

IMPORTANT STATISTICS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CANADA

According to police-reported data,

- Women are more likely to be victimized by **someone they know** than their male counterparts.
- **Relatives or acquaintances** made up **70%** of the assailants in violent incidents against women, compared with 46% of those committed against men.
- Female victims of violent crime are more often victimized by a current or former spouse, a current or former partner in a dating relationship, or a family member.
- **40%** of female victims are victimized by someone with whom they had a **relationship at one point in time, through either marriage or dating**, compared with 8% of male victims.
- Another 8% of females were victimized by other family members, such as aunts, uncles, sisters, or brothers
- Close friends or business acquaintances represented 8% of the perpetrators of violent crimes against women.
- **57%** of female victims reported that they had been victimized **more than once**
- **34%** of female victims of spousal violence said that they had **feared for their lives** at some point.
- 8% of women who were injured reported that they had suffered a **miscarriage** because of the violence.
- **94%** of female **homicide victims** were killed by either a family member or other acquaintance
- **37%** of all female homicide victims were killed by a **current spouse (28%) or ex-spouse (9%)**
- Women made up **84% of all victims of spousal homicide** in 2004, whereas they accounted for only 28% of all other homicide victims.
- Many instances of homicide-suicide involve a history of spousal violence. Of the 271 men⁷ accused of spousal homicide-suicides between 1991 and 2004, police reported that four out of 10 (43%) had a known history of family violence.
- Since women who are victims of spousal violence are more likely than male victims to be injured and to suffer more serious and repeated incidents of violence, it is not surprising that a larger proportion of female spousal-violence victims seek out help from various formal helping agencies or supports.
- Almost half of all female victims of spousal violence (47%), turn to a social agency for support. 28% of women victimized by spousal violence used the services of a counsellor or psychologist, while 11% stay at a transition home, 10% use a crisis centre or crisis line, 9% get help from a community or family centre, 8% employ the services of a women's centre, and 5% turn to a police or court-based victim service.
- there were more than **95,000 admissions** of women and dependent children to shelters across Canada between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004.
- Due to the often cyclical nature of domestic violence, women involved in abusive relationships are often caught in a revolving door of abuse and refuge. Data from the Transition Home Survey show that nearly one-third (31%) of all women in shelters on April 14, 2004 had been there before, with nearly 90% of re-admissions occurring within the previous year. Specifically, four in 10 women had been to the shelter in which they were currently staying once before during the previous year and nearly the same proportion (38%) had two to four prior admissions, while 9% had been re-admitted five or more times in the previous year.
- Most women leaving shelters do not plan to return to their abusive spouse or partner. Of the women who left a shelter on April 14, 2004, only about one in 10 (11%) planned to return to their spouse or partner, while 62% intended to depart for another destination. Specifically, over one-fifth (21%) of women leaving on that day left for another shelter and nearly the same proportion left for new accommodations without their spouse or partner (18%). At the same time, one in 10 women (11%) went to stay with friends or relatives, while 5% returned home without their spouse or partner and 7% left for some other housing arrangement. **The destination of the remaining 27% of women leaving these shelters that day was unknown.**