

2025 Impact Report



**WINDSOR
ESSEX
CHILD/YOUTH
ADVOCACY
CENTRE**

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I complete my first year as Board Chair and President of WECYAC, I am filled with gratitude and admiration for the depth of work happening every day to protect and empower children and youth in our community.

What I have seen this year is a Centre that not only responds to crisis, but leads with innovation, compassion, and resilience. Whether through new mentorship programs, trauma-informed care, expanded school outreach, or caregiver support, WECYAC continues to meet the moment with clarity and care. As a Board, we are proud to support this mission and to guide the organization's long-term vision. Our commitment is to ensure WECYAC remains strong, stable, and responsive to the ever-changing needs of our region.

To our partners, donors, and funders, thank you for your trust and commitment. To our Executive Director, thank you for your extraordinary leadership. And to our frontline advocates and staff, your dedication, compassion, and tireless service make all the difference. You are the heart of this organization, and we are deeply grateful for the work you do every single day.

With sincere appreciation,

Richard Derus

Chair and President, Board of Directors

Windsor Essex Child/Youth Advocacy Centre (WECYAC)



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As Executive Director of the Windsor Essex Child/Youth Advocacy Centre (WECYAC), I am deeply proud and grateful to share the significant strides we have made this year in supporting children and youth impacted by crime, abuse, and trauma.

In 2024–25, we reached an important milestone, providing critical support to 877 individuals, our highest ever, through 233 new cases. This increase reflects both the growing need within our community and the strong trust placed in WECYAC to deliver compassionate, effective care.

The data this year reveal powerful insights and urgent needs. Referrals involving very young children (ages 0–5) increased sharply from 5% to 15%. Reports of online sexual exploitation more than doubled, rising from 4.2% to 9%, highlighting the pressing need for proactive digital safety education.

Additionally, we saw peer-on-peer violence increase significantly from 20% to 27%, while cases involving unknown perpetrators nearly doubled, underscoring heightened online vulnerabilities.

Our collaborative efforts continue to thrive. Partnering with St. Clair College's Bachelor of Applied Social Justice (BASJ) program, we developed a Trauma-Aware Mentorship Program, pairing dedicated students with children impacted by trauma, providing ongoing supportive relationships. Our Read to Rise initiative continues to offer powerful healing through literacy.

In collaboration with the Windsor Essex Counter Exploitation Network (WECEN) and Greater Essex County District School Board, we developed and distributed essential educational resources to all public high schools across Windsor-Essex, empowering students to recognize and respond effectively to the risks of exploitation and unhealthy relationships.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT.

With generous support from the Solcz Family Foundation, we introduced caregiver emotional support sessions and created vital caregiver resources. With support from Justice Canada, we also strengthened our infrastructure by launching a new website and adopting EMHware, enhancing our ability to manage client data, referrals, and case coordination effectively.

Looking forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and solidify a stable foundation for continued growth. Supporting our dedicated staff and volunteers with essential resources, training, and tools is central to our mission, enabling them to meet the increasingly complex needs of those we serve.

To our incredible partners, dedicated supporters, generous sponsors, and committed funders—thank you. Your unwavering belief and compassion form the very core of our efforts and enable us to transform lives every day.

With deepest gratitude,

Dr. Nila Das

Executive Director

Windsor Essex Child/Youth Advocacy Centre (WECYAC)



About Us

The Windsor Essex Child/Youth Advocacy Centre (WECYAC) is one of only ten specialized centres in Ontario and the sole facility in the ESC LHIN area dedicated to providing a safe space for children and youth, aged 0 to 18 years, who are victims of abuse and crime. Here, they can share their experiences and provide statements to our dedicated team of professionals in a safe environment.

At WECYAC, we prioritize the well-being of children and youth by ensuring they only have to tell their story once. We understand that healing and recovery require a comprehensive approach. Therefore, we collaborate with professionals specializing in child abuse investigations, intervention, and treatment to achieve the most efficient and accurate outcomes.

Community engagement is at the heart of our mission. We actively work to raise public awareness about child and youth abuse and crime in our region, believing that highlighting this issue can drive prevention and early intervention efforts. By informing the community through targeted outreach and education, we aim to foster a collective responsibility to protect and support our children and youth.



Our Vision

To be the most compassionate, innovative, and responsive organization empowering young victims of abuse and crime.



Our Mission

To deliver community-based support to child and youth victims of abuse and crime through collaborative investigation, advocacy, and exceptional care.

Our Values

1

Compassion: We prioritize caring and understanding in all interactions, demonstrating integrity, honesty, and respect. Our commitment is to actively listen empathetically.

2

Collaboration: We build strong partnerships with community stakeholders to enhance service delivery and coordination. Committed to a collaborative approach, we are open to share and grow in our own expertise with other professionals and the broader community.

3

Commitment: Our passion drives us to consistently advocate for the best interests of the children, youth, and families we serve. We acknowledge the individuality of each child, adapting our services to meet their specific needs with flexibility and responsiveness.

4

Innovation: We create programs and services that are specifically designed to meet the evolving needs of the children, youth, and families we serve.

5

Integrity: We place the needs of children and youth at the forefront of our work, building trust through effective relationships and respectful actions. Our conduct consistently reflects our deep respect for the children, youth, and families we support.



Our Board of Directors



Rick Derus
President & Director



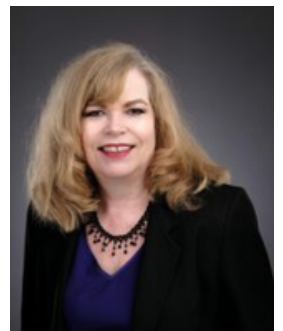
Kristy McBeth
Vice President & Director



Dr. Kimberly Brisebois
Secretary & Director



Ryan Brown
Treasurer & Director



Deirdra Watson
Public Relations Chair & Director



Dr. Sharon Pyke
Past President & Director



Carol Branget
Key Partner & Director



Jamie Smith
Advisor



Jason Woods
Key Partner & Director



Belinda Pagliaroli
Advisor



Richard Sieberer
Key Partner & Director



Lynda Ware
Past President & Director



Jessica Koper
Director



Mary Kay Morand
Director



Sarah Mushtaq
Director



Angela D'Alessandro
Key Partner & Director



Dr. Shobha Karnik
Director



A Year in Review

Signature Programs

Victim/Witness Support and Advocacy Program

Advocates provide wraparound support in collaboration with the multi-disciplinary team to children/youth and their non-offending caregivers throughout the investigation process.

Trauma Aware Youth Mentorship Program

Connects youth who have been victims/witnesses of crime or abuse with a peer mentor from St. Clair College.

Anti-Human Trafficking Prevention Campaign

Promotes awareness and education of human trafficking from a survivor-based lens to children/youth, schools, and caregivers.

Art Healing Program

Encourages children/youth and their non-offending family members to explore their trauma in relation to their mind, body, soul, and spirit

Read to Rise Program

Provides age-appropriate books to children/youth who have been victims/witnesses of crime/abuse to empower and facilitate their healing journey.

Wellness Kit/Quilt Program

Provides every child/youth who comes to our centre for a forensic interview with basic essentials, an art kit, and a comfort quilt to facilitate their healing journey.

Healthy Snacks Program

Provides healthy options for children/youth and their non-offending caregivers during the forensic interviewing process.

Significant Events

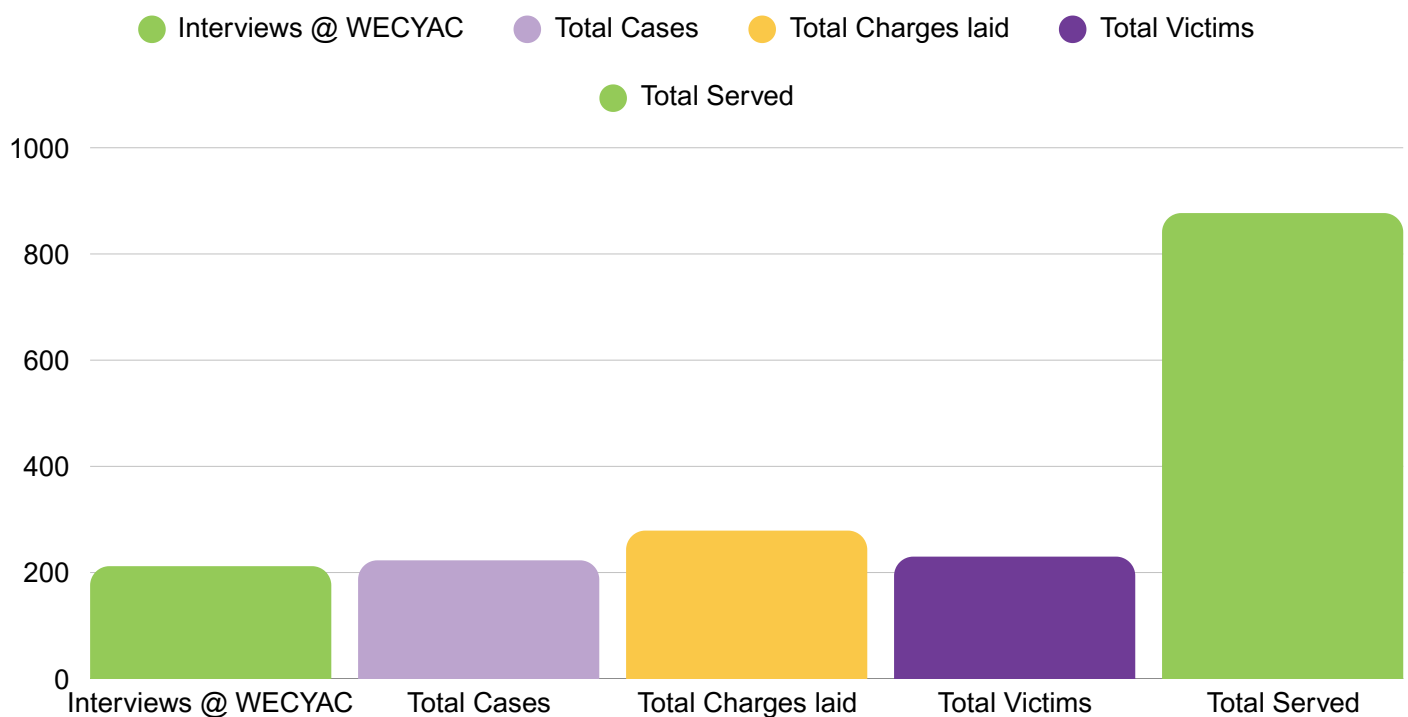
Over the past year, WECYAC has participated and/or hosted numerous events throughout the Windsor Essex community, including Youth Symposiums, Mental Health and Community Health Fairs, and hosting our third annual Victims Week Event.



WECYAC Data

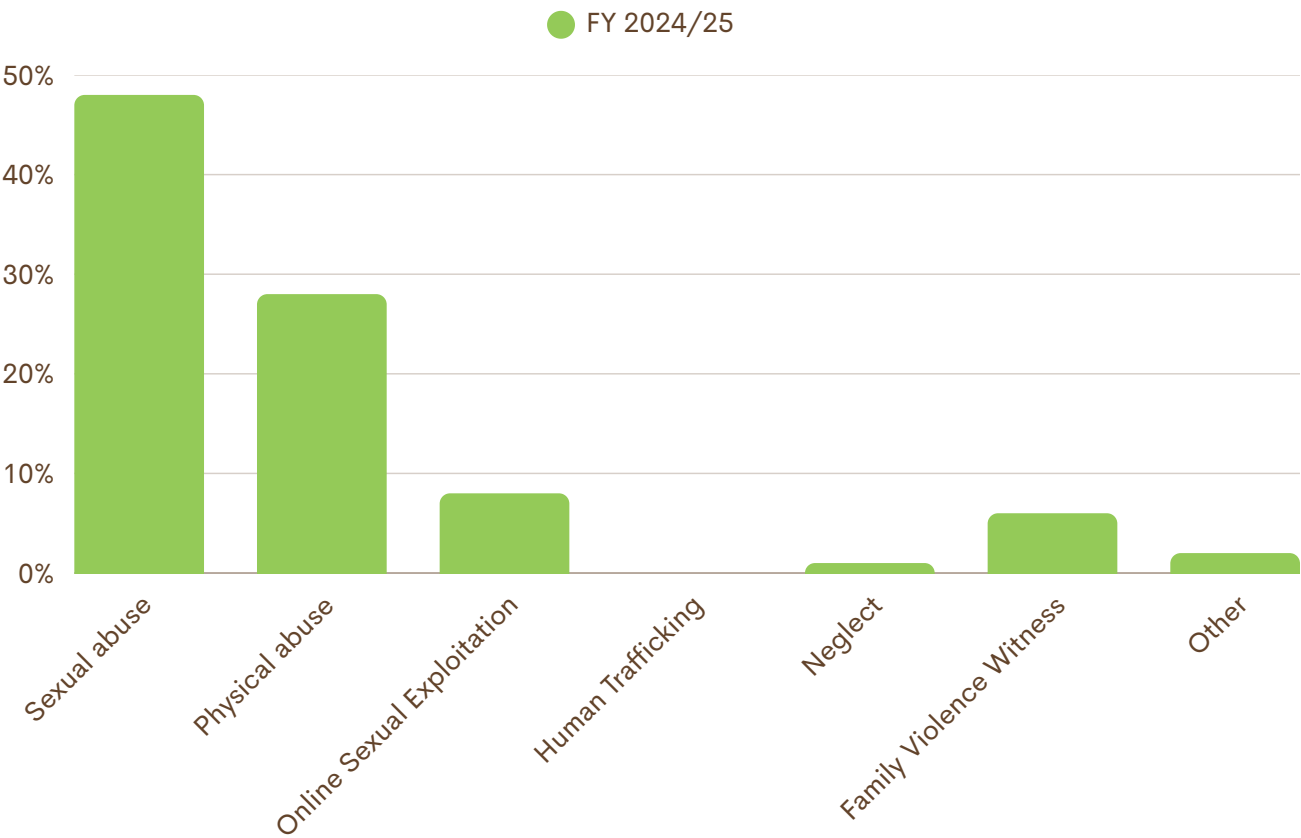
During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, WECYAC served 877 new clients, including children/youth and their caregivers. Most of the children/youth identified as female ($N=140$), Caucasian, and were between the ages of 6 to 12 years old, followed by youth who were between the ages of 13 to 17 years old.

FY 2024-2025 Annual Statistics Summary

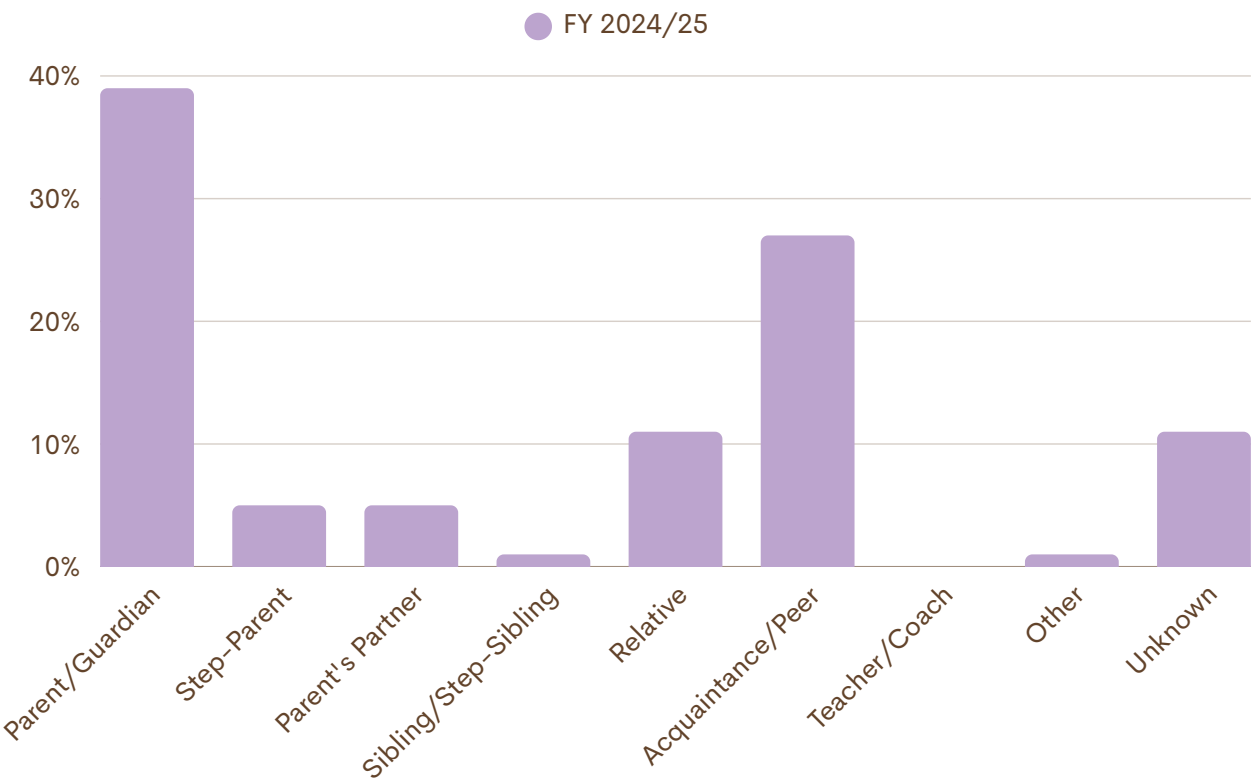


Most of the cases referred to our Centre involved allegations of sexual abuse/assault (51%), followed by physical abuse/assault (30%; *see next page*). Over the past fiscal year, WECYAC also noticed an increase in youth dating violence and online sexual exploitation. However, parents/caregivers continued to those most accused of committing the crime/abuse (*see next page*).

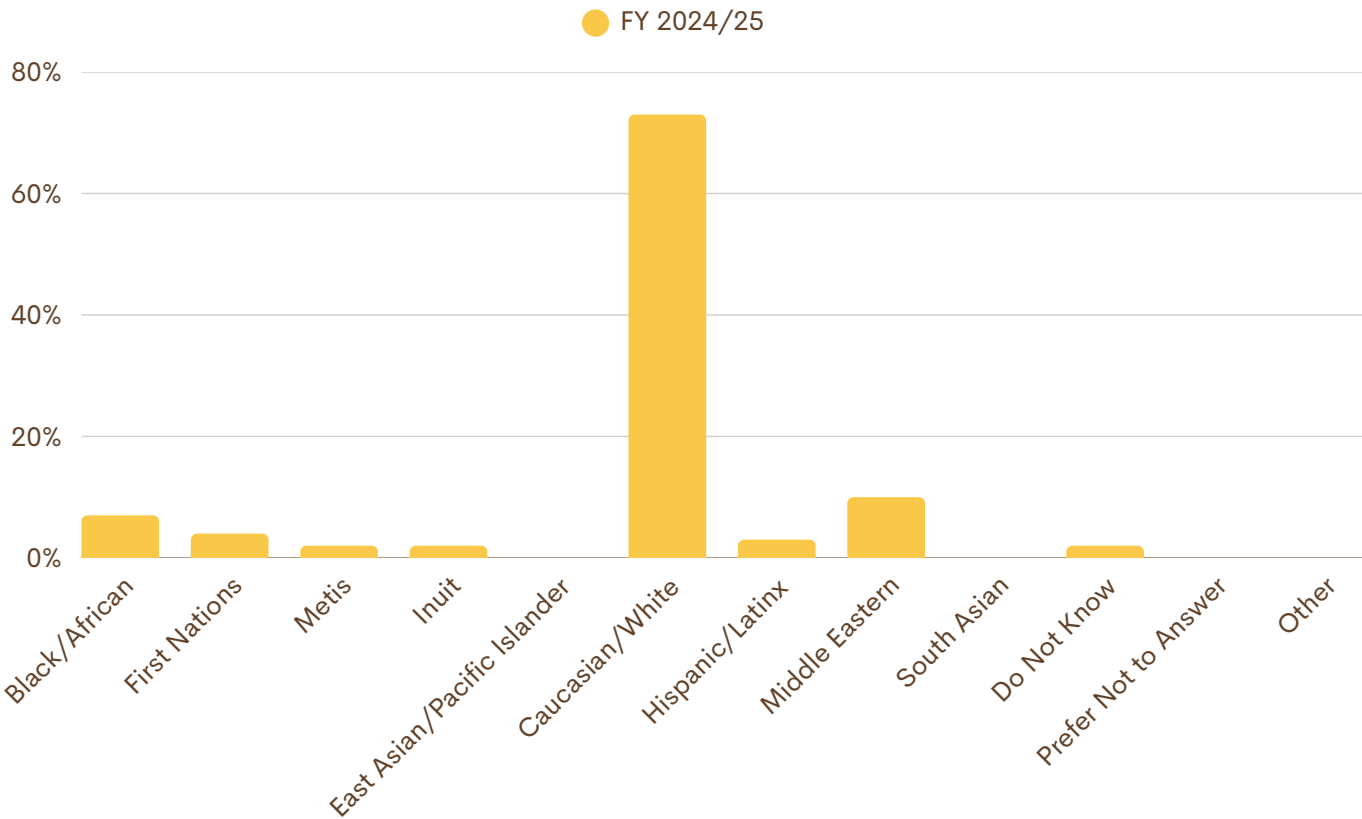
Abuse Investigated



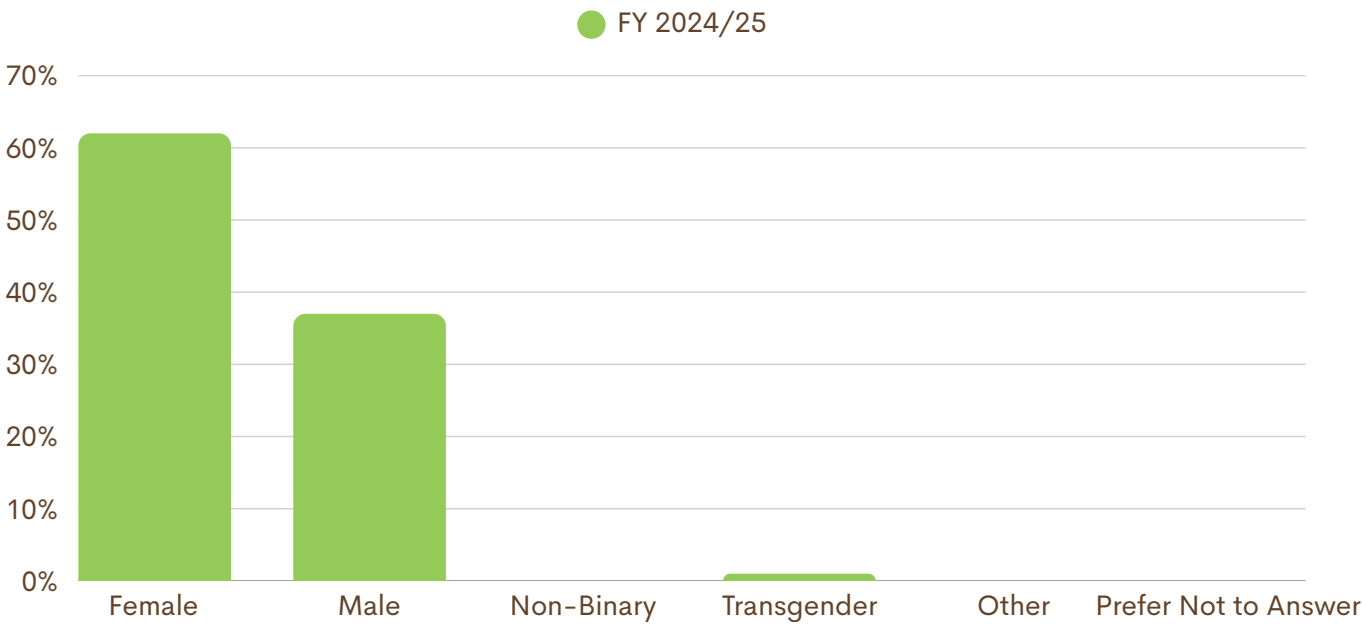
Relationship to Accused



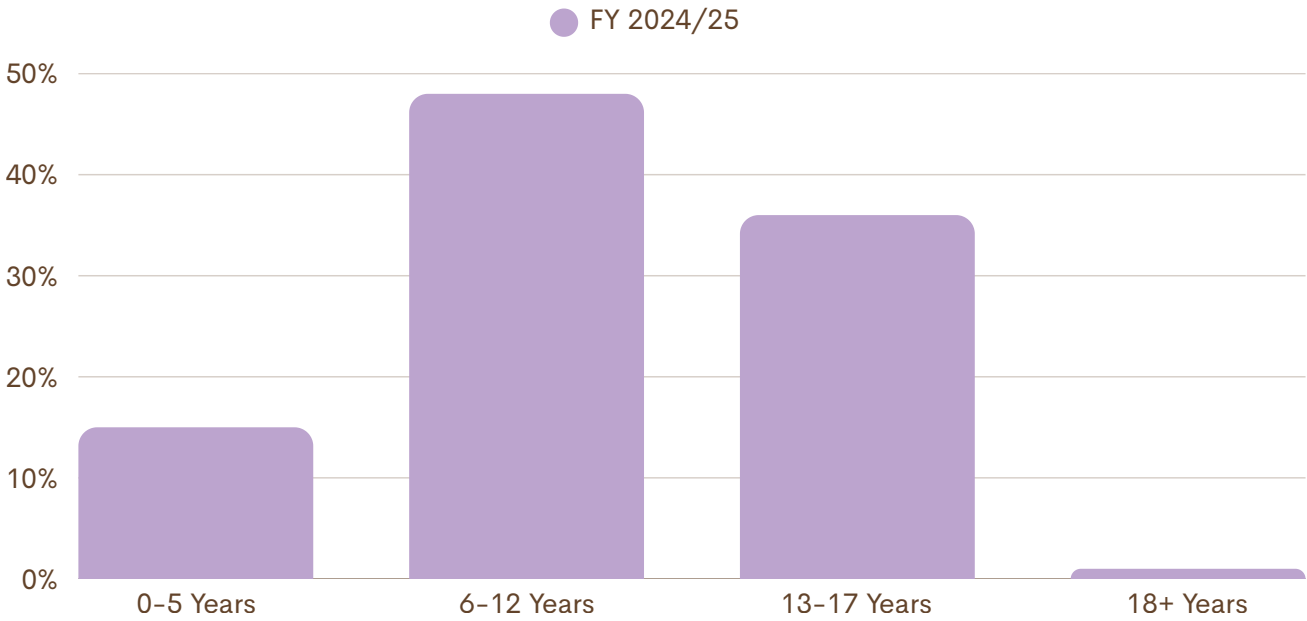
Primary Ethnicity



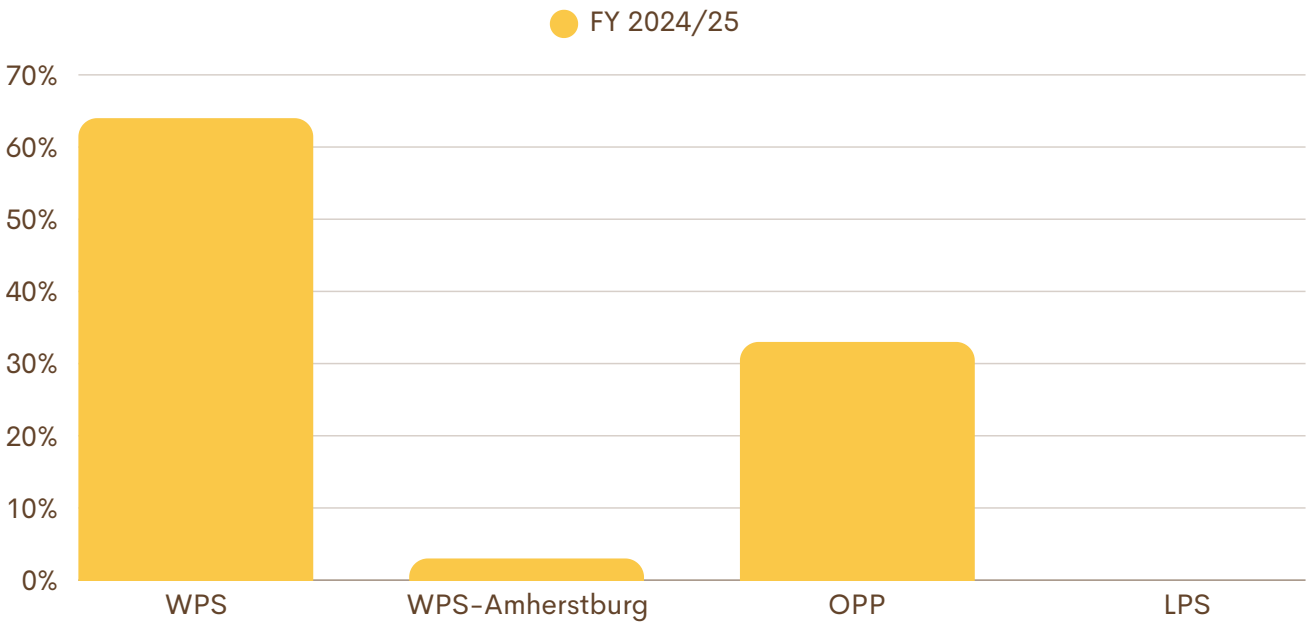
Gender Identity Served



Ages Served



Policing Agency



THANK YOU

WECYAC would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations for their generous contributions this past fiscal year!

List of 2024-2025 Contributors by Groups

FUNDERS

Department of Justice Canada
May Court Club
Ministry of Attorney General
Solcz Family Foundation
WindsorEssex Community
Foundation (WECF)

SPONSORS

Cavendish Farms
ENWIN Utilities Ltd.

DONORS

Daniel DiCarlo
St. Clair College PSI/PF Society
Windsor Quilters' Guild
Your North Credit Union (YNCU)
Quilts from the Heart

SUPPORTERS

St. Clair College
Windsor Police Association (WPA)
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

Donate Today!

WECYAC requires your help!

Over the past several years, WECYAC has seen an increase in cases being referred to the centre, with approximately 500 children/youth from 2020-2021 to over 800 in 2024-2025. This increase in demand for support has led to an expansion of staff and service delivery. However, due to inflation and a lack of funding, WECYAC continues to experience financial stressors and uncertainty.



Windsor Essex
Child/Youth
Advocacy Centre

How to Get Involved

- 1) Submit a donation online using our online donation form.
- 2) Drop-off in-kind donations to our centre (e.g., books, snacks, school supplies, etc.).
- 3) Share a fundraising opportunity with us!
- 4) Contribute to our #ONLYONCE Annual Giving Campaign.
- 5) Sponsor events organized by WECYAC.
- 6) Sponsor WECYAC as your holiday charity.



Phone Number

519-995-3974



Email Address

info@wecyac.ca



Website

www.wecyac.ca/donate/

Charitable Registration Number:

#71130 7926 RR0001

Donations over \$20 will be issued a tax receipt

A photograph of four children lying on their backs on a light-colored carpet, surrounded by colorful confetti. The children are smiling and laughing, looking up at the camera. The image has a purple tint. The text "Kids Should Only Have To Tell Their Story Once." is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Kids
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