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2015 Alaska Victimization Survey Results Show Decline in Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence in Alaska Since 2010

The results released today from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey conducted by the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault show **a decline in intimate partner and sexual violence in Alaska since 2010.**

“Trends from the statewide Alaska Victimization Survey from 2010 to 2015 showed that intimate partner violence and sexual violence in Alaska are decreasing. Alaska’s prevention and education efforts statewide are working,” said Lauree Morton, Executive Director of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

In 2009, the Alaska Legislature funded a victimization survey to determine the actual rate of both reported and unreported sexual assaults in Alaska. The Council was given oversight of conducting the survey and first partnered with the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center in 2010 to develop and implement the survey, modeled after the national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control.

“Statewide telephone surveys were conducted in 2010 and 2015,” said Dr. Andre Rosay, Director of the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center, “and regional surveys were conducted from 2011 to 2014 in Anchorage, Bristol Bay, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Matsu, Nome, Sitka, Yukon-Kuskokwim, North Slope, and the Aleutians.”

“While the trends are headed in the right direction,” Morton said, “Alaska still needs to strengthen our efforts in order for all women to be safe. Unfortunately, the number of victims still remains unacceptably high.”

Dr. Rosay said the data released today show:

- **In 2010, 12 in 100 women had experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in Alaska during the previous year. By 2015, that number dropped to 8 in 100.**
- **Intimate partner violence decreased by 32%.**
- **Sexual violence decreased by 33%.**
- **6,556 fewer women experienced intimate partner violence in 2015 than in 2010.**
- **3,072 fewer women experienced sexual violence in 2015 than 2010.**

The 2015 survey also indicated that

- **21,401 adult women in Alaska experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in the past year:**
- **Half of adult women in Alaska (more than 130,000) have experienced violence in their lifetime.**

“The survey supports the need for and benefits of continuing prevention and education efforts statewide,” Morton said. “Maintaining these programs is important for Alaska to continue to reduce violence.”

“Continuing to survey and analyze data helps us to make better decisions about how the programs we are using are making a difference.”