Monthly Snapshot

Victim Perpetrator Relationship

While previous research has shown that intimate partner femicides are the most common type of femicide, the October report highlights an emerging trend involving family femicides. As can be seen in the following report, 60% of femicides occurring in October were perpetrated by a family member, more specifically the victims’ sons and grandson. This will be an important trend to track as many of the victims killed by their sons and or grandsons are older women and experience many barriers to accessing support. These barriers may be amplified when the violence is being perpetrated by a family member, especially if the victim is dependent on her son for mobility assistance or transportation. There continues to be a need for greater research into this emerging trend of family-perpetrated femicides to understand possible risk factors and create supports and interventions that will address the unique needs of this older age group. Previous research\(^1\) has highlighted possible motivations and/or explanations for these types of femicides, including financial gain, mental illness and the adult children’s caregiver burden, however, there is a need for further research and gender-based analysis to better understand how gender may influence these types of killings.

Femicide in Ontario

October 1st 2021 - October 31st 2021

Prepared by: Lauren Hancock
Policy and Research Coordinator, OAITH

Background

The following report provides an overview of femicide in Ontario from October 1st - October 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 October 1st - October 31st that isn't captured in this report you can send your inquiry to Lauren Hancock via email: lauren@oaith.ca.

Femicide Rates Comparison

There have been five confirmed femicide cases occurring between October 1st and October 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 no change has been reported. Additionally, a decrease in femicide cases has been reported for the month of August 2021 as there have been 0 confirmed femicides.
The current total number of femicide cases has surpassed the total number of femicides included in the 2019-2020 OAITH Femicide List.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th># of Femicides</th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
<th># of Femicides</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2019</td>
<td>7*</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>7</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>6**</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td>1</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>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>( = ) No Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Aug 2021</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>( - ) Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 2021</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Oct 2021</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>53</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Please note 1 additional femicide has been included in December 2019 - this femicide was not included in OAITH’s femicide list due to delayed police disclosure of this femicide.
**Please note 2 newly confirmed femicides have been included in May 2021.
When comparing the current femicide rates to last year’s data, we have noted increases across three different femicide types including: intimate partner femicides (42.86%), family femicides (133.33%), and femicides involving a known perpetrator (80.00%). The known relationship category can include femicides that were perpetrated by a neighbour or an acquaintance. This category can also include other femicide types where a relationship between the victim and the perpetrator has been reported but no details regarding the nature of this relationship have been provided and as a result, some of these cases could potentially involve the victim’s intimate partner or family member.

**Victim-Perpetrator Relationship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OAITH Femicide Data - Victim-Perpetrator Relationships</th>
<th>December 2020 - October 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim Perpetrator Relationship Comparison**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship Type</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Victim and Perpetrator Age Comparison

As illustrated in the graph below, older women, ages 55 and older, continue to experience high rates of lethal gender-based violence. In the month of October, 60% (3/5) of femicide victims in Ontario were 55 and older. Victims belonging to the age group 36-54 accounted for 20% (1/5) femicide cases. One case has been coded as an unknown age as the victim has not been publicly identified due to an ongoing publication ban. As previous femicide research has highlighted, over the last few years, older women, ages 55 and older, are experiencing high rates of femicide. As this trend continues, it will be imperative that age specific settings and supports are designed to ensure older women can access services that meet their age specific needs. More information and resources regarding service provision for older women can be accessed online here.

A total of four perpetrators have been charged in relation to the femicide cases analysed in this report. One perpetrator has been charged in the deaths of two of the victims included in this report. The majority of femicide perpetrators in Ontario in the month of October were between the ages of 18 and 35 (75% or 3/4). In addition, one perpetrator (or 25%) was between the ages of 36 and 54. The average age of femicide perpetrators was 33.5 years old. An ongoing trend has been seen in past femicide research, and also in this year’s most recent data, that younger men, primarily between
the ages of 18-35 are the most common perpetrators of femicide. This continues to highlight the need for early prevention and education targeted to children and youth to address misogynistic ideologies and risk factors before it can escalate to lethal violence.

**Cause of Death**

As can be seen in the graph above, the majority of femicide cases for the month of October (60% or 3/5) have been coded as an unknown cause of death. In addition, the cause of death in two femicide cases (40%) has been coded as trauma. An ongoing limitation of relying on media reported femicide data is the lack of initial disclosure, and at times follow up information that is provided regarding some cases, often as it relates to the cause of death. This can create challenges for femicide research as risk factors related to weapons may not be captured due to the large number of cases where cause of death has not been disclosed.

**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
In the month of October, 60% (3/5) of femicide victims were killed by a family member. In addition, 40% (2/5) of femicide cases were committed by the victim’s current or former intimate partner. Intimate partner femicides continue to be the most common types of femicide occurring in Ontario and there has been a notable increase in the number of familial femicides, highlighting the need for greater education and targeted prevention initiatives that promote healthy relationships and address harmful ideologies that are rooted in male power and privilege. It is imperative that education be implemented at a young age to prevent further violent victimization. In light of the pandemic, this need has increased, as many women and children have been forced into isolation, often with their abuser whether that is their intimate partner, or an abusive family member, due to public health orders. It will be necessary to ensure services and supports have the resources to continue to support the increased number of women and children experiencing and escaping violence in their homes.

**Victim Age and Relationship Type**

The following graph provides a comparison of the victims age and their relationship to the perpetrator. As can be seen below, all victims belonging to the age group 55 and older were killed by a family member. Victims belonging to the unknown age group and victims between the ages of 36 and 54 were killed by either their current, or former, intimate partner. This data provides an overview of the various sources or types of violence that are being experienced by specific age groups. This research can inform and guide development of services to ensure the types of violence and associated risk...
Femicide Reporting Recommendations:

Factors are being addressed for specific victim age groups, as a survivor’s needs will vary due to their age and the type of violence they are experiencing.

**Femicide Location**

Another indicator that is being tracked through media reports is the femicide location. As illustrated in the following graph, just under half (40% or 2/5) of femicide victims were found outdoors in a public place, such as a lake and forest. Additionally, 2 victims (40%) were reportedly killed inside a residence, either their own residence and/or the perpetrators residence. Due to an ongoing police investigation, one location has been coded as undetermined, however this is likely to change pending further police disclosure. It is important to note that due to a reliance on media disclosure this information is coded based on where the media has reported the victim was found. This information may change pending further police disclosure, but often details regarding the details of the femicide, such as the location, are not confirmed until after the completion of any court proceedings, if at all.
Confirmed Femicides
October 1st 2021 - October 31st 2021
Total - 5

Toronto Region
Vincenza Galloro - Toronto
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:
West Region

Christina Yadram - Northern Bruce Peninsula
National Media:
Local Media:
https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/police-lay-murder-charge-after-womans-body-found-on-bruce-peninsula?fbclid=IwAR1xfwewxGRBUICMc78qwtSwcjNf7T_7HpmyWrl1znhW6f2e_UDyl0iAHow
Television Media:

Jane Doe - Windsor
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:

East Region

Ava Burton - Whitby
National Media:
Local Media: https://www.durhamradionews.com/archives/146354
Television Media:
Tatilda Noble - Whitby
Local Media: https://www.durhamradionews.com/archives/146354

Newly Confirmed Femicide Cases
Total - 2

Central Region

Jane Doe - Vaughan

West Region

Myrna Herd - Petrolia
National Media: 
Television Media: https://london.ctvnews.ca/opp-investigating-pair-of-deaths-in-petrolia-ont-1.5433122