



VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY EX-SPOUSES IN CANADA

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1. Introduction

Intimate partner violence affects the lives of many Canadians. In 2011, there were 97,451 victims of police-reported intimate partner violence¹ (Sinha 2013) with women representing 80% of the victims of police-reported intimate partner violence in 2011.

While these numbers provide some insight into the prevalence of spousal violence² in Canada, it only reflects a small portion of the actual violence that occurs. Data from the 2009 General Social Survey – Victimization (GSS) found that only 22% of victims of self-reported spousal violence reported the incident to the police (Brennan 2011). These numbers also do not provide information on the prevalence of violence perpetrated by ex-spouses, nor the experiences of victims of ex-spousal violence.

While data exist on violence perpetrated by current spouses, very little information is available on the experiences of ex-spousal violence in Canada. In 2001, Hotton published the report, *Spousal Violence after Marital Separation*, which was based on data from the 1999 GSS. This report provided great insight into the prevalence of ex-spousal violence in Canada, as well as on experiences of victims of ex-spousal violence. With data from the 2009 GSS, it is possible to look at these same issues using the most current data available.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the 2001 *Spousal Violence after Marital Separation* report using data from the 2009 GSS. This report explores Canadians' experiences with violence³ committed by ex-spouses,⁴ including the prevalence of ex-spousal violence, violence experienced after separation and the emotional consequences of ex-spousal violence. The prevalence of child witnesses to ex-spousal violence is discussed, as is information on the issues surrounding child residence and contact in situations of ex-spousal violence. Finally, the issue of reporting ex-spousal violence to police is explored.

2. Methodology

As the purpose of this report is to provide an update to Hotton's (2001) *Spousal Violence after Marital Separation* report, this report follows, where possible, the format of that report. As with Hotton's (2001) report, the data presented in this report are based on three different surveys: The General Social Survey – Victimization, the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the Homicide Survey.

¹ The 2010 UCR2 utilizes the term "Intimate Partner Violence" as it includes dating relationships.

² The term "spousal violence" is used in this report as the GSS measures violence perpetrated by "spouses" and "ex-spouses", which includes those with a current or ex-marital or common-law partner and those in a same-sex relationship. The term "Intimate Partner Violence" is a broader term that encompasses married, common-law and dating relationships, but is not the term used in this report as the GSS does not include dating relationships in the definition of a "spouse".

³ For the purposes of this report, "violence" refers to physical and/or sexual violence, as well as uttering threats.

⁴ In this report, ex-spouses include ex-marital and ex-common-law spouses.

General Social Survey – Victimization

Approximately half of the General Social Survey - Victimization data presented in this report are based on the 2009 Public Use Microdata File. The Public Use Microdata Files from the 1999 and 2004 GSS were also used. Where data were not available in these data files, special requests for data were made to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS).

The GSS data presented in this report are based on responses collected from a representative sample of Canadians. The 2009 GSS collected data from over 19,000 Canadians in the provinces, who represent approximately 27 million Canadians. Data were collected in five waves between February and November 2009.

The GSS on Victimization is conducted every five years by Statistics Canada. In the provinces, data are collected through a computer-assisted telephone survey and participating households are selected through random digital dialing.⁵ The GSS includes Canadians 15 years of age and older who are not full-time residents of institutions (e.g. hospitals and prisons). In this report, only data collected from the provinces are examined and thus does not reflect a Canada-wide perspective.

The analyses for which tests of significance were conducted are noted throughout the report. In these cases, a Chi-Square Test for Independence⁶ was conducted.⁷ At each point in the text when the term “significant” is used, the Pearson’s Chi-Square Test revealed a significant difference at less than $p < .001$.

Coefficient of Variation and Symbols

In regard to the coefficient of variation, please note the following:

The GSS data are based on information collected from a sample of the population and are therefore subject to sampling error⁸. Although the exact sampling error of the estimate cannot be measured from sample results alone, it is possible to estimate a statistical measure of sample error, the standard error. Because of the large variety of estimates that can be produced from a survey, the standard error is usually expressed relative to the estimate to which it pertains. The resulting measure, known as the coefficient of variation (CV) of an estimate, is obtained by dividing the standard error of the estimate by the estimate itself and is usually expressed as a percentage.

⁵ In the territories, data are collected through a supplementary survey by computer-assisted telephone interview and computer-assisted personal interviews.

⁶ “The Chi-Square Test for Independence is used to determine whether two categorical variables are related. It compares the frequency of cases found in the various categories of one variable across the different categories of another variable” (Pallant 2007, 212).

⁷ Note that the “Don’t Know/Not Stated/Not asked” categories were excluded when running the Chi-Square tests.

⁸ “The estimates derived from this survey are based on a sample of persons. Somewhat different figures might have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same questionnaire, interviewers, supervisors, processing methods, etc. as those actually used. The difference between the estimates obtained from the sample and the results from a complete count taken under similar conditions is called the sampling error of the estimate” (Burns and Williams 2011, 27).

This report uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. For the purposes of this survey, an estimate with a coefficient of variation (CV) of higher than 33.3% is considered too unreliable to be published and the symbol “F” is printed in the corresponding cell of the data table or figure. When the CV of the estimate is between 16.6% and 33.3%, the corresponding estimate is accompanied by the symbol “E”⁹ in the table or figure. These estimates should be used with caution to support a conclusion (Mihorean 2005, 14).

Estimates under 16.6% are considered to have moderate sampling variability and can be considered for general unrestricted release (Burns and Williams 2011).

For data that were derived from the Public Use Microdata Files of the 1999, 2004 and 2009 GSS, the coefficient of variation was derived from the Approximate Variance Tables provided in the Public Use Microdata File Userguides for each GSS cycle. The coefficient of variation for data that was provided through Statistics Canada was derived through the SUDAAN program¹⁰. Because the techniques to determine the coefficient of variation differ depending on the source of the data, there are likely situations in which the CV would differ if another data source was applied. As such, data that might be released using one technique might not be released using the other. For example, the CVs derived from the Approximate Variance Tables are more stringent than those that would be produced using the SUDAAN program and as such, there are likely situations in which data were not released if the CVs were derived from the Approximate Variance Tables but might have been released if the SUDAAN program was used.

Terminology

Findings based on GSS data are reported in Sections 3.1 to 3.6. In these sections, violence is defined as physical and/or sexual violence and is based on a set of 10 questions. Respondents who indicated that they had contact with a previous spouse in the past five years were asked:¹¹

During the past five years, did your previous spouse/partner:

1. Threaten to hit you with his/her fist or anything else that could have hurt you?
2. Throw anything at you that could have hurt you?
3. Push, grab or shove you in a way that could have hurt you?
4. Slap you?
5. Kick you, bite you, or hit you with his/her fist?
6. Hit you with something that could have hurt you?
7. Beat you?
8. Choke you?
9. Use or threaten to use a gun or knife on you?

⁹ Co-efficients of variation accompanied by an “E” reflect high sampling variability and should be used with caution.

¹⁰ The SUDAAN program “is a commercial software package [...] specifically for analysis of data from complex sample surveys...” (Burns and Williams 2011, 482).

¹¹ Hotton 2001: 3.

10. Force you into any unwanted sexual activity by threatening you, holding you down, or hurting you in some way?

Respondents who answered “yes” to any of these questions were deemed to have experienced violence by an ex-spouse.

Those who answered yes to any of the 10 questions above could have experienced violence by an ex-spouse either while living together or after separation (the violence could have occurred while they were living together or after they separated, or it could have also occurred both while they were living together or after separation).

Among these individuals, the violence could have occurred at a number of different points:

- While Living Together (Note: the respondent could have also experienced violence after separation but only the violence while living together is captured in this variable)
- After Separation (Note: the respondent could have also experienced violence while living with their ex-spouse but only violence that occurred after separation is captured in this variable)
- Both while living together and after separation (the violence continued)
- The violence ceased when they separated from their ex-spouse (only occurred while living together).

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

Section 3.7 highlights the findings regarding criminal harassment based on the 2011 Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2). This information was gathered through a special request made to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics at Statistics Canada. “The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by Canadian police services...In 2011, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada” (Sinha 2013, 92).

Homicide Survey

Section 3.8 explores homicides and is based on the Homicide Survey. These data were also gathered through a special request made to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. “The Homicide Survey collects detailed information on all homicides that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, Canadian police services...Coverage for the Homicide Survey has represented 100% of the population since recording began in 1961. The count for a particular year represents all homicides reported in that year, regardless of when the death actually occurred¹²,” (Sinha 2013, 92).

¹² Note that “because some homicides become known to police long after they occur, there are typically some homicides included in a given year's total that actually occurred in previous years” (http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3315&Item_Id=1723&lang=en).

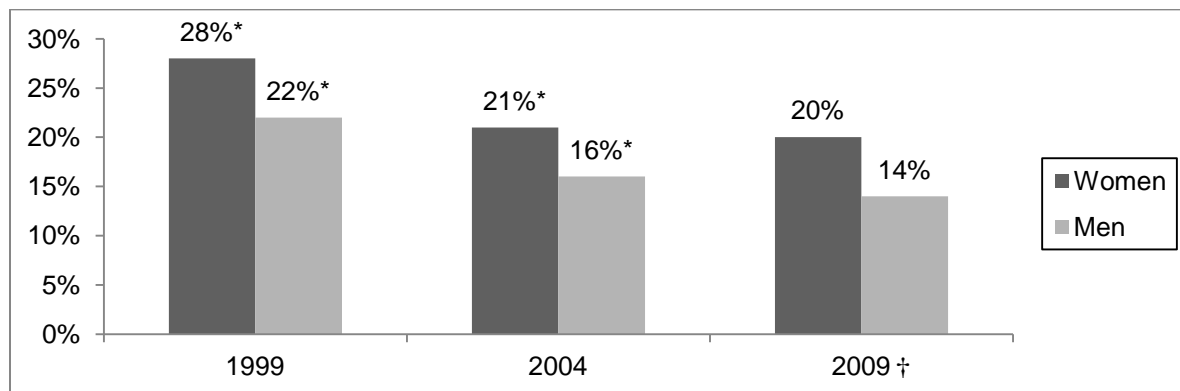
3. Results

3.1 The prevalence of ex-spousal violence

The data presented in this section can be found in Table 1 of the Appendix. In 2009, approximately 3 million Canadians indicated that they had been in contact¹³ with an ex-marital or common-law spouse in the five years preceding their participation in the GSS. Among these individuals, approximately 534,000 (17%) reported that they experienced violence by their former spouse, either while living together or after separation. A significantly higher proportion of women (20%) than men (14%) reported violence by an ex-spouse, either while living together or after separation. These percentages are higher than the proportion of those who reported experiencing violence by a current marital or common-law spouse (4% of men and 3% of women with a current marital or common-law spouse).

The overall percentage of victims who reported ex-spousal violence while living together or after separation was significantly lower in 2009 (17%) in comparison to both 2004 (19%) and 1999 (25%). The same findings are seen when looking at the differences between the percentages of those who experienced ex-spousal violence in 1999, 2004 and 2009 among both men and women (see Figure 1 below).

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE OF VICTIMS OF SELF-REPORTED EX-SPOUSAL VIOLENCE WITHIN THE PAST 5 YEARS, 1999, 2004 AND 2009, BY GENDER OF VICTIM



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 1999, 2004, 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

†Reference category

*Significantly different from reference category ($p < .001$)

Among those who reported experiencing violence by an ex-spouse in 2009, approximately 412,000 (77%) reported that they experienced violence while they were living with their ex-spouse.

¹³Contact includes receiving letters or phone calls. “Only those people who had contact with their ex-partners over the previous five years were asked if they experienced violence. Therefore, it does not capture those individuals who have purposely not had contact with ex-partners in order to escape violence” (Hotton 2001, 2).

3.2 Violence after separation

In 2009, 68% of those who reported violence by an ex-spouse stated that the violence ended at separation, while 32% reported that they experienced violence after separation.¹⁴ A significantly higher percentage of women (36%) than men (25%) experienced violence after separation (see Table 1, Appendix).

Those who experienced violence after separation were asked how long they were separated when the violence occurred. In 2009, just over half (51%) of the respondents indicated that the violence occurred more than 6 months after separation (see Table 2, Appendix).

In 2009, 14% of those who experienced violence by an ex-spouse indicated that they experienced violence both while living together and after they separated from their ex-spouse (i.e., that the violence continued to occur) (see Table 1, Appendix). These respondents were asked if they thought the violence became more serious after the separation occurred. Over one-third of these respondents (35%) reported that the violence increased in frequency and intensity following the separation.

3.2.1 Severity and frequency of post-separation violence

As seen in Table 3 (Appendix), a higher percentage of women who experienced violence after separation reported experiencing each of the four types¹⁵ of violence described in the table in comparison to female victims of current spousal violence. For example, 51% of women who experienced violence after separation and 13%^E of those who experienced violence by a current partner indicated that they had been sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a weapon. Among men, those who experienced violence after separation more frequently described being threatened to be hit and to have something thrown at them (88% compared to 67%), as well as being pushed, grabbed, shoved or slapped (63%) than those who experienced violence by a current spouse (60%).

Women who experienced violence after separation reported experiencing more severe types of violence in comparison to males who experienced violence after separation. As seen in Table 3, in 2009, over half of women (51%)¹⁶ who experienced violence after separation reported being sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a weapon.¹⁷

¹⁴ Due to limitations in the data, it is unknown whether violence occurred for the first time after separation; therefore, it cannot be determined if the individual experienced violence only after separation.

¹⁵ Previous Statistics Canada reports (e.g. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2009*) use the following four categories to capture different types of violence: Threatened to hit or threw something; Pushed, grabbed, shoved or slapped; Kicked, bit or hit, or hit with something; Sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a weapon.

¹⁶ The percentage of men who described being sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a weapon was too small to produce a statistically reliable estimate.

¹⁷ In this report, we considered the category of offences that includes being sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a weapon to be the most serious types of violence, which is consistent with previous Statistics Canada reports (e.g. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2009*).

Among those who experienced violence after separation, 67% of women and men indicated that they experienced violence two or more times (see Table 4, Appendix). More than half of women (54%) who experienced violence after separation indicated that they were physically injured as a result of the violence, as did 27%^E of men (see Table 5, Appendix). In addition, more than one in ten women (13%^E) who experienced violence after separation received medical attention for their injuries and 48% of women who experienced violence after separation reported fearing for their life (see Table 5, Appendix).

3.2.3 Emotional and financial abuse

Almost all respondents (95%) who experienced violence after separation reported emotional or financial abuse on the part of their ex-spouse either while living together or after separation.¹⁸ Among those who experienced emotional and financial abuse by their ex-spouse and who experienced violence after separation, 90% reported that their ex-spouse used “put downs”, 70% said that their ex-spouse was jealous (70%), 63% said that their ex-spouse damaged or destroyed their possessions or property and 37% said that their ex-spouse prevented them from having access or knowing about the family income (see Table 6, Appendix).

3.3 Emotional consequences of ex-spousal violence

Those who experienced violence by an ex-spouse either while living together or after separation described a number of different emotional consequences. The most common emotional consequences included being upset, confused and/or frustrated (34%), angry (33%), being fearful (25%), experiencing depression/anxiety attacks (23%) and feeling hurt/disappointment (22%).

These same emotional consequences were common among those who experienced violence after separation and in many cases, were more prevalent than among those who indicated that violence ended at separation. Among those who experienced violence after separation, 43% described being upset, confused and/or frustrated in comparison to 30% whose violence ended at separation, 39% described feeling angry in comparison to 30% of those whose violence ended at separation and one-third (33%) said they were fearful in comparison to 21% of those whose violence ended at separation.

Women who experienced violence after separation were significantly more likely to report experiencing more severe emotional consequences as a result of the violence in comparison to men, including being fearful (43%) and being afraid for their children (19%^E).¹⁹ Women were also significantly more likely to suffer from depression or anxiety attacks (22%^E) and to report sleeping problems in comparison to men (21%^E of women).²⁰

¹⁸ A limitation of the GSS is that it does not ask the respondent to specify when the emotional and financial abuse occurred; therefore, it is not known whether the emotional and financial abuse occurred while living together or after separation.

¹⁹ Note the percentage of men who reported being fearful and being afraid for the safety of their children is too small to produce a statistically reliable estimate.

²⁰ Note the percentage of men who reported suffering from depression or anxiety attacks and to report sleeping problems is too small to produce a statistically reliable estimate.

3.4 Police intervention

In general, many of those who experienced spousal violence (either by an ex-spouse or current spouse) in the five years preceding the survey indicated that the police had not become aware of the violence. As can be seen in Table 7, however, a higher percentage of those who experienced violence by an ex-spouse either while living together or after separation reported that the police had become aware of the violence (36%) in comparison to those who experienced violence by a current spouse (10%). Those who experienced violence after separation were most likely to indicate that the police had become aware of the violence (48%) than all other groups.

A significantly higher percentage of women who experienced violence after separation indicated that the police became aware of the violence in comparison to those who stated that the violence ended at separation (47% vs. 38%). Similarly, a significantly higher proportion of men who reported violence after separation reported that the police became aware of the violence in comparison to those who indicated that the violence ended at separation (50%^E vs. 20%^E).

Among those who experienced violence either while living together or after separation, a significantly higher proportion of women indicated that the police became aware of the violence in comparison to men (41% vs. 27%). While a higher percentage of female victims of violence that ended at separation reported that the police became aware of the violence in comparison to males (38% vs. 20%^E), a lower percentage of reporting is found among female victims of violence that occurred after separation in comparison to males (47% vs. 50%^E).

3.4.1 Victim satisfaction with police intervention

The GSS on Victimization asks all respondents how satisfied they are with various components of the criminal justice system, including the police. In 2009, many (60%) of those who had experienced ex-spousal violence either while living together or after separation and who indicated that the police became aware of the violence were satisfied or very satisfied with the police response they received (see Table 7, Appendix). Almost two-thirds (65%) of women indicated that they were satisfied with the police response and 47%^E of men said they were satisfied; this difference was statistically significant.

Those who had contact with the police were asked what else the police could have done to help. While 57% indicated that no additional police action was necessary, 18%^E stated that the police could have been more supportive/sympathetic.

3.4.2 Changes in violence after reporting to police

Respondents were also asked how their ex-spouse's violent behaviour was affected after the police were involved. In 2009, almost half (48%) of those who experienced violence by an ex-spouse either while living together or after separation indicated that the violence stopped or decreased after the police were involved, while 29%^E indicated that it stayed the same. Half (50%) of the women who reported to the police indicated that the violence decreased or stopped

after the police were involved and 27%^E stated that it stayed the same. Among men, 42%^E stated that the violence decreased or stopped after police involvement.²¹

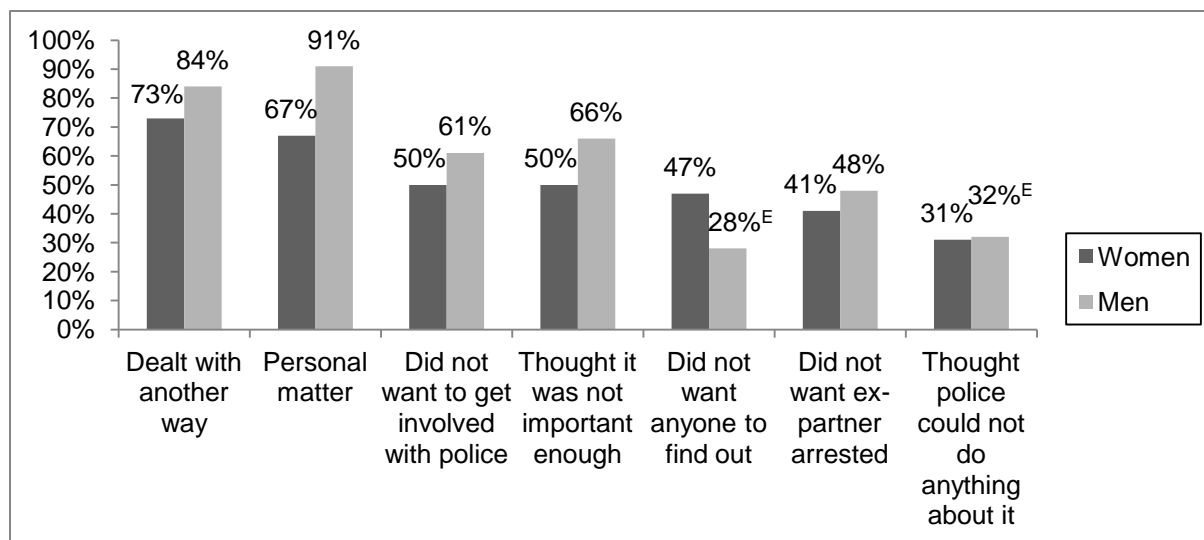
Among those who experienced violence by an ex-spouse after separation, over one-third stated that the violence decreased or stopped (37%^E) or stayed the same (36%^E) after it was reported to the police. Among women, 43%^E stated that the violence decreased or stopped after it was reported to police.²²

3.4.3 Reasons for reporting and not reporting to police

Those who reported the incident to police were asked why they chose to report the violence. Among those who experienced violence by an ex-spouse either while living together or after separation, the most common reason for reporting to police was to stop the violence or receive protection (65%), followed by: the respondent felt it was his/her duty to report (32%), to arrest and punish his/her ex-spouse (20%^E) and because another person recommended it (20%^E).

The most common reasons provided by those who experienced violence by an ex-spouse either while living together or after separation for not reporting to police were because the respondent felt it was a personal matter (77%), it was dealt with in another way (77%), they felt it was not important enough (57%), and because they did not want to get the police involved (54%) (see Figure 2 below).

FIGURE 2. REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING VIOLENCE TO POLICE



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

²¹ Note that the number of men who reported that the violence stayed the same is too small to produce a statistically reliable estimate.

²² Note that the number of men is too small to produce a statistically reliable estimate.

3.5 Child witnesses of violence

In 2009, almost two-thirds (64%) of those with children who experienced violence by an ex-spouse either while living together or after separation indicated that a child had seen or heard the violence (see Table 8, Appendix).²³ Among the respondents whose children saw or heard the violence, just under half (48%) indicated that they feared for their life; 65% of women indicated that they feared for their life in cases in which a child saw or heard the violence.²⁴

An even higher percentage of individuals with children who experienced violence after separation indicated that a child had seen or heard the violence (72%). More than half (56%) of those with children who had experienced violence after separation and who indicated that a child had seen or heard the violence, stated that they had feared for their life. Again, a high percentage of women (69%) indicated that they feared for their life in cases in which children saw or heard the violence.²⁵

In addition, 19%^E of women with children who experienced violence by an ex-spouse either while living together or after separation reported that they experienced violence while pregnant.

3.6 Residence of the child(ren) and post-separation/divorce contact with child(ren)

Some one million respondents in the 2004 and 2009 GSS had a child under 18 years of age with a previous spouse (see Tables 9 and 10, Appendix). Among these individuals with a child, over one-quarter (27%) in both the 2004 and 2009 GSS reported experiencing violence by their ex-spouse in the previous five years either while living together or after separation. The likelihood of experiencing violence by an ex-spouse was significantly higher among those with children with an ex-spouse compared to those without children in both 2004 (14%) and 2009 (13%) (see Tables 9 and 10, Appendix). In both 2004 and 2009, a significantly higher proportion of women than men who had a child with a previous spouse reported experiencing violence (29% of women and 24% of men in 2004 and 31% of women and 22% of men in 2009).

The type of violence experienced by those with and without children was also explored. There were some differences between the two groups in regard to the types of violence experienced. A significantly higher percentage (87%) of those with children stated that their ex-spouse threatened to hit them or threw something at them in comparison to those without children (78%). Those with children were also significantly more likely to report being beaten, choked, threatened with a gun or knife or experiencing unwanted sexual activity (44% vs. 35%) (see Table 11, Appendix).

The respondents were also asked to indicate the child or children's principal residence. Among those who stated that the child's principal residence was with the respondent, 29% reported that they experienced violence by an ex-spouse (see Table 12, Appendix). In 25% of cases where a child's principal residence was that of the ex-spouse, the respondent reported experiencing

²³ It should be noted that these data are from the perspective of the respondent and likely do not capture the actual number of children who have seen or heard violence.

²⁴ The percentage of men reporting fearing for their life too small to produce a statistically reliable estimate.

²⁵ The percentage of men reporting fearing for their life is too small to produce a statistically reliable estimate.

violence by their ex-spouse, while ex-spousal violence was reported in 20% of cases in which the child spent the same amount of time at both residences.

This issue can also be examined by those who experienced ex-spousal violence compared to those who did not experience ex-spousal violence. As shown in Table 13, among those who indicated that they experienced violence by an ex-spouse, 64% indicated that the child's or children's principal residence was their home, in comparison to 58% of those who did not experience violence. Just over one-quarter (26%) of those who experienced ex-spousal violence and 30% who did not experience ex-spousal violence indicated that the children's principal residence was that of their ex-spouse. One-tenth (10%^E) of those who experienced spousal violence indicated that their child spent the same amount of time at both residences compared to 15% who did not experience ex-spousal violence. All of these differences are significant.

Those whose children's principal residence was with the respondent or with a third party were asked how often their ex-spouse saw their children.²⁶ Among those who experienced ex-spousal violence, 48% indicated that their children saw the ex-spouse at least once every week to at least once every two weeks in comparison to 62% of those who did not experience ex-spousal violence. Almost one-fifth (19%^E) of those who experienced ex-spousal violence indicated that their children did not have any contact with their ex-spouse, in comparison to 8%^E of those who did not experience ex-spousal violence (see Table 14, Appendix). All of these differences are significant.

3.7 Criminal Harassment

Data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey indicate that in 2011, women accounted for 75% of criminal harassment victims. Ex-spouses²⁷ were the offenders in 20% of cases where the victim was female and in 8% of cases where the victim was male. When ex-boyfriends or ex-girlfriends are included, these percentages increase to 44% of cases with a female victim and 20% with a male victim.

3.8 Homicide²⁸

Between 2000 and 2011,²⁹ ex-spouses³⁰ were responsible for 4%³¹ of homicides perpetrated against men and women. Ex-spouses were responsible for approximately 11% of homicides perpetrated against female victims and for 1% of homicides perpetrated against male victims

²⁶ Note that the GSS also asked respondents whose children's principal residence was not that of the respondent, how often the respondent saw his or her children. Due to small numbers, this information is not included in this report.

²⁷ Includes separated or divorced common-law/married spouses, including same-sex couples.

²⁸ Please see *the Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2011* (Sinha, 2013) for additional data from the Homicide Survey in the context of current and ex-spousal relationships.

²⁹ The Homicide Survey began collecting data on same-sex couples in 2007; as such, sections that report data from the Homicide Survey for the time period 2000-2011 only include data on same-sex couples from 2007 onwards.

³⁰ Previous spouses include closest accused-victim relationship of legally separated husband/wife, separated common-law husband/wife, divorced husband/wife, ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated).

³¹ Based upon cases in which there was a chargeable suspect and a known closest accused-victim relationship.

during this time period (see Table 15, Appendix). Indeed, females accounted for 90% of homicide victims perpetrated by ex-spouses in this time period.

3.8.1 Relationship type and victim age

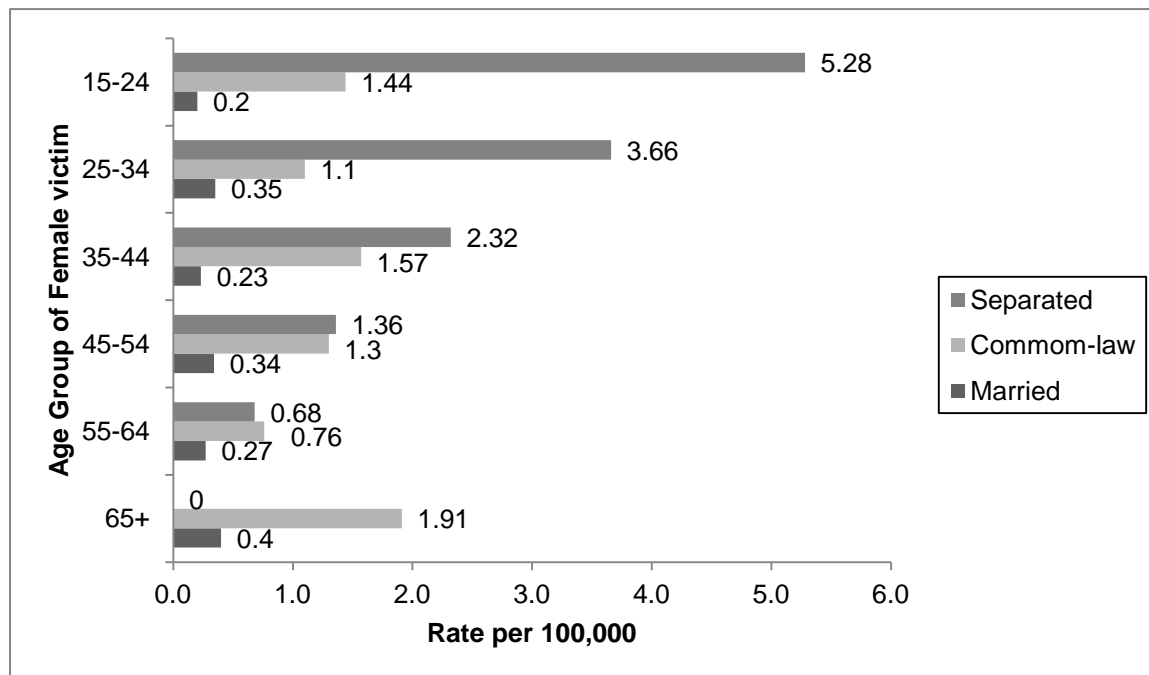
There is a clear difference in regard to risk of spousal homicide depending upon the relationship between the victim and the accused (see Table 16, Appendix). Between 2007 and 2011, women were at a heightened risk of homicide by a spouse from whom they were separated in comparison to those with whom they were in a common-law or married relationship. An average of 1.80 women per 100,000 were killed by a spouse from whom they were legally separated, in comparison to an average of 1.29 per 100,000 who were killed by a common-law partner and 0.31 per 100,000 who were killed by a spouse with whom they were legally married.³² In comparison, men were at a greater risk of being killed by a current common-law partner. An average of 0.60 men per 100,000 were killed by a common-law partner, while 0.06 per 100,000 were killed by a spouse with whom they were legally married and no men were killed by a spouse from whom they were legally separated or divorced. For additional information on homicide rates as a function of relationship type, please see the *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2011* report.

It is also possible to examine the risk of homicide as a function of both the age and the relationship type between the victim and the accused.³³ The risk of being a victim of spousal homicide varies depending on age and type of relationship between the victim and accused. As can be seen in Figure 3 below, between 2007 and 2011, women were at the greatest risk of homicide by a spouse from whom they were legally separated when they were 15 to 24 years old. This risk declined with age. The risk of being killed by a spouse with whom the woman was married remained stable over time. The risk of being killed by a common-law partner appeared to fluctuate by age group.

³² Rates are calculated per 100,000 population aged 15 and over, legally married, common-law and legally separated, respectively, based on July 1st, 2012 population estimates. Rates for separated common-law spouses cannot be calculated since population data is not available for this group. Rates for same-sex spouses cannot be calculated since the Homicide Survey does not collect information on the legal status of same-sex unions. In addition, rates cannot be calculated for separated common-law spouses because this population data is not available.

³³ In this section, rates were calculated as the number of victims per 100,000 population according to age group and spousal population group. For example, the rate for married males aged 15 to 24 years was calculated based on the summation of the July 1st, 2012 population estimates between 2007 and 2011 of legally married males aged 15 to 24. The rates presented in this section should be interpreted with caution. The actual number of incidents is small and in such situations, even a single incident can lead to a large increase in rates. Rates for separated common-law spouses cannot be calculated since population data is not available for this group. Rates for same-sex spouses cannot be calculated since the Homicide Survey does not collect information on the legal status of same-sex unions. In addition, rates cannot be calculated for separated common-law spouses because this population data is not available.

FIGURE 3. AVERAGE HOMICIDE RATES FOR WOMEN BY ACCUSED-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP AND AGE GROUP OF VICTIM, 2007-2011³⁴



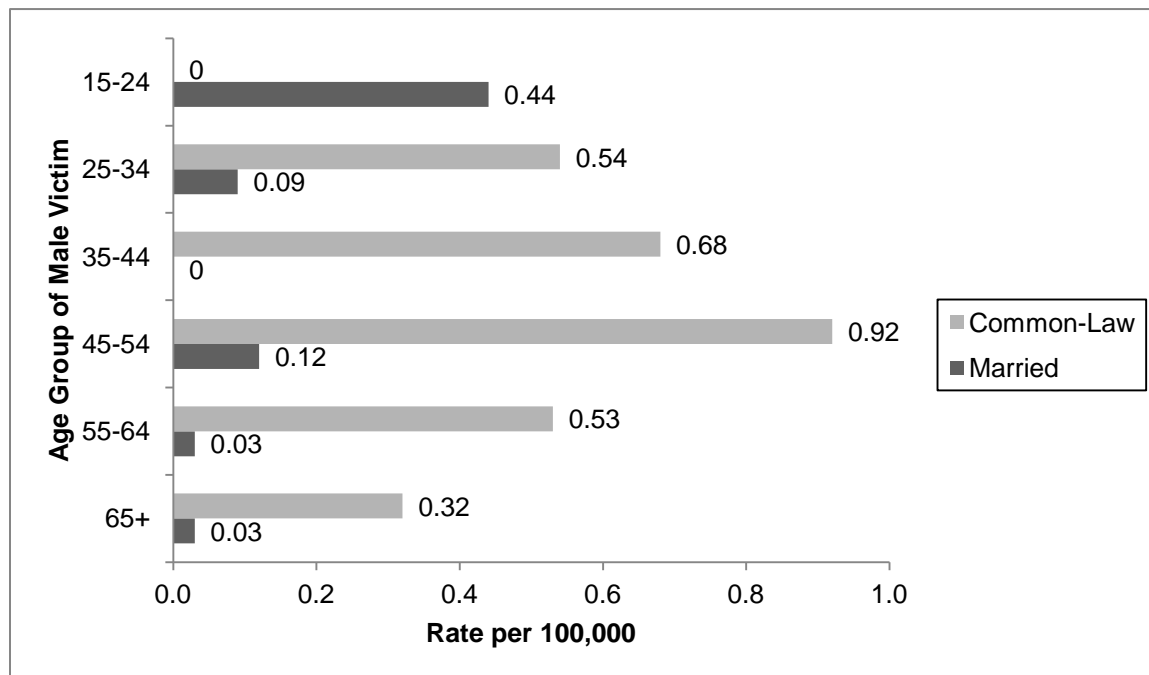
Note: The rate of females who were killed by a male partner from whom they were legally divorced was zero across all of the age groups, with the exception of one incident.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

In this same time period (2007-2011), men were at the greatest risk of being killed by a common-law partner. As shown in Figure 4, the risk began when men were 25 to 34 years of age, increased at 35 to 44 years old and peaked when they were 45 to 54 years of age. Also, men were at equal risk of being killed by a common-law partner when they were 25 to 34 years old and when they were 55 to 64 years old. The risk of being killed by a spouse with whom they were legally married was the highest when men were 15-24 years of age.

³⁴ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population aged 15 and over, legally married, common-law, legally separated spouses and divorced, based on July 1st, 2012 estimates. Rates for separated common-law spouses cannot be calculated since population data is not available for this group. Rates for same-sex spouses cannot be calculated since the Homicide Survey does not collect information on the legal status of same-sex unions. In addition, rates cannot be calculated for separated common-law spouses because this population data is not available.

FIGURE 4. AVERAGE HOMICIDE RATES FOR MEN BY ACCUSED-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP AND AGE GROUP OF VICTIM, 2007-2011³⁵



Note: The number of men killed by a partner from whom they were legally separated or legally divorced was zero across all of the groups.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

3.8.2 Motive

Much of the information taken from the Homicide Survey is from the written descriptions of the investigating officers. Between 2000 and 2011, the most relevant motive was available in the cases of 626 homicide victims where the accused was a current spouse and in the cases of 197 homicide victims where the accused was an ex-spouse (see Table 17, Appendix). In cases of homicides perpetrated by current spouses, the most common motive noted for female and male victims, was that of an argument or quarrel (45%), while in cases where the homicide was perpetrated by an ex-spouse, the most common motive was jealousy (36%).

In regard to gender differences, in cases of homicides perpetrated by ex-spouses, the most common motive in cases with a female victim was that of jealousy (37%), followed by frustration, anger or despair (34%) and an argument or quarrel (20%). In cases in which there was a male victim, the most common motive was an argument or a quarrel (50%).

³⁵ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population aged 15 and over, legally married, common-law, legally separated, and divorced respectively, based on July 1st 2012 estimates. Rates for separated common-law spouses cannot be calculated since population data is not available for this group. Rates for same-sex spouses cannot be calculated since the Homicide Survey does not collect information on the legal status of same-sex unions. In addition, rates cannot be calculated for separated common-law spouses because this population data is not available.

3.8.3 Number of victims

Between 2000 and 2011, the majority (92%) of homicides perpetrated by male current and ex-spouses³⁶ involved a single victim (see Table 18, Appendix). A slightly higher percentage (10%, n=18) of homicides perpetrated by male ex-spouses during this time frame involved multiple victims, in comparison to homicides perpetrated by current male spouses (7%, n=38). There were only three cases of homicide perpetrated by a female accused that involved multiple victims. In all three cases, the female accused was a current spouse.

3.8.4 Homicide-suicide

Between 2000 and 2011, there were 59 cases where a homicide perpetrated by a male ex-spouse accused was cleared by suicide. In all of these cases, the victim was female. During this same timeframe, there were no cases involving a female ex-spouse accused in which the case was cleared by suicide.

3.8.5 Location of homicides

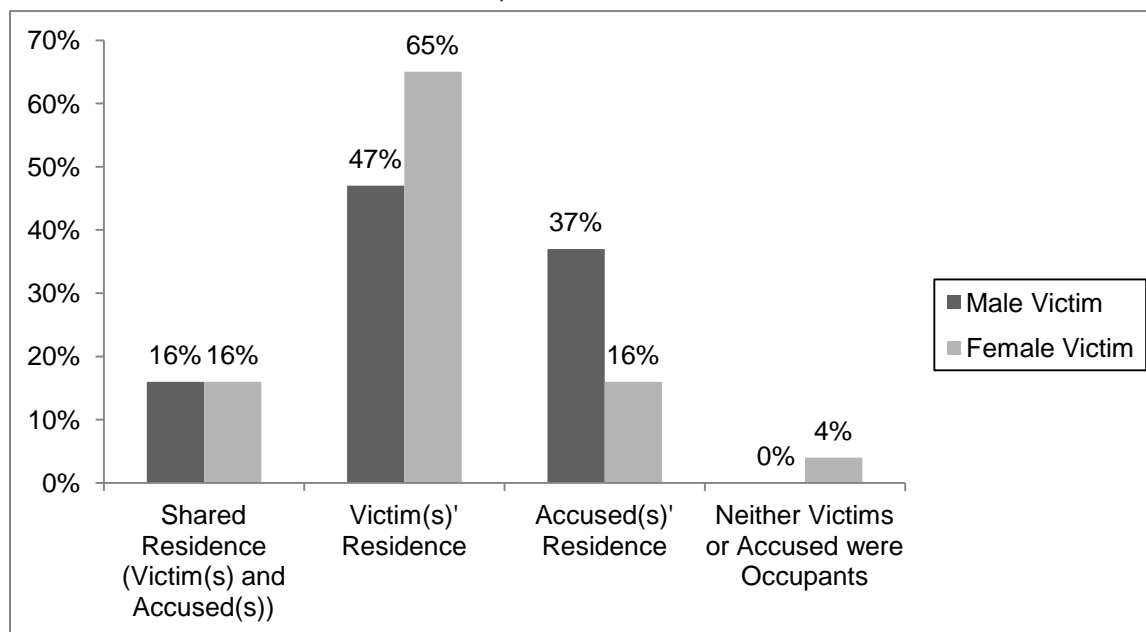
Among cases where the location of homicide incidents was known, the highest proportion of homicides committed by an ex-spouse between 2000 and 2011 occurred in a residential location, including a single home, apartment building or hotel (85%). Other locations included: a road, open area or parking lot (9%) and a commercial or corporation location, such as a convenience store, gas station or bank (3%). Fewer incidents (2%) occurred in a location involving transit, such as a vehicle, taxi or public transit or in an “other” location, such as a community group home, correctional institution or other public institution (1%).

As seen in the figure below, among those who were killed by an ex-spouse in a residential location, the most common location for both male and female victims was their home (47% of men and 65% of women). Among male victims, the next most common residential location was that of the accused (37%), followed by a residence shared with the accused³⁷ (16%). Among female victims, 16% were killed in the accused’s residence and 16% were killed in their own residence.

³⁶ Includes ex or current husbands/common-law husbands, divorced husbands and male same-sex/ex-same-sex partners.

³⁷ Note that although a couple could be separated, they could still be residing in the same residence for various reasons, such as financial issues.

FIGURE 5. VICTIMS OF HOMICIDE PERPETRATED BY EX-SPOUSES³⁸ BY OCCUPANCY OF RESIDENCE³⁹ WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AND GENDER OF VICTIM, 2000-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

3.8.6 Use of a Weapon

As can be seen in Table 19, a weapon was used in almost every homicide (n=202, 99%) committed by an ex-spouse between 2000 and 2011. For both male and female victims, the most common type of weapon used by previous spouses in the perpetration of a homicide between 2000 and 2011 was a knife or other piercing instrument (39% overall). The next most common type of weapon used in the homicide of both male and female victims was a firearm (32% overall).

3.8.7 History of Spousal Violence

As can be seen in Table 20, between 2010 and 2011, in many situations where there was a homicide where the accused was an ex-spouse, there had been a history of spousal violence. Among female victims, there had been a history of spousal violence in 78% (n = 7) of cases of homicides where the accused was a divorced spouse, 76% (n = 25) of cases of homicides where the accused was a separated common-law partner and in 70% (n = 87) of cases where the accused was a legally separated spouse. It is not clear, however, in which direction the spousal violence occurred (i.e., if the accused was violent toward the victim or if they victim was the perpetrator). Among male victims, there had been a history of spousal violence in 83% (n = 5) of cases where the accused was a separated common-law partner, and 78% (n = 7) of cases where the accused was a legally separated spouse.

³⁸ Includes those separated from a legal or common-law union and those divorced from a legal union. Includes both opposite and same-sex partners.

³⁹ Includes single home, house, townhouse; other residential dwelling unit; apartment building; hotel, motel, and bed and breakfast.

In addition, between 2000 and 2011, the accused had a previous conviction in 49% of cases where a homicide was committed by a male accused who was an ex-spouse⁴⁰ (see Table 21, Appendix). In 67% of these cases, the accused had been convicted of a violent offence.⁴¹ Also, between 2000 and 2011, there were 25 known cases where a male ex-spouse⁴² was accused of criminal harassment toward the victim prior to the homicide. This accounts for 15% of the cases of homicide victims killed by an ex-spouse between 2000 and 2011 where it was known whether there was an associated or related offence prior to the homicide (n=170).

4. Conclusion

The purpose of this report was to provide an update to the 2001 Juristat article, *Spousal Violence after Marital Separation*, using data from the 2009 GSS. Analyses of the data from the 2009 GSS on Victimization show that approximately 17% of Canadians who were in contact with an ex-spouse in the five years preceding the GSS experienced violence by their ex-spouse either while living together or after separation, which is 8% lower than in 1999. It is a higher percentage than those who experience violence with a current partner or spouse in 2009 (4%). Consistent with results from the 1999 and 2004 GSS, women were significantly more likely to report violence by an ex-spouse either while living together or after separation in comparison to men.

Many of the respondents also reported that they experienced violence after separating from their ex-spouse. Again, a higher percentage of women than men reported experiencing violence after separation. While both women and men who experienced violence after separation reported severe and frequent violence, women reported experiencing the most severe types of violence.

The respondents also described many emotional consequences of ex-spousal violence, including anger, frustration, fear and depression. These are all similar to the emotional outcomes associated with spousal violence more generally (Black 2011). Many of these same emotional consequences were more prevalent among those who experienced violence after separation in comparison to those who stated that the violence ended at separation. Women who experienced violence after separation were more likely to report severe emotional consequences as a result of the violence in comparison to men.

The data also highlight the fact that as is the case with spousal violence in general, the police rarely became aware of the ex-spousal violence. The most common reasons for not reporting to the police included it was a personal matter and it was dealt with in another way; these reasons were more commonly provided by men than women. In addition, many of those who indicated that the police became aware of the violence indicated that they were satisfied with the police response.

⁴⁰ Includes separated legally married husband, separated common-law husband, divorced husband, an ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated).

⁴¹ Violent offences include offences such as homicide and robbery.

⁴² Previous male spouses include legally separated husband, separated common-law husband, divorced husband, male ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated).

Witnessing spousal violence as a child can have damaging cognitive, emotional and behavioural effects on children (Stiles 2002). Unfortunately, the data indicate that children were the witnesses of violence in many instances. Almost two-thirds of those who experienced violence by an ex-spouse stated that they thought that their child or children had seen or heard the violence. This percentage was even higher (72%) when the violence occurred after marital separation. In addition, more than 25% of respondents who had a child with an ex-spouse reported that they experienced ex-spousal violence, which was much higher than cases where the respondent did not have a child with an ex-spouse (13%).

The data also highlighted some important gender differences in regard to victims of homicide. First, females were at a much higher risk of being killed by an ex-spouse compared to males, accounting for 90% of victims of ex-spousal homicide between 2000 and 2011. Also, between 2007 and 2011, female victims were at a heightened risk of homicide by spouses from whom they were legally separated, while male victims were at the greatest risk of homicide by a common-law partner. In addition, data indicate that between 2000 and 2011, male accused who were ex-spouses were much more likely to commit suicide following a homicide in comparison to females.

The data also revealed that the majority of homicides perpetrated by ex-spouses between 2000 and 2011 involved a single victim, although a slightly higher percentage of homicides perpetrated by an ex-spouse involved multiple victims in comparison to homicides perpetrated by current spouses. Moreover, the majority of victims killed by an ex-spouse were killed in a residential location, most often the victim's residence; a weapon was used in almost every homicide committed by an ex-spouse; and a history of spousal violence was common in cases of homicides committed by ex-spouses.

The findings of this report help to shed some light on the prevalence and experiences of ex-spousal violence in Canada. The overall picture of ex-spousal violence is complex and multi-faceted, with many different factors to consider. What is shown is that many individuals experience violence by their ex-spouse and oftentimes, this violence can be severe. It is hoped that the information presented in this report will be useful for stakeholders who work in this complex area as they create policies and programs addressing ex-spousal violence in Canada.

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Appendix A
Tables

TABLE 1. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AND MEN WHO REPORTED VIOLENCE BY A SPOUSE, PAST 5 YEARS

	Total		Female victim		Male victim	
	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%
Total respondents with a current or ex-spouse	19,097	100	9,411	100	9,686	100
Violence by any spouse (current or ex)	1,186	6	601	6	585	6
No violence by current or ex-spouse	17,608	92	8,670	92	8,937	92
Total respondents with a current spouse	17,338	100	8,368	100	8,970	100
Total violence by current spouse	661	4	267	3	393	4
No violence in the past 5 years	16,393	95	7,970	95	8,243	94
Total respondents with an ex-spouse	3,069	100	1,691	100	1,378	100
Violence by ex-spouse	534	17	339	20	195	14
No violence in the past 5 years	2,498	81	1,335	79	1,162 ³	84
Total respondents who experienced violence by an ex-spouse	534	100	339	100	195	100
Violence while living together	412	77	254	75	157	81
Violence after separation	170	32	121	36	49 ³	25
Violence while living together and after separation (continued violence)	73	14	55 ³	16	18 ³	9 ³
Violence ceased at separation	363	68	217	64	146	75

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and because Not asked/Not Stated/Don't know category removed from table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 2. LENGTH OF TIME AFTER SEPARATION WHEN VIOLENCE OCCURRED, PAST 5 YEARS

	Total		Female victim		Male victim	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Less than 1 week to 6 months	79 ^E	47	65 ^E	54	F	F
More than 6 months	87	51	53 ^E	44	34 ^E	71
Total	170	100	121	100	49^E	100

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and because Not asked/Don't know category removed from table.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 3. TYPES OF VIOLENCE IN PREVIOUS AND CURRENT UNIONS BY SEX OF VICTIM, PAST 5 YEARS

Type of violence	Violence by previous spouse						Violence by current spouse	
	Total		Violence ended at separation		Violence occurred after separation		Total	
	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%
Total violence female victims	339	100	217	100	121	100	267	100
Threatened to hit or threw something	276	81	171	79	104	86	179	67
Pushed, grabbed, shoved or slapped	268	79	169	78	98	81	209	78
Kicked, bit or hit, or hit with something	144	43	84	39	59	49	58 ^E	22
Sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a weapon	170	50	107	49	62	51	34 ^E	13 ^E
Total violence male victims	195	100	146	100	49^E	100	393	100
Threatened to hit or threw something	167	86	124	85	43 ^E	88	264	67
Pushed, grabbed, shoved or slapped	141	72	110	75	31 ^E	63	236	60
Kicked, bit or hit, or hit with something	110	56	77	53	33 ^E	67	150	68
Sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a weapon	42 ^E	22	35 ^E	24 ^E	F	F	F	F

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

Percentages do not add up to 100% because the respondent could choose more than one option.

TABLE 4. NUMBER OF TIMES EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE BY EX/CURRENT SPOUSE, PAST 5 YEARS

		Violence by previous spouse						Violence by current spouse	
		Total		Violence ended at separation		Violence occurred after separation		Total	
		No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%
Both sexes	Total	534	100	363	100	170	100	661	100
	Occurred once	196	37	142	39	53 ^E	31	424	64
	2 or more times	315	59	200	55	114	67	215	33
Female victims	Total	339	100	217	100	121	100	267	100
	Occurred once	113	33	77	35	36 ^E	30 ^E	151	57
	2 or more times	211	62	128	59	83	69	109	41
Male victims	Total	195	100	146	100	49^E	100	393	100
	Occurred once	82	42	66 ^E	45	17 ^E	35 ^E	273	69
	2 or more times	104	53	72	49	32 ^E	65	106	27

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and because Not asked/Not stated/Don't know category removed from table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 5. NUMBER EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL INJURY, RECEIVING MEDICAL ATTENTION AND FEARING FOR LIFE, PAST 5 YEARS

		Violence by previous spouse						Violence by current spouse	
		Total		Violence ended at separation		Violence occurred after separation		Total	
		No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%
Both sexes	Total	534	100	363	100	170	100	661	100
	Physical injury	224	42	145	40	79	46	133	20
	No physical injury	309	58	218	60	91	54	525	79
	Received medical attention	53 ^E	10 ^E	34 ^E	9 ^E	19 ^E	11 ^E	F	F
	Did not receive medical attention	171	32	111	31	60	35	125	19
	No physical injury	309	58	218	60	91	54	528	80
	Feared for life	171	32	105	29	66	39	55 ^E	8 ^E
	Did not fear for life	360	67	256	71	104	61	602	91
Female victims	Total	339	100	217	100	121	100	267	100
	Physical injury	168	50	102	47	66	55	85	32
	No physical injury	170	50	115	53	55 ^E	45	183	69
	Received medical attention	43 ^E	13 ^E	27 ^E	12 ^E	16 ^E	13 ^E	F	F
	Did not receive medical attention	125	37	76	35	50 ^E	41	81	30
	No physical injury	171	50	115	53	55 ^E	45	183	69
	Feared for life	155	46	96	45	58	48	41 ^E	15 ^E
	Did not fear for life	183	54	120	55	63	52	225	84
Male victims	Total	195	100	146	100	49^E	100	393	100
	Physical injury	56	29	43 ^E	29	13 ^E	27 ^E	48 ^E	12 ^E
	No physical injury	138	71	103	71	35 ^E	71	342	87

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

	Received medical attention	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
	Did not receive medical attention	46 ^E	24	35 ^E	24 ^E	F	22 ^E	44 ^E	11 ^E
	No physical injury	139	71	103	71	35 ^E	71	345	88
	Feared for life	16 ^E	8 ^E	8 ^E	6 ^E	F	F	F	F
	Did not fear for life	177	91	136	93	41 ^E	84	376	96

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and because Not asked/Not stated/Don't know category removed from table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009

TABLE 6. PREVALENCE OF EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ABUSE BY EX-SPOUSES, PAST 5 YEARS

Type of emotional or financial abuse	Prevalence of emotional and financial abuse by ex-spouses, past five years						No violence by previous spouse	
	Total		Violence ended at separation		Violence occurred after separation		Total	
	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%
Total emotional or financial abuse	485	100	323	100	161	100	117	100
Limits contacts	259	53	160	49	98	61	483	41
Put downs	392	81	246	76	144	90	836	72
Jealous	345	71	232	72	112	70	641	55
Threaten to harm	180	37	95	29	84	52	224	19
Knowing whereabouts	289	60	191	59	98	61	524	45
Damages property	284	59	181	56	102	63	302	26
Prevents knowing about income	182	38	122	38	60 ^E	37	276	24
Total emotional or financial abuse females	313	100	196	100	117	100	670	100
Limits contacts	173	55	103	53	70 ^E	59	267	40
Put downs	278	89	170	87	107	91	523	63
Jealous	211	67	133	68	77 ^E	66	358	53
Threaten to harm	135	43	70 ^E	36	64 ^E	55	181	27
Knowing whereabouts	186	59	113	58	72 ^E	62	282	42
Damages property	197	63	116	59	81 ^E	69	195	29
Prevents knowing about income	128	41	82 ^E	42	46 ^E	39 ^E	188	28
Total violence males	172	100	127	100	44^E	100	498	100
Limits contacts	86	50	56 ^E	44	29 ^E	65	216	43
Put downs	115	67	76 ^E	30	37 ^E	85	313	63
Jealous	135	78	99	78	35 ^E	80	282	57

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

Threaten to harm	46 ^E	27 ^E	25 ^E	19 ^E	F	F	43 ^E	9 ^E
Knowing whereabouts	103	60	78 ^E	61	25 ^E	57 ^E	242	49
Damages property	87	51	65 ^E	51	F	F	107	21
Prevents knowing about income	55 ^E	32 ^E	40 ^E	32 ^E	F	F	88	18

Percentages do not add up to 100% because the respondent could choose more than one option.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 7. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE INCIDENTS OF WHICH POLICE BECAME AWARE AND SATISFACTION WITH POLICE RESPONSE, PAST 5 YEARS

		Violence by previous spouse						Violence by current spouse	
		Total		Violence ended at separation		Violence occurred after separation		Total	
		No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%
Both sexes	Total	534	100	363	100	170	100	661	100
	Yes, police became aware	194	36	112	31	82	48	66 ^E	10 ^E
	No, police did not become aware	337	63	250	69	87	51	587	89
	Police became aware total	194	100	112	100	82	100	66^E	100
	Satisfied with police response	116	60	68	61	48 ^E	59	44 ^E	67
	Dissatisfied with police response	74	38	44 ^E	39	30 ^E	37 ^E	21 ^E	32 ^E
Female victims	Total	339	100	217	100	121	100	267	100
	Yes, police became aware	141	41	83	38	57	47	40 ^E	15 ^E
	No, police did not become aware	197	58	134	62	63	52	223	84
	Police became aware total	141	100	83	100	57	100	40^E	100
	Satisfied with police response	91	65	55	66	35 ^E	61	27 ^E	68
	Dissatisfied with police response	50 ^E	35	27 ^E	33 ^E	22 ^E	39 ^E	F	F
Male victims	Total	195	100	146	100	49^E	100	393	100
	Yes, police became aware	53 ^E	27	29 ^E	20 ^E	24 ^E	50 ^E	26 ^E	7 ^E
	No, police did not become aware	140	72	116	80	24 ^E	50 ^E	365	93
	Police	53^E	100	29^E	100	24^E	100	26^E	100

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

	became aware total								
	Satisfied with police response	25 ^E	47 ^E	F	43 ^E	13 ^E	54 ^E	F	F
	Dissatisfied with police response	25 ^E	47 ^E	17 ^E	57 ^E	F	F	F	F

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and because Not asked/Not stated/Don't know category removed from table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009

TABLE 8. VIOLENCE BY AN EX-SPOUSE WITNESSED OR HEARD BY CHILDREN, PAST 5 YEARS

		Total		Violence Ended at Separation		Violence after separation	
		Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%
Both sexes	Total violence	280	100	165	100	115	100
	Children saw or heard violence	181	64	98	59	82	72
	Children did not see or hear violence	94	34	64 ^E	39	30 ^E	26 ^E
	Total with children who saw or heard violence	181	100	98	100	82	100
	Parent feared for his or her life	86	48	40 ^E	41 ^E	46 ^E	56
	Parent did not fear for his or her life	94	52	57 ^E	59	37 ^E	44 ^E
Female victim	Total violence	185	100	103	100	81	100
	Children saw or heard violence	123	67	63 ^E	61	60 ^E	74
	Children did not see or hear violence	57 ^E	31 ^E	37 ^E	36 ^E	F	25 ^E
	Total with children who saw or heard violence	123	100	63^E	100	60^E	100
	Parent feared for his or her life	80 ^E	65	39 ^E	61	41 ^E	69
	Parent did not fear for his or her life	43 ^E	35 ^E	24 ^E	39 ^E	F	31 ^E
Male victim	Total violence	95	100	62^E	100	33^E	100
	Children saw or heard violence	57 ^E	60	35 ^E	56 ^E	23 ^E	68 ^E
	Children did not see or hear violence	36 ^E	38 ^E	27 ^E	43 ^E	F	F
	Total with children who saw or heard violence	57^E	100	35^E	100	23^E	100
	Parent feared for his or her life	F	F	F	F	F	F
	Parent did not fear for his or her life	51 ^E	89	33 ^E	95	F	79 ^E

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and because Not asked/Not stated/Don't know category removed from table.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 9. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE BY EX-SPOUSES WITH AND WITHOUT CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, 2004 AND 2009

	2004		2009	
	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%
Total number who had contact with a previous spouse in the last 5 years	3,495	100	3,069	100
Violence	659	19	534	17
No violence	2,784	80	2,498	81
Children under 18 years of age with a previous spouse	1,253	100	1,031	100
Violence	340	27	280	27
No violence	899	72	738	72
No children under 18 years of age with a previous spouse	2,239	100	1,932	100
Violence	318	14	251	13
No violence	1,885	84	1,661	86

Numbers and percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and because Not asked/Not stated/Don't know category removed from table.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2004 and 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 10. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE BY EX-SPOUSES WITH AND WITHOUT CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE BY GENDER, 2004 AND 2009

	2004				2009			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%
Total number who had contact with a previous spouse in the last 5 years	1,925	100	1,570	100	1,691	100	1,378	100
Violence	412	21	247	16	339	20	195	14
No violence	1,495	78	1,290	82	1,335	79	1,163	84
Children under 18 years of age with a previous spouse	738	100	515	100	599	100	432	100
Violence	217	29	123	24	185	31	95	22
No violence	513	70	386	75	409	68	329	76
No children under 18 years of age with a previous spouse	1,186	100	1,053	100	1,013	100	919	100
Violence	194	16	124	12	153	15	98	11
No violence	982	83	904	86	852	84	809	88

Numbers and percentages may not add up due to rounding Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and because Not asked/Not stated/Don't know category removed from table.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2004 and 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 11. TYPES OF VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY RESPONDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT CHILDREN

Type of Violence	Children under 18 years of age with a previous spouse		No children under 18 years of age with a previous spouse	
	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%
Total	280	100	251	100
Threatened to hit; throw anything	243	87	197	78
Pushed, grabbed or shoved; slapped	213	76	193	77
Kicked, bite, hit with fist; hit with something	137	49	114	45
Beaten; choked; threatened with a gun or knife; forced into unwanted sexual activity	124	44	88	35

Numbers and percentages do not add up because respondents could choose more than one option.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 12. CHILDREN'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE BY VIOLENCE BY EX-SPOUSE

Principal Residence	Violence		No Violence		Total	
	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%
	280	27	738	72	1,031	100
Respondent	179	29	429	70	613	100
Ex-Spouse	74 ^E	25	219	74	298	100
Same amount of time	29 ^F	20 ^E	113	79	143	100
Somewhere else	F	F	F	F	F	F

Note that numbers and percentages do not add up because Not asked/Not stated/Don't Know responses are excluded from the table.

Note also that categories are not mutually exclusive; respondents could answer all that apply. Approximately 0.2% of all respondents provided more than one response.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 13. VIOLENCE BY EX-SPOUSE BY CHILDREN'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE

Principal Residence	Violence		No Violence		Total	
	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%
	280	100	738	100	1,031	100
Respondent	179	64	429	58	613	59
Ex-Spouse	74 ^E	26	219	30	298	29
Same amount of time	29 ^E	10 ^E	113	15	143	14
Somewhere else	F	F	F	F	F	F

Note that numbers and percentages do not add up because Not asked/Not stated/Don't Know responses are excluded from the table.

Note also that categories are not mutually exclusive; respondents could answer all that apply. Approximately 0.2% of all respondents provided more than one response.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 14. EX-SPOUSE CONTACT WITH CHILDREN WHILE LIVING WITH RESPONDENT OR THIRD PARTY

Ex-Spousal Contact with Children	Violence		No Violence		Total	
	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%	Number (000s)	%
	181	100	441	100	627	100
At least once every week to at least once every two weeks	86	48	273	62	360	57
At least once a month to at least once a year	56 ^E	31	109	25	165	26
Does not see child but call and/or sends letters, cards, etc.	F	F	F	F	23 ^E	4 ^E
No contact with child	34 ^E	19 ^E	36 ^E	8 ^E	73 ^E	12

Note that numbers and percentages do not add up because Not asked/Not Stated/Don't Know responses are excluded from the table.

Note also that categories are not mutually exclusive; respondents could answer all that apply. Approximately 0.1% of all respondents provided more than one response.

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), *General Social Survey Public Use Microdata 2009*, Custom tabulation prepared by Department of Justice Canada.

TABLE 15. VICTIMS OF HOMICIDE, BY GENDER OF VICTIM AND CLOSEST VICTIM-ACCUSED RELATIONSHIP, 2000-2011

Closest Accused-Victim Relationship	Gender of Victim					
	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Ex-spouse ⁴³	21	1	184	11	205	4
Current spouse ⁴⁴	160	4	506	29	666	12
Family member ⁴⁵	586	16	399	23	985	18
Dating partner ⁴⁶	73	2	165	10	238	4
Friends or acquaintance ⁴⁷	2,045	56	371	21	2,416	45
Stranger	759	21	113	7	872	16
No chargeable suspect	1,392	...	264	...	1,656	...
Unknown	40	...	10	...	50	...
Total	5,076	100	2,012	100	7,088	100

... not applicable

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Note: Excludes unknown gender of victim. Percentages calculated excluding no chargeable suspect and unknown closest accused-victim relationship.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

⁴³ Includes legally separated husband/wife, separated common-law husband/wife, divorced husband/wife, and ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated).

⁴⁴ Includes legally married husband/wife, common-law husband/wife, and same-sex spouse (legal or common-law).

⁴⁵ Includes father, step-father, mother, step-mother, son, step-son, daughter, step-daughter, brother, sister, and other family.

⁴⁶ Includes boyfriend, girlfriend, same-sex relationship, extra-marital lover, ex-boyfriend/girlfriend, and other intimate relationship.

⁴⁷ Includes close friend, neighbour, authority figure, business relationship, criminal relationship, and casual acquaintance.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 16. AVERAGE HOMICIDE RATES (PER 100,000) BY ACCUSED-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP AND GENDER OF VICTIM, 2007-2011

Accused-victim relationship	Gender of victim					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Married ⁴⁸	100	0.31	18	0.06	118	0.18
Common-law ⁴⁹	89	1.29	42	0.60	131	0.94
Separated ⁵⁰	34	1.80	0	0.00	34	1.03
Separated common-law ⁵¹	26	...	5	...	31	...
Divorced ⁵²	1	0.02	0	0.00	1	0.01
Same-sex spouse ⁵³	1	...	4	...	5	...
Ex-same-sex spouse ⁵⁴	0	...	1	...	1	...

... Not available

Note: Rates are calculated per 100,000 population aged 15 and over, legally married, common-law, legally separated, and divorced respectively, based on July 1st, 2012 estimates. Rates for separated common-law spouses cannot be calculated since population data is not available for this group. Rates for same-sex spouses cannot be calculated since the Homicide Survey does not collect information on the legal status of same-sex unions. In addition, rates cannot be calculated for separated common-law spouses because this population data is not available. Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

⁴⁸ Includes legally married husband/wife.

⁴⁹ Includes common-law husband/wife.

⁵⁰ Includes legally separated husband/wife.

⁵¹ Includes separated common-law husband/wife.

⁵² Includes legally separated husband/wife, separated common-law husband/wife and divorced husband/wife.

⁵³ Includes closest accused-victim relationship of same-sex spouse (legal or common-law)

⁵⁴ Includes ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated).

TABLE 17. MOST RELEVANT MOTIVE IN HOMICIDES PERPETRATED BY EX-SPOUSE AND CURRENT SPOUSE BY GENDER OF VICTIM, 2000-2011

Motive	Perpetrated by ex-spouse ⁵⁵						Perpetrated by current spouse ⁵⁶					
	Female Victims		Male Victims		Total Victims		Female Victim		Male Victims		Total Victims	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Argument or quarrel	35	20	10	50	45	23	180	39	102	64	282	45
Frustration, anger or despair	60	34	3	15	63	32	135	29	18	11	152	24
Jealousy	66	37	4	20	70	36	87	19	12	8	99	16
Financial gain, protection of assets	3	2	1	5	4	2	12	3	6	4	18	3
Revenge	10	6	2	10	12	6	6	1	1	1	7	1
Personal protection (self-defence, battered spouse)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	9	14	2
Mercy killing/assisted suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	1	1	7	1
Sexual violence	1	1	0	0	1	0.5	1	0.2	0	0	1	0.2
Fear of apprehension	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2	1	1	2	0.3
Hate crime	1	1	0	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Settling of accounts (drug/gang-related)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concealment (i.e. killing newborn)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terrorism, political causes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No apparent motive	1	1	0	0	1	0.5	28	6	4	3	32	5
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	1	1	11	2
Unknown	7	...	1	...	8	...	40	...	0	...	40	...
Total known motives	177	100	20	100	197	100	466	100	160	100	626	100

... Not applicable

Note: Only the most relevant motive (as determined by the investigating police officer) may be scored even if multiple motives are involved.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

⁵⁵ Includes closest accused-victim relationship of legally separated husband/wife, separated common-law husband/wife, divorced husband/wife, ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated).

⁵⁶ Includes closest accused-victim relationship of legally married husband/wife, common-law husband/wife, same-sex spouse (legal or common-law).

TABLE 18. VICTIMS OF SINGLE- AND MULTIPLE-VICTIM HOMICIDES PERPETRATED BY MALE⁵⁷ AND FEMALE⁵⁸ SPOUSES, BY RELATIONSHIP STATUS, 2000-2011

Closest Accused Relationship	Single-Victim Homicides		Multiple-Victim Homicides		Total Victims	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male Accused						
Current Male Spouse ⁵⁹	471	93	38	7	509	100
Previous Male Spouse ⁶⁰	168	90	18	10	186	100
Total	639	92	56	8	695	100
Female Accused						
Current Female Spouse ⁶¹	154	98	3	2	157	100
Ex-Female Spouse ⁶²	19	100	0	0	19	100
Total	173	98	3	2	176	100

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

⁵⁷ Includes ex or current husbands/common-law husbands, divorced husbands and male same-sex/ex-same-sex partners.

⁵⁸ Includes ex or current wives/common-law wives, divorced wives and female same-sex/ex-same-sex partners.

⁵⁹ Includes legally married husband, common-law husband, and same-sex spouse when the victim is male (legal or common-law).

⁶⁰ Includes legally separated husband, separated common-law husband, divorced husband, ex-same-sex spouse when the victim is male (divorced or separated).

⁶¹ Includes legally married wife, common-law wife, and same-sex spouse when the victim is female (legal or common-law).

⁶² Includes legally separated wife, separated common-law wife, divorced wife, ex-same-sex spouse when the victim is female (divorced or separated).

TABLE 19. NUMBER OF HOMICIDES PERPETRATED BY PREVIOUS SPOUSES, BY TYPE OF WEAPON USED AND GENDER OF VICTIM, CANADA, 2000-2011

	Homicides perpetrated by previous spouses ⁶³					
	Male Victim		Female Victim		Total Victims	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Knife or other piercing/cutting instrument	12	57	67	37	79	39
Firearm ⁶⁴	7	33	58	32	65	32
Hands, feet, etc.	1	5	20	11	21	10
Ligature (e.g. rope, belt, cable)	0	0	16	9	16	8
Club or blunt instrument	1	5	12	7	13	6
Fire, boiling liquid, acid	0	0	4	2	4	2
Motor vehicle	0	0	3	2	3	2
Poison, drugs, gas, fumes	0	0	1	1	1	1
Other weapon ⁶⁵	0	0	0	0	0	0
No weapon used	0	...	0	...	0	...
Unknown	0	...	3	...	3	...
Total known weapons⁶⁶	21	100	181	100	202	100

... Not applicable

Note: If multiple weapons were used to commit the homicide, only the primary weapon that caused the victim's death is counted.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

⁶³ Previous spouses include closest accused-victim relationship of legally separated husband/wife, separated common-law husband/wife, divorced husband/wife, ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated).

⁶⁴ Includes sawed-off rifle/shotgun, handgun (semi-automatic/revolver), and rifle/shotgun.

⁶⁵ Includes explosives and other weapons.

⁶⁶ Excludes homicides with no weapon or unknown weapon.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

TABLE 20. VICTIMS OF HOMICIDE PERPETRATED BY SPOUSES,⁶⁷ BY GENDER OF VICTIM, ACCUSED-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP, AND HISTORY OF FAMILY VIOLENCE,⁶⁸ 2000-2011

Accused-Victim Relationship	History of Family Violence							
	Yes		No		Unknown		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male Victims								
Legally married husband/wife	22	61	14	39	1	...	37	100
Common-law husband/wife	90	87	14	14	5	...	109	100
Legally separated husband/wife	7	78	2	22	0	...	9	100
Separated common-law husband/wife	5	83	1	17	0	...	6	100
Divorced husband/wife	1	100	0	0	0	...	1	100
Same-sex spouse (legal or common-law) ⁶⁹	4	100	0	0	1	...	5	100
Ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated) ⁷⁰	0	0	1	100	1	...	2	100
Total spouses	129	80	32	20	8	...	169	100
Female Victims								
Legally married husband/wife	99	43	133	57	31	...	263	100
Common-law husband/wife	140	70	61	30	36	...	237	100
Legally separated husband/wife	87	70	38	30	9	...	134	100
Separated common-law husband/wife	25	76	8	24	6	...	39	100
Divorced	7	78	2	22	2	...	11	100

⁶⁷ Includes legally married husband/wife, common-law husband/wife, separated legal husband/wife, separated common-law husband/wife, divorced husband, and current or previous same-sex spouse (legal or common-law).

⁶⁸ An indication of violence refers only to violence involving the accused and any homicides victim(s) associated with the incident. It does not indicate the direction of the violence – the accused or the victim may have been the perpetrator of the violence or it may have been committed by both parties against each other. Among incidents where there are multiple victims, it is only necessary for the accused to have been previously violent against one family-member victim. The history of violence may be brief: even on previously known incident would be scored as “yes”.

⁶⁹ Collection began in 2007.

⁷⁰ Collection began in 2007.

Violence Perpetrated by Ex-Spouses

husband/wife								
Same-sex spouse (legal or common-law)	2	100	0	0	0	...	2	100
Ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated)	0	0	0	0	0	...	0	100
Total spouses	360	60	242	40	84	...	686	100

...Not applicable

Note: Based on history of family violence of homicides with one accused. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police submit the Homicide Survey to Statistics Canada. Percentages calculated excluding unknown history of family violence and may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey

TABLE 21. VICTIMS OF HOMICIDES PERPETRATED BY SPOUSES,⁷¹ BY PREVIOUS CONVICTION AND GENDER OF ACCUSED, 2000-2011

Previous conviction of closest accused for criminal activities	Current spouse ⁷²		Previous spouse ⁷³		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male accused						
Violent offence ⁷⁴	143	29	61	33	204	30
Other offence ⁷⁵	103	21	29	16	132	20
No previous conviction	251	51	94	51	345	51
Unknown	8	...	2	...	10	...
Total	505	100	186	100	691	100
Female accused						
Violent offence	49	34	5	33	54	34
Other offence	34	23	4	27	38	24
No previous conviction	63	43	6	40	69	43
Unknown	2	...	1	...	3	...
Total	148	100	16	100	164	100

... Not applicable

Note: Based on previous conviction of homicides with a single accused. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police submit the Homicide Survey to Statistics Canada. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

⁷¹ Includes legally married husband/wife, common-law husband/wife, separated legal husband/wife, separated common-law husband/wife, divorced husband/wife, and current or previous same-sex spouse (legal or common-law).

⁷² Includes legally married husband/wife, common-law husband/wife, and same-sex spouse (legal or common-law).

⁷³ Includes separated legally married husband/wife, separated common-law husband/wife, divorced husband/wife, and ex-same-sex spouse (divorced or separated).

⁷⁴ Includes homicide, robbery, and other violent offences.

⁷⁵ Includes property, drug, and other Criminal Code or Federal/Provincial Stature offences.