How Domestic and Sexual Violence Impacts Our Alaska Native Villages

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How does Domestic and Sexual Violence Impact Our Villages?

• When there is violence in the village we all know.
• We are afraid for ourselves, families and friends.
• Many people from our villages go into denial from fear of the abuser.
• A village is forced to shut down by state troopers or village police until safety is restored.
• Discussion of other ways domestic and sexual violence impacts the village.
How Does Domestic Violence Affect Families in Our Villages?

- The violence destroys families and are they broken.
- Families can become homeless:
  - some are kicked out of their homes or
  - leave from fear or anger.
- The children are afraid and may act out.
- Discussion of other ways domestic and sexual violence impacts families.

How Does Domestic Violence Affect Our Villages?

- We lose women and other family members:
  - Leave the village because of abuse.
  - Relocate to the city or another village.
- Who are murdered.
How Does Domestic Violence Affect Our Villages?

- Abusers may go to jail.
- Families lose the:
  - Hunter,
  - Wood gatherer,
  - Fisherman and primary source of income for their family,
  - Protector,
  - Person providing subsistence activities.

How Does Domestic Violence Affect Our Villages?

- As a village and tribe we use our resources everyday because of domestic violence.
- These resources are important and if we could stop domestic violence we would be safer and also have less of a drain on our resources.
While no studies exist specifically on the cost of domestic violence and Alaska Native women the CDC does have estimates:

- In 1995, the costs of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women exceeded an estimated $5.8 billion. These costs included nearly $4.1 billion in the direct costs of medical and mental health care and nearly $1.8 billion in the indirect costs of lost productivity. This is generally considered an underestimate because the costs associated with the criminal justice system were not included.

- When updated to 2003 dollars, IPV costs exceeded $8.3 billion, which included $460 million for rape, $6.2 billion for physical assault, $461 million for stalking, and $1.2 billion in the value of lost lives.

- The increased annual health care costs for victims of IPV can persist as much as 15 years after the cessation of abuse.

### How Does Domestic Violence Affect Our Villages?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Domestic Violence</th>
<th>Abusive Behavior</th>
<th>Impact on Village</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Assault</td>
<td>Slapping, punching, kicking, assault, rape or sexual abuse.</td>
<td>Saddened and spirits go down. Feelings of hopelessness. Feelings of helplessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Abuse</td>
<td>Behavior to intimidate victim. Reckless driving possible under the influence. Various types of threats. Threatening suicide or suicide. Threatening to take children.</td>
<td>Worried about others, reckless behavior endangers others, creates fear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuse of Property</td>
<td>Hitting walls, setting fire, destroying objects, giving away property, tormenting pets, destroying vehicles.</td>
<td>Creates hardships to replace or repair destroyed property and items in the village. Creates fear of reprisal within the village.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abuse of Children</td>
<td>Child witnessing violence, parental kidnapping, concealment, child used as a tool against victim, child abuse.</td>
<td>Creates a fear and negative behaviors by children. Village is saddened when OCS removes children from village.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

Please let us know if you have any questions!

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