



Violence Against Women Online Resources Annual
Report:
October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004



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Executive Summary

Violence Against Women Online Resources (VAWOR) is a web site that develops and disseminates state-of-the art resource materials for criminal justice professionals, state coalitions, tribal coalitions, and victim advocacy groups about effective interventions, services, and coordinated community responses to violence against women. It is a cooperative project between the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) within the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota and the Office on Violence Against Women, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice. The project, begun with OVW in 1997, was developed to ensure that VAWA funded products are widely available via the World Wide Web and thereby accessible to OVW grantees, sub-grantees, and the general public.

Violence Against Women Online Resources offers over 275 full-text documents related to sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking from national and international organizations. Content includes reports, research summaries, curricula, presentations, manuals, and multi-media training tools. The site integrates stratified resources into one comprehensive, user-friendly site - www.vaw.umn.edu. Between October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004, VAWOR added 15 new items to the site's Document Library.

Since the site was launched in 1997, users have increasingly accessed VAWOR resources to meet their research and training needs, with site usage tripling in the past five years. Today, the site averages 1,371 user sessions per day, a 20% increase from the previous year. Site users primarily came from the United States; however, usage statistics reveal that VAWOR also has an international presence in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Italy, Germany, and many other countries.

VAWOR also provides individualized technical assistance through its automated web form. More than 480 requests for information were sent to VAWOR staff between October 1, 2003 and September 30, 2004. A variety of people submitted requests for information. Victims, professionals, students, and concerned citizens were all represented in our requestor data. In the past year, the largest percentage (41%) of users requested technical assistance, such as research and networking, followed by requests for crisis support/advocacy (34%).

This document highlights the activities and achievements of the Violence Against Women Online Resources website during the Federal fiscal year, October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004. This report describes the project's funding, staffing structure, usage statistics, new content acquisitions during the report period, and upcoming initiatives planned for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. It also describes VAWOR's technical assistance activities and highlights the top search terms and referring websites that have directed users to VAWOR.

Funding

VAWOR is supported by grant number 2004-X2140-MN-WT awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women within the U.S. Department of Justice. VAWOR'S primary purpose is to ensure that products developed with funds from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) are made widely available via the World Wide Web and thereby accessible to OVW grantees, subgrantees, and the general public.

Funding for the VAWOR project was recently renewed through 2006. This renewal includes funding for the continuing expansion of the online library and the development of two new areas: an online learning module to train criminal justice professionals and advocates on issues related to culturally competence practice in the African-American community, and an online peer review system that enables individuals and organizations to conduct online reviews of new resources and training materials under development by TA providers.

Organizational Structure

VAWOR Staff

Violence Against Women Online Resources is maintained by approximately 4.0 FTE staff, which include a 20% time executive director, a full time program director, one 70% time server administrator, one half-time document development coordinator, and three graduate assistants who are partially supported by the VAWOR project.

The following list is a breakdown of VAWOR staff and their responsibilities:

- The Executive Director of the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA), Jeffery Edleson, supervises the Director of Violence Against Women Online Resources.
- Ann Kranz, VAWOR Program Director, manages the daily operations of the site, including project design, management, and staff supervision. She acts as the key liaison to the Office on Violence Against Women and the National Advisory Board.
- Kevin Bullock, Internet Systems Designer and Administrator, is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the site's mail, web, and database servers. He performs security audits and updates, web programming and administration.
- Jennifer Witt, Document Development Coordinator, oversees the VAWOR commissioned document process.
- Xavier Schmitz, Graduate Assistant, works as a document development assistant on the VAWOR commissioned document project.
- Yukiko Nakajima, Graduate Assistant, works as a coding specialist and supports the project by identifying and obtaining material for the site, coding content into XML, and entering and updating data into the site's databases.
- Sean Halloran, Graduate Assistant, works with project staff to provide administrative support, coordinate correspondence, and provides assistance related to online publishing and the development of the website. Sean also provides individualized technical assistance to site users who submit requests electronically through the site's automated web form.

Advisory Board

In addition to its staff, VAWOR is supported by a 25-member National Advisory Board representing a diverse spectrum of criminal justice, social service, advocacy and academic professionals. The primary responsibilities of the board include setting topic priorities for the commissioned documents and reviewing new content for the site. The advisory board conducts bi-monthly reviews of new content and evaluates the quality of this material to determine its appropriateness for inclusion on the VAWOR site.

To fulfill their duties, board members utilize an innovative online software tool developed by VAWOR staff. Board members log into the software via a website to access assigned content. Each board member uses the software to approve or reject the items and is given opportunities to comment or respond to others comments on the site. This approach creates a dynamic dialogue whereby reviewers respond to each other's comments and concerns about content. Once board members complete their reviews, votes are recorded and comments are automatically added to the review discussion board. Within two weeks of the end of the review period, a summary document detailing the review outcome is made available to both the advisory board and OVW.

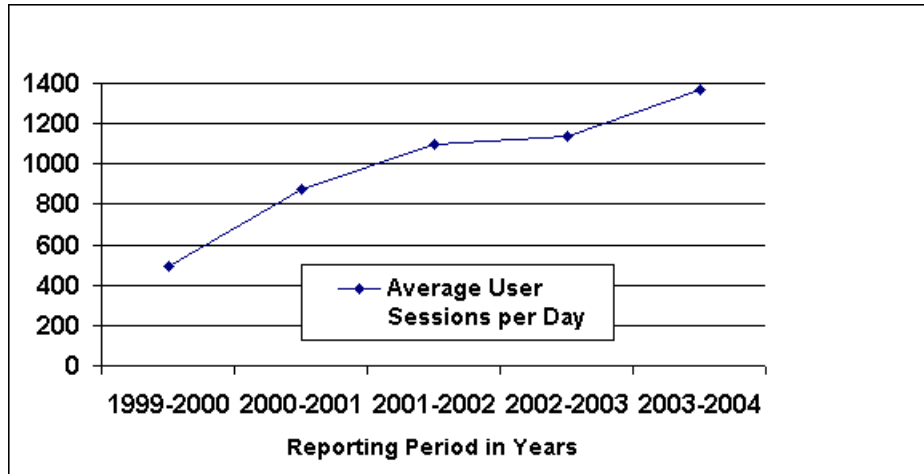
Since this software tool was developed by VAWOR two years ago, the National Advisory Board has reviewed 64 documents. Out of these 64 documents, 43 have been approved for publication on VAWOR. This process was accomplished entirely online without a single face-to-face meeting of any of the advisory board members, project staff or funder. VAWOR has found this web-based review process to be a cost-effective means to have content reviewed by diverse, peer-review teams from across the country. Online technology saves travel costs and personnel time, and creates convenience for reviewers. Because OVW has found this to be an effective tool in reviewing VAWOR's content, VAWOR will be hosting an online review of new product(s) developed by one other OVW Technical Assistance Providers in 05-06.

Site Usage

Over the past year VAWOR has made a software switch from WebTrends to Webalizer to analyze site usage. Each program has a slightly different methodology for computing the number of "user sessions" or "visits" to the site. As a result, our statistics from this year are slightly different from last year's, though the difference is not large. This is important to note, as it has a slight, though not significant, effect on the total reported number of users that visit VAWOR site each year.

Violence Against Women Online Resources has experienced tremendous growth in site usage. The graph below illustrates the growth in the average number of user sessions per day over the past four years. Since 1999 the number of user sessions per day has increased 179 % from 491 sessions in 1999 to 1,371 sessions in 2004. This data provides insight about how many times per day users conduct a session on the site. A "user" is considered a unique person accessing the site. A user commits "hits" on the site when visiting various pages on the website. Therefore, one user may commit several hits during a single user session. However, because a single person can also perform multiple sessions in a given day, this table does not inform us about the number of unique people accessing the site per day.

Multi-Year Glance at Average Daily User Sessions 1999-2004

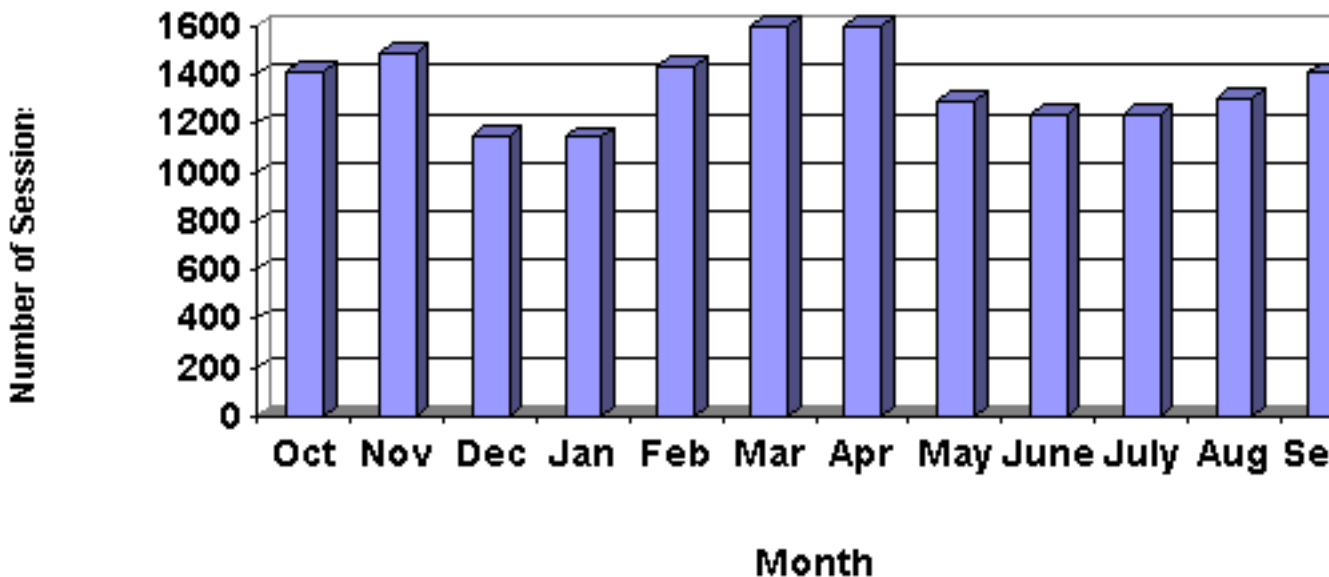


The following charts and tables provide detailed information on the site usage for the 2003-2004 reporting period. The average number of user sessions and average number of hits per day are broken down by month. A "hit" can be thought of the number of times the entire site was accessed by users. Information on what countries most utilize the website are provided along with what documents are the most utilized.

User Sessions

The table below illustrates the number of user sessions per day. The average number of sessions per day during this reporting period ranged between 1,145 sessions per day in January 2004 to 1,674 sessions per day in April of 2004. On average, the site experienced approximately 1,371 user sessions per day between October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004, a 20% increase from the previous year when the average number of sessions per day was approximately 1,138.

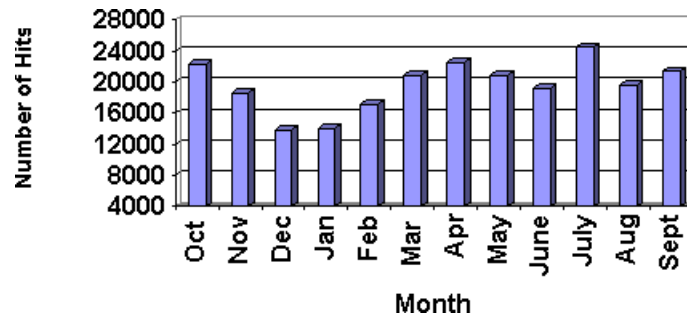
Average Number of User Sessions per Day October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004



Hits

As illustrated in the chart below, the average number of hits per day ranged from 13,876 in December 2003 to 24,463 in July 2004. On average, the site received approximately 19,493 hits per day, an increase of 46% from the previous year. During the previous year, the average number of hits per day was 13,356.

Average Number of Hits per Day October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004



Top 25 Referrers

When individuals search for violence-related information on the World Wide Web, they often do so using a variety of online research tools. Google, Yahoo, and MSN search engines are among many online search tools that can be used to find information on the web. Users can also locate our site through the websites of other large organizations such as the Department of Justice and NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund. When users look for a particular search term using a website such as these, that website is called the "referring site".

Below is a list of the top 25 online referrers that have pointed users to Violence Against Women Online Resources. Since VAWOR received a Google's AdWords grant last year, Google has become the number one search engine referring users to VAWOR, with nearly 126,000 users directed to the site through Google.

Top 25 Referrers: October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004

Number of Users	Referring Site
986,342	direct request-users went directly to www.vaw.umn.edu
125,961	www.google.com/search
86,296	search.yahoo.com/search
31,873	search.msn.com/results.aspx
25,603	web.ask.com/redir
23,810	www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo
12,912	www.google.com/u/vaw
10,323	search.msn.com/pass/results.aspx

Number of Users	Referring Site
9,214	aolsearch.aol.com/aol/search
9,122	search.msn.com/spresults.aspx
8,688	search.msn.com/results.asp
8,097	google.ca/search
6,903	www.nowldef.org.htmk.njep/directexam/ supportingmaterials.shtml
6,454	search.msn.com/pass/results.asp
6,349	www.mincava.umn.edu/library/articles
5,100	dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Crime/ Types_of_Crime/Sex_Crimes/Rape/ Marital_Rape/
4,545	www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/links/ onlineres_sexasslt.htm
3,403	google.com.au/search
3,318	web.ask.com/web
3,288	www.mincava.umn.edu/library/dv
3,087	www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/communities.htm
2,348	google.co.uk/search
2,212	www.keywordmaster.de/index.html
2,210	www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/whatsnew.htm
2,069	www.google.com/custom

Top 25 Search Strings

Violence Against Women Online Resources documents the search terms or "strings" used to search VAWOR. By examining the search terms that are entered into the "search" feature on the homepage, VAWOR can examine the most commonly used terms that are searched for by site users. Tracking these search terms helps VAWOR staff identify priority topic areas. The following is a list of the top 25 search terms for the past year:

Top 25 Search Strings: October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004

Number of Users	Search Terms
16,439	domestic violence
9,383	rape
8,840	violence against women
5,503	statutory rape

Number of Users	Search Terms
3,966	marital rape
2,704	clonapin
1,778	child custody
1,390	battered woman syndrone
1,248	www.vaw.umn.edu/library
1,242	battered women
1,054	stalking
919	sexual assault
868	stop violence against women
821	domestic violence against women
799	domestic violence laws
611	woman abuse
459	stalking laws
405	telazol
402	statutory rape laws
394	domestic violence organizations
386	statutory rape florida
350	violence against women act
337	anal rape
323	florida statutory rape
318	battered women's syndrome

Most Active Countries

The chart below represents the top 10 most active countries in terms of total hits during the 2003-2004 reporting period. When looking at the chart it is important to keep in mind that this information is based on where the domain name of the visitor is registered and that the domain name may not always be an accurate identifier of the actual geographic location of the visitor.

Top 10 Most Active Countries: October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004

Country	Total Hits per Year
United States	2,179,456
Canada	91,638
Australia	59,684

Country	Total Hits per Year
United Kingdom	51,458
Japan	23,940
Netherlands	12,768
Italy	11,602
Mexico	9,054
Germany	9,042

Top Ten Documents

The following lists represent the top ten downloaded PDF documents and the top ten most accessed HTML documents on the site. Some of these documents are available in both PDF and HTML formats, while others are only available in one of these formats.

Top Ten HTML Documents: October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004

1. [Marital Rape](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/mrape/mrape.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/mrape/mrape.html)
Raquel Kennedy Bergen, Ph.D.
St. Joseph's University, Department of Sociology
Publication Date: March 1999
Viewed 103,604 times
2. [Handbook for Statutory Rape Issues](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/stateleg/stateleg.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/stateleg/stateleg.html)
Noy S. Davis and Jennifer Twombly
Publication Date: February 2000
Viewed 56,768 times
3. [Child Custody and Visitation Decisions in Domestic Violence Cases: Legal Trends, Research Findings and Recommendations](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/custody/custody.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/custody/custody.html)
Daniel G. Saunders, Ph.D.
University of Michigan, School of Social Work
Publication Date: August 1998
Revision Date: October 1998
Viewed 50,990 times
4. [Problems Associated with Children's Witnessing of Domestic Violence](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/witness/witness.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/witness/witness.html)
Jeffrey L. Edleson, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota, School of Social Work
Publication Date: April 1997
Revision Date: April 1999
Viewed 31,272 times

5. [Abuse and Women with Disabilities](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/disab/disab.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/disab/disab.html)
Margaret A. Nosek, Ph.D.
Carol A. Howland, M.P.H.
Publication Date: February 1998
Revision Date: February 1998
Viewed 26,668 times
6. [Stalking Laws and Implementation Practices: a National Review for Policymakers and Practitioners \(Full Report\)](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/ilj_stalk/iljfinalrpt.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/ilj_stalk/iljfinalrpt.html)
Neal Miller and Hugh Nugent
Institute for Law and Justice
Publication Date: January 2002
Viewed 21,508 times
7. [Critique of the "Battered Women's Syndrome" Model](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/bws/bws.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/bws/bws.html)
Mary Ann Dutton, Ph.D.
The George Washington University
Publication Date: September 1996
Revision Date: January 1997
Reviewed 21,334 times
8. [Poverty, Welfare and Battered Women: What does the research tell us?](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/welfare/welfare.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/welfare/welfare.html)
Elanor Lyon, Ph.D.
Publication Date: December 1997
Revision Date: January 1998
Viewed 16,710 times
9. [Substance Abuse and Woman Abuse by Male Partners](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/substanc/substanc.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/substanc/substanc.html)
Larry W. Bennet, Ph.D.
Jane Addams School of Social Work
Publication Date: September 1997
Viewed 15,792 times
10. [Annual Report on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Domestic Violence](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/glbtdv/glbtdv.html) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/glbtdv/glbtdv.html)
The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)
Publication Date: October, 1998, www.avp.org
Viewed 15,552 times

Top Ten PDF Documents: October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004

1. [Handbook for Statutory Rape Issues](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/stateleg/stateleg.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/stateleg/stateleg.pdf)
Noy S. Davis and Jennifer Twombly

Publication Date: February 2000

Viewed 33,434 times

2. [Marital Rape](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/mrape/mrape.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/mrape/mrape.pdf)
Raquel Kennedy Bergen, Ph.D.
St. Joseph's University, Department of Sociology
Publication Date: March 1999
Viewed 12,890 times
3. [Managing Adult Sex Offenders in the Community: NIJ Research in Brief](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/managing/managing.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/managing/managing.pdf)
Jeremy Travis, Director
National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
Publication Date: January 1997
Viewed 8,246 times
4. [A Review of Standards for Batterer Intervention Programs](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/standard/standard.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/standard/standard.pdf)
Juliet Austin, M.A., Researcher
Jurgen Dankwort, Ph.D.
Kwantlen University College, British Columbia, Canada
Publication Date: September 1997
Revision Date: August 1998
Viewed 5,862 times
5. [Evidence Collection and Care of the Sexual Assault Survivor: The SANE-SART Response](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/commissioned/2forensicevidence/2forensicevidence.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/commissioned/2forensicevidence/2forensicevidence.pdf)
Linda E. Ledray, RN, Ph.D., LP, FAAN, an author commissioned by VAWOR
Publication Date: August 2001
Viewed 5, 616 times
6. [Child Custody and Visitation Decisions in Domestic Violence Cases: Legal Trends, Research Findings and Recommendations](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/custody/custody.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/custody/custody.pdf)
Daniel G. Saunders, Ph.D.
University of Michigan, School of Social Work
Publication Date: August 1998
Revision Date: October 1998
Viewed 5,386 times
7. [Sex Offenses and Offenders: An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/sexoff/sexoff.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/sexoff/sexoff.pdf)
Lawrence A. Greenfeld, Statistician, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice
Publication Date: February 1997, NCJ -163392 (revised 2/7/1997)
Viewed 5,100 times

8. [An Advocates Guide to Full Faith and Credit for Orders of Protection: Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/ffc/pcadv/pcadv.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/ffc/pcadv/pcadv.pdf)
Full Faith and Credit Project, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Publication Date: Not Available
Viewed 4,822 times
9. [Problems Associated with Children's Witnessing of Domestic Violence](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/witness/witness.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/witness/witness.pdf)
Jeffrey L. Edleson, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota, School of Social Work
Publication Date: April 1997
Revision Date: April 1999
Viewed 4,688 times
10. [Critique of the "Battered Women's Syndrome" Model](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/bws/bws.pdf) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/bws/bws.pdf)
Mary Ann Dutton, Ph.D.
The George Washington University
Publication Date: September 1996
Revision Date: January 1997
Reviewed 4,490 times

Site Development

Violence Against Women Online Resources provides over 275 full-text documents related to sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. Each year, staff members solicit content for the site from national and international organizations. These documents are then reviewed by the National Advisory Board using VAWOR's online review tool. Documents that are approved through the online review mechanism are added to the VAWOR Document Library, which offers papers, reports, research findings, curricula, presentations, training manuals, and multi-media resources related to violence against women.

Between October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004, VAWOR's National Advisory Board considered 39 documents using the online review process; 15 of these new documents were added to the site. The documents, all of which were previously published elsewhere, are listed below:

1. Family Violence Nursing Curriculum

Added: 08/04/2004

Authors: Marlene Jezierski, Maura Lynch, Margaret Dexheimer Pharris, Judi Sateren

Description: While nurses must be able to respond skillfully to victims of all types of violence, responding to victims of family violence requires sensitivity rooted in understanding how it differs from other types of violence. The content of this curriculum, which grew out of the 1999 American Association of Colleges of Nursing competencies, was developed in response to those findings to provide Minnesota nursing faculty essential curricular information to develop student competence in preventing, assessing, and responding to family violence across the lifespan.

2. Task Force Report on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault

Added: 08/04/2004

Author: US Department of Defense

Description: This report presents the findings of a 90-day review of all sexual assault policies and programs among the Services and Department of Defense. The report identifies 35 key findings relevant to current sexual assault policies and proposes nine broad recommendations for immediate, near-term and long-term corrective action. It recommends changes to increase prevention, promote reporting, enhance the quality and support provided to victims, especially within combat, and improve accountability for offender actions.

3. Medical Provider's Guide to Managing the Care of Domestic Violence Patients within a Cultural Context

Added: 05/24/2004

Author: Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, New York

Description: Office to Combat Domestic Violence and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene developed a training and reference guide for healthcare providers as part of a campaign to reduce cultural, linguistic and systemic barriers preventing domestic violence victims, particularly immigrant women and women of color, from reporting abuse to their healthcare providers.

4. Collaborating for Woman and Child Safety

Added: 05/24/2004

Author: Annelies K. Hagemester, PhD, MSW

Description: This training curriculum, designed for multidisciplinary teams, is intended to enhance practice and policy when domestic violence and child maltreatment co-occur.

5. Family Team Conferences in Domestic Violence Cases: Guidelines for Practice (2nd Edition)

Added: 05/24/2004

Author: Lucy Salcido Carter, M.A., J.D.

Description: These guidelines lay out steps to decide whether a family with a history of domestic violence is a good candidate for a Family Team Conference, and to prepare and conduct a conference that results in the best possible child welfare decision and safety for all. Case scenarios offer examples of different circumstances involving domestic violence and describe how an FTC, if planned and structured properly, can safely address case goals.

6. It's in Our Hands: Stop Violence Against Women

Added: 05/24/2004

Author: Amnesty International

Description: This report investigates causes, forms, and remedies of violence against women, and highlights the responsibility of the state, community and individuals for taking action to end it.

7. Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women

Added: 05/24/2004

Author: United Nations Development Fund for Women

Description: This report highlights many of the achievements towards the empowerment of women and indicates what must be done to build on them. It provides examples of practices as well as efforts that did not meet the goals set out for them - and explores why. It looks at the challenges ahead and asks what the most fruitful next steps might be.

8. **Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence: Outreach to Underserved Communities**

Added: 03/18/2004

Author: Sujata Warriar

Description: This curriculum is designed to help domestic violence programs reach out to underserved communities in order to address the issues of diversity and of the limited access to quality services for battered women from those communities. Its appendices include handouts and worksheets for participants and overheads and readings for trainers. It is structured as a two-day training and is designed for a program rather than individuals.

9. **Child Welfare Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence**

Added: 03/18/2004

Author: Oregon Department of Human Services

Description: This is the third edition of Child Welfare Practice for Cases with Domestic Violence, developed as part of an overall effort to increase the safety of adults and children through collaboration of domestic violence services and child protective services.

10. **Community Survey Project: Factors That Influence Disclosure of Domestic Abuse to Providers**

Added: 03/18/2004

Author: Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence

Description: The Whatcom County Domestic Violence Comprehensive Plan, completed by the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence in June 2000, identified the need for increased knowledge about experiences of victims and survivors of domestic violence, as they interface with Whatcom County community and health care providers. To find out more about how victims experience the prospect of disclosing domestic violence to providers, the commission surveyed 1081 women in the county.

11. **Forging New Collaborations Between Domestic Violence Programs, Child Welfare Services and Communities of Color**

Added: 12/19/2003

Author: Nita Carter

Description: This report summarizes the dialogues from the Women of Color Network (WOCN) focus groups on domestic violence and child welfare. Over one hundred (100) domestic violence and sexual assault activists of color participated in these focus groups. The report includes a set of recommendations and highlights from their conversations regarding issues and barriers for battered women with children from communities of color.

12. **Recruitment and Retention in Intimate Partner Violence Research**

Added: 12/19/2003

Author: Mary Ann Dutton, Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, Ernest Jouriles, Renee McDonald, Satya Krishnan, Judith McFarlane, and Cris Sullivan

Description: This report focuses on methods of recruitment and retention in intimate partner violence research with particular attention to attrition in batterer treatment programs and retention in longitudinal studies. Case studies highlighting recruitment and retention methods in five different intimate partner violence research programs are described by their respective investigators. A set of guidelines is offered for recruitment and retention in intimate partner violence research, which is intended to help guide the field by offering suggestions that can lead to successful recruitment and retention efforts in a way that maintains the safety of participants and researchers alike.

13. The Military Response to Victims of Domestic Violence: Tools for Civilian Advocates

Added: 12/19/2003

Author: Judith E. Beals

Description: This handbook is designed for civilian advocates working with military victims of domestic violence - both active duty victims and partners of active duty service members-to help advocates respond to the uniquely challenging needs of this population of survivors.

14. The Role of Restorative Justice in the Battered Women's Movement

Added: 12/19/2003

Author: Loretta Frederick and Kristine C. Lizdas

Description: This article provides a comparison of the principles and practices of the restorative justice and battered women's movements. It provides an analysis and critique of each movement's response to domestic violence, and proposes an interpretation of what is effective, redemptive and liberating about the practices of each. Ultimately the paper provides suggested directions for future work within both fields.

15. World Report on Violence and Health

Added: 12/19/2003

Author: World Health Organization

Description: This report examines the types of violence that are present worldwide and which constitute the bulk of the health burden imposed by violence. Topics include violence as a global health problem, youth violence, child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence, elder abuse, sexual violence, self-directed violence, collective violence and recommendations for action.

Commissioned Documents

Violence Against Women Online Resources also commissions authors to develop original documents that are published exclusively on VAWOR. These short, user-friendly, research manuscripts address topics where a lack of information exists. These documents have become a valuable resource to those working in the criminal justice and violence against women fields. Below is a listing of the eight documents, along with the document's author and a short synopsis of each, that are currently being commissioned by VAWOR under our 03-05 cooperative agreement with United States Department of Justice.

- **Violence Against Women with Disabilities: Perpetrators as Caregivers**
By Beverly Frantz

This paper addresses the definitional ambiguity regarding the terms disability, caretaker/ care provider/caregiver, and intimate partner, and reviews the prevalence of violence directed towards persons with disabilities, environmental factors that affect caregiver abuse, and archetypes of abusive caregivers.

- **Stalking and Technology**

By Cindy Southworth

The explosion of technology use across the population is providing stalkers with numerous and sophisticated tools. This paper focuses on abusers' use of technology in intimate partner stalking and how advocates can address safety risks with survivors. It presents new stalking methods, safety planning information, and action steps for local advocates working to end violence against women.

- **Dual Arrest and Probation: Implications for Women**

By Sherry Frohman and Connie Neal

This paper looks at the need for probation officers to understand: 1) The tactics that abusers use to engage the criminal justice system in their abuse of women, 2) The significant number of women who are convicted of crimes who are victims of domestic violence, 3) The context and reasons why women who are abused plead guilty to domestic violence crimes, and 4) The critical need to implement a probation supervision response that actively supports the safety of all women who are convicted of crimes.

- **Co-Parenting with a Perpetrator of Domestic Violence**

By Peter Jaffe and Claire Crooks

This article identifies central themes in the research that underline the challenges that abused women face as mothers. In addition, the implications for providing effective service to these women in the community and the justice system are discussed. Seven central themes are highlighted regarding the intersection between woman abuse and parenting. Specific implications and recommendations for community and court service providers are offered.

- **Expert Witnesses in Sexual Assault Cases**

By Kim Lonsway

This paper summarizes the existing knowledge on the use of expert witnesses in cases involving sexual assault. The focus is primarily on expert testimony that is provided for the prosecution in a criminal case discussing the general dynamics of sexual assault and common reactions of victims. This paper reviews current research and experts in the field to insure that expert testimony is used in a responsible way.

- **Domestic Violence and Police Officers: Officers as Victims and Perpetrators**

By Diane Wetendorf

This article examines how abusive officers in intimate relationships can use police authority, police training, and police culture to bolster power and control over their victims. In addition, this article discusses how professional credibility and training uniquely position officers who batter to explain, defend, and summon institutional support and assistance from the very systems to which victims are theoretically supposed to turn to for protection.

- **Domestic Violence Prevention Strategies in the LGBT Community**

By Janice Ristock in consultation with Norma Timbang

This forthcoming paper will cover the research on what is known about domestic violence in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities and will discuss ways to work effectively on prevention strategies within these communities.

- **Ensuring Economic Autonomy for Battered Women**

By Linnie Meyer and Cathe Dykstra

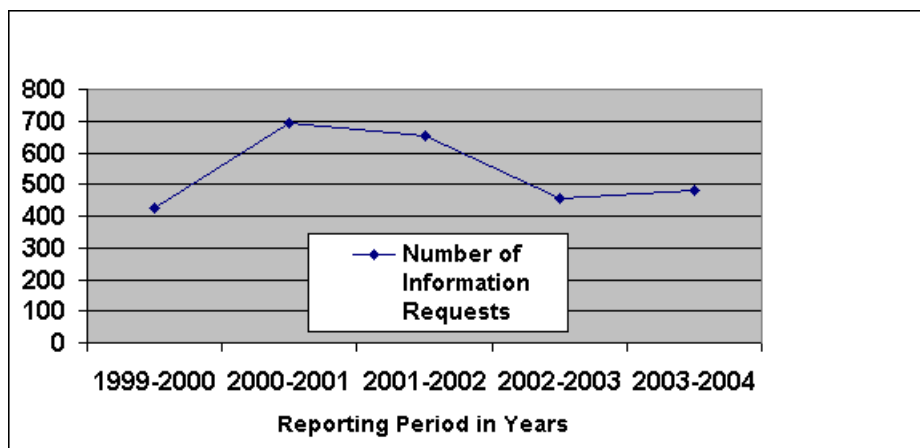
This paper provides an introduction to strategies for integration of economic services into domestic violence programming and reviews the current approaches in practice at The Center for Women and Families in Louisville, Kentucky, which encompasses several initiatives that focus on employment, economic literacy, savings opportunities promoting asset ownership, and linkage to a network of community resources to provide free-tax preparation and financial empowerment education.

Individualized Technical Assistance

Violence Against Women Online Resources provides individualized technical assistance to site users who submit requests electronically through the site's automated web form. Steps are taken to protect the user's safety and to ensure that the user understands the type of service VAWOR provides. Users are educated about the technical assistance VAWOR provides and are encouraged to use the resources listed if they are in need of emergency or direct service. They are also educated about Internet safety and privacy and are given questions to think about before proceeding with the web form. In the past year VAWOR received 480 information requests from people in search of technical assistance, crisis support, advocacy, and other types of information.

The graph below illustrates a steady decrease in information requests over the past three years. In 2001, 696 requests were processed by VAWOR, in 2002 the number of requests received dropped 6% to 655, and in 2003 VAWOR experienced a 30% decrease in information requests. The decline in information requests was generally viewed as a positive indicator that users were able to successfully navigate the site and readily obtain information. However, in the past year, VAWOR experienced a slight (4.8%) increase in requests. This small increase was anticipated, given the large increase in site usage over the past year. Responding to information requests continues to be a key component of VAWOR's commitment to provide technical assistance.

Multi-Year Glance at Information Requests 1999-2004

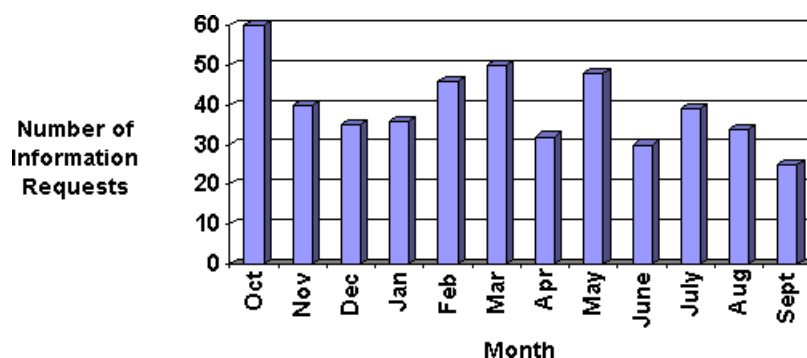


The following charts show detailed information about the 480 information requests received this reporting period from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004. Data is recorded on each information request received and the charts below provide information regarding the number of requests per month, type of requests, topic of technical assistance and the identity of the requestor.

Number of Requests per Month

The average number of information requests received on a monthly basis in this reporting period was 40. The chart below illustrates the range in the frequency of requests. The fewest requests for information in one month were 25 in September 2004 and the most requests received in a month were 65 in October 2003.

Number of Information Requests per Month October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004



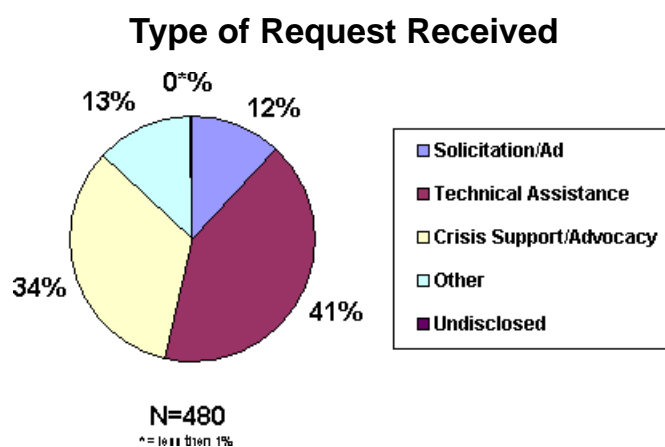
Types of Requests

VAWOR identifies the type of request received as either a (1) solicitation/ad, (2) technical assistance, (3) crisis support, (4) other/or (5) undisclosed. These five categories are defined by VAWOR as:

1. Solicitation/Ad: Advertisements, chain letters, press releases, mass (listserv) messages, and announcements.

2. **Technical Assistance:** Request for information/resources such as article permission, article information, site navigation, grants/funding, organizational information, action alerts, events/training, and other inquiries regarding locating services/information to related to violence against women.
3. **Crisis Support/Advocacy:** Request for information about supportive/emergency resources for victim/survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking.
4. **Other:** Requests that do not adequately meet the definition of 1-3 as stated above.
5. **Undisclosed:** Email that does not clearly state a specific request and does not adequately meet the definition of 1-4 stated above.

As the pie chart below depicts, the majority (41%) of requests were identified as technical assistance in this past year. Requests for crisis support/advocacy, typically sent by primary and secondary victims, represented 34% of the requests received.



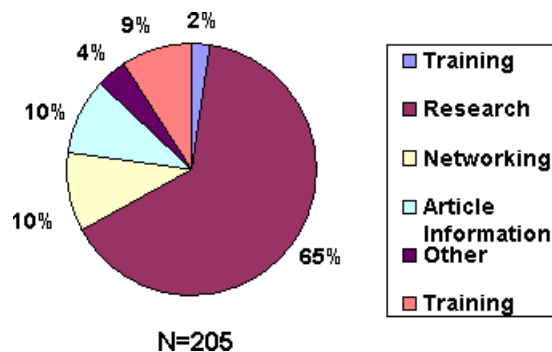
Types of Technical Assistance

The category Technical Assistance is further broken down into descriptive types of technical assistance. VAWOR defines these types as:

1. **Training:** Requests that indicate/reflect interest in locating training, training manuals, creating training manuals/opportunities, or other activities that are associated with training related to violence against women.
2. **Research:** Requests that are looking for research material, statistics, data, charts, stories, photos, etc. that are to be used for the purposes of publications, research papers, journals, briefs, articles, presentations, seminars, etc.
3. **Networking:** Requests that indicate interest in becoming connected with other people/organizations with similar interests related to violence against women.
4. **Article Information:** Requests that indicate they are looking for a particular author of a document, publishing company, organizational publications, additional materials or other inquiries related to articles/documents.
5. **Other:** Requests that do not adequately meet the definition of 1-4.

As seen in this chart, the majority (65%) of requests for technical assistance are regarding research.

Type of Technical Assistance October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004



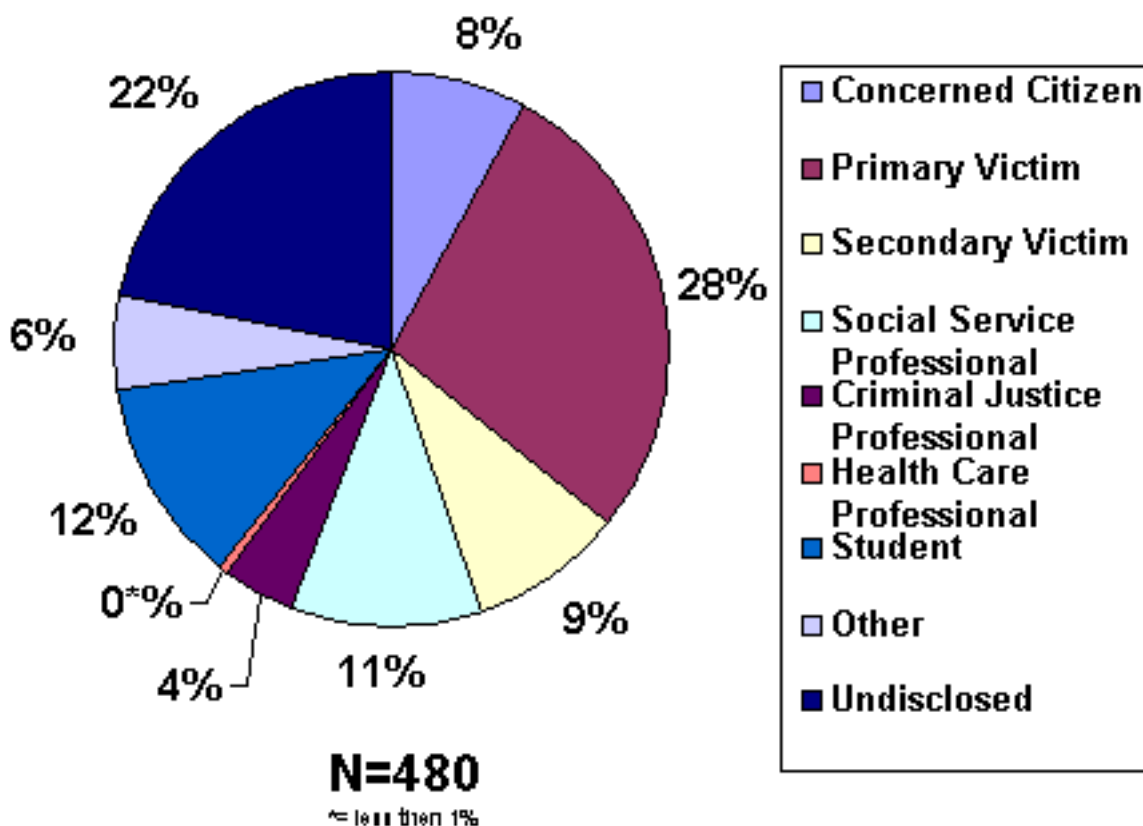
Identity of Requester

For each email request that is received, VAWOR gleans demographic information about the requestor.

1. Concerned Citizen: Requestor does not identify as a primary or secondary victim. Is interested in helping/volunteering/gathering information to work towards ending violence against women.
2. Social Service Professional: Advocates, social workers, day care personnel, counselors.
3. Criminal Justice Professional: Police officers and other members of a police department, judges, attorneys, probation officers, juvenile and adult court administrators, corrections officers, legal advocates.
4. Health Care Professional: Nurses, doctors, paramedics, mental health professionals, health care aides, and therapists.
5. Student: Requestor identifies being a student and/or requesting materials for the purpose of a school paper/project/presentation.
6. Other: Requestor does not adequately meet the definition of the above stated categories (1-7). Including teachers, media and other professions that do not fit into the categories noted above.
7. Undisclosed: The identity of the requestor cannot be determined.

As illustrated by the graph below a variety of people utilized VAWOR technical assistance. The largest category of requestors (28%) is comprised of primary victims (those who experience violence), followed by those consumers who did not disclose their identity (22%), students (12%), and social services professionals (11%).

Identity of Requestor October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004



Future Initiatives

Violence Against Women Online Resources strives to maintain its position as one of the foremost online resources about intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In the coming year, VAWOR will continue to expand its document library, commission authors to write research summaries exclusively for VAWOR, respond to online technical assistance requests, and will begin new areas of development including an expanded site marketing campaign, the development of an online learning module to train criminal justice professionals on issues related to culturally competent practice in the African-American community, and the moderation of online peer reviews of new products under development by other Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Technical Assistance (TA) providers.

Increased site marketing for the VAWOR site

A variety of methods are currently in use to market the VAWOR website. VAWOR was awarded a Google AdWords grant to increase marketing of the site through the use of free advertising though targeted, online advertising on Google.com. In the coming year, VAWOR intends to continue its marketing efforts by conducting market research with a sample of OVW TA providers and grantees in order to determine their awareness and usage of VAWOR. Additionally, VAWOR will develop a marketing plan to increase site usage by OVW constituents who are minimal

users of. As part of this plan, VAWOR expects to prepare and present a VAWOR demonstration at 3-4 large conferences or meetings attended by TA providers and grantees.

Online Learning Collaborative Project with the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community

In the coming year, VAWOR will work in collaboration with the Institute on Domestic Violence Programs in the African-American Community (IDVAAC) to begin the development of an online learning module to train criminal justice professionals and advocates on issues related to culturally competent practice in African American communities. The primary audience of this training will be OVW grantees. VAWOR will use existing training materials developed by IDVAAC to design the interactive online learning module.

Extension of VAWOR's Online Review System for Technical Assistance (TA) Providers

Over the last two years, VAWOR has developed and implemented a one-of-a-kind online review system that allows professionals from across the country to review new documents from their computer. This web-based review process has been found to be a cost effective means review content by diverse, peer-review teams from across the country. The use of online technology saves travel costs, personnel time, and creates convenience for reviewers. Because VAWOR has found this to be an effective tool in reviewing site content, VAWOR will expand the usage of this tool by hosting online reviews of new products developed by other OVW TA providers. VAWOR staff will work with OVW staff to select a TA provider to be the first outside organization to conduct an online peer review using VAWOR technology. VAWOR technical staff will reconfigure the existing site software to accommodate multiple organizations. VAWOR will work with the selected TA provider's staff to assemble the appropriate review team, add their data into the database, train reviewers to use the system, and moderate the process. Once complete, VAWOR staff will work collaboratively with the TA provider's staff to draft review outcomes and evaluate the process. If successful, VAWOR staff will continue to extend this service to other TA providers and OVW grantees in the future.

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Additional information about this site can be obtained by reading [Email us for more information and assistance](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/mail/infoassist.shtml) (http://www.vaw.umn.edu/mail/infoassist.shtml).

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