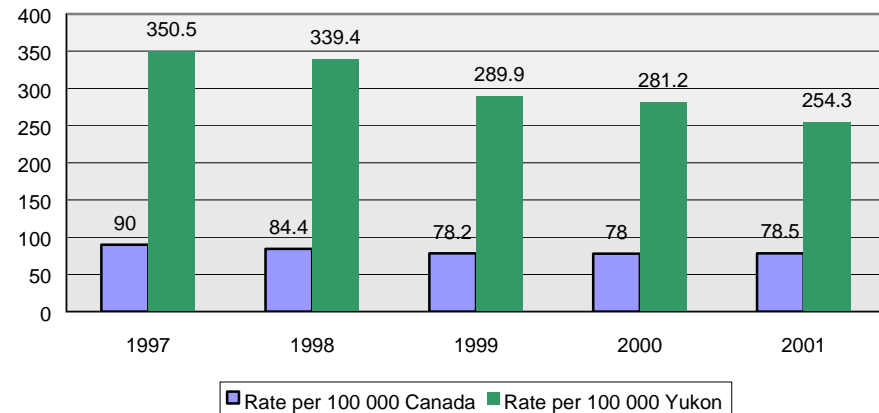


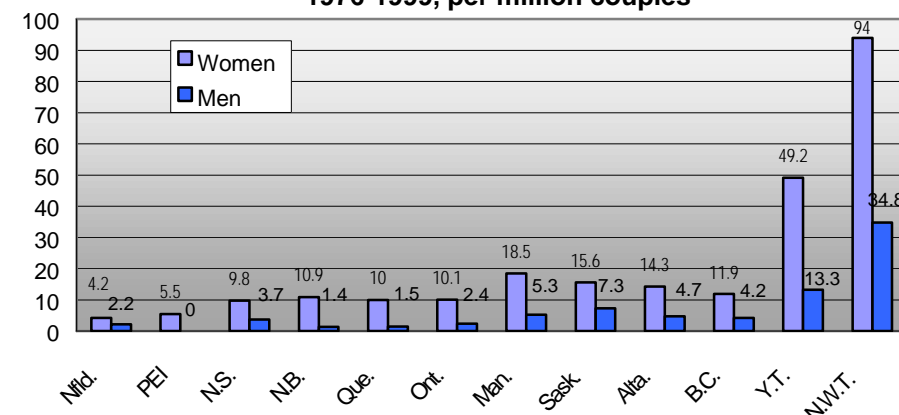
**Figure 4. Reported Sexual Assaults, 1997-2001
Canada and Yukon**



Source: Statistics Canada, Crime by Detailed Offenses, Table 252-0013

Spousal homicide patterns in Canada duplicate those seen in spousal assaults. Figure 5 reveals that the north has the highest rates of spousal homicide in the country. In all provinces and territories, the murders of wives outnumbered that of husbands by a ratio of at least 2 to 1.

**Figure 5. Average spousal homicide rates
1976-1999, per million couples**



Source: "Average spousal homicide rates, 1976-1999," Figure 4-10, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2001*

This fact sheet presents a brief overview of the situation of violence against women in the Yukon. For more information, please contact the Government of Yukon Women's Directorate at 867-667-3030.



STATISTICAL FACT SHEET ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 1999, the Women's Directorate released *Counting Us In: a statistical profile of Yukon women*, which included data from the 1996 Canadian Census. The positive response to this publication has encouraged a second phase of this project. The Women's Directorate is updating statistics from *Counting Us In* with recent data from the 2001 Census and other relevant sources.

These fact sheets will be distributed to departments and non-government organizations throughout the year. They will also be available on the Government of Yukon Women's Directorate website (womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca).

This fact sheet focuses on violence against women in commemoration of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women, December 6th.

For this fact sheet, data has been compiled from sources such as *Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile* (a 2002 Federal/Provincial/Territorial initiative from the Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women), the Federal Family Violence Surveys from 2001 and 2002, and Yukon Crime Statistics 2002, among others.

In this fact sheet, we are presenting a brief overview of different forms of violence against women. According to the report, *Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile*, violence against women "is an abuse of power that results in harm to women, including... physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, financial abuse, spousal violence, spousal assault, and spousal homicide."¹ The following pages present data on the number of women in transition homes, the prevalence of spousal and sexual assaults, and the comparison of territorial and national spousal homicide rates.

While this is not an in-depth analysis of all violence against women in the Yukon Territory, this fact sheet does provide an overview with some current statistical information and a context to understand some national figures. It is important to remember when examining Yukon statistics in a national context that our small population requires that the numbers be interpreted with caution.

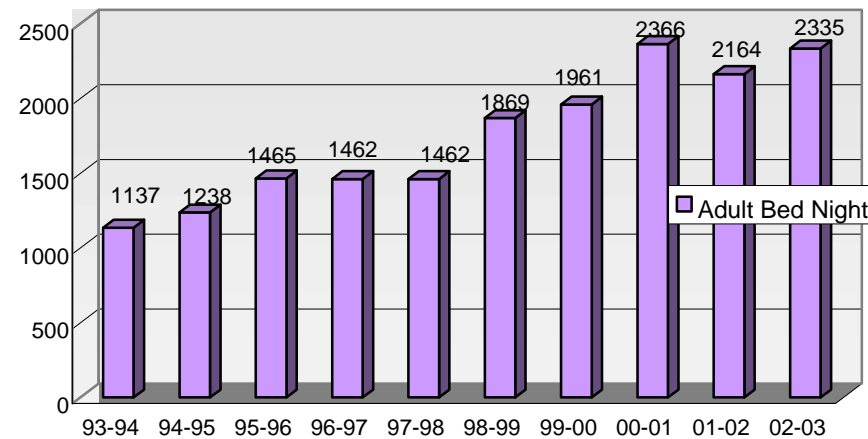
The rate of violent crime in the Yukon is the third highest in the country. Family violence is one of the most pervasive and hidden forms of violence against women. Four out of five Yukoners surveyed in the recent *Attitudes Towards Family Violence Survey* stated they were concerned or very concerned about family violence. In response to the survey about family violence, one man said, "I think family violence is a very important issue that we need to deal with as a community."²

¹*Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile*, Federal/Provincial/Territorial initiative from the Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, 2002, pp.2-3.

²*Attitudes Towards Family Violence: A survey of adults in the Yukon*, September 2002. Yukon Women's Directorate, p.33

The number of women using transition homes in the Yukon has increased over the last 10 years. Whether this is from increased social attention to family violence or increased cases of family violence is difficult to determine. Whatever the reason, the fact remains that family violence is a significant problem in the Yukon. Figure 1 demonstrates how the number of women staying at Kaushee's Place for one night (adult bed night) has more than doubled between 1993 and 2003.

Figure 1. Kaushee's Place Residency 1993-2003



Source: unpublished Yukon Health and Social Services Statistical data, 2003.

A Profile of Transition Home Residents:

This Yukon data comes from the 2001/02 Transition Home Survey, which is conducted on a biennial basis as part of the federal government's Family Violence Initiative. It is a snapshot of the transition home residents taken on April 15, 2002.

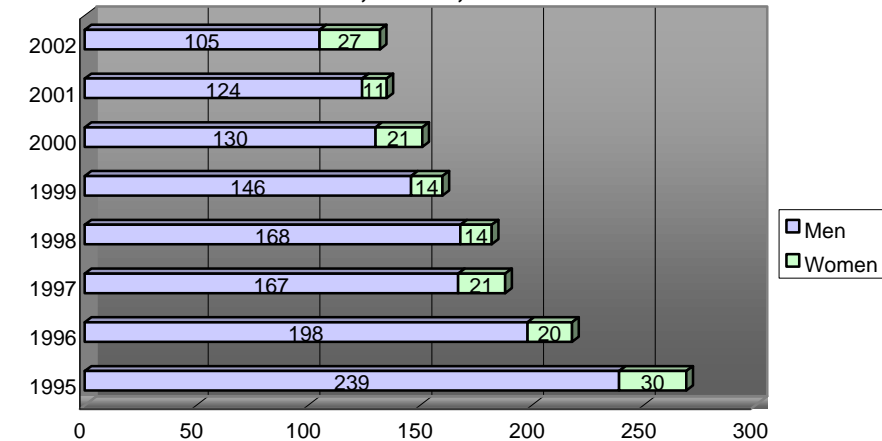
- 18 residents in Yukon shelters; 67% women, 33% dependent children.
- 100% (12) of the women residing in the shelters were victims of abuse. 100% (12) were fleeing from physical abuse, 100% (12) were fleeing from psychological abuse, and 100% (12) had experienced threats.
- 44% of women with parental responsibilities who were admitted for abuse indicated that they were also protecting their children from witnessing abuse of their mother.
- 42% of the women escaping abusive situations were admitted with their children; 50% (3) of these children were under 10 years of age.
- 83% of the abused women indicated that their spouse or partner was the abuser.³

The number of women who are residents of transition homes is one indication of family violence levels in our communities.

³ Transition Home Survey 2001/02, Yukon Fact Sheet, Statistics Canada 2001

Figure 2 illustrates two issues. First, it demonstrates that the Yukon's rate of spousal assaults has fallen significantly over the last 8 years. In 1995, there were 269 total spousal assault incidents; by 2002 there were half as many at 132. Secondly, while the numbers of male offenders appear to be decreasing, men are still charged with spousal assaults at a much higher rate than are women.

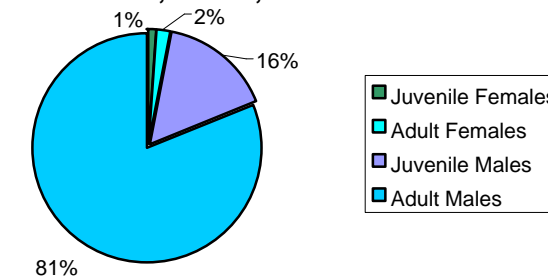
Figure 2. Spousal Assault Incidents, by gender of offender, Yukon, 1995-2002



Source: "Reported Spousal Assault Incidents, by gender of offender, Yukon," Yukon Crime Statistics, Fourth Quarter 2002

The following pie chart (Figure 3) demonstrates the gender discrepancy breakdown of offender profile of sexual assaults. This gender discrepancy is similar to that of spousal assaults.

Figure 3. Persons Charged with Sexual Assault, Yukon, 1997-2001



Source: Yukon Bureau of Statistics, 2002

In the graph below, Figure 4 demonstrates the comparison of Yukon and national sexual assault rates. Over the last 5 years, the territorial rate has been decreasing, while the national has been somewhat stable. However, Figure 4 reveals that sexual assault is between 2 and a half and 3 times higher in the Yukon than in Canada.

