



Factsheet: How widespread is the problem of violence against women?

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) - CANADA

- Life-time (from age 16 years onwards) self-reported IPV against women is estimated to be 29%, and 16% report being assaulted by a date or boyfriend. (1)
- Police-reported data of IPV incidents against women show that it has decreased by 17% over time (2). Self-reported data do not show this trend. (3)
- Self-reported data show that IPV (5-year prevalence) against women has changed little over a decade, from 7.4% in 1999 to 6.2% in 2009. (3)
- Women victims of IPV are significantly more likely to be sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a knife or gun; injured; experience chronic violence; and fear for their lives, compared to men. Men who are victims of IPV suffer much less severe forms of violence than women. (3)
- Women affected by IPV (91%) are also much more likely to report that the violence affected them emotionally, compared to men (70%). (4)
- Women (4.1%) are estimated to suffer financial abuse more frequently in an intimate relationship, compared to men (1.6%). (5)
- 1-2 women per week are murdered by their intimate partner. 66 women were murdered in 2009 and another 77 were victims of attempted murder. (3)
- Compared to men, women are almost 3 x more likely to be killed by an intimate partner. (3)
- The prevalence of IPV is twice as high among Aboriginal women (3) and the rate of homicide is almost 7 times that of non-Aboriginal women. (6)
- Only 30% of women experiencing IPV report it to police. (3)
- Most women (80%) report IPV to informal sources such as another family member, a friend or neighbor, a doctor or nurse, a lawyer, or a spiritual advisor. But formal services for IPV are contacted in only 38% of cases. (3)



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SEXUAL VIOLENCE - CANADA

- 39% of women have reported that they experienced sexual assault sometime during their lives, from 16 years of age onwards. (1)
- The 2009 rate of sexual assault against women was 34 per 1000 women. This has not decreased since 1999. (7)
- Women are much more likely to be the victims of sexual assault compared to men; in 2009, 70% of sexual assault victims were female. (7)
- Of all sexual assaults reported in 2009, 9 out of 10 were committed by men. (7)

IPV AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE - A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

- Comparing estimates across contexts and countries is extremely difficult (for example, different methods are used; cultures and the meaning of violence differ). (8)
- Among OECD countries using the same measure of VAW, estimates of the prevalence of lifetime IPV and sexual violence ranged from 10-37%. (9)
- The WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health & Domestic Violence used standardized methods in 15 different populations, with a focus on low and middle income areas. Estimates of IPV ranged from 13-61% and sexual violence from 6-59%. (8)

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