



Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence in the Municipality of Anchorage: Key Results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey



Out of every 100 adult women who reside in the Municipality of Anchorage:

39 experienced intimate partner violence (IPV):



32 experienced sexual violence:



48 experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both:



These lifetime estimates come from a 2015 survey of adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage.
Source: UAA Justice Center, Alaska Victimization Survey, <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/avs>.

Purpose of the Survey

Every human being has the right to be safe and free from violence in their own homes, in their relationships, and in their community. Intimate partner violence and sexual violence are endemic problems. The Alaska Victimization Survey provides comprehensive statewide and regional data to guide planning and policy development and to evaluate the impact of prevention and intervention services. The 2015 survey was designed to provide estimates that could be compared to previous estimates from 2010-11. Results can be used to support prevention and intervention efforts that reduce violence against women.

Methodology

A total of 1,137 adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage participated in the 2015 survey. Respondents were randomly selected by phone (using both land lines and cell phones) from May to August 2015. They were asked behaviorally specific questions about intimate partner violence (both threats and physical violence). Intimate partners included romantic and sexual partners. Respondents were also asked about sexual violence (both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault). These questions were not limited to intimate partners. Procedures were designed to maximize the safety and confidentiality of all respondents. The survey was approved by multiple institutional review boards and was supported by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Acknowledgments

We sincerely thank the 1,137 adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage who invested time and effort to participate in this victimization survey. They re-lived horrendous experiences, experiences that no one should be subjected to, to help the rest of us understand the extent of intimate partner and sexual violence in the Municipality of Anchorage. Funding for this project was provided by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The survey was administered by RTI International. Data were analyzed by the UAA Justice Center.

Important Limitations

The survey excluded non-English speaking women, women without phone access, and women not living in a residence. Estimates may be higher among women excluded from the survey. Estimates may also be conservative because of the continuing stigma of reporting victimization. This survey measured the number of *victims*, not the number of *victimizations*. In addition, not all forms of intimate partner violence or sexual violence were measured.

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Key Estimates

The following table shows the percentage of adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage who experienced each form of violence. Results from the 2015 survey are compared to results from 2010-11. All estimates were weighted to control for selection, non-response, and coverage. The 2015 estimates show that 48.3% of adult women in Municipality of Anchorage experienced sexual violence, intimate partner violence, or both, in their lifetime (versus 54.8% in 2010-11); and 7.5% experienced these forms of violence in the past year (versus 9.8% in 2010-11).

Measures of Violence	Lifetime		Past Year	
	2010-11	2015	2010-11	2015
Intimate partner violence (composite)	46.3%	38.6%	8.6%	5.4%
Threats of physical violence	27.2%	24.2%	3.9%	3.2%
Physical violence	44.9%	37.9%	8.3%	5.3%
Sexual violence (composite)	34.1%	31.6%	2.6%	3.6%
Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault	22.1%	20.7%	2.1%	2.3%
Forcible sexual assault	25.0%	22.5%	1.1%	2.3%
Any Violence (composite)	54.8%	48.3%	9.8%	7.5%

Intimate Partner Violence Estimates:

The intimate partner violence composite includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence.

- 38.6% of adult women experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime (versus 46.3% in 2010-11).
 - 24.2% experienced threats of physical violence (versus 27.2% in 2010-11).
 - 37.9% experienced physical violence (versus 44.9% in 2010-11).
- 5.4% of adult women experienced intimate partner violence in the past year (versus 8.6% in 2010-11).
 - 3.2% experienced threats of physical violence (versus 3.9% in 2010-11).
 - 5.3% experienced physical violence (versus 8.3% in 2010-11).

Sexual Violence Estimates:

The sexual violence composite includes both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

- 31.6% of adult women experienced sexual violence in their lifetime (versus 34.1% in 2010-11).
 - 20.7% experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault (versus 22.1% in 2010-11).
 - 22.5% experienced at least one forcible sexual assault (versus 25.0% in 2010-11).
- 3.6% of adult women experienced sexual violence in the past year (versus 2.6% in 2010-11).
 - 2.3% experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault (versus 2.1% in 2010-11).
 - 2.3% experienced at least one forcible sexual assault (versus 1.1% in 2010-11).

Conclusion

Almost half of adult women in Municipality of Anchorage (48.3%) have experienced violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 13 have experienced violence in the past year. More than 1 in 3 have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 19 have experienced intimate partner violence in the past year. Three in 10 have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 28 have experienced sexual violence in the past year. Some women experienced violence more than once.

Rates of violence against women in the Municipality of Anchorage remain unacceptably high.