

Satisfaction with

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (SA/DV) TREATMENT CENTRES IN ONTARIO

BY DISABILITY STATUS



REASON
for VISIT
to SA/DV Treatment
Centre

73%

Sexual Assault
(includes by an
intimate partner)

26%

Domestic
Violence



1 in 5

women and adolescent girls presenting
to SA/DV Treatment Centres lived with
at least **ONE** disABILITY

WOMEN
LIVING WITH DISABILITIES
WERE OVERWHELMINGLY
PLEASED WITH CARE
AT SA/DV TREATMENT CENTRES

96% felt safe during their visit

96% felt they were treated with
respect

97% rated overall care as
Excellent or Good

96% would recommend
the service they
received

MORE LIKELY TO SUSTAIN

PHYSICAL INJURY

DURING ASSAULT:



women living
WITH
disABILITIES



women living
WITHOUT
disABILITIES

The most commonly cited concerns for victims
of SA/DV seeking treatment were:

PRIVACY

"...coming through the Emergency Department
was unnerving...a separate entrance would
have been appreciated"

WAIT TIMES

"It took a long
time for someone
to help me"

DISCRETION

"nurses knew what happened and
gave me the pity look"



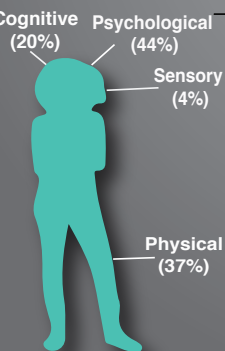
Only $\frac{1}{2}$ of women living with disABILITIES were
ACCOMPANIED to a SA/DV treatment centre



Women living with disABILITIES were more likely to be
vulnerable and socially isolated:

unemployed
lack support from
friends and family
separated
older
widowed
living alone
divorced
homeless

21% of these
women
reported
living with
multiple
disABILITIES.
The most
common
combination
was
**PSYCHOLOGICAL
AND
PHYSICAL**



More than **1 in 5** women seeking care following abuse have reported living with at least one type of disability. These women may have unique needs. It is critical as a provider of health services for women who have experienced abuse to consider the following:

Conduct

- ✓ Have you been trained to identify, assess and manage psychological issues that may range in severity?
- ✓ Have you been trained to work with women living with physical, sensory, and/or cognitive disabilities?
- ✓ Are you aware of the proper etiquette for working with service animals?

Environment

- ✓ Is the building accessible?
(e.g. step free access/ramps, automated door opening, floor indicators)
- ✓ Is the space manoeuvrable?
(e.g. surrounding objects detectable by those using a cane, uncluttered spaces)
- ✓ Are there specialized examination tables?
- ✓ Are Teletypewriters (TTY) on site?
 - Have you been trained on the appropriate use of a TTY?
- ✓ Have you been trained in the use of the Bell Relay Service (BRS)?
 - Are you aware of the BRS phone number?

Resources

- ✓ Is there access to a mental health professional?
- ✓ Is there access to an ASL interpreter?
- ✓ Are materials available in alternate formats/methods?
(e.g. large print, braille, raised letters, readers)
- ✓ Are you aware of community-based disability related services?

To learn more about providing services to survivors living with disabilities, visit the "Resources for Service Providers" section of our website at www.sadvttreatmentcentres.ca



Scan the QR code with
your phone for more
information and resources

ENABLED

WCH Du Mont J, Macdonald S, White M and Turner L. (2013). 'She was truly an angel': Women with disabilities' satisfaction with hospital-based sexual assault and domestic violence services. *Journal of Forensic Nursing*; 9(3).

