

Family Violence – PEI Statistics

According to the PEI Victims of Family Violence Act a “family relationship” means a relationship between any two people who are or have been married to each other, or who have lived together in a spousal or sexual relationship, or are members of the same family. (Source: Victims of Family Violence Act)

According to the Act “family violence” is violence against that person by any other person with whom that person is, or has been, in a family relationship. Violence includes any assault of the victim; any reckless act or omission that causes injury to the victim or damage to property; any act or threat that causes a reasonable fear of injury to the victim or damage to property; forced confinement of the victim; actions or threats of sexual abuse, physical abuse or emotional abuse of the victim; and depriving a victim of food, clothing, medical attention, shelter, transportation or other necessities of life. (Source: Victims of Family Violence Act)

- In 2019 the Prince Edward Island RCMP “L” Division received 183 reports of violence in relationships; 50% of reports (91) resulted in charges being laid.

Year	Reports of Violence in Relationships	Percent resulting in charges
2019	183	50% (91)
2018	292	61% (177)
2017	296	49% (146)
2016	260	45% (116)
2015	194	41% (80)

(Source: RCMP “L” Division)

- In 2019, Charlottetown Police Services received 162 reports of family violence; 12% (20) resulted in charges being laid.

Year	Reports of Family Violence	Percent resulting in charges
2019	162	12% (20)
2018	132	15% (20)
2017	121	24% (29)
2016	138	28% (39)
2015	141	29% (41)

(Source: Charlottetown Police Services)

- In 2018, the Summerside Police Department received 65 reports of assaults that met domestic violence criteria; 67% (43) resulted in criminal charges. In 2017 they also received 11 reports of mischief that met domestic violence criteria; 54% (6) resulted in criminal charges.

Year	Reports of Assaults	Percent resulting in charges
2018	64	67% (43)
2017	49	49% (24)
2016	62	37% (23)
2015	45	54% (24)

Year	Reports of Mischief	Percent resulting in charges
2017	11	54% (6)
2016	10	60% (6)
2015	11	45% (5)

(Source: Summerside Police Department)

- In 2017 the Summerside Police Department received 17 reports of uttering threats that met domestic violence criteria, of which 47% (8) resulted in criminal charges. In the two year period 2015-2016 they received 16 reports of uttering threats that met domestic violence criteria, of which 50% (8) resulted in criminal charges. (Note: due to small numbers, statistics for a two year period are reported.) (Source: Summerside Police Department)
- In the six year period, January 1, 2013-December 31, 2018 the Kensington Police Department investigated 30 reports of assaults associated with family violence. Of these 20% (6) resulted in charges being laid. In 2019 no assaults were reported. (Source: Kensington Police Department)
- Between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019, a total of 1,028 cases were referred to Victim Services. Of these, 35% involved crimes where there was a family type relationship between the victim and suspect or offender. Crimes can include but are not limited to assault, sexual assault, damage to property, driving-related offences, theft and fraud. In 340 of the total cases referred to Victim Services, the suspect or offender was a male partner or ex-partner (either current or former husband, common-law husband, or boyfriend). In 40 cases, the suspect or offender was a female partner or ex-partner. (Source: Annual Report - Victims of Crime Act 2018-2019)

Year	Total number of cases referred to Victim Services	% involving crimes where victim and suspect/offender had a family type relationship	Number of total cases where suspect/offender was male partner or ex-partner of victim	Number of total cases where suspect/offender was female partner or ex-partner of victim
2018-19	1,028	35%	340	40
2017-18	1,001	33%	289	37
2016-17	902	29%	275	31
2015-16	783	27%	220	18
2014-15	762	27%	206	14

(Source: Annual Report - Victims of Crime Act 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019)

- Between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019, 80 applications for Emergency Protection Orders were granted to victims of family violence. Emergency protection orders are provisions under the *Victims of Family Violence Act* that can provide safety measures for a victim and her/his

children, often enabling victims and children to remain in the home. Historically, the number of applications has varied somewhat from year to year.

(Source: Annual Report – Victims of Crime Act 2018-2019)

- PEI Family Violence Prevention Services outreach workers provide assistance to women who are victims of family violence living in the community. Between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 outreach workers provided services to 282 women; 41% sought outreach services for the first time. Historically, women receiving services receive an average of 9.5 supportive contacts per year.

Year	Number of Women Receiving Services	Percent Receiving Services for the First Time
2018-19	282	41%
2017-18	270*	49%
2016-17	291*	49%
2015-16	292*	61%
2014-15	468	43%

*Decrease associated with a change in the manner in which the number of women receiving active case management and support services vs. occasional supportive contacts are reported. (Source: PEI Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.)

- Anderson House, managed by PEI Family Violence Prevention Services, is the primary emergency shelter on Prince Edward Island for abused women and their children. Between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 Anderson House admitted 83 women and 43 children: 59 women and 24 children were admitted for current violence/abuse; 24 women and 19 children were admitted for other reasons including homelessness. 49% of all women admitted received emergency shelter at Anderson House for the first time.

Year	Women Admitted	Children Admitted	Women receiving services for first time
2018-19	83*	43*	49%**
2017-18	81	47	59%
2016-17	73	22	55%
2015-16	72	43	39%
2014-15	62	31	60%

* 59 women and 24 children were admitted for current violence/abuse; 24 women and 19 children were admitted for other reasons including homelessness.

**Percent of all women admitted, not percent of women admitted for current violence/abuse. (Source: PEI Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.)

Spousal and Intimate Partner Violence

- According to the 2014 General Social Survey, the proportion of survey respondents who reported experiencing spousal violence in the five years prior to the survey was 4% across the Canadian provinces, down from 7% in 2004. While based on small numbers that are to be used with caution, the proportion of Islanders surveyed who reported experiencing spousal violence in 2014 is lower than the proportion who reported experiencing spousal violence in

2009 but is similar to the proportion who reported spousal violence in 2004, about 5%. (Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2014 - pub. Jan 2016, 2015 pub. Jan 2017, 2016- pub. Jan 2018, 2017- pub. Dec 2018)

- Province-wide in 2018 there were 392 victims of police-reported intimate partner violence substantiated by police to be victims of Criminal Code offenses. This represents a 30% increase from 2017. Intimate partner violence is violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, opposite and same-sex common-law, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. Despite the increase, in 2018 Prince Edward Island had the third lowest rate of police-reported intimate partner violence in Canada. (Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2018-pub. Dec 2019)

Year	Number of Victims of Police-Reported Intimate Partner Violence
2018	392
2017	285
2016	298
2015	240
2014	253

(Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2014 - pub. Jan 2016, 2015 – pub. Feb 2017, 2016- pub. Jan 2018, 2017- pub. Dec 2018, 2018-pub. Dec 2019)

Sexual Violence

- Province-wide in 2018 there were 109 incidents of police-reported sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) substantiated by police to be Criminal Code offences, an increase of 55%. The increase is attributed at least in part to changes in reporting standards for the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey that involved changes in the definition and coding of founded and unfounded cases. The changes were implemented January 1, 2018. In addition, an increase in reporting of sexual assaults after the emergence of the #MeToo movement has been documented by Statistics Canada. (Source: Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2018; Police-reported sexual assaults in Canada before and after #MeToo, 2016 and 2017)

As noted in the section on national statistics, according to the General Social Survey in 2014 only 5% of sexual assaults were brought to the attention of police. (Source; Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014)

Year	Number of Incidents of Police-Reported Sexual Assault
2018	109*
2017	75
2016	70
2015	73
2014	56
2013	85

* Changes in reporting standards for the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey were implemented January 1, 2018

(Source: Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)

- Between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019, 133 cases were referred to Victim Services for sexual assault matters; 89% of cases were female and 12% were male. Thirty five percent of cases involved persons 12-17 years of age. The number of referrals varies from year to year. Between 2009-2010 and 2018-2019, referrals to Victim Services for sexual assault matters ranged from a low of 51 to a high of 133. (Source: Prince Edward Island Victim Services)
- Between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre received 114 new requests for service: 51% of requests for service were from adults who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse, down from 61% in 2017-18, and 26% were from survivors of sexual assaults that occurred within the previous six months, up from 18% in 2017-18. A total of 170 clients received services during 2018-19.

Year	Clients receiving services	New Requests for service	Requests from adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse	Requests from survivors of sexual assaults within last six months
2018-19	170	114	51%	26%
2017-18	146	112	61%	18%
2016-17	118	112	61%	16%
2015-16	122	119	68%	11%
2014-15	89	80	62%	8%

(Source: PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre)

Adult Protection

The PEI Adult Protection Program provides assistance or protection intervention to vulnerable adults who are unable to protect themselves from abuse and neglect. The PEI statistics provided here pertain to vulnerable adults and, therefore, cannot be compared to national statistics on violence against seniors.

- Between January 1 and December 31, 2017 Prince Edward Island Adult Protection Services investigated 326 cases; 50% for self neglect, 18% for caregiver neglect, 11% for financial abuse, 11% for verbal/emotional abuse, 6% for physical abuse, and 4% for sexual abuse. 57% of investigations involved female victims. 71% of the cases involved adults age 65 years and older and 15% of cases involved adults 85 years or older. The vast majority of perpetrators were known and trusted. 60% of perpetrators were family, 7% were friends and paid caregivers, and 25% were staff in hospitals, group homes and public and private care facilities. Since 2012 the number of investigations for allegations of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults has increased by 126%. Mandatory reporting for all persons working with vulnerable adults was implemented in February 2014. In addition, the Island population is aging. These factors may account for some of the increase in referrals over time. (Source: Prince Edward Island Adult Protection)
- Province-wide in 2018 there were 14 senior victims of police-reported family violence substantiated by police to be victims of Criminal Code offenses. Prince Edward Island had the lowest rate of police-reported family violence against seniors in Canada in 2018. (Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2018-pub. Dec 2019)

Year	Number of Senior Victims of Police-Reported Family Violence
2018	14
2017	24
2016	10
2015	9
2014	12

(Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2014 - pub. Jan 2016, 2015 – pub. Feb 2017, 2016- pub. Jan 2018 2017- pub. Dec 2018, 2018-pub. Dec 2019)

Violence Against Children and Youth

- Province-wide in 2018 there were 92 children and youth age 0-17 years who were victims of police-reported family violence substantiated by police to be Criminal Code offences. This represents a 62% increase from 2017. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses. The Criminal Code and provincial/territorial child protection legislation together cover a broad spectrum of maltreatment and violence perpetrated against children and youth. Some types of child maltreatment may never reach the criminal threshold and would therefore not result in a police response or Criminal Code charges. However, in many cases, these occurrences would still be considered serious events requiring the involvement of provincial/territorial child welfare services. (Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2018-pub. Dec 2019)

Year	Number of Children and Youth Victims of Police-Reported Family Violence
2018	92
2017	53
2016	48
2015	56
2014	60

(Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2014 - pub. Jan 2016, 2015 – pub. Feb 2017, 2016- pub. Jan 2018, 2017- pub. Dec 2018, 2018-pub. Dec 2019)

- Between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 Prince Edward Island Child Protection Services received 3,177 Child Protection Reports or an average of 61 reports per week, close to 9 reports per day. During this time period 1,969 investigations were opened, 631 children received child protection services in their own homes, 178 children were in care, focused intervention services were provided to 579 parents, and 14 youth received extended care services.

Year	Total Number of Reports	Child Protection Investigations Opened	Children Who Received Child Protection Services in Their Own Homes	Children in Care	Focused Intervention Services to Parents	Extended Service Provided to Young Adults
2018-19	3,177	1,969	631	178	579	14
2017-18	4,638	1,811	675	192	615	15
2016-17	3,449	2,028	696	193	608	13
2015-16	3,443	1,954	734	196	636	11
2014-15	3,368	1,838	720	225	659	10

(Source: PEI Child Protection Services)