

A prevalence survey on ritual abuse in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

Source: Moss-Sharman, L. (1993, April 20). *Entering the therapeutic and information maze from the perspective of a survivor: the results of a questionnaire circulated to counsellors/therapists/social workers in THUNDER BAY who work with ritual abuse survivors*, October 1992 to April 1993. Unpublished manuscript.

Distribution of Questionnaire:

1. Questionnaires sent out = 25
2. Questionnaires were sent to six (6) agencies
 - a. Thunder Bay Physical and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre
 - b. Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital
 - c. Lakehead Regional Family Centre
 - d. Family Services Thunder Bay
 - e. Catholic Family Development Centre
 - f. Faye Peterson Transition House
3. Questionnaires returned = 11 from five of the six agencies (a 44% rate of return)

Questions 1, 8, 14 of questionnaire related to prevalence.

These questions and the responses received are re-produced below.

Question # 1: Have you encountered child or adult survivor clients whom you suspected had experienced ritual abuse?

Answer:

- Counsellors/therapists who answered YES 10; NO 1
- Living in Thunder Bay: Child survivors: 0; Adult survivors (female): 24-26
- Living in another province, previous clients of counsellor now working in Thunder Bay: Child survivors: 5; Adult survivors (male & female): 10-15

Question # 8: Approximate age and gender of clients.

Answer:

- Female clients living in Thunder Bay were between ages of 17-40;
- Out of province clients ages were: boys and girls ages 6-7 years; males 13-15 years of age; females 22-24 years of age

Question # 14: Do you perceive ritual abuse as: A rare occurrence; A growing issue; Difficult to identify as such; Other?

Answer:

- A rare occurrence: 1 saying that it is "just coming out of the closet."
- A growing issue: 8
- Difficult to identify: 1

The above information was printed with permission from author (November 24, 2003).

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