

# ASSESSMENT OF THE RISK OF DOMESTIC HOMICIDE

Supporting the Health of Survivors of Family Violence in Family Law Proceedings

Please think about the traditional lands you are currently situated on and join us in **acknowledging and thanking the generations of Indigenous peoples** who have cared for these Lands and in celebrating the continued strength and spirit of Indigenous Peoples. The ongoing work to make the promise of truth and reconciliation real in our communities and in particular to bring justice for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls across the country should inform our discussions in this webinar and beyond.



# Welcome to our webinar!








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-  All attendees are **muted** during the webinar.  
If you are **experiencing issues**, please type into the chat box.
-  If you have a **question** for the webinar speakers, please type into the **Q&A box** and we will spend 15 mins near the end on Questions and Answers.
-  There will be an **evaluation link in the chat box at the end** of the webinar, please fill out the form as your feedback will guide our future webinars.  
Once you complete the evaluation form, you will be directed to a website where you will be prompted to enter your full name and email address. **A certificate of attendance will be generated and emailed to you.**
-  **Presentation slides are posted on our website**, there will be a link in the chat box.  
The webinar recording will be posted on our website within the next few days.
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# Christine Drouin

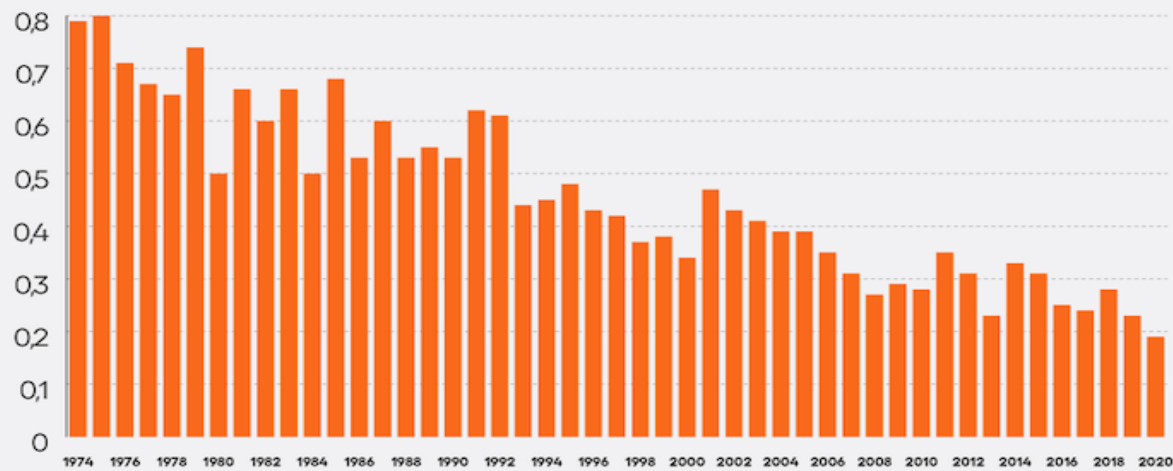
Christine Drouin holds a master's degree in criminology from the University of Montreal. As a research professional at UQAM, she participated in the development of tools on the prevention of spousal homicide offered to shelters, police officers and organizations helping people with violent behavior. She has also participated in various research projects on domestic violence and consultation



# *Statistics*

- In Quebec between 2016 and 2020, 48 spousal homicides were perpetrated, including 11 in 2020.
- In Canada in 2018, 33% of homicides were perpetrated by a family member. A total of 75 women and 21 men were victims of spousal homicide.
- In 2017, 30,000 women were killed by an intimate partner worldwide, which is approximately 82 women per day.

**FIG. 3 - TAUX DE FEMMES PAR 100 000 HAB.  
TUÉES PAR LEUR CONJOINT\*, CANADA, 1974-2020**



Source : Statistique Canada, Enquête sur les homicides. \*Comprend les conjoints mariés, les conjoints de fait et les conjoints séparés ou divorcés.

# *Statistics*

Between 2008-2018 in Quebec (INSPQ, 2021):

- 113 situations (domestic homicides=69; filicides=7; familicides=5; other deaths=37)
- 165 people died in a context of domestic violence, including 82 victims of domestic violence, 56 perpetrators and 27 collateral victims (20 were minors)
- 75 victims died by homicide and 7 by suicides
- 36 perpetrators died by homicide-suicide, 12 by suicide, 4 by homicide



# *Statistics*

- 418 domestic homicides occurred in Canada, for a total of 476 victims. Among them were 427 adults (90%) and 49 children (10%).
- Women make up 79 percent of adult victims, men 21 percent. Among children, girls represent 53 percent of the victims and boys 47 percent.
- The majority of adult victims were between the ages of 25 and 34 (28%). The average age of the victims was 39 years old. Among the children, the victims were from less than one year old for the youngest to 13 years old, for an average age of six years.
- 443 people have been charged in the 418 reported domestic homicide cases. Most of them were men (86%). Of the 443 defendants, 21 percent committed suicide and 7 percent attempted suicide following the homicide.
- The majority of the accused were between the ages of 25 and 34 (25%), with an average age of 40.



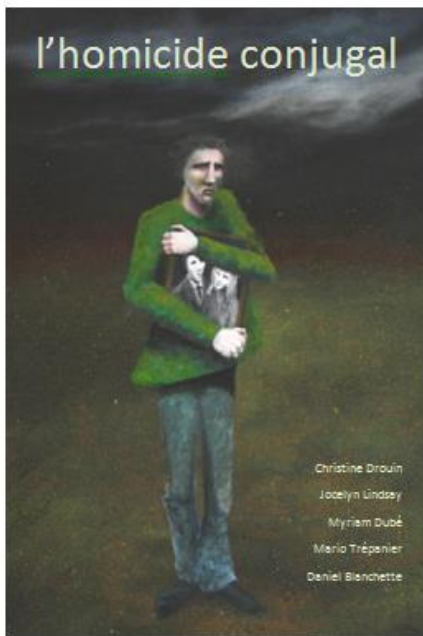
- Risk assessment

# Risk Assessment

- Three approaches to risk estimation:
  - The actuarial approach
  - Standardized tools
  
  - The unstructured professional approach
  - Specific elements from clinical experience
  
  - The structured professional approach
  - Pragmatic and empirical theoretical data

# *Intervening with men to prevent spousal homicide*

Intervenir auprès des hommes pour prévenir



cri  
viff

à cœur d'homme  
Mettre fin à la violence, pour un monde plus sûr

- Research objects
- 1) list the best practices of organizations
- 2) adapt the guide first developed for shelters (Drouin and Drolet, 2004) according to the reality of organizations working with men with violent behavior;
- 3) broaden the knowledge of workers on the issue of spousal homicide through training days.
- To get the guide for free:  
Consult the websites [www.criviff.qc.ca](http://www.criviff.qc.ca) or [www.acoeurdhomme.com](http://www.acoeurdhomme.com)

# APPRÉCIATION DE RISQUE D'HOMICIDE CONJUGAL

## ÉLÉMENTS DE RISQUES

### RISQUE MODÉRÉ

- Éléments de risque chroniques soit, qui durent ou se répètent dans le temps

### RISQUE AGGRAVÉ

- Éléments de risque circonstanciels qui viennent s'ajouter au risque modéré et aggraver la situation

### RISQUE SÉRIEUX

- Éléments de risque critiques qui viennent s'ajouter au risque modéré et intensifier subitement la dangerosité

### RISQUE IMMIMENT

- Éléments de risque qui indiquent l'exécution rapprochée du plan homicide (généralement dans les 48 heures)

### RISQUE IMMÉDIAT

- Scénario homicide en cours ou sur le point d'être exécuté

## ÉVÉNEMENTS PRÉCIPITANTS

- Séparation imminente ou récente:
  - tentative de réconciliation
  - présence d'un nouveau partenaire
  - déménagement
- Pertes significatives:
  - impression de perte liée aux enfants (ex: réception du jugement légal perçu défavorable, enjeux de garde)
  - perte financière
- Tout autre événement susceptible d'amener une impression de perte de contrôle (sentiment d'impuissance) et/ou une perte d'espoir:

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## ÉLÉMENTS DE PROTECTION

- Absence d'idéation et de scénario
- Capable d'envisager le deuil de la rupture
- Garde un sentiment d'espoir face à la vie
- Reconnaît sa capacité à agir pour son bien-être
- Reconnaît l'autonomie de l'autre comme une réalité; l'autre cesse d'être vu comme simple objet (de satisfaction ou de frustration)
- Ouverture à l'autre
- Reconnaît ses comportements violents, les impacts négatifs et démontre une volonté de changement
- Reconnaît ses éléments déclencheurs et agit pour se protéger (capable de faire des scénarios de protection et de les appliquer)
- Reconnaît la valeur de sa partenaire dans son rôle de mère
- Capable de demander de l'aide
- Présence et support du réseau social
- Respecte les conditions et les lois par crainte des conséquences
- Reconnaît les conséquences découlant d'un geste homicide sur son environnement
- S'investit dans la démarche
- Met en place les actions prévues lors de l'intervention (mobilisation)
- Sentiment de confiance envers l'intervenant.e et l'organisme
- S'engage à ne pas passer à l'acte
- AUTRES : \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES

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# Risk assessment

- To explore:
  - risk elements
  - the murder scenario
  - precipitating events
  - protective elements
  - the level of collaboration of people
- Risk level

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  - the murder scenario
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# *Moderate risk*

Risk elements either chronic, lasting or recurring over time

- Overcontrol of emotions
- Rigidity
- Difficulties with empathy and compassion
- history of violence related to a past marital or intimate relationship
- Criminal or non-criminal history of violence outside the family
- History of violence against women
- Suicidal history
- History of depression
- Homicidal thoughts in the past
- Child Abuse
- Violence in the marital or intimate relationship
- Demonstration of obsessive jealousy
- Control of partner's behavior and dating
- Presence of firearm



# *Aggravated risk*

## **Circumstantial risk elements that add to the moderate risk and make the situation worse**

- Depressive signs
- Significant losses, insurmountable failure
- Suicidal thoughts
- Refusal of separation
- Disapproval of the presence of a new partner
- Revenge Ruminations
- Feeling of betrayal, humiliation
- Perception that the partner risks destroying the family
- Rage
- Sudden change in attitudes and behaviors
- Contemptuous behavior or remarks towards the partner and lack of remorse
- Harassment
- Breach of release conditions
- Suicidal threats
- Death threats
- Lower level of accountability

# ***Serious risk***

## **Circumstantial risk elements that add to the moderate risk and make the situation worse**

- Depressive signs
- Significant losses, insurmountable failure
- Suicidal thoughts
- Refusal of separation
- Disapproval of the presence of a new partner
- Revenge Rumination
- Feeling of betrayal, humiliation
- Perception that the partner risks destroying the family
- Rage
- Sudden change in attitudes and behaviors
- Contemptuous behavior or remarks towards the partner and lack of remorse
- Harassment
- Breach of release conditions
- Suicidal threats
- Death threats
- Lower level of accountability

# *Imminent risk*

Risk elements that indicate the early execution of the homicide plan (usually within 48 hours)

Life-threatening behaviors

Definitive loss of hope for a continuation or resumption of the relationship

Verbalization of intentions to cause serious injury

Verbalization of homicidal intentions

Concrete and realistic homicide plan (partial or complete)

## **Immediate risk**

Homicide scenario in progress or about to be executed

# *Scenario*

Once the elements of risk have been documented, the worker must explore the presence of a homicidal scenario.

- Suggested questions:
- Have you ever imagined the death of your partner?
- Did you imagine both of you dead?
- How often does the idea of killing her occur to you?
- When do you plan to kill her?
- Where did you expect this to happen?
- How do you plan to kill her?
- Have you taken steps to carry out your plan? Which?
- Have you thought about including other people in your plan (children, new spouse, other person in the family network or friends)?

# *Protection*

- Significant elements for the participant that prevent him from implementing his homicide scenario
- Suggested questions:
  - What makes you talk about it today?
  - Why has there been no action so far?
  - Elements to prevent homicidal ideas?
  - What could help not to act out?
  - Have you ever considered the consequences of doing such a thing?

# *Conclusion*

- Importance of risk assessment
- Risk management and monitoring adapted to the level of risk analyzed
- Concertation

# Questions

Review of questions posted



[www.alliancevaw.ca](http://www.alliancevaw.ca)



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