

2007 Domestic Violence Services in Virginia

Highlights

- On an average night, there were 356 children staying in a Virginia domestic violence shelter in 2007.
- More than 50% of the children had directly witnessed the violence in the family.
- The number of people staying in a Virginia domestic violence shelter on an average night increased by 7% in 2007.
- 1,759 families who asked for shelter in 2007 could not be sheltered in a domestic violence shelter because a bed was not available.
- Relocation continues to be identified by victims of domestic violence as the most helpful strategy to remove the threat of violence.

Recommendations

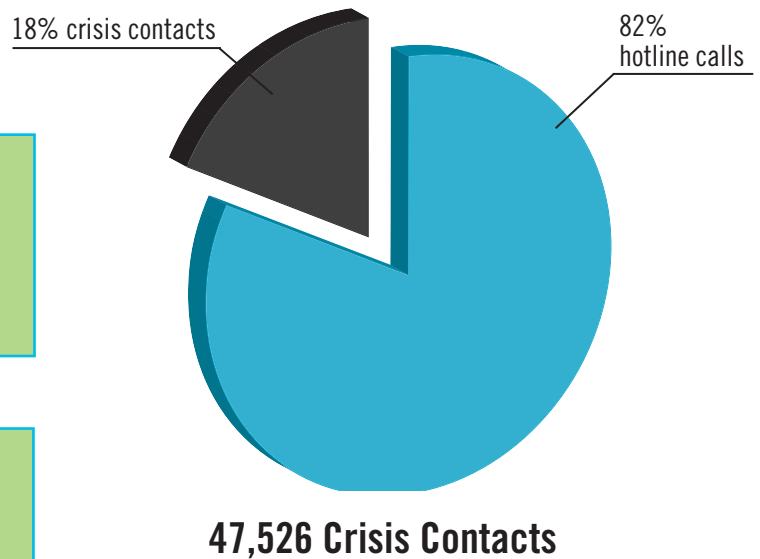
- Secure funding to provide comprehensive services to children and youth who have been exposed to domestic violence.
- Expand prevention programming for children, youth, and adults to prevent domestic violence before it occurs.
- Increase options for relocation through adding shelter space, expanding low income housing options, and providing victim assistance funds to help victims of domestic violence relocate or secure safe, affordable housing.
- Increase the availability of community education and training programming through Domestic Violence Service Providers across the Commonwealth so that family, friends, and allied professionals are prepared to respond effectively when victims turn to them.

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Crisis Services

Domestic Violence Service Providers responded to 47,526 crisis situations in 2007, providing services to victims, family members, friends, and allied professionals.

In addition to hotline calls, victim advocates responded to 8,728 crises in person.



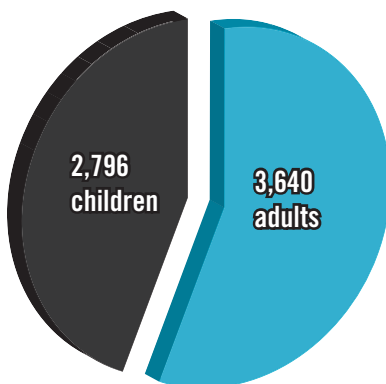
80%

of victims calling the hotline learned more about community resources to help plan for their safety.

83%

of victims requesting shelter were able to find safety in shelter.

Shelter Services



6,436 Individuals Sheltered

Virginia's Domestic Violence Service Providers provided 314,480 nights of emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence and their children in 2007—a critical public safety service.

861

women, children, and men stayed in a Virginia domestic violence shelter on an average night in 2007.

Despite the fact that Domestic Violence Service Providers are committed to providing shelter for every victim who is in danger, 1,759 families who asked for shelter could not be served because no bed was available.