



## Descriptive Analysis of Assaults in Domestic Violence Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2004

by

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# **Descriptive Analysis of Assaults in Domestic Violence Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2004**

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# **Descriptive Analysis of Assaults in Domestic Violence Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2004**

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# **Descriptive Analysis of Assaults in Domestic Violence Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2004**

## **Executive Summary**

This project examined the characteristics of assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to the Alaska State Troopers. Assaults are only one type of criminal offense defined in Alaska statutes as a crime involving domestic violence. This report is not inclusive of all crimes involving domestic violence reported to AST, because it only includes assaults. In addition, this report is not inclusive of assaults in domestic violence incidents that were reported to municipal police departments across Alaska. Only assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to AST are described in this report. The term assault will be used throughout this report to define assault cases that are crimes involving domestic violence incidents; this includes felony and misdemeanor assaults.

The sample utilized for this analysis included all assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to AST in 2004. It included information from 1,281 reports on 1,803 assault charges, 1,356 suspects, 1,523 victims, and 1,283 witnesses. This descriptive analysis documents the characteristics of these reports, charges, suspects, victims, witnesses, and legal resolutions. Key results are summarized below.

### **Report Characteristics**

Three detachment areas (C, D and B) handled 82% of all assaults in domestic violence incidents. The three units that handled the largest number of assaults in domestic violence incidents were the Fairbanks AST enforcement unit (23% of reports), the Palmer AST enforcement unit (18% of reports), and the Soldotna AST enforcement unit (9% of reports). Most assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to AST were closed by arrest (79%) and 13% were closed by referral. On average, it took 6.3 weeks to close a case ( $s = 10.39$ ). Forty-seven percent of the cases were closed within two weeks, and another 20% of cases were closed within four weeks of being reported. AST received 80% of the initial complaints to law enforcement, 8% were reported to a VPSO, and 6% were reported to a VPO or TPO. Reports typically included a single assault charge, a single victim, a single suspect, a single witness and a single arrest. The low rate of dual arrest may indicate that the principal physical aggressor statute is being adhered to. Of all assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers, 58% included at least one witness.

### **Suspect Characteristics**

Most suspects (76%) were male, and either White (51%) or Native (45%). On average, suspects were 33.13 years old ( $s = 11.7$ ), with 31% between 21 and 30 years of age, 27% between 31 and 40 years of age and 20% between 41 and 50 years of age. Six percent of suspects were under 18 years of age and 7% of suspects were 51 years of age or older. Fifty-seven percent of suspects had used alcohol prior to the assault, but only

3% had used drugs. The majority of suspects (79%) were present upon trooper arrival. Overall, 79% of suspects were interviewed and 83% of the interviews were recorded. Of those interviewed, 81% were interviewed the same day the incident was reported and 96% were interviewed within one week of the report. Most suspect interviews (87%) were internally consistent. On average, each suspect received 1.78 charges ( $s = 1.29$ ), including an average of 1.33 assault charges ( $s = 0.80$ ) and an average of 0.45 other charges ( $s = 0.87$ ). Just over 1% of suspects had a domestic violence protection order filed against them by the victim. Two percent of suspects violated a condition of release with their current charge while 4% violated a condition of probation.

### **Victim Characteristics**

Most victims (70%) were female, and either White (51%) or Native (47%). On average, victims were 31.98 years old ( $s = 14.51$ ). Fifteen percent of victims were minors under 18 years of age, and 10% of victims were 51 years of age or older. Nine percent of victims were 18 to 20 years old, 26% of victims were 21 to 30 years old, 21% were 31 to 40 years old, and 19% were 41 to 50 years old. Only 32% of victims had used alcohol, and only 1% had used drugs. The most common types of injury reported were bruising (38%). The majority of victims (88%) cooperated with AST throughout the investigative process. Overall, 95% of victims were interviewed. Of those interviewed, 89% were interviewed on the day of the report, and 98% were interviewed within one week of the report. In 84% of cases, the victims' interviews were recorded and 94% of the victim interviews were internally consistent. Seventy-six percent of victims did not consult anyone prior to the assault. Victims who consulted with others were most likely to consult an official or a professional (3%), a friend (7%), or a family member (11%).

### **Victim-Suspect Characteristics**

From the 1,281 reports, we collected information on 1,540 unique victim-suspect combinations within reports. Over half (58%) of the incidents involved current or former intimate partners and this was more common in incidents involving female victims (66%) than male victims (38%). Assaults between parents and children occurred in 19% of domestic violence incidents. Ten percent of assaults involved siblings, 8% involved roommates and 5% involved extended family members. The majority of incidents were intra-racial (86%), with 87% of Native victims and 89% of Native suspects reporting involvement in an intra-racial incident. Similarly, 87% of White victims and 87% of White suspects were involved in intra-racial incidents. Most victims (72%) were living with the suspect at the time of the assault. This high percentage of cohabitating victims and suspects may suggest a need to enhance victim safety by augmenting conditions of release for suspects or increasing information about or access to shelter services. Few parties involved in assaults experienced a change in their relationship status around the time of the assault. In 6% of cases, the relationship ended before the assault took place and in another 2% of cases the assault took place during a time when the suspect had been rejected by or was attempting to reconcile with the victim. Despite the fact that the average age of suspects (33.14) and victims (31.96) in our sample was quite similar, 59% of victim-suspect combinations involved victims and suspects from different age groups.

## Incident Characteristics

The term incident in this report refers to assaults in domestic violence incidents that took place between a unique suspect and a unique victim in a single report. Therefore, a report with multiple suspects or victims resulted in multiple incidents. On average, each incident generated 1.18 assault charges ( $s = 0.56$ ). Most incidents (86%) included only one assault charge. Of the 1,540 assault charges, most (83%) were for assault in the fourth degree. In fifty-nine percent of the incidents, alcohol use (by either or both the victim and suspect) was documented, in 1% drug use only was documented, and in 2% alcohol and drug use were documented. Twenty-seven percent of incidents included documentation on the absence of alcohol and/or drug use. Ten percent of incidents lacked documentation of alcohol or drug use so an assessment could not be made as to the presence or absence of alcohol or drugs. Most of the assaults in domestic violence incidents included physical assaults (70%) as opposed to threats only or assaults and threats. Though suspects were more likely to assault victims than threaten to do so, the most common types of threats were to kill the victim (9%) and threats of other bodily injury (7%). Other threats included threatening the victim with a gun (5%), threatening the victim with a knife (5%), making threats against the victim's family or friends (4%), threatening the victim with an object other than a traditional weapon (3%), and threatening to sexually assault the victim (1%). The most common violent acts noted in the reports were pushing, shoving or grabbing (48%), punching (29%), and slapping or hitting the victim (28%). Less common forms of violence included in the reports were choking, strangling, or suffocating the victim (11%), grabbing or pulling the victim's hair (10%), kicking the victim (9%), chasing the victim (7%), biting the victim (3%) and sexually assaulting the victim (1%).

Stalking behavior was uncommon. Evidence of stalking was documented in only 3% of reports. This percentage reflects only stalking, threats and forms of violence that were documented in reports as a result of victim disclosure or officer inquiry, rather than all forms of stalking, threats or violence that occurred. Since stalking behaviors and sexual assaults are commonly linked to domestic violence but were infrequently documented in AST reports, more intentional screening efforts and documentation by Troopers may be necessary to elicit this information from victims. It is also important to remember, when interpreting the figures on stalking and threats, that this study examined assaults in domestic violence incidents, not homicides.

Suspects rarely used weapons like knives or guns prior to or during the assaults (4% and 3% respectively), but they hit victims with an object in 10% of incidents and/or threw objects at the victim in 9% of incidents. The most common response to an assault employed by victims was calling police (37%) followed by running away (25%). Overall, 98% of the assaults were reported within one week of the incident. In most incidents (75%), the suspect and victim were living together at the time of the assault. The majority of assaults took place at a shared residence (55%), the residence of the victim (15%), or the residence of the suspect (10%). In 63% of incidents, other people were present during the assault. In 43% of incidents, the victim's and/or suspect's children were present during the assault. In 27% of incidents, only one other person was present.

## **Witness Characteristics**

Of the 1,283 witnesses included in the 1,281 reported assaults in domestic violence incidents, 92% were interviewed. Of the witnesses who were interviewed, 97% provided internally consistent interviews and 96% of all witnesses were cooperative with AST. Witnesses provided information that was more consistent with information from other witnesses (81%) or from the victim (80%) than from the suspect (42%). Witnesses were eyewitnesses in 59% of reports. Eleven percent of the witnesses had used alcohol, but less than 1% had used drugs. Of all witnesses, 48% were male and 52% were female; 56% were White and 43% were Native. Most witnesses (65%) were 21 years old or older. Twenty-six percent of witnesses were minors. Eight percent were 18 to 20 years of age and 18% were 21 to 30 years of age. Witnesses were most commonly a friend or acquaintance of the victim (35%) or suspect (35%), a son or a daughter of the victim (17%) or suspect (14%), or a parent of the victim (12%) or suspect (11%).

## **Legal Resolutions**

Legal resolutions examined for assaults in domestic violence incidents reported in 2004 were obtained from the Alaska Department of Law. The focus was exclusively on referrals to the Alaska Department of Law, not on referrals to other agencies, such as the Division of Juvenile Justice. Of the 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to AST, 80% were referred for prosecution to the Alaska Department of Law, 68% were accepted for prosecution by the Alaska Department of Law, and 54% resulted in a conviction with the Alaska Department of Law. Eighty-four percent of cases referred to the Alaska Department of Law were accepted and 80% of cases accepted by the Alaska Department of Law resulted in a conviction. Cases with at least one female suspect were slightly less likely to be referred for prosecution, to be accepted for prosecution, and to result in a conviction than cases with at least one male suspect.

## **Descriptive Analysis of Assaults in Domestic Violence Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2004**

This report provides an overview of the characteristics of assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers (AST) in 2004. This report is not inclusive of assaults in domestic violence incidents that were reported to municipal police agencies across Alaska. Only assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to AST are described. The majority of available information on assaults in domestic violence incidents in the State of Alaska is limited to Anchorage. Very little is known about the characteristics of assaults in domestic violence incidents statewide. This report provides the first overview of assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to AST posts across most geographic areas of Alaska (excluding reports to Alaska municipal police agencies). This report also briefly describes the likelihood that assaults in domestic violence incidents were referred for prosecution, were accepted for prosecution, and resulted in a conviction. We begin this report by providing a brief description of the State of Alaska, the Alaska State Troopers, what is currently known about assaults in domestic violence incidents, and a brief overview of criminal assault statutes covering assaults in domestic violence incidents in the State of Alaska. We then discuss the purpose of this study and its methodology, including the general nature of reported assaults in domestic violence incidents generated by the Alaska State Troopers. We describe and define the terms used throughout the remainder of the report. Results are then presented in seven sections. These sections present report characteristics, suspect characteristics, victim characteristics, victim-suspect characteristics, incident characteristics, witness characteristics, and legal resolutions.

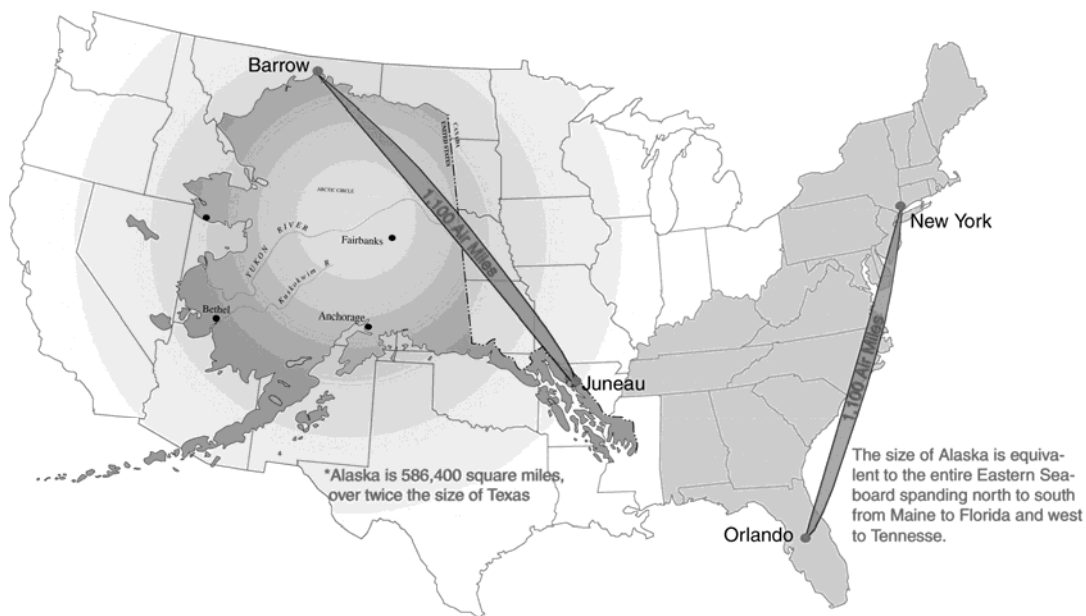
## Brief Overview of the State of Alaska

In one word, the State of Alaska is both easily and accurately described as “Big.” While this single adjective captures what most realize shortly after arriving, it falls short of illustrating why Alaska is such a unique place, especially in terms of law enforcement. To fully appreciate the results discussed in this report, it is important that readers have some understanding of the Alaskan context. A discussion of the geography, the climate, the population, and the law enforcement agencies will provide the necessary context. While not exhaustive, these brief commentaries will surely aid the discussion of results throughout the report.

### *Geography and Climate*

For starters, the State of Alaska is one-fifth the size of the lower 48, encompasses roughly 570,000 square miles, and is 2.3 times larger than the second biggest state, Texas. The massive expanse of the state is covered by equally impressive terrain. There are several rugged mountainous regions throughout the state, home to 17 of the 20 highest peaks in the United States. Within these mountain ranges, there are roughly 70 active volcanoes and more than 100,000 glaciers. In addition to mountains and glaciers, the State of Alaska also boasts large areas of dense forest and tundra. The state is also home to over 3,000 rivers and more than 3 million lakes.

**Figure 1. State of Alaska in Comparison to Lower 48**



*Source: U.S. Marshals Service*

Similar to the terrain, the weather can also be varied and extreme. While Alaska is not always cold, dark and frozen, extreme winter weather conditions are a fact of life. Statewide, residents and law enforcement agents alike must annually contend with sub-

zero temperatures, hundreds of inches of precipitation (both rain and snow), blizzards, avalanches, winds in excess of 100 mph, dense fog and low cloud ceilings, and large seasonal variations of sunlight. The Fairbanks area, located in the Interior of the state, is a perfect example of how extreme seasonal variations can be. Annually, residents of this region watch winter creep in as the sun drops below the horizon, taking with it thermometer readings. Temperatures fall below 0 °F for months at a time with lows reaching as far as -60 °F. However, residents of the Interior are rewarded come summertime when the sun returns for up to 23 hours on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The long summer days see temperatures above 70 °F for months at a time, with highs reaching upwards of 90 °F. It is also important to note here that fog and wind often pose the biggest risks for air travel which is necessary to reach many of the rural areas of the state, particularly many Alaska Native Villages. Needless to say, traveling around the state can be a serious challenge due to its size, weather, natural terrain, the limited road system, and the remote locations of many communities.

### *Population*

According to the U.S. Census Bureau estimates for 2006, the State of Alaska has roughly 670,000 residents, the fourth lowest population size in the United States (<http://www.census.gov/>). The population density in 2004 was about 1.15 people per square mile, compared to an average of 83.01 nationally.<sup>1</sup> While many Alaskans reside in communities defined as “urban” by the U.S. Census Bureau (communities of more than 2,500 people), a large number of residents continue to live in much smaller and more geographically isolated areas throughout the state. There are over 230 Alaska Native Villages spread throughout the entire State of Alaska. Many of the communities are located in areas that are inaccessible by standard motor vehicle transportation due to the limited road system. To better understand the context of the current research, it may be useful to think of the state as having two main parts: the areas connected to the main road system and those that are ‘off-highway.’

A 2002 report by the Alaska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights noted that 64% of the 272 communities served by the Alaska State Troopers are only accessible by airplane, boat, or snowmachine.<sup>2</sup> The main highway system is accessible from two points on the Canadian border, extends north into parts of the Interior (Fairbanks area), and continues to the southern tips of the Kenai Peninsula where the roads literally end at the water’s edge in the cities of Seward and Homer (see Figure 2 on the following page). Areas of Southeast Alaska are accessible by road traveling through Canada as well, but these are not connected to the main State of Alaska highways. Thus, the western area of the state, the Aleutian and Kodiak Islands, and parts of the Interior are cutoff from the main road system and the majority of the state population. Communities in this territory are therefore only accessible by boat or plane.

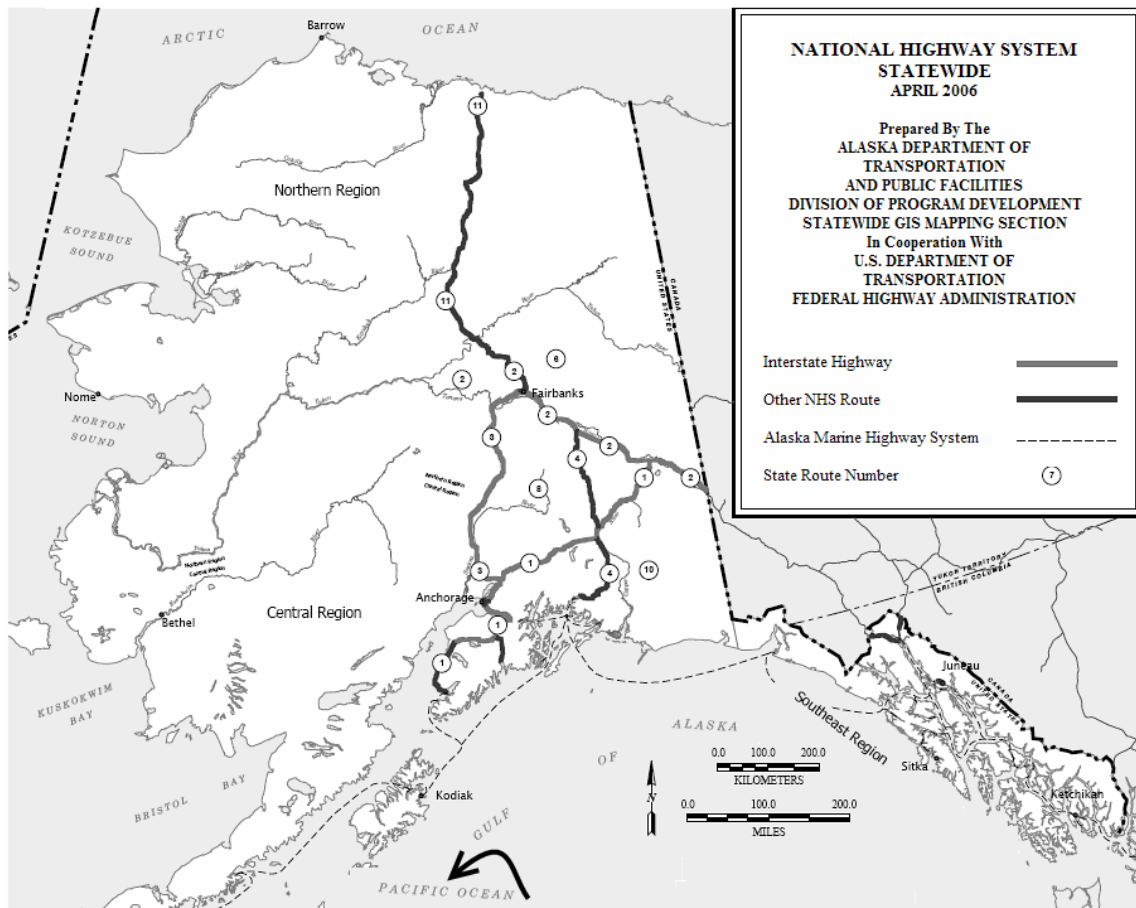
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<sup>1</sup> Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Oct. 2006. *Alaska Population Overview* (p. 62).

<sup>2</sup> Alaska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, April 2002. *Racism’s Frontier: The Untold Story of Discrimination and Division in Alaska* (p. 50). As of August 23, 2007 the full report was available for download as an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) at: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/sac/ak0402/ak02.pdf>

The exception to this general rule is that once you are in western Alaska, traveling to nearby villages is possible using a snow machine, boat, or ATV. Together, the weather, the state's size, the geographic isolation of many communities, and the requisite modes and conditions of travel represent unique challenges that Alaska State Troopers must contend with on an almost daily basis while performing their duties as law enforcement officers.

**Figure 2. State of Alaska Highway System**



*Source of data: State of Alaska Highway Maps, April 2006*

## **Brief Overview of the Alaska State Troopers**

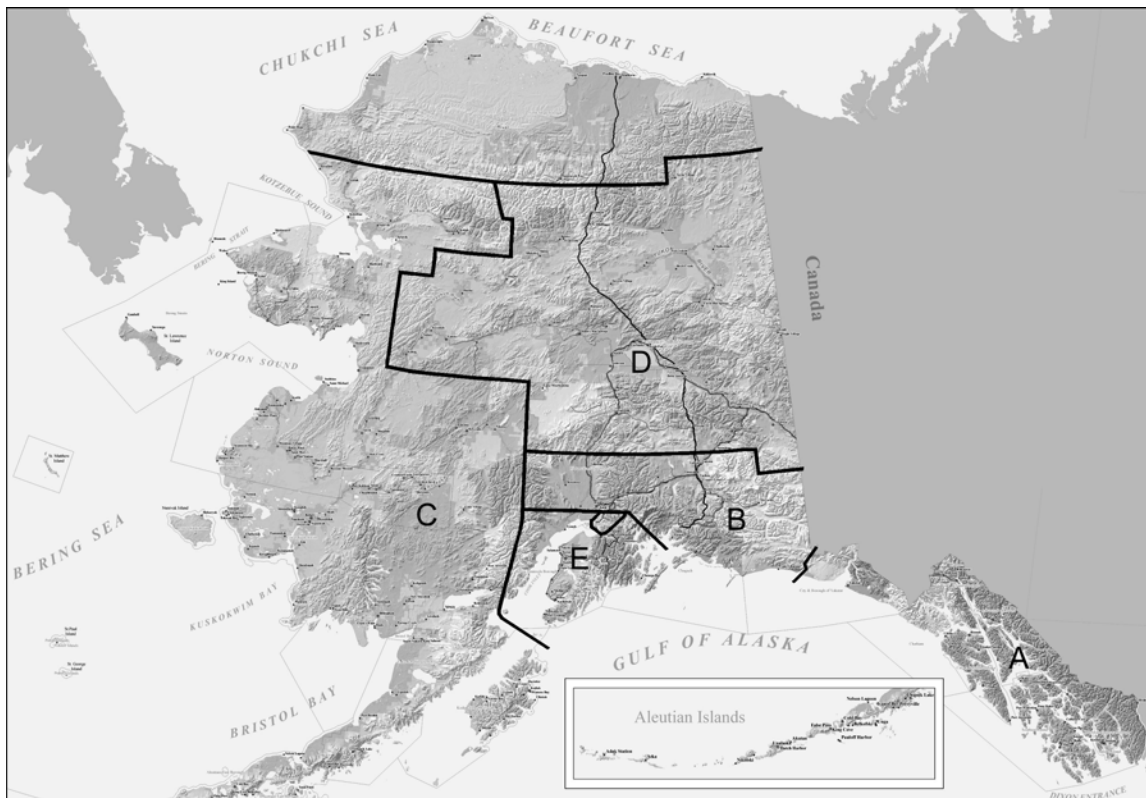
This section of the report begins with a brief history of the Alaska State Troopers and concludes with a discussion of the organization's current duties and geographic jurisdiction, structure and size, and statewide locations. Historically, providing law enforcement services to residents throughout the state has been a challenge. Since the late part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the major responsibilities for providing law enforcement have gradually shifted away from the local levels (i.e., Alaska Native villages) towards governmental agencies (both Federal and State). The organizational roots of the Alaska State Troopers are traced back to the Territory of Alaska Highway Patrol, created by the 15<sup>th</sup> Territorial Legislature and charged with enforcing the traffic code in 1941. By the end of the decade, the Highway Patrol officers were given the full authority of peace officers, consequently expanding their duties to cover the enforcement of all Territorial laws. The Territorial Legislature reaffirmed the agency's duty to provide law enforcement across the Territory by establishing the Alaska Territorial Police, with a total of 36 officers, in 1953. Once statehood was granted in 1959, the organization was designated a division of the Department of Public Safety and renamed once again to the Alaska State Police. By this time, the organization had more than doubled its strength to 78 commissioned officers. The final name change came in 1967 when Governor Wally Hickel declared the organization the 'Alaska State Troopers.' In addition, the organization added a Criminal Bureau of Investigation in 1971 (now the Alaska Bureau of Investigation), and developed the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program in the late 1970s.

Throughout the State of Alaska, some local and municipal governments have elected to create local police forces. However, the Alaska State Troopers remain the only agency mandated by state law to provide police services. In other words, AST is the agency primarily responsible for providing public safety services in most areas of the state, and, in areas with a local law enforcement agency, AST still provides limited services. Stated differently, AST directly provides public safety services to all areas that do not have a local police force and provides support services to all local police forces statewide. The organization is also responsible for providing court services (e.g., transportation of prisoners, defendants), emergency services, and other specialized enforcement activities in all areas of the state, including those with local police departments. In addition, AST is the primary law enforcement agency responsible for over 200 rural communities as well as many urban communities. Overall, all state residents have access to some of the services provided by AST and direct services are provided for over 204,000 state residents, roughly one-third of the state's residents. The main police services provided by AST include criminal and traffic law enforcement and investigation, search and rescue operations, court services, and wildlife law enforcement patrol and investigations.

As noted earlier, the Alaska State Troopers are a Division of the Alaska Department of Public Safety. At the time of this study, The Division of Alaska State Troopers consists of five Trooper Detachments, the Alaska Bureau of Investigations (ABI), the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE), and the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement (ABWE). Each of the five Detachments is responsible

for providing the core law enforcement services within their geographic region (Southeast, South Central, Kenai Peninsula, the Interior, and Western Alaska). The geographic region of each Detachment is displayed in the figure below.

**Figure 3. Geographic Region for Detachment Areas**



*Source of data: Alaska State Troopers*

ABI consists of the Computer and Financial Crimes Unit, the Child Abuse Investigations Unit, the Wildlife Investigations Unit, the Missing Persons Unit, and the Major Crimes Investigation Units in Fairbanks, Mat-Su Valley, Soldotna, and Anchorage. The core of ABI is the Major Crime Units which are responsible for investigating sexual assaults, homicides, and other serious crimes committed against persons statewide. Investigators from ABI also provide training for new recruits at the Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka. In addition to the investigations conducted by ABI members themselves, the units routinely provide assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the state. In terms of personnel, ABI listed one Captain, one Lieutenant, six Sergeants, and 28 State Troopers for a total of 36 commissioned officers during FY 2005.

The following section provides more detailed information on each of the five AST Detachments and their respective geographic areas. “A” Detachment provides services for Southeast Alaska, also known as the Inside Passage. The Detachment headquarters is in Ketchikan, and the remaining posts are located in Haines, Juneau, Klawock, and Petersburg. The detachment covers more than 62,000 square miles of land with a population of approximately 73,300 residents. Fourteen local police departments operating within A Detachment provide direct services to roughly 63,000 area residents

within their 12,100 square mile coverage area. Seventeen Troopers (compared to 134 city officers) are responsible for providing public safety services for roughly 10,000 area residents spread throughout the remaining 49,900 square miles. Together, the five posts within A Detachment provide direct services to 30 communities in Southeast Alaska. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 470:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within “A” Detachment is roughly 604:1.

“B” Detachment is located in South Central Alaska and shares borders with Canada, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, and the Denali Borough. The detachment headquarters is in Palmer and the remaining posts are located in Big Lake, Glennallen and Talkeetna. Four local police departments (38 total officers) provide direct services for roughly 16,000 residents within a 239 square mile coverage area. In comparison, 43 Troopers provide services for the remaining 49,000 area residents living in 31 communities. The Troopers coverage area is roughly 55,000 square miles. In addition, some areas within B Detachment are reportedly the fastest growing in the State of Alaska. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 420:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within “B” Detachment is roughly 1,148:1.

“C” Detachment covers western Alaska, including the Aleutian Chain and Kodiak Island, an area that is roughly 267,000 square miles. It is the largest of the five detachments. In addition, the communities in this region are not connected to the State of Alaska Highway system. The detachment headquarters is in Anchorage, and the remaining posts are found in Aniak, Bethel, Cold Bay, Dillingham, King Salmon, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome and St. Mary’s. Ninety officers from 12 local police departments provide services to approximately 30,000 residents throughout the region. However, these local departments are only responsible for providing services to an area roughly 450 square miles in size. In contrast, a total of 45 Troopers provide the primary law enforcement services for the remaining 40,000 residents spread throughout 125 communities within the region. Troopers in C Detachment are essentially responsible for providing services throughout the 267,000 square miles that define their geographic region. In addition, C Detachment manages the Department of Public Safety’s VPSO program which has 124 positions statewide.<sup>3</sup> Eighty-four positions are currently filled, 67 of which are within C Detachment. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 335:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within “C” Detachment is roughly 883:1.

“D” Detachment has more personnel than any other detachment and provides coverage for the Interior of Alaska. The Detachment headquarters is in Fairbanks, and the remaining posts are located in Cantwell, Delta, Galena, Healy, Nenana, Northway and Tok. Approximately 51 Troopers cover roughly 205,000 square miles including 1,550 miles of highway enforcement. Their geographic region contains roughly 63,000 residents spread throughout 57 separate communities. Six local police departments (total of 46 officers) provide enforcement services to roughly 35,000 residents living within 85

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<sup>3</sup> For a more detailed review of the VPSO program see: Wood, 2000. *Turnover Among Alaska Village Public Safety Officers: An Examination of the Factors Associated with Attrition*. As of August 23, 2007 the full report was available for download as an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) at: <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/research/1990/9901vps0/9901vps0.html>.

square miles of the region. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 763:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within “D” Detachment is roughly 1,175:1.

“E” Detachment is responsible for providing coverage to South Central Alaska, otherwise known as the Kenai Peninsula. In terms of land mass, the detachment covers an area comparable to the states of New Jersey and Massachusetts combined. The detachment headquarters is located in Soldotna, and the remaining posts are found in Girdwood, Homer, and Seward. There are six local police forces, with a total of 52 officers, operating within “E” Detachment. These six police forces provide direct services to approximately 19,000 residents living within 119 square miles. In contrast, 31 Troopers provide direct services to the remaining 32,500 area residents living throughout 29 separate communities. These communities are spread throughout roughly 22,500 square miles of land. Similar to the Troopers within the “B” and “D” Detachments, Troopers in “E” Detachment are also responsible for providing traffic law enforcement on the Kenai Peninsula. Comparatively, the resident to officer ratio for city officers is approximately 362:1, whereas the resident to Trooper ratio within “E” Detachment is roughly 1,048:1.

As noted earlier, in addition to typical law enforcement services AST is responsible for providing a variety of additional public safety services ranging from search and rescue missions to court services and prisoner transports statewide. Like many law enforcement agencies nationwide, AST’s workload is quite substantial. Information submitted to the Governor’s Operating Budget sheds light on AST’s annual workload. According to the Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary, in FY2004 (June 2003-July 2004) AST:

- Handled more than 111,000 offenses in AST jurisdiction;
- Responded to more than 4,570 motor vehicle collisions;
- Performed over 55,839 transports of prisoner with no escapes;
- Saved or assisted over 367 people through 234 search and rescue efforts;
- Investigated over 3,500 drug and alcohol importation related crimes;
- Solved 93 percent of the homicides that occurred within AST jurisdiction;
- Served or closed over 8,350 warrants;
- Served or closed over 28,239 writs (FY 2006 Governor’s Operating Budget).

As these numbers suggest, the demand for services from the Troopers is frequent and quite varied. The geographic and climatic context of their daily working conditions provide regular challenges over and above the typical challenges faced by law enforcement agencies that provide services in more traditional American communities throughout the Lower 48.

## Summary of Alaska's Criminal Assault Statutes

The current sample includes reports of assaults in domestic violence incidents that resulted in at least one assault charge. Alaska's criminal code defines assault in terms of first, second, third and fourth degrees (Alaska Statutes §11.41.200, §11.41.210, §11.41.220 and §11.41.230). First degree assault is a class A felony, second degree assault is a class B felony, third degree assault is a class C felony and fourth degree assault is a class A misdemeanor.

The main distinctions between the degrees of assault are in regard to the level of intent and seriousness of resulting physical injury. First degree assault includes reckless serious physical injury resulting from a dangerous instrument, intentional serious physical injury, knowingly engaging in conduct that results in serious physical injury and recklessly causing serious physical injury by repeated assaults using a dangerous instrument. Assault in the second degree includes intent to physically injure another person by a dangerous instrument, recklessly causing serious physical injury or recklessly causing serious physical injury by repeated assaults. Assault in the third degree includes physical injury to a child under 10 years of age requiring medical attention or on more than one occasion. The statute for third degree assault also references intent of physically injuring or repeatedly threatening death or imminent serious physical injury to a person or their family member. Fourth degree assault as defined in section 11.41.230 includes reckless physical injury, criminally negligent physical injury resulting from a dangerous instrument, and recklessly placing another in fear of imminent physical injury. See Appendix B for Alaska Assault Statutes.

In this study, we focus on assaults in domestic violence incidences. These represent assaults between household members. *Household member* is defined in Alaska Statute § 18.66.990 as including adults or minors who are in the following relationships: current or former spouses, live together or who have lived together, dating or who have dated, engaged in or who have engaged in a sexual relationship, related to each other up to the fourth degree of consanguinity, related or formerly related by marriage, or have a child together. First degree consanguinity includes parents and children. The second degree of consanguinity includes grandparents, grandchildren, and brothers or sisters. The third degree of consanguinity includes great grandparents, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, uncles or aunts. The fourth degree of consanguinity includes great great grandchildren or grandparents, grand nieces or nephews, and great uncles or aunts.

## **Purpose of this Study**

Data from all assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers in 2004 were collected for one primary reason. The reason was to gather descriptive information about assaults in domestic violence incidents in Alaska and to create a report that summarizes this new information. This is the first examination of assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to AST posts across most geographic areas of Alaska (excluding reports to Alaska's municipal police agencies). As such, this report provides an important overview of a specific crime whose characteristics are known for only a limited area within the state, namely the Municipality of Anchorage. This report provides an overview of the characteristics of reports, suspects, victims, victim-suspect relationships, incidents and witness' characteristics, and legal resolutions. By obtaining a greater understanding of assaults in domestic violence incidents throughout the state, we will be better prepared to simultaneously hold offenders accountable while striving to reduce overall rates of assaults in domestic violence incidents in the State of Alaska.

## **Methods**

Our population included all assaults in domestic violence incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers in 2004. Reports were selected if they included an assault charge (in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> degree) that was classified as assaults in domestic violence incidents (according to the definitions provided in Alaska Statute §18.66.990). This population included a total of 1,441 cases. From these 1,441 cases, we sampled all cases that were closed by referral, closed by arrest, closed declined, closed by investigation, or closed as unfounded. This eliminated 75 cases that were still open or were closed logged. Closed logged cases were reported as assaults in domestic violence incidents, but no report was ever generated because it was determined that no crime had occurred. We also eliminated 29 cases because they were investigated by detachments N or W (Narcotics and Wildlife, respectively). This limited the sample to cases investigated by detachments A, B, C, D, E, or ABI. Finally, we eliminated 16 cases where only "supplement" information, rather than the final case report, was available. The supplemental information often includes additional witness information collected by a Trooper assisting the main case investigation. From our original population of 1,441 cases, we therefore included 1,321 cases (91.7% of the population) in our sample. A total of 120 cases were not included in our sample. Of these 120 cases, 75 were excluded because they were still open or were closed logged, 29 were excluded because they were investigated by Detachments N or W, and 16 were excluded because they contained supplemental information only.

From our sample of 1,321 cases, we successfully collected 1,281 cases, or 97%. From the 40 cases that were not collected, 30 did not include an assault in domestic and less than 1% could not be found. Our final sample therefore includes 1,281 cases with an assault in domestic violence charge, reported to Troopers in 2004, from Detachments A, B, C, D, E, or ABI, that were closed by referral, closed by arrest, closed declined, closed by investigation, or closed as unfounded. To summarize, the population included 1,441

cases. We sampled 1,321 (91.7%) of these 1,441 cases. We collected 1,281 cases (97% of sampled cases, or 88.8% of cases in the population).

Requests for copies of the final reports were sent to the appropriate AST Posts, Detachment Headquarters, and the Criminal Records and Identification Bureau (R&I), the central repository for criminal history information. All data collection then occurred on-site at the Alaska State Troopers Headquarters in Anchorage. From these 1,281 cases, we collected detailed information on reports, suspects, victims, incidents, witnesses, and legal resolutions (see Appendix A for data collection instrument). These 1,281 cases contained information about 2,407 charges (including 1,803 assault charges), 1,356 suspects, 1,523 victims, and 1,283 witnesses.

Report information includes geographic information (detachment and unit information), the month and year of report, case closure codes, time from report to case closure, the law enforcement agency first notified, the person reporting the assault in domestic violence incident, and the number of charges, suspects, victims, and witnesses per report.

Suspect information includes demographic information (gender, race, and age); information about the suspect's use of drugs and alcohol; whether the suspect was present upon Trooper arrival; whether the suspect was cooperative; whether the suspect was interviewed; the amount of time from the report to the suspect interview; whether their interviews were recorded; whether suspect interviews were internally consistent; whether suspects violated a domestic violence protective order, conditions of release, or conditions of probation; and detailed information about the suspect's charges. This information includes the total number of charges per suspects, the total number of assault charges per suspect, and the total number of other charges per suspect.

Victim information includes demographic information (gender, race, and age), information on who the victim consulted prior to reporting, victim use of drugs and alcohol, whether the victim received emergency medical treatment, whether the victim was present upon Trooper arrival, whether the victim was interviewed, when victims were interviewed, whether the victim continued to cooperate with the investigation, whether victim interviews were recorded and internally consistent, and whether the victim suffered injuries.

For each victim and suspect within each case, we also describe the nature of their relationship, the status of their relationship, and their living arrangement. We also compare victims and suspects by race and age.

Incident information includes the main charge for each incident, the number of assault charges per incident, whether substance use was involved, the method of contact, the precipitating factors of the assault in domestic violence incident, the location of the assault in domestic violence incident, the presence of others during the incident, the person responsible for stopping the assault, the victim's condition at the time of the assault, whether weapons were used during the assault, whether the victim resisted the assault, whether the victim was stalked, the time to report, and characteristics of the incidents. Characteristics of the incidents include both violent acts toward the victim and threats made to the victim. Finally, incident information includes offensive and defensive injury measures for both victims and suspects.

Witness information includes the number of witnesses per case, whether witnesses were eyewitnesses, whether witnesses were interviewed, whether their

interviews were recorded, demographic characteristics of witnesses (gender, race, and age), drug and alcohol use by witnesses, whether witnesses cooperated, whether witness statements were internally consistent, and whether witness statements corroborated statements by the victim, suspect, or other witnesses.

This project was approved by the University of Alaska Anchorage Institutional Review Board and utilized a Privacy Certificate issued by the National Institute of Justice. Funding for this research was provided by the National Institute of Justice and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. All reports of assaults in domestic violence incidents from 2004 were photocopied by the Alaska State Troopers and were mailed to the Anchorage office. Research assistants then read each report and entered information directly onto a Microsoft Access database (again, see Appendix A for data collection instrument). Names of victims, suspects and witnesses were excluded from data collection and entry. We now describe the results of this collaborative investigation. We begin by describing report characteristics and then describe the characteristics of suspects, victims, incidents, and witnesses. We conclude with an overview of key legal outcomes.

## Report Characteristics

A total of 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents were included in the analyses. These 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents generated 1,803 assault charges. All of the reports were made in 2004 and the month in which each report was made is summarized below in Table 1.

**Table 1. Month of Report**

*Column percentages*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Reports</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
January	109	8.5 %
February	100	7.8
March	91	7.1
April	106	8.3
May	140	10.9
June	95	7.4
July	103	8.0
August	111	8.7
September	100	7.8
October	109	8.5
November	103	8.0
December	114	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1281</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

The number of assaults in domestic violence incidents was fairly consistent from month to month, as it ranged from a low of 91 assaults in domestic violence incidents in March to a high of 140 in May. Only two months (March and June) had fewer than 100 assaults in domestic violence incidents, while the other 10 months each had 100 or more.

The reports of assaults in domestic violence incidents came from a number of different sources, but victims were the most likely people to report assaults in domestic violence incidents. As shown in the table below, 57% of reports were made by victims. After victims, the most likely people to report assaults in domestic violence incidents were family members (15%) and friends (8%). On rare occasions, reports of assaults in domestic violence incidents came from other sources including officials (health professionals, law enforcement or other officials) and suspects.

**Table 2. Person Reporting Assaults in Domestic Violence Incidents**

*Column percentages*

Reporter	Reports	
	N	%
Victims	734	57.3 %
Family	196	15.3
Friends	104	8.1
Strangers	82	6.4
Official	75	5.9
Suspect	58	4.5
Other	32	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1281</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

The number of reports varied by detachment and unit. Tables 3 and 4 summarize the detachment and unit information for the 1,281 reports that were analyzed. The majority of reports (82%) were handled by three detachment areas: C (32%), D (29%), and B (22%). The remaining detachment areas had fewer reports: E (13%), A (4%), and ABI (1%).

**Table 3. Total Number of Reports by Detachment**

*Column percentages*

Detachment	Reports	
	N	%
C	409	31.9 %
D	367	28.6
B	275	21.5
E	171	13.3
A	49	3.8
ABI	10	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1281</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

Table 4 shows the number of reports by unit. Fifty-eight units received at least one report in 2004. The Fairbanks AST Enforcement Unit received the highest number of reports (23%) with the Palmer AST Enforcement Unit and the Soldotna AST Enforcement Unit having the second and third highest percentage of reports (18% and 9% respectively). The remaining 50% of reports came from fifty-five other units with no single unit receiving more than 5% of the reports.

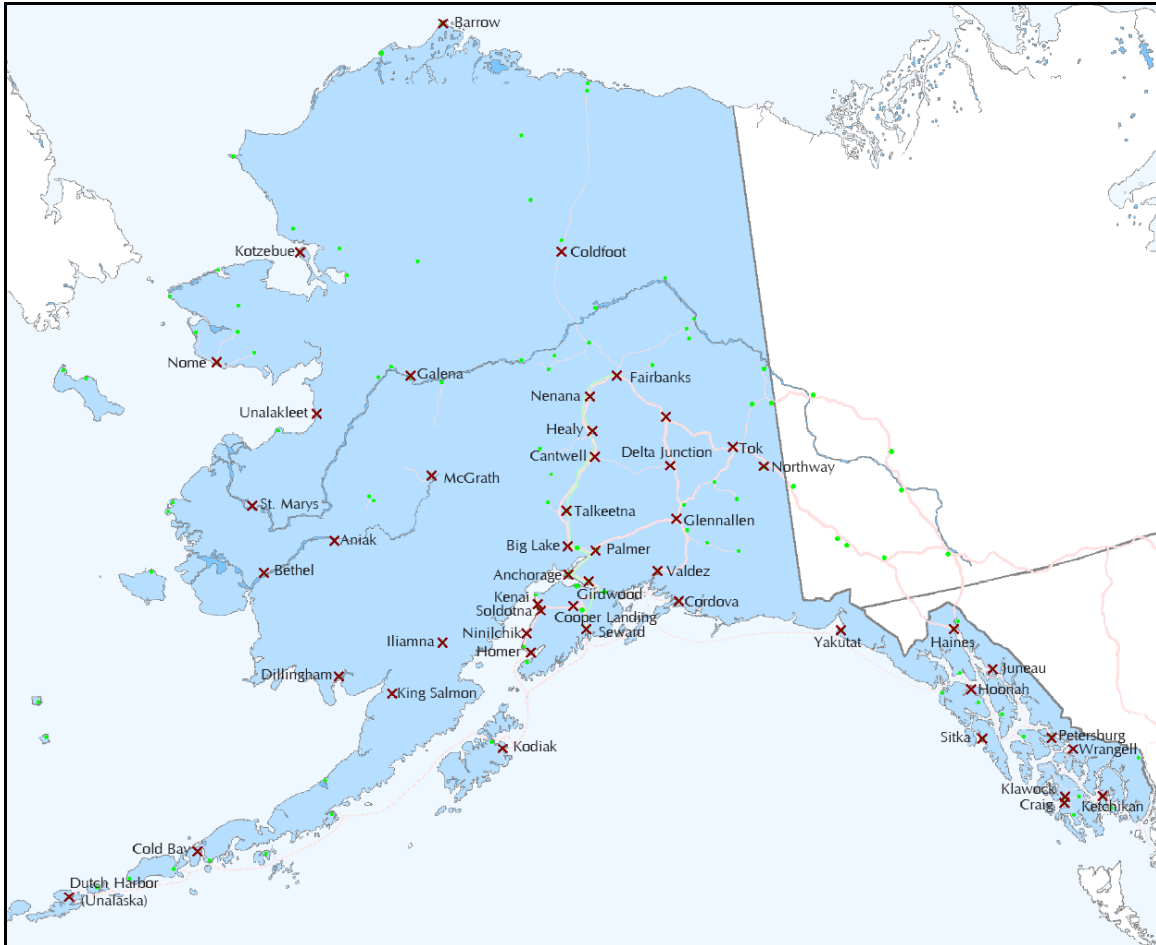
**Table 4. Total Number of Reports by Unit**

*Column percentages*

Detachment	Reports		Detachment	Reports	
	N	%		N	%
ALEUTIAN CHAIN VPSO	2	0.2	VPSO-LARSEN BAY	1	0.1
ANCHORAGE AST ENFORCEMENT	1	0.1	MCGRATH AST ENFORCEMENT	2	0.2
ANIAK AST ENFORCEMENT	58	4.5	NENANA AST ENFORCEMENT	1	0.1
BRISTOL BAY VPSO	1	0.1	NINILCHIK AST ENFORCEMENT	9	0.7
BETHEL AST ENFORCEMENT	35	2.7	NOME AST ENFORCEMENT	63	4.9
BETHEL V.P.S.O.	25	2	NOME V.P.S.O.	24	1.9
BIG LAKE AST ENFORCEMENT	5	0.4	NOME WAANT UNIT	1	0.1
BRISTOL BAY VPSO	6	0.5	NORTHWAY AST ENFORCEMENT	17	1.3
ABI CHILD ABUSE INV. UNIT	2	0.2	PALMER AST ENFORCEMENT	231	18.1
CANTWELL AST ENFORCEMENT	8	0.6	PALMER AST INVESTIGATIONS	5	0.4
DELTA JUNCTION AST ENFORCEMENT	10	0.8	PALMER/WASILLA AST ENFORCEMENT	1	0.1
DILLINGHAM AST ENFORCEMENT	10	0.8	VPSO-OLD HARBOR	1	0.1
EMMONAK AST	3	0.2	VPSO-KARLUK	1	0.1
FAIRBANKS AST ENFORCEMENT	294	22.9	VPSO-MANOKOTAK	2	0.2
FAIRBANKS AST INVESTIGATIONS	1	0.1	VPSO-GOODNEWS BAY	2	0.2
GALENA AST ENFORCEMENT	19	1.5	VPSO-KIPNUK	2	0.2
GIRDWOOD AST ENFORCEMENT	11	0.9	VPSO-NAPASKIAK	3	0.2
GLENNALLEN AST ENFORCEMENT	24	1.9	VPSO-SLEETMUTE	1	0.1
HEALY AST ENFORCEMENT	2	0.2	VPSO-MT. VILLAGE	1	0.1
VPSO-TYONEK	1	0.1	VPSO-KOYUK	2	0.2
HOMER AST ENFORCEMENT	23	1.8	VPSO-SHISHMAREF	1	0.1
JUNEAU AST ENFORCEMENT	13	1	SEWARD AST ENFORCEMENT	9	0.7
KETCHIKAN AST ENFORCEMENT	28	2.2	SOLDOTNA AST ENFORCEMENT	115	9
KING SALMON AST ENFORCEMENT	17	1.3	SOLDOTNA AST INVESTIGATIONS	2	0.2
KLAWOCK AST ENFORCEMENT	8	0.6	ST. MARYS AST ENFORCEMENT	33	2.6
KODIAK AST ENFORCEMENT	49	3.8	TALKEETNA AST ENFORCEMENT	13	1
KODIAK V.P.S.O.	5	0.4	TOK AST ENFORCEMENT	15	1.2
KODIAK ABWE	1	0.1	UNALAKLEET AST ENFORCEMENT	5	0.4
KOTZEBUE AST ENFORCEMENT	35	2.7			
KOTZEBUE V.P.S.O.	21	1.6	<b>Total</b>	<b>1281</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

**Figure 4. Alaska State Trooper Posts**



*Source: Alaska Justice Forum 21(4:5), Winter 2005*

The proportion of all reports to AST in 2004 varied by detachment and unit, but AST was not the first agency contacted in all cases. In 80% of the reports, the Troopers were the first agency to be contacted (see Table 5). An additional 8% of reports were made to Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO). Six percent of reports were first made to Village Police Officers (VPO) or Tribal Police Officers (TPO). The remaining reports were made to local police departments or other officials (such as military police, Office of Children’s Services or medical professionals).

**Table 5. First Agency Notified**

*Column percentages*

Agency	Reports	
	N	%
AST	1020	79.6 %
VPSO	108	8.4
VPO	79	6.2
TPO	3	0.2
Other	71	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1281</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

As the following table shows, most of the cases (96%) were closed and referred for prosecution. These included cases that were closed by arrest (79%) and closed and referred (13%). The remaining cases were closed after investigation (2%) or closed as unfounded (2%). These cases were closed without a suspect being arrested.

**Table 6. Case Closure Codes**

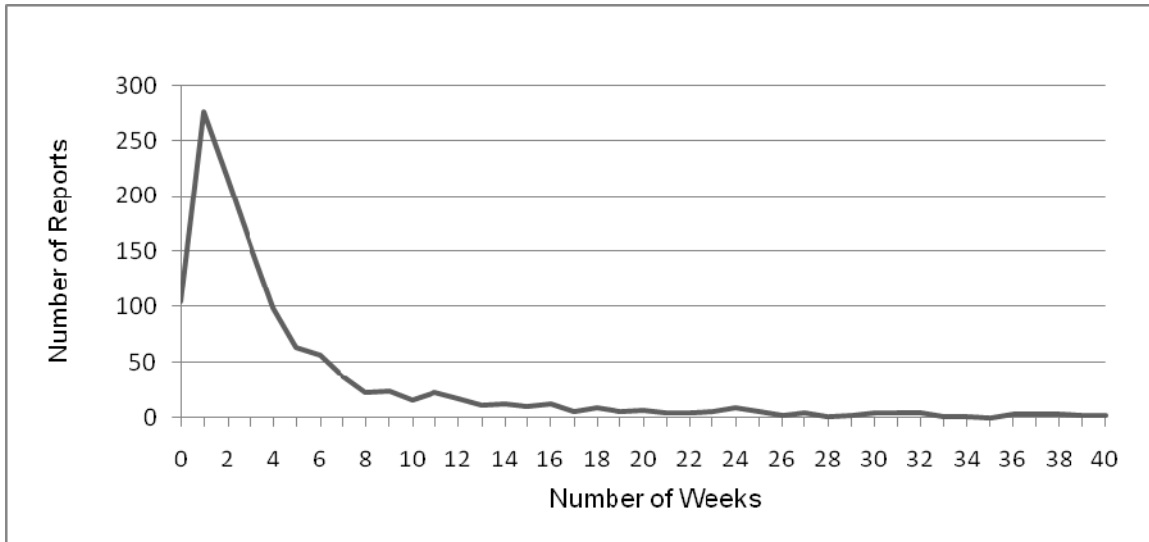
*Column percentages*

Closure Code		Reports	
		N	%
CA	Closed by arrest	1015	79.2 %
CR	Closed, referred	170	13.3
CI	Closed by investigation	26	2.0
CU	Closed, unfounded	20	1.6
CD	Closed, declined	50	3.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>1281</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

On average, it took 6.30 weeks to close a case after it was reported ( $s = 10.39$ , results not shown). Forty-seven percent of cases were closed within two weeks of being reported. Another 20% of cases were closed within four weeks after being reported and a full 98% of cases were closed within 40 weeks of being reported (results not shown). Time to case closure ranged from less than one week to over 2 years. The number of weeks from report to case closure for cases closed within 40 weeks is shown in the following graph.

**Figure 5. Number of Weeks from Report to Case Closure for Cases Closed within Forty Weeks**



*Source of data: AST data (2004)*

There was variation in the number of charges resulting from a single report of an assault in a domestic violence incident. Assault in domestic violence incidents sometimes included multiple charges, multiple suspects, multiple victims, and multiple witnesses. In the following sections, we describe the number of charges (both assault and other charges), suspects, victims, and witnesses per report. The 1,281 reports of assaults in domestic violence incidents resulted in a total of 2,407 charges. Of the total 2,407 charges, 75% were assault charges (N = 1,803 charges).

The number of assault charges was not equal across all reports. On average, each report included a total of 1.88 charges ( $s = 1.35$ , results not shown), including 1.41 assault charges ( $s = 0.86$ , results not shown). Further, 48% of cases contained a total of two or more total charges while 28% of cases contained two or more assault charges. The total number of charges per report ranged from one to 15, and the number of assault charges per report ranged from one to 12.

**Table 7. Total Number of Charges, Suspects and Victims per Report**

*Column percentages*

Number	Charges		Assault Charges		Suspects		Victims	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
One	661	51.6 %	924	72.1 %	1213	94.7 %	1105	86.3 %
Two	370	28.9	261	20.4	64	5.0	136	10.6
Three	126	9.8	60	4.7	3	0.2	24	1.9
Four	67	5.2	22	1.7	0	0.0	12	0.9
Five	30	2.3	7	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.2
Six or more	27	2.1	7	0.5	1	0.1	2	0.2
<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>1281</b>		<b>1281</b>		<b>1281</b>		<b>1281</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

From the 1,281 reports included in our sample, we gathered information from a total of 1,356 suspects and a total of 1,523 victims. On average, each report included 1.06 suspects ( $s = 0.28$ ) and 1.19 victims ( $s = 0.58$ , results not shown). The majority of reports (95%) included one suspect only and the majority (86%) included one victim only. The highest number of suspects per report was six (for one report) and the highest number of victims per report was nine (again for one report only). Only four reports had more than two suspects and 40 had more than two victims. Dual arrests were rare (in only 4% of reports).

In addition to the number of suspects and victims per report, we examined the number of witnesses. The 1,281 reports involved a total of 1,283 witnesses. The average number of witnesses per report was 1.00 ( $s = 1.21$ , results not shown). Almost half (41%) of the reports had no witnesses. An additional 34% of the reports had only one witness, 15% had two witnesses, and 6% had three. Less than 5% of assaults in domestic violence incidents had four or more witnesses. Although a relatively small number of witnesses to assaults in domestic violence incidents were common, there was at least one witness present in 58% of the assaults in domestic violence incidents.

**Table 8. Total Number of Witnesses per Report**

*Column percentages*

<b>Number</b>	<b>Reports</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Zero	530	41.4 %
One	437	34.1
Two	193	15.1
Three	70	5.5
Four	30	2.3
Five	9	0.7
Six	5	0.4
Seven	3	0.2
Eight	2	0.2
Nine	2	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1281</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

## Suspect Characteristics

From the 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents included in our sample, we gathered information on 1,356 suspects. The vast majority of assaults in domestic violence incidents (93%) involved only one suspect. Only 68 of the 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents (5%) contained two or more suspects. Descriptive information for the 1,356 suspects is summarized below. It should be noted that “Total” figures in the following tables are reflective of the data that were available for and collected from the 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents we examined. More specifically, if the relative information for a particular suspect was either not documented, or documented as “unknown,” the respective suspect(s) was not included in the following tables. Unknown in this case refers to unknown information for known suspects.

Overall, most suspects were adult, male, and White or Native. Information on suspect race and gender was known for 1,353 of the 1,356 suspects. Over three-quarters of the suspects were male while only 24% were female (see Table 11). Results show that 51% of suspects were White, and 45% were Native.

**Table 9. Race of Suspects**

*Column percentages*

Race	Suspects	
	N	%
White	695	51.4 %
Native	613	45.3
Black	36	2.7
Other	9	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1353</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

The age of the suspect was available for 1,346 of the 1,356 suspects. On average, suspects were 33.13 years old ( $s = 11.7$ , results not shown) at the time of the assault. The youngest suspect was 10 years old, and the oldest was 88 years old. The majority of suspects were adults as only 6% were under 18 years of age. Starting with the group of suspects 21 or older, the number of suspects in each category decreased as age increased. For instance, 21-30 year olds made up 31% of suspects, 31-40 year olds made up 27% of suspects, 41-50 year olds made up 20% of suspects and suspects 51 years or older made up 7% of suspects. This pattern of decreasing criminal involvement with age is well established in the criminal justice literature.

**Table 10. Age of Suspects at Time of Assault**

*Column percentages*

Age Group	Suspects	
	N	%
1 to 10	1	0.1 %
11 to 17	84	6.2
18 to 20	108	8.0
21 to 30	423	31.4
31 to 40	368	27.3
41 to 50	262	19.5
51 and over	100	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1346</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

Fifty-seven percent of the suspects were documented as having consumed alcohol prior to the assault. Forty-three percent of suspects were documented as not having consumed alcohol prior to the assault. Only 3% of suspects were documented as consuming an illicit drug other than alcohol prior to the assault. Many of the suspects remained at the location where the assault took place. Specifically, 79% of the suspects were still at the scene of the assault by the time Troopers arrived and began their initial investigations.

**Table 11. General Suspect Characteristics**

*Row percentages*

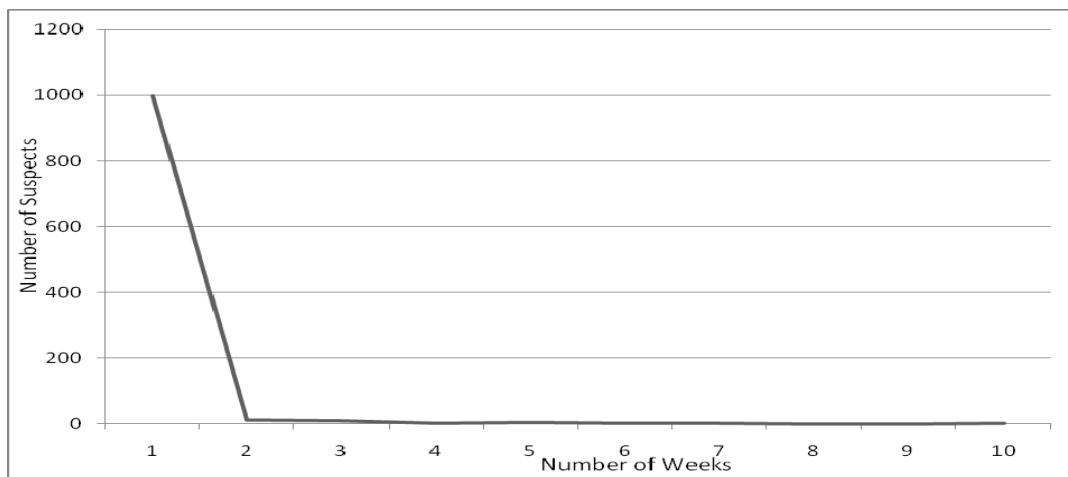
Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Male suspect	319	23.6 %	1034	76.4 %	<b>1353</b>
Used alcohol	537	43.0	713	57.0	<b>1250</b>
Used drugs	1237	97.4	33	2.6	<b>1270</b>
Present upon Trooper arrival	284	21.5	1035	78.5	<b>1319</b>

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

Many of the suspects remained on the scene after the assault and Troopers were able to collect information about these events from the suspects. Overall, 79% of suspects were interviewed (see Table 12 below). The 21% of suspects who were not interviewed may have refused to provide a statement to AST or may not have been located or

otherwise available to be interviewed. The data collected for this study did not include explanations for the absence of suspect interviews. Of those interviewed, 83% were recorded. The bulk of the suspect interviews appear to have been conducted on scene as 81% were completed the same day. In fact, the timeframe between the reporting of the assault in domestic violence (frequently the day of the assault) and the suspects' interviews was quite short. Ninety-six percent of suspect interviews were conducted within seven days of the report. The average number of days between the assault in domestic violence incident report and the suspect interview was 2.63 ( $s = 26.86$ , results not shown). In only 1% of cases two months or more elapsed between the assault in domestic violence incident report and the suspect interview.

**Figure 6. Number of Weeks from Report to Suspect Interview, for Suspects that Were Interviewed within Nine Weeks**



Source of data: AST data (2004)

Suspect interviews were examined to assess internal consistency. Stated differently, the statements made by suspects as part of their interview with Troopers were evaluated to determine whether the suspect's statements were consistent with rather than contradictory to one another. The results are shown in the table below. As the table indicates, most of the suspect interviews (87%) were internally consistent and suspects did not contradict themselves. During the interview, 58% of suspects made admissions of guilt to AST, but only 21% gave a full confession.

**Table 12. Characteristics of Suspect Interviews**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Suspect was interviewed	283	21.3 %	1044	78.7 %	1327
Interview was recorded	169	17.4	801	82.6	970
Internally consistent	133	12.9	902	87.1	1035
Made admissions of guilt	441	42.4	599	57.6	1040
Gave a full confession	823	79.1	217	20.9	1040

Source of data: AST data (2004)

Suspects typically faced only one assault charge. In fact, 78% of the suspects received only one assault charge. However, 216 of the suspects (16%) received two assault charges. Six percent of suspects received three or more assault charges, with the maximum being 12 charges (N=1). The total number of assault charges (across suspects) was 1,803 for the 1,356 suspects.

**Table 13. Number of Assault Charges per Suspect**

*Column percentages*

Number of Assault Charges	Suspects		
	N	%	Cum. %
One	1055	77.8 %	77.8 %
Two	216	15.9	93.7
Three	54	4.0	97.7
Four	18	1.3	99.0
Five	7	0.5	99.6
Six or more	6	0.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1356</b>		

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

In addition to assault charges, some suspects had other charges. In Table 14, we show the total number of charges per suspect (including both assault and other charges), the number of assault charges (also shown in Table 13), and the number of other charges. On average, each suspect received a total of 1.78 charges ( $s = 1.29$ ), including an average of 1.33 assault charges ( $s = 0.80$ ) and 0.45 other charges ( $s = 0.87$ , results not shown). Of the 1,356 suspects, 200 (15%) had multiple assault charges and 401 (29%) had at least one other charge. As a result, 580 (43%) of the suspects therefore had a total number of charges greater than one. Overall, the 1,356 suspects generated a total of 2,407 charges, including 1,803 assault charges and 604 other charges. Assault charges and other charges are presented in more detail in the following two tables.

**Table 14. Number of Total, Assault, and Other Charges per Suspect**

*Column percentages*

Number	Total Charges			Assault Charges			Other Charges		
	N	%	cum. %	N	%	cum. %	N	%	cum. %
0	0	0.0 %	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0.0 %	955	70.4 %	70.4 %
1	776	57.2	57.2	1055	77.8	77.8	274	20.2	90.6
2	344	25.4	82.6	216	15.9	93.7	82	6.0	96.7
3	121	8.9	91.5	54	4.0	97.7	25	1.8	98.5
4	63	4.6	96.2	18	1.3	99.0	16	1.2	99.7
5	26	1.9	98.1	7	0.5	99.6	3	0.2	99.9
Six or more	26	1.9	100.0	6	0.4	100.0	1	0.1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1356</b>			<b>1356</b>			<b>1356</b>		

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

The first table below shows the 1,803 assault charges, and the following table shows the 604 other charges received by suspects. The number of assaults declined in frequency as the assault types increased in severity. In other words, the most common assault charges were 4<sup>th</sup> degree assault (84%). In decreasing order of frequency, the next most likely assault charges were 3<sup>rd</sup> degree assault (13%), 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault (3%) and 1<sup>st</sup> degree assault (1%).

**Table 15. All Assault Charges**

*Column percentages*

<b>Severity</b>	<b>Assault Charges</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Assault 1st Degree	17	0.9 %
Assault 2nd Degree	45	2.5
Assault 3rd Degree	232	12.9
Assault 4th Degree	1509	83.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1803</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

Information was also gathered to identify the first person to use or threaten to use physical force. The first person to use or threaten to use physical force was classified as the principal aggressor. Suspects were identified as the principal aggressor in 93% of assaults in domestic violence incidents. In 7% of assaults in domestic violence incidents, suspects were not identified as principal aggressors; someone other than the suspect was the first person to use or threaten to use physical force (results not shown).

The following table displays the 604 other charges. These other charges were filed in addition to the 1,803 assault charges. The percentage of each charge frequency has been computed out of the other charge total (N = 604) as well as the assault charge total (N = 1,803). The most common other charges were for interfering with a report of a crime involving domestic violence (21%) and criminal mischief (20%). Stated another way, 7% (N = 128) of assault charges filed also included a charge of interfering with a report of a crime involving domestic violence. The remaining other charges included reckless endangerment, misconduct involving a weapon, DUI/reckless driving, and resisting arrest. Several less common other charges can be seen along with their frequencies in the table below.

**Table 16. Other Charges**

*Column percentages*

Charge	Other Charges		
	N	% Other Charges	% All Charges
Interfering with a Report of a Crime Involving Domestic Violence	128	21.2 %	7.1 %
Criminal Mischief	122	20.2	6.8
Reckless Endangerment	52	8.6	2.9
Misconduct Involving a Weapon	41	6.8	2.3
DUI/Reckless Driving	35	5.8	1.9
Resisting Arrest	31	5.1	1.7
Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance	22	3.6	1.2
Criminal Trespass	21	3.5	1.2
Alcoholic Beverages	17	2.8	0.9
Sexual Assault/Abuse	17	2.8	0.9
Harrassment	16	2.6	0.9
Kidnapping	15	2.5	0.8
Disorderly Conduct	14	2.3	0.8
Burglary	13	2.2	0.7
Murder 1st or 2nd Degree	10	1.7	0.6
Other Driving Offense	9	1.5	0.5
Other Family Offense	6	1.0	0.3
Tampering with a Witness or Physical Evidence	5	0.8	0.3
Violating a Protective Order	4	0.7	0.2
Theft 2nd-4th Degrees	4	0.7	0.2
Vehicle Theft	4	0.7	0.2
False Information or Report	3	0.5	0.2
Unlawful Contact	3	0.5	0.2
Coercion	3	0.5	0.2
Escape	3	0.5	0.2
Stalking	3	0.5	0.2
Arson	2	0.3	0.1
Cruelty to Animals	1	0.2	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>604</b>		

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

A small percentage of suspects were injured as a result of victims resisting being attacked. Although suspect injuries were quite rare, the most common injury types resulting from victims resisting being attacked were lacerations (13%) and bruises (8%). A fairly small proportion of suspects were injured and only a few received medical treatment for their injuries. Specifically, 3% of suspects were treated for injuries they received as part of the assault (results not shown).

Despite the number and types of offenses suspects were charged with as a result of the assaults in domestic violence incidents, few suspects had an existing domestic violence protection order filed against them by the victim at the time of the offense. Just over 1% of suspects were noted as having domestic violence protection orders filed against them by a victim involved in the current assault. Likewise, few suspects were violating conditions of release or probation. Specifically, 2% of suspects were documented as violating a condition of release with their current charges. Another 4% of suspects violated documented conditions of their probation with the current charges. It is important to note that the percent of suspects violating conditions of release may be greater than those reported here, because these conditions are not always documented in APSIN. Undocumented conditions of release or probation would not be readily apparent to Troopers. Hence, they would not be available for analysis.

**Table 17. Suspects with DVPO, or Violating Conditions of Release or Conditions of Probation**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
DVPO for this Victim	1330	98.7 %	17	1.3 %	<b>1347</b>
Violated Conditions of Release	1320	97.9	28	2.1	<b>1348</b>
Violated Conditions of Probation	1280	95.6	59	4.4	<b>1339</b>

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

## Victim Characteristics

From the 1,281 assaults in domestic incidents included in our sample, we gathered information on 1,523 victims. Most assaults in domestic violence incidents (86%) contained only one victim, and the highest number of victims in any assault in domestic violence incident was nine. Eleven percent of assaults in domestic violence incidents referenced two victims and only 3% referenced three or more victims. Descriptive information on the 1,523 victims is provided below. It should be noted that “Total” figures in the following tables reflect information that was available and collected from victims of the 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents we examined. More specifically, if the relevant information for a particular victim was either not documented, or documented as “unknown,” that information was not included in the table.

The majority of victims in our sample were female (70%) while the remaining 30% of victims were male. In terms of race, the race/ethnicity of the victim was identified for 1,507 of the 1,523 victims. Similar to the racial/ethnic background of suspects, 51% of victims were White, and 47% were Alaska Native (see Table 18).

**Table 18. Race of Victims**

*Column percentages*

Race	Victims	
	N	%
White	763	50.6 %
Native	712	47.2
Black	26	1.7
Other	6	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1507</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

Most victims were adults. Specifically, the age of the victim was provided for 1,502 of the 1,523 victims. On average, victims were 31.98 years old ( $s = 14.51$ , results not shown) at the time of the assault. The average victim was just one year younger than the average suspect. The youngest victim was less than one year old, and the oldest was 84 years old. Overall, roughly 15% of the victims were minors under the age of 18. Another 9% of victims were 18 to 20 years old, 26% of victims were 21 to 30 years old, 21% were 31 to 40 years old, 19% were 41 to 50 years old, and 10% were 51 years old or older.

**Table 19. Age of Victims**

*Column percentages*

Age Group	Victims	
	N	%
1 to 10	54	3.6 %
11 to 17	171	11.4
18 to 20	130	8.7
21 to 30	396	26.4
31 to 40	321	21.4
41 to 50	279	18.6
51 or older	151	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1502</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

In addition to the demographic characteristics of victims, data were often available on other victim characteristics. For example, information documenting whether the victim was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the assault was analyzed. Almost one third of victims (32%) were documented as having consumed alcohol prior to the assault in domestic violence incident, but only 1% were documented as having consumed illicit drugs. Of the victims who consumed alcohol, 82% drank alcohol with the suspect involved in the assault in domestic violence incident. Consumption of alcohol along with the suspect may be an indication of controlling behavior on the part of the suspect.

Another victim characteristic examined was the presence of the victim when Troopers arrived and the degree to which the victim cooperated with AST. The overwhelming majority (96%) of victims were present when the Troopers arrived on the scene of the assault. In addition, victims were generally cooperative with AST following the assaults in domestic violence incidents, as 88% assisted AST throughout the investigative process. Only 13% of victims were described as uncooperative with AST. It is important to emphasize that it was not always the victim who reported assaults in domestic violence incidents to AST.

**Table 20. General Victim Characteristics**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Female victim	458	30.4 %	1047	69.6 %	<b>1505</b>
Used alcohol	976	67.7	466	32.3	<b>1442</b>
Used drugs	1457	98.8	18	1.2	<b>1475</b>
Present when AST arrived	55	3.7	1426	96.3	<b>1481</b>
Cooperated with AST	180	12.5	1255	87.5	<b>1435</b>

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

Documented injuries sustained and emergency medical treatment victims received following assaults in domestic violence incidents are described in the following table (Table 21). The most common type of documented injury was bruising, reported by 38% of victims. The next most common type of injury was lacerations or bite marks, as reported by 27% of victims. Ten percent of victims reported bloody nose or lips and 10% reported black or swollen eyes. Overall, few victims received any type of emergency medical treatment for their injuries. Specifically, only 12% of victims received medical care for their injuries while 88% did not (results not shown).

**Table 21. Victim Injuries**

*Row percentages*

Injuries	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Bruising	856	61.7 %	532	38.3 %	<b>1388</b>
Lacerations/bite marks	1051	72.8	393	27.2	<b>1444</b>
Bloody nose/lips	1307	90.5	137	9.5	<b>1444</b>
Broken/loosened teeth	1437	99.4	9	0.6	<b>1446</b>
Black/swollen eyes	1300	90.2	142	9.8	<b>1442</b>
Fracture	1414	98.9	16	1.1	<b>1430</b>
Strangulation	1374	95.2	69	4.8	<b>1443</b>
Gun shot	1440	99.6	6	0.4	<b>1446</b>
Stab wound	1422	98.3	24	1.7	<b>1446</b>
Genital injuries	1433	99.8	3	0.2	<b>1436</b>

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

We also examined who victims consulted with before reporting the assaults in domestic violence incidents to Troopers. As shown in the following table, 76% of victims did not consult anyone prior to reporting assaults in domestic violence incidents. When victims consulted others, they were most likely to consult a family member (11%) or a friend (7%). A small percentage of victims consulted an official or a professional (3%) or in some cases, a stranger (2%).

**Table 22. Who Victim Consulted Prior to Reporting**

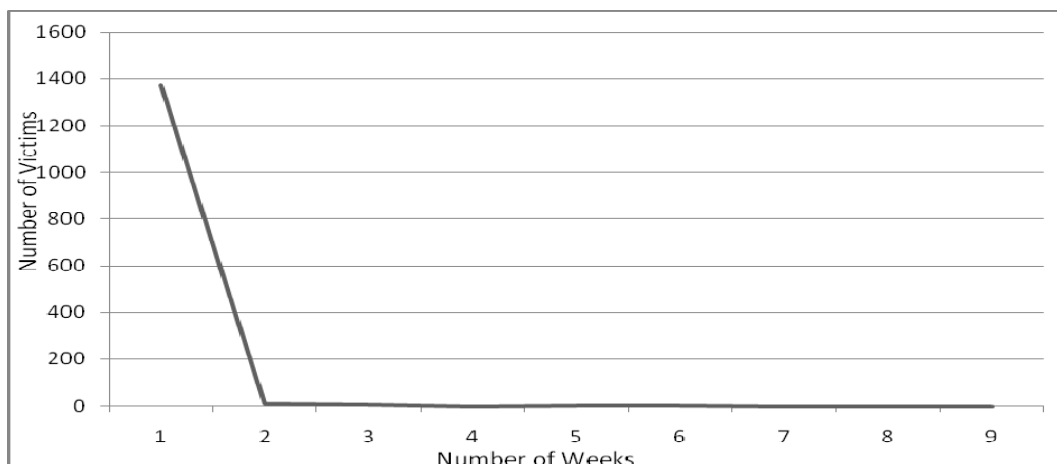
*Row percentages*

Who	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Nobody	348	23.6 %	1125	76.4 %	<b>1473</b>
Family member	1317	89.4	156	10.6	<b>1473</b>
Friend	1365	92.7	108	7.3	<b>1473</b>
Official or professional	1427	96.9	46	3.1	<b>1473</b>
Stranger	1445	98.1	28	1.9	<b>1473</b>
Other	1465	99.5	8	0.5	<b>1473</b>

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

We examined the time that elapsed between the initial report to the Troopers and the interview that took place with the victims. The number of weeks from report to victim interview is shown in the following figure. Overall, 1,406 or 95% of the victims were interviewed. The victims who were not interviewed may have refused to provide a statement to AST or may not have been located or otherwise available for an interview. The data collected for this study did not include explanations for the absence of victim interviews. Not surprisingly given the high level of victim cooperation with AST, most victims were interviewed shortly after reports were made. More specifically, 89% of the interviews were conducted on the same day the report was made. A full 98% of the interviews took place within one week of the report.

**Figure 7. Number of Weeks from Report to Victim Interview, for Victims that Were Interviewed within Nine Weeks**



**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

Of the victims that were interviewed, 84% were recorded. Victim interviews were examined to assess if they were internally consistent. Stated differently, the statements made by victims were evaluated to determine whether they were consistent with or contradictory to one another. During their interviews with AST, the majority of victims (94%) made internally consistent statements and did not contradict themselves.

**Table 23. Characteristics of Victim Interviews**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Victim was interviewed	73	4.9 %	1406	95.1 %	<b>1479</b>
Interview was recorded	204	15.6	1103	84.4	<b>1307</b>
Internally consistent	85	6.1	1318	93.9	<b>1403</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2004)*

When a victim was interviewed, but the interview was not recorded, an attempt was made to locate a documented reason for the lack of recording. The reasons a victim interview was not recorded are shown in the table below. In most cases (34%), no reason was documented. In 19% of cases, the Trooper indicated problems with or lack of recording equipment, in 16% of cases the interview was conducted over the phone, and in 11% of cases the victim provided a written statement. Other reasons victim interviews were not recorded included multiple interviews where other interviews were recorded (7%), the interview was witnessed by another person (4%), and lack of victim cooperation (3%).

**Table 24. Reasons for not Recording Victim Interviews**

*Row percentages*

Reason	Unrecorded Interviews	
	N	%
None provided	43	33.9 %
Problems with or lack of equipment	24	18.9
Conducted via telephone	20	15.7
Written statement provided	14	11.0
Multiple interviews (others recorded)	9	7.1
Other	8	6.3
Interview was witnessed by another	5	3.9
Lack of victim cooperation	4	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2004)*

## Victim-Suspect Characteristics

From the 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents in our sample, we gathered information on 1,540 victim-suspect combinations. In the previous sections describing suspect and victim characteristics, we examined characteristics for unique or unduplicated suspects and victims within a single assault in domestic violence incident. In the following section, we describe characteristics of unique victim-suspect combinations. When a single suspect assaulted multiple victims, the characteristics of each victim-suspect combination were examined. Similarly, when the same victim was assaulted by multiple suspects, characteristics of each victim-suspect combination were examined. Therefore, “Total” figures included in the following tables are greater than those previously reported. This occurred because each suspect may have multiple victim-suspect combinations (when multiple victims exist) and each victim may also have multiple victim-suspect combinations (when multiple suspects exist). The “Total” figures in the following tables reflect 1,540 combinations between suspects and victims found in the 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents we examined. When information was not documented or when it was documented as “unknown,” it was not included in the following tables. The results of the victim-suspect characteristics are now discussed.

**Table 25. Nature of Victim and Suspect Relationships**

*Column percentages*

Relationships	All Victims		Female Victims		Male Victims	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Intimate partners	871	57.6 %	698	66.3 %	173	37.7 %
Parents or children	285	18.8	171	16.2	114	24.8
Siblings	144	9.5	86	8.2	58	12.6
Extended family	79	5.2	36	3.4	43	9.4
Roommates	122	8.1	59	5.6	63	13.7
Other	11	0.7	3	0.3	8	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1512</b>		<b>1053</b>		<b>459</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

One of the characteristics of assaults in domestic violence incidents examined in this analysis was the nature of the victim and suspect relationship at the time of the assault. The nature of the victim and suspect relationship was examined separately for female victims and male victims. The most likely relationship identified was current or former intimate partner as seen in 66% of assaults in domestic violence incidents with female victims and 38% with male victims. The next most likely relationship was parents or children as seen in 16% of the assaults in domestic violence incidents with female victims and 25% with male victims. Another 8% of assaults in domestic violence incidents with female victims and 12% with male victims took place between siblings (including step and in-law). Extended family members were victims and/or suspects in 3% of assaults in domestic violence incidents involving female victims and 9% of assaults in domestic violence incidents involving male victims. Six percent of assaults in

domestic violence incidents involving a female victim and 14% involving a male victim occurred between roommates. Overall, most assaults took place between intimate partners and this was particularly true for female victims.

Additional information was used to determine whether the status of the relationship between the victim and suspect changed around the time of the assaults in domestic violence incidents. Only a small percentage of assaults in domestic violence incidents indicated a change in relationship status around the time of the assault or report of it. Specifically, in 6% of assaults in domestic violence incidents, the relationship actually ended before the assault took place. In another 2% of assaults in domestic violence incidents, the assault took place during a time when the suspect had been rejected by the victim or was attempting to reconcile with the victim. However, in the majority of assaults in domestic violence incidents, there was no documented change in the relationship status at the time of the assault as the parties were still involved as intimate partners (52%) or continued to be related (33%).

**Table 26. Status of Victim and Suspect Relationship at Time of Assault**

*Column percentages*

Relationship Status	Victim-Suspect Combinations	
	N	%
Still involved	795	51.6 %
Relatives (blood or legal)	504	32.7
Relationship ended	86	5.6
Rejection/reconciliation	31	2.0
Roommates	65	4.2
Other	59	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1540</b>	

*Source of data: AST data (2004)*

The table below displays the race of victims and suspects simultaneously. Only those victim-suspect combinations with race information available for both parties are included in the following table. Two racial groups, Alaska Natives and Whites, accounted for the overwhelming majority of both victims and suspects in our sample of assaults in domestic violence incidents (see Table 26 for individual breakdowns). More specifically, 98% of the victims and 97% of the suspects were either White or Native. Due to the low numbers of Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics (only 2% of victims and 3% of suspects) in our sample, the current discussion focuses primarily on Whites and Natives.

As the table indicates, the vast majority (86%) of assaults were intra-racial. Whites were more likely to assault and to be assaulted by Whites and Natives were more likely to assault and to be assaulted by Natives. More specifically, 89% of Native suspects and 87% of Native victims were involved in intra-racial assaults, and 87% of White victims and 87% of white suspects were involved in intra-racial incidents. Inter-racial assaults were much less common. More specifically, 11% of Native victims were assaulted by a White suspect, and 10% of White victims were assaulted by a Native suspect. Conversely, 11% of Native suspects assaulted a White victim, and 10% of White suspects assaulted a Native victim.

**Table 27. Victim-Suspect Race Combinations**

	Victim												Total
	Native		White		Black		Asian		Hispanic		Other		
Suspect	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Native	<b>628</b>	<b>87.3</b>	77	10.0	1	3.8	–	–	1	33.3	1	50.0	<b>708</b>
White	80	11.1	<b>667</b>	<b>86.6</b>	15	57.7	1	100.0	1	33.3	1	50.0	<b>765</b>
Black	7	1.0	20	2.6	<b>10</b>	<b>38.5</b>	–	–	1	33.3	–	–	<b>38</b>
Asian	1	0.1	3	0.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	<b>4</b>
Hispanic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	<b>0</b>
Other	3	0.4	3	0.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>719</b>		<b>770</b>		<b>26</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>1521</b>

Source of data: AST data (2004)

In addition to looking at the racial backgrounds of victims and suspects, we examined their age groups. The following table and figure each display the age groups of victims and suspects simultaneously. Only those victim-suspect combinations with age information available for both parties are included in the following table and figure. Unlike the race combinations discussed above, many (61%) of the assaults involved victims and suspects from different age groups. However, the average age of suspects (33.14) and victims (31.96) in our sample was quite similar. Likewise, three of the top five age group combinations involved victims and suspects in the same age range. The top five age group combinations were: (1) 21-30 year old suspects and 21-30 year old victims (N = 225), (2) 31-40 year old suspects and 31-40 year old victims (N = 160), (3) 41-50 year old suspects and 41-50 year old victims (N = 114), (4) 31 to 40 year old suspects and 21 to 30 year old victims (N = 102) and (5) 21-30 year old suspects and 18-20 year old victims (N = 65). Together these five combinations of age groups account for 44% of the victim-suspect combinations in our sample (where both the age of the suspect and victim were known).

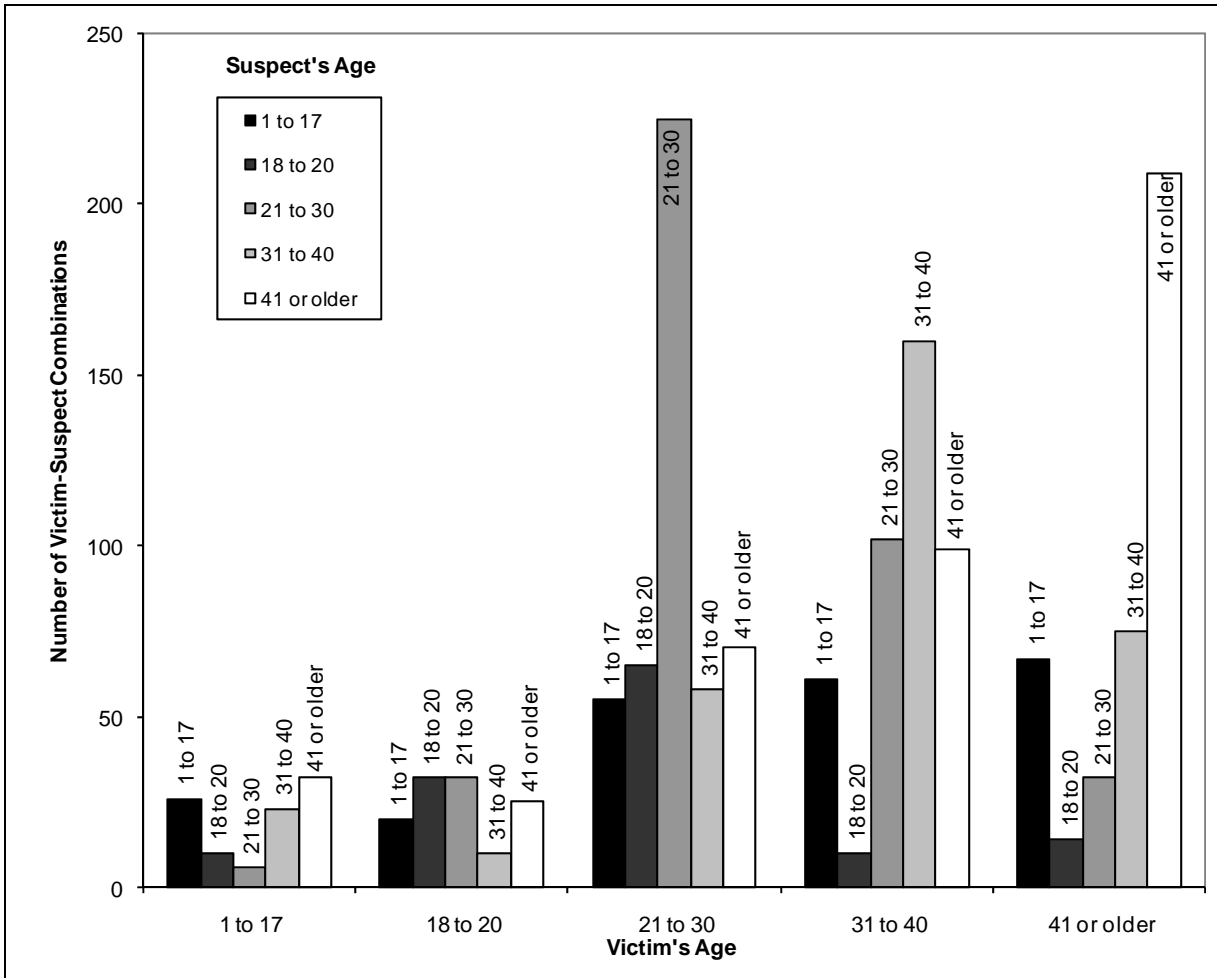
**Table 28. Victim-Suspect Age Combinations**

Victim	Suspect														Total
	1 to 10		11 to 17		18 to 20		21 to 30		31 to 40		41 to 50		51 or over		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
1 to 10	<b>2</b>	<b>66.7</b>	1	1.1	2	1.7	11	2.3	27	6.3	7	2.5	4	3.6	<b>54</b>
11 to 17	0	0.0	<b>23</b>	<b>24.5</b>	18	15.1	41	8.7	34	7.9	42	14.7	14	12.5	<b>172</b>
18 to 20	0	0.0	10	10.6	<b>32</b>	<b>26.9</b>	65	13.8	10	2.3	11	3.9	3	2.7	<b>131</b>
21 to 30	0	0.0	6	6.4	32	26.9	<b>225</b>	<b>47.9</b>	102	23.6	23	8.1	9	8.0	<b>397</b>
31 to 40	1	33.3	22	23.4	10	8.4	58	12.3	<b>160</b>	<b>37.0</b>	57	20.0	18	16.1	<b>326</b>
41 to 50	0	0.0	17	18.1	13	10.9	44	9.4	63	14.6	<b>114</b>	<b>40.0</b>	33	29.5	<b>284</b>
51 or over	0	0.0	15	16.0	12	10.1	26	5.5	36	8.3	31	10.9	<b>31</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>94</b>		<b>119</b>		<b>470</b>		<b>432</b>		<b>285</b>		<b>112</b>		<b>1515</b>

Source of data: AST data (2004)

The following graph displays the number of victim-suspect combinations (on vertical axis) by victim age (on horizontal axis) for five different suspect age groups (in vertical bars). In this graph, we combined the first two age groups (1 to 10 and 11 to 17) and the last two age groups (41 to 50 and 51 or over). Again, this analysis includes only those assaults in domestic violence incidents with age information available for both the victim and the suspect.

**Figure 8. Victim-Suspect Age Groups**



Source of data: AST data (2004)

The living arrangements between suspects and victims are displayed below. As the table indicates, most victims (72%) were living with the suspects at the time of the assault (most permanently). The remaining 28% of victims did not live with the suspect at the time of the assault.

**Table 29. Victim and Suspect Living Arrangement**

*Column percentages*

<b>Living Arrangement</b>	<b>Victim-Suspect Combinations</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Separate	412	27.9 %
Permanently common	984	66.7
Temporarily common	79	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1475</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

## Incident Characteristics

Out of the 1,281 assaults in domestic violence, we gathered information on a total of 1,540 incidents. Incidents were defined as assaults in domestic violence between a unique suspect and a unique victim within a single report. Therefore, a report with multiple suspects or victims resulted in multiple incidents (i.e., one for each unique suspect and victim). If the same suspect and/or victim were involved in multiple assaults in a given report, incident characteristics represent the characteristics of all assaults between that suspect and victim. By including information on each unique incident, we were able to describe the characteristics for multiple incidents within any given report, rather than limiting the analysis to only one incident. We use the term “incident” to refer to the time period immediately preceding the assault, the assault itself, and the time immediately following the assault.

Table 29 displays the total number of assault charges associated with each unique incident. In 86% of the incidents, there was only one assault charge. The remaining 14% of incidents included two or more assault charges. On average, each incident generated 1.18 assault charges ( $s = 0.56$ , results not shown).

**Table 30. Total Number of Assault Charges per Incident**

*Column percentages*

<b>Number</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
One	1328	86.2 %
Two	172	11.2
Three or more	40	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1540</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

We now examine the most serious assault charge in each incident. The table below displays the most serious assault charge for each incident. When a suspect had multiple charges against the same victim, only the most serious was selected. When a suspect had multiple charges against multiple victims, the most serious against each victim was selected. Of the most serious assault charges, the most common were assault in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree (83%) and assault in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree (13%). Together, these made up 96% of the most serious assault charges. Only 1% of the most serious assault charges were for assaults in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree and only 3% were for assaults in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree.

**Table 31. Most Serious Assault Charge for Each Incident**

*Column percentages*

Charge	Incidents	
	N	%
Assault 1st Degree	15	1.0 %
Assault 2nd Degree	41	2.7
Assault 3rd Degree	202	13.1
Assault 4th Degree	1282	83.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1540</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

The official report writing manual for the Alaska State Troopers instructs officers to list one of five possible categories relating to the involvement of substances for each charge. The five categories are none, alcohol, drugs, both, and unknown. Table 31 shows the documented involvement of substances for the most serious charge within each unique incident. Stated differently, if substance use was documented in a less serious assault charge or another charge that involved the same parties, it is not reflected in the following table.

**Table 32. Substance Use Involved in Incidents**

*Column percentages*

Substance	Incidents	
	N	%
Alcohol	911	59.2 %
None	422	27.4
Documented Unknown	157	10.2
Drugs	17	1.1
Both	33	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1540</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

Of the 1,540 incidents, 59% involved documented substance use (alcohol and/or drugs). On the other hand, in 27% of incidents, substance use was not involved. For another 10% of incidents, the involvement of substance use was not known to the Troopers. The exclusive use of drugs was rarely documented (only 1% of incidents), as was the documented use of both alcohol and drugs (only 2% of incidents). It is important to note that the percentage of incidents documented as involving substance use differs

from the percentage of suspects documented as having used substances. The number of suspects is not equal the number of incidents. A suspect who assaulted more than one victim in a given assault in domestic violence incident was only counted one time in suspect level analyses. However, this suspect would have appeared in multiple incidents where they assaulted multiple victims in one report.

Information was gathered on the series of events surrounding the incident. This information includes the method of contact. The contact was defined as the moment at which the victim and suspect came into contact with each other just prior to the incident. In addition, we gathered information on the precipitating factors of the assault, the location of the assault, the presence of others during the assault, the victim's condition at the time of the assault, the characteristics of the assault (including whether weapons were used), the victim's response to the assault, stalking behaviors, suspect and victim injuries, the person who stopped the assault, and the time elapsed from the assault to the report.

It should be noted that detailed information was not always available for all assaults in domestic violence incidents. Several factors contribute to the absence of specific details, including the power and control dynamics of the batterer. For instance, the batterer may threaten the victim or the victim's family, including threats that the victim will be arrested or the batterer will commit suicide. Alternatively, there may be pressing economic issues driving the intended or unintended exclusion of certain details. These economic issues may include bills to be paid, child care expenses, housing issues, and/or the continuation of medical insurance. Victims may also refrain from sharing all relevant details because they are or fear they will become isolated by the batterer from the victim's friends, family and social network. Victims may also consider how sharing details associated with assaults in domestic violence incidents with law enforcement will impact their children.

The way in which the victim and suspect came into contact with each other prior to the most recent assault in domestic violence incident was examined to understand the events immediately preceding it. Most assaults in domestic violence incidents (75%) occurred between victims and suspects who were staying or living together at the time of the incident (not shown here). For the remaining quarter of incidents that occurred between suspects and victims who did not stay or live together, 34% occurred between victims and suspects who met in a public place, and 32% resulted from invitation by the suspect or victim. In 25% of incidents (where suspects and victims were not living together) the suspect was uninvited or forced entry and in 9% of incidents the suspect entered through an open window or unlocked door. Once again, the methods of contact discussed here apply only to 375 of 1,502 incidents (25%) where the suspect and victim were not already staying or living together at the time of the assault.

**Table 33. Method of Contact for Suspects and Victims not Living Together**

*Column percentages*

<b>Method of Contact</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Public place	127	33.9 %
By invitation of suspect or victim	118	31.5
Forced entry or uninvited	93	24.8
Open window/unlocked door	32	8.5
Other	5	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

The following two tables provide further details on the precipitating factors and location of assaults in domestic violence incidents. Precipitating factors summarize events that occurred immediately preceding the assault in domestic violence incident; they are not suggested as causal factors. It is worth noting that precipitating factors could only be discerned for 1,320 of the 1,540 assaults in domestic violence incidents. Also, the table below includes only the main precipitating factors of the most recent assault in domestic violence incident.

**Table 34. Precipitating Factors of Assault**

*Column percentages*

Cause	Incidents	
	N	%
Disagreement	453	34.3 %
Alcohol or drugs	322	24.4
Jealousy/infidelity	160	12.1
Child care/custody/discipline	129	9.8
Controlling activities	96	7.3
Personal insults	80	6.1
Financial	65	4.9
Other	15	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1320</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

The two most common precipitating factors were disagreement (34%) or alcohol and/or drugs (24%). In this case, “alcohol and/or drugs” includes intoxication but also an argument stemming from dissatisfaction with the other party’s obtaining, possessing or using alcohol or drugs. The next two most frequently documented precipitating factors were the actual or suspected jealousy or infidelity of one of the involved parties (12%) and issues surrounding child care, custody or discipline (10%). Other less commonly documented precipitating factors were controlling activities (7%), personal insults (6%), and financial matters (5%).

Details on the location of the most recent assault in domestic violence incident are shown in Table 34 below. The vast majority of assaults in domestic violence incidents took place at a shared residence (55%), the residence of the victim (15%), or the residence of the suspect (10%). In order of likelihood, the other locations in which assaults in domestic violence incidents took place were someone else's house (7%), outdoors (7%), in a vehicle (5%) or in a public place (1%).

**Table 35. Location of Assault**

*Column percentages*

Location	Incidents	
	N	%
Shared residence	820	54.8 %
Victim's residence	220	14.7
Suspect's residence	154	10.3
Other's house	107	7.1
Outdoors	103	6.9
Vehicle (victim or suspect's)	72	4.8
Public place	21	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1497</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

Assaults in domestic violence incidents were also examined to determine whether anyone else (besides the victim and suspect) was present during the assault and whether any of those present were the victim's and/or suspect's children. Over half of the incidents (63%) included the presence of an additional person, besides the victim and suspect, during the assault in domestic violence incident. Forty-three percent of incidents included the presence of the suspect's and/or victim's minor children. It was less common for more than one additional person, besides the suspect and victim, to be present during the assault in domestic violence incident. Only 17% of incidents included two additional people present, 9% included three additional people present, and 9% included the presence of four or more additional people besides the victim and suspect. Table 37 shows that in most cases where an additional person was present during the assault in domestic violence incident, only one additional person (27%) was present.

**Table 36: Presence of Others During Assault**

*Row percentages*

Others Present	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Anyone Else Present	536	37.4 %	898	62.6 %	<b>1434</b>
Victim and/or Suspect's Child Present	654	57.0	493	43.0	<b>1147</b>

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

**Table 37. Total Number of Others Present per Incident**

*Column percentages*

<b>Number</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Zero	588	38.3 %
One	412	26.8
Two	256	16.7
Three	145	9.4
Four or more	136	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1537</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

Additional characteristics of the assaults in domestic violence incidents include the victims' condition at the time of the incident. The following table describes the victims' condition at the time of the most recent assault. This information was not always available and may have come from multiple sources including, but not limited to, direct statements made by the victim to either AST or a health professional, statements from witnesses, and direct observations made by the investigating Trooper. These sources described 69% of victims as sober and 31% as intoxicated. Again, these figures reflect only documented victim conditions.

**Table 38. Victim Condition at Time of Assault**

*Column percentages*

<b>Victim Condition</b>	<b>Incident</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Sober	995	64.6 %
Intoxicated	448	29.1
Sleeping	34	2.2
Unknown	63	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1540</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

**Table 39. Weapons Used During Assault***Row percentages*

Weapon	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Threw something at victim	1334	91.4 %	125	8.6 %	<b>1459</b>
Knife	1408	96.4	53	3.6	<b>1461</b>
Gun	1426	97.5	37	2.5	<b>1463</b>
Hit with object	1331	90.0	148	10.0	<b>1479</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2004)*

In addition to the victim's condition at the time of the assault, data were often available regarding the use of weapons. As shown in Table 38, the use of a traditional weapon such as a knife or a gun was extremely rare. Each weapon was used in fewer than 4% of assaults in domestic violence incidents. While still fairly infrequent, suspects were more likely to throw something at the victim (9% of incidents) or hit them with an object (10%) than use a traditional weapon.

Beyond the use of traditional and other objects as weapons, we examined the presence of nine specific violent acts and seven types of threats in the assaults in domestic violence incidents (see Tables 39 and 40). If the specific information was not available or documented as unknown, it was not included in the following table. In other words, only forms of violence that were documented as a result of victim disclosure or officer inquiry, rather than all forms of violence that occurred, are included in the following tables. The violent acts are summarized in the table below. The three most common forms of violence disclosed by victims or documented as a result of officer inquiry included pushing, grabbing or shoving the victim (48%), punching the victim (29%) and slapping or hitting the victim (28%). The less common forms of documented violence included choking, strangling, or suffocating the victim (11%), grabbing or pulling the victim's hair (10%), kicking the victim (9%), chasing the victim (7%), biting the victim (3%) and sexually assaulting the victim (1%).

**Table 40. Incident Characteristics (Violent Acts)***Row percentages*

Actions	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Push, grab or shove victim	761	52.4 %	691	47.6 %	<b>1452</b>
Grab or pull victim's hair	1315	90.0	146	10.0	<b>1461</b>
Slap or hit victim	1040	71.6	412	28.4	<b>1452</b>
Kick victim	1330	91.5	124	8.5	<b>1454</b>
Punch victim	1028	71.0	420	29.0	<b>1448</b>
Bite victim	1415	96.7	48	3.3	<b>1463</b>
Choke/strangle/suffocate victim	1303	89.2	157	10.8	<b>1460</b>
Sexually assault victim	1445	93.8	15	1.0	<b>1460</b>
Chase victim while making threats	1361	93.3	97	6.7	<b>1458</b>

*Source of data: AST data (2004)*

Along with the violent acts reported above, suspects in some cases were documented as having threatened the victims. However, it was documented that suspects were more likely to assault victims than threaten to do so (see Tables 41 and 42 below). It is important to note that the percentages in the following table reflect only threats that were documented as a result of victim disclosure or officer inquiry, rather than all threats that may have occurred. The most common types of documented threats were to kill the victim, as noted in 9% of incidents, and threats of other bodily injury, as noted in 7% of incidents. Less common documented threats included threatening the victim with a gun (5%), threatening the victim with a knife (5%), making threats against the victim's family or friends (4%), threatening the victim with an object other than a traditional weapon (3%), and threatening to sexually assault the victim (1%). Although the use of a traditional weapon during the assaults in domestic violence was very rare, documented threats of using a traditional weapon occurred with greater frequency.

**Table 41. Incident Characteristics (Threats)**

*Row percentages*

Threats	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Threaten to sexually assault victim	1453	99.5 %	7	0.5 %	<b>1460</b>
Threaten to kill victim	1322	90.6	137	9.4	<b>1459</b>
Threaten other bodily injury	1354	92.9	103	7.1	<b>1457</b>
Make threats against victim's family/friends	1404	96.0	58	4.0	<b>1462</b>
Threaten victim with gun	1385	94.8	76	5.2	<b>1461</b>
Threaten victim with knife	1393	95.4	67	4.6	<b>1460</b>
Threaten victim with some other object	1411	96.6	50	3.4	<b>1461</b>

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

Overall, 30% of suspects threatened the victim. The table below shows that the majority of incidents (70%) included a physical assault only without threats. In a smaller percentage of incidents (18%), the incident included both a physical assault and threats. In the smallest percentage of incidents (12%), the incident included threats only, without a physical assault.

**Table 42. Assault Type as Threat, Physical Assault or Both**

*Column percentages*

Assault Type	Incident	
	N	%
Physical assault only	1064	70.0 %
Physical assault and threats	271	17.8
Threats of assault only	184	12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1519</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

The following table describes how victims responded to the violent acts and threats. Seven unique victim response characteristics were recorded for each incident. When multiple incidents involved the same victim and suspect, the response characteristics were compiled to reflect the variety of techniques a victim may have employed over the course of separate incidents. The table below describes these various response characteristics.

Victims typically responded to assaults in domestic violence incidents by seeking help and escaping the situation rather than fighting back or cooperating with the suspect. Table 42 shows that most frequently, victims responded to assaults by calling the police (in 37% of incidents). In 25% of the incidents, the victim ran away. Only 14% of victims responded to assaults aggressively by attacking the suspect. Fourteen percent yelled or screamed at the suspect. Less frequently, victims responded to assaults by reasoning or cooperating with the suspect or threatening the suspect.

**Table 43. Response Characteristics**

*Row percentages*

<b>Actions</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Yes</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
Yelled/screamed at suspect	1249	86.4 %	196	13.6 %	<b>1445</b>
Reasoned/pleaded with suspect	1387	96.2	55	3.8	<b>1442</b>
Cooperated or pretended to	1413	97.7	33	2.3	<b>1446</b>
Threatened suspect	1402	97.1	42	2.9	<b>1444</b>
Attacked suspect	1176	81.6	266	14.4	<b>1442</b>
Ran away	1087	75.0	362	25.0	<b>1449</b>
Called police	911	62.8	539	37.2	<b>1450</b>

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

An attempt was made to measure the existence of documented stalking behaviors by the suspect against the victims. As shown in the table below, documented stalking behaviors were quite uncommon. Stalking behaviors refer only to documented behaviors resulting from victim disclosure or officer inquiry, rather than all stalking behaviors that occurred.

The most common types of documented stalking behavior included harassing the victims' children (3%) and threatening to assault the victim (3%). Less common documented stalking behaviors included unsolicited phone calls (1%), standing outside or visiting the victim's house (1%), following the victim (1%) and harassing the victim's family, friends or co-workers (1%).

**Table 44. Stalking Behavior**

*Row percentages*

Stalking Behaviors	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Harassed victim's children	1411	96.6 %	50	3.4 %	<b>1461</b>
Threatened to physically assault victim	1368	97.2	39	2.8	<b>1407</b>
Made unsolicited phone calls to victim	1393	98.8	17	1.2	<b>1410</b>
Stood outside or visited victim's house	1391	98.9	16	1.1	<b>1407</b>
Followed victim	1394	98.9	15	1.1	<b>1409</b>
Harrassed victim's family, friends or co-workers	1392	99.0	14	1.0	<b>1406</b>
Tried to communicate in other ways against the victim's will	1397	99.1	12	0.9	<b>1409</b>
Vandalized victim's home	1398	99.3	10	0.7	<b>1408</b>
Vandalized other property	1398	99.3	10	0.7	<b>1408</b>
Threatened victim's children	1401	99.5	7	0.5	<b>1408</b>
Contacted or filed a report with Office of Children's Services	1406	99.7	4	0.3	<b>1410</b>
Vandalized victim's car	1404	99.7	4	0.3	<b>1408</b>
Abused victim's pet(s)	1405	99.8	3	0.2	<b>1408</b>
Sexually assaulted victim	1406	99.8	3	0.2	<b>1409</b>
Threatened to sexually assault victim	1407	99.8	3	0.2	<b>1410</b>
Sent victim unsolicited emails or instant messages	1408	99.9	2	0.1	<b>1410</b>
Threatened to harm victim's pet(s)	1407	99.9	2	0.1	<b>1409</b>
Stood outside or visited victim's work or school	1405	99.9	2	0.1	<b>1407</b>
Sent victim unsolicited letters or written material	1409	99.9	1	0.1	<b>1410</b>
Sent victim unsolicited text messages	1409	99.9	1	0.1	<b>1410</b>
Left unwanted item(s) for victim to find	1407	99.9	1	0.1	<b>1408</b>
Sent victim presents (cards, flowers, etc.)	1407	99.9	1	0.1	<b>1408</b>
Contacted victim's employer	1408	99.9	1	0.1	<b>1409</b>
Opened victim's mail without permission	1408	100.0	0	0.0	<b>1408</b>
Relocated residence to follow victim to another village, town or state	1407	100.0	0	0.0	<b>1407</b>
Installed spyware on victim's computer to record keystrokes	1409	100.0	0	0.0	<b>1409</b>
Installed or utilized GPS on victim's vehicle	1409	100.0	0	0.0	<b>1409</b>
Photographed victim without their permission	1410	100.0	0	0.0	<b>1410</b>

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

The injuries sustained by suspects and victims were assessed to determine whether they were sustained offensively (i.e., attacker acting offensively) or defensively. Table 44 summarizes the type and offensive or defensive nature of suspect injuries and Table 45 summarizes the nature of victim injuries. Not surprisingly, suspects were more likely to be injured by victims acting defensively while victims were more likely to be injured by suspects acting offensively. The number of victim injuries sustained by offensive suspects far outweighed the number of suspect injuries sustained by defensive victims. Tables 45 and 46 summarize the number of injuries sustained by suspects and victims. The percent of suspects and victims injured includes duplication in cases where more than one injury was sustained by a suspect or a victim.

**Table 45. Suspect Injuries as Offensive or Defensive***Row percentages*

Suspect Injuries	Total	% Incidents	% Suspects	Offensive		Defensive	
				N	%	N	%
Bruising (arms, leg, neck, etc.)	92	6.0 %	6.8 %	34	37.0 %	58	63.0 %
Lacerations or bite marks	162	10.5	11.9	69	42.6	93	57.4
Bloody nose or lips	20	1.3	1.5	10	50.0	10	50.0
Broken or loosened teeth	1	0.1	0.1	1	100.0	0	0.0
Black or swollen eyes	13	0.8	1.0	2	15.4	11	84.6
Fracture	2	0.1	0.1	2	100.0	0	0.0
Strangulation	7	0.5	0.5	6	85.7	1	14.3
Gun shot	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Stab wound	7	0.5	0.5	3	42.9	4	57.1
Genital injuries	1	0.1	0.1	1	100.0	0	0.0

*Source of data: AST data (2004)***Table 46. Victim Injuries as Offensive or Defensive***Row percentages*

Victim Injuries	Total	% Incidents	% Victims	Offensive		Defensive	
				N	%	N	%
Bruising (arms, leg, neck, etc.)	564	36.6 %	37.0 %	551	97.7 %	13	2.3 %
Lacerations or bite marks	365	23.7	24.0	351	96.2	14	3.8
Bloody nose or lips	135	8.8	8.9	134	99.3	1	0.7
Broken or loosened teeth	10	0.6	0.7	10	100.0	0	0.0
Black or swollen eyes	135	8.8	8.9	133	98.5	2	1.5
Fracture	28	1.8	1.8	27	96.4	1	3.6
Strangulation	72	4.7	4.7	71	98.6	1	1.4
Gun shot	6	0.4	0.4	6	100.0	0	0.0
Stab wound	24	1.6	1.6	22	91.7	2	8.3
Genital injuries	3	0.2	0.2	2	66.7	1	33.3

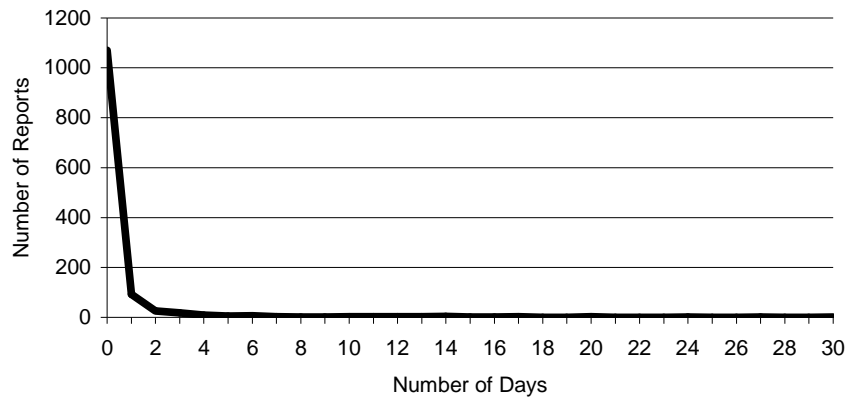
*Source of data: AST data (2004)*

For the incidents included in this analysis, bruising was the most commonly documented victim injury and the second most commonly documented suspect injury. Only 92 suspects reported bruises; of these 63% were defensive (i.e., caused by victims defending themselves). A total of 564 victims reported bruises; of these 98% were offensive (i.e., caused by suspects' attacks). Lacerations and bite marks were the second most common victim injuries and the most common suspect injuries. In terms of documented suspect injuries, 162 suspects had lacerations or bite marks; of these 57% were defensive. In terms of documented victim injuries, 365 victims had lacerations or bite marks; of these 96% were offensive. The next two most common injuries for both victims and suspects were a bloody nose or lips and black or swollen eyes. As before, victims were much more likely to have these injuries than suspects (20 suspects had a bloody nose or lips versus 135 victims, and 13 suspects had black or swollen eyes versus 135 victims). In addition, victim injuries were much more likely to be offensive than suspect injuries (99% of victims' bloody nose or lips were offensive versus 50% of suspects', and 99% of victims' black or swollen eyes were offensive versus 15% of

suspects'). Less common (but still prevalent) victim injuries included 72 strangulations, 28 fractures, 24 stab wounds, 10 broken or loosened teeth, six gun shots, and three genital injuries. Again, the majority of these injuries were offensive.

The figure below shows the time elapsed from the assault to the report for reports that were made within 30 days of the assault. As a reminder, the figure below only includes assaults in domestic violence incidents that occurred in the AST reporting area and were reported to AST. It does not include all assaults in domestic violence incidents that may have occurred. Ninety-eight percent of reports to AST were made within 30 days of the assault and are included in the figure. Of the domestic violence reported to AST made within one month of the incident, most (86%) were reported on the day of the incident and only 2% were reported to AST more than one week after the assault in domestic violence incident took place.

**Figure 9. Number of Days from Last Incident to Report, for Reports Made Within Thirty Days**



*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

Information on the person who stopped the most recent assault in domestic violence incident was inferred from 1,352 of the 1,540 incidents. Unless specific details were documented, such as the victim ran away or a witness or law enforcement intervened, it was assumed that the suspect stopped assaulting the victim. This information is summarized in the table below. In 29% the victim stopped the assault or the assault was stopped by a mutual retreat. A smaller number of assaults were stopped by a witness (8%) or by law enforcement (4%). In over half of the incidents (59%) the suspect stopped assaulting the victim.

**Table 47. Person Who Stopped Assault**

*Column percentages*

Person	Incident	
	N	%
Suspect	802	59.3 %
Victim or mutual retreat	385	28.5
Witness	113	8.4
Others or law enforcement	52	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1352</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

## Witness Characteristics

From the 1,281 assaults in domestic violence incidents included in our sample, we gathered information from 1,283 witnesses. Overall, more than half of the assaults in domestic violence incidents (58%) had at least one witness. On average, each assault in domestic violence incident contained 1.00 witness ( $s = 1.21$ , results not shown). Of the witnesses, 59% were actual eyewitnesses. Over half of the witnesses were female (52%), and an overwhelming majority (96%) were fully cooperative with AST. Only 11% of the witnesses reported drinking any alcohol, and less than 1% reported any drug use.

**Table 48. General Witness Characteristics**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Eyewitness	526	41.5 %	741	58.5 %	<b>1267</b>
Female witness	606	47.8	661	52.2	<b>1267</b>
Used alcohol	1093	88.9	136	11.1	<b>1229</b>
Used drugs	1254	99.4	8	0.6	<b>1262</b>
Cooperated with AST	45	3.8	1130	96.2	<b>1175</b>

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

Information on witness race was known for 1,239 of the 1,283 witnesses. Slightly more than half of the witnesses (56%) were white, 43% were Native, and 1% of witnesses were Black.

**Table 49. Race of Witnesses**

*Column percentages*

Race	Witnesses	
	N	%
White	691	55.8 %
Native	534	43.1
Black	14	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1239</b>	

**Source of data:** AST data (2003–2004)

As the following table indicates, 11% of witnesses were 11 years of age or younger, 16% were 11 to 17 years old, 8% were 18 to 20 years old, 18% were 21 to 30 years old, 15% were 31 to 40 years old, 18% were 41 to 50 years old, and 14% were 51 years of age or older. On average, witnesses were 30.84 years old ( $s = 17.18$ , results not shown).

**Table 50. Age of Witnesses**

*Column percentages*

Age Group	Witnesses	
	N	%
1 to 10	105	10.5 %
11 to 17	159	15.9
18 to 20	82	8.2
21 to 30	184	18.4
31 to 40	148	14.8
41 to 50	177	17.7
51 or older	143	14.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>998</b>	

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

The relationship of the witnesses to suspects and victims was also examined (see Table 51). The relationship of witnesses to both victims and suspects most commonly was a friend or acquaintance (for 35% of victims and 35% of suspects), son or daughter (for 17% of victims and 14% of suspects), or parent (for 12% of victims and 11% of suspects). Less common relationships included a sibling (for 9% of victims and 7% of suspects) or an extended family member (for 8% of victims and 10% of suspects). Strangers (for 8% of victims and 9% of suspects) or the boyfriend, girlfriend or spouse (for 5% of victims and 6% of suspects) witnessed some assaults as well.

**Table 51. Relationship of Witnesses to Suspects and Victims**

*Column percentages*

Relationship	Witness relationship to victims		Witness relationship to suspects	
	N	%	N	%
Friend/acquaintance	445	34.7 %	443	34.5 %
Son/daughter/step/in-law	216	16.8	174	13.6
Parent	148	11.5	136	10.6
Siblings/step/in-law	110	8.6	86	6.7
Extended family of victim or suspect	106	8.3	126	9.8
Stranger	96	7.5	117	9.1
Boy/girlfriend/spouse	64	5.0	76	5.9
Other	59	4.6	73	5.7
Missing/unknown	23	1.8	40	3.1
Official/professional	16	1.2	12	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1283</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1283</b>

*Source of data:* AST data (2004)

In a smaller number of incidents, officials or professionals were witnesses to the assaults (for 1% of victims and 1% of suspects).

The following table displays results detailing the characteristics of witness interviews. Many of the witnesses (92%) agreed to an interview with AST and of those interviewed, 75% were recorded. All witness interviews were coded to determine whether they were internally consistent, and, when applicable, consistent with interviews of others (including suspects, victims, or other witnesses). As the table indicates, the vast majority of witnesses (97%) provided internally consistent interviews. In addition, witness interviews were more likely to corroborate the victims (80%) or other witnesses (81%), than of suspects (42%).

**Table 52. Characteristics of Witness Interviews**

*Row percentages*

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Witness was interviewed	106	8.4 %	1150	91.6 %	<b>1256</b>
Interview was recorded	274	25.5	802	74.5	<b>1076</b>
Internally consistent	32	2.8	1119	97.2	<b>1151</b>
Consistent with suspect	543	57.9	395	42.1	<b>938</b>
Consistent with victims	234	20.5	906	79.5	<b>1140</b>
Consistent with other witnesses	142	18.9	610	81.1	<b>752</b>

**Source of data:** AST data (2004)

## Legal Resolutions

The results presented in this section contain information on three separate stages of prosecution: (1) referral, (2) acceptance, and (3) conviction. At this point in the report, we focus exclusively on referrals to the Alaska Department of Law. We do not examine referrals to other agencies, such as the Division of Juvenile Justice. The results presented in this section are therefore not directly comparable to previous results. The first stage, referral, is the forwarding of cases by AST to the Alaska Department of Law (DOL). However, before AST can refer a case to DOL for prosecution, at least one suspect must be formally arrested. It is at this point that prosecutors officially become aware of the case and take legal control in terms of case processing. The second stage, acceptance, represents the first formal decision made by prosecutors. For every charge referred by AST, there are only two possible outcomes. The charge is both accepted and filed, or prosecution is declined and the charge is dismissed. In other words, when a charge is accepted, the suspect has formally been “charged” with the particular criminal offense. The third and final stage in the current analyses, conviction, represents the final disposition, or outcome, for each accepted charge (e.g., finding of guilt, acquittal, dismissal). More specifically, when a charge results in a conviction (e.g., guilty plea, guilty conviction obtained by jury or bench trial), the suspect is officially “found guilty” of the particular charge. Alternatively, when charges are dismissed or acquitted, the suspect is officially “found not guilty” regarding the particular charge. It should be noted that all “convictions” do not necessarily result in a suspect being incarcerated (i.e., sentenced to jail or prison), and may instead result in fines, probation, and/or court-ordered treatment.

In the following analyses, we examine whether *cases* were referred, whether *cases* were accepted, and whether *cases* resulted in a conviction. To do so, we simply examine whether any charge for any of the suspects within a case was referred for prosecution. We then examine whether prosecutors accepted any charge for any suspect within each case. Finally, we examine whether any charge resulted in a conviction, for any of the suspects.

**Table 53. Number of Cases by Stage**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>% of reported</b>	<b>% of referred</b>	<b>% of accepted</b>
Reported	1281	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	1030	80.4	100.0 %	—
Accepted	869	67.8	84.4	100.0 %
Convicted	692	54.0	67.2	79.6

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law

Legal resolutions from the Alaska Department of Law were examined for all 1,281 cases in our sample. These results are shown in the previous table. Results show that 80% of cases reported to AST (N=1,281) were referred for prosecution, 68% were accepted for prosecution, and 54% resulted in a conviction. Once cases were referred for prosecution, they had a high likelihood of being accepted for prosecution. More

specifically, 84% of referred cases (N=1,030) were accepted for prosecution (and 67% resulted in a conviction). Similarly, cases had a high likelihood of resulting in a conviction, once they were accepted for prosecution. More specifically, 80% of cases that were accepted for prosecution (N=869) eventually resulted in a conviction.

We conclude our analysis by examining whether these decisions varied by the gender of the suspect. In that analysis, we compare cases that had at least one male suspect to cases that had at least one female suspect. A total of 47 cases included both a male and a female suspect. These 47 cases are included in both categorizations. In one case, the gender of the suspect was not known. This case is excluded from both categorizations.

**Table 54. Number of Cases by Stage, for Cases with at least one Male Suspect**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>% of reported</b>	<b>% of referred</b>	<b>% of accepted</b>
Reported	1021	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	836	81.9	100.0 %	—
Accepted	722	70.7	86.4	100.0 %
Convicted	578	56.6	69.1	80.1

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law

**Table 55. Number of Cases by Stage, for Cases with at least one Female Suspect**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>% of reported</b>	<b>% of referred</b>	<b>% of accepted</b>
Reported	306	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	231	75.5	100.0 %	—
Accepted	161	52.6	69.7	100.0 %
Convicted	124	40.5	53.7	77.0

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law

In our sample of 1,281 cases, 1,021 cases included at least one male suspect and 306 included at least one female suspect (these are not mutually exclusive counts because 47 cases included both male and female suspects). Because these are not mutually exclusive categorizations, differences are not statistically evaluated. Nonetheless, it appears that cases with at least one female suspect were slightly less likely to be referred for prosecution, to be accepted for prosecution, and to result in a conviction than cases with at least one male suspect. Of the 1,021 reported cases with at least one male suspect, 82% were referred for prosecution, 71% were accepted for prosecution, and 57% resulted in a conviction. By comparison, of the 306 reported cases with at least one female suspect, 76% were referred for prosecution (versus 82%), 53% were accepted for prosecution (versus 71%), and 41% resulted in a conviction (versus 57%).

Once referred for prosecution, 86% of cases with at least one male suspect (N=836) and 70% of cases with at least one female suspect (N=231) were accepted for prosecution, and 69% of cases with at least one male suspect and 54% of cases with at least one female suspect resulted in a conviction. Finally, once accepted for prosecution, 80% of cases with at least one male suspect (N=722) and 77% of cases with at least one

female suspect (N=161) resulted in a conviction. Once accepted, the likelihood of cases resulting in a conviction did not vary much by the gender of the suspect.

When comparing the 974 cases that only included male suspects to the 259 that only included female suspects, significant differences in legal resolutions are found (results not shown). Reported cases with male suspects were significantly more likely to be referred for prosecution ( $p = 0.01$ ), to be accepted for prosecution ( $p < 0.01$ ), and to result in a conviction ( $p < 0.01$ ) than reported cases with female suspects. Similarly, referred cases with male suspects were significantly more likely to be accepted for prosecution ( $p < 0.01$ ) and to result in a conviction ( $p < 0.01$ ) than referred cases with female suspects. Once cases were accepted, the likelihood that they would result in a conviction did not significantly vary by the gender of the suspect ( $p = 0.41$ ).

**Table 56. Number of Cases by Stage, for Cases with only Male Suspects**

Stage	N	% of reported	% of referred	% of accepted
Reported	974	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	798	81.9	100.0 %	—
Accepted	707	72.6	88.6	100.0 %
Convicted	568	58.3	71.2	80.3

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law

**Table 57. Number of Cases by Stage, for Cases with only Female Suspects**

Stage	N	% of reported	% of referred	% of accepted
Reported	259	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	193	74.5	100.0 %	—
Accepted	146	56.4	75.6	100.0 %
Convicted	114	44.0	59.1	78.1

*Source of data:* Alaska Department of Law

# Appendix A – Data Collection Instruments

## Alaska State Troopers

**Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database** Case Number:

**Case Info** Case No.  Entered by:  Time entered:  Date entered:

Detachment:  Unit ID:  PermID:  Date reported:  Time Reported:

Activity Code:  UCR Number:  Statute :  Type of Activity:

Date of assault:  Time of assault:  Patrol Zone:  Location:

Case closure:  Date closed:  Alcohol or Drugs Involved:  Domestic Violence

Note who is involved with current charge: Suspect #:  Victim #:  Witness #:

Brief synopsis of report:

Total number of suspects for case:  Total number of charges for case:  Dual Arrest

Total number of victims for case:  Total number of witnesses for case:  Number of witnesses interviewed:

Record:  1 of 1  
Detachment: NUM

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Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database Case Number: [ ]

Case Info | **Suspect Info** | Victim Info | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | Report | Suspect Interv. | Victim Interv. | Witness Interv.

**Suspect Info** Case No. [ ]

Is suspect identity reported?  Yes  No Suspect gender:  Female  Male

Suspect race (check all that apply):  Caucasian  Black  Asian  Hispanic  Pacific Islander  
 Alaska Native / American Indian Other (specify): [ ]

Suspect age: [ ] Suspect residence [village, town, city]: [ ]

Suspect role code (SI, DVI, SVI, etc.): [ ]

Did suspect have DVPD for current victim at time of assault?  Yes  No  Unknown

Did suspect violate any conditions of release with current charges?  Yes  No  Unknown

Did suspect violate any conditions of probation with current charges?  Yes  No  Unknown

Was this suspect the first to use or threaten to use physical force?  Yes  No  Unsure

How many charges does this suspect have? [ ]

Alcohol use by suspect?  Yes  No  Unsure

Drug use by suspect?  Yes  No  Unsure

Record: [ ] 1 of 1

Form View NUM

Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database

Case Number:

Case Info | Suspect Info | **Victim Info** | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | Report | Suspect Interv. | Victim Interv. | Witness Interv.

**Victim Info** Case No.

Victim gender:  Female  Male

Victim race (check all that apply):  Caucasian  Black  Asian  Hispanic  Pacific Islander  
 Alaska Native / American Indian Other (specify):

Victim age:  Victim residence [village, town, city]:

Victim role code (VI, DVI, CVI, etc.):

Alcohol use by victim?  Yes  No  Unsure Drug use by victim?  Yes  No  Unsure  
 If yes, with suspect?  Yes  No  Unsure If yes, with suspect?  Yes  No  Unsure

Record:  1 of 1

Victim Female?  NUM

Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database Case Number:

Case Info | **Suspect Info** | Victim Info | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | Report | Suspect Intv. | Victim Intv. | Witness Intv.

**Witness Info** Case No.

**What info does witness offer the investigation?**  Case has no witness  Eyewitness  Heard the assault  Mandatory reporter  
 Victim confided in witness after assault Other (describe):

**Witness gender:**  Female  Male **Witness role code (WI, CI, WPI, etc.):**

**Witness race (check all that apply):**  Caucasian  Black  Asian  Hispanic  Pacific Islander  
 Alaska Native / American Indian Other (specify):

**Witness age:**  **Witness residence [village, town, city]:**

**Witness relationship to victim at time of assault:**

current spouse  ex-spouse  current boy/girlfriend  ex-boy/girlfriend  
 parent/step/in-law  grandparent/step/in-law  son/daughter  sibling/step/in-law  
 aunt/uncle  niece/nephew  cousin  current roommate  
 former roommate  friend  stranger other (describe):

**Witness relationship to suspect at time of assault:**

current spouse  ex-spouse  current boy/girlfriend  ex-boy/girlfriend  
 parent/step/in-law  grandparent/step/in-law  son/daughter  sibling/step/in-law  
 aunt/uncle  niece/nephew  cousin  current roommate  
 former roommate  friend  stranger other (describe):

**Alcohol use by witness?**  Yes  No  Unsure If yes, with who?

**Drug use by witness?**  Yes  No  Unsure If yes, with who?

Record:  1 of 1

Witness Female?  NUM

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**Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database** Case Number:

Case Info | Suspect Info | Victim Info | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | Report | Suspect Inv. | Victim Inv. | Witness Inv.

**Assault Info (1/4)** Case No.

**How did suspect gain access to victim?**

forced entry into house     suspect was staying at victim's house     suspect picked up victim from work/school  
 through open window/unlocked door     victim was staying at suspect's house     victim picked up suspect from work/school  
 suspect invited victim     victim invited suspect     victim and suspect met in public  
 no pickup/live together    other (describe):

**Location type for assault:**

outdoors     work     vehicle     other's house  
 victim's house     suspect's house     victim and suspect's house     other's hotel  
 victim's hotel     suspect's hotel     suspect and victim's hotel     bar/restaurant  
 street/alley/parking lot    other (describe):

**Subject/issue/cause of assault (check all that apply):**

jealousy/alleged infidelity     child care/custody/visitation     personal insults     financial  
 belongings/household (car, computer, etc.)     school/employment     controlling activities     infidelity  
 angry/unhappy about end of relationship     parent/child discipline     pregnancy     sexual  
 alcohol/drugs (disposed of/expressed disapproval of use)    other (describe):

**Was anyone else present during the incident other than the victim and suspect?**  Yes  No  Don't know

**If yes, how many other people were present?**

Record:  1 of 1

Form View

NUM

Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database

Case Number:

Case Info | Suspect Info | Victim Info | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | Report | Suspect Inv. | Victim Inv. | Witness Inv.

**Assault Info (2/4)** Case No.

**Did the incident involve?**  physical assaults only  threats of physical force only  both physical assaults and threats of violence

**Who stopped the assault?**  suspect  victim  unknown **other (describe):**

**During assault, did suspect (check all that apply):**

Throw something at victim?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Push, grab or shove victim?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Grab or pull victim's hair?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Slap or hit victim?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Kick victim?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Punch victim?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Bite victim?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Choke/stangle/suffocate victim?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Hit victim with object?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Chase while making threats?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Use a gun?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Use a knife or other cutting instrument?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Use some other object as a weapon?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Threaten to rape?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Threaten to kill?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Threaten other bodily injury?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Make threats against victim's children/family/friends?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Threaten victim with gun?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Threaten victim with knife?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Threaten to use some other object as a weapon?  Yes  No  Unsure  Attempted

Record:  1 of 1

Form View

NUM

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Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database Case Number:

Case Info | Suspect Info | Victim Info | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | Report | Suspect Intv. | Victim Intv. | Witness Intv.

**Assault Info (3/4)** Case No.

**Injuries to Suspect (for each injury note if was offensive or defensive in nature):**

<b>Bruising (arms, legs, neck):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive	<b>Fracture:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive
<b>Lacerations/bite marks:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive	<b>Strangulation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive
<b>Bloody nose/lips:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive	<b>Gun shot:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive
<b>Broken/loosened teeth:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive	<b>Knife wound:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive
<b>Black/swollen eyes:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive	<b>Genital injuries:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive

**Other (describe):**

**Suspect received emergency medical care for:**

<b>Bodily injuries:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<b>Suspect condition at time of assault:</b>
<b>Alcohol/drug intoxication:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol intoxicated <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping <input type="checkbox"/> Sober <input type="checkbox"/> Unconscious from trauma
	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug intoxicated <input type="checkbox"/> Passed Out <b>Other (describe):</b> <input type="text"/>

Record:  1 of 1

Form View NUM

Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database

Case Number:

Case Info | Suspect Info | Victim Info | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | Report | Suspect Intv. | Victim Intv. | Witness Intv.

**Assault Info (4/4)** Case No.

**Injuries to Victim (for each injury note if was offensive or defensive in nature):**

**Bruising (arms, legs, neck):**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive **Fracture:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive

**Lacerations/bite marks:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive **Strangulation:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive

**Bloody nose/lips:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive **Gun shot:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive

**Broken/loosened teeth:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive **Knife wound:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive

**Black/swollen eyes:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive **Genital injuries**  Yes  No  Unsure  Offensive  Defensive

**Other (describe):**

**Victim received emergency medical care for:**

**Bodily injuries:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Not applicable

**Alcohol/drug intoxication:**  Yes  No  Unsure  Not applicable

**Victim condition at time of assault:**

Alcohol intoxicated  Sleeping  Sober  Unconscious from trauma

Drug intoxicated  Passed Out **Other (describe):**

**Victim resistance (check all that apply and note if effective):**

**Attacked suspect:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective

**Threatened suspect:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective

**Yelled/screamed at suspect:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective

**Argued/reasoned/pleaded with suspect:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective

**Cooperated or pretended to:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective

**Ran away:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective

**Called police:**  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown  Effective

**Other (describe):**

Record: 1 of 1

Record: 1 of 1

Form View

Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database Case Number:

Case Info | Suspect Info | Victim Info | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | **Stalking Info** | Report | Suspect Inv. | Victim Inv. | Witness Inv.

**Stalking Checklist** Case No.

Did the suspect engage in any of the following behaviors (check all that apply):

- Followed victim?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Sent victim unsolicited letters/other written material?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Made unsolicited phone calls to victim?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Sent victim unsolicited e-mails?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Sent victim unsolicited text messages?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Tried to communicate in other ways against the victim's will?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Photographed the victim without their permission?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Abused victim's pet(s)?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Threatened to harm victim's pet(s)?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Vandalized victim's home?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Vandalized victim's car?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Vandalized other property?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Broke into victim's home?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Visited victim's home?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Visited victim's workplace/school?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Stood outside victim's home?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Stood outside victim's workplace/school?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Left unwanted item(s) for victim to find?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Sent victim "presents" (cards, flowers, etc.)?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Opened victim's mail without permission?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Filed false police report against victim?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Contacted victim's employer?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Contact or file a report with Office of Child Services (OCS)?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Install spyware on victim's computer (to record keystrokes)?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Install/utilize GPS on victim's vehicle?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown
- Relocate residence to follow victim to another village/town/state?  Yes  No  Attempted  Unknown

Other (describe):

Record:  1 of 1

Form View NUM

Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database

Case Number:

Case Info | Suspect Info | Victim Info | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | **Report** | Suspect Interv. | Victim Interv. | Witness Interv.

**Report Info** Case No.

**Who did victim consult before reporting? (check all that apply)**

Nobody | 
  Romantic partner | 
  Parent | 
  Crisis center/hot line | 
  Co-worker/employer  
 Other family | 
  Health professional | 
  Friend | 
  Clergy | 
  School official  
 Other (describe):

**Who reported the incident?**

Victim | 
  Romantic partner | 
  Parent | 
  Crisis center/hot line | 
  Co-worker/employer  
 Other family | 
  Health professional | 
  Friend | 
  Clergy | 
  School official  
 Other (describe):

**What agency was notified or responded first?**

AST | 
  VPSO | 
  Local law enforcement (ex. Bethel PD, Nome PD)  
 VPO | 
  TPO  
 Other (describe):

Record:  1 of 1

Who did victim consult before reporting? NUM

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Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database Case Number:

Case Info Suspect Info Victim Info Witness S-V Relationship Assault (1/4) Assault (2/4) Assault (3/4) Assault (4/4) Stalking Info Report Suspect Intv. Victim Intv. Witness Intv.

**Suspect Interview** Case No.

Was suspect present upon trooper arrival?  Yes  No  Unknown

Was suspect interviewed?  Yes  No

If not, explain:

Date of suspect interview:  Time of suspect interview:

Was suspect interview tape recorded?  Yes  No  Unknown

If not, explain:

Was suspect's story internally consistent?  Yes  No  Unknown

Did suspect make admissions of guilt during investigation?  Yes  No  Unknown

Did suspect give a full confession during investigation?  Yes  No  Unknown

Record:  1 of 1

Form View NUM

Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database

Case Number:

Case Info | Suspect Info | **Victim Info** | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | Report | Suspect Intv. | **Victim Intv.** | Witness Intv.

**Victim Interview** Case No.

Was victim present upon trooper arrival?  Yes  No  Unknown

Was victim interviewed?  Yes  No

If not, explain:

Date of victim interview  Time of victim interview

Was victim interview tape recorded?  Yes  No  Unknown

If not, explain:

Was victim's story internally consistent?  Yes  No  Unknown

Was victim's story consistent with suspect's?  Yes  No  No suspect interview

Did victim recant or refuse to cooperate with the investigation or prosecution at any point?  Yes  No  Unknown

If yes, explain how and why if known:

Record:  1 of 1

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NUM

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Alaska State Trooper's DV Assault Database Case Number:

Case Info | Suspect Info | Victim Info | Witness | S-V Relationship | Assault (1/4) | Assault (2/4) | Assault (3/4) | Assault (4/4) | Stalking Info | Report | Suspect Intv. | Victim Intv. | Witness Intv.

**Witness Interview** Case No.

Was witness located and interviewed?  Yes  No  
 If not, explain:

Date of witness interview:  Time of witness interview:

Witness interview tape recorded?  Yes  No  Unknown  
 If not, explain:

Was witness' story internally consistent?  Yes  No  Unknown  
 Was witness' story consistent with victim?  Yes  No  Unknown  
 Was witness' story consistent with suspect?  Yes  No  Unknown  
 Was witness' story consistent with other witness?  Yes  No  Unknown

Did witness refuse to cooperate in any way?  Yes  No  Unknown  
 Notes on witness cooperation:

Record:  1 of 1

Form View NUM

## **Appendix B – 2004 Alaska’s Criminal Assault Statutes**

Sec. 11.41.200. Assault in the first degree.

(a) A person commits the crime of assault in the first degree if

(1) that person recklessly causes serious physical injury to another by means of a dangerous instrument;

(2) with intent to cause serious physical injury to another, the person causes serious physical injury to any person;

(3) the person knowingly engages in conduct that results in serious physical injury to another under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life;  
or

(4) that person recklessly causes serious physical injury to another by repeated assaults using a dangerous instrument, even if each assault individually does not cause serious physical injury.

(b) Assault in the first degree is a class A felony.

Sec. 11.41.210. Assault in the second degree.

(a) A person commits the crime of assault in the second degree if

(1) with intent to cause physical injury to another person, that person causes physical injury to another person by means of a dangerous instrument;

(2) that person recklessly causes serious physical injury to another person; or

(3) that person recklessly causes serious physical injury to another by repeated assaults, even if each assault individually does not cause serious physical injury.

(b) Assault in the second degree is a class B felony.

Sec. 11.41.220. Assault in the third degree.

(a) A person commits the crime of assault in the third degree if that person

(1) recklessly

(A) places another person in fear of imminent serious physical injury by means of a dangerous instrument;

(B) causes physical injury to another person by means of a dangerous instrument; or

(C) while being 18 years of age or older

(i) causes physical injury to a child under 10 years of age and the injury reasonably requires medical treatment;

(ii) causes physical injury to a child under 10 years of age on more than one occasion;

(2) with intent to place another person in fear of death or serious physical injury to the person or the person's family member makes repeated threats to cause death or serious physical injury to another person;

(3) while being 18 years of age or older, knowingly causes physical injury to a child under 16 years of age but at least 10 years of age and the injury reasonably requires medical treatment; or

(4) with criminal negligence causes serious physical injury under AS 11.81.900(b)(56)(B) to another person by means of a dangerous instrument.

(b) In a prosecution under (a)(3) of this section, it is an affirmative defense that, at the time of the offense, the defendant reasonably believed the victim to be 16 years of age or older, unless the victim was under 13 years of age at the time of the offense.

(c) In this section, "the person's family member" means

(1) a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece, of the person, whether related by blood, marriage, or adoption;

(2) a person who lives or has lived, in a spousal relationship with the person;

(3) a person who lives in the same household as the person; or

(4) a person who is a former spouse of the person or is or has been in a dating, courtship, or engagement relationship with the person.

(d) Assault in the third degree is a class C felony.

Sec. 11.41.230. Assault in the fourth degree.

(a) A person commits the crime of assault in the fourth degree if

(1) that person recklessly causes physical injury to another person;

(2) with criminal negligence that person causes physical injury to another person by means of a dangerous instrument; or

(3) by words or other conduct that person recklessly places another person in fear of imminent physical injury.

(b) Assault in the fourth degree is a class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 11.41.250. Reckless endangerment.

(a) A person commits the crime of reckless endangerment if the person recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury to another person.

(b) Reckless endangerment is a class A misdemeanor.

AS 11.81.900 (15) “dangerous instrument” means

(A) any deadly weapon or anything that, under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury or;

(B) hands or other objects when used to impede normal breathing or circulation of the blood by applying pressure on the throat or neck or obstructing the nose or mouth.

Section B went into effect August 15, 2005.

AS 11.81.900 46 “physical injury” means a physical pain or an impairment of physical condition;

AS 11.81.900 56 “serious physical injury” means

(A) physical injury caused by an act performed under circumstances that create a substantial risk of death; or

(B) physical injury that causes serious and protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health, protracted loss or impairment of the function of a body member or organ, or that unlawfully terminates a pregnancy