

Alaska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Case Processing Project

Descriptive Analysis of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Incidents Closed by the
Alaska State Troopers: 2008 – 2011

FINAL REPORT (Grant #2013-BJ-CX-K031)

Submitted to:

U.S. Department of Justice,
Office of Justice Programs,
Bureau of Justice Statistics

by

Brad A. Myrstol, Ph.D.

Director
Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907.786.1837
bamyrstol@uaa.alaska.edu

Khristy L. Parker, M.P.A.

Research Professional
Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508



Table of Contents

Index of Table and Figures.....	iv
Acknowledgements	ix
Key Findings.....	xi
Introduction	1
Part I: Sexual Assault and Sexual Abuse of a Minor Case Records.....	4
Sample Assessment: Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse of a Minor Cases.....	5
SA/SAM case record closures by year	5
SA/SAM case record closures by detachment.....	5
SA/SAM case record closures by unit.....	6
Case Record Characteristics	8
Case closure codes.....	8
Referrals for prosecution/adjudication	8
Month opened, month closed.....	9
Case closure time.....	10
Incident reporting	11
Lead investigators/Troopers	13
Evidence collected.....	13
Search warrants.....	14
Individuals noted in case records.....	15
Criminal charges and other violations	17
Suspect Characteristics	20
Suspect age	20
Suspect sex/gender	21
Suspect race/ethnicity	21
Disability status	22
Military affiliation	22
Investigative activities and outcomes	23
Relationship to victims(s).....	24
Prior domestic violence history	25
Victim Characteristics	26
Victim age.....	26
Victim sex/gender.....	27
Victim race/ethnicity	27

Victim and suspect race/ethnicity combined	27
Disability status	28
Military affiliation	29
Victim disclosures	29
Investigative activities and outcomes	30
Self-protective behaviors/strategies.....	31
Victim injuries, medical treatment received, and evidentiary medical (SART) exams ..	32
Suspect and Victim Alcohol/Drug Use	33
Suspect alcohol and/or drug use	34
Victim alcohol and/or drug use	34
Characteristics of Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse of a Minor Incidents	37
Duration of SA/SAM incidents	37
SA/SAM incident locations	37
Assaultive behaviors and sexual acts.....	43
Suspect use of force/weapon use	44
Child exposure to trauma.....	45
Legal Resolutions of Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse of a Minor Cases	46
Part II: Domestic Violence Case Records.....	50
Defining Domestic Violence	51
Sample Assessment: Domestic Violence Cases	51
Domestic violence case record closures by year	51
Domestic violence case record closures by detachment.....	52
Domestic violence case record closures by unit.....	52
Case Record Characteristics	54
Case closure codes.....	54
Referrals for prosecution/adjudication	55
Month opened, month closed.....	56
Case closure time.....	56
Incident reporting	57
Lead investigators/Troopers	59
Evidence collected.....	59
Search warrants.....	60
Individuals noted in case records.....	61
Criminal charges and other violations	62

Suspect Characteristics	65
Suspect age	65
Suspect sex/gender	65
Suspect race/ethnicity	66
Disability status	66
Military affiliation	67
Investigative activities and outcomes	67
Relationship to victim(s)	68
Prior domestic and sexual violence history	69
Victim Characteristics	70
Victim age.....	70
Victim sex/gender.....	71
Victim race/ethnicity	71
Victim and suspect race/ethnicity combined.....	71
Disability status	72
Military affiliation	72
Victim disclosures	73
Investigative activities and outcomes	74
Self-protective behaviors/strategies.....	74
Victim injuries and medical treatment received.....	75
Suspect and Victim Alcohol/Drug Use	76
Suspect alcohol and/or drug use	76
Victim alcohol and/or drug use	77
Characteristics of Domestic Violence Incidents.....	79
Suspect access to victims.....	79
Precipitation factors of assaults	80
Location of assaults	81
Other persons present	82
Assaultive and threatening behaviors.....	83
Stalking behaviors	84
Legal Resolutions of Domestic Violence Cases.....	86

Index of Tables and Figures

Part I: Sexual Assault and Sexual Abuse of a Minor Case Records.....	4
Table 1. Comparison of analysis sample and AST case record sampling frame: Percentage of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases closed, by calendar year	5
Table 2. Comparison of analysis sample, AST case record sampling frame, and Postle et al. study: Percentage of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases closed, by AST detachment.....	6
Table 3. Number of sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case files included in the analysis sample, by agency/unit ID code.....	6
Table 4. Study comparison of AST agency/unit rank-order distributions of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases.....	7
Table 5. AST closure codes for sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases.....	8
Table 6. Month sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases were opened/closed	9
Figure 1. Distribution of sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case closure time (in weeks).....	10
Table 7. Agency/organization to whom SA/SAM incidents were first reported.....	11
Table 8. Individual/agency/organization that initially disclosed sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor incidents	12
Table 9. Number of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases investigated by lead investigators/Troopers	13
Table 10. Evidence collected in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases	14
Table 11. Search warrants obtained (case-record level).....	15
Table 12. Role designation of individuals identified in case records.....	15
Table 13. Number of individual suspects and victims identified in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases.....	16
Table 14. Number of individual witnesses/third parties identified in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases.....	16
Table 15. Alaska statute violations documented in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records, by Title	17
Table 16. Alaska criminal law statute violations documented in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records, by Chapter	18
Table 17. Alaska criminal law violations documented in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records, by Article.....	18
Table 18. Alaska sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor statute violations documented in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records	19
Table 19. Number of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor charges per case record	20
Table 20. Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect age when investigations were initiated	21

Table 21. Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect sex/gender	21
Table 22. Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect race/ethnicity	22
Table 23 Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect disability statuses.....	22
Table 24. Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect military affiliation	22
Table 25. Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Investigative activities, suspects	23
Table 26. Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Relationships between suspect(s) and victim(s) – single suspect, single victim cases only	24
Table 27. Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect prior history of domestic violence and sexual assault.....	25
Table 28. Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim age when investigations were initiated	26
Table 29. Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim sex/gender.....	27
Table 30. Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim race/ethnicity	27
Figure 2. Percentage of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases: Victim and suspect same race/ethnicity	28
Table 31. Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim disability status.....	29
Table 32. Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim military affiliation.....	29
Table 33. Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor disclosures prior to AST notification by any party	30
Table 34. Investigative activities: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims	31
Table 35. Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim self-protective behaviors/strategies	32
Table 36. Injuries sustained and documented: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims	32
Table 37. Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim medical treatment for injuries.....	33
Table 38. Evidentiary medical exams (SART exams): Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims.....	33
Table 39. Alcohol and/or drug use: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor suspects	34
Table 40. Alcohol and/or drug use: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims.....	35
Table 41. Intoxication and consciousness at time of assault: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims.....	36
Table 42. Alcohol and/or drug use by sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims and suspects.....	36

Figure 3. Number of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor incidents occurring indoors/ outdoors, by suspect-victim encounter phase	38
Figure 4. Changes in sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor indoor/outdoor locations, by suspect-victim encounter phase	39
Table 43. Indoor locations where SA/SAM suspect-victim incidents occurred, by suspect- victim encounter phase	40
Table 44. Outdoor locations where SA/SAM incidents occurred, by suspect-victim encounter phase	41
Table 45. Frequency of SA/SAM suspect-victim encounter initiation circumstances.....	42
Table 46. Assaultive behaviors and/or sexual acts documented in case records.....	43
Table 47. Percent of SA/SAM case records: Weapon use during SA/SAM incidents.....	45
Table 48. Percent of SA/SAM records: Presence of children when SA/SAM incidents occurred, by case record type	45
Figure 5. Criminal case processing diagram: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011	47
Figure 6. Criminal charge processing diagram: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011	48
Table 49. Distribution of conviction charges: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011	49
Part II: Domestic Violence Case Records.....	50
Table 50. Comparison of analysis sample and AST case record sampling frame: Percentage of domestic violence cases closed, by calendar year	52
Table 51. Comparison of analysis sample, AST case record sampling frame, and Rivera et al. study: Percentage of domestic violence assault cases closed, by AST detachment	52
Table 52. Number of domestic violence case files included in the analysis sample, by agency/unit ID code.....	53
Table 53. Study comparison of AST agency/unit rank-order distributions of domestic violence cases	54
Table 54. AST closure codes for domestic violence cases.....	55
Table 55. Month domestic violence cases were opened/closed	56
Figure 7. Distribution of domestic violence case closure time (in weeks).....	57
Table 56. Agency/organization/individual to whom domestic violence incidents were first reported.....	58
Table 57. Individual/agency/organization that initially disclosed domestic violence incidents.....	58
Table 58. Number of domestic violence cases investigated by lead investigators/ Troopers.....	59

Table 59. Evidence collected in domestic violence cases	60
Table 60. Search warrants obtained in domestic violence investigations	60
Table 61. Role designation of individuals identified in domestic violence case reports.....	61
Table 62. Number of individual suspects and victims identified in domestic violence cases.....	61
Table 63. Number of individual witnesses/third parties identified in domestic violence cases.....	62
Table 64. Alaska statute violations documented in domestic violence case records, by Title.....	63
Table 65. Alaska criminal law statute violations documented in domestic violence case records, by Chapter.....	63
Table 66. Alaska criminal law violations documented in domestic violence case records: Offenses against persons, by Article	64
Table 67. Alaska assault, reckless endangerment, and stalking statute violations documented in domestic violence case records.....	64
Table 68. Number of criminal charges and statutory violations per domestic violence case record.....	65
Table 69. Domestic violence case records: Suspect age when assaults occurred	65
Table 70. Domestic violence case records: Suspect sex/gender.....	66
Table 71. Domestic violence case records: Suspect race/ethnicity	66
Table 72. Domestic violence case records: Suspect disability statuses.....	66
Table 73. Domestic violence case records: Suspect military affiliation.....	67
Table 74. Domestic violence case records: Investigative activities, suspects	68
Table 75. Domestic violence case records: Relationships between suspect(s) and victim(s) – single suspect, single victim.....	69
Table 76. Domestic violence case records: Suspect prior history of domestic and sexual violence.....	69
Table 77. Domestic violence case records: Victim age when assaults occurred.....	70
Table 78. Domestic violence case records: Victim sex/gender	71
Table 79. Domestic violence case records: Victim race/ethnicity.....	71
Figure 8. Percentage of domestic violence cases: Victim and suspect same race/Ethnicity.....	72
Table 80. Domestic violence case records: Victim disability status	72
Table 81. Domestic violence case records: Victim military affiliation.....	73
Table 82. Domestic violence case records: Victim disclosures prior to AST notification by any party	73
Table 83. Investigative activities: Domestic violence victims	74

Table 84. Domestic violence case records: Victim self-protective behaviors and Strategies	75
Table 85. Injuries sustained and documented: Domestic violence victims	76
Table 86. Alcohol and/or drug use: Domestic violence suspects	77
Table 87. Alcohol and/or drug use: Domestic violence victims.....	77
Table 88. Intoxication and consciousness at time of assault: Domestic violence victims	78
Table 89. Alcohol and/or drug use by domestic violence victims and suspects	79
Table 90. Domestic violence suspect(s) means of access to victim(s).....	79
Table 91. Domestic violence case records: Precipitating factors	80
Table 92. Domestic violence case records: Indoor incident locations	81
Table 93. Domestic violence case records: Outdoor incident locations.....	82
Table 94. Domestic violence case records: Presence of others when incidents occurred	83
Table 95. Domestic violence case records: Assaultive behaviors	83
Table 96. Domestic violence case records: Threatening behaviors.....	84
Table 97. Domestic violence case records: Stalking behaviors of suspects.....	85
Figure 9. Criminal case processing diagram: Domestic violence case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011	87
Figure 10. Criminal charge processing diagram: Domestic violence case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011	88
Table 98. Distribution of conviction charges: Domestic violence case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 2, 2008 to December 31, 2011	89

Acknowledgements

This study was supported by Grant No. 2013-BJ-CX-K031 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Points of view expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

A project of this scope and duration would not have been possible without the vision, talents, and dedication of an entire cadre of people. We are profoundly grateful for the contributions of so many. The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) is fortunate to have meaningful criminal justice researcher–practitioner partnerships with many Alaska justice agencies and organizations. This particular research project was the result of a multi-year collaboration with the Office of the Governor of the State of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Alaska State Troopers (AST), and the Alaska Department of Law (DOL). We are grateful for having had the opportunity to work with these agencies and to benefit from their collective experience, wisdom, and insight. Their consummate professionalism, their dedication to serving the people of Alaska, and their commitment to evidenced-based practice and policy development were constant sources of motivation for us throughout the project.

We are particularly grateful for the contributions made by the leadership of these agencies, both past and present. Special thanks go to DPS Commissioner (retired) Joe Masters for his unwavering commitment to the study and his many contributions to each phase of the project’s development and implementation. We would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of current DPS Commissioner Gary Folger. Special thanks go to the former Director of AST, Keith Mallard. The continued support of the current Director of AST, Colonel James Cockrell, has been instrumental to the project’s successful completion. We are also appreciative of the support of former and current Attorneys General, Michael Geraghty and Craig Richards, and the assistance of former Deputy Attorney General Rick Svobodny, and John Skidmore, Director of DOL’s Criminal Division. Special recognition and acknowledgement goes to Katie TePas, in her former position as Special Assistant and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Initiative Coordinator for then Governor Sean Parnell. Ms. TePas’s passion for, and commitment to, stemming the tide of domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska continues to serve as a source of inspiration for us.

Heartfelt thanks go to Randi Breager, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coordinator, Alaska State Troopers, for her heroic efforts in all things logistical including, but not limited to: project planning, data acquisition, and space allocation. We also thank Ms. Breager for her insights into the analyses of the data obtained from the case file reviews, and her thoughtful review, critique, and improvement of previous drafts of this report. Thanks also to Nicholas Smith, Analyst/Programmer, Department of Public Safety, for his assistance with sampling frame enumeration and other miscellaneous data inquiries over the course of the project.

We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Lu Woods at the Alaska Department of Law, for her assistance with the prosecution data acquisition and her assistance with learning the ins-and-outs of these complex criminal charge data sets.

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to acknowledge the members of our data collection/coding team without whom this project could not have been conducted. We offer our sincerest thanks and deepest appreciation to each member of the team for their commitment to the project, their exacting attention to detail, and the many personal sacrifices each of them made in order to ensure that the data collection was successful. Thank you to Simona Gerdts, Kristen Speyerer, Matt Presser, Daniel Reinhard, Levi Wegner, Becca Hartley, Yevgenii Kisarauskas, Matt Caprioli, Nina Leacock, Ness Rooks, Jacqueline Hull, Diana Kim, Lin Batin, Maggie Spears, and Don Chon.

Key Findings

- Sample assessments showed that the sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor (SA/SAM) and domestic violence case record samples obtained were temporally and geographically representative of all SA/SAM and domestic violence case records *closed* by the Alaska State Troopers (AST) during the study period (January 1, 2008–December 31, 2011).
 - Analysis of the SA/SAM sample revealed marked concentrations of cases in specific AST units. The two AST units generating the highest volume of cases were Bethel AST Enforcement and Fairbanks AST Investigations. Together, these two units alone accounted for 40 percent of all SA/SAM cases.
 - Domestic violence case closures were also highly concentrated. Two AST units in particular stood out from the rest: Palmer AST Enforcement, and Fairbanks AST Enforcement. Together, these two units accounted for nearly 39 percent of all domestic violence cases examined.

Case Record Characteristics

- While both SA/SAM and domestic violence cases were more likely than not to be referred for prosecution/adjudication, domestic violence cases were much more likely than SA/SAM cases to be referred.
 - An estimated 62.4 percent of SA/SAM cases were referred for prosecution/adjudication, according to the case record review. Slightly more than 18 percent of the SA/SAM cases reviewed resulted in closure by arrest.
 - In contrast, nearly all – 97.6 percent – of domestic violence cases were referred for prosecution/adjudication. Furthermore, more than 80 percent of domestic violence cases resulted in closure by arrest.
- There was no evidence of seasonal differences in SA/SAM and domestic violence case in-flows or out-flows. In general, the total volume of SA/SAM and domestic violence case openings and case closings was consistent on a month-to-month basis in each of the four years examined.
- Case closure times for SA/SAM and domestic violence cases were both heavily skewed, with most cases being closed within a relatively “short” period of time, and only a few cases taking a “long” time to conclude. The time scales for SA/SAM and domestic violence cases differed greatly, however.
 - SA/SAM cases took, on average, 28 weeks to close. The median SA/SAM case closure time was 13 weeks.
 - Domestic violence cases took, on average, 8 weeks to close. The median domestic violence case closure time was 3 weeks.

- AST was the first agency/entity notified for a large majority of both SA/SAM and domestic violence incidents.
 - AST was the first agency notified in 71.7 percent of SA/SAM incidents.
 - AST was the first agency notified in 78.2 percent of domestic violence incidents.
- Disclosures to AST varied substantially between SA/SAM and domestic violence incidents.
 - Disclosures of SA/SAM incidents to AST were most likely to come from witnesses/third parties (42.8%), followed by SA/SAM victims (33.5%), and then children/family services (11.9%).
 - Disclosures of domestic violence incidents to AST were most likely to come from victims (62.8%), followed by witnesses/third parties (28.5%).
- Investigative “specialization” was much more pronounced in SA/SAM cases than in domestic violence cases.
 - Individual Troopers investigated 7.7 SA/SAM cases, on average.
 - Individual Troopers investigated 3.1 domestic violence cases, on average.
- In general, evidence collection was more extensive in SA/SAM cases than in domestic violence cases.
- Search warrants were much more likely to be obtained in SA/SAM cases than in domestic violence cases.
- Most SA/SAM and domestic violence incidents involved a single suspect and a single suspect. However,
 - SA/SAM incidents were more likely than domestic violence incidents to involve multiple suspects.
- Witnesses/third parties were more likely to be included in SA/SAM investigations than in domestic violence investigations.
- Domestic violence cases were more likely to involve crimes/violations other than offenses against persons – for example, offenses against property and offenses against public order. SA/SAM cases, by contrast, involved offenses against persons almost exclusively.
 - 94.1 percent of charges cited in SA/SAM case records were for offenses committed against persons.
 - 73.8 percent of charges cited in domestic violence case records were for offenses committed against persons.

Suspect and Victim Characteristics

- SA/SAM and domestic violence suspects were roughly the same age, on average.
 - The average age of SA/SAM suspects was 31.8 years.
 - The average age of domestic violence suspects was 32.1 years.
- SA/SAM victims were significantly older than domestic violence victims, on average.
 - The average age of SA/SAM victims was 17.8 years.
 - The average age of domestic violence victims was 32.1 years.
- Both SA/SAM and domestic violence suspects were likely to be male. However, SA/SAM suspects were significantly more likely to be male than domestic violence suspects.
 - 96.4 percent of SA/SAM suspects were male.
 - 79.7 percent of domestic violence suspects were male.
- Majorities of both SA/SAM and domestic violence suspects were Alaska Native/American Indian, and slightly more than a third of SA/SAM and domestic violence suspects were White/Caucasian
 - Similar percentages of SA/SAM and domestic violence victims were in these two racial/ethnic groups as well.
- Overall, SA/SAM and domestic violence incidents were likely to involve suspects and victims belonging to the same racial/ethnic group. Intra-racial SA/SAM and domestic violence incidents were especially likely for Alaska Natives/American Indians and Whites/Caucasians.
 - 84.4 percent of SA/SAM incidents involving at least one Alaska Native/American Indian victim included at least one Alaska Native/American Indian suspect.
 - 79.1 percent of SA/SAM incidents involving at least one White/Caucasian victim included at least one White/Caucasian suspect.
 - 91.8 percent of domestic violence incidents involving at least one Alaska Native/American Indian victim included at least one Alaska Native/American Indian suspect.
 - 82.0 percent of domestic violence incidents involving at least one White/Caucasian victim included at least one White/Caucasian suspect.
- Cognitive/developmental, psychiatric/mental health, and physical disabilities of SA/SAM and domestic violence suspects and victims were infrequently observed in AST case records.

- In SA/SAM cases, an estimated 1.4 percent of suspects and 3.3 percent of victims were documented as demonstrating one of these forms of disability.
- In domestic violence cases, an estimated 2.3 percent of suspects and 0.6 percent of victims were documented as demonstrating one of these forms of disability.
- Military affiliation of suspects and victims was relatively rare in SA/SAM and domestic violence case records.
 - 3 percent of SA/SAM suspects and less than 2 percent of SA/SAM victims were in the military themselves or were a family member/dependent of a service member.
 - 2.4 percent of domestic violence suspects and 2.7 percent of domestic violence victims were in the military themselves or were a family member/dependent of a service member.

Suspect-Victim Relationships

- In nearly all instances, SA/SAM suspects were known to victims.
 - SA/SAM suspects and victims were family members in 28.7 percent of cases.
 - SA/SAM suspects and victims were acquaintances in 28.1 percent of cases.
 - SA/SAM suspects and victims were friends in 16.5 percent of cases.
- Nearly 7 out of every 10 domestic violence suspects were either victims' current or former spouse/intimate partner.
 - Domestic violence suspects were family members (other than spouses) in 27.1 percent of cases.
- Prior acts of sexual and/or domestic violence committed by suspects against victims were not uncommon in both samples. However, notable differences emerged between SA/SAM and domestic violence cases.
 - 17.6 percent of SA/SAM suspects had committed at least one prior act of sexual violence against one or more of the victims identified in the case records reviewed.
 - 13.1 percent committed at least one prior act of domestic violence – other than sexual assault – against one or more of the victims identified in the case records reviewed.
 - 35.8 percent of domestic violence suspects had committed at least one prior act of domestic violence against one or more of the victims identified in the case records reviewed.

- 1.1 percent committed at least one prior act of sexual violence against one or more of the victims identified in the case records reviewed.
- Most prior SA/SAM and domestic violence victimizations were NOT reported. SA/SAM victims were much less likely than domestic violence victims to report prior victimizations by SA/SAM suspects.
 - 17.1 percent of prior SA/SAM incidents committed by SA/SAM suspects against SA/SAM victims identified in the case record review were reported to police or other authorities. 18.6 percent of prior domestic violence incidents were reported.
 - 41.1 percent of prior domestic violence incidents committed by domestic violence suspects against domestic violence victims identified in the case record review were reported to police or other authorities. 33.3 percent of prior sexual assaults were reported.

Victim Disclosures and Self-Protective Strategies

- With respect to the SA/SAM and domestic violence incidents coded for this study, victims commonly disclosed their victimization to others prior to AST notification. However, SA/SAM victims were more likely to disclose to others prior to AST notification than domestic violence victims.
 - 58.6 percent of SA/SAM victims disclosed to one or more parties prior to AST notification.
 - 24.3 percent of domestic violence victims disclosed to one or more parties prior to AST notification.
- Both SA/SAM and domestic violence victims engaged in a variety of self-protective strategies.

Victim Injuries

- Documentation of victim injuries was more pronounced in domestic violence case records than in SA/SAM case records.
- SA/SAM and domestic violence victims received medical treatment for the injuries they sustained infrequently.
 - Victims received medical treatment of injuries in 7.5 percent of SA/SAM cases.
 - Victims received medical treatment of injuries in 16.3 percent of domestic violence cases.

Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use

- Suspect alcohol use was frequently documented in both SA/SAM and domestic violence case records, but was much more likely in domestic violence incidents.
 - Suspect alcohol use was documented in 34.4 percent of SA/SAM cases.
 - Suspect alcohol use was documented in 63.5 percent of domestic violence cases.
- Alcohol use among victims was also frequently documented in both SA/SAM and domestic violence cases.
 - Victim alcohol use was documented in 24.1 percent of SA/SAM cases.
 - Victim alcohol use was documented in 31.2 percent of domestic violence cases.
- Overall, alcohol use by suspects or victims was much more likely in domestic violence than SA/SAM cases.
 - Alcohol use by suspects or victims was documented in 39.3 percent of SA/SAM cases.
 - Alcohol use by suspects or victims was documented in 67.78 percent of domestic violence cases.
- Illicit drug use was infrequently noted or otherwise documented in SA/SAM and domestic violence case records.

Incident Characteristics

- SA/SAM incidents typically occurred at indoor locations, and when suspect–victim encounters were initiated outdoors they usually transitioned to an indoor location.
- Approximately 75 percent of SA/SAM incidents occurred at the home of either a suspect or a victim.
 - An additional 14-15 percent of SA/SAM incidents occurred in someone else’s home.
- Four categories of assaultive behaviors/sexual acts committed by SA/SAM suspects were documented. Within these categories, the following behaviors/acts were most frequently documented in case records:
 - Assaultive touching: Genitalia (female) – 46.4 percent of cases.
 - Forced oral copulation: Genitals of victim, by suspect – 8.0 percent of cases.
 - Penetration: Penile penetration of vagina – 34.8 percent of cases.

- Forced masturbation: Of victim, by suspect – 4.0 percent of cases.
- SA/SAM suspect use of force/weapon use was documented in approximately a third of SA/SAM case records. The most frequently documented means of force was the use of hand/fists/feet (32.1%).
- Approximately 89 percent of domestic violence incidents occurred at indoor locations.
 - In excess of 90 percent of indoor domestic violence incidents occurred in a residence shared by suspects and victims, or in the independent residences of suspects or victims.
- With respect to domestic violence suspects' means of access to victims:
 - In 20.6 percent of cases, victims invited suspects into their homes.
 - In 19.8 percent of cases, suspects invited victims into their homes.
 - In 18.5 percent of cases, suspects forced entry into victims' homes or otherwise entered when not invited.
 - In 9.1 percent of cases, suspects/victims were staying at the other's home temporarily.
- A total of 13 precipitating factors were coded for each domestic violence case record. Four were frequently documented:
 - Dispute about belongings/household property – 15.9 percent of cases.
 - Personal insults/perceived disrespect – 14.9 percent of cases.
 - Controlling behaviors – 13.6 percent of cases.
 - Jealousy/alleged infidelity – 13.1 percent of cases.
- A total of 12 assaultive behaviors were coded for each domestic violence case record. Five behaviors predominated:
 - Push/shove/grab victim – 46.6 percent of cases.
 - Punch victim with fist – 35.3 percent of cases.
 - Slap/hit victim with open hand – 29.4 percent of cases.
 - Choke/strangle/suffocate victim – 14.5 percent of cases.
 - Hit victim with object (other than gun) – 10.3 percent of cases.

- A total of 6 threatening behaviors were coded for each domestic violence case record. By far, the most commonly documented threatening behavior was threatening victim with bodily injury (non-sexual) (22.7% of cases).
- A total of 30 suspect stalking behaviors were coded for each domestic violence case record. In general, stalking behaviors were infrequently observed in domestic violence case records. When stalking behaviors were documented, they were most commonly in the form of destruction/vandalism of victim property.
- Children were frequently present when SA/SAM and domestic violence incidents occurred.
 - Children were present in 30.3 percent of SA/SAM incidents.
 - Children were present in 35.4 percent of domestic violence incidents.

Legal Resolutions

- For both SA/SAM and domestic violence, majorities of cases referred to DOL involved multiple criminal charges. Importantly, however, both SA/SAM and domestic violence suspects were most likely to be charged with a single crime (41.4% of SA/SAM cases and 42.6% of domestic violence cases involved suspects charged with a single offense).
- Domestic violence *cases* were much more likely than SA/SAM cases to be accepted by DOL for prosecution – 83 percent versus 41 percent.
- In SA/SAM cases, 56.5 percent of the *charges* referred to DOL by Troopers were accepted for prosecution.
- In domestic violence cases, 85.8 percent of the *charges* referred to DOL by Troopers were accepted for prosecution.
- An estimated 31 percent of SA/SAM *cases referred* to DOL by Troopers resulted in a conviction. Of the SA/SAM *cases accepted* for prosecution, 76 percent resulted in a conviction.
- An estimated 65 percent of domestic violence *cases referred* to DOL by Troopers resulted in a conviction. Of the domestic violence *cases accepted* for prosecution, 78.7 percent resulted in a conviction.
- Of the total *charges* accepted for prosecution in SA/SAM cases, 23 percent resulted in a conviction.
- Of the total *charges* accepted for prosecution in domestic violence cases, 46.3 percent resulted in conviction.
- 85.6 percent of SA/SAM *charge* convictions were for statutorily defined sex offenses. Among sex offense convictions, the most common were for:

- Sexual Abuse of a Minor 2 (32.3%).
 - Sexual Abuse of a Minor 1 (21.1%).
 - Sexual Assault 2 (12.9%).
 - Sexual Assault 1 (10.9%).
- 50 percent of domestic violence case *charge* convictions were for assaults. By itself, Assault 4 comprised 44 percent of all conviction charges.
 - Misdemeanor probation/SIS revocation convictions constituted 20.7 percent of all domestic violence case charge convictions.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

In 2013, the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) received research funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to assist the AJSAC in its efforts to develop and implement the *Alaska Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Case Processing Project*.¹ The primary objective of the project is to systematically document the formal processing of sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, and domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcement agencies in Alaska. The research funds provided by BJS were used to collect and analyze sexual assault and domestic violence case file information obtained from a single Alaska police agency – the Alaska State Troopers – for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2011.

The time period for the study – January 1, 2008-December 31, 2011 – was selected because the beginning of the study period preceded by approximately two years the launch of the Alaska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Initiative (which was announced by then-Governor Sean Parnell on December 9, 2009) and extends approximately two years into the initiative's implementation.

Alaska State Troopers

The Alaska State Troopers (AST) is the second-largest state/local police agency in Alaska. On average, AST employed 352 sworn officers during the four years of the study period (2008-2011). (The largest police agency in the state, the Anchorage Police Department, employed an average of 382 sworn officers during the same period.) Since 1941, AST has served as the primary (and often only) police presence in communities that do not have their own local police departments. AST's 352 Troopers provide direct services to approximately a third of Alaska's total population.² AST also provides support services to all police agencies throughout the state. In total, AST received 420,481 calls for service during the study period (2008-2011) – roughly 105,120 calls for service per year.

AST is organized into five geographic *detachments* that provide patrol, law enforcement, and search and rescue services. Detachment headquarters are located in Ketchikan (A-Detachment, Southeast Alaska), Palmer (B-Detachment, South Central Alaska), Anchorage (C-Detachment, Western Alaska), Fairbanks (D-Detachment Interior Alaska), and Soldotna (E-Detachment, Kenai Peninsula). AST also operates three specialty *bureaus*: the Alaska Bureau of Investigations, the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol, and Judicial Services.

¹ Grant #2013-BJ-CX-K031

² For example, in 2011 – the last year of the study period – AST provided direct services to an estimated 248,000 of Alaska's 722,000 residents, making the officer-to-resident ratio approximately 1.5 Troopers per 1,000 residents. By way of comparison, the 2011 officer-to-resident ratio for the Anchorage police department was 1.3 officers per 1,000 residents.

Reporting of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to Police

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) estimates that nationwide 4 out of every 1,000 persons age 12 and over experience one or more domestic violence victimizations each year, and that 1 out of every 1,000 persons age 12 and over experience one or more rape/sexual assault victimizations annually.³ Importantly, only about half (56.9%) of domestic violence victimizations and even fewer rape/sexual assault victimizations (34.8%) are reported to police. The Alaska Department of Public Safety, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's *Alaska Victimization Survey* has estimated Alaska-specific rates of intimate partner violence and sexual violence for adult women (only) of 94 per 1,000 and 43 per 1,000, respectively.⁴ Preliminary analysis of these *Alaska Victimization Survey* suggests that rates of reporting these offenses are lower in Alaska than the rest of the nation.⁵

These statistics highlight that while domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes that occur with disturbing frequency, relatively few domestic violence or sexual assault victimizations are reported to police. Consequently, the findings presented in this report are limited to only those incidents that were reported to police. Furthermore, the data that were gathered for this study were obtained from only one Alaska police agency – the Alaska State Troopers. Therefore, the results presented in the following pages are not a representative sample of all domestic violence and sexual assault incidents reported to all Alaska police agencies. Rather, the findings presented in this report are limited to domestic violence and sexual assault incidents reported to the Troopers.

Sampling Strategy

The sampling frame used for this study included a complete listing of all AST sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, and domestic violence case file records that were *closed* by Troopers between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011. Cases were selected for inclusion in the analysis samples using a stratified, random sampling procedure. Case files were stratified first according to the calendar *year* in which they were closed by AST, then by case *type* (sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, domestic violence). Case files were then selected (without replacement). For each offense category – sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor (combined) and domestic violence – our sampling target was to obtain 200 for each year of the study period. For all three of these offense categories the goal was to achieve sample sizes that were large enough to include case files from each AST detachment so that the findings were geographically representative, and to provide sufficient statistical power for statistical analyses. Once each of the samples was drawn, the list of case file numbers was returned to AST for case file retrieval.

³ Truman, J. L. & Langton, L. (2014). *Criminal victimization, 2013*. (NCJ 247648). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

⁴ Rosay, A. B., Rivera, M., Myrstol, B. A., & Wood, D. (2010). *Intimate partner and sexual violence in the state of Alaska: Key results from the 2010 Alaska Victimization Survey*. Anchorage, Alaska: University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center.

⁵ Myrstol, B. A. (2011). *Reporting sexual assault to police: Results from the Alaska Victimization Survey*. Presentation given at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.

The final samples averaged 340 sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases (combined) for each year of the study period, and 210 domestic violence cases for each year of the study period. Detailed sample assessments are provided at the beginning of each section of this report.

PART I:

Sexual Assault
and
Sexual Abuse of a Minor

Sample Assessment: Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse of a Minor Cases

Two sources of sexual assault (SA) and sexual abuse of a minor (SAM) data were used to assess the overall quality and representativeness of the SA/SAM analysis sample. The first source of data was AST’s fully enumerated list of SA and SAM case records that were closed during the study period. In addition to this data source, we also referenced a previous study of SA/SAM cases reported to AST conducted by Postle and his colleagues in 2007.⁶ That study examined the entire population of SA/SAM cases reported to and closed by AST in 2003 and 2004.

According to the data provided by AST, between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011 a total of 2,568 sexual assault (SA) and sexual abuse of a minor (SAM) cases were closed by AST. The total number of SA and SAM case files included in the analysis sample was 1,359, a total that comprised 52.9 percent of the total number of SA/SAM cases closed by AST during the study period.

SA/SAM case record closures by year. To begin our assessment of the analysis sample of SA/SAM cases, we compared the SA/SAM distributions for each year of the study period to the yearly SA/SAM distributions provided by AST. Results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

Comparison of analysis sample and AST case record sampling frame: Percentage of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases closed, by calendar year

Data Source	Case Report Closure Year (%)				(Total N)
	2008	2009	2010	2011	
Analysis sample	30.2	23.1	24.1	22.6	(1,359)
AST sampling frame	26.2	22.7	24.9	26.2	(2,568)
Difference	+4.0	+0.4	-0.8	-3.6	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

The data presented in Table 1 show that the sample closely approximated the year-to-year distribution of SA/SAM cases. The largest discrepancies appeared in 2008 and 2011. In the sample data, 30.2 percent of cases were closed in 2008. However, AST data show that 26.2 percent of the total number of SA/SAM cases were closed in 2008, a difference of +4 percent. On the other hand, 22.6 percent of the SA/SAM cases included in the analysis sample were closed in 2011, but the AST data show that 26.2 percent of the total number of SA/SAM cases were closed in 2011, a difference of -3.6 percent. Despite these differences, overall, the yearly distribution of case closures in the analysis sample was very similar to the actual distribution of SA/SAM cases during the study period.

SA/SAM case record closures by detachment. Table 2 presents the distribution of SA/SAM cases across AST detachments. In addition to comparing the analysis sample to the AST sampling frame, Table 2 also includes the AST detachment distribution of 2003-2004 SA/SAM case reports examined by Postle et al. Once again, there was a close correspondence

⁶ Postle, G., Rosay, A. B., Wood, D., & TePas, K. (2007). *Descriptive analysis of sexual assault incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2003-2004*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Justice Center: Anchorage, AK.

between the detachment distribution of SA/SAM cases in the analysis sample and that for the full listing of SA/SAM cases contained within the AST sampling frame. Moreover, the analysis sample results were similar to the findings of the study conducted by Postle and his colleagues.

Table 2.

Comparison of analysis sample, AST case record sampling frame, and Postle et al. study: Percentage of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases closed, by AST detachment

Data Source	AST Detachment (%)							(Total N)
	A	B	C	D	E	I	Other	
Analysis sample	5.6	2.3	50.5	5.3	1.8	34.4	0.1	(1,359)
AST sampling frame	3.7	3.7	47.0	6.5	3.8	34.9	0.4	(2,568)
Postle et al. study	3.9	2.4	48.1	8.0	5.5	30.2	1.8	(989)

Sources: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK. Postle, G., Rosay, A. B., Wood, D., & TePas, K. (2007). *Descriptive analysis of sexual assault incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2003-2004*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Justice Center: Anchorage, AK.

SA/SAM case record closures by unit. Table 3 presents the frequencies with which SA/SAM case files were investigated, and subsequently closed, by specific AST agencies/units. Among the 1,359 case records included in the sample, there were a total of 45 AST agencies/units identified. Five of these agencies/units investigated nearly two-thirds of all SA/SAM cases closed during the study period. **Put differently, approximately 10 percent of the identified AST agencies/units investigated 62 percent of the SA/SAM cases that were closed between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011.** The AST agency/unit processing the largest volume of SA/SAM cases during the study period – by a substantial margin – was Bethel AST Enforcement (BETE). Fairbanks AST Investigations (FAII) was next, followed by the Alaska Bureau of Investigation Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU), Nome AST Enforcement (NOME), and then Soldotna AST Investigations (SOLI).

Table 3.

Number of sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case files included in the analysis sample, by agency/unit ID code

Unit ID Code	Number	Percent	Unit ID Code	Number	Percent
AIFE	1	0.07%	ILLE	2	0.15%
ANCI	33	2.43	JUNE	22	1.62
ANCV	2	0.15	KETE	32	2.35
ANIE	36	2.65	KETH	1	0.07
ANPE	7	0.52	KINE	8	0.59
BETE	328	24.14	KLAE	15	1.10
BETV	1	0.07	KODE	23	1.69
CAIU	108	7.95	KOTE	42	3.09
CANE	1	0.07	MCGE	3	0.22
CIBH	1	0.07	NINE	1	0.07
CIBW	1	0.07	NOME	103	7.58
COFE	1	0.07	NOTE	1	0.07
COOE	1	0.07	PALE	8	0.59

Table 3 {continued}.

Number of sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case files included in the analysis sample, by agency/unit ID code

Unit ID Code	Number	Percent	Unit ID Code	Number	Percent
DELE	7	0.52	PALI	69	5.08
DILE	13	0.96	PALP	4	0.29
EMME	38	2.80	RARD	1	0.07
FAIE	15	1.10	SOLE	7	0.52
FAII	220	16.19	SOLI	90	6.62
FARU	1	0.07	STME	32	2.35
GALE	6	0.44	TALE	5	0.37
GIRE	3	0.22	TOKE	3	0.22
GLEE	12	0.88	UNLE	49	3.61
HAIE	2	0.15			
Subtotals	838	61.7		521	38.3
TOTALS	1,359	100.0			

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Table 4 presents an AST agency/unit comparison between the analysis sample and the study conducted by Postle and his colleagues. Listed, in rank-order, on the left side of the table are the 10 AST agencies/units with the largest proportions of SA/SAM cases for the current study. On the right side of the table are the relative rankings and percentages for these same AST agencies/units and their respective rankings in the Postle et al. study. Even at this lower level of geographic aggregation we found consistency in the distribution of SA/SAM cases across

Table 4.

Study comparison of AST agency/unit rank-order distributions of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases

Unit ID Code	Myrstol & Parker (2015)		Postle et al. (2007)	
	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent
BETE	1	24.1	1	17.0
FAII	2	16.2	3	7.6
CAIU	3	8.0	4	6.7
NOME	4	7.6	7	5.6
SOLI	5	6.6	8	5.6
PALI	6	5.1	2	8.4
UNLE	7	3.6	39	0.2
KOTE	8	3.1	6	5.6
EMME	9	2.8	28	0.6
ANIE	10	2.7	11	3.2
(Total # Units)	(45)		(47)	

Sources: Postle, G., Rosay, A. B., Wood, D., & TePas, K. (2007). *Descriptive analysis of sexual assault incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2003-2004*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Justice Center: Anchorage, AK. Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

studies. In both the current study and the Postle et al. study, Bethel AST Enforcement investigated the largest percentage of cases. In addition, 7 of the 10 highest ranking AST agencies/units identified in the current study were also ranked among the 10 highest volume AST agencies/units in the study conducted by Postle and his colleagues as well.

In summary, the results presented in Tables 1-4 show that the sampling protocol implemented in the current study was highly effective in producing a temporally and administratively/geographically representative cross-section of SA/SAM cases closed by AST.

Case Record Characteristics

Case closure codes. AST uses seven closure codes to denote how each case was resolved: CA (closed, arrest), CD (closed, declined), CR (closed, referred), CE (closed, exception), CI (closed, investigated), CL (closed, logged), and CU (closed, unfounded).

Referrals for prosecution/adjudication. The closure codes CA, CD, and CR constitute three subsets of cases that were *referred* to either the Alaska Department of Law (DOL) or the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for screening and review. The closure code CA was used in cases in which AST placed one or more individuals under arrest, filed for arrest warrants, or issued summonses. Cases closed CA were referred to DOL/DJJ. The closure code CD was used to indicate that a case was referred to DOL/DJJ for review prior to an arrest being made, and that DOL/DJJ responded that formal charges pertaining to the case would not be accepted or filed. The closure code CR was used in those cases that were forwarded to DOL/DJJ for screening and review, prior to an arrest being made. The most frequently observed referral

Table 5.
AST closure codes for sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases

Case Closure	Number	Percent
Referred		
Closed, arrest (CA)	250	18.4
Closed, declined (CD)	80	5.9
Closed, referred (CR)	518	38.1
	<i>Sub-totals:</i>	<i>848</i>
		<i>62.4</i>
Not Referred		
Closed, exception (CE)	6	0.4
Closed, investigated (CI)	321	23.6
Closed, logged (CL)	63	4.6
Closed, unfounded (CU)	120	8.8
Missing/unknown	1	<0.1
	<i>Sub-totals</i>	<i>511</i>
		<i>37.4</i>
	TOTALS	1,359
		99.8

Sources: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100.0% due to rounding error.

closure code in the analysis sample was CR, followed by CA and then CD. Overall, an estimated 62.4 percent of SA/SAM cases closed by AST between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011 were *referred* to DOL/DJJ for screening and review (see Table 5).

Cases that were closed but not referred to DOL/DJJ were assigned one of the 4 remaining closure code designations by AST. Cases were closed CE when circumstances beyond AST’s control prevented the agency from arresting or charging a suspect, making it not possible to move a case forward in the criminal justice/juvenile justice systems (for example, death of a suspect). The CI designation was used in those cases in which an investigation was concluded and there was a determination that there was insufficient evidence to move a case forward. (However, the CI designation is not a determination that the alleged offense did not occur. See discussion of CU designation, below.) Closed, logged cases (CL) represented those instances whereby an incident or event reported to Troopers did not necessitate a formal report and no further police action was necessary. Finally, cases in which it was determined that the initial complaint was deemed false or baseless – that is, that the alleged offense did not occur – were coded CU (closed, unfounded).

Among those cases not referred to DOL/DJJ, the most common closure code was CI, closed investigated. This category of cases constituted more than 60 percent of non-referred cases, and nearly a quarter of all the SA/SAM cases closed by AST during the study period. Cases closed CU comprised 22.6 percent of non-referred cases (8.8% of all cases); cases closed CL represented 11.9 percent of non-referred cases (4.6% of all cases). The least common closure code was CE, which was observed only 6 times (1.1% of non-referred cases; 0.4% of all cases). Overall, an estimated 37.3 percent of SA/SAM cases in the analysis sample were assigned an AST closure code indicating that they were not referred to DOL/DJJ for screening and review.

Month opened, month closed. Table 6 presents the distribution of SA/SAM cases included in the analysis sample according to the month they were opened, and the month they were closed. Overall, while there was some variability, cases were evenly distributed by month. (In a perfectly uniform distribution each month would contain 8.3% of all sample cases.) Table 6 also shows that there was no appreciable difference between the month opened and month closed distributions. In other words, AST’s SA/SAM case flow inputs and case flow outputs were relatively stable on a month-to-month basis.

Table 6.
Month sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases were opened/closed

Month	Month SA/SAM Cases Opened		Month SA/SAM Cases Closed	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
January	139	10.2	113	8.3
February	79	5.8	93	6.8
March	106	7.8	111	8.2
April	102	7.5	133	9.8
May	118	8.7	105	7.7
June	122	9.0	165	12.1
July	129	9.5	151	11.1
August	119	8.8	131	9.6

Table 6. (continued)

Month sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases were opened/closed

	Month SA/SAM Cases Opened		Month SA/SAM Cases Closed	
September	104	7.7	69	5.1
October	119	8.8	104	7.7
November	106	7.8	80	5.9
December	116	8.5	104	7.7
	1,359	100.1%	1,359	100.0

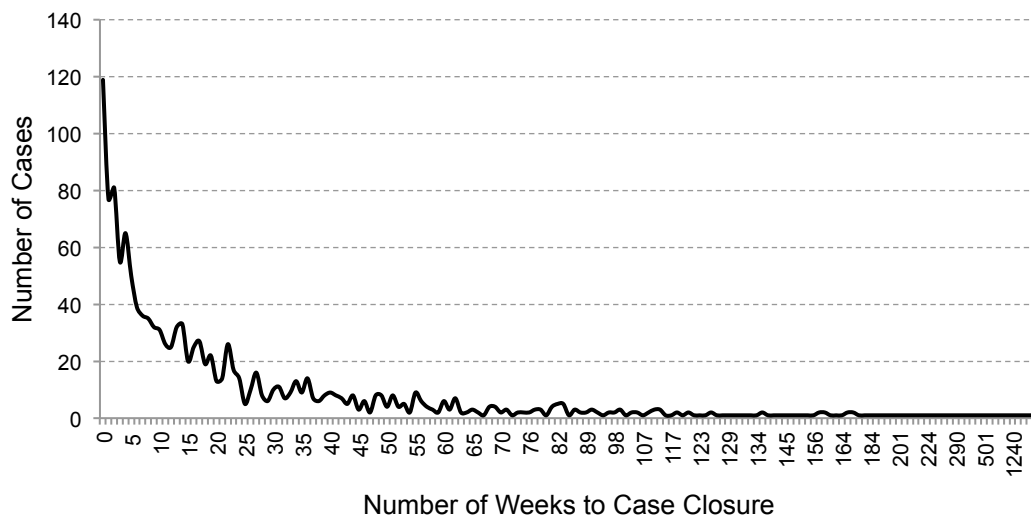
Sources: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100.0% due to rounding error.

Case closure time. Case closure times (in weeks) for the full sample of 1,359 SA/SAM cases is presented in Figure 1. The vertical axis shows the number of SA/SAM cases; the horizontal axis shows the number of weeks between the date a case was opened and the date it was closed by AST. The minimum value was 0 weeks, indicating that a case was closed in less than 1 week; the maximum value was 1,272 weeks (approximately 24.5 years). Figure 1 shows that the distribution of case closure times was heavily skewed. Whereas the mean (average) number of weeks between a SA/SAM case being opened and closed was 35 weeks (s.d. = 103.11), the median value was only 13 weeks. The mean number of case closure weeks was much larger than the median due to a small number of SA/SAM cases that had extremely large case closure times. There were 8 SA/SAM cases (0.6% of the entire sample) with case closure time values exceeding 1,000 weeks.⁷ When these 8 cases were removed from the sample, the mean case closure time was reduced to 27.9 weeks (s.d. = 45.63) while the median remained at 13 weeks.

Figure 1.

Distribution of sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case closure time (in weeks)



Sources: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

⁷ All eight of these cases were investigated by AST's D-detachment. Seven of the eight cases were opened in 1987; one was opened in 1989.

Incident reporting. This study measured two aspects of incident reporting: (1) the agency/organization that first learned of an SA/SAM incident, and (2) the individual (or in some instances, agency/organization) that made the initial disclosure of an SA/SAM incident to the police or other agency/organization. Table 7 presents the results for the former; Table 8 presents the results for the latter.

Table 7.

Agency/organization/individual to whom SA/SAM incidents were first reported

Agency/Organization	Number	Percent
Alaska State Troopers (AST)	974	71.7
Children/family services	90	6.6
Other police	84	6.2
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)	63	4.6
Village police officer (VPO)	61	4.5
Medical/mental health	30	2.2
Child/victim advocacy	16	1.2
Tribal Police Officer (TPO)	11	0.8
School/teacher	10	0.7
Juvenile/adult corrections	9	0.7
Other authorities	4	0.3
Witness/third party	4	0.3
Unknown	3	0.2
TOTALS	1,359	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

While this study makes use of AST case records, it is important to note that AST was not always the agency/organization that was *first* notified of an alleged SA/SAM incident. As shown in Table 7, SA/SAM incidents were first reported to an agency/organization other than AST in more than a quarter of SA/SAM cases. With this caveat in mind, AST was the first agency to be notified of SA/SAM incidents in a substantial majority – 72 percent – of SA/SAM cases. First reports of SA/SAM incidents were made to other police agencies, VPSOs, VPOs, and TPOs in an additional 18 percent of cases. Altogether, police agencies/organizations received the first notification of SA/SAM incidents in 87.9 percent of cases.

Among the other non-police agencies/organizations that were first notified of SA/SAM incidents, an office of children/family services was notified first (6.6% of cases), followed by medical/mental health organizations (2.2%) and child/victim advocacy providers (1.2%). Other agencies/organizations that contacted AST to report SA/SAM incidents they were made aware of included schools/teachers (0.7%), juvenile/adult corrections officials (0.7%), other authorities (0.3%), and witnesses/third-parties (0.3%). The party to whom an SA/SAM incident was first reported, and who then contacted AST, was unknown/undetermined in 3 cases (0.2%).

While Table 7 presented information pertaining to the agency/organization/individual that first learned of a SA/SAM incident, Table 8 presents information pertaining to who *disclosed* knowledge of SA/SAM incidents to AST or some other agency/organization. The results in

Table 8 show that SA/SAM incidents were most likely to be disclosed by an individual witness or other third-party. Of the 1,359 SA/SAM cases included in the analysis sample, 582 of them (42.8%) were disclosed by witnesses/third-parties.

Table 8.

Individual/agency/organization/ that initially disclosed sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor incidents

Individual/Agency/Organization	Number	Percent
Witness/third party	582	42.83
Victim	455	33.48
Children/family services	162	11.92
Medical/mental health	69	5.08
Child/victim advocacy	17	1.25
School/teacher	14	1.03
Other police	9	0.66
Suspect	9	0.66
Juvenile/adult corrections	7	0.52
Tribal Police Officer (TPO)	6	0.44
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)	3	0.22
Village police officer (VPO)	2	0.15
Alaska State Troopers (AST)	2	0.15
Private security	2	0.15
Employer	1	0.07
Unknown	19	1.40
TOTALS	1,395	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

A third of all the SA/SAM cases (33.5%) included in the sample were initially disclosed by victims themselves. Child/family services caseworkers were the first to report SA/SAM incidents in 162 cases (11.9%). Medical/mental health professionals made initial SA/SAM incident disclosures in 69 case files (5.1%). Child/victim advocacy providers made initial reports in 17 SA/SAM cases (1.3%). Teachers made initial reports in an additional 14 SA/SAM cases (1%). Taken together, professionals in these four professional fields – children/family services, medical/mental health, child/victim advocacy, and teaching – made initial reports of SA/SAM incidents to police or other agencies/organizations in nearly one out of every five cases (19.3%).

Individuals affiliated with criminal justice/public safety entities – TPOs, VPSOs, VPOs, Troopers and other police agencies, juvenile/adult corrections, and private security firms – made the initial disclosure of a SA/SAM incident in 2.1 percent of cases.

Suspects self-disclosed their own criminal conduct in nine (0.7%) SA/SAM cases.

One employer initially disclosed a SA/SAM incident to police or some other agency/organization.

Finally, in 19 of the SA/SAM cases sampled, it was not possible to identify who initially disclosed SA/SAM incidents.

Lead investigators/Troopers. A total of 177 individual AST Troopers were identified as the lead/primary investigator (see Table 9). Forty-six of these individuals (26% of officers) investigated only a single SA/SAM case during the study period. Slightly more than a third (35%) of the Troopers in the sample conducted investigations for between two and five SA/SAM investigations. An additional 15.3 percent of officers were identified as the lead/primary investigator for at least 6 but no more than 10 SA/SAM cases. Twelve AST Investigators/Troopers were identified as the lead for 11-15 cases, 13 were identified for 16-20 cases, 6 were identified for 21-25 cases, and 11 officers investigated 26 or more SA/SAM cases. The maximum number of SA/SAM investigations conducted during the study period by any single officer was 68.

Table 9.

Number of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases investigated by lead investigators/Troopers

Number of SA/SAM Cases Investigated	Number of Officers	Percent of Officers in Sample
1 case	46	26.0
2-5 cases	62	35.0
6-10 cases	27	15.3
11-15 cases	12	6.8
16-20 cases	13	7.3
21-25 cases	6	3.4
26 or more cases	11	6.2
TOTALS	177	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Evidence collected. Table 10 summarizes the types of evidence that were documented as being collected in the case records that were reviewed. Physical evidence (e.g., items of clothing, objects/instruments used in the commission of an assault, or that were seized in order to obtain trace evidence) was collected in 21.9 percent of SA/SAM cases. Trace evidence (e.g., biological substances, textile fibers/fabric, chemical substances) was gathered in 7.4 percent of cases. Photographs of crime scenes were more common than photographs of specific items of physical/trace evidence collected. Crime scene photographs were documented in approximately 15 percent of case records; photographs of individual evidence items were included in just over 8 percent of cases. Electronic evidence/data was seized in slightly less than 7 percent of the SA/SAM case records reviewed.

Victims underwent evidentiary sexual assault (SART) examinations in roughly a quarter (24%) of the cases reviewed. Case records indicated that photographs were taken during 14.1 percent of victims' SART exams. SART exam documents included photographic documentation of victim injuries in 9.5 percent of cases. Forensic medical examinations were performed on suspects in 6.5 percent of SA/SAM cases. Case records indicated that DNA evidence was obtained from sexual assault victims in 17.2 percent of cases and from suspects in 12.8 percent of cases.

Specific mention of DNA evidence being forwarded to the state crime lab for analysis was made in 14.9 percent of case records.

Weapons (e.g., firearms, knives, blunt instruments) were seized as evidence in 1.3 percent of the SA/ SAM case records reviewed.

Table 10.

Evidence collected in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases (n=1,359)

Type of Evidence	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Physical evidence collected	297	21.9
Trace evidence collected	100	7.4
Electronic evidence/data recovered	94	6.9
Photographs of evidence collected taken	114	8.4
Photographs of crime scene taken	202	14.9
SA kit: Victim(s)	326	24.0
SA kit, photographs taken: Victim(s)	192	14.1
SA kit, injuries photographed: Victim(s)	129	9.5
SA kit: Suspect(s)	88	6.5
DNA: Victim(s)	234	17.2
DNA: Suspect(s)	174	12.8
Forensic evidence forwarded for analysis	202	14.9
Weapons seized	18	1.3

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Search warrants. In addition to documenting the types of evidence gathered in the course of SA/SAM investigations, the case file review also collected information pertaining to search warrants that were obtained. Table 11 presents the types of search warrants sought by AST for the case records reviewed. Overall, at least one type of search warrant was obtained in 23 percent of cases. Warrants permitting the recording of conversations (both in-person as well as telephonic conversations), commonly referred to as Glass warrants, were obtained by investigators in 14.1 percent of the case files reviewed. Warrants granting permission for police to search a person’s residence and/or private property were documented in 7.1 percent of case records. Warrants for the search of a person (as opposed to an individual’s personal property/effects) were indicated in 7.2 percent of cases. Warrants for the search of personal records (e.g., medical, financial, telephone records) were mentioned in 2 percent of the case records reviewed. In two case records, mention was made of a warrant being obtained, but the specific nature/type of warrant was not specified in enough detail to code accurately.

Table 11.
Search warrants obtained (case record-level)

Type of Warrant	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Any search warrant	313	23.0
<i>Warrant to record conversation (Glass warrant)</i>	191	14.1
<i>Warrant to search residence/property</i>	97	7.1
<i>Warrant to search the person</i>	98	7.2
<i>Warrant to search records</i>	27	2.0
<i>Other search warrant (not specified)</i>	2	0.2

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Individuals noted in case records. Within the 1,359 case records included in the analysis sample, there were a total of 6,407 persons documented as being included in the investigation of SA/SAM incidents. Individuals noted in SA/SAM case records were classified as belonging to one of three groups: *suspect*, *victim*, or *witness/third party* according to their role in SA/SAM incidents. An estimated 21.8 percent of the individuals involved in SA/SAM incidents were suspects, 24.5 percent were identified as victims, and 53.7 percent were identified as witnesses/third parties.

Table 12.
Role designation of individuals identified in case records

Role Code	Number	Percent
Suspect	1,396	21.8
Victim	1,571	24.5
Witness/third party	3,440	53.7
TOTALS	6,407	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Table 13 (next page) provides a summary of the number of SA/SAM cases in which the identity of suspects and victims was known. In 88.2 percent of the case records reviewed there was a single suspect identified. Multiple suspects were identified in only 6 percent of cases. Similarly, in 88.6 percent of the SA/SAM case records reviewed there was a single victim identified by Troopers. Multiple victims were identified in 10.7 percent of the SA/SAM case records reviewed. The maximum number of suspects identified in any single case record was six; the maximum number of victims identified was eight. Table 13 also presents the number of cases in which SA/SAM suspects and victims were not personally identified. The identity of suspects was not provided in 5.8 percent of case records. In 10 case records the personal identity of SA/SAM victims was either unknown to AST or was not provided in case records.

Table 13.

Number of individual suspects and victims identified in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases

# Individuals	Suspects		Victims	
	# Cases	% Cases	# Cases	% Cases
One	1,197	88.2	1,202	88.6
Two	60	4.4	98	7.2
Three	15	1.1	28	2.1
Four	3	0.2	10	0.7
Five	2	0.1	7	0.5
Six or more	2	0.1	2	0.1
Identity unknown	78	5.8	10	0.7
	1,357 ^a		1,357 ^a	

Sources: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding error.

a. The total number of cases does not sum to 1,359 because in two case records no individuals, regardless of role, were personally identified. In both of these instances (both of which were closed CL), the only information contained in the report was the occurrence of a SA/SAM incident/offense.

Table 14 presents the total number of witnesses/third parties – that is, those identified by officers as witnesses to SA/SAM incidents, persons who possessed knowledge of reported SA/SAM incidents and/or the people involved in them, and other individuals who were otherwise identified and listed by Troopers in the case record. A large majority of SA/SAM case records (82%) documented at least one witness/third party. In total, 24.1 percent of SA/SAM case records cited a single witness/third party, 18.9 percent identified two witnesses/third parties, 12.4 percent cited three, 10.8 percent listed four, and 4.9 percent identified 5. Approximately 1 out of every 5 SA/SAM cases (18%) did not include any witnesses/third parties. Altogether, 89 percent of SA/SAM cases documented 5 or fewer witnesses/third parties.

Table 14.

Number of individual witnesses/third parties identified in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases

# Individuals	# Cases	% Cases
Zero	244	18.0
One	327	24.1
Two	257	18.9
Three	168	12.4
Four	147	10.8
Five	67	4.9
Six	48	3.5
Seven	41	3.0
Eight	21	1.6
Nine	12	0.9

Table 14. {continued}

Number of individual witnesses/third parties identified in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor cases

# Individuals	# Cases	% Cases
Ten	10	0.7
More than ten	15	1.2
TOTALS		1,357 ^a
		100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

a. The total number of cases does not sum to 1,359 because in two case records no individuals, regardless of role, were personally identified. In both of these instances (both of which were closed CL), the only information contained in the report was the occurrence of a SA/SAM incident.

Criminal charges and other violations. Within AST case records, the statutory violations documented by Troopers serve as a proxy measure for actual offenses committed and they do not necessarily reflect the charge (or charges) levied against a suspected offender. More accurately, the statutory violations documented by Troopers in case records reflect the nature of the offense that was reported to them, or that an officer, after investigation, had probable cause to believe occurred, or both. In addition, the statute violations recorded in case files also do not imply that the identity of a perpetrator was ever determined. (The identity of suspects was unknown in approximately 6 percent of the SA/SAM case records reviewed for this study.)

A total of 2,965 violations of Alaska statutes were recorded in the analysis sample of 1,359 SA/SAM case records. An estimated 92.9 percent of the statutory violations noted by Troopers were for a criminal offense (Title 11; see Table 15). More than half of the remainder included violations of Title 47 statutes (Welfare, Social Services & Institutions). Alcoholic beverages violations comprised 2.1 percent of all statutory violations documented in SA/SAM case records. Specific references to Alaska's Code of Criminal Procedure were recorded by AST investigators in 11 case records (0.3% of total). All other statutory violations combined constituted 0.7 percent of all the statute violations recorded in SA/SAM case records by AST.

Table 15.

Alaska statute violations documented in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records, by Title

Alaska Statutes Title	Number	Percent
Criminal Law (Title 11)	2,755	92.9
Welfare, Social Services & Institutions (Title 47)	118	4.0
Alcoholic Beverages (Title 4)	60	2.1
Code of Criminal Procedure (Title 12)	11	0.3
All Other ^a	21	0.7
TOTALS		2,965
		100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Table 16 presents the distribution of *criminal offenses* identified in SA/SAM case records. More than 94 percent of the 2,755 criminal charges noted by Troopers were for *offenses against the person*. A majority of the remaining criminal charges were for *offenses against property* (2.0%), *offenses against public order* (1.3%), and *offenses against public administration* (1.0%). Crimes

committed *against the family and vulnerable adults, against public health and decency, and controlled substance* offenses were each documented in less than 1 percent of SA/SAM cases.

Table 16.

Alaska criminal law statute violations documented in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records, by Chapter

Chapter	Number	Percent
Offenses against the person (Chapter 41)	2,593	94.1
Offenses against property (Chapter 46)	56	2.0
Offenses against public order (Chapter 61)	36	1.3
Offenses against public administration (Chapter 56)	28	1.0
Offenses against the family and vulnerable adults (Chapter 51)	20	0.7
Controlled Substances (Chapter 71)	21	0.8
Offenses against public health and decency (Chapter 66)	1	< 0.1
TOTALS	2,755	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Alaska statutes classify six offenses against the person as *sexual offenses*: sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, incest, online enticement of a minor, unlawful exploitation of a minor, and indecent exposure. Over 90 percent of all the offenses against the person charges specifically cited one of these sexual offenses (see Table 17). An estimated 5.5 percent of charges cited in SA/SAM case were for *assault or reckless endangerment, kidnapping, custodial interference, and human trafficking* charges were observed in only 1.1 percent of SA/SAM case records. *Robbery, extortion, and coercion* offenses were only rarely cited in SA/SAM case records (0.4%).

Table 17.

Alaska criminal law violations documented in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Offenses against persons, by Article

Alaska Statutes Title, Article	Number	Percent
Sexual offenses (Article 4)	2,411	93.0
Assault and reckless endangerment (Article 2)	143	5.5
Kidnapping, custodial interference, and human trafficking (Article 3)	29	1.1
Robbery, extortion, and coercions (Article 5)	10	0.4
TOTALS	2,593	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Of the 2,411 violations of sexual offense statutes documented in SA/SAM case records, very nearly all of them (n=2,375; 98.5%) were for either *sexual assault* or *sexual abuse of a minor* offenses (see Table 18). In Alaska, the crimes of both sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor are classified into four seriousness levels. The most serious are classified as *first-degree* offenses, followed by *second-, third-, and fourth-degree* offenses. For both sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor, first-degree offenses are *unclassified* felonies, second-degree offenses are *Class B* felonies, third-degree offenses are *Class C* felonies, and fourth-degree offenses are *Class A* misdemeanors. The frequency with which each of these offense categories was recorded

in SA/SAM case records by Troopers is shown in Table 18. A majority (59%) of the criminal charges cited were for sexual abuse of a minor offenses. For both sexual offense types – SA and SAM – the charges recorded were likely to be for first-degree or second-degree offenses (88.4% of sexual assault charges; 80.4 percent of sexual abuse of a minor charges). Misdemeanor charges were infrequently cited in either sexual assault (0.04% of SA/SAM charges) or sexual abuse of a minor cases (3.5% of SA/SAM charges). An estimated 3.1 percent of sexual assault charges and 4.3 percent of sexual abuse of a minor charges listed in SA/SAM case records did not detail the specific statute article or subsection that was violated by an offender (for example, a sexual assault offense that was recorded only as a “Sexual Assault” in a case record).

Table 18.

Alaska sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor statute violations documented in sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records

Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse of a Minor Offense	Number	Percent
Sexual assault, 1st degree	495	20.84
Sexual assault, 2nd degree	366	15.40
Sexual assault, 3rd degree	39	1.64
Sexual assault, 4th degree	1	0.04
Sexual assault, unspecified	73	3.07
<i>Subtotals:</i>	<i>974</i>	<i>40.99</i>
Sexual abuse of a minor, 1st degree	529	22.27
Sexual abuse of a minor, 2nd degree	597	25.14
Sexual abuse of a minor, 3rd degree	90	3.79
Sexual abuse of a minor, 4th degree	83	3.49
Sexual abuse of a minor, unspecified	102	4.29
<i>Subtotals:</i>	<i>1,401</i>	<i>58.98</i>
TOTALS	2,375	99.97^a

Source: Myrston, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: a. Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to rounding error.

Table 19 (next page) shows the number of SA/SAM charges for the 1,359 case records included in the analysis sample. Nearly three-quarters (73.4%) of cases included a single SA/SAM offense. Approximately one out of every six cases (16.3%) cited two SA/SAM charges, and an additional 7 percent of cases listed between three and five SA/SAM charges. Six or more SA/SAM offenses were documented in an estimated 3.2 percent of case records.

Table 19.

Number of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor charges per case record

# SA/SAM Charges Cited	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
One	998	73.4
Two	222	16.3
Three	46	3.4
Four	30	2.2
Five	20	1.5
Six or more	43	3.2
TOTALS	1,359	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

SUSPECT CHARACTERISTICS

Suspect age. In all, the case record review noted 1,396 individual SA/SAM suspects. However, in some cases the specific identity of a suspect was unknown to Troopers⁸. Table 20 (next page) presents the distribution of SA/SAM suspect ages (in years) *when investigations were initiated*, not necessarily when SA/ SAM incidents were alleged to have occurred⁹. The age group distribution presented in Table 20 is limited to those suspects whose identities were known and whose date of birth was documented in case records. A total of 173 suspects (12.4%) were identified as juveniles (age 18 and under) when AST was first notified of SA/SAM incidents. An estimated 2.3 percent of suspects were 12 years of age or younger, 6.8 percent were 13 to 15 years old, and 17.9 percent were between the ages of 16 and 20. The largest age group was suspects between the ages of 21 and 30 (29.7%), followed by those aged 31 to 40 years old (15.5%), 41 to 50 years old (14%), and those 51 years of age or older (13.7%). Overall, the average age of SA/SAM suspects when investigations were initiated was 31.8 years (s.d. = 14.99, results not shown).

⁸ For example, a victim or witness/third party suspect may have been able to provide investigators with a general description of a perpetrator, but they did not know a perpetrator's specific identity (e.g., name or other personally identifying information) or were unwilling to disclose such information to Troopers. The names of 54 SA/SAM suspects (3.9% of all SA/SAM suspects in the sample) were unknown or undocumented in case records.

⁹ The date when SA/SAM investigations were initiated was used rather than when SA/SAM incidents were alleged to have occurred because of the reliability/validity of date information, and consistency of date information across case records. While the date each SA/SAM investigation was initiated was known and recorded for every case, the dates of SA/SAM incidents were frequently unknown or were estimated rather than exact dates. In addition, in a substantial number of case reports, SA/SAM victimization was not limited to a discrete/singular event; rather, the case report documented serial abuse that had occurred over an extended period of time (sometimes years) and precise dates of SA/SAM assaults were unknown.

Table 20.

Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect age^a when investigations were initiated

Suspect Age Group	Number of Suspects	Percent ^b of Suspects
12 years old and younger	26	2.3
13 to 15 years old	76	6.8
16 to 20 years old	200	17.9
21 to 30 years old	331	29.7
31 to 40 years old	173	15.5
41 to 50 years old	156	14.0
51 years old and older	153	13.7
TOTALS	1,115	99.9

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Limited to suspects whose identities were known and date of birth was recorded.

b. Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to rounding error.

Suspect sex/gender. A total of 1,370 SA/SAM case records (98.1% of sample) included information pertaining to suspects' sex/gender (see Table 21). An overwhelming majority – in excess of 96 percent - of SA/SAM offenders in the analysis sample was identified as male.

Table 21.

Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect sex/gender

Suspect Sex/Gender	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Female	49	3.6
Male	1,321	96.4
TOTALS	1,370	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Suspect race/ethnicity. SA/SAM case records included information pertaining to the race/ethnicity of 1,256 persons documented as suspects (see Table 22). An estimated 61.9 percent of SA/SAM suspects were identified in case records as being Alaska Native/American Indian. More than a third of SA/SAM suspects (35.4%) were identified as White/Caucasian. Suspects were identified as Black/African American, Asian, or as belonging to some other racial/ethnic group in only 2.7 percent of SA/SAM case records.

Table 22.

Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect race/ethnicity

Suspect Race/Ethnicity	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Alaska Native/American Indian	777	61.9
Asian	8	0.6
Black/African American	25	2.0
White/Caucasian	445	35.4
All other	1	0.1
TOTALS	1,256	100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Disability status. In addition to the social/demographic characteristics described previously, SA/SAM case records were also examined for indicators of cognitive/developmental, psychiatric/mental health, and physical disabilities among the individuals identified by Troopers. Table 23 presents disability statuses that were recorded for SA/SAM suspects. In all, Troopers' narratives referenced one or more of these disabilities for just 19 of the 1,396 SA/SAM offenders in the sample (1.4%). Among these, case report narratives referenced cognitive/developmental disabilities (only) for 12 suspects, psychiatric/mental health disabilities (only) for 5 suspects, co-occurring cognitive/developmental and psychiatric/mental health disabilities for 1 suspect, and combined cognitive/developmental and physical disabilities for 1 suspect.

Table 23.

Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect disability statuses

Disability	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Any cognitive/mental health/physical disability	19	1.4
<i>Disability: Cognitive/developmental disability only</i>	12	
<i>Disability: Psychiatric/mental health only</i>	5	
<i>Disability: Cognitive/developmental and psychiatric/mental health</i>	1	
<i>Disability: Cognitive/developmental and physical</i>	1	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Military affiliation. Table 24 shows the percentage of SA/SAM suspects who were identified in case records as being in the military when the incident occurred, or the family member/dependent of a service member (e.g., spouse, child). In total, an estimated 3 percent of SA/SAM offenders in the sample (n=41) were either in the military themselves, or were a family member/dependent of military personnel.

Table 24.

Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect military affiliation

Suspect Military Affiliation	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Member of military	36	2.6
Family member in military	5	0.4

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Investigative activities and outcomes. Table 25 presents the investigative activities and outcomes for individuals identified as suspects in SA/SAM case records. Slightly less than 40 percent were present when Troopers arrived after being notified of a SA/SAM incident. Nearly

Table 25.

Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Investigative activities, suspects

Investigative Activity	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Suspect: Present when officers arrived	542	39.8
Suspect: Interviewed by AST	888	63.6
<i>Interview mode: In-person</i>	799	
<i>Interview mode: Telephonically</i>	66	
<i>Interview mode: Not specified</i>	23	
<i>Interview recorded: Audio</i>	790	
<i>Interview recorded: Video</i>	74	
<i>Statements/account internally consistent</i>	676	
<i>Interviewee was uncooperative</i>	101	
Suspect: Admitted to sexual acts w/ victim(s)	420	30.1
<i>Suspect stated victim(s) consented</i>	210	
Suspect: Arrested	265	19.0
<i>Arresting agency: AST</i>	225	
<i>Arresting agency: VPSO</i>	2	
<i>Arresting agency: VPO/TPO</i>	7	
<i>Arresting agency: Other law enforcement</i>	8	
<i>Arresting agency: Not specified</i>	23	
Suspect: Warrant obtained for arrest	76	5.4

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

two-thirds of suspects were interviewed (when Troopers arrived, or at a different time and location). Suspect interviews were typically conducted in-person, but were also performed telephonically. Audio recordings were documented in 89 percent of SA/SAM suspect interviews. Video recordings were documented much less frequently – in just over eight percent of SA/SAM suspect interviews. Close examination of the interview narratives included in the case records revealed that the statements/accounts of SA/SAM incidents given by suspects were internally consistent most of the time (76.1% of SA/SAM suspect interviews). Conversely, inconsistent and/or contradictory statements were identified in nearly a quarter (23.9%) of

SA/SAM suspect interviews. Approximately 30 percent of SA/SAM suspects admitted to sexual acts with victims (although not necessarily the specific acts constituting the criminal offense(s) for which they were accused); half of these SA/SAM suspects stated that the sexual conduct was consensual.

Examination of closure codes, case record narratives, as well as supplemental documents such as prosecutorial/court documents, revealed that 19 percent of SA/SAM suspects were arrested. The vast majority of these arrests (84.9%) were made by AST; however, other law enforcement entities made arrests of SA/SAM suspects as well. Case records showed that arrest warrants were obtained for approximately five percent of all SA/SAM suspects.

Information pertaining to the probation/parole status of SA/SAM suspects was also coded from case record narratives and supporting documents. Slightly more than three percent of suspects (n=44) were under probation or parole supervision when the SA/SAM incident occurred (data not shown).

Relationship to victim(s). While a large majority of SA/SAM cases in the analysis sample included only a single perpetrator and a single victim, other combinations were observed as well. The composition of SA/SAM cases also included single suspect-multiple victim, multiple suspects-single victim, and multiple suspects-multiple victims combinations. This complexity made it difficult to accurately capture and record the relationship of the many suspect-victim dyads in cases with multiple suspects and/or multiple victims.

Table 26.

Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Relationships between suspect(s) and victim(s)^a – single suspect, single victim cases only

Suspect relationship to victim	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Relatives ^b	305	28.7
Acquaintances ^c	299	28.1
Friends ^c	175	16.5
Current or former intimate partner or spouse	119	11.2
Authority figure ^d to victim	59	5.5
Person unknown to victim (“stranger”)	41	3.9
Unspecified/unknown	65	6.1
TOTALS	1,063	100.0

Source: Myrston, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Limited to cases involving only a single suspect and a single victim (n=1,063).

b. “Relatives” includes immediate family members (e.g., parents, siblings), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles/aunts, cousins), and in-laws. Spouses were measured separately.

c. Whereas prior research has collapsed the categories of “Friends” and “Acquaintances,” we keep them separated in order to differentiate the degree of intimacy, emotional connection, and trust that distinguishes “friends,” on the one hand, and “acquaintances” on the other.

d. “Authority Figure” was operationalized as an individual who exercises real or apparent authority over another and who, in the exercise of this authority, inspires, or has the capacity to demand or coerce, compliance/ obedience. Alaska statutes provide numerous examples of persons that occupy “positions of authority” including, but not limited to: employers, counselors/therapists, teachers/school administrators, religious leaders, medical/mental health providers, and law enforcement officials.

Therefore, the data presented in Table 26 below reflect the relationships between suspects and victims *only for those case records with a single suspect and a single victim*. The total number of cases for which this condition was met was 1,063 (78.2% of the case records sampled).

In nearly all instances, SA/SAM suspects were known to victims. Suspects and victims were family members in 28.7 percent of cases, acquaintances in 28.1 percent of cases, and friends in 16.5 percent of cases. Roughly one out of every 10 SA/SAM suspects were either victims' current or former spouses/intimate partners. Authority figures were identified as SA/SAM suspects in 5.5 percent of cases. Persons unknown to victims – that is, strangers – represented only 3.9 percent of SA/SAM suspects. The specific relationship between SA/SAM suspects and victims could not be determined in slightly more than six percent of the case records sampled. Nearly a quarter (n=318; 22.8%) of SA/SAM suspects cohabitated/shared a residence with victims (data not shown).

Prior domestic and sexual violence history. SA/SAM suspects' prior histories of domestic violence and sexual assault with victims are shown in Table 27. The data presented were gleaned from the narratives and supporting documents contained within AST SA/SAM case records only. Other sources of information – such as criminal history repository, archival prosecution records, or court proceedings/judgments – were not directly accessed by the research team (although these data sources may have been referenced in the SA/SAM case records).

As shown in Table 27, a substantial percentage of SA/SAM offenders had previously committed acts of domestic violence and/or sexual assault against the victims identified in the current sample of SA/SAM cases. Approximately 13 percent of SA/SAM suspects had committed at least one prior act of domestic violence and more than 17 percent of SA/SAM suspects had committed at least one prior sexual assault. Fewer than one out of every five of these previous domestic violence incidents and sexual assaults were ever reported to police. AST case records also indicated that 1.8 percent of SA/SAM suspects had at least one prior domestic violence conviction (for *any* victim(s)), and 5.8 percent of SA/SAM suspects had at least one prior sexual assault conviction (for *any* victim(s)).

Table 27.

Sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case records: Suspect prior history of domestic and sexual violence

Suspect Prior History	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
At least one prior DV incident committed against victim(s)	183	13.1
One or more of these prior DV incidents reported	34	2.4
At least one prior SA/SAM incident committed against victim(s)	245	17.6
One or more of these prior SA/SAM incidents reported	42	3.0
At least one prior DV conviction, any victim(s)	25	1.8
At least one prior SA/SAM conviction, any victim(s)	81	5.8

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Victim Characteristics

Victim age. In all, the case record review noted 1,571 victims. However, in some cases the specific identity of a victim was unknown to Troopers¹⁰. Table 28 presents the distribution of SA/SAM victim ages (in years) *when investigations were initiated*.¹¹ The age group distribution presented in Table 28 makes use of the same age categories used in the presentation of the age distribution of SA/SAM suspects for purposes of comparison, and is limited to the 1,292 SA/SAM victims whose identities were known and whose date of birth was documented in case records.

In comparison to suspects, SA/SAM victims were much more likely to be juveniles. Whereas an estimated 12.4 percent of suspects were under the age of 18, more than half (n=793; 50.5%) of SA/SAM victims were juveniles (data not shown). Nearly a third of SA/SAM victims (29.9%) were 12 years of age or younger, 18.5 percent were 13 to 15 years old, and one out of every four victims (25.2%) was between the ages of 16 and 20. Altogether, victims aged 21 and older comprised just 26.4 percent of all victims whose ages could be determined from the case record review. The average age of SA/SAM victims when investigations were initiated was 17.8 years (s.d. = 10.78, results not shown) – nearly 14 years younger than the average age of SA/SAM suspects.

Table 28.

Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim age^a when investigations were initiated

Victim Age Group	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
12 years old and younger	386	29.9
13 to 15 years old	239	18.5
16 to 20 years old	325	25.2
21 to 30 years old	195	15.1
31 to 40 years old	78	6.0
41 to 50 years old	48	3.7
51 years old and older	21	1.6
TOTALS	1,292	100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Limited to victims whose identities were known and date of birth was recorded.

¹⁰ For example, a victim or witness/third party suspect may have been able to provide investigators with a general description of a victim, but they did not know their specific identity (e.g., name or other personally identifying information) or were unwilling to disclose such information to Troopers.

¹¹ The date when SA/SAM investigations were initiated was used rather than when SA/SAM incidents were alleged to have occurred because of the reliability/validity of date information, and consistency of date information across case records. While the date each SA/SAM investigation was initiated was known and recorded for every case, the dates of SA/SAM incidents were frequently unknown or were estimated rather than exact dates. In addition, in a substantial number of case reports, SA/SAM victimization was not limited to a discrete/singular event; rather, the case report documented serial abuse that had occurred over an extended period of time (sometimes years) and precise dates of SA/SAM assaults were unknown.

Victim sex/gender. Table 29 presents the sex/gender breakdown for SA/SAM victims. A total of 1,551 case records (98.7% of victims in sample) included information pertaining to victims' sex/gender. Whereas in excess of 95 percent of SA/SAM offenders were male, SA/SAM victims were overwhelmingly female. Of the 1,551 victims whose sex/gender information was provided in case records, 86.5 percent were identified as female.

Table 29.
Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim sex/gender

Victim Sex/Gender	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Female	1,342	86.5
Male	209	13.5
TOTALS	1,551	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Victim race/ethnicity. Information pertaining to the racial/ethnic group membership of 1,459 SA/SAM victims (92.9% of victims in sample) was documented in case records. The racial/ethnic group distribution for SA/SAM victims was remarkably similar to the racial/ethnic group distribution for suspects. An estimated 61.9% of victims were identified as being Alaska Native/American Indian. More than a third of SA/SAM victims (35.9%) were White/Caucasian. Victims were identified as Black/African American, Asian, or as belonging to some other racial/ethnic group in only 2.2 percent of SA/SAM case records (see Table 30).

Table 30.
Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim race/ethnicity

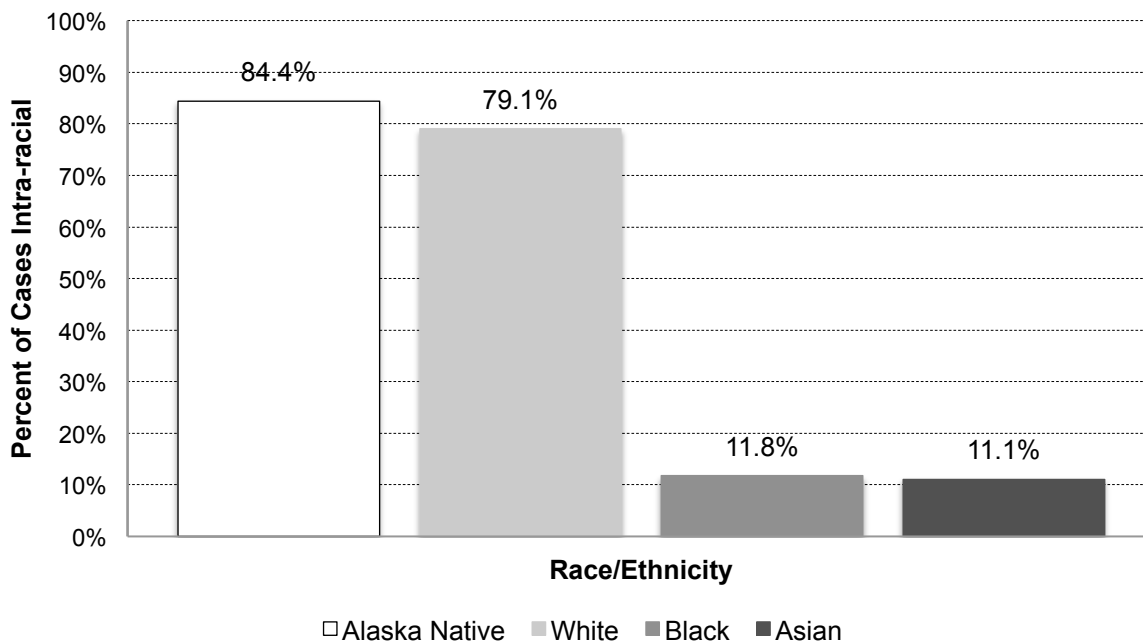
Victim Race/Ethnicity	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Alaska Native/American Indian	903	61.9
Asian	9	0.6
Black/African American	22	1.5
White/Caucasian	523	35.9
All other	2	0.1
TOTALS	1,459	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Victim and suspect race/ethnicity combined. To explore the extent to which SA/SAM incidents were intra-racial, additional analyses were performed examining case records in which both the race/ethnicity of victim(s) and the race/ethnicity of suspect(s) were known. These analyses were limited to case records involving only Alaska Native/American Indian, White/Caucasian, Black/African American, and Asian victims and suspects (see Figure 2, next page).

Figure 2.

Percentage of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor cases: Victim and suspect same race/ethnicity (Alaska Native/American Indian, White/ Caucasian, Black/African American, and Asian only)



Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

There were a total of 782 SA/SAM case records involving *one (or more)* Alaska Native/American Indian victims. In 660 (84.4%) of these case records, the race/ethnicity of *at least one suspect* was also Alaska Native/American Indian. There were a total of 440 SA/SAM case records involving *one (or more)* White/ Caucasian victims. In 348 (79.1%) of these case records, *at least one* suspect was also White/Caucasian. There were a total of 17 SA/SAM case records involving *one (or more)* Black/African American victims. In only 2 of these case records (11.8%) was the race/ethnicity of *at least one* suspect also Black/African American. Finally, there were 9 case records involving *one (or more)* Asian victims. *At least one* suspect was Asian in only a single case record.

Disability status. Table 31 (next page) presents disability statuses that were recorded for SA/SAM victims. In all, Troopers' narratives referenced one or more of these disabilities for 52 of the 1,571 SA/SAM victims in the sample (3.3%). Among these, case report narratives referenced cognitive/developmental disabilities (only) for 22 victims, psychiatric/mental health disabilities (only) for 18 suspects, physical disabilities (only) for 5 victims, co-occurring cognitive/developmental and physical disabilities for 6 victims, and combined cognitive/developmental, psychiatric/mental health, and physical disabilities for 1 victim.

Table 31.
Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim disability status

Disability	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Any cognitive/developmental/mental health/physical disability	52	3.3
<i>Disability: Cognitive/developmental disability only</i>	22	
<i>Disability: Psychiatric/mental health only</i>	18	
<i>Disability: Physical disability only</i>	5	
<i>Disability: Cognitive/developmental <u>and</u> physical</i>	6	
<i>Disability: Cognitive/developmental <u>and</u> psychiatric <u>and</u> physical disability</i>	1	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Military affiliation. Table 32 shows the percentage of SA/SAM victims identified in case records as being in the military when the incident occurred, or the family member/dependent of a service member (e.g., spouse, child). In total, fewer than 2 percent of SA/SAM victims (n=30) in Trooper case records were either in the military themselves, or were a family member/dependent of military personnel.

Table 32.
Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim military affiliation

Victim Military Affiliation	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Member of military	1	.06
Family member in military	29	1.85

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Victim disclosures. More than half (58.6%) of SA/SAM victims in the sample told someone other than the police about the assault (see Table 33, next page). Victims were most likely to disclose to a parent or guardian (52.6% of victims who disclosed), some other family member (26.7%), or a friend (25.9%). Far less common were disclosures by SA/SAM victims to individuals in the helping professions, such as therapists/counselors (9%), medical professionals (8.6%), crisis line/victim advocates (2.3%), social workers (1.9%), and clergy/spiritual advisors (0.9%). In addition, relatively few (8.3%) SA/SAM victims disclosed what happened to them to either a spouse or an intimate partner.

Table 33.

Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim disclosures prior to AST notification by any party

Disclosure	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Victim Disclosure: Anyone Prior to AST Notification	920	58.6
<i>Parent/guardian</i>	484	
<i>Other family member</i>	246	
<i>Friend</i>	238	
<i>Therapist/counselor</i>	83	
<i>Medical professional</i>	79	
<i>Spouse/intimate partner</i>	76	
<i>Teacher/school employee</i>	22	
<i>Crisis line/victim advocate</i>	21	
<i>Office of Children's Services/social worker</i>	17	
<i>Other authorities</i>	9	
<i>Clergy/spiritual advisor</i>	8	
<i>Stranger/person not previously known</i>	8	
<i>Co-worker/employer</i>	6	
<i>Suspect's family</i>	4	
<i>Other police (not AST)</i>	4	
<i>Acquaintance</i>	4	
<i>Babysitter</i>	2	
TOTAL DISCLOSURES^a	1,311	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Total victim disclosures do not sum to 920 because victims could have disclosed to more than one person/entity.

Investigative activities and outcomes. Troopers interviewed more than 84 percent of SA/SAM victims (see Table 34). Nine out of ten SA/SAM interviews were conducted in-person. Audio recording were made in just over 86 percent of interviews. Video recordings, in contrast, were documented in just over a quarter (26.9%) of case records. Close examination of the interview narratives included in the case records revealed that the statements/accounts of SA/SAM incidents given by victims were internally consistent 90 percent of the time. Fewer than 10 percent of SA/SAM victims made inconsistent and/or contradictory statements. Eighty-one SA/SAM victims were noted in case records as being non-cooperative (e.g., intentional evasiveness, refusal to answer questions) during interviews with Troopers. Case records documented more than twice that number (n=194; 12.3% of victims in sample) as being non-cooperative with the investigation¹² in general. Finally, victim notifications of their rights and the resources available to them were documented in 46.2 percent of case records.

¹² When case records were coded, cooperation during *initial interviewing* was coded separately from general cooperation with the *investigation in general*. In some cases victims cooperated during initial interviews, but then withdrew their cooperation at later stages of the investigation (for example, telling Troopers that they would no longer participate in the investigation, telling Troopers to not contact them again, not returning phone calls, not answering questions during follow-up interviews when contacted by Troopers, and refusing to undergo medical examination, among others).

Table 34.

Investigative activities: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims

Investigative Activity	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Victim: Interviewed by AST	1,328	84.5
<i>Interview mode: In-person</i>	1,196	
<i>Interview mode: Telephonically</i>	103	
<i>Interview mode: Not specified</i>	29	
<i>Interview recorded: Audio</i>	1,143	
<i>Interview recorded: Video</i>	357	
<i>Statements/account internally consistent</i>	1,198	
<i>Interviewee was uncooperative</i>	81	
Victim: Uncooperative w/ AST investigation	194	12.3
Victim: Notified by AST of their rights, resources available	726	46.2

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Self-protective behaviors/strategies. Each case record was coded for seven types of self-protective behaviors/strategies (see Table 35, next page). More than half of the SA/SAM victims in the sample (57.5%) made use of at least one of these behaviors/strategies. In fact, it was not uncommon for SA/SAM victims to employ more than one. More than 40 percent of SA/SAM victims employed two or more self-protective behaviors/strategies. The strategy most frequently cited in case records was pretending to cooperate with the attacker (n=425; 27.1%). Victims also attempted to reason/plead/argue with suspects quite frequently (n=329; 20.9%). More overt forms of victim resistance were documented in case records less often. Thirteen percent of SA/SAM victims attempted to run away/escape; slightly more than 12 percent physically attacked or otherwise attempted to offer physical resistance during the sexual assault. Case records documented 134 SA/SAM victims who called out for help or otherwise attempted to sound an alarm, and 128 SA/SAM victims who yelled or screamed at their attacker. Few victims (n=19; 1.2%) verbally threatened offenders.

Table 35.

Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim self-protective behaviors/strategies

Self-protective Behavior	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Any documentation of victim self-protective behaviors	903	57.5
<i>Pretend to cooperate</i>	425	
<i>Attempt to reason/plead/argue with suspect</i>	329	
<i>Attempt to run away/escape</i>	205	
<i>Attack offender/physical resistance</i>	191	
<i>Call out for help/sound alarm</i>	134	
<i>Yell/scream at suspect</i>	128	
<i>Verbally threaten suspect</i>	19	
TOTAL SELF-PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS^a	1,431	

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Total victim disclosures do not sum to 903 because victims could have engaged in more than one self-protective behavior.

Victim injuries, medical treatment received, and evidentiary medical (SART) exams. Case record narratives and other supporting documents such as medical examination documents were used to collect information pertaining to the injuries SA/SAM victims sustained, the medical treatment they received for those injuries, as well as whether or not SA/SAM victims underwent evidentiary medical (SART) exams. Table 36 summarizes the victim injury data compiled from the case record review. More than 10 percent of SA/SAM victims suffered genital injuries. Slightly fewer – 8.6 percent of SA/SAM victims – experienced non-genital injuries. Bruising/contusions and lacerations/bite marks (in either genital and non-genital areas) were indicated for 9.5 percent and 4.8 percent of victims, respectively. Scrapes/abrasions and fractures/broken bones/teeth were only rarely noted in case records (0.7% and 0.2% of victims, respectively). About one out of every five SA/SAM victims (18.3%) reported experiencing serious to severe physical pain following the assault.

Table 36.

Injuries sustained and documented: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims

	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Victim: Genital injuries	165	10.5
Victim: Non-genital injuries	135	8.6
Victim: Bruising/contusions ^a	150	9.5
Victim: Lacerations/bite marks ^a	76	4.8
Victim: Scrapes/abrasions	11	0.7
Victim: Fractures/broken bones	3	0.2
Victim: Physical pain ^a	287	18.3

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. These injuries are not sub-categories of either genital or non-genital injuries. These injuries could be genital injuries, non-genital injuries, or both.

Table 37 presents findings for the provision of medical treatment to victims for injuries sustained during SA/SAM assaults. Three general forms of medical treatment were coded: (1) receiving medical treatment for non-genital injuries, (2) receiving medical treatment for genital injuries, and (3) receiving medical treatment pertaining specifically to the ingestion of alcohol and/or drugs. Case record information revealed that roughly one out of every 13 SA/SAM victims (7.5%) received at least one of these forms of medical care. Eighty-nine victims were noted as having received medical treatment for genital injuries, 55 received treatment for non-genital injuries, and seven SA/SAM victims were treated for alcohol/drugs. Among those who received medical treatment, nearly three-quarters (72.7%) received only one form of treatment, 25.6% received two forms of treatment, and only 1.7% received all three forms of medical treatment.

Table 37.

Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victim medical treatment for injuries

Medical treatment	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Received any medical treatment	117	7.5
<i>Received treatment: Genital injuries</i>	89	
<i>Received treatment: Non-genital injuries</i>	55	
<i>Received treatment: Alcohol/drug intoxication</i>	7	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Table 38 summarizes case record review results for SART exams. Over a quarter of SA/SAM victims (n=434; 27.6%) underwent an evidentiary medical (SART) exam. Forty-nine victims (3.1%) declined to submit to a SART exam.

Table 38.

Evidentiary medial exams (SART exams): Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims

	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Victim: Underwent SART exam	434	27.6
Victim: Declined SART exam	49	3.1

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Suspect and Victim Alcohol/Drug Use

Alcohol and/or drug use by SA/SAM suspects and victims was coded using multiple data sources contained within each case record. The most readily available alcohol and/or drug use information was provided in a dedicated alcohol/drug use field on AST's case record form 12-201. For each *case record* Troopers enter one of five codes: "N" (no alcohol or drug involvement); "A" (alcohol involvement); "D" (drug involvement); "B" (both alcohol and drug involvement); and, "U" (unknown). In cases involving alcohol and/or drug use, this dedicated form field does not specify who used alcohol/drugs, the type of alcohol/drug used, or any other details pertaining to the nature of alcohol or drug use. Therefore, this study relied primarily on case record narratives and other supporting documents included in the case record file to code alcohol and drug use for *individual* SA/SAM suspects and victims.

Suspect alcohol and/or drug use. Six measures of SA/SAM suspect alcohol and/or drug use were coded: (1) Suspect under the influence of alcohol when assault occurred; (2) Suspect under the influence of drugs when assault occurred; (3) Suspect used alcohol with victim prior to assault; (4) Suspect used alcohol with victim following assault; (5) Suspect used drugs with victim prior to assault; and, (6) Suspect used drugs with victim following assault. Results are presented in Table 39.

Just over a third (34.4%) of SA/SAM suspects were described in case records as being under the influence of alcohol, although not necessarily “drunk,” when the SA/SAM incident occurred. Roughly a fifth of SA/SAM suspects (n=293) had been drinking with victims prior to the assault incident; about one percent (n=18) drank with victims following the assault. Generally speaking drug use was much less prevalent than alcohol use. Less than five percent (n=57; 4.1%) of SA/SAM suspects were noted by Troopers as being under the influence of drugs at the time of the SA/SAM incident. Thirty-four SA/SAM suspects (2.4%) used drugs with victims prior to the assault; only nine used drugs with victims following the assault.

Table 39.

Alcohol and/or drug use: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor suspects

Suspect Alcohol/Drug Use	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Alcohol: Under influence at time of assault	480	34.4
Alcohol: Used w/ victim(s) prior to assault	293	21.0
Alcohol: Used w/ victim(s) following assault	18	1.3
Drugs: Under influence at time of assault	57	4.1
Drugs: Used w/ victim(s) prior to assault	34	2.4
Drugs: Used w/ victim(s) following assault	9	0.6

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Victim alcohol and/or drug use. Alcohol and drug use by SA/SAM victims was captured using four measures: (1) Victim used alcohol prior to assault; (2) Victim used alcohol following assault; (3) Victim used drugs prior to assault; and, (4) Victim used drugs following assault. Each of these measures also included a flag to indicate whether or not alcohol/drug use was *voluntary* or *involuntary*. Because involuntary alcohol/drug use was rarely evidenced in case records¹³, Table 40 is limited to a presentation results for SA/SAM victim alcohol and drug use without these flags.

The case record review revealed that less than a quarter of SA/SAM victims (n=378; 24.1%) used alcohol prior to or following the SA/SAM incident. Ninety percent of those who did use alcohol did so only prior to the SA/SAM incident. Drug use by SA/SAM victims was rarely noted in case records. Troopers documented drug use for only 65 of 1,571 SA/SAM victims (4.1%). As was the case for alcohol use, most SA/SAM victims’ (76.9%) drug use occurred prior

¹³ Pre-assault involuntary alcohol use was documented for only 11 (0.7%) SA/SAM victims. Post-assault involuntary alcohol use was documented for only 2 (0.1%) SA/SAM victims. Pre-assault involuntary drug use was documented for only 11 (0.7%) SA/SAM victims. Post-assault involuntary drug use was documented for only 1 SA/SAM victim.

to the assault.

Table 40.

Alcohol and/or drug use: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims

Victim Alcohol/Drug Use	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Alcohol: Any use	378	24.1
<i>Alcohol: Use prior to assault only</i>	341	
<i>Alcohol: Use following assault only</i>	5	
<i>Alcohol: Both prior to and following assault</i>	32	
Drugs: Any use	65	4.1
<i>Drugs: Use prior to assault only</i>	50	
<i>Drugs: Use following assault only</i>	10	
<i>Drugs: Both prior to and following assault</i>	5	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

In addition to alcohol and drug *use* by SA/SAM victims, additional information was coded pertaining to alcohol and drug *intoxication*. Coders closely examined case record narratives and supporting documents for references to not just alcohol or drug use per se, but also accounts and descriptions of victims’ mental states and behaviors indicating that they were *under the influence* of alcohol (“drunk”) and/or drugs (“high”) when SA/SAM incidents occurred. These data are presented in Table 41.

Nearly two-thirds of SA/SAM victims (n=997; 63.5%) were, according to information contained in AST case records, sober when they were assaulted. While about one out of every four SA/SAM victims were found to have used alcohol immediately prior to or following SA/SAM incidents, only about one out of every five (20.6%) showed signs of drunkenness (alcohol intoxication) when the assault occurred, and just over one percent of SA/SAM victims (n=21; 1.3%) were noted in case records as being “high” (drug intoxication). A total of 27 SA/SAM victims (1.7%) were noted by Troopers in case records as being both drunk and high when they were assaulted. Reliable information on alcohol/drug intoxication could not be gleaned for 12.9 percent of SA/SAM victims.

Table 41 also presents information pertaining to SA/SAM victims’ *consciousness* – that is, the extent to which victims were awake, alert, and aware – when assaults occurred. These data, like the data pertaining to alcohol and drug intoxication, were gleaned from case record narratives and other documentation included in the case file. Two-thirds of SA/SAM victims were conscious at the time SA/SAM incidents occurred. Victim *unconsciousness* was coded into four categories: (1) Unconscious: Asleep; (2) Unconscious: Intoxication; (3) Unconscious: Trauma; and, (4) Unconscious: Unspecified. A total of 156 (9.9%) SA/SAM victims were assaulted when they were asleep. An additional 120 (7.6%) of SA/SAM victims were sexually assaulted while they were “passed out” (i.e., unconscious due to alcohol and/or drug intoxication). Only three (0.3%) were unconscious due to experiencing trauma (e.g., being “knocked” or “choked” out). Sixty-four SA/SAM victims (4.1%) were noted as being unconscious when they were assaulted, but case record materials did not provide sufficient detail for more precise coding.

Table 41.

Intoxication and consciousness at time of assault: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims

Victim Intoxication // Consciousness	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Intoxication		
<i>Alcohol intoxication</i>	323	20.6
<i>Drug intoxication</i>	21	1.3
<i>Both alcohol and drug intoxication</i>	27	1.7
<i>Sober</i>	997	63.5
<i>Missing/unknown</i>	203	12.9
TOTALS	1571	100.0
Consciousness		
<i>Conscious</i>	1,050	66.8
<i>Unconscious: Asleep</i>	156	9.9
<i>Unconscious: Intoxication</i>	120	7.6
<i>Unconscious: Trauma</i>	3	0.2
<i>Unconscious: Unspecified</i>	64	4.1
<i>Missing/unknown</i>	178	11.3
TOTALS^a	1,571	99.9

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to rounding error.

Table 42 combines the individual-level alcohol and drug use information collected for SA/SAM suspects and victims to produce case-level summary statistics. Altogether, 39.3 percent of the *cases* examined included any alcohol or drug use by victims or suspects. In 57 percent of those cases, there was documentation of alcohol or drug use by victims and suspects. In 29 percent of those cases, SA/SAM suspects used alcohol or drugs, while victims did not engage in any substance use. The opposite was true in about 14 percent of cases.

Table 42.

Alcohol and/or drug use by sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor victims and suspects

Alcohol and/or Drug Use	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases ^a
Any alcohol or drug use by victim(s) or by suspect(s)	532	39.3
<i>Alcohol or drug use by victim(s) only</i>	74	
<i>Alcohol or drug use by suspect(s) only</i>	154	
<i>Alcohol or drug use by victim(s) and suspect(s)</i>	304	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. The estimation sample included only 1,352 cases (99.5% of total analysis sample of case records) for which alcohol and drug use data for both suspect and victims was documented.

Characteristics of Sexual Assault / Sexual Abuse of a Minor Incidents

This section of the report details the characteristics of SA/SAM *assault incidents*, rather than the characteristics of the suspects or victims identified in case records. In the coding of SA/SAM case records, SA/SAM incidents were segmented into three “encounter phases” – the *initiation* phase, the *assault* phase, and the *termination* phase. Although these phases are artificial constructs, this measurement strategy helped to “unpack” what were invariably complex and dynamic interactions and to better understand how SA/SAM incidents unfolded. The *initiation* phase refers to the period of time leading up to assaults, beginning when suspects and victims first came into contact. As its label suggests, the *assault* phase refers to the period of time immediately surrounding actual assault events/behaviors. The *termination* phase refers to the period of time immediately following assaults, ending when the assault events/behaviors concluded. In reality, encounters between SA/SAM suspects and victims only sometimes progressed in such an orderly fashion. In most instances suspect–victim encounters were tightly bracketed in time, but in some cases SA/SAM “incidents” were serial events occurring over extended periods of time that ranged from days to years. Additionally, it was not uncommon for SA/SAM incidents to include multiple assault events/behaviors, and in some instances SA/SAM incidents involved multiple assault events/behaviors with differing numbers of suspects and victims. Furthermore, sometimes cases in which the period of time between encounter initiation and the encounter termination exceeded 24 hours also involved repeated assault events/behaviors. Such cases were categorized as *serial assaults* and were coded in the aggregate to provide an overall composite of these extended suspect–victim encounters.

Duration of SA/SAM incidents. In all, 1,065 of the 1,359 case records reviewed contained sufficient date/time information to calculate the duration of SA/SAM incidents. A total of 101 of these case records (9.5%) described SA/SAM incidents lasting longer than 24 hours. Of these 101 extended duration SA/SAM incidents, 61 (60.4%) were categorized as serial assaults involving repeated SA/SAM events/behaviors. SAM incidents were nearly four times more likely than SA incidents to involve serial assaults (9.9% vs. 2.5%; $p < .001$).

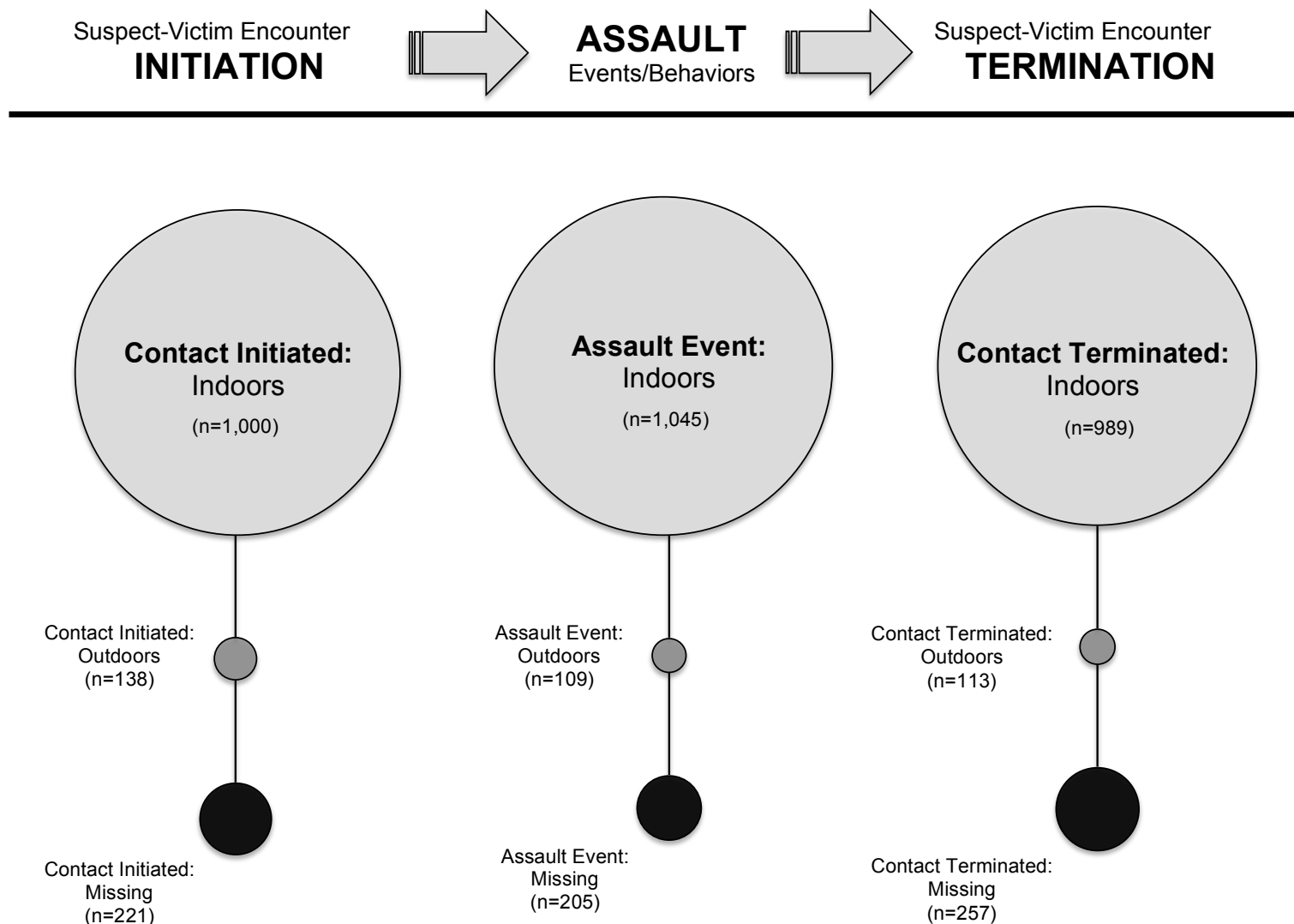
SA/SAM incident locations. Out of the 1,359 SA/SAM case records included in the analysis sample, 1,138 (83.7%) documented whether suspect–victim encounters were *initiated* indoors or outdoors, 1,154 (84.9%) documented whether assault *events/behaviors* occurred indoors or outdoors, and 1,102 (81.1%) documented whether suspect–victim encounters were *terminated* indoors or outdoors (see Figure 2).

The data presented in Figure 2 show that each phase of SA/SAM incidents – encounter initiation, assault events, and encounter termination – typically occurred at an indoor location. Approximately 88 percent of suspect–victim encounters were *initiated* indoors, just over 90 percent of SA/SAM *assault events* occurred indoors, and nearly 90 percent of suspect–victim encounters terminated at an indoor location.

To examine the extent to which indoor/outdoor location was consistent across SA/SAM encounter phases, 1,092 SA/SAM case records (80.4% of the sample) that documented indoor/outdoor location for all three phases of suspect–victim encounters were analyzed. Results are shown in Figure 3. Nearly all (99.1%; $n=951$) of the SA/SAM incidents that were *initiated* indoors remained indoors during the *assault* phase; only 9 SA/SAM incidents that were *initiated*

Figure 3.

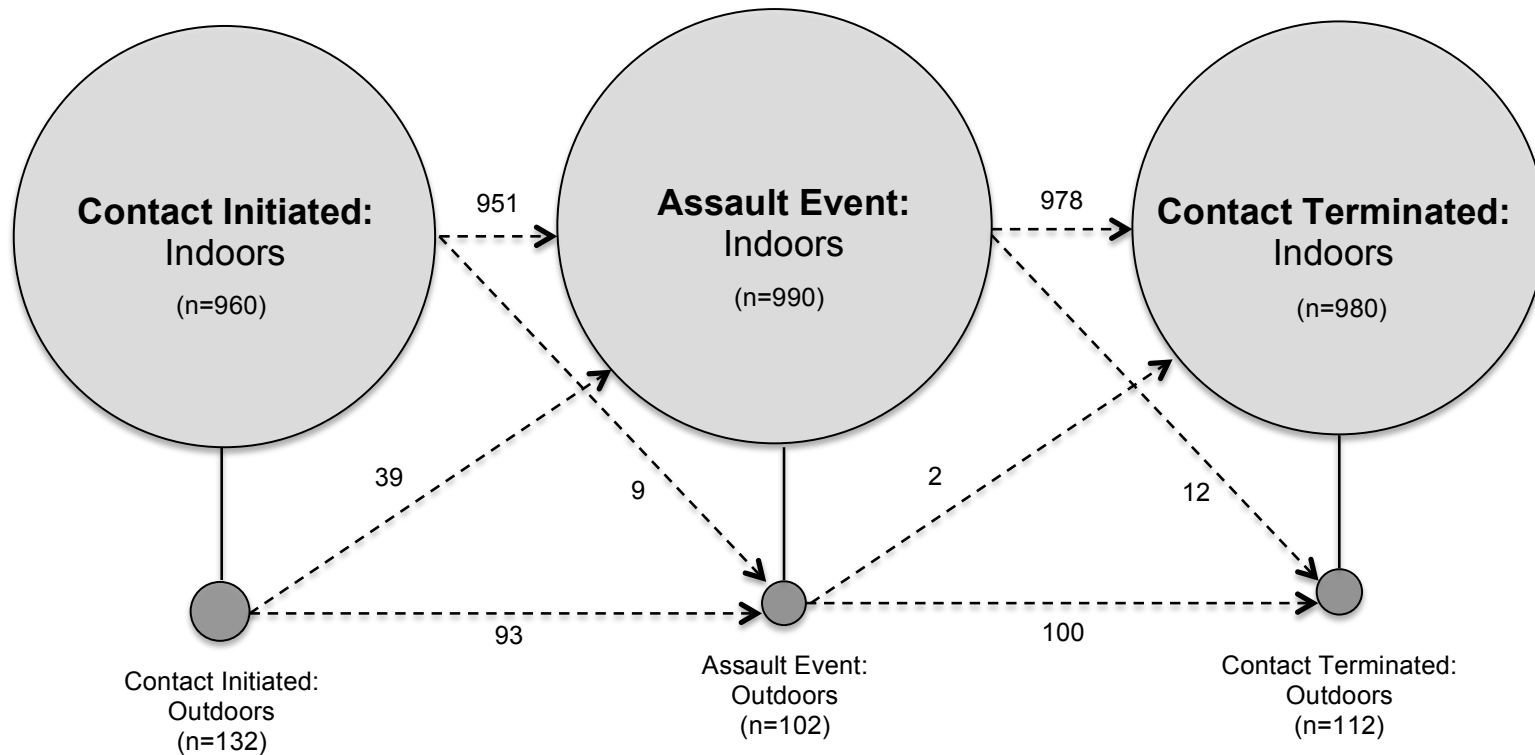
Number of sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor incidents occurring indoors/outdoors, by suspect–victim encounter phase



Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Figure 4.

Changes in sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor indoor/outdoor locations, by suspect–victim encounter phase (n=1,092)



Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

indoors transitioned to an outdoor location for the *assault* phase. In contrast, only 70 percent of SA/SAM incidents beginning at an outdoor location remained at an outdoor location in the *assault* phase; 30 percent of SA/SAM incidents that began with outdoor contact between suspects and victims transitioned to an indoor location for the *assault* phase. Similarly, 98.8 percent (n=978) of *assault* events that occurred at an indoor location also ended with the *termination* of contact between suspects and victims at an indoor location; only 12 SA/SAM *assaults* events transitioned from an indoor to an outdoor location for the *termination* phase of the encounter. Furthermore, 98 percent of SA/SAM *assault* events that occurred outside remained outside for the *termination* phase. In sum, the data presented in Figure 3 reiterate the overall pattern depicted in Figure 2: The vast majority of SA/SAM incidents occur in indoor settings. Furthermore, only rarely did suspect–victim encounters transition from an indoor location to an outdoor location. This was largely true in the opposite direction as well, with a notable exception in the transition from the *initiation* phase to the *assault* event phase. Nearly a third of suspect–victim encounters that began in an outdoor location transitioned to an indoor location for the *assault* event phase. With this caveat in mind, the data presented in Figure 2 and Figure 3 strongly suggest that SA/SAM incidents reported to Troopers during the study period were characterized by stability with respect to indoor/outdoor settings through each encounter phase.

Table 43.

Indoor locations where SA/SAM suspect–victim incidents occurred, by suspect–victim encounter phase

Indoor Location	Suspect – Victim Encounter Phase		
	Initiation (n=1,000)	Assault Event (n=1,045)	Termination (n=989)
Private residence/home (suspect/victim)	76.8%	76.3%	77.3%
Private residence/home (other)	14.5	15.1	14.0
Workplace (suspect/victim)	1.5	1.4	1.3
Department of Corrections facility	1.2	1.2	1.4
Other public building	1.1	0.7	0.8
Private residence – outbuilding	1.0	1.2	1.2
Bar	0.9	<0.1	---
Hotel/motel	0.8	1.0	1.1
School	0.8	0.8	0.6
Abandoned building/structures	0.4	0.4	0.3
Cruise ship/other boat	0.3	0.4	0.4
All other	0.7	1.5	1.6

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Table 43 presents more specific information pertaining to the *indoor* locations of SA/SAM suspect–victim encounters. The first column in Table 43 lists specific indoor locations. The second, third, and fourth columns show the percentages of these indoor locations within each of the three suspect–victim encounter phases. The distribution of indoor locations was noticeably consistent across all three suspect–victim encounter phases. By far, the place SA/SAM incidents were most likely to occur was a private residence/home. Documentation provided in AST case

records revealed that 76 to 77 percent of SA/SAM incidents occurred in the home of either a suspect or a victim, 14 to 15 percent occurred in someone else’s residence, and about 1 percent of SA/SAM incidents occurred in an outbuilding (for example, a shed or garage) located at a private residence. In total, SA/SAM incidents occurred within the context of a *private residence* in over 90 percent of SA/SAM incidents. The remaining SA/SAM incidents were distributed across nine other indoor locations: workplaces (suspect/victim), Alaska Department of Corrections facilities, bars, hotels/motels, schools, abandoned buildings/structures, cruise ships/boats, other public buildings, and miscellaneous other locations.

Table 44.

Outdoor locations where SA/SAM incidents occurred, by suspect–victim encounter phase

Outdoor Location	Suspect – Victim Encounter Phase		
	Initiation (n=138)	Assault Event (n=109)	Termination (n=113)
Street/sidewalk	29.7%	10.1%	10.6%
City/town trail or greenbelt	15.9	12.8	10.6
Lake/river/woods	15.9	29.4	24.8
Vehicle (car/truck/bus)	11.6	29.4	26.6
Outdoor area adjacent to buildings	10.1	12.8	15.9
Park	6.5	3.7	4.4
Parking lot	4.3	---	2.7
All other	5.1	1.8	0.9
Unknown/missing	0.7	---	3.5

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

While a large majority of SA/SAM incidents were found to occur in indoor locations, a substantial number – roughly one out of every ten – transpired in an *outdoor* setting. Table 44 details the types of outdoor locations where SA/SAM incidents were *initiated*, where SA/SAM *assault events* occurred, and where SA/SAM incidents were *terminated*. The distribution of outdoor locations where suspect–victim encounters were *initiated* differed from the distributions of outdoor locations for the assault and termination encounter phases. Suspect–victim encounters were more likely to be initiated on the street or on a sidewalk. An estimated 29.7 percent of SA/SAM incidents began with street/sidewalk encounters between suspects and victims, whereas only 10.1 percent of assault events and 10.6 percent of encounter terminations occurred on streets/sidewalks. Suspect–victim encounters were also slightly more likely to be *initiated* on a trail/in a greenbelt area, or in a park. Conversely, assault events and encounter terminations were much more likely to occur in locations such as campgrounds and other outdoor recreational settings near lakes, rivers, and woods. Assault events and encounter terminations were also more likely to take place in personally owned and commercial vehicles, and in outdoor areas immediately adjacent to buildings/structures.

In addition to the locations where SA/SAM incidents occurred, case record narratives and supplemental documents were also used to capture information pertaining to the circumstances surrounding the *initiation* of suspect–victim encounters. A single item measure was used to indicate if the *initiation* of encounters between SA/SAM suspects and victims: was a *sudden*

attack on victims, was committed in the course of providing *legitimate services*, occurred within the context of a *social setting or party*, or was a routine social interaction between suspects and victims. Cases coded as *sudden attacks* were characterized by a lack of prolonged interaction between suspects and victims either prior to or following the SA/SAM incident and the level of coercion, force, and violence used. Cases in which the sole or primary reason SA/SAM suspects and victims came into contact with one another was the provision of a legitimate service by the suspect or by the victim were coded as *legitimate service*. Cases in which suspects and victims came into contact with each other within the context of a social event, gathering, or party were coded *social setting or party*. Cases characterized by routine, everyday social interactions between suspects and victims (outside of the contexts previously described) were coded into one of two categories: *routine interaction: long-term and/or ongoing relationship*, or *routine interaction: short-term or new relationship*. Some examples of the former included SA/SAM incidents involving: immediate family members/relatives/intimate partners, friends/classmates, and roommates. Some examples of the latter category included SA/SAM incidents in which suspects and victims: were on a first or second date, were studying together (but otherwise not friends), were co-workers (but otherwise not friends), and had otherwise just met each other. Table 45 presents the results in descending order of frequency.

Table 45.
Frequency of SA/SAM suspect–victim encounter initiation circumstances

Encounter Initiation Circumstance	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Social setting/party	429	31.6
Routine interaction: long-term relationship	416	30.6
Sudden attack	122	9.0
Miscellaneous other	90	6.6
Legitimate service	54	4.0
Routine interaction: short-term/new relationship	53	3.9
Unknown/missing	195	14.3
TOTALS	1,359	100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

The two most common categories of initiation circumstance were *social setting/party* and *routine interaction: long-term relationship*. In 31.6 percent of the case records reviewed suspect–victim contacts were initiated within the context of a larger social event or gathering, quite often a party of some sort. In 30.6 percent of cases SA/SAM suspects and victims had known each other for an extended period of time, and their interaction prior to SA/SAM incidents was a routine part of everyday life. A large majority of these cases involved familial, spousal, and intimate partner relationships. Sudden attacks of victims by suspects occurred much less frequently, documented in 9 percent of case records. Four percent of SA/SAM incidents occurred within the context of suspects providing a legitimate service to victims, or vice versa. In 3.9 percent of SA/SAM incidents suspects and victims were engaged in routine interaction, and either did not know each other at all prior to the encounter, or did not know each other well. The circumstances surrounding the initiation of suspect–victim encounters were mentioned in case records but did not fall into one of the pre-defined categories in 6.6 percent of case records. Information

pertaining to the circumstances surrounding the initiation of suspect–victim encounters was not provided or was missing in 195 (14.3%) of case records.

Assaultive behaviors and sexual acts. The data presented in Table 46 were compiled from Trooper narratives and descriptions, accounts of SA/SAM incidents provided by suspects and victims, and whenever possible, evidentiary medical (SART) examinations that were included in AST case records. The percentages shown in Table 46 are an aggregate consolidation of assaultive behaviors/sexual acts that were documented *for each case record*.

Table 46.

Assaultive behaviors and/or sexual acts documented in case records (n=1,359)

Assaultive Behavior/Sexual Act	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Assaultive touching by suspect(s)		
Kiss/bite/scratch	189	13.9
Touch victim breast (female)	280	20.6
Touch victim genitalia (female)	630	46.4
Touch victim genitalia (male)	86	6.3
Touch victim anus	163	12.0
Forced oral copulation		
Genitals: Of victim, by suspect	108	8.0
Genitals: Of suspect, by victim	103	7.6
Anus: Of victim, by suspect	5	0.4
Anus: Of suspect, by victim	1	<0.1
Penetration by suspect(s)		
Digital penetration victim vagina	216	15.9
Penile penetration victim vagina	473	34.8
Foreign object penetration victim vagina	14	1.0
Digital penetration victim anus	34	2.5
Penile penetration victim anus	94	6.9
Foreign object penetration victim anus	8	0.6
Forced masturbation		
Of victim	54	4.0
Of suspect	54	4.0
Other incident characteristics		
Condom used	72	5.3
Evidence of suspect ejaculation	172	12.6

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Four categories of assaultive behaviors/sexual are shown in Table 46: *assaultive touching of victims by suspects, forced oral copulation, penetration of victims by suspects, and forced masturbation*. Additional results for *condom use and evidence of ejaculation* are also shown.

Alaska law defines *sexual contact* as knowingly “touching, directly or through clothing, the victim’s genitals, anus, or female breast” or “knowingly causing the victim to touch, directly or through clothing, the defendant’s or victim’s genitals, anus, or female breast.”¹⁴ Using this definition, 60.3 percent of the SA/SAM case records documented at least one form of sexual contact (data not shown). The most common form of sexual contact was the touching of victim genitalia. Close to half (46.4%) of the case records reviewed documented the touching of female victims’ genitalia; 6.3 percent of case records documented the touching of male victims’ genitalia. Touching of female victims’ breasts was documented in 20.6 percent of case records, and kissing/biting/scratched was noted in 13.9 percent of cases. Touching of a victim’s anus was documented in 12 percent of SA/SAM cases. The least common form of sexual contact documented in SA/SAM case records was forced masturbation. Each type of masturbation was evident in 4 percent of case records.

Sexual penetration “means genital intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or an intrusion, however slight, of an object or any part of a person’s body into the genital or anal opening of another person’s body,” according to Alaska statutes. Using this definition, at least one form of sexual penetration was documented in 52.4 percent of SA/SAM case records (data not shown). Of the ten types of sexual penetration measured, the most frequently observed was penile penetration of a victim’s vagina, which was documented in 34.8 percent of SA/SAM cases. Other modes of vaginal penetration – digital, foreign object, and oral copulation – were much less common (15.9%, 1.0%, and 8.0% of SA/SAM case records, respectively). Penile penetration of a victim’s anus was documented in 6.9 percent of case records; digital penetration of a victim’s anus was documented in 2.5 percent of case records; foreign object penetration of a victim’s anus was documented in 0.6 percent of case records; and, oral copulation of a victim’s anus was documented in 0.4 percent of SA/SAM case records. Forced copulation of the genitals or anus of suspects by victims comprised the final two types of sexual penetration measures. The former was documented in 7.6 percent of SA/SAM case records; the former was documented in a single case record.

A total of 72 SA/SAM case records (5.3%) evidenced the use of condoms. Ejaculation was documented in 172 (12.6%) of cases.

Suspect use of force/weapon use. Each case record was examined for threats/use of force and weapon use by SA/SAM suspects during the commission of SA and SAM incidents. Eight measures of use of force/weapon use were coded: threats of force, the use of incapacitating drugs (not including the recreational use of illicit drugs and/or alcohol), the use of hands/fists/feet, asphyxiation/choking, the use of a blunt object, the use of knife and/or other cutting instrument, the use of a firearm, and all other uses of force/weapons that did not fit into one of the predefined categories or were insufficiently specified. Table 47 presents the results.

¹⁴ See: Alaska Statutes, Title 11, Chapter 81, Article 7.

Suspect use of force and/or weapon use was documented in slightly fewer than one-third of the SA/SAM case records sampled. Of the seven pre-defined categories of force/weapon use, the most commonly observed was the use of *hands/fists/feet* by suspects (n=384). The second most common form of force/weapon use documented in SA/SAM records was threats of force made by suspects (n=81). Asphyxiation was documented in 20 SA/SAM case records, the use of incapacitation drugs (e.g., sedatives such as rohypnol) by suspects was documented in 17 of the SA/SAM cases reviewed, and the use of a knife or other cutting instrument was evidenced in 15 SA/SAM case records. The use of blunt objects (e.g., a club) and/or firearms was observed much less frequently (n=5 and n=4 case records, respectively). Other forms of force/weapon use were documented in 33 SA/SAM case records.

Table 47.

Percent of SA/SAM case records: Weapon use during SA/SAM incidents

Weapon Use	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Any weapon use	432	32.1
<i>Hands/fists/feet</i>	384	
<i>Threats of force</i>	81	
<i>Asphyxiation/choking</i>	20	
<i>Incapacitating drugs</i>	17	
<i>Knife/cutting instrument</i>	15	
<i>Blunt object</i>	5	
<i>Firearm</i>	4	
<i>All other</i>	33	

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Child exposure to trauma. The case record review included two measures of *child exposure to trauma*: (1) a dichotomous measure (0=*No*, 1=*Yes*) indicating whether or not children were present when SA/SAM incidents occurred, and (2) a dichotomous measure (0=*No*, 1=*Yes*) indicating whether or not a child witnessed the arrest of one (or more) SA/SAM suspects. At least one child was present for each incident that included one or more SAM violations. Therefore, the first measure was coded “1” for every case record in which children were sexual abuse/sexual assault victims, as well as when children were present at the location where anyone else was sexually abused or sexually assaulted. The second measure was coded “1” in all instances when one or more children were present at the scene or directly observed the arrest of one or more SA/SAM suspects.

Table 48.

Percent of SA/SAM records: Presence of children when SA/SAM incidents occurred, by case record type

Children Present: SA/SAM Incident	Case Record Type	
	Sexual Abuse of a Minor (n=695)	Sexual Assault (n=607)
Yes	100.0	30.3
No	0.0	69.7

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Table 48 shows the percentage of SA/SAM records that documented the presence of at least one child when SA/SAM incidents occurred (data for the second measure not shown). As discussed previously, at least one child was present for all SAM incidents. Importantly, however, the case record review also revealed that children were present at the scene of SA incidents or personally witnessed SAs in nearly a third (30.3%) of SA incidents as well.

Legal Resolutions of Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse of a Minor Cases

This section of the report examines the processing of SA/SAM cases records referred to the Alaska Department of Law (DOL) by Troopers between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011. The prosecution data used for the analyses reported in this section of the report were provided to the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center by DOL. In all, 637 SA/SAM case records included in the AST analysis sample were received by DOL for review. (SA/SAM cases referred by Troopers to DJJ for review were not included in the analyses presented here.) These 637 SA/SAM cases records identified 671 individual *suspects* and included 2,292 separate criminal *charges* (1,876 charges referred by AST, plus 461 supplemental charges filed by prosecutors). Approximately a third (n=209; 31.1%) of the 671 SA/SAM suspects identified in case records were convicted of at least one charge. Approximately 15 percent (n=341; 14.9%) of all the criminal charges initially brought against SA/SAM suspects resulted in a conviction (via a plea or by a determination of guilt at trial).

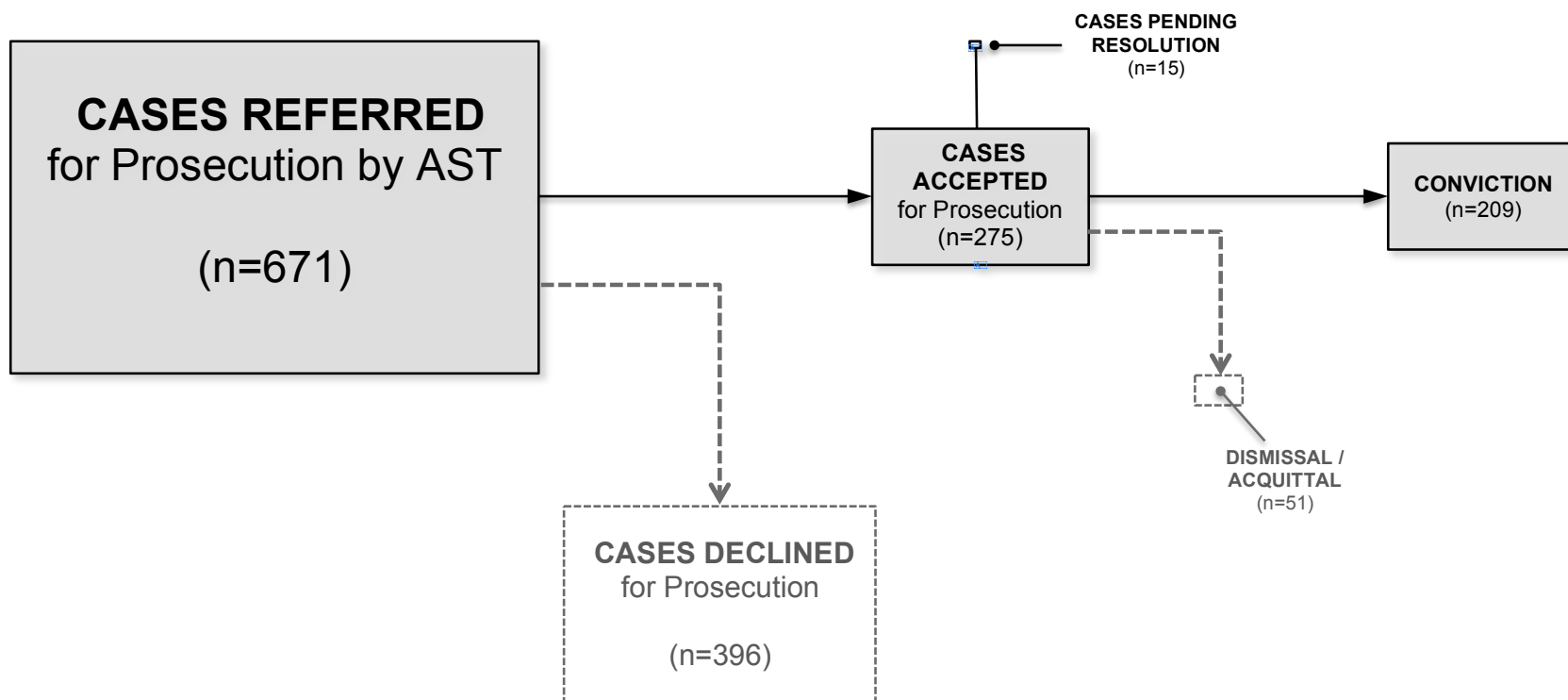
Figure 4 (next page) presents a criminal case-processing diagram for the 671 SA/SAM suspects identified in the case records referred to DOL. For the purposes of the data presented in Figure 4, a *case* refers to the entire bundle of charges levied upon a single SA/SAM suspect. While SA/SAM suspects were most likely to be charged with a single crime (41.4% of cases), a majority of cases referred to DOL involved multiple charges for multiple criminal offenses. The maximum number of charges observed in a single case was 94; the average number of criminal charges was 3.5. If any of the charges included in a case were accepted by DOL for prosecution, that case was coded as *accepted for prosecution*. If any of the criminal charges included in a case resulted in a conviction (via a plea or by a determination of guilt at trial), the case was coded as a *conviction*. A total of 15 cases had been accepted for review by DOL, but their status remained pending when the analyses were performed.

Forty-one percent (n=275) of the 671 SA/SAM cases referred to DOL by Troopers were *accepted* for prosecution. Conversely, prosecution was *declined* for 59 percent of cases (n=396). SA/SAM cases were most commonly declined for prosecution due to inadequate corroboration, insufficient evidence, and other evidentiary reasons (data not shown). More than 75 percent of SA/SAM cases accepted for prosecution (n=209; 76%) resulted in *conviction* for at least one charge. Overall, slightly less than a third (31.1%) of SA/SAM cases *referred* to DOL by Troopers resulted in a conviction. Between 18 and 19 percent of SA/SAM cases that were accepted for prosecution (n=51; 18.5%) resulted in either dismissal or acquittal.

Figure 5 presents a criminal charge-processing diagram for all of the criminal charges leveled against SA/SAM suspects. There was a total of 2,292 criminal charges that were either referred by Troopers (n=1,876) or filed independently by DOL prosecutors (n=416). In excess of 43 percent of the charges referred by Troopers (n=817; 43.6%) were declined for prosecution by DOL. Out of the total 2,292 charges referred or filed, 1,475 (78.6%) were *accepted* by DOL.

Figure 5.

Criminal case processing diagram: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 2, 2008 to December 31, 2011.



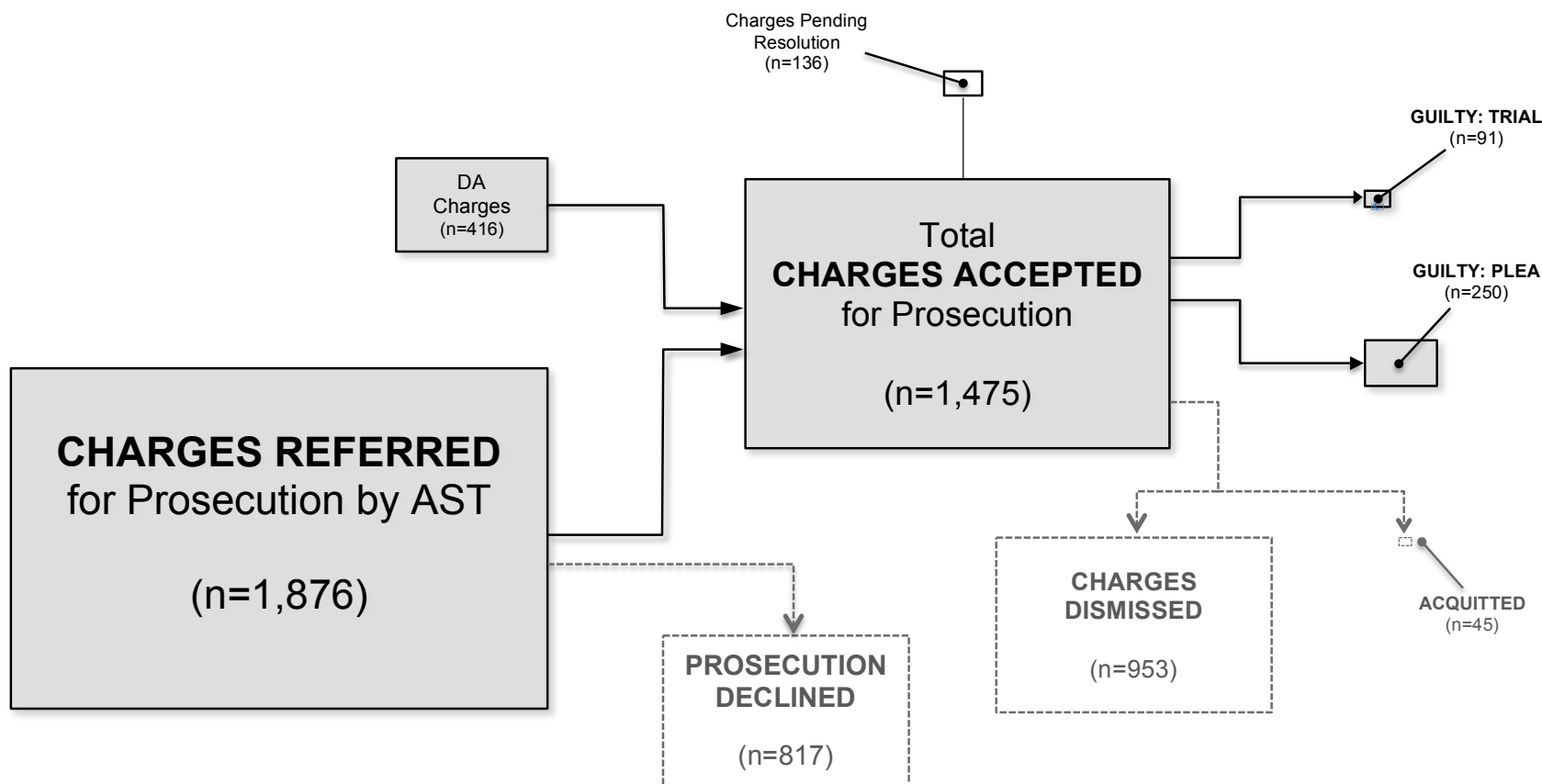
Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

- a. Case processing outcomes (decline prosecution, acceptance, dismissal, acquittal, conviction) as of April 2, 2015.
- b. A case refers to the entire bundle of charges levied upon a single SA/SAM suspect.

Figure 6.

Criminal charge processing diagram: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 2, 2008 to December 31, 2011.



Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Charge processing outcomes (dismissal, acquittal, conviction) as of April 2, 2015.

Out of the 1,475 charges that were accepted for prosecution, 23.1 percent resulted in a conviction. Nearly three-quarters (n=250; 73.3%) of convictions were the result of a guilty plea rather than through formal adjudications. Approximately two-thirds (n=91; 66.9%) of charges that were subject to formal adjudication produced a conviction; roughly one-third (n=45; 33.1%) resulted in acquittal.

Table 49, below, shows the frequency distribution of the 341 charges that resulted in conviction. The table is separated into two panels. The first panel lists the 11 offense categories that are defined as *sex offenses* under Alaska law. All other offense categories are represented in the second panel. In total, 292 of the 341 charge convictions (85.7%) were for *sex offenses*. Forty-nine charge convictions (14.3%) were for non-sex offenses. Among sex offense convictions, the most common were for Sexual Abuse of a Minor 2 (n=110; 32.3%), Sexual Abuse of a Minor 1 (n=72; 21.1%), Sexual Assault 2 (n=44; 12.9%), and Sexual Assault 1 (n=37; 10.9%). With the exception of Sexual Abuse of a Minor 4, all of the sex offense conviction charges were felonies.

Table 49.

Distribution of conviction charges: Sexual assault/sexual abuse of a minor case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011.

Offense Category	Statute	Number	Percent
Sexual assault 1	AS 11.41.410	37	10.9%
Sexual assault 2	AS 11.41.420	44	12.9
Sexual assault 3	AS 11.41.425	9	2.6
Sexual abuse of a minor 1	AS 11.41.434	72	21.1
Sexual abuse of a minor 2	AS 11.41.436	110	32.3
Sexual abuse of a minor 3	AS 11.41.438	11	3.2
Sexual abuse of a minor 4	AS 11.41.440	1	0.3
Incest	AS 11.41.450	3	0.9
Unlawful exploitation of a minor	AS 11.41.455	2	0.6
Indecent exposure 1	AS 11.41.458	1	0.3
Possession of child pornography	AS 11.61.127	2	0.6
	Subtotal	292	85.7
All other offenses	---	49	14.3
	TOTALS	341	100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

PART II:

Domestic Violence

Defining domestic violence. The definition of *domestic violence* is provided in Title 18, Chapter 66, Article 6 of the Alaska Statutes. As specified in AS 18.66.990(3), “domestic violence” and “crime involving domestic violence” are offenses (including attempts) *committed by a household member against another household member*. Included in the list of qualifying offenses are: all crimes against the person (under AS 11.41), the property crimes of burglary (AS 11.46.300–11.46.310), criminal trespass (AS 11.46.320–11.46.330), arson or criminally negligent burning (AS 11.46.400–11.46.430), and criminal mischief (AS 11.46.475–11.46.486), as well as the offenses of terrorist threatening (AS 11.56.807 or 11.56.810), violating a protective order (AS 11.56.740(a)(1)), and harassment (AS 11.61.120(a)(2)–(4)).

Under Alaska law, *household member* includes adults (or minors) who are current/former spouses, who live or have lived together, who are dating or who have dated, who are engaged in a sexual relationship, who are related to each other¹⁵, who are related or formerly related by marriage, persons who have a child of the relationship, and the minor children of persons in a relationship previously described.

Sample Assessment: Domestic Violence Cases

Two sources of domestic violence data were used to assess the overall quality and representativeness of the analysis sample. The first source of data was AST’s fully enumerated list of domestic violence case records that were closed during the study period. In addition to this data source, we also referenced a previous study of domestic violence incidents reported to AST conducted by Rivera and her colleagues.¹⁶ That study examined the entire population of domestic violence assault cases reported to and closed by AST in 2004.

According to the data provided by AST, between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011 a total of 6,993 domestic violence assault cases were closed by Troopers. The total number of domestic violence case files included in the analysis sample was 839, a total that comprised 12 percent of the total number of domestic violence cases closed by AST during the study period.

Domestic violence case record closures by year. To begin our assessment of the analysis sample of domestic violence cases, we compared the domestic violence case closure distributions for each year of the study period in our sample to the yearly domestic violence case closure distributions provided by AST. Results are presented in Table 50.

The data presented in Table 50 show that the sample approximated the year-to-year distribution of domestic violence cases reported to the Troopers. The largest discrepancies appeared in 2009 and 2011. In the sample data, 25.7 percent of cases were closed in 2009.

¹⁵ Up to the fourth degree of consanguinity, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, computed under the rules of civil law. See: AS 18.66.990(5)(E).

¹⁶ Rivera, M., Rosay, A. B., Wood, D., Postle, G., & TePas, K. (2008). *Descriptive analysis of assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2004*. Retrieved from University of Alaska Anchorage, Justice Center website: <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/research/2000/0601.intimatepartnerviolence/0601.04.dv-assaults.pdf>

Table 50.

Comparison of analysis sample and AST case record sampling frame: Percentage of domestic violence cases closed, by calendar year

Data Source	Case Report Closure Year (%)				(Total N)
	2008	2009	2010	2011	
Analysis sample	23.5	25.7	27.9	22.9	(839)
AST sampling frame	21.2	22.7	27.7	28.4	(6,993)
Difference	+2.3	+3.0	+0.2	-5.5	

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

AST data show that 22.7 percent of the total number of domestic violence cases were closed in 2009, a difference of +3.0 percent. On the other hand, 22.9 percent of the domestic violence cases included in the analysis sample were closed in 2011, but the AST data show that 28.4 percent of the total number of domestic violence cases were closed in 2011, a difference of -5.5 percent. Despite the distributional differences observed, overall, the annual distributions of case closures in the analysis sample was similar to the distribution of domestic violence cases documented by Troopers during the study period.

Domestic violence case record closures by detachment. Table 51 presents the distribution of domestic violence cases across AST detachments. In addition to comparing the analysis sample to the AST sampling frame, Table 51 also includes the AST detachment distribution of domestic violence case reports in 2004 examined by Rivera et al. for purposes of comparison. Once again, there was a good correspondence between the detachment case closure distributions of domestic violence cases in the analysis sample and those in the AST sampling frame. The most noticeable departure from the sampling frame was for E-Detachment. Whereas 5.4 percent of the domestic violence cases in the analysis sample originated in E-Detachment, 15.2 percent of the domestic violence cases closed by AST during the study period came from E-Detachment (a difference of -9.8%). The analysis sample results also corresponded with the findings of the study conducted by Rivera and her colleagues.

Table 51.

Comparison of analysis sample, AST case record sampling frame, and Rivera et al. study: Percentage of domestic violence assault cases closed, by AST detachment

Data Source	AST Detachment (%)						(Total N)
	A	B	C	D	E	Other	
Analysis sample	4.2	24.0	36.8	28.1	5.4	1.5	(839)
AST sampling frame	3.3	18.9	34.4	22.7	15.2	5.5	(6,993)
Rivera et al. study	3.8	21.5	31.9	28.6	13.3	0.8	(1,281)

Sources: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK. Rivera, M., Rosay, A. B., Wood, D., Postle, G., & TePas, K. (2008). *Descriptive analysis of domestic violence incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2004*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Justice Center: Anchorage, AK.

Domestic violence case record closures by unit. Table 52 presents the frequencies with which domestic violence case files were investigated, and subsequently closed, by specific AST agencies/units. Among the 839 case records included in the sample, there were a total of 58 AST

agencies/units identified. Two of these AST units investigated more than a third of all domestic violence cases closed during the study period.

Table 52.

Number of domestic violence case files included in the analysis sample, by agency/unit ID code

Unit ID Code	Number	Percent	Unit ID Code	Number	Percent
PALE	166	19.79%	CANE	3	0.36%
FAIE	159	18.95	FAIL	3	0.36
BETE	55	6.56	KOTV	3	0.36
NOME	47	5.60	NENE	3	0.36
KOTE	36	4.29	SOLI	3	0.36
STME	33	3.93	AIFE	2	0.24
ANIE	33	3.93	FAIV	2	0.24
BETV	29	3.46	KODE	2	0.24
SOLE	27	3.22	MCGE	2	0.24
GLEE	23	2.74	RAEE	2	0.24
UNLE	22	2.62	RDBA	2	0.24
GALE	20	2.38	RDHC	2	0.24
NOMV	20	2.38	STMF	2	0.24
TOKE	19	2.26	TOFE	2	0.24
EMME	18	2.15	BEFE	1	0.12
KETE	17	2.03	CAIU	1	0.12
TALE	11	1.31	DEAE	1	0.12
ANPE	9	1.07	FAIT	1	0.12
RARD	6	0.72	GIRE	1	0.12
DELE	5	0.60	HEAE	1	0.12
KLAE	5	0.60	HMFE	1	0.12
ANCI	4	0.48	ILLE	1	0.12
CROE	4	0.48	KODV	1	0.12
FARU	4	0.48	KOFE	1	0.12
JUNE	4	0.48	NINE	1	0.12
KZFE	4	0.48	PALD	1	0.12
MCFE	4	0.48	PALI	1	0.12
NOTE	4	0.48	PALT	1	0.12
BETH	3	0.36	RAKR	1	0.12
Subtotals	791	94.31		48	5.76
TOTALS	839	100.07%			

Source: Myrston, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages do not total 100.00% due to rounding error.

Put differently, approximately 3 percent of the identified AST units included in the sample investigated more than 38 percent of the domestic violence cases that were closed between

January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011. The AST agency/unit processing the largest volume of domestic violence cases during the study period was Palmer AST Enforcement (PALE) with 166 (19.8%) incidents. Fairbanks AST Enforcement (FAIE) was the other unit with an especially large volume of domestic violence cases with 159 cases (19%).

Table 53 presents an AST agency/unit comparison between the analysis sample and the study conducted by Rivera and her colleagues. Listed, in rank-order, on the left side of the table are the 10 AST units with the largest proportions of domestic violence cases for the current study. On the right side of the table are the relative rankings and percentages for these same AST units and their respective rankings in the Rivera et al. study. Even at this lower level of geographic aggregation we found consistency in the distribution of domestic violence cases across studies. In both the current study and the Rivera et al. study, Palmer AST Enforcement and Fairbanks AST Enforcement investigated the largest percentages of cases. In addition, 8 of the 10 highest ranking AST units identified in the current study were also ranked among the 10 highest volume AST units in the study conducted by Rivera and her colleagues as well.

Table 53.

Study comparison of AST agency/unit rank-order distributions of domestic violence cases

Unit ID Code	Myrstol & Parker (2015)		Rivera et al. (2008)	
	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent
PALE	1	19.8%	2	18.1%
FAIE	2	19.0	1	22.9
BETE	3	6.6	7 (tie)	2.7
NOME	4	5.6	4	4.9
KOTE	5	4.3	7 (tie)	2.7
STME	6	3.9	9	2.6
ANIE	7	3.9	5	4.5
BETV	8	3.5	11	2.0
SOLE	9	3.2	3	9.0
GLEE	10	2.7	12	1.9
(Total # Units)	(58)		(58)	

Sources: Rivera, M., Rosay, A. B., Wood, D., Postle, G., & TePas, K. (2008). *Descriptive analysis of domestic violence incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2004*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Justice Center: Anchorage, AK. Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

In summary, the results presented in Tables 50-53 show that the sampling protocol implemented in the current study was effective in producing a temporally and geographically representative cross-section of domestic violence cases closed by AST during the study period.

Case Record Characteristics

Case closure codes. AST uses seven closure codes to denote how each case was resolved: CA (closed, arrest), CD (closed, declined), CR (closed, referred), CE (closed, exception), CI (closed, investigated), CL (closed, logged), and CU (closed, unfounded).

Referrals for prosecution/adjudication. The closure codes CA, CD, and CR constitute three subsets of cases that were *referred* to either the Alaska Department of Law (DOL) or the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for screening and review. The closure code CA was used in cases in which AST placed one or more individuals under arrest. Cases closed CA were referred to DOL/DJJ. The closure code CD was used to indicate that a case was referred to DOL/DJJ for review prior to an arrest being made, and that DOL/DJJ responded that formal charges pertaining to the case would not be accepted or filed. The closure code CR was used in those cases that were forwarded to DOL/DJJ for screening and review, prior to an arrest being made.

The most frequently observed referral closure code in the analysis sample was CA, followed by CR and then CD. That more than 80 percent of domestic violence cases resulted in an arrest is due, in large part, to the fact that Alaska is one of roughly two dozen states that mandate arrest for crimes involving domestic violence. AS 18.65.530 specifies (with limited exceptions) that a peace officer, with or without a warrant, shall arrest a person if the officer has probable cause to believe the person has, within the previous 12 hours, committed a crime of domestic violence, has violated a protective order, or has violated one or more conditions of release imposed for domestic violence cases. Overall, an estimated 97.6 percent of domestic violence cases closed by AST between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011 were *referred* to DOL/DJJ for screening and review (see Table 54).

Table 54.
AST closure codes for domestic violence cases

Case Closure	Number	Percent
Referred		
Closed, arrest (CA)	690	82.2
Closed, declined (CD)	35	4.2
Closed, referred (CR)	94	11.2
<i>Sub-totals:</i>	819	97.6
Not Referred		
Closed, exception (CE)	2	0.2
Closed, investigated (CI)	17	2.0
Closed, unfounded (CU)	1	0.1
<i>Sub-totals</i>	20	2.3
TOTALS	1,359	99.9

Sources: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages do not total 100.0% due to rounding error.

Cases that were closed but not referred to DOL/DJJ were assigned one of three remaining closure code designations by AST.¹⁷ Cases were closed CE when circumstances beyond AST’s control prevented the agency from arresting or charging a suspect, and from moving a case forward in the criminal justice/juvenile justice systems (for example, death of a suspect). The CI designation was used in those cases in which an investigation was concluded and there was a

¹⁷ None of the domestic violence case records sampled had a “CL – Closed Logged” closure code.

determination that there was insufficient evidence to move a case forward. (However, the CI designation is not a determination that the alleged offense did not occur. See discussion of CU designation, next.) Finally, cases in which it was determined that the initial complaint was deemed false or baseless – that is, that the alleged offense did not occur – were coded CU (closed, unfounded).

Among those cases not referred to DOL/DJJ, the most common closure code was CI, closed investigated. This category of cases constituted 85 percent of non-referred cases closed by AST during the study period. Cases closed CE or CU were exceptionally rare, comprising 0.3 percent of sample combined. Overall, an estimated 2.3 percent of domestic violence cases were assigned an AST closure code indicating that they were not referred to DOL/DJJ for screening and review.

Month opened, month closed. Table 55 presents the distribution of domestic violence cases included in the analysis sample according to the month they were opened, and the month they were closed. Overall, while there was some variability, cases were evenly distributed by month. (In a perfectly uniform distribution each month would contain 8.3% of all sample cases.) Table 55 also shows that there was no appreciable difference between the month opened and month closed distributions. In other words, AST’s domestic violence case flow inputs and case flow outputs were relatively stable on a month-to-month basis.

Table 55.
Month domestic violence cases were opened/closed

Month	Month DV Cases Opened		Month DV Cases Closed	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
January	71	8.5	75	8.9
February	66	7.9	74	8.8
March	75	8.9	73	8.7
April	64	7.6	64	7.6
May	73	8.7	64	7.6
June	73	8.7	74	8.8
July	76	9.1	67	8.0
August	77	9.2	75	8.9
September	63	7.5	67	8.0
October	68	8.1	77	9.2
November	63	7.5	68	8.1
December	70	8.3	61	7.3
	839	100.0%	839	99.9

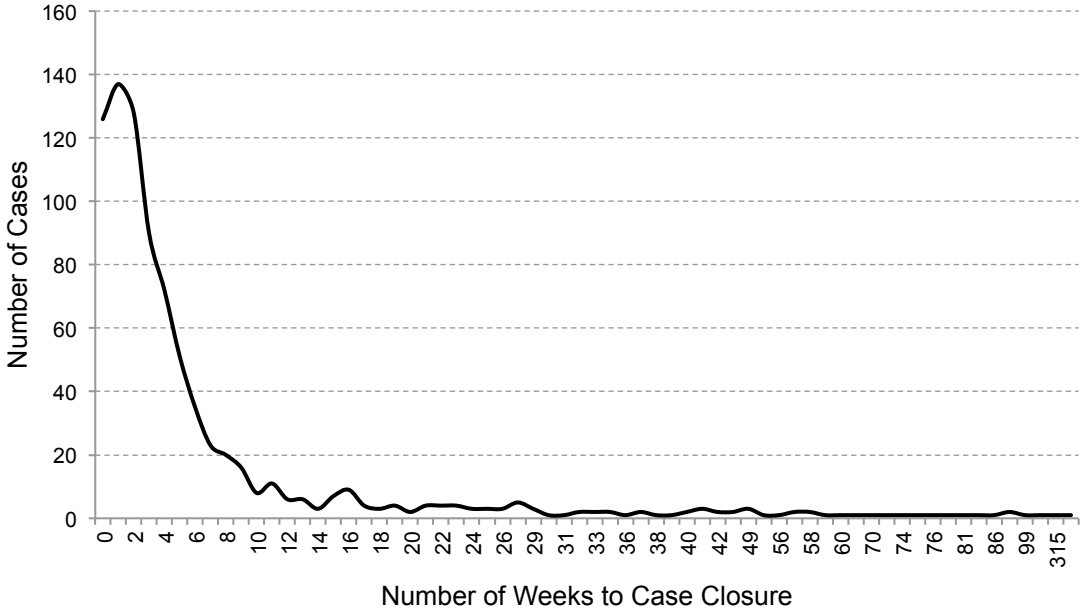
Sources: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100.0% due to rounding error.

Case closure time. Case closure times (in weeks) for the full sample of 839 domestic violence cases is presented in Figure 6. The vertical axis shows the number of domestic violence cases; the horizontal axis shows the number of weeks between the date a case was opened and the date it was closed by AST. The minimum value was 0 weeks, indicating that a case was closed in less than 1 week; the maximum value was 523 weeks (approximately 10 years). Figure

6 shows that the distribution of case closure times was heavily skewed. Whereas the mean (average) number of weeks between a domestic violence case being opened and closed was 8 weeks (s.d. = 24.8), the median value was only 3 weeks. The mean number of case closure weeks was much larger than the median due to a small number of domestic cases that had extremely large case closure times.

Figure 7.
Distribution of domestic violence case closure time (in weeks)



Sources: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Incident reporting. This study measured two aspects of incident reporting: (1) the agency/organization that first learned of an domestic violence incident, and (2) the individual (or in some instances, agency/organization) that made the initial disclosure of a domestic violence incident to the police or other agency/organization. Table 56 presents the results for the former; Table 57 presents the results for the latter.

While this study made use of AST case records, it is important to note that AST was not always the agency/organization that was *first* notified of an alleged domestic violence incident. As shown in Table 56, domestic violence incidents were first reported to an agency/organization other than AST in nearly a quarter of domestic violence cases. With this caveat in mind, AST was the first agency to be notified of domestic violence incidents in a large majority – 78.2 percent – of domestic violence cases. Importantly, first reports of domestic incidents were made to VPSOs, VPOs, TPOs, and other police agencies in an additional 21.2 percent of cases. Altogether, police agencies/organizations received the first notification of domestic violence incidents in 99.4 percent of cases.

Table 56.

Agency/organization/individual to whom domestic violence incidents were first reported

Agency/Organization	Number	Percent
Alaska State Troopers (AST)	656	78.2
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)	87	10.4
Village police officer (VPO)	60	7.2
Other police	24	2.9
Children/family services	2	0.2
Tribal Police Officer (TPO)	6	0.7
Juvenile/adult corrections	1	0.1
Other authorities	2	0.2
Unknown	1	0.1
TOTALS	839	100.0

Source: Myrston, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

While Table 56 presented information pertaining to the agency/organization/individual that first learned of a domestic violence incident, Table 57 presents information pertaining to who *disclosed* knowledge of domestic violence incidents to AST (or some other agency/organization). The results in Table 57 show that domestic violence incidents were most likely to be disclosed by victims themselves. Of the 839 domestic violence cases included in the analysis sample, 527 of them (62.8%) were disclosed by domestic violence victims.

Table 57.

Individual/agency/organization/ that initially disclosed domestic violence incidents

Individual/Agency/Organization	Number	Percent
Victim	527	62.8
Witness/third party	239	28.5
Suspect	24	2.9
Medical/mental health	18	2.2
Children/family services	4	0.5
School/teacher	3	0.4
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)	3	0.4
Other police	2	0.2
Child/victim advocacy	1	0.1
Juvenile/adult corrections	1	0.1
Unknown	17	2.0
TOTALS	839	100.1

Source: Myrston, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100.0% due to rounding error.

Between a quarter and a third of all the domestic violence cases (28.5%) included in the sample were initially disclosed by witnesses/third parties. Altogether, either the victims of domestic violence or witnesses/third parties disclosed 91.3 percent of domestic violence cases.

Perpetrators were the first to report domestic violence incidents in 24 cases (2.9%). Medical/mental health professionals made initial domestic violence incident disclosures in 18 cases (2.2%). Other organizations/individuals that disclosed domestic violence incidents included child/family service workers, schools/teachers, VPSOs and other police, child/victim advocates, and juvenile/adult corrections.

In 17 of the domestic violence cases sampled, it was not possible to identify who initially disclosed domestic violence incidents.

Lead investigators/Troopers. A total of 275 individual Troopers were identified as lead/primary investigators (see Table 58). Thirty-nine percent of these individuals investigated only a single domestic violence case. Nearly half (46.2%) of the Troopers in the sample conducted investigations for between 2 and 5 domestic violence investigations. An additional 12 percent of officers were identified as the lead/primary investigator for at least 6 but no more than 10 domestic violence cases. Seven Troopers were identified as the lead investigator for 11-15 cases. Only one Trooper investigated 16-20 cases (this officer was identified as the lead investigator in 20 case records).

Table 58.
Number of domestic violence cases investigated by lead investigators/Troopers

Number of DV Cases Investigated	Number of Officers	Percent of Officers in Sample
1 case	107	38.9
2-5 cases	127	46.2
6-10 cases	33	12.0
11-15 cases	7	2.5
16-20 cases	1	0.4
TOTALS	275	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Evidence collected. Table 59 summarizes the types of evidence that were documented as being collected in the case records that were reviewed. Physical evidence (e.g., items of clothing, objects/instruments used in the commission of a domestic violence incident, or that were seized in order to obtain trace evidence) was collected in 18.1 percent of cases. Trace evidence (e.g., biological substances, textile fibers/fabric, chemical substances) was gathered in 1.9 percent of domestic violence cases. AST investigators took photos of victim injuries in approximately half (50.7%) of incidents. Photographs of crime scenes were more common than photographs of specific items of physical/trace evidence collected. Crime scene photographs were documented in 26.9 percent of case records; photographs of individual evidence items were included in only 7.5 percent of cases. Electronic evidence/data was seized in 2.6 percent of the domestic violence case records reviewed.

Case records indicated that DNA evidence was obtained from domestic violence suspects and victims only rarely - in 1.0 and 0.6 percent of cases, respectively. Specific mention of forensic evidence being forwarded to the state crime lab for analysis was made in 2.3 percent of case records.

Weapons (e.g., firearms, knives, blunt instruments) were seized as evidence in 11.1 percent of the domestic violence case records reviewed.

Table 59.
Evidence collected in domestic violence cases

Type of Evidence	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Physical evidence collected	152	18.1
Trace evidence collected	16	1.9
Electronic evidence/data recovered	22	2.6
Photographs of evidence collected taken	63	7.5
Photographs of crime scene taken	226	26.9
Photographs of victim injuries taken	425	50.7
DNA: Victim(s)	5	0.6
DNA: Suspect(s)	8	1.0
Forensic evidence forwarded for analysis	19	2.3
Weapons seized	93	11.1

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Search warrants. In addition to documenting the types of evidence gathered in the course of domestic violence investigations, the case file review also collected information pertaining to search warrants that were obtained. Table 60 presents the types of search warrants sought by AST for the case records reviewed. Overall, at least one type of search warrant was obtained in just 2.6 percent of domestic violence cases. Warrants permitting the recording of conversations (both in-person as well as telephonic conversations), commonly referred to as Glass warrants, were obtained by investigators in 0.7 percent of the case files reviewed. Warrants granting permission for police to search a person’s residence and/or private property were documented in 0.9 percent of case records. Warrants for the search of a person (as opposed to an individual’s personal property/effects) were indicated in 0.7 percent of cases. Warrants for the search of personal records (e.g., medical, financial, telephone records) were mentioned in 0.6 percent of the case records reviewed.

Table 60.
Search warrants obtained in domestic violence investigations (n=839)

Type of Warrant	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Any search warrant	22	2.6
<i>Warrant to record conversation (Glass warrant)</i>	6	
<i>Warrant to search residence/property</i>	8	
<i>Warrant to search the person</i>	6	
<i>Warrant to search records</i>	5	

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Individuals noted in case records. Within the 839 domestic violence case records included in the analysis sample, there were a total of 3,161 persons documented as being included in the investigation (see Table 61). Individuals noted in domestic case records were classified as belonging to one of three groups: *suspect*, *victim*, or *witness/third party* according to their role in each incident. An estimated 27.9 percent of the individuals involved in domestic violence incidents were suspects, 31.8 percent were identified as victims, and 40.2 percent were identified as witnesses/third parties.

Table 61.
Role designation of individuals identified in domestic violence case records

Role Code	Number	Percent
Suspect	883	27.9
Victim	1,006	31.8
Witness/third party	1,272	40.2
TOTALS	3,161	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages do not total 100.0% due to rounding error.

Table 62 provides a summary of the number of domestic violence cases in which the identity of suspects and victims was known. In nearly 95 percent of the case records reviewed there was a single suspect identified. Multiple suspects were identified in just over 5 percent of cases. Domestic violence incidents involving multiple victims were more common. In 84 percent of the domestic violence case records reviewed a single victim was identified. Multiple victims were identified in roughly one out of every six (16.0%) of the domestic violence case records reviewed. The maximum number of suspects identified in any single case record was 4; the maximum number of victims identified was 5. Table 62 also presents the number of cases in which domestic violence suspects and victims were not personally identified. The identity of suspects was not provided in 0.4 percent of case records. In 0.2 percent of case records the personal identity of domestic violence victims was either unknown to AST or was not provided in case records.

Table 62.
Number of individual suspects and victims identified in domestic violence cases

# Individuals	Suspects		Victims	
	# Cases	% Cases	# Cases	% Cases
One	793	94.5	705	84.0
Two	40	4.8	104	12.4
Three	2	0.2	20	2.4
Four	1	0.1	7	0.8
Five	0	0.0	11	0.1
Identity unknown	3	0.4	2	0.2
	839	100.0	839	99.9

Sources: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding error.

Table 63 presents the total number of witnesses/third parties – that is, those identified by officers as witnesses to domestic violence incidents, persons who possessed knowledge of reported domestic violence incidents and/or the people involved in them, and other individuals who were otherwise identified and listed by Troopers in the case record. In excess of two-thirds of domestic violence case records (67.8%) documented at least one witness/third party. In total, 30.6 percent of domestic violence case records cited a single witness/third party, 16 percent identified two witnesses/third parties, 10.5 percent cited three, 5.5 percent listed four, and 1.9 percent identified 5. Nearly a third of domestic violence cases (32.2%) did not include any witnesses/third parties.

Table 63.

Number of individual witnesses/third parties identified in domestic violence cases

# Individuals	# Cases	% Cases
Zero	270	32.2
One	257	30.6
Two	134	16.0
Three	88	10.5
Four	46	5.5
Five	16	1.9
Six	11	1.3
Seven	6	0.7
Eight	3	0.3
Nine	4	0.5
Ten or more	4	0.5
TOTALS		100.0
	839	

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Criminal charges and other violations. Within AST case records, the statutory violations documented by Troopers serve as a proxy measure for actual offenses committed and they do not necessarily reflect the charge (or charges) levied against a suspected offender. More accurately, the statutory violations documented by Troopers in case records reflect the nature of the offense that was reported to them, or that an officer, after investigation, had probable cause to believe occurred, or both. In addition, the statute violations recorded in case files also do not imply that the identity of a perpetrator was ever determined.

A total of 1,790 violations of Alaska statutes were recorded in the analysis sample of 839 domestic violence case records (see Table 64). An estimated 93.5 percent of the statutory violations noted by Troopers were for a criminal offense (Title 11). The remaining violations (n=117) were concentrated in three statutory titles: Code of Criminal Procedure (Title 12; n=43), Motor Vehicles (Title 28; n=33), and Alcoholic Beverages (Title 4; n=32). All other statutory violations combined constituted 0.5 percent of all the statute violations recorded in domestic violence case records by AST.

Table 64.

Alaska statute violations documented in domestic violence case records, by Title

Alaska Statutes Title	Number	Percent
Criminal Law (Title 11)	1,673	93.5
Code of Criminal Procedure (Title 12)	43	2.4
Motor Vehicles (Title 28)	33	1.8
Alcoholic Beverages (Title 4)	32	1.8
All Other	9	0.5
TOTALS	1,790	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Table 65 presents the distribution of *criminal offenses* identified in domestic violence case records. Nearly three-quarters (73.8%) of the 1,673 criminal charges noted by Troopers were for *offenses against the person*. Most of the remaining criminal charges were for *offenses against property* (10.6%), *offenses against public administration* (9.4%), *offenses against public order* (4.2%), and *controlled substances* offenses (1.2%). Crimes committed *against the family and vulnerable adults*, and other miscellaneous criminal offenses were each documented in less than 1 percent of domestic violence cases.

Table 65.

Alaska criminal law statute violations documented in domestic violence case records, by Chapter

Chapter	Number	Percent
Offenses against the person (Chapter 41)	1,235	73.8
Offenses against property (Chapter 46)	178	10.6
Offenses against public administration (Chapter 56)	158	9.4
Offenses against public order (Chapter 61)	71	4.2
Controlled Substances (Chapter 71)	20	1.2
Offenses against the family and vulnerable adults (Chapter 51)	7	0.4
All other offenses	4	0.2
TOTALS	1,673	99.8

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes: Percentages do not total 100.0% due to rounding error.

Of the 1,235 violations of offenses against persons statutes documented in domestic violence case records, very nearly all of them (n=1,191; 96.4%) were for *assault and reckless endangerment* offenses (see Table 66). In Alaska, assault is classified into four seriousness levels. The most serious are classified as *first-degree* offenses, followed by *second-*, *third-*, and *fourth-degree* offenses. First-degree assault offenses as a *Class A* felony, second-degree assaults are a *Class B* felony, third-degree assaults are *Class C* felonies, and fourth-degree offenses are *Class A* misdemeanors. Reckless endangerment is a *Class A* misdemeanor. Stalking is also included in Alaska's assault and reckless endangerment statutes, and is classified into two seriousness levels. Stalking in the first-degree is a *Class C* felony; stalking in the second-degree is a *Class A* misdemeanor.

Table 66.

Alaska criminal law violations documented in domestic violence case records: Offenses against persons, by Article

Alaska Statutes Title, Article	Number	Percent
Assault and reckless endangerment (Article 2)	1,191	96.4
Sexual offenses (Article 4)	23	1.9
Kidnaping, custodial interference, and human trafficking (Article 3)	15	1.2
Homicide (Article 1)	4	0.3
Robbery, extortion, and coercions (Article 5)	2	0.2
TOTALS	1,235	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

The frequency distributions for these three offenses – assault, reckless endangerment, and stalking – are presented in Table 67. Of the 1,191 violations of Alaska’s assault and reckless endangerment statutes cited by Troopers, almost all (n=1,148; 96.4%) were for assault offenses, and a large majority of these were for assault in the fourth-degree (n=867; 75.5% of all assault offenses). Reckless endangerment offenses comprised only 3 percent of offenses cited. Least common were stalking offenses (<1%).

Table 67.

Alaska assault, reckless endangerment, and stalking statute violations documented in domestic violence case records

Assault Offense	Number	Percent
Assault, 1st degree	13	1.1
Assault, 2nd degree	67	5.6
Assault, 3rd degree	201	16.9
Assault, 4th degree	867	72.8
<i>Subtotals:</i>	<i>1,148</i>	<i>96.4</i>
Reckless endangerment	36	3.0
Stalking, 1st degree	6	0.5
Stalking, 2nd degree	1	0.1
<i>Subtotals:</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>3.6</i>
TOTALS	1,191	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Table 68 shows the total number of criminal charges and other statutory violations for the 839 domestic violence case records included in the analysis sample. Roughly four out of every ten domestic violence cases (43.6%) documented only a single charge or violation. Slightly less than 30 percent of cases (29.8%) included two criminal charges/statutory violations. Thus, nearly three-quarters of domestic violence cases reported to Troopers during the study period had one or two charges/violations listed. Between three and five charges/violations were documented in 23 percent of domestic violence cases. Domestic violence cases involving six or more offenses/violations constituted only 3.6 percent of the sample.

Table 68.

Number of criminal charges and statutory violations per domestic violence case record

# Charges/Violations Cited	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
One	366	43.6
Two	250	29.8
Three	114	13.6
Four	53	6.3
Five	26	3.1
Six or more	30	3.6
TOTALS	839	100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

SUSPECT CHARACTERISTICS

Suspect age. Table 69 presents the distribution of domestic violence suspect ages (in years) *when domestic violence incidents were reported to have occurred*. The age group distribution presented in Table 69 is limited to those suspects whose identities were known and whose date of birth was documented in case records. A total of 35 domestic violence suspects (5%) were identified as juveniles under the age of 18 years (data not shown). An estimated 0.4 percent of suspects were 12 years of age or younger, 1.9 percent were 13 to 15 years old, and 10.5 percent were between the ages of 16 and 20. By far, the largest age group was suspects between the ages of 21 and 30 (40.5%), followed by those aged 31 to 40 years old (23.4%), and suspects between the ages of 41 and 50 years old (15.5%). Individuals 51 years of age or older comprised 7.8 percent of the suspect sample. Overall, the average age of domestic violence suspects when investigations were initiated was 32.1 years.

Table 69.Domestic violence case records: Suspect age^a when assaults occurred

Suspect Age Group	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
12 years old and younger	3	0.4
13 to 15 years old	13	1.9
16 to 20 years old	74	10.5
21 to 30 years old	285	40.5
31 to 40 years old	165	23.4
41 to 50 years old	109	15.5
51 years old and older	55	7.8
TOTALS	704	100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Limited to suspects whose identities were known and date of birth was recorded.

Suspect sex/gender. AST case records provided information pertaining to the sex/gender of 883 domestic violence suspects (see Table 70). A large majority – nearly 80 percent – of

domestic violence offenders was identified as male.

Table 70.
Domestic violence case records: Suspect sex/gender

Suspect Sex/Gender	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Female	179	20.3
Male	704	79.7
TOTALS	883	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Suspect race/ethnicity. Domestic violence case records included information pertaining to the race/ethnicity of 876 persons documented as suspects (see Table 71). More than half of domestic violence suspects were identified in case records as being Alaska Native/American Indian. An estimated 38.1 percent of domestic violence suspects were identified as White/Caucasian. Suspects were identified as either Black/African American or Asian in only 3.1 percent of AST domestic violence case records.

Table 71.
Domestic violence case records: Suspect race/ethnicity

Suspect Race/Ethnicity	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Alaska Native/American Indian	515	58.8
Asian	6	0.7
Black/African American	21	2.4
White/Caucasian	334	38.1
TOTALS	876	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Disability status. In addition to the social/demographic characteristics described previously, domestic violence case records were also examined for indicators of cognitive/developmental, psychiatric/mental health, and physical disabilities among the individuals identified by Troopers. Table 72 presents disability statuses that were recorded for domestic violence suspects.

Table 72.
Domestic violence case records: Suspect disability statuses

Disability	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Any cognitive/mental health/physical disability	20	2.3
<i>Disability: Cognitive/developmental disability only</i>	1	
<i>Disability: Psychiatric/mental health only</i>	17	
<i>Disability: Physical disability only</i>	1	
<i>Disability: Cognitive/developmental and psychiatric/mental health</i>	1	

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

In all, Troopers' narratives referenced one or more of these disabilities for just 20 of the 883

domestic violence offenders in the sample (2.3%). Among these, case report narratives referenced psychiatric/mental health disabilities (only) for 17 suspects. Cognitive/developmental disabilities (only), physical disabilities (only), and combined cognitive/developmental and psychiatric/ mental health disabilities were each documented once.

Military affiliation. Table 73 shows the percentage of domestic violence suspects who were identified in case records as being in the military when the incident occurred, or the family member/dependent of a service member (e.g., spouse, child). In total, an estimated 2.4 percent of domestic violence offenders in the sample (n=21) were either in the military themselves, or were a family member/dependent of military personnel.

Table 73.
Domestic violence case records: Suspect military affiliation

Suspect Military Affiliation	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Member of military	14	1.6
Family member in military	7	0.8

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Investigative activities and outcomes. Table 74 presents the investigative activities and outcomes for individuals identified as suspects in domestic violence case records. A substantial majority – 70.2 percent – were present when Troopers arrived after being notified of a domestic violence incident. Nearly three-quarters of suspects were interviewed (when Troopers arrived, or at a different time and location). Suspect interviews were typically conducted in-person, but were also performed telephonically. Audio recordings were documented in 86 percent of domestic violence suspect interviews. Video recordings were documented much less frequently – in less than 1 percent of domestic violence suspect interviews. Close examination of the interview narratives included in the case records revealed that the statements/accounts of domestic violence incidents given by suspects were internally consistent most of the time (82.8% of domestic violence suspect interviews).

Examination of case record narratives, as well as supplemental documents such as prosecutorial/court documents, revealed that 80 percent of domestic violence suspects identified were arrested. A large majority of these arrests (82.7%) were made by AST; however, other law enforcement entities made arrests of domestic violence suspects as well. Case records showed that arrest warrants were obtained for 7.5 percent of all domestic violence suspects.

Information pertaining to the probation/parole status of domestic violence suspects was also coded from case record narratives and supporting documents. Slightly more than 10 percent of suspects (n=99) were under probation or parole supervision when the domestic violence incident occurred (data not shown).

Table 74.

Domestic violence case records: Investigative activities, suspects

Investigative Activity	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Suspect: Present when officers arrived	620	70.2
Suspect: Interviewed by AST	644	72.9
<i>Interview mode: In-person</i>	573	
<i>Interview mode: Telephonically</i>	63	
<i>Interview mode: Not specified</i>	8	
<i>Interview recorded: Audio</i>	554	
<i>Interview recorded: Video</i>	6	
<i>Statements/account internally consistent</i>	533	
<i>Interviewee was uncooperative</i>	85	
Suspect: Arrested	706	80.0
<i>Arresting agency: AST</i>	584	
<i>Arresting agency: VPSO</i>	66	
<i>Arresting agency: VPO/TPO</i>	46	
<i>Arresting agency: Other law enforcement</i>	4	
<i>Arresting agency: Not specified</i>	6	
Suspect: Warrant obtained for arrest	66	7.5

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Relationship to victim(s). While a large majority of domestic violence cases in the analysis sample included only a single perpetrator and a single victim, other combinations were observed as well. The composition of domestic violence cases also included single suspect-multiple victim, multiple suspects-single victim, and multiple suspects-multiple victims combinations. This complexity made it difficult to accurately capture and record the relationship of the many suspect-victim dyads in cases with multiple suspects and/or multiple victims. Therefore, the data presented in Table 75 reflect the relationships between suspects and victims *only for those case records with a single suspect and a single victim*. The total number of cases for which this condition was met was 690 (82.2% of the case records sampled).

Given the nature of the offense, it was not surprising to find that nearly 7 out of every 10 domestic violence suspects were either victims' current or former spouses/intimate partners. Nevertheless, other forms of intimate relationships were also noted in domestic violence case records. Suspects and victims were family members in 27.1 percent of cases, acquaintances in 2.3 percent of cases, and friends in 1.3 percent of cases. Authority figures were identified as

suspects in 0.9 percent of cases. The specific relationship between domestic violence suspects and victims could not be determined in only 5 case records. In most instances (n=493; 71.5%) of domestic violence, suspects cohabitated/shared a residence with victims (data not shown).

Table 75.

Domestic violence case records: Relationships between suspect(s)^a – single suspect, single victim

Suspect relationship to victim	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Relatives ^b	187	27.1
Acquaintances ^c	16	2.3
Friends ^c	9	1.3
Current or former intimate partner or spouse	467	67.7
Authority figure ^d to victim	6	0.9
Unspecified/unknown	5	0.7
TOTALS	690	100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Limited to cases involving only a single suspect and a single victim (n=690).

b. "Relatives" includes immediate family members (e.g., parents, siblings), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles/aunts, cousins), and in-laws. Spouses were measured separately.

c. Whereas prior research has collapsed the categories of "Friends" and "Acquaintances," we keep them separated in order to differentiate the degree of intimacy, emotional connection, and trust that distinguishes "friends," on the one hand, and "acquaintances" on the other.

d. "Authority Figure" was operationalized as an individual who exercises real or apparent authority over another and who, in the exercise of this authority, inspires, or has the capacity to demand or coerce, compliance/ obedience. Alaska statutes provide numerous examples of persons that occupy "positions of authority" including, but not limited to: employers, counselors/therapists, teachers/school administrators, religious leaders, medical/mental health providers, and law enforcement officials.

Prior domestic and sexual violence history. Domestic violence suspects' prior histories of domestic and sexual violence with victims are shown in Table 76. The data presented were gleaned from the narratives and supporting documents contained within AST domestic violence case records only. Other sources of information – such as criminal history repository, archival prosecution records, or court proceedings/judgments – were not directly accessed by the research team (although these data sources may have been referenced in the domestic violence case records).

Table 76.

Domestic violence case records: Suspect prior history of domestic and sexual violence

Suspect Prior History	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
At least one prior DV incident committed against victim(s)	316	35.8
<i>One or more of these prior DV incidents reported</i>	130	
At least one prior SA/SAM incident committed against victim(s)	10	1.1
<i>One or more of these prior SA/SAM incidents reported</i>	3	
At least one prior DV conviction, any victim(s)	113	12.8

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

As shown in Table 76, more than a third of domestic violence offenders had previously committed acts of domestic or sexual violence against the victims identified in the current sample of domestic violence cases. Approximately 36 percent of domestic violence suspects had committed at least one prior act of domestic violence and 1 percent of domestic violence suspects had committed at least one prior sexual assault. Approximately 30 to 40 percent of these previous domestic violence and sexual assault incidents were reported to police. AST case records also indicated that 12.8 percent of domestic violence suspects had at least one prior domestic violence conviction (for *any* victim(s)).

Victim Characteristics

Victim age. In all, the case record review noted 1,006 domestic violence victims. However, in some cases the specific identity of a victim was unknown to Troopers.¹⁸ Table 77 presents the distribution of domestic violence victim ages (in years) *when domestic violence incidents were reported to have occurred*. The age group distribution presented in Table 77 makes use of the same age categories used in the presentation of the age distribution of domestic violence suspects for purposes of comparison, and is limited to the 804 domestic violence victims whose identities were known and whose date of birth was documented in case records.

Table 77.

Domestic violence case records: Victim age^a when assaults occurred

Victim Age Group	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
12 years old and younger	52	6.5
13 to 15 years old	27	3.4
16 to 20 years old	91	11.3
21 to 30 years old	255	31.7
31 to 40 years old	151	18.8
41 to 50 years old	128	15.9
51 years old and older	100	12.4
TOTALS	804	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Limited to victims whose identities were known and date of birth was recorded.

In comparison to suspects, domestic victims were more likely to be juveniles. Whereas an estimated 5 percent of suspects were under the age of 18, more than twice that percentage (n=100; 12.4%) of domestic violence victims were juveniles (data not shown). Approximately 10 percent of domestic violence victims (9.9%) were under the age of 16. Slightly more than 10 percent (n=91; 11.3%) of victims were between the ages of 16 and 20. Fully half of the domestic violence victim sample was between the ages of 21 and 40. Victims 41 years and older

¹⁸ For example, a victim or witness/third party suspect may have been able to provide investigators with a general description of a victim, but they did not know their specific identity (e.g., name or other personally identifying information) or were unwilling to disclose such information to Troopers.

comprised approximately a quarter (28.3%) of the sample. The average age of domestic violence victims was 32.0 years; the average age of domestic violence suspects was 32.1 years.

Victim sex/gender. Table 78 presents the sex/gender breakdown for domestic violence victims. Whereas nearly 80 percent of domestic violence offenders were male, domestic violence victims were likely to be female. Of the 1,006 victims included in the analysis sample, 70.7 percent were identified as female.

Table 78.
Domestic violence case records: Victim sex/gender

Victim Sex/Gender	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Female	711	70.7
Male	295	29.3
TOTALS	1,006	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Victim race/ethnicity. Information pertaining to the racial/ethnic group membership of 999 domestic violence victims (99.3% of victims in sample) was documented in case records. The racial/ethnic group distribution for domestic victims was remarkably similar to the racial/ethnic group distribution for suspects. An estimated 60.2 percent of victims were identified as being Alaska Native/American Indian. More than a third of domestic violence victims (37.3%) were White/Caucasian. Victims were identified as Black/African American or Asian in only 2.5 percent of domestic case records (see Table 79).

Table 79.
Domestic violence case records: Victim race/ethnicity

Victim Race/Ethnicity	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Alaska Native/American Indian	601	60.2
Asian	7	0.7
Black/African American	18	1.8
White/Caucasian	373	37.3
TOTALS	999	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

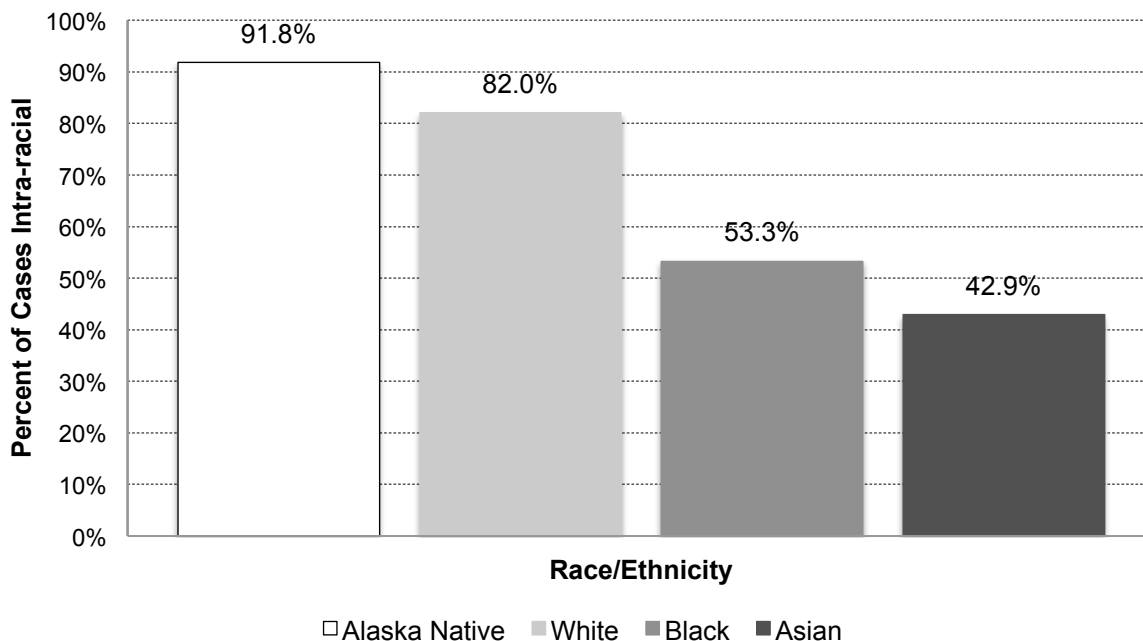
Victim and suspect race/ethnicity combined. To explore the extent to which domestic violence incidents were intra-racial, additional analyses were performed examining case records in which both the race/ethnicity of victim(s) and the race/ethnicity of suspect(s) were known. Results are shown in Figure 7.

There were a total of 500 domestic violence case records involving *one (or more)* Alaska Native/American Indian victims. In 459 (91.8%) of these case records, the race/ethnicity of *at least one suspect* was also Alaska Native/American Indian. There were a total of 328 domestic violence case records involving *one (or more)* White/Caucasian victims. In 269 (82%) of these case records, *at least one* suspect was also White/Caucasian. There were a total of 15 domestic violence case records involving *one (or more)* Black/African American victims. In 8 of these

case records (53.3%) was the race/ethnicity of *at least one* suspect also Black/African American. Finally, there were 7 case records involving *one (or more)* Asian victims. *At least one* suspect was Asian in 3 (42.9%) of those case records.

Figure 8.

Percentage of domestic violence cases: Victim and suspect same race/ethnicity
(Alaska Native/American Indian, White/ Caucasian, Black/African American, and Asian only)



Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Disability status. Table 80 presents disability statuses that were recorded for domestic violence victims. In all, Troopers’ narratives referenced one or more of these disabilities in only 6 of the 1,006 domestic violence victims in the sample (0.6%). Among these, case report narratives referenced psychiatric/mental health disabilities (only) for 3 victims, physical disabilities (only) for 2 victims, and cognitive/developmental disabilities (only) for 1 victim.

Table 80.

Domestic violence case records: Victim disability status

Disability	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Any cognitive/developmental/mental health/physical disability	6	0.6
<i>Disability: Psychiatric/mental health only</i>	3	
<i>Disability: Physical disability only</i>	2	
<i>Disability: Cognitive/developmental disability only</i>	1	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Military affiliation. Table 81 shows the percentage of domestic violence victims identified in case records as being in the military when the incident occurred, or the family member/dependent of a service member (e.g., spouse, child). In total, fewer than 3 percent of

domestic victims (n=27) in Trooper case records were either in the military themselves, or were a family member/dependent of military personnel.

Table 81.
Domestic violence case records: Victim military affiliation

Victim Military Affiliation	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Member of military	10	1.0
Family member in military	17	1.7

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Victim disclosures. Roughly a quarter (24.3%) of domestic violence victims in the sample told someone other than the police about the assault (see Table 82). Victims were most likely to disclose to a friend (32% of victims who disclosed), a parent or guardian (25.4% of victims who disclosed), some other family member (24.6%), or a medical professional (11.9%). Far less common were disclosures by domestic violence victims to spouses/intimate partners (7.4%). Domestic violence victims only rarely disclosed to therapists/counselors (4.9%), teachers or other school employees (2%), crisis line/victim advocates (1.2%), or other social workers (0.8%). None of the domestic violence victims in the sample disclosed to clergy/spiritual advisors. It was also uncommon for domestic violence victims to disclose to co-workers/employers, acquaintances, or strangers.

Table 82.
Domestic violence case records: Victim disclosures prior to AST notification by any party

Disclosure	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Victim Disclosure: Anyone Prior to AST Notification	244	24.3
<i>Friend</i>	78	
<i>Parent/guardian</i>	62	
<i>Other family member</i>	60	
<i>Medical professional</i>	29	
<i>Spouse/intimate partner</i>	18	
<i>Therapist/counselor</i>	12	
<i>Acquaintance</i>	11	
<i>Stranger/person not previously known</i>	10	
<i>Teacher/school employee</i>	5	
<i>Co-worker/employer</i>	3	
<i>Crisis line/victim advocate</i>	3	
<i>Office of Children's Services/social worker</i>	2	
<i>Other authorities</i>	1	
<i>Suspect's family</i>	1	
TOTAL DISCLOSURES^a	295	

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Total victim disclosures do not sum to 244 because victims could have disclosed to more than one person/entity.

Investigative activities and outcomes. Troopers interviewed nearly 88 percent of domestic violence victims (see Table 83). Eighty-six percent of domestic violence victim interviews were conducted in-person. Audio recording were made in just over 86 percent of interviews as well. Video recordings of victim interviews, in contrast, were documented in just over 1 percent of domestic violence case records. Close examination of the interview narratives included in the case records revealed that the statements/accounts of domestic violence incidents given by victims were internally consistent more than 96 percent of the time. Thirty-two domestic victims were noted in case records as being non-cooperative (e.g., intentional evasiveness, refusal to answer questions) during interviews with Troopers. Case records documented nearly twice that number (n=63; 6.2% of victims in sample) as being non-cooperative with the investigation¹⁹ in general. Finally, victim notifications of their rights and the resources available to them were documented in a large majority (82.8%) of cases.

Table 83.
Investigative activities: Domestic violence victims

Investigative Activity	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Victim: Interviewed by AST	884	87.9
<i>Interview mode: In-person</i>	762	
<i>Interview mode: Telephonically</i>	116	
<i>Interview mode: Not specified</i>	6	
<i>Interview recorded: Audio</i>	760	
<i>Interview recorded: Video</i>	10	
<i>Statements/account internally consistent</i>	853	
<i>Interviewee was uncooperative</i>	32	
Victim: Uncooperative w/ AST investigation	63	6.2
Victim: Notified by AST of their rights, resources available	833	82.8

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Self-protective behaviors/strategies. Each domestic violence case record was coded for seven types of self-protective behaviors/strategies (see Table 84). A large majority of the domestic violence victims in the sample (80.6%) made use of at least one of these behaviors/strategies. It was, in fact, common for domestic violence victims to employ more than

¹⁹ When case records were coded, cooperation during *initial interviewing* was coded separately from general cooperation with the *investigation in general*. In some cases victims cooperated during initial interviews, but then withdrew their cooperation at later stages of the investigation (for example, telling Troopers that they would no longer participate in the investigation, telling Troopers to not contact them again, not returning phone calls, not answering questions during follow-up interviews when contacted by Troopers, and refusing to undergo medical examination, among others).

one. More than half (54.7%) of domestic violence victims employed two or more self-protective behaviors/strategies. The strategy most frequently cited in case records was calling out for help/sounding an alarm (n=446; 44.3%). Other frequently observed forms of victim resistance included attack offender/physical resistance (n=305; 30.3%), attempt to run away/escape (n=258; 25.6%), and attempt to reason/plead/argue with suspect (n=240; 23.9%). Less commonly documented survival strategies included pretending to cooperate with suspect (n=108; 10.7%), yell/scream at suspect (n=92; 9.5%), and verbally threaten suspect (n=29; 2.9%).

Table 84.

Domestic violence case records: Victim self-protective behaviors/strategies

Self-protective Behavior	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Any documentation of victim self-protective behaviors	811	80.6
<i>Call out for help/sound alarm</i>	446	
<i>Attack offender/physical resistance</i>	305	
<i>Attempt to run away/escape</i>	258	
<i>Attempt to reason/plead/argue with suspect</i>	240	
<i>Pretend to cooperate</i>	108	
<i>Yell/scream at suspect</i>	92	
<i>Verbally threaten suspect</i>	29	
TOTAL SELF-PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS^a	1,478	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Total victim disclosures do not sum to 811 because victims could have engaged in more than one self-protective behavior.

Victim injuries and medical treatment received. Case record narratives and other supporting documents such as medical examination documents were used to collect information pertaining to the injuries domestic victims sustained and the medical treatment they may have received for those injuries. Table 85 summarizes the victim injury data compiled from the case record review. Two-thirds (66.4%) of domestic violence victims suffered some form of documented injury. Among the injuries documented in case records, the most common was bruising/contusions (n=465; 46.2%). Blackened/swollen eye and bloody nose/swollen lip were each documented in roughly one out of every ten domestic violence cases. An estimated 8.8 percent of domestic violence victims were strangled/choked by suspects. Thirty domestic violence victims suffered lacerations/biting injuries. Knife wounds were documented in 1.3 percent of domestic violence cases. Broken/loose teeth, genital injuries, and gunshot wounds were each documented in less than 1 percent of domestic violence cases.

An estimated 16.3 percent of domestic violence victims received medical treatment for their injuries.

Table 85.

Injuries sustained and documented: Domestic violence victims

	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Victim: Non-genital injuries	668	66.4
Victim: Bruising/contusions	465	46.2
Victim: Blackened/swollen eye	127	12.6
Victim: Bloody nose/lip	103	10.2
Victim: Strangulation/choking	88	8.8
Victim: Lacerations/bite marks	30	3.0
Victim: Fractures/broken bones	17	1.7
Victim: Knife wound	13	1.3
Victim: Broken/loose teeth	8	0.8
Victim: Genital injuries	5	0.5
Victim: Gunshot wound	2	0.2
Victim: Received medical treatment for injuries	164	16.3

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Suspect and Victim Alcohol/Drug Use

Alcohol and/or drug use by domestic violence suspects and victims was coded using multiple data sources contained within each case record. The most readily available alcohol and/or drug use information was provided in a dedicated alcohol/drug use field on AST's case record form 12-201. For each *case record* Troopers enter one of five codes: "N" (no alcohol or drug involvement); "A" (alcohol involvement); "D" (drug involvement); "B" (both alcohol and drug involvement); and, "U" (unknown). In cases involving alcohol and/or drug use, this dedicated form field does not specify who used alcohol/drugs, the type of alcohol/drug used, or any other details pertaining to the nature of alcohol or drug use. Therefore, this study relied primarily on case record narratives and other supporting documents included in the case record file to code alcohol and drug use for *individual* domestic violence suspects and victims.

Suspect alcohol and/or drug use. Nearly two-thirds (63.5%) of domestic violence suspects were described in case records as being under the influence of alcohol, although not necessarily "drunk," when the domestic violence incident occurred (see Table 86, next page). Illicit drug use was much less prevalent than alcohol use among domestic violence suspects. Less than four percent (n=32; 3.6%) of domestic violence suspects were noted by Troopers as being under the influence of drugs at the time of the incident.

Table 86.

Alcohol and/or drug use: Domestic violence suspects

Suspect Alcohol/Drug Use	Number of Suspects	Percent of Suspects
Alcohol: Under influence at time of assault	561	63.5
Drugs: Under influence at time of assault	32	3.6

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Victim alcohol and/or drug use. Alcohol and drug use by domestic victims was captured using four measures: (1) Victim consumed any alcohol immediately prior to the assault; (2) Victim consumed alcohol with suspect(s); (3) Victim used any illicit drugs immediately prior to assault; and, (4) Victim used illicit drugs with suspect(s).

The case record review revealed that less than a third of domestic violence victims (n=314; 31.2%) used alcohol prior to the assault. Illicit drug use by domestic violence victims was rarely noted in case records (see Table 87). Troopers documented drug use for only 9 of 1,006 domestic violence victims included in the sample (0.9%). Five of the nine domestic violence victims who did use illicit drugs did so with suspects.

Table 87.

Alcohol and/or drug use: Domestic violence victims

Victim Alcohol/Drug Use	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Alcohol: Any use	314	31.2
<i>Alcohol: Use with suspect</i>	259	
Drugs: Any use	9	0.9
<i>Drugs: Use with suspect</i>	5	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

In addition to alcohol and drug *use* by domestic violence victims, additional information was coded pertaining to alcohol and drug *intoxication*. Coders closely examined case record narratives and supporting documents for references to not just alcohol or drug use per se, but also accounts and descriptions of victims' mental states and behaviors indicating that they were *under the influence* of alcohol ("drunk") and/or drugs ("high") when domestic violence incidents occurred. These data are presented in Table 88.

In excess of two-thirds of domestic victims (n=677; 67.3%) were, according to information contained in AST case records, sober when they were assaulted. While nearly two out of every three victims were found to have used alcohol immediately prior to domestic violence incidents, only about one out of every four (27%) were documented as showing signs of being drunk (alcohol intoxication), being "high" (drug intoxication), or both when the assault occurred. Reliable information on alcohol/drug intoxication could not be gleaned for 4.9 percent of domestic violence victims.

Table 88 also presents information pertaining to domestic violence victims' *consciousness* – that is, the extent to which victims were awake, alert, and aware – when assaults occurred. These data, like the data pertaining to alcohol and drug intoxication, were gleaned from case record narratives and other documentation included in the case file. The overwhelming majority of domestic violence victims included in the sample (n=965; 95.9%) were conscious at the time of the assault. Victim *unconsciousness* was coded into three categories: (1) Unconscious: Intoxication; (3) Unconscious: Trauma; and, (4) Unconscious: Unspecified. A total of 29 (2.9%) domestic violence victims were assaulted while unconscious. In most of these instances (n=21) the reason for unconsciousness could not be determined. Four domestic violence victims were documented as being unconscious due to alcohol/drug intoxication, and an additional four victims were documented as being unconscious due to experiencing trauma (e.g., being “knocked” or “choked” out).

Table 88.

Intoxication and consciousness at time of assault: Domestic violence victims

Victim Intoxication // Consciousness	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
Intoxication		
<i>Alcohol intoxication</i>	272	27.0
<i>Drug intoxication</i>	3	0.3
<i>Both alcohol and drug intoxication</i>	5	0.5
<i>Sober</i>	677	67.3
<i>Missing/unknown</i>	49	4.9
TOTALS	1,006	100.0
Consciousness		
<i>Conscious</i>	965	95.9
<i>Unconscious: Intoxication</i>	4	0.4
<i>Unconscious: Trauma</i>	4	0.4
<i>Unconscious: Unspecified</i>	21	2.1
<i>Missing/unknown</i>	12	1.2
TOTALS	1,006	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Table 89 (next page) combines the individual-level alcohol and drug use information collected for domestic violence suspects and victims to produce case-level summary statistics. Altogether, 67.7 percent of the domestic violence *cases* examined included any alcohol or drug use by victims or suspects. In 48.2 percent of those cases, there was documentation of alcohol or drug use by both victims and suspects. In an additional 48.2 percent of cases, domestic violence suspects used alcohol or drugs, while victims did not engage in any substance use. The opposite was true in about 3.5 percent of cases.

Table 89.

Alcohol and/or drug use by domestic violence victims and suspects

Alcohol and/or Drug Use	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Any alcohol or drug use by victim(s) or by suspect(s)	568	67.7
<i>Alcohol or drug use by victim(s) only</i>	20	
<i>Alcohol or drug use by suspect(s) only</i>	274	
<i>Alcohol or drug use by victim(s) and suspect(s)</i>	274	

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK

Characteristics of Domestic Violence Incidents

Suspect access to victims. Suspects and victims cohabitated/shared a residence in approximately 70 percent of domestic cases. As Table 90 shows, cohabitation significantly altered how domestic violence suspects came into contact with victims. In the vast majority of instances, because of their routine proximity to victims in their everyday routines and daily activities, domestic violence suspects who shared a residence with victims rarely had to turn to alternative means of access to the victims. Troopers documented forced entry (for example, pushing their way through, or kicking-in a door) by suspects into their shared residence with victims in only 2.4 percent of cases. Even fewer cases documented a suspect entering their shared residence through an open window or unlocked door, or the suspect or victim being invited back into the shared residence prior to the assault occurring. In only 1 percent of domestic violence cases in which suspects and victims cohabitated did the parties meet in a public place prior to the assault.

In contrast, suspects forced entry into the victim's home in 9.5 percent of domestic violence cases when suspects and victims *did not* share a residence. Uninvited entry into a victim's home through an open window or door was documented in 9 percent of non-cohabitation domestic violence cases. In approximately 40 percent of domestic violence cases suspects and victims came into contact immediately prior to the assault via an invitation from the other party. Victims invited suspects to their home in 20.6 percent of cases; suspects invited victims to their residence in 19.8 percent of cases. Domestic violence victims and suspects met in a public place prior to the assault in 10.3 percent of cases. Victims of domestic violence were staying at the suspect's residence in 5.4 percent of cases; suspects were staying at victims' homes in 3.7 percent of cases.

Table 90.

Domestic violence suspect(s) means of access to victim(s)

Means of Access	Suspect-Victim	Suspect-Victim
	Shared Residence (n=593)	No Shared Residence (n=246)
Forced entry into home	2.4%	9.5%
Open window/unlocked door	1.2	9.0
Victim pick-up suspect at work/school	0.2	0.0
Suspect pick-up victim at work/school	0.0	0.0
Victim invited suspect into home	0.9	20.6
Suspect invited victim into home	0.5	19.8

Table 90. {continued}

Domestic violence suspect(s) means of access to victim(s)

Means of Access	Suspect-Victim Shared Residence	Suspect-Victim No Shared Residence
	(n=593)	(n=246)
Victim and suspect met in public place	1.0	10.3
Victim staying at suspect's home	---	5.4
Suspect staying at victim's home	---	3.7

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Precipitation factors of assaults. Table 91 presents information on the *precipitating factors* associated with the domestic violence incidents documented in the case review. By precipitating factors we refer to circumstances, events, or behaviors that triggered or otherwise led up to the domestic violence incident. These circumstances, events, or behaviors may have occurred in the moments immediately preceding a domestic violence incident, or they may have been an ongoing source of conflict. The data presented below does not make this distinction. Rather, case records were coded to reflect whether or not the indicators presented in Table 91 were documented in case records. Importantly, in many of the domestic violence case records reviewed, there was not a single precipitating factor, but rather two or more circumstances, events, or behaviors that precipitated incidents.

Table 91.

Domestic violence case records: Precipitating factors

Precipitating Factor	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Belongings/household property	133	15.9
Personal insults/perceived disrespect	125	14.9
Controlling behaviors	114	13.6
Jealousy/alleged infidelity	110	13.1
Disapproval of alcohol/drug use	65	7.8
Parental discipline of children	50	6.0
Angry/unhappy with ending of relationship	40	4.8
Childcare/child custody/child visitation	44	5.2
Financial stress/troubles	33	3.9
Other sexual conflict	23	2.7
Known/acknowledged infidelity	6	0.7
Employment/school	6	0.7
Pregnancy	3	0.4

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK

The single most frequently documented precipitating factor was the dispute regarding personal belongings and/or household property (15.9%). Broadly speaking, however, disputes regarding sexual conduct were more common. Combined, jealousy/alleged infidelity, known/acknowledged infidelity, and other sexual conflicts were identified as precipitating factors in 16.5 percent of domestic violence cases. Most prominent among these was jealousy/alleged

infidelity, which was a precipitating factor in 13.1 of domestic violence incidents. Personal insults/perceived disrespect was documented as a precipitating factor in 14.9 percent of domestic violence cases. Disapproval of alcohol and/or drug use preceded nearly 8 percent of incidents. Controlling behaviors were identified as a triggering factor in 13.6 percent of domestic violence cases. Conflicts pertaining to the custody and discipline of children served as precipitating factors in 6 percent and 5.2 percent of domestic violence incidents, respectively. Unhappiness with the ending of a relationship was a precipitating factor in 4.8 percent of cases. Stress related to finances and work/school provoked about 4.6 percent of domestic violence cases. Finally, pregnancy was identified as a precipitating factor in 3 domestic violence incidents.

Location of assaults. Table 92 and Table 93, below, present information on the locations where domestic violence incidents were reported to have occurred. An estimated 11 percent of domestic violence incidents occurred at an outdoor location, and 88.7 percent occurred at an indoor location. The incident location could not be determined in 3 domestic violence case records (data not shown). Table 92 describes the *indoor* locations of domestic violence incidents; Table 93 describes the *outdoor* locations.

More than two-thirds (68%) of domestic violence incidents that occurred in indoor locations happened within a residence shared by suspects and victims. An additional 13.4 percent of domestic violence assaults occurred in victims' homes, 9 percent occurred in suspects' homes, and 6.4 percent occurred in the home of someone other than the suspect or victim. Altogether, domestic violence incidents happened inside a personal residence in 96.8 percent of cases that occurred indoors (86.2% of all domestic violence case records reviewed). Other indoor locations that were documented, albeit in small numbers, included: hotel/motel rooms, workplaces (victim), schools, bars, and other public buildings/spaces.

Table 92.
Domestic violence case records: Indoor incident locations (n=747)

Incident Location	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Shared residence	508	68.0
Home: Victim	100	13.4
Home: Suspect	67	9.0
Home: Other person	48	6.4
Hotel/motel	8	1.1
Workplace: Victim	3	0.4
School	3	0.4
Other public building/space	3	0.4
All Other	3	0.4
Bar	1	0.1
Missing/unknown	3	0.4
TOTALS	747	100.0

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK

Table 93 presents the outdoor locations of the domestic violence records reviewed. The most frequently documented outdoor location was on a street/sidewalk (33.7%). Outdoor premises

adjacent to a home were recorded in 20 percent of incidents that occurred in an outdoor location. This was followed by vehicles (14.7%), parking lots (11.6%), and trails/greenbelts (5.3%). Other outdoor locations, parks, and school grounds were each documented in less than 3 percent of domestic violence assaults that occurred outside. The precise location of 10 domestic violence incidents that occurred outdoors could not be gleaned from AST case records.

Table 93.
Domestic violence case records: Outdoor incident locations (n=95)

Incident Location	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases ^a
Street/sidewalk	32	33.7
Outdoor premises adjacent to a home	19	20.0
Vehicle	14	14.7
Parking lot	11	11.6
Trail/greenbelt	5	5.3
Other outdoor locations	2	2.1
Park	1	1.0
Outdoor location at school	1	1.0
Missing/unknown	10	10.5
TOTALS	95	99.9

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK

Notes

a. Total percentage does not sum to 100.0% due to rounding error.

Other persons present. Domestic violence case records were also examined to assess the frequency with which other people were present when the assault occurred. By *presence* we refer to presence *at the scene* of the incident, not necessarily a direct eyewitness of the events that occurred. Three measures were used to capture this information: *other adult(s) present*, *child(ren) under the age of 18 present*, and *child(ren) present/witness suspect(s) arrest*. Our measures of child presence was not limited to the children of suspects and/or victims; rather, these measures were coded in the affirmative if any children were present at the scene or if any of the children present at the scene witnessed the arrest of one or more domestic violence suspects. Table 94 presents the results.

While domestic violence incidents frequently occurred within a shared residence, or the independent residences of suspects or victims, it was not uncommon for them to occur in the presence of others. Overall, one or more adults or children were present in 62.9 percent (n=528) of domestic violence incidents (data not shown). One or more adults were present in 41.4 percent of the domestic violence cases sampled; one or more children was present in 35.4 percent of cases. Children observed the arrest of suspects in 13.2 percent of cases.

Table 94.

Domestic violence case records: Presence of others when incidents occurred

Others present	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
One or more adults	347	41.4
One or more children	297	35.4
One or more children witness suspect arrest	111	13.2

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK

Assaultive and threatening behaviors. Table 95 and Table 96 present data pertaining to the assaultive and threatening behaviors of suspects during domestic violence incidents. Assaultive behaviors included deliberate, physically assaultive acts committed by suspects intended to physically and/or psychologically *injure* victims. The 12 assaultive behaviors that were coded from domestic violence case records are presented in Table 95. In contrast, threatening behaviors included deliberate acts or strategies designed to *intimidate* victims. The 6 threatening behaviors measured are presented in Table 96.

Table 95.

Domestic violence case records: Assaultive behaviors

Assaultive Behavior	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Push/grab/shove victim	391	46.6
Punch victim with fist	296	35.3
Slap/hit victim with open hand	247	29.4
Choke/strangle/suffocate victim	122	14.5
Hit victim with object (other than a gun)	86	10.3
Throw something at victim	80	9.5
Grab/pull victim's hair	79	9.4
Kick victim	78	9.3
Chase victim while making threats	39	4.7
Use knife or other cutting instrument	32	3.8
Use a gun ^a	31	3.7
Bite victim	30	3.6

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK

Notes:

a. Use of a gun includes the use of a firearm as a blunt instrument.

The most common form of assaultive behavior committed by domestic violence suspects was to push/grab/shove victims (46.6%) (see Table 95). Suspects punched victims with a closed fist in slightly more than a third (35.3%) of domestic violence cases. Domestic violence victims were slapped/hit with an open hand in 29.4 percent of incidents. Choking/strangling/suffocation was documented in nearly 15 percent of domestic violence cases. Domestic violence victims were struck by blunt objects in just slightly more than 10 percent of incidents. Throwing things at victims (9.5%), pulling/grabbing victims' hair (9.4%), and kicking victims (9.3%) were each indicated in more than 9 percent of domestic violence incidents. Four assaultive behaviors were documented in fewer than 5 percent of domestic violence cases: chasing victim while making

threats (4.7%), use knife or other cutting instrument (3.8%), use a gun (3.7%), and bite victim (3.6%).

Table 96 shows the frequency of domestic violence suspects' threatening behaviors. The behavior most frequently documented was to verbally threaten victims with (non-sexual) bodily injury (22.7%). In an additional 9 domestic violence cases (1.1%) suspects threatened to sexually assault victims. Offenders threatened domestic violence victims with lethal weapons (i.e., guns and knives) in 10.7 percent of incidents. Notably, however, threats with guns were more frequently documented than threats made knives (6.8% versus 3.9%). Domestic violence suspects threatened to use an object other than a gun or a knife as a weapon in an additional 4.7 percent of incidents.

Table 96.
Domestic violence case records: Threatening behaviors

Threatening Behavior	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Threaten: Victim with bodily injury (non-sexual)	190	22.7
Threaten: Victim with a gun	57	6.8
Threaten: To use some other object as weapon	39	4.7
Threaten: Victim with a knife	33	3.9
Threaten: To harm victim's children/family/friends	31	3.7
Threaten: To sexually assault victim	9	1.1

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK

Stalking behaviors. The study included documentation of domestic violence suspect stalking behaviors. These actions could have occurred immediately prior to the domestic violence incident reported to Troopers, or they could have occurred in the days, weeks, or months preceding the domestic violence event. The precise timing of suspect stalking behaviors was not coded; rather, the intent was simply to capture domestic violence victims' experiences with suspects' stalking behaviors prior to domestic violence incidents. In total, 30 suspect behaviors were coded for each domestic violence case record reviewed (see Table 97, next page).

In general, stalking behaviors undertaken by domestic violence suspects were infrequently observed in the case records. When stalking behaviors were documented in AST case records, however, they were most commonly in the form of the destruction/vandalism of domestic violence victims' property. Vandalism of victims' personal property was documented in 5.8 percent of domestic violence cases, vandalism of victims' homes was cited in 4.1 percent of cases, and vandalism of victims' cars was recorded in 1.7 percent of domestic violence cases. Four percent of case record narratives included descriptions of domestic violence suspects following victims. Suspects were documented as making uninvited visits to domestic violence victims' homes and/or forced entry into victims' homes (prior to the domestic violence incident reported to Troopers) in 6 percent of the case records reviewed. Suspects were documented as making uninvited visits to victims' workplaces in 0.7 percent of domestic violence case records. Additional stalking/harassing behaviors documented in the domestic violence case file review included various forms of unwanted communications with victims, such as phone calls, voicemail messages, text messages, and other uninvited forms of personal communication.

Domestic violence victims also indicated that suspects had filed false reports against them, threatened to harm their pets, and intentionally left evidence of their presence in victims' homes/vehicles in order to scare them. Overall, 4.5 percent of the case record narratives indicated that the stalking/harassing behaviors engaged in by suspects in the days/weeks/months preceding the domestic violence incident made victims fear for their personal safety.

Table 97.
Domestic violence case records: Stalking behaviors of suspects

Stalking Behavior	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Vandalize other victim property	49	5.8
Vandalize victim's home	34	4.1
Followed victim	34	4.1
Uninvited visit to victim's home	30	3.6
Break into victim's home	20	2.4
Vandalize victim's car	14	1.7
Unwanted phone calls to victim	10	1.2
Other uninvited forms of communication	9	1.1
Unwanted text messages	7	0.8
Uninvited visit to victim's workplace/school	6	0.7
Filed false report against victim	5	0.6
Unwanted voicemail messages	5	0.6
Threaten to harm victim's pet(s)	3	0.4
Leave evidence of entry into victim's home/vehicle	1	0.1
Contact victim's employer	0	0.0
Install GPS/tracking device on victim vehicle	0	0.0
Leave unwanted/strange/threatening items for victim to find	0	0.0
Contact/file report with OCS	0	0.0
Open victim's mail without permission	0	0.0
Abuse victim's pet(s)	0	0.0
Relocate resident in order to monitor victim	0	0.0
Leave unwanted gifts for victim	0	0.0
Install spyware on victim's computer	0	0.0
Send victim unsolicited letters/written correspondence	0	0.0
Unwanted messages via social media	0	0.0
Unwanted emails	0	0.0
Photograph victim without permission	0	0.0
Victim fear for safety due to one or more stalking behaviors	38	4.5

Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK

Legal Resolutions of Domestic Violence Cases

This section of the report examines the processing of domestic violence case records referred to the Alaska Department of Law (DOL) by Troopers between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011. The prosecution data used for the analyses reported in this section of the report were provided to the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center by DOL. In all, 596 domestic violence case records included in the AST analysis sample were received by DOL for review. These 596 cases records identified 622 individual *suspects* and included 1,433 separate criminal *charges* (1,202 charges referred by AST, plus 231 supplemental charges filed by prosecutors). Approximately two-thirds (n=406; 65.3%) of the 622 domestic violence suspects identified in case records were convicted of at least one charge. Approximately 40 percent (n=584; 40.8%) of all the criminal charges initially brought against domestic violence suspects resulted in a conviction (via a plea or by a determination of guilt at trial).

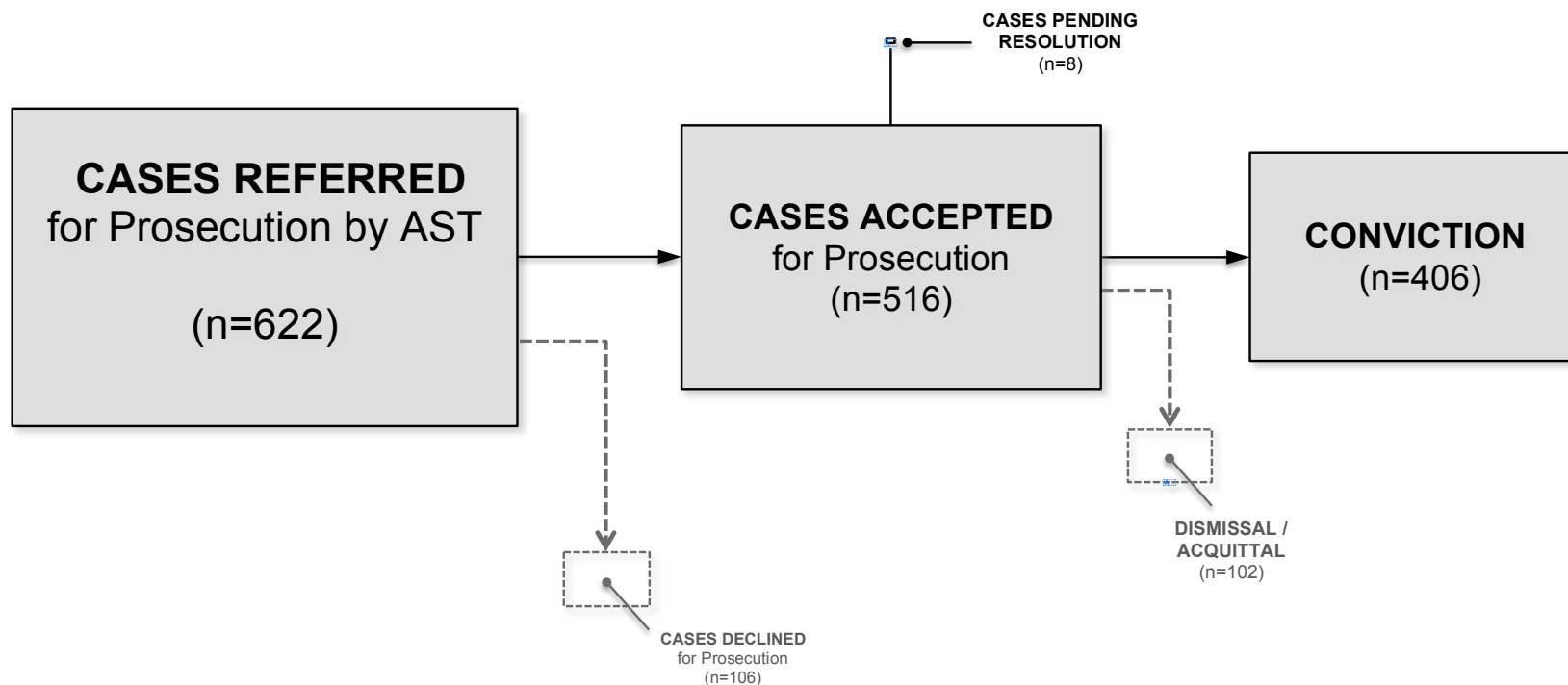
Figure 8 presents a criminal case-processing diagram for the 622 domestic violence suspects identified in the case records referred to DOL. For the purposes of the data presented in Figure 8, a *case* refers to the entire bundle of charges levied upon a single domestic violence suspect. While domestic violence suspects were most likely to be charged with a single crime (42.6% of cases), a majority of cases referred to DOL involved multiple charges for multiple criminal offenses. The maximum number of charges observed in a single case was 12; the average number of criminal charges was 2.3. If any of the charges included in a case were accepted by DOL for prosecution, that case was coded as *accepted for prosecution*. If any of the criminal charges included in a case resulted in a conviction (via a plea or by a determination of guilt at trial), the case was coded as a *conviction*. A total of 8 cases had been accepted for review by DOL, but their status remained pending when the analyses were performed.

Eighty-three percent (n=516) of the 622 domestic violence cases referred to DOL by Troopers were *accepted* for prosecution. Conversely, prosecution was *declined* for 17 percent of cases (n=106). More than 78 percent of domestic violence cases accepted for prosecution (n=406; 78.7%) resulted in *conviction* for at least one charge. Overall, nearly two-thirds (65.3%) of domestic violence cases *referred* to DOL by Troopers resulted in a conviction. Slightly less than 20 percent of domestic violence cases that were accepted for prosecution (n=102; 19.8%) resulted in either dismissal or acquittal.

Figure 9 presents a criminal charge-processing diagram for all of the criminal *charges* leveled against domestic violence suspects. There were a total of 1,433 criminal charges that were either referred by Troopers (n=1,202) or filed independently by DOL prosecutors (n=231). Approximately 14 percent of the charges referred by Troopers (n=171; 14.2%) were declined for prosecution by DOL. Out of the total 1,433 charges referred or filed, 1,262 (88.1%) were *accepted* by DOL. Out of the 1,262 charges that were accepted for prosecution, 46.3 percent resulted in a conviction. Nearly all (n=575; 98.5%) of convictions were the result of a guilty plea rather than through formal adjudications. Slightly less than half of the charges accepted for prosecution (49%; n=618) were subsequently dismissed, or did not have a true bill returned by a grand jury.

Figure 9.

Criminal case processing diagram: Domestic violence case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 2, 2008 to December 31, 2011.



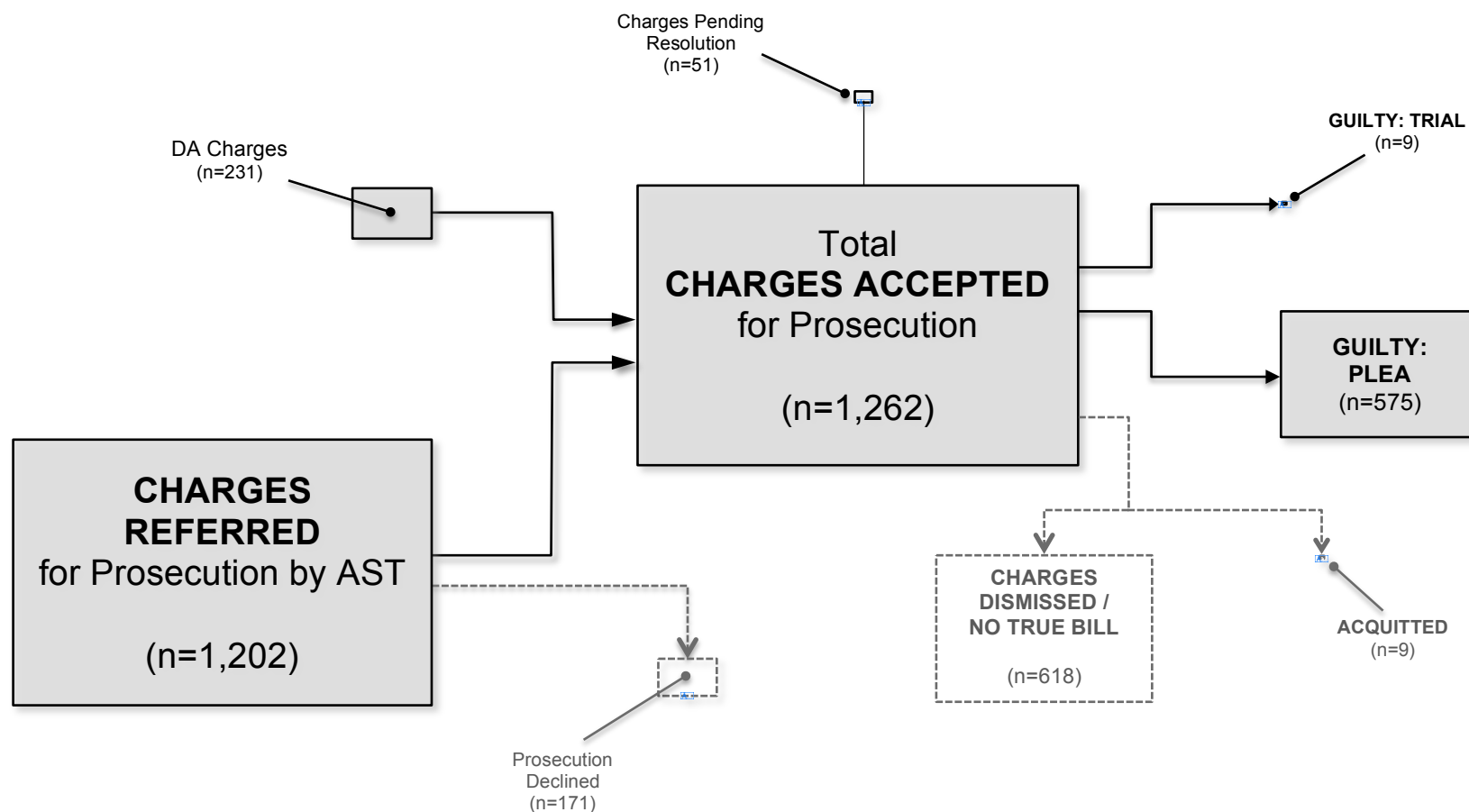
Source: Myrston, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

- a. Case processing outcomes (decline prosecution, acceptance, dismissal, acquittal, conviction) as of April 2, 2015.
- b. A case refers to the entire bundle of charges levied upon a single SA/SAM suspect.

Figure 10.

Criminal charge processing diagram: Domestic violence case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 2, 2008 to December 31, 2011.



Source: Myrstol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.

Notes

a. Charge processing outcomes (dismissal, acquittal, conviction) as of April 2, 2015.

Table 98, below, shows the frequency distribution of the 584 *charges* that resulted in conviction. The table is separated into two panels. The first panel lists the 10 offense categories that were most frequently observed. All other offense categories are represented in the second panel. In total, 292 of the 584 charge convictions – exactly 50 percent – were for *assaults*. An additional 4.3 percent of charge convictions were for *reckless endangerment* offenses. Just over 2 percent of charge convictions were for *criminal mischief* – primarily for criminal mischief in the 4th degree. Nearly 7 percent of charge convictions were for *disorderly conduct*, and 7.5 percent were for *harassment* (in the 2nd degree). One out of every five charge convictions (n=121) was classified as misdemeanor probation/SIS (suspended imposition of sentence) revocations. With the exception of Assault 2, Assault 3, and Criminal Mischief 3, all of the criminal charge convictions were misdemeanors.

Table 98.

Distribution of conviction charges: Domestic violence case records closed by the Alaska State Troopers, January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011.

Offense Category	Statute	Number	Percent
Assault 2	AS 11.41.210	4	0.7%
Assault 3	AS 11.41.220	31	5.3
Assault 4	AS 11.41.230	257	44.0
Reckless endangerment	AS 11.41.250	25	4.3
Criminal mischief 3	AS 11.46.482	1	0.2
Criminal mischief 4	AS 11.46.484	9	1.5
Criminal mischief 5	AS 11.46.486	3	0.5
Disorderly conduct	AS 11.61.110	40	6.9
Harassment 2	AS 11.61.120	44	7.5
Misdemeanor probation/SIS revocation	---	121	20.7
	Subtotal	535	91.6
All other offenses	---	49	8.4
	TOTALS	584	100.0

Source: Myr Stol, B. A., & Parker, K. L. (2015). *Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault case processing project*. University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center: Anchorage, AK.