



Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence in the City and Borough of Sitka

Key Results from the 2012 Alaska Victimization Survey



Out of every 100 adult women who reside in the City and Borough of Sitka:

40 experienced intimate partner violence (IPV):



25 experienced sexual violence:



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



These lifetime estimates come from a 2012 survey of adult women in the City and Borough of Sitka.

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. Up until now, regional data were not available to guide planning and policy development or to evaluate the impact of prevention and intervention services. This study provides the first definitive measures of intimate partner violence and sexual violence for the City and Borough of Sitka. The survey was designed to establish a baseline for the City and Borough of Sitka. Results can be used to support prevention and intervention efforts that reduce violence against women.

Methodology

A total of 282 adult women from the City and Borough of Sitka participated in the survey. Respondents were randomly selected by phone (using both land lines and cell phones) from March to May 2012. Respondents 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 Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

Acknowledgments

We sincerely thank the 282 adult women in the City and Borough of Sitka who invested time and effort to participate in the Alaska 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 City and Borough of Sitka. We also thank SAFV and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. 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.

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Key Estimates

The following table shows the percentage and number of adult women in the City and Borough of Sitka who experienced each form of violence. All estimates were weighted to control for selection, non-response, and coverage. Estimates show that 47.0% of adult women in the City and Borough of Sitka (or 1,605) experienced sexual violence, intimate partner violence, or both, in their lifetime; and 6.8% (or 232) experienced these forms of violence in the past year.

Measures of Violence	Lifetime		Past Year	
	%	N	%	N
Intimate partner violence (composite)	40.4%	1,380	5.1%	174
Threats of physical violence	20.8%	710	1.9%	65
Physical violence	38.8%	1,325	4.2%	143
Sexual violence (composite)	24.7%	844	2.4%	82
Alcohol or drug involved sexual assault	16.7%	570	1.8%	61
Forcible sexual assault	17.6%	601	0.7%	24
Any Violence (composite)	47.0%	1,605	6.8%	232

Intimate Partner Violence Estimates:

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

- 40.4% of adult women (or 1,380) experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, with:
 - 20.8% (or 710) experiencing threats of physical violence, and
 - 38.8% (or 1,325) experiencing physical violence.
- 5.1% of adult women (or 174) experienced intimate partner violence in the past year, with:
 - 1.9% (or 65) experiencing threats of physical violence, and
 - 4.2% (or 143) experiencing physical violence.

Sexual Violence Estimates:

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

- 24.7% of adult women (or 844) experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, with:
 - 16.7% (or 570) experiencing at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault, and
 - 17.6% (or 601) experiencing at least one forcible sexual assault.
- 2.4% of adult women (or 82) experienced sexual violence in the past year, with:
 - 1.8% (or 61) experiencing at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault, and
 - 0.7% (or 24) experiencing at least one forcible sexual assault.

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. All of these limitations may vary across regions. As a result, the validity of regional comparisons remains unknown.