

STATISTICS

Domestic And Sexual Violence On The Rise

- Domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) are increasing despite repeated statements about an overall decline in violent crimes reported to police across Canada.
- Police-report statistics are limited to only those criminal incidents that are reported to police. The General Social Survey (GSS) however conducted by Statistics Canada complement police-reported data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey by providing information on self-reported incidents of victimization that are both reported *and* unreported to police.
- According to the UCR Survey, the police-reported violent crime rate declined in 2012, down 3% from 2011, to its lowest level since 1987.
- However, when DV and SA are disaggregated from police-reported violent crime and compared to self-reported victimization rates and other data, it can be seen that these crimes remain at consistently high levels or are actually increasing.
- According to Statistics Canada, from 2010 to 2011, rates of intimate partner homicides against women have increased 19% in Canada.

Domestic Violence

- In BC, DV charges by Crown Counsel have increased from 9,000 in 2002-2003 to 12,000 in 2009, 2010 and 2011 (Cowper 2012, 143-4).
- In 2009, 46,918 incidents of DV cases were reported to police in Canada, representing 11% of all police-reported violent crime in Canada (Zhang et al 2012). This represents an increase from an estimated 45,973 incidents in 2004 (Johnson 2006).
- In addition, GSS data indicates that nationally, the rate of police reporting of DV to police has dropped from 28% of cases reported in 2004 to only 22% in 2009 (McInturff 2013).
- If these reporting rates are applied to police reported data, it can be estimated that incidents of domestic violence have actually risen from 164,189 in 2004 to 213,264 in 2009.