

# Data Collection



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

DFS Division of  
Family Services

## What is it?

### Gathering necessary information

Collecting data is a way to meet grant and funding requirements AND monitor client services and program integrity. Data should be collected in a way that protects a survivor's privacy and honors their trauma.

## Why is it important?

While getting data may be crucial for accountability, it is also important to collect data in a way that respects a survivor's trauma and keeps it confidential. Much of needed data can be collected indirectly through conversation rather than going through a list of questions.

## Is this required?

### Yes!

If funded by VDSS, data must be included in VAdata. Most – if not all - funding sources will require some reporting of data. Data can be used as part of communications about your work to the public, identify gaps in services, and inform strategic planning for the future.

## How do we make it happen?

Program staff need to develop a method for consistent, confidential data collection that is collected in a trauma-informed way.

There are online training modules for VAdata at [vadata.org](http://vadata.org). The Action Alliance staff are available to help as needed. If considering another database option due to program needs, the Action Alliance staff are also a good resource as well as talking with other DVP colleagues.