

# Domestic Violence in Nova Scotia

December 2021

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

**79%**  
women

**21%**  
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.

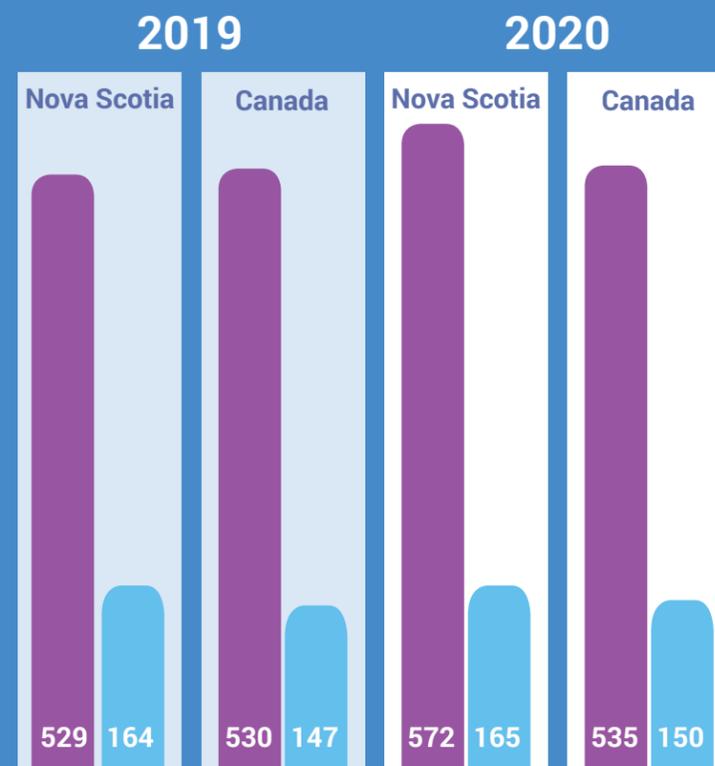
## What is reported?

In 2020, the rate of police-reported incidents of domestic violence against females (572 per 100,000) was over 3 times higher than the rate of police-reported instances of domestic violence against males (165 per 100,000) in Nova Scotia.

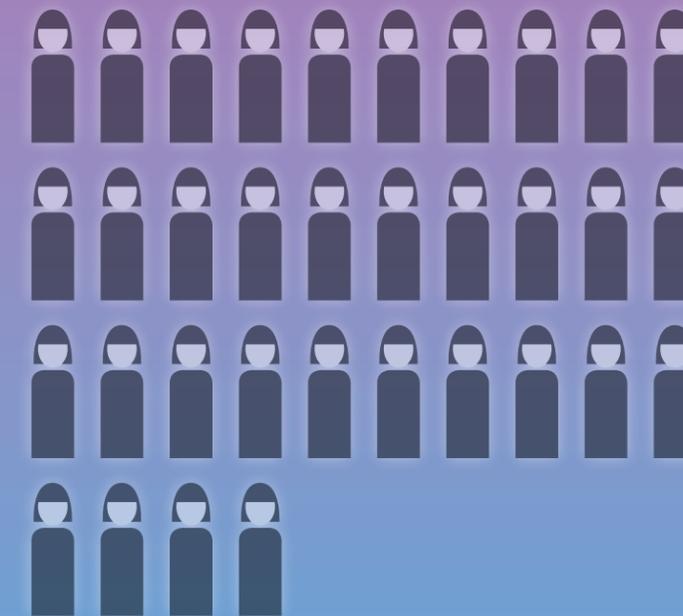


In 2020, the **rate of police-reported domestic violence against females in Nova Scotia** increased by 8% compared to 2019, compared to a 1% increase in rates of police-reported violence against females for Canada over the same period.

Rates of police-reported domestic violence incidents in 2019 and 2020 (per 100,000).



## 34 women were murdered by their intimate partner in Nova Scotia between 2001-2020



In 2020, female victims of domestic violence accounted for 90% of files designated as **high risk for fatality** in Nova Scotia.

Annual Number of New High Risk Designated Women in Nova Scotia



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 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 2021 fact sheet uses the most recent statistics available as of November 23, 2021:

Proportion of Total Files Designated HR by Gender, 2020: JEIN database, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

Rates of police-reported intimate partner violence by gender of victim, Nova Scotia and Canada, 2016 to 2020: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (trend file).

Victims of police-reported intimate partner homicide, by gender of victim, Nova Scotia and Canada, 2001-2020: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by gender of victim and type of offence, Nova Scotia, 2020: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by gender of victim and type of offence, Nova Scotia, 2020: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (trend file).

## Types of offences

In 2020, the most common offence involved in domestic violence was assault for both female and male victims in Nova Scotia.

### Victims

	female	male
Assault	1,728	558
Uttering threats	229	39
Other violent offences	172	9
Sexual offences	164	12
Criminal harassment	95	23
Indecent or harassing phone calls	80	33
Attempted murder	6	4
Robbery	6	1
Violations causing death	2	0
<b>Total violent offences</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>679</b>

In 2020, 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.**