

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

THE VICTORIA CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND COUNSELLING CENTRE RESPONDS TO CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER TRAUMA BY PROVIDING VICTIM SERVICES, COUNSELLING, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION WITHIN THE GREATER VICTORIA COMMUNITY AND CONSULTATION THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**Child Abuse Prevention
and Counselling Society
of Greater Victoria**

STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors

PREVIOUS

Katy Hutchison, Chair
Misha Smirnov, Secretary
Lauren Duffield, Treasurer
Jeremy Leahy
Arnold Guerin
Sarah Cotton
Kelly Montgomery
Michelle Tousignant
Huf McIntyre

CURRENT

Katy Hutchison, Chair
Misha Smirnov, Secretary
Huf McIntyre, Treasurer
Jeremy Leahy
Arnold Guerin
Sarah Cotton
Kelly Montgomery
Michelle Tousignant

Staff

CURRENT

Laura Vye, Executive Director
Shawna Herlinveaux, Manager of Practice
Renu Bawa, Manager of Victim Services and
CYAC Coordinator
Samuel Cameron, Admin Manager

Avalon F., Victim Service Advocate
Brittany M., Child and Family Therapist
Courtney M., Victim Service Advocate
Carrie O., Office Coordinator
Christopher C., Intake Counsellor
Laura P., Victim Service Advocate
Leah R., Child and Family Therapist
Megan B., Child and Family Therapist
Meghan T., Child and Family Therapist
Susan P., Child and Family Therapist

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



It is my pleasure to report as Chair of the Board for the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

British Columbia continues to navigate the impacts of global political tensions, an economic slowdown, ongoing pressures on the health care system, a shortage of affordable housing, and a drug poisoning crisis. These complex systemic challenges create added strain for non-profit organizations as they work to secure reliable and sustainable core funding. In the face of rising costs and fiscal uncertainty, the Centre's Executive Director and staff have demonstrated exceptional commitment in sustaining and expanding funding to support programming, operations, and staffing needs. The Centre's financial statements are publicly available, ensuring transparency and accountability in all aspects of its operations.

VCAPCC is two years into its current four-year Strategic Plan. The goal of providing inclusive and culturally safe care is core to that Strategic Plan. As Chair I was invited to join the Executive Director, a multi-disciplinary team member from the Saanich Police Department and fellow Board member Arnold Guerin in the one-year long Transformational Reconciliation program led by Dr. Dustin Louie. This intensive learning opportunity was designed to deepen understanding and apply reconciliation-based approaches to our organization and its programs through collaborative learning, design, and practice. Dr. Louie applies real-world approaches to reconciliation that are founded on

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

decolonizing principles and Indigenous Knowledges in their local context.

In December 2024 VCAPCC successfully completed the comprehensive CARF Three-Year Accreditation process. Feedback from the surveyors in their final report was exceptional; providing evidence of a highly qualified leadership and staff that “demonstrates a passionate commitment to the organization’s mandate, teamwork, mutual respect, and open communication”. The agency is described by its funders as “high quality, responsive, accessible, and trusted; and by its stakeholders as a leader in the community recognized for handling complex referrals and offering the highest level of care; while being open to exploring ways to share information, expertise, and training with other community partners”.

On behalf of the VCAPCC Board, I would like to commend Executive Director Laura Vye for her strengths, and the competencies she has demonstrated in overseeing the agency. The CARF report described Laura as “a visionary in setting and guiding strategic directions, initiating networking, advocacy and community development activities who brings multi-faceted experience and skill to the leadership role and inspires others through her strong commitment to the mission and values of the organization”.

The Board struck an ad-hoc Evaluation & Compensation Committee to attend to the mid-2025 expiration of the Executive Director’s current contract. The

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

Committee developed and conducted a robust, confidential survey for both the counselling and CYAC teams. We are grateful for the 100% participation of management and staff, and for their candid and thoughtful input as we collected feedback on leadership, funding, operational & financial management, community engagement, program development, service excellence, cultural & inclusive engagement and work culture. We are delighted to announce Laura Vye has signed a new, two-year contract, effective June 2025.

Chairing this Board is an honour. The team of talented and dedicated volunteers that joins me at the table is second-to-none. Our Board members engage fully to support the work of VCAPCC and generously share their expertise, creativity, vision and commitment to the safety and well-being of our community's most vulnerable children, youth and their families. This year we expressed our gratitude and bid farewell to our Treasurer Lauren Duffield. Lauren's position has been filled by Huff McIntyre. Misha Smirnov is our Board Secretary and we are joined by Sarah Cotton, Arnold Guerin, Jeremy Leahy, Kelly Montgomery and Michelle Tousignant. Thank you to each and every one of you for your leadership & commitment.

Katy Hutchison

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is hard to believe another year has passed. I have been reflecting on the integral community collaboration that allows the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre the ability to provide service to children, youth, and caregivers in Greater Victoria. Our agency is supported by a group of dedicated and compassionate community partners who collaborate and consult with our incredible staff on a daily basis. This includes our local police agencies, RCMP, child protection, victim services, mental health and medical systems, indigenous and non-indigenous child/youth serving agencies. It also includes our funders, individual and group donors, Board of Directors, and government agencies. Without the wrap around support that the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre and Child and Youth Advocacy Centre receive from the community, we could not do this valuable work. Because of this continued collaboration, our Centre has much to be grateful for and celebrate.

We envision a world where every child is protected, valued, and able to thrive. We are dedicated to preventing child abuse and violence and to providing compassionate, child-centred care when harm occurs.

The Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre mission is for accessible, collaborative, inclusive and timely prevention, advocacy and counselling services for children, youth, and caregivers affected by abuse within the Greater Victoria region.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

We continue to provide the highest level of trauma informed care and services to children, youth, and caregivers who have experienced abuse. We have expanded our programs and community reach through engagement with diverse communities, which is evident in some of our key successes. We have enhanced our local Indigenous community relationships and cultural knowledge through sharing sessions and events, we have provided education and formed connections with local multicultural organizations that serve new comers to Canada and our city, and attended events at local high schools in the Greater Victoria area to enhance connection with the youth population.

CLINICAL COUNSELLING PROGRAM:

Our incredible clinical counselling therapists continue to increase their knowledge, training, and experience in different modalities of therapy that support the case complexities that children, youth, and families are presenting with when they access our services. Our team continues to balance busy caseloads and provide options such as parenting groups, psychoeducation, and collaboration with other community resources when appropriate. Our therapists provide different modalities of counselling including play and art based interventions, art therapy, Somatic Experiencing, Emotionally Focused and Family Therapy, and individual sessions to help children rebuild their sense of safety, expression, and boundaries, which in turn help to boost self-esteem and emotional coping skills. Prevention programs provided in the community and school settings teaches children about boundary setting, and help-seeking strategies to reduce vulnerability and reporting procedures when abuse occurs.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

In this past fiscal year, with your support, our clinical counselling program:

- Served approximately 458 children and youth through trauma-informed therapy, SAIP counselling, community information calls, support, and agency-wide intake.
- We provided psycho-education sessions to over 20 caregivers of children on the waitlist following reports of abuse.
- We provided prevention-education information sessions at schools and community events to over 1000 Greater Victoria Students to build knowledge of boundary-setting and abuse awareness.
- We provided 10 caregivers with 10 sessions of the Connect Parent Program, which is an evidence-based behavioural and mental health issues.

VICTIM SERVICE AND CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM:

The Victoria and West Shore Child and Youth Advocacy Centres bring together law enforcement, child protection, medical and mental health professionals, victim advocates, and justice partners in one safe, child-centred facility. This model reduces system-induced trauma by streamlining processes into one environment, minimizing re-traumatization and ensuring each child has a trusted advocate guiding them through the system. Our Victim Service Advocate team works tirelessly despite increased caseloads and difficult subject matter to ensure no child waits for service when they arrive in crisis at our centre after a disclosure of abuse has occurred. Our advocates are compassionate, committed individuals, who stand alongside children and youth during their most vulnerable times.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

In the last fiscal year, the Victoria and West Shore CYACs:

- Supported 268 new referrals to the CBVS and CYAC programs after a disclosure of abuse was received.
- Along with our police partners, 107 forensic interviews were conducted in our child-friendly interview rooms in Victoria and West Shore.
- We served a total of 395 children, youth, and caregivers through multidisciplinary assessment, forensic interviewing, mental health support, court support, and victim service navigation.

CHALLENGES:

Despite clear progress, challenges remain:

- Service demand for counselling and other services continues to exceed capacity, and wait times for some children and families are longer than we would wish.
- The client base we see are increasingly presenting with complex and co-occurring mental health and other challenges.
- Our counselling waitlist--which began the year at more than 50 children--has increased to 60, demonstrating the increased demand for service and complexities.
- Victim Service Advocates have seen a significant increase in caseloads and interview support requests, without an increase in funding hours for many years.
- Funding constraints and shifts in the broader community, social services, and non-profit landscape present ongoing operational pressures.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

- An enduring goal for our agency is to secure core sustainable funding to support the unfunded Child Abuse Trauma Counselling program for children who experience physical abuse, neglect or are exposed to intimate partner and family violence.
- Government funding covers only part of our operational costs, requiring us to rely heavily on private donations, sponsorship, and grant applications.

In response, we are:

- Continuing to seek ways to increase accessibility and reduce wait times.
- Continuing to take steps to reach more underserved communities.
- Deepening partnerships with community stakeholders, including schools, child protection agencies, and local funders.
- Joining networks that focus on shared vision and voices for collaboration, consultation, and government advocacy for child serving organizations.
- Enhancing our evaluation, and reporting out systems to track outcomes and demonstrate impact, and identify gaps to funders and supporters.
- Presenting and advocating to federal and provincial government partners with industry updates, funding gaps, and increasing client needs.
- Included presentations to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services to advocate for core and sustained funding for unfunded Child Abuse Trauma Counselling, long term funding for the Child and Youth Advocacy Centre program, and directly with government funders to request increased funding for the Victim Service Program due to the consistently climbing caseloads.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

Our continued success depends on sustainable long-term support and core funding. Our agency is committed for this to remain a key priority.

GRATITUDE:

Thank you to our Board of Directors who have played a crucial role to support, and provide strategic direction to our agency.

We are grateful for core funding provided by the Ministry of Children and Family Development that supports our Sexual Abuse Intervention Program.

We thank the Civil Forfeiture Office, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Federal Department of Justice, and BC Gaming for project specific funding and look forward to a future with long term sustainable core funding.

We are deeply grateful for our foundation, individual and group donors who held fundraising events and organized donations and funding.

We are thankful to accounting firms Ralph & Levinson CPAs, and Allen and Kraul Inc.

To our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and MDT community partners: Thank you for your professionalism, compassion, and belief that when we help children heal with hope they can have a brighter future.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

To our partner agencies—justice, child protection, health services, Indigenous organizations, and schools: Your collaboration enhances our effectiveness and ensures every child's voice matters.

To our donors: your generosity fuels the recovery, resilience, and transformation of our community through your investment in children.

To the children and families we serve: We are honoured to be present during your healing journey and to witness your bravery, resilience, and growth. You inspire every step of our mission.

Laura Vye

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER



As your treasurer, I'm excited to present the financial highlights for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

Our financial position remains strong, and we continue to have a significant impact on our community, thanks to our members' and stakeholders' support and dedication to the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre.

Financial Overview

Statement of Financial Position:

- **Assets:** Our total assets stand at a healthy level, ensuring we have the necessary resources to support our programs. Key components include cash and term deposits.
- **Liabilities:** We have managed to keep our liabilities low, maintaining a robust financial position. This includes manageable accounts payable and no long-term debt. Year end current liabilities represent approximately one month of spending.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (CONT.)

Statement of Operations:

Revenue

Our revenue streams are diverse, with significant contributions from the Government, other grants, donations/membership fees and fundraising activities. This diversity helps us remain resilient to changes in any single source of income.

Increases:

- Grants and Donations: We again secured several thanks to enhanced community engagement and successful fundraising campaigns.
- Overall, total revenue remained consisted and increased slightly by approximately \$8,000.

Decreases:

- Government Funding: There was a slight decrease in government funding from the Ministry of Children & Family Development and Federal Department of Justice, reflecting changes in policy and allocation priorities. However, this was mitigated by our significant increase in funding from other grants, which was up by nearly 50% over the previous year.

Expenses: Expenditures are primarily directed towards staff required in our program services, reflecting our commitment to our mission. Administrative and fundraising costs remain within acceptable limits.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (CONT.)

Increases:

- Program Services: We increased spending on core programs, in particular wages/benefits and staff professional development, aligning with our mission to expand outreach, support services and staff growth.
- Overall, expenditures in aggregate increased approximately 4%, slightly more than our regular inflationary rate over the past year

Decreases:

- Administrative Costs: Streamlining processes resulted in reduced administrative expenses.

Changes in Net Assets:

- Our net assets have seen a positive increase, indicating a surplus for the year. This surplus will allow us to invest back into our programs and services and continue staff professional development, enhancing our impact.

Cash Flow Statement

- The organization has maintained positive cash flow, primarily due to consistent funding received from Government and other grants, revenue received from Ministry of Children & Family Development and Federal Department of Justice. This ensures we have the liquidity needed to meet our day-to-day operational needs.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (CONT.)

- The change in cash and term deposits reflects our liquidity and ability to fund immediate operations. Over the past year, we've seen an increase in these balances due to efficient management of cash and careful timing of expenditures.

The following items had the greatest impact on our year-end cash position:

- **Operating Activities:** Positive cash flow from operations, consistent and high revenue, and efficient expense management.
- **Investing Activities:** Careful investment in term deposits that mature in line with cash needs.
- **Financing Activities:** There were no significant loans or financing activities impacting cash flow this year.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (CONT.)

Conclusion

In conclusion, the financial health of the Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Society of Greater Victoria remains strong. We are well-positioned to continue supporting our community and achieving our mission. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our cause.

Actionable Steps for the next fiscal year:

- **Review Financial Strategy:** Regularly assess our financial strategy to ensure alignment with our mission and long-term goals. Also, continue monitoring cash reserves to ensure adequate liquidity for operations.
- **Enhance Revenue Streams:** Explore new fundraising and grant opportunities and strengthen existing donor relationships and outreach.
- **Monitor Expenses:** Continue to monitor expenses closely, ensuring maximum efficiency and impact and identifying further savings opportunities.

Huf McIntyre

TREASURER

CLINICAL PROGRAM



Counselling is offered through various programs including:

- Sexual Abuse Intervention Program (including counselling for Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems (YSBP) between the ages of 12- 19),
- Child Abuse Trauma Counselling (CATC) program.
- Prevention Services (community engagement)

Interventions range from brief service to longer term support (up to a year +), depending on the client needs, strengths, environmental stability and other community involvement.

The Clinical Counselling Services (SAIP and CATC programs):

- Overall in our Counselling programs including agency-wide intake we had 458 open client files in 2024-2025FY, 131 of which were clients actively engaging in the Counselling program with SAIP.
- Provided over 3000 direct contact and face to face session hours, despite operating with reduced clinicians due to staff turnover.
- Continued to work towards reducing wait list numbers and waiting times.
- Continued to see ongoing and increasing demand for support through the CATC programs.
- Developed and delivered a variety of group support programs both within the agency and in community settings.
- Participated alongside our victim services team members in offering community education and prevention services to local schools and community organizations.
- Established and strengthened community relationships.
- Supported therapists in their professional development endeavours.

Shawna Herlinveaux

MANAGER OF PRACTICE

REFERRALS

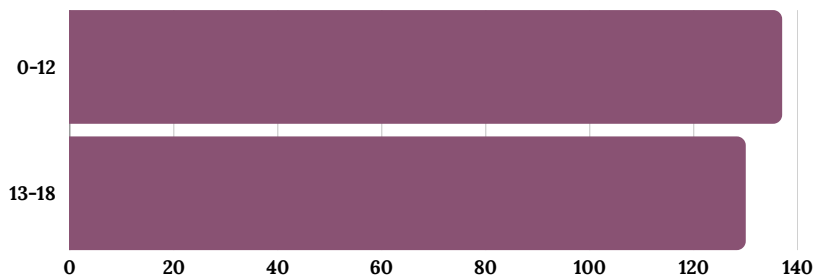


FIGURE 1. REFERRALS BY AGE (LEFT)

Number of referrals broken down by the age of the client at the time of the referral

FIGURE 2. REFERRAL SOURCE (RIGHT)

Source of the referral broken down by percentage

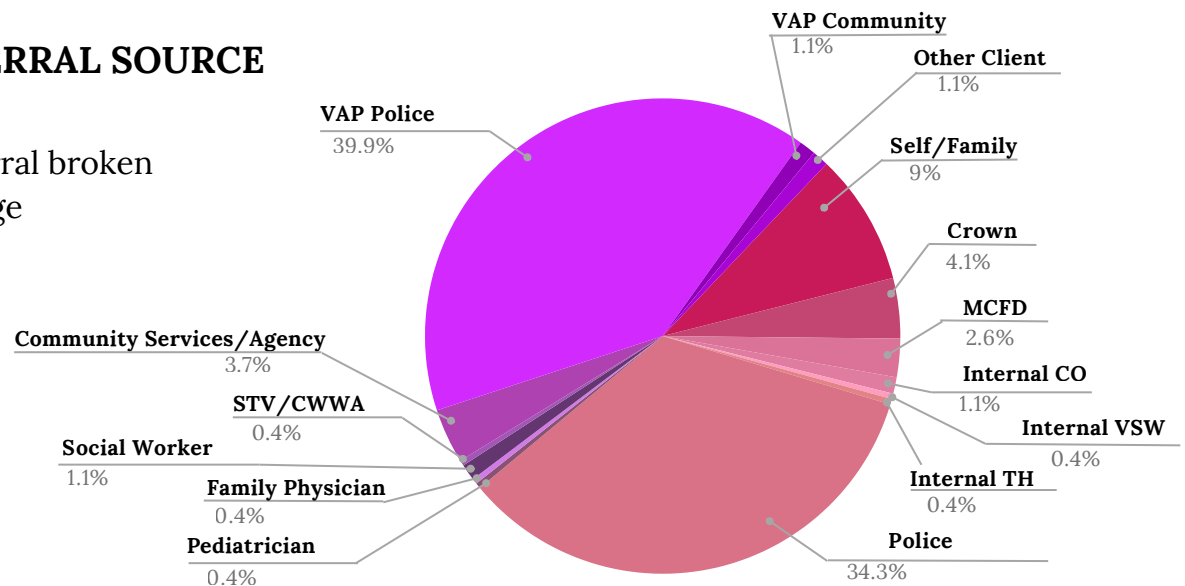
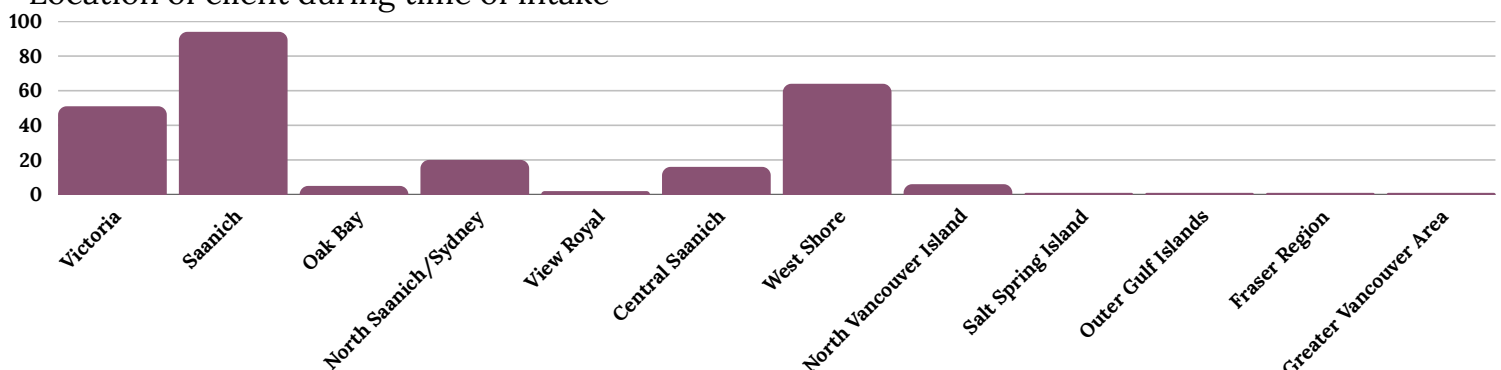


FIGURE 3. LOCATION DURING REFERRAL

Location of client during time of intake

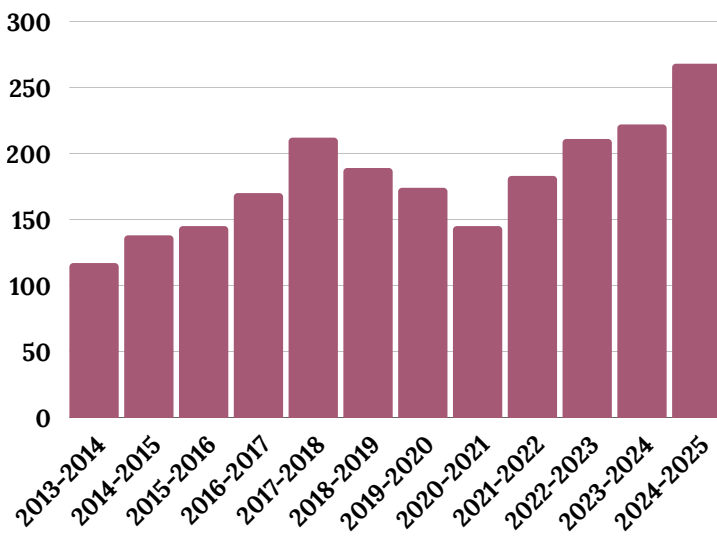


REFERRALS



FIGURE 4. NUMBER OF REFERRALS IN THE PAST DECADE

In 2024-2025, VCAPCC received a total of 268 referrals

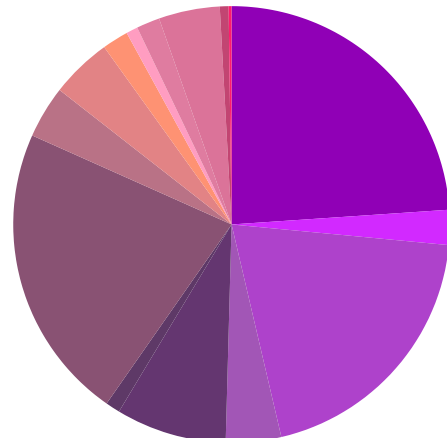
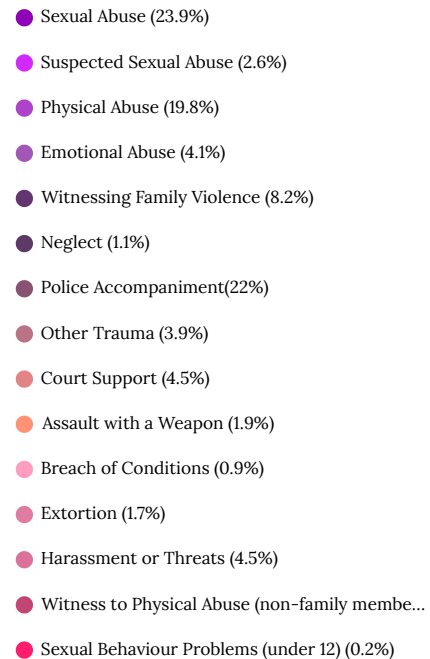


GENDER OF NEW CLIENTS:

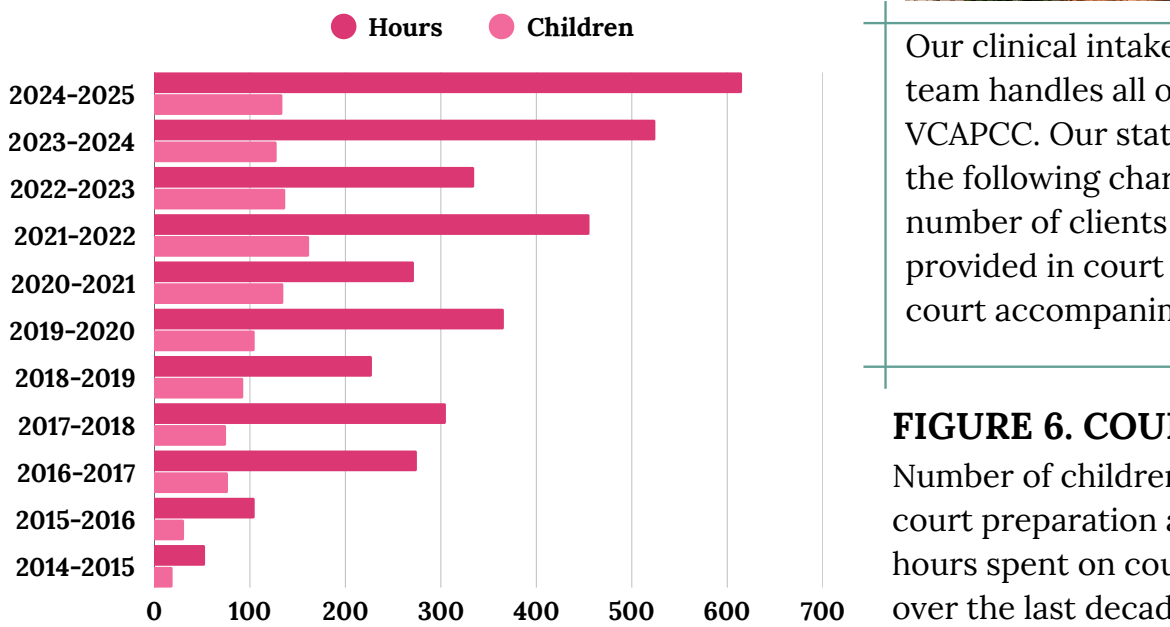
Female: 171
Male: 90
Non-Binary: 3
Unspecified: 4

FIGURE 5. REASON FOR REFERRAL

Reason for referral broken down by percentage



COURT SUPPORT



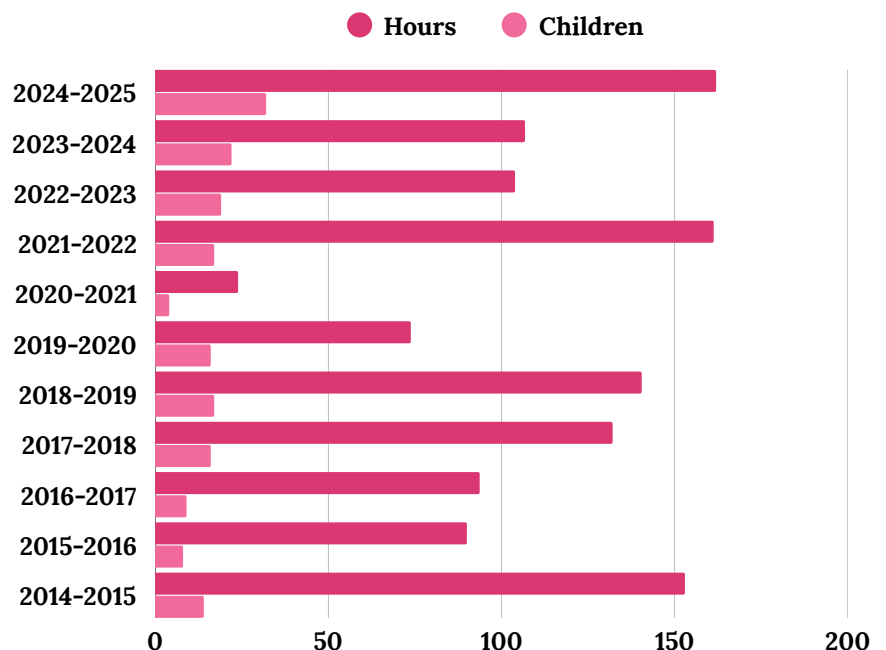
Our clinical intake and victim service team handles all of the referrals to VCAPCC. Our statistical report includes the following charts which illustrate the number of clients and hours of service provided in court preparation, and court accompaniment.

FIGURE 6. COURT PREPARATION

Number of children provided with court preparation and number of hours spent on court preparation over the last decade

FIGURE 7. COURT ACCOMPANIMENT

Number of children provided with court accompaniment and number of hours spent on court accompaniment over the last decade



CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE



The Victoria and West Shore Child and Youth Advocacy Centres received referrals with interviews completed. 107 children and youth were supported by Victim Services and connected with resources.

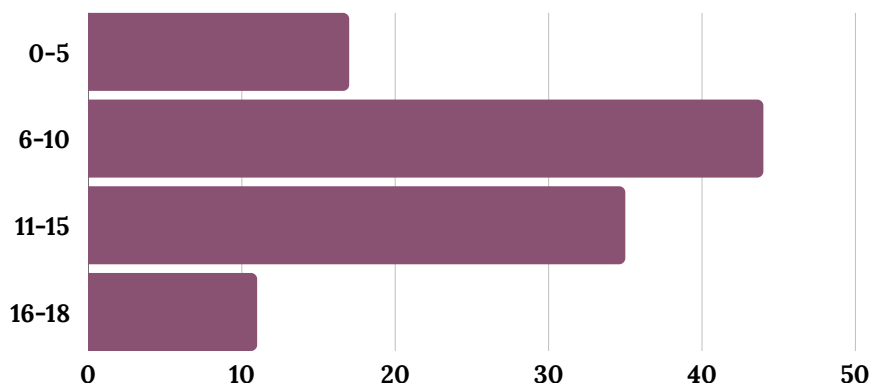
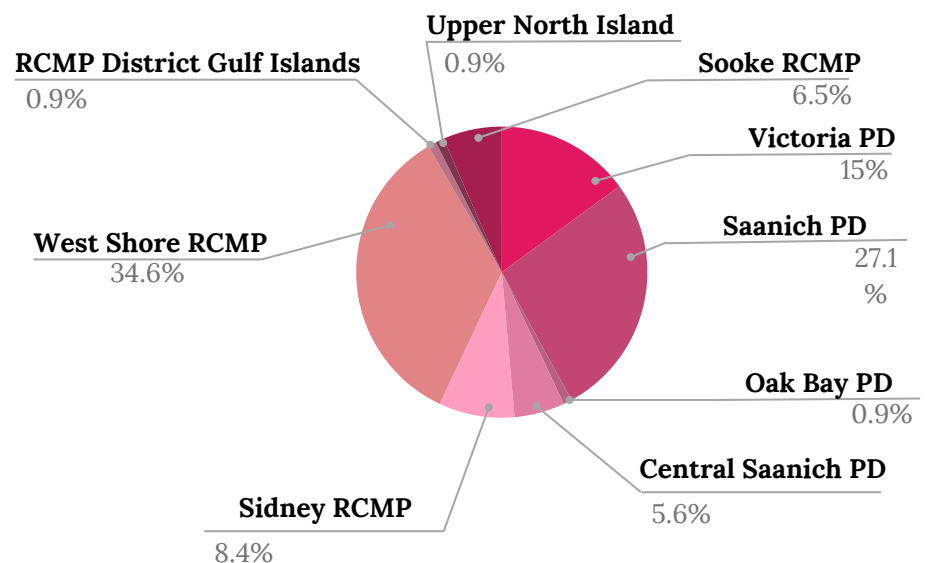


FIGURE 8. CYAC INTERVIEWS BY AGE

Number of interviews broken down by the age of the client during the time of the interview

FIGURE 9. INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY PARTICIPATING POLICE DEPARTMENT

Number of interviews broken down by police department



OUR TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES



- Every individual is unique and worthwhile and has the capacity to change.
- Child abuse affects the whole person and recovery or healing requires addressing all parts of the person including: psychological, physical and spiritual
- Child abuse affects the family and significant others of the person who has experienced abuse and treatment must address the needs of the family and others significant to the individual
- Child abuse affects the whole society: the treatment of child abuse is a shared community responsibility

VCAPCC strives to tailor its treatment program to be consistent with the following principles:

- The goal and primary objective of all interventions are to promote and facilitate the emotional, physical and social well-being of the family and child. This objective takes precedence over any investigative or other objective
- The agency recognizes the complexity of issues involved in child abuse and that in many instances abuse is inter-related with other issues. Accordingly, treatment must be provided by qualified, professional counselors with broad experience in counselling and therapy and specialized skills related to treating child sexual abuse.
- Clients are accepted in a non-judgmental manner.
- The clinical team values the contribution of a number of different therapeutic perspectives in the areas of child abuse. Different perspectives and techniques are used in accordance with the assessed needs of the client.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL FUNDING AND GRANTS

BC Gaming Grant, Civil Forfeiture, Federal Department of Justice, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

ORGANIZATION/GROUP DONATIONS

100 Women Who Care Westshore, Benevity, Canada Helps, Canadian Online Giving Foundation, Cyber Grants, Cedric Steele Realty, Charitable Impact Foundation, Downtown Victoria Business Association, Federation of Community Social Services of BC, Norgaard Foundation, Paypal Giving Fund, Pixelart Computers, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, Ralph & Levinson, Rotary Club Victoria-Harbourside, Smith Hutchison Law Corporation, South Island Church of Christ, Sovereign Order of St Johns of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller c.1048 Victoria Commandery, TD Bank, Telus Communications, United Way, Victoria Foundation, Vital Youth, Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Canada

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And to all of our anonymous donors... Thank you!