

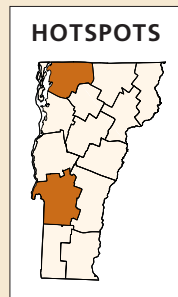
Domestic and sexual violence increase within a relatively safe state

Vermont is widely considered one of the safest states in the nation. In 2004, Vermont's combined rate of violent crimes, including murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault, was less than one fourth of the national average.²⁵

Nonetheless, rates of domestic and sexual violence are dramatically higher in two Vermont counties. While documented increases may reflect a growing awareness of this violence and a greater willingness to report it, the number of incidents, rate of increase and concentration of abuses are significant.²⁶

the FACTS

- In 2004, Vermont residents reported 185 forcible rapes to law enforcement—50% more rapes than reported the previous year.²⁷
- Between 1997 and 2006, domestic violence in Vermont increased 50%, with a 15% increase from 2005 to 2006.²⁸
- Domestic violence is concentrated in Rutland and Franklin counties. For every 10,000 people in Rutland County, 84.6 have received "Relief from Abuse" protective court orders. The state average is 59.5 per 10,000.²⁹
- While more than half of Vermonters are aware that services for battered women exist, fewer than one in five knew where to access a crisis hotline, a shelter, counseling, and/or social services.³⁰
- Cases of reported or substantiated child abuse in Vermont have been declining moderately each year.³¹



GIVING THOUGHT

Multi-year funding and systemic change

It's possible to address symptoms in one year. Systemic changes usually require more time.

Multi-year funding is patient and is especially well-suited for projects that require incremental system change—for instance, helping the public better understand an issue or raising awareness among legislators.

Multi-year funding can be efficient, allowing a grantee to pace the implementation of a grant over several years with limited staff rather than create a temporary, unsustainable increase in staffing.

This type of funding can also incorporate incentive milestones, requiring grantees to show progress the first year before securing funding for the second year. Using this approach, donors may achieve greater results than they could with single-year funding.