

SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS ON THE RISE

In Virginia, we have seen the requests for sexual and domestic violence services drastically increase as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay-at-home orders and closures designed to protect the public from widespread infection left many survivors and families isolated or trapped at home with their abusers.

150%

Requests for emergency shelter has increased dramatically, with one agency reporting a **150% increase in the number of families and survivors living in their shelter** as compared to the previous year.

87%

87% of SDVA's reported significant shifts in work to address the complex and ongoing housing, financial, and safety needs during the pandemic.

Job loss has resulted in more survivors becoming financially entangled with their abusers while safe and affordable housing remains in short supply in many communities.

73%

Beginning in March, Virginia's Statewide Hotline saw a **73% increase in contacts**.

23%

As virtual classes began in the Fall, Virginia hotlines received **23% more requests for services from survivors who are under the age of 24**.

Upward trends in overall hotline contacts have turned into significant increases in the number of survivors receiving face-to-face crisis intervention, advocacy, and counseling services; in some communities, these increases reflect literally thousands more being served in 2020 in comparison to 2019.