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Releases

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013

There were just under 88,000 victims of family violence in Canada in 2013, according to police-reported data. This represented more than one-quarter of all violent crimes reported to police.

Just under half (48%) of all victims of family violence were victimized by a current or former spouse. For another 17% of family violence victims, the accused was a parent, while for 14% the accused was an extended family member such as an in-law, uncle or grandparent. A further 11% of family violence victims were victimized by a sibling and for 10% the accused was the victim's own child.

As in previous years, a majority of police-reported incidents of family violence involved physical assault, which included actions and behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face threats.

Police-reported data also reveal that in 2013 almost 7 in 10 family violence victims were female. In comparison, females represented 46% of victims of violent crimes that were not family-related. The over-representation of female victims was most prominent in the spousal violence category, where nearly 8 in 10 victims were female.

Rates of police-reported family violence varied by age. Among females, family violence victimization rates were generally highest for those in their thirties. However, for male victims, rates of family violence were highest for 15- to 19-year-olds. Seniors (aged 65 and over) recorded the lowest rates of police-reported family violence of any age group, regardless of gender.

Territories report highest rate of police-reported family violence

As with the overall national pattern for police-reported violent crime, rates of family violence were higher in the territories than in the provinces. Among the provinces, police-reported family violence rates were highest in Saskatchewan (489.4 per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (375.8) and lowest in Ontario (166.9) and Prince Edward Island (196.3).

Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs) the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA recorded the highest rate of police-reported family violence in 2013 (327.9 per 100,000 population), followed by Saguenay (314.3), Québec (291.4), Montréal (281.5) and Trois-Rivières (276.0). The lowest rates of family violence were reported by the Ontario CMAs of Ottawa (99.0), Guelph (129.8), St. Catharines–Niagara (132.0) and London (134.0). These findings are similar to previous years.

Rates of family-related physical assaults declined 14% from 2009 and 2013. Homicides committed by family members, though rare, have also declined significantly over the past three decades, with family related homicide rates falling 59% from 1983 to 2013.

Intimate partner violence

Intimate partner violence refers to violence against current or former spouses or dating partners (whether or not the individuals live together). Of the more than 90,300 victims of police-reported violence by an intimate partner, 53% had been victimized by a dating partner and 47% by a spouse.

For both males and females, intimate partner violence was most likely to occur when individuals were in their twenties and thirties. However, women in their early twenties (20 to 24 years old) experienced the greatest risk of violent victimization by an intimate partner (1,127.7 per 100,000 population).

Overall, the rate of police-reported intimate partner victimization was higher for females than for males, regardless of age, with women accounting for nearly 80% of all intimate partner victims reported to police.

Charges were laid or recommended in the majority of intimate partner violence incidents brought to the attention of police.

Note to readers

Since 1998, Statistics Canada has released annual data on family violence in Canada. The special focus of this year's report is intimate partner violence in Canada as part of the larger federal Family Violence Initiative.

Results are based on police-reported data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the Homicide Survey. These data include all Criminal Code incidents reported to and substantiated by police, but do not include incidents that do not reach the attention of police.

Self-reported victimization surveys, namely the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization, complement police-reported data by estimating the amount of crime in Canada that goes unreported to police. Conducted every five years, the GSS on Victimization asks Canadians 15 years and older about their experiences of victimization, whether or not this victimization was reported to police. In 2009, the latest year of available statistics, it was estimated that about two-thirds of all criminal victimizations were not reported to police.

Table 1
Victims of police-reported family violence, by census metropolitan area, 2013

	Number of victims	Family violence rate ¹
Canada²	87,820	252.9
Census metropolitan area, total ²	47,913	196.5
Non-census metropolitan area, total	39,907	385.8
Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{3,4}		
Gatineau ⁵	1,055	327.9
Saguenay	524	314.3
Québec	2,271	291.4
Montréal	11,118	281.5
Trois-Rivières	422	276.0
Saskatoon	773	261.9
Saint John	376	259.7
Moncton	361	253.8
Brantford	333	249.2
Kelowna	446	243.3
Edmonton	3,120	243.0
Thunder Bay	278	234.4
Greater Sudbury	377	230.0
Regina	529	227.3
Abbotsford–Mission	361	205.3
St. John's	406	201.5
Sherbrooke	347	179.9
Kingston	288	177.1
Calgary	2,409	175.9
Toronto ⁶	9,314	174.8
Victoria	604	171.3
Winnipeg	1,350	169.6
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	884	166.3
Halifax	662	163.0
Hamilton ⁷	878	162.3
Windsor	477	159.8
Vancouver	3,874	159.6
Barrie	289	139.8
Peterborough	165	137.4
London	666	134.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	582	132.0
Guelph	166	129.8
Ottawa ⁸	958	99.0

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada.
2. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one CMA. This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.
3. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
4. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
5. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
6. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
7. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
8. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Note(s): Excludes incidents where the sex or age of victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses because of possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source(s): Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (3302).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [3302](#), [3315](#) and [4504](#).

The article "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile," 2013, in *Juristat* ([85-002-X](#)) is now available. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Crime and justice* and *Juristat*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Study: Employer pensions and the wealth of Canadian families, 2012

In 2012, the average wealth—defined as the total value of assets minus the total value of debt—of families with registered pension plan (RPP) assets was \$536,000. In contrast, the average wealth of families without RPP assets was \$191,000.

Some of this difference was attributable to the socioeconomic characteristics of families with and without RPP assets.

Persons in families with RPP assets were more likely to have higher after-tax incomes, to be born in Canada, to be part of a couple, to have a university degree, and to have longer job tenure than persons in families without RPP assets.

These differences in family characteristics accounted for approximately half of the difference in average wealth observed between families with and without RPP assets.

It is estimated that families with no RPP assets would have an average wealth of \$359,000 if they had the same socioeconomic characteristics as families with RPP assets.

This means that even among families with the same observed characteristics, a difference of \$177,000 in average wealth remained between those with and without RPP assets.

The findings also indicate that, on average, families without RPPs are not fully compensating for their lack of RPP coverage through increased savings in other assets.

Note to readers

In this study, data from the 2012 Survey of Financial Security (SFS) are used to compare the wealth holdings of family units covered with workplace pension plans with those of other family units. It focuses on families and unattached individuals who had no significant business equity (less than \$1,000) and whose major income recipient was aged 30 to 54 and employed as a paid worker.

Families with RPP assets represented 61% of family units included in the study, while family units without RPP assets accounted for 39%. Families with RPP assets were not necessarily participating in a pension plan at the time of survey collection so RPP assets may be the result of past participation in pension plans or pension contributions by other family members.

The study also includes comparisons with 1999 SFS data.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2620](#).

The article "Employer pensions and the wealth of Canadian families" is now available online in *Insights on Canadian Society* ([75-006-X](#)). From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, choose *Publications*.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

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Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, third quarter 2014

Retail sales reached \$132.9 billion in the third quarter, up 5.4% from the third quarter of 2013. Higher sales were reported in all 10 major commodity groups.

Most of the overall increase in retail sales came from a 10.6% rise in sales of motor vehicles, parts and services, their highest rate of growth in over four years. Higher sales of new automotive vehicles (+14.6%) were the largest contributor to the increase, driven predominantly by higher sales of new trucks, vans, mini-vans, sport utility vehicles and buses (+20.0%) and new cars (+5.2%). This increase came mostly from a higher number of vehicles sold. The growth in new trucks, vans, mini-vans, sport utility vehicles and buses was the fifth double-digit gain since the beginning of 2013. Sales of used automotive vehicles (+5.9%) and automotive parts and accessories (+6.1%) also increased during the quarter.

Sales of food and beverages increased 3.2%. Most of the growth came from food (+3.8%), driven largely by price-induced increases for fresh meat and poultry (+8.4%) and fresh fruits and vegetables (+4.6%).

Automotive fuels, oils and additives sales grew 4.4% compared with the third quarter of 2013. Gains were largely attributable to an increase in receipts of automotive fuels (+4.2%)

Retail sales of clothing, footwear and accessories rose 5.8%, the commodity grouping's highest growth in over two years. Leading the gains was clothing and accessories (+5.3%), with notable increases in women's clothing and accessories (+4.3%) and girls', boys' and infants' clothing and accessories (+11.8%), mostly due to volume. Footwear sales rose 9.2%.

Sales of health and personal care products grew 5.0% year over year. Prescription drug sales (+4.7%) accounted for over half of the growth.

Sales receipts of furniture, home furnishings and electronics (+3.8%) increased for the second consecutive quarter, led by higher sales of indoor furniture (+8.4%) and major appliances (+8.3%).

Note to readers

The Retail Commodity Survey collects data on national level retail sales by commodity, from a subsample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey.

Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. For example, no adjustment has been made for Easter, which occurred in the first quarter of 2013 but took place in the second quarter of 2014. All percentage changes are year over year.

Table 1
Sales by commodity, all retail stores – Seasonally unadjusted

	Third quarter 2013 ^r	Second quarter 2014 ^r	Third quarter 2014 ^P	Third quarter 2013 to third quarter 2014
	millions of dollars			% change
Commodity, total	126,092	132,939	132,911	5.4
Food and beverages	28,751	29,383	29,685	3.2
Health and personal care products	10,785	11,327	11,325	5.0
Clothing, footwear and accessories	9,375	9,677	9,916	5.8
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	9,746	8,978	10,121	3.8
Motor vehicles, parts and services	27,590	31,699	30,524	10.6
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	15,244	15,705	15,919	4.4
Housewares	2,339	2,187	2,366	1.2
Hardware, lawn and garden products	8,771	10,055	9,092	3.7
Sporting and leisure goods	3,367	3,296	3,456	2.7
All other goods and services	10,125	10,630	10,507	3.8

^r revised

^P preliminary

Note(s): Data may not add to up totals as a result of rounding

Source(s): CANSIM table [080-0022](#).

Available in CANSIM: table [080-0022](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2008](#).

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New products and studies

New products

Insights on Canadian Society

Catalogue number [75-006-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

Juristat, Vol. 34, no. 1

Catalogue number [85-002-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

New studies

[Employer pensions and the wealth of Canadian families](#)

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[Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile](#)

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