



Homicide and Spousal Homicide

Between 1991 and 2007, there were 280 homicides in Nova Scotia. Women and girls comprised nearly a third (32 per cent) of victims (89 females and 191 males).

Female Victims of Homicide Nova Scotia, 1991-2007

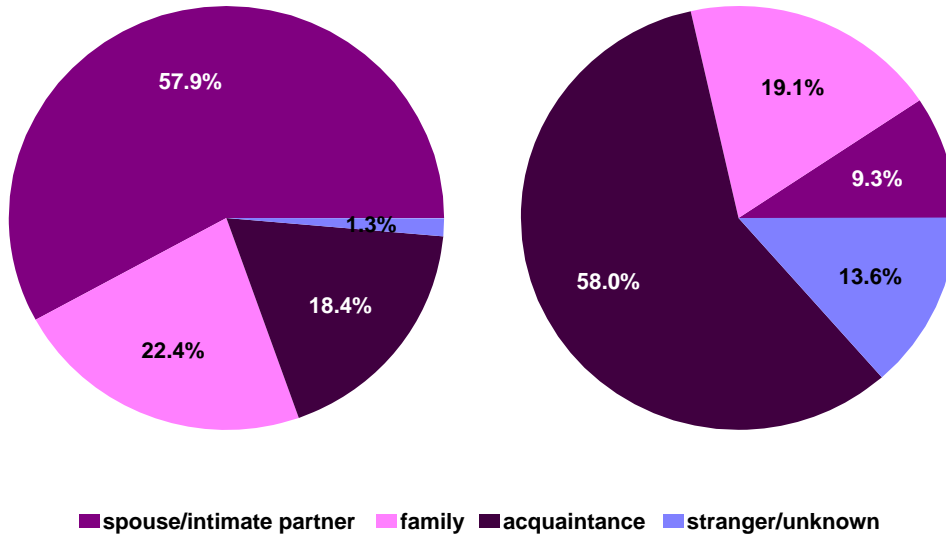
Year	Number			Year	Number
1991	6			2000	3
1992	12			2001	1
1993	7			2002	4
1994	6			2003	1
1995	5			2004	5
1996	4			2005	5
1997	10			2006	4
1998	8			2007	4
1999	4				

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

In Nova Scotia, a total of 89 women were victims of homicide between 1991 and 2007

- Between 1991 and 2007, more than half (57.9 per cent) of female victims of homicide in Nova Scotia were killed by their spouses or intimate partners, compared to 9.3 per cent of male victims.
- Women in Nova Scotia are about 45 times more likely to be killed by a spouse or intimate partner than they are by a stranger (57.9 per cent versus 1.3 per cent).

Victim-Suspect Relationship Nova Scotia Homicides, 1991-2007



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

Men in Nova Scotia are more likely to be killed by a stranger than they are to be killed by a spouse or intimate partner (13.6 per cent versus 9.3 per cent).

Spousal Homicide

Between 1975 and 2007 there were 90 spousal homicides in Nova Scotia. In 66 of cases (73 per cent) the victims were women and the remaining 24 victims were men.

From 1997 to 2006, Nova Scotia's average spousal homicide rate was 3.5 per million couples*. The Canadian rate for the same time period was 4.6 per million couples.

As is the case with homicide in general, rates of spousal homicide in Canada have been declining over the last thirty years, for both women and men. Over this period, however, women have consistently been more likely than men to be victims of spousal homicide. Over this period, the rate of spousal homicide against women has been three to five times higher than the rate for male victims.



Rates of spousal homicide are higher for those in common-law relationships and for young adults, particularly young women.

Rates of spousal homicides are also much higher among Aboriginal persons. While we do not have information for Nova Scotia, we know that the spousal homicide rate is eight times greater for Aboriginal women in Canada than it is for non-Aboriginal women. For Aboriginal men in Canada, the spousal homicide rate is 38 times greater than it is for non-Aboriginal men.

* includes legally married and common-law, separated and divorced spouses.

Sources: *Statistics Canada, Catalogue # 85-224-X and Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey, data provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice.*

