

# 2023 PEACE Programs 24 Hour Census



Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment (PEACE) Programs are psycho-educational programs that offer free, confidential support to children and youth in BC who have experienced violence in their homes, as well as their non-offending caregivers.

**In just 24 hours**, between November 29th-30th 2023, 68 PEACE Programs in BC:



**Supported 472 children, youth and their non-offending caregivers** who have experienced violence.



**Responded to 356 service-related calls, emails and texts** by providing information and support: an average of 14-15 calls, emails and texts every hour!



**Educated 576 people about the dynamics and impacts of violence against women** through training and public presentations.

## Unfortunately, during the same period

- An additional **454 children, youth and their non-offending caregivers were unable to be served.**
- There were **673 children and youth on waitlists for PEACE Program services.** That's almost one and a half times the number of children, youth and non-offending caregivers served (472).

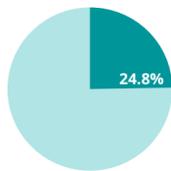


**472 People Supported** to respond to the impacts of violence.  
**338 children & youth + 134 adults**

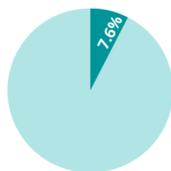
**"It's nice to have a place I can share things that I can't talk about at home or to friends."**

- Program Participant

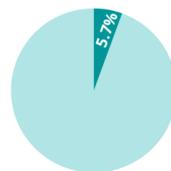
**Almost two fifths (38.1%)** of children, youth and non-offending caregivers served were known to be experiencing challenges related to **mental wellness or substance use** as follows:



117 people supported (24.8%) were facing challenges related to their **mental wellness.**



36 people supported (7.6%) were facing challenges related to **substance use.**



27 people supported (5.7%) were facing challenges related to **both mental wellness and substance use.**

**"This support group has helped me immensely and I am going to recommend it to other people in the community. I am so grateful for the service your agency provides."**

- Program Participant

PEACE Program counsellors delivered **386 support sessions** including:

- **261 individual counselling sessions** to children and youth
- **42 group counselling sessions** to children and youth
- **83 sessions to parents or caregivers.**

## Service-Related Activities

The top 3 service-related activities provided were:

- **Individual Support: 83.8%** of programs reported carrying out this work.
- **Support related to mental wellness** was the second most common activity reported for the fourth year in a row, at **44.1%.**
- **Parent/caregiver skills programs**, at **26.5%.**

**"Grateful that after five years of looking for help for myself and my children, we were finally able to rest after getting the PEACE Program support."**

- Program Participant, Caregiver

### Unmet Needs

**Program Waitlists** was the main barrier to services during the 24 hour period for the third year in a row (39.7%):

- **More than half of the PEACE Programs** who responded to this survey reported that their program was **carrying a waitlist** during the 24 hour period (55.8%)
- **PEACE Program waitlists** have been identified as a key barrier to services in the 24 Hour Census **every single year for the last seven years.**

### Services Barriers

The next most common Services Barriers reported were:

- **The needs of children and youth falling outside of the program's mandate.** (17.7%)
- **Insufficient staffing and the financial needs of the program not being met** by government funding (14.7%).

More than half of the programs who responded (55.9%) were operating with just one staff member during the 24 hour period.

**"My program is only funded for 18.5 hours per week so I find it difficult to serve clients, participate in community engagement, training, and offer VIP all within this limited time frame..."**

- PEACE Program Counsellor

**"The waitlist is the major one. It is hard to intake and then let moms know there is a three-month minimum waitlist..."**

- PEACE Program Counsellor

## 3 Key Service Gaps

The top 3 key services gaps reported by PEACE Programs included:

- **Waitlists** for both PEACE Programs and alternative services like clinical counselling and mental health (**48.5%**).
- **A lack alternative services** (**38.2%**).
- **A lack of funded hours** for the PEACE Program (**25%**).

**"There are massive waitlists for any and all mental health related services for children and youth in our community...As a result, youth get older...and problems get entrenched."**

- PEACE Program Counsellor

## BCSTH and the PEACE Programs Appreciate

The funding from MPSSG for a minimum of 17.5 hours/week to 85 of the 87 PEACE Programs in BC. However, the need remains for increased hours for PEACE Programs to be able to meet the demand for services in their communities. BCSTH sincerely thanks the PEACE Programs for the difference they are making every day in the lives of children and youth experiencing violence.