

“ THESE SERVICES CHANGED MY LIFE AND ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN I CAN SAY.  
I WOULD NEVER BE AS FAR WITH HEALING AS I AM NOW. ”

ONE SURVIVOR'S RESPONSE WHEN ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THESE SERVICES DID NOT EXIST. <sup>1</sup>

Intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking are serious public safety and public health problems in Virginia.

- Intimate partner homicides in Virginia increased by 65% between 2006 and 2010, while overall homicide numbers fell. <sup>2</sup>
- The number of victims of domestic violence increased by 8.6% from 2006 to 2010, while the overall number of violent crime victims increased by 1.4%. <sup>3</sup>
- It is estimated that over 300,000 adult women and men in Virginia reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked by an intimate partner in the past 12 months. <sup>4</sup>
- In 2011 there were 4,768 forcible sex offenses involving 5,104 victims. <sup>5</sup>

On an average day...

More than 540 women, children, and men are staying in a domestic violence shelter.

More than 14,000 protective orders are active in the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN). <sup>6</sup>

# VIRGINIA'S CRISIS CENTERS SAVE+LIVES

## EVERY WEEK...

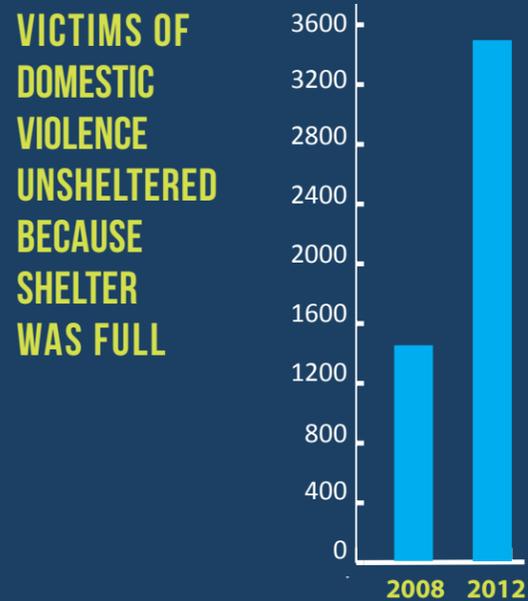
Virginia's Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies:

- Respond to 1,300 crisis calls;
- Shelter 127 women, children, and men;
- Provide free counseling to 400 victims of domestic violence (adults and children) and 140 victims of sexual violence (adults and children);
- Support 182 victims of domestic violence seeking protective orders or other help from the criminal justice system;
- Provide crisis support and advocacy to 44 victims of sexual assault seeking forensic-medical services in emergency rooms or seeking help from the criminal justice system.



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence  
**ACTION ALLIANCE**

Twice as many people turned away.



“ IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT THESE BASIC SAFETY AND CRISIS SERVICES FOR VICTIMS IN OUR COMMUNITIES ARE IN JEOPARDY. LIVES ARE IN JEOPARDY WHEN THESE SERVICES ARE AT RISK. ”

KRISTI VANAUDENHOVE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
VIRGINIA SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION ALLIANCE

# VIRGINIA'S CRISIS CENTERS INOCRISIS

“ Funding has decreased significantly. People don't realize the impact these issues have on people's quality of life and the community...from housing, to mental health, to education. [Funding crisis services adequately] saves money in other places.

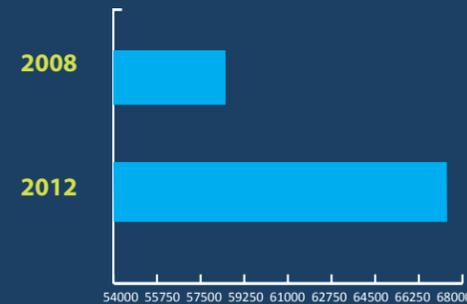
PROFESSIONAL WORKING IN A VIRGINIA CRISIS CENTER

Virginia's 57 Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies are on the front lines of Virginia's response to intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

We rely on them to staff 24-hour hotlines, shelter victims escaping violence in their homes, comfort and support victims in emergency immediately after a sexual assault or domestic violence incident, and assist victims seeking protective orders or participating in the criminal justice process.

Nearly half of Virginia's Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies report that they do not have sufficient staff<sup>7</sup> to provide an around the clock public safety response to victims of sexual and domestic violence in their communities.

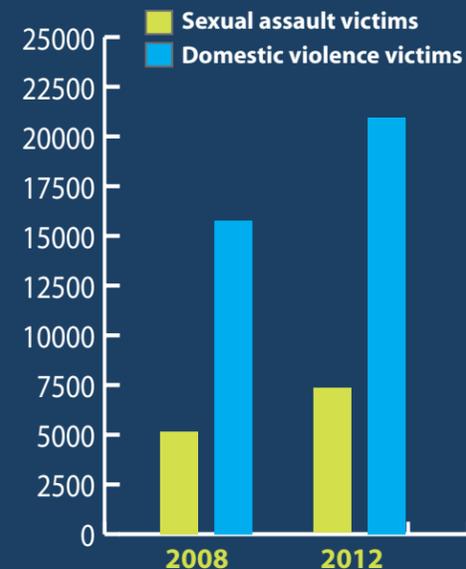
HOTLINE CALLS



“ MYSELF AND MY CHILDREN WOULD BE ANOTHER STATISTIC ”

ONE SURVIVOR'S RESPONSE WHEN ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THESE SERVICES DID NOT EXIST.<sup>8</sup>

VICTIMS SERVED



The Action Alliance urges policy makers to invest \$18 million to effectively fund crisis and safety services for victims of sexual and domestic violence across the Commonwealth.

Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies are struggling to meet the demand for services, and victims are paying the price.

- Forty-six percent (46%) of our local agencies say they don't have the staff to provide an around the clock public safety response to victims in their communities. \$18 million is needed to restore 24/7 access to these critical services.
- In the past two years, Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies have experienced an 18% increase in the demand for domestic violence crisis services and a 6% increase in the demand for sexual assault crisis services. Today there is a:



• 2 in 3 chance that a shelter bed will not be available to a family seeking safety from a domestic violence shelter;

- 3 in 10 chance that a hotline call will go unanswered;



• 3 in 10 chance that a trained advocate will not be available to provide crisis and support services for a rape victim in a local hospital.



**It is unacceptable that in any given year, hundreds of thousands of Virginians are violated in our Commonwealth--often by those closest to them.**

**The college student who walks into an emergency room and says, "I've been raped" should have a sexual assault victim advocate by her side.**

**The mother who calls a domestic violence shelter and says, "I need to come in; he's going to kill me" must be certain there is a room for her and her children in the shelter.**

**The young man calling a hotline after years of being haunted by his abuse as a child deserves to have his call answered by a trained advocate.**

**The woman in need of a protective order to keep her abusive boyfriend away from her work and home ought to have an advocate by her side when she goes to court.**

**\$18 million is what it is going to take to ensure that victims of sexual and domestic violence in Virginia are able to get help in their community. All Virginians need to know their safety and recovery are a priority.**

#### Notes--

<sup>1</sup> Source: Documenting our Work-VA (DOW-VA). DOW-VA measures service outcomes through data collected from surveys completed by victims of sexual and domestic violence. DOW-VA is a project of the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

<sup>2</sup> Overall homicides in Virginia declined by 8% between 2006-2010. Between 2009 and 2010, alone, intimate partner homicide rose 21% (2010 Intimate Partner Homicide Report, Virginia Office of Chief Medical Examiner).

<sup>3</sup> Source: Attorney General's Sexual and Domestic Violence in Virginia Annual Report, 2012.

<sup>4</sup> Figures estimated based on extrapolations from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010, and the 2010 Census.

<sup>5</sup> Source: 2011 Crime in Virginia, Virginia State Police.

<sup>6</sup> Source: Attorney General's Sexual and Domestic Violence in Virginia Annual Report, 2012.

<sup>7</sup> Many local Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies rely on volunteers to provide core crisis and basic advocacy services. While these trained volunteers are welcomed support to paid staff, they do not have the ability to provide the same quality response as that of a seasoned sexual and domestic violence staff victim advocate.

<sup>8</sup> Source: Documenting our Work-VA (DOW-VA).

Source of all service statistics: VAdata, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

**For more  
information:**



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence  
**ACTION ALLIANCE**

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