

2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT



ONTARIO NETWORK OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
TREATMENT CENTRES

www.sadvtreatmentcentres.ca

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02

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

SHEILA MACDONALD, RN, MN

In 2021-2022, we continued with strategies and efforts to support clinicians across the province with virtual education opportunities which are detailed below. Although we all miss being together in person, virtual education has increased our ability to reach as many clinicians as possible.

We maintained the provincial Navigation Line as a resource for patients/service providers seeking access to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre (SA/DVTC) services. As COVID-19 continued to create staffing challenges for our programs, the Line proceeded with its main purpose to direct patients to the closest SA/DVTC with a nurse available. Thank you to all the nurses across the province who have supported this effort.

Addressing staffing challenges at the program level remained a significant objective of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. To enhance program staffing and increase capacity for outreach to community hospitals, the Ministry of Health approved additional funds for 10 SA/DVTCs.

The Network also aimed to expand support for the provision of care locally, with a focus on communities supported by nursing stations in Northern Ontario. The completion of a training program which included three online modules for nurses working at nursing stations was a key accomplishment this year. The provision of sexual assault care locally, when possible, reduces the need for patients to travel out of their communities and ensures patients are provided with options for care in a trauma-informed approach. Further strengthening of consultations and support to the nurses was provided by the Thunder Bay SA/DVTC. This training will be evaluated in the next fiscal year with revisions made, as necessary.

Of significance, the Network launched the first of its kind database for quality assurance purposes and reporting. The Network Database, which will collect visit information, was successfully built into a data capture system. The Network has long awaited the launch of this initiative and we are pleased to share this exciting new step! Further details are included in the report.

The Network continues to enhance service delivery across all 37 treatment centres, and our clinicians provide care that is reflective of their unique skill sets, expertise, and further learning in the field of SA/DV care.

I want to acknowledge and thank the Network team, the advisory council, the co-medical directors, the co-chairs of the nursing and social work communities of practice, and forensic nurse educators for their leadership and support for our programs and clinicians.

Acknowledgment and thank you to our Network team:

Dr. Janice Du Mont, Ed.D. | Senior Research Scientist, Women's College Research Institute

Janelle Noel | Service Coordinator

Dr. Sarah (Daisy) Kosa, Ph.D. | Research Associate

Bria Barton, MPH | Education and Research Associate

Emily Dickson | Website and Outreach Associate

Angel Najjar, MSc | Research Assistant

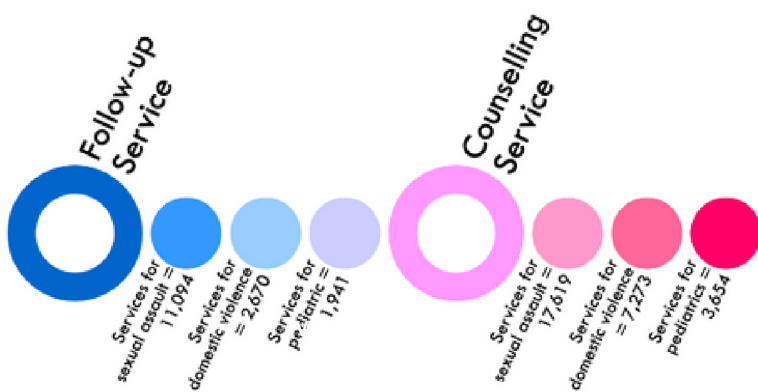


04

NETWORK STATISTICS AND HIV PEP REPORT

In the past two years, there have been many fluctuations in client volumes. This year, we observed acute and non-acute client volumes return to a regular level (fig. 1). Acute sexual assault and domestic violence visits returned to pre-pandemic levels (fig. 2). Conversely, follow-up and counselling remained high throughout the pandemic as centres adapted to make these visits accessible through virtual modalities. These adaptations helped to ensure HIV PEP completion rates remained high throughout the pandemic. This year, completion rates stayed consistent, with 51.45% of clients completing a full cycle of HIV PEP (fig. 3). When Week 1 attrition is adjusted for, the completion rate is 75.04%.

2021-2022 Follow-Up and Counselling Volumes



HIV PEP User Completion Rates

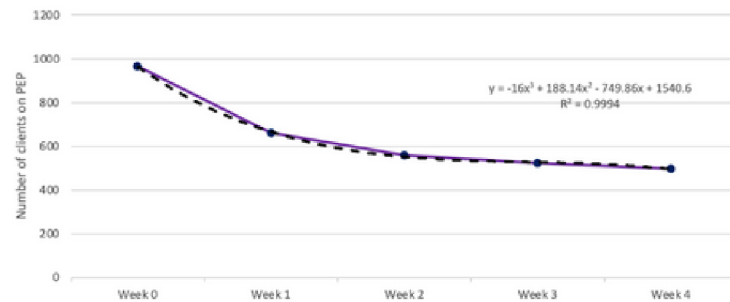


Figure 3. Provincial HIV PEP user completion rates from April 2021 through March 2022. Overall Completion Rate = 51.45%. Completion Rate (after Week 0 to Week 1 attrition) = 75.04%.

Categorical Volumes

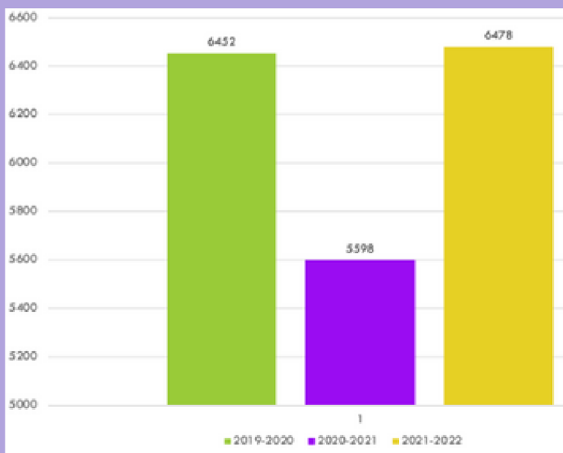


Figure 1. Provincial volumes for sexual assault, domestic violence, and pediatrics (acute and non-acute) reported over a 3-year period.

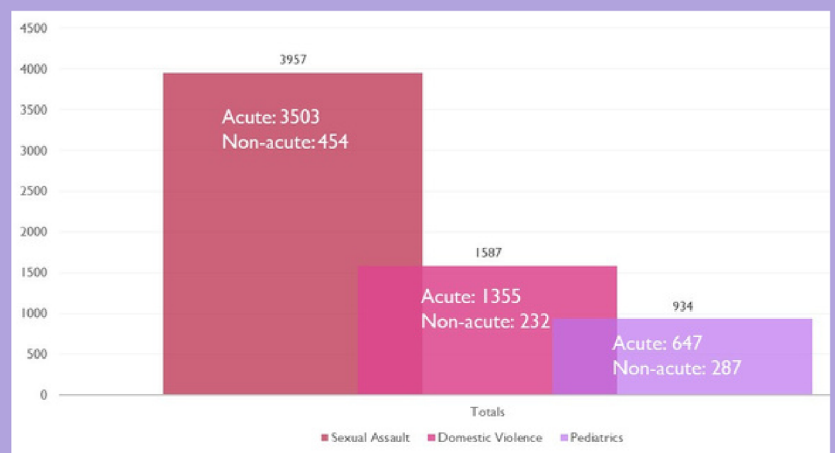
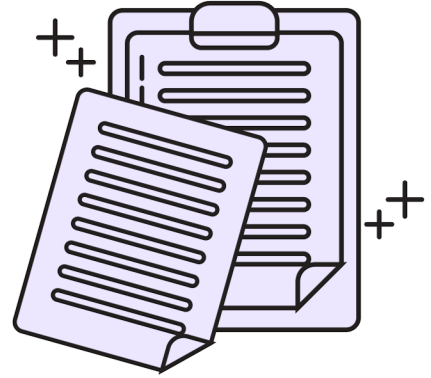


Figure 2. Provincial volumes for sexual assault, domestic violence, and pediatrics in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

05

NETWORK DATABASE



The Network Database has been in the works for many years, with the 2021-22 fiscal year bringing about the final steps before implementation. This database, housed within a data capture software called REDCap, intends to maintain a unified, consolidated method of collecting and reporting information relating to the services provided by SA/DVTCs across the province. At the conclusion of every clinical visit, clinicians will use the Network Database to enter information about the services provided. The information being collected within the Network Database is far more robust than the Network's current quarterly statistics reporting method. This transition from our current reporting mechanism to the Network Database will occur over the next year or so, contingent upon the status of each individual centres' launch. This will enable the generation of various reports that will assist the Network and centres in understanding the client populations served, and services provided as well as undertaking quality assurance initiatives.

In preparation for the early centre launches in April 2022, the database pilot was conducted early in the year with leadership from all 37 treatment centres. This pilot yielded insightful feedback which was incorporated in finalizing the database content, structure, and functionality. By the end of 2021, legal agreements and documents were finalized in preparation for meetings with hospital privacy and legal teams. Finally, during Q4, these meetings took place, introducing the logistical side of the process to all centres. Alongside the finalization of legal documents, the Network Database training was developed through an online module format to maximize the accessibility of training for all clinicians. By March, the Network Database Training was launched on the eLearning Platform, with 100 clinicians trained and onboarded by the end of the fiscal year.

06

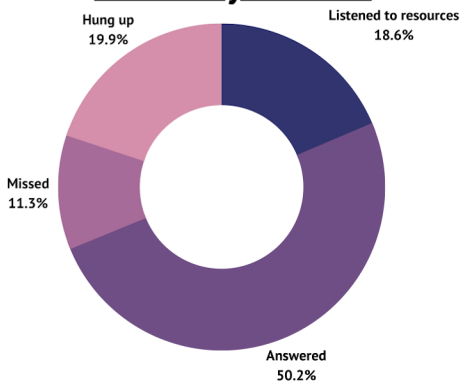
PROVINCIAL NAVIGATION LINE

Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on nurse staffing for the provision of acute/non-acute care, the Network continued to support its 24/7 nurse-staffed Provincial Navigation Line. Intended to assist victims/survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence in accessing care, a caller can call the Line to be directed to the closest treatment centre in their area or be provided with information.

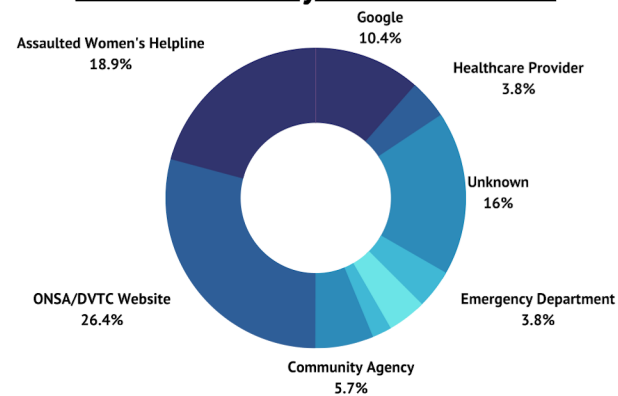


Since its launch in May of 2020, the Navigation Line has received 550 calls in total.

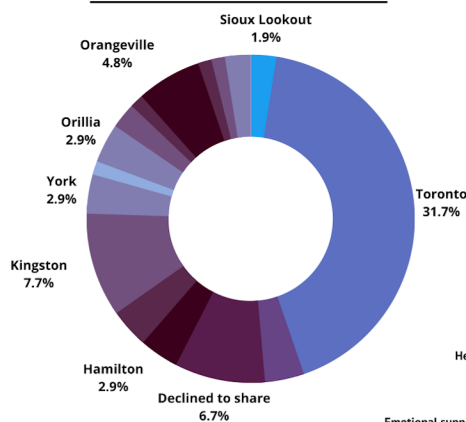
Summary of Calls



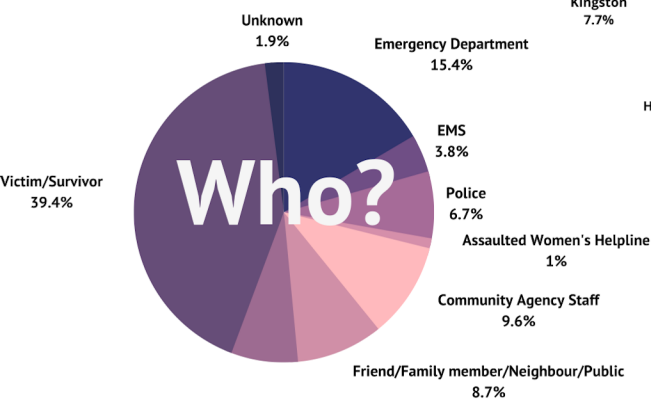
Where did they find the Line?



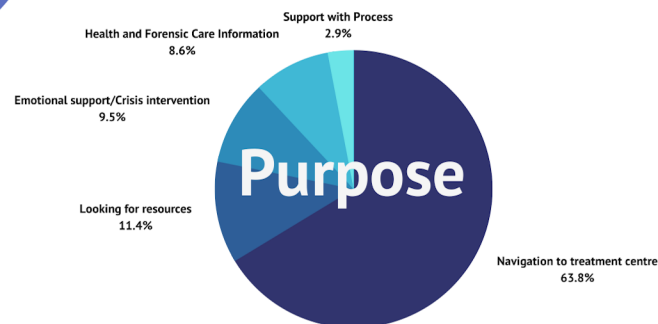
Location of Callers



Who?



Purpose



Awareness Marketing Campaign

The Network established a three-part Marketing Campaign to promote awareness of the Navigation Line. Parts one and two were completed in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Part One consisted of a province-wide email to all community health centres and Emergency Departments about the Navigation Line, whereas part two included the customization of promotional materials. Part three took place this fiscal year where these promotional items such as pens, business-like cards, mousepads, and a letter explaining the Navigation Line were sent out to hospitals, community health centres, and treatment centres across Ontario.

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CONNECTING NETWORK CLINICIANS

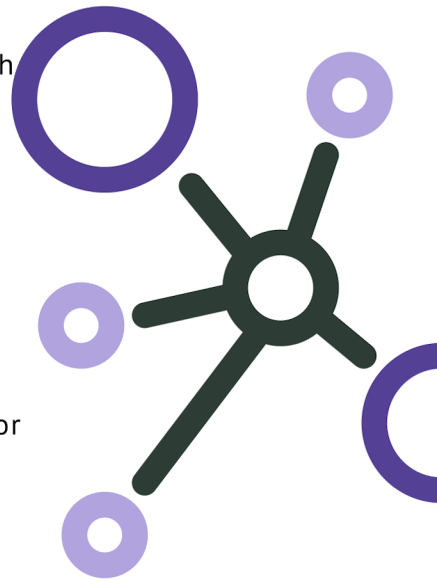
Nursing Community of Practice

Open to all nurses from the Network's 37 treatment centres, the Nursing Community of Practice (NCOP) met monthly throughout the fiscal year with breaks in July and August. Meeting agendas and minutes continued to be facilitated by the co-chairs (Tara Leach, Perth and Smith Falls District Hospital & Heidi Holmes, Guelph General Hospital) and shared among nurses on the Community of Practice resource page located on the eLearning Platform.

The NCOP included guest presentations at some of these meetings from external speakers such as Sheila Early on the Documentation Guidelines for Forensic Nurses, Kelly Beale on Human Trafficking, and the Centre for Forensic Sciences on the updated Sexual Assault Examination Kits.

Social Work Community of Practice

Open to all SA/DVTC Social Workers, the Social Work Community of Practice (SWCOP) met bi-monthly via Zoom. During these meetings, Social Workers supported each other and explored strategies for navigating the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on programs and clinical practice. Meetings also presented opportunities to enhance knowledge and clinical practice through peer support, information, resource sharing and participation in formal training and professional development opportunities within and outside of the Network. After identifying a need for a more organized and centralized space, social workers were moved over to the eLearning Platform where SWCOP meeting minutes, agendas and resources can now be more easily found. Meeting agendas, minutes, and any resource sharing continue to be facilitated by the co-chairs (Dale Cornish, Mackenzie Health & Darcy Turner, Women's College Hospital).



NURSING EDUCATION

"A Collaborative Approach: The Emergency Department's Role in the Assessment and Management of Victim's of Strangulation" **Webinar October 6, 2021**

The Network developed an educational webinar to enhance collaboration among emergency department staff and SA/DVTC clinicians. The keynote speakers included Dr. Rob Dmytryshyn, Tara Leach, N.P, Dr. Susan McNair, and Dr. Kari Sampsel. The one-hour webinar was certified for 1 Mainpro+® credit and was circulated to all emergency department clinicians in Ontario, including Network treatment centres. Topics presented included definition and mechanism of injury, the prevalence in the context of interpersonal violence, signs and symptoms, consultation with a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, assessment and documentation, evaluation, and management and follow-up. The webinar was well-attended by over 190 clinicians and two police officers from across the province. The webinar was recorded and made available on the Network Website as a part of the Website's Training menu.

International Association of Forensic Nursing Virtual Conference

The 2021 International Conference on Forensic Nursing Science and Practice was held virtually from October 1 - November 30, 2021 and was hosted by the International Association of Forensic Nurses. The Network offered support for up to four nurses per centre to attend the conference. IAFN2021 included on-demand sessions featuring audio and slideshow presentations, live events, poster presentations, and exhibits. In total, 77 nurses from various centres attended the training.

Canadian Symposium on Advanced Practices in Child Maltreatment

For a second year, the Network support registration costs for nurses to attend the 2021 Symposium on Advanced Practices in Child Maltreatment, hosted by the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) program at SickKids and Section on Child and Youth Maltreatment, Canadian Pediatric Society. The opening day of the virtual symposium on November 29, included a session on Medical Evaluation of Sexual Abuse/Assault. November 30 consisted of a session on Advanced Issues in Child Maltreatment for Medical Providers & Experts. In total, 60 nurses attended the symposium from the Network.

NURSING EDUCATION

SANE Refresher Day February 22, 2022

The Network held its first SANE training refresher for nurses across the province who have been in the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner role for a minimum five years. The virtual format of the training consisted of several presentations on updates to practices and literature for key areas of SA/DV care, while the afternoon consisted of breakout group discussions of an in-depth sexual assault case and domestic violence case. In total, 55 nurses attended from 26 centres. Feedback demonstrated an interest in future refreshers and the value of the learning experience.

Prepubescent Female Genital Examination

An online review of prepubescent genital exams is intended to assist clinicians with their skills and knowledge, particularly in the areas of normal versus abnormal findings. Offered by ImageSim, an online competency-based learning system, the course consists of 170 cases and is CME credited 9 hours and 26 credits upon completion. The Network supported the registration fee for 50 clinicians, who are given 2 years for course completion.

Pediatric Sexual Abuse/Assault Training

Utilizing the eLearning Platform and live webinars, the Pediatric Sexual Abuse/Assault Training was offered by Tanya Smith, RN, and Director of the SCAN program at SickKids. The training was held over 10 weeks, from January 19 to March 23, 2022. In total, 24 nurses and two physicians completed the training from 18 centres.

NURSING EDUCATION

Virtual SANE Training

The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training continued in a virtual format in 2021-2022 and was offered weekly for five weeks. Two training sessions were provided September 28 - October 26, 2021, and January 18 - February 15, 2022. In total, 29 nurses from 18 treatment centres attended Virtual SANE Training in the fall, while 30 nurses from 21 treatment centres attended in January. Requirements for attendance continued to include completion of the Trans-Affirming Care modules, SANE Online modules, and clinical shadowing experience.

The eLearning Platform also continued to serve as a resource hub for materials and presentations relevant to each day of training. Based on feedback from previous trainings, the fifth week of training was adapted to include further knowledge application through advanced case scenarios and group work for further integration of content.

To increase forensic educator capacity across the Network, three additional nurses from centres across the province were recruited and participated in shadowing during Virtual SANE Training. All forensic educators then initiated an active role as co-presenter during the second session of Virtual SANE Training. We look forward to working with the expanded pool of Forensic Educators going forward as SANE Training will continue in a virtual capacity.

Thank you to our educators for sharing their knowledge and expertise!

Linda Reimer - Mackenzie Health, Tara Leach - Perth and Smith Falls District Hospital, Jennifer Keeler - Trillium Health Partners, Michelle Green - WCH, Elena Lonero - Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Jane Lewis - Kingston Health Sciences Centre, Lorena Beaulieu - Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Dale Cornish - Mackenzie Health, Ashley Andrew - Mackenzie Health, Tanya Smith - SickKids

NURSING EDUCATION

Northern Nursing Station Education and Support

The Network received a grant from Indigenous Services Canada to develop training for nurses working at northern Ontario nursing stations to increase the option for the provision of care locally. Three online modules, a resource manual, and a series of webinars have been developed. The three modules were developed and launched officially in February 2022. Nurses working in nursing stations were encouraged to register for the Network's eLearning Platform for access to the modules. Nurses will evaluate the training as well as provide feedback on the resource manual and webinars, which feature a review of the module content. Areas identified as needing improvement will be revised following one year after the module launch. The training will then be provided to the First Nations Indigenous Health Branch-Ontario Region for use on their learning management system.

Program Educator Workshops

Monthly Program Educator Workshops have been established to cover specific nurse orientation topics, as identified through a learning needs survey. Workshops covered forensic photography, head-to-toe assessment and documentation of injuries, forensic evidence collection, vicarious trauma, anogenital examinations, update to Sexual Assault Evidence Kit paperwork, duty to report, strangulation assessment and documentation, and cranial nerve assessment. Speakers ranged from the Network's Forensic Educators, CAS from Peel region, the Centre for Forensic Sciences, and nurses with content expertise from Network treatment centres. Results from a second learning needs survey will inform the planning of workshops in the coming fiscal year.

Sex Trafficking Modules

Work continued on a Sex Trafficking module intended specifically for SA/DVTC clinicians to increase knowledge about sex trafficking. This module will aim to standardize our approach to care for victims/survivors. The module will be made available to all Network clinicians on the eLearning Platform, once developed.

SOCIAL WORKER EDUCATION

As part of an ongoing initiative to support the educational needs of SA/DVTC social workers, the Social Work Community of Practice developed an education plan to address the learning needs of the Network's social workers. From this plan, the following training events were organized.

Transference and Countertransference in Direct Service Work:

Natalie Zlodre M.S.W, R.S.W

Natalie Zlodre, M.S.W., R.S.W., was invited to give a full-day workshop on Transference and Countertransference in Direct Service Work. Natalie Zlodre is the Director of Community Resources and Initiatives, a trauma-informed consulting firm. Her professional focus is in the areas of acute trauma, developmental/complex trauma, and the impact of trauma on professionals and on mental health services. The workshop explored core features of meta-psychological phenomena including transference, projection, projective identification, and countertransference. Case studies from direct service work were used to illustrate the complex dialectic of balancing empathic attunement with experiences of empathic strain. The workshop was well attended with more than two-thirds of the Network's social workers in attendance. Feedback from this workshop was positive and social workers found the skills presented would assist them in their practice.

New Sex Positivity: Safe and Effective Use of Self in Exploring Sex and Sexuality with Survivors of Sexual Violence with Tara McKee, RP

Tara McKee, RP, was invited to give a full-day workshop on Exploring Sex and Sexuality with Survivors of Sexual Violence. The workshop investigated an interconnected approach to supporting those who are exploring sex and sexuality post-trauma. This also included ways for social workers to support themselves and to enhance comfort, knowledge and critical reflection skills around post-trauma intimacy and sexuality.

Several resources such as the presentation slide deck, a glossary of terms, resources lists, diagrams (such as a wheel of consent and a trigger rope map), and tools were shared. The workshop was attended by more than one-third of the Network's social workers and feedback from the session indicated this was a subject for further discussion and exploration.

SOCIAL WORKER EDUCATION

Activating Our Commitment to Anti-Racism - Bringing the Self into Practice with Dr. Harjeet Badwall, PhD

Honoring a commitment to ensure more opportunities were provided for social workers, Dr. Harjeet Badwall was invited back to the Network in a follow-up workshop to her previous sessions. The workshop titled 'Activating Our Commitment to Anti-Racism- Bringing the Self into Practice' explored concepts of anti-racism and interlocking analysis, anti-essentialism (poststructuralism and Critical Race theories), the cultivation of individualism, and critical reflections regarding the notion of the 'self.'

The workshop also included an introduction to Narrative Therapy and how clinicians might construct supportive links between Narrative Therapy and Interlocking Oppression. The workshop concluded with discussions of several case studies and scenarios which were well received. The workshop was attended by more than one-third of the Network's social workers and the feedback was extremely positive. Amongst the feedback, there was a strong interest for more learning opportunities with Dr. Badwall in the future.

Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) Training

Two social workers attended Virtual EDMR training by the Niagara Stress and Trauma Clinic. EMDR is an internationally recognized effective treatment for symptoms of stress and trauma, including PTSD, anxiety, and depression. The virtual program is delivered over eight days consisting of four training 'weekends' of two days each. Given the practical components of the training program, social workers can apply this evidence-based treatment immediately within their practice.

Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing Consultations (EMDR)

The Network continues to provide monthly EMDR consultations, facilitated by Vicki Vopni, to all the Network's EMDR trained Social Workers. Clinicians were invited to self-register for a minimum of two sessions throughout the year. Conducted on Zoom, these sessions offered the opportunity for EMDR-trained social workers to continue to develop their skills and knowledge with this therapeutic intervention.

E-LEARNING PLATFORM

Social Workers Join the Platform

At the start of the year, the Social Work Community of Practice (SWCOP) expressed an interest in having the ability to filter information and resources shared from SWCOP meetings on the Member Area of the Network website. While the website's Member Area was limited in capability, the eLearning Platform was identified as a more secure, organized, and centralized space for the Social Work Community of Practice to share information. The Network's social workers were added to the eLearning Platform in April, where they gained access to a unique user dashboard which features important links, such as the sign-up sheet for EMDR Sessions, and to a group specifically created for the SWCOP where minutes and agendas could be shared. A detailed access manual was created for the social workers on how to navigate and access materials from the Platform.

In addition, The Network's eLearning Platform was leveraged to create a Workshops & Trainings page for the sharing of resources from workshops. The page, sorted by upcoming and past workshops, gives each workshop a designated section and allows a resource to be searched by name or by topic. Resources shared include presentations, handouts, resource manuals, guides, glossaries, and resource lists. Details on how to access this page were added to the social worker's Access Manual.

Feedback on the SWCOP space on the Platform has been extremely positive and has opened discussions for the development of other areas on the Platform to facilitate the sharing of resources.

E-LEARNING PLATFORM

Program Educator Resource Page

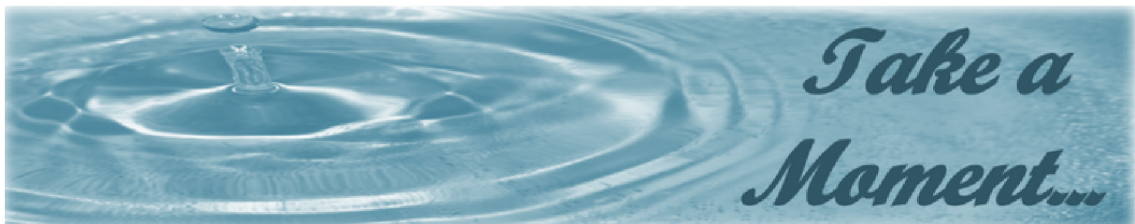
During the previous fiscal year, the Network gathered with programs educators from each treatment centre to establish an orientation plan for nurses. One outcome of the two-day meeting was a request for further support through additional resources. The Network's eLearning Platform was leveraged to create a resource page that educators could access for related materials. The Program Educator Page was organized by nurse orientation topic including, but not limited to forensic photography, trauma informed care and crisis intervention, documentation of injuries, sexually transmitted infections (STI) and pregnancy. Materials shared include those related to workshops (presentations and recordings), policies and procedures, medical directives, a nurse orientation plan, and an orientation checklist. In addition, a manual was created for educators which detailed how to access the resource page on the Platform and obtain materials. Feedback from program educators was incredibly positive who found the page helpful and well-organized.

Network Documentation Page

Increasing the accessibility of documentation tools for Network clinicians, resources available on the Network Website's Member Area were moved to a Network Documentation page on the eLearning Platform. The page is organized by topics such as HIV PEP, Network Documentation Tools, Guidelines, Translated documents (i.e., strangulation and discharge summaries), and pediatric documentation. Each document was assigned a series of tags, which allow items to be searched from within the Platform's search bar, making documents easier to obtain and download. Feedback on this page was extremely positive and opened discussions for an improved public Resource Library on the Network Website.

16

VICARIOUS TRAUMA SUPPORT



In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, vicarious trauma support for program leadership and frontline clinicians included targeted activities. Diana Tikasz continued to facilitate weekly virtual support sessions open to all treatment centre staff called “Pause and Support Time during COVID-19”. A total of five one-hour sessions were offered from April 29 to June 24, 2021. Although the sessions provided small group connections, another approach was taken to reach a broader audience. This included a weekly memo developed by Diana Tikasz, sent via the eLearning Platform, encouraging readers to pause and Take a Moment (title of memo) to reflect on their well-being throughout the day. Lastly, Diana Tikasz developed a two-part Facilitator’s Guide for program leadership to use during team meetings for constructive debriefs. The first half of the Facilitator’s Guide was presented by Diana at the Program Leadership meeting in September 2021, while the second half remains under development.

NETWORK WEBSITE



Over the past year, the Network's Website was updated to include new features and pages to promote awareness of services and accessibility.

Interactive Map of Treatment Centres

To make services more accessible to victims and survivors of sexual assault/domestic violence, an interactive map of all the Network's 37 treatment centres was added to the Find a Centre page on the Network Website. This map includes a distance calculator which can pinpoint the length of time it may take for someone to reach a treatment centre from their indicated location. Each treatment centre and its information can be found within an interactive drop-down menu inside this map.

The previous drop-down list of treatment centres and their contact information is still accessible from this page.

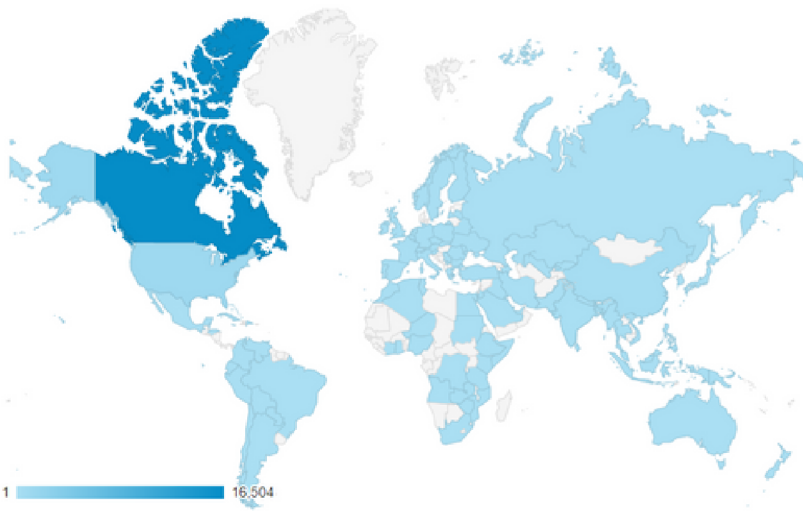
Opportunities Page

To assist with the promotion and outreach of opportunities within and throughout the Network's 37 centres, an Opportunities page was created under the Latest News tab. This page features links to any available job or opportunity as it relates to an SA/DVTC within the Network. In addition to posting opportunities on this page, information is also shared on the Network's social media channels.

Webinars Page

After deciding to record and make the Network's newly developed Strangulation Webinar publicly accessible, the Network's Website was updated to include a Webinars page located under the Network's Training tab. While only one webinar currently exists on this page, future webinars will be shared on the website along with an access form to track users.

NETWORK WEBSITE



Over 23,000 people visited the website, many for the first time.



The Network website is visited by people all over the world.

However, the majority of our visitors are from Toronto.

Top Website Referrals

1.  Organic Google Search
2.  Ontario.ca
3.  Canada.ca

Most Visited Page

'Find a Centre'

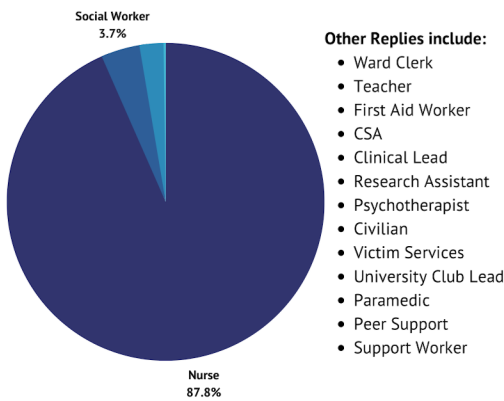


EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TRAINING

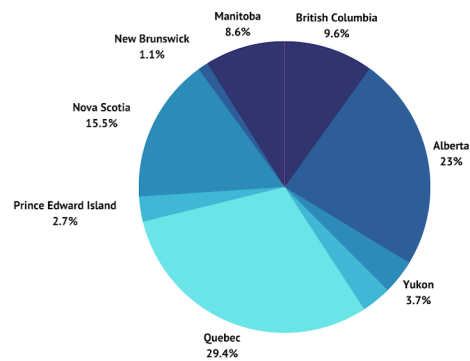
Emergency Department Training

Available on the Network Website, our Emergency Department Staff Training Module provides education and instruction on the care of victims/survivors of sexual assault in emergency departments. The training includes an overview of the established procedures for collaborating with Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre Staff, provincially relevant resources, information on HIV PEP and the Network’s Navigation Line. To date, 917 people have completed this training.

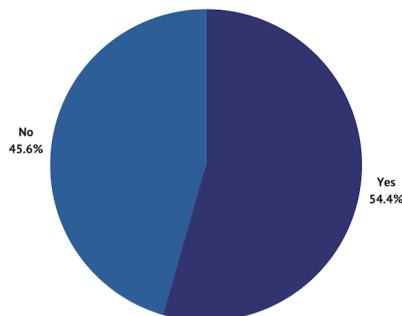
Profession



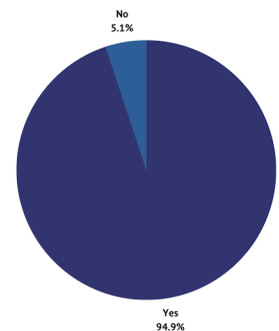
What Province/Territory if not from Ontario?



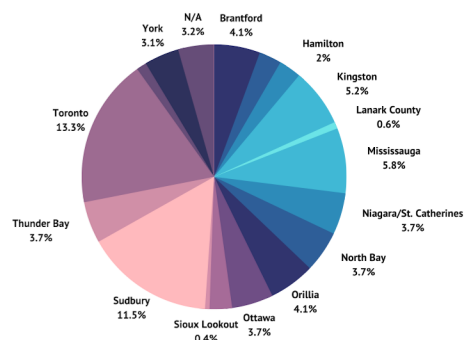
Work in an Emergency Department?

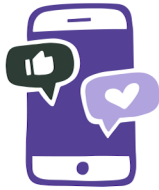


Are you in Ontario?



If you work at an ED in Ontario, what SADVTC is nearest to you?





SOCIAL MEDIA & OUTREACH

The Network participated in several awareness campaigns during 2021-2022. Here are some of the top highlights of the year!

#SexualAssaultAwarenessMonth

The Network took to social media to spread awareness, information, and the resources available to victims/survivors of sexual assault for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Messages of support, retweets from other organizations explaining their services, information, definitions, and infographics were widely shared throughout the month of May.

#DomesticViolenceAwarenessMonth

The Network took to social media to share resources and information for Domestic Violence Awareness month in November. These included messages of support, the sharing of resources across Ontario, and a link to the Network’s newly revamped ‘find a centre’ page.

#ElderAbuseAwarenessDay

Taking part in Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the Network took to social media to share its Violence against Older Women Learning Modules for one week. Highlighting one of five modules each day, posts were shared to the Network’s Twitter and Facebook pages. These modules were developed to focus on the strategies to address violence against older women. The campaign was well received and reached over 200 people on social media.

Social Media Engagement



1,067 total page likes



of those who engage with content are between the ages of 25 and 34



Facebook Posts reached over 4,500 people



9 New Followers



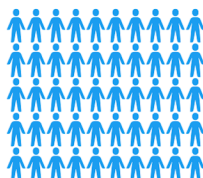
The Network was mentioned 189 times by other accounts



9,000 individuals viewed the Network Twitter account



Network Tweets were seen by users more than 21K times



310 New Followers



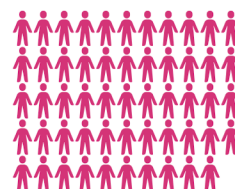
100 Total Likes on Posts



Network posts reached 81 people

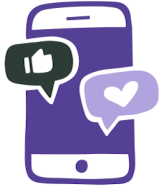


Network Instagram stories have been viewed by over 200 people



65 New Followers

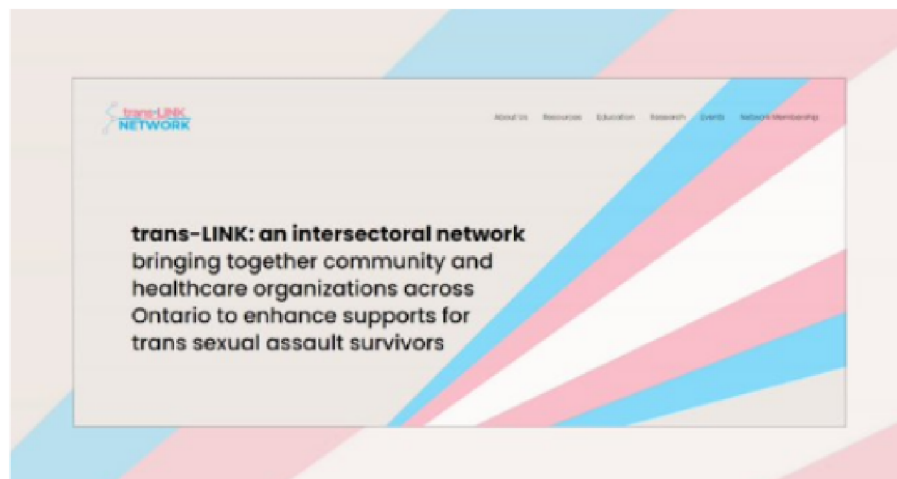
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SOCIAL MEDIA & OUTREACH

TRANSLINK One-Year Anniversary

The Network took to social media to mark the one-year anniversary of the launch of the trans-LINK WebPortal. On March 10th, the following graphic was shared to celebrate its launch.



RESEARCH INITIATIVES

The decades-long partnership between the Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres (SA/DVTCs) and Dr. Janice Du Mont of Women's College Research Institute, Women's College Hospital, has led to many innovations in SANE-led services. Founded on an integrated Knowledge Translation (iKT) approach, the partnership's iterative program of research has advanced knowledge, policy, and practice to optimize care for diverse survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse across Ontario. Integrated KT emphasizes that knowledge users, including Network Program Managers/Coordinators and/or staff, should be involved in all stages of the research process, from initial visioning through to dissemination of the findings. In the past year, this partnership has continued to make significant strides in research in several ongoing projects to enhance the experiences of clients of SA/DVTCs. For a fuller description of the research projects and a list of related publications and products, see: <https://www.sadvtreatmentcentres.ca/research-listing/>

As part of the Ontario Network of SA/DVTCs' commitment to optimize care for diverse survivors of sexual assault, we have continued to develop, refine, and update innovative curricula focused on enhancing the provision of trans-affirming care for sexual assault survivors. The curricula, one for use in-person and the other an e-Learning, are both evidence-informed, competency-based, were developed and evaluated in collaboration with trans community members and their allies, and the findings published in October 2020 in *Nurse Education Today* and October 2021 in *Transgender Health*, respectively.

In the evaluation of the e-Learning, which was overwhelmingly positive, nurse examiners called for us to "r]emove the specifics related to the SANE roll and offer this program for all health care providers. I feel as though many people I work with would benefit from this education to provide inclusive and non judgemental care." Accordingly, the e-learning curriculum was adapted to broaden its applicability to other general healthcare and social service providers. The revisions were based on the qualitative feedback from the evaluation, including further clarifying key terms/definitions, more visual/interactive features, more flexibility in engaging with curriculum content, updating references to research/policy, and further developing case studies and knowledge checks.

This new version of the e-Learning curriculum comprises an introduction, seven lessons, and a conclusion that can be completed as separate modules. Since it was made publicly available on May 11, 2021, on the trans-LINK WebPortal, over 125 learners have accessed the curriculum from around the globe, across a diverse range of professionals and organizations. The updates to the curriculum and its uptake will be shared in an invited Perspective article the journal *Forensic Genomics*. With the goal of expanding the trans-LINK Network to include intimate partner violence, a grant application to support the development of an e-learning on providing trans-affirming care to intimate partner survivors is under review by the Ontario Government.



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RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Mobilizing Partnerships to Advance a Provincial Intersectoral Network on Trans-Affirming Practice to Support Sexual Assault Survivors - the trans-LINK Project

Winter 2022, we prepared a Stage 1 Application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Grant to further build the trans-LINK Network nationally with the goal of connecting hospital-based sexual assault and domestic violence services with community organizations across the country to enhance supports for trans survivors. The proposed national network will include intimate partner violence within its scope and conduct novel research under the leadership of the Ontario Network of SA/DVTCs, trans survivors, and over 40 partnering organizations on: i. the scope of sexual assault and intimate partner violence and contributing factors, ii. disclosure and reporting, iii. accessibility and appropriateness of supports, and iv. quality and implementation of education and training. To advance new and existing research and resources, we have also proposed developing a freely accessible national knowledge hub specifically focused on supporting trans survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence for use by service providers working for and with Ontario's SA/DVTCs and similar hospital-based services in other provinces. As initial steps in this project, we have identified interested trans-affirming hospital-based sexual assault services and community based trans-affirming supports, trans community members, trainees, and academic researchers across Canada; shared the work of the Ontario Network of SA/DVTCs and their partners in the trans-LINK Network to date; and confirmed their commitment to participating in the second stage of the Partnership Grant application if invited (including letters of support).

Strengthening the response to Indigenous survivors of acute sexual assault seeking care at SA/DVTCs

Under the leadership of and in collaboration with the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), we have launched a needs assessment to measure assets and gaps in culturally specific resources, supports, and training as it relates to the provision of care to Indigenous survivors at SA/DVTCs. We finalized a survey in collaboration with the OFIFC in Spring 2020, which included questions about specialized training, resources, culturally specific supports, community consultations, and referral to services that address the unique needs of this group. The survey was made available to all 36 SA/DVTC program leaders over July-August 2020. Data were cleaned and analyzed September-November 2020. A draft containing the data was sent to OFIFC for review and revisions have been suggested.

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LOOKING FORWARD: 2022-2023

In 2022-2023, we will continue with many of the activities of 2021-2022 which support the foundation of Network activities being educational support to our clinicians, research, and community outreach.

We will also increase efforts to support communities locally in the provision of sexual assault care to survivors where geographical distances to our SA/DVTCs is a barrier. This will be done by adapting the Sexual Assault Care in Northern Ontario Nursing Stations online modules to meet the learning needs of community emergency department clinicians.

Enhanced funding requests for nurse staffing to ensure 24-hour services, and where possible, increased service mobility to surrounding emergency departments will also continue.

The five-year Network Strategic Plan will be reviewed and revised by the end of the fiscal year which will include an equity strategy to ensure all our work is reflective of our diverse populations across the province.

Updates will continue to be made to the Network's eLearning Platform to support the educational needs of the Network's clinicians who facilitate care. The Network's website will also undergo updates which will ensure the accessibility of resources for both victims/survivors and healthcare providers through a newly developed resource library.

In an effort to continually standardize care and processes across treatment centres, further work will be done to standardize documentation tools such as the Network's Sexual Assault Documentation, and Domestic Violence Documentation. Guidelines for medical directives and release of information practices will also be explored.

In the coming months, clinicians will continue to be trained and onboarded to the Database ahead of launching at their own SA/DVTC. Continued efforts will be made to obtain signed Data Sharing Agreements from each centre. We anticipate all centres will follow suit in launching the Network Database as their primary statistics reporting method.

As the province adjusts to managing new variants of the COVID-19 virus and the distribution vaccinations, the Network will remain cautious as to in person gatherings, remaining virtual to host meetings and education activities in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. As Ontario adapts to a new 'normal', the Network strives to enhance the capacity for treatment centres to respond to victims/survivors of sexual assault and/or domestic violence. We look forward to the activities of 2022-2023!

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Thank you to all SA/DVTC staff and clinicians for your dedication and commitment to excellent patient care 

- Brantford** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Team, Brantford General Hospital
- Brockville** | Assault Response & Care Centre of Leeds and Grenville, Brockville General Hospital
- Burlington** | Nina's Place, Joseph Brant Hospital
- Chatham-Kent** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre, Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
- Cornwall** | Assault and Sexual Abuse Program (ASAP), Cornwall Community Hospital
- Dryden** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Program, Dryden Regional Health Centre
- Durham Region** | Durham Region Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Care Centre, Lakeridge Health Oshawa
- Guelph** | Guelph-Wellington County Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre, Guelph General Hospital
- Hamilton** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre, McMaster University Medical Centre
- Hawkesbury** | Care Program for Victims of Assault, Hawkesbury and District General Hospital
- Kenora** | Sexual Assault/Partner Abuse Program, Lake of The Woods District Hospital
- Kingston** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Program, Kingston Health Sciences Centre (Kingston General Hospital)
- Lanark County** | Lanark County Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Program, Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital
- London** | Regional Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre, St. Joseph's Hospital
- Manitoulin** | Sexual & Domestic Violence Services - Ka Naad Maa Go, Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
- Mississauga** | Chantel's Place, Trillium Health Partners (Mississauga Hospital Site)
- Niagara Region** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Program, Niagara Health System (St. Catharines General Site)
- North Bay** | Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Program, North Bay Regional Health Centre
- Orangeville** | Headwater Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Care and Treatment Program, Headwaters Health Care Centre
- Orillia** | Regional Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital
- Ottawa** | Sexual Assault Partner Abuse Care Program, The Ottawa Hospital
- Ottawa Pediatric** | Ottawa Pediatric Sexual Assault, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
- Owen Sound** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre, The Grey Bruce Regional Health Centre
- Peterborough** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre, Women's Health Care Centre (Peterborough Regional Health Centre)
- Renfrew County** | Regional Assault Care Program, Renfrew Victoria Hospital
- Sarnia** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Assault Treatment Centre, Bluewater Health
- Sault Ste Marie** | Sexual Assault Care Centre/Partner Assault Clinic, Sault Area Hospital
- Scarborough** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre, Scarborough and Rouge Hospital
- Sioux Lookout** | Sexual Assault Care and Domestic Violence Treatment Program, Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre
- Sudbury** | Violence Intervention & Prevention Program, Health Sciences North
- Thunder Bay** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Program, Thunder Bay Regional HSC
- Toronto** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre Women's College Hospital
- Toronto Pediatric** | Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Program (SCAN), The Hospital For Sick Children
- Trenton** | Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Response Program, Quinte Health Care (Trenton Site)
- Waterloo** | Waterloo Region Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre, St. Mary's General Hospital
- Windsor** | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence and Safekids Care Centre, Windsor Regional Hospital Metropolitan Campus
- York Region** | Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Care Centre, Mackenzie Health