Echo from the Chair

July 2013 Number 1

Martine Hébert & Mireille Cyr

- The Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent (CEMV) offers services for children aged 12 and under who are victims of sexual abuse.
- The Marie-Vincent Interuniversity Chair conducts a research program related to the CEMV's clientele that aims to:
  - Evaluate the needs and capacities of children and their families;
  - Evaluate the services offered at the CEMV;
  - Study the different developmental trajectories of children.

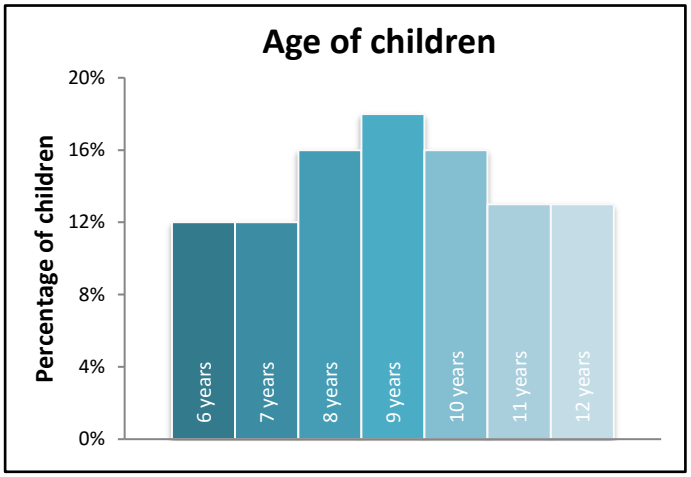
FONDATION MARIE-VINCENT

CENTRE D'EXPERTISE MARIE-VINCENT

Who are the school-aged children attending the Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent?

One hundred seventy-seven (177) sexually abused children have been met in a pre-treatment evaluation, during the first five years of the Centre's service.

Girls	**68%**	*The Centre receives more girls than boys. Studies indicate that girls are more often victims of sexual abuse than boys.*
Boys	**32%**	



The mean age of children met for pre-evaluation treatment is 9 years.

49%

• of mothers reported a history of child sexual abuse

Marie-Vincent Interuniversity Chair on sexual abuse towards children

Mireille Cyr, Ph.D.
Université de Montréal
Department of Psychology
TEL: (514) 343-5968
mireille.cyr@umontreal.ca

Martine Hébert, Ph.D.
Université du Québec à Montréal
Department of Sexology
TEL: (514) 987-3000 ext. 5697
hebert.m@uqam.ca

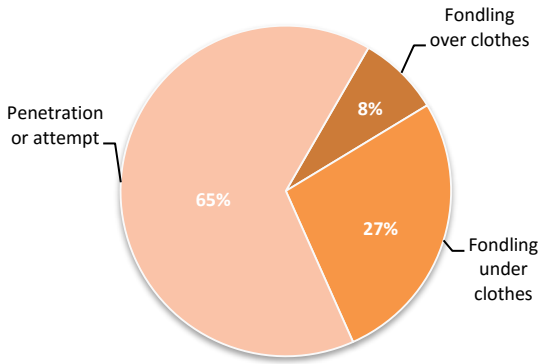
Mélanie M. Gagnon, Ph.D.
Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent
TEL: (514) 285-0505
melanie.gagnon@ceasmv.ca

Marie-Vincent Foundation
http://marie-vincent.org/

Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent
http://www.ceasmv.ca/

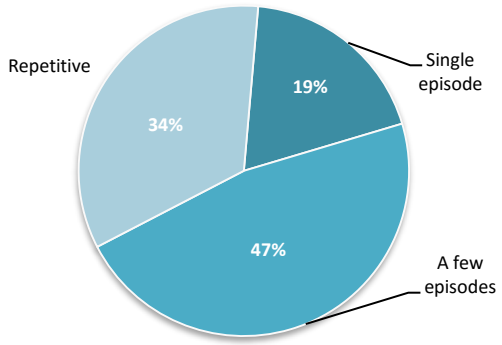
What are the characteristics of the sexual assaults?

Severity of the sexual abuse



Two-thirds of children attending CEMV experienced severe gestures, such as attempted penetration, digital, vaginal or anal penetration, or oral-genital contacts.

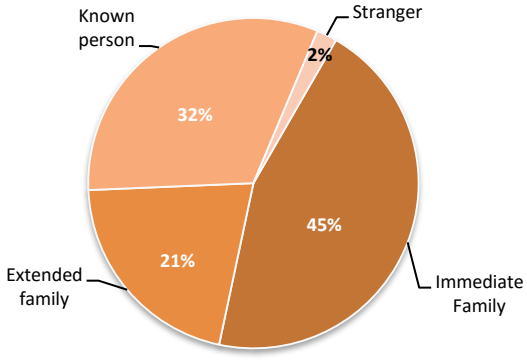
Duration of the sexual abuse



Almost half of the children experienced a few episodes of sexual abuse.

One-third experienced repetitive sexual assaults. For the latter, the sexual abuse lasted on average a little more than 2 years.

Identity of the perpetrator



In almost all cases, the perpetrator is someone who is known by the child or the family. For two in three children, the perpetrator is a member of their immediate or extended family. Only a very small proportion of cases implicate a stranger.

" According to the collected data, children experienced their first episode of sexual abuse between the ages of 2 and 12. On average, they were 6½ years old at the time of the first episode. "