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Building permits, April 2006

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Construction intentions in both the residential and non-residential sectors cooled off in April after hitting their second highest total on record the month before. Builders took out \$5.0 billion in building permits, down 10.6% from March.

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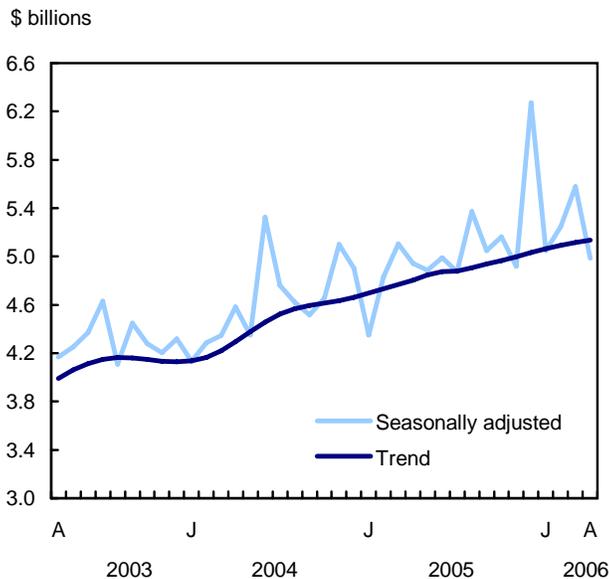
Building permits

April 2006

Construction intentions in both the residential and non-residential sectors cooled off in April after hitting their second highest total on record the month before.

Builders took out \$5.0 billion in building permits, down 10.6% from March. It was the lowest level for permits since November 2005 and 1.5% below the average monthly level for last year as a whole.

Total value of permits declines in April



In the housing sector, municipalities issued \$3.2 billion in permits, down 5.7% from March, the result of declines in both single- and multi-family components. This level was on par with the average monthly level in 2005, which was a record year for the housing sector.

In the non-residential sector, builders took out \$1.8 billion in permits in April, down 18.4% compared with March. This decline followed two strong gains in February and March. The retreat was fuelled primarily by a large decline in institutional permits and to a lesser extent by a decrease in the commercial component.

However, both housing and non-residential sectors remained healthy. The value of housing permits has been on an upward trend since the beginning

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building Permits Survey covers 2,380 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa-Gatineau is divided into two areas: Ottawa-Gatineau (Quebec part) and Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part).

of 2005, thanks to the extremely strong market in Western Canada. Similarly, but to a lesser extent, the non-residential sector has also been on an upward trend since November 2005.

Regionally, the census metropolitan areas of Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver recorded the largest advances in cumulative figures for the first four months of 2006 in comparison with the same period last year. The housing market was the main driving force in all three centres.

Except for Abbotsford, every metropolitan area west of Ontario showed advances in their cumulative figures compared with 2005. In contrast, the largest decline occurred in Toronto due to a significant decrease in non-residential permits.

Housing: Demand cools for both single- and multi-family dwellings

The value of permits for single-family dwellings declined 4.0% to \$2.1 billion in April, the third consecutive monthly decrease. Despite these retreats, the level in April remained 1.1% higher than the average monthly level in 2005.

After two monthly increases, the value of multi-family permits retreated 8.7% to \$1.1 billion.

Municipal authorities approved construction of 9,523 new single-family dwellings in April, down 5.5% from March. The number of these approvals has declined in each of the last four months.

Municipalities authorized 8,750 multi-family units, down 10.3%. This component has been on a downward trend since June 2005.

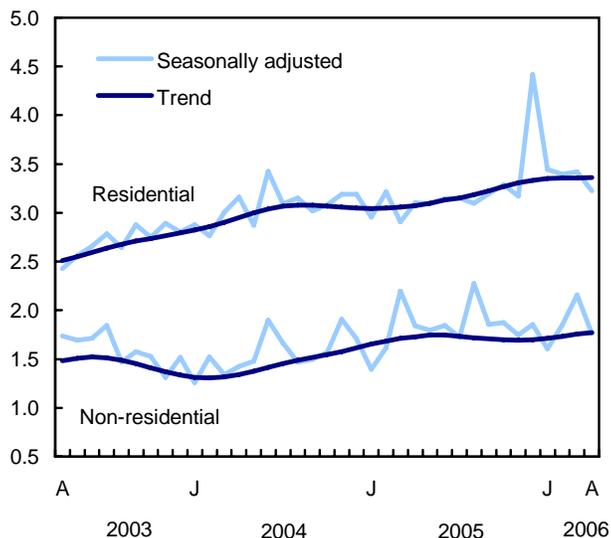
Despite the slight slowdown in the feverish demand for new housing, the overall results remained positive. The residential sector continued to benefit from advantageous mortgage rates, strong full-time employment and the healthy economy in Western Canada.

The decline in housing permits in April came largely from British Columbia (-15.9%) and Alberta (-13.6%). Both declines occurred on the heels of substantial values of residential permits issued in March, and each province recorded marked declines in both single- and multi-family components.

In contrast, Ontario recorded a 6.4% increase, its first monthly gain this year. Strong increases in the value of single- and multi-family permits were the main factor.

Significant decline in the non-residential sector

\$ billions



Large drop in commercial, institutional permits

Large retreats in the value of institutional and commercial permits more than offset an increase in industrial permits in April.

After an impressive 49.3% jump in March, intentions in the institutional sector incurred the largest decline, tumbling 45.6% to \$411 million. The biggest factor was a major decline in the hospital category.

Gains in the educational and the religion building categories failed to offset declines in hospitals. Provincially, Alberta and Ontario reported the largest declines (in dollars), following a robust performance in both provinces in March.

The value of permits in the commercial sector fell 7.5% to \$1.0 billion, halting two consecutive

monthly increases. The lower demand for permits associated with trade and services buildings in six provinces precipitated this decline. Despite these retreats, the level of commercial building permits in April remained 6.0% higher than the average monthly level in 2005.

On the other hand, intentions in the industrial sector increased 12.6% to \$292 million following a 6.1% decline in March. Demand for industrial permits in Ontario was particularly strong, as construction intentions for manufacturing buildings soared.

The non-residential sector continued to be hit by mixed economic indicators, though negative undertones have dominated lately. Canadian corporate operating profits declined 2.6% in the first quarter of 2006, following five straight quarters of growth. On the commercial side, wholesalers also saw their profits slip in the first quarter.

On the industrial side, Statistics Canada's most recent Business Conditions Survey reported that manufacturers were expecting tougher times ahead, anticipating lower levels of production and employment.

Provincially, the largest contributions to the monthly decline (in dollars) in the non-residential sector came from Alberta (-38.3% to \$302 million), Ontario (-12.6% to \$750 million) and British Columbia (-30.1% to \$232 million).

In contrast, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador recorded increases in all three components.

Non-residential permits were down in 13 of the 28 census metropolitan areas. The largest decline (in dollars) occurred in Ottawa, where all three components fell.

In contrast, Kitchener recorded the strongest increase, mainly as a result of a strong gain in institutional permits.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The April 2006 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XIE, free) will be available soon.

The May building permit estimate will be released on July 6.

To order data, contact Brad Sernoskie (613-951-4646 or 1-800-579-8533; bdp_information@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bechir Oueriemmi (613-951-1165), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

	March 2006 ^r	April 2006 ^p	March to April 2006	January to April 2005	January to April 2006	January–April 2005 to January–April 2006
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	19.2	39.6	105.9	130.8	128.8	-1.6
Halifax	58.5	43.1	-26.4	173.2	193.7	11.8
Saint John	10.2	11.6	13.8	43.0	51.4	19.4
Saguenay	20.2	14.5	-28.0	53.6	46.2	-13.8
Québec	108.4	102.0	-5.9	366.9	410.0	11.8
Sherbrooke	28.4	28.4	-0.1	75.9	127.1	67.5
Trois-Rivières	12.7	13.7	8.0	45.7	72.4	58.6
Montréal	441.9	447.4	1.2	1,814.6	1,907.2	5.1
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	425.5	105.4	-75.2	725.0	806.6	11.3
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	43.7	27.9	-36.2	117.7	154.6	31.4
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	381.8	77.5	-79.7	607.3	652.0	7.4
Kingston	45.0	15.7	-65.1	55.9	78.1	39.7
Oshawa	66.8	81.9	22.6	300.9	314.6	4.5
Toronto	700.6	945.1	34.9	3,718.1	3,414.4	-8.2
Hamilton	77.2	55.8	-27.8	356.5	307.7	-13.7
St. Catharines–Niagara	44.0	44.4	0.8	181.7	149.2	-17.9
Kitchener	95.2	111.4	17.1	298.0	369.1	23.9
London	56.3	77.8	38.0	274.3	315.3	14.9
Windsor	33.6	38.8	15.3	157.7	199.9	26.8
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	6.4	39.7	524.5	50.0	56.5	12.9
Thunder Bay	2.8	3.7	33.9	46.8	24.6	-47.4
Winnipeg	59.3	74.7	26.0	190.3	290.6	52.7
Regina	23.0	33.6	46.1	83.9	106.9	27.4
Saskatoon	41.3	25.9	-37.2	94.9	137.1	44.4
Calgary	576.6	363.9	-36.9	1,326.4	1,679.2	26.6
Edmonton	272.2	254.1	-6.7	826.3	1,069.1	29.4
Abbotsford	13.0	40.2	209.4	131.6	97.7	-25.7
Vancouver	624.7	402.9	-35.5	1,732.7	1,879.6	8.5
Victoria	67.2	62.0	-7.7	222.2	244.8	10.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

Note: Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	March 2006 ^r	April 2006 ^p	March to April 2006	January to April 2005	January to April 2006	January–April 2005 to January–April 2006
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	5,579.4	4,987.3	-10.6	19,228.8	20,862.2	8.5
Residential	3,419.9	3,226.0	-5.7	12,183.8	13,485.3	10.7
Non-residential	2,159.5	1,761.3	-18.4	7,045.0	7,376.9	4.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	28.8	53.0	84.0	174.5	172.4	-1.2
Residential	23.9	30.8	28.8	108.4	121.2	11.8
Non-residential	4.9	22.2	352.2	66.1	51.2	-22.6
Prince Edward Island	23.1	22.0	-5.1	81.0	69.6	-14.1
Residential	15.8	10.0	-36.9	39.6	45.1	13.9
Non-residential	7.4	12.0	63.3	41.3	24.4	-40.9
Nova Scotia	125.7	87.8	-30.2	331.9	406.1	22.4
Residential	94.9	63.5	-33.1	235.4	307.4	30.6
Non-residential	30.8	24.3	-21.3	96.4	98.7	2.4
New Brunswick	62.1	76.9	23.9	207.8	299.1	44.0
Residential	49.3	43.0	-12.9	146.4	174.5	19.2
Non-residential	12.7	33.9	166.2	61.3	124.6	103.2
Quebec	922.3	895.1	-2.9	3,496.5	3,757.5	7.5
Residential	616.6	599.5	-2.8	2,458.7	2,436.8	-0.9
Non-residential	305.6	295.5	-3.3	1,037.8	1,320.7	27.3
Ontario	1,923.8	1,884.3	-2.1	7,830.3	7,693.4	-1.7
Residential	1,065.5	1,134.1	6.4	4,815.0	4,793.7	-0.4
Non-residential	858.3	750.1	-12.6	3,015.3	2,899.7	-3.8
Manitoba	100.6	103.7	3.1	318.8	443.9	39.2
Residential	57.2	70.5	23.3	201.2	275.0	36.7
Non-residential	43.5	33.2	-23.6	117.6	168.9	43.6
Saskatchewan	79.8	88.9	11.3	248.3	327.5	31.9
Residential	36.4	34.1	-6.3	110.3	146.5	32.9
Non-residential	43.4	54.8	26.1	138.0	180.9	31.1
Alberta	1,227.0	938.8	-23.5	3,288.9	4,149.6	26.2
Residential	736.9	636.5	-13.6	1,908.2	2,770.7	45.2
Non-residential	490.0	302.3	-38.3	1,380.7	1,378.9	-0.1
British Columbia	1,046.4	832.9	-20.4	3,218.7	3,493.8	8.5
Residential	714.3	600.9	-15.9	2,140.8	2,397.5	12.0
Non-residential	332.2	232.1	-30.1	1,077.9	1,096.2	1.7
Yukon	28.6	1.3	-95.4	13.9	34.8	151.0
Residential	5.6	1.2	-78.1	10.8	11.5	6.2
Non-residential	23.0	0.1	-99.6	3.1	23.4	656.5
Northwest Territories	2.0	2.0	0.4	17.7	4.6	-74.0
Residential	1.9	1.2	-38.5	8.8	3.1	-64.3
Non-residential	0.1	0.8	987.8	9.0	1.5	-83.4
Nunavut	9.1	0.7	-92.2	0.4	9.8	2,326.2
Residential	1.5	0.7	-53.2	0.0	2.2	73,800.0
Non-residential	7.6	0.0	-100.0	0.4	7.6	1,792.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

Aboriginal people as victims and offenders

2004

Using data from victimization, police and corrections surveys, a new report provides a statistical portrait of the extent and nature of victimization and offending among Aboriginal people in Canada during the past few years.

The report, prepared by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, attempts to fill an information gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people on various aspects of victimization. These include fear of crime, spousal violence and the proportion of Aboriginal people who consider themselves victims of violent crime.

The report also examines a number of individual, economic and social factors that seem to be associated with a higher risk of criminal victimization and offending. All are more common among the Aboriginal population.

Aboriginal people are younger on average, their unemployment rates are higher and incomes lower; they are more likely to live in crowded conditions; they have higher residential mobility; and children are more likely to be members of a lone-parent family. They also have a lower level of education, although the education profile has improved noticeably in recent years among Aboriginal people aged 25 to 64.

Proportionally, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people feel equally safe from crime. In both cases, four out of five people were not worried at all while alone in their home at night.

About 4 in every 10 Aboriginal people aged 15 and over reported that they were victimized at least once in the 12 months prior to being interviewed. This figure was not statistically different from results in 1999 when the last victimization survey was conducted. However, the proportion is well above the level of 28% for non-Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal people were nearly twice as likely as their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be repeat victims of crime. They were also three and a half times more likely to be victims of spousal violence.

Note to readers

This release is based on the Juristat: "Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada".

The need for information on the involvement of Aboriginal people in the justice system has been identified by the National Justice Statistics Initiative and through recommendations stemming from various reports, commissions and enquiries.

The release focuses on the nature and extent of criminal victimization and spousal violence experienced by Aboriginal people, as reported to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization.

National data from the Homicide Survey are included to analyze homicides involving Aboriginal victims and accused.

The release also provides recent police-reported data on crimes committed on reserves. These results are compared to crimes occurring in the rest of Canada.

Data from Corrections surveys are also examined to measure the extent of Aboriginal representation in Canada's correctional system.

There are different ways to represent the Aboriginal population of Canada. The release uses the "Aboriginal Identity" concept, meaning that a person has self-reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group. Some police-reported Aboriginal data, however, may have been determined based on visual assessment.

Victimization rates are calculated per 1,000 population while police-reported homicide rates and crime rates on-reserve are calculated per 100,000 population.

Overall, 21% of Aboriginal people, 24% of women and 18% of men, said they suffered violence from a current or previous spouse or common-law partner in the five-year period up to 2004. This compares to 6% of non-Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal people more likely to fall victim to someone they know

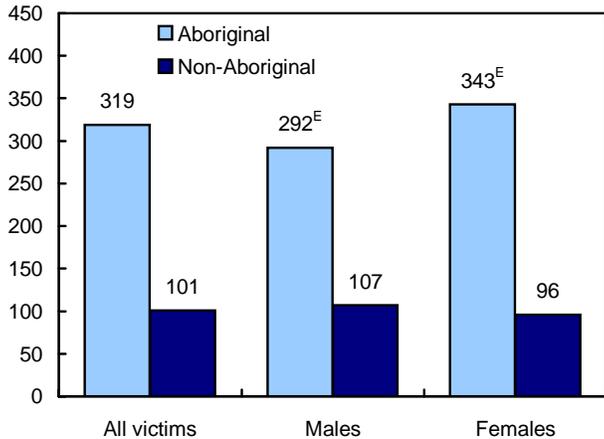
Information on victimization came from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS). It asked respondents about their incidence of victimization in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Aboriginal people were three times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be victims of violent crime, specifically sexual assault, robbery and physical assault.

This is consistent with findings from the 1999 GSS, the last time the victimization survey was conducted.

Aboriginal people more likely to be victims of violent crime, 2004

Rate per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older



^E use with caution

Note: Violent crime includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault. Spousal violence incidents are included.

The risk of self-reported violent victimization was highest among young Aboriginal people aged 15 to 34, whose rate was about 2.5 times higher than the rate for those who were 35 years or older.

Violent incidents against Aboriginal people were more likely to be committed by someone who was known to the victim. This was the case for over half of violent incidents committed against Aboriginal people, compared to 41% of those against non-Aboriginal victims.

On the other hand, Aboriginal people were victimized by a stranger in one-quarter of all violent incidents, a much lower proportion than the 45% of incidents against non-Aboriginal victims.

Despite their higher rates of violent victimization, Aboriginal people were no more likely than non-Aboriginal people to report their victimizations to the police. About 6 in 10 incidents of violent crime

that were committed against Aboriginal people went unreported to the police.

Incidents involving Aboriginal victims did not typically involve the use or presence of a weapon such as a gun or a knife or result in injury to the victim. In 2004, the accused had a weapon in 30% of violent incidents committed against Aboriginal victims.

Aboriginal victims suffered an injury in about 27% of violent incidents committed against them.

Aboriginal people suffer high levels of spousal violence

Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were more likely to state that they were beaten, choked, threatened with or had a gun or knife used against them, or were sexually assaulted, according to GSS data.

They were also more likely to sustain injuries and to fear for their lives as a result of violence by a spouse or common-law partner than were non-Aboriginal victims.

Alcohol use is common during spousal violence incidents, particularly those involving Aboriginal victims. Almost half of Aboriginal spousal violence victims reported that their partner had been drinking during the incidents, compared to one-third of non-Aboriginal victims.

Results from the GSS also revealed that despite their high rates of victimization, Aboriginal people have relatively low levels of fear. About 92% of Aboriginal Canadians indicated being satisfied with their safety from criminal victimization, a proportion which was similar to that of non-Aboriginal Canadians.

Aboriginal people are more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be victims or accused in incidents of homicide

While Aboriginal people accounted for on average about 3% of the Canadian population between 1997 and 2004, they made up 17% of victims and 23% of those accused of committing a homicide over the same time period.

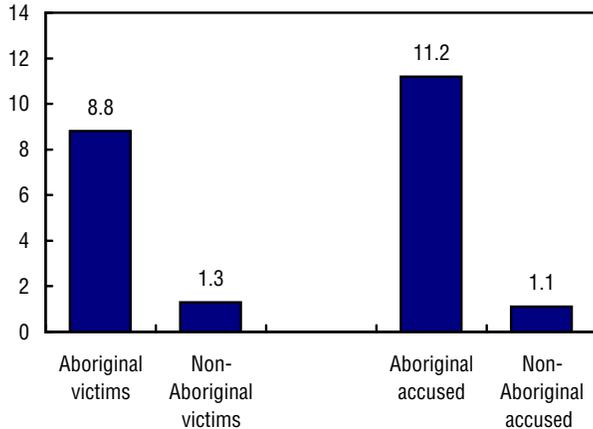
Between 1997 and 2000, the average homicide rate for Aboriginal people was almost seven times higher than that for non-Aboriginal people.

When taking population differences into account, it was found that Aboriginal people were 10 times

more likely to be accused of homicide than were non-Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal people more likely to be homicide victims and persons accused of homicide, 1997 to 2000

Average rate per 100,000 population



Note: Rates are based on the average number of homicides per year between 1997 and 2000.

However, Aboriginal people were less likely to be charged with the most serious type of homicide offence. Between 1997 and 2004, 20% of Aboriginal accused were charged with first-degree murder, compared with 46% of non-Aboriginal accused.

In homicides where an accused was identified over the eight-year period, 88% of Aboriginal victims were killed by someone who was known to them, compared to 83% of non-Aboriginal victims. In contrast, 12% of Aboriginal victims and 17% of non-Aboriginal victims were killed by a stranger.

Police-reported crime rates higher on-reserve

In 2004, *Criminal Code* incidents on reserves across Canada represented 4% of the national total, according to police-reported data examining crimes committed on reserve.

Over half of on-reserve incidents were classified as "other" *Criminal Code* offences, such as mischief and disturbing the peace, while 25% were violent and 21% were property offences.

Rates of violent crime committed on reserves were eight times higher for assaults, seven times higher for sexual assaults and six times higher for homicides than

rates in the rest of Canada. The only violent crime with a lower on-reserve rate was robbery, which had a rate that was about half of that in the rest of Canada.

Aboriginal people highly represented in adult correctional services

In 2003/2004, Aboriginal adults represented 21% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody and 18% of admissions to federal facilities.

Among the provinces, the highest proportions of Aboriginal correctional admissions were in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. In Saskatchewan, Aboriginal people made up 80% of those who were admitted to provincial sentenced custody, compared to their representation of 10% of the provincial adult population.

In Manitoba, Aboriginal people represented 68% of admissions to provincial custody compared to 11% of the provincial adult population and in Alberta, 39% of admissions to provincial facilities were Aboriginal persons compared to 4% of the provincial adult population.

According to the Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Aboriginal adults involved in correctional services were on average three years younger than non-Aboriginal adults, with a greater proportion of Aboriginal persons between the ages of 20 and 29 compared to non-Aboriginal persons.

About three-quarters of Aboriginal adults involved in correctional services had not completed their secondary school education, compared to one-third of non-Aboriginal adults.

Aboriginal people were also less likely to be employed at the time of admission to correctional services compared to non-Aboriginal persons.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4504.

The *Juristat*: "Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada," Vol. 26, no. 3 (85-002-XIE, free) is now available from the *Our products and services* page of our website. A paper version is also available (85-002-XPE, \$11/\$100). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

□

Criminal Code incidents reported to police on-reserve, 2004

	Location of incident			
	On-reserve		Outside reserves	
	Number of incidents	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of incidents	Rate per 100,000 population
Homicide	41	13	581	2
Attempted murder	24	7	693	2
Robbery	162	50	27,315	93
Assault	20,804	6,464	225,843	770
Sexual assault	1,694	526	21,840	74
Other sexual offences	123	38	2,502	9
Abduction	30	9	605	2
Total violent crimes	22,878	7,108	279,379	953
Breaking and entering	7,276	2,261	267,441	912
Motor vehicle theft	2,887	897	166,657	568
Theft over \$5,000	257	80	17,037	58
Theft \$5,000 and under	7,586	2,357	673,299	2,297
Possession of stolen goods	594	185	34,806	119
Fraud	691	215	96,400	329
Total property crimes	19,291	5,994	1,255,640	4,283
Prostitution	9	3	6,484	22
Gaming and betting	2	1	191	1
Offensive weapons	1,289	400	16,713	57
Arson	603	187	12,545	43
Bail violations	5,337	1,658	98,997	338
Counterfeiting currency	282	88	159,607	544
Disturbing the peace	13,721	4,263	103,301	352
Mischief (property damage over \$5,000)	810	252	11,836	40
Mischief (property damage \$5,000 and under)	15,990	4,968	325,025	1,109
Other	12,883	4,003	209,047	713
Total other Criminal Code offences	50,926	15,823	943,746	3,219
Total Criminal Code offences	93,095	28,925	2,478,765	8,455

Percentage of adult admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody accounted for by Aboriginal people, by jurisdiction, 2003/2004

	Provincial/territorial sentenced custody	Total adult population ¹
Newfoundland and Labrador ²	..	3.2
Prince Edward Island	2.0	0.8
Nova Scotia	7.3	1.5
New Brunswick	8.9	2.0
Quebec	2.4	0.9
Ontario	8.8	1.5
Manitoba	68.2	10.6
Saskatchewan	80.2	9.9
Alberta	38.7	4.2
British Columbia	19.8	3.6
Yukon	72.9	19.9
Northwest Territories	87.5	44.7
Nunavut	97.1	78.5
Total (all available data)	21.2	..
Adjusted total²	20.8	2.6

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Indicates the percentage of the total adult population who were Aboriginal people per jurisdiction as of the 2001 Census.

2. Due to missing data for some categories, Newfoundland and Labrador was excluded.



Study: Neighbourhood income, maternal education and birth outcomes in Quebec
1991 to 2000

Women with lower levels of education and those who live in poorer neighbourhoods are more vulnerable to adverse birth outcomes, according to a new study.

The study, which examined all births in Quebec from 1991 through 2000, found that the mother's level of education and the socio-economic status of the neighbourhood in which she lived were associated with higher risks of pre-term birth, small-for-gestational age birth, stillbirth, neonatal death and post-neonatal death.

The impacts of maternal education were stronger than those of neighbourhood income, and were independent of neighbourhood income, according to the study.

In both urban and rural areas, the effects of low maternal education were strongest for small-for-gestational-age births and post-neonatal death.

The large beneficial impact of higher maternal education on post-neonatal mortality may operate through better knowledge of infant care, especially sleep position, as evidenced by important differences in the risks of sudden infant death syndrome.

Mothers with low education in rural areas seemed more vulnerable to neonatal death, particularly for

death due to immaturity-related conditions. The authors speculate that access to high-quality neonatal intensive care may be more limited for mothers with low education in rural settings.

The findings suggest that in both urban and rural areas, lesser-educated women and those from poorer neighbourhoods may benefit from heightened vigilance and counselling from perinatal care providers, the study said.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3231, 3233 and 3234.

The study "Effect of neighbourhood income and maternal education on birth outcomes: A Population-based study" published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, is a collaboration of Statistics Canada, the University of Montréal, and McGill University. The full text of the article is available free, in English only, at (<http://www.cmaj.ca>).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the study, or to obtain a copy, contact Russell Wilkins (1-613-951-5305; russell.wilkins@statcan.ca), Health Analysis and Measurement Group. ■

New products

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