

Homicides Report-

145% Jump in South Central

Homicides reported to State Troopers in areas other than the larger municipalities showed a 145 per cent jump in the southcentral region of Alaska as against a five per cent increase for the entire state, the Department of Public Safety announced today.

Seventeen persons in the region met death at the hands of another compared to seven the year before.

The high rate in the southcentral area was not reflected in Southeast or Northwest. Southeast troopers reported no homicides in 1971 as against one for 1970 for a drop of 100 per cent.

There were three homicides in the northwestern area in 1971 compared to eleven the year before for a decline of 73 per cent for the year.

No particular pattern was established for the large increase in the tabulation for Southcentral.

Weapons involved in the Southcentral homicides were as follows:

Gun 9; knife, 3; rocks, 2; wrench, 1; and hands, 2. Three homicides in other areas showed guns used in two of the cases and

a knife in the third.

Alcohol was a contributing factor in nine of the 17 cases. Other important contributing factors in the homicide tabulation were matters relating to sex, family disputes, arguments, and robberies.

Six of the 17 homicides involved native people and eleven were whites. No negroes were involved.