

Domestic Violence in Nova Scotia

December 2018

Women continue to be the predominant victims of domestic violence in Nova Scotia.

77%
women

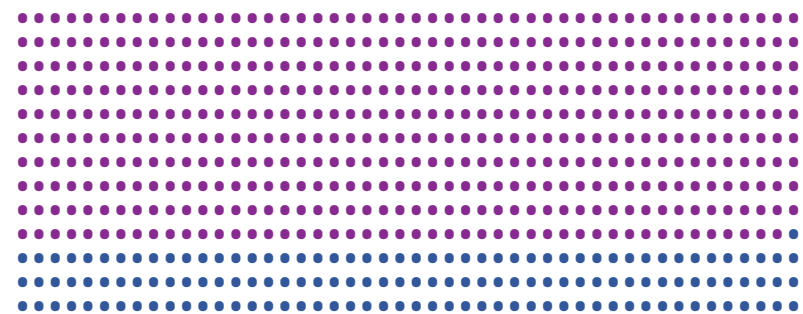
23%
men

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is deliberate and purposeful violence, abuse, and intimidation by one person against another in an intimate relationship. It may be a single act or a series of acts forming a pattern of abuse. Domestic violence can occur in any relationship, however, women are primarily the victims and men are primarily the perpetrators. Children and young people experience harm by being exposed to violence in adult relationships, being the direct victims of violence, or a combination of the two.

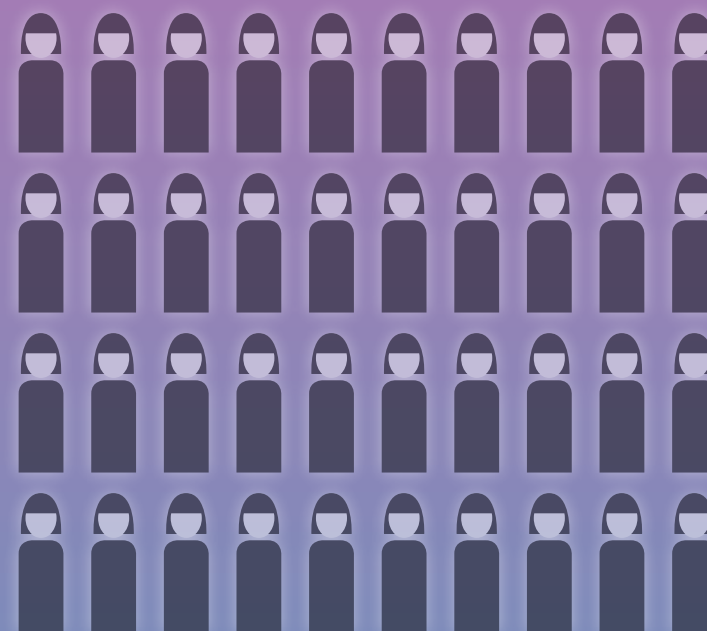
What is reported?

In 2017, the rate of police-reported incidents of domestic violence against females was over 3 times higher than the rate of police-reported instances of domestic violence against males.

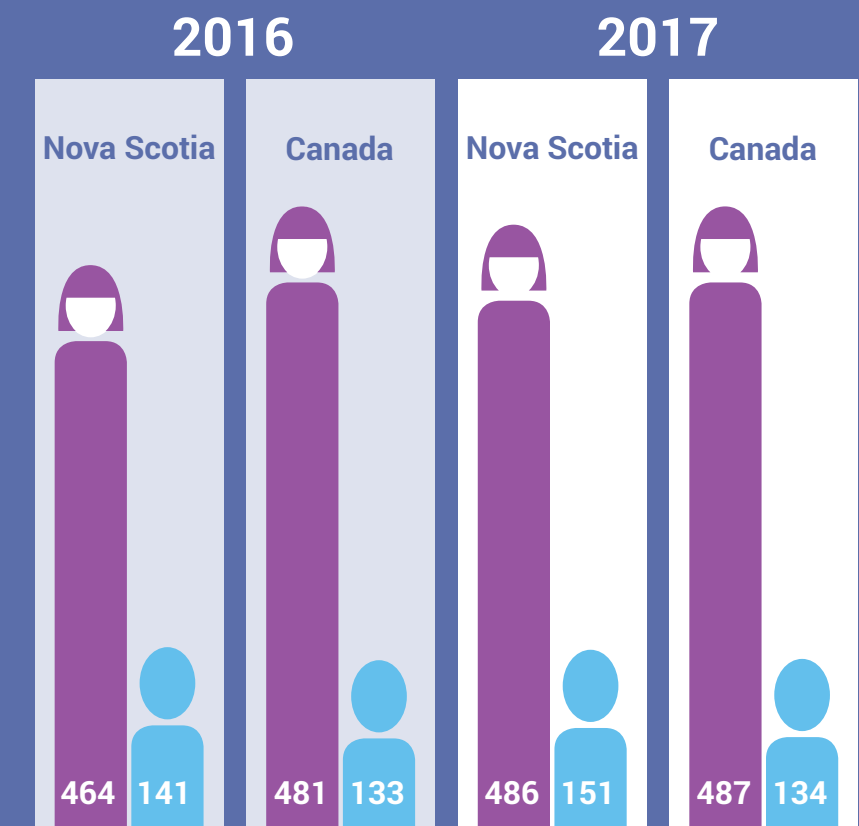


In 2017, the rate of police-reported domestic violence against females in Nova Scotia **increased by 4.7%** compared to 2016. This is higher than the 1.3% rate increase for Canada.

40 women were murdered by their intimate partner in Nova Scotia between 1996-2015



Rates of police-reported domestic violence incidents in 2016 and 2017 (per 100,000).



In Nova Scotia, **less than 2%** of domestic violence instances are reported to police.

Types of offences

In 2017, the most common offence involved in domestic violence was assault for both female and male victims in Nova Scotia.

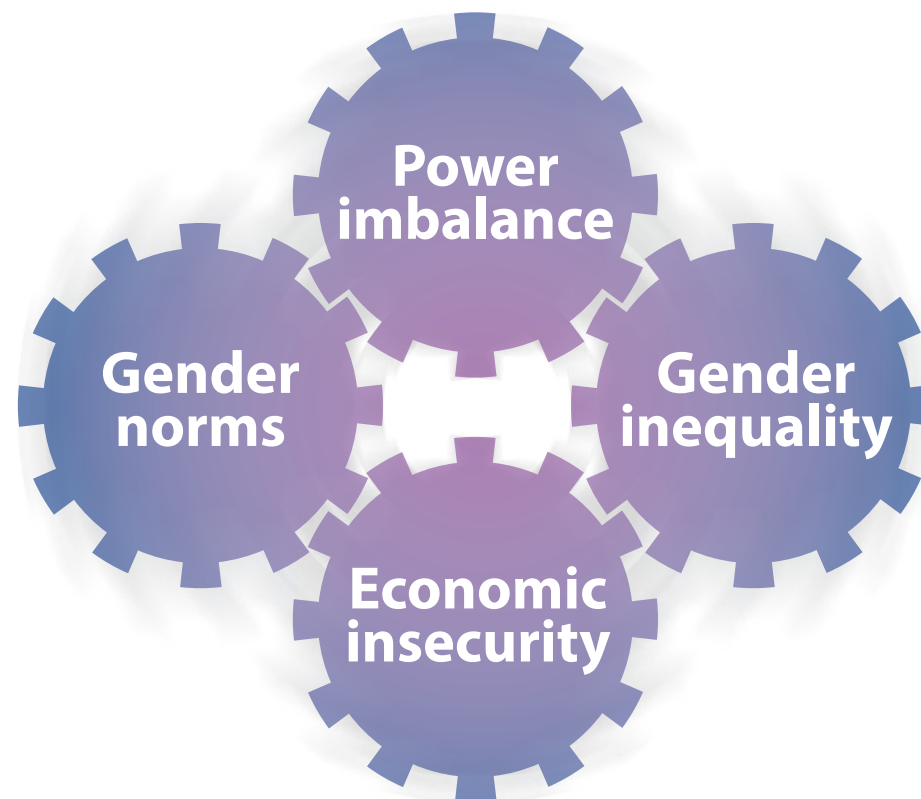
Victims

	female	male
Assault	1,486	518
Uttering threats	176	26
Sexual offences	115	9
Other violent offences	98	6
Criminal harassment	77	11
Indecent or harassing phone calls	62	33
Robbery	5	1
Violations causing death	4	0
Attempted murder	3	1
Total violent offences	2,026	605

In 2017, the rate of **police-reported domestic violence increased** for both females and males in Nova Scotia and across Canada.

Domestic violence is a complex social issue, rooted in **gender inequality**.

While domestic violence can occur in any relationship, the majority of victims are female, and the majority of perpetrators are male.



Where to get help

If you have experienced domestic violence, know that you are not alone. There are supports available to you.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you are seeking help or are looking for information about abuse, you can call the **Transition House Association of Nova Scotia's 24-hour toll-free line:**

1-855-225-0220



To connect with community resources in Nova Scotia, call 211.



Sources:

Police-Reported Instances of Domestic Violence in Nova Scotia: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Rates of police reported domestic violence incidents in 2016 and 2017: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (trend file).

Types of offences: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (trend file).

Victims of police-reported intimate partner homicide, by sex of victim, Nova Scotia and Canada, 1996-2015: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey, (custom data tabulation).