

# Domestic Violence in Nova Scotia

December 2022

**Women** continue to be the predominant victims of domestic violence in Nova Scotia.

**79%**  
women  
2,434

**21%**  
men  
643

## What is domestic violence?

**Domestic violence** is deliberate and purposeful violence, abuse, and intimidation by one person against another in an intimate relationship. It may be a single act or a series of acts forming a pattern of abuse. Domestic violence can occur in any relationship, however, women are primarily the victims and men are primarily the perpetrators. Children and young people experience harm by being exposed to violence in adult relationships, being the direct victims of violence, or a combination of the two.

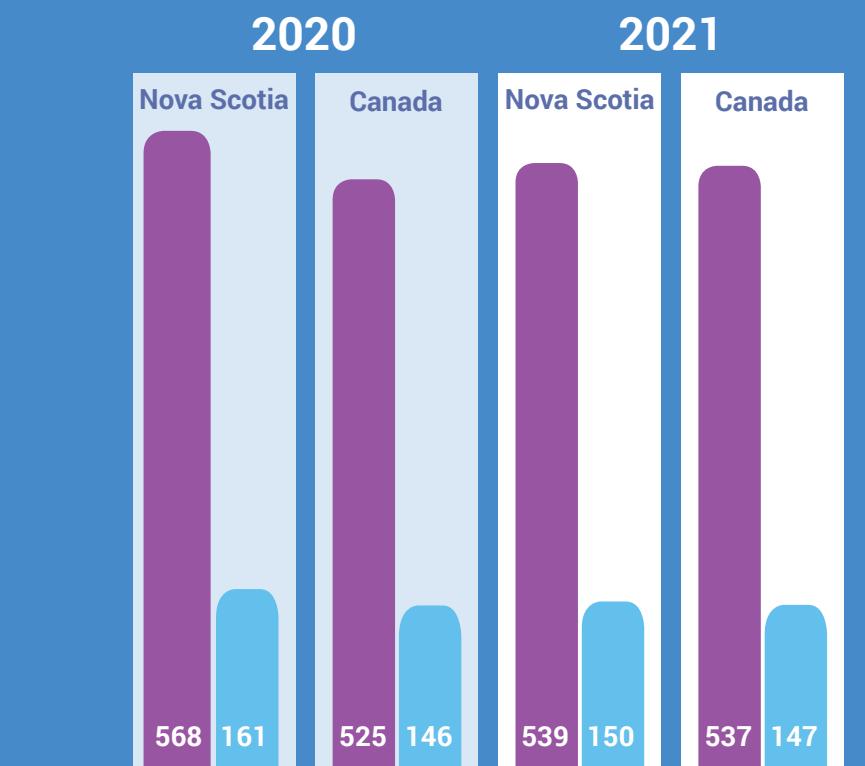
## What is reported?

In 2021, the rate of police-reported incidents of domestic violence against females (539 per 100,000) was over 3 times higher than the rate of police-reported instances of domestic violence against males (150 per 100,000) in Nova Scotia.

**3X** 

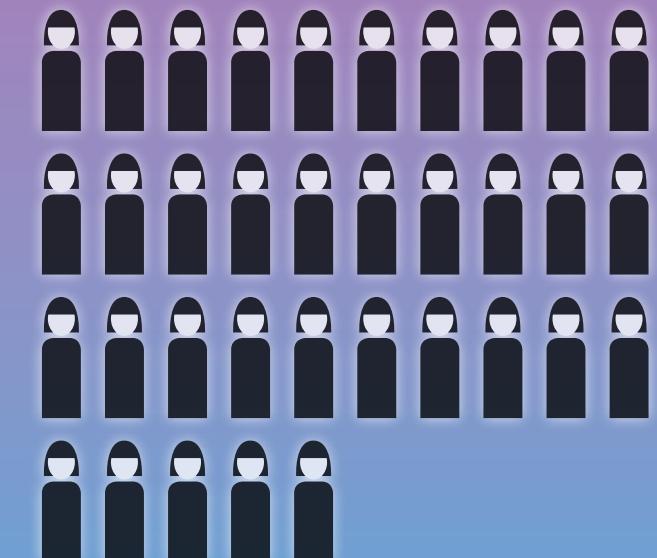
From 2020 to 2021, rates of police-reported domestic violence against females decreased by 5% in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia rates of police-reported domestic violence remain higher than the national rate.

### Rates of police-reported domestic violence incidents in 2020 and 2021 (per 100,000).

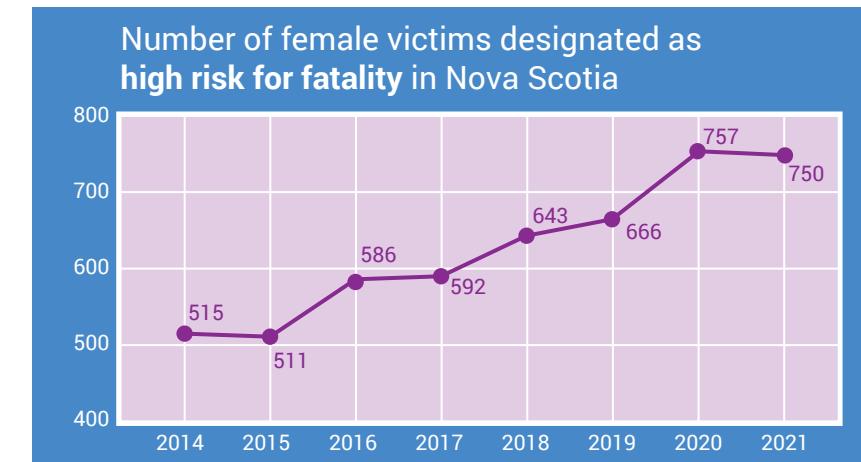


## How many fatalities?

**35 women were murdered by their intimate partner** in Nova Scotia between 2002-2021



In 2021, 86% (750) of domestic violence files designated as high risk for fatality involved female victims compared to 90% (757) in 2020.



The Jacqueline Campbell Danger Assessment (JCDA) is used by Victim Services Officers in Nova Scotia to designate domestic violence files as high risk.

## Where to get help

If you have experienced domestic violence, know that you are not alone. There are supports available to you.

**If you are in immediate danger, call 911.**

If you are seeking help or are looking for information about abuse, you can call the **Transition House Association of Nova Scotia's 24-hour toll-free line:**

**1-855-225-0220**

Life can be tough. Feelings, stress, and anger can affect our relationships.

It's ok to reach out for help.

At the Men's, Women's, and All Genders helplines, someone is always there to listen.

It's confidential. It's free, and it can help.

**Call 211 to connect.**



Nova Scotia  
Advisory Council on  
the Status of Women

The Domestic Violence in Nova Scotia 2022 Fact Sheet uses the most recent statistics available from Statistics Canada as of November 2022.

Proportion of Total Files Designated High Risk by Gender, 2021: JEIN database, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence by gender of victim, Nova Scotia, 2016 to 2021. Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (trend file).

Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by gender of victim and type of offence, Nova Scotia, 2021. Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (trend file).

Victims of police-reported intimate partner homicide, by gender of victim, Nova Scotia and Canada, 2002-2021. Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

## Types of domestic violence offences

In 2021, assault was the most common police-reported domestic violence offence against both female and male victims in Nova Scotia.

**Number of victims by type of offence**

	2020		2021	
	female	male	female	male
Assault	1728	558	1666	524
Sexual offences	164	12	212	9
Uttering threats	229	39	202	40
Other violent offences*	186	14	158	14
Indecent or harassing communication	80	33	111	43
Criminal harassment	95	23	85	13
<b>Total violent offences</b>	<b>2482</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>2434</b>	<b>643</b>

In 2021, there were fewer female and male victims of domestic violence offences in Nova Scotia compared to 2020.

There were more female victims and fewer male victims of sexual offences in 2021.

From 2020 to 2021, harassing communication offences increased for both female and male victims of domestic violence.

\* *Other violent offences* includes violations causing death, attempted murder, and robbery.

We can prevent domestic violence, help victims, and develop better supports.

Over the past four years, through Standing Together, the Status of Women Office has worked closely with community, government, and academic partners to get a better understanding of what is needed to prevent domestic violence.

We know there is no single solution to solving this issue and we know that no one organization, level of government or community can address this alone.

Through the relationships we have fostered, we can create a future where young people will have safe spaces to express their feelings openly and honestly, find strength in each other, and learn how to model nurturing, loving, healthy, and safe relationships.



**Stand with us to  
prevent domestic violence.**

**[www.novascotia.ca/standingtogether](http://www.novascotia.ca/standingtogether)**