

# Sexual Violence

2004 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.

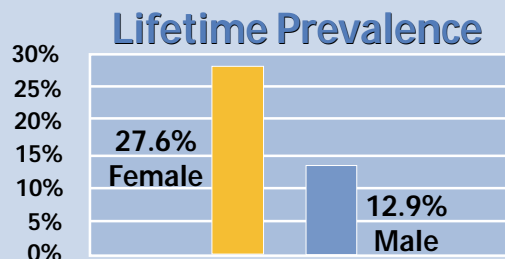
Some of the most common measures of sexual violence are summarized below with their most recent results. It should be noted that almost any method of determining the extent of sexual violence will likely yield a conservative estimate because of the shame associated with disclosing victimization.

**Author:** Virginia Sexual Violence State Plan Advisory Board

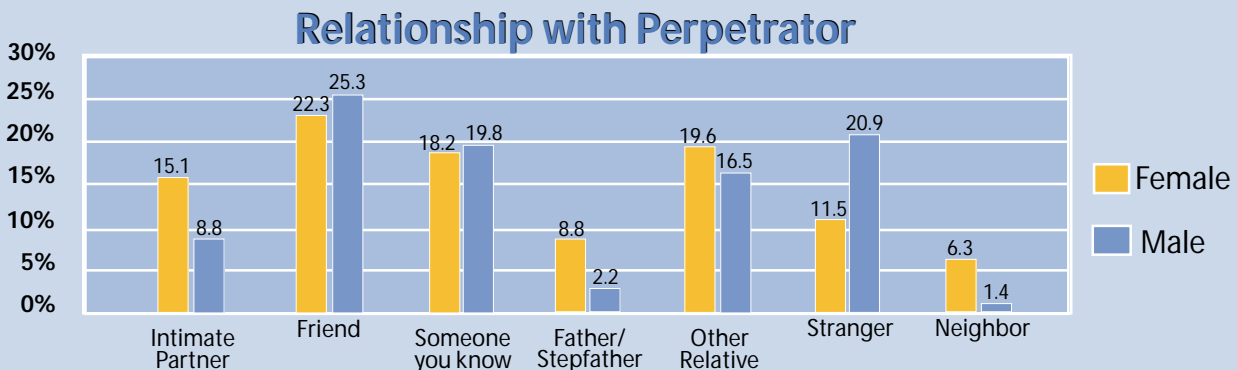
**Produced by:** Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

## Prevalence of Sexual Violence in Virginia<sup>1</sup>

One in four women and one in eight men has been a victim of sexual assault in her or his lifetime.



78% of first sexual assaults (lifetime) among women occurred when victims were younger than 18 years old. 95% of first sexual assaults among men occurred when victims were younger than 18 years old.



<sup>1</sup>Randomized telephone survey conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Department of Health based on two national studies. Rate of respondents victimized by mother/stepmother is not statistically relevant. (April '03, VA Dept of Health)

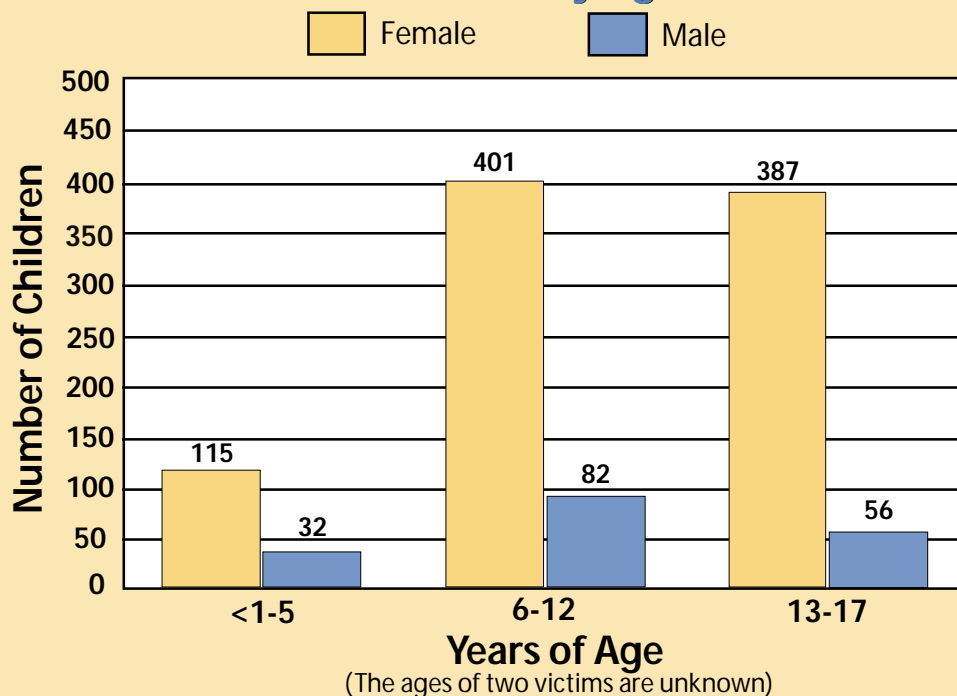
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## Child Protective Services FY2004<sup>2</sup>

In FY 2004, there were 1,075 child victims of founded child sexual abuse cases.

### Child Sexual Abuse by Age and Gender

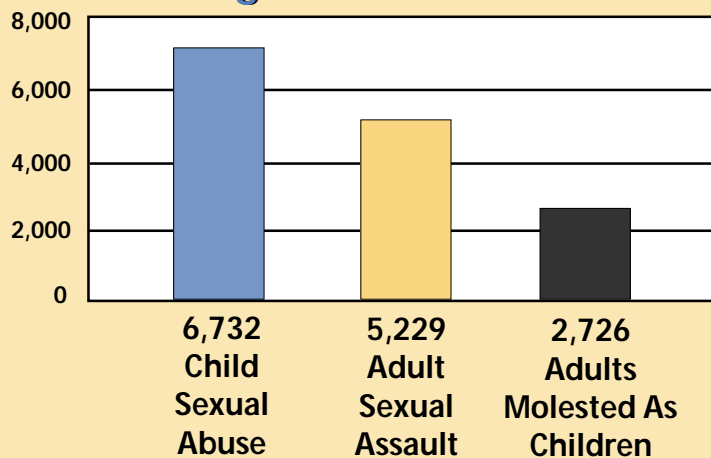


<sup>2</sup>Local departments of social services investigate reports of suspected sexual abuse of children by caretakers. (Virginia Department of Social Services NCANDS file from OASIS)

## Victims of Crime Act Programs in Virginia FY 2004<sup>3</sup>

In fiscal year 2004, VOCA-funded programs provided services to 14,687 adult and child victims of sexual violence.

### VOCA Programs: Services Provided



<sup>3</sup>Victims 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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## VAdata: The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Data Collection System 2004<sup>4</sup>

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.

**8,293 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.

**3,040 contacts**

### Advocacy:

Advocacy services encompass a wide variety of counseling, support, and accompaniment services provided to victims over a period of time.

**1,830 adult victims  
1,019 child victims**

<sup>4</sup>VAdata information includes the reported experiences from victims, both adult 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)

## Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) Payments, FY 2004<sup>5</sup>

In fiscal year 2004, the Supreme Court paid out a total of \$1,687,602 in reimbursements for evidence collection in 958 adult and 1,183 juvenile sexual violence cases.

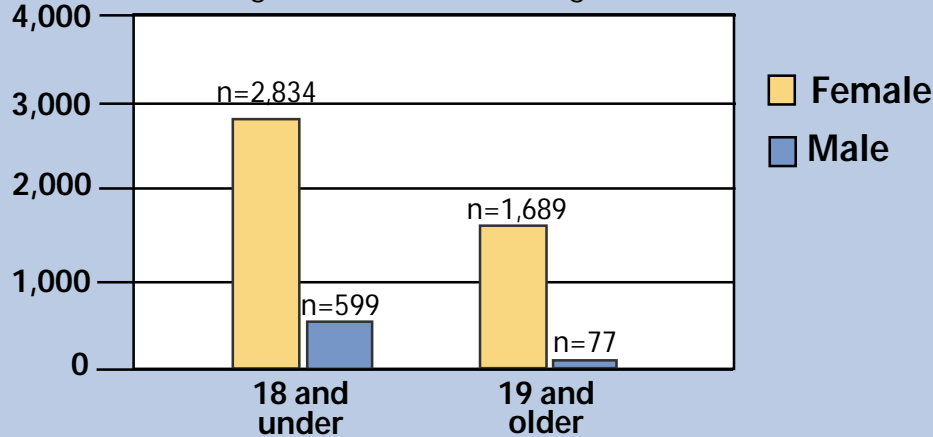
<sup>5</sup>In Virginia, the Supreme Court processes payments for evidence collection. In sexual assault cases, these payments most commonly cover the costs of collecting Physical Evidence Recovery Kits. (Report from the Supreme Court of Virginia)

## Virginia Uniform Crime Reporting Program 2003<sup>6</sup>

According to the Virginia Uniform Crime Report, 4,900 forcible sex offenses (5,199 victims) were reported to law enforcement agencies during 2003.

### Uniform Crime Reports

5,199 victims reported forcible sex offenses to Virginia law enforcement agencies



Females were the victims in 4,523, or 87%, of the offenses. Male victims accounted for 676 or 13% of the cases. Almost 63% of the female victims were under age 19, and 89% of the males were under age 19.

<sup>6</sup>The 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 2003<sup>7</sup>

The Violence Against Women Office provides funds to advocates, law enforcement officers, and prosecutors to address violence against women. In 2003, Virginia V-STOP programs reported working on 3,400 sexual violence cases.

<sup>7</sup>Federal 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



Center for  
Injury & Violence Prevention  
www.vahealth.org/civp  
1-800-732-8333

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](http://www.vsdvalliance.org) and [www.vahealth.org/civp/sexualviolence](http://www.vahealth.org/civp/sexualviolence).