

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Women in Canada: The criminal justice system

2009

The involvement of women and female youth in the criminal justice system has largely been as victims of crime rather than as offenders. While females accounted for about one-half of all victims of violent crime reported to police authorities in 2009, they represented a minority of offenders.

The analysis in this report is based on the third section of what will be the latest edition of the publication *Women in Canada*, which is published periodically by Statistics Canada. This chapter examines the prevalence and nature of female victimization and female criminality, as well as the processing of female offenders through the criminal justice system.

In 2009, females reported about 1.6 million incidents of violent crime (that is, physical assault, sexual assault or robbery) in the past 12 months, according to self-reported information on victimization from the General Social Survey (GSS). Men reported about 1.7 million incidents during the same period. Overall, females reported similar rates of physical assault and sexual assault in 2009 as reported in 1999. Females were slightly more likely to report being a victim of robbery in 2009 than they were 10 years earlier.

The most common offence perpetrated against women was common assault, which accounted for nearly half of all police-reported incidents.

GSS data also showed that rates of self-reported spousal violence have decreased during the past decade. While rates for men and women were similar, the scope and severity of the violence differed. For example, women were more likely than men to report a physical injury, chronic violence, and fearing for their lives as a result of the violence.

According to the annual Homicide Survey, rates of homicide have declined substantially over the past 30 years, particularly for females. Much of this decrease can be attributed to a drop in homicides committed by spouses.

In 2009, rates of spousal homicide against women were one-third of the levels in 1979. Even so, women were more than twice as likely as men to be killed by a spouse in 2009.

This study also examined trends in crimes committed by women. In 2009, females accounted for approximately one-quarter of youth accused and

slightly more than one-fifth of adults accused by police of having committed a *Criminal Code* offence.

Youth crime rates among females (12 to 17 years of age) were on average triple those of adult women. Females are most likely to commit acts of violence against their spouses or other intimate partners, followed by an acquaintance, a stranger or other family member.

While charging for property crime has seen a steady decline, the rate at which women have been charged with violent offences has increased over the past 30 years. Rates more than doubled between 1979 and 1997, from 51 to 132 per 100,000 population, and continued to increase until 2001. Subsequently, they have remained fairly stable. Most of the increase in female rates of violent crime can be attributed to an increase in the charge rate for common assault.

The number and proportion of female adult admissions to provincial/territorial custody and federal custody have also increased in recent years. In 2008/2009, adult females represented 6% of admissions to federal custody and 12% of admissions to provincial and territorial custody. This was up slightly from 5% and 10% of admissions, respectively, in 1999/2000.

Note: Other chapters in the book *Women in Canada* scheduled for release in 2011 will examine demographic, education, health and living arrangements. Chapters related to Aboriginal women, immigrant women, women with activity limitations and visible minority women will also be published. The entire issue is scheduled for publication late in 2011.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3302, 3306, 3309, 3312, 3315, 3328 and 4504.

The chapter "Women and the Criminal Justice System" is now available in *Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report, 2010-2011*, Sixth edition (89-503-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.gc.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

February 2011

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for February.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

Data are available upon request only.

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

Electric power statistics

January 2011

Data on electric power are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: tables 127-0002 and 127-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

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

Canadian Health Measures Survey: Supplementary environmental data

2007 to 2009

New environmental data derived from the laboratory component of the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) are now available.

Data on phthalates, nicotine, nicotine metabolites and NNAL (a class of nicotine-derived substances which are studied for their role in tobacco-associated cancers) have been added to the survey data file. These data complete the indicators on more than 80 environmental contaminants and chemical substances which were analyzed in the blood and urine samples of CHMS respondents. The CHMS collected key information relevant to the health of Canadians by means of direct physical measurements, including blood and urine

samples, from a representative sample of Canadians aged 6 to 79. Data were collected from March 2007 to February 2009 and are available at the national level only.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5071.

For more information about the Canadian Health Measures Survey, 2007 to 2009, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-253-1087; chms-ecms@statcan.gc.ca), Physical Health Measures Division. ■

Canadian Community Health Survey - Healthy Aging: Public Use Microdata File 2008/2009

The public use microdata file for the Canadian Community Health Survey - Healthy Aging is now available. The survey was conducted with approximately 31,000 respondents, aged 45 or older, residing in households in all provinces.

The file includes information on the health of Canadians aged 45 and over by examining the various factors that impact healthy aging, such as general health and well-being, physical activity, use of health care services, social participation, as well as work and retirement transitions.

The product is provided on CD-ROM with a built-in "Beyond 20/20" data browser.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5146.

To order a copy of the *Canadian Community Health Survey - Healthy Aging: Public Use Microdata File, 2008-2009* (82M0015X, free), contact Client Services (613-951-1746; fax: 613-951-0792; hd-ds@statcan.gc.ca).

The initial release from the Canadian Community Health Survey - Healthy Aging was in *The Daily* on May 12, 2010. Studies based on the *Canadian Community Health Survey - Healthy Aging* are available in *Health Reports* (82-003-X, free) and *Perspectives on Labour and Income* (75-001-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; fax: 613-951-0792; hd-ds@statcan.gc.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

New products and studies

Canadian Community Health Survey - Healthy Aging: Public Use Microdata File, 2008-2009
Catalogue number 82M0015X (CD-ROM, free).

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

Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report, 2010-2011, Sixth edition
Catalogue number 89-503-X (PDF, free; HTML, free).

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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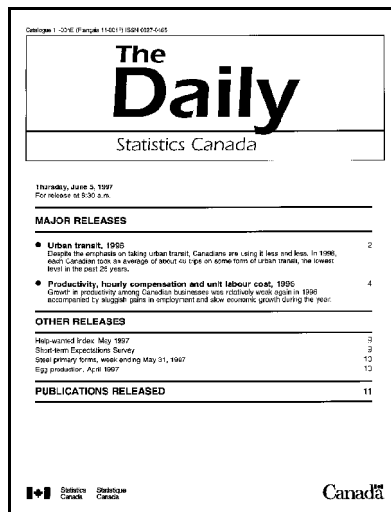
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(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
7	Canadian International Merchandise trade: Annual review	2010
7	Building permits	February 2011
8	Labour Force Survey	March 2011
