



## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

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.

Other data regarding intimate partner violence is 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 ages 15 and over.

### Women continue to be the predominant victims of intimate partner violence in Nova Scotia.

While the number of victims of intimate partner violence increased by 135, or 8.6%, from 2015 to 2016, the vast majority of victims (77.7%) continue to be female (*see Table 1*). In 2016, there were 2,283 victims of police-reported violence by an intimate partner in Nova Scotia.

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

	2015 <sup>1</sup>		2016	
	Number of victims	Percentage	Number of victims	Percentage
<b>Female</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>78%</b>
Male	548	24%	549	22%
Total	2,283	100%	2,492	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 2016 data are updated with any revisions made between May 2016 and May 2017. The data are revised only once and are permanently frozen.

Most female victims of intimate partner violence in Nova Scotia (76%) in 2016 experienced the violence in a dating relationship from either a current dating partner (1264 or 66%) or from a former dating partner (631 or 32%). While the volume is much lower, the proportions are similar for male victims having experienced the violence from current dating partners (374 or 68%), or from former dating partners (169 or 30.8%) over the same period.

## In 2016, the rate of intimate partner violence remained higher for female victims in Nova Scotia.

The rate of intimate partner violence is higher for female victims (465.6 per 100,000) than for male victims (139.9 per 100,000 population) in Nova Scotia. Compared to 2015, the rate increased by 7% for female victims, and decreased by 1.9% for male victims in 2016 (See Table 2).

Also in 2016, the rate of intimate partner violence in Nova Scotia was lower for female victims (465.5 per 100,000) when compared to the national rate (479.7 per 100,000). However, the rate of intimate partner violence for male victims in Nova Scotia (139.9 per 100,000) remained higher than the national rate (132.7 per 100,000) (see Table 2).

**TABLE 2. Intimate partner violence rates<sup>1</sup> for Nova Scotia and Canada, by sex of victim, 2015 to 2016**

	2015 <sup>2</sup>		2016		Percentage change in rate from 2015 to 2016	
	Nova Scotia	Canada	Nova Scotia	Canada	Nova Scotia	Canada
<b>Female</b>	<b>435.4</b>	<b>480.1</b>	465.6	479.7	30.2	0.4
Male	141.8	131.8	139.9	132.7	-1.9	0.9
Total	292.0	307.9	306.5	308.0	14.5	0.1

**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 offence involved in intimate partner violence was assault, followed by uttering threats, for both male and female victims in Nova Scotia.

Assault was the most common offence experienced by both female and male victims of intimate partner violence. However, the rate for female victims was almost 3 times greater than their male counterparts in Nova Scotia (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	Nova Scotia					
	Female		Male		Total	
	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Violations causing death	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Attempted murder <sup>2</sup>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Sexual offences <sup>3</sup>	149	36.3	2	0.5	151	18.8
Assault <sup>4</sup>	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	0.0	3	0.4
Other violent offences <sup>5</sup>	89	21.7	1	0.3	90	11.2

**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. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, abduction, kidnapping, hostage-taking, arson, and other violent crimes.

**In 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.**

In the past 20 years, the rate of intimate partner homicide for female victims in Nova Scotia has been consistently higher compared to male victims. The highest rate in this time period occurred between 1996 to 2000 with 15 victims at a rate of 7.7 per 100,000.

In the most recent five years (e.g., between 2011 to 2015), there were 10 female victims of intimate partner homicide in Nova Scotia; a rate of 4.8 per 100,000. The rate for female victims was approximately five times higher than male victims. The same pattern can be seen at the national level (*see Table 4*).

**TABLE 4. Victims of police-reported intimate partner homicide, by sex of victim, Nova Scotia and Canada, 1996-2015**

Sex of victim		Year							
		1996-2000		2001-2005		2006-2010		2011-2015	
		Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Nova Scotia	<b>Female</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4.8</b>
	Male	2	1.1	1	0.5	1	0.5	2	1.0
Canada	<b>Female</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>4.7</b>
	Male	97	1.6	100	1.6	123	1.8	73	1.0

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

**Note:**

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

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

In 2014, there were approximately 24,920 self-reported victims who experienced spousal violence in the past 5 years in Nova Scotia. 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 in the past 5 years, Nova Scotia, 2004, 2009 and 2014**

Province	2004	2009	2014
Nova Scotia	40,597	30,979 <sup>E</sup>	24,920

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

**Note:**

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 in full-time institutions.

