



Alaska's Council on
Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

2024 ANNUAL REPORT TRANSITIONS



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Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Purpose: To empower Alaska communities to create a future free of domestic violence and sexual assault.

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- **Laurel Shoop**, Vice Chair, Department of Education
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- **Vacant**, Public Member
- **Vacant**, Public Member

CDVSA Staff

- **MaryBeth Gagnon**, Executive Director
- **Britten Niemi**, Administrative Operations Manager 1
- **Lisa Morley**, Criminal Justice Planner
- **Morgan Stonecipher**, Program Coordinator 2
- **Danielle Redmond**, Program Coordinator 2
- **Jen Laroe**, Program Coordinator 2
- **Catherine Mohn**, Research Analyst 3
- **Anna Ramirez**, Grants Administrator 3
- **Chris Hardin**, Grants Administrator 2
- **Kay Riley**, Administrative Assistant 2
- **Vacant**, Program Coordinator 2

Letter From Leadership

Organizational change is constant. This statement could not ring truer as CDVSA reflects on SFY24, which is how our staff landed on this year’s annual theme: *Transitions*.

Our previous Executive Director, L. Diane Casto, retired from CDVSA in November 2023. Her six years of leadership at CDVSA and 28 years of service in state government left a large gap to fill. During her time with CDVSA, she worked to grow the agency and field of domestic and sexual violence in many ways, including emphasizing the need to focus on prevention efforts and to redefine services for those who cause harm. Director Casto worked tirelessly to lead her staff in accomplishing the critical work that is needed in our state and helped staff envision what could be possible. CDVSA cannot appreciate her enough for the example she set and the time she gave to this field.

As people move through life, opportunities arise, and transition occurs. CDVSA experienced significant turnover in SFY24, losing 55% of their staff and most historical knowledge within the agency. During the three months the Executive Director position was vacant, the Board Chair seat (another critical leadership position) also became vacant. Though staffing shortages were significant the first half of SFY24 (and certainly not without impact), when seasoned staff move on, space is created for new staff to bring fresh ideas, approaches, and energy to the work. Slowly, the CDVSA team began to rebuild the second half of SFY24, and by the end of the fiscal year, 10 of our 11 positions were filled—a much welcomed transition.

Despite our changing workforce and staffing shortage, SFY2024 brought achievements and progress on multiple key projects. These include:

- Completed the purchase of 22 state-of-the-art digital forensic tools (Cortexflo) for remote communities to improve the collection of sexual assault evidence and provided training to 20 communities.
- Established 43 new community agency partnerships related to prevention, and in partnership provided awareness events and trainings to over 10,000 community members.
- Alaska’s Battering Intervention Programs partnered with UAA in hosting three Restorative Justice Talking Circles (in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks) to explore the use of Restorative Justice in some cases of domestic violence.
- Onboarded 20 Victim Services subgrantees to a new data management system (VELA) to improve data collection practices and efficiency.

These are just a few examples of the important work achieved in SFY2024 that moved us forward in strengthening our community response to domestic and sexual violence across the state.

MaryBeth Gagnon

Executive Director



FVPSA-ARPA Update

CDVSA continues its work on the rural TeleSAFE project, which began in 2022 through special one-time funding focused on sexual assault services from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) program. To improve Alaska’s ability in providing rural sexual assault examinations (SAEs), CDVSA used these funds to purchase state-of-the-art digital forensic tools developed by Fernico, Inc., called Cortexflo systems. These improved colposcope systems improve the quality and reduce the time it takes for medical staff to gather the required evidentiary photos for prosecution during SAEs, while also enabling

trained sexual assault nurse and/or forensic examiners (SANEs/SAFEs) to connect remotely to villages with this equipment for the examination. In total, 22 Cortexflo systems have been purchased for 20 communities throughout Alaska.

In SFY24, CDVSA’s contracted trainer, Angie Ellis, along with Fernico staff member Andrew Thompson, traveled throughout the state to 20 communities, ranging from as far north as Utqiagvik to as far south as Ketchikan. Together they assisted with the installation of the equipment and training both IT and medical staff on the new Cortexflo systems.

Andrew at Fernico showing Juneau SANE staff how to use new Cortexflo equipment



Prevention

Services provided by community-based grantees

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence and sexual assault (DV/SA) in the country. About 58% of Alaska women experience DV/SA in their lifetime. This translates to economic costs of over \$7 billion. Primary prevention stops violence before it occurs, but it takes long-term effort in local communities.

In SFY24, prevention grantees had turnover in both prevention staff and executive directors. Turnover is a real challenge for maintaining the working relationships necessary for coalition projects. Some positions remain vacant. Staff members reported needing multiple jobs to meet their basic living expenses and difficulty finding housing.

CDVSA prevention grantees work with local coalition partners in order to leverage funding and coordinate services. Partners include local hospitals, law enforcement, school districts, and more.

Partnerships are effective because many of the factors that put people at risk of domestic violence also put them at greater risk for mental health struggles, substance use, and suicide. The good news is that protective factors provide multiple benefits! The data shows that providing a healthy foundation for young families reduces crime and saves money in the long run.

In SFY24, CDVSA prevention funding:

- Facilitated 92 prevention coalition meetings.
- Established 56 new community agency partnerships, MOUs, or other collaborative agreements.
- Implemented 57 primary prevention strategies and activities including Girls on the Run, Green Dot, and LeadOn! in communities around the state.
- Provided DV/SA information to 3,532 community members.
- Provided bystander intervention training to 1,006 individuals, 130 community members, and 667 high school students.
- Welcomed 69 new youth members (under 18) as members of local prevention coalitions.
- Recruited over 99 peer mentors and youth peer co-facilitators.
- Provided prevention-focused presentations and one-time events to approximately 7,396 youth.
- Provided awareness events or trainings to over 9,683 community members.
- Facilitated 177 volunteers to assist with prevention program implementation such as coaching with Girls on the Run.

Overall, prevention programs across the state deepened their work in SFY24, which you can see through the increases in new agency partnerships, new youth coalition members, and new youth peer mentors. Programs reported increased support from community members around primary prevention. However, data from the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey shows that youth are more likely to experience bullying and depression than reported in 2013.

Data points from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

- Electronic bullying is getting worse. 14.7% in 2013 to 20.0% in 2023.
- Youth feeling sadness and hopelessness is getting worse. 27.2% in 2013 to 43.2% in 2023.
- 19% of students attempted suicide in the previous 12 months. This is up from 8.4% in 2013.
- Less than half of students feel they have 3 adults or more they can seek help from. This statistic had been improving from 2011-2023 but has now leveled off.

Average Lifetime Cost of Interpersonal Violence: \$82k



AVERAGE LIFETIME COST FOR MEN: \$24K¹
AVERAGE LIFETIME COST FOR WOMEN: \$104K¹



¹ Tosh, W. L., Etelan, L. F., Nicolaidis, C., McCollister, K. E., Gordon, A., & Florence, C. (2018). Lifetime economic burden of intimate partner violence among U.S. adults. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 55(4), 433-444.
² The cost disparity reflects women's tendency to experience more severe, prolonged IPV, leading to higher long-term health expenses: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2003). *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
³ 2020 Alaskan Victimization Study



Media & Messaging Campaigns

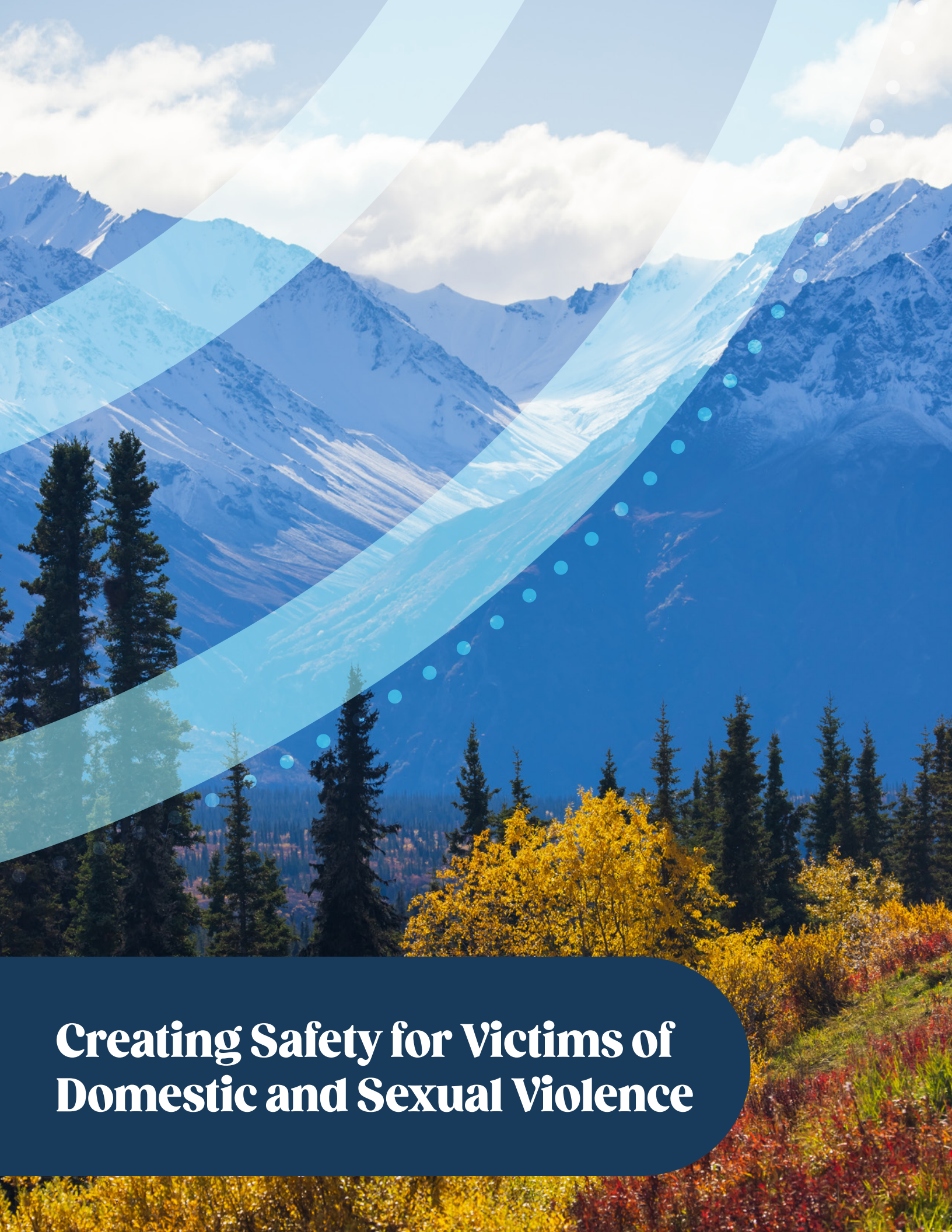
Each year, CDVSA contracts with Walsh|Sheppard, a strategy and communications agency in Anchorage, to support social marketing campaigns on topics related to domestic violence and sexual assault. These campaigns aim to help people understand the dynamics of abuse and connect them to resources. This is an increasingly important tool for reaching victims in younger demographics and rural communities who do not have local shelter or prevention programs, in addition to the larger communities we serve.

In the past, CDVSA has always focused messaging efforts on the three big awareness months of the year in February, April, and October. SFY24 was the first time that we have run content all year, and over a wider variety of platforms across the state. It provided us with

valuable insight into what Alaskans are looking for and where they are spending time in a rapidly changing media landscape.

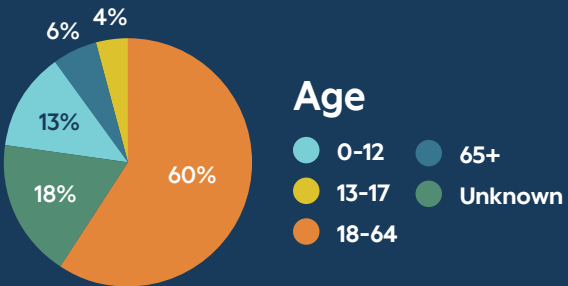
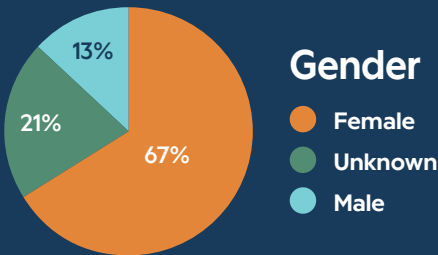
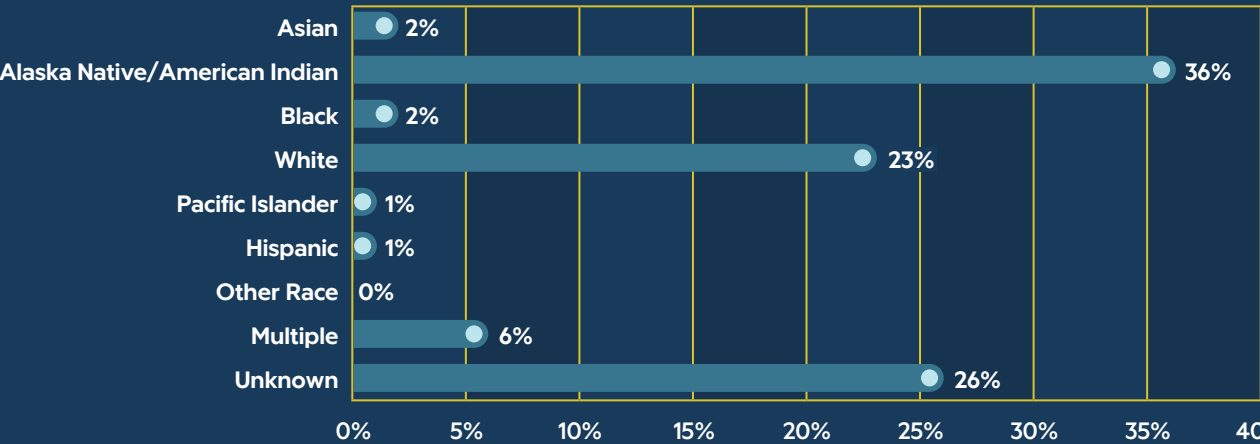
This year, CDVSA also participated as a sponsor at the Native Youth Olympics (NYO) Games. The NYO Games is shown to have many benefits for the youth who participate. Surveys show that it improves grades as well as increases strength, confidence, youth sense of belonging, and connection to supportive adults. All of these are powerful protective factors. On top of that, having a presence at the NYO gives us the opportunity to connect with families from all over the state, including rural areas that may not otherwise have access to DV/SA resources. Staff from two of our Anchorage grantees were available at a booth to answer questions and provide resources.





Creating Safety for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Victim Services 2024 Data | Total Served: 7,536



Victimizations—Top 5 Categories

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Family Violence/IPV | 5,978 |
| Adult Sexual Assault | 1,167 |
| Other | 988 |
| Adult Physical Assault | 955 |
| Stalking/Harassment | 499 |

Services Provided—Top 5 Categories

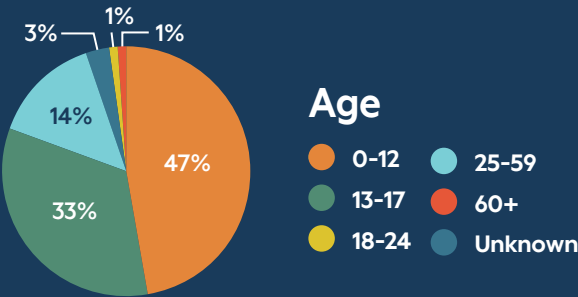
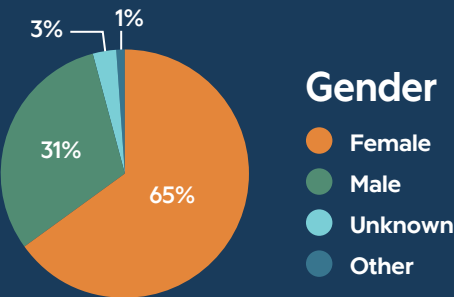
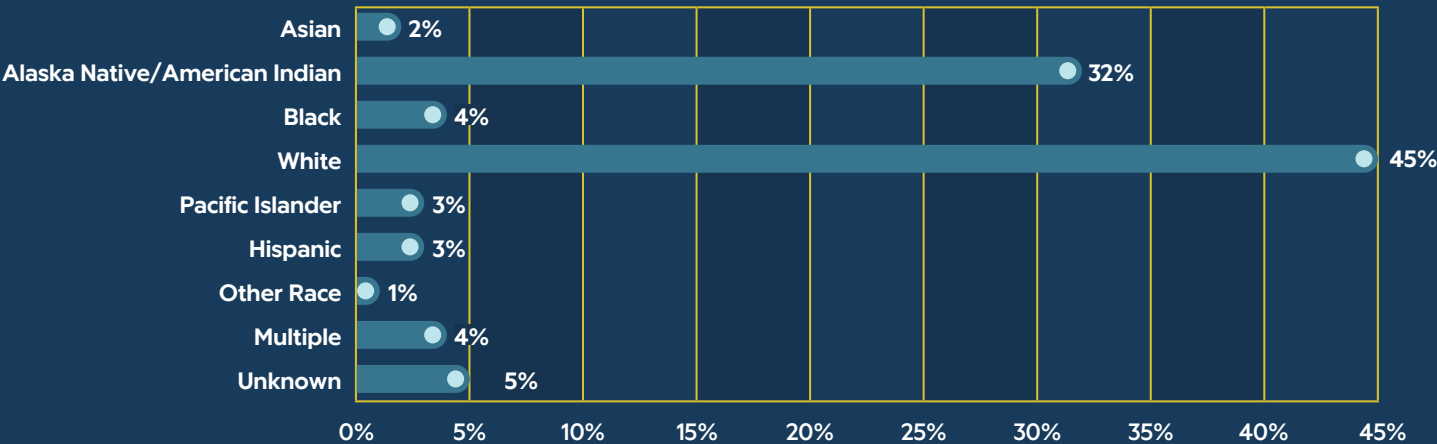
| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Individual Advocacy | 102,637 |
| Individual Counseling | 29,353 |
| Emergency Financial | 20,317 |
| Hotline Counseling | 18,323 |
| Crisis Intervention | 17,131 |

Housing Type

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Bednight | 73,697 |
| Transitional | 4,365 |
| Total | 78,062 |

Enhanced Service Projects | 2024 Data

Child Advocacy Centers | Total Served: 1,605



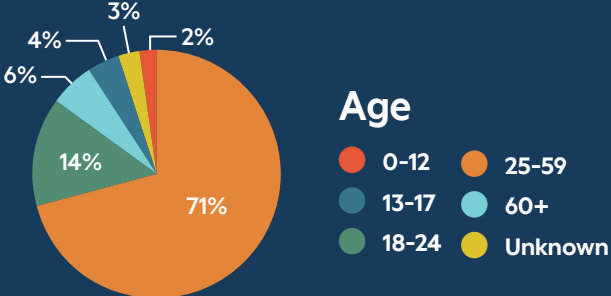
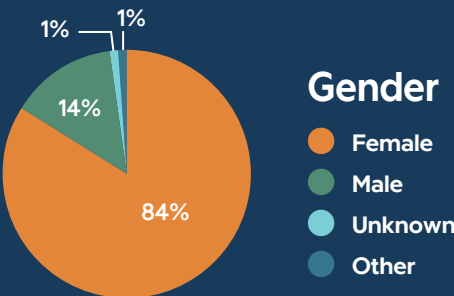
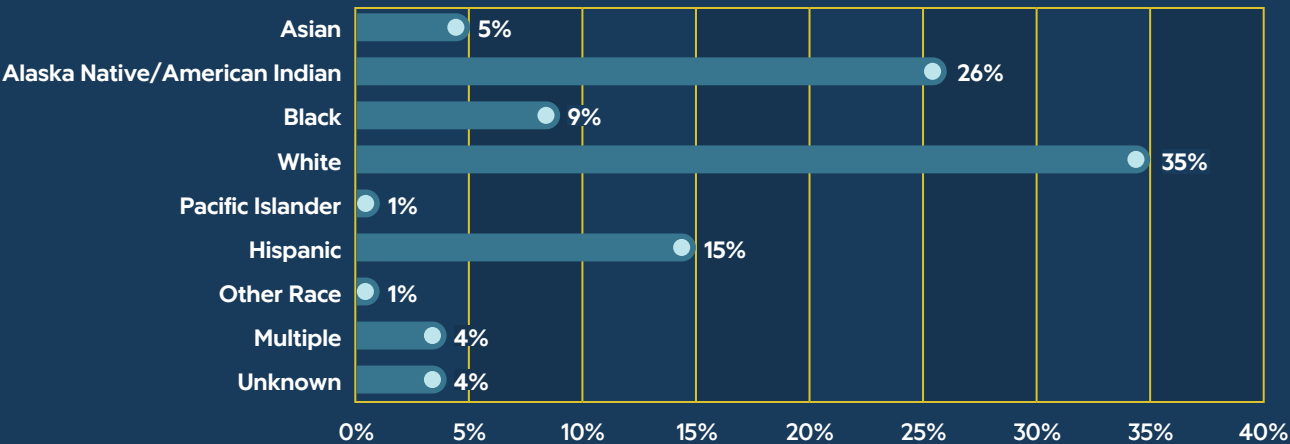
| Victimizations—Top 5 Categories | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Child Sexual Abuse | 952 |
| Child Physical Abuse/Neglect | 506 |
| Other | 441 |
| DV Family V | 131 |
| Bullying | 35 |

| Special Classifications—Top 5 Categories | |
|--|----|
| Disabilities | 70 |
| LGBTQ | 30 |
| Other | 11 |
| Limited English | 6 |
| Homeless/Veterans | 4 |

| Services Provided—Top 5 Categories | | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Individual Counseling | 1,085 | Individual Advocacy | 860 |
| Performance/Medical/Nonmedical Forensic Exam/Interview/Medical Evidence Collection | 918 | Crisis Intervention | 637 |
| | | Information About Victim Rights | 627 |

Enhanced Service Projects | 2024 Data

Legal Assistance | Total Served: 581



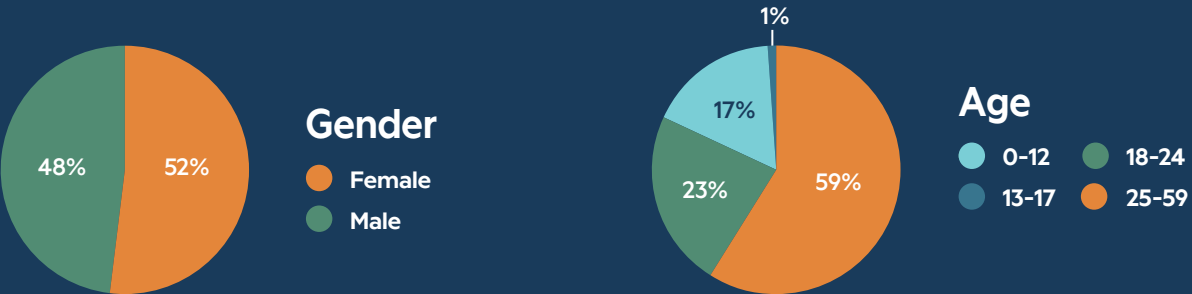
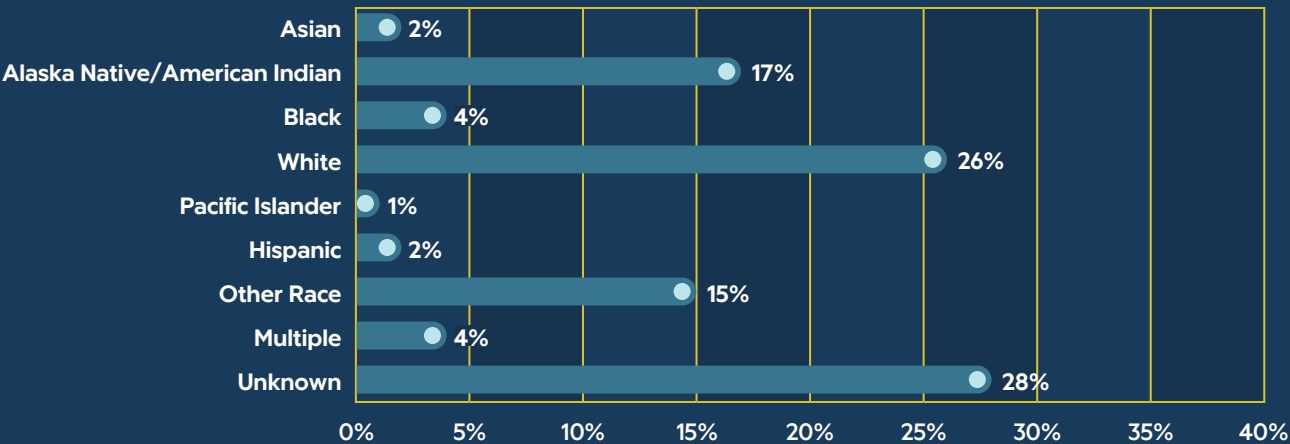
| Victimizations—Top 5 Categories | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| DV Family V | 926 |
| Bullying | 235 |
| Adult Sexual Assault | 225 |
| Adult Physical Assault | 170 |
| Stalking | 90 |

| Special Classifications—Top 5 Categories | |
|--|-----|
| Immigrant | 406 |
| Limited English | 225 |
| Disabilities | 178 |
| Other | 157 |
| Homeless | 80 |

| Services Provided—Top 5 Categories | | | |
|---|-------|---|-----|
| Civil legal assistance with family law issues | 3,256 | Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order | 866 |
| Immigration Assistance | 1,436 | Individual Advocacy | 687 |
| | | Other legal advice and/or counsel | 397 |

Enhanced Service Projects | 2024 Data

Mental Health | Total Served: 178



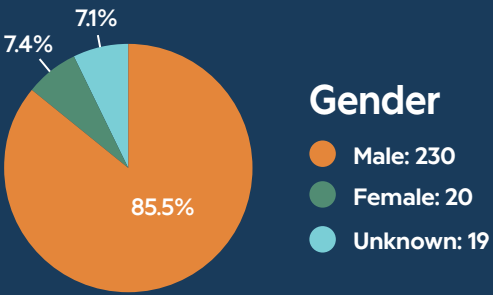
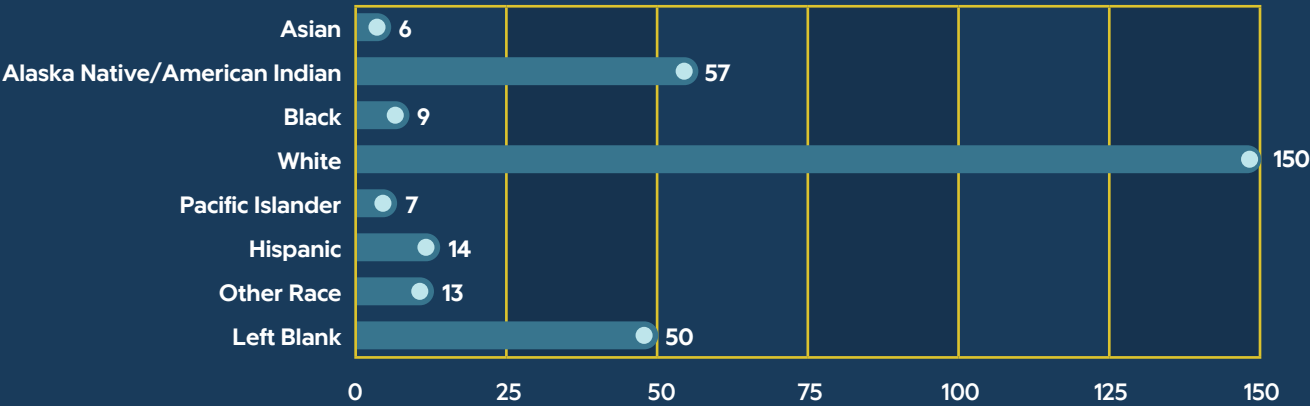
| Victimizations—Top 5 Categories | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| DV Family V | 127 |
| Child Physical Abuse/Neglect | 99 |
| Bullying | 99 |
| Child Sexual Abuse | 57 |
| Adult CSA | 12 |

| Special Classifications—Top 5 Categories | |
|--|----|
| LGBTQ | 55 |
| Homeless | 18 |
| Disabilities | 6 |
| Immigrant | 2 |

| Services Provided—Top 5 Categories | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|---|----|
| Individual Counseling | 440 | Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing) | 28 |
| Individual Advocacy | 54 | Support Groups | 11 |
| | | Crisis Intervention | 10 |

Battering Intervention Programs

2024 Data | Total Served: 271



| Referral—Top 5 Categories | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Court | 81 |
| Other | 35 |
| Self | 11 |
| OCS | 9 |
| Left Blank | 3 |

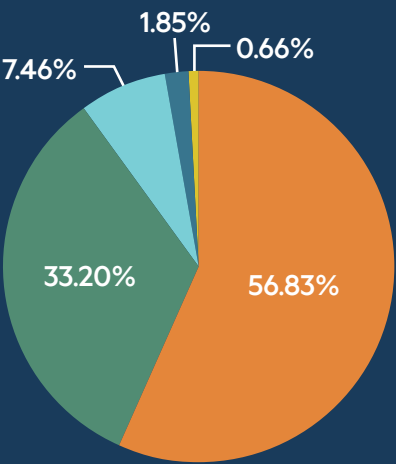
| Relation to Victim—Top 5 Categories | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Left Blank | 117 |
| Ex-Spouse | 41 |
| Romantic Partner/Dating | 38 |
| Ex-Romantic Partner | 37 |
| Spouse | 28 |

| Violence Type —Top 5 Categories | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Physical Force/Violence | 80 |
| Threats of Violence | 36 |
| No Prior Violence | 22 |
| Destruction Pets/Property | 20 |
| Weapons Used | 14 |

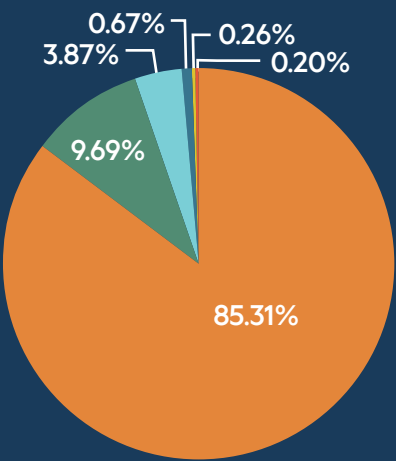


Managing Public Funds Responsibly

CDVSA Financials



| Fund Source | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| General Fund | \$15,012,176.17 |
| Federal Receipts | \$8,769,392.37 |
| Recidivism Reduction | \$1,969,323 |
| PFD Fund | \$489,605.47 |
| Inter-agency Receipts | \$173,758 |
| Total : \$26,414,255 | |



| Expenses | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Grants | \$22,533,840.37 |
| Services | \$2,558,979 |
| Personnel | \$1,023,131.65 |
| Commodities | \$69,655.81 |
| Travel | \$51,663.17 |
| Capital | \$176,985 |
| Total : \$26,414,255 | |

CDVSA Federal Funding Sources

Alaska receives formula funding each year through four federal grant programs that provide the basis for victim services provided by the state and sub-grantees throughout the state.

- **FVPSA:** Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- **STOP/VAWA:** Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutors Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
- **SASP:** Sexual Assault Services Program
- **VOCA:** Victims of Crime Act

Formula funding allocations for FVPSA, STOP/VAWA, and SASP are population-based and remain relatively consistent each year. VOCA award amounts are derived from the Crime Victims Fund and have steadily decreased over the past three years.

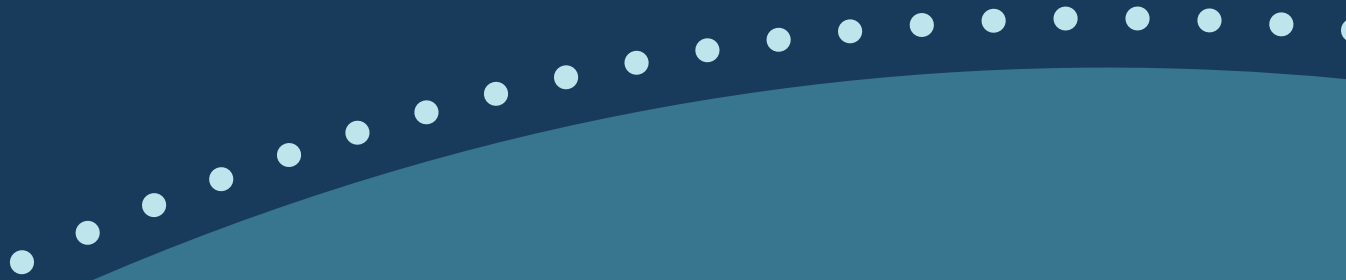
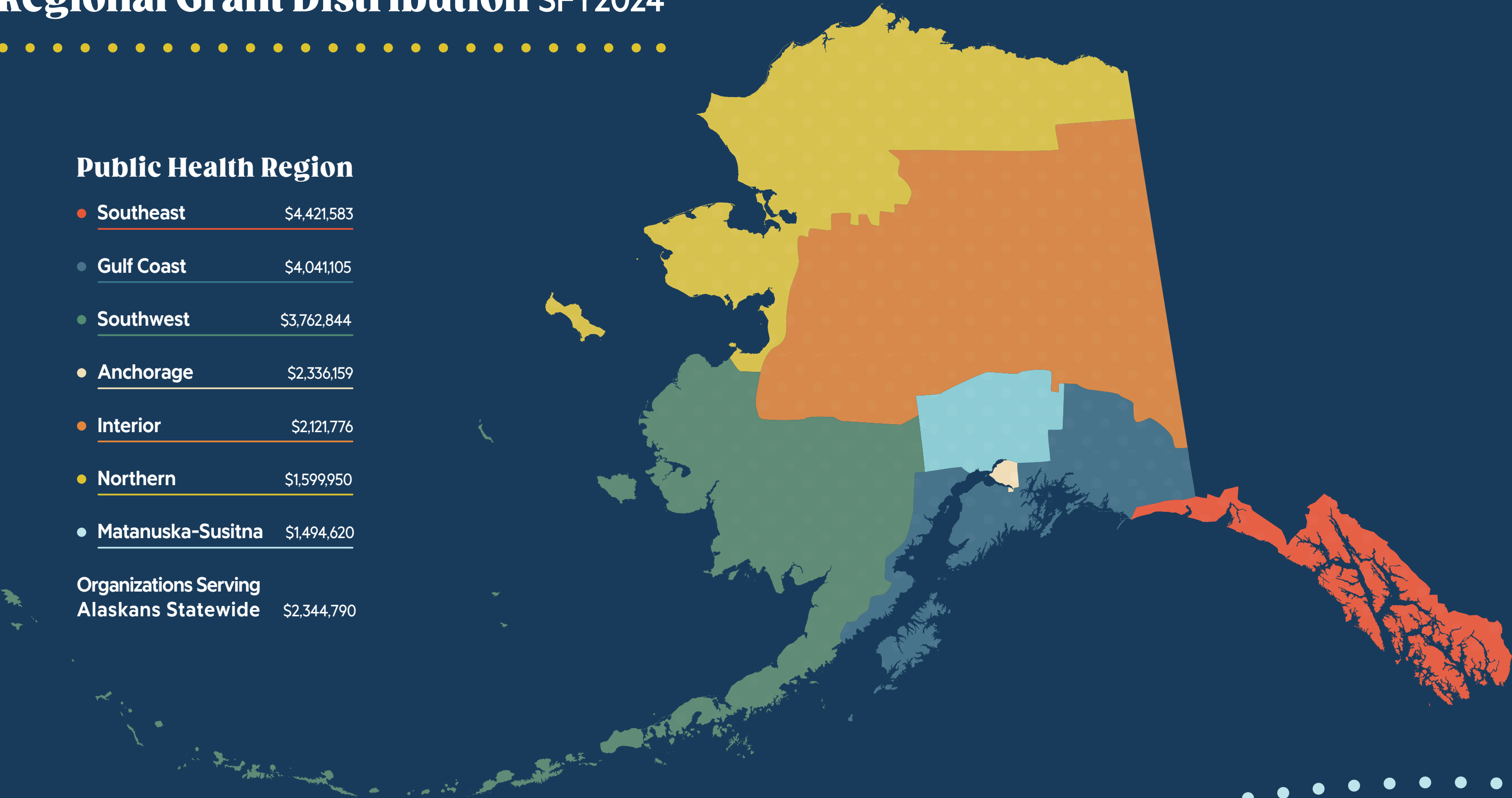
Regional Grant Distribution SFY2024



Public Health Region

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ● Southeast | <u>\$4,421,583</u> |
| ● Gulf Coast | <u>\$4,041,105</u> |
| ● Southwest | <u>\$3,762,844</u> |
| ● Anchorage | <u>\$2,336,159</u> |
| ● Interior | <u>\$2,121,776</u> |
| ● Northern | <u>\$1,599,950</u> |
| ● Matanuska-Susitna | <u>\$1,494,620</u> |

Organizations Serving
Alaskans Statewide \$2,344,790



CDVSA Sub-grantees SFY2024

CDVSA provides funding to 35 community-based programs serving individuals, families, and communities impacted by domestic and sexual violence. Services include emergency and safe shelter, advocacy, legal services, temporary safe housing, support, services for children and adults, programs for those who use violence in relationships, and community prevention programming.

Of the total number of sub-grantees, 26 receive Victim Service grants, providing direct support, advocacy, emergency housing, and other services — **they are represented with asterisks.**

Other agencies represent BIP services, Child Advocacy Centers, Youth Mental Health Services, and Legal Advocacy Services. **More detail is available at:** dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Services/VictimServices

- **Abused Women’s Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)*** — Anchorage
- **Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV)*** — Valdez
- **Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE)*** — Juneau
- **Alaska Family Services (AFS)*** — Palmer
- **Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA)** — Juneau
- **Arctic Women in Crisis (AWIC)*** — Utqiagvik
- **Bering Sea Women’s Group (BSWG)*** — Nome
- **Bristol Bay Area Health Corp. (BBAHC)** — Dillingham
- **Catholic Community Services SAFE (CCS)** — Juneau
- **Copper River Basin CAC (CRB)** — Gakona
- **Cordova Family Resource Center (CFRC)*** — Cordova
- **Emmonak Women’s Shelter (EWS)*** — Emmonak
- **Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies (HOPE)*** — Craig
- **Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (IAC)*** — Fairbanks
- **Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT)*** — Kenai
- **Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC)** — Ketchikan
- **Kodiak Women’s Resource and Crisis Center (KWRCC)*** — Kodiak
- **The Lee Shore Center (LCS)*** — Kenai
- **Maniilaq Family Crisis Center (MFCC)*** — Kotzebue
- **Mat-Su Youth Housing*** — Wasilla

- **Providence Alaska Medical Center (PAMC)** — Anchorage
- **Resource Center for Parents and Children Stevie’s Place** — Fairbanks
- **Rural Alaska Community Action Program Inc.*** — Hooper Bay
- **Safe and Fear-Free Environment (SAFE)*** — Dillingham
- **Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV)*** — Sitka
- **Seaview Community Services (SCS)*** — Seward
- **South Peninsula Haven House (SPHH)*** — Homer
- **Standing Together Against Rape (STAR)*** — Anchorage
- **The Children’s Place (TCP)** — Wasilla
- **Tundra Women’s Coalition (TWC)*** — Bethel
- **Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV)*** — Unalaska
- **Victims for Justice (VFJ)*** — Anchorage
- **Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE)*** — Petersburg
- **Women in Safe Homes (WISH)*** — Ketchikan
- **Volunteers of America Alaska (VOAA)** — Anchorage

Contact CDVSA for more information

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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