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# Transition Homes in Canada: National, Provincial and Territorial Fact Sheets



2005/2006



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# Transition Homes in Canada: National, Provincial and Territorial Fact Sheets

2005/2006

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Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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## Introduction

All across Canada, shelters are a critical source of support for individuals in crisis. They are an essential component of the services and programs that respond to the needs of individuals fleeing domestic violence and those facing various other difficulties such as housing, mental health and addiction problems. More than just a safe place to stay, shelters offer residents access to a variety of services that will help them to better their lives. In addition, shelters often engage in outreach activities, thereby extending their much needed support to those residing outside the doors of the facility.

As part of the Federal Family Violence Initiative, the Transition Home Survey (THS) was developed in order to address the need for improved information about services for victims of domestic violence. Historically, information about transition homes was collected by the Residential Care Facilities (RCF) Survey. However, since 1992/1993, the Transition Home Survey has been conducted as an independent survey.

The Transition Home Survey (THS) is a biennial census of all residential facilities for female victims of domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> Questionnaires are mailed to all shelters or agencies (e.g., transition homes, second stage housing facilities, safe home networks, women's emergency centres, general emergency shelters, and family resource centres) known to provide residential services to abused women in every province and territory. However, shelters that do not provide services *exclusively* to women escaping domestic violence, such as general emergency shelters, are included in order to provide a more accurate picture of the facilities used by abused women. Information is collected on the characteristics of the facilities and the services provided during the previous 12 months (i.e., April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006). Additionally, a snapshot day (April 19, 2006) is used to profile the women and children residing in the shelter on the given day.

For the 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey, 553 shelters were contacted and responses were received from 486 or 88%. However, figures presented in the 2005/2006 THS Fact Sheets are representative of all 553 facilities, as an imputation procedure was used to replace missing data for non-respondents. The imputed data were tested for statistically significant differences from the data collected from respondents. The results from the test show no statistically meaningful differences between the imputed and respondent data.

This publication highlights findings from the Transition Home Survey at the national, provincial and territorial levels.

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1. Shelters that do not provide residential accommodations are excluded.

## National Fact Sheet

There were 105,711 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>1</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 7,425 residents in shelters across Canada: 53% (3,958) were women and 47% (3,467) were dependant children.

About three-quarters (74%) of women (2,912) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 29 per 100,000 women<sup>2</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 66% were fleeing psychological abuse, 55% physical abuse, 41% threats, 37% financial abuse, 28% harassment, and 23% sexual abuse.<sup>3</sup>

Over half (51%) of the women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 67% of these children (1,998) were under 10 years of age.

About half (52%) of women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as witnessing the abuse of their mother, psychological abuse (41%), physical abuse (26%), threats (19%), neglect (16%), and sexual abuse (5%).<sup>4</sup>

Two-thirds of abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser; another 13% were abused by a former spouse or partner; 6% by someone from a current or ex-dating relationship, 5% by a relative and 4% were abused by others. For 6% of women the relationship with their abuser was unknown.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: self-referral (30%), another community group (17%), another transition house (14%), and family or friends (7%).<sup>5</sup>

Nearly four out of ten (36%) women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. Of these repeat clients, 39% had been there once in the last year, one-fifth (20%) had been there 2 to 4 times and 14% had been there 5 or more times. For another fifth (22%) of repeat residents, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay and for 5% of these women the number of previous stays was unknown.

Among women leaving the shelter on snapshot day, the majority did not intend to return home to their spouse or partner. About one-fifth (19%) of women planned to leave for new accommodations without their spouse or partner and another fifth (21%) to depart for some other type of housing,<sup>6</sup> 12% to go to a different shelter, 9% to stay with friends or relatives and 8% intended to return home without their spouse or partner. About 15% intended to return to their spouse or partner. For 15% of women, it was unknown where they planned to reside upon departure.

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1. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
  2. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.
  3. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
  4. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
  5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.
  6. Other types of housing include hospitals, residential services (i.e., group homes, addiction rehabilitations centers) and motels.

More than three out of ten (31%) abused women reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident, and in 62% of these reported cases, charges were laid against the abuser.

### **A profile of shelters, 2005/2006**

Nine out of ten shelters served urban/suburban populations, 42% served rural/village populations and 28% served reserve populations.<sup>7</sup>

A total of 30 shelters (5%) were located on a reserve, 19 shelters (3%) were owned by a band council and 20 (4%) were operated by a band council.

The majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: safety and protection planning (92%), individual short-term counselling (91%), advocacy (90%), transportation and accompaniment (90%), and housing referral (86%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: crisis telephone lines (68%), safety and protection planning (66%), individual short-term counselling (63%), and advocacy (63%).<sup>8</sup>

In-house services offered to resident children included: outdoor recreation spaces (81%), indoor recreation spaces (78%), individual counselling (67%), group counselling or support (56%), and programs for child witnesses or victims of abuse (52%).<sup>9</sup>

Three-quarters of shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, 65% had accessible bathrooms and a similar proportion (62%) had bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible. About one-quarter (23%) offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired and 18% offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Combined, 496 facilities reported providing a total of 23,684 outreach<sup>10</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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7. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

8. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

9. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

10. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the national average was 48 hours per week.



## Newfoundland and Labrador Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 14 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in Newfoundland and Labrador.<sup>1</sup>

There were 1,125 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006<sup>3</sup>

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 107 residents in shelters in Newfoundland and Labrador: 60% (64) were women and 40% (43) were dependant children.

About nine in ten (89%) women (57) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 32 per 100,000 women<sup>4</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 97% were fleeing psychological abuse, 73% physical abuse, 45% harassment, 44% threats, 42% sexual abuse, and 36% financial abuse.<sup>5</sup>

About four out of ten (39%) women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 60% of these children (25) were under 10 years of age.

One-fifth of women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as physical abuse, witnessing the abuse of their mother (11%), psychological abuse (11%), and threats (6%).<sup>6</sup>

About seven in ten (68%) abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, 9% were abused by an ex-spouse or ex-common-law partner, 7% by a relative and 5% by someone they did not know. About 5% were abused by someone else such as a friend or an acquaintance.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: self-referral (41%), another transition house (22%), hospitals, doctors, nurses, other healthcare practitioners or hospital social workers (14%), and some other community group (7%).<sup>7</sup>

Nearly two-fifths (38%) of women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. Of these repeat clients, 33% had been there 5 or more times in the last year, 29% had been there at least once and 13% had been there 2 to 4 times. For 4% of repeat residents, the number of previous stays was unknown and for 21%, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay.

Nearly two-fifths (37%) of abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident and in 57% of these reported cases, charges were laid against the abuser.

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1. Responses were received from 93% of the shelters.
  2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
  3. For reasons of confidentiality, information on departures could not be presented for this province.
  4. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.
  5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
  6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
  7. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses

### A profile of shelters, 2005/2006

More than nine in ten (93%) shelters served urban/suburban populations and 36% served rural/village populations.<sup>8</sup>

The majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: individual short-term counselling (93%), safety or protection planning (93%), housing referral (93%), advocacy (93%), and services for women with disabilities (86%); nearly three-quarters of the facilities offered financial assistance or welfare.

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included safety or protection planning (57%), and other services such as individual short-term counselling, advocacy, housing referral and crisis telephone lines were each provided by about half of shelters.

In-house services offered to resident children included: indoor recreation space (71%), and outdoor recreation space (57%), as well as culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal children, group counselling and babysitting services, each provided by 36% of shelters.

About nine out of ten (93%) shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, another 86% had bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible and an equal proportion of the shelters had bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible. Nearly one-quarter offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired and 21% offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Combined, 13 facilities reported providing a total of 215 outreach<sup>9</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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8. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

9. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 17 hours per week.

## Prince Edward Island Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 4 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in Prince Edward Island and responses were received from all of the shelters.

There were 162 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>1</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006<sup>2</sup>

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 15 residents in shelters in Prince Edward Island: 53% (8) were women and 47% (7) were dependant children.

All of the women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 17 per 100,000 women<sup>3</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse.

All were fleeing emotional and psychological abuse and 88% were each fleeing physical abuse, threats, and harassment. Half of the abused women were in shelters to escape financial abuse and 25% sexual abuse.<sup>4</sup>

Nearly two-thirds of women (63%) escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 57% of these children were under 10 years of age.

Nearly nine in ten women (88%) with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as psychological abuse, from witnessing the abuse of their mother (63%), threats (50%), physical abuse (50%), and neglect (38%).<sup>5</sup>

Half of abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, while the other half was abused by an ex-spouse or partner (25%), someone they had formerly dated (13%) or a relative (13%).

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: another transition house (40%), self-referral (30%), another community group (20%) or family and friends (10%).<sup>6</sup>

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. Eight out of ten repeat clients had been there at least once in the last year, and 20% had been there 2 to 4 times.

Over one-third (38%) of abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident and in about two-thirds (67%) of these reported cases, charges were laid against the abuser.

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1. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
  2. For reasons of confidentiality, information on departures could not be presented for this province.
  3. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.
  4. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
  5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
  6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

### A profile of shelters, 2005/2006

Three-quarters of shelters served urban/suburban populations, half of all shelters served rural/village populations, and a quarter served reserve populations.<sup>7</sup>

Half of the shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: safety or protection planning, housing referral, lesbian sensitive services, services for women with disabilities, advocacy and transportation and accompaniment.

With respect to in-house services to non-resident women, three-quarters offered advocacy, housing referral, and safety or protection planning. Half of the shelters offered individual short-term counselling, life skills training, lesbian sensitive services, services for women with disabilities, transportation and accompaniment, and services for older women.

Half of shelters offered indoor and outdoor recreation spaces for children.

Half of the shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, and one-quarter of the shelters reported having bedrooms and an equal proportion reported having bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible.

Combined, the 4 facilities reported providing a total of 184 outreach<sup>8</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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7. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

8. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 46 hours per week.

## Nova Scotia Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 17 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in Nova Scotia.<sup>1</sup>

There were 1,766 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 176 residents in shelters in Nova Scotia: 46% (81) were women and 54% (95) were dependant children.

Over nine out of ten (94%) women (76) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 28 per 100,000 women<sup>3</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 90% were fleeing emotional and psychological abuse, 79% physical abuse, 52% threats, 46% sexual abuse, 42% financial abuse, and 38% harassment.<sup>4</sup>

Over half (53%) of women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 66% of these children (57) were under 10 years of age.

Nearly half (49%) of women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as witnessing the abuse of their mother, psychological abuse (29%), physical abuse (29%), threats (10%), and neglect (6%).<sup>5</sup>

About seven out of ten (72%) abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, 13% were abused by a former spouse or partner, 11% by a current dating partner, 3% by a friend or acquaintance.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: self-referral (23%), another transition house (22%), family or friends (11%), and another community group (10%).<sup>6</sup>

About three out of ten (31%) women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. More than a third (36%) of repeat clients had been there once in the last year and another 36% had been there 2 to 4 times. For 28% of repeat residents, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay.

Among women leaving the shelter on snapshot day, the majority did not plan to return home to their spouse or partner. About four out of ten (43%) women intended to leave for new accommodations without their spouse or partner, 29% to live with friends or relatives and 14% for some other type of housing<sup>7</sup>. About 14% of women intended to return to their spouse or partner.

Half of abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident and in 68% of these reported cases, charges were laid against the abuser.

1. Responses were received from 94% of the shelters.
2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
3. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.
4. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.
7. Other types of housing include hospitals, residential services (i.e., group homes, addiction rehabilitations centers) and motels.

### A profile of shelters, 2005/2006

Nearly nine out of ten (88%) shelters served urban/suburban populations, 65% served rural/village populations and 47% served reserve populations.<sup>8</sup>

About one-fifth (18%) of shelters were located on a reserve.

All shelters offered safety or protection planning as well as advocacy and the majority provided the following in-house services to women residents: housing referral (94%), individual short-term counselling (88%), life skills training (88%), parenting skills training (88%), transportation and accompaniment (88%), and group counselling (82%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. Nearly three-quarters (71%) of these facilities offered advocacy and the same proportion provided safety or protection planning and transportation and accompaniment. Other services included housing referral (65%), individual short-term counselling (65%), group counselling (65%), and crisis telephone lines (65%).

In-house services offered to resident children included: outdoor recreation space (88%), individual short-term counselling (82%), indoor recreation space (82%), and group counselling (71%).

About eight out of ten (82%) shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, 59% reported having bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible and 71% reported having bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible. About one-tenth of shelters (12%) offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired and 24% offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Combined, 17 facilities reported providing a total of 815 outreach<sup>9</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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8. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

9. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 48 hours per week.

## New Brunswick Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 23 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in New Brunswick.<sup>1</sup>

There were 2,296 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006<sup>3</sup>

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 173 residents in shelters in New Brunswick: 61% (105) were women and 39% (68) were dependant children.

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of women (67) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 29 per 100,000 women<sup>4</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 58% were fleeing psychological abuse, 39% financial abuse, 38% physical abuse, 37% threats, 21% harassment, and 12% sexual abuse.<sup>5</sup>

Over half (52%) of women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 74% of these children (50) were under 10 years of age.

About seven out of ten women (71%) with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as witnessing the abuse of their mother, psychological abuse (66%), threats (20%), neglect (15%), physical abuse (10%), and sexual abuse (2%).<sup>6</sup>

Almost eight out of ten (78%) abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, 6% were abused by a former spouse or partner, 4% by a relative, and another 3% were abused by someone from a current or ex-dating relationship. About one-tenth (9%) were abused by someone else.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: another transition house (23%), self-referral (22%), another community or group (20%), and family or friends (14%).<sup>7</sup>

About half (44%) of women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. More than one-quarter (28%) of repeat clients had been there once in the last year, another 22% had been there 5 or more times and 15% had been there 2 to 4 times. For 30% of repeat residents, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay and for 4% the number of previous stays was unknown.

More than one-third (36%) of abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident, and in about half (46%) of these reported cases, charges were laid against the abuser.

1. Responses were received from 87% of the shelters.

2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.

3. For reasons of confidentiality, information on departures could not be presented for this province.

4. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.

5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).

6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.

7. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

### A profile of shelters, 2005/2006

About nine out of ten (87%) shelters served urban/suburban populations, 52% served rural/village populations and 26% served reserve populations.<sup>8</sup>

The majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: individual short-term counselling (87%), transportation or accompaniment (87%), safety or protection planning (83%), housing referral (74%), and advocacy (70%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: crisis telephone lines (57%), individual short-term counselling (57%), safety or protection planning (48%), advocacy (39%), and transportation and accompaniment (39%).

In-house services offered to resident children included: outdoor recreation space (78%), indoor recreation space (70%) as well as individual short-term counselling and programs for child witness or victim abuse, each representing 65%.

Over half (52%) of shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, 35% reported having bedrooms and an equal proportion reported having bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible. About 17% offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired and 13% offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Combined, 16 facilities reported providing a total of 629 outreach<sup>9</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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8. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

9. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 39 hours per week.



## Quebec Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 117 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in Quebec.<sup>1</sup>

There were 18,250 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 1,175 residents in shelters in Quebec: 61% (721) were women and 39% (454) were dependant children.

Nearly three-quarters (74%) of women (530) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 25 per 100,000 women<sup>3</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 68% were fleeing emotional and psychological abuse, 47% physical abuse, 35% financial abuse, 30% threats, 23% sexual abuse, and 20% harassment. In addition, 19% of women were fleeing some other type of abuse.<sup>4</sup>

Nearly half (46%) of women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 67% of these children (291) were under 10 years of age.

One-third (32%) of women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as witnessing the abuse of their mother, psychological abuse (31%), physical abuse (18%), neglect (7%), threats (6%), and sexual abuse (5%).<sup>5</sup>

About three-quarters (73%) of abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, 12% were abused by a former spouse or partner, 5% by someone from a current or ex-dating relationship, 3% by a relative, and 3% by someone else such as a friend or acquaintance. For 4% of women the relationship to her abuser was unknown.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: self-referral (19%), another transition house (17%), or community group (12%), and hospitals, doctors, nurses, other healthcare practitioners or hospital social workers (12%).<sup>6</sup>

Nearly one-third (32%) of women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. Nearly half (46%) of repeat clients had been there once in the last year, 24% had been there 2 to 4 times and 8% had been there 5 or more times. For a fifth of repeat residents, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay.

Among women leaving the shelter on snapshot day, the majority did not plan to return home to their spouse or partner. About one-tenth (10%) of women intended to depart for new accommodations without their spouse or partner, an equal proportion expected to return home without their spouse or partner and 5% planned to live with friends or relatives. However, more than two-thirds (65%) of women intended to

1. Responses were received from 90% of the shelters.
2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
3. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.
4. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

leave the shelter for some other type of housing<sup>7</sup>. About 5% intended to return to their spouse or partner. It was unknown where 5% of the women planned to reside.

One-quarter of abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident and in nearly three quarters (73%) of these reported cases, charges were laid against the abuser.

### **A profile of shelters, 2005/2006**

Over nine out of ten (92%) shelters served urban/suburban populations, 36% served rural/village populations and 15% served reserve populations.<sup>8</sup>

About 2% of shelters were located on a reserve, 3% were owned by a band council and an equal proportion was operated by a band council.

The majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: individual short-term counselling (99%), transportation and accompaniment (92%), safety or protection planning (88%), advocacy (82%), parenting skills training (81%), financial assistance or welfare (75%), legal services (74%), group counselling (71%), and housing referral (71%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: crisis telephone lines (75%), individual short-term counselling (69%), advocacy (62%), and safety or protection planning (62%).

In-house services offered to resident children included: individual short-term counselling (84%), and indoor and outdoor recreation space each offered by 82% of shelters.

Half of shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, 41% reported having bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible and 31% reported having bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible. About one-tenth of shelters (6%) offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired and 15% offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Combined, 97 facilities reported providing a total of 7,494 outreach<sup>9</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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7. Other types of housing include hospitals, residential services (i.e., group homes, addiction rehabilitations centers) and motels.

8. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

9. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 77 hours per week.

## Ontario Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 156 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in Ontario.<sup>1</sup>

There were 31,858 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 3,254 residents in shelters in Ontario: 52% (1,686) were women and 48% (1,568) were dependant children.

Seven out of ten women (1,202) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 30 per 100,000 women<sup>3</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 66% were fleeing emotional and psychological abuse, 53% physical abuse, 43% threats, 38% financial abuse, 31% harassment and 22% sexual abuse.<sup>4</sup>

Over half (52%) of women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 69% of these children (836) were under 10 years of age.

Over half (53%) of women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as witnessing the abuse of their mother, psychological abuse (34%), physical abuse (23%), threats (19%), neglect (11%), and sexual abuse (4%).<sup>5</sup>

About two-thirds (65%) of abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, 12% were abused by a former spouse or partner, 7% by someone from a current or ex-dating relationship, another 7% by a relative, 4% by someone else, such as a friend or acquaintance, or an authority figure and for 5% the relationship was unknown.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: self-referral (34%), another community group (20%), another transition house (13%), and family or friends (9%).<sup>6</sup>

About three out of ten (27%) of women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. Nearly four out of ten (38%) repeat clients had been there once in the last year, 20% had been there 2 to 4 times and 12% had been there 5 or more times. For 27% of repeat residents, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay.

Among women leaving the shelter on snapshot day, the majority did not plan to return home to their spouse or partner: 21% expected to find new accommodations without their spouse or partner, another 15% to go to a different shelter, 6% to stay with friends and relatives, 3% to return home without their spouse or partner and 21% intended to go to some other type of housing<sup>7</sup>. About 9% of departing women intended to return to their spouse or partner. It was unknown where 26% of the women planned to reside.

1. Responses were received from 87% of the shelters.
2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
3. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.
4. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.
7. Other types of housing include hospitals, residential services (i.e., group homes, addiction rehabilitations centers) and motels.

Nearly three out of ten (29%) abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident, and in 61% of these reported cases charges were laid against the abuser.

### **A profile of shelters, 2005/2006**

About nine out of ten (88%) shelters served urban/suburban populations, 38% served rural/village populations and 25% served reserve populations.<sup>8</sup>

A total of 12 (8%) shelters were located on a reserve, 6% were owned by a band council and 6% were operated by a band council.

The majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: safety or protection planning (96%), advocacy (96%), individual short-term counselling (95%), housing referral (94%), transportation and accompaniment (91%), life skills training (81%), parenting skills training (79%), and services for women with disabilities (78%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: safety or protection planning (72%), individual short-term counselling (71%), crisis telephone lines (70%), advocacy (69%), housing referral (67%), transportation and accompaniment (58%), and lesbian sensitive services (58%).

In-house services offered to resident children included: outdoor recreation space (85%), indoor recreation space (82%), individual short-term counselling (73%), and group counselling (69%).

Nine in ten shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, and 81% reported having bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible and 80% reported having bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible. Almost half (46%) offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired and 27% offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Combined, 143 facilities reported providing a total of 7,692 outreach<sup>9</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centre.

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8. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

9. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 54 hours per week.

## Manitoba Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 28 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in Manitoba.<sup>1</sup>

There were 7,936 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 311 residents in shelters in Manitoba: 58% (179) were women and 42% (132) were dependant children.

About seven in ten (68%) women (122) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 37 per 100,000 women<sup>3</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 50% were fleeing emotional and psychological abuse, 49% physical abuse, 32% threats, 28% harassment, 25% financial abuse, and 22% sexual abuse.<sup>4</sup>

About two-fifths (42%) of women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 73% of these children (87) were under 10 years of age.

Over one-third (37%) of women with parental responsibilities, who were admitted for abuse, indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as witnessing the abuse of their mother, psychological abuse (31%), physical abuse (26%), neglect (19%), and threats (16%).<sup>5</sup>

More than three out of five (62%) abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, 21% were abused by a former spouse or partner, 7% by a relative, 3% by someone from a current or ex-dating relationship, and for 4%, the relationship was unknown.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: another community group (38%), self-referral (26%), and hospitals, doctors, nurses, other healthcare practitioners or hospital social workers (9%).<sup>6</sup>

Over two fifths (41%) of women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. For over half (55%) of repeat clients, the number of times spent in a shelter in the last 12 months is unknown. However, 16% had been there once in the last year and 8% had been there 2 to 4 times. For 21% of repeat residents, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay.

Among women leaving the shelter on snapshot day, the majority did not plan to return home to their spouse or partner: 67% planned to find new accommodations without their spouse or partner and 33% intended to go to some other type of housing.<sup>7</sup>

1. Responses were received from 82% of the shelters.
2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
3. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.
4. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.
7. Other types of housing include hospitals, residential services (i.e., group homes, addiction rehabilitations centers) and motels.

Over a quarter (28%) of abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident, and in 44% of these reported cases, charges were laid against the abuser.

### **A profile of shelters, 2005/2006**

More than nine out of ten (93%) shelters served urban/suburban populations, 57% served rural/village populations and 57% served reserve populations.<sup>8</sup>

About one-tenth (7%) of shelters were located on a reserve.

All facilities provided safety or protection planning and the majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: advocacy (96%), culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women (93%), individual short-term counselling (93%), transportation and accompaniment (93%), life skills training (89%), housing referral (89%), and services for women with disabilities (82%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: safety or protection planning (61%), individual short-term counselling (57%), group counselling (54%), services for Aboriginal women (54%), advocacy (54%), crisis telephone lines (54%), life skills training (50%), and parenting skills training (50%),

In-house services offered to resident children included: outdoor recreation space (75%), culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal children (71%), as well as individual short-term counselling, programs for child witnesses or victims of abuse and indoor recreation space, each provided by 64% of shelters.

One-quarter of shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, 71% reported having bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible and 68% reported having bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible. One-quarter (25%) offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired and 11% offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Combined, 25 facilities reported providing a total of 947 outreach<sup>9</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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8. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

9. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 38 hours per week.

## Saskatchewan Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 23 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in Saskatchewan.<sup>1</sup>

There were 6,380 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006<sup>3</sup>

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 284 residents in shelters in Saskatchewan: 41% (115) were women and 60% (169) were dependant children.

About nine (86%) women out of ten (99) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 35 per 100,000 women<sup>4</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 83% were fleeing emotional and psychological abuse, 75% physical abuse, 68% threats, 49% financial abuse, 45% harassment and 28% sexual abuse.<sup>5</sup>

About seven in ten (69%) of women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 65% of these children (103) were under 10 years of age.

Nearly seven out of ten (68%) women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as witnessing the abuse of their mother, psychological abuse (63%), physical abuse (38%), threats (33%), neglect (26%), and sexual abuse (9%).<sup>6</sup>

Seven out of ten abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, 14% were abused by a former spouse or partner, 7% by someone from a current or ex-dating relationship and 4% were abused by a relative. For another 5% the relationship was unknown.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: self-referral (38%), another transition house (14%), the police or RCMP (10%), another community group (9%), and family or friends (8%).<sup>7</sup>

Two-fifths of women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. Three in ten repeat clients had been there once in the last year, 22% had been there 2 to 4 times and 9% had been there 5 or more times in the last 12 months. For 33% of repeat residents, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay.

About four out of ten (44%) abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident, and in 61% of these reported cases charges were laid against the abuser.

1. Responses were received from 83% of the shelters.
2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
3. For reasons of confidentiality, information on departures could not be presented for this province.
4. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.
5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
7. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.



**A profile of shelters, 2005/2006<sup>8</sup>**

More than nine out of ten (91%) shelters served urban/suburban populations, 70% served rural/village populations and 61% served reserve populations.<sup>9</sup>

The majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: individual short-term counselling (91%), life skills training (83%), housing referral (83%), advocacy (83%), safety or protection planning (78%), medical services (78%), parenting skills (78%), and transportation and accompaniment (78%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: crisis telephone lines (78%), individual short-term counselling (74%), safety or protection planning (70%), advocacy (70%), housing referral (61%) mental health services (61%), and financial assistance or welfare (57%).

In-house services offered to resident children included: outdoor recreation space (74%), indoor recreation space (70%) as well as individual short-term counselling and group counselling or support, each provided by 61% of shelters.

Nearly two-thirds (61%) of shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible while 57% of shelters reported having bathrooms and an equal proportion reported having bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible. About 9% of shelters offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired and 22% offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Combined, 22 facilities reported providing a total of 888 outreach<sup>10</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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8. For reasons of confidentiality, information on the number of shelters on reserves owned by a band council and operated by a band council could not be presented for this province.

9. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

10. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 40 hours per week.



## Alberta Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 48 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in Alberta.<sup>1</sup>

There were 14,326 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 856 residents in shelters in Alberta: 50% (427) were women and 50% (429) were dependant children.

About seven in ten (69%) women (295) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 28 per 100,000 women<sup>3</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 63% were fleeing emotional and psychological abuse, 57% physical abuse, 44% threats, 41% financial abuse, 26% harassment, and 25% sexual abuse. Another 14% of women reported being admitted for another type of abuse.<sup>4</sup>

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 72% of these children (287) were under 10 years of age.

About six out of ten (62%) women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as psychological abuse, witnessing the abuse of their mother (59%), neglect (39%), threats (29%), physical abuse (27%), and sexual abuse (2%).<sup>5</sup>

About six out of ten (62%) abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, 13% were abused by a former spouse or partner, 7% by someone else such as a friend or an acquaintance, 6% by a relative, and 3% by a current or ex-dating relationship. For 9% of women the relationship was unknown.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: self-referral (26%), another community group (17%), and another transition house (13%).<sup>6</sup>

Nearly half (44%) of women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. Among repeat clients, 41% had been there 5 or more times in the last year, 31% had been there once in the last year and 9% had been there 2 to 4 times. For 17% of repeat residents, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay and for 3% the number of previous stays was unknown.

Among women leaving the shelter on snapshot day, the majority did not plan to return home to their spouse or partner. Equal proportions of women intended to stay with friends or relatives, return home without their spouse or partner, or to depart for some other type of housing,<sup>7</sup> 10% each. Another 5%

1. Responses were received from 90% of the shelters.

2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.

3. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.

4. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).

5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.

6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

7. Other types of housing include hospitals, residential services (i.e., group homes, addiction rehabilitations centers) and motels.

planned to go to a different shelter. One-quarter of women were expected to return to their spouse or partner. It was unknown where 40% of the women planned to reside.

Nearly four out of ten (39%) abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident to police and in 62% of these reported cases charges were laid against the abuser.

### **A profile of shelters, 2005/2006**

Nearly nine out of ten (88%) shelters served urban/suburban populations, 48% served rural/village populations and 40% served reserve populations.<sup>8</sup>

Nearly one-tenth (4) of shelters were located on a reserve and 4% were operated by a band council.

The majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: safety or protection planning (98%), advocacy (92%), transportation and accompaniment (90%), housing referral (88%), individual short-term counselling (79%), and parenting skills training (79%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: safety or protection planning (75%), individual short-term counselling (63%), crisis telephone lines (60%), advocacy (58%), life skills training (56%), housing referral (50%), and group counselling (50%).

In-house services offered to resident children included: indoor recreation space (83%), outdoor recreation space (79%), group counselling (52%), individual short-term counselling (50%), babysitting services (50%), and culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal children (48%).

More than eight out of ten (83%) shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, 75% reported having bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible and 65% reported having bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible. About 21% offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired and 17% offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Combined, 45 facilities reported providing a total of 2,480 outreach<sup>9</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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8. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

9. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 55 hours per week.

## British Columbia Fact Sheet

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 107 facilities known to be providing residential services for abused women in British Columbia.<sup>1</sup>

There were 18,604 admissions of women and dependant children reported from April, 1 2005 to March 31 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 960 residents in shelters in British Columbia: 53% (510) were women and 47% (450) were dependant children.

About eight out of ten (78%) women (400) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse; approximately 30 per 100,000 women<sup>3</sup> in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 63% were fleeing emotional and psychological abuse, 62% physical abuse, 44% threats, 34% financial abuse, 28% harassment, and 19% sexual abuse.<sup>4</sup>

Over half (51%) of women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 57% of these children (224) were under 10 years of age.

Two-fifths (40%) of women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as witnessing the abuse of their mother, psychological abuse (31%), physical abuse (27%), threats (16%), neglect (14%), and sexual abuse (6%).<sup>5</sup>

More than three out of five (62%) abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser, 16% were abused by a former spouse or partner, 4% by a relative, 4% by someone from a current or ex-dating relationship, and 4% were abused by someone else, such as a friend, an acquaintance or an authority figure. For 11%, the relationship was unknown.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were: self-referral (34%), another transition house (17%), and another community group (9%).<sup>6</sup>

Over half (55%) of women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. Of these repeat clients, about half (46%) had been there once in the last year, 29% had been there 2 to 4 times and 7% had been there 5 or more times. For 15% of repeat residents, it had been more than 12 months since their last stay.

Among women leaving the shelter on snapshot day, the majority did not plan to return home to their spouse or partner. About one-quarter (26%) of women expected to leave for new accommodations without their spouse or partner, 20% intended to go to a different shelter, 14% to return home without their spouse or partner, 9% to stay with friends or relatives and 6% to depart for some other type of

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1. Responses were received from 93% of the shelters.
  2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
  3. Rate of all women currently married, in a common law relationship or who are separated.
  4. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
  5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
  6. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple.

housing.<sup>7</sup> For 6% of women it was unknown where they planned to reside. About 20% of women expected to return to their spouse or partner.

About one-third (31%) of abused women reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident to police, and in 59% of these reported cases charges were laid against the abuser.

### **A profile of shelters, 2005/2006**

About nine out of ten (91%) shelters served urban/suburban populations, 35% served rural/village populations and 29% served reserve populations.<sup>8</sup>

About 6% of shelters were located on a reserve, 4% of shelters were owned by a band council and 3% were operated by a band council.

The majority of shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: advocacy (93%), safety or protection planning (93%), transportation and accompaniment (93%), housing referral (89%), and individual short-term counselling (86%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: crisis telephone lines (69%), safety or protection planning (64%), advocacy (63%), housing referral (51%), legal services (50%), individual short-term counselling (50%), financial assistance or welfare (50%), services for Aboriginal women (49%), lesbian sensitive services (49%), and culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women (48%).

In-house services offered to resident children included: outdoor recreation space (78%), indoor recreation space (75%), individual short-term counselling (58%), culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal children (51%), and culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority children (50%).

About eight out of ten (81%) shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, 69% reported having bathrooms and an equal proportion reported having bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible. About one shelter in eight (17%) offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired and a similar proportion (12%) offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Combined, 100 facilities reported providing a total of 1,976 outreach<sup>9</sup> hours per week. Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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7. Other types of housing include hospitals, residential services (i.e., group homes, addiction rehabilitations centers) and motels.

8. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

9. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 20 hours per week.

## Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Fact Sheet<sup>1</sup>

The 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey questionnaire was sent to 16 facilities (6 in Yukon, 6 in Northwest Territories and 4 in Nunavut) known to be providing residential services for abused women in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

There were 3,008 admissions (857 in Yukon, 907 in Northwest Territories, and 1,244 in Nunavut) of women and dependant children reported from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.<sup>2</sup>

### A profile of residents, April 19, 2006

In a snapshot taken on April 19, 2006, there were 114 residents in shelters in Nunavut, Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories: 54% (62) were women and 46% (52) were dependant children.

Nine in ten women (56) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, were victims of abuse. The remainder were admitted for reasons other than abuse, such as housing problems.

Among the women admitted for abuse, 73% were fleeing emotional and psychological abuse, 60% physical abuse, 39% threats, 34% financial abuse, 27% harassment and 11% sexual abuse.<sup>3</sup>

Three out of ten women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 71% of these children (34) were under 10 years of age.

Half of women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from abusive situations such as witnessing the abuse of their mother, psychological abuse (35%), physical abuse (19%), threats (19%), neglect (19%), and sexual abuse (8%).<sup>4</sup>

Over half (54%) of abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser; another 18% were abused by a former spouse or partner; 18% were abused by someone else, 7% by a current or former dating relationship and 4% by a relative.

The most common sources of referral for women residing in shelters in the Territories on April 19, 2006, were: self-referral (48%), family or friends (9%), and other community groups (7%).<sup>5</sup>

Over half (52%) of women (12) residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, had been there before. Another half of repeat clients had been there at least once in the last year, 16% had been there 2 to 4 times, and 9% had been there 5 or more times in the last year. For a quarter of repeat clients, it had been more than 12 months since their last shelter stay.

One-quarter of women departing intended to return to their spouse or common-law partner, another 25% to go to another shelter, 34% planned to stay elsewhere such as with friends, relatives or in some other type of residential facility<sup>6</sup> and for 17%, their intended destination was unknown.

1. In 2006 there were just 16 residential facilities for abused women known to be in operation across Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut; in total, 44% of these shelters responded to the Transition Home Survey (THS). Therefore, due to the limited number of facilities in these jurisdictions, in conjunction with low response rates to the 2006 THS for all three territories, information for shelters in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been combined (unless otherwise specified) for reasons of confidentiality and data quality.
2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period.
3. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses (i.e., respondents could specify as many responses as applied).
4. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. 'Women with parenting responsibilities' include women admitted to shelters with their children and women admitted without their children. However, it is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
5. Totals do not add to 100% due to multiple.
6. Other types of housing include hospitals, residential services (i.e., group homes, addiction rehabilitations centers) and motels.

About one-third (29%) of abused women had reported police intervention for the most recent violent incident; charges against the abuser were laid in half of these reported cases.

### **A profile of shelters, 2005/2006**

Nearly nine out of ten (88%) shelters served urban/suburban populations, 44% served rural/village populations and 19% served reserve populations.<sup>7</sup>

All of the shelters offered the following in-house services to women residents: safety or protection planning and culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women. Other services also include: advocacy (94%), housing referral (94%), culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women (88%), individual short-term counselling (81%), services for women with disabilities (81%), transportation and accompaniment (81%), parenting skills (75%), and lesbian sensitive services (75%).

Facilities also provided in-house services to non-resident women in need of assistance. These services included: crisis telephone lines (69%), safety or protection planning (69%), individual short-term counselling (56%), services for Aboriginal women (56%), advocacy (56%), housing referral (50%), and lesbian sensitive services (50%).

In-house services offered to resident children included: outdoor recreation space (94%), indoor recreation space (81%), individual short-term counselling (63%), culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal children (69%), culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority children (56%), and group counselling (56%).

Nearly nine out of ten (88%) shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible, 81% reported having bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible and 81% reported having bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible. About three out of ten shelters (31%) offered services to people who are blind or visually impaired and 19% offered services to people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Combined, 14 facilities reported providing a total 364 outreach hours per week.<sup>8</sup> Outreach work included supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.

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7. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

8. While shelters varied in the number of hours of outreach provided, the provincial average was 26 hours per week.