

State of Vermont

Special Investigation Units

For

**The Establishment and Sustainability of
Vermont's Special Investigation Units**



Legislative Report

January 2013

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MDT Development Training – South Burlington – September 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Current Status: County-based Special Investigation Units (SIU) are supported in twelve (12) counties; Essex County and Grand Isle County are supported by SIUs in neighboring counties. *Program Support Grants* are approved for the SIU administrative and operational expenses to sustain the core structure of the respective units. Nearly all of the SIUs are co-located or closely affiliated with the existing Child Advocacy Centers in their counties. On average, SIU funding provided through the Program Support Grants represents approximately 20% of the budgeted expenses for the units.

Law Enforcement Support Grants are approved for eight (8) law enforcement investigators around the state. Bennington, Caledonia, Franklin, Orange (x2), Orleans, Rutland, and Windham counties applied for this supplemental funding resource to provide the services of a full time investigator from a municipal or county law enforcement department. When combined with the services of investigators assigned by the Vermont State Police, these positions represent the core of the specialized law enforcement investigators directly supporting the SIUs.

Law Enforcement Reimbursement Grants are awarded to Essex County and Grand Isle County, as provided for in 24 VSA§1940. The Essex County Sheriff's Department provides investigative services to support investigations coordinated by the Caledonia SIU and the Orleans SIU, while the Grand Isle Sheriff's Department has established a working relationship with the Northwest Unit for Special Investigations in Franklin County, to include the establishment of a satellite office located in Grand Isle County.

New Initiatives: The Addison County Unit for Special Investigations (ACUSI) has been re-established with an approved Program Support Grant as of October 2012. The unit has secured office/interview space at the Addison County Sheriff's Department and expects to be operational from that location as of January 2013. A part-time investigator has been contracted with the Sheriff's Department to provide supplemental investigative services in support of the local police departments and the Vermont State Police investigator assigned to cases in Addison County.

Pilot projects are currently underway in Windham and Windsor counties, to evaluate the efficacy of Child Interview Specialists. Windsor County approached the VTSIU Grants Board with a proposal to establish a pilot project for FY13. They are supporting a position for a Child Interview Specialist through a combined funding source of grant funds, Department for Children and Families (DCF) support and SIU Grant Program support. This model of a dedicated specialist to interview children is used extensively, and successfully, in New Hampshire and was proposed as a means of significantly improving the quality and consistency of child interviews. In Windham County, a changeover in the SIU director position prompted their governing board to combine the part-time director position with a

part-time Child Interview Specialist position as a means of evaluating the efficacy of such a position in a smaller SIU setting. It is anticipated that these projects will provide valuable information to consider with respect to future implementation by other units.

The VTSIU Grants Board approved an increase in the maximum level of *Law Enforcement Support Grants*. After extensive conversations with local and county law enforcement administrators, and in consideration of legislative testimony and testimony to the VTSIU Grants Board offered by representatives of the Chiefs' Association and Sherriff's Association, a graduated increase of the maximum grant award was approved. The FY12 maximum of \$40,000 was adjusted to \$50,000 for FY13 and approved for \$60,000 beginning in FY14. These grants are awarded based upon available program funding. The testimony received indicated that many departments were unable to support a dedicated SIU investigator with the partial reimbursement represented by the former award level. The increased maximum award amounts may limit the overall number of awards granted, but should provide funding commensurate with contribution of work hours specific to SIU duties. Recipients are still bound by the provisions of the enabling legislation with respect to overtime, percentage of salaries supported by SIU grant funds, and matching funds requirements.

NCATrak has been adopted as the official records management system for the SIUs. The Child Advocacy Centers have relied upon this system for reporting statistical information on a national level. A review of the system capabilities demonstrated the ability to meet the statistical reporting needs for Vermont SIUs. Although some SIUs have used NCATrak to gather data for required program reporting, it was not universal, nor consistent in application. Beginning with FY13, the SIUs are now required to submit quarterly reports via pre-formatted custom reports available through NCATrak. Use of this system is a requirement for receiving SIU Grant Program funding and the annual fees associated with access to NCATrak are covered as a standing program expense by the SIU Grant Program. User guidance was developed and all SIUs are using NCATrak for case tracking and data management for their respective units.

Training: Based upon the needs identified during the program assessment conducted in 2011, training offerings in 2012 targeted ongoing investigator/interviewer development as well as training focusing on the development of multi-disciplinary team cohesiveness. In collaboration with the Vermont Children's Alliance (VCA) and the Northeast Regional Child Advocacy Center (NCAC), two sessions of a four-day course, *MDT Development Training*, were conducted in South Burlington. A total of eight teams representing seven of the SIUs attended these intensive team development sessions in September and November (Windsor had teams from Norwich and Springfield). SIU partners from the core disciplines worked in a facilitated environment to identify operational and interdisciplinary challenges within the respective units, and then developed tools and approaches to effectively

improve the functionality of the units. It should be noted that the scope and commitment of the Vermont teams participating in this valuable training was characterized as a “one-of-a-kind” event. Although the facilitation team has worked with larger individual teams, this was the first time for them to assist a complete, statewide program. This event, conducted over a couple of months due to the class size limitations that are necessary for such trainings (maximum of 5 teams of 6 people, per session), accomplished what would usually have taken multiple years to complete.



Working on communication “puzzle” during MDT Development Training –November 2012

SCOPE OF REPORT

This report covers major activity and current operational status for the Special Investigations Units in Vermont during the calendar year 2012. Statistical reporting reflects activity during the State Fiscal Year 2012, which encompasses the time period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Beginning in State Fiscal Year 2013, a new statistical reporting system will be in place and will improve the ability to capture data more consistently throughout the state by using a standardized data entry and report generation format. Grant Awards documented in this report are for FY13 award amounts.

CURRENT STATUS

Special Investigations Units (SIUs) are operational in all Vermont counties, at this time. Individual reports of SIUs by county are included in this report.

In collaboration with the Vermont Children's Alliance most SIUs are partnered and co-located with Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) throughout the state.

<http://vermont.nationalchildrensalliance.org/>

The accreditation body for the CACs is the National Children's Alliance (NCA). NCA provides detailed criteria for CAC accreditation and provides the professional standards for multi-disciplinary team operations, as adopted by Vermont SIUs.

<http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/index.php?s=24>

In addition to providing professional performance standards, the affiliation with NCA and the Vermont Children's Alliance has been an excellent conduit for obtaining the specialized training required by the units. This affiliation has also provided access to a records management system (NCATrak) that will provide consistent statistical information from each of the operating SIUs.

The State of Vermont currently provides Program Support Grant funding to SIUs in twelve counties. For the two remaining counties, Essex County is supported by SIUs in Caledonia and Orleans Counties, while Grand Isle County has an active partnership with the Northwest Unit for Special Investigations located in Franklin County.

Additionally, Law Enforcement Support Grant funding is provided through grant awards to SIUs for support of investigation resources provided by local police departments and Sheriff's departments. Grant funding awards to support law enforcement investigators are currently active in ten counties (Addison; Bennington; Caledonia; Essex; Franklin; Grand Isle; Orange; Orleans; Rutland; and Windham). Eight of the grant awards support law enforcement investigators by providing supplemental funding to the respective departments. Essex and Grand Isle Sheriff's Departments are reimbursed on an hourly basis for their services, as mandated by statute.

The role of forensic interviewing of children is a key component to the success of case management and prosecutions for the SIU teams. Until this year, Vermont has relied upon the training of law enforcement investigators and DCF investigators to fulfill this specialized role. As a pilot project to assess the efficacy of developing a child interview specialist position within an SIU, Windsor County agreed to undertake the pilot project and has hired a trained interview specialist who will be entirely dedicated to conducting victim interviews. Without the distraction of conducting criminal investigations or managing a DCF caseload, it is believed that this model may help reduce, or eliminate, the staff turnover problems that have plagued a number of the units. Due to the time commitment and expenses for training, the turnover issue has continued to be problematic for the SIUs.

The model of using a child interview specialist is not new. In fact, the state of New Hampshire relies upon this very model. In addition to the pilot project in Windsor County, with the transition in the directorship for the Windham County SIU, that unit has opted to combine two part-time positions into a full time position to encompass the administrative duties of the SIU director with child interview specialist duties. For the purposes of the SIU program, these two projects should provide an excellent study for future considerations.

TRAINING

During 2012, numerous training opportunities were provided to the SIUs with a focus on developing investigative skills and strengthening SIU team cohesiveness. The emphasis on training during this year was prompted by the results of the SIU review conducted last year. Many of the SIUs had experienced staffing turnover during the last couple of years that resulted in the addition of new investigators and new team members in general. Federal grant funding sources supported many of these training offerings, but significant cost savings were achieved by bringing the trainings to Vermont. The cost per student was significantly reduced and the cost effectiveness (more students per training event) was greatly increased.

March 2012: Two sessions of ***Basic Forensic Interviewing of Children*** were conducted (Rutland and Burlington). This course is the baseline training for investigators who conduct interviews with children. Participants were primarily law enforcement and DCF personnel. A total of 77 students attended these trainings. See link for sample description of course: <http://www.nationalcac.org/events/bfi-training.html>

May 2012: NCATrak administrator training was conducted in Woodstock. Administrative personnel from the SIUs were trained in the use of NCATrak as the primary records management system for the Vermont SIUs. Customized reports and data entry methods were developed during the course of this class to facilitate the full transition to NCATrak reporting. A requirement for receiving Vermont SIU Grant Awards, use of NCATrak as the

data management system of record was adopted by the SIU Grants Board beginning with FY13. This training was a collaborative effort between the Vermont Children's Alliance and the SIU Grants Program. A link to the Vermont NCATrak user guidance is provided for further reference:

http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/file.php/4406/VT_NCAtrak_User_Guidance.pdf

July 2012: The Vermont Police Academy hosted a ***Forensic Interviewing and Confessions*** class that focused on interviewing of suspected offenders. The SIU Grants Program sponsored 5 positions in this class for SIU investigators. Limited scheduling of this class has resulted in the search for alternative training options for the development of this important skill. The Vermont State Police provided a regional training on this topic for Windsor County SIU partners and have offered to conduct further regional trainings during the upcoming year. Coordination of the regional trainings is ongoing.

September 2012: Two sessions of ***Advanced Forensic Interviewing*** were conducted (South Burlington and White River, Jct). This course is the advanced version of the basic interviewing class conducted in March and is designed for experienced interviewers to develop advanced skills for the developmentally appropriate interviewing of children. Primary participants were law enforcement and DCF personnel. A total of 59 students attended these trainings. See link for sample description of course:

<http://www.nationalcac.org/ncac-training/afi-training.html>

October 2012: The Vermont Police Academy hosted a specialized course provided by Institute of Police Technology and Management/University of North Florida entitled ***Deviant Sexual Behavior and Related Criminal Activity***. This week long course focused on sexual offenders and included current information on the role of drug use as it relates to victims of sexual violence. The SIU Grants Program sponsored 29 attendees from SIUs around the state. See link for sample description of course:

<http://www.iptm.org/descriptions1.aspx?CourseNumber=023123>

September & November 2012: In collaboration with the Vermont Children's Alliance and the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center, the SIU Grants Program supported two sessions of a four-day course entitled ***MDT Development Training***. This course is designed to develop team identity and provide a number of tools for strengthening the cohesiveness of multi-disciplinary teams. The teams attending were comprised of the disciplines partnered in the SIUs. Vermont, in a one-of-its-kind example, provided eight teams to attend these sessions. The course sessions are limited to five teams per session, and Vermont had five teams originally scheduled in each session. Due to some unfortunate last minute cancellations, each session ended up with four teams in attendance. This did not have a negative impact on the training experience and all teams in attendance commented on the high value/high quality of the course content. SIUs represented at this

training included: Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Franklin, Orange, Washington, and Windsor (2 teams).

See link for sample description of course: <http://www.nationalcac.org/southern-regional-child-advocacy-center/srcac-train-mdt.html>

Training opportunities for 2013 will focus on continuing skills development for SIU investigators as well as a series of one-day seminars on best practices review for management of sexual violence cases. Conducted from a national programs perspective, the seminars will be open to the cross-spectrum of SIU partners. The one-day seminars are a collaborative effort on the part of the VT Center for Crime Victims Services and the SIU Grant Program.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY – FY13

County	Program Support	Law Enforcement	Total Grant Awards
Addison	\$93,790		\$93,790
Bennington	\$71,364	\$50,000*	\$121,364
Caledonia	\$63,131	\$27,774**	\$90,905
Chittenden	\$71,426		\$71,426
Essex		\$20,000***	\$20,000
Franklin	\$81,292	\$40,000	\$120,292
Grand Isle		\$20,000***	\$20,000
Lamoille	\$54,300	Federal Grant	\$54,300
Orange	\$69,906	\$100,000*	\$169,906
Orleans	\$75,500	\$50,000*	\$125,500
Rutland	\$70,577	\$50,000*	\$120,577
Washington	\$82,932		\$82,932
Windham	\$78,933	\$50,000*	\$128,933
Windsor	\$96,160		\$96,160
Total Awards	\$909,311	\$407,774	\$1,317,085

Program Support Grants support the local SIU administrative and site operational expenses. Addison County is using this funding to support a part-time SIU investigator to supplement existing law enforcement resources, as well as to support baseline unit expenses.

Law Enforcement Grants support the participation of SIU dedicated law enforcement investigators from municipal police departments and/or county sheriff's departments.

Both types of grants limit the amount of salary funding to the 50% of total salary expense for each SIU, as provided in the enabling legislation.

* The maximum amount for Law Enforcement awards was originally \$40,000. For FY13, a supplemental payment of \$10,000 was approved for existing grant recipients. Franklin County did not project a need for the supplemental funding at this time.

** Caledonia County did not fully expend the Law Enforcement award in FY12. The adjustment for FY13 is reflected in the amended award amount listed here.

*** Essex County Sheriff's Department and Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department are covered by a reimbursement for services process; up to \$20,000 is reserved for each department as outlined in 24 VSA §1940 (c). A 50% matching funds element is included in these grant awards, and the respective counties are paying half of the personnel expense related to providing investigation services.

UNIT SUMMARIES BY COUNTY

ADDISON

Name of SIU/CAC: Addison County Unit for Special Investigations, Inc.
Fred Saar, Executive Director (contract)
(802)274-5724

Geographic Area Covered: Addison County

Governance:

The Addison County Unit for Special Investigations is incorporated as a Vermont not-for-profit corporation, and applied for 501(c) (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service in November 2012.

The Addison County Unit for Special Investigations is managed by a Board of Directors composed of representatives from the State's Attorney's office, law enforcement (Middlebury, Vergennes, Bristol and the Addison Sheriff), DCF, WomenSafe, and the Vermont Center for Crime Victims' Services. We expect to add a Director from the mental health discipline in November, and are actively searching for a Director from the Medical profession.

Brief History:

The Addison County Unit for Special Investigations applied for a partial year Program Services Grant in September, and the SIU Grant Board approved the application in October. The Grant Application includes funds to hire an Investigator in the SIU, and the Unit did not apply for any Law Enforcement Grant funds.

Current Status:

The Unit is organizing very quickly. We hired an Investigator in November and began using NCATrak for all active cases as of December, 2012. All of the participating law enforcement agencies – VSP, Middlebury, Vergennes and Bristol – as well as the SIU Investigator provide regular updates.

We have leased space from the Addison County Sheriff's Department to provide a family-child friendly interview environment. The space will be occupied beginning in January 2013.

Current Budget:

In-Kind (Staff, Facility, LE Vehicle).....	\$231,500
State Grants.....	\$93,790
Total Budget.....	\$325,290

Future Needs:

The Addison County Unit for Special Investigations is in the initial stages of implementation, and there are no identified future needs at this time.

BENNINGTON

Name of SIU/CAC: Bennington County Child Advocacy Center & Special Investigations Unit (BCCAC/SIU)
Executive Director: Joy Kitchell (802) 442-5107

Geographic Area Covered: Bennington County

Governance: Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) - Governed by an Executive Board of Directors/Bylaws and Managed by a Full-time Executive Director

Brief History: Formerly known as the Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse (BCAACA), The Bennington County Child Advocacy Center & Special Investigations Unit (BCCAC/SIU) has been in existence since 1989 with the first Multi-disciplinary Team meeting being held in February of that year. The BCAACA obtained its non-profit status in 1993 and began to occupy donated space in the basement of the Bennington Superior Court building. From 2005-2009, United Counseling Service served as the umbrella agency for the BCAACA and the center was renamed BCCAC/SIU. The BCCAC became an associate member of the National Children’s Alliance (NCA) in June 2006. Full National Children’s Alliance (NCA) accreditation was received in October 2009.

Current Status: In May 2010, the Bennington County Child Advocacy Center & Special Investigations Unit (BCCAC/SIU) moved to its present location at 439 Main Street, Bennington, VT. The unit has a co-located full-time staff: Executive Director Joy Kitchell, VSP Detective Scott Dunlap, BPD Detective Anthony Silvestro, and Case Coordinator Abby Dickie. The equivalent of a full-time DCF investigator is covered by four investigators housed at the DCF office.

<u>Current Budget:</u>	In-Kind (Staff and Facility).....\$475,276.76
	State Grants (SIU, VCA, VOCA).....\$111,815.00
	<u>Contributions.....\$4,773.00</u>
	Total Budget.....\$591,688.76

This SIU also has a Law Enforcement Grant of \$50,000.

Future Needs: As the BCCAC prepares for re-accreditation with the NCA we continue to explore finding a space that is handicapped accessible; and can house current staff with the addition of an investigator from the Department for Children and Families and a law enforcement officer from the Bennington County Sheriff’s Department. It is also our hope to eventually have an Outreach Coordinator to develop and lead community education, communication and outreach. In order to increase our staff we need to secure additional funds. The Executive Board is also, through their strategic planning, considering the development of an Advisory Board to support the work of the MDT and continue to utilize the Executive Board to oversee the BCCAC/SIU.

CALEDONIA

Name of SIU/CAC: Caledonia Special Investigations Unit, Inc.
Fred Saar, Executive Director
(802)-424-1227

Geographic Area Covered: Caledonia County and the towns of: Concord, Granby, Guildhall, East Haven, Lunenburg and Victory in Essex County.

Governance: The Caledonia Special Investigations Unit is incorporated as a Vermont not-for-profit corporation, and has received 501(c) (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

The SIU is governed by a Board of Directors composed of representatives from the Caledonia State’s Attorney’s Office (prosecutor and victim’s advocate) , DCF, law enforcement (VSP, St. Johnsbury, and Hardwick), Northeast Kingdom Human Services, and the Vermont ChildSafe program, Probation and Parole, and domestic violence (two organizations). The Board of Directors meets quarterly.

Brief History: The Caledonia Special Investigations Unit separated from the Northeast Kingdom SIU in January 2011. In December 2011 a permanent Executive Director was hired on a contract basis and charged by the Board of Directors with moving the SIU forward and meeting the objectives of the statewide SIU program.

Current Status: The Caledonia Special Investigations Unit has opened an office in St. Johnsbury and the Detective from the St. Johnsbury Police Department is based at the SIU office, and we have engaged the Hardwick PD and Essex County Sheriff to conduct local investigations, and VSP covers the remaining areas of the county. All of the officers who interview children have attended the Basic and Advanced Forensic Interviewing classes.

We have monthly MDT meetings and use reports created from NCATrak to review cases closed since the last MDT meeting, open cases, and cases in the Prosecutors office. All of the MDT members actively participate in the monthly case reviews.

Current Budget:

In-Kind (Staff, Facility).....	\$187,222
<u>State Grants.....</u>	<u>\$64,631</u>
Total Budget.....	\$251,853

This SIU also has a Law Enforcement Grant of \$24,774.

Future Needs: Providing training opportunities to our partners, and evaluating the effectiveness of an SIU investigator under the Program Services Grant rather than the current use of various Law Enforcement agencies.

CHITTENDEN

Name of SIU/CAC: Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI)
Chittenden Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC)
Kristine Bickford, Executive Director
(802)652-0391

Geographic Area Covered: Chittenden County

Governance: (CAC) Status of 501 (c) (3); non-profit incorporation; A
Policy Board consisting of 8 members governs both CUSI
/CAC

Brief History: In 1992, the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI) was established as a task force investigating crimes of both sexual and physical abuse, most importantly being responsive to the emotional needs of adult and child victims. The Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) was formed in 2002 as a 501c3 nonprofit entity offering a range of services to children and their families. CUSI defined what is now known as a true multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach, investigating crimes of this nature.

Current Status: CUSI is currently located at 50 Cherry Street-Suite 102 in Burlington, VT. CUSI/CAC is located adjacent to the courthouse and State’s Attorney’s Office. The Unit has a staff of eight onsite investigators (one lieutenant, two detectives from BPD, one UVM investigator, one Vermont State Trooper, one detective each from Colchester, Essex and South Burlington), a dedicated prosecutor, and dedicated victim advocate, full time DCF investigator, full time Executive Director and a part time in-house therapist. These positions are funded through a combination of in-kind contributions, town contributions and state grants. As a non-profit, the CAC receives private donations and CUSI receives funding from numerous municipalities throughout the county. CUSI investigates approximately 300 cases a year, conducts approximately 600 interviews and documents approximately 350 reports a year. Our detectives and staff continue to attend trainings around the country to stay current. We host trainings as well and work very closely with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force among other collaborative agencies in the county and throughout the state.

<u>Current Budget:</u>	In-Kind (Staff and Facility).....	\$909,026.00
	Grant Revenue.....	\$119,409.00
	<u>Town Contributions.....</u>	<u>\$ 70,605.00</u>
	Total Budget.....	\$1,099,040.00

Future Needs: Finding an offsite location for our computer backups
Find funding/vouchers for victims who no longer are eligible for
Victims Compensation
Continued funding for sustainability
Resolve the method for municipal contributions to the operating costs
of the Unit (currently this funding mechanism is based on
population)

FRANKLIN

Name of SIU/CAC: Northwest Unit for Special Investigations (NUSI),
NCA Accredited Child Advocacy Center
Executive Director Robert White (802) 524-7961

Geographic Area Covered: Franklin and Grand Isle Counties.

Governance: Vermont Non-Profit Corporation, 501 (c) (3) - Governed by a 12 Member Board of Directors/Bylaws and Managed by a .5FTE Exec. Director

Brief History: The Northwest Unit for Special Investigations (NUSI) was created in 1995 with the reassignment of a Vermont State Trooper from the St. Albans Barracks to the Franklin County State’s Attorney’s Office. Then State’s Attorney Howard Vanbenthuyzen, dedicated a prosecutor and victim advocate from his office, creating the region’s first multidisciplinary team. This team’s primary responsibilities included the investigation, prosecution and victim services for crimes involving adult sexual assault, sexual assault/abuse and other serious crimes against children. NUSI obtained its non-profit status in October of 1995, and became an accredited Child Advocacy Center (CAC), through the National Children’s Alliance (NCA), in April 2000. NUSI successfully sought and retained its NCA accreditation status in 2005 and again in 2010.

Current Status: NUSI is currently located at 5 Lemnah Drive, St. Albans VT., as a wing attached to the Franklin County State’s Attorney’s Office. The unit has a co-located staff of three onsite investigators (two state troopers and one deputy sheriff), a dedicated part time prosecutor, a dedicated part time victim advocate, a full time administrative assistant, a part time executive director and a part time victim therapist. These positions are funded through a combination of in-kind contributions, federal and state grants. As a non-profit, NUSI receives funding from numerous municipalities throughout the two county region. During its first 17 years of existence, NUSI has investigated more than 3,300 cases of sexual violence and serious child abuse, averaging approximately 194 cases a year.

<u>Current Budget:</u>	In-Kind (Staff and Facility).....	\$249,635
	Federal Grant (Rural Justice, NCA, STOP).....	\$101,506
	State Grants (SIU, CAC).....	\$111,292
	<u>Municipal Contributions.....</u>	<u>\$17,680</u>
	Total Budget.....	\$480,113

This SIU also has an approved Law Enforcement Grant of \$40,000.

Future Needs: NUSI continues to experience a steady work load with an upward swing in the complexity of cases investigated. Trends include, younger victims, social media and internet related crimes. With these trends NUSI has reached and at times has exceeded its capacity to adequately manage its case load. When this occurs, VSP has assisted by assigning past NUSI investigators. If the upward trends continue, an increase in space and staffing across all disciplines will be needed. NUSI is again working with the Department for Children and Families to co-locate an investigator with the rest of the multidisciplinary team. Work is also underway with the Grand Isle County Sheriff to set up a satellite office in their facility and train a local multidisciplinary team to enhance investigations victim services to that area.

LAMOILLE

Name of SIU/CAC: Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit
Todd Shove, Executive Director
(802)888-7945

Geographic Area Covered: Lamoille County

Governance: Non-Profit 501 (c) (3), governed by a Board of Directors/Bylaws

Brief History: The Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit was created in 2007 and represents a continued collaborative effort on the part of the State's Attorney's Office, Vermont State Police, Lamoille County Sheriff's Department, Morrystown Police Department, Stowe Police Department, and the Clarina Howard Nichols Center, and the Department for Children and Families Services.

Prior to 2007, Lamoille County had the benefit of a domestic and sexual violence response team comprised of a prosecutor, an investigator, and a victim advocate. The team had been funded by grants allocated under the Violence against Women's Act, in addition to individual contributions made by area law enforcement agencies. The Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit is an extension of that team and includes a dedicated facility for conducting forensic interviews of victims of sexual crimes. The current funding for the Unit includes continued VAWA funding as well as Vermont State SIU Grant funding. A request for financial contributions has been made to each municipality within Lamoille County to assist in sustaining the operation of the Unit.

The Unit's primary responsibilities include investigating, prosecuting and providing victim services for crimes involving domestic and sexual assault/abuse and other serious crimes against children. The Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit obtained its non-profit status in December of 2008.

Current Status: The Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit is currently located at 252 Main Street in Hyde Park, VT and includes an interview facility and conference area attached to the Lamoille County State's Attorney's Office. The Unit has co-located staff including a part-time

Prosecutor, a part-time Victim Advocate, a part-time Executive Director, and a part-time Administrative Assistant. The LCSIU has one full time investigator assigned by the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department and one part-time investigator assigned by the Vermont State Police.

<u>Current Budget:</u>	Federal Grant (STOP).....	\$128,527.00
	State Grant (SIU).....	\$79,300.00
	Vermont State Police.....	\$97,281.00
	LCSD.....	\$3,487.90
	<u>Other Contributions.....</u>	<u>\$7,416.71</u>
	Total Budget.....	\$ 316,012.61

Future Needs: The Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit now has a dedicated facility for conducting forensic interviews of victims of sexual crimes. A full-time investigator is assigned from the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department, and a Vermont State Police detective is assigned to the unit as well. The assigned investigators, in addition to other local law enforcement agencies will continue to receive specialized training relating to the investigation of domestic and sexual violence crimes, as well as severe child abuse. The future needs of the Unit will be best served by continued funding of the current positions allowing for the continued application of a coordinated community response to the investigation and prosecution of domestic and sexual violence crimes, and severe child abuse.

ORANGE

Name of SIU/CAC: Orange County SIU
Sheri Englert, Executive Director
(802)685-4712

Geographic Area Covered: Orange County

Governance: Independent 501 (c) 3; Non-Profit Corporation; Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and managed by an Executive Director/Administrative Assistant (1 FTE)

Brief History: Orange County SIU was established in 2008 and became part of a 3-county SIU in 2009. In 2010, Orange County became a stand-alone SIU.

Current Status: Orange County SIU moved into a new facility in July 2012. This new space provides victims and families a larger, "friendlier" space. We are also working on our application to the National Children's Alliance to become an accredited Child Advocacy Center.

Current Budget:

In Kind (Staff, Facility, LE Vehicle)..... \$120,641
State Grants.....\$71,406
Total Budget.....\$192,047

This SIU also has two Law Enforcement Grants of \$50,000 each.

Future Needs:

Our goals for the future include a designated investigator from the Department of Children & Families, a Fund Raising Board and more training for our administrative staff for victim services pertaining to the legal processes for victims and families.

ORLEANS

Name of SIU/CAC:

Orleans County Child Advocacy Center, Inc
David Frey, Executive Director
(802) 334-6002

Geographic Area Covered:

Orleans County and northern Essex County

Governance:

The OCCAC is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, governed by a volunteer board of directors that coordinates the Orleans/Northern Essex Special Investigative Unit and operates a children’s advocacy center.

Brief History:

The OCCAC was founded in 1996 and served as the parent for the multi-county special investigative unit that served Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties. In 2012, the Orange and Caledonia/Southern Essex SIUs each became separate entities and The OCCAC began focusing on service to Orleans and Northern Essex Counties. The OCCAC coordinates the response to all allegations of sexual violence and serious child abuse in our service area.

Current Status:

After completing the work needed to enable Caledonia and Orange to become independent special investigative units, *The OCCAC* has been focused on a complete revision of policies and procedures: implementing new accounting procedures, operating protocols, re-establishing and strengthening relationships with our partners, and building community awareness through an aggressive outreach campaign to increase child abuse awareness.

Current Budget:

SIU Grants Board funding is the primary source of *The OCCAC's* funding for FY13 (7/1/12 – 6/30/13). During FY13, we hope to begin receiving funding through the Center for Crime Victim Services to provide more services to families. Our first major fundraising event is planned for FY14.

Future Needs:

Continued SIU Grants Board funding will be needed to sustain our core operations. A change in our location may be needed if the large NEK development project proceeds (we are housed in a location that is destined for 'renewal').

Otherwise, our most pressing future needs relate to improving outreach and incorporating on-site mental health service for children (adding a child therapy room and contracting with an appropriate mental health professional).

RUTLAND

Name of SIU/CAC:

Rutland Office for Special Investigations (ROSI)
Child First Advocacy Center (CFAC)
Executive Director Wendy Loomis - (802)747-0200

Geographic Area Covered:

Rutland County

Governance:

Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) - Governed by a 9 Member Board of Directors/Bylaws and Managed by a .90FTE Executive Director

Brief History:

One in four children will be sexually abused before reaching their 18th birthday. CFAC was designed to combat this problem utilizing both preventative and reactive models of intervention. In 1998, a Rutland County multidisciplinary task force convened and determined that a child advocacy center was the most comprehensive and effective solution. In 2001, CFAC received non-profit, 501c3 status. Since April, 2004, CFAC has been a fully accredited member of the National Children's Alliance. In 2007 the Rutland County state's Attorney's Office applied for recognition and funding to establish a Special Investigation Unit for Rutland County (ROSI). Presently, the SIU and CAC operate in tandem, serving victims of sex crimes and child victims of severe physical abuse throughout Rutland County.

Current Status:

CFAC/ROSI is conveniently located in downtown Rutland in the historic opera house building. State offices which house DCF and the State's Attorney's office are across the street (the dedicated part time prosecutor and victim advocate are both located there).The unit has a co-located staff including two onsite investigators (one VSP assigned trooper-detective and one Rutland City P.D. detective), a DCF investigator, a .60FTE administrative

assistant/community coordinator, a .90FTE executive director. The positions are funded through a combination of in-kind contributions, federal and state grants. We also receive donations and local United Way funding. CFAC/ROSI investigates approximately 150 cases per year.

<u>Current Budget:</u>	In-Kind (Staff).....	\$255,314
	Federal Grant (NCA)	\$10,000
	State Grants (SIU, CAC).....	\$140,577
	<u>Other.....</u>	<u>\$1,400</u>
	Total Budget.....	\$407,291

This SIU also has a Law Enforcement Grant of \$50,000.

Future Needs: During the past 4 years CFAC/ROSI has experienced a 20-25% increase in cases for each subsequent year. Investigations included some domestic violence, family violence and vulnerable adult cases since co-location. CFAC/ROSI is above capacity for investigations-our detectives and investigator carry exponential caseloads by comparison to their colleagues. To adequately respond, an increase in staffing across disciplines is required.

WASHINGTON

Name of SIU/CAC: OUR House of Central VT, Inc.
Will Roberts, Executive Director
(802)476-8825

Geographic Area Covered: Washington County

Governance: Independent 501 (c) (3); Non-Profit Corporation; Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and managed by an Executive Director.

Brief History: OUR House, which stands for One Unified Response, was Vermont's first Children's Advocacy Center, established in 1989 to serve Washington County. OUR House is an Associate Member of the National Children's Alliance. OUR House became a Special Investigations Unit in 2008, and a full-time Detective Trooper was assigned to work out of the facility in late 2009.

Current Status: OUR House has been at its present location, 38 Summer Street in downtown Barre, since 1995. We are in the process of negotiating with the Department

for Children and Families and local law enforcement to be co-located at the facility. We are limited by our size to a maximum of three co-located team members. Fortunately, our community partners utilize the facility by conducting the majority of forensic interviews at OUR House. We also contract with a therapist to conduct therapy sessions on-sight. All unit positions are funded through a combination of in-kind contributions, federal and state grants.

<u>Current Budget:</u>	In-Kind (Staff and Facility).....\$235,000.00
	State Grants (SIU,VOCA).....\$112,000.00
	<u>Fundraising.....\$4,000.00</u>
	Total Budget..... \$347,004.00

Future Needs: Aside from ongoing funding to assure that OUR House can retain the staff needed to support the Special Investigations Unit, the most critical needs aren't so much financial as opposed to collaborative. Washington County needs the collaborative capacity to enable local law enforcement, advocates, as well as, DCF to assign dedicated staff to OUR House for the purposes of handling all sexual assault cases.

WINDHAM

<u>Name of SIU/CAC:</u>	Windham County Safe Place Child Advocacy Center/Southeastern Unit for Special Investigations Alyssa Todd, Executive Director (802)579-1358
<u>Geographic Area Covered:</u>	Windham County

<u>Governance:</u>	Non-Profit 501 (c) (3); governed by an 10 member Board of Directors/Bylaws and Managed by a 1.0 FTE Executive Director/Child Interview Specialist
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Brief History: The Southeastern Unit for Special Investigations was created in early 2007 with space for forensic interviewing of children donated by our community mental health agency, HCRS. In the spring of 2010 the multidisciplinary team decided to form a Child Advocacy Center to exist alongside the SIU, non-profit 501 (c)(3) status was obtained, and in the summer of 2010 Safe Place CAC/SUSI secured its own office space with enough room to comfortably accommodate visiting families and for some individuals from the MDT to be co-located.

Current Status: Safe Place CAC/SUSI is located in downtown Brattleboro, VT with ample office space to house 2 co-located investigators (1 Detective State Trooper, 1 Deputy Sheriff), the Executive Director, and a .20 FTE Administrative Assistant. In FY '13 we are excited to have been

able to add a Forensic Interviewer component to our Director position, which supports our mission to offer consistent, high-quality services to the families of Windham County. These positions are funded through a combination of in-kind contributions and state grants. There is additional office space available for a DCF investigator or case manager. We maintain our Associate Membership status with the National Children's Alliance and continue to work towards full-accreditation. Since our founding in 2007, we have seen a gradual increase in the numbers of cases investigated, from the low 50's to mid-60's in the first 4 years to 89 cases in FY '11 - '12.

Current Budget: In- Kind (Staff, Facility, LE Vehicle).....\$194,193
State Grants.....\$139,933
Total Budget.....\$334,126

This SIU also has a Law Enforcement Grant of \$50,000.

Future Needs: Our needs at this time continue to be in the areas of organizational development, team building and community outreach. Additionally, with our change in staffing, we have a stronger need for community collaboration to offer victim's advocacy and case management services to our families. We expect our number of cases to increase in a small but steady trend as we become better known in the community and parents/caregivers feel more comfortable in coming forward to report suspected abuse, which may eventually impact our staffing needs.

WINDSOR

Name of SIU/CAC: Windsor County Unit for Special Investigations (WNSI)
The Family Place Child Advocacy Center
Springfield Area Parent Child Ctr Child Advocacy Center
WNSI Director Julie Gaudette (802) 295-3882

Geographic Area Covered: Windsor County

Governance: SIU Program Host Agent: The Family Place, Non-Profit 501 (c) (3)

SIU Policy/Advisory Board - an 18 Member Board of Directors and extensive Partnership/Governance and Rules of Conduct/ and Managed by a .5FTE Director.

Brief History: The Family Place Child Advocacy Center, established in 1999, accredited by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) in 2001 was reaccredited in 2006 and has completed its application and site review for its second reaccreditation in 2012. Results of the reaccreditation are due out November 2012. The Family Place modified its CAC protocol in 2008 to become the SIU for Northern Windsor County. In 2009, after extensive community discussions and upon executing a countywide Memorandum of Understanding with its multi-disciplinary partners,

The Family Place was approved by the Vermont SIU Grants Board to become the host agent for the Windsor County Unit for Special Investigations (WNSI). Because Windsor County falls into two Agency of Human Services (AHS) districts, Windsor County works with two Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) offices. The Family Place CAC continues to serve child sexual abuse victims and their families for the Hartford AHS district which includes northern Windsor county and 9 towns in southern Orange County. Central and southern Windsor County, including, but not limited to Windsor, Springfield, Ludlow, and Chester were previously underserved without access to a local Child Advocacy Center. WNSI supported the development of an independent Child Advocacy Center at the Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) in Springfield, VT. The CAC program at SAPCC was launched in September 2010 and just celebrated its two year anniversary. WNSI, its multi-disciplinary team and CACs at The Family Place and Springfield Area Parent Child Center have investigated and provided necessary services relating to 180 cases of abuse over FY2011-2012.

Current Status:

WNSI is currently located at 5 South Main Street, White River Junction, VT, a floor above the Windsor County State's Attorney's Office. The unit has a co-located onsite staff of a dedicated full time prosecutor, a half time Victim Advocate through the State's Attorney's office, a part time SIU Director, the SIU Interview Specialist and a full time SIU Coordinator who serves additionally as The Family Place CAC Coordinator. VSP has assigned one Detective Trooper to Windsor County who works those areas without local municipal police presence. One or more officers in all nine of Windsor County's local police departments have been assigned and trained to respond to SIU cases. Two DCF investigators from each of the Hartford and Springfield district DCF offices are assigned to these cases. The Family Place CAC in Norwich has an onsite part time therapist and SAPCC CAC has a relationship with Heath Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) for mental health care needs. The Springfield Area Parent Child Center has an onsite part time CAC Coordinator. For victims 17 and younger, medical examination referrals are made to the Child Advocacy Protection Program at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC). For adult victims, all four of our major hospitals, Springfield, Mt. Ascutney, DHMC, and Gifford have a trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner staff rotation. Further, Windsor County is served by two victim advocacy groups from within the VT Network, WISE and Safeline; however the majority of Windsor County is served by WISE. WISE recently stepped in to provide seamless transition of services following the dissolution of New Beginnings in our Springfield area. All of these positions are funded through a combination of in-kind contributions, federal and state grants. The WNSI Director, Coordinator and Interview Specialist are the only positions partially funded through a program support grant awarded to The Family Place by the Vermont SIU Grants Board. The WNSI Policy Board governance structure calls for a standing Grants/Fundraising committee. This committee is tasked with identifying opportunities, applying for and/or raising supplemental funds.

<u>Current Budget:</u>	In-Kind (Staff and Facility).....	\$293,218 (*)
	Federal Grant (NCA).....	\$10,000 (**)
	State Grants (SIU, CCVS).....	\$126,160
	Other Funding (Granite United Way.....	\$12,000
	<u>SIU Interview Specialist (DCF, CIA).....</u>	<u>\$ 35,000</u>
	Total Budget.....	\$476,378 (***)

(*) In-Kind contributions noted represent those reported in the FY2011-2012 SIU grant application and are attributed to the total compensation of a full time Deputy State’s Attorney, a half time Victims Advocate in the State’s Attorney’s office, a full time VSP Detective Trooper, one DCF investigator (among shared staff in Hartford), and a CAC Therapist working 1/5 time out of The Family Place. In-Kind contributions are assumed to be significantly larger when considering the actual number of staff participating from SAPCC, Springfield DCF, nine(+) local law enforcement investigators, advocates, corrections, medical and mental health staff who participate and support the unit, as well as facility use of CACs and office space for rotating board and partnership meeting venues.

(**) Funding made possible through the National Children’s Alliance and filtered through the Vermont Children’s Alliance are included in the federal grant line item.

(***) Funding total does not include the recent awards acquired by SAPCC in support of their CAC including 15K through CCVS as now recognized as a CAC by VT legislature, VCA chapter funding received through NCA and SAPCC fundraising efforts. SAPCC is an independent CAC. While SAPCC is supported by the efforts of the Windsor County SIU, the above budget reflects only those dollars granted to The Family Place.

Future Needs: 2012 has been another tremendous development year for Windsor County. WNSI’s Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan that includes seven S.M.A.R.T objectives for the FY2012-2013 fiscal year. Those objectives include the implementation of the forensic interviewer model, sex offender registry compliance, specialized investigations, victim advocacy (court dog program and strengthened adult case management), community awareness and appropriation planning, and supporting ACT 1 in schools.

WNSI’s progress over the last year has included the implementation of a state supported pilot of an independent forensic interviewer model. In addition, while we still wish to have a smaller investigative team, all police departments are engaged, assigned and following protocol. We recently released a first responder card and are conducting “road shows” to train each of our county’s police agencies and other direct service first responders. Our work has further reached into the schools to support the ACT I mandate and raise awareness about our program. We have had some positive media attention over the course of the last year that has been supportive of the work we are doing here in Windsor County. The number of reports in Windsor County has skyrocketed and we are seeing significant trends among singular offender/multiple victims and/or

multiple offender/singular victims. Just this past quarter, WNSI reported 75 new cases, which represents 42% of our cumulative number for FY2011-2012. Any reduction in funding would adversely impact our unit's case work, our establishing the protocols necessary to foster a unified, transparent, multi-disciplinary response to sexually based offenses and our support of prevention and awareness campaigns. In fact, the potential for increased funding is necessary to ensure capacity to address the volume. WNSI's partnership agencies are committed and motivated. We have a proactive, aggressive momentum.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW – FY12

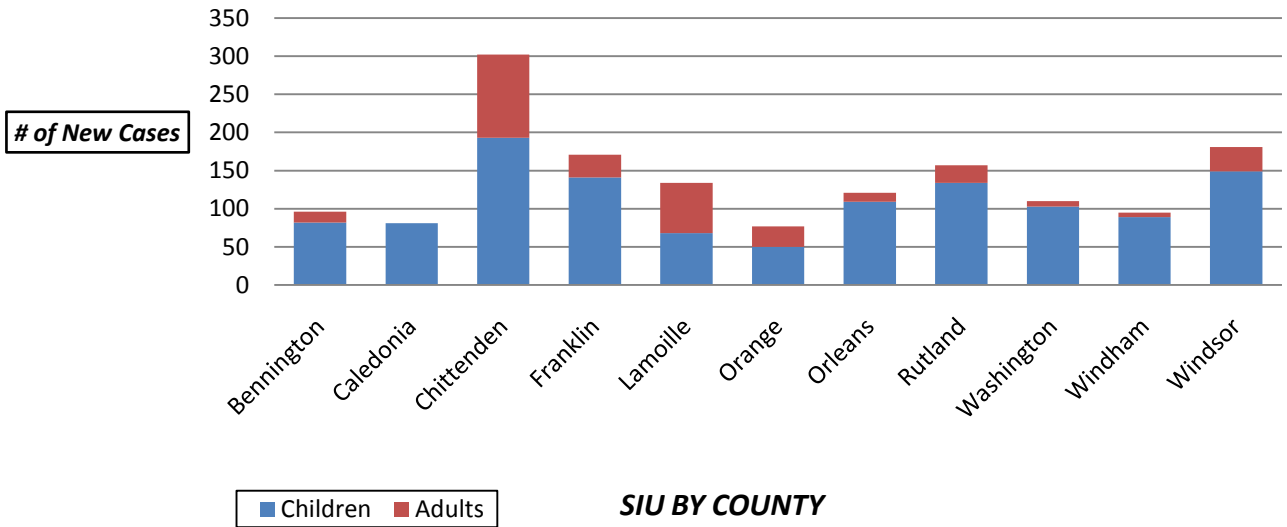
Program, financial, and statistical reporting from the SIUs are required on a FY quarterly basis. FY12 is the last reporting year to use the original data collection system. Beginning with FY13, all SIUs receiving VT SIU Grant Program funding are required to use NCATrak as the standardized statistical reporting system. Although there will be some minor modifications of reporting categories, the basis of reporting will be overall caseload per SIU with breakdown categories to establish age and gender grouping for victims and offenders, as well as victim support services provided and summary of court action undertaken.

Specialized reports have been created in NCATrak that will provide the SIUs with two types of reports: the first is a statistical count report for the unit, while the second report is designed as a management tool to track case progress. It should be noted that with the combination of SIU/CAC functions, the reporting of clients served (adult/child) is often higher than law enforcement cases with charges or prosecutions reported. Primarily, this is due to the mission of the units to serve all victims when sexual violence or abuse may be suspected. Until a determination can be made concerning allegations, support for victims and non-offending family members is the primary focus with court action undertaken only when warranted.

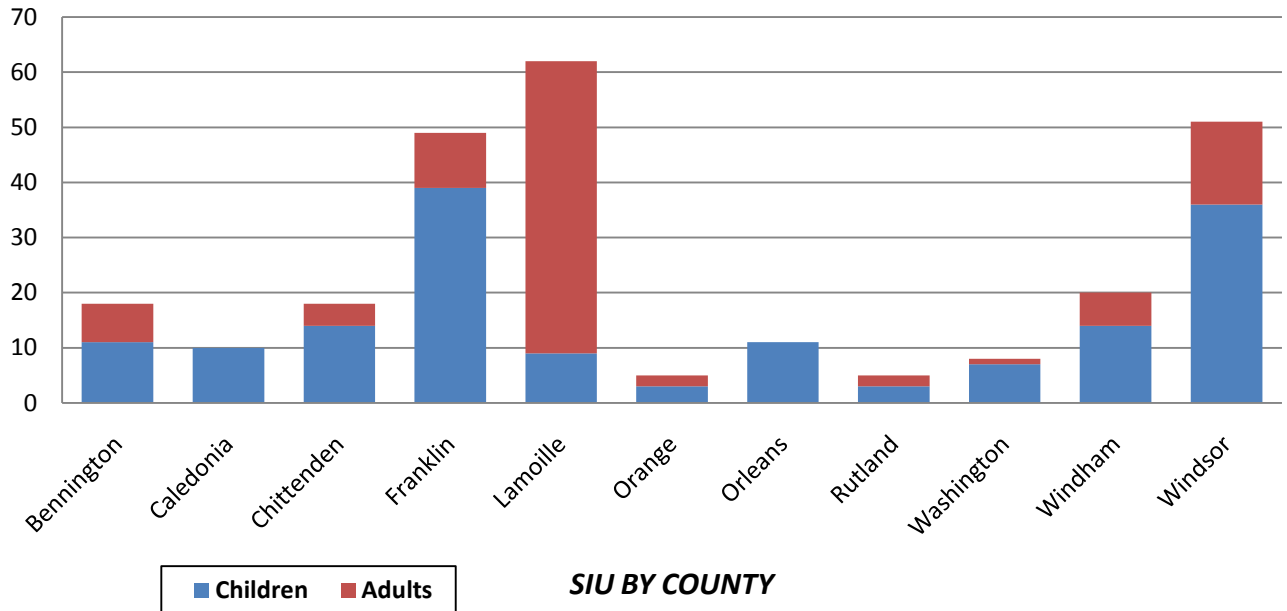
This section contains a number of charts depicting the caseload and demographic makeup of victims and offenders that comprise the workload of the SIUs. Each chart presents relevant information on the numbers of child victim cases and adult victim cases as reported by the respective SIU:

- The majority of sexual violence cases are perpetrated against children, and child victims constitute the main workload for the SIUs (79%)
 - Lamoille County is aligned to focus on domestic violence cases and carries a higher adult victim caseload compared to other units
- The majority of offenders are known to their victims and often have established relationships
- 29% of offenders who victimize children are ***under*** the age of 18
- Over half of all reported child victims are 12 years of age or younger
- 86% of offenders who victimize adults are 18 years of age or older
- Females represent a significantly higher percentage of reported victims, regardless of age (68% of child victims; 86% of adult victims)

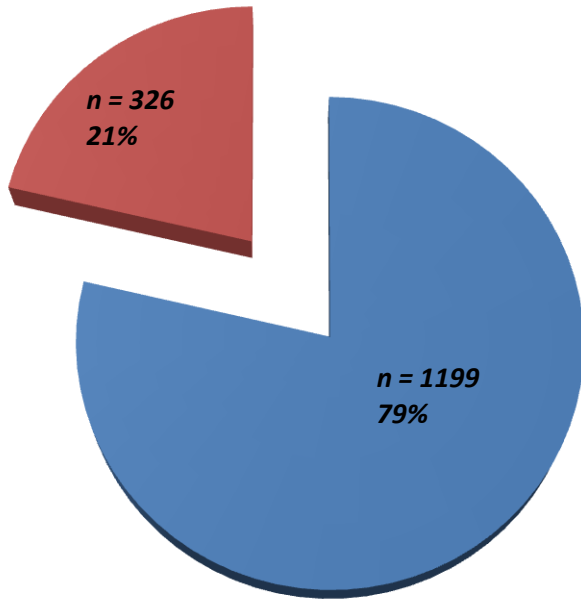
FY12 SIU - New Cases by Victim Age Grouping



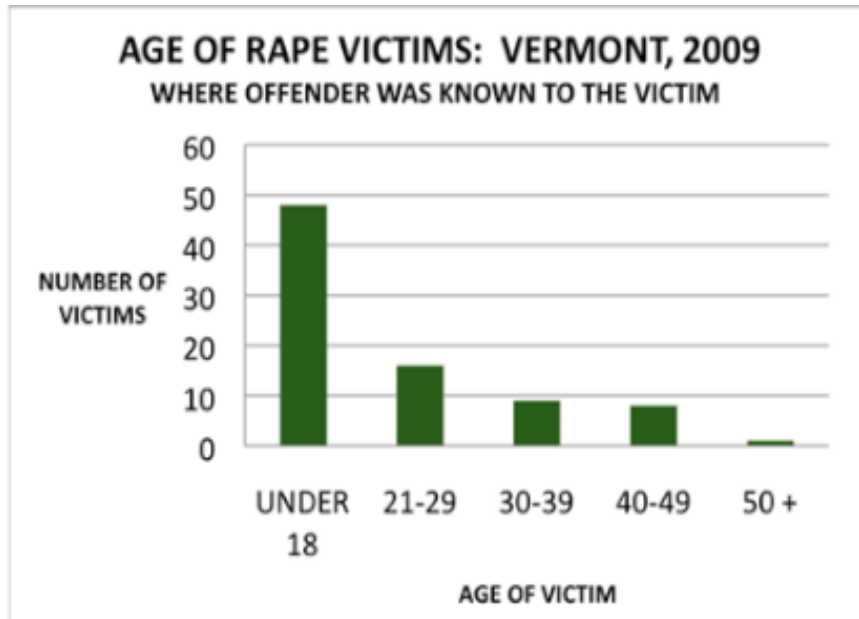
FY12-SIU Law Enforcement Cases with Charges Filed by Victim Age Grouping



FY12 SIU
**Composition
of Clients Served
by
Adult/Children**



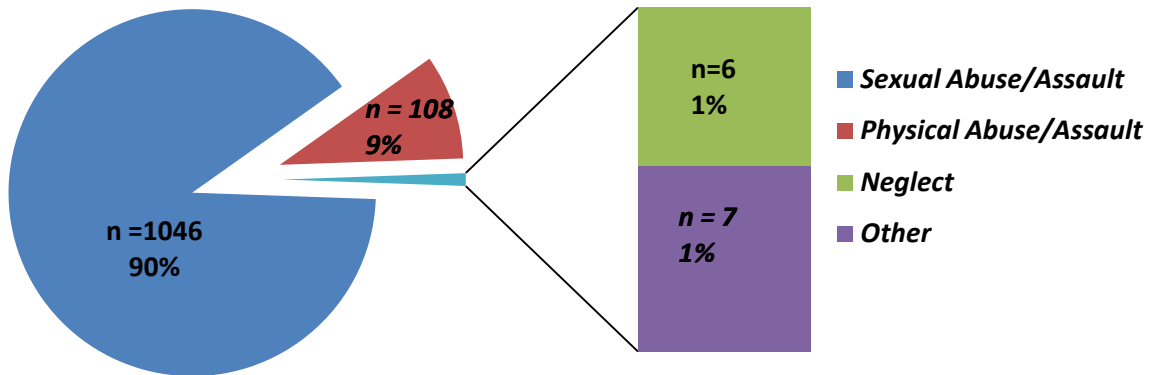
■ Children ■ Adults



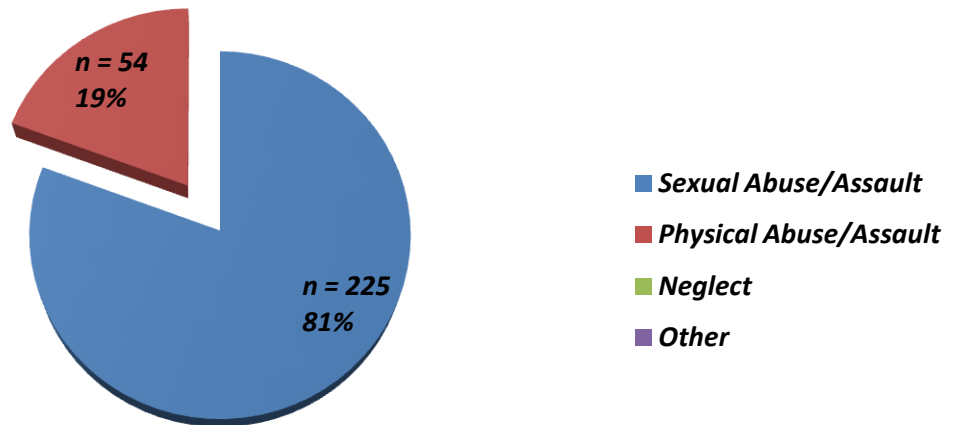
Based on crimes reported to police, more than 50% of all rape victims in Vermont in 2009 were under 18 years of age.

Information from VT Center for Justice Research website - 2012

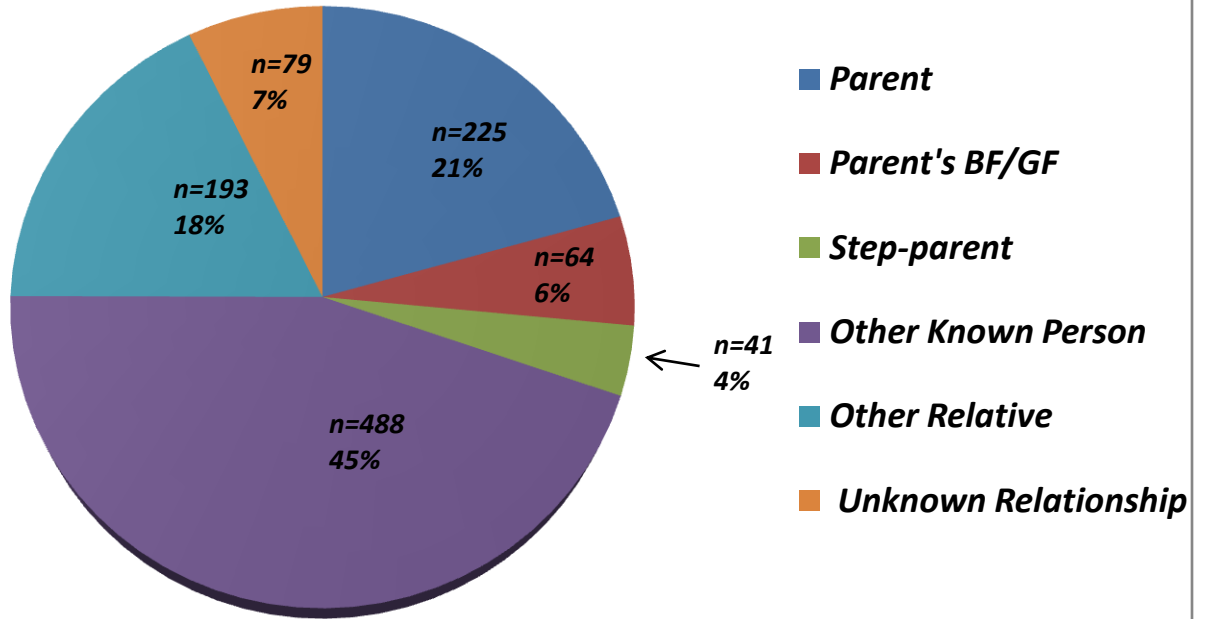
FY12 - SIU Child Cases by Type of Abuse



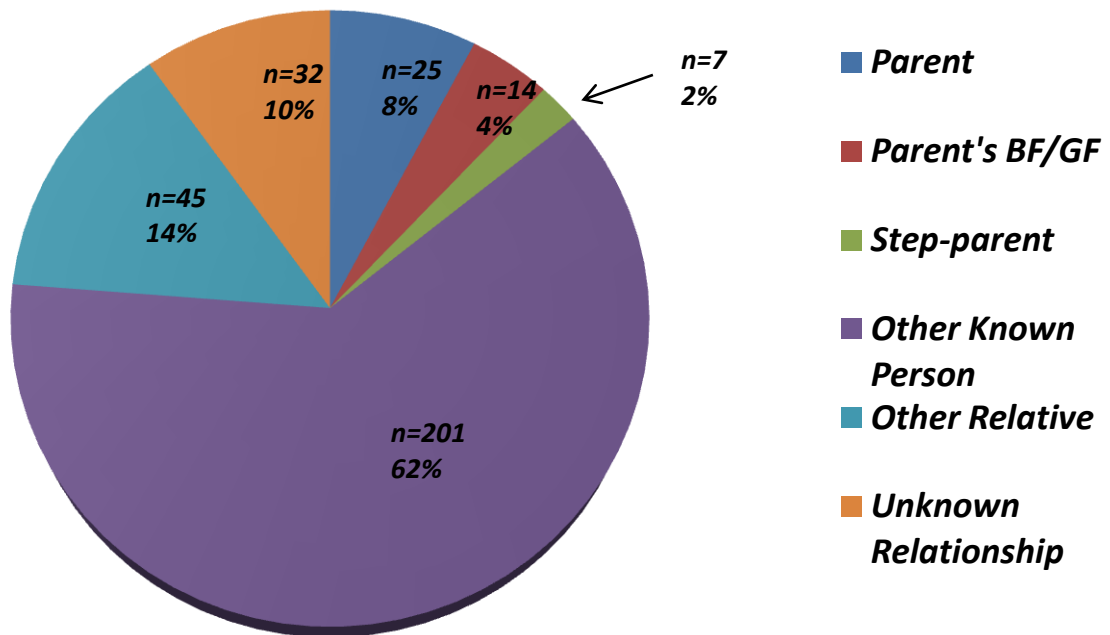
FY12 - SIU Adult Cases by Type of Abuse



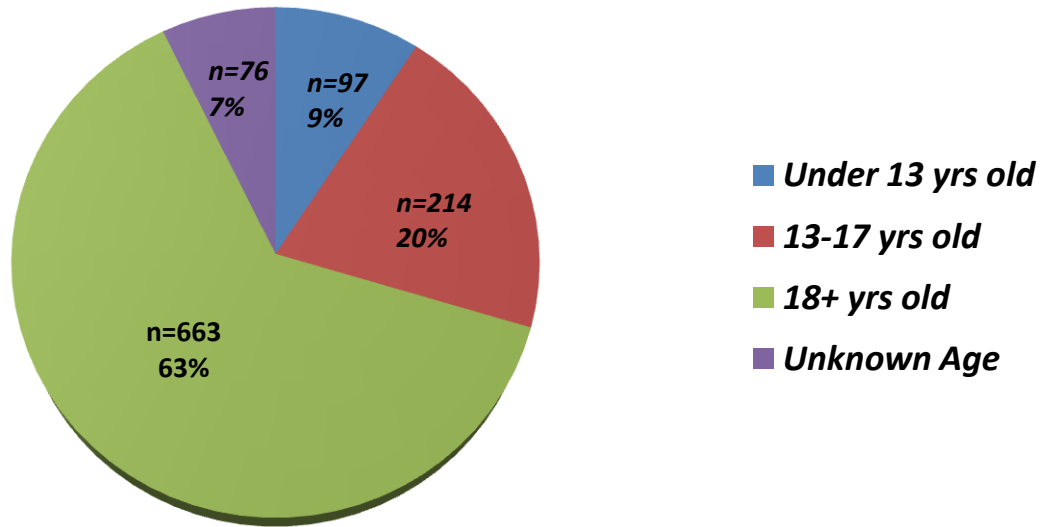
FY12 SIU - Offender Relationship - Child Victims



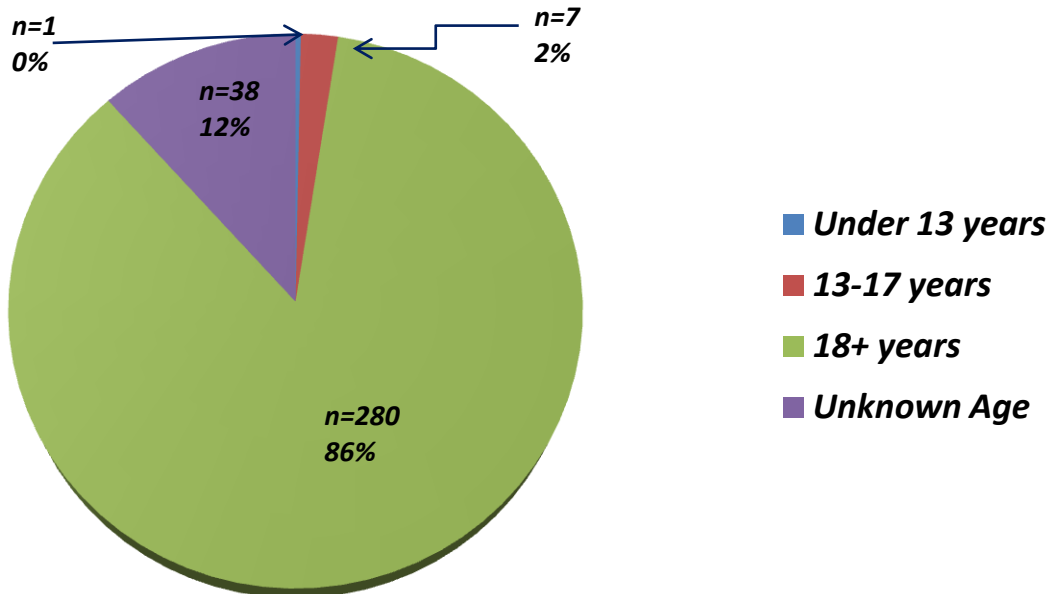
FY12 SIU - Offender Relationship - Adult Victims



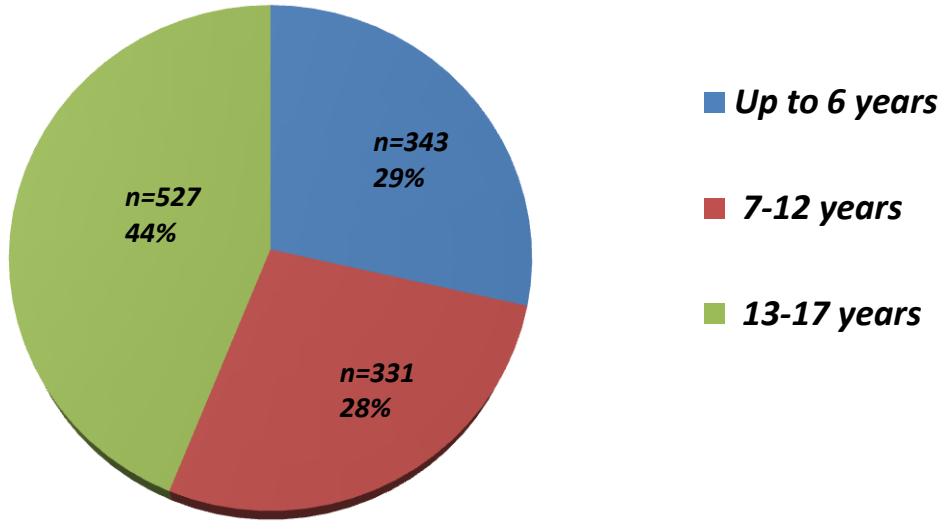
FY12 SIU - Age of Offender - Child Victims



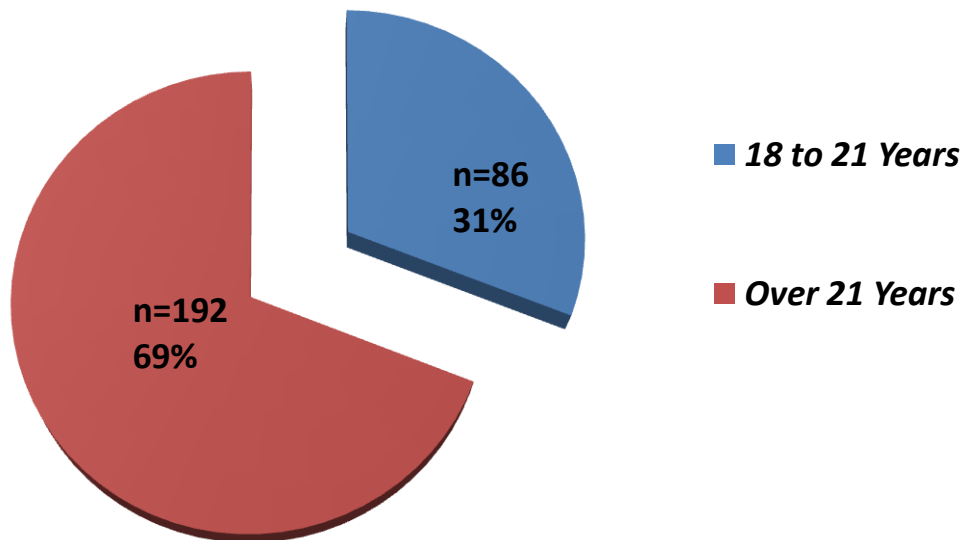
FY12 - Age of Offender - Adult Victims



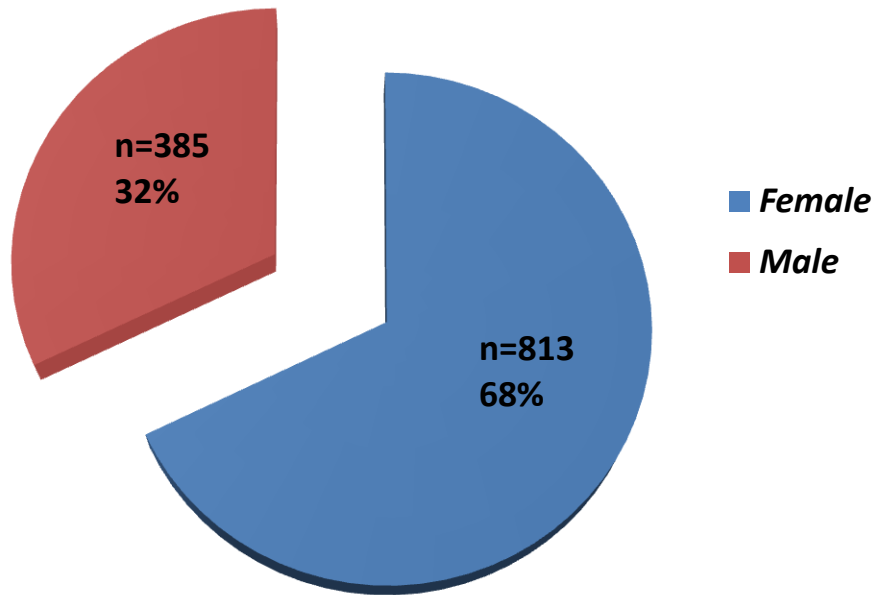
FY12 SIU - Age of Victim - Children



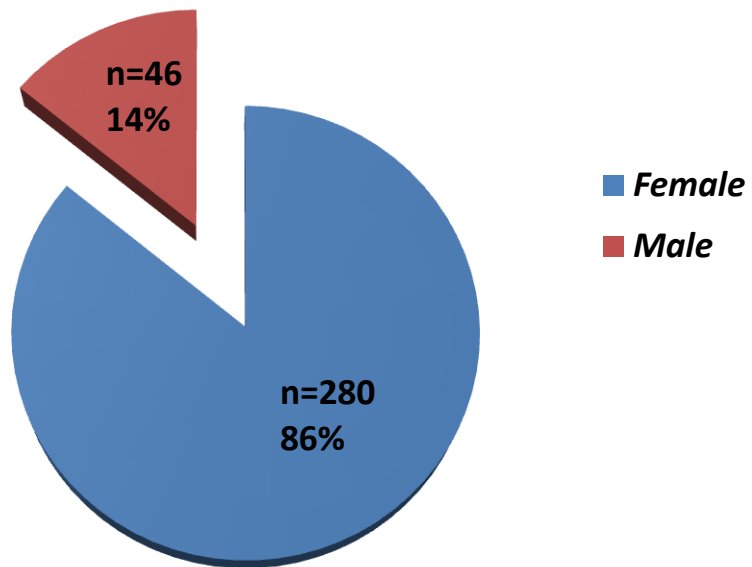
FY12 SIU - Age of Victim - Adults



FY12 SIU - Gender of Victim - Children



FY12 SIU - Gender of Victim - Adults



SUMMARY

During 2012, Vermont has seen continued growth in the establishment and sustainment of Special Investigations Units. Addison County has re-established the organizational structure to support an SIU effort, bringing the number of SIUs to twelve. Also, Grand Isle County has partnered with NUSI of Franklin County in establishing a satellite office for their SIU. The Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department now joins the Essex County Sheriff's Department by receiving Law Enforcement funding awards to support their partner SIUs with criminal investigation services.

Windsor County and Windham County are currently piloting the use of a dedicated child interview specialist. If successful, this model may be replicated in other SIUs as appropriate. For now, these two counties will provide the testing environment to assess the value of this resource.

The SIUs continue to see growth in the demand for their services. A number of the units are at the point of needing more space as co-location of team members becomes more viable. Although a co-located arrangement for each team was the original vision, as each SIU was established there was wide disparity in the number of disciplines willing, or able, to co-locate. Nearly all of the units are now faced with the prospect of establishing larger worksites to accommodate team members and provide for the needs of victims being served.

During the last year, law enforcement partners continued to highlight the need for additional funding to enable them to provide SIU dedicated investigators. Eight (8) Law Enforcement grant awards are in force at this time. The FY13 awards were increased to these eight recipients as a means of mitigating the staffing expense concerns of these partners.

An intensive training schedule provided SIU partners with training on forensic interviewing of children, suspect interviewing, deviant sexual behavior and criminal activity, as well as providing team development training to eight teams from seven SIUs around the state. Future training will continue to target strengthening of the SIUs as teams, as well as developing the skills of individual partners.

The continuing partnership of SIUs with Child Advocacy Centers has proven to be an excellent way to maximize the resources and professional support received from both, the Vermont Children's Alliance and the National Children's Alliance. The training offerings and the operational standards provided by NCA/NCAC have proven to be very effective in the functional development of SIUs in Vermont.