

Spousal violence trends in Canada, 2019

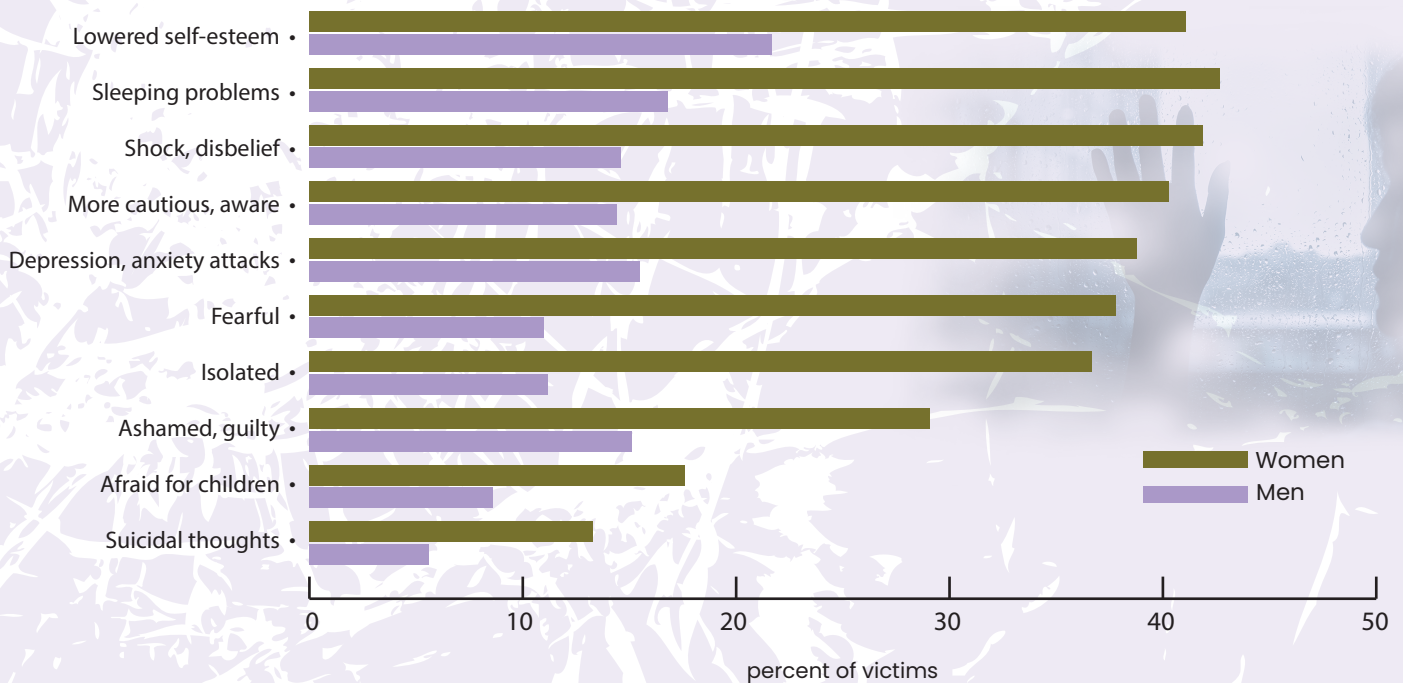


In 2019, women continued to be overrepresented as victims of spousal violence in Canada.

In the five years preceding 2019:

432,000 women (4.2%) and 279,000 men (2.7%) experienced spousal violence perpetrated by a current or former spouse or common-law partner. This included violence that was never reported to police.¹

Among victims, women were more likely than men to be **physically injured** (39% versus 23%), **fear for their lives** (29% versus 3.8%) and experience **negative emotional impacts**:



In the provinces, spousal violence **decreased 54% from 1999 to 2019**.² The decline was larger for men (-60%) than for women (-49%).

Over the past two decades, the proportion of spousal violence victims who said the violence they experienced was reported to police declined from 28% in 1999 to 19% in 2019.



In the provinces, **declines** were noted over the same period for **all types of spousal violence** measured:

beating, choking, threatening to use or using a gun or knife, sexual assault

kicking, biting, hitting, hitting with something that could hurt

pushing, grabbing, shoving, slapping

threatening to hit with a fist, throwing something that could hurt

Most severe type of spousal violence experienced

1. Questions were asked to those who are married or living common law, and those who are separated or divorced and have had contact with their former partner in the previous five years (regardless of whether or not they were living together).

2. Trend information in this infographic includes the provinces only. For trend information about the territories, see the *Juristat* article, "Spousal violence in Canada, 2019."