

## Supporting State Efforts to Address Alaska’s Unacceptably High Rates of Interpersonal and Sexual Violence

**WHEREAS**, the prevalence of sexual violence and intimate partner violence is a major public health concern in Alaska;

**WHEREAS**, 50.3% of adult women in Alaska experienced sexual violence, intimate partner violence, or both, in their lifetime;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, one in three women in Alaska have experienced stalking in their lifetime; <sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, among women who experienced intimate partner violence or sexual violence in their lifetime, 50% were also stalked in their lifetime; <sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, among Alaska women aged 60+, the rate for psychological or physical abuse is 1.7 times as high as the national rate;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, reports of felony level sex offense incidents decreased 4% in 2017 (1475) compared to 2016 (1542); the number of victims reported increased by 27%;<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Native females are reported to have the highest victimization rate of any gender or racial group, comprising 42% of all reported victims; <sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, 15% of adult male Alaskans have been a victim of intimate partner violence over their lifetime; <sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, 19% of adult Alaskans witnessed intimate partner violence of their parent or guardian as a child; <sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, exposure to domestic violence of parents or guardians as children is strongly associated with sexual violence and domestic violence as adults, as well as general health and mental health measures of anxiety and depression;<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Alaska Victimization Survey, 2015, University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Felony Level Sex Offenses, 2017, DPS Crime in Alaska Supplemental Report.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), Alaska DHSS, Division of Public Health.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

**WHEREAS**, Alaska has a statewide network of emergency shelters and services, prevention and early intervention programs, Child Advocacy Centers and perpetrator rehabilitation programs working to reduce and end interpersonal and sexual violence of adults and children;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Public Health Association will promote, advocate and respond to this major public health challenge by supporting the efforts, policies and programming embraced by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to:

- Advocate, promote and educate all Alaskan's about the public health challenge of interpersonal and sexual violence of adults and children;
- Support policies, legislative efforts and changes in laws, regulations and practices that encourage safety, resources and accountability for those Alaskan's impacted by interpersonal and sexual violence;
- Support increased community-based collaboration and partnerships to address child maltreatment and adult victimization as a whole (not in a silo);
- Advocate for expanded training, across disciplines, in trauma (historical, generational and individual), intersectionality, adverse childhood experiences, bias and racism, and the impact these behaviors have on all Alaska citizens;
- Expand and enhance the utilization of data collection, analysis and sharing to promote data-driven decision-making that will increase positive outcomes to begin "turning the curve" on Alaska's high rates of interpersonal and sexual violence of children and adults;

**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.