

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



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WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

SHEILA MACDONALD, RN, MN
PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR



In 2024-2025, the ONSA/DVTC finalized and approved the Strategic plan for 2024-2029 which is now available on our website. There are four strategic directions prioritized for the next five years.

They are:

Strategic Direction 1: Enhance Access to Care

Strategic Direction 2: Service and Organizational Excellence

Strategic Direction 3: Enhance outreach and awareness of the Network and SA/DVTC services

Strategic Direction 4: Research and Database Implementation and Utilization

Please read the Strategic plan as our work will be guided by these four areas.

The provincial Navigation Line continues to be a resource for patients/service providers seeking access to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre (SA/DVTC) services. There is an ongoing need to assist patients seeking access to care at the closest SA/DVTC with a nurse available. Thank you to all the nurses across the province who have supported this effort. In addition, our Navigation Line nurses have begun providing guidance and support to service providers when they provide service at the local community hospital or nursing station.

The Ministry of Health has funded the establishment of 6 Regional Nurse Clinical Practice Leaders across the province to provide education and support the SA/DVTCs within the catchment area, as well as training for community Emergency Department clinicians, police services, and other community partners. They will also update or develop standardized training/outreach materials for use by our programs and community partners. These positions will be in place in 2025-2026.

The Ministry of Health has also funded Nurse Team Leader roles for all 37 SA/DVTCs to ensure there is consistent support and leadership for the SA/DVTC clinicians and community partners. These roles will also be in place in 2025-2026.

The SANE online modules (16) have been updated and are available on our learning platform. Completion of these modules are a prerequisite to attending SANE virtual training and are also a resource for all nurses.

Our forensic educators provided a second in-person two-day skills lab training for an additional 15 SA/DVTC program educators in February 2025. The goals of the training were to further develop the skills of program educators as well as to provide guidance and strategies on how to teach the skills to new nurses joining the program.

On November 4 and 5 2024, we held a two day in-person Clinical Education Forum for 185 clinicians from across the province. The theme of the Forum was caring for the Adolescent population following sexual assault/dating violence.

In March 2025, the first two DBT training sessions for the social workers/counsellors were held virtually – led by educators from Equilibrium Mental Health and Wellness. Two additional sessions will be held in 2025-2026 as well as follow up sessions.

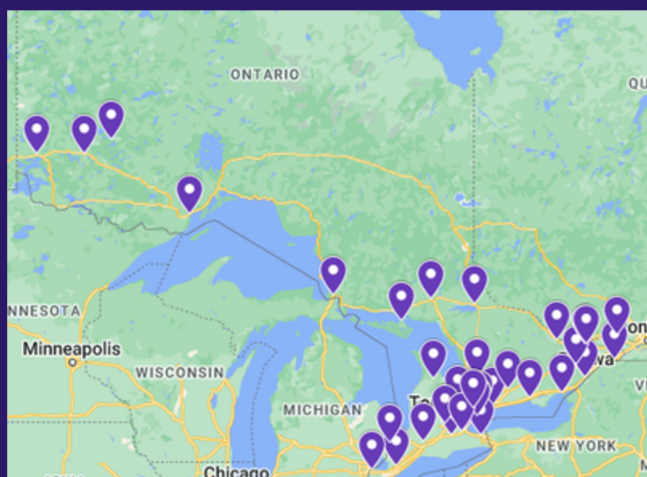
Bi-monthly program leader meetings were held virtually to share information and discuss issues affecting our services and care. At one of our meetings, META PHI (Mentoring, Education, and Clinical tools for Addiction: Partners in Health Integration - a provincial network working with the 80 RAAM clinics across the province), presented about their services and how we could collaborate locally.

All the Network's achievements could not be made possible without the support and leadership from the Network core team as well as the researchers, Advisory Council, Medical Co-Advisors, the co-chairs of the nursing and social work communities of practice, and forensic nurse educators.

Thank you to all the clinicians, program leaders and team members over the years who have worked on our teams. Your contributions have advanced our efforts. And thank you to Women's College Hospital and leadership team for their ongoing support in the administration and management of the Network home base. The Network continues to receive support from the Ministry of Health as its funder. In 2024-2025, the Ministry of Health approved enhanced funding for 12 SA/DVTCs to address nurse staffing challenges as well as additional funding for the Network of SA/DVTCs to support new staff and outreach initiatives.

With the enhanced funds, we will continue to build our capacity and outreach to provide service to survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence wherever they present for care.

Sheila Macdonald, RN, MN
Provincial Director



37 Treatment Centres Across the Province of Ontario.

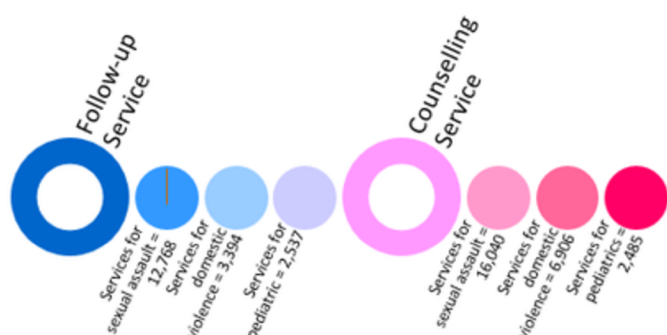
For the list, please visit:

<https://www.sadvttreatmentcentres.ca/get-helpxmap.html>

NETWORK STATISTICS & HIV PEP

As volumes have normalized to pre-pandemic levels over the past 2 years, adaptations continue to prove useful and effective. HIV PEP completion rates remained high with 57.31% completing a full cycle of HIV PEP (fig. 1). When Week 1 attrition is adjusted for, the completion rate is 81.06%.

2024-2025 Follow-Up and Counselling Volumes



HIV PEP User Completion Rates

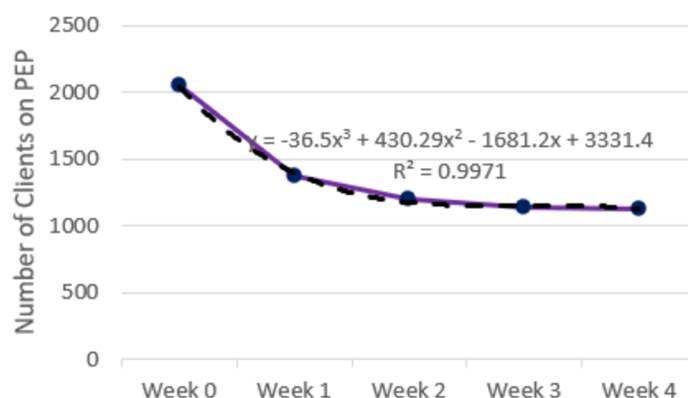


Figure 1. Provincial HIV PEP user completion rates from April 2024 through March 2025. Overall Completion Rate = 57.31%. Completion Rate (after Week 0 to Week 1 attrition) = 81.06%

Categorical Volumes

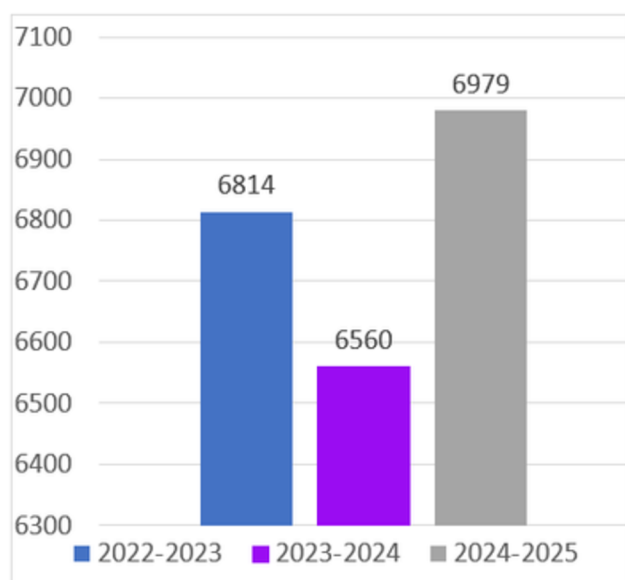


Figure 2. Provincial volumes for sexual assault, domestic violence, and pediatrics (acute and non-acute) reported over a 3-year period.

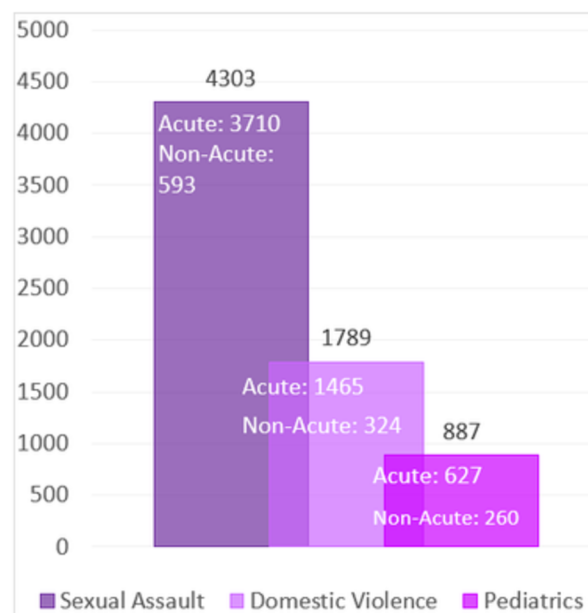


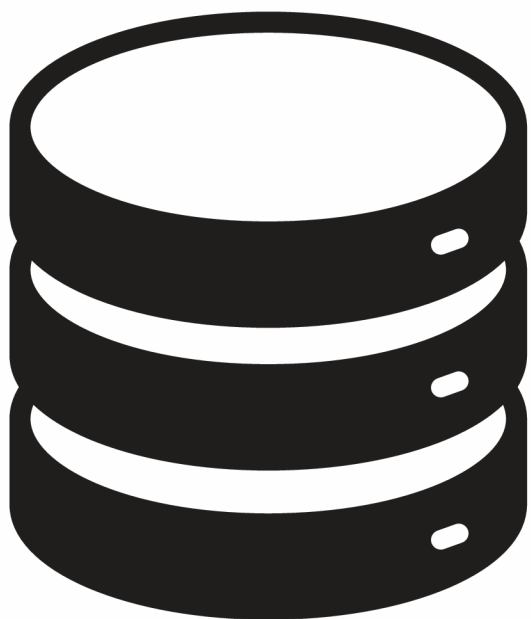
Figure 3. Provincial volumes for sexual assault, domestic violence, and pediatrics in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

NETWORK DATABASE

The Network Database has now been in operation for two years, providing a unified and standardized system for collecting and reporting information on the services delivered by SA/DVTCs across the province. This database represents a significant advancement over the Network's previous quarterly statistical reporting process, offering a far more robust, consistent, and comprehensive data collection method.

The transition from the current reporting mechanism to the Network Database will continue throughout the 2025–2026 fiscal year, depending on the implementation status of each individual centre. This gradual rollout allows for flexibility while ensuring data integrity as centres adapt to the new system. The enhanced reporting capabilities of the Network Database enable the generation of detailed, real-time reports that support both the Network and member centres in understanding client populations, tracking service delivery trends, and informing quality assurance and program development initiatives.

Since its launch in April 2022, 32 centres have signed legal agreements to join and contribute to the Network Database. Of these, 29 centres are actively collecting and reporting information, while 2 are preparing to begin their data collection processes. The remaining 5 centres are currently reviewing the legal agreement. As the transition progresses, the Network continues to provide guidance and technical support to ensure that all participating centres can successfully integrate into the system and maximize the value of the data collected.



PROVINCIAL NAVIGATION LINE

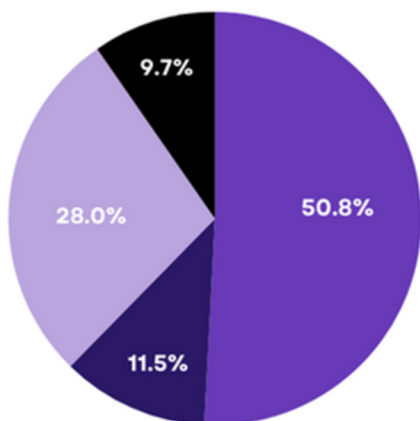
1-855-628-7238

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 be directed to the closest treatment centre in their area or be provided with information. The Line has also been expanded to assist newly hired SA/DV clinicians should they require assistance.

Since its launch in May of 2020, the Navigation Line has received **1,426** calls in total.

SUMMARY OF CALLS

TOTAL CALLS: 1'426



● ANSWERED

● LISTENED TO RESOURCES

A list of resources is provided should a caller not wish to speak with a nurse.

● HUNG UP

● MISSED

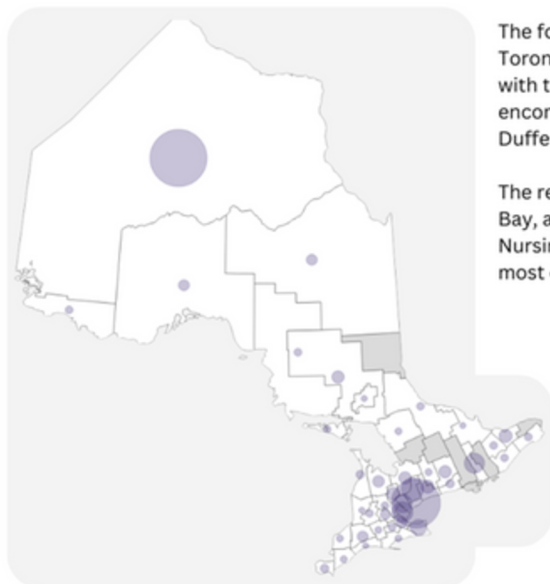
85% of missed calls were followed up with a call back from a nurse. The remaining 15% did not receive a call back, as these callers did not leave a voicemail (to protect caller safety and confidentiality).

CALL IS FROM:



Municipality, Community Member, Neighbour, Volunteer from a Buddhist Temple, Family Health Centre, Hospital Staff Member, A Third Party, Registered Nurse, psychotherapist, University Clinic, Investigator, Student, Lawyer, Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, SheMatters, Victim Services, an educator/presenter, dropped call/no answer, Dispatch, and a Hospital Switchboard

LOCATION:



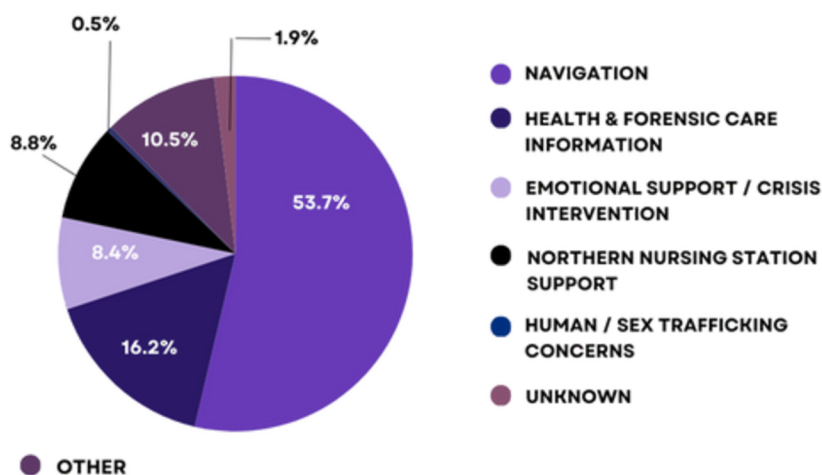
The following map highlights the Greater Toronto Area/Golden Horseshoe as the area with the most calls to the Navigation Line. This encompasses the regions of Toronto, York, Dufferin, Peel, Halton, Hamilton, and Niagara.

The regions of Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, and Cochrane represent Northern Nursing Station calls, who rank second for most calls to the Navigation Line.

Map Excludes:

Four calls from the United States
One call from Prince Edward Island
Two calls from Winnipeg, Manitoba
One call from Halifax, Nova Scotia
Two calls from Quebec
57 calls where location was not disclosed

REASON FOR CALL:

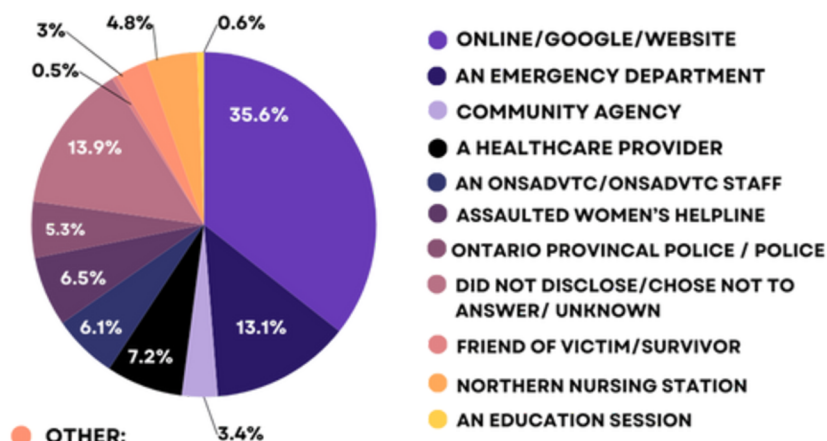


- NAVIGATION
- HEALTH & FORENSIC CARE INFORMATION
- EMOTIONAL SUPPORT / CRISIS INTERVENTION
- NORTHERN NURSING STATION SUPPORT
- HUMAN / SEX TRAFFICKING CONCERNS
- UNKNOWN

OTHER

Investigating how the Nav-Line works, finding housing resources, Elder Abuse Resources, looking for documentation, Advice/help for a friend/family member, clarification of services, information regarding duty to report, SA Counselling services, Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Information, Safety Planning resources, Risk Assessment Tools, Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence concerns, information regarding language accessibility, and change of schedule for SA/DVTC(s).

HOW DID A CALLER HEAR ABOUT THE NAV-LINE?



OTHER:

Women's legal clinic, Kids Help Phone, Previous Use of The Line, Network Team Email Signature, 211, TPS, Patient Relations, Hospital Switchboard, Victim Services, Telehealth, College Course, A Navigation Line Card, Male Survivors Sexual Abuse Support Line, a department email, A Detox Centre, and 511.

CONNECTING NETWORK CLINICIANS

NURSING COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

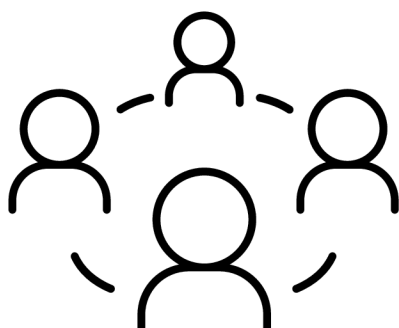
Open to all nurses from the Network's 37 treatment centres, the Nursing Community of Practice (NCOP) met monthly throughout the fiscal year with breaks in July and August. The NCOP co-chairs changed as the two-year term concluded. Meetings continued to be co-chaired by Lisa Shantz, Waterloo, who was joined by new co-chair, Sarah Willert, Hamilton. The NCOP was fortunate to have guest presentations from Heather Howe on Risk Assessment and Safety Planning, Lorena Beaulieu (Network) and Emily Dickson (Network) on Technology Safety Planning, the Centre of Forensic Sciences to review the 2024 SAEK updates and changes, Melissa Dobson and Cassandra Henry, Women's College Hospital, on "The Unconscious Patient", Samantha MacNeill on Sextortion, and Dr. Yusra Ahmed on Trauma & Psychosis: The Complex Considerations in the Acute Care of Sexual Assault.

The NCOP also continued to invite treatment centres to partake in "Spotlight Presentations" at meetings to showcase their centre. Several treatment centres volunteered including Manitoulin, Hamilton, and Kenora.

SOCIAL WORK COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Open to all SA/DVTC social workers, the Social Work Community of Practice (SWCOP) met bi-monthly via Zoom. Jessica Lefebvre, Cornwall, continued to chair the SWCOP until she stepped down midway through the year. The SWCOP was fortunate enough to welcome back two previous co-chairs, Darcy Turner (Women's College Hospital) and Rekha John (Women's College Hospital). They will continue to co-chair over the next fiscal year.

During these meetings, social workers supported each other and explored strategies for navigating 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. Resources, meeting agendas and minutes, recordings and presentations continue to be shared on the eLearning Platform.



NETWORK EDUCATION

Four years following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Network held its first in-person, two-day Clinical Education Forum on the Adolescent Client Population, in Toronto. Network nurses, social workers/counsellors, and physicians, gathered November 3 & 4, 2024 to strengthen responses to provide quality care to adolescent victims/survivors of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.

In total, there were 185 attendees, which included 165 Network clinicians, the core Network team, and speakers.

Practical and clinically relevant information was shared, grounded in evidence-based best practice and lived experience through 18 speakers and panelists.

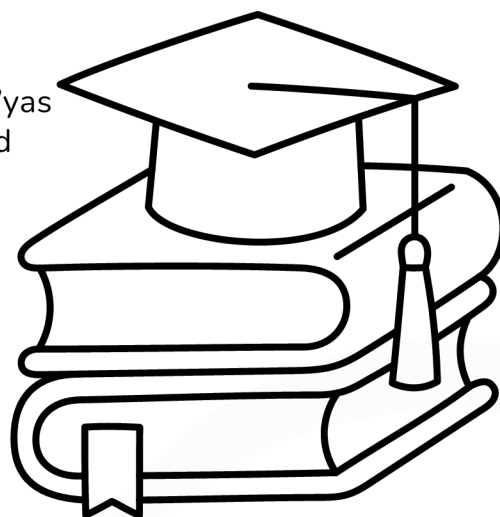
The feedback from the evaluations was overwhelmingly positive. Clinicians indicated their appreciation to learn together in person once again, having the opportunity to meet with folks from other programs and network with colleagues. There was also great feedback regarding the content of the material and engaging speakers.

A special acknowledgement to the Ministry of Health for their financial support of this educational opportunity, and the Planning Committee for their efforts to organize and facilitate the Forum: Tanya Smith (SickKids), Jessie Titterton (Lanark County), Jessica Lefebvre (Lanark County), Beth McAllister (Brantford), Lisa Shantz (Waterloo), Lorena Beaulieu (Network), Emily Dickson (Network), Janelle Noel (Network), Bria Barton-Szydluk (Network), and Sheila Macdonald (Network).

As an ongoing education initiative of the Network's commitment to enhancing collective knowledge and understanding of Indigenous peoples' experience of healthcare and to ensure SA/DV services are provided in a manner that is safe and supports their health and well-being, the Network continued to allocate education funds to support two Indigenous cultural safety trainings offered to all SA/DVTC staff.

The trainings which continued to be offered included the San'yas Anti-Racism Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Program and Cultural Competence in Healthcare Course developed by Ontario Health.

The Network provided salary support for employed casual on-call clinicians who provided a copy of their certificate of completion.



NURSING EDUCATION

VIRTUAL SANE TRAINING

The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training, consisting of 5 days of virtual training, was held every four months. Trainings were provided once weekly over the dates: May 14 – June 18, September 24 – November 12, 2024, and February 11 – March 18, 2025. In total, 65 nurses from across the province attended Virtual SANE Training. Requirements for attendance continued to include completion of program-specific orientation, the Trans-Affirming Care modules, SANE Online modules, and clinical shadowing experience. As an additional resource, nurses were provided with presentations, resources, and assigned homework activities via a Course Package and accompanying course on the eLearning Platform.

Several Network forensic nurses and social workers continued to provide Virtual SANE Training, as well as external guest speakers from the Centre of Forensic Sciences and a Deputy Crown Attorney.

IAFN

The 2024 Virtual International Conference on Forensic Nursing Science and Practice was held in-person in Denver, Colorado, as well as virtually; hosted by the International Association of Forensic Nurses. The Network offered support for up to five nurses per centre to attend the virtual conference, which was available from September 11 – October 10, 2024. IAFN2024 included on-demand sessions featuring audio and slideshow presentations, live events, poster presentations, and exhibits. In total, 60 nurses from various centres attended the training. In addition, several clinicians from the Network presented at the IAFN conference.

SANE ONLINE MODULE UPDATE AND LAUNCH

In June of 2024, the Network relaunched updated SANE Online modules. As part of the Network's aim to standardize nurse orientation, the SANE Online modules provide the knowledge foundation for nurse examiners which is then expanded upon through other eLearning curricula, program-specific orientation and shadowing, and Virtual SANE Training. The SANE Online modules consist of 16 modules which can be freely navigated between modules and returned to upon completion.

Many thanks to the Network's Forensic Educators who worked on the content as it relates to their subject area of teaching at Virtual SANE Training, and to the eLearning developers at Meducom. Efforts to update the modules included new content, links/resources, interactive learning interfaces and knowledge checks.

Feedback received has found the modules informative and engaging.

SANE REFRESHER TRAINING MARCH 25, 2025

The Network held its 3rd virtual SANE Refresher Training Day for nurses who attended SANE training prior to 2022, or who were not SANE trained but have been on the team prior to 2022 and want a refresher. In total, 50 nurses from 25 SA/DVTCs attended the day long training, with the Network providing salary support for those who were employed casual/on-call.

Topics covered included pediatric and adolescent care, physical assessment and documentation, evidence collection, anogenital examinations, STI and pregnancy care, and safety planning. The training also included small group case discussions and tips for testifying.

PROGRAM EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Monthly Program Educator Workshops continued to be held during the fiscal year (with the exception of July and August). These meetings were geared to highlight specific nurse orientation topics, in alignment with the updated core SANE Online modules. Each workshop featured two presentations, one per online module for a brief refresher of the learning objectives for review as well as an opportunity to strategize how to teach or practice each skill within SA/DVTC teams. Resources and materials were then available on the Program Educator page of the eLearning Platform.

PROGRAM EDUCATOR SKILLS LAB TRAINING: NOVEMBER 18 & 19, 2024

The Network held its second in-person, hands-on skills lab training for program educators from SA/DVTCs who did not attend the first training in February 2024. In total, 13 program educators attended the two-day training which was facilitated by four Network Forensic Educators. The training featured three skills labs on anogenital examination, which included assessment and documentation, speculum use, and collection of STI and forensic evidence; strangulation assessment which included assessment and documentation, forensic evidence collection, and discharge instructions; and health and forensic examination which included head-to-toe assessment, documentation of injuries, and forensic photography. There was also a component on day 2 to provide learners with the tools needed to recreate skills lab training within their own programs for adult learners. Separately, a virtual presentation was held on assessing safety and mental health assessments. Feedback gathered from the Skills Lab training was overwhelmingly positive and will be used to enhance future Skills Lab Trainings.

PROVIDING SUPPORTS TO PERSONS SEX TRAFFICKED E-LEARNING CURRICULA

In September 2023, the Network launched the sex trafficking module, titled Providing Care to Sex Trafficked Adolescents and Adults, developed to enhance the knowledge and skill of nurses responding to survivors of sex trafficking. The training was evaluated using pre and post-tests and modifications were made to the module based on the feedback. The Network financially supported Network nurses who worked casual/on-call to complete the training.

In January 2025, the Network launched the adapted modules for social service and mental health providers, specifically for Network social workers/counsellors. The training takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete and is hosted off the Network's eLearning Platform. All Network clinicians are strongly encouraged to complete the relevant training. Following the evaluation by social workers/counsellors, the content will be modified to be made available to the broader community off the ASTER (Addressing Sex Trafficking through Education and Research) website.

SOCIAL WORK 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. From this plan, the following training was organized for 2024-2025.

DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOUR THERAPY

This fiscal year, the Network supported SA/DVTC social workers in accessing an advanced education opportunity in Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) training, provided virtually by Equilibrium Health. The training consists of four-full day sessions delivered over Zoom, with two sessions completed during this fiscal year and the remaining two scheduled for the upcoming year. Following the completion of the four training days, ongoing consultations are planned for the next fiscal year to support skill integration. In total, 52 participants attended the training.

EYE MOVEMENT DESENSITIZATION AND REPROCESSING TRAINING (EMDR)

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 AND REPROCESSING (EMDR) CONSULTATIONS WITH VICKI VOPNI

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. Recently this fiscal year, some sessions were dedicated to specific topics, such as Dissociation and Complex Trauma: Choice Points During Processing, Resourcing, Recent event protocols, Dissociation and Parts (held twice), Intimate Partner Violence, and the Legal System.

ELEARNING PLATFORM

SUMMARY OF ELEARNING PLATFORM FEATURES

Educational Resources

This fiscal year, the eLearning Platform was expanded to include a dedicated Educational Resources page, accessible to Networking Staff (Nurses, Social Workers/Counsellors, Physicians, and other clinical team members). Like the Program Educator Page, this page is organized by the core topics outlined in the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Modules and further incorporates content relevant to social workers and counsellors.

In addition to these topics, the page also hosts materials from Clinical Education Forums, such as presentations and resources, creating a central place for continued learning.

THE NETWORK WEBSITE

WWW.SADVTREATMENTCENTRES.CA

The Network Website continues to serve as a key platform for accessing training, locating services, and finding resources to support the care of those who have experienced sexual assault or domestic violence. Key features include the selection of training modules available, the Find a Centre Map to connect individuals with the closest treatment centre, and the resource library, which houses tools for healthcare providers, community partners, and individuals who have experienced violence.

Website analytics collected from the site's creation to the end of this fiscal year provide valuable insight into how it is being used, mainly identifying areas of greatest interest to visitors. The following charts summarize total website activity for this fiscal year.

Analytic Overview:

NETWORK WEBSITE



The Network Website is visited by people from all over the world. However, the top three are...

- 1) CANADA
- 2) UNITED STATES
- 3) POLAND

Top Website Referrals

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

Most Visited Page

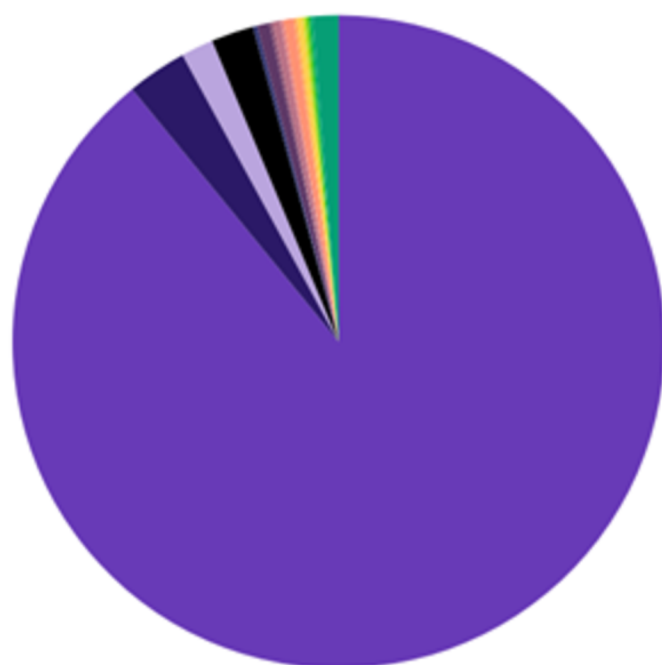
'Find a Centre'



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Available on the Network Website, the 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, 1,896 people have completed this training.

PROFESSION:

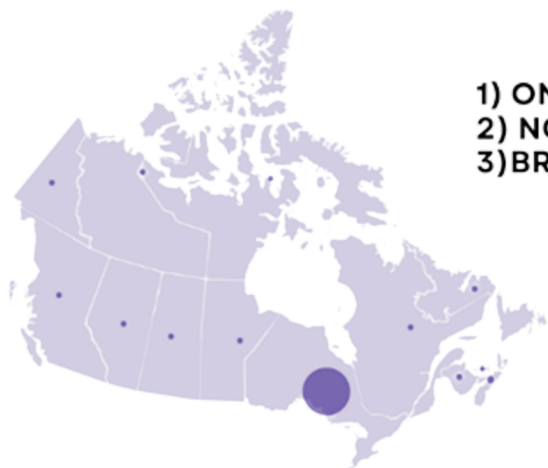


OTHER (1.3%):

First Aid Instructor, Research Assistant, CSA, Teacher, Civilian, Laborer, Social Services, Life Coach, Police Services, Security, Patient, Unit Care Aid, Senior Orthopedic Technologist, RPN, Legal, Medical Radiation Technologist, Mental Health/Addictions Professional, Cleaner, Chief Patient Experience Officer, Administration, Human Resources, and Peer Mental Health/Harm Reduction.

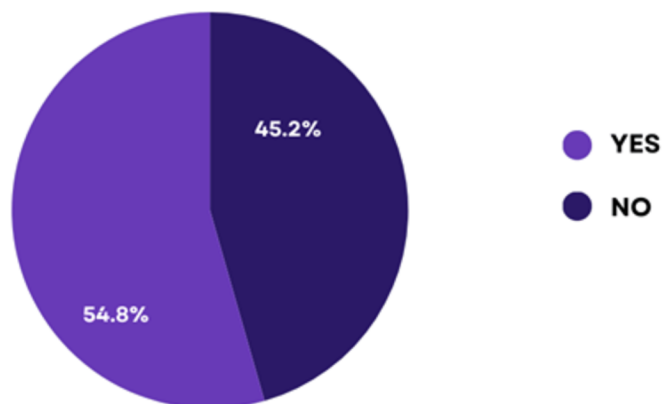
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TRAINING

LOCATION: IN CANADA

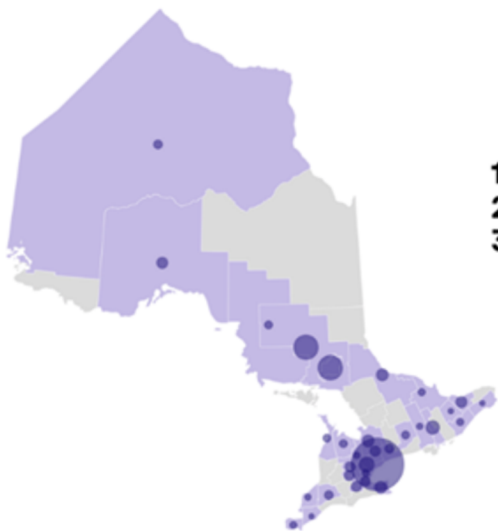


- 1) ONTARIO
- 2) NOVA SCOTIA
- 3) BRITISH COLOMBIA

DO YOU WORK IN AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT?



LOCATION: IN ONTARIO



- 1) TORONTO/GTA
- 2) SUDBURY
- 3) KINGSTON

SOCIAL MEDIA & OUTREACH

The Network participated in several awareness campaigns during 2024-2025. Here are some of the top highlights of the year!

AWARENESS MONTHS

#SEXUALASSAULTAWARENESSMONTH

The Network utilized 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.

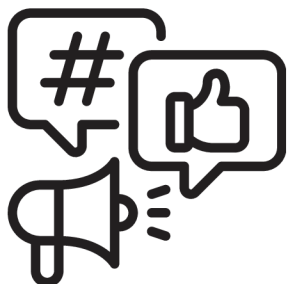
As part of Sexual Assault Awareness month, the Network participated in a booth event held in the lobby of Women's College Hospital with several other organizations. This event provided an opportunity to engage directly with members of the public and connect with other community partners. Through in-person conversations, we were able to raise awareness about the Network's 37 treatment centres across the province and their services. The event also served as a platform to promote broader awareness and understanding of sexual assault and domestic violence.

#DOMESTICVIOLENCEAWARENESSMONTH

The Network shared 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 'find a centre' page.

#ELDERABUSEAWARENESSDAY

Taking part in Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the Network shared its Violence against Older Women Learning Modules for one week. Highlighting one of five modules each day, posts were shared to the Network's X and Facebook pages. These modules were developed to focus on the strategies to address violence against older women.



SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

@SADVTC



FACEBOOK



30 Page Likes



Those who engage with content are between the ages of 24 and 54



Posts reached over 1.5 K people



10 New Followers



INSTAGRAM



Posts were seen by over 500 people



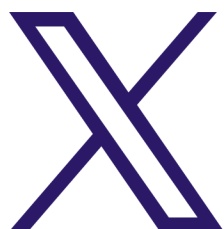
Those who engage with content are between the ages of 24 and 54



201 Profile Visits



44 New Followers



**(FORMERLY
TWITTER)**



Over 231 Interactions



Posts were seen by over 300 people



103 New Followers

THE LINK: THE NETWORK'S INTERNAL NEWSLETTER



In September, the Network launched The Link, a monthly internal newsletter distributed to all Network staff members. The newsletter was created to strengthen communication, share information, and to keep staff connected across the province.

Each issue includes reminders, updates, and awareness pieces relevant to clinical practice and the work being done across the province. The Link also features “Mindful Minutes”, focused on staff wellness and addressing vicarious trauma, and “Heart Warming Headlines”, where centres can share recent successes. There is also “What’s on Your List,” section where staff can share personal recommendations, such as podcasts, books, or creative ideas for others to enjoy. With aims to further build a sense of community amongst treatment centres, the newsletter also highlights upcoming events, educational opportunities, and community resources.

Feedback on the newsletter has been positive and the Network plans to continue the newsletter into the next fiscal year.

RESEARCH

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 Innovation 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 sex trafficking, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse across Ontario. iKT emphasizes that knowledge users, including Network Program Managers/Coordinators and/or staff, should be involved in different 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.

MOBILIZING PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE A NATIONAL INTERSECTORAL NETWORK ON TRANS-AFFIRMING PRACTICE TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE - THE TRANS-LINK CANADA NETWORK

Under the co-leadership of the Ontario Network of SA/DVTCs, trans and gender diverse survivors, and over 60 other partnering organizations, we have secured a 7-year SSHRC Partnership Grant to further grow the provincial trans-LINK Network with the goal of connecting Ontario's SA/DVTCs with hospital-based violence treatment services and community organizations across the country to improve sexual assault and intimate partner violence care. We have been advancing collaborative research focusing 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 initiatives.

To advance new and existing research and resources, we have developed a freely accessible national knowledge hub specifically focused on supporting trans and gender diverse survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence for use by policy-makers, healthcare, community, and social service organizations, and service providers working for and with Ontario's SA/DVTCs and similar hospital-based services in other provinces.

This past year additional activities have included:

- building the national network to almost 300 partner organizations;
- hosting 5 regional planning meetings across Canada in May 2024 with peer leader advisors, partner organizations, and academic team members to share perspectives and experiences on supporting trans and gender diverse survivors of intimate partner violence and/or sexual assault and identify ways in which a national network might support organizations and service providers in their work;

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- developing a national survey exclusively dedicated to studying intimate partner violence and/or sexual assault against trans and gender diverse persons by reviewing the grey and academic literature, including the TransPULSE survey, Transgender Health Survey, and General Social Survey on Victimization, and collecting 300+ potential survey items in a question bank;
- completing 24 interviews with trans and gender diverse survivors of gender-based violence on their experiences of accessing supports; and
- initiating an environmental scan focused on Canadian University trainings on sexual assault and intimate partner violence and their inclusion, or lack thereof, of relevant trans and gender diverse content.

ENHANCING TRANS-AFFIRMING CARE FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SURVIVORS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN E-LEARNING CURRICULUM FOR SA/DVTC STAFF AND OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE PROVIDERS

As part of the Ontario Network of SA/DVTCs' commitment to optimize care for diverse survivors of violence, we have undertaken a 3-year project, funded by the Government of Ontario, to develop, implement, and evaluate an innovative e-learning curriculum focused on enhancing the provision of trans-affirming care for survivors of intimate partner violence. The approximately 1.5 hour e-learning curriculum, developed in Articulate 360 Storyline, is asynchronous, accessible on multiple devices, narrated, and closed captioned. From November 2024-January 2025, the curriculum was implemented in our learning management system Docebo among SA/DVTC network professionals. A total of 135 professionals completed the evaluation components of the curriculum, 41% of whom were aged 35-49 years and 98% women. Half (47%) had provided care to a trans and gender diverse client who had experienced intimate partner violence. Expertise improved significantly from pre-to post-training, as did knowledge and skills across all five learning domains: Definitions and Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence, Impacts of Intimate Partner Violence, and Barriers to Seeking Help, Repeat Victimization, Providing Support, and Vicarious Trauma. This curriculum, which will be made freely available across Canada, will have the potential to enhance care for trans and gender diverse intimate partner violence survivors in Ontario and beyond, ensuring that survivors can access affirming, quality care that honours who they are as trans and gender diverse people.

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ENHANCING CARE FOR DOMESTICALLY SEX TRAFFICKED SURVIVORS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF E-LEARNING CURRICULA FOR SA/DVTC STAFF

With partial funding support from the HART (Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team), we developed Providing care to sex trafficked adolescents and adults: An e-Learning curriculum for forensic nurses. The e-learning curriculum was designed with insights from an advisory group of experts with personal and professional experience in sex trafficking, developed using Storyline 360 by Articulate with interactive features and an inviting interface, and shared through our learning management system. The curriculum was evaluated among our nurses from September 2023 to March 2024: 188 nurses completed the curriculum. Expertise improved significantly from pre- to post-training, as did knowledge and skills across all six domains: Understanding the Issue, Initial Assessment, Medical Examination and Treatment, Discharge, Follow-up, and Resources. This past year, findings from this evaluation have been written up for publication in an open access journal from which, once published, they will be available to researchers, service providers, and policy makers worldwide.

A separate 2-hour curricula, Providing supports to persons sex trafficked: An e-learning curriculum for social service and mental health providers was developed and launched over the past year, and is currently being evaluated with our social work and social service providers.

PERCEPTIONS AND CAPACITY TO RESPOND OF PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKED PERSONS IN CANADA

With the support of the HART, we launched a national survey to better understand the training needs, identification practices, and knowledge about those who have been domestically sex trafficked among healthcare, community, and social service providers, educators, and police. The survey was informed by a scoping review of literature and findings from in-depth interviews with social service and healthcare providers in Ontario, with validated measures used to capture relevant training and expertise on sex trafficking and perceptions of and capacity to respond to sex trafficking. The survey was piloted among nine front-line police, educators, social service, and healthcare professionals and revised based on feedback. The survey was disseminated via social media and professional associations and organizations between February to August 2023. The findings, which have been presented at several conferences in the past year and will be shared in four open-access reports currently under development, have implications for improving our and others' responses to sex trafficked persons.

Please refer to Appendix A for a full list of research projects.

For more information and to access the following resources, please visit www.translinknetwork.ca and www.asterforchange.com

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2025-2026, we will continue to build our capacity as a Network and as individual programs with the enhanced funding received from the Ministry of Health in alignment with our Strategic Plan for 2024-2029.

Our Regional Clinical Leads will be in place in the fall of 2025 and we will develop an action plan to enhance support, training, and program development regionally and in a standardized way. With dedicated Team Lead positions in all programs, and more stabilized nurse staffing, we will be able to build our internal capacity as programs, which will increase our ability to provide outreach, awareness of our services, and be a resource for community partners.

Access to care for victims/survivors wherever they present is essential and we will enhance efforts to support communities locally in the provision of sexual assault/domestic violence care to survivors where geographical distances to our SA/DVTCs is a barrier.

We will also continue to support advanced training for our social workers/counsellors to provide them with the most current therapeutic interventions for our clients.

The implementation of the REDCap database is an ongoing priority and more SA/DVTC programs have signed the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) and clinicians are being onboarded. At the same time, once data quality is confirmed by our data analyst, SA/DVTC programs can cease reporting their data in excel and only use REDCap.

In October 2025, we will be holding our next in-person clinical education forum! It will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Toronto on October 27th and 28th, and the theme will be SA/DVTC Safety and Care: Enhancing Responses for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence.





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

Thunder Bay | Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

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

APPENDIX A

- Coelho, M., Toccalino, D., Kosa, S.D., Parsons, M., Macdonald, S., & Du Mont, J. (2025, January). trans-LINK Canada Network: Meeting Brief, Northern Canada.
- Coelho, M., Toccalino, D., Waynest, G.K., Crowley, C., Early, S., Olofsson, S., Macdonald, S., & Du Mont, J. (2025, February). trans-LINK Canada Network: Meeting Brief, West Coast.
- Du Mont, J., Kosa, S.D., Montemurro, F., Macdonald, S., Mason, R. (2024, August 24-28). Impact of an e-learning curriculum on nursing capacity to provide care to domestically sex trafficked persons. Short communication. Paper presented at AMEE 2024, The International Association for Health Professionals Education, Basel.
- Fan, S., Kosa, S.D., Quayyum, F., MacNeill, S., Macdonald, S., Mason, R., & Du Mont, J. (2024, April 18). Police describe the challenges in aiding domestically sex trafficked persons [Poster Presentation]. Women's College Hospital's Day of Excellence in Academics, Toronto.
- Fan, S., Kosa, S.D., Quayyum, F., MacNeill, S., Macdonald, S., Mason, R., & Du Mont, J. (2024, April 11). Educators describe their challenges in aiding domestically sex trafficked persons [Poster presentation]. Bachelor of Health Sciences 2024 Poster Day, Hamilton.
- Fan, S., Kosa, S.D., Quayyum, F., MacNeill, S., Macdonald, S., Mason, R., & Du Mont, J. (2024, April 18). Police describe the challenges in aiding domestically sex trafficked persons [Poster Presentation]. Women's College Hospital's Day of Excellence in Academics, Toronto.
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- Toccalino, D., Jonsa, S., Yakubovich, A. R., Davies, A., Kosa, S. D., Kelly, C. E., Macdonald, S., & Du Mont, J. (2025). Building knowledge to improve access to inclusive and equitable care for trans and gender-diverse survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence: A qualitative research protocol. *BMJ Open*, 15(2), e090388.
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- Wang, A., Toccalino, D., Coelho, M., Kosa, S.D., & Du Mont, J. (2024, July 25). The trans-LINK Canada project: Partnering to create and exchange knowledge on supporting transgender and gender diverse survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. Presented at Summer Student Research Day, Women's College Research and Innovation Institute, Toronto.
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