

UGLY MUGS PROGRAM



The Prostitutes Collective of Victoria (PCV) established the Ugly Mugs program in May 1986. Ten years later in 1996, The Ugly Mugs Project was the recipient of the Australian Violence Prevention Award. In 2000, the funding was transferred to Inner South Community Health Service and the PCV changed its name to RhED (Resourcing Health and Education in the Sex Industry).



OBJECTIVE

The aim of the Ugly Mugs program is one of prevention by alerting sex workers to dangerous individuals. The program was developed in response to the prevalence of violence against sex workers and the lack of protection they received from police and legal institutions.



The program has also developed to provide a greater level of support to sex workers who have been assaulted. This includes referral and support to attend counseling and other health services, police and legal liaison and support.

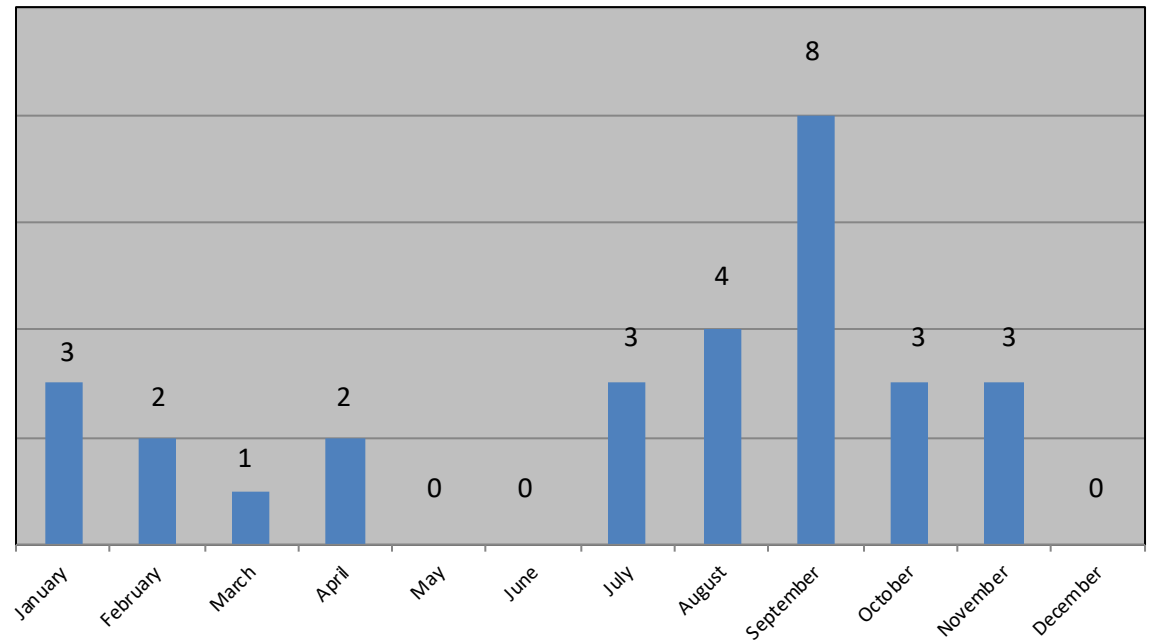
To date, there are approximately 30 other key services/organizations that participate in this network of violence prevention by receiving updates of “ugly mug reports”.



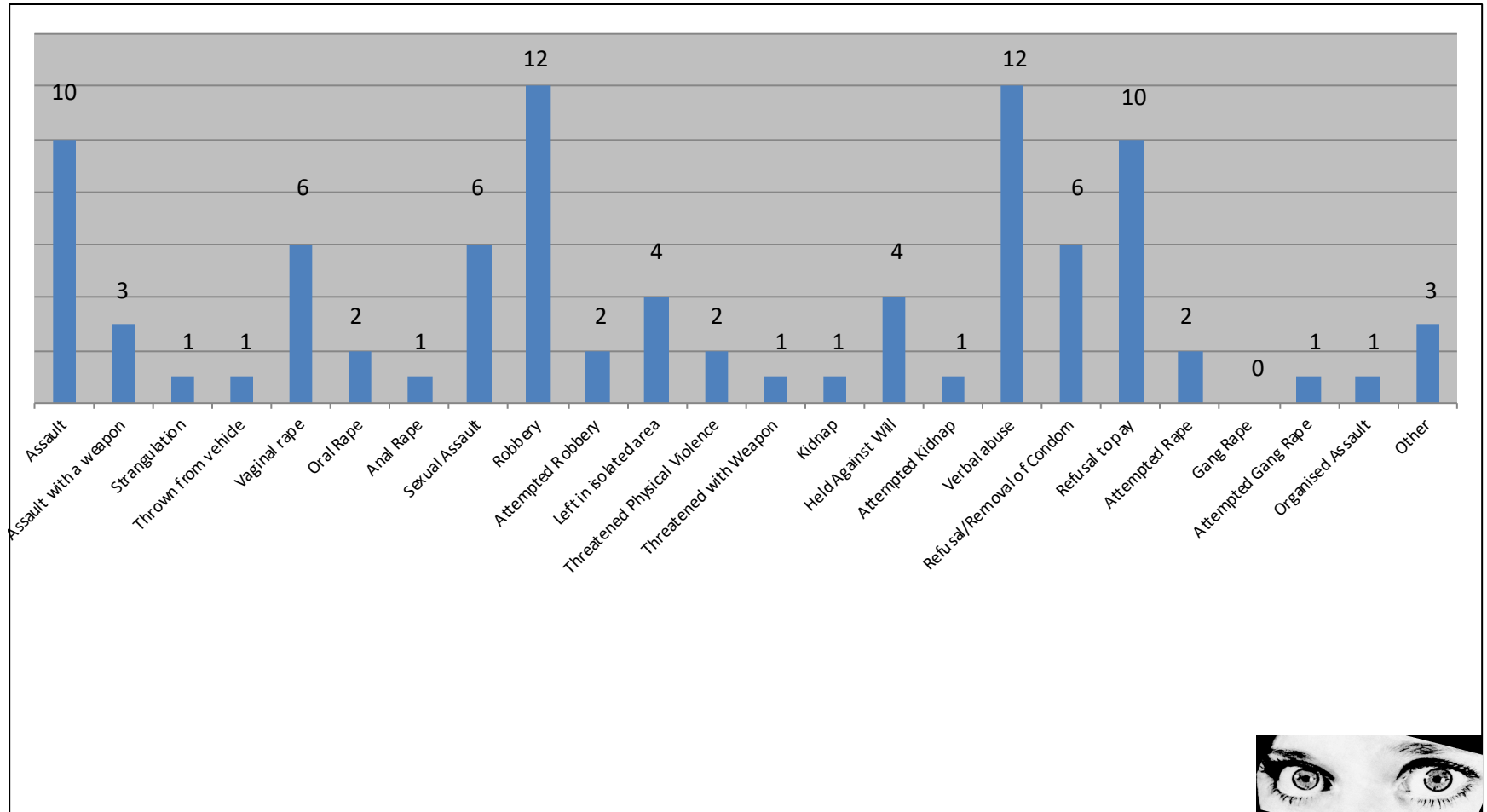


STATS

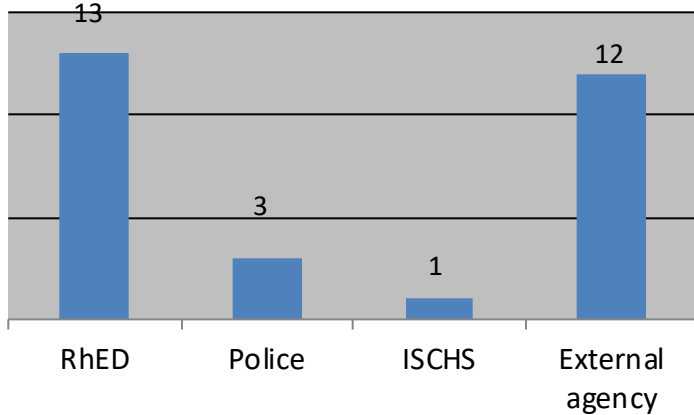
In 2011 29 Ugly Mugs were reported to RhED -
24 of these were incidents relating to street
based sex workers.
It is predicted that the number of actual incidents
well exceeds this number.



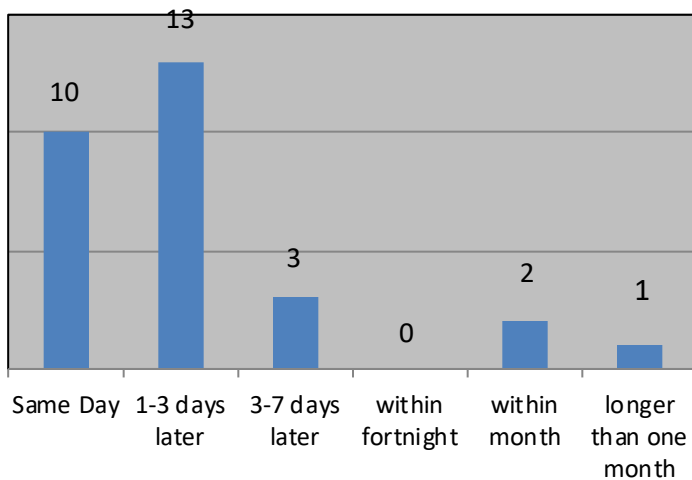
INCIDENT TYPE



REPORT SOURCE



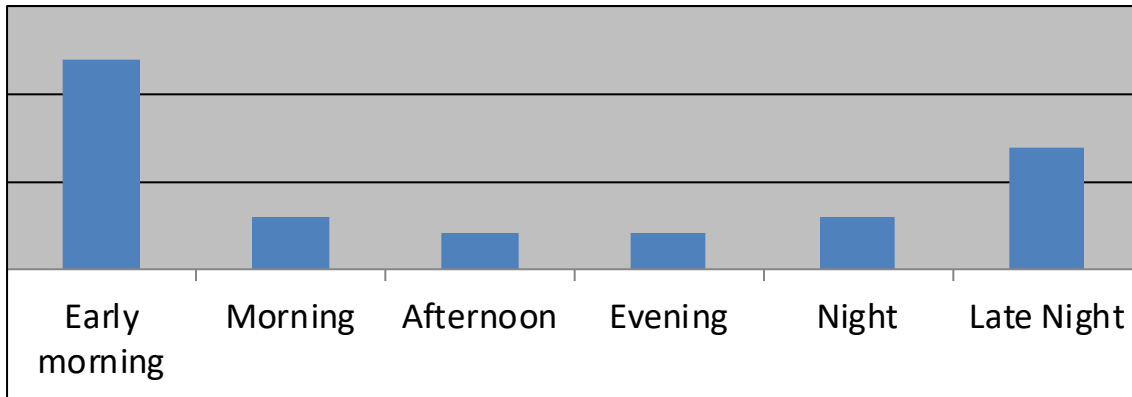
TIME BETWEEN INCIDENT AND REPORTING



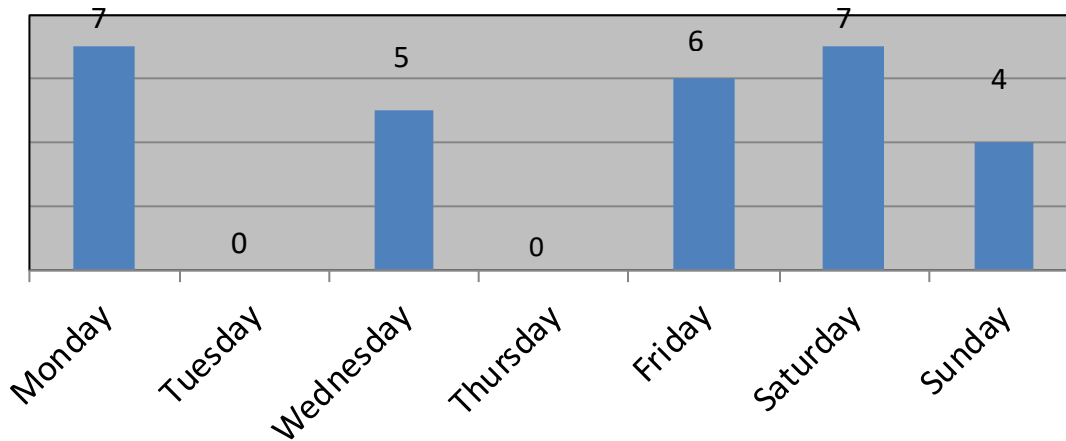
Although it is understood that some individuals are not ready or able to make a report immediately after an incident, it is preferred that a report is made as soon as possible. It is therefore imperative that workers be available to take reports.



TIME OF INCIDENT



DAY INCIDENT OCCURRED



Over 50% of incidents occur outside of RhED's operational hours (i.e. outside 9am-5pm)

Ability to respond to these incidents immediately improves accuracy of reporting and improves access to appropriate treatment and healthcare whilst sending a message that this sort of violence is not accepted.



MAKING A REPORT

RhED workers are available 9am-5pm
Monday to Friday.

Drop in times at RhED are 1-5pm
Tuesday to Friday.

Hustling to Health, sex worker only
space operates on a Friday night from
5-10:30pm.

Sex Workers can present at RhED on
their own or with a friend or worker
and a RhED staff member will
complete the report. Where this is not
possible RhED staff are able to do
outreach.

Alternatively though less preferred
reports can be taken over the phone
or by another agency worker who will
then forward the report to RhED for
follow-up and verification if needed.



**DROP IN @ 10
INKERMAN ST
OR CALL
1800 458 752**

**A RhED staff
member will go to the
police with you if you want
to report it to them too**





MUG WATCH

RhED workers conduct outreach during the week with an aim to elicit information on any incidents that have occurred, and to promote the services of RhED.



Ugly Mugs 2009

Ed. 21



Report Ugly Mugs to R&ED on 1800 458 752



DISTRIBUTION

Updated legal advice was sought in 2009 and as a result distribution procedures were changed.

Recommendations included:

- Reports must not be displayed to the general public.
- Reports are to be distributed to sex workers only and to organisations that come into contact with sex workers including police, community organisations and health services.





RhED & THE POLICE



How do we work together for sex workers?

- Specific Sex work Liaison Officer at St Kilda police – for communication, networking and support for sex workers
- Collaboration with CIU (Criminal Investigation Unit)
- Links with SOCIT (Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams)

RhED has the capacity to support sex workers through the police and court processes if a sex worker wishes to pursue an Ugly Mug incident through these avenues

VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS IS A CRIME

