

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

How violence affects victims depends on other aspects of their lives, such as their age, ethnicity, background, level of ability and sexual orientation, to name only a few. These multiple dimensions are weaved into all life experiences. For women, the impact and severity of violence can depend on many physical, social, and economic factors.

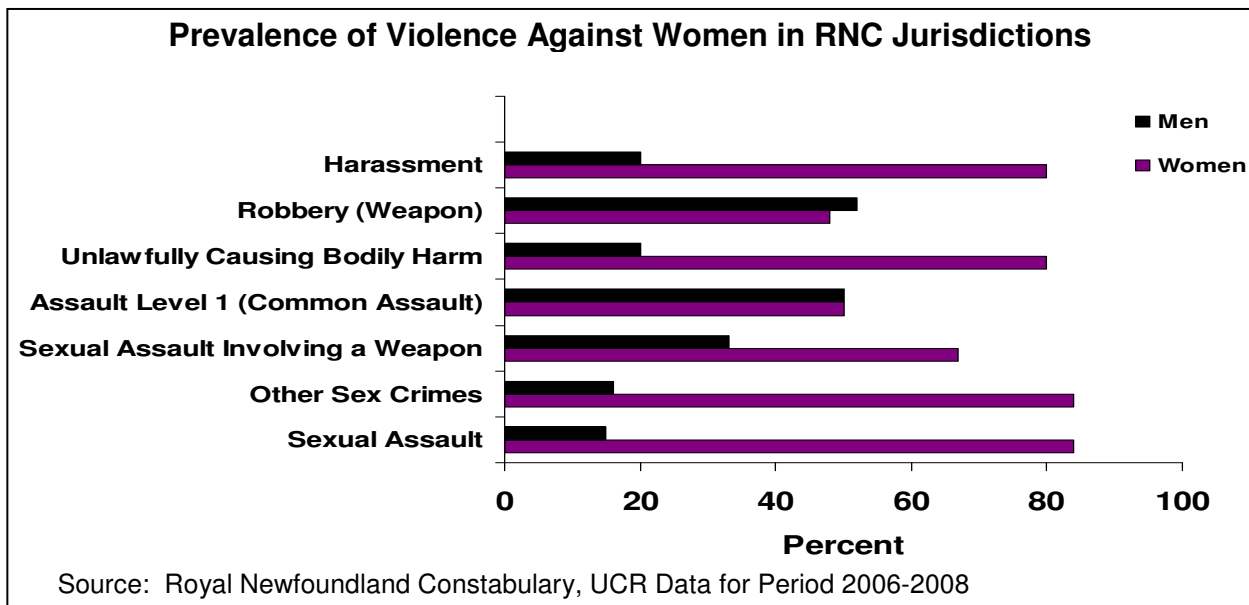
(Measuring Violence Against Women Statistical Trends, 2006)

Severity

- ❖ Women experience higher rates than men of sexual assault, stalking, serious spousal assaults and spousal homicide.

Prevalence

- ❖ Of the 217,900 women over the age of 15 residing in Newfoundland and Labrador, approximately 108,950 (1 in 2) will experience at least one incident of sexual or physical violence throughout their lifetime.
- ❖ Approximately only 10% (10,895) of these women will actually report this victimization to police.



Who are the Perpetrators?

- ❖ Women residing in Newfoundland and Labrador are most likely to experience victimization by a spouse or partner (70%), ex-spouse or ex-common-law spouse (9%), relative (7%), and others (5%).
- ❖ Only 5% of women are unable to identify their abuser.

Spousal Violence

- ❖ Between 1999 and 2004, the overall rate of spousal violence against women in Canada declined (a 1% decrease). Newfoundland and Labrador was the **only** jurisdiction during this five year period to show **an increase** in spousal violence against women (a 2% increase).
- ❖ In Newfoundland and Labrador, 43% of spousal violence against women involves physical force and 6% of spousal violence against women involves weapons.
- ❖ Between 1975 and 2004, twice as many women than men in Newfoundland and Labrador were victims of spousal homicide (15 versus 7 respectively).

Admission to Shelters

- ❖ During 2005-2006, there were 1,125 admissions of women and dependent children to shelters in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- ❖ Approximately 89% of women residing in shelters are victims of violence. Among these women, approximately 97% are fleeing psychological abuse, 73% physical abuse, 45% harassment, 44% threats, 42% sexual abuse, and 36% financial abuse.
- ❖ Approximately 40% of women escaping violent situations are admitted to shelters with their children. 60% of these children are under the age of 10.
- ❖ Approximately 40% of women residing in shelters are repeat clients.

Danger of Leaving a Violent Relationship

- ❖ National data indicate that separation is a particularly dangerous time for women.
- ❖ Although more married women are killed by their spouses, the rate of homicide is greatest for women after separation.
- ❖ Nationally, almost half of the murders committed by ex-spouses happen in the first two months of separation and 80% of murders by ex-spouses happen within one year of separating.

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