



Fact Sheet on Violence against Women

“Violence is far less likely between equals...therefore, equality and respect of all people is a crucial concept...women have not yet achieved equality, and this must be redressed.”

Witness at the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993

- ♀ In 2004, 8 percent of women in Nova Scotia (or one woman in 12) reported that they had experienced violence at the hands of their current or former spouse/intimate partner within the previous five years. This percentage is unchanged from 1999.¹
- ♀ Young women in common law relationships are at greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence as are women who have been in a relationship for three years or less, and women whose partner is a frequent, heavy drinker.¹
- ♀ Aboriginal women in Canada are at least three times more likely to have experienced spousal violence than non-Aboriginal women.¹
- ♀ One-third of all incidents of spousal violence in Canada (approximately 394,000 cases between 1999 and 2004) were witnessed by children.¹
- ♀ Nearly two-thirds of spousal violence incidents were not reported to the police.¹
- ♀ Female victims of spousal violence are more likely than males to report being injured, suffer lost productivity, experience multiple assaults, fear for their lives, and experience negative emotional consequences.
- ♀ In 2004, 886 sexual offences were reported to police in Nova Scotia. Sexual offences comprised 8% of all violent offences reported to police in the province.²
- ♀ According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), 88% of sexual assaults in Canada do not get reported to police.³
- ♀ 31,000 Nova Scotians indicated that they were victims of sexual assault in 2004. In that year, Nova Scotia's rate of sexual assault was 40 per 1,000 population aged 15 and over.³
- ♀ In 2004, 85% of victims of all sexual offences reported to the Halifax Regional Police Service were female and 15% were male. In close to half of cases (49%), victims (female and male) were under the age of 18.²
- ♀ Between 1991 and 2005, there were 250 homicides in Nova Scotia. Of these, women and girls made up close to one-third (32%) of victims (ie., 80 females and 170 males). More than half of female victims were killed by their spouses or intimate partners, compared to fewer than one in ten male victims.⁴
- ♀ Women in Nova Scotia are about 40 times more likely to be killed by a spouse or intimate partner than they are to be killed by a stranger while men in Nova Scotia are more likely to be killed by a stranger than they are to be killed by a spouse or intimate partner.⁴

♀ According to the 2004 General Social Survey, 11% of Canadian women reported being a victim of criminal harassment (stalking) in the five-year period from 1999-2004. This represents more than 1.4 million females 15 years of age and older who, as a result of the stalking, feared for their life or that of someone known to them. Women in Nova Scotia have the 2nd highest rate in Canada at 12%.¹

Sources:

- 1 Statistics Canada . Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Family Violence in Canada. A Statistical Profile 2005*, Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE.
- 2 Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, from *Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey*.
- 3 Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004*, Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Juristat: Vol.25. No.7.
- 4 Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Homicide Survey*.

**Female Victims of Homicide
Nova Scotia, 1991-2005**

Year	Number		Year	Number
1991	6		1999	4
1992	12		2000	3
1993	7		2001	1
1994	6		2002	4
1995	5		2003	1
1996	4		2004	4
1997	10		2005	5
1998	8			

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Homicide Survey*.

**In Nova Scotia, a total of 80 females were
victims of homicide between 1991 and 2005**

For further information on violence and personal safety, see these Advisory Council publications:

- ▶ **Making Changes: A Book for Women in Abusive Relationships**
http://www.gov.ns.ca/staw/pubs2006_07/MakingChanges4rev_2006.pdf
- ▶ **Sexual Assault in Nova Scotia: A Statistical Profile**
http://www.gov.ns.ca/staw/pubs2005_06/sexualassaultstatsDec05.pdf

**Nova Scotia Advisory Council
on the Status of Women
PO Box 745, Halifax, NS B3J 2T3**

**phone: 424-8662; fax: 424-0573
toll-free in NS: 1- 800- 565-8662
e-mail: nsacsw@gov.ns.ca
Web: www.gov.ns.ca/staw**