

Domestic Violence in Alaska: A Public Health Priority

Legislative Lunch & Learn

2/24/2026

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Defining Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence (DV), sometimes also called intimate partner violence (IPV), includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological abuse by a current or former intimate partner.

Affects individuals across age, income, race, and gender



Call it a Public Health Crisis

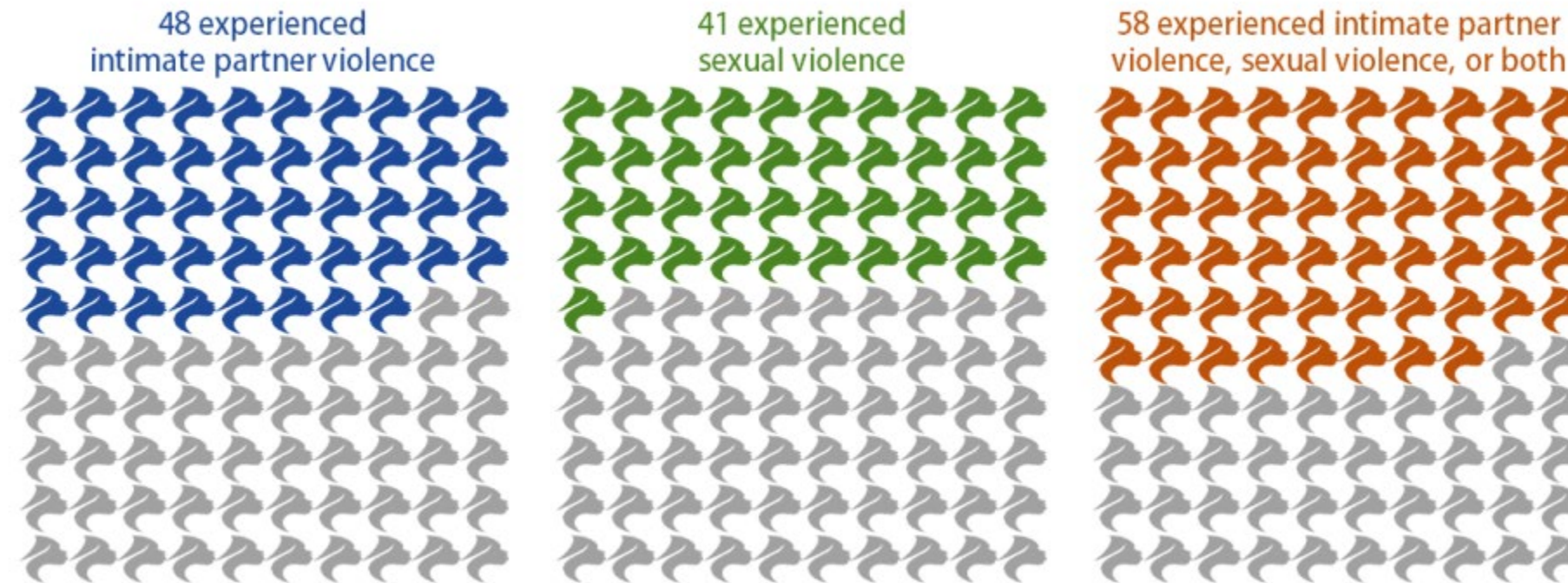
- 41% of women sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime nationwide
- About 16 million women who reported experiencing intimate partner violence in their lifetime said that they first experienced it before age 18.



National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

Alaska Context

Out of every 100 adult women who reside in the State of Alaska:



These lifetime estimates come from a 2020 survey of adult women in the State of Alaska.
Source: UAA Justice Center, Alaska Victimization Survey, www.uaa.alaska.edu/justice/avs

Alaska consistently ranks among highest states for domestic violence, sexual assault and women killed by men

- Nearly 60% of women in Alaska (lifetime)
- Women disproportionately impacted
- Rural and Alaska Native communities face amplified barriers

Alaska Victimization Survey; When Men Murder Women

Health Disparities: Women vs. Men

NEARLY 3 WOMEN

**in the U.S. are killed by
an intimate partner
every single day.**

Women experience:

- Higher rates of severe injury
 - Strangulation
 - Gun & other deadly weapon related assaults
- Higher rates of IPV-related homicide
- Higher rates of long-term health and mental health effects

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Peterson, et al. (2018), Braveman, P., & Gottlieb, L. (2014)

Domestic Violence as a Social Determinant of Health

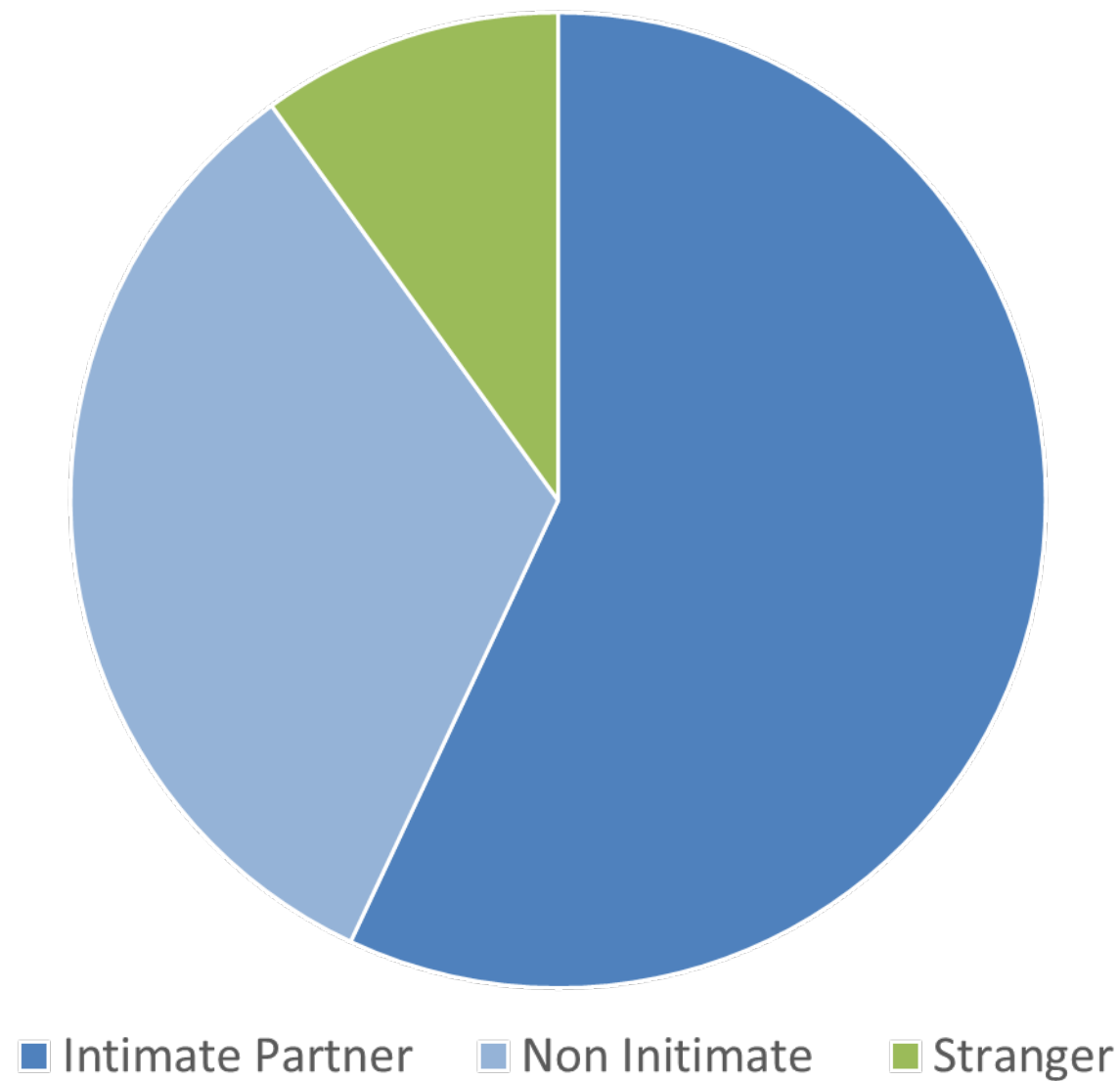
Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people live, work, and raise their families that shape long term health outcomes.

Long-Term Impacts of IPV

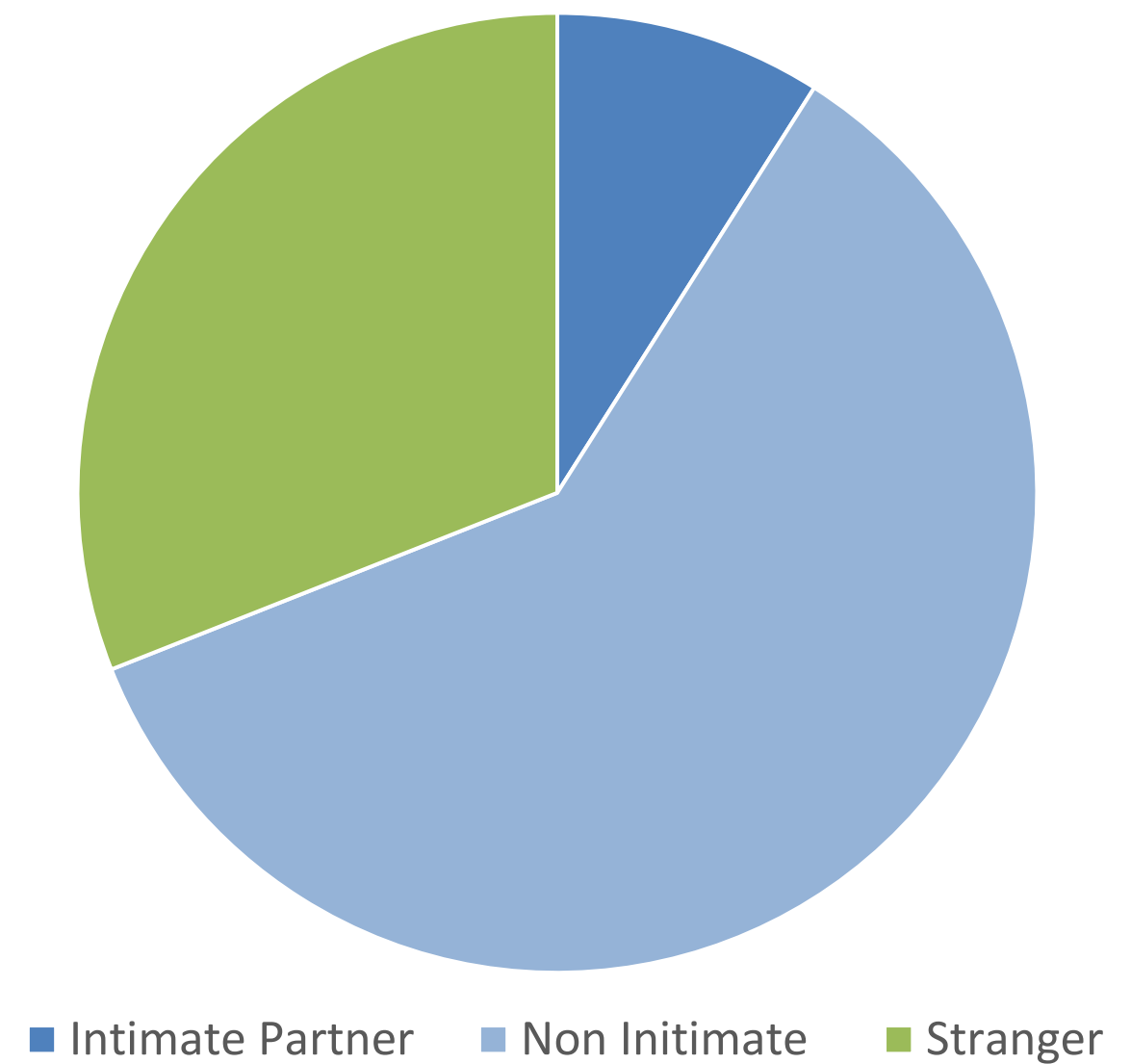
- **Health**
 - Chronic pain, cardiovascular disease, traumatic brain injury
 - Depression, PTSD, substance use disorders
 - Increased healthcare utilization and long-term disability
- **Economic Stability**
 - Job loss and reduced lifetime earnings
 - Housing instability and homelessness
 - Increased reliance on public assistance
- **Children & Community**
 - Developmental and behavioral impacts on children
 - Increased risk of child abuse
 - Increased costs to healthcare, child welfare, and justice systems

Domestic Violence Homicide

Female Homicides by Relationship

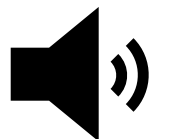


Male Homicides by Relationship



Adverse Childhood Experiences & Intergenerational Cycles

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) include exposure to domestic violence, abuse, neglect, and household instability during childhood.
- Children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to experience:
 - Higher ACE scores, which are linked to poorer health across the lifespan
 - Increased risk of chronic disease, mental illness, and substance use
 - Greater likelihood of experiencing or perpetrating violence as adults
 - Lower educational and economic outcomes



Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health

Adverse Childhood Experiences & Intergenerational Cycles

- Biggest impact on resiliency and mitigating long term impacts of high ACE scores
 - Therapeutic interventions
 - Supportive adult relationships
 - Environmental Stability (Housing stability, school continuity, predictable routines, reduced exposure to stress and chaos)
 - Economic Stability

Economic Burden of IPV & ROI

- The lifetime economic cost associated with medical services for IPV related injuries, lost productivity from paid work, criminal justice and other costs, is \$3.6 trillion.
- The cost of IPV over a victim's lifetime was \$103,767 for women and \$23,414 for men. Prevent 100 IPV Cases in Alaska
- $100 \text{ cases} \times \$100,000 = \$10,000,000$ avoided lifetime cost

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Thank you for having us!

