



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006

Statistics Canada today released a comprehensive summary of what is currently known about the prevalence and severity of violence against women in Canada.

The report pulls together previously released data from victimization surveys, police services, courts and service agencies to assess the nature of violence against women. It addresses its impact, associated risk factors, institutional and community responses and the use of services by victims.

The report updates a 2002 report titled *Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile*, which introduced a number of violence indicators. It expands on these indicators, organizing them into five central themes: prevalence and severity; impact; risk factors for violence; institutional and community-based responses; and victims' use of services.

Spousal homicide rates in the territories,¹ by age group and sex of victim, 1975 to 2004

Rate per 100,000 spouses²



1. Includes the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law men and women 15 years of age and over).

Although the majority of the data have previously been released, the report provides new information on violence against women in the three territories.

For the first time, as part of a pilot study, the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization

interviewed women and men in the three territories about their experiences with respect to spousal violence, in addition to other crimes.

The GSS showed that women in the territories report higher rates of spousal violence than those living in the provinces. Police statistics also indicate that women in the territories also experience higher levels of sexual assault and homicide.

According to the GSS, spousal violence in the territories came to the attention of the police more often than violence occurring in other parts of Canada. In addition, the use of shelters in the territories is the highest in the country.

Overall, 12% of adult residents of the three territories who had been married at some point in their life, or who had lived in a common-law relationship, had experienced violence by a spousal partner in the five years prior to the survey. This compares with 7% in the provinces.

Police data show that rates of homicide in the territories are the highest in the country and that rates of sexual assault are also higher than in the provinces, although rates of sexual assault have declined in all three territories in recent years.

During the past few months, Statistics Canada has released several reports which have contained data on the nature and extent of spousal violence, criminal harassment and many other acts of violence against women.

This new report puts these data into perspective, and provides a snapshot of violence against women in Canada.

Findings from the report show that women are more likely than men to be the victims of the most severe forms of spousal assault, as well as spousal homicide, sexual assault and stalking.

The rate of spousal homicide has also declined in recent years for both women and men, and survey data suggest that the severity of non-lethal assaults against women has also declined somewhat.

Trends in various types of violence against women, as recorded in police statistics, are mixed. Rates of reported sexual assault have declined since 1993. In addition, the number of spousal violence incidents against women has declined since 2000, while the rate of violence perpetrated by boyfriends has increased. Also, the number of male partners reported to police for criminal harassment has risen.

Sexual assault is one of the most under-reported crimes. According to the GSS, fewer than 10% of sexual assaults in both survey years were reported to the police. Police statistics show a decline in sexual assault rates which was most dramatic in the early 1990s. However,

it is difficult to know to what extent this is affected by changes in victims' reporting behaviour over time.

Victims' decisions to report the violence to criminal justice and social services depend on a variety of factors, some of which include fear of the offender, shame and embarrassment, and regional availability of services. The majority of victims of spousal assault and over 90% of sexual assault victims did not seek support from the criminal justice system.

The number of female victims of spousal assault who contacted police or social services remained steady between 1999 and 2004. The number of women accessing shelter services has also been stable in recent years. This does not necessarily represent the need for shelter services, however, as the data show that on a single day there were over 200 women turned away from shelters.

According to police statistics, rates of spousal violence and spousal homicide are higher for Aboriginal women than for non-Aboriginal women or Aboriginal men. The severity and impact of spousal violence are also greater for Aboriginal women.

Rates of sexual assault and other violent crimes are higher on reserves than in other areas of Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3302, 3312, 3315, 3896 and 4504.

The report *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends, 2006* (85-570-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website choose *Free internet publications* then *Justice*.

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

Study: Use of selected management practices by firm size 2004

This study examined the use of selected management practices in the private and public sectors.

In 2004, the Survey of Electronic Commerce and Technology provided a list of eight management practices that, according to interviews with small- and medium-sized firms, indicated potential firm growth.

The management practices listed were organizational structures; employee feedback surveys; mentoring or coaching programs; and written strategies

for marketing; managing growth; commercialization of intellectual property; succession management; and risk management.

In 2004, on average medium-sized (3.1 practices) and large firms (4.9 practices) employed more of the management practices than small firms (1.2 practices).

This study found that firms and organizations of all sizes appear to employ management practices strategically. Not surprisingly, as management practices are often directed towards human resources, the selection of management practices in use in a firm is more dependent upon the size of the organization than the industry.

What is interesting is that the management practices studied were selected as indicators for firms intending to grow. Usage rates for each of the eight selected management practices increased with firm size in the private sector and organization size in the public sector.

This is in keeping with the hypothesis that larger firms and organizations need more management tools to manage.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4225.

The study "Are small businesses positioning themselves for growth? A comparative look at the use of selected management practices by firm size" (88F0006XIE2006010, free) is now available online as part of the *Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers* series from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Earl (613-951-2880), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

August 2006

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for August.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

Data are available upon request only. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics

July 2006

Data on electric power are now available for July.

Available on CANSIM: table 127-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

July 2006 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for July. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (613-951-9497; toll-free 1-866-873-8789; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

July 2006

Data on coal and coke are now available for July.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends, 2006

Catalogue number 85-570-XIE
(free).

Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers: "Are small businesses positioning themselves for growth? A comparative look at the use of selected management practices by firm size", 2004, no. 10

Catalogue number 88F0006XIE2006010
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Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 201 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Imported Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, season ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Spj producer, Apr. 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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