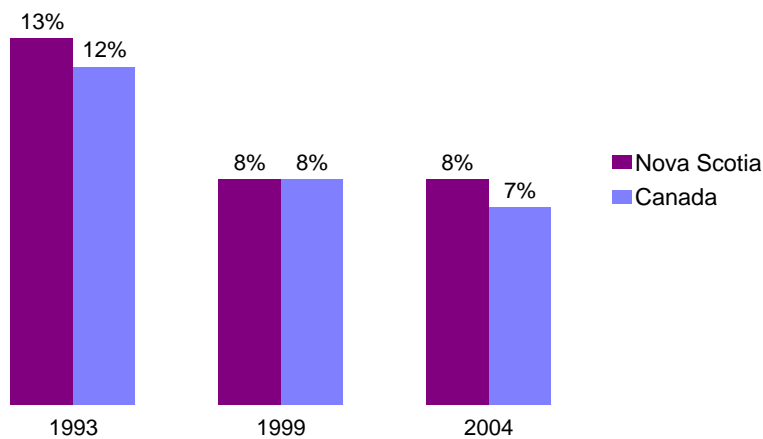




Fact Sheet on Intimate Partner Violence

5-Year Spousal Assault Rates of Females Nova Scotia and Canada, 1993-2004



Source: Statistics Canada, *General Social Survey*, 2004, 1999; *Violence Against Women Survey*, 1993.

- Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of Nova Scotian women who reported that they had experienced physical violence at the hands of their current or former spouse/intimate partner within the previous five years declined from 13 per cent to 8 per cent, but from 1999 to 2004, this percentage remained virtually unchanged. This means that an estimated 21,000 Nova Scotian women were the victims of intimate partner violence between 1999 and 2004.
- Compared to men, women are more likely to report experiencing the most serious forms of intimate partner violence, such as being beaten, choked, or threatened with or having a gun or knife used against them.
- Female victims of spousal violence are also much more likely than males to report being injured, suffer lost productivity, experience multiple assaults, fear for their lives, and experience negative emotional consequences as a result of the intimate partner violence they experience. Male victims were much more likely than female victims (30 per cent versus 6 per cent) to report that the violence had not affected them.

Who is at highest risk?

- Young women (aged 15-24) who are in common law relationships are at greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence as are women who have been in a relationship for three years or less, and women whose partner is a frequent, heavy drinker.
- Aboriginal women in Canada are at least three times more likely to have experienced spousal violence than non-Aboriginal women.
- Spousal violence is more likely to happen in relationships where emotional abuse is present.
- Eighteen per cent of Canadian women and 17 per cent of men reported experiencing emotional abuse in 2004. Women were more likely than men to report particular types of emotional abuse: eg., that their partner “put them down and called them names to make them feel bad”, that their partner harmed or threatened to harm someone close to them, or that their partner prevented them from having access to the family income even when they asked.
- One-third of all incidents of spousal violence in Canada (approximately 394,000 cases between 1999 and 2004) were witnessed by children.

Police Reporting of Spousal Violence

- Nearly two-thirds of spousal violence incidents against women are not reported to the police. While there was a slight increase in the proportion of victims who reported violence to police between 1993 and 1999, there was no further increase from 1999 to 2004. In 2004, only 36 per cent of Canadian women and 17 per cent of men who had experienced intimate partner violence reported it to police.
- A large proportion of victims of intimate partner violence (83 per cent of women and 60 per cent of men) confide in informal sources of help and support such as family, friend, co-worker, doctor/nurse, clergy.
- Approximately 47 per cent of female victims and 20 per cent of male victims of intimate partner violence indicated that they had sought help from formal helping agencies or organizations such as victims’ services, women’s centres, psychologists, etc.
- Male victims of intimate partner violence were more likely than female victims (35 per cent versus 12 per cent), not to mention the violence to anyone.

Sources: All statistics above are from Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 85-224, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*