



# Canadian Spousal Abuse

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The primary difficulty in attempting to obtain an accurate picture of spousal abuse in Canada is the reality that a great number of cases of abuse are never reported to police.

Below are statistics which help to provide a glimpse of the scope and nature of spousal abuse in Canada.

- Men and women self-report nearly similar rates of spousal violence, though women's experience may be more severe.<sup>1</sup> However, the rate of police reported intimate partner abuse (including spousal and dating violence) is nearly four times higher for female victims than males.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2010 there were more incidents of dating violence than spousal violence. The rate of female victims of intimate partner violence by a dating partner was 672 per 100,000 population while the rate of victimization by a married or common-law spouse was 422 per 100,000 population. The rate of male victims by a dating partner was 436 per 100,000 population while the rate of male victims by a married or common-law spouse was 265 per 100,000 population.<sup>3</sup>
- Criminal charges were filed more often when the victim was female (71%) than when the victim was male (57%).<sup>4</sup>
- The number of female victims of spousal homicide declined 55.7% between 1991 and 2010. The number of male victims decreased 44.8% during the same period.<sup>5</sup>

## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> Sinha, M. Ed. (2013, February 25) Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11766-eng.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Sinha, M. (2012, May 22) Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2010. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2012001/article/11643-eng.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*