



(<http://www.news1130.com/files/>) 

(FILE PHOTO)

Spousal homicides in BC hit a five-year high in 2014

Group says homicides are just the tip of the iceberg

Mike Lloyd (<http://www.news1130.com/inside/staff/mike-lloyd/>) December 19, 2014 8:18 am

 Log In  Tweet 17  +1 0

VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) – 2014 was a dire year for domestic violence in BC, with spousal homicide hitting a five-year high.

But the stats don't tell the whole story; there are thousands more women who face abuse and violence but survive, and those are the cases we often don't hear about.

"It really is a serious problem that goes very, very deep," says Anuradha Dugal, director of violence prevention programs at the [Canadian Women's Foundation](http://www.canadianwomen.org/) (<http://www.canadianwomen.org/>) .

"I think when we look around at what we are hearing in the media, it's the tip of the iceberg because we know there are many, many women who don't feel that they can report because they feel it's taboo; they don't want to look like victims or they don't want to create difficulties for themselves or be labelled. Sometimes they don't even think people will believe them if they say what's happening to them," she tells News1130.

Figures on what the [BC Coroners Service](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/) (<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/>) calls "intimate-partner violence homicides" show there have been 14 killings so far this year in the province — which is double the number in 2013, but actually in line with the 10-year average.

Dugal believes that is why support programs are so important, helping women who decide to end abusive relationships.

"In Canada, at least half of all women have experienced an incident of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. We did a survey at the Canadian Women's Foundation a year or so ago and we found out that 60 per cent of Canadians knew at least one person, probably more, who had experienced physical or sexual abuse."

She feels more emergency shelters are desperately needed.

"On any given night in Canada, there are more than 3,000 women with their 3,000 children sleeping in an emergency shelter. We know there are a tremendous amount of arrests when people do report domestic violence. But again, we think that is also the tip of the iceberg in that there are lot of people who don't report it but go a shelter, a women's centre, their doctor or they to see an emergency services first-responder and ask for help in that way. We have to have a big safety net."

Tracy Porteous, executive director of [Ending Violence Association of BC](http://endingviolence.org/) (<http://endingviolence.org/>) believes the figures from the BC Coroners Service are too conservative.

"I would raise one thing from the coroner numbers... the real domestic violence death toll should count the children murdered and the men who also committed suicide after killing their wives. If you add these people, the death toll is much higher."

Porteous says if you include those statistics, at least 29 people have been killed in domestic violence incidents in BC so far this year.

Comments

Most recent (#) **Recommended (#)**



Yes

Most of my buddies have been violently attacked by their girl friends or wife's. One was punched so hard, she split his chin open and knocked him to the ground. She was angry that he want to break up with her. Worst than that women very often attack with physiological abuse. All women will understand this, having practiced on both, the giving and receiving end when growing up. Boys don't do they same they have punch ups and then end it, many times becoming friends.

December 19, 2014 at 5:57 pm



Proof

a friend of mine (male) was assaulted by his wife when she smashed an unopened can of pop across his face breaking teeth and cuts which required stitches. She was arrested and charged.....BUT the judge through the charges out stating he could not believe a 5'2, 110pnd woman could possibly assault a man who stood 6'1, 240pds! Had I not wittnessed this with my own eyes in open court, I would never have believed it. He remains single to this day!

December 19, 2014 at 10:12 am

**Social Media**

I suspect that the increased use of social media like Facebook and texting along with casual dating websites, etc. has created a greater chance of jealousy developing in modern relationships. Ex-boyfriends (or girlfriends) being able to contact partners online or partners having a greater abilities to cheat by arranging rendezvous' with partners may create more problems and jealousy in relationships that end up leading to violence. Violence is nothing new between partners, but it has likely been exacerbated by the internet, social media, iPhone, age.

December 19, 2014 at 9:45 am

**trueTon**

Research showing that women are often aggressors in domestic violence has been causing controversy for almost 40 years, ever since the 1975 National Family Violence Survey by sociologists Murray Straus and Richard Gelles of the Family Research Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire found that women were just as likely as men to report hitting a spouse and men were just as likely as women to report getting hit. The researchers initially assumed that, at least in cases of mutual violence, the women were defending themselves or retaliating. But when subsequent surveys asked who struck first, it turned out that women were as likely as men to initiate violence—a finding confirmed by more than 200 studies of intimate violence.

December 19, 2014 at 8:19 am

**Drake Powell (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100005425848822>)**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100005425848822> When I hear about governments putting back on women's shelters it drives me nuts. If a woman is a victim of domestic violence then for heaven's sake, she needs a safe place to go 24/7 365. And if a guy happens to be a victim of domestic violence, then shame on the police when they won't take it seriously.

December 19, 2014 at 9:51 am

**they don't though.**

they don't though. Do you honestly believe shaming police is the proper way? Often times its men who are throw out onto the streets with absolutely no resources. I think its time to remove gender from the equation and find a solution which works best for all instead of pedestaling females at the top of some insane social/gender caste system which only servers to increase tensions. I think its high time for women to check their female privilege and acknowledge the fact that men are victims of murder and rape far more than women.

December 19, 2014 at 10:02 am

**Don't Forget**

Please. I am NOT minimizing the stats when it comes to this very serious issue of violence against women, but I am puzzled. Spousal abuse works both ways. Why does the media never report on any cases of domestic violence where the MAN has been abused and finally snaps or gets killed by their wife? Why are there never any men's support groups stepping up and fighting for more services to support men who are abused by their female partners. Is this just a another case of gender profiling or discrimination ? or just another way for the media to steal another headline and grab out attention?

December 19, 2014 at 7:27 am