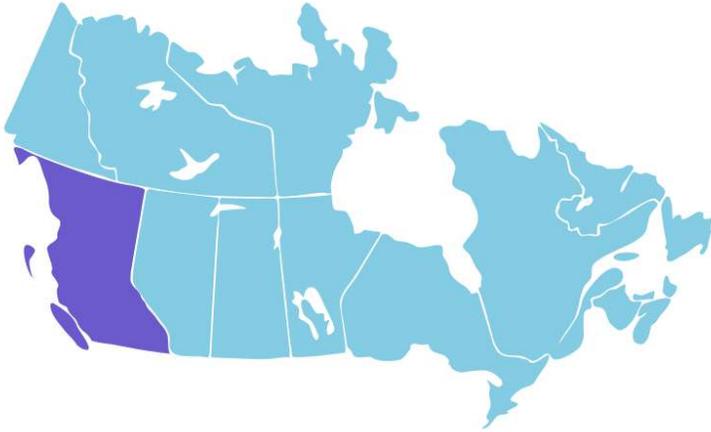


DOMESTIC HOMICIDE IN CANADA



What Do We Know?

- 1 in 5 murders in Canada are domestic homicides
- 78% of domestic homicide victims are women
- Men are more likely than women to commit suicide following domestic homicide
- 80% of domestic homicides are preceded by numerous risk factors (e.g., history of domestic violence, pending/recent separation, stalking)

Who is Most Affected?

- **Indigenous women** have an 8x higher rate of domestic homicide than non-Indigenous women
- **Immigrant and refugee** populations face barriers to reporting domestic violence & accessing services
- **Rural** communities have significantly higher rates of domestic homicide than urban populations
- **Children exposed to domestic violence** are also at risk of homicide, with 10-22% of domestic homicides involving child victims

Source: [CDHPI](#)

Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations

The Ending Violence Association of BC is involved in a five-year project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to conduct research on domestic homicides in Canada, identify protocols and strategies that will reduce risk, and share this knowledge with the wider community. The project Co-Directors are Dr. Peter Jaffe ([CREVAWC](#), Western University) and Dr. Myrna Dawson ([CSSLRV](#), University of Guelph).

The Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPIVP) works to foster collaborative, cross-sectoral research to identify unique individual and community-level risk factors that may increase exposure to domestic violence and homicide for particular populations. The project will develop enhanced evidence-based information about effective risk assessment (*identifying risk factors and evaluating risk*), risk management (*strategies to reduce risk presented by perpetrators*), and safety planning (*strategies to enhance safety for victims/survivors*) for these populations and their communities.

The project focuses on 4 populations that experience increased vulnerability to domestic homicide:

- **Indigenous populations**
- **Immigrant and refugee populations**
- **Rural, remote, and northern populations**
- **Children exposed to domestic violence**

EVA BC is a partnership member of the CDHPIVP. Staff involved in the project include Kate Rossiter (Co-Investigator), Tracy Porteous (Collaborator), and Misha Dhillon (Research Assistant).

“Domestic homicide is the most *predictable* and *preventable* of any homicide.”

Dr. Peter Jaffe
CDHPIVP Co-Director

Source: [Western University](#)

National Database

A national database on domestic violence homicide in Canada is being developed, as part of the CDHPIVP, to serve as a repository for data on domestic homicide cases from 2010-2020 and to identify associated risk factors. This database draws on information from Coroner and Medical Examiner files, court documents, and media reports.

Key Informant Survey

A national online survey has been completed by more than 1,400 respondents who provide legal, health, educational, advocacy, or social services to perpetrators, victims/survivors, and/or children living with domestic violence. The survey focused on risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning, particularly in relation to the four populations that are the focus of this initiative.

Key Informant Interviews

The CDHPIVP research team is also conducting interviews with community-based service providers, legal professionals, law enforcement, victim services, and others who work in risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning. These interviews focus on understanding potentially unique risk factors, barriers to effective risk management and safety planning, and strategies currently being used with these vulnerable populations and the communities in which they live. Approximately 350 interviews have been conducted with key informants across Canada.

Interviews with Survivors and Proxies

The last phase of the CDHPIVP involves narrative interviews with survivors of high-risk domestic violence and proxies for domestic homicide victims (e.g., family, friends) to help understand the context around high-risk and potentially lethal domestic violence within the four vulnerable populations (e.g., barriers to help-seeking, missed opportunities for intervention, suggestions for prevention).

Knowledge from the CDHPIVP

Visit the [CDHPIVP project website](#) for domestic violence and homicide resources, including:

- **Learning briefs** on risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning and domestic violence death review committees
- **Fact sheet** on domestic homicide in Canada
- **Project newsletters** for the CDHPIVP
- **Literature review** on risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning

Many of these resources provide both general and population-specific information.

BC RESOURCES

Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors

<http://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/MPSSG-Summary-of-Domestic-Violence-Risk-Factors.pdf>

Interagency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs)

<http://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/ccws-program/interagency-case-assessment-teams-icats/>

Honouring Christian Lee – No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence

https://www.rcybc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/reports_publications/honouring_christian_lee.pdf

Honouring Kaitlynn, Max and Cordon – Make Their Voices Heard Now

https://www.rcybc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/reports_publications/honouring_kaitlynn.pdf

Domestic Violence Prevention and Reduction in British Columbia (2000-2010)

https://www.jibc.ca/sites/default/files/research/pdf/Domestic-violence-prevention-reduction_REPORT.pdf

Intimate Partner Violence in British Columbia, 2003-2011

<http://www.learningtoendabuse.ca/sites/default/files/stats-domestic-violence.pdf>

Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/death-investigation/death-review-panel/domestic-violence.pdf>

BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel: A Review of Intimate Partner Violence Deaths 2010-2015

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/death-investigation/death-review-panel/intimate-partner-violence2010-2015.pdf>

The Most Preventable Homicide

<http://endingviolence.org/the-most-preventable-homicide/>