



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS: ALASKA



DID YOU KNOW?

- ◊ **One in every four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.¹ **One in 33 men** have experienced an attempted or completed rape.²
- ◊ An estimated **1.3 million women** are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.³
- ◊ The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female. Females were 84% of spousal abuse victims and 86% of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.⁴
- ◊ The cost of intimate partner violence **exceeds \$5.8 billion each year**, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.⁵
- ◊ Boys who witness domestic violence are **twice as likely** to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.⁶

CHALLENGES

- The extreme remoteness of many Alaskan communities, (including travelling to access services), remains the major obstacle to providing services to victims in these areas.
- Alaska's statistics on violence against women are among the highest in the nation. Local programs are in dire need of more funding to serve the sheer volume of victims that seek their services.

STATEMENTS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

"We are operating on a minimal basis. We have the minimum number of staff to get the job done. We have very little money for program supplies, travel, training, and outreach to the villages. We have been doing more for less for so long its hard to remember what it would look like to have enough."

~Advocate, Sitkans Against Family Violence⁹

"Increases wouldn't just be nice for programs, they are imperative for them to keep up with utility costs. We have diversified funding sources to the nth degree and overall still have fewer position [to provide victim services] than we did 3 years ago, 5 years ago, 8 years ago."

~Advocate, Tundra Women's Coalition⁹

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN ALASKA

- Almost 75% of Alaskans have experienced or know someone who has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault.⁷
- There were over 6,000 reported cases of domestic violence in Alaska in 2005.⁷
- 524 forcible rapes were reported in Alaska in 2005, representing almost 13% of all violent crimes.⁸
- The Alaska rape rate is 2.5 times the national average.⁷
- Child sexual assault in Alaska is almost six times the national average.⁷
- Alaska has the highest rate per capita of men murdering women.⁷
- Almost 30% of Alaskans were not able to access victim services or encourage others to do so because there were no services available in their area at the time.⁷
- Almost 90% of Alaskans would vote to increase funding for victim service programs, and over 90% would support increased penalties for domestic violence and sexual assault perpetrators.⁷

STATE RESOURCES

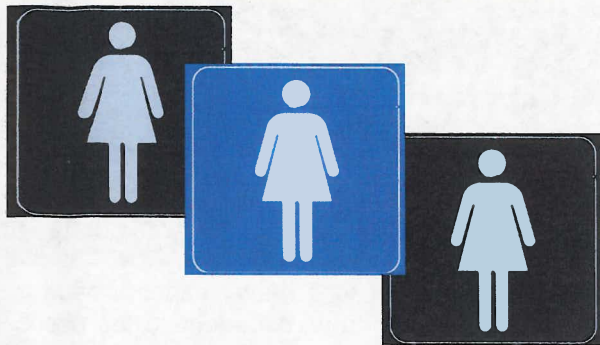
**Alaska Network on Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault**
www.andvsa.org

- ◊ The Network is a non-profit membership organization that is composed of 21 programs across Alaska. The 21 programs provide victim services for domestic violence and sexual assault, offender services, and crisis intervention services. The Network exists to promote communication and information sharing between programs across the state and to expose and eliminate interpersonal violence in the lives of Alaskan victims.

For more information or to get help, please visit
<http://www.andvsa.org/programs/programs.htm>
to get local program and hotline information.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE
The National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE

American Indian and Alaska Native Women



More than 1 out of every 3 American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped in her lifetime.¹

More than 3 out of every 4 American Indian and Alaska Native women will be physically assaulted in her lifetime.¹



When Men Murder Women¹⁰

Alaska ranks **first in the nation** with the highest homicide rate for female victims killed by a male perpetrator.¹

Number of Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Homicides and Rates by State in 2003, Ranked by Rate		
Ranking	State	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Alaska	2.87
2	Nevada	2.64
3 (tie)	Louisiana	2.42
3 (tie)	New Mexico	2.42
5	Tennessee	2.38

SOURCES

¹ Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2000). *Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

² U.S. Department of Justice. (November 1998). "Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women."

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003). *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. Atlanta, GA: National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control.

⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (June, 2005). *Family Violence Statistics*. U.S. Department of Justice.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003). *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. Atlanta, GA: National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control.

⁶ Strauss, Gelles, & Smith. (1990). *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*. Transaction Publishers.

⁷ Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, (2006). 2006 Annual Report: Working in Alaska Communities For: Safety, Justice, Advocacy and Education, Violence Prevention. Juneau, Alaska.

⁸ Alaska Department of Public Safety. (2005). Crime Reported in Alaska, 2005. Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Accessed November 29, 2007 at http://www.dps.state.ak.us/UCR/Docs/UCR_2005.pdf

⁹ Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. (December 2005). Alaska Program Directors Report How They Are Coping With Inadequate Funding. Accessed November 29, 2007 at <http://www.andvsa.org/pdfs/December%202005%20Quotes%20from%20Directors.pdf>

¹⁰ Violence Policy Center. (September 2005). When Men Murder Women. Accessed November 29, 2007 at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2005.pdf>

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

The Status of Women in the States 2002

About the Institute for Women's Policy Research

IWPR's work is supported by foundation grants, government grants and contracts, donations from individuals, and contributions from organizations and corporations. Improving women's lives—ending economic and social inequalities—this is what IWPR is all about. Your tax-deductible membership contribution to IWPR's Information Network enables IWPR to make a difference. Membership benefits include: Quarterly Newsletter, Fact Sheets, Research-in-Briefs, a 20 percent discount on publications and conference registrations, and more. To become a member or to make a donation, visit www.iwpr.org or call 202-785-5100.

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Chart 2.
Overview of the Status of Women of Color in Alaska

	White Women	African American Women	Hispanic Women	Asian American Women	Alaska Native and other Native American Women
Political Participation					
Number of Women in Elected Statewide Executive Office, 2004	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Women in U.S. Congress, 2004	1	0	0	0	0
Employment and Earnings					
Median Annual Earnings (for full-time, year-round employed women), 1999 (in 2003 dollars)	\$35,300	\$29,800	\$28,700	\$26,500	\$32,000
Earnings Ratio Between Women and White Men, 1999	72.6%	61.2%	59.0%	54.4%	65.8%
Women's Labor Force Participation, 2000	67.6%	76.0%	66.8%	58.8%	57.5%
Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations, 2000	41.3%	33.4%	26.4%	22.1%	33.6%
Social and Economic Autonomy					
Percent of Women with College Education (two- or four-year degree or higher), 2000	38.1%	25.1%	30.3%	26.2%	10.9%
Percent of Women Above the Poverty Level, 1999	94.1%	92.9%	87.0%	90.3%	80.7%
Reproductive Rights					
Percent of Mothers Beginning Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy, 2001	84%	83%	82%	77%	71%
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under age one per 1,000 live births), 2001	5.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent of Babies with Low Birth Weight, 2001	5.0%	10.8%	6.3%	6.3%	5.7%
Health and Well-Being					
Female Heart Disease Mortality, per 100,000, 1999-2001	156.1	270.5	N/A	117.7	185.7
Female Lung Cancer Mortality, per 100,000, 1999-2001	51.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	47.3
Female Breast Cancer Mortality, per 100,000, 1999-2001	24.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	22.2

Notes:

N/A = Not Available.

Hispanics may be of any race or two or more races. Racial categories (Whites, African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans) do not include Hispanics.

See *The Status of Women in Alaska* for sources and a description of how race and ethnicity are defined for the economic data presented here.

Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

This fact sheet is excerpted from The Status of Women in the States (2004) report, edited by Dr. Amy Caiazza and April Shaw at the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR). National funding for The Status of the Women in the States project comes from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Levi Strauss Foundation, the Otto Bremer Foundation, and the Rockefeller Family Fund. This publication is one in a series of Status of Women in the States reports by IWPR. The Status of Women in the States project is designed to inform citizens about the progress of women in their state relative to women in other states, to men, and to the nation as a whole.

For more information on IWPR reports or membership, please call (202) 785-5100 or e-mail iwpr@iwpr.org

IWPR is a scientific research organization dedicated to informing and stimulating the debate on public policy issues of critical importance to women and their families. The Institute works with policymakers, scholars, and public interest groups to design, execute, and disseminate research that illuminates economic and social policy issues affecting women and families, and to build a network of individuals and organizations that conduct and use women-oriented policy research. IWPR's work is supported by foundation grants, government grants and contracts, donations from individuals, and contributions from organizations and corporation. Members and affiliates of IWPR's Information Network receive reports and information on a regular basis. IWPR is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that also works in affiliation with the women's studies and public policy programs at The George Washington University.



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Alaska Women: Good economic status, but second highest suicide rate

By: Lori Keim Nov 16, 2004

A new report released at the University of Alaska Anchorage shows Alaska women doing fairly well economically, with among the highest median earnings in the country and among the lowest poverty rates.

Alaska women have higher median earnings than women in 44 other states and have one of the four lowest poverty rates, right behind Minnesota, Maryland, and New Hampshire and tied with Connecticut and Delaware.

Women in Alaska have one of the seven highest rates of jobs in management or professional jobs, and are among the hardest working in the U.S., with labor force participation rates much higher than all but six states, according to *The Status of Women in Alaska*, written by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Despite this, a woman in Alaska makes less than 80 cents for every dollar a man makes, and the disparities are more pronounced for women of color: Native American women make only 66 cents for every dollar a white man makes, African American women 61 cents, Hispanic women 59 cents, and Asian American women only 54 cents.

Alaska also ranks in the bottom half of the states for women's health and well-being. It is the 7th worst state for women's death rates from lung cancer and is second only to Nevada for death by suicide among women.

The suicide death rate is more than twice as high as in 18 other states. By many other measures, Alaska women's health is good, with a lower heart disease death rate than all but six other states, a lower breast cancer death rate than all but five other states, one of the seven lowest AIDS rates in the U.S. and the second fewest cases of diabetes.

"Modest gains made by Alaska's women in earnings and health do not compensate for lacks in health insurance coverage, high suicide rates among women, and the wage gap between men and women, particularly women of color," according to Dr. Shelley Theno, Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Alaska Anchorage's Kenai Peninsula College.

"Nor do national data on health take into account the high rates of sexual violence experienced by Alaska women, particularly Alaska Native women," Theno adds.

Alaska is in the bottom third of states for health insurance coverage: 18 percent of women in the state are unprotected. Even for women with insurance, the state government fails to require insurance companies to cover contraception or infertility treatments, important resources in women's reproductive health.

The Status of Women in Alaska is one of 11 state reports released by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, including first-ever state reports for Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, as well as Alaska, and updates for Wisconsin and Michigan.

These reports and a national report, *The Status of Women in the States 2004*, are the fifth round of a biennial series. Since 1996, these reports have informed researchers, advocates and

policymakers about advances and gaps in women's economic, social, and political rights.

The Status of Women in the States ranks all 50 states and the District of Columbia on women's economic progress, social and economic autonomy, women's health, reproductive rights and women's political participation.

All across America, women are dramatically underrepresented in political office, starting at the federal level, where no American woman has ever served as President, Vice President, Speaker of the House, or Chief Justice.

As of November 2004, of 535 Members of Congress, 456 are men and only 79 are women. The political participation of women in Alaska ranks slightly below average, even though women's voter turnout is in the top three in the U.S.

The state legislature is 80 percent male and only 20 percent female, and no women serve in statewide elected executive office. In addition, Alaska is one of the few states lacking both a state Women's Commission and a Women's Caucus in the state legislature, giving it a ranking of last place in the nation for institutional resources for women, tied in last place with Maine, Montana, Ohio, and South Dakota.

On the positive side, Alaska is one of the few states with a woman representing it in the U.S. Senate.

"Women in Alaska work hard, but they continue to be shortchanged, starting with their paychecks," according to economist Heidi Hartmann, president of the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

"The state needs to do more to help its women become full and equal participants in the economy and in government offices."

The Status of Women in Alaska recommends policies to improve the status of women, including: ? Recruitment of female candidates by political parties and campaign finance reform.

- Tougher enforcement of equal opportunity laws and regular auditing of large employers for discrimination in hiring and promotion.
- Federal and state laws and union contracts to require employers to show that comparable jobs are paid fairly.
- Recruitment of women into predominantly male jobs that are well paid, and active prevention of harassment. Improved educational and job training opportunities for women, especially in higher-paid occupations not traditionally held by women.
- Affirmative action to encourage women and especially women of color to enroll in higher education, and increased scholarships and financial aid to reduce economic barriers.
- Increased investment in tribal colleges and in Alaska Native programs at state universities.
- Public and private sector investments in loan and entrepreneurial programs to expand small business opportunities.
- State, local and federal living wage laws and raising the federal minimum wage and improving educational and job training opportunities.
- State investment in technological training in primary, secondary and post-secondary schools, to reduce the digital divide between those with access to technology and those without.
- State enforcement of Title IX equal access rules. Also, public education about the importance of equal access.
- Paid parental and dependent care leave policies.
- Public health targeting of at-risk and uninsured women not eligible for Medicaid.
- Tribally designed economic development strategies and reinforced tribal sovereignty.
- Enhanced reproductive rights, particularly for low-income women.

The report also calls on women to step forward and strive for leadership roles in their communities, on reservations, in business and government at every level.

Co-chair of the Committee for the Alaska State Profile, Dr. Genie Babb, UAA Professor of English, believes that "this report is a wake-up call to the policymakers and activists of Alaska."

The Institute for Women's Policy Research is a nonprofit public policy research organization dedicated to informing and stimulating debate on public policy issues of critical importance to women and their families.

IWPR focuses on issues that affect women's daily lives, including employment, earnings and economic change; democracy and society; poverty, welfare and income security; work and family policies; and health and violence.

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Alaska		
Overview of Women's Economic Status in Alaska	State Figure	Rankings
Women's Median Annual Earnings, 2009	\$39,017	10
Earnings Ratio between Women and Men, 2009	76.5%	29
Percent of Women in the Labor Force, 2009	66.7%	1
Percent of Employed Women in Professional or Managerial Occupations, 2009	39.4%	17
Percent of Women with Health Insurance, 2009	81.0%	49
Percent of Women with Four or More Years of College, 2009	28.8%	18
Percent of Businesses that are Women-Owned, 2007	25.9%	35
Percent of Women Living Above Poverty, 2009	90.2%	2
Sources: Data on "Percent of Businesses that are Women-Owned" are from the U.S. Census Bureau 2007 Survey of Business Owners; data for other indicators are from the U.S. Census Bureau 2009 American Community Survey.		

Alaska		
Overview of Women's Economic Status in Alaska	State Figure	Rankings
Women's Median Annual Earnings, 2002	\$34,300	6
Earnings Ratio between Women and Men, 2002	78.7%	8
Percent of Employed Women in Professional or Managerial Occupations, 2001	37.0%	7
Percent of Businesses that are Women-Owned, 1997	25.9%	18
Percent of Women Living Above Poverty, 2002	92.0%	4
Women's Economic Status in Alaska by Race and Ethnicity		
Median Annual Earnings, 1999		
African American Women	\$29,800	12 of 43
Asian American Women	\$26,500	33 of 45
Hispanic Women	\$28,700	1 of 48
Native American Women	\$32,000	3 of 43
White Women	\$35,300	7 of 51
Earnings Ratio between Women and White Men, 1999		
African American Women	61.2%	30
Asian American Women	54.4%	44
Hispanic Women	59.0%	10
Native American Women	65.8%	12
White Women	72.6%	13
Percent of Employed Women in Professional or Managerial Occupations, 2000		
African American Women	33.4%	10
Asian American Women	22.1%	50
Hispanic Women	26.4%	12
Native American Women	33.6%	8
White Women	41.3%	13
Percent of Women Living Above Poverty, 1999		
African American Women	92.9%	1
Asian American Women	90.3%	8
Hispanic Women	87.0%	1
Native American Women	80.7%	12
White Women	94.1%	3