

Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan Research Project

Mavis Morton, Kaira Gruszka, Noura Tawfik,
Jasmine Dhillon, Jose Diaz Gonzalez, Kyra Dukovac,
Quinn Farrell, Mallory Finn, Jacob Gibson, Lily Hadden,
Lyla Hallihan, Avneet Khatra, Ruth Oudit,
Hafsa Siddiqui, Katie Stevens, Chantal Sweeney,
Jade Tilley, Lauren Hancock

August, 2026



UNIVERSITY OF
GUELPH



Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses

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Introduction

This report presents the findings from a community-engaged research project conducted in partnership with the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses (OAITH). The project reviewed the first iteration (approximately between 2020-2025) of Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plans developed by municipalities across Ontario, specifically exploring if and the extent to which gender-based violence (GBV) is articulated and prioritized within these plans. In doing so, the report contributes to conversations about municipal responses to community safety issues such as gender-based violence (GBV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) in local planning frameworks.

Background

The requirements for municipalities to create Community Safety and Well-Being plans stem from legislative efforts to promote proactive, collaborative approaches to community safety (Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General, 2024, January 15).

The Ontario government introduced Bill 68, the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019* (*Police Services Act, 2019*) which created the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA) (*Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*). Although enacted in 2019, most of the CSPA was not proclaimed into force until April 1, 2024, replacing the *Police Services Act, 1990* as Ontario's principal policing statute. When the CSPA came into force, responsibility for CSWB planning was formally transferred from the repealed *Police Services Act, 1990* to the CSPA framework. The new legislation is designed to modernize police oversight, standardize training, and establish stricter accountability measures. The legislation required municipalities across Ontario to develop and adopt a community safety and well-being plan in partnership with stakeholders and groups that are active in delivering services within our communities. (CSPA, Part XVI, ss. 248-251).

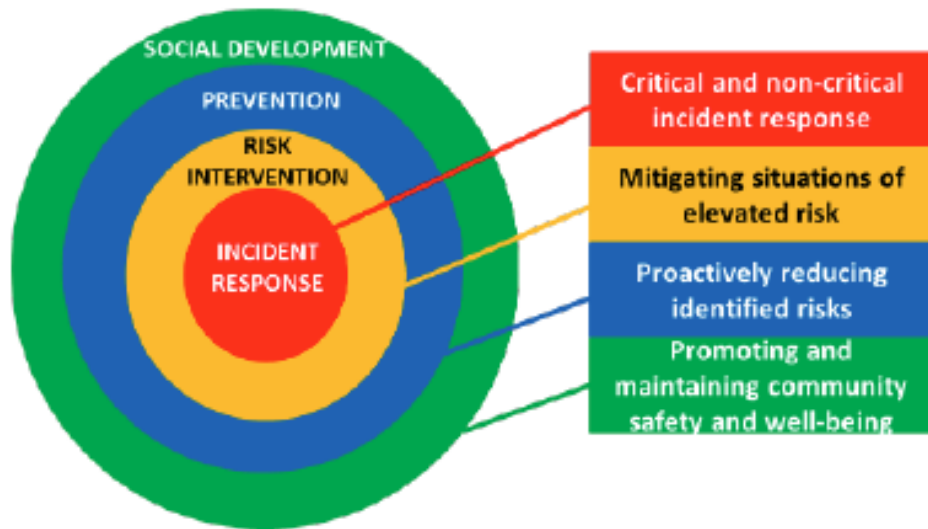
Part XVI of the CSPA (Sec. 248) declared that every municipality must prepare and adopt a community safety well-being plan. When preparing the plan, the municipality can create it on its own or in conjunction with

other municipalities, or band councils. Sec 248 (5) authorizes the Minister to deem a community safety and well-being plan to have met all of the requirements in section 250 if, (a) consultations to develop the plan were completed before January 1, 2019; and (b) in the Minister's opinion, the consultations substantially complied with the obligations set out in section 250 which includes establishing an advisory committee (*Community Safety and Policing Act*, 2019). The Act mandates several requirements including to,

1. Prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan by July 1st, 2021 (s. 248.6).
2. Work in partnership with a multi-sectoral advisory committee (s. 250) comprised of representation from the police service board and other local service providers in health/mental health, education, community/social services and children/youth services (s. 250.3).
3. Conduct consultations with the advisory committee and members of the public including youth, individuals who have received or are receiving mental health or addiction services, racialized groups, community organizations (s. 250.7).
4. Include content such as risk factors, strategies to reduce risk factors, measurable outcomes etc. (s. 251)

The Ontario Community Safety and Well-Being Planning framework was provided as a guide for municipalities to develop their own plans. (*Community Safety and Policing Act*, 2019)

The Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services developed a community safety and well-being planning framework to guide plan development. The framework (see Figure 1) outlines the following four areas: Social Development, Prevention, Risk Intervention and Incident Response.

Figure 1*Community Safety Wellbeing Plan Framework*

Note. Reprinted from *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* (Booklet 3, Version 2), by Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, 2019. Government of Ontario.

(Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, 2019). The framework was to encourage municipalities, First Nations and their partners to think “... about new ways about local issues and potential solutions by exploring options to address risks through social development, prevention and risk intervention”. (Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, 2019, p. 11). As illustrated in Figure 2 below, the following critical success factors were also to be taken into consideration when developing a plan: Strength-Based, Risk Focused, Awareness and Understanding, Highest Level Commitment, Effective Partnerships, Evidence and Evaluation, Cultural Responsiveness.

Figure 2*Community Safety Wellbeing Plan Framework – Critical Factors*

Note. Reprinted from *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* (Booklet 3, Version 2), by Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, 2019. Government of Ontario.

Research Questions

When the project began the following two research questions were to be explored:

RQ 1: How many municipalities have declared IPV an epidemic?¹

RQ 2: Which Ontario municipalities that have a CSWB Plan, have incorporated GBV/IPV into their plan and what does the structure and process of their plan look like?

This report only focuses on the 2nd research question.

Methodology

This project has been worked on in phases. Phase 1 began in the fall of 2024 as a community engaged teaching and learning project with students in a 4th year Sociology class (see Appendix H) at the University of

¹ This report does not answer this research question. Although this information was searched for in Phase 1 of the project, the information was not easy to find. This information was not in the CSWB plans and while we eventually obtained a list of council decisions from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), these did not align with municipalities so it was too big of a project to do at the same time as we were looking for and reviewing over 200 CSWB Plans.

Guelph and OAITH's Research and Policy Coordinator who was also the graduate teaching assistant for the class. During the winter term we sought information about which Ontario municipalities were required to create Community Safety and Well-Being Plans, according to *The Police Services Act*, 1990 (PSA). Throughout the *Act* (other than sections 25 and 55), "municipality" is defined as a) a single-tier municipality, b) a lower-tier municipality, c) a regional municipality other than the county of Oxford, or d) any other municipality that has constituted a municipal board under subsections (2). 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, s. 2 (3). The data collection process began with an environmental scan to search for over 200 single and upper municipalities' first Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) plans.

Phase 1 – Finding and Reviewing CSWB Plans

In Phase 1, the research team consisted of ten research groups, each consisting of approximately 5-6 students. Based on the information we had at the time we created a list that included 203 single tier municipalities. Each group was assigned to a list of 22 - 24 municipalities for which they were responsible to search for the CSWB plans. Most of the plans located were found on the municipalities' websites. When plans were not available from the municipality, Google searches were conducted and if required the municipality was contacted via Email or phone. As the plans were located and downloaded to a University of Guelph Sharepoint site that was accessible to the research team, they were reviewed by small student groups to identify the municipality and/or municipalities that collaborated to create a unique or shared plan. We created a collaborative Excel spreadsheet to identify the name of the municipality to which students added information to as we found it. (See figure 3 below).

Figure 3
CSWB Data Collection Tool

1							Anonymous Cheats
2	Municipality	Municipality Website	Municipal Status	Geographic Area	Student Name(s)	Plan Link	# of Municipalities
3	Casey, Township of	http://Casey.ca	Single Tier	Timiskaming	Rubalpreet	https://static1.sq	23
4	Central Manitoulin, Municipality of	http://www.cent	Single Tier	Manitoulin	Reegan	https://www.gord	8
5	Chatham-Kent, Municipality of	http://www.chat	Single Tier	Chatham-Kent	Reegan	https://www.ckps	1
6	Chisholm, Township of	http://www.chis	Single Tier	Nipissing	Rubalpreet	https://nipissingt	4
7	Cochrane, Town of	https://cochrane	Single Tier	Cochrane	Reegan	https://www.bing	1
8	Conmee, Township of	http://www.conm	Single Tier	Thunder Bay	Reegan	https://www.ocor	4
9	Cornwall, City of	http://www.corn	Single Tier	Stormont, Dundas	Reegan	https://sdccornw	5
0	Dryden, City of	http://www.dryd	Single Tier	Kenora	Reegan	https://www.dryd	5
1	Dubreuilville, Township of	http://www.dubr	Single Tier	Algoma	Charlotte	https://dubreuilvi	
2	Ear Falls, Township of	http://www.ear-f	Single Tier	Kenora	Reegan	https://ear-falls.c	2
3	East Ferris, Township of	http://eastferris.c	Single Tier	Nipissing	Reegan	https://eastferris	1
4	Elliot Lake, City of	https://www.cityo	Single Tier	Algoma	Paige	https://www.ellio	1
5	Dawson, Township of	https://www.daw	Single Tier	Rainy River	Paige	https://alberton.c	10
6	Espanola, Town of	https://www.esp	Single Tier	Sudbury	Reegan, Matt, C	https://www.esps	4
7							
	Fauquier-Strickland, Township of	http://www.faug	Single Tier	Cochrane	Reegan, Matt, C	https://valharty.c	6
8	French River, Municipality of	http://www.frenc	Single Tier	Sudbury	Reegan, Matt, C	https://msdsb.ne	4

In total, we searched 203 municipalities for plans, and of those 91 unique CSWB plans were identified. An initial Excel template was created and revised for coding purposes. Based on OAITH's interests the following three categories of information was examined:

- A) **Gender Based Violence Language used** such as Gender-based violence, Intimate-Partner Violence, Violence Against Women, Femicide, Abuse, Domestic Violence, Femicide, Abuse, Domestic Violence, Violence, Human Trafficking Sexual Assault/Violence,
- B) **Plan Structure** including Stand Alone Pillars, # of Priority Areas, Name of Priority Area, Planning Governance Structure, Implementation Strategy/Action Items, Planning Governance Structure, # of CSWB Dedicated Staff, Implementation Strategy/Action Items, Funding Amount, and Dedicated CSWB Staffing Position), (see Figure 4 below for an example of the information that was added to the relevant categories/columns).

C) **Process Information** such as Development/Consultation Process (Type of Consultation),
VAW/GBV Services Consulted and IPV/GBV Declaration

Figure 4 below is a screen shot of part of the Excel document that was used to code information that was found in reviewing each CSWB Plan. This was an iterative process, since during this phase we were unfamiliar with the kind of information that were in the plans so we added columns to the Excel sheet as we identified more and more pieces of information to track.

Figure 4
CSWB Data Collection Tool – Plan Structure

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA
Structure								
Stand Alone P	# of Priority	Are Pillar Name if DV	Names of ALL Pillars	Planning Gover	# of CSWB Ded	Implementation	Implementation	Strategy/Action Item
No	5+	Pillar Name if DV	Health and Well-Being,	Advisory ...	1	Yes	Goals ...	Increase the public's perception of safety in thei
Yes	4	Pillar Name if DV	Domestic violence, Men	Steering ...	0	Yes	Commitr ...	1. "Development of a Domestic Violence Preven
No	3	Pillar Name if DV	Community Awareness	Advisory ...	5	Yes		Strengthen collaboration and integration of ment
No	3	Pillar Name if DV	1) Mental Health 2) Acc	Working ...	4	Yes	Outcome ...	Target Outcomes for each pillar, Working Comm
No	4	Pillar Name if DV	Crime, Housing, Mental	Advisory ...	0	Yes		Raise awareness and do prevention work in sch
Yes	4	Pillar Name if DV	Domestic Violence, Hou	Advisory ...	0	Yes		"The Associate Municipalities, working together
No	5+	Pillar Name if DV	1) Mental health, 2) Hea	Advisory ...	4	Yes		"Our safety and Well-being plan includes 52
No	4	Pillar Name if DV	Youth, Prevention/educ	Advisory ...	0	Yes	Guiding ...	"The four Pillar Working Groups will receive and
No	3	Pillar Name if DV	1) Mental Health & Addi	Advisory ...	3	Yes		"Action" listed for every pillar (12-19)
No	5	Pillar Name if DV	1) Safe substance use,	Advisory ...	0	Yes		"Various agencies in Red Lake and Ear Falls offe
No	3	Pillar Name if DV	1) Health, 2) Safety, 3) V	Advisory ...	0	Yes		"Violence Against Women Committee" - The Nor
Yes	3	Pillar Name if DV	1) Sexual Assault as a S	Advisory ...	0	Yes		"The intention is to create a pool of trained healt
No	3	Pillar Name if DV	Mental Health, Addictio	Advisory ...	0	Yes	Recomm ...	"Implementation committees must make a conce
No	4	Pillar Name if DV	Mental Health & Addicti	Advisory ...	0	Yes	action ite ...	The implementation plan created four specific fo
								This is specifically for DV which is part of Course related to domestic violence (e.g., inappropriate resources and services, reporting such behaviour order to decrease the number of possible future Get involved in the White Ribbon Campaign to r

Phase 1 provided us with useful information, and it became clear through this phase that this project was a bigger task than expected, and it needed a smaller and more focused group of researchers to ensure coding consistency. Consistency was particularly challenging given how different the plans were across the province. It was very difficult to create a coding structure that would accurately capture and compare information across plans.

In May of 2025, we contacted the Ministry of the Solicitor General to attempt to confirm the number of municipalities who are required to submit a plan. In June 2025 we heard from the Ministry, and they confirmed

that a total of 372 municipalities are required to complete and adopt CSWB plans. However, municipalities have the flexibility and discretion to adopt joint CSWB plans with neighbouring communities. First Nations are not legislatively required to have plans, but they can choose to develop one or work with municipal partners. Through this correspondence with the Ministry, we learned that municipalities are not required to submit plans to the ministry; however, they are required to make them available publicly. As of April 2025, the ministry was aware of 97 completed CSWB plans representing 357 municipalities (Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General, personal communication, June 27, 2025). Figure 5 below is an example of the Excel spreadsheet that was shared with us, and this became the foundational tool that we used in Phase 2 for data tracking, coding, and analysis. However, given what we learned about the content of the plans in Phase 1, we added columns to the Excel document to be able to document the additional information we were tracking.

Figure 5
CSWB Plan Coding Tool

		Completed Plans						Joint Plans	
Municipality (organized by Region, County, and Single-Tier) Note: List based off of AMO website	Municipality Level / Tier	Completed Plan (Y/N)	Adopted Plan (Y/N)	Date completed/ adopted	Length of Plan	Title of Plan	Y/N	If yes, municipalities involved in the plan	Comments
REGIONS (Note: Mandate applies to regional Municipality)									
Durham	Upper Tier (region)	Y	Y	Approved November 24, 2021	2021	Community Safety and Well-Being Plan	N		Regional – 8 lower-tier municipalities (Oshawa, Pickering, Clarington, Ajax, Whitby, Brock, Scugog, Uxbridge)
City of Oshawa	Lower Tier (region)								
City of Pickering	Lower Tier (region)								
Municipality of Clarington	Lower Tier (region)								
Town of Ajax	Lower Tier (region)								
Town of Whitby	Lower Tier (region)								
Township of Brock	Lower Tier (region)								
Township of Scugog	Lower Tier (region)								
Township of Uxbridge	Lower Tier (region)								
Halton	Upper Tier (region)	Y	Y	Approved in November 2017	DK	Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton: A Plan for Collaboration and Action	N		Regional – 4 lower-tier municipalities (includes Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Halton Hills)
City of Burlington	Lower Tier (region)								
Town of Halton Hills	Lower Tier (region)								
Town of Milton	Lower Tier (region)								
Town of Oakville	Lower Tier (region)								
Muskoka (Note: District on AMO website but provides services at regional-scale)	District	Y	Y	June 20 2022	2021-2025	The District of Muskoka: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2021- 2025	N		Regional – 6 lower-tier municipalities (Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Georgian Bay, Lake of Bays, Muskoka Lakes). District on AMO website but Muskoka provides services at a regional-scale
Town of Bracebridge	Lower Tier (region)								
Town of Gravenhurst	Lower Tier (region)								
Town of Huntsville	Lower Tier (region)								
Township of Georgian Bay	Lower Tier (region)								
Township of Lake of Bays	Lower Tier (region)								
Township of Muskoka Lakes	Lower Tier (region)								
Niagara	Upper Tier (region)								

Phase 2 –Reviewing & Coding CSWB Plans

Phase 2 of the project began in fall of 2025. In this phase, the research team consisted of: two undergraduate students (Noura and Kaira), two OAITH Board of Directors, and Dr. Mavis Morton. During this process, we started by looking for plans that were missing during Phase 1. This required more online searching, emailing, and calling to try to locate and get access to more plans. In this phase, approximately 106 plans were located and reviewed. We created a code book to help ensure that researchers were coding the plans in the same way and adding similar information to the Excel spreadsheet. This phase of the project included reviewing the plans again for the specific information that OAITH was interested in and adding columns to the above Excel document as needed. As we reviewed the plans, we coded the information we were looking for and added this to the Excel document which served as our data collection tool. At least two researchers reviewed every plan and if there was uncertainty about how to code something, Dr. Morton and the two undergraduate students

would review it together and come to a consensus about how to enter the data into the Excel document. During this phase we were more confident about the findings because the plans were reviewed and coded more consistently. We reviewed 106 plans, but when we were able to confirm that a plan had either not been completed or adopted, they were not included in Phase 3.

Phase 3 –Results and Knowledge Mobilization

Phase 3 of the project began in May of 2026. This phase focused on compiling the results, providing some analysis and creating infographics and graphs to mobilize the results in ways that would be meaningful for OAITH as well as interesting and accessible to multiple audiences. This was done within a six-week intensive Master of Criminal Justice and Public Policy course that was focused on criminal justice policy in practice called “Research to Action in Canadian Criminal Justice Policy”. Part of the course required students to learn about the knowledge to action gap (K2A)², specifically with respect to social problems and criminal justice policy and to acquire knowledge mobilization skills. Thirteen students in small groups of three were responsible for reviewing some portion of the completed coding in the Excel spreadsheet, creating knowledge mobilization tools to share findings and provide some analysis of the findings. Due to missing data and incomplete plans or plans that had never been formally adopted, the final number of plans included in this review is 92.

Findings

Despite the framework that was provided for municipalities to use in creating their plans, the most general finding is that plans were very different in structure, language, length etc. For example, some plans were a few pages long while other plans were over 100 pages. This made it hard to compare information across plans because there was a lot of information that was either missing or communicated in different ways.

² The knowledge to action gap (K2A) refers to the process of understanding and clearly articulating the knowledge you want to share or mobilize (or key messages) with an understanding of the barriers to knowledge (or why the gap exists) (Graham et al. 2006). Bennet & Jessani (2011) argues that there is a huge “know-do gap” that needs closing, by applying what we know to policy and practice.

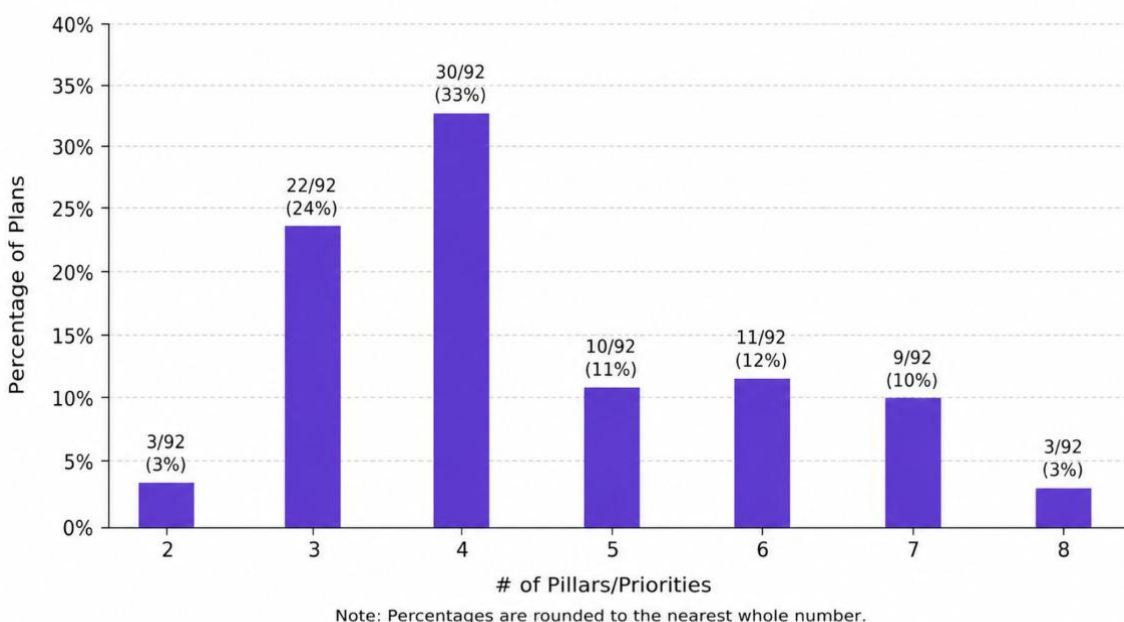
A main purpose for the creation of CSWB plans was for municipalities to identify risks through community consultation with communities. Through this process, they were to conduct a risk analysis and identify priorities that would then become a focus to address via strategies and implementation that would be laid out in the CSWB plans. These priorities, or what were often referred to as pillars, were one of the categories of the plans in which OAITH was most interested.

Pillars/Priorities³

The following findings refer to the main “risks” that the municipalities’ CSWB planning bodies identified in creating their CSWB plans. The most significant risks were targeted as priorities or pillars in most plans. As illustrated in Figure 6 below, the number of pillars/priorities varied across the plans, ranging from two to 13, with an average of 4.73. Four pillars or priorities were the most common structure, appearing in 30 plans (33%), followed by three, appearing in 22 plans (24%) (see Appendix A).

³ See the following link for more specific information about how risks and priorities are to be identified and addressed in the CSWB plan <https://www.ontario.ca/document/community-safety-and-well-being-planning-framework-booklet-3-shared-commitment-ontario/section-3-critical-success-factors#section-1>

Figure 6
Number of Pillars in Ontario CSWB Plans



Most municipalities organized their CSWB plans around a smaller set of broad priority areas rather than many specific categories. These findings are interesting because they offer some insight into the terminology used, its consistency or lack of consistency across plans, and which risks are being prioritized over others.

Attention to Gender Based Violence in CSWB Plans

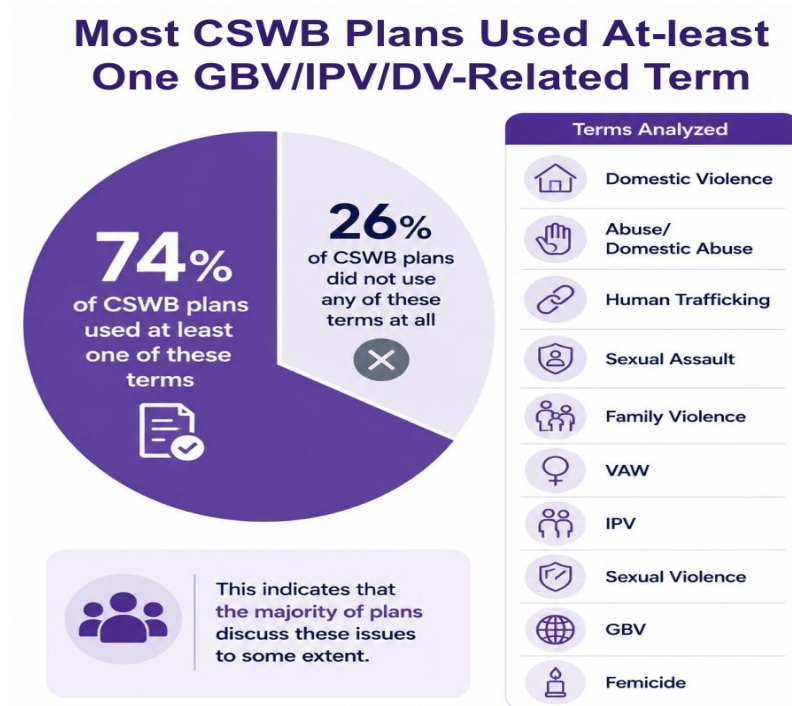
Violence-related risks appeared in Ontario's CSWB plans in different ways. The findings below focus on three areas of plans that we reviewed: the language used to name the violence, the extent to which gender based violence-related concerns were included as formal priorities or pillars, and whether gender-based violence (GBV) and/or violence against women (VAW) organizations such as VAW shelters were part of the planning process and if this was documented. Together, these findings show that while violence terminology showed up in most plans it was not always clearly named or prioritized and the creation of the plans did not usually involve GBV organizations.

Naming Gender Based Violence in CSWB Plans

Gender-based violence (GBV) related terminology was reviewed across all 92 Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plans to better understand how municipalities recognize and name these issues within their plans. Based on the review of plans in Phase 1 the following ten GBV-related terms were the terms that were used across plans and therefore were the terms that we searched for and coded:

- Abuse/Domestic Abuse (DA)
- Domestic Violence (DV)
- Family Violence (FV)
- Femicide
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Human Trafficking (HT)
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
- Sexual Assault (SA)
- Sexual Violence (SV)
- Violence Against Women (VAW)

Plans were reviewed to determine how many plans used at least one of the identified terms compared with how many did not use any of the violence related terms. This analysis provides insight into the extent to which municipalities acknowledge gender-based violence-related issues in their CSWB plans.

Figure 7*Use of GBV/IPV/DV Terms in Ontario CSWB Plans*

Note. AI-generated image created using NotebookLM (Google, 2026)

Figure 7 above illustrates that 74% of CSWB plans include at least one GBV/IPV/DV-related term, suggesting that most municipalities recognize this issue as relevant to community safety, though the nature and extent of discussion vary widely. However, 26% of plans contain no related GBV terminology at all, meaning these issues are not addressed or at least did not make it into the formal plan. This absence raises concerns that if approximately one-quarter of municipalities are not including GBV/IPV/DV-related issues in their safety planning, this may limit their ability to assess needs, engage specialized services, allocate resources, and develop effective prevention and intervention strategies. Given the purpose of CSWB plans, this exclusion suggests that these forms of violence may not be receiving sufficient attention relative to their prevalence and impact in Ontario communities.

Use of Gender Based Violence-Related Words

The language findings show that some forms of gender-based violence are much more visible than others in CSWB plans. For example, Figure 8 illustrates that the top five violence type terms used in plans are gender neutral (e.g. domestic violence), whereas gender specific terms such as violence against women (VAW) appear in less than ¼ of plans.

Figure 8

Gender-Based Violence Language in CSWB Plans

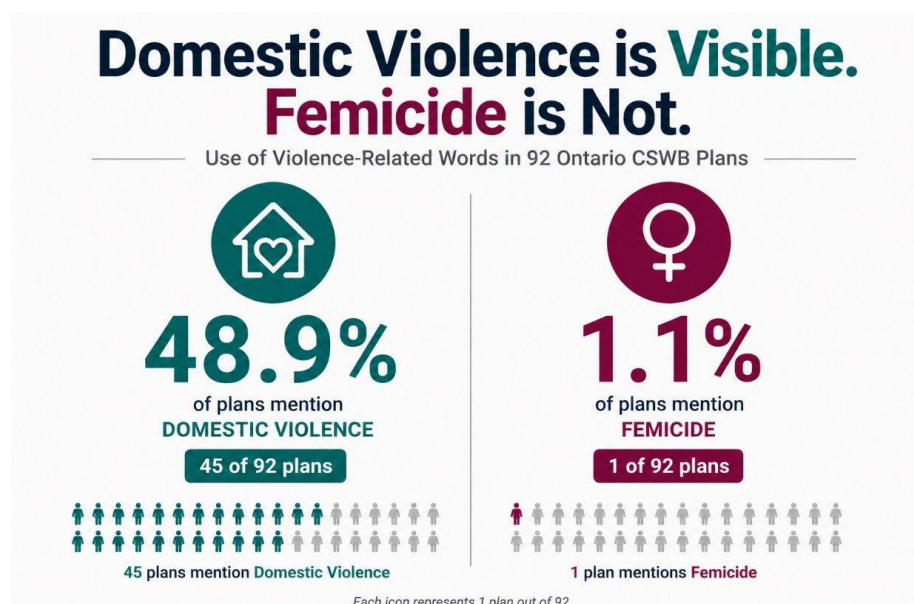


Domestic violence was the most used term, appearing in 45 of the 92 plans (48.9%) (see Appendix B). Sexual assault appeared in 24 plans (26.0%), family violence appeared in 20 plans (21.7%), and intimate partner violence appeared in 18 plans (19.5%). In contrast, gender-based violence appeared in 11 plans (11.9%), while

femicide appeared in only one plan (1.1%). Hamilton’s CSWB plan was the only plan we reviewed that explicitly used the word “femicide” (see Appendix C). This language showed up within their “Violence” pillar in their section on “Opportunities for Action” (page 22).

Figure 9

Use of Violence-Related Terms in Ontario CSWB Plans



Note. AI-generated image created using NotebookLM (Google, 2026)

Figure 9 suggests that municipalities are more likely to use familiar terms such as domestic violence than broader or more explicitly gendered language. This matters because policy language shapes what becomes recognizable as a problem. Research on policy language argues that naming is not neutral because the words used in policy documents can influence visibility, accountability, and institutional response (Anitha et al., 2024).

Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan Pillars/Priorities

To identify the priority areas emphasized across Ontario's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plans, the names of all pillars for each of the 92 plans were analyzed, and pillars using similar language was grouped into broader categories. Analyzing the prevalence of these pillar categories allowed for the

identification of the issues most frequently prioritized by municipalities, while also highlighting areas that received comparatively less attention within community safety and well-being planning.

Figure 10 below shows the wide range of priorities across Ontario's 92 CSWB plans, identifying 18 distinct pillars covering a wide range of risks, including mental health, housing, poverty, crime prevention, violence, vulnerable populations, equity and inclusion, environmental concerns, and economic development (See Appendix E). While this reflects the fact that municipalities tailored plans to local needs, clear trends emerge in what is most consistently prioritized, like mental health & addictions and housing & homelessness, while topics such as environment, rural and economic issues, and Indigenous relations appear far less often. Notably, the GBV/IPV/DV pillar is included in only 16% of plans. Overall, Figure 10 highlights common priorities, and gaps showing how some risks receive significantly more attention than others. What the figure does not identify is the extent to which issues like GBV intersect with mental health and addictions, housing and homelessness, poverty and income and employment.

Figure 10*Prevalence of Pillars in Ontario CSWB Plans*

Prevalence of Pillars Across CSWB Plans

Number and percent of CSWB plans that include each pillar (out of 92 plans)

Pillar		Number of Plans	Percent of Plans
 Mental Health & Addictions		89	97%
 Housing & Homelessness		68	74%
 Poverty, Income, & Employment		41	45%
 Public Safety, Policing, & Crime Prevention		26	28%
 Community Belonging & Addressing Isolation		16	17%
 GBV, IPV, & DV		15	16%
 Racism/Discrimination & Equity/Diversity		15	16%
 Transportation & Road Safety		15	16%
 Childhood, Youth, & Family		14	15%
 Systems Coordination & Service Access		12	13%
 Seniors & Aging Populations		9	10%
 Violence		8	9%
 Recreation, Lifestyle, & Social Development		8	9%
 Lived Experience, Victimization, & Trauma		7	8%
 Education		6	7%
 Environment		5	5%
 Rural & Economy		4	4%
 Indigenous Relations		3	3%

Note. AI-generated image created using NotebookLM (Google, 2026)

The variation in pillar naming demonstrates that municipalities may recognize related community concerns while communicating them through different terms. This can create challenges in trying to compare priorities across the province. The Knowledge Institute on Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions (n.d.)

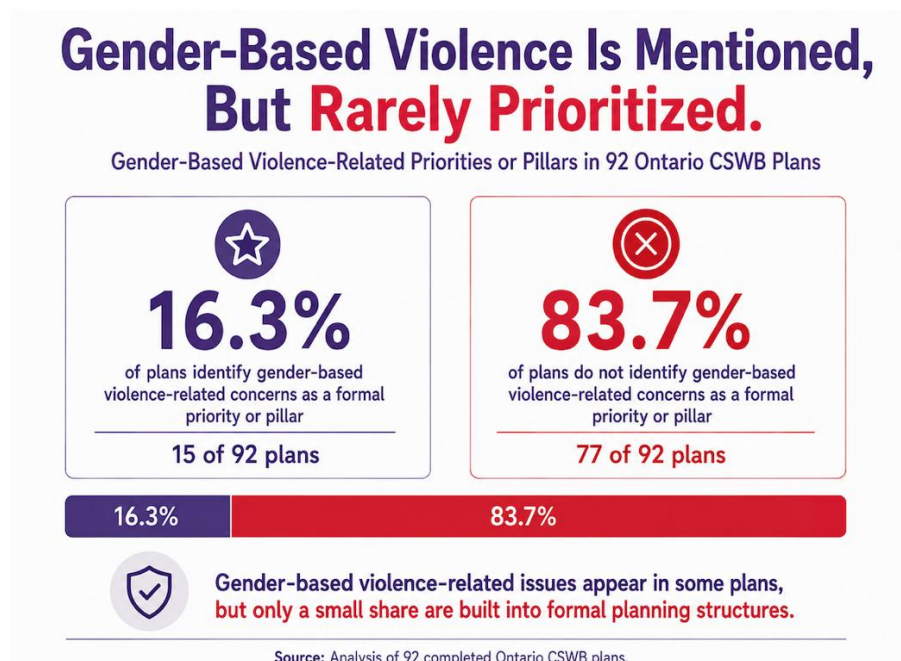
argues that key messages should use clear, accessible, inclusive, and audience-relevant language. From this perspective, pillar names function as key messages because they communicate which risks a municipality has formally recognized and prioritized. While broad names may support flexibility and capture interconnected issues, they may also make specific concerns or affected populations less immediately visible. More precise and consistent terminology can improve recognition and accountability by making it easier to connect priorities with planned actions, resources, and outcomes. Greater consistency or clearer naming guidance could therefore support comparison across municipalities while still allowing plans to reflect local needs and circumstances response (Anitha et al., 2024).

Gender Based Violence-Related Priorities or Pillars

A clearer absence of gender-based violence-related risks appears when looking at whether gender based violence-related issues were included as formal pillars. Shown in Figure 11 below, only 15 of the 92 plans (16.3%) identified gender-based violence as a formal priority or pillar, while 77 plans (83.7%) did not. This means that gender-based violence-related issues might be mentioned in a plan, but they are not treated as a central planning priority.

Figure 11

Gender based violence related priorities identified as formal pillars



Note. AI-generated image created using NotebookLM (Google, 2026)

Attention to whether gender-based violence-related concerns were built into formal planning structures identifies that only 15 of the 92 plans (16.3%) identified gender-based violence-related concerns as a formal priority or pillar, while the majority, 77 plans (83.7%) did not. This means that even when gender-based violence-related issues are mentioned in a plan, they are often not treated as a central planning priority. This distinction is important because formal priorities can shape implementation, partnerships, funding decisions, and long-term municipal action. In this sense, violence may be recognized in some plans, but it is much less often built into the main structure of CSWB planning.

Gender-Based Violence Pillars & Victimization Data

To better understand whether community safety planning reflects local patterns of violence against women, Statistics Canada victimization data was compared with the content of Community Safety and Well-

Being (CSWB) plans across Ontario. Specifically, 2020 police-reported victimization rates for intimate partner violence (IPV) involving women and girls were examined, with rates reported per 100,000 female victims. Each Statistics Canada jurisdiction was then matched with its corresponding CSWB plan and reviewed to determine whether they incorporated a dedicated GBV/IPV/DV pillar. By comparing local victimization rates with CSWB planning priorities, we were interested to see if municipalities experiencing higher rates of IPV were more likely to explicitly recognize GBV as a strategic priority. This comparison allowed for the assessment of the extent to which local evidence of violence against women is reflected in community safety planning and whether municipal priorities appear to align with demonstrated community needs.

Figure 12

CSWB GBV Pillars compared to IPV Statistics



Note. AI-generated image created using Claude (Google, 2026)

Figure 12 highlights a disconnect between IPV rates and CSWB priorities. Some municipalities with high IPV rates such as Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, Belleville-Quinte West, Brantford and Windsor do not include a dedicated GBV/IPV/DV pillar, showing that higher rates do not necessarily lead to greater

prioritization. In contrast, a few municipalities with lower IPV rates such as St. Catharines-Niagara and Ottawa-Gatineau do include dedicated pillars. Overall, this raises concerns about whether municipal planning is fully aligned with local data and the realities of IPV in their communities.

Dedicated Gender-Based Violence Pillars

As mentioned above, CSWB Plans were examined to identify the nature and number of pillars/priorities that specifically address gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, and domestic violence. In Figure 13 below, these plans were labelled as GBV plans. This was to determine how many plans prioritized these forms of violence, which forms of violence were prioritized the most, and how plans framed these forms of violence. Thus, this analysis included both a quantitative analysis describing the frequencies of the data and a qualitative analysis detailing how forms of GBV were referred to in the plans.

Figure 13

Forms of GBV Pillars



Note. AI-generated image created using Claude (Google, 2026)

Despite the increased prevalence of gender-based violence in Canada (Cotter & Burczycka, 2026; Women and Gender Equality Canada. (2026) only 12 (13.0%) of the 92 plans included a pillar specifically

dedicated to gender-based violence (GBV), intimate partner violence (IPV), or domestic violence (DV) (see Appendix D). No plans used the language of violence against women as a pillar term. To be included in this category, plans had to explicitly identify one or more of these forms of violence as a pillar/priority. An additional 6 plans (6.5%) were excluded from this category and assigned to a separate category (Forms of GBV Mentioned Under Another Pillar). Plans in this category such as violence against women, and sexual violence/assault were addressed within broader pillars rather than as independent priorities. For example, domestic violence was identified by Frontenac but under a “Violence Against Persons” pillar, and both Dufferin and Timiskaming identified GBV under a “Community Safety” pillar. Our analysis maintained a strict definition of the GBV/IPV/DV pillar category by only including plans that explicitly prioritized those terms. This meant that while sexual assault is closely related to GBV and was a standalone pillar in the Halton plan, it was included in the Forms of GBV Mentioned Under Another Pillar category. And Central Hastings was not included in either count because one of the pillars was called “Domestic Disturbance/Family Disputes” (Trauma and Abuse) and did not refer to this risk as violence.

The remaining 74 plans (80.4%) did not identify any form of GBV as a pillar. This is surprising since Statistics Canada data shows that nearly 15 million people living in Canada have been physically or sexually assaulted, with sexual assault victims being primarily women, demonstrating the gendered nature of the violence (Cotter & Burczycka, 2026). Despite the known prevalence of this violence, it seems that the risk of GBV in Canada is not being identified in most of Ontario’s CSWB plans.

According to the legislation, municipalities are required to update their plans every 5 years. However, municipalities created and adopted plans at different times. For example, plans have been created and adopted between 2019 and 2025 and while most plans cover a five-year period i.e. 2020-2025 some plans cover a shorter time period and the odd plan covers a 10-year period (e.g. Ottawa’s plan is from 2021-2031). The timeframe within which the plan was created/adopted is important because in the case of Oxford for example,

they identified four priorities initially but in 2023, Oxford County Council declared IPV an epidemic and as a result, the Steering Committee recommended to County Council and all area municipalities that gender-based violence be added as the fifth priority within their plan.

As to the 2nd iteration of plans, our preliminary look at new plans shows little progress on identifying gender-based violence was made. Thirteen plans were updated by 2025, but only 3 of those plans added a GBV/IPV/DV pillar. This means that as of 2025, 15 (16%) plans have prioritized a form of GBV. Niagara and the City of Timmins added a standalone GBV pillar, while Greater Sudbury added a GBV and IPV pillar. These additions slightly shifted the distribution of pillars discussed previously. Domestic violence was unchanged in plans, but its percentage shifted from 58.4% to 46.7%. GBV standalone representation went from 3 (25.0%) to 5 (33.3%), and IPV + GBV representation from 1 (8.3%) to 2 (13.3%), meaning that DV + IPV decreased to 6.7%. The 2025 updates saw some pillars unexplored; however, as percentages for both IPV on its own and DV + IPV remained at zero. While this demonstrates a slight overall increase in forms of GBV as pillars, the 2025 updates saw a decrease in the representation of DV relative to the other forms of violence, an increase in GBV representation, and a minimal increase for IPV. These are concerning figures considering the recognition of forms of GBV as a pandemic (Dlamini, 2021; Yalcinoz et al., 2025). If municipalities are to address the prevalence of forms of GBV based on Statistics Canada and academic research, more CSWB plans would prioritize the issue.

As illustrated in Figure 13 above, of the 12 plans that did identify GBV as a pillar, domestic violence language dominated as the most prevalent pillar, with 7 (58.4%) plans prioritizing it. Gender-based violence was second, appearing in 3 (25.0%) plans on its own. Intimate partner violence did not receive a standalone pillar, only being prioritized alongside domestic violence in 1 plan (8.3%) and gender-based violence in another (8.3%). The focus on domestic violence reflects the lack of prioritization of gendered forms of violence, which was also reflected in the minimal number of plans that had a form of GBV as a pillar to begin with. Moreover,

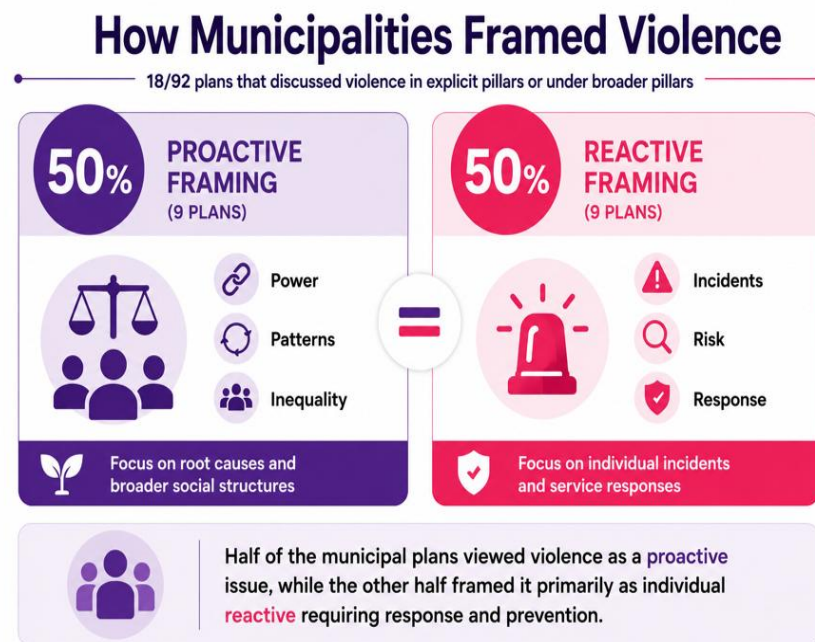
despite the prevalence of IPV for women increasing between 2018 to 2025, IPV has yet to receive standalone representation and remains the least prioritized form of violence with the 2025 updates (Cotter & Burczycka, 2026). Greater Sudbury added an IPV pillar, and Niagara and Timmins both added GBV pillars.

Conceptualizing Gender-Based Violence in CSWB Plans

In addition to identifying how violence was discussed in the plans, we looked at how municipalities conceptualized violence. Figure 14 below illustrates two distinct ways that municipalities conceptualized violence within their Community and Safety Well-Being (CSWB) plans. Among the 18 plans reviewed that discussed gender-based violence either through dedicated GBV related pillars or within broader community safety frameworks, the findings were evenly split: nine municipalities (50%) adopted a proactive framing, while nine (50%) employed a more reactive framing.

Figure 14

Proactive vs. Reactive Characterizations of Violence



An analysis of these 18 plans suggests that the two framings broadly correspond to different conceptualizations of gender-based violence (GBV): GBV as a structural issue that requires addressing root causes, versus GBV as an individual issue requiring a response after the fact. Municipalities characterized as

adopting a proactive or structural framing, including Oxford County, the City of Thunder Bay, and the City of Brantford, explicitly connected the violence to broader systems of power such as patriarchy, misogyny, gender inequality, and power imbalances. These plans tended to discuss coercive control as a patterned form of abuse, used gender-specific language acknowledging women's disproportionate victimization, and incorporated intersectional considerations by recognizing the experiences of Indigenous women, newcomers, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other marginalized populations. For example, Thunder Bay's plan says that "The culture of gender-based violence is pervasive, and is rooted in gender inequality, misogyny, patriarchy, the abuse of power, and harmful norms" (Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, Thunder Bay 2021-2025, p.24). This framing aligns closely with feminist scholarship, which situates GBV and intimate partner violence (IPV) within broader social structures that have historically marginalized women and obscured differences within victim populations (Mantler et al. 2024).

The use of intersectional language was used by some municipalities, such as Oxford County, to identify how violence can be exacerbated and experienced differently based on intra-group differences amongst women, such as those who identify as LGBTQ+, senior citizens, non-citizens and Indigenous women. Similarly, Ottawa employed an intersectional lens not only in how violence is understood, but how plan implementation should be executed to ensure initiatives not only support targeted demographics but also provide relevant resources. Finally, municipalities that used gender-specific and/or intersectional language were more likely to explicitly discuss the various forms of abuse, such as emotional, psychological, sexual, and coercive forms of abuse.

In contrast, municipalities employing a reactive or community safety framing tended to discuss violence in broader gender-neutral terms. In these plans, women were mentioned minimally, or not at all, and violence was rarely situated within systems of power and inequality. Rather, GBV was often absorbed into broader categories such as violence prevention, victimization, or community safety. As a result, the gendered

dimensions of violence became less visible, and the focus shifted toward individual incidents, risk management, crisis intervention, and service coordination.

Overall, Figure 14 above demonstrates that while Ontario municipalities increasingly recognize violence as an important community safety concern, there remains substantial variation in how the issue is understood and therefore addressed. The equal division between proactive and reactive framings suggests that municipalities are at different stages in adopting structural and prevention-oriented approaches to violence. Importantly, these differing conceptualizations may shape the types of interventions prioritized, the allocation of resources, and the extent to which survivor experiences and systemic inequalities are addressed within local CSWB planning (WomanACT, 2018). This aligns with OAITH's position which is that there are many government ministries with policy and program priorities that are addressing gender-based violence. However, when these are in alignment and guided by Ontario Standing Together Against gender-based violence Now through Decisive actions, prevention, empowerment and Support (STANDS) and further resources are contributed to ending gender-based violence, more achievable results of reducing the prevalence of men's violence may be realized (OAITH, 2022).

The distinction between proactive and reactive framings is important because feminist scholarship has long argued that violence against women cannot be understood solely through individual incidents or criminal acts. Rather, violence is embedded within broader systems of gender inequality, power imbalances, and social norms that shape women's experiences across public and private spaces. Fitz-Gibbon and Walklate (2024) argue that violence against women is fundamentally a human rights issue and that understanding it requires attention to the historical, social, and ideological contexts in which it occurs (p. 3). They caution that while significant policy progress has been made over the past four decades, women continue to experience violence as part of an ongoing "continuum" that spans homes, workplaces, communities, and digital spaces (Fitz-Gibson & Walklate, 2024, p. 89). As such, policies that situated GBV within broader structures of patriarchy, coercive

control, and inequality are better positioned to address the root causes of violence rather than simply responding to its consequences (Tastsoglou et al. 2022). Feminist scholars have similarly emphasized that naming violence as gendered is essential because framing it as a human rights issue represents recognition of a broader social wrong and creates opportunities for structural change rather than solely punitive responses (Fitz-Gibbon & Walklate, 2024, p. 91). Conversely, plans that frame violence primarily through incidents, risk, or crisis response may unintentionally individualize the problem and obscure the social conditions that enable violence to occur. Research on media representations of femicide and GBV demonstrates that episodic or incident-based framing tends to shift attention toward individual circumstances while minimizing broader social and structural factors (Aldrete & Fernandez-Ardevol, 2024, p. 232) (see [OAITH's report Five Years of Femicide Reporting in Ontario](#), 2025). Such framing can reinforce victim-blaming narratives, obscure perpetrator accountability, and limit public understanding of violence as a systemic issue rooted in misogyny and gender inequality (Aldrete & Fernandez-Ardevol, 2024, p. 232). The predominance of reactive approaches in some municipal plans therefore has implications beyond language alone; it shapes how violence is understood, what interventions are prioritized, and whose experiences become visible within policy responses. These findings underscore the importance of adopting structural and gender-informed frameworks that recognize GBV as a societal issue requiring coordinated prevention, survivor-centered supports, and sustained attention to systemic inequities (Fitz-Gibbon & Walklate, 2024, p. 106; Tastsoglou et al. 2022).

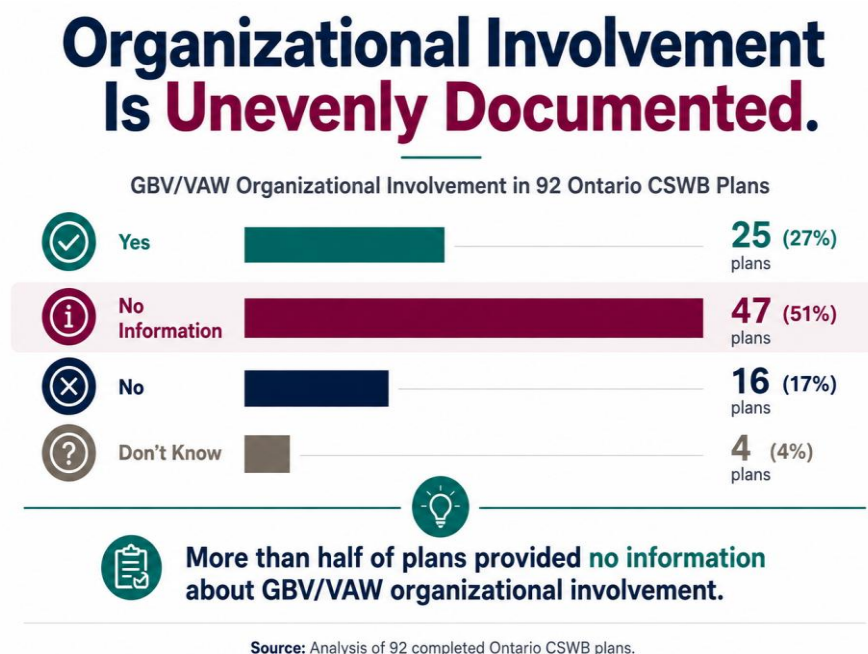
GBV Organizational Involvement – Missing Perspective

Figure 15 below demonstrates the extent to which gender-based violence and or violence against women organizations were consulted or asked to participate in the development of plans. It was found that only 28% of community safety and well-being plans made specific references to consulting or involving GBV and VAW organizations during the planning process (see Appendix F). While it can be understood that the prevalence and

prioritization of gender-based violence may vary across municipalities, these issues affect communities of all sizes and therefore could be more consistently reflected in local safety planning efforts.

Figure 15

GBV/VAW Organizational Involvement in CSWB Plans



Note. AI-generated image created using NotebookLM (Google, 2026)

The relatively low level of engagement with GBV and VAW organizations highlights a significant gap in current consultation practices. Violence against women shelters for instance possess specialized knowledge, frontline experience and expertise, and valuable insights into the challenges faced by women and their children who experience violence. Without their involvement, municipalities may miss important perspectives and lack a complete understanding of community safety and well-being needs. As a result, the strategies and priorities identified within these plans may be less comprehensive, inclusive, and responsive to the realities of experiences by their community members. Highlighting this finding is important because it not only identifies an area for reflection but also presents an opportunity for municipalities to strengthen community partnerships, expand stakeholder engagement, and work toward more representative and effective approaches to community

safety and well-being planning. Approximately 30% of municipalities across Ontario have declared intimate partner violence an epidemic (Associations of Municipalities of Ontario, 2025), however the findings of this research demonstrate that few municipalities have involved women's organizations in a coordinated effort to address broader issues within mandated safety planning.

The findings on organizational involvement show another important gap. As Figure 15 above illustrates, twenty-five of the 92 plans (27.2%) identified GBV or VAW organizational involvement. In contrast, 47 plans (51.1%) provided no information on whether these organizations were involved. A further 16 plans (17.4%) did not identify involvement, and 4 plans (4.3%) were coded as Don't Know. This matters because GBV and VAW organizations often have direct knowledge of local violence-related needs, barriers, and supports. When their involvement is not documented, it becomes difficult to tell how much specialized violence-related expertise informed the planning process. The issue is not only whether organizations were involved, but whether their involvement was made visible in the plan itself.

GBV/VAW Organization Involvement & Dedicated GBV Pillar

The relationship between GBV/VAW organization involvement during the development of Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plans and the inclusion of a dedicated GBV/IPV/DV pillar was examined. This was of interest to OAITH in part because their members (VAW shelter organizations) were reporting very different experiences across the province, and even between two or sometimes three municipalities that some shelters were geographically in, in terms of the extent to which they were asked or invited to be part of the CSWB Committees and the process of developing a CSWB plan. This led to an examination of whether municipalities that engaged organizations with specialized expertise in gender-based violence were more likely to prioritize these issues within their plan framework. By comparing organizational involvement with pillar inclusion, this analysis provides insight into whether collaboration with GBV/VAW service providers may influence the extent to which gender-based violence is recognized as a core community safety priority.

Figure 16*CSWB Plans with GBV/VAW Organizational Involvement*

This analysis revealed that partnerships with GBV/VAW organizations were more likely to include dedicated GBV/IPV/DV pillars in CSWB plans, demonstrating 24% with involvement versus 13% without (Figure 16 above). This suggests that collaboration strengthens recognition of gender-based violence as a priority, with plans with organization involvement nearly twice as likely to include a GBV/IPV/DV pillar than those without. However, overall inclusion remains low, and even with organizational involvement, most plans still lack a dedicated pillar, indicating that consultation alone is not enough and stronger integration of this expertise into planning decisions is needed.

CSWB Plan Community Consultation/Engagement Strategies

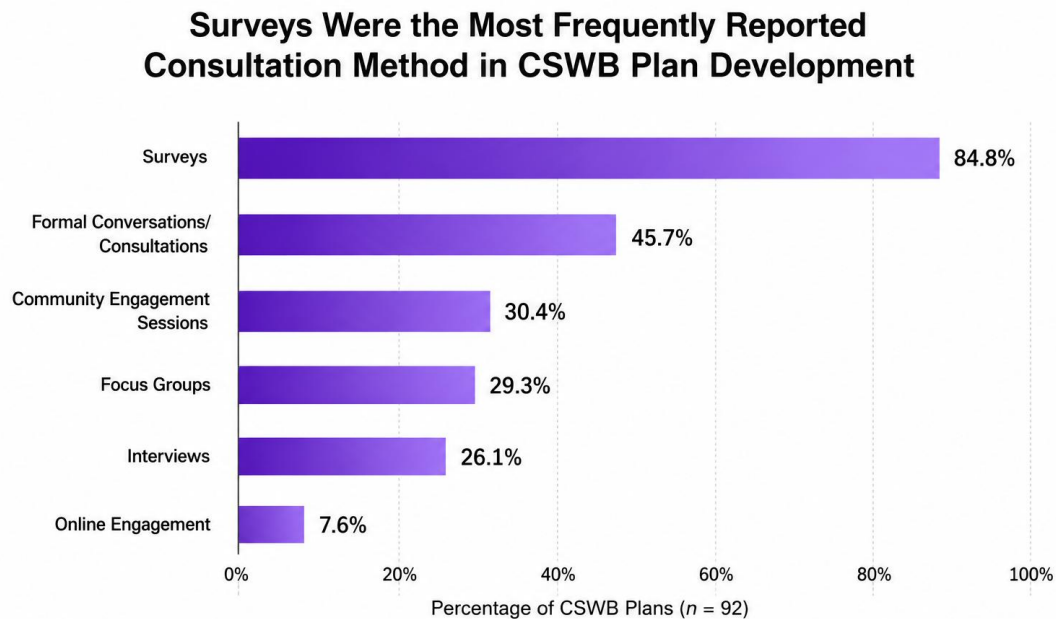
Across the 92 CSWB plans, surveys were the most frequently reported form of community consultation (see Figure 17 below). They appeared in 78 of 92 plans, representing 84.8% of the sample. This indicates that surveys were included in roughly four out of five municipal CSWB planning processes and were the preferred tool for collecting community input in CSWB planning. Surveys can be distributed widely, require fewer

resources per respondent, and generate quantifiable data, which may help explain their widespread use (Palys & Atchison, 2014).

Formal conversations or consultations with community members, stakeholders, service providers, and local leaders were the next most common approach, described in 42 of 92 plans (45.7%). This suggests that just under half of the municipalities documented more direct, dialogic forms of engagement with key groups, such as service providers and local leaders. Given that CSWB planning is intended to be collaborative and cross-sectoral, this pattern may raise questions about how consistently municipalities are engaging partners beyond the survey format.

Figure 17

Community Consultation/Engagement Methods in the Development of CSWB Plans



Note: Percentages represent the proportion of the 92 CSWB plans that referenced each consultation method. Plans could report more than one method.

Focus groups were identified in 27 plans (29.3%), and community engagement sessions were mentioned in 28 plans (30.4%). These two methods were used by roughly one in three municipalities, indicating a moderate level of adoption for more interactive, group-based engagement activities. Interviews were slightly less common, appearing in 24 plans (26.1%). This suggests that a minority of municipalities reported using more in-depth, one-

on-one or small-group conversations to inform their CSWB planning. These more resource-intensive and interactive methods which can provide richer, more nuanced information about local priorities and experiences, they also demand more time, coordination, and staffing (Palys & Atchison, 2014). The lower prevalence of these methods may reflect capacity constraints, limited funding, or compressed timelines for developing CSWB plans.

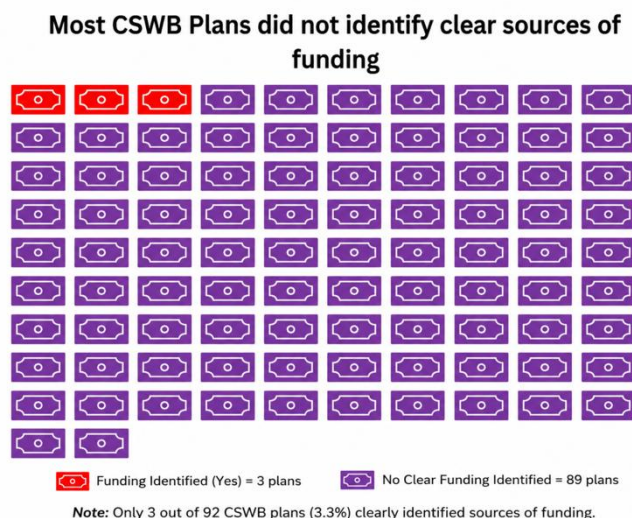
Online engagement methods (it is worth noting that many CSWB plans were being developed during or shortly after COVID-19), including websites, social media campaigns, and online discussion forums, were the least frequently mentioned. Only 7 of 92 plans (7.6%) referenced online engagement as part of their consult process. This indicates that comparatively few municipalities relied on digital tools to gather community input for their CSWB plans and may have missed an opportunity to reach a broader audience, particularly for residents who face barriers to attending in-person sessions. The limited use of these methods may indicate uneven digital capacity across municipalities.

Funding

An analysis of the 92 CSWB plans revealed that funding information was rarely reported. As illustrated in Figure 18 below, three plans representing 3% of the sample, clearly identified receiving funding and/or referenced funding sources. Zero plans explicitly indicated that they did not receive funding. Thirty-four of the 92 plans representing 37% of the plans did not provide sufficient information about whether they had funding, while the remaining 55 plans, representing 60% of the dataset, provided no funding information. For the purposes of analysis and visualization, the last two categories (i.e. did not provide sufficient information and no funding information) were grouped together which allowed for a clearer comparison between plans that identified funding sources and those that did not provide adequate information about any available funding.

Figure 18

Funding Sources and Dedicated Funding Across 92 CSWB Plans



As a result, 89 of the 92 plans, representing roughly 97% of the dataset, did not include information on funding for CSWB development plans.

CSWB Solutions and Actions

Across all municipalities, education and training emerged as one of the most common responses to violence. This included awareness campaigns, healthy relationship programming, professional training, and youth-based programming. Similarly, many plans planned to improve resource access and strengthen partnerships with service providers for victim support and housing. This included collaboration among police, health services, victim services, and community organizations. While education/training initiatives were common among plans, they differed in proposing either broader social development education on root causes or focusing on existing response systems.

CSWB Plan Mechanisms for Evaluating Plan Progress

Figure 19 below illustrates that many Community Safety and Well-being plans (CSWBPs) across Ontario continue to lack essential mechanisms for evaluating progress and supporting effective implementation.

Figure 19*CSWB Plans' Key Components*

Note. AI-generated image created using NotebookLM (Google, 2026)

Of the 92 plans reviewed, one third or 34% outlined what the plans actually aimed to achieve and what the goals of the plans were. A little less than half or 43% included a formal evaluation framework to assess whether those objectives and goals were being achieved and to inform future improvements. While 30% of the municipalities actually reported implementing these plans (see Appendix G). These findings suggest that many communities may not have the tools needed to monitor progress or ensure that local safety initiatives are producing meaningful outcomes. The absence of evaluation and implementation measures may also reflect broader challenges, such as limited funding, insufficient resources, lack of expertise, and/or varying levels of organizational commitment to CSWBP initiatives across the province.

Information about reporting mechanisms was largely absent in the majority of plans. Although Community Safety and Well-Being Plans are intended to promote collaboration, transparency and community participation, only 19% included information on formal reporting processes to communicate progress and outcomes with community stakeholders. Without regular reporting, it becomes more difficult for communities to monitor progress, maintain accountability, and sustain public engagement.

Community consultation was more common but still not universal. Approximately 55% of plans reported engaging residents, at-risk populations, or community organizations through public consultations or other forms of outreach to help identify local priorities. However, only 19% identified guiding principles or overarching values to direct implementation and decision-making. Together, these findings suggest that many CSWB plans could strengthen both their community engagement practices and accountability mechanisms. Improving these areas would help ensure that plans remain responsive to local needs while supporting more effective and transparent implementation over time.

Together, these findings suggest that many municipalities not only underrepresent specialized GBV expertise during the planning process but also lack the accountability mechanisms necessary to monitor, evaluate, and report on the implementation of their Community Safety and Well-Being plans. As a result, efforts to address gender-based violence may receive less attention and resource allocation than other community priorities.

Conclusion

This community-engaged research project with OAITH provides insights into how municipalities address community safety and well-being, specifically the prioritization of GBV within CSWB plans. By examining 92 plans across Ontario, we identified key patterns, strengths, and gaps in how GBV is addressed in planning frameworks. Overall, these findings point to a visibility gap in Ontario's CSWB plans. Gender based violence-related issues appear in some plans, but they are represented unevenly. Gender neutral terms like “domestic violence” are much more prevalent than terms such as gender-based violence or femicide (Canadian

Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, 2026). At the same time, gender based violence-related concerns are rarely built into formal priorities, and organizational involvement is often not clearly documented. These findings highlight the need for clearer language, prioritization of prevalent risks, and better documentation within municipal community safety planning.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Distribution of the Number of Pillars/Priorities Across 92 CSWB Plans

Number of Pillars/Priorities	Number of Plans	Fraction	Percentage
2	3	3/92	3%
3	22	22/92	24%
4	30	30/92	33%
5	10	10/92	11%
6	11	11/92	12%
7	9	9/92	10%
8	3	3/92	3%
9	0	0/92	0%
10	1	1/92	1%
11	0	0/92	0%
12	1	1/92	1%

Appendix B

Language used to describe violence in 92 Ontario CSWB plans

Use of Words	Count	Fraction	Percentage
Domestic Violence	45	45/92	48.9%
Sexual Assault	24	24/92	26.0%
Family Violence	20	20/92	21.7%
Intimate Partner Violence	18	18/92	19.5%

Gender-Based Violence	11	11/92	11.9%
Femicide	1	1/92	1.1%

Appendix C

Hamilton's use of the term "femicide" in their CSWB Plan



- Identify ways in which the 231 Calls for Justice from [Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) can be embedded into the City of Hamilton's Urban Indigenous Strategy. Support continued exhibit by local Indigenous youth, Honouring our Sisters.
- Support ongoing collaboration between Hamilton Police Services and service providers to review **femicide** protocols.
- Collaborate to address recommendations in the [Just Recovery Hamilton Policy Paper](#) under the themes of Investing in Women and Disability Justice.
- Partner with Safe at Home Hamilton pilot, aiming to keep women fleeing violence safe in their homes.
- Review and consider recommendations from Woman Abuse Working Group's environmental scan of current work in community aimed at keeping women safe and data provided through [Snapshot 2020](#).
- Review and consider recommendations from Hamilton Public Health Services' review of impact of trauma on community and community violence strategies.
- Share learning between school boards and post-secondary institutions to continue and build on bullying prevention through transition of students from secondary to post-secondary institutions.
- Explore expansion and integration of Be More Than a Bystander program, preventative gender-based violence and sexual violence training into secondary and post secondary institutions.

Appendix D

GBV/IPV/DV/FV Pillar and Plan Information

Table 1 - Municipalities with an Identified GBV/IPV/DV/FV Pillar and Plan Information

Municipality	Pillar	Plan information
Huron County	Domestic and Family Violence	Action Evaluation
Lanark	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	Outputs Action Implementation Evaluation
Brockville and Gananoque	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault	Outcomes Action
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and the Town of Prescott	Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking	Outcomes Action Implementation Evaluation
Oxford	Gender-based Violence	Inputs Outcomes Action Evaluation
Township of Laird, and Township Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Add'l	Domestic Disturbances (included in this category due to similarity to other DV pillars)	Evaluation
Manitoulin (Gore Bay to Billings)	Domestic Violence	Outcomes Action Implementation (planning) Evaluation (planning)
City of Thunder Bay	Community Violence and Gender-Based Violence	Outcomes Action (planning) Implementation (planning) Evaluation (planning)
Thunder Bay (Neebing to Gillies)	Domestic Violence	Outcomes Action Evaluation
Brantford (City)	Intimate Partner Violence/Gender Based Violence	Action Implementation Evaluation
Ottawa (city)	Gender-based violence and violence against women	Outcomes Implementation (planning)
Prince Edward (City)	Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence	Action Implementation (planning) Evaluation

Appendix E

Prevalence of Pillars/Priorities

Table 2: Prevalence of Pillars/Priorities Across All CSWB Plans			
Rank	Pillar/Priority	Number	Percent
1	Mental Health & Addictions	89	97%
2	Housing & Homelessness	68	74%
3	Poverty, Income, & Employment	41	45%
4	Public Safety, Policing, & Crime Prevention	26	28%
5	Community Belonging & Addressing Isolation	16	17%
6	GBV, IPV, & DV	15	16%
6	Racism/Discrimination & Equity/Diversity	15	16%
6	Transportation & Road Safety	15	16%
9	Childhood, Youth, & Family	14	15%
10	Systems Coordination & Service Access	12	13%
11	Seniors & Aging Populations	9	10%
12	Violence	8	9%
12	Recreation, Lifestyle, & Social Development	8	9%
14	Lived Experience, Victimization, & Trauma	7	8%
15	Education	6	7%
16	Environment	5	5%
17	Rural & Economy	4	4%
18	Indigenous Relations	3	3%

Appendix F

Documentation of GBV/VAW organizational involvement in 92 Ontario CSWB plans

Category	Count	Fraction	Percentage
Yes	25	25/92	27.2%
No	16	16/92	17.4%
No Information	47	47/92	51.1%
Don't Know	4	4/92	4.3%

Appendix G

Plan Information

Plan information item	n	% of 92 plans	Notes
Activities	51	55.4	Held activities or public consultation with at-risk populations and the broader community.
Evaluation plan	42	45.7	Specified evaluation criteria to measure plan success.
Action plan	40	43.5	Specified an action plan or specification on how the plan would be implemented.
Goals	33	35.9	Specified goals for the plan.
2025 plan	31	33.7	Has an updated plan starting in 2025.
Implemented plan	29	31.5	CSWBP has been implemented.

GBV/VAW involvement	28	30.4	Women's organizations, non-governmental organizations, or community organizations involved in drafting consultation.
Guiding principles	19	20.7	Guiding principles included in the plan.
Reporting	19	20.7	Specific reporting criteria to stakeholders on plan success and implementation.

Note. N = 92 total CSWB plans (CSWBPs) reviewed. All percentages calculated as n/92.

Appendix H

*List of Students who worked on Phase 1 from SOC*4010 Violence and Society Fall 2024*

Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name
Angot	Paige	Matacz	Jaroslaw
Anwusi	Chigozie	Matta	Sasha
Arndt	Charlotte	McBride	Madelyn
Baillie	Ethan	McFadyen	Jake
Brar	Rubalpreet	Papa	Rosanna
Chaisavang	Souphavane	Phung	Brandon
Courtnage	Brooke	Rankin	Rachel
Del Balso	Alyssa	Rego	Julian
Derlis	Daniel	Salameh	Hebah
Fracassi	Danielle	Sandhu	Amanat
Frey	Heather	Savaria	Noah
Gabrielli-Toffoli	Mia	Scamurra	Sophia
Gajardo Rashid	Jian	Schubert	Madelaine
Gross	Alexandra	Sharma	Bhuvesh
Hesch	Jeffrey	Singh	Riya
Hibtzghi	Danayt	Southe	Aaliyah
Hogan	Paige	Taylor	Claire
Hutchinson	Haley	Thomson	Olivia
Islam	Emaan	Tobin	Baylee
Jahal	Parmpreet	Tosky	Hailey
Jovic	Lazar	Van Doninck	Ian
Kelly	Alexandra	Watson	Matthew
Khoma	Pavlo	Weatherall	Courtney
Kukhta	Kristina	White	Rylan
MacDonald	Jordyn	Zettel	Reegan