

Prevention Capacity in Alaska

SFY2022

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) in the nation, and has ranked first or second for the highest homicide rate for women killed by men.¹ Research shows that 58 out of every 100 Alaskan women have experienced DV, SA, or both in their lifetime.² Preventing DV/SA before it occurs requires coordinated efforts across communities to ensure that individuals, children, and families can live full and healthy lives.

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) began interviewing its member agencies about their primary prevention strategies and activities in 2016. Recent years' funding through Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) has supported the continuation of the interviews by ANDVSA. These interviews serve to support communities across the state by seeking to understand local DV/SA prevention efforts based on the five domains of capacity. These domains are essential to implementing effective and impactful activities in their communities.

Member agencies are given anchored scores based on interview findings. Scores of 1 (low capacity), 2 (medium capacity), or 3 (high capacity) are assigned to the sub-domains of the five capacity domains and are then used to:

- ✓ Identify **technical assistance needs**
- ✓ **Understand what is needed** in the community to sustain and grow prevention.

"We have been implementing Girls on the Run since 2015. Girls learn what makes a person BEaYOUtiful, how to be healthy, active, and to build resilience."- **ANDVSA Member Organization**



77%
of ANDVSA
Member
Organizations
participated in
capacity
interviews
(n = 17)



Participating Communities

- ★ Anchorage: AWAIC
 - ★ Anchorage: STAR
 - ★ Bethel: TWC
 - ★ Cordova: CFRC
 - ★ Dillingham: SAFE
 - ★ Fairbanks: IAC
 - ★ Homer: SPHH
 - ★ Juneau: AWARE
 - ★ Kenai: LSC
 - ★ Ketchikan: WISH
 - ★ Kodiak: KWRCC
 - ★ Petersburg: WAVE
 - ★ Seward: SPC
 - ★ Sitka: AWARE
 - ★ Valdez: AVV
 - ★ Unalaska: USAFV
 - ★ Utqiagvik: AWIC
- ★ Communities receiving state grant funds for prevention.

- ✓ Provide funders with a realistic picture of **what is possible with available resources.**
- ✓ Assist prevention staff with planning and implementing **more comprehensive programming**

LeadOn! For Peace & Equity Conference, 2022

¹ Violence Policy Center (2019). When men murder women: An analysis of 2017 homicide data. Retrieved from: <https://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>

² University of Alaska Anchorage (2021). 2020 Statewide Alaska Victimization Survey Final Report. Retrieved from: <http://hdl.handle.net/11122/12259>

Average Capacity Scores

BY DOMAIN

WHY DO THESE SCORES MATTER?

To create safer communities, DV/SA organizations implement impactful prevention strategies with lean resources. If we can support organizations to effectively integrate primary prevention into their **Organizational Structures**, implement comprehensive **Programming** with robust **Evaluation**, in collaboration with diverse **Partnerships**, and supported by sustained **Resources**, their efforts can prevent high rates of violence in our state.

Organizational Structures

82% of member agencies include prevention in their mission/vision statement, while a little over half include primary prevention in job descriptions and trainings. Outreach does not always include primary prevention. Prevention requires long term planning and staffing, and is hard to sustain if an agency is structured to only support crisis intervention. Most agencies have medium capacity in this domain.



Programming

About 65% of agencies implement programs that are primary prevention-focused. Ten agencies have multiple prevention strategies that are mostly comprehensive, meaning they overlap consistent messaging across settings or populations. Of the participating ANDVSA member agencies, 76% have a community prevention plan that includes DV/SA, six of which are using the plan actively.



Note: Values in bar graphs are calculated averages of anchored scores (max/high=3, min/low=1) across all participating ANDVSA member agencies (n=17).

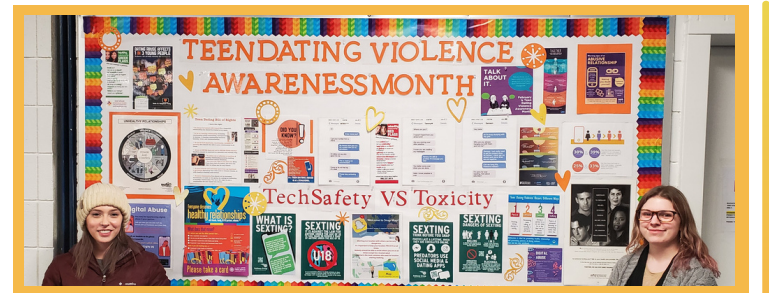
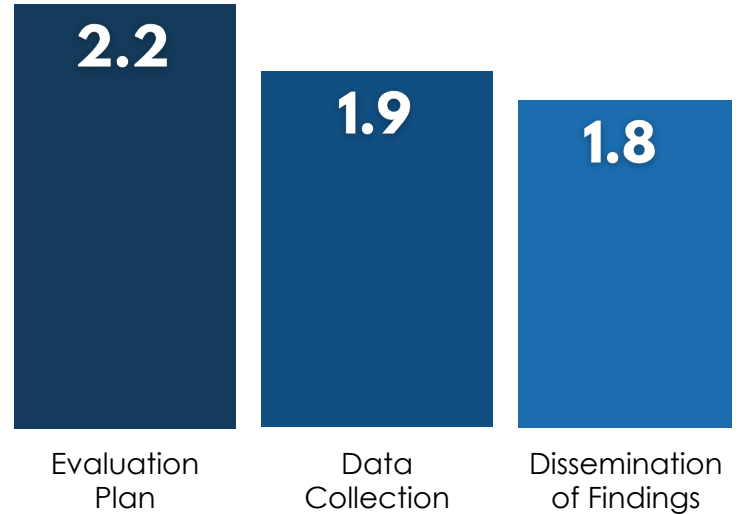
Average Capacity Scores

BY DOMAIN



Evaluation

About half of ANDVSA member organizations have a written evaluation plan that is being implemented (high capacity). About 64% of agencies collect information about the process and/or impact of their programming. Yet, only three agencies (18%) are disseminating findings or using them for program improvement. Evaluation is among the lowest average capacity sub-domain ratings. This is likely due to the medium-to-low capacity in other areas, which can constrain or limit the priority or efforts for implementing and utilizing evaluation findings.

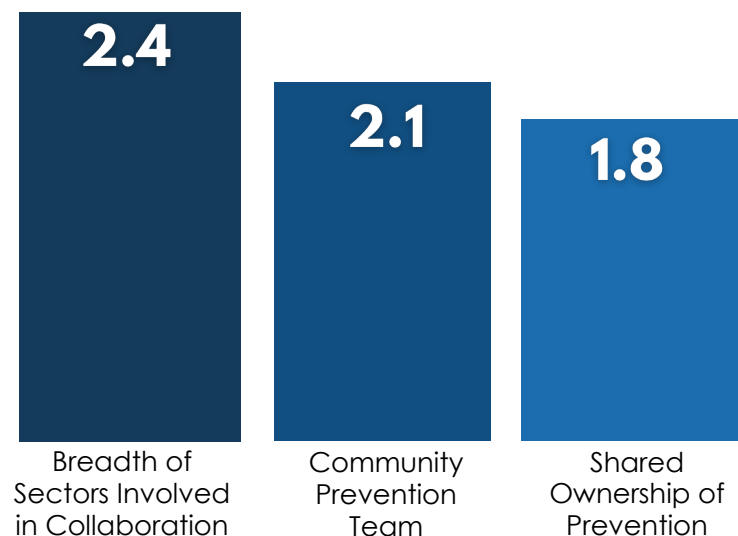


Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Bulletin, Valdez



Partnerships

Of the ANDVSA member agencies, 94% partner with multiple community sectors, including those that are prevention/wellness and intervention oriented. Preventing DV/SA is complex and requires many resources. Currently 70% of agencies are leaders, and not the only drivers of DV/SA prevention in their community. DV/SA shares risk and protective factors with other problems addressed in communities. It is essential to build and maintain partnerships- which requires dedicated staff time.



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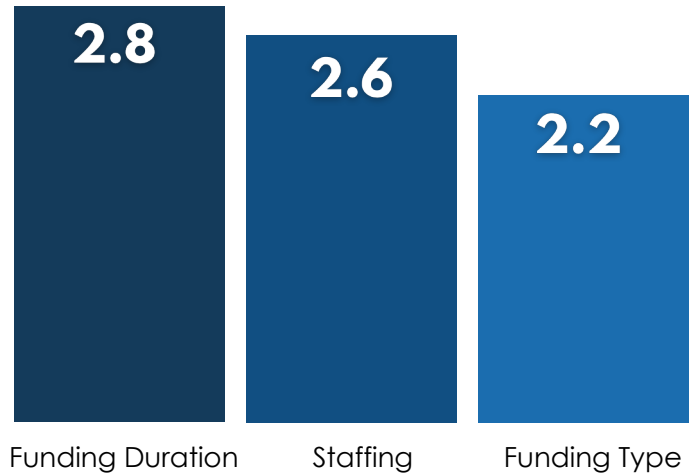
Average Capacity Scores

BY DOMAIN



Resources

Alaska is lucky to receive both state and federal funding for prevention. 13 programs participating in this assessment receive funding from CDVSA, with two also receiving additional federal resources through ANDVSA. Most programs are at medium capacity for their resources. That said, even these funded programs feel unable to sustainably meet the needs of their communities while also providing comprehensive primary prevention programming and are currently experiencing the consequences of inadequate and insecure funding.



How do these consequences show up in our communities?



Disrupted Programming: Lack of timely training, loss of institutional knowledge resulting from gaps in staffing, and decreased capacity to effectively evaluate and improve programming



Staff turnover: Burnout, inadequate compensation, and lack of insurance benefits to support themselves & their families.



Weaker partnerships: Lack of capacity, lack of resources, and overwhelming prevention duties.

LET'S TALK \$

Most programs are at a medium capacity for their resources. Programs typically have at least one full-time staff member dedicated to prevention and are funded at \$30,000-\$80,000 per year from multi-year grants.

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Boys Run I toowu Klatseen, Kake



Sources of Strength, KPBSD



Group at Mens Gathering, Homer

“We work to ensure programs are accessible to everyone—providing food, childcare, incentives, or transportation to activities & services.”

-ANDVSA Member Organization

WHAT HAPPENED IN ALASKA IN SFY2022?

13,790 prevention program participants

970 meetings or events to support programming

37 new prevention partnerships

In partnership with ANDVSA, community-based prevention staff coordinated with and supported one another's prevention efforts across the state.

Technical Assistance Calls

65

with more than 16 communities

Statewide Coordinator Meeting

42

attendees from 18 communities

Monthly Prevention Calls

9

with 125 attendees from 25 communities

WHAT IS NEEDED?

- ✓ Increased, sustained and secure funding for locally-driven and evidence-informed primary prevention efforts across Alaska.
- ✓ Training & technical assistance opportunities to support prevention staff and to ensure the investments and gains are retained.
- ✓ With lean funding statewide, agencies must continue to expand partnership and work together to continue progress toward ending violence in Alaska.



Girls on The Run: Greater Alaska

WHAT IS NEXT?

- 📅 ANDVSA and their partners will continue to strengthen existing prevention efforts by providing technical assistance, training, and support to staff at member programs.
- 📅 CDVSA and its partners will continue to support efforts to integrate important frameworks—such as Shared Risk and Protective Factors & Equity and Inclusion—into programming to more effectively prevent multiple forms of violence.



Green Dot, Peninsula Points on Prevention

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- 👥 Join your local coalition or community prevention team.
- 👥 Visit your local ANDVSA member organization.
- 👥 Talk to other legislatures about DV/SA primary prevention.
- 👥 Use your platform to communicate messages and norms related to respect, equity, and non-violence.
- 👥 Advocate for long-term and sustained prevention funding for communities across Alaska.

**Want to know more?
Contact ANDVSA's
Prevention Initiative for
more information.**

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(907) 586-3650



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