug trafficking, but we still need more services for people who acquire the addiction. There are now many

different initiatives to help with the human trafficking laws, but what the government has discovered is there is a real need to help restore the harm to the victims. We can always try to prevent terrorist attacks by using high tech equipment and intelligence but the possibility of more attacks is feasible. The most important thing about terrorist attacks is not only preventing them but also being ready to pick up the pieces when they do happen. There are numerous agencies that have partnered up and taken on more responsibilities to help shield the country from future attacks, but one has to wonder, will the United States of America ever be made completely safe?

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