



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Defining Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence is a pattern of physically, sexually, and/or emotionally abusive behaviors used by one individual to assert power or maintain control over another in the context of an intimate or family relationship.

The Realities of Domestic Violence:

One in every four women will experience intimate partner violence in her lifetime.
(National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010)

From 1994-2010, women accounted for approximately 85% of the victims of intimate partner violence and men accounted for approximately 15% of the victims.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence Report, 2012)

In 2013, there were more than 65,000 calls to domestic and sexual violence hotlines across the state.
(Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, *Domestic Violence Services in Virginia VAdata Report 2013*)

5,958 adults and children received 188,669 nights of emergency shelter due to domestic violence.
(Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, *Domestic Violence Services in Virginia VAdata Report 2013*)

51,019 emergency protective orders were issued across the Commonwealth to protect the immediate health and safety of victims and their family members in 2012.
(2013 Annual Report, *Domestic and Sexual Violence in Virginia*, Office of the Attorney General)

36% of all homicides in 2013 in Virginia were attributed to Family and Intimate Partner Violence (FIPV). While the overall number of homicides has decreased since 2009, the proportion of deaths attributed to FIPV remains stable at one in three or higher.
(Virginia Chief Medical Examiner's Office, *2013 Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Report*)

If you or someone you know is a victim of crime, you can contact the toll-free **Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Crime Victim Assistance Info-Line at 1-888-887-3418** for assistance. The Info-Line provides victims of all types of crime with information and support. DCJS staff typically is available to answer the Info-Line Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you reach the Info-Line message system, your call usually will be returned by 4:30 p.m. that day or by the end of the next business day. Callers will be informed of their rights as victims under Virginia's Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act and will receive additional information, support, and referrals to programs and resources in their Communities. As needed, DCJS utilizes Language Line Services to provide language interpretation for callers. The language line Services offers interpreters for over 170 different languages.

Domestic Violence and sexual assault victims seeking immediate assistance may also contact the toll-free **Virginia Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-838-8238 (V/TTY)**. Hotline staff are available to help you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Please wear a purple ribbon during the month of October to show your commitment to stopping violence in our communities and across the nation.



www.dcjs.virginia.gov

