

## Who are Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence?

### Gender and age

- Young<sup>1</sup> males<sup>2</sup> are most commonly the perpetrators of intimate partner violence.

### Past experiences

- Has experienced childhood physical or psychological abuse<sup>1</sup>.
- Has witnessed violence by their fathers toward their mothers<sup>3</sup>
  - Inflict more severe and repeated violence in their own relationships.

### Past behaviour<sup>1</sup>

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

### Psychological factors<sup>1</sup>

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

### Relationship style<sup>1</sup>

- 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 despair<sup>4</sup>.
- 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)<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cp-pc/pdfs/int_par-rel_int-eng.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> 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>

<sup>5</sup> 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>