



## News Release

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### AASAS meets need for current and local research on prevalence of sexual abuse through Alberta survey

**Calgary, Alberta – June 12, 2019** – The last comprehensive study on child sexual abuse in Canada was undertaken in 1984 by Robin Badgley. The Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) is addressing this lack of current data on the prevalence of sexual violence with a research study that will begin on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Modelled on the Badgley study, the AASAS research will be completely confidential and gather information on sexual assault throughout the lifespan – under the age of 18, over the age of 18 and combined data. The study will draw upon the experience of a representative sample of Albertans living in all regions throughout the province and with diverse backgrounds and identities.

The much-needed research will not just gather data on prevalence but also individuals' attitudes about sexual abuse and assault.

“Recent and accurate knowledge about the scope of sexual assault and abuse in Alberta, along with information about attitudes towards the issue, will help to develop and promote the quality and quantity of treatment services available and will foster the development of effective prevention initiatives,” says Deb Tomlinson, CEO of Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services.

The organization anticipates releasing the research findings in the fall. The data should increase the awareness and understanding of the scope of the problem and its widespread impacts.

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