WEST VIRGINIA
STOP Violence Against Women Act
Three Year Implementation Plan
2014-2016

Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services
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West Virginians Against Violence Committee
West Virginia Violence Against Women Collaborative Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section:	Page
Introduction	2
Coordinated Efforts	2
Evaluation	4
Needs and Context: West Virginia Demographics	5
Goals and Objectives	15
Current Projects	21
Grant Making Strategy	23
Sexual Assault Set Aside	23
Cultural Specific Set Aside	25
Underserved Populations	28
Indian Tribes	30
Cultural Specific Projects	30
Conclusion	31
References	32

APPENDICES

Appendix A: List of Participants
Appendix B: West Virginia Demographics
Appendix C: West Virginians Against Violence Committee Members
Appendix D: Focus Group and Survey Questions
Appendix E: Maps

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services is pleased to provide criminal justice professionals and advocates throughout the state with a three-year plan to assist in combating domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims in their communities. This plan could not have been completed without the collaboration and efforts of many dedicated agencies and individuals.

The STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Collaborative Committee members were instrumental in the planning and the development of this three year plan; as well as the continuation of reviewing and revising the state's STOP VAWA Implementation Plan. The VAWA Collaborative Committee meets three to four times a year to discuss issues and improve services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.

The West Virginians Against Violence Committee has demonstrated continuing commitment to stopping violence against women and working to provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence in West Virginia. Their

leadership role in this area has contributed significantly to this three-year plan. A list of the Committee membership can be found in the Appendix C.

Appreciation is offered to the non-profit agencies, the criminal justice system agencies and individuals who participated in the STOP Violence Against Women Act Focus Group meetings and surveys. The focus groups consisted of, but were not limited to individuals from non-profit, non-governmental domestic violence programs, rape crisis centers, cultural specific programs, counseling and victim services in dating violence, stalking, and faith-based agencies, the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. A list of focus group participants can be found in Appendix A.

Recognition should be given to the project directors and STOP-funded staff of the local sub-grantee programs for their continued cooperation, collaboration, and diligent work related to responding to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes in West Virginia.

Introduction:

West Virginia's three-year STOP Violence Against Women (VAWA) Act Implementation plan strives to provide all professionals who are funded as a STOP Team or as a statewide project with the tools necessary to develop and strengthen the criminal justice system's strategies to combat the violent crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking and to support, enhance and expand services available to these victims and their families.

In order to provide quality services, training, and to effect change in West Virginia, the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services (WVDJCS) works closely in collaboration and coordination with the WV Foundation for Rape and Information Services (WVFRIS) whose board members include all nine Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Center's directors in the state, and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV), whose board members include the fourteen licensed domestic violence shelter directors throughout the state. Other partners include, but are not limited to, the West Virginians Against Violence Committee, the United States Attorney's Offices (Southern and Northern Districts), Faith-based agencies, Cultural-Specific Organizations, the Regional Community Policing Institute, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, and the West Virginia Crime Victim Compensation Office.

The 2014 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan will be implemented with the start of funding of Federal Fiscal Year 2014 STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant funds, which DJCS receives in September 2014 and will continue with updates if needed until December 2016. The plan was reviewed and approved by stakeholders on **[insert date]**

Coordinated Efforts and Planning Process:

The process for developing this plan began with the first meeting of the STOP VAWA Collaboration Committee. This group is comprised of individuals from the West Virginia

domestic violence coalition, the West Virginia sexual assault coalition, the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, the Family Protection Services Board, and the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services. The STOP VAWA Collaboration Committee met on June 11, 2013 and again in August 16, 2013; in Elkview, West Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the foundation for the planning process by identifying who should be invited to attend the focus meeting planned for October 3, 2013, develop questions for a survey and questions for the implementation plan focus group meeting, and began discussing issues concerning the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.

An Implementation Plan Focus group meeting was held on October 3, 2013 to develop the new STOP Violence Against Women Implementation Plan. In addition to gathering information from the participants relevant to the Implementation Plan, focus questions were discussed at the meeting and also mailed to all STOP VAWA sub-grantees who could not attend the focus group meeting to complete and return to WVDJCS staff. All STOP Team Members and sub-grantees were also requested to participate and complete an on-line survey. (For a list of questions refer to Appendix E)

The following are the agencies that participated in the focus meeting (See Appendix A for full list of participants and invitees):

1. State sexual assault coalition:
   West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information & Services

2. State domestic violence coalition:
   West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

3. Dual domestic violence and sexual assault program:
   Women's Aid in Crisis
   Shenandoah Women's Center

4. Law enforcement entities:
   Putnam County Sheriff's Department
   Huntington Police Department

5. Prosecution entities:
   West Virginia Prosecuting Attorney's Institute

6. State and local courts:
   West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals

7. Tribal governments (in states with state or federally recognized tribes) N/A

8. Representatives from underserved populations, including culturally specific populations:
   Greenbrier County Community on Aging

Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living
Cultural Diversity Community Outreach Center
Faith-based Representative – Bridges of Grace United Church of Christ
Fairness West Virginia Institute

9. Victim service providers:
   CONTACT of Huntington- Rape Crisis Center
   YWCA of Wheeling – Domestic Violence Program
   CHANGE Inc. – Domestic Violence Program
   REACH –Rape Crisis Program

10. Population specific organizations: N/A

11. Other:
   West Virginia Division of Corrections
   West Virginians Against Violence Committee Members
   West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (FVPSA)
   West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services Staff

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, who administer the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act grant, and the Victim of Crime Act Administrator, are members of the STOP VAWA Collaborative Committee as well as participants in the Focus Group Meeting to assist in developing and implementation of West Virginia's state plan. They have been a part of the VAWA Collaborative since 2005.

Evaluation of Plan:

All STOP Violence Against Women Act sub-grantees are required to develop and implement client evaluations of their programs and services provided. These evaluations must ensure client confidentiality and may be reviewed or submitted to WV DJCS staff or the West Virginians Against Violence Committee. In addition to client evaluations, programs are encouraged to develop and implement evaluations or reviews of their peers, other service providers and criminal justice professionals such as prosecutors, judges and other staff. The West Virginians Against Violence Committee and the WVDJCS staff are in the process of developing performance measures and evaluations for STOP Teams, and moving towards evidence based practices in our awards. All sub-grantees who conduct training must conduct and submit training evaluations.

All STOP Teams are required to develop and implement protocols for each discipline's response (law enforcement, victim services, prosecution, court, etc.) to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes. Within this protocol there should be an explanation of how they will evaluate this process. It is also a recommendation for the grant period that during their STOP Team meetings, the team evaluates the program, goals and objectives, and their protocol, and will make revisions as needed. The STOP Teams also are required to develop applications as a team. In addition the teams will also remain in contact with their STOP VAWA

State Administrator concerning issues or needed services or funding through monthly reports, phone contact, and e-mail and monitoring visits

WV Division of Justice and Community Services staff will monitor all STOP VAWA Act Programs by completing a desk review of reports and sub-grantee files and will visit the program office in the STOP Team County to monitor the program. The purpose of on-site monitoring visit is to:

1. Determine progress made toward achieving project objectives;
2. Determine compliance with terms, conditions, and purpose of grant;
3. Identify technical assistance needs; and,
4. Provide guidance of future design or funding of similar projects.

An evaluation team (or member) may make approximately one visit to each grant program during the project period to aid in evaluation efforts.
Evaluation visits will:

1. Determine if each sub-grantee's objectives are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time related.
2. Help sub-grantee develop timelines for objectives, tasks, and activities.
3. Show sub-grantee how to submit the evaluation forms on a monthly basis.
4. Provide technical assistance if needed.

The STOP Violence Against Women Collaboration Committee will meet quarterly to discuss and review the Implementation Plan. At that time the Committee will determine the status of the Goals and Objectives and make revisions as needed with input provided by the programs and key members from the criminal justice system.

Also, the West Virginians Against Violence Committee in coordination with the WV Division of Justice and Community Services will continue to review grant applications, funding decisions, program compliance, and the development, application, and assessment of the State's STOP Implementation Plan. The West Virginians Against Violence Committees consists of representatives from the following entities: domestic violence coalition, sexual assault coalition, prosecution, law enforcement, faith-based community, criminal justice based victim assistance program, underserved population community, child abuse protection, a violent crime victim, and court personnel.

Needs and Context:

West Virginia Demographics:

West Virginia is located in the Appalachian Region of the United States and is 24, 230 square miles with an average of 76.5 persons per square mile. The state has a population of 1,852,994 residents, of which males account for 49.3% and females 50.7. Of this total population, 53.9% live in rural areas. The median age in West Virginia is 41.3 with the elderly population that makes up 38.2% of the population (50 years old – 85 years old or older) (US

Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey). According to the Population Reference Bureau, West Virginia ranks third in the nation with 15.6% of its population being sixty-five or older.

In looking at the racial and ethnic composition of the state, there is currently a low disparity between races in West Virginia. According to the United States Census Bureau, 93.2% of the population reported is White, 3.4% Black or African American, 1.3%, Hispanic or Latino, 0.7% Asian, and 0.2% Native American Indian (US Census Bureau, 2010).

The results from the US Census 2012 survey indicate that there will be an increase in the diversity of the state's population and that this diversity of the state's population will continue to grow. As West Virginia's population becomes more diverse, there is a growing need to be able to provide services to these minority populations. Currently five counties in West Virginia have 11% or more of their population who are people of color, three counties in West Virginia have 9-10% of their population who are people of color, and three counties have 7-8% of their population who are people of color. The counties which have 7%-11% or more are as follows: Berkeley County, Jefferson County, Kanawha County, McDowell County, Raleigh County, Summers County, Monongalia County, Hardy County, Mercer County, Gilmer County and Cabell County (US Census, 2012 American Fact Finder).

There are outreach offices or local programs in all the above referenced counties; however because West Virginia is a very rural area, there are limited resources, and public transportation does not exist in some of these areas, it is difficult for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence to receive the services they need. It is the goal of this implementation plan to continue to extend services to underserved or marginal populations in the State.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2012 American Community Survey, 17.8% of the population in West Virginia has an income below the poverty level; of this population 8.8% of people 65 years or older are living below the poverty level; and persons under the age of 18 who are below the poverty level is 24.6% of the population; 19.3% of females are living below the poverty level compared to 16.2% of males.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of November 2013, West Virginia ranks 15th in the nation with an unemployment rate of 6.1%.

Of the total population in West Virginia, 84.5 percent who are twenty-five years or older have a high school diploma. Of West Virginia's total population, 40.6% of the population who are twenty-five years old or older have a bachelor's degree, and only 7.3% of the population who are twenty-five old or older have a professional degree (U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2012).

Grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren make up 8.9% of the total population in West Virginia. Of the households in West Virginia, 11.2% are households who do not have a husband present and of these households 5.7% of these households have children who are under the age of eighteen (US Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey).

Of the total non-institutionalized population of West Virginia, 19 % reported having a disability of which 5.6 % are under the age of eighteen and 43.4 % who are 65 years or older (US Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey).

THE PROBLEM:

Dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes are crimes that affect families, individuals, and cross socioeconomic lines and systems. Intimate partner and family violence (domestic and dating violence), includes physical, sexual, financial abuse, neglect and maltreatment of children, and elder abuse, and occurs throughout the country every day (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey).

According to West Virginia code §48-27-101, "every person has a right to be safe and secure in his or her home and family and to be free from domestic violence." Domestic Violence or abuse in West Virginia is defined by §48-27-202 as the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members:

- "Attempting to cause or intentionally knowingly or recklessly causing physical harm to another with or without dangerous or deadly weapons;
- Placing another in reasonable apprehension of physical harm;
- Creating fear of physical harm by harassment; psychological abuse or threatening acts;
- Committing either sexual assault or sexual abuse…;
- Holding, confining, detaining or abducting another person against that person's will."

Sexual violence is defined as "any sexual act that is perpetrated against someone's will. Sexual violence encompasses a range of offenses, including a completed nonconsensual sex act (i.e., rape), an attempted nonconsensual sex act, abusive sexual contact (i.e., unwanted touching), and non-contact sexual abuse (e.g., threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, verbal sexual harassment)." All types of sexual violence include victims who do not consent, or who are unable to consent, or refuse to allow the act (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). According to the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), sixty percent of sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement and approximately two-thirds of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim. Seventy percent of sexual violence/offenses occurred at a residence or home (WVFRIS).

Although the occurrence of rape and sexual assault is high, many offenders are not arrested or prosecuted. One factor that may contribute to low arrest rates is that some law enforcement officers believe victims falsely report rape and are not telling the truth and this may account for their unwillingness to make an arrest. Also, the trauma that often occurs as a result of the sexual violence, can affect a victim's memory, verbal skills, and cause behaviors that seem counter-intuitive to how people believe a victim should be responding to such trauma. These memory lapses and counter-intuitive behaviors are often interpreted by law enforcement and prosecution as lying. Prosecutors may also be reluctant to prosecute a rape or sexual assault

case, due to various other reasons, including the backlog of processing rape kits, alcohol and/or drug use by the victim during the commission of the crime, and the difficulty of proving a lack of consent. (Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action. The White House Council on Women and Girls Report).

Stalking is defined as "a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person fear" by the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center. It is suggested that stalking is a pattern of behavior and not a single isolated incident. West Virginia's law on stalking (WVSC §61-2-9a), addresses stalking as a separate act from harassment. To be charged with the crime of stalking, someone must repeatedly (on two or more occasions) follow another person, "knowingly or having reason to know that the conduct causes the person followed to reasonably fear for his or her safety or suffer significant emotional distress." To be charged with the crime of harassment, someone must repeatedly (two or more times) harass or make credible threats against another person.

In West Virginia, domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes remain issues for victims of all ages, sex, gender, and cross social and economic boundaries. This plan will begin to address these issues and strengthen the criminal justice system's strategies to combat the violent crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and to support, enhance and expand services available to these victims and their families.

Dating Violence:

According to national statistics, close to 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse in a year; one in three adolescents in the United States is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or other types of teen violence; one in ten high school students have been intentionally hit, slapped, or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend; one quarter of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse; and approximately 70% of college students say they have been sexually coerced. Only 33% of teens who were in a violent relationship told anyone about the abuse; 81% of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they didn't know if it is an issue. A teen's confusion about the law and their desire for confidentiality are two of the most significant barriers stopping them from seeking help or reporting the abuse (loveisrespect.org).

West Virginia is one of the states that allow victims of dating violence to file for a protective order regardless of the nature of the relationship. However, while the law does allow the minor to file on their own; the practice in the court system is the minor must currently have a guardian or a parent present when filing. West Virginia law at this time does not provide for a specific school response to dating violence (Break the Cycle, 2013 State Law Report Card). There is an increased need for more dating violence prevention and information provided in the schools, and to have school official's assistance in developing a healthy response to protect victims of dating violence. Many teen victims do not report violence to their parents or guardian because they are afraid; as a result many remain in dangerous violent relationships (National Center for Injury Prevention and Control). The full extent of dating violence in West Virginia is currently unknown because the data collected is not specific enough to give accurate statistics.

According to the WV State Police *Crime in West Virginia 2012 Report 41st Edition,* the following crimes were reported:

Boyfriend/Girlfriend as Victim	
305	aggravated assaults
5	forcible fondling
15	forcible rapes
1	forcible sodomy case
161	reports of intimidation
15	kidnappings
1	murder
5	sexual assaults with an object
1,169	simple assaults
4	statutory rapes
Total	**1,681**

Intimate Partner as Victim	
243	aggravated assaults
3	forcible fondling
25	forcible rapes
2	forcible sodomy cases
220	reports of intimidation
11	kidnapping
3	murders
9	sexual assaults with an object
1,869	simple assaults
3	statutory rapes
Total	**2,388**

Domestic Violence:

Unlike most other crimes, intimate partner or domestic violence is usually not a sudden, isolated, and unexpected incident. It may involve years of emotional and psychological trauma as well as, physical injuries that may become increasingly more severe and increase in frequency over time. Exposure to such violence has a devastating impact on all involved, including children living with and experiencing it as witnesses. Domestic violence has significant effects on the health and well-being of primary and secondary victims. They may suffer injuries such as broken bones, bruises, disfigurement, miscarriages and death. In addition to the physical injuries the victims also experience emotional and psychological abuse such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and suicidal thoughts. Domestic violence victims are also at risk for alcohol and substance abuse as a way to self-medicate or by a means of the abuser to control the victim.

(Ann D. Carden, October 1994) Due to being subjected to serious repeated trauma, domestic violence victims may develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Dr. Leanore Walker).

West Virginia's geography and culture create unique difficulties in providing services to victims of domestic violence. With 53.95% of the state being rural, victims of domestic violence face unique problems, which include: (1) law enforcement officers who are reluctant to intervene, (2) lack of support to victims from churches, (3) physical isolation, including the absences of cell phone service and public transportation; (4) the resistance of local communities to acknowledge and confront the problem of domestic violence and (5) the lack of funding for services or resources in rural communities. Another issue is the lack of good investigation techniques, the failure of law enforcement in determining predominate aggressor, and the collection of evidence which allows for prosecution without the victim or victim's cooperation (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey).

Other barriers are serving victims who are people of color, disabled, elderly, and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender). For instance, victims in later life or with disabilities face challenges because their care-taker and/or family member who is their care-taker may be their abuser. As a result they often have no other resources and must depend on their abuser to take care of them. Often, the abuser has control over the victim's finances and home, (legally or not) and the victims have no other support system to fall back on. Research indicates that domestic violence occurs at similar rates among same sex couples as it does among straight couples (Center for American Progress). LGBT victims are often not taken seriously when reporting domestic violence, or and they fear they will be exposed to bias and non-acceptance from their family members and friends if they report. Most abusers use this as another way to control their victims which is amplified due to the extreme isolation among gay and lesbian victims. In addition these victims have fewer civil rights protections, and lack access to the legal system in some states. Most LGBT Victims do not report to law enforcement because to do so would force them to reveal their sexual orientation or gender identity (Center for American Progress).

Historically, West Virginia has had a low crime rate, however crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking represent a significant number of reported crimes. Reported incidences of domestic violence have increased dramatically over the last fifteen years. For instance, the number of "reported" domestic violence incidents rose from 2,565 in 1989 to 13,558 in 2000, then decreased slightly in 2003 to 10,411, and then rose to a high of 13,661 in 2005 (West Virginia State Police, 2005). In 2009, there were 13,575 reported incidents of Domestic Violence which and over one third of homicides in West Virginia were related to domestic violence (West Virginia State Police 2009). In 2012, there were 12,329 incidents and/or investigations of domestic violence in West Virginia; simple assault made up the bulk of all domestic violence incidents, with 8,387 reported cases; there were 27 reported murders and no negligent manslaughter crimes; and it was reported that the use of 235 firearms were used during the offense of domestic violence (West Virginia State Police Crime in West Virginia, 2012; 41st Edition).

The fourteen licensed domestic violence shelters and their outreach offices provide shelter services, advocacy, outreach services, and community education to all fifty-five counties.

In 2013, an unduplicated total of 15,609 adults and their children received shelter and non-shelter services. Of those, a total of 1,365 victims received shelter services including 794 adults and 571 children and 14,815 victims received non-shelter services. The fourteen licensed domestic violence shelters and their outreach offices assisted victims with filing 6,893 domestic violence petitions in 2013 (WVCADV Database).

Over two-thirds of women murdered in West Virginia are killed by a family or household member; In 2011, West Virginia was ranked 8th in the nation for the homicide among females murdered by males in West Virginia [1.70 per 1000] (When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data). From 2003-2005, 103 domestic violence related deaths were identified and reviewed by the West Virginia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team; of which 72 were homicides and 31 suicides; 27 (87.1%) of the suicides occurred following the commission of a homicide. The West Virginia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team also found the following:

- 51 female and 52 male fatalities, with women more likely to be homicide victims and men more likely to be suicide victims. Forty-nine (68.1%) of the 72 homicide victims were women; 23 (31.9%) were men. Twenty-nine (93. %%) of the suicide victims were men; 2 (6.5%) were women.
- All of the adult homicide victims who were part of a homicide/suicide were women.
- 62 of the 71 perpetrators of domestic violence homicides were men; 9 were women. Two of the female perpetrators had a known prior history of domestic violence; in contrast 39 of the 62 male perpetrators had a documented domestic violence history.
- 83 of the 103 deaths were classified as intimate partner related fatalities, such as involving a spouse, ex-spouse, current or former girlfriend/boyfriend/same sex partner or someone else who is involved as victim or perpetrator as the result of an intimate partner relationship. Twenty of the deaths were classified as family violence (involving a family member who is not an intimate partner).
- 78 of the 103 fatalities were due to firearms, 9 to knives or other related weapons, 8 to violent assault by strangulation, striking or kicking; 3 to a blunt weapon; 2 each to fire and motor vehicles and 1 to neglect. All 8 victims of strangulation, striking or kicking were women.
- Most of the Domestic Violence homicides occurred at either the victim's or perpetrator's residence.
- Minor children were present at the scene of 32.8% of intimate partner homicides; and 41.2% of the family violence homicides.

(Domestic Violence Fatalities Among Adults in West Virginia 2003-2005. A Report of the West Virginia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team).

Sexual Violence/Sexual Assault:

Sexual violence is a public health issue across the United States. Many survivors of sexual violence experience physical injury, mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, trauma, suicide, and other health issues such as sexually transmitted diseases and un-wanted pregnancy. Nearly 1 in 5 women and one in 71 men in the United States have been raped at some time in their lives (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey).

At the state and local level, most of the data concerning rape or sexual assault is from police reports or from agencies that provide services to sexual assault victims. The data provided does not correctly reflect the total number of sexual assault victims because most victims never report the crime or do not seek services from programs. The data provided by law enforcement is conservative because it does not include victims who have never been forcibly sexually assaulted. According to the West Virginia State Police Crime in West Virginia 2012 Report, "Sexual offenses in Incident Based Reporting are Forcible (forcible rape, forcible sodomy, and sexual assault with an object and forcible fondling and non-forcible (Statutory Rape and Incest). The victims may be of either sex and of any age. The offense of Forcible Rape requires that the victim and offender to be of opposite sexes, while the other offenses may have been both the victim and offender of the same sex" (West Virginia State Police Crime in West Virginia, 2012; 41st Edition).

After the rape, the victim is often faced with a society that is filled with misconceptions about sexual violence causing them to blame the victim, believe she/he is lying, not understand the serious nature of the crime, and/or just not provide support. Additionally, our criminal justice process causes further stress, anxiety, and trauma on the victim as they, too, often do not provide an environment in which the victim feels respected, safe, supported, acknowledged, or appreciated for her/his efforts to hold a dangerous offender accountable. This is often referred to as the "***secondary rape***." Rebecca Campbell, Ph.D. cites research in her article, "Rape Survivors' Experiences with the Legal and Medical Systems: Do Rape Victim Advocates Make a Difference?" that "…rape survivors report that they are asked about their prior sexual histories, questioned about how they were dressed or behaving at the time of the assault, and are encouraged not to report or prosecute the assault." Additionally, she states that "victims consistently report that these kinds of behaviors are highly distressing and re-victimizing." She also stated "prior research has found that most survivors of rape report feeling guilty, depressed, anxious, distrustful of others, and reluctant to seek further help after their interactions with legal system personnel."

Sexual violence is defined as "any sexual act that is perpetrated against someone's will. Sexual violence encompasses a range of offenses, including a completed nonconsensual sex act (i.e., rape), an attempted nonconsensual sex act, abusive sexual contact (i.e., unwanted touching), and non-contact sexual abuse (e.g., threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, verbal sexual harassment)." All types of sexual violence include victims who do not consent, or who are unable to consent or refuse to allow the act (Centers for Disease Control). According to the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), sixty percent of sexual assaults are not

reported to law enforcement and approximately two-thirds of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim. Seventy percent of sexual violence/offenses occurred at a residence or home (WVFRIS).

In general, it has been reported that sexual violence is under-reported. This makes it difficult to have a clear picture of the full impact and extent of sexual violence crimes. Non-reporting in rural areas is more complicated because of the high rate of non-stranger sexual assault because they are close knit communities and the likelihood of knowing your assailant is high. According to Hunter, Burns-smith, Walsh, "the closer the relationship between the victim and assailant, the less likely the woman is to report the crime." As with Domestic Violence, geography and Appalachian Culture create unique difficulties in providing services to victims of sexual assault. Rural and urban victims of sexual assault face problems, which include: (1) law enforcement officers who are reluctant to investigate or believe the victim, (2) lack of support to victims from churches and families, (3) physical isolation, including the absences of cell phone service and public transportation; (4) the resistance of local communities to acknowledge and confront the problem of sexual assault , (5) the lack of funding for services in rural communities, (6) lack of support or services available, (7) victim blaming for behavior, dress, drinking, etc. (National Sexual Violence Resource Center: Unspoken Crimes: Sexual Assault in Rural America).

According to the White House Report on Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action; "people with disabilities, the LGBT community, prison inmates (of both genders), and the homeless are at a higher risk of being raped or sexually assaulted. Also, undocumented immigrants have different challenges because their abusers often threaten them with deportation if they try to get help. The survivors of rape and sexual assault often suffer from a wide range of physical and mental symptoms that may continue throughout their lifetime. These can include: depression, chronic pain, diabetes, anxiety, eating disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder. They are also more likely to attempt or consider suicide. Although hard to quantify; studies have calculated the economic cost of sexual violence crimes have been found to be significant; ranging from $87,000 to $240,776 per rape. These costs can include medical, victim services, and loss of productivity, decreased quality of life, and law enforcement resources." (Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action. The White House Council on Women and Girls Report)

According to the 2008 West Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Report, 16.7% or about 1 in every 6 women age 18 and older responded to the report that they have been a victim of forcible sexual assault. In West Virginia, the number of reported incidents has increased over the years with 914 incidents which were reported in 1999 and increasing to 1,285 in 2005. If these numbers represent only one-third of the incidents, then the numbers of actual incidents may have been significantly higher than those reported. Rape Crisis Centers reported they provided services to 1,531 new victims in 2004-2005. Each victim may have suffered more than one sexual assault incident and not all victims seek assistance from WVFRIS and their member programs, therefore the actual number of incidents is likely to be much greater (West Virginia Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, 2000).

West Virginia Sexual Assault statistics (WVFRIS stats):

- 82% of victims were related to or known to the offender
  - 46.6% were acquainted
- Most offenses were reported to have occurred at a residence (70%)
- Personal weapons, such as the offender's fists or hands, were used during the offense and reported more frequently than other weapons
- 64.8% of victims were juveniles under the age of 18
  - The most frequently reported age was 15
- The majority of the offenders were male (93%) and adult (70.6%)

Stalking:

Stalking is defined as "a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person fear" by the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center. It is suggested that stalking is a pattern of behavior and not a single isolated incident. West Virginia's law on stalking (WVSC §61-2-9a), addresses stalking as a separate act from harassment. To be charged with the crime of stalking, someone must repeatedly (on two or more occasions) follow another person "knowingly or having reason to know that the conduct causes the person followed to reasonably fear for his or her safety or suffer significant emotional distress." To be charged with the crime of harassment, someone must repeatedly (two or more times) harass or make credible threats against another person.

According to the Stalking Resource Center, "6.6 million people are stalked in one year in the United States; one in six women and one in nineteen men have experienced stalking at some point in their lifetime; 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for five years or more; 76% of intimate partner femicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner; and 67% had been physically abused by their intimate partner."

Only recently has the justice system and the public recognized stalking as a distinct and serious crime. Stalking was first defined in West Virginia Code in 1992, W.Va. Code §61-2-9a as "any person who knowingly, willfully, and repeatedly follows, and harasses, or knowingly, willfully, and repeatedly follows and makes a credible threat, or knowingly, willfully and repeatedly harass and makes a credible threat against a person with whom he or she has, or in the past has had or with whom he or she seeks to establish a personal or social relationship, whether or not such intention is reciprocated, or against a member of that person's immediate family, with intent to place that person in reasonable apprehension that he or she or a member of his or her immediate family will suffer death, bodily injury, sexual assault, battery, or kidnapping....". The Stalking code was amended on March 8, 2008 and reenacts §61-2-9a of the Code relating to the criminal offense of stalking, including penalties. Essentially this bill completely rewrites the bulk of the Stalking statute.

The extent of stalking incidents in West Virginia is unknown at this time. According to the Fiscal Year 2012 WV STOP VAWA Annual Performance Reports, 162 stalking victims were provided services by STOP Violence Against Women funded staff. Please note this report only records unduplicated victims served by STOP funded staff, not the entire staff of victim service programs, and does not reflect statewide statistics.

According to the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence Database information for 2013, 876 unduplicated non-resident victims and 70 unduplicated residents in shelter received services for stalking crimes.

According to the Fiscal Year 2013 Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Annual Performance Report; (in which the reporting period is from October 1, 2012- September 30, 2013) 940 stalking victims received services. Please note this report only records non-duplicated victims served by VOCA funded staff in West Virginia.

A growing concern is internet technology which assists the perpetrator in stalking and harassing victims. There are very little sanctions or oversight over the internet, it is constantly evolving, so it is impossible for the criminal justice system to keep up with crimes committed via the internet (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey). The full extent of stalking in West Virginia is currently unknown because the data collected is not specific enough to give accurate statistics.

Goals and Objectives:

The following goals and objectives are set forth as the specific priorities our STOP Violence Against Women Act grant programs. Other grant programs such as OVW Discretionary and VOCA program funds will be used to assist in addressing the following:

Goal 1: Continue to improve the criminal and civil justice systems response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes.

Objective A: Sustain the number of, and increase the training available to, dedicated assistant prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement officers, and victim advocates committed to the effective and appropriate responses of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases.

Objective B: Increase the number of, and the training available to, dedicated assistant prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement officers, and victim advocates committed to the effective and appropriate response to sexual assault crimes.

Objective C: Support the use of victim-centered local protocols in each STOP funded county to:

- Support the on-going team approach to prosecution of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, and dating violence crimes among prosecutors, law enforcement officers, judges, and victim service advocates;
- Support evidence-based prosecutions;
- Collect data regarding the arrests and dispositions of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases; and
- Enforce and implement state and federal statutes regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes.

- Include response to elder abuse and disabled victims for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes.
- Ensure all victims of crime are notified of their rights as a victim and all agencies are required to respect and uphold these rights.
- Ensure the protocols are reviewed on a yearly basis and updated as needed;
- And ensure all plans address cultural competency responses

Objective D: Develop and implement performance measures in order to determine effectiveness and accountability of prosecutor's, law enforcement's, and victim service's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence crimes.

Objective E: Develop and implement a Lethality Risk Assessment and Process which addresses multiple disciplinary agencies response in order to help reduce domestic violence related homicides. Also, train advocates, law enforcement, prosecutor, and court staff concerning the Lethality Risk Assessment.

Goal 2: Coordinate and structure cross training to maximize attendance of all professionals and paraprofessionals that impact victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes, in order to provide a better response to victims.

Objective A: Utilize developed curricula or training modules (for example curriculum developed by WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services or the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence) which should include at a minimum: dynamics of victimization, trauma informed care and the effects of trauma on the victim; dynamics and legal issues of stalking; dynamics and legal issues of domestic violence; and collaborative and multidisciplinary response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence crimes. Special emphasis should be placed on criminal and civil justice system personnel training (judicial, administrative law judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, legal aid, state bar, etc.)

Objective B: Continue coordinated community response training to law enforcement officers from the entire state using approved content and training teams composed of a multidiscipline approach which should include law enforcement officers, victim advocates, other community advocates (for example, the Community of Aging or Disability Agency) and prosecutors/attorneys.

Objective C: Support annual training to improve coordinated community response for Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). Recommend funded STOP Teams to include existing Sexual Assault Response Team members as part of their STOP Teams.

Objective D: Support the efforts of the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and

Services in training Adult Protective Service Workers on the issues of Elderly Abuse.

Objective E: Use STOP VAWA funding, along with other funding, to increase training on the appropriate authorization and use of sex crime kits.

Objective F: Support and increase the efforts of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services to train statewide multidisciplinary groups (advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, medical professionals, etc.) on sexual assault and stalking issues. Regional trainings should be offered when possible.

Objective G: Provide training and resources to train victim advocates, law enforcement, prosecution, and court staff on human trafficking and the use of T and U Visas.

Goal 3: Develop and/or increase effective responses to the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in underserved communities and cultural and linguistic populations.

Objective A: Expand services and resources for underserved populations, including people with disabilities; people in later life; racial and ethnic minorities; victims who live in isolated, rural areas; victims with language and cultural barriers; prostitutes, the homeless victims, victims in correctional facilities, and victims who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ).

Objective B: Build the capacity of domestic violence and sexual assault service agencies to provide educational and direct victim services to victims on college and university campuses.

Objective C: Encourage community-based programs and service providers, faith-based communities, and colleges and universities to coordinate and integrate their services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Objective D: Encourage local service providers and criminal justice agencies to identify and collaborate with community based organizations that provide community and/or victim services to linguistic and culturally specific communities/populations.

Objective E: Continue to support telephonic interpretation or language lines in order to provide better services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Objective F: Use STOP VAWA Funding or other funding to provide for resources on immigration issues which are translated in languages other than English.

Objective G: Continue training on cultural diversity to all STOP Teams.

Objective H: Continue the development and implementation of a school guideline for responding to dating violence.

Goal 4: Increase prevention and public awareness of services available for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims.

Objective A: Maintain and update, on a yearly basis, a service directory of available service providers for victims of violence available on-line.

Objective B: Increase prevention and public awareness through community forums, educational programs, public advertisements, and distribution of materials. Ensure resources and materials are updated on a bi-yearly basis, if needed.

Objective C: Develop and distribute domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking public awareness materials to address the needs of underserved populations.

Objective D: Provide prevention and public awareness of dating violence; which may include domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking issues at the college and high schools levels.

Objective E: Expand awareness of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking issues statewide throughout the criminal justice system.

Goal 5: Increase collaboration and communication among systems, agencies and organizations in their coordinated response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Objective A: Continue the work of the West Virginians Against Violence Committee to oversee the Violence Against Women Act Program and the Victims of Crime Act Program; update the Committee on issues and changes in the Victim Services field, in order to foster increased collaboration and communication among systems, agencies, and organizations in their coordinated response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Objective B: Continue the work of the STOP VAWA Collaborative Committee to review the STOP Implementation Plan and other issues which address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence crimes, and to foster increased collaboration and communication among systems, agencies, and organizations in their coordinated response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Objective C: Sustain and support the central work of the existing STOP teams and STOP funded statewide projects that meet or exceed their projected goals; ensure they are in compliance; that they provide a true victim centered approach, and they can show they are providing quality and effective services.

Objective D: Increase the participation of non-traditional service providers in coordination with current STOP Teams, in order to provide a more varied and encompassing community response with a victim centered coordinated approach and additional resources being made available on a statewide and local level beyond the traditional criminal justice, court and victim service participants. (i.e. defense attorneys, child protective services, disability service providers, emergency medical services, faith-based community, substance abuse, immigration services, state legislature, legal services, adult protective services, mental health providers, community corrections, education professionals, health professionals, etc.)

Objective E: Support increased collaboration between rural health clinics and licensed medical facilities that will conduct sexual assault examinations utilizing their own staff or the assistance of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Encourage the screening for domestic violence and sexual assault crimes among licensed medical facilities.

Objective F: Promote victim service providers collaboration with community corrections programs across the state to promote victim issues, including victim safety and offender accountability.

Objective G: Support the development of protocols that address the minimum level standards of care and response related to sexual assault victims and ensure that the Criminal Justice System, Victim Services, and Medical Facilities adhere to these protocols.

Objective H: Assist programs with the development of plans for transition or change of leaders, project directors, advocates, and/or elected prosecutors in the victim assistance field in order to ensure the integrity of the team approach.

Goal 6: To strengthen and expand STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs through targeted legislation, identifying new funding sources, coordination and overall system improvement in this area.

Objective A: Engage key stakeholders in a statewide planning process to reduce and prevent violence against women. Acquire specific recommendations from stakeholders.

Objective B: Seek additional funding sources necessary to meet policy requirements, direct services to female victims and their children, and training

needs to effectively prevent and respond, in a multi-disciplinary manner, to violence against women crimes.

Major Shifts in Direction

Compared with the former STOP Implementation Plan, this plan reflects many of the same areas of need such as: coordinated responses, training, expanded victim services, public awareness, and expansion of outreach and services to underserved populations.
However, five major shifts in direction will take place in the next three years. The five major shifts include the following:

- Increased focus on providing training and services for sexual assault victims across disciplines.
- Increased focus on victim-centered training for professionals responding to and serving, respecting victims, and upholding rights of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
- Increased training on Human Trafficking and T and U Visas.
- Increased focus on underserved population which include elderly, and LGBTQ victims and victims with disabilities.
- Increased accountability of the teams (in protocols and training content) to ensure that victims' needs are effectively and compassionately addressed.

Emerging Issues

In October 2013 the STOP Implementation Plan Focus group met and attendees brainstormed about issues, areas of need, strengths and weaknesses as they pertain to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes in West Virginia, many of these ideas were incorporated into the goals, objectives, and areas of greatest need sections of this plan. Other ideas are discussed here because they may not fall within the scope of the West Virginia's current funding plan; however, WV STOP Teams and funded agencies are encouraged to coordinate with other entities, which may be interested in pursuing the following recommendations/issues:

- Increased access to victim centered information. Information needs to available electronically to meet the needs of the increasing numbers of people in the population that utilize the internet and other electronic media
- Increase distance learning opportunities. Training on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking issues need to be available in a variety of venues, especially for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and other disciplines that currently require significant classroom time and do not have the flexibility or staff to attend in-person trainings

- Victims with disabilities. West Virginia has a significant portion of the population with disabilities. Targeted outreach for this population needs to be developed and implemented across the state

- Data collection needs to be improved on the criminal justice system level on stalking and dating violence crimes

- More counselors available in rural areas for victims

- More training on investigation and preventing internet crimes, especially stalking

- Funds for transportation for victims to court, services, etc.

- Training on victims with mental health issues and how to provide better services

- Training and services for victims with substance abuse issues

- Resources and economic assistance in order to empower victims

- More training for law enforcement on determining the predominate aggressor, interviewing techniques in order to prevent dual arrests, and to develop strategies for evidence collection in order to support evidence based prosecution

- Increase collaboration and coordination of services, resources, and information

- Increase information provided on cultural diversity across disciplines

- Assessing how STOP Teams are providing the following as a "true Team effort:" outreach, culturally competent services, working as a team, providing services, and cross training

- Specialized training for court personnel

- First responders need Victim Centered training

- Training on the importance of enforcing payment of restitution to victims in order to promote empowerment of victims

- Expand the availability of training opportunities for facilitators of Batterer Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPS) classes, so the programs have qualified facilitators and meet licensure standards.

Current Projects:

STOP VAWA Act funds (Grant Period July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) were allocated as follows:

- At least five percent are allocated to state and local courts; to provide training, development of bench books; and portion to fund staff for Pilot Domestic Violence Court in Kanawha County.
- At least 25 percent of funds are allocated for law enforcement to provide for overtime and/or a portion of the salary for a dedicated VAWA Law Enforcement Officer
- At least 25 percent of funds are allocated for prosecutors to provide for a portion of the salary for a dedicated VAWA prosecutor.
- At least 30 percent of funds are allocated for nonprofit, non-governmental victim services, of which at least 10 percent are distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations to provide for direct services to victims.

- It is recommended that at least 20% of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 STOP VAWA Formula funds go to fund (this crosses categories in Victim Services, Law Enforcement, Court, and possibly Prosecution) the following:
    - Training and awareness
    - More advocates to provide services are needed
    - Dedicated Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Officers are needed
    - Trainings for Judges and Court Personnel on Sexual Assault

  Note: all agencies requesting at least 20% funding for sexual assault for all categories requesting funding must meet the specifications listed under the Sexual Assault Set Aside Section in this Plan.

The FFY 2013 STOP VAWA Grant funds allowed West Virginia to fund twenty-five projects of which three are statewide projects which provide training across the state to victims service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and court personnel.

The statewide projects are as follows:

1. WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WVFRIS)
2. WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV)
3. WV Supreme Court of Appeals (WVSCA)

The other STOP Team funded projects include the following:

1. Branches DV Shelter (Cabell County STOP Team)
2. Branches DV Shelter (Putnam County STOP Team)
3. Family Crisis Center (Mineral County STOP Team)
4. Family Crisis Center (Grant County STOP Team)
5. Family Crisis Intervention Center (Roane County STOP Team)
6. Family Crisis Intervention Center (Calhoun County STOP Team)
7. Family Refuge Center (Greenbrier County)
8. Family Refuge Center (Monroe County)
9. Kanawha County Commission (Kanawha County STOP Team)
10. Marshall County Commission (Marshall County STOP Team)
11. Ohio County Commission (Ohio County STOP Team)

12. RDVIC (Monongalia County STOP Team)
13. RDVIC (Preston County STOP Team)
14. Task Force on Domestic Violence, HOPE, Inc. (Harrison Co. STOP Team)
15. Task Force on Domestic Violence, HOPE, Inc. (Marion Co. STOP Team)
16. Tug Valley Recovery Shelter (Logan County STOP Team)
17. Tug Valley Recovery Shelter (Mingo County STOP Team)
18. Upshur County Commission (Upshur County STOP Team)
19. Women's Aid in Crisis (Randolph County STOP Team)
20. Women's Resource Center (Raleigh County STOP Team)
21. Women's Resource Center (Fayette County STOP Team)
22. Women's Resource Center (Nicholas County STOP Team)

Administrative funds are utilized for (but not limited to) the following purposes:

- Salary/benefits to administer the STOP VAWA funds
- Travel/Training
- Rent
- Supplies

Note: West Virginia only utilizes 7% of funds for Administrative costs

Grant Making Strategy:

Priority Areas:

All sub-grantees are required to identify the areas to be served by the sub-grant, including the geographical area, population, and underserved populations in the area to be served by the sub-grant. These components as well as previous performance standards and compliance with all grant guidelines; sub-grantees **must** meet one or more of the statutory purpose areas under STOP VAWA; are major funding factors. Other factors include: coordination with other local jurisdictions, justification of need, and demonstration community awareness and support. The West Virginians Against Violence Committee and the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services also considers other services available in the area to prevent duplication of services and to provide funded services in areas of the state with limited resources.

Sexual Assault Set Aside:

Another priority is meaningfully addressing sexual violence. All new and existing STOP Team programs will identify how/if they meaningfully address sexual violence. As needed and appropriate, sexual assault set aside funds will be utilized to both provide quality and responsive services to victims of sexual assault and build the state's capacity to do so. Any capacity-building efforts will be made in conjunction with the state sexual assault coalition, the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services.

In recognition that not all applicants or sub-grantees have as their mission to serve all types of victims of crime, or that all have the capacity to do so, a targeted effort will be made utilize the sexual assault set aside to support only entities that demonstrate the provision of

meaningful services to victims of sexual violence. Core meaningful services will include but not be limited to sexual violence services as part of the services currently provided and/or that are part of the entity's mission or mission statement; specific initial training on sexual violence for staff (with documentation of the training); ongoing training on sexual violence for staff (with a demonstrated method for documenting the training); the inclusion of sexual violence services in the agency's publications/media materials (if the agency is a private, non-profit entity); and demonstrated participation in a community sexual assault response with 24/7 comprehensive service provision. Sexual assault services must be provided outside of the context of domestic violence. The following are a list of priority activities for funding sexual assault initiatives to qualified entities, which will begin with the awards (the state will award the FY 2014 funds July 1, 2015) of the federal fiscal year 2014 STOP VAWA funds:

- Training and awareness
- More advocates to provide services are needed
- Dedicated Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Officers are needed
- Trainings for Judges and Court Personnel on Sexual Assault
- Strong Community Networking
- Direct Service related travel

The sexual assault set aside funds may be used to fund advocates which fit the following requirements:

- Victim Service Provider which fits the definition under VAWA 2013, which means they must be a non-profit, non-governmental organization or rape crisis center that assists and provides meaningful services to sexual assault victims. Sexual assault service programs are organizations that have as their mission to provide advocacy and support to sexual violence survivors and work towards the elimination of sexual violence. Some are single-purpose agencies, while others are merged with domestic violence or other social services. These dual/multi-service agencies provide a wide array of services for a variety of concerns and needs. Sexual assault service programs provide a range of services, from the basic collection of services that define advocacy organizations for sexual violence survivors to a broad and diverse offering of intervention, prevention, and systems change programming. These services can be conceptualized in two categories: *core services* that meet basic needs and *comprehensive services* that provide additional opportunities for healing and empowerment. All services available to survivors of sexual assault should be rooted in an understanding of the complex effects that trauma and other forms of oppression may have in a survivor's life.

A non-profit organization is eligible to receive monies from the sexual-assault set aside if the organization:

(A) Has 24/7 services that have a primary focus on sexual assault;

(B) Is providing services that are tailored to the unique needs of sexual assault victims and are provided by staff that is extensively trained to address those unique needs;

(C) Is proposing to utilize the funds solely for the purpose of serving sexual assault victims;

And

(D) Can demonstrate the need for any staff requested to provide the services. Funding cannot be requested solely for "on call" pay; the need for the actual provision of services to victims must be evident.

If the need can be demonstrated, sexual assault funds may also be used to fund a portion of a dedicated sexual assault law enforcement officer or prosecutor; or to fund training dedicated specifically to train law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and court staff on the following issues:

- Trauma-informed services to sexual assault victims
- Forensic Medical Exam requirements
- Personal Safety Order
- Investigating, responding to and prosecuting sexual assault
- Legislative changes specific to sexual assault
- Victim's rights
- The counter-intuitive response to sexual violence and how it impacts investigation and prosecution

Cultural Specific Set Aside:

An organization is eligible to receive the culturally-specific set aside if the organization is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that serves a specific geographic community that:

(A) focuses primarily on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

(B) Has established a specialized culturally specific program that addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

(C) has a primary focus on underserved populations (and includes representatives of these populations) and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; ***or***

(D) Obtains expertise, or shows demonstrated capacity to work effectively, on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through collaboration;

And:

(E) Is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups; ***and***

(F) Is providing services tailored to the unique needs of that population.

An organization will qualify for funding if its primary mission is to address the needs of racial and ethnic minority groups or if it has developed a special expertise regarding a particular racial and ethnic minority group. The organization must do more than merely provide services to the targeted group; rather, the organization must provide culturally competent services designed to meet the specific needs of the target population.

In reviewing sub-grant applications, the Committee and DJCS will look not only at the numbers of victims that will be served, but also at how the services will be provided, whether the community to be served has been involved in planning for the delivery of the services, and whether there will be outreach to that community regarding the availability of the services. For example, if an applicant proposes to provide services to Mexican immigrant victims, the state should consider such things as: line items in the budget for certified interpreters; a demonstration that the applicant has knowledge of and collaborative relationships with other organizations relevant to the community; established outreach activities to the community; and on-going staff training on Mexican culture. A community-based organization that accepts funding to provide services to a particular racial and ethnic population cannot exclude others from participating in its programs and activities based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or age.

Application Process:

The application process consists of the following steps:

1. Applications will be promptly acknowledged upon receipt and reviewed for completeness. Applicants will be contacted if omissions appear.

2. Staff will assess the merit and overall need of the project as well as evaluate how the specific project will satisfy state goals and objectives. Comments and recommendations will be attached and the application will be forwarded to the West Virginians Against Violence Committee for consideration after staff has evaluated the merits of the application which might include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

    a. Compliance of the proposed project application with the priority programs described in the state plan.
    b. The eventual assumption of costs by the applicant agency.
    c. Probability that the grant will achieve its objective(s).
    d. Adequate fiscal responsibility.
    e. Certification that federal funds will not be used to supplant or replace state or local funds.
    f. Coordination of efforts with other local jurisdictions and federal grant programs.
    g. Need for the project.
    h. Geographic area(s) to be served.
    i. Ability to identify and address the needs of underserved populations.

3. Members of the applying team who are familiar with the proposed project are requested to attend the West Virginians Against Violence Committee Meeting to make a brief presentation or participate by conference call and/or answer any questions regarding the proposal.

4. Based primarily upon the West Virginians Against Violence Committee, staff will make one of the following recommendations to the Governor:

   a. Approve the application.
   b. Approve with conditions, budget adjustments, or amendments to the application.
   c. Return for revision. The required revision will be appended to the application.
   d. Denial.

Note: *Authority to make grant awards is vested only by the Governor. Committee and Staff recommendations are advisory only and should not be considered as indicative of the final action by the Governor.*

Time Line:

The project period for VAWA projects is July 1 - June 30; grant funds and applications are based on a competitive basis and there is no guarantee of funding from year to year. The time line for the goals and objectives for this plan begins with the funding of the fiscal year 2014 STOP VAWA funds. This plan goes into effect September 1, 2014 and ends in December 2016.

Consultation:

All STOP Teams are required to have a core membership which consists of victim service providers (domestic violence and sexual assault programs), law enforcement officer, and a prosecutor. They are required to work as a team on the development and implementation of their application in order to ensure their application/project promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims. They must document they met to fulfill this requirement. All state agencies are required to consult with victim service providers on the development and implementation of their application in order to ensure their application/project promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims.

Technical Assistance:

The West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services staff and members of the West Virginians Against Violence Committee provide technical assistance in a variety of methods, which include but are not limited to:

- All applicants are encouraged to remain in contact with DJCS staff throughout the application process in order to assist with the application.
- Participation in Directors meetings of the local domestic violence and sexual assault programs to provide workshops and or presentations regarding the STOP VAWA grant and other related issues
- Focus groups are held, which includes information on updating the implementation plan, revisions to the State program application, reporting requirements, etc.

- DJCS staff continually provides project directors of the funded programs with information of the STOP VAWA grant, the Office on Violence Against Women, other funding opportunities, training opportunities, etc.
- DJCS staff and the West Virginians Against Violence Committee members are available to attend meetings of locally funded programs and other programs that have interest in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking issues.
- When guidelines, special conditions, certification requirements, etc. change, technical assistance is provided to the local programs.
- The DJCS website is maintained to provide additional information regarding the STOP VAWA grant and provide contact information.
- Monthly desk monitoring and on-site reviews are made to local programs with the purpose of providing technical assistance.

Underserved Populations:

Programs which serve underserved populations were included in the planning process for this implementation plan. The WVDJCS VAWA Administrator maintains a contact list of identified organizations which work with or in the underserved population throughout the state. Some examples of these programs include: The YWCA Racial Justice Program, the Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action, Inc. (KISRA), and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence Advocacy of Color Network and the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Committee. Additionally faith-based organizations, rural programs and people with disabilities were also included as part of this group.

The West Virginians Against Violence Committee is the Advisory Committee which is responsible for the oversight of the STOP Violence Against Women and the VOCA Assistance Grant Programs in the state. Members of this group include a faith-based representative, a sexual assault representative, a domestic violence representative and an underserved population's representative (See Appendix C for a full list of members). All committee members are strong leaders for social change regarding all victims of crime as well as emphasizing the importance of providing services to underserved populations in the State of West Virginia.

The STOP Implementation Committee has identified several underserved populations in various areas of which our grantees serve. Included in these underserved populations which are as follows:

1. Lesbian/Gay/Bi-sexual/Transgender victims (LGBT);
2. all racial and ethnic minorities victims;
3. victims in later life;
4. victims with disabilities;
5. rural and isolated victims;
6. immigrant and migrant workers;
7. prostitutes;
8. incarcerated victims;
9. vagrants, homeless; and
10. victims with drug abuse issues

Grant funds have been dispersed to various agencies to ensure that all factions of the underserved populations have an agency they could feel comfortable seeking help from. An example would be the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services and their member programs can provide services to the LGBTQ population and the YWCA Racial Justice Program, the BMEEK and KISRA can provide services to the minority populations. It is the intention of the West Virginians Against Violence Committee, the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence and their member programs, the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services and their member programs, and the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services to seek funding to continue to increase services to these populations.

Of the 55 counties in West Virginia 41 are considered rural counties. There are limited services of any kind for victims in some of these rural areas of the state (2000 U.S. Census Bureau Survey). With continued funding in the VOCA, STOP VAWA and Sexual Assault Services Program Grants, Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women in Later Life Grant, and Grant to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Grant we will be able to provide more outreach to rural victims in the State.

All sub-grantee applicants are required to identify the underserved population in their service area(s) and to provide statistics to substantiate the need for services. They are also required to address how they will provide outreach and services to these identified underserved populations. Some of these services are provided statewide by the statewide sub-grantees; some examples include:

- The WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides a language line for all victims' services programs and law enforcement agencies in the state, which provides for interpretation services for victims.
- The WV Supreme Court of Appeals provided interpreters for victims during court proceedings, public awareness and training of court judges and staff.
- The WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services will provide outreach, services and training to sexual assault victims throughout the state as well as address college campus violence against women crimes.
- Training on Human Trafficking and T and U Visas

All programs will provide outreach and some or all may provide the following services to Underserved Populations:

- 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referrals.
- Accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal justice and social support systems, including medical facilities, police and court proceedings.
- Crisis Intervention, short-term individual and group support services, and comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and family or household members.
- Information and referral to assist violence against women victims and family or household members.

- Providing public awareness of services available and where victims can receive these services; these may include brochures, information tables at community events, public presentations, and TV, radio and newspaper articles. Brochures and information will be distributed to rural areas as well as urban areas.
- Inform and assist with filing Victim Compensation Fund requests.

Indian Tribes:

West Virginia does not have any registered Tribes. According to the West Virginia Division of Culture and History in West Virginia, the contemporary Native American population can best be described as a statewide network of individuals who claim Native American ancestry, and related organizations. It is estimated there are approximately 5,000 Native Americans in West Virginia, including individuals and from at least 80 different bloodlines and tribal associations. These include descendants from regional Native Americans, including Cherokee and Shawnee Tribes, and individuals who recently relocated to West Virginia from throughout North America. Other people in West Virginia have Native American blood, but do not have a historical tribal association; others have mixed blood, that is, ancestry from different tribes as well as different races in addition to Native American. Tracing family history and conducting accurate genealogical research is especially challenging for individuals of Native American ancestral descent (West Virginia Division of Culture and History).

Cultural Specific Populations/Agencies:

West Virginia citizens are predominately Caucasian (93.2%). Five counties in West Virginia have 11% or more of their population who are people of color. Three counties in West Virginia have 9-10% of their population who are people of color, and three counties have 7-8% of their population who are people of color. The counties which have 7%-11% or more are as follows: Berkeley County, Jefferson County, Kanawha County, McDowell County, Raleigh County, Summers County, Monongalia County, Hardy County, Mercer County, Gilmer County and Cabell County (Refer to map in Appendix D).

The new estimated data from the United States Census Survey shows an increase in diverse populations; which is estimated to continue to increase. West Virginia's population will begin to be more diverse and there will be a growing need to be able to provide services to these minority populations.

The West Virginians Against Violence Committee and WV DJCS staff makes every attempt to identify areas of greatest need, including geographical needs and underserved populations and encourage these organizations in these areas to apply for funds. However, many non-profit agencies choose not to apply (particularly faith-based and cultural specific agencies) due to the restrictions on Federal grant funds, the program's inability to work on a reimbursement process, and their ability to provide needed services.

Currently STOP VAWA Grant Funds are distributed to three Cultural Specific Agencies in the state; these programs are:

- The YWCA Cultural Diversity and Community Outreach Program, in Wheeling, WV, who provides outreach and services to people of color in Ohio County;

- The Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action, Inc. (KISRA) provides services and outreach to people of color in Kanawha County;

- The B.M.E.E.K. Community Outreach Program in Charleston, WV provides the following services to people of color in Kanawha County: Counseling services, Criminal Justice Advocacy, Outreach Services which includes awareness of services, Emergency services to Domestic Violence Victims in the emergency room and in the hospital.

Cultural Specific services are very limited in the state. The need to develop, expand, enhance and support existing cultural competent services is imperative. The northern and eastern panhandles of the state are unique because of their close proximity to other states and larger cities. These regions, as well as Charleston and Huntington, also tend to have a greater cultural specific population. The staff of WVDJCS and the West Virginians Against Violence Committee are committed to identifying cultural specific programs in these areas (as well as other parts of the state) and encourage them to apply for funds, and for existing sub-grantees to reach out to these programs, include them to be a part of their STOP Teams and Advisory Boards, and provide services to all victims and their families of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes.

Conclusion:

West Virginia's three-year STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation plan is two fold. First, it is designed to provide all professionals who make up the STOP VAWA Teams and the state-wide projects with the tools necessary to develop and strengthen the criminal justices strategies to combat the violent crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Second, it will aid in supporting, enhancing, and expanding services available to these victims and their families.

The West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services (WVDJCS) will continue to work closely in order to provide services, training, and to effect change in West Virginia, with the WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WVFRIS) and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV). They will continue to work with other partners who include, but are not limited to, the United States District Attorney's Office, Faith-based agencies, Cultural-Specific Organizations, the Regional Community Policing Institute, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, West Virginia Prosecuting Attorney's Institute, and the West Virginia Crime Victim Compensation Office.

The STOP Violence Against Women Collaboration Committee, the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services staff, the West Virginia Crime Victims Compensation Office, the West Virginians Against Violence Committee; and individuals and agencies dedicated to holding offenders accountable for their crimes while respectfully supporting and assisting the victims throughout our state, will continue to meet throughout the year to ensure

that all domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crime victims have an agency they can go to for assistance. Through client surveys and continued collaboration, the STOP Committee will be able to evaluate and continue to identify the needs of these victims.

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Work Force of West Virginia: http://www.workforcewv.org/lmi/

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

List of STOP VAWA Focus Group

List of STOP VAWA Collaboration Committee Members:

1. Marla Willcox-Eddy - Family Counseling Connection - REACH- Rape Crisis Center
2. Nancy Hoffman- West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services
3. Joyce Yedlosky- West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
4. Tonia Thomas- West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
5. Michelle Saxton- West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources - FVPSA
6. Eileen Barker - Family Protection Service Board
7. Sarah Brown - West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services- STOP VAWA Program Specialist
8. Sara Miller- West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services – VOCA Program Specialist

List of invited group members:

1. Nancy Hoffman – WVFRIS (Sexual Assault Coalition)
2. Marla Willcox-Eddy- REACH (Rape Crisis Center)
3. Sharon Pressman – CONTACT of Huntington (Rape Crisis Center)
4. Marcia Drake – Women's Aid in Crisis (Dual Program)
5. Ann Smith – Shenandoah Women's Center (Dual Program)
6. Jamie Benardi (DV Program)
7. Shallon Oglesby (State Police)
8. Anthony Craigo (Putnam County VAWA Officer)
9. Skip Holbrook (Huntington PD)
10. Ariana Kincaid (WV Prosecuting Attorney's Institute)
11. Betsy Shawl (Marion County Prosecutor's Office)
12. Ed Kornish (McDowell County Prosecutor's Office)
13. Kenyatta Grant (WVCADV – Underserved Pop)
14. Joyce Yedlosky (WVCADV)
15. Tonia Thomas (WVCADV)
16. Sam Leizear (LGBT)
17. Justin Gilmore (Fairness WV - LGBT)
18. Lois Manns (Underserved Pop)
19. Gloria Martin Later Life
20. Jan Derry (Disability)
21. Michele Foster (KISRA)
22. Sandra Calloway (BEMEEK)
23. YWCA Wheeling Racial Justice Advocate

24. Angie Saunders (WVSCA)
25. Janie Moore (WVSCA)
26. Sarah Brown (WVDJCS – STOP VAWA Administrator)
27. Sara Miller (WVDJCS – VOCA Administrator)
28. Natalie Mills (WVDJCS – ORSP/SAC)
29. Tracy Chapman (US Attorney's Office Southern District)
30. Chris Frizzell (US Attorney's Office Northern District)
31. Cheryl Chandler (WVDOC)
32. Andrea Darr (WVPAI)
33. Felicia Bush (underserved pop)
34. Kathleen Gross (WVSCA)
35. Kathie King (WVDHHR – FVPSA)
36. Eileen Barker (FPSB)
37. Jennifer Ballard –WVDOC

List of Participants:

1. Sarah Brown- WV Division of Justice and Community Services- STOP VAWA Program Specialist
2. Sara Miller- WV Division of Justice and Community Services- VOCA Program Specialist
3. Natalie Mills- WV Division of Justice and Community Services-ORSP/SAC
4. Leslie Boggess - WV Division of Justice and Community Services- Deputy Director
5. Nancy Hoffman – WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services –State Coordinator
6. Tonia Thomas – WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Team Coordinator
7. Cheryl Chandler p WV Division of Corrections – WV Against Violence Committee Member
8. Charlotte Heater – Women's Aid in Crisis – Executive Assistant
9. Felicia Bush – West Virginias Against Violence Committee Member – Underserved Population
10. Kenyatta Grant – WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Community Coordinator (Underserved Populations)
11. Clarence Rider – WV Division of Corrections – Program Manager I
12. Gloria Martin – Elder Abuse Training Team Member
13. Lois Manns – WV Foundation for Rape Information & Services – Stalking Coordinator
14. Marla Willcox Eddy – REACH Rape Crisis Center
15. Joyce Yedlosky – WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Team Coordinator
16. Andrea Darr – WV Prosecuting Attorney's Institute
17. Ariana Kincaid – WV Prosecuting Attorney's Institute
18. Josh Woofter – WV Division of Justice and Community Services – Monitor
19. Sara Fincham – YWCA Family Violence Prevention Program

20. Amanda White – CONTACT of Huntington – SART Coordinator
21. Adrianne Beasley – CONTACT of Huntington – Sexual Assault Advocate
22. Melissa Crawford – WV Supreme Court of Appeals
23. Jan Derry – Northern WV Center for Independent Living – Executive Director
24. Rita Gupta – YWCA Cultural Diversity Community Outreach – Outreach Director
25. Jamie Bernardi – CHANGE Inc. – Program Manager
26. Cpl. Tony Craigo – Putnam County Sheriff's Department – VAWA Officer
27. Ann Smith – Shenandoah Women's Center – Executive Director
28. Courtney Sexton – Hunting Police Department
29. Michelle Saxton – WV Division of Health and Human Services – FVPSA Administrator
30. Teresa Shumate – Shenandoah Women's Center – Assistant Director
31. Reverend Kay Albright – Bridges of Grace United Church of Christ – WV Against Violence Committee Member
32. Justin Gilmore – Fairness of West Virginia – Program Manager

STOP VAWA Sub-grantees:

1. WV Foundation for Rape and Information Services (WVFRIS)
2. WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV)
3. WV Supreme Court of Appeals (WVSCA)
4. Branches DV Shelter (Cabell County STOP Team)
5. Branches DV Shelter (Putnam County STOP Team)
6. Family Crisis Center (Mineral County STOP Team)
7. Family Crisis Center (Grant County STOP Team)
8. Family Crisis Intervention Center (Roane County STOP Team)
9. Family Crisis Intervention Center (Calhoun County STOP Team)
10. Family Refuge Center (Greenbrier County)
11. Family Refuge Center (Monroe County)
12. Kanawha County Commission (Kanawha County STOP Team)
13. Marshall County Commission (Marshall County STOP Team)
14. Ohio County Commission (Ohio County STOP Team)
15. RDVIC (Monongalia County STOP Team)
16. RDVIC (Preston County STOP Team)
17. Task Force on Domestic Violence, HOPE, Inc. (Harrison Co. STOP Team)
18. Task Force on Domestic Violence, HOPE, Inc. (Marion Co. STOP Team)
19. Tug Valley Recovery Shelter (Logan County STOP Team)
20. Tug Valley Recovery Shelter (Mingo County STOP Team)
21. Upshur County Commission (Upshur County STOP Team)
22. Women's Aid in Crisis (Randolph County STOP Team)
23. Women's Resource Center (Raleigh County STOP Team)
24. Women's Resource Center (Fayette County STOP Team)
25. Women's Resource Center (Nicholas County STOP Team)

APPENDIX B

West Virginia Demographics:

**Information from the US Census Bureau –2010*

- **Total Population:** 1,852,994
- **Total Estimate for 2012-** 1,855,413
  **Information from http://quickfact.census.gov*

- **Population by Gender:** Male (48.3%) Female (50.7%)
- **Urban vs. Rural:** 46.05% Urban and 53.95% Rural
- **Median Age:** (years) 42.6
- **Location & Area:** Appalachia Region; 24,229.76 square miles = 77.1 persons per square mile

Poverty Level and Rank:

**Information from US Census Bureau/American Fact Finder Survey 2012 American Community Survey*

- Persons below poverty level: 17.8%
- Under 18 years of age below poverty level: 24.6%
- 65 years and older living below the poverty level: 8.8%
- Of the 50 states, WV ranks 38th in the nation with 17.8% of the population living below the poverty level
- 19.3% of females are living below the poverty level compared to 16.2% of males
- Median Household Income: $40,196
- Mean Household Income: $53,889

**Information from Workforce West Virginia*

- Unemployment rate as of November 2013, WV has an unemployment rate of 6.1%

Education Level and rank:

**Information from the US Census Bureau –American Fact Finder 2012 Community Survey*

- 84.5% of WV Population have a high school diploma
- 38.7% of females 25 years and over have a high school diploma
- 42.6% of males 25 years and over have a high school diploma
- 40.6 % of 25+years have a Bachelor's Degree
- 18.6% of the total population have a Bachelor's Degree
- 11.7% of females 25+years have a Bachelor's Degree
- 11% of males 25+years have a Bachelor's Degree

- 7.3% of the population 25+ years have a Graduate or professional degree
- **7.7% of females 25+ years have a Graduate or professional degree**
- 6.8% of males 25+ years have a Graduate or professional degree

Family Structure Info:

**Information from the US Census Bureau – 2012 American Community Survey*

- Married Couple Family: 53.4%
- Female households, no husband present: 11.2% (5.7% with children under 18 years)
- 8.9% of total population of grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren
- 37.5 births are to teen mothers (15-19 yrs.) *Information from WV Kids Count*
- 42.4% of births are to unwed mothers

Disability Information:

**Information from the US Census Bureau - 2012 American Community Survey*

- 19.2% of males have a disability
- 18.7% of females have a disability
- Population under age 5 who have a disability – 1.6%
- Population 5-17 years of age who have a disability - 7.1%
- Population 18-64 years of age who have a disability – 17%
- Population 65 years of age who have a disability – 43.4%

Minorities:

**Information from the US Census Bureau – 2010*

- White = 93.2%
- Black or African American = 3.4%
- American Indian and Alaska Native = 0.2%
- Asian = 0.7%
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander = 0.7%
- Hispanic or Latino = 1.3%
- WV last among 50 dates with only 1.1% of the state's residents who were foreign born.

Other Languages:

**Information from the US Census Bureau – 2010*

- Population 5 years + who speak a language other than English = 2.3%
- Population 5 years + who speak only English = 97.3%
- WV has the lowest percentage of residents that speak a language other than English in the home (2.7%)

Elderly:

**Information from the US Census Bureau - 2012 American Community Survey*

- 50 - 54 years old – 7.7% of population
- 55 -59 years old -7.5% of population
- 60 – 64 years old – 6.6% of population
- 65 – 69 years old – 5.0% of population
- 70 - 74 years old – 3.9% of population
- 75 – 79 years old – 3.0% of population
- 80 – 84 years old – 2.3% of population
- 85 years and older – 2.0% of population

Faith Community Information:

**Information from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and from the American Religion Identity Survey*

Religion (Pew Forum 2010)	
Evangelical Christian	36%
Roman Catholic	7%
Mainline Protestant	32%
Jewish	1%
Hindu	1%
Don't know/Refused	19%
Unaffiliated	19%
Other Religions	3$

Religion (ARIS) 2008	
Christian	77%
Baptist	27%
Roman Catholic	7%
Methodist	13%
Lutheran	1%
Other Christian	29%
Don know/Refused	5%
Unaffiliated	15%
Other Religions	3%

Domestic Violence Information:

**Information from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence-WV Facts*

- 12,528 reported cases of domestic violence in 2006.
- Since late 1970's an average of 2 domestic violence homicides have occurred each month.

- 6,533 incidents of reported domestic violence cases ended in an arrest of the offender in 2005
- 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
- 321 forcible rapes were reported in 2005
- 37 homicides were result of domestic violence in 2006
- 996 children were victims of domestic violence and 7 children were killed in WV as a result of domestic violence in 2006

**Information from the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence -May 2012*

- On any given day, licensed domestic violence programs provide services to over 600 victims.
- Every 9 minutes, a call is made to a domestic violence hotline in West Virginia.
- Over 1/3 of homicides in WV are related to domestic violence.
- 14,880 domestic violence cases were filed in West Virginia Family Court in 2010.
- Nearly half of all assaults in WV are between family or household members.
- Arrests in domestic violence incidents account for 62% of the total arrests from crimes against person in WV.
- Over 2/3 of women murdered in WV are killed by a family or household member.
- 12,661 domestic offenses were reported to law enforcement in West Virginia in 2010.

**Information from the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2013 Database of which the fourteen licensed domestic violence shelters and outreach offices submit data.*

- 15,609 unduplicated adults and their children received shelter and non-shelter services
- 1,365 victims received shelter services including 794 adults and 571 children
- 14,815 victims received non-shelter services

**Information from the Domestic Violence Fatalities Among Adults in West Virginia 2003-2005. A Report of the West Virginia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team*

- From 2003-2005, 103 domestic violence related deaths were identified and reviewed by the WV DV Fatality Review Team; 72 homicides and 31 suicides. Twenty-seven (87.1%) of the suicides occurred following the commission of a homicide.
  - 51 female and 52 male fatalities, with women more likely to be homicide victims and men more likely to be suicide victims. Forty-nine (68.1%) of the 72 homicide victims were women; 23 (31.9%) were men. Twenty-nine (93. %%) of the suicide victims were men; 2 (6.5%) were women.
  - All of the adult homicide victims who were part of a homicide/suicide were women.

- Sixty-two of the 71 perpetrators of domestic violence homicides were men; 9 were women. Two of the female perpetrators had a known prior history of domestic violence; in contrast 39 of the 62 male perpetrators had a documented domestic violence history.
- 83 of the 103 deaths were classified as intimate partner related fatalities, I.e. involving a spouse, ex-spouse, current or former girlfriend/boyfriend/same sex partner or someone else who is involved as victim or perpetrator as the result of an intimate partner relationship. Twenty of the deaths were classified as family violence (involving a family member who is not an intimate partner).
- 78 of the 103 fatalities were due to firearms, 9 to knives or other related weapons, 8 to violent assault by strangulation, striking or kicking; 3 to a blunt weapon; 2 each to fire and motor vehicles and 1 to neglect. All 8 victims of strangulation, striking or kicking were women.
- Most of the DV homicides occurred at either the victim's or perpetrator's residence.
- Minor children were present at the scene of 32.8% of intimate partner homicides; and 41.2% of the family violence homicides.

**Information from the WV State Police Crime in West Virginia 2012 Report- Domestic Violence - the following crimes was reported among intimate partners:*

- 2,131 aggravated assaults
- 222 forcible fondling
- 125 forcible rapes
- 24 forcible sodomy cases
- 31 incest
- 1,198 reports of intimidation
- 78 kidnapping
- 27 murders and nonegligent manslaughter
- 91 sexual assaults with an object
- 8,387 simple assaults
- 15 statutory rapes

Sexual Assault Information:

**Information from the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services*

- Nearly 82% of all sexual assaults were committed by someone known to the victim.
- 46.6% of assaults were committed by an acquaintance
- 7.4% by an intimate partner
- 27.6% by 'other' family (e.g., in-law, sibling)
- Most (70%) sex offenses were reported to have occurred at a residence or home.

- Personal weapons, such as the offender's hands or fists were used during sex offenses, more than other weapons.
- 64.8% of victims were juveniles under the age of 18.
- The most frequently reported age was 15.
- The majority of the offenders were males (93%) and adult (70.6%).
- 70% of sex offenses occurred at a residence or in a home.

Information from the WV State Police Crime in West Virginia 2012 Report- Sexual Assault: Sexual offenses are forcible (forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with and object and forcible fondling) and non-forcible (statutory rape and incest).

Victims:

- 83.5% were female and 16.2% were male
- 92% were white and 5.2% were black; 2.8% were unknown
- Average age was 18; most common age was 15;
- 61.9% were juveniles

Offenders:

- 5.8% were female; 91 % were female; 3.8% were unknown
- 79.2% were white; 12% were black; 8.8% were other or unknown
- Average age was 28; most common age was 20
- 24.4% were juveniles

Offense Reported	Adult Offenders	Juvenile Offenders
Forcible Rape	33%	25%
Forcible Sodomy	7%	11%
Sexual Assault w/Object	20%	13%
Forcible Fondling	34%	44%
Statutory Rape	5%	5%
Incest	2%	2%

Offender was	Adult Victims	Juvenile Victims
Not related to Victim	88%	67%
Related to Victim	12%	32%

- 1,365 Offenders reported to police
- 1,081 offenders not arrested
- 284 offenders arrested ; 264 adults and 20 juveniles

Dating Violence:

**Information from Break the Cycle, 2011 State Law Report Card*

- West Virginia is one of the states that allow victims of dating violence to file for a protective order regardless of the nature of the relationship. However, the law does not specify if minors can petition on their own behalf and it does not specify if the parent or guardian of the minor will be notified about the protective order. West Virginia law at this time does not provide for a specific school response to dating violence.

Note: Dating Violence information/stats are collected with Domestic Violence information/stats so we don't have separate information.

Stalking:

There are currently no statewide statistics collected other than the VOCA and STOP VAWA reports.

APPENDIX C

WEST VIRGINIANS AGAINST VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

Sergeant Shallon Oglesby *(Chair)*

West Virginia State Police
Law Enforcement Representative
Lisa Tackett

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals
Court Representative
Joyce Yedlosky

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence Representative
Tracy Dorsey Chapman

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District
Federal Victim Assistance Representative
Christina Mehler Frizzell

U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District
Federal Victim Assistance Representative
Ed Kornish

McDowell County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Prosecution Representative
Cheryl Chandler

Mercer County Resident
Crime Victim Representative
Andrea Darr

WV Prosecuting Attorney's Institute –Drug Endangered Children Coordinator
Child Abuse Representative
Felicia Bush

Underserved Populations Advocate
Underserved Populations Representative
Marla Willcox Eddy

West Virginia Foundation on Rape Information and Services
Sexual Assault Representative
Reverend Kay Albright
Bridges of Grace United Church of Christ
Faith-Based Organization Representative

APPENDIX D

Focus Group and Survey Questions

Focus Group Questions:

- What services are currently being provided for Sexual Assault Victims?
- What are the gaps in services for sexual assault victim in your service area?
- What are the gaps in the criminal justice system for sexual assault victims?
- What are the training needs for Sexual Assault?
- How can we build on efforts to reducing and preventing violence against women on previous year's efforts?
- What have STOP VAWA funds allowed you to do that would have otherwise not been possible?
- Discussion on survey concerning underserved populations and how we can provide better outreach and services to un-served, underserved or in-adequately served victims.
- What shifts or trends relating to violence against women crimes and/or need for services is happening in your community? What are the emerging issues in your service area?
- What if any outcome measures are you currently assessing to evaluate your program?
- In your opinion, what evaluation strategies should be implemented in WV to measure outcomes?

Survey Questions:

- What categories of potential "underserved" clients are being served by your STOP Team (or agency)? Please think about these specific definitions when giving your answers:

  Un-served: are populations that truly have no services available to them

  Underserved: are populations that have minimal access and thus are in need of more outreach and support

Inadequately Served: Are those historically marginalized populations that may be overrepresented as they are present in large numbers in a state or territory but remain inadequately served with specific reference to the quality of service.

- What services are provided by your agency is available to sexual assault victims?

- What services provided by your Team (or agency) were assessed by sexual assault victims under VAWA in the 2012-2013 grant year?

- What shifts or trends relating to violence against women crimes and/or need for services are happening in your community?

- What linguistically or culturally specific organizations are you aware of in your county/area?

- What services do you provide to culturally-specific groups?

- What types of training did you receive under VAWA in the 2012-2013 grant year?

- What types of VAWA related training would you be interested in taking?

- What barriers do you perceive to the full implementation of your STOP Team services/goals?

- What can your STOP Team do to improve your services in the current grant year?

- How well would you rate collaboration on your STOP Team on a scale of 1-6 where 1 is very poor and 6 is excellent?

- What are you doing to collaborate within your STOP Team (or agency)?

- What would be some indicators of your team's success?

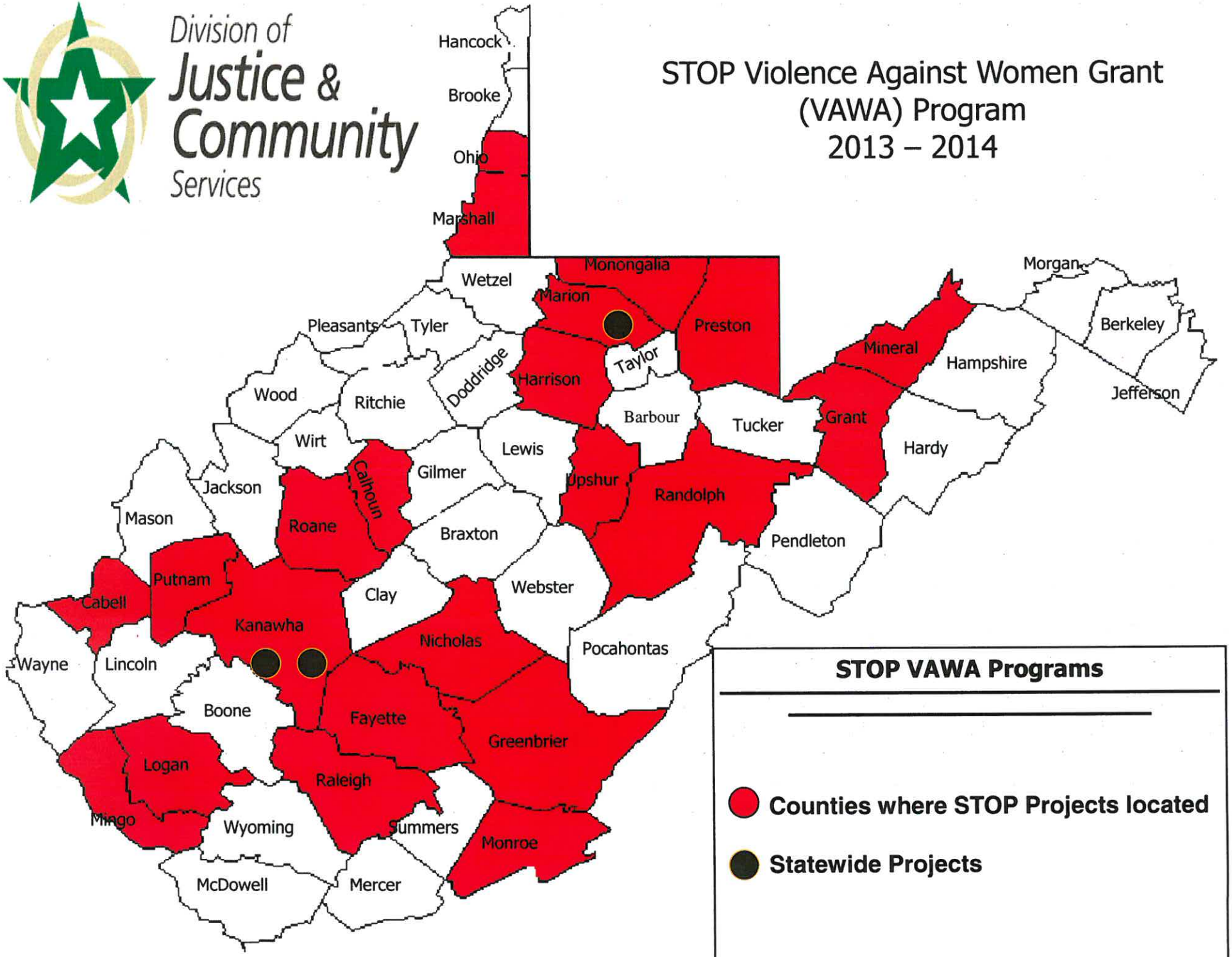
- Are you an Advocate; Law Enforcement; Prosecutor, Other?

- What county do you primarily work in?

APPENDIX E

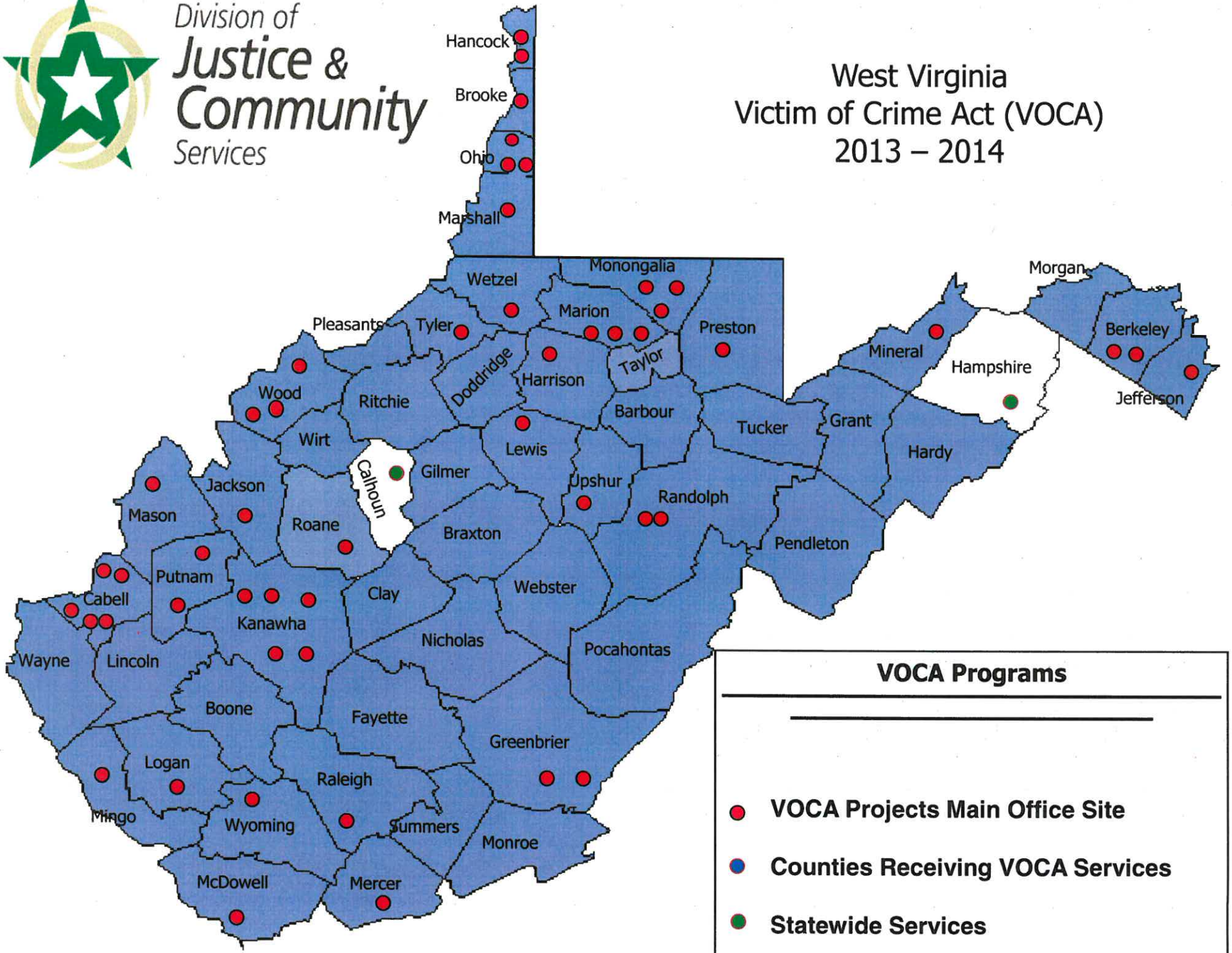
Division of Justice & Community Services

STOP Violence Against Women Grant (VAWA) Program 2013 – 2014



Division of Justice & Community Services

West Virginia Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) 2013 – 2014

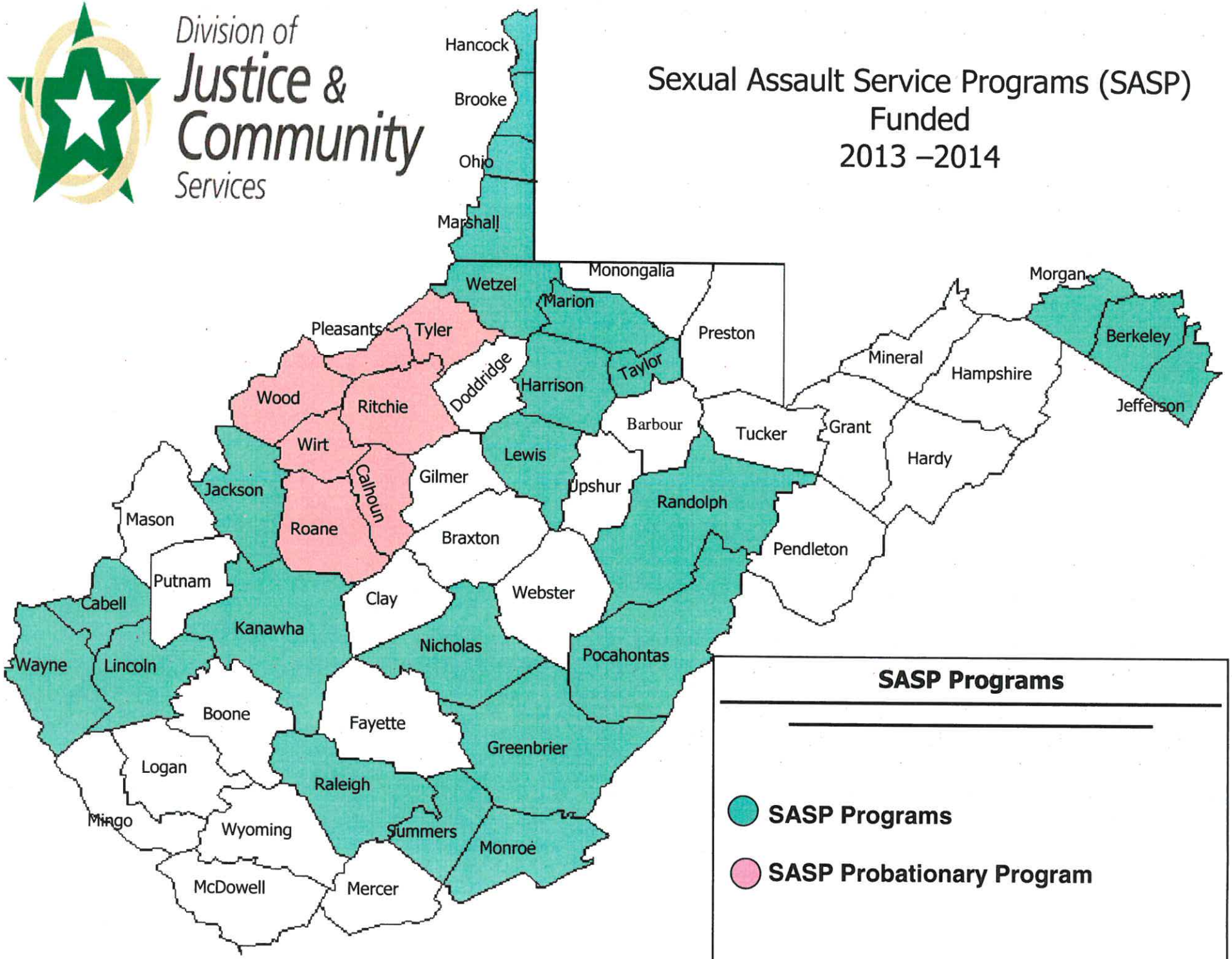


VOCA Programs

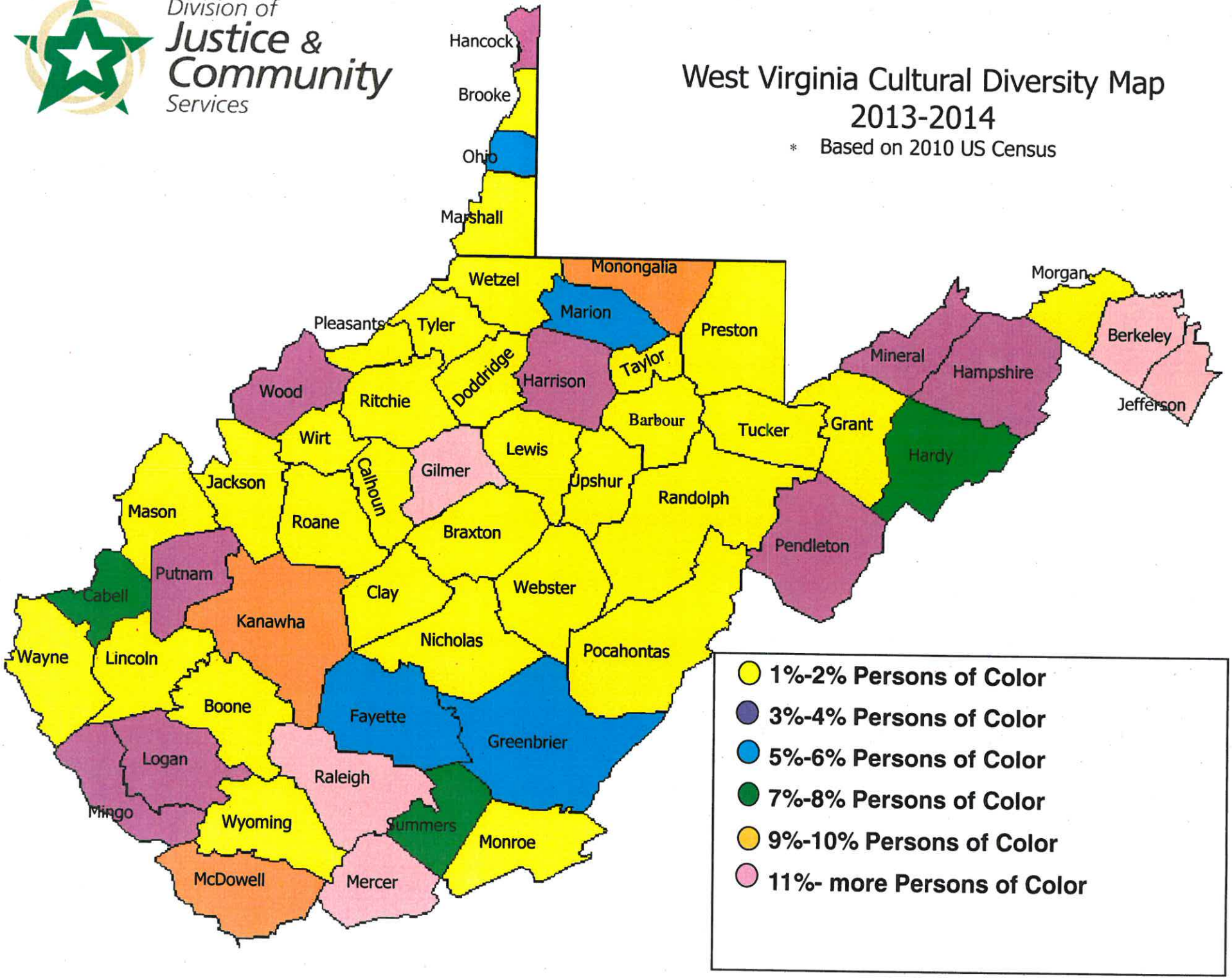
- VOCA Projects Main Office Site
- Counties Receiving VOCA Services
- Statewide Services

Division of Justice & Community Services

Sexual Assault Service Programs (SASP) Funded 2013 –2014



Division of Justice & Community Services

West Virginia Cultural Diversity Map 2013-2014

* Based on 2010 US Census