



Factsheet: Sheltering Abused Women in Canada

SHELTER CHARACTERISTICS*

- ✦ Across Canada in 2009/2010, 593 shelters provided a combined total of 11,461 beds. This is 757 more beds than in 2007/2008.
- ✦ Transition homes and second-stage housing are the two most common types of shelters, providing 38% and 22% of all beds respectively.
- ✦ The average admission rate (452 per 100,000 women) in 2009/2010 has increased slightly (by 2%) since 2007/2008.
- ✦ In total, 103,000 women and their children were admitted to a shelter in 2009/2010. On any given day, over 8,200 are living in shelters to escape violence.
- ✦ Of the 10 provinces, Manitoba had the highest admission rate in 2009/2010 (670 per 100,000 women) and Newfoundland & Labrador the lowest (260 per 100,000 women). The territories had admission rates 6 to 8 times that of Manitoba.
- ✦ 64% of shelters offer services sensitive to Aboriginal clients.
- ✦ Most shelters allow children to be admitted with their mothers and also provide child-specific services such as recreation spaces and counselling.

CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN RESIDENTS*

- ✦ Almost one third of women accessing a shelter in Canada, have accessed the same shelter before.
- ✦ Most women (71%) staying in shelters are there because of abuse. This abuse most often comes at the hands of an intimate partner (88%).
- ✦ Emotional (66%), physical (53%), financial (39%), and sexual (25%) abuse, as well as threats (40%) and harassment (28%), are forms of abuse that women using shelters report.
- ✦ Women aged 25-34 years access shelters more often than any other age group.
- ✦ The majority of women (60%) in shelters do not report abuse to police.



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CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN RESIDENTS CONTINUED*

- ✦ Children make up over 40% of shelter residents.
- ✦ Women are sometimes turned away because shelters are full.
- ✦ Women generally self-refer to shelters (32%); however, some get referred by another transition home (13%), by another community organization (13%) or by family or friends (8%).

SHELTER SERVICE GAPS & NEEDS**

- ✦ Transition homes receive 81% of their funding from provincial/ territorial governments. Second-stage housing receives substantially less (37%) and must rely on other sources*.
- ✦ Expenditures equal or exceed revenues for 42% of shelters.
- ✦ Fewer services are provided by shelters that exclusively serve villages and rural communities.
- ✦ 58% of shelters indicated that they required additional and/or improved services to meet client needs (e.g. childcare, outreach, affordable housing and housing resources, etc.).
- ✦ The number of requests by non-residents has increased since 2005/2006. This reflects a total of 28,770 additional hours of outreach work completed by shelters.

REFERENCES

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