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Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 27, no. 4

Canada's shelters for abused women, 2005/2006

by Andrea Taylor-Butts

Note

Data on annual admissions to shelters are under revision due to incorrect reporting by a survey respondent. Revised data will be released when available.

Highlights

- According to the 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey, admissions of women and children to Canada's shelters for abused women totalled about 106,000 from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. Since 1998, annual shelter admissions for women have been relatively stable, declining by 3%.
- A growing proportion of emergency-type shelters, offering mainly short-term stays and crisis intervention, are serving abused women. From 1998 to 2006 the number of emergency-type facilities serving abused women more than doubled. However, transition homes continue to be the most common type of facility sheltering abused women in Canada.
- On April 19, 2006, more than 2,900 women, representing 74% of women residents, were in shelters to escape an abusive situation. The remaining women stayed in shelters for reasons other than abuse, including housing problems, mental health issues and addictions.
- About four in ten women residing in shelters across Canada on April 19, 2006 had stayed in the facility on at least one other occasion.
- Annual operating costs for shelters totalled approximately \$317 million in 2005/2006.
- One in five shelters referred individuals elsewhere on April 19, 2006. In total, 306 women and 203 children could not be accommodated in a shelter on that day, most often because the facility was full.
- Compared to residents in off-reserve shelters, larger proportions of women in shelters on reserves were repeat clients, unaccompanied by their children, and fleeing the abuse of a former spouse.
- Women staying in rural shelters had access to fewer services and were less likely to bring their children with them compared to those in urban facilities.



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ISSN 1209-6393

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ISSN 0715-271X

The following additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada:

	Single issue	Annual subscription
United States	CAN\$6.00	CAN\$78.00
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June 2007

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

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Introduction

About 7% of women and 6% of men across the country are the victims of violence at the hands of a current or former spouse or common-law partner, according to results from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization. Specifically, the 2004 GSS indicated that some 653,000 women and 546,000 men in Canada were the victims of spousal violence in the five years preceding the survey. While spousal violence victimization rates are similar for women and men, the nature and consequences of spousal violence differ by sex. Women tend to experience more harsh forms of violence (e.g., beaten, choked, sexually assaulted), and repeated incidents of violence compared to male victims (Mihorean 2005; Pottie Bunge and Locke 2000). Additionally, women were twice as likely as men to be injured as a result of spousal violence (44% versus 19%); six times more likely to seek medical attention (13% versus 2%); twice as likely to suffer negative psychological consequences such as depression or anxiety attacks (21% versus 9%) and were three times more likely to fear for their lives (34% versus 10%) (Mihorean, 2005).

Differences in the type and impact of spousal violence experienced by men and women may contribute to differences men and women display in seeking help. Female spousal violence victims are more likely than male victims to turn to informal sources of support (83% versus 60%) and are more likely than male victims to seek assistance from a social service (47% and 20%, respectively) (Mihorean, 2005). While informal forms of support such as family, friends and neighbours are the most common types of help sought by both male and female victims, one in ten female victims of spousal violence indicate that they used a shelter or transition home (Mihorean, 2005).

Shelters for abused women form an integral part of a larger network of services for those victimized by crime; they represent the residential compliment to other programs and services for victims of abuse. According to the 2002/2003 Victim Services Survey (VSS), there were about 600 victim services agencies across Canada providing non-residential services to victims of crime; two-thirds of these agencies were mandated to serve adult victims of spousal abuse (Kong, 2004). These services offer domestic violence victims a variety of resources such as information, emotional support, liaison services and court accompaniment. The VSS found that spousal violence victims constitute about one-third (or 2,500) of all victims served by these agencies and programs and the vast majority (94%) of those served are female (Kong, 2004).

In 2006 there were 553 shelters providing residential services to women and children fleeing abusive situations in Canada, according to the 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey (THS) – a biennial census of all residential facilities for female victims of domestic violence (Table 1). Admissions of women and children to these shelters reached just over 105,700 in the 12-month period beginning April 1, 2005 and the cost of operating these facilities totalled approximately \$317 million.¹ And while not all residents of these shelters were fleeing domestic abuse, a majority were.

The shifting face of facilities sheltering abused women in Canada^{2,3}

Shelters vary in the types of residential services that they provide. If shelter service delivery models can be seen as existing on a continuum, at one end are the facilities that provide short-term, crisis intervention with limited services beyond room and board. At the other end of the service delivery continuum are facilities that provide long-term refuge and an extensive array of specialized services for abused women and their children (see Text box 1). The THS includes shelters covering the entire service delivery continuum, with the majority falling somewhere in the middle.

Between 1998 and 2006, the number of shelters in Canada grew from 470 to 553, with substantial rises in the number of women’s emergency centres and emergency shelters⁴ accounting for much of this growth. In 1998, there were 53 emergency-type⁵ facilities, by 2006 their numbers more than doubled to 147. In contrast, the number of transition homes in Canada declined from 296 to 249 facilities between

Text box 1

Types of residential facilities for abused women and children on the THS

The term 'shelter' is used broadly to refer to all residential facilities for abused women and their dependent children. In addition, for the purposes of the THS, the following generic categories were developed to further define the various types of shelters. Referring to these definitions, those responding to the THS selected the facility-type that **best described** their shelter.

Second stage housing: Facility offering long-term (3 to 12 months), secure housing with support and referral services designed to assist women while they search for permanent housing.

Transition home/shelter: Facility offering short or moderate term (1 day to 11 weeks) secure housing for abused women with or without children; also referred to as first stage emergency housing.

Family resource centre: Residential services provided through an Ontario government initiative that serves a wide range of clients and provides an extensive array of information and referrals.

Women's emergency centre/shelter: Facility offering short-term (1 to 21 days), respite for women and their dependent children.

Emergency shelter: Facility offering short-term (1 to 3 days), respite for a wide population range, not exclusively abused women. Some facilities may provide accommodation for men as well as women. This type of facility may accommodate residents who are not associated with family abuse but are without a home due to an emergency situation (e.g., eviction for non-payment of rent). Other than room and board services, these shelters offer few additional client services.

Safe home network: A network of private homes in rural or remote areas where there is no full-fledged operating shelter. It offers subsidiary very short term (1 to 3 days), emergency housing.

Other: Includes all other residential facilities offering services to abused women with or without children, not otherwise classified. This category includes Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCAs. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

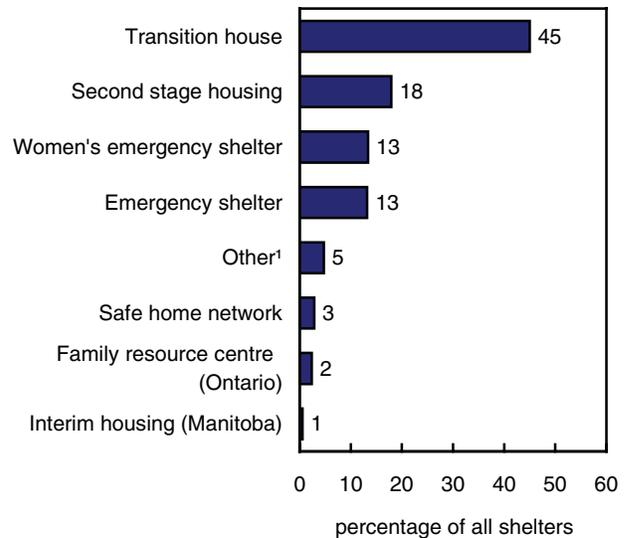
1998 and 2006. While transition homes continue to be the most common type of facility sheltering abused women and their children (Figure 1), their representation among all facility-types has declined since trend data for the THS were first collected in 1998, constituting 63% of shelters in 1998 versus 45% in 2006. At the same time, with the increases in emergency-type facilities, their representation has grown (up from 11% in 1998 to 26% in 2006).

Four in ten annual admissions were to emergency-type facilities

Among the 105,700 women and children admitted to shelters between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, 47% were admitted to transition homes, and taken together, admissions for women's emergency centres (24%) and emergency shelters (18%) represented 42% of all annual admissions.⁶ Coinciding with the shift in the relative number of transition homes and emergency-type facilities, the proportion of annual admissions to emergency-type facilities has grown while declining for transition homes. The proportion of annual admissions to transition homes declined from 51% of admissions reported on the last survey in 2004 to 47% in 2006, whereas for women's emergency centres, it was up from 14% in 2004 to 24% in 2006.

Figure 1

Transition homes and emergency-type facilities are the most common types of shelters available for abused women



1. 'Other' includes all other facilities not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCA's. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Annual admissions for women stable

Since the previous survey in 2004, total annual admissions to shelters remained fairly steady, up 2% in 2006. However, following declines in admissions in 2000 and again in 2004, total admissions for 2006 were down 10% from 1998.⁷ A variety of factors may influence trends in admissions. For example, factors such as changes in the number of facilities across Canada and the average length of stay may have an impact on the number of admissions shelters have in a year.

Over the last several years, admissions of women were relatively stable, dipping 3% between 1998 and 2006. However, annual admission figures for children have shown more fluctuation, declining notably in 2000 and 2004. In 2006, admissions for children were down 4% over 2004 figures, but were 25% below 1998 counts. Moreover, children as a proportion of all admissions have declined almost steadily over the last five cycles of the THS, representing 49% of admissions in 1998 and 41% in 2006.

Overall declines in the representation of children in the Canadian population⁸ coupled with the greater number of women using emergency-type facilities that provide fewer services targeted toward children, may provide some insight into the decline of child admissions.

A profile of shelter residents on April 19, 2006

On April 19, 2006, the survey snapshot day, close to 7,500 women and their children were residing in shelters across Canada. Similar to the 2004 THS, just over half the residents were women (53%) and just under half were children (47%). Of the more than 3,900 women in shelters on snapshot day, about three-quarters (74%) were fleeing abuse; approximately 29 per 100,000 women in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse.⁹

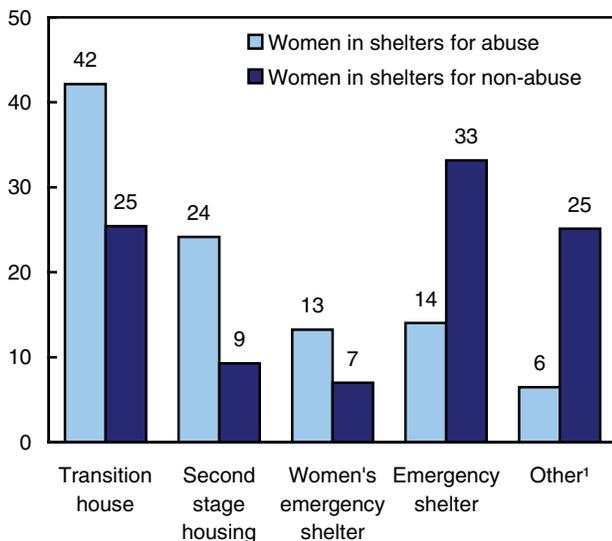
Domestic abuse can assume many forms, with many women experiencing more than one type of abuse. Psychological and emotional abuse (66%), as well as physical abuse (55%) were the most common types of abuse cited among shelter residents.¹⁰ In addition, 41% of women in shelters were escaping threats, 37% financial abuse, 28% harassment, 23% sexual abuse and 10% sought shelter for some other type of abuse. The profile of the kinds of abuse suffered by shelter residents has remained largely unchanged over the last few cycles of the survey. Women also stayed in shelters for reasons other than abuse, including housing problems, mental health issues and addictions.

Data from the THS indicate that among the women using shelters, those escaping abuse were more inclined to select facilities that offer services and programs specifically designed

Figure 2

Almost half of women fleeing abuse and a quarter of women in shelters for other reasons used a transition home

percentage of women residents (April 19, 2006)



1. 'Other' includes safe home networks, Ontario Family Resource Centres, and Manitoba Interim Housing as well as any other facilities not otherwise classified and represent 9% of all facilities.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

for abused women, rather than choose facilities where such programming is limited. According to the THS, abused women staying in shelters were most likely to use transition homes (42%) and second stage houses (24%) (Figure 2). In comparison, women residing in shelters for reasons not related to abuse, were more likely to turn to emergency shelters (33%) followed by transition homes (25%).

Children often in shelters to protect them from witnessing and experiencing abuse

Often, children are witnesses to spousal violence, particularly when the victim is female. According to the 2004 General Social Survey, 40% of female victims of spousal violence (versus 25% of male victims) indicated that children had seen or heard the violence (Beattie, 2005). Thus, in addition to protecting themselves from abuse, women can turn to shelters in order to keep their children safe. Despite a general decline in annual admissions of children, a sizeable majority of women residing in shelters on snapshot day had parenting responsibilities¹¹ (68%) and most of these women (76%) brought their children with them to the shelters. The children brought to shelters were typically young. More than two-thirds were under the age of 10, and four in ten children staying in shelters were under five years of age. On April 19, 2006, among the women with parenting responsibilities staying in shelters, about half (52%) were there to prevent their children from seeing their own mother being abused.

In addition to protecting them from witnessing violence, women also stayed in shelters to protect their children from being the victims of abuse. Four out of ten (41%) mothers in shelters were protecting their children from being psychologically abused, 26% were there to protect their children from physical abuse, 19% were protecting children from threats, 16% from neglect, and 5% from sexual abuse.

The THS shows that children were more likely to accompany their mothers to facilities offering long-term stays than to those providing stays of shorter duration. About 9 out of 10 mothers residing in second stage housing were there with their children compared to 76% in emergency shelters, 72% in women's emergency centres and 71% in transition homes.

About 4 in 10 residents stayed in the shelter on at least one prior occasion

Research has shown that victims of spousal violence often suffer repeat victimizations. For example, the 2004 GSS found that more than half (54%) of individuals experiencing spousal violence in a current or previous relationship, reported suffering more than one incidence of violence (Mihorean 2005). Thus, with repeat victimizations relatively common among those experiencing spousal violence, it follows that a number of shelter residents will likely have used the facilities on one or more previous occasions.

The 2006 THS found that almost 4 in 10 women residing in shelters on the survey snapshot day in 2006 had stayed in that shelter before.¹² This proportion was up somewhat from the proportion of re-admissions in 2004 (31%). Among the women with previous shelter residencies, the largest proportion had

been to the facility on one prior occasion in the last year (39%), about one-fifth (21%) had 2 to 4 previous stays and 14% of women returning to shelters had resided in that facility 5 or more times in the past year (Table 4).

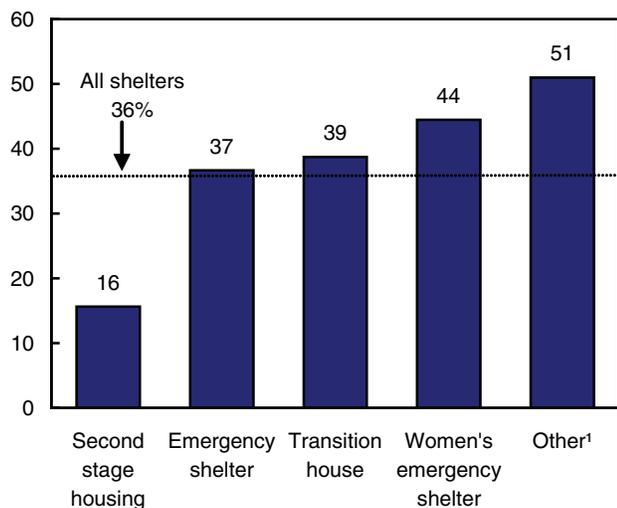
Among women with multiple shelter visits, the length of time between stays was typically less than a year. According to the 2006 THS, three-quarters of re-admissions to shelters occurred within the last year. For another 22% of women who had previously used shelters, it had been more than one year since their last stay.

Among the most frequently used facility-types, emergency centres (44%), transition homes (39%), and emergency shelters (37%), the proportion of residents who were repeat clients was about equal (Figure 3). However, re-admissions were notably less common among second stage housing residents (16%).

Figure 3

Repeat admissions far less common in second stage housing

percentage of residents with re-admissions



1. 'Other' includes safe home networks, Ontario Family Resource Centres, and Manitoba Interim Housing as well as any other facilities not otherwise classified and represent 9% of all facilities.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Abused women in shelters most likely 25 to 34 years old and in a marital or common-law union

Age is one of the strongest risk factors linked to spousal violence. Young people under the age of 25 reported the highest rates of spousal violence among all age categories, while those 45 years and older were least likely to be victimized, according to the 2004 GSS (Mihorean, 2005). Despite these findings,

women under 25 constituted a relatively small component of shelters' residents, even when their representation in the overall population is taken into consideration (Table 5). Women in shelters tended to fall between the ages of 25 and 34 (33%) and 35 and 44 years of age (25%).

The majority of abused women in shelters were there to escape an abusive spouse or common-law partner. About two-thirds of abused women in shelters on survey snapshot day were fleeing the abuse of a current spouse or partner and 13% were there because of the abuse of a former spouse or partner. (Table 6). However, a higher proportion of residents were seeking shelter from a current or former common-law partner (48%) versus a current or former spouse (31%). Common-law relationships are associated with an elevated risk of spousal violence. For example, individuals living in a common-law relationship were three times more likely to have experienced spousal violence in the past year compared to those in marital unions, according to the 2004 GSS (Mihorean, 2005).

While the majority of women in shelters on the THS snapshot day were fleeing an abusive marital or common-law union, still others were there to escape the abuse of someone they were currently or formerly dating (6%), a relative (5%), a friend or acquaintance (2%), or some other individual such as a caregiver or authority figure (1%). For 6% of residents, the relationship to their abuser was unknown.

**Text box 2
Admissions of adult men**

According to the GSS, the rates of spousal violence for men (6%) and women (7%) are similar, highlighting that men too are victims of this type of abuse. However as the GSS on Victimization also indicates, the nature and consequences of spousal violence tend to be more severe for women compared to men.

The THS asks shelters to indicate whether or not they permit adult males to be admitted to their facility.¹ About 9 out of 10 shelters prohibit the admission of men, while approximately 8% have policies that permit men to be admitted. Of those facilities allowing adult male residents, emergency shelters constituted the largest number (31%), followed by second stage facilities (24%). Just 10% of facilities that permitted men to be admitted were transition homes and another tenth were women's emergency centres.

Findings from the THS show that in 2006², about 2,300 men were admitted to facilities that also provide residential services to abused women. However, a small fraction of these annual admissions were related to spousal violence. About 6% (137 men) of the adult males admitted to shelters surveyed on the THS were also admitted for reasons of abuse and 3% (64 men) were seeking refuge due specifically to spousal abuse.

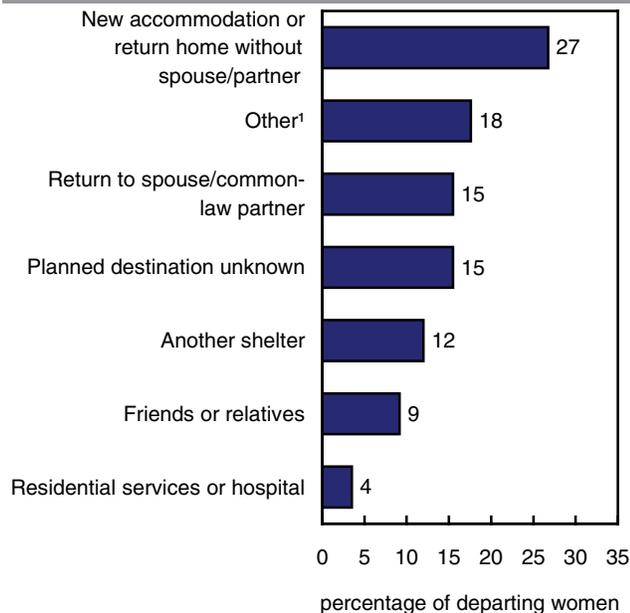
1. Facilities that exclusively serve male victims of spousal violence fall outside the scope of the THS. At the time of this survey, only one such facility was known to be in operation.
2. Because few men are admitted to the shelters surveyed through the THS, only information on annual admissions is collected. There are no snapshot data for adult males.

Most women leaving shelters do not plan to return to their abusive partners

On April 19, 2006, 142 women and 86 children departed from 64 shelters. Overall, about one in ten facilities (12%) reported departures. Most women (69%) leaving the shelter on survey snapshot day reported that they did not intend to return to their spouse or partner (Figure 4). Depending on the type of facility from which they were departing, there were some variations in women's intended destinations. For instance, women's emergency centres had the largest proportion of women (38%) who planned to return to their spouse or partner while transition homes (31%) had the greatest proportion of departing women with the intention of finding a new place to live or returning home without their spouse or partner.¹³

Figure 4

Seven out of ten women leaving shelters on April 19, 2006 did not plan to return to their spouse or partner



1. 'Other' includes all other destination not otherwise classified.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

One in five shelters turned away women and children on survey snapshot day

Shelters cannot always accommodate all those seeking refuge. On the 2006 THS snapshot day, 306 women and 203 children were turned away from shelters. About one shelter in five had to refer individuals elsewhere. The proportion of women's emergency centres (26%) and emergency shelters (29%) referring people elsewhere on April 19, 2006 was slightly higher than the proportion of transition homes (21%) and second stage houses (16%). The most frequent reason for turning away women and children on the THS snapshot day was because the facility was full.

Close-up: shelters on reserves

The Aboriginal population is disproportionately affected by spousal violence, which in turn, has had a significant impact on the families and culture of this population (Ipsos Reid, 2006; Lane Jr., Bopp and Bopp, 2003; Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996). Research indicates that Aboriginal Canadians, particularly Aboriginal women, are at much greater risk of experiencing spousal violence than their non-Aboriginal counterparts (Brzozowski, Taylor-Butts and Johnson, 2006; Lane Jr. et al., 2003; Trainor and Mihorean, 2001; and Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2001). Results of the 2004 GSS indicate that in the five years preceding the survey, Aboriginal people were about three times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be the victims of spousal violence (Brzozowski et al., 2006).

In 2006, about three out of ten shelters (28%) served a reserve population, about two-thirds (63%) of all facilities provided culturally sensitive programming to Aboriginal women and about half (46%) did so for Aboriginal children. In addition, some shelters offered services in Aboriginal languages such as Cree (12%), Ojibway (7%) and Inuktitut (3%).

Fewer shelters are located on reserves.¹⁴ According to the THS, 30 or 5% of Canada's shelters for abused women were located on reserves (Table 7). The majority of on-reserve shelters were in Ontario (40%), British Columbia (20%) and Alberta (13%), which are also home to the largest number of Canada's Aboriginal women (O'Donnell, 2006). Representing 4% of all annual admissions to Canadian shelters, these facilities provided refuge to some 4,600 women (2,100) and children (2,500) in the 12 months beginning April 1, 2005.

Compared to off-reserve facilities, shelters located on reserves were more likely to be emergency-type facilities. In fact, the proportion of shelters that are women's emergency centres (23%) and emergency shelters (27%) on reserves was about double that of off-reserve facilities (13% and 12% for each facility-type, respectively). Moreover, the proportion of on-reserve transition homes (20%) was less than half that of shelters located elsewhere (46%). There was virtually no difference in the amount of second stage housing found among on-reserve and off-reserve shelters.

About half of on-reserve shelter residents were fleeing the abuse of a common-law partner

On April 19, 2006, about 150 women and children were seeking refuge in shelters on reserves, about eight out of ten to escape abuse. Like women in shelters off reserves, the vast majority of on-reserve shelter residents were fleeing abuse. However, the proportion of women escaping abuse was slightly greater among women residents in on-reserve shelters (78%), than among shelters located off reserve (73%).

Overall, about half of women in on-reserve and off-reserve facilities alike reported that their abuser was a current or former common-law partner (47% and 48%, respectively). And while there was little difference in the proportion of women in on-reserve (25%) and off-reserve (27%) facilities who were there to

escape the abuse of a current spouse, the women in on-reserve shelters who had experienced abuse by a former spouse was more than twice that of women in shelters elsewhere (8% versus 3%, respectively). The proportion of abused women in shelters on reserves fleeing an abusive relative, such as a parent or child, was also more than double that of women in off-reserve facilities (11% versus 5%, respectively).

Children less likely to accompany women staying in on-reserve shelters

The vast majority of women (85%) coming to shelters on reserves had children. However, less than two-thirds of these women brought their children with them to the shelters and were less likely to do so than women residing in off-reserve facilities, three-quarters of whom were accompanied by children. There are a variety of possible reasons for this difference. Some of these factors may relate to the geographic locations of on-reserve shelters and the role of family and community in Aboriginal culture. Similar to those living in rural areas (see section entitled, *Close-up: Rural and urban shelters*), women wanting to access an on-reserve shelter may have to travel from a different reserve or community. In such cases, bringing children to the shelter would mean uprooting them from their home, school and familiar surroundings.

Repeat stays were more common in on-reserve shelters

Women residing in on-reserve shelters on snapshot day were almost twice as likely as those in off-reserve facilities to have stayed in that shelter on a previous occasion. About two-thirds of on-reserve shelter residents had at least one prior admission, compared to just over one-third of those staying in off-reserve shelters.

While the proportion of repeat clients was higher on reserves, the number of previous stays among repeat clients was higher for off-reserve facilities. Women staying in on-reserve shelters were more likely than those elsewhere to have had one previous visit as opposed to multiple re-admissions. Specifically, about half of repeat residents (49%) in on-reserve shelters had been there once in the last 12 months, compared to 38% of those seeking refuge in facilities elsewhere. In contrast, while 16% of women with multiple stays in on-reserve shelters had between 2 and 4 prior visits, 20% of repeat residents in off-reserve shelters had been to the facility as many times in the last year. Similarly, the proportion of on-reserve residents re-admitted 5 or more times in the past year was smaller than in shelters off reserves (9% versus 14%, respectively). So, while residents of off-reserve shelters were less likely to have returned to a shelter, when they did go back, they did so more often than women returning to shelters on reserves.

A profile of facilities

In addition to providing information on annual admissions and a profile of the women and children using shelters on April 19, 2006, the THS also gathers data on the characteristics of the facilities, the services they offer, as well as revenue and expenditure figures.

According to the 2006 THS, nine in ten shelters served an urban area, 42% served rural areas and 28% served reserves (Table 8).¹⁵ Further, among facilities providing residential services to rural areas and reserves few did so exclusively, 12% and 7%, respectively. These findings lend support to other studies which point to the challenges women located in remote and rural areas may face in accessing shelters and their services due to their geographic location (For more information on rural versus urban shelters, refer to the section entitled, *Close-up: Rural and urban shelters*.)

Shelters offer services to residents, former residents and the general public

In addition to residential services, shelters offer those who walk through their doors a range of in-house programs and services (Table 9). Most facilities provided programming for children. Additionally, shelters extend their resources to those who are not staying in the facility, providing services to former residents and non-residents (Table 9). Few shelters provided in-house services to the partners of residents, with just 7% offering counselling. However, 39% of shelters did refer partners to an external agency for assistance.

Shelters serve victims and the public through their outreach work

Over a one-year period (April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006) shelters committed a total of 23,680 hours to outreach work.¹⁶ Moreover, on April 19, 2006 shelters responded to approximately 4,200 inquiries and requests for assistance, about 70% of which related to non-housing matters such as crisis and emotional support or general information. In a typical month, shelters received a total of 55,750 inquiries or on average, about 101 inquiries per facility.

**Text box 3
Service gaps**

The 2006 THS asked shelters to indicate where improvements in meeting resident needs were required. When asked to identify the top three service gaps the following were most frequently mentioned:

- Outreach services, public education and prevention programs (13%)
- Resources on housing or housing referral (12%)
- Child care services (9%)
- Transportation (9%)
- Follow-up services, transitional support, and services for former residents (8%)
- Second stage housing (8%)

Shelters take measures to enhance service accessibility

Canada's shelters for abused women are located across a number of geographic locations and offer a comprehensive array of services, some targeting specific populations such as Aboriginal women and children, ethno-cultural and visible minority women and children, clients over the age of 55, and lesbian clients. Furthermore, by offering services in different languages and alternate formats, as well as ensuring that the facility itself is physically accessible, shelters help to ensure that the services they provide are available to those who may need them (Table 9).

**Text box 4
Shelters' annual revenues and expenditures¹**

Canada's shelters for abused women reported annual revenues of approximately \$333 million for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2006.² Revenues from provincial ministries (71%), in particular those responsible for housing (57%), were the main sources of income for shelters. In total, government contributions from federal, provincial and municipal sources accounted for over 80% of shelter revenues for the 2005/2006 fiscal year. Donations and fundraising generated just under one-tenth of annual revenues.

Wage and salary costs are by far the biggest expenses incurred by shelters. For the 2005/2006 fiscal year, 70% of shelter expenditures went to salary costs. Expenses associated directly with clients, such as food, supplies, transportation and money disbursements to residents represented the next largest costs, constituting 6% of annual expenditures. The remaining costs were spread fairly evenly across several categories of expenses such as administrative costs (3%), office costs (2%), mortgage and taxes (2%), regular maintenance (2%), major repairs or improvements (2%) and other housing costs (5%).

Overall, total annual revenues for all shelters throughout Canada exceeded reported expenditures by about \$15.7 million. However, a closer examination reveals that about 58% of shelters reported a net gain, while 42% of shelters had expenditures that either exceeded (32%) or equalled (10%) their revenues. Among the types of facilities most commonly used by women, second stage housing (48%) and emergency shelters (44%) were the most likely to have just covered their expenditures or experienced a net loss; this was less often the case for transition homes (39%) and women's emergency centres (28%).

1. According to the 2006 THS, 72% of shelters provided estimated financial data, 21% reported audited financial figures and 7% were not sure whether the financial data were estimated or audited.
2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide financial information for the 12 month period beginning April 1, 2005 and ending March 31, 2006, or using their own twelve-month fiscal period.

Close-up: rural and urban shelters

Women in rural areas and villages seeking shelter from domestic abuse may experience different needs and encounter distinct barriers compared to women in urban and suburban areas. For example, the geographic isolation of many rural settings may reduce women's access to resources such as family, friends, social service agencies including emergency shelters and transition homes, as well as long-term and affordable housing (Purdon, 2004; Lunn, 2001). Moreover, the nature and extent of the services and programming offered by rural shelters may be uniquely affected by the geographic location of these facilities.

In 2006, 293 shelters (53% of all shelters) served urban areas exclusively and 38 shelters (7% of all shelters) served either a rural area exclusively (30) or served a rural area as well as a reserve (8). And while there were similarities in the profiles of the more than 290 urban shelters compared to the 38 rural facilities, there were also some notable differences.

Women's emergency shelters and second stage housing more common among rural shelters

The distribution of facility-types in rural and urban settings shared some commonalities. The proportion of emergency-type facilities in rural areas (26%) resembled the proportion in urban locations (22%). Nevertheless, differences between the types of shelters found in rural versus urban settings were apparent. While taking emergency-type facilities together as a whole reveals few rural-urban differences, taken separately, women's emergency centres were more common in rural settings (21%, versus 9% of urban shelters) and emergency shelters were a more likely facility-type in urban areas (13%, versus 5% of rural shelters). In addition, second stage homes were more common among rural shelters (26%) than urban facilities (19%), as were safe home networks (5% and 3%, respectively). Conversely, transition homes constituted a slightly smaller proportion of facility-types in rural (37%) versus urban (48%) locations.

Fewer services offered in rural shelters

Like urban shelters, safety or protection planning, transportation and accompaniment and individual short term counselling were among the in-house services most frequently offered by rural facilities. Moreover, rural and urban shelters offered residents some services with comparable frequency: transportation and accompaniment (84% rural, 89% urban); services for Aboriginal women (58% rural, 58% urban); services for older women (32% rural, 37% urban); and family counselling programs (11% rural, 16% urban). However as suggested earlier, the array of programming and services was generally more extensive among urban facilities than rural shelters.

With the exception of crisis telephone lines (74% rural, 60% urban), shelters in rural areas were notably less likely than urban-area shelters to offer many of the 23 services listed in Table 11. For example, services such as job training and employment counselling (8% rural, 25% urban), medical services (26% rural, 46% urban), addiction counselling (26% rural, 45% urban), financial assistance or welfare services (42% rural, 67% urban) and advocacy (68% rural, 89% urban) were available to women residing in rural facilities far less often.

Abused women in rural shelters less likely to be accompanied by children

Comparable proportions of abused women residing in rural shelters and urban shelters had parenting responsibilities, 70% and 67%, respectively. However, the proportion of mothers staying in rural shelters who were admitted without their children (52%) was about twice that of mothers residing in urban shelters (22%). On April 19, 2006, abused women residing in rural facilities were slightly more likely to be using women's emergency-type shelters (32%) compared to those in urban facilities (25%). Additionally among abused women staying in rural shelters, a smaller proportion resided in transition homes (33%), relative to women in urban shelters (48%). Thus, greater use of facilities that focus more on crisis intervention and a reduced use of facilities offering longer residency periods may help to explain the lower percentage of rural women bringing their children with them to shelters.

Additionally, women in rural regions may have to travel some distance from their home in order to access a shelter, which in turn, may be a factor in determining whether or not they are accompanied by their children.

Urban facilities were five times more likely to shelter residents with five or more previous admissions

About one-third of women residing in rural (38%) and urban (31%) shelters had stayed in those facilities on at least one prior occasion. However, the proportion of women returning to shelters fewer than 5 times in the last year was higher for rural facilities (63%) than urban shelters (56%). In contrast, the proportion of repeat clients with 5 or more re-admissions was five times greater in urban (21%) versus rural shelters (4%). Still, among re-admissions to both rural and urban shelters single repeat stays were generally the most common, accounting for 47% of repeat residents in rural shelters and 35% of women with a previous stay in urban facilities.

Data sources and methodology

Transition Home Survey

The Transition Home Survey (THS) was developed under the federal government’s Family Violence Initiative in consultation with provincial/territorial governments and transition home associations. The objectives of the survey are to collect information on the characteristics of residential services for abused women and their children during the previous twelve months of operation. In addition, the THS collects information on selected characteristics for the women and children residing in these shelters on a specified ‘snapshot’ day. In 1991/1992, Statistics Canada began collecting basic information on transition home services and clientele. A more comprehensive survey was developed and administered in 1992/93 and was repeated, with some changes, in 1994/1995, and every second year from 1997/1998 to 2005/2006.

The THS is a biennial mail-out/mail-back census survey of all residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children. Shelters that serve a broader population, in addition to women escaping domestic violence, such as those providing residential services to male victims of spousal abuse and men and women seeking refuge for reasons other than abuse, are also included on the THS. Facilities that exclusively serve male victims of spousal abuse fall outside the scope of this survey. At the time of this survey, one such facility was known to be in operation. The THS does not include shelters that do not provide residential services.

Of the 553 residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children, 486 returned their questionnaires for a response rate of 88%. Across Canada, response rates were highest among shelters in Prince Edward Island (100%), Nova Scotia (94%), Newfoundland and Labrador (93%), and British Columbia (93%). Response rates for the three territories were notably lower than the national average, with just half of shelters in Yukon and 40% in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut responding to the current cycle of the THS. Due to the low response rates and the limited number of facilities located

in the territories, information for shelters in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been combined in this report (unless otherwise specified).

Separate questionnaires were completed for facilities that had two or more residences under the same name or address. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one facility-type had to be included on one questionnaire. In these cases, the determination of facility-type was based on the main focus of the facilities’ activities.

Imputation procedure for the 2006 THS

In 2005/2006, an imputation procedure was used for the first time to replace missing data for non-respondents on the THS. While the response rate for the THS has ranged from 87% to 92% since 1998, the use of a simple imputation strategy to treat non-response makes the THS estimates even more meaningful by having a complete micro-data file.

Potential THS respondents were grouped into three main categories based on the extent to which they had completed 12 key questions.¹⁷ Specifically, the three respondent groupings were defined as follows:

Complete respondent: submitted a questionnaire and there was a response for each of the 12 key questions. There were 425 complete respondents.

Partial non-respondent: submitted a questionnaire but did not answer all of the key questions. There were 59 partial non-respondents.

Complete non-respondent: did not submit a questionnaire and only the province and facility type of the shelter were known. There were 67 complete non-respondents.

After the procedure, the imputed data were tested for statistically significant differences from the data collected from respondents. The results from the test show no statistically meaningful differences between the imputed and respondent data.

The General Social Survey on Victimization

The General Social Survey (GSS) is an annual survey that monitors changes in Canadian society and provides information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. Each year, the GSS focuses on various regular topics (including time use, social support, the family, technology and victimization). In 2004, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the GSS for a fourth time. Previous surveys were conducted in 1988, 1993 and 1999. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of the prevalence of eight offence types (based on the *Criminal Code* definitions) and to examine factors related to the risk of victimization, victims’ willingness to report crimes to the police, reasons for not reporting, and to measure public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

The GSS is a telephone sample survey covering the non-institutionalized population aged 15 years or older in the ten provinces. In 2004, a total of approximately 24,000 people were interviewed with a response rate of 75%.

Please see the annual publication *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*, for results from the 2004 GSS on spousal and family violence.

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Endnotes

1. The Transition Home Survey (THS) covers a fiscal-year period (e.g., April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006). However for the purposes of this report, the surveys' respective ending years will be used to refer to each cycle of the THS. Therefore, for example, the 2005/2006 THS will be referred to simply as the 2006 THS; the 2003/2004 THS will be referred to as the 2004 THS and so on.
2. While this *Juristat* focuses on providing a national picture of women's shelters, some information at the provincial and territorial level is also presented. However due to the limited number of facilities, in conjunction with low response rates to the 2006 THS, information for shelters in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been combined for reasons of confidentiality and data quality. (For more information, see the *Data Sources & Methodology* section of this report.)
3. An imputation procedure was used to replace the missing data from non-respondents. Therefore, the data in this report are representative of all shelters known to be operation in Canada at the time of the 2006 THS, and not just those that responded to the survey. Imputation was not conducted for non-respondents from cycles of the survey prior to 2006. (For more information, see the *Data Sources and Methodology* section of this report.)
4. The objective of the THS is to build a portrait of the residential services utilized by abused women. While emergency shelters typically serve a broad population, in addition to abused women, emergency facilities are a resource utilized by women fleeing abuse, and therefore are included on the survey.
5. Throughout this report the term 'emergency-type' facility will be used to refer jointly to women's emergency centres and general emergency shelters. Readers should keep in mind that emergency shelters typically serve a broad population, in addition to abused women.
6. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own 12-month fiscal period.
7. In addition to presenting findings from the most recent cycle of the THS, this report also includes an analysis of time-series data from the THS trend file. The THS trend file compiles data from facilities participating in each cycle of the THS starting in 1998, thereby controlling for non-response and the composition of facility-types. The THS trend file is based on a subset of 327 shelters or 59% of the shelters surveyed in 2006.
8. According to Census data, the number of children under the age of 15 in the Canadian population declined about 5% between 1998 and 2006.
9. Usage rates should not be considered a proxy measure for the incidence of spousal violence.
10. Shelters were asked to report the types of abuse women residents were fleeing. Shelters were instructed to report as many kinds of abuse that applied for each resident. Therefore, multiple responses for one woman were possible and the percentages for each type of abuse will not total 100%.
11. Shelters were asked to report on whether or not residents were admitted to the shelter with or without their children. However, it is unknown whether women not accompanied by their children had legal and/or physical custody of those children prior to coming to the shelters.
12. Figures from the THS on repeat admissions reflect re-admissions of clients to the same shelter and do not count women who may have previously sought shelter in a different facility.

13. There were 4 departures from second stage houses on April 19, 2006. Most of these women intended to find a new place to live or to return home without their spouse or partner.
14. In the fall of 2006, the federal government announced a \$6 million investment over 2006-2007 for shelters in First Nations communities to help bolster and develop programs and services aimed at eliminating and preventing family violence.
15. 2001 Census figures indicate that 79% of Canadians live in an urban area, 20% in a rural area and 1% live on a reserve. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.
16. Outreach work included activities such as supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.
17. Excludes composite respondents; those for whom information for more than one shelter type had to be included on one questionnaire.

Table 1

Number of shelters operating and responding to the Transition Home Survey (THS), Canada, provinces and territories, 2005/2006^{1,2}

	Shelters in operation	Shelters responding to the 2006 THS	Response rate
	number	number	percentage
Canada	553	486	88
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	13	93
Prince Edward Island	4	4	100
Nova Scotia	17	16	94
New Brunswick	23	20	87
Quebec	117	105	90
Ontario	156	136	87
Manitoba	28	23	82
Saskatchewan	23	19	83
Alberta	48	43	90
British Columbia	107	100	93
Yukon	6	3	50
Northwest Territories and Nunavut ³	10	4	40

1. Facilities that house or operate more than one type of shelter (e.g., transition home, emergency shelter and second stage housing) are asked to complete a separate survey for each shelter type. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one shelter type had to be included on one survey. In such cases, the determination of facility-type was based on the main focus of the facilities' activities (see *Data sources and methodology*).

2. Compared to the 2003/2004 THS, 2005/2006 response rates were notably higher for Newfoundland and Labrador (86% vs. 93%); and Saskatchewan (78% vs. 83%) and were lower for Nova Scotia (100% vs. 94%); New Brunswick (94% vs. 87%); Alberta (98% vs. 90%); and Northwest Territories and Nunavut (62% vs. 40%).

3. Due to the limited number of facilities and with low response rates for Northwest Territories and Nunavut, information for shelters in these territories has been combined, for reasons of confidentiality and data quality.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 2

Annual admissions by facility type, Canada, provinces and territories, 2005/2006¹

	Facility type														
	All facility types			Transition house			Women's emergency centre			Emergency shelter			Second stage housing		
	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children
Canada	105,711	60,057	41,707	49,375	27,432	19,332	25,532	13,947	11,503	18,556	10,720	6,863	3,844	1,749	2,054
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,125	697	428	894	508	386	25	25	0	81	81	0	90	49	41
Prince Edward Island	162	77	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	67	76	19	10	9
Nova Scotia	1,766	1,062	704	1,569	971	598	0	0	0	59	27	32	138	64	74
New Brunswick	2,296	1,447	757	1,626	915	619	0	0	0	339	306	33	122	69	53
Quebec	18,250	10,908	6,553	14,799	8,586	5,698	947	383	494	324	286	38	490	259	231
Ontario	31,858	18,608	12,389	10,889	6,168	4,633	5,216	3,198	2,018	11,532	6,762	4,021	1,172	519	629
Manitoba	7,936	4,113	3,803	921	419	482	4,025	2,005	2,020	2,025	962	1,063	308	211	97
Saskatchewan	6,380	3,141	3,015	1,852	927	925	3,784	1,975	1,809	623	191	208	121	48	73
Alberta	14,326	7,702	6,607	904	484	420	8,811	4,078	4,733	2,076	1,257	819	1,000	355	628
British Columbia	18,604	10,603	6,077	14,370	7,522	4,972	2,409	2,110	287	486	316	170	362	154	208
Yukon	857	549	288	727	462	245	113	77	36	0	0	0	17	10	7
Northwest Territories and Nunavut ²	2,151	1,150	1,001	824	470	354	202	96	106	868	465	403	5	1	4

	Facility type								
	Family resource centre			Safe home network			Other ³		
	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children
Canada	1,638	920	718	1,395	669	690	5,371	4,620	547
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	34	1
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Brunswick	0	0	0	0	0	0	209	157	52
Quebec	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,690	1,394	92
Ontario	1,638	920	718	166	50	116	1,245	991	254
Manitoba	0	0	0	0	0	0	657	516	141
Saskatchewan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alberta	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,535	1,528	7
British Columbia	0	0	0	977	501	440	0	0	0
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut ²	0	0	0	252	118	134	0	0	0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period. Because the number and type of shelters participating in each cycle of the Transition Home Survey may vary, comparisons of admissions from 2005-2006 to results from previous survey cycles are not advisable.

2. Due to the limited number of facilities in conjunction with low response rates for Northwest Territories and Nunavut, information for shelters in these territories has been combined, for reasons of confidentiality and data quality.

3. 'Other' includes all other facilities not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCA's. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

Note: The woman-child distribution of annual admissions was unknown for about 3% of admissions; in such cases shelters only provided the total number of admission for the year but were unable to provide a breakdown for women and children. Therefore, total admissions may not equal the sum of admissions for women and children.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 3

Rate of women in shelters to escape the abuse of a current/former spouse or common-law partner on April 19, 2006, Canada, provinces and territories^{1,2}

	Total women in shelters to escape abuse of current/former spouse or partner		Population married, common-law and separated women	Rate per 100,000 married, common-law and separated women
	number	percentage		
Canada	2,295	79	7,860,910	29
Newfoundland and Labrador	44	77	138,293	32
Prince Edward Island	6	75	35,459	17
Nova Scotia	65	86	236,139	28
New Brunswick	56	84	191,271	29
Quebec	448	85	1,794,329	25
Ontario	921	77	3,105,140	30
Manitoba	102	84	273,726	37
Saskatchewan	83	84	235,069	35
Alberta	221	75	785,627	28
British Columbia	309	77	1,043,685	30
Yukon	20	74	7,609	263
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	20	69	14,563	137

1. Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population. Population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1: preliminary post-censal estimates for 2006.

2. Separated includes persons currently married, but who are no longer living with their spouse (for any reason other than illness or work) and have not obtained a divorce. Persons who are separated but who live with a common-law partner are not included in this category.

Note: Comparisons across jurisdictions should be made with caution, as factors such as shelter capacity and availability can influence rates of usage. Moreover, usage rates should not be considered a proxy measure for the incidence of spousal violence in a province or territory.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 4

Frequency of previous shelter stays within the last 12 months by facility type, Canada, 2005/2006

	1 time	2 to 4 times	5 or more times	Number of times unknown	More than 12 months since last stay
Transition house	51	23	4	1	21
Second stage housing	53	2	8	1	37
Safe home network	15	31	31	15	8
Women's emergency shelter	30	23	7	7	33
Emergency shelter	28	26	21	17	9
Family resource centre (Ontario)	37	23	0	3	37
Other ¹	18	14	49	0	18
All shelters	39	20	14	5	22

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. 'Other' includes all other facilities not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCA's. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 5

Age groups of abused women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, Canada

	Number	Percentage of all women admitted for abuse	Population of single, married, separated, common-law women	Rate per 100,000 population of single, married, separated, common-law women
15 to 24 years	500	17	2,137,835	23
25 to 34 years	975	33	2,129,932	46
35 to 44 years	714	25	2,345,099	30
45 to 54 years	311	11	2,135,326	15
55 years and over	145	5	2,603,461	6
Age unknown	267	9
Total women admitted due to abuse	2,912	100	4,738,787	2

... not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 6

Selected characteristics of abused women residing in shelters, April 19, 2006, Canada

	Number	Percentage
Total women admitted due to abuse	2,912	100
Parental status		
Admitted with their child(ren)	1,498	51
Admitted without their child(ren) ¹	478	16
No children/parenting responsibilities	632	22
Unknown	304	10
Disabilities		
Total women with a disability	288	10
Mobility ²	103	36
Visual ²	9	3
Hearing ²	21	7
Other ³	148	...
Relationship to abuser		
Common-law partner	1,130	39
Spouse	786	27
Ex-common-law partner	276	9
Dating or ex-dating relationship	172	6
Relative (e.g., parent, child)	152	5
Ex-spouse	103	4
Other ⁴	123	4
Unknown	170	6

... not applicable

1. It is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.

2. This was a multiple response item. Percentages are based on the 'total women with a disability' who were in shelters for reasons of abuse on April 19, 2006.

3. Percentages of all women were unavailable for this item due to multiple responses per respondent (i.e., one woman could have more than one 'other' disability).

4. 'Other' includes all other relationship not otherwise classified.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 7

Shelters on reserves, Canada, provinces and territories, 2005/2006

	On-reserve shelters	On-reserve shelters as a percentage of all shelters
		percentage
Canada	100	5
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0
Nova Scotia	10	18
New Brunswick	0	0
Quebec	7	2
Ontario	40	8
Manitoba	7	7
Saskatchewan	3	4
Alberta	13	8
British Columbia	20	6
Yukon	0	0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	0	0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 8

Shelters' areas of service, Canada, provinces and territories, 2005/2006¹

	Urban/suburban ²	Rural ³	Reserve ⁴
		percentage	
Canada	90	42	28
Newfoundland and Labrador	93	36	0
Prince Edward Island	75	50	25
Nova Scotia	88	65	47
New Brunswick	87	52	26
Quebec	92	36	15
Ontario	88	38	25
Manitoba	93	57	57
Saskatchewan	91	70	61
Alberta	88	48	40
British Columbia	91	35	29
Yukon	67	50	17
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	100	40	20

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Percentages will not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

2. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre.

3. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population.

4. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 9

Services provided by shelters to women residents, ex-residents and non-residents, Canada, 2005/2006¹

	In-house services provided by shelters to women					
	Residents		Non-residents		Ex-residents	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Safety or protection planning	511	92	367	66	381	69
Individual short term counselling	503	91	350	63	359	65
Advocacy	498	90	346	63	368	67
Transportation/accompaniment	495	90	261	47	304	55
Housing referral	473	86	270	49	290	52
Parenting skills	423	76	221	40	253	46
Life skills	416	75	214	39	253	46
Group counselling	365	66	247	45	267	48
Financial assistance or welfare services	365	66	238	43	240	43
Legal services	364	66	257	46	264	48
Crisis telephone line	363	66	376	68	360	65
Services for women with disabilities	358	65	219	40	208	38
Lesbian sensitive services	356	64	242	44	233	42
Culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women	348	63	224	41	227	41
Culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women	334	60	209	38	201	36
Mental health services	297	54	194	35	194	35
Medical services	265	48	146	26	152	27
Recreation services	253	46	67	12	113	20
Addiction counselling	242	44	163	29	166	30
Services for older women	218	39	143	26	143	26
Individual long term counselling	198	36	196	35	238	43
Job training/employment counselling	137	25	70	13	83	15
Family counselling programs	98	18	60	11	66	12

1. Percentages will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 10

Service accessibility, Canada, 2005/2006

	Number	Percentage of all shelters ¹
Spoken languages in which shelters provided services		
English	529	96
French	316	57
Spanish	138	25
Punjabi	71	13
German	69	12
Cree	69	12
Polish	58	10
Portuguese	42	8
Arabic	41	7
Italian	41	7
Ojibway	38	7
Chinese	38	7
Ukrainian	29	5
Dutch	25	5
Tagalog	21	4
Vietnamese	20	4
Greek	19	3
Inuktitut	15	3
Other	132	24
Shelters with wheelchair accessibility		
Entrance	416	75
Bedroom	343	62
Bathroom	362	65
Services for the deaf/hearing impaired		
TTY/TDD	126	23
Sign language or interpretation	93	17
Other	61	11
Services for the blind/visually impaired		
Braille reading materials	18	3
Large print reading materials	99	18
Other	35	6

1. Percentages will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 11

Services provided by rural and urban shelters to women residents, ex-residents and non-residents, Canada, 2005/2006¹

	In-house services provided by shelters to women					
	Residents		Non-residents		Ex-residents	
	Rural shelters	Urban shelters	Rural shelters	Urban shelters	Rural shelters	Urban shelters
	percentage					
Safety or protection planning	89	90	63	60	61	66
Transportation/accompaniment	84	89	61	38	63	49
Individual short term counselling	79	89	58	54	58	61
Crisis telephone line	74	60	71	61	63	59
Housing referral	68	86	50	43	50	48
Advocacy	68	89	55	55	55	61
Parenting skills	58	71	34	33	32	42
Culturally sensitive services for						
Aboriginal women	58	58	39	32	39	34
Lesbian sensitive services	55	66	42	38	39	39
Legal services	50	66	45	42	39	48
Life skills	50	75	26	33	26	44
Individual long term counselling	45	33	50	27	50	38
Services for women with disabilities	45	61	34	32	29	31
Financial assistance or welfare services	42	67	34	39	32	42
Group counselling	39	61	34	36	37	42
Culturally sensitive services for						
ethno-cultural and visible minority women	37	63	26	33	21	36
Mental health services	34	53	32	31	29	34
Recreation services	32	48	13	12	18	22
Services for older women	32	37	24	22	24	24
Addiction counselling	26	45	18	26	21	29
Medical services	26	46	18	21	16	24
Family counselling programs	11	16	5	8	8	10
Job training/employment counselling	8	25	3	11	5	14

1. Percentages will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses. Percentages for rural shelters are based on the 30 shelters that serve either rural areas exclusively or rural and reserve areas. Percentages for urban shelters are based on the 254 shelters that serve urban areas exclusively.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

For further information, please contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 19th floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 at 613-951-9023 or call toll-free 1-800-387-2231.

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