



Sexual Assault
Centre of Edmonton

2013

ANNUAL REPORT



providing crisis intervention public education counselling

MISSION

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.

CORE BELIEFS

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 Board Chair

As always, it is my honour and privilege to bring greetings from my Board Colleagues to the membership and the general public. At the Board level, the members of the Strategic Planning, Human Resources, Policy and Procedures, and Risk Management Committees provide governance to the Agency and contribute to the framework that forms the basis of our work.

I need to thank our funders whose ongoing support is integral to the fabulous work of SACE: The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Human Services, Alberta Health Services, Status of Women Canada, and private donations.

As always the volunteers that contribute so much to the Agency need to be acknowledged, including my Board colleagues: Allison Downey-Damato, Gillian Evans, Elaine Degrandpre, Mary Frances Fitzgerald, Mona Gill, Shawna Grimes, Pat Harrish, Deb Jolly, Amber Krasowski, Laura Lee, Carlynn McAneeley, JoAnn McCartney, Kirsty Prasad, John Ratcliff, Ryan Schetzle, and Denise Watson.

Karen Smith is the wonderful leader of the great staff that works with her. Without her dedication and continued good work, we would not be the successful agency that we are.

Susan Jamieson
Board Chair

"Before attending counselling at SACE, I thought something was wrong with me, that I was crazy. I thought that there was a dark void in my life that could never be filled except through alcohol and drugs. I was driving myself crazy, because I couldn't figure out why I was the way I was - why I struggled with relationships, why I over-ate and used drugs, and why I was anxious and depressed all the time. I would give SACE a million dollars if I won the lottery. You guys are invaluable to me, and my family."

SACE Client

Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE

Susan Jamieson
Chair

Mary Frances Fitzgerald
Secretary

Ryan Schetzle
Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Elaine Degrandpre
Allison Downey-Damato
Gillian Evans
Mona Gill
Shawna Grimes
Pat Harrish
Deb Jolly
Amber Krasowski
Laura Lee
Carlynn McAneeley
JoAnn McCartney
Kirsty Prasad
John Ratcliff
Denise Watson

"How wonderful it is that
nobody need wait a
single moment
to improve the world"
Anne Frank

Treasurer's Report

The financial goal of SACE each year is to use our available financial resources in the most efficient manner. SACE achieved that goal again in 2013. As a result, 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.

SACE is extremely grateful for the financial support received from our core funders: Alberta Human Services, The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Health Services, and Status of Women Canada.

Additional funding is provided to SACE from private donations and a number of other organizations. This funding provides supplementary support to our core services, and also presents opportunities for additional, unique service provision. SACE would like to thank the following organizations for their financial support: The City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant, the Province of Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Community Initiatives Program Grant, Alfie Lickfold, ATCO, Covenant Health Employees' Charitable Fund, Donner Canadian Foundation, Lloyd Sadd Insurance Brokers, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees' Charitable Fund, Wawanesa, TELUS Community Foundation, and the 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.

SACE, like other not-for-profit organizations, faces financial challenges related to rising operational costs, the not-for-profit employment sector, and many other issues. With the continued and increasing support of its funders, and through efficient financial resource management, SACE is committed to meeting those challenges. The services SACE provides are essential to our community, and SACE is proud to continue to provide those services at an exceptionally high level.

Ryan Schetzle,
Treasurer

Message from the Executive Director

As I write my report this year, I am very aware that it is not only an account of SACE activities for 2013, but it is also a stark reminder to all of us that sexual violence, in all its forms, continues to extract a terrible price on the children and adults who experience it, and on our community as a whole.

Only perpetrators of sexual violence are guilty of this crime. However, none of us should be guilty of a complacency that allows us to believe that sexual violence happens only to "other people." We know anyone can be a victim, and later a survivor, of this life altering crime. As we aspire to be a safe and caring community, no level of sexual violence is acceptable. We cannot fall into the trap of doing nothing because we can only do a little. There is much to be done, and many are required to do it.

We experienced some extreme highs and horrifying lows in 2013. SACE began working with Pollyanna Hardwicke Brown and her accomplished video production company, Gruvpix, to create a short video to challenge community myths regarding sexual violence and reflect the strength and resilience of survivors. We were also forced to face the tragic death of one of our very talented young therapists, Clare Patershuk, when she was killed in a motor vehicle crash. The driver was charged with impaired driving.

Sincere thanks are extended to our funders for their continued support and belief in the work that we do: The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Human Services, Alberta Health Services, and Status of Women Canada.

We are also very grateful for the financial support of many other donors including our landlord, AB Edie Equities Inc., City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant, the Province of Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Community Initiatives Program Grant, Alfie Lickfold, ATCO, Covenant Health Employees' Charitable Fund, Donner Canadian Foundation, Lloyd Sadd Insurance Brokers, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees' Charitable Fund, Wawanesa, TELUS Community Foundation, and the Union 52 Benevolent Society.

I would like to thank the SACE Board of Directors for their vision and leadership: Susan Jamieson, Ryan Schetzle, Mary Frances Fitzgerald, Allison Downey-Damato, Elaine Degrandpre, Gillian Evans, Mona Gill, Shawna Grimes, Pat Harrish, Deb Jolly, Amber Krasowski, Laura Lee, Carlynn McAneeley, JoAnn McCartney, Kirsty Prasad, John Ratcliff, and Denise Watson. A note of special appreciation is extended to Susan Jamieson (Chair) and Ryan Schetzle (Treasurer) for always going above and beyond. Their mentorship and guidance are extra-ordinary!

The SACE volunteers are truly the unsung heroes of our organization. They are a group of individuals who are dedicated to improving the lives of people who have experienced sexual violence. We are so grateful to them for their untiring commitment to SACE and the clients we serve together.

The day-to-day work could not be done without the passion and commitment of our incredible staff: Nikki Bernier, Melanie Brochu, Karen Dushinski, Shirley Howarth, Christy Hennig, Terra Irvine, Mary Jane James, Hala Kaiss, Matilda Kamara, Kimberly McCall, Christine Mhina, Shazin Mohammed-Standing, Stephanie Olsen, Monika Penner, Maija Prakash, Ruth Pullam, Katie Shorey, Maria Skriver, and Lauren Wiles.

Karen L. Smith,
Executive Director

Personnel

Executive Director

Karen L. Smith

Financial Administrator

Melanie Brochu

Assistant Executive Director

Mary Jane James

Office Manager

Terra Irvine

Director of Public Education

Nikki Bernier

Public Educators

Hala Kaiss

Stephanie Olsen

Director of Client Services

Dr. Karen Dushinski

Child & Adolescent Therapists

Dr. Karen Dushinski

Shazin Mohammed-Standing

Monika Penner

Lauren Wiles

Intake and Adult Counsellors

Christy Hennig

Shirley Howarth

Matilda Kamara

Shazin Mohammed-Standing

Maija Prakash

Ruth Pullam

Katie Shorey

Maria Skriver

Lauren Wiles

Director of Diversity Outreach/Court Support Program

Dr. Christine Mhina

Diversity Outreach and Court Support Worker

Matilda Kamara

Director of Volunteer Services

Joy Schmol

U-SOLVE PROJECT (University Students Offering Leadership for Violence Elimination)

Kimberly McCall (Project Co-Ordinator)

‘Go into the world and do well.
But, more importantly, go into
the world and do good.’

Minor Myers Jr.

Client Services Department

In 2013, our program suffered the devastating loss of one of our colleagues, Clare Patershuk. Clare was senselessly killed by a man accused of impaired driving over the long weekend in July. As an agency, and as colleagues, we will remember Clare for her optimism, gentleness and warm compassion for our clients.

Despite her loss, as well as the loss of three other colleagues who have moved on from our agency to other work in the community, the Counselling Department continued on with our mission. I remain amazed by my colleagues and the dedication they bring every day to their work with clients. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for the lessons they teach me every day. I am honored to remain in the role of Director of Client Services and to work with such an amazing group of professionals.

Child and Adolescent Program

In 2013, the Child and Adolescent Program consisted of three capable staff members whose time was split with the Adult Program: Monika Penner, Lauren Wiles, and Karen Dushinski. During 2013, our staff had over 2200 consultations with community members, parents and professionals, as well as over 1200 hours of individual 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, Region 6 CFSA, Metis Child and Family Services, Edmonton Public and Catholic School Systems, Alberta Mental Health, Physicians, Psychologists and other community agencies. Our counsellors continue to be considered experts in our field by those in the community looking for information and resources to better support children and their families.

Adult Counselling Program

The Adult Counselling Program at SACE offers group and individual counselling for individuals of all genders over the age of 18 who have been affected by sexual violence. Clients may attend 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 groups available at SACE.

Our adult counsellors logged over 2520 hours of client sessions. In addition, our adult therapists consulted with over 2500 community members. Over the course of the past year, we also provided several different types of therapeutic group counselling and education for many clients. In addition to our therapeutic role, SACE provides support for individuals who are navigating the justice system. Throughout the year, SACE greatly benefitted from the hard work and expertise of the adult counselling team: Shirley Howarth, Matilda Kamara, Alycia Chung, Maddalena Genovese, Jasmine Bajwa, Clare Patershuk, Maria Millang, Katie Poirier and Christy Hennig.

Another part of our role in Edmonton and surrounding areas is to provide training to frontline professionals and students in order to increase the capacity in our community to respond to the issues of sexual violence. In 2013, we provided placements for several students, including Ruth and Maija from City University; Sylvia from the University of Alberta; and Maddison and Catherine from the Grant MacEwan Social Work Program. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to our clients.

Dr. Karen Dushinski,
Director of Client Services

Diversity Outreach, Intake And Court Support Program

The Diversity Outreach, Intake and Court Support Program had another successful year in meeting our mandate of reaching out to individuals, community groups and agencies to assist them to take action against sexual violence. This program is responsible for building relationships with diverse communities, including Aboriginal peoples, ethno-cultural communities, new immigrants, seniors, persons with disabilities, and those who identify as gender variant, while providing counselling, court support and outreach education.

One of the program goals has always been to reduce barriers and increase the accessibility of SACE services to the targeted communities. We achieved this through outreach services. The outreach services in our program work to ensure that partnerships and collaborations are developed with community agencies and groups. These outreach services are based on a community development model that seeks to engage diverse and previous underserved groups. Our program spent many program hours networking and partnership building.

Our program facilitates a recovery and healing process for those who have been affected by sexualized violence through counselling. Hundreds of individuals contact SACE every year to begin the process of healing from the trauma of sexual violence. Individuals access the SACE counselling program through the intake process, where personal information and history pertaining to the reasons for accessing counseling is gathered, after which the individual is placed on our waitlist to be contacted when a counsellor has an opening.

The Diversity Outreach team also supports victims of sexual assault who choose to report to the police by providing emotional support while clients go through the court process. In 2013, many staff hours were spent providing assistance to clients with form completion, court orientation, preparation and accompaniment.

Our program also provided various workshops and presentations throughout the year, in addition to facilitating many community dialogue sessions. Topics ranged from impact of and strategies to deal with trauma; sexual exploitation among sexual minority and gender variant; community engagement and partnerships as well as diversity and inclusion.

This year's work was possible because of the enormous passion, dedication, creativity and wisdom that Maddalena Genovese, Matilda Kamara, and Christine Mhina, brought to SACE. The spirit of cooperation among team members allowed the opportunity for mutual learning and combination of synergistic ideas and abilities. It is our hope that, with the same spirit, new approaches to tasks may be discovered.

Dr. Christine Mhina

Director of Diversity, Intake and Court Support

Public Education

Not only was 2013 another busy year for the Public Education team, but we were able to engage with the community in a number of new and exciting ways that will ultimately increase our City's capacity to support survivors of sexual violence.

With the media production expertise and time donated by Pollyanna Hardwicke-Brown of Gruvpix, SACE spent much of the past year developing a video that could be used by, and for, our organization. The video, titled *Speak Up... Someone will Listen*, is a short but powerful piece that succinctly captures the stories of survivors and their healing journeys. *Speak Up... Someone will Listen* is a message of hope and healing. It demonstrates that, for each traumatic story belonging to a victim of sexual violence, there is also an opportunity for another story: one of a survivor, one of resilience, one of hope. It reminds viewers that it is up to us, as individuals, organizations, governments, businesses, but, above all, as a community, to hear and listen to these stories, to believe and support survivors. It reminds us that we can all do something. The video was debuted in February 2014, and we will continue to use it in our Public Education programs in the coming year.

As in most years, the majority of our time was spent facilitating information sessions. In 2013, our Public Educators facilitated a total of 310 information sessions to 8669 unique individuals. Our team also facilitated presentations to 569 professionals in the community on topics such as *Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence* and *Youth, Sexual Violence and Technology*. This is a major success, as equipping professionals with the tools and skills they need to better support survivors extends our reach as an organization, and makes our community better able to respond to the needs of those impacted by sexual violence.

In direct response to numerous requests from our community, the Public Education team worked tirelessly on developing a presentation and an in-house workshop on the topic of sexual violence and technology. *Youth, Sexual Violence and Technology* looks at the primary ways in which technology is used to facilitate sexual violence in the lives of teens and young adults. This presentation covers a wealth of information and focuses primarily on 2 issues: online predators and non-consensual photo sharing. The feedback from both youth and adults on this topic has been exceptionally positive, and the presentation is in greater demand than ever before.

In 2013, we made some significant changes to our data collection tools and launched new evaluations in January 2014. These new evaluations now provide us with information that we can use to ensure our presentations are optimally effective, and that we are meeting the requirements set by our funders.

Our Public Education team continues to operate with the indispensable work of Hala Kaiss, Stephanie Olsen, and Nikki Bernier. We've had a dream team of individuals working efficiently, tirelessly, and cooperatively for the past 2 and a half years. This team has made it possible for SACE's Public Education team to increase its presence in the community, while taking on new, innovative and engaging projects.

Nikki Bernier
Director of Public Education

Volunteer Services

I am so grateful for the 228 volunteers that contributed to our agency, and therefore our community, in 2013. These volunteers gave their time, energy, and passion in a variety of ways that are vital to the work that SACE does to combat sexualized violence in our communities.

Last year we trained many new crisis line volunteers who joined volunteers already trained in responding to calls on our 24-Hour Crisis Line. Our crisis line volunteers continue to demonstrate strength, courage, and compassion as they face an issue that many in our community turn away from. These volunteers answer crisis calls with empathy and understanding as they support survivors of sexual abuse and assault. I am continually in awe of the commitment these volunteers have for the crisis line.

SACE fundraising volunteers deserve a special thank you as well. These volunteers support SACE through regular attendance at fundraising events. We are very grateful for the work our fundraising volunteers do, whether it is a bingo, casino or special event, these volunteers put their heart into the work.

SACE is also very grateful to our office volunteers who are pivotal in ensuring that our office runs as smoothly as it does. These incredible individuals continue to inspire all of us with their dedication and kindness. These volunteers are always eager for work to do and new tasks to take on. For that, we are all incredibly thankful.

Each one of our volunteers is doing incredible work, in the way they know best, in order to join us as we work toward making change in our community. They continue to instill hope in all of us that a caring community is a powerful motivator for change. Our volunteers are proof that our community cares about making change in the issue surrounding sexualized violence. Thank you to all of the SACE volunteers.

Joy Schmold
Director of Volunteer Services

*"In every community, there is work to be done.
In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In
every heart, there is the power to do it."*

Marianne Williamson

Volunteers

Abigali P.	Curtis M.	Jeanine M.	Louise B.	Robin C.
Adriana R.	Daliah A.	Jason B.	Luke A.	Ronald B.
Alana M.	Danielle C.	Jen M.	Maddie G.	Rowyn K.
Alfie L.	Dave D.	Jesse E.	Madison A.	Ruth P.
Allan E.	Dave M.	Jill G.	Madison N.	Ryan N.
Allison D.D.	David S.	Joan L.	Maggie C.	Ryan S.
Aly J.	Deb G.	Joanna S.	Maggie K.	Sabrina B.
Alycia C.	Deb J.	JoAnn M.	Maija P.	Saleena H.
Amanda S.	Debra D.	Jocelyn F.	Maria M.	Samantha C.
Amarjeet S.	Denise B.	John N.	Marion D.	Samantha W.
Amber K.	Denise W.	John R.	Mary B.	Sandi F.
Amelia B.	Derek W.	Joy S.	Mary Fran F.	Sara C.
Amy L.	Desiree S.	Jordan C.	Mary Jane J.	Sarah C.
Andreia M.	Deviyani P.	Juanita M.	Mateo T.	Sarah T.
Andy D.	Dianne J.	Kalyea R.	McKenzie H.	Sarah V.
Angele B.	Donna B.	Katia W.	Matilda K.	Sean A.
Anna G.	Donna K.	Karen D.	Megan L.	Seth B.
Anne R.	Doris F.	Karen S.	Megan S.	Shanna G.
Allison D.D.	Ean C.	Kassandra C.	Melanie B.	Shawna G.
Arisha M.	Ed S.	Kat R.	Michelle M.	Shauna S.
Ashtin D.	Edward S.	Katie P.	Mike S.	Shazin M.
Avril I.	Egon M.	Katherine D.	Millie H.	Sheila C.
Barbara U.	Elaine B.	Katherine H.	Mona G.	Shelly B.
Bonnie D.	Elaine D.	Kathleen S.	Monica L.	Shirley H.
Braedem M.	Ellen H.	Kathleen Q.	Monika P.	Sonja P.
Brody I.	Emily G.	Kaylee K.	Monique M	Stacy G.
Calista B.	Emily M.	Kelly S.	Mya I.	Steph C.
Cameron H.	Emma E.	Kendra C.	Myrna D.	Stephanie O.
Carlynn M.	Emma H.	Kevin B.	Natasha S.	Susan L
Catherine G.	Erin L .	Kevin F.	Nikki B.	Susan L.
Catherine M.	Erin M.	Kevin K.	Olia M.	Susan J.
Cathy G.	Francess T.	Kevin M.	Paige D.	Sydney W.
Chandra A.	Gillian E.	Kim M.	Pam F.	Taylor P.
Cheyanna S.	Glenda P.	Kim W.	Parker L.	Tessa H.
Chris I.	Glenis S.	Kirsty P.	Pat C.	Terra I.
Chris J.	Glynis T.	Kristine H.	Pat H.	Tiffany L.
Christina S.	Grace L.	Kristina H.	Pat P.	Tina P.
Christine I.	Greg B.	Kyra C.	Pauline W.	Troy H.
Christine M.	Hannah Q.	Laura L.	Peter B.	Troy M.
Christy H.	Hanna A.	Lauren W.	Pollyanna H-B.	Veronika S.
Cindy O.	Hala K.	Leanne W.	Prab R.	Wade W.
Clare P.	Heather S.	Leyla O.	Raj S.	Wence L.
Claire D.	Jacqueline M.	Linda J.	Richard K.	Wendy H.
Conner D.	Jackie M.	Lise G.	Ric S.	Wendy S.
Corissa T.	Jane A.	Lola B.	Rick N.	
Crystal T.	Janice D.	Lorin B.	Rob J.	

"What we have
done for others
alone dies with us.
What we have
done for others and
the world remains
and is immortal."

Albert Pine

U-SOLVE PROJECT (UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OFFERING LEADERSHIP for VIOLENCE ELIMINATION)

In 2012, the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton took another step in the mission to "empower communities to take action against sexual violence" by partnering with MacEwan University with funding from Status of Women Canada to create U-SOLVE. This project aims to engage young people to prevent violence against women on post-secondary campuses.

In 2013, the project built substantially on the momentum of its first year through the completion of research, the subsequent development and initiation of a campus community plan, as well as continued educational events and social media presence.

U-SOLVE distributed surveys to MacEwan University students to gain information on their attitudes regarding, experiences of, and needs around gender based violence. The results were typical of a Canadian post-secondary institution: over half endorse at least one myth; 46% have experienced some form of sexual assault; and, 75% have experienced street harassment. When asked what support strategies would be useful, students and faculty both asked for education, protocol, policy, and an advocate on campus.

This formal research, coupled with the information gathered through stakeholder interviews, review of best practices, and comparison to other institutions was used to develop a set of eight recommendations. These recommendations were grouped into three themes: internal accountability, educational opportunities, and policy. And, the top recommendation in each theme is already in progress!

Education has been, and continues to be, central to U-SOLVE's efforts. Awareness events were held for relevant occasions including Stolen Sisters Memorial, International Women's Day, International Day of the Girl, and 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. U-SOLVE also had the pleasure of hosting co-founder of the White Ribbon Campaign, Dr. Michael Kaufman. Most notably, a Peer Educator program was developed. Six passionate students were trained to deliver classroom presentations introducing the project and gender based violence.

U-SOLVE drafted a sexual misconduct policy outlining the University's position on sexually offensive behaviour. It will have an accompanying procedure to support a coordinated and compassionate response in cases of sexual misconduct.

Throughout the implementation of these initiatives, U-SOLVE has more than doubled its social media audience. This audience received announcements about local events and news and information on gender based violence.

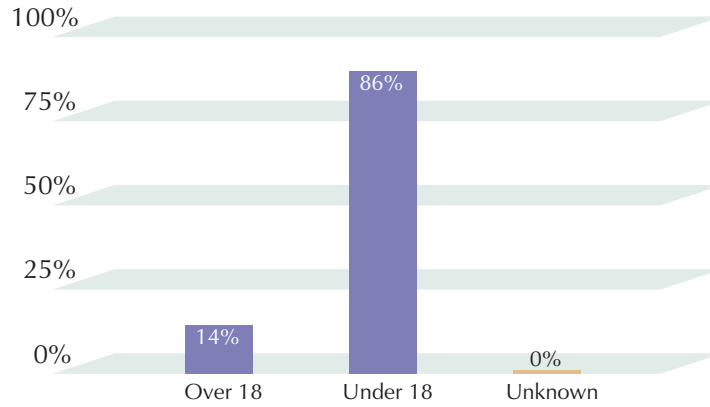
In August, U-SOLVE was accepted into the John Humphrey's Centre Changemaker's program, and in September, was nominated for the Laurel Award. In October, U-SOLVE presented its research findings at the RESOLVE conference on Family Violence held in Calgary.

2014 will be U-SOLVE's last federally-funded year. During the final months, our efforts will be directed towards delivering classroom presentations, advocating for the adoption of the sexual misconduct policy, and leaving a strong foundation for the University to further pursue anti-violence and equity measures on its campuses.

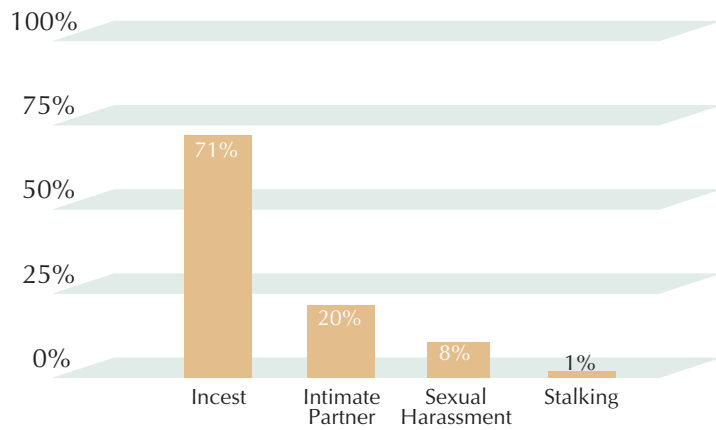
Kimberly McCall,
U-SOLVE Project Co-Ordinator

2013 Crisis Line Stats

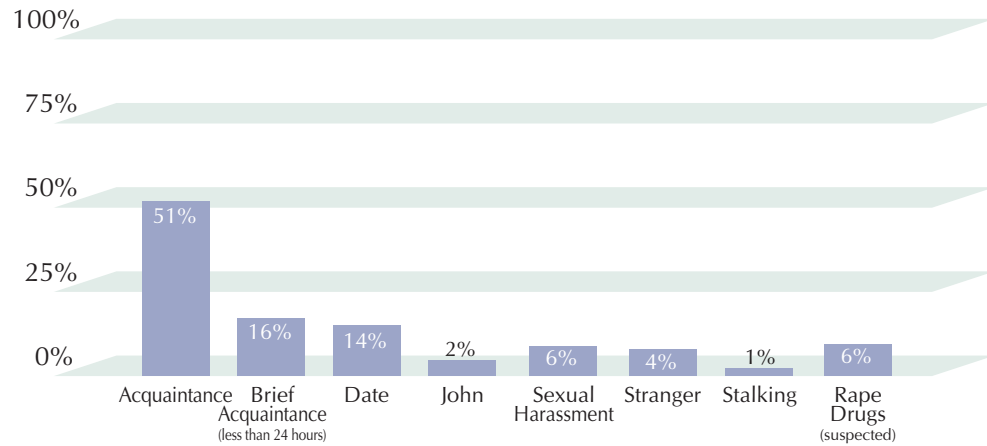
Victim Age at Time of Assault



Assault Type - Inter Familial

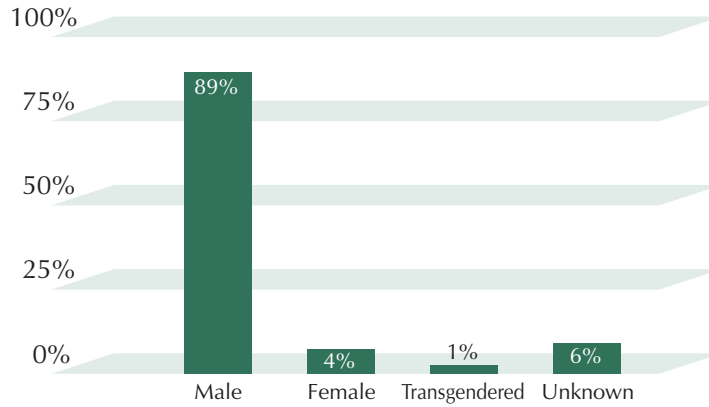


Assault Type - Extra Familial

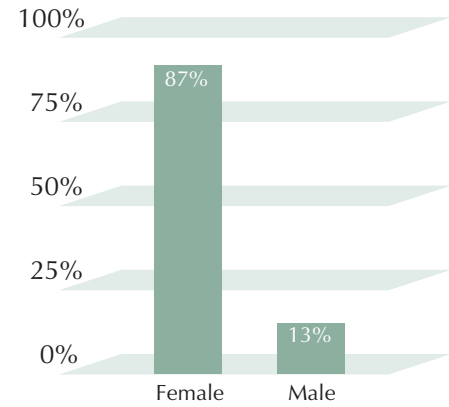


2013 Crisis Line Stats

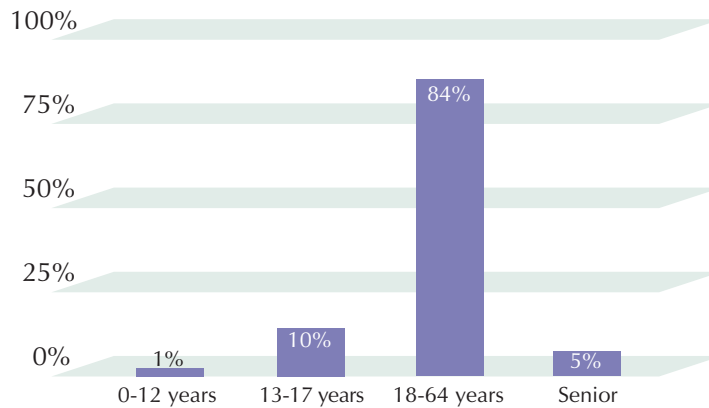
Perpetrator Identified As



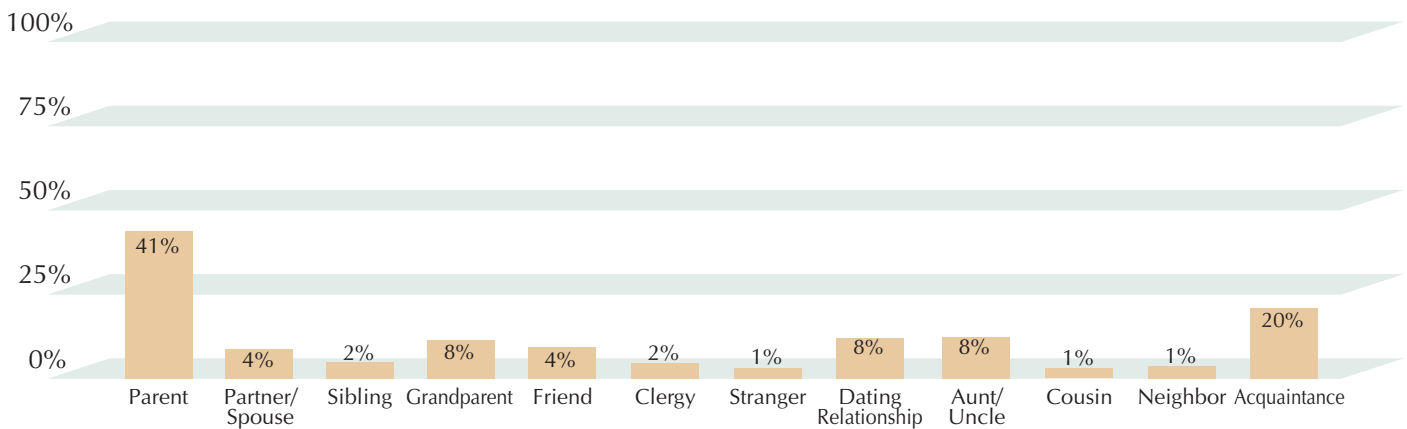
Self Identified Gender of Victim



Perpetrator Age at Time of Assault



Perpetrator Relationship to Victim



~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling



~ 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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