



Sexual Assault
Centre of Edmonton

2 0 0 9

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

It has been another exciting year at SACE. I am pleased to bring you warm greetings from my Board colleagues who are extremely dedicated, endlessly talented, and tremendously supportive.

With continued 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 and Public Security, Alberta Children & Youth Services, Alberta Gaming, Servus Credit Union Kids Foundation, Covenant 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, 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 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

Susan Jamieson
Vice-Chair

Mary Frances Fitzgerald
Secretary

Ryan Schetzle
Treasurer

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Michelle Boden
Allison Downey-Damato
Pat Harrish
Laura Lee
JoAnn McCartney
Sherry Melney
Kirsty Prasad
John Ratcliff
Miriam Weinfeld

“When I dare to be
powerful - to use my
strength in the
service of my vision,
then it becomes less
and less important
whether I am afraid”.

Audre Lorde

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to the ongoing financial support received from funders, SACE continues to remain in a financially stable position. The generous contributions from funders, combined with the efficiency and dedication of the volunteers, staff and management of SACE, ensure that SACE provides exceptionally high quality services to its community.

SACE would like to thank its major funders for their continuing financial contributions. The organization is extremely grateful to the United Way of Alberta Capital Region, The City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services, Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, and Alberta Children and Youth Services for their core service funding.

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. SACE would like to thank the following organizations for their financial support: Atco Epic Program, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees Charitable Donations Fund, Covenant 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.

In 2009, SACE achieved a bottom line of approximately break even throughout its core services programs, with a small surplus overall resulting from a better than expected financial result from a conference it hosted. This fundraising surplus will be used to offset rising occupancy costs in future years.

SACE continues to provide excellent and essential services to the community, through generous funding and efficient spending. SACE again thanks all of its financial supporters, and looks forward to their continued and increasing support in the future as SACE continues to grow to meet the needs of the community and faces the financial challenges of a not-for-profit organization.

Ryan Schetzle,
Treasurer

Message from the Executive Director

This past year marked a time of adjustment and implementing new services for our clients, as we struggle to end sexual violence. It has been both a difficult and exciting time. The requests for our help have never been greater.

For individuals who have been affected by sexual violence, finding the right support is not always easy. Indeed, when people experience barriers and obstacles to receiving help, the chances of them giving up rise significantly.

Sexual assault is criminal. It is the cause of widespread destruction and lost potential. If our community is to effectively address sexual violence, we must work together on a comprehensive plan to address all aspects, from prevention to protection to prosecution. We are very grateful to our partners at Edmonton Police Service, Alberta Health Services, and Alberta Justice.

SACE and our services are a vital resource available to residents of Edmonton who have experienced the trauma of sexual violence. We have made a significant difference in thousands of lives.

I would like to thank our funders for their belief in our organization and the work we do. The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services, Alberta Children and Youth Services, Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, Edmonton Community Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, and the 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 many donors including A. B. Edie Equities, Servus Credit Union Kids' Foundation, Covenant Health Group Staff Charitable Donations Fund, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees' Charitable Donations Fund, 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 Schetzle, Mary Francis Fitzgerald, Sean Armstrong, Michelle Boden, Allison Downey-Damato, 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 thank those who work here for whom this is much more than "just a job"! Chandra Ashton, Mary Banda, Pat C, Thea Comeau, Marion D, Danielle Dressler, Karen Dushinski, Sandy F, Jill Green, Maddy G, Shirley Howarth, Terra Irvine, Mary Jane James, Doreen J, Tracy J, Matilda Kamara, Laura Kennedy, Becky Lee, Jacqueline Linder, Erin Martin, Christine Mhina, Shazin Mohammed-Standing, Monika Penner, Herma Ratcliff, Joy Schmold, Sasa Simicizm, Pragya Sharma, Bridget Stirling, and Jennifer Venditelli. 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

Herma Ratcliff

Executive Assistant

Mary Jane James

Receptionist

Terra Irvine

Director of Public Education

Pragya Sharma

Public Educators

Bridget Stirling

Danielle Dressler

Director of Client Services

Karen Dushinski

Child & Adolescent Therapists

Karen Dushinski

Monika Penner

Shazin Mohammed-Standing

Thea Comeau

Intake and Adult Counsellors

Shirley Howarth

Mary Banda

Matilda Kamara

Jill Green

Laura Kennedy

Jacqueline Linder

Shazin Mohammed-Standing

Thea Comeau

Diversity Outreach/Court Support Program

Christine Mhina

Mary Banda

Matilda Kamara

Director of Volunteer Services

Joy Schmold

“I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back”.

Maya Angelou



Client Services Department

The year 2009 will go down as one of the busiest and yet most accomplished years that I have been a part of to date. I feel truly blessed to be in the company of such amazing professionals, and it is an honor to continue in the role of Director of Client Services with such a wonderful group. Although we have faced challenges over the past year, we have overcome these with passion and dedication to our clients and to the mandate of our agency.

Child and Adolescent Program

In 2009, the Child and Adolescent Program consisted of three capable staff: Monika Penner, Thea Comeau, Shazin Mohammed-Standing and Karen Dushinski. During 2009, our staff had over 1750 consultations with community members, parents and professionals, as well as over 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, Region 6 CFSA, Edmonton Public and Catholic School Systems, and other community agencies.

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 saw over 250 new clients and logged over 2500 hours of client sessions, in addition to 1100 community consultations. SACE continues to benefit from the hard work and expertise of the adult counselling team: Shirley Howarth, Mary Banda, Matilda Kamara, Laura Kennedy, Jill Green, Jacqueline Linder, Thea Comeau, Shazin Mohamed-Standing, Chandra Ashton, Sasa Simicic, and Becky Lee.

SACE also has relationships with the various counselling and social work programs in the city. In the Spring of 2009, we provided placements for several students, including Thea Comeau, Shazin Mohamed-Standing, Andrea P, Magdalena G, Meena R, and Chelsea B.

Innovative Programs

In May of 2009, SACE hosted the Community Voices Against Sexual Violence (CVASV) Conference. Individuals from Edmonton and surrounding areas attended this conference, with the goal of increasing both individual and community capacities for responding to sexualized violence.

At the end of 2009, the INDIGO program was developed by Jacqui Linder to address the waiting list and was facilitated by various counselling and public education staff.

Dr. Karen Dushinski,
Director of Client Services

Diversity, Intake and Court Support Program

Diversity Outreach

The Diversity Outreach, Intake and Court Support Program provides unique services to diverse populations including Aboriginal People, Ethno-cultural communities, Seniors, Persons with Disabilities, Commercial Sex Workers, and those who identify as a sexual minority or gender variant. We continue to work with community elders, agencies, and other stakeholders to identify needs, determine best practices, and implement strategies for program delivery. The following are some of the highlights and activities accomplished in the past year:

Our program also provides various workshops and presentations throughout the year. In 2009, over 600 people participated in public education activities, with topics ranging from Victims' Rights and Responsibilities, the Justice System, and various topics on Sexual Violence and War Rape.

Intake

In 2009, SACE had 533 requests for counselling. 431 new clients began treatment in SACE programs.

Court Support Program

Victim assistance is one of the major components in the Diversity Outreach, Intake and Court Support Program. We are committed to supporting victims of sexual violence as they access the legal system. We facilitate the process of helping clients make police reports, assist with court preparation, and accompany clients to court when necessary.

Over the past year, we logged 256 hours of direct court room support and court preparation. We distributed 146 Financial Benefit Packages, spent hundreds of hours assisting clients completing forms, and handed out 144 Victims of Crime Protocol Booklets to clients and their families.

RENEWAL Project

Late in 2009, the Diversity Outreach and Court Support Program initiated trauma recovery counselling service for Sex Trade Workers (STW) who experience sexual violence, and who usually have a prior history as victims of sexual violence.

The RENEWAL Project (Restoration, Enlightenment, Normalization, Encouragement, Work, Aspiration, and Learning) originated by networking with various agencies and beginning a dialogue with all stakeholders to identify specific needs for this targeted population. We also completed an environmental scan to determine existing resources. We are working collaboratively with the Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton (PAAFE) developing a treatment program and identifying a model for service delivery.

Community Development

The process of establishing strong, trusting, working relationships with diverse communities is ongoing. We continue to work on community consultations, community development, and relationship building. Because of these relationships, we are able to connect individual clients with general support, crisis intervention and counselling.

Prevention through Engagement of Diverse Communities

As advocates of social change, our program has been working on initiating preventive strategies that focus on building capacity in diverse communities. The project entails an active grassroots community engagement and participation of those who are impacted by sexual violence, their family, support persons and community agencies. Community engagement activities are rooted in the principal of the Participatory Action Research (PAR). PAR is research which involves SACE and all relevant parties in actively examining together current action (which they experience as problematic) in order to change and improve it. We do this by critically reflecting on the historical, political, cultural, economic, and geographic and other contexts which make sense of it. In partnership with community agencies, we participated in healing and sharing circles, co-facilitated support groups, and continued to initiate opportunities for community ideologue and engagement.

Committee Involvement

Committee involvement enables the program to stay connected in the community and increase the visibility of SACE with colleagues, agencies, and other community members.

Dr. Christine Mhina

Director of Diversity, Intake and Court Support

Public Education

Public Education has had yet another successful year in meeting its mandate to empower individuals and communities through sexual assault awareness and information!

Public Education represented SACE at several booths and information fairs throughout the year, distributing written information on sexual violence and SACE services. While we are committed to ensuring there is a SACE presence at community events, the bulk of our department's work is in facilitating information sessions for schools, businesses and other organizations. In 2009, Public Education facilitated 495 information sessions. We are also now involved with Alberta Health Services' P.A.R.T.Y. program (Preventing Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth) by presenting to all Grade 9 students on the realities of drug-facilitated sexual assault.

Through our information sessions, we reached 6874 individuals, thereby increasing the community's awareness on issues related to sexual violence. Much of this work is because of the enormous passion, dedication and skill public educators Bridget Stirling and Danielle Dressler bring not only to their presentations, but to the SACE environment.

In 2009, our department was involved in Take Back the Night, Expecting Respect, Gateway Association for Community Living's production of the Vagina Monologues (with the aim of encouraging the public to take action against sexual assault against women with disabilities) and Community Initiatives Against Family Violence. We also presented at two International conferences: White Tiger's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Conference and the annual Diverse Voices conference. The SACE Public Education Department also worked with the SACE counselling staff to plan, host, and carry out a national conference on the effects of "mass sexualized violence". The conference was called "Hope, Resilience and Psychological Trauma" and featured keynote speaker Dr. Kaethe Weingarten of Harvard Medical School. The conference established the significant link between "war rape" refugees and Indian Residential School survivors. Both groups experienced mass sexual violence in conjunction with genocide, loss of family system, loss of language, and loss of cultural heritage.

Public Education has had the pleasure to work with a number of bright, dedicated students. In 2009, we worked with Jill Z., Ingrid M., Amy W, Angela E, and Megan K. In 2009, Public Education took advantage of new ways of disseminating information on sexual violence. We started a successful blog (<http://sacetalks.wordpress.com>), in which we make weekly posts on current events. The blog has also been a wonderful opportunity to comment on sexual violence, thereby encouraging the public to think critically about this issue. In addition to our blog, we also now have a Twitter feed (<http://twitter.com/sacetalks>) and a SACE "fan page" on Facebook. All of these endeavours have been successful in disseminating information on sexual violence in new, innovative ways.

Pragya Sharma,
Director of Public Education

Volunteer Services

I am excited to have the opportunity to reflect on 2009 and all of the experiences, successes and fun in the Volunteer Program at SACE. In August 2009, I started in the position of Director of Volunteer Services at SACE, replacing Erin Martin, who moved to Victoria to pursue her Master's Degree. What an amazing time it has been! I have learned and grown so much in such a short time, and I have the volunteers and staff at SACE to thank for that.

I am very grateful to have new volunteers successfully complete the crisis line training program. SACE has many dedicated individuals volunteering on the crisis line, and I continue to be inspired by each and every one of them. These volunteers show strength, compassion and courage as they answer calls and respond with empathy to very difficult issues involving sexualized violence.

I am also thankful and encouraged by our fundraising volunteers. These volunteers demonstrate their commitment and devotion to SACE over and over again. I am truly amazed by the dedication of these individuals, and I love seeing their smiling faces and sharing jokes with them while we are working.

We also recruited new office volunteers, and I am grateful for their commitment to SACE and for their assistance in helping our office run smoothly. These volunteers inspire me with their dedication and kindness. I am continually in awe of the willingness and positive energy each office volunteer brings to every shift.

In early 2010, we reluctantly said goodbye to Doreen Johnson, a great friend of SACE, and one of the longest-serving volunteers we have ever worked with. Doreen is a lifetime member of SACE and put in 17 years, and over 10,000 hours, as a volunteer. It was an honour and a privilege to work with and know Doreen, and we will forever be grateful for her wisdom, guidance, and example in teaching us what it truly takes to be a professional.

All of our volunteers are incredibly passionate and committed individuals, and each one gives me hope that change is possible. They prove that a genuine, caring community member has the power to make change, and the ability to help our community become even better than it already is. I thank all of you for your continued support and involvement with the volunteer program at SACE.

Joy Schmold
Director of Volunteer Services

Volunteers

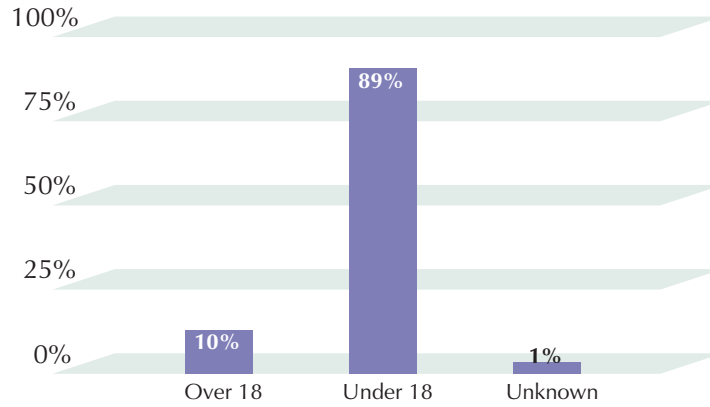
Alex R.	Claire D.	Jaleh S.	Mary B.	Ray L.
Alfie L.	Dana E.	Janice D.	Mary Fran F.	Rita B.
Allison D.D.	Dana S.	Jeff F.	Mary Jane J.	Rob B.
Aly J.	Daniela V.	Jen V.	Mary P.	Rob J.
Alyssa C.	Danielle C.	Jennifer S.	Mary S.	Robin C.
Amy W.	Danielle D.	Jill G.	Matilda K.	Rod G.
Andrea P.	Dave D.	Jill Z.	Meagan P.	Ryan S.
Andrew L.	Dave M.	Joan L.	Meena R.	Saleena H.
Andrew M.	David D.	JoAnn M.	Meena R.	Sandi F.
Andy D.	David M.	JoAnn M.	Megan H.	Sandra G.
Angela E.	Deb G.	Jocelynn M.	Megan K.	Sandy B.
Anna Y.	Debbie G.	John	Melissa Z.	Sarah M.
Anne R.	Debra W.	John G.	Michelle B.	Satie S.
Ashley F.	Denise W.	John R.	Michelle M.	Sean A.
Ashley W.	Donna K.	Joy S.	Michelle R.	Shannon R.
Audrey Y.	Doreen B.	Karen D.	Mike A.	Shazin M
Avril H.	Doreen C.	Karen S.	Mike L.	Shazin N.
Becky L.	Doreen J.	Karley S.	Millie H.	Shelly B.
Belinda R.	Doug R.	Kathleen S.	Miriam W.	Shelly N.
Beth A.	Elaine B.	Kathy B.	Monika P.	Sherry M.
Bev C.	Elise M.	Kevin B.	Morgan L.	Shirley H.
Beverley N.	Ellen H.	Kevin M.	Mya I.	Sholly S.
Bill H.	Emily S.	Khushbo H.	Myrna D.	Stacy N.
Bill T.	Eric A.	Kirsty P.	Natasha F.	Sue G.
Brenda R.	Erin M.	Kristine H.	Natasha P.	Susan J.
Bridget S.	Ewar J.	Larissa P.	Natasha V.	Susan L.
Brittany J.	Frances T.	Larry C.	Nicole F.	Sylvia H.
Brooke J.	Gail M.	Laura B.	Nicole T.	Tara B.
Candice P.	Gema P.	Laura K.	Nicolle H.	Tasha S
Carla I.	Gillian E.	Laura L.	Pam O.	Terra I.
Chandra A.	Glenda P.	Leigh A.	Pat C.	Thea C.
Charlie B.	Glenis S.	Les C.	Pat H.	Tim R.
Chelsea B	Glynis T.	Leslie A.	Pat P.	Tracy D.
Chelsea F	Herma R.	Lillian G.	Pauline W.	Tracy J.
Chelsea G.	Hilda Clara B.	Liz O.	Peter B.	Troy G.
Chris I.	Ingrid M.	Maddie G.	Pragya S.	Vivian L.
Chris J.	Jackie Y.	Maggie F.	Priyanka P.	Wade W.
Christa J.	Jacqueline L.	Marianne K.	Raiha I.	William T.
Christine M.	Jacqueline M.	Marion D.	Raj P.	Yvonne S.
				Zelekash A.

*"Volunteers don't
get paid....not
because they're
worthless, but
because they're
priceless".*

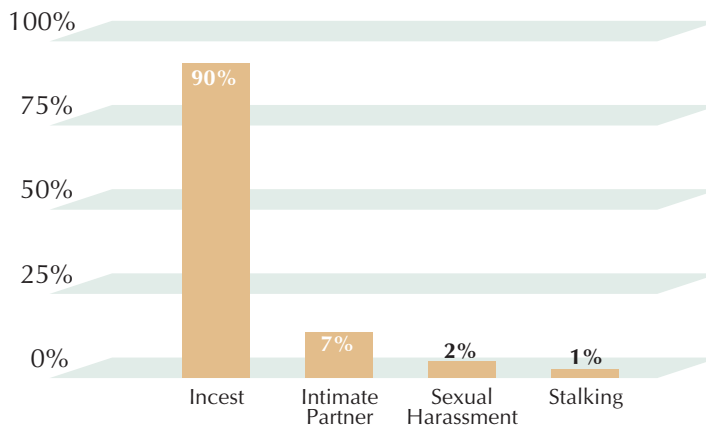
Sherry Anderson

2009 Crisis Line Stats

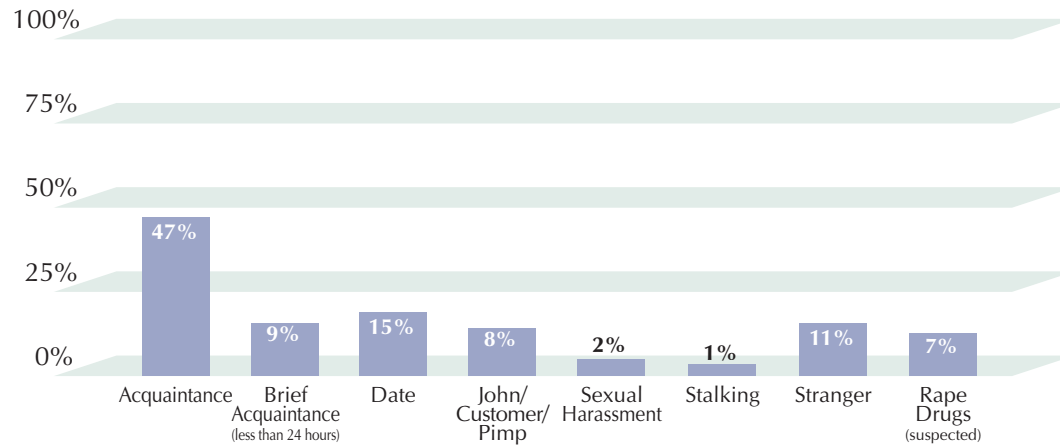
Victim Age at Time of Assault



Assault Type - Interfamilial

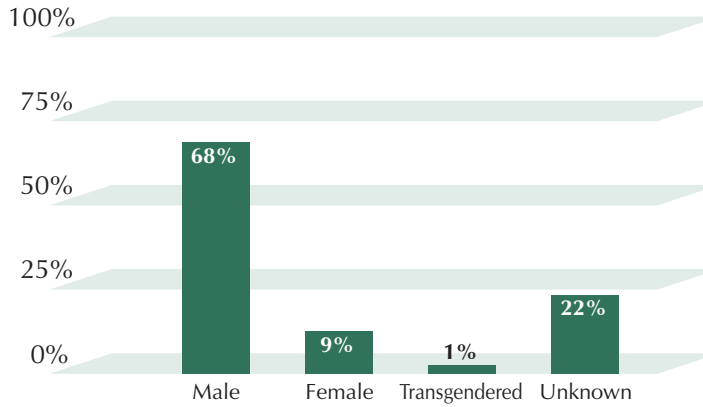


Assault Type - Extra Familial

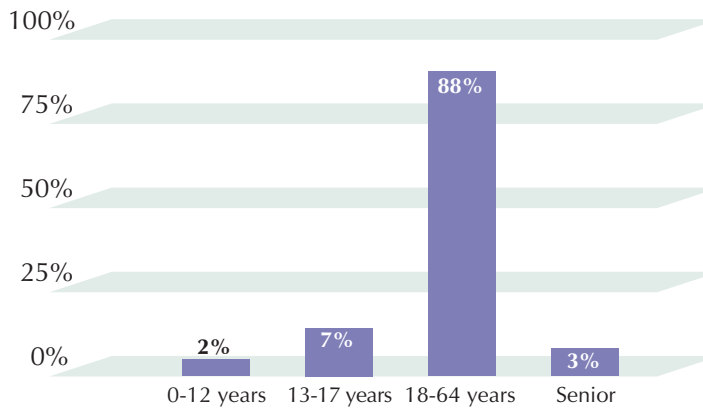


2009 Crisis Line Stats

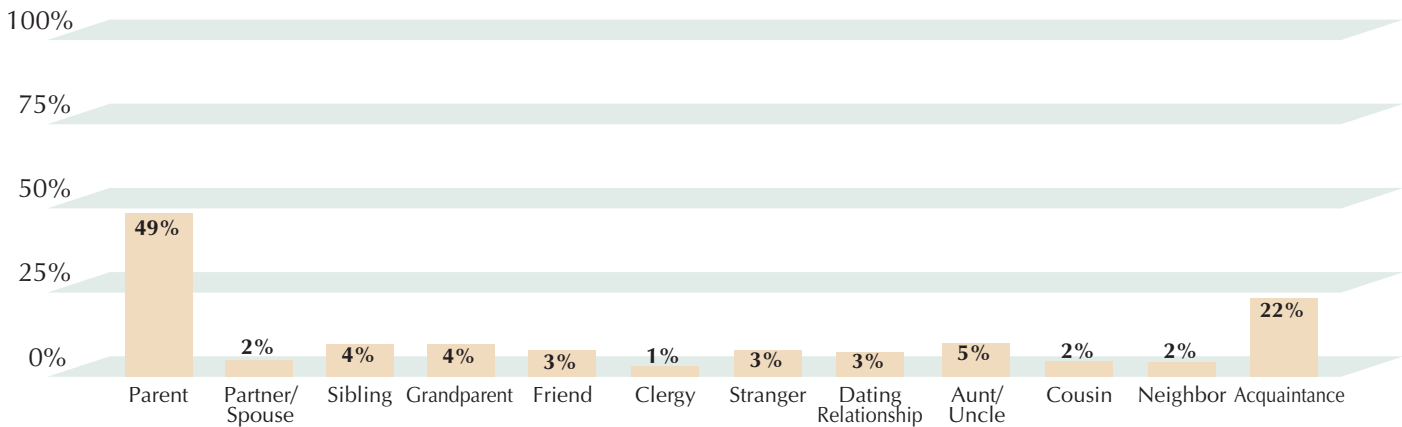
Perpetrator Identified As



Perpetrator Age at Time of Assault



Perpetrator Relationship to Victim



In 2009, the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton received and processed almost 18,000 telephone calls during office hours. This amounts to about 72 calls a day during office hours! Over 10,000 calls were placed to our 24-Hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line.

~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling



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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

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