Alaska Victimization Survey: Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence in Alaska – 2010 to 2015

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Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
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“The legislature should fund a victimization survey to determine the actual rate of both reported and unreported sexual assaults in Alaska” (Senate Judiciary Committee, 2009).
Council Vision:
Alaska, freed from domestic and sexual violence.

Council Mission:
Provide safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault through a system of statewide crisis intervention, perpetrator accountability and prevention services.
Alaska Victimization Survey

- Designed to provide estimates of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in Alaska.

- Implemented as a surveillance system, modeled after CDC’s National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS).

- Surveys were conducted annually by phone, using randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers.

- Maximized respondent safety and confidentiality.
Alaska Victimization Survey

• Survey respondents were limited to English-speaking adult women residing in a household with at least one land or cell phone line.

• Conducted statewide surveys in 2010 and 2015.

• Conducted regional surveys in 2011 to 2014 (Anchorage, Bristol Bay, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Matsu, Nome, Sitka, Yukon-Kuskokwim, North Slope, Aleutians).

• http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/avs
2015 Victimization Survey

- Final sample in 2015 included 3,027 adult women in Alaska.
- Interviews conducted from May to August 2015.
- The sample provides a good representation of the population. Nonetheless, all results are weighted to control for selection, non-response, and coverage.
- Provides lifetime and past-year estimates of intimate partner violence and sexual violence.
Alaska Victimization Survey

• The questions in the survey are very graphic because they are “behaviorally specific.”

• For example, we ask: “How many of your romantic or sexual partners have ever slapped you?”
  • Avoid legal definitions (e.g., “assault”).
  • Avoid defining victims, survivors.
  • Attribute blame to the perpetrators.
Intimate Partner Violence

- Intimate partner violence includes two measures:
  - A – Threats of physical violence.
  - B – Physical violence.
  - Both include intimate partners only, defined as romantic or sexual partners.
  - Measures are then combined into a single ‘intimate partner violence’ composite.

- Threats of physical violence by intimate partners:
  - Have your romantic or sexual partners made threats to physically harm you?
Physical violence by intimate partners:

Have your romantic or sexual partners…

- Slapped you?
- Pushed or shoved you?
- Hit you with a fist or something hard?
- Kicked you?
- Hurt you by pulling your hair?
- Slammed you against something?
- Tried to hurt you by choking or suffocating you?
- Beaten you?
- Burned you on purpose?
- Used a knife or gun on you?
**Intimate Partner Violence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifetime Estimates (2015)</th>
<th>Estimated %</th>
<th>Estimated N (out of 264,204)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence(^1)</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>106,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>67,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>104,625</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) – Includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence by intimate partners.

- 40.4% of adult women in Alaska (or 106,738) experienced **intimate partner violence in their lifetime,**
- 25.6% (or 67,636) experienced **threats of physical violence,**
- 39.6% (or 104,625) experienced **physical violence.**
# Intimate Partner Violence

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<tr>
<th>Past Year Estimates (2015)</th>
<th>Estimated %</th>
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<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence(^1)</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>16,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>7,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>15,588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 – Includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence by intimate partners.

- 6.4% of adult women in Alaska (or 16,909) experienced intimate partner violence in the past year,
- 3.0% (or 7,926) experienced threats of physical violence,
- 5.9% (or 15,588) experienced physical violence.
Sexual Violence Definitions

• Sexual violence includes two measures:
  • A – Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault.
  • B – Forcible sexual assault.
  • Measures are not limited to intimate partners.
  • Measures are then combined into a single ‘sexual violence’ composite.

• Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault:
  • When you were alcohol or drug intoxicated and unable to consent, has anyone…
    • Had vaginal sex with you?
    • Made you receive anal sex?
    • Made you perform oral sex?
    • Made you receive oral sex?
Sexual Violence Definitions

• Forcible sexual assault:
  • Has anyone used physical force or threats to physically harm you to…
    • Make you have vaginal sex?
    • Make you receive anal sex?
    • Make you perform oral sex?
    • Make you receive oral sex?
    • Put their fingers or an object in your vagina or anus?
    • Try to have vaginal, oral, or anal sex with you?
### Sexual Violence Estimates

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<th>Estimated %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Violence(^1)</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>87,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved Sexual Assault</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>59,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Forcible Sexual Assault</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>62,088</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\( ^1 \) Includes both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

- 33.1% of adult women in Alaska (or 87,452) experienced sexual violence in their lifetime,
- 22.6% (or 59,710) experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault,
- 23.5% (or 62,088) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.
## Sexual Violence Estimates

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<th>Past Year Estimates (2015)</th>
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<th>Estimated N (out of 264,204)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Violence&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>7,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved Sexual Assault</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>5,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Forcible Sexual Assault</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>4,227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 – Includes both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

- 2.9% of adult women in Alaska (or 7,662) experienced sexual violence in the past year,
- 2.0% (or 5,284) experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault,
- 1.6% (or 4,227) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.
Summary of Past Year Estimates

8.1% (21,401)
Intimate partner or sexual violence

6.4% (16,909)
Intimate partner violence

3.0% (7,926)
Threats of physical violence

5.9% (15,588)
Physical violence

2.0% (5,284)
Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault

2.9% (7,622)
Sexual violence

1.6% (4,227)
Forcible sexual assault

Note: percentages do not sum because some respondents experienced multiple victimizations.
Summary of Lifetime Estimates

50.3% (132,895)
Intimate partner or sexual violence

40.4% (106,738)
Intimate partner violence

33.1% (87,452)
Sexual violence

25.6% (67,636)
Threats of physical violence

39.6% (104,625)
Physical violence

22.6% (59,710)
Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault

23.5% (62,088)
Forcible sexual assault

Note: percentages do not sum because some respondents experienced multiple victimizations.
Important Limitations

- Survey only provides statewide estimates and masks important differences (e.g., differences by age or race/ethnicity).
- Survey excluded non-English speaking women, women without phone access, and women not living in a residence (e.g., shelters, homeless camps, prisons).
- Estimates may be significantly higher among women excluded from the survey.
• Measured *number of victims*, not *number of victimizations*. The number of victimizations is higher than the number of victims.

• Survey did not measure all forms of intimate partner violence or sexual violence. Estimates are therefore conservative.

• Estimates may also be conservative because of the continuing stigma of reporting intimate partner and sexual violence.
A Special Thank You!

We sincerely thank the women who invested time and effort to participate in the Alaska Victimization Survey. They re-lived horrendous experiences – experiences no one should be subjected to – to help the rest of us understand the extent of intimate partner and sexual violence in Alaska.

Thank you!
Trends from 2010 to 2015

• Prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence is decreasing.

• Our prevention and intervention efforts are working.

• Unfortunately, the number of victims remains unacceptably high.

• Trends are headed in the right direction, but we need to strengthen our efforts for all women to be safe in Alaska.
Past Year Estimates: 2010 to 2015

In 2010, 12 in 100 women had experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in the past year:

By 2015, that number dropped to 8 in 100:
Past Year Estimates: 2010 to 2015

Intimate partner violence decreased by 32%
Sexual violence decreased by 33%

% victimized in past year

2010 2015

9.4% 6.4%
Intimate Partner Violence

4.3% 2.9%
Sexual Violence
Past Year Estimates:
2010 to 2015

6,556 fewer women experienced intimate partner violence
3,072 fewer women experienced sexual violence
### Past Year Estimates: 2010 to 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Year Estimates</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>% Diff.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>↓ 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>↓ 48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>↓ 31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Violence</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>↓ 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>↓ 44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Forcible</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>↓ 36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Violence</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>↓ 31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Past Year Estimates: 2010 to 2015

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence</td>
<td>23,465</td>
<td>16,909</td>
<td>↓ 6,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>14,479</td>
<td>7,926</td>
<td>↓ 6,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>21,468</td>
<td>15,588</td>
<td>↓ 5,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Violence</td>
<td>10,734</td>
<td>7,662</td>
<td>↓ 3,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved</td>
<td>8,987</td>
<td>5,284</td>
<td>↓ 3,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Forcible</td>
<td>6,241</td>
<td>4,227</td>
<td>↓ 2,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Violence</td>
<td>29,456</td>
<td>21,401</td>
<td>↓ 8,055</td>
</tr>
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Population estimates from http://labor.alaska.gov/research/pop/popest.htm
# Lifetime Estimates: 2010 to 2015

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<th>2015</th>
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<td>47.6%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>↓ 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>↓ 17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>↓ 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Violence</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>↓ 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>↓ 16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Forcible</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>↓ 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Violence</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>↓ 14%</td>
</tr>
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# Lifetime Estimates: 2010 to 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifetime Estimates</th>
<th>2010 (out of 249,631)</th>
<th>2015 (out of 264,204)</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intimate Partner Violence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>77,386</td>
<td>67,636</td>
<td>↓ 9,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>111,835</td>
<td>104,625</td>
<td>↓ 7,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sexual Violence</strong></td>
<td>92,613</td>
<td>87,452</td>
<td>↓ 5,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved</td>
<td>66,901</td>
<td>59,710</td>
<td>↓ 7,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Forcible</td>
<td>63,906</td>
<td>62,088</td>
<td>↓ 1,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any Violence</strong></td>
<td>146,284</td>
<td>132,895</td>
<td>↓ 13,389</td>
</tr>
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Population estimates from [http://labor.alaska.gov/research/pop/popest.htm](http://labor.alaska.gov/research/pop/popest.htm)
Intimate Partner Violence:
- Annual prevalence decreased by 32%.
- 6,556 fewer victims in 2015 than in 2010.

Sexual Violence:
- Annual prevalence decreased by 33%.
- 3,072 fewer victims in 2015 than in 2010.

While the rates are trending in the right direction, they remain unacceptably high.
21,401 adult women in Alaska experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in the past year:

- 16,909 experienced intimate partner violence.
- 7,662 experienced sexual violence.
- Some experienced both.
- Some experienced violence multiple times.
- Some experienced other forms of violence.

While the numbers are getting better, they remain unacceptably high.
Out of every 100 adult women who reside in the State of Alaska:

- 40 experienced intimate partner violence (IPV):

- 33 experienced sexual violence:

- 50 experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both:

Half of adult women in Alaska (more than 130,000) have experienced violence in their lifetime.
Today to 2020 and beyond

For Alaska to be freed from domestic and sexual violence:

Must support CDVSA’s mission to provide safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault through a system of:

• Prevention services,
• Crisis intervention, and
• Perpetrator accountability.

We can and we must continue to improve the safety of women in Alaska.
Contacts

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