

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019

by Shana Conroy

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Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019

by **Shana Conroy**, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile is an annual report produced by the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics at Statistics Canada as part of the Federal Family Violence Initiative. Since 1998, this report has provided data on the nature and extent of family violence in Canada, as well as an analysis of trends over time. The information presented is used extensively to monitor changes that inform policy makers and the public.

The 2019 edition of the report begins with an overview of police-reported family violence. The sections that follow present police-reported data dedicated to family violence against children and youth, intimate partner violence and family violence against seniors.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada, lockdown measures and safety protocols brought increased attention to the issue of family violence. While the latest annual police-reported data on this subject are from the 2019 Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and predate the pandemic, the data establish a baseline for future analysis of its impact on families in Canada. In the meantime, following a special data collection initiative, information from police services on selected types of crime during the first several months of the COVID-19 pandemic provide insight into crime during this period. These data, and information from police about calls for service, are discussed in the first section of this report for additional context.

Section 1: Police-reported family violence in Canada, 2019

Section 2: Police-reported family violence against children and youth in Canada, 2019

Section 3: Police-reported intimate partner violence in Canada, 2019

Section 4: Police-reported family violence against seniors in Canada, 2019

Survey description

Section 1: Police-reported family violence in Canada, 2019

Family violence, a serious public health issue, can take on many forms, including physical and sexual violence, and emotional and financial abuse (Public Health Agency of Canada 2014). It is an abuse of power within a relationship of trust and dependency. Family violence has immediate and long-term consequences for victims—including physical, mental, cognitive and financial—and recovery depends on the length and severity of abuse.

The costs are not just personal, but affect wider society as well. According to Justice Canada, “a considerable amount of Canadian resources are directed to address this issue including health care costs, costs to the justice system, to employers and businesses, and to social and community services” (Justice Canada 2017). In order to mitigate the impact on individuals, families and communities, it is important to monitor the issue of family violence, and invest in prevention measures and supports for victims. This is particularly true of the COVID-19 era, when Canadians have been subject to lockdown measures and safety protocols that required them stay at home and could have impacted their ability to seek help.

In this section, family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger.¹

One in four victims of police-reported violence victimized by a family member

In 2019, there were 399,846 victims of police-reported violence in Canada (Table 1.1). Of these victims, one-quarter (26%) were victimized by a family member, which represented 102,316 victims. While just over half (53%) of all victims of violence were female, two-thirds (67%) of family violence victims were female.

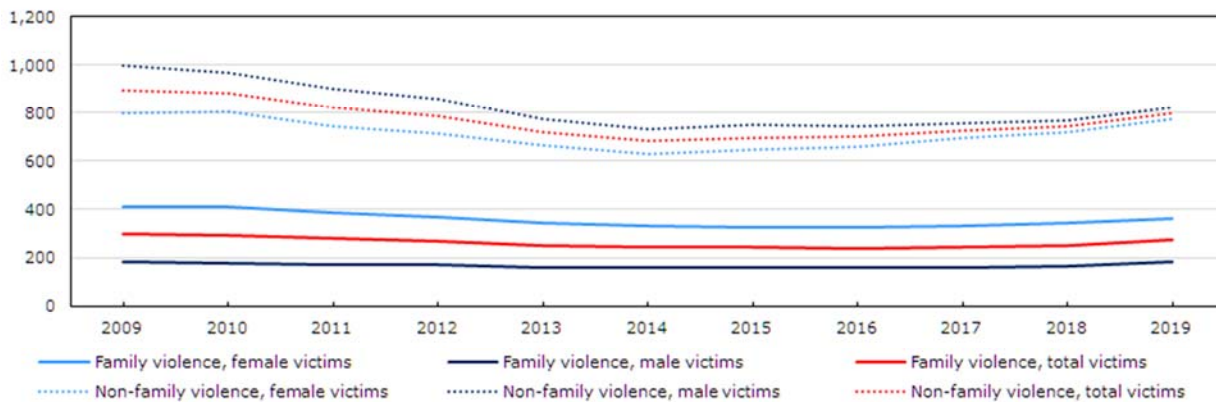
Family violence that came to the attention of police was most often perpetrated by a current spouse (31%) or a parent (20%) followed by a former spouse (13%), a sibling (11%) or a child (11%). A larger proportion of female victims experienced violence from a current or former spouse (51% versus 29% of male victims) while family violence perpetrated by someone other than a spouse was more common for male victims (71% versus 49% of female victims).

Family violence increases for the third year in a row, larger increase among men and boys

The rate of police-reported family violence increased 7% in 2019 from the previous year (Chart 1.1).² Between 2018 and 2019, the rate increased more for men and boys than women and girls (+10% versus +6%). While the overall rate of family violence steadily declined between 2009 and 2016 (-19%), 2019 marked the third consecutive annual increase, up 13% from 2016. Between 2009 and 2019, rates of family and non-family violence had similar decreases (-9% and -11%, respectively).

Chart 1.1
Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and year, Canada, 2009 to 2019

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 89 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Family-related sexual violence more than five times higher for women and girls than men and boys

In 2019, the rate of police-reported family violence was 276 victims per 100,000 population (Table 1.2). The most common type of family violence was physical assault³ (accounting for 71% of victims, a rate of 197 per 100,000) followed by other offences involving violence or the threat of violence⁴ (50) and sexual offences⁵ (28). Differences were noted between female and male victims: while rates of physical assault (249 versus 146) and other offences involving violence or the threat of violence (70 versus 30) were 1.7 and 2.3 times higher for women and girls than men and boys, respectively, the rate of sexual offences was 5.5 times higher for women and girls (48 versus 9).

Seven in ten (71%) victims of family violence were assaulted using physical force (Table 1.3).⁶ An additional 17% of victims were assaulted with a weapon present, such as a knife, club or firearm. Nearly half (46%) of victims of family violence suffered a physical injury, somewhat higher than those who experienced non-family violence (42%).⁷ Among those who were physically injured resulting from family violence, nearly all (95%) had minor injuries. Physical injury resulting from family violence was slightly more common for men and boys than women and girls (49% versus 45%).

Text box 1**Police-reported crime and calls for service during the COVID-19 pandemic**

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics at Statistics Canada began collecting monthly data from police services to track information on selected types of *Criminal Code* violations during the pandemic. In addition, information was collected on calls for police service—that is, calls for help which may not be related to crime—during this time. While the number of police services that submitted this information varied from one reference period to the next, these data provide insight into the volume and nature of incidents that occurred.⁸

Between March and October 2020, selected police-reported criminal incidents⁹ were 18% lower than the same period in 2019 (Statistics Canada 2021). Meanwhile, between March and October 2020, calls for service¹⁰ were 8% higher than the same eight-month period in 2019. More specifically, calls for service related to child welfare checks were up 17%, the largest difference from 2019. These were followed by calls related to general wellness checks (+13%), mental health issues (+12%), child custody matters (+12%), overdoses (+9%) and domestic disturbances (+8%).

In terms of family violence, three types of violent crime could be explored through this data collection initiative: physical assault, sexual assault and uttering threats. While the number of incidents for all types of police-reported crime in this study—family-related or not—was lower during the first eight months of the pandemic compared with the same period in 2019, there was one exception: the number of incidents of uttering threats by family was 2% higher during the pandemic while it was 9% lower for non-family. In contrast, compared to the same period in 2019, family-related physical assault and sexual assault were lower during the first eight months of the pandemic (-4% and -10%, respectively) but numbers were even lower for physical assault and sexual assault when victims and accused were not family (-10% and -21%, respectively).¹¹

The numbers for selected police-reported crime, while similar in pattern, need to be considered separately. Incidents perpetrated by non-family often occur when people are in the public domain, outside the home. It is expected that as individuals reduced their contact with others outside of their household—as a result of pandemic-related restrictions—that incidents of violence perpetrated by non-family would decrease as the opportunity for these crimes was reduced. Inversely, as individuals spent more time at home with family during the pandemic—while working from home and participating in virtual learning—heightened stress due to social isolation, economic uncertainty and increased substance use, among others, could lead to an increase in family violence (Campbell 2020; Usher et al. 2020).

Based on these police-reported data, a large increase in family violence did not materialize as family-related physical assault and sexual assault decreased, and uttering threats increased to a small degree. It should be noted that many victims might have been unable to seek help, and incidents of family violence that are normally suspected or witnessed by third-party individuals (such as friends and teachers) and reported to police are more likely to have gone undetected during the pandemic.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba have highest rates of family violence among the provinces

Similar to crime in general, rates of police-reported family violence were highest in the territories. Among the provinces, the rate of family violence was highest in Saskatchewan (519 per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (417) (Table 1.4).¹² Meanwhile, rates were lowest in Ontario (173), Prince Edward Island (203) and Nova Scotia (225). Compared with the provinces, rates were notably higher in the territories, with Nunavut reporting the highest rate (3,398) followed by the Northwest Territories (2,689) and Yukon (707).

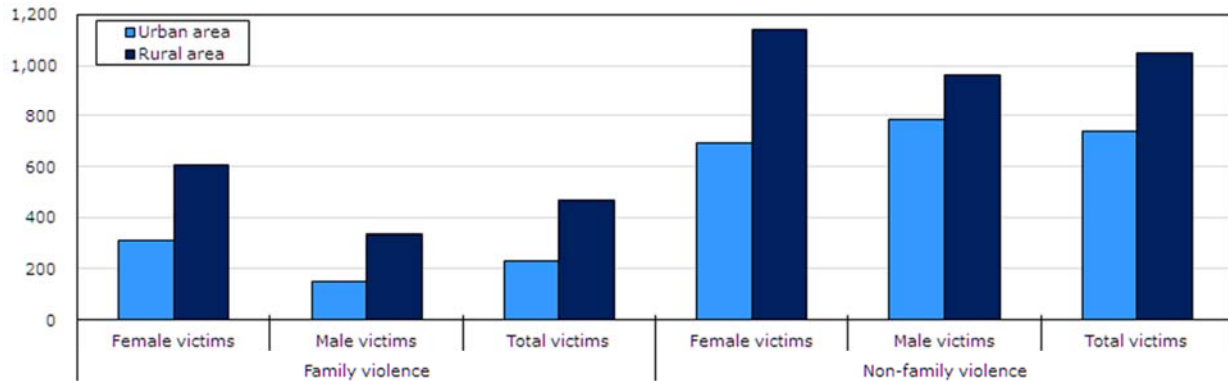
Women and girls experienced a higher rate of family violence than men and boys in every province and territory. The largest differences in the rate for women and girls compared with men and boys were noted in Ontario (239 versus 106, 2.2 times higher for women and girls), the Northwest Territories (3,739 versus 1,696, 2.2 times higher) and Quebec (478 versus 232, 2.1 times higher).

In every province and territory in 2019, the rate of family violence increased from the previous year, with the exception of Prince Edward Island (-2%).¹³ The largest provincial increases were noted in British Columbia (+25%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+20%) and New Brunswick¹⁴ (+11%).

In the provinces, the rate of family violence was 2.0 times higher in rural areas than urban areas (469 versus 234 per 100,000 population), and this pattern was the same for women and girls, and men and boys (Chart 1.2).¹⁵ In rural areas, women and girls had a rate of family violence that was 1.8 times higher than men and boys (606 versus 337). Notably, the difference between rural and urban rates was larger for family violence than non-family violence (2.0 versus 1.4 times higher in rural areas).

Chart 1.2
Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and urban or rural area, provinces, 2019

rate per 100,000 population



Note: An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 89 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Excludes data from the territories.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The rate of family violence was 2.0 times lower in Canada's largest cities—referred to as census metropolitan areas¹⁶ or CMAs—than it was in non-CMAs (215 versus 432) (Table 1.5).¹⁷ Of the CMAs, rates were highest in Lethbridge (383), Trois-Rivières (360) and Saguenay (352). Meanwhile, rates were lowest in Guelph (111), Ottawa¹⁸ (114) and London (123).

Among the CMAs, the largest differences in the rate of family violence for women and girls compared with men and boys were noted in Abbotsford–Mission (363 versus 124, 2.9 times higher for women and girls), Thunder Bay (406 versus 140, 2.9 times higher) and Guelph (161 versus 59, 2.8 times higher).

References

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Notes

1. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown. Counts represent the number of victims involved in incidents of violence. It is possible that individual victims may have experienced more than one incident, and would therefore be counted more than once here. For type of relationship, percentages have been calculated excluding unknown relationships.
2. Trend numbers are based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data from 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, trend numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.
3. Includes assault level 1, assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and assault level 3 (aggravated assault).
4. Includes, for example, uttering threats, criminal harassment, forcible confinement and indecent or harassing communications.
5. Includes sexual assault level 1, sexual assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and sexual assault level 3 (aggravated sexual assault). Also includes sexual violations against children, which refer to a set of *Criminal Code* offences that specifically concern offences involving child and youth victims. These include offences such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching and sexual exploitation, but exclude sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) and other sexual offences not specific to children.
6. Data on type of weapon present exclude the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon present.
7. Data on level of injury exclude the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown level of injury.
8. For more information, see Statistics Canada 2021 and Survey description.
9. Selected types of crime types include: assault; sexual assault; uttering threats; assault against a peace or public officer; robbery; dangerous operation causing death or bodily harm; impaired driving, impaired driving causing death or bodily harm; breaking and entering; motor vehicle theft; shoplifting; fraud, identity theft, identity fraud; and failure to comply with order.
10. Calls for service are defined as calls received by police services that are generated by citizens or initiated by officers, which require the tasking of police resources (such as a call to a 9-1-1 emergency line that resulted in the dispatch of an officer).
11. In addition to family and non-family, a third category was included where the relationship was unknown for incidents of physical assault, sexual assault and uttering threats. These three violations where the accused-victim relationship was unknown decreased by 13%, 24% and 5%, respectively.
12. Trend numbers are based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data from 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, trend numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.
13. Part of the overall increase in police-reported crime may be attributed to the implementation of new reporting standards. For more information, see Survey description.
14. Excludes data from the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns.
15. Excludes data from the territories. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural

areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. The populations for urban and rural areas have been adjusted to reflect the actual policing boundaries within the urban and rural geographies and do not reflect the official Statistics Canada population for these geographies. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children as it responds to incidents nationally. The incidents themselves and the offenders are not limited to one specific province or territory.

16. For a definition of a census metropolitan area, see endnote 15.

17. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.

18. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

Detailed data tables

Table 1.1
Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2019

Relationship of accused to victim	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Family	68,158	32	34,158	18	102,316	26
Spouse ¹	34,769	16	9,894	5	44,663	11
Current spouse	24,694	12	7,038	4	31,732	8
Former spouse	10,075	5	2,856	2	12,931	3
Non-spousal family	33,389	16	24,264	13	57,653	14
Parent ²	11,707	6	9,039	5	20,746	5
Child ³	6,714	3	4,067	2	10,781	3
Sibling ⁴	6,472	3	4,961	3	11,433	3
Other family ⁵	8,496	4	6,197	3	14,693	4
Non-family	144,381	68	152,800	82	297,181	74
Dating or other intimate partner	50,874	24	13,321	7	64,195	16
Dating partner ⁶	49,520	23	12,800	7	62,320	16
Current boyfriend or girlfriend	31,043	15	8,371	4	39,414	10
Former boyfriend or girlfriend	18,477	9	4,429	2	22,906	6
Other intimate partner ⁷	1,354	1	521	0 ^s	1,875	0 ^s
Friend ⁸	10,823	5	10,016	5	20,839	5
Casual acquaintance ⁹	37,744	18	44,592	24	82,336	21
Authority figure ¹⁰	6,806	3	10,531	6	17,337	4
Business relationship	5,917	3	7,846	4	13,763	3
Criminal relationship ¹¹	405	0 ^s	1,721	1	2,126	1
Stranger	31,812	15	64,773	35	96,585	24
Unknown	95	...	254	...	349	...
Total	212,634	100	187,212	100	399,846	100

... not applicable

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Includes current and former legally married spouses and common-law partners.

2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.

3. Includes biological, step, adopted and foster children.

4. Includes biological, step, half, adopted and foster brothers and sisters.

5. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.

6. Includes current and former boyfriends and girlfriends (intimate relationships).

7. Includes sexual relationships or a mutual sexual attraction.

8. Includes roommates. "Roommates" was added as a relationship category in 2013.

9. Includes neighbours.

10. Includes persons in a position of trust or authority. Includes authority figures and reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher and patient-to-doctor). "Reverse authority figures" was added as a relationship category in 2013.

11. Includes relationships based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Spousal violence victims under the age of 15 years, and dating and other intimate partner violence victims under the age of 12 years, are included in the category "other family" and "unknown," respectively. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown relationships. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.2
Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and type of violation, Canada, 2019

Type of violation	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Family violence						
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	154	1	128	1	282	1
Sexual offences ²	8,888	48	1,613	9	10,501	28
Physical assault ³	46,205	249	26,899	146	73,104	197
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	12,911	70	5,518	30	18,429	50
Total family violence	68,158	367	34,158	185	102,316	276
Non-family violence						
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	196	1	838	5	1,034	3
Sexual offences ²	25,489	137	3,087	17	28,576	77
Physical assault ³	76,337	411	94,219	510	170,556	460
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	42,359	228	54,656	296	97,015	262
Total non-family violence	144,381	777	152,800	827	297,181	802
Total victims	212,539	1,144	186,958	1,012	399,497	1,078

1. Includes first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death, other related violations causing death and conspiracy to commit murder.

2. Includes sexual assault level 1, sexual assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and sexual assault level 3 (aggravated sexual assault). Also includes sexual violations against children, which refer to a set of *Criminal Code* offences that specifically concern offences involving child and youth victims. These include offences such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching and sexual exploitation, but exclude sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) and other sexual offences not specific to children.

3. Includes assault level 1, assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and assault level 3 (aggravated assault).

4. Includes all other violent violations not otherwise listed.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 89 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.3
Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim, type of weapon present and level of injury, Canada, 2019

Type of weapon present and level of injury	Family violence						Non-family violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Type of weapon present												
No weapon ¹	2,856	6	1,072	5	3,928	6	12,475	11	5,949	5	18,424	8
Threats ²	3,033	7	1,516	6	4,549	7	10,515	9	11,842	10	22,357	9
Physical force	33,941	73	15,376	65	49,317	71	75,375	65	64,258	54	139,633	59
Weapon	6,521	14	5,520	24	12,041	17	17,910	15	37,196	31	55,106	23
Firearm	333	1	243	1	576	1	2,222	2	5,210	4	7,432	3
Knife or other piercing instrument ³	1,781	4	1,919	8	3,700	5	4,824	4	13,002	11	17,826	8
Club or other blunt instrument	693	1	734	3	1,427	2	1,598	1	4,246	4	5,844	2
Other weapon ⁴	3,714	8	2,624	11	6,338	9	9,266	8	14,738	12	24,004	10
Unknown	1,865	...	965	...	2,830	...	4,493	...	3,455	...	7,948	...
Total	48,216	100	24,449	100	72,665	100	120,768	100	122,700	100	243,468	100
Level of injury												
No physical injury ⁵	24,696	55	11,604	51	36,300	54	68,080	60	64,731	56	132,811	58
Physical injury	19,980	45	11,200	49	31,180	46	44,734	40	51,640	44	96,374	42
Minor physical injury ⁶	19,177	43	10,487	46	29,664	44	42,961	38	46,345	40	89,306	39
Major physical injury or death ⁷	803	2	713	3	1,516	2	1,773	2	5,295	5	7,068	3
Unknown	3,540	...	1,645	...	5,185	...	7,954	...	6,329	...	14,283	...
Total	48,216	100	24,449	100	72,665	100	120,768	100	122,700	100	243,468	100

... not applicable

1. Includes no threat, physical force or weapon.

2. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.

3. Includes other piercing or cutting instruments, such as hatchets, razor blades and arrows.

4. Includes other types of weapons such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, poison and weapons not otherwise classified.

5. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of a weapon or physical force as well as those in which a weapon or physical force was used but no visible physical injury was noted by police.

6. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

7. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility, or injuries that resulted in death.

Note: The weapon present in an incident (if any) may or may not have caused the injury to the victim (if any). Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes data from the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon present and unknown level of injury. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.4
Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and province or territory, 2018 to 2019

Province or territory	2019						Percent change in rate: 2018 to 2019		
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims	Male victims	Total victims
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	percent		
Family violence									
Newfoundland and Labrador	928	355	682	265	1,610	311	16	28	20
Prince Edward Island	193	245	123	160	316	203	-8	8	-2
Nova Scotia	1,319	271	842	179	2,161	225	3	19	9
New Brunswick ¹	1,313	374	836	240	2,149	307	8	16	11
Quebec	19,942	478	9,709	232	29,651	355	1	5	3
Ontario	17,193	239	7,514	106	24,707	173	7	8	7
Manitoba	3,523	537	1,971	299	5,494	417	2	15	6
Saskatchewan	3,747	666	2,157	375	5,904	519	9	9	9
Alberta	8,725	404	4,566	208	13,291	305	2	2	2
British Columbia	8,514	337	4,226	169	12,740	254	24	27	25
Yukon	181	905	107	516	288	707	4	3	4
Northwest Territories	813	3,739	390	1,696	1,203	2,689	14	18	15
Nunavut	848	4,499	469	2,356	1,317	3,398	18	32	23
Canada	67,239	363	33,592	183	100,831	273	6	10	7
Non-family violence									
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,618	1,003	2,338	910	4,956	956	22	16	19
Prince Edward Island	568	720	535	696	1,103	708	-8	10	0 ^s
Nova Scotia	4,237	869	3,805	808	8,042	839	5	4	4
New Brunswick ¹	4,047	1,151	3,648	1,047	7,695	1,100	22	20	21
Quebec	23,613	566	30,100	718	53,713	642	5	7	6
Ontario	45,049	626	46,833	663	91,882	644	2	0 ^s	1
Manitoba	10,530	1,605	9,907	1,501	20,437	1,553	4	9	7
Saskatchewan	8,912	1,585	7,565	1,315	16,477	1,448	12	10	11
Alberta	18,830	873	19,469	887	38,299	880	6	5	5
British Columbia	20,275	802	24,443	980	44,718	890	20	22	21
Yukon	710	3,550	661	3,186	1,371	3,365	26	33	29
Northwest Territories	1,792	8,242	1,327	5,770	3,119	6,971	28	26	27
Nunavut	1,530	8,118	847	4,255	2,377	6,133	23	21	22
Canada	142,711	771	151,478	823	294,189	797	8	8	8

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Excludes data from the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 89 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 1.5
Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and census metropolitan area, 2019

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1,2}	Family violence						Non-family violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	219	209	162	159	381	184	754	718	745	729	1,499	724
Halifax	424	190	260	121	684	156	1,659	745	1,651	768	3,310	757
Moncton	301	366	172	213	473	290	1,099	1,338	1,082	1,340	2,181	1,339
Saint John ³	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saguenay	421	511	168	197	589	352	490	595	656	770	1,146	684
Québec	1,731	428	763	189	2,494	309	2,231	551	2,823	701	5,054	626
Sherbrooke	242	238	96	95	338	167	532	523	541	538	1,073	530
Trois-Rivières	402	510	162	208	564	360	456	578	603	774	1,059	676
Montréal	9,469	443	4,748	224	14,217	334	11,521	539	14,753	697	26,274	618
Gatineau ⁴	671	395	385	230	1,056	313	1,091	643	1,398	834	2,489	738
Ottawa ⁵	873	159	363	68	1,236	114	3,361	613	3,494	655	6,855	634
Kingston	166	192	63	74	229	134	560	647	480	566	1,040	607
Belleville ⁶	167	296	87	156	254	227	612	1,086	400	718	1,012	903
Peterborough	125	193	47	76	172	135	450	693	302	486	752	592
Toronto ⁷	7,100	243	2,825	100	9,925	172	15,752	540	19,503	688	35,255	613
Hamilton ⁸	681	238	319	113	1,000	176	2,338	818	2,184	774	4,522	796
St. Catharines–Niagara	412	172	175	75	587	124	1,159	485	1,104	471	2,263	478
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	1,270	432	641	215	1,911	323	2,837	966	2,638	886	5,475	926
Brantford	325	456	140	198	465	328	615	863	555	785	1,170	824
Guelph	116	161	41	59	157	111	390	543	301	430	691	487
London	475	173	193	72	668	123	1,697	618	1,660	619	3,357	619
Windsor	408	258	157	98	565	177	1,023	646	983	614	2,006	630
Barrie	210	166	105	83	315	125	755	596	655	521	1,410	559
Greater Sudbury	230	273	102	123	332	199	680	808	599	721	1,279	765
Thunder Bay	253	406	87	140	340	273	613	985	630	1,011	1,243	998
Winnipeg	958	233	402	98	1,360	166	4,549	1,105	5,164	1,264	9,713	1,184
Regina	393	304	158	120	551	212	1,232	954	1,200	915	2,432	934
Saskatoon	519	315	213	128	732	221	1,446	877	1,522	914	2,968	896
Lethbridge ⁶	326	526	148	240	474	383	774	1,248	803	1,304	1,577	1,276
Calgary	2,682	355	1,621	213	4,303	283	4,945	654	5,806	762	10,751	708
Edmonton	2,200	307	864	119	3,064	212	5,175	722	5,998	827	11,173	775
Kelowna	336	312	200	189	536	251	882	818	1,138	1,073	2,020	945
Abbotsford–Mission	356	363	126	124	482	241	633	645	743	730	1,376	688
Vancouver	3,301	244	1,464	111	4,765	178	9,153	677	12,150	922	21,303	798
Victoria	437	216	257	132	694	175	1,385	685	1,710	879	3,095	780
CMA total⁹	39,129	292	18,150	137	57,279	215	85,056	634	98,151	743	183,207	688
Non-CMA total	29,029	562	16,008	305	45,037	432	59,325	1,148	54,649	1,040	113,974	1,094
Canada	68,158	367	34,158	185	102,316	276	144,381	777	152,800	827	297,181	802

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1.5 — end**Victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and census metropolitan area, 2019**

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

2. Census metropolitan area (CMA) populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

3. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.

4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

6. Following the 2016 Census of Population, Belleville and Lethbridge were reclassified as census metropolitan areas.

7. Excludes the portions of the Halton Regional Police Service and the Durham Regional Police Service that police the census metropolitan area of Toronto.

8. Excludes the portion of the Halton Regional Police Service that polices the census metropolitan area of Hamilton.

9. Includes Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service, which are responsible for policing more than one census metropolitan area (CMA). This total also includes the portion of the Durham Regional Police Service that polices the Oshawa CMA. This also includes the CMA of Saint John, excluding the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 89 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 89 years and younger. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Section 2: Police-reported family violence against children and youth in Canada, 2019

Family violence against children and youth—also referred to as child maltreatment—can lead to a range of impacts on young victims, including physical injury, delayed growth and development, emotional and mental health issues, alcohol and drug use, and other risky behavior (Public Health Agency of Canada 2014; United Nations 2006). In addition, research has shown an association between childhood maltreatment and violent victimization in adulthood—including intimate partner violence—and increased mental or psychological limitations and poor physical health (Burczycka 2017).

It is important to note that the victimization of children and youth is often difficult to detect—particularly in the context of family violence—and police-reported data are likely an underestimation of the true extent of the issue. For instance, younger victims are unique in that they may be unaware that they are being victimized, may not know how to seek help, may be unable to report their victimization and may be dependent on the perpetrator. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many children and youth have had minimal exposure to people outside the home—such as friends, teachers, doctors and counsellors—and thus violence against young victims has become more hidden. Further, as children and youth have spent more time online, the nature of their victimization might have changed.

In this section, family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger.¹

One in three child and youth victims of police-reported violence victimized by a family member

In 2019, there were 69,691 child and youth victims of police-reported violence in Canada, and victims were more commonly girls (57%) (Table 2.1). Perpetrators of violence against children and youth were most commonly a casual acquaintance (32%), a parent (19%) or a stranger (16%).

One-third (32%) of children and youth who were victims of violence that came to the attention of police were victimized by a family member. This represented 22,299 child and youth victims of family violence and, again, a larger proportion of victims were girls (60%). Within the family, child and youth victims were most often victimized by a parent (60%) while a sibling (15%) was less common.

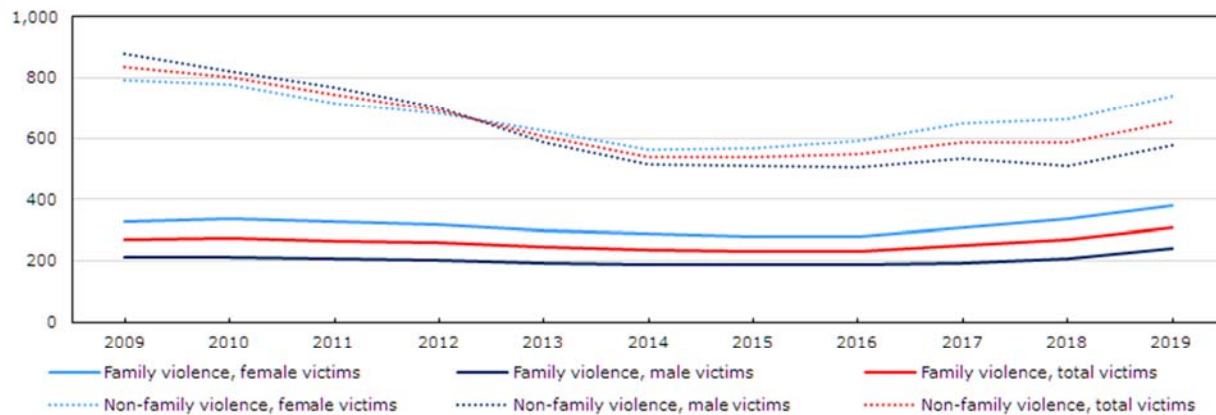
Younger children had the highest proportion of family violence, and this decreased with age. More than two-thirds (71%) of victims aged 5 and younger were victimized by a family member. Meanwhile, less than one-fifth (18%) of victims of violence aged 15 to 17 were victimized by a family member.

Family violence against children and youth increases for the third consecutive year

The rate of police-reported family violence against children and youth was 14% higher in 2019 compared with the previous year, and increases were similar for girls and boys (Chart 2.1).² Since 2016, there has been a year-over-year increase in the rate of family violence against children and youth, marking a 33% increase. Between 2009 and 2019, the rate increased 15% while the rate of non-family violence against children and youth decreased 22%.

Chart 2.1
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and year, Canada, 2009 to 2019

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 17 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Physical assault most common form of family violence against children and youth

In 2019, the rate of police-reported family violence against children and youth was 311 victims per 100,000 population (Table 2.2). The most common type of family violence perpetrated against children and youth was physical assault³ (accounting for 54% of victims, a rate of 169 per 100,000 population). While the rate of physical assault was similar for girls and boys (167 versus 171), the rate of sexual offences⁴ was 4.6 times higher for girls than boys (170 versus 37).

Among child and youth victims of family violence, rates of physical assault generally increased with age. Meanwhile, rates of sexual offences peaked among girls aged 12 to 14 and boys aged 6 to 11 (275 and 50 per 100,000 population, respectively).

Three-quarters (74%) of child and youth victims of family violence were assaulted using physical force (Table 2.3).⁵ A further 15% of young victims of family violence were assaulted with a weapon present, such as a knife, club or firearm. More than one-third (36%) of child and youth victims of family violence suffered a physical injury.⁶ Among those who were physically injured, nearly all (96%) had minor injuries. Physical injury resulting from family violence was more common for boys than girls (43% versus 31%).

Text box 2

Self-reported childhood experiences of physical and sexual abuse

As mentioned, measuring violence against children and youth is challenging. Gathering information from a range of sources is critical for monitoring this issue (Public Health Agency of Canada 2019). Police-reported data are likely an underestimation of the true extent of violence against children and youth, particularly in the family context. For this reason, self-reported data offer additional insight into the nature and extent of violence against young victims and complement police-reported data.

The 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces included retrospective questions about experiences of childhood physical and sexual abuse.⁷ Just over one-quarter (27%) of Canadians experienced abuse before age 15.⁸ A slightly lower proportion of women than men had experienced physical abuse early in life (22% versus 25%) while the proportion that experienced sexual abuse was three times higher for women than men (12% versus 4%).

When it came to violence during childhood, 78% of victims of physical abuse and 45% of victims of sexual abuse said the most serious incident they experienced was perpetrated by a family member. Victimization by a family member was more common for female victims of physical abuse (83% versus 74% of male victims) and sexual abuse (49% versus 32% of male victims).

Of those victimized within the family context during childhood, 6% of victims said the violence they experienced came to the attention of police while another 6% said they spoke with someone from child protective services.

Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Manitoba have highest provincial rates of family violence against children and youth

Among the provinces, the rate of police-reported family violence against children and youth was highest in Saskatchewan (540 per 100,000 population), Newfoundland and Labrador (433) and Manitoba (414) (Table 2.4).⁹ Meanwhile, it was lowest in Ontario (211), Alberta (286) and British Columbia (291). Compared with the provinces, rates were notably higher in the territories, with Nunavut reporting the highest rate (1,913) followed by the Northwest Territories (1,349) and Yukon (764).

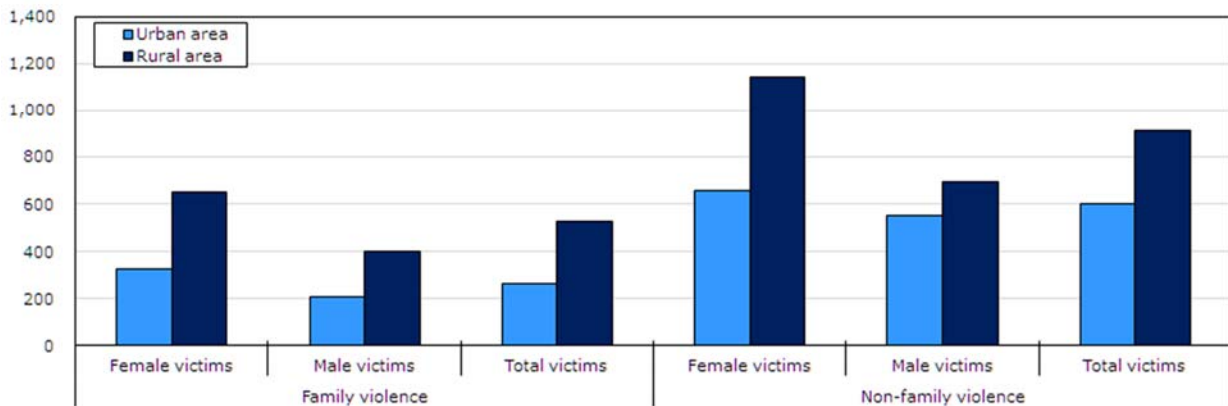
Girls experienced a higher rate of family violence than boys in every province and territory. The largest differences in the rate for girls and boys were noted in the Northwest Territories (1,953 versus 748, 2.6 times higher for girls), Yukon (999 versus 546, 1.8 times higher) and British Columbia (374 versus 213, 1.8 times higher).

In every province and territory in 2019, the rate of family violence against children and youth increased from the previous year, with the exception of Prince Edward Island (-1%).¹⁰ The largest provincial increases were noted in Newfoundland and Labrador (+46%) and British Columbia (+41%).

The rate of family violence against children and youth in the provinces was 2.0 times higher in rural areas than urban areas (522 versus 265 per 100,000 population), and this pattern was similar for girls and boys (Chart 2.2).¹¹ In rural areas, girls had a rate of family violence that was 1.6 times higher than boys (652 versus 398). Of note, when it came to child and youth victims, the difference between rural and urban rates was larger for family violence than non-family violence (2.0 versus 1.5 times higher in rural areas).

Chart 2.2
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and urban or rural area, provinces, 2019

rate per 100,000 population



Note: An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 17 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Excludes data from the territories.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The rate of family violence against children and youth was 2.1 times lower in Canada's largest cities—referred to as census metropolitan areas¹² or CMAs—than it was in non-CMAs (239 versus 492) (Table 2.5).¹³ Among the CMAs, rates were highest in Saguenay (488), Trois-Rivières (417) and Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo (389). Meanwhile, rates were lowest in Guelph (106), Ottawa¹⁴ (121) and Barrie (163).

Among the CMAs, the largest differences in the rate of family violence between girls and boys were noted in Thunder Bay (389 versus 111, 3.5 times higher for girls) and Kingston (274 versus 93, 2.9 times higher).

References

Burczycka, M. 2017. "Profile of Canadian adults who experienced childhood maltreatment" in *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2015*. Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Public Health Agency of Canada. 2019. "A pathfinding country: Canada's road map to end violence against children."

Public Health Agency of Canada. 2014. *Family Violence Initiative*.

United Nations. 2006. "World report on violence against children." Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations Publishing Services.

Notes

1. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown. Counts represent the number of victims involved in incidents of violence. It is possible that individual victims may have experienced more than one incident, and would therefore be counted more than once here. For type of relationship, percentages have been calculated excluding unknown relationships.

2. Trend numbers are based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data from 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, trend numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

3. Includes assault level 1, assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and assault level 3 (aggravated assault).

4. Includes sexual assault level 1, sexual assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and sexual assault level 3 (aggravated sexual assault). Also includes sexual violations against children, which refer to a set of *Criminal Code* offences that specifically concern offences involving child and youth victims. These include offences such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching and sexual exploitation, but exclude sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) and other sexual offences not specific to children.

5. Data on type of weapon present exclude the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon present.

6. Data on level of injury exclude the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown level of injury.

7. For physical abuse, the following questions were asked: "Before age 15 [...] did any adult do any of the following to you? Slap you on the face, head or ears, or hit you with something hard to hurt you? Push, grab, shove or throw something at you to hurt you? Kick, bite, punch, choke or burn you, or physically attack you in some way?" For sexual abuse, the following questions were asked: "Before age 15 [...] did any adult do any of the following to you? Force you or attempt to force you into any unwanted sexual activity by threatening you, holding you down or hurting you in some way? Touch you against your will in any sexual way, meaning anything from unwanted touching or grabbing, to kissing or fondling?"

8. Totals include female, male and gender diverse respondents, and respondents who did not state their gender.

9. Trend numbers are based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data from 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, trend numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

10. Part of the overall increase in police-reported crime may be attributed to the implementation of new reporting standards. For more information, see Survey description.

11. Excludes data from the territories. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. The populations for urban and rural areas have been adjusted to reflect the actual policing boundaries within the urban and rural geographies and do not reflect the official Statistics Canada population for these geographies. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children as it responds to incidents nationally. The incidents themselves and the offenders are not limited to one specific province or territory.

12. For a definition of a census metropolitan area, see endnote 11.

13. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.

14. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

Detailed data tables

Table 2.1
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender and age group of victim, and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2019

Gender of victim and relationship of accused to victim	Age group of victim									
	5 years and younger		6 to 11 years		12 to 14 years		15 to 17 years		Total victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Female victims										
Family	2,414	72	4,291	58	3,366	27	3,377	21	13,448	34
Parent ¹	1,707	51	2,479	33	1,757	14	1,435	9	7,378	19
Sibling ²	314	9	809	11	518	4	609	4	2,250	6
Other family ³	393	12	1,003	14	1,091	9	1,333	8	3,820	10
Non-family	917	28	3,112	42	9,009	73	13,085	79	26,123	66
Dating or other intimate partner ⁴	...	...	...	...	979	8	3,280	20	4,259	11
Friend ⁵	85	3	412	6	1,539	12	1,800	11	3,836	10
Casual acquaintance ⁶	366	11	1,579	21	4,497	36	5,175	31	11,617	29
Authority figure ⁷	226	7	391	5	304	2	350	2	1,271	3
Stranger	231	7	718	10	1,644	13	2,273	14	4,866	12
Other ⁸	9	0 ^s	12	0 ^s	46	0 ^s	207	1	274	1
Unknown	16	...	46	...	0	...	0	...	62	...
Total female victims	3,347	100	7,449	100	12,375	100	16,462	100	39,633	100
Male victims										
Family	2,058	70	3,438	50	1,721	20	1,634	14	8,851	29
Parent ¹	1,598	54	2,584	38	1,047	12	845	7	6,074	20
Sibling ²	180	6	389	6	245	3	310	3	1,124	4
Other family ³	280	10	465	7	429	5	479	4	1,653	6
Non-family	876	30	3,409	50	6,898	80	9,986	86	21,169	71
Dating or other intimate partner ⁴	...	...	...	...	69	1	345	3	414	1
Friend ⁵	60	2	422	6	806	9	867	7	2,155	7
Casual acquaintance ⁶	277	9	1,791	26	3,906	45	4,692	40	10,666	36
Authority figure ⁷	293	10	433	6	249	3	211	2	1,186	4
Stranger	235	8	747	11	1,828	21	3,729	32	6,539	22
Other ⁸	11	0 ^s	16	0 ^s	40	0 ^s	142	1	209	1
Unknown	17	...	14	...	0	...	7	...	38	...
Total male victims	2,951	100	6,861	100	8,619	100	11,627	100	30,058	100
Total victims										
Family	4,472	71	7,729	54	5,087	24	5,011	18	22,299	32
Parent ¹	3,305	53	5,063	36	2,804	13	2,280	8	13,452	19
Sibling ²	494	8	1,198	8	763	4	919	3	3,374	5
Other family ³	673	11	1,468	10	1,520	7	1,812	6	5,473	8

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2.1 — end
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender and age group of victim, and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2019

Gender of victim and relationship of accused to victim	Age group of victim									
	5 years and younger		6 to 11 years		12 to 14 years		15 to 17 years		Total victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Non-family	1,793	29	6,521	46	15,907	76	23,071	82	47,292	68
Dating or other intimate partner ⁴	...	...	...	...	1,048	5	3,625	13	4,673	7
Friend ⁵	145	2	834	6	2,345	11	2,667	9	5,991	9
Casual acquaintance ⁶	643	10	3,370	24	8,403	40	9,867	35	22,283	32
Authority figure ⁷	519	8	824	6	553	3	561	2	2,457	4
Stranger	466	7	1,465	10	3,472	17	6,002	21	11,405	16
Other ⁸	20	0 ^s	28	0 ^s	86	0 ^s	349	1	483	1
Unknown	33	...	60	...	0	...	7	...	100	...
Total victims	6,298	100	14,310	100	20,994	100	28,089	100	69,691	100

... not applicable

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.

2. Includes biological, step, half, adopted and foster brothers and sisters.

3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.

4. Includes current and former boyfriends and girlfriends (intimate relationships) and other intimate partners (sexual relationships or a mutual sexual attraction).

5. Includes roommates. "Roommates" was added as a relationship category in 2013.

6. Includes neighbours.

7. Includes persons in a position of trust or authority. Includes authority figures and reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher and patient-to-doctor). "Reverse authority figures" was added as a relationship category in 2013.

8. Includes business relationships and criminal relationships (relationships based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution).

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years are included in the category "unknown." Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown relationships. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.2
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender and age group of victim, and type of violation, Canada, 2019

Gender of victim and type of violation	Age group of victim								Total victims	
	5 years and younger		6 to 11 years		12 to 14 years		15 to 17 years		number	rate
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate		
Family violence										
Female victims										
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	9	1	5	0 ^s	2	0 ^s	2	0 ^s	18	1
Sexual offences ²	1,019	90	2,230	186	1,606	275	1,117	190	5,972	170
Sexual assault ³	436	38	906	75	675	116	711	121	2,728	78
Sexual violations against children ⁴	583	51	1,324	110	931	160	406	69	3,244	92
Physical assault ⁵	972	86	1,634	136	1,432	245	1,827	311	5,865	167
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁶	414	36	422	35	326	56	431	73	1,593	45
Total female victims	2,414	213	4,291	357	3,366	577	3,377	574	13,448	383
Male victims										
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	18	2	6	0 ^s	6	1	5	1	35	1
Sexual offences ²	386	32	629	50	210	35	135	22	1,360	37
Sexual assault ³	205	17	295	24	111	18	89	15	700	19
Sexual violations against children ⁴	181	15	334	27	99	16	46	8	660	18
Physical assault ⁵	1,235	104	2,426	194	1,320	218	1,282	209	6,263	171
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁶	419	35	377	30	185	31	212	35	1,193	33
Total male victims	2,058	173	3,438	274	1,721	284	1,634	267	8,851	242
Total victims										
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	27	1	11	0 ^s	8	1	7	1	53	1
Sexual offences ²	1,405	60	2,859	116	1,816	153	1,252	104	7,332	102
Sexual assault ³	641	28	1,201	49	786	66	800	67	3,428	48
Sexual violations against children ⁴	764	33	1,658	68	1,030	87	452	38	3,904	54
Physical assault ⁵	2,207	95	4,060	165	2,752	232	3,109	259	12,128	169
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁶	833	36	799	33	511	43	643	54	2,786	39
Total victims	4,472	192	7,729	315	5,087	428	5,011	418	22,299	311
Non-family violence										
Female victims										
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	2	0 ^s	1	0 ^s	1	0 ^s	5	1	9	0 ^s
Sexual offences ²	396	35	1,426	119	4,270	732	5,077	863	11,169	318
Sexual assault ³	190	17	552	46	2,251	386	3,926	668	6,919	197
Sexual violations against children ⁴	206	18	874	73	2,019	346	1,151	196	4,250	121
Physical assault ⁵	341	30	998	83	2,414	414	4,573	778	8,326	237
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁶	178	16	687	57	2,324	398	3,430	583	6,619	189
Total female victims	917	81	3,112	259	9,009	1,544	13,085	2,225	26,123	745

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2.2 — end
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender and age group of victim, and type of violation, Canada, 2019

Gender of victim and type of violation	Age group of victim								Total victims	
	5 years and younger		6 to 11 years		12 to 14 years		15 to 17 years			
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Male victims										
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	1	0 ^s	1	0 ^s	11	2	46	8	59	2
Sexual offences ²	204	17	538	43	509	84	477	78	1,728	47
Sexual assault ³	116	10	288	23	278	46	302	49	984	27
Sexual violations against children ⁴	88	7	250	20	231	38	175	29	744	20
Physical assault ⁵	478	40	2,077	166	3,815	630	5,580	912	11,950	326
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁶	193	16	793	63	2,563	424	3,883	634	7,432	203
Total male victims	876	73	3,409	272	6,898	1,140	9,986	1,632	21,169	578
Total victims										
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	3	0 ^s	2	0 ^s	12	1	51	4	68	1
Sexual offences ²	600	26	1,964	80	4,779	402	5,554	463	12,897	180
Sexual assault ³	306	13	840	34	2,529	213	4,228	352	7,903	110
Sexual violations against children ⁴	294	13	1,124	46	2,250	189	1,326	110	4,994	70
Physical assault ⁵	819	35	3,075	125	6,229	524	10,153	846	20,276	283
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁶	371	16	1,480	60	4,887	411	7,313	609	14,051	196
Total victims	1,793	77	6,521	266	15,907	1,338	23,071	1,922	47,292	659

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Includes first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death, other related violations causing death and conspiracy to commit murder.

2. Includes sexual assault and sexual violations against children.

3. Includes sexual assault level 1, sexual assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and sexual assault level 3 (aggravated sexual assault).

4. Sexual violations against children refer to a set of *Criminal Code* offences that specifically concern offences involving child and youth victims. These include offences such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching and sexual exploitation, but exclude sexual assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) and other sexual offences not specific to children.

5. Includes assault level 1, assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and assault level 3 (aggravated assault).

6. Includes all other violent violations not otherwise listed.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 17 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.3
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim, type of weapon present and level of injury, Canada, 2019

Type of weapon present and level of injury	Family violence						Non-family violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Type of weapon present												
No weapon ¹	876	10	312	5	1,188	8	3,197	17	961	6	4,158	12
Threats ²	253	3	266	4	519	3	1,660	9	1,692	11	3,352	9
Physical force	6,840	76	4,260	71	11,100	74	12,386	64	8,901	56	21,287	60
Weapon	1,080	12	1,128	19	2,208	15	2,038	11	4,482	28	6,520	18
Firearm	35	0 ^s	44	1	79	1	307	2	746	5	1,053	3
Knife or other piercing instrument ³	215	2	249	4	464	3	586	3	1,742	11	2,328	7
Club or other blunt instrument	132	1	136	2	268	2	100	1	332	2	432	1
Other weapon ⁴	698	8	699	12	1,397	9	1,045	5	1,662	10	2,707	8
Unknown	752	...	316	...	1,068	...	962	...	441	...	1,403	...
Total	9,801	100	6,282	100	16,083	100	20,243	100	16,477	100	36,720	100
Level of injury												
No physical injury ⁵	5,933	69	3,193	57	9,126	64	13,593	73	9,738	63	23,331	68
Physical injury	2,641	31	2,408	43	5,049	36	5,114	27	5,748	37	10,862	32
Minor physical injury ⁶	2,561	30	2,311	41	4,872	34	4,985	27	5,379	35	10,364	30
Major physical injury or death ⁷	80	1	97	2	177	1	129	1	369	2	498	1
Unknown	1,227	...	681	...	1,908	...	1,536	...	991	...	2,527	...
Total	9,801	100	6,282	100	16,083	100	20,243	100	16,477	100	36,720	100

... not applicable

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Includes no threat, physical force or weapon.

2. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.

3. Includes other piercing or cutting instruments, such as hatchets, razor blades and arrows.

4. Includes other types of weapons such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, poison and weapons not otherwise classified.

5. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of a weapon or physical force as well as those in which a weapon or physical force was used but no visible physical injury was noted by police.

6. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

7. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility, or injuries that resulted in death.

Note: The weapon present in an incident (if any) may or may not have caused the injury to the victim (if any). Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes data from the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon present and unknown level of injury. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2.4
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and province or territory, 2018 to 2019

Province or territory	2019						Percent change in rate: 2018 to 2019		
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims	Male victims	Total victims
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	percent		
Family violence									
Newfoundland and Labrador	190	449	188	419	378	433	27	71	46
Prince Edward Island	56	385	40	263	96	323	6	-9	-1
Nova Scotia	318	395	248	293	566	343	-2	13	4
New Brunswick ¹	295	484	206	328	501	405	11	33	19
Quebec	3,647	474	2,569	320	6,216	396	6	6	6
Ontario	3,502	263	2,248	162	5,750	211	14	15	14
Manitoba	770	528	461	305	1,231	414	9	14	11
Saskatchewan	894	684	542	401	1,436	540	15	12	14
Alberta	1,686	354	1,095	220	2,781	286	9	13	10
British Columbia	1,582	374	948	213	2,530	291	43	39	41
Yukon	39	999	23	546	62	764	42	35	40
Northwest Territories	104	1,953	40	748	144	1,349	15	4	12
Nunavut	154	2,210	120	1,631	274	1,913	14	51	27
Canada	13,237	379	8,728	239	21,965	308	13	15	14
Non-family violence									
Newfoundland and Labrador	449	1,061	368	819	817	936	23	29	26
Prince Edward Island	110	756	93	612	203	682	-8	93	21
Nova Scotia	834	1,036	551	652	1,385	839	25	8	17
New Brunswick ¹	656	1,077	533	848	1,189	961	22	24	23
Quebec	5,880	764	4,692	585	10,572	673	11	15	13
Ontario	7,764	583	7,199	518	14,963	549	4	3	4
Manitoba	1,788	1,226	1,135	750	2,923	984	3	11	6
Saskatchewan	1,703	1,304	1,153	852	2,856	1,074	21	15	18
Alberta	3,087	649	2,504	504	5,591	575	12	10	11
British Columbia	3,005	710	2,446	549	5,451	628	25	40	31
Yukon	106	2,714	67	1,590	173	2,131	20	91	41
Northwest Territories	202	3,793	113	2,114	315	2,952	26	46	33
Nunavut	220	3,157	102	1,387	322	2,248	22	14	19
Canada	25,804	739	20,956	575	46,760	655	11	13	12

1. Excludes data from the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 17 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 2.5
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and census metropolitan area, 2019

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1,2}	Family violence						Non-family violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	38	208	46	238	84	224	97	532	97	503	194	517
Halifax	127	340	107	273	234	306	311	833	238	608	549	718
Moncton	68	458	40	260	108	357	146	984	152	988	298	986
Saint John ³	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saguenay	92	648	49	333	141	488	153	1,078	113	768	266	920
Québec	217	309	160	220	377	263	495	704	376	516	871	608
Sherbrooke	55	310	42	222	97	265	127	716	70	370	197	537
Trois-Rivières	63	506	44	333	107	417	114	916	76	576	190	741
Montréal	1,685	416	1,237	294	2,922	354	2,435	601	2,244	533	4,679	566
Gatineau ⁴	113	326	97	268	210	296	267	770	219	604	486	685
Ottawa ⁵	161	154	95	89	256	121	511	489	437	410	948	449
Kingston	39	274	14	93	53	181	91	639	53	353	144	492
Belleville ⁶	51	495	27	252	78	371	115	1,117	66	616	181	861
Peterborough	39	364	17	152	56	255	61	569	33	294	94	429
Toronto ⁷	1,130	216	889	162	2,019	188	2,439	466	3,090	562	5,529	515
Hamilton ⁸	148	277	118	211	266	243	373	698	334	597	707	646
St. Catharines–Niagara	105	257	52	121	157	187	227	555	150	350	377	450
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	294	499	174	284	468	389	517	877	453	740	970	807
Brantford	54	376	35	234	89	304	132	920	78	522	210	717
Guelph	20	145	10	69	30	106	91	661	53	367	144	510
London	105	203	76	142	181	172	226	437	214	399	440	418
Windsor	83	273	42	134	125	202	154	507	125	397	279	451
Barrie	55	206	33	121	88	163	144	540	109	398	253	468
Greater Sudbury	66	444	39	251	105	345	125	841	83	534	208	684
Thunder Bay	41	389	12	111	53	249	70	664	45	418	115	540
Winnipeg	223	274	117	139	340	205	719	883	470	556	1,189	717
Regina	88	311	40	137	128	223	235	831	149	512	384	669
Saskatoon	162	448	87	230	249	336	325	899	211	557	536	724
Lethbridge ⁶	55	410	36	258	91	333	84	626	89	638	173	632
Calgary	465	289	348	206	813	247	821	511	872	517	1,693	514
Edmonton	446	293	226	144	672	217	999	656	766	487	1,765	570
Kelowna	54	312	28	157	82	234	106	613	103	579	209	596
Abbotsford–Mission	78	383	48	221	126	299	105	516	112	515	217	515
Vancouver	561	255	361	155	922	204	1,265	575	1,214	522	2,479	548
Victoria	103	339	66	212	169	274	184	605	153	491	337	547
CMA total⁹	7,286	290	4,947	189	12,233	239	14,812	590	13,658	522	28,470	555
Non-CMA total	6,162	616	3,904	374	10,066	492	11,311	1,131	7,511	719	18,822	921
Canada	13,448	383	8,851	242	22,299	311	26,123	745	21,169	578	47,292	659

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2.5 — end
Child and youth victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and census metropolitan area, 2019

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

2. Census metropolitan area (CMA) populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

3. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.

4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

6. Following the 2016 Census of Population, Belleville and Lethbridge were reclassified as census metropolitan areas.

7. Excludes the portions of the Halton Regional Police Service and the Durham Regional Police Service that police the census metropolitan area of Toronto.

8. Excludes the portion of the Halton Regional Police Service that polices the census metropolitan area of Hamilton.

9. Includes Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service, which are responsible for policing more than one census metropolitan area (CMA). This total also includes the portion of the Durham Regional Police Service that polices the Oshawa CMA. This also includes the CMA of Saint John, excluding the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 17 years and younger. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents (biological, step, adoptive and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster), extended family members (e.g., grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws) and spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law). Victims refer to those aged 17 years and younger. Excludes victims of dating or other intimate partner violence under the age of 12 years. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Section 3: Police-reported intimate partner violence in Canada, 2019

Intimate partner violence—also known as domestic violence—has been identified as a widespread public health issue (Stewart et al. 2012). While it most often presents as physical violence between current and former dating or spousal partners, verbal, sexual, emotional and financial abuse are also possible forms of this type of violence. It can range from unhealthy and destructive behaviour to criminal conduct, even homicide. Victims of intimate partner violence may experience injury and chronic pain, post-traumatic stress disorder, and challenges with relationships and maintaining stable employment (Public Health Agency of Canada 2014).

Intimate partner violence affects people from all types of demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds; however, victims are most often women and the violence is commonly perpetrated by men (Women and Gender Equality Canada 2020). The issue of intimate partner violence gained increased attention with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and its related public health restrictions. With people required to stay home, concern has been raised about those who would be unable to leave abusive environments. In addition, the nature of the virus has created unique challenges for vital social supports like shelters for victims of abuse.

In the coming months, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics at Statistics Canada will release a series of analytical reports about intimate partner violence based on self-reported data from the 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces. These will include an overview of intimate partner violence, and additional reports profiling intimate partner violence among Indigenous women, ethno-cultural minority women, women with disabilities, young women, and sexual minority women and men.

In this section, intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, dating partners and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89 years.¹

Three in ten victims of police-reported violence victimized by an intimate partner

In 2019, there were 358,244 victims of police-reported violence in Canada (Table 3.1). Of these victims, three in ten (30%) were victimized by an intimate partner, which represented 107,810 victims.

Intimate partner violence that came to the attention of police was most often perpetrated by a current partner; that is, a current boyfriend or girlfriend (36%) or a spouse (29%). Former partners like an ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend (21%) or an ex-spouse (12%) were less common, likely reflecting the reality that these victims and accused were not living together.

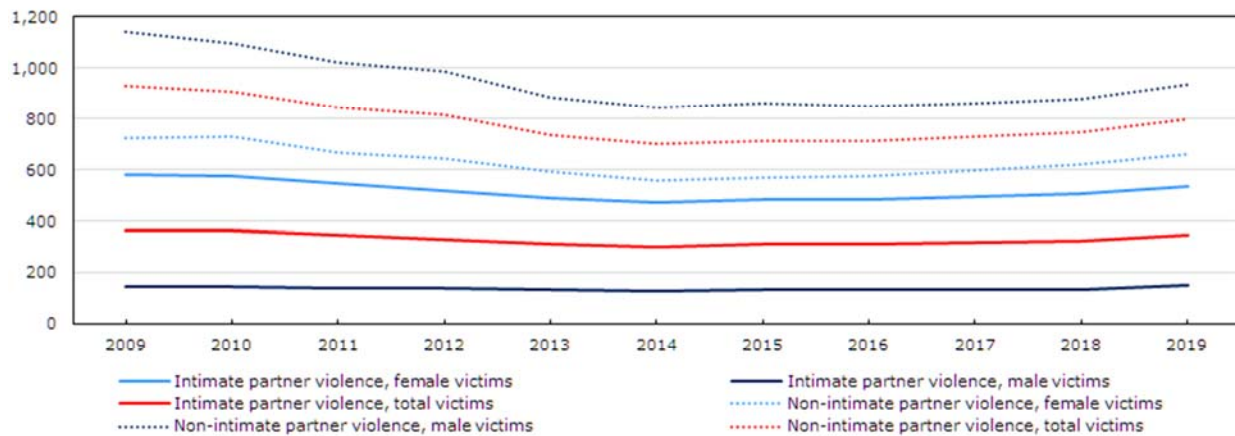
While just over half (53%) of victims of violence were female, the large majority (79%) of victims of intimate partner violence were women, and this held true regardless of the type of intimate partner relationship. Nearly half (45%) of all female victims of violence were victimized by an intimate partner.

Intimate partner violence increases for the fifth year in a row, larger increase among men

The rate of police-reported intimate partner violence increased 6% in 2019 from the previous year (Chart 3.1).² Between 2018 and 2019, the rate of intimate partner violence increased more for men than women (+10% versus +5%). This marked the fifth consecutive annual increase overall, up 14% from 2014. Between 2009 and 2019, intimate partner violence had a smaller decrease than non-intimate partner violence (-6% versus -14%).

Chart 3.1
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender of victim and year, Canada, 2009 to 2019

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

More than half of victims of intimate partner violence suffer a physical injury

In 2019, the rate of police-reported intimate partner violence was 347 victims per 100,000 population (Table 3.2). The most common type of intimate partner violence was physical assault³ (accounting for 75% of victims, a rate of 261 per 100,000 population) followed by other offences involving violence or the threat of violence⁴ (68) and sexual assault⁵ (17). Given that the large majority of victims⁵ of intimate partner violence were women, rates for these types of violations were notably higher for women specifically (391, 115 and 33, respectively).

Overall, intimate partner violence rates peaked for victims aged 25 to 34 (715 per 100,000 population), and this applied to both women and men (1,173 and 277, respectively). In contrast, the rate of non-intimate partner violence was highest for younger victims—those aged 15 to 24—and declined with age. Among victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault was the only type of violation that did not peak among those aged 25 to 34; instead, victims aged 15 to 24 had the highest rate of sexual assault (48 overall and 97 for women). Whether related to intimate partner violence or not, the rate of sexual assault was highest for young women and men.

Nearly three-quarters (72%) of victims of intimate partner violence were assaulted using physical force (Table 3.3).⁶ An additional 15% of these victims were assaulted with a weapon present, such as a knife, club or firearm. Over half (54%) of victims of intimate partner violence suffered a physical injury, more common than those who experienced non-intimate partner violence (40%).⁷ Among those who were physically injured as a result of intimate partner violence, nearly all (96%) had minor injuries. Physical injury resulting from intimate partner violence was slightly more common for men than women (56% versus 53%).

Text box 3 Intimate partner homicide

Between 2014 and 2019, there were 497 victims of intimate partner homicide, and—similar to intimate partner violence in general—eight in ten (80%) victims were female.⁸ Most (75%) female victims were killed by a current or former spouse or common-law partner while a non-spousal intimate partner—such as a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend, or an extra-marital lover—was less common (25%). Similarly, a larger proportion of male victims were killed by a spouse (65%) than a non-spousal partner (35%).

Indigenous people—that is, those who are First Nations, Métis or Inuit—are overrepresented as victims of violent crime in Canada and, more specifically, Indigenous people are over twice as likely to experience spousal violence as non-Indigenous people (Boyce 2016; Perreault 2015). When looking at the most severe form of intimate partner violence, homicide, a similar pattern emerges: while about 5% of the population is Indigenous (Statistics Canada 2020), one-quarter (26%, 125 victims) of intimate partner homicide victims between 2014 and 2019 were Indigenous.⁹ The issue of Indigenous victimization is complex, and violence experienced by Indigenous people—both in the family and in the community—stems from historic and ongoing colonialism in Canada. Intimate partner violence among the Indigenous population is the result of many compounding factors. For instance, intergenerational trauma—from the residential school system, the Sixties Scoop and the child welfare system—can lead to many issues, such as addiction and poverty, which contribute to the conditions for conflict and violence (Hoffart and Jones 2018; National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019; O'Neill et al. 2018).

Regardless of Indigenous identity, a similar proportion of homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner (14% of Indigenous and 13% of non-Indigenous victims). Overall, one-quarter of victims killed by a spouse (26%) or a non-spousal partner (25%) were Indigenous. Of the 125 Indigenous victims of intimate partner homicide, 66% were female and 34% were male. While nearly four in ten (37%) Indigenous female homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner, it was somewhat more common among non-Indigenous female victims (43%). Inversely, it was more common for Indigenous male homicide victims than non-Indigenous male victims to be killed by an intimate partner (7% versus 3%). Considered another way, a larger proportion of male victims of intimate partner homicide were Indigenous while this was less common for female victims (44% versus 21%).

In 2019, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics at Statistics Canada began collecting information on visible minority identity as part of the Homicide Survey. Of the 72 victims of intimate partner homicide in 2019, police reported that 25% belonged to a group designated as visible minority.¹⁰ Similar to intimate partner violence broadly, the large majority of these intimate partner homicide victims were female.¹¹ Among homicide victims in general, intimate partner homicide was less common for visible minority victims than non-visible minority victims (9% versus 13%).

Saskatchewan and Manitoba have highest rates of intimate partner violence among the provinces

Similar to crime in general, rates of police-reported intimate partner violence were generally highest in the prairies and territories. Among the provinces, the rate of intimate partner violence was highest in Saskatchewan (724 per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (607) (Table 3.4).¹² Meanwhile, it was lowest in Ontario (251) and Prince Edward Island (270). Compared with the provinces, rates were notably higher in the territories, with Nunavut reporting the highest rate (5,249) followed by the Northwest Territories (4,083) and Yukon (1,365).

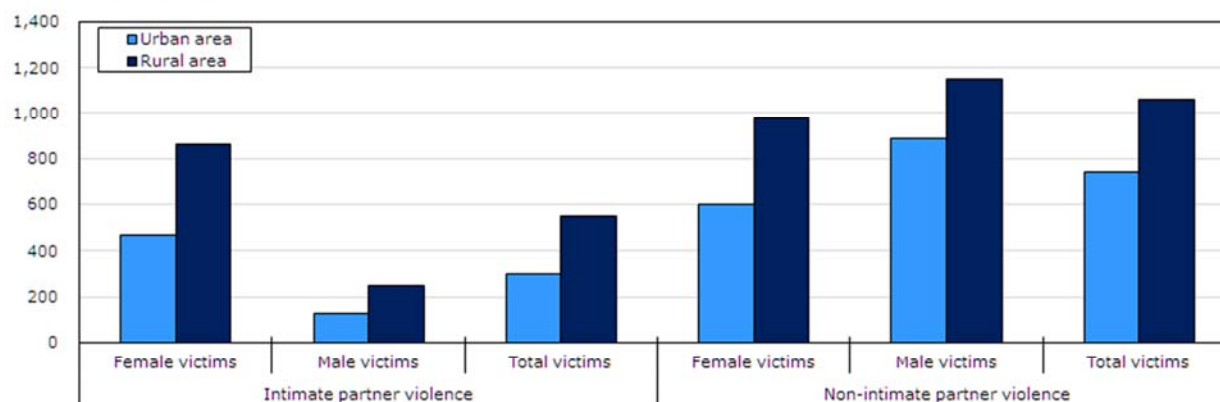
Women experienced a higher rate of intimate partner violence than men in every province and territory. The largest differences were noted in Nunavut, where the rate for women was 6.7 times higher than men (9,303 versus 1,390), and in Saskatchewan (1,175 versus 281, 4.2 times higher for women), Manitoba (979 versus 235, 4.2 times higher) and Ontario (398 versus 99, 4.0 times higher).

In every province and territory in 2019, the rate of intimate partner violence increased from the previous year, with the exception of Prince Edward Island (-13%).¹³ The largest provincial increases were noted in New Brunswick¹⁴ (+25%), British Columbia (+19%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+18%).

In the provinces, the rate of intimate partner violence was 1.8 times higher in rural areas than urban areas (548 versus 300 per 100,000 population), and this pattern was the same for women and men (Chart 3.2).¹⁵ In rural areas, women had a rate of intimate partner violence that was 3.5 times higher than men (860 versus 246). Notably, the difference between rural and urban rates was larger for intimate partner violence than non-intimate partner violence (1.8 versus 1.4 times higher in rural areas).

Chart 3.2
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender of victim and urban or rural area, provinces, 2019

rate per 100,000 population



Note: An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes data from the territories.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The rate of intimate partner violence was 2.0 times lower in Canada's largest cities—referred to as census metropolitan areas¹⁶ or CMAs—than it was in non-CMAs (273 versus 538) (Table 3.5).¹⁷ Of the CMAs, rates were highest in Lethbridge (618), Moncton (527) and Thunder Bay (459). Meanwhile, rates were lowest in St. Catharines–Niagara (153), Sherbrooke (208) and Ottawa¹⁸ (211).

Among the CMAs, the largest differences in the rate of intimate partner violence between women and men were noted in Abbotsford–Mission (524 versus 86, 6.1 times higher for women), Winnipeg (549 versus 91, 6.0 times higher) and Greater Sudbury (486 versus 86, 5.7 times higher).

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Notes

1. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown. Counts represent the number of victims involved in incidents of violence. It is possible that individual victims may have experienced more than one incident, and would therefore be counted more than once here. For type of relationship, percentages have been calculated excluding unknown relationships.

2. Trend numbers are based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data from 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, trend numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

3. Includes assault level 1, assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and assault level 3 (aggravated assault).

4. Includes, for example, uttering threats, criminal harassment, forcible confinement and indecent or harassing communications.

5. Includes sexual assault level 1, sexual assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and sexual assault level 3 (aggravated sexual assault).

6. Data on type of weapon present exclude the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon present.

7. Data on level of injury exclude the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown level of injury.

8. The data in this text box are from the Homicide Survey. Excludes victims where the gender was unknown.

9. Indigenous identity is reported for victims who are First Nations, Métis or Inuit, or who are Indigenous but the Indigenous group was unknown. Excludes victims where the gender or the Indigenous identity was unknown.

10. A visible minority identity is reported for victims who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour, or who do not identify solely as an Indigenous person. Visible minority identity groups include, for example, South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino and Latin American. Excludes victims where the gender was unknown. Due to small counts, numbers for unique visible minority identity groups are not shown.

11. Due to small counts, numbers for female and male victims are not shown.

12. Trend numbers are based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data from 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, trend numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

13. Part of the overall increase in police-reported crime may be attributed to the implementation of new reporting standards. For more information, see Survey description.

14. Excludes data from the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns.

15. Excludes data from the territories. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. The populations for urban and rural areas have been adjusted to

reflect the actual policing boundaries within the urban and rural geographies and do not reflect the official Statistics Canada population for these geographies. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children as it responds to incidents nationally. The incidents themselves and the offenders are not limited to one specific province or territory.

16. For a definition of a census metropolitan area, see endnote 15.

17. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.

18. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

Detailed data tables

Table 3.1

Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender and age group of victim, and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2019

Gender of victim and relationship of accused to victim	Age group of victim										Total victims	
	15 to 24 years		25 to 34 years		35 to 44 years		45 to 54 years		55 years and older			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Female victims												
Intimate partner	21,614	39	29,823	55	20,189	53	9,027	39	4,011	22	84,664	45
Spouse ¹	4,678	8	11,881	22	10,570	28	4,964	21	2,676	14	34,769	18
Current spouse	3,053	5	8,385	16	7,408	19	3,679	16	2,169	12	24,694	13
Former spouse	1,625	3	3,496	7	3,162	8	1,285	6	507	3	10,075	5
Dating partner ²	16,517	30	17,531	33	9,349	25	3,927	17	1,263	7	48,587	26
Current boyfriend or girlfriend	10,492	19	11,024	21	5,897	15	2,336	10	724	4	30,473	16
Former boyfriend or girlfriend	6,025	11	6,507	12	3,452	9	1,591	7	539	3	18,114	10
Other intimate partner ³	419	1	411	1	270	1	136	1	72	0 ^s	1,308	1
Non-intimate partner	34,031	61	23,938	45	17,938	47	14,312	61	14,547	78	104,766	55
Non-spousal family ⁴	6,734	12	3,715	7	3,961	10	4,059	17	4,849	26	23,318	12
Stranger	9,045	16	7,691	14	5,195	14	3,757	16	3,531	19	29,219	15
Other ⁵	18,252	33	12,532	23	8,782	23	6,496	28	6,167	33	52,229	28
Unknown	3	...	10	...	7	...	2	...	11	...	33	...
Total female victims	55,648	100	53,771	100	38,134	100	23,341	100	18,569	100	189,463	100
Male victims												
Intimate partner	3,466	8	7,366	17	6,331	19	3,739	15	2,244	9	23,146	14
Spouse ¹	805	2	2,760	6	3,163	10	1,918	8	1,248	5	9,894	6
Current spouse	539	1	1,946	4	2,217	7	1,370	5	966	4	7,038	4
Former spouse	266	1	814	2	946	3	548	2	282	1	2,856	2
Dating partner ²	2,580	6	4,447	10	3,046	9	1,744	7	917	4	12,734	8
Current boyfriend or girlfriend	1,700	4	2,948	7	2,004	6	1,106	4	585	2	8,343	5
Former boyfriend or girlfriend	880	2	1,499	3	1,042	3	638	3	332	1	4,391	3
Other intimate partner ³	81	0 ^s	159	0 ^s	122	0 ^s	77	0 ^s	79	0 ^s	518	0 ^s
Non-intimate partner	38,721	92	36,579	83	26,228	81	21,695	85	22,189	91	145,412	86
Non-spousal family ⁴	4,516	11	3,020	7	2,506	8	2,897	11	4,108	17	17,047	10
Stranger	16,946	40	16,817	38	11,350	35	8,734	34	8,116	33	61,963	37
Other ⁵	17,259	41	16,742	38	12,372	38	10,064	40	9,965	41	66,402	39
Unknown	60	...	73	...	33	...	24	...	33	...	223	...
Total male victims	42,247	100	44,018	100	32,592	100	25,458	100	24,466	100	168,781	100

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3.1 — end
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender and age group of victim, and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2019

Gender of victim and relationship of accused to victim	Age group of victim										Total victims	
	15 to 24 years		25 to 34 years		35 to 44 years		45 to 54 years		55 years and older			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total victims												
Intimate partner	25,080	26	37,189	38	26,520	38	12,766	26	6,255	15	107,810	30
Spouse ¹	5,483	6	14,641	15	13,733	19	6,882	14	3,924	9	44,663	12
Current spouse	3,592	4	10,331	11	9,625	14	5,049	10	3,135	7	31,732	9
Former spouse	1,891	2	4,310	4	4,108	6	1,833	4	789	2	12,931	4
Dating partner ²	19,097	20	21,978	22	12,395	18	5,671	12	2,180	5	61,321	17
Current boyfriend or girlfriend	12,192	12	13,972	14	7,901	11	3,442	7	1,309	3	38,816	11
Former boyfriend or girlfriend	6,905	7	8,006	8	4,494	6	2,229	5	871	2	22,505	6
Other intimate partner ³	500	1	570	1	392	1	213	0 ^s	151	0 ^s	1,826	1
Non-intimate partner	72,752	74	60,517	62	44,166	62	36,007	74	36,736	85	250,178	70
Non-spousal family ⁴	11,250	11	6,735	7	6,467	9	6,956	14	8,957	21	40,365	11
Stranger	25,991	27	24,508	25	16,545	23	12,491	26	11,647	27	91,182	25
Other ⁵	35,511	36	29,274	30	21,154	30	16,560	34	16,132	38	118,631	33
Unknown	63	...	83	...	40	...	26	...	44	...	256	...
Total victims	97,895	100	97,789	100	70,726	100	48,799	100	43,035	100	358,244	100

... not applicable

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Includes current and former legally married spouses and common-law partners.

2. Includes current and former boyfriends and girlfriends (intimate relationships).

3. Includes sexual relationships or a mutual sexual attraction.

4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include siblings, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.

5. Includes friends, roommates, casual acquaintances, neighbours, authority figures and reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher and patient-to-doctor), business relationships and criminal relationships (relationships based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution).

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, dating partners and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown relationships. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.2
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender and age group of victim, and type of violation, Canada, 2019

Gender of victim and type of violation	Age group of victim										Total victims	
	15 to 24 years		25 to 34 years		35 to 44 years		45 to 54 years		55 years and older			
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Intimate partner violence												
Female victims												
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	16	1	47	2	28	1	28	1	27	0 ^s	146	1
Sexual assault ²	2,138	97	1,459	57	975	39	469	19	177	3	5,218	33
Physical assault ³	14,533	660	22,339	879	14,855	594	6,552	268	2,947	49	61,226	391
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	4,927	224	5,978	235	4,331	173	1,978	81	860	14	18,074	115
Total female victims	21,614	982	29,823	1,173	20,189	807	9,027	369	4,011	67	84,664	541
Male victims												
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	5	0 ^s	8	0 ^s	17	1	6	0 ^s	10	0 ^s	46	0 ^s
Sexual assault ²	51	2	47	2	32	1	18	1	5	0 ^s	153	1
Physical assault ³	2,966	126	6,482	244	5,473	221	3,170	131	1,886	34	19,977	130
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	444	19	829	31	809	33	545	23	343	6	2,970	19
Total male victims	3,466	147	7,366	277	6,331	256	3,739	154	2,244	41	23,146	150
Total victims												
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	21	0 ^s	55	1	45	1	34	1	37	0 ^s	192	1
Sexual assault ²	2,189	48	1,506	29	1,007	20	487	10	182	2	5,371	17
Physical assault ³	17,499	384	28,821	554	20,328	409	9,722	200	4,833	42	81,203	261
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	5,371	118	6,807	131	5,140	103	2,523	52	1,203	10	21,044	68
Total victims	25,080	550	37,189	715	26,520	533	12,766	262	6,255	55	107,810	347
Non-intimate partner violence												
Female victims												
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	52	2	45	2	15	1	24	1	48	1	184	1
Sexual assault ²	8,977	408	3,531	139	1,922	77	1,106	45	1,024	17	16,560	106
Physical assault ³	14,483	658	12,251	482	9,782	391	8,342	341	8,667	145	53,525	342
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	10,519	478	8,111	319	6,219	249	4,840	198	4,808	81	34,497	220
Total female victims	34,031	1,546	23,938	941	17,938	717	14,312	584	14,547	244	104,766	669

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3.2 — end
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender and age group of victim, and type of violation, Canada, 2019

Gender of victim and type of violation	Age group of victim										Total victims	
	15 to 24 years		25 to 34 years		35 to 44 years		45 to 54 years		55 years and older			
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Male victims												
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	241	10	278	10	148	6	113	5	97	2	877	6
Sexual assault ²	886	38	414	16	228	9	135	6	161	3	1,824	12
Physical assault ³	23,819	1,009	21,698	816	15,798	639	13,782	569	14,693	267	89,790	582
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	13,775	583	14,189	534	10,054	406	7,665	316	7,238	132	52,921	343
Total male victims	38,721	1,640	36,579	1,376	26,228	1,060	21,695	896	22,189	403	145,412	943
Total victims												
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	293	6	323	6	163	3	137	3	145	1	1,061	3
Sexual assault ²	9,863	216	3,945	76	2,150	43	1,241	25	1,185	10	18,384	59
Physical assault ³	38,302	840	33,949	653	25,580	514	22,124	454	23,360	204	143,315	461
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	24,294	532	22,300	429	16,273	327	12,505	257	12,046	105	87,418	281
Total victims	72,752	1,595	60,517	1,164	44,166	888	36,007	739	36,736	320	250,178	805

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Includes first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, criminal negligence causing death, other related violations causing death and conspiracy to commit murder.

2. Includes sexual assault level 1, sexual assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and sexual assault level 3 (aggravated sexual assault).

3. Includes assault level 1, assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and assault level 3 (aggravated assault).

4. Includes all other violent violations not otherwise listed.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, dating partners and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.3
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender of victim, type of weapon present and level of injury, Canada, 2019

Type of weapon present and level of injury	Intimate partner violence						Non-intimate partner violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Type of weapon present												
No weapon ¹	5,037	8	976	6	6,013	7	7,871	10	5,232	5	13,103	7
Threats ²	4,158	6	625	4	4,783	6	8,383	10	11,616	10	19,999	10
Physical force	47,585	73	11,328	67	58,913	72	50,814	62	59,964	53	110,778	57
Weapon	8,240	13	4,065	24	12,305	15	14,461	18	35,888	32	50,349	26
Firearm	559	1	101	1	660	1	1,834	2	5,037	4	6,871	4
Knife or other piercing instrument ³	2,188	3	1,401	8	3,589	4	3,995	5	12,600	11	16,595	9
Club or other blunt instrument	838	1	503	3	1,341	2	1,309	2	4,264	4	5,573	3
Other weapon ⁴	4,655	7	2,060	12	6,715	8	7,323	9	13,987	12	21,310	11
Unknown	2,090	...	561	...	2,651	...	3,186	...	3,349	...	6,535	...
Total	67,110	100	17,555	100	84,665	100	84,715	100	116,049	100	200,764	100
Level of injury												
No physical injury ⁵	29,328	47	7,240	44	36,568	46	51,851	65	61,089	55	112,940	60
Physical injury	33,497	53	9,370	56	42,867	54	27,362	35	49,069	45	76,431	40
Minor physical injury ⁶	32,135	51	8,971	54	41,106	52	26,255	33	43,621	40	69,876	37
Major physical injury or death ⁷	1,362	2	399	2	1,761	2	1,107	1	5,448	5	6,555	3
Unknown	4,285	...	945	...	5,230	...	5,502	...	5,891	...	11,393	...
Total	67,110	100	17,555	100	84,665	100	84,715	100	116,049	100	200,764	100

... not applicable

1. Includes no threat, physical force or weapon.

2. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.

3. Includes other piercing or cutting instruments, such as hatchets, razor blades and arrows.

4. Includes other types of weapons such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, poison and weapons not otherwise classified.

5. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of a weapon or physical force as well as those in which a weapon or physical force was used but no visible physical injury was noted by police.

6. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

7. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility, or injuries that resulted in death.

Note: The weapon present in an incident (if any) may or may not have caused the injury to the victim (if any). Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, dating partners and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes data from the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon present and unknown level of injury. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.4
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender of victim and province or territory, 2018 to 2019

Province or territory	2019						Percent change in rate: 2018 to 2019		
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims	Male victims	Total victims
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	percent		
Intimate partner violence									
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,352	597	393	178	1,745	390	18	18	18
Prince Edward Island	282	422	72	112	354	270	-14	-7	-13
Nova Scotia	2,246	533	662	165	2,908	354	5	11	7
New Brunswick ¹	2,111	700	648	219	2,759	461	19	48	25
Quebec	17,554	499	5,591	159	23,145	329	1	7	2
Ontario	24,293	398	5,892	99	30,185	251	2	9	4
Manitoba	5,228	979	1,252	235	6,480	607	1	7	2
Saskatchewan	5,311	1,175	1,295	281	6,606	724	10	9	10
Alberta	11,427	651	3,188	180	14,615	414	3	1	3
British Columbia	11,128	510	3,229	152	14,357	333	18	22	19
Yukon	338	2,027	124	723	462	1,365	27	25	26
Northwest Territories	1,147	6,640	311	1,687	1,458	4,083	25	40	28
Nunavut	1,198	9,303	188	1,390	1,386	5,249	23	24	24
Canada	83,615	536	22,845	149	106,460	344	5	10	6
Non-intimate partner violence									
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,812	800	2,249	1,021	4,061	909	18	13	15
Prince Edward Island	382	571	506	787	888	677	-7	10	2
Nova Scotia	2,674	635	3,475	866	6,149	748	2	4	3
New Brunswick ¹	2,691	892	3,395	1,145	6,086	1,018	17	15	16
Quebec	20,051	570	29,363	835	49,414	702	4	6	5
Ontario	31,550	517	42,903	724	74,453	619	2	0 ^s	1
Manitoba	7,374	1,381	9,667	1,813	17,041	1,597	6	10	8
Saskatchewan	5,735	1,269	7,366	1,598	13,101	1,435	8	9	8
Alberta	13,388	763	18,784	1,058	32,172	911	5	4	4
British Columbia	15,105	692	23,479	1,103	38,584	895	22	21	21
Yukon	498	2,986	587	3,421	1,085	3,206	19	24	21
Northwest Territories	1,311	7,589	1,313	7,123	2,624	7,348	21	20	21
Nunavut	966	7,502	970	7,169	1,936	7,331	17	24	20
Canada	103,537	663	144,057	937	247,594	799	7	7	7

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Excludes data from the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, dating partners and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 3.5
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender of victim and census metropolitan area, 2019

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1,2}	Intimate partner violence						Non-intimate partner violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	366	407	97	113	463	263	523	582	715	829	1,238	703
Halifax	850	444	272	149	1,122	300	981	512	1,429	785	2,410	645
Moncton	549	787	177	261	726	527	709	1,016	949	1,397	1,658	1,204
Saint John ³	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saguenay	302	429	80	110	382	267	442	628	617	847	1,059	740
Québec	1,501	435	479	141	1,980	289	2,036	590	2,739	804	4,775	696
Sherbrooke	303	348	54	64	357	208	367	422	510	601	877	511
Trois-Rivières	346	506	99	148	445	329	386	564	574	860	960	710
Montréal	8,863	494	2,935	167	11,798	332	9,628	536	14,315	813	23,943	673
Gatineau ⁴	655	467	193	141	848	306	897	639	1,396	1,019	2,293	827
Ottawa ⁵	1,533	332	381	85	1,914	211	2,373	513	3,218	722	5,591	616
Kingston	281	376	67	93	348	236	378	505	436	602	814	553
Belleville ⁶	320	670	67	143	387	409	365	764	369	788	734	776
Peterborough	225	402	42	80	267	246	293	524	275	521	568	522
Toronto ⁷	8,866	356	1,905	80	10,771	221	11,927	479	18,128	761	30,055	617
Hamilton ⁸	1,233	510	263	111	1,496	313	1,497	619	1,971	834	3,468	725
St. Catharines–Niagara	523	254	98	49	621	153	872	424	1,067	536	1,939	479
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	1,477	604	445	180	1,922	391	2,165	885	2,452	993	4,617	939
Brantford	371	625	80	137	451	383	469	790	536	920	1,005	854
Guelph	220	364	42	73	262	222	241	399	263	455	504	426
London	994	429	209	94	1,203	264	994	429	1,452	650	2,446	538
Windsor	626	469	148	110	774	289	662	496	905	673	1,567	584
Barrie	396	378	97	94	493	237	452	432	578	561	1,030	496
Greater Sudbury	349	486	60	86	409	288	448	624	569	811	1,017	716
Thunder Bay	388	725	103	193	491	459	428	800	585	1,095	1,013	947
Winnipeg	1,889	549	309	91	2,198	322	3,092	899	4,917	1,453	8,009	1,174
Regina	710	676	174	163	884	418	737	701	1,085	1,019	1,822	861
Saskatoon	680	507	124	92	804	300	993	740	1,426	1,062	2,419	901
Lethbridge ⁶	482	952	138	278	620	618	526	1,039	743	1,495	1,269	1,265
Calgary	3,065	494	1,061	171	4,126	333	3,814	615	5,707	922	9,521	768
Edmonton	2,708	461	575	97	3,283	278	3,837	653	5,726	967	9,563	811
Kelowna	488	521	165	180	653	353	646	690	1,114	1,219	1,760	951
Abbotsford–Mission	426	524	72	86	498	302	453	558	707	844	1,160	703
Vancouver	4,393	375	1,122	100	5,515	240	7,053	601	11,628	1,032	18,681	812
Victoria	677	381	193	114	870	251	1,000	563	1,652	978	2,652	765
CMA total⁹	48,288	426	12,660	115	60,948	273	63,158	558	92,609	839	155,767	697
Non-CMA total	36,376	840	10,486	239	46,862	538	41,608	961	52,803	1,204	94,411	1,083
Canada	84,664	541	23,146	150	107,810	347	104,766	669	145,412	943	250,178	805

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3.5 — end
Victims of police-reported intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence, by gender of victim and census metropolitan area, 2019

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data.

A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

2. Census metropolitan area (CMA) populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

3. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.

4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

6. Following the 2016 Census of Population, Belleville and Lethbridge were reclassified as census metropolitan areas.

7. Excludes the portions of the Halton Regional Police Service and the Durham Regional Police Service that police the census metropolitan area of Toronto.

8. Excludes the portion of the Halton Regional Police Service that polices the census metropolitan area of Hamilton.

9. Includes Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service, which are responsible for policing more than one census metropolitan area (CMA). This total also includes the portion of the Durham Regional Police Service that polices the Oshawa CMA. This also includes the CMA of Saint John, excluding the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, dating partners and other intimate partners. Victims refer to those aged 15 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Section 4: Police-reported family violence against seniors in Canada, 2019

Violence against seniors—sometimes referred to as elder abuse—is often perpetrated by family members and occurs in residential settings. It can take on many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and neglect and abandonment (Justice Canada 2015; World Health Organization 2020). Controlling and coercive behaviours from family members may also isolate seniors from others outside the home. Consequences for seniors who experience this type of violence may include loneliness and depression, increased dependency, financial problems and a shorter life span (Public Health Agency of Canada 2014).

As the Canadian population ages, this issue will continue to grow in importance. COVID-19 restrictions have had widespread impacts for the older population. Due to their age, seniors were designated as high risk for severe illness and complications with the virus. Thus, for many seniors, their social contacts and supports outside the family have been drastically reduced. An important area for further analysis will be violence against seniors in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. While not necessarily family-related, the relationship between a caregiver and a dependant in these environments mirrors that which typically exists within a family.

In this section, family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years.¹

One in three senior victims of police-reported violence victimized by a family member

In 2019, there were 14,156 senior victims of police-reported violence in Canada, and over half (55%) were men (Table 4.1). One-third (32%) of senior victims were victimized by a family member, which represented 4,518 victims.

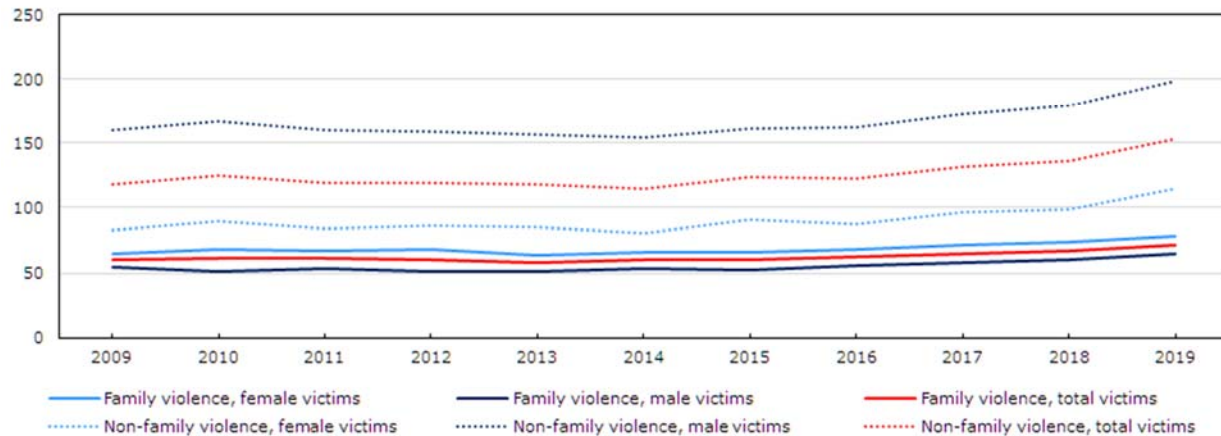
Family violence against seniors that came to the attention of police was most often perpetrated by their child (34%) followed by a spouse (26%) and a sibling (12%), and this pattern was the same for female and male seniors. Similar to family violence in general, women were overrepresented as victims of family violence against seniors (58%).

Family violence against seniors increases for the fourth consecutive year

The rate of police-reported family violence against seniors was 8% higher in 2019 compared with the previous year, while the rate of non-family violence against seniors increased 13% (Chart 4.1).² For family violence against seniors, this marked the fourth consecutive annual increase, up 20% from 2015. During this time, the rate of family violence against seniors increased 18% for women and 23% for men. Between 2009 and 2019, the rate increased 19% overall while the rate of non-family violence against seniors increased 31%.

Chart 4.1
Senior victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and year, Canada, 2009 to 2019

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 65 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Physical assault most common form of family violence against seniors

In 2019, the rate of police-reported family violence against seniors was 72 victims per 100,000 population (Table 4.2). The most common type of family violence perpetrated against seniors was physical assault³ (accounting for 72% of victims, a rate of 52 per 100,000 population) followed by other offences involving violence or the threat of violence (19).⁴ This pattern was similar for women and men.

Two-thirds (67%) of senior victims of family violence were assaulted using physical force (Table 4.3).⁵ A further 16% of victims were assaulted with a weapon present, such as a knife, club or firearm. Four in ten (41%) senior victims of family violence suffered a physical injury, somewhat higher than those who experienced non-family violence (36%).⁶ Of the seniors who were physically injured as a result of family violence, the vast majority (93%) had minor injuries. Physical injury resulting from family violence against seniors was similar for women and men (40% and 42%, respectively).

Text box 4

Violence against seniors in nursing and retirement homes

Seniors represent nearly one-fifth (18%) of the Canadian population (Statistics Canada 2021). According to the 2016 Census, 7% of all seniors live in collective dwellings such as nursing homes, residences for seniors and other residential care facilities (Employment and Social Development Canada 2019). These environments are often an extension of the family unit, a place where their needs are met and where trust is built over time. As the senior age group continues to grow in size, so too will their need for adequate, suitable and affordable housing—and, most importantly, housing that is safe.

Of the 14,156 senior victims of police-reported violence in Canada in 2019, 1,530 (11%) were victimized in a nursing or retirement home and two-thirds (66%) of these seniors were women.⁷ Most (81%) seniors who experienced violence in these settings were physically assaulted, while around one in seven (15%) were sexually assaulted. Differences emerged according to gender, however: 76% of female victims were physically assaulted (while 20% were sexually assaulted) and 90% of male victims were physically assaulted (while 5% were sexually assaulted). The remaining victims experienced other types of violence.

Where incidents involved a single victim and a single accused person—and occurred in a nursing or retirement home—a small proportion (5%) of senior victims experienced violence by a family member. They were most commonly victimized by a casual acquaintance (48%), a neighbour (18%), a stranger (11%) or a roommate (10%) in the nursing or retirement home. The large majority (81%) of these senior victims experienced violence perpetrated by another senior.⁸

Saskatchewan and Manitoba have highest provincial rates of family violence against seniors

Similar to crime in general, rates of police-reported family violence against seniors were highest in the territories. Among the provinces, the rate of family violence against seniors was highest in Saskatchewan (101 per 100,000 population) followed by Manitoba (98) (Table 4.4).⁹ Meanwhile, it was lowest in Ontario (53) and Nova Scotia (61). Compared with the provinces, rates were notably higher in the territories, with Nunavut reporting the highest rate (1,970) followed by the Northwest Territories (1,403) and Yukon (276).

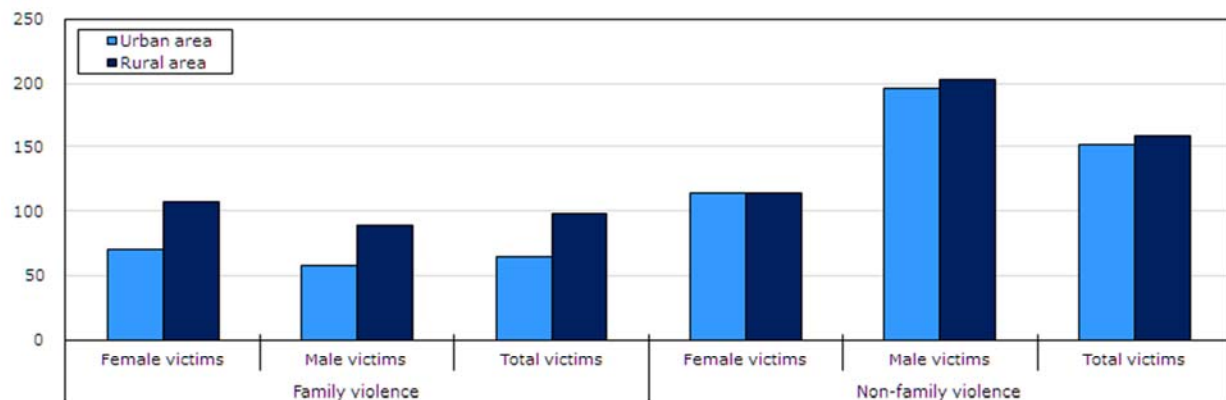
Female seniors experienced a higher rate of family violence than their male counterparts in every province and territory, with the exception of Saskatchewan and New Brunswick.¹⁰

In most provinces and territories in 2019, the rate of family violence against seniors increased from the previous year.¹¹ Provincially, the rate decreased by 7% in Alberta while it remained relatively stable in Ontario (-0.2%).

The rate of family violence against seniors in the provinces was higher in rural areas than urban areas (98 versus 65 per 100,000 population), and this pattern was the same for women and men (Chart 4.2).¹² In rural areas, senior women had a rate of family violence that was 1.2 times higher than senior men (107 versus 89). Of note, when it came to senior victims, the difference between rural and urban rates was larger for family violence (1.5 times higher in rural areas) as rates of non-family violence were comparable regardless of the type of area.

Chart 4.2
Senior victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and urban or rural area, provinces, 2019

rate per 100,000 population



Note: An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 65 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes data from the territories.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The rate of family violence against seniors was 1.4 times lower in Canada's largest cities—referred to as census metropolitan areas¹³ or CMAs—than it was in non-CMAs (64 versus 89) (Table 4.5).¹⁴ Among the CMAs, rates were highest in Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo (123), Gatineau¹⁵ (107) and Kelowna (94). Meanwhile, they were lowest in Peterborough (26), Ottawa¹⁶ (28) and Thunder Bay (28).

Contrary to family violence in general, family violence against seniors was higher for men than women in several CMAs: Peterborough, Moncton, Thunder Bay, Halifax, Barrie, Greater Sudbury and Saskatoon.

References

Employment and Social Development Canada. 2019. "Report on housing needs of seniors."

Justice Canada. 2015. *Crime and abuse against seniors: A review of the research literature with special reference to the Canadian situation.*

Public Health Agency of Canada. 2014. *Family Violence Initiative.*

Statistics Canada. 2021. *Table 17-10-0005-01 – Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex.*

World Health Organization. 2020. *Elder abuse.*

Notes

1. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown. Counts represent the number of victims involved in incidents of violence. It is possible that individual victims may have experienced more than one incident, and would therefore be counted more than once here. For type of relationship, percentages have been calculated excluding unknown relationships.
2. Trend numbers are based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data from 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, trend numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.
3. Includes assault level 1, assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and assault level 3 (aggravated assault).
4. Includes, for example, uttering threats, criminal harassment, forcible confinement and indecent or harassing communications.
5. Data on type of weapon present exclude the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon present.
6. Data on level of injury exclude the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown level of injury.
7. Nursing and retirement homes were added as incident locations in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey in 2017. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown location.
8. Percentages have been calculated including accused aged 89 years and younger, and excluding accused where the gender or the age was unknown.
9. Trend numbers are based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data from 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, trend numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.
10. Excludes data from the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns.
11. Part of the overall increase in police-reported crime may be attributed to the implementation of new reporting standards. For more information, see Survey description.
12. Excludes data from the territories. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core.

A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. The populations for urban and rural areas have been adjusted to reflect the actual policing boundaries within the urban and rural geographies and do not reflect the official Statistics Canada population for these geographies. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children as it responds to incidents nationally. The incidents themselves and the offenders are not limited to one specific province or territory.

13. For a definition of a census metropolitan area, see endnote 12.

14. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.

15. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

16. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

Detailed data tables

Table 4.1
Senior victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2019

Relationship of accused to victim	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Family	2,613	41	1,905	25	4,518	32
Spouse ¹	806	13	365	5	1,171	8
Child ²	826	13	688	9	1,514	11
Sibling ³	290	5	239	3	529	4
Other family ⁴	691	11	613	8	1,304	9
Non-family	3,810	59	5,811	75	9,621	68
Dating or other intimate partner ⁵	208	3	192	2	400	3
Friend ⁶	282	4	413	5	695	5
Casual acquaintance ⁷	1,783	28	2,245	29	4,028	28
Authority figure ⁸	159	2	138	2	297	2
Stranger	1,184	18	2,350	30	3,534	25
Other ⁹	194	3	473	6	667	5
Unknown	4	...	13	...	17	...
Total victims	6,427	100	7,729	100	14,156	100

... not applicable

1. Includes current and former legally married spouses and common-law partners.

2. Includes biological, step, adopted and foster children.

3. Includes biological, step, half, adopted and foster brothers and sisters.

4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws.

5. Includes current and former boyfriends and girlfriends (intimate relationships) and other intimate partners (sexual relationships or a mutual sexual attraction).

6. Includes roommates. "Roommates" was added as a relationship category in 2013.

7. Includes neighbours.

8. Includes persons in a position of trust or authority. Includes authority figures and reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher and patient-to-doctor). "Reverse authority figures" was added as a relationship category in 2013.

9. Includes business relationships and criminal relationships (relationships based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution).

Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown relationships. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.2
Senior victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and type of violation, Canada, 2019

Type of violation	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Family violence						
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	24	1	10	0 ^s	34	1
Sexual assault ²	32	1	5	0 ^s	37	1
Physical assault ³	1,886	57	1,374	47	3,260	52
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	671	20	516	18	1,187	19
Total family violence	2,613	79	1,905	65	4,518	72
Non-family violence						
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	13	0 ^s	25	1	38	1
Sexual assault ²	507	15	55	2	562	9
Physical assault ³	2,207	67	3,822	131	6,029	97
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence ⁴	1,083	33	1,909	66	2,992	48
Total non-family violence	3,810	115	5,811	199	9,621	154
Total victims	6,423	194	7,716	265	14,139	227

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Includes first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter, criminal negligence causing death, other related violations causing death and conspiracy to commit murder.

2. Includes sexual assault level 1, sexual assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and sexual assault level 3 (aggravated sexual assault).

3. Includes assault level 1, assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and assault level 3 (aggravated assault).

4. Includes all other violent violations not otherwise listed.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 65 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.3
Senior victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim, type of weapon present and level of injury, Canada, 2019

Type of weapon present and level of injury	Family violence						Non-family violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Type of weapon present												
No weapon ¹	134	7	91	7	225	7	266	9	250	6	516	7
Threats ²	188	10	151	11	339	10	231	8	511	12	742	10
Physical force	1,303	69	870	64	2,173	67	2,163	71	2,664	62	4,827	66
Weapon	276	15	250	18	526	16	373	12	895	21	1,268	17
Firearm	14	1	14	1	28	1	43	1	98	2	141	2
Knife or other piercing instrument ³	71	4	84	6	155	5	78	3	256	6	334	5
Club or other blunt instrument	34	2	33	2	67	2	44	1	131	3	175	2
Other weapon ⁴	157	8	119	9	276	8	208	7	410	9	618	8
Unknown	48	...	29	...	77	...	53	...	103	...	156	...
Total	1,949	100	1,391	100	3,340	100	3,086	100	4,423	100	7,509	100
Level of injury												
No physical injury ⁵	1,096	60	772	58	1,868	59	2,049	69	2,530	60	4,579	64
Physical injury	740	40	555	42	1,295	41	900	31	1,685	40	2,585	36
Minor physical injury ⁶	683	37	522	39	1,205	38	856	29	1,550	37	2,406	34
Major physical injury or death ⁷	57	3	33	2	90	3	44	1	135	3	179	2
Unknown	113	...	64	...	177	...	137	...	208	...	345	...
Total	1,949	100	1,391	100	3,340	100	3,086	100	4,423	100	7,509	100

... not applicable

1. Includes no threat, physical force or weapon.

2. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.

3. Includes other piercing or cutting instruments, such as hatchets, razor blades and arrows.

4. Includes other types of weapons such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, poison and weapons not otherwise classified.

5. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of a weapon or physical force as well as those in which a weapon or physical force was used but no visible physical injury was noted by police.

6. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

7. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility, or injuries that resulted in death.

Note: The weapon present in an incident (if any) may or may not have caused the injury to the victim (if any). Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes data from the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon present and unknown level of injury. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.4
Senior victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and province or territory, 2018 to 2019

Province or territory	2019						Percent change in rate: 2018 to 2019		
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims	Male victims	Total victims
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	percent		
Family violence									
Newfoundland and Labrador	56	100	47	90	103	95	18	46	29
Prince Edward Island	13	82	10	72	23	77	25	38	30
Nova Scotia	68	66	49	55	117	61	-6	13	1
New Brunswick ¹	67	88	68	99	135	93	-9	13	1
Quebec	664	81	514	70	1,178	76	5	19	11
Ontario	749	59	504	46	1,253	53	-5	7	0 ^s
Manitoba	105	100	87	94	192	98	52	14	32
Saskatchewan	83	92	89	111	172	101	9	13	11
Alberta	287	98	190	73	477	86	-4	-11	-7
British Columbia	438	93	299	70	737	82	37	7	23
Yukon	10	415	4	151	14	276	54	-25	19
Northwest Territories	29	1,686	22	1,149	51	1,403	0 ^s	-19	-9
Nunavut	22	3,103	8	983	30	1,970	95	-36	26
Canada	2,591	78	1,891	65	4,482	72	7	9	8
Non-family violence									
Newfoundland and Labrador	54	96	92	177	146	135	34	56	47
Prince Edward Island	10	63	31	224	41	138	-13	15	7
Nova Scotia	68	66	139	155	207	108	10	33	24
New Brunswick ¹	101	132	164	238	265	183	36	50	44
Quebec	724	88	1,388	190	2,112	136	0 ^s	9	6
Ontario	1,844	145	1,970	181	3,814	162	21	3	11
Manitoba	122	117	216	234	338	172	17	8	11
Saskatchewan	71	79	166	207	237	139	3	1	2
Alberta	259	89	539	206	798	144	10	5	6
British Columbia	510	108	1,002	234	1,512	168	33	28	29
Yukon	9	374	19	715	28	553	-31	5	-10
Northwest Territories	15	872	40	2,090	55	1,513	179	33	53
Nunavut	4	564	11	1,351	15	985	-51	50	-3
Canada	3,791	115	5,777	199	9,568	154	16	11	13

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Excludes data from the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 65 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 4.5
Senior victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and census metropolitan area, 2019

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ^{1,2}	Family violence						Non-family violence					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims		Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	9	51	5	33	14	43	22	124	24	158	46	140
Halifax	16	43	20	64	36	53	24	65	40	128	64	94
Moncton	9	57	13	97	22	76	20	127	44	329	64	220
Saint John ³	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saguenay	12	64	7	40	19	52	15	80	40	228	55	151
Québec	69	79	37	50	106	66	101	116	127	173	228	142
Sherbrooke	9	40	7	37	16	39	15	67	22	115	37	90
Trois-Rivières	10	51	5	30	15	41	14	71	27	160	41	112
Montréal	350	94	254	81	604	88	353	94	605	193	958	139
Gatineau ⁴	30	116	22	96	52	107	23	89	52	228	75	154
Ottawa ⁵	29	33	17	23	46	28	88	99	119	158	207	126
Kingston	8	45	4	27	12	37	46	259	31	209	77	236
Belleville ⁶	5	41	4	38	9	40	15	123	7	67	22	97
Peterborough	1	7	6	48	7	26	2	13	6	48	8	29
Toronto ⁷	302	67	211	56	513	62	626	139	746	200	1,372	166
Hamilton ⁸	33	64	16	37	49	52	104	201	96	223	200	211
St. Catharines–Niagara	19	35	14	30	33	33	35	65	51	111	86	86
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	60	134	42	111	102	123	71	158	88	232	159	192
Brantford	12	89	5	44	17	68	36	268	36	316	72	290
Guelph	6	53	2	23	8	40	9	79	8	90	17	84
London	22	45	9	22	31	35	55	113	58	144	113	127
Windsor	23	79	12	47	35	64	37	126	33	131	70	128
Barrie	6	31	6	39	12	35	19	100	28	180	47	136
Greater Sudbury	11	66	10	72	21	69	14	84	20	144	34	112
Thunder Bay	3	23	4	35	7	28	5	38	14	122	19	77
Winnipeg	39	59	28	51	67	55	80	120	128	232	208	171
Regina	10	54	1	6	11	32	9	48	27	174	36	105
Saskatoon	13	57	11	59	24	58	14	62	31	166	45	109
Lethbridge ⁶	10	97	5	57	15	79	10	97	22	253	32	169
Calgary	81	86	63	76	144	81	74	79	147	176	221	124
Edmonton	70	72	40	47	110	60	90	92	178	210	268	147
Kelowna	25	109	16	79	41	94	19	83	37	182	56	129
Abbotsford–Mission	16	97	3	21	19	62	14	85	26	182	40	130
Vancouver	196	90	113	59	309	76	266	122	482	253	748	183
Victoria	28	64	24	64	52	64	34	78	74	198	108	133
CMA total⁹	1,573	71	1,063	56	2,636	64	2,485	112	3,566	190	6,051	147
Non-CMA total	1,040	95	842	82	1,882	89	1,325	121	2,245	217	3,570	168
Canada	2,613	79	1,905	65	4,518	72	3,810	115	5,811	199	9,621	154

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4.5 — end
Senior victims of police-reported family and non-family violence, by gender of victim and census metropolitan area, 2019

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

2. Census metropolitan area (CMA) populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

3. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.

4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

6. Following the 2016 Census of Population, Belleville and Lethbridge were reclassified as census metropolitan areas.

7. Excludes the portions of the Halton Regional Police Service and the Durham Regional Police Service that police the census metropolitan area of Toronto.

8. Excludes the portion of the Halton Regional Police Service that polices the census metropolitan area of Hamilton.

9. Includes Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service, which are responsible for policing more than one census metropolitan area (CMA). This total also includes the portion of the Durham Regional Police Service that polices the Oshawa CMA. This also includes the CMA of Saint John, excluding the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 65 to 89 years. Populations based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g., grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws). Victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the gender or the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Survey description

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, police services in Canada. Information includes characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 2019, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada.

One incident can involve multiple offences. In order to ensure comparability, counts are presented based on the most serious offence related to the incident as determined by a standard classification rule used by all police services.

Victim age is calculated based on the end date of an incident, as reported by the police. Some victims experience violence over a period of time, sometimes years, all of which may be considered by the police to be part of one continuous incident. Information about the number and dates of individual incidents for these victims of continuous violence is not available.

Given that small counts of victims identified as “gender diverse” may exist, the UCR data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either “female” or “male” in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either female or male based on the regional distribution of victims’ gender.

As part of reinstating the collection of information on unfounded incidents, the definition of “founded” and “unfounded” criminal incidents was updated in January 2018 to reflect a more victim-centred approach to recording crimes that accounts for the complexities of certain offences such as sexual assault, family violence and intimate partner violence. While the effective date of the new reporting standards was January 2018, police services transitioned to the new standards at different points throughout the year. Some police services, including all of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments across Canada and municipal police services in British Columbia, transitioned to the new standards on January 1, 2019. Therefore, part of the overall increase in police-reported crime may be attributed to the implementation of the new reporting standards. For more information, see “Revising the classification of founded and unfounded criminal incidents in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey” and “Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2019.”

Selected police-reported crime statistics: Special COVID-19 report to Statistics Canada

The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics at Statistics Canada is conducting a special survey collection from a sample of police services across Canada to measure the impact of COVID-19 on selected types of crimes and calls for service. In addition, counts of police responses to infractions of municipal by-laws, or provincial or territorial acts, related to the containment of COVID-19 were requested. The latest release includes findings from March to October 2020 compared with the same period a year earlier.

For the reference period of March to October, 19 police services provided data on a voluntary basis. These included: Calgary Police Service, Edmonton Police Service, Halton Regional Police Service, Kennebecasis Regional Police Force, London Police Service, Montréal Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Ottawa Police Service, Regina Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, Saskatoon Police Service, Sûreté du Québec, Toronto Police Service, Vancouver Police Department, Victoria Police Department, Waterloo Regional Police Service, Winnipeg Police Service and York Regional Police.

Police services that responded to this survey serve more than two-thirds (71%) of the Canadian population. The Edmonton Police Service, Montréal Police Service, RCMP, Sûreté du Québec and Winnipeg Police Service were unable to provide data on calls for service; therefore, police services that provided these data serve one-third (32%) of the Canadian population.

Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces

In 2018, Statistics Canada conducted the first cycle of the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS). The purpose of the survey is to collect information on Canadians' experiences in public, at work, online and in their intimate partner relationships. Information is also collected on lifetime experiences of physical and sexual violence, and childhood experiences of abuse. The target population for the SSPPS is the Canadian population aged 15 and older, living in the provinces and territories. Canadians residing in institutions are not included.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects detailed information on all homicide that has come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, police services in Canada. Information includes characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 2019, the survey went through a comprehensive redesign in order to improve data quality and enhance relevance.