



# Saskatchewan Women and Domestic Violence

2,200 spousal violence incidents were reported to police in Saskatchewan in 2007. Women typically account for more than 4 in 5 police-reported victims.

98 Saskatchewan women were killed by their spouses between 1975 and 2004.

Trying to create a life free of violence can be a difficult journey. Women in abusive relationships are isolated and face many obstacles such as self blame, threats of further violence, family or social pressure, and lack of money. Some women face additional barriers. For example:

- Women living in northern Saskatchewan face extreme housing shortages, high cost of living, and long distances to the nearest crisis services.
- Women living on-reserve, in a small town, or on a farm are also isolated from crisis services. When leaving an abusive relationship, they are also leaving their community and, often, a cherished way of life.
- Women with disabilities who rely on their partner for care, transportation, or connection to the outside world may find it very difficult to find a way to leave their abusers.

## Women's Shelters in Saskatchewan

Each year, emergency shelters, transition houses, and second stage homes in Saskatchewan take in over 4000 women and children who have been through extremely difficult circumstances.

Shelters ensure that residents have the basic comforts of home, giving the women a chance

to make decisions about their lives without constant fear of attack. They also help women plan for life after they leave the shelter. By providing referrals to community and government resources, offering parenting and life skills support, and helping women navigate the legal/court system, shelters contribute to positive change in the lives of women and their children.

## Outreach Services

Throughout the province there are specialized support services to victims, survivors or those at risk of experiencing interpersonal abuse and sexualized violence. Crisis intervention is available through 24-hour Crisis Lines. Women can receive assistance in accessing a women's shelter by calling these outreach services or a crisis line.

**Check the Abuse Help Lines page in your SaskTel Direct West phone book for a list of services in your community or visit [www.abusehelplines.org](http://www.abusehelplines.org).**



## *Sources*

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