

Putting Sexual Violence on the Agenda



Sexual Violence: A Distinct Form of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Requiring a Unique Response

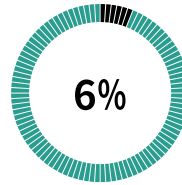
Sexual violence services are distinct from shelters and other intimate partner violence organizations as they serve a broad range of survivors, including those victimized by acquaintances, family members, groups, strangers, or in institutional settings. **For 40 years sexual assault centres (SACs) have represented core services within the sector and are an integral part of the response and prevention efforts to address GBV.** SACs provide wrap-around supports to survivors and they build safer communities through their prevention work with men and boys, public education and school-based workshops.



Sexual assault affects **1 in 3 women** and **1 in 12 men** in Canada. Young women, Indigenous and racialized women, women with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and other marginalized groups are facing an elevated risk.



The cost of sexual violence was estimated to be \$4.8 billion in a single year. The impacts of sexual abuse and trauma can be complex and lifelong.



Only 6% of sexual assaults are reported to the police making it the most underreported crime in Canada.



Sexual violence takes place in settings that extend beyond the home, including online, at school, at work, in institutional settings and within the community.

Survivors of sexual violence encounter barriers, stigma, and victim-blaming but they can rely on specialized community-based sexual violence services regardless of whether they choose to report or not. However, chronic underfunding and increased demand after the #MeToo movement have strained SACs, resulting in waitlists over a year long in some areas, with limited options in certain jurisdictions.

National Action Plan to End GBV Must Better Support Survivors





The National Action Plan bolstered Canada's response to gender-based violence throughout the country, but community-based sexual violence services like SACs have been largely overlooked in its implementation.

We want to see the federal government provide stronger leadership and prioritize working with provinces and territories to fill crucial gaps and ensure that sexual violence services are adequately funded and accessible to all survivors, no matter where they live.

What You Can Do to Support Survivors and the Sexual Violence Sector

<p>Support EVA Canada's 2025 budget ask of \$300M over 5 years towards community-based sexual violence services including sexual assault centres as part of the National Action Plan to end GBV.</p>	<p>Visit a sexual assault centre in your riding to familiarize yourself with and bring attention to the issue.</p>
<p>Ensure there is representation at the table from the sexual violence sector in any consultations about gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence.</p>	<p>Use your platform to name <i>sexual violence</i> and reference <i>sexual assault centres</i> when discussing GBV. Follow and amplify EVA Canada's voice on social media.</p>

Stories From the Frontlines

 <p>In Ontario, the demand for services at the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region has tripled; their waitlist averaging nearly 300 survivors last year. They received a 5% increase to provincial funding as compared to the 33% increase that they had been promised by a previous government.</p>	 <p>In Saskatchewan, despite some of the highest rates of sexual violence and the lack of services in rural areas, sexual assault centres have been excluded from the National Action Plan to end GBV (NAP).</p>	 <p>In the Yukon, where no standalone sexual assault centre exists, women's organizations have gone through administrative hoops to access small amounts of funding through the NAP and Indigenous women's organizations' core funding was cut by 50%.</p>	 <p>According to the first national survey of sexual violence organizations in Canada, 80% of them have waitlists, and of those 27% have waitlists of over six months long.</p>
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About Us

The Ending Violence Association of Canada (EVA Canada) is a national, non-profit organization that works to amplify the collective voice of those who believe it is possible to end sexual and gender-based violence. EVA Canada serves as an umbrella organization for provincial/territorial sexual violence networks, as well as other community-based organizations committed to ending sexual violence.