

Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Care Centre (SA/DVCC) Services & Supporting Clients Through Disclosures of Violence

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Presentation Outline:

- Overview of SA/DVCC services:
 - Who can access
 - What kind of support we offer (Acute Service, Follow-Up Clinic, and Therapy Service)
- Guidelines to support clients who disclose experiences of sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence
- Questions

Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres

- We are part of the Ontario Network of 36-hospital based sexual assault and domestic violence care centres.
- Most centres provide medical and therapy services. The Network centres work together to share knowledge, advocate for change, and collaborate around research.
- *As a Network we are committed to operating from a Feminist, Anti-Oppressive analysis of violence. This recognizes the embedded social and systemic imbalances within society that promote and maintain violence. As such, we recognize the importance of promoting choice, respect, and empowerment, while honouring differences.*

Acute Medical Service

- Anyone can refer (i.e. self-referral, family physician, psychiatrist, therapist, family member, police)
- Clients can access the acute service alone, with a support person, or police
- Clients can access the acute service through the AACU at WCH or the Emergency Department at other hospital sites (mobile team)
- Clients are accepted who are not OHIP covered or who do not have legal status in Canada

*The Acute Medical Service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
We serve women, men and trans people over the age of 14*

Acute Medical Service

- Emotional/Crisis support
- Safety planning
- Legal/Judicial:
 - Information provided to support informed decision-making about police involvement
 - Forensic evidence collection and documentation of injuries (Sexual Assault Evidence Kit)
- Medical:
 - Assessment and treatment of injuries
 - Testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
 - Prophylactic medications for prevention of HIV and some STIs
 - Morning After Pill

Acute Medical Service (cont'd...)

- We accept clients who present to SA/DVCC within 30 days of a sexual assault or intimate partner violence experience
- In sexual assault cases forensic evidence collection becomes very limited after 72 hours and cannot be collected after 12 days
- Medications are more effective when initiated earlier; some medications *must* be initiated within 72 hours to 5 days.

Follow-up Clinic & Non-Acute Cases

- Follow-up Clinic is staffed by on-site nurses who offer scheduled appointments
- Support provided:
 - Emotional Support and psychoeducation
 - STI testing and information
 - Advocacy
 - Police involvement (if client requests)
 - Safety planning
 - Community resourcing for further emotional and/or practical support

SA/DVCC Therapy Service: Overview

- We receive referrals from the SA/DVCC Acute Service & internal hospital referrals.
- We provide therapy services to women, men and trans folk over the age of 16 who have experienced sexual assault or intimate partner violence in their adult life.
- Clients can access individual, time-limited therapy services.

Therapeutic Framework

Guiding Framework of Practice is:

- Rooted in a Feminist, Anti-Oppressive framework
- Focused on holistic care
- Client-centred, collaborative care model

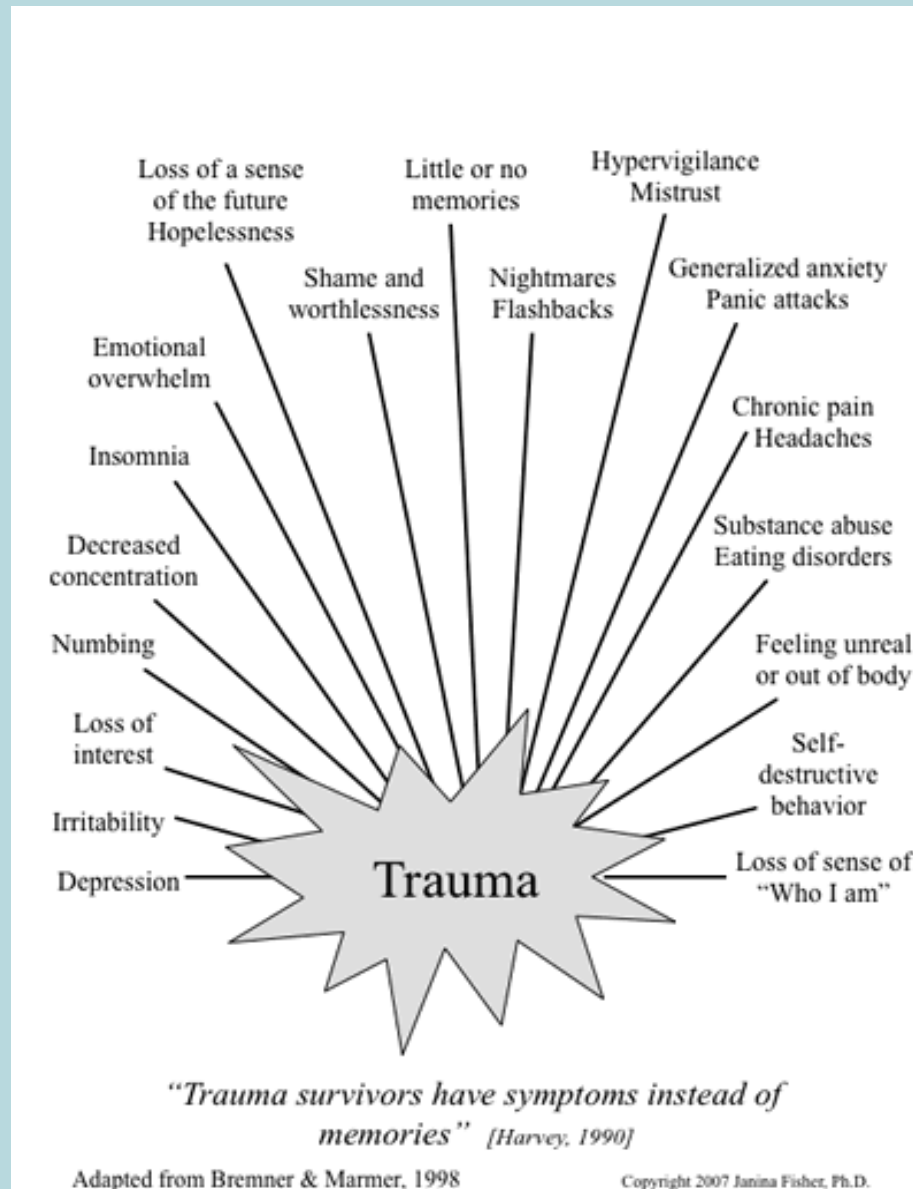
Find the SA/DVCC closest to you....

There are 36 SA/DV Centre in Ontario, to find the location that is closest to your clients, please see the Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres here:

<https://www.sadvtreatmentcentres.ca>

You can also access free online trainings and resources on the Network website that relate to supporting survivors

Trauma Impacts



Supporting Clients who Disclose Sexual Assault or Intimate Partner Violence

- Outline your role and responsibilities and what confidentiality looks like
- Discuss the importance of accessing specialized medical attention
- Believe your client and respond to them in an client-centered, non-judgmental manner
- Let your client know that they are not to blame
- Normalize trauma impacts
- Remember, your client is the expert of their own life
- Discuss the support options they have available to them
- Know yourself
- Stay informed

Questions?