Fact Sheet

Spousal Violence

- 14% of family violence incidents are reported
- 75-90% of Northwestern Ontario women are victims of family violence
- in 2002, there were 205 000 victims of violent crime
- 6 in 10 incidents of spousal homicide involved a history of family violence which police were aware
- young women under 25 are at greatest risk of spousal homicide
- rates of spousal violence were highest for those women aged 25-34
- rates of spousal violence were highest for those men aged 35-44
- Aboriginal women suffer double discrimination: as women and as Aboriginal people
- Aboriginal women are three times likely to suffer some form of violence by their partners compared to other Canadian women
- Aboriginal women run eight times the risk of being killed by their spouse following a separation
- 500 women have been murdered or gone missing in the last 30 years (Canada: Stolen Sisters)

Children And Youth

- 1 million children witness family violence in Canada
- children witness violence against their mothers in almost 40% of violent marriages
- in 2002, girls age 11-14 represented 79% of victims of family-related sexual assaults
- in 2002, the highest rate for male victims of family-related sexual assaults were at the ages of 3-7 years
- witnessing violence in the home has been found to be related to short and long-term behaviour problems in children (aggression, emotional problems, anxiety)
- child apprehension rates are steadily increasing

Older Adults

- in 2002, older adults were the least likely to be victims of violent crimes
- more likely to be victimized by non-family members than family members
- in 2002, older females were more likely to be victims of family violence
- violence against older adults has increased between 1998 to 2002

Resource: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2004