

Domestic Violence in Nova Scotia

December 2020

Women continue to be the predominant victims of domestic violence in Nova Scotia.

77%
women

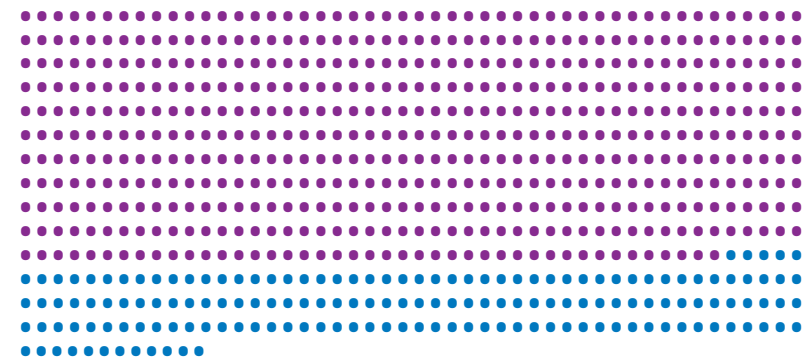
23%
men

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is deliberate and purposeful violence, abuse, and intimidation by one person against another in an intimate relationship. It may be a single act or a series of acts forming a pattern of abuse. Domestic violence can occur in any relationship, however, women are primarily the victims and men are primarily the perpetrators. Children and young people experience harm by being exposed to violence in adult relationships, being the direct victims of violence, or a combination of the two.

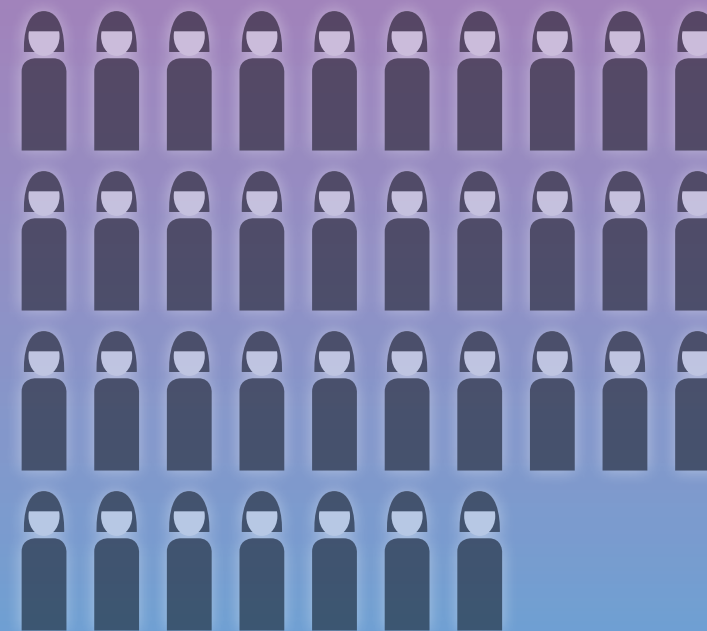
What is reported?

In 2019, the rate of police-reported incidents of domestic violence against females was over 3 times higher than the rate of police-reported instances of domestic violence against males.

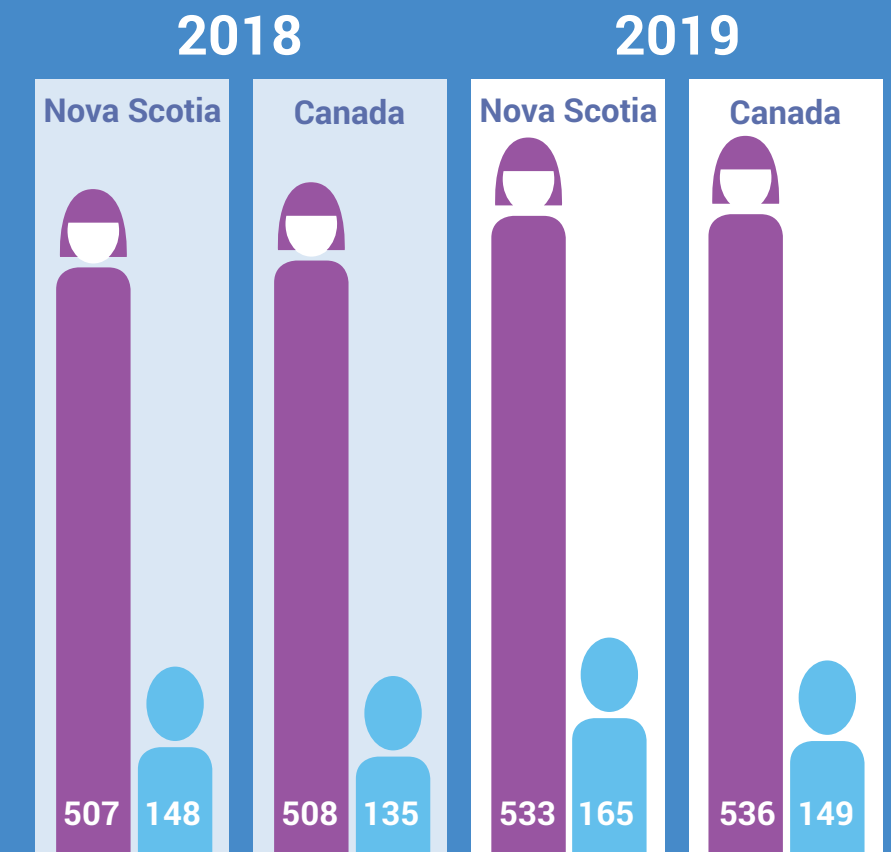


In 2019, the rate of police-reported domestic violence against females in Nova Scotia **increased by 14.3%** compared to 2016. This is higher than the 10.4% rate increase for Canada.

37 women were murdered by their intimate partner in Nova Scotia between 1999-2019



Rates of police-reported domestic violence incidents in 2018 and 2019 (per 100,000).



Domestic violence is a complex social issue rooted in gender inequality.

Where to get help

If you have experienced domestic violence, know that you are not alone. There are supports available to you.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you are seeking help or are looking for information about abuse, you can call or text the **Transition House Association of Nova Scotia's 24-hour toll-free line:**



1-855-225-0220

To connect with community resources in Nova Scotia, call 211.



Nova Scotia
Advisory Council on
the Status of Women

The Domestic Violence in Nova Scotia 2020 fact sheet uses the most recent statistics available as of November 27, 2020:

Rates of police-reported intimate partner violence by sex of victim, Nova Scotia and Canada, 2016 to 2019: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (trend file).

Victims of police-reported intimate partner homicide, by sex of victim, Nova Scotia and Canada, 1999-2019: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Nova Scotia, 2019: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Nova Scotia, 2019: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (trend file).

Types of offences

In 2019, the most common offence involved in domestic violence was assault for both female and male victims in Nova Scotia.

Victims

	female	male
Assault	1,612	567
Uttering threats	183	51
Other violent offences	159	10
Sexual offences	150	8
Indecent or harassing communication	83	16
Criminal harassment	72	13
Robbery	2	0
Attempted murder	1	3
Violations causing death	0	0
Total violent offences	2,262	668

In 2019, the rate of **police-reported domestic violence increased** for both females and males in Nova Scotia and across Canada.

We can prevent domestic violence, help victims, and develop better supports.

Standing Together is government's commitment to work differently with community organizations, groups, and experts to build an action plan to disrupt harmful cycles of domestic violence.

The goals of Standing Together are to:

- prevent domestic violence by disrupting cycles of violence
- support victims with an improved system of programs that help them rebuild their lives
- shift policies and interventions so support systems better respond to people's needs, understand gender equality, and address barriers facing the most vulnerable Nova Scotians



Stand with us to prevent domestic violence.