



The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (FRIS), established in 1982, is the state's sexual

assault coalition. Initially created as the network of regional rape crisis centers in West Virginia, FRIS later expanded to address related issues, such as stalking, through the development of numerous programs, initiatives, and printed materials.

FRIS works extensively with professionals and communities throughout West Virginia to develop collaborative programs to increase awareness and prevention efforts and to improve services to victims of sexual violence and stalking.

Vision Statement

The vision of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services is to eliminate sexual violence and stalking and to alleviate the suffering of those who have been victimized.

Mission Statement

The mission of FRIS is to promote the compassionate and just treatment of survivors and their loved ones and to foster collaborative relationships, attitudinal and behavioral changes around sexual violence and stalking through education, victim services and social change.

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

Someone is there to listen and to help.



CONTACT Huntington Rape Crisis Counseling
Huntington
304-399-1111

Family Refuge Center
Lewisburg
304-645-6334

REACH Family Counseling Connection
Charleston
304-340-3676

Hope, Inc.
Fairmont
304-367-1100

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

Sexual Assault Help Center
Wheeling
304-234-8519

Shenandoah Women's Center
Martinsburg
304-263-8292

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

Women's Resource Center
Beckley
304-255-2559

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE
1-800-656-HOPE

West Virginia Foundation For Rape Information and Services

www.fris.org

Sexual Violence & Stalking:

Intervention and Prevention Resources in West Virginia

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services



304-366-9500 Fax 304-366-9501
www.fris.org

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Resources

The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services develops numerous printed resources on stalking and sexual violence to assist both victims and service providers. Many of these materials are available at www.fris.org.

WV Protocol for Responding to Victims of Sexual Assault

The statewide multidisciplinary protocol provides suggested procedures for advocates, law enforcement officers, medical personnel and prosecutors who respond to sexual assault victims.

Sexual Assault in WV: An Informational Handbook

This extensive informational handbook is an in-depth reference tool for professionals on the issues of sexual assault and stalking.

Informational Brochures

A series of informational brochures includes:

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

Sexual Assault Prevention Curriculum

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

Sexual Violence in West Virginia

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

Who is the victim? According to 2007 WV crime data reported to law enforcement, 86% of the victims were female and 65% were under the age of 18.

Who is the offender? 95% of the offenders were male and nearly 2/3 were not related to the victim.

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

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

Stalking and Harassment

- repeatedly (two or more times) following a person, knowing that the behavior causes the person followed to reasonably fear for his or her safety or suffer significant emotional distress; OR
- repeatedly harassing (willful conduct causing emotional distress) or repeatedly making credible threats against another.

National stalking and harassment statistics released in 2009 indicate that women are 3 times more likely than males to be stalked. The stalker is usually someone known to the victim (45%) or a current/former spouse/partner (30%). Males and females were equally likely to experience harassment.

West Virginia Law §61-2-9(a)(b) includes penalties and definitions for stalking and harassment. Behaviors that are identified in this section include:

Programs and Projects

Awareness Month Activities

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

Prevention Programs

FRIS supports a Prevention Education Specialist at each rape crisis center to coordinate community efforts on preventing sexual assault and stalking through educational programs, resources and activities.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)

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

Sexual Assault and Persons with Disabilities

FRIS is coordinating a statewide initiative to examine policies and strengthen prevention and intervention programs for this vulnerable population.

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)

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

Trainings

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

West Virginia Intercollegiate Council on Sexual Violence

West Virginia's college campuses and rape crisis centers participate with FRIS to share resources, policies and prevention programming ideas.

For more information on these and other projects, visit:

www.fris.org