

# Echo from the Chair

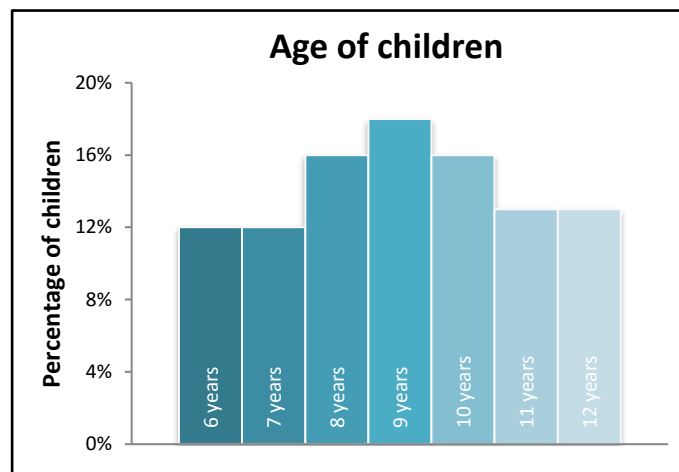
July 2013 Number 1

Martine Hébert & Mireille Cyr

## Who are the school-aged children attending the Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent?

One hundred seventy-seven (177) sexually abused children have been met in a pre-treatment evaluation, during the first five years of the Centre's service.

<b>Girls</b>	<b>68%</b>	<i>The Centre receives more girls than boys. Studies indicate that girls are more often victims of sexual abuse than boys.</i>
<b>Boys</b>	<b>32%</b>	



The mean age of children met for pre-evaluation treatment is 9 years.

**49%**

• of mothers reported a history of child sexual abuse

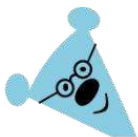
- The Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent (CEMV) offers services for children aged 12 and under who are victims of sexual abuse.

- The Marie-Vincent Interuniversity Chair conducts a research program related to the CEMV's clientele that aims to:

- Evaluate the needs and capacities of children and their families;
- Evaluate the services offered at the CEMV;
- Study the different developmental trajectories of children.



FONDATION  
MARIE-VINCENT



CENTRE D'EXPERTISE  
MARIE-VINCENT

**Marie-Vincent  
Interuniversity  
Chair  
on sexual abuse  
towards children**

Mireille Cyr, Ph.D.  
Université de Montréal  
Department of Psychology  
TEL: (514) 343-5968  
[mireille.cyr@umontreal.ca](mailto:mireille.cyr@umontreal.ca)

Martine Hébert, Ph.D.  
Université du Québec à Montréal  
Department of Sexology  
TEL: (514) 987-3000 ext. 5697  
[hebert.m@uqam.ca](mailto:hebert.m@uqam.ca)

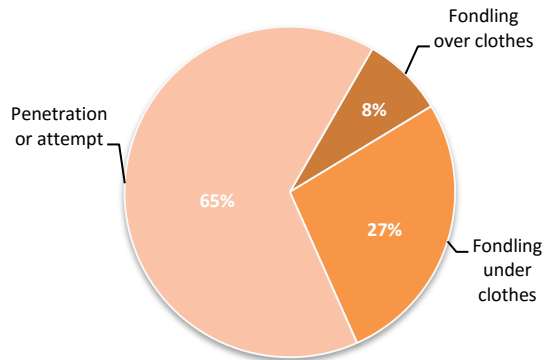
Mélanie M. Gagnon, Ph.D.  
Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent  
TEL: (514) 285-0505  
[melanie.gagnon@ceasmv.ca](mailto:melanie.gagnon@ceasmv.ca)

**Marie-Vincent Foundation**  
<http://marie-vincent.org/>

**Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent**  
<http://www.ceasmv.ca/>

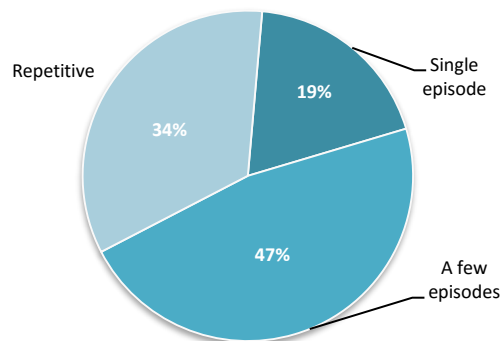
# What are the characteristics of the sexual assaults?

**Severity of the sexual abuse**



Two-thirds of children attending CEMV experienced severe gestures, such as attempted penetration, digital, vaginal or anal penetration, or oral-genital contacts.

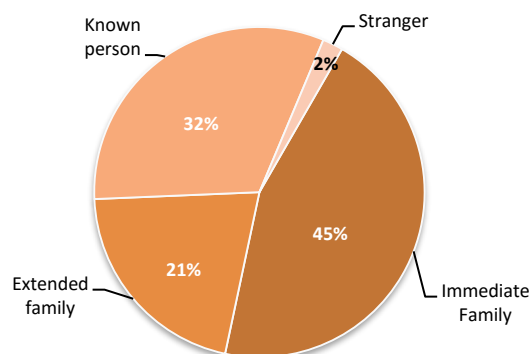
**Duration of the sexual abuse**



Almost half of the children experienced a few episodes of sexual abuse.

One-third experienced repetitive sexual assaults. For the latter, the sexual abuse lasted on average a little more than 2 years.

**Identity of the perpetrator**



In almost all cases, the perpetrator is someone who is known by the child or the family. For two in three children, the perpetrator is a member of their immediate or extended family. Only a very small proportion of cases implicate a stranger.

*" According to the collected data, children experienced their first episode of sexual abuse between the ages of 2 and 12. On average, they were 6½ years old at the time of the first episode. "*