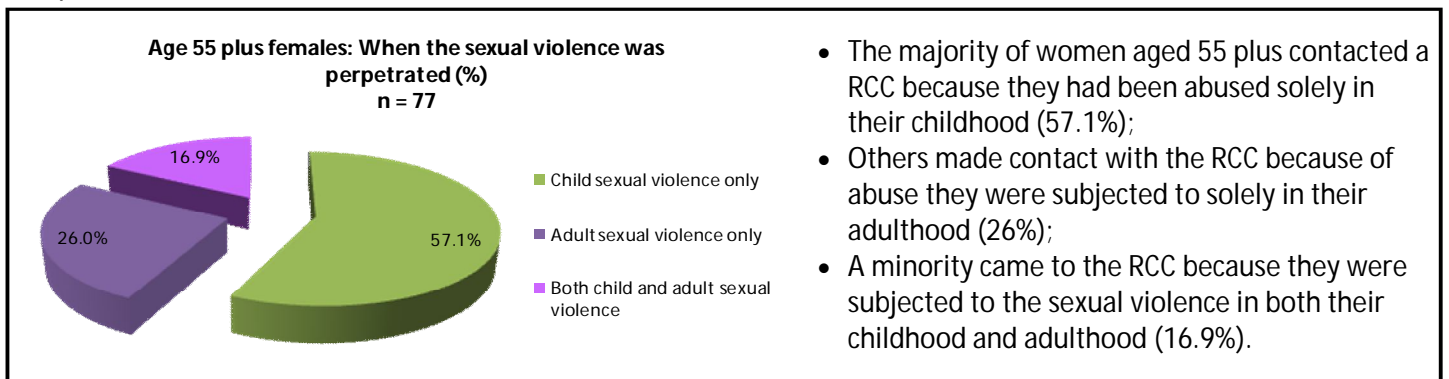


Sexual violence and older women in Ireland

Older women contact and attend Rape Crisis Centres (RCCs) for a variety of reasons. 123 people attending RCCs in 2010 were aged 55 or over.

Survivor Information

- Most of those aged 55 and over were survivors of sexual violence (82.1%);
- Some of those aged 55 and over were supporting someone who had been subjected to sexual violence (17.9%).
- Very few older people over the age of 65 contacted a RCC (17.8%).
- Over three quarters of survivors aged 55 plus who attended RCCs in 2010 were female (77.2%), just under one quarter were male (22.8%).

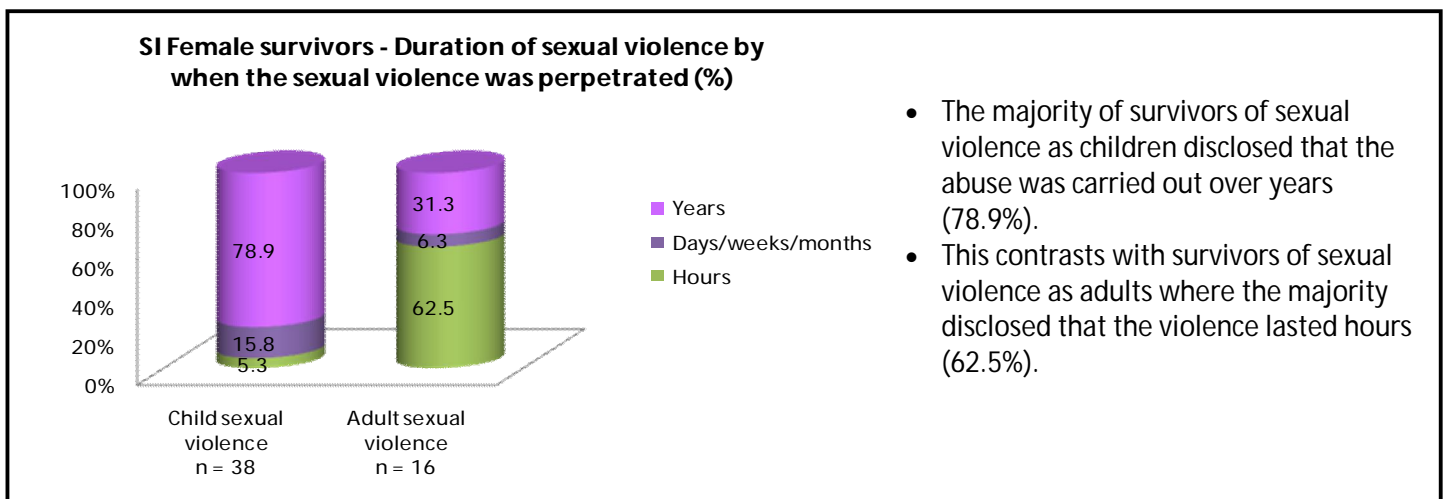


Sexual Violence Information

The following information refers to survivors aged 55 and over who attended RCC services in 2010 and who were subjected to one incident of sexual violence.*

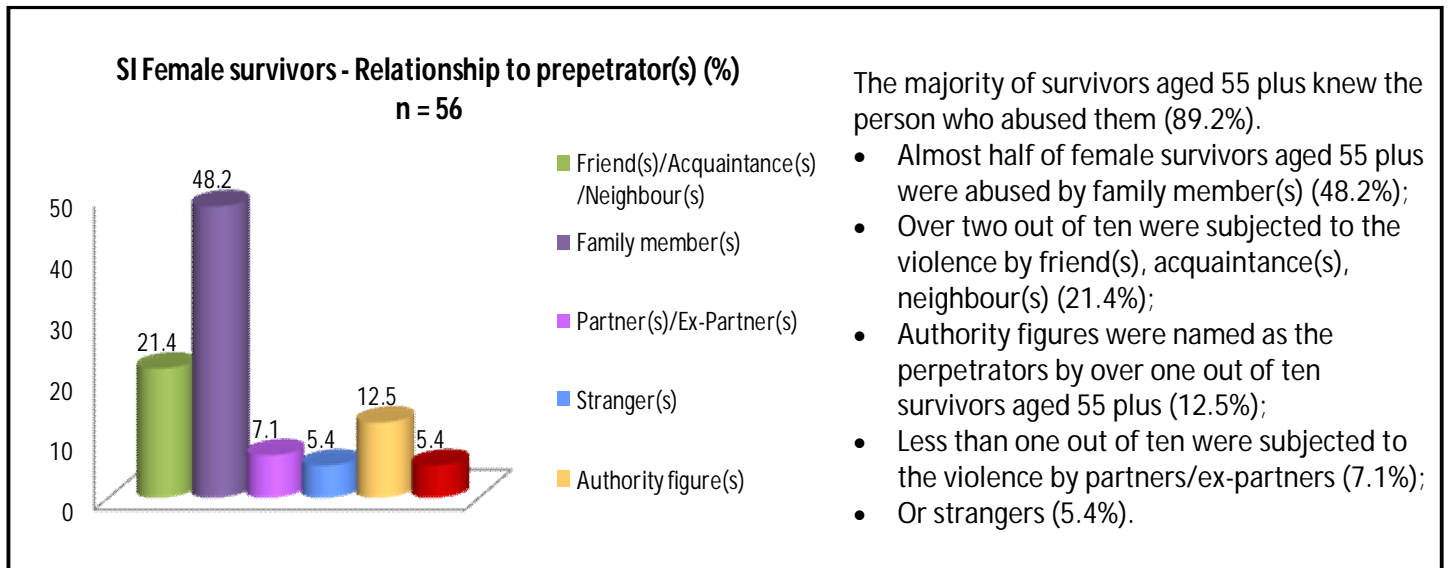
Female survivors who were subjected to sexual violence as children disclose different types of sexual violence to those that were abused as adults.

- Female survivors aged 55 plus who came to RCCs because they were abused as children named sexual assault as the most common type of violence perpetrated against them (70%), followed by rape (30%);
- Female survivors aged 55 plus who came to RCCs because they were abused as adults named rape as the most common type of violence perpetrated against them (80%), followed by sexual assault (20%).
- Over half of female survivors aged 55 plus said that the sexual violence took place in their own homes (54.7%);
- Just under one quarter named the perpetrators home as the location of the violence (24.5%);
- Over one out of ten disclosed that the violence took place outside (13.2%);
- While less than one out of ten disclosed that the violence was perpetrated in other locations (7.5%).



Perpetrator Information

- The majority of female survivors aged 55 plus who attended RCCs in 2010 were abused by males (94.6%);
- Less than two out of ten were subjected to the violence by females (5.4%).



Female survivors aged 55 plus disclosed that perpetrators were various ages:

- Three out of ten survivors disclosed that perpetrators were aged 30 to 39 (30.2%);
- Just under two out of ten perpetrators were either under the age of 20, aged 20 to 29 or aged 40 to 49 (18.6% respectively);
- Survivors disclosed that over one out of ten were aged 50 plus (14%).

Who are RCNI?

Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI) is a specialist information and resource centre on rape and all forms of sexual violence with a proven capacity in strategic leadership. The RCNI role includes the development and coordination of national projects such as expert data collection, strategic services development, supporting RCCs to reach best practice standards, using our expertise to influence national policy and social change, and supporting and facilitating multiagency partnerships. We are the representative, umbrella body for our member Rape Crisis Centres who provide free advice, counselling and support for survivors of sexual violence in Ireland.

What is the RCNI Database©?

The RCNI Database© is a highly secure online database which allows authorised sexual violence services (SVSs) personnel to log in and record specific anonymised information on service user. This data collection system which has been specifically designed to collect data in frontline services dedicated to working with victims of sexual violence equips RCNI to deliver comparable national data and simultaneously equips sexual violence services to, at any time, extract data regarding use of their own local service.

*An incident is not necessarily a once-off act of sexual violence. It instead identifies if the sexual violence was connected by the same perpetrator either acting alone or a specific group of perpetrators acting together. An incident of sexual violence may last hours, days, weeks, months or years. Where it is possible the analysis also examines when the sexual violence was perpetrated in survivors lives.

© Whenever reference is made to any part of or all of the data originating from the RCNI Database in any external communications, whether oral and/or written and through any medium whatsoever, the RCNI Database must be identified clearly and in full in the relevant communication(s) as the origin of that data and/or any part of it.

 For more information on the RCNI Database© please contact info@rcni.ie or go to www.rcni.ie