

Snapshot 2020

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020

*Measuring the success & strength by
the health and wellbeing of all citizens*

VAW = Violence Against Women
DV = Domestic Violence, SV = Sexual Violence
PAR = Partner Assault Response

Perth County population = 76,796

Incl. Stratford & St.Marys (2016 census)



POLICING & JUSTICE



(Stratford Police stats)

726	Police DV Calls
276	Police DV Charges (248M, 28F)
30	Police reported SV
57	PAR Completions (FSPH)
3	Victim Services reported Human Trafficking (VS)

SAFETY & SUPPORTS



118	Women and children in shelter
221	Women and children using second stage
14	Self-identified Indigenous women in shelter/ receiving support (8% of women in shelter/second stage)
96	Reports of SV to VAW services (OP, EMC, VS)
262	Reports of DV to VAW services (OP, EMC, VS)
332	VAW/DV Counselling (OP, EMC, FSPH)
	(Choices for Change stats)
1063	Accessed substance abuse counselling services
121	Accessed counselling services for family member substance abuse
185	Naloxone kits distributed

CRISIS & HELPLINE



1343	Women's Shelter Crisis/Helpline Calls (OP, EMC)
78	Youth Shelter Crisis/Helpline Calls (SL)
495	Mental Health Crisis Calls (CO, FSPH)
281	Victim Services Crisis Calls (VS)

HOUSING & WAITLIST



38 (Families)	Waitlist for second stage housing (EMC)
16	Applicants on the centralized waiting list for RGI housing with special priority status to flee abuse (As of Dec 2020)
49	Women on the By-Name-List actively experiencing homelessness (As of Dec 2020)
141	Accessing emergency accommodation through the community homelessness prevention initiative (40% are single women)

CHILDREN & YOUTH



167	Child protection cases with exposure to DV (17.6% of all investigations)
76%	Families using Supervised Access Program services due to DV
951	CAS Investigations opened (26% which relate to partner violence)
175	Children in CAS care (13% of which are Indigenous)
7	Youth in Shelter
209	Children who received counselling (Not including private practices)

SERVICE GAPS



- Lack of shelter space
 - 119 women had to be turned away from emergency shelter.
 - There were on average 38 families on the waitlist for second stage.
- We do not have a sexual assault centre in Perth County.
- Victims of sexual assault must leave Perth County to obtain a rape kit .
- We do not have a safe injection site in Perth County. The nearest site receives over 20,000 visits a year.
- Affordable housing is scarce and waitlists for social housing increases every day. Accessibility to market rent is stagnant.

ADVANCEMENTS



- Increased collaboration and creativity by organizations to deliver gender-based violence awareness messaging
- New Survivor Advisory group sharing existing barriers and challenges to VAW-related services in Perth County, providing Stop VAW with advice informed by their experience, and allowing the survivor's voice to inform the work of Stop VAW

COVID-19 IMPACT



Risk of intimate partner violence increases during pandemics. Physical distancing measures intended to contain COVID-19 exposure and illness also reduce women's access to supports and increase their daily exposure to potential abuse. The control and intimidation tactics already used by partners who cause harm, can be compounded by their use of Covid-19 controlling behaviours. (Learning Network)

- 6% increase in DV calls to police from 2019 to 2020
- Longer shelter stays due to increased risk of violence
- Lower shelter numbers due to required limits on spacing/bedding
- Limited services as agencies pull focus from VAW to pandemic issues
- Increase in referrals because of limited services
- Fluctuating counselling numbers
- More calls seeking support and outreach during isolation
- Lack of jury trial
- Positive: Victims in court didn't have to be in the same physical space as their abuser

STOP VAW MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

***= Stop VAW Member** *** = Contributed to this 2020 snapshot**

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|---|---|
| ** Choices for Change (CFC) | ** Optimism Place (OP) |
| * ConnexOntario (CO) | * Probation & Parole (PP) |
| ** Crown Attorney's Office | ** Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC) |
| ** The Emily Murphy Centre (EMC) | ** Stratford/Perth Shelterlink (SL) |
| ** Family Services Perth-Huron (FSPH) | ** Stratford Police (SP) |
| * Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board | ** Stratford Social Services Housing Division (HD) |
| ** Huron Perth Children's Aid Society (CAS) | ** Supervised Access Visitation and Exchange HP (SAP) |
| * Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) | * United Way Perth-Huron |
| * Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) | ** Victim Services Bruce Grey Perth (VS) |
| * Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services | * Victim Witness Assistance Program Stratford (VWAP) |
| * Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) | |