

ASSOCIATION
OF ALBERTA
**SEXUAL ASSAULT
SERVICES**

The design features a teal vertical bar on the left. Below the organization's name, there are two large, overlapping geometric shapes: a green one on the left and an orange one on the right, both pointing downwards towards the dark grey footer area.

2025-2026

IMPACT REPORT



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, we acknowledge the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples who have nurtured these lands since time immemorial.

AASAS and our member sexual assault services are located on the ancestral, traditional and unceded lands and traveling routes of the Indigenous Peoples represented in Treaties 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and the home of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta, Districts 1 through 22. We are grateful to all Indigenous communities, including the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders of past and present for stewarding this land on which we live, work and visit. As guests on this land, we extend our gratitude, and commitment towards reconciliation.

We also recognize that land acknowledgments are just one step toward reconciliation. Ending sexual violence requires us to work together across communities, sectors, and systems. This includes recognizing our shared responsibility to address the ongoing impacts of colonialism and racism, which continue to create the conditions for violence. Through relationships rooted in respect, reciprocity, and accountability, we are committed to building trust and safety in the wake of these harms and working together towards safe communities free from sexual violence.



MESSAGE TO SURVIVORS

Behind every number in this report is a real person and a deeply personal journey. Your needs, your voices, and your experiences shape this work. The services and priorities described in this report are grounded in what people tell us matters most.

The insights in this report reflect the trust placed in sexual assault services across Alberta. In turn, the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services carries forward the needs and concerns of those impacted by sexual violence.

We recognize that reaching out or sharing what you have experienced can be difficult. As a provincial network, it is an honour to walk alongside you, and we carry that responsibility with care and respect.

To those who have accessed services, who are considering reaching out, or who are supporting someone you love - we believe you. When you are ready, sexual assault services across the province are here for you.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) brings together fifteen member agencies working across the province. In 2025-2026, these sexual assault services reached more than 100,000 people through crisis lines, counselling rooms, courthouses, classrooms, and communities. That scale of engagement reflects both the depth of need and the breadth of what a coordinated provincial network makes possible.

This Impact Report draws on data from the 2025-2026 fiscal year, reported by AASAS member sexual assault services and compiled alongside comparison data from annual, quarterly, and other reports spanning the previous three to five years. The result is both a snapshot of a single year and a picture of how demand, complexity, and reach have shifted over time.

A distinctive feature of the AASAS network is its shared foundation for program delivery and evaluation. Member sexual assault services operate from common program descriptions, logic models, and outcome measures, and report collectively to funders using a shared framework. This consistency makes it possible to aggregate both quantitative and qualitative findings across all fifteen agencies, enabling meaningful province-wide analysis, year-over-year comparisons, and coordinated monitoring of results in ways that are rare among non-profit networks of this scale. Service volumes, client demographics, wait times, and outcome measures were examined alongside client feedback and staff observations to identify patterns and draw conclusions. Four themes emerged from this analysis.

Demand for specialized services continues, and outcomes are measurable.

Crisis intervention and counselling remain at the centre of what member sexual assault services provide. In 2025-2026, sexual assault services served over 5,300 counselling clients across Alberta. Counselling wait times dropped by 46% since 2023-2024, a result of targeted provincial investment and sustained effort across the network. Among those who completed counselling, four in five adult clients showed measurable reductions in trauma symptoms.

The needs people bring to sexual assault services have become more layered.

Housing and income instability, mental health concerns, and the challenge of navigating multiple service systems now characterize the circumstances of many people seeking support, compounding the impacts of trauma itself. Systems navigation connections rose to 6,674 in 2025-2026, an increase from a three-year average of 5,426, reflecting the growing demand for help bridging those systems.

Reaching people requires more than open doors.

Satellite and virtual services, sustained community collaborations, and Alberta's ONE LiNE for Sexual Violence are connecting survivors in 164 communities throughout Alberta, including many that would otherwise go underserved.

Prevention and education expand that reach further still.

More than 66,000 Albertans participated in sessions, workshops, and courses delivered in schools, workplaces, and communities this past year. Among participants, 87% reported an increased understanding of sexual violence, and these settings regularly serve as a first point of contact for survivors who may not have previously been able to name what happened to them.

Taken together, the findings in this Impact Report reveal a consistent picture. Across the province, AASAS member agencies are not only responding to the impacts of sexual violence, but also working to reduce its occurrence. Through coordinated effort and community engagement they are helping create the conditions in which more Albertans can access support, experience safety, and move forward on their own terms.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEOs



Sexual violence affects individuals, families, and communities across Alberta, with impacts that are deeply personal and far-reaching. Nearly half of all Albertans, 1.8 million people, have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, most first harmed as children.

Across the province, there continues to be demand for specialized sexual assault services, with more complex needs among those reaching out. People are managing the impacts of trauma alongside housing instability, mental health challenges, and systems that are difficult to navigate and not designed with them in mind.

AASAS member agencies work directly with people impacted by sexual violence and bring forward insights that shape our understanding of emerging trends, challenges, and needs. Our shared goal is ensuring people can find support when and where they need it.

Sustained investment in specialized sexual violence services is making a measurable difference. Our members are expanding access to care and strengthening coordinated responses to sexual violence across Alberta. This report shows what that investment is making possible.

At the same time, demand continues to outpace capacity. For every person who accessed support, others could not. There is more to do, and continuing to build on this progress is essential.

We are grateful to our member agencies, government partners, funders, and the survivors whose stories guide and ground this work. Together, we are working toward one purpose:

Safe communities free from sexual violence.

Corinne Ofstie and Haley Scott, Co-Chief Executive Officers

AASAS MEMBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

As a provincial network, AASAS strengthens the sexual violence sector by connecting voices, connecting communities, and connecting the dots around sexual violence. By bridging urban and rural perspectives and bringing together insights and expertise from sexual assault services, AASAS helps identify emerging needs, share best practices, strengthen coordinated responses, and improve access to specialized support across Alberta.

Our member agencies provide a continuum of sexual violence and trauma-specialized care to Albertans of all ages and genders through support and information lines, hospital accompaniment, systems navigation, individual and group therapeutic counselling, specialized police and court support, public education, and collaborative partnerships.

Many centres extend access to neighbouring communities through satellite offices, virtual and phone services.

Core Services

-  Crisis Intervention
-  Systems Navigation
-  Therapeutic Counselling
-  Police & Court Support
-  Outreach
-  Public Education
-  Volunteer Engagement



Pace Centre
pacecentre.com · Grande Prairie





**Mamowichihitowin
Community Wellness Program**
Hinton Friendship Centre
mcwp.ca · Hinton





**Sexual Assault Centre
of Edmonton**
sace.ca · Edmonton





Sendero Centre
senderocentre.ca · Red Deer





The Harmony Project
YWCA Banff
ywcabanff.ca · Banff





**Calgary Communities
Against Sexual Abuse**
calgarycasa.com · Calgary





**Lethbridge Family
Service**
lfsfamily.ca · Lethbridge



ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES



Waypoints
Sexual Assault Program
waypointswb.ca · Fort McMurray



Dragonfly Counselling
and Support Centre
thedragonflycentre.com · Bonnyville



Saffron Centre
saffroncentre.com · Sherwood Park



University of Alberta
Sexual Assault Centre
ualberta.ca · Edmonton



Lloydminster
Sexual Assault Services
lsas.ca · Lloydminster



Association
of Communities Against Abuse
acaahelps.ca · Stettler



Sanare Centre
sanarecentre.ca · Medicine Hat



Aurora
Sexual Assault Centre
aurora-ab.ca · Lethbridge
(Formerly Chinook Sexual Assault Centre)

THEME 1

DEMAND FOR SPECIALIZED SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

Sexual violence affects Albertans of all genders, at every age, in every community, and across all demographics.

Forty-three percent of adult Albertans have experienced some form of sexual abuse in their lifetime, an estimated 1.8 million people, including over 325,000 children. Two in three Albertans personally know a survivor. These numbers represent not a distant social issue, but a reality woven into the fabric of families, workplaces, and neighbourhoods across the province.¹

43%

of adults in Alberta have
experienced sexual violence.

Many survivors were first harmed as children.

Of those survivors, three out of four were sexually abused before the age of eighteen, and half of those harmed in childhood were sexually assaulted again as adults. The vast majority of these incidents (100% of those involving children and 92% involving adults) would constitute criminal offences under Canadian law, yet most are never reported.²



75%

of those survivors
experienced abuse
before age of 18.

Rates of police-reported sexual violence are increasing.

Between 2020 and 2021, police-reported sexual assaults in Alberta increased by 21%.³ Crimes against children rose even more sharply: incidents of sexual interference increased by 38%, possession or access to child sexual abuse material rose by 74%, and child luring via computer grew by 31% compared to the previous five-year average.⁴

**Police reported
sexual assaults
in Alberta rose by**

21%



2020

2021

¹ Summary of Key Findings Prevalence of Sexual Assault and Childhood Sexual Abuse in Alberta, Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services, 2020.

² Summary of Key Findings Prevalence of Sexual Assault and Childhood Sexual Abuse in Alberta, Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services, 2020.

³ Sexual Violence Prevention, Government of Alberta, accessed October 2025, url: <https://www.alberta.ca/what-is-sexual-violence>.

⁴ Sexual crimes against Canadian children rising at alarming rate, new Stats Can police-reported data shows, Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 2022.

While sexual violence can affect anyone, some communities face greater risk because of systemic inequities and discrimination.

Sexual violence is rooted in power and control. Responsibility for this harm lies with those who commit it. Indigenous women and girls, Black women and women of color, women living with disabilities, transgender individuals, queer and bisexual women, and women living in poverty or

engaged in sex work experience disproportionately high rates of sexual violence, reflecting broader systemic inequities. The effects of sexual violence are profound and far-reaching, and specialized sexual assault services play a critical role in responding effectively.

WHY SPECIALIZED SERVICES MATTER

Healing from sexual violence is an ongoing process, and survivors deserve support that meets them at every step. Recent research from Statistics Canada found that 30% of women and 24% of men who have experienced sexual violence report symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder.⁵ Specialized sexual assault services are designed to address the full impact of sexual violence and trauma, supporting survivors with immediate safety and stabilization, processing their experience, and longer-term healing.

As the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime has noted, individuals who have experienced sexual violence need support that is comprehensive, trauma-specific, and accessible throughout their healing journey.⁶ AASAS member agencies provide this continuum of care, from immediate crisis response and advocacy, through counselling and

Sexual violence can have complex and lasting impacts.

Specialized sexual assault services are grounded in that understanding.

therapy, to specialized support for those navigating police and court systems. This integrated approach ensures that survivors are supported by professionals who understand the complexities of sexual violence trauma, rather than being passed between disconnected services.

⁵ Statistics Canada (2026). Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), URL: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5256>

⁶ Rethinking Justice for Survivors of Sexual Violence: A Systemic Investigation, Government of Canada, 2026, URL: <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-federal-ombudsperson-victims-crime/sissa-essas.html>.

9,696

Crisis Intervention Contacts

Timely access to specialized support improves outcomes for survivors.

Early, trauma-specific intervention can reduce the severity of long-term impacts and help survivors regain a sense of safety and control. In 2025-2026, sexual assault services responded to 9,696 contacts for immediate support across the province, a 3% increase from the previous year. This growth underscores continued demand for these services and the importance of preserving accessible entry points so survivors can connect when they need it most.

CONTACT METHODS



83% Phone Calls

6% Chats

6% Texts

5% Walk-ins

Sexual assault services provide flexible, accessible connection.

Across the province, sexual assault services are available by phone, text, online chat, or walk-in, providing immediate emotional support, information, and connection to ongoing care. For many, this is their first contact with specialized support, whether they are navigating a recent assault, seeking information, or supporting a loved one. The goal is not only to address the immediate moment of distress but to create a bridge to longer-term care.

Phone remains the primary way individuals reach out, accounting for slightly more than four out of five contacts, while text and online chat provide discreet and accessible options for those who may not feel safe or ready to speak by phone.

Figure 1: Crisis intervention contact methods in 2025-2026.

Hospital accompaniment ensures survivors are not alone when accessing medical care.

Staff provide trauma-specific assistance during medical and forensic examinations, helping survivors navigate health concerns and decisions about reporting and evidence collection during an acute and vulnerable time. With 360 accompaniments annually and over 1,300 hours of service provided, this work reflects both ongoing demand and the value of having a trained, trauma-informed presence when it matters most.



There is continued demand for specialized counselling.

Therapeutic counselling is central to recovery for many survivors of sexual violence. AASAS member sexual assault services offer trauma-specific, specialized counselling delivered by professionals who understand the unique impacts of sexual abuse and assault. Services include individual and group counselling for people of all ages, including children and youth.

Specialized sexual violence counselling differs from general mental health services in important ways. Therapists are trained to address the shame, self-blame, and complex trauma responses that often follow sexual violence. This expertise allows survivors to work through their experiences with someone who understands the dynamics of this form of harm, without having to explain or justify their responses.

33,587



Therapeutic Counselling Sessions

In 2025-2026, sexual assault services completed 3,284 counselling intakes and served 5,368 clients. This year saw 33,587 counselling sessions delivered, a figure consistent with trends over the past five years, reflecting sustained demand. 98% of counselling services were provided through individual sessions.

5,368

clients accessing
Counselling Services

Wait times are coming down.

Since 2023-2024, average wait times have dropped from over 26 weeks to under 14 weeks, a 46% reduction achieved through targeted provincial funding and ongoing efforts by member agencies. Timely access to counselling therapy means minimizing wait times wherever possible. While waiting for counselling, clients have immediate access to a range of other supports, including crisis lines, waitlist support groups, systems navigation, integrated case management, and police and court support services. These coordinated supports help survivors stabilize, build coping strategies, and prepare for trauma-specific counselling once it becomes available.



COUNSELLING
WAIT TIMES

Average wait time of less than 14 weeks for counselling services in 2025-2026, down from an average of 26 weeks in 2023-2024.

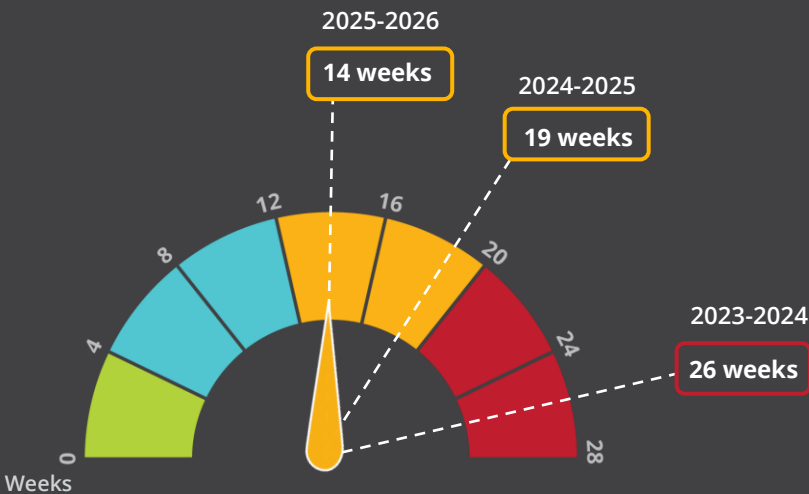
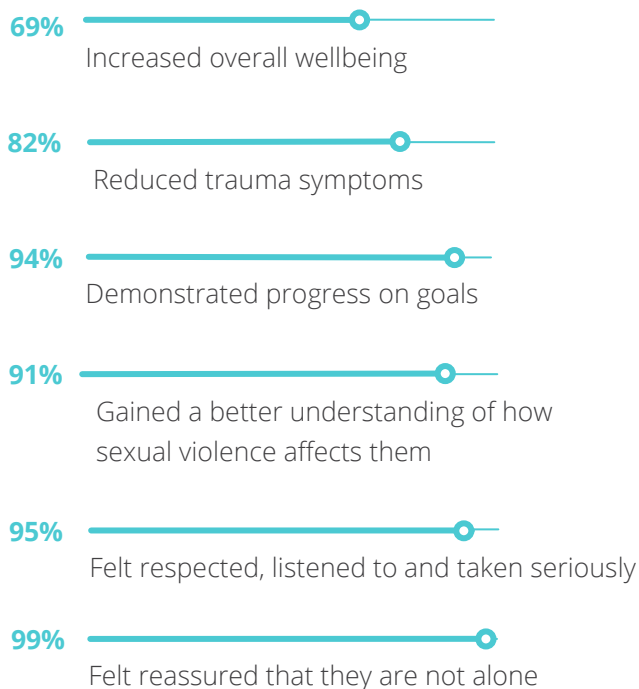


Figure 2: Average counselling wait time in weeks from 2023-2024 to 2025-2026.

Individual counselling supports healing.

Outcome data demonstrate the measurable impact of individual counselling. Clients report increased wellbeing and reduced trauma symptoms, even as recovery unfolds in non-linear ways. Eighty-two percent of adult clients show measurable reductions in trauma symptoms, a clinically meaningful outcome in real-world conditions. Nearly all clients report feeling listened to, understood, and less alone, and 91% report an increased understanding of how sexual violence has affected them, a foundational step in healing.

Individual Counselling Outcomes



Jane's Story

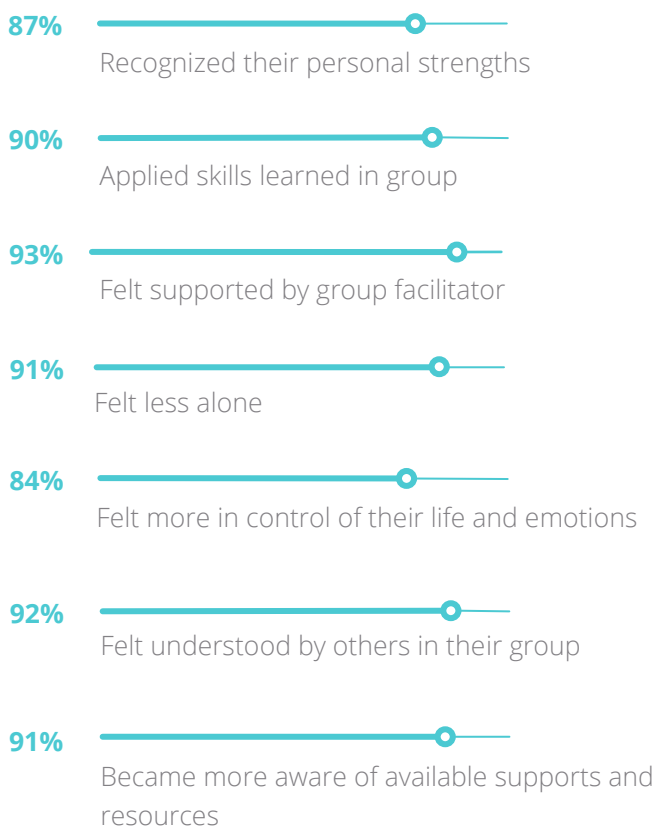
Shared by Therapist

"Jane', age 16, came to our sexual assault centre following a disclosure of sexual assault. Over time, through counselling and consistent support, Jane began to re-engage with school and other things she enjoyed. She found ways to cope with difficult memories and feelings and eventually started to think about her future and how she might one day like to support others. This is a powerful reminder of what becomes possible when young people are met with safety, care, and belief."

Group counselling builds connection.

The format offers additional benefits, creating space for survivors to connect with others who share similar experiences. These connections can be transformative, countering the isolation that so often accompanies sexual violence. Among participants, 92% felt understood by others and 91% reported feeling less alone. The outcomes below highlight the meaningful changes participants report.

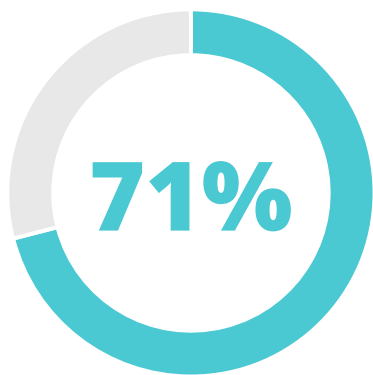
Group Counselling Outcomes



Ben's Story

Shared by Therapist

“Ben’, an adult client, came to our sexual assault centre seeking support for sexual abuse experienced in childhood. For many years, he had carried the weight of that experience in silence. Through counselling and steady support, Ben began to feel ready to speak openly about what had happened to him. He later shared that putting words to his experience helped lift a burden he had carried for decades. In time, he described a renewed sense of confidence and self-worth, and a greater sense of peace with his past.”



**of children & youth
demonstrate reduction in
trauma symptoms.**

Parent's Feedback

Shared by a youth client's parent

"I don't know what I would have done without [the sexual assault centre]. As a parent, this is an absolute nightmare, and I was so lost. You have helped my child, helped me, and really supported us well over the last few months. I would have been lost without your support."

For survivors of sexual violence during childhood, specialized therapeutic support is essential.

Among children and youth, the impacts can be profound, affecting development, relationships, and sense of safety during formative years. Specialized counselling for young people requires not only clinical expertise in trauma, but an understanding of how children and youth process and express their experiences at different developmental stages.

AASAS sexual assault services provide age-appropriate, trauma-specific therapy for children and youth, often involving caregivers as partners in the process. The data confirms what therapists observe in practice: children and youth who receive timely, specialized support show meaningful reductions in trauma symptoms. In 2025-2026, 71% of children and youth demonstrated measurable improvement as assessed through the Child and Parent Report of Post-traumatic Symptoms (CROPS/PROPS) screening tool, a validated measure of post-traumatic distress in children and youth.

Supporting young survivors means supporting the families around them.

Families often arrive in crisis, unsure how to support their child while managing their own distress. By extending support to caregivers, member agencies strengthen the entire system around the child, building a foundation for sustained stability. Feedback from parents speaks to another dimension of this work, and involving caregivers as partners in the process is essential to lasting impact.

THEME 2

INCREASED COMPLEXITY

People who experience sexual violence navigate increasingly layered challenges. The psychological toll is itself profound. More than any other crime, sexual violence is associated with deep experiences of shame and humiliation, particularly when survivors encounter disbelief or retraumatizing responses from the very systems meant to help them.

These emotional burdens rarely exist in isolation. Many survivors are simultaneously managing acute life stressors which disrupt their ability to engage in ongoing support. When compounded by the complexity of interacting with multiple service systems, the path forward becomes significantly harder.

Data from 2025-2026 shows an ongoing prevalence of multi-layered cases presenting at intake. More than half of clients identify mental health concerns at this early stage. The frequency of self-harm and other distress-driven coping responses reflect the severity and complexity of what survivors are managing.

Even so, data collected at the time of intake likely understates the true picture. It is gathered before a trusting therapeutic relationship has been established and cannot capture clients facing material hardships that compete with recovery, waiting months for clinical assessments, or losing access to services because their circumstances keep shifting.

Survivors Confront Layered Challenges

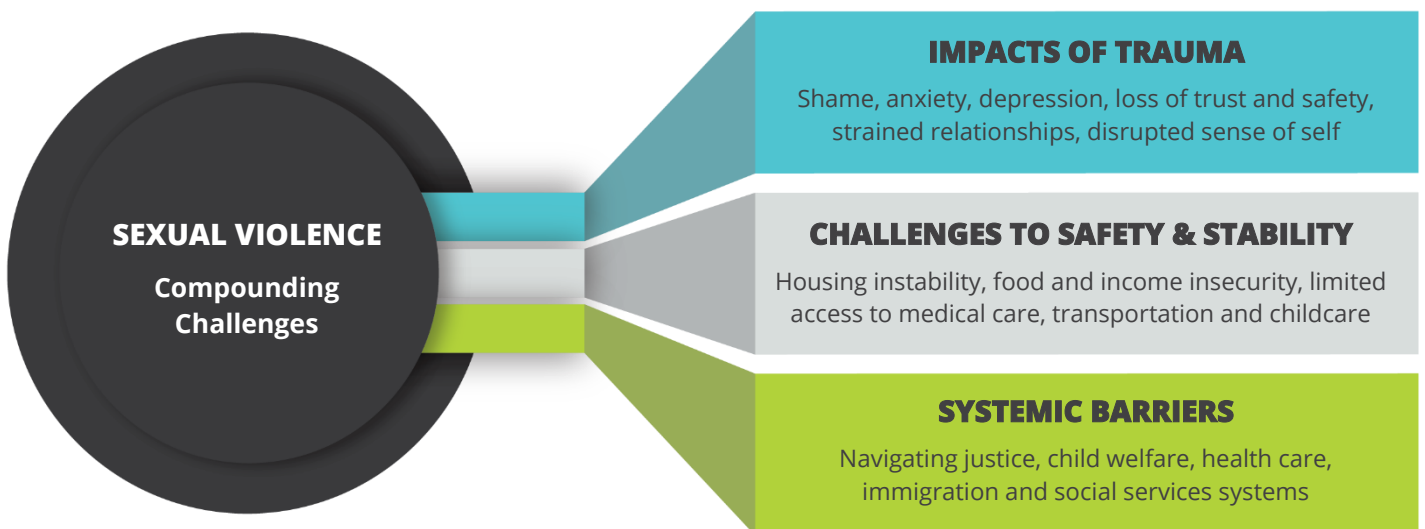


Figure 3: Sexual violence survivors experience personal, situational, and systemic impacts.

Survivors of sexual violence navigate systems that were not designed with them in mind.

Whether accessing healthcare, income supports, housing, or legal processes, survivors frequently encounter barriers that can feel overwhelming, particularly while managing the effects of trauma. Systems navigation services help bridge this gap, providing information, referrals, advocacy, and short-term support to help clients access what they need.

These services recognize that healing extends beyond the counselling room. By helping survivors connect with resources and address practical barriers, systems navigation strengthens survivors' access to information, choice, and control, which supports greater stability and reduced crisis.

In 2025-2026, 2,803 clients were served, an increase of 29% over the previous year.

2,803

clients accessing
Navigational Supports

Clients arrive with more needs and require more coordination and sustained follow-through than in the past.

As survivor needs become more complex and multi-layered, the work of connecting them to external resources has intensified. Supporting each client may involve researching options, coordinating with other agencies, or advocating on a client's behalf. In 2025-2026, sexual assault services made 6,674 contacts with survivors, up from an average of 5,426 over the preceding three years.

CLIENT CONTACTS

6,674



5,426
Previous
3-Year Average

2025-2026

Figure 4: Client contacts in 2025-2026 versus previous 3-year average.



This shift carries real implications for staff capacity and service planning. For many clients, systems navigation helps create the stability needed to access and sustain other forms of support: securing stable housing, connecting to income supports, or coordinating with healthcare providers so that longer-term recovery can take hold. As this demand continues to grow, adequate resourcing of navigation services will be essential to maintaining the quality and responsiveness that survivors depend on.



Piloting Integrated Case Management to Support Safety & Stability

The Integrated Case Management (ICM) pilot program was launched in 2024 to formalize a vital sexual violence service. Building on the foundation of systems navigation, it extends support into a more comprehensive approach for individuals with complex needs.

Delivered through five sexual assault centres across Alberta, the ICM pilot has provided trauma-specific support to 450 clients from urban, rural and Indigenous communities, helping them stabilize, build coping skills, and navigate complex systems. Across its first two years, the program recorded 5,804 client contacts, reflecting the intensive, ongoing support many clients need.

Early, flexible, intervention can reduce crisis severity, strengthen coping, and help clients move toward counselling when ready.

ICM Program Outcomes



1,287

**clients accessing
Police & Court
Support Services**

Engaging with the justice system can be complex and overwhelming for survivors.

Police interviews, court proceedings, and cross-examinations require recounting painful experiences in environments that prioritize legal procedures over emotional safety. Specialized police and court support services provide trauma-specific guidance and advocacy, offering information, accompaniment, and emotional support at each stage. These services do not advocate for a particular outcome; they advocate for the survivor. Whether someone is considering reporting, engaging with police, or attending court, trained staff help them understand what to expect, exercise their rights, and access the support they need.

TYPES OF CLIENTS



45% New Clients

55% Continuing Clients

Figure 5: New and continuing clients for Police and Court Support services in 2025-2026.

A flexible service model supports survivors at different points throughout their justice system journey.

Survivors can connect with specialized police and court support in ways that match their needs. Some need sustained support over time, while others benefit from timely assistance at a key decision point.

In 2025-2026, 1,287 new and continuing clients accessed these services. A further 1,383 people connected for single-session support.

Effective police and court support depends on strong justice system partnerships.

Sexual assault services collaborate closely with municipal police services and RCMP, Regional Victim Services, and Crown Prosecutors. These relationships enable coordinated, survivor-centred responses, ensuring that those who come forward are not left to navigate complex systems alone.

Specialized police and court support programs deliver measurable results:

- Reduced secondary victimization and improved well-being
- Improved survivor experiences of police and court processes
- Increased engagement and sustained participation in the justice process

THEME 3

ENHANCING ACCESS TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

Specialized sexual violence support is available across Alberta.

For individuals experiencing sexual violence, knowing where to turn for support can make a critical difference. Clear and identifiable entry points to specialized services reduce barriers and help people connect quickly with the support they need, whether they are seeking urgent support, information, or help for someone they care about.

Alberta's ONE LiNE for Sexual Violence provides a provincial access point by phone, text, or chat.

Phone calls account for the largest share of contacts at 60%, while online chat (31%) and text (9%) offer discreet alternatives for those who may not feel ready or safe to speak by phone. Referral data confirms the line is functioning as intended. Depending on what they need, callers are connected to sexual assault services, medical, legal, or social supports, other counselling or mental health services, or police and RCMP. Callers with complex needs often require more than one type of support, and many receive two or three referrals in a single call. This connects each caller to the full range of resources they need in or near their home community.

CONTACT METHODS



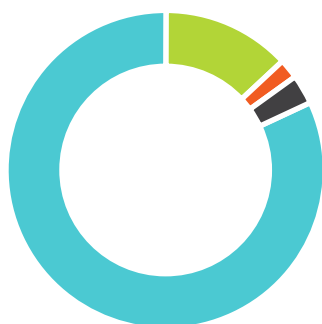
60% Calls

31% Chats

9% Texts

Figure 6: Contact methods from Alberta's ONE LiNE for Sexual Violence in 2025-2026

WHO'S REACHING OUT



82% Survivor

13% Support Person

2% Professional

3% Other

Figure 7: Description of caller/chatter (when available) for Alberta's ONE LiNE in 2025-2026.

REFERRALS MADE

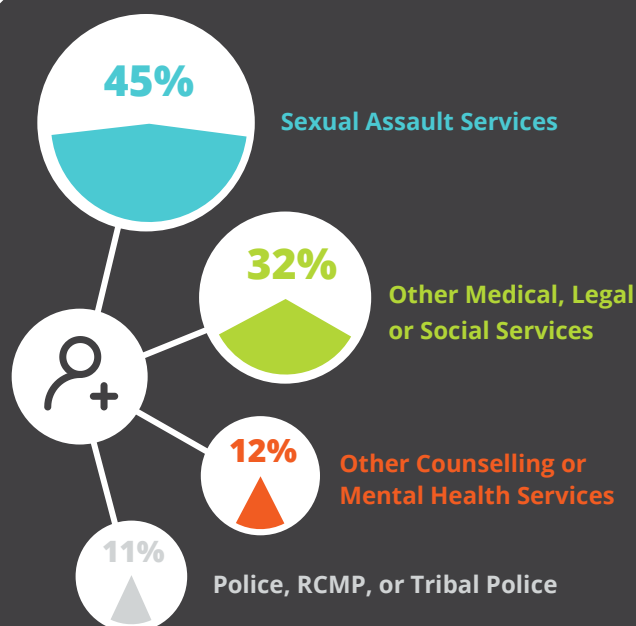


Figure 8: Distribution of referrals from Alberta's ONE LiNE in 2025-2026; multiple referrals possible.

Volunteer Engagement

Volunteers are a vital part of how sexual assault services extend their reach. Across the province, 445 volunteers contributed over 38,000 hours in 2025-2026, primarily by staffing Support and Information Lines. Answering these lines requires the same trauma-informed approach that guides all specialized sexual violence work: listening without judgment, providing accurate information, and helping callers take a first step toward support in the aftermath of sexual violence. This depth of volunteer commitment reflects the strength of the network and the investment of individuals across Alberta in ensuring survivors are never left without someone to turn to.

445

**volunteers contributed
over 38,000 hours
in 2025-2026**

Satellite sites and virtual access ensure survivors can receive services within or near their home communities.

Whether due to rural or remote location, lack of awareness, cultural barriers, or limited local resources, people in underserved communities often face obstacles that make support difficult to find.

Coordinated community outreach makes support visible to survivors.

Altogether, 7,879 individuals connected to sexual assault services via a satellite site, over the phone, or virtually in 2025-2026, a 60% increase over the previous year. Virtual services drove much of this growth, from 4,024 to 6,157 individuals, while satellite site visits nearly doubled from 896 to 1,722.

Engagement increased most notably with Indigenous communities. It also grew at post-secondary institutions, law enforcement and justice, and health sector services.

Sexual assault services dedicated 9,854 hours to serve outreach clients, partner organizations and communities across Alberta in 2025-2026.

7,879

**individuals accessed
satellite & virtual services**

Collaborative Partnerships:

CHILDREN & YOUTH OUTREACH

Educating children and youth, partnering with schools on prevention, and supporting caregivers.

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE COLLABORATION

Maintaining cross-sector partnerships to ensure comprehensive referrals for survivors.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Building trust with Indigenous-serving organizations to reduce barriers for Indigenous survivors.

EQUITY- DESERVING GROUPS

Reducing barriers and supporting diverse identities, cultures, and lived experiences.

POST- SECONDARY INITIATIVES

Enhancing access to campus services, building awareness, and driving system change at post-secondary institutions.

COMMUNITY HUB PARTNERSHIPS

Connecting with resource centres to reach survivors where they already access help.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATION

Streamlining services for clients with overlapping sexual and domestic violence experiences.

HEALTH SECTOR OUTREACH

Connecting with health professionals to improve responses and expand access points.

JUSTICE SECTOR COLLABORATION

Working with law enforcement and victim services to improve responses for survivors.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & AWARENESS

Attending local events to share resources and connect with community members.

Over time, these efforts equip communities to better support survivors.

In 2025-2026, this work reached 164 communities across Alberta. As awareness of sexual violence grows, other service providers become more informed and more willing to engage with the issue visibly and directly. Relationships with medical, legal, and law enforcement systems take root, and partnerships strengthen coordinated responses across the community. The result is a broader network of sexual violence-aware, informed, and responsive organizations, with clear and reliable pathways, local, virtual, or satellite, that meet survivors where they are. When survivors reach out, they are more likely to find the right help at the right time.

164

Alberta
communities
reached

THEME 4

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PREVENTION & RESPONSE

Responding to sexual violence and preventing future harm requires communities that are informed, prepared, and equipped to act. Across Alberta, AASAS member sexual assault services deliver public and professional education programs designed to promote knowledge, challenge harmful attitudes, and build the skills needed to recognize and respond to sexual violence. These programs are offered in-person, online, and on-demand. By reaching people in classrooms, workplaces, and community settings, they bring information that can shift both individual behaviour and broader social norms.

The impact of these programs extends beyond awareness.

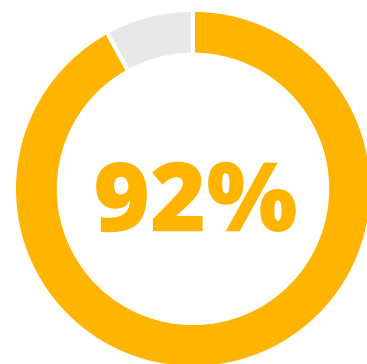
Evaluation data shows that 92% of participants report increased knowledge or understanding of sexual violence. Notably, educational presentations often prompt first-time disclosures of past abuse. For some, learning what constitutes abuse leads to a realization that what they experienced has a name. For others, the openness of the conversation reduces the stigma that had kept them silent, marking a first step toward addressing trauma that might otherwise go unsupported.

By creating space for public conversation about an issue too often surrounded by silence and stigma, education efforts also reinforce that prevention is a shared responsibility.

3,140



**educational sessions
delivered**



**of evaluated participants
reported **increased**
knowledge or awareness**

Education programming reaches Albertans at every stage of life.

Nearly 67,000 people participated directly in presentations, workshops, and courses. The 3,140 sessions delivered, totalling over 20,444 hours, represent a sustained investment in shifting the conditions that allow sexual violence to persist.

The diversity of programming matters. Age-appropriate curricula teach children and youth about bodies, boundaries, and consent, while professional and community-based training equips adults to recognize signs of abuse and respond appropriately to disclosures.

AASAS members deliver a comprehensive spectrum of public education that reflects this reality. Their educational workshops and training offerings are intentionally designed to create change at multiple levels, from building individual knowledge and skills, to strengthening relationships, creating safer community settings, and addressing the systems, norms, and structures that shape risk, accountability, and access to justice and support.

This continuum of education supports both prevention and response.

It builds awareness, capacity, and shared responsibility across communities, while also ensuring that people are better prepared to respond to disclosures of sexual violence in ways that are supportive and trauma-informed. This layered approach recognizes that lasting change requires more than individual behaviour change alone; it requires coordinated action across relationships, environments, and systems.

The chart on the next page maps education offerings across the four levels of the social ecological model, illustrating how this work creates impact from the individual level outward to relationships, communities, and broader social systems.



66,962

**direct participants
served**

20,444

**hours of public
education programming
provided**

From Individuals to Systems: A Comprehensive Approach to Public Education

INDIVIDUAL

Building knowledge, skills, & personal agency

Educational sessions focus on helping individuals understand their bodies, rights, and experiences, and build skills that support safety, wellbeing, and help-seeking.

Consent & Communication

Understanding consent as an active, ongoing practice rooted in respect, communication, and choice.

Sexual Violence Awareness

Learning about the different forms of sexual violence, how it occurs, and common myths and misconceptions.

Body Literacy, Autonomy & Boundaries

Building age-appropriate understanding of bodies, choice, and personal autonomy.

Trauma, Impact & Healing

Understanding sexual violence trauma, its impacts, and pathways to healing and support.

Digital Safety

Exploring consent, boundaries, and harm in online and digital spaces.

RELATIONAL

Strengthening connection, accountability, & support

Educational sessions focus on how violence and safety are shaped within relationships, and how people can support one another in healthy, trauma-informed ways.

Healthy Relationships & Social Development

Building respectful, connected, and emotionally healthy relationships.

Responding to Disclosures & Supporting Survivors

Providing a supportive, trauma-informed first response when someone shares an experience of sexual violence.

Community, Caregiver & Parent Education

Supporting adults to talk with children and youth about bodies, boundaries, consent, and safety.

Consent & Communication

Practicing consent within intimate, family, peer, and caregiving relationships.



COMMUNITY

Creating safer environments where people live, learn, & work

Educational sessions focus on shared responsibility, prevention, and coordinated responses across settings and systems.

Community, Caregiver & Parent Education

Strengthening role of families, schools, and communities in prevention & early response.

Sexual Violence Awareness

Understanding how sexual violence shows up in community and how to increase access to support.

Digital Safety & Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence

Addressing technology-facilitated sexual violence in schools, workplaces, and community organizations.

Responding to Disclosures & Supporting Survivors

Creating environments in which people are prepared to respond to sexual violence in positive and supportive ways.

SOCIETAL

Addressing systems, norms, & structural conditions

Educational sessions focus on the broader systems, policies, and social norms that shape risk, accountability, and access to justice and support.

Root Causes & Sexual Violence Prevention

Examining the role of gender, power, and social norms in enabling or preventing sexual violence.

Workplace, Institutional & Systems-Level Responses

Exploring organizational responsibility, policy, accountability, and culture change.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our appreciation to the staff and volunteers at sexual assault services across the province, and to the funders whose contributions sustain this work.

To the volunteers who give their time and bring their whole hearts to supporting survivors:

You remind people that they are not alone, that their communities believe them, care for them, and stand beside them on the path toward healing. Your presence, compassion, and dedication make a meaningful difference in the lives of people across Alberta.

To the leadership and staff at sexual assault services, whose expertise and commitment guide and ground this work:

In complex, emotionally demanding work that requires confronting the realities of sexual violence every day, you continue to show up with extraordinary skill, resilience, and care. Through supporting survivors, educating communities, and strengthening responses to sexual violence, you bring us closer to our shared vision of safe communities free from sexual violence.

To our funders for their continued investment in sexual assault services across the province:

Stable and sustained funding makes it possible for specialized sexual violence and trauma specific services to exist in communities large and small. This investment translates directly into counselling sessions delivered, crisis lines answered, court supports provided, prevention education offered, and people met with compassion at some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Every outcome in this report reflects that partnership.

We value this shared commitment to ensuring that Albertans impacted by sexual violence can access the services they need, close to home.

A FINAL WORD

Every day across Alberta, staff and volunteers at the fifteen AASAS member agencies respond to urgent needs, guide survivors through complex systems, and work to prevent sexual violence before it happens. Much of this work goes unseen, but it is the foundation of everything reflected in this report.

None of it happens in isolation. The strength of this network lies in shared learning: insights that move between communities, across the province, and into national efforts toward prevention and response.

Nearly one in two Albertans has been affected. Addressing an issue of this scale requires sustained, coordinated effort. Through the continued commitment of member agencies, partners, and communities, our work will continue.



ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA
SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

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MANY VOICES. ONE PURPOSE.

Alberta's ONELiNE for Sexual Violence

For support, call or text **1-866-403-8000**
Chat with a live support person at **aasas.ca**

mailbox@aasas.ca / Suite 650, 910 – 7 Avenue SW Calgary, AB / **aasas.ca**