

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FACT SHEET

Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2006. Statistics Canada.

General

- Results from the 2004 GSS show that women are more likely than men to experience more serious forms of violence such as being beaten, choked, threatened with or having a gun or knife used against them or sexually assaulted.
- Police-reported statistics suggest that male family members represent the majority (81%) of accused in all family-related assaults.

Homicide

- In 2004, 62 women were murdered by their male spouse.
- Between 1995 and 2004, 626 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.
- Women have consistently been more likely than men to be killed by their spouse. The rate of spousal homicide against females has been 3 to 5 times higher than the rate for males. Between 1995 and 2004, 39% of all homicides committed against females were perpetrated by a spouse, compared to 5% of spousal homicides committed against males.

Homicide – Suicide

- In the last 45 years, 97% of all spousal homicide-suicide victims were female. Firearms were the most common weapon used in homicide-suicides.

Sexual Assault

- Among children under 18 years of age, girls were at greatest risk of sexual assault (4 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than boys).