

SADA Project

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SADA:

Sexual Assault of People in Disability & Aged Care Services

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Background to SADA

- Myalla: Responding to People with a Disability who have been Sexually Assaulted
- Clinical Experience
- Research

Profile of Sexual Assault of People with a Disability

- 50-90% sexually assaulted in lifetime

3 times more likely to be victim of violent crime

- High rate of assault by service providers
- Assaults more likely to be severe & ongoing
- Less likely for assault to be detected and acted on
 - Offenders gravitate to residential facilities

Sexual Assault of Older People: A Profile

- Little research to date
 - Perpetrators are commonly service providers & other residents
 - Those with cognitive impairments, dementia & physical frailty are targeted
 - Less likely to be detected and acted on
 - > 50% of victims died within 1 yr due to trauma of assault

Sexual Abuse of Older Women: Research

Victim Profile:

- *43% own home
- 38% nursing home
- *majority aged 80-90 yrs
- *49% had **cognitive impairments**
& physical immobility
- * 52% physical injuries

Sexual Assault of Older Adults: Research

- **Profile of Perpetrators**

- * 93% male, 7% female

- * 59% known to victim:

- 48% acquaintances

- 26% caretakers

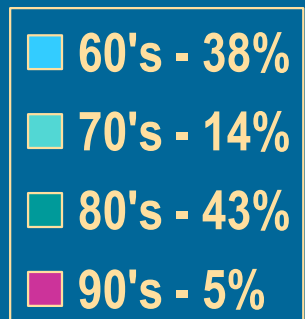
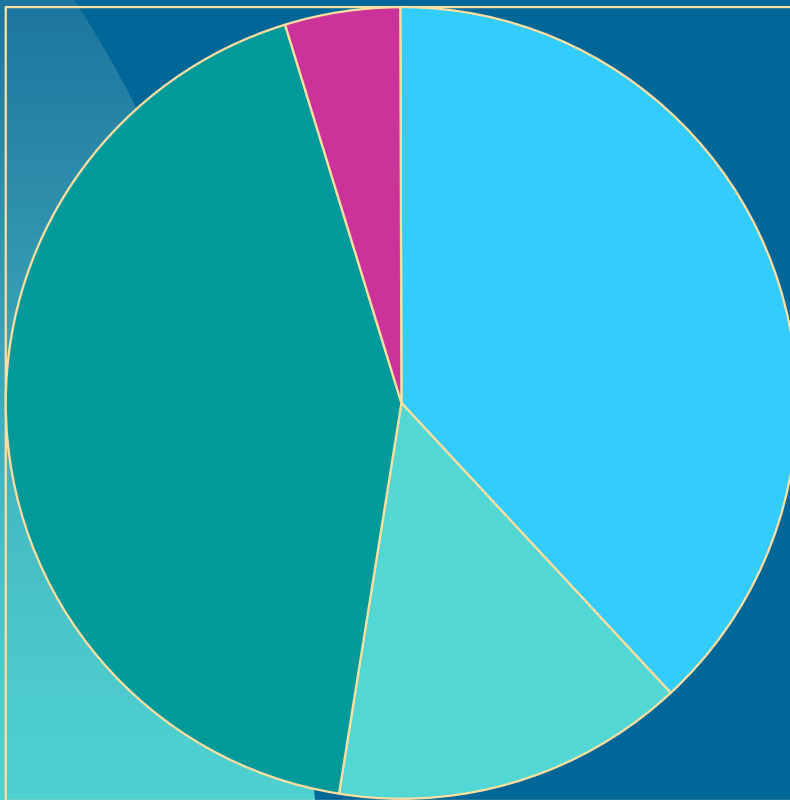
- 19% nursing home residents

- * 50% had previous sexual assault histories

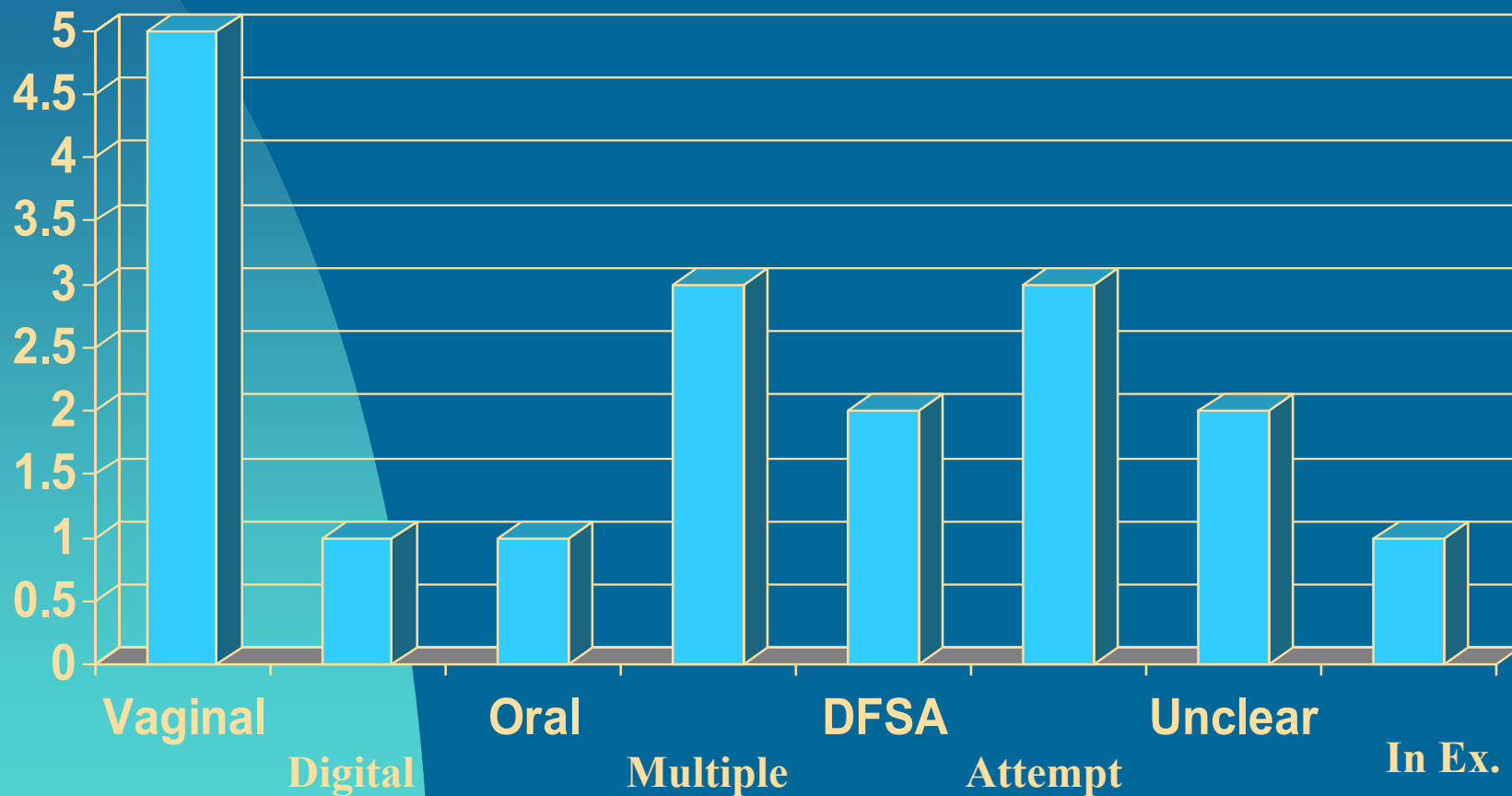
Northern Sydney Elder Sexual Assault: Profile

- Largest Group 80-90 yrs (43%)
- Perpetrators-
50% strangers 50% known
- Injuries- 45%
- Majority- no prosecution

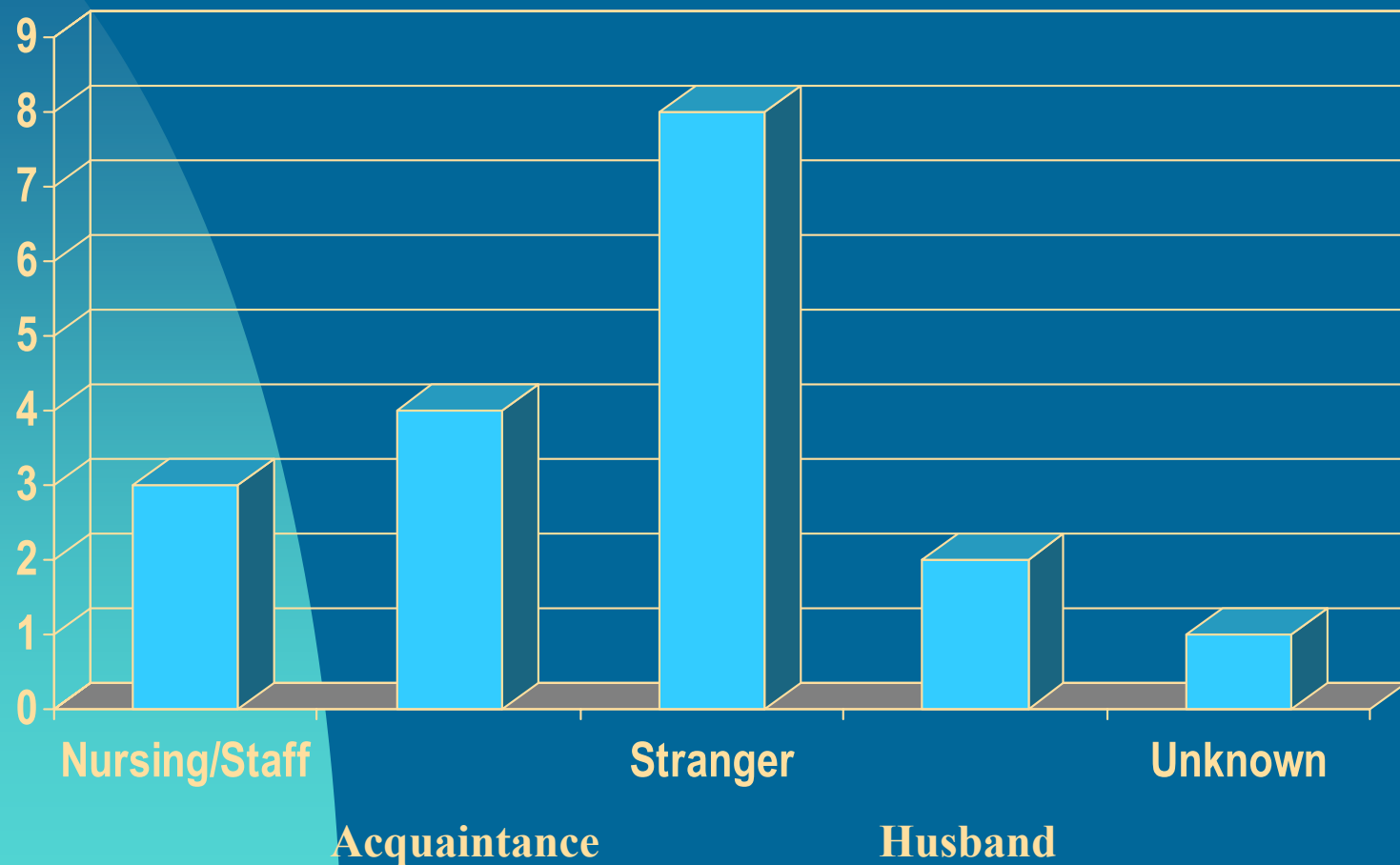
Age of Victims



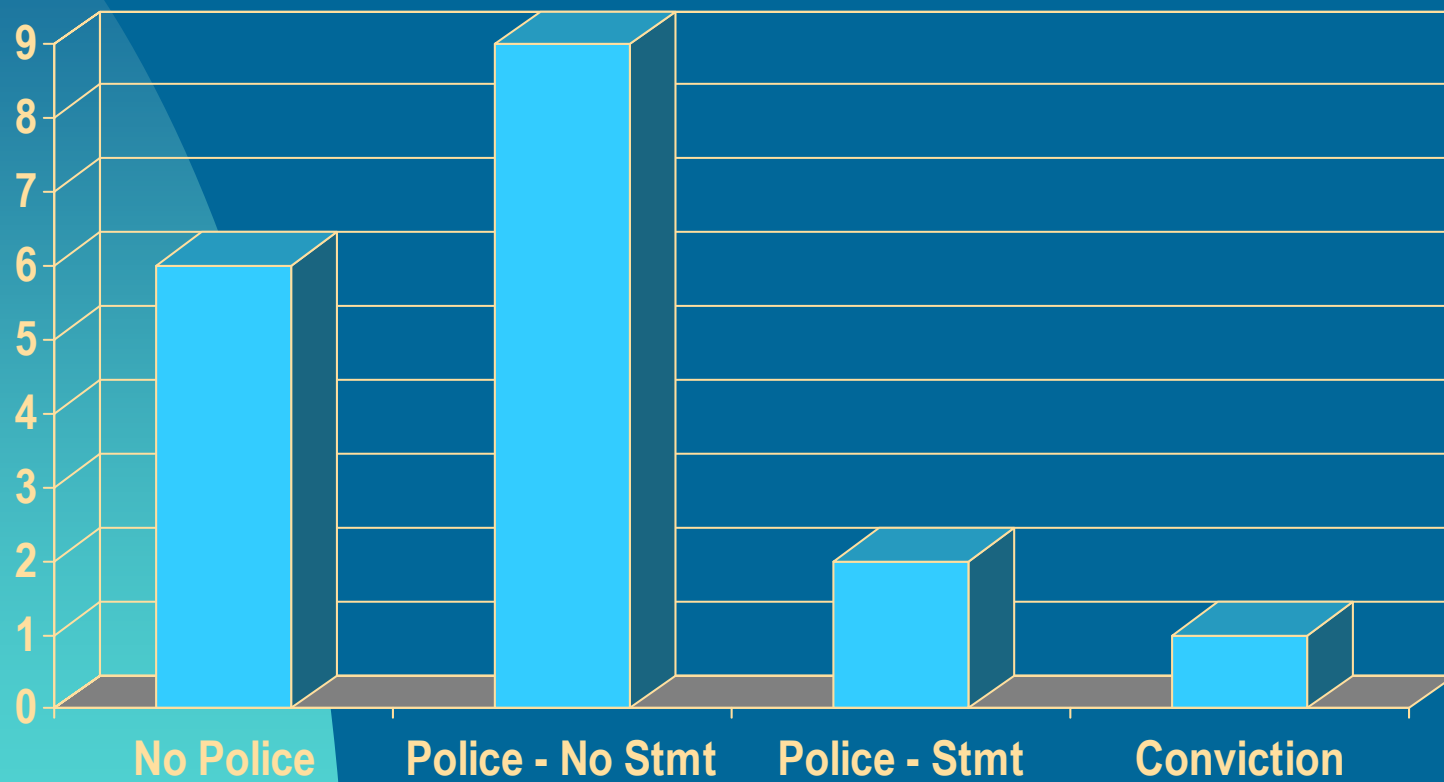
Type of Assault



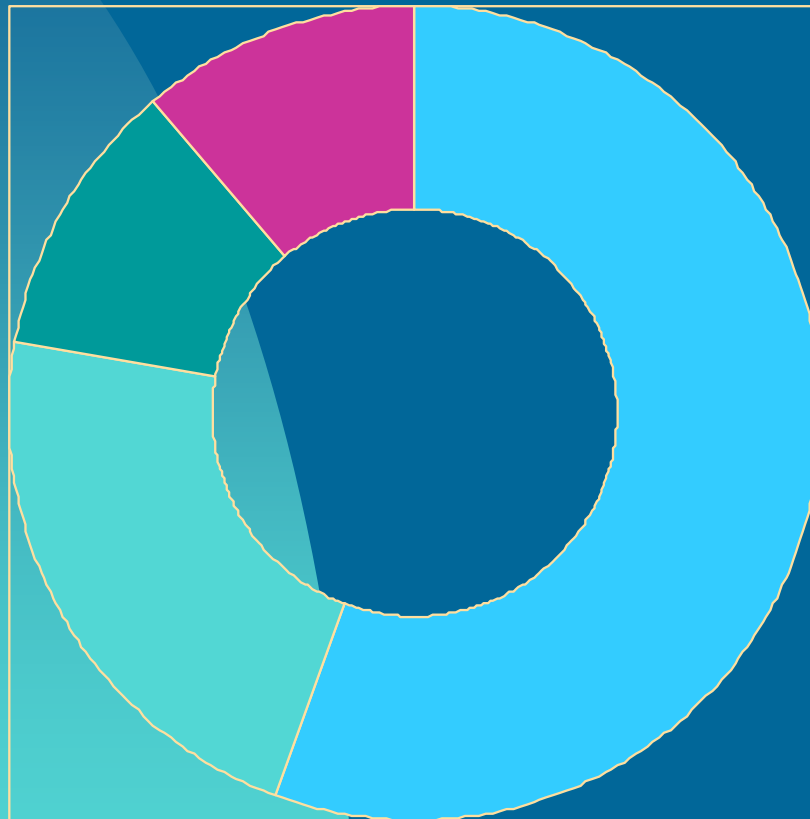
Perpetrator Profile



Legal Action



Injuries



Challenges for Service Providers

- Victims often disbelieved/ unable to disclose
- 'Behind Closed Doors'- hidden crime
- Victims unable to testify
- Delays in Reporting & Investigation

- 'Sexual offenders are attracted by vulnerability and availability, rather than by physical attributes of potential victims.'

Groth '79

SADA Project: Mission Statement

- To create a framework for action in which all responsible agencies work together to ensure an integrated approach to :
- *protect vulnerable people in care settings*
- *Provide an effective response to incidents or concerns of sexual assault*

Key Responses

- **Creating Safe Environments**
- **Detection of Sexual Abuse**
- **Responding to Suspected Sexual Abuse**
- **Investigation of the Crime**

1. Creating Safe Environments

- Staff Code of Conduct
- Organization Mission Statement
- Working with Vulnerable Person's Check
- Recruitment & Staff Training

2. Detection of Sexual Abuse

- Witness
- Disclosure
- Physical Evidence
- Behavioural Indicators

Behavioural Indicators

- Expressions of Fear
- Agitation & Anxiety
- Sleep Disturbance & Nightmares
- Avoidance
- Re-enactments
- Protest Behaviours
- Withdrawal
- Appetite Changes
- Somatic Complaints esp coldness & muscular rigidity

3. Responding to Suspected Sexual Abuse

- Consultation with:
 - * Management
 - * Sexual Assault Service
 - * Police
 - * SADA Action Strategy

4. Investigation of Crime

- Prompt Interagency Response
- Statement Taking
- Crime Scene Preservation

The Future? SADA Action Strategy

- Working with Vulnerable Persons Check
- Commitment to Safe Environments
- Standardized Local MOU's
- Legal Reform

SADA Partnerships

- Data Collection
- Consultation
- Resource Exchange
- Sharing Knowledge & Expertise

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