

ADVOCACY IN VIRGINIA 2021

In 2021...

Staff and volunteers at local sexual and domestic violence agencies responded to **77,456** hotline contacts.

30,731 adults and children received community-based advocacy services, including support navigating healthcare, legal, and housing systems

6,287 adults and children received

237,983 nights of shelter

Sexual and domestic violence agencies continued to operate without service interruption throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, despite these and other challenges:

difficulty accessing PPE, vaccines, and tests

increased staff turn over and heavier work loads

fewer donations and decreases in fundraising

shifts in available community resources

Survivors' lives are changed by advocacy.

97%

know more about the resources in their communities

98%

know more ways to plan for their safety

97%

know how to take the next steps towards their healing

"What do you think you would have done if these services did not exist?"

"Wouldn't have known my basic rights as a mother to protect my family and kids."

"I would have to bounce around the system until I found answers."

"I would have gone back home to an abusive partner and been in a dangerous situation."

