

Alaska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Update



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Presentation Overview



- Alaska Research Base
- 2010 Alaska Victimization Survey
- Governor's Initiative to End the Epidemic of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



Commissioner Joe Masters marches in Bethel



Alaska Research Base



Importance of strong researcher-practitioner partnerships, working together to address common goals:

- Uniform Crime Reports
- Juvenile Justice Studies
- Alaska State Trooper Studies
- Anchorage Police Department Studies
- Alaska Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Studies
- Alaska Department of Law Studies



Researchers meet with practitioners in Nome to discuss policy and practice.



2010 Alaska Victimization Survey



- Funded by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
- Designed to establish a baseline with statewide intimate partner and sexual violence estimates.
- Modeled after the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Surveillance System (CDC, NIJ, DoD) and administered by RTI.
- Utilized a statewide random digit dial dual frame phone survey (both land and cell phone lines).
- Maximized respondent safety and confidentiality.



2010 Alaska Victimization Survey



- Survey respondents were limited to English-speaking adult women residing in a household with at least one land or cell phone line.
- Includes 871 adult women throughout Alaska, surveyed in May/June 2010.
- Sample provides an excellent representation of the Alaska population of adult women.
- Sampling weights were used to control for selection, non-response, and coverage.



Important Limitations



- Only provides a statewide average and masks regional differences.
- Excluded non-English speaking women, women without phone access, and women not living in a residence.
- Measured *number of victims*, not *number of victimizations*.
- Estimates may also be conservative because of the continuing stigma of reporting intimate partner and sexual violence.



2010 Alaska Victimization Survey



- Measured lifetime and past year intimate partner violence:
 - Physical violence
 - Threats of physical violence
 - Includes intimate partners only, defined as romantic or sexual partners
- Measured lifetime and past year sexual violence:
 - Alcohol/drug involved sexual assault (when alcohol or drug intoxicated and unable to consent)
 - Forcible sexual assault



Intimate Partner Violence Estimates



Lifetime Estimates	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 247,238)
Intimate Partner Violence ¹	47.6%	117,685
A. Threats	31.0%	76,644
B. Physical Violence	44.8%	110,763

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

- *47.6% of adult women in Alaska (or 117,685) experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime,*
 - *31.0% (or 76,644) experienced threats of physical violence,*
 - *44.8% (or 110,763) experienced physical violence.*



Intimate Partner Violence Estimates



Past Year Estimates	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 247,238)
Intimate Partner Violence ¹	9.4%	23,240
A. Threats	5.8%	14,340
B. Physical Violence	8.6%	21,262

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

- *9.4% of adult women in Alaska (or 23,240) experienced intimate partner violence in the past year,*
 - *5.8% (or 14,340) experienced threats of physical violence,*
 - *8.6% (or 21,262) experienced physical violence.*



Sexual Violence Estimates



Lifetime Estimates	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 247,238)
Sexual Violence ¹	37.1%	91,725
A. Alcohol or Drug Involved Sexual Assault	26.8%	66,260
B. Forcible Sexual Assault	25.6%	63,293

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

- *37.1% of adult women in Alaska (or 91,725) experienced sexual violence in their lifetime,*
 - *26.8% (or 66,260) experienced at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault,*
 - *25.6% (or 63,293) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.*



Sexual Violence Estimates



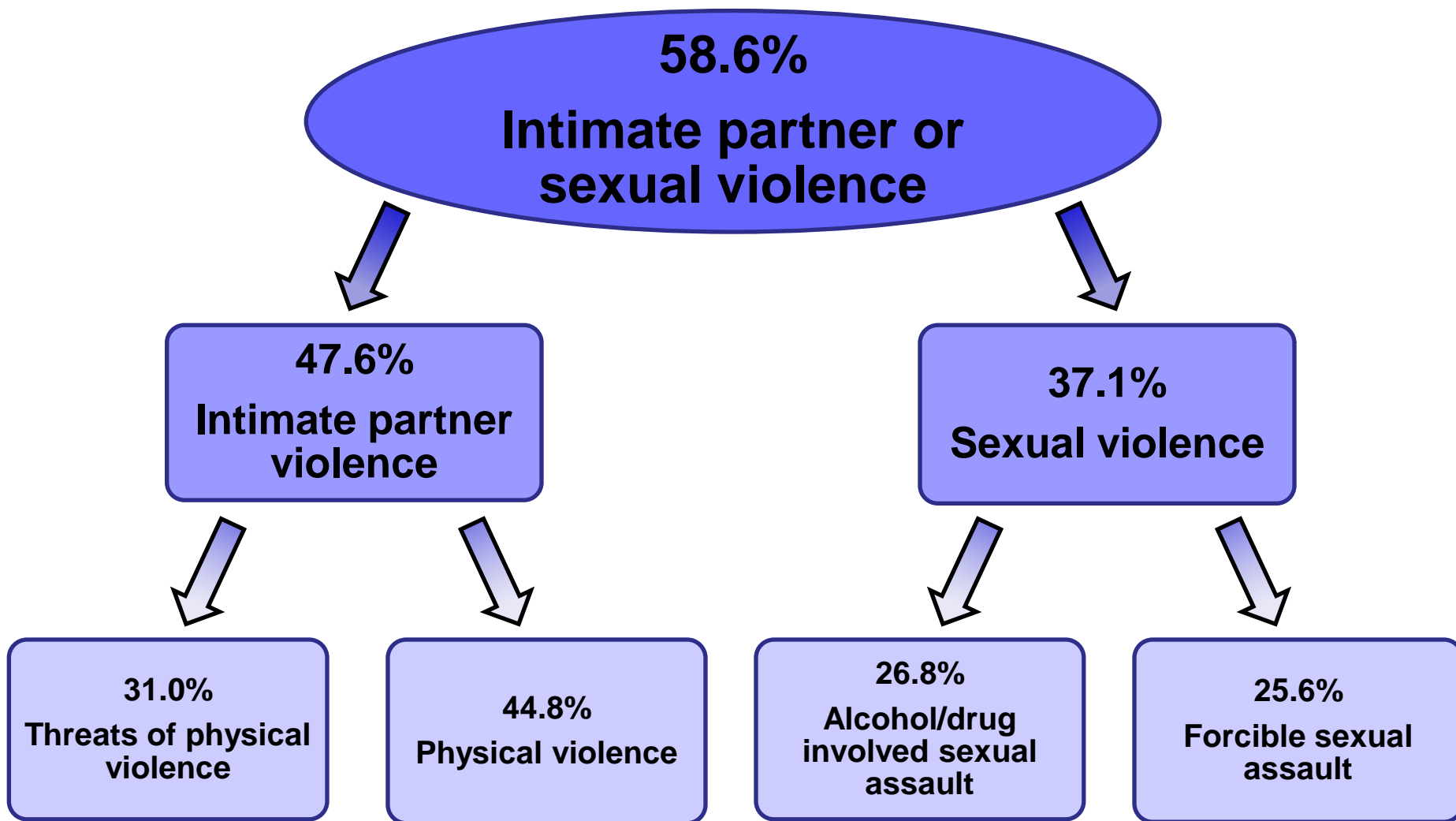
Past Year Estimates	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 247,238)
Sexual Violence ¹	4.3%	10,631
A. Alcohol or Drug Involved Sexual Assault	3.6%	8,901
B. Forcible Sexual Assault	2.5%	6,181

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

- *4.3% of adult women in Alaska (or 10,631) experienced sexual violence in the past year,*
 - *3.6% (or 8,901) experienced at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault,*
 - *2.5% (or 6,181) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.*



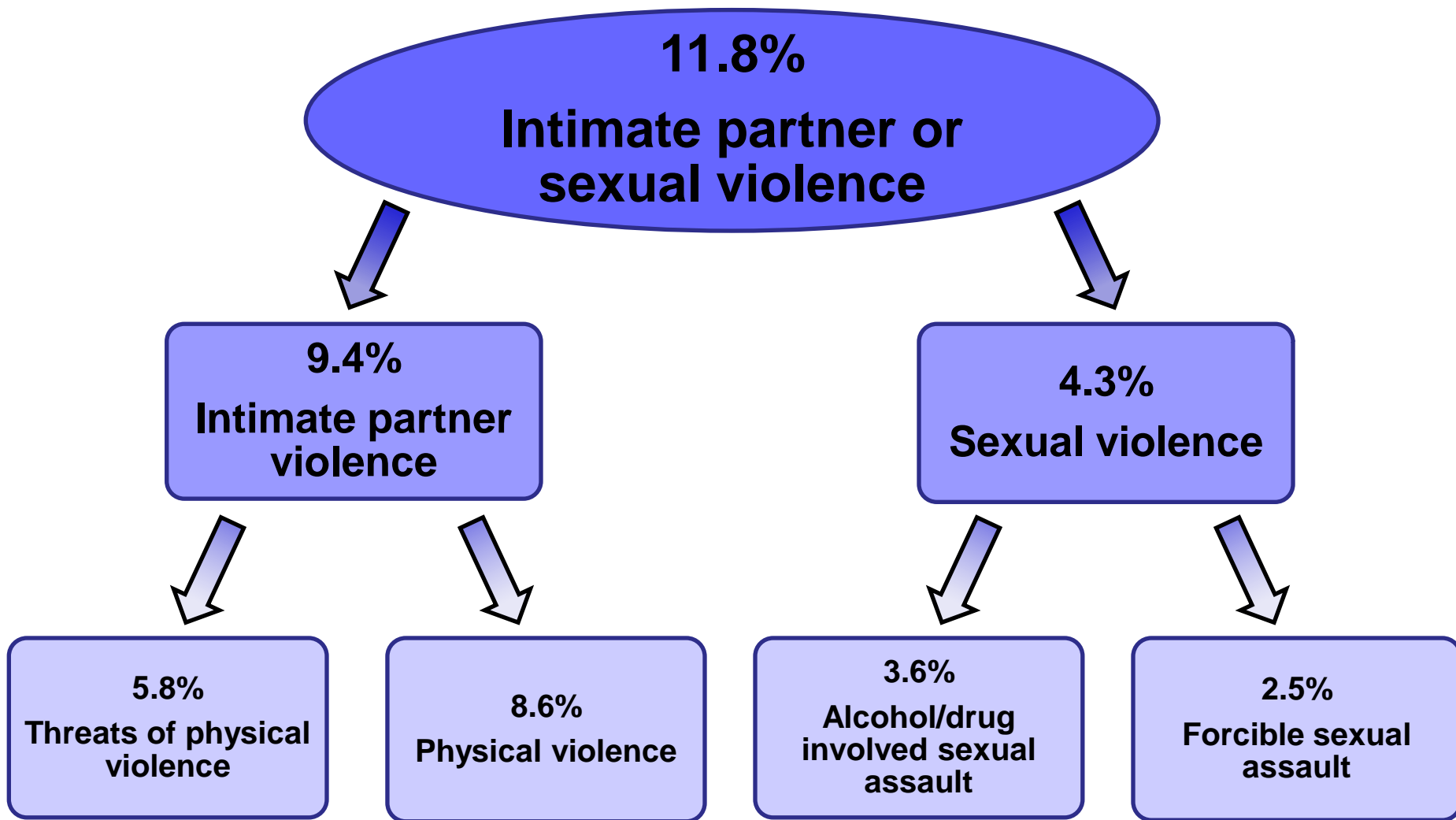
Lifetime Estimates



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



Past Year Estimates



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



A Special Thank You!



We sincerely thank the women who invested time and effort to participate in the 2010 Alaska Victimization Survey.

They re-lived horrendous experiences – experiences no one should be subjected to – to help the rest of us understand the extent of intimate partner and sexual violence in Alaska. Thank you!



Dissemination



YUKON: State steps in over federal arrest, **Alaska A-3**

PREP FOOTBALL: Winning grows on West coach, **Sports B-1**

75 cents

Final Edition

Anchorage Daily News

Friday, October 1, 2010

BREAKING NEWS AT ADN.COM

Alaska's Newspaper

Survey reveals ugly domestic violence stats

ALASKA: 59 percent of women in poll experienced violence, threats.

By **LISA DEMER**
ldemer@adn.com

The first survey of Alaska women about sexual assault and domestic violence found that more than half had been victimized at some point in their life and about one in eight had been victimized in the year before the survey.

The University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center surveyed 871 Alaska adult women by telephone in May and June under a \$280,000 state grant. Women were picked randomly. Researchers called cell phone and land line numbers from across the state.

INSIDE

THE NUMBERS: Chart shows rates of sexual abuse or violence against women in a lifetime and in the past year.

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For years, Alaska has struggled with high rates of sexual assault and domestic violence, but those findings are most often based on crimes reported to law enforcement. The new survey found much higher rates:

- Overall, almost 59 percent of the women surveyed said they had experienced physical violence or threats of it from a partner, or sexual violence from anyone, at some point in their

adn.com

WEB EXTRA: Find a link to read the survey at adn.com/alaska

lives, the survey found. If that percentage holds true for the population as a whole, that means an estimated 145,000 Alaska women have been victimized, said Andre Rosay, Justice Center director and the lead researcher.

- Nearly 27 percent of the women said that over their lifetime they had had unwanted sex when they were drunk, high or passed out, and unable to consent. Almost as many had been sexually assaulted after being subjected to

physical force or threats, the survey found.

- During the year previous to the survey, close to 12 percent of the women said that they had experienced sexual violence or domestic violence or threats of it. About 9 percent said they had suffered physical violence at the hands of a romantic or sexual partner including being slapped, kicked, pushed, beaten, burned or choked.

- Also in the past year, 2.5 percent said they had been sexually assaulted, which doesn't count those too disoriented to give consent because of drinking or drugs.

That means an estimated 6,181 Alaska women had been victims of sexual assaults in one

See Back Page, VIOLENCE



Governor Sean Parnell's DV/SA Initiative



US Senator Murkowski and former Attorney General Sullivan lead march through Anchorage for Alaskans Choose Respect

- Public education and prevention to promote a culture of respect that does not tolerate violence against women and children
- Ensure victims have a safe place to go and the services they need to heal
- Deter, segregate and manage offenders
- Coordinate and streamline effort among all stakeholders to more effectively combat violence against women and children



Governor Parnell's DV/SA Initiative Highlights

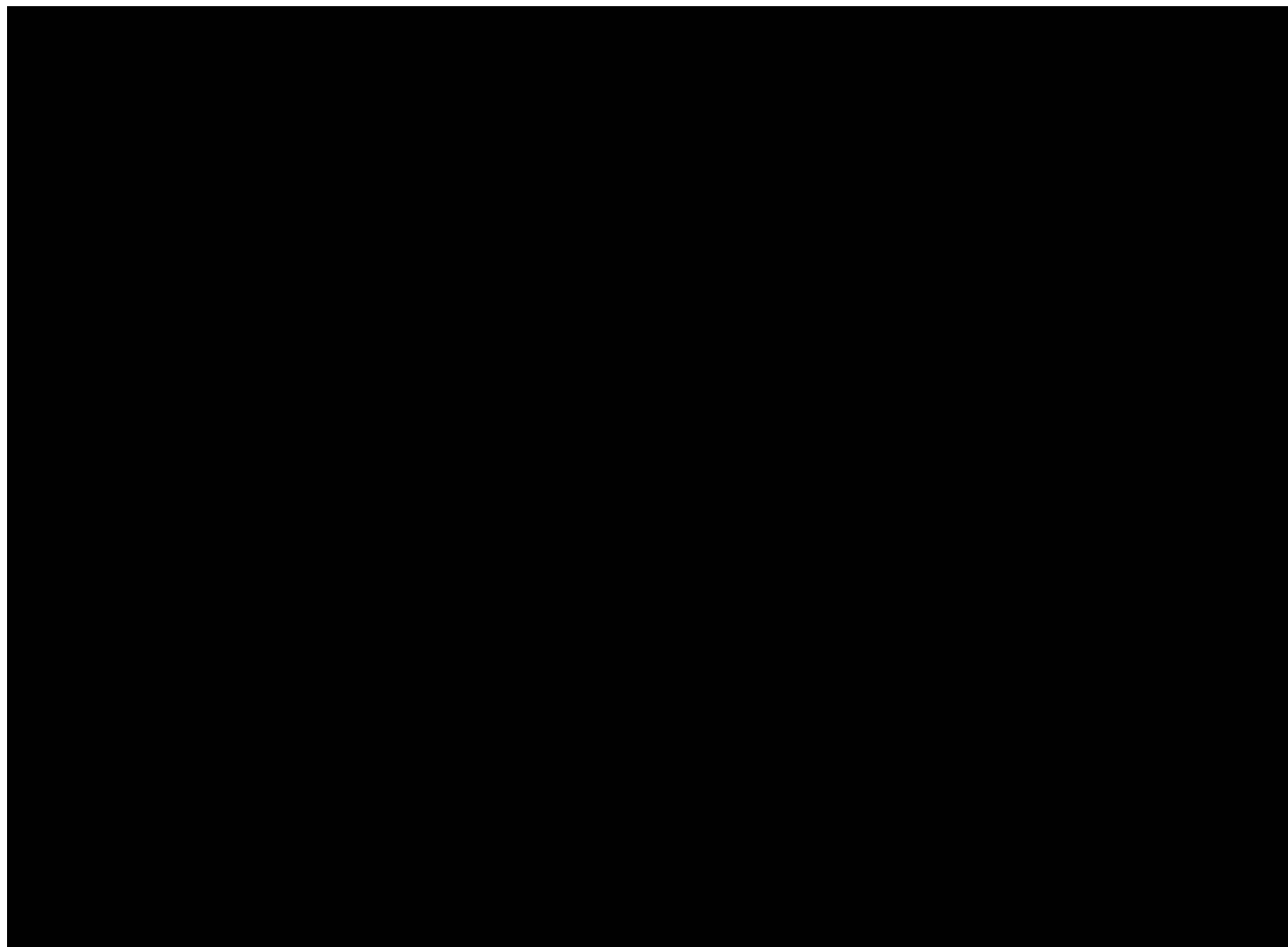


- Rural Pilot
- Family Wellness Warriors (Southcentral Foundation)
- Trauma informed services and training
- Child Advocacy Center
- Legislation
- Legal advocacy and pro-bono attorney project
- Research and evaluation
- Increased funding for shelter programs
- Prevention:
 - State prevention positions
 - Choose Respect media campaign
 - Stand Up Speak Up!
 - Fourth R
 - Lead On!
 - Bystander Intervention (Green Dot)



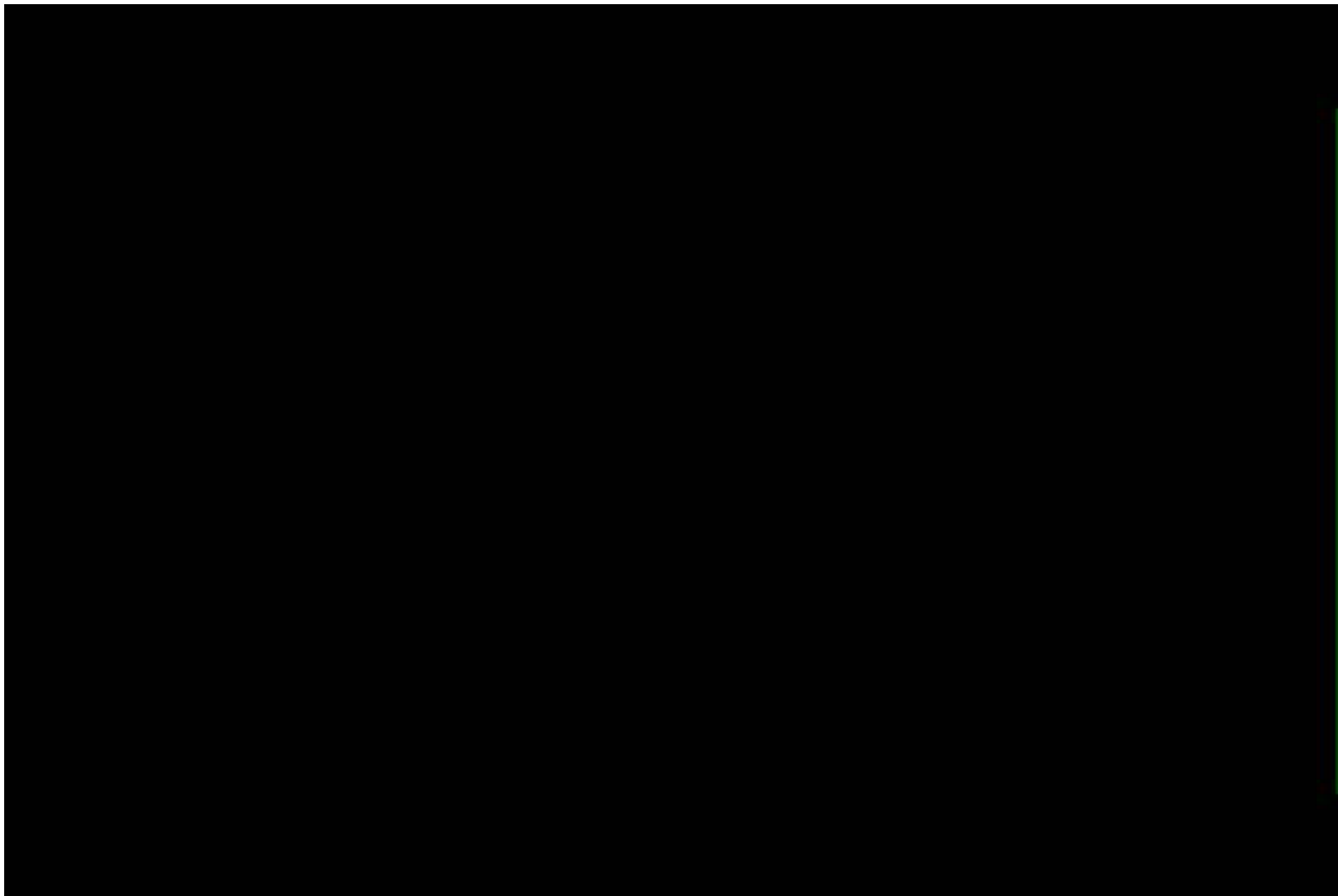


Governor Sean Parnell's DV/SA Initiative





Governor Sean Parnell's DV/SA Initiative





Project Partners



**Alaska Network on
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault**



**Alaska Council on
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault**

CHOOSE RESPECT

ALASKANS ENDING THE EPIDEMIC OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT





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



Rural Pilot Project



Regional or community-wide commitment to changing the current status of domestic violence and sexual assault



- What is the vision for the region/community?
- What will it take to reach this vision?
- How do we engage others to end domestic violence and sexual assault epidemic?



Rural Pilot Project



- Rural pilot projects
 - Dillingham (Implementation)
 - Sitka, Bethel, and Kodiak (Capacity Building)



- CANDU, Community Action Network Directed Upstream:
 - Strength based
 - Youth led
 - Culturally empowered
 - Creative and comprehensive
 - Individual / community responsibility



Family Wellness Warriors



ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

WHAT IS FWWI?

An AK Native led initiative that provides intensive education and training to reduce the cycle of domestic violence, child sexual abuse and child neglect in the State of Alaska.

ELDERS LEADING THE WAY...

By sharing their stories, breaking the silence of abuse and making it culturally appropriate for others to talk about past harm.

TARGET AUDIENCE?

FWWI targets all individuals 21+ who desire change at the individual, family, and/or community level. A 3-Year Model is available for the regions of Alaska to adapt and implement within their communities.



CONTACT INFO:

1-866-729-FWWI

www.fwwi.org



Using Data to Impact Policy



- Findings from UAA research partnerships aided in defining key aspects of Governor Sean Parnell's initiative



Hooper Bay, Alaska; Source: Alaska Department of Public Safety

Example: “Sexual assault cases with adult victims that were originally reported to police paraprofessionals (e.g. VPSOs) were 3.5 times more likely to be prosecuted than sexual assault cases originally reported directly to the troopers.”



DV/SA Initiative Public Safety Highlights



- Establish a law enforcement presence in every community that desires one to improve public safety:
 - 15 new Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) every year for 10 years
 - 80 positions are now filled
 - Alaska Housing Finance Corporation funding
 - VPSO oversight trooper positions





DV/SA Initiative

Public Safety Highlights



- Follow-up domestic violence troopers
- Expanding cyber crimes unit
- Sex offender sweeps
 - Partnership with US Marshals Service Sex Offender Investigation Branch (Project Last Frontier)
- Trooper post in Northwest Alaska (2 positions)
- VPSO distance learning domestic violence investigation pilot project
- Training position to increase DV/SA training for law enforcement
- Construction of new crime lab
- Increase funding for forensic sexual assault exams
- Five positions created through JAG/ARRA funding
- Forensic interviewing, Alaska Police Standards Council



Governor Parnell's DV/SA Initiative Partnerships



Alaska Dispatch

News and voices from the Last Frontier



Partly Cloudy

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Rural Alaska

Feds fighting sex abuse cycle in rural Alaska

Craig Medred | Dec 06, 2010



Courtesy Alaska State Troopers

Hooper Bay, a village in far Western Alaska, is home to about 1,100 people, half of whom are under the age of 18. The village, located in the Yukon-Kuskokwim rivers delta, is home to 25 sex offenders, according to Alaska State Troopers.

The sex offender ratio there -- 1 for every 44 people -- is about seven times greater than in Anchorage, the state's largest city. But with so many minors in Hooper Bay, the official ratio underestimates the scope of the problem. The number of sex offenders in the adult population

comes to a ratio of something more like 1 in 22.

Villages struggle with sex abuse cycle



Governor Parnell's DV/SA Initiative Partnerships



The Tundra DRUMS

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December 6th, 2010 3:02 pm | [Alex DeMarban](#)



Trooper-marshall sweep might expand to other regions of Alaska

Alaska State Troopers and the U.S. Marshals Service in Alaska are looking to expand a public safety initiative that made dozens of arrests in the Bethel region -- including 10 for alcohol-related crimes -- to other areas of the state.

The effort -- dubbed the Village Crime Reduction and Community-Oriented Policing program -- significantly boosted law enforcement numbers in the Southwest Alaska area for six days through Sunday.

The effort included troopers sent in from other posts in Alaska, as well as U.S. marshals sent from other areas of the state and even the Lower 48.



Village officer Joseph Okitkun and Trooper Joshua Cook, at right, working together in the village of Kotlik during the operation. Cook is usually stationed in Klawock. - *Courtesy Photo*



Research Partners



Office of the Governor
Safe & Fear-Free Environment



Council on DV & SA



Association of Village Council Presidents

Alaska Native Justice Center



UAA Justice Center



Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Department of Law



Department of Corrections

Department of Public Safety



Department of Health and Social Services



Bristol Bay Native Association



Tundra Women's Coalition



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 - University of Alaska Anchorage
 - Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
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Points of view in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Alaska Department of Public Safety, the State of Alaska, the Office of the Governor, the University of Alaska Anchorage, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, or the U.S. Department of Justice.

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