

- ✓ One to two women are murdered by a current or former partner in Canada each week.
- ✓ Over half of Canadian women have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence and 60 percent of these women more than once. There is evidence that these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg, since a shocking 60-90 percent of these incidences are never even reported and therefore not captured in the statistics. (Statistics Canada)
- ✓ For Nova Scotia, this means that in the year 2004, when 31,000 Nova Scotians reported being victims of sexual assault, it is possible the real number is closer to 300,000.
- ✓ In the five year period ending in 2004, Nova Scotia was one of only two provinces where the rate of sexual assault was increasing rather than decreasing.
- ✓ In 2004, 8 percent of women in Nova Scotia (or one woman in 12) reported that they had experienced violence at the hands of their current or former spouse/intimate partner within the previous five years. That translates into approximately 38,000 individual women across the province and almost 2000 in Lunenburg County. (Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005)
- ✓ Nova Scotia has one of the highest sexual assault rates in the Country, and Lunenburg County may have the highest rate in the Province.
- ✓ Over half of sexual assault victims in 2007 were children under the age of 18, and most often at the hands of a friend, acquaintance or family member. In the 2003-2004 year, 58,486 women and 36,840 children sought refuge in one of 473 shelters across Canada.
- ✓ Evidence suggests a woman is assaulted by her spouse an average of 35 times before she contacts the police. The reluctance to report, disclose or seek help is fueled by the very real threat of further and more severe violence and isolation. And in fact women are even more vulnerable after attempting to leave abusive relationships.
- ✓ Every year in Canada, up to 360,000 children are exposed to domestic violence resulting in emotional trauma, depression, injury and permanent disability, as well as other physical, psychological and behavioural problems that can extend into adolescence and adulthood.

“One in three women world wide will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.” (International Women’s Health Coalition).