



ICPSR 25923

Violence Against Athabascan Native Women in the Copper River Basin [Alaska], 2003

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User Guide



National Institute of Justice
Data Resources Program

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Bibliographic Description

ICPSR Study No.: 25923

Title: Violence Against Athabascan Native Women in the Copper River Basin [Alaska], 2003

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Scope of Study

Summary: A participatory evaluation was used to examine factors associated with the prevalence and incidence of violence against Ahtna (Alaska Native) women in the Copper River basin of Alaska. Eligibility for participation in the study was limited to adult women over the age of 17 who were Ahtna shareholders or descendents of Ahtna shareholders and who lived in one of eight Ahtna villages (Mentasta Lake, Chitina, Cantwell, Copper Center, Gulkana, Gakona, Tazlina, and Chistochina) in the Copper River Basin of Alaska. The Ahtna Corporation provided research staff with a list of 185 women who met the eligibility criteria. The list from the Ahtna Corporation did not include individuals born after 1972 who had not yet inherited shares in the Ahtna Corporation. With the assistance of subjects and village officials, researchers utilized snowball sampling to identify female Ahtna descendents over the age of 17 within the region. These subjects were recruited through face-to-face contact with project staff. Each of the 185 women on the list of eligible participants that researchers received from the Ahtna Corporation was sent a personal letter in 2003 inviting her to participate in the study. Included in the letter was the interview consent form. A few weeks after mailing, research staff contacted those women who had responded to the mailing to review methods for completing the survey and begin scheduling interviews. Study participants completed the Main Victimization Survey (Part 1) (n = 109), and if the respondent reported a violent incident, a Detailed

Physical Assault Incident Report (Part 2) (n = 186) was completed for each offender that had assaulted the survey respondent. All respondents were paid 25 dollars for their participation in the survey and all of the interviewers were female. The Main Victimization Survey (Part 1) includes variables about physical violence the respondent experienced as an adult, how many times the violence occurred, and the relationship between the respondent and the offender. The survey also included questions about cultural identity, involvement in the community, and the respondent's living conditions. Demographic variables include marital status, employment, income, and alcohol use. Questions were also included to gather respondents' opinions on health and social services delivery to Ahtna women in the Copper River region. The Detailed Physical Assault Incident Report (Part 2) includes variables about the victim/offender relationship, the time and place of the victimization, the amount of physical harm done in the victimization, whether alcohol or other drugs were involved in the victimization, whether formal assistance (i.e., police, medical treatment) was sought, the victim's perceptions of and satisfaction with the formal system response, the reasons for reporting or not reporting the offense, and if the victim attempted to obtain shelter from further victimization.

Subject Term(s): community involvement, domestic assault, domestic violence, health care services, Native Americans, social attitudes, social services, violence against women

Smallest Geographic Unit: city

Geographic Coverage: Alaska, United States

Time Period: March 31, 2003 - October 5, 2003

Date(s) of Collection: March 31, 2003 - October 5, 2003

Unit of Observation: individual

Universe: All adult women over the age of 17 who were Ahtna shareholders or descendents of Ahtna shareholders and who lived in one of eight Ahtna villages (Mentasta Lake, Chitina, Cantwell, Copper Center, Gulkana, Gakona, Tazlina, and Chistochina) in the Copper River Basin of Alaska in 2003.

Data Type: survey data

Methodology

Purpose of the Study: The purpose of the study was to examine factors associated with the prevalence and incidence of violence against Ahtna (Alaska Native) women in the Copper River basin of Alaska.

The study had four goals:

- To identify the incidence of intimate partner violence against Ahtna women.
- To identify the lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence against Ahtna women.
- To identify factors which correlated with the occurrence of intimate partner violence against Ahtna women.
- To identify system responses to, and service usage by victims of intimate partner violence against Ahtna women.

Study Design: A participatory evaluation was used to develop an understanding of the extent to which intimate partner violence effects the lives of Ahtna (Alaska Native) in the Copper River Basin of Alaska. Early in the project, a local woman was hired to act as a liaison in the region for the researchers as well as to conduct interviews. In addition, research staff traveled to the region on multiple occasions over many months, prior to any data collection, in order to build relationships with community members. Regular telephone consultations were held with designated leaders from the two nonprofit organizations, Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium (MSTC) and the Copper River Native Association (CRNA), as well as with the leaders of the unaffiliated community of Chitina. An advisory board was formed to offer direction and consultation on the project. The project advisory board consisted of the research staff along with the Director of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies, a representative from MSTC, a representative from CRNA, and the Director of the domestic violence shelter nearest the Copper River Basin. Advisory board meetings were held at least twice per year to facilitate coordination of project activities and to provide additional oversight for the protection of human subjects involved in the study. Contact was made with each of the eight participating village council presidents and/or his or her designee to formulate a community owned action plan for collecting victimization data. All village council presidents or their designees received a letter about the project as well as drafts of the survey instruments. Research staff made an effort to insure that discussions with tribal officials allowed for community input, a range of choices, and guided ownership of the process.

Due to the fact that many potential interview subjects lived in an environment where some homes did not have telephones and street

addresses, the research staff, advisory board, and village leaders explored several options for collecting data including:

- Project staff visiting study participants in their own homes.
- Project staff hosting small community gatherings in the village for the purpose of completing the survey instrument.
- Project staff being available on specified days at the village health clinic or other designated on-site location to interview participants.
- Project staff hosting a number of region wide gatherings at convenient hub locations.
- Participants electing to visit neighboring village sites for completion of the survey instrument.
- Collecting data via confidential telephone communication.
- Participants electing to travel to Anchorage to complete the survey.
- Any combination of the above which insured a sense of safety, anonymity, and community ownership.

Eligibility for participation in the study was limited to adult women over the age of 17 who were Ahtna shareholders or descendents of Ahtna shareholders and who lived in one of eight Ahtna villages (Mentasta Lake, Chitina, Cantwell, Copper Center, Gulkana, Gakona, Tazlina, and Chistochina) in the Copper River Basin of Alaska. Each of the 185 women on the list of eligible participants that researchers received from the Ahtna Corporation was sent a personal letter in 2003 inviting her to participate in the study. Included in the letter was the interview consent form. A few weeks after mailing, research staff contacted those women who had responded to the mailing to review methods for completing the survey and began scheduling interviews. Study participants completed the Main Victimization Survey (Part 1) (n = 109), and if the respondent reported a violent incident, a Detailed Physical Assault Incident Report (Part 2) (n = 186) was completed for each offender that had assaulted the survey respondent. All respondents were paid 25 dollars for their participation in the survey and all of the interviewers were female.

Sample: Eligibility for participation in the study was limited to adult women over the age of 17 who were Ahtna shareholders or descendents of Ahtna shareholders and who lived in one of eight Ahtna villages (Mentasta Lake, Chitina, Cantwell, Copper Center, Gulkana, Gakona, Tazlina, and Chistochina) in the Copper River Basin of Alaska. Two techniques were used to identify respondents. First, the Ahtna Corporation provided research staff with a list of 185 women who met the eligibility criteria. However, the list from the Ahtna Corporation did not include individuals born after 1972 who had not yet inherited shares in the Ahtna Corporation. As a second method of identifying respondents, researchers utilized snowball sampling, with the assistance of subjects and village officials, to identify female Ahtna descendents over the age of 17 within the region. These subjects were recruited through face-to-face contact with project staff. A total of 122 Ahtna women

participated in the interviews resulting in 109 usable surveys, however only 91 of these women lived in the Copper River basin.

Weight: none

Mode of Data Collection: face-to-face interview

telephone interview

Description of Variables: The Main Victimization Survey (Part 1) includes variables about physical violence the respondent experienced as an adult, how many times the violence occurred, and the relationship between the respondent and the offender. The survey also include questions about cultural identity, involvement in the community, and the respondent's living conditions. Other variables measure the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, social cohesion, trust, and informal social control in the community. Demographic variables include marital status, employment, income, and alcohol use. Questions were also included to gather respondents' opinions on health and social services delivery to Ahtna women in the Copper River region. The Detailed Physical Assault Incident Report (Part 2) includes variables about the victim/offender relationship, the time and place of the victimization, the amount of physical harm done in the victimization, whether alcohol or other drugs were involved in the victimization, whether formal assistance (i.e., police, medical treatment) was sought, the victim's perceptions of and satisfaction with the formal system response, the reasons for reporting or not reporting the offense, and if the victim attempted to obtain shelter from further victimization.

Response Rates: Ninety-one subjects out of the 216 potential subjects (the number of potential subjects was estimated by extrapolating figures from the 2000 United States Census to 2003) from the Copper River Basin responded to the survey, resulting in a response rate of 42 percent. A total of 122 Ahtna women participated in the interviews resulting in 109 usable surveys, however only 91 of these women lived in the Copper River basin.

Presence of Common Scales: The Conflict Tactics Scale (Straus, 1979) and the PTSD Checklist PCL-C (Weathers, Litz, Herman, Huska, and Keane, 1993) were utilized in the creation of the Main Victimization Survey (Part 1).

Extent of Processing: Created variable labels and/or value labels.

Standardized missing values.

Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

Access and Availability

Note: A list of the data formats available for this study can be found in the [summary of holdings](#). Detailed file-level information (such as record length, case count, and variable count) is listed in the [file manifest](#).

Restrictions: Due to the sensitive nature of the data and to protect respondent confidentiality, the data are restricted from general dissemination. Users interested in utilizing these data must complete an Application for Use of the ICPSR Data Enclave. Information on the use of the ICPSR Data Enclave and the application for use can be found at the ICPSR Data Enclave Website ([Link](#)). Researchers can also download a copy of the Application for Use of the ICPSR Data Enclave as a Portable Document (PDF) file from the download page associated with this dataset. Completed forms should be returned to: Director, National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, Institute for Social Research, P.O. Box 1248, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248, or by fax: 734-647-8200.

Original ICPSR Release: 2009

Dataset(s):

- DS1: Main Survey Data
- DS2: Detailed Physical Assault Incident Report Data

Publications

Final Reports and Other Publication Resources: A list of publications related to, or based on, this data collection can be accessed from the study's download page on the NACJD Web site or through the ICPSR Bibliography of Data-Related Literature at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/citations/index.html>. The list of citations includes links to abstracts and publications in Portable Document Format (PDF) files or text files when available.

Final reports and other publications describing research conducted on a variety of criminal justice topics are available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). NCJRS was established in 1972 by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, to provide research findings to criminal justice professionals and researchers. NCJRS operates specialized clearinghouses that are staffed by information specialists who supply a range of reference, referral, and distribution services. Publications can be obtained from NCJRS at NIJ/NCJRS, Box 6000, Rockville, MD, 20849-6000, 800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500. TTY Service for the Hearing Impaired is 877-712-9279 (toll-free) or 301-947-8374 (local). The URL for the NCJRS Web site is:

<http://www.ncjrs.org/>

NIJ Data Resources Program

About the DRP: The National Institute of Justice Data Resources Program (DRP) makes datasets from NIJ-funded research and evaluation projects available to the research community and sponsors research and training activities devoted to secondary data analysis. Datasets are archived by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan.

The NACJD maintains a World Wide Web site with instructions for transferring files and sending messages. Criminal justice data funded by the Department of Justice are available via the Internet at this site at no charge to the user. NACJD may be contacted at NACJD/ICPSR, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106-1248, 800-999-0960. The URL for the NACJD Web site is:

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/>

Data Completeness Report

Notes: (1) Variables are individually listed only if they have greater than 5% missing data. These variables are listed under the appropriate percentage category in the order in which they appear in the data file. (2) The Data Completeness Report only captures information about system missing or other values that are declared missing. Codes that have a label implying that they are missing but that are not declared missing values are not reflected in this report. Data users should consult the codebook for more specific information about missing values. (3) Some variables that have 100% missing data may have been blanked by ICPSR to protect respondent confidentiality. Data users should consult the codebook for more specific information about blanked variables. (4) Data do not contain skip patterns or skip patterns are not reflected in the data as coded.

Table 1: Distribution of Variables by Percentage of Missing Values--Main Survey Data

Variable Name and Label (Total Cases = 109)	Percent of Cases with Missing Values
59.8% (158 of 264 variables)	have 0% Missing Values
5.7% (15 of 264 variables)	have 0% - 1% Missing Values
5.7% (15 of 264 variables)	have 1% - 3% Missing Values
0.8% (2 of 264 variables)	have 3% - 5% Missing Values
0.4% (1 of 264 variables)	have 5% - 10% Missing Values
V46	CONSUMED ALCOHOL IN PAST 12 MONTHS
9.8% (26 of 264 variables)	have 10% - 20% Missing Values
TIMEEND	TIMEEND
AMPMEND	AMPMEND
V22A	PTSD SCALE
V22B	PTSD SCALE
V22C	PTSD SCALE
V22D	PTSD SCALE
V22E	PTSD SCALE
V22F	PTSD SCALE
V22G	PTSD SCALE
V22H	PTSD SCALE
V22I	PTSD SCALE
V22J	PTSD SCALE
V22K	PTSD SCALE
V22L	PTSD SCALE
V22M	PTSD SCALE
V22N	PTSD SCALE
V22O	PTSD SCALE
V22P	PTSD SCALE
V22Q	PTSD SCALE
V23A	SOCIAL COHESION SCALE
V23B	SOCIAL COHESION SCALE
V23C	SOCIAL COHESION SCALE
V23D	SOCIAL COHESION SCALE

Table 1: Distribution of Variables by Percentage of Missing Values--Main Survey Data

Variable Name and Label (Total Cases = 109)		Percent of Cases with Missing Values
V23E	SOCIAL COHESION SCALE	13.8%
V24A	SOCIAL COHESION SCALE	13.8%
V86A	NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN VIOLENT	16.5%
4.5% (12 of 264 variables)		have 20% - 40% Missing Values
V5	IMPORTANCE OF TRIBAL NAME	37.6%
V8A	WHEN MOVE TO COMMUNITY	33.0%
V9	WHY MOVED TO COMMUNITY	34.9%
V10A	WHERE LIVED 5 YEARS AGO	35.8%
V11A	WHERE LIVED 5 YEARS AGO	37.6%
V12	HAVE YOU MOVED WITHIN PAST 5 YEARS	33.0%
V16	OFTEN GO TO COSTCO OR SAMS	23.9%
V32	CURRENT RELATIONSHIP STATUS	32.1%
V47	DRINK IN PAST 7 DAYS	26.6%
V55	FULL OR PART TIME	25.7%
PTSDSCOR	PTSDSCOR	20.2%
PTSD	PTSD	20.2%
12.9% (34 of 264 variables)		have 40% - 99% Missing Values
V8B	V8B	96.3%
V13A	NUMBER OF MOVES	62.4%
V13B	V13B	99.1%
V15	IS ONE OF THESE AN AHTNA VILLAGE	68.8%
V26	YEAR OF CURRENT MARRIAGE	63.3%
V27	MONTH OF MARRIAGE	63.3%
V28	YEAR OF SEPARATION	89.0%
V29	MONTH OF SEPARATION	89.0%
V30	YEAR OF DIVORCE	85.3%
V31	MONTH OF DIVORCE	85.3%
V33	YEAR BEGAN LIVING WITH CURRENT PARTNER	84.4%
V34	MONTH BEGAN LIVING WITH CURRENT PARTNER	84.4%
V35	GENDER OF CURRENT PARTNER	81.7%
V41A	YEAR BEGAN AT BOARDING SCHOOL	77.1%
V41B	YEAR ENDED AT BOARDING SCHOOL	77.1%
V44	MOTHER, FATHER OR BOTH AT BOARDING SCHOOL	66.1%
V48	DRINK IN PAST 30 DAYS	40.4%
V49	HOW MANY DIFFERNT DAYS ONE OR MORE DRINKS	49.5%
V50	HOW MANY DRINKS IN A DAY	50.5%
V51	HOW MANY DAYS 5 OR MORE DRINKS	51.4%
V52	MOST DRINKS IN ONE DAY	52.3%

Table 1: Distribution of Variables by Percentage of Missing Values--Main Survey Data

Variable Name and Label (Total Cases = 109)		Percent of Cases with Missing Values
V53	HOW MANY DAYS WITH MOST DRINKS	51.4%
V61	PARENTS LIVING IN ANCHORAGE WHEN BORN	47.7%
V86B	V86B	98.2%
V97A	NUMBER OF BOYFRIENDS OR DATES VIOLENT	79.8%
V97B	DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED V97A	98.2%
V99A	OTHER MEN OR BOYS WHO WERE VIOLENT	77.1%
V99B	V99B	99.1%
V101A	WOMEN OR GIRLS WHO WERE VIOLENT	74.3%
V101B	V101B	97.2%
V107A	NUMBER OF MALE STRANGERS WHO WERE VIOLENT	87.2%
V107B	V107B	98.2%
V109A	FEMALE STRANGERS WHO WERE VIOLENT	87.2%
V109B	V109B	98.2%
0.4% (1 of 264 variables)		have 100% missing values
V58C	V58C	100.0%

Data Completeness Report

Notes: (1) Variables are individually listed only if they have greater than 5% missing data. These variables are listed under the appropriate percentage category in the order in which they appear in the data file. (2) The Data Completeness Report only captures information about system missing or other values that are declared missing. Codes that have a label implying that they are missing but that are not declared missing values are not reflected in this report. Data users should consult the codebook for more specific information about missing values. (3) Some variables that have 100% missing data may have been blanked by ICPSR to protect respondent confidentiality. Data users should consult the codebook for more specific information about blanked variables. (4) Data do not contain skip patterns or skip patterns are not reflected in the data as coded.

Table 2: Distribution of Variables by Percentage of Missing Values--Detailed Physical Assault Incident Report Data

Variable Name and Label (Total Cases = 186)	Percent of Cases with Missing Values
78.4% (178 of 227 variables)	have 0% Missing Values
0.0% (0 of 227 variables)	have 0% - 1% Missing Values
2.2% (5 of 227 variables)	have 1% - 3% Missing Values
3.1% (7 of 227 variables)	have 3% - 5% Missing Values
0.4% (1 of 227 variables)	have 5% - 10% Missing Values
I53	I53 8.6%
1.8% (4 of 227 variables)	have 10% - 20% Missing Values
I6A	I6A 18.8%
I10A	I10A 17.2%
I33	I33 19.4%
I47	I47 14.0%
2.6% (6 of 227 variables)	have 20% - 40% Missing Values
I2A	I2A 21.0%
I7A	I7A 24.7%
I8A	I8A 31.2%
I16	I16 31.2%
I19	I19 34.9%
I28	I28 27.4%
11.5% (26 of 227 variables)	have 40% - 99% Missing Values
I2B	I2B 76.3%
I6B	I6B 84.4%
I7B	I7B 87.6%
I8B	I8B 81.7%
I10B	I10B 97.8%
I18	I18 54.8%
I21	I21 79.0%
I22	I22 96.2%
I30	I30 76.3%
I31A	I31A 93.0%

Table 2: Distribution of Variables by Percentage of Missing Values--Detailed Physical Assault Incident Report Data

Variable Name and Label (Total Cases = 186)		Percent of Cases with Missing Values
I31B	I31B	99.5%
I37A	I37A	62.4%
I39	I39	62.9%
I40	I40	63.4%
I41	I41	63.4%
I42	I42	63.4%
I46	I46	74.7%
I48	I48	75.8%
I49	I49	77.4%
I50A	I50A	86.6%
I50B	I50B	94.1%
I52	I52	66.7%
I58A	I58A	93.5%
I58B	I58B	94.6%
I58C	I58C	88.2%
I58D	I58D	95.7%
0.0% (0 of 227 variables)		have 100% missing values