

West Virginia
STOP Violence Against Women
Project Evaluation
FY98



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West Virginia
STOP Violence Against Women
Project Evaluation

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1998

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Executive Summary

The Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center (CJSAC) evaluated the STOP Violence Against Women Teams in West Virginia. The two main objectives were to evaluate team collaboration and to summarize the persons served from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 (FY98). This report presents the findings from these two objectives.

Team collaboration among victim services, law enforcement, and prosecution was achieved by the eight original STOP Teams (FY95), however, results indicated that improvements are still needed. In a survey of team members, there was strong agreement that the level and the efficiency of services for female victims has increased as a result of the VAWA grant funds, that the STOP Team meets on a regular basis, and that a victim advocate/assistant has been put in place to assist all victims who come in contact with the domestic violence system.

The team members indicated that women are now more readily receiving protection orders. However, they felt that protection orders are still poorly tracked between various areas. There was only slight agreement that a data collection system had been put in place or expanded in order to identify and track each step in cases involving violence against women. Team members did not agree that domestic violence and sexual assault data had been made electronic to allow sharing among the agencies.

In telephone interviews with project directors, there was little enthusiasm for the idea of collaboration as the teams began. However, a greater level of trust and cooperation has developed between the different agencies that enables them to better serve victims. Each team has its own unique problems to resolve, which project directors were able to identify during the interviews.

A statistical summary of persons served during FY98 is included in the second section of this report. According to three sources of data, 16,275 unique victims were served by domestic violence programs in West Virginia from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000. The domestic violence programs made a total of 30,747 contacts for services. Approximately 14,095 contacts were made by the STOP Teams.

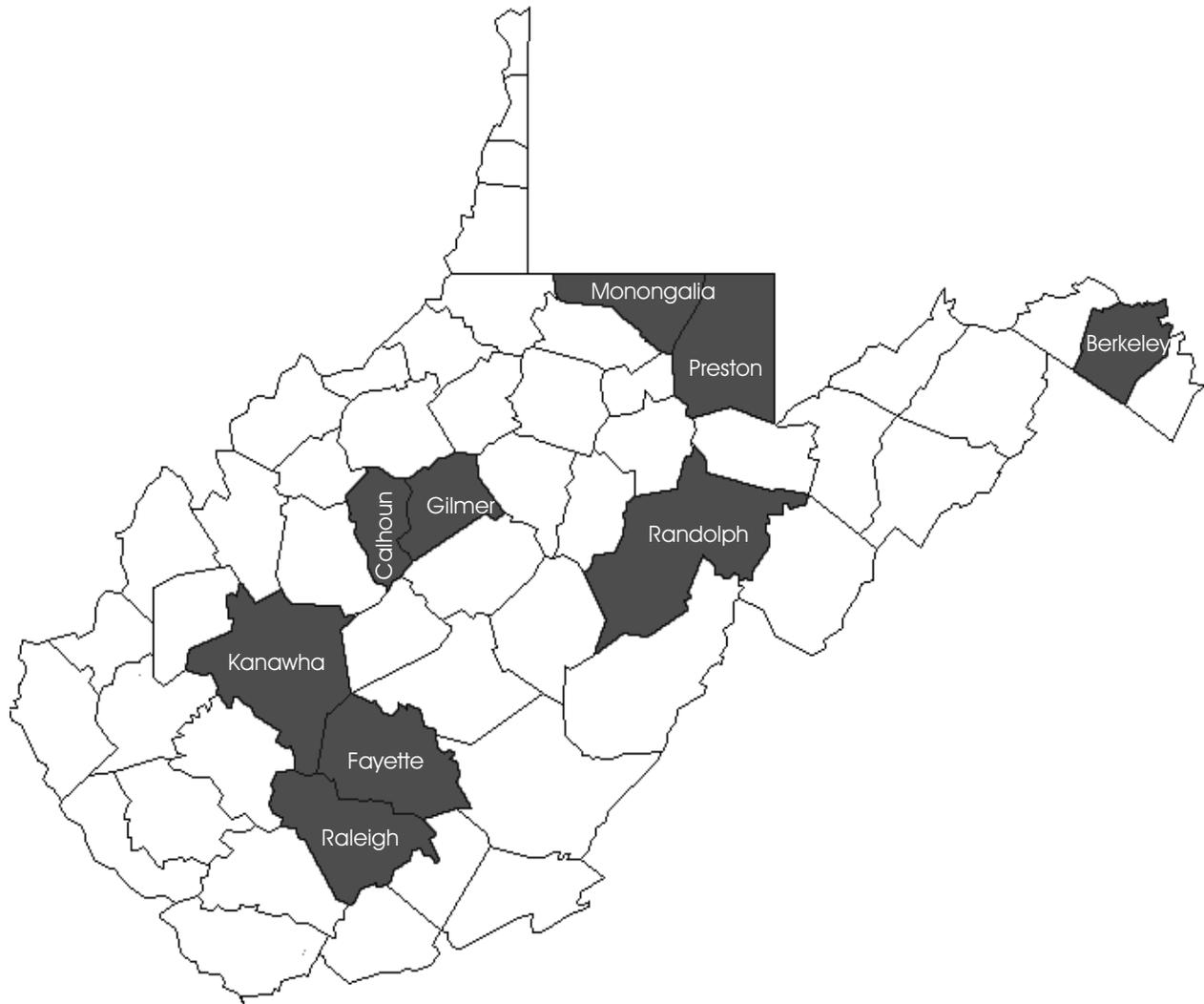
Based upon the unique victims served by the domestic violence programs, 87.2% were female, 94.6% were white, and 43.2% were married. 39.3% of victims reported a history of abuse/assault as an adult, while 15.6% reported a history as a child. Approximately one-quarter of these victims reported the violence to the police. On the other hand, 77.5% of those served by the STOP Teams reported to the police. Because the STOP Teams include law enforcement and prosecution, their statistics are more likely to include incidents reported to the police. Additional statistics are provided in this section.

The assistance provided by the Coalition, specifically John Brown, and the cooperation provided by the team members in completing demographic forms made this evaluation possible. However, there were a number of issues involved in generating statistics for this evaluation that can be easily corrected. As a result, recommendations for STOP Team members, project directors, the Coalition, DCJS grant managers, and the CJSAC are provided on page 23.

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FY 95 STOP Teams



● Monogalia and Preston Counties comprised one team in FY95.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Team Member Collaboration

The *Evaluation Guidebook for Projects Funded by STOP Formula Grants under the Violence Against Women Act*, published by the Urban Institute, discusses several elements or factors that can be used to help measure community collaboration. These elements are placed in three categories: basic elements of community level collaboration, system level outcomes associated with successfully establishing community collaboration, and ultimate outcomes of these collaborative efforts. The chart on the right illustrates the elements of each category.

Two instruments were developed in West Virginia to evaluate the effectiveness of team member collaboration within the original 8 STOP Teams funded in FY95 (see Table 1). The first was a 40 statement survey that asked team members to respond to issues relating to team collaboration on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 6 (strongly agree). The second was a follow-up telephone interview of the FY95 project directors to discuss the collaborative effort and changes that have occurred since FY95. Results from these instruments indicated that several elements of community collaboration are present in the FY95 STOP Teams.

Table 1
FY95 Funded STOP Teams and Original Participating Agencies

<p>Berkeley County STOP Team: Shenandoah Women’s Center, Prosecuting Attorney, Martinsburg PD, and other community members</p> <p>Calhoun County STOP Team: Family Crisis Intervention Center of Region V, Inc., Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff’s Department, and volunteers</p> <p>Fayette County STOP Team: Women’s Resource Center, Prosecuting Attorney, and Sheriff’s Department</p> <p>Gilmer County STOP Team: Task Force on Domestic Violence (Hope, Inc.), Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff’s Department, and volunteers</p> <p>Kanawha County STOP Team: Charleston PD, Charleston Leadership Council, YWCA Family Resolve Program, Family Service of Kanawha Valley, Legal Aid of Charleston, Parents of Murdered Children, MADD of Kanawha Valley, Prosecuting Attorney, and Police Departments in Belle, Cedar Grove, Chesapeake, Clendenin, Dunbar, Glasgow, Handley, Marmet, and Pratt</p> <p>Monongalia/Preston County STOP Team: Rape & Domestic Violence Information Center, Monongalia County Prosecuting Attorney, Preston County Prosecuting Attorney, Morgantown PD, Monongalia County Sheriff’s Department, and Preston County Sheriff’s Department</p> <p>Raleigh County STOP Team: Women’s Resource Center, Prosecuting Attorney, Beckley PD, West Virginia State Police, and Sheriff’s Department</p> <p>Randolph County STOP Team: Women’s Aid in Crisis, Prosecuting Attorney, Elkins PD, Sheriff’s Department, and other community agencies</p>
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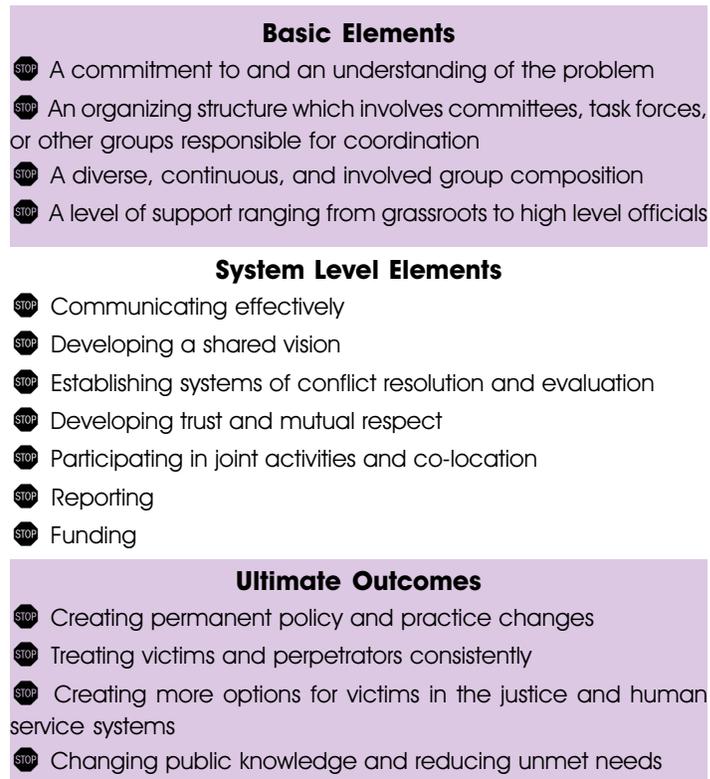


Table 2
 Collaboration Survey Responses by County

County	# Received	# Sent	Percentage
Berkeley	11	18	61.1%
Calhoun	3	5	60.0%
Fayette	7	8	87.5%
Gilmer	5	4	125.0%
Kanawha	21	36	58.3%
Monongalia/Preston	10	13	76.9%
Raleigh	6	6	100.0%
Randolph	14	21	66.7%
Total	77	111	69.4%

Team Member Survey

The Team Member Survey was sent to 111 members of the FY95 STOP Teams. Seventy-seven (77) responses were received for a response rate of 69.4%. Table 2 shows the number of responses received by county.

Responses came from a variety of agencies including domestic violence programs, prosecutors’ offices, the West Virginia State Police, sheriffs’ departments, and local police departments. Four categories: law enforcement (27), service providers (26), prosecutors (13), and other (11) were analyzed to determine if any variation existed in responses by agency type. Responses, however, did not vary greatly by agency type. The following results are therefore reported for all responses collectively.

Members of the STOP Teams seemed to be in agreement regarding issues of team collaboration. Overall, the respondents agreed that a collaborative response is being achieved to meet the needs of female victims of violence in West Virginia. They also agreed that collaboration, as well as communication, had improved, specifically among criminal justice victim services and other agencies that provide domestic violence programs and services. Team members indicated that better services to traditionally underserved populations (minority, aged, and/or disabled victims) had resulted from agency collaboration.

Survey respondents strongly agreed that the level and the efficiency of services for female victims has increased as a result of the VAWA grant funds, that the STOP Team meets on a regular basis, and that a victim advocate/assistant has been put in place to assist all victims who come in contact with the domestic violence system. Each of these statements received the highest rating (6) indicating that respondents “strongly agree.”

The survey responses indicated that women are now more readily receiving protection orders. However, respondents felt that protection orders are still poorly tracked between various areas. There was only slight agreement that a data collection system had been put in place or expanded in order to identify and track each step in cases involving violence against women. Respondents did not agree that domestic violence and sexual assault data had been made electronic to allow sharing among the agencies.

There was some agreement that adequate training had been provided to enable all those involved to understand the magnitude of the domestic violence problem. Respondents agreed to a greater extent that law enforcement officers had been trained to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women. It was also indicated that law enforcement officers had been trained in evidence collection as it relates to domestic violence incidents. However, respondents did not believe that additional law enforcement officers had been made available for domestic violence cases.

There was less agreement that prosecutors had been trained to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women. However, respondents did agree strongly that a victim advocate/assistant was assigned to the prosecutor’s office to assist with cases involving violence against women.

The majority of survey respondents did not agree that specialized law enforcement, prosecution, or sex trauma units had been formed to handle cases involving violence against women. They did feel, however, that sensitivity training was provided for individuals who come in contact with female victims of violent crime.

Sexual assault and domestic violence programs were planned for and delivered to local elementary and/or high schools according to survey responses. Community education programs were also provided to raise awareness of domestic violence and available services.

STOP Team members responding to the survey felt that a safer environment for women had been created as a result of the team sponsored programs/activities. Respondents also agreed that STOP Team sponsored programs/activities had reduced the incidence of violence against women and that batterers are now being held more strictly accountable for their crimes. More services and additional funds were, however, reported as necessary to better serve victims of domestic violence.

Project Director Interviews

Project directors for each of the 8 FY95 STOP Teams were contacted by telephone and asked questions concerning communication between the agencies, the collaborative effort, changes in the level and efficiency of services, information sharing, training, changes to the team, and other areas for improvement. One limitation of the interviews is that all of the project directors are victim service providers. The responses may not fully represent the perspective of law enforcement and prosecution.

Seven interviews were conducted during the first week of December 2000. The Fayette and Raleigh County teams have the same project director. The directors' comments were summarized and compiled as follows.

While there was little enthusiasm for the idea of collaboration in the beginning, it now seems to be proving effective for the FY95 STOP Teams. All 8 teams reported improved communication between criminal justice agencies and victim service providers. One director reported that the lack of communication was a problem at one time that prevented coordination of services to some extent. Law enforcement officers and victim advocates are now talking to each other, discussing problems and concerns, and referring victims to each other for services. Where once there was minimal contact, advocates in domestic violence programs now know officers by first name.

A greater level of trust and cooperation has developed between criminal justice agencies and victim service providers since implementation of the STOP Teams. This has made it easier for them to gain a better understanding of the work being done in other agencies and to learn from each other. Cross training has even been made possible by increased communication. The ride-along program that some teams have implemented, in which advocates ride in police cruisers during hours known for more domestic violence calls, is a good example of officers and advocates working together and educating each other. Overall, there is a level of respect that was not there in the past.

The project directors unanimously agreed that the collaborative effort has increased the awareness and understanding of domestic violence and its consequences in their communities. Service providers indicate that this is evident by the increased number of victims served and the variation in the kinds of individuals and agencies that are calling upon them. The media has been used a great deal in at

least one county to raise awareness. Television ads and printed media have been helpful in reaching people and getting the message out, particularly in large rural counties where accessing services is more difficult.

Project directors were also asked to identify any policy and practice changes that had resulted from the STOP Team's presence in their community. Many of the project directors felt that changes had taken place even though they may not have been written, technical policy changes. For example, law enforcement officers' attitudes toward victims of domestic violence have changed. This in turn has made victims more trusting of law enforcement and more comfortable calling on them for help.

Follow-up and ride-along programs are also ways in which domestic violence cases are being handled differently now. Law enforcement officers are making extra calls in domestic violence cases to check up on victims and to ensure that perpetrators understand that a crime was committed. Advocates are now going to the scene with officers to provide services, reaching victims that would not have been served in the past. Also noted were changes in the way domestic violence cases are investigated and prosecuted. Cases are now being prosecuted, sometimes successfully, without the victim.

Law enforcement officers are now receiving training from a greater variety of agencies. Training is provided by prosecutors, family services, domestic violence programs, and the Division of Criminal Justice Services, not just by other officers.

Hospitals, too, have begun to change their policies and procedures as they pertain to domestic violence and sexual assault. An extensive training program on these issues is being provided to all personnel by one hospital system on their own initiative. Public education and information materials on domestic violence are also being made available.

Even the practice and protocol of collaborating itself is something which is new for many of the STOP Team members. Law enforcement and victim advocates have traditionally worked alone. A whole new system of communication has had to be developed for these agencies to work together while still respecting client confidentiality.

The overall level of services for female victims has expanded, and services provided are more diverse since the VAWA grant funding became available, according to those interviewed. Collaboration and cooperation by the various agency types involved with the STOP Teams were often cited as major reasons that available services had grown. A more

coordinated effort by the team members has also made it easier for victims to seek help. The importance of a continued coordinated community response has been recognized.

Victim service providers in some counties are better able to help victims seeking protective orders due to their location close to magistrate court and their working relationship with magistrates. Advocates and licensed professional counselors are available in counties where once there were none. The availability of side services, such as parenting and job skills, has also grown because of support from the VAWA grant. Project directors felt that new or improved services had been concentrated where gaps in services were found. Services were also said to be much more efficient now than they were in the past.

While no formal electronic data system linking all agencies involved in domestic violence cases appears to be in place, all eight teams have established information sharing techniques that work for them. Because of the increased level of trust, officers and advocates now share information informally on a daily basis. Most teams also have regular meetings where problem cases and other information are shared more formally.

Rural counties with smaller populations tend to hold fewer formal meetings. Team members in these counties see each other on a regular basis, are centrally located, or “stop by” to share information with one another. Teams in larger counties where members are more spread out hold monthly meetings for information sharing. In addition, some teams have formed subcommittees that meet formally and informally as needed.

As a result of VAWA grant funding and collaboration, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and medical professionals are better equipped to identify and respond to domestic violence situations. All of those interviewed indicated that both national and local trainers had provided training for the various agencies that come in contact with domestic violence. In addition, STOP Team members are collaborating to train each other.

Legal and victim advocates have provided domestic violence training to new prosecutors. Prosecutors have conducted evidence collection trainings for law enforcement officers. Formal and on-the-job trainings on domestic violence issues have been provided for law enforcement by victim advocates. Victim advocates have in turn been educated in law enforcement and the legal system.

Recently, the focus of trainings has expanded to include sexual assault issues. The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) trainings were reported to be well attended by the

hospital staff in at least one county. Hospitals have become more aware of the need to train staff on domestic violence and sexual assault situations due to their collaboration with STOP Teams.

The original participating agencies on the FY95 STOP Teams have, for the most part, remained consistently involved. Two teams did report losing participation from the prosecutor’s office. One of those teams has since moved to a neighboring county and gained support from that county’s prosecutor and law enforcement agencies.

In addition, most project directors felt that their teams had grown since FY95. Colleges and universities, legal services, probation and parole offices, DHHR, health departments, the Family Resource Network, and hospitals were all mentioned as new partners in collaboration with the STOP Teams. As one project director indicated, a seamless community response to domestic violence has become more important. Victims must be linked to each agency they need services from, regardless of where they entered the system. The existence of the STOP Teams has helped the various agencies recognize their responsibility as a community.

Though substantial development and growth have taken place with the STOP Teams, project directors believe that there is room for improvement. Some of the challenges that teams face with respect to collaboration/communication include personnel turnover, changes in elected officials, confidentiality issues, improving meeting attendance, and continuing to educate and bring new faces to the table.

Each team also has its unique problems to resolve. One team has had trouble getting magistrates involved, while others have experienced difficulties with prosecutors. Another project director indicated that there was still work to be done to change people’s attitudes toward domestic violence. Supporting the victim between the time when a charge is made and when the trial occurs, whether or not she decides to work with the prosecution, was also mentioned as needing improvement.

In the end, those interviewed seemed somewhat surprised at the extent to which collaboration has worked for the STOP Teams. They now understand that it is not within one agency’s realm to help victims get all of the services they need to get out of abusive situations.

Team Member Survey

	Number of Responses	Average	Standard Deviation
1) A collaborative response has not been provided to meet the needs of female victims of violence within WV.	77	2.38	1.44
2) A data collection system has been developed, installed, and/or expanded to identify and track arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions of cases involving violence against women.	72	3.65	1.50
3) A sexual assault and domestic violence program was planned for local elementary and/or high schools.	72	4.18	1.38
4) A system of transportation has been put in place to support female victims of violent crime.	75	4.37	1.38
5) A victim advocate/assistant has been put in place to assist all victims who come in contact with the domestic violence system.	77	5.14	0.98
6) A victim advocate/assistant was assigned to the prosecutor's office to assist with cases involving violence against women.	74	4.36	1.60
7) Additional law enforcement officers have been made available for domestic violence cases.	75	3.59	1.47
8) Additional research and support has been put in place in the prosecutor's office.	73	3.85	1.60
9) Adequate training has been given to enable all involved to understand the magnitude of the domestic violence problem.	75	4.15	1.25
10) Agencies have not been provided enough funds to serve all victims needs.	71	4.35	1.21
11) Agency collaboration has resulted in better service to traditionally underserved populations (minority, aged, and/or disabled victims).	68	4.32	0.94
12) As a result of the programs/activities sponsored by the domestic violence task force, a safer environment for women has been created.	71	4.58	1.10
13) Batterers are now being held more strictly accountable for their crime.	70	4.11	1.45
14) Collaboration has improved among criminal justice victim services and other agencies that provide domestic violence programs and services.	70	4.64	1.09
15) Communication has improved among criminal justice victim services and other agencies that provide domestic violence programs and services.	71	4.69	1.04
16) Community volunteers were identified to assist with the training, advertising, and advocacy as it relates to cases involving violence against women.	67	3.75	1.01
17) Domestic violence and sex assault data have been made electronic so that they may be shared with other agencies.	64	3.13	1.27
18) Educational programs have been provided to the community to raise awareness of domestic violence and services.	70	4.80	0.96
19) It is still quite difficult for women to receive protection orders.	70	2.53	1.10
20) Law enforcement officers have been trained in evidence collection as it relates to domestic violence incidents.	69	4.39	1.13

Scale:

1 = Strongly Disagree

2 = Moderately Disagree

3 = Disagree

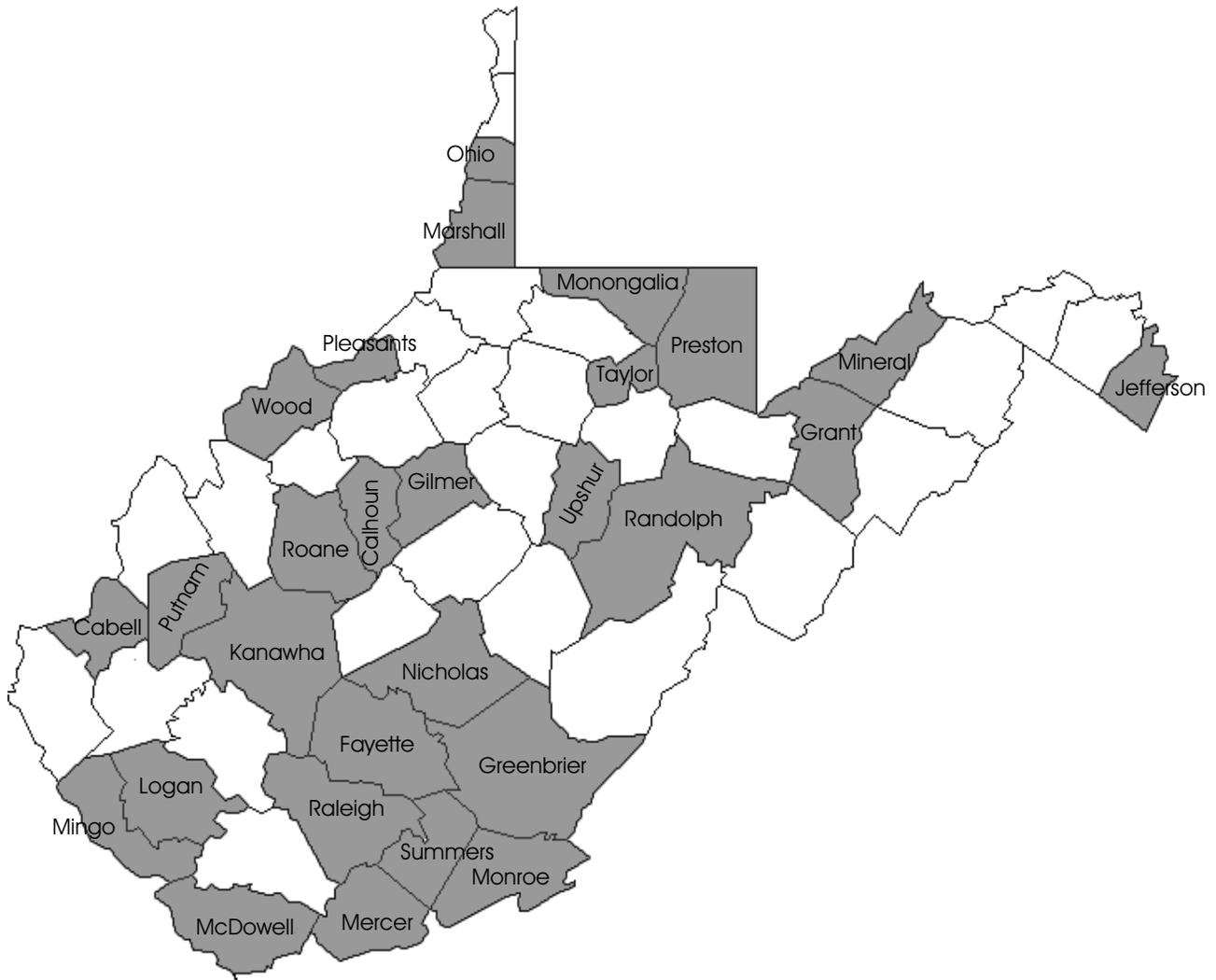
4 = Agree

5 = Moderately Agree

6 = Strongly Agree

	Number of Responses	Average	Standard Deviation
21) Law enforcement officers have been trained to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women.	69	4.49	1.02
22) More services are needed for victims of domestic violence.	71	4.68	1.00
23) One or more sexual assault and domestic violence programs were delivered to local elementary and/or high schools.	65	4.63	1.31
24) Programs addressing stalking are currently in place.	69	3.30	1.09
25) Prosecutors have been trained to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women.	69	3.94	1.32
26) Protection orders are tracked poorly between various areas.	70	4.09	1.10
27) Protocols have been established in the handling of civil and criminal court cases involving violence against women.	67	3.90	1.33
28) Regional centers have been made in order to maximize resources for the purpose of registration and enforcement of protective orders across jurisdictional lines.	64	2.56	1.14
29) Sensitivity training was provided for individuals who come in contact with female victims of violent crime.	73	3.67	1.20
30) Services have not increased for underserved groups, mainly elderly, disabled, and non-Caucasian.	73	3.36	0.98
31) Sex trauma units have been established in emergency rooms where forensic examinations, victim counseling, and victim advocacy are readily available.	70	3.60	1.28
32) Specialized law enforcement units have been formed to handle cases involving violence against women.	72	3.33	1.51
33) Specialized prosecution units have been formed to handle cases involving violence against women.	70	3.76	1.60
34) The awareness and understanding of violence against women and its consequences have not increased.	75	2.25	1.03
35) The domestic violence task force meets on a regular basis.	76	5.17	1.06
36) The efficiency of services provided for female victims has not improved as a result of the Violence Against Women Act grant funds.	73	1.85	1.08
37) The level of services for female victims has increased as a result of the Violence Against Women Act grant funds.	75	5.17	1.04
38) The programs/activities sponsored by the domestic violence task force have not reduced the incidence of violence against women.	72	2.67	1.13
39) There is poor communication between criminal justice victim services and other agencies dealing with domestic violence programs.	75	2.71	1.22
40) Women are now more readily receiving protection orders.	74	4.51	1.14

FY 98 STOP Teams



● All FY95 teams continued to be funded in FY98 except the Berkeley County Team which relocated to Jefferson County.

Statistical Summary of Persons Served

This section provides a detailed statistical summary of victims served from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000. The FY98 STOP Teams and primary grantees are listed in Table 3. The primary source of data used in this section was database records maintained by the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In addition, STOP Team members completed and submitted demographic reports of victims served to the CJSAC. These reports were necessary to include victims served by team members who did not have access to the Coalition's database.

There were limitations to both the Coalition database records and the data obtained from the demographic forms. The database contains information for victims served by the 13 licensed domestic violence programs. While all of the programs are participants on STOP Teams, not all STOP Team members have access to the database. In addition, programs may participate on more than one STOP Team. The demographic forms are submitted by STOP Team. Team members have been asked not to submit demographic forms if they are entering their information into the database. However,

Table 3
FY98 Funded STOP Teams and Grantees

STOP Team	Primary Grantee
Cabell County STOP Team	Branches Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.
Calhoun County STOP Team	Family Crisis Intervention Center of Region V, Inc.
Fayette County STOP Team	Women's Resource Center
Gilmer County STOP Team	Task Force on Domestic Violence, "Hope, Inc."
Grant County STOP Team	Family Crisis Center, Inc.
Greenbrier County STOP Team	Family Refuge Center, Inc.
Jefferson County STOP Team	Shenandoah Women's Center
Kanawha County STOP Team	City of Charleston
Logan County STOP Team	Tug Valley Recovery Associates, Inc.
Marshall County STOP Team	Marshall County Commission
McDowell County STOP Team	McDowell County Commission
Mercer County STOP Team	STOP Abusive Family Environments, Inc.
Mineral County STOP Team	Family Crisis Center, Inc.
Mingo County STOP Team	Tug Valley Recovery Associates, Inc.
Monongalia County STOP Team	Rape & Domestic Violence Information Center
Monroe County STOP Team	Family Refuge Center, Inc.
Nicholas County STOP Team	Women's Resource Center
Ohio County STOP Team	Ohio County Commission
Pleasants County STOP Team	Family Crisis Intervention Center of Region V, Inc.
Preston County STOP Team	Rape & Domestic Violence Information Center
Putnam County STOP Team	Branches Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.
Raleigh County STOP Team	Women's Resource Center
Randolph County STOP Team	Women's Aid in Crisis
Roane County STOP Team	Family Crisis Intervention Center of Region V, Inc.
Summers County STOP Team	Women's Resource Center
Taylor County STOP Team	Rape & Domestic Violence Information Center
Wood County STOP Team	Wood County Commission

due to the lack of a unique identifier on the form, some duplication of contacts may occur. This also means that an unduplicated count of victims served cannot be obtained from the demographic forms.

Two separate data sets were available from the Coalition’s database, one including all contacts made during the year and the other containing a unique record for each victim served, regardless of how many times the victim received services during the period. It was not possible to obtain an unduplicated count of victims served by STOP Team from the database. Counts are, therefore, by domestic violence program. Table 4 provides a list of the 13 programs and indicates the team(s) that each is a member of, along with the number of unique victims served.

To avoid overrepresentation in the demographics, only the data set containing a unique record for each victim served was used to present this data.

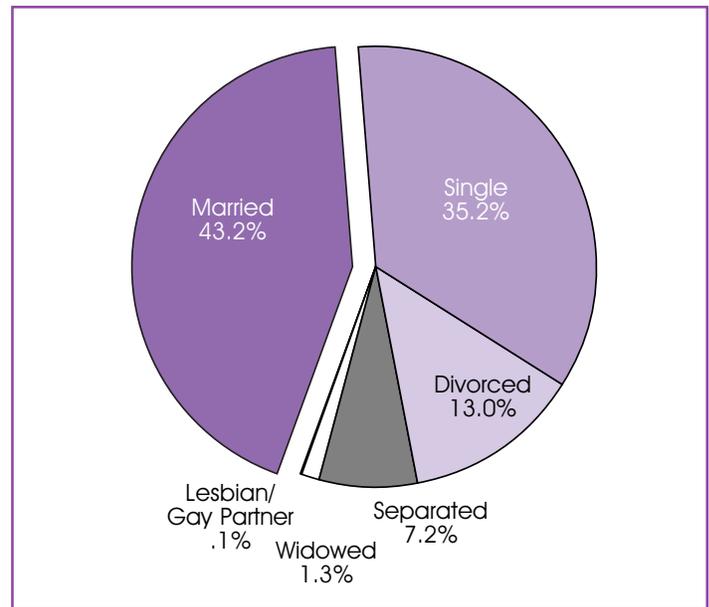
Victims

There were a total of 16,275 unique victims served by domestic violence programs in West Virginia from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000. Of those, 87.2% were females and 12.8% were males.

The breakdown of victims served by race closely resembled that of West Virginia’s total population. Of the 13,312 victims for which race was available, 94.6% were white, 3.9% were black, and 1.5% fell into the other category.

Relationship status was known for 13,275 of the victims. Most, 43.2%, were married. Graph 1 shows the complete distribution by relationship status.

Graph 1
Victim’s Relationship Status



39.3% of victims reported a history of abuse/assault as an adult, while 15.6% reported a history as a child.

Nearly half (46.9%) of the victims reporting education level indicated that they had finished high school. Another 19.3% of victims, reported that they had completed only some high school.

The economic status of the victim was reported each time services were provided. Victims most often indicated that they were employed full-time (19.6%). Homemaker was reported second most frequently (18.2%), followed by unemployed (15.4%), student (10.1%), part-time (7.0%), and retired (1.1%).

Table 4
Victims Served by Domestic Violence Program

Domestic Violence Program	STOP Team(s)	Victims
Branches Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.	Cabell and Putnam	1,710
Family Crisis Center, Inc.	Grant and Mineral	474
Family Crisis Intervention Center of Region V, Inc.	Calhoun, Pleasants, Roane, and Wood	1,767
Family Refuge Center	Greenbrier and Monroe	964
Family Violence Prevention Program	Marshall and Ohio	1,117
HOPE, Inc.	Gilmer	1,111
Rape & Domestic Violence Information Center	Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor	1,481
Resolve Family Abuse Program	Kanawha	1,226
SAFE	Mercer and McDowell	1,098
Shenandoah Women’s Center	Jefferson	917
Tug Valley Recovery Shelter Association, Inc.	Logan and Mingo	1,174
Women’s Aid in Crisis	Randolph and Upshur	1,017
Women’s Resource Center	Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh, and Summers	2,219
Total		16,275

Victims most frequently sought services from the domestic violence programs as a result of a self-referral or a referral from a friend (40.4%). The police or sheriff referred 13.6% of victims.

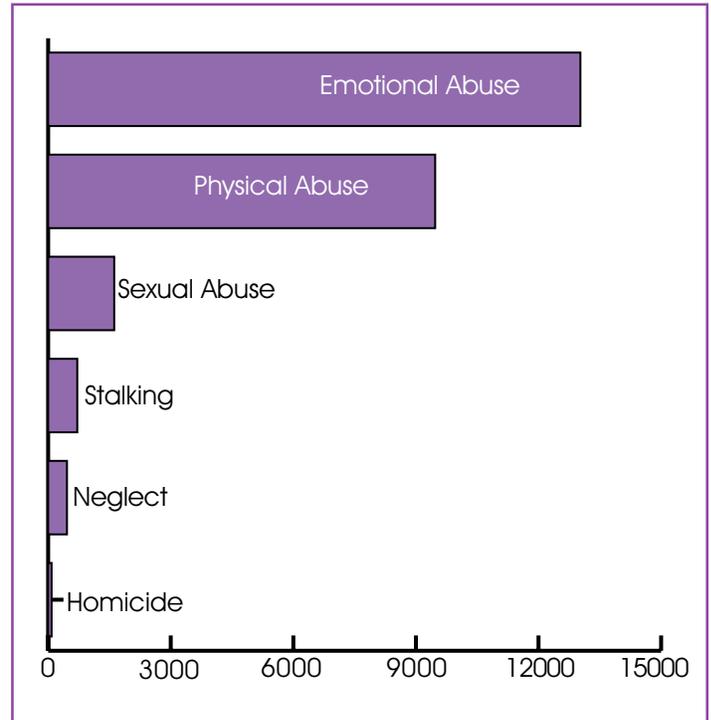
A little more than one-quarter (27.8%) of the victims indicated that they had reported the violence to the police.

Services

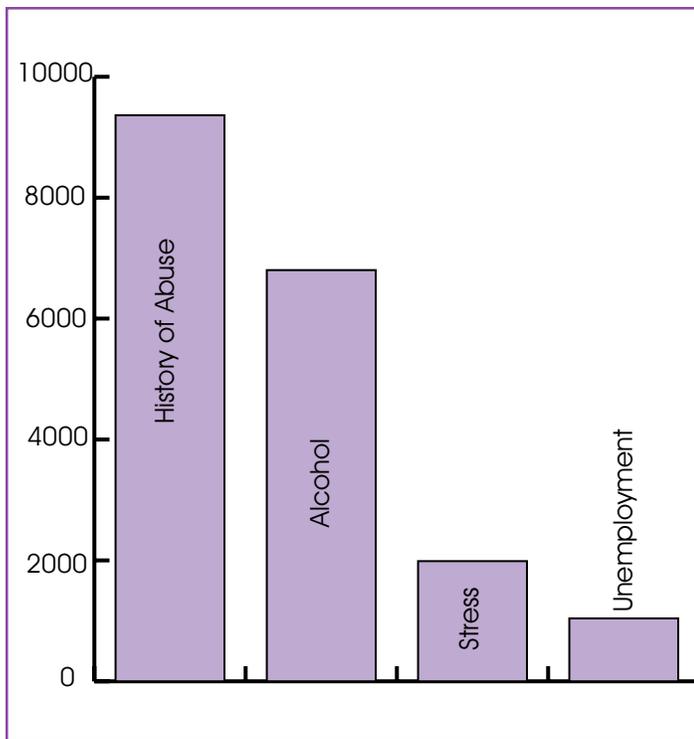
Each time a victim received services, the reason(s) for that service was recorded. A given victim may have received services more than once and may report one or more reasons for service each time. Emotional abuse was the most frequently reported reason for service (80.0%). Physical abuse (58.2%), sexual abuse (9.9%), stalking (4.4%), neglect (2.8%), and homicide (.5%) were also reported as reasons for seeking services.

The type of service most often provided to victims by the domestic violence programs was information and referral (63.7%). Other services provided included crisis counseling (39.9%), legal advocacy (37.1%), personal advocacy (31.4%), follow up (29.7%), case management (27.3%), hotline (25.1%), criminal justice support (20.7%), shelter (11.6%), group treatment (6.9%), therapy (3.8%), financial assistance (3.1%), and compensation claims (.4%).

Graph 2
Reason for Service



Graph 3
Contributing Factors to Abuser's Violence



Abusers

The total number of contacts made by the domestic violence programs from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 was 30,747. Information pertaining to the abuser was obtained from this data set. Thus, some duplication of abuser data may occur.

The gender of the abuser was available for 24,684 of the contacts. Of those, 91.8% were male and 8.2% were female.

The average age of the abuser was 36, while the most frequently reported age was 40. Abuser age was available for 17,090 of the contacts.

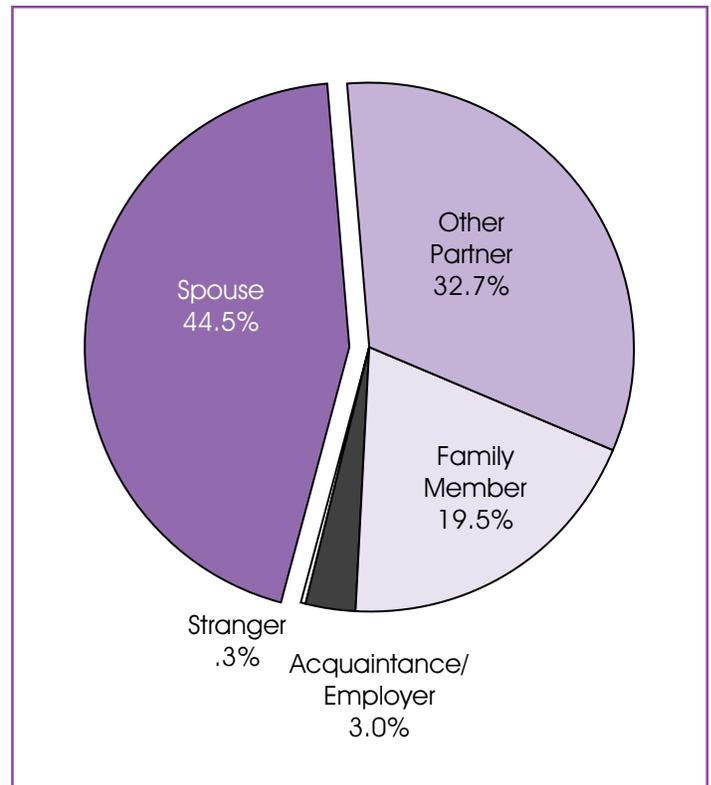
Of the 21,159 contacts for which race of the abuser was available, 91.9% were white. Seven percent (7.0%) were black and 1.1% fell into the other category.

The most frequently reported contributing factor to the abuser's violence was a history of abuse (30.5%). The abuser was either a child witness or victim of violence or had previously abused someone. Other factors contributing to an abuser's violence included the use of alcohol or drugs (22.1%), stress (6.5%), and unemployment (3.4%).

Table 5
Abuser's Relationship to the Victim

Relationship	Number	Percent
Spouse	10,768	44.5%
Significant Other	3,654	15.1%
Former Significant Other	2,317	9.6%
Father	2,257	9.3%
Former Spouse	1,874	7.7%
Other Relative/In-law	794	3.3%
Acquaintance	716	3.0%
Son/Daughter	481	2.0%
Mother	460	1.9%
Step Parent	355	1.5%
Parent's Significant Other	348	1.4%
Stranger	72	.3%
Lesbian/Gay Partner	69	.3%
Employer	20	.1%
Brother/Sister	14	.1%
Total	24,199	100.0%

Graph 4
Abuser's Relationship to the Victim



Graph 5
Type of Weapon Threatened/Used

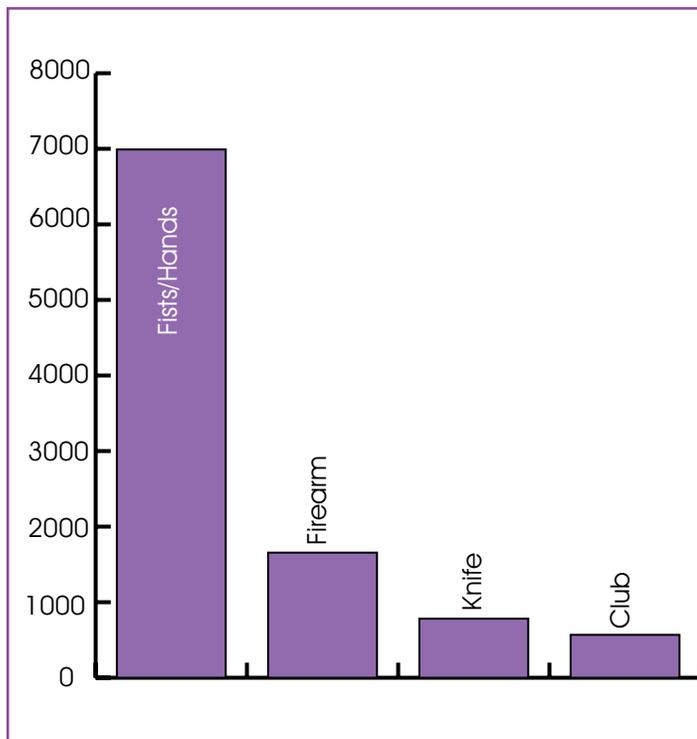


Table 5 shows the complete distribution of the abuser's relationship to the victim. This information was available for 24,199 of the contacts. The abuser was most frequently reported to be the spouse of the victim (44.5%). Only .3% of abusers were strangers to their victims.

Weapons

The type of weapon(s) threatened and/or used was indicated for each of the 30,747 contacts. Abusers most often threatened and/or used their fists (22.7%) against the victim. Firearms were threatened and/or used in 5.4% of the contacts. Knives (2.5%) and clubs (1.8%) were also reported.

In addition, the presence of firearms on the property was also recorded for each contact. Victims reported that firearms were present on the property in 7.9% of the contacts. The abuser mentioned firearms in 4.1% of the contacts. The abuser threatened to hurt him or herself with a firearm in 3.3% of the contacts. Firearms were touched or waved by the abuser in 2.1% of the contacts. It was, however, reported that a firearm was discharged by the abuser in only 0.7% of contacts.

Contacts by STOP Team

Of the 30,747 contacts in the Coalition’s database, 7,366 identified the STOP Team that provided services. This information is from the data set containing all contacts made by domestic violence programs during FY98 and therefore contains duplicates. The member’s role on the STOP Team was not available for these contacts. It can be assumed that the majority of these contacts were served by the main domestic violence program office since many outreach offices, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutor’s offices did not have access to the database during FY98.

The demographic forms submitted to the CJSAC were used to complete the number of contacts made by each STOP Team. Again, it should be noted that it was not possible to eliminate demographic forms which duplicated contacts that were also contained in the database, unless the demographic form was clearly computer generated. Information from the demographic forms did allow contacts to be counted for each type of provider (i.e. victim services, law enforcement, and prosecution).

Table 6 shows the distribution of contacts by STOP Team and by provider type. The total number of contacts from the

Table 6
FY 98 Contacts by STOP Team and Agency Type

Stop Team	Coalition Database	Victim Services	Law Enforcement	Prosecution	Team Total
Cabell County	420	717	0	77	1,214
Calhoun County	66	102	72	1	241
Fayette County	287	0	0	0	287
Gilmer County	88	77	76	6	247
Grant County	244	0	0	0	244
Greenbrier County	449	209	0	46	704
Jefferson County	343	103	0	0	446
Kanawha County	537	224	0	237	998
Logan County	0	2	152	41	195
Marshall County	0	143	26	0	169
McDowell County	146	132	276	62	616
Mercer County	682	237	0	86	1,005
Mineral County	177	0	0	0	177
Mingo County	478	2	85	149	714
Monongalia County	596	7	811	40	1,454
Monroe County	177	205	191	26	599
Nicholas County	448	0	0	0	448
Ohio County	383	214	95	0	692
Pleasants County	173	196	0	0	369
Preston County	0	0	0	51	51
Putnam County	0	0	0	0	0
Raleigh County	477	0	75	499	1,051
Randolph County	395	68	203	60	726
Roane County	564	74	0	0	638
Summers County	230	128	1	0	359
Taylor County	0	0	55	0	55
Upshur County	2	0	48	40	90
Wood County	4	0	0	302	306
Total	7,366	2,840	2,166	1,723	14,095

Coalition’s database that indicated a VAWA grant number are presented in the Coalition Database column. The numbers in the Victim Services, Law Enforcement, and Prosecution columns were all obtained from demographic forms. In addition to those listed in Table 6, 13 demographic forms were submitted with the Coalition’s Central Service Office grant number.

Victim demographics were analyzed for the 6,742 contacts submitted to the CJSAC on paper demographic forms. This analysis indicated no significant differences in the type of victims served when compared to the analysis presented earlier of unique victims served from the Coalition’s database.

Three data elements that did vary between the demographic forms and the database were the percentage of incidents reported to the police, the reason for services, and the presence of firearms.

77.5% of contacts submitted by demographic forms indicated that the incident had been reported to the police. Only 27.8% of the unique victims in the Coalition’s database

had reported an incident to the police. This is not unexpected because more than half (57.7%) of the demographic forms were submitted by law enforcement and prosecution team members. As mentioned earlier, it was assumed that most, if not all, of the information in the database was submitted by victim service providers.

The most frequently reported reason for services on the demographic forms was physical assault/abuse (65.6%). Of the unique victims in the database, emotional abuse (80.0%) was the most frequently reported reason for services. Again this could be due to the difference in the type of agency reporting the service. Law enforcement and/or prosecution would seem more likely to be involved in incidents where there was a physical assault/abuse.

Both the percentage of firearms present on the property and the percentage of firearms discharged by the abuser were greater in the data from the demographic forms. Firearms were reported as being present on the property for 14.7% of the contacts submitted on demographic forms. Of the total number of contacts in the Coalition’s database, 7.9% indicated a firearm was present. 1.2% of demographic forms indicated that the firearm was discharged versus .7% of database contacts reporting a discharged firearm.

Table 7 shows the distribution of contacts by STOP Team involving the presence of a firearm on the property and the discharge of a firearm as reported on the demographic forms.

Table 7
Presence and Discharge of Firearms by STOP Team

STOP Team	Firearms Present	Firearms Discharged
Calhoun	105	1
McDowell	101	2
Monroe	89	9
Ohio	84	2
Mingo	76	23
Greenbrier	75	8
Cabell	54	5
Marshall	54	0
Monongalia	50	3
Kanawha	49	6
Jefferson	42	7
Randolph	39	2
Wood	30	0
Gilmer	27	0
Mercer	22	3
Pleasants	21	4
Upshur	20	2
Summers	15	0
Logan	10	1
Taylor	10	1
Preston	9	1
Roane	4	0
Raleigh	3	3
Total	989	83

Acknowledgments

Work Cited

Burt, M., Harrell, A., Newmark, L., Aron, L., & Jacobs, L. (1997). *Evaluation Guidebook for Projects Funded by STOP Formula Grants under the Violence Against Women Act*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
Available Online: <http://www.urban.org/crime/evalguide.html>

Data Sources

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Database Records
West Virginia STOP Team project directors & members

Recommendations

The first priority of STOP Team members is to respond to victims of domestic violence. As a part of their grant obligations, however, they are also required to document their services. Documentation of victims served is provided to the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in two ways: through the Coalition's electronic database and through the Victim and Abuser Demographic Forms. DCJS uses this information to generate the statistical summary in this report and for reports to the federal Violence Against Women Grants Office. These reports ensure continued funding and educate others about the nature and extent of domestic violence in West Virginia.

The following recommendations are made to improve the quality of the data used for these reports.

Recommendations for STOP Team members

- Each STOP Team member should decide by July 1 of each year, with assistance from the project director, whether to use the WVCADV database or the paper demographic forms. Computer generated forms will be properly discarded by CJSAC staff.
- All STOP Team members providing treatment to abusers should use the Abuser Demographic Form.
- All STOP Team members should specify the appropriate and current VAWA grant number on both the WVCADV database and the paper demographic forms.
- All STOP Team members should follow instructions from the WVCADV regarding how often to submit an entry.
- All STOP Team members should document only direct services to victims or abusers. One paper demographic form is completed for each victim or abuser served during the month. Other STOP Team activities should be documented on monthly progress reports.

Recommendations to STOP Team Project Directors

- STOP Team project directors should communicate with the CJSAC staff when the instructions or the procedures above are not clear.
- STOP Team project directors should provide the forms, instructions, and current VAWA grant number to their team members prior to July 1 of each year. The project director should know the method of documentation used by each STOP Team member. Uncooperative STOP Team members should be reported in a timely fashion to the DCJS grant managers.

Recommendations for WVCADV Database Manager

- The WVCADV database manager should communicate these procedures with the STOP Team members when necessary. The VAWA grant numbers in the database should be updated by July 1 of each year.
- The WVCADV database manager should include CJSAC staff in the development and trainings associated with the database.

Recommendations for DCJS Grant Managers

- The DCJS grant managers should communicate these procedures to the STOP Team members when necessary. Annual VAWA events, quarterly WVCADV meetings, and monitoring site visits should be utilized to reinforce these procedures.
- The DCJS grant managers should work with the project directors to achieve high levels of reporting.

Recommendations for CJSAC Staff

- The CJSAC staff should communicate these procedures and other data quality issues to the STOP Team members when necessary. Problem forms should be corrected in a timely fashion. Forms and instructions should be distributed to all funded STOP Teams prior to July 1 of each year.
- The CJSAC staff should be available to provide technical assistance by phone or in person.

Appendix

Data Collection Instruments

Telephone Interview Questions

Monthly Demographic Form

Instructions

VAWA Interview

Name: STOP Team:

Date & Time:

*This is Erica Turley, with the Division of Criminal Justice Services. One of the objectives of the FY 98 VAWA evaluation plan is to determine the effectiveness of team collaboration. Initial surveys were sent out to the FY 95 team members back in the spring. We are now following up with each of the FY 95 project directors concerning issues of collaboration. All responses will be compiled and reported anonymously in the final evaluation report. Do you have time now to answer a few questions?
I would like to record the conversation instead of taking notes, if you don't have any objections.*

To what extent has **communication** improved among criminal justice victim services and other agencies that provide domestic violence programs and services? Before and after examples/stories.

Has the **collaborative effort** increased the awareness and understanding of DV and its consequences in your community? Has it resulted in any practice or policy changes?

How has your **STOP Team** changed since initiation in FY95?

Have additional agencies/ volunteers been brought on board?

Has your team developed new relationships with other groups in the community as a result of VAWA projects? Give examples of whom and in what capacity they have participated.

How has the overall **level of services** for female victims changed as a result of VAWA grant funding (i.e. services provided by all involved agency types)?

The **efficiency of services**? What services are provided now that were not available in the past?

How does your STOP Team **share information** between agencies? Are any data available electronically?

Who routinely shares data (provide to and/or receive from)?

Are **law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and/or medical professionals** better equipped to identify and respond to DV as a result of VAWA grant funding?

What types of trainings have been held for these groups?

Are there any **major issues**, with respect to collaboration/ communication, between criminal justice agencies and victim service providers that need more improvement?

Do you have any additional **comments** about your STOP Team?

Thank you for your time!

WV Violence Against Women Act Programs

Monthly Demographic Form

STOP Team Name: _____ Reporting Team Member: _____

Please write in the number(s) of the appropriate response(s) to each question in the space provided. **If the question does not apply or the information is not available, leave the space blank.** Provide only one response unless otherwise specified. Please complete one form for each person served. Additional instructions and definitions are on the Instructions sheet.

1. 98-VAW- _____ **Grant Number**

2. _____ **Month**

3. _____ **Your Role** on the STOP Team

1. Victim Services 3. Law Enforcement
2. Prosecution 4. Other _____

4. _____ **Age** of Client

5. _____ **Age Status**

1. Child 2. Adult 3. Emancipated Child

6. _____ **New or Continuing Client?**

1. New 2. Continuing

7. _____ **Type of Victimization** (list ALL that apply)

1. Direct Victim 3. Child Witness to Domestic Violence
2. Indirect Victim 4. Batterer or Perpetrator

8. _____ **Gender**

1. Female 2. Male

9. _____ **Race**

1. White 4. American Indian/Native Alaskan
2. Black/African American 5. Multi-Racial
3. Asian 6. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

10. _____ **Ethnicity**

1. Hispanic/Latino 2. Not Hispanic/Latino

11. _____ **Physical Characteristics** (list ALL that apply)

1. Pregnant 3. Mental/Emotional Disability
2. Physical/Medical Disability 4. Other _____

12. _____ **City** **Client's Home**

_____ **County**

_____ **State**

_____ **Zip Code**

13. _____ **Economic Status** (list ALL that apply)

1. Homemaker 3. Part Time 5. Retired
2. Full Time 4. Unemployed 6. Student

14. _____ **Number of Children** in the Home

15. _____ **Education** (indicate highest level attained)

1. GED 4. Some college 7. Doctorate
2. HS Diploma 5. Bachelor's 8. Other _____
3. Technical or Trade School 6. Master's

16. _____ **Client's Military Status**

1. Veteran 3. Never Served
2. Active Duty or Reserves 4. Other _____

17. _____ **Gov't Benefits?** (list ALL that apply)

1. Food Stamps 3. Housing 5. Soc. Sec. Benefits
2. Medical Card 4. TANF/WV Works 6. Other _____

18. _____ **Client's Relationship Status**

1. Single 3. Separated 5. Widow(er)
2. Married 4. Divorced 6. Lesbian/Gay Partner

19. _____ **History of Abuse?** (list ALL that apply)

1. Previous Domestic Violence 3. Child Witness
2. Child Victim 4. None

20. _____ **Relationship** of offender to victim

1. Spouse 8. Relative/In-law
2. Former Spouse 9. Son/Daughter
3. Significant Other 10. Acquaintance
4. Former Significant Other 11. Stranger/other
5. Parent 12. Employer
6. Step-Parent 13. Lesbian/Gay Partner
7. Parent's Significant Other 14. Other _____

21. _____ **Reason for Service** (list ALL that apply)

1. Physical Assault/Abuse 4. Neglect
2. Sexual Assault/Abuse 5. Stalking
3. Emotional Assault/Abuse 6. Other _____

22. _____ **Weapons** (list ALL that were threatened or used)

1. Firearm 3. Knife 5. Bat, Club, or Stick
2. Fist 4. Other _____

23. _____ **Was this incident reported to the Police?**

1. Yes 2. No

24. _____ **Was a Domestic Violence Petition Filed?**

1. No, not Filed 3. Yes, Filed but Denied
2. Yes, Filed & Issued 4. Yes, Filed but Dropped

25. _____ **Did victim require Medical Attention?**

1. Yes 2. No

26. _____ **Did victim receive Medical Services?**

1. No 3. Hospital Stay 5. Other _____
2. ER 4. Doctor's Office/Clinic Visit

27. _____ **Use of Firearms** (list ALL that apply)

1. Firearm(s) present on property
2. Firearm(s) talked about
3. Abuser threatened suicide
4. Firearm held by abuser
5. Firearm discharged by abuser

28. _____ **Underserved Geographic Area**

1. Rural Area 3. Underserved Urban Area
2. Tribal Area 4. Other Underserved Area _____

29. _____ **Language Spoken** if client does not speak English.

1. Spanish-Speaking 3. Other _____
2. Asian Language

30. _____ **Underserved Populations** (list ALL that apply)

1. Migrant Farm Worker
2. Immigrant
3. At-Risk Group (incarcerated, prostitute, and/or substance abuser, etc.)
4. Other Underserved Population _____

WV Violence Against Women Act Programs

Instructions

Please write in the number(s) of the appropriate response(s) to each question in the space provided. If the question does not apply or the information is not available, leave the space blank. Provide only one response unless otherwise specified. Please complete one form for each person served.

Please write the name of the STOP Team and your name in the upper portion of the demographic form.

1. Write in the **Grant Number** for the current grant year.
2. Write in the **Month** during which services were provided.
3. Write in the number that indicates **Your Role** on the STOP team. If the first three do not apply, please write in your role under #4.
4. Write in the client's **Age**. If not available, leave the space blank.
5. Write in the number corresponding to the client's **Age Status**.
 1. Child: Client is under 18 years old and not emancipated.
 2. Adult: Client is 18 or older.
 3. Emancipated: Client is under 18 years old, but emancipated.
6. Write in a number to indicate if the client is **New or Continuing**. Continuing clients are those that have previously received services since July 1, 1999.
7. Write in as many numbers needed to indicate the **Type of Victimization** the client experienced.
 1. Direct Victim: The client personally experienced assault/abuse.
 2. Indirect Victim: The client was impacted by another person's victimization.
 3. Child Witness to DV: The client witnessed assault/abuse as a child.
 4. Batterer or Perpetrator: The client is being served as a batterer.
8. Write in a number to indicate the client's **Gender**.
9. Write in a number that best indicates the client's **Race**.
10. Write in a number to indicate the client's **Ethnicity**.
11. Write in as many numbers needed to describe the client.
 1. Pregnant
 2. Physical/Medical: Impairments substantially limit one or more major life activities.
 3. Mental/Emotional: Impairments substantially limit one or more major life activities.
12. Write in the **Client's Home** city, county, state, and zip code.
13. Write in the numbers that apply to the client's **Economic Status**.
 1. Homemaker: Client does not regularly work for pay.
 2. Full Time Employment: Client is employed 35 hrs or more per wk or regularly provides contracted services.
 3. Part Time Employment: Client is employed less than 35 hrs per wk or periodically provides contracted services.
 4. Unemployed: Client was previously employed, but currently is not.
 5. Retired: Client has voluntarily ended employment and is voluntarily unemployed.
 6. Student: Client is a full or part time student in academic or professional school.
14. Write in the number of **Children** under the age of 18 who live 50% or more of the time in the client's home.
15. Write in a number to indicate the highest level of **Education** obtained by the client.
16. Write in a number to indicate the client's current **Military Status**.
17. Write in the numbers that indicate all the **Gov't Benefits** received.

18. Write in a number to indicate the client's current **Relationship Status**.

1. Single: Client has never been legally married.
2. Married: Client is currently in a legal marriage.
3. Separated: Client is legally separated.
4. Divorced: Client is legally divorced and has not remarried.
5. Widowed: Client is widowed and has not remarried.
6. Lesbian/Gay Partner: Client is in a long-term intimate same-sex relationship.

19. Write in as many numbers as needed to indicate the client's **History of Abuse**.

1. Previous Domestic Violence: Client has been abused/assaulted as an adult prior to this incident.
2. Child Victim: Client has been abused/assaulted as a child prior to this incident.
3. Child Witness: Client witnessed abuse/assault as a child prior to this incident.

20. Write in a number to indicate the offender's **Relationship** to the client.

21. Write in the numbers to indicate the **Reason for Service**.

1. Physical Assault/Abuse: Non-sexual bodily harm or injury caused or threatened directly or indirectly.
2. Sexual Assault/Abuse: Unwanted sexual contact, e.g. rape, molestation, incest.
3. Emotional Abuse: Exploitation of client's vulnerability, insecurity, or character in order to demean or control. Includes verbal assault.
4. Neglect: Refusal or failure to provide basic needs to a child or incapacitated adult.
5. Stalking: Following, harassing, or threatening with intent to harm the client or the client's family.

22. Write in the numbers to indicate all the types of **Weapons** threatened or used against the victim in the latest incident.

23. Indicate if any person called or notified any **Police** agency during or after the incident.

24. Indicate if the client requested and received a **Domestic Violence Petition**.

25. Indicate if the client required **Medical Attention** for latest incident.

26. Indicate the **Medical Services** received, if any.

27. Write in the numbers that apply to **Firearms** during the latest incident. It is important to list all options that apply, not just the most serious.

1. Firearm(s) present on property: Either client's or abuser's property, including garages, barns, or land.
2. Firearm(s) talked about: Abuser mentioned any firearm.
3. Abuser threatened suicide: Abuser threatened to hurt himself or herself with any firearm.
4. Firearm held by abuser: Abuser touched, lifted, held, or waved any firearm.
5. Firearm discharged by abuser: Regardless of what the bullet hit.

28. Indicate the client's **Geographic Area** if considered an underserved area.

1. Rural Area: Outside of any city limits.
2. Tribal Area: Recognized tribal area.
3. Underserved Urban Area: Within city limits, but with limited services.
4. Other Underserved Area: Describe location of the underserved area.

29. Indicate the primary **Language Spoken** if the client does not speak English.

30. List all of the following **Underserved Populations** the client represents.

1. Migrant Farm Worker
2. Immigrant
3. At-Risk Group: Includes incarcerated, prostitute, substance abuser.
4. Other Underserved Population: Please write in the specific, underserved population the client represents other than non-Caucasian, elderly, and disabled clients.

