

Backgrounder – Statistics on Violence Against Women
Source: *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006*

Prevalence

- Over 52,000 women and nearly 37,000 children were admitted to shelters for abused women across Canada in the year ending March 31, 2004.
- In 2004, approximately 653,000 Canadian women were physically or sexually assaulted by a spousal partner at least once during the previous five years. This includes approximately 25,000 Saskatchewan women.
- Over the 30-year period from 1975 to 2004, Saskatchewan had the second highest provincial rate for female spousal homicide at 1.3 homicides per 100,000 spouses (including legally married, separated, divorced and common-law couples).
- Trends in various types of violence against women, as recorded in police statistics are mixed: rates of reported sexual assault have declined since 1993; the number of spousal violence incidents against women has declined since 2000 while the rate perpetrated by boyfriends has increased; the number of male partners reported to police for criminal harassment (stalking) has increased.

Impact

- Almost 40 per cent of women who reported spousal assault said their children witnessed the violence. In half of the cases witnessed by children, the women feared for their lives.
- Studies estimate that the cost of violence against women to victims and society, in terms of costs to health, criminal justice, social services and lost productivity, range in the billions of dollars.

Risk Factors

- Rates of violence are higher for younger women. Alcohol abuse and psychological abuse in spousal relationships raise the risk of violence. Separation from a violent partner can also elevate the risk of spousal assault and homicide.

Violence Against Aboriginal Women

- Rates of spousal violence are more than three times higher for Aboriginal women than for non-Aboriginal women. In 2004, 25 per cent of Aboriginal women in a marital or common-law relationship reported experiencing at least one incident of spousal violence in the previous five years.

For the full report *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006* see <http://www.labour.gov.sk.ca/trendsEN>.