



FORT GARRY WOMEN'S
RESOURCE CENTRE

Sexual Assault: Fact Sheet

A General Social Survey on Victimization released by Statistics Canada in July 2000 indicated that in more than 27,000 cases of spousal violence reported to police, 87% of the victims were women. Canadian women experience sexual assault every day—at home, at work, at school and on the street.

1. It's sexual assault even when physical violence or weapons are not used. Sexual assault is an unwanted act of a sexual nature imposed by one person.
2. Women face the greatest risk of sexual assault from men they know, not strangers.
3. Of the women who are sexually assaulted, most (69%) are sexually assaulted by men known to them—dates, boyfriends, marital partners, friends, family members or neighbours.
4. Sexual assault is a vastly under-reported crime. According to Statistics Canada only 6% are reported to police.
5. No woman ever “asks” or deserves to be sexually assaulted. Whatever a woman wears, wherever she goes, whomever she talks to, “no” means “no”. It's the law.
6. Men who commit sexual assault are “ordinary” and “normal” men who sexually assault women in order to assert power and control over them.
7. Sexual assault can have serious effects on women's health and well-being. Nine out of ten incidents of violence against women have an emotional effect on the victim.
8. The emotional and psychological effects of sexual assault can also include:

depression
sleep disturbances, including nightmares
eating disorders
flashbacks

confusion
erratic mood swings
anxiety

Regardless of race, culture, physical challenge, age, or life experience, each one of us has a right to respect and safety from abuse.

Sexual Assault Resources for Women

24 HOUR HELP LINES

Sexual Assault Crisis Line/Klinik	1-888-292-7565 786-8631
Ikwe-widdjitiwin Crisis Line	987-2780
Province Wide 24 Hour Domestic Violence Crisis Line	1-877-977-0007
Osborne House Crisis Line and Shelter for Abused Women	942-3052

Other Sexual Assault Resources for Women

Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre	477-1123
Ma Mawi We Chi Itata Centre Inc.	925-0300
Domestic Abuse Counselling (Evolve)	784-4208

READING RESOURCES

Fleeing the House of Horrors: Women Who Have Left Abusive Partners, by Aysan Sev'er, 2002.

Confronting the Horror the Aftermath of Violence, by Wilma Derksen, 2002.

Repressed Memories. A Journey to Recover from Sexual Abuse, by Renee Fredrickson, 1992.

Getting Free. You Can End Abuse and Take Back Your Life, by Ginny NiCarthy, 1982.

Abuse in Lesbian Relationships, by Laurie Chesley, 1992.

Insult to Injury: Rethinking our Responses to Intimate Abuse, by Linda Mills, 2003.

From Fear to Freedom, Abused Wives Find Hope and Healing, by Sheila Rogers, 2002.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Violet: The Law and Abused Women:

www.violetnet.org

Legal information that may help if you are experiencing violence in an intimate relationship.

Womennet: The Canadian Women's Virtual Information Centre

www.womennet.ca

Contains a general directory of women's resources, a section of links to international and Canadian women's sites and a section on news and resources for women.