

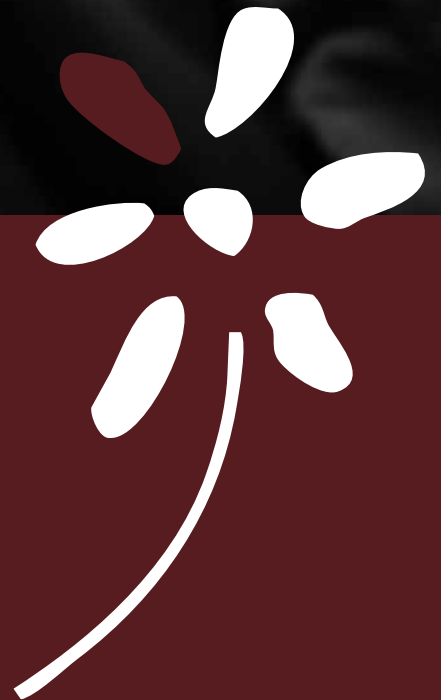


Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVE
PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR
APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2008



Canada

The *Family Violence Initiative Performance Report for April 2004 to March 2008* was prepared by Wanda Jamieson and Lee Gomes, JHG Consulting, for the Family Violence Initiative.

Contents may not be reproduced for commercial purposes, but any other reproduction, with acknowledgements, is encouraged.

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request.

For more information, please contact:

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence
Public Health Agency of Canada
200 Eglantine Driveway, Jeanne Mance Building
Tunney's Pasture, 1909D
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0K9

Telephone: 1-800-267-1291

Fax: (613) 941-8930

TTY: 1-800-465-7735

Website: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nc-cn

Email: ncfv-cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca

Many of the reports and resources referred to in this Report can be obtained, free of charge, from the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence.

To obtain additional information on related programs of departments, agencies or Crown corporations participating in the Family Violence Initiative, visit their websites:

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca
Citizenship and Immigration Canada	http://www.cic.gc.ca
Correctional Service of Canada	http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca
Department of Canadian Heritage	http://www.pch.gc.ca
Department of Justice Canada	http://www.justice.gc.ca
Department of National Defence	http://www.forces.gc.ca
Health Canada	http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca
Public Health Agency of Canada	http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca
Public Safety Canada	http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Service Canada	http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca
Statistics Canada	http://www.statcan.gc.ca
Status of Women Canada	http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada 2010

Cat.: No. HP-2/2008

ISBN: 978-1-100-50728-6

ACRONYMS

CCJS	Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CMHC	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
CSC	Correctional Service of Canada
CSVA	Confidential Service for Victims of Abuse
DFAIT	Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
DVC	Domestic Violence Court
F/P/T	Federal/Provincial/Territorial
FVI	Family Violence Initiative
GSS	General Social Survey
HRSDC	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
IEWG	Interdepartmental Evaluation Working Group
INAC	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
IPV	Intimate partner violence
IWG	Interdepartmental Working Group
NCFV	National Clearinghouse on Family Violence
NCPC	National Crime Prevention Centre
NFB	National Film Board of Canada
PCO	Privy Council Office
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
PLEI	Public Legal Education and Information
RMAF	Results-based Management and Accountability Framework
RCAP	Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
SEP	Shelter Enhancement Program
SWC	Status of Women Canada
TBS	Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
THS	Transition Home Survey
UCR	Uniform Crime Reporting Survey
UN	United Nations
VPA	Violence Prevention Alliance
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Family Violence Initiative (FVI) is a horizontal initiative led by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The Family Violence Initiative Performance Report for April 2004 to March 2008, which has been prepared on behalf of all FVI member departments, highlights the key results that have been reached in this reporting period.

The FVI is a long-term initiative to address a complex and deeply rooted problem. Its continuing mandate is to enhance awareness of family violence issues; build the knowledge base that will help to address these issues; and contribute to a strengthened ability of the justice, housing and health systems and communities across Canada to prevent and respond to family violence.

Fifteen federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations participate in the FVI. The Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Department of Justice Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Statistics Canada, and Status of Women Canada share an ongoing annual allocation of \$7 million. This allocation serves to ensure the implementation of core activities deemed essential to the Initiative's sustainability, including the operation of the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, a valuable source of information on family violence for all Canadians. These seven members, along with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Correctional Service of Canada, Department of National Defence, Health Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Public Safety Canada, and Service Canada, allocate additional resources for FVI-related activities from their regular budgets.

Family violence takes many forms and may include acts of physical or sexual assault (as defined by the *Criminal Code of Canada*) as well as other forms of physical and sexual abuse and exploitation, financial exploitation, neglect, emotional abuse and spiritual abuse. Family violence undermines the health, safety, and quality of life and future prospects of many Canadians.

Although police-reported incidents of spousal violence declined steadily between 1998 and 2006, there were still over 38,000 incidents of spousal violence reported across Canada, representing approximately 15 percent of all police-reported violent incidents in 2006.¹ From 1977 to 2006, the rate of spousal homicide for both men and women has also steadily declined, following a pattern for homicide overall. Still, in 2006, police-reported data indicate that 56 women and 22 men were killed by their spouses.² The rates of violence against children have fluctuated over time; yet in 2006, according to police-reported data, a total of 12,198 children and youth were victims of family-related (physical and sexual) assaults.³ While police-reported data have consistently shown that older adults (65 years of age and older) are the least likely of all age groups to be victims of violent crime, studies have shown that they are particularly vulnerable to various forms of abuse, such as emotional or psychological abuse, neglect or maltreatment, material exploitation or financial abuse, as well as physical assault and sexual assault.⁴

KEY PERFORMANCE RESULTS FROM APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2008

From April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2008, the FVI made important gains in enhancing its collective capacity to horizontally manage and advance its work. In 2007, an umbrella Results-based Management and Accountability Framework (RMAF) was implemented. New tools, such as the FVI extranet website and the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence E-Bulletin (a bi-monthly electronic newsletter) have enhanced communication among and across family violence stakeholders (federally and Canada-wide).

The FVI worked effectively with all orders of government and stakeholders, fostering a supportive climate for dialogue and information sharing on policy and program initiatives to explore and address issues such as the health and social impacts of violence on victims, their families and communities; the interplay between homelessness and family violence; ways to strengthen systems and community services and supports to prevent and address family violence; and issues of specific concern to Aboriginal populations and other populations living in situations of risk or disadvantage.

The Government of Canada – through the work of FVI member departments – made important contributions to international-level work on family violence, including the work of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Violence Prevention Alliance, the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women, the implementation and monitoring of UN conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Children, and the ongoing work of the UN Human Rights Committee. Statistics Canada contributed knowledge and expertise to other countries on measuring family violence. Correctional Service of Canada shared its expertise and knowledge on evidence-informed prevention and treatment programs.

The FVI worked extensively with family violence stakeholders and external partners to both broaden and deepen the knowledge base about family violence and translate knowledge into practice. Much of the knowledge generated, as well as practical tools and resources to address family violence, is widely accessed by Canadians through the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, Canada's key resource for family violence information.

From April 2004 to March 2008, measures to strengthen the justice system to address family violence issues were also undertaken. For example, the *Criminal Code of Canada* and the *Canada Evidence Act* were amended to further strengthen child pornography provisions (including increasing penalties and introducing mandatory minimum sentences for specific sexual offences against children); to create new offences related to the sexual exploitation of youth (aged 14-18) and voyeurism; to increase protection of victims of spousal violence by measures to facilitate the criminal law enforcement of breaches of civil restraining orders; and included enabling measures to facilitate testimony of child victims and witnesses. The RCMP developed new resources for front-line police officers and provided officer training on investigating and responding to relationship violence incidents and issues. Front-line officers continued to work with communities they police to address local family violence issues. The Department of Justice Canada contributed to greater public legal education of family violence issues, through its enhanced family violence website and the addition of a specialized site devoted to youth that provides age appropriate information on defining family violence, understanding the legal context, and where to get help if a child believes she or he is being abused.

With the collaboration of federal, provincial and territorial partners, the shelter system was also enhanced during this period. For example, the Department of Justice Canada contributed to the development of a mobile training for front-line shelter workers in Inuit communities. According to the results of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)'s evaluation of its Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP), SEP contributed to increasing the capacity of the shelter system by adding new family violence shelters as well as new beds/units on and off reserve. A contribution has also been made to bring shelters up to standards of health and safety, to enhance security, accessibility for persons with disabilities and play areas for children, and to support shelters to carry out needed repairs. The SEP funding covered 40 percent of all shelter repairs in the evaluation period and was highly incremental. In First Nations communities where shelters are operating, the evaluation also reported that fewer women had to leave their communities to seek protection and that shelters also contributed to more community engagement in prevention activities.

Providing support for community-based violence prevention projects through various funding instruments of FVI partners (namely the Department of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women Canada, the Department of Justice Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the National Crime Prevention Centre) remains a key strategy to raise public awareness, engage community members and strengthen local partnerships, knowledge, skills, linkages and networks to address family violence issues.

While the federal FVI investment is making a meaningful contribution to addressing family violence issues, it is clear that more remains to be done. Under the leadership of PHAC, horizontal management of the FVI will continue to ensure a strategic focus and guard against overlap and duplication of effort. FVI partners will continue to focus on addressing the issues and often unique circumstances of specific sub-populations affected by violence at various ages and life stages, including women, children, young people, older adults, Aboriginal populations, and others living in conditions of risk or disadvantage. The FVI will continue to recognize diversity within sub-populations. It will continue to work on aligning departmental performance reporting with the FVI umbrella RMAF to strengthen program capacity and effectiveness and accountability for results.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1 Introduction	1
Purpose of the Report	1
What is Family Violence?	1
Organization of this Report	1
Part 2 Background	2
A Long-term Federal Commitment	2
Mandate	2
Objectives	2
Planned Activities and Results	4
The FVI Logic Model	4
FVI Member Departments	5
FVI Horizontal Management Approach	5
Coordination Mechanisms	5
International Dimensions	6
Resources	7
Part 3 Family Violence in Canada: Trends and Issues	8
Scope, Nature and Extent of Family Violence	8
Current Overview	9
Spousal Violence	9
Criminal Harassment	11
Family Violence Against Children and Youth	11
Family Violence Against Older Adults	13
Aboriginal Populations	14
Consequences	15
Responses to Family Violence	15
Part 4 Performance Results	16
Overview	16
Expected Immediate Outcome: Strengthened Horizontal Management at the Federal Level	16
Results-based Management and Accountability Framework	16
Interdepartmental Strategy Planning	16
Mechanisms and Tools to Support Federal Coordination	17
Interdepartmental Collaborative Undertakings	17
Expected Immediate Outcome: Strengthened F/P/T Collaborative Partnerships	18
FVI Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group	18
Working Together with Stakeholders	18
Expected Immediate Outcome: Enhanced Federal Policy, Programs and	
Legislative Response to Family Violence	19
Legislative and Policy Responses	19
Building Safe and Healthy Communities	19
Improving Services for Victims of Family Violence	19
Interventions with Federal Offenders	21

Expected Intermediate Outcome: More Coordinated Federal Approach	21
Expected Immediate Result: Increased Knowledge Base	21
Expected Immediate Result: Expanded Inventory of Accessible Information and Educational Resources	24
Expected Intermediate Result: Increased Public Awareness of Family Violence Issues	25
Public Legal Education and Information	26
Expected Immediate Result: Increased and More Effective Community Initiatives	26
New and Enhanced Shelters	29
Expected Intermediate Result: Enhanced Community Capacity to Address Family Violence	31
Progress Toward Ultimate Outcome: Reduction of Family Violence in Canada	31
Part 5 Conclusion – Moving Forward	32
Appendix A Family Violence Initiative: Member Departments and their Mandates	33
Endnotes	35

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

The Family Violence Initiative Interdepartmental Working Group is pleased to present to the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) the *Family Violence Initiative Performance Report for April 2004 to March 2008*. This report is based on performance information provided to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) by member departments.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report presents performance results of the federal government's Family Violence Initiative (FVI) for the four-year period 2004 to 2008. Some available evaluation results are also presented. The report highlights key progress and achievements and showcases promising practices and innovative work that has been supported through this Initiative.

This report fulfills the Initiative's commitment to report on performance, as specified in the FVI umbrella Results-based Management and Accountability Framework (RMAF) that was approved in 2007. This framework serves as the Initiative's blueprint for measuring performance and reporting on outcomes. As such, this report serves to support open and transparent public reporting and accountability for results.

WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Family violence includes a range of abusive behaviours that occur within relationships based on kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust. Family violence is abusive behaviour that can be physical, sexual, psychological or financial. It can also take the form of physical or emotional neglect. Canadians from all walks of life have experienced or have been affected by family violence. It has serious health and social consequences.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS REPORT

The report provides:

- an overview of the FVI;
- a synthesis of the performance results in relation to identified key results from April 2004 to March 2008; based on departmental performance reports and related information; and
- an overview of the direction of the FVI for the period beginning in April 2008.

Appendix A provides information on the mandates of each of the 15 federal partner departments that participate in the FVI.



PART 2 BACKGROUND

A LONG-TERM FEDERAL COMMITMENT

The Family Violence Initiative is a long-term federal commitment to a long-term societal problem with myriad social, justice, and health dimensions. It was first announced on June 5, 1988, with \$40 million in time-limited funding, to provide 200 new short-term shelter units for crisis assistance for abused women and their children and to establish a process for developing a long-term federal approach to family violence prevention.

The FVI continues to be as relevant as ever to Canadians. Addressing family violence is reflected in federal government priorities to assure the safety of Canadians in their homes and communities.

MANDATE

The mandate of the Family Violence Initiative is to enhance awareness about family violence, build the knowledge base and strengthen the ability of the justice, housing and health systems, and communities to prevent and respond to family violence.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the current phase of the Initiative are to:

- promote public awareness of the risk factors of family violence and the need for public involvement in responding to it;
- strengthen the ability of the criminal justice, health and housing systems to respond; and
- support data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions.

ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY FEDERAL MILESTONES IN CANADA'S JOURNEY

1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Committee on Sexual Offences Against Children and Youth is established.
1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The National Clearinghouse on Family Violence is established.
1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Federal-Provincial Task Force on Victims of Crime makes a series of recommendations to address issues of wife abuse, child abuse and abuse of the elderly.
1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women Working Group on Wife Battering outlines a set of coordinated initiatives to address this issue.
1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Child Sexual Abuse Initiative is launched.
1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> is amended with Bill C-15, creating new child sexual abuse offences.• The Family Violence Initiative (FVI) is launched (first phase).
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women issues a Declaration on Violence Against Women.
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 6 is declared the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women to commemorate the tragic 1989 killings of 14 women at Montreal's École Polytechnique.• The second phase of the FVI is launched. The Call to Action focuses on increasing public awareness and changing attitudes; strengthening the federal legal framework; providing services on reserve; strengthening intervention and treatment services; increasing the availability of housing for victims; and enhancing national information exchange and coordination.• Statistics Canada begins collecting information on transition home services and clientele through the Transition Home Survey (THS) developed under the FVI and in consultation with provincial/territorial governments and transition home associations.



ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY FEDERAL MILESTONES IN CANADA'S JOURNEY (CON'T)

1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Violence Against Women Survey is released, the first national survey to examine the safety of women both inside and outside the home. The <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> is amended with Bill C-126, creating a new anti-stalking offence of criminal harassment.
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> is amended with Bill C-72, eliminating intoxication as a defence in cases of sexual assault and battery.
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current third phase of the FVI is approved as an ongoing federal commitment.
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A healing fund to address the legacy of Aboriginal residential school abuse is established. The <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> is amended with Bill C-27, making murder, committed while stalking a victim, a first-degree offence where the murderer intended to instil fear concerning the victim's safety; ensures that breach of a protective order is taken into account as an aggravating factor in sentencing an offender for criminal harassment; amends provisions regarding child sex tourism; and clarifies that female genital mutilation is prohibited in Canada. The first annual report on <i>Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile</i> is published by Statistics Canada under the FVI to provide the most current data on the nature and extent of family violence in Canada and trends over time.
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect is released, the first national study of child maltreatment in Canada.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> is amended through Bill C-79, ensuring the safety of the victim is taken into account in bail decisions and to permit publication bans to protect the identity of any victim or witness. The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization is released, the first national survey to collect victim reported information on spousal violence against both women and men. Additional funding over four years is announced for the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP) which was enhanced to include shelters and second stage housing for youth.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> is amended with Bill C-15A, creating new offences to address the sexual exploitation of children, particularly in child pornography and Internet. Federal regulations concerning family sponsorship are amended to reduce the vulnerability of sponsored persons, by creating a provision to bar persons convicted of a sexual offence or a Criminal Code offence against certain relatives from sponsoring, unless they have been granted a pardon or five years have passed since the completion of their sentence.
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect is released, updating the 1998 study. CMHC's renovation programs, including SEP, are extended and additional resources for shelters for victims of family violence are provided.
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Canada releases <i>A Canada Fit for Children</i>, Canada's response to commitments made at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children. The Government of Canada becomes a founding member of the World Health Organization's Violence Prevention Alliance. The second cycle of the General Social Survey on Victimization is released.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Working Group on Aboriginal Family Violence is established at the federal level.
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Criminal Code of Canada</i> and the <i>Canada Evidence Act</i> are amended with Bill C-2 to further strengthen child pornography provisions, including increasing penalties and introducing mandatory minimum sentences for specific sexual offences against children; to create new offences related to the sexual exploitation of youth (aged 14-18) and voyeurism; to increase protection of victims of spousal violence by measures to facilitate the criminal law enforcement of breaches of civil restraining orders; and it included enabling measures to facilitate testimony of child victims and witnesses. Statistics Canada and the federal-provincial-territorial ministers responsible for the Status of Women release the report, <i>Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006</i>. Additional two-year funding for CMHC's renovations programs, including the SEP, is announced.
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New investments are announced for family violence prevention programs and services for First Nations on-reserve communities, including funding for up to five new shelters through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Shelter Enhancement Program and increased operational support for the existing network of 35 shelters and for the new shelters.
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission is announced.



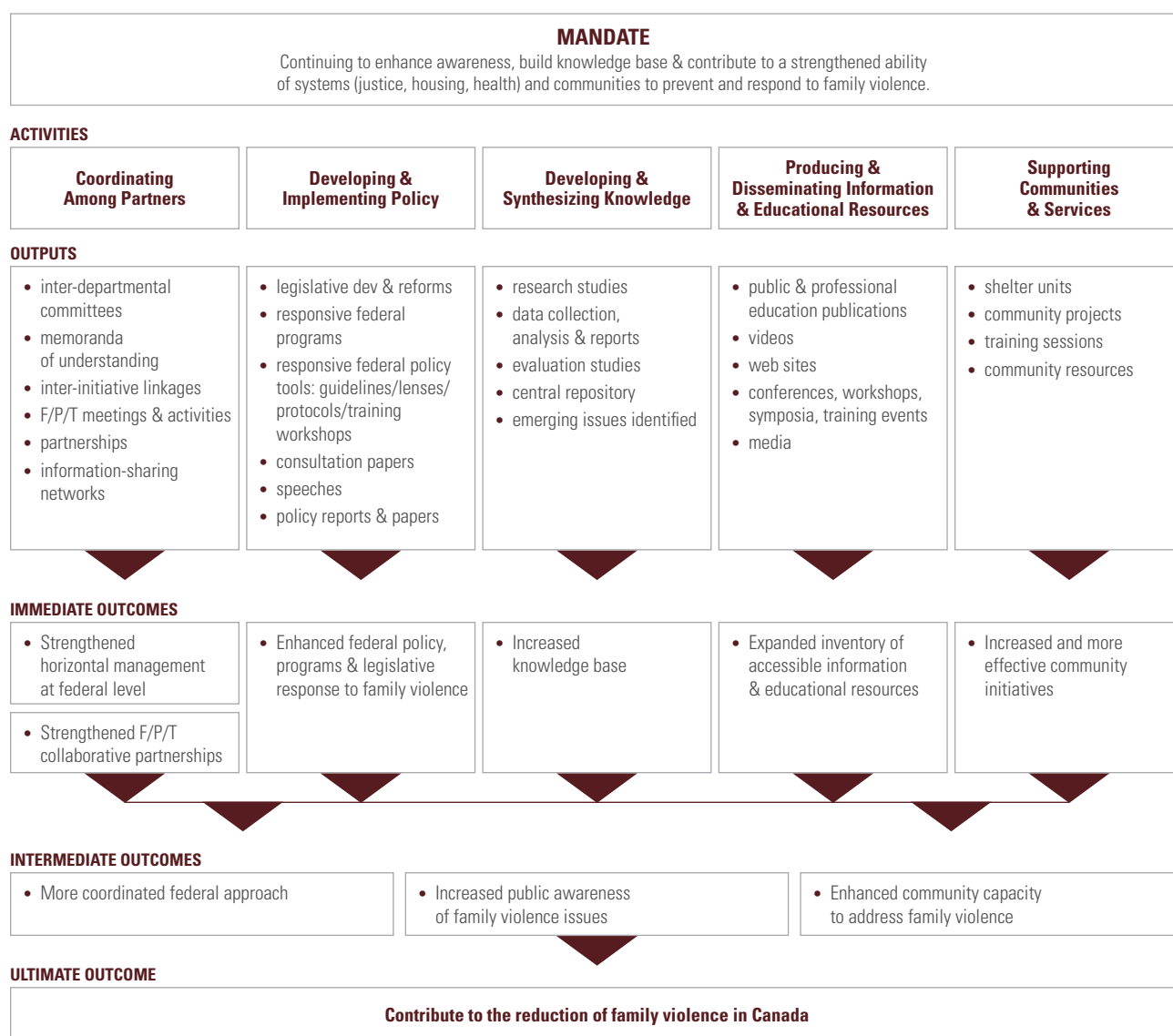
PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Under the FVI, partner departments are engaged in a range of activities that can be categorized as follows: coordinating among partners; developing and implementing policy; developing and synthesizing knowledge; disseminating information and educational resources; and supporting communities and services. To varying degrees, all partner departments are engaged in these activities.

The anticipated results of the FVI are:

- effective, efficient and coordinated federal policy development and programming on family violence issues;
- enhanced prevention of and improved community response to family violence, together with the development and implementation of community activities through the creation and dissemination of relevant knowledge, tools and resources; and
- increased public awareness of and reduced tolerance for family violence.

FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVE – LOGIC MODEL



FVI MEMBER DEPARTMENTS

Public Health Agency of Canada coordinates the FVI, which is horizontally managed. The following departments and agencies currently participate in the Initiative:

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Correctional Service of Canada
- Department of Canadian Heritage
- Department of Justice Canada
- Department of National Defence
- Health Canada
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Service Canada
- Statistics Canada
- Status of Women Canada

FVI HORIZONTAL MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The federal government has long recognized the importance of working horizontally, across departmental and jurisdictional boundaries, to address complex problems such as family violence. Horizontal management encourages the appreciation of strengths and facilitates collective solutions and results. It requires leadership, coordination mechanisms and shared accountability. The FVI is horizontally managed to ensure a shared federal perspective, foster collaboration, create partnerships and provide opportunities for joint action, thereby enhancing the federal capacity to achieve results.

Under the FVI, the benefits of horizontal management and the value-added that comes from working collaboratively have been steadily accruing, as demonstrated in this and previous performance reports. In addition, it is important to recognize the invaluable efforts in preventing and responding to family violence that are complemented by the FVI, such as those of provincial and territorial governments. Linkages with other interdepartmental strategies, activities and mechanisms, as well as with additional orders of government and with communities also facilitate complementary efforts. For example, the federal Homelessness Partnering Initiative contributes to the FVI while working as a distinct strategy to prevent and reduce homelessness. It brings to the FVI, a focus on homelessness and works with communities, provinces and territories, partners in the private and not-for-profit sectors, and Aboriginal partners to help homeless individuals and families, including those who are victims of family violence.

COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Under the FVI, horizontal management is led and facilitated by PHAC. It chairs an Interdepartmental Steering Committee composed of directors general from each of the member departments. Officials from the TBS and Privy Council Office (PCO) are ex officio members. An Interdepartmental Working Group on Family Violence (IWG), chaired by the Manager of the Family Violence Prevention Unit of PHAC, reports to the Steering Committee. The Unit's coordination role includes organizing and chairing meetings of the IWG as well as co-chairing meetings between the IWG and the Family Violence Prevention Federal/Provincial/Territorial (F/P/T) Working Group. The coordination function also involves leading the development and implementation of the FVI umbrella RMAF, facilitating information-sharing and networking, and promoting inter-initiative and additional linkages.



The IWG is supported by the Interdepartmental Evaluation Working Group (IEWG), which addresses issues relevant to performance measurement, evaluation activities and reporting. The Working Group on Aboriginal Family Violence established in 2005, provides a forum to share information and research in a collaborative manner, to explore policy issues and identify opportunities for strategic collaboration. Ad hoc groups are established to facilitate the work of the IWG on an as-needed basis. For example, an ad hoc working group was struck to develop the FVI umbrella RMAF.

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS

The FVI member departments are valued around the globe for their contributions in preventing and responding to family violence. PHAC has represented the Government of Canada as a member of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA), since joining as a founding participant in 2004. The VPA is a network of WHO member states, international agencies and civil society organizations working to prevent violence. On behalf of the Government of Canada, Status of Women Canada (SWC) co-leads, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Canada's participation in the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women. The Department of Canadian Heritage prepares Canada's progress reports on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In the time period of this report, Canada participated in annual sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and contributed to the 6th and 7th Reports on CEDAW. It also contributed information to the UN's Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women on causes and consequences, and indicators of violence against women and girls and on measures to eliminate such violence.

Statistics Canada contributes knowledge and expertise to other countries on measuring family violence. Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) shares its expertise and knowledge on evidence-informed prevention and treatment programs. PHAC and the Department of Justice Canada lead federal coordination on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and, with the Department of Canadian Heritage, the reporting to the UN on implementation of this convention. The Department of Justice Canada contributes policy legal advice and input on Canada's international commitments and obligations. It has been involved in developing international treaties, resolutions and reports relating to family violence, violence against women and children, and child sexual exploitation. It has also contributed to or has taken part in presenting Canada's position on resolutions related to family violence before the UN General Assembly, the UN Commission for the Status of Women, the UN Commission on the Rights of the Child and the UN Human Rights Committee. Highlights are as follows:

- Canada put forward a resolution calling for the UN to adopt the *Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime*. The Economic and Security Council of the UN adopted the resolution on July 22, 2005.
- Canada submitted its *Response to the UN Questionnaire on Violence Against Children* in September 2004 and participated in the June 2005 North American Regional consultations, leading to the 2006 UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children.



RESOURCES

The following table identifies the ongoing annual resources allocated to the FVI. Begun in 1997, seven of the 15 FVI member departments share this annual allocation of \$7 million, which serves to ensure the implementation of core activities deemed essential to the Initiative's sustainability.

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT
Public Health Agency of Canada	\$2,140,000
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	\$1,900,000
Department of Justice Canada	\$1,450,000
Department of Canadian Heritage	\$460,000
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	\$450,000
Statistics Canada	\$350,000
Status of Women Canada	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$7,000,000

Member departments allocate additional resources for FVI-related activities from their regular budgets. For example, from April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2008, funding from SWC's Women's Program, totalling \$18,792,980, was approved for projects related to violence against women and girls. Of this amount, a total of \$3,258,120 (which included \$1,000,000 from the SWC's FVI allocation for the four-year period) was approved for projects addressing issues of violence against Aboriginal women and girls.



PART 3

FAMILY VIOLENCE IN CANADA: TRENDS AND ISSUES

SCOPE, NATURE AND EXTENT OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family relationships are based on bonds of kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust. Family violence violates these bonds. Although there has been significant public and professional attention directed at addressing many different dimensions of family violence, it continues to occur, in somewhat shifting patterns. Public dialogue on family violence and its consequences, as well as new and innovative research on family violence, continue to deepen and expand knowledge of this complex and tragic issue.

Violence in family relationships takes many forms and may include acts of physical or sexual assault (as defined by the *Criminal Code of Canada*) as well as other forms of physical and sexual abuse and exploitation, financial exploitation, neglect, emotional abuse and spiritual abuse. Whether family violence is part of an ongoing pattern of experiencing or witnessing abusive behaviour or is an isolated incident, the consequences can be devastating and in some instances fatal.

Since 1997, Statistics Canada has produced an annual report, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*, which details new information on family violence in Canada. This profile is based on data provided to Statistics Canada by various agencies, through the administration of self-report surveys and the use of police-reported data. These data sources illustrate the scope of family violence in Canada, help to inform policy development, and provide important benchmarks against which to measure progress being made nationally to address this issue.

NATIONAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE FROM STATISTICS CANADA

Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, produced annually, provides the most current data on the nature and extent of family violence in Canada, as well as associated trends. It provides policymakers and the public with information about family violence. By linking police data with other sources of data, Statistics Canada has increased its capacity to examine family violence issues.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), conducted every year, measures the incidence of crime in Canadian society and its characteristics based on reported crime that has been substantiated by the police.

The Homicide Survey, conducted every year, collects detailed data on homicide in Canada, based on police-reported homicides, including murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

The Transition Home Survey, conducted every second year, collects information about residential facilities that provide services to abused women and children from shelters across Canada, as well as characteristics on their clients.

The General Social Survey on victimization, conducted every five years, provides information on the experiences of violence collected from a random sample of 24,000 women and men aged 15 years or older. The next survey cycle will occur in 2009.

The Victims Services Survey was first conducted in 2003 and was repeated in 2005-06. The next survey cycle will occur in 2009.



CURRENT OVERVIEW

According to the most recent national profile of family violence, police-reported data for 2006 indicate there were more than 320,000 incidents of violent crime in Canada, with a total of 161,442 female victims and 158,656 male victims.⁶ Of these incidents, just over one in five (22 percent) were victims of violence committed by a family member.⁷

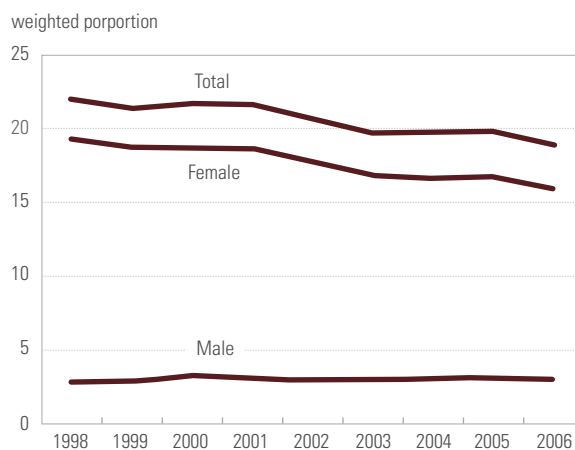
SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

The most recent available national data demonstrate that spousal violence⁸ continues to persist as a serious problem.

According to police-reported data, in 2006, there were over 38,000 incidents of spousal violence across Canada, representing approximately 15 percent of all police-reported violent incidents.⁹ Of all the incidents of family violence that occurred in 2006, a total of 55 percent of all victims were victimized at the hands of a spouse.¹⁰ Although most spousal violence occurred at the hands of a current spouse or common-law partner, nearly one third (31 percent) of all victims of spousal violence were victimized by an ex-spouse.¹¹

Although men are also victims of spousal violence, they accounted for only 17 percent of all victims of police-reported spousal violence. In 2006, more than eight in 10 (83 percent) victims of spousal violence reported to 149 police services were women.¹² Women aged 25 to 34 experienced the highest rate of spousal violence (28 percent), followed closely by those aged 35 to 44 years (26 percent).¹³

CHART 1: Steady decline in police-reported spousal violence, 1998 to 2006¹⁴



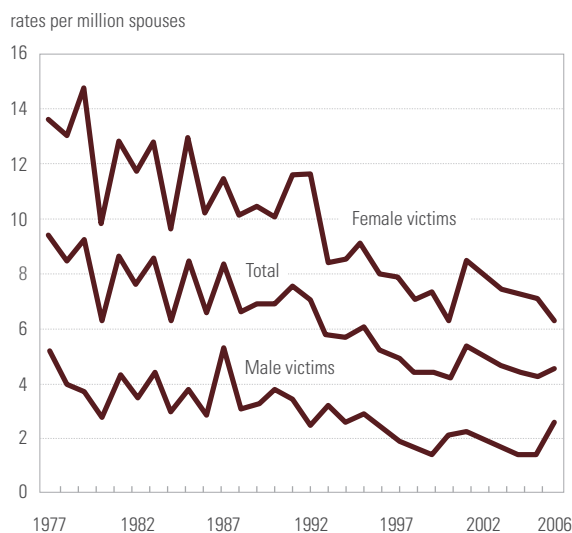
Notes: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Weighted proportions are calculated on the basis of total violent incidents reported to the police. Proportions have been adjusted for incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 63 police services across Canada, representing 53% of the national volume of crime in 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Trend Database.

As CHART 1 above illustrates, overall, police-reported incidents of spousal violence have declined steadily between 1998 and 2006. The proportion of spousal violence reported to police dropped from 22 percent of all violent incidents to 19 percent, which is primarily a result of a drop in reported spousal violence against women.¹⁵



CHART 2: Spousal homicide rate generally declining since mid-1970s¹⁶



Notes: Spouses include legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes same-sex spouses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Police-reported data from 2006 indicate that 56 women and 22 men were killed by their spouses.¹⁷ In 2006, spousal homicides¹⁸ represented 17 percent of all solved homicides¹⁹ and nearly half (47 percent) of all family homicides.²⁰ Between 1997 and 2005, approximately one quarter of spousal homicide incidents resulted in the suicide of the accused following the killing of their spouse.²¹

Since 1977, the rate of spousal homicides for both men and women has declined (1977 to 2006), following the pattern of homicide overall.²² The reasons for this decline are complex. Some researchers have suggested that the decline, particularly in spousal homicides of women, may be linked to increased equality between men and women, improvements in how police and courts respond to spousal violence, better criminal and civil laws, and increased services for victims, including specialized domestic violence courts and emergency shelters for abused women.²³

An analysis of provincial trends in rates of spousal homicide reveals some important differences across the country. Between 1995 and 2004, spousal homicide rates were lowest in the Atlantic provinces (with a combined average of 3.3 per million spouses), followed by Ontario (4.0 per million spouses), and Quebec (4.6 per million spouses). Rates in the four western provinces were higher than in all other provinces. British Columbia reported 5.2 per million spouses, followed by Manitoba and Alberta with 6.1 per million each. Saskatchewan reported the highest average rate at 8.4 spousal homicides per million spouses.

The spousal homicide rates in the three territories (with a combined average of 39.7 homicides per million spouses) were considerably higher than rates in any other province between 1995 and 2004.²⁴



CRIMINAL HARASSMENT

Police-reported data from 2006 indicate that seven out of every 10 victims of criminal harassment had a relationship with the person stalking them: their stalkers were a spouse, a friend or acquaintance.²⁵ Just under 16,000 incidents of criminal harassment were reported to the police in 2006, with just over three quarters (76 percent) of the victims being women.²⁶ Overall, nearly 20 percent of victims of criminal harassment were stalked by their current or former spouse.²⁷ Female victims of stalking were more likely than male victims to report being stalked by an ex-intimate partner, including previous spouses and boyfriends. Conversely, male victims were more likely than female victims to be harassed by an acquaintance.²⁸ The highest rates of criminal harassment were reported for young women between 15 and 24 years of age, where one in 10 self-reported some form of criminal harassment in the previous 12 months. The risk of being criminally harassed tends to decrease with age, for both men and women.²⁹

The 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) contains national data on the nature and extent of criminal harassment in Canada. In the five-year period up to 2004, a total of 9 percent of the population aged 15 and over – or 2.3 million people – reported being stalked.³⁰ In some cases, criminal harassment can result in homicide. Between 1995 and 2005, there were 132 incidents of prior spousal violence committed by a spousal homicide offender. Of this amount, 11 incidents (8 percent) were for criminal harassment.³¹

FAMILY VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The federal government, through *Criminal Code* provisions, and provincial and territorial governments, through their respective child welfare laws, play important roles in protecting children from child abuse. Canada's *Criminal Code* provides a broad range of measures designed to protect persons from violence, including children. Though the *Criminal Code* also contains several child-specific offences to protect children and youth, it does not define "child abuse." In addition, there is no single comprehensive national data source on violence and abuse against children and youth; information is drawn from a number of sources, which include self-report surveys, police-reported data and surveys of child-protection workers. The most recent data, however, illustrate the significant extent of family-related physical and sexual assaults against children and youth, as reported to police in 2006.

In 2006, according to police-reported data, children and youth who were victims of assault (including sexual assault) were most often victimized by someone they knew. A total of 12,198 children and youth were victims of family-related (physical and sexual) assaults in 2006.³² For every 100,000 young persons, 334 were victims of physical or sexual violence by a friend or an acquaintance, 187 were victimized by a family member, and 101 were victimized by a stranger.³³ These rates indicate that the majority of these children and youth were victimized by friends or acquaintances (41 percent) or a family member (24 percent).³⁴

Parents are the most commonly identified perpetrators of family violence against children and youth. In 2006, 107 per 100,000 children and youth were physically or sexually assaulted by a parent. This rate was more than double the rate of assaults committed by siblings (39 per 100,000), and nearly three times higher than the rate of assaults committed by extended family (36 per 100,000 population).³⁵

Trend information on the rates of physical and sexual assault against children and youth are available from 1998 to 2005.³⁶ The rate of sexual assault against children and youth by a family member increased 15 percent and the rates of physical assault increased 8 percent between 2003 and 2005. The gap in the rate of child and youth sexual and physical assaults between non-family members and family members has narrowed slightly over time.³⁷

According to police-reported data for 2006, family-related assaults against children and youth were more likely to have been physical assaults as opposed to sexual assaults. The rate of physical assault by a parent (83 victims per 100,000 children and youth) was more than three times higher than the rate of sexual assault (24 victims per 100,000 children and youth).³⁸ Rates of physical assault by family members were slightly higher for girls than for boys (133 compared with 116 incidents per 100,000 children and youth population). They experienced sexual assault by family members at a rate that was four times higher than the rate experienced by boys and young men (102 compared with 25 incidents per 100,000 population).³⁹ Among the 4,089 child and youth victims of family-related sexual assaults, 80 percent of the victims were female.⁴⁰

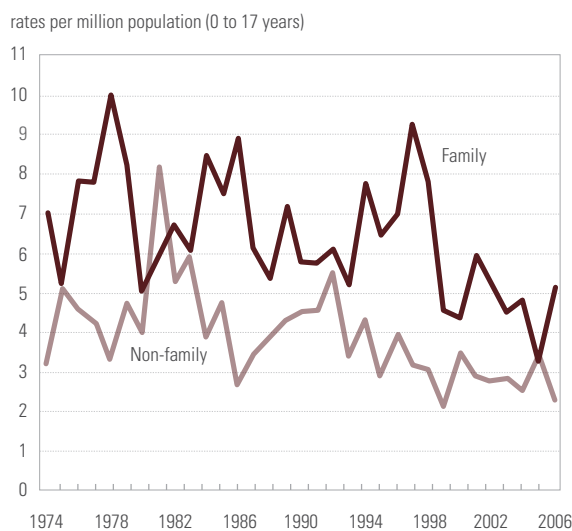


In 2006, men were the accused in the vast majority of family-related sexual assaults against children and youth (96 percent), as well as physical assaults against children and youth (71 percent).⁴¹ For sexual assaults, fathers were involved in 35 percent of incidents against their children, followed by male extended family members (33 percent) and brothers (28 percent).⁴²

According to the 1998-99 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 1 in 12 children aged 4 to 7 (8 percent, or about 120,000 children) had witnessed some type of physical violence in the home.⁴³ The consequences of this are significant, as research suggests that children who witness violence are more likely to exhibit aggression and anxiety.⁴⁴

The 2004 GSS found that the presence of children in the home and children witnessing the violence increased the likelihood that female victims of spousal violence will contact the authorities. A total of 51 percent of women victims of spousal violence who indicated that their children witnessed the violence committed against them notified the police, compared with only 30 percent who said that their children did not witness the violence.⁴⁵

CHART 3: Rates of family homicide against children and youth higher than non-family homicide, 1974 to 2006⁴⁶



Notes: Excludes homicides for which police reported the accused-victim relationship as unknown. Rates are calculated per million children and youth (0 to 17 year olds) using population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

As CHART 3 above shows, from 1974 to 2006, the annual rate of homicide against children and youth has fluctuated. The rate of child and youth homicides perpetrated by family members has been consistently higher than the rate committed by non-family members. The rate of family homicides of children and youth recorded in 2005 was the lowest rate recorded in the past 33 years.⁴⁷

In 2006, there were 60 homicides committed against children and youth under the age of 18 across Canada. The majority (six in 10) were committed by family members (36 homicides), compared with 27 percent (16 homicides) committed by non-family members, including acquaintances and friends, with the remaining 13 percent (8) of child homicides going unsolved. Of the family perpetrated homicides against children and youth, the majority were committed by parents. Over the past three decades (1977 to 2006), 90 percent of family-related homicide victims under the age of 18 were killed by a parent.⁴⁸



Looking at trends within parent perpetrated family homicides, fathers were more likely than mothers to commit homicides against children and youth. Between 1997 and 2006, 56 percent of children killed by a family member were killed by their fathers, 33 percent by their mothers, and the remaining 10 percent by other family members including siblings, grandparents, cousins or other extended family.⁴⁹

FAMILY VIOLENCE AGAINST OLDER ADULTS

The Canadian population is aging. Older adults (those aged 65 years and older) currently account for 14 percent of the Canadian population (Statistics Canada, 2007). This population is expected to exceed the population of those under 15 years of age by 2015.⁵⁰ This will be the first time in Canadian history that older adults outnumber children.⁵¹ Older adults may experience various forms of abuse, such as emotional or psychological abuse, neglect or maltreatment, material exploitation or financial abuse, physical assault and sexual assault.⁵² Two recent surveys – the 2004 GSS and the 2005 and 2006 UCR2 – provide some insight into the extent and characteristics of family violence against older adults in Canada.

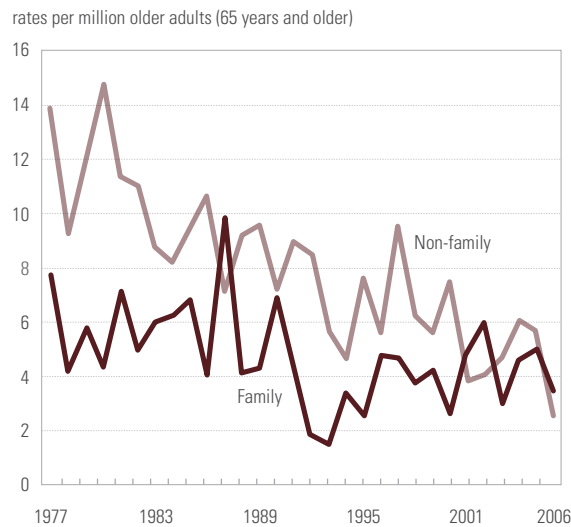
Police-reported data have consistently shown older adults (65 years of age and older) to be the least likely of all age groups to be victims of violent crime. In 2006, there were 6,033 police-reported incidents of violence committed against older adults, indicating a rate of 149 incidents per 100,000 older adults. The rate of violent crime against older adults was 16 times lower than the rate for the age group at the highest risk of victimization, those 15 to 24 years of age.⁵³ Similar to victims of crime in general, older adults were more likely to report being victimized by someone they knew (83 per 100,000) than by a stranger (40 per 100,000).⁵⁴

In 2006, the rate of police-reported family violence against older adults was 43 incidents for every 100,000 persons aged 65 years and over.⁵⁵ As in previous years, older women continue to be more likely than older men to be victims of family violence. In 2006, the rate of family violence was 47 per 100,000 for senior women, compared with 37 per 100,000 for senior men.⁵⁶ Family-related violence against older adults was most often committed by an adult child (14 per 100,000) or a current or former spouse (13 per 100,000).⁵⁷ Police-reported data from the 2004 shows that men were implicated in nearly eight in 10 incidents of family violence against older adults, with a large proportion (30 percent) of male perpetrators being older adults themselves. This finding indicates that a significant proportion of violence against older adults was spousal violence.⁵⁸

The rate of family violence against older adults appears to decrease with age. In 2006, adults aged 85 years and over were the least likely to report being victims of family violence compared with younger age groups. The rate of 20 per 100,000 for this group was much lower than the rates reported for adults aged 75 to 84 years of age (35 per 100,000) and 65 to 74 years of age (53 per 100,000).⁵⁹ It has been suggested previously that this decline in reported family violence over the lifespan may be a result of the higher proportion of older adults who live in institutions.⁶⁰ Research has noted that the oldest adults – those 85 years and older – are more likely than those younger to experience dementia or other chronic illnesses, which can make it physically or mentally impossible to report violence to police.⁶¹ This population may experience less violence outside the home because of reduced mobility and frequency of outside activities. Furthermore, violence against seniors may also decline as a result of the illness or death of the abusive spouse, since a proportion of violence against older adults is perpetrated by spouses.⁶² Due to these factors, their experiences of violence may be less likely to come to the attention of police.



CHART 4: Gap narrows between rates of family and non-family homicides against older adults, 1977 to 2006⁶³



Notes: Rates are calculated per million older adults (65 years and older) using population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

As CHART 4 above shows, over the past three decades, the rate of family-perpetrated homicides against older adults has been lower than that of homicides committed by non-family members. Since 1980, the rate of family-perpetrated homicides has stayed relatively stable, while the non-family homicide rate has been steadily declining.⁶⁴ In 2006, a total of 30 homicides were committed against older adults (18 males and 12 females). One half of homicides against older adults were committed by a family member.⁶⁵ Trend data over the past three decades (1977 to 2006) show the rates of family-related homicide against older adults as generally lower than that of non-family perpetrated homicides, barring a few exceptions. While these rates tend to experience annual fluctuations, it should be noted, however, that the rates of family and non-family homicides against older adults have been converging in recent years, reflecting the decline in non-family homicides.⁶⁶

ABORIGINAL POPULATIONS

For some Canadians, vulnerability to family violence – and its consequences – may be compounded by life circumstances, as well as the availability of and accessibility to services and supports. Data suggest that Aboriginal people were over three times more likely to be victims of spousal violence than non-Aboriginal people, with women being particularly vulnerable. According to the 2004 GSS, Aboriginal women reported spousal violence rates that were three and a half times higher than those of non-Aboriginal women.⁶⁷

Overall, 21 percent of Aboriginal people (24 percent of Aboriginal women and 18 percent of Aboriginal men), said that they had suffered violence from a current or previous spouse or common-law partner in the five-year period up to 2004. This was the case for 6 percent of non-Aboriginal people (7 percent of non-Aboriginal women and 6 percent of non-Aboriginal men).⁶⁸



CONSEQUENCES

There are myriad, serious consequences associated family violence. For example, a child may experience consequences that are psychological, physical, behavioural, academic, sexual, interpersonal, self-perceptual or spiritual.⁶⁹ In addition, children exposed to violence and abuse in the home may experience increased emotional and behavioural difficulties.⁷⁰ Change can be sudden or occur slowly over time, shaping children as they grow.⁷¹ Abuse can have lifetime effects on a person's health status and other life dimensions.⁷² For example, a 2002 WHO study found that the lifetime impacts of child sexual abuse are a significant factor in cases of mental health conditions and disorders, such as depression, suicide, and panic disorders.⁷³ Being abused can harm a person's physical and mental health, their ability to work, and their relationships with their children and other loved ones. Being abused can destroy a person's sense of self-worth and sense of being capable. Substance abuse (alcohol or drugs), if used as a coping mechanism, may further endanger an abused person's health and well-being. Experiences of abuse are contributing factors in people moving in and out of homelessness.⁷⁴ Elderly victims may be particularly vulnerable to financial abuse and neglect, yet the experience and consequences of elder abuse often remain hidden and untold.

RESPONSES TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is a complex, challenging issue. It has been well-established across Canadian jurisdictions and internationally, that responding to family violence requires integrated, interdisciplinary response involving federal and provincial/territorial governments, diverse sectors and disciplines. It is important to recognize that some dimensions of family violence are criminal acts under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, some are not. Some forms of abuse are addressed by provincial or territorial child welfare legislation or through provincial and territorial legislation on family/domestic violence. For example, in Nunavut, a *Family Abuse Intervention Act* came into force in March 2008, which includes a range of provisions and measures to improve protection for victims and people at risk. The law is only one part of the response. A consistent and increasingly deep body of knowledge shows that appropriate health, housing and social services are essential elements in addressing family violence. Over the years, the FVI partners have been working together with their provincial and territorial counterparts and other stakeholders to prevent violence and improve services and systems so that they better meet the needs of those affected by family violence. Continuing public awareness and education, professional development and training, and research and evaluation are part of an effective response. Indeed, all orders of government as well as institutions and agencies from a variety of disciplines and sectors play a role in preventing and addressing family violence.



PART 4

PERFORMANCE RESULTS

OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the results achieved during the 2004-05 to 2007-08 reporting period. It should be noted that the FVI umbrella RMAF was developed and approved during this period. While the performance results are presented according to the new RMAF, the departmental level reporting process and format was in transition and will be more fully aligned with the new RMAF during the next performance reporting period.

This section of the report is based on performance information provided by member departments to PHAC. This includes information from the following reviews or evaluations:

- In 2006, the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (NCFV) completed a Comprehensive Strategic Direction and Needs Assessment Study that provided guidance in making strategic and operational changes to increase reach, efficiency and effectiveness. The study involved FVI partner departments and provincial/territorial contacts, 42 key informants and 895 national survey respondents and resulted in 27 recommendations.
- In 2005, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) conducted an evaluation of its Family Violence Prevention Program. In response to one of the recommendations of the evaluation, a new funding allocation methodology for family violence prevention programs was developed. This methodology shifted funding from a population-based approach to a needs-based approach, to better ensure that funding is directed to the communities most in need. The methodology will be fully implemented by 2012.
- In 2008, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) initiated an evaluation of its Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP). This evaluation examined the continuing need for SEP, its success, impacts and cost-effectiveness. The results from the evaluation indicated that from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2007, SEP funding had significantly contributed to improvements in shelter conditions in Canada. In First Nations communities where shelters are operating, it was also reported that fewer women had to leave their communities to seek protection. Shelters had also contributed to more community engagement in prevention activities. Additional results are presented later in this report.
- In 2008, a four-year performance report of the Department of Justice Canada's Family Violence Initiative, was prepared under contract. It summarizes the achievements of the past four years and sets the groundwork for planning a future evaluation.

In addition, several of the FVI member departments administer grants and contributions funds that encourage project-level evaluations. In some cases, departments have shared the results and insights of these project-level evaluations to illustrate program-level achievements. Key results are included in subsequent sections of this report.

EXPECTED IMMEDIATE OUTCOME:

Strengthened Horizontal Management at the Federal Level

RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The FVI has continued to refine and strengthen its efforts to horizontally manage family violence issues. Under the leadership and coordination of PHAC, an umbrella RMAF was developed and was approved by the FVI Interdepartmental Directors General Steering Committee in September 2007. This FVI RMAF replaces the Initiative's previous Accountability Framework and Reporting Framework.



INTERDEPARTMENTAL STRATEGY PLANNING

FVI coordination prevents duplication of effort and encourages interdepartmental synergy and action. The IWG, as well as the Family Violence Prevention F/P/T Working Group, continue to offer a supportive climate for information sharing, networking, strategic planning, partnerships and collaborative work within a learning environment that is enriched by dialogue. As another example, the NCFV Comprehensive Strategic Direction and Needs Assessment Study provided an opportunity for participants to conduct extensive discussions on enhancing the focus of their research, information and resource development efforts with respect to family violence, the Clearinghouse and the larger FVI.

MECHANISMS AND TOOLS TO SUPPORT FEDERAL COORDINATION

The FVI uses several mechanisms and tools that support federal coordination, including:

- quarterly FVI IWG meetings that provide opportunities for updates, input, assessing implications, as well as sharing lessons learned, information and knowledge;
- annual joint meetings of the FVI IWG with the Family Violence Prevention F/P/T Working Group; and
- regular teleconferences for information-sharing on issues of mutual concern.

The NCFV continues to anchor the FVI knowledge development, dissemination and exchange activities. It develops, acquires and disseminates a wide range of knowledge products and other resources.

To further strengthen horizontal management, the following new mechanisms and tools were introduced:

- In 2005, the FVI extranet website was created by PHAC to house FVI IWG and Family Violence Prevention F/P/T Working Group documents and records, such as contact lists, terms of reference, reports and frameworks, which are used for ongoing management and to orient new representatives who join these working groups.
- In 2006, the NCFV E-Bulletin, a bi-monthly newsletter, was launched to facilitate communications among and across family violence stakeholders (federally and Canada-wide).
- Throughout the reporting period, linkages between the NCFV and departmental websites that provide family violence information were enhanced, improving Canadian's accessibility to family violence information.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATIVE UNDERTAKINGS

Interdepartmental collaboration through working together on specific issues and joint funding agreements continues to strengthen federal efforts to address family violence. During the reporting period, for example, partners extensively collaborated to forge culturally specific solutions that would address family violence issues of concern to Aboriginal communities. Many of these undertakings are highlighted elsewhere in this report. An agreement between CMHC and Statistics Canada enabled them to pilot a survey of youth shelters across Canada that assessed the feasibility of conducting a national survey to gather facility and client information from shelters that offer refuge to youth fleeing abusive situations.⁷⁵ The CSC, the Department of Justice Canada and PHAC have also partnered to address risk assessment strategies for family violence situations. A collaborative approach to program delivery also occurs at regional levels. For example, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Department of Justice Canada, SWC, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) stream funding to projects that intersect with their policy mandates and programming priorities. This approach also helps to build and strengthen local-level partnerships.

Interdepartmental collaboration is instrumental in implementing strategic level initiatives that span the interests of several departments. Highlights of interdepartmental collaboration include:

- *Elder Abuse*: In addition to the activities FVI partners have focused on the abuse of older adults, this issue has become an important component of the work of the Interdepartmental Committee on Seniors. The Committee, led by the Seniors Secretariat within Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), includes several members of the FVI IWG, such as the Department of Justice Canada, PHAC and the RCMP. In addition, FVI partners have opportunities to address issues of abuse of older adults through the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Safety and Security for Seniors.



- *Aboriginal Family Violence:* The issue of family violence in Aboriginal communities has been a high priority for FVI partners. Since 2005, an interdepartmental working group has focused on this issue. Departments have worked together regionally to support community-led initiatives to address violence. Also in 2005, SWC and INAC secured \$5 million in funding over five years for Canada's response to the Native Women's Association of Canada's "Sisters in Spirit" initiative. This research, education and policy initiative addresses the underlying factors contributing to racial and sexual violence against Aboriginal women and their socio-economic, political and legal status. Through this initiative, the Native Women's Association of Canada is working in collaboration with other Aboriginal women's organizations, human rights organizations and the federal government to improve the human rights of Aboriginal women and to address the violence faced by Aboriginal women, in particular, the high rates of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada.

**EXPECTED IMMEDIATE OUTCOME:
Strengthened F/P/T Collaborative Partnerships**

FVI FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL WORKING GROUP

On behalf of federal partners, and in keeping with its leadership and coordination role, PHAC's Family Violence Prevention Unit organizes annual meetings of the FVI IWG with the Family Violence Prevention F/P/T. The latter working group remains a network and not a formal F/P/T body reporting to a ministerial-level. From 2003 to 2007, discussions were held on a range of issues of common concern including children and youth exposed to domestic violence and family violence in Aboriginal and northern communities. These meetings provided opportunities to share information about program, policy, research and legislative developments, and to learn from presentations by non-governmental and research organizations as well as governmental colleagues. They encourage dialogue on research findings, evaluation results and lessons learned. IWG and P/T participants invite each other's input and feedback on various activities and proposals, as well as encourage inter-jurisdictional collaboration where feasible. In all, these exchanges help to broaden understanding of family violence in Canada and enrich efforts to manage horizontally.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Working together with stakeholders ensures that a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral perspective is brought to bear on family violence issues. For example, FVI departments such as PHAC and the Department of Justice Canada maintain linkages with the Alliance of Canadian Research Centres on Violence and have collaborative relationships with the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System Response to Intimate Partner Violence. The Observatory is funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Statistics Canada is a current member of the Canadian Observatory, a growing network of academics, government and community partners from across Canada as well as international partners in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. By conducting research and disseminating results, the Observatory aims to contribute to a coordinated effort to reduce and eliminate intimate partner violence (IPV), establish effective justice system responses, and reduce the impacts of IPV for victims and society. RCMP officials responsible for addressing family violence consult and work together with other police forces and sectors to address family violence issues at community levels. The Department of Justice Canada works together with provincial and territorial partners who administer the criminal justice system, public legal education and information organizations, the academic research community and community organizations on family violence issues. To address priorities, SWC links with NGOs, academic institutions, centres of excellence and community groups addressing women's issues. Its efforts encourage dialogue and exchange on policies and programs. SWC supports community-based violence prevention projects that improve women's social and economic condition and bring about their advancement through positive outcomes. For example, it enabled the Cross-sectoral Violence Against Women Strategy Group, which represents a wide variety of local and provincial women's groups in Ontario, the opportunity to share their perspectives, including the perspectives of immigrant and Francophone women, on the province's Domestic Violence Action Plan.



The Department of Justice Canada in partnership with the Alberta Solicitor General's Victims of Crime Fund provided funds to the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family to conduct the Victim Focused Services for the Elderly: Access and Effectiveness in Alberta Project. This project reviewed the legislation, reporting practices, and services in Alberta respecting the issue of elder abuse and served to identify gaps in legislation and services and document the experiences of the victims who access these services.

EXPECTED IMMEDIATE OUTCOME:

Enhanced Federal Policy, Programs and Legislative Response to Family Violence

Family violence touches upon many life dimensions at individual, family and community levels and affects many systems and services. Since family violence is a multi-faceted issue, which requires interdisciplinary collaboration, working horizontally across sectors is fundamental to an effective response to family violence issues. The federal government plays a unique role in addressing family violence issues at the broad policy level. It has various accountabilities under the *Constitution Act (1867)* and exclusive legislative authorities as well as legislative authorities that are shared with provincial and territorial governments. For example, the federal government is responsible for making a criminal law and the provinces are responsible for administering it.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY RESPONSES

The Department of Justice Canada has provided ongoing legal advice and support to strengthen Canada's legislative framework to address family violence. One of the key accomplishments during the reporting period was the department's contribution to Bill C-2, a Bill to amend the *Criminal Code* and the *Canada Evidence Act* to improve the ability of the criminal justice laws to address family violence. The Bill was proclaimed on November 1, 2005, and came into force on January 2, 2006 (except s. 28). The Bill provided amendments to:

- strengthen child pornography provisions by increasing penalties, prohibiting advertising, broadening the definition, and creating a clearer, narrower, harm-based "legitimate purpose" defence;
- create a new offence against sexual exploitation of youth (aged 14-18) to better protect youth against those who would prey on their vulnerability;
- increase penalties for child-specific offences involving abuse, neglect or being exploited for sexual purposes, including imposing mandatory minimum sentences for specific sexual offences against children;
- facilitate the testimony of child victims and witnesses under 18 years of age and other vulnerable victims and witnesses by providing a clearer and more consistent test for the use of aids such as screens, closed-circuit television and support persons;
- create a new test to enable children under 14 years of age to testify in any proceeding where they are able to understand and respond to questions and after they have promised to tell the truth;
- protect against spousal violence by facilitating the criminal law enforcement of breaches of civil restraining orders; and
- establish new voyeurism offences prohibiting the secret viewing or recording of another person when there is a reasonable expectation of privacy in three specific situations and prohibiting the intentional distribution of a voyeuristic recording.

In addition, the Department of Justice Canada policy counsel has provided advice on various legislative issues. For example, policy counsel has worked on options for family violence related issues in the event that the *Divorce Act* was amended. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has led Bill C-47, Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act, which represents the first federal legislation offering family violence protection for the family home on reserve. Department of Justice Canada policy counsel also contributed to this bill. The bill died with the dissolution of the 39th Parliament of Canada.



Under a requirement of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA), Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) reports annually on the impact of this legislation and the corresponding regulations using a gender-based analysis. As part of its information publications to newcomers, CIC stresses that family violence is unacceptable, and provides information on how to seek assistance if needed. In 2002, the sponsorship period for spouses, common-law partners and conjugal partners was lowered from 10 years to three years to reduce the vulnerability of these sponsored persons. In addition, federal regulations concerning family sponsorship, introduced in 2002, and further clarified in 2004, bar from sponsorship persons who had been convicted of a sexual offence against any person or convicted of offences resulting in bodily harm against certain relatives.

BUILDING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

In 2006, the F/P/T Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women initiated and hosted a Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence: Building Safe and Healthy Families and Communities. This forum brought together more than 250 delegates representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations with advocates, policymakers, leaders and federal, provincial and territorial government officials. The forum was funded through a partnership between SWC, Department of Justice Canada, INAC, the RCMP and the Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada. The forum raised awareness and created dialogue on policies and program initiatives. It showcased programs and services from across the country that are making a difference. The results of this forum subsequently informed the June 2007 National Aboriginal Women's Summit (organized in partnership with the Government of Canada and co-hosted by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Native Women's Association of Canada). This summit identified key issues of concern for Aboriginal women, including poverty, protecting and advancing human rights, and violence. The recommendations were taken into consideration by F/P/T Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women in developing their action plans (confirmed in their joint commitment in the *Iqaluit Declaration* in July 2007).

In 2007, with the goal of advancing family violence policy with respect to Aboriginal communities, the Department of Justice Canada hosted its first Forum on Justice Programs in Northern and Remote Aboriginal Communities. In March 2008, a second forum was held, which showcased the Rankin Inlet Spousal Assault Counselling Program and the Hollow Water Community Holistic Circle Health Program. A special issue of the department's research publication, *JustResearch* 15, which focused on Aboriginal-related research, was also released at the 2008 forum.

IMPROVING SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

In the reporting period, Service Canada conducted national consultations with federal government departments, provincial and territorial partners, police services, national councils, advocacy groups and victims in the development of Confidential Service for Victims of Abuse (CSVA). These consultations were meant to determine how to effectively integrate federal, provincial and territorial programs to form a service delivery network to assist victims of intimate or familial violence who are at risk of serious injury or death in changing their identities and relocating while respecting jurisdictional authorities. As a result of these consultations, a service was created that reflects a shared F/P/T commitment to improve the safety of victims of intimate and familial violence and to implement a last resort program where traditional interventions have been inadequate in addressing their safety needs. Service Canada will create an annual F/P/T forum to contribute to the overall success of developing and maintaining a network of partnerships across 10 provinces and three territories.

The RCMP is also developing a national policy on victim services that will guide police in responding to victim needs and providing information about the status of the investigation, available support services and community agencies, the role of the criminal justice system and conditions of release of the offender.



INTERVENTIONS WITH FEDERAL OFFENDERS

Family violence prevention remains a priority for CSC. It assesses offenders' risk for family violence throughout their sentence, provides prevention interventions and accredited treatment programs appropriate to the level of risk, and undertakes informed case supervision. From 2004 to 2008, 3,115 offenders have participated in institutional or community-based family violence programs. A 2004 study completed by the BC Institute of Family Violence found that participants in CSC's moderate and high intensity programs had significantly improved their problem-solving, emotions management and communication skills, which had resulted in changed attitudes. Participants of national programs had also reduced their rates of spousal and general violence rates as compared with a group of non-participants.

CSC also conducted 10 national and three international trainings on its standardized national treatment programs. A total of 198 CSC staff and 27 non-CSC staff have been trained. In 2003-04, CSC developed an Aboriginal High Intensity Family Violence Prevention Program that mirrors the current accredited content, but the process and method of delivery is reflective of the history, teachings, traditions and cultural values of Aboriginal peoples. Since September 2005, the program has been available for national delivery. In 2007-08, CSC also translated this program into Inuktitut and incorporated Inuit healing ceremonies and teachings into the program. This program has been successfully delivered to a group of 12 Inuit participants, all of whom completed the program. CSC has also provided parole officers with a one-day training program to increase their knowledge of the risk factors associated with intimate partner violence and the nature, patterns and dynamics of this form of violence and to improve their skills to effectively manage risk. The program also provides information about the organization's policies and protocols to manage the risk. Best practices and information about interagency and community-based practices and resources is also included. The Parole Officer Orientation Training was updated in May 2004 to include a module on family violence. From 2004 to 2008, 193 staff participated in staff awareness training sessions to learn about CSC's national family violence prevention programs. CSC also conducted a literature review on women offenders and domestic violence and a file review of federally sentenced women. The latter study found that 15 percent of women offenders had histories of perpetrating spousal violence. A module of the Violence Prevention Program for violent, federally sentenced women offenders, which contains information on intimate partner violence, was piloted in 2007-08.

EXPECTED INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME:

More Coordinated Federal Approach

Efforts to enhance federal coordination on family violence issues have held a steady course during the reporting period. The FVI has maintained a workable infrastructure to accomplish this role through its governance structure and its information and communication mechanisms and tools. These structures and mechanisms have provided invaluable support to collaborative efforts on key issues, such as the links between family violence and homelessness. Horizontal management is also helping to improve responses to the needs of specific target populations, as demonstrated through the FVI's focus on family violence and Aboriginal populations.

Specifically, the establishment of the Working Group on Aboriginal Family Violence in 2005 has helped strengthen the FVI's focus on issues pertaining to Aboriginal family violence. Eleven partner departments are part of this working group that serves as a forum to share information and research, to explore policy issues, and to identify opportunities for strategic collaboration.

EXPECTED IMMEDIATE RESULT:

Increased Knowledge Base

The FVI continues to play a leadership role in providing Canadians with relevant and accessible information and knowledge on family violence issues. This knowledge base contributes to a comprehensive approach to the issues. The collection and analysis of national information provides statistical trends and other insights that can inform public policy dialogue on family violence issues. Innovative and pioneering research is helping to refine strategies so that they are more effective in preventing family violence from occurring. Research has also been invaluable in informing policy development and practice.



The body of knowledge created with FVI leadership and support is largely accessible through the NCFV and departmental websites. While individual studies are too numerous to fully cite in this report, some highlights of the reporting period are provided below.

Family Violence and Homelessness: FVI partners have undertaken research to understand the dynamics that underlie homelessness. The Family Violence Prevention Unit of PHAC commissioned a literature review that summarizes current knowledge about the relationship between family violence and homelessness and provides policymakers, program development officers, researchers and front-line service providers with information on how to best respond to the varied and unique needs of homeless people in Canada. HRSDC has examined the experiences of homeless immigrant women to understand the pathways these women follow into and out of homelessness. It has also examined the dynamics of sponsorship relationships that contribute to domestic violence to identify strategies to reduce the risk of domestic violence and homelessness that women face. Their work has also focused on identifying best practices to safely house abused and homeless women. A CMHC study of homeless people in Windsor/Essex County found that family violence is a contributing factor to homelessness. CMHC is continuing to explore the housing needs of women who have experienced different forms of interpersonal violence, including family violence.

Impacts of Abuse and Exposure to Violence on Children: The Family Violence Prevention Unit of PHAC commissioned an update of an earlier discussion paper on child abuse and neglect. The updated paper highlights various aspects of child maltreatment, (including incidence, prevalence and correlates), based primarily on, but not limited to, Canadian research and data, such as the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect. The Family Violence Prevention Unit of PHAC also commissioned the development of a resource that addresses what children may feel, think and do during violent incidents against their mothers, roles they might adopt, strategies of coping and survival, and how violence may be experienced by children from infancy to adolescence. It contains information for professionals and volunteers working with children and women about supporting women as parents and responding to child disclosures.⁷⁶

Housing Discrimination: A study by CMHC focused on housing discrimination against victims of domestic violence, and documented the degree to which landlords discriminate against battered women although the reasons for discrimination are less clear.

The Impacts of Elder Abuse: In 2007, with the support of PHAC, the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse produced two documents on addressing the needs of older adult victims of violence: *Promising Approaches for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and a Framework for a National Strategy for the Prevention of Elder Abuse*. The first document provides a snapshot of promising approaches to the prevention of abuse of older adults in Canada while the latter identifies key issues, stakeholders and organizational components for a framework and strategy for the prevention of elder abuse.⁷⁷

Family Violence and the Criminal Justice System: FVI partners have undertaken research of issues related to the prevention and reduction of family violence to guide policy development and decision making within the criminal justice system. In partnership with the Ontario Attorney General Domestic Violence Team, the Department of Justice Canada undertook a study to measure the success of Ontario's Domestic Violence Court (DVC). This study, published in February 2008, found that offenders who appeared in a DVC were less likely than other offenders appearing in other Ontario courts to be reconvicted of a spousal or other type of violent offence. A report prepared for the Department of Justice Canada, published in December 2004, detailed a study of attitudinal change in participants in the Partner Assault Response Program, administered alongside Ontario's DVC and yielded insights about the links between attitudes and the development and change of abusive behaviour. It also led to the creation of four appropriate self-report measures that can be used in future research and evaluation. The Department of Justice Canada also sponsored a study of Criminal Justice Outcomes in Intimate and Non-Intimate Partner Homicide Cases that explored the treatment of these two types of homicides and helped increase understanding of how new criminal laws and criminal justice policies affect the treatment of persons accused of homicide.



Risk assessment has been a focus of Department of Justice Canada research projects. A new risk assessment tool to help police agencies identify spousal assault risk situations and respond in a more timely fashion was developed and pilot tested. A report that describes the development and testing of the tool concluded that the adaptation of the existing tool (the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide or SARA) into a shorter, easier to use, B-SAFER version yielded an appropriate and valuable tool. The department is also preparing a compendium of the various spousal violence risk assessment tools used in provinces and territories. Other Department of Justice Canada research includes a report on family violence and sexual assault offences in the territories using Crown Prosecutor files for the period January 1, 1999, to December 31, 2004. *Understanding Family Violence and Sexual Assault in the Territories, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples* examines the relationship between an offender and the offender's personal history of violent abuse within the framework developed through the work of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP, 1996 and 2002). Also, a study to gain a better understanding of how the bail system responds to individuals accused of spousal violence is underway. It involves examining a sample of adult offenders charged with spousal violence in five jurisdictions and comparing it to a sample of offenders charged with similar offences but with no spousal relationship to the victim. The Department of Justice Canada also prepares internal research documents to ensure that departmental officials have access to up-to-date information on key family violence issues, including, for example, child sexual abuse and criminal harassment.

Family Violence Against Women: The Family Violence Prevention Unit of PHAC commissioned an update of two earlier papers addressing the abuse of women in intimate partner relationships. *Violence in Dating Relationships – Overview Paper* highlights recent evidence-based research on the extent of dating violence, what contributes to dating violence, young people and dating violence, the health impacts of dating violence, and prevention and early intervention. *Violence Against Women with Disabilities – Overview Paper* provides an overview of current knowledge relating to violence against women with disabilities, including the forms such violence takes, estimates of its occurrence, and associated risk factors. While recognizing the barriers that women may face in seeking help, the paper also offers suggestions for action and identifies organizations that can help.

Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities: INAC commissioned a study on *Aboriginal Women and Family Violence*. This study explores the attitudes and opinions of Aboriginal women, and the professionals who work with them, on intimate partner violence against women. It includes a discussion of the causes and consequences of male violence against women in Aboriginal communities, and of sources of support, resource gaps and recommendations. PHAC developed a condensed version of the research report, which is available through the NCFV.

Family Violence Against Men: PHAC's Family Violence Prevention Unit commissioned the development of two papers addressing the abuse of men in intimate partner relationships. *Intimate Partner Abuse Against Men – Overview Paper* provides an overview of the available research findings on the nature and extent of abuse committed by women against their intimate male partners, as well as an examination of the various methodologies that have been used to research this issue. It identifies risk factors, the physical and psychological effects on victims, as well as prevention and support services. *Abuse in Gay Male Relationships: A Discussion Paper* provides an overview of available knowledge on the nature and extent of abuse in gay male relationships, situating the issue in a social and cultural context and identifying the obstacles that victims may face when seeking help to deal with or escape from such relationships.

Spousal violence and repeat police contact: The 2006 edition of the Family Violence in Canada report, produced by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) featured an article examining the criminal history of persons charged with spousal violence over a 10-year period. While significant progress has been made in the area of spousal violence, the extent to which these incidents escalate in frequency and seriousness is not well understood, nor is the impact of police intervention on patterns of spousal violence. For the first time, the CCJS examined patterns of police-reported offending among persons accused of spousal violence over a 10-year period. The results of this project make an important contribution toward improving understanding concerning patterns of spousal violence and the response of the criminal justice system.



EXPECTED IMMEDIATE RESULT:

Expanded Inventory of Accessible Information and Educational Resources

The NCFV continues to serve as Canada's key resource for family violence information. Multiple points of contact and accessible material ensure that research findings, emerging issues, funding opportunities and best practices are widely known. The NCFV not only promotes public awareness of family violence issues, it also helps to facilitate the translation of knowledge into practice.

The NCFV is regularly accessed by a wide range of users, including health and social service providers, educators and students, criminal justice personnel, media, government, and the general public. From April 2004 to March 2008, the NCFV added seven overview papers, two catalogues, one report, four discussion papers, one newsletter and 10 e-bulletin issues, seven inventories, 10 booklets, four posters, a bookmark and pamphlet, and 13 FVI partner department publications to its collection. It also added 40 videos to its collection, including videos on such topics as the abuse of older adults; the "Neighbours, Friends and Families" strategy, which is a partnership between the Ontario Government's Women's Directorate and the Expert Panel on Neighbours, Friends and Families, through the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children; and the abuse of people with disabilities. During this period, the NCFV processed approximately 15,000 requests for this information and resources. This translates into the distribution of more than 475,000 publications across the country and abroad.

The NCFV also disseminates information materials through its extensive reference library collection and its on-line bibliographic search engine of almost 12,000 items on family violence, which is maintained through the Health Canada Departmental Library. Although the NCFV does not provide legal advice or crisis counselling, it provides clients with information and referrals to resource people and organizations in their area that respond to family violence in a professional, compassionate manner.

RESPONDING TO CLIENT NEEDS

As a result of a national, needs assessment study conducted in February 2005, the NCFV enhanced its website by introducing an on-line shopping cart ordering function and posting linkages between the FVI and P/T family violence related pages. It developed and launched an E-Bulletin, replacing the biannual hard copy NCFV newsletter. These tools have helped to strengthen connections and relationships with Canadian family violence researchers and research centres across the country.

The NCFV website is a proven, effective tool and serves as a vital portal to family violence information, links and resources. The website includes links to all FVI partner departments and hundreds of stakeholders and related organizations. The website also provides a link to the library's reference collection and on-line bibliographic search engine. According to a recent Web Log Analysis Report, the NCFV site had more than 1,000,000 visits in 2007-08. Website and e-mail requests have been steadily increasing and are currently the most popular method of requesting materials. From 2004-05 to 2007-08, they accounted for an average of 60 percent of all client requests to the NCFV. The NCFV E-Bulletin has grown to include 2,900 subscribers, more than six times its size since launched in 2006.

Videos are also an effective public education tool and are used extensively for public awareness, education and training, and professional development. The NCFV maintains a contractual agreement with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) to manage and expand the "Preventing Family Violence" video collection. Through inter-library loans, more than 170 videos are made accessible to Canadians through 34 NFB partner public libraries across the country. This partnership is a mechanism for disseminating videos and related user guides that gets information directly into the hands of community agencies, educators and others for whom videos might often be too expensive to acquire. Exhibits by the NCFV at international conferences, workshops and meetings have also helped to ensure that NCFV resources reach practitioners.



The needs assessment study validated the role of the NCFV as a “pointer and connector” for the work of others involved in family violence issues federally and across the country. As a result, the NCFV is making changes to its website to guide NCFV web users to resources from other sources. NCFV will post the “pointer function” on its website in fiscal year 2008-09.

FVI partner departments develop information products under the FVI that deal with issues related to their own mandates. These materials are usually disseminated through the member departments’ mechanisms and distribution strategies and/or through the NCFV. The Department of Justice Canada, for example, hosts a widely accessed family violence website that contains fact sheets on family violence-related topics. These fact sheets provide the public with current information about the issues, including information about the justice/legislative responses to these issues. In November 2006, on the UNs’ International Children’s Day, it launched the FVI Youth website that is a dynamic, interactive and easily navigated site on family violence issues targeted to youth.

EXPECTED INTERMEDIATE RESULT:

Increased Public Awareness of Family Violence Issues

A public opinion poll conducted in 2002⁷⁸ indicated that there was significant public support for efforts to prevent and respond to family violence: 75 percent of those polled considered that it should be a high priority for governments and communities.

In 2006, the research firm Ipsos-Reid prepared a report entitled *Aboriginal Women and Family Violence* for INAC, which explores attitudes and opinions of Aboriginal women, and the professionals who work with them, on the issue of family violence, specifically intimate partner violence against women. This report reaffirms that awareness raising and education about family violence issues make a difference, and that continuing these efforts is important to shifting attitudes and changing behaviours.

Consultations conducted by the National Seniors Council on Elder Abuse in 2007 reaffirmed that increasing awareness of elder abuse must be “enhanced and accelerated.”⁷⁹

MILESTONES IN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION is a poster listing key events in family violence prevention from 753 BC to 2006, including legislative changes at provincial and federal levels. The current draft has been presented at conferences, including the June 2007 International Union for Health Promotion and Education conference in Vancouver and the November 2007 Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference held in Toronto.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY: Since 2006, June 15th has been marked as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Canada, a day set aside to recognize the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue.

The FVI contributes to increased public awareness of family violence issues by providing information, knowledge, resources and tools about the issues to a broad range of audiences. Through the NCFV and other departmental information dissemination mechanisms, the FVI has demonstrated it has broad reach. Federal partners also utilize these materials in public awareness and education activities that they take part in, or support with project funding. For example, the RCMP distributes family violence brochures on topics such as stalking, the effects of domestic violence on children, dating violence, and spousal and partner abuse. During the reporting period it also promoted World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by distributing public education materials on this issue to the communities it polices.

The Department of Canadian Heritage supported the Peoples’ Law School, which has also helped to expand the FVI’s reach to ethnocultural communities. In the reporting period, the Peoples’ Law School delivered 126 radio broadcasts and 109 newspaper articles in community media outlets related to family violence. A series of four training workshops were undertaken in partnership with SUCCESS, B.C.’s biggest immigrant settlement agency. These workshops reached 94 participants, increasing their knowledge about Canadian laws, legal consequences and legal norms with respect to family violence. COSTI Immigrant Services has reached out in similar ways to ethnocultural



communities, in Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener and Windsor, achieving positive results in terms of raising awareness and increasing knowledge. In Montreal and Quebec, the Shield of Athena program reached out to ethnocultural women through workshops. In partnership with police services, the Montreal SOS line and other community partners produced a series of multi-lingual, multi-media products that were aired on local ethnocultural television channels. An evaluation indicates that this outreach activity is contributing to higher reporting of incidents of conjugal violence and increased use of women's shelters by ethnocultural women in Montreal.

The Department of Justice Canada has supported innovative projects aimed at raising public awareness and education of family violence issues and the law. For example, in several instances, it has supported the work of groups who are raising awareness of family violence issues in franco-minority communities in various parts of Canada (for example Saskatchewan and Manitoba). Project evaluation results indicate that these efforts have improved the visibility of family violence within the targeted communities, increased knowledge of the issues and individual rights and responsibilities, and improved ability to effectively respond. The Department of Justice Canada has also supported community workshops to raise awareness of specific issues such as elder abuse, child sexual abuse, family violence in Aboriginal communities, and abuse in rural areas. Recognizing the important role that criminal justice, health and social service professionals play as intermediaries, it has also supported training workshops and the development of resources that will increase the capacity of these intermediaries to address the needs of, and informatively respond to legal issues of concern to victims of family violence. While there are many effective awareness-raising activities underway, efforts to raise awareness are continually required.

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) is an important public awareness and education component of the Family Violence Initiative offered through the Department of Justice Canada. The PLEI program identifies, analyzes and assesses needs for family violence public legal education and information material. Products include fact sheets, brochures, training programs and workshops. The program also supports projects at the community level designed to increase public awareness and understanding of family violence.

In the 2004-05 to 2007-08 period, the Department of Justice Canada's PLEI program undertook a range of activities. The major project was an enhancement of the Department of Justice Canada's family violence website and the addition of a specialized site devoted to youth that provides age appropriate information on defining family violence, understanding the legal context, and where to get help if a child believes she or he is being abused. Several widely used PLEI publications were also updated and translated into more languages. As an example, in 2006, the booklet titled *Abuse is Wrong in Any Language* designed for immigrant and refugee women was updated, especially in relation to immigration issues. Originally available in 10 languages and in Braille, the updated version is available in six additional languages.

EXPECTED IMMEDIATE RESULT:

Increased and More Effective Community Initiatives

The FVI has worked steadily to support and engage communities in preventing family violence and in creating and implementing solutions when it occurs. A major emphasis during the reporting period has been on addressing family violence concerns and needs of Aboriginal and other Canadian sub-populations at the community level. For example, in the reporting period, the Department of Canadian Heritage supported 52 projects to address family violence in Aboriginal communities. Approximately 85 percent of the projects funded by the department included measures to increase community capacity to address family violence and approximately three quarters (71 percent) included strategies to increase public awareness and enhance the knowledge base. Highlights include projects to gather culturally specific knowledge on healing strategies, knowledge exchange and skills transfer, and community-level planning. The department also invested in activities designed to strengthen local leadership, to prevent and respond to violence. Many of these efforts have involved community consultation and have thus helped to raise awareness of these issues.



Collaboration among federal partners and other stakeholders has also been key. For example, with funding support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, INAC, the Department of Justice Canada and Public Safety Canada's NCPC, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada struck an inter-disciplinary, inter-sectoral advisory committee and created a National Inuit Strategy on Abuse Prevention. This strategy has been endorsed by the government of Nunavut, various Inuit representative organizations, shelters, the RCMP and other service providers in four land claim regions of Canada. It provides a framework for action driven by Inuit principles and informed by culturally appropriate practices. With the support of SWC, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada also engaged 11 northern Inuit communities in taking action. This project focused on raising community awareness through public radio shows, newsletters and public meetings and enhancing the knowledge and skills of women from these communities to engage their communities in addressing violence. As a result of this project, coordinating committees at various sites were initiated or re-energized, community action plans were developed, and four communities became involved in a subsequent project to develop and test culturally specific healing models. The knowledge and expertise developed through other funded initiatives, such as the Rankin Inlet Spousal Counselling project initially supported by the Department of Justice Canada, were utilized in this project.

Family Violence in Inuit Communities: With funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada researched Inuit cultural approaches to family violence by gathering information from community elders. This research was subsequently used to inform the development of an Inuit-specific prevention strategy. With funding from the Department of Justice Canada, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada designed a national mobile training module for front-line workers who work in women shelters in Inuit communities across Canada. The training module and subsequent train-the-trainer module will be adapted to the unique needs of each community, which will increase the knowledge transfer to shelter workers enabling them to more effectively support victims of abuse and family violence.

TOOLS FOR THE HEALING JOURNEY

The Gignoo Transition House Inc. and the Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick developed the Healing Journey Toolkit, which is a comprehensive and holistic resource to promote public education of family violence and prevention. This project included the delivery of training sessions throughout the province. The toolkit contains culturally relevant information, safety planning tools and community planning resources and is accessible through the Internet.⁶⁰ It was developed with support from INAC, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Department of Justice Canada, SWC, the Government of New Brunswick (Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs; Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat; the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs; Executive Council Office, Women's Issues Branch, the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women), and the Mounted Police Foundation (RCMP).

Family Violence in First Nations' Communities: INAC has provided support to various community-based projects and initiatives that are aimed at increasing awareness of family violence, and reducing its occurrence. As a result of a 2005 evaluation of INAC's Family Violence Prevention Program, the department is planning to introduce a new funding allocation methodology that will ensure that funds are directed to communities most in need. The new methodology will be fully implemented by 2012. The department's ability to report on community-level family violence project results will be further improved when the program's new funding methodology is fully implemented. The department continues to work with stakeholders such as the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence, the Native Women's Association of Canada, the Assembly of First Nations and provinces and territories, as well as with other federal government departments, such as SWC, on the coordination of family violence prevention programming to better protect the interests of First Nations women, children and families.



Aboriginal youth have also been a population focus of the FVI. For example, INAC supported the 5th Annual First Nations Youth, Violence and Changing Times Training Conference, which involved 200 youth in addressing issues such as violence, suicide and drug addiction. SWC and the Department of Canadian Heritage have provided funding to the Native Women's Association of Canada to develop a violence prevention toolkit and train 200 Aboriginal youth and youth councils to address issues such as violence in the home and its impacts, dating violence, sexual assault, emotional abuse and bullying. To date, 175 First Nations, Métis and Inuit women and 129 service providers and community representatives have participated in six "train the trainer" sessions and it is estimated that it will reach 1,200 young people. The initiative has received support from 53 First Nations and Métis communities, 18 shelters, 99 community health and social agencies and 47 band councils. To April 2008, 1,664 toolkits have been disseminated. As another example, the Western Region Métis Women's Association, Inc. is conducting a neighbourhood specific initiative in Saskatoon (Mount Royal) to raise awareness about family violence and provide information to Aboriginal youth.

There are many other federal investments supported by departments that are strengthening community capacity to prevent family violence. For example, Public Safety Canada's NCPC supports evidence-based programs to reduce offending by tackling known risk factors among vulnerable groups of the population. Its priorities are to reduce offending behaviour among children and youth at-risk, reduce recidivism among persistent, chronic offenders, and foster prevention in Aboriginal communities. These interventions will help to reduce offending among those who are likely to engage in family violence. In the reporting period, NCPC funded 84 projects that are expected to contribute to engaging community members and strengthening community capacity (including the development of new partnerships, knowledge, skills, linkages and networks) to implement evidence-based community solutions to violence. This has included work on family violence generally and on violence against women, youth and violence, and community safety and well-being.

As noted under the Resources section of this report, in addition to its portion of the \$7 million allocation, SWC has provided grants and contributions program funding to a range of projects aimed at eliminating systemic violence against women and girls and issues of violence against Aboriginal women and girls. It should be noted that in September 2006, the Women's Program was renewed with new Terms and Conditions that significantly changed the focus of the program. The Women's Program is now composed of two components, the Women's Community Fund and the Women's Partnership Fund, which fund projects aimed directly at helping women in their communities in an accountable and efficient way. Family violence projects have included demonstration or pilot projects, workshops and conferences aimed at public education and awareness, research, and the development of resources and policy papers. For example, in collaboration with six federal departments, SWC provided funding to Corporation Wapikoni Mobile, which used multi-media technology to promote dialogue among young Aboriginal women and men on violence issues. The resulting productions are available through NFB. The Edmonton Financial Literacy Society of Alberta produced an educational video about the links between economic self-sufficiency and a woman's ability to leave an abusive relationship. Reducing the cultural and social barriers faced by survivors of violence was also the focus of funding to the Chinese Canadian Council of Toronto. This project provided training to women from the community so that they can serve as "ambassadors" for family violence prevention. Training enabled them to lead public education and training sessions on family violence prevention, which will help to increase community understanding of the dynamics of family violence and create solutions. In 2007-08, about 33 percent of the projects funded under its Women's Community Fund related to the prevention of violence against women and girls.

The RCMP has 750 detachments in 14 divisions across Canada and polices a diverse range of communities. In the reporting period, with funding from its portion of the FVI allocation, the RCMP undertook 35 educational workshops and training sessions. It also undertook collaborative research to advance police-community work on issues such as spousal assault, child abuse and child sexual abuse. It developed new resources for front-line police officers, such as the RCMP Yukon's "Violence in Relationships" reference manual that assists officers in responding to relationship violence incidents and issues. With FVI funding, the RCMP continues to train front-line officers in sexual assault investigation. Current training is based on a Sexual Assault Investigator's Course developed by the RCMP in British Columbia. An on-line version of this course will be piloted in fall 2008, and the Course Training Standard will be approved once the on-line course has been piloted.



NEW AND ENHANCED SHELTERS

Shelters for victims of abuse are an integral part of the community's ability to respond to family violence. CMHC administers the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP) which provides capital funds for repairs, rehabilitation and improvements of existing shelters for persons who experience family violence, and for the acquisition or construction of new shelters and second-stage housing where needed. This includes First Nations facilities on reserves.

CMHC's annual budget under the FVI is \$1.9 million, of which \$100,000 relates to administration costs. Various extensions to CMHC's suite of renovation programs, including SEP, were provided for a three-year period from 2003-04 to 2005-06, for one year for 2006-07, and more recently for a two-year period from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2009. These extensions provide funding for both on and off reserve SEP shelters, in addition to the annual FVI funding of \$1.9 million.

SHELTERS, AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE RESPONSE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

Between 2004-05 and 2007-08, 1,251 new shelter spaces were created and 3,587 shelter spaces were enhanced to help protect victims of family violence.

- In 2004-05, the annual federal expenditure budget for SEP was \$11.9 million, of which \$0.7 million related to administration. In that year, CMHC approved 91 new shelter spaces at a cost of approximately \$2.5 million and 1,143 existing shelter spaces were enhanced at a cost of \$10.4 million. A further \$2.4 million in provincial funding contributed to shelter enhancement through cost-sharing arrangements with Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
- In 2005-06, the annual federal expenditure budget for SEP was \$22.3 million, of which \$0.3 million related to administration. CMHC approved 107 new shelter spaces at a cost of approximately \$3.5 million and 1,280 existing shelter spaces were enhanced with approximately \$13.4 million. A further \$3.3 million in provincial/territorial funding contributed to shelter enhancement through cost-sharing arrangements with Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.
- In 2006-07, the annual federal expenditure budget was \$11.4 million, of which \$0.2 million related to administration. CMHC approved 563 new shelter spaces at a cost of approximately \$10.4 million and 636 existing shelter spaces were enhanced with approximately \$3.1 million. A further \$2.8 million in provincial/territorial funding contributed to shelter construction and enhancement through cost-sharing arrangements with Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories.
- In 2007-08, the annual federal expenditure budget was \$12.6 million, of which \$0.8 million related to administration. CMHC approved 490 new shelter spaces at a cost of approximately \$8.2 million and 528 existing shelter spaces were enhanced with a approximately \$3.2 million. A further \$1.7 million in provincial cost-sharing contributed to shelter construction and enhancement through cost-sharing arrangements with Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS FROM THE 2008 EVALUATION OF SEP

An evaluation of SEP was initiated in 2008. The results indicated that from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2007, SEP funding had significantly contributed to improvements in shelter conditions in Canada.⁸¹ The SEP funding accounted for 52 percent of the increased shelter capacity since 2001. Over 68 percent of existing family violence shelters received SEP funding for repairs and enhancement. The SEP funding covered 40 percent of all shelter repairs over the 2001-07 period and was highly incremental, that is, in many cases the repair work would not have been done without SEP. Improvements reported were substantive as in the same period, 51 percent of the shelters using SEP were rated as being in adequate or excellent physical condition by shelter staff, compared with 20 percent in 2001. Overall, 90 percent of SEP-funded shelters undertook basic repairs and enhancements to security (undertaken by 80 percent), children's areas (undertaken by 40 percent) and accessibility for persons with disabilities (undertaken by 30 percent). Such improvements in the physical condition of shelters result in a range of positive impacts for clients such as



enabling women to feel safer and more secure, improving client self-esteem and well-being, being better able to meet the needs of children and improving access to people with disabilities. The evaluation found that the condition of the shelter is a major factor aiding women and thus a factor enhancing success for shelters in addressing family violence. In First Nations communities where shelters are operating, it was also reported that fewer women had to leave their communities to seek protection. Shelters had also contributed to more community engagement in prevention activities.

From April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2007, eight provincial/territorial governments (New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Quebec and Saskatchewan) delivered the SEP in their jurisdictions and contributed over \$10 million dollars under cost-sharing agreements, thereby increasing the impact of the federal funds available. In addition, all provincial and territorial governments (and in some jurisdictions, municipal governments) contributed annual operating funding for shelters. In First Nations communities, annual operating funding is provided under INAC's Family Violence Prevention Program.

SEP funding has also helped shelters to leverage other funding. Approximately 25 percent of all shelters surveyed in the evaluation study reported that receiving SEP assistance had helped them to leverage an average of \$507,542 in additional support. The SEP evaluation estimates that between 2001 and 2007, \$105 million of SEP funding leveraged over \$200 million from other sources.

First Nations and Inuit Communities: In the reporting period, FVI partners have continued to focus on addressing the need for shelters and related services in First Nations and Inuit communities. In June 2007, the federal government announced it would help First Nations communities address the critical need for family violence prevention programs and services on reserve through a five-year investment of \$55.6 million. This included \$2.2 million to build up to five new shelters through CMHC's Shelter Enhancement Program. These new investments include increased operational support for the existing shelter network and for the new shelters. A Review Committee, consisting of representatives from INAC, CMHC, Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada, the Assembly of First Nations, and the Native Women's Association of Canada, was established in order to ensure a fair and equitable process for the selection of the new shelter locations. On March 4, 2008, the federal government announced that new shelters would be located in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

Additional efforts to strengthen the shelter network were undertaken. For example, the Department of Canadian Heritage provided funding and technical support for the development of an Inuit Women's Shelter Association. This support will strengthen the network of approximately 14 shelters that serve victims of family violence and abuse across the four Inuit land claim regions of Canada. SWC provided support to the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence to strengthen its policies and procedural guidelines for shelters, which shelters can use as a template to ensure quality services to women and children in need of protection. It also funded research to assist shelters in assessing the issues related to accreditation and incorporation. SWC provided financial support to the Canadian Association of the Deaf to work with mainstream organizations and the Disabled Women's Network of Canada and the provincial and territorial shelter networks to provide accessible services to deaf women in need of protection within their community. As a result 40 grassroots organizations and shelters are better equipped to respond to the needs of this population.



Immigrant Women and their Children: Solutions to issues facing immigrant women and their children have also been put in place, including the provision of transitional housing and support to homeless newcomer women and their children. In partnership with the National Homelessness Initiative and other stakeholders, supportive housing and related services were created or improved in many communities across the country, including Alberta (Calgary and Edmonton), British Columbia (Vancouver and Victoria), New Brunswick (Bathurst, Edmunston and Saint-John), Newfoundland (Corner Brook), Nova Scotia (Port Hawkesbury, Halifax, Truro, Amherst), Ontario (Barrie, Branford, Guelph-Wellington, London, Ottawa, Toronto), Quebec (Gatineau) and Saskatchewan (Regina, Saskatoon).

EXPECTED INTERMEDIATE RESULT:

Enhanced Community Capacity to Address Family Violence

Many capacity barriers to implementation continue to exist in communities, including adequate personnel, resources and space to sustain service delivery. The FVI is helping to address some of these barriers by making recommendations to strengthen the legislative frameworks to address family violence, facilitating the development of local policies and protocols to address violence, enhancing local knowledge and skills to effect change, enhancing shelters and improving service delivery and programming in federally mandated areas, and by facilitating partnership development, networks and linkages to other sources of knowledge, expertise, support.

Anecdotal evidence from project funding recipients indicates that FVI contributions to community capacity enhancement are valued. These projects have helped to increase knowledge and expertise and have provided essential tools and resources to equip communities to respond to family violence issues, and with the support of other partners and stakeholders, have enhanced the availability and accessibility of services and supports to those most in need. In the reporting period, this has been particularly evident in project funding for Aboriginal, ethnocultural and immigrant communities.



PART 5

CONCLUSION – MOVING FORWARD

The FVI responds to a range of family violence issues that can require profound changes in a host of policies and programs, services, structures and systems. There are many stakeholders engaged in the issues and many players are involved. While the federal government plays a leadership role in addressing family violence in Canada, the strength of its influence is in working together with others.

In its past performance reports to TBS, the FVI IWG has emphasized its commitment to enhancing horizontal collaboration on family violence issues, pursuing quality improvements to federal services and programs that address family violence issues, responding to a diversity of issues, and influencing and supporting policy development. Ongoing refinement of initiative-level performance measurement, reporting and evaluation activity has also been a key focus.

The current report indicates that member departments have enhanced their collective capacity to horizontally manage family violence issues and to work together on identified priorities, such as the needs of Aboriginal communities and additional sub-populations. They have also worked extensively with family violence stakeholders and external partners. Continual improvement strategies have been introduced based on results from various special studies, reviews and evaluations. The NCFV conducted a strategic needs assessment with its clients and has made adjustments to its operations in order to address user feedback and suggestions. An umbrella RMAF was developed and approved for the FVI. Interdepartmental funding supported shared priorities.

In all, in this reporting period, the federal FVI partners have signalled that their investments are making meaningful contributions to advancing understanding of the issues and equipping players with knowledge, resources and tools they need to make a difference. Steady progress has been made in increasing public awareness and knowledge of family violence and its myriad consequences; improving policies and practices to prevent family violence from occurring and to protect victims and others affected by violence; improving access to knowledge and information; and fostering the development of appropriate responses and solutions when violence occurs.

Over the years, the primary lesson learned is that family violence is a long-term issue, requiring long-term, inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral responses. Federal partners will continue to engage other players and work collaboratively. Efforts to support knowledge exchange and (transfer) translation, strengthen networking and linkages across sectors and disciplines, encourage strategic planning and foster the development and implementation policies, programs and practices informed by better and stronger evidence will continue.

Horizontal management of the FVI will continue to ensure a strategic focus and guard against overlap and duplication of effort. FVI partners will continue to focus on addressing the issues and often unique circumstances of specific sub-populations affected by violence at various ages and life stages, including women, children, young people, older adults, Aboriginal populations, and others living in conditions of risk or disadvantage. It will continue to recognize diversity within sub-populations.

PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEARS WILL INCLUDE:

Building on progress made in addressing family violence in Aboriginal communities. This will include continuing to work in collaboration with all orders of government, Aboriginal representative organizations and community-based institutions and groups to address family violence issues in Aboriginal communities. This will also include proceeding with the construction of five new shelters in First Nations communities as announced in March 2008.

Accountability for Results. FVI partners will continue their efforts to align departmental performance reporting with the FVI umbrella RMAF, and to strengthen program capacity and effectiveness. In particular, federal partners will explore ways to improve evidence regarding the impact of interdepartmental collaboration and strengthen interdepartmental action.



APPENDIX A

FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVE: MEMBER DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR MANDATES

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation administers the Shelter Enhancement Program to provide capital funding for the repair, rehabilitation and improvement of existing shelters for persons who experience family violence, and for the acquisition or construction of new emergency shelters and second-stage housing.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada promotes awareness of family violence issues through citizenship and immigration policies and programs.

Correctional Service of Canada addresses offender family violence issues through research, treatment programs and staff training.

Department of Canadian Heritage supports prevention projects for Aboriginal women off-reserve and prevention activities for non-English/French speaking Canadians and conducts research and evaluation activities.

Department of Justice Canada reviews, researches and reforms criminal legislation and policy; funds community-based family violence projects; and provides public legal education and information support on family violence issues.

Department of National Defence promotes awareness of family violence issues, supports programming aimed at the stressors often associated with family violence and provides support, counselling and referral services for members and families who are victims of family violence.

Health Canada addresses family violence through its support for the delivery of public health and health promotion services in on-reserve and in Inuit communities and through its work in promoting equitable health outcomes for women and men, boys and girls in Canada.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada collects and disseminates data and research findings on abused and/or vulnerable children, assists victims of abuse in changing identities, and supports the development of transition homes.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada supports culturally appropriate prevention and protection services for First Nations children and families resident on reserve, in accordance with the legislation and standards of the province or territory of residence. The anticipated result is a reduction in family violence and a more secure and stable family environment for children on reserve.

The **Public Health Agency of Canada** carries out research on the population health consequences of family violence, develops resources and promotes policies, programs and projects that contribute to family violence prevention. Serving as the Family Violence Initiative secretariat, **leadership/coordination** staff in the Agency oversee the collection of information to support reporting; facilitate horizontal activities in partnerships among Family Violence Initiative departments and with other federal initiatives, provinces, territories and non-governmental organizations; and maintain records of decisions and accomplishments. The **National Clearinghouse on Family Violence**, managed by the **Public Health Agency of Canada** on behalf of the FVI, collects, develops, and disseminates, to professionals and the public, knowledge gained from data collection, departmental research and the Clearinghouse's own resource development activities. It provides access to a comprehensive range of professional resources, referrals and an extensive bibliographic reference collection.



Public Safety Canada is responsible for protecting Canadians and helping to maintain a peaceful and safe society. It addresses the issue of family violence through supporting evidence-based interventions designed to reduce offending among those who are likely to engage in family violence; and providing Aboriginal community policing services.

The **Royal Canadian Mounted Police** supports community-based workshops on victims' issues, sexual assault, and relationship violence, and assists communities in using problem-solving approaches to family violence and delivers training to its members.

Service Canada works with provincial and territorial partners to increase personal safety for Canadians, who are victims of intimate or familial violence at risk of serious injury or death through the Confidential Service for Victims of Abuse (CSVA). This Service provides assistance in the establishment of a new identity and relocation when all other safety measures have been exhausted.

Statistics Canada works to improve the availability of national level data on the nature and extent of family violence.

Status of Women Canada promotes the full participation of women in the economic, social and democratic life of Canada. SWC works to advance equality for women and to remove the barriers to women's participation in society, putting particular emphasis on increasing women's economic security and eliminating violence against women. Through the Women's Program, SWC also plays a vital role in supporting the work of women's and other Canadian organizations by providing financial and professional assistance to organizations to carry out projects at the local, regional and national levels in key areas such as women's economic status and violence against women and girls, within an accountable and transparent framework.



ENDNOTES

- ¹ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008) p. 11.
- ² *Ibid.*, p. 43.
- ³ *Ibid.*, p. 30.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 32.
- ⁵ The FVI umbrella RMAF is evergreen. It will, in the course of its implementation, require refinement and updating to support and ensure continuing efforts to strengthen federal-level horizontal management and achieve results under the FVI.
- ⁶ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 10.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 10.
- ⁸ Spousal violence refers to violence committed by legally married, common law, separated and divorced partners.
- ⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 11.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 10.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 12.
- ¹² *Ibid.*, p. 12.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 12.
- ¹⁴ Adapted from: Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 15.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 15.
- ¹⁶ Adapted from: Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 39.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 43.
- ¹⁸ Spousal homicides involve persons in legal marriages, those who are separated or divorced from such unions and those in common-law relationships (including same-sex spouses).
- ¹⁹ Solved homicides refer to those where at least one accused has been identified by police.
- ²⁰ Adapted from: Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 39.
- ²¹ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2007* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2007), p. 16.
- ²² Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 39.
- ²³ Statistics Canada. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2004* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2004), citing M. Dawson, *Examination of Declining Intimate Partner Homicide Rates: A Literature Review* (Ottawa: Justice Canada, Research and Statistics Division, 2001), and V. Pottie Bunge, "National Trends in Intimate Partner Homicides, 1974-2000," *Juristat* 22, 5 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 85-002-XIE).
- ²⁴ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2006), p. 53.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 13.
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 39.



- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 13.
- ²⁸ Statistics Canada. "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile," *The Daily*, Thursday, July 14, 2005. Available on-line: <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050714/d050714a.htm>
- ²⁹ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2005), p. 37.
- ³⁰ Statistics Canada. "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile," *The Daily*, Thursday, July 14, 2005. Available on-line: <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050714/d050714a.htm>
- ³¹ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2007* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2007), p. 19.
- ³² Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 30.
- ³³ *Ibid.*, p. 26.
- ³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 30.
- ³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 26. Extended family includes persons related by blood, marriage, adoption or foster care (i.e., aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters/brothers-in-law, etc.).
- ³⁶ This information is based on a non-representative sample of 62 police services that have consistently reported to the survey and account for 51 percent of the population of Canada in 2005. Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2007* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2007), p. 23.
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 23.
- ³⁸ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 26.
- ³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 26.
- ⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 30.
- ⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 27.
- ⁴² The UCR2 combines biological, step and adopted fathers into one category. *Ibid.*, p. 27.
- ⁴³ Statistics Canada. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2004* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2004), p. 21-22.
- ⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 21-22.
- ⁴⁵ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2006), p. 22.
- ⁴⁶ Adapted from: Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 41.
- ⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 40.
- ⁴⁸ Includes step and adopted parents. *Ibid.*, p. 40.
- ⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 40.
- ⁵⁰ A. Bélanger, L. Martel and É. Caron-Malenfant, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces, and Territories, 2005-2031* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 91-520-XIE, 2005).
- ⁵¹ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2007* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2007), p. 32.



- ⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 32.
- ⁵³ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 35.
- ⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 35.
- ⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 35.
- ⁵⁶ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 35.
- ⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 35.
- ⁵⁸ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2006), p. 48.
- ⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 35.
- ⁶⁰ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2004), p. 47.
- ⁶¹ E.R. Welfel, P. R. Danzinger, and S. Santoro, "Mandated Reporting of Abuse/Maltreatment of Older Adults: A Primer for Counselors," *Journal of Counseling and Development*. 78, 3 (2000):284-292, cited in Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2006), p. 47.
- ⁶² Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2006), p. 47.
- ⁶³ Adapted from: Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2008* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 42.
- ⁶⁴ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2007* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2008), p. 35.
- ⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 41.
- ⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 41.
- ⁶⁷ Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; Cat. No. 85-224-XIE, 2005), p. 20.
- ⁶⁸ J. Brzozowski, A. Taylor-Butts, and S. Johnson, "Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada," *Juristat*, 26, 3 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; No. 85-2002-XIE), p. 6.
- ⁶⁹ For detailed information on these consequences, see: Health Canada, *The Consequences of Child Maltreatment: A Reference Guide for Health Practitioners* (Ottawa: Health Canada, 1998); C. Wekerle and D.A. Wolfe, "Child Maltreatment," *Child Psychopathology*, 2nd ed., edited by E.J. Mash and R.A. Barkey (New York: Guildford, 2003): 632-684.
- ⁷⁰ See: Ontario. English-language Expert Panel for Educators, *Woman Abuse Affects our Children. An Educator's Guide*, prepared by Linda L. Baker and Peter G. Jaffe. (London: Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System, 2007). Available from: http://www.lfcc.on.ca/Educators_Guide_to_Woman_Abuse.pdf
- ⁷¹ Alison Cunningham and Linda Baker, *Little Eyes, Little Ears: How Violence Against a Mother Shapes Children as they Grow* (London: Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System, 2007).
- ⁷² For further information on the health effects of family violence, see: Health Canada, *The Health Effects of Family Violence* (Ottawa: Health Canada). Available from: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/pdfs/fv-healtheffects_e.pdf
- ⁷³ World Health Organization, *World Report on Violence and Health*, Summary (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2002): 80-81. Available from: http://www.who.int/whr/2002/en/whr02_en.pdf



- ⁷⁴ For example, see the following studies: Anucha, Uzo; Smylie, Lisa; Mitchell, Colleen; Omorodion, Francisca. *Exits and Returns: An Exploratory Longitudinal Study of Homeless People in Windsor Essex County*. Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2007. 101p. and Wilfreda Thurston, Barbara Clow, David Este, Tess Gordey, Margaret Haworth-Brockman, Liz McCoy, Rachel Rapaport Beck, Christine Saulnier, and Jana Smith (2006) *Immigrant Women, Family Violence, and Pathways Out of Homelessness*. Institute for Gender Research, University of Calgary. Available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gender/reports.htm>
- ⁷⁵ Implementation of this survey is, however, dependent upon securing resources.
- ⁷⁶ Alison Cunningham and Linda Baker, *Little Eyes, Little Ears: How Violence Against a Mother Shapes Children as they Grow* (London: Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System, 2007).
- ⁷⁷ See Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, *Promising Approaches for the Prevention of Elder Abuse* (November 7, 2007). Available at: <http://www.cnpea.ca/Promising%20Approaches%20Final%20%202007.pdf>, and *A Draft Framework for a National Strategy for the Prevention of Elder Abuse* (August 8, 2007). Available at: <http://www.cnpea.ca/Strategy%20Framework%202007.pdf>
- ⁷⁸ EKOS Research Associates, *Public Attitudes Toward Family Violence: A Syndicated Study – Final Report* (Ottawa: EKOS Research Associates, 2002).
- ⁷⁹ National Seniors Council on Elder Abuse. Report of the National Seniors Council on Elder Abuse. Available from: http://www.seniorscouncil.gc.ca/en/research_publications/elder_abuse/2007/hs4_38/page06.shtml#awareness
- ⁸⁰ www.thehealingjourney.ca
- ⁸¹ SPR Associates, Inc., *Shelter Enhancement Program Evaluation* (Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2008).
- ⁸² *Ibid.*, p. 10.

