FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICE FOR WOMEN & DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

FY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

WE BELIEVE everyone has a right to live free of violence.

WE ENVISION a day when all forms of interpersonal violence and oppression are not tolerated and when individuals and families, no matter their situation, have access to and are welcomed into a wide variety of services that allow them to rebuild their lives on their own terms.

WE ADVANCE our mission of preventing and ending domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking by fostering a community based on equality and mutual respect through prevention and intervention, community engagement and awareness, policy and advocacy.

WE VALUE

- Collaboration as we strive to open doors in order to build relationships and engage the community in providing the highest quality of care and promoting social change;
- Compassion as we commit to providing empathetic, client-driven, and trauma-informed services for our community;
- Courage as we support our clients and members of our community as they take difficult and courageous steps toward autonomy, accountability, and responsibility;
- Equality as we promote human equality and use resources in ways that serve the public equitably and as we respectfully challenge biases, attitudes, and behaviors that contribute to inequality;
- Innovation as we foster an environment that embraces creativity and calculated risk-taking to advance our mission; and
- Safety as we advocate for safety as a basic human right which underscores each and every interaction with clients and the community, as we assure confidential, accessible, and affordable services to all.

Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

The Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (OFWDSVS) works in the community with those who have been affected by domestic and sexual violence and stalking. OFWDSVS is a full-service program that supports victims in creating safer lives and works with offenders to find alternatives to abusive behaviors. Services are provided in many locations throughout Fairfax County including at Artemis House, the 24-hour crisis domestic violence shelter for those fleeing abuse including human trafficking, and the Domestic Violence Action Center, a County-Community partnership providing a variety of domestic violence services at a single site location.

Services provided include:

- 24-hour hotline for domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and trafficking.
- Individual and group counseling for women, men, teens, and children by professionally trained counselors.
- Advocacy services, especially for court-related issues and housing and economic needs.
- Referrals and help linking to the services of other agencies and organizations.
- ADAPT, Anger and Domestic Abuse Prevention and Treatment, a program for offenders who wish to change their abusive behaviors.
- Hospital accompaniment, when requested, for victims of sexual and/or domestic violence who are accessing forensic exams.
- Violence prevention and education programs for community groups, schools, or any interested parties.
- Consultation and training for professionals.
- In collaboration with Shelter House Inc., crisis sheltering for those fleeing domestic violence situations.

137
volunteers
provided
8,220
hours of services to OFWDSVS at a value of $181,991

A male hotline volunteer speaking with a female sexual assault survivor: "During our conversation, we developed a very good rapport. I suggested a couple of places to turn to for more help with her situation, but really just tried to provide compassion and support and let her tell her story." As he closed, he told the caller she could call back anytime if she needed more help. She responded simply, "If I do call back, I hope I get you." The volunteer told our volunteer coordinator, "That was all the thanks I needed."

Advocacy Services

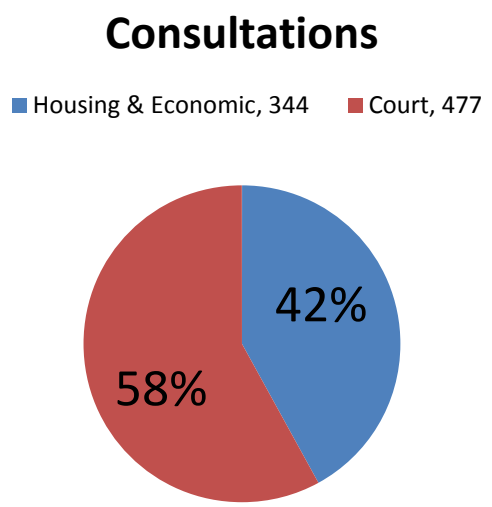
A 28-year-old mother of two who was working with our Housing & Economic Specialist told her, "I didn't even know that was possible" after the specialist helped her file HUD paperwork that cited VAWA protections to have her husband removed from their lease. She and her children moved back home the next weekend after her husband was issued a no-trespass order.

A client who worked with our Court Specialist recently wrote, "I want to thank you for accompanying me to trial. Just knowing you were there really helped me to feel supported throughout the trial. Thankfully, just like you said, I was given a fresh clean slate to present my case and I was able to obtain the best possible outcome for me and my kids at this point in time.... You took the time to see and hear me when I felt like no one else was really paying me much attention. Thank you so much for that, you have no idea how much that means to me."

During FY 2014, Advocacy Services included 1.5 Court Specialists and one Housing & Economic Specialist. Advocates from OFWDSVS are located at the County's Domestic Violence Action Center, known as DVAC (see p. 10). The goal of these services is to increase client safety through increased knowledge and understanding of available resources and options, and by supporting clients in accessing these resources.

The effectiveness of economic advocacy was confirmed with 80% of clients who participated in our financial education classes reporting improvement in their financial situation. Still, the difficulty of finding suitable housing for those in need was highlighted when only 23% of those receiving housing advocacy services were able to successfully secure safe and stable housing.

Advocacy on court-related issues was successful in that 96% of clients who received the services felt better prepared to make their own decisions after their rights and options were explained to them. The difficulty in understanding the court process was highlighted in that only 68% of those receiving services felt truly knowledgeable about the process of going to court. This underscores the need to continue offering these services along with an advocate to accompany clients throughout the entire court process.



560

CLIENTS SERVED

Artemis House

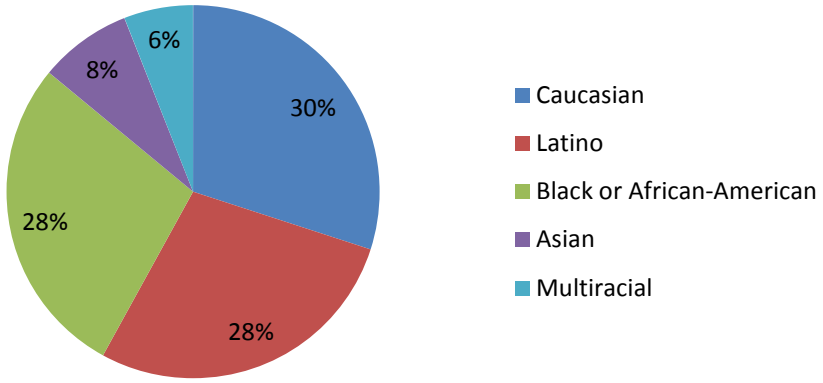
ARTEMIS HOUSE, 24-HOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS SHELTER

The Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services contracts with Shelter House, Inc., a local community non-profit, to manage Artemis House. Clients at Artemis House are provided safe and secure shelter at a non-disclosed location in Fairfax County. Shelter is provided for women, men, and children who are fleeing from violence in their homes. Because Artemis House has only 34 beds, families who would benefit from the safe respite offered by Artemis House are sometimes turned away. Every caller who contacts Artemis House is assessed for safety and provided safety planning assistance whether they come into the shelter or not.

During FY 2014, clients stayed an average of 45 days while they worked with case managers and counseling staff to determine their next steps. While clients receive case management services and help with their daily needs from Artemis House staff, clients also have access to the many services of the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, such as court advocacy, help finding housing, and counseling for themselves and their children.

CLIENTS SERVED: 126 ADULTS, 143 CHILDREN

Client Demographics



A 35-year-old mother of three thanking her counselor: "Thanks for giving me the support I always need, when I felt I was all alone. You always give me strength and happiness knowing I wasn't alone."

A resident at Artemis House: "When I came into shelter I didn't know what to expect; I expected the worst but I got the best. I thought it was going to be awful but I had nowhere else to go. When I got here, it was a home."

A resident at Artemis House: "You were always ready to help and made me feel at ease. You made me feel like I was not alone by myself, which then made me stronger, too. Now I am able to be on my own, away from abuse, and start living my life. I am excited!!! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

Community Engagement

"Thank you so much for your fantastic presentations to our families! We could tell from the reactions from so many of the parents that the information was very valuable to them. We are always shocked by the number of families that violence has touched, and we are so lucky that you do what you do in such a nurturing way. Thank you!"
- Community response to DV Training

"Being a part of this group has changed my life and my relationships for the better. Thank you!"
- Mujeres Transformando Vidas Participant

The Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services' Community Engagement team works to involve the community in understanding, responding to, and preventing sexual and domestic violence, stalking, and sex trafficking. Knowing that our ultimate success relies on engaging the community in the work of ending domestic and sexual violence, the goals of the team are to help participants in our outreach programs feel better prepared to share information and resources with others in the community by increasing their knowledge of the issues. Through media campaigns, community presentations, regional fairs, and other activities, the Community Engagement team reaches a wide variety of audiences with information about general domestic and/or sexual violence issues, family violence prevention, media literacy, healthy relationships, and other related topics.

Awareness Months

OFWDSVS places special emphasis on outreach and education in specific areas during three awareness months: Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February. The Board of Supervisors always launches the month with a proclamation and OFWDSVS and its partners sponsor trainings, exhibits, and performances to encourage the community to become involved and engaged in these issues.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month focused on helping individuals to recognize their own responsibility in ending violence in our society. In 2014, as part of the campaign to help people realize their own power, table tents and large displays were placed in buildings and cafeterias throughout the county. We also provided training to better equip professionals to work with boys and men in the Latino community through Alianza (National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence) and sponsored a reception to coincide with the Board of Supervisors proclamation.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month featured an art competition to highlight the impact of teen dating violence in our community. Students from all over Fairfax County participated. At the reception the top three were awarded certificates by Supervisor John Cook, Braddock District, who also thanked them for the interest in stopping teen dating violence which encouraged all attendees to do the same.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month featured the show T-O-T-A-L-L-Y!, a performance by Kimleigh Smith, a survivor of sexual assault, who shares her healing journey through her performance. The performance was held at Northern Virginia Community College and was open to the public.

Community Engagement

This year our Sexual Assault Outreach Specialist was able to provide healthy relationships programming for the Gay Straight Alliances at Hayfield Secondary, Robinson Secondary, Annandale High School, Langley High School and Woodson High School as a result of funding from the Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP) grant provided by the VA Department of Criminal Justice Services.

HACAN (Hispanics Against Child Abuse & Neglect) presented our Prevention & Education Specialist and another Fairfax County employee with an Award of Excellence for the Mujeres Transformando Vidas program. Mujeres Transformando Vidas (Women Transforming Lives) is a psycho-educational group where members learn about ways to prevent violence at home and within the community.

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month staff members, volunteers, and community members created jeans for the Jeans Project, which was displayed during the month of April. The jeans had a variety of messages, including words of encouragement for those who have been sexually assaulted, as well as messages on how to prevent sexual assault.

Throughout the year, the Community Engagement Team continued to provide and coordinate workshops, training, and outreach for community members and professionals. Participants learned how to identify the signs of domestic and sexual violence and how to seek services. In the prevention workshops, participants learned how violent behavior can be a learned behavior and how we can work together to eradicate violence.

"Thank you for coming to do the Respect uR d8 program with our class. I thought everything we talked about was really interesting, especially the masculinity and femininity classes. I feel like the things we talked about will stay with me for a long time and they really opened my eyes to what's going on around us. I felt like you really understood what we were feeling and thinking about. It was a really amazing opportunity that I am thankful that I got to be a part of."
-Student from Fairfax HS

"I really appreciate you coming by to talk to us. This is important and not many people know about how scary some relationships can be, or who to call if in an abusive relationship."
-Student from the Gay Straight Alliance

"The Jeans Project really left a lasting impression on me. The messages are powerful and the words of encouragement are especially uplifting for those of us who have been sexually assaulted. "
- Community Member

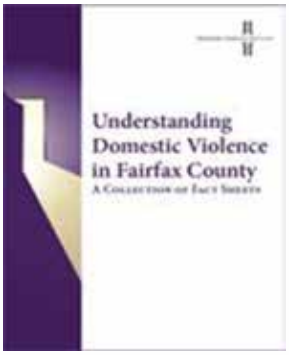
Coordinated Community Response

While the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services provides comprehensive intervention, advocacy, and education services, we do not do this alone. We are fortunate to have many government, law enforcement, and non-profit partners. The staff of the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services includes the County-Wide Domestic Violence Coordinator. Tasked with facilitating the connections among the various service providers in our County, she helps form bridges and alliances to better meet the needs of those affected by domestic and sexual violence and stalking in our community, thus expanding the effectiveness of our supports and interventions and increasing the knowledge of service providers and citizens.

Some of the many achievements that were realized in FY 2014 because of this coordinated response include:

In partnership with the Fairfax County Police Department's Victim Services Section and the DV Network, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter expanded their "Pet Haven" services this year. Now, any victim of domestic violence who needs a safe place for their pets can access the Animal Shelter for up to 60 days of temporary housing. Pets will be cared for by dedicated staff and volunteers and may receive free spay/neuter service and other medical care. This provides relief to the many victims who report that their offenders have also injured their pets or they fear their pets being victimized if they leave the home.

The DV Network's Coordination Committee released "Understanding Domestic Violence in Fairfax County: A Collection of Fact Sheets." These fourteen fact sheets provide professionals with materials to distribute to victims, offenders, allied professionals, and community members. Topics range from "Domestic Violence Myths & Facts" to "Stalking" and "Offender Services."



The Services Committee of the DV Network conducted three Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Roundtables, which brought together the county's three certified BIPs, probation officers, mental health providers, victim advocates, court services staff, law enforcement professionals, and judges. The Roundtables spurred discussion on a variety of issues the BIP programs face, including language capacity, collaboration with mental health and substance abuse providers, and assessing lethality risk of the clients they serve. Participants left the Roundtables with an increased understanding of the three programs as well as enhanced coordination among the providers.

Coordinated Community Response

The mission of the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy & Coordinating Council (DVPPCC) is to unite senior-level public officials and community leaders; to advise the Board of Supervisors on a range of domestic violence policy, legislative, and program issues; and to guide the development of a coordinated and collaborative community response to domestic violence in Fairfax County.

The Domestic Violence Network (DV Network) is a multi-disciplinary group of service providers and justice professionals coordinating a consistent and comprehensive direct response to domestic violence in Fairfax County. The mission of the DV Network is to support the development of a community-wide system of prevention and intervention efforts that are responsive to the needs of individuals and families impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

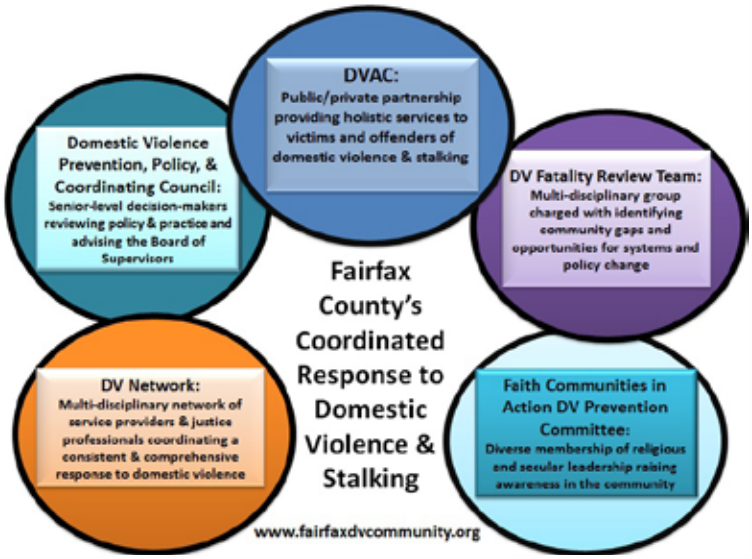
Domestic Violence Network

The Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) is a comprehensive, co-located service center, staffed by county agency and community non-profit partners, created to provide culturally responsive information and support services for victims of intimate partner domestic violence and stalking, and their families, as well as to promote the accountability of offenders of these crimes through specialized prosecution and offender supervision.

DVAC
domestic violence action center

The Faith Communities in Action Domestic Violence Prevention Committee includes the faith community, faith-based organization representatives, and staff from government and non-profit organizations with a mission to prevent domestic violence, support domestic violence victims, and/or work with abusers. The Committee organizes domestic violence prevention workshops and presentations to faith communities, and prepares and distributes faith-based and community domestic violence prevention resource documents. The Committee represents the faith community on the DVPPCC and the DV Network.

Faith Communities Working Together to End Domestic Violence
FCIA Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force
PREVENTION INTERVENTION ADVOCACY ACTION



Counseling

A 56-year-old woman with a history of domestic violence, who was about to become homeless and is now working part-time told her OFWDSVS counselor that the counselor helped get her life back on track and she didn't know where she would be had it not been for the counseling. She also said, "You're a person I can really trust".

A client told her counselor: "Some weeks it was just long enough to make it through all the frightening tasks that brought up so much trauma and deep sense of loss... to get to my counseling session. Without having that session booked, I could not have put one foot in front of the other and (barely) functioned through the painful tasks of my transition away from the domestic violence I experienced."

A 42-year-old sexual assault survivor told her counselor: "I have noticed that I felt better from the first time I came. I think and feel different. I used to feel resentful with life for what had happened to me. Now I see life different, more positive. Now I understand that I am not responsible for what happened to me".

Counseling services for survivors of sexual and/or domestic violence, stalking, teen dating violence, and human trafficking are offered to adults, teens, and children free of charge. Services are offered to both female and male victims. Counseling clients are provided individual counseling with service providers who are specially trained to deal with the trauma around these issues. Group counseling sessions are also offered, including a group specifically for men who were sexually abused as children. A grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services to develop a counseling position specifically to work with children affected by domestic violence was awarded at the end of the fiscal year. This new position will provide much-needed services in Fairfax County.

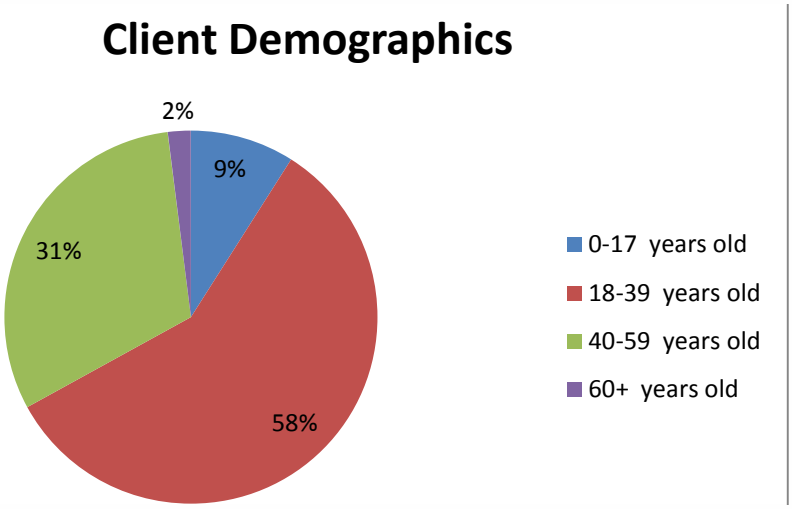
93%

of clients reported improved

emotional health

after receiving services

357 CLIENTS SERVED



Domestic Violence Action Center

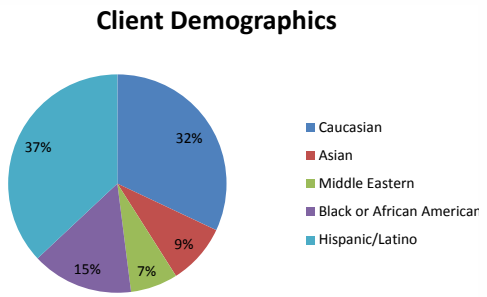
In October 2012, with the financial backing of a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, a group of public and non-profit partners launched the Domestic Violence Action Center, or DVAC. In the summer of 2013, the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services committed to the coordination of the on-site project by assigning staff and a supervisor to the location. Later that year, DVAC was awarded funding of $900,000 to continue the project. Located at the Historic Courthouse in Fairfax City, DVAC is a comprehensive, co-located service center staffed by county agency and community non-profits partners created to provided culturally responsive information and support services for victims of domestic violence and stalking and their families, as well as to provide for the accountability of offenders of these crimes through specialized prosecution and offender supervision.

Advocates and other service providers offer a safe environment where victims can feel comfortable exploring their options and accessing the services and resources they may need. All services are free and, when possible, confidential. DVAC is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and can be reached at 703-246-4573.

Some of the services DVAC can provide are:

- Crisis intervention, emotional support, and options counseling
- Education about the criminal and civil justice systems, including protective orders
- Victim advocacy, including safety planning, court accompaniment, assistance with emergency shelter, and referrals to other off-site resources
- Court attire program that provides a wide selection of clothing for court hearings and job interviews
- Limited food and household items pantry for clients of DVAC

987 CLIENTS SERVED



"Thank you for helping me to put my life in order."

"Thank you for being with me through this hard time."

"Before meeting you, I thought nobody could ever help me and I wanted to die."

DVAC Partners

- A Way Forward
- Ayuda
- Court Services Unit, Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
- Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services
- Fairfax County Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney
- Fairfax County Police Department
- Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- Multicultural Human Services, Northern Virginia Family Services
- Shelter House, Inc.
- Tahirih Justice Center
- Victim Services Section, Fairfax County Police Department
- The Women's Center

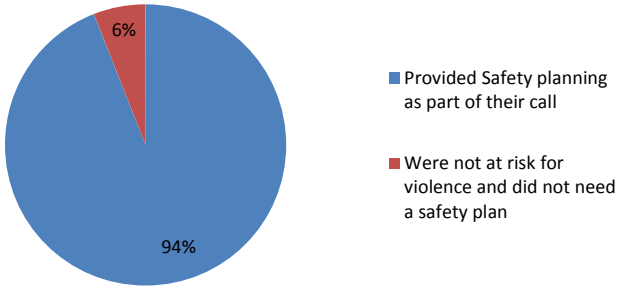
Hotline 703-360-7273

"I have lived a life full of abuse…as a child, in a first marriage, and now again in a second marriage. You are the first person in a professional capacity who has listened to my whole story and understood what I am going through."
- Hotline caller

"The conversation ran the full gambit of emotions from confusion to anger to tears to laughter. As hard as it was to listen to such a disheartening story, what surprised me was the insensitivity she received from those who were supposed to help her. By the time she called, she was questioning herself and her reaction. Getting support from a male voice was probably the last thing she expected, but in the end I think it may have actually carried a little more weight with her given the circumstances. At least this time I think it may have been positive. In the end, I guess what's most important is just providing support."
-Hotline Volunteer

People call the hotline for many reasons including finding safe shelter, information and help with sorting through options, a sympathetic ear, or a safe place to express their fears and concerns. Our callers can be experiencing an immediate crisis that requires some action or they can be looking for information to develop a plan of action in case their situation gets worse. Sometimes, people are in a physical place of safety but are still suffering from the effects of having been involved in a domestic or sexual violence situation. From 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., our hotline is answered by agency staff or trained volunteers. Artemis House, our County's crisis domestic violence shelter, answers the hotline during the overnight hours. Either way, when someone calls our hotline, they can be assured of a locally-based, empathic, knowledgeable, well-trained, and supportive person who will listen to their situations, understand their needs, and work with them to find answers.

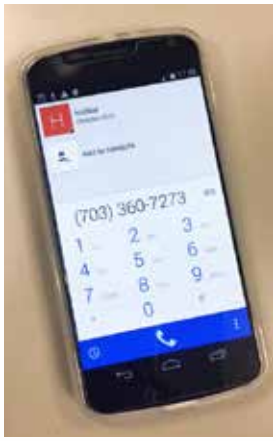
Safety Planning on the Hotline



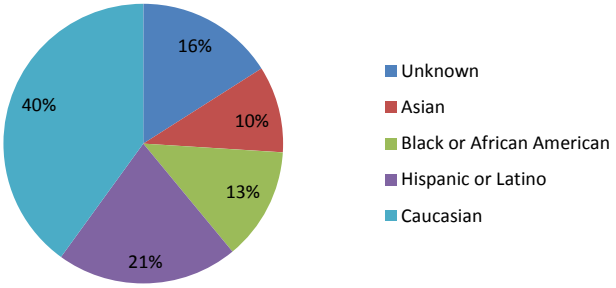
We received

1,477

calls seeking service and information



Client Demographics

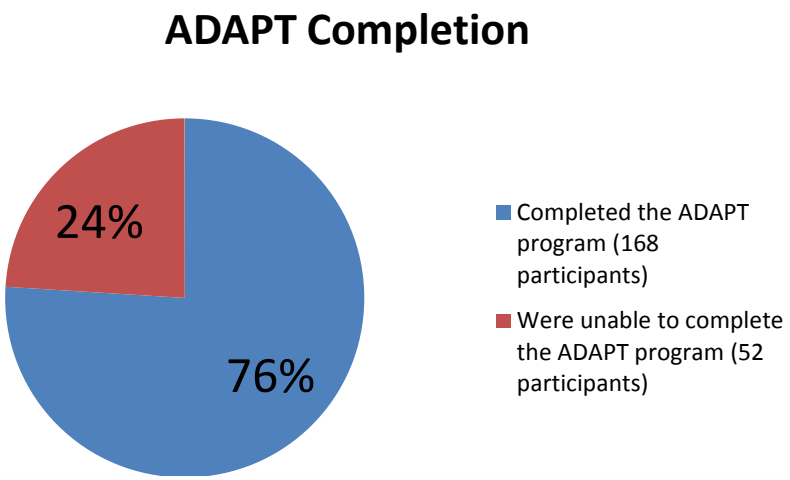


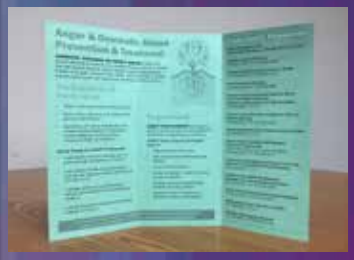
Offender Services

The Offender Services team of the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services provides the Anger and Domestic Abuse Treatment or ADAPT program. ADAPT's 18-week psychoeducational groups are offered in English and Spanish to perpetrators of domestic or family violence who are first time offenders who have been typically ordered by the court to participate in the program. ADAPT services have been state-certified for more than 30 years and focus on teaching skills for emotional regulation. The goals of the ADAPT program are for participants to accept responsibility for their past abuse and to show improvement in their behaviors and attitudes that will affect their future relationships. The Offender Services team also offers Compassion Training for Couples in Conflict in both English and Spanish. This training is designed to teach techniques for healing resentment and improving communication and understanding between partners. Interns and volunteers work with program staff to provide groups in Chantilly, Reston, Annandale, and Alexandria.

100% of clients completing ADAPT accepted responsibility for past abuse

99% of clients completing ADAPT showed significant changes in their attitudes and behaviors that will lead to a reduction of violent behaviors in the future





"I am now a more peaceful, respectful, kind, and understanding person. My wife has congratulated me for how I am now and she says she notices how much more loving and understanding I am. My wife feels happy now and our home life has improved a lot."
– Male participant of ADAPT group

"I cannot express the importance of your class. My life has been completely changed."
- Male participant of ADAPT group

Top 10 Accomplishments of OFWDSVS 2014

Increasing awareness and improving services for victims of sex trafficking
Partnering with the Police Department, public schools, and non-profit organizations, OFWDSVS used a grant award from the VA Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to increase public awareness of teen sex trafficking in Northern Virginia. The project, called "Just Ask," included an interactive website in English and Spanish, several training and awareness events, and other activities.

Improving services to children who have been affected by domestic violence
The negative impact on children who are living in homes with domestic violence has been well-researched and documented. To meet these needs, in Spring 2014, OFWDSVS applied for and was awarded a grant through the VA Department of Social Services that enabled us to create a Children's Counselor position to ensure these services are available in our community.

County-wide training on the DV Danger Assessment
The 2013 annual report of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team recommended that our community develop and implement system-wide lethality screening and assessment tools for high-risk DV and stalking cases. In January 2014, Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, a national expert in lethality assessment, was brought in to train over 100 service providers, including the entire staff of OFWDSVS. In collaboration with county partners, we are implementing this in many ways throughout our services.

Outreach to jails and youth residential sites
OFWDSVS partnered with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and the Community Services Board Forensic Mental Health Program at the Adult Detention Center to meet with female inmates to enhance their knowledge around issues such as financial empowerment, safety, and healthy relationships. Additionally, through the youth residential programs that are part of Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, we are working with male and female youth around safety, communication, and relationship issues.

Presentation of T-O-T-A-L-L-Y!
As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities in April, OFWDSVS coordinated with regional partners to bring Kimleigh Smith, an actress and dancer from Los Angeles, to present T-O-T-A-L-L-Y!, her story of being gang raped at 17 and the courage and strength that it took to find her inner voice and heal from those painful memories.

Top 10 Accomplishments of OFWDSVS 2014

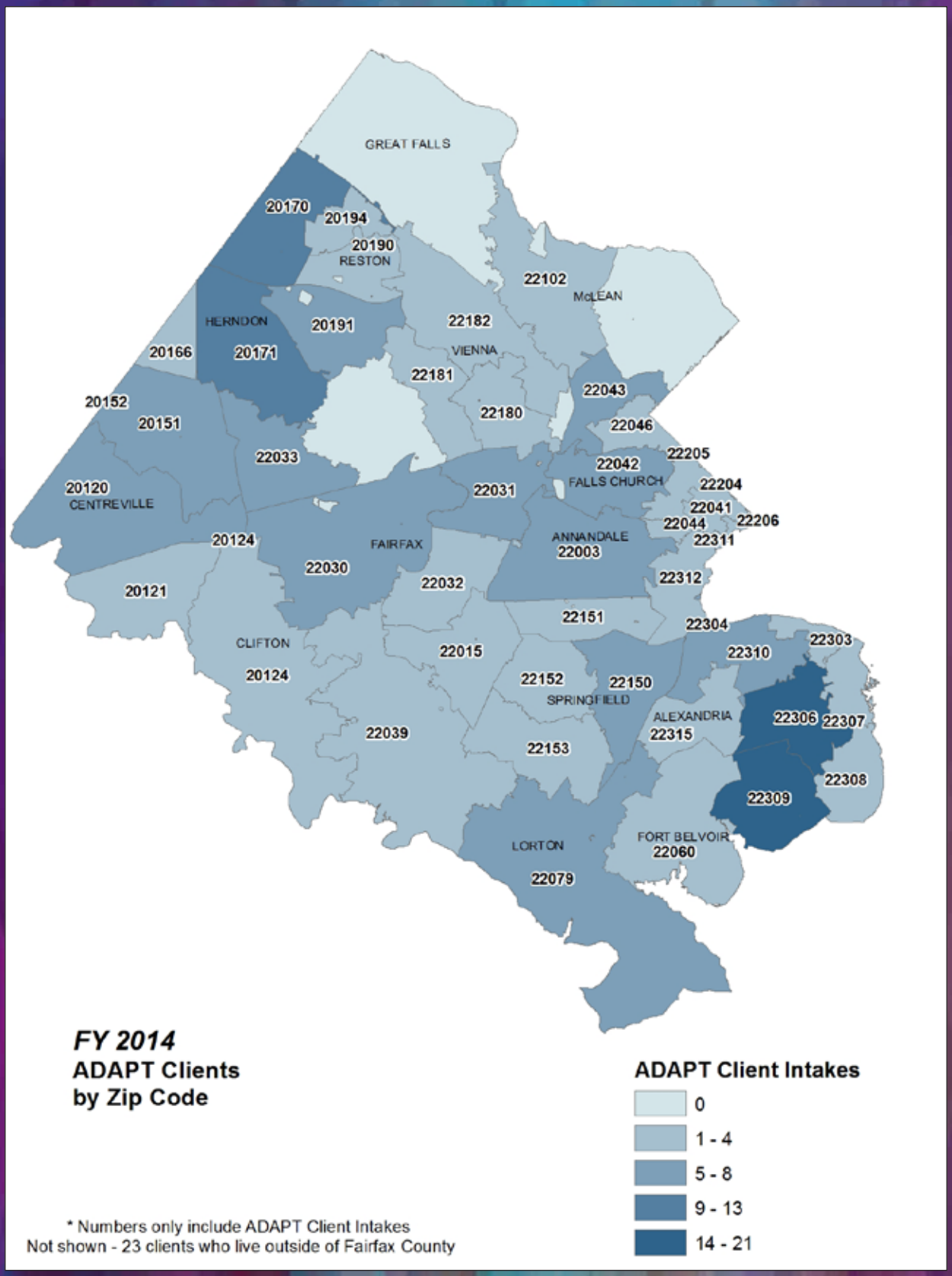
Working with Latino men and boys to eradicate domestic violence
In October 2013, OFWDSVS hosted a two-day training event with Alianza, the National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence. Trainers Jerry Tello and Ricardo Carrillo guided workshop participants through the experiences of Latino males as they explored generational cultural roots and teachings and learned ways to engage Latino advocates in domestic violence work.

Increasing our work with military partners
Through increased outreach, education and collaboration between OFWDSVS and the Fort Belvoir Army Community Services Family Advocacy Program, the number of military affiliated victims served by DVAC increased 356% in a six month period in FY 2014. This partnership has enhanced support to victims by increasing the coordination between military services and community based services to ensure that victims and their families receive the individualized and comprehensive services they need.

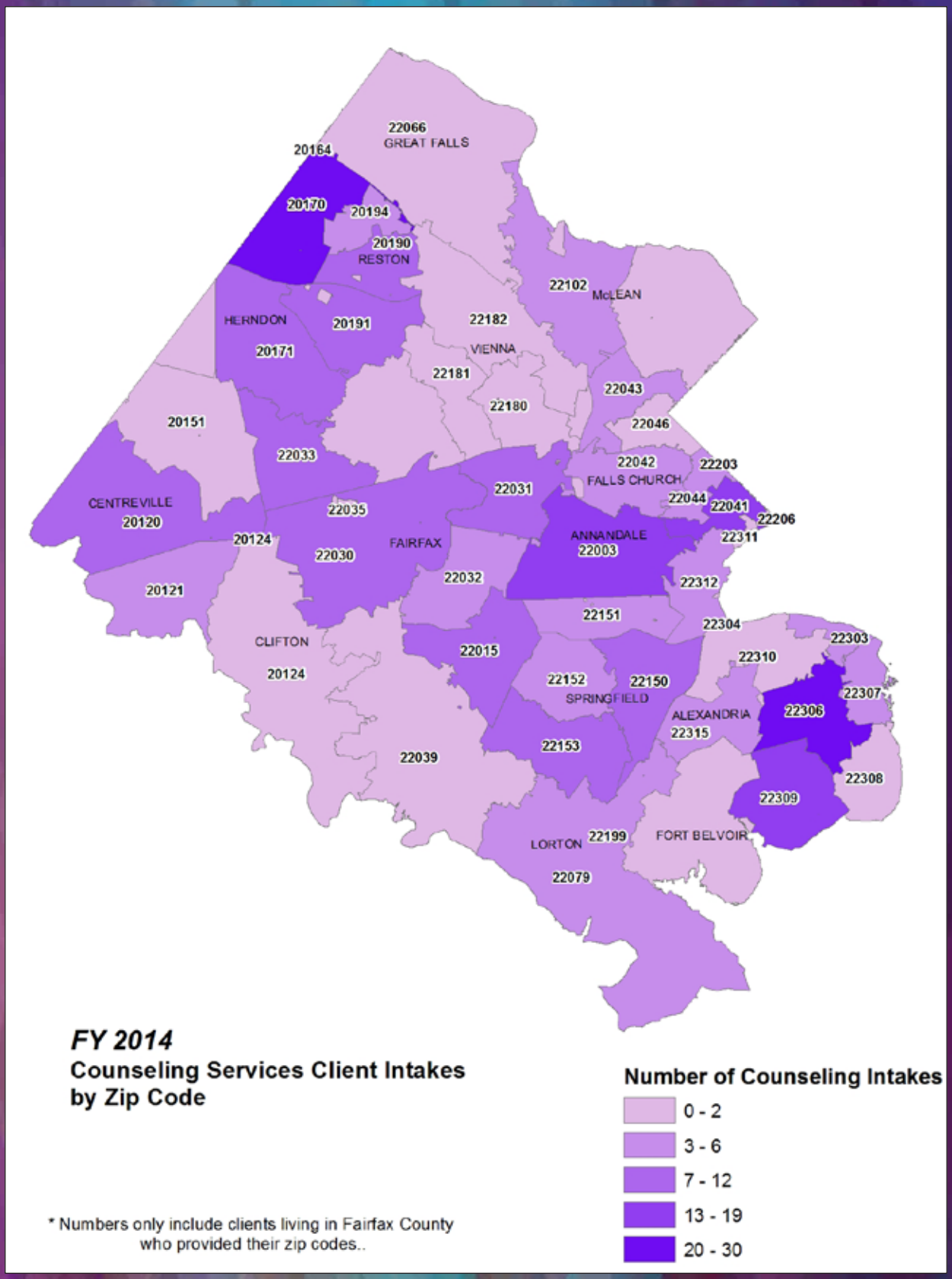
Advocate of the Day
The program to ensure that a community-based victim advocate is available daily to work with protective order petitioners on planning for their safety, informing them of available options and resources and providing court accompaniment throughout the civil and criminal court process grew tremendously in FY 2014 after initially being introduced midway through FY 2013.

Building Healthy Futures Fund for prevention initiatives
Domestic and sexual violence programs under the leadership of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA), have developed the Building Healthy Futures Fund to support education and prevention efforts across the state. As OFWDSVS was part of the effort to pre-sell specially-designed "Peace Begins at Home" license plates to seed the fund, we have a continuing share of the fund. If you are interested in obtaining a "Peace Begins at Home" license plate that was debuted in February 2014 and will continue to fund prevention initiatives, you can do so at www.dmv.state.va.us.

The Commission for Women honors Sheriff Stacey Kincaid
The Fairfax County Commission for Women honored Sheriff Stacey Kincaid as a "Woman of Courage, Character, and Commitment" during Women's History Month in March 2014. A 26-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Kincaid was elected the first female Sheriff in Fairfax County's 271-year history in November 2013. Among her goals are to increase diversity in the department, decrease recidivism, and improve mental health services to inmates. As noted above, the Sheriff's department is working with OFWDSVS to provide services and support to inmates with a history of domestic and/or sexual violence.

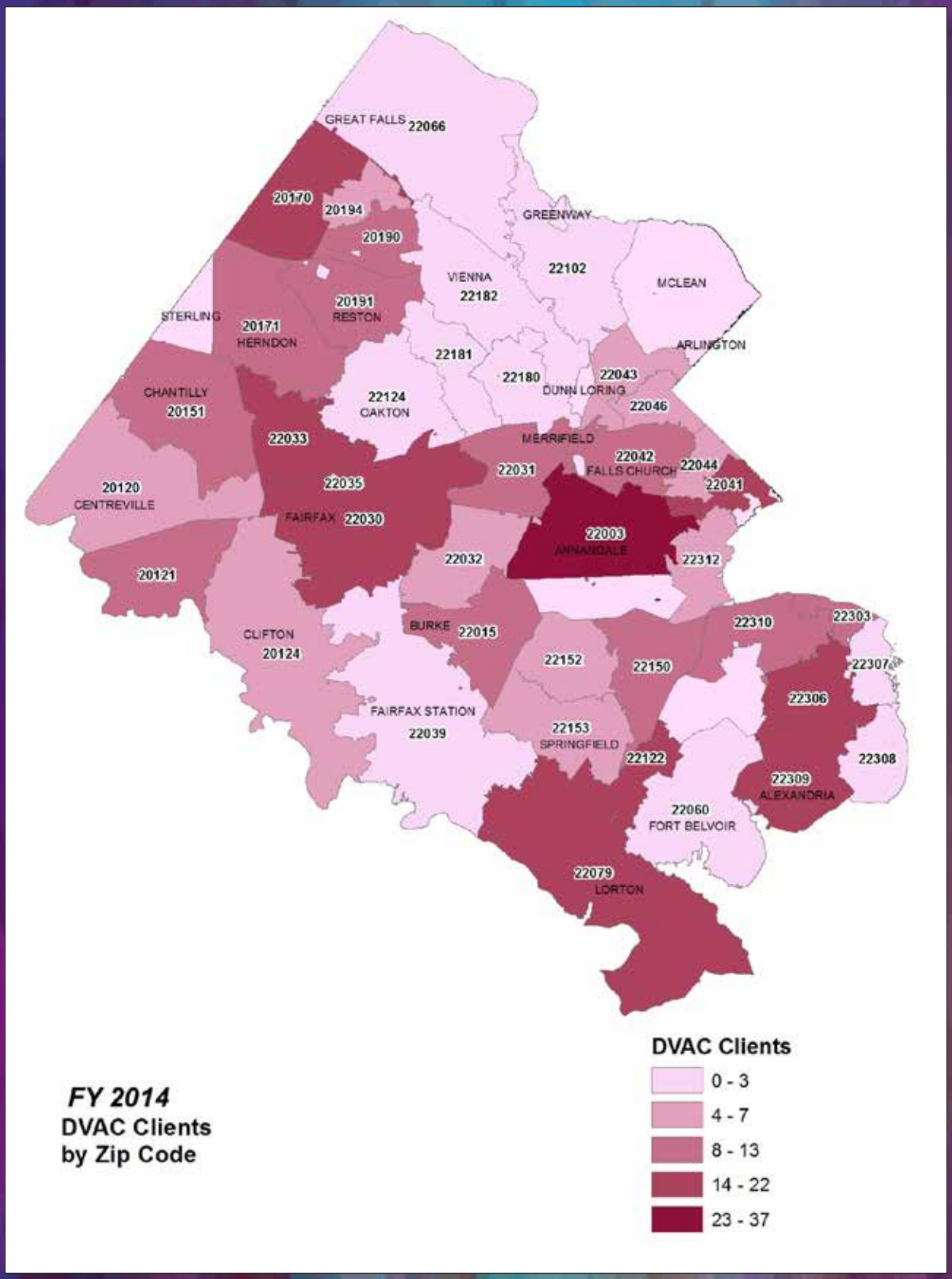


FY 2014
ADAPT Clients

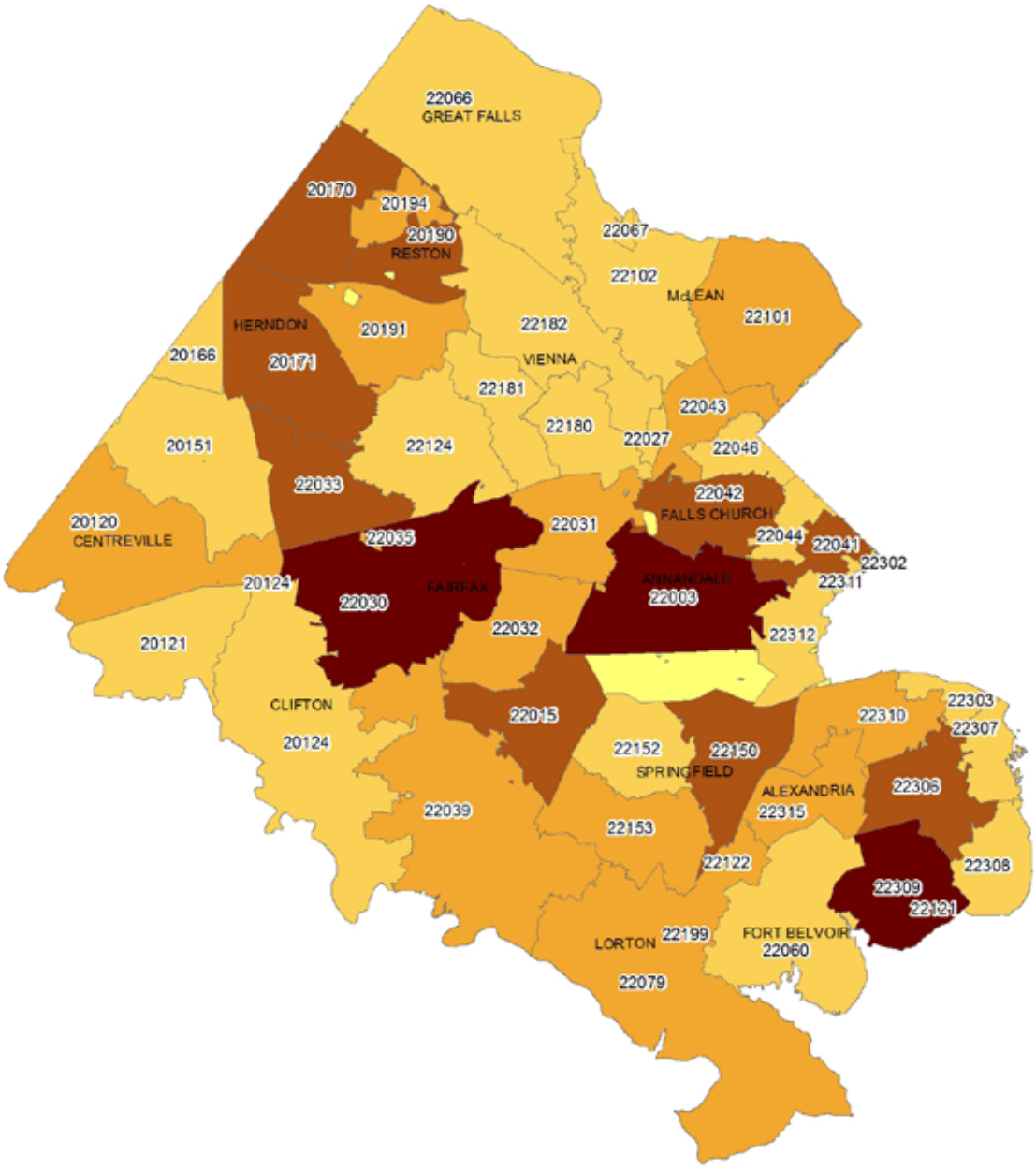


FY 2014

Counseling Services Clients



FY 2014
DVAC Clients



FY 2014
Hotline Callers
by Zip Code

* Numbers only include callers from Fairfax County who provided their Zip Codes during the call.

Number of Hotline Calls

- 0
- 1 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 30
- 31 - 42

FY 2014
Hotline Callers

Fairfax County
Office for Women
& Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Suite 339, Fairfax, VA 22035

703-324-5730 • TTY 703-324-5706
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofw

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. To request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-5730; TTY 703-324-5706.

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