

Gender-Based Violence among Older Adults



Elder Abuse
Prevention
Ontario

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a pervasive issue affecting individuals of all ages, including older adults.

GBV is violence committed against someone based on their gender, gender expression, gender identity, or perceived gender. GBV can take many forms, including physical, sexual, societal, psychological, emotional, economic and technology-facilitated violence.



Forms of Gender-Based Violence among Older Adults

- **Physical :** Intentional or threatened use of physical force including, pushing, restraining, hitting, cutting, punching, slapping, strangulation, pulling hair, and arm twisting.
- **Sexual :** Non-consensual sexual contact, harassment, or exploitation. This includes, inappropriate touching, threats of repercussions for refusing sexual activity, sexually degrading language and belittling sexual comments, and forcing to perform sexual acts.
- **Emotional and Psychological :** Behaviors that cause emotional pain or distress, such as verbal abuse and non-verbal acts including insults, belittling, threats, intimidation, humiliation, and isolation.
- **Financial :** Restricting or controlling access to money, property, or assets; withholding information on finances, undue influence for signing legal documents or financial decisions.

Older women may be less likely to report instances of IPV due to factors like generational beliefs about privacy, stigma surrounding divorce or separation, and lack of awareness about available support services.



Intimate partner violence (IPV) among seniors aged 65+ increased by 42% from 2014 to 2022.

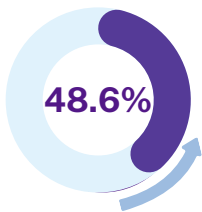
GBV is rooted in gender inequality and is intensified by systemic inequalities, such as sexism, discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, colonialism, racism, ableism, classism, poverty, and a collective history of trauma.



Impact of Gender-Based Violence:

Older adults face unique challenges and vulnerabilities that exacerbate the impact of GBV. Older adult victims can experience serious effects and long-lasting impacts include, negative health, social, and economic consequences, often leading to intergenerational cycles of violence and abuse.

Due to age related physiological changes, older victims tend to sustain more severe physical injuries and emotional trauma as a result of an assault.



In Ontario, women over 55 years of age, represented nearly half (48.6 %) of the femicide victims perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner or a male family member, like an adult son, son-in-law, or grandson and this trend tragically continues to increase.

[OAITH's 2021-2022 Femicide Report](#)

Where to Get Help

In an emergency call 911

- Assaulted Women's Help Line
www.awhl.org | 1-866- 863-0511
- Victim Support Line | www.ontario.ca
1-888-579-2888
- Talk 4 Healing | www.talk4healing.com
1-855-554-heal (4325)



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For more information and resources:

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario

1-416-916-6728

Toll-Free: 1-833-916-6728

www.eapon.ca | admin@eapon.ca

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Supported by Department of Justice Canada