

CHOOSE RESPECT

INITIATIVE TO REDUCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Purpose: Ending the Epidemic

Within a decade, end the epidemic of sexual assault and domestic violence and make Alaska the national leader in fighting these scourges.

Problem: Epidemic Rates of Abuse

- The rate of sexual assault in Alaska is the highest in the nation: two-and-a-half times the national average
- Alaska's rate of child sexual assault is *six times* the national average
- 74.7% of Alaskans have experienced or know someone who has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault, according to a 2006 public opinion survey
- More than three out of four Alaska Native women will be physically assaulted in their lifetime, and more than one out of three will be sexually assaulted
- 69% of homicides in 2008 had a relationship to domestic or sexual violence

Solution: A Comprehensive and Sustained Approach

Putting Abusers Behind Bars

Investigation, Prosecution and Law Enforcement

- Deter, segregate, and treat sex offenders so they pose no risk of harm to women and children
- Provide a more meaningful law enforcement presence for every community that desires it; notably by hiring 15 Village Public Safety Officers every year for the next ten years
- Funding for specialized DV/SA training across multiple disciplines
- Expand prisoner re-entry programs to reduce recidivism among offenders
- Toughen penalties for crimes of sexual assault
- Close loopholes that allow convicted sex offenders from other states to escape registering in Alaska

Helping Victims Heal

Protecting victims and strengthening shelters

- Partner with Stakeholders to streamline and coordinate ongoing, comprehensive efforts and services for victims
- Lead the charge to dramatically increase pro bono legal services available to victims
- Increase funding for shelters to continue providing victims with the means to break free from abusive situations

Preventing Abuse

Public Education Campaign/Statewide Partnerships

- In partnership with ANDVSA and CDVSA, production and promotion of extensive public education campaign encouraging Alaska's men to "Choose Respect"
- Hire a Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator at the Department of Law to partner with state, federal, tribal and non-profit programs addressing domestic violence and sexual assault
- Beef up law enforcement across the state through increased trooper and DV/SA investigator presence.
- Develop youth leaders through community partnerships and incorporate youth leaders in developing primary prevention strategies
- Support and empower community leaders who speak out against sexual abuse and domestic violence in their communities
- Engage private sector and religious organizations to raise awareness of the problem