



### DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ **One in every four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.<sup>1</sup> **One in 33 men** have experienced an attempted or completed rape.<sup>2</sup>
- ◇ An estimated **1.3 million women** are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.<sup>3</sup>
- ◇ The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female. Females were 84% of spousal abuse victims and 86% of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.<sup>4</sup>
- ◇ The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.<sup>5</sup>
- ◇ Boys who witness domestic violence are **twice as likely** to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.<sup>6</sup>

### CHALLENGES

- Due to the level of poverty in West Virginia and many women's lack of education, domestic violence victims are economically dependent on their perpetrator and are often unable to support themselves leave their situation.<sup>8</sup>
- The West Virginia Coalition is working on effectively responding to groups who advance policy agendas with the potential to jeopardize the safety of victims, threaten the wellbeing of children, and create an environment of suspicion regarding the occurrence of violence against women.<sup>7</sup>

### STATEMENTS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

*"We need to focus on making women financially independent so that they have more options when they are confronted with domestic violence."*

- Chief Deputy, Office of the Attorney General

*"We believe that all efforts to create safety and inspire justice in the rural state of West Virginia contribute to the grassroots work of global peacemaking. We are proud of the work initiated and coordinated by the Coalition staff and allied organizations. Change is in the air!"*

-Team Coordinator, WVCADV

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN WEST VIRGINIA

- There were 12,083 reported cases of domestic violence in 2005.<sup>9</sup>
- 18% of crime victims were victims of domestic violence in West Virginia in 2005.<sup>10</sup>
- 6,533 incidents of reported domestic violence cases ended in an arrest of the offender in 2005.<sup>9</sup>
- 30% of domestic violence incidents were between spouses or common law spouses and 31% of incidents were between intimate partners or dating relationships, in 2005.<sup>9</sup>
- 321 forcible rapes were reported in 2005.<sup>11</sup>
- 34 homicides were a result of domestic violence in 2005.<sup>9</sup>
- Six children were killed in West Virginia as a result of domestic violence in 2005.<sup>9</sup>

### STATE RESOURCES

**West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
[www.wvcadv.org](http://www.wvcadv.org)

- ◇ The Coalition works to eliminate domestic violence in West Virginia by developing a network of shared resources, providing a safe space for victims of domestic violence and providing services for victims. WVCADV is working for systematic change to help survivors live their lives free from violence.<sup>12</sup>

**West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services**  
[www.fris.org](http://www.fris.org)

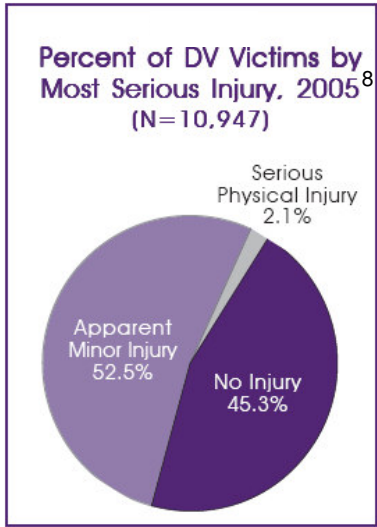
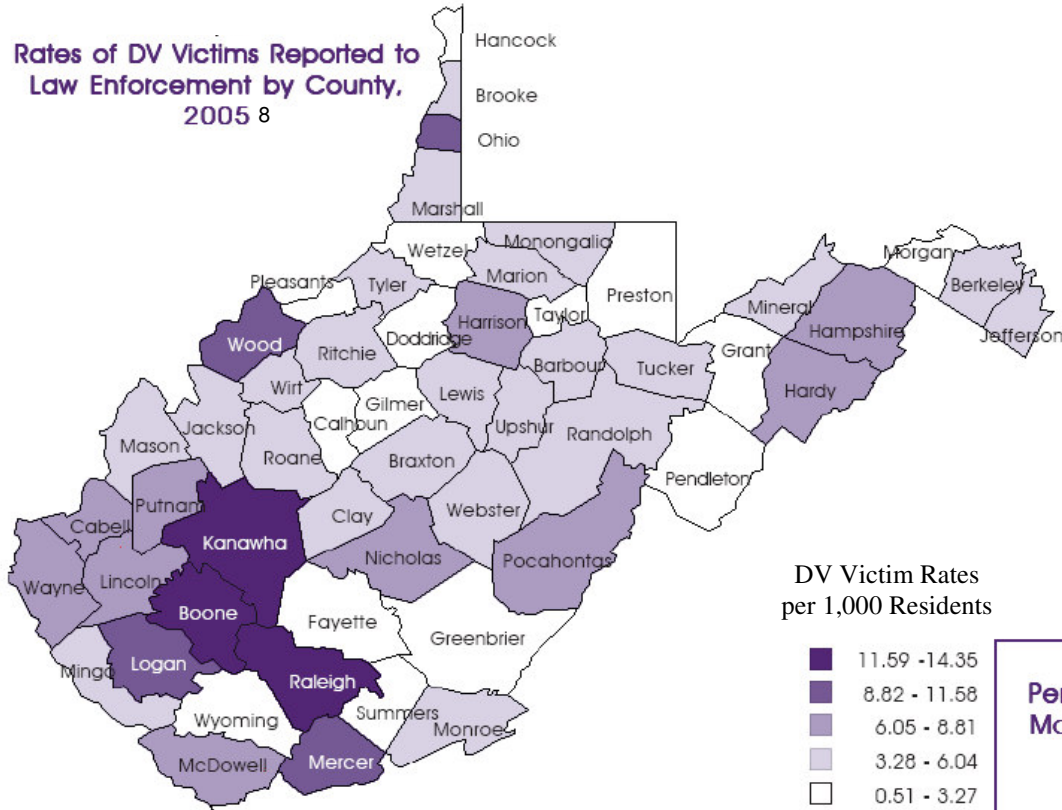
- ◇ The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services is a sexual assault coalition that works to establish services for victims through the state. FRIS works to eliminate sexual violence in West Virginia by developing awareness programs and prevention activities, and by providing information and resources to victims.<sup>13</sup>

For more information or to get help, please contact the

The National Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE**  
 The National Sexual Assault Hotline at **1-800-656-HOPE**

# Domestic Violence in West Virginia

Rates of DV Victims Reported to Law Enforcement by County, 2005<sup>8</sup>



## SOURCES

<sup>1</sup> Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2000). *Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>2</sup> National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. (November, 1998). *Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women*.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003). *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. Atlanta, GA: National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control.

<sup>5</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics. (June, 2005). *Family Violence Statistics*. U.S. Department of Justice.

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003). *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. Atlanta, GA: National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control.

<sup>7</sup> Strauss, Gelles, & Smith. (1990). *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*. Transaction Publishers.

<sup>8</sup> Sue Jullian, Team Coordinator. (personal communication on October 31, 2007) Spoke about West Virginia's Domestic Violence Issues.

<sup>9</sup> Fran Hughes, Chief Deputy at West Virginia's Office of the Attorney General. (personal communication 10/31/07). Spoke about West Virginia's Domestic Violence Issues.

<sup>10</sup> West Virginia State Police. "Crime in West Virginia 2005". 34th Edition. <http://www.wvstatepolice.com/ucr/2005wvcrimes.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center. "Official Reports of Domestic Violence Victimization in WV: 2000-2005". May 2007. <http://www.wvdcs.com/publications/Official%20Reports%20of%20Domestic%20Violence%20Report,%202000-2005.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. (2005). *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Crime Statistics*.

<sup>13</sup> West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. (2007) *Home Page*. Retrieved on 10/17/07 from <[www.wvcadv.org](http://www.wvcadv.org)>.

<sup>14</sup> West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services. (2007). *Who We Are*. Retrieved on 10/17/07 from <[www.fris.org](http://www.fris.org)>.

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



### The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)

is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.