

Who are Victims of Intimate Partner Violence?

The risk of experiencing violence is not related to income or education level¹.

Women

- Eighty per cent of victims of intimate partner violence are women²:
 - Women experience four times the rate of intimate partner violence than men³.
- Women experience more severe forms of violence than men²:
 - More than half of female victims report multiple victimizations compared to just over one third of male victims.
 - Women are two times more likely to be physically injured as a result of intimate partner violence.
 - Women are three times more likely to be sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a weapon.
 - Women are three times more likely to experience disruptions to their daily lives.
 - Women are seven times more likely to fear for their lives.
 - Eighty-six per cent of intimate partner homicides involve female victims.

Groups of Women Most at Risk of Intimate Partner Violence

- **Young women**
 - Women aged 20-24 years have the highest risk of intimate partner violence followed closely by those aged 25-29 years³.
 - Sexual violence in a dating relationship is highest for women aged 15-24 years⁴.
- **Common-law unions**
 - The risk of spousal homicide is eight times higher in common-law unions compared to legally married couples¹.

- **Recently separated**
 - One third of intimate partner violence victims are victimized by a previous partner and two thirds by a current partner³.
 - The risk of intimate partner violence is highest for recently separated partners⁴:
 - A woman's risk of being killed by a legally separated spouse is nearly six times higher than risk from a legally married spouse.
 - The rate of spousal homicide is lowest among divorced partners.
- **Lesbian, bisexual and transgender women**
 - Lesbian or bisexual women are three times more likely to experience intimate partner violence than heterosexual women².
 - Same-sex couples face stigma that may make it difficult to seek supports for intimate partner violence¹.
- **Aboriginal women**
 - Aboriginal women experience higher rates of intimate partner violence¹.
 - Aboriginal women often report the most severe forms of violence⁵.
 - Nearly 60 per cent of victims report injury compared to about 40 per cent of non-Aboriginal women⁵.
 - More than half of victims fear for their lives compared to less than one third of non-Aboriginal women⁵.
- **Women with disabilities**
 - Women with a physical or mental disability experience nearly double the rate of spousal violence².

¹ Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (2012). *Intimate partner violence and abuse – It can be stopped*. Retrieved from Royal Canadian Mounted Police website: http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cp-pc/pdfs/int_par-rel_int-eng.pdf

² Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers responsible for the Status of Women. (2013). *Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends – Key findings. Intimate Partner and Spousal Violence*. Retrieved from Status of Women Canada website: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/rc-cr/pub/violence-partner-partenaire-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. (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>

⁵ 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>