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Criminal Victimization in Canada, 1999

by Sandra Besserer and Catherine Trainor

HIGHLIGHTS

- Canada's victimization rate was virtually unchanged in 1999. According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) conducted by Statistics Canada, 25% of Canadians aged 15 and older were victims of at least one crime in the previous year, compared to a figure of 23% in 1993, when the victimization survey was last conducted. Of the eight crimes measured by the GSS, the rates for sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft and vandalism did not change significantly between 1993 and 1999. However, increased rates were observed for theft of personal property and theft of household property.
- Reporting to the police declined in 1999. For the eight GSS crime types, fewer than 4 in 10 incidents (37%) were reported to the police. This was down from 42% in 1993. The main reason that victims cited in 1999 for not reporting their incident was because it was "not important enough" (36% of unreported incidents). This same reason was given for 25% of unreported incidents in 1993.
- In all, 8.3 million victimization incidents were reported to the GSS in 1999. About one-half of these incidents involved a personal crime (sexual assault, robbery, assault or theft of personal property), while about one-third involved a household crime (break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property or vandalism). The remaining 15% of incidents could not be classified into one of these eight crime types.
- Overall, for the four personal crimes that were examined, the rates for men and women were very similar. Higher rates of victimization were reported by young people (15 to 24 years), urban dwellers, and those with household incomes under \$15,000.
- For the four household crimes, the rate of victimization was once again higher for urban residents. However, households with higher income (\$60,000+) had a higher rate than households with lower incomes. As well, the rate of household crime was highest for people living in a semi-detached, row house or duplex compared with an apartment or single home. Rates were higher for those who rented rather than owned their home.
- Victimization rates tended to be higher in western Canada. Among the ten provinces, British Columbia had the highest rates of both personal and household victimization in 1999, due partly to higher rates for theft of personal and household property. Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia had the lowest rates of personal victimization, while Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and New Brunswick had the lowest household victimization rates.
- The majority of Canadians believe that crime levels are stable. In 1999, 54% of the population believed that crime in their neighbourhood had stayed the same in the last five years. This was up considerably from the figure of 43% recorded by the 1993 GSS.
- The GSS results indicate that a large proportion of the population is satisfied with their personal safety and that this percentage is growing. In particular, 91% of Canadians reported being very or somewhat satisfied with their personal safety in 1999, an improvement from 86% in 1993. Additionally, people felt safer in a variety of situations, such as when home alone, walking alone or using public transportation alone after dark.
- Canadians are quite satisfied with the job being done by their local police. They are far less satisfied with the performance of the criminal courts, the prison and the parole systems.



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Introduction

In 1999, as part of its General Social Survey program, Statistics Canada conducted a survey on victimization and public perceptions of crime and the justice system. It was the third time that the General Social Survey (GSS) had examined victimization – previous surveys were conducted in 1993 and 1988.

For the 1999 survey, interviews were conducted by telephone with approximately 26,000 people, aged 15 and older, living in the 10 provinces.¹ Respondents were asked for their opinions concerning the level of crime in their neighbourhood, their fear of crime and their views concerning the performance of the justice system. They were also asked about their experiences with criminal victimization. Those respondents who had been victims of a crime in the previous 12 months were asked for detailed information on each incident, including when and where it occurred; whether the incident was reported to the police; and how they were affected by the experience.

This *Juristat* will present an overview of the findings of the 1999 General Social Survey and, where possible, make comparisons to results from 1993 and 1988. Survey results pertaining to the issue of spousal violence are examined in the year 2000 edition of the report *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*.² Other reports analyzing results from the 1999 GSS will be released over the next few months. A future edition of *Juristat* will provide an analysis of the 1999 GSS data on public perceptions of crime and the justice system, while a second report will provide a more in-depth profile of victimization in Canada.

Survey enhancements

One of the main objectives of the GSS program is to track social changes, such as crime, over time. Repeating a survey allows for the examination of these changes. However, there is always the dilemma about whether to make improvements to questions based on knowledge gained from the previous survey, or whether to use identical questions to ensure comparability. Two major enhancements were made to the 1999 GSS: the addition of a spousal violence module and a change to the definition of assault.

As in the past, the 1999 survey measured the occurrence of eight specific offences: sexual assault, robbery, assault, theft of personal property, break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property and vandalism. The first four offences are categorized as personal crimes and the last four, as household crimes (see Box 1). Unlike the 1993 survey, the 1999 survey also asked respondents who had ever been married or lived in a common-law relationship a series of questions to measure the extent of sexual and physical assault by a current or former spouse/partner during the previous five years. This was a major improvement over the previous survey that included only general physical and sexual assault questions and simply reminded respondents to include acts by family and non-family members. Research has shown that for sensitive issues such as spousal violence, respondents are more likely to disclose violence if they are asked a series of questions about specific acts that their spouse/partner may have done to them.

The second change to the 1999 GSS concerns the definition of assault. For the 1993 survey, all threats, including those that were not face-to-face, were included in the definition of assault. In order to be consistent with the *Criminal Code* definition of assault, only face-to-face threats were included in 1999. This modification also affects the definition of robbery, which is an assault or attempted assault involving the theft of property.

Clearly the addition of the module on spousal violence and the more accurate definition of assault in the 1999 survey, are improvements. These changes, however, do affect comparability with the previous surveys. In making comparisons to the

¹ See *Methodology* section for more details.

² See *Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE*.

Box 1: Offence types

The 1999 GSS measured the incidence of victimization for eight offence types, based on the *Criminal Code* definitions for these crimes. Sexual assault, robbery, and assault are classified as violent crimes. These three offences combined with theft of personal property form the personal crime category. The remaining four offences are considered household crimes. For personal crimes, it is an individual who is victimized, while for household crimes, it is typically all the members of the household. Rates of personal offences are therefore calculated per 1,000 persons aged 15 and older, while rates of household offences are expressed per 1,000 households.

Incidents involving more than one type of offence, for example a robbery and an assault, are classified according to the most serious offence. The rank of offences from most to least serious is: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of personal property, theft of household property and vandalism. Incidents are classified based on the respondent's answers to a series of questions. For example, did anyone threaten you with physical harm in any way? How were you threatened?

Crime category	Offence	Description
Personal crimes	Theft of personal property	Theft or attempted theft of personal property such as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet. (Unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim.)
	Violent crimes	
	Sexual assault	Forced sexual activity, an attempt at forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling.
	Robbery	Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator had a weapon or there was violence or the threat of violence against the victim.
	Assault	An attack (victim hit, slapped, grabbed, knocked down, or beaten), a face-to-face threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present.
Household crimes	Break and enter	Illegal entry or attempted entry into a residence or other building on the victim's property.
	Motor vehicle/parts theft	Theft or attempted theft of a car, truck, van, motorcycle, moped or other vehicle or part of a motor vehicle.
	Theft of household property	Theft or attempted theft of household property such as liquor, bicycles, electronic equipment, tools or appliances.
	Vandalism	Willful damage of personal or household property.

1993 survey, certain adjustments need to be made to the results. In particular, physical and sexual assaults by a current or former spouse/partner have been removed from the 1993 and 1999 figures. In addition, the 1993 data have been adjusted to use the improved definition of assault. These adjustments permit comparisons between the 1999 and 1993 surveys.

No comparisons are being made to the 1988 GSS results for the three violent crimes (sexual assault, robbery and assault). There were significant changes to the definition of sexual assault between the 1988 and 1993 surveys. Additionally, it is not possible to revise the 1988 definition of assault to include only face-to-face threats.

Comparing victimization and police-reported crime data

The two primary sources of information on crime rates in Canada are victimization surveys such as the GSS and police-reported surveys such as the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. These two surveys are quite different (see Box 2). For this reason they can produce different, yet complementary results.

The UCR Survey records crimes that are reported to the police. Many factors can influence the police-reported crime rate, including the willingness of the public to report crimes to the police; reporting by police to the UCR Survey; and changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices. When, for instance, victims do not report incidents to police, those incidents will not be reflected in official crime statistics. Similarly, incidents that are reported to police, but upon investigation are judged by police to be unfounded, are also excluded from official crime statistics.

One way to estimate the extent of unreported crime is through victimization surveys. Because the GSS asks a sample of the population about their personal crime experiences, it captures information on crimes that have been reported to the police, as well as those that have gone unreported. The number of unreported crimes can be substantial. For example, the 1999 GSS estimated that 78% of sexual assaults and 67% of household thefts were not reported to the police. As a result, victimization surveys usually produce much higher rates of victimization than police-reported statistics.

Victimization surveys do have limitations, however. For one, they rely on respondents to report events accurately. As well,

Box 2: Comparison of the GSS and UCR surveys

Survey Characteristics	General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization	Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey
Survey type and coverage	Sample (in 1999) of about 26,000 persons aged 15+ in the 10 provinces	Census of all incidents reported by all police services in Canada
Historical data	1988, 1993 and 1999	Available continuously since 1962
Source of information	Personal account of criminal victimization incidents, whether reported to police or not	Criminal incidents reported to and recorded by police
Scope of survey	8 categories of criminal offence	Over 100 categories of criminal offence
Comparability of offence categories	Sexual assault	Comparable to total sexual assault in UCR.
	Robbery	Not comparable. UCR includes robberies of businesses and financial institutions.
	Assault	Comparable to total assault in UCR.
	Break and enter	Comparable to break and enter of a residence in UCR.
	Theft of personal property Theft of household property	Not comparable. UCR does not distinguish between theft of personal and household property.
	Motor vehicle/parts theft	Comparable to UCR when theft of motor vehicle parts is removed from GSS.
	Vandalism	Not comparable. UCR has a "mischief" category that includes a broader range of infractions.
Sources of error	Sampling errors (i.e. differences between estimated values for the sample and actual values for the population)	Public reporting rates to police
	Non-sampling errors (e.g. inability of respondents to remember/report events accurately, refusal by respondents to report, errors in the coding and processing of data)	Police discretionary power, changes in policies and practice in relation to capturing all reported incidents

they address only certain crimes. They do not capture information on crimes that have no obvious victim (e.g. prostitution and impaired driving), where the victim is a business or school, where the victim is dead (as in homicides), or when the victim is a child (anyone younger than 15 in the case of the GSS).

Changes in Victimization³

According to the General Social Survey, 25% of Canadians aged 15 and older living in the 10 provinces indicated that they were victimized one or more times in 1999.⁴ This was about the same as the figure of 23% in 1993. In both 1999 and 1993, about 50% of incidents involved personal crimes, that is, incidents of theft of personal property, sexual assault, robbery and assault. The proportion of incidents involving household crimes (break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft,

theft of household property and vandalism) was 35%, while the remaining 15% of incidents could not be classified as either a personal or household crime.

Thefts of personal property and household property increase in 1999

The rate of personal victimization increased in 1999. The rate of 157 incidents per 1,000 population was up 17% from the comparable figure for 1993 (134 incidents per 1,000

³ In order to make the 1999 and 1993 GSS data comparable, the analysis in this section excludes incidents of spousal violence and the 1993 data have been revised to use the improved definition of assault.

⁴ For ease of presentation, the 1999 GSS will be referred to as if it pertained solely to the year in which it was conducted. In reality, interviews took place from February 1999 to December 1999 and respondents were asked about victimization experiences that occurred in the previous 12 months, meaning that victimization incidents could have taken place anytime during the period February 1998 to December 1999.

population). This increase was due in large part to a 44% increase in the rate for personal property theft, from 52 incidents per 1,000 in 1993 to 75 incidents per 1,000 in 1999 (see Figure 1). The rates for sexual assault, robbery and assault did not change substantially from 1993.

Figure 1

Rate for theft of personal property higher in 1999¹



* The difference between this figure and the one for 1999 is not statistically significant.
¹ Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault. The 1993 data use the revised definition of assault. There are no comparable 1988 data for violent crimes.
 Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988, 1993 and 1999.

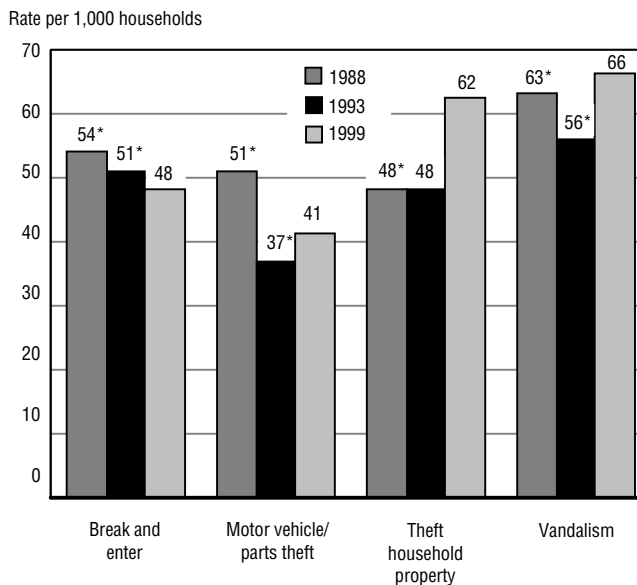
Similar to personal crimes, the 1999 survey reveals an overall increase in the rate of household victimization. The rate rose 13%, from 193 incidents per 1,000 households in 1993 to 218 incidents per 1,000 households in 1999. However, the 1999 rate was almost the same as the rate for 1988 (216). Theft of household property was the only crime to show a significant change in rates. The rate rose 29% from 48 incidents per 1,000 households in 1993 to 62 incidents per 1,000 households in 1999 (see Figure 2). Rates for the other three household crimes remained relatively stable at 48 per 1,000 households for break and enter, 41 per 1,000 for motor vehicle/parts theft, and 66 per 1,000 for vandalism.

How changes in victimization rates compare to police-reported trends

Police-reported data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey indicate that the crime rate is decreasing. In 1999, the overall crime rate fell 5%, marking the eighth consecutive annual decrease. Between 1993 and 1999, the rate for property crime declined 23%, while that for violent crime declined by half that amount (-12%). How do these findings compare to what was found by the 1999 GSS?

Figure 2

Rate for theft of household property increases in 1999



* The difference between this figure and the one for 1999 is not statistically significant.
 Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988, 1993 and 1999.

It is very difficult to make direct comparisons between results from the UCR and the GSS because of the many differences between these two surveys (see Box 2). One approach is to compare rates for the four offence categories which are similar in definition (sexual assault, assault, break and enter, and motor vehicle theft) and to look at the GSS rates for the more serious incidents, those most likely to have come to the attention of the police. For violent offences (sexual assault and assault) the more serious GSS incidents would include any incident where a weapon was present, the victim had to take time off work or spend time in bed, the victim was injured, or the incident was reported to the police. For non-violent offences (break and enter and motor vehicle theft), serious incidents would include those where the value of the stolen/damaged property was \$1,000 or more, or the incident was reported to the police.

Between 1993 and 1999, the UCR rates for all four offences – sexual assault, assault, break and enter of a residence, and motor vehicle theft – declined. For the more serious GSS incidents, the rate for sexual assault was unchanged between 1993 and 1999; rates for assault and break and enter were down; and the rate for motor vehicle theft was up. However, none of the changes in the GSS rates are statistically significant. That is to say, although the GSS data suggest that there have been some changes in the rates of victimization between 1993 and 1999, the differences could be due to sampling error.

Victimization across Canada in 1999⁵

The GSS results indicate that when incidents of spousal violence are included, 26% of the population was victimized one or more times in 1999. There were a total of 4.5 million personal crime incidents, yielding a rate of 186 incidents per 1,000 population (see Table 1). The number of household crime incidents was 2.7 million, or 218 per 1,000 households.

Rates higher in Western provinces

Historically, police-reported data have indicated that the overall crime rate is lower in eastern Canada (Atlantic provinces, Quebec, and Ontario) than it is in the west. This pattern is repeated in provincial victimization rates, based on results from the GSS. In 1999, victimization rates for household offences were higher in the provinces west of the Ontario-Manitoba border (see Table 1). Personal offences were somewhat different, with the highest rates occurring in the two westernmost provinces, followed by Prince Edward Island.

Newfoundland had the lowest rate of personal victimization in 1999 at 142 incidents per 1,000 population 15+, while British Columbia had the highest rate at 273.⁶ The lowest rate of household victimization belonged to Prince Edward Island at 134 incidents per 1,000 households and British Columbia's rate of 319 was the highest.

Both the personal and household victimization rates for British Columbia were considerably higher than those for the provinces having the second highest rates. British Columbia's rate of personal victimization was 33% higher than the rate for Alberta and its rate of household victimization was 23% higher than the rate for Saskatchewan. Much of this difference is the result of higher rates for theft of personal and household property in British Columbia. Without these two offence categories, British Columbia's rate of personal victimization is 16% higher than the next highest rate and the rate of household victimization is 11% higher.

Box 3: Exclusion of spousal violence incidents

The 1999 victimization survey had a specialized series of questions to measure sexual and physical assault by a current or former spouse/partner. These questions were meant to obtain an overall picture of these types of assaults rather than to capture specific information on each incident. For example, victims of spousal violence were asked how many times they had been assaulted in the previous 12 months. They were also asked if they were ever injured during any of these incidents. If a victim reported two incidents and that they had been injured, it would not be possible to tell if they were injured during one or both of the incidents. Consequently, detailed information on each incident of spousal violence, including the location of the incident, presence of a weapon, and reporting to the police, is not available and cannot be included in the analysis of this type of information. Incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault also have to be excluded in order to make comparisons between the 1993 and 1999 surveys. Throughout this *Juristat*, it is noted on the tables and figures if the data include or exclude incidents of spousal violence.

Box 4: Interpreting data from the General Social Survey

Results from the General Social Survey are estimates based on information collected from a sample of the population. Each person who responded to the 1999 GSS represents roughly 1,000 people in the Canadian population. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the whole population had been surveyed. The difference between the estimate obtained from a sample and the one resulting from a complete count is called the sampling error of the estimate.

One measure of the sampling error is the coefficient of variation (CV). The CV gives an indication of the uncertainty associated with an estimate. For example, if an estimate is 1,000 incidents with a CV of 4%, the true value likely lies between 960 and 1,040 (i.e. $1,000 \pm 4\%$). In this *Juristat*, any estimate with a CV of more than 33.3% is considered too unreliable to be published and the symbol “-” is used in the data tables to indicate this. When the CV of the estimate is between 16.6% and 33.3%, the symbol “+” is used. These estimates should be used with caution.

Estimates based on smaller sample sizes will have larger sampling errors. The sampling error for estimates of the same measure (e.g. fear of crime) will likely be smaller in 1999 than in 1993 because of the larger sample size in 1999. Provincial estimates will usually have larger sampling errors than estimates for Canada as a whole.

A second kind of error that occurs in both census and sample surveys is called non-sampling error. This includes errors due to coverage (e.g. the GSS had to exclude households without telephones even though the target population was all households), processing (e.g. errors introduced while capturing and processing the GSS results) and non-response (the chosen respondent does not answer some or all of the questions). These errors are difficult to quantify. However, considerable effort was made to minimize non-sampling error for the GSS.

Western cities have higher victimization rates

Cities in the west also tended to have higher victimization rates than those in the east. In 1999, Regina had the highest rate for both personal crimes (274 per 1,000 population) and household crimes (382 per 1,000 households) among census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁷ (see Table 2). Vancouver was second for both crime categories with rates of 271 per 1,000 population for personal crimes and 360 per 1,000 households for household crimes. The lowest personal crime rate was found in Toronto (171 per 1,000 population). Toronto and Saint John shared the lowest rate of household crime (182 per 1,000 households). These findings are similar to those for police-reported data – that is cities with high rates of victimization tend to have high rates of police-reported crime.

⁵ Because of smaller sample sizes, previous cycles of the GSS did not permit provincial or municipal (CMA) level analysis. Insofar as these data are not available, this section includes only the 1999 data.

⁶ Throughout this *Juristat*, rates are based on the appropriate population being examined, for example, the population 15 years and older in Newfoundland and British Columbia in this instance.

⁷ A CMA refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration.

Risks of personal victimization⁸

A number of factors have been linked to the risk of personal victimization.⁹ These factors include the victim's sex, age, marital status, main activity, number of evening activities, household income and location of residence.

Women and men have similar overall risks

There is very little difference in the overall risk of personal victimization for women and men. In 1999, the rate of personal victimization was 189 per 1,000 women and 183 per 1,000 men (see Table 3). However, sexual assaults were more likely to be perpetrated against women (rates of 33 per 1,000 women and 8 per 1,000 men), whereas men reported higher rates for assault (92 for men and 70 for women) and for robbery (12 for men and 7 for women). Rates for theft of personal property were not significantly different for the two sexes. Men and women also had similar rates for violent crime.

Rates higher for young people

The risk of personal victimization decreases as people get older. In 1999, young persons aged 15 to 24 reported the highest rate of personal victimization, at 405 incidents per 1,000 population in that age group. This rate was 1.5 times that of the next highest rate reported by 25- to 34-year-olds. Older people aged 65 and over reported the lowest rate of personal victimization at 27 incidents per 1,000 population. These findings were the same for all personal crime categories, particularly in the case of violent offences. People aged 15 to 24 were 21 times more likely to be victims of violent crime and 9 times more likely to be victims of personal property theft than were people in the 65+ age group.

Risks higher for single and separated/divorced people

An examination of risks based on marital status indicates that single people have the highest rates of personal victimization. The overall rate for those people who had never been married was 347 per 1,000 population in 1999, more than 5 times the rate of those who were widowed (69 per 1,000) and almost double the rate of the population in general (186 per 1,000 population). Separated/divorced individuals (276 per 1,000) recorded the second highest personal victimization rate. Persons living in a common-law relationship had a personal victimization rate more than twice that of those who were married (245 versus 104 per 1,000). These patterns were fairly consistent across offence categories.

That single people have higher overall rates is no doubt related to the fact that young people, who have high rates of victimization, tend to be single. If the effects of age are eliminated, then separated/divorced individuals tend to have higher rates of victimization. For example, for people aged 25 to 34, the victimization rate for those who were separated/divorced was higher than for those who were single.

Students have higher rates of personal victimization

The GSS asked respondents to identify their main activity during the past 12 months. Types of activities included: working at a paid job or business, looking for work, going to school, caring for children, doing household work, and being retired. Students (384 per 1,000 population) and people

looking for work (327 per 1,000 population) had the highest rates of personal victimization in 1999. Retired persons had the lowest rate overall, at 35 per 1,000. These findings varied somewhat, depending on the type of offence. For example, people looking for work had higher rates of assault than did students.

Once again there is some connection between a person's age and their main activity. The majority of young people, for example, are either students or looking for work. However, the findings were fairly consistent within age categories.

Participating in more evening activities increases the risk

People who frequently engage in evening activities outside the home are at greater risk of personal victimization. Evening activities include working, going to bars and visiting friends, and are often linked to a person's income, marital status and age. In 1999, those people involved in 30 or more evening activities a month had the highest rate of personal victimization at 305 per 1,000 population.¹⁰ This was more than 4 times the rate for those who participated in fewer than 10 evening activities per month (75 per 1,000). This pattern was the same for all age groups. The rates for all individual offence types (theft of personal property, sexual assault, robbery and assault) increased as the number of evening activities increased. By engaging in activities outside the home, an individual has more personal contacts with strangers and there is a greater chance of being victimized.

Risk of violent victimization greater when household income is low

Low household income is associated with a greater risk of violent victimization, but a smaller risk of personal theft. In 1999, the rate of violent victimization for people in the lowest household income category (under \$15,000) was 192 per 1,000 population, almost double the rate of those in the other income categories. On the other hand, people with a household income of \$60,000+ had the highest rate of personal property theft (88 incidents per 1,000 population), followed by people with a household income of \$40,000 to \$59,999. Presumably, having a higher household income means a person has more valuable personal belongings, such as cash, credit cards, clothing and jewellery, thus making them a more attractive target for theft.

Urban rates of personal victimization higher than rural rates

Consistent with previous research, urban dwellers report higher rates of personal victimization than those from rural

⁸ When analyzing the social and demographic characteristics associated with overall personal victimization, it is important to examine the overall rates of personal victimization, including spousal violence. As indicated previously, the 1993 and 1999 surveys are not strictly comparable because of the change in the measurement of spousal violence. This section, therefore, examines only 1999 data, including incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

⁹ The analysis looks at each factor individually. There are likely interrelationships between the factors, for example, age and marital status. However, the objective of this publication is to provide a general, descriptive overview.

¹⁰ As a person can be involved in more than one activity per evening, for example going to a restaurant and then a movie, it is possible to be involved in more than 30 activities per month.

Box 5: Seasonality of crime

In 1999, more criminal victimizations occurred during the summer (June, July and August), than during any other time of year. The summer accounted for 30% of incidents, while autumn, spring and winter each accounted for approximately one-fifth of victimizations.

The results were fairly similar for all eight crime types. Theft of personal property was somewhat of an exception, with incidents as likely to occur in the autumn as in the summer. As well, motor vehicle/parts thefts were most likely to occur in the spring and the summer. The offence of household theft, in particular, had a large variation in the timing of incidents, ranging from a low of 15% of incidents in the winter to 39% of incidents in the summer.

Perhaps it is not surprising that most criminal victimizations occurred in the summer, considering that at this time of year higher proportions of people are on vacation, are participating in more evening activities away from home, and perhaps leaving more possessions unattended outside the home (e.g. tools, lawn furniture, bicycles), thereby increasing the risk of victimization.

Victimization incidents by season of occurrence, 1999¹

	Total Incidents		Summer (June-Aug.)	Autumn (Sept.-Nov.)	Winter (Dec.-Feb.)	Spring (Mar.- May)	Don't know/ Not stated
	(000s)	%					
			% of incidents				
All incidents	6,460	100	30	23	21	22	5
Total personal	3,804	100	29	24	22	20	5
Theft personal property	1,831	100	27	26	21	22	4†
Total violent	1,974	100	30	21	24	19	6
Sexual assault	499	100	26	21	23	19	10†
Robbery	228	100	30†	--	28†	17†	--
Assault	1,246	100	32	22	23	19	4†
Total household	2,656	100	31	22	19	24	4
Break and enter	587	100	32	21	20	24	--
Motor vehicle/parts theft	501	100	25	23	22	26	--
Theft household property	760	100	39	21	15	23	--
Vandalism	808	100	28	23	19	23	6†

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

-- amount too small to be expressed

¹ Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

areas.¹¹ Urban residents reported a total personal victimization rate over 40% higher than that of rural dwellers (199 versus 138 per 1,000).

Profile of violent victimization incidents¹²

The GSS examines the incidence of violence for three crimes – sexual assault, robbery and assault. It provides information, such as presence of a weapon and injury to the victim, which helps to understand the nature of these crimes.

No weapons present during most violent crime incidents

Police-reported data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) show that in the majority of violent incidents (approximately 68% in 1999), there is no weapon present.¹³ When the 1999 GSS asked victims of violent crimes if the accused had a weapon, the results were similar, with the accused having no weapon in 72% of incidents (see Table 4). Weapons were far more likely to be present during robberies (40% of incidents) than during assaults or sexual assaults. Knives were present in twice as many violent incidents compared with guns (6% versus 3%). In 13% of incidents, there were other weapons, including bars, sticks, rocks and bottles.

Nearly one in five violent crime victims suffers physical injury

Given the low presence of weapons in the commission of violent crimes, it is perhaps not surprising that according to the GSS, a minority of violent incidents result in physical injury to the victim. In 1999, victims were injured in 18% of violent incidents. This figure was similar for both male and female victims. Robberies and assault had the same percentage of incidents resulting in an injury, at 22%.

Drug/alcohol use often connected with violent incidents

Victims of violent crime often feel that the incident was related to drug or alcohol use by the perpetrator. In 1999, in one-half

¹¹ There are several specifications that the GSS employs to define urban and rural areas, but roughly speaking an urban area has a minimum population of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre.

¹² Due to the smaller sample size in previous GSS cycles, detailed breakdowns of violent crime are not possible. Therefore, this section does not include any comparisons to 1993. This section also excludes incidents of spousal violence because information on each incident is not available.

¹³ The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) provides detailed information on criminal incidents reported to the police. The data for 1999 are based on a sample of 164 police departments, representing 46% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

Box 6: Location of criminal victimization incidents

In 1999, almost 50% of victimization incidents occurred in or around the victim's home or other private residence, while 29% took place in a commercial place or public institution, such as a restaurant, school, office building, or shopping mall. A further 23% of incidents occurred in a public place, including parking lots, public transportation, streets and open areas.

The results varied depending on the type of crime. Apart from robbery, personal crimes tended to occur in a commercial place/public institution. Robberies were more likely to happen in a public place. By definition, all break and enter incidents occurred inside the victim's home. The other three household crimes usually occurred around the victim's home, although over one-third of motor vehicle/parts thefts did take place on a street or at a public place.

Location of victimization incidents, 1999¹

	Total Incidents	Inside victim's home	Around victim's home	Another private residence	Commercial place/Public institution	Street/Other public place	Don't know/Not stated	
	(000s)	%	% of incidents					
All incidents	6,460	100	16	27	5	29	23	1†
Total personal	3,804	100	9	14	6	44	24	1†
Theft personal property	1,831	100	8	21	4†	45	22	--
Total violent	1,974	100	11	8	9	43	26	2†
Sexual assault	499	100	13†	--	19	46	12†	8†
Robbery	228	100	--	--	--	20†	50	--
Assault	1,246	100	10	10	6†	46	28	--
Total household	2,656	100	26	44	3†	7	20	--
Break and enter	587	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
Motor vehicle/parts theft	501	100	--	51	--	7†	35	--
Theft household property	760	100	6†	65	4†	12	13	--
Vandalism	808	100	5†	53	3†	7†	31	--

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.
 Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

-- nil or zero

-- amount too small to be expressed

¹ Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

of violent crime incidents, the victim stated that the incident was related to alcohol or drug use by the accused alone (43%) or by both the accused and themselves (7%). This finding was similar for all three violent offences.

Violence can disrupt victim's main activity

A significant number of violent crime victims find it difficult to carry out their main activity as a result of the incident. In 1999, almost one-quarter of victims had their main activity disrupted¹⁴ for most of the day, for reasons ranging from requiring medical attention to having to visit insurance agents. The figure for robbery victims was the highest, with their main activity being disrupted in almost one-third of incidents. Of the victims who had their main activity disrupted, 41% said it was just for that day. However, another 40% were affected for 2 to 7 days and 8% for 8 to 14 days.

Victims often discuss their experience with friends and family

Victims of violent crime often turn to friends/neighbours, family members or co-workers to talk about what happened. In 1999, violent crime victims spoke with their friends or neighbours in 72% of incidents, followed by family members (62%), and co-workers (44%). This pattern was consistent across all violent crime types, although a smaller proportion of sexual assault victims had discussed the incident. Prior to reporting the

incident to the GSS survey, approximately 7% of violent crime victims had not spoken about it with anyone, including the police. The figure for sexual assault victims was particularly high, at 13%.

Perpetrators are often lone males and known to the victim

In most violent crime incidents in 1999, the suspect acted alone. This was especially true for assaults (83% of incidents) and sexual assaults (81%). Robberies, at 49% of incidents, were more likely to involve multiple perpetrators (see Table 5).

In crimes in which the suspect acted alone, the accused was usually male. In 1999, almost seven in ten violent crimes involving a lone accused had a male perpetrator. Sexual assaults were more likely to have a male accused (92% of incidents), than were assaults (60% of incidents). The perpetrator was usually young, with 42% of violent crime incidents involving a perpetrator judged to be between the ages of 18 and 34. Although this finding applies to all three violent crimes, the percentage for robberies was much higher, with 69% of incidents involving a perpetrator between 18 and 34 years of age.

¹⁴ Persons who were retired, suffering from a long-term illness or on maternity/paternity leave, were not asked this question.

Police data consistently show that the majority of violent crimes are committed by someone known to the victim. For example, 1999 data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey indicate that 26% of violent crime victims knew the perpetrator to be a family member and 38%, an acquaintance. For 30% of victims, the perpetrator was a stranger. Results for the 1999 GSS were similar in that the suspect was known to the victim in the majority of incidents involving a lone perpetrator, as either a family member (37% of incidents) or a friend/acquaintance/other (36%). In just over one-quarter of incidents, the victim did not know the suspect. For incidents in which there was a lone perpetrator, the majority of sexual assaults were committed by a friend/acquaintance/other, nearly half of assaults were committed by a family member, but the majority of robberies were committed by a stranger.

Risks of household victimization

Different factors are related to the risk of household victimization. These factors include location of residence (urban or rural), household income, household size (number of persons living in the house), the type of home, and home ownership (whether the victims own or rent their home). Survey findings for the 1999 GSS and 1993 GSS were very similar.

Homes in urban areas have greater risks

Households located in urban areas experience higher rates of household victimization. In 1999, the overall rate of household victimization was 232 per 1,000 households in urban areas compared with 164 per 1,000 in rural areas (see Table 6). This pattern was consistent for all four offence types.

Higher household income associated with higher rates of household victimization

Household victimization rates increase as household income increases. In 1999, the overall rate of household victimization was 183 for households having incomes of less than \$15,000. This rate rose to 279 for households earning \$60,000 or more. This pattern was fairly consistent for three of the four offence types. Break and enter was an exception – the highest rate occurred at the top income category, but all other income categories had similar rates of victimization. As discussed earlier for theft of personal property, households with higher household income probably have more property – more cars, more bicycles, more electronic equipment, that is an attractive target for theft or vandalism.

Rates higher in larger households

Homes that have more people living in them have higher rates of household victimization. At 276 per 1,000 households in 1999, the rate of victimization for households with 4 or more members was about 1.5 times greater than that for households with 1 occupant. Once again, the offence of break and enter was different from the other three household offences, with households of 3, rather than 4 or more, having the highest rate of victimization. Households with more occupants likely have more household property, thereby increasing the risk of

victimization. The risk for break and enter may be tempered by the fact that with large households (4 or more), there is more likely to be someone home, thus discouraging a break-in.

Semi-detached, row and duplex homes have higher risks

Household victimization rates vary depending on the type of house. In 1999, persons living in semi-detached, row, or duplex homes had the highest rates of household victimization, at 278 per 1,000 households. Rates were lowest for people living in apartments (212 per 1,000 households) and for those living in single homes (218). This pattern was similar for all four household crimes. It was also true regardless of household income. For example, in households with an income of \$40,000 to \$59,999, rates were higher for semi-detached, row and duplex homes than for single homes or apartments.

Renters have higher risks than owners

The household victimization rate is higher for those who rent rather than own their homes. In 1999, the household victimization rate for rented households was 250 per 1,000 households, or 18% higher than the rate for owner-occupied homes. This finding was consistent for all four offences, although the rates for vandalism were quite similar for both renters and owners. People with higher incomes tend to own rather than rent their homes. It seems then, to be contradictory that households with higher incomes have higher rates of household victimization, yet renters and not owners have higher rates. However within each of the five income categories, household victimization rates were consistently higher for renters than for owners. One factor that may be contributing to these findings is the use of security measures. For example, in the previous 12 months a greater percentage of owner-occupied households had installed burglar alarms (13% versus 7% of rented households). This finding was true at each income level.

Reporting victimization to police¹⁵

One advantage of victimization surveys such as the GSS is their ability to capture the “dark figure” of crime, that is the crimes that are not reported to police. The number of crimes that go unreported is significant. According to the 1999 GSS, 59% of incidents were not reported to the police, while 37% were reported (see Table 7).¹⁶ When incidents were reported, it was the victim that reported them in over 70% of cases. Others reporting victimization to the police include a friend, family member, or witness to the crime.

In most provinces, the percentage of incidents reported to the police was close to the average of 37%. The figures ranged from a low of 30% in Newfoundland to a high of 44% in Manitoba. For the 14 municipalities (CMAs) for which figures were available, reporting to police varied from 27% of incidents in St. John's to 45% of incidents in Winnipeg.

¹⁵ This section excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault because information on each incident is not available.

¹⁶ For 3% of incidents it is not known if they were reported.

Household crimes reported more often

Some types of offences are reported more often than others. In 1999, sexual assault had the highest percentage of incidents that were not reported to police (78%), while break and enter had the lowest percentage of incidents that were not reported (35%). Overall, household crimes were reported more frequently than personal crimes. Part of the reason is likely the need to report crimes involving insurance claims to the police.

Young victims less likely to report victimization

Reporting rates for the four personal crimes were quite similar for men and women. However, young victims reported far fewer personal crimes than older victims. Only 13% of victims aged 15 to 24 years reported personal crime incidents to the police, as compared to 26% of victims aged 25 to 44 and 30% of those aged 45 years and older.

Reporting linked to value of stolen/damaged property

Considering the need for insurance purposes, to report property crimes to the police, the reporting rates for break and enter and the three theft offences (personal, household and motor vehicle/parts) seem low. One reason appears to be the relatively small value of the property that was stolen or damaged during the incident. Reporting to the police increased as the total cost of the incident increased. For example, for these four offence types, when the value of the stolen/damaged property was \$1 to \$100, 14% of incidents were reported; when the value was \$200 to \$499, 43% of incidents were reported; and when the value was \$1,000 or more, 85% of incidents were reported. In 1999, over two-thirds (68%) of incidents having break and enter or theft as the most serious offence involved a total cost to the victim of under \$500.

Reporting to the police is decreasing

Fewer incidents are being reported to the police now than in the past. Based on the eight offences studied by the GSS, reporting to the police fell from 42% of incidents in 1993 to 37% in 1999. A comparable overall figure for 1988 is not available. Between 1993 and 1999, reporting of break and enter, theft of personal property, theft of household property and vandalism appeared to be down, while reporting of motor vehicle/parts theft appeared to be up (due largely to an increase in reporting of parts thefts) (see Figure 3). Only the decrease in reporting of vandalism was statistically significant. However, when the results for theft of personal and household property are combined, there is also a significant decrease in reporting from 43% of incidents in 1993 to 34% in 1999.

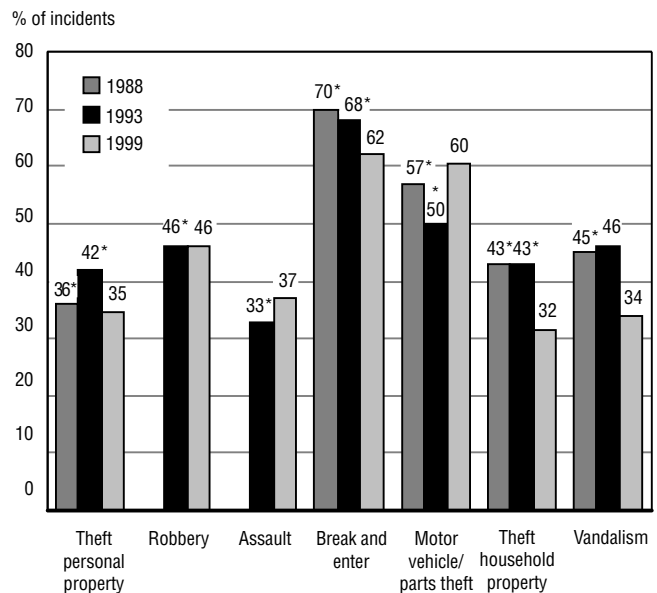
In 1999, reporting of break and enter, theft of household property and vandalism appeared to be down in comparison to 1988. These differences, however, are not statistically significant.

One cause for the decline in reporting may be an increase in insurance deductible amounts. Insurance industry data indicate that in 1994, the deductible amount for the majority (52%) of homeowner policies was \$200. By 1998, the majority (53%) of homeowner policies had a deductible amount of \$500.¹⁷ At the same time, the GSS indicates that the value

Figure 3



Fewer incidents being reported to the police¹



* The difference between this figure and the one for 1999 is not statistically significant.
¹ Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault. The 1993 data use the revised definition of assault. Figures for sexual assault are too small to be expressed. There are no comparable 1988 data for violent crimes.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988, 1993 and 1999.

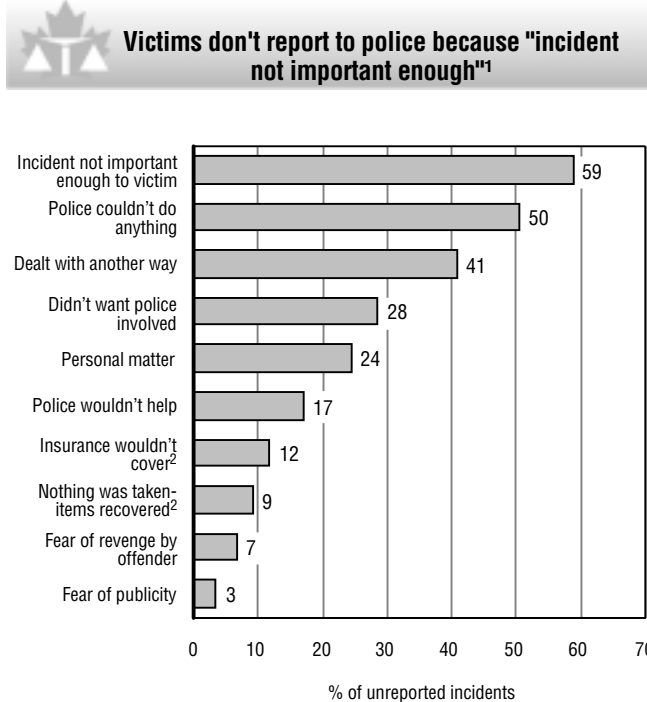
of stolen/damaged property has declined slightly. For example, in comparison to 1993, a smaller proportion of incidents involving theft of personal property, break and enter, theft of household property, and vandalism had a total cost of \$1,000 or more in 1999. Similarly, a higher proportion of incidents involving theft of personal property, theft of household property and vandalism had a total cost of under \$100 in 1999. The deductible figure for the comprehensive portion of motor vehicle insurance also increased between 1994 and 1998, however indications from the GSS are that the total cost of motor vehicle/parts thefts increased between 1993 and 1999. This may explain why reporting of motor vehicle/parts theft has increased.

“Incident not important enough” a common reason for not reporting

People have various reasons for not reporting crimes to police. Of the eight possible reasons respondents were given, the most common one was “incident not important enough”, which was mentioned in 59% of the unreported incidents in 1999 (see Figure 4). “Police couldn’t do anything” was the next most common, at 50%. Respondents were allowed to choose as many reasons as they wished, but when asked what was the main reason, the findings were similar. Cited most often was “incident not important enough” (36% of unreported

¹⁷ This information was provided by the Insurance Information Centre of Canada (IICC). The IICC member companies represent approximately 64% of the industry.

Figure 4



¹ Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses. Excludes incidents that were not classified by crime type and incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

² Excludes incidents involving sexual assault or a physical attack.

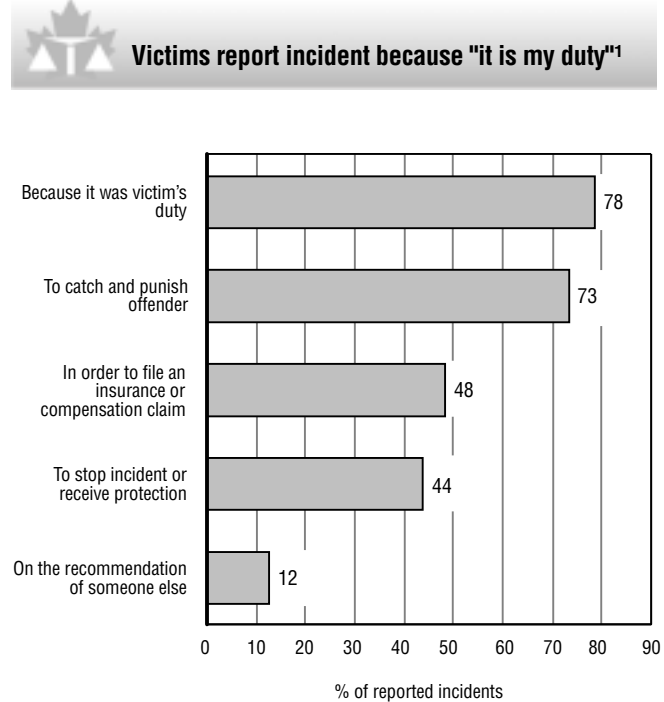
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

incidents), followed by “police couldn’t do anything” at 20% and “dealt with another way” at 16%. The majority (87%) of incidents that went unreported because they were “not important enough” were less serious in nature – the victim was not injured, did not have to take time off or spend time in bed, there was no weapon present and the value of any stolen or damaged property was under \$1,000. For all eight crime types except assault, victims most often mentioned “incident not important enough” as their main reason for not reporting. The most frequently mentioned main reason for assault was “dealt with another way”.

Victims report incidents “because it was my duty”

When victims do decide to report incidents to police, their reasons vary. Out of five possible choices, the most popular, mentioned in 8 out of 10 incidents in 1999, was “because it was my duty” (see Figure 5). Next were “to catch and punish offender” at 73% and “in order to file an insurance or compensation claim” at 48%. Again, the results were fairly consistent for all but one of the eight crimes. The exception was sexual assault, where victims were most likely to mention “to stop incident or receive protection” as their reason for reporting the incident (85% of reported incidents).

Figure 5



¹ Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses. Excludes incidents that were not classified by crime type and incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Perceptions of crime

Majority of Canadians believe crime levels are stable

It is difficult to know what factors influence a person's opinions concerning the level of crime. For the last eight years, the public has heard that police-reported crime rates are falling. Yet they also hear stories of relatively rare but very serious events on the nightly news and perhaps have themselves been victims of crime. In 1999, the majority of Canadians (54%) felt that crime levels in their neighbourhood had stayed the same during the previous five years, up considerably from the figure of 43% in 1993 (see Table 8). Additionally, fewer people believed that crime in their neighbourhood had increased. In 1999, 29% of the population felt that crime in their neighbourhood had increased during the previous five years, down from a figure of 46% in 1993.

The four western provinces, which had higher rates of victimization in 1999, had higher percentages of the population who felt that crime had increased in the past five years. Over 37% of British Columbians thought crime was up, followed by 34% of Manitobans. In Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, where rates of victimization were among the lowest, so were the percentages of the population who thought crime was up, with figures of 18% and 21%, respectively.¹⁸

¹⁸ Prince Edward Island had a fairly high rate of personal victimization, but a low rate of household victimization.

Box 7: Hate Crime

Hate crimes are crimes that are motivated by the offender's hatred of a certain characteristic of the victim, for example, their race. Hate crimes carry an element of harm that is not present in other forms of offending since they are directed at both a group and an individual victim (Roberts, 1995). Recognizing that hate crimes were a problem in Canada, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP), in 1998, ratified a definition of hate crime to be adopted by all police departments. This definition specifies that hate crime is a crime motivated by hate, not vulnerability, that is carried out due to a hatred of the victim's race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or other similar factor.

In recent years, the importance of the problem has resulted in the establishment of hate crime units in many police departments as well as the collection of data by private organizations such as B'nai Brith. However, many hate crimes never come to the attention of the police for a variety of reasons. First, victims may fear additional victimization. Second, victims may be reluctant to report due to the sensitive nature of some hate crimes.

Victimization surveys can be used in order to examine both reported and unreported incidents of hate crime and to determine the prevalence of this motivating factor in crimes. The 1999 GSS asked each crime victim if he/she believed that the victimization incident could be considered a hate crime. If yes, they were asked to identify the motivating factor(s), including the offender's hatred of their sex, ethnicity/race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, culture or language.

The results indicate that for the eight crime types, 4% of all incidents or approximately 273,000 incidents were considered by the victim to be hate crimes.¹⁹ Approximately 6% of personal crime incidents and 2% of household crime incidents were hate motivated.

The most frequently reported reason for the offender's hatred was the victim's race/ethnicity. Victims reported that 117,000 or 43% of hate crime incidents were due to this factor. Other motivating factors that were cited were hatred of the victim's culture and hatred of the victim's sex, each at 18% of hate crime incidents.

People continue to believe that their neighbourhood is safer than others

While their opinions about trends in neighbourhood crime have shifted over time, Canadians have remained steadfast in their belief that crime where they live is less than crime elsewhere. In 1999, 60% of the population felt that crime in their neighbourhood was lower than other areas in Canada and a further 28% felt that crime was about the same. These figures are virtually the same as those for the 1988 and 1993 surveys.

More than anyone else, the people of Newfoundland (88% of the population) thought crime in their neighbourhood was lower than elsewhere in Canada. People in British Columbia (11%), followed by Ontario (8%), were most likely to think that crime in their neighbourhoods was higher.

Fear of crime

Canadians feel safer

The 1999 GSS asked respondents several questions concerning their personal safety from crime. The responses indicate that a large percentage of Canadians are satisfied with their safety and that this percentage is growing.

In 1999, almost three-quarters of the population did not use public transportation at night,²⁰ but of those that did, 54% indicated that they were not at all worried when waiting for or using it (see Table 9). This percentage was up slightly from 51% in 1993. In most instances, fear of crime is not reducing the use of public transportation at night. More than three-quarters of people who were worried about using public transportation alone at night, indicated that they would not use it more often even if they felt safer from crime.

The 1999 GSS found that three out of four Canadians walk alone in their neighbourhood after dark. The vast majority (88%), felt very or reasonably safe doing so, up slightly from

84% in 1993. About four in ten people reported that they would walk alone more often if they felt safer.²¹

Being home alone in the evening or at night can be frightening for some people. In 1999, one-fifth of the population indicated that this situation was worrisome. This was an improvement from the figure for 1993, when 24% of the population said they were very or somewhat worried.

Overall, 91% of Canadians reported being very or somewhat satisfied with their personal safety in 1999, an improvement of 5 percentage points from 6 years earlier.

Women continue to fear crime more than men

Past victimization surveys have indicated that women are more fearful of crime than are men. The results for 1999 were no different.²² Nearly two-thirds (64%) of women felt somewhat or very worried while waiting for or using public transportation alone after dark, more than double the figure of 29% for men (see Figure 6). When they were home alone in the evening, 29% of women and 12% of men reported being somewhat or very worried. Finally, nearly one-in-five women (18%) felt somewhat or very unsafe when walking alone in their area after dark compared with 6% of men. These differences are quite large, considering that women and men have similar rates of personal victimization. It is interesting to note that when women and men were asked about their general level of personal safety, the results were alike: 88% of women and 93% of men reported being somewhat or very satisfied, although fewer women than men reported being very satisfied.

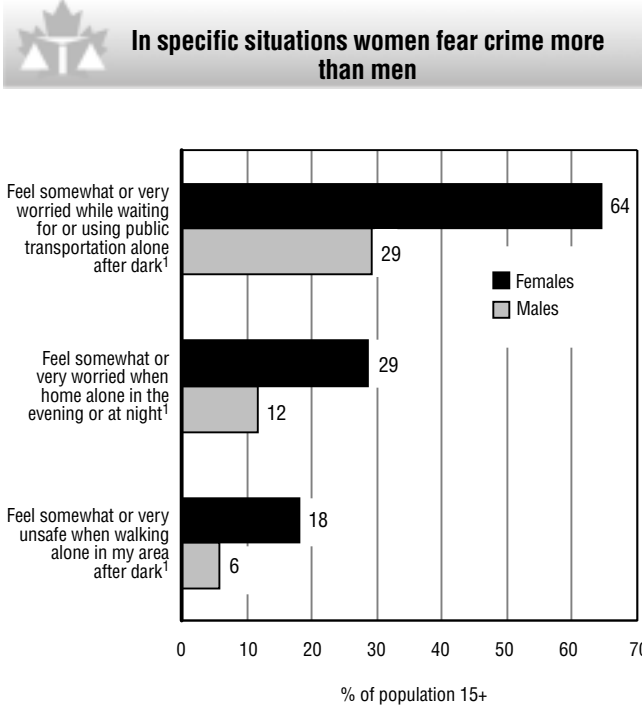
¹⁹ This is based on the identifiable groups included in S. 718.2 of the Criminal Code.

²⁰ This includes almost 25% of the population that did not have access to public transportation.

²¹ Respondents who already felt very safe or who walked alone every night were not asked the question.

²² The analysis is based on the responses for people who engage in the activities, for example, use public transportation or walk alone at night.

Figure 6



¹ Excludes persons who do not engage in these activities.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

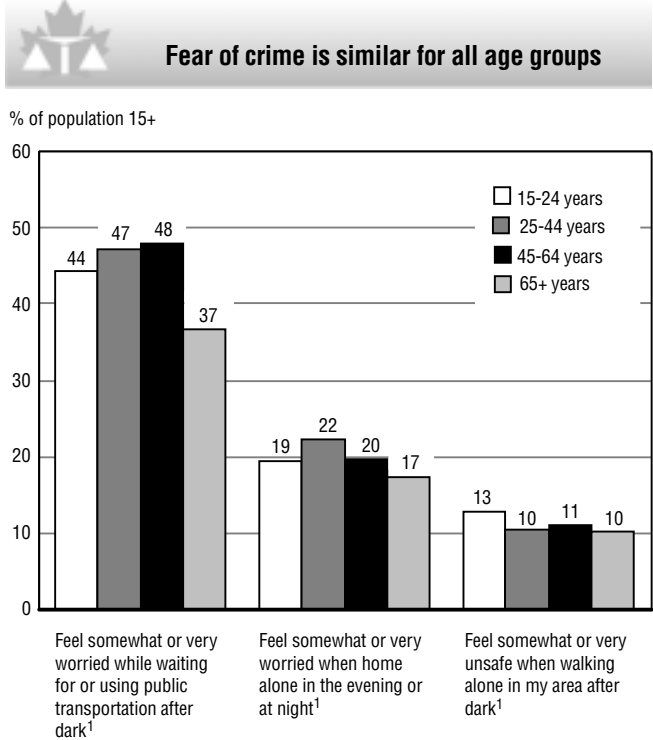
Fear levels are similar at all ages

Some research suggests that fear of crime increases with age, but the effect is most pronounced when people are asked about hypothetical situations rather than about realities in their everyday lives (Sacco, 1995). For the 1999 GSS, levels of fear were quite consistent among various age groups when based solely on the perceptions of those people who actually engaged in the various activities. For example, of the people 65 years and older who walked alone in their area after dark, the percentage who felt somewhat or very unsafe was similar to that for people in other age categories (see Figure 7).

Of course, fear can be a factor in deciding whether to engage in certain activities. However, it appears that it is less of a factor for older people. When 1999 GSS respondents were asked if they would walk alone/walk alone more often at night if they felt safer from crime, 26% of people aged 65 or older indicated that they would. This was much lower than the figures for other age groups (36% for those aged 45 to 64, 41% for those aged 25 to 44, and 44% for those aged 15 to 24). An analogous question regarding the use of public transportation alone at night produced similar results.

In 1999, the 65+ age group did report the lowest level of overall safety, with 87% stating they felt somewhat or very satisfied. The youngest age group, with a figure of 93%, was the most satisfied, despite having the highest rates of personal victimization.

Figure 7



¹ Excludes persons who do not engage in these activities.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Crime prevention behaviour

Individuals can take a variety of measures in order to protect themselves and their property from crime. According to the 1999 GSS, some of the more common ones are changing routines/avoiding certain places and installing security hardware, which were employed by 27% and 21% of Canadians, respectively in the previous 12 months (see Figure 8). The other types of activities that respondents were asked about, including taking a self-defence course, obtaining a dog, or changing a phone number were not as prevalent.

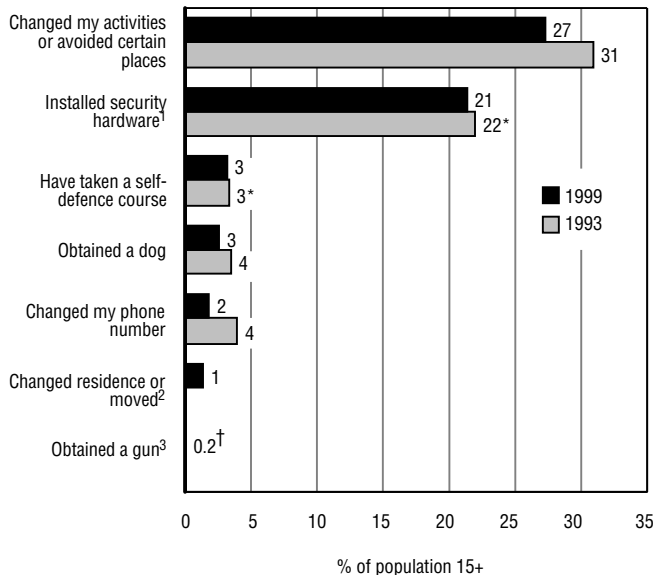
The use of precautionary measures was down slightly in 1999 in comparison to 1993.²³ Perhaps this is a reflection of the fact that Canadians felt safer from crime in 1999 or that people had taken these measures prior to the 12 months leading up to the 1999 survey.

Respondents to the 1999 GSS were also asked about five precautionary measures that they routinely take to make themselves safer from crime. The most common measure, used by 57% of the population, was locking the doors when alone in the car (see Figure 9). Checking the back seat for intruders was next at 44%, followed by planning their route with safety in mind (42%). Compared with the results for 1993, more people reported locking their car doors, but fewer reported planning their route or staying at home because they were afraid to go out alone.

²³ Comparable data are not available for 1988.

Figure 8

In the previous 12 months, many Canadians changed their activities/avoided certain places to protect themselves from crime



† Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.
 * The difference between this figure and the one for 1999 is not statistically significant.
¹ Includes new locks and burglar alarms.
² Not asked in 1993.
³ Figure for 1993 is too small to be expressed.
 Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993 and 1999.

Satisfaction with the justice system

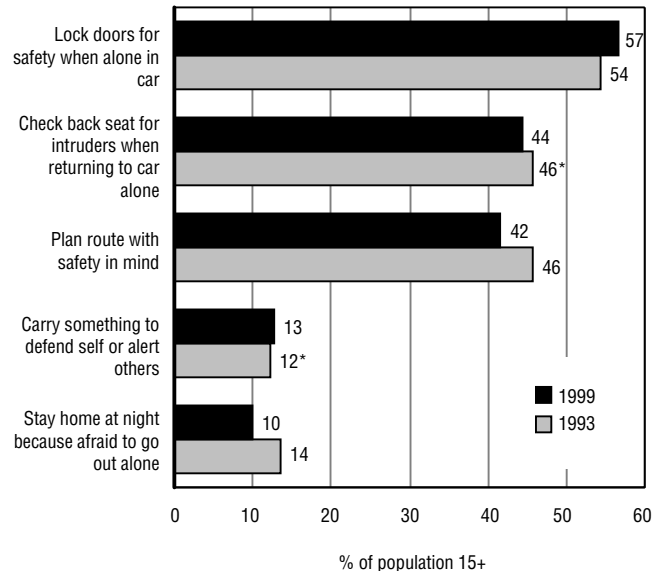
Canadians are quite satisfied with the job being done by their local police. However, perceptions for three other sectors of the justice system – the courts, prison system and parole system – are not as favourable (see Table 10). In 1999, the majority of Canadians felt that the police were doing a good job at being approachable, ensuring the safety of citizens, enforcing the laws and supplying information on reducing crime. As well, just under half of the population thought that the police were doing a good job at responding quickly to calls. Less than 10% of the population felt the police were doing a poor job at any of these aspects of policing. Public satisfaction with the police in 1999 appeared to be slightly better than in 1993 and virtually the same as in 1988.

In 1999, less than one-quarter of the population expressed the belief that the criminal courts were doing a good job at determining whether an accused is guilty, providing justice quickly, or helping the victim. The figures, though small, were slightly higher than in 1993. In 1999, Canadians rated the courts best at ensuring a fair trial for the accused, with 41% of the population feeling the courts were doing a good job at this. However, this figure was down from 46% in 1993.

For the first time in 1999, the GSS asked respondents about the performance of the prison and parole systems. Just over one-quarter (26%) of Canadians felt the prison system was

Figure 9

The majority of Canadians routinely lock their car doors to feel safer from crime¹



* The difference between this figure and the one for 1999 is not statistically significant.
¹ Respondents were asked what measures they use routinely to make themselves feel safer from crime. Data for 1988 are not available.
 Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993 and 1999.

doing a good job at supervising/controlling prisoners, while only 14% felt the system was good at helping prisoners become law-abiding. As for the parole system, approximately 15% of the population stated that the system did a good job at releasing offenders who were not likely to re-offend and at supervising offenders on parole. In comparison to responses for performance of the police and the courts, more people (about 20% of the population) did not have an opinion concerning the performance of the prison or the parole systems.

Methodology

In 1999, the victimization cycle of Statistics Canada's General Social Survey (GSS) was conducted for a third time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988 and 1993. As in the past, individuals 15 years and older were asked about their experiences with crime and their opinions concerning the justice system. The GSS measures victimization for 8 types of crime, according to *Criminal Code* definitions.

Sampling

Households in the 10 provinces were selected using random digit dialing techniques. Once a household was chosen, an individual 15 years or older was selected randomly to respond to the survey. Households were excluded from the survey when they had no telephone. Also excluded were individuals living in institutions. In all, approximately 2% of the population was excluded. This figure is not large enough to significantly change the estimates.

The sample size in 1999 was about 26,000 households, up significantly from 10,000 for the previous two cycles.

Data collection

Data were collected from February to December 1999. A standard questionnaire was used to gather the information. Interviews were conducted by phone using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A typical interview lasted 30 minutes.

Response rates

In 1999, as in previous cycles of the GSS, the response rate was quite high – 81% of selected respondents answered the survey. Types of non-response included respondents who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French.

Data limitations

It is important to note that the GSS data are estimates. They are based on information collected from a sample of the population and are therefore subject to sampling error. This *Juristat* uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate that has a high CV (over 33.3%) has not been published because the estimate is too unreliable.

References

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Table 1


Rates of victimization by province, 1999¹

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
No. of incidents (000s)											
Total personal	4,522	63	22	116	87	1,048	1,531	146	148	474	888
Theft personal property	1,831	26	--	44	30	417	637	45†	51	184	389
Total violent	2,691	36	14	72	57	631	894	101	97	290	498
Sexual assault	502	--	--	--	--	83	179	--	--	44†	131
Robbery	228	--	--	--	--	--	84†	--	--	--	46†
Assault	1,961	27	--	54	39	503	631	84	76	217	321
No. of incidents (000s)											
Total household	2,656	28	7†	76	48	625	874	107	106	260	525
Break and enter	587	6†	--	19†	--	153	185	22†	24†	48†	117
Motor vehicle/parts theft	501	--	--	--	--	126	160	18†	23†	54	96
Theft household property	760	9†	--	28	13†	164	254	29†	26†	65	169
Vandalism	808	8†	--	17†	15†	182	275	37†	33†	93	143
Rate per 1,000 population 15+											
Total personal	186	142	200	153	144	177	167	164	188	205	273
Theft personal property	75	60	--	58	49	70	69	50†	64	80	120
Total violent	111	82	132	95	94	106	97	114	124	126	153
Sexual assault	21	--	--	--	--	14	20	--	--	19†	40
Robbery	9	--	--	--	--	--	9†	--	--	--	14†
Assault	81	61	--	72	64	85	69	94	96	94	99
Rate per 1,000 households											
Total household	218	140	134†	200	159	204	194	236	259	228	319
Break and enter	48	30†	--	50†	--	50	41	49†	58†	42†	71
Motor vehicle/parts theft	41	--	--	--	--	41	35	40†	56†	48	58
Theft household property	62	44†	--	74	44†	53	56	65†	63†	57	103
Vandalism	66	41†	--	45†	51†	59	61	82†	81†	81	87

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.


Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

-- amount too small to be expressed

¹ Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 2



Rates of victimization by census metropolitan area, 1999¹

CMA ²	Total personal crimes		Total household crimes	
	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate per 1,000 population 15+	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate per 1,000 households
St. John's	30	215	12†	184†
Halifax	67	234	38	263
Saint John	--	--	10†	182†
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	--	--	--	--
Québec	117	200	68†	224†
Sherbrooke	--	--	--	--
Trois-Rivières	--	--	--	--
Montréal	567	208	324	227
Ottawa-Hull	185	220	109	254
Oshawa	--	--	--	--
Toronto	637	171	318	182
Hamilton	131	239	67†	251†
St. Catharines-Niagara	--	--	--	--
Kitchener	--	--	--	--
London	77†	222†	36†	189†
Windsor	--	--	--	--
Sudbury	--	--	--	--
Thunder Bay	--	--	--	--
Winnipeg	108	203	76	277
Regina	42†	274†	30†	382†
Saskatoon	42†	238†	32†	354†
Calgary	176	236	96	268
Edmonton	148	200	96	265
Vancouver	450	271	294	360
Victoria	59	224	34†	234†

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

-- amount too small to be expressed.

¹ Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

² A CMA (census metropolitan area) refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 3


Personal victimization rates, by victim characteristics, 1999¹

Victim characteristics	Total personal crimes	Theft personal property	Violent				Total personal crimes	Theft personal property	Violent			
			Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Assault			Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Assault
	No. of incidents (000s)						Rate per 1,000 population 15+					
Total	4,522	1,831	2,691	502	228	1,961	186	75	111	21	9	81
Sex												
Females	2,334	985	1,349	410	81†	858	189	80	109	33	7†	70
Males	2,188	845	1,343	92	147	1,103	183	71	112	8	12	92
Age (years)												
15-24	1,661	620	1,041	248	130	662	405	151	254	61	32	161
25-34	1,161	445	716	126	46†	544	262	101	162	28	10†	123
35-44	891	370	520	74†	--	427	170	70	99	14†	--	81
45-54	539	242	297	43†	--	230	128	58	71	10†	--	55
55-64	173	97	76†	--	--	64†	64	36	28†	--	--	24†
65 +	97	56†	41†	--	--	--	27	16†	12†	--	--	--
Marital status												
Married	1,337	643	694	78†	--	587	104	50	54	6†	--	46
Common law	503	169	333	--	--	266	245	83	163	--	--	130
Single	2,114	810	1,303	291	165	846	347	133	214	48	27	139
Widow or widower	91	50†	--	--	--	--	69	38†	--	--	--	--
Separated or divorced	440	149	291	68†	--	211	276	93	182	43†	--	133
Don't know/Not stated	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Main activity												
Working at a job	2,590	1,086	1,504	235	95	1,174	196	82	114	18	7	89
Looking for work	147	--	118	--	--	79†	327	--	263	--	--	175†
A student	1,149	488	661	145	87	429	384	163	221	49	29	143
Household work ²	309	94	216	58†	--	148	152	46	106	28†	--	73
Retired	134	73†	61†	--	--	46†	35	19†	16†	--	--	12†
Other ³	113	33†	80†	--	--	49†	220	64†	157†	--	--	96†
Don't know/Not stated	80†	--	51†	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Evening activities (# per month)												
Less than 10	416	155	261	42†	--	204	75	28	47	8†	--	37
10 - 19	664	304	360	61†	--	270	128	59	70	12†	--	52
20 - 29	898	382	516	92	44†	380	186	79	107	19	9†	79
30 +	2,542	988	1,554	307	141	1,105	305	119	187	37	17	133
Don't know/Not stated	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Household income (\$)												
0-14,999	360	88	272	61†	--	181	254	62	192	43†	--	127
15,000-29,999	557	189	368	70†	--	279	194	66	128	24†	--	97
30,000-39,999	412	164	249	46†	--	189	174	69	105	20†	--	80
40,000-59,999	825	348	477	82†	--	361	199	84	115	20†	--	87
60,000 +	1,226	559	667	92	60†	515	193	88	105	14	9†	81
Don't know/Not stated	1,141	484	658	151	71†	435	--	--	--	--	--	--
Location of home												
Urban	3,813	1,573	2,240	409	202	1,629	199	82	117	21	11	85
Rural	709	257	451	94	--	332	138	50	88	18	--	65

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

- nil or zero

-- amount too small to be expressed

¹ Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

² Includes taking care of children and maternity/paternity leave.

³ Includes long-term illness and volunteering.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 4

Incident characteristics	Profile of violent crime incidents, 1999 ¹							
	Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Assault	Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Assault
	No. of incidents (000s)				% of incidents			
Total	1,974	499	228	1,246	100	100	100	100
Accused had a ...²								
Gun	67†	--	--	--	3†	--	--	--
Knife	115	--	--	78†	6	--	--	6†
Other weapon	261	--	47†	213	13	--	20†	17
No weapon	1,415	432	120	863	72	87	53	69
Don't know/Not stated	127	58†	--	--	6	12†	--	--
Victim was physically injured								
Yes	364	--	50†	277	18	--	22†	22
No	1,553	408	178	967	79	82	78	78
Don't know/Not stated	57†	54†	-	--	3†	11†	-	--
Incident related to alcohol/drug use by ...								
Accused	854	212	102	540	43	42	45	43
Victim	--	--	-	--	--	--	-	--
Both accused and victim	140	--	--	96	7	--	--	8
Neither accused nor victim	696	173	81†	442	35	35	35†	35
Don't know/Not stated	258	74†	--	153	13	15†	--	12
Victim had difficulty carrying out main activity for a day or more³								
Yes	463	124	68†	271	24	26	31†	22
No	1,365	291	144	930	71	60	66	76
Don't know/Not stated	89	68†	--	--	5	14†	--	--
Victim talked about incident with ...²								
Police	354	--	64†	271	18	--	28†	22
Family	1,223	207	172	844	62	41	76	68
Friend/neighbour	1,421	302	191	928	72	61	84	74
Co-worker	875	132	94	649	44	26	41	52
Doctor or nurse	192	--	--	118	10	--	--	9
Lawyer	91	--	--	72†	5	--	--	6†
Clergy	55†	--	--	--	3†	--	--	--

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

- nil or zero

-- amount too small to be expressed

¹ Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

² Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

³ Excludes victims whose main activity was retired, long-term illness or maternity/paternity leave.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 5

Incident characteristics	Profile of the accused in violent crime incidents, 1999 ¹							
	Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Assault	Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Assault
	No. of incidents (000s)				% of incidents			
Total	2,691	502	228	1,961	100	100	100	100
Number of accused								
One	2,159	408	116	1,635	80	81	51	83
More than one	442	--	112	301	16	--	49	15
Don't know/Not stated	90	66†	--	--	3	13†	--	--
Sex of accused²								
Male	1,451	374	97	979	67	92	84	60
Female	392	--	--	341	18	--	--	21
Don't know/Not stated	316	--	-	315	15	--	-	19
Age of accused²								
<12 years	--	-	--	--	--	-	--	--
12-17	183	--	--	147	8	--	--	9
18-34	907	220	79†	608	42	54	69†	37
35-54	603	117	--	463	28	29	--	28
55+	117	43†	--	74†	5	11†	--	5†
Don't know/Not stated	337	--	-	332	16	--	-	20
Relationship of accused to victim²								
Family	797	--	--	766	37	--	--	47
Friend/Acquaintance/Other	781	279	--	459	36	68	--	28
Stranger	572	107	59†	405	26	26	51†	25
Don't know/Not stated	--	--	-	--	--	--	-	--

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

- nil or zero

-- amount too small to be expressed

¹ Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

² Based on incidents with a single accused.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 6


Household characteristics	No. of incidents (000s)					Rate per 1,000 households				
	Total household crimes	Break and enter	Motor vehicle/parts theft	Theft household property	Vandalism	Total household crimes	Break and enter	Motor vehicle/parts theft	Theft household property	Vandalism
Total	2,656	587	501	760	808	218	48	41	62	66
Location of home										
Urban	2,248	506	428	639	675	232	52	44	66	70
Rural	408	81†	74†	121	133	164	32†	30†	49	53
Household income (\$)										
0-14,999	196	57†	29†	61†	50†	183	53†	27†	57†	46†
15,000-29,999	373	88	61†	114	110	220	52	36†	67	65
30,000-39,999	309	62†	54†	100	92	245	50†	43†	79	73
40,000-59,999	500	102	104	148	146	247	50	51	73	72
60,000+	761	158	163	205	234	279	58	60	75	86
Don't know/Not stated	517	119	91	131	176					
Household size										
1 person	575	144	100	159	172	176	44	31	49	53
2 persons	795	177	150	222	245	190	42	36	53	59
3 persons	504	119	97	136	152	269	64	52	73	81
4+ persons	782	147	154	243	239	276	52	54	86	84
Type of home										
Single detached	1,568	348	295	448	478	218	48	41	62	66
Semi-detached, row house, or duplex	425	82†	93	113	138	278	53†	60	74	90
Apartment	580	140	103	168	170	212	51	38	61	62
Other	56†	--	--	25†	--	256†	--	--	115†	--
Don't know/Not stated	26†	--	--	--	--					
Ownership of home										
Owned	1,647	344	312	465	527	212	44	40	60	68
Rented	977	235	184	288	271	250	60	47	74	69
Don't know/Not stated	31†	--	--	--	--					

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.
 Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

-- amount too small to be expressed

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 7



Victimization incidents reported to the police, 1999 ¹							
	Total no. of incidents	Incidents reported to the police ²		Incidents not reported to the police		Don't know/Not stated	
	(000s)	(000s)	%	(000s)	%	(000s)	%
Total	6,460	2,417	37	3,828	59	214	3
Total personal	3,804	1,236	32	2,411	63	157	4
Theft personal property	1,831	633	35	1,149	63	--	--
Total violent	1,974	603	31	1,262	64	109	6
Sexual assault	499	--	--	391	78	70†	14†
Robbery	228	105	46	116	51	--	--
Assault	1,246	460	37	754	61	--	--
Total household	2,656	1,181	44	1,417	53	57†	2†
Break and enter	587	365	62	206	35	--	--
Motor vehicle/parts theft	501	303	60	187	37	--	--
Theft household property	760	240	32	506	67	--	--
Vandalism	808	273	34	518	64	--	--

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Figures may not add to total due to rounding.


-- amount too small to be expressed

¹ Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

² Includes incidents reported by the victim or by someone else.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 8



Perceptions of crime for population aged 15+						
	1988	1993	1999	1988	1993	1999
	Population 15+ (000s)			% population 15+		
Total	20,194	21,644	24,260	100	100	100
During the last 5 years, has crime in your neighbourhood ...						
Increased	..	9,888	7,113	..	46	29
Decreased	..	799	1,414	..	4	6
Stayed the same	..	9,297	13,202	..	43	54
Don't know/Not stated	..	1,660	2,531	..	8	10
Compared to other areas in Canada is crime in your neighbourhood ...						
Higher	1,663	2,166	1,820	8	10	8
About the same	5,941	6,179	6,727	29	29	28
Lower	11,445	12,370	14,440	57	57	60
Don't know/Not stated	1,146	929	1,273	6	4	5

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

.. figures not available

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988, 1993 and 1999.

Table 9

	1993	1999	1993	1999
	Population 15+ (000s)		% population 15+	
Total	21,644	24,260	100	100
While waiting for/using public transportation alone after dark, how do you feel about your safety from crime?²				
Not at all worried	2,919	3,306	51	54
Somewhat worried	2,074	2,390	36	39
Very worried	688	438	12	7
Don't know/Not stated	40†	42†	1†	1†
Total	5,720	6,176	100	100
How safe do you feel from crime when walking alone in your area after dark?²				
Very safe	6,094	7,964	39	43
Reasonably safe	7,079	8,322	45	45
Somewhat unsafe	1,585	1,627	10	9
Very unsafe	538	412	3	2
Don't know/Not stated	331	63	2	--
Total	15,627	18,388	100	100
While alone in your home in the evening or at night, how do you feel about your safety from crime?³				
Not at all worried	16,271	19,104	75	80
Somewhat worried	4,390	4,374	20	18
Very worried	941	496	4	2
Don't know/Not stated	42†	44†	--	--
Total	21,644	24,018	100	100
In general, how do you feel about your safety from crime?				
Very satisfied	8,739	10,678	40	44
Somewhat satisfied	9,864	11,292	46	47
Somewhat dissatisfied	1,513	995	7	4
Very dissatisfied	825	449	4	2
Don't know/Not stated	703	847	3	3
Total	21,644	24,260	100	100

Note: † Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

-- amount too small to be expressed

¹ There are no comparable data for 1988.

² Based on responses for people who engage in these activities.

³ For 1999 only, this excludes the estimated 1% of the population that is never home alone.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993 and 1999.

Table 10



Perceptions of the justice system for population aged 15+

	1993					1999				
	Total	Good job	Average job	Poor job	Don't know/Not stated	Total	Good job	Average job	Poor job	Don't know/Not stated
% population 15+										
What kind of job are your local police doing at ...										
Being approachable	100	64	19	5	12	100	66	17	4	12
Ensuring the safety of citizens	100	58	29	7	6	100	62	26	5	6
Enforcing the laws	100	58	31	6	5	100	60	29	5	5
Supplying information on reducing crime	100	52	26	12	10	100	54	26	9	11
Responding promptly to calls	100	47	23	9	21	100	49	21	8	23
What kind of job are criminal courts doing at ...										
Ensuring a fair trial for the accused	100	46	29	12	14	100	41	35	11	14
Determining the guilt of the accused	100	20	41	21	17	100	21	43	20	17
Helping the victim	100	12	31	42	14	100	15	33	35	16
Providing justice quickly	100	10	30	50	11	100	13	35	41	11
What kind of job is the prison system doing at ...										
Supervising/controlling prisoners	...	..	..	..	..	100	26	32	20	21
Helping prisoners become law-abiding	...	..	..	..	..	100	14	32	28	26
What kind of job is the parole system doing at ...										
Releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend	...	..	..	..	..	100	15	34	32	19
Supervising offenders on parole	...	..	..	..	..	100	13	30	33	24

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

.. figures not available

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993 and 1999.

Table 11


Population estimates for the 1999 General Social Survey¹

	Population 15+		Households
	No. in thousands		No. in thousands
Total	24,260	Total	12,163
Provinces		Provinces	
Nfld.	440	Nfld.	202
P.E.I.	108	P.E.I.	53
N.S.	756	N.S.	379
N.B.	608	N.B.	302
Que.	5,934	Que.	3,064
Ont.	9,176	Ont.	4,513
Man.	888	Man.	454
Sask.	789	Sask.	408
Alta.	2,310	Alta.	1,143
B.C.	3,253	B.C.	1,645
Urban/rural		Urban/rural	
Urban	19,134	Urban	9,675
Rural	5,126	Rural	2,488
CMA		CMA	
St. John's	142	St. John's	64
Halifax	286	Halifax	144
Saint John	102	Saint John	53
Québec	584	Québec	303
Montréal	2,721	Montréal	1,428
Ottawa-Hull	841	Ottawa-Hull	430
Toronto	3,721	Toronto	1,746
Hamilton	547	Hamilton	268
London	345	London	190
Winnipeg	533	Winnipeg	274
Regina	154	Regina	79
Saskatoon	176	Saskatoon	90
Calgary	744	Calgary	359
Edmonton	738	Edmonton	365
Vancouver	1,656	Vancouver	817
Victoria	264	Victoria	145
Household income (\$)		Household income (\$)	
0-14,999	1,421	0-14,999	1,068
15,000-29,999	2,874	15,000-29,999	1,692
30,000-39,999	2,370	30,000-39,999	1,258
40,000-59,999	4,136	40,000-59,999	2,028
60,000 +	6,349	60,000 +	2,724
Don't know/Not stated	7,111	Don't know/Not stated	3,394
Sex		Household size	
Females	12,320	1 person	3,264
Males	11,940	2 persons	4,185
Age		3 persons	1,875
15-24	4,103	4+ persons	2,838
25-34	4,430	Dwelling type	
35-44	5,253	Single detached	7,198
45-54	4,199	Semi-detached, row house, or duplex	1,532
55-64	2,717	Apartment	2,738
65 +	3,558	Other	217
Marital status		Don't know/Not stated	478
Married	12,821	Dwelling ownership	
Common law	2,048	Owned	7,756
Single	6,093	Rented	3,912
Widow or widower	1,326	Don't know/Not stated	495
Separated or divorced	1,596		
Don't know/Not stated	377		
Main activity			
Working at a job	13,191		
Looking for work	449		
A student	2,992		
Household work	2,042		
Retired	3,790		
Other	512		
Don't know/Not stated	1,284		
Evening activities (# per month)			
Less than 10	5,571		
10 - 19	5,168		
20 - 29	4,827		
30 +	8,321		
Don't know/Not stated	372		

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

¹ These are the population figures used to calculate rates per 1,000 persons 15+ or per 1,000 households.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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