FEMICIDE IN ONTARIO

MARCH 1, 2021- MARCH 31, 2021

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Background

The following report provides an overview of femicide in Ontario from March 1st - March 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 March 1st and March 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 March 1st and March 31st, 2021. In addition, there is one case that has been deemed a homicide by police, however it has not yet been confirmed a femicide due to the lack of available information regarding criminal charges or victim-perpetrator relationship. 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.
Victim and Perpetrator Age Comparison

As illustrated in the chart below, one victim (33.3%) was between the ages of 36-54 and one victim (33.3%) was aged 55 and older. In addition, one femicide victim (33.3%) has been coded with an unknown age due to the lack of media reporting that has been provided regarding the victim. While no clear trends have emerged from this monthly analysis, these findings are similar to past findings as older women, in particular women over the age of 55, continue to be at risk for femicide.

When examining the age of perpetrators throughout March, similar patterns found in previous findings can also be seen. As has been highlighted in previous years, many femicide perpetrators are young men, often between the ages of 18-35. While the March data set is too small to effectively identify potential trends, these findings have been similar, as 66.6% (2/3) femicide cases were perpetrated by men aged 35 and younger - with one perpetrator between the ages of 0-17 and one perpetrator between
the ages of 18-35. Additionally, there was one perpetrator belonging to the 55 years and older age cohort. These findings continue to highlight specific populations that may require further education and/or intervention to address and prevent further violence, most notably youth and young adult men.

**Cause of Death**

As noted in the chart below, the cause of death for all three (100%) confirmed femicide cases that occurred in March, was categorized as trauma. Trauma can be defined as any death resulting from a stabbing, an assault or any other blunt force trauma that results in death.
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 highlighted below, femicide victims continue to experience violence from a number of sources. One femicide case (33.3%) involved an intimate relationship and one femicide case (33.3%) has been coded as a family relationship, involving a mother and her son. Additionally, one femicide case (33.3%) has been coded as an unknown relationship. This may change however, as further information about the case is provided by the police and media. As previously noted, the data set for the month of March is too small to provide insight into trends that have emerged within the month, however, these findings are consistent with previous years’ data that highlights the risk for femicide within intimate partner and family relationships. This data has also highlighted the need for further study and research into femicides between family members - namely femicides that are perpetrated by sons.

![Victim-Perpetrator Relationship](chart.png)
Victim Age and Relationship Type

The chart below provides a comparison of femicide victim’s ages and their relationship with the perpetrator. This type of analysis can identify the various sources of violence that are being experienced by a specific age cohort. As illustrated in the chart below, the victim belonging to the 36-54 age group was killed by an unknown perpetrator. As noted previously, this relationship may be re-coded if further information is provided by the police and media. The victim belonging to the age cohort of 55 and older was killed by an intimate partner. Lastly, the one victim belonging to the unknown age cohort was killed by a family member. It is important to note that, due to limited police and media reported details and the size of this data set, no trends can be identified. However as further information is released regarding victim-perpetrator relationships and victim age there may be additional patterns that emerge from this analysis or further conclusions that can be drawn.
Confirmed Femicides  
March 1st - 31st 2021  
Total - 3

West Region:  
Jane Doe - London  
National Media:  

East Region:  
Jane Doe - Belleville  
National Media:  
Local Media: https://www.quintenews.com/2021/03/10/belleville-police-investigating-east-end-murder/?sc_ref=l.facebook.com  

North Region:  
Robyn Kakepetum - Sioux-Lookout  
Local Media: https://www.895thelake.ca/2021/03/22/sioux-lookout-assault-upgraded-to-murder/  
Television Media:

Unconfirmed Femicides  
March 1st - March 31st 2021  
Total - 1

Toronto Region:  
Jane Doe - Toronto  