

Sexual Violence

2003 Report
Virginia

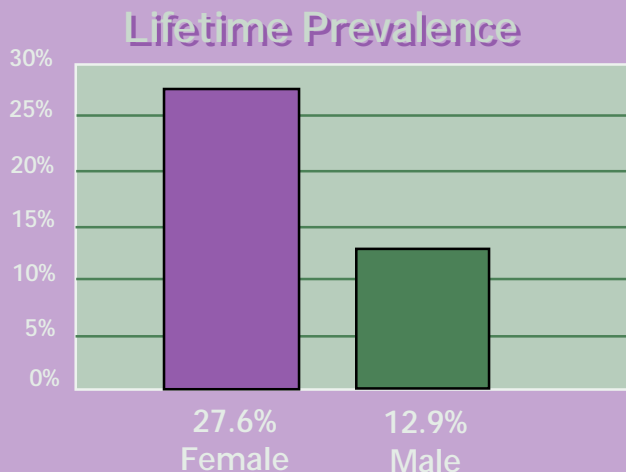
Introduction

This report addresses sexual violence in the Commonwealth of Virginia. There is no single data source that describes the incidence of sexual violence in Virginia. The data included in this report are from a variety of sources but still only represent a fraction of the total victims, because sexual violence is such an underreported crime.

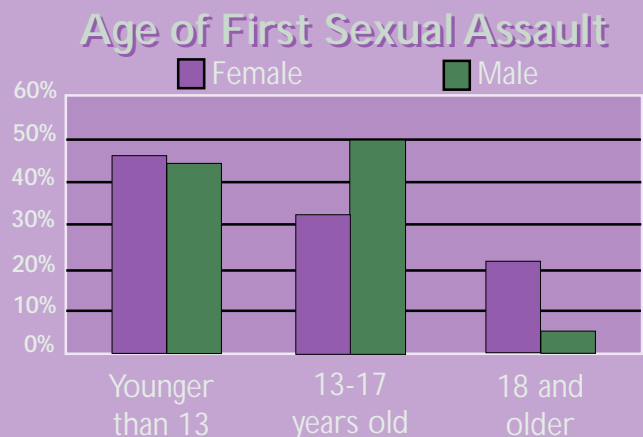
Author: Virginia Sexual Violence State Plan Advisory Board
Produced by: Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Prevalence of Sexual Violence in Virginia 2003¹

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



(Right) The majority of first sexual assaults (lifetime) occurred when victims were younger than 13 years old, indicating the need for prevention efforts to address pre-teens.



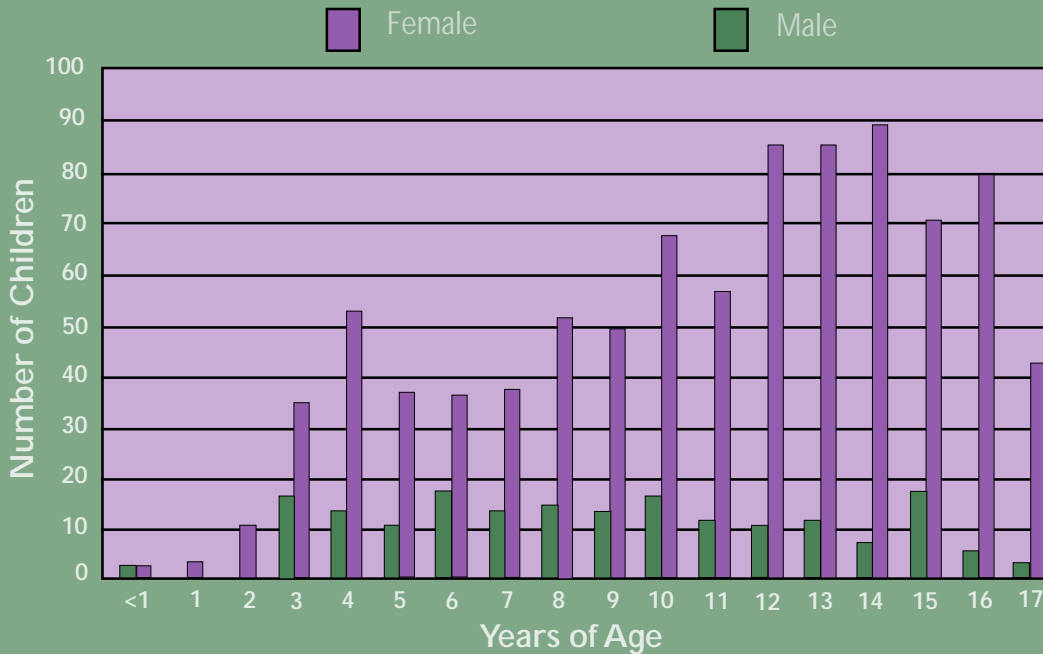
¹According to a randomized telephone survey conducted in 2003 by Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Department of Health based on two national studies. (April 2003, Virginia Department of Health)

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Child Protective Services FY2003²

In FY 2003, there were 1,080 reports of child sexual abuse.

Child Sexual Abuse by Age and Gender



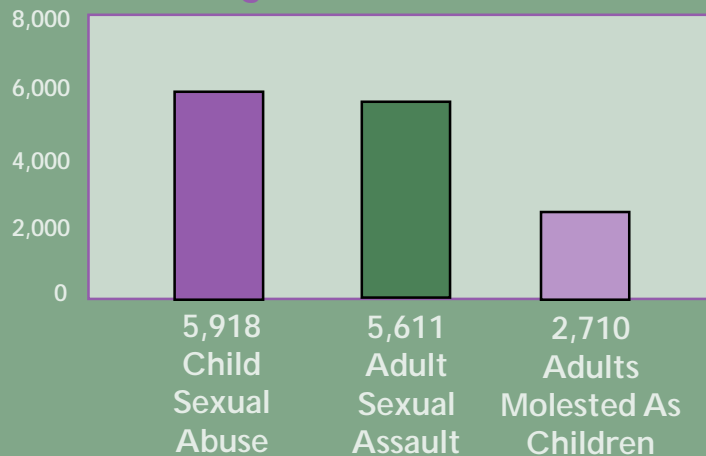
(Above) More girls than boys were found to have been sexually abused at all ages. Sexual abuse was most prevalent among girls 12 to 14 years.

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

Victim of Crime Act Programs in Virginia FY 2003³

In fiscal year 2003, VOCA-funded programs provided services to 14,239 adult and child victims of sexual violence.

VOCA Programs: Services Provided



³Victims of Crime Act funds in Virginia support sexual assault crisis centers, victim/witness programs, domestic violence programs, and child abuse projects. (Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services)

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VAdata: The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Data Collection System 2003⁴

Virginia's Sexual Assault Crisis Centers 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.

9,069 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.

3,928 contacts

Advocacy:

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

1,840 adult victims
1,109 child victims

⁴VAdata 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, FY2003⁵

In fiscal year 2003, the Supreme Court paid out a total of \$1,462,861 in reimbursements for evidence collection in 832 adult and 1,135 juvenile sexual violence cases.

⁵In 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)

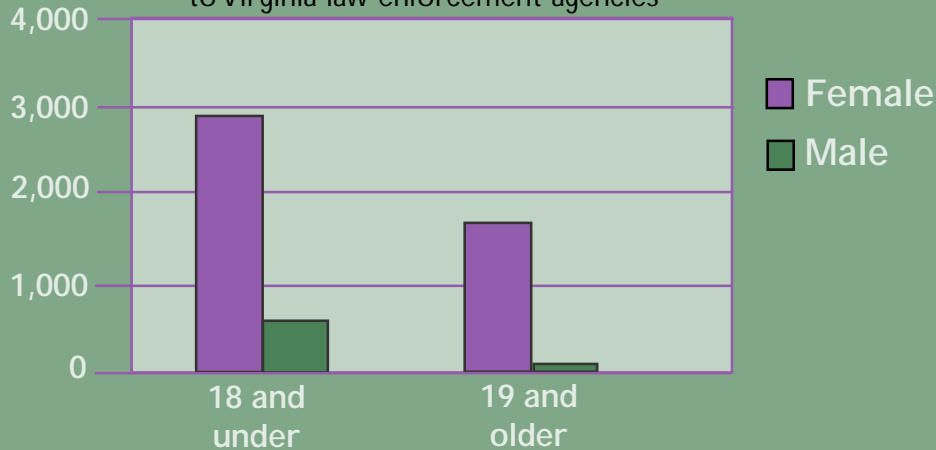
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Virginia Uniform Crime Reporting Program 2002⁶

According to the Virginia Uniform Crime Report, 5,258 forcible sex offenses were reported to law enforcement agencies during 2002.

Uniform Crime Reports

5,258 reports of forcible sex offenses to Virginia law enforcement agencies



Females were the victims in 4,561, or 87%, of the offenses. Male victims accounted for 688 or 13% of the cases. Almost 62% of the female victims were under age 19, and 82% of the males were under age 19.

⁶The 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.

V-STOP 2003⁷

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.

⁷Federal 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 (866) 387-3822

ACTIONALLIANCE



Virginia Department of Health
(804) 864-7743

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.