



Intimate Partner Violence in Nova Scotia December 2017 Update

This fact sheet summarizes information on intimate partner violence in Nova Scotia and in Canada. The data presented has been collected by Statistics Canada through the *Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey* and reflects incidents reported to the police. For this fact sheet, **intimate partners** include the following: legally married, common-law, separated, divorced, current and former dating partners, and other intimate relationships, for victims aged 15 to 89. It is important to note that the majority of incidents of intimate partner violence do not get reported to police.

Other intimate partner violence data are available from the police-reported *Homicide Survey* conducted annually, and the *General Social Survey on Victimization*, conducted every five years, which collects self-reported victimization data from Canadians aged 15 years and over.

Women make up more than three-quarters of victims of intimate partner violence in Nova Scotia

In 2016, there were 2,462 victims of police-reported violence committed by an intimate partner in Nova Scotia. The number of victims of intimate partner violence increased by 135, or 8%, over the previous year and, as was the case in 2015, the vast majority of victims (78%) were female (see Table 1).

TABLE 1. Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence in Nova Scotia by sex of victim, 2015 to 2016

	2015 ¹		2016	
	Number of Victims	%	Number of Victims	%
Female	1,778	76%	1,913	78%
Male	553	24%	549	22%
Total	2,331	100%	2,462	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, (custom data tabulation).

Note:

1. Each year, UCR data are 'frozen' at the end of May for the production of crime statistics for the preceding calendar year. However, police services continue to send updated data to Statistics Canada after this date for incidents that occurred in previous years. Revisions are accepted for a one-year period after the data are initially released. For example, when the 2016 crime statistics are released, the 2015 data are updated with any revisions made between May 2016 and May 2017. The data are revised only once and are permanently frozen.

Three-quarters (76%) of female victims of intimate partner violence in Nova Scotia in 2016 experienced the violence in a dating relationship from either a current dating partner (952 or 50%) or from a former dating partner (502 or 26%). While the volume is much lower, the proportions are similar for male victims having experienced violence from current dating partners (282 or 51%), or from former dating partners (136 or 25%) over the same period

In 2016, the rate of intimate partner violence was more than three times higher for female victims in Nova Scotia than it was for male victims

In 2016, the rate of intimate partner violence was higher for female victims (466 per 100,000 population) than for male victims (140 per 100,000 population) in Nova Scotia. Compared to 2015, the rate increased by 7% for female victims and decreased by 1% for male victims in 2016 (*See Table 2*).

Also in 2016, the rate of intimate partner violence for female victims in Nova Scotia (466 per 100,000 population) was lower than the national rate (480 per 100,000 population). However, the rate of intimate partner violence for male victims in Nova Scotia (140 per 100,000 population) remained higher than the national rate (133 per 100,000 population) (*see Table 2*).

TABLE 2. Rates¹ of intimate partner violence for Nova Scotia and Canada, by sex of victim, 2015 to 2016

	2015 ²		2016		Percentage change from 2015 to 2016	
	Nova Scotia	Canada	Nova Scotia	Canada	Nova Scotia	Canada
Female	435.4	480.1	465.6	479.7	+7%	0
Male	141.8	131.8	139.9	132.7	-1%	+1%
Total	292.0	307.9	306.5	308.0	+5%	0

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, (custom data tabulation).

Note:

1. Rates are per 100,000 population.
2. See Note 1, Table 1.

In 2016, the most common criminal offence experienced by both female and male victims of intimate partner violence was assault, followed by uttering threats

Assault was the most common criminal offence experienced by both female and male victims of intimate partner violence in Nova Scotia. However, the rate for female victims was two and a half times greater than for their male counterparts (*see Table 3*).

TABLE 3. Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Nova Scotia, 2016

Type of Offence	Female		Male		Total	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Violations causing death	1	0.2	0	0	1	0.1
Attempted murder ²	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Sexual offences ³	149	36.3	2	0.5	151	18.8
Assault ⁴	1,379	335.7	500	127.4	1,879	233.9
Criminal Harassment	74	18.0	5	1.3	79	9.8
Indecent or harassing phone calls	49	11.9	10	2.5	59	7.3
Uttering threats	167	40.6	31	7.9	198	24.6
Robbery	3	0.7	0	0	3	0.4
Commodification of sexual activity ⁵	2	0.5	0	0	2	0.2
Other violent offences ⁶	89	21.7	1	0.3	90	11.2
Total violent offences	1,913	465.6	549	139.9	2,462	306.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, (custom data tabulation).

Note:

1. Rates are per 100,000 population.
2. Includes conspire to commit murder.
3. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents (e.g., Levels 1, 2 and 3 corresponding to sections 271, 272 and 273 respectively in the *Criminal Code*). Also includes other sexual crimes such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, corrupting children, luring a child via a computer/agreement, parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting illegal sexual activity, and voyeurism.
4. Includes the three levels of assault (e.g., Levels 1, 2 and 3) corresponding to sections 265, 266, 267 and 268 in the *Criminal Code*. Also includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, assault against a peace-public officer, and other assaults.
5. These include the purchasing of sexual services or communicating for that purpose, receiving material benefit deriving from the purchase of sexual services, procuring of persons for the purpose of prostitution, and advertising sexual services offered for sale.
6. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, abduction, kidnapping, hostage-taking, arson, and other violent crimes.

Over the past two decades, the rate of intimate partner homicide for female victims has been consistently higher than the rate for male victims in both Nova Scotia and Canada

There has been a decline in the rate of intimate partner homicide of females over the past twenty years in both Nova Scotia and Canada. From the five-year period 1997-2001 to the most recent five-year period (2012-2016), Nova Scotia's rate of intimate partner homicide of females declined 35%, from 6.6 to 4.3 victims per 100,000 population and Canada's rate declined by 28%.

Despite these declines, the rate of intimate partner homicide for female victims in Nova Scotia has been consistently higher than for male victims. Overall, between 1997 and 2016, there were 40 female victims of intimate partner homicide in Nova Scotia, for a rate of 4.9 victims per 100,000 population. The rate for female victims during this time was more than 6 times greater than the rate for male victims. A similar pattern can be seen at the national level, where rates for female victims are close to 4 times greater than for male victims. (see Table 4).

TABLE 4. Victims¹ of police-reported intimate partner homicide, by sex of victim, Nova Scotia and Canada, 1997-2016

		1997-2001		2002-2006		2007-2011		2012-2016		Total 1997 to 2016	
		Number	Rate ²	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Nova Scotia	Female	13	6.6	9	4.5	9	4.4	9	4.3	40	4.9
	Male	2	1.1	1	0.5	2	1.0	1	0.5	6	0.8
Canada	Female	378	6.1	379	5.7	337	4.7	330	4.4	1,424	5.2
	Male	92	1.5	102	1.6	111	1.6	74	1.0	379	1.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey, (custom data tabulation).

Note:

1. Excludes victims of homicide younger than 15 years, and victims for which the age or sex was unknown.
2. Rates are per 100,000 population.

The number of victims of self-reported spousal violence in Nova Scotia is on the decline

In 2014, there were approximately 24,920 (4.6%) Nova Scotians who self-reported having experienced spousal violence in the preceding five years. According to the *General Social Survey on Victimization*, the number of victims of self-reported spousal violence has been declining in the past several years (see Table 5).

TABLE 5. Victims of self-reported spousal violence (Past 5 years), Nova Scotia, 2004, 2009 and 2014

2004		2009		2014	
Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
40,597	7.50%	30,979 ^E	5.50%	24,920	4.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004, 2009 and 2014.

Notes:

E Use with caution

1. Includes legally married and common-law spouses and those separated or divorced from a legal marriage or common-law union. Spousal relationships include relationships between same-sex couples.
2. The General Social Survey (GSS) includes persons aged 15 and over living in Canada, except for people living full-time in institutions.

