



Domestic Homicide in Canada

Police services reported 960 domestic homicides in Canada between 2003 and 2013.⁷

Women are most often (78%) the victims of domestic homicides, with a rate 4.5 times higher than men.⁷

There were 83 domestic homicides in Canada in 2014, 11 more than in 2013.⁶

Rates of domestic homicide against both men and women have decreased significantly since the early 1990s.^{3,4,5,7,8}

- In the case of spousal homicides, these declines are partly attributable to relative employment levels—as female-male employment rates become more equal, rates of female spousal homicide decrease.³

Shooting and stabbing are the most common causes of death in domestic homicides.³

- Women are more likely to be killed with firearms and beatings/strangulation.^{3,5}
- Men are more likely to be killed with knives or sharp objects.¹

Men are more likely than women to commit suicide following domestic homicide.⁵

Domestic homicides account for a large proportion of homicides worldwide, particularly in high-income countries like Canada where 20% of homicides are domestic homicide.^{2,8}

Five provinces have domestic violence death review reports available that highlight recommendations for homicide prevention. Access these reports through cdhipi.ca/DVDR-Reports.

Press Releases on SSHRC Grant

- <http://mediarelations.uwo.ca/2015/09/15/national-initiative-led-by-western-examines-risk-factors-for-vulnerable-populations/>
- <http://news.uoguelph.ca/2015/09/project-aims-to-reduce-domestic-violence-homicide/>

Press Release on Child Homicide

- <http://news.uoguelph.ca/2015/10/new-study-compares-mothers-fathers-who-kill-their-children/>

References

¹ Bunge, V. P. (2002). National trends in intimate partner homicides, 1974-2000. *Juristat, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc.action?ObjId=85-002-X20020058413&ObjType=47&lang=en>

² Boyce, J. & Cotter, A. (2013). Homicide in Canada, 2012. *Juristat, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X*. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11882-eng.htm>

³ Dawson, M., Bunge, V. P., & Balde, T. (2009). National trends in intimate partner homicides: Explaining declines in Canada, 1976 to 2001. *Violence Against Women*, 15, 276-306.

⁴ Johnson, H and M. Dawson. (2011). *Violence Against Women in Canada: Research and Policy Perspectives*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

⁵ Johnson, H., & Hotton, T. (2003). Losing control: Homicide risk in estranged and intact intimate relationships. *Homicide Studies*, 7, 58-84.

⁶ Miladinovic, Z., & Mulligan, L. (2015). Homicide in Canada, 2014. *Juristat, Catalogue no. 85-002-X*. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14244-eng.pdf>

⁷ Statistics Canada. (2015). Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013. *Juristat, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X*. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114/section02-eng.htm>

⁸ Stöckl, H., Devries, K., Rotstein, A., Abrahams, N., Campbell, J., Watts, C., & Moreno, C. G. (2013). The global prevalence of intimate partner homicide: A systematic review. *The Lancet*, 382, 859-865.

Domestic Homicide: The Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations, funded by SSHRC (2015-2020), recognizes that domestic homicide is a form of gender-based violence rooted in historical patterns of inequality, exclusion and discrimination. In this research, domestic homicide is defined as the killing of a current or former intimate partner, their child(ren), and/or other third parties.

- An intimate partner can include people who are in a current or former married, common-law, or dating relationship.
- Other third parties can include new partners, other family members, neighbours, friends, co-workers, helping professionals, bystanders, and others killed as a result of the incident.
- Domestic violence includes all forms of abuse including psychological or emotional abuse that has been documented through professionals or interviews with friends, family, and/or co-workers. (www.cdhipi.org)

Domestic Violence: violence against current or former spouses or dating partners, whether or not the individuals live together or have children⁷.

Filicide: the murder of a child by a parent.

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