

News Release
For immediate release

February 14, 2020

Zebra Child Protection Centre Facility Dog, Wren, Retires

Zebra Centre releases 2019 Statistics

EDMONTON, AB – In 2019, the Zebra Child Protection Centre supported 2,362 children and youth, which was a 12.6 per cent increase compared to 2018 where 2,098 children were supported.

“Supporting 2,362 children and youth requires a lot of resources. Without our onsite partners we would not be able to provide an exceptional level of customized care and support that we strive to give each child and youth that comes to the Centre,” says, Cheryl Diebel, CEO, Zebra Child Protection Centre.

A critical part of the support children, youth and their families experience are the Very Important Paws (VIP) program, which includes trained facility dogs, Wren and Fletcher. Wren and Fletcher met with children and youth 536 times in 2019. In the spring of 2015, Wren made history in Edmonton Law Courts as the first facility dog allowed to support a child on the stand while giving a testimony. Throughout 2019, Wren supported children, youth and their families 265 times. Wren will celebrate her retirement on February 27, 2020.

The caseload at the Zebra Centre has been increasing year over year, but we don't believe this is necessarily attributed to an increase in child abuse within our community rather it signifies a change within our community members recognizing the moral and legal obligation to report abuse. The Edmonton community continues to show us their dedication to a future where child abuse is not tolerated and with 112 volunteers in 2019 they helped us deliver our programs and services by donating 5,849.1 hours to the children, youth and families that we support.

In 2019, the Zebra Centre saw a 7.1 per cent increase in new cases with 94 per cent being police referrals. With onsite partners at the Zebra Centre, 1,169 forensic interviews were conducted in a space that is safe and comfortable for children, youth and their families. 768 interviews by EPS members, 385 by RCMP members, eight by Edmonton Region Children's Services and six by Integrated and Rural Police Organizations. *“The Zebra Child Protection Centre provides crucial support to some of the most vulnerable children and youth in our communities,”* says Dale McFee,

Chief of the Edmonton Police Service. “Each partnering agency brings a unique set of skills to the table to ensure every case is addressed in the most supportive manner. This is an example of an integrated business model that actually works and demonstrates what can be accomplished when we all work together.”

-30-

Founded in 2002, The Zebra Child Protection Centre is a non-profit, community-based organization that was established to improve the lives of children who have suffered abuse. As the first Child Advocacy Centre of its kind in Canada, the Zebra Centre’s model was revolutionary - bring together a community of professionals under one roof to support the child throughout the entire disclosure, investigative, judicial and healing process. Today, the Zebra Centre leads the way in continuing to providing a safe and child-friendly space where kids can tell. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Learn more about the #KidsCanTell story by following us on social media:



Media Contacts

Emily Murray

Communications Coordinator
Zebra Child Protection Centre
Cell: 780.886.3495
Email: emily.murray@zebracentre.ca

Cheryl Diebel

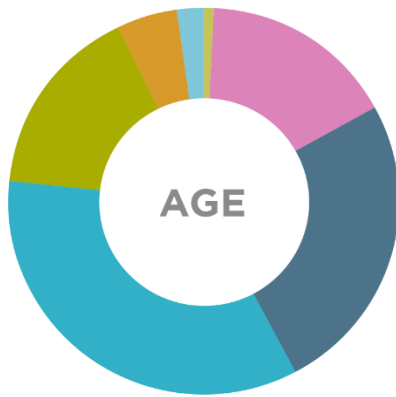
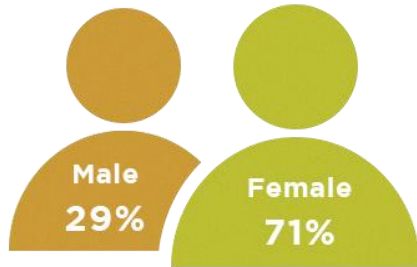
Chief Executive Officer
Zebra Child Protection Centre
Direct: 780.421.2016
Email: Cheryl.Diebel@zebracentre.ca

Zebra Centre Statistics – Comparative 2019 and 2018

Stat	2019	2018
New Cases Increase of 7.1%	893 new cases - 94% police referrals - 6% other source	834 new cases - 94% police referrals - 6% other source
Files Discussed at Intake Increase of 7.5%	1118 files discussed	1040 files discussed
Forensic Interviews (Onsite) Increase of 18.1%	1169 forensic interviews conducted - 703 EPS – Child - 65 EPS – Adult - 385 RCMP – Child - 8 CFS – Courtesy - 6 Other Police	990 forensic interviews conducted - 551 EPS- Child - 87 EPS – Adult - 336 RCMP – Child - 3 CFS – Courtesy - 14 Other Police
Children Supported 12.6% more children supported	2362 children supported	2098 children supported
Adults Supported 28.6% more adults supported	2165 adults supported	1683 adults supported
Client Services Provided (this includes care calls, information provided, emotional support, referrals...) Increase of 42%	29,690 client services provided	20,909 client services provided
Mental Health (MH) Referrals (this includes treatment for children, youth and caregivers) TTS replaced TRP in 2019	Trauma Treatment Service (TTS) = 406 88.5% of caregiver respondents were satisfied with the services their child obtained through our mental health referrals.	Trauma Referral Program (TRP) = 93 88.9% of caregiver respondents were satisfied with the services their child obtained through our mental health referrals.
Community Referrals (this includes community-based supports, caregiver/adult mental health services, etc)	463 referrals	298 referrals
Volunteer Numbers 24 more volunteers	76 child advocates 5 administrative volunteers 13 board members 17 event volunteers 1 research volunteer	58 child advocates 3 administrative volunteers 10 board members 16 event volunteers 1 research volunteer
Volunteers Hours	5849.1 hours	5966.65 hours - 4257.15 of which were directly

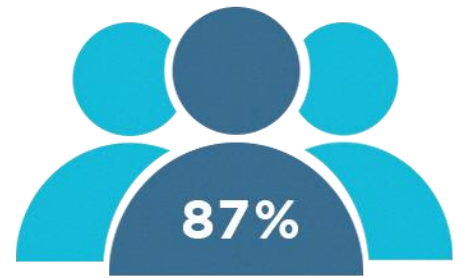
	-4983.2 of which were directly supporting children & families (Centre & courthouse) - 880.90 of which were administrative (meetings, training, file tasks)	supporting children & families (Centre & courthouse) - 1095.75 of which were administrative (meetings, training, file tasks) - 694 of which were events, fundraising & community development
Court Preps	270 court preps 445.5 * Volunteer hours	261 court preps 555.75* Volunteer Hours *started including court accompaniment's time spent at prep
Court Accompaniment	294 children accompanied on 217 court dates 913 Volunteer hours	245 children accompanied on 182 court dates 652 Volunteer Hours
VIP (dog) Program	536 times our 2 dogs (Wren and Fletcher) met with children. 100% of caregivers expressed being satisfied with the comfort they or their children received from the dog.	603 times our 2 dogs (Wren & Fletcher) met with children. 98.2% of caregivers expressed being satisfied with the comfort they or their children received from the dog.
Client Feedback - OMS Initial Survey (after first visit)	96.7% of caregivers believed their child felt safe at the Centre 96.1% of caregivers believe their questions were answered to their satisfaction 87.4% of caregivers believed they were provided the resources to support and respond to their child's needs in the days and weeks ahead	
Client Feedback – OMS Follow-up Survey (after conclusion of file)	88% of caregivers felt they knew what to expect in the days and weeks that followed 88% of caregivers believed the services they received were helpful to child and family 93.3% of caregivers would tell someone they knew dealing with abuse about the Centre	

2019 Demographics



0-3 years 1%
 4-7 years 16%
 8-11 years 25%
 12-15 years 34%
 16-17 years 16%
 18+ 5%
 Unknown 2%

*All numbers rounded to the closest whole percentage



87% of suspects are known to the child