



INITIAL FINDINGS FROM THE Your Views on Sexual Violence Community Survey

The Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre (BRISSC) ran the *"Your Views on Sexual Violence: Community Survey"* from 10 June through 15 July 2009.

The purpose of the survey was to:

- to raise awareness about sexual violence;
- to bring the voice of survivors, supporters and people concerned about sexual violence to the wider community
- to inform future BRISSC initiatives and activities



**BRISSC acknowledges & thanks all
the people who supported &
participated in the survey.**



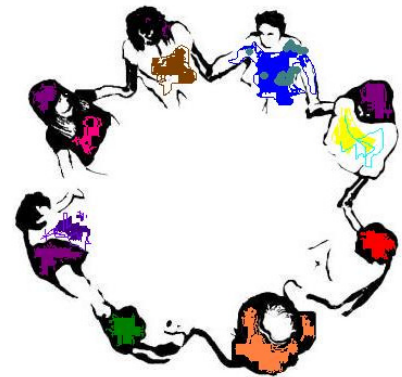
Brisbane Rape & Incest
Survivors Support Centre

Demographic Data



- In total, 542 people responded to the survey
- PEOPLE AGED 15 TO OVER 75 YEARS RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY. THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WERE AGED 35–44 YEARS.
- 88.6% of respondents were female;
9.9% of respondents were male;
1.1% were transgender;
0.4% of respondents preferred not to disclose this information.
- 87% OF RESPONDENTS WERE FROM QUEENSLAND. OTHER RESPONDENTS WERE FROM WITHIN AUSTRALIA AND AROUND THE WORLD.

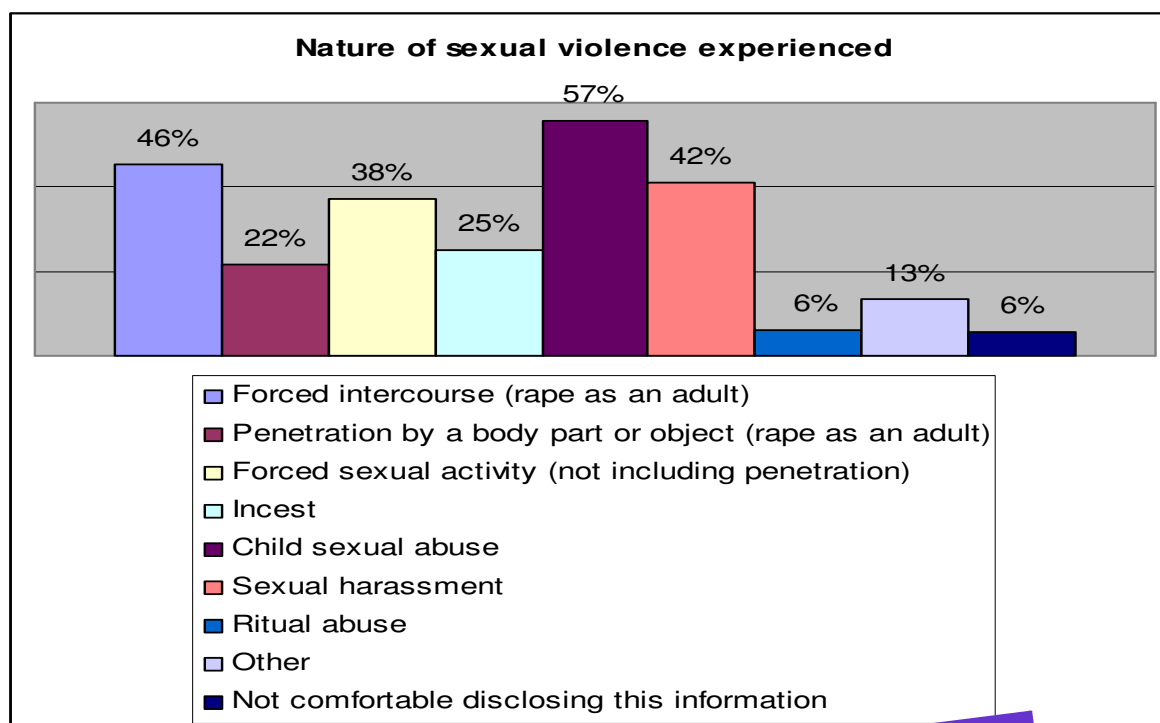
- 78% of respondents were from an urban area;
20% were from a rural / regional area;
2% were from a remote area
- 4% OF RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED AS ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND THE MAJORITY OF INDIGENOUS RESPONDENTS WERE FEMALE.
- 6% of respondents were from a non-English speaking background (NESB) and all were female.



SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

53% of survey respondents indicated they had experienced Sexual violence. 92% of these survey respondents who indicated they were survivors of sexual violence were female.

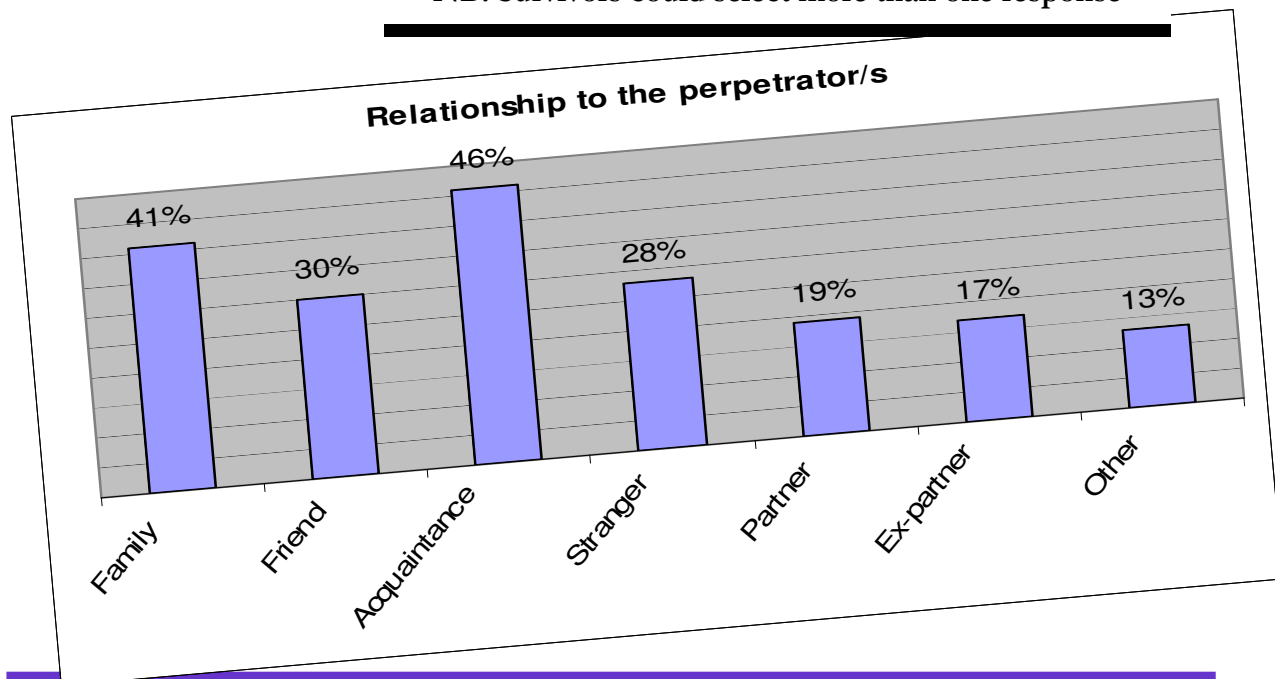
Survivors were asked to indicate the type of sexual violence they had experienced. Survivors could indicate a number of categories that reflected their experience/s.



87% OF FEMALE RESPONDENTS, AND 79% OF MALE RESPONDENTS, WHO IDENTIFIED AS SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE INDICATED THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED MORE THAN ONE INCIDENT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING THEIR LIFETIME.

The majority of respondents who identified as survivors of sexual violence indicated they knew the perpetrator/s

NB: Survivors could select more than one response



BREAKING THE SILENCE

Respondents who identified as survivors of sexual violence told the following people of their experience/s:

- Friends—82%
- Family—60%
- Professional support services—60%
- Police—25%
- Doctor—24%
- No one—6.7%

NB: survivors could select more than one response

"I did not tell anyone for many years, then friends, partners, then family."



The majority of respondents who identified as survivors of sexual violence indicated that **women only spaces in the community** are extremely important



“women supporting each other is the most powerful thing we have. I think womens services in general, do a brilliant job.”

What do the results from the *Your Views on Sexual Violence: Community Survey* tell us???

- THAT SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO BE MAINLY PERPETRATED **BY MEN** AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN & OTHER MEN
- THAT SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS OFTEN COMMITTED BY PEOPLE KNOWN TO US: **WITHIN OUR FAMILIES, BY OUR 'FRIENDS' & ACQUAINTANCES**
- THAT **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** ARE AT GREATER RISK OF EXPERIENCING SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- THAT THE **LEGAL SYSTEM** IS NOT SET UP TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS TO REPORT THEIR EXPERIENCE/S OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- SURVIVORS **VALUE AND ACCESS A RANGE** OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT OPTIONS FOLLOWING THEIR EXPERIENCE/S OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- THAT **HEALING** FROM EXPERIENCE/S OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE **IS POSSIBLE**—**CHANGE WORDS HERE**
- THAT REASSURING THE SURVIVOR THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS **NOT THEIR FAULT** AND ASSISTING THEM IN **CREATING A SUPPORT NETWORK** ARE **CRUCIAL STEPS** IN SUPPORTING A SURVIVOR

**MESSAGES FROM WOMEN
SURVIVORS ABOUT LIFE
AFTER SEXUAL VIOLENCE...**

“I have survived”

“Led to self empowerment”

“I found out how resilient I am”

**“I have developed a strong
sense of rights and justice.”**

**“I am taking control of my
emotional responses
and life now”.**

*“Learnt over a painful period
of time that slowly I can heal”*

***“I accepted the fact that I had
rights over my body and it was my choice
what I did with it”.***

imagine ...
a world without
rape

