Family and intimate partner violence rises in Peel

In 2025, Peel Regional Police responded to an average of 46 disputes every day, or almost 2 every hour.

November 25, 2026

November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and rates of family and intimate partner violence continue to rise across Peel, affecting thousands of people and families.

The statistics are concerning:

- In 2025, Peel Regional Police responded to nearly 17,000 calls for family and intimate partner disputes. That's an average of 46 calls a day.
- Between 2022 and 2025, reported family and intimate partner disputes to the Caledon OPP increased by nearly 45%.
- 78% of the victims of family and intimate partner violence are women.
- In 2024, key community agencies received 26,506 crisis calls and self-referrals, underscoring the need for accessible, coordinated and responsive community supports for those experiencing violence and abuse.
- Between 2023 and 2026, intimate partner violence was the primary concern in approximately 1 in 3 completed child protection investigations in Peel.

These numbers only reflect reported incidents, as many cases remain hidden and unreported.

These statistics show why prevention, early intervention and the support of community organizations are so important: now more than ever.

Break the Silence campaign

Peel Region and the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA) are launching the 7th annual Break the Silence campaign in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

The campaign brings together community organizations, local municipalities, law enforcement, service providers, advocates, and survivors with lived experience.

Together, these partners work to increase awareness of family and intimate partner violence, connect residents to services, and advance a coordinated community response that promotes safety and support for survivors.

Moving from awareness to action

Since the start of Peel's FIPV Campaign in 2020, the Peel community has worked together to raise awareness, strengthen supports and improve access to safety. These efforts are helping more women seek help earlier. This is evidenced by a 270% increase in self-referrals to the Safe Centre of Peel, a network of agencies that provides comprehensive support and compassionate care for families who have been impacted by abuse and violence in Peel.

Peel has seen a decline in intimate partner homicides in recent years, from 10 women killed between 2019-2020 to two intimate partner homicides in 2025. While every death is a tragedy, this decrease represents lives saved and the importance of sustained community action to preventing violence and supporting those impacted.

Supporting children, youth and families affected by violence remains a priority through Peel's Community Safety and Well-being Plan. Following the Break the Cycle Summit, Peel Region and community partners continue to advocate for long-term housing solutions and explore innovative programs we can implement in Peel that help survivors and their families achieve safety and stability.

Support is available

If you or someone you know is experiencing family or intimate partner violence or needs help finding support, you are not alone. Help and support are available:

If it is an emergency, call 911 immediately.

- Call, text or chat with 211.
- Call Embrave: Agency to End Violence Crisis Line at 1-855-676-8515.
- Call Victim Services of Peel at 905-568-1068.

For Caledon residents:

- Call Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services at 905-951-3838.
- Call Family Transition Place at 1-800-265-9178.

There is no wrong number to call. You will be supported and get the help you need from any of the listed agencies.

For more information about family and intimate partner violence and community services, visit peelregion.ca/breakthesilence.

Quotes

"The Break the Silence campaign brings partners together to deliver our collective message to those experiencing this crime – we'll be there for you. And when a person takes that step – one of the hardest anyone faces in life – the collective, community effort must respond with a compassion and strength that is commensurate to that person's courage. So, we'll continue our collective action and advocacy to both raise awareness and wrap services around the survivor. Raising awareness saves lives. Building up services in partnership with the community helps these brave people go forward in life with stability, safety and hope."

Nancy Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services, Peel Region, CSWB Co-Chair

"Now more than ever, with the continuous changes happening around us, it is critical that we work together as a community to address gender-based violence (GBV). GBV is an epidemic in Peel that requires a collaborative, community-wide response. We are grateful to the Region of Peel for giving the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA) the opportunity to co-lead this iteration of the campaign. Together, we must continue to raise awareness about the prevalence of GBV and ensure that survivors and their children know they do not have to face violence alone. We will continue to stand with survivors, now and always. We will continue to fight against GBV, challenge the systems that allow violence to persist, and advocate for meaningful change."

Andrine Johnson, CEO, Embrave: Agency to End Violence and Sarah Rogers, Executive Director, Victim Services of Peel, PCAWA co-chairs

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