



Sexual Assault
Centre of Edmonton

2 0 0 8

ANNUAL REPORT



~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling

M I S S I O N

The Sexual Assault
Centre of Edmonton
exists to empower
individuals affected by
sexual abuse and
assault and to empower
communities so they
can take action against
sexual violence.

C O R E B E L I E F S

We believe...

- ~ sexual violence is an abuse of power and trust;
- ~ people can heal;
- ~ in valuing diversity and respecting all people;
- ~ individuals should be free to make their own life choices;
- ~ each person should have the opportunity to learn and grow;
- ~ in creating a safe environment and maintaining confidentiality;
- ~ inability to pay should not be a barrier to receiving service;
- ~ in providing support and advocacy for people who have been affected by sexual violence;
- ~ services must be accessible to children, adolescents, women and men;
- ~ communities must take action to protect vulnerable people and to become free from violence;
- ~ offenders, not victims, must take responsibility for violence;
- ~ teamwork is essential;
- ~ volunteers are crucial to our agency and provide a link to the community.

Message from the Acting Chair

My goodness, what a year we have seen in the world....and here around the SACE office, things have been exciting as well. I bring you warm greetings from my Board colleagues who are extremely dedicated, endlessly talented, and tremendously supportive. This year, as a Board, we have:

- completed and revised all agency policies and procedures,;
- established a housing committee (our lease expires in 2010) to explore occupancy options;
- formed a Risk Management Committee to review risk exposure inside and outside of the agency.

With great leadership from our Treasurer, we are financially sound and prudent in our management of agency funds.

On behalf of SACE, I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank our funders, the United Way of Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family & Community Support Services, City of Edmonton CIOG, Donner Canadian Foundation, A.B. Edie Equities Inc., Alberta Solicitor General, Alberta Children & Youth Services, Alberta Gaming, Servus Credit Union Kids Foundation, Caritas Health Group Staff Charitable Donations Fund, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees Charitable Donations Fund, Common Wealth Credit Union Ltd., Daughters of the Nile, Allard Foundation, Atco EPIC Program, and Union 52 Benevolent Society. An additional thank you must go to our volunteers, who assist and support the staff in our valuable work.

Special acknowledgement and thanks must go to Karen L. Smith, who with skilled leadership and direction, motivates and supports the staff in the tremendous work they do. Her support of the work of the Board is always appreciated.

Susan Jamieson,
Vice Chair, Acting Chair

Board of Directors

Executive

Denise Watson
Chair

Sue Jamieson
Vice-Chair

Mary Frances Fitzgerald
Secretary

Ryan Schetzle
Treasurer

Board Members

Sean Armstrong
Michelle Boden
Pat Harrish
Laura Lee
JoAnn McCartney
Sherry Melney
Kirsty Prasad
John Ratcliff
Miriam Weinfeld

Board Intern

Sylvia Hoang

“Courage doesn't
always roar.

Sometimes courage
is the quiet voice at
the end of the day
saying, "I will try
again tomorrow".

Mary Anne Radmacher

Treasurer's Report

SACE continues to remain in a financially stable position. This is due to the generous contributions of our funders, combined with the efficiency and dedication of the volunteers, staff and management of SACE. The quality of the services SACE provides to the community is truly outstanding. Each year it amazes me how much the staff and management of SACE can get out of each funding dollar.

At the heart of our stable position is the continued funding from our major funders. We are extremely grateful for the financial support received from the United Way of Alberta Capital Region, The City of Edmonton Family Community Support Services, Alberta Children & Youth Services, and Alberta Solicitor General.

Additional funding is provided to SACE from a number of other organizations. This funding provides supplementary support to our core services, and also presents opportunities for additional, unique service provision. We would like to thank the following organizations for their financial support: Atco EPIC Program, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees Charitable Donations Fund, Caritas Health Group Staff Charitable Donations Fund, Common Wealth Credit Union Ltd., Daughters of the Nile, Allard Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, Servus Kids Foundation, and Union 52 Benevolent Society. SACE would also like to acknowledge the continued generous support and assistance received from our landlord, Allan Edie, of A.B. Edie Equities Inc.

2008 was a financially successful year for SACE. We achieved a bottom line of approximately break even. We provided excellent and essential services to the community, through generous funding and efficient spending. We again thank all of our financial supporters and look forward to their continued and increasing support in the future as SACE continues to grow to meet the needs of the community.

Ryan Schetzle,
Treasurer

Strategic Planning Committee

Throughout this reporting year, the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton has continued to focus on key priorities identified within our Strategic Plan. We continue to strive to provide responsive and proactive services to meet emerging community and client needs; to be recognized as an essential community service, providing specialty programs to citizens impacted by sexual violence; and to increase the SACE profile/awareness within the community of Edmonton and surrounding area.

Key achievements made throughout 2008 included:

1. Securing core and grant funding for the continuance of our operations, as well as to fund new programs for diverse communities and court support.
2. Increased requests for Public Education presentations specific to ethno-cultural communities.
3. National "Making a Difference" (MAD) conference to examine ways to increase conviction rates in sexual assault cases right across the country.
4. Expansion of the SPEAK (Safe Preschool Education and Awareness Kit) to appropriate educational and child care facilities in the area.
5. Continued partnerships with key community agencies to ensure a strategic alliance if formed to most effectively respond to client's needs.

A Board retreat was held in November 2008, to review and refresh our Strategic Plan for the upcoming year.

Pat Harrish
Chair, Strategic Planning Committee

Housing Committee

Throughout 2008, the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton continued to plan strategically for the possible need to move to new office space. Our priorities of maintaining seamless provision of services to all of our clients, and having affordable office space in a comfortable atmosphere while remaining accessible to our client base, are matters we have been working to ensure. Throughout the year, members of the SACE Housing Committee met several times. This Committee includes Board members Ryan Schetzle, Pat Harrish and Laura Lee, along with Executive Director, Karen Smith.

We are exploring all occupancy possibilities and options. We must balance moving costs and benefits of all possible locations. We have been consulting with a commercial realtor on the best approaches for finding a new home for SACE by the end of 2010, should that be required. If we are certain we need to find a new home, we will make sure we find the optimal time to do that, to meet both financial and organizational requirements.

Laura Lee
Chair, Housing Committee

Message from the Executive Director

2008 was a year of change and reflection at SACE. It was a year in which we had a significant turnover in personnel. Staff left, not because they were unhappy at SACE, but because other opportunities emerged. SACE provides exceptional training and experience, and our staff are highly sought after throughout the Capital Region. As with our sisters and brothers around the world, we don't know what new economic challenges we will face in 2009, but we will do our best to deal with the circumstances that present themselves.

At SACE, we take our value of respecting all people and apply it to our various programs. SACE works in cooperation with our community partners to promote the health and well being of our clients. We believe in the dignity, intrinsic worth, and ability of individuals to adapt, grow, and begin to heal. We also know that the best way to move our community towards freedom from sexual violence is to shift attitudes from indifference to a belief that violence is not inevitable.

I would like to thank our funders for their belief in our organization and the work we do in the community. The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services, Alberta Children and Youth Services, Alberta Solicitor General, Donner Canadian Foundation, and City of Edmonton CIOG all support our programs and permit us to do our valuable work.

SACE also appreciates the financial support of our many donors including A.B. Edie Equities, Servus Credit Union Kid's Foundation, Allard Foundation, Daughters of the Nile, Caritas Health Group Staff Charitable Donations Fund, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees' Charitable Donations Fund, Atco EPIC Program, and Union 52 Benevolent Society. SACE is also very grateful for the support of numerous individual donors and volunteers.

Our organization is very fortunate to have a talented and dedicated Board of Directors. I would like to thank Denise Watson, Susan Jamieson, Ryan Schetzle, Mary Francis Fitzgerald, Sean Armstrong, Michelle Boden, Pat Harrish, Laura Lee, JoAnn McCartney, Sherry Melney, Kirsty Prasad, John Ratcliff, and Miriam Weinfeld for their incredible support, vision and leadership. I would also like to acknowledge the valuable input and contributions of our Board Intern, Sylvia Hoang.

I would like to thank our staff members for whom this is much more than "just a job"! Mary Banda, Pat C, Thea Comeau, Marion D, Danielle Dressler, Karen Dushinski, Sandy F, Sandra Gallace, Jill Green, Shirley Howarth, Terra Irvine, Mary Jane James, Doreen Johnson, Matilda Kamara, Laura Kennedy, Jacqueline Linder, Jocelyn Malinowski, Erin Martin, Christine Minah, Shazin Mohammed, Pamela Olfert, Andrea Palmer, Monika Penner, Herma Ratcliff, Pragya Sharma, Bridget Stirling, and Jennifer Venditelli. We could not do our work in the community without you! Thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge the immeasurable contributions that Deb Gouchey has made to SACE over the last 22 years. We all wish her well as she and her family begins another journey. Thank you, Deb.

Karen L. Smith,
Executive Director

Personnel

Executive Director

Karen L. Smith

Financial Administrator

Herma Ratcliff

Executive Assistant

Mary Jane James

Receptionist

Terra Irvine

Director of Public Education

Pragya Sharma

Public Educators

Bridget Stirling

Jen Vendittelli

Director of Client Services

Karen Dushinski

Child & Adolescent Therapists

Karen Dushinski

Monika Penner

Intake/Adult Counsellors

Shirley Howarth

Jill Green

Laura Kennedy

Jacqueline Linder

Diversity Outreach/Court Support Program

Mary Banda

Matilda Kamara

Christine Mhina

Director of Volunteer Services

Erin Martin

82% of all federally sentenced women report having been physically and/or sexually abused. This percentage rises to 90% for Aboriginal women.

Statistics Canada. (2006). Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006. (Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 85-570-XWE). Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada.

Client Services Department

We had another busy and exciting year in the Counselling Programs at SACE. It has been an honour to continue in the role of Director of Client Services and to work with such a wonderful group of professionals. Although we faced challenges over the year, we were able overcome these obstacles with passion and dedication to our clients in keeping with the mandate of our agency.

Child and Adolescent Program

In 2008, the Child and Adolescent Program consisted of three capable professionals, namely, Monika Penner, Sandra Gallace, and Karen Dushinski. Over the year, these two full-time equivalent staff positions had over 1800 consultations with community members, parents and professionals, as well as almost 1000 hours of counselling with children and teens. The Child and Adolescent Program received referrals from various sources, including The Zebra Centre, the Child and Adolescent Protection Centre at the Stollery Children's Hospital, Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Authority - Region 6, Edmonton Public and Catholic School Systems, and other community agencies. Due to demand, we were also able to offer an adolescent girls' group for recent or childhood abuse survivors.

Intake/Adult Counselling Program

The Intake/Adult Counselling Program at SACE offers group and individual counselling for women and men, over the age of 18, who have been affected by sexual violence. Clients may attend up to ten individual counselling sessions, with the focus on stabilization and encouraging healthier coping mechanisms in their healing. Individual counselling also helps to prepare clients for the appropriate group counselling sessions available at SACE. In 2008, we offered the following group sessions: Child Sexual Abuse Survivors (CSAS 1 & 2), Sexual Assault Survivors (SASS), and the Process Group.

Our adult therapists provided counselling services to over 250 clients and logged over 1500 hours of client sessions, as well as 1300 community consultations. SACE continues to benefit from the dedicated work and expertise of the adult counselling team, including, Shirley Howarth, Mary Banda, Laura Kennedy, Jill Green, and Jacqueline Linder.

SACE also has important relationships with the various counselling and social work programs in the City. We provided placements for several Masters Students in Counselling Psychology, including Kristine Hagen, Thea Comeau, and Shazin Mohamed. We have also been fortunate to have Danielle Dressler and Jocelyn Malinowski, from the Grant MacEwan Social Work Program, with us for their eight-month practicum placement. We thank all of these students for their hard work and dedication.

Diversity Outreach and Court Support Program

Mary Banda and Christine Mhina have had another busy year in the Diversity Outreach and Court Support Program, and in November, we were happy to welcome back Matilda Kamara from maternity leave. The Program continues to provide unique services to marginalized populations that include Aboriginal People, Ethno-cultural communities, Seniors, "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirit, Intersex, Questioning and Queer" (GLBTTIQQ) Community, and People with Disabilities. One of the Program goals has always been to increase the accessibility of our services to the targeted communities. We continue to work with community elders, interested groups, and agencies in order to determine best practices and to implement strategies for program delivery. In the past year, we were involved in a number of community initiatives, providing expertise on issues related to sexual violence and the judicial system.

We received over 100 new referrals from partner agencies in 2008. Mary Banda participated in a number of community projects, including being part of the Organizing Committee for the 2008 Diverse Voices - Family Violence Conference. As an active member of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), we also participated in the "Pathways to Gender Justice Initiative". This program addresses gender-based approaches to service delivery for immigrants and refugee women who have, or are, experiencing violence.

The Diversity Outreach and Court Support Program has been able to support victims of sexual assault who choose to report to police. We provide information and emotional support while clients go through the court process. Over the past year, we supported 34 clients accessing legal services, and we logged 160 hours in direct court support. As well, we distributed over 125 Financial Benefit Packages and handed out Victims of Crime Protocol Booklets to 114 individuals. Victim advocacy continues to be an important component of the program. In addition, the Diversity Program delivered over 35 presentations on topics ranging from sexual harassment in the work place, to issues of human and victims' rights.

Karen Dushinski,
Director of Client Services

Public Education

As the recently-appointed Director of Public Education, I am proud to report on the Department's activities over the past year.

The year has been both challenging and rewarding for Public Education. Apparently, at the end of 2007, someone installed a revolving door through which staff have continually entered and exited, resulting in almost a 100% turnover in 12 months. In the fall, the Department was restructured to include a Director of Public Education to provide guidance and stability during staff changes. This restructuring has eased the transition of new staff members, strengthened training procedures, and stabilized the Department.

Despite our hurdles, Public Education has had yet another successful year. In addition to the dozens of booths and information fairs we attended, the Public Education Department presented educational sessions to 216 unique groups, consisting of 2988 participants. Popular topics included sexual assault, drug-facilitated sexual assault, dating violence, healthy relationships, child sexual abuse, adults abused as children, and many more. Given our staff changes, the number of presentations, and the wide range of topics, this has been no small feat! Much of this work is because of the enormous passion, dedication and skill our Public Educators, Jennifer Vendittelli and Bridget Stirling, bring not only to their presentations, but to the working environment at SACE.

As always, Public Education has maintained its commitment to participation in the broader Edmonton community. While educational sessions are a large component of our work, collaboration with other community members through various committee involvement, is equally important. Over the past year, we participated in the annual "Take Back the Night" event and on the "Expecting Respect" Committee, as well as hosting several nursing students as part of the community placement component of their program at the University of Alberta. As opposed to short-term educational presentations, these initiatives provide opportunities for longer-term involvement in the community. For example, in Take Back the Night 2008, we participated in the University of Alberta's Community Service Learning program. Through this program, we hosted two placement students (Nikki U and Alaina T) who helped organize the year's event. In 2008, we hosted another student (Christal R) who has helped plan the upcoming 2009 event. The nursing students we have had the pleasure to work with include Cassandra T, Amy C, Alicia T, Ella C, Theresa K, Carla L, Teresa M, Suzanne B and Caitlin M. The students made an enormous contribution toward developing new pamphlets on supporting those who have experienced sexual violence, elder abuse, sexual abuse in GLBTIQ communities, and more.

In embracing the new year, and welcoming its impending challenges and rewards, Public Education excitedly ushers in 2009. We are continually seeking more opportunities to bring sexual violence education to as many people as possible in new, creative, empowering, and diverse ways!

Pragya Sharma,
Director of Public Education

Volunteer Services

It is with pride and hope for the future that I take this opportunity to reflect on 2008 and all of the amazing successes and experiences within the Volunteer Program at SACE.

Certainly, as local and national trends reflect, we are finding it harder and harder to recruit and retain volunteers. Last year, I lost many volunteers as their personal situations changed, and it became necessary for them to pick up second jobs in order to get by each month. Many students are finding they need to work longer hours in their part-time jobs, and, as such, they cannot commit on an ongoing, long-term basis. It appears many individuals are reluctant to take on new commitments, and some find themselves needing to cut back on the commitments they have already made.

Even with this challenge, we were thankful to have had 35 new volunteers successfully complete the crisis line training program and now have 57 dedicated individuals volunteering on the crisis line, which I believe is an incredible feat! These volunteers show true strength and courage as they answer calls and respond to very difficult issues that many people in our community have difficulty facing.

I am also truly thankful for our fundraising volunteers who continually demonstrate their commitment and dedication to SACE by making themselves available for every bingo possible in 2008. I am also grateful for the laughter I get to share in, and the smiles I get to see, when participating in fundraising events and working with our office volunteers who provide much needed office support. These things remind me of all that is good and positive in our community. It would not be possible to support Edmonton residents in the way we do without the ongoing commitment of each and every person who contributes to our agency in so many ways!

Our volunteers are incredibly passionate and committed, and each one gives me hope that change is possible. They prove that a genuine, caring community member has incredible power to make change and to help our community be a better place than it already is.

Erin Martin,
Director of Volunteer Services

Volunteers

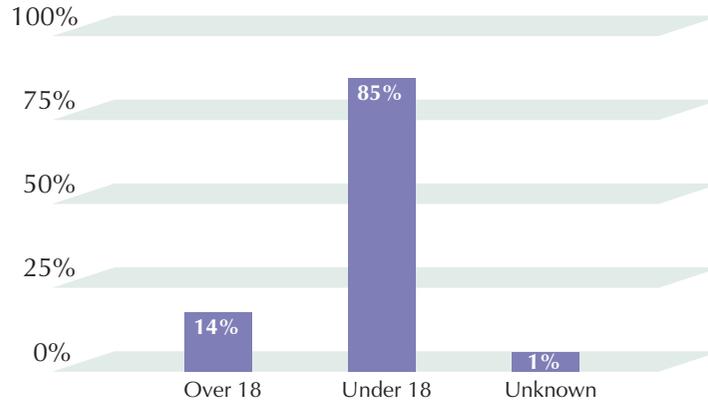
Adrian M.	Dana E.	Janice D.	Michelle B.	Sandra G.
Alaina T.	Dana S.	Jen B.	Michelle H.	Sara T.
Alacia B.	Daniela V.	Jen V.	Michelle M.	Sara W.
Alex R.	Danielle D.	Jeff A.	Michelle T.	Satie S.
Alfie L.	Dave D.	Jeff C.	Mike A.	Sean A.
Alicia T.	Dave M.	Jill G.	Mike L.	Semone D.
Aly J.	Dave S.	Jill T.	Millie H.	Shannon R.
Alyssa C.	David D.	JoAnn M.	Miriam W.	Shazin N.
Amy C.	Deb G.	Joan L.	Monika P.	Sheila P.
Andrea P.	Debbie G.	Jocelynn M.	Monika S.	Shelila H.
Andy D.	Debra W.	John B.	Mya I.	Sherry M.
Angele T.	Denise W.	John G.	Myrna D.	Shirley H.
Anne R.	Diane C.	John R.	Nahid G.	Sholly S.
Ashley H.	Doreen C.	John W.	Nikki U.	Simran G.
Ashley W.	Doreen J.	Joy S.	Nicolle H.	Sophie P.
Audrey Y.	Doug R.	Julie P.	Pam O.	Stacey P.
Avril H.	Elaine B.	June L.	Pamela B.	Stephanie D.
Becky L.	Ella C.	Karen D.	Pat C.	Stephanie H.
Beena K.	Ellen H.	Karen S.	Pat H.	Sue B.
Belinda R.	Emily S.	Kathleen S.	Patrice L.	Sue G.
Beth A.	Eric A.	Kathy B.	Paul C.	Susan J.
Betty M.	Erin M.	Kirsty P.	Paula G.	Susan M.
Bill P.	Erin S.	Krystal N.	Pauline W.	Susan P.
Bill T.	Ewar J.	Laura K.	Priyanka P.	Suzanne B.
Brandy W.	Francis C.	Laura L.	Pragya S.	Sylvia H.
Bridget S.	Gail M.	Lauren B.	Ramona C.	Tammy B.
Brooke J.	Glenis S.	Lauren L.	Ray L.	Tara B.
Carla I.	Glynis T.	Laurie M.	Reena S.	Teresa M.
CarrieAnne M.	Haben B.	Leigh A.	Reg M.	Terra I.
Cassandra T.	Hayley R.	Lillian G.	Rita B.	Thea C.
Cassandra F.	Heather B.	Maggie F.	Rob B.	Tighe W.
Caitlin M.	Heather C.	Marion D.	Rob J.	Triscia L.
Chandra A.	Heather W.	Mary B.	Robin C.	Troy P.
Charlotte F.	Heidi A.	Mary P.	Rod G.	Troy G.
Chelsea G.	Helen H.	Mary S.	Ronda B.	Vivian L.
Chris J.	Herma R.	Mary Fran F.	Rose N.	Wade W.
Christa J.	Hilda Clara B.	Mary Jane J.	Ross O.	William T.
Christal R.	Holly W.	Matilda K.	Ryan S.	Yvonne S.
Christine M.	Jackie Y.	Megan H.	Saleena H.	Zaidee J.
Claire D.	Jacqueline L.	Melissa Z.	Sandi F.	Zara W.

“Never doubt
that a small
group of
thoughtful,
committed
citizens can
change the
world. Indeed,
it is the only
thing that
ever has”.

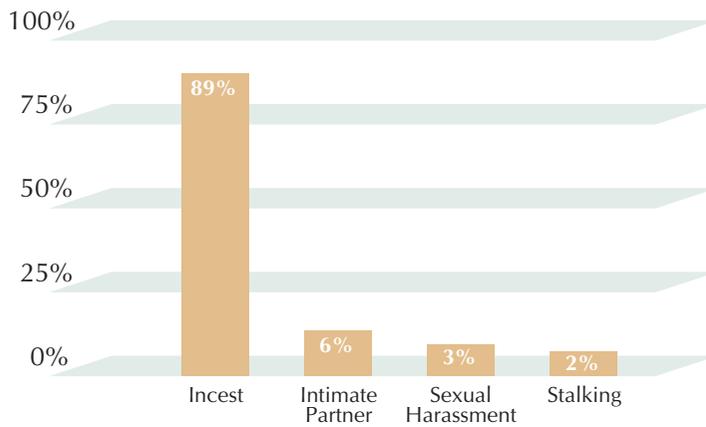
Margaret Mead

2008 Crisis Line Stats

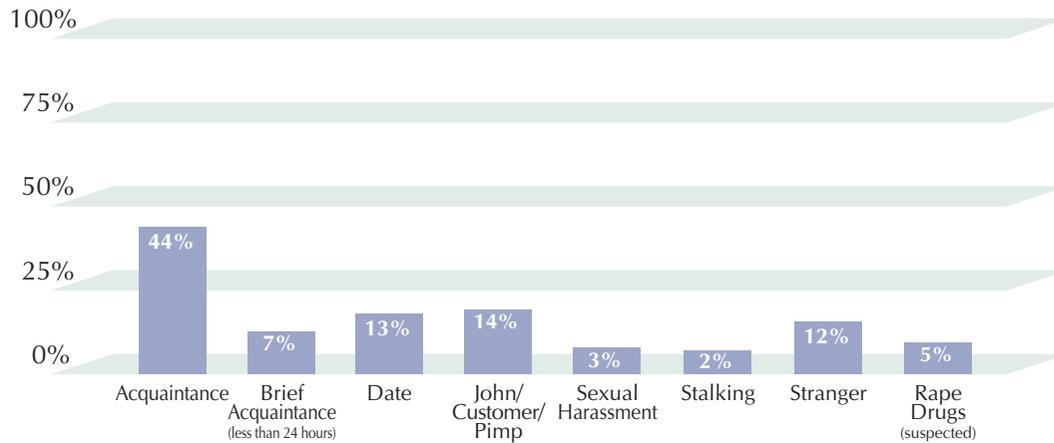
Victim Age at Time of Assault



Assault Type - Interfamilial

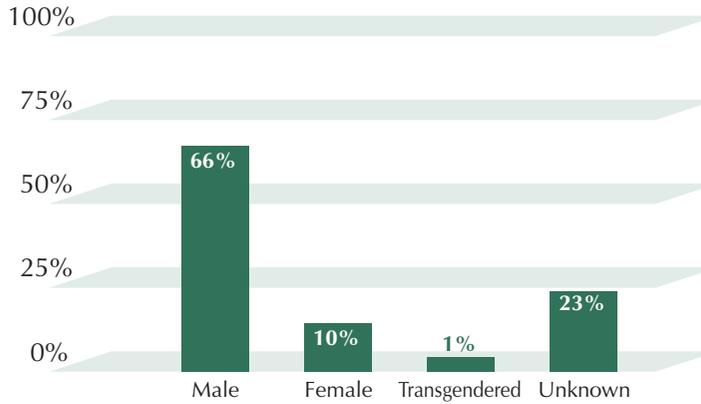


Assault Type - Extra Familial

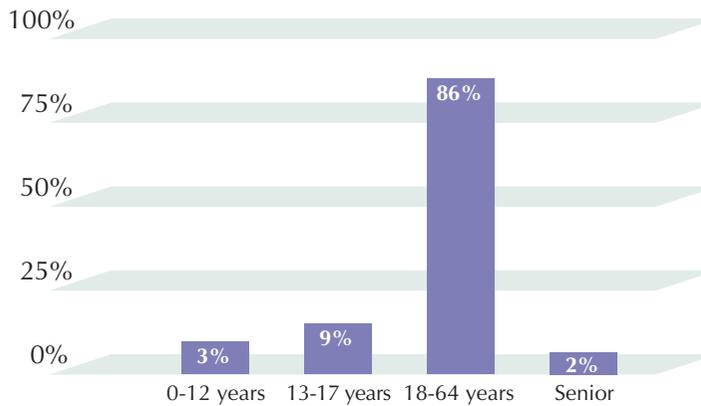


2008 Crisis Line Stats

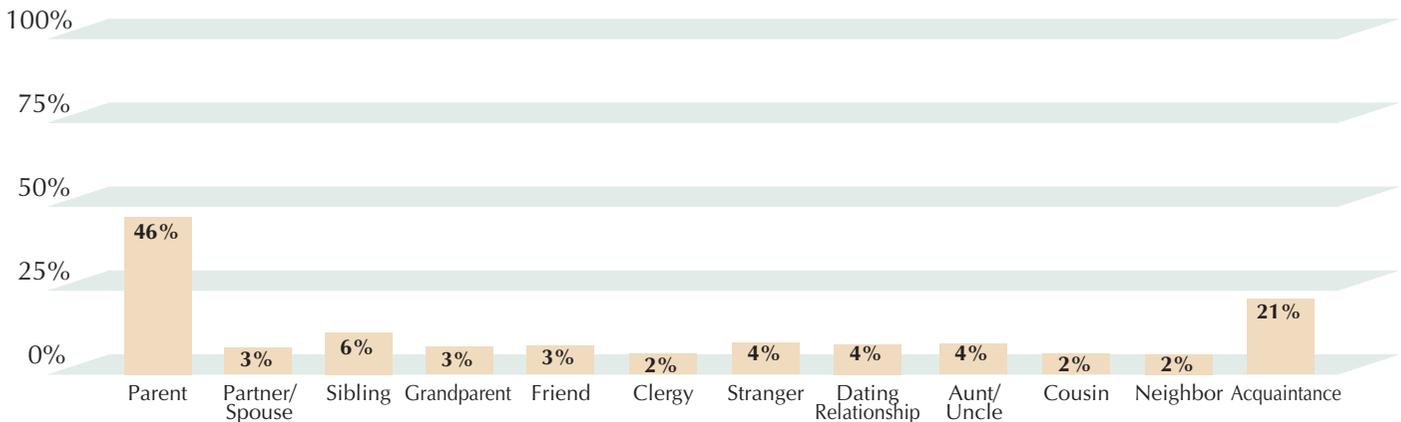
Perpetrator Identified As



Perpetrator Age at Time of Assault



Perpetrator Relationship to Victim



~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling



Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton

~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling

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Business line: **780-423-4102**

T.T.Y. (Telephone Device for the Deaf) line: 780-420-1482

fax: 780-421-8734

24 hour crisis line: 780-423-4121

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