

SCR

17

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17</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA30</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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**SENATOR KEVIN MEYER
SENATE DISTRICT M**

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SCR 17

"Proclaiming April 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month"

All Alaskans deserve a life free from violence. In our homes, in relationships, or in our communities, every individual should live a life without fear and with security and safety. This resolution encourages Alaskans to acknowledge and speak out against sexual assault as we join in unity to dispel the fear, self-blame, depression and anxiety that can be exhibited both emotionally and physically by those who have endured this terrible experience. This resolution emboldens Alaskans to declare that sexual assault of any kind will not be tolerated.

SCR 17 also recognizes the dedicated work in Alaska of the volunteers, staff and agencies, who dedicate their lives to ensure victims have someone to talk to, a place to go, as well as many other services to help. These individuals and groups deserve our respect and support and we join them in removing the veil of secrecy and silence, and declare intolerance towards the crime of sexual assault in Alaska.

SCR 17 proclaims the month of April 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Alaska.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SCR 17
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SCR17-LEG-SESS-02-16-18
Title: APRIL 2018:SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS
MONTH
Sponsor: MEYER
Requester: SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Department:
Appropriation:
Allocation:
OMB Component Number: 0

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

| | FY2019 Appropriation Requested | Included in Governor's FY2019 Request | Out-Year Cost Estimates | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | | | | |
| Services | | | | | | | | |
| Commodities | | | | | | | | |
| Capital Outlay | | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Benefits | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| Total Operating | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Fund Source (Operating Only)

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Positions

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time | | | | | | | | |
| Part-time | | | | | | | | |
| Temporary | | | | | | | | |

Change in Revenues

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency?
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

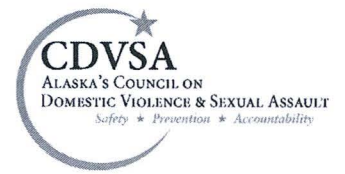
INITIAL VERSION. ONE PAGE. ZERO NOTE.

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Prepared By: | SANTE LESH, BUDGET ANALYST | Phone: | (907)465-4824 |
| Division: | LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY | Date: | 02/16/2018 03:32 PM |
| Approved By: | JESSICA GEARY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Date: | 02/16/2018 |
| Agency: | LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY | | |



Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence in the Municipality of Anchorage:

Key Results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey



Out of every 100 adult women who reside in the Municipality of Anchorage:

39 experienced intimate partner violence (IPV):



32 experienced sexual violence:



48 experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both:



These lifetime estimates come from a 2015 survey of adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage.
Source: UAA Justice Center, Alaska Victimization Survey, <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/avs>.

Purpose of the Survey

Every human being has the right to be safe and free from violence in their own homes, in their relationships, and in their community. Intimate partner violence and sexual violence are endemic problems. The Alaska Victimization Survey provides comprehensive statewide and regional data to guide planning and policy development and to evaluate the impact of prevention and intervention services. The 2015 survey was designed to provide estimates that could be compared to previous estimates from 2010-11. Results can be used to support prevention and intervention efforts that reduce violence against women.

Methodology

A total of 1,137 adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage participated in the 2015 survey. Respondents were randomly selected by phone (using both land lines and cell phones) from May to August 2015. They were asked behaviorally specific questions about intimate partner violence (both threats and physical violence). Intimate partners included romantic and sexual partners. Respondents were also asked about sexual violence (both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault). These questions were not limited to intimate partners. Procedures were designed to maximize the safety and confidentiality of all respondents. The survey was approved by multiple institutional review boards and was supported by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Acknowledgments

We sincerely thank the 1,137 adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage who invested time and effort to participate in this victimization survey. They re-lived horrendous experiences, experiences that no one should be subjected to, to help the rest of us understand the extent of intimate partner and sexual violence in the Municipality of Anchorage. Funding for this project was provided by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The survey was administered by RTI International. Data were analyzed by the UAA Justice Center.

Important Limitations

The survey excluded non-English speaking women, women without phone access, and women not living in a residence. Estimates may be higher among women excluded from the survey. Estimates may also be conservative because of the continuing stigma of reporting victimization. This survey measured the number of *victims*, not the number of *victimizations*. In addition, not all forms of intimate partner violence or sexual violence were measured.

Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence in the Municipality of Anchorage: Key Results from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey

Key Estimates

The following table shows the percentage of adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage who experienced each form of violence. Results from the 2015 survey are compared to results from 2010-11. All estimates were weighted to control for selection, non-response, and coverage. The 2015 estimates show that 48.3% of adult women in Municipality of Anchorage experienced sexual violence, intimate partner violence, or both, in their lifetime (versus 54.8% in 2010-11); and 7.5% experienced these forms of violence in the past year (versus 9.8% in 2010-11).

| Measures of Violence | Lifetime | | Past Year | |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2010-11 | 2015 | 2010-11 | 2015 |
| Intimate partner violence (composite) | 46.3% | 38.6% | 8.6% | 5.4% |
| Threats of physical violence | 27.2% | 24.2% | 3.9% | 3.2% |
| Physical violence | 44.9% | 37.9% | 8.3% | 5.3% |
| Sexual violence (composite) | 34.1% | 31.6% | 2.6% | 3.6% |
| Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault | 22.1% | 20.7% | 2.1% | 2.3% |
| Forcible sexual assault | 25.0% | 22.5% | 1.1% | 2.3% |
| Any Violence (composite) | 54.8% | 48.3% | 9.8% | 7.5% |

Intimate Partner Violence Estimates:

The intimate partner violence composite includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence.

- 38.6% of adult women experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime (versus 46.3% in 2010-11).
 - 24.2% experienced threats of physical violence (versus 27.2% in 2010-11).
 - 37.9% experienced physical violence (versus 44.9% in 2010-11).
- 5.4% of adult women experienced intimate partner violence in the past year (versus 8.6% in 2010-11).
 - 3.2% experienced threats of physical violence (versus 3.9% in 2010-11).
 - 5.3% experienced physical violence (versus 8.3% in 2010-11).

Sexual Violence Estimates:

The sexual violence composite includes both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

- 31.6% of adult women experienced sexual violence in their lifetime (versus 34.1% in 2010-11).
 - 20.7% experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault (versus 22.1% in 2010-11).
 - 22.5% experienced at least one forcible sexual assault (versus 25.0% in 2010-11).
- 3.6% of adult women experienced sexual violence in the past year (versus 2.6% in 2010-11).
 - 2.3% experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault (versus 2.1% in 2010-11).
 - 2.3% experienced at least one forcible sexual assault (versus 1.1% in 2010-11).

Conclusion

Almost half of adult women in Municipality of Anchorage (48.3%) have experienced violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 13 have experienced violence in the past year. More than 1 in 3 have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 19 have experienced intimate partner violence in the past year. Three in 10 have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 28 have experienced sexual violence in the past year. Some women experienced violence more than once.

Rates of violence against women in the Municipality of Anchorage remain unacceptably high.

For additional information on the Alaska Victimization Survey, please visit <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/avs>, or contact André Rosay with the UAA Justice Center (907-786-1821) or Laoree Morton with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (907-465-5503). National, statewide, and local resources for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and teen dating abuse can be found online at: <http://dps.alaska.gov/cdvsa/Services.html>. Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) provides options, support, and information to Alaskans affected by sexual violence. Their crisis line is 1-800-748-8999. Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) offers safe shelter and intervention to those affected by domestic violence. Their crisis line is 907-272-0100.

Alaska Women's Lobby

Defending and advancing the rights and needs of women, children and families in Alaska since 1981

SCR 17 and HCR 22- Sexual Assault Awareness Month February 2018

The Alaska Women's Lobby, with steering committees in Fairbanks and Juneau as well as members across the state supports SCR 17 and thanks Senator Meyer for his sponsorship.

SCR 17 declares April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This year, nationally, SAAM is celebrating its 17th anniversary with the theme "Embrace Your Voice" to inform individuals on how they can use their words to promote safety, respect, and equality to stop sexual violence before it happens.

We know that one month isn't enough to solve the serious and widespread issue of sexual violence. However, the attention April generates is an opportunity to energize and expand prevention efforts throughout the year.

What is Sexual Violence? Sexual violence is a broad term and includes: sexual assault, incest, child sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, unwanted sexual contact, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism.

Sexual violence occurs when someone is forced or manipulated into unwanted sexual activity without their consent. Consent means permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.

Anyone can experience sexual violence, including children, teens, adults, and seniors. Those who sexually abuse can be acquaintances, family, trusted individuals, or strangers; of these, the first three are most common.

The good news is that prevention is possible, and it's happening. Across Alaska youth are participating in Coaching Boys into Men, Girls on the Run, and learning about healthy relationships through the 4th R.

The resolutions give focused attention to sexual assault crimes and the ways in which Alaskan can prevent them.

Please support the passage of SCR 17 and HCR 22.

PO Box 20891, Juneau, AK 99802 * akwomenslobby@gmail.com



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH OVERVIEW

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AT A GLANCE

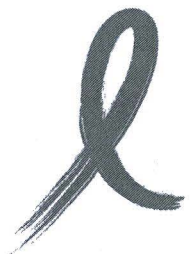
- In the United States, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).
- The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it.
- This year, SAAM is celebrating its 17th anniversary with the theme “Embrace Your Voice” to inform individuals on how they can use their words to promote safety, respect, and equality to stop sexual violence before it happens.
- Individuals can embrace their voices to show their support for survivors, stand up to victim blaming, shut down rape jokes, correct harmful misconceptions, promote everyday consent, and practice healthy communications with children.
- We know that one month isn’t enough to solve the serious and widespread issue of sexual violence. However, the attention April generates is an opportunity to energize and expand prevention efforts throughout the year.

WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

- Sexual violence is a broad term and includes: rape, incest, child sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, unwanted sexual contact, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism.
- Sexual assault is a serious and widespread problem.
 - Nearly 1 in 5 women in the United States have experienced rape or attempted rape some time in their lives, and 1 in 67 American men have experienced rape or attempted rape.¹
- Sexual violence occurs when someone is forced or manipulated into unwanted sexual activity without their consent.
 - Consent means permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.
 - Reasons someone might not consent to sexual activity include fear, age, illness, disability, and/or influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Anyone can experience sexual violence, including children, teens, adults, and seniors.
- Those who sexually abuse can be acquaintances, family, trusted individuals, or strangers; of these, the first three are most common.

ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE + PREVENTION

- The good news is that prevention is possible, and it’s happening.
 - Individuals, communities, and the private sector are already successfully combating the risk of sexual violence through conversations, programs, policies, and research-based tools that promote safety, respect, and equality.
 - By promoting safe behaviors, thoughtful policies, and healthy relationships, we can create safe and equitable communities where every person is treated with respect.
- We are in a watershed moment.
 - With the country focused on this very important issue, we have an unprecedented opportunity to improve understanding and change behaviors. The time to rally communities and the broader public is now.



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH OVERVIEW

SAAM FAQ

What is the hashtag?

#SAAM

What is the official color of SAAM?

Teal is the official color of SAAM. The teal ribbon is the symbol of sexual violence prevention.

How do I order SAAM products?

You can purchase SAAM products such as stickers, palm cards, teal ribbon temporary tattoos, and more at the NSVRC Store: bit.ly/NSVRCstore

Are there free SAAM resources available?

Yes! The SAAM website (www.nsvrc.org/saam) provides free share graphics, printable posters, event planning guides, and more!

How can I get involved?

Use the Campaign Guide, Beginner's Guide to SAAM Event Planning blog series (bit.ly/SAAMBlogSeries), and planning guides to determine the best way to start a SAAM campaign in your community.

What is the NSVRC?

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) is the leading nonprofit in providing information and tools to prevent and respond to sexual violence. NSVRC translates research and trends into best practices that help individuals, communities, and service providers achieve real and lasting change. The center also works with the media to promote informed reporting. Every April, NSVRC leads SAAM, a campaign to educate and engage the public in addressing this widespread issue.

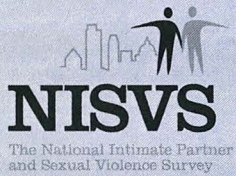
LEARN MORE

- NSVRC's media packet (<http://bit.ly/2BldBZT>) provides in-depth information and statistics on the complexities of this issue.
- Contact us! We can connect you with the appropriate expert at NSVRC or a local field expert. The NSVRC team is available for interviews and is a resource for reporting on sexual violence.
 - 877-739-3895
 - resources@nsvrc.org
- Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/nsvrc) and Twitter (twitter.com/nsvrc) and use #SAAM

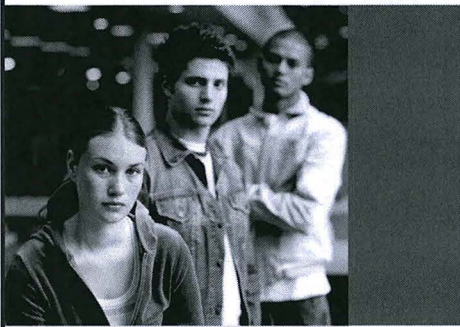
¹Black, M. C., Basile, K. C., Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Walters, M. L., Merrick, M. T., ... Stevens, M. R. (2011). *National Intimate Partner And Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf

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National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey



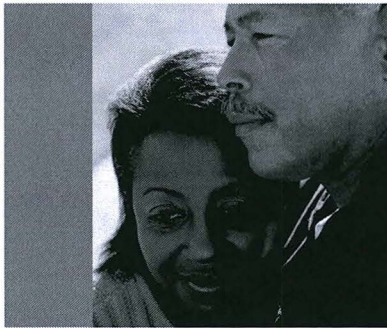
CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is an ongoing, nationally-representative telephone survey that collects detailed information on sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization of adult women and men in the United States. The survey collects data on past-year experiences of violence as well as lifetime experiences of violence. The 2010 survey is the first year of the survey and provides baseline data that will be used to track trends in sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence. CDC developed NISVS to better describe and monitor the magnitude of these forms of violence in the United States.

Highlights of 2010 Findings

Sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are widespread in the United States. The findings in this report underscore the heavy toll of this violence, the immediate impacts of victimization, and the lifelong health consequences.

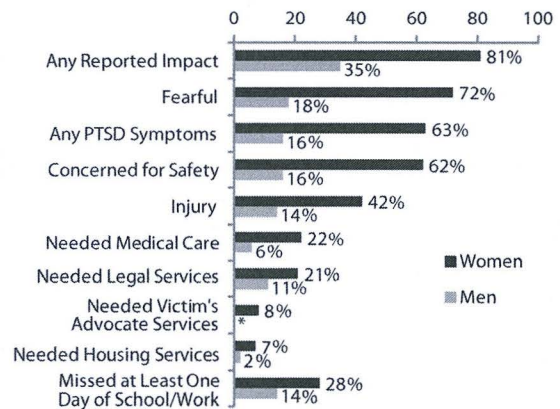
Women are disproportionately affected by sexual violence, intimate partner violence and stalking.

- 1.3 million women were raped during the year preceding the survey.
- Nearly 1 in 5 women have been raped in their lifetime while 1 in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime.
- 1 in 6 women have been stalked during their lifetime. 1 in 19 men have experienced stalking in their lifetime.
- 1 in 4 women have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner while 1 in 7 men experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner.



- 81% of women who experienced rape, stalking or physical violence by an intimate partner reported significant short or long term impacts related to the violence experienced in this relationship such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms and injury while 35% of men report such impacts of their experiences.
- Women who had experienced rape or stalking by any

IPV-Related Impacts Among Victims of Rape, Physical Violence, and/ or Stalking by an Intimate Partner



National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

perpetrator or physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime were more likely than women who did not experience these forms of violence to report having asthma, diabetes, and irritable bowel syndrome.

- Men and women who experienced these forms of violence were more likely to report frequent headaches, chronic pain, difficulty with sleeping, activity limitations, poor physical health and poor mental health than men and women who did not experience these forms of violence.

Female victims of intimate partner violence experienced different patterns of violence than male victims.

- Female victims experienced multiple forms of these types of violence; male victims most often experienced physical violence.

The majority of this victimization starts early in life.

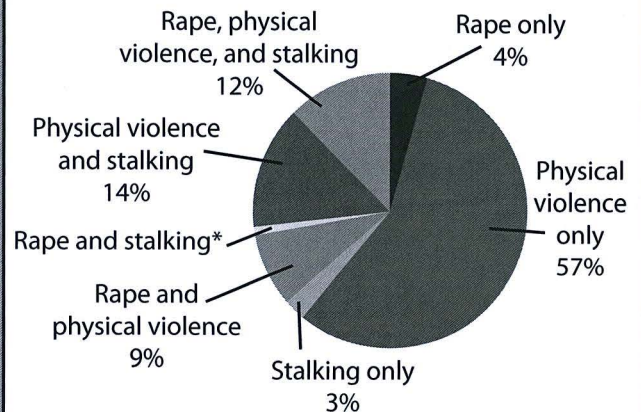
- Approximately 80% of female victims experienced their first rape before the age of 25 and almost half experienced the first rape before age 18 (30% between 11-17 years old and 12% at or before the age of 10).
- About 35% of women who were raped as minors were also raped as adults compared to 14% of women without an early rape history.
- 28% of male victims of rape were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger.

Summary

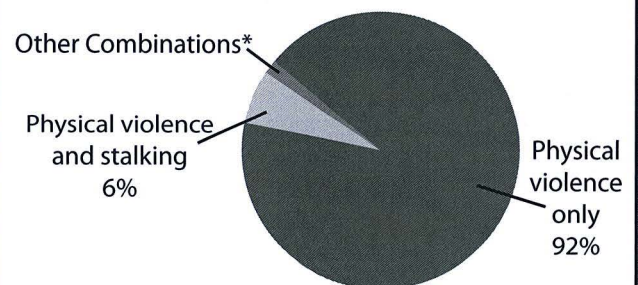
Overall, lifetime and one year estimates for sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence were alarmingly high for adult Americans; with IPV alone affecting more than 12 million people each year. Women are disproportionately impacted. They experienced high rates of severe intimate partner violence, rape and stalking, and long-term chronic disease and other health impacts such as PTSD symptoms. NISVS also shows that most rape and IPV is first experienced before age 24, highlighting the importance of preventing this violence before it occurs to ensure that all people can live life to their fullest potential.

Overlap of Lifetime Intimate Partner Rape, Stalking, and Physical Victimization

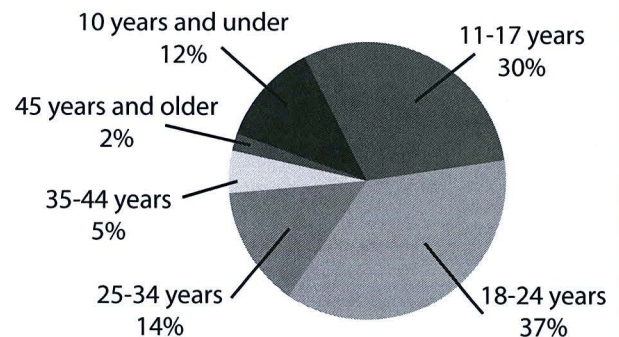
Female Victims



Male Victims



Age at Time of First Completed Rape Victimization in Lifetime Among Female Victims



Crime & Courts

New report offers a more in-depth look at Alaska's many sexual assault cases

Author: Devin Kelly

Updated: November 20, 2016

Published November 20, 2016

A new report from the state of Alaska paints perhaps the most detailed picture to date of sexual violence reported to law enforcement, showing that a huge disproportion of victims are between 11 and 17 years old, from Western Alaska and attacked by someone they knew whose age averaged only 22.

The report, a first-of-its-kind supplement to data sent by the state to the FBI, uses information not usually contained in FBI reports but was ordered to be studied by the Legislature in 2010.

That information includes the sex, age and relationship of victims and suspects, the location where crimes occurred and the weapons that were used, as first reported to authorities.

Hands, fists and feet were the most common weapons reported in rapes. Police were told the attacks most often occurred in homes. Caucasians were most likely to be the suspect in attacks on Caucasian and Asian women, while Alaska Natives were suspected in most attacks on other Alaska Natives. African-Americans were mostly likely to be suspected in attacks on African-Americans, but Caucasian victims were close behind.

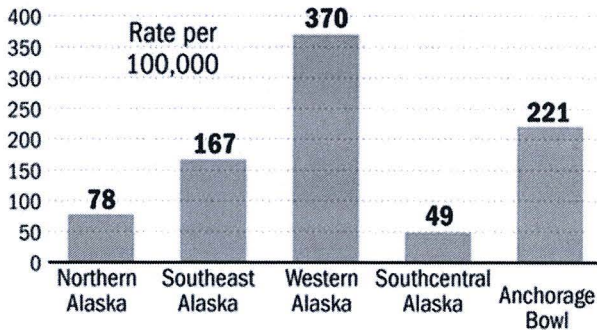
Anchorage — after Western Alaska, the second-highest region for the rate of reported rapes — is excluded from the demographic, weapon type and location data, leaving a gaping hole. Under state law, the information is voluntary, and Anchorage police declined to provide it for the report.

The Alaska Department of Public Safety official who supervises the division that commissioned the report said she hopes the information can contribute to a growing body of knowledge about sexual violence in the state.

Reported sexual assault incidents in Alaska for 2015

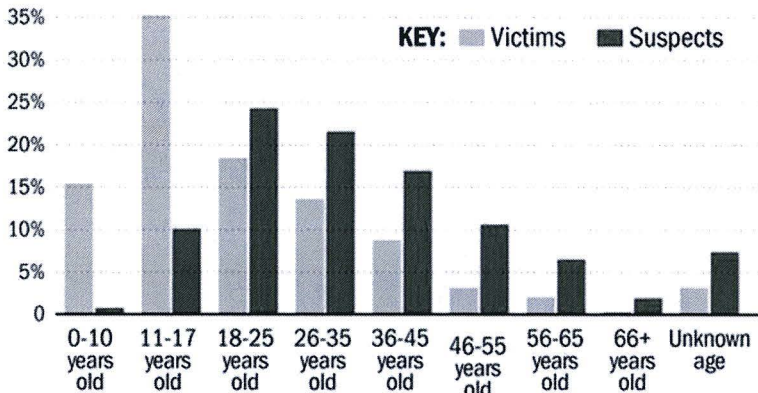
Rate by geographic area

Excludes incidents reported from specialized statewide agencies, such as the Alaska Bureau of Investigation or Alaska Wildlife Troopers due to the difficulty in determining the population those agencies represent.



By age of victims and suspects

Not all agencies provide victim and/or suspect information; the graphs are reflective of information provided by reporting agencies.



By relationship of victim to offender

Only includes incidents in which agencies provided victim/suspect relationship information. Counts reflect the number of relationships between victims and offenders, not the total number of victims and offenders. For example, 2 victims and 4 offenders would equal 8 relationships.

| Family | Counts | % | Otherwise known | Counts | % |
|---|--------|-----|-----------------------|--------------|----------|
| Child | 60 | 8.7 | Acquaintance | 194 | 28.1 |
| Other family member | 58 | 8.4 | Friend | 76 | 11.0 |
| Stepchild | 19 | 2.7 | Boyfriend/girlfriend | 60 | 8.7 |
| Sibling (brother or sister) | 18 | 2.6 | Otherwise unown | 45 | 6.5 |
| Child of boyfriend or girlfriend | 10 | 1.4 | Babysittee (the baby) | 10 | 1.4 |
| Grandchild | 8 | 1.2 | Neighbor | 6 | 0.9 |
| Spouse | 7 | 1.0 | Offender‡ | 4 | 0.6 |
| In-law | 3 | 0.4 | Employee | 2 | 0.3 |
| Parent | 3 | 0.4 | Employer | 1 | 0.1 |
| Stepsibling (stepbrother or stepsister) | 3 | 0.4 | Unknown | Count | % |
| Grandparent | 2 | 0.3 | Relationship unknown | 77 | 11.1 |
| Common-law spouse | 1 | 0.1 | Victim was stranger | 23 | 3.3 |
| Stepparent | 1 | 0.1 | | | |

‡ "Victim was offender" is defined by the FBI NIBRS program as when the victim is also an offender in the incident. For example, a woman attacks a man with a knife (aggravated assault). She is subdued and raped by the man she attacked. In this case, the relationship may be listed as victim was offender.

Alaska's law enforcement agencies report crime statistics to the FBI each year. Those statistics make up the annual Uniform Crime Report, which showed rising violent crime rates across the board in Alaska in 2015, including murder and rape.

But for the first time, the report included a state-issued supplement, "Felony Sexual Offenses 2015." The sexual offenses data in the report is separate from the national UCR report, which showed that rape was one of several violent offenses, including homicide, that increased in 2015.

The national rape data can't be compared directly to the state data in the new supplemental report, because the methodologies are different.

A person repeatedly raped by a single suspect would likely lead to several offenses being reported in the national program, but a single victim with several statute violations in the state program.

The state's reporting program stems from legislation in 2010 that added felony-level sex offenses to the data that agencies are required to report to the state.

Officials from the Alaska Department of Public Safety met to decide what data falls into that category. Lisa Purinton, program coordinator for the Department of Public Safety, said officials decided to make many of the supplemental information requests optional for local law-enforcement departments.

"Given the nature of the offense, there's a lot of times you won't have that information available, especially when suspects and relationships are unknowns," Purinton said.

The Anchorage Police Department did not provide such information. That could skew the data, Purinton acknowledged.

Anchorage police spokeswoman Jennifer Castro said in an email that the department has only reported what it was required to in the past, "as some metrics could not be obtained easily."

She said the department has recently expanded its data collection efforts, however, and is now collecting data on victims and suspects, including age, sex and race — the information contained in the new report.

Purinton said the report aims to capture the offense as it's first reported to law enforcement. It doesn't track the outcomes, such as whether a suspect was convicted.

That's because of the nature of the crime, Purinton said. Most sexual assault cases never go to trial, often because of a lack of evidence to support the allegations or because the victim decides not to testify.

Sexual assault in Alaska has been studied before, but efforts to collect data continue to intensify. A February 2009 University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center report on sexual assaults in smaller communities was described as the first of its kind.

Another report, the Alaska Victimization Survey, conducted every five years by the UAA Justice Center, found in a survey of 2,027 women in 2015 that intimate partner violence and sexual violence had declined since 2010, but concluded that the rates "remain unacceptably high."

About this Author

Devin Kelly

Devin Kelly covers Anchorage city government and general assignments.