

Options, services  
and hope  
for crime survivors.

HOW WOULD  
YOU HELP?

## NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

April 21-27, 2024

### Impact of Crime Victimization on Survivors

Crime victimization can impact a survivor's physical and mental health. They may develop:

- Disturbances in memory, sleep, and appetite
- Compromised immune function
- An increased risk for chronic health issues such as irritable bowel syndrome, chronic pain, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress

### Legal Definition of a Victim

According to Virginia's Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act, a victim is someone who has suffered

*"...physical, emotional, or financial harm as a direct result of a felony or certain misdemeanors."*

This can include the spouses, parents, children, guardians, foster parents, and other caregivers of victims.

### Crime in Virginia in 2022

355,077 total crime incidents were reported.

47.6% of violent crime incidents occurred at home.

There were 20,549 reported incidents of violent crime.



The total value of property lost through theft was \$604,296,226.

### Victims Services In Virginia

In 2022, Virginia's sexual and domestic violence agencies:



Provided 241,641 nights of emergency shelter



Responded to 78,955 hotline calls



Provided domestic violence and sexual violence advocacy services to 31,551 adults and children



Provided 294,352 hours of domestic violence and sexual violence advocacy services

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## Virginia's Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act

Enacted in 1995, the Virginia Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act is intended to ensure that crime victims:

- Are treated with dignity, respect, and sensitivity, and that their privacy is protected;
- Are informed of their rights;
- Received authorized services, including possible financial assistance;
- Have opportunities to make the courts aware of the full impact of crime; and,
- Are heard at all critical stages of the criminal justice process.

### Financial Cost Of Crime Victimization

It is estimated that the total costs related to crime in the United States equal to approximately \$2.6 trillion a year. This estimate includes expenses related to:

- Criminal justice response
- Victims services
- Loss of wages
- Medical expenses
- Damaged or stolen goods



For more information on victim and witness rights in Virginia,



please scan this QR code with your smart device

## If you are a victim of crime, help is available:

Virginia Family Violence &  
Sexual Assault Hotline  
1-800-838-8238 (24-hours/day, toll-free)  
[www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org)



Virginia Victim Assist Helpline  
1-855-4-HELP-VA (855-443-5782)  
[www.vanetwork.org](http://www.vanetwork.org)

**SOURCES:**

<https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2021/02/05/new-research-examines-the-cost-of-crime-in-the-u-s-estimated-to-be-2-6-trillion-in-a-single-year/>  
Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (2023) "2022 Statewide Sexual Violence Report"  
Virginia State Police (2023) "Crime in Virginia 2022"