



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, December 9, 2004

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Releases

Victim services, 2002/2003	2
Victim service agencies across Canada helped almost 360,000 people affected by crime in 2002/03, and three-quarters of those assisted on a single day in October last year were victims of violent crimes.	
Alcohol and illicit drug dependence, 2002	5
In 2002, an estimated 641,000 people, or about 2.6% of the population aged 15 or older, reported symptoms indicating that they were dependent on alcohol. In addition, 194,000 people, or just under 1% of the population had symptoms suggesting dependence on illicit drugs.	
New Housing Price Index, October 2004	6
Study: Consumer holiday shopping patterns, 1999 to 2003	6
Commercialization of intellectual property in the higher education sector, 2001 to 2003	7
Air charter statistics, 2003	7
Cement, October 2004	8

New products	9
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Releases

Victim services

2002/2003

Victim service agencies across Canada helped almost 360,000 people affected by crime in 2002/03, according to a first-ever survey.

A one-day survey snapshot, taken on October 22, 2003, showed that more than three-quarters of the people who sought assistance were victims, either directly or indirectly, of violent crime, and the majority were women or girls.

Not counting those affected by homicide and victims of criminal harassment, one-half of the people served that day were victims of a violent crime committed by a family member, spouse, ex-spouse or intimate partner.

About 33% had been victimized by a spouse, ex-spouse or intimate partner, while an additional 18% were victimized by a family member other than a spouse.

Of the 484 service agencies that responded to the survey, 430 reported information on expenditures and spent more than \$82 million on victim services in Canada during the year. In addition, the eight provinces that reported information on financial benefit programs for victims of crime spent almost \$71 million on compensation for victims and their families.

There were 606 victim service agencies in Canada in 2002/03. The majority of the agencies were police-based (41%), followed by community-based (19%), then sexual assault centres (17%), court-based (10%) and system-based (8%), that is, their services were delivered by a provincial government program which supports the victim throughout their contact with the criminal justice system. Other types of services accounted for 3% of agencies and the criminal injuries compensation and financial benefit programs for victims of crime made up the remaining 1%.

Victims: Majority of those seeking help were women

The characteristics of those assisted by victim services reflects the fact that many agencies reported targeting certain victims for services, particularly victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Overall, women and girls accounted for about three-quarters of the almost 4,400 people helped by victim service agencies on the day of the survey snapshot. Even when clients of sexual assault centres are excluded from the total, females still account for over 7 in 10 victims helped that day.

Note to readers

This release is based on a Juristat that presents results of the first-ever Victim Services Survey conducted in 2003.

To date, the only source of national data on services for victims of crime has been Statistics Canada's Transition Home Survey that collects information on residential services for abused women and their children. To address the lack of information in this area, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, through funding from Justice Canada's Policy Centre for Victim Issues, conducted a national voluntary survey of various types of victim services.

The Victim Services Survey was intended to be a census of system-based, police-based and court-based victim services, sexual assault centres and financial benefit programs for victims of crime.

Community-based services were also included in the survey if they provided assistance to direct or indirect victims of crime and they either received funding from the ministry responsible for justice matters in their province or territory, or the equivalent of their program in another jurisdiction received funding from a ministry responsible for justice matters.

The survey did not cover shelters for abused women and their children. They are currently covered by the Transition Home Survey.

In total, there were 606 victim service agencies in Canada in 2002/03. Some 484 service agencies and 8 criminal injuries compensation programs, or 81% of the total responded to the survey.

Of the over 3,300 females assisted by these agencies, about 84% had been the direct or indirect victims of a violent crime. This compares with 59% of the almost 1,000 males served that day.

In addition, about 40%, or more than 1,300 females, were victims of violence by a spouse, ex-spouse or intimate partner.

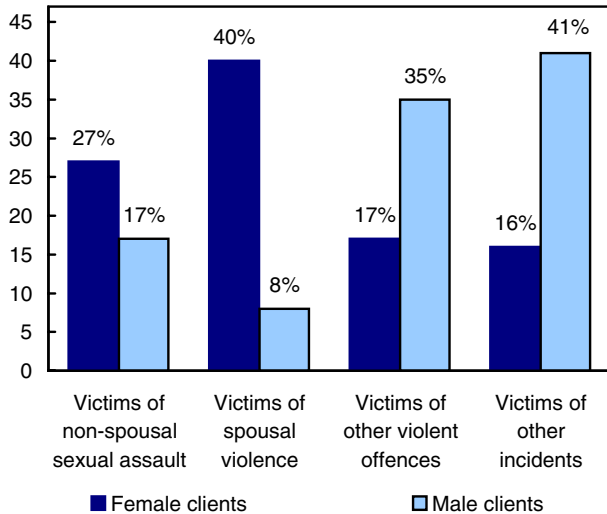
Children under the age of 18 accounted for 18% of those helped by victim service agencies on the snapshot day. Three-quarters of the boys in this age group, and about 9 in 10 of the girls, were victims of a violent crime.

Of the girls who received help, 7 out of every 10 were victims of sexual assault. The boys were more likely than girls to be victims of non-sexual violence (46%), such as assault.

Just under one-half (47%) of victims who used a sexual assault centre or other community-based agency on snapshot day had reported the incident to the police. About 31% had not done so, and, for the remaining 22%, the agency didn't know if the incident had been reported.

Over 8 in 10 females helped by victim services on October 22, 2003¹, were victims of violent crimes

Percent



1. Percentages are based on a total of 3,372 female clients and 986 male clients.

Other surveys on victimization have found that about 4 out of every 10 victims of violent crimes report to the police. Rates are typically lowest among victims of sexual assault.

Victim service agencies: A profile

Victim service agencies frequently target a specific population for service, although that population may not be their exclusive clientele.

The populations most frequently targeted were: seniors who were victims of spousal abuse; victims of elder abuse; adult victims of sexual assault; adult victims of spousal or intimate partner abuse; and adult victims of childhood sexual abuse.

Almost all agencies provided emotional support and various types of information, such as information on courts and the structure and process of the criminal justice system. In addition, they planned for the immediate safety of the client, and in many cases, victim service workers accompanied clients to court, or assisted with victim impact statements.

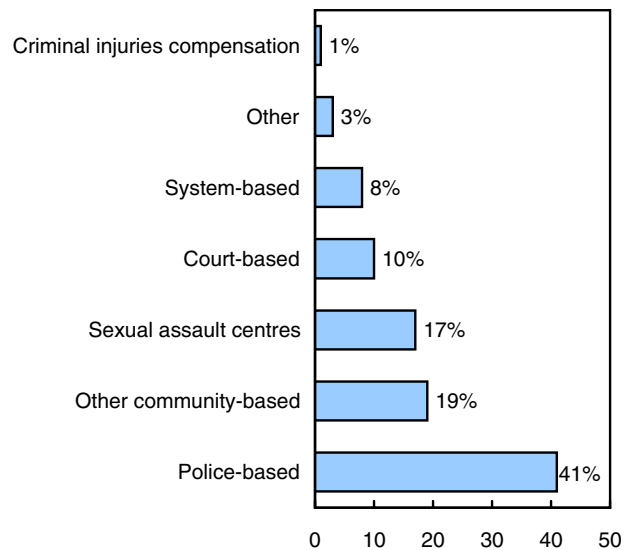
Services that were less common overall were offered by certain types of victim service agencies. For example, while less than half of agencies offered crisis counselling, this service was common among sexual assault centres and system-based agencies.

In keeping with Canada's ethnically diverse population, 8 out of 10 agencies provided services to

clients who did not speak either English or French. Agencies most often reported having staff who could speak in Spanish, followed by German, Chinese, Punjabi and Italian.

About 13% had special programs dedicated to ethno-cultural or visible minority groups, such as South Asians, East and South East Asians, and people from Latin America, Central or South America.

Victim services mostly comprise police-based agencies, 2002/03



One-quarter offered special programs dedicated to Aboriginal people, and 20% had staff or volunteers who could speak an Aboriginal language, most commonly Cree, Inuktitut and Ojibway.

The vast majority of services could accommodate clients with mobility challenges, as well as clients with mental challenges or mental health issues.

Most agencies rely on volunteers

Just over three-quarters of the 484 agencies reporting to the survey benefited from the work of 9,616 volunteers. Of these, 26 agencies or 5% of the total were run completely by volunteers. About 1 in 5 agencies said they did not use volunteers.

Agencies estimated that, all together, volunteers had contributed at least 44,275 hours per week, or the equivalent of 1,107 volunteers working full-time hours. Data suggest that volunteers in the victim services sector worked, on average, about five hours a week.

In 2002/03, 444 victim service agencies or 92% of the total reported the equivalent of 1,448 paid full-time employees.

One in six agencies involved in restorative justice

Restorative justice processes, such as sentencing circles and mediation, provide an alternative to traditional criminal justice processes. These alternatives have the goal of restoring the loss experienced by the victim and the community, and making the offender take responsibility for his or her actions. They are also intended to restore relationships between the victim, the offender and the community.

About one-third of victim service agencies reported providing accompaniment and support for clients who decided to use restorative justice and/or mediation measures. About one-fifth provided orientation and information regarding these measures.

In addition, about one out of every six agencies reported that they were involved in the actual delivery or coordination of restorative justice processes for criminal justice matters. Police-based services were most likely to report being involved in these processes, followed by court-based services. Sexual assault centres were least likely to be involved.

Nine provinces had criminal injuries compensation programs

During fiscal year 2002/03, all jurisdictions except Newfoundland and Labrador and the three territories had compensation programs for victims of crime. These programs are intended to alleviate the financial burden victims and their families can incur as a result of victimization. While the eligibility criteria and the reasons for compensation payments differ from one province to another, compensation can be provided for

various reasons such as loss of wages, medical and counselling costs, and financial support for children whose parents have been killed.

The eight provincial compensation programs that responded to the survey reported a total of 10,874 applications that were adjudicated or concluded during 2002/03. Another 8,927 were carried forward to the following fiscal year.

Of the total adjudicated, 70% were allowed or granted and 14% were disallowed. The remainder had another status, such as decision pending, withdrawn or abandoned by the applicant.

The eight provincial compensation programs that responded reported paying a total of \$70.6 million in compensation for victims of crime in 2002/03.

Available on CANSIM: tables 256-0018 to 256-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5035.

The *Juristat: Victim Services in Canada, 2002/03*, Vol. 24, no. 11 (85-002-XIE20040118410, \$9/\$75; 85-002-XPE20040118410, \$11/\$100) is now available. See *How to order products*. The product *Victim Services in Canada: National, Provincial and Territorial Fact Sheets, 2002/03* (85-003-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-22231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Percentage of victim service agencies that offer dedicated programs to specific populations, by type of population 2002/03

	Number	%
Total service agencies	484	100
Children — both sexes	198	41
Adult females	180	37
Seniors — both sexes	153	32
Aboriginal persons	121	25
Female seniors	120	25
Adult males	113	23
Female children	105	22
Male children	96	20
Male seniors	94	19
Persons with physical disabilities	93	19
Persons with mental disabilities	90	19
Lesbian/bisexual women	82	17
Gay/bisexual men	64	13
Ethno-cultural or visible minority persons	62	13

1: Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.



Alcohol and illicit drug dependence

2002

In 2002, an estimated 641,000 people, or about 2.6% of the population aged 15 or older, reported symptoms suggesting that they were dependent on alcohol, according to a new study.

In addition, 194,000 people, or just under 1% of the adult population, had symptoms that suggested dependence on illicit drugs.

These estimates are based on data from the 2002 Canadian Community Health Survey: Mental Health and Well-being.

To determine dependence, the survey measured seven symptoms among respondents who drank heavily, that is, those who reported having had five or more drinks on a single occasion at least once a month during the previous year. The survey also measured six symptoms of dependence among those who used illicit drugs at least once a month. In both cases, people reporting three or more symptoms were considered to be dependent. Dependence, however, captures only a small and very specific aspect of alcohol- and drug-related problems.

Young people were most at risk of dependence. While 9% of 20- to 24-year-olds were dependent on alcohol, the figure at age 55 or older was less than 1%. And at ages 15 to 24, around 2.5% were dependent on illicit drugs, compared with less than half of one percent of people aged 35 or older.

The proportion of men who were alcohol-dependent was about three times the proportion of women: 3.9% versus 1.3%. Similarly, 1.1% of men were dependent on illicit drugs, compared with 0.5% of women.

Even allowing for the effects of other factors, people who were single, separated or divorced, had low education or lived in low-income households had high odds of alcohol- and drug-dependence.

Symptoms of dependence

The two most common symptoms of alcohol dependence reported by heavy monthly drinkers were being drunk or hung over at work or school or while taking care of children, and drinking much more than they had intended.

The most common symptom of dependence reported by monthly illicit drug users was taking drugs in larger amounts than intended, followed by increased tolerance, and withdrawal.

Elevated levels of depression

More than a quarter (26%) of people who were dependent on illicit drugs had had a major depressive episode in the past year, a significantly high rate compared with those who had not used such drugs. Even those who reported using illicit drugs less than once a month had elevated levels of depression. As well, 15% of people who were dependent on alcohol had had a major depressive episode in the past year, a significantly high rate compared with those who had not done any heavy drinking in that time. These results held when other potentially confounding variables were taken into account.

The relationship between drinking and depression is complex. While heavy drinking tended to lead to depression, depression also tended to lead to heavy drinking. It is possible, however, that factors that were not available from the survey might be driving this relationship.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5015.

The article "Alcohol and Illicit Drug Dependence" (82-003-SIE, free) is now available online. This study is the last of four articles released this fall in the *How Healthy are Canadians?* series, an annual supplement to *Health Reports* (82-003-XIE, \$17/\$48; 82-003-XPE, \$22/\$63).

Other articles in this year's annual report examined social anxiety disorder (released October 26, 2004), bipolar I disorder (released November 10, 2004), and panic disorder (released November 29). A print compendium, *Focus on Mental Health*, will be released later in December.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michael Tjepkema (416-952-4620; michael.tjepkema@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

New Housing Price Index

October 2004

Favourable market conditions and healthy demand kept prices strong in Canada's new housing market in October.

The price of new homes increased by 5.6% in October compared with the same month last year, according to the New Housing Price Index which measures the change in contractors' selling prices.

This was down slightly from the 5.8% annual increase registered in September. The annual rate of increase has been slowing since the 6.2% peak in June 2004, which was the biggest 12-month gain since February 1990.

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) reached 125.0 in October.

Continued favourable demand along with higher prices for labour and building materials, such as lumber and drywall, pushed prices up across the country.

New housing price indexes (1997=100)

	October 2004	October 2003 to October 2004	September 2004 to October 2004
	% change		
Canada total	125.0	5.6	0.2
House only	133.3	6.6	0.3
Land only	109.3	3.4	0.2
St. John's	120.8	5.9	0.0
Halifax	121.8	1.8	0.0
Charlottetown	110.5	4.2	0.7
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	106.0	2.2	0.2
Québec	130.6	4.7	0.4
Montréal	137.8	6.5	0.7
Ottawa-Gatineau	150.4	7.3	0.6
Toronto and Oshawa	128.4	5.9	0.1
Hamilton	129.7	5.8	0.5
St. Catharines-Niagara	132.0	7.9	0.2
Kitchener	127.4	5.8	1.3
London	121.4	5.1	0.2
Windsor	103.0	0.9	0.0
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	98.8	2.2	0.0
Winnipeg	124.7	8.5	0.0
Regina	136.8	7.2	0.4
Saskatoon	123.7	6.7	0.0
Calgary	140.1	5.3	0.3
Edmonton	131.2	3.8	0.6
Vancouver	102.0	5.0	0.1
Victoria	107.0	7.3	-0.3

Note: View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.

Winnipeg (+8.5%) led the way with the largest 12-month increase for new homes, followed by St. Catharines-Niagara (+7.9%), Victoria (+7.3%) and Ottawa-Gatineau (+7.3%).

On a month-over month basis, housing prices rose 0.2%, a slightly slower rate of increase compared with the September increase of 0.3%.

Of the 21 metropolitan areas, 14 posted monthly gains led by Kitchener (+1.3%), Charlottetown (+0.7%) and Montréal (+0.7%).

Notable increases were observed in Ottawa-Gatineau, Edmonton, Hamilton, Québec, Regina and Calgary.

New home prices also rose in Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton; St. Catharines-Niagara; London; Toronto and Oshawa; and Vancouver.

Six metropolitan areas registered no monthly change and the only decrease was in Victoria (-0.3%) due to competitive factors.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The fourth quarter 2004 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will be available in April 2005.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact our Client Services Section (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Susan Morris (613-951-2035; [morrissus@statcan.ca](mailto:morrisus@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

Study: Consumer holiday shopping patterns 1999 to 2003

The traditional last-minute Christmas shopping spree may not be so last-minute as you think. True, many consumers make an 11th hour rush to the local mall to fill up those Christmas stockings. But analysis of retail sales shows there is a tad more method to shoppers' madness.

This study examines the impact of Christmas shopping on retail sales and employment for the months of November, December and January by different store types.

It shows that consumers start buying big-ticket items in November. However, they wait until December to buy less expensive Christmas gifts.

For example, retailers who sell mostly expensive items, such as furniture, electronic equipment and appliances, had sales in November 2003 that

were 12.4% higher than the monthly average for the entire year.

In contrast, retailers specializing in less expensive items, such as CDs and toys, had sales in December last year that were 65.3% higher than the monthly average for the entire year, after a relatively quiet November. This suggests that a lot of shoppers tended to wait until the last minute to buy less expensive gifts.

Retailers tweaked staffing levels in anticipation of these holiday shopping patterns. Employment levels rose sooner for stores selling mostly big-ticket items, and more sharply in December for stores offering primarily less expensive items.

And if you think that January is busier than it used to be, you're probably right. There are indications that the traditional slump in sales in January may not be as severe as it has been in the past, at least for some retailers.

Consumer spending in retail stores has eased off in November and December, and gained ground in January. Consumers appear to be transferring some of their buying power to January. The popularity of gift cards might be one of the factors behind this new trend.

Overall, retailers sold more than \$330.5 billion worth of goods and services in 2003. Sales for the holiday season (that is, November and December combined) amounted to \$59.5 billion or 18% of the annual total.

In December last year alone, retailers sold over \$32 billion worth of goods and services, a 3.2% increase over December 2002.

Higher demand translated into more jobs in the retail industry (excluding non-store retailers). Employment in retail stores hit 1.62 million in December 2003, nearly 38,000 more than the level in December 2002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406, 2612 and 2008.

The analytical article "Consumer Holiday Shopping Patterns," no. 19 (11-621-MIE2004019, free) is now available online in the *Analysis in Brief* series. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Business enterprises*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yiling Zhang (613-951-2211), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Commercialization of intellectual property in the higher education sector

2001 to 2003 (preliminary)

Universities and hospitals recorded moderate gains in commercializing inventions between 2001 and 2003, according to preliminary data from the Survey of Intellectual Property Commercialization in the Higher Education Sector.

The number of inventions entering the commercialization pipeline rose during the two-year period. The number of invention disclosures was up 7%, while new patent applications increased 35%.

During the same period, income from intellectual property commercialization reached \$51 million, up about 7%. However, this rate of growth was not as substantial as the 126% gain between 1999 and 2001.

Universities and their affiliated research hospitals make an important contribution to innovation in Canada's economy. Besides generating new knowledge and training highly qualified graduates, some of the technology they produce is patented and licensed to companies for incorporation into commercial products. Some of these companies are spin-offs, that is, they are uniquely created to license and commercialize technology developed at the institution.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4222.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Cathy Read (613-951-3838; fax 613-951-9920; cathy.read@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Air charter statistics

2003 (preliminary)

Quarterly and annual data for 2003 are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2705.

These data will appear in the *Aviation: Service Bulletin*, Vol. 37, no. 1 (51-004-XIB, \$9) which will be available in January 2005. A print-on-demand service is also available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Cement

October 2004

Data on Cement are now available for October 2004.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

Note: CANSIM tables 303-0060 and 303-0061 replace CANSIM table 303-0001 beginning with the January 2004 reference month.

The October 2004 issue of *Cement*, Vol. 56, no. 10 (44-001-XIB, \$6/\$51) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Analysis in Brief: Consumer Holiday Shopping Patterns, no. 19
Catalogue number 11-621-MIE2004019
(free).

Environmental Protection Expenditures in the Business Sector, 2002
Catalogue number 16F0006XIE
(free).

Production of Eggs, October 2004
Catalogue number 23-003-XIB
(free).

Cement, October 2004, Vol. 56, no. 10
Catalogue number 44-001-XIB (\$6/\$51).

Health Reports: Supplement: How Healthy are Canadians? Annual Report, 2004
Catalogue number 82-003-SIE
(free).

Juristat: Victim Services in Canada, 2002/03,
Vol. 24, no. 11
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE20040118410 (\$9/\$75).

Juristat: Victim Services in Canada, 2002/03,
Vol. 24, no. 11
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE20040118410
(\$11/\$100).

Victim Services in Canada: National, Provincial and Territorial Fact Sheets, 2002/03
Catalogue number 85-003-XIE
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 20 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was modestly weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



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