



ALASKA VICTIMIZATION SURVEY: FROM RESEARCH TO POLICY AND PRACTICE

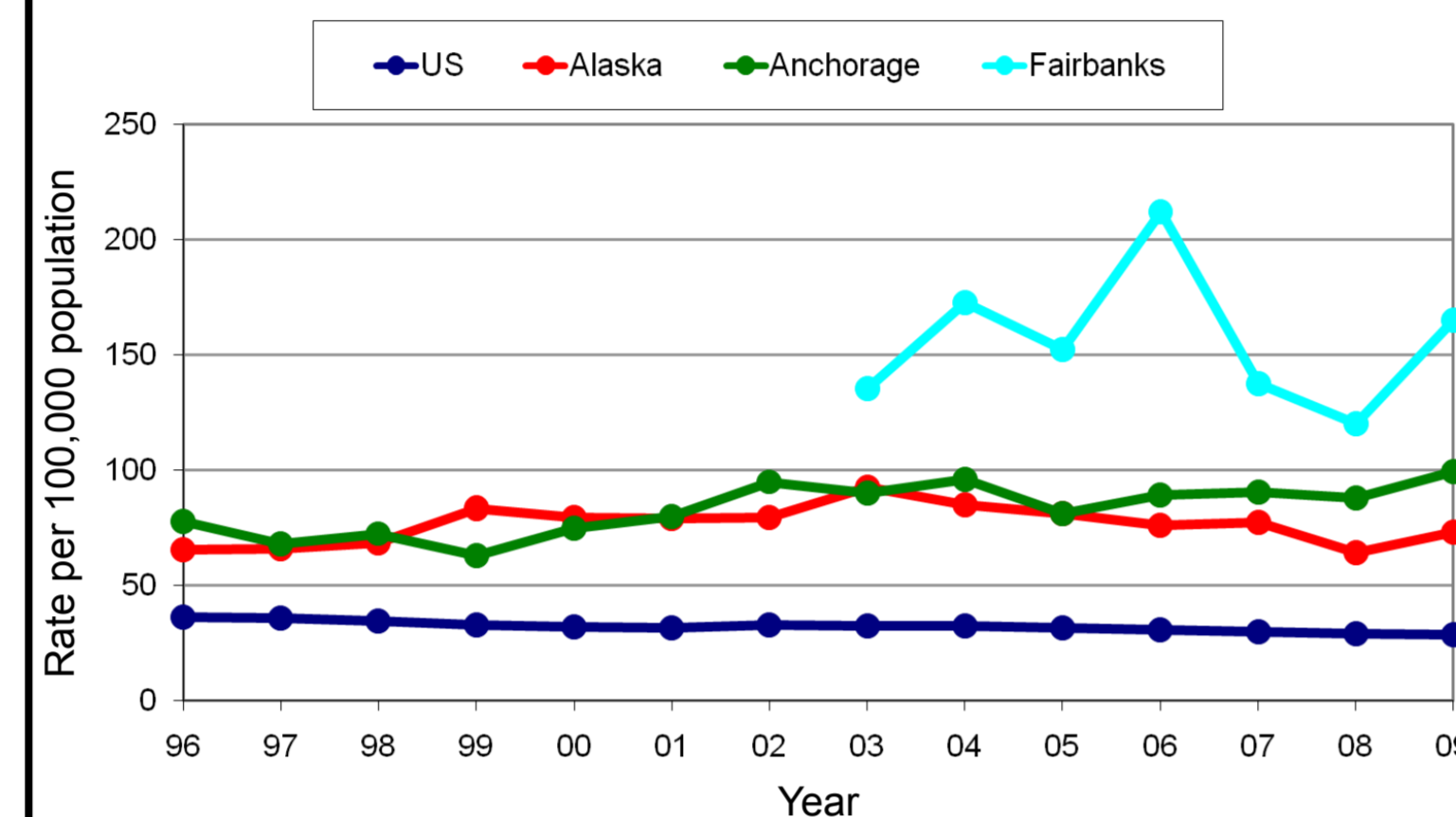


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Abstract

The Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage partnered with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to conduct a statewide victimization survey. The Alaska Victimization Survey was modeled after the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Surveillance System (NISVSS) survey, developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in collaboration with the National Institute of Justice and the Department of Defense. The NISVSS survey is designed to "generate accurate and reliable lifetime and 12-month incidence and prevalence estimates on intimate partner violence (physical aggression, psychological aggression, and sexual violence); sexual violence (unwanted sexual situations, abusive sexual contact, and completed or attempted sex without consent); and stalking" (CDC). This poster presents key results from the Alaska Victimization Survey and identifies how survey results are being used to impact policy and practice.

UCR Forcible Rape Statistics: 1996-2009



The average UCR rate of forcible rape from 2003 to 2009 was:
• 155% higher in Alaska than in the U.S.,
• 195% higher in Anchorage than in the U.S., and
• 408% higher in Fairbanks than in the U.S.

Survey Methods

Surveys were conducted by telephone, using a dual frame random digit dial procedure (includes both land lines and cell phone lines). The survey was conducted in May/June 2010 and was managed by RTI International.

The sample includes 871 adult women and provides an excellent representation of the population of adult women in Alaska. Nonetheless, all results were weighted to control for selection, non-response, and coverage.

Eligible respondents were limited to adult English-speaking women residing in a household with at least one land or cell phone line. Survey results are not generalizable to excluded populations (e.g., homeless women, women in prisons).

The average length of the survey was 25 minutes for land lines and 29 minutes for cell lines. Overall, we estimate that 9.3% of eligible respondents participated in the survey. The survey used strong protocols to maximize respondent safety and confidentiality.

Measures

The Alaska Victimization Survey reduced NISVSS to a core set of questions on intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Intimate partner violence includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence. Sexual violence includes both drug or alcohol involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

Intimate Partner Violence

Respondents were asked how many of their romantic or sexual partners had made threats to physically harm them.

Respondents were also asked how many of their romantic or sexual partners had...

- Slapped them,
- Pushed or shoved them,
- Hit them with a fist or something hard,
- Kicked them,
- Hurt them by pulling their hair,
- Slammed them against something,
- Tried to hurt them by choking or suffocating them,
- Beaten them,
- Burned them on purpose, or
- Used a knife or gun on them.

Sexual Violence

Respondents were asked how many people...

- Had vaginal sex with them,
- Made them receive anal sex,
- Made them perform oral sex, or
- Made them receive oral sex when they were alcohol or drug intoxicated and unable to consent.

Respondents were also asked how many people had used physical force or threats of physical harm to...

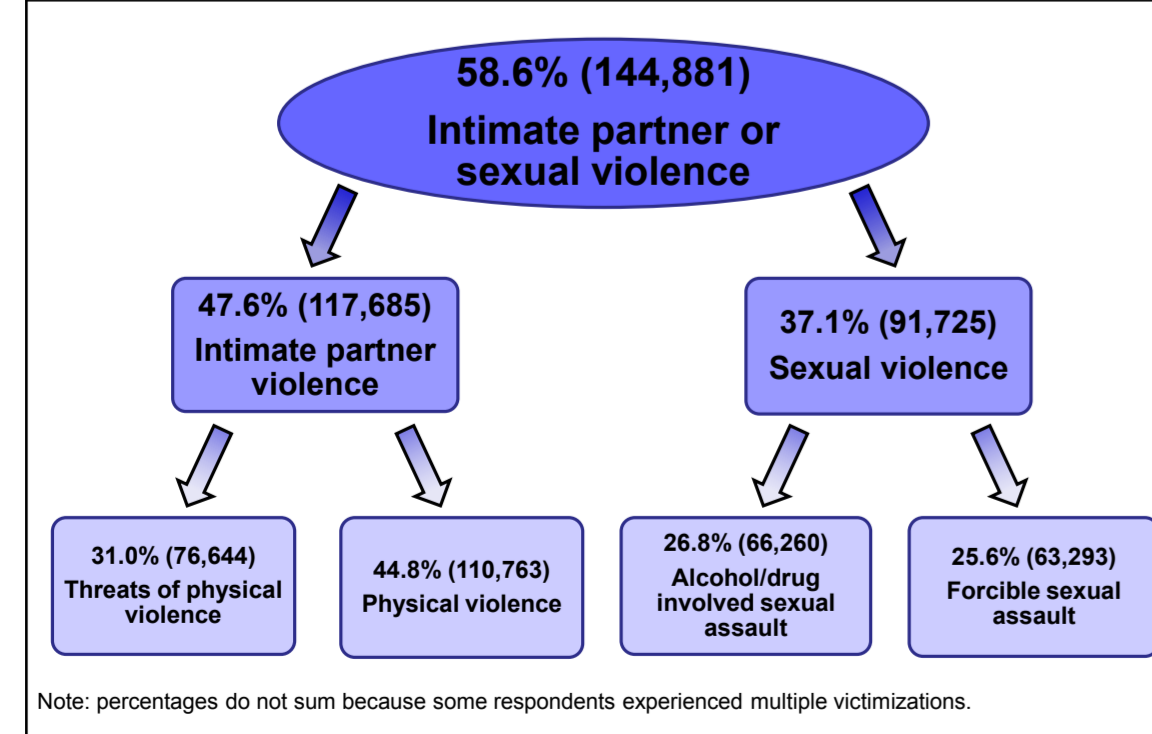
- Make them have vaginal sex,
- Make them receive anal sex,
- Make them perform or receive oral sex,
- Put fingers or an object in their vagina or anus, or
- Try to have vagina, oral, or anal sex with them.

Results

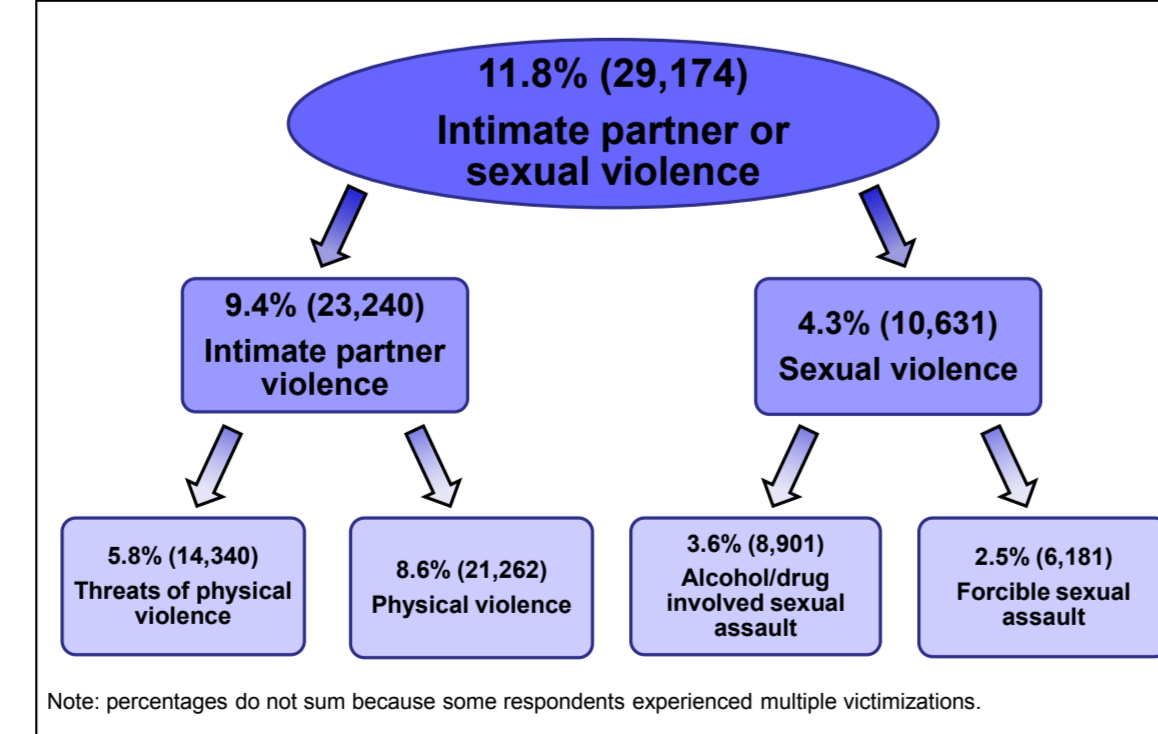
	Lifetime Estimates		Past Year Estimates	
	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 247,238)	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 247,238)
Intimate Partner Violence¹	47.6%	117,685	9.4%	23,240
A. Threats	31.0%	76,644	5.8%	14,340
B. Physical Violence	44.8%	110,763	8.6%	21,262
Sexual Violence²	37.1%	91,725	4.3%	10,631
A. Alcohol or Drug Involved Sexual Assault	26.8%	66,260	3.6%	8,901
B. Forcible Sexual Assault	25.6%	63,293	2.5%	6,181

1 - Includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence by intimate partners.
2 - Includes both alcohol or drug involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

Summary of Lifetime Estimates



Summary of Past Year Estimates



Dissemination

To achieve maximum impact on policy and practice, we emphasize joint dissemination.

With joint dissemination, we recognize and rely upon each other's strengths, overcoming our own substantive and research limitations.

"The practitioner partner increases the acceptance and perceived usefulness of the content [and] the research side ensures methodological rigor and credibility" (Wuestewald & Steinheider, forthcoming).

Dissemination includes joint press releases & conferences; co-authored reports and publications; trainings; local and national presentations for researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers.



Practitioners discuss the implications of the survey with local and national media.

Left to Right: Colonel Audie Holloway (Alaska State Troopers), Nancy Haug (Standing Together Against Rape), Suzi Pearson (Abused Women's Aid in Crisis), Sandy Samaniego (Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)



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Senate Judiciary Committee Will Review Victimization Survey Results

(Anchorage, AK) State Senate Judiciary Chairman Hollis French today pledged a full hearing on the results of the first statewide victimization survey, which were released yesterday by the UAA Justice Center. The survey, which was a recommendation of the Senate Judiciary Committee's 2009 report, Ending Sexual Assault in Alaska, found a continued pattern of shockingly high rates of violence against women in Alaska. Senator French announced that the Senate Judiciary Committee will look forward to a presentation by the University on the survey and its specific findings.

Impact on Policy & Practice



Governor Sean Parnell announced a new and bold 10-year initiative to end the epidemic of sexual assault and domestic violence and make Alaska the national leader in fighting these scourges. The initiative includes:

- A public education campaign for men to "Choose Respect,"
- An increase in law enforcement presence in every community that desires it, with new VPSOs and Troopers,
- Specialized domestic violence and sexual assault training across multiple disciplines,
- Increased support for victims of abuse including funding for shelters and the availability of pro bono legal services,
- Tougher penalties for sexual assault crimes and stronger sex offender registry requirements,
- Prisoner re-entry programs to reduce recidivism, and
- A position to coordinate state, federal, tribal, and non-profit domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Alaskans Choose Respect to End the Epidemic of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



<http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/priorities/choose-respect.html>

The Alaska Victimization Survey provides an important population indicator for results-based accountability:

"Remarkably, Alaska has had no statewide information on the levels of violence against women other than those assaults that are reported to police," Senator French said, "and the results of this survey can give us a better idea of what is happening, and a more reliable way to monitor whether programs to reduce these crimes are working or not."