

2023

ZEBRA CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE

IMPACT

Safety Support Strength

Meet Zebra

The Zebra Child & Youth Advocacy Centre serves children and youth who have experienced abuse, supporting them through the investigative, justice and healing process with a continuum of multi-disciplinary resources in a child-friendly environment.






The Zebra Centre is a place that you hope you never have to visit. But in a crisis, when a child discloses being hurt, the Zebra Centre is ready to help!



Thank you!

It truly takes a herd to help the thousands of kids who come to the Zebra Centre every year. Donors, sponsors, grantors and volunteers make it possible!

Learn More

-  www.zebracentre.ca
-  780-421-2385
-  info@zebracentre.ca
-  @zebracentre
-  7 Floor, 10909 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5J 3L9

In 2023, we helped a record

4,362

 children & youth

2% increase over 2022

2022: 4,272 children & youth supported

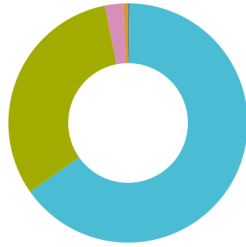
2021: 3,844 children & youth supported

85%
increase
in past
five years

2023 Overview

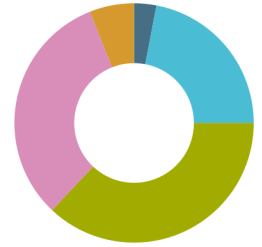
Gender of Children & Youth Supported

Female	65.2%
Male	31.6%
Non-Binary	2.5%
Transgender	0.6%
2-Spirit	0.2%



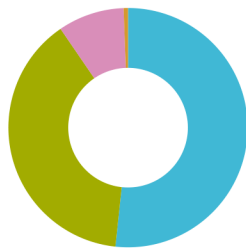
Ages of Children & Youth Supported

1-5 years	3%
6-10 years	22%
11-15 years	37%
16-18 years	32%
19 years+	6%



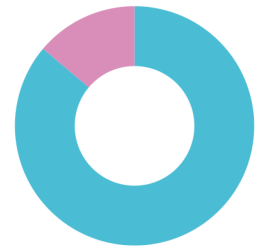
Reason for Referral

Sexual	52%
Physical	39%
Other*	9%
Witness to Crime	1%



Relation to Suspect

Known	86.4%
Unknown	13.6%



*online crimes, abduction and other forms of harm

Since opening in 2002, the Zebra Centre was designed to support about 2,000 children and youth annually. Over the past five years, the number of children & youth coming to the Zebra Centre for services and supports have grown from 2,363 in 2019 to 4,362 in 2023, an **85% increase!**

After 22 years operating from the same downtown Edmonton, child-friendly environment, the Zebra Centre is moving in 2024. The new Zebra Centre will more than double the current size, allowing for enhanced and increased services and supports for the thousands of children and youth who come to the Centre for help every year!



Client Feedback

- **92.5%** of caregivers said staff members at the Centre were friendly & pleasant.
- **94.3%** of caregivers said the Centre has been available to answer questions.
- **94.2%** of caregivers said if they knew anyone else dealing with a situation like the one they faced, they would let them know about Zebra.

Services & Supports



1,610
files discussed

98.2% police referrals
1.7% other sources

1,583 files discussed in 2022
1,707 files discussed in 2021



1,543
forensic interviews

815 EPS – Child
7 EPS – Adult
702 RCMP – Child
3 CFS non-criminal
12 Other Police

1,879 forensic interviews in 2022
1,938 forensic interviews in 2021



1,571
new cases

1,498 new cases in 2022
1,666 new cases in 2021

Two Children & Family Services Special Assessors based in the Zebra Centre conducted 732 child forensic interviews in 2023 to support the youngest children and most complex cases.



CARRT
(Child at Risk
Response Team)

6 Teams
attended
744
Community Calls

Based in the Zebra Centre, each CARRT team consists of one EPS Constable and one Child & Family Services Welfare Investigator. CARRT Teams are available 7 days a week and provide front-line supports for children at risk.



Court Preparation

327 court preps
in 2023



Court Accompaniment

245 children
accompanied on 226
court dates in 2023



Community Connections

1,858 connections
made in 2023



**Mental Health
Supports**

378
children, youth &
caregivers supported

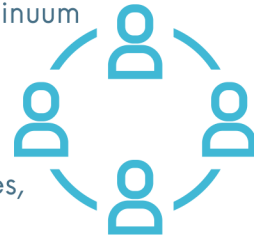
244 Trauma Treatment
Services through AHS
134 Saffron Centre

While the Zebra Centre strives to provide a continuum of support in our child-friendly environment, we often refer our clients and safe caregivers to specialized community supports as required.

People & Partners

When danger appears, zebras form a protective circle around their young.

Our multi-disciplinary team works the same way in the Zebra Centre, providing a continuum of care as children and youth navigate investigative, justice and healing systems.



Zebra Centre Staff

20 staff members

Zebra Centre staff and volunteers are dedicated to supporting the Multi-Disciplinary Team in their specialized work relating to investigations, justice, and healing. Plus, the Zebra Centre works with dozens of other community partners and organizations to ensure specialized supports are provided as required.

Partners

- Alberta Children & Family Services, Edmonton Region
- Edmonton Police Service
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Alberta Crown Prosecution Service
- Stollery Children’s Hospital
- Alberta Health Services – Child & Adolescent Addiction and Mental Health

Community Education

In 2023, we added a full-time Community Education Lead to our team. This resulted in **51 community tours** of the Zebra Centre, **29 community events** and displays, and **79 community presentations**.

Philanthropy

The Zebra Centre must raise over \$500,000 from the community annually to fund our services and supports. We are incredibly grateful for the thousands of individual gifts received in 2023 and the **57 Community Fundraising Events and Campaigns** that benefitted the Zebra Centre.



VIP (Very Important Paws) Facility Dog Program

Year over year, 100% of caregivers express being satisfied or very satisfied with the comfort they or their children receive from the VIP dogs.

In 2023, our dogs (Fletcher, Captain, and Cajun) supported children & youth 552 times!



After nearly 8 years of exemplary service, **Fletcher**, the accredited facility dog, retired in June 2023 after supporting **1,614 children and youth** who experienced abuse.



Volunteers

84 active volunteers

- 47 child advocates
- 9 court accompaniments
- 32 board & committees
- 1 admin volunteer
- 1 research volunteer

Volunteer Hours

4,523 hours

- 3,339 directly supporting children & families
- 1,184 administrative (committees, training, file tasks, events)