



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Children's Advocacy Centres Next Steps Meeting

April 11th-12th, 2013
Toronto





Gaps in Knowledge in Canada

Updates on JUSTICE Canada projects:

- Multi-site study on CACs
- Compendium of CACs around the world
- New research products
- The role of the victim advocate



Gaps in Knowledge - Examples of Research and Products

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JUST FACTS

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Children's Advocacy Centres

Children's Advocacy Centres (CACs) "are a seamless, coordinated and collaborative approach to addressing the needs of child victims or children who have witnessed crime. CACs seek to minimize system-induced trauma by providing a child-friendly setting for child victims or witnesses and their families."¹ This fact sheet provides an overview of research findings on several features of Children's Advocacy Centres that are based on research conducted in the United States.

Variability

- There is much variability among CACs in how they are structured and the processes that they follow.² CACs can differ in their community characteristics, organizational base, developmental stage, referral processes, interagency involvement and relationships, and agency objectives. This variability affects "who the CACs serve, what CACs do, and what outcomes they might have."³

Coordination and Collaboration

- Communities with Children's Advocacy Centres (CACs) use more coordinated and collaborative investigations than communities without CACs, including more multidisciplinary team interviews, videotaped interviews, and joint investigations with child protection agencies and the police.⁴

Forensic Interviewing in Child-Friendly Facilities

- Children who receive services from a CAC are more likely to be interviewed in a child-friendly facility than children who do not receive services from CAC.⁵

Forensic Medical Exams

- Children who receive services from CACs are more likely to receive a forensic medical examination than children who receive services from a non-CAC organization.⁶

This report is a work product, and the findings presented herein are not to be construed as an official Department of Justice Canada position, unless they are designated as such by other authorized documents and the report is posted on the official Department of Justice Canada Web site.

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Building Knowledge

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION
POLICY CENTRE FOR VICTIM ISSUES

Number of Female Victims of Police-Reported Sexual Assaults Increases in the Teen Years

This first issue of *Building Knowledge* looks at the number of young victims of all levels of sexual assault (I, II, III). When we think of victims of crime who are under the age of 18, we may focus on the very youngest as the most vulnerable; yet, as Figure 1 below shows, the number of female victims of sexual assault (levels I, II and III) for police-reported incidents starts to increase with the teen years (age 12-13), peaks at age 15, then starts to decline.

We know that the majority of sexual assaults are never reported to police and the reasons for this are complex and often very personal. Based on the 2009 General Social Survey on Victimization, it is estimated that 88% of sexual assaults against Canadians aged 15 years and older are not reported to police.¹

The numbers in Figure 1 show the disproportionate impact of sexual assault on young females as compared to males. Females in their mid-teens are particularly vulnerable. The number of male victims of police-reported incidents remains relatively stable from the early years onwards.

1 Samuel Pernet and Shannon Brennan, *Criminal victimization in Canada, 2009*, Juristat 30, no.2

Figure 1: Numbers of victims of police reported sexual assaults against children and youth (0-17), 2011

Age	Male	Female
0	29	6
1	13	3
2	23	1
3	71	76
4	93	190
5	142	269
6	146	272
7	130	244
8	117	274
9	126	305
10	143	344
11	108	412
12	143	610
13	114	945
14	136	1,077
15	117	1,297
16	138	1,082
17	76	917

Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey 2011

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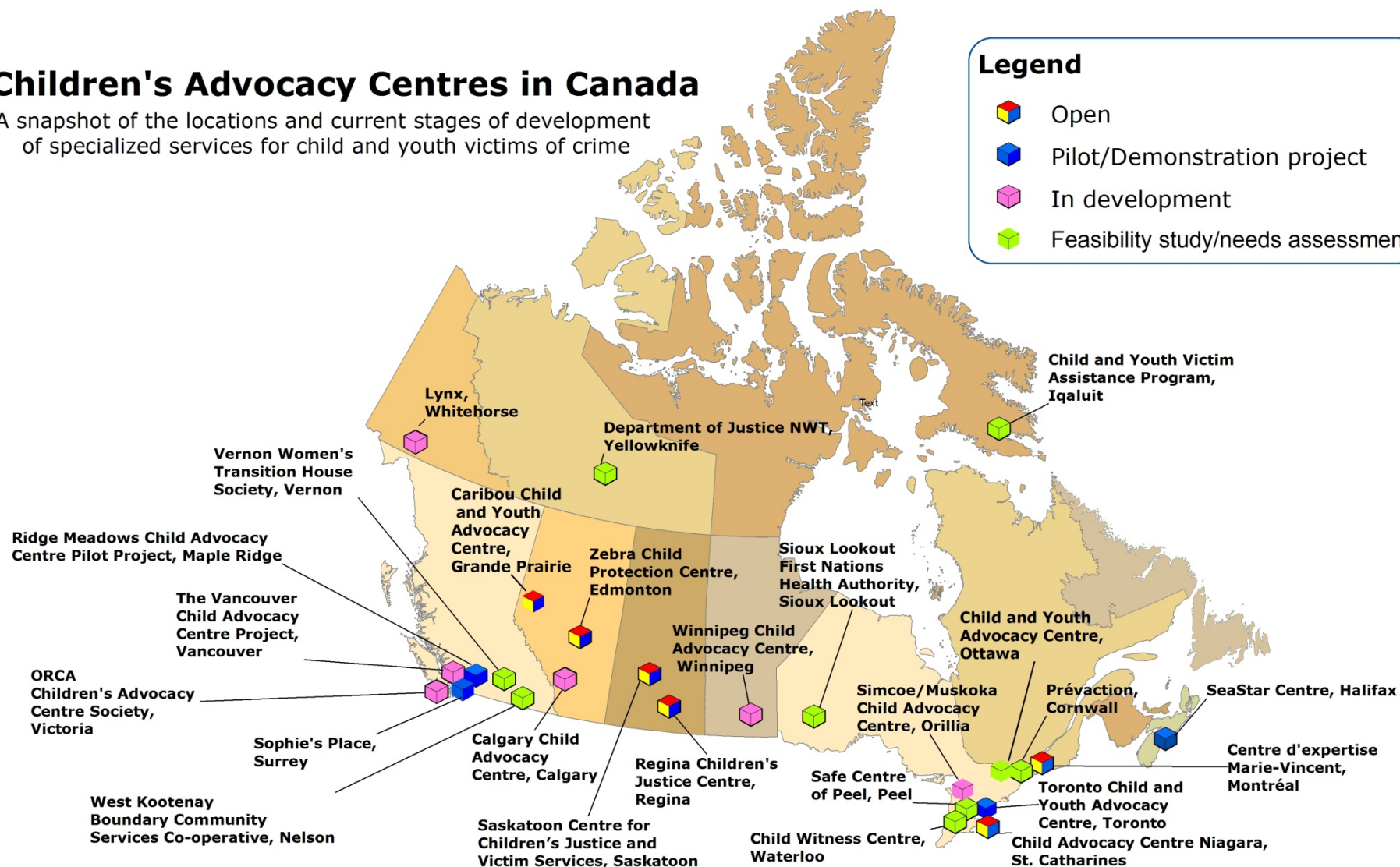


Children's Advocacy Centres in Canada

A snapshot of the locations and current stages of development of specialized services for child and youth victims of crime

Legend

-  Open
-  Pilot/Demonstration project
-  In development
-  Feasibility study/needs assessment



Current as of February, 2013





Child and youth victims of police-reported crime, 2011

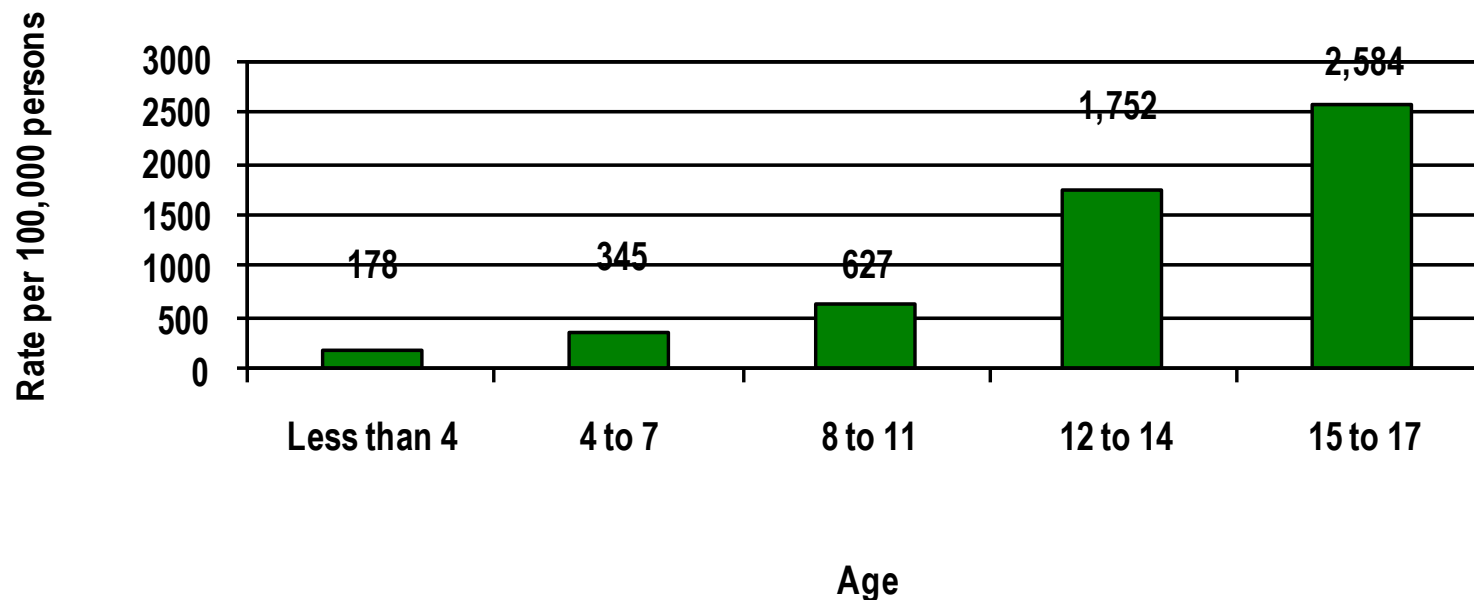
- In 2011, over 70,000 children and youth were the victims of police-reported crime.
- Assault (Level 1) was the most common violent crime reported to the police committed against children and youth with more than 28,000 child and youth victims.
- In general, boys were at a greater risk of being victims of Assault (Levels 1,2 and 3) (57%) in comparison to girls (43%). Girls were at a greater risk of being a victim of Sexual Assault (Levels 1,2 and 3) (82%) and Other Sexual Offences*(78%) than boys (18% and 22%, respectively).
- Sexual offences against children and youth were most commonly perpetrated by someone known to the victim (88%).

Source : Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey 2011.

*Other sexual offences include sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, anal intercourse, bestiality and voyeurism..



Youth aged 15 to 17 experience the highest rate of violent victimization-2011.....

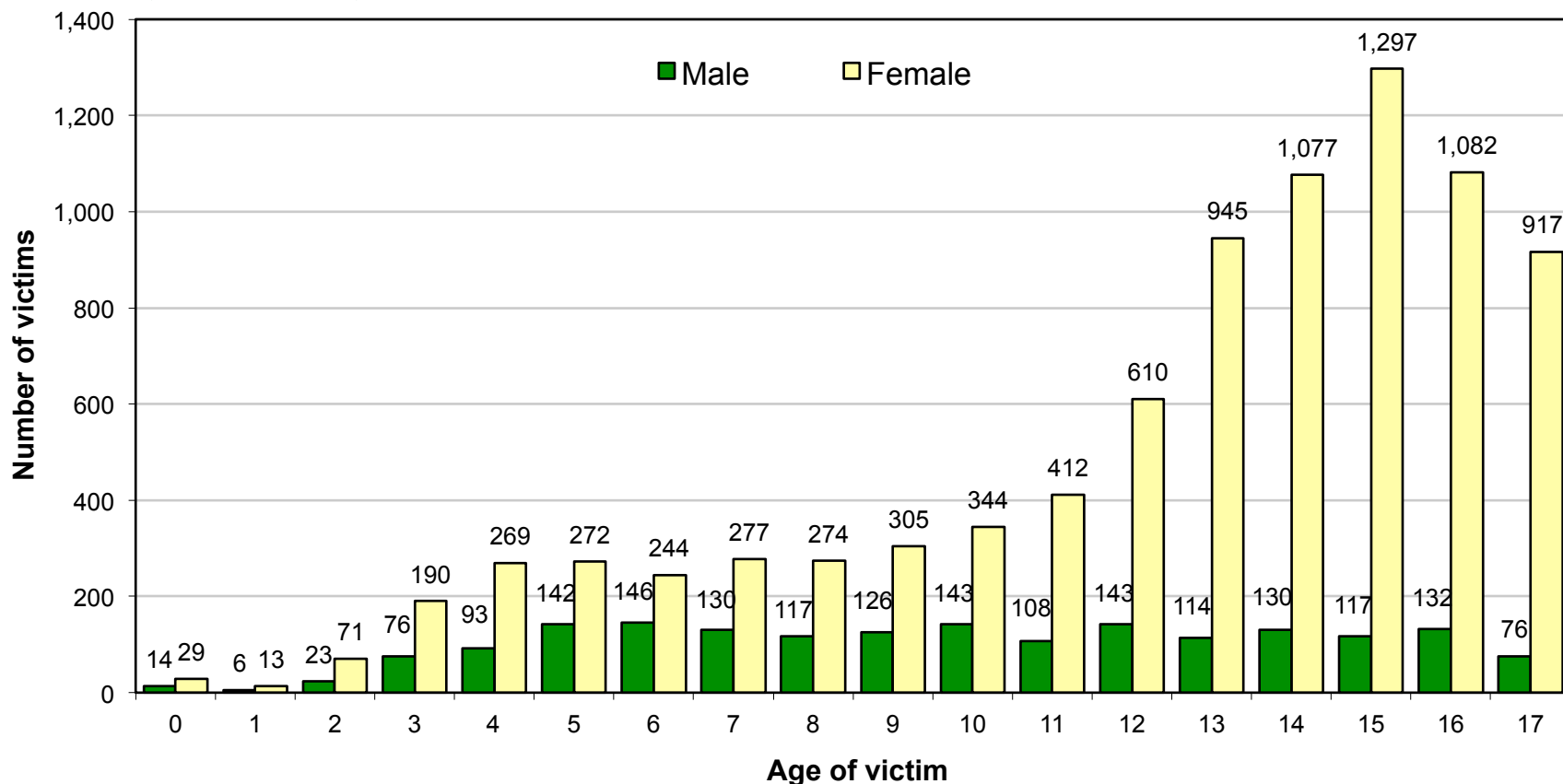


Notes: Excludes victims of unknown age or gender. Based on full-year data submitted by police services representing 99% of the Canadian population.

Source : Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey 2011.



Police-reported sexual assault against children (0-17 years), by age of victim, Canada, 2011

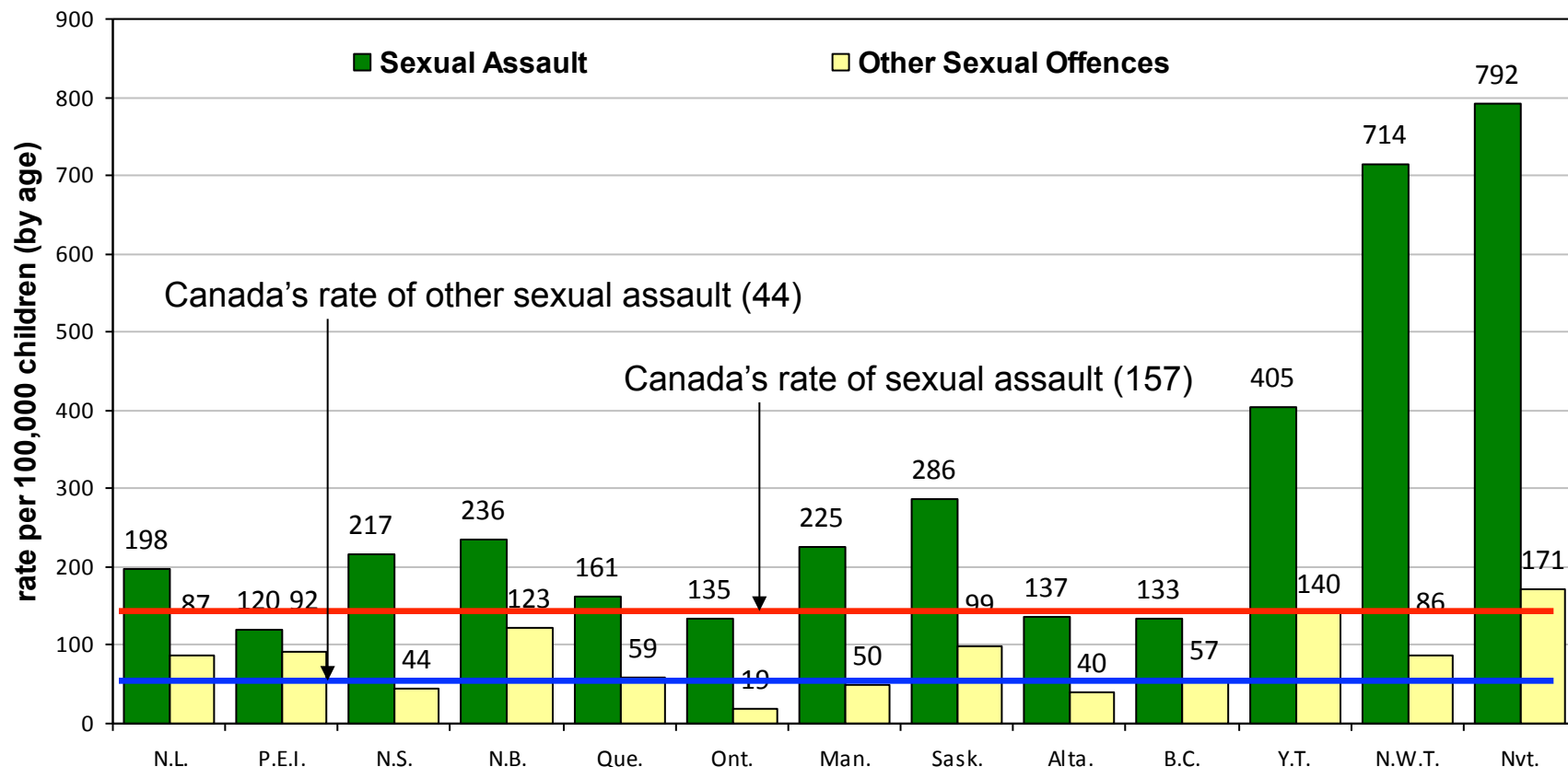


Notes: Sexual assault includes sexual assault levels 1-3. Excludes victims of unknown age or gender

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, 2011.



Police-reported sexual offences against children (0 to 17 years), by province/territory, 2009



Rates for sexual assault and other sexual offences are calculated per 100,000 population 0 to 17 years.

Notes: Sexual assault includes sexual assault levels 1-3. Other sexual offences include sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, bestiality and luring a child via the Internet. Also, a small number of incidents of corrupting morals of a child and anal intercourse are included. Victim data are not available for parent/guardian procuring sexual activity or indecent acts in the presence of a person under 16 years of age. As such, these offences are not included. Excludes victims of unknown age or gender.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, 2009.





For more information

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