

# Alaska Victimization Survey: Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence in Alaska – 2010 to 2015

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UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA ANCHORAGE

# Senate Judiciary Committee Recommendations



## Alaska State Legislature

**Senator Hollis French, Chair**  
State Capitol, Room 417  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
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**Committee Members:**  
Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Senator Dennis Egan  
Senator Lesil McGuire  
Senator Gene Therriault

## Senate Judiciary Committee

*Report and Recommendations: Reducing Sexual Assault in Alaska*

“The legislature should fund a victimization survey to determine the actual rate of both reported and unreported sexual assaults in Alaska” (Senate Judiciary Committee, 2009).



# Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



## **Council Vision:**

Alaska, freed from domestic and sexual violence.

## **Council Mission:**

Provide safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault through a system of statewide crisis intervention, perpetrator accountability and prevention services.

# Alaska Victimization Survey



- Designed to provide estimates of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in Alaska.
- Implemented as a surveillance system, modeled after CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS).
- Surveys were conducted annually by phone, using randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers.
- Maximized respondent safety and confidentiality.

# Alaska Victimization Survey



- Survey respondents were limited to English-speaking adult women residing in a household with at least one land or cell phone line.
- Conducted statewide surveys in 2010 and 2015.
- Conducted regional surveys in 2011 to 2014 (Anchorage, Bristol Bay, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Matsu, Nome, Sitka, Yukon-Kuskokwim, North Slope, Aleutians).
- <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/avs>

# 2015 Victimization Survey



- Final sample in 2015 included 3,027 adult women in Alaska.
- Interviews conducted from May to August 2015.
- The sample provides a good representation of the population. Nonetheless, all results are weighted to control for selection, non-response, and coverage.
- Provides lifetime and past-year estimates of intimate partner violence and sexual violence.

# Alaska Victimization Survey



- 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



- 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



- 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



Lifetime Estimates (2015)	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 264,204)
Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	40.4%	106,738
A. Threats	25.6%	67,636
B. Physical Violence	39.6%	104,625

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

- *40.4% of adult women in Alaska (or 106,738) experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime,*
  - *25.6% (or 67,636) experienced threats of physical violence,*
  - *39.6% (or 104,625) experienced physical violence.*

# Intimate Partner Violence



Past Year Estimates (2015)	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 264,204)
Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	6.4%	16,909
A. Threats	3.0%	7,926
B. Physical Violence	5.9%	15,588

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

- *6.4% of adult women in Alaska (or 16,909) experienced intimate partner violence in the past year,*
  - *3.0% (or 7,926) experienced threats of physical violence,*
  - *5.9% (or 15,588) 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 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?*

# 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 (2015)	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 264,204)
Sexual Violence <sup>1</sup>	33.1%	87,452
A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved Sexual Assault	22.6%	59,710
B. Forcible Sexual Assault	23.5%	62,088

1 – Includes both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

- *33.1% of adult women in Alaska (or 87,452) experienced sexual violence in their lifetime,*
  - *22.6% (or 59,710) experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault,*
  - *23.5% (or 62,088) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.*

# Sexual Violence Estimates

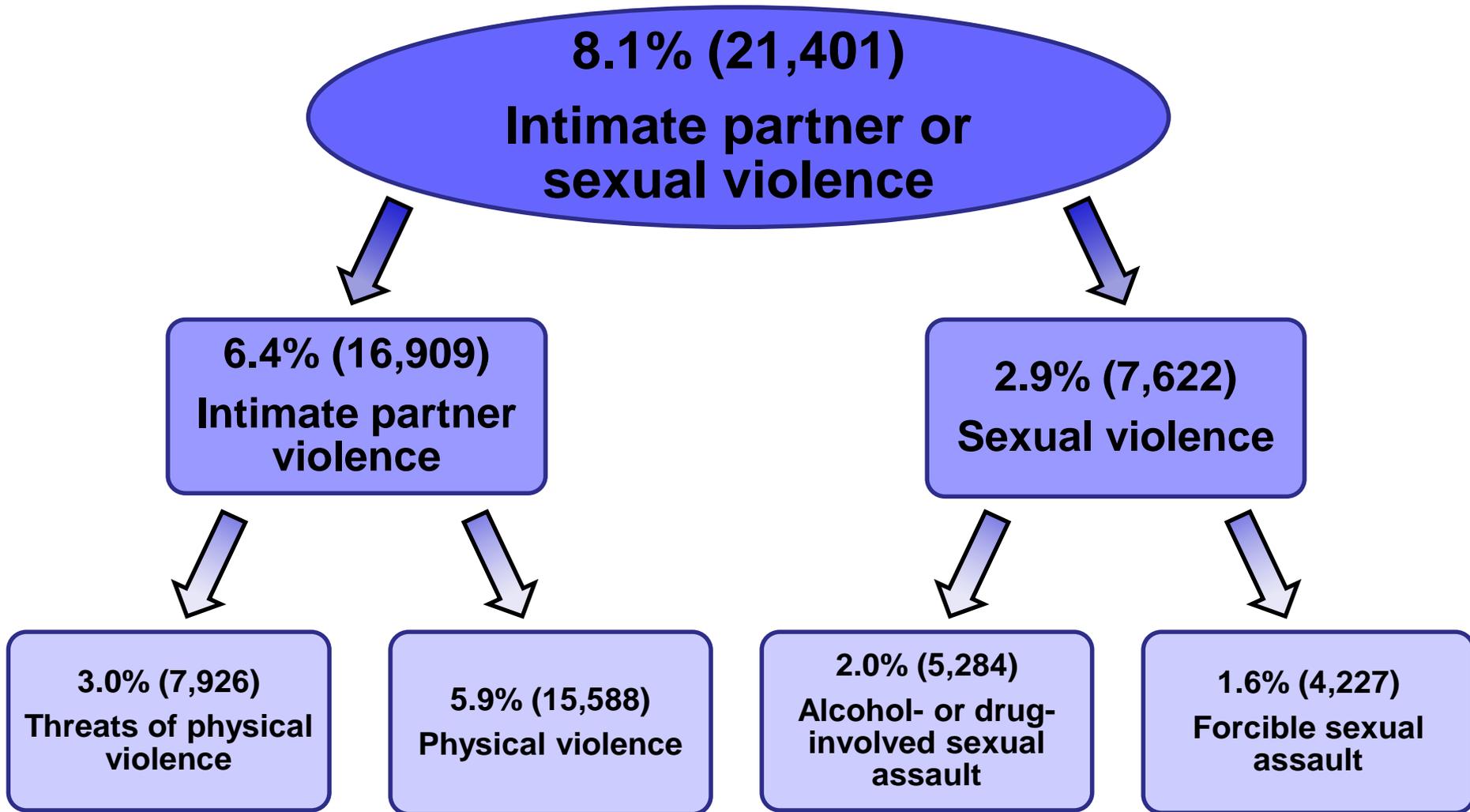


Past Year Estimates (2015)	Estimated %	Estimated N (out of 264,204)
Sexual Violence <sup>1</sup>	2.9%	7,662
A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved Sexual Assault	2.0%	5,284
B. Forcible Sexual Assault	1.6%	4,227

1 – Includes both alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

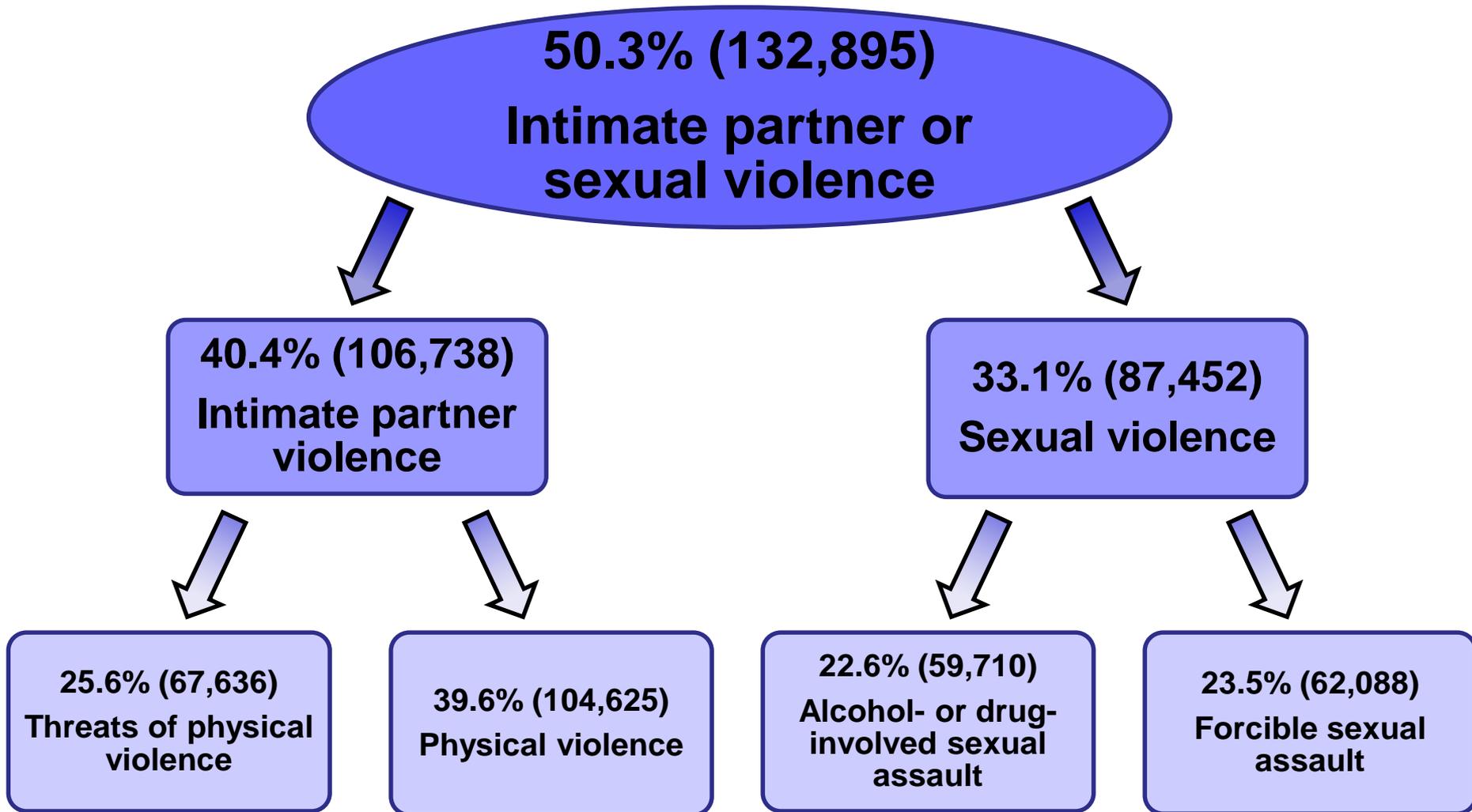
- *2.9% of adult women in Alaska (or 7,662) experienced sexual violence in the past year,*
  - *2.0% (or 5,284) experienced at least one alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault,*
  - *1.6% (or 4,227) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.*

# 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.

# Important Limitations



- Survey only provides statewide estimates and masks important differences (e.g., 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, homeless camps, prisons).
- Estimates may be significantly higher among women excluded from the survey.

# 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 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 Alaska.**

**Thank you!**

# Trends from 2010 to 2015



- Prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence is decreasing.
- Our prevention and intervention efforts are working.
- Unfortunately, the number of victims remains unacceptably high.
- Trends are headed in the right direction, but we need to strengthen our efforts for all women to be safe in Alaska.

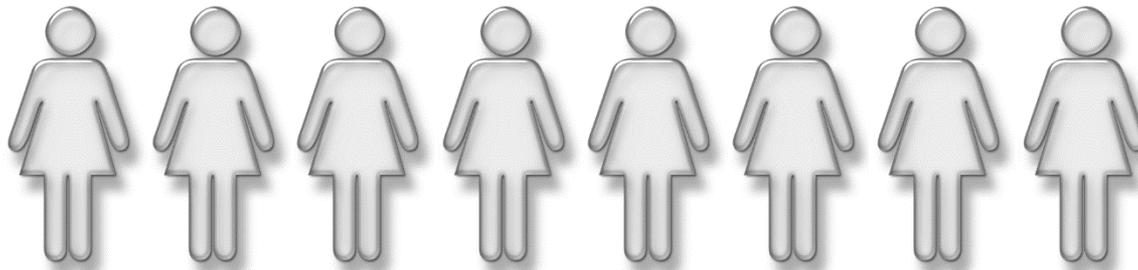
# Past Year Estimates: 2010 to 2015



**In 2010, 12 in 100 women had experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in the past year:**



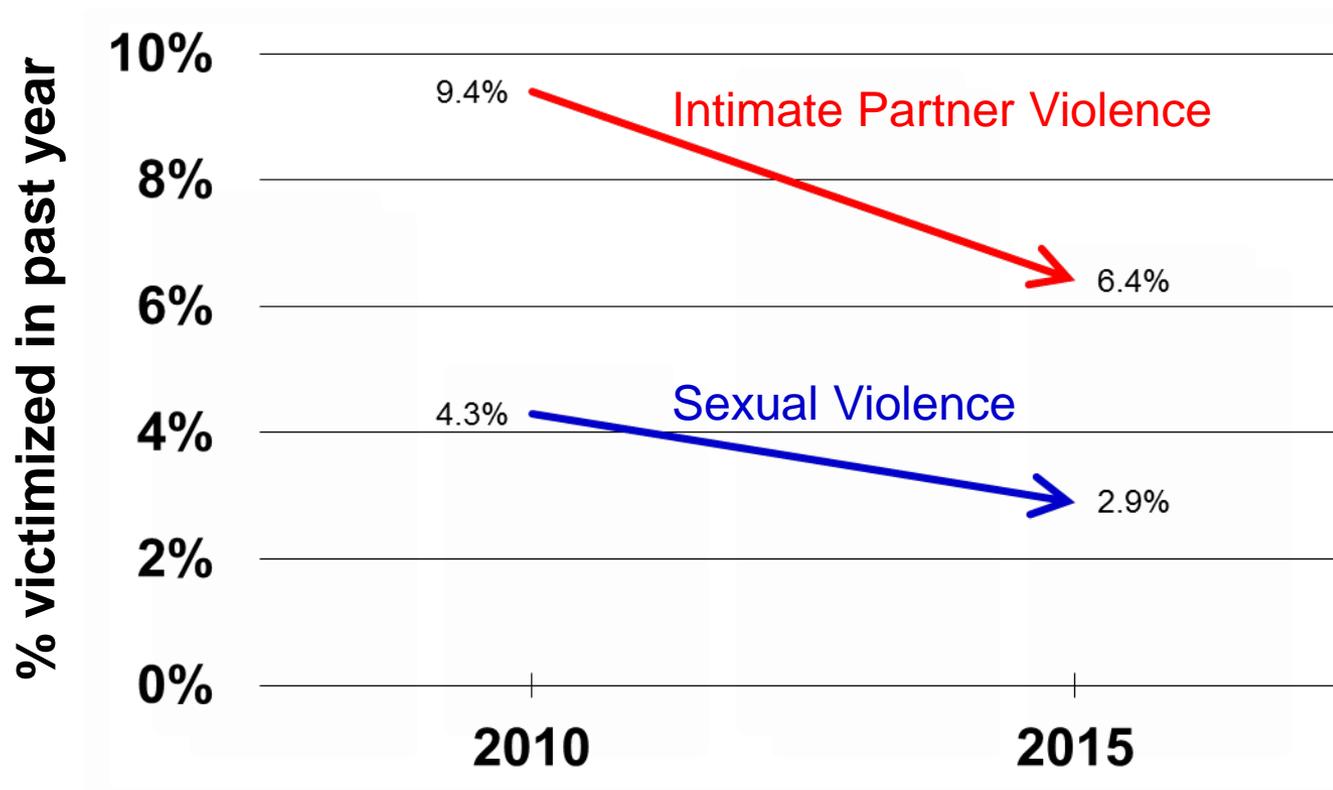
**By 2015, that number dropped to 8 in 100:**



# Past Year Estimates: 2010 to 2015



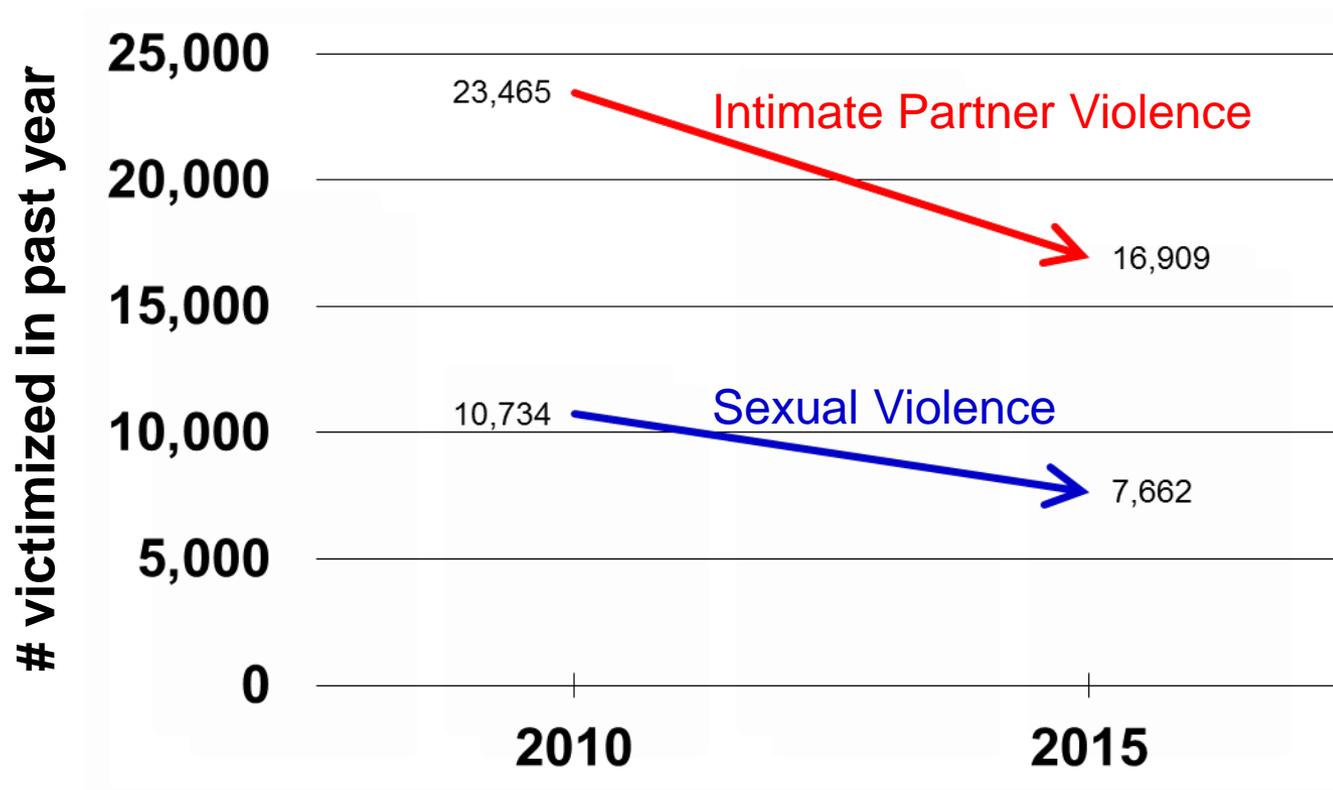
**Intimate partner violence decreased by 32%**  
**Sexual violence decreased by 33%**



# Past Year Estimates: 2010 to 2015



**6,556 fewer women experienced intimate partner violence**  
**3,072 fewer women experienced sexual violence**





# Past Year Estimates: 2010 to 2015



Past Year Estimates	2010	2015	% Diff.
<b>Intimate Partner Violence</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>↓ 32%</b>
A. Threats	5.8%	3.0%	↓ 48%
B. Physical Violence	8.6%	5.9%	↓ 31%
<b>Sexual Violence</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>↓ 33%</b>
A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved	3.6%	2.0%	↓ 44%
B. Forcible	2.5%	1.6%	↓ 36%
<b>Any Violence</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>↓ 31%</b>

# Past Year Estimates: 2010 to 2015



Past Year Estimates	2010 (out of 249,631)	2015 (out of 264,204)	Diff.
<b>Intimate Partner Violence</b>	<b>23,465</b>	<b>16,909</b>	↓ <b>6,556</b>
A. Threats	14,479	7,926	↓ <b>6,553</b>
B. Physical Violence	21,468	15,588	↓ <b>5,880</b>
<b>Sexual Violence</b>	<b>10,734</b>	<b>7,662</b>	↓ <b>3,072</b>
A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved	8,987	5,284	↓ <b>3,703</b>
B. Forcible	6,241	4,227	↓ <b>2,014</b>
<b>Any Violence</b>	<b>29,456</b>	<b>21,401</b>	↓ <b>8,055</b>



# Lifetime Estimates: 2010 to 2015



Lifetime Estimates	2010	2015	% Diff.
<b>Intimate Partner Violence</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>↓ 15%</b>
A. Threats	31.0%	25.6%	↓ 17%
B. Physical Violence	44.8%	39.6%	↓ 12%
<b>Sexual Violence</b>	<b>37.1%</b>	<b>33.1%</b>	<b>↓ 11%</b>
A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved	26.8%	22.6%	↓ 16%
B. Forcible	25.6%	23.5%	↓ 8%
<b>Any Violence</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>50.3%</b>	<b>↓ 14%</b>

# Lifetime Estimates: 2010 to 2015



<b>Lifetime Estimates</b>	<b>2010</b> <small>(out of 249,631)</small>	<b>2015</b> <small>(out of 264,204)</small>	<b>Diff.</b>
<b>Intimate Partner Violence</b>	<b>118,824</b>	<b>106,738</b>	<b>↓ 12,086</b>
A. Threats	77,386	67,636	↓ 9,750
B. Physical Violence	111,835	104,625	↓ 7,210
<b>Sexual Violence</b>	<b>92,613</b>	<b>87,452</b>	<b>↓ 5,161</b>
A. Alcohol- or Drug-Involved	66,901	59,710	↓ 7,191
B. Forcible	63,906	62,088	↓ 1,818
<b>Any Violence</b>	<b>146,284</b>	<b>132,895</b>	<b>↓ 13,389</b>

# Trends from 2010 to 2015



## Intimate Partner Violence:



- Annual prevalence decreased by 32%.
- 6,556 fewer victims in 2015 than in 2010.

## Sexual Violence:



- Annual prevalence decreased by 33%.
- 3,072 fewer victims in 2015 than in 2010.

**While the rates are trending in the right direction, they remain unacceptably high.**

# Number of Victims in 2015



**21,401 adult women in Alaska experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in the past year:**

- 16,909 experienced intimate partner violence.
- 7,662 experienced sexual violence.
- Some experienced both.
- Some experienced violence multiple times.
- Some experienced other forms of violence.

**While the numbers are getting better, they remain unacceptably high.**

# Number of Victims in 2015



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

**40 experienced intimate partner violence (IPV):**



**33 experienced sexual violence:**



**50 experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both:**



**Half of adult women in Alaska (more than 130,000)  
have experienced violence in their lifetime.**

# Today to 2020 and beyond



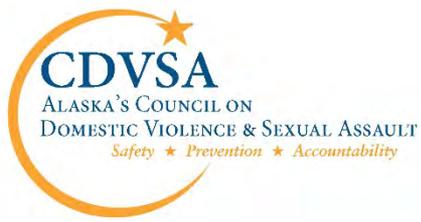
## For Alaska to be freed from domestic and sexual violence:

Must support CDVSA's mission to provide safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault through a system of:



- Prevention services,
- Crisis intervention, and
- Perpetrator accountability.

**We can and we must continue to improve  
the safety of women in Alaska.**



# Contacts



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