

ECONOMIC IMPACT: The Cost of One Incident of Domestic Violence



**The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
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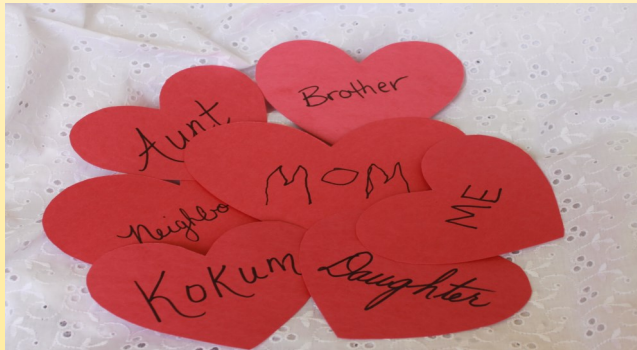
Fred Clipsham —Board Member

Ann Perry—Executive Director

Background information

Circle Project has offered family violence programming to Regina residents for many years. Recently the organization has noticed a substantial increase in the demand for this service. This begs the question: what is the cost of family violence to those involved and to the community at large?

In the summer of 2015 the University of Saskatchewan Nursing College provided a work placement for a fourth year nursing student to conduct research on domestic violence, an area Circle Project has worked in for over 20 years. The first draft of the report, completed by the end of the summer in 2015, was reviewed and vetted by researchers at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. The second draft of the report focused the research specifically on Saskatchewan and was completed in the spring of 2016. In June 2016 the report "ECONOMIC IMPACT: The Cost of One Incident of Domestic Violence" was released in conjunction with the first "Hearts in the Park" community event. This event was staged during National Victims and Survivors of Crime Week to raise the level of awareness about violence in our community and attracted significant coverage in Regina media.



Passers-by were invited to name the personal relationship of someone they know who has suffered family violence on a paper heart. The hearts were displayed in Victoria Park on June 1st, and then in Tower 2 for two weeks to raise awareness of this important issue.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Most victims are female—
80% of police reported
intimate partner violence

VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults have the highest
rate of intimate partner
victimization (20-24, 25-29)

VIOLENCE AGAINST SENIORS

Younger seniors experienced
higher rates of family violence
than older seniors and senior
women were at greater risk
than their male counterparts.

Statistics Canada. (2015). Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114-eng.pdf>

*Violence affects
us all... in one
way or another.*

ASSAULTS AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Provincially, Saskatchewan had the highest rate of child and youth victims of family violence at 465.3 per 100,000.



Executive Summary

This report was created to provide an estimate of initial response costs for one instance of domestic violence. It also explores the economic impacts on the community where the violence has occurred. Finally, it attempts to shed some light on the secondary costs and impact on the well-being of the families who experience domestic violence.

The hypothetical domestic violence case scenario is a family consisting of a common-law urban couple with a working father, stay-at-home mother and their three children who are all under the ages of 6. In this scenario, an incident of domestic violence occurred between the couple and involved the 4 year old child.

Given the circumstances of this case scenario, personal costs to the family and costs to the justice and health systems were estimated. The cost breakdown includes expenses that reflect the cost for the economy, the family, as well as some of the initial costs to the community. This incident of violence affected both the overall well-being of the family and that of the community at large, strongly indicating that domestic violence affects us all, in one way or another.

Domestic violence cases have physical, emotional and mental repercussions which impact the individuals within the family and in the community. The causes are very complex. Given that violence occurs in an escalating cycle, the likelihood of an instance like this re-occurring within this family is high and places the entire family at future risk. It is known that

intergenerational trauma can produce a recurring cycle of violence and the likelihood of domestic violence. Therefore, continued initial response costs of the community due to intergenerational effects and the cycle of violence can be anticipated.

Although the report outlines costs associated with initial responses (police, health care) and immediate impacts (courts, social services), it does not include the secondary costs. Examples of secondary costs include: longer term costs associated with family trauma, particularly as it affects children and their future; costs to employers of extended family members who lose time from work due to emergencies; and extra costs to the school systems in dealing with the behavioural issues of children from violent homes. The costs associated with these factors are more difficult to calculate, but they are real.

This cycle can be prevented by implementing prevention programs, delivered in a community setting. This is one of the most effective responses and is instrumental in decreasing the likelihood of domestic violence occurring in families. Prevention programs are also effective in lowering the potential response costs for the community. It is imperative prevention programs are utilized by high risk or vulnerable members of the community because information and counselling will positively impact their quality of life, improve overall health outcomes and the safety of communities.

POLICE REPORTED PARTNER VIOLENCE

Victims of police-reported partner violence, by sex of victim and province:

Saskatchewan female victims:
4,485 instances at a rate of
1,028.8 per 100,000 people.

Saskatchewan male victims:
1,099 at a rate of 247.8 per
100,000 people.

Overall there were 5,584 instances of partner violence in Saskatchewan occurring at a rate of 635 per 100,000.

In all instances Saskatchewan was high above the national average of 310.3 per 100,000.

Statistics Canada. (2015). Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114-eng.pdf>

***Family violence
occurs in an
escalating cycle and
is very complex in
nature.***

Case scenario

Police were dispatched to a house on reports from neighbours that there was some shouting and loud crashes coming from within. They arrived to find a domestic disturbance between a 28 year old male and his spouse, a 27 year old female. The couple had been drinking for most of the night and had gotten into an argument which resulted in a physical altercation. The couple have three children, aged 2, 4, and 6. Upon arrival the police noted that adult female was in considerable pain and one child was confused and disoriented, due to his having tried to intervene between his parents. The paramedics were called for the injuries to both the adult female and one child. The adult male was placed under arrest and charged with two counts of Aggravated Assault. Child Protective Services were called to take the other two children into protective custody. The adult female was treated at the hospital for two broken ribs, a broken jaw and lacerations above the left eye requiring stitches. The injured child was treated for a serious concussion. Due to the extent of the injuries, they were both kept in the hospital for two weeks. The adult male pled guilty to Aggravated Assault Level 3. The judge took into account that he had no previous record and also the collateral damage that caused one child to be hospitalized. The offender was sentenced to 16 weeks in Provincial Corrections, a fine, 14 months probation and had conditions that included a no contact order with the adult female. At the time of the assault, the offender was working as a Carpenter's Apprentice for \$20 an hour and as a result of the conviction, was fired from his job. The other two children were taken into an emergency foster home for the two weeks until their mother was well enough to care for them. As a result of losing the adult male's income, the family was forced to move into a place with cheaper rent. They did not get their safety deposit back due to damage caused to the house as a result of the domestic disturbance.

The table on the following page is cost breakdown of this one instance of domestic violence based on actual data used in the research and the usual costs in Saskatchewan in accordance with an average length of sentencing and probation.

Statistics Canada. (2015). Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013. *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114-eng.pdf>

Zhang, T., Hoddenbagh, J., McDonald, S., and Scrim, K. (2012). An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Spousal Violence in Canada, 2009. *Department of Justice Canada*. Retrieved from: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12_7/index.html

Justice System and Social Services Costs	Amount
Police Costs for Aggravated Assault Level 3	\$19,804
Average Court Case Cost	1,408
Average Cost of Prosecution	1,289
Average Cost of Legal Aid	811
Provincial Custody for adult male = 113 days (avg. length in days) x \$161/day	18,193
Probation for adult male for 12+ months = 424 days x \$20/day for daily probation costs	8,480
Average Fine amount for offenders convicted of spousal violence	428
Child Protection services costs per investigation	675
Foster Care: \$60/child x 14 days x 2 children	1,680
Child protection worker visits: 2 hrs/week x 26 weeks (6 months= 182 days) x \$26.37 per/hour (avg. wage – minimum amount)	1,371
Crisis lines average hourly cost per call (On average victims make 5 calls totalling 2 hours per victim x \$20/hr)	40
Counselling support services for adult female (\$30/hr x 15 visits on avg. at 1 hr per visit)	450
Total Justice System and Social Services Costs	\$54,629
Health Care Costs	
Ambulance Services: \$590 per trip x 2 people (adult female and minor child)	1,180
Emergency Department: \$266 per visit x 2 people (adult female and minor child)	532
Acute overnight hospitalization: \$1044 per day x 14 days x 2 people (adult female and minor child)	29,232
Total Health Care Costs	\$30,944
Total Taxpayer-Funded Costs	\$85,573
Personal Costs	
Average moving expenses for one family	1,000
Lost wages from offender: 113 days = 16 work weeks x 5 work days a week= 85 days of work at 8 hrs/day x \$20/hr	13,600
Average value of damaged or destroyed property	1,198
Total Personal Costs	\$15,798

Total in 2009 **\$101,371**

Total Adjusted for Inflation in 2015 **\$112,536***

*The adjusted for inflation amount of \$112,536 does not include lost household services value (\$999), childcare services value (\$1,260) and the inflation adjustment (\$249) calculated below. If included, the total would be \$115,044 as reflected below.

Lost Household Services Value and Childcare Services Value	
Lost household services value for adult female: (4hrs/day x 14= 64hrs x \$15.60)	999
Lost childcare services value for adult female: (\$30/child x 14 x3 children)	1,260
Total Household Services Value and Childcare Services Value	\$2,259

Total Adjusted for Inflation in 2015 **\$115,044**

Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2013

Saskatchewan Statistics *

In 2013 Saskatchewan had the highest instance of police reported **family violence** in Canada at 489.4 per 100,000 people for total physical and sexual assault, almost double the national average of 252.9 per 100,000 people.

Saskatchewan had the highest rate of **child and youth** victims of family violence at 465.3 per 100,000, followed by Manitoba (386.6 per 100,000) and New Brunswick (324.2 per 100,000) (Table 3.7). The provinces with the lowest rates were Ontario (166.2 per 100,000) followed by British Columbia (210.4 per 100,000) and Alberta (223.8 per 100,000). These three provinces were also the only provincial jurisdictions to record rates that were below the national rate.

Physical assault (levels 1, 2, 3): Saskatchewan was highest province in this category at 382 per 100,000 people. The national average was 179.8.

Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, and 3): Saskatchewan was second highest province in this category trailing only Manitoba. The rate was 28.3 per 100,000. The average was 15.8 per 100,000.

Sexual assaults committed by family members in Saskatchewan increased 6% over the 2012 number.

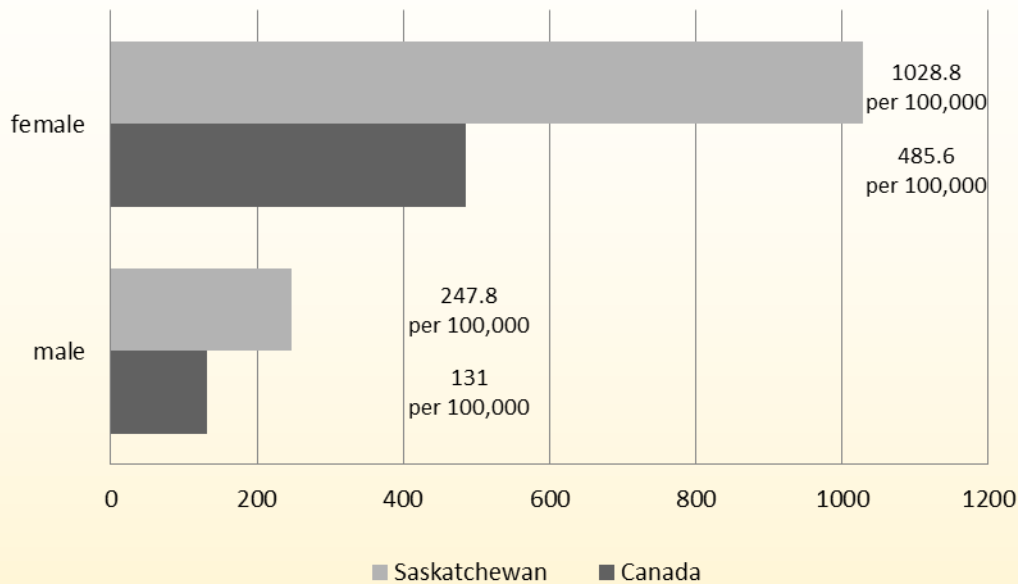
In 2013, seven provinces recorded a rate of intimate partner violence above the national rate of 310.3 victims per 100,000 population. Saskatchewan (635.0 victims per 100,000 population) recorded the highest rate, at more than twice the national rate. Manitoba and Alberta had the next highest rates. In 2013, Ontario and Prince Edward Island had the lowest rates of police-reported intimate partner violence; both recorded rates below 300 victims per 100,000 population.

Generally, police-reported rates of intimate partner violence tend to be higher in the territories than in the provinces. The rate in Nunavut was approximately six times higher than in Saskatchewan, the province with the highest rate. The rates recorded in the Northwest Territories and Yukon were 2,103.5 victims and 1,247.0 victims per 100,000 population, respectively.

*Statistics Canada. (2015). Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013. *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114-eng.pdf>

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**Police Reported Partner Violence,
by Sex of Victim
Comparison of Saskatchewan to Nationally Reported Numbers**



Definitions:

Spousal violence: violence committed against a spouse or an ex-spouse. This category includes victims aged 15-89

Dating violence: violence committed by a boyfriend or girlfriend (current or former), or by a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction, but who has not considered the victim's boyfriend or girlfriend. This category includes victims aged 15-89.

Intimate partner violence: violence committed by spouses and dating partners, that is violence committed within an intimate relationship. This category includes victims aged 15 to 89.

Non-intimate partner violence: violence committed by a family member (parent, child, other immediate or extended family member), a friend, an acquaintance, an associate (in business or in a criminal relationship), an authority figure, a neighbour or a stranger, includes victims under 90 years of age.

CHARGES LAID NATIONALLY

Family Violence

Charges were laid more often in police-reported family violence incidents (56%) than in violent incidents that were not family-related (46%).

Intimate Partner Violence

Charges were laid or recommended in the majority (71%) of intimate partner violence incidents reported to police.

Family Violence Against Children and Youth

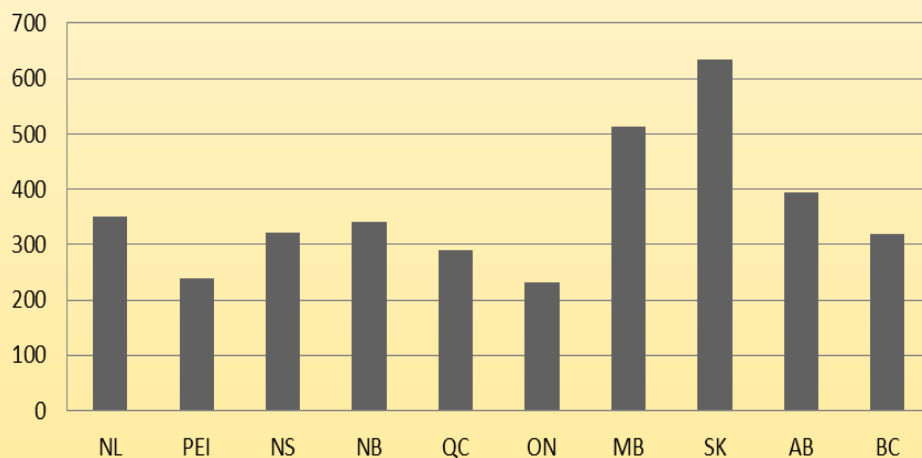
Charges were laid in less than half (45%) of family violence incidents against children and youth, compared to 59% of police-reported family violence involving adult victims aged 18 years and over.



Victims of Police-Reported Intimate Partner Violence, By Province 2013

Saskatchewan has the highest instance of police reported family violence in Canada at 489.4 per 100,000 people, almost double the national average of 252.9 per 100,000 people.

In 2013, seven provinces recorded a rate of intimate partner violence above the national rate of 310.3 victims per 100,000 population. Saskatchewan (635.0 victims per 100,000 population) recorded the highest rate, at more than twice the national rate.



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Recommendations

A comprehensive family violence response is necessary if we are to be a safe and caring community. The response must deal with the initial costs involved (police, health care, safe shelters, etc.) as well as the longer term costs of prevention and breaking the cycles of violence (offender specific programs, victim and survivors specific programs, etc.)

Now that you know one incident of family violence could cost over \$100,000 what can you do?

Think about it ... violence affects us all. Who do you know that has been affected and how?

Learn about it ... where can I find out more about the cycle of violence and the root causes?

Talk about it ... secrets die in the light. Do I know someone who could benefit from a Family Violence Prevention program?

Do something about it ... where can you make your voice heard? Who can I share this report with?

Men can be victims too. Women and children are not the only victims of domestic violence and abuse. Men also suffer from domestic abuse—especially verbal and emotional abuse—and may be even more ashamed to seek help.



The Circle Project is a registered not-for-profit charity supported by the City of Regina, Regina United Way, Provincial Departments, Service Clubs and the community at large. Since its beginning in 1988, the Circle Project has engaged and worked with the Aboriginal community, helping individuals and families reach their full potential. Individuals and families are given access to a broad range of programs and services delivered in a community setting by the Circle Project so that they may enjoy the benefits that are a natural outcome of education, employment and firm attachment to the economy. Circle Project is an Aboriginal organization delivering services according to traditional wholistic philosophy.

With Saskatchewan leading the country in family violence, our interest is in helping individuals who are at risk of detachment from the economy as a result of lifestyle or relationship issues or family violence. We have begun the work of identifying and responding to the risks that lead to economic detachment by individuals and families. We plan to continue working in this area because reattachment to the economy is so difficult to achieve and brings with it a whole different set of complex challenges for individuals and the community.

“bridging the gaps in our community”

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