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.

**CONTACT Huntington Rape Crisis Counseling**

Huntington
304-339-1111

**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
Understanding 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

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

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

National stalking and harassment statistics released in 2009 indicate that women are 3 times more likely than men 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.