**Gillian Lindquist** 

**Executive Director** 

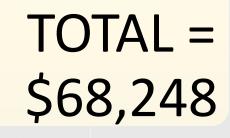


## Snapshot of Restorative Justice Victoria (RJV)

- Est. 2002; not-for-profit society & charity
- Six staff, 70 volunteers (25-30 caseworkers)
- We works with youth and adult victims and offenders
- Receive referrals for a wide range of offences (minor to serious)
- Approximately 75 150 referrals per year
- Receives referrals from VicPD, Crown, judiciary, schools, victims, offenders, agencies, and the general community
- Our services are free to the public



#### Victoria Municipal Funding



\$34,120 in 2019

\$34,120 in 2020

#### Use of Funds



#### Allows For

Volunteer recruitment, training, and support

Case management

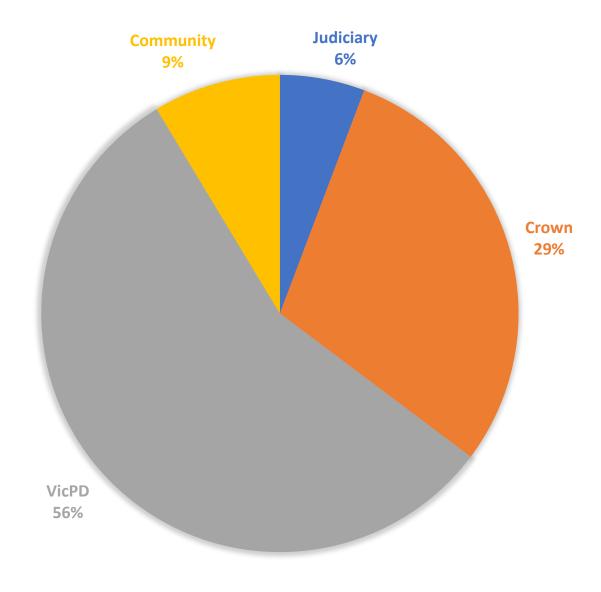
Liaising with community agencies/referrals sources

Fundraising

**Public education** 

**Program administration** 

# Referral Sources 2019/20



Type of offence/harm	Number referred
Theft \$5,000 or under	52
Assault	36
Mischief \$5,000 or under	15
Uttering threats	12
Sexual assault	6
Break and enter	6
Assault causing bodily harm	5
Robbery	4
Assaulting a police officer	4
Intimate partner violence	3
Fraud under \$5,000	3
Assault with a weapon	3
Causing a disturbance	2
Fraud - identity	2
Extortion	2
Impersonating a police officer	2
Willfully resisting/obstructing a police officer	2
Aggravated assault	1
Possession of stolen property over \$5,000	1
Careless driving	1
Causing an animal to be in distress (death)	1

Type of offence/harm	Number referred
Dangerous driving causing bodily harm	1
Luring child via computer	1
Child pornography possession/access	1
Forcible confinement	1
Theft over \$5,000	1
Breach of recognizance	1
Human rights complaint	1
Traffic fatality	1
Mischief over \$5,000	1
Publication of an intimate image without consent	1
Secretly observing/recording nudity	1
Taking auto without consent over \$5,000	1
Fear of injury/damage to property	1
Firearm pointing	1
TOTAL	177

#### **Our Process**

#### Referral

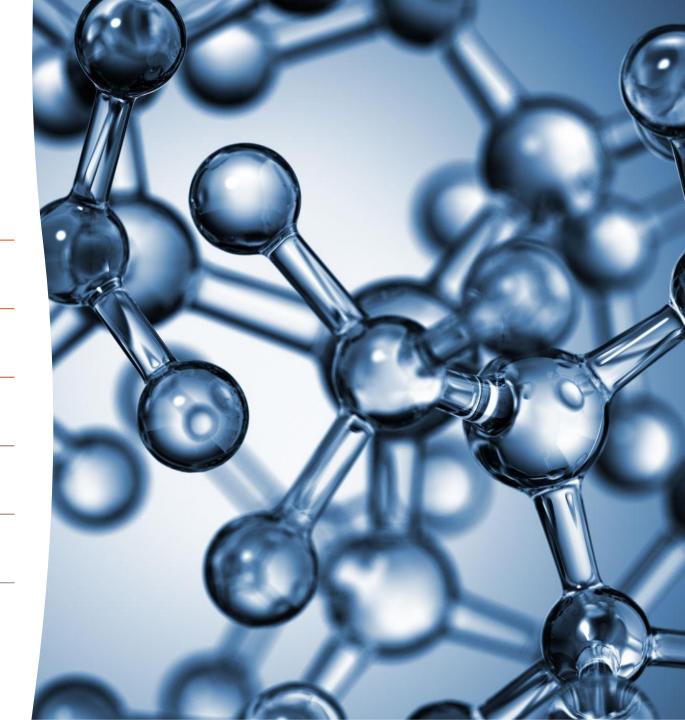
Intake and assessment

Preparation

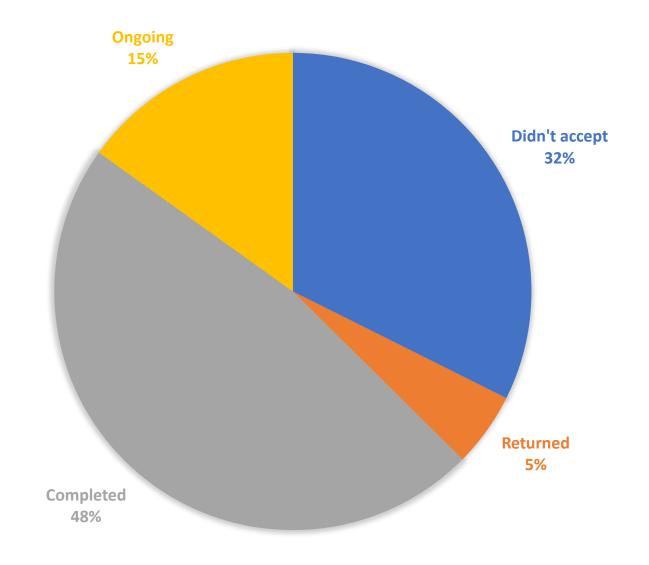
Dialogue

Agreement completion

File closure

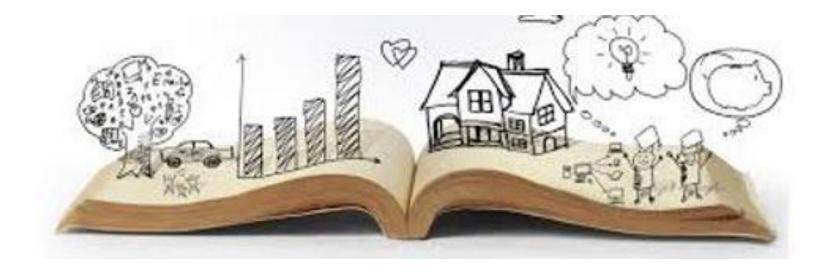


Status of Referrals 2019/20



#### Agreement Outcomes

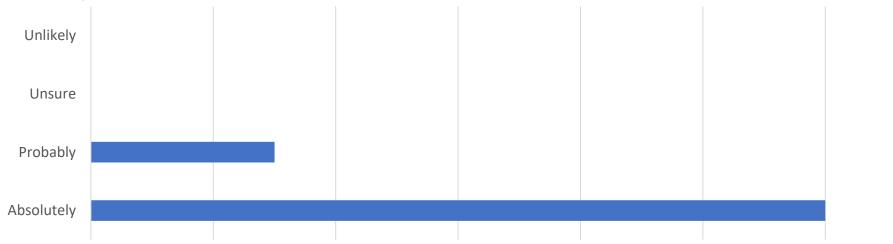
- Financial restitution to victims
- Attending counseling
- Conducting volunteer work in the community or donating to a community organization
- Letters of apology and gifts to those impacted
- Addictions support/rehabilitation programs and commitment to monitoring and/or reducing substance use
- Researching and discussing the impacts of specific harms
- Creating plans for budgeting, communication, boundaries, or self-care
- Courses on violence prevention, non-violent communication, communication skills, or anger management
- Self-reflection writing and self-development reading
- Prioritizing mental health, physical health, and/or support systems



## Agreement Stories

## Victim Outcomes

Would you recommend RJ to someone else?



How satisfied were you with your RJ experience?

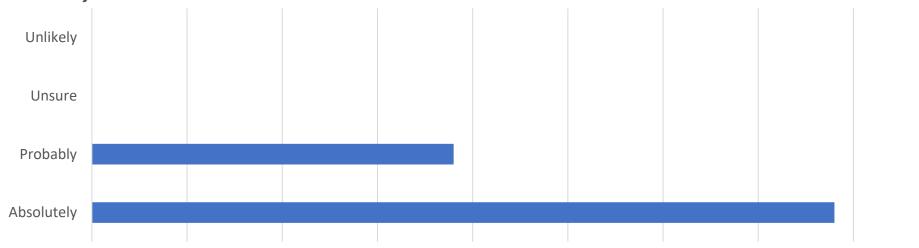
98%

## Victim Feedback

- "The [restorative justice] meeting was most helpful, where everybody was willing to hear me out and willing to hear the pain and suffering I had to go through."
- "[Restorative justice] contributed to moving through and past trauma. Contributes to actual change knowing that from something 'bad' something positive can result even though you can't go back."
- "I really appreciated the empathetic and kind people I talked to that made me feel comfortable opening up to. They made me feel safe in the process and helped me feel like I had the right to the boundaries I wanted to set."
- "The people involved were incredible."
- "Through the process, I've actually been able to identify and begin to connect the harm the assault caused me. I've been given an understanding, tools, support and a sense of justice that will allow me to continue to unpack and heal what has happened."

## Offender Outcomes

#### Would you recommend RJ to someone else?



How satisfied were you with your RJ experience?

96%

## Offender Feedback

- "The whole process has helped me in so many ways. So many amazing ways. My life is happier because of this process ☺"
- "It was freeing to let out your fears and your feelings. To realize why it is you hurt this person in this way. And what was also hurting you."
- "Past trauma led me down a path of drugs and alcohol. Restorative justice helped me see there was another way. I wasn't just a number in the system. I was human too."
- "The process was very healing and I see it as great progress for society as a whole."
- "My views of the world has changed. I felt like I always had to be aware. Fight or flight all the time. Led to a lot of bad decisions. Now I look at the world like I'm not in danger. It has allowed me to analyze what I am about to do and make decisions and not just react. I decided to go to school and participate in life. Before I was hiding from life. I look at people with a different eye. They might be someone I could talk to."
- "My life has turned positive. I finally have a month sober and I'm getting the support I need to continue in my recovery."

Over and Above Casework 2019/20

#### **Projects**

- Victims and survivors of crime vigil
- PEERS healing circles for sex workers
- Girls Circle

#### Research

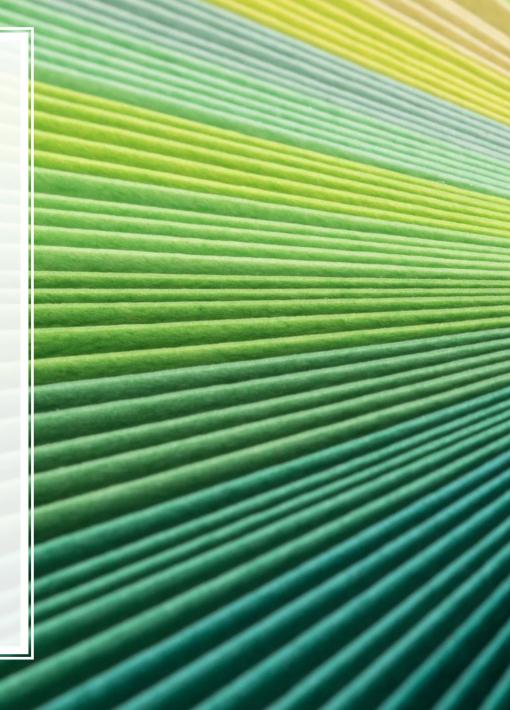
- National
  - Exploring the use of RJ in gender-based violence
  - Understanding the experience of victim/survivors of crime in RJ
  - Exploring the use of RJ with offenders living with FASD
- Provincial
  - Developing effective/shared evaluation tools for RJ

#### **Program Improvement**

• Developed a new website with a victim/survivor focus

## Projects 2021

Healing	Provide healing circles for sex workers through PEERS (expansion beyond pilot)
Exploring	Explore the use of RJ in housing facilities
Developing	Develop partnerships and build capacity to further explore the use of RJ in sexualized violence
Increasing	Increase the use of RJ in schools
Launching	Launch accountability groups for men/masculine folks in partnership with the Men's Therapy Centre
Training	Train all staff and volunteers in anti-oppressive practice through ROOTS





#### Contact Us

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