Summary Results
During 2007–2011, 191 victims of homicide (175, 92%) and legal intervention from 2007–2011. Deaths were counted if the decedent was fatally injured in Alaska. Crude rates were calculated using the Alaska Department of Labor’s population estimates data.

Methods
We reviewed AKVDRS data regarding deaths due to homicide and legal intervention from 2007–2011. Dates were counted if the decedent was fatally injured in Alaska. Crude rates were calculated using the Alaska Department of Labor’s population estimates data.

Results

Characteristics of the victim/suspect relationships associated with the 175 homicide victims were as follows:
- 108 (62%) victims were drinking and/or doing drugs at or near the time of the homicide;
- 47 (27%) victims were an acquaintance, friend, roommate, or schoolmate of the suspect;
- 30 (17%) victims were a family/household member of the suspect; and
- 15 (9%) victims were a current or former spouse or partner of the suspect.

Figure. Incident Characteristics of Deaths due to Homicide and Legal Intervention (N=191) — Alaska, 2007–2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precipitating Crime</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victim of IPV</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator of IPV</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Involvement</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argument</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jealousy</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimate partner violence related</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion
Compared to 2004–2008, Alaska’s average annual crude rate for victims of homicide and legal intervention was 11% lower during 2007–2011 (6.2 vs. 5.5 per 100,000 persons, respectively). Alaska’s homicide rates continue to remain highest among males, adults aged 35–40 years and children aged 0–4 years, and AI/AN. Similar to what is found nationally, the most common precipitating incident characteristics included criminal acts and interpersonal relationship problems. Moreover, nearly two-thirds of victims were drinking or doing drugs at or near the time of the incident, underscoring the importance of ongoing work to decrease substance use/abuse rates in Alaska.

These data also indicate that workplace homicides accounted for 5% of all homicides in Alaska. Homicides are a leading cause of fatal occupational injury nationally; risk factors for workplace violence include dealing with the public, the exchange of money, and the delivery of services or goods.

In Alaska, future studies on the victim/suspect relationship, partner/family violence, and access to mental health services are warranted to help guide future prevention efforts.

Recommendations
1. Providers should familiarize themselves with recognizing abuse and domestic violence; educational materials are available at: http://www.provena.org/usmc/body.cfm?id=741
2. Providers should offer resources to help reduce stressors that exacerbate violence at home (e.g., community-based counseling services and safe haven programs).

References
5. CDC/NIOSH. Occupational Violence. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/violence/

(Acontributed by Deborah Hull-Jilly, MPH, and Scott Saxon, Injury Surveillance Program, Section of Epidemiology.)