Background

The following report provides an overview of femicide in Ontario from July 1st - July 31st 2021. It is important to note that the information pertaining to these femicide cases may be incomplete due to ongoing police investigations. As investigations continue there will likely be further details released, allowing for a more thorough analysis of femicide trends in Ontario. It is also important to note the total number of confirmed femicides may not be accurate. The OAITH femicide list relies on media reporting to track femicide cases and as a result these totals may not capture all of the femicide victims who may have been omitted from media coverage.

For the purpose of the following report, the suspects will be referred to as perpetrators, however, it is important to note that while charges may have been laid against a suspect, these charges have often not yet been proven in a court of law. While information may have been provided about the suspect through police and media reports, it is important to note that the accused has not been found guilty in many cases and there is the potential for this information to change depending on further police investigations and court verdicts.

If you are aware of a media report between July 1st and July 31st that isn't captured in this report you can send your inquiry to Lauren Hancock via email: lauren@oaith.ca.

Femicide Rates Comparison

A total of three confirmed femicide cases occurred between July 1st and July 31st, 2021. Unconfirmed femicides and other suspicious deaths continue to be monitored for police announcements relating to suspects, criminal charges and additional information relating to victim/perpetrator relationships.

The table below provides a monthly comparison of current femicide rates to the previous year. As can be seen below, a decrease in the number of femicides was reported in December 2020 when compared to the previous year’s data. An increase has been reported in each subsequent month with the exception of July 2021 where there is a reported decrease of one femicide case. The current total number of femicide cases has surpassed the total number of femicides included in the 2019-2020 OAITH Femicide List.
## OAITH Femicide Data - December 2020 - July 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th></th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
<th></th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of Femicides</td>
<td></td>
<td># of Femicides</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2019</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dec 2020</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>( - ) Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 2021</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 2021</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mar 2021</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2020</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Apr 2021</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>June 2021</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>July 2021</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>( - ) Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Victim-Perpetrator Relationship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Intimate Partner</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Known</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Victim and Perpetrator Age Comparison

### Femicide Victim Age

As illustrated in the graph below, no distinct trends have emerged from the July dataset as it relates to femicide victims’ ages. One femicide victim (1/3 or 33.3%) was between the ages of 18-35. Additionally, one femicide victim (1/3 or 33.3%) belonged to the age group of 55 and older and an additional femicide victim (1/3 or 33.3%) was categorized as age unknown due to lack of police disclosure regarding the victim.
When examining the age of femicide perpetrators of femicides that occurred in July, the same findings can be seen as above. As illustrated in the graph below, 33.3% of cases involved a perpetrator between the ages of 18-35. Additionally, 33.3% of cases involved a perpetrator aged 55 and older and 33.3% of cases involved a perpetrator with an unknown age due to the lack of police disclosure in this case. Victims and perpetrators may be belonging to the same age group due to the large percentage of intimate partner femicides that have occurred in this dataset. Further research will be necessary once the dataset has been completed as it will be important to understand what age groups are at the highest risk for experiencing lethal violence and what age group is at the highest risk for committing femicide.
Cause of Death

As indicated by media sources, trauma, which can include any death resulting from a stabbing, an assault or any other blunt force trauma that results in death, was reported to be the cause of death in 66.7% (2/3) of femicides that occurred in July. Additionally, the cause of death has been coded as unknown in 33.3% (1/3) of July femicide cases, as police have not made the official cause of death public at this time due to the ongoing criminal investigation.

Victim-Perpetrator Relationship

Victim-perpetrator relationships are coded as follows:

- **Intimate Partner**: current or former intimate partner
- **Family**: Father, son, nephew
- **Known**: Acquaintance, neighbour
- **Unknown**: Was a targeted attack/ at-risk due to gender and details about the nature of the relationship are unknown or unreleased

As indicated in the graph below, 66.7% (2/3) of femicides that were reported in the month of July were committed by an intimate partner, namely the victim’s spouse. Additionally, 33.3% (1/3) of femicide cases have been coded as an unknown relationship due to lack of police disclosure regarding the relationship between the
victim and the perpetrator. This information may change following additional police disclosure. Past research has indicated that the most common form of femicide in Ontario is intimate partner femicide and this trend has continued throughout the last eight months. In the current context of the pandemic many survivors of gender-based violence have been forced to stay at home with their abusers and have experienced many challenges in accessing supports during this time. It is important to consider the impact of movement restrictions on survivors' ability to safely access support and escape violence in order to develop strategies and policy that will improve safety outcomes for survivors of gender-based violence in a pandemic setting.

Victim Age and Relationship Type

As can be seen in the graph below, intimate partner femicides involved victims between the ages of 18-35 and in the unknown age category. In addition, the unknown femicide type involved a victim aged 55 and older. A lack of police disclosure regarding victims' ages and victim-perpetrator relationship can create challenges in both research and prevention efforts. This information is imperative to collect as it highlights the various sources of gender-based violence that are occurring as well as the age groups that may be most at risk for experiencing a specific type of femicide. This information can inform prevention initiatives that can improve safety outcomes for survivors of gender-based violence and intervene before the violence escalates to lethal levels.
Confirmed Femicides
July 1st - July 31st 2021
Total - 3

**Toronto Region**
Kim Gagne - Toronto
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:

Jane Doe - Toronto
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:
https://toronto.citynews.ca/2021/07/21/2-found-dead-in-york-home-investigation-underway/

East Region
Shirley Hatley - Fenelon Falls
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media: