

Sexual Violence

2005 Report
Virginia

Introduction

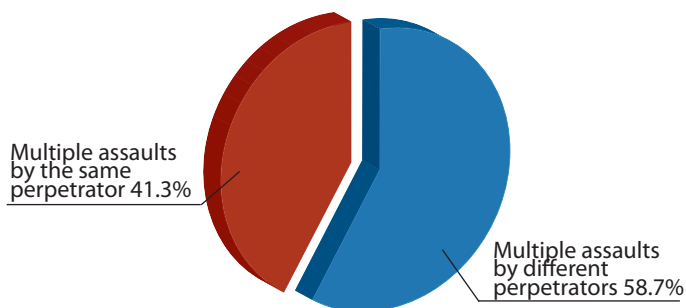
Determining the scope of sexual violence in Virginia is a difficult task due to the private and stigmatizing nature of the crime, and there is no single data source that can provide a definitive representation of its scope. A number of data collection methods have been developed to provide various points of reference for professionals working on this issue. It is not advisable to compare the results among these different methods, because the manner in which victimization is defined and measured varies significantly according to the data gatherer's objectives. For example, law enforcement wants to know how often they are responding to instances of sexual violence, so they keep a record of the number of reports they receive that match their criteria for this crime. The Virginia Department of Health, however, wants to obtain an estimate of the prevalence of sexual violence in the general public, so they conduct a randomized survey of all Virginia citizens, and count the cases that match their criteria for victimization.

Some of the most common measures of sexual violence are summarized below with their most recent results. It should be noted that almost any method of determining the extent of sexual violence will likely yield a conservative estimate because of the shame associated with disclosing victimization.

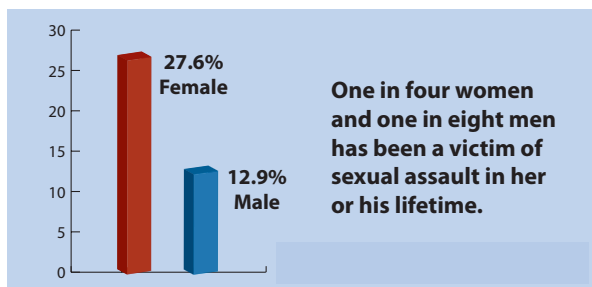
Author: Virginia Sexual Violence State Plan Advisory Board
Produced by: Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Prevalence of Sexual Violence in Virginia¹

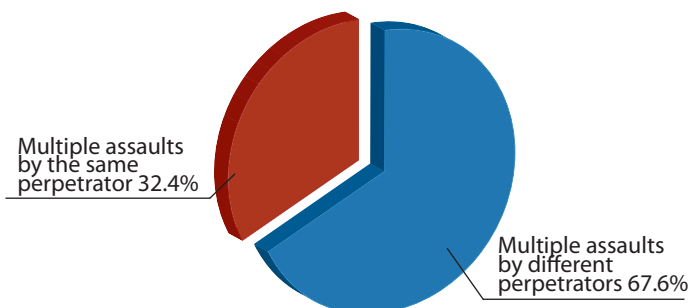
Multiple Sexual Assaults Reported by Female Participants



Of the 489 females who experienced sexual assault, almost half (49.4%) were assaulted multiple times. Of these 242 females, 41.3% reported having experienced multiple assaults by the same person*, and 58.7% reported having experienced multiple assaults by different people**.



Multiple Sexual Assaults Reported by Male Participants



Of the 91 males who experienced sexual assault, 37% were assaulted multiple times. Of these 34 males, 32.4% reported having experienced multiple assaults by the same person*, and 67.6% reported having experienced multiple assaults by different people**.

*the same perpetrator sexually assaulting the same person over a period of time. Example: ongoing child sexual abuse, ongoing victimization by intimate partner, etc.
**different perpetrators sexually assaulting the same person at different points in that victim's life.

¹Randomized telephone survey conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Department of Health based on two national studies. (April 2003, Virginia Department of Health)

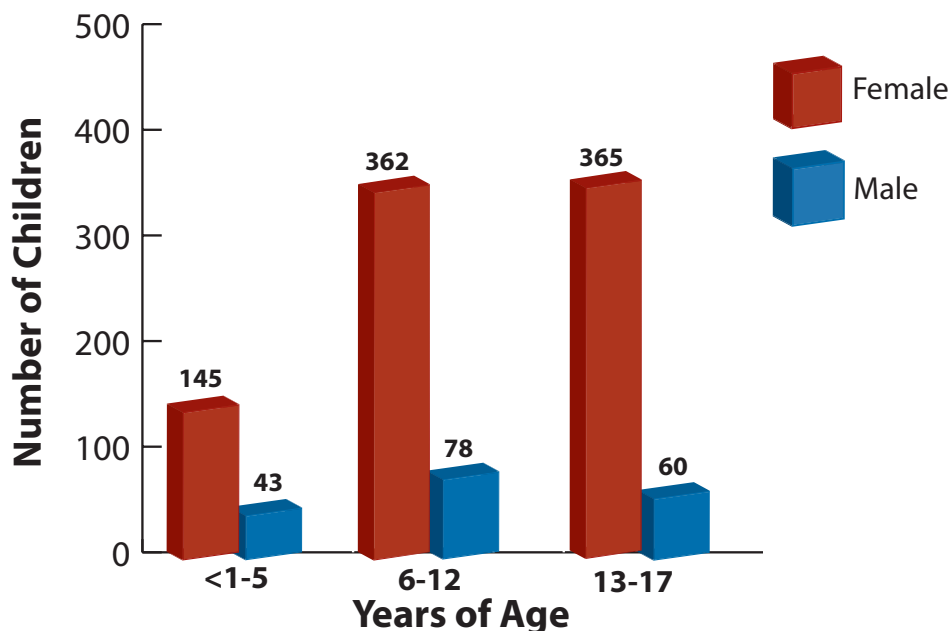
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2005 Report

Child Protective Services FY 2005²

In FY 2005, there were 1,087 victims of founded child sexual abuse cases.

Child Sexual Abuse by Caretakers

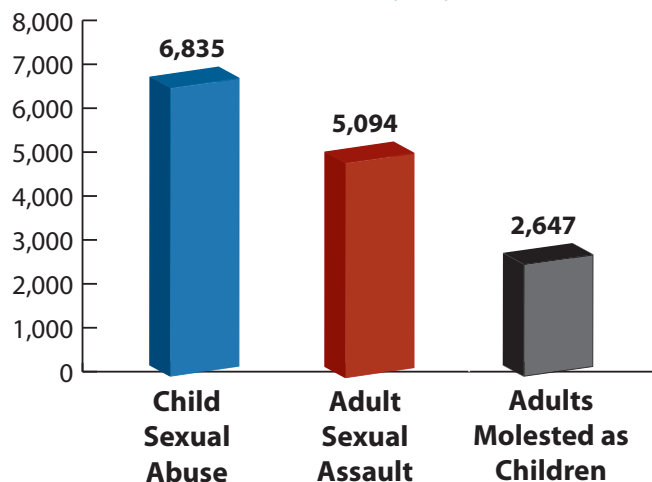


²Local departments of social services investigate reports of suspected sexual abuse of children by caretakers. The ages of 34 victims are unknown. (Virginia Department of Social Services NCANDS file from OASIS, September 28, 2006)

Victims of Crime Act Programs in Virginia FY 2005³

In FY 2005, VOCA-funded programs provided services to 14,576 adult and child victims of sexual violence.

Victims Served by Types of Crime



³Victims of Crime Act funds in Virginia support Sexual Assault Crisis Centers, Victim/Witness programs, Domestic Violence Programs, and child abuse projects. Individuals may access services from more than one program. (Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services)

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in **Virginia**
2005 Report

VAdata: the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Data Collection System 2005⁴

Virginia's Sexual Assault Crisis Centers and Domestic Violence Programs provide a wide array of services.

Hotline	Most victims make their initial contact through a Hotline; many rely on a Hotline as a source of support and information on an ongoing basis.	7,732 calls
Crisis Intervention/ Brief Advocacy:	These are brief, face to face contacts with victims that may occur in the hospital, court room, or other community setting.	3,739 contacts
Advocacy	Advocacy services encompass a wide variety of counseling, support, and accompaniment services provided to victims over a period of time.	1,812 adult victims 983 child victims

⁴VAdata information includes the reported experiences from victims, both adults and children, who use the services of Virginia's Sexual Assault Crisis Centers and Domestic Violence Programs. (Report from Virginia's Sexual Assault Crisis Centers and Domestic Violence Programs)

Child Advocacy Centers 2005-2006⁵

Child Advocacy Centers are child-friendly, child-focused, facilities where representatives from many disciplines (law enforcement, mental health, medical, child advocacy, social services, Commonwealth's Attorney) discuss and make decisions on the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of abuse and severe neglect cases. This multi-disciplinary approach provides victims and their non-offending caregivers with more comprehensive services, resulting in more immediate follow-up, more efficient medical and mental health referrals, reduction in the number of child interviews, increased successful prosecution of offenders, and consistent support for child victims and their non-offending caregivers.

There were a total of 2,566 new children's cases referred to Child Advocacy Centers, and of that number, 1,534 children were referred due to sexual abuse.

⁵These statistics cover July, 2005 - June, 2006 from Virginia Child Advocacy Centers operating during that time (10 during the first half, and 13 during the second half).

Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) Payments, FY 2005⁶

In fiscal year 2005, the Supreme Court paid out a total of \$1,448,032 in reimbursements for evidence collection in 731 adult and 1,020 juvenile sexual violence cases.

⁶In Virginia, the Supreme Court processes payments for evidence collection. In sexual assault cases, these payments most commonly cover the costs of collecting Physical Evidence Recovery Kits. (Report from the Supreme Court of Virginia)

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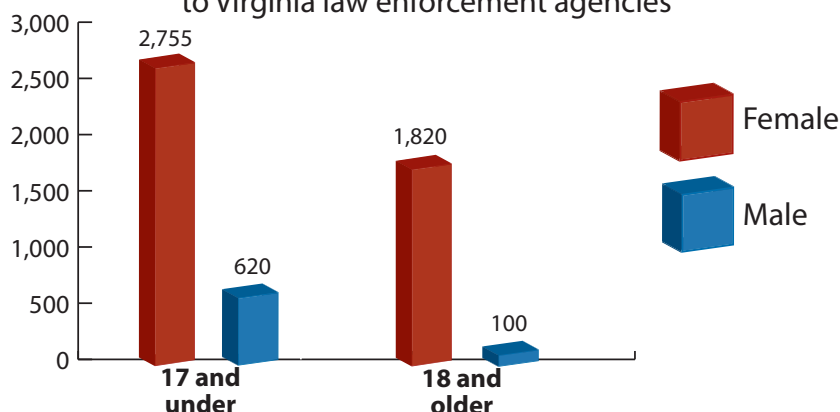
in **Virginia**
2005 Report

Virginia Uniform Crime Reporting Program 2005⁷

According to the Virginia Uniform Crime Report, 4,973 forcible sex offenses (5,295 victims) were reported to law enforcement agencies during 2005.

Uniform Crime Reports

5,295 victims reported forcible sex offenses to Virginia law enforcement agencies



Females were the victims in 4,575, or 86%, of the offenses. Male victims accounted for 720 or 14% of the cases. 60% of the female victims were under age 18, and 86% of the males were under age 18.

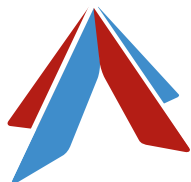
⁷The Uniform Crime Reporting Program is a system through which the Department of State Police collect and analyze crime statistics gathered on selected crimes by participating law enforcement agencies throughout Virginia.

Virginia Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution (V-STOP) Programs in 2004⁸

The Violence Against Women Office provides funds to advocates, law enforcement officers, and prosecutors to address violence against women. In 2004, Virginia V-STOP funded programs reported serving 2,389 victims of sexual violence.

⁸Federal STOP funds in Virginia support victim assistance and criminal justice projects that address violence against women. (Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services)

For more information, contact:



Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence
Action Alliance (804) 377-0335

ACTIONALLIANCE



VDH
Division of
Injury & Violence Prevention

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual violence and would like help, please call:
Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline at (800) 838-8238.

Copies of this report are available in PDF form at:

www.vsdvalliance.org and www.vahealth.org/civp/sexualviolence.