Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS): Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
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Fall 2013
Alaska Victimization Survey in Ketchikan

- Designed to establish a baseline for estimates of intimate partner & sexual violence in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

- 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 Ketchikan Gateway Borough (spring/summer 2013).
Alaska Victimization Survey in Ketchikan

Ketchikan Gateway Borough

Prepared by:
Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
September 2011
Source: US Census 2010 TIGERline
Alaska Victimization Survey in Ketchikan

- Survey was approved by multiple institutional review boards and supported by Women in Safe Homes and the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition.
- 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 648 adult women surveyed from April to July 2013.
Alaska Victimization Survey in Ketchikan

- 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 July 2013.
Alaska Victimization Survey in Ketchikan

• 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifetime Estimates</th>
<th>Estimated %</th>
<th>Estimated N (out of 4,996)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence¹</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
<td>2,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>1,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>2,038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- 42.5% of adult women in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (or 2,123) experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime,
- 24.8% (or 1,239) experienced threats of physical violence,
- 40.8% (or 2,038) experienced physical violence.
# Intimate Partner Violence Estimates

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<th>Past Year Estimates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence(^1)</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Threats</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
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<td>B. Physical Violence</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>345</td>
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\(^1\) – Includes both threats of physical violence and physical violence by intimate partners.

- 7.3% of adult women in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (or 365) experienced intimate partner violence in the past year,
- 2.7% (or 135) experienced threats of physical violence,
- 6.9% (or 345) 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

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<td>21.0%</td>
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<td>B. Forcible Sexual Assault</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>1,309</td>
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1 – Includes both alcohol or drug involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

- 33.2% of adult women in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (or 1,659) experienced sexual violence in their lifetime,
- 21.0% (or 1,049) experienced at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault,
- 26.2% (or 1,309) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.
## Sexual Violence Estimates

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<td>2.1%</td>
<td>105</td>
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1 – Includes both alcohol or drug involved sexual assault and forcible sexual assault.

- 4.7% of adult women in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (or 235) experienced sexual violence in the past year,
- 4.0% (or 200) experienced at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault,
- 2.1% (or 105) experienced at least one forcible sexual assault.
Summary of Past Year Estimates

8.8% (440)
Intimate partner or sexual violence

7.3% (365)
Intimate partner violence

4.7% (235)
Sexual violence

2.7% (135)
Threats of physical violence

6.9% (345)
Physical violence

4.0% (200)
Alcohol/drug involved sexual assault

2.1% (105)
Forcible sexual assault

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

50.0% (2,498)
Intimate partner or sexual violence

42.5% (2,123)
Intimate partner violence

33.2% (1,659)
Sexual violence

24.8% (1,239)
Threats of physical violence

40.8% (2,038)
Physical violence

21.0% (1,049)
Alcohol/drug involved sexual assault

26.2% (1,309)
Forcible sexual assault

Note: percentages do not sum because some respondents experienced multiple victimizations.
Out of every 100 adult women in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough:

- 43 experienced intimate partner violence (IPV):
- 33 experienced sexual violence:
- 50 experienced IPV, sexual violence, or both:
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.
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 Ketchikan Gateway Borough 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 Ketchikan Gateway Borough. Thank you!
A Special Thank You!

We also thank Women in Safe Homes and the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition


Women in Safe Homes (WISH) provides a safe place, advocacy, and education for people impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse, or stalking, and to assist them as they explore their options in Southern Southeast Alaska. WISH is available 24-hours a day, every day (907-225-9474, or toll free 1-800-478-9474).
Contacts

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