

Toronto Population Health Status Indicators Update

Date: February 6, 2026

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report responds to direction from the Board of Health to review the feasibility of adding an Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) indicator to the Population Health Status Indicators (PHSI) dashboard.

IPV is a significant societal issue that has direct and ongoing impacts on victims, survivors, and families, and on overall community safety in Toronto. IPV data that is accessible and publicly shared to understand its impacts can inform prevention efforts and support evidence-based decision making.

Toronto Public Health (TPH) reports on a series of PHSIs to support its mission to reduce health inequities, improve population health and to meet the requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards. PHSIs summarize data used to measure health outcomes and behaviours at a population level.

In fall 2025, the Toronto Police Service released an interactive and publicly accessible dashboard with IPV and family violence data. The Toronto Police Service's [Intimate Partner and Family Violence dashboard](#) visualizes trends and distributions across time and geography.

Canada-wide research indicates that the majority of people who had experienced IPV did not report it to the police¹, which means that police-reported data underestimate the true prevalence of IPV. TPH reviewed other possible data sets and found the data limited and unsuitable for the PHSI dashboard. The newly launched Toronto Police Service dashboard provides the best available Toronto-specific IPV data available at this time.

The PHSI dashboard is not intended to replicate data already available through other City of Toronto resources. To support immediate and seamless access to the Toronto

1 Conroy, S. 2021. Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019. Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Police Service dashboard, the PHSI dashboard's injury section includes a reference and direct link to the Toronto Police Service's Intimate Partner and Family Violence dashboard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with the recommendation of this report in the current and future years.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

On July 7, 2025, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to work with the Toronto Police Service, Social Development, People and Equity and frontline serving agencies on the feasibility of adding an Intimate Partner Violence indicator as a part of the Population Health Status Indicator dashboard and report back to the Board of Health with an update in the first quarter of 2026 as part of Recommendation 3 in item HL26.3 - Toronto Population Health Status Indicators: A Tool to Advance Health Equity. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.HL26.3>

COMMENTS

Population Health Status Indicators

Population Health Status Indicators (PHSIs) summarize data used to measure health outcomes and behaviours at a population level and provide an overview of health and well-being over time and across populations.

[The PHSI dashboard](#) was originally launched in 2019 and was refreshed and updated in 2024. The dashboard currently includes over 100 indicators across several public health topics: reproductive and infant health; child and youth health; mental health and substance use; adult health behaviours and risk factors; adult chronic conditions; injury; oral health; and overall health and well-being. Trends are shown over time, by geography, and by available socio-demographic characteristics, which can include age, sex, ethno-racial identity, and income groupings.

Intimate Partner Violence Data

Intimate partner violence (IPV), also known as spousal or domestic violence, is a prevalent form of gender-based violence. It refers to multiple forms of harm caused by a current or former intimate partner or spouse. IPV impacts people of all genders, ages, and socioeconomic, racial, educational, ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds. However, women experience this form of gender-based violence at much higher rates than men, most often perpetrated by men.² Children are also impacted by domestic violence, and this issue will be highlighted in a forthcoming May 2026 Board of Health report on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Police-reported data at the national level show that women are overrepresented among those who experience IPV, including among victims of intimate partner homicides. Despite its severe impacts, most cases of IPV are not reported.³

Publicly shared data help Toronto Public Health (TPH), Toronto Police Service, Social Development, other City divisions and agencies, and community organizations to use a data-driven approach and tailor programs where they are most needed. Building on this foundation, TPH will continue to collaborate with the City's Gender Equity Unit and SafeTO partners in the Social Development division as well as the Toronto Police Service.

Feasibility of adding an IPV indicator to the PHSI dashboard

As part of *HL26.3 Toronto Population Health Status Indicators: A Tool to Advance Health Equity (July 2025)*, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to work with the Toronto Police Service, Social Development, People and Equity and frontline serving agencies on the feasibility of adding an Intimate Partner Violence indicator as a part of the PHSI dashboard and report back to the Board of Health with an update in the first quarter of 2026.

Toronto IPV data are limited

The PHSI dashboard is restricted to indicators supported by population-level surveillance data that are systematically and regularly collected, and methodologically sound. There are three main population-level surveillance data sources used to examine the extent of IPV:

- 1) Police-reported data, which capture IPV incidents that come to the attention of the police and are typically limited to physical and sexual assaults and homicides. Canada-wide research indicates that the majority of people who had experienced IPV did not report it to the police⁴, which means that these police-reported data underestimate the true prevalence of IPV.

2 Burczycka, Marta. 2019. "Section 2: Police-reported intimate partner violence in Canada, 2018." In *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2018*. Juristat. Statistics Canada no. Catalogue 85-002-X.

3 Conroy, S. 2021. *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019*. Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

4 Ibid

2) Population survey data, which capture self-reported experiences of IPV and collect information about many different forms of IPV, such as emotional or financial abuse that are not reflected in police-reported data. These surveys also collect socio-demographic information that can help identify groups that are most affected. Statistics Canada conducts the [General Social Survey– Canadians' Safety \(Victimization\)](#) and the [Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces](#), but these surveys are not specifically designed to collect municipal-level data. Neither survey provides timely nor ongoing data, as the General Social Survey last released data in 2015, and the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces last released data in 2019.

3) Health-care utilization data capture emergency department visits and hospitalizations due to IPV. However, these data only represent a small subset of overall IPV experiences, resulting in an underestimation of the true prevalence of IPV because many people experiencing IPV may not seek health care in a hospital. Even when they do, IPV may not be readily identifiable from clinical documentation.

Of these three data sources, the police-reported data represent the best available IPV data for Toronto at this time.

Newly released Toronto Police Service's Intimate Partner and Family Violence dashboard

In fall 2025, the Toronto Police Service released an interactive and publicly accessible [dashboard](#) with IPV and family violence data. The Toronto Police Service's Intimate Partner and Family Violence dashboard visualizes trends and distributions across time and geography, including by police division and neighbourhood.

Given that the Toronto Police Service already provides the best available police-reported IPV data for Toronto, TPH does not recommend duplicating this information on the PHSI dashboard because it is not intended to replicate data already available through other City of Toronto resources. Instead, TPH directs users to the Toronto Police Service dashboard to ensure that residents and community organizations can easily access the best available data on this topic.

The landing page of the PHSI dashboard's [injury section](#) has been updated to include a link to the Toronto Police Service's Intimate Partner and Family Violence dashboard. The electronic link provides immediate and seamless access to the best available resource, avoids duplication, and promotes consistency in referenced indicators across the City of Toronto.

Strategic Impact

This item advances Strategic Plan Priority 4 "Advocate to advance health equity", specifically the three objectives under this priority:

- a. Assess and report on health inequities and population health needs.
- b. Collaborate with partners across multiple sectors to address local health needs.
- c. Share evidence, advocate, and collaborate to influence actions that impact population health.

CONTACT

Dr. Allison Chris, Acting Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Director of Decision Support, Surveillance and Immunization, 416-338-7088, allison.chris@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Dr. Michelle Murti
Medical Officer of Health