



UAA Justice Center
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Results from the 2020 Alaska Victimization Survey

Presented for the Alaska House Judiciary Committee
April 8, 2022

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Overview and history of AVS

- Provides estimates for the lifetime and annual prevalence of sexual violence and intimate partner violence against women in Alaska.
 - Documents the scope of the problem over time.
 - Increases awareness about the problem and fosters the collective movement to address these types of violence.
 - Validates the experiences of the victim-survivors and lets them know they are not alone, not unseen, and not forgotten.
- Conducted statewide surveys in 2010, 2015, and 2020 with goal of conducting survey every five years.
 - Regional surveys were conducted 2011 – 2015
 - Overall, almost 13,000 women in Alaska have participated in these surveys
- Joint effort between the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA; funders) and the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center (research implementation).



General methodology

- General population survey of adult women residing in Alaska.
- Respondents randomly selected and contacted by landlines and cell phones.
- Survey modeled after the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) administered by the U.S. CDC.
- Survey procedures designed to maximize the safety and confidentiality of respondents.



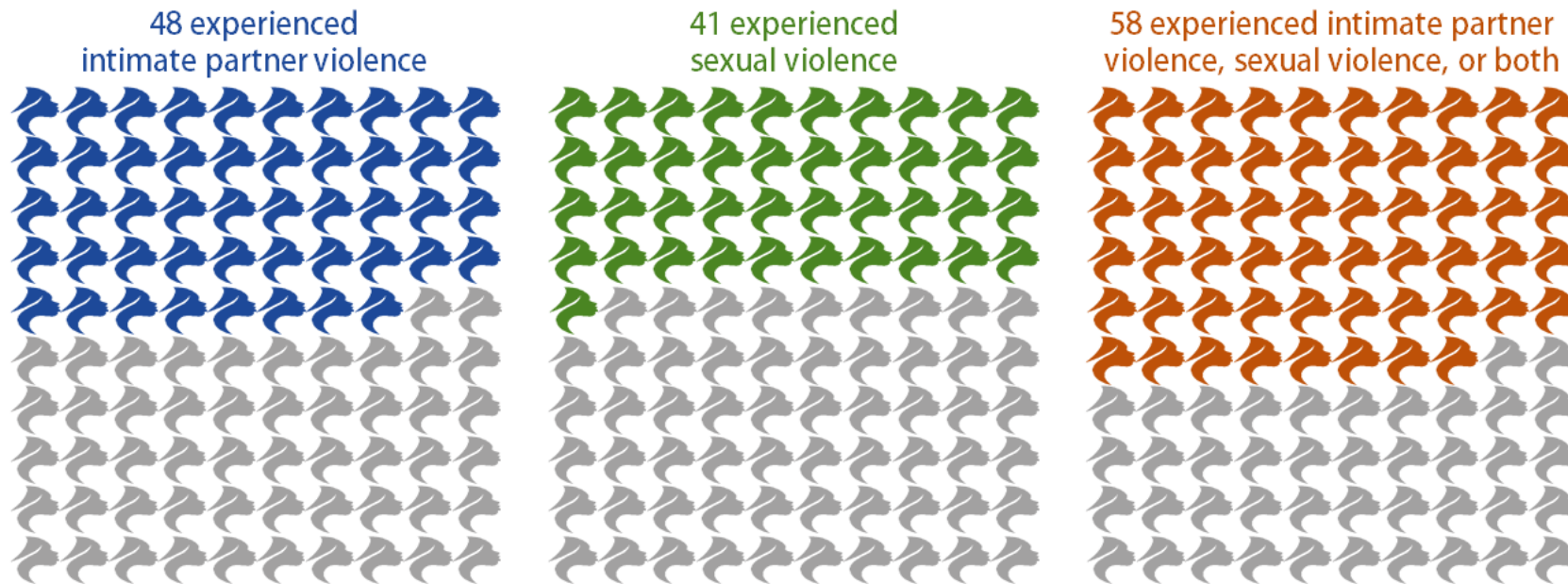
2020 Data collection and weighting

- Washington state based survey team
- Phone surveys conducted from July – November 2020
- 2100 participants
- Each case was weighted to match proportions in general adult Alaska female population (265,572) using three strata: Geographic region, race/ethnicity, and age



2020 Key results

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



Lifetime and past year estimates of intimate partner violence and sexual violence

Type of Violence	Lifetime		Past year	
	%	N	%	N
Intimate partner violence (composite)	48.0	127,248	6.9	18,314
Threats of physical violence	28.5	75,347	2.6	6,873
Physical violence	46.8	123,987	6.5	17,198
Sexual violence (composite)	40.5	106,937	3.4	8,791
Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault	27.5	72,654	2.1	5,596
Forcible sexual assault	27.7	73,203	2.2	5,712
IPV, SV, or both (composite)	57.7	152,556	8.1	21,217

The latest National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence (NISVS) data available are from 2015, so at this point we are unable to compare Alaska's 2020 prevalence to the national average or to other states.



Changes over time: 2010-2020

Type of Violence	Lifetime (%)			Past Year (%)		
	2010	2015	2020	2010	2015	2020
Intimate partner violence (composite)	47.6	40.4	48.0	9.4	6.4	6.9
Threats of physical violence	31.0	25.6	28.5	5.8	3.0	2.6
Physical violence	44.8	39.6	46.8	8.6	5.9	6.5
Sexual violence (composite)	37.1	33.1	40.5	4.3	2.9	3.4
Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault	26.8	22.6	27.5	3.6	2.0	2.1
Forcible sexual assault	25.6	23.5	27.7	2.5	1.6	2.2
IPV, SV, or both (composite)	58.6	50.3	57.7	11.8	8.1	8.1



Comparing Alaska's prevalence to national prevalence

	2010			2015		
	AVS (%)	NISVS (%)	Alaska/US difference	AVS (%)	NISVS (%)	Alaska/US difference
IPV – lifetime	47.6	32.9	1.4	40.4	30.6	1.3
IPV – past year	9.4	4.0	2.4	6.4	2.9	2.2
Sexual violence – lifetime	37.1	18.3	2.0	33.1	21.3	1.6
Sexual violence – past year	4.3	1.1	3.9	2.9	1.2	2.4

Note. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) uses the term “rape” for the same set of behaviors referred to as “sexual violence” in the Alaska Victimization Survey results. See Appendix A for the behaviors included in this measure. As of April 2022, NISVS data for 2020 were unavailable.

2010 NISVS report: https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf

2015 NISVS report: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>



National victimization data

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics



October 2021, NCJ 301775

Criminal Victimization, 2020

Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D., and Alexandra Thompson, BJS Statisticians

To better understand Alaska's trends over time

TABLE 1

Number and rate of violent victimizations, by type of crime, 2016–2020

Type of violent crime	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020*	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 ^a	Number	Rate per 1,000 ^a	Number	Rate per 1,000 ^a	Number	Rate per 1,000 ^a	Number	Rate per 1,000 ^a
Violent crime^b	5,353,820 †	19.7 †	5,612,670 †	20.6 †	6,385,520 †	23.2 †	5,813,410 †	21.0 †	4,558,150	16.4
Rape/sexual assault ^c	298,410	1.1	393,980	1.4	734,630 †	2.7 †	459,310	1.7	319,950	1.2
Robbery	458,810	1.7	613,840 †	2.3 †	573,100	2.1	534,420	1.9	437,260	1.6
Assault	4,596,600 †	16.9 †	4,604,850 †	16.9 †	5,077,790 †	18.4 †	4,819,680 †	17.4 †	3,800,950	13.7
Aggravated assault	1,040,580 †	3.8 †	993,170 ‡	3.6 ‡	1,058,040 †	3.8 †	1,019,490 ‡	3.7 ‡	812,180	2.9
Simple assault	3,556,020 †	13.1 †	3,611,680 †	13.3 †	4,019,750 †	14.6 †	3,800,190 †	13.7 †	2,988,770	10.7
Violent crime excluding simple assault^d	1,797,790	6.6 ‡	2,000,990 †	7.3 †	2,365,770 †	8.6 †	2,013,220 †	7.3 †	1,569,390	5.6
Selected characteristics of violent crime										
Domestic violence ^e	1,068,120	3.9	1,237,960 †	4.5 †	1,333,050 †	4.8 †	1,164,540 ‡	4.2 ‡	856,750	3.1
Intimate partner violence ^f	597,200	2.2	666,310 ‡	2.4 ‡	847,230 †	3.1 †	695,060 ‡	2.5 ‡	484,830	1.7
Stranger violence	2,082,410	7.7	2,034,100	7.5	2,493,750	9.1 †	2,254,740	8.1	1,973,200	7.1

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Categories of violent crime include rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault, and they include threatened, attempted, and completed occurrences of those crimes. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^aRate is per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. See appendix table 11 for person populations.

^bIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Excludes homicide because the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is based on interviews with victims.

^cSee *Methodology* for details on the measurement of rape or sexual assault in the NCVS.

^dIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

^eIncludes the subset of violent victimizations that were committed by intimate partners or family members.

^fIncludes the subset of violent victimizations that were committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016–2020.

2015
Rape/sexual assault
rate per 1000:
1.6

2015
IPV rate per 1000:
3.0

Between 2015 and 2020, past 12-month experiences with sexual assault/rape stayed relatively stable, with a spike in 2018. That spike would cause lifetime rates to spike even while past year rates stayed the same between 2015 and 2020.

Between 2015 and 2020, past 12-month experiences with IPV fluctuated up and down, with 2020's rate being significantly lower than 2015's rate, but 2019's rate being closer to 2015. These data provide a little less clarity about patterns compared to the sexual assault/rape data.

Impacts of COVID-19

43.2% Self or other primary breadwinner in home experienced unemployment or reduction in work hours as a result of COVID-19	36.7% Household's financial stability negatively or very negatively affected by COVID-19 pandemic	84.2% More members of household home on a regular basis than would be otherwise during COVID-19 work and social isolation restrictions
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Percent of adult women in Alaska who experienced past year IPV, SV, or both; by whether they experienced impacts of COVID-19

		Experienced past year IPV, SV, or both (%)
Self or other primary breadwinner in home experienced unemployment or reduction in work hours as a result of COVID-19	No	5.7
	Yes	11.5
Household's financial stability negatively or very negatively affected by COVID-19 pandemic	No	6.1
	Yes	11.9
More members of household home on a regular basis than would be otherwise during COVID-19 work and social isolation restrictions	No	10.6
	Yes	7.9

Note. Both un/underemployment and negative financial impact were significantly related to experiencing past year IPV, SV, or both at the $p < 0.05$ threshold.



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Appendix A: Violence measures

Intimate partner violence includes two measures:

1. Threats of physical violence by intimate partners
 - Have your romantic or sexual partners made threats to physically harm you?
2. Physical violence by intimate partners
 - Have your romantic or sexual partners...
 - Slapped you?
 - Pushed or shoved you?
 - Hit you with a fist or something hard?
 - Kicked you?
 - Hurt you by pulling your hair?
 - Slammed you against something?
 - Tried to hurt you by choking or suffocating you?
 - Beaten you?
 - Burned you on purpose?
 - Used a knife or gun on you?

Sexual violence includes two measures:

1. Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault
 - When you were alcohol or drug intoxicated and unable to consent, has anyone...
 - Had vaginal sex with you?
 - Made you receive anal sex?
 - Made you perform oral sex?
 - Made you receive oral sex?
2. Forcible sexual assault:
 - Has anyone used physical force or threats to physically harm you to...
 - Make you have vaginal sex?
 - Make you receive anal sex?
 - Make you perform oral sex?
 - Make you receive oral sex?
 - Put their fingers or an object in your vagina or anus?
 - Try to have vaginal, oral, or anal sex with you?



Appendix B: Data weighting

Each case was weighted to match prevalence in general adult Alaska female population (265,572) using three “strata” and 120 possible weights

- Geographic region (6)
 - Gulf Coast (Kenai, Kodiak, Valdez, Cordova)
 - Northwestern, Western, and Southwestern (Nome, North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Aleutians East and West, Bethel, Bristol Bay, Dillingham, Kusilvak, Lake & Peninsula)
 - Interior (Denali, Fairbanks Northstar, Southeast Fairbanks, Yukon-Koyukuk)
 - Southeast (Haines, Hoonah-Angoon, Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Prince of Wales-Hyder, Sitka, Skagway, Wrangell, Yakutat)
 - Anchorage
 - Mat-Su Valley
- Racial identity (4)
 - American Indian/Alaska Native
 - Asian/Black/Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - White
 - Two or more racial identities
- Age (5)
 - 18-24 (Gen Z)
 - 25-39 (Millennials)
 - 40-54 (Gen X)
 - 55-74 (Boomers)
 - 75+ (Silent)



Appendix C: FAQ

Why not use data from law enforcement agencies on reports of intimate partner violence and sexual assault?

Data from law enforcement only include incidents that were reported to the police. Numerous studies, including national victimization surveys, have found that the majority of individuals who experience rape/sexual assault and nearly half of those who experience intimate partner violence do not report their victimization to the police. Therefore, the best way to gather data on crime victimization is to ask a large number of individuals whether or not they have been victimized, and make estimates based on those data. This is what a victimization survey is!

Why doesn't the AVS include men?

Although we would like to include men in the AVS, doing so is too costly for our current level of funding. In order to generate reliable estimates, we need a certain number of the sample to have been victimized. If we included men in the sample we would likely have to at least double our sample size, which would be very costly. Even then, we may not get reliable estimates for men because we know from national victimization surveys that do include men that men experience intimate partner violence and sexual violence at lower rates than women. Therefore we would probably need to collect an even bigger sample of men than women to get reliable estimates.

