



62 LIVES TAKEN: BY MEN'S VIOLENCE

November 25th, 2024 - Today, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Ontario Association of Interval Houses (OAITH) has released the 2023-2024 Annual Femicide List. Over the last 52 weeks, there have been 62 women and children killed. There have been 92 charges reported by media, laid against 53 men accused in relation to these femicides, while another 15 cases were deemed a femicide-suicide.

"If the headlines feel relentless, it's because they are. Women and children in Ontario are being killed at an alarming rate – more than once a week this past year alone. This violence has shattered families and communities in 37 different locations across our province. This year we are seeing multiple family members being killed together, and many children, as young as 2 months, killed alongside their mothers. Nothing is changing and we cannot allow this to continue. The escalating number of femicides demands urgent action to address the root causes of men's violence, so we can finally put an end to these despicable conditions."

*-Marlene Ham, Executive Director,
Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses*

Over the last year, femicide has left an impact on 37 communities across Ontario including Ajax, Belleville, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Brantford, Cambridge, Chatham, Courtice, East Gwillimbury, Georgetown, Guelph, Hamilton, Harrow, Holmesville, Huntsville, Kawartha Lakes, Lincoln, London, Markham, McDougall Township, Midland, Mississauga, Mono, North Middlesex, Oshawa, Ottawa, Richmond Hill, Sault Ste. Marie, Smithville, Sparta (Central Elgin), St. Catharines, St. Thomas, Stratford, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Vaughan.

OAITH has been tracking femicides in Ontario for over thirty years, and we are aware of more than 1,080 victims of femicide whose lives have been taken and in most cases, by men who knew them. These numbers are a shocking reminder of the ongoing oppression, hatred, inequity, human rights violations and ongoing system failure that has led to these femicides.

Let there be justice for their families and that we all lean in to build a society that brings an end to all forms of gender-based violence and hatred because femicide is preventable.

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2023-2024 ANNUAL FEMICIDE LIST SNAPSHOT OF TRENDS

62 Femicides of Women and Children in a 52 Week Period

Victim and Accused Relationships

- 32% intimate partner femicides (20),
- 26% femicides perpetrated by family members (16),
- 26% femicides perpetrated by men known to the victim (16),
- 16% femicide cases where relationship details have not been provided (10) and
- 0% femicide cases where there was no prior relationship between the victim and perpetrator (0).

Location and Geography

- 89% of all femicide cases this year occurred either inside, or outside of a residence (55)
- 26% of femicide victims were killed in a rural or small population center (16)
- 37 distinct cities and towns have had a femicide occur in their community

Victim Race

- 47% (29) of cases didn't identify the race of the victim, a 10% increase compared to the previous year

Victim Age

- The youngest femicide victim was 2 months old and the oldest femicide victim, this year, was 86 years old.
- 15% of femicide victims were over the age of 18.
- 32% of femicide victims were 55 years of age and older.

Prior History of Violence and Charges of Accused

- 92 charges laid in relation to cases reviewed this year.
- 53 men and 1 woman have been charged in relation to femicide cases this year.
- 24% of cases of femicide-suicide where no charges have been laid (15)
- 15% of cases, a reported history of violence against the victim or other women has been identified through media reports

Please note that there may be further changes/ revisions to the list made in the coming days. The most current version of the report will be accessible through the below bit.ly link, and also through our website: <https://www.oaith.ca/oaith-work/we-count-femicide-because/annual-femicide-lists.html>

Access the 2023-2024 Annual Femicide List:
bit.ly/2023-2024FemicideList

Visit OAITH's #Mulberryfinder platform to find GBV services across Ontario:
www.mulberryfinder.ca



2023-2024 ANNUAL FEMICIDE LIST

UNDERSTANDING FEMICIDE TRENDS



Responses to address gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide prevention must be broad in scope and apply to a range of victim perpetrator relationships and all types of gender-based violence.

Access to **safe, accessible and deeply affordable housing** is a human right which affects every aspect of well-being, however many survivors experiencing violence face constant fear of violence while at home.

Indigenous, Black and Racialized women experiencing violence have diverse, unique needs that are often overlooked in research, policy and practice—leading to increased barriers to gender-based violence support. Colonization, racial and cultural systemic violence lead to the invisibility of Indigenous and Black women within femicide discourse compounding both the risk of femicide and overall impacts of gender-based violence.

Impacts of all forms of GBV **compound as survivors age**, ultimately accumulating throughout the life stages. Impacts of violence are also compounded by systemic oppression and intergenerational trauma (including residential schools), contributing to increased stigma for older women and additional barriers in accessing support. Despite this, GBV service and prevention is often focused only on younger women.

Those experiencing gender-based violence in **rural areas** often face additional risks and barriers to support, including physical and social isolation, long distances between neighbours, lack of or no accessible transportation, limited services, lack of anonymity, animal and livestock responsibilities, and limited affordable housing.

Criminal and family court systems need to improve how they respond by centering survivor and child safety. Working alongside survivors and gender-based violence community based organizations on risk assessment, risk management and monitoring of those who are causing harm can be the difference between life and death. Without survivor safety at the centre, the system inevitably fails.

Access the 2023-2024 Annual Femicide List:
bit.ly/2023-2024FemicideList

Access the Monthly Femicide Factsheets:
bit.ly/MonthlyFemicideReports

Learn more about We Count Femicide Because and OATH's Femicide Work:
bit.ly/WeCountFemicideBecause