

Who are Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence?

Gender and age

- Young¹ males² are most commonly the perpetrators of intimate partner violence.

Past experiences

- Has experienced childhood physical or psychological abuse¹.
- Has witnessed violence by their fathers toward their mothers³
 - Inflict more severe and repeated violence in their own relationships.

Past behaviour¹

- Aggressive behaviour as a youth.
- Prior history of being abusive.

Psychological factors¹

- Depression.
- Anger and hostility.
- Heavy alcohol and drug use.

Relationship style¹

- Has few friends and is isolated from other people.
- Expresses emotional dependence and insecurity.
- Desires power and control in relationships.
- Believes in strict gender roles (e.g., male dominance).

Motives

- The most common motives for intimate partner homicide are escalation of an argument, jealousy, and anger or despair⁴.
- Perpetrators may become victims of intimate partner violence:
 - One third of male intimate partner homicide victims initiated the violent incident compared to only six per cent of female victims (e.g., self-defence)⁵.

¹ American Psychological Association. (2012). *Intimate Partner Violence Facts and Resources*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from American Psychological Association website: <http://www.apa.org/topics/violence/intimate-partner-violence.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 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

⁴ 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>

⁵ 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>