Alaska Victimization Survey: Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence in the Nome Census Area



Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault *Lauree Morton*



University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center André B. Rosay, Brad Myrstol, Marny Rivera

February 2015





- Designed to establish a baseline for estimates of intimate partner & sexual violence in the Nome Census Area.
- Modeled after the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Surveillance System (CDC) & the 2010 Alaska Victimization Survey (UAA).
- Surveys were administered by RTI International.
- Surveys were conducted by phone in the Nome Census Area (spring/summer 2014).



CDVSA AK Victimization Survey in Nome Census Area

Nome Census Area







Prepared by: Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development September 2011 Source: US Census

2010 TIGERline





- Survey was approved by multiple institutional review boards and was supported by the Bering Sea Women's Group and the Kawerak Regional Wellness Forum.
- Survey procedures were designed to maximize the safety and confidentiality of all respondents.
- Respondents were randomly selected (only adult females were eligible to participate). Called both land lines and cell phones.
- Final sample includes 265 adult women surveyed from April to June 2014.



- The sample provides a good representation of the population. Nonetheless, all results are weighted to control for selection, non-response, and coverage.
- There are some very important limitations to this survey. In particular, respondents were limited to English-speaking adult women residing in a household with at least one land or cell phone line. Surveys were only conducted from April to June 2014.



- The questions in the survey are very graphic because they are "behaviorally specific."
- For example, we ask: "How many of your romantic or sexual partners have ever slapped you?"
 - Avoid legal definitions (e.g., 'assault')
 - Avoid defining victims, survivors
 - Attribute blame to the perpetrators



Intimate Partner Violence Definitions



- Intimate partner violence includes two measures:
 - A Threats of physical violence.
 - B Physical violence.
 - Both include intimate partners only, defined as romantic or sexual partners.
 - Measures are then combined into a single 'intimate partner violence' composite.
- Threats of physical violence by intimate partners:
 - Have your romantic or sexual partners made threats to physically harm you?



Intimate Partner Violence Definitions



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?



Intimate Partner Violence Estimates



Lifetime Estimates	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 2,869)
Intimate Partner Violence ¹	40.3%	1,156
A. Threats	18.7%	537
B. Physical Violence	40.1%	1,150

^{1 –} Includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence by intimate partners.

- 40.3% of adult women in the Nome Census Area (or 1,156) experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime,
 - 18.7% (or 537) experienced threats of physical violence,
 - 40.1% (or 1,150) experienced physical violence.



Intimate Partner Violence Estimates



Past Year Estimates	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 2,869)
Intimate Partner Violence ¹	8.6%	247
A. Threats	2.7%	77
B. Physical Violence	8.5%	244

- 1 Includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence by intimate partners.
 - 8.6% of adult women in the Nome Census Area (or 247) experienced intimate partner violence in the past year,
 - 2.7% (or 77) experienced threats of physical violence,
 - 8.5% (or 244) experienced physical violence.



Sexual Violence Definitions



Sexual violence includes two measures:

- A Alcohol or drug involved sexual assault.
- B Forcible sexual assault.
- Measures are not limited to intimate partners.
- Measures are then combined into a single 'sexual violence' composite.

Alcohol or drug involved sexual assault:

- When you were alcohol or drug intoxicated <u>and unable to</u> <u>consent</u>, has anyone...
 - Had vaginal sex with you?
 - Made you receive anal sex?
 - Made you perform oral sex?
 - Made you receive oral sex?



Sexual Violence Definitions



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?



Sexual Violence Estimates



Lifetime Estimates	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 2,869)
Sexual Violence ¹	31.0%	889
A. Alcohol or Drug Involved Sexual Assault	22.3%	640
B. Forcible Sexual Assault	20.8%	597

- 1 Includes both alcohol or drug involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.
 - 31.0% of adult women in the Nome Census Area (or 889) experienced sexual violence in their lifetime,
 - 22.3% (or 640) experienced at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault,
 - 20.8% (or 597) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.



Sexual Violence Estimates



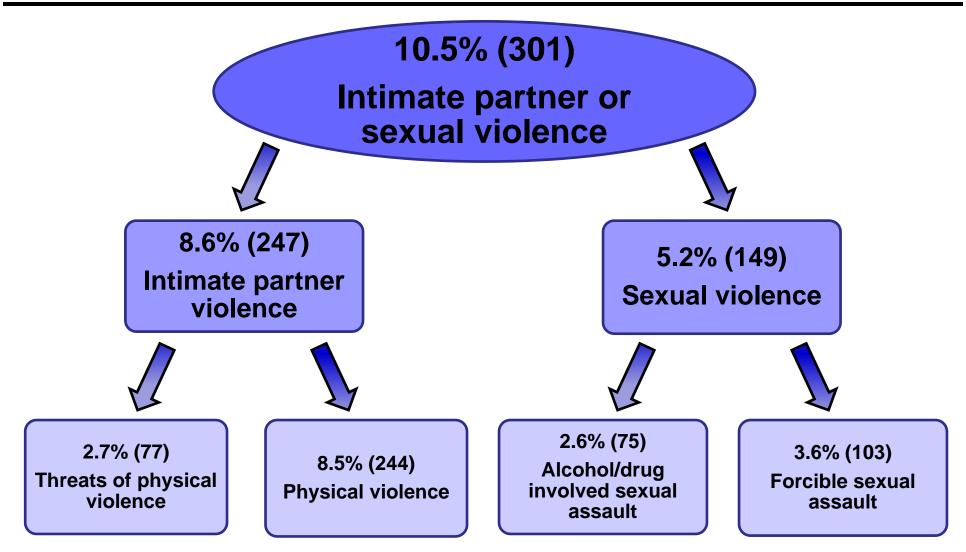
Past Year Estimates	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 2,869)
Sexual Violence ¹	5.2%	149
A. Alcohol or Drug Involved Sexual Assault	2.6%	75
B. Forcible Sexual Assault	3.6%	103

- 1 Includes both alcohol or drug involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.
 - 5.2% of adult women in the Nome Census Area (or 149) experienced sexual violence in the past year,
 - 2.6% (or 75) experienced at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault,
 - 3.6% (or 103) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.



Summary of Past Year Estimates



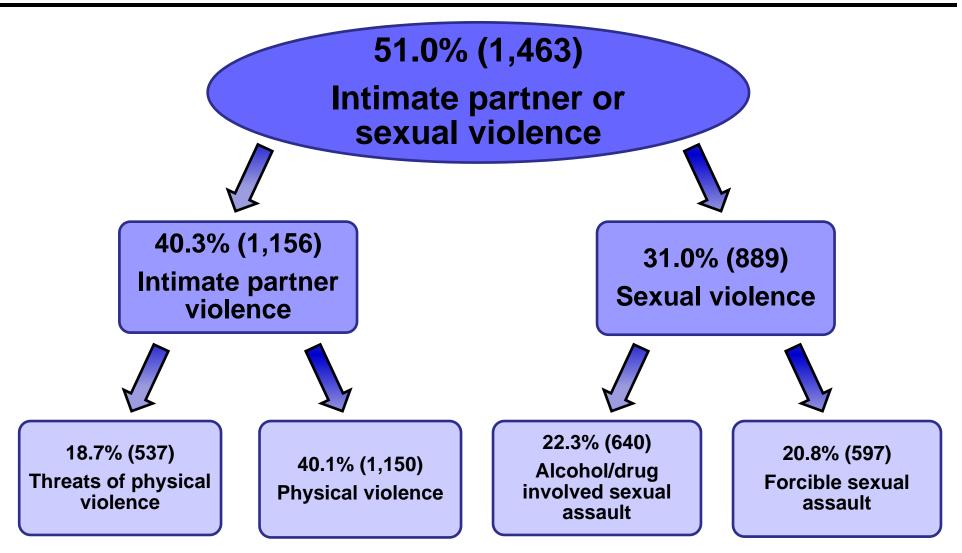


Note: percentages do not sum because some respondents experienced multiple victimizations.



Summary of Lifetime Estimates





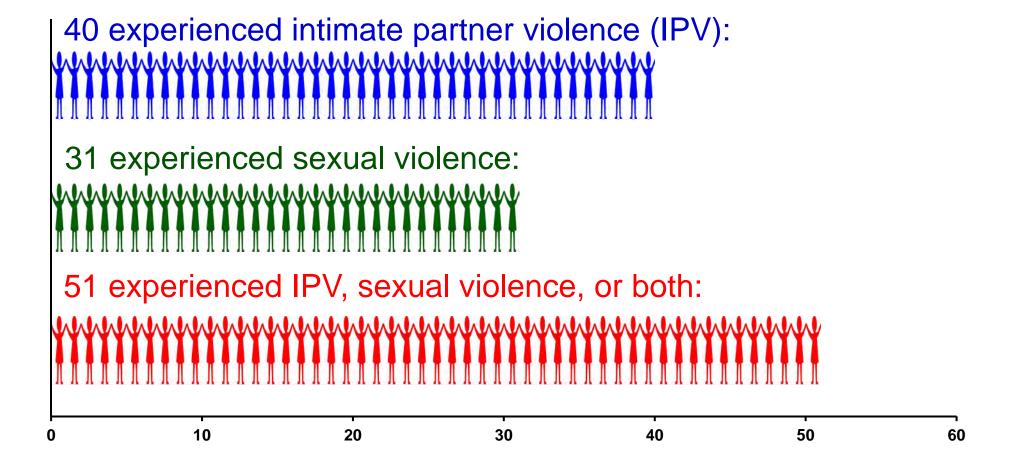
Note: percentages do not sum because some respondents experienced multiple victimizations.



Lifetime Estimates



Out of every 100 adult women in the Nome Census Area:





VIOLENCE Important Limitations



- Survey only provides a regional average and masks important differences (for example, differences by age or race/ethnicity).
- Survey excluded non-English speaking women, women without phone access, and women not living in a residence (e.g., shelters, hospitals, homeless, prisons).
 Estimates may be significantly higher among women excluded from the survey.



ESTIC VIOLENCE Important Limitations * Accountability Important Limitations



- Measured number of victims, not number of victimizations. The number of victimizations is higher than the number of victims.
- Survey did not measure all forms of intimate partner violence or sexual violence.
 Estimates are therefore conservative.
- Estimates may also be conservative because of the continuing stigma of reporting intimate partner and sexual violence.



A Special Thank You!



We sincerely thank the women in the Nome Census Area who invested time and effort to participate in the Alaska Victimization Survey.

They re-lived horrendous experiences – experiences no one should be subjected to – to help the rest of us understand the extent of intimate partner and sexual violence in the Nome Census Area.

Thank you!



A Special Thank You!



We also thank the Bering Sea Women's Group and the Kawerak Regional Wellness Forum





The Bering Sea Women's Group offers a wide range of advocacy and support services, including safety planning, emergency shelter, crisis intervention, referrals and help with housing and public assistance, children's services, parenting classes and much more. 24-hour crisis line: 1-800-570-5444 or 907-443-5444.



Contacts





Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Lauree Morton, Executive Director (Juneau) (907) 465-5503 lauree.morton@alaska.gov



University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center

André B. Rosay, Director (Anchorage) (907) 786-1821 abrosay @uaa.alaska.edu