

Sexual Violence

2006 Report

Virginia

Introduction

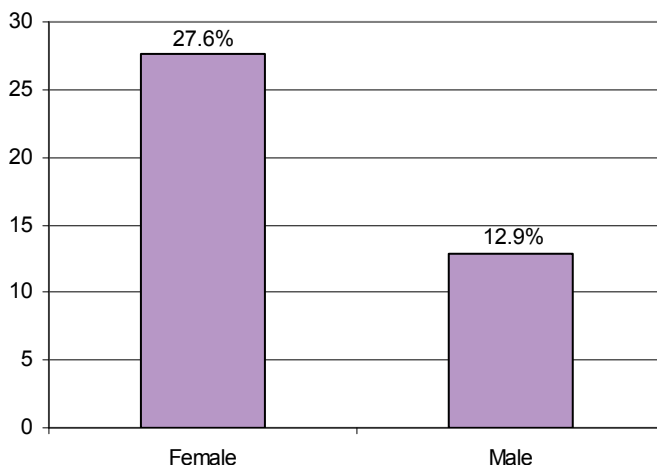
Determining the scope of sexual violence in Virginia is a difficult task due to the private and stigmatizing nature of the crime, and there is no single data source that can provide a definitive representation of its scope. A number of data collection methods have been developed to provide various points 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 reluctance to disclose victimization.

Author: Virginia Sexual Violence State Plan Advisory Board

Produced by: Virginia Department of Health

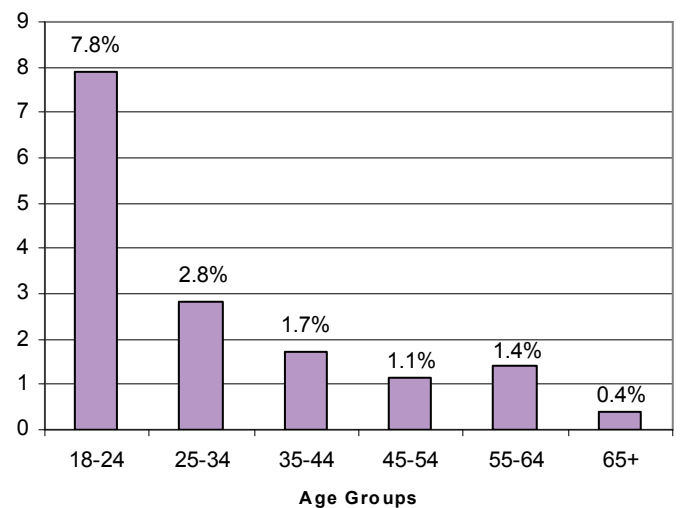
Prevalence of Sexual Violence in Virginia¹



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

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

Incidence of Sexual Violence in Virginia²



2.4% of adults reported being the victim of sexual violence (includes rape, attempted rape, and sexual touching/situations) in the past 12 months.

² Randomized telephone survey conducted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Department of Health in 2005 and 2006 (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, BRFSS)

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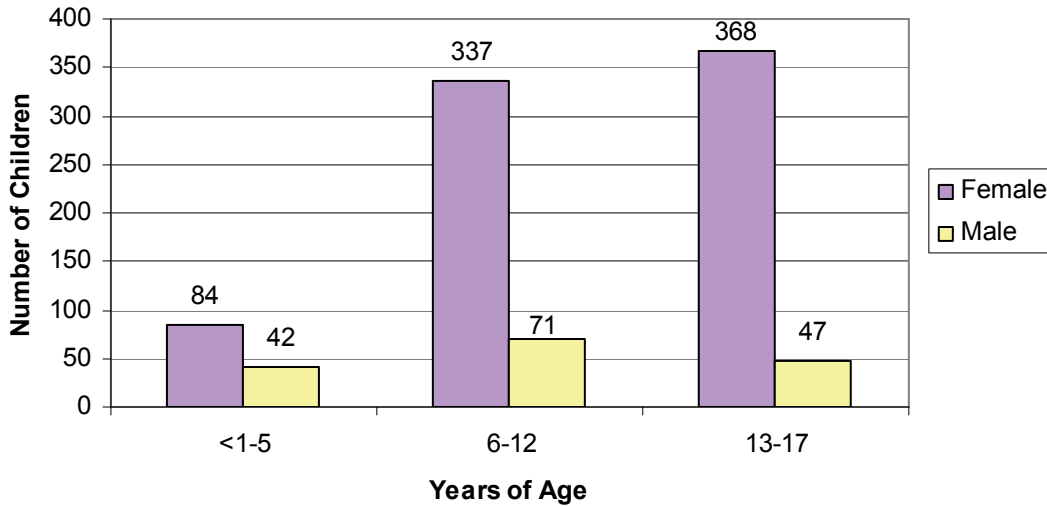
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Child Protective Services FY

In FY 2006, there were 972 victims of founded child sexual abuses cases.

Child Sexual Abuse by Age and Gender

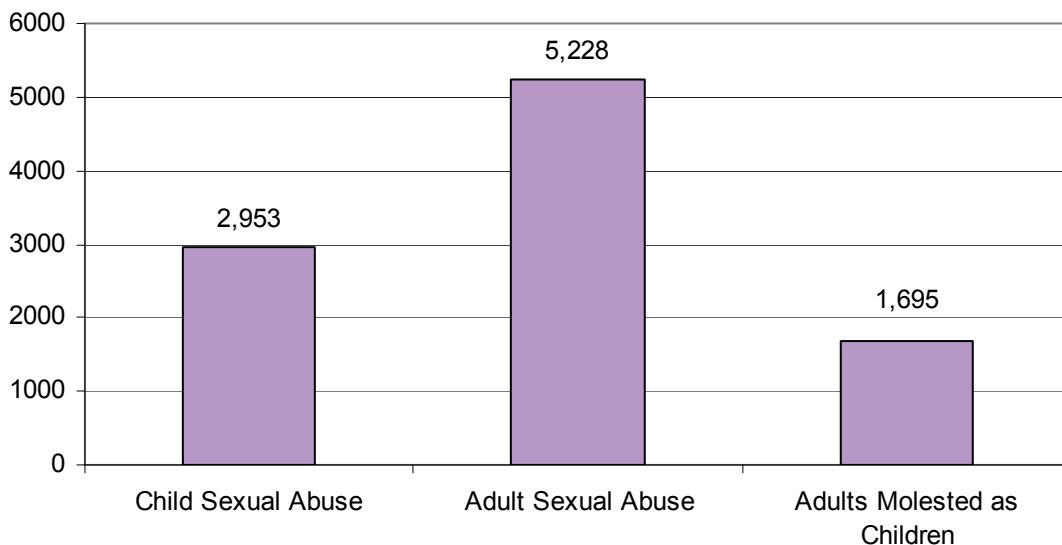


³Local departments of social services investigate reports of suspected sexual abuse of children by caretakers.

Victims of Crime Act Programs in Virginia FY 2006⁴

In FY 2006, VOCA-funded programs provided services to 10,331 adult and child victims of sexual violence.

Victims Served by Types of Crime



⁴ 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 2006⁵

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	8,971 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.	4,284 contacts
Advocacy	Advocacy services encompass a wide variety of counseling, support, and accompaniment services provided to victims over a period of time.	1,908 adult victims 779 child victims

Child Advocacy Centers⁶

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 2,745 new children's cases referred to Child Advocacy Centers, and of that number, 1,711 children were referred due to sexual abuse.

⁶These statistics cover July, 2006-June, 2007 from Virginia Child Advocacy Centers operating during that time.

Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) Payments, FY 2006⁷

In FY 2006, the Supreme Court paid out a total of \$1,573,727 in reimbursements for evidence collection in 824 adult and 1,015 juvenile sexual violence cases.

⁷In 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 Supreme Court of Virginia)

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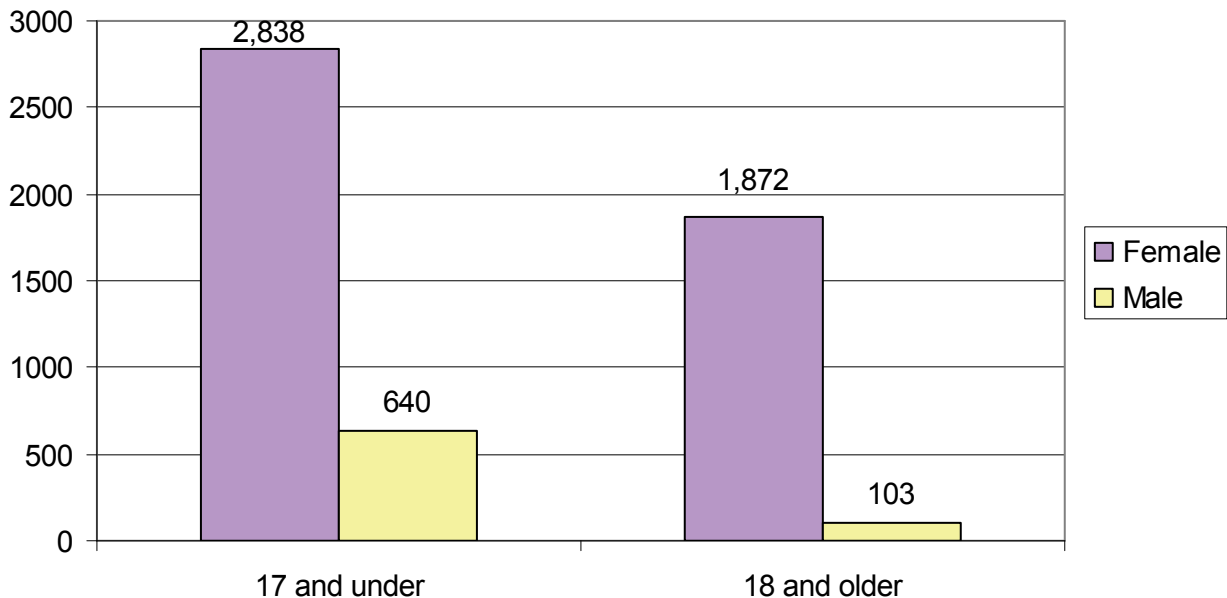
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Virginia Uniform Crime Reporting Program 2006⁸

According to the Virginia Uniform Crime Report, 5,475 forcible sex offenses (5,453 victims) were reported to law enforcement agencies during 2006.

Uniform Crime Reports

5,453 Victims reported forcible sex offenses to Virginia law enforcement agencies



Females were the victims in 4,710, or 86% of the offenses. Male victims accounted for 743 or 14% of the cases. 60% of the female victims were under age 18, and 86% of the males were under age 18.

⁸ 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 2006⁹

The Violence Against Women Office provides funds to advocates, law enforcement officers, and prosecutors to address violence against women. In 2006, Virginia V-STOP funded programs reported serving 1,974 victims of sexual violence.

⁹ Federal STOP funds in Virginia support victim assistance and criminal justice projects that address violence against women. (Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services)

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For more information, contact:



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTION ALLIANCE



Division of
Injury and 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 and 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