



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, June 11, 1999

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MAJOR RELEASES

Family violence: A statistical profile 1997

All segments of the family are affected by family violence, according to the newest statistical profile of family violence in Canada. Parents assaulted children, both men and women assaulted their spouses and even the elderly were victims of their children.

According to data reported to 179 police forces in six provinces including Ontario and Quebec, women accounted for about nine out of 10 victims (88%) of spousal violence.

Seniors aged 65 and over were victims in 2% of all crimes of violence reported to these police forces in 1997. Almost one-quarter of these incidents involved family members.

However, the impact on the lives of children was far more substantial. In 1997, children under 18 were victims in 23% of all assaults reported to the police. In about one-quarter of these, family members committed the offence.

These data offer only a partial look at family violence in the country. The 179 police forces that provided the data represent only 48% of the national volume of reported crime, and not all crimes are reported to the police. Consequently, the information is not nationally representative.

Spousal violence: women far more likely to be victimized than men

According to police-reported data, women were more likely to be victimized by a spouse, either married or common-law, than were men. About 31% of all female victims of violence in 1997 were attacked by a spouse, compared with only 4% of all male victims of violence. As a result, 88% of spousal assault victims were women.

Common assault represented the largest proportion of spousal violence incidents, accounting for three-quarters of all victims of spousal violence reported to the police forces. More serious forms of assault, such as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and aggravated assault, were the second most frequently reported spousal violence crimes. Together these offences accounted for 14% of all reported victims. Criminal harassment, or stalking, accounted for about 7% of offences against spousal violence victims.

The five-year trend for police-reported spousal assault (including physical and sexual assaults)

Note to readers

As part of the federal government's Family Violence Initiative, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) produces the annual report, Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile. This report is intended to provide the most up-to-date data on the nature and extent of family violence in Canada, and to monitor trends over time. Each annual edition of the report has a special focus or theme. The 1999 report, the second in the series, presents an overview of violence against spouses, children and older adults, and includes a special focus on justice system responses to the problem of family violence.

The data for this report are drawn from a number of sources including the Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCRII), Homicide Survey, Transition Home Survey, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, RCMP Operational Statistics Reporting System, and the Hospital Morbidity Survey.

The UCRII captures detailed information on criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims and accused persons. This survey collects data from 179 police agencies in six provinces, representing 48% of the national volume of reported crime. Even though this survey provides a rich analytical database, readers are cautioned that these data are not nationally representative: 41% are from Quebec, 33% from Ontario, 11% from Alberta, 8% from British Columbia, 6% from Saskatchewan and 1% from New Brunswick.

The Homicide Survey collects data on all police-reported homicides across Canada, as well as characteristics of victims and accused persons. Homicides include first- and second-degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

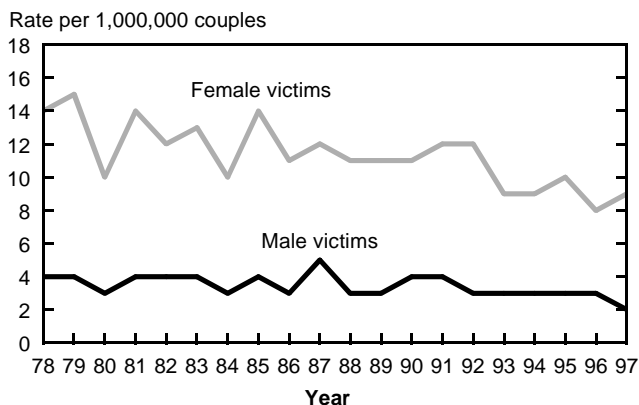
of reported female victims has decreased 8% from 1993 to 1997, while the number of male victims has increased 18%. These trend data are based on a sample representing about 21% of the national volume of crime.

Spousal homicide accounts for a substantial proportion of all homicides in Canada. During the two decades between 1978 and 1997, spouses represented 18% of all victims of solved homicides and nearly half (48%) of family-related incidents.

During this period, three times as many wives as husbands were killed by their spouses — 1,485 women were killed by their husbands, and 442 husbands were killed by their wives. (The Homicide Survey collects data on all police-reported homicides across Canada.)

However, despite yearly fluctuations, the rate of homicide against both husbands and wives has declined gradually over the 20 years.

Spousal homicide rate gradually declining, 1978-1997¹

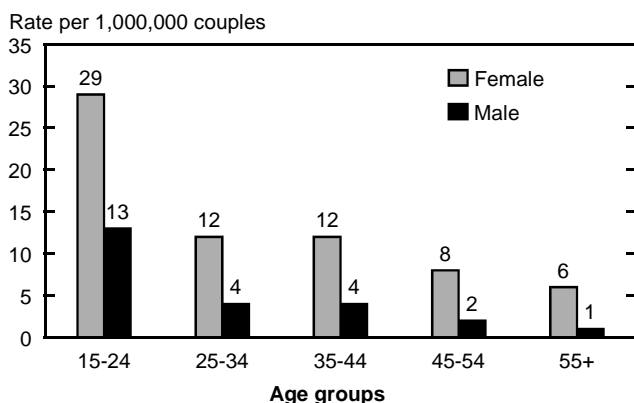


¹ Estimates based on July 1 population estimates for men and women legally married, in common-law relationships, or separated.

Source: Homicide Survey

Young wives have been at the greatest risk of spousal homicide. Between 1990 and 1997, women under 25 who were either married, separated or living common-law were killed at a rate of 29 per one million couples, 2.4 times the rate of women in the next age group, 25 to 34.

Young women at greatest risk of spousal homicide, 1990-1997^{1, 2}



¹ Excludes cases in which the victim's sex, age, or the accused-victim relationship are unknown.

² Rate per 1,000,000 legally married, separated and common-law males and females by age group. Rates based on July 1 estimates.

Source: Homicide Survey

Violence against children: fathers most frequent offenders

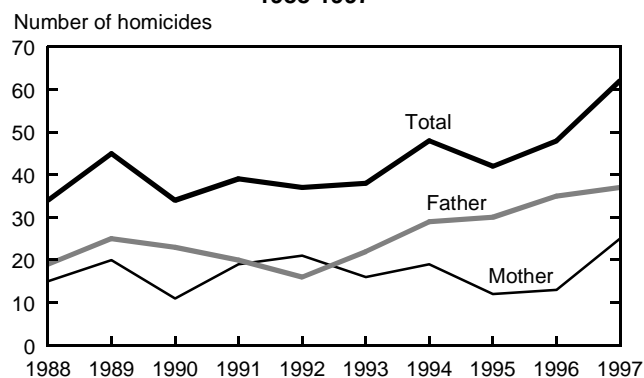
In 1997, parents were the main perpetrators of assault against children and youth within families. Parents represented 65% of family members accused of physical assaults against children and youth, and 44% of those accused of sexual assaults.

Fathers, more often than mothers, were the reported offenders in cases of assaults against children and youth, regardless of the type of abuse or the child's age. In 1997, in incidents involving parents, fathers were accused in 97% of sexual assaults and 71% of physical assaults.

In 1997, 96 children and youth under the age of 18 were victims of homicide, 17% of all homicides in Canada. Family members, mostly parents, were responsible for 76% of the homicides against these youngsters, a significant increase over the average of 59% during the previous 10 years.

The number of mothers and fathers accused of killing their children has risen over the past decade, which is contrary to the trend in spousal homicide and total homicides. More than one-half of the children in these cases were under the age of three. Fathers were implicated in 37 homicides in 1997, up from a low of 16 in 1992. For mothers, the number has fluctuated over the past decade but has increased from 12 to 25 between 1995 and 1997.

Child homicides committed by parents increasing, 1988-1997^{1, 2}



¹ Homicides against children and youths under 18 years.

² Mothers and fathers include natural, step, foster and adoptive parents.

Source: Homicide Survey

Between 1993 and 1997, infants under one year of age had by far the highest annual rate of

homicide among children and youth under 18 years. Family members committed a majority (93%) of these homicides, of which mothers accounted for 45% and fathers 40%.

Violence against older adults by family members

In 1997, adults aged 65 and over accounted for 2% of all victims of violent crime reported to a sample of 179 police agencies. In almost one-quarter of these incidents, family members were the perpetrators.

In cases where family members were the accused, older men were proportionately more likely to be victimized by their adult children (41%) than by a spouse (28%). In contrast, older women were victimized equally as often by adult children (40%) and spouses (40%).

As was the case with younger women and girls, women aged 65 and over were more frequently the victims of violence committed by family members than were older men. Family members were implicated in 29% of all incidents against older women compared with 17% of those against older men.

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile (85-224-XPE, \$25; 85-224-XIE, free) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023; 1-800-387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Shelters for abused women

1997/98

On April 20, 1998, just over 6,100 women and children were living in 422 shelters that offered refuge from family violence, according to a snapshot survey taken as part of the 1997/98 Transition Home Survey. About 48% were women and 52% were children.

Eight out of 10 women and children in shelters had sought refuge to escape abuse such as psychological abuse, physical assault, threats and sexual assault. The remainder, who were not there for abuse reasons, were generally there because of housing problems.

On the day of the snapshot, 56% of all women in shelters who were escaping abusive situations were admitted with children. Of those abused women who had children, the majority (76%) took them to the shelter. About three-quarters of the children were under the age of 10.

Overall, in the 12 months between April 1, 1997, and March 31, 1998, a total of 90,792 women and children were admitted to 413 shelters that responded to the survey question. Of these, 47,962 were women and 42,830 were children (some of whom might have been accepted into the shelters more than once during the year).

In 1997/98, operating costs for 411 shelters were \$170 million, most of which came from government funding.

The majority of abused women sought shelter from a spouse or partner

The snapshot portion of the Transition Home Survey provides an in-depth profile of the women who were in shelters to escape abuse on April 20, 1998.

The vast majority of these women, about 85%, were seeking shelter from someone with whom they had an intimate relationship. Just over one-third of these women (36%) were abused by their spouses, 32% by a common-law partner, 12% by a former spouse or partner, and about 5% by a current or ex-boyfriend.

Less than one-third of cases reported to the police

About 29% of these women had reported the most recent incident of abuse to police and in almost two-thirds of these cases, the police or the Crown laid charges. Restraining orders were obtained in over half (54%) of the cases reported to the police and in 86% of cases in which charges were laid.

Note to readers

This report is based on a Juristat that contains the results of the 1997/98 Transition Home Survey. This survey collected information on residential facilities for abused women and their children during the previous 12 months. It also provided a one-day snapshot of the women and children residing in these shelters on April 20, 1998.

The Transition Home Survey is a mail-out/mail-back census survey of all known residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children. Of the 470 residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children, 430 returned their questionnaires for a response rate of 91%. Readers should be cautioned that the number of responses to individual questions will vary.

The Transition Home Survey was developed under the federal government's Family Violence Initiative in consultation with provincial/territorial governments and transition home associations.

In 1991/1992, Statistics Canada began collecting basic information on transition home services and clientele. The survey was repeated with some changes in 1992/1993, 1994/1995 and 1997/1998. However, conclusions cannot be made about trends over time as the availability of shelters has increased considerably.

Few young women in shelters

Few young women sought refuge at shelters. Women in the 25-34 age group were the most likely to use shelters, with a rate of 36.5 per 100,000 women (aged 15 and over) in the population. This compares with a rate of 22.4 for those aged 35-44, and 21.8 for women aged 15-24. Women who were 45 years of age and over had the lowest rate at 4.9 per 100,000 women.

Shelters offer an extensive variety of services

On April 20, 1998, there were 470 shelters for abused women across Canada. Of these, only 18 existed prior to 1975, while 57 began operations between 1975 and 1979. The largest growth occurred during the 1980s as the issues of violence against women and family violence gained attention at all levels of government.

Almost two-thirds of shelters in 1998 were transition homes. The others included second-stage housing facilities, emergency shelters, women's emergency shelters, safe-home networks and, in Ontario, family resource centres.

In addition to providing refuge, the majority of shelters offered an extensive variety of services, which depend largely on available funding and the availability of services in the wider community.

Nine in 10 facilities provided in-house, individual short-term counselling to women residents. About 87%

provided advocacy services, 82% parenting skills and 82% housing referral.

In-house services for child residents most often included indoor and outdoor recreation spaces (80%), individual counselling (75%), group counselling (53%) and programs for children who have witnessed or experienced abuse (53%).

Juristat: Canada's shelters for abused women, vol. 19, no. 6 (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93; 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1-800-387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Rate of women admitted to shelters for reasons of abuse¹ April 20, 1998

	Resident women	Number of women aged 15 and over in the population	Rate ² per 100,000 women
Canada	2,260	12,385,623	18.2
Newfoundland	34	224,633	15.1
Prince Edward Island	14	55,190	25.4
Nova Scotia	92	390,707	23.5
New Brunswick	70	311,169	22.5
Quebec	471	3,053,342	15.4
Ontario	915	4,671,122	19.6
Manitoba	97	456,011	21.3
Saskatchewan	102	404,010	25.2
Alberta	139	1,137,578	12.2
British Columbia	289	1,648,249	17.5
Yukon	5	11,656	42.9
Northwest Territories	32	21,956	145.7

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 adult women in the population. Populations are July 1, 1998 updated postcensal estimates.

² Rates of shelter use may depend on a number of factors, including population density and the availability of these facilities in the community. They do not necessarily reflect the differential rates of spousal violence in the provinces and territories.

OTHER RELEASES

Oils and fats

April 1999

Production of all types of deodorized oils in April totalled 96 080 tonnes, a 0.1% increase from 95 504 tonnes in March. Year-to date production for April was 375 405 tonnes, down 12.5% compared with 429 032 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

Domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 12 363 tonnes, those for deodorized shortening oil amounted to 27 984 tonnes and deodorized salad oil sales totalled 31 911 tonnes in April 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 185.

The April 1999 issue of *Oils and fats* (32-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this

release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Dairy statistics

April and May 1999 (preliminary)

Preliminary monthly dairy statistics for April and May 1999 are now available.

These data will be included in the April-June 1999 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001QXPB, \$36/\$119; 23-001-XIB, \$27/\$89), available in August. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (613-951-2442; 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat - A weekly review, June 11, 1999
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3/\$109).

Infomat - A Weekly Review, June 11, 1999
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Grain trade of Canada, 1997-98
Catalogue number 22-201-XPB
(Canada: \$44; outside Canada: US\$44).

Oils and fats, April 1999
Catalogue number 32-006-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Building permits, April 1999
Catalogue number 64-001-XIB
(Canada: \$19/\$186).

Juristat: Canada's shelters for abused women,
vol. 19, no. 6
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE
(Canada: \$8/\$70; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$70).

Juristat: Canada's shelters for abused women,
vol. 19, no. 6
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE
(Canada: \$10/\$93; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$93).

**Family violence in Canada: A statistical
profile**, 1997
Catalogue number 85-224-XIE
(Free).

**Family violence in Canada: A statistical
profile**, 1997
Catalogue number 85-224-XPE
(Canada: \$25; outside Canada: US\$25).

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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1999	
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• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.	4
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Editor: Dan Smythe (613-951-1103, smytdan@statcan.ca)

Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088), prevcha@statcan.ca

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RELEASE DATES: JUNE 14-18, 1999

June 14-18, 1999

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
14	Domestic travel	1998
14	New motor vehicle sales	April 1999
14	Travel between Canada and other countries	April 1999
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	April 1999
16	Births	1997
17	Canadian economic observer	June 1999
17	Canadian international merchandise trade	April 1999
17	Wholesale trade	April 1999
18	Consumer Price Index	May 1999