



The **West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (FRIS)** was established in 1982 as the network of regional rape crisis centers in West Virginia. As the state's sexual assault coalition, FRIS has established standards for services throughout the state for victims of sexual violence, and in 2004 expanded those services to include victims of stalking.

In addition to working to expand victim services in the state, FRIS is actively involved in developing awareness programs and prevention activities.

FRIS works extensively with numerous disciplines and communities throughout West Virginia to develop and share resources in order to better serve victims of sexual assault and stalking.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, call the center in your area.

Someone is there to listen and to help.



**CONTACT Huntington Rape Crisis Counseling**  
Huntington  
304-399-1111

**Family Refuge Center**  
Lewisburg  
304-645-6334

**REACH Family Service of Kanawha Valley**  
Charleston  
304-340-3676

**Hope, Inc.**  
Fairmont  
304-367-1100

**Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center**  
Morgantown  
304-292-5100

**Sexual Assault Help Center**  
Wheeling  
304-234-8519

**Shenandoah Women's Center**  
Martinsburg  
304-263-8292

**Women's Aid In Crisis**  
Elkins  
1-800-339-1185

**Women's Resource Center**  
Beckley  
304-255-2559

Or

**THE NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE**  
**1-800-656-HOPE**

**The West Virginia Foundation For Rape Information and Services**  
112 Braddock Street  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
[www.fris.org](http://www.fris.org)

# Sexual Violence & Stalking:

## Intervention and Prevention Resources in West Virginia

**West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc.**



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## Resources

The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services produces numerous printed resources on stalking and sexual violence to assist both victims and service providers.

### Protocol for Responding to Victims of Sexual Assault

The statewide multidisciplinary protocol for working with sexual assault victims was developed to establish suggested procedures for advocates, law enforcement officers, medical personnel and prosecutors who respond to sexual assault victims.

### Sexual Assault in WV: An Informational Handbook

This extensive informational handbook is available as an in-depth reference on the issues of sexual assault and stalking.

### Informational Brochures

A series of informational brochures is available including:

- Acquaintance Rape
- Child Sexual Assault
- College Orientation
- Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault
- First Responders
- Male Victims
- Rape and Sexual Assault
- The SART/SANE Initiative
- Sex Crimes and the Internet
- Sexual Harassment
- Stalking

### Sexual Assault Prevention Curriculum

R.E.S.P.E.C.T., available for purchase, is a middle school violence prevention curriculum that addresses the issues of healthy relationships, dating violence, child sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

## Sexual Violence in West Virginia

Based on data from the National Women's Study and the National Violence Against Women Survey, one in every nine adult women in West Virginia will be a victim of forcible rape in her lifetime.

**Who is the victim?** Of rapes reported in West Virginia, 85% were female, and 70% of the victims were under the age of 18.

**Who is the offender?** 93% of the offenders were male and the vast majority were acquaintances, nonintimate-partner family members, or otherwise related or known to the victim.

**Where does it happen?** Most sexual assaults occur in the home of the victim or the offender.

Rape is an issue of power and control. No matter where it happens or by whom, it is never the victim's fault.

## Stalking—An Unreported Crime

To meet the legal definition of stalking, the behavior must:

- be repeated, unwanted contact.
- make a credible threat to the victim or their immediate family.
- cause a reasonable person under those circumstances to have fear of bodily injury or kidnapping.

80% of stalking victims are female, with over 3/4 of the victims stalked by someone they know. The average duration of stalking is 1.8 years.

## Programs and Projects

### Awareness Month Activities

Stalking Awareness Month (January) and Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April) provide additional opportunities to distribute informational materials and conduct special educational activities. FRIS provides printed materials for distribution and assists organizations in planning special awareness events.

### Prevention Programs

The mission of FRIS is the prevention of violence against women. Prevention Education Specialists are located in each of the state's rape crisis centers to focus on both the prevention and risk reduction of stalking and sexual violence.

### Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)

SANEs are specially trained registered nurses who conduct forensic medical exams for sexual assault victims. FRIS provides technical assistance to hospitals, colleges, and licensed medical facilities interested in developing SANE programs.

### Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)

FRIS assists communities in developing multidisciplinary SARTs and coordinates free SART trainings.

### Trainings

FRIS offers regional and statewide trainings on the issues of stalking and sexual violence. The annual spring symposium attracts hundreds of professionals from around the state.

### West Virginia Intercollegiate Council on Sexual Violence

West Virginia's college campuses and rape crisis centers participate in this FRIS-facilitated council to share resources, policy suggestions and prevention programming ideas.

*For more information on these and other projects, visit our website at [www.fris.org](http://www.fris.org).*

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