

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS: VIRGINIA



### DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ **One in every four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.<sup>1</sup> **One in 33 men** have experienced an attempted or completed rape.<sup>2</sup>
- ◇ An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.<sup>3</sup>
- ◇ The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female. Females were 84% of spousal abuse victims and 86% of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.<sup>4</sup>
- ◇ The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.<sup>5</sup>
- ◇ Boys who witness domestic violence are **twice as likely** to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.<sup>6</sup>

### CHALLENGES

- **2,367 domestic violence victims were turned away from shelters in Virginia** in 2005 because no beds were available. An increase in funding is imperative in order to build more shelter space to accommodate victims.<sup>7</sup>
- Many cases of domestic violence do not result in an arrest and when there is an arrest, the perpetrator is released within hours of the incident which leads to an increased threat of violence for the victim. Police officers, lawyers, prosecutors and judges need to be trained to deal specifically with domestic violence cases so that the threat to victims may be reduced.<sup>8</sup>

### STATEMENTS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

*"Nearly one in three homicides in Virginia is related to family and intimate partner violence. Despite changes in law, policy and practice between 1999 and 2005, this pattern has not changed significantly. We must do more to expand prevention programming for children, youth, and adults to prevent domestic violence before it occurs".*

- Public Awareness Manager, VSDVAA

*"Many campuses in Virginia have been working to develop prevention programs and direct services for victims of sexual and dating violence. However, these programs are often under funded, and there is no infrastructure to support the sharing of resources and best practices among programs. Further, while federal guidelines exist, there is no protocol describing how sexual and dating violence cases should be handled on campuses, so campuses may interpret the guidelines differently and apply them inconsistently."*

-Advocate, VSDVAA<sup>9</sup>

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN VIRGINIA

- In 2005, there were 3,632 reported violent crimes against family and dating partners.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2006, 51,652 individuals in crisis situations contacted Virginia domestic violence programs.<sup>11</sup>
- 5,295 forcible sex offenses were reported in Virginia in 2005.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2005, 30% of homicides were related to intimate partner violence.<sup>13</sup>
- There were 147 homicides relating to domestic abuse in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Between 2000 and 2006, the number of women and children staying in domestic violence shelters has doubled.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2005, 20 children were killed by their caregiver in Virginia.<sup>13</sup>

### STATE RESOURCES

**Virginia Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence  
Action Alliance**  
<http://vadv.org/>

- ◇ VSDVAA is a non-profit organization working to raise awareness about sexual and domestic violence by increasing public access to resources and services, educating individuals, communities, and legislators on how to end domestic violence, operating the statewide Virginia Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline and initiating legislative and policy changes.<sup>14</sup>

For more information or to get help, please contact the  
 Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance Hotline at  
**1-800-838-8328**

The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE  
 The National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE

## Crisis Services

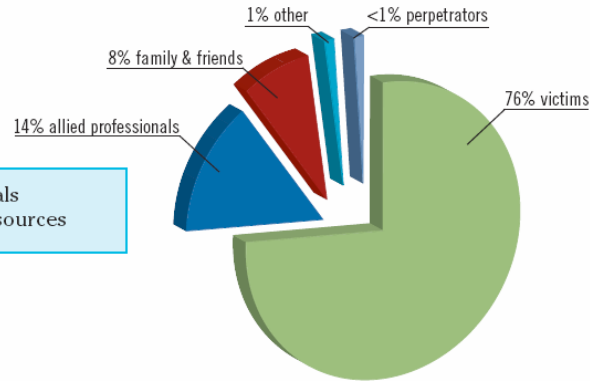
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Domestic Violence Service Providers responded to 54,590 crisis situations in 2005, providing services to victims, family members, friends, and allied professionals.

**35,263** number of referrals to community resources

In addition to hotline calls, victim advocates responded to 11,181 crises in person.

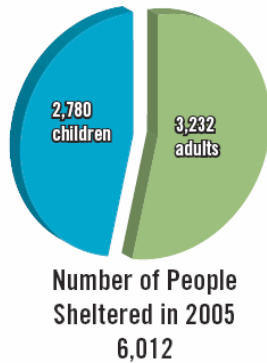
**3 in 4** number of crisis contacts that provided safety planning



**Total Hotline Calls in 2005**  
43,409

## Shelter

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**Number of People Sheltered in 2005**  
6,012

Virginia's Domestic Violence Service Providers provided 233,159 nights of emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence and their children in 2005—a critical public safety service.

**639** number of women, children, and men who stayed in a Virginia domestic violence shelter on an average night

Despite the fact that Domestic Violence Service Providers are committed to providing shelter for every victim who is in danger, 2,367 families who asked for shelter could not be served because no bed was available.

**23%** increase in number of women, children, and men (2004 to 2005) who could not be sheltered because no bed was available

## SOURCES

- <sup>1</sup> Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," 2000.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, "Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women," November 1998.
- <sup>3</sup> Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. 2003. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Family Violence Statistics," June 2005.
- <sup>5</sup> Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. 2003. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.
- <sup>6</sup> Strauss, Gelles, and Smith, "Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence" in *8,145 Families*. Transaction Publishers (1990).
- <sup>7</sup> Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. (2005) *Domestic Violence Services in Virginia*.
- <sup>8</sup> Virginia Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Office in Toano. (2007, October 19). Personal Interview.
- <sup>9</sup> Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. (2006). *Policy Priorities.. "Implementing a Statewide Dating & Sexual Violence Prevention and Services Program for Colleges and Universities"*. Retrieved 10/10/07 from <<http://www.vadv.org/secProjects/2006pppriorities.html>>.
- <sup>10</sup> Office of the Attorney General of Virginia. (2005-2006). *Annual Report 2005-2006: Domestic and Sexual Violence in Virginia*.
- <sup>11</sup> The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Data Collection System. (2006). *VADData*. Retrieved on 10/5/07 from <<http://216.177.52.229/>>.
- <sup>12</sup> Virginia Department of Health. (2005). *Sexual Violence in Virginia Report*. Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.
- <sup>13</sup> Virginia Department of Health. (2005). *Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Report*.
- <sup>14</sup> Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. *About Us*. Retrieved on 10/10/07 from <<http://www.vadv.org/secAbout/indexAbout.html>>.



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.