



# What is Domestic Violence?

Abuse is a pattern of verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual behaviours used by one person in order to gain power and control over another person. Domestic violence refers to abuse that occurs in the context of an intimate relationship or family setting.

Domestic violence is committed by both women and men, however women experience violence differently.

- Violence against women is more frequent, severe, and more likely to be life threatening than violent acts against men.
- Physical abuse of women is more likely to result in the need for medical treatment.
- Women are more likely to experience violence from intimate partners in their homes.
- Women are at a greater risk of sexual violence.
- The fear of violence is more prevalent in women, potentially preventing them from being fully active members in their communities.

## Statistics on Domestic Violence in Canada

- From 2000 to 2009, 581 women were murdered by their spouse. The spousal homicide rate against women is nearly four times higher than the rate against men.
- In 2009, only 15% of victims of spousal violence said that they reported the incident to the police.
- Only 28% of victims who experienced spousal violence in 2009 reported that they contacted or used formal services (including crisis centres, crisis lines, counsellors, shelters, victims' services programs, etc.).
- Since 2000, the rate of spousal violence against women has decreased while the rate of violence against women by their boyfriends has increased.
- The most likely victims of domestic violence include:
  - Women under the age of 25
  - Aboriginal women
  - Women in lower-income households.

## Signs of Abuse

**These types of behaviour in a relationship are abusive:**

- Name calling, criticizing, insulting and ignoring
- Humiliation in public or private places
- Refusal to help when a person is sick or injured
- Withholding access to money
- Locking a victim out of the home
- Ensuring isolation from family, friends, work and community support
- Controlling the partner's activities and travels
- Playing mind games
- Threatening to cause physical harm to another or to a family member
- Threatening to take the children or to hurt them
- Threatening to cause harm with a weapon
- Pushing, shoving, throwing objects
- Hitting, choking, punching, biting, slapping, kicking

**If this is happening to you—or to someone you care about—help is available. Look in the front of the SaskTel Direct West phone book for the Abuse Help Lines page for help in your community**



## *Sources*

Statistics Canada. 2009.  
*Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile.*

Brennan, S. 2009.  
Violent victimization of Aboriginal women in the Canadian provinces.  
Statistics Canada: *Juristat* Article no. 85-002-X.

Statistics Canada. 2006.  
*Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006.*

REVISED NOVEMBER 2011

*For more information, contact:*



T: 306.522.3515  
F: 306.522.0830  
E: [paths@sasktel.net](mailto:paths@sasktel.net)  
W: [www.abusehelplines.org](http://www.abusehelplines.org)



**Prairieaction**  
FOUNDATION  
Supporting Solutions  
To Violence and Abuse