

Wexford Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service



Annual Report 2015

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Registered Charity Number: CHY 124 20

Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Services

Chairperson's Report for 2015

1. The operation of the Board

Since the AGM held on 11th June the board has met seven times. Four new directors have joined the board: John Cuddihy, Christine Hore, Laura Lawlor and Mairead Sinnott. We now have in place a strong board of eight directors with a range of skills and experience.

2. Corporate Governance

A Charities Regulator was appointed last year. As a registered charity Wexford RSASS is obliged to comply with the governance code for charities. We supplied all the necessary information by the deadline of 16th April 2016.

On foot of the introduction of the new Companies Act, we have amended our Memo and Articles. The changes have been approved by the Revenue Commissioners.

3. Our operating environment

Changes made to national organisational structures have created a clearer and more supportive operating environment.

3.1 TUSLA

Our funding agency TUSLA has now put in place a new structure for dealing with sexual and domestic violence. Anita Clancy Clarke, formerly manager of the Tipperary RCC, is now our point of contact in her role as one of two regional co-ordinators for Sexual Violence support services.

In 2015 TUSLA commissioned the consultants, PROSPECTUS, to review current service delivery and propose a revised model. This was also in the context of a framework for the commissioning of services. It was anticipated that this approach might be deferred to a later date.

3.2 The role of the Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI)

The RCNI is no longer funded to maintain the data base for the sector; this may be undertaken by TUSLA. RCNI will continue to provide us with guidance on legal matters.

3.3 The Managers' Forum

Over the last year this forum has been even more useful for the review of issues of interest to all centres.

4. Centre operation

During the last year there have been a number of notable developments in the Centre, driven by the Manager and the team of counsellors:

- The Centre's policies and practices have been reviewed and amended to ensure that they comply with current best practice.
- A new clinical supervisor has been appointed for group and individual work. At the same time a new approach to clinical supervision was introduced which is designed to ensure that the communication loop includes the Centre Manager. Our approach has been endorsed by TUSLA.
- The recruitment of part-time self-employed counsellors in Gorey, Wexford and Enniscorthy means that we can better meet the demand for our services.
- An extensive training programme has been provided for staff. Where appropriate, training opportunities have also been made available to other groups in Wexford e.g. a workshop on Clinical Responses to Complex Trauma run by Felicity Kennedy.
- Our research project on the sexual behaviour and attitudes of young people in Wexford was successfully completed by the research team of Dr. Kathy Walsh and Brian Harvey. The report has been published and feedback has been provided to the schools and youth groups who participated. The research team also completed a specific piece of additional work in relation to the travelling community. At every appropriate opportunity we are trying to implement the recommendations of the research.
- Through the partnership and collaboration of the Rape Crisis Centres of Ireland, The Manuela Riedo Foundation devised a comprehensive evidence informed education programme aimed at Transition Year Students for sexual violence prevention. The development of this programme continues into 2016 and Wexford R&SASS will be one of the centres to pilot the programme.

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5. Thanks

On behalf of the board I would like to thank Clare Williams, our manager who has maintained a strong focus on the professional development of our services and on strengthening liaison with the network of related organisations in Wexford and nationally.

I would like to thank our team of counsellors who have worked very effectively and enthusiastically with Clare to ensure that our services continue to meet the needs of our clients.

In December 2015, two of our counsellors – Eleanor Doyle and Imelda Duggan-retired. I would like to thank them for their commitment and to acknowledge their notable contribution to the Centre.

On behalf of the board I would like to thank Rowena Ross, Billy Sweetman and Lisa Cliffe of PWC for their support and advice this year. I would also like to thank our volunteer Freda for her enthusiastic support.

Catherine Stack and Ellen Crickley retired from the board during the year. I would like to thank them for their invaluable contribution to the organisation. Their commitment was unstinting and their advice was always pertinent. Finally I would like to thank my fellow directors whose experience, dedication and enthusiasm have been invaluable in overseeing the continuing, successful development of this organisation.

Mary Gallagher, Chairperson, Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service.

Manager's Report 2015:

• **Clients/Counselling Service:**

Referrals:

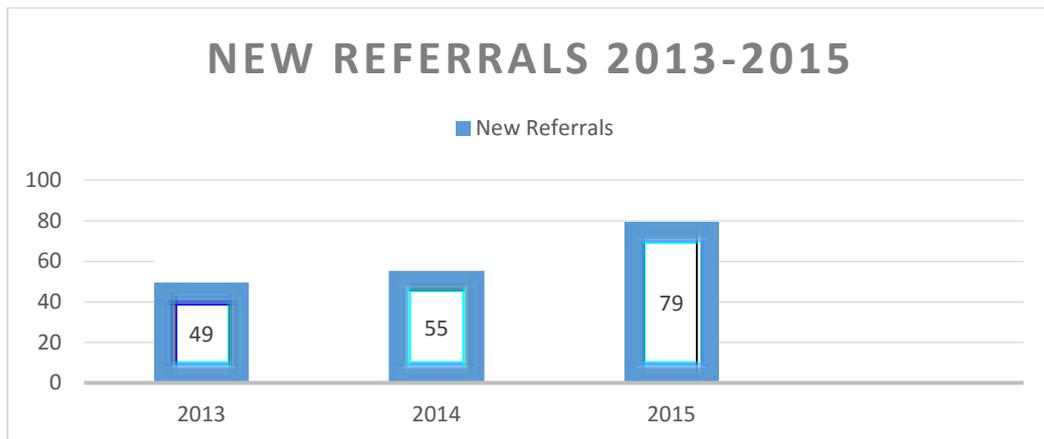
There were **79** new referrals in 2015, **70** female and **9** male.

- 41 from Wexford
- 25 from Gorey
- 10 from Enniscorthy
- 3 from New Ross.

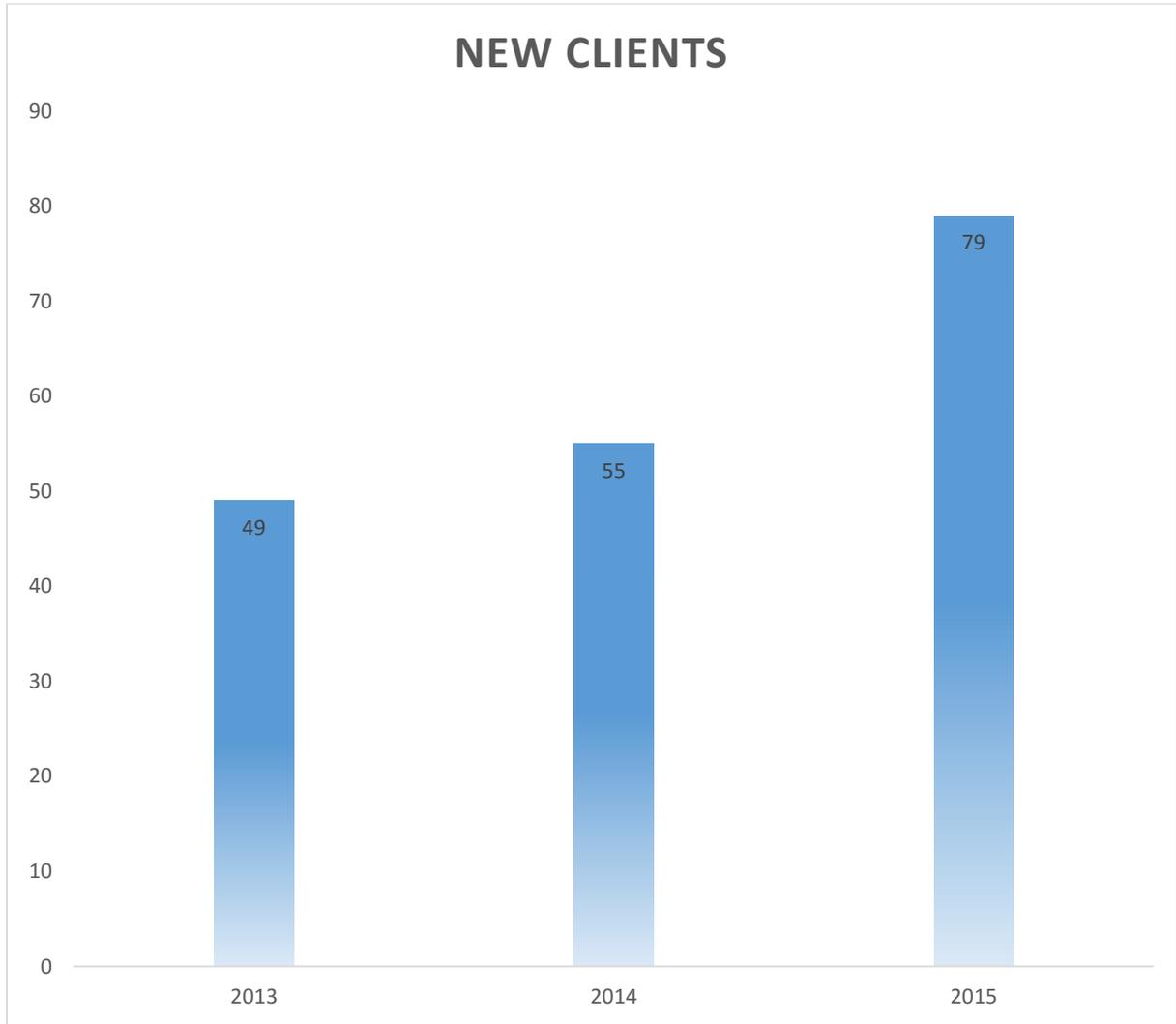
Out of the **79** referrals, **4** were minors and **2** had an intellectual disability.
Out of the **79** referrals, **74** were survivors and **5** were supporters.

There was on average **38** clients weekly attending for counselling during 2015.

Referrals over past 3 years, 2013-2015:



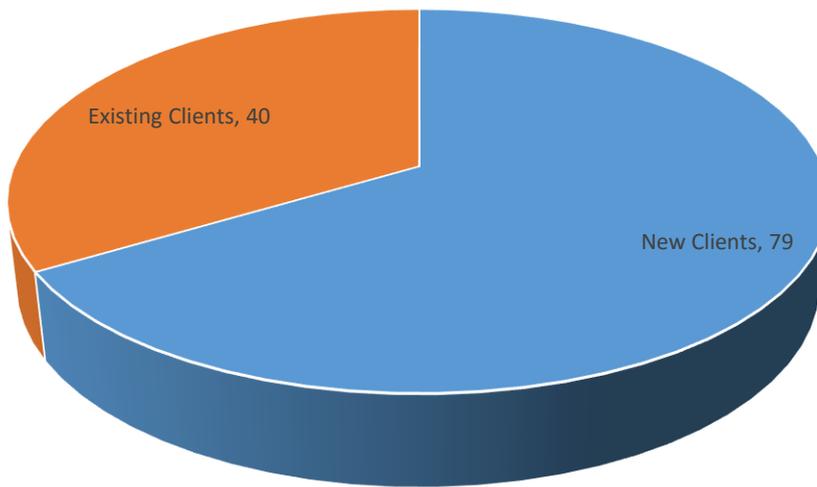
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New Clients – 2013	49
New Clients – 2014	55
New Clients – 2015	79

Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service

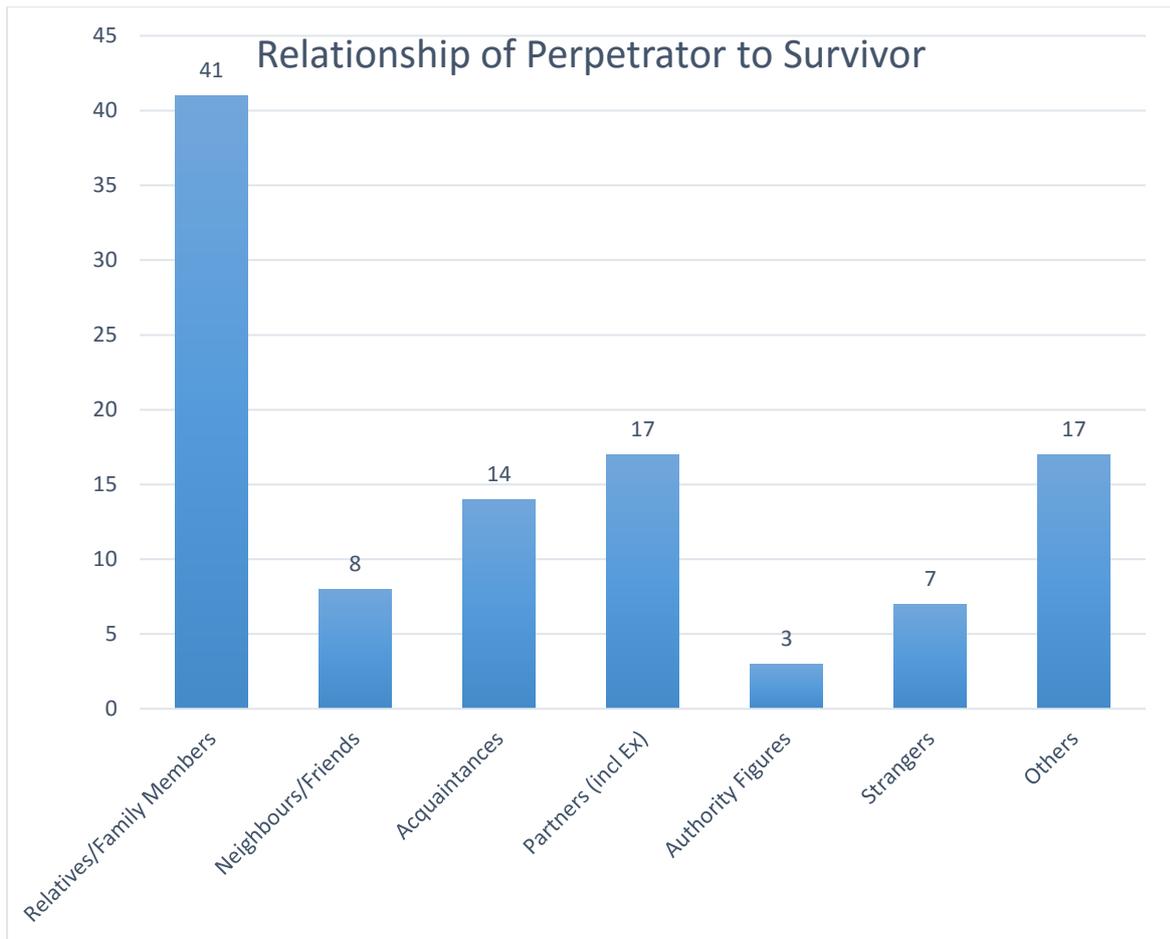
No. of Clients



(above figures includes survivors also)

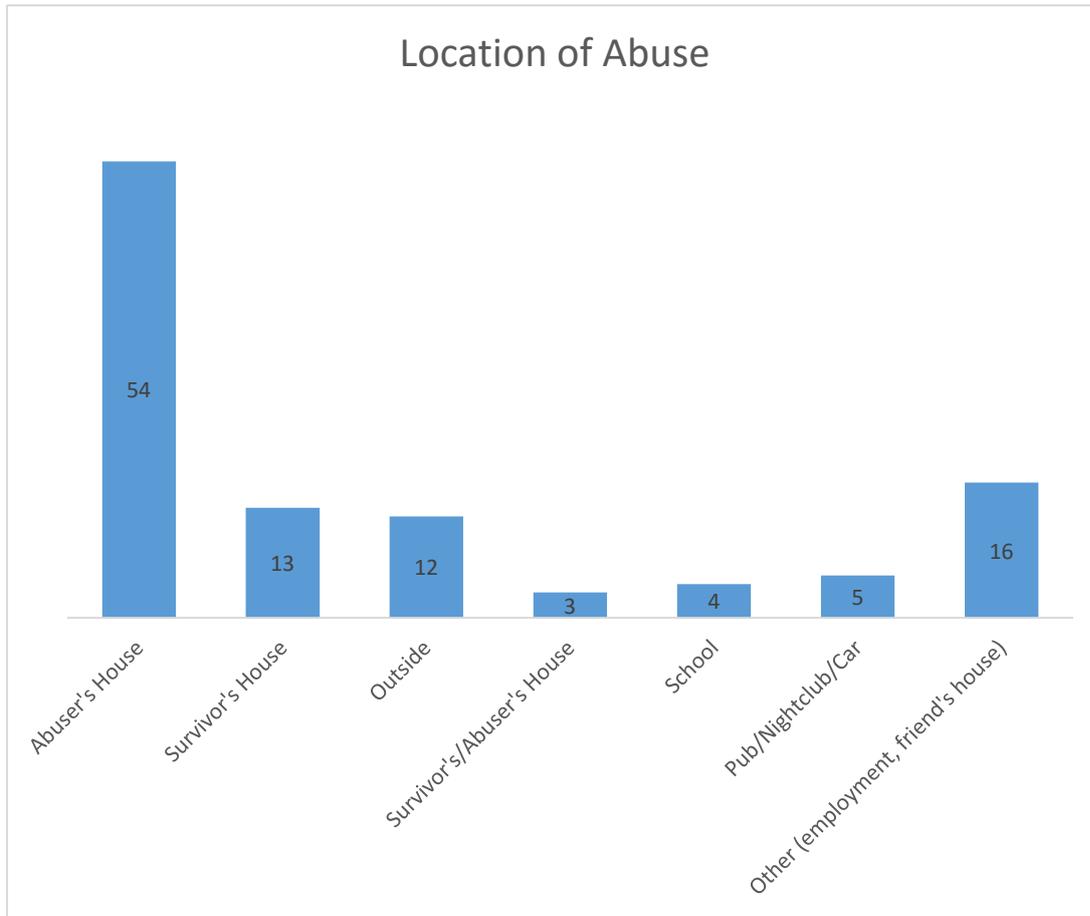
New Clients	66% (40)
Existing Clients	34% (79)

Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service



Relatives/Family Members	38% (41)
Neighbours/Friends	7% (8)
Acquaintances	13% (14)
Partners (incl Ex)	16% (17)
Authority Figures	3% (3)
Strangers	7% (7)
Others	16% (17)

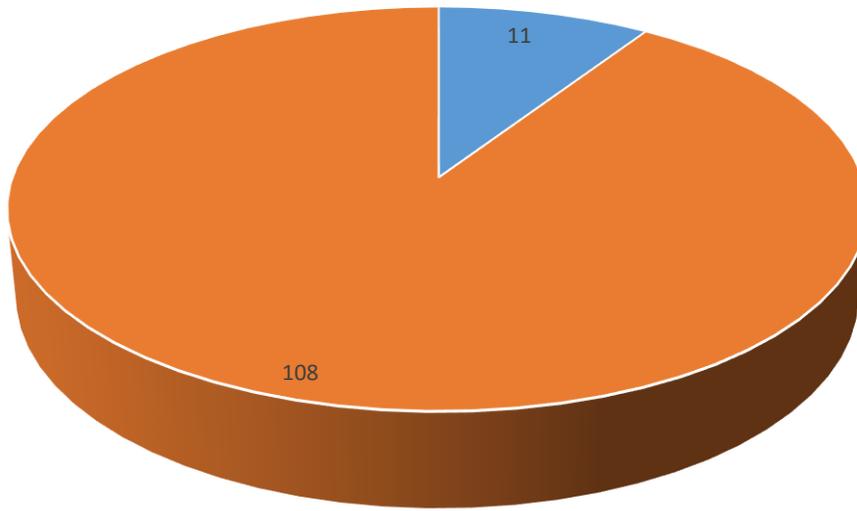
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Abuser's House	50% (54)
Survivor's House	12% (13)
Outside	11% (12)
Survivor's/Abuser's House	3% (3)
School	4% (4)
Pub/Nightclub/Car	5
Other	16

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Gender of Clients



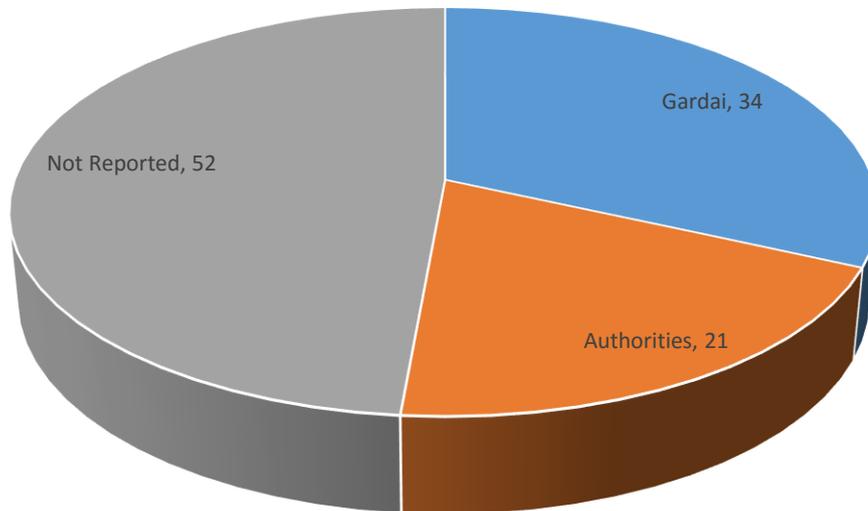
■ Male ■ Female

(above figures includes 12 supporters)

Male	9% (11)
Female	91% (108)

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Complaints Filed by Survivors

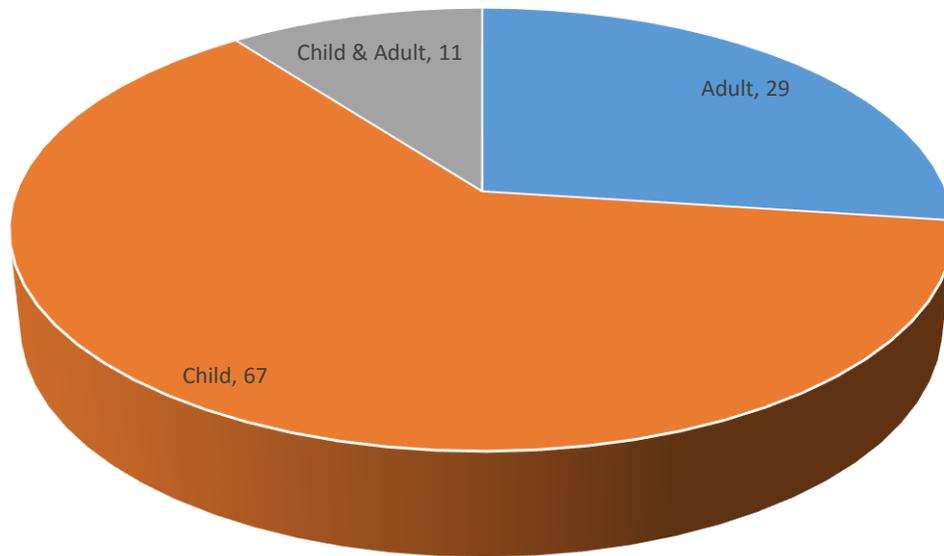


("Authorities" includes HSE/Tusla, Education & Gardaí)

Gardaí	32% (34)
Authorities	20% (21)
Not Reported	48% (52)

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When Abuse was Perpetrated

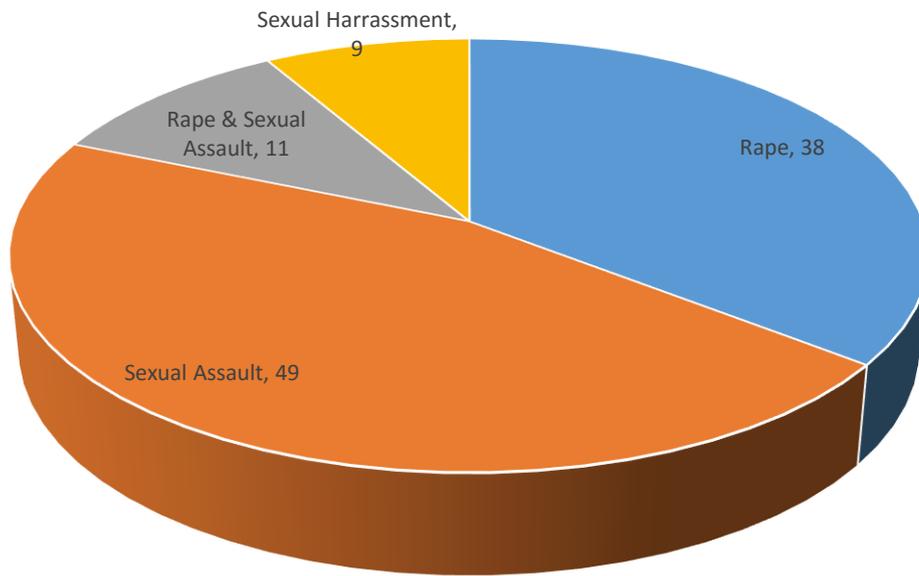


(above does not include 12 supporters)

Child	63% (67)
Adult	27% (29)
Child & Adult	10% (11)

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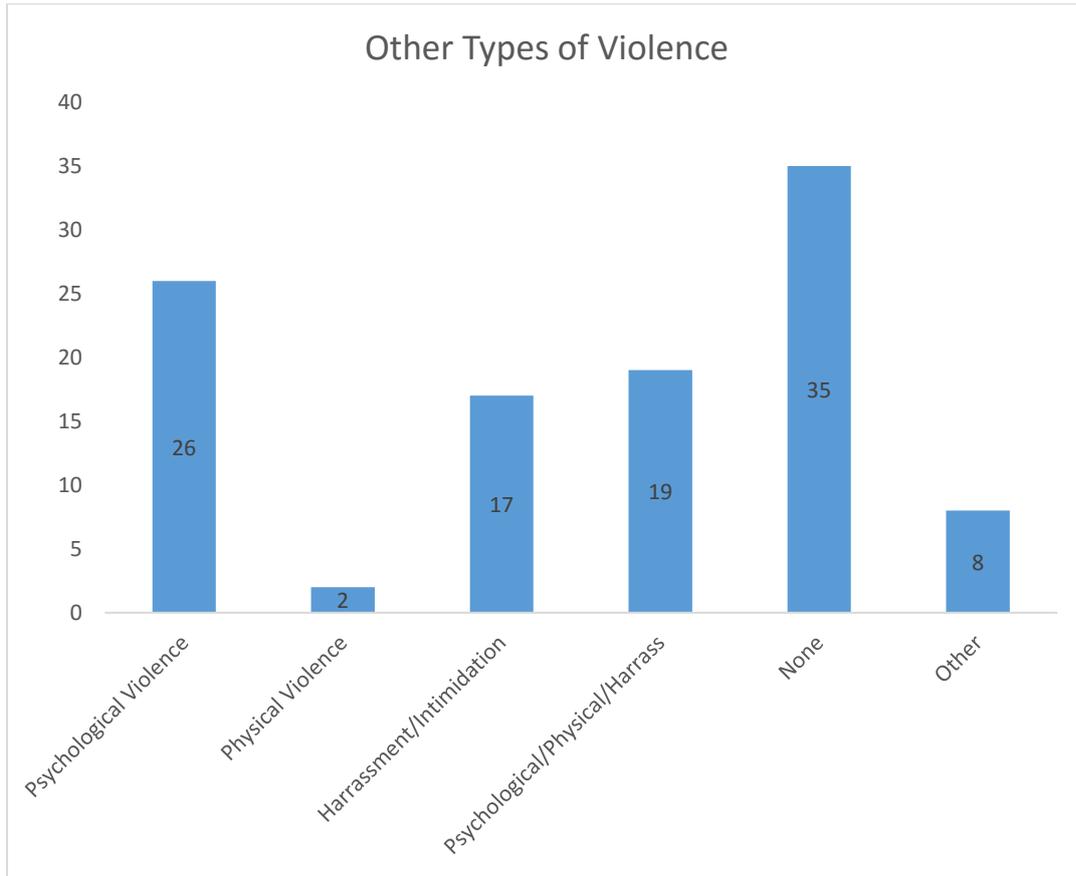
Nature of Abuse



■ Rape ■ Sexual Assault ■ Rape & Sexual Assault ■ Sexual Harassment

Sexual Assault	46% (49)
Rape	36% (38)
Rape & Sexual Assault	10% (11)
Sexual Harassment	8% (9)

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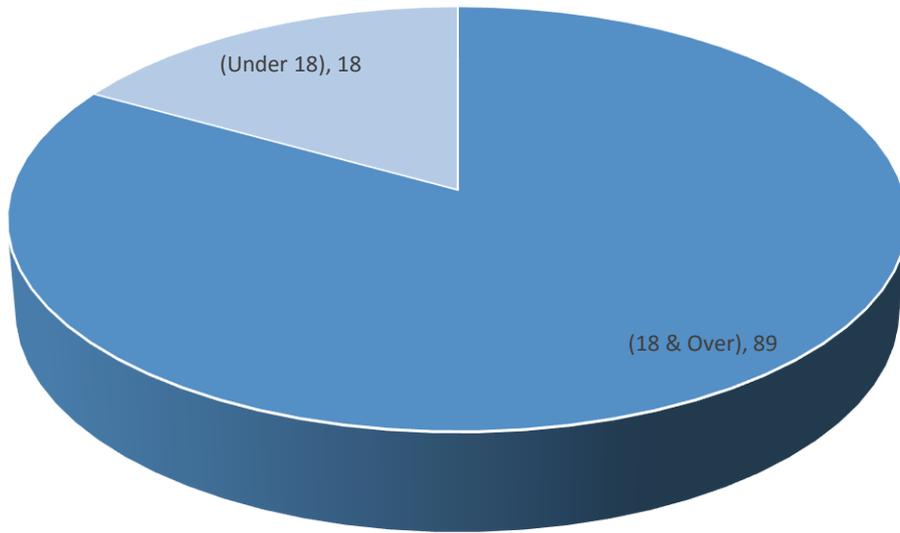


("Other" includes: Threats to Kill, Stalking and Neglect)

Psychological Violence	24% (26)
Physical Violence	2% (2)
Harassment/Intimidation	16% (17)
Psychological/Physical/Harassment	18% (19)
None	33% (35)
Other	7% (8)

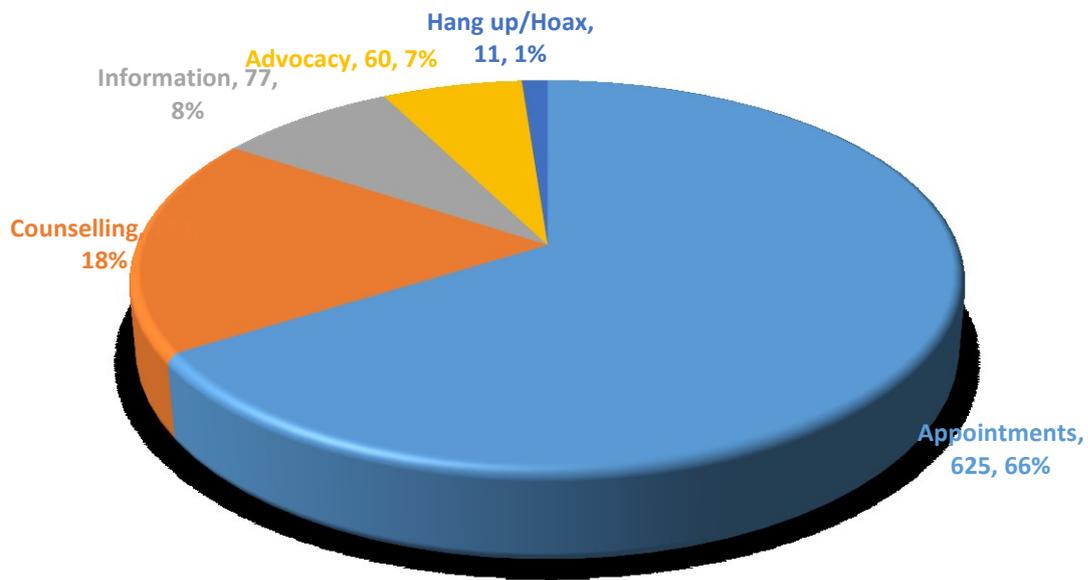
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Age of Survivors Accessing Service



18 & Over	83% (89)
Under 18	17% (18)

TELEPHONE LOG STATISTICS

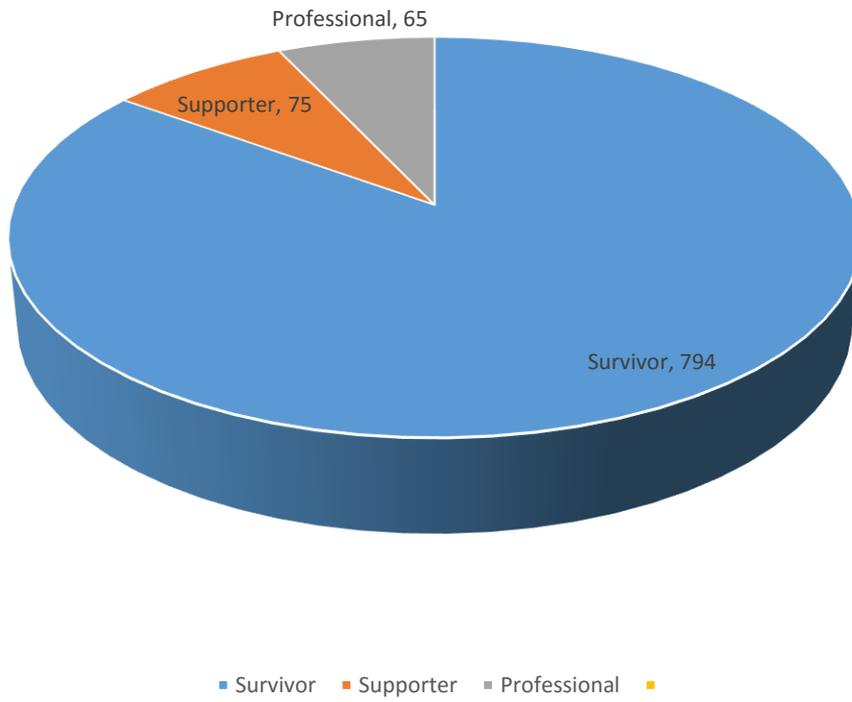


Appointments	66% (625)
Counselling	18% (173)
Information	8% (77)
Advocacy	7% (60)
Hang up/Hoax	1% (11)

(Total calls: 946)

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Helpline Caller Type



Survivor	85% (794)
Supporter	8% (75)
Professional	7% (77)

Clare Williams, Centre Manager, Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service.

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Governance

**Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service
Board meetings dates and attendance record 2015:**

Date:	In attendance:	Apologies:
3/2/2015	M. Gallagher	U. Sinnott
	J. Cuddihy	C. Stack
	M. Sinnott	
	E. Crickley	
	L. Lawlor	
	A. McGuire	
	C. Hore	
24/3/2015	M. Gallagher	M. Sinnott
	J. Cuddihy	C. Stack
	E. Crickley	
	L. Lawlor	
	A. McGuire	
	U. Sinnott	
	C. Hore	
12/5/2015	M. Gallagher	
	J. Cuddihy	
	E. Crickley	
	L. Lawlor	
	A. McGuire	
	U. Sinnott	
	C. Hore	
	M. Sinnott	
	C. Stack	
11/6/20185	M. Gallagher	U. Sinnott
	E. Crickley	J. Cuddihy
	L. Lawlor	
	A. McGuire	
	M. Sinnott	
	C. Hore	
	C. Stack	
8/9/2015	M. Gallagher	E. Crickley
	J. Cuddihy	C. Hore
	C. Stack	
	L. Lawlor	
	A. McGuire	
	U. Sinnott	
	M. Sinnott	
12/12/2015	M. Gallagher	U. Sinnott

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	J. Cuddihy	C. Hore
	C. Stack	
	L. Lawlor	
	A. McGuire	
	D. Jordan	
	E. Crickley	
	M. Sinnott	

Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service Board of Directors July 2016

No.	Name	Commencement Date:
1	Mary Gallagher (Chairperson)	27/11/2009
4	Alan McGuire	27/7/2010
3	Ursula Sinnott	1/10/2011
2	John Cuddihy (Secretary)	25/11/2014
5	Mairead Sinnott	25/11/2014
6	Laura Lawlor	3/2/2015
7	Christine Hore	24/3/2015
8	Darron Jordan	11/11/2015

The Governance Code:

WR&SASS has adopted the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland (the Governance Code). The Code consists of five key principles:

- Leading your organisation
- Exercising control over your organisation
- Transparency and Accountability
- Working effectively
- Behaving with Integrity
- Behaving with integrity

WR&SASS is committed to implementation of the Code throughout its work.

WR&SASS is registered on the Register of Charities with the Charities Regulatory Authority CHY No. 20036324.

CHY 12420.