

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2016

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Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2016

Introduction

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile is an annual report produced by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics under the Federal Family Violence Initiative. Since 1998, this report has provided current data on the nature and extent of family violence in Canada, as well as analysis of trends over time. The information presented here is used extensively to monitor changes that inform policy makers and the public.

The 2016 edition of the report features an in-depth analysis of self-reported stalking in Canada, using data from the 2014 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization). This featured section examines the nature and prevalence of self-reported stalking, including how stalking behaviour has changed over time. A particular focus on intimate partner stalking is also presented, including an overview of how stalking that occurs in the context of these relationships differs from other kinds of stalking in important ways. The featured section also provides a multivariate analysis of various risk factors that impact the odds of stalking victimization, both within and outside of intimate partner relationships.

As in past years, this year's report also includes sections dedicated to police-reported data on family violence in general, intimate partner violence specifically, family violence against children and youth, and family violence against seniors. Presented in a fact sheet format accompanied by detailed data tables, these sections provide readers with key findings for 2016 from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the Homicide Survey. For the first time in 2016, these sections also include an analysis of persons accused of family violence.

In this report, 'family' refers to relationships defined through blood, marriage, common-law partnership, foster care or adoption; 'family violence' refers to violent criminal offences where the perpetrator is a family member of the victim, as defined above.

Section 1: Stalking in Canada, 2014

Section 2: Police-reported family violence in Canada – An overview

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Section 4: Police-reported family violence against children and youth

Section 5: Police-reported family violence against seniors

Survey description

Section 1: Stalking in Canada, 2014

by Marta Burczykca

Highlights

- Defined as repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know, stalking was experienced by almost 2 million Canadians in the five years preceding the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization). This represented about 8% of women and 5% of men aged 15 and older.
- Self-reported data indicate that the prevalence of stalking decreased by one-third between 2004 and 2014, from 9% to 6% of Canadians. Declines were recorded among both women and men. Over a similar period of time, police-reported criminal harassment also decreased (-19%).
- According to the 2014 General Social Survey, almost half of stalking victims were between 15 and 34 years of age (48%), and most victims were women (62%). While most stalkers were male, the proportion that were female increased between 2004 and 2014 (15% to 19%).
- Most often, victims said the stalking took the form of threats or intimidation against someone else they knew (reported by 39% of victims), repeated, obscene or silent phone calls (31%), and unwanted emails, texts or social media messages (28%). This latter type of stalking increased substantially from 2004, when it had been reported by 6% of victims.
- In addition to the stalking they experienced, one-third of victims endured physical intimidation or threats of violence consistent with *Criminal Code* definitions of assault (32%). One in five (18%) stalking victims experienced actual physical violence.
- Half of stalking victims reported that their stalker was someone they knew other than an intimate partner (49%), while 27% were stalked by strangers. Current or former intimate partners were identified by 21% of victims.
- Based on multivariate analysis, key risk factors for experiencing stalking include experiences of child abuse, learning disabilities and perceived negative neighbourhood characteristics.
- Certain populations, including Aboriginal people and those identifying as homosexual or bisexual, were overrepresented among stalking victims. A multivariate analysis shows that Aboriginal identity or sexual orientation are not themselves risk factors, however, and provides other possible explanations for why these groups are overrepresented as victims.
- Two in five (39%) victims reported the stalking to police, and a minority of these (21%) said that charges had been laid. One-quarter (25%) of victims who had reported to the police said that to their knowledge, restraining orders had at some point been issued against the person who stalked them.
- Intimate partner stalking was different from other kinds of stalking in important ways—for example, it was the only kind of stalking that did not decrease between 2004 and 2014. The over-representation of women as victims, greater association with violence, and higher levels of reporting to police were other key differences.
- A multivariate analysis identified distinct risk factors for intimate partner stalking, suggesting a link to victims' experiences with specific kinds of intimate relationships—in particular, spousal relationships that had ended. These risk factors included having children in the home or living alone.

Introduction

Stalking is defined as repeated and unwanted attention that causes a person to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know, a definition which qualifies as criminal harassment under the *Criminal Code* of Canada (s. 264).^{1,2} While stalking, by definition, makes someone feel unsafe, it can take the form of actions that do not include overt threats of physical violence. Examples include threats to divulge sensitive personal information and unwanted romantic advances that make the person feel unsafe, despite not including threats of physical harm. Stalking can encompass a range of behaviours, such as someone waiting outside a person's home, school or work, physical or electronic surveillance, damage to property and various kinds of unwanted communication, as further outlined in the *Criminal Code* (ss. 372(2) and (3)). Stalking often involves a pattern of repeated behaviour, as opposed to one occurrence of a harassing phone call, email, or other action.

According to definitions used by both the *Criminal Code* and the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), stalking itself does not include verbalized threats of physical violence directed at the victim, nor physical violence itself. These actions are separate under the *Criminal Code*, and constitute the offences of uttering threats (s. 264.1) and assault (s. 265). Police-reported data show that these crimes often occur together (Justice Canada 2012). As such, the GSS asks Canadians who had been stalked about their experiences with actual or threatened physical violence through a separate, but related, series of questions.

Stalking happens in the context of different kinds of relationships, including current or former intimate partnerships, between acquaintances, and between strangers. Research into the motivations of stalkers show that motives are often tied to the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Some stalkers are motivated by “a delusional belief in romantic destiny, a desire to reclaim a prior relationship [or] a sadistic urge to torment the victim” (Miller 2012); those who stalk strangers, meanwhile, are often found to have mental illness (McEwan and Strand 2013). Regardless of a stalker’s motivations, the impact of this kind of victimization on those who are targeted can be significant.

Victims of stalking can experience serious psychological harm that can have long-lasting effects and limit their daily activities. Sometimes, victims are also subjected to violence and physical attacks. Research has shown that in the context of intimate partner violence in particular, stalking often precedes violent assaults and homicides (McFarlane et al. 2002). As such, criminal justice and victim services professionals consider stalking to be both a serious crime in itself, as well as a warning that more serious violence may occur (Justice Canada 2012). In Canada, guidelines for police and prosecutors draw links between stalking and violent crimes such as assault and homicide (Justice Canada 2012).

This *Juristat* article explores the prevalence and nature of self-reported stalking victimization in Canada, including a look at how stalking has changed over time. Included is an analysis of the different interpersonal relationships involved in stalking behaviour, with a specific focus on stalking in intimate partner relationships that is presented in Part 2. Multivariate analysis using logistic regression is used to isolate various risk factors associated with stalking victimization, and an overview of how stalking affects victims—and what they do to seek help—is presented.

Text box 1 **How the General Social Survey measures stalking**

The 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadian’s Safety (Victimization) included several questions designed to measure respondents’ experiences with several behaviours related to stalking. These behaviours mirror conduct outlined in the Canadian *Criminal Code*’s definition of criminal harassment. The questions asked in the GSS were:

In the past five years, have you been the subject of repeated and unwanted attention that caused you to fear for your safety or the safety of someone known to you? By that I mean:

- ...has anyone phoned you repeatedly or made silent or obscene phone calls?
- ...has anyone sent you unwanted messages through e-mail, text, Facebook or any other social media?
- ...has anyone sent you unwanted gifts, letters, or cards?
- ...has anyone tried to communicate with you against your will in any other way?
- ...has anyone followed you or spied on you either in person or through an electronic tracking device (such as a GPS)?
- ...has anyone waited outside your home?
- ...has anyone waited outside your place of work or school or other places you were, when they had no business being there?
- ...has anyone persistently asked you for a date and refused to take no for an answer?
- ...has anyone posted inappropriate, unwanted or personal information about you or pictures on a social media site?
- ...has anyone attempted to intimidate or threaten you by threatening or intimidating someone else?
- ...has anyone attempted to intimidate or threaten you by hurting your pet(s)?
- ...has anyone attempted to intimidate or threaten you by damaging your property?

To be considered stalking, the behaviour must have made the respondent fear for their safety or for the safety of someone known to them.

The 2014 cycle of the GSS represented the second time that detailed information on stalking was collected by the survey. The first came with the 2004 survey cycle; since that time, detailed questions on stalking are included every other time that the survey’s victimization cycle is collected. Slight modifications to some questions were made for the 2014 cycle, in order to account for changes in technology:

- Unwanted texts, Facebook, or other social media messages were added to the question about emails as examples of unwanted communications;
- The use of electronic tracking devices such as GPS was added to the question about being followed or spied upon;
- A new question was added to ask about the posting of unwanted personal information online.

Part 1: Prevalence, characteristics and trends in self-reported stalking

Stalking victimization decreases between 2004 and 2014

Findings from the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) show that about 1.9 million Canadians were the victims of stalking at some time in the five years preceding the survey. This represented about 6% of Canada's population aged 15 and older. About 8% of women and 5% of men³ reported having been stalked (Table 1).⁴

Self-reported data show that stalking victimization decreased by one-third between 2004 and 2014.⁵ In comparison to 2014, in 2004 almost one in ten (9%) Canadians reported having been stalked in the previous five years. Similar declines were recorded among women (down from 11% in 2004) and among men (down from 7% in 2004) (Table 2). During this same time period, the overall rate of self-reported violent victimization decreased by 28% (Perreault 2015).

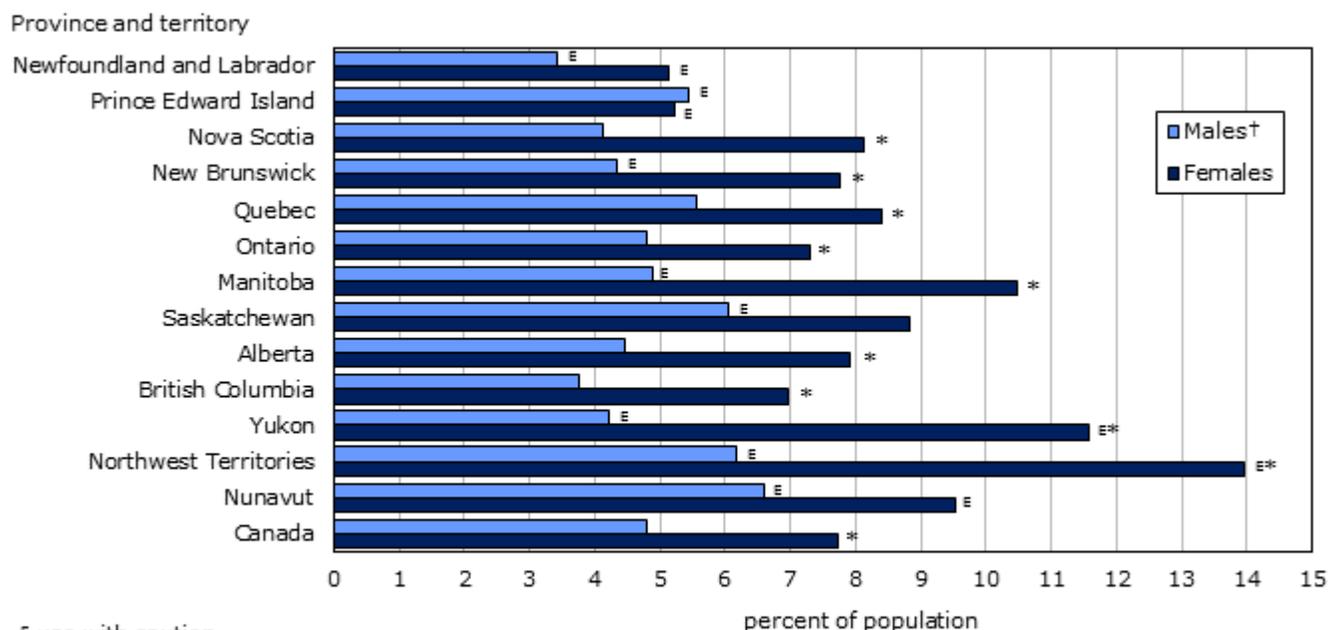
The decrease in self-reported stalking recorded between 2004 and 2014 was in line with a decline in its police-reported correlate, criminal harassment, which occurred over a similar period of time. According to the most recent police-reported data available, the rate of criminal harassment decreased by 19% between 2006 and 2016; overall violent crime, meanwhile, declined by 24% (Keighley 2017).⁶

In 2014, the percentage of people indicating that they had been stalked was generally similar among the provinces and territories, with a few exceptions.⁷ For example, people in Newfoundland and Labrador experienced a lower prevalence of stalking (4%) than those in most other provinces and territories. Another exception was the Northwest Territories, where people experienced stalking more often (10%) than those in the provinces (except for Manitoba and Saskatchewan). Besides these, few differences existed between the provinces, and differences among the territories were not statistically significant.

Incidentally, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories are among the provinces and territories that consistently experience higher rates of both self- and police-reported violent crime (Keighley 2017; Perreault 2015; Perreault and Simpson 2016). Police-reported criminal harassment, specifically, was higher in the Northwest Territories than in any other province or territory except Nunavut in 2016; interestingly, however, it was lowest in Manitoba and close to the Canadian average in Saskatchewan⁸—a marked contrast to what was seen with self-reported stalking data.

As in Canada as a whole, self-reported stalking was more common among women than men in most provinces and territories. The exceptions were Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Nunavut, where stalking rates for women and men were not statistically different (Chart 1). In comparison, in 2004, stalking rates for women and men were statistically similar in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Manitoba.

Chart 1
Self-reported stalking, by sex, provinces and territories, 2014



E use with caution

* significantly different from reference category (†) (p < 0.05)

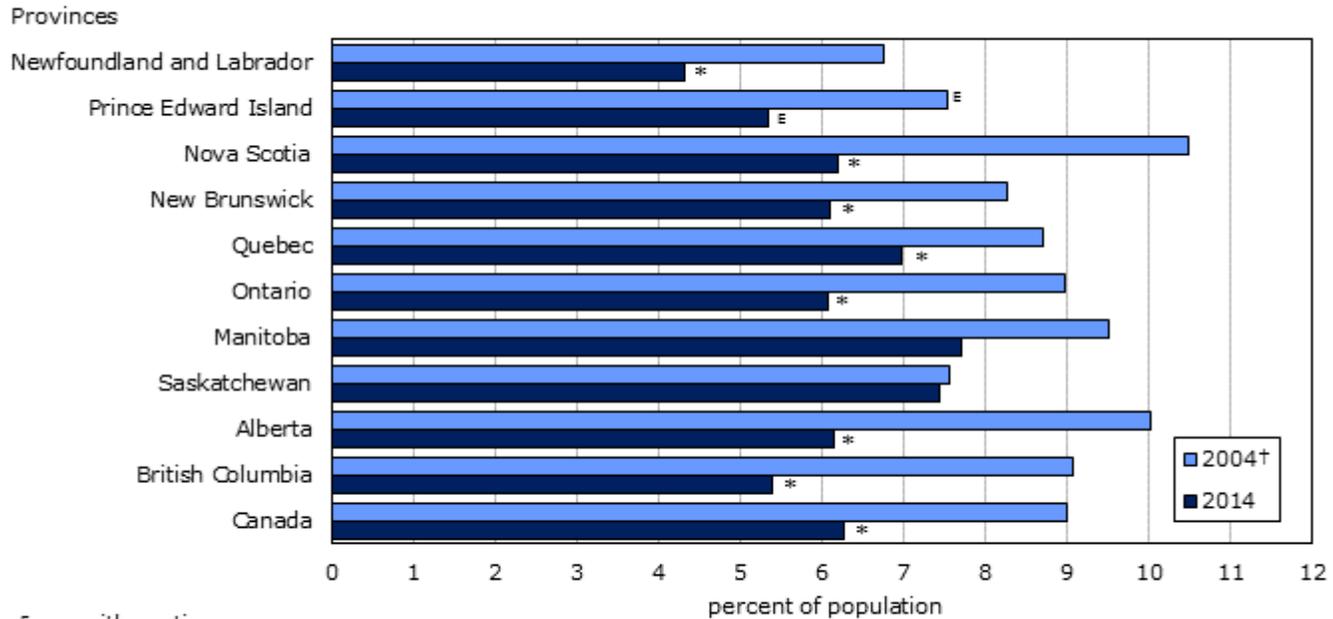
† reference category

Note: Statistical differences between provincial totals are not shown.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Between 2004 and 2014, the largest provincial decreases in self-reported stalking were noted in Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia (-4 percentage points each) (Chart 2). Meanwhile, rates in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Saskatchewan did not change in a statistically significant way. Of note, these were also the provinces where stalking rates against females did not show a decrease, reflecting the fact that provincial stalking rates are largely indicative of rates of stalking against women.

Chart 2
Self-reported stalking victimization, provinces, 2004 and 2014



[‡] use with caution

* significantly different from reference category (†) ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

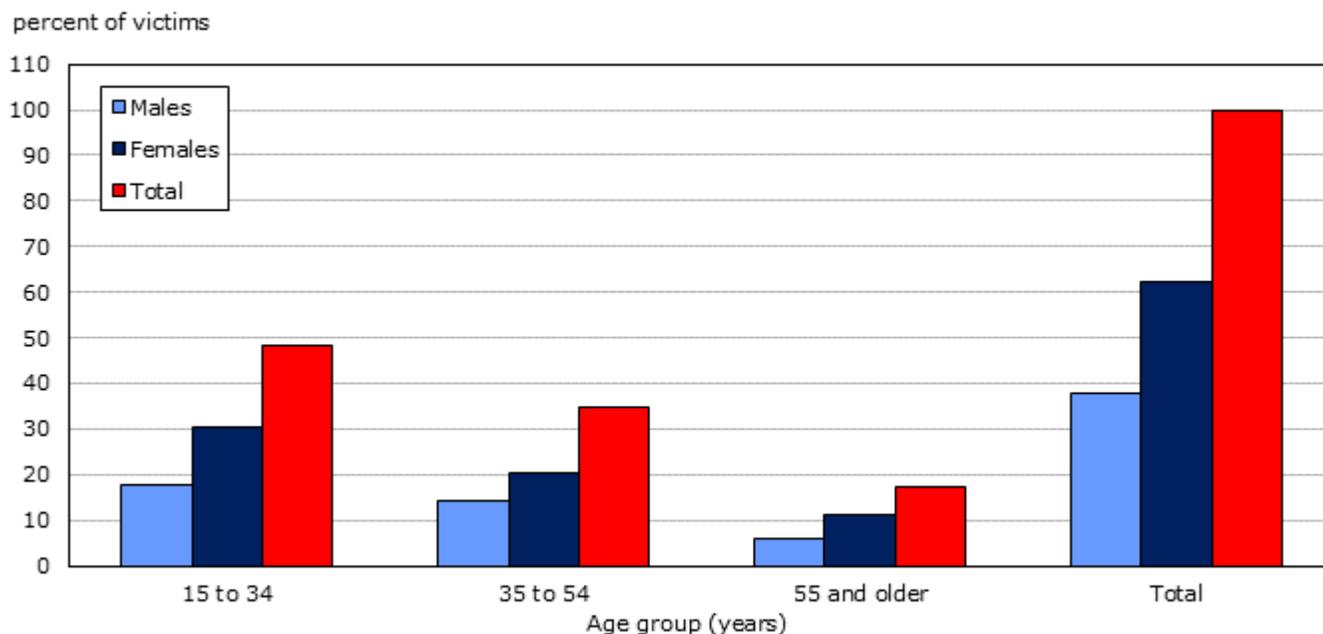
Note: Does not include data collected in the territories, as these data were not available for 2004.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Most stalking victims were female, aged between 15 and 34

As with all violent crime, stalking was most common among young people, and its incidence declined with age (Perreault 2015) (Chart 3). Just under half of all stalking victims (48%) were between 15 and 34 years of age; almost one in ten (9%) people in that age group reported having been stalked, making stalking significantly more common for them compared to other age groups. After controlling for other factors, such as sex, marital status, and various other characteristics, people aged 15 to 34 were more likely to be stalked than those who were older (Model 1).⁹

Chart 3
Self-reported stalking victimization, by sex and age group, Canada, 2014



Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Women made up the majority of stalking victims in 2014 (62%). Young women, in particular, were over-represented: almost one-third of all stalking victims (31%) were females between the ages of 15 and 34. This over-representation of young women situates stalking among other forms of victimization, including sexual assault, violence within dating relationships and the most severe forms of spousal violence—where there are also disproportionate numbers of women victims (see, for example, Burczycka and Ibrahim 2016; Conroy and Cotter 2017; Perreault 2015). After controlling for many other factors known to be associated with stalking and other forms of victimization, being female resulted in 85% greater odds of being a victim of stalking (Model 1).

Stalking most often includes threats, intimidation of someone known to the victim

Most often, the kind of stalking or harassing behaviour¹⁰ that victims experienced was threats or intimidation against someone else in the victim’s life, such as the victim’s child or other family member—reported by four in ten (39%) victims (about 720,000 Canadians).¹¹ Just under a third of victims reported repeated, silent or obscene phone calls (31%), while 28% said that they had received unwanted emails, texts or social media messages that made them fear for their safety or the safety of someone they knew. Damage to property was reported by almost one-quarter of stalking victims (24%) (Table 3).

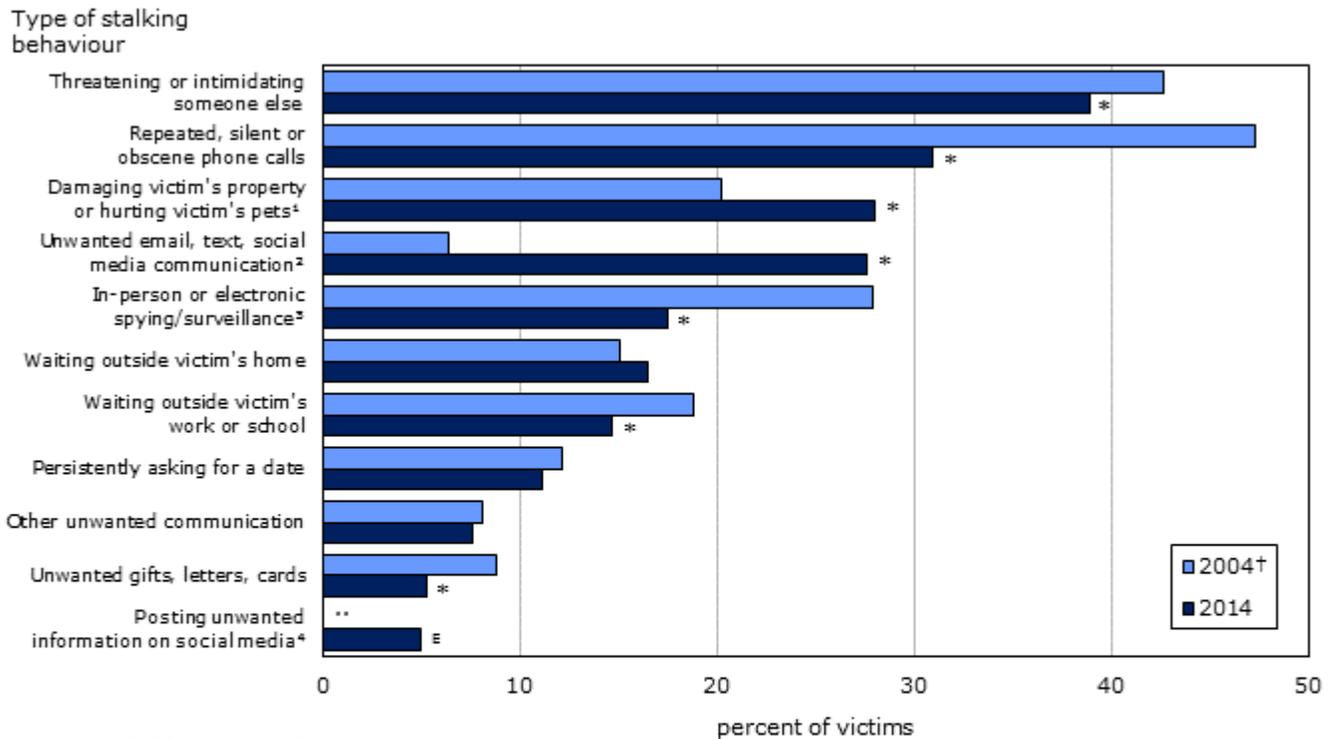
Male and female stalking victims were targeted in different ways. For example, 46% of male victims reported threats and intimidation against someone they knew, compared to 35% of female victims; males were also more likely to report that their personal property had been damaged (28% compared to 21% among females). Meanwhile, females were considerably more likely than males to have received repeated, silent or obscene phone calls (38% versus 20%) or unwanted emails, texts or social media messages (31% versus 23%), and to have been spied on in person or electronically (21% versus 12%).

In his study on cyberbullying and cyberstalking of young people in Canada, Hango (2016) found that a high proportion of Canadians aged 15 to 29 had experienced repeated use of electronic communication meant to harass or frighten them.¹² These behaviours affected 17% of the population aged 15 to 29, and declined with age (Hango 2016). This may reflect the fact that younger people are **in general** more likely to be stalked: when looking at which types of stalking are most prevalent among victims of various ages, the present study found no significant difference between victims aged 15 to 34 and those aged 35 to 54 when it comes to cyberstalking. In other words, receiving unwanted emails, texts or communications via social media was as common among younger victims as among those in the older group (31% and 28%, respectively), as was having had unwanted personal information posted on social media (5%^E and 7%^E).¹³

Large-scale changes in how people use technology are reflected in changes in stalking behaviour. In 2004, for example, the social media platform Facebook was in its infancy (Blodget 2012), while services like Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat had yet to emerge. One study showed that even over the relatively short period of 2010 to 2012, the proportion of internet-using Canadians who used social networking sites rose from 58% to 67% (Statistics Canada 2013).

In 2004, the General Social Survey (GSS) asked about stalking that took the form of unwanted communication via email, and found that 6% of stalking victims had had this kind of experience. The question was expanded in 2014 to include unwanted texts and other social media messages (see Text box 1), and the resulting data showed that 28% of victims had been stalked in this way. This difference of 22 percentage points was the largest shift among the types of stalking measured in 2004 and 2014. Though it is possible that some people stalked through the early social media platforms available in 2004 may not have reported it to the GSS because of the way the question was phrased, it is perhaps more likely that the difference reflects the overall increase in people’s engagement in online social networks (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Types of stalking experienced by victims, Canada, 2004 and 2014



.. not available for a specific reference period

[‡] use with caution

* significantly different from reference category (†) (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. This question was asked as one question in 2004 and two questions in 2014. Data from 2014 are combined here for comparability.

2. "Unwanted messages through text and social media" included in 2014.

3. "Either in person or through electronic tracking" included in 2014.

4. This question was added in 2014.

Note: Does not include data collected in the territories, as these data were not available for 2004. Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding and/or multiple responses being possible.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Another significant increase in the kinds of stalking most commonly experienced by victims was with damaging property or hurting pets (20% of victims in 2004 to 28% in 2014).¹⁴ The largest decreases were with respect to being spied on (28% in 2004 to 17% in 2014) and receiving repeated, silent or obscene phone calls (47% in 2004 to 31% in 2014). This latter decrease may arguably be linked to an ongoing decrease in “voice to voice” conversations by phone, which have largely been replaced with email and texting (Dillman 2017).

In 2014, the majority of stalking victims said that they believed that the stalking that they had experienced during the previous five years had ended (78%), a proportion that was similar between men and women. Slightly more than one in ten (12%) said that they believed that the stalking was ongoing, while 10% were not sure if the stalking had ended or not.

Overall, most stalking victims reported that they had experienced stalking for either one week or less (26%) or for more than a year (24%). Men were more likely than women to report one week or less of stalking (33% versus 22%), while stalking that lasted between one and six months was more common among women (24% versus 17% among men). No statistically significant difference was found between men and women when it came to stalking that lasted for a year or more (Table 4).

Some variation was found among different types of stalking when it came to their duration.¹⁵ For example, in-person or electronic spying was slightly more likely to have lasted for less than one week (58%) than were most other types of stalking.

Threats and physical violence often associated with stalking

Both the Canadian *Criminal Code* and the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) draw a distinction between criminal harassment/stalking and threats of physical violence directed at the victim, as well as physical violence itself. However, police-reported data show that these crimes often occur together (Justice Canada 2012). In 2016, for instance, 29% of police-reported incidents of criminal harassment involved another crime; when criminal harassment was itself the most serious offence among these crimes, almost one-third (32%) of the incidents also involved uttering threats.¹⁶ Among incidents where criminal harassment was present but not the most serious offence, assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (assault level 2) was most commonly the most serious offence (30%) (Statistics Canada 2017a).

In parallel, the GSS asks Canadians who had been stalked about whether violence or threats of physical violence had been associated with the stalking that they experienced. Findings from these self-reported data show that threats of physical harm were fairly often associated with cases of stalking. Just under one third of all stalking victims (32%) reported that during the most recent incident of stalking that they had experienced, the person responsible had physically intimidated them or threatened them with violence. Additionally, many stalking incidents involved violent physical contact. Almost one in five stalking victims (18%) indicated that the person stalking them in the most recent incident had grabbed or attacked them in some way.

Interestingly, men were more likely than women to report stalking-related physical intimidation or threats (40% versus 27%), and also more likely to report physical violence associated with stalking (22% versus 16%). Part of the explanation may lie with how stalking is defined by the GSS on Victimization (and by the *Criminal Code*). To be categorized as stalking in the GSS, an experience must have caused the victim to feel fear (for themselves or others) and to report it as such to the survey. Researchers have long argued that gender norms may create an image of masculinity that includes bravery and fearlessness. Consequently, some males may internalize this messaging to the degree that they may not perceive some situations as fear-inducing as readily as some females might (Sutton and Farrall 2005). It is possible, therefore, that the incidents of stalking that males report to the GSS—requiring *de facto* the element of fear—may be biased towards those more severe incidents, where violence or overt threats of violence had occurred. In essence, men might report fewer of the less-severe incidents, thereby raising the overall severity of male-reported stalking incidents present in the data. Similar explanations have been put forward with regards to men's perceptions of safety in their neighbourhoods, for instance (Perreault 2017).

The idea that the reporting of victimization is gendered is supported by the fact that among stalking victims, more women (37%) than men (28%) reported fearing for their lives during the most recent incident. Though by definition, an element of fear must be present for an incident to be considered stalking, fearing for one's life represents a more severe and traumatic experience. It is arguable that male victims may have been less likely to either perceive their experience this way, or be less likely to report it to the GSS. Overall, more than one-third of stalking victims (34%) feared for their life as a result of the most recent incident of stalking.

Not surprisingly, many victims who were physically intimidated or threatened with violence feared for their lives (48%), though many of those who did not experience that level of severity did so as well (27%). Victims who had been grabbed or attacked by a stalker were also more likely to fear for their lives (48% versus 30% of victims who had not).

Victims who had been stalked by males were more likely to say that the stalking had made them fear for their lives (36%), compared to victims who had been stalked by females (26%). However, the stalker's sex had little bearing on whether or not stalking incidents involved physical intimidation or threats of violence or actual grabbing or physical attacks: the prevalence of these was the same whether stalking involved male or female perpetrators.

The proportions of stalking victims who said that they had been threatened with violence, physically grabbed or attacked, or that they had feared for their lives did not change between 2004 and 2014.

Stalking and sexual assault

Recent Canadian research has linked stalking to a higher overall risk of sexual assault. Using data from the 2014 General Social Survey, Conroy and Cotter (2017) found that people who had been stalked in the 12 months preceding the survey were the victims of sexual assault at a rate over ten times higher than that reported by people who had not been stalked (182^E versus 17 per 1,000 population).¹⁷ Among women specifically, those that had been stalked in the preceding 12 months had a rate of self-reported sexual assault that was eight times higher than that among women who did not experience stalking (246^E versus 29 per 1,000).¹⁸ While these data represent stalking and sexual assault incidents that happened during the same 12 month period, it is unknown which crime occurred first or if the same individual was responsible for both crimes.

Conroy and Cotter (2017) also found that some forms of stalking had a greater association with sexual assault. In particular, stalking victims who reported having been watched by someone waiting outside their home, school, workplace or elsewhere during the preceding five years reported high rates of sexual assault (163^E per 1,000 population). Additionally, findings presented by Conroy and Cotter (2017) showed that a sizable proportion of sexual assault victims who had also been stalked reported physical violence (being grabbed or attacked) by the person who stalked them (22%^E).

Fear, anger, confusion and frustration were common emotional impacts of stalking

Most stalking victims reported some sort of emotional impact at the time of their victimization (Table 5). Over one-third (35%) reported feeling fearful during the experience.^{19, 20} Being fearful was a more common reaction for female victims (44%) than for male victims (20%). Other common emotional impacts felt by male and female victims of stalking were feeling upset, confused or frustrated (31%) and feeling angry (27%). No difference was noted in the proportions of men and women who experienced the latter two kinds of emotional impact.

Fewer than one in ten victims (8%) indicated that they had experienced no emotional consequences whatsoever, and one in twenty (5%) reported that the experience had “not much” of an emotional effect. Male victims were more likely to report either no emotional impact (14%, compared to 5%^E among females) or a “not much” effect (8%^E versus 3%^E).

Most stalkers are male, but proportion of females increasing

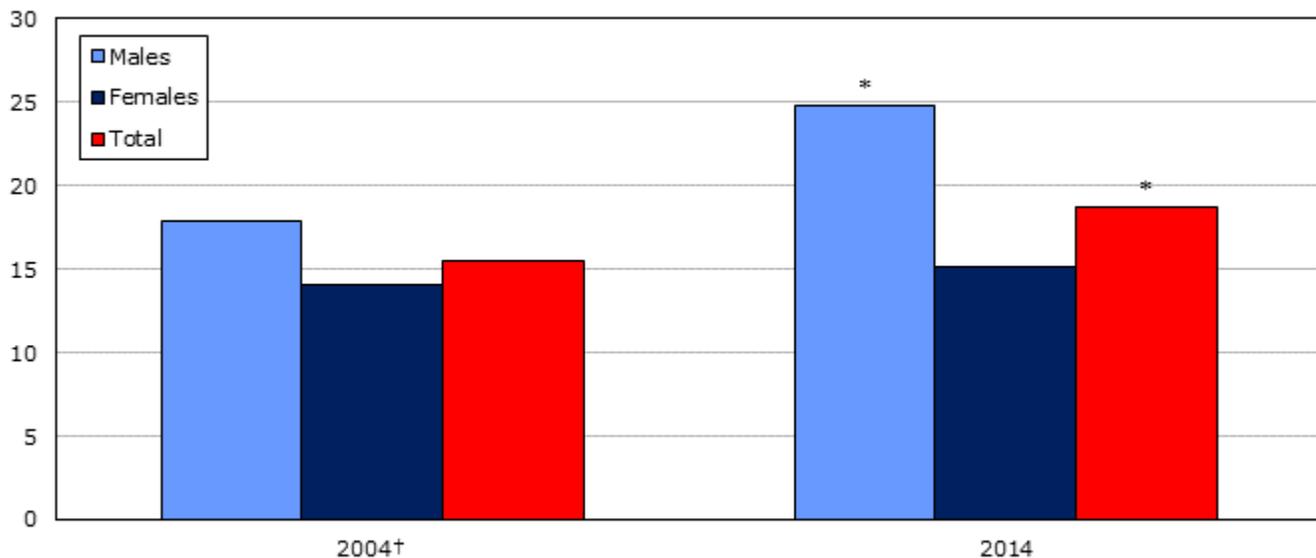
With respect to the most recent incident²¹ that occurred in the past five years, almost three-quarters of victims indicated that the person who had stalked or harassed them was male (74%). Just under one in five reported that a female had been responsible (19%), while 7% stated that they did not know the sex of the stalker.

Women were more likely to indicate that a male had stalked or harassed them (79%, compared to 65% of male victims). Conversely, men were more likely to report that they had been stalked or harassed by a female (25% versus 15%). The majority of stalking victims reported that one individual had been responsible for all of the stalking incidents that they had experienced over the past five years (77%).

The proportion of stalkers who were female increased since 2004, according to self-reported information provided by victims. Specifically, in 2014 the proportion of victims who indicated that they had been stalked by a female was higher than in 2004 (19% versus 15%) (Chart 5). In particular, female stalkers were considerably more common among male victims (25%, compared to 18% in 2004). Among female victims, in contrast, there was no corresponding increase in the proportion who said that their stalker was female.

Chart 5
Self-reported stalking perpetrated by females, by sex of victim, Canada, 2004 and 2014

percent of victims



* significantly different from reference category (†) ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers “don't know” and “refusal” are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Victims most often stalked by someone they know

In 2014, most victims indicated that they had been stalked by someone that they knew. Half of all victims (49%) identified their stalker as someone that they knew who was not a current or former intimate partner (Table 6). These people included friends (16%), coworkers or classmates (9%), people known to the victim by sight (9%), relatives (8%) and neighbours (8%). The types of relationships between victims and stalkers were similar among male and female victims.

Over one-quarter of victims were stalked by a stranger (27%). Stalking by a stranger was more prevalent among male victims (31%) than it was among females (24%).

Intimate partners—that is, current or former legally married or common-law spouses, as well as current or former dating partners—were identified by one in five (21%) victims as being the person responsible for the most recent incident of stalking in the previous five years. More victims were stalked by dating partners (12%) than by spouses (8%). Overall, stalking by an intimate partner was considerably more prevalent among female victims (25%) than among males (14%).

Stalking by intimate partners differs from stalking by others known to the victim or by strangers in a number of different ways, including the levels of violence with which it is associated and its known risk factors. For these reasons, and because of the particular risk it poses for women, intimate partner stalking is reviewed in more detail in Part 2 of this report.

Vulnerable populations overrepresented as victims of stalking

Numerous studies have shown that in Canada, certain groups are often overrepresented when it comes to many different forms of victimization. These groups include people with disabilities, people with a history of childhood victimization, people with a history of homelessness, people identifying as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and Aboriginal people (Beauchamp 2004; Boyce 2016; Burczycka and Conroy 2017; Cotter forthcoming 2018; Perreault 2009; Perreault 2015; Rodrigue 2016). Data from the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) show that these groups are also disproportionately affected by stalking. As with other forms of victimization, stalking was especially prevalent among female members of these vulnerable groups. However, multivariate analysis shows that not all of these groups have higher odds of being stalked, when other factors are taken into consideration—suggesting that a set of complex dynamics underpins stalking victimization.

People with a history of victimization in childhood had an especially high prevalence and increased odds of being stalked as adults. In general, those who experienced physical and/or sexual abuse in childhood are at a high risk for various other kinds of victimization later in life, including violence within interpersonal relationships and violent victimization in general (Burczycka and Conroy 2017; Perreault 2015). This was also the case for stalking victimization: the prevalence of stalking was three times higher among people with history of child abuse²² (12%) compared to those who had no such history (4%). Stalking was three times as common for women who had been abused as children (15%, versus 5% among those not abused as children) as well as for men (9% versus 3%) (Table 7).

Even when other known risk factors for stalking victimization were present, people with a history of childhood physical and/or sexual abuse had almost three times higher odds of being stalked during adulthood. This finding makes having a history of child abuse one of the strongest risk factors for stalking victimization measured by the 2014 GSS (Model 1).

Similarly, a history of homelessness has been identified as a factor associated with victimization (Perreault 2015; Rodrigue 2016). When it came to having been stalked, the prevalence was more than three times higher among those with a history of homelessness than among those who had never been homeless (16% versus 5%). Almost one in five women with a history of homelessness had been stalked (19%), along with 12% of their male counterparts. When multiple other known risk factors for stalking victimization were considered, having been homeless remained a significant risk factor for being stalked.²³

Research has identified learning disability as a risk factor for victimization (Cotter forthcoming 2018). Findings from the 2014 GSS show a particularly high incidence of stalking victimization among people with a learning disability.²⁴ One in five people (21%) who had a condition that makes it hard for them to learn indicated that they had been the victim of stalking, compared to 6% of those without such a condition. Stalking was especially common for women with a learning disability (25%), and was also prevalent among their male counterparts (16%). Even after controlling for a multitude of factors often associated with victimization risk, the odds of being stalked were double among people who reported a learning disability (Model 1).

As with learning disability, stalking was considerably more common among people with an emotional, mental or psychological disability that limits their daily lives (19%),²⁵ when compared to people without this kind of condition (6%). Stalking was experienced by 21% of women and 15% of men who stated that they have an emotional, mental or psychological disability. The odds of being stalked were 55% higher among those with this kind of disability, even after other risk factors were accounted for (Model 1). Those with a physical disability²⁶ also had higher odds of being stalked, after other factors commonly associated with victimization were considered (including other kinds of disabilities) (Model 1). In terms of

prevalence, one in ten (10%) people with a physical disability experienced stalking, compared to 6% of those with no such limitation. This was the case for women with a physical disability (12%) as well as for men (7%).

In Canada, Aboriginal people experience different kinds of victimization more often than non-Aboriginal people (Boyce 2016; Perreault 2015). This was also the case with stalking: one in ten (10%) people reporting an Aboriginal identity was victimized this way, compared to 6% of non-Aboriginal people (Table 7). As with other kinds of crime, Aboriginal women were particularly over-represented (14%). However, once other risk factors—including history of child abuse, homelessness, and mental/psychological and learning disability—were taken into account, being Aboriginal did not itself translate into higher odds of stalking for neither women nor men.

This finding reflects the fact that as a group, Aboriginal people have a higher incidence of other risk factors for stalking; it is the prevalence of risk factors such as child abuse, mental illness, and history of homelessness that increases stalking victimization among Aboriginal people. Indeed, Canadian studies have indicated that Aboriginal people have a higher incidence of child abuse (Burczycka and Conroy 2017), homelessness (Boyce 2016) and mental illness (Boyce et al. 2015). Studies of Aboriginal peoples' risk of other forms of victimization have reached similar conclusions, and identified a concentration of risk factors present among Aboriginal people (Boyce 2016; Perreault 2015). Many have tied the presence of these risk factors to experiences of colonialism and racism and the intergenerational trauma that these engender (The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015).

As is the case with Aboriginal people in Canada, people who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual represent a community at high risk for various kinds of victimization (Beauchamp 2004; Perreault 2015). In line with this, stalking was more than twice as common among this group (14%) as it was for heterosexual people (6%). This was true for men and women. However, as was seen with Aboriginal people's risk of stalking, when risk factors such as child abuse and homelessness were accounted for, being gay, lesbian or bisexual did not increase the odds of stalking victimization. This suggests that the risk profile for gay, lesbian and bisexual people may have more to do with these other risk factors. For example, people identifying as members of this group report a higher incidence of child abuse (Burczycka and Conroy 2017), a risk factor for stalking victimization.

Drug use, frequent evenings out increase odds of being stalked

For decades, theories of victimization have suggested that people's risk is related to how much their particular routines and lifestyles place them in situations where victimization is likely to occur. Lifestyle-routine activity theory has been successfully applied to identify victimization risk factors and widely utilized in the research community (Bunch et al. 2015; Reyns et al. 2016). In their 2015 study, Bunch et al. used longitudinal data collected through the American National Crime Victimization Survey to analyze victimization risk and situate previous research based on cross-sectional data. Their findings reveal that increased risk of victimization is inarguably tied to certain demographic traits like age, sex and marital status, and that some lifestyle characteristics (for example, frequency of evening activities out) impact the **degree** of risk associated with those demographic traits.²⁷ This suggests a complex relationship between victimization risk and various demographic and behavioural characteristics, which may exist with respect to stalking as it does with other forms of victimization.

The findings presented by Bunch et al. (2015) help to contextualize information on stalking coming from the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS). For example, being the victim of stalking was slightly more common for people who lived alone, compared to those who shared their household with others (7% versus 6%) (Table 7). However, when factors such as age, sex and marital status were accounted for, living alone did not translate into higher odds of being stalked. This suggests that some other characteristics typical of people who live alone—for example, marital status and age—may have a greater impact on whether or not they become a victim of stalking (Model 1).

Similarly, binge drinking—that is, having consumed five or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting during the previous month—has been identified as a risk factor for overall violent victimization by some studies (Perreault 2015). Likewise, being stalked was slightly more common among those who had engaged in binge drinking during the past month than among those who had not (7% versus 6%), particularly among women (11% versus 7%). However, once age, sex, and other relevant factors were accounted for, binge drinking itself did not increase the odds of stalking victimization.

In contrast, after other key risk factors were accounted for, drug use²⁸ during the past month was shown to increase the odds of being stalked by one-half (52%) (Model 1). In terms of prevalence, those who used drugs during the previous month had over twice the incidence of being stalked than those who did not (14% versus 6%). Among female drug users, the prevalence of being a victim of stalking was particularly high (23%), while one in ten (10%) males who had used drugs reported stalking. It is important to note that the GSS does not provide for a temporal ordering of events (that is, whether a certain trait came before or after the victimization); behaviours such as binge drinking and drug use may be a response by some people to their experiences of victimization.

Broadly, frequent evenings out of the house—whether to socialize, work, or attend classes—were associated with a slightly higher risk of stalking victimization. Stalking was more prevalent among people who reported more evening activities per month: 8% of people who reported eleven or more evening activities a month had been stalked, with stalking victimization being most common among women with this frequency of evenings out (10%). In contrast, 5% of people with ten or fewer evening activities per month reported having been stalked. After accounting for factors such as age, sex, drug use and others, the frequency of evening activities was found to be a risk factor for stalking victimization, when people who went out in the evenings ten times a month or fewer were compared to those that did so eleven times or more. These findings are consistent with Reyns et al.'s (2016) analysis of data collected by the 2004 cycle of the GSS, which found a corresponding effect on number of evenings out on risk of stalking victimization.

Stalking victims live in neighbourhoods they see as disordered

People who had negative feelings about their neighbourhoods and communities had a higher prevalence of stalking than those who described their neighbourhoods more positively. For example, stalking was twice as common among those who said that their neighbourhood had signs of social disorder²⁹ (8%) than it was among those who did not describe their neighbourhood this way (4%) (Table 7). This was the case among men (7%) and among women (10%). Said another way, more than seven in ten stalking victims (70%) reported that their neighbourhood had at least one of the characteristics typical of social disorder, compared to 51% of people who had not been stalked. Even after various other risk factors were accounted for, living in a neighbourhood characterized by social disorder was associated with increased odds of stalking victimization (Model 1). Interestingly, there was no relationship between household income and odds of being the victim of stalking.

Similarly, people who thought that their neighbours were somewhat unlikely or not at all likely to call the police if they witnessed a crime had a higher prevalence of stalking (12%) than those who said their neighbours would be very or somewhat likely to call (6%). This was true for both women (14%) and men (10%^E). Once other risk factors were taken into account, living in a place where one thought the neighbours would not call the police was associated with higher odds of being stalked (Model 1).

In line with how people viewed their neighbours and neighbourhoods, it was more common for people who reported a somewhat or very weak sense of belonging to their community to have been stalked (10%) than it was for those whose sense of belonging was strong (5%). Having a weak sense of belonging to the community was associated with stalking risk even when other factors—including neighbourhood social disorder and perception of neighbours—were taken into account (Model 1).

It is important to note that while an association appears to exist between social disorder, perceptions of neighbours, community belonging and stalking experiences, the General Social Survey does not provide for a temporal ordering of these events: in other words, it is not known whether being stalked influences the way victims perceive their communities, or whether certain aspects of communities increase the residents' odds of being stalked.

Although perceptions of neighbourhood social disorder and low feelings of community belonging are more common in large urban areas (Cotter 2016; Schellenberg 2004), stalking was not concentrated in areas of high urbanization. Those living in census metropolitan areas³⁰ reported the same prevalence and odds of stalking victimization as those who lived outside of these areas, when other factors were accounted for.

Four in ten stalking victims report having spoken about it to police

About four in ten (39%) stalking victims indicated that their experiences had been reported to the police, a proportion that was similar for men and women (Table 8). This is comparable to other forms of victimization measured by the 2014 General Social Survey. For example, police became involved in 29% of instances of spousal violence, according to self-reported data (Burczycka and Ibrahim 2016). The likelihood that an incident of stalking was reported to police was statistically similar for almost all types of stalking.³¹ Furthermore, the proportion of stalking incidents that were reported to police was statistically similar regardless of whether male or female perpetrators were involved.

Stalking that was associated with more violent and threatening behaviour was more often reported to the police.³² Victims that feared for their lives were most likely to report police involvement (53% of victims who feared for their lives), followed by those who were intimidated or threatened (52%) and those who were grabbed or attacked (48%).³³

Victims who did not report to the police most often said that the crime was minor and not worth taking the time to report (21%), and that the incident was private and was handled informally or the victim did not want others to find out about it (19%). These reasons were equally as common among male victims as among their female counterparts.

Charges laid in fewer than one-quarter of stalking incidents

Most victims of stalking indicated that even among those instances that were reported to police, few resulted in further action by police or the courts. Just over one in five (21%) victims who reported their stalking experience to the police indicated that to their knowledge, charges were laid against the perpetrator in the most recent instance—a proportion that was similar for both male and female victims (Table 9).³⁴ Where charges were laid, victims indicated that the most common charge was assault (38%). Just over one-quarter of charges laid were harassment (27%^E), followed by threats (24%^E) and mischief (7%^E). Other charges, including probation violations, property damage and weapons offences, represented 21%^E of charges laid in instances of stalking.

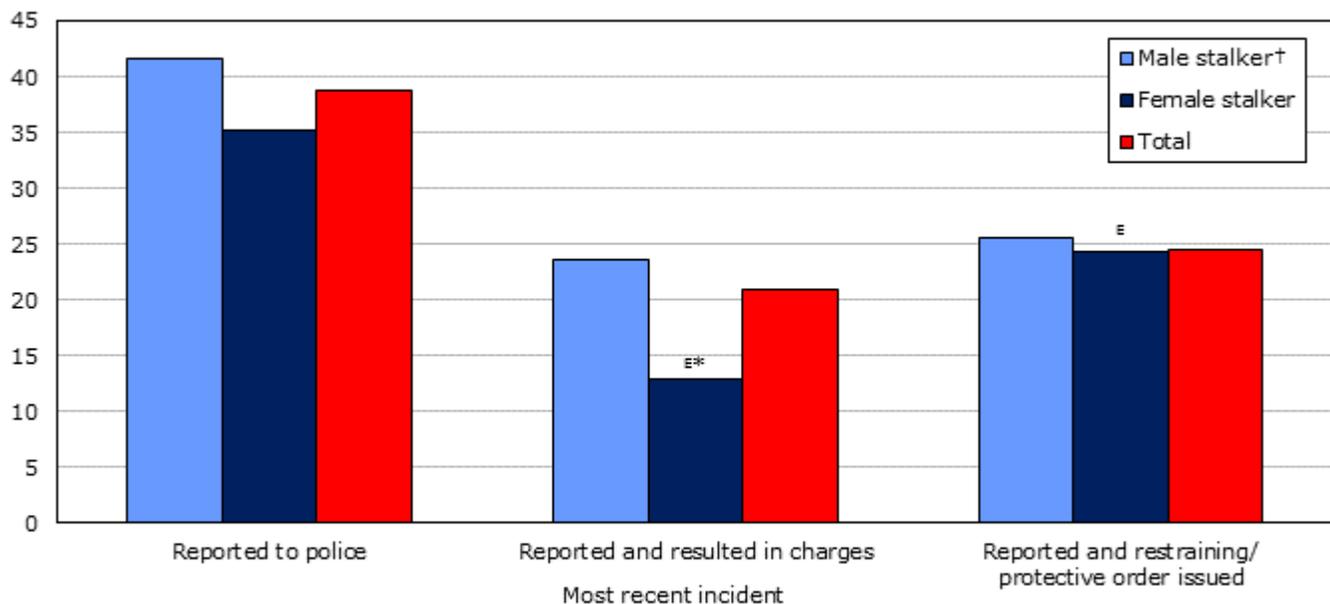
Cases where victims were grabbed or physically attacked were most likely to result in charges (30%^E). Charges were laid in 27% of cases where the victim feared for their life and 23% of cases that involved physical intimidation or threats.³⁵ When it came to the sex of the stalker, incidents that involved male stalkers were more likely to have resulted in charges being laid (24%, compared to 13%^E of incidents involving a female stalker), despite the fact that cases involving male perpetrators were not more likely to involve physical intimidation and threats or grabbing and physical attacks.

One-quarter (25%) of victims who had reported to the police said that to their knowledge, restraining orders had at some point been issued against the person who stalked them.³⁶ Restraining or protective orders were more common in stalking incidents that involved female victims (30%) compared to males (14%^E) (Table 9). However, when it came to male stalkers versus female stalkers, there was no difference in the proportion of incidents in which a restraining or protective order was issued (Chart 6).

Chart 6

Stalking incidents reported to police, resulting in charges and in restraining/protective orders, by sex of stalker, Canada, 2014

percent of victims



^E use with caution

* significantly different from reference category (†) ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Stalking victims indicated that in cases where restraining or protective orders had been enacted, two in five (41%) had been violated. Most of them (72%) indicated that they had reported the violation to the police.

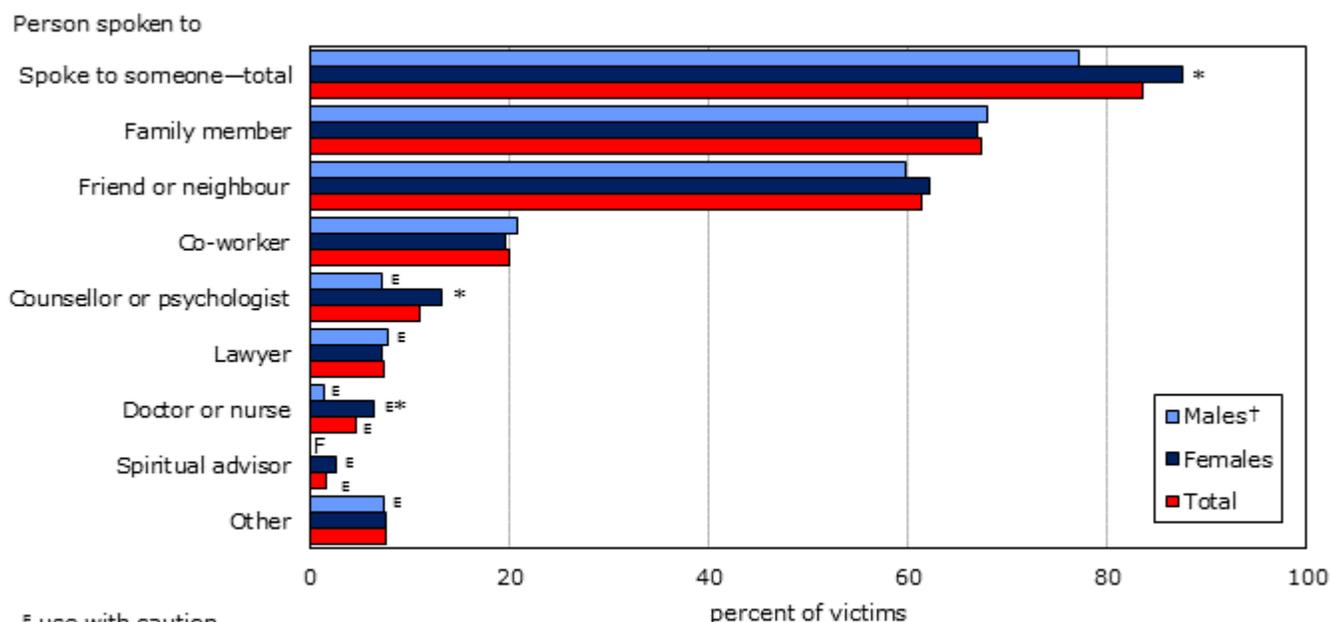
The proportion of stalking victims who engaged with the police and the courts did not change between 2004 and 2014. There were no differences in the proportion of victims who reported the most recent incident of stalking to the police, nor were there changes in the proportions who reported that charges were laid, or that a restraining order was issued. Among victims who indicated a restraining order had been put into place, similar proportions of victims in 2004 and in 2014 reported that the order had been violated and, if so, that they had reported the violation to police.

Most stalking victims speak to someone about the experience

Aside from speaking with police, most victims of stalking (84%) spoke to someone in their lives about what they had experienced. This was a marked contrast to many other forms of victimization, where few victims discuss their experiences with others (for example, see Burczycka and Conroy 2017; Conroy and Cotter 2017; Perreault 2015). Women were more likely than men to have spoken to someone about the stalking (87% compared to 77%) (Chart 7).

Chart 7

People other than police that victims of self-reported stalking spoke to, by sex of victim, Canada, 2014



^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (†) (p < 0.05)

† reference category

Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding and/or multiple responses being possible.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Most often, the person or people victims spoke to were family (67%) or friends or neighbours (61%). Some victims also spoke with coworkers (20%) or counsellors or psychologists (11%). Speaking to people like doctors or nurses, lawyers, spiritual advisors and others was less common among victims.

Part 2: Self-reported stalking in intimate partner relationships

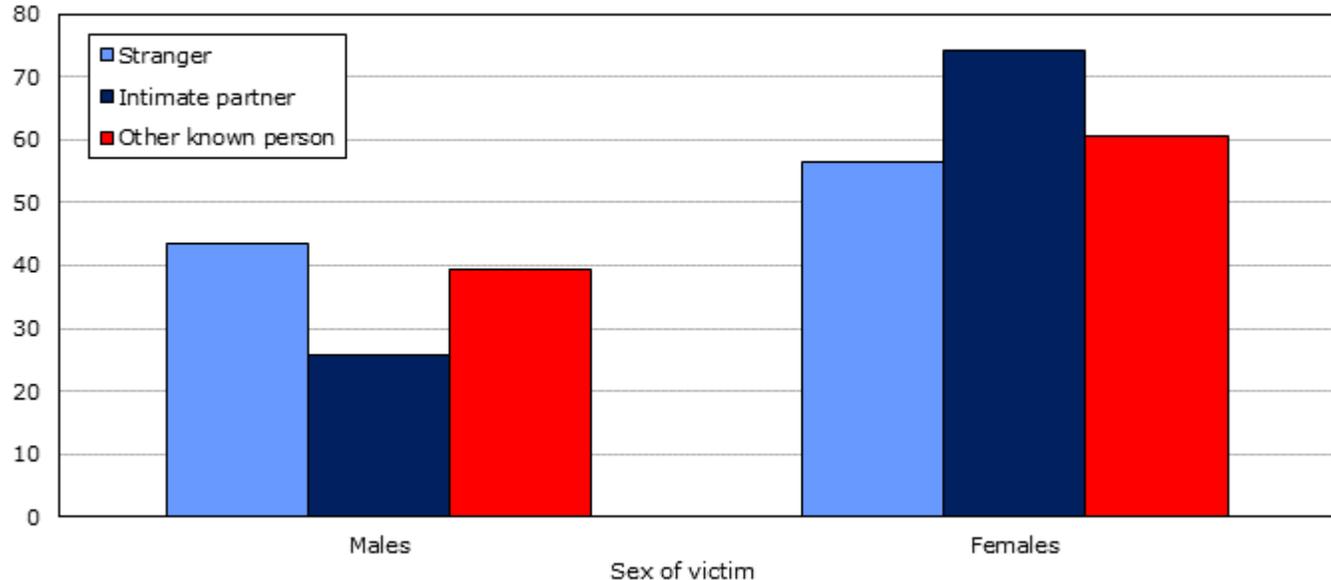
Three-quarters of intimate partner stalking victims are female

Stalking perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner differs from stalking committed by strangers or other people in important ways. Key among these is the over-representation of women as victims of intimate partner stalking. Previous Canadian studies have confirmed that women and girls face a greater risk of violent victimization by dating partners, as well as a greater severity of violence within spousal relationships (Burczycka and Ibrahim 2016). Findings from the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) indicate that stalking by current and former spouses and dating partners is situated within this same matrix of women's victimization by intimate partners.

Data from the 2014 GSS show that women in Canada are over-represented as stalking victims: although they make up exactly one-half (50%) of the Canadian population (Statistics Canada 2017b), women constitute almost two-thirds (62%) of stalking victims—including those stalked by acquaintances and others (61%) and by strangers (57%) (Chart 8). However, the greatest gap between women and men in terms of stalking victimization was in relation to intimate partner stalking: here, women represented about three-quarters (74%) of all victims—about 284,000 women. Overall, one in fifty Canadian women aged 15 and older reported having been stalked by an intimate partner in the previous five years.

Chart 8
Self-reported relationship of stalker to victim, by sex of victim,
Canada, 2014

percent of victims



Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

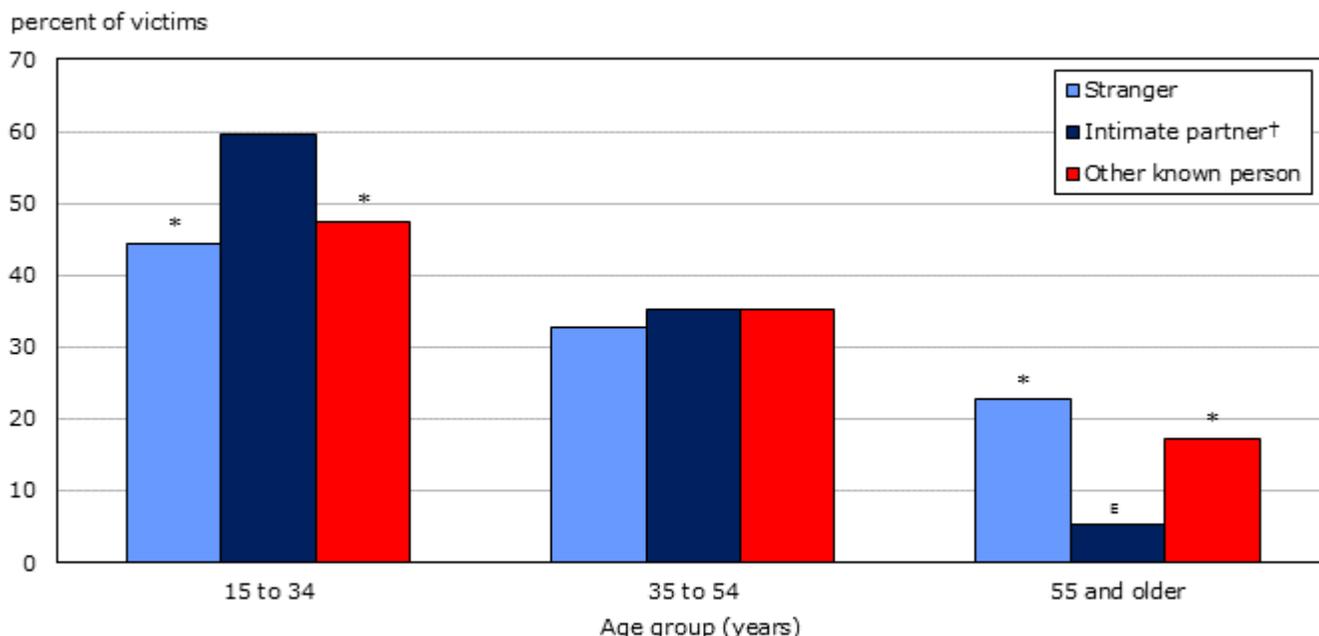
In addition to the over-representation of women as victims, a key feature of intimate partner stalking is its relative stability over time. While stalking overall decreased from 2004 to 2014, intimate partner stalking was the sole kind of stalking victimization that remained unchanged (Table 10). Among women, intimate partner stalking was the only stalking type that did not decrease between 2004 and 2014.

Intimate partner stalking most common among young people

While stalking was more common among younger people in general, the prevalence of intimate partner stalking was especially high for this group. Relative to other kinds of stalking, a significantly higher proportion of those stalked by an intimate partner were aged 15 to 34. In 2014, six in ten people (60%) stalked by an intimate partner were between 15 and 34 years of age, compared to 47% of those stalked by someone else they knew and 44% of those stalked by a stranger. Meanwhile, stalking by an intimate partner was as common as other types of stalking for those aged 35 to 54, and less common for those aged 55 and older. These patterns were reflective of the experiences of female victims: the prevalence of different kinds of relationship was similar among male victims of different ages (Chart 9).

Even after other known risk factors were accounted for, young people had higher odds for experiencing both intimate partner stalking and stalking by strangers or other known people (Model 2; Model 3).

Chart 9
Self-reported relationship of stalker to victim, by age group of victim, Canada, 2014



^E use with caution

* significantly different from reference category (†) ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Intimate partner stalking more likely to involve unwanted digital communication, property damage

Stalking perpetrated by an intimate partner—whether by a current or former spouse or common-law or dating partner—involved a different set of behaviours than stalking committed by stranger or someone else the victim knew.³⁷ Victims of intimate partner stalking were the most likely to have received unwanted email, text messages or communication through social media (41%), with a prevalence almost double that among those who had been stalked by someone else that they knew (24%).³⁸ One-third (33%) of intimate partner stalking involved damage to the victim's property, compared to 20% of stalking by another known person and 13%^E of stalking by strangers. Situations where the stalker waited outside the victim's home (27%) or school or workplace (20%) were also considerably more common when the stalker was an intimate partner (Table 11). Several of these types of stalking became proportionally more common since 2004, as did intimate partner stalking itself, suggesting that these increases are connected (see Chart 3).

One-third (33%) of people who had been stalked by a current or former intimate partner reported stalking that had lasted a year or more and 29% had been stalked for one to six months. In general, stalking by an intimate partner had a longer duration than stalking by a stranger, though durations were similar compared to stalking by someone else that the victim knew (Table 12).

Physical attacks more prevalent when people stalked by intimate partners

Research on intimate partner violence has shown that stalking and harassment by an intimate partner is often more severe and dangerous than stalking by other people (McFarlane et al. 2002). These findings are supported by the 2014 General Social Survey, which showed that threats, physical attacks, and fear for life were more common for victims of intimate partner stalking. Women were especially affected by these more severe aspects of stalking victimization.

Physical violence against a stalking victim was considerably more common when the stalker was an intimate partner. One-third (33%) of victims of intimate partner stalking reported having been grabbed or physically attacked (Table 12). This was considerably more common than stalking-related physical attacks by a stranger (12%^E) or someone else the victim knew (16%). Women, in particular, were at greater risk of physical violence if they were stalked by an intimate partner (34%) than if they were stalked by someone else that they knew (13%).³⁹

About two in five people stalked by an intimate partner indicated that they had experienced threats of violence and physical intimidation (42%). While this was similar to the experiences of those stalked by someone else that they knew (36%), it was more than double the proportion among those who had been stalked by a stranger (19%). For women specifically, stalking by a current or former intimate partner was more likely to involve physical threats or intimidation than stalking by a stranger or another known person (45%, compared to 11%^E and 28%).

About two in five people who had been stalked by an intimate partner said that they feared for their lives as a result (42%). Women were particularly affected in this way, with almost half of female intimate partner stalking victims indicating that they had feared for their lives (47%, versus 27%^E among men).

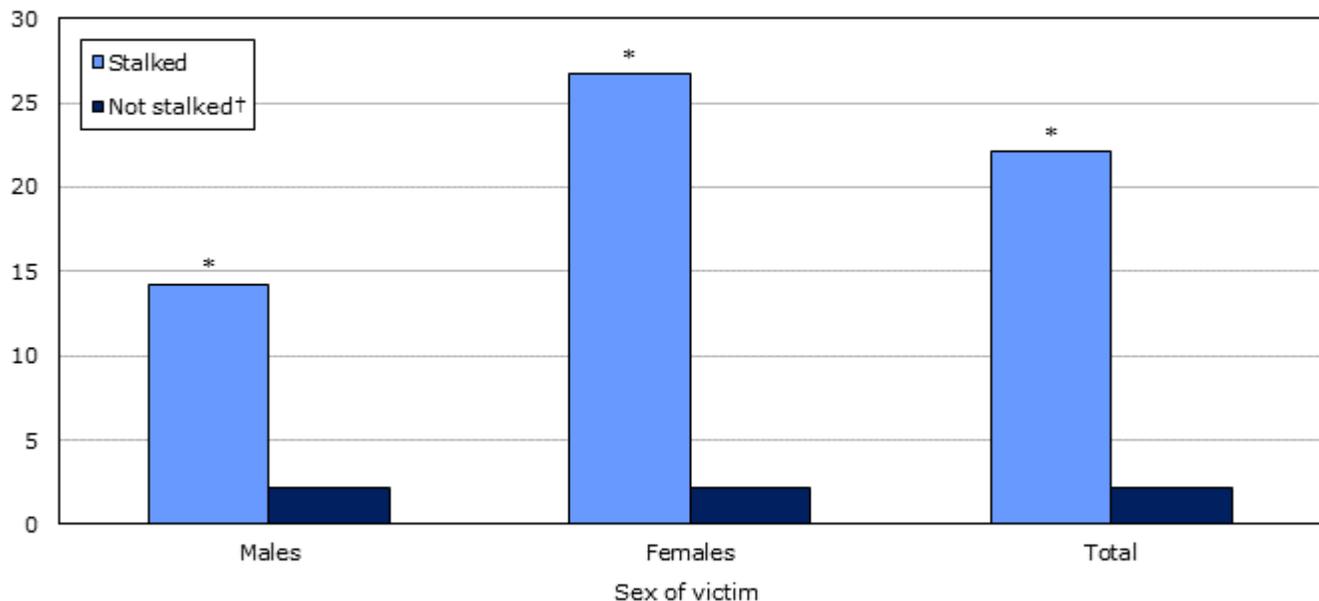
Stalking and violence in intimate partner relationships

Stalking committed by an intimate partner has correlations with violence that extend beyond physical attacks that happen during the stalking incident itself. Research on intimate partner violence—that is, physical or sexual violence committed by a current or former legally married or common-law spouse or dating partner—has documented the link between this kind of violence and stalking behaviour (McFarlane et al. 2002). Many of those involved in victim services and protection identify stalking as a potential warning sign, pointing towards escalation to physical and sexual violence within intimate partner relationships (Justice Canada 2012).

Information on Canadians' experiences with spousal and dating violence gathered through the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) reveals the pervasiveness of intimate partner violence among victims of stalking. Violence in dating relationships was especially prevalent: this was reported by more than one in five (22%) people who had been stalked, compared to 2% who had not. Women who had been stalked were especially at risk of dating violence, with over one-quarter (27%) also reporting physical and/or sexual abuse by a dating partner. Among men, 14% of stalking victims had been subjected to dating violence (Chart 10).

Chart 10
Prevalence of self-reported dating violence among victims also reporting stalking, by sex, Canada, 2014

percent of victims of dating violence



* significantly different from reference category (†) ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

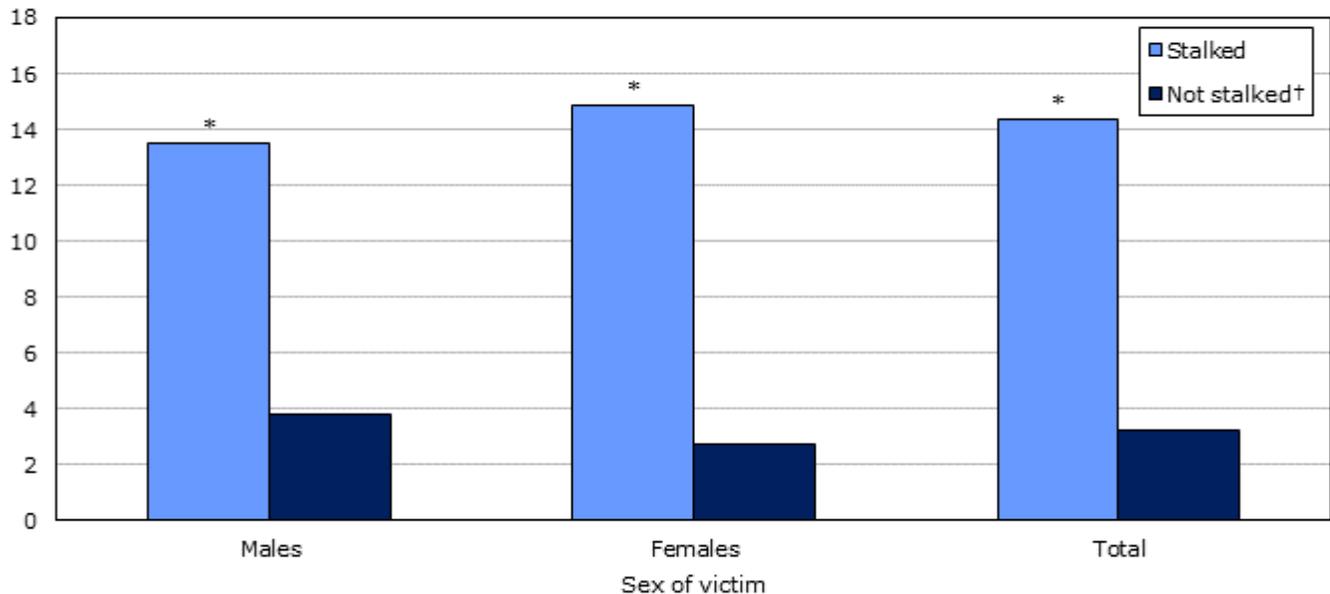
Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

As with dating violence, spousal violence—that is, physical or sexual violence by a current or former legally married or common-law spouse—was much more prevalent among people who had also been stalked. Spousal violence was more than four times as common among people who had been stalked (14% versus 3%). Unlike dating violence, males and females who had been stalked had similar incidence of spousal violence (13% and 15%, respectively) (Chart 11).⁴⁰

Chart 11
Prevalence of self-reported spousal violence among victims also reporting stalking, by sex, Canada, 2014

percent of victims of spousal violence



* significantly different from reference category (†) ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

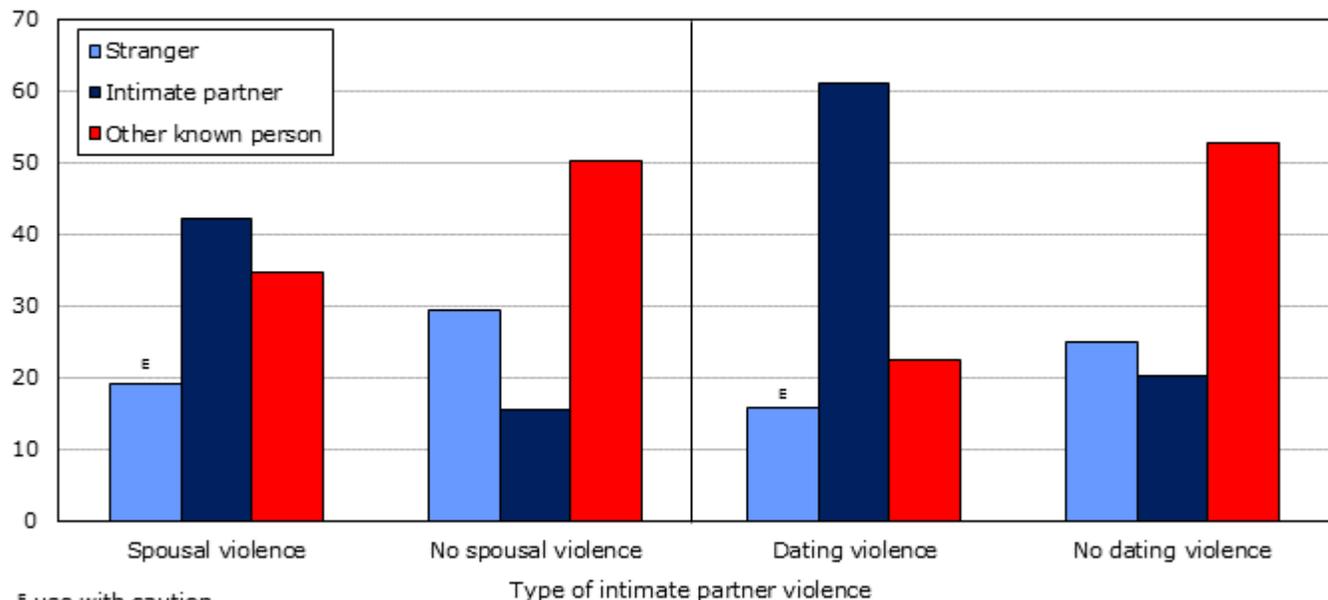
Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

The nature of GSS data is such that it is impossible to know if the person responsible for a victim's stalking experience is the same individual responsible for intimate partner violence. However, people who reported being stalked as well as having experienced intimate partner violence most often said that the person who had stalked them was a current or former intimate partner. For example, 61% of stalking victims who had also experienced dating violence reported that the person who had stalked them was a current or former intimate partner; the same was true for 42% of stalking victims who had been subjected to spousal violence (Chart 12). These proportions were similar among male and female victims.

Chart 12**Relationship of stalker to victim among self-reported stalking victims also reporting intimate partner violence, Canada, 2014**

percent of victims of stalking



E use with caution

Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Those stalked by intimate partners more often report to police

In addition to risk factors, severity and other characteristics, intimate partner stalking differs from stalking by other people when it comes to how often incidents were reported to police. However, once police found out about the incident, cases of intimate partner stalking and cases of stalking perpetrated by someone else had relatively similar trajectories through the justice system.

Almost half (47%) of intimate partner-related stalking was reported to the police, according to victims describing the most recent incident they had experienced. This compared to 37% of stalking involving others with whom the victim had a relationship and 37% of stranger-perpetrated stalking (Table 13). Female victims of intimate partner stalking were more likely than their male counterparts have reported the stalking to police (51% versus 35%^E). Female victims of intimate partner stalking were also much more likely to report to police than women stalked by strangers (35%) or other known people (38%); among male victims, no statistically significant differences were found based on relationship to stalker.

Victims of intimate partner stalking who did not report the crime to the police gave various reasons for not doing so, the most common being that the incident was a private matter and they did not want others to find out about it (27%) and because they considered the crime to be minor and not worth reporting (17%^E) (Table 13).⁴¹ Overall, reasons provided by intimate partner stalking victims more closely resembled those given by people stalked by others they knew, than by people stalked by strangers.

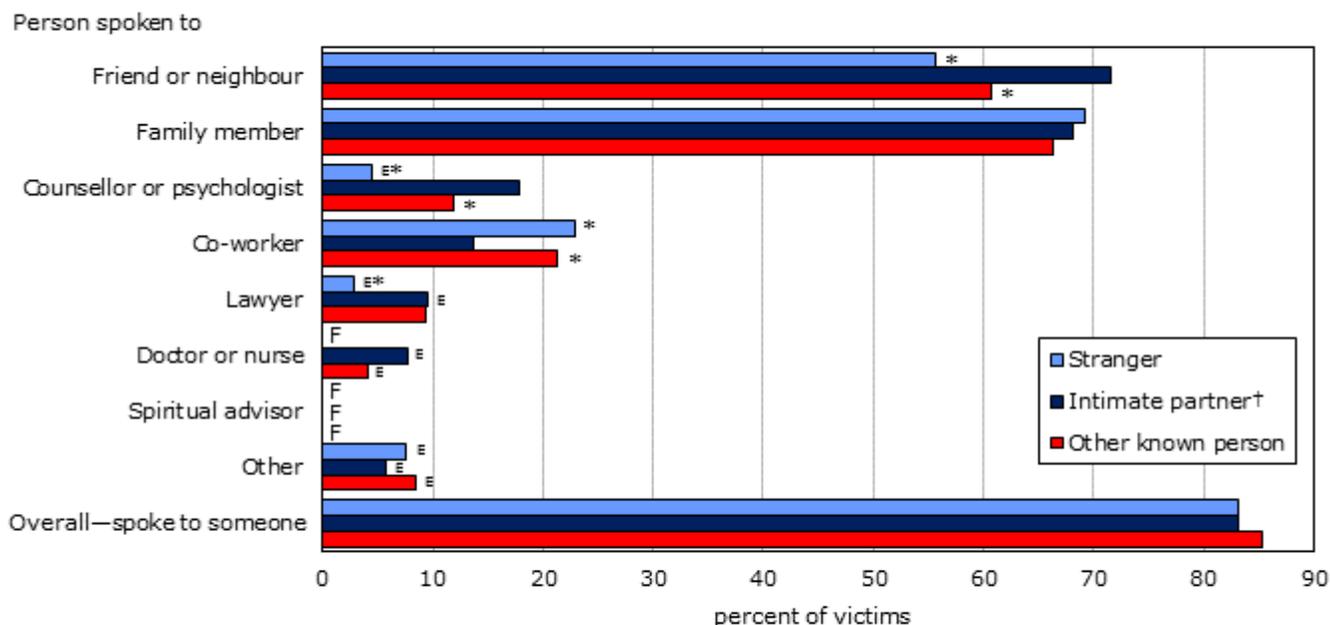
In incidents of intimate partner stalking that did come to the attention of police, fewer than a quarter (22%) of victims reported that charges had been laid in the case at the time of the survey⁴² (Table 13). The types of charges included assault (50%^E), harassment (33%^E), and threats (27%^E).⁴³ Restraining or protective orders had been laid against 37% of those accused in intimate partner stalking cases that were reported to police.⁴⁴ Almost half of the time, these orders were violated (47%); if that was the case, most victims reported these violations (78%).

When it came to justice system responses such as charges and restraining orders, intimate partner stalking was similar to stalking by other people. The proportion of cases that resulted in charges and the kinds of charges laid were similar, as was the frequency of restraining orders being laid and violated (Table 13).

Aside from speaking to police, most people stalked by an intimate partner reported that they had spoken to someone else about the experience (83%) (Chart 13). Among them, almost three-quarters (72%) spoke to a friend or neighbour and 18%

spoke to a counsellor or psychologist; intimate partner stalking victims were significantly more likely to reach out to these kinds of people than those stalked by strangers or other people that they knew. Like those stalked by strangers or other known people, most intimate partner stalking victims (68%) discussed the experience with family members.

Chart 13
People other than police spoken to among victims of self-reported stalking, by relationship of stalker to victim, Canada, 2014



⊕ use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (†) (p < 0.05)

† reference category

Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding and/or multiple responses being possible. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Former partners often implicated in intimate partner stalking

Data from the 2014 General Social Survey show that stalking by a former intimate partner was more common than stalking by a current partner: 18% of stalking victims had been stalked by a former partner (including former spouses and former dating partners) (Table 14). This compared to 3%[⊕] of victims who indicated that a current intimate partner had stalked them. Women were particularly at risk of stalking by former partners (21% of victims) compared to men (12%).

Among the more severe behaviours associated with stalking, threats of violence or physical intimidation were more common among people stalked by a current partner (59%) than a former partner (39%). There were no differences when it came to having been grabbed or physically attacked, nor with having feared for one's life.⁴⁵

Stalking more common in dating relationships than in marriages

Overall, stalking was more common in current or former dating relationships than in current or former marriages or common-law unions (12% versus 8% of victims) (Table 14). This was particularly the case for male victims (9% versus 5%[⊕]); for female victims, stalking prevalence was statistically similar between these two kinds of relationships.

Physical violence was about as common in dating partner stalking as it was in spousal partner stalking, as were threats of violence and physical intimidation. Similarly, victims of either kind of stalking were more or less as likely to have feared for their lives.⁴⁶

When it came to involvement with the justice system, people stalked by a current or former spouse were more likely to have contacted police (56%), compared to those stalked by a current or ex-dating partner (41%). However, the prevalence of charges being laid and restraining or protective orders being issued or broken was about the same for those stalked by a current and former spouse and those stalked by a current or former dating partner.

Key risk factors for intimate partner stalking include having children, living alone

Regardless of the kind of relationship between victim and stalker, some victim characteristics resulted in heightened odds of stalking victimization. For example, having a learning disability and being the victim of child abuse greatly increased the odds of being a victim of stalking by an intimate partner as well as stalking by someone else. Drug use and homelessness were also persistent factors (Model 2; Model 3). Meanwhile, as with stalking overall, people identifying as gay, lesbian or bisexual did not have greater odds of either intimate partner stalking or stalking by other people.

Otherwise, significant differences exist when it comes to what puts people at risk for stalking by an intimate partner, compared to stalking by someone else.⁴⁷ While the victim's sex was a risk factor for both kinds of stalking—in that women had higher odds of both—the difference between men and women was greatest when it came to stalking by an intimate partner. The odds of being stalked by an intimate partner were almost four times higher for women than for men, compared to one-half higher when it came to stalking by someone else. Likewise, those who were separated or divorced had moderately higher odds of non-intimate partner stalking when compared to those who were married or common-law; this jumped to a nearly sevenfold increase in the odds of being victimized when it came to intimate partner stalking. A similar relationship existed with respect to single (never married) people.

A significant risk factor for intimate partner stalking was found to be the presence of children in the home.⁴⁸ This risk persists independently of other factors, such as the victim's age and marital status. Conversely, the presence of children is not a significant factor for being a victim of stalking by someone other than an intimate partner. Other risk factors identified only for intimate partner stalking were living alone⁴⁹ and engaging in binge drinking,⁵⁰ both of which increased the odds independent of other criteria.

An entirely different set of risk factors was identified specifically for stalking by people other than intimate partners. These included going out in the evening more than 10 times a month, living in a neighbourhood with social disorder, thinking neighbours would not call the police in the event of a crime,⁵¹ and having a weak sense of community belonging,⁵² all of which increased the likelihood of non-intimate partner stalking. Having a physical⁵³ or psychological or mental disability⁵⁴ were also risk factors, unlike for intimate partner stalking.⁵⁵

These findings hint at complex dynamics that may underlie different types of stalking victimization. Victimization by people other than intimate partners appears closely linked to the broader social environment surrounding the victim, including social disorder and potential criminality in the neighbourhood and weak ties between community members; meanwhile, having a mental or physical limitation may contribute to increased odds of stalking by making one appear vulnerable in the eyes of offenders.

Both of these characteristics dovetail with the lifestyle-routine activity approach to victimization research, which identifies exposure to motivated offenders (for example, high-crime neighbourhoods) and target suitability (such as inability to physically defend one's self because of a disability) as key elements of victimization risk.⁵⁶ While much of this research has focussed on violent victimization and property crime, other studies have successfully applied these concepts to stalking victimization (Reyns et al. 2016). The data presented in Model 2 and Model 3 of the present study suggest that stalking by people other than intimate partners may be well suited to this type of analysis, which is effective at describing crimes involving strangers and acquaintances in general.

In contrast, stalking involving intimate partners notably excludes variables associated with exposure to motivated offenders, such as neighbourhood characteristics, as well as variables associated with target suitability (such as disabilities). Instead, risk factors appear to be linked to relationship breakdown: for example, the presence of children suggests a serious, longer-term relationship (the breakup of which may engender more stalking risk than would less-serious, shorter unions); it may also point to a partner using custody or other child-related threats as a form of harassment, which is frequently observed (Hayes 2015; Miller and Smolter 2011). Living alone may also be indicative of a post-relationship phase: analyses of data from the 2016 Canadian Census link living alone to separation and divorce (Statistics Canada 2017c). These victims would not yet have entered a new marriage or common-law relationship, which can be considered a protective factor, based on the relationship between marital status and stalking risk.

In other words, the information provided in this analysis does little to inform us of intimate partner stalking risk, besides describing the post-relationship scenario in which one would expect this kind of victimization to occur. Further work to explore potential risk factors is warranted, as the path from intimate partner stalking to intimate partner violence is well-established.

Summary

By definition, being stalked causes victims to fear for their safety. Though it can encompass a wide range of behaviours—from the seemingly innocuous to the overtly dangerous—the fear experienced by victims is real and the potential for violence to occur is substantial. Of the 1.9 million Canadians who were stalked during the five years preceding the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), over 334,000 experienced actual physical attacks associated with the stalking behaviour.

Researchers and justice professionals have defined a link between stalking and intimate partner violence, and data from the 2014 GSS show that these interrelated forms of victimization are present in the lives of many Canadians—especially women. Though a relatively large proportion of victims engaged with the justice system by reporting their experiences to police, few reported that charges had been laid or restraining orders issued in relation to their cases. Further study into why many intimate partner stalking victims did not see tangible justice system outcomes is warranted, to ensure victims receive adequate protection from their stalkers—and from the violence which has been shown to correlate with stalking behaviour.

Some risk factors for stalking are unique to stalking by an intimate partner—for example, the presence of children or living alone. Stalking by strangers or other known people has other risk factors, including mental and physical disabilities and negative neighbourhood characteristics. These differences suggest the need for different prevention strategies which target different kinds of individual vulnerabilities. Meanwhile, some risk factors appear central to stalking risk, regardless of the relationship involved: a history of child maltreatment, presence of learning disabilities, and history of homelessness are as significant with respect to all types of stalking as they are with many other kinds of victimization. The present study into Canadians' experiences with stalking may therefore serve as further evidence of the importance of addressing these key vulnerabilities, the centrality of which cannot be overstated.

Lastly, though self-reported stalking victimization has declined over the previous decade, ongoing changes provide an interesting opportunity for further study. Changes in technology and how Canadians use it appear to be manifesting in the kinds of stalking people experience. Changes in the sex profile of stalkers see the proportion of female stalkers increasing. Finally, an important **lack** of change—that is, the lack of decline in intimate partner stalking at a time when stalking overall is decreasing—confirms the observations of many, that intimate partner violence continues to be a serious issue faced by Canadian women, men and justice system professionals.

Methodology for logistic regression

Only significant characteristics were retained in the final models. The following variables were tested for each model:

Sex, age group, marital status, main activity, household income, Aboriginal identity, immigrant status, visible minority status, sexual orientation, childhood victimization, self-rated mental health, living in a Census Metropolitan Area or Census Agglomeration, emotional, psychological or mental disability, learning disability, physical disability, presence of social disorder in neighbourhood, drug use, binge drinking, number of evening activities, living alone, history of homelessness, perception that neighbours would call the police if they witnessed a crime, sense of belonging to local community, presence of children in the home, and level of education.

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Notes

^E use with caution

1. See Justice Canada 2012.
2. Throughout this paper, the term 'stalking' will refer to the behaviours measured by the General Social Survey, while the term 'criminal harassment' will be reserved for discussions of the related offences as specified in the Canadian *Criminal Code*.
3. In this report, "men" and "males", as well as "women" and "female(s)" both refer to people aged 15 and older (unless otherwise specified).
4. Numbers in text, tables and charts may not add up to totals due to rounding.
5. Analysis which compares 2004 and 2014 is based on data collected from the provinces only. The 2004 cycle of the General Social Survey collected data from the territories on a pilot basis; for comparability between cycles, territories data for 2014 are excluded from trend analysis only.
6. Police-reported data collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the self-reported data collected by the General Social Survey are complementary, but different, data sources. For a discussion on how results from both are best interpreted, please see Halladay et al. 2010.
7. Differences between provinces/territories were tested for statistical significance, with the percentage reported in each province/territory tested against that reported by each other province/territory.
8. See Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 252-0051.
9. Odds ratios for stalking victimization were modelled using a logistic regression multivariate analysis.
10. It should be noted that stalking or harassment does not itself include overt threats of violence against the victim, or actual physical violence. Violence and threats of violence against the victim are considered separate offences: they are distinct violations under the *Criminal Code* and are self-reported to the General Social Survey in a separate set of questions.
11. Victims were asked to report all of the kinds of stalking that they had experienced. For this reason, multiple answers were possible and percentages do not total 100.
12. Using General Social Survey 2014 data, Hango (2016) uses two measures to define cyberstalking, particularly among people who have used the Internet in the previous five years: (1) having been sent unwanted messages through email, text, Facebook or any other social media, and (2) having had someone post inappropriate, unwanted or personal information about them or pictures on a social media site. An important difference between questions related to cyberstalking and those related to cyberbullying is that with the latter, no fear for personal safety or for the safety of others was required for the incident to qualify as cyberbullying.
13. To ensure comparability with Hango (2016), an additional analysis of stalking through unwanted communication via email, text or social media and through posting of unwanted information on social media was conducted, using the subpopulation defined by Hango (people who had used the internet at least once during the previous five years). The findings resulting from this additional analysis did not differ from the findings presented here.
14. In 2004, the General Social Survey asked about damage to property and hurting or threatening to hurt pets through one question. This question was split into two separate questions in 2014. For comparability, answers to the two questions asked in 2014 are combined here. The findings from 2014 are presented on Table 3.
15. The General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) asks victims to list all of the types of stalking that they had experienced during the previous five years, along with whether **any** of the incidents were reported to police and their overall emotional impact. In addition, the survey asks respondents about various characteristics (including the relationship between themselves and the person who stalked them, the duration and severity of the stalking, and whether charges were laid) **in the most recent incident**. Therefore, in order to determine how characteristics associated with the most recent incident relate to characteristics associated with any incident occurring over the previous 5 years, a subset of respondents is looked at here.
16. A criminal incident can include multiple offences (see the "Survey description" section). In 2016, there were 18,082 police-reported incidents that involved a violation of criminal harassment. Of these incidents, 5,195 (29%) involved at least one other violation. Criminal harassment was the most serious violation in the majority of incidents that involved more than one violation (88%).
17. Because sexual assault rates are presented based on incidents that occurred in the 12 months preceding the survey, comparable data on stalking are presented here. More detailed information on stalking is available based on information reflecting the previous five years, and those data are presented below.
18. The rate of self-reported sexual assault among men who were stalked in the past 12 months is too unreliable to be published.

19. To be considered stalking, a behaviour must cause the victim to fear for their safety or the safety of someone else. Questions on emotional impact ask whether the victim felt fearful **at the time** of the incident (in contrast to, for example, a sense of fear that arose once the victim thought the incident through and put it into perspective). Differences in how respondents interpreted survey questions may account for the fact that fear as an emotional impact was not universal among stalking victims.
20. Percentages do not total 100% due to multiple responses being possible.
21. A single incident of stalking involves a pattern of repeated behaviour, as opposed to one occurrence of a harassing phone call, email, or other action. Though some victims of stalking may have experienced more than one incident during the previous five years, the 2014 General Social Survey asked victims to recall the most recent incident that they had experienced and to provide more detailed information.
22. Refers to one or more instances of physical and/or sexual violence committed by an adult aged 18 or older before the victim turned 15 years of age.
23. It is not known if stalking victimization occurred before, during and/or after the victim was homeless.
24. Includes people who indicated that they have a condition makes it difficult to learn, and which sometimes, often or always limits their daily activities.
25. Includes respondents who indicated that they have an emotional, mental or psychological condition which sometimes, often or always limits their daily activities. Examples include anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, substance abuse, anorexia, etc.
26. Includes people who reported that they sometimes, often or always have difficulty walking up a flight of stairs, or along a flat surface for 15 minutes.
27. As an important aside, the work of Bunch et al. (2015) reinforces theory and supports findings based on previous cross-sectional studies, which (as with some studies based on General Social Survey data) have been subjected to criticism based on their inability to provide for a temporal ordering of victimization events and other behavioural and lifestyle traits. Longitudinal data allow for analysis of which came first: the victimization or the characteristic associated with it.
28. Includes non-prescribed marijuana and its derivatives and drugs such as cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, etc.
29. These characteristics include vandalism, graffiti and damage to property, people using or dealing drugs, noise and loud parties, garbage lying around, people being drunk or rowdy or hanging around in the street and people in the neighbourhood being attacked or harassed because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion.
30. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighboring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
31. The General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) asks victims to list all of the types of stalking that they had experienced during the previous five years, along with whether **any** of the incidents were reported to police and their overall emotional impact. In addition, the survey asks respondents about various characteristics (including the relationship between themselves and the person who stalked them, the duration and severity of the stalking, and whether charges were laid) **in the most recent incident**. Therefore, in order to determine how characteristics associated with the most recent incident relate to characteristics associated with any incident occurring over the previous 5 years, a subset of respondents is looked at here.
32. The General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) asks victims to list all of the types of stalking that they had experienced during the previous five years, along with whether **any** of the incidents were reported to police and their overall emotional impact. In addition, the survey asks respondents about various characteristics (including the relationship between themselves and the person who stalked them, the duration and severity of the stalking, and whether charges were laid) **in the most recent incident**. Therefore, in order to determine how characteristics associated with the most recent incident relate to characteristics associated with any incident occurring over the previous 5 years, a subset of respondents is looked at here.
33. Respondents were able to select more than one of these characteristics to describe the stalking that they experienced. It should be noted that some victims may have reported threats, physical attacks and/or fear for life in relation to the same incident of stalking.
34. Among stalking victims who reported to police, 5%^E did not know whether or not charges had been laid against the perpetrator.
35. It should be noted that some victims may have reported threats, physical attacks and/or fear for life in relation to the same incident of stalking.
36. It is important to note that criminal charges are not required in order for a restraining or protection order to be laid. Further, the data presented here cannot show whether a restraining order was issued in relation to the stalking incident, or in

relation to another infraction. For example, an order may have been issued against the stalker in relation to a prior assault that they committed (against the stalking victim or some other person).

37. The General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) asks victims to list all of the types of stalking that they had experienced during the previous five years, along with whether **any** of the incidents were reported to police and their overall emotional impact. In addition, the survey asks respondents about various characteristics (including the relationship between themselves and the person who stalked them, the duration and severity of the stalking, and whether charges were laid) **in the most recent incident**. Therefore, in order to determine how characteristics associated with the most recent incident relate to characteristics associated with any incident occurring over the previous 5 years, a subset of respondents is looked at here.

38. Percentages do not total 100% due to multiple responses being possible.

39. The proportion of women stalked by a stranger who experienced physical intimidation or violence was too unreliable to be published due to sample size.

40. The difference between these percentages was not found to be statistically significant.

41. A comparison of reasons for not contacting police among those that had been stalked by spouses, ex-spouses, dating partners and ex-dating partners was not possible due to small sample size.

42. Most victims reported knowing whether or not charges had been laid. The number of victims of intimate partner stalking who did not know whether charges had been laid at the time of the survey was too unreliable to report, due to small sample size.

43. Some respondents reported that more than one charge had been laid. For this reason, percentages do not total 100%.

44. It is not known if the order was issued in relation to the stalking incident. Restraining or protective orders may have been issued against the person involved in the stalking incident in relation to a separate infraction.

45. Comparisons between stalking perpetrated by current partners and that perpetrated by former partners with respect to charges laid and restraining or protective orders issued was not possible due to small sample size.

46. No statistically significant differences on the basis of whether the stalker was a spouse or a dating partner were found.

47. Unless otherwise noted, in this section the factors impacting the odds of stalking victimization are statistically significant at $p < 0.001$.

48. Statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

49. Statistically significant ($p < 0.01$).

50. Statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

51. Statistically significant ($p < 0.01$).

52. Statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

53. Statistically significant ($p < 0.01$).

54. Statistically significant ($p < 0.01$).

55. It should be noted that at least some these neighbourhood and individual characteristics may result from stalking victimization; the temporal ordering of these phenomena is not possible using data from the 2014 General Social Survey.

56. For a full discussion, see Bones (2015).

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Self-reported stalking victimization, by sex, provinces and territories, 2014

Province or territory	Males [†]		Females		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Newfoundland and Labrador	7,174 ^E	3 ^E	11,330 ^E	5 ^E	18,504	4
Prince Edward Island	3,220 ^E	5 ^E	3,294 ^E	5 ^E	6,514 ^E	5 ^E
Nova Scotia	15,801	4	33,498	8*	49,299	6
New Brunswick	13,359 ^E	4 ^E	25,149	8*	38,508	6
Quebec	187,033	6	287,605	8*	474,638	7
Ontario	267,923	5	424,816	7*	692,739	6
Manitoba	25,191 ^E	5 ^E	54,834	10*	80,024	8
Saskatchewan	26,956 ^E	6 ^E	39,227	9	66,183	7
Alberta	75,560	4	128,706	8*	204,266	6
British Columbia	73,984	4	140,996	7*	214,979	5
Yukon	632 ^E	4 ^E	1,737 ^E	12 ^{E*}	2,368	8
Northwest Territories	1,068 ^E	6 ^E	2,255 ^E	14 ^{E*}	3,322	10
Nunavut	842 ^E	7 ^E	1,159 ^E	10 ^E	2,001 ^E	8 ^E
Canada	698,742	5	1,154,604	8	1,853,346	6

^E use with caution

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 2
Self-reported stalking victimization, by sex, provinces, 2004 and 2014

Province	2004 [†]			2014		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	percent					
Newfoundland and Labrador	4 ^E	9	7	3 ^E	5 ^{E*}	4*
Prince Edward Island	F	10 ^E	8 ^E	5 ^E	5 ^E	5 ^E
Nova Scotia	9 ^E	12	10	4*	8*	6*
New Brunswick	7 ^E	10	8	4 ^E	8	6*
Quebec	7	10	9	6	8*	7*
Ontario	7	11	9	5*	7*	6*
Manitoba	8	11	10	5 ^{E*}	10	8
Saskatchewan	6 ^E	9	8	6 ^E	9	7
Alberta	7	13	10	4*	8*	6*
British Columbia	7	11	9	4*	7*	5*
Provincial total	7	11	9	5*	8*	6*

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 3
Types of self-reported stalking experienced by victims, by sex, Canada, 2014

Type of stalking behaviour	Males [†]		Females		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Threatening or intimidating someone else	319,737	46	401,757	35*	721,494	39
Repeated, silent or obscene phone calls	139,580	20	434,731	38*	574,311	31
Unwanted email, text, social media communication	158,336	23	354,527	31*	512,863	28
Damaging victim's property	196,330	28	241,036	21*	437,366	24
In-person or electronic spying/surveillance	86,718	12	237,303	21*	324,021	17
Waiting outside victim's home	98,992 ^E	14	207,225	18	306,217	17
Waiting outside victim's work or school	70,808 ^E	10	202,574	18*	273,382	15
Persistently asking for a date	33,310 ^E	5 ^E	173,502	15*	206,812	11
Hurting victim's pets ¹	39,367 ^E	6 ^E	105,384	10*	144,751	9
Unwanted gifts, letters, cards	16,582 ^E	2 ^E	81,087 ^E	7*	97,669	5
Posting unwanted information on social media	48,251 ^E	7 ^E	45,156 ^E	4 ^E	93,407 ^E	5 ^E
Other unwanted communication	40,999 ^E	6 ^E	100,503	9	141,502	8

^E use with caution

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

1. Percentages calculated on the basis of victims who indicated they had pets.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Respondents were able to report multiple kinds of stalking victimization. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages, but do not appear in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 4
Severity and duration of self-reported stalking victimization, by sex, Canada, 2014

Severity and duration	Males [†]		Females		Total
	percent				
Physical intimidation or threats of violence					
Yes	40		27*		32
No	60		72*		68
Grabbed or attacked					
Yes	22		16*		18
No	78		84*		82
Fear for life					
Yes	28		37*		34
No	72		61*		65
Duration					
1 week or less	33		22*		26
1 to 4 weeks	15		14		15
1 to 6 months	17		24*		21
6 to 12 months	9		12		11
More than one year	23		25		24

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 5
Emotional impact of self-reported stalking victimization, by sex, Canada, 2014

Type of emotional impact	Males [†]		Females		Total
	number	percent	number	percent	
Fearful	20		44*		35
Upset/confused/frustrated	29		33		31
Angry	29		25		27
More cautious/aware	12 ^E		17*		16
Shock/disbelief	10 ^E		15*		13
Annoyed	10		12		11
Depression/anxiety attacks	6 ^E		13*		11
Victimized	6 ^E		11*		9
Sleep problems	5 ^E		12*		9
Hurt/disappointed	5 ^E		11*		9
Afraid for children	3 ^E		7*		5
Lowered self esteem	3 ^E		4 ^E		4
Increased self-reliance	F		4 ^E		3 ^E
Ashamed/guilty	2 ^E		2 ^E		2 ^E
Problems relating to men/women	F		2 ^E		2 ^E
Other	10		11		11
No emotional effect	14		5 ^E *		8
Not much emotional effect	8 ^E		3 ^E *		5

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding and multiple responses being possible. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 6
Relationship of stalker to victim in most recent incidents of self-reported stalking, by sex, Canada, 2014

Type of relationship	Males [†]		Females		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Stranger	217,244	31	282,375	24*	499,618	27
Intimate partner						
Dating partner or ex-dating partner	63,395 ^E	9	162,427	14*	225,822	12
Spouse or ex-spouse ¹	35,376 ^E	5 ^E	121,492	11*	156,869	8
Other person known to victim						
Friend or acquaintance	128,287	18	164,416	14	292,703	16
Co-worker or classmate	71,642	10	97,389	8	169,031	9
Person known by sight	68,645 ^E	10 ^E	95,841	8	164,485	9
Neighbour	55,257 ^E	8 ^E	85,561	7	140,818	8
Relative	34,295 ^E	5 ^E	106,178	9*	140,473	8
Don't know	24,601 ^E	4 ^E	38,925 ^E	3 ^E	63,526 ^E	3 ^E
Total	698,742	100	1,154,604	100	1,853,346	100

^E use with caution

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

1. Spouses and ex-spouses include current and former legally married and common-law partners.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Respondents were asked to indicate the person responsible for the most recent incident of stalking that they had experienced. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 7
Prevalence of self-reported stalking victimization among people with select sociodemographic and lifestyle characteristics, by sex, Canada, 2014

Characteristics	Males	Females	Total
	percent		
Age group (years)			
15 to 34 [†]	7	12	9
35 to 54	5*	8*	6*
55 and older	2*	4*	3*
Marital status			
Married/common-law [†]	3	5	4
Separated/divorced	8 ^{E*}	12*	11*
Widowed	F	3*	3*
Single	7*	14*	10*
Aboriginal identity			
Aboriginal person [†]	6 ^E	14	10
Not an Aboriginal person	5	8*	6*
Sexual orientation¹			
Gay, lesbian or bisexual [†]	12 ^E	16	14
Heterosexual	5*	8*	6*
History of child abuse²			
Abused as a child [†]	9	15	12
Not abused as a child	3*	5*	4*
History of homelessness³			
History of homelessness [†]	12	19	16
No history of homelessness	4*	7*	5*
Disabilities			
Learning disability ^{†4}	16	25	21
No learning disability	4*	7*	6*
Emotional/mental/psychological disability ^{†5}	15	21	19
No emotional/mental/psychological disability	4*	7*	6*
Physical disability ^{†6}	7	12	10
No physical disability	4*	7*	6*
Lifestyle characteristics			
Lives alone [†]	6	8	7
Does not live alone	5*	8	6*
Binge drinking ^{†7}	5	11	7
No binge drinking	5	7*	6*
Drug use ^{†8}	10	23	14
No drug use	4*	7*	6*
More than 10 evenings out per month [†]	6	10	8
10 or fewer evenings out per month	3*	6*	5*
Neighbourhood characteristics			
Social disorder in neighbourhood ^{†9}	7	10	8
No social disorder in neighbourhood	3*	5*	4*
Neighbours would not call police if they witnessed a crime [†]	10 ^E	14	12
Neighbours would call police if they witnessed a crime	4*	7*	6*
Weak sense of belonging [†]	8	11	10
Strong sense of belonging	4*	7*	5*
Census metropolitan area ^{†10}	5	8	6
Non-census metropolitan area	4	8	6

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. The question on same sex identity asked by the General Social Survey is asked only of respondents aged 18 years and older.

2. Includes respondents who reported that they had experienced at least one instance of childhood physical and/or sexual abuse by an adult aged 18 and older before they turned 15.

3. Includes respondents who reported that at some point in their lives they had to live in a shelter, on the street or an abandoned building, or had to make temporary living arrangements because they had nowhere else to go.

4. Includes respondents who reported that they have a condition which makes it difficult to learn that limits their daily activities sometimes, often or always, excluding mental or psychological conditions.

5. Includes respondents who reported that their emotional, mental or psychological condition limits their daily activities sometimes, often or always, excluding learning disabilities.

6. Includes respondents who reported a physical condition which makes it difficult for them to walk up stairs or along flat ground for fifteen minutes sometimes, often or always.

7. Includes respondents who reported that they had 5 or more alcoholic beverages on the same occasion during the preceding month.

8. Includes respondents who reported that they had used non-prescribed drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and others during the preceding month. Cannabis prescribed by a doctor is excluded.

9. Includes respondents who described their neighbourhood as one characterized by vandalism, graffiti and damage to property, people using or dealing drugs, noise and loud parties, garbage lying around, people being drunk or rowdy or hanging around in the street and people in the neighbourhood being attacked or harassed because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion.

10. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 8
Self-reported stalking incidents, by whether reported to police, reasons for not doing so and sex, Canada, 2014

Reporting status	Males [†]		Females		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Reported to police	259,338	37	458,456	40	717,794	39
Did not report to police	430,671	62	684,085	59	1,114,755	60
Total	698,742	100	1,154,604	100	1,853,346	100
Main reason for not reporting to police						
Crime was minor/not worth reporting	100,044	23	133,791	20	233,835	21
Incident private/did not want others to find out	82,525	19	127,619	19	210,144	19
Police wouldn't be able to identify stalker/lack of evidence	22,891 ^E	5 ^E	68,807 ^E	10 [*]	91,698	8
Fear of revenge	F	F	64,586 ^E	9 ^E	74,955	7
Reported to another official	F	6 ^E	37,421 ^E	5 ^E	64,058 ^E	6 ^E
Police wouldn't consider it important	26,147 ^E	6 ^E	36,984 ^E	5 ^E	63,131	6
Tried to report, see police as biased/ineffective, previous bad experience with police	F	F	26,890 ^E	4 ^E	59,012 ^E	5 ^E
No harm was done or intended	F	F	35,052 ^E	5 ^E	55,561 ^E	5 ^E
Did not want stalker to get into trouble	17,320 ^E	4 ^E	F	4 ^E	43,261 ^E	4 ^E
Did not want hassle of dealing with police	27,145 ^E	6 ^E	10,456 ^E	2 ^{E*}	37,602 ^E	3 ^E
Did not think stalker would be punished/convicted or to avoid court hassle	F	F	21,893 ^E	3 ^E	30,608 ^E	3 ^E
Other ¹	47,960 ^E	11 ^E	77,362	11	125,322	11
Don't know	F	F	17,282 ^E	3 ^E	25,569 ^E	2 ^E
Total	430,671	100	684,085	100	1,114,755	100

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

1. "Other" includes respondents' fear of themselves getting into trouble with the law, the fact that the incident took place outside of Canada, and other reasons not otherwise specified.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 9
Charges and restraining/protective orders laid in self-reported stalking incidents reported to police, by sex, Canada, 2014

Charge and restraining/protective order status	Males [†]		Females		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Charge status						
Charges laid	41,548 ^E	16 ^E	108,921	24	150,469	21
No charges laid	200,001	77	333,057	73	533,058	74
Don't know if charges laid	F	F	16,477 ^E	4 ^E	34,267 ^E	5 ^E
Total¹	259,338	100	458,456	100	717,794	100
Types of charges						
Assault	F	35 ^E	42,736 ^E	39	57,220 ^E	38
Harassment	F	F	31,929 ^E	29 ^E	40,338 ^E	27 ^E
Threats	F	30 ^E	24,168 ^E	22 ^E	36,560 ^E	24 ^E
Mischief	F	F	6,165 ^E	6 ^E	11,251 ^E	7 ^E
Other	F	F	25,210 ^E	23 ^E	31,035 ^E	21 ^E
Restraining/protective order laid	36,241 ^E	14 ^E	139,659	30 [*]	175,900	25
Order violated	F	F	63,740	46	71,590	41
Violation reported	F	F	45,797 ^E	72	51,444 ^E	72

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

1. Total includes only those victims who reported stalking victimization to police (approximately 37% of victims; see Table 8).

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 10
Self-reported stalking victimization, by stalker to victim relationship and by sex of victim, Canada, 2004 and 2014

Type of relationship	2004†			2014		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	percent of population					
Intimate partner ¹	0.8	2.3	1.5	0.7	1.9	1.3
Stranger	1.5	2.7	2.1	1.5	1.9*	1.7*
Other known person	4.3	5.6	4.9	2.5*	3.7*	3.1*
Total	6.9	11.0	9.0	4.8*	7.7*	6.3*

Type of relationship	2004†			2014		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	percent of stalking victims					
Intimate partner ¹	11	21	17	14	25	21*
Stranger	22	24	24	31*	25	27
Other known person	62	51	55	51*	48	49*
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Intimate partners include current and former legally married or common-law spouses or dating partners.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. Does not include data collected in the territories, as these data were not available for 2004. The answers “don’t know” and “refusal” are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 11
Types of self-reported stalking experienced by victims, by relationship of stalker to victim, Canada, 2014

Type of stalking behaviour	Intimate partner† ¹	Stranger	Other known person	Total
			percent	
Unwanted email, text, social media communication	41	18 ^{E*}	24*	26
Threatening or intimidating someone else	40	23*	42	37
Repeated, silent or obscene phone calls	37	29	24*	30
Damaging victim's property	33	13 ^{E*}	20*	22
Waiting outside victim's home	27	14 ^{E*}	10*	15
Waiting outside victim's work or school	20	12 ^{E*}	10 ^{E*}	13
In-person or electronic spying/surveillance	20	21	9*	15
Persistently asking for a date	16 ^E	7 ^{E*}	11	11
Hurting victim's pets ²	10 ^E	F	10 ^E	9
Other unwanted communication	6 ^E	F	5 ^E	5
Posting unwanted information on social media	6 ^E	F	3 ^E	4 ^E
Unwanted gifts, letters, cards	F	F	5 ^E	5 ^E

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Intimate partners include current and former legally married or common-law spouses or dating partners.

2. Percentages calculated on the basis of victims who indicated they had pets.

Note: Questions on type of stalking are asked in relation to the most recent incident of stalking experienced; thus, data presented here represent a subset of those respondents who indicated they had been stalked by one person only. Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding and/or multiple responses being possible. The answers “don’t know” and “refusal” are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 12
Severity and duration of self-reported stalking victimization, by relationship of stalker to victim and by sex of victim, Canada, 2014

Severity and duration	Intimate partner ^{† 1}			Stranger			Other known person		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Physical intimidation or threats of violence	percent								
Yes	35 ^E	45	42	30	11 ^{E*}	19*	48	28*	36
No	65	55	58	70	89*	81*	51	72*	64
Grabbed or attacked									
Yes	31 ^E	34	33	21 ^E	F	12 ^{E*}	20 ^E	13*	16*
No	69	66	67	79	94*	88*	79	87*	84*
Fear for life									
Yes	27 ^E	47	42	31	38	35	27	34*	31*
No	73	53	58	69	59	63	72	65*	68*
Duration									
1 week or less	F	12 ^E	11 ^E	56	46*	50*	28	16	21*
1 to 4 weeks	F	11 ^E	10 ^E	17 ^E	16 ^E	17*	16	14	15
1 to 6 months	37 ^E	26	29	7 ^{E*}	16 ^{E*}	12*	19*	26	23
6 to 12 months	14 ^E	16 ^E	16 ^E	F	8 ^E	7 ^{E*}	10 ^E	13	12
More than one year	37	32	33	15 ^{E*}	12 ^{E*}	13*	26	28	27

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

1. Intimate partners include current and former legally married or common-law spouses or dating partners.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 13
Reporting to police, charges and restraining/protective orders laid in self-reported stalking incidents, by relationship of stalker to victim, Canada, 2014

Reporting, charge and restraining/protective order status	Intimate partner ^{†1}	Stranger	Other known person
	percent		
Percent reported to police			
Male victims	35 ^E	38	35
Female victims	51	35 [*]	38 [*]
Total victims	47	37 [*]	37 [*]
Charges laid	22	18 ^E	22
No charges laid	78	71	74
Don't know if charges laid	F	11 ^E	4 ^E
Type of charges laid			
Assault	50 ^E	F	33 ^E
Harassment	33 ^E	F	33 ^E
Threats	27 ^E	F	26 ^E
Mischief	F	F	F
Other	31 ^E	F	18 ^E
Restraining order laid	37	9 ^{E*}	26 [*]
Order violated	47	F	43
Violation reported	78	F	70
Reason for not reporting to police			
Incident private/did not want others to find out	27	10 ^{E*}	21
Crime was minor/not worth reporting	17 ^E	29 [*]	17
Did not want stalker to get into trouble	13 ^E	F	F
Fear of revenge	9 ^E	F	7 ^E
Tried to report, see police as biased/ineffective, previous bad experience with police	5 ^E	F	F
Police wouldn't consider it important	F	7 ^E	5 ^E
No harm was done or intended	F	F	5 ^E
Did not want hassle of dealing with police	F	F	4 ^E
Did not think stalker would be punished/convicted or to avoid court hassle	F	F	3 ^E
Police wouldn't be able to identify stalker/lack of evidence	F	14 ^E	6 ^E
Reported to another official	F	F	10 ^E
Other ²	11 ^E	14 ^E	10 ^E

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Intimate partners include current and former legally married or common-law spouses or dating partners.

2. "Other" includes respondents' fear of themselves getting into trouble with the law, the fact that the incident took place outside of Canada, and other reasons not otherwise specified.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding and/or multiple responses being possible. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 14
Prevalence and characteristics of self-reported stalking, by type of intimate partner relationship and by sex, Canada, 2014

	Stalked by current partner (spouse and dating) [†]			Stalked by former partner (spouse and dating)			Stalked by spouse (current or former) ^{††}			Stalked by dating partner (current or former)			
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Prevalence													
Number	F	44,571 ^E	57,557 ^E	85,785	239,349	325,134	35,376 ^E	121,492	156,869	63,395 ^E	162,427	225,822	
Percent of all victims	F	4 ^E	3 ^E	12	21	18	5 ^E	11	8	9	14	12	
Characteristics													
		percent of current partner stalking			percent of former partner stalking			percent of spousal stalking			percent of dating stalking		
Grabbed or attacked		63 ^E	40 ^E	45 ^E	26 ^{E*}	33	31	36 ^E	32 ^E	33	28 ^E	35	33
Physical intimidation or threats of violence		84	52 ^E	59	28 ^{E*}	43	39 [*]	36 ^E	51	48	35 ^E	40	39
Fear for life	F		55 ^E	53	23 ^E	45	40	37 ^E	47	45	F	47	40
Report to police	F		62	57	34 ^E	50	45	49 ^E	58	56	26 ^E	47	41 ^{**}
Charges laid	F		F	F	F	25 ^E	23 ^E	F	27 ^E	26 ^E	F	22 ^E	19 ^E
Restraining/protective order issued	F		F	F	F	42	38	F	49	45	F	33 ^E	30 ^E
Restraining/protective order violated	F		F	F	F	47 ^E	43 ^E	F	54 ^E	49 ^E	F	46 ^E	44 ^E
Violation reported	F		F	F	F	74	73	F	82	80	F	72 ^E	73 ^E

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (†) ($p < 0.05$)

** significantly different from reference category (††) ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

†† reference category

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Numbers and/or percentages may not add up to totals due to rounding. The answers "don't know" and "refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Model 1**Logistic regression: Odds ratios for stalking victimization, by characteristics, Canada, 2014**

Characteristics	Odds ratio
Sex	
Male	Reference category
Female	1.85***
Age group (years)	
15 to 34	Reference category
35 to 54	0.78***
55 and older	0.51***
Marital status	
Married/common-law	Reference category
Separated/divorced	2***
Widowed	0.98***
Single	1.9***
History of child abuse¹	
No	Reference category
Yes	2.71***
History of homelessness²	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.87***
Learning disability³	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.98***
Drug use in past month⁴	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.52***
Emotional/mental/psychological disability⁵	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.55***
Physical disability⁶	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.36***
Social disorder in neighbourhood⁷	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.53***
Neighbours call police	
Yes	Reference category
No	1.67***
Sense of belonging to community	
Yes	Reference category
No	1.19*
Number of evening activities	
0 to 10	Reference category
11 or more	1.37***
Presence of children 18 and under	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.27*

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.001$)

1. Includes respondents who reported that they had experienced at least one instance of childhood physical and/or sexual abuse by an adult aged 18 and older before they turned 15.

2. Includes respondents who reported that at some point in their lives they had to live in a shelter, on the street or an abandoned building, or had to make temporary living arrangements because they had nowhere else to go.

3. Includes respondents who reported that they have a condition which makes it difficult to learn that limits their daily activities sometimes, often or always, excluding mental or psychological conditions.

4. Includes respondents who reported that they had used non-prescribed drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and others during the preceding month. Cannabis prescribed by a doctor is excluded.

5. Includes respondents who reported that their emotional, mental or psychological condition limits their daily activities sometimes, often or always, excluding learning disabilities.

6. Includes respondents who reported a physical condition which makes it difficult for them to walk up stairs or along flat ground for fifteen minutes sometimes, often or always.

7. Includes respondents who described their neighbourhood as one characterized by vandalism, graffiti and damage to property, people using or dealing drugs, noise and loud parties, garbage lying around, people being drunk or rowdy or hanging around in the street and people in the neighbourhood being attacked or harassed because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Only significant characteristics were retained in the final model. For all the variables tested, see the variables presented in the "Methodology for logistic regression" section.**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Model 2**Logistic regression: Odds ratios for non-intimate partner stalking victimization, by characteristics, Canada, 2014**

Characteristics	Odds ratio
Sex	
Male	Reference category
Female	1.57***
Age group (years)	
15 to 34	Reference category
35 to 54	0.83
55 and older	0.59***
Marital status	
Married/common-law	Reference category
Separated/divorced	1.36*
Widowed	0.9
Single	1.51***
History of child abuse¹	
No	Reference category
Yes	2.46***
History of homelessness²	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.68***
Learning disability³	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.7**
Drug use in past month⁴	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.3*
Emotional/mental/psychological disability⁵	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.53**
Physical disability⁶	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.38**
Social disorder in neighbourhood⁷	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.8***
Neighbours call police	
Yes	Reference category
No	1.3**
Sense of belonging to community	
Yes	Reference category
No	1.21*
Number of evening activities	
0 to 10	Reference category
11 or more	1.51***

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.01$)

*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.001$)

1. Includes respondents who reported that they had experienced at least one instance of childhood physical and/or sexual abuse by an adult aged 18 and older before they turned 15.

2. Includes respondents who reported that at some point in their lives they had to live in a shelter, on the street or an abandoned building, or had to make temporary living arrangements because they had nowhere else to go.

3. Includes respondents who reported that they have a condition which makes it difficult to learn that limits their daily activities sometimes, often or always, excluding mental or psychological conditions.

4. Includes respondents who reported that they had used non-prescribed drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and others during the preceding month. Cannabis prescribed by a doctor is excluded.

5. Includes respondents who reported that their emotional, mental or psychological condition limits their daily activities sometimes, often or always, excluding learning disabilities.

6. Includes respondents who reported a physical condition which makes it difficult for them to walk up stairs or along flat ground for fifteen minutes sometimes, often or always.

7. Includes respondents who described their neighbourhood as one characterized by vandalism, graffiti and damage to property, people using or dealing drugs, noise and loud parties, garbage lying around, people being drunk or rowdy or hanging around in the street and people in the neighbourhood being attacked or harassed because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Non-intimate partners include people other than current or former legally married or common-law spouses or dating partners. Only significant characteristics were retained in the final model. For all the variables tested, see the variables presented in the "Methodology for logistic regression" section.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Model 3

Logistic regression: Odds ratios for intimate partner stalking victimization, by characteristics, Canada, 2014

Characteristics	Odds ratio
Sex	
Male	Reference category
Female	3.72***
Age group (years)	
15 to 34	Reference category
35 to 54	0.59***
55 and older	0.12***
Marital status	
Married/common-law	Reference category
Separated/divorced	6.78***
Widowed	0.83***
Single	3.35***
History of child abuse¹	
No	Reference category
Yes	2.8***
History of homelessness²	
No	Reference category
Yes	2.14***
Learning disability³	
No	Reference category
Yes	2.62***
Drug use in past month⁴	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.97***
5 or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting (binge drinking) in past month⁵	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.44*
Living alone	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.58**
Presence of children 18 and under	
No	Reference category
Yes	1.68*

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.01$)

*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.001$)

1. Includes respondents who reported that they had experienced at least one instance of childhood physical and/or sexual abuse by an adult aged 18 and older before they turned 15.

2. Includes respondents who reported that at some point in their lives they had to live in a shelter, on the street or an abandoned building, or had to make temporary living arrangements because they had nowhere else to go.

3. Includes respondents who reported that they have a condition which makes it difficult to learn that limits their daily activities sometimes, often or always, excluding mental or psychological conditions.

4. Includes respondents who reported that they had used non-prescribed drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and others during the preceding month. Cannabis prescribed by a doctor is excluded.

5. Includes respondents who reported that they had 5 or more alcoholic beverages on the same occasion during the preceding month.

Note: Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know. Intimate partners include current or former legally married or common-law spouses or dating partners. Only significant characteristics were retained in the final model. For all the variables tested, see the variables presented in the "Methodology for logistic regression" section.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Section 2: Police-reported family violence in Canada – An overview

by Marta Burczycka

Violence that happens within a family has many adverse consequences, both immediate and long-term. Victims of all ages experience increased risk of chronic mental and physical illness, alcohol and drug use, economic vulnerability, social isolation, and risk for further victimization, all with significant social and economic costs to Canadians and in other parts of the world (Public Health Agency of Canada 2016). Additionally, long-established research into the so-called “cycle of violence” suggests that many adults accused of violence against family members experienced family violence themselves, as children (Widom 1989; Murrell et al. 2007). The Government of Canada, through the Family Violence Initiative, works to prevent, monitor and respond to the consequences of family violence in Canada (Government of Canada 2016).

In the context of this section, ‘family’ refers to relationships defined through blood, marriage, common-law partnership, foster care, or adoption, and ‘family violence’ refers to violent *Criminal Code* offences that come to the attention of police, where the perpetrator is a family member of the victim. Although this definition of family violence does not include dating relationships, analysis of violence within dating relationships—in addition to current and former spousal unions—is presented in Section 3 of this report titled “Police-reported intimate partner violence.”

Using police-reported data for 2016 from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting and Homicide surveys, this section presents an overview of key national and provincial findings on the nature and prevalence of police-reported family violence in Canada, including the types of offences associated with family violence, the relationship between the victims and the accused, as well as some socio-demographic factors associated with family violence. Highlights in this section provide a general overview of police-reported family violence, as well as key findings related to specific victim characteristics that are examined in more detail in later sections of this report.

For the first time in 2016, this section also includes an analysis of persons accused of family violence. Information on the sex and age of those accused of police-reported, family-related violent crime provides insight into the dynamics underpinning violent family contexts.

This section covers all types of violent *Criminal Code* offences which came to the attention of police, ranging from uttering threats to physical and sexual violence to homicide. Non-violent crimes such as theft and fraud, all types of abuse which were not substantiated by police, as well as conduct not covered by the *Criminal Code* are not included in this section. Additionally, analysis based on Homicide Survey data excludes non-culpable homicides and homicides which have not been solved by police.

Although providing important contextual information on incidents of family violence which come to the attention of police, the data presented in this section may underestimate the true extent of family violence in Canada. For example, self-reported data from the 2014 General Social Survey on Canadians’ Safety (Victimization) show that 70% of victims of spousal violence and 93% of victims of childhood physical and/or sexual abuse never spoke to authorities about their experiences (Burczycka and Ibrahim 2016; Burczycka and Conroy 2017). Research has shown that privacy concerns, fear of reprisal, and a desire to protect the offender are common reasons for why family violence victims do not report to police (Felson et al. 2002).

Unless otherwise specified, all rates shown in this section are per 100,000 population. Definitions and information on data sources and survey methodology can be found in the “Survey description” section of this publication.

Family violence victims most often female, aged 30 to 34

- In 2016, one-quarter (26%) of all victims of violent crime had been victimized by a family member.¹ Compared to other kinds of violence, family violence was more common for women and girls, accounting for 33% of female victims and 18% of male victims of violent crime. While women and girls made up just over half (52%) of violent crime victims overall, two-thirds (67%) of family violence victims were female (Table 2.1).
- The nature of family violence differed by sex of the victim. Women were particularly over-represented as victims of spousal violence (78%). The gap between females and males was smaller when it came to victimization by other family members: for instance, close to half (55%) of those victimized by a parent and of those victimized by a sibling (55%) were female (Table 2.1).
- While overall, almost half of victims of family violence were victimized by a current or former spouse or common-law partner (47%), this kind of victimization was more common for female victims (55%) compared to male victims (31%). Male victims of family violence were much more likely to report that they had been victimized by parents, children, siblings or other family members (69%) compared to female victims (45%) (Table 2.1).
- Rates of family violence victimization increased with age, peaking among those aged 30 to 34 years (379 victims per 100,000 population). This largely reflected the victimization of women and girls, which also peaked among 30 to 34-year-olds (562). Among males, the highest rates of family violence were among those aged 15 to 19 (227 per

100,000), as well as among those aged 10 to 14 (213) (Table 2.2). It should be noted that child victims may be particularly unlikely to report victimization to police, because of a lack of awareness of the criminal nature of their experience, lack of access to trusted adults, and fear of reprisal (Faller 2016).

Text box 1

Self-reported information about family violence in Canada

Since many instances of family violence go unreported to police, self-reported information—information about the crime gathered from the victims—is essential to understanding family violence in Canada. Self-reported information collected through the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) provides context to the police-reported data presented in this section. Though important methodological differences exist between self- and police-reported data (see the "Survey description" section), the 2014 GSS increases our knowledge of Canadians' experiences with family violence, other kinds of violence, and perceptions of crime and safety.

For example, self-reported data show 4% of Canadians aged 15 and older experienced violence by a current or former spouse or common-law partner during the five years preceding the 2014 GSS—about 760,000 individuals (Burczycka and Ibrahim 2016). In contrast to what is generally seen in police-reported data, the prevalence of spousal violence was equal among men and women, according to self-reported information (4% of men and 4% of women).

This key difference between police- and self-reported data may be related to the fact that according to the 2014 GSS, male victims of spousal abuse were less likely than female victims to report that police had become aware of the violence (24% versus 35%). Differences in reporting to police, in turn, could reflect differences in the severity of spousal violence experienced by women compared to men. According to self-reported data, women are more likely to experience the most severe forms of spousal violence (including sexual assault and being beaten or choked), experience injuries, and suffer long-term psychological consequences such as those associated with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In addition to self-reported information on spousal abuse, the 2014 GSS provides data on abuse between dating partners, childhood physical and sexual abuse, and abuse of seniors. Many demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of victims are also collected, creating an important complement to police-reported statistics.

One in five male family violence victims experience major assault

- Physical assault was the most common type of offence involved in incidents of family violence (73%). Eight in ten (79%) male victims and seven in ten (70%) female victims had experienced physical assault. Common (level 1) assault was reported by 58% of both male and female victims of family violence. A larger proportion of male victims (21%) reported major assault (levels 2 and 3) when compared to female victims (12%) (Table 2.3).
- Women and girls made up two-thirds of all victims of police-reported family violence (67%), regardless of the type of offence involved; they were particularly over-represented as victims of sexual offences (84%) and criminal harassment, also known as stalking (84%). The offences where the gap between males and females was smallest were major assault (where females represented 54% of victims) and attempted murder (where 55% of victims were female) (Table 2.3).

Victims of family violence, especially females, more likely than others to see charges laid

- A criminal incident is considered cleared when a charge is laid or recommended, or when it is dealt with by police or courts in another way (for example, through sentencing to diversion programs).² In 2016, clearance by charge or otherwise was more common when individuals had been victimized by family members (83%) than in incidents involving non-relatives (68%). Specifically, 55% of family violence victims saw charges laid, compared to 48% when the violent crime was not family-related (Table 2.4).³ In Canada, police and Crown counsel operate under directives specific to family violence requiring charges be laid in favour of other discretionary measures wherever there are reasonable grounds to believe a crime has been committed (Di Luca et al. 2012).
- In instances of police-reported violence where the victim was female, 60% of family violence victims saw charges laid against an accused, compared to 53% when the accused was a non-family member. The gap between family and non-family violence in terms of whether charges were laid was narrower when the victims were male: where victims were male, charges were laid in 46% of incidents of family violence, and 44% of non-family violence incidents. It is important to note that male victims were more likely than female victims to decline that charges be laid, in both family (19% versus 12%) and non-family (12% versus 9%) violence situations (Table 2.4).

Family violence rate stable from previous year, decreased since 2011

- Canada's overall rate of family violence declined slightly by 1% between 2015 and 2016, marking the third year of relative stability with 239 victims per 100,000 population. The rate among males remained unchanged (159), while a slight decrease (-2%) brought the rate among females to 319 incidents per 100,000. Over the past five years, however, the rate of family violence has decreased by 15% overall, including a 17% decline among females and a 9% decrease among males (Table 2.5).
- Rates of non-family violence continued to be almost three times as high as family violence in 2016. Similar to the decrease in family violence rates recorded since 2011, the rate of non-family violence also declined (-16%). Of note, the rate of non-family violence against male victims decreased more substantially (-19%) than the corresponding rate of family violence against males (-9%) (Table 2.5).

Increases in family violence in Nunavut and Quebec reflect rises in rates against males

- Among the provinces, rates of family violence were highest in Saskatchewan (498 victims per 100,000 population), Manitoba (379) and Quebec (315). As is the case for violent crime rates overall, family violence rates in the territories were higher than the Canadian average (239). The lowest rates of family violence were recorded in Prince Edward Island (135), Ontario (148) and British Columbia (199). With the exception of Quebec's relatively high rate of family violence, provinces and territories with the highest or lowest rates of family violence also recorded higher or lower rates of overall violent crime in 2016 (Keighley 2016) (Table 2.6).
- Between 2015 and 2016, increases in the rate of family violence were recorded in Nunavut (+6%), Saskatchewan (+3%) and Quebec (+2%), while Prince Edward Island (-13%), British Columbia (-9%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-8%) and Alberta (-3%) saw declines. In Nunavut and Quebec, growth was driven by increases in rates of family violence against men (+10% and +5%, respectively). Meanwhile, the decrease in Prince Edward Island's overall rate of family violence reflected the 18% decline in the rate of family violence involving female victims (Table 2.6).
- As with family violence rates overall, rates of family-related physical assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) as well as family-related sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) were highest in the territories and in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In these parts of Canada, the combined rate for these offences were generally stable from 2015 to 2016, with an increase reported in Saskatchewan (+3%) and more substantial increase in Nunavut (+10%) (Table 2.7).

Among Canada's biggest cities, those in Quebec report highest family violence rates

- The rate of family violence in Canada's largest cities (census metropolitan areas or CMAs)⁴ was 187 victims per 100,000 population in 2016, making family violence less common among people living in these areas than among those living outside the biggest cities (372). Rates were particularly high among females living outside of CMAs (485 victims per 100,000 population). In general, violent crime rates have historically been higher in rural areas outside of population centres (Allen and Perreault 2015) (Table 2.8).
- Among the individual CMAs, rates of family violence were particularly high among CMAs located in Quebec: Trois-Rivières (334 victims per 100,000), Saguenay (330) and Gatineau (314) recorded the highest rates. Five of the six CMAs located in Quebec were among the ten CMAs with the highest family violence rates in Canada (the exception being Sherbrooke, with a rate of 170). The lowest rates, conversely, were recorded in the Ontario CMAs of Ottawa (84), Barrie (109) and St. Catharines–Niagara (118) (Table 2.8).

Most serious family-related offences decline while family homicide rates remain stable

- Rates of the most serious family violence offences decreased between 2011 and 2016, including rates of attempted murder (-2%), sexual assault (-29%) and physical assault (-12%). Violations causing death, which include homicide as well as manslaughter and crimes such as criminal negligence causing death, also decreased (-8%). A particularly large decrease was noted in the rate of sexual assault by a family member other than a spouse (-36%); in contrast, however, sexual assault by a current or former spouse or common-law partner increased by 14% (Table 2.9).⁵
- There were 134 victims of family-related homicide in Canada in 2016, translating into a rate of 3.7 victims per 1 million population. Over time, the rate of family-related homicide has tended to remain relatively stable from year to year, with modest decreases over longer periods. For example, a family-related homicide rate near 4 victims per 1 million was recorded in most years between 2007 and 2016; correspondingly, the preceding decade saw a rate of between 5 and 6 victims per 1 million recorded in most years (Table 2.10).
- In 2016, 58% of family-related homicide victims were women and girls (Table 2.10). This is in marked contrast to homicide rates overall: for instance, in 2016, 75% of all homicide victims were men and boys, findings that had remained consistent over the preceding 11 years (David 2017).

Under one-quarter of people accused of family violence are female, as with other crime types

- In 2016, just under one-third (32%) of persons accused in all incidents of violent crime that involved one victim and one accused person were accused of family violence.⁶ The largest proportion of those accused in family-related incidents were accused of violence against a spouse (57%), including 59% of male accused and 50% of their female counterparts (Table 2.11).
- Just under one-quarter (23%) of those accused of family violence in 2016 were women—just under 13,000 individuals. Women also represented 21% of persons accused of non-family violence and 22% of accused persons overall, indicating that when it comes to the sex of the accused, family violence follows general patterns of crime (Table 2.11).
- Slightly over half (53%) of those accused of family violence were aged between 25 and 44, with a rate of 302 accused persons per 100,000 persons of that age. This was followed by those aged 18 to 24 (241). This is in contrast to the violent crime rate in general, which tends to be highest among those aged 18 to 24 (Allen 2016) (Table 2.12).
- Among the CMAs, Ottawa recorded the lowest rate of persons accused of family violence (42 per 100,000), as well as the lowest rate of victims (84).⁷ Thunder Bay had the highest overall rate of persons accused (240 per 100,000), as well as the highest rate of male accused specifically (387). Of all CMAs, the highest rates of females accused of family violence were found in Brantford (115) and Gatineau (114), both of which also had among the highest overall rates of persons accused (230 and 233, respectively) (Table 2.13).

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Notes

1. Numbers in text and tables may not add up to totals due to rounding.
2. 'Not cleared' includes incidents where an accused person has been identified in connection with the incident, but where there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident or to clear the incident through other means.
3. For incidents that involve multiple victims, a single clearance status is recorded in relation to each victim in the incident. For instance, if charges are laid in relation to a violation against one of the victims, the clearance status for all victims will be 'charged.' Thus, under- or over-counts are possible with respect to clearance status, and this may affect the 26% of family violence incidents that involve more than one victim or accused person.

4. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

5. In 2015, the *Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act* came into effect and increased the maximum penalties for certain sexual offences against children. Changes to maximum penalties had an impact on incidents where both sexual assault (level 1) and a sexual offence against a child were reported, as the most serious violation reported by police may have been affected. For example, an incident that was classified as sexual assault (level 1) in 2014 may have been classified as sexual interference in 2016, thereby contributing to the decrease in the rate of sexual assault (level 1). These changes may have impacted the relative proportions of sexual assaults and other sexual offences that were reported by police.

6. Includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents.

7. Some jurisdictions may have differences in their overall rates of family or intimate partner violence (which are based on all police-reported incidents) when compared to their rates of persons accused of family or intimate partner violence (which are based only on police-reported incidents involving a single victim and a single accused). For instance, in jurisdictions where overall rates are higher than accused rates, the difference may exist due to a volume of incidents with multiple victims and/or multiple accused which are included in the overall rates but excluded from accused rates.

Detailed data tables

Table 2.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by sex of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2016

Relationship of accused to victim	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Family	57,796	33	28,609	18	86,405	26
Spouse	31,798	18	8,779	5	40,577	12
Current spouse ¹	23,142	13	6,446	4	29,588	9
Former spouse ²	8,656	5	2,333	1	10,989	3
Non-spousal family	25,998	15	19,830	12	45,828	14
Parent ³	8,427	5	6,897	4	15,324	5
Child ⁴	5,515	3	3,336	2	8,851	3
Sibling ⁵	5,311	3	4,339	3	9,650	3
Other family ⁶	6,745	4	5,258	3	12,003	4
Non-family	118,505	67	131,301	82	249,806	74
Dating partner ⁷	42,362	24	11,133	7	53,495	16
Current dating partner	26,284	15	6,995	4	33,279	10
Former dating partner	15,022	9	3,627	2	18,649	6
Other intimate partner	1,056	1	511	0	1,567	0
Friend ⁸	7,923	4	8,250	5	16,173	5
Business relationship	4,583	3	6,713	4	11,296	3
Casual acquaintance ⁹	31,646	18	39,589	25	71,235	21
Criminal relationship ¹⁰	320	0	1,746	1	2,066	1
Authority figure ¹¹	4,974	3	7,655	5	12,629	4
Stranger	26,697	15	56,215	35	82,912	25
Unknown ¹²	85	...	191	...	276	...
Total¹³	176,386	100	160,101	100	336,487	100

... not applicable

1. Includes legally married and common-law partners aged 15 years and older.

2. Includes separated and divorced partners aged 15 years and older.

3. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.

4. Includes biological, step, adopted and foster children.

5. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.

7. Includes victims under 90 years of age, including dating partner victims under the age of 15. The counts for dating partner victims do not match the information presented in Section 3 of the report, which examines intimate partner violence for those aged 15 years and older.

8. Includes roommates. 'Roommates' was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.

9. Includes neighbours.

10. Includes relationships with the victim based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.

11. Includes persons in a position of trust or authority who are not family members. Includes authority figures and reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher, patient-to-doctor, teen-to-youth counsellors/group home workers, prisoner-to-guard). 'Reverse authority figures' was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.

12. Includes incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was reported by police as 'unknown.'

13. Includes violations causing death, attempted murder, sexual assault, assault, robbery, criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Spousal violence victims under the age of 15 years are included in the category 'unknown relationship' and not in the categories related to spousal violence. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages have been calculated excluding victims where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.2
Victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and age group of victim, Canada, 2016

Age group of victim	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
0 to 4 years	1,217	128	1,151	115	2,368	121
5 to 9 years	2,460	255	2,065	204	4,525	229
10 to 14 years	3,200	350	2,049	213	5,249	280
15 to 19 years	4,542	455	2,405	227	6,947	338
20 to 24 years	5,828	487	2,341	186	8,169	332
25 to 29 years	6,775	543	2,511	199	9,286	370
30 to 34 years	7,111	562	2,447	195	9,558	379
35 to 39 years	6,728	548	2,457	201	9,185	375
40 to 44 years	5,651	483	2,448	210	8,099	347
45 to 49 years	4,722	393	2,382	198	7,104	295
50 to 54 years	3,729	277	2,199	162	5,928	219
55 to 59 years	2,402	181	1,598	121	4,000	151
60 to 64 years	1,395	120	1,081	95	2,476	108
65 to 69 years	858	85	687	71	1,545	78
70 to 74 years	527	70	389	57	916	64
75 years and older	651	50	399	40	1,050	46
Total	57,796	321	28,609	160	86,405	241

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.3
Victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of violation, Canada, 2016

Type of violation	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Violations causing death ¹	86	0.1	62	0.2	148	0.2
Attempted murder ²	75	0.1	62	0.2	137	0.2
Sexual offences ³	6,045	10	1,120	4	7,165	8
Physical assault	40,634	70	22,672	79	63,306	73
Major assault (levels 2 and 3) ⁴	6,838	12	5,868	21	12,706	15
Common assault (level 1) ⁵	33,571	58	16,652	58	50,223	58
Other assaults ⁶	225	0.4	152	1	377	0.4
Criminal harassment	2,775	5	521	2	3,296	4
Indecent or harassing communications	650	1	214	1	864	1
Uttering threats	5,711	10	3,432	12	9,143	11
Robbery	114	0.2	61	0.2	175	0.2
Other violent violations ⁷	1,706	3	465	2	2,171	3
Total	57,796	100	28,609	100	86,405	100

1. Violations causing death include first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death, and other related violations causing death.

2. Attempted murder includes conspiracy to commit murder.

3. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim. Also includes other sexual crimes such as non-consensual distribution of intimate images, sexual interference, sexual exploitation, luring a child via a computer, and voyeurism.

4. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

5. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

6. Other assaults include criminal negligence causing bodily harm, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, using firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace or public officer, and other assaults.

7. Other violent violations include trap likely to cause or causing bodily harm, kidnapping, forcible confinement, hostage-taking, trafficking in persons, abduction, extortion, intimidation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson, and other violent violations.

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.4
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by sex of victim and relationship of accused to victim and type of clearance status, Canada, 2016

Type of clearance status	Victims of family violence						Victims of non-family violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not cleared ¹	9,065	16	5,369	19	14,434	17	33,919	29	44,730	34	78,649	31
Cleared by charge	34,628	60	13,063	46	47,691	55	62,642	53	58,186	44	120,828	48
Cleared otherwise	14,103	24	10,177	36	24,280	28	21,944	19	28,385	22	50,329	20
Complainant declined that charge(s) be laid	7,114	12	5,338	19	12,452	14	10,754	9	15,646	12	26,400	11
Reasons beyond the control of department	3,354	6	2,242	8	5,596	6	2,458	2	2,622	2	5,080	2
Departmental discretion	2,897	5	2,269	8	5,166	6	6,782	6	7,916	6	14,698	6
Other ²	738	1	328	1	1,066	1	1,950	2	2,201	2	4,151	2
Total³	57,796	100	28,609	100	86,405	100	118,505	100	131,301	100	249,806	100

1. 'Not cleared' includes incidents where an accused person has been identified in connection with the incident, but where there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge or to clear the incident through other means.

2. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incident cleared by a lesser statute, incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.

3. For incidents that involve multiple victims, a single clearance status is recorded in relation to each victim in the incident. For instance, if charges are laid in relation to a violation against one of the victims, the clearance status for all victims will be 'charged.' Thus, under- or over-counts are possible with respect to clearance status, and this may affect the 26% of family violence incidents that involve more than one victim or accused person.

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.5
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by sex of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2009 to 2016

Year	Family violence						Non-family violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
2009	68,787	412	30,631	186	99,418	300	133,274	798	165,026	1,001	298,300	899
2010	68,784	408	30,059	181	98,843	295	136,027	806	161,338	969	297,365	887
2011	65,485	385	29,318	174	94,803	280	126,690	744	151,546	901	278,236	822
2012	63,220	367	29,424	173	92,644	271	123,172	716	146,889	863	270,061	789
2013	59,647	343	28,086	163	87,733	253	115,415	663	133,170	773	248,585	718
2014	57,528	327	27,461	158	84,989	243	110,446	628	127,455	732	237,901	680
2015	57,486	324	27,860	159	85,346	242	114,865	648	130,867	746	245,732	696
2016	57,101	319	28,192	159	85,293	239	117,069	653	129,926	732	246,995	692
Percent change from 2011 to 2016	...	-17	...	-9	...	-15	...	-12	...	-19	...	-16
Percent change from 2015 to 2016	...	-2	...	0	...	-1	...	1	...	-2	...	-1

... not applicable

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which includes data from 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 2.6
Victims of police-reported family violence, by province or territory, 2016

Province or territory	2016						Percent change of rate from 2015 to 2016		
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	Female victims	Male victims	Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	percent		
Newfoundland and Labrador	746	290	505	201	1,251	246	-8	-9	-8
Prince Edward Island	119	158	80	111	199	135	-18	-5	-13
Nova Scotia	1,182	249	722	157	1,904	203	-1	5	1
New Brunswick	1,166	308	598	161	1,764	235	5	-7	1
Quebec	17,462	425	8,389	205	25,851	315	0	5	2
Ontario	13,986	202	6,245	93	20,231	148	-1	-2	-1
Manitoba	3,151	496	1,669	263	4,820	379	-1	3	0
Saskatchewan	3,548	645	2,006	355	5,554	498	3	2	3
Alberta	8,002	385	4,208	196	12,210	289	-4	0	-3
British Columbia	6,335	268	3,028	129	9,363	199	-9	-9	-9
Yukon	185	1,007	96	505	281	751	1	1	1
Northwest Territories	583	2,678	300	1,327	883	1,989	2	0	1
Nunavut	636	3,552	346	1,806	982	2,649	4	10	6
Canada	57,101	319	28,192	159	85,293	239	-2	0	-1

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which includes data from 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 2.7
Victims of police-reported family violence, by physical and sexual assault and province or territory, 2016

Province or territory	Physical assault (levels 1, 2 and 3)			Sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3)			Total physical assault and sexual assault		
	number	rate	percent change	number	rate	percent change	number	rate	percent change
			of rate from previous year ¹			of rate from previous year ¹			in rate from previous year ¹
Newfoundland and Labrador	905	178	-12	65	13	-29	970	191	-14
Prince Edward Island	132	90	-3	12	8	-44	144	98	-9
Nova Scotia	1,383	148	4	126	13	-14	1,509	161	2
New Brunswick	1,199	160	3	99	13	-16	1,298	173	1
Quebec	16,945	206	2	1,202	15	2	18,147	221	2
Ontario	14,628	107	-1	1,276	9	-19	15,904	116	-3
Manitoba	3,849	303	1	301	24	-15	4,150	327	0
Saskatchewan	4,503	404	3	307	28	4	4,810	431	3
Alberta	9,468	224	-2	488	12	-30	9,956	235	-4
British Columbia	7,278	155	-9	416	9	-8	7,694	163	-9
Yukon	228	610	-2	16	43	23	244	652	-1
Northwest Territories	728	1,640	0	41	92	17	769	1,733	1
Nunavut	808	2,180	13	41	111	-22	849	2,291	10
Canada	62,054	174	-1	4,390	12	-13	66,444	186	-2

1. Percent change of rate from previous year is calculated using revised 2015 data.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which includes data from 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 2.8
Victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and census metropolitan area, 2016

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1, 2}	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	181	172	143	141	324	157
Halifax	359	168	190	91	549	130
Moncton	247	317	129	165	376	241
Saint John	222	342	99	160	321	253
Saguenay	366	445	181	217	547	330
Québec	1,711	428	722	184	2,433	307
Sherbrooke	243	244	92	94	335	170
Trois-Rivières	354	452	163	213	517	334
Montréal	7,841	383	3,739	186	11,580	285
Gatineau ³	699	421	336	206	1,035	314
Ottawa ⁴	597	117	246	50	843	84
Kingston	171	204	73	88	244	147
Peterborough	97	154	49	83	146	120
Toronto ⁵	6,043	213	2,564	94	8,607	155
Hamilton ⁶	532	190	231	84	763	137
St. Catharines–Niagara	390	170	139	63	529	118
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	533	194	285	105	818	150
Brantford	270	386	126	186	396	288
Guelph	115	171	45	70	160	122
London	416	160	199	79	615	120
Windsor	276	180	128	86	404	134
Barrie	155	143	79	74	234	109
Greater Sudbury	206	248	83	102	289	176
Thunder Bay	248	411	89	152	337	283
Winnipeg	869	219	392	100	1,261	160
Regina	322	263	168	136	490	199
Saskatoon	452	289	217	136	669	212
Calgary	2,135	295	1,132	152	3,267	223
Edmonton	2,108	311	917	131	3,025	219
Kelowna	248	252	127	132	375	193
Abbotsford–Mission	304	332	111	119	415	225
Vancouver	2,412	189	1,064	85	3,476	137
Victoria	383	206	197	110	580	159
CMA total⁷	32,390	254	14,825	118	47,215	187
Non-CMA total	25,406	485	13,784	260	39,190	372
Canada	57,796	321	28,609	160	86,405	241

1. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.

6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.

7. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.9
Victims of police-reported family violence for selected violent violations, by relationship of accused to victim and type of violation, Canada, 2009 to 2016

Relationship of accused to victim and type of violation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		2016		Percent change of rate from 2011 to 2016
							number	rate	number	rate	
Spouse¹	114	110	107	102	96	93	32,581	92	32,433	91	-15
Violations causing death ²	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	61	0.2	53	0.1	-25
Attempted murder ³	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	56	0.2	53	0.1	-26
Sexual assault ⁴	2	3	2	3	3	3	938	3	1,016	3	14
Physical assault ⁵	111	107	104	98	93	90	31,526	89	31,311	88	-15
Other immediate and extended family⁶	113	111	110	109	102	98	34,524	98	34,293	96	-12
Violations causing death ²	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	110	0.3	92	0.3	5
Attempted murder ³	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	103	0.3	84	0.2	23
Sexual assault ⁴	16	16	15	15	13	13	4,043	11	3,374	9	-36
Physical assault ⁵	97	95	94	93	88	85	30,268	86	30,743	86	-9
Total family	227	220	216	210	198	191	67,105	190	66,726	187	-14
Violations causing death ²	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	171	0.5	145	0.4	-8
Attempted murder ³	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	159	0.5	137	0.4	-2
Sexual assault ⁴	18	18	17	17	16	15	4,981	14	4,390	12	-29
Physical assault ⁵	208	201	198	192	182	175	61,794	175	62,054	174	-12

1. Spouses include legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners.

2. Violations causing death include first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence, and other related violations causing death.

3. Includes conspire to commit murder.

4. Includes sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3.

5. Includes assault levels 1, 2 and 3.

6. Includes parents, children, siblings and extended family members.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which includes data from 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 2.10
Victims of family-related homicide, by sex of victim, Canada, 1986 to 2016

Year	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
1986	111	8.4	81	6.3	192	7.4
1987	121	9.1	97	7.4	218	8.2
1988	99	7.3	75	5.6	174	6.5
1989	122	8.9	80	5.9	202	7.4
1990	107	7.7	85	6.2	192	6.9
1991	126	8.9	77	5.5	203	7.2
1992	119	8.3	80	5.7	199	7.0
1993	98	6.8	66	4.6	164	5.7
1994	105	7.2	85	5.9	190	6.6
1995	102	6.9	77	5.3	179	6.1
1996	109	7.3	80	5.5	189	6.4
1997	114	7.5	75	5.1	189	6.3
1998	103	6.8	72	4.8	175	5.8
1999	94	6.1	51	3.4	145	4.8
2000	76	4.9	57	3.8	133	4.3
2001	111	7.1	78	5.1	189	6.1
2002	115	7.3	71	4.6	186	5.9
2003	93	5.8	51	3.3	144	4.6
2004	103	6.4	62	3.9	165	5.2
2005	105	6.5	61	3.8	166	5.1
2006	95	5.8	74	4.6	169	5.2
2007	85	5.1	56	3.4	141	4.3
2008	73	4.4	71	4.3	144	4.3
2009	83	4.9	73	4.4	156	4.6
2010	80	4.7	63	3.7	143	4.2
2011	90	5.2	61	3.6	151	4.4
2012	89	5.1	61	3.5	150	4.3
2013	77	4.3	58	3.3	135	3.8
2014	93	5.2	48	2.7	141	4.0
2015	97	5.4	73	4.1	170	4.7
2016	78	4.3	56	3.1	134	3.7

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 1 million population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family-related homicide refers to homicide committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.11
Accused of police-reported violent crime, by sex of accused and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2016

Relationship of accused to victim	Female accused		Male accused		Total accused	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Family	12,927	34	43,149	31	56,076	32
Spouse	6,470	17	25,423	18	31,893	18
Current spouse ¹	4,863	13	19,012	14	23,875	13
Former spouse ²	1,607	4	6,411	5	8,018	5
Non-spousal family	6,457	17	17,726	13	24,183	14
Parent ³	2,064	5	4,999	4	7,063	4
Child ⁴	1,537	4	3,995	3	5,532	3
Sibling ⁵	1,244	3	4,076	3	5,320	3
Other family ⁶	1,612	4	4,656	3	6,268	4
Non-family	25,168	66	95,802	69	120,970	68
Dating partner ⁷	7,618	20	32,324	23	39,942	23
Current dating partner	5,020	13	20,927	15	25,947	15
Former dating partner	2,349	6	10,663	8	13,012	7
Other intimate partner	249	1	734	1	983	1
Friend ⁸	2,233	6	6,454	5	8,687	5
Business relationship	985	3	4,839	3	5,824	3
Casual acquaintance ⁹	8,539	22	26,603	19	35,142	20
Criminal relationship ¹⁰	74	0	752	1	826	0
Authority figure ¹¹	1,552	4	4,285	3	5,837	3
Stranger	4,167	11	20,545	15	24,712	14
Unknown ¹²	5	...	50	...	55	...
Total¹³	38,100	100	139,001	100	177,101	100

... not applicable

1. Includes legally married and common-law partners aged 15 years and older.

2. Includes separated and divorced partners aged 15 years and older.

3. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.

4. Includes biological, step, adopted and foster children.

5. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.

7. Includes accused persons under 90 years of age, including dating partners under the age of 15. The counts for dating partners do not match the information presented in Section 3 of the report, which examines intimate partner violence for those aged 15 years and older.

8. Includes roommates. 'Roommates' was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.

9. Includes neighbours.

10. Includes relationships with the victim based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.

11. Includes persons in a position of trust or authority who are not family members. Includes authority figures and reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher, patient-to-doctor, teen-to-youth counsellors/group home workers, prisoner-to-guard). 'Reverse authority figures' was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.

12. Includes incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was reported by police as 'unknown.'

13. Includes violations causing death, attempted murder, sexual assault, assault, robbery, criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.

Note: Includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents. Accused refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Accused and victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Accused and victims of spousal violence under the age of 15 years are included in the category 'unknown relationship' and not in the categories related to spousal violence. Excludes accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown. Excludes a small number of accused and victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages have been calculated excluding victims where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.12
Accused of police-reported family violence, by age group of accused and type of violation, Canada, 2016

Type of violation	Age group of accused										Total accused	
	17 years and younger		18 to 24 years		25 to 44 years		45 to 64 years		65 years and older			
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Violations causing death ¹	2	0.03	24	1	54	1	31	0.3	13	0.2	124	0.3
Attempted murder ²	3	0.04	10	0.3	34	0.3	20	0.2	3	0.1	70	0.2
Sexual offences ³	719	10	378	11	1,479	15	738	7	148	3	3,462	10
Physical assault	3,026	43	6,406	192	23,314	238	9,522	95	1,077	19	43,345	121
Major assault (levels 2 and 3) ⁴	598	9	1,365	41	4,475	46	1,784	18	201	4	8,423	23
Common assault (level 1) ⁵	2,414	35	5,016	150	18,736	191	7,683	76	867	15	34,716	97
Other assaults ⁶	14	0.2	25	1	103	1	55	1	9	0.2	206	1
Kidnapping or abduction	21	0.3	183	5	680	7	192	2	14	0.2	1,090	3
Other violent violations ⁷	436	6	1,017	31	4,057	41	2,219	22	256	5	7,985	22
Total	4,207	60	8,018	241	29,618	302	12,722	127	1,511	27	56,076	156

1. Violations causing death include first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death, and other related violations causing death.

2. Attempted murder includes conspiracy to commit murder.

3. Sexual offences include sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual violations, including child-specific offences, such as sexual interference and luring a child via a computer.

4. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

5. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

6. Other assaults include criminal negligence causing bodily harm, pointing a firearm, discharging a firearm with intent and other assaults.

7. Other violent violations include uttering threats to a person, criminal harassment, indecent or harassing communications and other violations against the person.

Note: Includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Accused refers to those aged 89 years and younger. Accused and victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes accused and victims of spousal violence under the age of 15 years. Excludes accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of accused and victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.13
Accused of police-reported family violence, by sex of accused and census metropolitan area, 2016

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1, 2}	Female accused		Male accused		Total accused	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	50	48	118	116	168	81
Halifax	82	38	256	123	338	80
Moncton	28	36	99	127	127	81
Saint John	52	80	161	259	213	168
Saguenay	61	74	245	294	306	185
Québec	248	62	994	253	1,242	157
Sherbrooke	21	21	149	153	170	86
Trois-Rivières	68	87	280	367	348	225
Montréal	1,776	87	5,860	291	7,636	188
Gatineau ³	189	114	580	355	769	233
Ottawa ⁴	66	13	358	72	424	42
Kingston	35	42	124	150	159	96
Peterborough	20	32	78	132	98	80
Toronto ⁵	1,106	39	4,510	165	5,616	101
Hamilton ⁶	104	37	373	136	477	86
St. Catharines–Niagara	76	33	301	137	377	84
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	126	46	331	122	457	84
Brantford	80	115	237	349	317	230
Guelph	17	25	94	146	111	84
London	80	31	369	147	449	88
Windsor	64	42	226	151	290	96
Barrie	26	24	114	107	140	65
Greater Sudbury	46	55	164	202	210	128
Thunder Bay	58	96	227	387	285	240
Winnipeg	151	38	620	158	771	98
Regina	55	45	226	183	281	114
Saskatoon	62	40	264	165	326	103
Calgary	603	83	1,578	212	2,181	149
Edmonton	414	61	1,566	224	1,980	144
Kelowna	68	69	200	208	268	138
Abbotsford–Mission	47	51	239	257	286	155
Vancouver	398	31	1,646	131	2,044	81
Victoria	78	42	280	156	358	98
CMA total⁷	6,562	51	23,556	188	30,118	119
Non-CMA total	6,365	121	19,593	369	25,958	246
Canada	12,927	72	43,149	242	56,076	156

1. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.

6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.

7. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Accused refers to those aged 89 years and younger. Accused and victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes accused and victims of spousal violence under the age of 15 years. Excludes accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of accused and victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Section 3: Police-reported intimate partner violence

by Marta Burczycka

Intimate partner violence has been identified as a major global public health concern, linked to intergenerational violence and detrimental physical, emotional and economic impacts on victims, witnesses and society as a whole (World Health Organization 2010). Canadian research has shown that violence in spousal and dating relationships affects hundreds of thousands of people and results in both physical and psychological injuries (Burczycka and Ibrahim 2016), and suggests that these impacts also affect children who witness violence between adults (Burczycka and Conroy 2017). In his 2016 *Report on the State of Public Health in Canada*, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer identified addressing intimate partner violence as being part of a strategy toward improving multigenerational health, social and economic outcomes of Canadians (Public Health Agency of Canada 2016).

Intimate partner violence includes violence against spouses and dating partners in current and former relationships. Spouses are defined as current or former legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners, while dating relationships include current or former boyfriends and girlfriends as well as "other" intimate relationships (sexual relationships or situations involving mutual sexual attraction which were not considered to be dating relationships). This section presents data and analysis of violence within this broad spectrum of intimate relationships.

In this section, intimate partner violence includes police-reported violent *Criminal Code* offences committed against victims aged 15 years and older within an intimate relationship. Using data from the 2016 Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting and Homicide surveys, information provided in this section includes analysis of the sex and age of victims, the relationship between victims and accused persons, the types of violence committed, weapons present during the violent acts, as well as some comparisons between victims of spousal violence and victims of other forms of intimate partner violence. A geographic breakdown of intimate partner violence is also presented, as well as trend analysis of selected offences against intimate partners.

This section covers all types of violent *Criminal Code* offences that came to the attention of police in 2016, ranging from uttering threats and physical and sexual violence to homicide. Non-violent crimes such as theft and fraud, all types of abuse which were not substantiated by police, as well as conduct which is not covered by the *Criminal Code* are not included in this section. Additionally, analysis based on Homicide Survey data excludes non-culpable homicides and homicides which have not been solved by police.

While the data presented in this section provide important contextual information on incidents of family violence which came to the attention of police, it may underestimate the true extent of intimate partner violence in Canada. For example, results from the 2014 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) showed that when it came to spousal violence, seven in ten victims indicated that the police had never been made aware of the violence. Most often, victims of spousal violence indicated that they did not report the violence to police because they saw the abuse as a private matter. For those victims who did report spousal violence to the police, the majority did so because they wanted to stop the violence and receive protection (Burczycka and Ibrahim 2016).

Unless otherwise specified, all rates shown in this section are per 100,000 population. The terms "woman" and "man" are used to refer to all persons aged 15 and older, and are used interchangeably with the terms "female" and "male." Definitions and information on data sources and survey methodology can be found in the "Survey description" section of this publication.

Intimate partner violence was the leading type of violence experienced by women in 2016

- In 2016, just under three in ten victims (28%) of police-reported violent crime aged 15 and older had been victimized by an intimate partner. This included current and former spouses (12%), current and former dating partners (15%), and other intimate partners (0.4%).¹ In addition to intimate partner violence, 34% of violence victims had been victimized by a friend or acquaintance, 25% by a stranger, and 14% by a family member (other than a spouse) (Table 3.1).
- Of the over 93,000 victims of intimate partner violence reported in 2016, the vast majority (79%) were women. Specifically, women accounted for eight in ten victims of violence by a current spouse (78%), former spouse (79%), current dating partner (79%) and former dating partner (80%). Intimate partner violence was the leading type of violence experienced by women in 2016 (42% of female victims of violence) (Table 3.1).
- More often, victims of intimate partner violence were victimized by current, rather than former, spouses or partners. Among female victims, 35% identified a current dating partner and 32% identified a current spouse, while 20% identified a former dating partner and 12% identified a former spouse. These proportions were similar for male victims of intimate partner violence (Table 3.2).
- Not surprisingly, young people who were victims of intimate partner violence were most likely to have been victimized in a dating relationship. For example, a current or former dating partner was implicated by 82% of female and 79% of male intimate partner violence victims aged 15 to 19 years. Violence committed by a current or former legally married or common-law spouse was more common among older intimate partner violence victims (Table 3.2).

Text box 1**Self-reported information on intimate partner violence**

In general, violence of all kinds often goes unreported to police (Perreault 2015). In light of this, self-reported data from the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) provides valuable insight into Canadians' experiences of victimization, regardless of whether those experiences did or did not come to police attention. The GSS on Victimization also collects a large amount of information on other aspects of victims' lives, including the impacts of victimization.

When it comes to intimate partner violence, three topics included in the 2014 GSS on Victimization are of particular interest: spousal violence, dating violence and stalking perpetrated by current and former intimate partners. According to self-reported data collected by the 2014 GSS, about 4% of Canadians aged 15 and older had been victims of spousal violence—that is, physical or sexual violence committed by a current or former spouse or common-law partner—during the five years preceding the survey (Burczycka and Ibrahim 2016). Among victims of spousal violence, one-quarter (25%) said they had experienced the most serious types of violence: sexual assault, being beaten, being choked, or being threatened with a gun or a knife. About 16% of victims reported having experienced psychological impacts consistent with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Questions on physical and sexual violence in dating relationships were included in the GSS for the first time in 2014. The prevalence of dating violence was found to be similar to violence in spousal relationships. For example, 4% of those Canadians aged 15 and older who had been involved in dating relationships in the five years preceding the survey stated that during that time, they had experienced physical violence by a dating partner. Sexual violence in a dating relationship was reported by 1% of those who had dated (Burczycka and Ibrahim 2016).

The 2014 GSS also included a separate series of questions specific to Canadians' experiences with stalking during the previous five years. The GSS defines stalking as "repeated and unwanted attention that caused you to fear for your safety or the safety of someone known to you", committed by a friend, stranger, intimate partner or any other person—behaviour that dovetails with the *Criminal Code* definition of criminal harassment. Stalking by an intimate partner—that is, by a current or former legally married or common-law spouse or dating partner—during the previous five years was reported by 1% of Canadians 15 and older. While intimate partner stalking was somewhat less common than either spousal or dating violence themselves, it was linked to a higher prevalence of violence within these relationships. For more information, see Section 1 of this report.

Intimate partner violence against men more likely to include major assault, weapons, injuries

- The most common criminal offence experienced by intimate partner violence victims was physical assault (77%), including common (level 1) assault (62%) as well as major (level 2 and 3) assault (14%). Physical assault was more common among male victims (87% versus 74% of female victims), including both major (22% versus 13%) and common (65% versus 61%) physical assault. These findings may reflect the fact that other, more serious, offences often occur in conjunction with assault in incidents of intimate partner violence, and are therefore retained in the police-reported data² (Table 3.3).
- Among intimate partner violence victims, the most serious offences—violations causing death³ and attempted murder⁴—were comparatively rare (0.2% of intimate partner violence). However, as women made up the vast majority (79%) of intimate partner violence victims overall, they were also over-represented as victims of these most serious crimes. For example, of the 81 intimate partner victims of violations causing death reported by police in 2016, 63 were female (78%) (Table 3.3).
- For the majority of victims of intimate partner violence, no weapon was present during the offence (85%).⁵ This is consistent with recent findings related to violent crime overall (Cotter 2012). More often, family violence incidents involved physical force (71%) or threats (14%). Firearms were the least common weapon present when the victim was an intimate partner of the accused (1% of victims) (Table 3.4).
- It was almost twice as common for weapons to be present in intimate partner violence involving male victims as when the victim was female (23% versus 12%), a finding consistent for both spousal and dating violence. Where weapons were present, a knife or a similar piercing or cutting instrument was more common when victims were male (37%) than when they were female (28%), while firearms were more often present with female victims (7% versus 2% among male victims) (Table 3.4).
- Over half (54%) of victims of intimate partner violence suffered an injury. Most (97%) of these injuries were minor, in that they did not require professional medical treatment. Injuries were more commonly reported in instances of dating violence (56%) than spousal violence (51%), and they were more prevalent among male victims of dating violence (60%) than their female counterparts (56%) (Table 3.4).

Clearance by charge least common in incidents involving male spousal violence victims

- A criminal incident is considered cleared when a charge is laid or recommended, or when it is dealt with by police or courts in another way (for example, through a diversion program). The majority (86%) of intimate partner violence victims saw the incidents in which they were involved be cleared, most often through the laying of a charge (72% of victims) (Table 3.5).
- For victims of dating violence, the incidents in which they were involved remained uncleared slightly more often than for victims of spousal violence (14% versus 12%). However, if the incidents were cleared (either through the laying of a charge or otherwise), dating violence victims saw charges laid more often than victims of spousal violence (75% versus 69%). Clearance by charge was least common in incidents involving male victims of spousal violence (55%) (Table 3.5).

Intimate partner violence rates lowest in Ontario, particularly St. Catharines–Niagara

- Among the provinces, the lowest rates of intimate partner violence were recorded in Ontario (224 victims per 100,000 population), Prince Edward Island (240) and British Columbia (284). Saskatchewan (680), Manitoba (616) and Alberta (403) reported the highest provincial rates, while Nunavut (3,790), the Northwest Territories (2,555) and Yukon (1,180) recorded the highest rates in Canada. In general, provinces and territories with the highest and lowest rates of intimate partner violence also reported among the highest and lowest rates of violent crime overall in 2016 (Keighley 2017) (Table 3.6).
- Canada's rates of intimate partner violence were almost four times higher among women (483 victims per 100,000) than among men (133). This gap was similar among most provinces and territories, with the largest discrepancy reported in Nunavut (6,581 victims per 100,000 versus 1,237). The smallest difference between women and men in terms of intimate partner violence rates was found in Yukon (1,781 versus 597), where rates against women were nonetheless three times higher than those against men (Table 3.6).
- Among Canada's largest cities (census metropolitan areas, or CMAs),⁶ intimate partner violence was highest in Thunder Bay (496 victims per 100,000 population), Moncton (435) and Regina (417). The lowest rates were recorded in St. Catharines–Niagara (137), Ottawa (163), Barrie (184) and Sherbrooke (184). Overall, the rate of intimate partner violence among those living in CMAs was considerably lower than the rate for the non-CMA population (247 versus 464). In general, violent crime rates have historically been lower in population centres than in rural areas (Allen and Perreault 2015) (Table 3.7).
- As in Canada as a whole, the rate of intimate partner violence was almost four times higher for women living in CMAs compared to their male counterparts (386 victims per 100,000 population versus 103). Among individual CMAs, the largest difference in rates between female and male victims of intimate partner violence was found in Abbotsford–Mission (575 versus 89), while the smallest difference was in Kelowna (390 versus 139) (Table 3.7).

Rate of intimate partner sexual assault increases while overall sexual assault rate declines

- The combined rate of some of the most serious crimes reported against victims of intimate partner violence—attempted murder, physical assault, and sexual assault—decreased by 7% between 2011 and 2016. This decrease was driven by a decline in the rate against female victims (-9%), as the rate against male victims remained largely unchanged (-0.3%) (Table 3.8).
- Between 2011 and 2016, the rate of physical assault—the most common offence associated with intimate partner violence—saw an overall decrease (-8%), from 255 victims per 100,000 population in 2011 to 235 in 2016. This was largely due to a decrease in the rate among women, among whom the rate decreased by 10% (Table 3.8).
- Rates of intimate partner sexual assault rose between 2011 and 2016, mostly due to an increase in rates among women (moving from 16 victims per 100,000 women in 2011 to 20 in 2016). Of note, this increase in intimate partner sexual assault was in contrast to police-reported sexual assault rates overall, which decreased by 9% over this same time period (Keighley 2017)⁷ (Table 3.8).

Male victims of intimate partner homicide most likely to be killed by a current or former common-law spouse

- The rate of intimate partner homicide stood at 2.4 victims per 1 million population in 2016, slightly down from 2.8 victims per million recorded in 2015 and representing a continuation of general stability. The rate has remained near 2 or 3 victims per 1 million people each year since 2007, while the decade prior saw rates near 4 victims per million recorded most years (Table 3.9).
- Women made up 79% of intimate partner homicide victims in 2016, with a rate almost four times that of the rate among men (3.7 victims per 1 million versus 1.0). This ratio has remained fairly consistent over time, with rates

among women ranging from being about two times higher in 2010 (4.4 per 1 million versus 1.9 per 1 million among men) to over five times higher in 2011 (5.5 per 1 million versus 1.0) (Table 3.9).

- Homicides involving spouses continued to be more common than homicides involving dating partners in 2016 (69% of intimate partner homicides versus 26%).⁸ While these proportions were similar among male and female victims, differences existed when it came to the kind of spousal relationship involved. Between 2006 and 2016, a much larger proportion of male intimate partner homicide victims had been killed by a current or former common-law partner (47%) than by a current or former legally married spouse (15%). This gap was smaller among female intimate partner homicide victims, in contrast, and females were more often killed by a current or former legally married spouse (41%) than by a current or former common-law partner (35%) (Table 3.10).
- Homicides between same-sex partners—including current or former legally married, common-law and dating partners—represented 4% of all intimate partner homicides in 2016. Between 2006 and 2016, 14% of all male intimate partner homicide victims had been killed by a same-sex partner, compared to 1% of female victims. The majority (85%) of same-sex intimate partner homicide victims over this time period were male—a significant departure from opposite-sex intimate partner homicides (Table 3.10).
- While women made up the majority of intimate partner homicide victims between 2006 and 2016, young women were particularly over-represented. During this time period, the rate of intimate partner homicide among women aged 15 to 19 years (3.0 per 1 million) was twelve times higher than that among men that age (0.2). Among women aged 20 to 24, the rate (6.1 per 1 million) was almost seven times higher than among their male counterparts (0.9) (Table 3.11).

Males aged 25 to 34 make up largest proportion of those accused of intimate partner violence

- Of the more than 71,000 people accused of intimate partner violence in 2016, most were aged between 25 and 34 years (34%) and 35 and 44 years (25%).⁹ In general, rates of younger people accused of intimate violence were higher when it came to dating violence, while rates of spousal violence were higher among those who were older—mirroring the distribution of marriage rates in the general population (Milan 2013) (Table 3.12).
- The majority of persons accused of intimate partner violence in 2016 were male (80%). Rates were highest for males aged 25 to 34 accused of dating violence, specifically (472 per 100,000 population). The highest rate of female accused was also associated with dating violence, though it peaked among a slightly younger group (18 to 24, with a rate of 134 per 100,000). Spousal violence rates were at their highest among men aged 35 to 44 (325 per 100,000) and women aged 25 to 34 (82 per 100,000) (Table 3.12).
- Charges against an accused were more likely when the violence was in a dating relationship than if it happened in the context of marriage or common-law union. Overall, 87% of cleared incidents of dating violence resulted in charges being laid. When it came to cleared incidents of spousal violence, in contrast, charges resulted against 77% of accused (Table 3.13).
- Of the more than 1,800 intimate partner homicides that occurred between 1997¹⁰ and 2016, the majority (52%) were committed by people aged 25 to 44 and involved current or former legally married or common-law spouses (78%). Current spouses were most often involved (60%), though this differed according to the sex of the accused. For example, among male accused aged 25 to 44, about half (53%) of intimate partner homicides were against current spouses, while 22% involved a former spouse. In contrast, among female accused in this age group, three quarters involved a current spouse (76%), with former spouses representing 9% of victims (Table 3.14).

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Notes

1. Refers to violence committed by a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction.
2. The larger proportion of male victims reporting assault may be related to the co-occurrence of other, more serious crimes. Police-reported data reflect the most serious offence against the victim in an incident, meaning that where a more serious crime like sexual assault accompanies a physical assault, the physical assault is not included in the data. A larger proportion of female victims reported sexual assaults (4%), compared to male victims (0.4%).
3. Violations causing death include first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death, and other related violations causing death.
4. Attempted murder includes conspiracy to commit murder.
5. "No weapon" includes physical force such as pushing, hitting and/or threats construed to imply death or injury is possible.
6. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
7. In 2015, the *Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act* came into effect and increased the maximum penalties for certain sexual offences against children. Changes to maximum penalties had an impact on incidents where both sexual assault (level 1) and a sexual offence against a child were reported, as the most serious violation reported by police may have been affected. For example, an incident that was classified as sexual assault (level 1) in 2014 may have been classified as sexual interference in 2016, thereby contributing to the decrease in the rate of sexual assault (level 1). While the overall decrease in sexual assault rates is at least partly impacted by this change, the impact on the intimate partner sexual assault rates presented here is likely less pronounced, since these latter rates include only victims aged 15 and older and exclude child victims.
8. Represent opposite sex spousal and dating relationships. Same-sex intimate partner homicides are not differentiated by marital or dating status in this report, due to data limitations.
9. Includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents.
10. Prior to 1997, Homicide Survey data did not allow for detailed analysis of relationships in homicides with multiple victims and/or multiple accused persons. In order to include these types of homicides in the present analysis, only data from 1997 onwards are included.

Detailed data tables

Table 3.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by sex of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2016

Relationship of accused to victim	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Intimate partner	73,400	42	19,847	12	93,247	28
Current spouse ¹	23,142	13	6,446	4	29,588	9
Former spouse ²	8,656	5	2,333	1	10,989	3
Current dating partner ³	25,841	15	6,974	4	32,815	10
Former dating partner ⁴	14,767	8	3,607	2	18,374	5
Other intimate partner ⁵	994	1	487	0.3	1,481	0.4
Non-spousal family ⁶	25,998	15	19,830	12	45,828	14
Friend or acquaintance	49,446	28	63,953	40	113,399	34
Casual acquaintance ⁷	31,646	18	39,589	25	71,235	21
Business relationship	4,583	3	6,713	4	11,296	3
Friend ⁸	7,923	5	8,250	5	16,173	5
Criminal relationship ⁹	320	0.2	1,746	1	2,066	1
Authority figure ¹⁰	4,974	3	7,655	5	12,629	4
Stranger	26,697	15	56,215	35	82,912	25
Unknown ¹¹	845	...	256	...	1,101	...
Total	176,386	100	160,101	100	336,487	100

... not applicable

1. Refers to violence committed by current legally married spouses and common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

2. Refers to violence committed by separated or divorced spouses and former common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

3. Refers to violence committed by current boyfriends and girlfriends. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

4. Refers to violence committed by former boyfriends and girlfriends. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

5. Refers to violence committed by a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction. Includes victims ages 15 to 89.

6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.

7. Includes neighbours.

8. Includes roommates, which was added as a relationship category in 2013.

9. Includes relationships with the victim based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.

10. Includes persons in a position of trust or authority who are not family members. Includes authority figures and reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher, patient-to-doctor, teen-to-youth counsellors/group home workers, prisoner-to-guard). 'Reverse authority figures' was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.

11. Includes incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was reported by police as 'unknown.'

Note: Intimate partner violence victims under the age of 15 years are included in the category 'unknown relationship' and not in the categories related to intimate partner violence. Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages have been calculated excluding victims where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.2
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by type of intimate partner relationship and age group of victim, Canada, 2016

Age group of victim	Female victims						Male victims						Total victims of intimate partner violence
	Victims of spousal violence ¹		Victims of dating violence ²		Victims of other intimate partner violence ³	Total female victims of intimate partner violence	Victims of spousal violence ¹		Victims of dating violence ²		Victims of other intimate partner violence ³	Total male victims of intimate partner violence	
	Current	Former	Current	Former			Current	Former	Current	Former			
	percent												
15 to 19 years	10	7	53	29	2	100	10	7	48	31	5	100	100
20 to 24 years	19	9	46	25	1	100	19	7	48	23	2	100	100
25 to 29 years	28	10	38	22	1	100	26	9	41	21	2	100	100
30 to 34 years	35	13	32	19	1	100	31	12	37	18	2	100	100
35 to 39 years	39	16	27	17	1	100	37	15	31	16	2	100	100
40 to 44 years	41	15	27	15	1	100	38	15	29	16	2	100	100
45 to 49 years	41	15	27	15	1	100	39	14	28	15	3	100	100
50 to 54 years	47	14	23	14	2	100	40	14	29	14	3	100	100
55 to 59 years	53	14	20	11	2	100	43	11	28	14	4	100	100
60 to 64 years	61	11	15	11	1	100	49	12	20	14	5	100	100
65 years and older	69	10	9	10	1	100	59	9	20	9	4	100	100
Total	32	12	35	20	1	100	32	12	35	18	2	100	100
	number												
Total	23,142	8,656	25,841	14,767	994	73,400	6,446	2,333	6,974	3,607	487	19,847	93,247

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced spouses and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends and girlfriends (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

3. Refers to violence committed by a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction. Includes victims ages 15 to 89.

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.3
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and type of violation, Canada, 2016

Type of violation	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Violations causing death ¹	63	0.1	18	0.1	81	0.1
Attempted murder ²	84	0.1	37	0.2	121	0.1
Sexual offences	3,571	5	108	1	3,679	4
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) ³	2,994	4	74	0.4	3,068	3
Other sexual offences ⁴	577	1	34	0.2	611	1
Physical assault	54,486	74	17,262	87	71,748	77
Major assault (levels 2 and 3) ⁵	9,180	13	4,296	22	13,476	14
Common assault (level 1) ⁶	44,977	61	12,907	65	57,884	62
Other assaults ⁷	329	0.4	59	0.3	388	0.4
Criminal harassment	5,053	7	745	4	5,798	6
Indecent or harassing communications	1,235	2	321	2	1,556	2
Uttering threats	5,747	8	1,108	6	6,855	7
Robbery	243	0.3	49	0.2	292	0.3
Other violent violations ⁸	2,918	4	199	1	3,117	3
Total	73,400	100	19,847	100	93,247	100

1. Violations causing death include first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death, and other related violations causing death.

2. Attempted murder includes conspiracy to commit murder.

3. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim.

4. Other sexual offences include other sexual crimes such as non-consensual distribution of intimate images, sexual interference, sexual exploitation, luring a child via a computer, and voyeurism.

5. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

6. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

7. Other assaults include unlawfully causing bodily harm, pointing, using or discharging a firearm with intent, assault against a public or peace officer, trap likely causing bodily harm and other assaults.

8. Other violent violations include forcible confinement, kidnapping, extortion, and other violent violations.

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.4
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by type of intimate partner relationship, type of weapon present and level of injury, Canada, 2016

Type of weapon present and level of injury	Victims of spousal violence ¹						Victims of dating violence ²						Total victims of intimate partner violence ³	
	Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Threats (no weapon) ⁴	4,394	15	726	9	5,120	14	6,282	16	1,179	11	7,461	15	14	
Physical force	21,099	73	5,350	67	26,449	72	29,228	73	7,036	66	36,264	71	71	
Weapon	3,454	12	1,866	23	5,320	14	4,701	12	2,457	23	7,158	14	14	
Firearm	250	1	46	1	296	1	344	1	54	1	398	1	1	
Knife or other piercing instrument ⁵	981	3	680	9	1,661	5	1,320	3	910	9	2,230	4	4	
Club or other blunt instrument	495	2	312	4	807	2	477	1	302	3	779	2	2	
Other weapon ⁶	1,728	6	828	10	2,556	7	2,560	6	1,191	11	3,751	7	7	
Unknown	2,851	...	837	...	3,688	...	1,391	...	396	...	1,787	...	...
Total type of weapon present	31,798	100	8,779	100	40,577	100	41,602	100	11,068	100	52,670	100	100	
No injury ⁷	15,118	50	4,046	48	19,164	49	17,421	44	4,287	41	21,708	44	46	
Minor physical injury ⁸	14,897	49	4,250	50	19,147	49	21,070	54	5,972	57	27,042	54	52	
Major physical injury or death ⁹	513	2	146	2	659	2	730	2	271	3	1,001	2	2	
Unknown	1,270	...	337	...	1,607	...	2,381	...	538	...	2,919	...	...
Total level of injury	31,798	100	8,779	100	40,577	100	41,602	100	11,068	100	52,670	100	100	

... not applicable

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced spouses and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends and girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

3. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

4. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.

5. Includes other piercing/cutting instruments, such as a hatchet, razor blade or arrow.

6. Includes other types of weapons such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, poison and weapons not otherwise classified.

7. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.

8. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

9. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility, or injuries that resulted in death.

Note: The weapon present in an incident (if any) may or may not have caused the injury to the victim (if any). Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon and unknown level of injury. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.5
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by type of intimate partner relationship and type of clearance status, Canada, 2016

Type of clearance status	Victims of spousal violence ¹						Victims of dating violence ²						Total victims of intimate partner violence ³	
	Females		Males		Total		Females		Males		Total		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Not cleared ⁴	3,535	11	1,327	15	4,862	12	5,793	14	1,828	17	7,621	14	13	
Cleared by charge	23,237	73	4,814	55	28,051	69	32,001	77	7,479	68	39,480	75	72	
Cleared otherwise	5,026	16	2,638	30	7,664	19	3,808	9	1,761	16	5,569	11	14	
Complainant declined that charge(s) be laid	1,845	6	912	10	2,757	7	1,808	4	877	8	2,685	5	6	
Reasons beyond the control of department	2,359	7	1,256	14	3,615	9	631	2	292	3	923	2	5	
Departmental discretion	657	2	425	5	1,082	3	1,129	3	537	5	1,666	3	3	
Other ⁵	165	1	45	1	210	1	240	1	55	0	295	1	1	
Total	31,798	100	8,779	100	40,577	100	41,602	100	11,068	100	52,670	100	100	

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced spouses and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
 2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends and girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
 3. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.
 4. 'Not cleared' refers to incidents where an accused person has been identified in connection with the incident or incidents but where there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge.
 5. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incident cleared by a lesser statute, incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.
Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former), and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.6
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and province or territory, 2016

Province or territory	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,090	491	321	150	1,411	323
Prince Edward Island	242	380	56	93	298	240
Nova Scotia	1,921	465	554	141	2,475	307
New Brunswick	1,732	534	423	134	2,155	337
Quebec	15,976	458	4,869	141	20,845	301
Ontario	20,727	350	5,244	92	25,971	224
Manitoba	5,132	984	1,257	244	6,389	616
Saskatchewan	4,960	1,104	1,210	264	6,170	680
Alberta	10,842	638	3,054	174	13,896	403
British Columbia	8,989	443	2,422	122	11,411	284
Yukon	272	1,781	94	597	366	1,180
Northwest Territories	709	4,157	177	1,004	886	2,555
Nunavut	808	6,581	166	1,237	974	3,790
Canada	73,400	483	19,847	133	93,247	310

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 and older. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.7
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and census metropolitan area, 2016

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1, 2}	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	320	357	86	100	406	232
Halifax	723	392	202	114	925	256
Moncton	435	656	138	211	573	435
Saint John	313	569	64	124	377	353
Saguenay	269	381	85	119	354	249
Québec	1,482	433	443	133	1,925	285
Sherbrooke	264	309	44	53	308	184
Trois-Rivières	315	461	91	139	406	304
Montréal	7,902	458	2,459	147	10,361	305
Gatineau ³	748	540	241	180	989	363
Ottawa ⁴	1,137	263	241	59	1,378	163
Kingston	223	308	53	75	276	193
Peterborough	219	403	44	88	263	252
Toronto ⁵	7,542	314	1,783	78	9,325	199
Hamilton ⁶	773	325	193	84	966	206
St. Catharines–Niagara	446	226	80	43	526	137
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	803	352	266	119	1,069	237
Brantford	305	522	74	132	379	331
Guelph	212	374	34	64	246	224
London	928	421	228	109	1,156	270
Windsor	528	410	102	82	630	249
Barrie	272	302	55	63	327	184
Greater Sudbury	300	423	66	97	366	263
Thunder Bay	395	760	111	221	506	496
Winnipeg	1,968	592	382	118	2,350	358
Regina	683	678	155	155	838	417
Saskatoon	739	574	179	137	918	354
Calgary	2,396	403	752	124	3,148	262
Edmonton	2,815	502	618	107	3,433	302
Kelowna	334	390	115	139	449	267
Abbotsford–Mission	434	575	67	89	501	332
Vancouver	3,595	327	822	77	4,417	204
Victoria	631	387	165	106	796	250
CMA total⁷	41,626	386	10,725	103	52,351	247
Non-CMA total	31,774	722	9,122	207	40,896	464
Canada	73,400	483	19,847	133	93,247	310

1. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.

6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.

7. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 and older. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.8
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence for selected violent violations, by sex of victim and type of violation, Canada, 2009 to 2016

Type of violation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percent change of rate from 2011 to 2016		
	rate			number			rate	number	rate	percent	
Female victims	419	409	408	395	374	365	55,930	374	56,437	373	-9
Attempted murder ¹	1	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	74	0.5	83	1	-3
Physical assault	404	393	392	378	358	348	53,172	356	53,395	353	-10
Common assault (level 1)	344	333	330	318	301	292	44,402	297	44,357	293	-11
Major assault (levels 2 and 3)	60	61	61	60	57	56	8,770	59	9,038	60	-3
Sexual assault	14	15	16	17	16	17	2,684	18	2,959	20	25
Sexual assault (level 1)	13	15	15	16	15	16	2,559	17	2,825	19	26
Sexual assault (levels 2 and 3)	1	1	1	1	1	1	125	1	134	1	3
Male victims	116	115	116	116	112	112	16,682	114	17,110	116	-0.3
Attempted murder ¹	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	28	0.2	37	0.3	13
Physical assault	115	114	115	116	111	111	16,579	113	17,000	115	-0.4
Common assault (level 1)	87	86	87	89	85	84	12,648	86	12,760	86	-1
Major assault (levels 2 and 3)	28	28	28	27	27	27	3,931	27	4,240	29	2
Sexual assault	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	75	1	73	0.5	15
Sexual assault (level 1)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	59	0.4	57	0.4	19
Sexual assault (levels 2 and 3)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	16	0.1	16	0.1	1
Total victims	269	264	264	257	245	240	72,612	245	73,547	246	-7
Attempted murder ¹	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	102	0.3	120	0.4	1
Physical assault	261	255	255	248	236	231	69,751	236	70,395	235	-8
Common assault (level 1)	217	211	210	204	194	189	57,050	193	57,117	191	-9
Major assault (levels 2 and 3)	44	45	45	44	42	42	12,701	43	13,278	44	-1
Sexual assault	7	8	8	9	8	9	2,759	9	3,032	10	24
Sexual assault (level 1)	7	7	8	8	8	8	2,618	9	2,882	10	25
Sexual assault (levels 2 and 3)	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.4	141	0.5	150	1	3

1. Attempted murder includes conspiracy to commit murder.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 and older. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which includes data from 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 3.9
Victims of intimate partner homicide, by sex of victim, Canada, 1996 to 2016

Year	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
1996	82	6.8	30	2.6	112	4.7
1997	79	6.5	19	1.6	98	4.1
1998	67	5.4	15	1.3	82	3.4
1999	77	6.2	14	1.2	91	3.7
2000	74	5.9	20	1.6	94	3.8
2001	81	6.3	24	1.9	105	4.2
2002	80	6.2	23	1.8	103	4.0
2003	73	5.6	17	1.3	90	3.5
2004	77	5.8	21	1.6	98	3.7
2005	79	5.9	15	1.1	94	3.5
2006	70	5.1	26	2.0	96	3.6
2007	60	4.3	23	1.7	83	3.0
2008	65	4.6	25	1.8	90	3.3
2009	69	4.8	22	1.6	91	3.2
2010	63	4.4	27	1.9	90	3.2
2011	80	5.5	14	1.0	94	3.3
2012	71	4.8	16	1.1	87	3.0
2013	59	3.9	14	1.0	73	2.5
2014	72	4.8	16	1.1	88	2.9
2015	71	4.7	13	0.9	84	2.8
2016	57	3.7	15	1.0	72	2.4

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 1 million population aged 15 and older. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Intimate partner homicide refers to homicides committed by legally married, separated and divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Excludes victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 to better meet changing information needs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3.10
Victims of intimate partner homicide, by type of intimate partner relationship, Canada, 2006 to 2016

Year	Spousal homicide victims													Total
	Victims of a married spouse ¹		Victims of a common-law partner ²		Total—spousal homicide victims ³		Dating homicide victims ⁴		Same-sex intimate partner homicide victims ⁵		Total victims of intimate partner homicides ⁶			
	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males		
	number													
2006	36	4	22	17	58	21	12	2	0	3	70	26	96	
2007	24	4	27	8	51	12	9	7	0	4	60	23	83	
2008	31	6	15	11	46	17	19	5	0	3	65	25	90	
2009	29	5	21	11	50	16	19	4	0	2	69	22	91	
2010	21	3	27	13	48	16	15	8	0	3	63	27	90	
2011	32	1	28	5	60	6	19	3	1	5	80	14	94	
2012	34	5	20	5	54	10	16	3	1	3	71	16	87	
2013	20	2	20	4	40	6	18	7	1	1	59	14	73	
2014	33	0	26	7	59	7	13	6	0	3	72	16	88	
2015	19	1	34	9	53	10	18	2	0	1	71	13	84	
2016	22	1	18	9	40	10	15	4	2	1	57	15	72	
2006 to 2016	301	32	258	99	559	131	173	51	5	29	737	211	948	
	percent													
2016	39	7	32	60	70	67	26	27	4	7	100	100	100	
2006 to 2016	41	15	35	47	76	62	23	24	1	14	100	100	100	

1. Includes victims of married, separated or divorced opposite sex spouses.

2. Includes victims of opposite sex common-law partners (current or former).

3. Includes victims of married, separated or divorced opposite sex spouses or opposite sex common-law partners.

4. Includes victims of opposite sex boyfriends and girlfriends (current or former) and other opposite sex intimate partners.

5. Includes victims of married, separated or divorced same-sex spouses and same-sex common-law partners (current or former) as well as a same-sex boyfriends and girlfriends (current or former) and other same-sex intimate partners.

6. Includes victims of married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current or former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners.

Note: Intimate partner homicide refers to homicides committed by legally married, separated and divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former), and other intimate partners. Excludes victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 to better meet changing information needs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3.11
Victims of intimate partner homicide, by sex of victim and age group of victim, Canada, 2006 to 2016

Age group of victim	Female victims		Male victims	
	rate			
15 to 19 years	3.0		0.2	
20 to 24 years	6.1		0.9	
25 to 29 years	7.9		2.4	
30 to 34 years	5.7		2.1	
35 to 39 years	7.5		1.6	
40 to 44 years	6.3		1.9	
45 to 49 years	5.4		2.0	
50 to 54 years	4.1		1.7	
55 to 59 years	2.9		1.5	
60 to 64 years	2.7		0.8	
65 years and older	2.0		0.4	

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 1 million population aged 15 and older. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Intimate partner homicide refers to homicides committed by legally married, separated and divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Excludes victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 to better meet changing information needs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3.12
Accused of police-reported intimate partner violence, by type of relationship, sex of accused and age group of accused, Canada, 2016

Age group of accused	Spousal violence ¹						Dating violence ²					
	Female accused		Male accused		Total accused		Female accused		Male accused		Total accused	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
15 to 17 years	56	10	99	16	155	13	316	55	848	140	1,164	99
18 to 24 years	941	58	2,283	133	3,224	97	2,177	134	7,435	434	9,612	288
25 to 34 years	2,064	82	7,664	304	9,728	193	2,702	108	11,887	472	14,589	290
35 to 44 years	1,890	79	7,762	325	9,652	202	1,459	61	6,810	285	8,269	173
45 to 54 years	1,044	41	4,911	192	5,955	117	732	29	3,650	143	4,382	86
55 to 64 years	360	14	1,922	78	2,282	46	137	6	994	41	1,131	23
65 years and older	115	4	782	30	897	16	25	1	199	8	224	4

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced spouses and common-law partners (current and former). Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

2. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends and girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89.

Note: Includes incidents with single accused-single victim. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Accused refers to those aged 15 to 89. Accused and victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes accused and victims of spousal violence under the age of 15 years. Excludes accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.13
Accused of police-reported intimate partner violence, by age group of accused and type of clearance status, Canada, 2016

Type of clearance status	Age group of accused											
	15 to 17 years		18 to 24 years		25 to 44 years		45 to 64 years		65 years and older		Total accused	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Spousal violence^{1,2}	155	100	3,224	100	19,380	100	8,237	100	897	100	31,893	100
Cleared by charge	85	55	2,239	69	15,066	78	6,668	81	658	73	24,716	77
Cleared otherwise	70	45	985	31	4,314	22	1,569	19	239	27	7,177	23
Complainant declined that charge(s) be laid	24	15	366	11	1,541	8	587	7	66	7	2,584	36
Reasons beyond the control of department	24	15	528	16	2,135	11	686	8	78	9	3,451	48
Departmental discretion	12	8	72	2	543	3	246	3	79	9	952	13
Other ³	10	6	19	1	95	0.5	50	1	16	2	190	3
Dating violence^{4,2}	1,164	100	9,612	100	22,858	100	5,513	100	224	100	39,371	100
Cleared by charge	911	78	8,414	88	20,175	88	4,748	86	164	73	34,412	87
Cleared otherwise	253	22	1,198	12	2,683	12	765	14	60	27	4,959	13
Complainant declined that charge(s) be laid	80	7	573	6	1,336	6	386	7	29	13	2,404	48
Reasons beyond the control of department	26	2	239	2	441	2	150	3	9	4	865	17
Departmental discretion	123	11	330	3	763	3	196	4	22	10	1,434	29
Other ³	24	2	56	1	143	1	33	1	0	0	256	5
Total intimate partner violence⁵	1,319	100	12,836	100	42,238	100	13,750	100	1,121	100	71,264	100
Cleared by charge	996	76	10,653	83	35,241	83	11,416	83	822	73	59,128	83
Cleared otherwise	323	24	2,183	17	6,997	17	2,334	17	299	27	12,136	17
Complainant declined that charge(s) be laid	104	8	939	7	2,877	7	973	7	95	8	4,988	41
Reasons beyond the control of department	50	4	767	6	2,576	6	836	6	87	8	4,316	36
Departmental discretion	135	10	402	3	1,306	3	442	3	101	9	2,386	20
Other ³	34	3	75	1	238	1	83	1	16	1	446	4

1. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced spouses and common-law partners (current and former). Includes accused aged 15 to 89.

2. For incidents that involve multiple victims, a single clearance status is recorded in relation to each victim in the incident. For instance, if charges are laid in relation to a violation against one of the victims, the clearance status for all victims will be 'charged.' Thus, under- or over-counts are possible with respect to clearance status.

3. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incident cleared by a lesser statute, incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.

4. Refers to violence committed by boyfriends and girlfriends (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes accused aged 15 to 89.

5. Refers to violence committed by married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Includes accused aged 15 to 89.

Note: Includes incidents with single accused-single victim. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated or divorced spouses, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former) and other intimate partners. Accused refers to those aged 15 to 89. Accused and victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes accused and victims of spousal violence under the age of 15 years. Excludes accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.14
Accused of intimate partner homicide, by age group of accused and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 1997 to 2016

Relationship of accused to victim	Age group of accused										Total accused	
	15 to 17 years		18 to 24 years		25 to 44 years		45 to 64 years		65 years and older			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Female accused	7	100	43	100	193	100	74	100	6	100	323	100
Current spouse ¹	1	14	25	58	146	76	59	80	6	100	237	73
Former spouse ²	0	0	4	9	17	9	7	9	0	0	28	9
Current dating partner ³	4	57	12	28	18	9	5	7	0	0	39	12
Former dating partner ⁴	1	14	2	5	4	2	1	1	0	0	8	2
Other intimate partner ⁵	1	14	0	0	8	4	2	3	0	0	11	3
Male accused	12	100	140	100	746	100	451	100	131	100	1,480	100
Current spouse ¹	0	0	43	31	398	53	286	63	114	87	841	57
Former spouse ²	0	0	16	11	165	22	107	24	8	6	296	20
Current dating partner ³	4	33	42	30	102	14	26	6	4	3	178	12
Former dating partner ⁴	6	50	32	23	42	6	23	5	4	3	107	7
Other intimate partner ⁵	2	17	7	5	39	5	9	2	1	1	58	4
Total accused	19	100	183	100	939	100	525	100	137	100	1,803	100
Current spouse ¹	1	5	68	37	544	58	345	66	120	88	1,078	60
Former spouse ²	0	0	20	11	182	19	114	22	8	6	324	18
Current dating partner ³	8	42	54	30	120	13	31	6	4	3	217	12
Former dating partner ⁴	7	37	34	19	46	5	24	5	4	3	115	6
Other intimate partner ⁵	3	16	7	4	47	5	11	2	1	1	69	4

1. Refers to violence committed by current legally married spouses and common-law partners, including opposite- and same-sex relationships.

2. Refers to violence committed by separated or divorced spouses and former common-law partners, including opposite- and same-sex relationships.

3. Refers to violence committed by current dating partners, including opposite- and same-sex relationships.

4. Refers to violence committed by former dating partners, including opposite- and same-sex relationships.

5. Refers to violence committed by a person with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction.

Note: Intimate partner homicide refers to homicides committed by legally married, separated and divorced persons, common-law partners (current and former), dating partners (current and former), and other intimate partners. Excludes unsolved homicides, and homicides where the age of the victim was unknown, where the age or sex of the accused was unknown, where the victim or accused was under 15 years of age, or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Section 4: Police-reported family violence against children and youth

by Shana Conroy

Violence against children and youth has serious short- and long-term implications. These may be physical or emotional in nature and impact the health, development and survival of victims (Public Health Agency of Canada 2016). Family violence against children and youth, where the perpetrator is a family member or relative and there is an expected relationship of trust or authority, can have especially serious consequences for victims. Within a family context, immediate and lifelong impacts on victims may include insecure attachment, self-blame, anxiety, dissociation and developmental delays (Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2012). Violence against children and youth may put them at risk for future unhealthy behaviours such as substance abuse and unprotected sex (Public Health Agency of Canada 2016). These impacts may be further compounded if the cycle of violence repeats intergenerationally.

While the issue of violence against children and youth is complex and it is challenging to determine its true scope, it is estimated that globally, during childhood, 25% of adults experienced physical abuse while 20% of women and 8% of men experienced sexual abuse (World Health Organization 2016). Identified as a major global public health concern by experts, measuring the prevalence of this type of violence is particularly challenging as young victims may be unaware that they are being victimized, may not know how to seek help or may be unable to report their victimization (United Nations 2006; Ogrodnik 2010; Kuoppamäki et al. 2011).

Using data from the 2016 Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the 2016 Homicide Survey, this section presents information on police-reported family violence against children and youth aged 17 and younger. The following analysis highlights the prevalence of violent offences against children and youth where the perpetrator is a family member. The information includes type of offence, relationship to the perpetrator and geographical location. Trend analysis of selected police-reported violent offences against children and youth is also presented to indicate changes over time. For the first time in 2016, this section also includes an analysis of persons accused of family violence against children and youth. Information on the sex and age of those accused of family-related violent crime provides insight into the dynamics underpinning violent family contexts.

This section includes all types of violent offences under the *Criminal Code* that were reported to the police in 2016, ranging from uttering threats to physical and sexual violence to homicide. Non-violent crimes such as theft and fraud, abuses unsubstantiated by police, and other forms of conduct not covered by the *Criminal Code* are not included in this section. In addition, analysis based on the Homicide Survey excludes homicides that have not been solved by police.

In order to combat sexual violence against children and youth, the *Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act* came into effect in 2015. This increased the maximum penalties for the following sexual offences against children: sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, making sexually explicit material available to a child, luring a child via a computer, and agreement or arrangement to commit a sexual offence against a child. The maximum penalty for sexual offences against children was raised to 14 years while the maximum penalty for sexual assault (level 1) remained unchanged at 10 years. Changes to maximum penalties had an impact on incidents where both sexual assault (level 1) and a sexual offence against a child were reported, as the most serious violation reported by police may have been affected.¹

Unless otherwise specified, all rates in this section are per 100,000 population. Information on data sources, survey methodology and definitions can be found in the “Survey description” section of this report.

Three in ten child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime were victimized by a family member

- In 2016, there were approximately 54,900² child and youth victims (aged 17 and younger) of police-reported violent crime in Canada. Children and youth represented around one in six (16%) victims of violent crime (Table 4.1).
- Among child and youth victims, approximately 16,200 (30%) were victims of family violence perpetrated by a parent, a sibling, a spouse or another type of family member.
- The majority (59%) of child and youth victims of family violence were victimized by a parent. Victimization by a parent decreased with age: it was most common among the youngest victims of family violence (under age 1) (87%) and least common among youth (aged 12 to 17) (49%) (Table 4.2).
- In general, rates of family violence increased with age. Youth (aged 12 to 17) had the highest rates while very young children (under age 1) had the lowest. However, abuse of the youngest victims may go unreported for a variety of reasons (United Nations 2006; Ogrodnik 2010; Kuoppamäki et al. 2011) (Table 4.3).
- Overall, female children and youth were more often victims of police-reported family violence than their male counterparts (rates of 280 and 188 per 100,000 population, respectively) (Table 4.3).

- The age at which female and male children and youth were most often victimized by a family member was at age 15 (rates of 530 and 267, respectively). Of note, female youth aged 14 and 15 were twice as likely as their male counterparts to be victimized by a family member (Table 4.3).
- More than two in five (44%) child and youth victims of police-reported family violence saw the incidents in which they were victimized cleared³ by the laying or recommendation of a charge against the accused. For another 28% of child and youth family violence victims, incidents were cleared by other means, such as departmental discretion (9%). The remaining 28% victims were involved in incidents that were not cleared (Table 4.4).

Text box 1

Self-reported childhood abuse

While this section provides important contextual information on the incidence of family violence, the true extent of offences against children and youth in Canada may be underestimated since the police-reported data presented here include only incidents of violence that have come to the attention of police and that are covered by the *Criminal Code*.

Another important source of information on crime in Canada is the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization). The GSS on Victimization collects self-reported information from those aged 15 and older on their experiences of victimization, whether the incidents were reported to the police or not. In 2014, retrospective questions related to childhood abuse—that is, physical abuse and/or sexual abuse experienced before age 15 perpetrated by an adult aged 18 or older—were included for the first time on the GSS on Victimization.

Results show that nearly one in three (30%) Canadians aged 15 and older experienced some form of childhood abuse; more specifically, 26% experienced physical abuse and 8% experienced sexual abuse. Physical abuse was more common among males (31%) than females (22%), while sexual abuse was more common among females (12%) than males (4%). Victims were asked about the most serious instance of abuse they experienced: physical abuse was most commonly perpetrated by a parent (61%) and sexual abuse by someone outside the family (61%).

The vast majority (93%) of victims did not speak about the abuse with authorities—including the police or child protective services—before they turned 15. Further, two in three (67%) stated that they spoke to no one else about their victimization, including informal supports such as family members, friends, teachers and doctors (Burczycka and Conroy 2017).

As not all incidents come to the attention of the police, self-reported data from the GSS on Victimization provide insight into the nature and extent of crime in Canada. However, the GSS on Victimization does not collect information from Canadians under the age of 15, and it collects only limited information on the accused person. Further, self-reported information on childhood experiences is retrospective and thus susceptible to recall error. For these reasons, self- and police-reported data are best used as complementary, rather than mutually exclusive, sources of information on crime and victimization in Canada.⁴

Rate of police-reported family-related sexual offences over four times higher for female children and youth than their male counterparts

- In 2016, physical assault was the most common type of police-reported family violence against children and youth (a rate of 133 per 100,000 population), followed by sexual offences (73) such as sexual assault and sexual interference (Table 4.5).
- The rate of physical assault against children and youth perpetrated by a family member was similar for females and males (129 versus 136). However, the rate of sexual offences against female children and youth was 4.5 times higher than that for their male counterparts (121 versus 27) (Table 4.5).
- Kidnapping and abduction were relatively rare occurrences among police-reported incidents of family violence. Specifically, there were 373 child and youth victims of kidnapping and abduction (a rate of 5 per 100,000 population) (Table 4.5).
- Between 2006 and 2016, there were 303 child and youth victims of family-related homicide. The most common causes of death were beating (26%), strangulation, suffocation or drowning (24%) and stabbing (17%). Half (48%) of child and youth victims of family-related homicide were aged 3 and younger (Table 4.6).
- Among child and youth victims, the most common motive for family-related homicide over the past decade was frustration, anger or despair (63%). For nearly one in ten (9%) family-related homicides against children and youth, police found no apparent motive (Table 4.7).

Police-reported family violence against children and youth highest in Trois-Rivières and Saguenay, lowest in Ottawa

- Similar to crime in general in 2016 (Keighley 2017), rates of family violence against children and youth were higher in the territories than in the provinces. Nunavut had the highest rate of police-reported family violence (1,480 per 100,000 population), followed by the Northwest Territories (876) and Yukon (564). In the provinces, the rate of family violence against children and youth was highest in Saskatchewan (466) and lowest in Ontario (160) (Table 4.8).
- Among Canada's largest cities (census metropolitan areas or CMAs), Trois-Rivières and Saguenay reported the highest rates of police-reported family violence against children and youth (459 and 423, respectively), while Ottawa reported the lowest (96). Overall, the rate of family violence against children and youth was lower in the CMAs (178) than in non-CMAs (361) (Table 4.9).
- Female children and youth had higher rates of family violence than their male counterparts in all CMAs with three exceptions: rates were equal in St. John's (both 153), and higher for males in Guelph (163) and Saint John (175) compared to females (152 and 167, respectively) (Table 4.9).

Most types of police-reported family-related physical, sexual assault against children and youth decrease

- Between 2011 and 2016, common physical assault (level 1) was the most common type of police-reported family violence against children and youth, despite an overall rate decrease of 18% over the same time period. The rate of common assault related to family violence decreased by 25% for female children and youth and 12% for their male counterparts (Table 4.10).
- In 2016, sexual assault (level 1) accounted for nearly all (99%) family-related sexual assault against children and youth. The rate of family-related sexual assault (level 1) against children and youth overall declined by more than one-third (-37%) between 2011 and 2016 (Table 4.10). It should be noted that this decline is likely impacted by recent changes to legislation.⁵
- From 2011 to 2016, rates of family-related sexual assault (level 1) against children and youth remained between four and five times higher among female victims (Table 4.10).

Two in three persons accused of family-related homicide against children and youth are male

- In 2016, seven in ten (69%) females accused of police-reported family violence⁶ against children and youth were a parent to their victim, while five in ten (49%) males accused were a parent. Male accused were more commonly a sibling (21%) or another type of family member (other than a parent, sibling or spouse) (25%) than female accused (13% and 18%, respectively) (Table 4.11).
- Incidents of family violence against children and youth were more commonly cleared by charge where the accused was male, regardless of age group. The largest difference was for accused aged 65 and older, where 65% of male accused were cleared by charge compared to 39% of female accused (Table 4.12).
- Between 2006 and 2016, the large majority (79%) of those accused of family-related homicide against children and youth were aged 18 to 44. Around two in three (66%) of all accused were male. In general, frustration, anger or despair was the most common motive across various age groups for both female and male accused. There was, however, one exception: equal proportions of female accused aged 17 and younger were motivated by concealment⁷ and frustration, anger or despair (both 40%) (Table 4.13).

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Notes

1. The *Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act* (2015) had an impact on incidents where both sexual assault (level 1) and a sexual offence against a child were reported, as the most serious violation reported by police may have been affected. For example, an incident that was classified as sexual assault (level 1) in 2014 may have been classified as sexual interference in 2016, thereby contributing to the decrease in the rate of sexual assault (level 1). In 2014, children and youth represented 47% of all victims of sexual assault (level 1), while in 2016 they represented 39%.
2. Numbers in text and tables may not add up to totals due to rounding.
3. Police can respond to a family violence incident in one of three ways: charge the accused, clear the incident in another way (e.g., through departmental discretion, reasons beyond the control of police department, or complainant declined that charge(s) be laid), or not clear the incident because of insufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident. For incidents that involve multiple victims, a single clearance status is recorded in relation to each victim in the incident. For instance, if charges are laid in relation to a violation against one of the victims, the clearance status for all victims will be 'charged.' Thus, under- or over-counts are possible with respect to clearance status, and this may affect the 26% of family violence incidents that involve more than one victim or accused person.
4. Further information specific to childhood maltreatment can be found in Section 1 of "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2015" (Burczycka and Conroy 2017).
5. The *Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act* (2015) had an impact on incidents where both sexual assault (level 1) and a sexual offence against a child were reported, as the most serious violation reported by police may have been affected. For example, an incident that was classified as sexual assault (level 1) in 2014 may have been classified as sexual interference in 2016, thereby contributing to the decrease in the rate of sexual assault (level 1). In 2014, children and youth represented 47% of all victims of sexual assault (level 1), while in 2016 they represented 39%.
6. For the purposes of analysis, includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents. For this reason, numbers pertaining to accused will not match those presented elsewhere in the report.
7. Includes homicides committed to hide evidence of something (e.g., a pregnancy or birth of a child) or evidence of another criminal offence. This is the most common motive for infanticides.

Detailed data tables

Table 4.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by age group of victim and type of violation, Canada, 2016

Type of violation	Child and youth victims by age group						Child and youth victims		Adult victims		Total victims	
	Less than 3 years		3 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		(0 to 17 years)		(18 years and older)		number	rate
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Violations causing death, attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder	19	2	28	1	82	4	129	2	1,368	5	1,497	4
Murder, manslaughter, infanticide	8	1	8	0.2	22	1	38	1	564	2	602	2
Criminal negligence causing death	5	0.4	7	0.2	8	0.3	20	0.3	69	0.2	89	0.2
Other violations causing death	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	0.01	4	0.01	5	0.01
Attempted murder or conspiracy to commit murder	5	0.4	13	0.4	52	2	70	1	731	3	801	2
Violations related to sexual offences	172	15	5,015	143	9,598	417	14,785	212	13,749	48	28,534	80
Sexual assault (level 3) - aggravated	1	0.1	3	0.1	10	0.4	14	0.2	94	0.3	108	0.3
Sexual assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	0	0	35	1	73	3	108	2	271	1	379	1
Sexual assault (level 1)	80	7	2,373	68	5,443	236	7,896	113	12,400	43	20,296	57
Sexual interference	79	7	2,099	60	2,319	101	4,497	64	...	...	4,497	13
Invitation to sexual touching	4	0.3	237	7	271	12	512	7	...	...	512	1
Luring a child via a computer ¹	2	0.2	139	4	626	27	767	11	...	...	767	2
Incest	2	0.2	59	2	65	3	126	2	44	0.2	170	0.5
Voyeurism	3	0.3	20	1	132	6	155	2	349	1	504	1
Non-consensual distribution of intimate images	0	0	11	0.3	308	13	319	5	493	2	812	2
Violations involving the commodification or procurement of sexual activity ²	1	0.1	1	0.03	73	3	75	1	57	0.2	132	0.4
Other sexual offence violations ³	0	0	38	1	278	12	316	5	41	0.1	357	1
Violations related to physical assault	978	84	6,827	195	19,425	844	27,230	390	189,948	658	217,178	606
Assault (level 3) - aggravated	58	5	19	1	185	8	262	4	3,091	11	3,353	9
Assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	174	15	1,533	44	4,188	182	5,895	84	42,273	146	48,168	134
Assault (level 1)	656	56	5,172	147	14,802	643	20,630	296	133,845	464	154,475	431
Unlawfully causing bodily harm	1	0.1	8	0.2	22	1	31	0.4	298	1	329	1
Criminal negligence causing bodily harm	24	2	36	1	18	1	78	1	137	0.5	215	1
Violations involving firearms ⁴	62	5	41	1	141	6	244	3	1,099	4	1,343	4
Other physical assault violations ⁵	3	0.3	18	1	69	3	90	1	9,205	32	9,295	26
Violations resulting in the deprivation of freedom	100	9	319	9	399	17	818	12	3,509	12	4,327	12
Kidnapping or forcible confinement	22	2	76	2	277	12	375	5	3,347	12	3,722	10
Abduction ⁶	78	7	242	7	54	2	374	5	...	...	374	1
Trafficking in persons	0	0	1	0.03	68	3	69	1	162	1	231	1
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence	388	33	1,580	45	9,921	431	11,889	170	72,993	253	84,882	237
Robbery	22	2	111	3	3,084	134	3,217	46	16,147	56	19,364	54
Criminal harassment	7	1	112	3	1,123	49	1,242	18	11,711	41	12,953	36
Uttering threats	268	23	1,117	32	4,586	199	5,971	86	37,157	129	43,128	120
Indecent or harassing communications	3	0.3	53	2	521	23	577	8	4,628	16	5,205	15
Extortion	1	0.1	12	0.3	370	16	383	5	1,784	6	2,167	6
Intimidation ⁷	1	0.1	59	2	195	8	255	4	1,235	4	1,490	4
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence ⁸	86	7	116	3	42	2	244	3	331	1	575	2
Total	1,657	142	13,769	392	39,425	1,713	54,851	786	281,567	975	336,418	938

... not applicable

1. Includes agreement or arrangement (sexual offence against a child).

2. Includes procuring a person under age 18, obtaining sexual services for consideration from a person under age 18, material benefit from sexual services provided by a person under age 18, and parent or guardian procuring sexual activity. In 2016, there were no incidents reported to the police related to householder permitting sexual activity, obtaining sexual services for consideration, material benefit from sexual services, procuring and advertising sexual services.

3. Includes sexual exploitation and sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, making sexually explicit material available to a child, anal intercourse, bestiality (in presence of, or incites, a child) and other sexual crimes.

4. Includes discharging a firearm with intent, pointing a firearm, and using a firearm or imitation of a firearm in commission of offence.

5. Includes assault against a peace officer, assault against a peace officer with a weapon or causing bodily harm, and other assaults. In 2016, there were no incidents reported to the police related to aggravated assault against a peace officer, or trap likely to or causing bodily harm.

6. Includes abduction under age 14 contravening a custody order, abduction under age 14 by someone other than a parent or guardian, abduction under age 16 and removal of a child from Canada.

7. Includes intimidation of a non-justice system participant, and intimidation of a justice system participant or a journalist.

8. Includes arson (disregard for human life), corrupting children and other violations against the person. In 2016, there were no incidents reported to the police related to explosives causing bodily harm or death, failure to comply with safeguards, and forging or destruction of documents.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown. In 2016, police-reported data included 880 victims with unknown sex and 3,133 victims with unknown age. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.2
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by age group of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2016

Relationship of accused to victim	Age group of victim										Total victims	
	Less than 1 year		1 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 17 years			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Parent ¹	251	87	1,082	79	1,595	67	2,936	63	3,702	49	9,566	59
Sibling ²	13	4	118	9	372	16	741	16	1,465	19	2,709	17
Other family ³	26	9	176	13	426	18	975	21	1,957	26	3,560	22
Spouse ⁴	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	413	5	413	3
Total	290	100	1,376	100	2,393	100	4,652	100	7,537	100	16,248	100

... not applicable

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.

2. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws. Also includes a small proportion of family violence victims where the relationship of accused to victim was miscoded.

4. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.3
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and age of victim, Canada, 2016

Age of victim	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Less than 1 year	130	68	160	80	290	74
1 year	207	109	209	104	416	107
2 years	200	105	195	98	395	101
3 years	300	158	265	132	565	145
4 years	380	200	322	161	702	180
5 years	427	224	379	190	806	206
6 years	468	242	417	206	885	224
7 years	502	259	418	205	920	231
8 years	507	260	468	229	975	244
9 years	556	292	383	191	939	241
10 years	474	255	380	195	854	224
11 years	542	297	422	220	964	258
12 years	647	353	408	211	1,055	281
13 years	717	396	430	226	1,147	309
14 years	820	451	409	213	1,229	329
15 years	980	530	524	267	1,504	395
16 years	830	431	459	225	1,289	325
17 years	832	424	481	232	1,313	326
Total	9,519	280	6,729	188	16,248	233

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.4
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of clearance status, Canada, 2016

Type of clearance status ¹	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Not cleared ²	2,730	29	1,782	26	4,512	28
Cleared by charge	4,349	46	2,813	42	7,162	44
Cleared otherwise	2,440	26	2,134	32	4,574	28
Complainant declined that charge(s) be laid	742	8	567	8	1,309	8
Reasons beyond the control of department	717	8	652	10	1,369	8
Departmental discretion	744	8	776	12	1,520	9
Other ³	237	2	139	2	376	2
Total	9,519	100	6,729	100	16,248	100

1. For incidents that involve multiple victims, a single clearance status is recorded in relation to each victim in the incident. For instance, if charges are laid in relation to a violation against one of the victims, the clearance status for all victims will be 'charged.' Thus, under- or over-counts are possible with respect to clearance status, and this may affect the 26% of family violence incidents that involve more than one victim or accused person.

2. Includes incidents where an accused person has been identified in connection with the incident, but where there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge or to clear the incident through other means.

3. Includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incident cleared by a lesser statute, and incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.5
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of violation, Canada, 2016

Type of violation	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Violations causing death ¹	15	0.4	10	0.3	25	0.4
Attempted murder ²	10	0.3	12	0.3	22	0.3
Sexual offences ³	4,107	121	963	27	5,070	73
Physical assault	4,383	129	4,886	136	9,269	133
Major assault (levels 2 and 3) ⁴	892	26	1,048	29	1,940	28
Common assault (level 1) ⁵	3,454	102	3,785	106	7,239	104
Other assaults ⁶	37	1	53	1	90	1
Kidnapping or abduction	200	6	173	5	373	5
Other violent violations ⁷	804	24	685	19	1,489	21
Total	9,519	280	6,729	188	16,248	233

1. Violations causing death include first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death, and other related violations causing death.

2. Attempted murder includes conspiracy to commit murder.

3. Sexual offences include sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual violations, including child-specific offences, such as sexual interference and luring a child via a computer.

4. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

5. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

6. Other assaults include criminal negligence causing bodily harm, pointing a firearm, discharging a firearm with intent and other assaults.

7. Other violent violations include uttering threats to a person, criminal harassment, indecent or harassing communications and other violations against the person.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.6
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicide, by age group of victim and cause of death, Canada, 2006 to 2016

Cause of death	Age group of victim										Total victims	
	Less than 1 year		1 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 17 years			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Beating	18	26	33	45	12	27	4	10	8	12	75	26
Strangulation, suffocation or drowning	20	29	16	22	10	23	10	24	15	23	71	24
Stabbing	2	3	8	11	9	20	12	29	18	28	49	17
Shooting	0	0	4	5	3	7	7	17	15	23	29	10
Shaken Baby Syndrome ¹	19	28	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	8
Poisoning or lethal injection	2	3	2	3	4	9	2	5	3	5	13	4
Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	0	0	3	4	2	5	5	12	2	3	12	4
Other ²	7	10	4	5	4	9	2	5	4	6	21	7
Unknown	2	...	1	...	3	...	3	...	1	...	10	...
Total	70	100	75	100	47	100	45	100	66	100	303	100

... not applicable

1. 'Shaken Baby Syndrome' refers to homicides committed against a baby (under age 3) where the primary cause of death resulted from being shaken, tossed or thrown.

2. Includes causes of death not otherwise stated. Examples include deaths caused by motor vehicles, exposure/hypothermia, starvation and heat.

Note: Family-related homicide refers to homicides committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages exclude homicides where the cause of death was reported by police as unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4.7
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicide, by age group of victim and type of motive, Canada, 2006 to 2016

Type of motive	Age group of victim										Total victims	
	Less than 1 year		1 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 17 years			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Frustration, anger or despair	44	69	52	79	32	71	23	58	24	38	175	63
Argument or quarrel	1	2	1	2	3	7	3	8	13	20	21	8
Concealment ¹	15	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5
Jealousy	0	0	3	5	3	7	4	10	4	6	14	5
Revenge	0	0	4	6	2	4	3	8	3	5	12	4
Other ²	1	2	0	0	3	7	1	3	11	17	16	6
No apparent motive ³	3	5	6	9	2	4	6	15	9	14	26	9
Unknown	6	...	9	...	2	...	5	...	2	...	24	...
Total	70	100	75	100	47	100	45	100	66	100	303	100

... not applicable

1. Includes homicides committed to hide evidence of something (e.g., a pregnancy or birth of a child) or evidence of another criminal offence. This is the most common motive for infanticides.

2. Includes financial gain, mercy killing and sexual violence.

3. Includes mental illness and dementia.

Note: Family-related homicide refers to homicides committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown motives. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4.8
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and province or territory, 2016

Province or territory	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	149	347	106	237	255	291
Prince Edward Island	24	172	24	167	48	169
Nova Scotia	259	326	169	200	428	262
New Brunswick	225	344	137	198	362	269
Quebec	2,753	370	2,086	268	4,839	318
Ontario	2,524	193	1,782	129	4,306	160
Manitoba	654	461	428	288	1,082	373
Saskatchewan	717	567	491	369	1,208	466
Alberta	1,169	257	815	171	1,984	213
British Columbia	854	208	545	125	1,399	165
Yukon	22	596	21	533	43	564
Northwest Territories	60	1,091	38	669	98	876
Nunavut	109	1,670	87	1,296	196	1,480
Canada	9,519	280	6,729	188	16,248	233

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.9
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and census metropolitan area, 2016

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1, 2}	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	28	153	29	153	57	153
Halifax	92	258	67	176	159	216
Moncton	59	425	29	192	88	304
Saint John	20	167	22	175	42	171
Saguenay	75	551	43	301	118	423
Québec	207	307	183	261	390	283
Sherbrooke	45	263	28	153	73	206
Trois-Rivières	58	481	57	439	115	459
Montréal	1,134	297	846	212	1,980	254
Gatineau ³	110	334	75	217	185	274
Ottawa ⁴	112	116	76	76	188	96
Kingston	39	285	23	159	62	221
Peterborough	18	174	12	111	30	141
Toronto ⁵	847	162	761	138	1,608	150
Hamilton ⁶	129	253	83	152	212	200
St. Catharines–Niagara	94	239	35	85	129	160
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	124	223	71	123	195	172
Brantford	30	215	22	152	52	183
Guelph	19	152	22	163	41	158
London	59	123	61	120	120	122
Windsor	52	177	27	87	79	130
Barrie	40	179	34	145	74	162
Greater Sudbury	36	250	19	123	55	184
Thunder Bay	25	247	18	172	43	209
Winnipeg	197	252	145	177	342	214
Regina	66	256	38	140	104	196
Saskatoon	101	308	71	205	172	255
Calgary	245	161	195	122	440	141
Edmonton	285	205	229	157	514	180
Kelowna	34	215	14	83	48	147
Abbotsford–Mission	48	245	21	99	69	169
Vancouver	309	142	227	98	536	119
Victoria	55	196	50	173	105	184
CMAs total⁷	4,968	208	3,741	149	8,709	178
Non-CMAs total	4,551	448	2,988	279	7,539	361
Canada	9,519	280	6,729	188	16,248	233

1. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMAs, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

2. CMAs populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMAs boundaries.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa–Gatineau CMAs.

4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMAs.

5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMAs of Toronto.

6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMAs of Hamilton.

7. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMAs. Because of these inclusions, the CMAs total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.10
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence for selected violent violations, by sex of victim and type of violation, Canada, 2009 to 2016

Type of violation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percent change of rate from 2011 to 2016		
	rate						number	rate	number	rate	percent
Female victims											
Physical assault	160	163	162	154	142	134	4,330	129	4,289	127	-22
Common assault (level 1) ¹	133	134	134	125	114	108	3,496	104	3,409	101	-25
Major assault (levels 2 and 3) ²	27	29	28	29	28	26	834	25	880	26	-7
Sexual assault	98	102	94	93	87	87	2,520	75	1,969	58	-38
Sexual assault (level 1) ³	97	101	94	92	86	86	2,496	75	1,941	57	-39
Sexual assault (levels 2 and 3) ⁴	1	1	1	1	1	1	24	1	28	1	20
Male victims											
Physical assault	150	151	151	143	135	131	4,670	132	4,769	134	-11
Common assault (level 1) ¹	121	119	119	114	106	104	3,625	103	3,729	105	-12
Major assault (levels 2 and 3) ²	29	31	32	29	28	27	1,045	30	1,040	29	-9
Sexual assault	24	23	21	24	20	19	618	18	517	15	-31
Sexual assault (level 1) ³	24	23	21	24	20	19	611	17	510	14	-31
Sexual assault (levels 2 and 3) ⁴	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	7	0.2	7	0.2	-37
Total victims											
Physical assault	155	157	156	148	138	133	9,000	131	9,058	131	-17
Common assault (level 1) ¹	127	127	126	119	110	106	7,121	104	7,138	103	-18
Major assault (levels 2 and 3) ²	28	30	30	29	28	26	1,879	27	1,920	28	-8
Sexual assault	60	61	57	58	53	52	3,138	46	2,486	36	-37
Sexual assault (level 1) ³	60	61	56	57	52	52	3,107	45	2,451	35	-37
Sexual assault (levels 2 and 3) ⁴	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.4	1	31	0.5	35	1	2

1. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
 2. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
 3. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim.
 4. Level 2 sexual assault includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm and level 3 sexual assault includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim.
Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database represents 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 4.11
Accused of police-reported family violence against children and youth (0 to 17 years), by sex of accused and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2016

Relationship of accused to victim	Female accused			Male accused			Total accused		
	number	percent	rate	number	percent	rate	number	percent	rate
Parent ¹	1,147	69	6	2,610	49	15	3,757	54	10
Sibling ²	210	13	1	1,130	21	6	1,340	19	4
Other family ³	294	18	2	1,358	25	8	1,652	24	5
Spouse ⁴	22	1	0.1	239	4	1	261	4	1
Total	1,673	100	9	5,337	100	30	7,010	100	20

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.
 2. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
 3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws. Also includes a small proportion of family violence accused where the relationship of accused to victim was miscoded.
 4. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
Note: Includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Children and youth refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes accused aged 90 years and older, and accused and victims of spousal violence under the age of 15 years. Excludes accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of accused and victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.12
Accused of police-reported family violence against children and youth (0 to 17 years), by age group of accused, sex of accused and type of clearance status, Canada, 2016

Type of clearance status	Age group of accused											
	17 years and younger			18 to 44 years			45 to 64 years			65 years and older		
	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused
	percent											
Cleared by charge	29	45	42	42	60	55	34	58	53	39	65	62
Cleared otherwise	71	55	58	58	40	45	66	42	47	61	35	38
Complainant declined that charge(s) be laid	18	13	14	17	14	15	28	16	18	17	9	10
Reasons beyond the control of department	3	6	5	13	13	13	12	12	12	0	14	13
Departmental discretion	34	22	23	27	11	16	25	12	14	39	8	12
Other ¹	16	15	15	1	2	1	1	2	2	6	3	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	number											
Total	179	1,080	1,259	1,216	3,076	4,292	260	1,048	1,308	18	133	151

1. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incident cleared by a lesser statute, and incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.

Note: Includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Children and youth refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes accused aged 90 years and older, and accused and victims of spousal violence under the age of 15 years. Excludes accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of accused and victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.13
Accused of family-related homicide against children and youth (0 to 17 years), by age group of accused, sex of accused and type of motive, Canada, 2006 to 2016

Type of motive	Age group of accused											
	17 years and younger			18 to 44 years			45 to 64 years			65 years and older		
	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused
	percent											
Frustration, anger or despair	40	47	45	65	66	66	88	41	51	0	100	100
Argument or quarrel	20	18	18	4	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concealment ¹	40	0	9	16	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jealousy	0	6	5	0	7	5	0	10	8	0	0	0
Revenge	0	6	5	4	3	3	0	14	11	0	0	0
Other ²	0	0	0	1	5	4	0	28	22	0	0	0
No apparent motive ³	0	24	18	9	9	9	13	7	8	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	100
	number											
Total	5	17	22	89	150	239	8	29	37	0	5	5

1. Includes homicides committed to hide evidence of something (e.g., a pregnancy or birth of a child) or evidence of another criminal offence. This is the most common motive for infanticides.

2. Includes financial gain, mercy killing and sexual violence.

3. Includes mental illness and dementia.

Note: Family-related homicide refers to homicides committed by parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Children and youth refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown motives. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Section 5: Police-reported family violence against seniors

by Shana Conroy

Abuse of seniors, defined as “a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action...which causes harm or distress to an older person,” (World Health Organization 2002) can take on many forms, including neglect and physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse (Department of Justice n.d.; Public Health Agency of Canada 2016). There can be serious psychological and physical implications for victims, such as anxiety, depression, isolation, stroke, heart attack, over- or under-medicating, and death (Royal Canadian Mounted Police n.d.). Further, as seniors continue to age, their activity outside the home could decrease over time and increase the likelihood that violence against seniors will remain undetected.

Family violence against seniors, where the perpetrator is a family member or relative and there is an expected relationship of trust, can have especially serious consequences for victims (Government of Canada n.d.). Senior abuse is best detected by those who interact with seniors and are familiar with what is typical for any given individual; thus, family violence against seniors may go unnoticed by members of the public or the police. In some instances, a family member may even limit or control contact with other family and friends, further increasing the senior victim’s isolation and vulnerability. Shared living environments can also increase the risk for senior abuse. The reliance of seniors on others (particularly due to illness or impairment) for living arrangements and caregiving may create stressful conditions for family members (Public Health Agency of Canada 2016). Violence against seniors may reflect an ongoing pattern of abuse, and different types of abuse may happen at the same time (Department of Justice n.d.).

Using data from the 2016 Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the 2016 Homicide Survey, this section presents information on police-reported family violence against seniors aged 65 and older.¹ The following analysis highlights the prevalence of violent offences against seniors where the perpetrator is a family member. The information includes type of offence, relationship to the perpetrator and geographic location. Trend analysis of selected police-reported violent offences against seniors is also presented to indicate changes over time. For the first time in 2016, this section also includes an analysis of persons accused of family violence against seniors. Information on the sex and age of those accused of family-related violent crime provides insight into the dynamics underpinning violent family contexts.

This section includes all types of violent offences under the *Criminal Code* that were reported to the police in 2016, ranging from uttering threats to physical and sexual violence to homicide. Non-violent crimes such as theft and fraud, abuses unsubstantiated by police, and other forms of conduct not covered by the *Criminal Code* are not included in this section. In addition, analysis based on the Homicide Survey excludes homicides that have not been solved by police.

Unless otherwise specified, all rates in this section are per 100,000 population. Information on data sources, survey methodology and definitions can be found in the “Survey description” section of this report.

One in three senior victims of police-reported violent crime victimized by a family member

- In 2016, more than 10,300² seniors (65 years and older) were victims of police-reported violent crime in Canada. Of these victims, one-third (34%) were victimized by a family member such as their child, spouse, sibling or another type of family member (a rate of 62 per 100,000 population) (Table 5.1).
- Six in ten (58%) senior victims of family violence were female, with a rate 19% higher than that of male seniors (67 versus 56) (Table 5.1).
- Overall, senior victims of police-reported family violence were most likely to have been victimized by their child (32%), a spouse (27%) or another type of family member (other than their child, spouse or sibling) (29%) (Table 5.1).
- Among female senior victims of family violence, one-third (33%) were victimized by a spouse, followed by their child (31%) and another type of family member (26%). Among male senior victims of family violence, their child (34%) and another type of family member (33%) were the most common perpetrators (Table 5.1).
- More than half (55%) of senior victims of police-reported family violence saw the incidents in which they were victimized cleared³ by the laying or recommendation of a charge against the accused. For another 31% of senior family violence victims, incidents were cleared by other means, such as a complainant declining to lay a charge (18%). The remaining 14% of victims were involved in incidents that were not cleared (Table 5.2).

Text box 1**Demographic changes and self-reported violent victimization of seniors**

According to population estimates, seniors aged 65 and older represent approximately 17% of the total Canadian population (Statistics Canada 2017a) and are a demographic group that is rapidly growing (Brennan 2012). According to the 2016 Census, the population aged 65 and older exceeded that of young people under age 15: 5.8 million children aged 14 and younger were recorded compared to 5.9 million seniors (16.6% versus 16.9% of the total population). This demographic shift is largely the result of increased life expectancy and continuous low fertility rates (Statistics Canada 2017b).

As the senior population in Canada continues to expand, senior abuse has emerged as an increasingly important issue: while an estimated 4% to 10% of seniors experience abuse, only 20% of incidents are reported to someone who is able to help (Public Health Agency of Canada n.d.). Certain challenges are more common to the senior population, such as language and cultural barriers, physical and mental conditions, transportation limitations, and inexperience with or limited access to technology (Government of Canada 2014). These challenges may inhibit the ability of seniors to access the justice system and related services.

While this section provides important contextual information on the incidence of family violence, the true extent of offences against seniors in Canada may be underestimated since the police-reported data presented here include only incidents of violence that have come to the attention of police and that are covered by the *Criminal Code*.

Another important source of information on crime in Canada is the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization). The GSS on Victimization collects self-reported information from those aged 15 and older on their experiences of victimization, whether the incidents were reported to the police or not. In 2014, the overall violent victimization rate—including incidents of physical assault, sexual assault and robbery that occurred in the 12 months that preceded the survey—for Canadians aged 15 and older was 77 per 1,000 population. Meanwhile, the overall violent victimization rate of seniors was significantly lower (13^E), and it was higher for female seniors than male seniors (14^E versus 11^E).

Physical force used against six in ten senior victims of police-reported family violence

- Common assault (level 1) was the most frequently reported form of family violence against seniors in 2016. This type of offence was experienced by more than half (54%) of seniors victimized by a family member, followed by uttering threats (19%), major assault (levels 2 and 3) (15%) and criminal harassment (4%) (Table 5.3).
- Most senior victims of police-reported family violence were victimized with physical force such as pushing or hitting (59%) and threats (22%). A weapon was present in family violence against 18% of senior victims. When a weapon was present, a knife or other piercing instrument (6%) was the most commonly used, while a firearm was the least common (1%) (Table 5.4).
- Two out of five (40%) senior victims of police-reported family violence sustained injuries: 37% sustained minor physical injuries that required no professional medical treatment, and 3% sustained major physical injuries that required professional medical attention or that resulted in death. Of the 110 seniors who sustained major physical injuries, half (49%) were female and half (51%) were male (Table 5.4).

Police-reported family violence against seniors highest in Moncton and Montréal, lowest in St. Catharines–Niagara

- In 2016, as with family violence overall, the territories had the highest rates of police-reported family violence against seniors in Canada. Nunavut (1,860 per 100,000 population) was the territory with the highest rate of family violence against seniors, 30 times the national rate (62), followed by the Northwest Territories (1,173) and Yukon (353). Newfoundland and Labrador (91) and Saskatchewan (89) were the provinces with the highest rates of family violence against seniors, while Prince Edward Island (37) and Ontario (45) had the lowest (Table 5.5).
- Female seniors had higher rates of family violence victimization in the majority of the provinces and territories. The largest difference between females and males was noted in the Yukon, where female seniors had a rate of victimization that was nearly three times higher than their male counterparts (536 versus 182). The opposite was true in Prince Edward Island, where male seniors were nearly three times as likely to have been a victim of family violence compared to female seniors (56 versus 21), and in Nunavut where male seniors had a rate that was twice as high as female seniors (2,490 versus 1,235) (Table 5.5).
- Overall, the rate of family violence against seniors living in Canada's largest cities (census metropolitan areas or CMAs) (53) was lower than for those living in non-CMAs (78) (Table 5.6).

- Of the CMAs, Moncton (86), Montréal (77) and Saint John (71) had the highest rates of police-reported family violence against seniors. The lowest rates were reported in St. Catharines–Niagara (23), Greater Sudbury (28) and Ottawa (30). Several other CMAs (Windsor, Thunder Bay, Regina, Halifax and Guelph) had rates that were approximately half that of the national rate (Table 5.6).
- In general, the rate of family violence for female seniors compared to male seniors was higher across the CMAs; however, there were some exceptions. Seven CMAs had a higher rate of family violence against male seniors: St. John's, Moncton, Brantford, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Greater Sudbury and Barrie (Table 5.6).

Female seniors of family-related homicide most commonly killed by a spouse, male seniors by their child

- In 2016, police-reported physical assault was the most common form of family violence against seniors (a rate of 43 per 100,000 population). For female seniors, the rate of family-related physical assault increased by 3% from 2011 to a rate of 45 in 2016, and the rate against male seniors increased by 15% from 2011 to a rate of 39 in 2016 (Table 5.7).
- In 2016, the rate of family-related homicide against seniors was 10% higher than the rate recorded in 1986 (4.6 versus 4.1 per 1 million population) (Table 5.8).
- According to police records, between 2006 and 2016, there were a total of 188 senior victims of family-related homicide. Nearly half (45%) of these victims were killed by their child and one-third (35%) were killed by a spouse (Table 5.9).
- Over six in ten (62%) senior victims of family-related homicides between 2006 and 2016 were women. Among female victims, a spouse was most often the perpetrator (50%) compared to 8% of male victims, while among male victims, their child was most often the perpetrator (63%) compared to 33% of female victims (Table 5.9).
- Over the past decade, arguments or quarrels (35%) and feelings of frustration, anger or despair (34%) were the most commonly reported motives for family-related homicides against seniors. Frustration, anger or despair was more common for homicides where the victim was a female senior (38%) than a male senior (28%), while an argument or quarrel was more common where the victim was a male senior (45%) than a female senior (29%) (Table 5.10).

Nine in ten persons accused of family-related homicide against seniors are male

- In 2016, one-third (34%) of those accused of police-reported family violence⁴ against seniors were a spouse to their victim, while 30% were their child and 26% were another type of family member (other than their child, spouse or sibling). Nearly three-quarters (73%) of accused were male, and relationship types were similar for female and male accused (Table 5.11).
- Incidents of family violence against seniors were more commonly cleared by charge where the accused was male, regardless of age group. The largest difference was for accused aged 65 years and older, where 65% of male accused were cleared by charge compared to 49% of female accused (Table 5.12).
- Between 2006 and 2016, senior victims of family-related homicide were most commonly killed by an adult aged 18 to 44 years (41%), while smaller proportions were killed by someone aged 65 years and older (31%) or someone aged 45 to 64 years (27%). Nine in ten (90%) of all accused were male. Motives varied by age group of accused persons; however, an argument or quarrel, and frustration, anger or despair, were common in general (Table 5.13).

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Notes

^E use with caution

1. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
2. Numbers in text and tables may not add up to totals due to rounding.
3. Police can respond to a family violence incident in one of three ways: charge the accused, clear the incident in another way (e.g., through departmental discretion, reasons beyond the control of police department, or complainant declined that charge(s) be laid), or not clear the incident because of insufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident. For incidents that involve multiple victims, a single clearance status is recorded in relation to each victim in the incident. For instance, if charges are laid in relation to a violation against one of the victims, the clearance status for all victims will be 'charged.' Thus, under- or over-counts are possible with respect to clearance status, and this may affect the 26% of family violence incidents that involve more than one victim or accused person.
4. For the purposes of analysis, includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents. For this reason, numbers pertaining to accused will not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Detailed data tables

Table 5.1
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by sex of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2016

Relationship of accused to victim	Female victims			Male victims			Total victims		
	number	percent	rate	number	percent	rate	number	percent	rate
Family	2,036	44	67	1,475	26	56	3,511	34	62
Child ¹	622	13	20	502	9	19	1,124	11	20
Spouse ²	668	14	22	295	5	11	963	9	17
Sibling ³	222	5	7	190	3	7	412	4	7
Other family ⁴	524	11	17	488	9	19	1,012	10	18
Non-family	1,749	38	57	2,510	44	95	4,259	41	75
Casual acquaintance ⁵	885	19	29	1,238	22	47	2,123	21	37
Neighbour	394	8	13	559	10	21	953	9	17
Business relationship	131	3	4	308	5	12	439	4	8
Dating partner ⁶	173	4	6	144	3	5	317	3	6
Friend ⁷	166	4	5	261	5	10	427	4	8
Stranger	853	18	28	1,689	30	64	2,542	25	45
Unknown	4	...	...	12	...	...	16	...	...
Total	4,642	100	152	5,686	100	216	10,328	100	182

... not applicable

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.

2. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.

3. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws.

5. Includes criminal relationships, authority figures and reverse authority figures.

6. Includes current and former girlfriends/boyfriends and other intimate partners.

7. Includes roommates, which was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding victims where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.2
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of clearance status, Canada, 2016

Type of clearance status ¹	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Not cleared ²	304	15	197	13	501	14
Cleared by charge	1,123	55	797	54	1,920	55
Cleared otherwise	609	30	481	33	1,090	31
Complainant declined that charge(s) be laid	343	17	304	21	647	18
Reasons beyond the control of department	79	4	51	3	130	4
Departmental discretion	158	8	109	7	267	8
Other ³	29	1	17	1	46	1
Total	2,036	100	1,475	100	3,511	100

1. For incidents that involve multiple victims, a single clearance status is recorded in relation to each victim in the incident. For instance, if charges are laid in relation to a violation against one of the victims, the clearance status for all victims will be 'charged.' Thus, under- or over-counts are possible with respect to clearance status, and this may affect the 26% of family violence incidents that involve more than one victim or accused person.

2. Includes incidents where an accused person has been identified in connection with the incident, but where there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge or to clear the incident through other means.

3. Includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incident cleared by a lesser statute, and incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.3
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of violation, Canada, 2016

Type of violation	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Violations causing death ¹	17	1	9	1	26	1
Attempted murder ²	4	0.2	8	1	12	0.3
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) ³	20	1	2	0.1	22	1
Physical assault	1,386	68	1,044	71	2,430	69
Major assault (levels 2 and 3) ⁴	241	12	275	19	516	15
Common assault (level 1) ⁵	1,137	56	765	52	1,902	54
Other assaults ⁶	8	0.4	4	0.3	12	0.3
Robbery	13	1	9	1	22	1
Extortion	27	1	22	1	49	1
Criminal harassment	95	5	47	3	142	4
Uttering threats	363	18	287	19	650	19
Indecent or harassing communications	53	3	25	2	78	2
Other violent violations ⁷	58	3	22	1	80	2
Total	2,036	100	1,475	100	3,511	100

1. Violations causing death include first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death, and other related violations causing death.

2. Attempted murder includes conspiracy to commit murder.

3. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim.

4. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

5. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

6. Other assaults include criminal negligence causing bodily harm, pointing a firearm, unlawfully causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence and other assaults.

7. Other violent violations include forcible confinement, intimidation of a non-justice system participant, arson (disregard for human life), kidnapping and other violations against the person. Sexual offences—excluding sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3—are also included under other violent violations.

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.4
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim, type of weapon present and level of injury, Canada, 2016

Type of weapon present and level of injury	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Threats (no weapon) ¹	437	23	298	21	735	22
Physical force	1,150	61	805	57	1,955	59
Weapon	303	16	302	21	605	18
Firearm	19	1	21	1	40	1
Knife or other piercing instrument ²	105	6	102	7	207	6
Club or other blunt instrument	42	2	47	3	89	3
Other weapon ³	137	7	132	9	269	8
Unknown	146	...	70	...	216	...
Total type of weapon present	2,036	100	1,475	100	3,511	100
No injury ⁴	1,196	61	814	57	2,010	60
Minor physical injury ⁵	696	36	550	39	1,246	37
Major physical injury or death ⁶	54	3	56	4	110	3
Unknown	90	...	55	...	145	...
Total level of injury	2,036	100	1,475	100	3,511	100

... not applicable

1. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.

2. Includes other piercing/cutting instruments, such as hatchets, razor blades and arrows.

3. Includes other types of weapons such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, poison and weapons not otherwise classified.

4. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.

5. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

6. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility, or injuries that resulted in death.

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon and unknown level of injury. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.5
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and province or territory, 2016

Province or territory	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	40	80	46	104	86	91
Prince Edward Island	3	21	7	56	10	37
Nova Scotia	61	65	45	55	106	60
New Brunswick	62	82	48	73	110	78
Quebec	575	74	395	60	970	68
Ontario	591	50	386	39	977	45
Manitoba	80	82	73	86	153	84
Saskatchewan	71	83	71	96	142	89
Alberta	225	87	184	81	409	84
British Columbia	289	69	181	47	470	58
Yukon	11	536	4	182	15	353
Northwest Territories	19	1,203	17	1,141	36	1,173
Nunavut	9	1,235	18	2,490	27	1,860
Canada	2,036	67	1,475	56	3,511	62

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.6
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and census metropolitan area, 2016

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1, 2}	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	7	43	11	83	18	61
Halifax	13	39	7	25	20	33
Moncton	10	72	12	103	22	86
Saint John	12	103	3	31	15	71
Saguenay	10	56	7	45	17	51
Québec	56	69	22	34	78	53
Sherbrooke	10	49	7	42	17	46
Trois-Rivières	9	49	5	33	14	42
Montréal	272	79	206	74	478	77
Gatineau ³	14	59	8	40	22	50
Ottawa ⁴	19	24	24	37	43	30
Kingston	8	51	4	31	12	42
Peterborough	5	36	4	35	9	36
Toronto ⁵	252	60	161	46	413	54
Hamilton ⁶	21	43	13	33	34	39
St. Catharines–Niagara	12	24	9	22	21	23
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	20	49	9	26	29	39
Brantford	7	58	8	79	15	67
Guelph	5	49	1	13	6	33
London	18	40	11	30	29	36
Windsor	11	41	5	22	16	32
Barrie	6	38	5	40	11	39
Greater Sudbury	4	26	4	31	8	28
Thunder Bay	5	42	2	20	7	32
Winnipeg	21	34	20	40	41	37
Regina	7	41	3	22	10	33
Saskatoon	11	55	6	37	17	47
Calgary	60	74	43	61	103	68
Edmonton	60	70	40	55	100	63
Kelowna	13	63	5	27	18	46
Abbotsford–Mission	11	76	4	31	15	54
Vancouver	118	59	82	47	200	54
Victoria	31	81	12	36	43	60
CMA total⁷	1,174	58	783	47	1,957	53
Non-CMA total	862	83	692	73	1,554	78
Canada	2,036	67	1,475	56	3,511	62

1. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.

6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.

7. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.7
Senior victims of police-reported family-related physical assault, by sex of victim, Canada, 2009 to 2016

Year	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
2009	997	41	729	37	1,726	39
2010	1,142	46	711	35	1,853	41
2011	1,132	44	729	34	1,861	40
2012	1,195	45	767	34	1,962	40
2013	1,164	42	825	35	1,989	39
2014	1,271	44	910	37	2,181	41
2015	1,347	46	931	37	2,278	42
2016	1,379	45	1,031	39	2,410	43

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family-related physical assault refers to physical assault committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which includes data from 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 5.8
Senior victims of family-related homicide, by sex of victim, Canada, 1986 to 2016

Year	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
1986	5	3.3	6	5.3	11	4.1
1987	17	10.7	11	9.4	28	10.1
1988	7	4.3	5	4.2	12	4.2
1989	8	4.7	5	4.0	13	4.4
1990	14	8.0	8	6.2	22	7.3
1991	9	5.0	5	3.8	14	4.5
1992	5	2.7	1	0.7	6	1.9
1993	4	2.1	1	0.7	5	1.5
1994	5	2.6	7	4.9	12	3.6
1995	5	2.6	4	2.8	9	2.6
1996	10	5.0	7	4.7	17	4.9
1997	9	4.5	8	5.3	17	4.8
1998	7	3.4	8	5.1	15	4.2
1999	9	4.3	7	4.4	16	4.4
2000	7	3.3	3	1.9	10	2.7
2001	12	5.6	7	4.2	19	5.0
2002	17	7.8	7	4.2	24	6.2
2003	7	3.2	5	2.9	12	3.1
2004	14	6.3	5	2.9	19	4.8
2005	15	6.6	8	4.5	23	5.7
2006	10	4.3	5	2.7	15	3.6
2007	12	5.1	6	3.2	18	4.2
2008	6	2.5	6	3.1	12	2.8
2009	6	2.4	2	1.0	8	1.8
2010	11	4.4	4	1.9	15	3.3
2011	12	4.6	5	2.3	17	3.6
2012	12	4.5	5	2.2	17	3.4
2013	7	2.5	10	4.3	17	3.3
2014	11	3.8	9	3.7	20	3.8
2015	12	4.0	11	4.3	23	4.2
2016	18	5.9	8	3.0	26	4.6

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 1 million population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Family-related homicide refers to homicide committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Senior victims refer to those aged 65 years and older. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 5.9
Senior victims of family-related homicide, by sex of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2006 to 2016

Relationship of accused to victim	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Child ¹	39	33	45	63	84	45
Spouse ²	59	50	6	8	65	35
Sibling ³	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other family ⁴	19	16	20	28	39	21
Total	117	100	71	100	188	100

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.

2. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.

3. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws.

Note: Family-related homicide refers to homicide committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Senior victims refer to those aged 65 years and older. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 5.10
Senior victims of family-related homicide, by sex of victim and type of motive, Canada, 2006 to 2016

Type of motive	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Argument or quarrel	30	29	29	45	59	35
Frustration, anger or despair	40	38	18	28	58	34
Mercy killing or assisted suicide	10	10	1	2	11	7
Financial gain ¹	3	3	3	5	6	4
Jealousy	5	5	0	0	5	3
Revenge	1	1	3	5	4	2
Other ²	2	2	2	3	4	2
No apparent motive ³	13	13	9	14	22	13
Unknown	13	...	6	...	19	...
Total	117	100	71	100	188	100

... not applicable

1. Includes homicides committed to obtain insurance monies or inheritances.

2. Includes fear of apprehension, sexual violence, personal protection, and settling of gang or drug-related accounts.

3. Includes mental illness and dementia.

Note: Family-related homicide refers to homicide committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Senior victims refer to those aged 65 years and older. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown motives. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 5.11
Accused of police-reported violence against seniors, by sex of accused and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2016

Relationship of accused to victim	Female accused			Male accused			Total accused		
	number	percent	rate	number	percent	rate	number	percent	rate
Family	595	42	3	1,646	39	9	2,241	40	6
Child ¹	157	11	1	507	12	3	664	12	2
Spouse ²	224	16	1	540	13	3	764	14	2
Sibling ³	63	4	0.3	173	4	1	236	4	1
Other family ⁴	151	11	1	426	10	2	577	10	2
Non-family	813	58	5	2,545	61	14	3,358	60	9
Casual acquaintance ⁵	301	21	2	891	21	5	1,192	21	3
Neighbour	131	9	1	433	10	2	564	10	2
Business relationship	46	3	0.3	182	4	1	228	4	1
Dating partner ⁶	85	6	0.5	151	4	1	236	4	1
Friend ⁷	91	6	0.5	191	5	1	282	5	1
Stranger	159	11	1	697	17	4	856	15	2
Unknown	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...
Total	1,408	100	8	4,191	100	23	5,599	100	16

... not applicable

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.

2. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.

3. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws. Also includes a small proportion of family violence accused where the relationship of accused to victim was miscoded.

5. Includes criminal relationships, authority figures and reverse authority figures.

6. Includes current and former girlfriends/boyfriends and other intimate partners.

7. Includes roommates, which was added as a relationship category beginning in 2013.

Note: Includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Seniors refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Accused and victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding accused where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.12
Accused of police-reported family violence against seniors, by age group of accused, sex of accused and type of clearance status, Canada, 2016

Type of clearance status	Age group of accused											
	17 years and younger			18 to 44 years			45 to 64 years			65 years and older		
	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused
	percent											
Cleared by charge	38	42	41	47	58	55	58	66	63	49	65	62
Cleared otherwise	63	58	59	53	42	45	42	34	37	51	35	38
Complainant declined that charge(s) be laid	31	13	17	40	31	33	26	22	23	14	13	13
Reasons beyond the control of department	0	2	2	4	2	3	5	4	4	12	9	10
Departmental discretion	25	38	34	7	8	8	10	6	8	24	11	13
Other ¹	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	number											
Total	16	48	64	239	651	890	230	462	692	110	485	595

1. Includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incident cleared by a lesser statute, and incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.

Note: Includes incidents with a single accused and a single victim. In 2016, 74% of family violence incidents involved a single accused and a single victim, compared to 62% of non-family violence incidents. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Seniors refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Accused and victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.13
Accused of family-related homicide against seniors, by age group of accused, sex of accused and type of motive, Canada, 2006 to 2016

Type of motive	Age group of accused											
	17 years and younger			18 to 44 years			45 to 64 years			65 years and older		
	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused	Female accused	Male accused	Total accused
	percent											
Argument or quarrel	0	100	100	20	39	38	56	43	46	50	20	21
Frustration, anger or despair	0	0	0	20	36	35	11	27	24	0	45	43
Mercy killing or assisted suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	5	7	0	16	15
Financial gain ¹	0	0	0	0	5	4	11	3	4	0	2	2
Jealousy	0	0	0	20	0	1	0	3	2	0	6	6
Revenge	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	3	2	0	0	0
Other ²	0	0	0	0	2	1	11	0	2	50	2	4
No apparent motive ³	0	0	0	40	14	16	0	16	13	0	10	9
Total	0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	number											
Total	0	1	1	7	71	78	9	41	50	2	57	59

1. Includes homicides committed to obtain insurance monies or inheritances.

2. Includes fear of apprehension, sexual violence, personal protection and settling of gang or drug-related accounts.

3. Includes mental illness and dementia.

Note: Family-related homicide refers to homicide committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Seniors refer to those aged 65 years and older. Excludes victims of unsolved homicides, and accused and victims where the sex or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown motives. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Survey description

General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization)

This report is based on Cycle 28 of the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) conducted in 2014. In 2014, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the GSS for the sixth time. Previous cycles were conducted in the Canadian provinces in 1988, 1993, 1999, 2004 and 2009. The 2014 survey on victimization was also conducted in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut using a different sampling design. The GSS on Victimization had also been conducted in the territories in 2009 and was preceded by test collections in 1999 and 2004.

The purpose of the survey is to provide data on Canadians' personal experiences with eight offences, examine the risk factors associated with victimization, examine rates of reporting to the police, assess the nature and extent of spousal violence, measure fear of crime, and examine public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. The target population was persons aged 15 and older living in the Canadian provinces and territories.

Once a household was selected and contacted by phone, an individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey. An oversample of immigrants and youth was added to the 2014 GSS for a more detailed analysis of these groups.

In 2014, the provincial sample size was 33,127 respondents. Of that number, 2,787 were from the oversample. The territorial sample size was 2,040 respondents. In 2004, the sample included 23,766 respondents from the provinces only.

Data collection

Data collection differed between the provinces and territories. In the provinces, data collection took place from January to December 2014, inclusively. Responses were obtained by computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI). Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice.

In the territories, data collection took place from August 2014 to January 2015, inclusively. The method of collection was a mixture of telephone (CATI) and personal interviews (CAPI). Most cases started as CATI at the regional office and could be transferred to a CAPI interviewer depending on the community and collection constraints. Respondents were interviewed in the official language of their choice.

Response rates

In the provinces, the overall response rates were 53% in 2014 and 75% in 2004. Non-respondents included people who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian provinces population aged 15 and older.

In the territories in 2014, the overall response rate was 59%. Non-respondents included people who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized territories population aged 15 and older. In 2004, data were collected in the territories on a pilot basis only and are not available for analysis.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. This article uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Estimates with a high CV (over 33.3%) were not published because they were too unreliable. In these cases, the symbol "F" is used in place of an estimate in the figures and data tables. Estimates with a CV between 16.6 and 33.3 should be used with caution and the symbol "E" is used. Where descriptive statistics and cross-tabular analyses were used, statistically significant differences were determined using 95% confidence intervals.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationship) and accused persons (age, sex). In

2016, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada. The count for a particular year represents incidents reported in that year, regardless of when the incident actually occurred.

One incident can involve multiple offences. In order to ensure comparability, counts are generally presented based upon the most serious offence in the incident as determined by a standard classification rule used by all police services. Counts based on all violations are available upon request.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects detailed information on all homicides that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationship), and accused persons (age, sex). Coverage for the Homicide Survey has represented 100% of the population since recording began in 1961. The count for a particular year represents all homicides reported in that year, regardless of when the death actually occurred.

Definitions

Assault (physical): refers to three levels of physical assaults which include the following categories:

- **Common assault:** this includes the *Criminal Code* category assault (level 1). This is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching, and face-to-face verbal threats.
- **Major assault level 2:** this includes more serious forms of assault, i.e. assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and involves carrying, using or threatening to use a weapon against someone or causing someone bodily harm.
- **Major assault level 3:** this includes aggravated assault and involves wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of someone.
- **Other assaults:** includes pointing a firearm, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using firearm or imitation firearm in commission of offence, discharge firearm with intent, assault police officer, assault against peace officer with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault against peace officer, trap likely to or causing bodily harm, and other assaults.

Attempted murder: attempt by any means, including conspiracy, to commit murder.

Census metropolitan area (CMA): consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

Childhood maltreatment: physical and/or sexual abuse by someone aged 18 or older, and/or witnessing violence by a parent or guardian against another adult, before age 15.

Childhood physical abuse: one or more of the following experiences before age 15:

- Having been slapped or hit with something hard enough to have been hurt.
- Having been pushed, grabbed, or shoved.
- Having been kicked, bitten, punch, choked, burned or otherwise attacked.

Childhood sexual abuse: one or more of the following experiences before age 15:

- Having been touched, grabbed, kissed or fondled in a sexual way.
- Having been forced into unwanted sexual activity by being threatened, held down or hurt.

Criminal harassment: is defined as repeatedly following another person from place to place or repeatedly attempting to contact the person against their wishes causing that person to reasonably fear for their personal safety or the safety of anyone known to them.

Family and non-family: the nature of the relationship between the victim and the accused is determined by establishing the identity of the accused relative to the victim. Family members include spouses, children, siblings, parents or other persons related to the victim by blood, marriage or another legal relationship (e.g. adoption). All other relationships are considered to be non-family.

Homicide: includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide. Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide, accidental or justifiable homicides are not included in this classification.

Intimate partner violence: violence committed by spouses and dating partners, that is violence committed within an intimate relationship. In Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data, this category includes victims aged 15 to 89. In Homicide Survey and General Social Survey data, this category includes victims aged 15 and older.

Major injuries: are those that require professional medical treatment or immediate transportation to a medical facility.

Minor injuries: are defined as those that do not require professional medical treatment or only some first aid.

Non-intimate partner violence: violence committed by a family member (parent, child, other immediate or extended family

member), a friend, an acquaintance, an associate (in business or in a criminal relationship), an authority figure, a neighbour or a stranger. Includes victims under 90 years of age.

Older adults and seniors: are used interchangeably in this report and refer to Canadians aged 65 years and older. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of possible miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

Sexual assault: encompasses a wide range of criminal acts in the *Criminal Code*. Such conduct ranges from unwanted sexual touching to sexual violence resulting in serious physical injury or disfigurement to the victim. It also includes special categories of offences designed to protect children from sexual abuse:

- **Sexual assault level 1:** involves minor physical injuries or no injuries to the victim.
- **Sexual assault level 2:** includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats or causing bodily harm.
- **Aggravated sexual assault level 3:** this results in wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of the victim.
- **Sexual interference:** is the direct or indirect touching (for a sexual purpose) of a person under the age of 16 years using a part of the body or an object.
- **Invitation to sexual touching:** is the inviting, counselling, or inciting of a person under the age of 16 years to touch (for a sexual purpose) the body of any person directly or indirectly with a part of the body or with an object.
- **Sexual exploitation:** occurs when a person in a position of trust or authority towards a young person or a person with whom the young person is in a relationship of dependency, commits sexual interference or invitation to sexual touching. In this section “young person” refers to a person between 16 and 18 years of age.
- **Sexual exploitation of a person with a disability**
- **Incest:** occurs when an individual has sexual intercourse with a person that has a known defined blood relationship with them.
- **Anal intercourse**
- **Bestiality:** commit/compel/incite a person.
- **Corrupting children**
- **Making sexually explicit material available to children**
- **Luring a child via a computer**
- **Voyeurism**

Spousal violence: violence committed against a spouse (married or common-law) or an ex-spouse (from a marriage or common-law relationship).

Spouse: the husband or wife through marriage or common-law and includes same-sex partners. Where indicated, separated and/or divorced spouses are also included in this category. The separated or divorced category includes the former husband or wife (by marriage or by common law relationship) who is separated or divorced at the time of the criminal incident.

Stalking: repeated and unwanted attention that causes the victim to fear for their personal safety or for the safety of someone they know.