

P.O. Box 1473
Harrisonburg, VA 22803
www.thecollinscenter.org
Office: (540) 432-6430
Fax: (540) 432-6293
E-mail: daviesc@ntelos.net



FACT SHEET – SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- According to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), rape is the most under-reported crime in the United States.
- A study by the Virginia Department of Health in 2003 found that one in four women and one in eight men in Virginia are victims of rape or sexual assault. The same study shows that 78 percent of the assaults against women occur before the victim is 18, whereas 95 percent of the assaults against men occur before the victim is 18.
- In 2001, the FBI found that one reported forcible rape (penetration of a female forcibly and against her will) or attempted rape takes place nearly every five minutes in the United States. This statistic does not include unreported rapes or other sexual assaults, including assaults against men or many children.
- The National Institute of Justice estimates that rape and other sexual assaults of adults cause an annual minimum loss of 127 billion dollars, or about \$508 per U.S. resident. This includes tangible losses such as initial police response, medical care, mental health services, property damage or loss, and loss of productivity; as well as intangible losses, such as loss of quality of life, pain, and suffering. These costs do not include the costs of investigation, prosecution or incarceration of offenders. This figure makes sexual assault the costliest crime, even higher than murder.
- The National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center has found that nearly 86 percent of all perpetrators are known to the victim. In cases of childhood sexual assault, that number is over 90 percent, according to the Virginia Department of Health.
- In 2001, there were 5,039 sexual assaults reported to the Virginia police. As it is estimated that as few as 1 out of every 6 rapes are reported to the police, the actual incidence of this crime could be as high as 30,000. Virginia sexual assault crisis centers tracked 9,016 sexual assaults reported by victims in 2001. (Source: Virginia State Police Uniform Crime Report, 2002; Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault Annual Summary, 2002)
- Fabricated sexual abuse reports constitute only 1 percent to 4 percent of all reported cases. Of these reports, 75 percent are falsely accused by adults and 25 percent are reported by children. Children fabricate 0.5 percent of the time. (Source: National Victim Center Handbook 1991)