

What is Intimate Partner Violence?

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is:

- Violence committed by legally married, separated, or divorced partners, or current or former common-law or dating partners¹.
 - IPV can occur in either heterosexual or same-sex relationships.
 - IPV includes physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, spiritual and cultural violence as well as verbal and financial abuse and neglect.
 - For definitions of the nine types of violence please visit: http://www.gov.nl.ca/VPI/facts/fact_sheets/nine_types_of_violence.pdf
 - IPV is not limited to actions that meet Criminal Code definitions², for example, name-calling and preventing access to money
- IPV accounts for one quarter of violent crimes reported to police³.

Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence against women in Canada:

- For women, violence committed by a dating partner is more common than violence committed by any other type of perpetrator³.
- Over half of all incidents of criminal harassment of women are perpetrated by a male intimate partner².

Intimate partner violence escalates:

- Psychological, emotional, or financial abuse can occur before physical or sexual violence².
- Harassment and threats are experienced particularly by those victimized by previous partners³.
- Most victims are physically assaulted, especially those victimized by a current partner³.

- Victims of intimate partner violence are more likely to be physically harmed than victims of other violent crimes, especially by current partners⁴.
- Some injuries resulting from intimate partner violence may require professional medical attention or hospitalization².
- Physical force, rather than the use of a weapon, is used more frequently in intimate partner violence, except for intimate partner sexual assaults and homicides³.
- Most spouses accused of killing their current or estranged partner have a history of violence involving the victim⁴.

¹ Sinha, M. (2013). *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2011. Section 3: Intimate partner violence*. (Catalogue no. 85-002-X). Retrieved from Statistics Canada website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11805-eng.pdf>

² Sinha, M. (Ed.). (2013). *Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends*. (Catalogue no. 85-002-X). Retrieved from Statistics Canada website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11766-eng.pdf>

³ Beaupré, P. (2015). *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013. Section 2: Intimate partner violence*. (Catalogue no. 85-002-X). Retrieved from Statistics Canada website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114-eng.pdf>

⁴ Sinha, M. (2012). *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2010. Section 2: Violence against intimate partners*. (Catalogue no. 85-002-X). Retrieved from Statistics Canada website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2012001/article/11643-eng.pdf>