



Elder Abuse: More than 1 in 9 Alaskan women 60+ experienced abuse in the past year

André B. Rosay and L. Diane Casto

*This is a transcript of a video presentation, which can be found at
<https://youtu.be/DT5KdyOmNJE>*



Elder Abuse

Alaska Victimization Survey results show that

More than 1 in 9 Alaskan women age 60+ experienced psychological or physical abuse in the past year.



[André Rosay:]

Hello, I'm André Rosay. I'm the director of the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and I am here today with Diane Casto who is the new executive director for the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

[L. Diane Casto:]

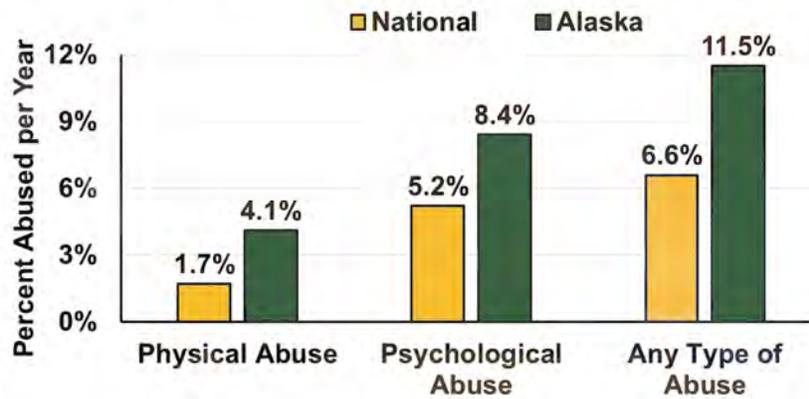
Hi, and thank you, André. I'm really glad to be here with you today and really excited about the work that we're doing together. You know, we believe very strongly that the more data we have, the more information we have, the better decisions we can make and the better we can pinpoint the work that we need to do. This project is funded by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and we're excited to be a partner in this.

[André Rosay:]

Thanks, and today we're talking about elder abuse. Our Alaska Victimization Survey looked at the prevalence of both psychological and physical abuse against elders here in the state of Alaska.

For physical abuse, we looked at how many women aged 60 and older had experienced intimate partner violence or sexual violence, and for psychological abuse we looked at how many had experienced psychological aggression or coercive control. Unfortunately the numbers are very high.

Figure 2. Percentage of Women Age 60+ Experiencing Psychological or Physical Abuse Per Year



Note: All differences between national and Alaska percentages are statistically significant ($p < .05$).
Sources: *Alaska Victimization Survey (2010-2015)* & *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2010)*

Percentage of Women Age 60+ Experiencing Psychological or Physical Abuse Per Year

	Physical abuse	Psychological abuse	Any type of abuse
National	1.7%	5.2%	6.6%
Alaska	4.1%	8.4%	11.5%

We found that 11 and a half percent of Alaskan women aged 60 or older had experienced psychological abuse or physical abuse or both in the past year. That's more than one out of every nine Alaskan women aged 60 or older.

11.5% of Alaska Women Age 60+
Psychologically or Physically
Abused in Past Year

Overall, we found that more than 7,000 Alaskan women aged 60 or older had experienced psychological abuse or physical abuse or both in the past year.

More than 7000
Alaska Women Age 60+
Psychologically or Physically
Abused in Past Year
1 in 9

We also found that the Alaska rates are significantly higher than the national rates and this was particularly true for physical abuse. For physical abuse the Alaska rate was almost two-and-a-half times as high as the national rate.

Physical Abuse per Year
Alaska Women Age 60+
2.4 x National Rate

Alaska=4.1%
National=1.7%

So these numbers are clearly unacceptable. We have a significant amount of work to do. I should also emphasize that these numbers do not include financial exploitation which we know is a serious problem for many elders in the state of Alaska.

[L. Diane Casto:]

You are so right - these numbers are unacceptable. One in nine is not okay for any situation.

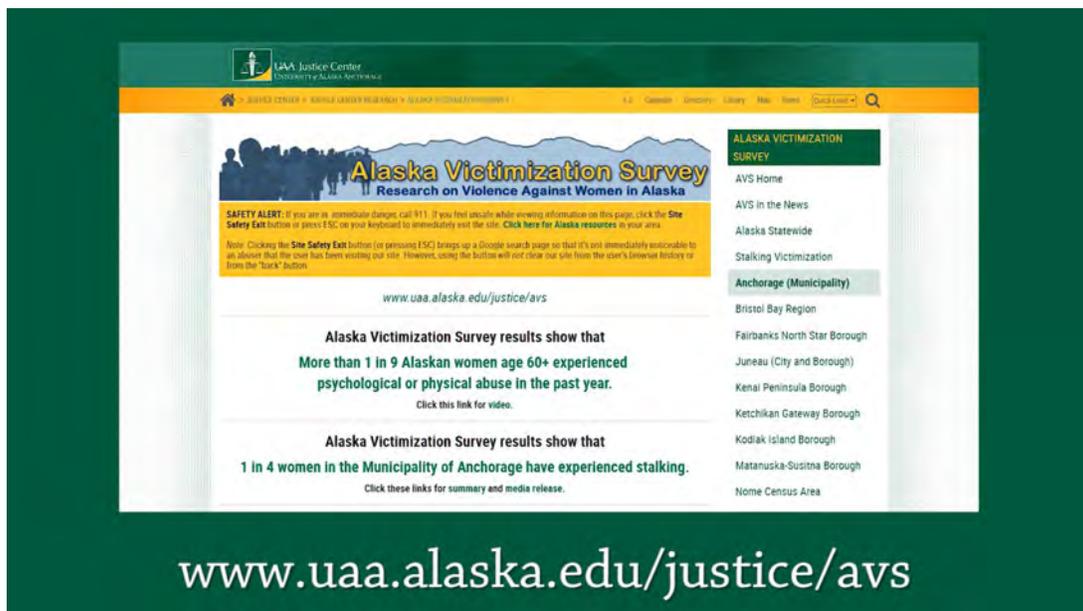
You know, and I think what is also disappointing is that we always rate so high and so much higher than the national rate so, you know, I think this is an opportunity for us to really pinpoint this population which often is neglected. We do not think about those sixty and over as being psychologically and physically abused in this manner, so I think we have clearly not had an emphasis on it as much as we should, that the public doesn't see this as a problem as much as it is, and so having this data will now really help us direct the work we need to do, the outreach we need to do, the education that we need to continue doing and have a more specific focus on this population.

So we are really excited to have this data and to continue moving it forward and use it to make good decisions about our next steps.

[André Rosay:]

Thank You Diane, and I also want to thank the more than 10,000 women who participated in the Alaska Victimization Survey. Their voices really are a call to action for all of us.

And if you'd like more information about the Alaska Victimization Survey, you can go to the Justice Center website where we have lots of information about the studies that we've conducted since 2010.



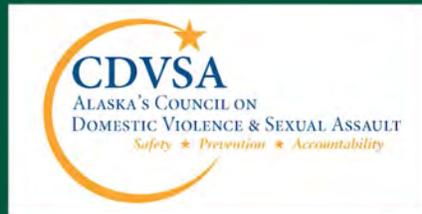
[[L. Diane Casto:]

Thank you to the University for reaching out and doing this project; and now it's up to us to make sure these women have the safety they need, that they have the resources they need, and that we can help them do that.

So if anyone needs services, if you know of someone who's being abused, please call our office. We can direct you to the right resources, we can get you the services you need.

Also reports can be made to the Adult Protective Services for the State of Alaska. So let's all work together to make sure that we begin reducing these numbers and end the abuse of this population.





Funding for this project was provided by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Further information

For more detailed information about these findings, see:

“Older Women Face Psychological and Physical Abuse” by André B. Rosay. *Alaska Justice Forum* 34(1) (Summer 2017). <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/justice-center/alaska-justice-forum/34/1summer2017/a.older-women.cshtml>

For further information from the Alaska Victimization Survey, see <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/justice/avs/>.

Reference

“Elder Abuse: More Than 1 in 9 Alaskan Women 60+ Experienced Abuse in the Past Year” (streaming video) by André B. Rosay and L. Diane Casto. (4:21 mins.). Produced and edited by Eric Baldwin, UAA Academic Innovations and eLearning. Anchorage, AK: Justice Center, University of Alaska Anchorage; Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Alaska Department of Public Safety, 14 Jun 2017. (<https://youtu.be/DT5KdyOmNJE>).