

IT'S TIME: CANADA'S STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



IT'S TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE

WHO IS AFFECTED BY GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

While violence affects people of all genders, ages, cultures, ethnicities, geographic locations, and socio-economic backgrounds, some populations are more at risk of experiencing violence. This could include women and girls, Indigenous people, LGBTQ2 and gender non-conforming people, those living in northern, rural, and remote communities, people with disabilities, newcomers, children and youth, and seniors.

However, the negative impacts of gender-based violence (GBV) reach far beyond any specific populations. While GBV can significantly influence the health, social and economic conditions of the individuals who directly experience it, it can also have long-lasting and negative results for family members, friends, and entire communities. And because GBV prevents individuals from reaching their full potential, we all lose.

GBV is linked to sexist attitudes and behaviours. It is made worse by other forms of discrimination such as **racism, ableism, classism, homophobia, transphobia** and **biphobia**.

Discrimination, prejudice and intolerance can also make it hard for survivors from diverse populations to access appropriate support and services.

THE RISK OF FACING VIOLENCE VARIES BY POPULATION:

- In 2014, women self-reported slightly more than 1.2 million violent victimization incidents, representing 56% of all violent incidents.¹
- Women have a 20% higher risk of being victimized than men.²
- Young women, aged 15-34 years, have the highest risk of experiencing violence.³ In 2014, young women were nearly 1.9 times more likely to experience violence than young men.⁴
- Indigenous women experienced violence at a rate 2.7 times higher than that reported by non-Indigenous women.⁵
- Indigenous women are more than three times as likely as non-Indigenous women to report spousal violence (10% vs. 3%).⁶ Being Indigenous is a key risk factor on its own for experiencing violence.⁷
- Gay, lesbian or bisexual individuals are three times more likely than heterosexuals to report experiencing violence.⁸
- Transgendered people are nearly twice as likely as cisgendered women to experience intimate partner violence in their lifetimes.⁹
- Women living with physical and/or cognitive impairments are two to three times more likely to experience violence than women living without such impairments.¹⁰
- Senior women are 24% more likely than senior men to face family violence.¹¹
- Women living in the territories experience violence at a rate eight times higher than women living in the provinces.¹² Their risk of experiencing violence is 45% higher than men in their communities.¹³ Remote and isolated communities also face particular challenges related to accessing support.

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REPORTING VIOLENCE

The majority of incidents of GBV are not reported to police. For example, in 2014, just 5% of sexual assault survivors reported the incident to police. Survivors have many reasons for not reporting violence. This includes, but is not limited to, feeling that the incident was a personal matter; view that the offender would not be convicted or adequately punished; not wanting others to know; fear of revenge; not wanting to bring shame or dishonour to family members; a lack of confidence in police or the justice system; being dependent financially on the perpetrator; fear of having their children taken from them; and fear of deportation (in the case of immigrant women).^{15 16}

¹ Statistics Canada, Women and the Criminal Justice System, Women in Canada (June 2017)

² Perreault, Samuel (November 2015). "Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014." Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.htm#a12>

³ Hutchins, Hope (February 2013). "Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends: Section 2: Risk factors for violence against women." Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11766/11766-2-eng.htm#a20>

⁴ Statistics Canada, Women and the Criminal Justice System, Women in Canada (June 2017)

⁵ Statistics Canada, Women and the Criminal Justice System, Women in Canada (June 2017)

⁶ Boyce, Jill (June 2016). "Victimization of Aboriginal people in Canada, 2014" Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2016001/article/14631-eng.htm#r13>

⁷ Perreault, Samuel (November 2015). "Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014." Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.htm#a12>

⁸ Perreault, Samuel (November 2015). "Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014." Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.htm#a12>

⁹ Wathen, C. Nadine, Jennifer C. D. MacGregor, and Barbara J. MacQuarrie (2015). "The Impact of Domestic Violence in the Workplace: Results From a Pan-Canadian Survey." *Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine*, Vol. 57, no. 7, pp. e65–e71. http://journals.lww.com/joem/fulltext/2015/07000/The_Impact_of_Domestic_Violence_in_the_Workplace_.19.aspx

¹⁰ Odette, F. and Rajan, D. (November 2013). Violence Against Women with DisAbilities and Deaf Women: An Overview. Learning Network Brief (12). London, Ontario: Learning Network, Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children. <http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/violence-against-women-disabilities-and-deaf-women-overview>

¹¹ Ibrahim, Dyna (January 2016). "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2014 Section 5: Police-reported family violence against seniors". Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2016001/article/14303/05-eng.htm>

¹² Allen, Mary and Samuel Perrault (May 2015) "Police-reported crime in Canada's Provincial North and Territories, 2013". Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14165-eng.htm#a8

¹³ Perrault, Samuel and Laura Simpson (April 2016) "Criminal victimization in the territories, 2014". Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2016001/article/14470-eng.htm>

¹⁴ Perreault, Samuel (November 2015). "Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014." Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.htm#a12>

¹⁵ Perreault, Samuel (November 2015). "Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014." Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.htm#a12>

¹⁶ Johnson, Holly and Pam Kapoor (October 2013). "The Case for a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women." http://ywccanada.ca/data/research_docs/00000307.pdf