

FOCUS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

THE DISTURBING TRUTH

Every hour of every day, a woman in Alberta is a victim of some form of violence by an ex-spouse or ex-partner.¹

WHY DOES IT MATTER?



7,604 women and 7,766 children were served by Alberta women's emergency shelters in 2013/14.² On one day in 2013, 41 of those shelters helped 926 women and 1,102 children.³



Addressing family violence for women who have left abusive relationships has cost Albertans more than \$600 million over the past five years.⁴



In Canada, the total cost of intimate partner violence is \$7.4 billion per year.⁷



Violence against women is a root cause for a range of acute and chronic health problems, immediate injury, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, depression and stress and alcohol-related health disorders for women.⁸

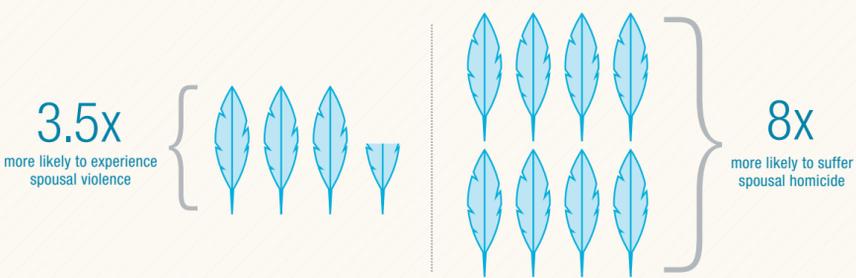


70% of Canadian women who report having experienced spousal violence are working women.⁷

71% of Canadian women who report having experienced spousal violence have a university or college degree.⁷



Aboriginal women in Canada are 3.5 times more likely to experience spousal violence and 8 times more likely to suffer spousal homicide than non-Aboriginal women.⁹



In 2011, 52% of Aboriginal female victims in Canada have indicated that they fear for their lives as a result of spousal violence, compared to 31% of non-Aboriginal female victims.¹⁰

Between 2010 and 2011, at least 8% of all murdered women in Canada aged 15 years and older were Aboriginal—double their representation in the Canadian population.¹⁰

Young Canadian women aged 15-24 are most vulnerable to sexual violence and most at risk for spousal homicide.¹⁰

Girls experience sexual assault at much higher rates than boys. 82% of all victims under the age of 18 are female.⁹



Girls are four times as likely as boys to be sexually assaulted by a family member.⁹



Globally, as many as 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners.⁸

In 2011, 78,000 Canadian women were victims of intimate partner violence and 76 women were victims of intimate partner homicide.¹⁰

You are invited to share your thoughts and input on the key issues facing women and girls in Alberta.

Please email your comments or suggestions to womensequality@gov.ab.ca

1 Family Violence Hurts Everyone – Human Services <http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/family-violence-hurts-everyone.pdf>
 2 Family Violence Prevention and Homeless Supports Division
 3 <http://www.acws.ca/a-window-on-the-lives-of-women-fleeing-violence-alberta-data-count-released>
 4 Preventing Domestic Violence in Alberta: A Cost Savings Perspective <http://policy.schooll.ca/calgary.ca/sites/default/files/research/l-wells-domestic-violence.pdf>
 5 Developing an Alberta Alcohol Strategy - https://www.aglc.ca/pdf/social_responsibility/Alberta_Alcohol_Strategy.pdf
 6 Economic Costs - Alberta Health Services - <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/2498.asp>
 7 The Gap in the Gender Gap – Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/gap-gender-gap>
 8 World Health Organization <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>
 9 The Facts About Violence Against Women - Canadian Women's Foundation <http://www.canadianwomen.org/facts-about-violence>
 10 Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11766-eng.htm>