



Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV), also known as domestic violence, is a common form of gender-based violence involving abuse by a current or former intimate partner or spouse.

IPV has been Declared an Epidemic in Prince Edward County

- In 2023, Prince Edward County Council declared intimate partner violence an epidemic, following a recommendation of the Renfrew Inquest.
- The Renfrew Inquest, prompted by the 2015 murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam by the same former partner, called for Ontario to declare IPV an epidemic—a declaration the province has not yet made.

IPV is a Persistent Issue Locally

- IPV affects all ages.
- 242 intimate partner violence incidents were referred by OPP to victim service agencies in 2025—an increase of 35% from 2024. Increased reporting may reflect greater awareness and willingness among survivors to seek help.
- Case complexity is influenced by mental health, substance use, financial stress, and dementia.

(Prince Edward County OPP)

Intimate Partner Violence Is More Than Physical Abuse

IPV often begins with coercive control—a pattern of behaviours used to intimidate, isolate, or control another person.

It can occur with or without physical violence and is often an early warning sign of escalating abuse.



Intimidation

Isolation

Control

The Scope of IPV is Broader than Reported Incidents Suggest

IPV is one of the most widespread forms of violence affecting Canadians.

44%

of women in Canada have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

(Statistics Canada, 2021)

- **Most IPV cases are not reported** to police. *(Statistics Canada, 2019)*
- **43 femicides** were recorded in Ontario between November 2023 and November 2024. *(OAITH Annual Femicide List)*
- **Rural areas** experience gender-related homicide rates more than twice as high as urban areas. *(Statistics Canada 2021)*
- **IPV involving firearms increased 58%** over the past decade and is far more likely to be fatal. *(Statistics Canada 2021)*

Where to Get Support

If you are experiencing intimate partner violence, or are concerned about a family member, friend, neighbour, co-worker or employee, help is available.



Alternatives for Women

The confidential line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Crisis Line: 613-476-2787

Website: www.alternativesforwomen.org

