



## Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
& SEXUAL ASSAULT

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### For Immediate Release

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### **Rates of Stalking in Anchorage Show High Correlation to DV/SA**

On Thursday the **Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault** and the **University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center** released the **Anchorage results** of the **2015 Alaska Victimization Survey data on stalking**.

According to the survey, **one in four (1:4) adult women in Anchorage have been victims of stalking in their lifetime, while one in 18 (1:18) were stalked in the year prior to the survey being conducted.** That is slightly lower than the statewide lifetime rate of one in three (1:3) adult women and one in 17 (1:17) victims in the year just prior to the survey. Respondents were said to experience stalking if they reported nonconsensual contacts multiple times and expressed fear. The survey used the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey's definition of stalking.

**“There is a high correlation between stalking and domestic violence and sexual assault in both Anchorage and Alaska statewide,”** said André Rosay, Ph.D., of the UAA Justice Center, the survey's principle researcher. **“But among Anchorage women who experienced intimate partner violence or sexual violence, stalking is even more common. The data shows that in their lifetime 46 percent (46%) of those women were stalked.”**

Jayne Andreen, Interim Director of the Council, said the Council uses the results from the Alaska

Victimization Survey to guide planning and policy development and to evaluate programs. “The high correlation between stalking and domestic violence and sexual assault shines the light on the need to put more attention and resources on how to specifically address stalking.”

“When we looked at the fact that more than 30,000 women in Anchorage experienced stalking, we realized how important it is for programs, first responders, law enforcement and the Courts to address the perpetrators and to stop it,” said Suzi Pearson, Executive Director of Abused Women’s Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) in Anchorage.

“Receiving unwanted phone calls, voice or text messages, being approached at home, work, or school, and being watched or followed from a distance are just a few of the many frightening unwanted contacts we know victims of sexual assault often experience as a precursor to physical violence,” said Keeley Olson of Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) in Anchorage.

“Recognizing that February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, it is especially important to recognize how often stalking is a part of teen dating violence. Our Anchorage violence prevention programs are working to educate our communities about the seriousness of these behaviors.”

The 2015 AVS data shows, among lifetime victims of stalking in Anchorage:

- 64.9% were watched or followed from a distance;
- 76.5% were approached at home, work, or school;
- 24.8% found strange or threatening items;
- 39.7% had their home or car intruded;
- 77.8% received unwanted voice or text messages;
- 82.8% received unwanted phone calls;
- 56.3% received unwanted emails or messages;
- 54.7% received unwanted cards, flowers, or gifts.

“Taken separately these actions by a perpetrator may not appear serious to law enforcement,” Andreen said, “but we need to begin looking at them as a significant part of domestic and sexual violence and address them accordingly.”

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The complete results of the statewide survey and each regional survey can be viewed online at: [www.uaa.alaska.edu/justice/avs](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/justice/avs) or on the Council's website at [www.dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA](http://www.dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA).

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**Note to media - Additional contacts for this story can be reached at the following numbers:**

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