

# **Cross-Ministry Action Plan**

## **Strategy for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying**

**2009-2012 ACTION PLAN**

### **Our Goal**

**To work toward an Alberta free from family violence and bullying through a coordinated provincial response with strengthened community-based, comprehensive services and supports for children and other family members who are exposed to, or are victims of family violence or bullying, and programs to prevent perpetrators from re-offending.**

**Government  
of Alberta ■**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In early 2004, a comprehensive province-wide roundtable process on family violence and bullying was undertaken to engage a wide range of stakeholders and community members in discussions about family violence and bullying, and to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations for action. As a result of the consultation process, the *Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying: Finding Solutions Together* report was approved by government in October 2004 as the Strategy for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying (the Strategy).

Family violence and bullying have devastating impacts on Albertans:

- In 2004, the highest reported rate of spousal assault in Canada's provinces was in Alberta (10 per cent women; 7 per cent men).<sup>1</sup>
- Exposure to family violence is the second most common form of child maltreatment; accounting for 23 per cent of all substantiated cases in Alberta.<sup>2</sup>
- Aboriginal people are three times more likely to experience spousal assault, and more severe forms of violence than non-Aboriginal people.<sup>3</sup>
- A recent survey of Alberta children and youth found that 50 per cent had been bullied since the start of the school year and 36 per cent admitted to engaging in this form of harassment at least once during the year.<sup>4</sup>
- A recent study of Calgary youth offenders found that a high proportion of youth labeled chronic offenders and serious habitual offenders had a history of family violence (74 per cent and 68 per cent respectively).<sup>5</sup>

During the past four years of the Strategy's implementation, there has been significant investment by government in enhancing support for victims of family violence and to support children and youth impacted by bullying, with joint spending of over \$59 million in 2008-2009 across the nine ministries. In December 2008, government released the 2008 *Taking Action on Family Violence and Bullying Report to Albertans* highlighting action government and communities have taken since the Roundtable to better support Albertans impacted by family violence and bullying. The report can be found on [www.familyviolence.alberta.ca](http://www.familyviolence.alberta.ca).

Participating ministries involved in the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Initiative are committed to the ongoing implementation of the Strategy by providing coordinated provincial responses through ongoing prevention, protection, intervention/counselling, advocacy and outreach supports. Partnering ministries include:

- Children and Youth Services (CYS, coordination lead);
- Aboriginal Relations (AR);
- Education (ED);
- Employment and Immigration (EI);
- Health and Wellness (HW); Alberta Health Services (AHS) – Addiction and Mental Health;
- Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA);
- Justice and Attorney General (JAG);
- Seniors and Community Supports (SCS); and
- Solicitor General and Public Security (SGPS).

A 2010 public opinion survey, *Albertans' Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying*, found that 90 per cent and 87 per cent of Albertans respectively felt that family violence and bullying should be a priority for their communities. The same survey

found that 87 per cent and 79 per cent of Albertans respectively agreed that preventing family violence and bullying should be priorities for the provincial government.<sup>6</sup>

Opportunities and Challenges in Appendix A identify the trends that have helped shape priorities within the Strategy.

Children and Youth Services, as coordination lead, will continue to work with partnering ministries and communities in addressing the five key areas of action: social change, provincial leadership, coordinated collaborative community response, services and supports, and accountability. Partnering ministries remain committed to implementing priorities within the Strategy, and in providing annual reporting to define the progress of new and ongoing initiatives.

The following priorities have been identified for 2009-2012:

- Supporting implementation of Alberta's Safe Communities Initiative by:
  - Expanding supports to Albertans impacted by family violence, particularly enhancing culturally responsive supports for Aboriginal and immigrant families and communities (Children and Youth Services, Aboriginal Relations, Solicitor General and Public Security; Employment and Immigration);
  - Expanding and enhancing supports for counselling and treatment of mandated offenders as part of the ongoing implementation of the Provincial Family Violence Program (Health and Wellness; Alberta Health Services-Addiction and Mental Health; Solicitor General and Public Security; Justice and Attorney General; and Children and Youth Services);
  - Working across government ministries and with communities to support development of a long-term crime reduction and prevention framework and implementation of the Alberta Gang Crime Suppression Initiative (Justice and Attorney General; Solicitor General and Public Security; Children and Youth Services); and
  - Supporting agencies and communities in implementing Safe Communities Innovation Fund community-based grants which support families impacted by family violence (All).
- Developing and implementing a family violence coordinated client-centered supports model within existing budgets to support victims of family violence to live safely in their homes and communities, building on existing collaborative community responses to family violence and on the coordination concepts of the Housing First model identified in *A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years* (Children and Youth Services; All).
- Identifying issues related to the intersection between the family law and criminal justice systems in supporting family violence victims and offenders (Justice and Attorney General; Solicitor General and Public Security; Children and Youth Services).
- Based on the information gathered from service provider community sessions, work with government and community partners in developing strategies that address elder abuse (Seniors and Community Supports).
- Implementing the next phase of the provincial family violence and bullying training framework to support delivery of cross-sector training for front-line responders in providing prevention and intervention strategies (All).
- Implementing the next phase of Alberta's Prevention of Bullying Strategy, focusing on enhanced community action and increased youth engagement and

leadership, to support children, youth, parents and communities to prevent and respond to bullying (Children and Youth Services; Education).

- Implementing the performance measurement framework to monitor the success and long-term impact of the Strategy and for ongoing accountability (All).

## KEY ACTION AREA ONE: SOCIAL CHANGE

KEY ACTION  
AREA ONE

# 1

## Prevent family violence and bullying by changing public attitudes and focusing on early intervention

### What it means

Building awareness is a prerequisite to changing public perceptions about family violence and bullying and in taking action to addressing it. Further, the importance of early childhood development and school age strategies that work with community, parents and young people provides the best chance to effect positive change and influence the power and control behaviours that perpetuate family violence and bullying across generations. Awareness must also include a better understanding of how to prevent and respond to abuse of older adults in families.

### What it looks like:

An environment of positive attitudes and behaviours will be fostered in families, schools and community settings. An increased number of individuals, families and communities will be able to recognize family violence and bullying and take appropriate action. Incidents of family violence and bullying will be reduced over the longer term.

### Strategies

- 1.1 Administer *Albertans' Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying* and Bullying Prevention evaluation public opinion surveys to inform policy planning and service needs (CYS; ED; All).
- 1.2 Build on existing strategies to ensure Albertans have access to information and resources to prevent and respond to family violence and bullying (All).
- 1.3 Enhance early childhood development and supports for parents and children to prevent family violence and bullying (CYS; ED; HW).
- 1.4 Continue engagement of youth in developing strategies and increasing awareness about the prevention of family violence and bullying (CYS; ED; All).
- 1.5 Work with government and community partners to develop strategies that address elder abuse (SCS).
- 1.6 Implement strategies to more effectively communicate the Cross-Ministry Action Plan on Family Violence and Bullying to the general public as well as stakeholders who are providing supports and services to victims and perpetrators of family violence (CYS; All).

## Performance

### Measures

| Expected Outcomes  | Measures   | Past data   |
|--|--|---|
| Increased awareness among Albertans to recognize family violence and bullying.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent of youth and adults who believe that bullying is not a normal part of growing up.</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Prevention of Bullying Strategy classroom and telephone questionnaires)</p>  | 2007 – Youth (53.2%), Adults (72.5%) (Alberta data)<br><br>2008 – Youth (55.3%), Adults (60.3%) (Alberta data)<br><br>2009 – Youth (53.6%), Adults (50.5%) (Alberta data)   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent of children and youth in grades 2, 5, 8, and 11 who report that they are not being bullied.</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Prevention of Bullying Strategy classroom questionnaire)</p>   | 2007 – 68.6% of children and 43.7% of youth (Alberta data)<br><br>2008 – 62.9% of children and 51.2% of youth (Alberta data)<br><br>2009 – 50.0% of children and 49.7% of youth (Alberta data)                                  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent of children, youth and adults who are aware of strategies they consider effective to use when they see bullying taking place.</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Prevention of Bullying Strategy classroom questionnaire)</p>           | 2007 – Children (98.7%), Youth (58.0%), Adults (88.9%) (Alberta data)<br><br>2008 – Children (95.9%), Youth (55.7%), Adults (83.6%) (Alberta data)<br><br>2009 – Children (93.2%), Youth (56.2%), Adults (92.1%) (Alberta data) |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent of Albertans who have heard, seen or read information on the prevention of family violence in the past 12 months.</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Albertans' Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying surveys)</p>                | 2008 – Albertans over the age of 16 years (58%) (Alberta data)<br><br>2010 – Albertans over the age of 16 years (54%) (Alberta data)  |
| Increased number of Albertans who respond appropriately to family violence and bullying. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent of Albertans who feel they are better able to help in family violence situations because of the information heard, seen or read.</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Albertans' Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying surveys)</p> | 2008 – Albertans over the age of 16 years (65%) (Alberta data)<br><br>2010 – Albertans over the age of 16 years (73%) (Alberta data)  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent of children, youth and adults who take action when bullying occurs.</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Prevention of Bullying Strategy classroom questionnaire)</p>   | 2007 – Children (77.3%), Youth (34.9%), Adults (71.2%) (Alberta data)<br><br>2008 – Children (76.1%), Youth (31.9%), Adults (67.6%) (Alberta data)<br><br>2009 – Children (76.6%), Youth (35.7%), Adults (85.1%) (Alberta data) |

## KEY ACTION AREA TWO: PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP

KEY ACTION  
AREA TWO

# 2 Provide provincial leadership in addressing family violence and bullying

### What it means

Appropriate legislation, policy and supports are developed and enhanced to make Alberta a province where all children, families, and individual Albertans can live safely in their communities and live their lives free of family violence and bullying.

### What it looks like:

Effective, coordinated, legislation, policy and organizational response to family violence and bullying.

### Strategies

- 2.1 Through leadership of the *Protection Against Family Violence Act (PAFVA)* Advisory Committee, enhance protection to victims by developing and monitoring effective policies and practices to support utilization of the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* (CYS; JAG; SGPS).
- 2.2 Maintain and enhance cross-government coordination and cross-ministry work to implement the Strategy for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying, and coordinate with other cross-ministry initiatives such as Safe Communities, to address family violence and bullying (CYS; All).
- 2.3 Through guidance of the Diversity Relations Committee on Family Violence and Bullying, provide advice on priorities to be addressed in the Strategy for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying to support diverse populations, particularly as it relates to Aboriginal and immigrant families and communities (CYS; AR; ED; EI; HW; AHS; JAG; SGPS).
- 2.4 Review issues related to the intersection between the family law and criminal justice systems in supporting family violence victims and offenders (JAG; SGPS; CYS).
- 2.5 Examine systemic barriers involving prevention of serious injury and deaths related to family violence (All).

**Performance Measures**

| Expected Outcomes  | Measures  | Past data   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Effective legislation, policy, and government response to family violence and bullying.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Placeholder</i> : a. Number and percent increase in number of emergency protection order applications heard at Provincial Court and hearing offices since implementation of amendments to PAFVA.</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Justice Online Information Network)</p> | <p>April-October 2006 – 538 applications filed</p> <p>November 2006-March 2007 – 1,028 applications filed</p> <p>2006-2007 – 1,566 applications filed</p> <p>2007-2008 – 1,672 applications filed</p> <p>2008-2009 – 1,690 applications filed</p> <p>(Alberta data)</p> <hr/> <p>Between April-October 2006 and November 2006-March 2007 – 91% increase</p> <p>Between 2006-07 and 2007-08 – 7% increase</p> <p>Between 2007-08 and 2008-09 – 1% increase</p> <p>(Alberta data)</p> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Placeholder</i>: b. Percent of emergency protection orders granted.</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Justice Online Information Network)</p>  | <p>November 2006 –March 2007 – 86% granted</p> <p>2007-2008 – 82% granted</p> <p>2008-2009 – 80% granted</p> <p>(Alberta data)</p>  |

\* Performance measures were developed in 2009-2010 based on existing data sources. In cases where there were no available data sources for a particular outcome (e.g., new programs), a placeholder measure was identified until appropriate data sources are developed.

# KEY ACTION AREA THREE: COLLABORATIVE, COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE

KEY ACTION  
AREA THREE

## 3

### Support a collaborative, coordinated community response

#### What it means

In many ways the most important actions must take place at the community level close to where people live. Responses must reflect the unique needs of each and every community and must enable all service agencies to work together at all levels to provide the best possible solutions to the concrete problems individuals and families face. Northern, Aboriginal, immigrant and rural communities must be provided with the resources and supports to build their local capacity for leadership, organizational development and coordinated service delivery to take local action on family violence and bullying at the local level.

#### What it looks like:

Individuals and families have access to services they need in their community. Communities have plans and strategies to ensure key community resources, including agencies, law enforcement and caseworkers, are available to assist individuals and families.

#### Strategies

- 3.1 Enhance collaborative and coordinated community-based initiatives, including through community coordination and victim supports and the Community Incentive Fund Program, to support local action in preventing family and bullying (CYS).
- 3.2 Implement community engagement strategies to strengthen collaborative and coordinated family violence responses at provincial, regional and community levels (CYS; HUA; All).
- 3.3 Develop and support local working agreement and protocols between service providers to facilitate a collaborative, coordinated community response to family violence and bullying (All).
- 3.4 Implement a provincial family violence and bullying training framework to coordinate training needs for front-line responders (CYS; ED; HW; AHS; EI; JAG; SGPS; SCS).
- 3.5 Develop strategies to support northern, Aboriginal, immigrant and rural communities to build local capacity for leadership, organizational development and coordinated services (CYS; AR; All).

**Performance Measures**

| Expected Outcomes  | Measures   | Past data  |
|--|--|--|
| Enhanced knowledge management and communication across sectors   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Placeholder</i><sup>†</sup>: Number of front line responders having completed provincial family violence and bullying training.</li> </ul>   | N/A  |
| Enhanced community capacity  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Placeholder</i>: Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Evaluation Framework (under development) will include a measure of community capacity for each of the CCR (community coordination and victim supports) projects.</li> </ul>  | N/A  |
| Improved access to safety, services and supports for children, families, and individuals affected by family violence and bullying. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of calls to the Family Violence Information Line 310-1818<br/>(Source: As reported by Support Network and Distress Centre)</li> <li>Number of calls to the Alberta Prevention of Bullying Helpline 1-888-456-2323<br/>(Source: As reported by Edmonton Crisis Unit)</li> <li>Number of visits<sup>‡</sup> to <a href="http://www.familyviolence.alberta.ca">www.familyviolence.alberta.ca</a><br/>(Source: ACYS Website Editor Statistics)</li> <li>Number of visits<sup>‡</sup> to <a href="http://www.bullyfreealberta.ca">www.bullyfreealberta.ca</a><br/>(Source: ACYS Website Editor Statistics)</li> <li>Number of visits<sup>‡</sup> to <a href="http://www.teamheroes.ca">www.teamheroes.ca</a><br/>(Source: ACYS Website Editor Statistics)</li> <li>Number of visits<sup>‡</sup> to <a href="http://www.b-free.ca">www.b-free.ca</a><br/>(Source: ACYS Website Editor Statistics)</li> </ul> | <p>2006-07 – 412<br/>2007-08 – 1,213<br/>2008-09 – 2,407</p> <p>2006-07 – 333<br/>2007-08 – 450<br/>2008-09 - 372</p> <p>2006-07 – 200,350<br/>2007-08 – 294,204<br/>2008-09 – 84,318</p> <p>2006-07 – 142,946<br/>2007-08 – 217,491<br/>2008-09 – 130,006</p> <p>2006-07 – 1,120,518<br/>2007-08 – 829,154<br/>2008-09 – 172,496</p> <p>2006-07 – 199,598<br/>2007-08 – 153,304<br/>2008-09 – 236,151</p> |

<sup>†</sup> Performance measures were developed in 2009-10 based on existing data sources. In cases where there were no available data sources for a particular outcome (e.g. new programs), a placeholder measure was identified until appropriate data sources are developed.

<sup>‡</sup> In March 2008 the methods for tracking the number of visits to government websites changed.

## KEY ACTION AREA FOUR: SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

KEY ACTION  
AREA FOUR

# 4

### Improve access to the necessary services and supports

#### What it means

The initial focus of this goal is on reducing the impact and incidence of family violence and bullying on all family members. Those fleeing family violence situations need to have safe accommodations, transitional supports and access to community-based services and programs. Research clearly indicates that many children, youth, families and seniors who have undergone the trauma of being victims or witnesses to family violence, require intervention and access to programs and services to remain safe, stabilize and readjust. Counselling services are needed for perpetrators of family violence as research indicates that without intervention, many untreated perpetrators either return to a violent relationship with the same person or will be violent with others. The question of how to best respond to bullying in communities requires a long-term view. Many initiatives are taking place across Alberta, and new strategies to respond to bullying will build on existing work.

#### What it looks like:

Families impacted by family violence have the resources and services they need to live safely in their own homes and communities. Processes are available to ensure that children can have safe visitations with their parents as appropriate. Reduced negative impact for children and family members who experience family violence. Assessment and, where indicated, counselling is provided for perpetrators of family violence. Reduced incidence of family violence and bullying by reducing offending behaviour.

#### Strategies

- 4.1 Support implementation of the Provincial Family Violence Program in communities with domestic violence courts (CYS; HW; AHS; JAG; SGPS).
- 4.2 Expand culturally responsive programming and supports to Aboriginal and immigrant families and communities affected by family violence, in support of Alberta's Safe Communities Initiative (CYS; AR; HW; AHS; ED; EI; JAG; SGPS).
- 4.3 Enhance coordination among government departments and community agencies to continue to provide increased access to safe homes and specialized services and supports for families affected by family violence, in alignment with the Province's 10-year plan to address homelessness (HUA; CYS; All).
- 4.4 Monitor implementation of risk assessment and management strategies in assisting with effective responses from front-line responders including police, crown, courts and community corrections, child intervention, health, education, and community (CYS; HW; AHS; JAG; SGPS).
- 4.5 Monitor implementation of provincial safe visitation initiative, including approved evaluation recommendations and expanding availability and access to safe visitation services and supports (CYS; JAG).
- 4.6 Support Alberta's sexual assault centres in providing specialized services and supports to people who have been victimized by sexual violence within families (CYS; All).
- 4.7 Work with partnering ministries, police services and community partners to support operation of the Integrated Risk and Threat Assessment Centre (I-TRAC), formerly the Alberta Relationship Threat Assessment and Management Initiative (ARTAMI) to enhance victim safety and reduce family violence and stalking related injuries and deaths (SGPS; JAG; CYS).

**Performance Measures**

| Expected Outcomes   | Measures  | Past data  |
|---|---|--|
| Individuals and families have increased awareness of services and supports in their community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent of youth who have heard of prevention of bullying resources</li> </ul> (Source: Prevention of Bullying Strategy classroom questionnaire)   | Alberta Prevention of Bullying Helpline<br>2007 – 28.2%<br>2008 – 34.0%<br>(Alberta data) <hr/> S-Team Heroes Website<br>2007 – 10.2%<br>2008 – 11.7%<br>(Alberta data) <hr/> B-Free Website<br>2007 – 7.1%<br>2008 – 9.2%<br>(Alberta data) |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent of Albertans who cannot identify sources of information or support for family violence victims.</li> </ul> (Source: Albertans' Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying surveys)  | 2005 – 5%<br>2008 – 5%<br>2010 – 7%<br>(Alberta data)  |
| Improved services including an enhanced justice response                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Placeholder<sup>§</sup></i>: Number of referrals to provincially-funded counselling for mandated offenders programs from Provincial Courts.</li> </ul> (Source: Alberta Health Services)  | N/A  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of adults staying at government funded women's emergency shelters who report that they are better able to keep themselves and the children under their care safer from abuse.</li> </ul> (Source: Women's Emergency Shelter Outcomes Exit Survey) | 2007-08 – 96.1 %<br>(Alberta data)   |

<sup>§</sup> Performance measures were developed in 2009-10 based on existing data sources. In cases where there were no available data sources for a particular outcome (e.g. new programs), a placeholder measure was identified until appropriate data sources are developed.

| Expected Outcomes   | Measures   | Past data  |
|---|--|--|
| Individuals and families have increased access to services and supports they need in their community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Placeholder</i>: Median wait times to access provincially-funded counselling for mandated offenders programs.</li> </ul> (Source: Alberta Health Services) | N/A  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of women and children who were resident in Alberta government funded women's shelters.</li> </ul> (Source: Women's Shelter Information System)         | 2007-08 – 5,931 women and 4,718 children<br>(Alberta data) |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of individuals who receive transitional supports.</li> </ul> (Source: Employment and Immigration, Pay History)   | 2006-07 – 4,310<br>2007-08 – 4,421<br>(Alberta data)       |

# KEY ACTION AREA FIVE: ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH IMPROVED OUTCOMES

KEY ACTION  
AREA FIVE

## 5 Ensure clear accountability to improved outcomes for individuals, families and communities impacted by family violence and bullying

### What it means

Individuals, families, communities and government all share in the accountability to achieving improved outcomes for individuals, families and communities impacted by family violence and bullying. Planning and decision-making will focus on the best and most current evidence and ensure effective use of all available resources.

#### What it looks like:

Evidence-based approaches to family violence and bullying will guide effective planning, program design and form policy decisions. All strategies implemented in the Strategy for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying will include a balance of support to victims and will ensure individuals involved in family violence and bullying behaviours are held accountable for their actions. Strategies undertaken to prevent and respond to family violence and bullying will be measured in improved outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

### Strategies

- 5.1 Develop a family violence and bullying research agenda, building on international, national and provincial family violence and bullying research partnerships, to focus on developing and improving programs and services based on effective practices and evidence-based research. (CYS; All).
- 5.2 Develop annual cross-ministry reporting mechanisms for government that identifies family violence and bullying prevention programs and initiatives and tracks progress and results of the Strategy for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying (All).
- 5.3 Implement a performance measurement framework for the Strategy for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying as a way of tracking outcomes and progress over the long-term (CYS; AR; ED; EI; HW; AHS).
- 5.4 Support Safe Communities performance measurement framework and evaluation plan development by providing family violence and bullying research findings, performance measures and evaluation data (CYS; HW; AHS).

### Performance

#### Measures

| Expected Outcomes   | Measures   | Past data                           |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Evidence-based approaches to family violence and bullying which guide effective planning, program design and inform policy decisions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent of prevention of family violence and bullying initiatives:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. informed by research</li> <li>b. with completed evaluations</li> </ol> </li> </ul> | 2008-09<br><br>a. 82%<br><br>b. 53% |

| Expected Outcomes  | Measures   | Past data  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>An Alberta where children and families are free from family violence and bullying</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spousal assaults reported to police</li> </ul> <p>(Source: As reported in the <i>Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile</i> series from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics)</p> | <p>2006- 4,447 reports (Alberta data)</p> <p>2007– 4,707 reports (Alberta data)</p>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incidence of spousal assault</li> </ul> <p>(Source: As reported in the <i>Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile</i> series from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics)</p>                  | <p>1999 –11% of women and 9% of men (Alberta data)</p> <p>2004 – 10% of women and 7% of men (Alberta data)</p>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity of violence experienced by gender</li> </ul> <p>(Source: As reported in the <i>Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile</i> series from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics)</p>    | <p>2004 – Severity data for male and female victims of spousal assault (Canadian data)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Threatened, threw something (11% of women; 15% of men)</li> <li>- Pushed, shoved, slapped (40% of female victims; 34% of male victims)</li> <li>- Kicked, bit, hit, hit with something (10% of female victims; 34% of male victims)</li> <li>- Beaten, choked, used a gun/knife, sexually assaulted (39% of female victims; 16% of male victims).</li> </ul> |

| Expected Outcomes | Measures   | Past data   |
|-------------------|--|---|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spousal and intimate partner homicides and rates</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, January 2010 extraction)</p> | <p>Number of spousal and intimate partner homicides (Alberta data)</p> <p>1998 – 12</p> <p>1999 – 6</p> <p>2000 – 8</p> <p>2001 – 11</p> <p>2002 – 16</p> <p>2003 – 10</p> <p>2004 – 10</p> <p>2005 – 16</p> <p>2006 – 10</p> <p>2007 – 6</p> <p>2008 - 14</p> <hr/> <p>Rate per million spouses (Alberta data)</p> <p>1998 – 3 men, 13 women</p> <p>1999 – 1 men, 6 women</p> <p>2000 – 4 men, 6 women</p> <p>2001 – 5 men, 9 women</p> <p>2002 – 6 men, 13 women</p> <p>2003 – 2.4 men, 8.2 women</p> <p>2004 – 2 men, 9 women</p> <p>2005 – 6 men, 12 women</p> <p>2006 – 4 men, 7 women</p> <p>2007 – 1 men, 5 women</p> <p>2008 – 6 men, 8 women</p> |

## APPENDIX A – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Statistics can only provide a partial picture of the impact of family violence and bullying on society. Statistics are useful in helping to identify the scope of this complex societal issue and the magnitude of the economic and individual costs. Statistics also provide opportunities to examine data in greater detail to help inform policy and program development.

- **Between 2001 and 2006, 103,700 immigrants (i.e. 9.3 per cent of new immigrants to Canada) settled in Alberta. This is a 6.9 per cent increase from the previous census in 2001. A higher proportion of recent immigrants live in urban areas.**<sup>7</sup>
- **In 2006, 16 per cent of Canada's Aboriginal population lived in Alberta. Edmonton is home to the second highest Aboriginal population of all Canadian cities. There are 52,000 Aboriginal people in Edmonton accounting for five per cent of the city's population.**<sup>8</sup>

**Significance:** Alberta's rapid population growth will increase the significance of culturally appropriate specialized approaches to prevent and respond to family violence in Aboriginal and immigrant communities. The fast growth rate, urbanization, and mobility of the Aboriginal and immigrant populations highlights the need to continue to involve these communities in the policy-making process, and to ensure programs are culturally sensitive and accessible. As well, Alberta's cities will increasingly become hubs for coordinated, collaborative community responses to family violence and bullying for Aboriginal and immigrant groups.

- **Between 1999 and 2004, social services, including counselling, crisis centres, family centres, shelters, victim services, and women and men's centres, were accessed by 47 per cent of female victims and 17 per cent of male victims in Canada. Only 36 per cent of female victims and 17 per cent of male victims reported the abuse to police.**<sup>9</sup>

**Significance:** Family violence is preventable and requires shared leadership from government, communities, and individuals. Family, friends and community members play a significant role in supporting victims of violence. Public awareness activities are supported with the 24-hour information line, website and print resources; and public education and training for community members. The Community Incentive Fund Program has helped local communities to take action.

- **Almost half of violent incidents against seniors (both family and non-family violence) go unreported to police.**<sup>10</sup> In 2007 the rate of police-reported family violence against seniors was 48 incidents per 100,000. Senior women were more likely to report incidents of family violence than senior men (52 versus 43 victims per 100,000).<sup>11</sup>

**Significance:** Low reporting rates among individuals over the age of 65 years can be explained in part by their increased dependence on family and fear of losing support, increased isolation, and increased likelihood of dementia or other chronic diseases.

Public awareness efforts and elder abuse strategies developed with government, service providers, caregivers, private sector organizations and community members will play a pivotal role in helping family, friends and community members to identify and respond to older victims of violence.

- **In 2007-08, 5,931 women and 4,718 children were resident in Alberta's government-funded women's shelters.**<sup>12</sup>

**Significance:** With over 10,000 abused women and their children seeking emergency shelter services annually, and family members who are accessing support to address sexual violence continuing to increase, sustained resources will be needed in these programs; along with community-based strategies to effectively maintain or transition victims of violence and their children safely into their homes, schools, workplaces and communities.

- **A recent survey of Alberta children and youth found that 50 per cent had been bullied in the past school year.**<sup>13</sup>
- **A Calgary study of junior high students found that 69 per cent had heard of incidents of online bullying, 21 per cent were targets, and 25 per cent admitted to bullying others online.**<sup>14</sup>

**Significance:** Bullying continues to be a prominent aspect of youths' lives. As the Internet becomes an increasingly significant part of the youths' social lives, cyberbullying becomes more prevalent. The Internet will prove to be both a challenge and a tool for change in the next stages of Alberta's Bullying Prevention Strategy.

- **Studies are showing that children of younger ages are showing problem behavior and girls are more involved in delinquent and gang-related behavior and sexual exploitation than before.**<sup>15</sup>
- **A recent study of Calgary youth offenders found that a high proportion of youth labeled chronic offenders and serious habitual offenders had a history of family violence (74 per cent and 68 per cent respectively).**<sup>16</sup>

**Significance:** Safe families are linked to crime reduction. The continued efforts to prevent family violence will support the Safe Communities Initiative.

- **Increased cost to social, health, and criminal justice costs for violence against women in Canada is estimated at over \$4 billion annually.**<sup>17</sup>

**Significance:** Family violence is an issue that impacts multiple systems. A cross-sectoral response is necessary to coordinate policies, programs and services and to remove accessibility barriers.

- **A 2010 survey found that the Albertans surveyed agreed with the following:**<sup>18</sup>

|   | Family Violence | Bullying |
|---|-----------------|----------|
| I have a personal responsibility to reduce this in my community.    | 86%             | 88%      |
| Preventing this should be a priority for my community.              | 90%             | 87%      |
| Preventing this should be a priority for the provincial government. | 87%             | 79%      |

**Significance:** These data reinforce that family violence and bullying is everyone's business. They suggest public support for the development of coordinated, collaborative, community responses to family violence from prevention to outreach and follow-up services. No single entity, whether it is individuals, communities, or government, can solve the problems of family violence and bullying alone.

---

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. (2006). *Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends 2006*. (Catalogue no. 85-570-XIE). Ottawa: Author. Retrieved November 3, 2008 from <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/85-570-XIE/85-570-XIE2006001.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> MacLaurin, B., Trocmé, N., Fallon, B., McCormack, M., Pitman, L., Forest, N., et al (2005). *Alberta incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect, AIS-2003: Major Findings*, University of Calgary: Calgary.

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. (2006). *Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends 2006*. (Catalogue no. 85-570-XIE). Ottawa: Author. Retrieved November 3, 2008 from <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/85-570-XIE/85-570-XIE2006001.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Alberta Education. Accountability and Reporting. System Improvement Group (2009, October). *Prevention of Bullying Strategy: Stage 4 Summative Evaluation – Interim Update with 2009 Data Draft Report*. Edmonton: Author.

<sup>5</sup> McRae, L., Bertrand, L. D., Paetsch, J. J., & Hornick, J. P. (2008). *A profile of youth offenders in Calgary: An interim report*. Calgary: Canadian Research Institute for Law and Family.

<sup>6</sup> Ipsos Reid (2010). *Alberta Children and Youth Services: Albertans' Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying Survey 2010: Final report*. Calgary: Author.

#### Appendix A – Opportunities and Challenges

<sup>7</sup> Statistics Canada (2008). *Canadian Social Trends: Immigration in Canada: Portrait of the foreign-born population, 2006 Census (Catalogue no. 11-008-X)*. Ministry of Industry: Ottawa.

<sup>8</sup> Statistics Canada (2008). *Aboriginal peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Métis, and First Nations, 2006 Census*. Minister of Industry: Ottawa. Retrieved May 28, 2008 from <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/analysis/aboriginal/pdf/97-558-XIE2006001.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Statistics Canada. (2006). *Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends 2006*. (Catalogue no. 85-570-XIE). Ottawa: Author. Retrieved November 3, 2008 from <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/85-570-XIE/85-570-XIE2006001.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Ogrodnik, L. (Ed.). (2006). *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile 2006*. (Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE). Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Retrieved November 3, 2008 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-224-x/85-224-x2006000-eng.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Vaillancourt, R. (2009, October). Fact-sheet – Police-reported family violence against older adults. In *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile 2009*. (Catalogue no. 85-224-X). Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Retrieved December 8, 2009 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-224-x/85-224-x2009000-eng.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Alberta Children and Youth Services. Retrieved from the Women's Shelter Information System in March 2009

<sup>13</sup> Alberta Education. Accountability and Reporting. System Improvement Group (2009, October). *Prevention of Bullying Strategy: Stage 4 Summative Evaluation – Interim Update with 2009 Data Draft Report*. Edmonton: Author.

<sup>14</sup> Beran, T., and Li, Q. (2005). Cyber-harassment: A study of a new method for an old behaviour. *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, 32(3), 265-277.

<sup>15</sup> A. Ambert. *The Rise in the Number of Children and Adolescents Who Exhibit Problematic Behaviors: Multiple Cause*. Ottawa: The Vanier Institute for Family, 2007, <http://www.vifamily.ca/library/ctf/behavior.html>.

<sup>16</sup> McRae, L., Bertrand, L. D., Paetsch, J. J., & Hornick, J. P. (2008). *A profile of youth offenders in Calgary: An interim report*. Calgary: Canadian Research Institute for Law and Family.

<sup>17</sup> Greaves, L., Hankivsky, O., & Kingston-Riechers, J. (1995). *Selected estimates of the costs of violence against women*. London: Status of Women Canada, Women's Program.

<sup>18</sup> Ipsos Reid (2010). *Alberta Children and Youth Services: Albertans' Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying Survey 2010: Final report*. Calgary: Author.