Background

The following report provides an overview of femicide in Ontario from September 1st - September 30th 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 September 1st and September 30th 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 September 1st and September 30th, 2021. Additionally, there are a total of two unconfirmed femicide cases. 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 on page 3 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.
Monthly Snapshot

As previous research has highlighted, an alarmingly high number of older women ages 55 and older have been experiencing gender-based violence and more specifically, femicide. In last year’s femicide report, close to half (40.54%) of the reported femicide cases for the year involved victims ages 55 and older. Moreover, our research highlighted that these victims were experiencing violence from multiple sources and were the only age group that was at risk for experiencing gender-based violence from all relationship types. As can be seen in the confirmed femicide cases for September, older women ages 55 and older are continuing to experience lethal gender-based violence, or femicide, and continue to be at risk for experiencing violence from multiple sources. This has highlighted the need for continued research into this emerging trend as it will be critical to understand risk factors related to each source of violence. Additionally, there is a need for greater research to understand the familial femicides that are being seen across the province, which involve primarily sons killing their mothers, in order to create targeted prevention initiatives for this specific age group.
### OAITH Femicide Data - December 2020 - September 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019-2020 # of Femicides</th>
<th>2020-2021 # of Femicides</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2019</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>( - ) Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2020</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>( = ) No Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>( - ) Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>( + ) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Total: 46</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>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Victim and Perpetrator Age Comparison

As illustrated below, femicides occurring in September involved victims between the ages of 18-35 and victims ages 55 and older. Victims between the ages of 18-35 accounted for 40% of this month’s femicide victims. The majority of the victims, or 60% of the victims, were reported to be aged 55 and older. The average age for femicide victims in September is 54.6.
Similarly to the reported age for femicide victims in the month of September, perpetrator ages were categorized in two age groups: 18-35 and ages 55 and older. 40% or a total of 2 perpetrators were reported as being between the ages of 18-35. Similarly 40%, or 2 perpetrators, have been categorized as ages 55 and older. Additionally, one case has been coded as unknown, due to a lack of police reported data regarding a suspect. The average age for femicide perpetrators for the month of September was 49.

**Cause of Death**

According to media reports, trauma was the most common cause of death for femicide victims, accounting for 60% (or 3 cases) of all femicide cases reported in September. Additionally, shooting deaths accounted for 20% (or 1 case) of September femicide cases. The cause of death in one femicide case has been categorized as other, as media reports have indicated the victim was found at the bottom of stairs with no vital signs. It is important to note, especially in cases similar to this that involve older women, that the victim did not die as a result of a fall but was killed in a femicide, often by a man known to the victim.
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 can be seen in the graph below, victim-perpetrator relationships for the month of September have included family, known and unknown relationships. Almost half of the reported femicide cases, (40% or 2 cases) involved a family member and 20% (1 case) of September femicide cases involved a known relationship. Additionally, 40% (2 cases) of the confirmed femicide cases have been coded as an unknown relationship. In both cases, police and media reports have indicated that this was a targeted attack, however, there has been limited information provided on existing relationships between the victims and perpetrators. Despite being coded as unknown, it is important to note as these have been described as targeted killings, that the victim and perpetrator may have had some type of relationship however any details regarding that relationship have not been released at this time. As has been noted previously, one of the limitations to relying on media reported data is the lack of disclosure and information provided regarding victim and perpetrator demographics and relationships. This information is critical to inform further research into potential risk factors and develop education and prevention initiatives.
Victim Age and Relationship Type

The graph below provides a comparison of femicide victims’ ages and their relationship with the perpetrator. As noted above, 40% (2 cases) of the femicide cases in September have been coded as an unknown relationship. Both of these cases involving an unknown relationship involved victims between the ages of 18-35. Due to a lack of police disclosed data regarding any relationship between the victims and perpetrators it is unclear what type of femicide victims in this age group may be at risk for. As illustrated in the graph below, victims belonging to the age group 55 and older are experiencing violence from more than one source. The majority of cases involving a victim aged 55 and older were perpetrated by a male family member, specifically a son and a brother (40% or 2 cases). Additionally, one femicide case involving a victim aged 55 and older involved a known relationship.
Femicide Location

Another variable that was examined for femicides occurring in September is the location of the femicide. As can be seen in the chart below, femicides were occurring in a number of different locations. According to media reports, 20% (1 case) of femicide cases occurred in public, in an indoor setting, in this case the victim’s workplace. In September, 40% (2 cases) of femicide cases occurred inside a residence, and 20% (1 case) of femicide cases occurred outside of a residence, however due to limited media reported information, it is unclear whether it was the victim’s own residence. Additionally, there was one reported femicide (20%) that took place inside a retirement home. According to media reports, both the victim and the perpetrator were residents of the retirement home.

It will be important to continue to track and compare this information to better understand where women, girls and gender-diverse individuals may be at risk of being killed due to their gender. As this month’s report has shown, femicides are occurring at a number of different locations, and in settings, such as a retirement home, where the victim was supposed to be supported and protected. Further research to evaluate the types of femicides that are occurring at each location will be necessary to support and inform future prevention and intervention initiatives.
Confirmed Femicides
September 1st - September 30th 2021
Total - 5

**Toronto Region**

Julia Ferguson - Toronto
National Media:
Local Media:
https://lfpress.com/news/local-news/former-londoner-fatally-stabbed-at-t-o-law-firm-was-funny-kind-brother
Television Media:
https://toronto.citynews.ca/2021/09/06/woman-stabbed-king-street-facility/

Rose Di Pinto - Toronto
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:

Lynette Sequeira - Toronto
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:
https://globalnews.ca/video/8173357/couple-found-dead-in-scarborough-home-identified-son-charged/

**West Region**

Lynda Cruz Marques - London
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:
https://london.ctvnews.ca/neighbours-desperate-for-information-on-fatal-shooting-in-north-london-1.5585196

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

**Unconfirmed Femicides**

**Total - 2**

Unknown Victim - Wellesley Township
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:

Kristy Nguyen - Markham
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media: