The RSP surveyed coalitions on their boards in 2011-2014. Of the 53 coalitions who responded, 26% have membership-based boards (14 of 53), 11% have community-based (6 of 53), 57% have a mixture of community and crisis center members (30 of 53), and 8% were transitioning to a mixture of membership and community members (4 of 53).

In the 2006 Survey, 46% responded that their boards were membership-based (22 of 48), 19% were community-based or in transition to becoming community-based (9 of 48), 31% were a mixture of community members and crisis center members (15 of 48) and 4% responded that they did not yet have a board (2 of 48).

Coalitions’ boards change and adapt over time to better serve the organizations’ missions, goals, and overall work. Nearly 42% of coalitions responded that their board structure had changed (22 of 53) since 2006. A distinct trend of coalition boards exists to move from having only representation from rape crisis center membership to having representatives from the overall community. Often these representatives work in the anti-violence field as therapists, police officers, social workers or attorneys. Although these individuals might not specifically work in one of the member programs, coalitions feel they understand the work performed by the coalition, and that the outside perspective is valuable.
As statewide/territory-wide organizations, coalitions face unique challenges with board organization ranging from philosophical questions about board membership to seemingly insurmountable logistical questions on how to facilitate meetings comprised of members across the state or territory. Despite these challenges, most coalitions’ boards have ten or more members. Of the 53 coalitions that responded to this question, only one had fewer than four members. Sixteen coalitions have boards with 5-9 members, twenty-one have 10-14 members, ten have 15-19 members, and five have 20 or more members.

In the 2006 Survey, 6% of coalitions had fewer than 4 board members (3 of 48), 10% had 5-9 members (5 of 48) 40% had 10-14 members (19 of 48), 21% had 15-19 members (10 of 48) and 23% had 20 or more members (11 of 48).