

Business Case 2022

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Sexual Violence in Alberta: a Public Health and Safety Crisis Requiring Immediate Action

One of the biggest challenges in addressing sexual violence¹ is that it cunningly manages to escape our attention, remaining hidden in the shadows, surrounded and protected by stigma and shame. When unearthed, however, this threat to our public health and safety is revealed to be occurring at epidemic proportions, shockingly, right here at home, in Alberta.

In 2020, the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services released the findings of a Prevalence Study which found that 43% of the 1,500 Albertans surveyed indicated they had experienced sexual violence in their lifetime; this equates to a staggering 1.8 million people – that is almost one out of every two Albertans (AASAS, 2020a). Of those, 75% experienced at least one incident of sexual abuse as a child; and of those survivors of child sexual abuse, 50% experienced sexual assault again as an adult (AASAS, 2020a).

The negative health consequences associated with experiencing sexual violence have been confirmed in numerous peer-reviewed research journals over the last several decades (Dworkin & Schumacher, 2016). Moreover, sexual violence is a known risk factor for a range of other public health issues such as addictions, suicide, homelessness, and domestic violence (Capaldi et al., 2012).

The crime of sexual violence also presents a major risk to public safety. According to the 2019 General Social Survey, only 6% of sexual assault survivors in Canada reported to police (Cotter, 2019). This means that 94% of the time when a sexual assault occurs, those committing the offence are not held accountable. Although the rate of all violent crimes in Canada has decreased over the past 15 years, sexual assault has not (Cotter, 2019). Our communities are at risk.

The COVID-19 pandemic unfolded against this backdrop and not only intensified the root causes of sexual violence but also increased the degree of crisis experienced by survivors as well as the complexity of their needs. This reality further ignited the already-growing concern of sexual assault centres about their capacity to meet the needs of those seeking support in the days, weeks, and months to come.

The Government of Alberta launched their economic recovery plan in June 2020 during a worldwide pandemic and global recession. Thankfully there are early signs that the plan is working by growing our resources, strengthening our workforce, and helping everyday Albertans to thrive. In order to fully recover economically however, we require healthy and safe communities where all Albertans are able to actively participate.

Fifteen sexual assault centres in 38 communities across the province are doing their part towards Alberta's economic recovery by providing services which help sexual assault survivors and their families heal, services to help survivors access justice, as well as prevention and education services.

Almost one out of every two Albertans has experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.

¹ Sexual violence is defined as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting including but not limited to home and work. In this document, the term sexual violence is used interchangeably with the terms sexual assault and sexual abuse.

The Economic Cost of Sexual Violence

When someone chooses to commit an act of sexual violence, the costs to society are immense. Kate McInturff (2013) with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives estimates the total economic cost of sexual violence in Canada to be \$1,957,683,519.

Given that Alberta is home to 12% of the national population, the cost of sexual violence in Alberta is estimated to be \$234,922,022. The systems most impacted by sexual violence are health, social services, and justice. Commensurately-funded intervention services, as well as preventative, up-front investments of private and public resources, have the potential to decrease these costs over time.

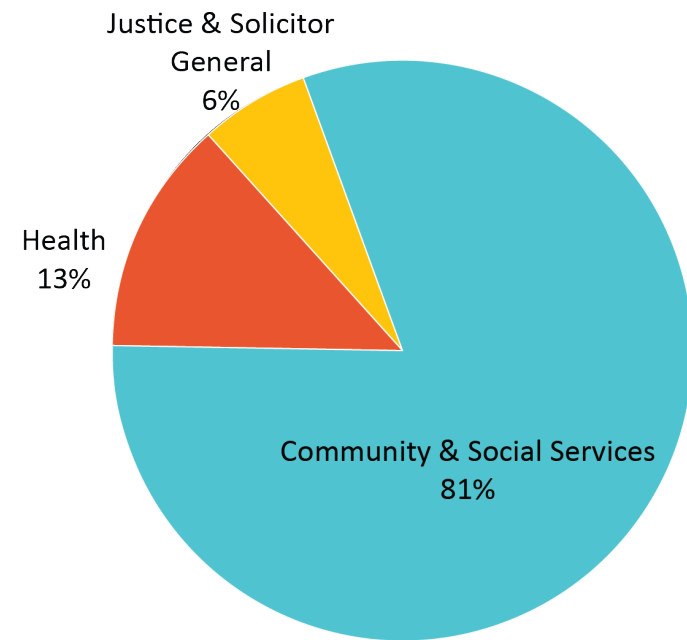
For over 40 years, Albertans have invested their volunteer time and donor dollars in support of community-based sexual assault centres with the aim of ending sexual violence in our province. In 2004, the Government of Alberta, with this same vision, partnered with the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services by making an initial annual investment of \$1 million to prevent and address sexual violence in our province.

Over the past 18 years, as awareness about sexual violence increased and more survivors came forward seeking services, this community-government partnership flourished. As government investments progressively increased to \$8 million in 2017, so did Alberta's ability to support survivors through the expansion of specialized sexual violence services and supports across the province.

In 2018, in response to a significant increase in demand following the rise of the #MeToo Movement and Alberta's own "I Believe You" Campaign, the Government of Alberta increased the annual sexual violence investment to **\$17,083,590** through three ministries – tangible evidence of the strength of Alberta's community-government partnership to end sexual violence.

Government of Alberta Current Annual Investment in Sexual Violence

Government Ministry	Investment
Community and Social Services	\$13,825,000
Health	\$ 2,163,500
Justice and Solicitor General	\$ 1,095,090
Total	\$17,083,590



A Crisis of Demand

The culture shift exposing the true prevalence of sexual violence in our communities is only beginning, and the demand for sexual assault services in Alberta continues to increase. A good indicator of demand is counselling wait times. Wait times occur when a survivor is able to overcome shame and stigma and reach out for help to a sexual assault centre – sometimes for the first time and sometimes years after the incident has taken place. They receive an immediate, positive, non-judgmental response and are assured that help is available – with the caveat that there will be a long wait for counselling. Of course, in the case of life-threatening circumstances such as suicidality, which has been on the rise, individuals receive immediate attention. However, the majority must wait until resources are available.

The chart below demonstrates how the additional funds received from the Government of Alberta in 2018 began to quell this tide of demand by decreasing counselling wait times from 9 months to 5 months. And then the COVID-19 pandemic hit Alberta. The demand for sexual assault services exploded, and wait times returned to, and then exceeded, previous levels.

Today, there are 1,583 sexual violence survivors on waitlists across the province; waiting to access healing and recovery supports so that they are able to resume their work, school, and family commitments and participate in Alberta's economic recovery.

Range of Counselling Wait Times Across the Province

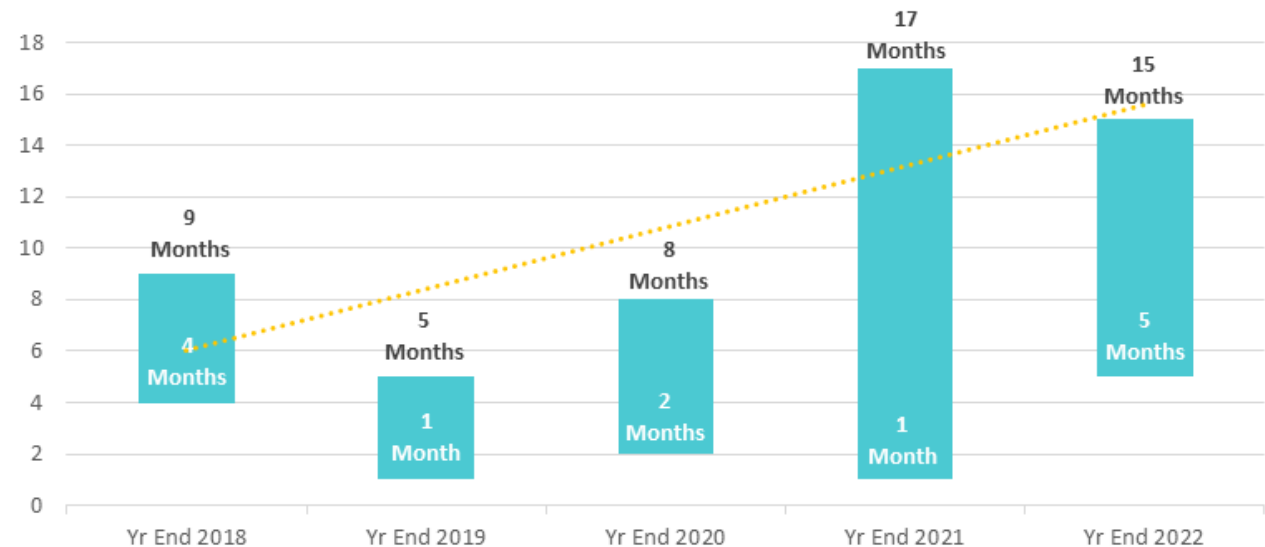


Figure 1: Range of Counselling Wait Times Across the Province.
Wait times for counselling vary across the province at each sexual assault centre. This chart depicts the range of counselling wait times across the province by GOA fiscal year as well as the increasing wait times for counselling year over year.

Help-seeking for Sexual Violence in Alberta is at an All Time High

The dramatic increase in individuals seeking sexual assault support services, triggered by a worldwide culture shift encouraging survivors to reach out for help, was further compounded by the impact of COVID-19. This is in line with research indicating that long-term effects of disasters increase the overall prevalence of sexual assault, worsen the frequency and severity of harm, and exacerbate barriers for survivors to recover (National Sexual Violence Resource Centre, 2021).

Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence² experienced a record high number of contacts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, help-seeking increased by 41% (yr. end 2021) and 67% (yr. end 2022) over pre-pandemic volumes. Collectively, the support and information lines at sexual assault centres across the province, including Alberta's One Line, received over 11,700 requests for sexual violence support in the year ending 2022.

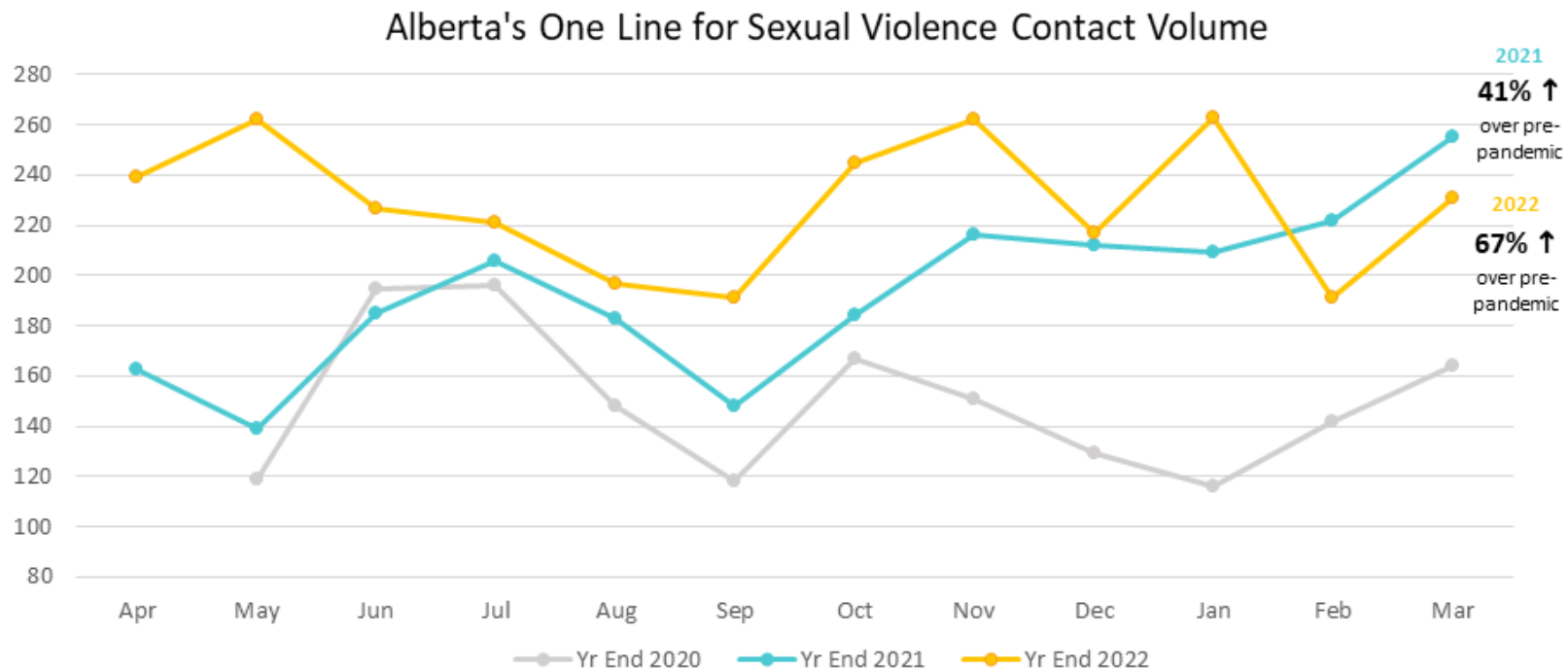


Figure 2: Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence Volume

This figure depicts the monthly volume of Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence for the years ending 2020-2022.

² Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence is a province-wide talk/text/chat service providing specialized sexual violence support and information to all Albertans.

Increasing Complexity of Sexual Assault Centre Client Needs

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on those experiencing sexual violence in Alberta have been far-reaching, very often affecting mental health, addictions, finances, housing, food, and job security. Sexual assault centres observed more clients presenting with high crisis and suicidality, increased self-reports of chronic and persistent mental health challenges, increases in self-harm and reports of domestic violence, as well as an increased number of clients feeling immobilized, hopeless, defeated, and isolated due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic (AASAS, 2022).

Figure 3 depicts the average percentage of clients across the province self-reporting a mental health concern at time of Intake for counselling. The years ending March 2021 and March 2022 are compared to the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020.

In the year ending 2022, on average, over half (52%) of sexual assault centre clients self-reported a mental health concern at time of intake, and in some parts of the province, as high as 93% of clients reported a mental health concern at time of intake. It should be noted, however, that due to the stigma associated with mental illness, self-reports are typically conservative.

This has created an increased need for stabilization interventions before sexual violence trauma therapy can occur. Such interventions prolong client recovery times which, in turn, also impact wait times for new clients.

Even with ongoing therapy, some sexual assault services are seeing a delay in trauma recovery as clients are isolated from natural and informal supports and living with the impacts of the pandemic. Over the coming years, we anticipate that clients will continue to require extensive and intensive support and counselling.

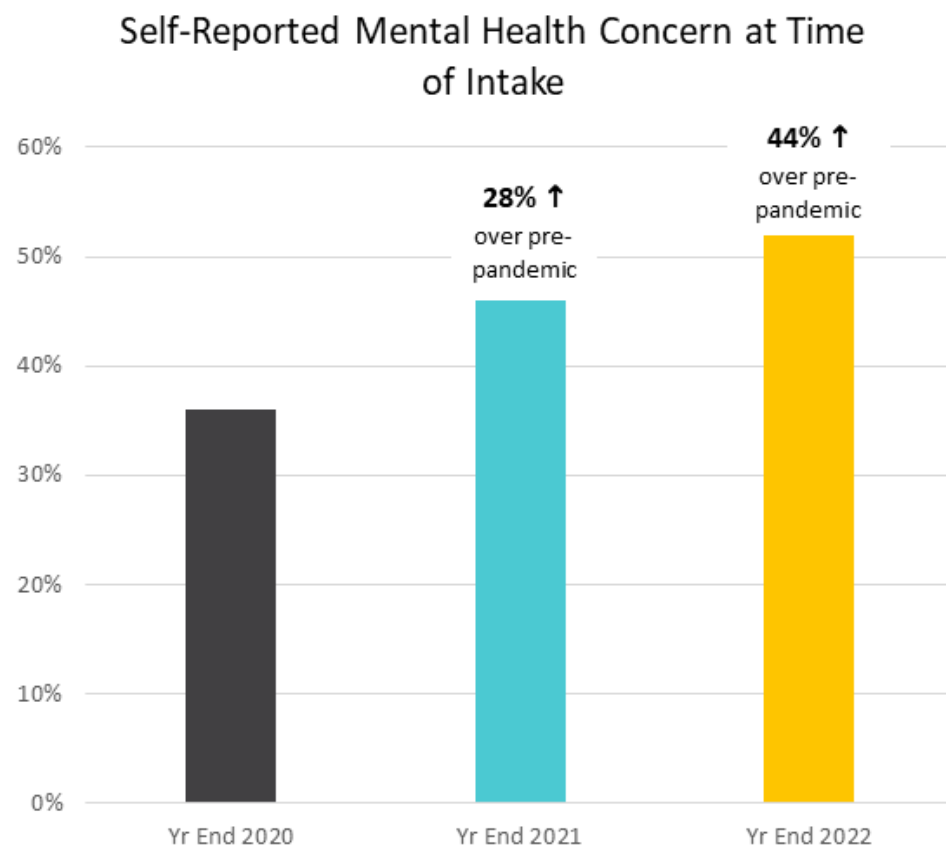
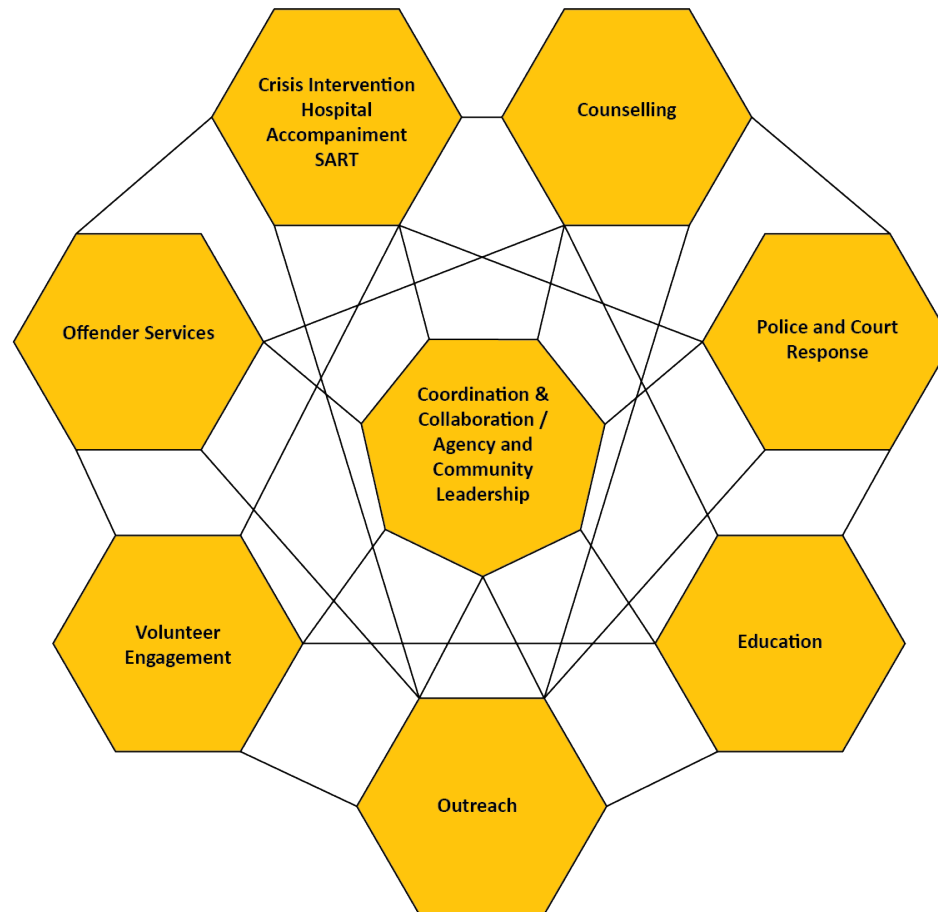


Figure 3: Self-Reported Mental Health Concern at Time of Intake

Mitigating the Crisis – Responding to the Demand

Alberta's sexual assault centres provide services that are highly specialized, trauma-informed, evidence-based, and identifiable specifically as sexual violence services. These services are provided by qualified professionals to survivors of all gender identities across the life span, as well as their support people. AASAS member agencies are also committed to primary prevention and provide comprehensive, high-quality education programs aimed at improving the response to sexual violence and changing attitudes and behaviors surrounding the issue of sexual violence.

The continuum of core sexual assault services provided by our member agencies across the province includes service coordination and collaboration, crisis intervention, counselling, police and court support, education, outreach, volunteer engagement, and offender services. Together, these service areas provide a seamless and coordinated response to sexual violence in the province of Alberta.



Drawn from our extensive experience, along with evidence-based research and thousands of survivor voices, sexual assault centres of Alberta recommend four strategies to the Government of Alberta to mitigate the current crisis and respond to the increasing demand:

1 Increase the Availability of Timely Specialized Counselling to Survivors with Complex Needs

Timely, specialized and appropriate intervention for sexual assault survivors is needed to reduce the risk of short and long-term health impacts, and to decrease the likelihood of experiencing further violence and harm (Campbell et al., 2009; Dworkin & Schumacher, 2016; Dworkin et al., 2017; Ullman, 2016). When a first appointment cannot be offered in a timely manner, it adds another significant barrier to the healing process. An individual may lose motivation for counselling, and/or may continue to engage in behaviors such as substance use, self-harm, or disordered eating, in an attempt to deal with the negative impacts of trauma. The ongoing pandemic continues to escalate anxiety and depression for many clients, with sexual assault centres reporting that many clients are experiencing an increase in thoughts of suicide.

Therapists in this field must be highly skilled and trained to provide sexual violence trauma specialized counselling. Working with sexual violence also requires in-depth knowledge and understanding of what makes this form of trauma different from others. The complex dynamics of sexual assault/abuse can have profound and life-altering effects on a survivor's core beliefs about themselves, how they relate to others, and their relationship with the world around them. An important part of the healing process can be missed if counselling does not incorporate this unique context of sexual violence.

When a counselling appointment cannot be offered in a timely manner, it adds another significant barrier to the healing process.

Sexual assault centres in Alberta employ and contract Provisionally-Registered and Registered Chartered Psychologists, as well as masters' level Clinical Social Workers, who are trained to help clients with complex needs process sexual violence trauma. They see clients for 12-24 (1 to 1.5 hour) sessions and utilize evidence-based interventions, such as trauma-informed cognitive behavioral therapy, emotional regulation and gradual exposure to trauma memories, EMDR, and play therapy, among others.

In 2022, 75% of adult counselling clients at sexual assault centres in Alberta showed a decrease in trauma symptoms. In previous years this number was consistently higher, with as high as 90% experiencing fewer trauma symptoms. Sexual assault centre therapists deduce that these less favorable scores are a result of the additional stressors clients are experiencing as a result of the pandemic.

2

An Innovative Response that Supports Complex Needs and Decreases Wait Times

Prompted by the increasingly complex needs of survivors and lengthy wait times for counselling, sexual assault centres across the province initiated the development of an innovative new service.

This new service is available to those on a waitlist for counselling and has three areas of focus: meeting basic needs through systems navigation or case management; creating safety and stabilization through sexual assault trauma counselling interventions such as grounding, emotional regulation, and containment; and preparing clients for therapeutic counselling through individual and group psychoeducational sessions.

This support service has proven to be very successful, with early findings indicating those clients who have their basic needs met, and experience safety and stabilization, are better prepared to process trauma with a therapist, and, in some cases, clients are indicating that they do not need to move on to individual counselling following this type of professional service.

This service, typically provided by a specially-trained and highly skilled Social Worker or Psychologist, has evolved to provide wrap-around support working not only with the individual, but also their family or support networks, and when required, includes mobile service delivery, reaching out to individuals at their home or other community-based organizations.

By keeping clients safe and stable while waiting for counselling, addressing basic needs, and providing psychoeducational support, the time required in counselling to attend to these essential matters is significantly reduced. This has the potential to decrease the number of clients on the waitlist and the number of counselling sessions needed for some clients – and in turn, reduce wait times overall.

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3

Enhance Specialized Supports for Survivors who are Seeking Justice

The crime of sexual violence is unlike any other crime in Canada – it has the lowest police reporting rate (6%), and, unlike other violent crimes where rates have decreased over the past 15 years, sexual violence has not (Cotter, 2019). Furthermore, Canada had a national police unfounded rate of 19.3% in 2016 - nearly twice as high as it was for physical assault at 11% (Doolittle, 2017). It also should be noted that the crime of sexual assault is compounded by a very low conviction rate of 0.3% (Johnson, 2012).

Because of this uniqueness, support to survivors who are seeking justice must be specialized - unlike other victim support provided through police-based or community-based Victim Services. With the extremely low police reporting rate, an essential part of this specialized service must be supporting the survivor in their decision of whether or not to report to police. This type of specialized police and court support is best provided by sexual assault centres that have no formal ties with law enforcement and are unbiased with respect to the survivor’s decision-making outcome.

Undergoing a police investigation, charges, a preliminary hearing, and potentially, a long, drawn-out trial, means that the survivor is repeatedly subjected to re-living their initial trauma. In order to meet the needs of sexual assault victim-witnesses, specialized professionals are trained in offering sexual violence trauma counselling focused on ongoing safety and emotional regulation and stabilization. Our professional staff members also offer accompaniment outside of the criminal justice system, including hospital accompaniment and accompaniment navigating other systems, such as campus reporting processes at post-secondary institutions, the Human Rights Commission, and Child and Family Services. Given the very low conviction rate for crimes of sexual assault, specialized police and court support professionals are also qualified and prepared to work with the survivor to support their mental health and well-being long after the trial is over.

This type of specialized police and court support is best provided by sexual assault centres that have no formal ties with law enforcement and are unbiased in regards to the survivor’s decision-making outcome.

In addition to one-on-one counselling, specialized police and court support professionals also work at the community and system levels. Some examples of this work include sexual assault centre staff reviewing police and RCMP sexual assault case files that have been cleared without charge and making recommendations for improvement, consulting on police and crown training curriculum, and participating in the development and ongoing implementation of sexual assault police reporting options, such as Supportive Reporting, Third-Party Reporting, and Third Option Evidence Collection. Currently, specialized professionals are working collaboratively with RCMP in Alberta to explore the option of a province-wide software platform for online police reporting as well as transformative justice approaches as an alternative to our traditional criminal justice system.

The specialized police and court teams at our sexual assault centres work collaboratively with other criminal justice professionals, and evaluation outcomes have been very positive. Compared to one Canadian study, which found that only 22% of survivors of sexual assault who reported to law enforcement felt “satisfied” with police (Mehler-Paperny, 2015), sexual assault services’ outcomes have demonstrated that with specialized counselling, as high as 92% of clients felt satisfied with Law Enforcement (AASAS, 2020b). These outcomes bode well for the future safety and wellness of our Alberta communities.

4

Protect Alberta's Children and Youth and Engage Men and Boys

Of 1,500 Albertans surveyed by AASAS in 2020, 34% reported experiencing sexual abuse as a child. This included one in four boys (24%) and just under one in two girls (44%). Most survey respondents reported that their first incident of sexual abuse occurred between the ages of 6 and 11 years. Most of the time, children are sexually abused by someone they know and trust – and most often someone living outside of the child's home.

Because of the trauma, silence, shame, and stigma surrounding this crime, and because the majority of offenders are someone the child knows, child sexual abuse survivors are often confused by what has happened to them. They often blame themselves and choose not to tell anyone. As such, most children who are victimized are not able to access the help and support they need and most perpetrators of child sexual abuse are not held accountable for the crimes they commit. This crime remains a significant threat to Alberta children and youth.

Child sexual abuse is an area where it is possible to prevent sexual abuse, or at the very least prevent re-victimization. If children as young as kindergarten age are taught, at an age-appropriate level using age-appropriate language, the definition of sexual abuse, who is at risk (anyone), who abuses children (can be anyone, most often someone a child knows), who is responsible (always the person who is causing harm), and what to do about it (tell a trusted adult and keep telling until someone helps), then the negative effects that this abuse has on the health and safety of our Alberta children could be significantly reduced.

Child sexual abuse is an area where it is possible to prevent sexual abuse or at the very least prevent re-victimization.

In addition to child sexual abuse prevention/education, sexual assault centres in Alberta understand the importance of engaging men and boys as leaders and partners in helping to end sexual violence. Men's and boy's engagement programs differ across the province but all of them focus on shifting our dominant cultural perspective of men as 'perpetrators only' to men as allies, leaders, sexual violence bystanders as well as survivors of sexual violence. This approach to primary prevention is still in its infancy and the programs currently offered by the sexual assault centres are new and developing; ongoing work is needed to scale best and promising practices in order to understand what works in the Alberta context.

Educating young children, their teachers, and parents about child sexual abuse and engaging men and boys in violence prevention requires not only specialized skills, knowledge, and comfort with the material delivered, but it also requires the ability to respond compassionately and professionally to disclosures of sexual abuse, and in the case of minors, mandatory reporting requirements. In cases where there are multiple incidents of child sexual abuse in one school community, specialized professionals may also be required to provide school-wide crisis management. Educators at sexual assault centres have been providing this service to Albertans for over 40 years in our schools, communities, sports teams, and faith-based environments. The demand for this type of prevention education is overwhelming. The need is clearly evident, and the potential to make a difference is indisputable.

Together We Can End Sexual Violence in Alberta: Rationale and Recommendations

Funding Rationale: Alignment with Government of Alberta Business Plans 2022 - 2025

Addressing and ending sexual violence in Alberta has been a shared aim of the Government of Alberta's Ministries of Community and Social Services, Health, and Justice and Solicitor General over the past 18 years and is clearly reflected in the most recent Business Plans of all three ministries:

Ministry	Outcomes	Key Objective(s)
Ministry of Community and Social Services Business Plan 2022-2025	Outcome 1: Stability - Albertans are safe and have timely and consistent access to supports to meet their basic needs.	1.3 Enable civil society organizations to provide timely and culturally appropriate supports and resources to Albertans impacted by family and sexual violence.
	Outcome 3: Inclusion - Alberta's communities provide a sense of belonging and foster resiliency for individuals and families.	3.3 Continue to develop and implement a family violence primary prevention framework. 3.4 Through the Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society, expand civil society capacity to address emerging social issues and improve supports for Albertans.
Ministry of Health Business Plan 2022-2025	Outcome 3: The health and well-being of all Albertans is protected, supported and improved, and health inequities among population groups are reduced.	3.3 Expand access to a range of in-person and virtual recovery-oriented addiction and mental health services.
Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General Business Plan 2022-2025	Outcome 1: Albertans are safe and protected.	1.1 Continue to work with policing partners and municipal leaders to address drivers of crime, including focused work on rural crime, organized crime, drug trafficking and proceeds of crime.
	Outcome 2: Alberta's justice system is fair and effective.	2.1 Streamline processes and reduce red tape to ensure a sustainable justice system that utilizes court, policing and prosecution resources efficiently and effectively.
	Outcome 3: Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system.	3.1 Introduce a new model of victim service delivery to ensure victims have the help they need, when they need it. 3.2 Continue to implement digital transformation to improve Albertans' access to services, promote system sustainability and reduce red tape. 3.3 Work with the courts and other stakeholders to develop options for individuals and families interacting with the justice system who could benefit from targeted services, interventions and supports, where appropriate

Funding Recommendations

1 With help-seeking at Alberta’s sexual assault centres at an all-time high, and the increasing number of clients presenting with complex mental health issues, it is recommended that the Ministries of Community and Social Services and Health collaborate to ensure that Albertans who reach out for counselling to sexual assault centres receive an immediate response with specialized services designed to meet clients’ complex needs.

AASAS contracted with MNP LLP in Calgary to develop a funding formula that is objective, and which analyzes and weights accordingly counselling client-focused criteria. MNP collected data from Alberta sexual assault centres for the most recent fiscal year in the following areas: volume of client sessions, number of therapists and salary costs, wait times, challenges of rural/remote communities, along with travel and occupancy costs. **From this analysis, MNP LLP was able to estimate that sexual assault centres in Alberta would require an additional \$6,525,806 in order to reduce counselling wait times, province-wide, from as high as 15 months to 1 month.**

Ministry of Community and Social Services and Ministry of Health each provide \$3,262,903 (total: \$6,525,806) to sexual assault centres in Alberta to increase the availability of immediate, specialized counselling to survivors with complex needs and substantially reduce wait times.

2 Early findings of a new innovative practice at sexual assault centres indicate that, by providing clients on the waitlists with safety and stabilization intervention, as well as basic needs and psychoeducational support, the time required in counselling to attend to these essential matters is significantly reduced. This has the potential to decrease the number of clients on the waitlist, as well as the number of counselling sessions needed for some clients – in turn, reducing wait times overall. It is recommended that the Ministry of Community and Social Services partner with the sexual assault centres of Alberta to pilot a new and innovative core service designed to support wait-listed clients and further reduce wait times.

Ministry of Community and Social Services provide \$3,060,000 to sexual assault centres in Alberta to pilot a new core service designed to support wait-listed counselling clients and further reduce wait times.

3 Because of the uniqueness of the crime of sexual violence, counselling for survivors who are seeking justice must be specialized unlike other victim supports provided through police or community-based victim services. In order to provide this service, professionals at sexual assault centres must be skilled in providing sexual violence trauma counselling, focused on the ongoing safety, emotional regulation, and stabilization of survivors. Further, the individuals providing this support must have an in-depth knowledge of the unique challenges that sexual assault survivors face when they enter the criminal justice system and be proficient working with a range of innovative programs within systems designed to increase reporting options for survivors. In 2019, new funds received from the Ministry of Justice in support of this specialized police and court support program were cut. Despite this reduction in funding, however, sexual assault centres believed so strongly in the need for this essential service that they continued to provide the support and programs, relying on funding from alternate sources. Of course, this decision often depleted resources intended for other sexual assault core services such as counselling, crisis response, and education.

Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General provide \$1,456,164 to sexual assault centres to ensure ongoing sustainability of sexual assault specialized police and court support services.

4 Over the years, Alberta’s law enforcement professionals, Crown Prosecutors, and community-based sexual assault services have developed and implemented several innovative programs designed to improve the criminal justice response to sexual violence and increase reporting options for survivors. In line with the trend towards digitization to increase access to justice for Albertans, AASAS and Alberta’s law enforcement have been exploring the potential of an online, 24/7 third-party reporting software platform for use by the public in Alberta. This would allow survivors to report directly to the police of their jurisdiction, access specialized support from sexual assault centres, and would allow AASAS to gather prevalence data and insights that could identify patterns and trends about the crime of sexual violence in Alberta.

Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General provide \$105,000 to the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services to work with provincial law enforcement affiliates to develop an online 24/7 third-party reporting software platform.

5 The high prevalence of child sexual abuse in Alberta creates a health and safety risk for Albertans of significant proportions, and in addition, 50% of child sexual abuse survivors in Alberta experience sexual assault again as an adult (AASAS, 2020a). The good news is that child sexual abuse is an area where it is possible to prevent sexual abuse, or at the very least, prevent re-victimization. Child sexual abuse prevention education delivered by skilled and specialized professionals has the potential to make a big difference in the future of our province. Educating young children about child sexual abuse requires not only specialized skills, including knowledge and comfort with the material delivered, but also an ability to respond compassionately and professionally to disclosures of child sexual abuse and any next steps, including all mandatory reporting requirements.

Ministry of Community and Social Services provide \$3,060,000 to the sexual assault centres of Alberta to expand prevention education across the province.

Conclusion

At a time when Albertans are embarking on a journey of economic recovery, our health and safety is of the utmost importance. Forty-three percent of Albertans endure the negative effects of the crime of sexual violence – we see the consequences in our addictions facilities, in our mental health programs, in our homeless shelters – but we can stop paying the price for these serious social problems before they start.

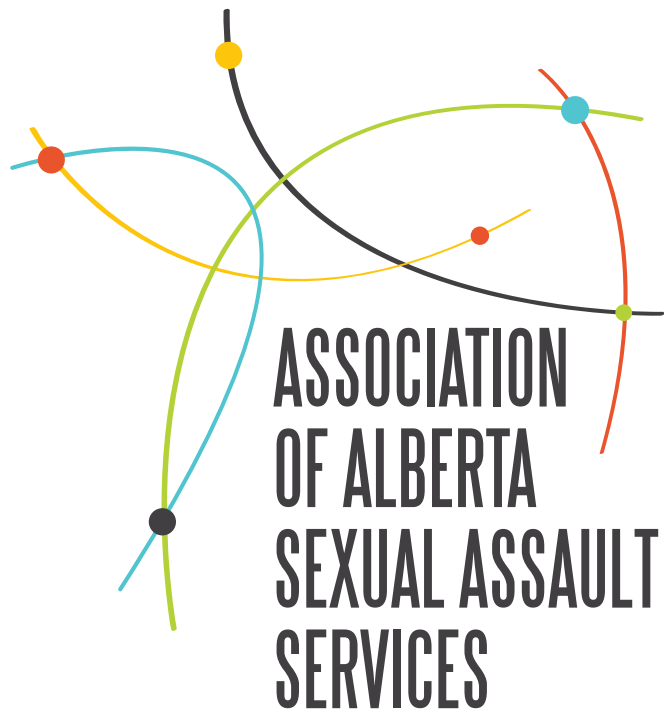
Alberta can recover economically and Albertans can recover from the effects of sexual violence. Furthermore, as we work to strengthen our economy against future potential vulnerabilities – so can we work to shift our culture towards preventing sexual violence.

For 18 years, the Government of Alberta and the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services have worked together with a common vision of addressing and preventing sexual violence. The past three years have been tough – this is a time when additional investments are needed to address the health and safety crisis Alberta communities are currently facing and to create a better future by preventing sexual violence before it happens. When we work together, real change is possible – survivors can heal and recover, communities can flourish, and all Albertans are able to thrive.

Ministry	Current Funding	Funding Increase	Service Area	Total Funding
Ministry of Health	\$ 2,163,500	\$ 3,262,903	Counselling	\$ 5,426,403
Ministry of Community & Social Services	\$13,825,000	\$ 3,262,903	Counselling	\$23,207,903
		\$ 3,060,000	Prevention/Education	
		\$ 3,060,000	New service to support waitlist clients/reduce wait times	
Ministry of Justice & Solicitor General	\$ 1,095,090	\$ 1,561,164	Specialized Police/Court Support	\$ 2,656,254
Total annual funding increase for sexual assault services		\$14,206,970		
Total annual funding for sexual assault services	\$17,083,590			\$31,290,560

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