FEMICIDE IN ONTARIO

JUNE 1ST 2021 - JUNE 30TH 2021

Prepared by: Lauren Hancock
Policy and Research Coordinator
lauren@oaith.ca
416-977-6619 ext. 102
Background

The following report provides an overview of femicide in Ontario from June 1st - June 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 June 1st and June 30th 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 five confirmed femicide cases occurred between June 1st and June 30th, 2021. Additionally, there is one unconfirmed femicide case that is currently being investigated by police, and has not yet been confirmed as a femicide as no information pertaining to charges or suspects has been released in media reports. 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. However, an increase in femicides has been reported for each subsequent month. There has been a total increase of 16 (84.2%) confirmed femicides to date.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Femicides</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Femicides</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2019</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dec 2020</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(-) Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 2021</td>
<td>5*</td>
<td>(+) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 2021</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(+) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mar 2021</td>
<td>5*</td>
<td>(+) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2020</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Apr 2021</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(+) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>4*</td>
<td>(+) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>June 2021</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(+) Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
<td><strong>(+)</strong> Increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Please note an additional femicide has been included in the months of January, March and May as additional media information has been gathered pertaining to these cases. Newly confirmed femicides and media articles have been included below the list of confirmed June femicides.

**Femicide Types: December 1st 2020 - June 30th 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intimate Partner</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Known</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim and Perpetrator Age Comparison**

As illustrated below, femicide cases that occurred in June involved victims belonging to all age groups except the 0-17 age group. Victims between the ages of 18 and 35 accounted for 40% of victims (2/5) in June. Victims between the ages 36-54 accounted for 20% of victims (1/5) in June and victims aged 55 and older also accounted for 20% of victims (1/5) in June. Due to the lack of demographic information that has been released in media reports, one victim has been categorized as an unknown age, however this may change pending further police and media disclosure. It is imperative that this information is made available through media reporting as this provides essential data to allow for risk factors, such as age, to be identified and potentially mitigated.
When comparing the ages of femicide victims and perpetrators in the month of June, very similar trends can be seen emerging. As illustrated below, the majority of perpetrators also were young, as 50% (3/6) of all perpetrators were between the ages of 18-35. Additionally, 16.7% (1/6) of perpetrators were between the ages of 36-54 and 16.7% (1/6) of perpetrators were 55 and older. As indicated above, there has been limited media disclosure in one femicide case and very little demographic information has been provided about the victim or perpetrator. As a result, one perpetrator has been categorized as an unknown age. Previous femicide research has indicated that perpetrators of femicide are often young men, between the ages of 18-35 and victims were often older women, aged 55 and older. As can be seen in this data set however, victim and perpetrator ages are much more closely linked together. While this data set is too small for any conclusive trends to emerge it is important to highlight this change as this may be as a result of different types of femicide that are occurring, namely intimate partner femicides.
**Cause of Death**

As can be seen in the graph below, the cause of death in the majority of femicide cases was reported to be a shooting, as shooting deaths occurred in 60% (3/5) of June femicide cases. 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 40% (2/5) of June femicide cases. While this data set is too small to draw any larger more generalized conclusions, this will be important to track as previous research has indicated that the majority of femicide deaths are as a result of some form of trauma. It will be imperative to continue to track the cause of death to evaluate if there is a reported increase in the number of shooting deaths in femicide cases and to further research the potential causes of any new trends.

![Cause of Death Graph]

**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

Another unique trend that has emerged, throughout the month of June, is the increase in the number of intimate partner femicides. Intimate partner femicides accounted for 80% (4/5) of all femicide cases in June. Additionally, one femicide case (20%) has been coded as an unknown relationship due to limited police disclosure regarding the victim and perpetrators' relationship, however, this may change pending further police disclosure. This finding may also explain the similarities in victim and perpetrator age that have been noted above.
When examining the victim-perpetrator relationships in greater detail, 50% of all intimate partner femicides were committed by a former partner who the victim had left or was in the process of leaving. This is an important finding as it highlights the continued risk of lethal violence for victims following separation from their abusers and the need for access to continued supports for victims of gender-based violence following separation.

### Victim Age and Relationship Type

The graph below provides a comparison of the victim’s age and relationship to the perpetrator. As illustrated below, victims belonging to all adult age groups were killed by either a current or former intimate partner. One femicide victim between the ages of 18-35 has been coded as an unknown relationship, however this data may change pending further police disclosure. While no distinct conclusions can be made from this dataset, this is an important finding to highlight as it identifies the potential risk that exists for intimate partner femicides across all adult age groups.
Confirmed Femicides
June 1st - June 30th 2021
Total - 5

Central Region
Dalbir Randhawa - Brampton
National Media:  
Local Media:  
Television Media:  

Marissa Radstake - Mississauga
National Media:  
Local Media:  
https://www.insauga.com/witnesses-sought-in-mississauga-slaying
Television Media:  
https://globalnews.ca/news/8004179/suspect-charged-marissa-radstake-murder-was-on-parole-police-say/

Jane Doe - Richmond Hill
National Media:  
https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/bodies-found-richmond-hill-1.6073303
Local Media:  
Television Media:  

East Region
Hanadi Mohammed - Ottawa
National Media:  
Local Media:

Television Media:
https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/ottawa-man-charged-in-west-end-homicide-1.5472112

**West Region**

Tineisha Chatwin - St. Catharines
Local Media:
Television Media:

**Unconfirmed Femicides**

**North Region**

Jane Doe - Sault Ste. Marie
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:
https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/sault-police-investigating-woman-s-death-after-body-found-1.5469145

**Newly Confirmed Femicides from Previous Months**

**West Region**

Sue-Elin Lumsden - Sarnia (January 23, 2021)
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:
https://london.ctvnews.ca/sarnia-ont-man-now-charged-in-two-separate-homicides-1.5501747
Toronto Region
Bernice Nantanda Wamala - Toronto (March 7, 2021)
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:

North Region
Jane Doe - Sault Ste Marie (May 7, 2021)
National Media:
Local Media:
Television Media:
Other Media: