2010 Alaska Victimization Survey

Report to the Alaska State Legislature
1/24/11

University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center
André B. Rosay

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Lauree Morton
Presentation Overview

- Update on recent statistics from Uniform Crime Reports
- 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee recommendation for victimization survey
- FY10 Alaska Victimization Survey
- FY11 Alaska Victimization Surveys
Forcible rape is defined as the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.

UCR statistics show the number of forcible rapes reported to police each year.

Important limitations:
- Not all police agencies participate in the UCR program.
- These statistics only include rapes reported to police.
- These statistics exclude:
  - Statutory rapes.
  - Incapacitated rapes.
  - Rapes with male victims.
  - Other sex offenses.
  - Rapes with more serious offenses (e.g., homicide).
UCR Forcible Rape Statistics: 1996-2009

Source: UCR, 1996-2009
## UCR Forcible Rape Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007 to 2008</th>
<th>2008 to 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>-16.9%</td>
<td>+12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>-2.7%</td>
<td>+11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairbanks</td>
<td>-12.5%</td>
<td>+27.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Changes in UCR forcible rape statistics may be attributable to:
  - Changes in victimization rates,
  - Changes in reporting,
  - Changes in both victimization rates and reporting.

Source: UCR, 2007-2009
Forcible rape is still a more common form of violent crime in Alaska than in the U.S.

Source: UCR, 2009; Interpretation: 7% of violent crime reported to police in the US is attributable to rape; 12% of violent crime reported to police in Alaska is attributable to rape.
“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).

Source: http://www.ak senate.org/french/101609_Senate_Judiciary_report_on_s sexual_assault.pdf
Council Vision:
Alaska, free 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.
• Designed to establish a baseline with statewide intimate partner and sexual violence estimates.

• Modeled after the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Surveillance System (CDC, NIJ, DoD) and administered by RTI.

• Utilized a statewide random digit dial dual frame phone survey (both land and cell phone lines).

• Maximized respondent safety and confidentiality.
Alaska Victimization Survey Questions

- Begin with less sensitive questions
- Use behaviorally specific questions:
  - Avoid terms which respondents must define: “victim,” “rape,” “sexual assault,” or “domestic violence.” Instead, ask about behaviors and define when necessary. Example: “by vaginal sex, we mean that a man or boy put his penis in your vagina.”
- Attribute behaviors to perpetrators rather than respondents:
  - Avoid asking “did you have vaginal sex with others? Instead, ask “did others have vaginal sex with you?”
- Respondents were thankful for the survey (94% completed the entire 25 min. survey).
Survey Respondents

- Survey respondents were limited to English-speaking adult women residing in a household with at least one land or cell phone line.
- Includes 871 adult women throughout Alaska, surveyed in May/June 2010.
- Sample provides an excellent representation of the Alaska population of adult women.
- Sampling weights were used to control for selection, non-response, and coverage.
Survey Respondents

- Average age = 46 (ranges from 18 to 80+)
- 72% White, 15% Alaska Native
- 5% Hispanic
- 49% were married
- 35% had a high school degree or less
- 56% reported a household income < $50,000
- Geographically representative (68% are from Anchorage Municipality, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough)
• 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifetime Estimates</th>
<th>Estimated %</th>
<th>Estimated N (out of 247,238)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence(^1)</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>117,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>76,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td>110,763</td>
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\(^1\) – Includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence by intimate partners.

- 47.6% of adult women in Alaska (or 117,685) experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime,
  - 31.0% (or 76,644) experienced threats of physical violence,
  - 44.8% (or 110,763) experienced physical violence.
## Intimate Partner Violence Estimates

<table>
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<th>Past Year Estimates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence(^1)</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>23,240</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>14,340</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>21,262</td>
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\(^1\) – Includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence by intimate partners.

- 9.4% of adult women in Alaska (or 23,240) experienced intimate partner violence in the past year,
  - 5.8% (or 14,340) experienced threats of physical violence,
  - 8.6% (or 21,262) experienced physical violence.
• 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?
• 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

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<th>Estimated N (out of 247,238)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Violence&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>91,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Alcohol or Drug Involved Sexual Assault</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>66,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Forcible Sexual Assault</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>63,293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- 37.1% of adult women in Alaska (or 91,725) experienced sexual violence in their lifetime,
- 26.8% (or 66,260) experienced at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault,
- 25.6% (or 63,293) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.
### Sexual Violence Estimates

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<th>Past Year Estimates</th>
<th>Estimated %</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Violence¹</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>10,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Alcohol or Drug Involved Sexual Assault</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>8,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Forcible Sexual Assault</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>6,181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- 4.3% of adult women in Alaska (or 10,631) experienced sexual violence in the past year,
  - 3.6% (or 8,901) experienced at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault,
  - 2.5% (or 6,181) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.
Summary of Lifetime Estimates

58.6% (144,881)
Intimate partner or sexual violence

47.6% (117,685)
Intimate partner violence

31.0% (76,644)
Threats of physical violence

44.8% (110,763)
Physical violence

26.8% (66,260)
Alcohol/drug involved sexual assault

37.1% (91,725)
Sexual violence

25.6% (63,293)
Forcible sexual assault

Note: percentages do not sum because some respondents experienced multiple victimizations.
Summary of Past Year Estimates

11.8% (29,174)
Intimate partner or sexual violence

9.4% (23,240)
Intimate partner violence

5.8% (14,340)
Threats of physical violence

8.6% (21,262)
Physical violence

4.3% (10,631)
Sexual violence

3.6% (8,901)
Alcohol/drug involved sexual assault

2.5% (6,181)
Forcible sexual assault

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

• Survey only provides a statewide average and masks regional differences. Regional estimates may vary significantly.

• 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.
• 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.
We sincerely thank the women who invested time and effort to participate in the 2010 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!
FY10 Alaska Victimization Survey

- Survey provides the first statewide, comprehensive, and behaviorally specific measures of violence against Alaskan women
- Establishes a new baseline for Alaska that can be repeated to monitor progress and document change
- National comparisons and comparisons with other states will soon be available
- Results will be used to guide policy and practice
Surveys will soon begin in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Surveys will include at least one rural location.

FY11 surveys will include two new questions:

- Location of victimization (in/out of Alaska)
- Child witnesses to violence

FY11 surveys are again funded by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Continuing funding is needed and requested in the FY12 Governor’s budget.
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