

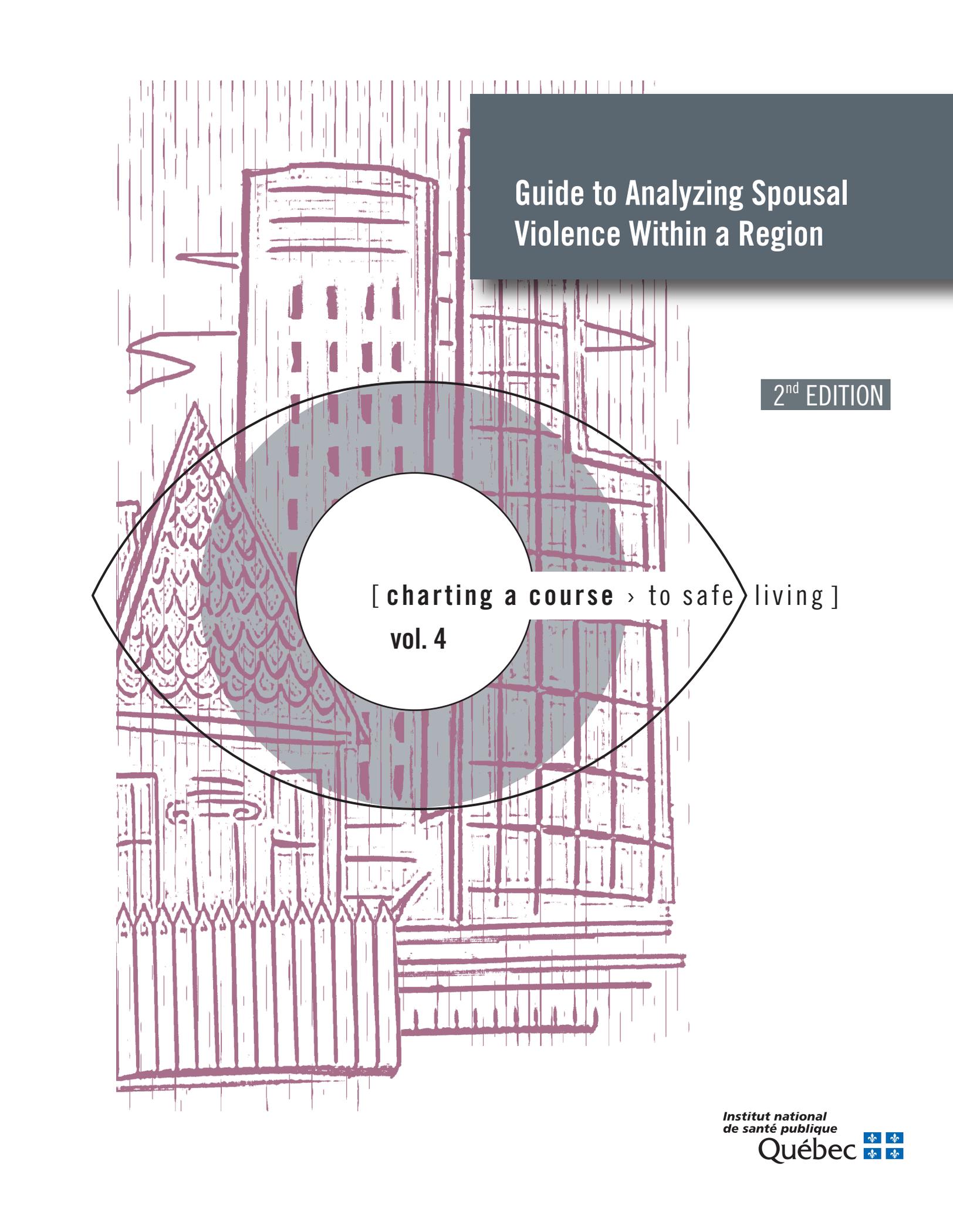


# Guide to Analyzing Spousal Violence Within a Region

2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION

[ charting a course › to safe living ]  
vol. 4





# Guide to Analyzing Spousal Violence Within a Region

2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION

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vol. 4

Institut national  
de santé publique

Québec 

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## The [ charting a course > to safe living ] collection

This document is part of a collection prepared to foster and support safety promotion in life settings. Volumes 4 to 12 are the main components of a safety diagnosis tool kit developed for local communities.

To date, the following volumes have been compiled for this collection:

*Please note that the following list of volumes in the [charting a course to safe living] collection is different from the one provided in volumes 6, 10, 11 12 and 13, which were published prior to 2011.*

### VOLUME 1

Renée Levaque, Laurence Le Hénaff and Pierre Maurice. *Formation pour l'amélioration de la sécurité et la prévention de la criminalité à l'intention des collectivités locales*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2006.

### VOLUME 2

Josephina Alvarez. *Réalisation d'un diagnostic de sécurité. Trousse à l'intention des collectivités locales – Les diagnostics locaux de sécurité: une étude comparée pour mieux comprendre et mieux agir*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2006.

### VOLUME 3

Julie Laforest. *Indicateurs de vulnérabilité associés à la sécurité d'un territoire*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2007.

### VOLUME 4

Dominique Gagné, Julie Laforest and Pierre Maurice. *Guide to Analyzing Spousal Violence Within a Region - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2017.

### VOLUME 5

Louise Marie Bouchard, Monique Rainville, Pierre Maurice et Dominique Gagné. *Enquête sur la sécurité des personnes et la victimation dans les milieux de vie – Questionnaire et mode d'emploi incluant un outil informatique pour faciliter la saisie, le traitement et l'analyse des données*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2015.

### VOLUME 6

Louise Marie Bouchard, Pierre Maurice and Monique Rainville. *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Safety Diagnosis Handbook*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2011.

## **VOLUME 7**

Louise Marie Bouchard, Pierre Maurice, Daniel Rochette and Robert Lavertue. *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Guide to Developing a General Portrait of Life Settings*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2011.

## **VOLUME 8**

Louise Motard. *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Guide to Analysing Crime Using Official Statistics – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2012.

## **VOLUME 9**

Catherine Goulet-Cloutier, Louise Marie Bouchard and Pierre Maurice. *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Guide to Conducting Surveys on Personal Safety in Life Settings*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2012.

## **VOLUME 10**

Monique Rainville, Louise Marie Bouchard and Pierre Maurice. *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Guide to Organizing Focus Groups – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2012.

## **VOLUME 11**

Julie Laforest, Louise Marie Bouchard and Pierre Maurice. *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Guide to Organizing Semi-Structured Interviews With Key Informants – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2012.

## **VOLUME 12**

Louise Marie Bouchard, Pierre Maurice and Monique Rainville. *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Guide to Direct Observation of Community Safety – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2011.

## **VOLUME 13**

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## About this guide

### WHAT IT ALLOWS YOU TO DO

This guide is designed to help you do an assessment of spousal violence within a region. It proposes a systematic procedure to 1) prepare a portrait of the scope of spousal violence within the study area on the basis of available data, 2) better understand the distribution of spousal violence in that area, 3) identify

**In the area of spousal violence, primary prevention “means reducing the number of new instances of intimate partner and sexual violence by addressing the factors that make the first-time perpetration of such violence more likely to occur. Primary prevention therefore relies on identifying the “upstream” determinants and then taking action to address these.”<sup>1</sup>**

which groups are most affected, and 4) gain a better grasp of the factors potentially associated with the problem. The goal is to help communities obtain a more in-depth understanding of spousal violence as it is experienced in a particular area and plan effective preventive interventions. The guide also provides a list of interventions to prevent spousal violence before it occurs, which have been implemented in Québec and evaluated

Basically, this guide is a decision-making tool that can be used on a voluntary basis depending on the situation in the area under study. It is intended for a range of individuals

and groups working in the health and social services network, community settings, education, public safety, justice, and municipal affairs. It is also intended for local or regional consultative bodies.

### DEFINITION OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

The Québec government has adopted the *Policy on Intervention in Conjugal Violence: Preventing, Detecting and Ending Conjugal Violence*. This policy is based on nine guidelines and provides a definition of spousal violence.<sup>2</sup>

The policy describes spousal violence as a form of violence against women in a context of gender inequality and recognizes that spousal violence is perpetrated for the most part against women. Although spousal violence is experienced by all social groups and in all communities, certain groups are identified by the policy as being potentially associated with greater vulnerability to such violence, namely, the elderly, people with disabilities, Indigenous people, immigrants or members of ethnocultural minority communities, gay and lesbian people and abused men.

**“Spousal violence is characterized by a series of repetitive acts, usually of increasing frequency and intensity... Spousal violence includes psychological, verbal, physical and sexual abuse as well as acts of economic domination. It is not the result of a loss of control; on the contrary, it is a means chosen to dominate another person and assert power over that person. Spousal violence may be experienced in a marital, extramarital or dating relationship at any age in life.”<sup>3</sup>**  
[Translation]

1. World Health Organization and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2010). *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence*. Geneva: World Health Organization, p. 34.
2. Gouvernement du Québec (1995). *Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale. Prévenir, dépister, contrer la violence conjugale*. Gouvernement du Québec, p. 30. Given that the English version of the policy presents only the highlights, readers are referred to the original French version.
3. Gouvernement du Québec (1995). *Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale. Prévenir, dépister, contrer la violence conjugale*. Gouvernement du Québec, p. 23. Given that the English version of the policy presents only the highlights, readers are referred to the original French version.

Spousal violence is not defined specifically in the *Criminal Code*. Nor is it included in the list of offences mentioned therein. Nevertheless, certain acts committed in an intimate or spousal relationship, whether current or past, constitute criminal offences and can lead to legal action. These offences involve mainly physical violence (sexual assault, assault, homicide, etc.) and certain forms of psychological violence (criminal harassment, threats, indecent or harassing telephone calls and intimidation).<sup>4</sup>

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4. Gouvernement du Québec (1995). *Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale. Prévenir, dépister, contrer la violence conjugale*. Gouvernement du Québec, p. 18. Given that the English version of the policy presents only the highlights, readers are referred to the original French version.

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# Organization of the guide

THIS GUIDE HAS FIVE SECTIONS.

The first section provides an overview of the steps involved in doing an assessment of spousal violence in a region and identifying the preventive interventions that need to be implemented.

1  
OVERVIEW

The second section identifies the various conditions that must be created before you can embark on the assessment procedure.

2  
CONDITIONS

The third section explains how to plan the assessment procedure.

3  
PLANNING

The fourth section explains how to prepare a statistical portrait of spousal violence as well as a portrait of the factors potentially associated with such violence. It also discusses the process of consulting with key informants in order to supplement the information gathered and validate the findings. These steps will lead to an assessment of spousal violence in the area under study.

4  
IMPLEMENTATION

The fifth section explains how to build on the assessment in order to identify the preventive interventions that need to be implemented.

5  
BUILD ON THE  
ASSESSMENT

Lastly, a number of tools that can be used during the different steps are presented in the appendices.

APPENDICES



## Assessment procedure at a glance

This guide to analyzing spousal violence within a region proposes a procedure designed to foster spousal violence prevention interventions tailored to the specific realities of the area concerned. It first involves doing an assessment of spousal violence in the study area to obtain a more in-depth understanding of the situation. It then consists in identifying necessary preventive interventions based on the priorities highlighted by the assessment with a view to guiding the planning of such interventions. Figure 1 summarizes each of the steps involved in the procedure

**Figure 1** Assessment procedure: step by step

WHAT YOU NEED FOR EACH STEP	STEP	OUTCOME
A desire to prevent spousal violence or to improve the situation in the area under study	<b>CREATE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An intersectoral group concerned about spousal violence</li> <li>● A shared vision of spousal violence</li> <li>● A shared understanding of the context in which the procedure is being carried out</li> <li>● Clearly defined operating rules</li> </ul>
An intersectoral group concerned about spousal violence A shared vision of spousal violence A shared understanding of the context in which the procedure is being carried out Clearly defined operating rules	<b>PLAN THE ASSESSMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A well-defined study area</li> <li>● A good understanding of the information that has to be gathered</li> <li>● A timetable and the resources needed to gather, analyze and validate the information</li> </ul>
A well-defined study area A good understanding of the information that has to be gathered A timetable and the resources needed to gather, analyze and validate the information	<b>CONDUCT THE ASSESSMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An assessment of spousal violence in the study area</li> </ul>
An assessment of spousal violence in the study area	<b>BUILD ON THE ASSESSMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Guidelines for preventive interventions</li> </ul>



## Create the necessary conditions

Certain conditions must be created beforehand to properly implement the assessment procedure proposed in this guide. To that end, you must **bring together individuals and groups concerned** about spousal violence in your study area, **adopt a shared vision** of this type of violence, **clarify the context** in which the procedure is being carried out, **define operating rules** and **foster a climate** conducive to partnership.

### BRING TOGETHER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS CONCERNED ABOUT SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

To foster a better interpretation of the facts, the procedure proposed in this guide calls for an intersectoral group made up of individuals and groups concerned about spousal violence in the area under study. The role that the group or some of its members will play may vary depending on your needs and the operating rules that will be defined.

We suggest that you draw up a short list of groups or bodies that are active at different levels in the study area (shelters, victims' assistance centres, organizations for men with violent behaviour, health and social services institutions, police forces, etc.) and that deal with different clientele (children, young people, women, men, the elderly, etc.). It is not always necessary to create a new working group. An already existing body can oversee the procedure or incorporate it into its work through a regional issue table on spousal violence, for example.

It is preferable to limit the size of the group so that the procedure does not become unwieldy. However, it is important that the various groups or bodies concerned about spousal violence in the study area be represented. It is also important that you not overlook a group or body because it has a different perspective from that of other potential members.

### ADOPT A SHARED VISION OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

It is important to have a shared vision of spousal violence. This will make it possible to lay common foundations that can serve as a framework for discussion throughout the procedure. The definition set out by the Government of Québec and provided in the section “About this guide” may serve as a point of departure for discussions.

That said, it is not absolutely essential to have one vision approved by all at the end of the reflection process. In cases where there are certain major differences, it is important to respect those differences and to view them as perspectives that may affect the participation or arguments of an individual or group. Nevertheless, the definition of spousal violence that is eventually adopted must contain certain basic elements, such as the forms of violence contemplated (physical, sexual, etc.), the concept of power or control and the cycle of violence.

## **CLARIFY THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE PROCEDURE IS BEING CARRIED OUT**

Before you start to plan the procedure proposed in this guide, it is important to ensure that the different partners involved have a shared understanding of the context in which the procedure is being carried out. For instance, you may decide to do an assessment of spousal violence in your area because the problem is worrisome to numerous partners and you would like to better define its characteristics and gain a better understanding of it. You may also decide to go ahead with such an assessment because funding opportunities are available in primary prevention of spousal violence, various partners in the study area are willing to assist you with an initiative that you have wanted to take for a long time, or you have been asked to do an assessment of spousal violence by a local authority. In the latter case, it is important to understand the expectations of the authority concerned, to inform it about the progress of your work, and to consult it if necessary.

## **DEFINE OPERATING RULES**

Harmony in a group is usually the result of transparent processes as well as known and accepted operating rules. Therefore, it is important from the outset to determine who will actively participate in implementing the procedure, who will coordinate the various activities and what the main operating rules will be. For example, you may ask a committee to oversee the procedure as a whole. This committee may then appoint someone to be in charge of planning and coordinating the activities involved in conducting the assessment and identifying the preventive interventions that need to be implemented. Regardless of how you decide to proceed, you must ensure that the lines of responsibility are clearly set out and known to everyone involved.

## **FOSTER A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO PARTNERSHIP**

In order to foster harmony among the different people in a group, you have to create a climate that is conducive to partnership. To that end, you must promote a certain number of values, including:

- Respect for differences and expertise, in order to build on the strengths of all the people involved.
- Openness to different perspectives, in order to take diverse interests into account more effectively.
- Honesty and transparency, in order to create a climate of trust and connection among the members of the group.

## Plan the assessment

Once the necessary conditions have been created, it is time to plan the assessment of spousal violence in the study area. You must first **clearly define the study area, obtain a good understanding of the information that has to be gathered, plan the collection, analysis and validation** of the information, and **draw up a timetable and provide the necessary resources**.

The intersectoral group of individuals or groups concerned about spousal violence in the study area, which you set up or appointed during the previous step, can be kept informed or asked to participate, if necessary, throughout the planning phase, in accordance with your preestablished operating rules.

### CLEARLY DEFINE THE STUDY AREA

First of all, it is important to define the area that you are going to study. To that end, you must take into account the availability of data that will enable you to prepare a statistical portrait of spousal violence in that area as well as a portrait of the factors potentially associated with such violence.

Statistics related to offences committed in a spousal context can be obtained from the ministère de la Sécurité publique (MSP). They are available by regional county municipality (RCM) and administrative region and for Québec as a whole. In certain cases indicated on the statistics request form provided in Appendix 1, statistics related to offences committed in a spousal context are available for individual census metropolitan areas (CMAs) or municipalities.

Data useful for preparing a portrait of the factors potentially associated with spousal violence in a particular area may be available by administrative region and for Québec as a whole. It may not be possible for you to obtain data for territorial entities smaller than administrative regions.

### OBTAIN A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE INFORMATION THAT HAS TO BE GATHERED

Before you start to plan the data collection process, you must ensure that you have a good understanding of the information that has to be gathered in order to implement the procedure proposed in this guide. This will prevent you from being swamped with unnecessary information.

You will have to collect information that will enable you to answer the following questions:

1. What is the scope of spousal violence in the study area (number and type of offences reported, change over time, age and gender of the victims and persons accused of spousal violence) and how is it distributed over that area?
2. What factors are associated with spousal violence in the study area and how does the area differ from Québec as a whole with regard to those factors?
3. Which target groups should be given priority when it comes to primary prevention?
4. Which preventive interventions should be implemented in the study area based on the context, target groups and associated factors?

You will need to consult various information sources in order to answer these questions. These sources are indicated in Table 1.

**Table 1. Sources to be consulted in order to gather the information needed to implement the proposed procedure**

Information	Information sources	Questions			
		1	2	3	4
Statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context	Ministère de la Sécurité publique	●		●	
Factors associated with spousal violence	Institut national de santé publique du Québec		●		
	Institut de la statistique du Québec		●		
Supplementary information and validation	Key informants	●	●	●	●

### Statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context

Statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context take into account crimes of this type that have been reported to the police or are known to the police and that have been recorded in official files. Such statistics are the only data on spousal violence gathered annually throughout Québec that can be used for inter-regional and inter-territorial comparisons.

Therefore, you must bear in mind that these police statistics alone cannot provide an accurate portrait of the problem of spousal violence. Certain forms of violence do not necessarily constitute criminal offences and are thus not systematically compiled in MSP statistics. For example, certain forms of verbal abuse, such as denigrating a partner’s tastes and abilities, financial abuse, such as controlling how a partner spends his or her money and not allowing a partner to participate in financial decisions, and psychological abuse, such as putting a partner down or socially isolating him or her, are not criminal offences. Moreover, not all criminal offences committed in a spousal context are necessarily reported to the police. According to a Canadian survey, only 20% of people in Québec who have been a victim of physical or sexual violence committed by a current or former spouse said that they had reported the incident to the police.<sup>5</sup>

Statistics available from the MSP can be used to document the number and type of cases reported (i.e., the nature of the offences) and the change over time (5-10 years), and to analyze the distribution of victims and accused persons by age, gender and type of relationship. To make it easier to request this type of information, a statistics request form has been developed in collaboration with the MSP (Appendix 1).

### Factors associated with spousal violence

Spousal violence is influenced by a combination of factors, including societal factors (e.g., gender inequality and traditional social norms regarding gender roles), community factors (e.g., tolerance within a community towards violence), relationship factors (e.g., family dysfunction) and individual

5. Statistics Canada (2015). *Trends in reporting criminal victimization to police, 1999 to 2009*. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. M. Sinha. Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

factors (e.g., exposure to violence in childhood).<sup>6,7</sup> Therefore, to gain a better understanding of spousal violence within a given area, it is useful to look at the factors associated with this problem in order to determine what distinguishes the most affected zones.

This will make it possible to determine which factors should be acted upon. The purpose of this type of analysis is not to stigmatize individuals or particular groups of people, but to foster preventive interventions that are tailored to the specific realities of the area concerned and that are likely to prevent spousal violence. Such interventions will probably better recognize the specific needs of the different populations affected by spousal violence. Several methodological considerations pertaining to the choice of factors are discussed in Appendix 2, and a list of references for documenting each factor is provided in Appendix 3.

The factors associated with spousal violence in a particular area can be documented with various indicators available through online open access or in response to specific requests. For example, you can consult the Infocentre de santé publique, Santéscope and the report *Santé de la population: portrait d'une richesse collective* [the population's health: a portrait of our collective richness] on the Website of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) (<http://www.inspq.qc.ca>). Supplementary data can also be obtained from the Website of the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) [Québec's institute of statistics] (<http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/>).

### Supplementary information and validation

To supplement, interpret or validate information gathered about statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context and the factors associated with spousal violence in a study area, we suggest that you consult a number of people who, because of their position, activities or responsibilities, are well-acquainted with the problem of spousal violence in the area concerned. This will enable you to gain a more in-depth understanding of the problem, contextualize the information gathered and validate your main observations.

This consultation can be carried out through interviews, either in person or by telephone, or through discussion groups. The choice of people to be consulted must take into account the study area as a whole, all of the client groups and the different activity sectors. The things that should be considered when making your selection are discussed in the section “Collection of supplementary information and validation of portraits”.

## PLAN THE COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND VALIDATION OF THE INFORMATION

To make maximum use of the time and resources at your disposal for carrying out the assessment procedure proposed in this guide, we suggest that you gather, analyze and validate the data in a certain order. This will enable you to minimize the impact of the delays associated with certain steps, especially requesting statistics and planning the consultation process.

Ultimately, it can be a good idea to identify people or groups potentially concerned about spousal violence in order to present them with your findings.

6. Krug, E. G., Dahlberg, L. L., Mercy, J. A., Zwi, A. and Lozano-Ascencio, R. (Eds.). (2002). *World report on violence and health*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

7. World Health Organization and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2010). *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

### **Statistics request form**

In order to acquaint yourself with the type of data produced by the MSP, we suggest that you visit the department's Website (<http://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/>), which contains a number of publications on spousal violence. You can then submit a request to the MSP for statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context in your study area.

Since it usually takes four (4) weeks to process such requests, we recommend that you send in the request form as early in the process as possible. You must fill it out based on your needs and then e-mail it to [dps-statistique@msp.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:dps-statistique@msp.gouv.qc.ca).

### **Extraction of data for documenting associated factors**

You can extract the data needed to analyze factors associated with spousal violence by consulting various sources, such as the Infocentre de santé publique, Santéscope and *Santé de la population: portrait d'une richesse collective*. If you are not familiar with these sources, it might be worthwhile to set aside some time to acquaint yourself with their interface. You may also find that the data available on the ISQ Website are useful.

### **Collection of supplementary information and validation**

We suggest that you consult a certain number of key informants in order to supplement and contextualize the data collected and validate your main observations. This step can often be taken a little later on in the process, once you have identified the key findings (statistics and factors associated with spousal violence). However, we recommend that you not wait until you have completed your analysis to start thinking about which people you would like to meet with.

In planning the consultation with key informants, you must bear in mind that these people may have very busy schedules. Therefore, it is preferable not to wait until the last minute to schedule meetings with them if you want to avoid unnecessary delays in implementing the procedure proposed in this guide.

### **DRAW UP A TIMETABLE AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES**

Before you start to implement the proposed procedure, you must draw up a timetable taking the different steps into account and provide the necessary resources.

The human, material and financial resources needed will depend on the work that has to be done, the amount of time required to do it and the travel expenses that will be incurred during consultation with key informants. It should be noted that no costs are associated with the statistics request that you have to submit to the ministère de la Sécurité publique. A model timetable, including resource planning, is provided in Appendix 4.

## Conduct the assessment

### STATISTICAL PORTRAIT OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE IN THE STUDY AREA

This section explains how to prepare a statistical portrait of spousal violence in your study area. It includes **instructions on the statistics request** that you have to submit to the MSP, **methodological considerations** pertaining to offences committed in a spousal context and a description of the **steps that must be followed in order to analyze the statistics and identify the key findings**.

#### Submit a request to the ministère de la Sécurité publique

Certain statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context are published annually for Québec on the MSP Website. However, you have to submit a request to the MSP in order to gain access to statistics on such crimes for a given area. The request form provided in Appendix 1 will facilitate this step.

The request must identify the area that is being studied. It may be an administrative region, a regional county municipality (RCM), a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a municipality. The area may also be divided into subareas; for example, administrative region X and all of its RCMs. In all cases, we suggest that your statistics request include the administrative region in which the study area is located. This will facilitate your analysis given that the indicators that you will use to document the factors associated with spousal violence in your study area (see “Portrait of the factors associated with spousal violence in the study area”) may be available only at the regional level. Your request must also include “Québec as a whole” for comparison purposes.

In addition to identifying the study area, your request must provide details on the statistics that you would like to obtain. You will have to determine which aspects of spousal violence you would like to

#### NOTE

Mauricie and Centre du Québec form two separate administrative regions, but one health region. In this particular case, we recommend that you submit a statistics request for both of these administrative regions. This will facilitate comparison of the data that can be used to document associated factors, which may be available by health region.

document with the statistics and specify the observation period. You will be able to obtain data on the number and type of cases reported, the change over time, the age and gender of victims and persons accused of spousal violence and the nature of the relationship between the victims and accused persons (e.g., current or former spouse). You will also be able to cross-match variables in order to obtain a more in-depth understanding of the problem. However, remember that the more variables and the more cross-matching of variables that you include in your request, the more complex the statistical analysis may be. Here are a few objectives to guide your choice of statistics:

- Determine if there are any differences between the rates of offences committed in a spousal context in the different parts of the study area.
- Document the change in the rate of offences committed in a spousal context in the area.
- Determine the nature of the offences committed in the area.

- Determine which age groups are most affected by spousal violence.
- Determine the profile of the victims and/or persons accused of crimes committed in a spousal context in the area: age and gender of the victims and accused persons, type of relationship between them, etc.

### What is meant by the expression “offence committed in a spousal context”?

An offence committed in a spousal context is an offence against the person, where the victim is 12 years of age or older and the accused person (male or female) is the victim’s current or former spouse or current or former dating partner.

The criminal offences concerned are associated mainly with physical violence (homicide, attempted murder, assault, kidnapping and forcible confinement), sexual assault and certain forms of psychological violence (criminal harassment, threats, indecent or harassing telephone calls and intimidation).<sup>8</sup>

### Where do statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context come from?

“Like all data on crime, data on offences committed in a spousal context come from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. This survey, commonly known as the UCR2 Survey, is used by the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), municipal police forces and certain Aboriginal police forces and services in Québec to record crimes observed in the areas they serve. Almost all of Québec’s population is served by police forces that use this survey”<sup>9</sup> [Translation].

### How are offences recorded?

“In accordance with the reporting rules of the UCR2 Survey, police organizations can record up to four offences committed during a single incident. However, only the most serious offence in each incident is taken into account in official statistics”<sup>10</sup> [Translation].

### What is meant by the expression “offence rate”?<sup>11</sup>

Since population size generally affects crime counts and varies from one area to the next, it is impossible to compare criminal activity in different areas using the number of crimes committed in each one. For example, knowing that 15 sexual assaults were committed in an RCM compared with 134 in the administrative region that the RCM belongs to does not make it possible to determine the relative frequency of this type of crime in the RCM compared to the region.

8. Ministère de la Sécurité publique (Retrieved on June 19, 2015). *Statistiques de la criminalité commise en contexte conjugale*, [online], <http://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/police/publications-et-statistiques/violence-conjugale.html>
9. Methodological note by L. Motard in Laforest, J. and Maurice, P. (2011). *Violence conjugale dans la région de la Côte-Nord : ampleur du problème, facteurs explicatifs et pistes d'intervention*. Institut national de santé publique du Québec. <https://www.inspq.qc.ca>
10. Ministère de la Sécurité publique (2013). *Criminalité dans un contexte conjugal au Québec. Faits saillants 2012*. Direction de la prévention et de l’organisation policière, ministère de la Sécurité publique.
11. Derived and adapted from Motard, L. (2011). *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Guide to Analysing Crime Using Official Statistics – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Institut national de santé publique du Québec. <https://www.inspq.qc.ca>

The offence rate (also called the crime rate) can be used to get around this problem, for it allows areas with different population sizes to be compared. This rate represents the relationship between the number of offences committed in a given area and the area's population, and it is calculated using 100 000 as a common denominator. A smaller denominator (1 000 or 10 000) may also be used, but 100 000 is the one most commonly employed in crime analyses. The offence rate is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of offences in the area}}{\text{Population of the area}} \times 100\,000$$

The population figures used to calculate the offence rate are derived from the demographic data determined annually by government order in council and published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

The offence rate is also useful for comparing populations of different ages and genders. The denominator used in that case is the number of people of a particular age or gender living in a given area. The same approach is applied to determine how a problem has changed over time.

### What are the limitations of crime statistics?

Crime statistics are influenced by police practices, particularly the number of officers assigned to a particular problem. Moreover, police practices can vary over time and even from one police force to another.

It is also important to bear in mind that crime statistics provide only a partial portrait of crime in a spousal context since only those crimes for which the following three steps have been taken are included in these statistics: the crimes have been detected, they have been brought to the attention of police authorities and they have been reported by the police to the UCR2 Survey.

When offence rates are used to examine how criminal activity has changed over time, it is necessary to take into account changes in the population's sociodemographic characteristics, such as changes in its age structure, which can explain certain differences over time, at least in part.

To learn more, see the *Guide to Analysing Crime Using Official Statistics – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*.<sup>12</sup>

### What are the specific limitations of statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context?

In addition to the above-mentioned limitations, it is important to remember that statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context document criminal events committed in that context. Therefore, they can be used to determine the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim of a particular incident, but not to illustrate the dynamics of the abuse and the motives for the offences committed.

12. Motard, L. (2011). *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Guide to Analysing Crime Using Official Statistics – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Institut national de santé publique du Québec. <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/>

The results of your statistics request (number of offences and rate) will be in the form of Excel tables. In cases where the number of offences is less than 10, only the rate will be provided. This approach ensures that the victims and persons accused of the offences committed cannot be easily identified.

### **Analyze the statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context**

You can analyze the statistics derived from the UCR2 Survey on crimes committed in a spousal context with a few of additional steps. These steps involve characterizing the problem, comparing your observations with the situation in other areas and looking at the change in offence rates over time.

The first step will help you to describe spousal violence as it appears in the statistics. It consists in characterizing the problem by examining the most common categories of offences, the age and gender of the victims and accused persons, the type of relationship between them, the distribution of offences in the study area, and so forth. The second step consists in comparing this information with that pertaining to one or more other areas in the same administrative region, the region as a whole and Québec as a whole. The third step involves examining the change in offence rates over time.

The different steps taken in this analysis will enable you to identify key findings. For example, you may discover that a particular age group is affected to a greater extent than others by spousal violence reported

**A key finding reflects a reality that is noteworthy because it is characteristic of spousal violence in the study area.**

to police authorities, that the rate of offences committed in a spousal context is higher in the study area than in Québec as a whole or that the rate of offences committed in a spousal context is lower than it has been in the past five years. These key findings can then be validated and contextualized by consulting key informants. If you need help in analyzing the data transmitted by the MSP, you can address your questions and comments to [dps-statistique@msp.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:dps-statistique@msp.gouv.qc.ca).

The example provided over the next few pages illustrates the various steps involved in analyzing statistics on crimes committed in a spousal context in a particular area (in this case, an administrative region) and the key findings that can be derived from these statistics.

## ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS ON CRIMES COMMITTED IN A SPOUSAL CONTEXT

### Characterize the problem

Table 2 presents the rates of offences in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants by age group for the administrative region in 2014.

**Table 2. Rates of offences in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants by age group for the region in 2014**

Age group	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 and over	Total
Rate per 100 000	422.6	1 502.0	1 188.5	982.5	556.2	227.9	33.8	568.7

Age groups with an offence rate above that of the region

Source: ministère de la Sécurité publique, UCR2 Survey data.

**Key finding** regarding the distribution of offence rates in a spousal context by age group:

- There are marked differences between age groups in the rates of offences committed in a spousal context in the administrative region. The offence rates per 100 000 inhabitants for people aged 18 to 39 are the highest in the region. More specifically, the highest offence rates in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants seem to be among young adults aged 18 to 24.

To refine the analysis, Table 3 presents the rates of offences in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants by age group and gender for the administrative region in 2014.

**Table 3. Rates of offences in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants by age group and gender for the region in 2014**

Age group	Offence rate per 100 000 inhabitants	
	Males	Females
12 to 17	25.1	837.5
18 to 24	386.3	2 746.4
25 to 29	512.8	1 949.5
30 to 39	407.5	1 617.8
40 to 49	238.9	881.1
50 to 59	198.0	561.0
60 and over	59.3	64.0
Total	228.8	928.7

Source: ministère de la Sécurité publique, UCR2 Survey data.

**Key finding** regarding the distribution of offence rates in a spousal context by gender:

- The rates of offences against females in a spousal context are higher than the rates of offences against males, for all age groups.

*Draw comparisons with other areas*

**Table 4. Rates of offences in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants by RCM and for the region in 2014**

RCM	Number of offences	Rate per 100 000	Population aged 12 and over
RCM a	21	196.1	10 711
RCM b	88	305.8	28 776
RCM c	285	<b>934.5</b>	30 496
RCM d	28	824.3	3 397
RCM e	29	526.7	5 506
RCM f	24	517.0	4 642
Total for the region	475	<b>568.7</b>	<b>83 528</b>
Total for Québec	17 321	<b>255.0</b>	<b>6 797 452</b>

Source: ministère de la Sécurité publique, UCR2 Survey data.

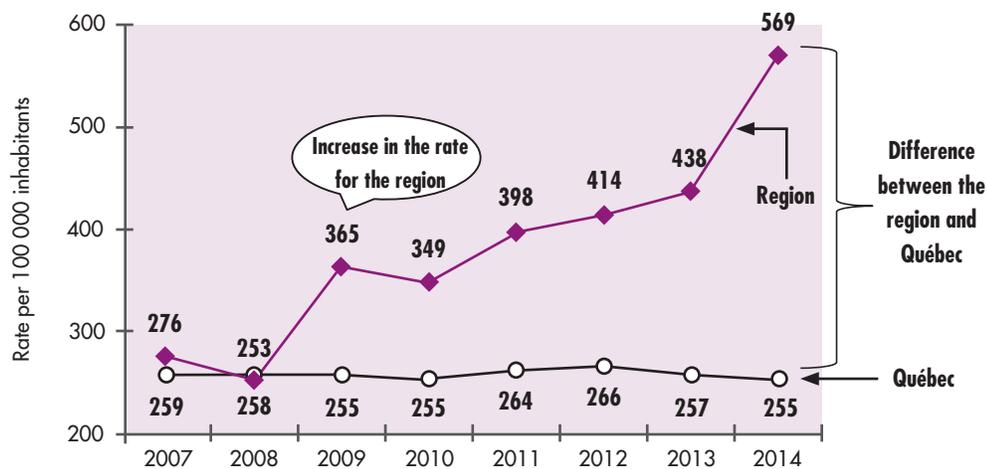
- With an offence rate in a spousal context of 934.5, **RCM c** is the RCM with the highest offence rate per 100 000 inhabitants in the administrative region. Moreover, its offence rate is above those of both the region and Québec as a whole. RCM d also has an offence rate above those of the region and Québec as a whole.
- All of the RCMs in the region, except RCM a, have offence rates in a spousal context above that of Québec as a whole (255 per 100 000 inhabitants).

**Key finding** regarding the distribution of spousal violence in the administrative region:

- All of the RCMs in the region, except RCM a, have offence rates in a spousal context above that of Québec as a whole, with RCM c and RCM d being the most affected RCMs. Spousal violence thus affects the region as a whole.

### Examine the change in offence rates over time

**Figure 2** Change in the rates of offences in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants for the region and Québec as a whole, 2007-2014

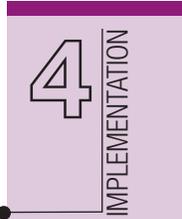


Source: ministère de la Sécurité publique, UCR2 Survey data.

- The offence rate in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants has increased in the administrative region since 2007.
- The difference between the rate for the region and that for Québec as a whole has increased over time.

**Key finding** regarding the change in the offence rate in a spousal context in the administrative region:

- Even though the rate of spousal violence for Québec as a whole has remained stable, there has been a marked increase in the offence rate in a spousal context for the region.



## PORTRAIT OF THE FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SPOUSAL VIOLENCE IN THE STUDY AREA

This section presents the procedure that should be followed to prepare a portrait of the factors associated with spousal violence in the study area. It contains **a description of the factors** that may be studied, **information on the extraction of data** and a discussion of the **steps you need to follow in order to analyze the data and identify the key findings**.

**A factor associated with spousal violence is a characteristic of individuals, their relationships or their environment for which there is a proven or possible association with spousal violence. However, there is not necessarily any causal link between the two.**

Spousal violence is a complex problem and there is no one cause. It results from the interaction of various individual, relationship, community and societal factors.<sup>13</sup> In the area of spousal violence, it is rare to have irrefutable proof that a particular factor is associated with this type of violence. Therefore, the conclusions drawn in this exercise are not absolutely certain. Moreover, finding an association between a particular variable and spousal violence does not

necessarily mean that the variable is a cause of the problem. In some cases, an associated factor is even a consequence rather than a cause of spousal violence.

The factors identified in this guide are factors for which there is a proven or possible association with spousal violence and for which regional and provincial data are available. A factor is considered, with certain reservations, to be potentially associated with spousal violence when 1) available studies have not demonstrated the absence of an association between the factor and spousal violence or 2) there seems to be a trend despite the fact that few studies have looked into an association between the factor and spousal violence.<sup>14</sup>

Table 5 presents a list of factors potentially associated with spousal violence, for which indicators are usually available at the regional level. This table also describes the association that exists between each factor and spousal violence. You may find it useful to refer to this table when you analyze your data in order to identify key findings. Several methodological considerations pertaining to the choice of factors in this guide are discussed in Appendix 2, and a list of references used to document each factor is provided in Appendix 3.

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13. Krug, E. G., Dahlberg, L. L., Mercy, J. A., Zwi, A. and Lozano-Ascencio, R. (Eds.). (2002). *World report on violence and health*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

14. Laforest, J. and Maurice, P. (2011). *Violence conjugale dans la région de la Côte-Nord : ampleur du problème, facteurs explicatifs et pistes d'intervention*. Direction du développement des individus et des communautés, Institut national de santé publique du Québec. <https://www.inspq.qc.ca>

**Table 5. Factors potentially associated with spousal violence in the study area**

Factors	Association with spousal violence
Unemployment	Generally speaking, studies have shown an association between spousal violence and unemployment among men or the fact that a woman’s partner is unemployed. However, it is not as clear, on the basis of existing studies, what impact unemployment among women has upon violence towards them.
Income	Studies conducted in a range of contexts have shown that, even though spousal violence occurs among all socioeconomic groups, women living in poverty are the most affected group. That said, it is not clear whether low income is a cause of the problem or whether the association is due to factors that occur in conjunction with poverty.
Level of education	Even though the link between level of education and spousal violence is complex, numerous studies have shown that a low level of education is a factor often associated with committing or being a victim of this type of violence. Having a higher level of education may act as a protective factor, since women with more education and partners with an equivalent level of education report lower rates of spousal violence.
Social support	Social support <sup>15</sup> may act as a protective factor against spousal violence. Conversely, low social support is often associated with victimization of women by their partners. However, the impact of social support may vary depending on the characteristics of the life setting concerned, or of certain people living in situations that make them vulnerable to spousal violence. Lack of social support may also be a consequence of the isolation imposed by the perpetrators of such violence on their victims.
Alcohol consumption patterns	There is a lack of consensus on the nature of the association between alcohol consumption and spousal violence. While some researchers believe that alcohol consumption is a circumstantial factor that increases the probability of violence by reducing inhibitions, others assert that excessive alcohol consumption can exacerbate disputes in a couple. However, despite this lack of consensus, the facts show that alcohol consumption among men is associated with violence toward women.
Physical health	Some studies have demonstrated an association between reporting poor physical health and being a victim of violence committed by a partner, among both males and females. In the case of women and children, poor physical health is often a consequence of being exposed to violence.
Mental health	Depression and mental health problems are associated with spousal violence. In fact, studies have shown that depression and mental health problems among females or having a partner with poor mental health are associated with spousal violence. In the case of women and children, poor mental health can also be a consequence of being exposed to violence.

15. Social support is defined as support from friends, family and the community. It is usually associated with better health. It can take the form of emotional support, for example, or facilitate access to material resources, services or information. In particular, social support can contribute to the resolution of problems, provide resources that improve quality of life, help people to deal with adversity and act as a protective factor against spousal violence. (Public Health Agency of Canada (Retrieved on February 23, 2015), *Social Support Networks*, [online], <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/determinants-eng.php>).

Factors	Association with spousal violence
Child maltreatment	Maltreatment during childhood (neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and psychological maltreatment) is one of the factors most consistently associated with spousal violence in the scientific literature. Moreover, this association is found not only among victims of spousal violence, but also among perpetrators.
Delinquency	Delinquent behaviour or the use of violence during adolescence can have an impact on dating relationships. Studies indicate that adolescents who engage in delinquent behaviour, particularly acts of violence, are more likely to be violent with a partner during adolescence as well as adulthood.
Crime and violence in communities	The social context in which people live can have an impact on spousal violence. Community violence is a characteristic that must be considered in analyzing the problem of spousal violence in a particular area. Although few in number, some studies have established an association between spousal violence and crime in the life settings of adult and adolescent males and violence toward an intimate partner.

### Extract data for documenting the factors associated with spousal violence

Examples of indicators that you can use to document the factors potentially associated with spousal violence in your study area are presented in Appendix 5. You can extract the necessary data from various sources, such as the Infocentre de santé publique, Santéscope and *Santé de la population : portrait d'une richesse collective*, available on the Website of the INSPQ (<http://www.inspq.qc.ca>). The Website of the ISQ (<http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/>) is another source for data.

### What is an indicator?

An indicator is a measure that can be used to summarize a set of statistics or to provide an indirect measure when information is not available.<sup>16</sup> For example, the rate of offences against the person can be used to illustrate the factor “Crime and violence in communities.”

### What are the limitations of the indicators chosen?

The indicators used to illustrate the different factors associated with spousal violence are chosen according to their availability at the regional level. Therefore, they may differ from those found in the scientific literature.

In addition, since several different data sources may be used to calculate the indicators, the data pertaining to the various factors are not necessarily available for each reference year. For example, you may find data on alcohol consumption patterns for one reference year and data on social support for another reference year.

Lastly, data that can be used to illustrate a particular factor may not be amenable to being broken down by gender or may not be available for certain regions.

The indicators proposed in this guide to illustrate the different factors were chosen according to their potential availability at the regional level. Table 9 in Appendix 5 provides examples of indicators that can be used for each factor associated with spousal violence. In some instances, it may be recommended that you use more than one indicator in order to better document a particular factor.

### Analyze the factors associated with spousal violence in the study area

Analyzing the various factors associated with spousal violence will enable you to determine which ones are potentially associated with this type of violence in the study area and to see where the area stands in relation to Québec as a whole. It is important to bear in mind that no causal link has been established between the factors analyzed in this section and spousal violence. At the very most, there is evidence that these factors are associated with this type of violence.

#### NOTE

The Nord-du-Québec administrative region encompasses three health regions: Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James. In this particular case, since statistics for crimes in a spousal context are available by administrative region, we recommend that you extract the data for these three health regions in order to document the associated factors. This will make it easier to draw comparisons.

16. Pineault, R. and Daveluy, C. (1990). *La planification de la santé : concepts, méthodes, stratégies*. 5<sup>th</sup> printing, Éditions Agence d'ARC inc., Montréal, p. 100.

For each of the factors presented in Table 5, you must use the data extracted from the various sources consulted in order to determine if the study area compares favourably or unfavourably with Québec as a whole or if it is in line with the Québec average.<sup>17</sup> Methodological considerations pertaining to the choice of factors are discussed in detail in Appendix 2.

It is important to note that the factors presented in this analysis guide are factors for which indicators are usually available at the regional level. Certain others that cannot be documented with the available statistical data can be discussed during the consultation process (see the section “Collection of supplementary information and validation of portraits”).

Appendix 6 provides a model table that you can fill out in order to situate the study area in relation to Québec as a whole with regard to the different factors associated with spousal violence. However, you must bear in mind that if a particular factor compares favourably with Québec as a whole, this does not necessarily mean that no action needs to be taken with regard to that factor. This exercise will enable you to target those factors that require priority action, taking into account any supplementary information that you might gather from key informants.

The example provided on the next page shows how to analyze the factors associated with spousal violence in a particular area (in this case, an administrative region) using various indicators in order to situate the area in relation to Québec as a whole. The key findings that might be identified are also discussed.

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17. You can do certain statistical tests to determine whether a difference observed between your study area and Québec as a whole is statistically significant, that is, whether it is a real difference or simply a chance one. It is preferable to contact a statistician for this purpose.

## ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SPOUSAL VIOLENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGION UNDER STUDY

### *Social support factor*

Table 6 presents the data available on the *social support factor* for the administrative region under study and for Québec as a whole.

**Table 6. Proportion of people aged 12 and over with a low or moderate level of emotional or informational support over a 12-month period, 2010**

Area	Percentage
Québec as a whole	12.0
Region	8.1

Source: Statistics Canada data, Canadian Community Health Survey.

**Key finding** on the *social support factor*:

- The percentage of people aged 12 and over with a low or moderate level of emotional or informational support over a 12-month period is lower in the administrative region than in Québec as a whole. Therefore, the region seems to be in a favourable position compared to Québec as a whole as far as this indicator is concerned.

### *Alcohol consumption patterns factor*

Table 7 presents the data available on the *alcohol consumption patterns factor* for the administrative region under study and Québec as a whole.

**Table 7. Proportion of people aged 12 and over with a high level of alcohol consumption over a 12-month period, 2009**

Area	Percentage
Québec as a whole	18.2
Region	27.2

Source: Statistics Canada data, Canadian Community Health Survey.

**Key finding** on the *alcohol consumption patterns factor*:

- The percentage of people aged 12 and over with an excessive level of alcohol consumption over a 12-month period is higher in the administrative region than in Québec as a whole. Therefore, the region seems to be in an unfavourable position in relation to Québec as a whole as far as this indicator is concerned.

## COLLECTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION AND VALIDATION OF PORTRAITS

This section describes the procedure for rounding out and validating the portraits that you have prepared, through consultation with people with a good understanding of the problem of spousal violence. It contains information on the **objectives, planning and implementation** of this consultation and on how to **process and analyze the information** gathered.

### Determine the objectives of the consultation

The main objective of the consultation with key informants is to round out the statistical portrait of spousal violence as well as the portrait of factors potentially associated with this type of violence and to validate the key findings. This will enable you to obtain a more in-depth understanding of the problem, contextualize the information gathered and even detect resistance regarding possible interpretations of the data.

In addition to validating the information gathered and your main observations with the people consulted, you may want to discuss certain other points with them, such as:

- The influence of factors potentially associated with spousal violence but for which no indicators are available; for example, tolerance towards violence, stereotypical gender roles, gender inequality and barriers to reporting, all of which are not documented in the statistics.
- Certain considerations likely to contribute to spousal violence in the study area, such as recent changes in employment.
- Groups or populations that should be given priority attention in order to prevent spousal violence in the study area.
- Changes within the reference population regarding, for example, the population's age-group distribution or connected to the mass exodus of young people to large urban centres, all of which are elements that should be taken into account in analyzing the change in spousal violence over time.
- Data pertaining to the use of support resources at the local level, which could round out the statistical portrait.
- Courses of action to prevent spousal violence in the study area that take the specific context and associated factors into consideration.
- All of the services available in the study area, so that you can draw up a list.

In short, you have to determine which elements should be discussed during the consultation process, taking into account the supplementary information that you require and the key findings that have emerged from the statistical portrait of spousal violence and the portrait of associated factors that you have prepared.

*Key informants are people who, because of their position, activities or responsibilities, are well-acquainted with the problem under study.*

*They may represent client groups or areas, assume responsibilities in a community organization, be experts on the problem or be a source of supplementary information that is useful to the analysis.*

## Plan and carry out the consultation

The *Guide to Organizing Semi-Structured Interviews With Key Informants*<sup>18</sup> contains information that can help you to plan and carry out the consultation, in particular to identify which people should be consulted, determine how many people should be consulted and prepare and conduct interviews. This guide is available online on the Website of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

When you identify the people who should be consulted, it is important to take into account the study area as a whole, all of the client groups, the different activity sectors and any supplementary information that they can provide. For example, shelters for women who are victims of violence can supply you with statistics on requests for assistance (made by telephone, face-to-face or at a shelter) and with socioeconomic data on the women who use such services. The police force that serves your study area can also provide you with certain data on, for example, the number of women required to move because of spousal violence or the number of women referred to spousal violence resources.

The members of the intersectoral group created or designated to assist you in implementing the procedure proposed in the present guide can help you to complete the list of people with whom you should meet. Also of use in this regard is the list of the different groups or bodies concerned by the problem of spousal violence in your study area, which you drew up in step 2. The people you choose may come from a range of activity sectors, such as health and social services, police services, education, support services for victims of spousal violence and children exposed to such violence, organizations for men with violent behaviour and crime victims assistance centres (CAVACs).

The consultation can be carried out through semi-structured personal interviews or through group discussions or interviews. You can also combine these two methods. The one you choose will depend in particular on the availability of the people who will hold the consultation and those who will be consulted. For example, if several of the people concerned are members of the same issue table, a discussion group could be held during one of their meetings.

It is important to bear in mind that, regardless of the method you choose, the information gathered will have to be processed and analyzed and that this process takes time. If you decide to organize discussion groups, you may find it useful to follow the procedure described in the *Guide to Organizing Semi-Structured Interviews With Key Informants*. This guide also discusses certain considerations pertaining to the number of interviews that should be conducted.

## Process and analyze the information gathered

No matter what consultation method you use, you will have to assemble and codify the information gathered, identify and classify meaningful information and analyze the data in order to establish the key findings. The procedure that should be followed for this purpose is described in detail in the *Guide to Organizing Semi-Structured Interviews With Key Informants*

18. Laforest, J., Bouchard, L. M. and Maurice, P. (2011). *Safety Diagnosis Tool Kit for Local Communities: Guide to Organizing Semi-Structured Interviews With Key Informants – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec. <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/>

## ASSESSMENT OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

This is the last step in the procedure that you have followed to make an assessment of spousal violence within the study area. This assessment will enable you to identify priorities for action and help you to plan preventive interventions. The key findings identified during the various steps involved in the procedure proposed in this guide will allow you to better understand the situation in the area under study and determine which action priorities are likely to help prevent spousal violence.

Thus far, the statistical portrait of crime in a spousal context has enabled you to document offences committed in that context within the study area, gain a better grasp of the distribution of spousal violence in that area and determine which groups are most affected by it. The portrait of factors has enabled you to identify elements potentially associated with spousal violence in the area under study and will make it easier to identify priority targets for intervention. Lastly, consulting with people concerned about spousal violence in the study area has not only enriched the interpretation of the main observations derived from the two portraits, but has made it possible to obtain the supplementary information required for the assessment.

To make an assessment that reflects the situation in the study area as accurately as possible, you must bear in mind that:

- Offences in a spousal context reported to the police represent only part of the spousal violence that occurs in the area concerned. Therefore, the portrait prepared on the basis of these data will underestimate the actual situation.
- Finding an association between a particular factor and spousal violence does not necessarily mean that the factor is a cause of the problem. In fact, it could be a consequence.
- Some of the data used for the analysis are available by RCM, while others may be available by administrative region only. Therefore, the data do not necessarily cover the same territory.
- Statistics on offences committed in a spousal context are available for people aged 12 and over, while the indicators used to measure the associated factors may refer to other populations. You must indicate which reference populations you are using and take them into account insofar as possible in your assessment.

You must now group the key findings made in the previous steps and the information gathered from key informants. This will enable you to draw up a list of your main observations about spousal violence in the study area, the factors potentially associated with such violence and the groups or populations that should be given priority under primary prevention programs.

Your assessment can take different forms (report, table, fact sheet, etc.) depending on your needs. We strongly recommend that you always indicate the source of your data for the purpose of disseminating your results.

## ASSESSMENT OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGION UNDER STUDY

The **statistical portrait of spousal violence in the region** has revealed that:

- People aged 18 to 24, 25 to 29 and 30 to 39 have the highest rates of offences in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants in the region. Moreover, they all have offence rates above that of the region as a whole. The highest offence rate is found among 18- to 24-year olds.
- The rates of offences against females in a spousal context are higher than the rates against males, for all age groups.
- RCM c is the RCM with the highest spousal violence rate in the region under study. Moreover, the offence rate in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants is above the rates of the region and Québec as a whole.
- The offence rate in a spousal context per 100 000 inhabitants for the region has increased over the past several years, whereas the rate for Québec as a whole has remained fairly stable. What is more, the difference between the rate for the region and that for Québec as a whole has increased over time.

The **portrait of factors potentially associated with spousal violence in the region** has revealed that:

- The percentage of people aged 12 and over with a low or moderate level of emotional or informational support over a 12-month period in the region is below that in Québec as a whole. The region thus seems to be in a favourable position in relation to Québec as a whole as far as this indicator is concerned.
- The percentage of people aged 12 and over with abusive alcohol consumption over a 12-month period is higher in the region than in Québec as a whole. The region thus seems to be in an unfavourable position in relation to Québec as a whole as far as this indicator is concerned.

**Consultation with key informants** has made it possible to obtain supplementary information and to contextualize and validate the observations. Indeed, the interviews have revealed that:

- Over the past few years, there has been a problem of excessive alcohol consumption during parties at secondary schools in the region among young people who attend those schools, despite the fact that alcohol consumption is prohibited and monitored.
- Dating relationships start at a young age and violent behaviour sets in rapidly among young people. Informants have made observations of this type: *What we see among adults can also be seen among young people. Verbal abuse is widespread and considered acceptable by young people. Violence is trivialized on the Web and in video games and this has an impact in real life.*

- There seems to be a lot of jealousy and violence in youth dating relationships and some adolescent girls seem to find this normal.
- Young women are not necessarily affected by spousal violence to a greater extent than older women, but they seem to report it more regularly and rapidly than women did in the past. A worker at a women's shelter said that when young women ask for help, they have been in a relationship with the perpetrator for a shorter amount of time compared to women in the past. She also said that an awareness campaign in the region may have helped people to learn about the rights of victims of spousal violence and about the available support resources.
- The social support provided by family and friends in certain communities also seems to make it easier for young women to use support resources because it provides them with the encouragement and help they need.

In short:

- 】 The statistical portrait of spousal violence in the administrative region under study has made it possible to identify a group that must be given priority (youth and young adults) and an area where the offence rate in a spousal context is the highest in the region (RCM c).
- 】 The portrait of factors potentially associated with spousal violence has shown that the region compares favourably with Québec as a whole in regard to social support, and unfavourably in regard to episodes of abusive alcohol consumption.
- 】 The consultation made it possible to validate certain observations and to show that violence sets in rapidly in youth dating relationships and is experienced not only among young adults (aged 18 to 25). This could not have been demonstrated by available statistics, however, because they take into account only offences that are reported to the police. The consultation also revealed excessive alcohol consumption problems among young people and an acceptance of violence, a factor that may be associated with spousal violence but that cannot be documented statistically.

Since violence is encountered in the dating relationships of youth and young adults in the administrative region and seems to set in rapidly, people in these age groups should be a priority target of the primary prevention programs selected. These programs could be an extension of the awareness campaign conducted in the region, which according to the people who were consulted, seems to have helped the population learn about the rights of victims of spousal violence and about the support resources available to them.

## Build on the assessment

You now have an assessment of spousal violence in the study area that will enable you to identify possible target groups for preventive interventions on the basis of your key findings.

You can now build on the assessment by drawing up an action plan to implement one or more preventive interventions in the medium to long term.

The guide *Turning Safety Diagnoses Into Action Plans: A Guide for Local Communities*<sup>19</sup> can help you to draw up an action plan. It contains information on the conditions that need to be created, the way in which you can build on your assessment and how to plan actions.

To help you decide which interventions should be implemented, see Appendix 7. It contains a list of spousal violence primary prevention programs that have been implemented and evaluated over the past few years in Québec. The purpose of this list is to provide examples of programs used in Québec, without passing judgment on them. The programs listed are aimed at preventing spousal violence or violence in youth dating relationships, and most of them promote egalitarian relationships between men and women. They are intended for the population as a whole or for specific groups. Initiatives with a prevention component targeting children exposed to spousal violence are also included in the list.

The following guidelines may also help you decide which prevention programs you will choose:<sup>20</sup>

- Opt for a combination of interventions and target a range of settings.
- Include a variety of methods.
- Include enough interventions to produce the desired effects, and provide the follow-up needed to sustain these effects.
- Choose theory-based interventions.
- Choose interventions based on the promotion of positive relationships.
- Ensure that interventions are implemented early enough in an individual's life so that they will have maximal impact on any problem behaviours that might develop.
- Ensure that interventions are tailored to your target groups and that the groups are included in the planning and implementation of interventions.
- Set clear objectives and include an evaluation of results.
- Hire well-trained staff.

**Preventive intervention means any intervention designed to prevent spousal violence before it occurs. It is called primary intervention.**

**Interventions designed primarily to provide services to victims or to spouses with violent behaviour are fundamental. However, since they constitute secondary and tertiary interventions, they are not discussed in this guide.**

19. Laforest, J., Bouchard, L. M. and Maurice, P. (2010). *Turning Safety Diagnoses Into Action Plans: A Guide for Local Communities*. Québec, Institut national de santé publique du Québec. <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/>

20. Nation, M., Crusto, C., Wandersman, A., Kumpfer, K. L., Seybolt, D., Morrissey-Kane, E. and Dionne, K. (2003). What works in prevention: Principles of effective prevention programs. *American Psychologist*, 58, 449-456.

## **IN SHORT...**

You may embark on an assessment of spousal violence in a particular area at the request of a local or regional authority because the problem is worrisome to numerous partners and there is a desire to better characterize and understand the problem. You may also do an assessment of this type because of funding opportunities in primary prevention of spousal violence or because various partners in the study area are willing to assist you with an initiative that you have wanted to take for a long time. The purpose of this guide is to help working groups apply the procedure proposed therein and provide them with tools and examples to facilitate the collection and analysis of relevant data.

Regardless of the context in which you undertake an assessment of spousal violence, the assessment must be rooted in the reality of the area under study. Therefore, you have to gather data available at the regional level and then round out and validate your analysis by consulting various people who, because of their positions, activities or responsibilities, are well-acquainted with the problem of spousal violence in the area concerned. Once an assessment is completed, it is strongly recommended that you turn it into an action plan aimed at implementing preventive interventions over the medium to long term.

In addition, as you implement the procedure proposed in this guide, you must constantly bear in mind that the findings you make will have certain limitations. Such limitations are linked, in particular, to the fact that offences in a spousal context that are reported to police represent only part of the spousal violence experienced in a particular area and that the existence of an association between a particular factor and spousal violence does not necessarily mean that the factor is a cause of the problem. Lastly, it is important to remember that the data used for this type of analysis do not necessarily cover the same territory or reference population.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Statistics request form**





## Statistics request form

### REQUEST FORM FOR STATISTICS FROM THE MINISTÈRE DE LA SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE ON CRIMES COMMITTED IN A SPOUSAL CONTEXT

#### 1. INFORMATION ON THE PERSON MAKING THE REQUEST

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BODY: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PURPOSE OR CONTEXT OF THE REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Once you have filled out the request form, you can e-mail it to the MSP at [dps-statistique@msp.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:dps-statistique@msp.gouv.qc.ca). The MSP will process the request within four weeks.

Note that data extracted from the UCR2 Survey for a year prior to the request remain preliminary until data have been extracted for a subsequent year, at which point the prior year data are updated. Prior year data remain preliminary until that time mainly because of the impacts of the judicial and police process or because of errors related to system operation. Preliminary data are subject to change and must be interpreted with caution.

This statistics request form is available in MS Word format on the Website of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec at <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/en/expertise/safety-and-injury-prevention/charting-course-safe-living-collection>.

## INFORMATION ON THE STUDY AREA

### ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

Select the administrative regions and, if applicable, the regional county municipalities (RCMs) that you would like to include in your analysis. For administrative purposes, the official French name (i.e., “MRC”) of each RCM is used in the form.

<input type="radio"/> <b>Bas-Saint-Laurent (01)</b>
<p><b>MRC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Kamouraska</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de la Matapédia</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de la Mitis</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Matane</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Rimouski-Neigette</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Rivière-du-Loup</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Témiscouata</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC des Basques</li> </ul>
<input type="radio"/> <b>Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (02)</b>
<p><b>MRC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Lac-Saint-Jean-Est</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Maria-Chapdelaine</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC du Domaine-du-Roy</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC du Fjord-Du-Saguenay</li> </ul>
<input type="radio"/> <b>Capitale-Nationale (03)</b>
<p><b>MRC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Charlevoix</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Charlevoix-Est</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de la Côte-de-Beaupré</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de la Jacques-Cartier</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de l'Île-d'Orléans</li> <li><input type="radio"/> MRC de Portneuf</li> </ul>

**Centre-du-Québec (04)**

**MRC**

- MRC d'Arthabaska
- MRC de Bécancour
- MRC de Drummond
- MRC de l'Érable
- MRC de Nicolet-Yamaska

**Estrie (05)**

**MRC**

- MRC de Coaticook
- MRC de Memphrémagog
- MRC des Sources
- MRC du Granit
- MRC du Haut-Saint-François
- MRC du Val-Saint-François

**Montréal (06)**

**Outaouais (07)**

**MRC**

- MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
- MRC de Papineau
- MRC de Pontiac
- MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais

**Abitibi-Témiscamingue (08)**

**MRC**

- MRC de l'Abitibi
- MRC de l'Abitibi-Ouest
- MRC de la Vallée-de-l'Or
- MRC de Témiscamingue

Côte-Nord (09)

**MRC**

- MRC de Caniapiscau
- MRC de la Haute-Côte-Nord
- MRC de la Manicouagan
- MRC de Minganie
- MRC des Sept-Rivières
- MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent

Nord-du-Québec (10)

**MRC**

- Kativik
- Baie James

Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (11)

**MRC**

- Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- MRC d'Avignon
- MRC de Bonaventure
- MRC de la Côte-de-Gaspé
- MRC de la Haute-Gaspésie
- MRC du Rocher-Percé

Chaudière-Appalaches (12)

**MRC**

- MRC de Beauce-Sartigan
- MRC de Bellechasse
- MRC de la Nouvelle-Beauce
- MRC de L'Islet
- MRC de Lotbinière
- MRC de Montmagny
- MRC des Appalaches
- MRC des Etchemins
- MRC Robert-Cliche

Laval (13)

**Lanaudière (14)**
**MRC**

- MRC de D’austray
- MRC de Joliette
- MRC de l’Assomption
- MRC de Matawinie
- MRC de Montcalm
- MRC des Moulins

 **Laurentides (15)**
**MRC**

- MRC d’Antoine-Labelle
- MRC d’Argenteuil
- MRC de Deux-Montagnes
- MRC de la Rivière-du-Nord
- MRC des Laurentides
- MRC des Pays-d’en-Haut
- MRC Thérèse-De Blainville

 **Montérégie (16)**
**MRC**

- MRC d’Acton
- MRC de Beauharnois-Salaberry
- MRC de Brome-Missisquoi
- MRC de la Haute-Yamaska
- MRC de la Vallée-du-Richelieu
- MRC de Marguerite-D’Youville
- MRC de Roussillon
- MRC de Rouville
- MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges
- MRC des Jardins-de-Napierville
- MRC des Maskoutains
- MRC du Haut-Richelieu
- MRC du Haut-Saint-Laurent
- MRC de Pierre-De Saurel

**Mauricie (17)**

**MRC**

- MRC de Maskinongé
- MRC de Mékinac
- MRC des Chenaux

**Census metropolitan area (CMA)<sup>21</sup>**

- Montréal
- Québec
- Ottawa - Gatineau (partie du Québec)
- Sherbrooke
- Saguenay
- Trois-Rivières

**Québec as a whole**

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21. A census metropolitan area is an area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a core. A census metropolitan area must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the core. (Statistics Canada (Retrieved on December 8, 2014). *Census metropolitan area (CMA) and census agglomeration (CA)*, [online], <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/geo009-eng.cfm>).

**STATISTICS** **NATURE OF THE OFFENCES COMMITTED**

- Number of offences
- Offence rate

**Type of offences committed in a spousal context**

Select one of more offences

- General intimidation
- Forcible confinement
- Kidnapping
- Sexual assault
- Level 1 assault
- Level 2 assault
- Level 3 assault
- Criminal harassment
- Homicide
- Threats
- Indecent or harassing telephone calls
- All of these offences

 **CHANGE**

Select the period

- Last five (5) years
- Last ten (10) years

In the following sections, note only those years for which updated data will be used for the analysis.

<input type="radio"/> <b>PERIOD</b>	
Select the desired years	
<input type="radio"/> The most recent year <sup>22</sup> <input type="radio"/> The most recent year and the previous year	
<input type="radio"/> <b>AGE GROUPS OF VICTIMS</b>	
Check the age groups that need to be analyzed	
<input type="radio"/> 12 to 17 <input type="radio"/> 18 to 24 <input type="radio"/> 25 to 29 <input type="radio"/> 30 to 39	<input type="radio"/> 40 to 49 <input type="radio"/> 50 to 59 <input type="radio"/> 60 to 69 <input type="radio"/> 70 and over <input type="radio"/> Other, specify
<input type="radio"/> <b>AGE GROUPS OF ACCUSED PERSONS</b>	
Check the age groups that need to be analyzed	
<input type="radio"/> 12 to 17 <input type="radio"/> 18 to 24 <input type="radio"/> 25 to 29 <input type="radio"/> 30 to 39	<input type="radio"/> 40 to 49 <input type="radio"/> 50 to 59 <input type="radio"/> 60 to 69 <input type="radio"/> 70 and over <input type="radio"/> Other, specify
<input type="radio"/> <b>NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIMS AND ACCUSED PERSONS, including the notion of same-sex spouse</b>	
<input type="radio"/> Current spouse <input type="radio"/> Former spouse	<input type="radio"/> Current intimate friend <input type="radio"/> Former intimate friend
<input type="radio"/> <b>VICTIMS BY GENDER</b>	
Do you want to obtain statistics on females, males or both?	
<input type="radio"/> Females <input type="radio"/> Males	

22. The ministère de la Sécurité publique reserves the right to choose the most recent year for which data have been updated in order to obtain more reliable statistics.

**ACCUSED PERSONS BY GENDER**

Do you want to obtain statistics on females, males or both?

- Females
- Males

**CROSS-MATCHING OF VARIABLES<sup>23</sup>**

Which variables do you want to cross-match in this analysis?

- Type of offence and gender
- Type of offence and age
- Type of offence and nature of the relationship between the accused person and the victim<sup>24</sup>
- Gender of victims and age
- Gender of accused persons and age
- Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

23. Note that the more variables and the more cross-matching of variables included in your request, the more complex the statistical analysis may be.

24. Note that the offence rate is not available for cross-matching these variables.



## **Appendix 2**

### **Methodological considerations pertaining to the choice of factors**





## Methodological considerations pertaining to the choice of factors

### Methodological considerations pertaining to the choice of factors

The factors potentially associated with spousal violence were chosen on the basis of a review of the literature on factors associated with spousal violence against women.<sup>25</sup> Since the scientific literature concerns primarily violence committed by men against women, it enabled us to document both victimization and perpetration factors and to highlight the fact that several of the same factors are associated with victimization as well as perpetration. For example, child maltreatment is a factor associated with being a victim or a perpetrator of spousal violence in adulthood.

The above-mentioned literature review was updated in order to prepare this guide, taking into account the reality of people who live in a context of vulnerability to spousal violence as described in the *Policy on intervention in conjugal violence: Preventing, detecting, ending conjugal violence*. These people include the elderly, people with disabilities, Indigenous people, immigrants or members of ethnocultural minority communities, LGBTQ communities and abused men.

The studies were chosen using six databases: Pubmed, PsycINFO, Social Service Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, SocINDEX with Fulltext and ERIC. The search was limited to articles published in English or French between 2005 and 2010 for the initial literature review and between 2010 and 2013 for the update. The bibliographies of the studies identified were also consulted. The studies were first selected on the basis of the relevance of their title and abstract and then on the basis of their relevance and rigour relative to the topic under study. With respect to study design, preference was given to meta-analyses and systematic reviews. That being said, longitudinal and transversal studies were also chosen.

The factors selected for the purposes of this guide are those for which there is a proven or possible association with spousal violence and for which data may be available at regional and provincial levels. A factor is considered, with certain reservations, to be potentially associated with spousal violence when 1) available studies have not demonstrated the absence of an association between the factor and spousal violence or 2) there seems to be a trend despite the fact that few studies have looked into an association between the factor and spousal violence. The factors presented in this guide have thus been selected based on the quality of the scientific evidence showing that they are associated with spousal violence.

Admittedly, in the area of spousal violence, it is rare to have irrefutable proof that a particular factor is associated with such violence. Therefore, the conclusions drawn in this exercise with regard to a possible association between a particular factor and spousal violence are not absolutely certain. Most of the studies examined in the literature review had a transversal design (Goulet-Cloutier, Laforest and Maurice, unpublished document). Although transversal studies reveal correlations between certain variables and spousal violence, they cannot be used to determine the causal nature of the association.<sup>26</sup> This is a major limitation in this field of research because it prevents irrefutable causal links from being identified. Therefore, the existence of a significant association between a particular variable and spousal violence does not mean that the factor is a cause of the problem. In some cases, it may even be a consequence.

25. Goulet-Cloutier, C., Laforest, J. and Maurice, P., unpublished in-house document.

26. World Health Organization and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2010). *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence*. Geneva: World Health Organization.



## **Appendix 3**

### **References consulted in order to document the factors**





## References consulted in order to document the factors

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## **Appendix 4**

### **Timetable and necessary resources**





## Timetable and necessary resources

**Table 8. Timetable and necessary resources**

Steps	Timetable												Person responsible	Resources		
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		Human	Material	Financial
Bring together individuals or groups concerned about spousal violence																
Clearly define the study area																
Gather information (statistics and factors)																
Analyze the information and identify the key findings (statistics and factors)																
Validate and supplement the information gathered (consultation with key informants)																
Do the assessment																
Identify the preventive interventions that need to be implemented																

This timetable and description of necessary resources is available in MS Word format on the Website of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec at: <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/en/expertise/safety-and-injury-prevention/charting-course-safe-living-collection>



## **Appendix 5**

**Examples of indicators that can be used  
to document associated factors**





## Examples of indicators that can be used to document associated factors

**Table 9. Examples of indicators that can be used to document associated factors**

Factors	Proposed indicators
Unemployment	Unemployment among men
Income	Proportion of the population living below the low-income cutoff
Level of education	Proportion of the population aged 25 and over by highest level of education achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than a secondary school diploma</li> <li>• University degree (at least a B.A.)</li> </ul>
Social support	Proportion of the population aged 12 and over with a low or moderate level of emotional or informational support
Alcohol consumption patterns	Proportion of the population aged 12 and over consuming 14 or more drinks per week Proportion of the population aged 12 and over with 12 heavy drinking episodes per year
Physical health	Proportion of the population aged 12 and over who do not consider themselves to be in good health
Mental health	Proportion of the population aged 12 and over with a high level of psychological distress
Child maltreatment	Incidence rate for new cases taken in charge under the <i>Youth Protection Act</i> (YPA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: physical abuse</li> </ul>
Delinquency	Rate of young people aged 12 to 17 who have committed offences under the <i>Criminal Code</i> and other statutes
Crime and violence in communities	Rate of criminal offences against the person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assault</li> <li>• Sexual assault</li> <li>• Robbery or extortion</li> <li>• Criminal harassment</li> <li>• Threats</li> <li>• Other offences</li> </ul>



## **Appendix 6**

**How the study area compares to Québec  
as a whole with regard to the factors  
associated with spousal violence**





## How the study area compares to Québec as a whole with regard to the factors associated with spousal violence

**Table 10. How the study area compares to Québec as a whole with regard to the factors associated with spousal violence**

Factors	Favourable trend	Québec average	Unfavourable trend
Unemployment			
Income			
Level of education			
Social support			
Heavy alcohol consumption			
Physical health			
Mental health			
Child maltreatment			
Delinquency			
Crime and violence in communities			

**Favourable trend:** The value of the indicator for the study area is below that for Québec as a whole.

**Québec average:** The value of the indicator for the study area is comparable to the Québec average.

**Unfavourable trend:** The value of the indicator for the study area is above that for Québec as a whole.

**Note:** Certain statistical tests can be conducted to determine if the difference observed between the study area and Québec as a whole is statistically significant; that is, whether the difference is real or due to chance. It is preferable to contact a statistician for this purpose.

This table is available in MS Word format on the Website of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec at: <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/en/expertise/safety-and-injury-prevention/charting-course-safe-living-collection>.



## **Appendix 7**

### **List of programs**





## List of programs

**Table 11. Spousal violence primary prevention programs implemented and evaluated in Québec**

Name of program	Objectives
Branchons-nous sur les rapports de force	Prevent violence in youth dating relationships by managing power dynamics.
Ça ce n'est pas de l'amour	Prevent violence in youth dating relationships by helping young people acquire communication skills and learn about the different forms of violence and available resources.
Ensemble on découvre	<p>Component for children: raise children's awareness about violence, teach them to not feel responsible for spousal violence, help them to identify protection mechanisms, develop their self-esteem and ability to assert themselves, and promote the learning of non-violent conflict resolution methods.</p> <p>Mother-child component: together, to increase their abilities in interpreting events and learning different behaviours with respect to violence.</p>
Espace	Prevent violence against children and make them less vulnerable by teaching them to recognize abuse, defend themselves verbally and physically and report abuse and attempted abuse.
GCC la violence !	Prevent violence and crime by promoting peaceful behaviour and non-violent solutions to problems among young people aged 10 to 25 and their families.
Group therapy program at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres for children and adolescents exposed to spousal violence	Develop certain skills among children and adolescents exposed to spousal violence and enable them to learn more about violence and their rights and responsibilities and to understand the role of each person involved in violent situations.
J'm'en sors c'est mon sort	Foster the psychosocial adaptation of children aged 9 to 12 exposed to spousal violence.
Luttons contre la violence faite aux adolescentes. Trousse animation-jeunesse	Raise awareness about violence against adolescent girls and enable them to acquire action strategies to curb violence.
PASSAJ	Promote egalitarian relationships and prevent dating violence among young people aged 16 and 17 (continuation of the ViRAJ Program).
Premières amours	Help young people to establish reference points for themselves and to develop critical thinking about their love and sex lives.

Name of program	Objectives
Projet de prévention de la violence conjugale auprès des hommes des communautés ethnoculturelles	1) Raise awareness among men from ethnocultural communities about the issue of spousal violence and the damage it can cause, 2) conduct research among men from ethnocultural communities on solutions that can lead to individual and community “empowerment” and 3) organize a forum to disseminate the results of this research and develop intervention tools.
SAISIR	Foster individual and collective reflection on violence in youth dating relationships.
Une belle claque d'amour. Guide de formation sur la violence dans les relations amoureuses des jeunes	1) Learn about violence in youth dating relationships and 2) acquire basic knowledge and skills relating to the most common intervention methods in youth community organizations.
ViRAJ Program	Promote egalitarian relationships and prevent dating violence among young people aged 14 to 16.







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