

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FACT SHEET

Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2005. Statistics Canada.

Homicide

- In 2003, 64 women were murdered by their male spouse.
- Between 1994 and 2003, 630 women were murdered by their male spouse. Causes of death included, but were not limited to, shooting, stabbing, strangulation, and beating.
- All cases of sexual assault and criminal harassment that lead to homicide were perpetrated against women. More specifically, criminal harassment accounted for 14% of all precipitating crimes that led to the homicide of a female victim.

Homicide – Suicide

- Between 1961 and 2003, it appears that spousal homicide-suicides are male-driven phenomenon as only 23 victims (3% of all spousal victims) were males killed by a female spouse. This finding confirms previous research which suggests men are much more likely than women to take their own lives after killing a spouse (Rosenbaum, 1990). Due to the small number of male victims killed by female spouses of the past four decades, the analysis will focus on all spousal homicide-suicides against female spouses (834 or 97% of all spousal homicide-suicide victims).
- Three-quarters (76%) of all homicide-suicides in Canada between 1961 and 2003 involved family members. Over half of these cases were committed by male spouses or ex-spouses and 97% of victims were female spouses. Firearms were the most common weapon used in homicide-suicides.
- Of the 262 men accused of spousal homicide-suicide between 1991 and 2003, police reported that 44% had a history of family violence with the victim in question. This was especially pronounced for separated husbands where 65% of the 83 estranged men had a known history of family violence.

TRANSITION HOMES FACT SHEET

Source: Transition Homes in Canada: National, Provincial and Territorial Fact Sheets 2003/04. Centre for Justice Statistics. Statistics Canada.

- Responses were received from 473 shelters (87%) from across Canada.
- There were 95,352 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.
- The majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women resident: advocacy (89%), individual short-term counselling (87%), and housing referral (84%).
- Facilitates also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: crisis telephone line (72%), individual short-term counselling (64%), advocacy (62%), legal services (49%), and housing referral (45%).
- 473 facilities reported providing a total of 19,454 outreach* hours per week.

A profile of residents on April 14, 2004:

- ⇒ 76% of women residing in shelters were victims of abuse and the remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems. Of those admitted for abuse, 86% were fleeing psychological abuse, 68% physical abuse, 50% threats, 46% financial abuse, 31% harassment, and 27% sexual abuse.
- ⇒ Two thirds of abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser. Another 13% were abused by a former spouse or partner.
- ⇒ Almost a third (31%) women residing in shelter had been there before. Of these repeat clients, 40% had been there once in the last year, 38% had been there 2 to 4 times and 9% had been there 5 or more times.
- ⇒ Among women leaving the shelter on April 14, 2004, the majority returned home to their spouse or partner. 18% left for new accommodations without their spouse or partner and 28% left for other housing, 11% went to stay with friends or relatives and 5% returned home without their spouse or partner. It was unknown for a quarter (27%) of women where they were going to reside. 11% returned to their spouse or partner.

*Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the national average was 41 hours per week.