



Newsletter

from the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence

Issue 9
Fall/Winter 2004

Sharing Information and Solutions

The National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (NCFV) is Canada's resource centre for information on violence in relationships of kinship, intimacy, dependency, or trust. The NCFV operates on behalf of the Government of Canada's Family Violence Initiative.

Twice a year, we publish *Sharing Information and Solutions*, which showcases our most recent publications, videos, activities, and services addressing family violence.

Family violence encompasses physical, sexual, and psychological maltreatment. It occurs regardless of culture, gender, or life stage and requires a multi-sectoral response. The NCFV relies heavily on partnerships and collaboration in addressing this complex issue.

This edition of *Sharing Information and Solutions* also includes an update on the recent activities of two of our Family Violence Initiative partner departments: the RCMP and Status of Women Canada.

Sharing Information and Solutions and other NCFV publications are available free of charge by contacting the NCFV directly or by visiting our web site at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nc-cn. If you'd like to be added to our newsletter mailing list, please let us know.

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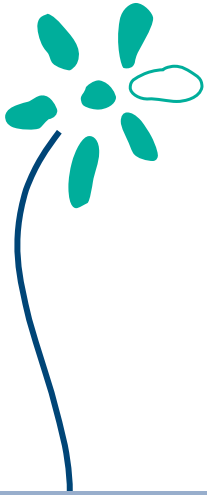
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Our Partners

Under the Government of Canada's Family Violence Initiative (FVI), the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence collects, develops, and disseminates information and resources on behalf of 12 partner departments. Below are examples of activities currently being undertaken by two of our FVI partners: Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Status of Women Canada.

RCMP: Family Violence Prevention Mandatory Training Sessions

Through funding from the Family Violence Initiative, the RCMP has supported its Divisions across Canada for various projects and has collaborated with other Canadian agencies to raise awareness and strengthen its response to family violence.

Some recent projects include the family violence mandatory training that is offered at "K" Division in Alberta for all RCMP members from new constables to commanding officers. The sessions educate members on the "Cycle of Violence" and address the most common issues that RCMP members regularly encounter. In addition, funds were provided to "E" Division in British Columbia to create a standard training curriculum for service providers on safety planning for victims of family violence and criminal harassment. Funding was also used to establish a family violence resource centre in the Burin Peninsula District of Newfoundland. The centre, which was the result of local partnerships, provides police, care-givers and the general public with access to essential educational resources on family violence.

Status of Women Canada: Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile

According to research from a major report released by Federal/Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for the Status of Women entitled, *Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile*, violence against Canadian women continues to be a significant and persistent social and economic issue.

The report demonstrates young women's vulnerability to spousal assault, spousal homicide and sexual assault. Additionally, the report serves as an important 'red flag' that highlights this problem and the demand on social services for abused women.

Sharing Information and Solutions

Family Violence Initiative Partners

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canadian Heritage
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Correctional Service of Canada
- Department of National Defence
- Health Canada
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Justice Canada
- RCMP
- Statistics Canada
- Status of Women Canada

For more information or to order publications contact:

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence

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Public Health Agency of Canada
Address Locator: 1907D1
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Telephone: 1-800-267-1291 or
(613) 957-2938

Fax: (613) 941-8930

TTY: 1-800-561-5643 or
(613) 952-6396

Web site: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nc-cn

E-mail: ncfv-cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca

Report Findings

- ◆ There is some evidence to indicate a decline in the severity of woman abuse and in spousal homicide. However, it is still too early to conclude that violence against women has actually decreased.
- ◆ Women under 25 comprise the highest risk group, especially if they attempt to leave an abusive relationship.
- ◆ Aboriginal women are particularly vulnerable to violence. In fact, spousal homicide rates for Aboriginal women were more than eight times the rate for non-Aboriginal women.
- ◆ Twenty-one per cent of victims were abused during pregnancy and their partners were among the most violent.
- ◆ Low income and alcohol abuse by male partners are also linked to higher rates of assaults against women. Emotional abuse, such as intentionally damaging personal property, remains one of the most important risk factors for spousal assault. The report concludes that the combination of being young and separated elevates the risk of spousal homicide more than the two factors taken individually.
- ◆ The report's public opinion surveys from across the country indicate that Canadians believe that family violence as revealed by women's groups or the media is *real*. The surveys' data also indicate that the public agrees that family violence is a crime that women should be protected from. In addition, tracking public attitudes toward violence against women over time appears to provide a key indicator related to the incidence of such violence.
- ◆ Three previous studies on the economic impacts of violence against women are cited in the report, demonstrating that the cost to Canadian society is between 1.5 and 4.2 billion dollars. In addition to these cost estimates, there are also serious psychological and social impacts that are more difficult to measure.
- ◆ Gaps in statistics were also identified in the report. In particular, there are insufficient data to measure violence against immigrant and refugee women and there is a paucity of victimization survey data related to sexual assaults.

**For more information on the report, or to receive copies,
please contact the Status of Women Canada's distribution centre
at (613) 995-7835 or visit their web site at: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca>.**



Focus on Resources – Violence Against Women and Girls

Recent research demonstrates that violence against women and girls is still a major issue of concern in Canada:

- ◆ Among women assaulted following separation, 40% were beaten, 35% were hit with an object, 34% were choked, and 27% were threatened with or had a gun or knife used against them. Over one-third of women (35%) reported an incident of sexual assault on at least one occasion.¹
- ◆ According to a study of youth in New Brunswick, 22% of girls and 12% of boys who had begun dating were psychologically and or physically abused. In addition, 19% of the girls and 4% of boys experienced sexual abuse.²
- ◆ Approximately 3.7 million women aged 15 years and older have been physically abused by a husband, partner, or boyfriend. (Berger Population Health Monitor).³

Outlined below are selected resources available through the NCFV that address family violence against women and girls.

Publications

The following publications are available at the NCFV, free of charge, and in alternative formats upon request.

- ◆ *Woman Abuse – Overview Paper*, by Liz Hart and Wanda Jamieson (2002)
- ◆ *Responding to Abuse During Pregnancy – Overview Paper*, by Liz Hart and Wanda Jamieson (2001)
- ◆ *In the Best Interests of the Girl Child, Phase 2 Report*, edited by Helen Berman and Yasmin Jiwani (2002)
- ◆ *A Handbook for Health and Social Service Professionals Responding to Abuse During Pregnancy*, by Jamieson, Beals, Lalonde and Associates, Inc. (1998)

¹ Hotton, Tina. “Spousal Violence After Marital Separation.” Juristat 21, 7. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2001.

² Price, E.L., Byers, E.S., Sears, H.A., Whelan, J. Saint-Pierre, M. & The Dating Violence Research Team. 2000. Violence Amongst Students in Grades 7, 9 and 11 in New Brunswick: A Summary of Two Studies. Fredericton: The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, University of New Brunswick.

³ Berger Population Health Monitor, Health Canada, 2001.

Videos

To borrow the following videos, please contact the NCFV for a list of partner public libraries that lend our titles or visit our web site at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nc-cn and click on *Video Collection*. For purchase inquiries, please contact the distributor listed below.

- ◆ *“Courage of Women” Walking Beyond Domestic Violence*, (2002) | Distributor: Celtric Bear Productions
Telephone: (250) 216-6933
- ◆ *BEYOND - Surviving the Reality of Sexual Assault*, (2000) | Distributor: kineticvideo.com
Web Site: www.kineticvideo.com
Telephone: (416) 538-6613
- ◆ *It’s Not Like I Hit Her* (2000) | Distributor: kineticvideo.com
Web Site: www.kineticvideo.com
Telephone: (416) 538-6613
- ◆ *Your Truth is Your Truth - Moments with Strong Women From Abusive Peer Relationships* (2001) | Distributor: YWCA of Greater Toronto
Web Site: <http://www.ywca.org/index2.htm>
Telephone: (416) 487-7151 ext. 233
- ◆ *Of Hopscotch and Little Girls* (1999) | Distributor: National Film Board of Canada
Web Site: www.nfb.ca
Telephone: Toll-Free: 1-800-267-7710
(514) 283-7564

Reference Collection

The following books may be borrowed through inter-library loan through the Health Canada Departmental Library. Please contact the NCFV for more information or visit our web site at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nc-cn and click on *Library*.

- ◆ **Violence Against Women: New Canadian Perspectives**, by Katharine Mary Jean McKenna and June Larkin, Toronto, ON: Inanna Publications and Education Inc., 2002. [Call number: NCFV/HV6250.4/.W65/V795N/2002]
- ◆ **Women and Community Safety: a Resource Book on Planning for Safer Communities**, by Terri Dame & Ali Grant, Duncan, BC: Cowichan Women Against Violence Society, 2003 [Call number: ncfv/HQ759/M918d/2002]
- ◆ **Linking Sexuality and Gender: Naming Violence Against Women in the United Church of Canada**, by Tracy Joan Trothen, Waterloo, ON: 2003 Wilfrid Laurier U.P. [Call number: NCFV/BX9881.L5/T858/2003]
- ◆ **Violence Against Women: the Health Sector Responds**, by Marijke Velzeboer, et al., Pan American Health Organization; World Health Organization: 2003 [Call number: NCFV/HV6250.4/.W65/V446/2003]



What's New at the NCFV?

New Publications

Overview Papers

- ◆ H72-22/25-2003E 2003, 10p.
 - **Parent Abuse: The Abuse of Parents by Their Teenage Children**
by Barbara Cottrell
This overview paper summarizes information about the abuse of parents by their teenage children. It identifies the types of parent abuse, presents some of the contributing factors and outlines its effects on the family. The document also provides guidelines to service providers and parents for addressing abusive situations.
- ◆ H72-21-/187-2003E 2003, 8p.
 - **The Health Effects of Family Violence**
by Deborah Doherty, Ph.D.
This overview paper presents a range of research that demonstrates both the impact of family violence on an individual's well-being and the indirect consequences such as smoking, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and other health-related conditions. The document is intended to expand discussion on the issue and is targeted to health and social service providers, researchers and the general public.
- ◆ H72-22/22-2002E 2002, 13 p.
 - **Family Violence and People with Intellectual Disabilities**
by Dick Sobsey
This overview paper provides general information about intellectual disabilities and their relationship to family violence and is intended primarily for service providers, academics and professionals. It includes a summary of research on the issue, a discussion on risk factors, and suggested readings for those interested in learning more about the topic.

Discussion Papers

- ◆ H72-21/185-2002E 2002, 36p.
 - **Nursing Education and Violence Prevention, Detection and Intervention**
by Margaret M. Ross
This discussion paper presents an overview of recent literature on the education of nurses in the area of violence prevention, detection and intervention. It includes discussions of the theoretical and conceptual basis for nursing education and research, the importance of experiential learning and of the integration of concepts from a variety of disciplines. The paper includes recommendations about educational services and suggests areas for future research.

Reports

- ◆ 85-224-X1E [2004] 2004, 91p.
 - **Family Violence in Canada – A Statistical Profile 2004**
by Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada
As part of an ongoing initiative to inform the public about family violence issues, this annual report provides current data on the nature and extent of family violence in Canada and trends over time. This year, the report's focus is on system responses for victims of and persons accused of family violence. In addition, the report provides the most recent police-reported and homicide data on the prevalence of spousal violence, abuse of older adults and child abuse.

- ◆ H72-01/2E 2002, 192p.
 - **In the Best Interests of the Girl Child – Phase II Report**
edited by Helene Berman and Yasmin Jiwani
In recognition of the obstacles, challenges, and vulnerabilities faced by the girl child in Canada, the research in this report was summarized by the Alliance of Five Research Centres on Violence (AFRCV) with the financial support of Status of Women Canada. The report reveals how girls and young women are socialized to expect violence in their lives and examines the ways in which social policies, legislation and institutions reduce, or contribute to the problems faced by this population. The report includes recommendations for violence prevention programming and policy.

- ◆ H72-01/1E 2003, 137p.
 - **Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation (Final Report)**
by the Ad Hoc Federal/Provincial/Territorial (F/P/T) Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation
This report identifies three key objectives of any criminal justice response to spousal abuse: criminalizing spousal abuse; promoting the safety and security of the victim; and maintaining confidence in the administration of justice. It recommends the retention of pro-charging and pro-prosecution policies in spousal abuse cases as well as the development and enhancement of supporting programs, services and structures.

Newsletters

- ◆ **Expression - Hidden Harm: the Abuse of Seniors, January 2004. Vol. 17, No. 1**
by the National Advisory Council on Aging
Abuse of seniors is under-reported. Reasons for this are fear of retaliation or institutionalization, shame, desire to protect the abuser or incapacity to act. Ignorance, secrecy or complacency on the part of family, friends and professionals also come into play. What are the signs of abuse and who perpetrates it? How can it be prevented? What help is available?

As you will see in this issue of *Expression*, awareness is the first step. Like many social problems once considered taboo, elder abuse is sustained by secrecy and complacency. 2004, 8p.



New Videos

In collaboration with the National Film Board (NFB) of Canada, the NCFV maintains a collection of videos that address family violence. Videos may be borrowed through NFB partner public libraries across the country or through an interlibrary loan. To purchase videos, please contact the distributor listed for each.

To obtain a complete list of videos, libraries and distributors please contact the NCFV and request *Preventing Family Violence: A Catalogue of Canadian Videos on Family Violence for the General Public and for Professionals Working in the Field*. [cat: H72-21/23-2002]

The following are some recent additions to the collection:

- ♦ **Girls and Aggression.** This video examines the risk factors for aggressive and violent behaviour among young girls. Fourteen researchers discuss related crime rates and the success of treatment and intervention programs. The video also includes interviews with four young women who describe their own experiences as aggressive girls.

2002, 10 minutes, 113C 0102 214
Distributor: School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria
Telephone: (250) 721-6472
- ♦ **Bad Kids? How to Create a Criminal.** *Bad Kids* is a short, graphic video, which portrays a youth's experiences with difficult family situations, school problems, social isolation, substance abuse and incarceration. The video challenges mainstream media messages about "young offenders" and asks viewers to reexamine their beliefs about the causes of crime. It has been well-received by crime prevention workers, and has been valuable for individuals, communities, and service providers seeking strategies to build safer communities through supporting and involving youth. The accompanying pamphlet provides suggestions for communities to help troubled youth avoid the path of crime and victimization.

2002, 4:59 minutes (English) / 5:03 minutes (French), 0599 317
Distributor: National Crime Prevention Centre – Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
Telephone: 1-877-302-6272
Web site: www.crime-prevention.org

An English and a French version are on this cassette, each lasts approximately five minutes.

♦ **Life in the Family: A Newcomer's Guide to Parenting Issues in Canada.** *Life in the Family: A Newcomer's Guide to Parenting Issues in Canada* designed for English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers, provides information and resources that address parenting and discipline issues that may arise for newcomer families in Canada. It includes legal information about child discipline and child abuse laws. The package includes a video, curriculum guide and background notes detailing Canada's child protection laws and key services.

2002, 15:25 minutes, 113C 9102 216
Distributor: BC Institute against Family Violence
Telephone: 877-755-7055

♦ **What's Age Got to Do With It?** *What's Age Got to Do With It?* examines the impact of family violence on adult women aged 50 years and older. Women, including those with disabilities, from a range of social values and upbringing, experiences and health concerns are considered.

2003, 14 minutes, 113C 0103 180
Distributor: Kinetivideo.com
Telephone: (416) 538-6613

♦ **Worlds Apart...Coming together.** *Worlds Apart...Coming together* was a component of a national investigation of violence in the socialization of the Canadian girl child, developed by the Alliance of Five Research Centres on Violence. The research monitored community-initiated violence-prevention efforts for adolescents in six rural communities in Atlantic Canada. The resulting materials were designed for communities interested in gender-sensitive programming. Research conclusions indicate that girls and boys are socialized differently with regard to violence and the acceptance of it.

2002, Part 1: "She said, he said" (6 minutes) / Part 2: Together, we can! (27 minutes), 0102 176
Distributor: Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre
Telephone: (506) 822-9078

DID YOU KNOW?

NCFV services and resources are available:

■ free of charge

■ in English and French, and

■ in alternative formats



New to the NCFV Reference Collection

The NCFV maintains an extensive reference collection, housed in the Health Canada Departmental Library. This collection contains more than 10,000 family violence related resources available through interlibrary loan from your local public, academic or institutional library. Search the collection online by clicking on “Library” at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nc-cn

Our latest additions include:

- ♦ **Also at Risk: Men Who are Abused [VIDEO]**, by M.E.R.G.E. (Movement for the Establishment for Real Gender Equality), Edmonton, 2002 [Call number: NCFV Video/A462/2002]
- ♦ **50 Strategies to Prevent Violent Domestic Crimes**, by the National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC, 2002 [Call number: ncfv/HV7431/F469/2002]
- ♦ **Child Custody and Domestic Violence: a Call for Safety and Accountability**, by Peter G. Jaffe, Nancy K.D.Lemon, & Samantha E. Poisson, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 2003 [Call number: ncfv/K707/J23/2003]
- ♦ **The Cost of Child Maltreatment: Who Pays? We All Do**, by Kris Franey, Robert Geffner, & Robert Falconer (eds.), San Diego: Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute, Institute for Trauma Orientated Psychotherapy, 2003 [Call number: ncfv/HV6626.5/F836/2003]
- ♦ **Don't Tell: the Sexual Abuse of Boys**, by Michel Dorais, Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002 [Call number: ncfv/RC560.S44/D693/2002]
- ♦ **Elder Mistreatment: Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation in an Aging America**, by Richard J. Bonnie & Robert B. Wallace (eds.); Panel to Review Risk and Prevalence of Elder Abuse and Neglect, Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2003 [Call number: ncfv/HV6626.3/E37m/2003]
- ♦ **Violence and Gender Reexamined**, by Richard B. Felson, Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2002 [Call number: ncfv/HV6250.4/.W65/F324/2002]

Our Web Site

Publications available through the NCFV are also available on-line. Log on to our web site at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nc-cn to view, print or order any of the NCFV publications.

The NCFV web site also lists upcoming conferences and links to other organizations and services that address family violence. Please visit and bookmark our web site for future reference.