



Sexual Assault  
Centre of Edmonton

2 0 0 7

# ANNUAL REPORT



~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling

## M I S S I O N

**T**he Sexual Assault  
Centre of Edmonton  
exists to empower  
individuals affected  
by sexual abuse and  
assault and empower  
communities to take  
action against sexual  
violence.

## C O R E B E L I E F S

**W**e 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

It has been my pleasure to serve in this role for the past year. As with previous years, SACE had its share of challenges and opportunities in 2007. Certainly, staffing issues in a "hot" economy played havoc with staff acquisition and retention. However, the present team is a very talented and skilled group who serve our clients well. We did receive an increase from Alberta Children's Services that was directed towards increasing services in the Diversity Outreach, Adult and Children's Programs.

On behalf of SACE, I need to publicly acknowledge and thank our funders, namely the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family & Community Support Services, City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant, Donner Canadian Foundation, Edmonton Community Foundation, A.B. Edie Equities Inc., Alberta Solicitor General, Alberta Children's Services, Edmonton Region Board of Person's with Developmental Disabilities, 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. and Union #52 Benevolent Society. An additional thank you must go to our volunteers who assist and support the staff in the valuable work that is done. Volunteers are critical to the success of our 24-hour crisis line, and, without them, available service will be lost. Our volunteers bring with them a generosity of spirit that is energizing and inspirational.

My Board colleagues have been supportive and helpful to me in the new duties for the year, as well as guiding the agency carefully and strategically. Thank you all. Special acknowledgement and thanks must also be given to Karen L. Smith for her dedication, leadership, and direction during the 2007 term.

Susan Jamieson  
Vice Chair (Acting Chair)

# Board of Directors

## Executive

Denise Watson  
Chair

Susan Jamieson  
Vice Chair (Acting Chair)

Ryan Schetzle  
Treasurer

Mary Frances Fitzgerald  
Secretary

## Board Members

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

*39% of women  
report having had at  
least one experience  
of sexual assault since  
the age of 16*

(Statistics Canada,  
Measuring Violence Against  
Women, 2006)

## Treasurer's Report

**F**rom a financial perspective, a successful year for SACE involves two things. The first is the receipt of funding so that the Centre can supply the necessary services it provides to the community. In 2007, we were again fortunate to have the continued funding from our long time core funders, the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region and the City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services. We also very thankful for the increasing funds received from Alberta Children's Services.

Additional funding is provided to SACE from a number of other organizations, providing supplementary financial assistance to our core services. We would like to thank the following organizations for their ongoing financial support: Alberta Solicitor General, Edmonton Community Foundation, City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant, Edmonton Region Board of Person's with Developmental Disabilities, Donner Canadian Foundation, the Community Facility Enhancement Program, Caritas Health Group Staff Charitable Donations Fund, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employee's Charitable Donations Fund, Common Wealth Credit Union Ltd., 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.

The second part of a successful financial year, is the efficient and prudent expenditure of the financial resources available. SACE has a wonderful financial manager in Deb Gouchey and an outstanding Executive Director in Karen Smith. They along with the entire staff of SACE, always ensure to get the most out of every dollar that SACE receives.

2007 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

**T**hroughout 2007, the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton has continued to progress on our three key priorities, namely: providing responsive and proactive services to meet emerging community and client needs; being recognized as an essential community service, providing specialty programs to citizens impacted by sexual violence; and increasing the SACE profile/awareness within the community of Edmonton and surrounding area.

New initiatives advanced this year included:

1. Enhancing relationships with the Aboriginal Community. We held a focus meeting on enhancing outreach programs, developing mentorship opportunities, and advancing SPEAK training.
2. Creation of new print materials for diverse populations;
3. Creation of new materials for general population;
4. Enhancing public awareness;
5. Developing partnerships at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

Pat Harrish  
Strategic Planning Committee

*83% of women with disabilities will be sexually assaulted during their lifetime.*

(L. Stimpson and M. Best, 1991, *Courage Above All: Sexual Assault against Women with Disabilities*)

## Message from the Executive Director

**2007** was a year of change and celebration at SACE. We said good bye to old friends and welcomed new ones. It was a year in which we had more than a 50% turnover in personnel due to the prosperity in our province and the multitude of new employment opportunities that abound. SACE provides exceptional training and experience and our staff were highly sought after throughout the Capital Region.

At SACE, we take our value of respecting all people and apply it to our various programs. We believe in assisting our clients do what they want most: take back control of their lives. 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's Services, Alberta Solicitor General, Edmonton Community Foundation, Edmonton Region Board of Person's with Developmental Disabilities, Donner Canadian Foundation, and City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant 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, Caritas Health Group Staff Charitable Donations Fund, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees' Charitable Donations Fund, Common Wealth Credit Union Ltd., and Union #52 Benevolent Society. SACE is also very grateful for the support of numerous individual volunteers and donors.

Our organization is very fortunate to have a talented and dedicated Board of Directors. I would like to thank Denise Watson, Susan Jamieson, Ryan Schetzslle, Mary Francis Fitzgerald, Sean Armstrong, Mike Arrowsmith, Michelle Boden, Pat Harrish, Laura Lee, JoAnn McCartney, Sherry Melney, Kirsty Prasad, John Ratcliff, Dana Stirrett, and Miriam Weinfeld for their incredible support, vision and leadership.

I would like to thank our staff members for whom this is much more than "just a job"! Mary Banda, Harpreet Bachhal, Sue Barrie, Lacey Bialowas, Julie Curley, Marion Desplenter, John Downes, Karen Dushinski, Sandra Gallace, Deb Gouchey, Jill Green, John Grindrod, Lisa Hendrickson, Shirley Howarth, Terra Irvine, Ewar Jalal, Mary Jane James, Doreen Johnson, Matilda Kamara, Becky Lee, Lenore LeMay, Jacqueline Linder, Erin Martin, Christine Mhina, Ryan Nealon, Pamela Olfert, Sophie Parkins, Monika Penner, Pragya Sharma, Ashley Whitworth, and Zara Williams. We could not do our work in the community without you! Thank you.

Karen L. Smith  
Executive Director

# Personnel

**Executive Director**

Karen L. Smith

**Financial Administrator**

Deb Gouchey

**Executive Assistant**

Mary Jane James

**Receptionist**

Terra Irvine

**Public Educators**

John Grindrod

Pragya Sharma

**Director of Client Services**

Karen Dushinski

**Child & Adolescent Therapists**

Karen Dushinski

Monika Penner

Sandra Gallace

**Adult Counsellors**

Shirley Howarth

Jill Green

Jacqueline Linder

Pamela Olfert

**Diversity Outreach/Court Support Program**

Mary Banda

Christine Mhina

**Director of Volunteer Services**

Erin Martin

*A recent survey on date rape showed that 60% of Canadian college-aged males indicated that they would commit sexual assault if they were certain they would not get caught.*

(Helen Lenskyj, "An Analysis of Violence Against Women: A Manual for Educators and Administrators," Toronto: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 1992)



## Volunteer Services

**W**hat an exciting year 2007 has been for our volunteer program! I am happy to discuss the achievements of the program over the last year, both prior to my joining the program in October, as well as those achieved toward the end of the year. I appreciate the work of the former Director of Volunteer Services, Lacey Bialowas, who left to further her studies at school. I am thankful to be part of such a wonderful organization, and I am honoured to work with our many volunteers and to see the impact of the work they do first hand. Even though I am new to this position, I have been touched by the passion, commitment, dedication, and kindness that our volunteers continue to demonstrate.

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton's volunteer program continues to grow with 294 volunteers for 2007. These volunteers do critical work for our agency and collectively contributed more than 10,000 volunteer hours last year by providing much-needed office support, fundraising work, planning and assisting with special events, and staffing our 24-hour crisis line. This year, for the first time, our program has been paired with the University of Alberta Community Service Learning Program, which provided us with volunteers doing community placement through undergraduate classes. This is an exciting development in the volunteer program.

Thank you to each and every one of our volunteers. The time and energy you have invested over the past year has made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals. Without the daily support of our office volunteers, many tasks would remain incomplete. Without the tireless dedication and effort of our bingo and casino volunteers, much needed funding would be unattainable. Survivors of sexual assault deserve respect and non-judgmental support. Our crisis line volunteers continue to provide this crucial support to those calling the line. On the crisis line, volunteers help to empower survivors by listening, providing information and referrals, and supporting their choices and decisions.

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton continues to prosper and advance with the support of all our volunteers, our Board of Directors, stakeholders, and staff, in collaboration with the community. I welcome an eventful and dynamic 2008!

**Erin Martin**  
Director of Volunteer Services

# Volunteers

Abbey J.	Chandra A.	Gloria M.	Kathy B.	Michelle H.	Sarah H.
Adrian M.	Chantel P.	Glynis T.	Kayla S.	Michelle M.	Sasa S.
Alana P.	Charlotte F.	Gordon N.	Keith R.	Michelle T.	Satie S.
Alaina T.	Chelsea G.	Gordon N.	Kelly C.	Mike A.	Scott C.
Alicia C.	Chelsy S.	Harpreet B.	Kelly M.	Millie H.	Sean A.
Alicia S.	Cheryl G.	Hayley R.	Kenneth T.	Miriam W.	Sean O.
Alison D.	Cheryl Y.	Heather B.	Kirsty P.	Monika P.	Shannon H.
Allison M.	Chris B.	Heather C.	Kris S.	Monika S.	Sharon B.
Amanda P.	Chris H.	Heather W.	Krista L.	Nicki S.	Shawn W.
Amber M.	Christine M.	Heidi A.	Kristine F.	Nikki H.	Sheila P.
Amber H.	Christie B.	Helen H.	Krystal M.	Nicolle H.	Shelila H.
Amy H.	Cindy G.	Hilda Clara B.	Krystal N.	Nicolous J.	Sherry S.
Ana G.	Claire D.	Holly W.	Lacey B.	Norma S.	Shirley H.
Andre P.	Corrine H.	Houng B.	Larissa A.	Olga B.	Shirley T.
Andrea H.	Dana S.	Irene H.	Larissa P.	Owais S.	Shirley T.
Andrew M.	Danna Z.	Jackie Y.	Laura B.	Pam O.	Sholly S.
Angela C.	Dave D.	Jacqueline L.	Laura L.	Pamela B.	Simran G.
Angela T.	Dave H.	Jana A.	Leigh A.	Pat C.	Sonia S.
Anjili S.	Dave M.	Janet W.	Lenore L.	Pat D.	Sonia T.
Anne P.	David W.	Janice D.	Lillian G.	Pat H.	Sonia Z.
Anne R.	Dawn S.	Janice L.	Lily D.	Pat M.	Sophie P.
Annika N.	Deb G.	Janice S.	Linda K.	Patricia G.	Stacey P.
April G.	Deb J.	Janine T.	Linda O.	Pauline W.	Steve B.
Ashley W.	Debbie S.	Jared H.	Linda V.	Pennie G.	Sue B.
Audelle W.	Debra W.	Jason H.	Lindsay P.	Pragya S.	Sue G.
Audrey Y.	Denise W.	Jen B.	Lisa H.	Quman N.	Susan J.
Ausha S.	Derrick M.	Jennifer B.	Lisa D.	Ramona C.	Susan M.
Bahar M.	Desiree C.	Jeff A.	Lorraine B.	Rasheal C.	Susan P.
Barb J.	Diane C.	Jill G.	Lyndsey K.	Rebecca L.	Susanne S.
Barb H.	Donna G.	JoAnn M.	Lynsey J.	Reg M.	Tammy B.
Barb S.	Doreen A.	Joan H.	Lynne P.	Rhonda B.	Tammy H.
Barb. P.	Doreen A.	Joan L.	Madeline K.	Rhonda W.	Tammy S.
Beatrice K.	Doreen B.	Jocelynn M.	Maha.	Rita B.	Tasha D.
Becky L.	Doreen C.	Joe L.	Mandy B.	Rob B.	Tasha J.
Beena K.	Doreen G.	Joelle F.	Maria H.	Robert P.	Taska B.
Belinda R.	Doreen J.	John G.	Marilyn C.	Roberta K.	Teresa L.
Betty M.	Ed H.	John R.	Marion C.	Robin C.	Terra I.
Bill P.	Elaine B.	Jolynn H.	Marion D.	Rod G.	Tess S.
Bill T.	Elaine T.	Joy F.	Marion M.	Roger C.	Tia W.
Brad P.	Ellen H.	Joyce M.	Marlene B.	Rosie N.	Tighe W.
Brenda H.	Emily S.	Julia M.	Mary B.	Rosie N.	Tony S.
Brian M.	Erin B.	Julie C.	Mary G.	Rubab M.	Tonya R.
Caitlin B.	Eric A.	Julie P.	Mary P.	Ruth S.	Tory P.
Calvin K.	Erin M.	Juliet S.	Mary Fran F.	Ryan N.	Troy G.
Carollyne D.	Evelyn A.	June L.	Maryann S.	Ryan R.	Vivian L.
Carman A.	Ewar J.	Karen D.	Mary Jane J.	Ryan S.	Virginia
Carrie E.	Flora S.	Karen D.	Matilda K.	Saleena H.	Wade W.
Carrieanne C.	Flora S.	Karen K.	Maureen B.	Sandi F.	Yvonne F.
Cassandra S.	Forence R.	Karen S.	Mavis M.	Sandra G.	Yvonne S.
Cathy S.	Gail M.	Karri K.	Melanie S.	Sara T.	Zara W.
	Gina B.	Kateland H.	Melissa Z.	Sara W.	Zela A.
	Glenis S.	Kathlene S.	Michelle B.	Sarah S.	

## Client Services

**A**s Director of Client Services I continue to feel honored to be in my current position and to work with such incredibly talented and dedicated individuals who are passionate about making a difference in the world and community in which they live. The past year has been both challenging and rewarding for the staff in the counselling program. We are very proud of the impact that we have made in the lives of individuals that have been affected by sexual violence.

### **Child and Adolescent Program**

In 2007 the Child and Adolescent Program continued to meet the expectations of our mandate by providing counselling services to sexually abused children in an expedient manner. We worked closely with referring agencies such as the Child and Adolescent Protection Centre at the Stollery Children's Hospital and the Zebra Child Protection Centre. As well, we have had a number of referrals from school counsellors, and other mental health professionals in the community who have recognized our specialized services and the expertise of our therapists at SACE. In 2007, the SACE Child and Adolescent Program had over 900 consultations, 106 new intake requests, and almost 500 individual counselling sessions.

The Child/Adolescent Program consists of three capable staff including Monika Penner, Sandra Gallace, and Karen Dushinski. We work hard to ensure that SACE is a safe healing environment for children, so they can begin to process issues related to sexual abuse and trauma. The Child/Adolescent Program has a well-equipped play therapy room where younger children (and sometimes adolescents) can process trauma issues through the use of therapeutic toys and expressive arts.

### **Crisis Intervention/Adult Counselling Programs**

The Crisis Intervention/Adult Counselling Programs at SACE offers group and individual counselling for women and men over the age of 18 who have been affected by sexual violence. The focus of counselling is to help people feel more stable in their lives and provide them with tools to carry on with their healing. Individual counselling may also help to prepare some clients for group counselling at SACE. The Crisis Intervention/Adult Counselling Programs had over 1600 consultations, 300 intake requests, and almost 2000 counselling sessions.

SACE continues to benefit from the hard work and expertise of the adult counselling team: Shirley Howarth, Pamela Olfert, Jill Green, and Jaqueline Linder. Thank you for your dedicated work.

SACE also had important relationships with the various counselling and social work programs in the City. We provided placements for several students during 2007. Heather Cuthbertson, Julie Curley, Simran Grewal, Deborah MacNeil, and Kristine Hagen benefited from the relationship SACE has with their academic institution. We appreciate their contributions.

### **Diversity Outreach and Court Support Program**

The Diversity Outreach and Court Support Program has seen a number of significant changes this past year. The War Rape Program has become part of Diversity Outreach Program. The merger of the two programs was an inevitable process in order to make services more accessible to immigrants and refugee communities and especially war rape survivors. We continue to work collaboratively with the targeted communities in order to provide community based services.

The Diversity Outreach staff provided 40 community presentations, counselled 43 clients, and had 160 consultations. More than 675 community members have participated in Diversity Outreach initiatives. We benefited from the leadership and skilled work of Dr. Sophie Parkins, Mary Banda, Ewar Jalal, and Matilda Kamara. More importantly, they made those individuals in the community feel safe enough to share their suffering as well as their joy.

We would like to express a sincere thank you to Sophie, Ewar, and Matilda, who have left SACE for other opportunities, for taking on such a difficult topic, and we salute their bravery in addressing this issue in the communities where this is so awkward to talk about.

We are happy to welcome Christine Mhina as a "Diversity Coordinator". Christine has an interdisciplinary background, a strong work experience in community development, and a passion for community-based initiatives bringing about social change.

The Court Support Program reached over 700 participants providing information regarding the impact of sexual violence, as well as the legal issues that arise. The Program spent many hours providing direct general assistance (information, intervention, and referrals) to the clients and community members. As well, many SACE clients were provided with Financial Benefits Applications and were assisted with Victim Impact Statements.

SACE is very appreciative of the two-year grant we received from Persons with Developmental Disabilities – Edmonton Region Board. Lenore Lemay and Ryan Nealon developed workshops and resource materials for individuals with disabilities, as well as their families and caregivers. Although the formal project is complete, this valuable information continues to be offered to the public.

**Dr. Karen Dushinski**  
Director of Client Services

## Public Education

**P**ublic Education had a dynamic year in 2007. In total, the 373 presentations for the year reached 6,685 participants of diverse ages, occupations, and cultural backgrounds, and the feedback for those presentations was very positive. These numbers do not include the numerous less formal contacts and meetings that we had over the past year with individuals and groups in Edmonton and surrounding communities. A low point for the year was staff turnover within the department. Erin Martin, Lisa Hendrickson, and Harpreet Bachhal began the first half of the year and the new team of Pragya Sharma, John Grindrod, and Sue Barrie finished the second half. During the months of July and August, we were fortunate to have one of our current volunteers, Ashley Whitworth, work with us as a summer student.

The public educators were involved in various committees and events this year, including "Expecting Respect", "Take Back the Night", and the "International Women's Day". We also finished creating presentations designed specifically for persons with disabilities and for caregivers of persons with disabilities. Throughout 2007, our team had also made presentations to various agencies, and we have established strong connections in the community. Lastly, we spent the latter part of 2007 updating our SACE publications.

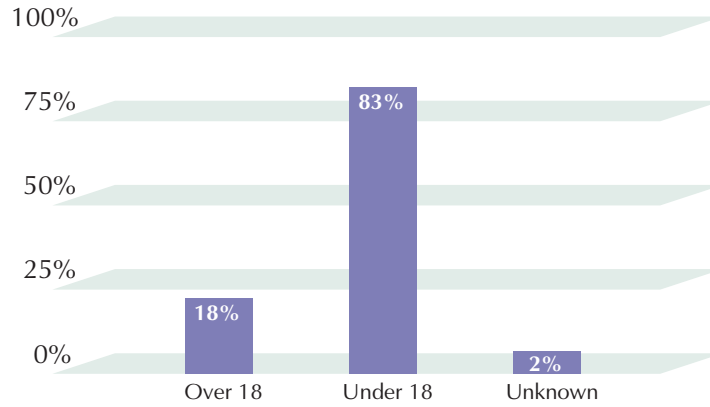
John Grindrod  
Pragya Sharma

*80% of sexual assaults occur in the  
home and 49% of sexually assaults  
occur in broad daylight.*

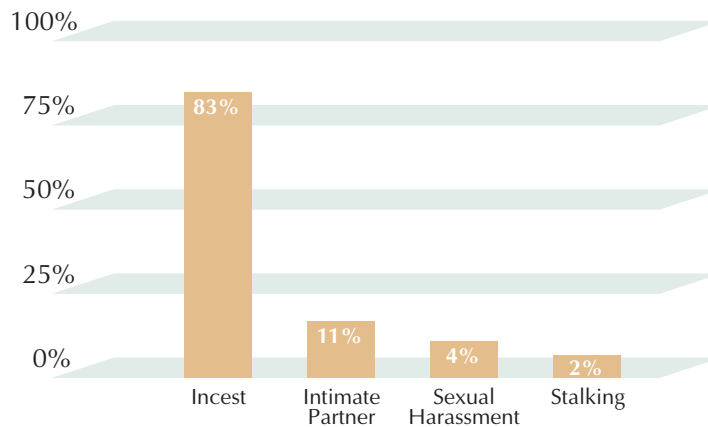
(Sexual Assault Care Centre, 1999.  
Violence, Myths and Facts about Sexual Assault.)

# 2007 Crisis Line Stats

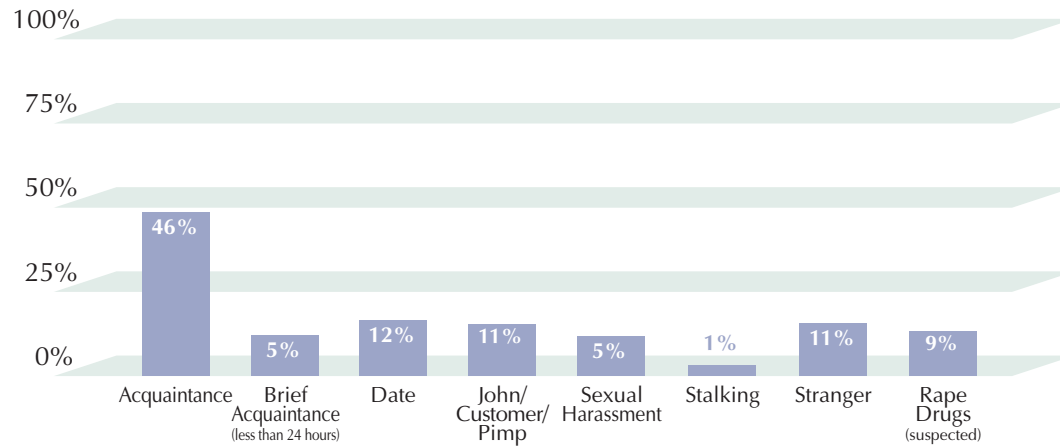
### Victim Age at Time of Assault



### Assault Type - Interfamilial

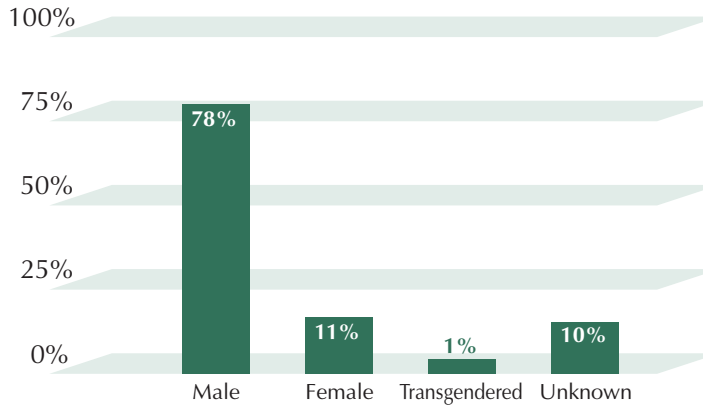


### Assault Type - Extra familial

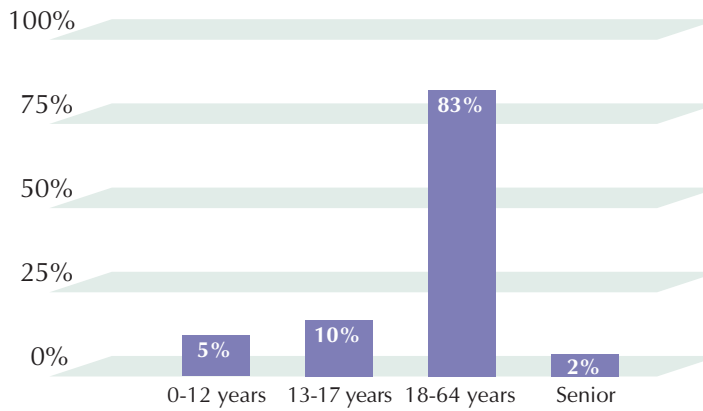


# 2007 Crisis Line Stats

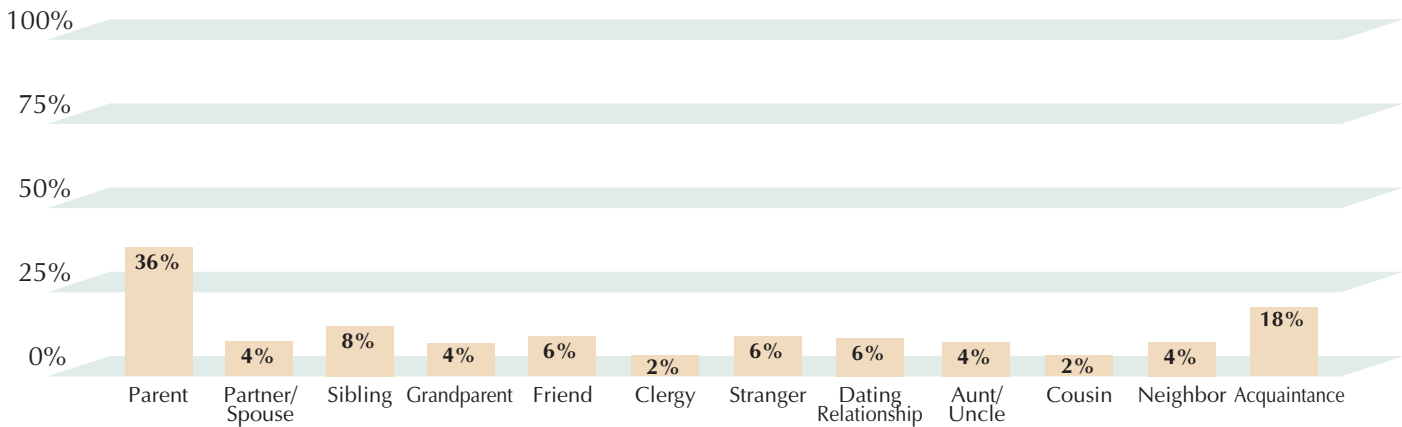
### Perpetrator Identifies As



### Perpetrator Age at Time of Assault



### Perpetrator Relationship to Victim



~ providing crisis intervention    ~ public education    ~ counselling



~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling

Suite 205, 14964-121A Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5V 1A3

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**

**[www.sace.ab.ca](http://www.sace.ab.ca)**

**[info@sace.ab.ca](mailto:info@sace.ab.ca)**

