



My Sister's Place

All answers are from Stats Canada & <http://www.canadianwomen.org/facts-about-violence>



QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

Question 1: Is Violence Against Women Still A Serious Problem?

Answer: On any given day in Canada, more than 3,300 women (along with their 3,000 children) are forced to sleep in an emergency shelter to escape domestic violence. Every night, about 200 women are turned away because the shelters are full.

Question 2: Why do they say that domestic violence affects us all?

Answer: According to the Department of Justice, each year Canadians collectively spend \$7.4 billion to deal with the aftermath of spousal violence. This figure includes immediate costs such as emergency room visits and future costs such as loss of income. It also includes tangible costs such as funerals, and intangible costs such as pain and suffering.

Answer 2: 67% of all Canadians say they personally know at least one woman who has been sexually or physically assaulted. 1 in 4 women will be effected. That means out of your family it could be your mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, niece, or daughter. That is why it truly effects us all.



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Question 3: Why are things different with Aboriginal women's issues with violence?

Answer: As of 2010, there were 582 known cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. Both Amnesty International and the United Nations have called upon the Canadian government to take action on this issue, without success. According to the Native Women's Association of Canada, "if this figure were applied proportionately to the rest of the female population there would be over 18,000 missing Canadian women and girls."

Question 4: Why do we not hear more about punishment for sexual assault?

Answer: In a 2009 Canadian national survey, women reported 460,000 incidents of sexual assault in just one year. Only about 10% of all sexual assaults are reported to police. When it comes to sexual assault, women are frequently not believed, blamed for being assaulted, "or subjected to callous or insensitive treatment, when police fail to take evidence, or when their cases are dropped arbitrarily." Only a handful of reported assaults ever result in a conviction: each year, only about 1,500 sexual assault offenders are actually convicted.

Question 5: What is really considered violence and abuse?

Answer: The United Nations defines violence against women as:

"Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

- **Physical abuse:** Slapping, choking, or punching her. Using hands or objects as weapons. Threatening her with a knife or gun. Committing murder.



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- **Sexual abuse:** Using threats, intimidation, or physical force to force her into unwanted sexual acts.
- **Emotional or verbal abuse:** Threatening to kill her (or to kill the children, other family members or pets), threatening to commit suicide, making humiliating or degrading comments about her body or behaviour, forcing her to commit degrading acts, isolating her from friends or family, confining her to the house, destroying her possessions, and other actions designed to demean her or to restrict her freedom and independence.
- **Financial abuse:** Stealing or controlling her money or valuables (of particular concern to older women). Forcing her to work. Denying her the right to work.
- **Spiritual abuse:** Using her religious or spiritual beliefs to manipulate, dominate, and control her.
- **Criminal harassment/stalking:** Following her or watching her in a persistent, malicious, and unwanted manner. Invading her privacy in a way that threatens her personal safety.

More Questions to Come... Want to ask a question...comment on our Facebook or Email us