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The Facts about Gender- Based Violence

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What is gender- based violence?

It is the types of abuse that women, girls, and Two Spirit, trans and non-binary people are at highest risk of experiencing.

**YOU can
make a
difference:
Give
today to
advance
gender**

equality and justice

It can take physical and emotional forms, such as: name-calling, hitting, pushing, blocking, stalking/criminal harassment, rape, sexual assault, control, and manipulation. Many forms of this abuse are against the law.

It can happen between people in romantic relationships. It can happen in families, at work, and between friends and acquaintances and strangers. It often occurs in private places between people who know each other.

Anybody can be abused, no matter their background, identity, or circumstance. But women, girls, and gender-diverse people are at high risk of gender-based violence. Some are at even higher risks, due to the additional discrimination and barriers they face. This includes women with disabilities, Indigenous women, racialized women, trans and non-binary people, and women who are homeless or underhoused. People facing abuse may not have access to services that meet their needs (e.g. people in rural or remote areas).

+ More Definitions

Why is ending gender-based violence so urgent?

❗ It costs lives: in 2022, 184 women and girls were violently killed, primarily by men. One woman or girl is killed every 48 hours (**Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, 2022** [🔗](#)).

👨👩👧👦 The toll on those who are harmed is significant. It's hard on those around them, too. Children who witness violence in the home have twice the rate of psychiatric disorders as children from non-violent homes (**Eve Bender, Psychiatric News, 2004** [🔗](#)).

💰 It costs billions of dollars: \$7.4 billion to deal with the aftermath of spousal violence alone (**Department of Justice, 2009** [🔗](#)).

👪 Domestic violence can carry over into the workplace, threatening women's ability to maintain economic independence. More than half (53%) of study respondents who experienced domestic violence said that at least one type of abusive act happened at or near their workplace. Almost 40% of those who had experienced domestic abuse said it made it difficult for them to get to work, and 8.5% said that they lost their jobs because of it (**Jennifer C.D. MacGregor**



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et al., **Safety and Health at Work**, 2016
[↗](#)).

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Violence against women in Canada is a pervasive issue, affecting people across backgrounds and settings. Understanding its forms, consequences, and economic impact is crucial in our collective efforts to combat this urgent problem.

Research and awareness are essential in paving the way toward a safer and more inclusive society for all. If you'd like to make a difference and support initiatives combating gender-based violence, **consider donating today** to support

Do you know
how to
support
someone

organizations throughout Canada dedicated to this cause. Your contribution can help create a better future for those affected by this pressing issue.

who is
experiencing
abuse?

**Donate Today to Help End
Gender-Based Violence**



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Frequently Asked Questions about Gender-Based Violence

+ What is the scope of gender-based violence in Canada?

+ Who is most at risk of gender-based violence?

Gender-based happens in all communities, cultures, and faith groups, at every age, and in every income group. However, some women are especially at risk.

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About six in 10 Indigenous women have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetimes (**Loanna Heidinger, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, 2021** [↗](#)).


Indigenous women are killed at nearly seven times the rate of non-Indigenous women (**Statistics Canada, 2018** [↗](#)).


More than six in 10 Indigenous women have been physically or sexually assaulted at some point since the age of 15, compared with more than four in 10 non-Indigenous women (**Statistics Canada, 2021** [↗](#)).


According to both police-reported and self-reported data, younger women are at a much higher risk of violent victimization (**Statistics Canada, 2011** [↗](#)).

Women aged 15 to 19 and women aged 20 to 24 are five times more likely than women aged 25 years and older to have been physically or sexually assaulted by a non-intimate partner (**Laura Savage, Statistics Canada, 2021**).

Women with a disability are three times more likely to experience violent victimization than women living without a disability (**Adam Cotter, Statistics**

Canada, 2021). Women with disabilities experience unique concerns such as: increased difficulty leaving an abuser due to mobility or communication issues; greater difficulty accessing shelter services and/or transportation; higher rates of emotional abuse; being prevented from using an assistive device (e.g. wheelchair or cane); and abuse by institutional caregivers and/or other residents (**DisAbleD Women's Network Canada, 2014** ).

Immigrant women may be more vulnerable to domestic violence due to economic dependence, language barriers, and a lack of knowledge about community resources. Newcomers traumatized by war or oppressive governments are much less likely to report physical or sexual violence to authorities, for fear of further victimization and deportation (**Rupaleem Bhuyan et al., University of Toronto, 2014** ).

Women who identify as lesbian or bisexual are three to four times more likely than heterosexual women to report experiencing spousal violence (**Laura Simpson, Statistics Canada, 2018** ). Forty-nine per cent of "sexual minority" women indicate they have been physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner since age 15, almost double what is indicated by heterosexual women

(Brianna Jaffray, Statistics Canada, 2021).

Transgender people are more likely to have experienced violence since age 15, and more likely to experience inappropriate behaviours in public, online, and at work than cisgender people **(Brianna Jaffray, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2020 [↗](#))**.

Three in five transgender women experienced Intimate Partner Violence since the age of 16 **(Trans PULSE Canada Survey, 2019 [↗](#))**.

Studies show that when racialized women report violence, their experiences are often taken less seriously within the criminal law system and their perpetrators routinely receive less harsh punishments **(Rakhi Ruparelia, in Elizabeth Sheehy, ed., Sexual Assault in Canada: Law, Legal Practice and Women's Activism, 2014 [↗](#))**.

"In Canada, racialized sex workers — including black, indigenous, and other people of color, as well as visible minority immigrant and migrant workers — face severe health and rights inequities, and concerns have been raised regarding racialized policing and barriers to reporting violence to police. Fear of authorities is amplified among racialized

im/migrant sex workers, who often face discrimination, language barriers, privacy concerns, and precarious legal status ... Indigenous women face twelvefold greater odds of being murdered or missing relative to non-Indigenous women, and these odds are exacerbated among sex workers." Research shows that decriminalizing all aspects of sex work is necessary to remove legal barriers, end punitive policing that restrict sex workers' access to recourse and safer occupational conditions, and dismantle the belief that sex workers are unworthy of protection (**McBride et al., 2020** [↗](#)).

+ Isn't there less gender-based violence now than in the past?

+ What causes gender-based violence?

+ Aren't men just as likely to experience violence?

+ If you're being abused in a relationship, why don't you just leave?

+ What are some of the impacts of gender-based violence?

+ What should I do if I think someone is being abused?

Last Update: January 4, 2024

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action and make a
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in advancing gender
equality!

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