

FEMICIDE IN ONTARIO

**NOVEMBER 26TH, 2017-
NOVEMBER 25TH, 2020**

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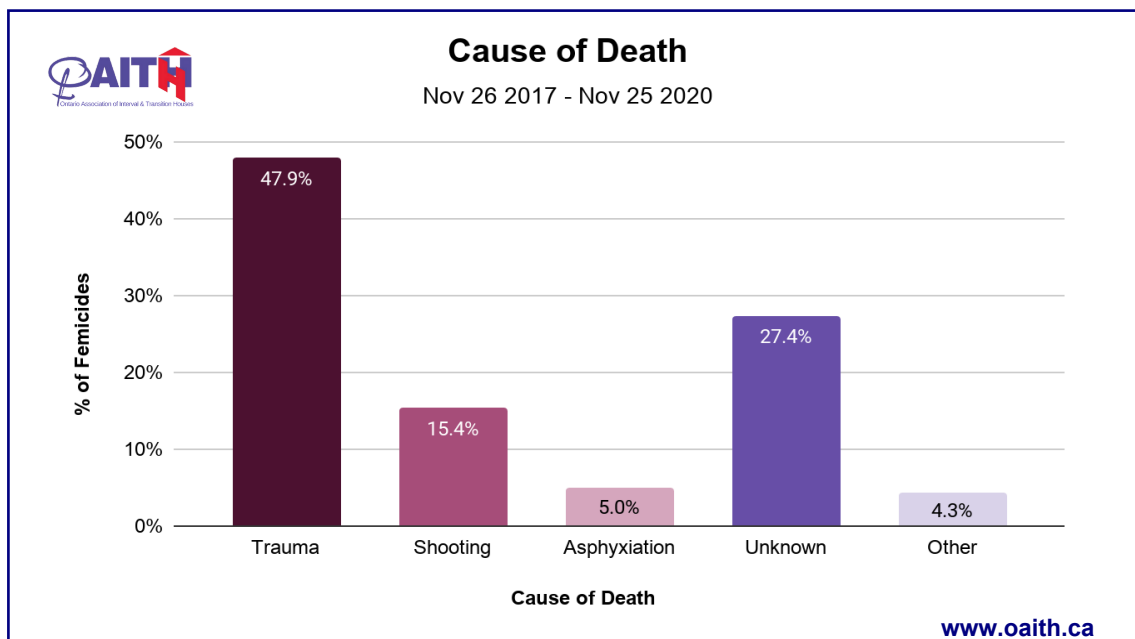
Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses

Background

The following report provides an examination of femicide cases in Ontario from November 26, 2017- November 25, 2020. A total of 117 femicide cases were included in this data set involving women ages 18 and older. This dataset includes victims with the following victim-perpetrator relationship types: intimate partner, family, known and unknown (details are unknown but targeted/gendered attack). It is important to note that the information pertaining to these femicide cases may be incomplete due to ongoing police investigations, lack of police disclosure, publication bans and limited media reporting. 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.

Cause of Death

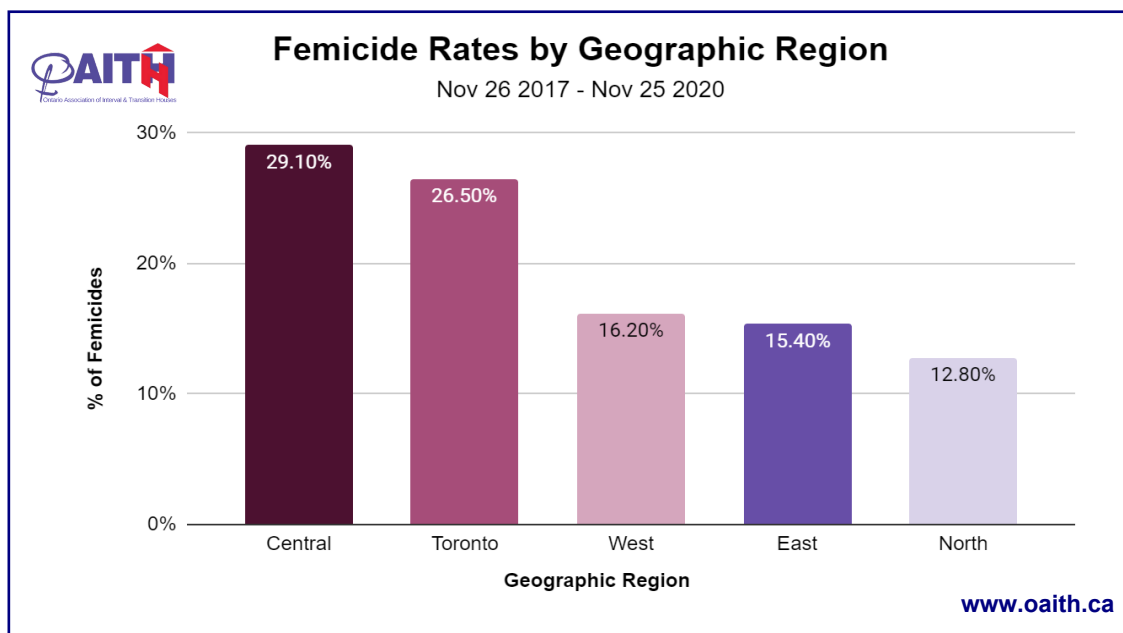
When examining the cause of death amongst all 117 femicide victims included in this data set, the cause of death was determined to be some form of trauma in 47.9% (56/117) of all cases. Trauma can be defined as any death resulting from a stabbing, an assault or any other blunt force trauma that results in death. The cause of death was determined to be shooting in 15.4% (18/117) of all femicide cases examined. Additionally, 27.4% (32/117) of all cases examined were coded as cause of death unknown. The number of cases that have been coded as unknown can often be attributed to lack of police disclosure, publication bans and lack of media coverage. Asphyxiation was attributed to 5% (6/117) of all femicide cases examined and 4.3% (5/117) of cases were coded as other cause of death, which includes any other intentional killing (e.g. fire or drowning).



Femicides by Geographic Region

OAITH's Femicide geographic mapping is based on the Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services (MCCSS) regional mapping. This allows us to easily identify the location of femicides with the location of available gender-based violence services that this government ministry funds. The MCCSS regional map can be found [here](#).

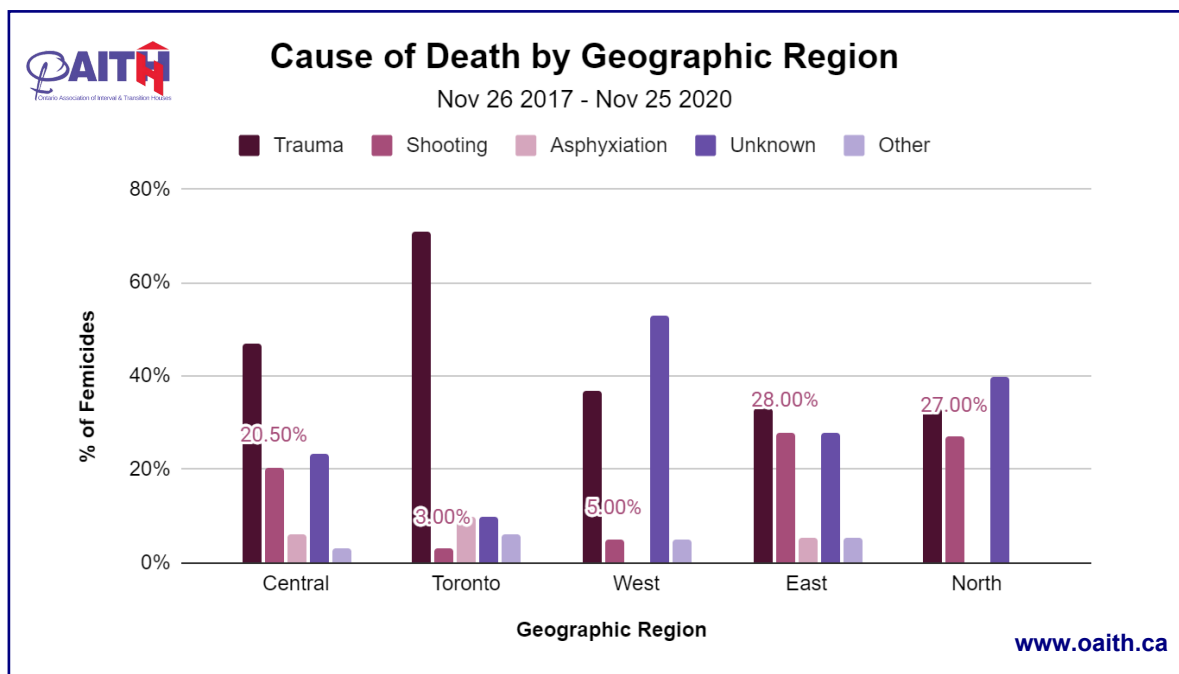
As highlighted in the chart below - 29.1% (34/117) of all femicides included in this data set occurred in the Central Region. A large percentage of femicides also occurred in the Toronto Region (26.5% or 31/117). While both the Toronto Region and Central Region are the two smallest geographic regions in the MCCSS regional map, they are also the most densely populated regions. Additionally, 16.2% (19/117) of all femicide cases examined occurred in the West Region and 15.4% (18/117) of femicides occurred in the East Region. The least amount of femicides reported occurred in the North Region with a total of 12.8% (15/117) of all femicides.



Cause of Death by Geographic Region

When examining the cause of death in relation to the various geographic regions some more distinct trends emerge. As can be seen in the chart below, trauma continues to be the most common cause of death in all regions with the exception of the West Region. The most common cause of death reported in the West Region is an unknown cause of death. This high number of unknown causes of death can be attributed to the lack of police disclosure and/or media reporting and this continues to be one of the limitations in relying on media reporting to track femicide cases.

As seen in the chart below, the cause of death has been coded as a shooting in 28% (5/18) of all femicides that occurred in the East Region and 27% (4/15) of all femicides that occurred in the North Region. The number of femicides involving shooting in the East and North regions is only slightly lower than the number of femicides involving trauma and this is only seen in the North and East regions. Furthermore, shootings accounted for 20.5% (7/34) of all femicides that occurred in the Central Region. Shootings accounted for 3% (1/31) of all femicides that occurred in the Toronto Region and 5% (1/19) of all femicides that occurred in the West Region.



Femicides by Population Centre

The city the femicide occurred in was also categorized based on population center size. The categories are as follows:

Large Population Center: Population >100,000

Medium Population Center: Population: 30,000-99,999

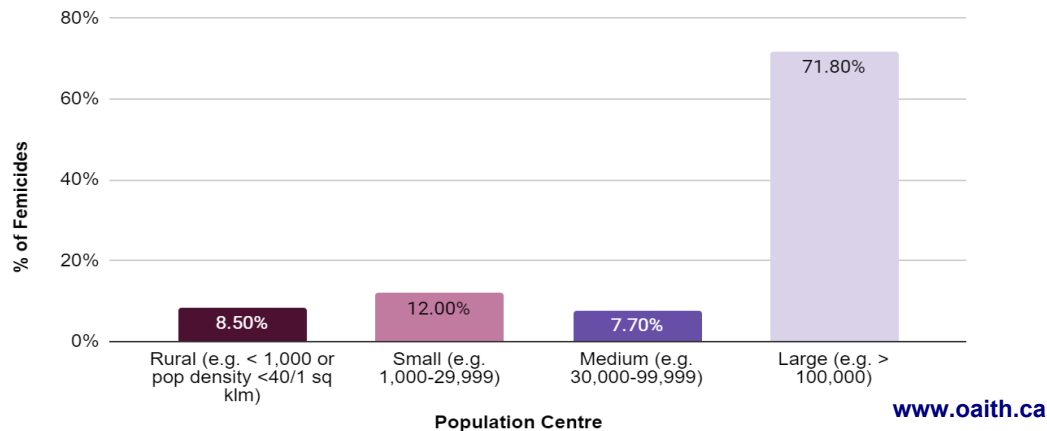
Small Population Center: Population: 1,000-29,999

Rural Population Center: Population <1,000 or population density of <40/1 sq km

The vast majority of femicides examined from this time period occurred in large population centres (71.8% or 84/117) with populations greater than 100,000 inhabitants. Towns that were listed as medium population centres had the least amount of femicides (7.7% or 9/117). As illustrated below, a small number of femicides occurred in rural population centres (8.5% or 10/117) and 12% (14/117) of femicides occurred in small population centres.

Femicide Rates by Population Centre

Nov 26 2017 - Nov 25 2020



Cause of Death by Population Centre

When examining the cause of death in relation to population centres, a few distinct trends can be seen in rural population centers and in large population centers. As highlighted in the chart below, shooting (40% or 4/10) and unknown cause of death (40% or 4/10) were the most common causes of death in rural population centres. Rural population centres had the highest rates of femicide involving shootings when compared to the other population centres. Rural and small population centres also had the highest number of cases where the cause of death is unknown. This can potentially be attributed to lack of police disclosure as well as limited media coverage in rural and small population centres. Trauma was the most common cause of death in large population centres (56% or 47/84), while 11% (9/84) of femicides in large population centres involved a shooting. Notably, only large population centres included femicides where asphyxiation was reported to be the cause of death (7% or 6/84). Shooting was reported to be the cause of death in 21% of femicides (3/14) in small population centres and in 22% of femicides (2/9) that occurred in medium population centers.

Cause of Death in Rural, Small, Medium and Large Population Centres

Nov 26 2017 - Nov 25 2020

