

Strategic Investment in Shared Risk & Protective Factors

WHEREAS, rates of violence, suicide, mental health challenges, and substance misuse are all interrelated, and can be reduced by addressing shared risk and protective factors;

WHEREAS, Alaska has the highest rate of domestic violence homicide in the country at 2.5 times the national rate for all women, and almost 10 times the national rate for Alaska Native women;¹

WHEREAS, 17% of all homicides in Alaska between 2014-2023 were attributed to intimate partner violence;²

WHEREAS, Alaska's maternal mortality is 3 times higher than the national average, and only 39% of those deaths are due to medical complications, while 48% are due to homicide, suicide, and overdose;³

WHEREAS, 57.7% of all Alaskan women have experienced sexual violence and/or intimate partner violence in their lifetimes;⁴

WHEREAS, 84.3% of Alaska Native women have suffered violence in their lifetime, putting them at a rate higher than any other population group in the United States,⁵ and Anchorage was found to have the third highest number (not rate) of missing and murdered indigenous women in the country;⁶

WHEREAS, 43.8% of girls in alternative high schools and 15.4% of girls attending traditional high schools have been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to at some point in their lives;⁷

¹ When Men Murder Women, <https://vpc.org/when-men-murder-women-spotlight/>, Accessed November 19, 2025.

² Alaska Violent Deaths Registry 2014-2023 dataset, provided to CDVSA October 2023 by Dept. of Health

³ "Pregnancy-Associated Mortality in Alaska, 2019-2023," Alaska Dept. of Health fact sheet, August 2025

⁴ Alaska Victimization Survey, <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/justice-center/avs/avs-results/statewide-results.cshhtml>, Accessed November 19, 2025.

⁵ Agtuca, Jacqueline, Michelle Demmert, Tami Truett Jerue, and Debra O'Gara, *Alaska Native Women: Ending the Violence, Reclaiming a Sacred Status*, published by Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, 2023.

⁶ "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls: A snapshot of data from 71 urban cities in the United States," Urban Indian Health Institute - Seattle Indian Health Board, <https://www.uihi.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-girls/>, Accessed December 4, 2025.

⁷ 2023 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Alaska Dept. of Health, <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/yrbs.alaska/viz/yrbs/LandingPage>, Accessed November 19, 2025.

WHEREAS, 51.1% of felony sex offense victims were juveniles, with the most common victim ages being 13 for females and 14 for males,⁸ and the rate of felony sex offenses in Alaska increased by 6.6% from 2023 to 2024;⁹

WHEREAS, 19% of Alaskan traditional high school students attempted suicide in 2023;¹⁰

WHEREAS, 37-40% of Alaskan adults report experiencing 4 or more adverse childhood experiences,¹¹ and 22.9% of Alaskans report exposure to intimate partner violence as a child;¹²

WHEREAS, 26% of all criminal cases at arrest and charging contained an alleged crime involving domestic violence;¹³

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children;¹⁴

WHEREAS, 150 Alaskan villages have no local law enforcement presence and are often inaccessible due to weather and transportation;¹⁵

WHEREAS, a 2015 study found that “a modest reduction of ACEs would have a profound impact on Alaska’s government and private sector costs;”¹⁶

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections budget for FY26 is \$489 million, the Alaska Court System is \$158 million, Office of Children’s Services is \$212 million, Division of Juvenile Justice is \$70 million, totaling \$929 million in FY26 addressing criminal justice issues;¹⁷

⁸ 2024 Unified Crime Report, Alaska Department of Public Safety, <https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/87fda8c9-3bcc-40ff-91c3-65114e52fb57/Felony-Level-Sex-Offenses-2024>. Accessed November 19, 2025.

⁹ 2024 Unified Crime Report, Alaska Department of Public Safety, <https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/87fda8c9-3bcc-40ff-91c3-65114e52fb57/Felony-Level-Sex-Offenses-2024>, Accessed November 19, 2025.

¹⁰ 2023 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Alaska Dept. of Health, <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/yrbs.alaska/viz/yrbs/LandingPage>, Accessed November 19, 2025.

¹¹ Alaska Childhood Experiences Dashboard: Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Section of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; <https://alaska-dph.shinyapps.io/AK-ACEs/> accessed on: YYYY-MM-DD.

¹² 2023 Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Section of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

¹³ 2107-2024 Examination of Criminal Justice Records Involving Domestic Violence: Arrests, Charges, and Case Dispositions Containing a Crime Involving the Statutory Definition of Domestic Violence in Alaska, Alaska criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission, 2025.

¹⁴ Alaska Safe Housing Assessment Report, Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center, 2024.

¹⁵ Stremple, Claire. “Public Safety Commissioner seeks change in Alaska’s missing and murdered Indigenous people response,” <https://alaskabeacon.com/2024/02/08/public-safety-commissioner-calls-for-change-in-alaskas-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-people-response/>, February 8, 2024.

¹⁶ Sidmore, Patrick, “Economic Costs of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Alaska: The Price of Not Intervening Before Trauma Occurs,” https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=30&docid=14277, 2015.

¹⁷ FY206 Enacted Budget, Office of Governor Mike Dunleavy, <https://gov.alaska.gov/governor-dunleavy-signs-fy2026-budget-vetoes-reflect-reduced-revenue-outlook/>, Accessed November 19, 2025.

WHEREAS, community-driven prevention coalitions have been established around the state to implement programs addressing shared risk and protective factors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Public Health Association will respond to these urgent public health and safety challenges by:

- Educating policy makers about the connected nature of these issues, the efficiency of shared factors, and the potential to reduce the cost burden to the State through solutions such as those listed in the Pathways to Prevention Plan;
- Advocating for strategic investment in local prevention coalitions and other programs that address shared risk and protective factors;
- Advocating for increased resources to address shared risk and protective factors in remote rural areas
- Educating health care providers about interpersonal and sexual violence so they can refer patients to local resources for safety and support;
- Advocating for increased family supports and community-based partnerships to prevent child maltreatment and adult victimization;
- Supporting expanded training across disciplines in trauma, adverse childhood experiences, and shared risk & protective factors;
- Supporting the utilization of data collection, analysis, and sharing to promote data-driven decision-making that will improve outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Public Health Association will send this resolution to Alaska's federal, state, and tribal policy makers and related partners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the position of the Alaska Public Health Association until it is withdrawn or modified by a subsequent resolution.

FISCAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT STATEMENT: There will be no fiscal impact to Alaska Public Health Association. The short-term public health impact will be to raise public awareness not only about the widespread negative impacts of interpersonal violence in Alaska but also the potential of shared factors to reduce those rates. The mid-term impact will be to develop policy and invest in increased programming to that end. The long-term impact will be reduced trauma, injury, and death from interpersonal violence in Alaska as well as increased health and productivity, resulting in significant cost savings in criminal justice and social services.