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.

### 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
- 71% homicide cases
- 29% homicide-suicide cases
- 27.4 average number of domestic homicide related deaths per year during this period.

### Cause of Death

- 26% firearm-related
- 11% asphyxia (airway obstruction, strangulation, neck compression)

### Cases reviewed by committee from 2003 to 2017

- 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

### Cases reviewed in 2017

- 22 cases which occurred between 2011 and 2017
- 21/22 cases involved a male perpetrator
- 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

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

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