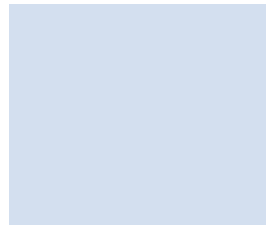
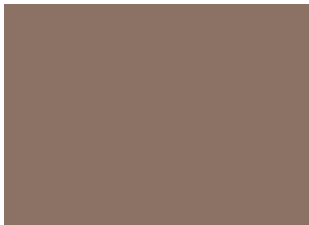


Pathways to Preventing Domestic Violence in Alaska

2010-2016



Alaskans Have the Power to End Domestic Violence. Here's How.

The incidence of domestic violence (DV), in Alaska is frequently referred to as an “epidemic,” because Alaska has some of the highest rates of DV and sexual violence (SV) in the nation. Yet beyond the actual incidents of violence, the longer term damaging effects go unrecognized. These effects include developmental delays, child abuse, substance abuse, self-harm, poor health, psychological problems, and negative community-level impacts.

Perhaps most significantly, unaddressed violence in families leaves Alaska's young people vulnerable to experiencing or recreating violent patterns within their own relationships.

Nationally, there is a growing movement to work towards **preventing violence before it ever occurs** – this is often called **primary prevention**. Primary prevention efforts are research-based and seek to promote healthy relationships by reducing associated factors with violent behavior (risk factors) and strengthening factors that support positive behaviors (protective factors).

Alaska joined a national effort in 2003, when the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to build capacity to prevent DV throughout the state. The Cooperative Agreement, called DELTA (Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership through Alliances), led to the development of a statewide steering committee.

From 2007-2009, the statewide steering committee focused on bringing together all available information on prevalence of DV, risk and protective factors for perpetration and victimization, and the existing prevention efforts. From this, the committee developed a comprehensive plan to prevent violence, **Pathways to Preventing Domestic Violence**. This plan represents the voices of many Alaskans from diverse professions, regions, cultures and experience and establishes a framework to organize and coordinate a range of prevention and promotion efforts over the next six years.

By working together on the seven goals put forward in this plan, we can achieve our vision to end domestic and teen dating violence in Alaska.



The goals, or seven pathways, included here will be accomplished over the next six years.

Goal 1 Establish a statewide infrastructure to coordinate domestic violence, teen dating and sexual violence prevention efforts.

By 2016 Alaska will:

- ✓ Increase funding and human resources for DV and SV primary prevention programs.
- ✓ Develop comprehensive and coordinated primary prevention programs.
- ✓ Establish standardized evaluation tools and evaluation practices for prevention programs.
- ✓ Increase available prevention training and professional development for interested agencies and their employees.
- ✓ Establish supportive primary prevention policies for government and non-profit agency use.

Goal 2: Data on the prevalence and the prevention of domestic violence are standardized across systems in Alaska.

By 2016 Alaska will:

- ✓ Establish culturally responsive, anonymous, and safe data collection methods into a standardized system.
- ✓ Develop a central clearinghouse for statewide data on domestic violence and sexual assault.
- ✓ Identify dating violence risk and protective factors in communities across Alaska.
- ✓ Evaluate promising prevention strategies for Alaska.
- ✓ Establish youth-led and youth participatory research opportunities in DV/SV prevention.
- ✓ Adopt the standardized National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) or an Alaska incident-based reporting system.



Goal 3: Teen dating and domestic violence prevention curricula are integrated into public school grades K-12

By 2016 Alaska will:

- ✓ Adopt state health education standards that promote healthy relationships in accordance with evidence-based guidelines for grades K-12.
- ✓ Establish evidence-based, professional development opportunities, for school administrators, teachers, teachers aides, and support staff on DV prevention in the schools.

Goal 4: Youth are leaders in primary prevention efforts.

By 2016, Alaska will:

- ✓ Fund youth led/adult supported DV and SV prevention projects.
- ✓ Develop youth leadership training opportunities to promote healthy relationships.
- ✓ Establish youth leader recognition opportunities.
- ✓ Expand opportunities for youth involvement in prevention.
- ✓ Develop designated seats for youth and mentors on decision-making boards.
- ✓ Establish peer education programs in communities across Alaska.



Goal 5: Statewide partners support program development and approaches that promote parity across class, race, gender and religion thereby addressing the root causes of violence.

By 2016, Alaska will:

- ✓ Expand male-led efforts to promote respect, nonviolence, and social equality.
- ✓ Enhance understanding of the relationship between social, cultural and economic inequality and domestic violence.
- ✓ Allocate resources to address the root causes of violence.
- ✓ Create DV prevention programs that reflects the diversity of cultures and communities of Alaska.

Goal 6: Media sources are partners in promoting respect, healthy relationships and equality.

By 2016, Alaska will:

- ✓ Increase training opportunities on DV/SV prevention for media professionals.
- ✓ Develop advertisements and programming that promotes healthy relationships.
- ✓ Ensure programming supporting healthy relationships reflects diverse cultures and community norms.
- ✓ Engage regional celebrities and endorsements for statewide campaigns.
- ✓ Launch youth-led, media-supported campaigns.

Goal 7: Alaskan Communities are engaged in promoting healthy relationships

By 2016, Alaska will:

"As an Alaskan male, I believe that it's time to step up and make a difference. That is why I have been motivated to start a group in my community to address what men can do to prevent violence from occurring."

- *Anchorage Community Member*

- ✓ Provide domestic violence, sexual violence, and teen dating violence prevention training for community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and youth serving professionals.
- ✓ Establish a cache of evidence-based strategies for promoting healthy relationships and preventing DV for educators, health workers, law enforcement, faith-based leaders, and others.
- ✓ Coordinate state and local efforts that promote healthy relationships and build respect.
- ✓ Assist communities to develop and promote healthy relationship initiatives by providing technical assistance.
- ✓ Create tools for parents that promote healthy relationships and build respect among all family members.

Working together we can prevent violence before it ever starts

Here's who can help:



Youth	Leaders
Educators	Law Enforcement
Researchers	Youth Group Leaders
Students	Interested Community Members
Men	Coaches
Parents	Administrators
Tribal Leaders	
Policy Makers	
Health Professionals	
Faith Community	



This plan was produced through the collaborative effort of the Pathways to Preventing Domestic Violence State Steering Committee, which is supported by the contributions of the following partner organizations:

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State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Women in Safe Home

Zach Gordon Youth Center



ANDVSA
Alaska Network on Domestic
Violence & Sexual Assault

To view the plan in its entirety or for information on how to get involved visit www.andvsa.org, email lgrassgreen@andvsa.org or call 907.586.6564.