



Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE &
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For Immediate Release

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State Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Project to Release New Data on Victimization in Alaska

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the State of Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA), along with the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center, is releasing new data about the extent of victimization in selected regions of the state.

“The release of new regional data comes as part of an ongoing landmark study funded by the Council called the Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS); a study that began in 2010 in order to establish the extent of domestic and sexual violence statewide,” said Lauree Morton, Executive Director of CDVSA. “Since Alaska had never before established accurate data on these crimes, we began by establishing the extent of victimization across the state and then started to look at victimization by region.”

“What we initially found in 2010 shocked us, in that 59 out of every 100 women surveyed statewide experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence or both. And regional estimates have also revealed unacceptably high levels of intimate partner violence and sexual violence everywhere in Alaska,” Morton said.

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“It is critical that we continue to fund programs and services to both respond to and prevent intimate partner violence and sexual violence from continuing to occur,” she said.

New data on the extent of the problem in the Mat-Su region will be released at an event held from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the Station 6-1, Central Mat-Su EMS building, 101 W. Swanson Ave., in Wasilla. The event held in conjunction with the UAA Justice Center, Alaska Family Services and the Mat-Su Health Foundation, will give the media and participants an opportunity to ask questions of Andre B. Rosay, Ph.D., who leads the research and analysis on the project.

Additional regional releases of data are also scheduled. An event in Kenai is set for noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 10 at the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, 40610 Kalifornsky Beach Road. An additional regional release of data is also scheduled for Oct. 15 in Ketchikan. The time and location of that event will be announced.

The State and UAA Justice Center have already released data from Bristol Bay, the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Northstar Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, Kodiak Island Borough, the City and Borough of Sitka, the City and Borough of Juneau and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Morton said. Complete information on the AVS is available at <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/avs>. A link is also provided from the CDVSA website at <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/CDVSA>.

“Becoming more aware of the scope and extent of the problems by region, as well as statewide, is an important step,” Dr. Rosay said. “UAA Justice Center is working in partnership with the State to provide a comprehensive analysis that can support state policies and planning.”

Results from the surveys are being used to help guide planning and policy development, effectively evaluate the impact of prevention and intervention services funded by the Council, and provide greater empirical support for preventing and responding to violence against women across Alaska, Morton said.

“In the future, we hope to be able to use the data to compare the impact of state funded programs and services over time,” she said. “Our goal is to raise awareness, provide services to victims, and to ultimately prevent violence all domestic and sexual violence from ever occurring.”

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