

Unfounded Project Police Service Survey

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this short survey. Your answers will be included in an interactive tool that will enable Canadians to track what's happening in their individual jurisdiction with respect to unfounded sexual assault case reviews, as well as any changes to sex assault training and policies.

Please note:

- The survey link you've received is unique to your police service. Please do not share it with another service.
- You can only respond to this survey once. But you can save your progress and come back before submitting if you need.
- Once you have submitted the survey, you will receive an email with a copy of your response.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Force name

Primary contact name

First name

Last name

Phone

Email

Start of survey

This survey has a total of 18 questions.

1. Is your police service conducting or has your police service conducted a review of sexual assault cases since April 1, 2016?

Please check one option

- Yes No

2. If no, why not?

Please check one option

- Review not needed
- A review had already been planned, started, or completed prior to April 1, 2016
- Still considering whether to conduct a review
- No resources to conduct a review
- Other

If other, please specify

3. If your police force is not conducting a review, have you made any policy or training changes since February 3, 2017 when the Globe's "Unfounded" investigation ran?

Please check all that apply

- No policy or training changes
- Supervisors must be involved in the decision to classify a sexual assault allegation as unfounded
- Trauma-informed training planned*
- Trauma-informed training implemented
- Other training or policy changes:

If other, please specify

4. Cases from which years will be included in the review?

Please check all that apply

- 2007 2013
- 2008 2014
- 2009 2015
- 2010 2016
- 2011 2017
- 2012

5. Which types of cases will be included in the review?

Please check one option

- All unfounded sexual assault cases
- A sample of unfounded sexual assault cases
- All sexual assault cases not resulting in charges
- A sample of sexual assault cases
- Other

If other, please specify

6. Who will be participating in your review?

Please check all that apply

- Current sworn police officers (this police service)
- Current sworn police officers (another police service)
- Former sworn police officers (this police service)
- Former sworn police officers (another police service)
- Academics/legal scholars/criminologists
- Crown attorneys
- Violence against women (VAW) advocates
- Healthcare officials
- Social services/victim services officials
- Local elected representatives
- other

If other, please specify

7. Please provide the names, titles and organizations of the people involved in the review.

8. Which material(s) will be included in the review?

Please check all that apply

- Case summaries and synopses
- Officer reports and statements
- Officer notes
- Audio, video and written statements/interviews from complainant, suspects and witnesses
- Medical records
- Other

If other, please specify

9. How many sexual assault cases in total will be reviewed?

Please provide a number

10. How many unfounded sexual assault cases will be reviewed?

Please provide a number

11. Going forward, will you continue to review any sexual assault cases?

Please check one option

- No
- Yes, annually
- Yes, other frequency

If other, please specify

12. Have you completed your review?

Please check one option

- No
- Yes

If yes, when did you complete your review?

13. How many unfounded sexual assault cases were reclassified because of the review?

If none, enter zero (0)

14. How many total sexual assault cases were reclassified because of the review?

If none, enter zero (0)

15. How many unfounded sexual assault cases were reopened because of the review?

If none, enter zero (0)

16. How many total sexual assault cases were reopened because of the review?

If none, enter zero (0)

17. Has your police service introduced any new policies or training as a result of the review's findings?

Please check all that apply

- No policy or training changes
- Supervisors must be involved in the decision to classify a sexual assault allegation as unfounded
- Trauma-informed training planned*
- Trauma-informed training implemented
- Other training or policy changes:

If other, please specify

18. Is there anything else that you would like to add to help us better understand your police service's approach to handling sexual assault cases?

If you are ready to submit your final response, please select "final"

- Final

***Trauma informed policing**

Trauma informed policing means that police incorporate new knowledge and insights into their work, allowing them to respond to people more effectively, enhancing their investigations and allowing them to collect superior evidence. Decades of research on the neurobiology of trauma have led to the understanding that fear and trauma can alter brain functioning during and after a sexual assault. This has resulted in victim behaviour and demeanour that is often misinterpreted, including, in particular, fragmented patterns of recall.

Trauma informed police understand that memory encoding and consolidation is altered by fear. This has resulted in the need for improved and trauma informed methods for interviewing victims of sexual violence. Police learn how to respond to people who have been sexually assaulted in ways that avoid re-traumatizing and utilize interviewing methods most likely to help sexual assault victims recall and report the most complete and accurate memories possible. Understanding trauma and its impacts can assist police in responding sensitively to the specific vulnerabilities and needs of victims of sexual violence.

— Dr. Lori Haskell