

Sexual Assault and the response in Alaska Communities

Feb 25, 2026



ANDVSA

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

ANDVSA Membership of Statewide Regional Programs



24 Direct Service Providers for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault across the State of Alaska

Statewide Results from the AVS

Measures	2010		2015		2020	
	(%)	Prior Year	(%)	Prior Year	(%)	Prior Year
Sexual violence (composite)	37.1	4.3%	33.1	2.9%	40.5	3.4%
Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault	26.8		22.6		27.5	
Forcible sexual assault	25.6		23.5		27.7	

Using Department of Labor population estimates, 3.4% of adult women in Alaska equates to about **9,016** individuals in 2020.

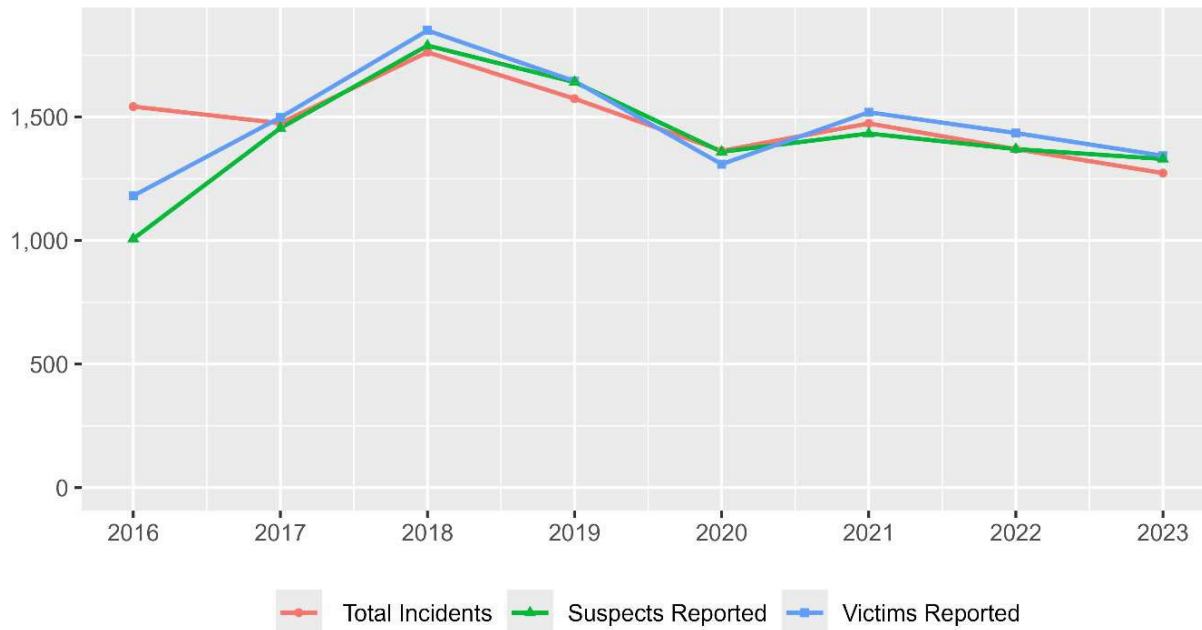


Reported Sexual Assaults

In 2023, a total of 1,273 felony-level incidents were reported to law enforcement. This is the lowest number of incidents reported since 2015.

In 2023, there were 1,343 reported victims and 1,330 reported suspects

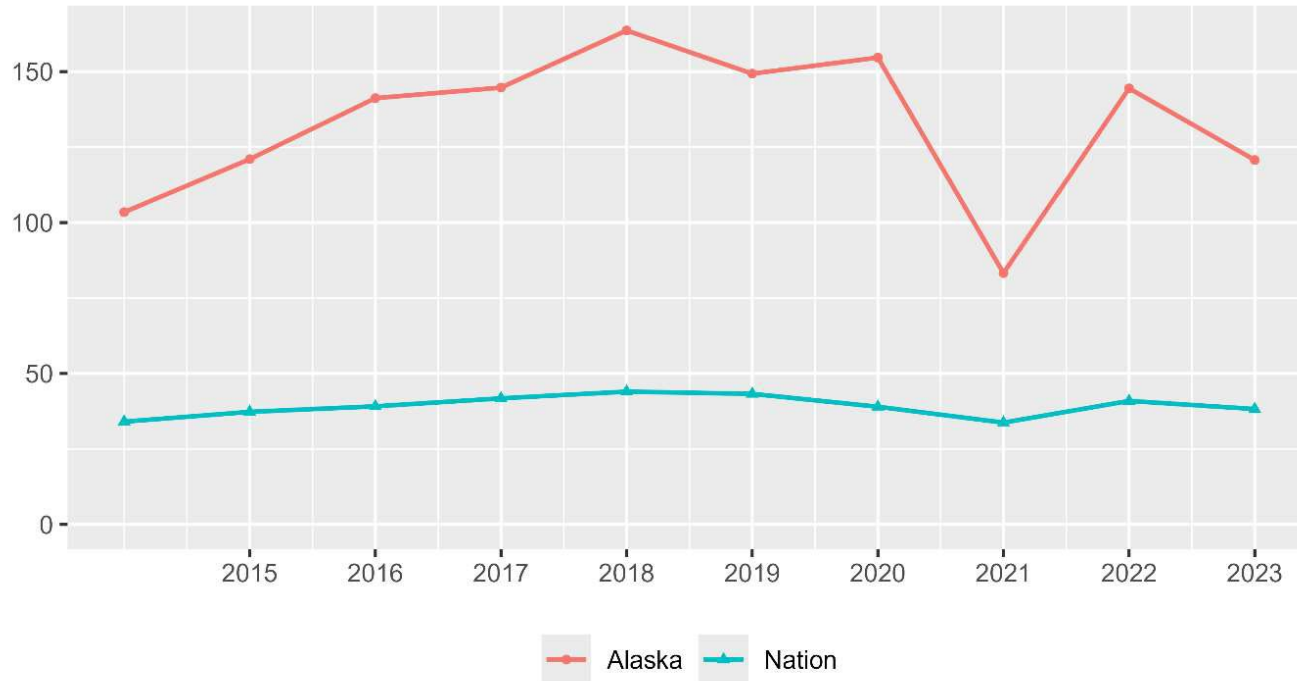
Felony Sex Offense Reports, 2015 – 2023



87.4% were female

Data Source: Felony Level Sex Offenses: Crime in Alaska Supplemental Report, Alaska Department of Public Safety, 2015 – 2023. *Note, per the Felony Level Sex Offenses reports, “not all reported incidents included victim demographics; [some] incidents involve multiple victims and/or multiple suspects; [and,] in 2015, the Anchorage Police Department reported only the number of incidents with the corresponding statute violation and did not include victim, suspect, location, relationship, or weapon data.”

Rape Reported per 100,000 people



Data Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer

The high rate of sexual assault in Alaska compared to the rest of the country is not new. In the decade between 2006 and 2016, Alaska's reported rape rate was the highest in the country in each of those years, except for one and has had the highest rates in 37 of the last 54 years.

Piyuallgutekluta **“Walking Together”**

Sexual Assault Response in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta



Team Members

Tundra Women's Coalition
Victim's Services

**Alaska State Troopers and
Bethel Police Department**
Law Enforcement

**District Attorney's Office, 4th Judicial
District--Bethel**
Prosecution

**Division of Juvenile
Justice**

**Yukon Kuskokwim Health
Corporation--BH**
Bethel Family Clinic
TWC's Contracted Clinician
Mental Health

Office of Children's Services
Child Protection

Irniamta Ikayurviat
TWC's Children's Advocacy Center

Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Healthcare

Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Region of Southwest Alaska



Regional Needs

- Western Alaska has one of the highest rate of sexual assault in the nation (408.6 Rate of incident per 100K population).
 - 2024 Crime in Alaska Supplemental Report
- These rates disproportionately represent Alaska Native people. Alaska Natives make up about 15% of Alaska's total population and 52% of reported felony level sexual assaults.
 - 2024 Crime in Alaska Supplemental Report
- In the Yukon Kuskokwim region of Alaska, 51% of adult women have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both.
 - 2012 Alaska Victimization Survey

Our TeleSAFE Project

To increase Yukon-Kuskokwim's capacity to provide adult survivors of sexual assault with sexual assault forensic exams and as-needed support.

- Establish a network of SANEs to provide 24/7 telehealth support to the mid-level medical providers in our five sub-regional clinics.
- Ensure medical providers at our sub-regional clinics have medical forensic training and provide patient-centered, trauma-informed care.
- Equip hub and spoke medical offices with the essential technology.
- Develop sub-regional regional victim advocacy programs for each sub-regional clinics.
- Use multi-disciplinary case review meetings to manage active cases in a timely manner and address case concerns as they arise.
- Ensure ongoing evaluation to assess project implementation and identify improvement opportunities.

How'd We Do?



Where Are We Now?

- **Post-COVID, YKHC still struggles with staffing**
- **The MDT has trained itinerants and is building a mobile kit**
- **All provider staffing in the subregional clinics is contracted out to Wilderness Medical Staffing**

What Have We Learned?

- **Imbedding medical with victim services is important in rural Alaska**
- **There is more sexual assault than what the data indicates**

Last Thought



Public Media for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta



Donate



KYUK
The Truck Stop

NEXT UP: 3:00 PM Acoustic Accents

All Streams

Kipnuk man sentenced to over 200 years in prison for sexual abuse of minors

KYUK | By [Samantha Watson](#)

Published December 30, 2025 at 12:53 PM AKST



Quyana



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SART Response

AWARE, Juneau AK

February
2026



SART or HEART?

The infrastructure for SART also works for other serious injury assaults

- Strangulation
- Sexual Assault
- Physical Assault with Injuries
- On-going Safety Concerns (ie. perp on scene)

Juneau's team has trust and confidence

- Juneau Police Department
- Bartlett Regional Hospital
- AK State Troopers
- AWARE
- AK District Attorney
- SAFE Child Advocacy Center
- Central Council Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska
- Office of Children's Services

Good laws & funding make the work easier

- SART kits are processed quickly- cases have momentum
- Victims do NOT have to testify at Grand Jury
- All criminal cases need to be prosecuted in a reasonable timeline
- Appropriate equipment=less trauma

Challenges

What makes a bad situation worse?

- High turnover in any of the key positions
- Burnout in team members
- Leadership that doesn't understand the importance and expense calculation
- Training burden- it's constant and resource intensive

Our Lessons and the Future

- SART fails when it relies on individual people. People are a starting point, but good teams make the leap from people to organizations in order to be sustainable. They are embedded in the fabric of the community.
- Exams can be conducted/evidence gathered by medical professionals in remote areas that do not have SART/SANE personnel.
- Prosecution can happen without forensic evidence. A survivor can refuse a SART exam, and a crime can still be prosecuted. Survivors can feel supported in a variety of ways.



Thank you.

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