

# ONTARIO (CANADA) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE 2017 REPORT FINDINGS

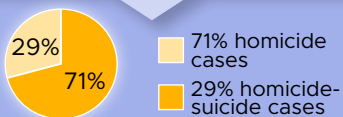
The Ontario (Canada) Domestic Violence Death Review committee (DVDRC) assists the Office of the Chief Coroner in the investigation and review of deaths of persons that occur as a result of domestic violence, and to make recommendations to help prevent such deaths in similar circumstances.

## THIS REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION FROM 3 DATA SETS

1

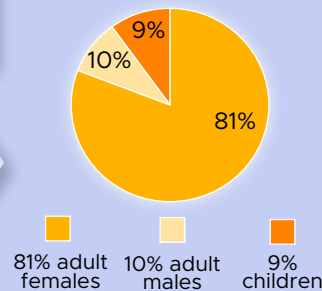
Cases coded by the Coroner as domestic violence related deaths, but may not have been reviewed by the committee yet (2002 – 2016)

368 cases resulting in 518 deaths

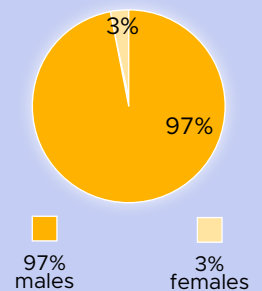


27.4 average number of domestic homicide related deaths per year during this period.

### Victims



### Perpetrators



## Cause of Death



26% firearm-related



11% asphyxia (airway obstruction, strangulation, neck compression)

2

Cases reviewed by committee from 2003 to 2017

Reviews are conducted by the DVDRC only after all investigations and proceedings – including criminal trials and appeals – have been completed, which may be many years after the actual incident.

311 cases reviewed involving 445 deaths

201 homicide cases (65%)

110 homicide-suicide cases (35%)

7 or more risk factors identified in 71% of cases

### 7 most common risk factors identified

- 72% history of domestic violence
- 67% actual or pending separation
- 50% perpetrator depressed
- 46% obsessive behavior by perpetrator
- 45% perpetrator made prior threat/ attempts to commit suicide
- 44% victim had intuitive sense of fear
- 41% perpetrator displayed sexual jealousy

3

Cases reviewed in 2017

22 cases which occurred between 2011 and 2017

10 homicide-suicide

12 homicide

Deceased victims ranged in age from 6 to 91



1 case involved a child victim



2 cases involved multiple victims

21/22 cases involved a male perpetrator

Domestic violence deaths are defined as all “homicides that involve the death of a person, and/or his or her child(ren) committed by the person’s partner or ex-partner from an intimate relationship.”

# CASE REVIEWS ARE CONDUCTED TO IDENTIFY:

## ➔ Presence of 41 Risk factors related to Perpetrator's

- social and emotional well-being,
- mental health,
- relationship history
- economic instability
- attitudes towards women and violence
- access to firearms

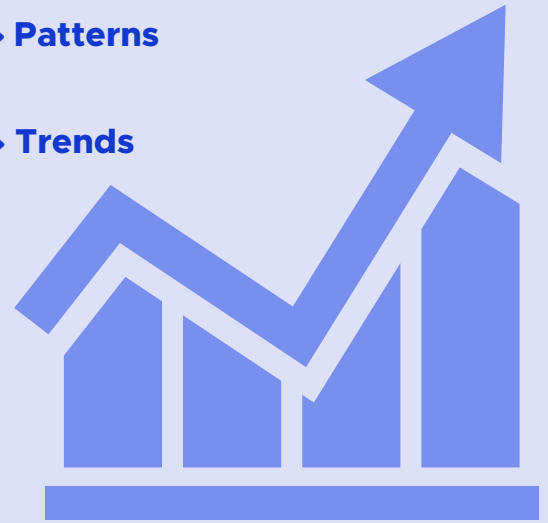
## Victim's vulnerability

(mental health, disability, addictions, language or cultural barriers, social and geographical isolation)

## Victim's intuitive sense of fear

## ➔ Patterns

## ➔ Trends



## RECOMMENDATIONS

The DVDRC makes recommendations aimed at preventing deaths in similar circumstances and reducing domestic violence in general.

### BASED ON 311 CASE REVIEWS, RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESS:

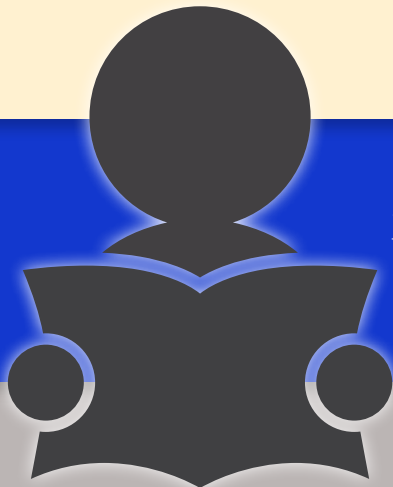
Raising awareness of **risk factors** (substance abuse, financial stressors, mental health, history of domestic violence, victim vulnerability) through:



**Public policies** related to violence in the workplace, bullying and stalking.



**Education** for the public (neighbours, friends and families) and targeted professionals on addressing and assessing the risks associated with intimate partner violence.



The DVDRC report is available online at [www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/content/mcscs/docs/2017%20DVDRC%20Annual%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/content/mcscs/docs/2017%20DVDRC%20Annual%20Report%20Final.pdf)

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