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Attitudes and Awareness of Gender-Based Violence Among Youth in Canada

Report

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May 2022

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Executive summary

Environics Research (Environics) is pleased to present this report to Women and Gender Equality Canada with findings from the Attitudes and Awareness of Gender-Based Violence Among Youth in Canada survey.

A. Background and objectives

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a widespread and persistent problem across Canada. More than eleven million Canadians (men and women) have been physically or sexually assaulted since they were the age of 15, and this number represents 38% of women nation-wide (Source: Statistics Canada Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces 2018). GBV also takes many forms including emotional, psychological, financial, physical, and sexual abuse committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, or dating partner. There are also many specific segments of the population who are at heightened risk of experiencing GBV, and there is reason to believe that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to increases in a “GBV shadow pandemic”. While GBV can affect people of all ages, there is evidence that it is a particularly big problem for younger people between the ages of 14 and 24 (Source: Statistics Canada Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces 2018).

This research was conducted with the objective of informing upcoming efforts to raise awareness about GBV and shift attitudes within Canada that contribute to gendered inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV). It is also intended to provide a measure of awareness, attitudes, and behaviours in order to monitor the impact of change efforts over time.

The survey explores the awareness, attitudes, and behaviours of Canadian youth with regard to the following topics:

- Gender-based violence
- The definition of consent
- The role of bystanders/friends/family members in addressing and preventing GBV
- Gender roles and norms, sexual diversity, and gender identity and expression
- Gender equality and equity
- Socio demographic characteristics of GBV including ethnicity, Indigeneity, gender identity, etc.

B. Methodology

Environics Research conducted a 15-minute online survey with 2,002 Canadians aged 14 to 24 from February 10 to March 10, 2022. Survey respondents were selected from registered members of an opt-in online panel. Since a sample drawn from an online panel is not a random probability sample, no formal estimates of sampling error can be calculated.

Quotas for the general population were set by age, gender, and region. The final general population data were then weighted to ensure the sample is representative of the Canadian population, according to the most recent Census. More information about the methodology for research is included in Appendix A of the full report.

C. Key findings

General awareness

- Canadian youth rate gender-based violence as an issue of high concern, with four in ten (40%) saying they are very concerned about this issue; this puts it on par with climate change (38% very concerned).
- Canadian youth are also broadly familiar with the term (77% familiar), though they generally struggle to define it beyond the most elementary definition of “violence against a person based on gender” (40%).
- Youth most readily identify acts of physical violence and overt threats committed by men, against women, as gender-based violence; there is less agreement where other types of abuse are concerned, like emotional or financial abuse, or when the victims of violence and abuse are male. There are lower levels of agreement around non-physical forms of abuse, like financial abuse, sharing nude photos without consent, and cajoling someone into sex after they’ve said no; the perception that these acts are not gender-based violence is generally common across sub-groups, and not limited to likely perpetrators.
- While they may struggle to define or identify gender-based violence in concrete terms, Canadian youth nonetheless widely recognize it as a problem in Canada (73%) and in the province or territory where they live (67%). Moving to the local and personal level, youth tend to see gender-based violence as a less serious issue within their own community, school, work, or family; this difference speaks to a distinction between awareness and actual experience with gender-based violence.
- Most youth see gender-based violence as an issue that has worsened with time (44%) or hasn’t changed (20%), a finding that may reflect a rapidly changing public discourse that has shone a light on gender issues in recent years. The way youth experience and talk about gender-based violence now is also very different compared to the past; the importance and ubiquity of online spaces continues to intensify for youth, who are increasingly subject to newer forms of gender-based violence like online bullying and “revenge porn” that simply didn’t exist for previous generations. In fact, when asked where GBV is most likely to occur, the most common setting youth mention is online (42%).
- Throughout the research, it can be noted that concern, awareness, and understanding of gender-based violence is generally higher among segments more at risk for experiencing it, namely women, Indigenous youth, racialized youth, and those identifying as LGBTQ2.
- Another notable pattern that is consistent through the research is a difference between younger teenagers (14 to 17) and older youth (18 to 24); the younger cohort is less aware of gender-based violence compared to the older group and tends to see it in terms that reflect their lived experience with more emphasis on school, family, and online compared to older youth, who tend to see GBV as more prevalent in public spaces.
- Youth in Atlantic Canada generally demonstrate higher awareness and understanding of gender-based violence, particularly in contrast with youth in Alberta and Quebec.

Contributing Factors

- Canadian youth generally understand likely victims of GBV in terms of their gender or sexuality (i.e., women and girls, trans / intersex / non-binary, or LGBTQ2), but less commonly identify likely victims on the basis of other risk factors like racial identity, Indigeneity, mental health issues, or socio-economic disadvantages. This is especially true among those who identify as male, white, or straight.

- Looking at factors that contribute to gender-based violence, youth generally rate individual attitudes highest (sexism, homophobia, racism, culture of violence), followed by individual problems (substance abuse, mental health), with socio-economic conditions last (economic anxiety, poverty, upbringing). This points to a general perception that gender-based violence is a problem rooted in individual perpetrators, rather than societal conditions.

Awareness of WAGE

- Though familiarity with WAGE is generally modest among youth (36% aware), the department is nonetheless regarded as a worthy and trustworthy source of information, with half (53%) expressing interest in visiting the website in the future and most saying they trust WAGE somewhat or a lot (76%) as an information source on GBV.
- Familiarity with WAGE is lower among some groups who may be more vulnerable to gender-based violence, including women and LGBTQ2 youth.

Witnessing and Experiencing Gender-Based Violence

- One in three (35%) say they have personally witnessed gender-based violence at some point, most often in a public place (41%) or at school (38%). Of those who witnessed GBV, most say they tried to take some sort of action, like providing support to the victim (47%) or intervening to stop the violence (39%).
- One in four youth (27%) disclose that they have personally experienced gender-based violence. While experience with GBV is more common among women and LGBTQ2 youth, victims from these groups are less likely to seek help than victims who are male or who identify as straight.
- Youth rank police first among the sources they would turn to if someone they knew was experiencing or witnessing gender-based violence. However, when it comes to those who witnessed or disclosed their own experience with gender-based violence, few actually turned to police for support.

Consent

- There is some degree of uncertainty around issues of consent in a sexual context. Though most youth agree that consent must be given at each stage of a sexual encounter (79%), fairly substantial minorities agree that consent exists without a clear no (31%), or without physical resistance (29%). These, and other similar perceptions about consent, are more common among men and those who identify as straight.

Social Values

- Most youth have progressive attitudes toward issues of gender equality and sexuality. They reject statements in support of patriarchy and traditional families and support those in same sex relationships.
- Most youth reject the idea that violence can be exciting and also reject the idea that it is acceptable for people to react violently to relieve tension, but significant minorities agree with both of these notions.
- Most youth disagree that racism is largely a thing of the past and most reject the notion that there is too much immigration. They are more divided on whether immigrants should assimilate.
- Most youth disagree that their lives are predetermined, but half agree that they have trouble changing the course of events that affect them.
- Youth who have experienced GBV tend to be more accepting of violence and of patriarchal views of gender equality. They are also more fatalistic and less supportive of immigration.

D. Political neutrality statement and contact information

I hereby certify as senior officer of Environics that the deliverables fully comply with the Government of Canada political neutrality requirements outlined in the Communications Policy of the Government of Canada, and Procedures for Planning and Contracting Public Opinion Research. Specifically, the deliverables do not include information on electoral voting intentions, political party preferences, standings with the electorate, or ratings of the performance of a political party or its leaders.

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Introduction

Environics Research (Environics) is pleased to present this report to Women and Gender Equality Canada with findings from the Attitudes and Awareness of Gender-Based Violence Among Youth in Canada survey.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a widespread and persistent problem across Canada. As many as two-thirds of Canadians know a woman who has experienced physical or sexual abuse. More than eleven million Canadians (men and women) have been physically or sexually assaulted since they were the age of 15, and this number represents 38% of women nation-wide (Statistics Canada Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces 2018). GBV also takes many forms. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is an especially problematic subset of GBV in Canada that encompasses a broad range of behaviours including emotional, psychological, financial, physical, and sexual abuse committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, or dating partner. There are also many specific segments of the population who are at heightened risk of experiencing GBV. These include Indigenous and racialized women, women with disabilities, those who identify as LGBTQ2 and other groups. There is also reason to believe that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increases in several forms of GBV and this has even been referred to as the “GBV shadow pandemic”. While GBV can affect people of all ages, there is evidence that it is a particularly big problem for younger people between the ages of 14 and 24 (Statistics Canada Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces 2018).

This research was conducted with the objective of informing upcoming efforts to raise awareness about GBV and shift attitudes within Canada that contribute to gendered inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV). It is also intended to provide a measure of awareness, attitudes, and behaviours in order to monitor the impact of change efforts over time. The research was designed to consider the perspective of respondents from all sides of the GBV equation, including the victims of GBV who are overwhelmingly, but not exclusively, women or LGBTQ2, possible perpetrators of GBV, as well as those who are “bystanders” and who may have witnessed GBV.

The survey explores the awareness, attitudes, and behaviours of Canadian youth with regard to the following topics:

- Gender-based violence
- The definition of consent
- The role of bystanders/friends/family members in addressing and preventing GBV
- Gender roles and norms, sexual diversity, and gender identity and expression
- Gender equality and equity
- In addition, the research explores the socio demographic characteristics of GBV including ethnicity, indigeneity, gender identity, etc.

This report begins with an executive summary outlining key findings and conclusions, followed by detailed analysis of the quantitative results. A detailed set of “banner tables” is provided under separate cover; this presents results for all survey questions by demographic variables such as age, gender, region, education, race, indigeneity, language, as well as experience with GBV.

The results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted. Results may not add up to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. Net results cited in the text may not exactly match individual results shown in the charts due to rounding.

Findings in this report are based on an online survey of 2,002 Canadian youth (age 14 to 24), conducted from February 10 to March 10, 2022. Unless otherwise noted, all sub-group comparisons are based on this sample.

Additional details about the methodology can be found in the Methodology section at the end of this report (Appendix A).

II. Detailed findings

1. General Awareness

Issues Facing Canadian Youth

Gender-based violence and climate change rate highest in concern among Canadian youth; about four in ten say they are very concerned about each of these issues.

Asked to rate their level of concern about five broad issues, Canadian youth are most concerned about gender-based violence (40% very concerned) and climate change (38%).

Combining responses of very concerned and somewhat concerned, three in four Canadian youth (75%) have some degree of concern about this issue, on par with climate change (76%) and cyberbullying (74%).

Level of concern with issues

Issues	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	NET: Concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
Gender-based violence	40%	35%	75%	17%	6%	2%
Climate change	38%	38%	76%	18%	5%	1%
Cyberbullying	31%	43%	74%	18%	6%	1%
Guns and gangs	29%	35%	64%	25%	10%	1%
Opioids and substance abuse	29%	39%	68%	21%	8%	3%

Q1. To get started, how concerned are you about each of the following issues in terms of how they impact you or those you care about?

Sub-groups of Canadian youth more likely to be very concerned about gender-based violence include:

- Women (44%)
- Youth aged 18 to 24 (46%)
- Atlantic (48%)
- British Columbia (44%)
- Those born outside of Canada (50%)
- Indigenous (52%) and racialized youth (49%)
- Those identifying as LGBTQ2 (47%)

Familiarity With Term “Gender-Based Violence”

More than three-quarters (77%) of youth are at least somewhat familiar with the term “gender-based violence.”

Most Canadian youth (77%) say they are either very familiar (31%) or somewhat familiar (46%) with the term “gender-based violence.” Just 4 percent have never heard the term before.

Familiarity with term “Gender-based violence”

Issues	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
NET: Familiar	77%
Very familiar	31%
Somewhat familiar	46%
Not very familiar	18%
Had never heard of it	4%
Don't know / prefer not to answer	1%

Q2. Before today, how familiar were you with the term “gender-based violence?”

Some sub-groups of Canadian youth are more likely to be very familiar with the term:

- Women (32%)
- Youth aged 18 to 24 (34%)
- Atlantic (41%)
- Indigenous youth (39%)
- LGBTQ2 youth (41%)

Definitions of “Gender-Based Violence”

Youth most often define gender-based violence simply as violence against a person based on gender.

Asked to define the term “gender-based violence” in an open-ended question, youth most often give a straight-forward response, defining it simply as violence against a person based on gender (40%). The second most common definition specifically points to women as the victims of gender-based violence (13%). Definitions with more specificity about the nature of violence or the identity of victims were mentioned less often, and three in ten (29%) were not able to provide a definition. These results suggest that while most youth claim some familiarity with the concept of gender-based violence, few have a deeper understanding of what it entails.

Definitions of gender-based violence

Definitions	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Violence against a person based on their gender	40%
Physical violence against women/domestic violence against women	13%
Rape/forced sex	7%
Violence against a person identifying differently than their biological birth gender	5%
Violence against LGBTQ2 group	5%
Gender inequality/discrimination due to cultural concepts	3%
Acts of aggression/assault/attack/using violence to control or threaten the weak	3%
Illegal action /a crime that needs to be faced in society	2%
It is violence in a way to injure or hurt someone	2%
Verbal attacks on someone	2%
Violence against men	1%
Other	2%
Nothing	<1%
DK/NA	29%

Q3. How would you define the term “gender-based violence” in your own words? What is it?

Groups more likely to say they “don’t know” how to define gender-based violence include:

- Men (34%)
- Youth aged 14 to 17 (33%)
- Alberta (39%)
- Indigenous youth (41%)

Identifying Gender-Based Violence

Physical violence and overt threats committed by men, against women, are most readily identified by youth as gender-based violence.

Survey respondents were shown a list of nine different examples of aggressive acts and asked to indicate if each one is or is NOT gender-based violence. Acts committed by men against women were

most often identified as gender-based violence, including sexual assault (84%), physical assault (81%), and threats or emotional abuse (77%). Smaller majorities identified physical violence perpetrated against men, and non-physical types of control and coercion as gender-based violence.

Potential examples of gender-based violence

Acts	Is gender-based violence	Is NOT gender-based violence	Don't know / prefer not to answer
A man sexually assaulting a woman	84%	11%	5%
A woman being physically assaulted by a man	81%	14%	5%
A woman being threatened and emotionally abused by a man	77%	17%	6%
A woman physically assaulting her husband/male partner	74%	19%	7%
A gay man being bullied or attacked by a straight man	68%	25%	7%
A man trying to control his wife by restricting her access to money	64%	27%	8%
Sharing nude photos of girlfriend / boyfriend without permission	60%	29%	11%
Trying to convince girl / boyfriend to have sex after they've said no	60%	30%	10%
A violent dispute between two straight men	27%	66%	8%

Q4. Here is a list of things that could happen to a person – do you think each of these is or is NOT an example of gender-based violence?

There were several noteworthy differences between sub-groups of Canadian youth in their perceptions of these scenarios:

- Women are more likely than men to say that sexual assault (86%) and money control (67%) are gender-based violence; men are more likely to say a violent dispute between men is gender-based violence (32%).
- Youth in the youngest cohort (14 to 17) are more likely than older groups to identify most acts as forms of gender-based violence, except for sharing nude photos and a violent dispute between men.
- Alberta youth are less likely than youth in other regions to see sexual assault as gender-based violence (78%).
- Youth in Quebec (76%) and Alberta (77%) are somewhat less likely than Canadian youth as a whole (84%) to feel that a woman being physically assaulted by a man is gender-based violence.
- Youth in Quebec (66%) are less likely than other youth to see threats and emotional abuse as gender-based violence, but youth in Quebec are more likely than other youth to identify sharing nude photos (71%) and cajoling a partner into sex (70%) as gender-based violence.
- Indigenous youth are more likely than other youth to identify the following as gender-based violence: sharing nude photos without consent (66%), trying to convince someone to have sex after they've said no (65%), and a violent dispute between two straight men (51%).

- Youth who identify as LGBTQ2 (57%) are less likely than straight youth (71%) to view a gay man being bullied or attacked by a straight man as GBV

Seriousness of Gender-Based Violence

Youth widely see gender-based violence as an extremely or somewhat serious problem nationally and provincially, and about half see it as a serious issue at school and in their local community.

Perceptions of the seriousness of gender-based violence show a clear gradient, with youth perceiving it to be most serious at the broadest geography level and far less serious within more personal spaces. This pattern speaks to a distinction between awareness of gender-based violence and personal experience with it. About three in four youth (73%) see gender-based violence as an extremely or somewhat serious problem in Canada as a whole, and two-thirds (67%) see it as a serious problem in their province or territory. Moving closer, about half see it as a serious problem at school (51%) or in their local community (49%). Fewer youth see it as a serious problem in their workplaces (38%), their families (29%), or among their friends (28%); youth directly witnessing and experiencing gender-based violence are issues explored later in the survey.

Seriousness of gender-based violence by place

Place	NET: Serious problem	Extremely serious problem	Somewhat serious problem	Not a very serious problem	Not a serious problem at all	Don't know/prefer not to answer
In Canada as a whole	73%	26%	47%	17%	5%	5%
In respondent province or territory	67%	21%	46%	21%	5%	6%
At school	51%	20%	31%	31%	14%	5%
In your local community	49%	15%	34%	32%	11%	7%
Where you work	38%	17%	21%	30%	26%	5%
In your own family	29%	13%	16%	20%	48%	3%
In your circle of friends	28%	11%	17%	27%	42%	3%

Q5. Gender-based violence is “violence faced by people based on their sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or how their gender is perceived by others.” Knowing this definition, how serious a problem do you think gender-based violence is in each of the following places?

While the same general pattern holds true across sub-groups, with gender-based violence seen as most serious at a national level, some groups perceive the seriousness of gender-based violence differently in specific places:

- Compared to men, women are more likely to see gender-based violence as a serious problem nationally (77%), provincially (72%), locally (52%), and at school (51%).
- Those in the 14 to 17 age cohort perceive gender-based violence to be less serious at all levels, compared to older groups.

- Quebec youth see gender violence problem as a more serious problem at school (54%), at work (35%), in the family (32%), and among friends (33%) compared to other regions.
- Youth in Manitoba and Saskatchewan perceive gender-based violence to be less serious in all places, compared to youth from other regions.
- Youth who identify as white perceive gender-based violence to be less serious in all places, compared to Indigenous and racialized youth.
- LGBTQ2 youth perceive gender-based violence to be more serious in all settings except work, compared to youth who identify as straight.

Gender-Based Violence Getting Better / Worse

Most youth see gender-based violence as a problem that has grown worse or hasn't changed compared to the past; just one in four believe that it is less of a problem now.

Canadian youth generally see gender-based violence as a problem that has worsened with time (44%) or hasn't changed (20%); only one in four (26%) believe that gender-based violence is less of a problem now than it was in the past. This could be because gender-based violence is a more prominent topic in the general discourse than it has been in the past, which could lead to perceptions that the problem itself has worsened with time.

More or less of a problem

Change over time	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Gender-based violence is more of a problem	44%
Gender-based violence is less of a problem	26%
No change	20%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	10%

Q6. Do you think gender-based violence is becoming more of a problem or less of a problem in Canada than it was in the past or has there been no change?

Perceptions of how gender-based violence has changed in Canada vary between sub-groups:

- Men (30%) are more likely than women (22%) to see it as becoming less of a problem.
- Those in the youngest age group (14 to 17) are more likely to say it hasn't changed (25%) compared to older groups (17%).
- Youth born in Canada are more likely to say it is more of a problem (46%) compared to those born outside Canada (38%).

- Indigenous youth are more likely to say it is becoming less of a problem (41%) compared to those who identify as white (21%) or another ethnicity (25%).

2. Contributing Factors and Patterns

Groups Most Likely to be GBV Victims

Most often, youth broadly see women and girls, trans and non-binary, and LGBTQ2 people as the most likely victims of gender-based violence.

When identifying likely victims of gender-based violence, Canadian youth generally point to groups defined by their gender identity and sexual orientation. Young women or girls are most often noted as likely victims (41%) followed by trans, intersex, or non-binary youth (36%), and LGBTQ2 youth (35%).

Youth less often identify people with other risk factors as likely victims. This points to a lower understanding of how different factors and socio-demographic characteristics can make some groups more vulnerable to gender-based violence than others.

Youth demographic groups

Groups	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Young women or girls	41%
Trans, intersex, and non-binary young people	36%
Young people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or queer	35%
Young people with mental health issues	24%
Racialized young people	22%
Young First Nations people	22%
Young people who are newcomers to Canada	20%
Young men or boys	18%
Young Inuit people	18%
Young people with low incomes	17%
Young Métis people	16%
Young people living in rural and remote areas	15%
Young people on social assistance	14%
Other groups of young people	<1%
Young people are all equally likely to be a victim	21%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	8%

Q7. Which of the following specific groups of people your age do you think are most likely to be the victims of gender-based violence in Canada?

Perceptions of likely victims differ between some sub-groups of Canadian youth:

- Women are more likely to see trans, intersex, and binary young people (39%), and racialized young people (25%) as victims. They are also more likely than men to say that young people are all equally likely to be a victim (28%), but less likely to see young men and boys as likely victims (16%).
- Those aged 14 to 17 are more likely than older youth to see young people with mental health issues as likely victims (26%), and less likely to say young women or girls (37%).
- Young Quebeckers (31%) and Atlantic Canadians (28%) are more likely to say that all young people are equally likely to be a victim compared to other regions.
- Young British Columbians are more likely to say that young First Nations (30%), Inuit (24%), and Metis (22%) people are likely victims. They also see those with low incomes (24%) at more risk compared to youth in other regions.
- Indigenous youth more often point to those with mental health issues (27%), newcomers (24%), young men and boys (29%), those in rural areas (24%), young Inuit people (22%), and those on social assistance (22%) as likely victims.
- LGBTQ2 youth are more likely to see trans, intersex, and non-binary youth (45%) and LGBTQ2 youth (40%) as likely victims of gender-based violence. This group is also more likely to say that Indigenous youth, including First Nations (26%), Inuit (22%), and Metis (20%) are more at risk for gender-based violence.

Most Likely to be GBV Perpetrators

Youth most often identify males or male-identifying people generally as the most likely perpetrators of gender-based violence.

Asked to indicate who is most likely to commit gender-based violence from a list of potential perpetrators, nearly half of youth (48%) say that males or male-identified people are most likely. Four in ten say that former (43%) and current (40%) spouses or intimate partners are most likely to commit gender-based violence, and about one in four see family members (27%) or personal friends (23%) as likely perpetrators.

Most likely perpetrators

Groups	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Males or male-identified people in general	48%
Former spouses/intimate (i.e., sexual and/or dating) partners	43%
Current spouses/intimate (i.e., sexual and/or dating) partners	40%
Family members	27%
Personal friends	23%
Anyone can do it	1%
Other	1%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	19%

Q8. In Canada, who do you think is most likely to commit or perpetrate gender-based violence?

Likely perpetrators of gender-based violence are perceived differently between sub-groups:

- Compared to men, women more often say that males (53%), former partners (47%), current partners (43%), and family members (31%) are likely perpetrators.
- Those age 14 to 17 are less likely to name males (44%), former partners (40%), current partners (36%), and family members (25%) as likely perpetrators compared to older age groups.
- Atlantic Canadians (55%) are more likely to see former partners as likely perpetrators. Those in the prairies (49%) are more likely to say that current partners are likely perpetrators.
- Indigenous youth are more likely to see family members (31%) and personal friends (31%) as likely perpetrators of gender-based violence.
- LGBTQ2 youth more often say that males (59%), current partners (47%), and family members (34%) are likely perpetrators.

Statements About Gender-Based Violence

Most youth agree that verbal threats, bullying LGBTQ2 people, and using money access to control a partner are forms of abuse.

Asked to consider a set of nine agree/disagree statements about gender-based violence, nearly half of youth strongly agree that verbal threats (49%), bullying LGBTQ2 people (49%), and using money access to control a partner (46%) are abusive behaviours. A similar proportion also strongly agree that everyone has a role to play in ending gender-based violence (45%). Strong agreement with each statement is much lower for other items on the list.

Agreement with statements

Statements	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	NET: Agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Verbal insults and threats are a form of violence	49%	36%	85%	8%	3%	4%
Bullying / teasing someone because they are LGBTQ2 is a form of GBV	49%	31%	80%	10%	5%	6%
Controlling partner by cutting off access to money is a form of abuse	46%	35%	81%	10%	3%	5%
Everyone has personal responsibility and a role to play in ending GBV	45%	39%	84%	9%	3%	4%
People who witness domestic violence usually do not report it to the police	27%	49%	76%	12%	4%	8%
We do not take gender-based violence seriously enough in Canada	27%	40%	67%	18%	7%	9%
If I wanted more information on GBV, I'd know where to find it	27%	39%	66%	21%	7%	7%
No matter what we do, there will always be gender-based violence in Canada	25%	46%	71%	17%	5%	6%
Most women could leave a violent relationship if they really wanted to	21%	27%	48%	26%	19%	6%

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Looking at those who strongly agree with the statements about gender-based violence, there are some noteworthy distinctions between sub-groups of Canadian youth:

- Women are more likely than men to strongly agree with most statements in the list.
- Strong agreement with most statements is lower among those in the 14 to 17 age group.
- Youth in Atlantic Canada are more likely to strongly agree that bullying someone because they are LGBTQ2 is gender-based violence (59%).

- Youth in Quebec (27%), Alberta (26%), and British Columbia (25%) are more likely to strongly agree that most women could leave a violence relationship if they really wanted to.
- Youth in Quebec are less likely to agree that controlling money is a form of abuse (39%).
- Youth born outside of Canada have higher levels of agreement that verbal insults and threats are a form of violence (56%), bullying someone who is LGBTQ2 is gender-based violence (55%), and everyone has a responsibility in ending gender-based violence (54%).
- Youth born in Canada are more likely than those born in other countries to agree that we do not take gender-based violence seriously enough in Canada (28%), and that no matter what we do there will always be gender-based violence (26%).
- Compared to those who identify as white or with other ethnicity groups, Indigenous youth are less likely to strongly agree that verbal insults and threats are a form of violence (42%), bullying someone who is LGBTQ2 is gender-based violence (42%), controlling money is a form of abuse (39%), and everyone has a responsibility in ending gender-based violence (42%).
- Indigenous youth are more likely to agree with the following: people do not usually report domestic violence to police (33%), we do not take gender-based violence seriously enough in Canada (31%), they would know where to find information about gender-based violence (36%), no matter what we do there will always be gender-based violence (32%), and most women could leave a violence relationship if they really wanted to (36%).
- LGBTQ2 youth are more likely to strongly agree with the following: verbal insults and threats are a form of violence (57%), controlling money is a form of abuse (53%), everyone has a responsibility in ending gender-based violence (53%), and we do not take gender-based violence seriously enough in Canada (35%).

Where GBV is Most Likely to Happen

Youth rate online spaces as the most likely place for gender-based violence to happen.

Asked where gender-based violence is most likely to occur, Canadian youth most often say it happens online (42%). This suggests that youth have a general understanding that gender-based violence is not limited to physical aggression, even if they are not consistently able to define or identify it in those terms. Similar proportions of youth mention home (38%), bars or restaurants (38%), and public places (35%) as likely places for gender-based violence to occur.

Where gender-based violence most likely to occur

Places	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Online	42%
In the home	38%
In a bar, restaurant or dance club	38%
In public (e.g., on the street, in a mall, in a store)	35%
At school	31%
In workplaces	24%
On public transit (including an airport, flight, train etc.)	22%
Anywhere	1%
Somewhere else	<1%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	5%

Q10. Where do you think gender-based violence is most likely to happen?

Perceptions of where gender-based violence is most likely to happen differ between sub-groups in some instances:

- Women are more likely than men to say that gender-based violence is most likely to happen at home (42%); this is the top mention for women, slightly exceeding mentions of online (41%).
- Youth aged 14 to 17 are more likely to mention school (36%), and less likely to mention other settings like bars and restaurants (33%), in public (29%), workplaces (21%), or public transit (18%).
- Those aged 18 to 21 mention home less often than other age groups (33%).
- Ontario youth are more likely to mention bars or restaurants (41%).
- Quebec youth are less likely to mention public places (29%).
- Alberta youth are more likely to mention public transit (31%).
- Indigenous youth are more likely to mention bars and restaurants (42%), in public (46%), and public transit (33%). Youth who identify as white are more likely than other ethnic groups to mention home (42%).

GBV Contributing Factors

Canadian youth tend to see individual attitudes like sexism and homophobia as the main drivers of gender-based violence.

A majority of youth say that sexism (63%) and homophobia (51%) are main factors contributing to gender-based violence in Canada. Racism (45%) and a culture of violence (44%) also rank highly, named by about four in ten youth, alongside substance abuse (44%) and mental health issues (43%). About one in four say that economic anxiety (28%) and poverty (26%) are main factors.

This ranking can be roughly broken into a gradient from individual attitudes (sexism, homophobia, racism, culture of violence), to individual problems (substance abuse, mental health), to socio-economic conditions (economic anxiety, poverty, upbringing). This points to a general perception among youth that individual attitudes are the main drivers of gender-based violence, and a low general understanding of how other factors can exacerbate the risk. In other words, youth tend to see gender-based violence as a problem rooted in individual perpetrators, not societal conditions.

Factors contributing to GBV

Places	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Sexism	63%
Homophobia	51%
Racism	45%
A culture that encourages men to be violent	44%
Substance abuse (e.g., drug addiction, alcoholism etc.)	44%
Mental health problems	43%
Economic anxiety (e.g., stress about job, cost of living etc.)	28%
Poverty	26%
Poor education/upbringing	1%
Something else	1%

Q11. Which of the following do you think are the main factors that contribute to the problem of gender-based violence in Canada?

Factors contributing to gender-based violence are perceived differently in some sub-groups:

- Women are more likely than men to mention sexism (69%), homophobia (58%), racism (49%), a culture of violence (53%), and substance abuse (47%).
- Youth aged 14 to 17 are more likely than older cohorts to mention mental health problems (48%), economic anxiety (32%), and poverty (29%).
- Young Quebeckers are less like than those in other regions to mention racism (37%), substance abuse (37%), mental health problems (34%), or economic anxiety (21%) as factors.
- Youth who identify as white are more likely to point to sexism (67%), homophobia (57%), and substance abuse (47%), but less likely to mention racism (43%).

- Indigenous youth are less likely than other ethnic sub-groups to mention sexism (50%), homophobia (37%), racism (42%), or a culture of violence (39%).
- LGBTQ2 youth are more likely to point to sexism (69%), homophobia (59%), and a culture of violence (58%).

Perception of GBV Prevalence

Youth are quite divided when it comes to their perceptions of the prevalence of gender-based violence.

Perceptions of the prevalence of gender-based violence vary widely among Canadian youth, with nearly equal proportions seeing it as something that is rare or occurs occasionally (47%) and something that is common or everywhere (44%).

Perceived prevalence

Perception	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
NET: Rare / occasionally	47%
Is rare and only affects a very small number of young women (less than 5%)	11%
Happens occasionally and affects a significant minority of young women (5%-39%)	36%
NET: Common / everywhere	44%
Is pretty common and affects a lot of young women (40%-59%)	29%
Is everywhere and most young women experience it (60%-100%)	15%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	9%

Q12. How common do you think it is for young women (14 to 24 years old) in Canada to be the victims of gender-based violence? Do you think gender-based violence ___?

Perceptions of prevalence differ along demographic lines:

- A majority of women (56%) say that gender-based violence is common or everywhere, compared to just one in three men (33%).
- Among youth aged 14 to 17, a majority hold the perception that gender-based violence is rare or occasional (53%).
- Youth in Manitoba and Saskatchewan are less likely to say that it is rare or occasional (37%).
- Compared to other ethnicity sub-groups, Indigenous youth are much more likely to believe it is only rare or occasional (67%).
- LGBTQ2 youth are more likely to perceive it as common or everywhere (58%).

3. Awareness and Trust in WAGE

Familiarity With WAGE

One in three Canadian youth say they are at least somewhat familiar with WAGE.

Familiarity with Canada's Department for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) is somewhat low among Canadian youth, with four in ten (40%) saying they have never heard of WAGE; this exceeds the 36 percent who say they are very (13%) or somewhat (23%) familiar with WAGE.

Familiarity with WAGE

Familiarity	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
NET: Familiar	36%
Very familiar	13%
Somewhat familiar	23%
Not very familiar	20%
Had never heard of WAGE	40%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	4%

Q13. WAGE is the Government of Canada's Department for Women and Gender Equality. Before today, how familiar were you with WAGE?

Net familiarity with WAGE is higher among:

- Men (44%) compared to women (28%)
- English-speakers (43%) compared to French-speakers (31%)
- Indigenous youth (73%)
- Those who have experienced (57%) or witnessed GBV (53%)

Interest in Visiting WAGE Website

More than half of youth say they would visit the website in the future.

While familiarity with WAGE is low, youth are nonetheless interested in WAGE as an information source on gender-based violence, with more than half (53%) saying they would visit the website in the future (in addition to the 20% who already have).

WAGE website interest

Interest	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Yes, already visited WAGE website	20%
No, but would visit WAGE website in future	53%
No and would not visit WAGE website in future	19%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	8%

Q14. Have you or would you ever visit the WAGE website (women-gender-equality.canada.ca) for more information about gender-based violence?

Some sub-groups are more likely to say they have already visited the WAGE website:

- Men (27%)
- Albertans (26%)
- Indigenous youth (49%)
- Those who have experienced (42%) or witnessed GBV (37%)

Others are more likely to say they are interested in visiting in the future:

- Women (63%)
- Youth aged 18 to 24 (57%)
- Atlantic youth (64%)
- LGBTQ2 youth (56%)
- Those who have experienced (49%) or witnessed GBV (52%)

Trust in WAGE as Information Source

Most youth would trust WAGE as a source of information about gender-based violence.

Youth also see WAGE as a trustworthy source of information about gender-based violence; three in four (76%) say they would trust WAGE as an information source a lot or somewhat.

Trust in WAGE as information source

Trust	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
NET: A lot / Somewhat	76%
A lot	29%
Somewhat	47%
Not every much	9%
Not at all	2%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	13%

Q15. To what extent would you trust information about gender-based violence that comes from WAGE (Department for Women and Gender Equality)?

Groups most likely to say they would trust WAGE a lot include:

- Women (32%)
- Young Quebecers (32%)
- Youth who identify as white (31%) and Indigenous youth (34%)
- Those who have experienced (42%) or witnessed GBV (40%)

4. Witnessing and Experiencing Gender-Based Violence

Sources of Help or Support When GBV Happens

Youth would most likely seek help from the police or a parent, if someone they knew had experienced or witnessed gender-based violence.

About four in ten Canadian youth say they would go to the police (44%), a parent (42%), or some sort of counselling service (36%) to seek help if someone they knew had witnessed or experienced gender-based violence. While it is natural that many young people see their parents as a source of support, it is noteworthy that more objective sources of support outside the home, such as police or a counselling service, are mentioned frequently.

A friend (34%) or an adult outside the family (32%) are possibilities for about one in three, and one in four say they would go to another adult in the family (26%). Seeking help from a medical professional is less common (20%), and one in ten say they probably wouldn't seek help at all (10%).

Sources of help or support

Sources	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Police	44%
A parent	42%
Counselling service / helpline / crisis centre	36%
A friend	34%
A trusted adult outside your family, like a teacher or a coach	32%
Another adult family member, like a grandparent or aunt/uncle	26%
Doctor, nurse, or hospital	20%
I probably would not seek help at all	10%
Other	<1%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	8%

Q17. If you or someone you knew experienced or witnessed gender-based violence, where would you go for help?

There are some noteworthy differences between sub-groups:

- Police are mentioned more often by Atlantic youth (51%) and those born outside Canada (54%).
- A parent is mentioned more often by youth aged 14 to 17 (55%), those born in Canada (43%), and youth who identify as white (46%).
- A counselling service or hotline is mentioned more often by women (41%) and youth aged 18 or older (39%).
- A friend is mentioned more often by women (39%), youth aged 18 or older (37%), those born in Canada (35%), and LGBTQ2 youth (39%).
- A trusted adult outside the family is more common among youth aged 14 to 17 (34%).
- Another adult family member is mentioned more often by men (28%), youth aged 14 to 17 (30%), and Indigenous youth (32%).
- Medical professionals are mentioned more by women (22%), youth aged 18 and older (21%), and youth who identify as white (22%).
- Those more likely to say they wouldn't seek support at all include Albertan youth (14%), Indigenous youth (18%), and LGBTQ2 youth (12%).

Witnessing Gender-Based Violence

One in three Canadian youth report personally witnessing gender-based violence at some point in their life.

Asked if they have ever personally witnessed gender-based violence, about one in three (35%) say yes, they have witnessed it at some point, 57 percent have not witnessed it and eight percent prefer not to answer.

Witnessed gender-based violence

Sources	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Yes, I have	35%
No, I have not	57%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	8%

Q18. Have you ever personally witnessed gender-based violence in your life?

Keeping in mind that youth often define gender-based violence in different terms depending on their demographics, those most likely to report having witnessed gender-based violence include:

- Women (38%)
- Youth aged 18 to 24 (39%)
- Those living in Alberta (41%) and British Columbia (44%)
- Indigenous youth (52%)
- LGBTQ2 youth (47%)

Where Gender-Based Violence Occurred

Those who report witnessing gender-based violence saw it most often in a public place, at school, or online.

Among those who have witnessed gender-based violence at some point, the most commonly reported setting is a public place (41%), followed closely by school (38%) and online (38%). Youth also commonly report witnessing it among friends (32%), within their own family (29%), or at a bar or club (29%) and somewhat less often at work (19%).

Where witnessed

Sources	Canadian youth who have witnessed GBV (n=706)
In a public place (e.g., mall, street)	41%
At school	38%
Online	38%
Among my friends	32%
In my own family	29%
In a bar or club	29%
At work	19%
Somewhere else	1%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	3%

Q19. Where have you witnessed gender-based violence?

Some settings of gender-based violence are mentioned more often within sub-groups:

- Women more often mention witnessing gender-based violence in their own family (33%).
- Youth aged 14 to 17 more often mention witnessing violence at school (45%) but are less likely to mention witnessing it online (26%). They are also less likely to have witnessed in a bar or club (25%), or at work (13%) – both places that younger youth are less likely to frequent.
- Those living in Alberta (56%) and British Columbia (45%) mention public places more often.
- Ontario youth mention bars and clubs more than other regions (38%).
- Youth born in Canada mention bars and clubs more often (31%).
- Youth who identify as white mention public places (46%) and bars and clubs (31%) more often.
- Indigenous youth are more likely to mention witnessing it among friends (37%), in a bar or club (34%), or at work (23%).

- LGBTQ2 youth mention public places (50%), within their own family (35%), and work (27%) more frequently than youth who identify as straight.

Action Taken When Witnessing GBV

Most youth who have witnessed gender-based violence said they took some type of action, like supporting the victim or trying to stop the violence themselves.

Nearly half of youth (47%) who witnessed gender-based violence say they tried to offer support to the victim, and about four in ten (39%) report trying to step in to stop it (39%). One in five contacted police (20%) or went online to get information about what to do (20%). Just one in four said they didn't do anything (23%).

Actions taken

Sources	Canadian youth who have witnessed GBV (n=706)
Talked to the victim & tried to be supportive	47%
I stepped in and tried to stop it myself	39%
I contacted the police	20%
Went online to try to find out what to do	20%
I did something else	1%
I did not do anything	23%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	4%

Q20. When you witnessed gender-based violence in the past what, if anything, did you do?

Action taken when witnessing gender-based violence differs between sub-groups:

- Women are more likely to offer support to the victim (52%).
- Men more often report stepping in (44%), contacting police (27%), or going online for information (24%).
- Those living in Alberta (30%) and British Columbia (26%) are more likely to mention going online.
- Youth born in Canada (22%) are more likely to report the incident to police.
- Indigenous youth are more likely to say they stepped in (45%), contacted police (31%), or went online (27%).
- Youth who identify as straight more often say they tried to step in (42%), while LGBTQ2 youth more often say they didn't do anything (29%).

Reasons for Inaction

Lack of knowledge and fear are the most common reasons cited by youth who didn't do anything when witnessing gender-based violence.

Those who said they didn't do anything when they witnessed gender-based violence most often say they didn't know what to do (44%), they were scared of being harmed too (36%), or they were worried about getting in trouble (32%). For some, apathy and low awareness of gender-based violence are key to their inaction, with one in four saying they didn't want to get involved (27%) or didn't know that they were witnessing violence (24%), and one in five saying they didn't think it was a big deal (20%).

Reasons for not acting when witnessing GBV

Sources	Canadian youth who didn't do anything when they witnessed GBV (n=164)
I didn't know what to do	44%
I was scared I would be harmed too	36%
I was worried that I would get in trouble	32%
I didn't want to get involved	27%
I didn't know at the time that it was violence	24%
I didn't think it was a big deal	20%
Other	2%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	4%

Q21. What were the main reasons you did not do anything when you witnessed gender-based violence?

Among those who did not do anything when they witnessed gender-based violence, some reasons are more prevalent among certain sub-groups:

- Women more often say they were scared they would be harmed too (45%), while men more often say they were worried about getting in trouble (40%).
- Those aged 14 to 17 are more likely to say they didn't know what to do (54%) or they were worried about getting in trouble (45%).
- Youth who identify as white are more likely to say they didn't know what to do (59%).
- Indigenous youth are more likely to say they were worried about getting in trouble (44%).

Responsibility to Act When Witnessing GBV

Youth largely believe that family, friends, and strangers have at least some degree of responsibility to act when they witness gender-based violence.

More than half of youth believe that family members have a major responsibility (58%) to do something when they witness gender-based violence; they are much less likely to assign major responsibility to friends (44%) and strangers or bystanders (25%). Still, very few say that any of these groups have no responsibility to act in these situations.

Responsibility to act

Canadian youth (n=2,002)	NET: Major / Some responsibility	Major responsibility	Some responsibility	No responsibility	Don't know/prefer not to answer
Family members	90%	58%	32%	5%	5%
Friends	88%	44%	44%	7%	5%
Strangers / Bystanders	82%	25%	57%	12%	6%

Q22. To what extent do you think that the following groups of people have a responsibility to do something when they see someone experiencing gender-based violence?

Some sub-groups are more likely to say that these groups have a major responsibility to act:

- Women are more likely than men to say that family members (64%) and friends (49%) have a major responsibility to act.
- Youth aged 14 to 17 are less likely than older groups to say that friends (39%) or strangers (21%) have a major responsibility.
- Those born outside of Canada put more onus on family members (66%) and friends (53%).
- Indigenous youth are less likely to say that family members have a major responsibility (51%) compared to other groups, but more likely to expect strangers to act (34%).
- LGBTQ2 youth more often believe that friends have a major responsibility (48%).

Personal Experience of Gender-Based Violence

More than one in four youth report that they have personally experienced gender-based violence.

Canadian youth were asked a separate set of questions about their own personal experience with gender-based violence, distinct from questions about witnessing it. More than one in four (27%) disclosed that they have personally experienced gender-based violence.

Experienced gender-based violence

	Canadian youth (n=2,002)
Yes, I have	27%
No, I have not	66%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	7%

Q23. Have you ever personally experienced gender-based violence?

While the survey was designed to assure youth that their responses were confidential, it is important to note that some youth may still be less likely to report experiencing gender-based violence because of feelings of trauma, shame, or embarrassment, or because of certain cultural norms. Personal definitions of gender-based violence also vary between youth, as noted in previous questions from this survey. With this in mind, disclosure of gender-based violence experience is more common among youth in the following sub-groups:

- Women (30%)
- Youth aged 18 to 24 (33%)
- Those living in Ontario (28%), Alberta (32%), and British Columbia (31%).
- Youth born in Canada (28%)
- Indigenous youth (47%)
- LGBTQ2 youth (41%)

Help or Support After Experiencing Gender-Based Violence

Of those who experienced violence, a majority say they sought help, most often a parent, a counselling service, a friend, or another trusted adult. Most found the support helpful.

Among Canadian youth who say they have experienced gender-based violence, a majority (61%) say they sought help or support.

Sought help / support

	Experienced GBV (n=534)
Yes, I did	61%
No, I did not	37%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	2%

Q24. When you experienced gender-based violence did you seek any help or support?

Those more likely to have sought help include:

- Men (76%), compared to 51 percent of women
- Youth aged 14 to 17 (78%), compared to 57 percent of those aged 18 to 24
- Indigenous youth (76%)
- Youth who identify as straight (66%), compared to 50 percent of LGBTQ2 youth

Sources of GBV support

Youth who sought help after experiencing gender-based violence most often went to a parent (43%), a counselling service (41%), a friend, (39%) or another trusted adult (35%) for help. It is worth noting that in the earlier question that asked about sources of support in hypothetical terms, police ranked first, but only ranked fifth among those who actually sought support for gender-based violence.

Sources of support

Sources	Experienced GBV and sought help (n=327)
A parent	42%
A counselling service or helpline	40%
A friend	37%
A trusted adult outside your family	34%
Police	30%
Another adult family member	28%
Doctor, nurse, or hospital	27%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	2%

Q25. Where did you seek support when you experienced gender-based violence?

Noteworthy differences between sub-groups of Canadian youth include:

- Men more often sought help from a trusted adult outside the family (40%) or a medical professional (32%)
- Youth aged 18 to 21 more often went to police for help (36%)
- Young Quebecers went to their parents less often than other regions (29%)
- Youth born in Canada reported going to an extended family member more often (30%)
- Indigenous youth more often report going to extended family (33%) or the police (37%)
- LGBTQ2 youth are more likely to say they went to a friend for support (54%)

Helpfulness of GBV support

Those who sought help after experiencing gender-based violence largely describe the support they received as very helpful (59%) or somewhat helpful (34%). Combined, this adds up to nine in ten majority (93%) who found the support helpful to some degree.

Helpfulness of support

Helpfulness	Experienced GBV and sought help (n=327)
NET: Helpful	93%
Very helpful	60%
Somewhat helpful	33%
Not very helpful	3%
Not at all helpful	2%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	2%

Q26. How helpful was the support you sought when you experienced gender-based violence?

Men (63%) who sought help were more likely than women (57%) to have found it very helpful.

Reasons for Not Seeking GBV Support

Those who did not seek support cited a variety of reasons, including fear and embarrassment.

Victims of gender-based violence who did not seek support cited a range of reasons for not doing so, including fear of making things worse (20%), embarrassment (11%), and a lack of understanding that what they experienced was abuse (9%). One in three (34%) declined to answer this question.

Why help was not sought

Reasons	Experienced GBV and did not seek help (n=197)
Was scared things might escalate/make it worse	20%
Felt embarrassed/didn't want anyone to know/wanted to resolve it myself	11%
Didn't realize it was abuse/violence/was too young to understand	9%
Didn't know what to do/whom to talk to/how to explain it	9%
Wouldn't have been believed/would have been judged	9%
No one would've done anything or cared	6%
Thought it was insignificant at the time	5%
Wanted to forget about it/not to keep talking/repeating what happened	4%
Is not a big deal/nothing major	3%
Most of the time family members are not supportive	3%
Other	4%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	34%

Q27. What was the main reason why you did not seek out any help or support when you experienced gender-based violence?

Sample sizes preclude statistical comparisons between most sub-groups, but there are some noteworthy differences in reasons for not seeking help:

- Women are more likely to say they didn't seek help because they felt it would escalate and make things worse (23%) or felt embarrassed (14%)
- Those aged 18 to 21 are more likely to worry that it would escalate and make things worse (27%)
- Youth who identify as white are more likely to say they wouldn't be believed (14%)
- Indigenous youth more often say they don't know why they didn't seek help (51%)

5. Beliefs about Consent

Statements about consent

Canadian youth largely understand consent in a sexual context, but there is room for better understanding of the nuances.

Most youth generally have a good understanding of consent, with eight in ten (79%) agreeing that consent must be given at each step in a sexual encounter.

However, there is some confusion among youth when it comes to interpreting the presence of consent in specific contexts. For example, while seven in ten (69%) agree that consent ends when someone says they don't want to go further, that leaves three in ten who disagree or are unsure. Similarly, three out of ten agree that someone consents unless they clearly say no (31%), and that consent for sex exists if someone doesn't physically resist (29%). Additionally, one in four youth agree that consenting once means consent to any future sex with that person (27%), that being drunk absolves someone of responsibility for consent (27%), and that inviting someone home implies consent (24%).

Statements about consent

Statements	NET: Agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Consent must be given at each step in a sexual encounter.	79%	49%	30%	11%	5%	6%
If someone says they don't want to go further, there is no longer consent.	69%	45%	24%	11%	9%	11%
Unless you clearly say "no" to sex, you are giving consent.	31%	12%	19%	18%	45%	6%
If a person doesn't physically resist sex, they have given consent.	29%	10%	19%	17%	47%	6%
If you consent once, you are consenting to any future sex with that person.	27%	10%	17%	14%	53%	5%
If you are both drunk, you don't have to worry about consent.	27%	10%	17%	16%	49%	6%
Inviting someone home means consent for sex.	24%	9%	15%	14%	58%	5%

Q28. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements on the issue of consent in a sexual situation?

Examining sub-group differences points to where gaps are in understanding of consent:

- Women (83%) are more likely than men (75%) to agree that consent must be given at each stage of sexual encounter.
- Men are more likely than women to agree that consent exists without a clear no (40%), or without physical resistance (38%), that being drunk means you don't have to worry about consent (37%), consenting once means consenting to future sex (37%), and that inviting someone home means consent for sex (32%).
- Albertan youth are more likely to agree that consent ends when someone says they don't want to go further (76%) but are also more likely to agree that consent exists without physical resistance (37%), that being drunk means you don't have to worry about consent (33%), that consenting once means consenting to future sex (31%) and that inviting someone home means consent for sex (39%).
- British Columbia residents are also more likely to agree that being drunk means you don't have to worry about consent (30%), that consenting once means consenting to future sex (30%).
- Atlantic youth are less likely to agree that consent exists without a clear no (22%), or without physical resistance (19%), that being drunk means you don't have to worry about consent (18%), consenting once means consenting to future sex (20%), and that inviting someone home means consent for sex (17%).
- Compared to those born elsewhere, those born in Canada are more likely to agree that consent ends when someone says they don't want to go further (70%), but this group is also more likely to agree that consent exists without a clear no (31%), or without physical resistance (31%), that being drunk means you don't have to worry about consent (29%), consenting once means consenting to future sex (29%), and that inviting someone home means consent for sex (25%).
- Half of Indigenous youth agree that consent exists without a clear no (57%), or without physical resistance (56%), that being drunk means you don't have to worry about consent (55%), consenting once means consenting to future sex (55%), and that inviting someone home means consent for sex (49%).
- Youth who identify as straight are more likely to agree that consent exists without a clear no (33%), or without physical resistance (32%), that being drunk means you don't have to worry about consent (30%), consenting once means consenting to future sex (30%), and that inviting someone home means consent for sex (25%).

6. Social Values

In this segment of the survey, Canadian youth were asked to read a series of twelve statements that measure people's core socio-cultural values (particularly around gender norms, violence, fatalism and immigration) to express the extent to which they agree or disagree with them.

Gender and Sexuality

Most youth have progressive attitudes toward issues of gender equality and sexuality. They reject statements in support of patriarchy and traditional families and support those in same sex relationships

In the statements related to gender norms and sexuality, youth demonstrate broadly progressive and egalitarian attitudes. Two thirds (65%) agree that same sex couples should be treated the same as married couples, and most disagree that it is not right for a wife to earn more than her husband (67%), that the father of the family must be the master in his own house (62%), that getting married and having

children is the only real definition of a family (62%), or that men have a certain natural superiority over women (60%).

Social values agree / disagree statements (Gender and Sexuality)

Statements	NET: Agree	Totally agree	Agree somewhat	NET: Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Totally disagree	Not sure
Society should regard people of the same sex who live together the same as married couple	65%	34%	31%	25%	16%	9%	10%
Men have a certain natural superiority over women, and nothing can change this	35%	12%	23%	60%	20%	40%	5%
Getting married and having children is the only real definition of a family	33%	13%	21%	62%	20%	42%	4%
The father of the family must be the master in his own house	33%	10%	23%	62%	20%	42%	5%
In household where both work, not right for wife to earn more than husband	28%	11%	18%	67%	15%	52%	5%

Q16. The following is a series of opinions we often hear expressed. Please answer according to what you think or do personally, disregarding what other members of your household or friends might think. Do you totally agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or totally disagree with each of the following?

There are some sub-group variations in reaction to these statements:

- Young women are much more likely to disagree with statements that accept patriarchy and traditional roles. For example, 72 percent of women reject the idea that “the father of the family must be master in his own house” compared to just 52 percent of men.
- Youth aged 14 to 17 and those who are LGBTQ2 are also more likely to reject statements that accept patriarchy.
- Youth who identify as Indigenous and those whose home language is French tend to be more willing to agree with statements that support the patriarchy.
- Agreement that society should regard people of the same sex who live together as being the same as a married couple is high across all demographic segments and is particularly high

among 14 to 17 year olds (71%), French-speakers (70%) and those who identify as white (71%). Agreement with this is lower among youth born outside Canada (56%).

- Those who have experienced GBV are more likely to agree with statements that support patriarchy and gender inequality. Half (50%) agree that men have a certain natural superiority over women, 31 percent of those who have not experienced GBV.

Acceptance of Violence

Most youth reject the idea that violence can be exciting and that its acceptable for people to react violently to relieve tension, but significant minorities agree with both of these notions.

Most youth also show low acceptance of violence overall, with most disagreeing that violence can sometimes be exciting (62%) or that violent behaviour can relieve tension and is no big deal (57%). However, it should be noted that this means that a third or more of youth do accept violence to some extent with 33 percent agreeing that violence can sometimes be exciting and 36 percent agreeing that violent behaviour can relieve tension and is no big deal.

Social values agree / disagree statements (Acceptance of Violence)

Statements	NET: Agree	Totally agree	Agree somewhat	NET: Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Totally disagree	Not sure
When person is about to explode, violent behaviour can relieve tension / no big deal	36%	12%	24%	57%	22%	35%	7%
Violence can sometimes be exciting	33%	12%	21%	62%	16%	46%	5%

Q16. The following is a series of opinions we often hear expressed. Please answer according to what you think or do personally, disregarding what other members of your household or friends might think. Do you totally agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or totally disagree with each of the following?

There are some sub-group variations in reaction to these statements:

- Young men are much more accepting of violence than are young women; 43 percent of men agree that when person is about to explode, violent behaviour can relieve tension and 43 percent of men also agree that violence can sometimes be exciting. Among women agreement with these statements is 28 percent and 23 percent, respectively.
- Acceptance of violence also tends to be higher among those who identify as Indigenous, those born in Canada and those who are French-speaking.
- It is also notable that those who have witnessed or experienced GBV are much more likely to be accepting of violence. One half (49%) of those who have experienced GBV agree that when person is about to explode, violent behaviour can relieve tension and is no big deal and half (52%) also agree that violence can sometimes be exciting.

Immigration and Race

Most youth disagree that racism is largely a thing of the past and most reject the notion that there is too much immigration. They are more divided on whether immigrants should assimilate.

Attitudes towards immigration are also largely progressive among youth, with more than half of youth disagreeing that racism in Canada is by and large a thing of the past (60%), that there is too much immigration, and it threatens the purity of the country (58%), or that immigrants should set aside their backgrounds and blend into the Canadian culture (51%).

Social values agree / disagree statements (Immigration and Racism)

Statements	NET: Agree	Totally agree	Agree somewhat	NET: Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Totally disagree	Not sure
Immigrants should set aside cultural backgrounds and blend into the Canadian culture	42%	15%	27%	51%	23%	28%	7%
Overall, there is too much immigration. It threatens the purity of the country	36%	13%	23%	57%	20%	38%	7%
Racism in Canada is by and large a thing of the past	34%	12%	22%	60%	27%	33%	6%

Q16. The following is a series of opinions we often hear expressed. Please answer according to what you think or do personally, disregarding what other members of your household or friends might think. Do you totally agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or totally disagree with each of the following?

There are some sub-group variations in reaction to these statements on immigration and racism:

- Young men are more likely than young women to agree that there is too much immigration, that immigrants should assimilate, and that racism is a thing of the past.
- Other segments that tend to have less supportive attitudes towards immigration include French-speakers and those who identify as Indigenous.
- Those born outside Canada and those who are racialized tend to reject the idea that there is too much immigration or that immigrants should set aside their cultural differences.
- One half of those who have witnessed or experienced GBV (49%) feel there is too much immigration to the country and half (48%) also agree that racism is a thing of the past. Agreement with these notions is much lower among those who have not experienced GBV (32 percent and 31 percent, respectively).

Fatalism

Most youth disagree that their lives are predetermined, but half agree that they have trouble changing the course of events that affect them.

While Canadian youth tend to disagree that their destiny pre-determined (56%), they are more mixed on the statement “I have a lot of trouble changing the course of events that happen to me” with almost equal proportions agreeing (47%) and disagreeing (44%) with this statement.

Social values agree / disagree statements (Fatalism)

Statements	NET: Agree	Totally agree	Agree somewhat	NET: Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Totally disagree	Not sure
I have a lot of trouble changing the course of events that affect me	47%	14%	33%	44%	30%	14%	10%
Whatever I do, my destiny is pre-determined, and history takes its course	37%	13%	24%	56%	27%	29%	8%

Q16. The following is a series of opinions we often hear expressed. Please answer according to what you think or do personally, disregarding what other members of your household or friends might think. Do you totally agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or totally disagree with each of the following?

There are some sub-group variations in reaction to these statements that address fatalism:

- Young men are more likely to agree with these statements expressing a degree of fatalism than are young women.
- Youth who have experienced GBV are much more likely to agree with these statements expressing a degree of fatalism than are those who have not.

Appendix A: Methodology

Environics Research conducted an online survey with 2,002 Canadians aged 14 to 24. Survey respondents were selected from registered members of an opt-in online panel. Since a sample drawn from an online panel is not a random probability sample, no formal estimates of sampling error can be calculated.

Sample design, weighting, and respondent profile

Environics conducted a 15-minute online survey from February 10 to March 10, 2022. The sampling method was designed to attain interviews with at least 2,000 Canadians aged 14 to 24.

Quotas for the general population were set by age, gender, and region. The final general population data were then weighted to ensure the sample is representative of the Canadian population, according to the most recent Census.

The survey obtained the following distribution for the Canadian population age 14 to 24:

Variable	% of population (2016 Census)	Target (quota)	% of sample	Actual Unweighted	Actual Weighted*
Jurisdiction					
Atlantic	6	163	8	167	130
Quebec	23	512	26	505	460
Ontario	38	734	37	721	771
Manitoba / Saskatchewan	7	130	7	125	134
Alberta	12	211	11	206	230
British Columbia / Territories	14	250	13	278	276
CANADA	100	2,000	100	2,002	2,002
Age					
14-17	36	771	39	742	721
18-24	67	1,229	61	1,260	1,281
Gender¹					
Male	50	1,000	50	946	1,001
Female	49	1,000	50	1,026	973
Survey Language					
English	n/a	n/a	73	1,432	1,462
French	n/a	n/a	27	570	540

*Results are weighted by region, gender and age to 2016 Census data.

¹Respondents who identified with a gender category other than male or female were weighted by age and region only.

Questionnaire design

Women and Gender Equality provided Environics with desired topic areas and questions that addressed the research objectives. Environics then designed a questionnaire that incorporated these questions, advising on best practices in question design, particularly for online surveys. Upon approval of the

English questionnaire, Environics arranged for the questionnaire to be translated into French by professional translators.

Environics' data analysts programmed the questionnaires, then performed thorough testing to ensure accuracy in set-up and data collection. This validation ensured that the data entry process conformed to the surveys' basic logic. The data collection system handles sampling invitations, quotas, and questionnaire completion (skip patterns, branching, and valid ranges).

Prior to finalizing the survey for fieldwork, a pre-test (soft launch) was conducted in English and French. The pre-test assessed the questionnaires in terms of question wording and sequencing, respondent sensitivity to specific questions and to the survey overall, and survey length. Standard Government of Canada pre-testing questions were also asked. As no changes were required following the pre-test, the 126 (106 English, 20 French) responses have been included in the final data set.

The final survey questionnaire is included in Appendix B.

Fieldwork

The survey was conducted by Environics using a secure, fully featured web-based survey environment. The average interview length was 15 minutes.

All respondents were offered the opportunity to complete the surveys in their official language of choice. All research work was conducted in accordance with the Standards for the Conduct of Government of Canada Public Opinion Research – Online Surveys and recognized industry standards, as well as applicable federal legislation (*Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, or PIPEDA).

Following data collection, the data from this survey were statistically weighted to ensure the sample is generally representative of the Canadian population (age 14 to 24) according to the most recently available Census information.

Completion results

The completion results are presented in the following table.

Contact disposition

Disposition	Total sample
Total invitations (c)	74,946
Total completes (d)	2,002
Qualified break-offs (e)	656
Disqualified (f)	1,457
Not responded (g)	69,148
Quota filled (h)	1,683
Contact rate = $(d+e+f+h)/c$	7.73%
Participation rate = $(d+f+h)/c$	6.86%

Non-response bias analysis

The table below presents a profile of the final general population (age 14 to 24) sample (unweighted) by gender, compared to the actual population of Canada (age 14 to 24) (2016 Census information).

Non-response bias analysis

Sample type	Sample*	Canada (2016 Census)
Gender (14 to 24)		
Male	48%	51%
Female	52%	49%

Appendix B: Questionnaire

Department of Women and Gender Equality 2022 Gender-Based Violence Survey of Youth FINAL Questionnaire

Introduction for 18yrs+

Please select a language for filling out the survey /
SVP choisissez votre langue préférée pour remplir le sondage

- 01- English / Anglais
- 02- Français / French

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey dealing with current issues of interest to Canadians.

You are free to fill out the survey or not, and your responses will be kept confidential and anonymous.
The survey takes about 12 minutes to complete. You may opt-out of the survey at any time if the topics covered are too difficult.

The information collected through the research is subject to the *Privacy Act*, legislation of the Government of Canada, and to relevant provincial privacy legislation. **Programming note: link is to <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/P-21/>**
French: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/fra/lois/p-21/>

Environics Research, an independent research company, is conducting this survey on behalf of the Government of Canada. The study will help the Government of Canada better understand what young Canadians know about gender-based violence and also develop a public information campaign to address it.

Click here [INSERT LINK: <https://www.canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/rvs/home/>] if you want to check that this survey is real.

Survey registration number 20220201-EN204

To view the Environics privacy policy, [click here](#).

If you require any technical assistance, please contact: [Survey Support](#). [INSERT LINK: ergonlinesurveysupport@Environics.ca]

The survey is best done on a computer or a tablet. If you are filing it out on a smart phone, please turn the device to landscape (horizontal/sideways) mode so all questions are shown correctly.

Please click on >> to continue.

Note: If you don't have an opinion about a question or can't answer it, please click "don't know/prefer not to answer" to move through to the next question. There are only a few key questions where your answer will be needed to move forward.

If you want to make sure that this survey is conducted on behalf of the Government of Canada, you may contact a government representative at 1-855-969-9922 or cfc.Communications.swc@cfc-swc.gc.ca.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

A. In what year were you born?

RECORD YEAR

Numeric dropdown (<1920 to >2002).

IF 18-24YRS SKIP TO Q.C, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO INSTRUCTION ABOVE Q.B

IF 25YRS+ ASK:

B. Are you the parent or primary caregiver to any children in the following age categories?

Select all that apply

01 - Children under the age of 14

02 - Children between 14 and 15

GO TO PARENT CONSENT FORM

03 - Children between 16 and 17

GO TO PARENT CONSENT FORM

04 - Children 18 or over

05 - I have no children **EXCLUSIVE - TERMINATE**

IF NOT A PARENT OF A CHILD 14-17YRS (CODE 2 OR 3 AT Q.B) TERMINATE

Introduction for 14-17yrs

Please select a language for filling out the survey /

SVP choisissez votre langue préférée pour remplir le sondage

01- English / Anglais

02- Français / French

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey dealing with current issues of interest to Canadians.

You are free to fill out the survey or not, and your responses will be kept confidential and anonymous.

The survey takes about 12 minutes to complete. You may opt-out of the survey at any time if the topics covered are too difficult.

The information collected through the research is subject to the Privacy Act, legislation of the Government of Canada, and to relevant provincial privacy legislation. **Programming note: link is to**

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/P-21/>

French: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/fra/lois/p-21/>

Environics Research, an independent research company, is conducting this survey on behalf of the Government of Canada. The study will help the Government of Canada better understand what young Canadians know about gender-based violence and also develop a public information campaign to address it.

Click here [INSERT LINK: <https://www.canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/rvs/home/>] if you want to check that this survey is real. **Survey registration number 20220201-EN204**

To view the Environics privacy policy, [click here](#).

If you require any technical assistance, please contact: [Survey Support](#). [INSERT LINK: ergonlinesurveysupport@Environics.ca]

The survey is best done on a computer or a tablet. If you are filing it out on a smart phone, please turn the device to landscape (horizontal/sideways) mode so all questions are shown correctly.

Please click on >> to continue.

Note: If you don't have an opinion about a question or can't answer it, please click "don't know/prefer not to answer" to move through to the next question. There are only a few key questions where your answer will be needed to move forward.

If you want to make sure that this survey is conducted on behalf of the Government of Canada, you may contact a government representative at 1-855-969-9922 or cfc.Communications.swc@cfc-swc.gc.ca. Thank you in advance for your participation.

IF CHILD OF PARENT (WHO PARENT SAYS IS 14-17YRS), ASK:

B2 How old are you?

Select one response

- ☐ 12 years and under
- ☐ 13 years
- ☐ 14 years
- ☐ 15 years
- ☐ 16 years
- ☐ 17 years
- ☐ 18 years and over

IF 14-17YRS CONTINUE, OTHERWISE TERMINATE

ASK ALL (14-24YRS)

C. In which province or territory do you live?

Select one response

DROP DOWN LIST:

Newfoundland and Labrador	1
Prince Edward Island	2
Nova Scotia	3
New Brunswick	4
Quebec	5
Ontario	6
Manitoba	7
Saskatchewan	8
Alberta	9
British Columbia	10
Nunavut	11
Northwest Territories	12
Yukon	13

D. What is your gender?

Select one response

01 – Male

02 – Female

97 – Another gender identity (SPECIFY)_____

99 – Prefer not to answer

[SHOW ON SEPARATE SCREEN AT START OF SURVEY]

Some of the questions in this survey deal with sensitive topics that you may feel uncomfortable answering. If you feel uncomfortable or upset while filling out the survey, you can stop at any time. Also, you may skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

If you need to speak to someone for support, there is a list of resources at the end of this survey.

GENERAL AWARENESS

1. To get started, how concerned are you about each of the following issues in terms of how they impact you or those you care about?

Select one response for each

01 – Very concerned

02 – Somewhat concerned

- 03 – Not very concerned
- 04 – Not at all concerned
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

ROTATE - Show in carousel format

- a) Cyberbullying
 - b) Opioids and substance abuse issues
 - c) Climate change
 - d) Gender-based violence
 - e) Guns and gangs
2. Before today, how familiar were you with the term “gender-based violence”?
Select one response

- 01 – Very familiar
- 02 – Somewhat familiar
- 03 – Not very familiar
- 04 – Had never heard of it
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

3. How would you define the term “gender-based violence” in your own words? What is it?
Type response below

99 – Don't know

4. Here is a list of things that could happen to a person – do you think each of these is or is NOT an example of gender-based violence?
Select one response for each

- 01 – Is gender-based violence
- 02 – Is NOT gender-based violence
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

Randomize - Show in carousel format

- a. A woman being physically assaulted by a man
- b. A woman being threatened and emotionally abused by a man
- c. A gay man being bullied or attacked by a straight man
- d. A man trying to control his wife by restricting her access to money
- e. A man sexually assaulting a woman

- f. A woman physically assaulting her husband/male partner
 - g. A violent dispute between two straight men
 - h. Trying to convince a girlfriend or boyfriend to have sex after they've said no
 - i. Sharing nude photos of a girlfriend or boyfriend without their permission
5. Gender-based violence is "violence faced by people based on their sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or how their gender is perceived by others."

Knowing this definition, how serious a problem do you think gender-based violence is in each of the following places.

Select one response for each

- 01 - Extremely serious problem
- 02 - Somewhat serious problem
- 03 - Not a very serious problem
- 04 - Not a serious problem at all
- 05 – Does not apply (i.e., don't work or don't go to school)
- 99 - Don't know/prefer not to answer

Randomize - Show in carousel format

- a) In Canada as a whole
 - b) In [PIPE IN RESPONDENT PROVINCE/TERRITORY]
 - c) In your local community
 - d) Where you work
 - e) At school
 - f) In your own family
 - g) In your circle of friends
6. Do you think gender-based violence is becoming more of a problem or less of a problem in Canada than it was in the past or has there been no change?
- Select one response*

- 01 – Gender-based violence is more of a problem
- 02 – Gender-based violence is less of a problem
- 03 - No change
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

GBV Risk Factors and Causes

7. Which of the following specific groups of people your age do you think are most likely to be the victims of gender-based violence in Canada?
- Select all that apply*

Randomize

- 01 - Young men or boys
- 02 - Young women or girls
- 03 - Trans, intersex, and non-binary young people
- 04 - Young people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or queer
- 05 – Young First Nations people
- 06 – Young Métis people
- 07 – Young Inuit people
- 08 - Young people who are newcomers to Canada
- 09 - Young people with low incomes
- 10 – Young people on social assistance
- 11 – Young people with mental health issues
- 12 – Racialized young people
- 13 – Young people living in rural and remote areas
- 14 – Young people are all equally likely to be a victim [Anchor] [Exclusive]
- 98 - Other groups of young people (specify) _____ [Anchor]
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer [Anchor] [Exclusive]

8. In Canada, who do you think is most likely to commit or perpetrate gender-based violence?

Select all that apply

Randomize

- 01 – Males or male-identified people in general
- 02 - Family members
- 03 - Former spouses/intimate (i.e., sexual and/or dating) partners
- 04 - Current spouses/intimate (i.e., sexual and/or dating) partners
- 05 - Personal friends
- 06 – Other (Specify) _____
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer [Anchor] [Exclusive]

9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Select one response for each

- 01 – Strongly agree
- 02 – Somewhat agree
- 03 – Somewhat disagree
- 04 – Strongly disagree
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

Randomize - Show in carousel format

- a) When someone tries to control their partner by cutting off their access to money it is a form of abuse
- b) People who witness domestic violence usually do not report it to the police
- c) Most women could leave a violent relationship if they really wanted to
- d) Verbal insults and threats are a form of violence
- e) Bullying or teasing someone because they are LGBTQ2 is a form of gender-based violence
- f) We do not take gender-based violence seriously enough in Canada

- g) No matter what we do, there will always be gender-based violence in Canada
- h) If I wanted more information on gender-based violence, I'd know where to find it
- i) Everyone has personal responsibility and a role to play in ending gender-based violence

10. Where do you think gender-based violence is most likely to happen?

Select up to 3 responses

Randomize

- 01 - In the home
- 02 - In workplaces
- 03 - At school
- 04 - On public transit (including an airport, flight, train etc.)
- 05 - In a bar, restaurant, or dance club
- 06 - In public (e.g., on the street, in a mall, in a store)
- 07 - Online
- 08 - Somewhere else (SPECIFY)_____ [ANCHOR]
- 99 - Don't know/prefer not to answer [ANCHOR]

11. Which of the following do you think are the main factors that contribute to the problem of gender-based violence in Canada?

Select all that apply

Randomize

- 01 - Racism
- 02 - Poverty
- 03 - Substance abuse (e.g., drug addiction, alcoholism etc.)
- 04 - Economic anxiety (e.g., stress about job, cost of living etc.)
- 05 - A culture that encourages men to be violent
- 06 - Mental health problems
- 07 - Sexism
- 08 - Homophobia
- 98 - Something else (SPECIFY)_____ [ANCHOR]
- 99 - Don't know/prefer not to answer [ANCHOR]

12. How common do you think it is for young women (14 to 24 years old) in Canada to be the victims of gender-based violence? Do you think gender-based violence ____?

Select one response

- 01 - Is rare and only affects a very small number of young women (less than 5%)
- 02 - Happens occasionally and affects a significant minority of young women (5%-39%)
- 03 - Is pretty common and affects a lot of young women (40%-59%)
- 04 - Is everywhere and most young women experience it (60%-100%)
- 99 - Don't know/prefer not to answer

AWARENESS OF WAGE

13. WAGE is the Government of Canada's Department for Women and Gender Equality. Before today, how familiar were you with WAGE?

Select one response

- 01 – Very familiar
- 02 – Somewhat familiar
- 03 – Not very familiar
- 04 – Had never heard of WAGE
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

14. Have you or would you ever visit the WAGE website [women-gender-equality.canada.ca] for more information about gender-based violence?

Select one response

- 01 – Yes, I have already visited the WAGE website
- 02 – No, but I would visit the WAGE website in the future
- 03 – No and don't think I would visit the WAGE website in the future
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

15. To what extent would you trust information about gender-based violence that comes from WAGE (Department for Women and Gender Equality)? Would you trust it...

Select one response

- 01 – A lot
- 02 – Somewhat
- 03 – Not very much
- 04 – Not at all
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

SOCIAL VALUES

16. The following is a series of opinions we often hear expressed. Please answer according to what you think or do personally, disregarding what other members of your household or friends might think. Do you totally agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or totally disagree with each of the following?

- 01 – Totally agree
- 02 – Agree somewhat
- 03 – Disagree somewhat
- 04 – Totally disagree
- 99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

Randomize - Show in carousel format

1.	Whatever people say, men have a certain natural superiority over women, and nothing can change this
2.	In a household where both partners are working, it is not right for the wife to earn more than the husband
3.	The father of the family must be the master in his own house
4.	Violence can sometimes be exciting

5.	When a person can't take it anymore and feels like he/she is about to explode, a little violent behavior can relieve the tension. It's no big deal
6.	Getting married and having children is the only real definition of a family
7.	Society should regard people of the same sex who live together as being the same as a married couple
8.	Racism in Canada is by and large a thing of the past
9.	Overall, there is too much immigration. It threatens the purity of the country
10.	Immigrants of different races and ethnic groups should set aside their cultural backgrounds and try to blend into the Canadian culture
11.	No matter what I do, I have a lot of trouble changing the course of events that affect me
12.	Whatever I do, my destiny is pre-determined, and history takes its course

EXPERIENCE WITH GBV / BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

This section of the survey includes some questions about your own experiences with gender-based violence. You can skip any questions that you are not comfortable answering.

17. If you or someone you knew experienced or witnessed gender-based violence, where would you go for help?

Select all that apply

Randomize

01 – A counselling service or helpline, like Kids Help Phone or a Rape/Sexual Assault Crisis Centre

02 – A parent

03 - Another adult family member, like a grandparent or aunt/uncle

04 – A trusted adult outside your family, like a teacher or a coach

05 – Police

06 – Doctor, nurse, or hospital

07 – A friend

08 – I probably would not seek help at all

98 – Other (Please specify): _____ [ANCHOR]

99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer [ANCHOR]

18. Have you ever personally witnessed gender-based violence in your life?

Select one response

01 – Yes, I have

02 – No, I have not

SKIP TO Q.22

99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

SKIP TO Q.22

ASK ALL WHO WITNESSED GBV IN Q. 18:

19. Where have you witnessed gender-based violence?

Select all that apply

Randomize

01 - In my own family

02 - Among my friends

03 - At work

- 04 - At school
- 05 - In a bar or club
- 06 - In a public place, such as a mall or on the street
- 07 - Online
- 98 - Somewhere else (SPECIFY)_____ [ANCHOR]
- 99 - Don't know/prefer not to answer [ANCHOR]

20. When you witnessed gender-based violence in the past what, if anything, did you do?
Select all that apply

Randomize

- 01 - I did not do anything [ANCHOR] **ASK Q. 21**
- 02 - I talked to the victim and tried to be supportive
- 03 - I stepped in and tried to stop it myself
- 04 - I contacted the police
- 05 - I went online to try to find out what I ought to do
- 98 - I did something else (specify)_____ [ANCHOR]
- 99 - Don't know/prefer not to answer [ANCHOR]

ASK ALL WHO SAY THEY DID NOT DO ANYTHING IN Q. 20:

21. What were the main reasons you did not do anything when you witnessed gender-based violence?

Select all that apply

Randomize

- 01 - I didn't think it was a big deal
- 02 - I was scared I would be harmed too
- 03 - I didn't know at the time that it was violence
- 04 - I was worried that I would get in trouble
- 05 - I didn't want to get involved
- 06 - I didn't know what to do
- 98 - Other (SPECIFY)_____
- 99 - Don't know/prefer not to answer

22. To what extent do you think that the following groups of people have a responsibility to do something when they see someone experiencing gender-based violence?

Select one response for each

- 01 - Major responsibility
- 02 - Some responsibility
- 03 - No responsibility
- 99 - Don't know/prefer not to answer

Randomize - Show in carousel format

- a) Friends
- b) Family members
- c) Strangers / Bystanders who do not know the people involved

23. Have you ever personally experienced gender-based violence?

Select one response

01 – Yes, I have

02 – No, I haven't

99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

SKIP TO DEMOS

SKIP TO DEMOS

ASK ALL WHO EXPERIENCED GBV IN Q. 23

Note to those who answered Yes and experienced GBV in Q. 23

*"If you feel you would like to access any support services for victims of gender-based violence, there is a list of resources here [INSERT LINK]. You can also contact **Kids Help Phone** at 1-800-668-6868.*

<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence-knowledge-centre/additional-support-services.html>

24. When you experienced gender-based violence did you seek any help or support?

Select one response

01 – Yes, I did

02 – No, I didn't

99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

SKIP TO Q. 27

SKIP TO Q.28

ASK ALL WHO SOUGHT SUPPORT IN Q. 24

25. Where did you seek support when you experienced gender-based violence?

Select all that apply

Randomize

01 – A counselling service or helpline, like Kids Help Phone or a Rape/Sexual Assault Crisis Centre

02 – A parent

03 – Another adult family member, like a grandparent or aunt/uncle

04 – A trusted adult outside your family, like a teacher or a coach

05 – Police

06 – Doctor, nurse, or hospital

07 – A friend

98 – Other (Please specify): _____

99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

26. How helpful was the support you sought when you experienced gender-based violence?

Select one response

01 – Very helpful

02 – Somewhat helpful

03 – Not very helpful

04 – Not at all helpful

99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

ASK ALL WHO DID NOT SEEK SUPPORT IN Q. 24

27. What was the main reason why you did not seek out any help or support when you experienced gender-based violence?

Type response below

99 – Don't know/prefer not to answer

ASK ALL

28. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements on the issue of consent in a sexual situation?

Select one response for each

- 01 – Strongly agree
- 02 – Somewhat agree
- 03 – Somewhat disagree
- 04 – Strongly disagree
- 99 – Don't know/Prefer not to answer

Randomize - Show in carousel format

- a. Consent must be given at each step in a sexual encounter.
- b. If someone begins to “fool around” (sexual foreplay), but then says they don't want to go any further, there is no longer any consent to continue.
- c. If a person doesn't physically resist sex, they have given consent.
- d. If you consent to have sex with someone once, you are consenting to any future sex with that person.
- e. If you and your sexual partner are both drunk, you don't have to worry about consent.
- f. Unless you clearly say “no” to sex, you are giving consent
- g. Inviting someone home means consent for sex.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS – ASK ALL

Finally, here are some questions that will help us analyze the results of this survey. . .

- E. Are you currently...?

Select one response

- 01 - In school full-time
- 02 - In school part-time
- 03 - Not a student
- 99 - Prefer not to answer

F. Are you currently...?

Select one response

01 - Working full-time

02 - Working part-time

03 - Not working

99 - Prefer not to answer

G. Which of the following is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Select one response

01 - Less than high school diploma or equivalent/I am still in high school

02 - High school diploma or equivalent

03 - Trade certificate or diploma (apprenticeship, technical institute, trade or vocational school)

04 - College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma (other than trades certificates or diplomas)

05 - University (undergraduate degree such as BA or BSc etc.)

06 - University (post-graduate or professional degree such as MA, PhD, medical, law, teaching, engineering etc.)

99 - Prefer not to answer

H. What language do you speak most often at home?

Select one response

01 - English

02 - French

03 – Another language

99 - Prefer not to answer

I. Were you born in Canada or in another country?

Select one response

01 – In Canada

02 – Another country

99 - Prefer not to answer

J. Do you identify as Indigenous, that is to say First Nation, Inuit or Métis?

Select all that apply

- 01 Yes, First Nation **SKIP TO Q. L**
- 02 Yes, Inuit **SKIP TO Q. L**
- 03 Yes, Métis **SKIP TO Q. L**
- 04 No, I am not Indigenous [EXCLUSIVE]
- 99 - Prefer not to answer [EXCLUSIVE]

ASK WLL WHO ARE NOT INDIGENOUS IN Q. J

- K. Which of the following best describes your ethnic background, race, or nationality?

Select up to 2 responses

Randomize

- 01 – Black (African, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Canadian, etc.)
- 02 – East/Southeast Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Thai, Malaysian, etc.)
- 03 – Latin American (Mexican, Central or South American)
- 04 – Middle Eastern/West Asian (Arab, North African, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, Afghan, etc.)
- 05 – South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean)
- 06 – White (Caucasian, European)
- 98 – Other (SPECIFY) _____ [ANCHOR]
- 99 – Prefer not to answer [ANCHOR]

ASK ALL

- L. Which of the following best describes you?

Select all that apply

- 01 – Straight (heterosexual)
- 02 – Gay
- 03 – Lesbian
- 04 – Bisexual
- 05 – Non-binary
- 06 – Transgender
- 07 – Two-spirit
- 98 – I identify another way (SPECIFY) _____
- 99 – Prefer not to answer

- M. Which of the following categories best describes your total household income? That is, the total income of all persons in your household combined, before taxes.

Select one response

- 01 - Under \$20,000
- 02 - \$20,000 to just under \$40,000
- 03 - \$40,000 to just under \$60,000
- 04 - \$60,000 to just under \$80,000
- 05 - \$80,000 to just under \$100,000
- 06 - \$100,000 to just under \$150,000
- 07 - \$150,000 and above
- 99 – Don't know/Prefer not to answer

- N. And finally, to better understand how results vary by region, what are the first three digits of your postal code?

— — —
999 – Prefer not to answer

This completes the survey. On behalf of the Government of Canada, thank you for your valuable input.

Note that some statements about gender-based violence that appeared in this survey are not necessarily true and were used to help measure misconceptions.

It's important to understand what gender-based violence is in order to prevent it and address it by knowing when you're seeing it. You can access up to date information on gender-based violence by visiting the WAGE's Gender-based Violence Knowledge Centre.

<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence-knowledge-centre.html>

If you are currently experiencing gender-based violence or know somebody that might be, contact a crisis line and/or reach any additional support services. You can also contact **Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868**.

In the coming months, the results of this survey will be available on the Library and Archives Canada website.