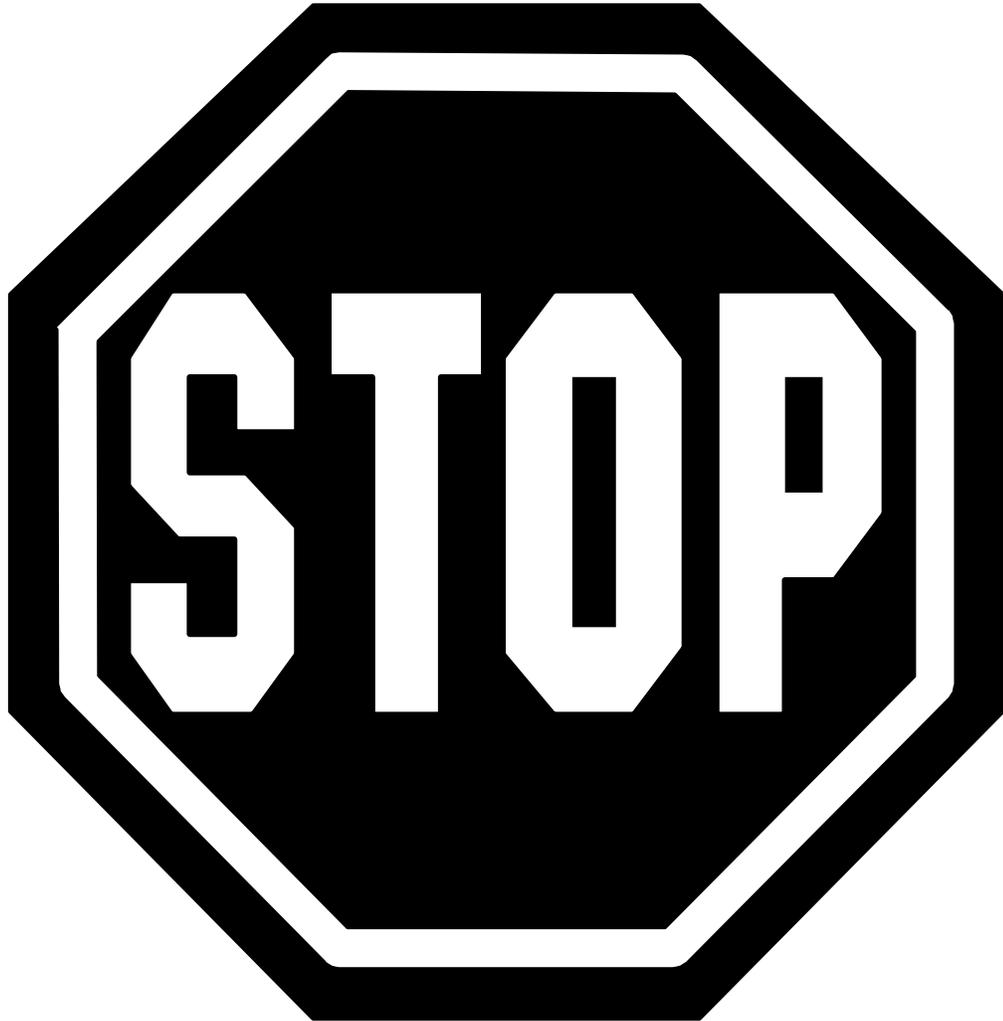


West Virginia
STOP Violence Against Women
Project Evaluation



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Fiscal Year
July 1996 - June 1997

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This project was supported by Award #96-WF-NX-0054 and Award #96-WR-NX-0014 awarded by the Violence Against Women Office, Office of Justice Programs. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this evaluation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice.

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence, neglect, stalking, and other violent crimes against women were the target of teams of law enforcement, prosecution, and victim service providers between July 1997 and June 1998. These participating agencies, each with a different role in their community, were challenged to coordinate their efforts as they developed and improved their individual and collective responses to violent crime against women. Twenty-four regional teams in West Virginia accepted this challenge.

The S.T.O.P. (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grants Program and the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grants Program, hereinafter referred to as the STOP and Rural Programs, respectively, provided funding for these teams. The Violence Against Women Grants Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice awarded funding from these programs to West Virginia's Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). As the state's criminal justice planning agency, DCJS was appointed by the Governor as the state agency

responsible for the administration of these funds.

To meet the evaluation requirements for the STOP Program, DCJS hired an evaluator. This report is the result of the evaluation process and contains a list of grants awarded and funds expended, a summary of the purposes of the grants, an evaluation of the progress made, an evaluation of their effectiveness, and a statistical analysis of the persons served.

STOP Program

The Violence Against Women Act, Title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, encourages law enforcement, prosecution, and victim service providers to coordinate their efforts and develop strategies in response to crimes against women. This Act appropriates funding which is made available to each state to further the goals of the Act. The Violence Against Women Grants Office,

STOP Program Purpose Areas

1. Training law enforcement officers and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women.
2. Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women.
3. Developing and implementing more effective police and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women.
4. Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts or for the purpose of identifying and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions.
5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to minorities, providing specialized domestic violence court, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women.
6. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing stalking.
7. Developing or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in addressing violent crimes against women.

Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice administers implementation of this Act and expenditure of the appropriated funds.

Twenty county-based STOP Teams coordinated law enforcement, prosecution, and victim service providers as a requirement for receiving STOP funds. Three statewide initiatives and this evaluation were funded as well. The purpose areas for the STOP Program are listed on the previous page.

Rural Program

As a part of the Violence Against Women Act, the Rural Program provides funding for the development and strengthening of effective law enforcement, prosecution strategies, and victim services in rural domestic violence cases. The Violence Against Women Grants Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice administers implementation of the Rural Program and expenditure of the appropriated funds.

In West Virginia, four teams received funding. The goals of the Rural Program are listed below.

Division of Criminal Justice Services

As the State's criminal justice planning agency, the DCJS was designated by the Governor as the state agency responsible for the administration of the STOP and Rural Programs in West Virginia. \$1,135,000 in STOP funds and \$108,750 in Rural funds were made available to West Virginia in July of 1997 to fund projects to better respond to violence against women.

The West Virginians Against Violence Committee awarded these funds to eligible teams based upon a grant proposal and review process. The

current members of this Governor-appointed committee are listed below.

Purpose of Evaluation

Each state receiving STOP funds is required by the Violence Against Women Act to conduct an

West Virginians Against Violence Committee Members

James M. Albert

WV Supreme Court of Appeals

Sara DeLong

Women's Tri-County Help Center

Marla Eddy

Family Service of Kanawha Valley, Inc.

Deanna Eder

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District

Ivin B. Lee

Division of Juvenile Services

Gayle Midkiff

WV State Police

Alexander Ross

Upshur County Prosecuting Attorney

Debbie Short

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Terri Weidebusch-Chambers

WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence

James Wright

U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District

Rural Program Goals

1. Develop and implement policies, protocols, and services designed to promote the early identification, intervention, and prevention of domestic violence and child victimization.
2. Increase victims' safety and access to treatment and counseling.
3. Enhance the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence and child abuse cases.
4. Develop and implement innovative, comprehensive strategies that draw on rural jurisdiction's unique characteristics and resources to enhance community members' understanding of the phenomenon of domestic violence and child victimization and work together to prevent such violence.

evaluation. The information collected through the evaluation is needed for the United States Attorney General's annual report to the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee. The four requirements of evaluation are listed below. In addition to meeting these four requirements, the evaluation provided other benefits listed below.

Grant Evaluators

DCJS employed an evaluator to meet the requirements of evaluation. In addition to conducting the evaluation, the evaluator coordinated a grants training entitled, "Bringing the Teams Together." Teams met in Charleston, West Virginia to learn from each other's experiences in developing and coordinating a STOP Team.

Methodology

The evaluation consisted of the four required components. Each component utilized a different set of methods.

The summary of the grants awarded and funds expended was provided by the grant administrator.

The evaluator obtained copies of the grant narratives and met with each team to focus and define the goals and objectives of the individual grant. Instruments, such as client questionnaires, were developed to assess some measurable objectives. Other teams were asked to submit information as a part of their monthly progress report.

Monthly progress reports, implemented by the grant administrator as a requirement for reimbursements, were used by the evaluator as one method to assess progress. Site visits and telephone interviews were also used.

Demographic forms were used to describe the number and types of victims served. The victim demographic form, that was already in use by the teams, was modified and implemented. For teams with Batterer's Intervention Programs, a batterer demographic form was developed and implemented. Each team member completed a form for each victim or batterer served in each month. The evaluator collected and analyzed these forms.

Evaluation Requirements

1. The number of grants made and funds distributed.
2. A summary of the purposes for which those grants were provided and an evaluation of their progress.
3. A statistical summary of persons served, detailing the nature of victimization, and providing data on age, sex, relationship of victim to offender, geographic distribution, race, ethnicity, language, and disability.
4. An evaluation of the effectiveness of programs.

Benefits of Evaluation

1. Improve communication between DCJS and the agency receiving funding.
2. Improve the services provided by the teams.
3. Focus and define each teams' stated goals and objectives.
4. Allow WV planners to make better informed decisions on resource allocation.
5. Bring to light domestic violence issues that need to be addressed.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF PERSONS SERVED

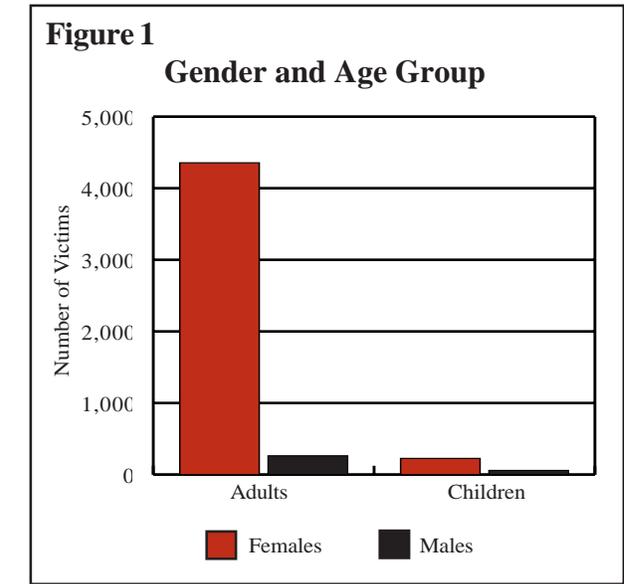
STOP team members completed and submitted 6,170 demographic reports on the victims they served. When duplicate forms were removed, a total of 5,455 victims remained for this analysis. The information collected from these forms is presented in this section and includes the victims' race, disability, education, age, gender, employment, marital status, relationship to the abuser, history of abuse, and use of the police and courts. The nature of the victimization and the types of weapons used are presented in this section as well. The victim demographic report is shown in Appendix B.

Gender and Age

STOP teams served 4,356 adult females, 264 adult males, 228 female children, and 60 male children as victims. Figure 1 shows the frequencies of these groups.

Race

The percentages of different racial groups shifted slightly in comparison to last year's figures. There was an increase in the percent of white victims, from 87.6% to 94.0%, as well as a decrease in black victims, from 7.2% to 5.0%, and victims of

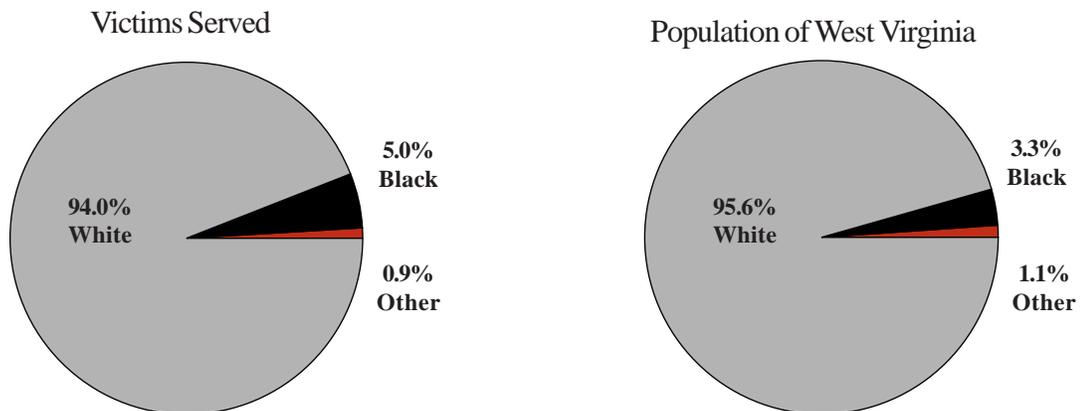


other racial or ethnic descent, from 5.2% to 0.9%. This shift may be due in part to the addition of new counties to the STOP program.

In Figure 2, the racial distribution of victims served is displayed on the left and the population of West Virginia on the right. In general, each racial group utilized the services of the STOP teams at similar rates. For example, 95.6% of the population is white and 94.0% of the victims served were white.

Figure 2

Racial Distribution of Victims Served in Comparison to the Population

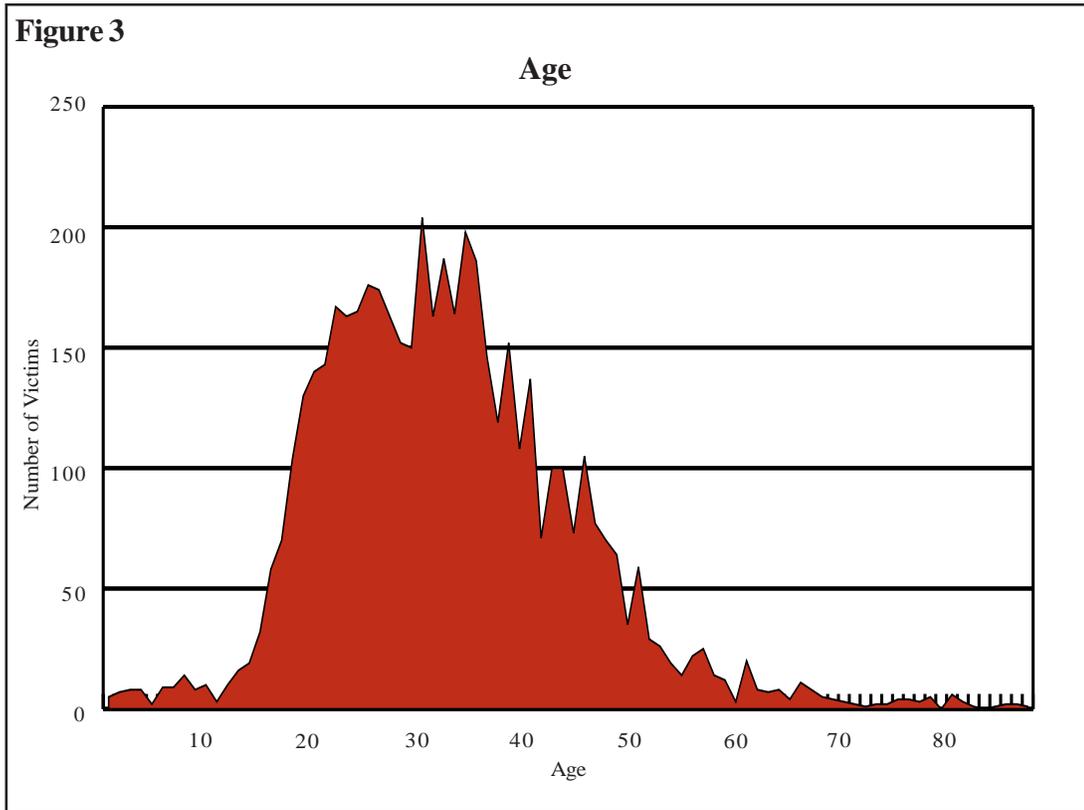


Other: Asian, Hispanic, Multi-Racial, Middle Eastern, & Native American. Seventy-two victims did not report their race and were excluded from this chart.

Other: Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American, Eskimo, Aleutian. Based on 1997 U.S. Bureau of Census estimates. The census counts Hispanics in all racial groups, but for the purposes of this report they were included in this category.

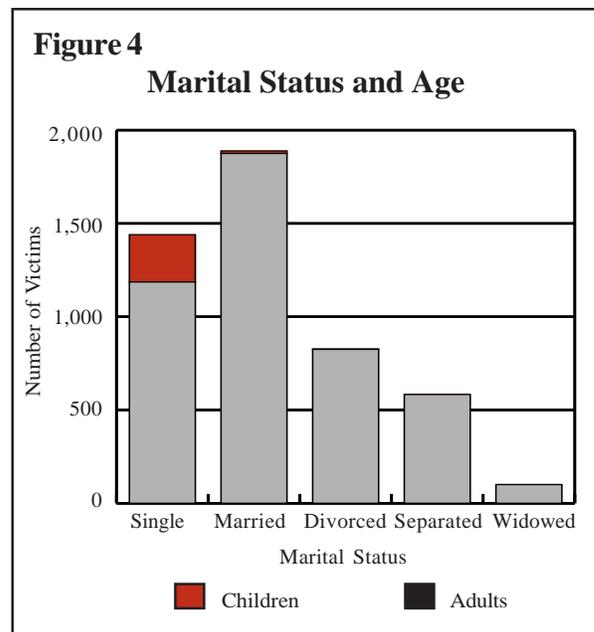
Age

The average age of the victims was 32 years. the majority were between 21 and 44 years old. Although victims ages ranged up to 87 years old, The distribution is depicted in Figure 3.



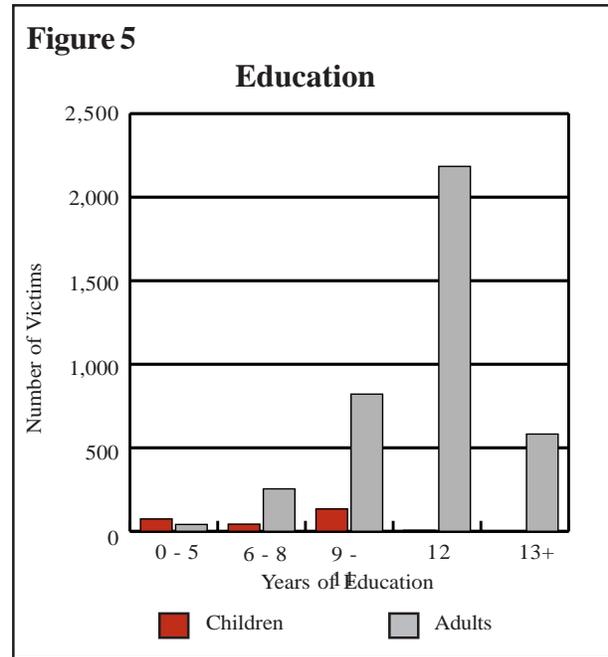
Marital Status

The marital status of adult victims and child victims is presented in Figure 4. Victims that were married comprised the largest group of victims in comparison to the other marital status groups. Single victims comprised the second largest group. A few minors were married or separated at the time of their abuse, but the remaining were single.



Education

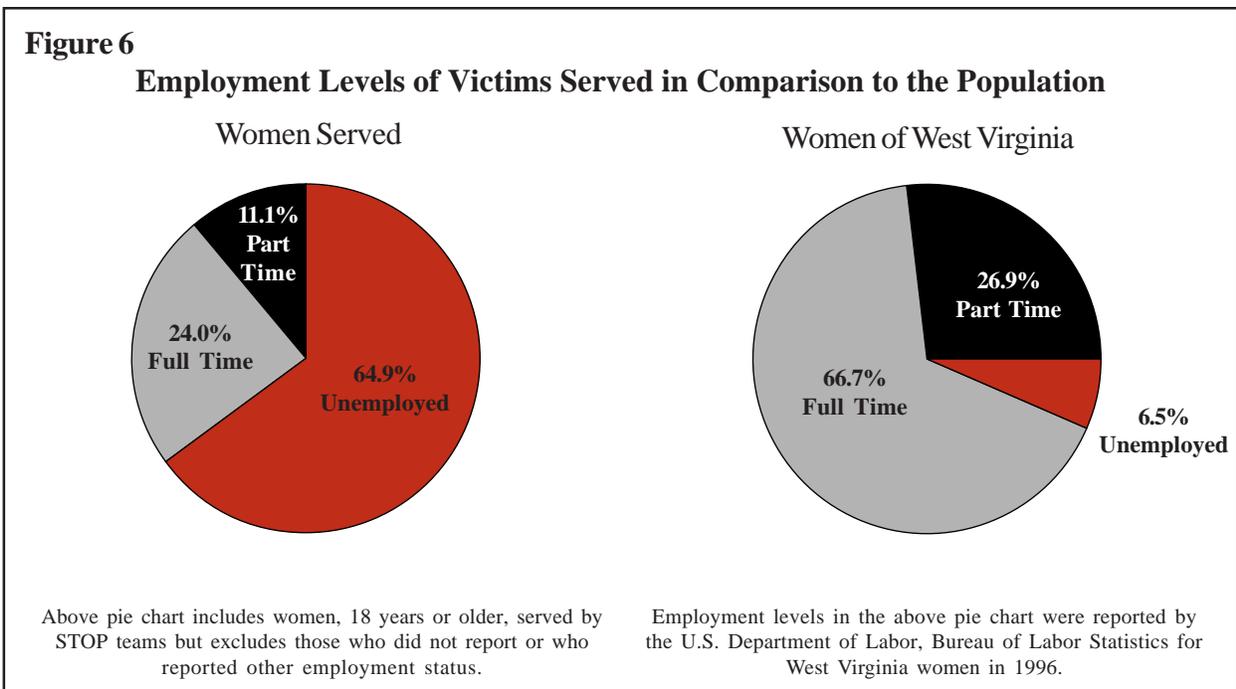
The victims represented a wide range of educational levels, from grade school to college. Figure 5 displays the grade levels for adult and child victims separately. Those with a GED were included with those who completed 12 years of education. Of note are the approximately 600 victims with 13 or more years of education.



Employment

Of the female victims 18 years or older, 64.9% were unemployed, 24.0% were employed full time, and 11.1% were employed part time. In comparison to females 18 years or older in West Virginia, this represents a dramatic difference in the employment level of victims receiving services. Only 6.5% of women in West Virginia were unemployed in 1996. A greater number were employed part time and almost three times as many women

were employed full time. At first glance this may appear to be due to an increased level of abuse to women who were unemployed. Another factor in the overrepresentation of unemployed women may be the fact that these services are provided free of charge. Unemployed women may be more likely to utilize these services in comparison to women who are somewhat or completely financially independent.

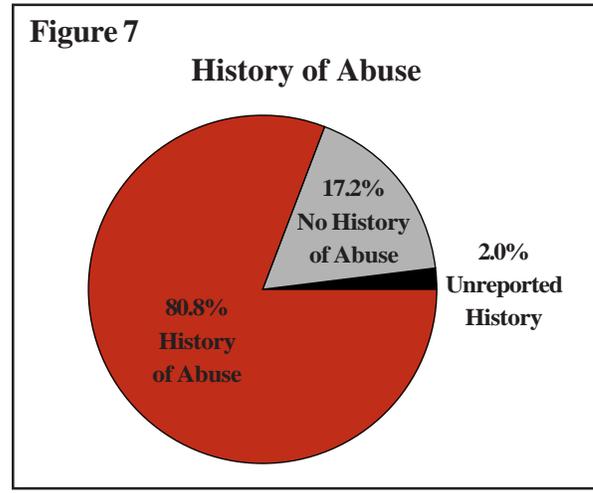


Government Benefits

Over one-third of the victims received food stamps and over one-third possessed a medical card. Fewer, 16.1% received Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and only 5.1% were provided with housing.

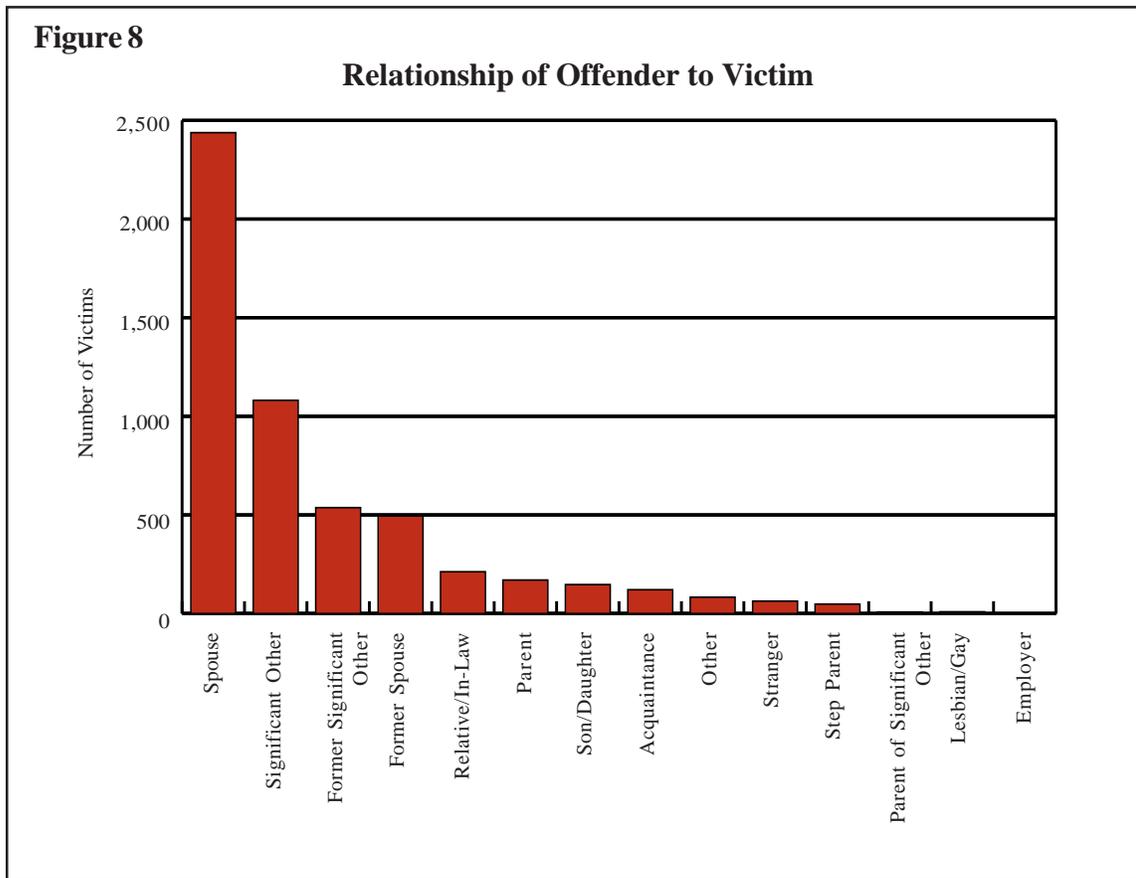
Disabilities

The percent of victims reporting a mental or physical disability increased by 5.6% since last year. This year, 14.8% of the victims reported at least one disability. Of these victims, 28.0% reported a mental disability, 50.8% reported a physical disability, 10.2% reported both a mental and physical disability, and 10.9% reported other types of disabilities.



History of Abuse

The majority of victims reported a history of abuse. Of those under 18 years, 59.5% had a history of abuse. Of those 18 or older, 83.2% had a history of abuse. See Figure 7.



Relationship of Offenders to Victims

The majority of victims were abused by their spouse and a large portion were abused by a

significant other. Former significant others and former spouses were also frequent abusers. See Figure 8 for the complete list of abusers.

Nature of Victimization

Each victim reported the type or types of victimization they suffered. Physical, emotional, sexual, stalking, and neglect were the categories provided. Seventy-nine percent of the victims reported that they were emotionally abused. Slightly fewer, 70.4% reported that they were physically abused. Stalking occurred to 7.8% of the victims. Sexual abuse occurred to 7.1% of the victims. Only 2.0% of the victims were neglected.

Weapons Threatened or Used

Abusers used or threatened to use fists, firearms, knives, or other weapons against the victims. A fist was the most common weapon, used against 38.4% of the victims. See Figure 9 for the remaining percentages.

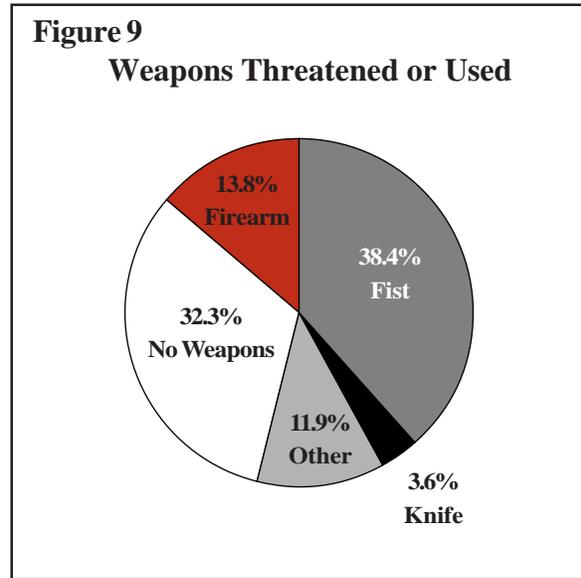
Firearms

Victims were asked to report on the presence and use of firearms in the abuse. Thirty percent reported that a firearm was present in the house or garage. Abusers mentioned the firearm to 8.1% of the victims. Six percent, or 344 victims, were threatened with a firearm. Abusers used the firearm against 1.8%, or 100 victims.

The relationship between the threat of firearms and the use of firearms was analyzed further. If an abuser did not threaten to use a firearm, a firearm was used only 0.7% of the time. In other words, in less than 1 out of every 100 cases did an abuser use a firearm without first threatening to do so. When the abuser threatened to use a firearm, the abuser followed through 20% of the time. In other words, when the abuser threatens to use a firearm, there was a 1 in 5 chance that he or she would actually use the firearm.

Use of Weapons and Minors

The presence of firearms, whether it was mentioned in the abuse, whether the victim was threatened by it, or whether the firearm was used was unrelated to whether minor children lived in the home. In other words, firearms were mentioned or used just as often when minor children lived in



the home as when they did not. This finding suggests that the use of weapons may occur while children are present in the house at the same rate as when they are not.

Type of Abuse and Minors

The type of abuse the victim suffered was related to, but not necessarily caused by, minors living in the home. If a person is being victimized, the experience of physical abuse and emotional abuse increased if minor children lived in the home. On the other hand, sexual abuse decreased when minor children lived in the home. Stalking and neglect were unrelated to minors living in the home.

These findings do not suggest that minor children living in the victims' home caused a certain type of abuse. The relationship between abuse and minor children, however, may be due to or related to a variety of other factors that could be explored with further study.

Police Reports & Domestic Violence Petitions

The majority of victims, 63.9%, reported the abuse to the police, but 33.3% did not. Fifty-seven percent of the victims received a domestic violence petition. Forty percent of the victims did not request a petition. Magistrate denied petitions to 2.9% of the victims.

SUMMARY

The Violence Against Women Act, Title IV of the Violence Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, appropriated funding to encourage law enforcement, prosecution, and victim service providers to coordinate their efforts and develop strategies in response to crimes against women.

In July of 1997 \$1,135,000 in VAWA funding and \$108,750 in Rural funding were made available to West Virginia. As the State's criminal justice planning agency, the Division of Criminal Justice Services administered these funds. The West Virginians Against Violence Committee awarded these funds to twenty county-based teams, four rural programs, and three statewide initiatives. Funding was awarded to eligible teams based upon a grant proposal and review process.

As a requirement of the Violence Against Women Act each state is to conduct an evaluation to provide the Attorney General with information needed for reports to Congress. This document contains the results of the evaluation for the State of West Virginia for the 1996 - 1997 fiscal year.

Table 1 on page 7 provides the number of grants made and funds distributed. The summary of the purposes and progress of the teams was provided on pages 9 through 54. Progress towards each goal, objective, and activity for each team was provided in this section. A statistical summary of the 5,455 persons served was provided on pages 57 through 61. This included an analysis of the demographic information about the victims served and the nature of the abuse. An evaluation of the effectiveness of certain goals and objectives and was incorporated into the progress report on pages 9 through 54.