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Intimate partner violence: Experiences of sexual minority men in Canada, 2018

by Brianna Jaffray, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics

Intimate partner violence (IPV) encompasses a broad range of behaviours, ranging from emotional and financial abuse to physical and sexual assault. Due to its widespread prevalence and its far-ranging immediate and long-term consequences for victims,¹ their families and for communities as a whole, IPV is considered a major public health problem (World Health Organization 2017). In addition to the direct impacts on victims, IPV also has broader economic consequences (Peterson et al. 2018) and has been linked to the perpetuation of a cycle of intergenerational violence, leading to additional trauma.

According to the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), regardless of sexual orientation, about one-third (36%) of men who had ever been in an intimate partner relationship reported that they had been a victim of IPV in their lifetime, a prevalence lower than what was experienced by ever-partnered women (44%) (Cotter 2021a). However, despite the prevalence of IPV being lower among men, it is no less important to explore their experiences in detail and examine the various characteristics that may influence their victimization.

Among the many characteristics that impact risk of victimization among men, one of the most notable is sexual orientation (Cotter and Savage 2019). Men reporting a minority sexual identity (those who stated they were gay, bisexual, or another sexual orientation other than heterosexual) have been found to be at considerably higher risk of all forms of violence when compared to heterosexual men (Jaffray 2020; Simpson 2018). It is important to note that intimate partner violence experienced by sexual minority men could have been perpetrated by partners of the same gender or another gender—the gender of the perpetrator(s) for the lifetime measure of IPV are unknown,² and sexual minority people may have been in a heterosexual relationship at some point since age 15.

The present analysis will focus on the experiences of sexual minority men,^{3,4} which will be compared to the experiences of heterosexual men in order to examine the potential impacts of sexual minority status and sexual orientation on men's experiences of IPV.⁵

This article is one in a series of short reports examining experiences of intimate partner violence based on self-reported data from the 2018 SSPPS for various populations. It explores the prevalence, nature, and impact of IPV on sexual minority men. Experiences of IPV among the overall Canadian population (Cotter 2021a), sexual minority women (Jaffray 2021), Indigenous women (Heidinger 2021), women with disabilities (Savage 2021a), young women (Savage 2021b), and ethno-cultural minority women (Cotter 2021b) are examined in the other reports within this series.⁶

Text box 1

Measuring and defining intimate partner violence

The Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) collected information on Canadians' experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) since the age of 15 and in the 12 months that preceded the survey. The survey asked about a broad range of behaviours committed by intimate partners, including psychological, physical, and sexual violence. The definition of partner was also broad and included current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, dating partners, and other intimate partner relationships.

In the SSPPS, intimate partner violence is defined as any act or behaviour committed by a current or former intimate partner, regardless of whether or not these partners lived together. In this article, intimate partner violence is broadly categorized into three types: psychological violence, physical violence, and sexual violence.

Psychological violence encompasses forms of abuse that target a person's emotional, mental, or financial well-being, or impede their personal freedom or sense of safety. This category includes 15 specific types of abuse, including jealousy, name-calling and other put-downs, stalking or harassing behaviours, manipulation, confinement, or property damage (for a complete list of items included in this category, see Table 1). It also includes being blamed for causing the abusive or violent behaviour, which was measured among those respondents who experienced certain forms of IPV.

Physical violence includes forms of abuse that involve physical assault or the threat of physical assault. In all, 9 types of abuse are included in this category, including items being thrown at the victim, being threatened with a weapon, being slapped, being beaten, and being choked (see Table 1).

Sexual violence includes sexual assault or threats of sexual assault and was measured using two questions: being made to perform sex acts that the victim did not want to perform, and forcing or attempting to force the victim to have sex.

Text box 1 — end

Measuring and defining intimate partner violence

The analysis presented in this article takes an inclusive approach to the broad range of behaviours that comprise IPV. For the purposes of this analysis, those with at least one response of 'yes' to any item on the survey measuring IPV are included as having experienced intimate partner violence, regardless of the type or the frequency.

For more information on the measures of IPV in the SSPPS and other sources of data on intimate partner violence in Canada, see Cotter (2021a).

More than half of sexual minority men have experienced IPV in their lifetime

Experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV), whether it be psychological, physical or sexual, can have lasting impacts on the mental and physical well-being of victims. In addition to physical injuries, IPV can lead to the development of symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, or other long-term mental health concerns (Lagdon et al. 2014).

Overall, 54% of sexual minority men indicated that they had been psychologically, physically or sexually abused by an intimate partner since the age of 15. Specifically, abuse was reported by 48% of gay men and 66% of bisexual men.⁷ These proportions were much higher than what was reported by heterosexual men—just over one-third (36%) of heterosexual men had experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime.

The most common type of intimate partner violence, regardless of sexual orientation, was psychological abuse, experienced by 52% of sexual minority men and 35% of heterosexual men. Like overall IPV, gay (46%) and bisexual (63%) men were more likely to experience this form of IPV than heterosexual men (Table 1).

Though physical and sexual IPV are often perceived as more severe than psychological abuse, research has shown that psychological abuse can have serious long-lasting physical and mental health impacts and can continue to affect victims throughout their lifetime (Karakurt 2014).

Sexual minority men five times more likely to experience sexual assault by an intimate partner than heterosexual men

Sexual minority men were much more likely than heterosexual men to experience both physical and sexual assault by an intimate partner. About one-third (31%) of sexual minority men indicated that they had been either physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner since age 15, while the same was reported by 17% of heterosexual men (Table 2). Independently, sexual minority men were almost twice as likely as heterosexual men to have been physically assaulted (30% versus 16%) and five times more likely to have been sexually assaulted (10% versus 2%) by an intimate partner in their lifetime (Table 1).

Sexual minority men more likely to experience most types of IPV behaviours

The SSPPS asked respondents about 27 different IPV behaviours that could be experienced in the context of an intimate partner relationship since age 15. These behaviours included types of psychological violence such as jealousy and name-calling, types of physical assault (including threats of physical violence) and types of sexual assault.⁸

Sexual minority men were more likely than heterosexual men to experience the majority of behaviours measured by the SSPPS. For instance, while the most common types of IPV behaviours experienced by sexual minority men and heterosexual men were the same, the prevalence of each of these behaviours was higher among sexual minority men. The most common forms of IPV were jealousy (39% of sexual minority men versus 26% of heterosexual men), being put down or called names (31% versus 19%), being told that they were crazy, stupid or not good enough (29% versus 16%), and their partner demanding to know who they were with and where they were at all times (26% versus 14%).

Sexual minority men were also significantly more likely than heterosexual men to be victims of some of the most severe violent behaviours measured by the survey—that is, those that can result in serious physical harm and criminal charges. In particular, sexual minority men were about seven times more likely to have been choked (6.5%), forced to have sex (9.7%), and made to perform sex acts that they did not want to perform (7.2%) than heterosexual men (1.0%, 1.3%, and 1.0%, respectively). In addition, they were more than three times more likely to have been beaten (5.8% versus 1.6%) or confined or locked in a room or other space (1.7% versus 0.5%) by an intimate partner in their lifetime (Table 1).

Sexual minority men more likely to feel fearful, controlled or trapped, or anxious or on edge because of a partner

Perpetrators of IPV often use coercive or manipulative behaviour to control their victims, which can lead to feelings of fear, of being controlled, or of heightened anxiety even in the absence of physical or sexual violence. In addition, coercive and manipulative behaviours can indicate repetitive abuse and patterns of behaviour by an intimate partner (Gill and Aspinall 2020).

Of those who had experienced IPV in their lifetime, almost half (49%) of sexual minority men said that they had felt anxious or on edge because of a partner at some point in their lives, and 4 in 10 (40%) said that they had felt controlled or trapped by a partner—both much higher proportions than what were indicated by heterosexual men (36% and 23%, respectively). Additionally, sexual minority men were almost three times more likely than heterosexual men to say they had ever been afraid of a partner (22% and 8%, respectively).

Largely as a result of small sample size, there were few statistically significant differences in the prevalence of IPV between sexual minority men based on other characteristics (Table 3). There were two exceptions; sexual minority men with a disability were considerably more likely than those without a disability to have experienced IPV in their lifetime (66% versus 46%), and sexual minority men who were physically or sexually abused during childhood were more likely to experience IPV than those who were not (63% versus 49%).

Sexual minority men twice as likely as heterosexual men to be victims of IPV in the past year

In addition to measuring IPV since the age of 15, the SSPPS also asked about respondents' experiences of IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey. Mirroring their lifetime experiences, sexual minority men (21%) were almost twice as likely as heterosexual men (11%) to have experienced at least one type of IPV in the past year. This difference was driven primarily by the experiences of bisexual men, 36% of whom had indicated that they had experienced IPV in the past 12 months. Similar proportions of gay men (13%) and heterosexual men (11%) indicated that they had been a victim of IPV during this time frame (Table 2).

The most common type of IPV experienced by men in the past year, regardless of sexual orientation, was psychological abuse. Similar to what was seen for lifetime IPV, the most commonly experienced IPV behaviours among sexual minority men were jealousy (16%), their partner demanding to know who they were with and where they were at all times (10%), being put down or called names (9%), and being told that they were crazy, stupid or not good enough (8%). These behaviours were also those most commonly experienced by heterosexual men (7%, 4%, 6% and 5%, respectively) (Table 1).⁹

Adverse childhood events associated with experiences of IPV

Past studies have shown that sexual minority people are more likely than those who are heterosexual to have experienced adverse events in childhood (Andersen et al. 2015), such as being victims of physical or sexual violence, harsh parenting or witnessing violence between parents or caregivers. In addition, childhood experiences of victimization have been associated with an increased risk of overall violent victimization in adulthood (Cotter and Savage 2019; Perreault 2015).

According to the SSPPS, sexual minority men who had experienced physical or sexual abuse in childhood,¹⁰ were more likely than heterosexual men with similar experiences to say that they had been victims of IPV since age 15. Among those who had experienced childhood abuse, just over 6 in 10 (63%) sexual minority men indicated that they had experienced some form of IPV since age 15, compared with 5 in 10 (53%) heterosexual men.

Harsh parenting—defined in the SSPPS as having been slapped, spanked, made to feel unwanted or unloved, or been neglected or having basic needs go unmet by parents or caregivers—has also been associated with an increased risk of violence (Cotter 2021a). When it came to experiences of IPV, specifically, sexual minority men (58%) who had experienced harsh parenting before the age of 15 were more likely than heterosexual men (45%) to say they had experienced IPV at some point in their lifetime (Table 3).

In addition, 7 in 10 (71%) sexual minority men who had witnessed violence between parents or caregivers in childhood later experienced physical, sexual or psychological abuse by an intimate partner, compared with 57% of heterosexual men who said they had witnessed violence as children.

Text box 2 Lifetime violent victimization

While the analysis in this report focused on violence perpetrated by intimate partners, a fulsome analysis of experiences of gender-based violence also includes experiences of violence perpetrated by those other than intimate partners. This text box examines lifetime experiences of all violent victimization (physical and sexual assault) measured by the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), including both intimate partner violence and violence that happens in other contexts outside of intimate partner relationships.

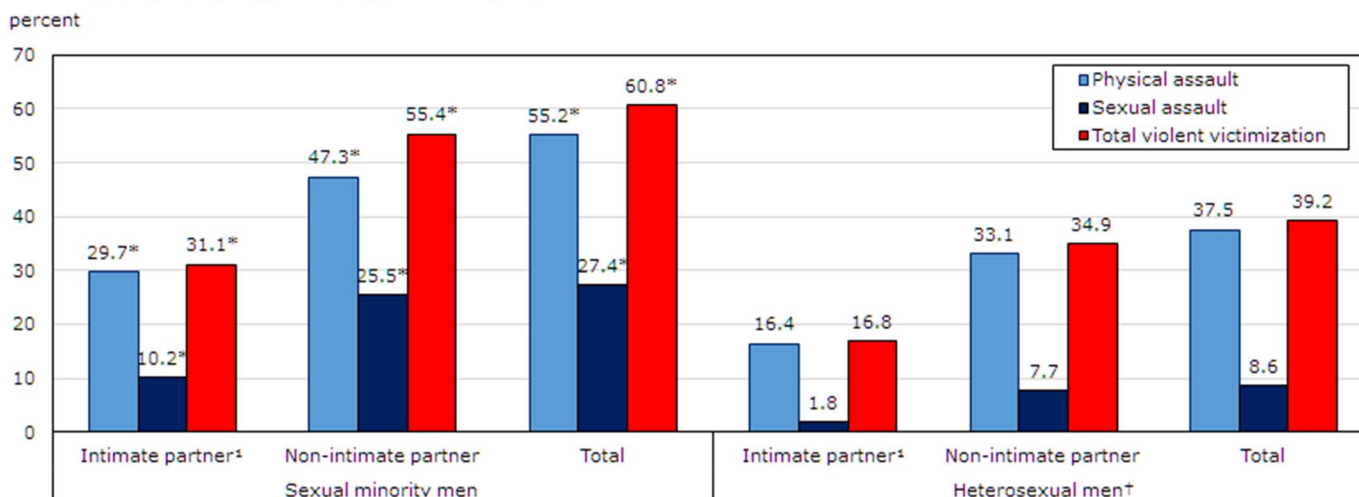
More than 6 in 10 sexual minority men have been physically or sexually assaulted since the age of 15

Overall, more than 6 in 10 (61%) sexual minority men indicated that they had been violently victimized in their lifetime, compared with almost 4 in 10 (39%) heterosexual men. When broken down by sexual orientation, gay (59%) and bisexual (63%) men were both more likely to indicate that they had been violently victimized in their lifetime than heterosexual men (Table 4).

Understanding experiences of violent victimization across the life course is important when it comes to understanding the population, developing services and programs, and predicting mental and physical health needs. As such, a measure of lifetime victimization was identified as a data gap to be addressed when developing the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS).¹¹

The prevalence of violent victimization among sexual minority and heterosexual men was led mostly by experiences of physical assault—55% of sexual minority men and 38% of heterosexual men had been physically assaulted since age 15. However, the overall prevalence of sexual assault was significantly higher among sexual minority men, with more than one-quarter (27%) of sexual minority men indicating that they had been sexually assaulted in their lifetime, compared with just under 1 in 10 (9%) heterosexual men (Chart 1).

Chart 1
Physical and sexual assault since age 15 among sexual minority and heterosexual men, by relationship to perpetrator, Canada, 2018



* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

Note: See Table 4 for confidence intervals for each estimate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Text box 2 — end

Lifetime violent victimization

Sexual minority men more likely than heterosexual men to experience violence in the past year

Like what was seen with lifetime prevalence, sexual minority men were more likely than heterosexual men to say that they had been physically or sexually assaulted in the 12 months preceding the SSPPS. One in ten (10%) sexual minority men had been the victim of violence in the past year, higher than what was indicated by heterosexual men (6%). In particular, sexual minority men were four times more likely to have been sexually assaulted in the past year than heterosexual men (4% versus 1%). Similar proportions of sexual minority and heterosexual men were physically assaulted within the past year.

Looking specifically at non-intimate partner violence, the differences in the experiences of sexual minority and heterosexual men persisted for sexual assault. Sexual minority men were four times more likely to have been sexually assaulted (4% versus 1%) by someone who was not an intimate partner within the past year. Again, there was no difference in the prevalence of physical assault between sexual minority and heterosexual men (Table 5).

Lifetime violent victimization, including IPV and non-IPV, higher among sexual minority men in most regions

In the Atlantic¹² region, Ontario, and British Columbia, similar proportions of sexual minority and heterosexual men had experienced physical or sexual assault by an intimate partner in their lifetime. However, in Quebec and Alberta, sexual minority men were more likely than heterosexual men to say that they had experienced these types of IPV. In Quebec, sexual minority men (36%) were three times more likely than heterosexual men (13%) to experience physical or sexual IPV, while in Alberta, more than half (54%) of sexual minority men had been physically assaulted—more than twice the proportion of heterosexual men (21%).¹³

Overall violent victimization (including both IPV and non-IPV) was much higher among sexual minority men than heterosexual men in most regions. In particular, sexual minority men (66%) in Quebec were more than twice as likely as heterosexual men (32%) to indicate that they had been physically or sexually assaulted in their lifetime. In the Atlantic region, Ontario and Alberta, sexual minority men were also more likely to be violently victimized in their lifetime than heterosexual men, but the differences were not as large as what was observed for Quebec (Table 6).

Survey description

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.

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. This means that the survey results may not reflect the experiences of intimate partner violence among those living in shelters, institutions, or other collective dwellings. Once a household was contacted, an individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey.

In the provinces, data collection took place from April to December 2018 inclusively. Responses were obtained by self-administered online questionnaire or by interviewer-administered telephone questionnaire. Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice. The sample size for the 10 provinces was 43,296 respondents. The response rate in the provinces was 43.1%.

In the territories, data collection took place from July to December 2018 inclusively. Responses were obtained by self-administered online questionnaire or by interviewer-administered in-person questionnaire. Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice. The sample size for the 3 territories was 2,597 respondents. The response rate in the territories was 73.2%.

Non-respondents included people who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 and older.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed.

For the quality of estimates, the lower and upper bounds of the confidence intervals are presented. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

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Notes

1. Though other terms, such as survivor, could be used to refer to those who have experienced intimate partner violence, the term 'victim' is used to stay consistent with the terminology used in other Statistics Canada reports.
2. The gender of the perpetrator(s) for lifetime incidents of IPV were not collected on the SSPPS.
3. Experiences of IPV among sexual minority women are examined in Jaffray 2021.
4. Estimates for men whose sexual orientation is not elsewhere classified are not presented independently in this report due to sample size, however, their experiences are included in the overall measures for sexual minority men in Canada.
5. In this analysis, those who indicated their gender was male, including transgender men, were counted as men. However those who indicated their gender was non-binary, or a gender other than male, were excluded from the analysis.
6. For other data from the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces, see "Gender-based violence: Unwanted sexual behaviours in Canada's territories, 2018" (Perreault 2020a), "Gender-based violence: Sexual and physical assault in Canada's territories, 2018" (Perreault 2020b), "Experiences of violent victimization and unwanted sexual behaviours among gay, lesbian, bisexual and other sexual minority people, and the transgender population, in Canada, 2018" (Jaffray 2020), "Gender-based violence and unwanted sexual behaviour in Canada, 2018: Initial findings from the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces" (Cotter and Savage 2019).
7. Estimates for men whose sexual orientation is not elsewhere classified are not presented in this report due to sample size.
8. For a full list of behaviours, please refer to Table 1.
9. Further analysis of IPV experienced by sexual minority men in the past 12 months, including details of the incidents, is not possible due to sample size.
10. Childhood refers to before the age of 15.
11. Prior to the SSPPS, data on lifetime victimization was most recently published based on the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey (VAWS). The VAWS surveyed women 18 years of age and older and was limited to asking about experiences of violence committed by men. It also did not collect data on sexual orientation.
12. Includes Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.
13. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Territories, estimates for the experiences of sexual minority men are not available due to sample size and a comparison cannot be made to the experiences of heterosexual men.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Intimate partner violence since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by type of intimate partner violence and sexual orientation, Canada, 2018

Type of intimate partner violence	Sexual minority men						Heterosexual men†					
	Experienced since age 15 ¹			Experienced in the past 12 months ²			Experienced since age 15 ¹			Experienced in the past 12 months ²		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
Emotional, financial, or psychological abuse												
Been jealous and didn't want you to talk to other men or women	39.4*	33.1	46.1	16.2*	10.5	24.0	26.4	25.4	27.4	6.8	6.1	7.5
Harmed, or threatened to harm your pets	2.2	1.1	4.5	F	F	F	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Demanded to know who you were with and where you were at all times	26.1*	20.5	32.6	10.1*	5.6	17.7	14.3	13.6	15.1	3.9	3.4	4.5
Put you down or called you names to make you feel bad	31.0*	25.2	37.4	8.7	5.5	13.4	18.8	18.0	19.7	6.1	5.5	6.8
Forced you to give them money or possessions	9.5*	6.5	13.8	F	F	F	3.4	3.0	3.9	0.6	0.4	0.9
Told you you were crazy, stupid, or not good enough ³	29.4*	23.7	35.8	7.9	4.7	12.9	16.1	15.3	17.0	4.8	4.3	5.4
Tried to convince your family, children, or friends that you are crazy or tried to turn them against you ³	12.9*	9.2	17.9	F	F	F	6.5	6.0	7.1	1.1	0.9	1.4
Followed you or hung around outside your home or work ³	9.6*	6.9	13.4	F	F	F	3.8	3.4	4.2	0.4	0.3	0.7
Kept you from seeing or talking to your family or friends ³	9.0	5.6	14.3	F	F	F	5.7	5.1	6.3	1.1	0.8	1.4
Harassed you by phone, text, email, or using social media ³	16.9*	12.8	22.1	4.5	2.4	8.2	7.6	7.0	8.3	1.9	1.5	2.4
Kept you from having access to a job, money, or financial resources ³	2.9	1.5	5.4	F	F	F	1.5	1.3	1.8	0.2	0.1	0.3
Confined or locked you in a room or other space ³	1.7	0.7	3.8	F	F	F	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.1
Damaged or destroyed your possessions or property	11.9*	8.7	16.2	F	F	F	6.8	6.3	7.4	0.9	0.7	1.2
Made comments about your sexual past or your sexual performance that made you feel ashamed, inadequate, or humiliated	21.0*	16.0	27.1	7.4*	4.0	13.4	6.3	5.8	6.9	1.7	1.4	2.0
Revealed, or threatened to reveal, your sexual orientation or your relationship to anyone who you did not want to know about your sexuality or sexual orientation ⁴	12.4	8.7	17.5	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Blamed you for causing their abusive or violent behaviour ^{3, 5}	37.0	28.0	47.0	12.1	5.9	23.3	29.7	27.6	32.0	7.5	6.2	9.1
Total	51.8*	44.7	58.8	20.6*	14.5	28.3	34.8	33.7	35.8	11.1	10.3	11.9
Physical abuse												
Shook, pushed, grabbed, or threw you ³	17.0*	13.0	22.0	3.8	1.8	7.9	6.4	5.9	7.0	1.1	0.8	1.5
Hit you with a fist or object, kicked or bit you ³	13.7*	10.2	18.1	F	F	F	8.9	8.3	9.5	1.3	1.0	1.6
Threatened to harm or kill you or someone close to you ³	5.3*	3.2	8.6	F	F	F	1.9	1.6	2.3	0.1	0.1	0.3
Choked you ³	6.5*	4.1	10.1	F	F	F	1.0	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.4
Used or threatened to use a knife or gun or other weapon to harm you ³	4.0*	2.4	6.8	F	F	F	1.7	1.5	2.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Threatened to hit you with their fist or anything that could hurt you	15.8*	11.6	21.2	3.4*	1.6	6.8	6.2	5.7	6.8	0.9	0.7	1.3
Thrown anything at you that could have hurt you	13.4*	9.7	18.2	F	F	F	8.8	8.1	9.5	1.1	0.9	1.5
Slapped you	17.6*	13.3	22.9	3.9	2.0	7.3	10.7	10.0	11.4	1.7	1.4	2.1
Beaten you	5.8*	3.7	9.0	F	F	F	1.6	1.3	1.9	0.2	0.1	0.3
Total	29.7*	24.2	36.0	4.7	2.7	8.2	16.4	15.6	17.2	2.8	2.3	3.3

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1 — end

Intimate partner violence since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by type of intimate partner violence and sexual orientation, Canada, 2018

Type of intimate partner violence	Sexual minority men						Heterosexual men†					
	Experienced since age 15 ¹			Experienced in the past 12 months ²			Experienced since age 15 ¹			Experienced in the past 12 months ²		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
Sexual abuse												
Made you perform sex acts that you did not want to perform ³	7.2*	4.5	11.2	F	F	F	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.5
Forced or tried to force you to have sex ³	9.7*	6.6	14.2	F	F	F	1.3	1.1	1.6	0.3	0.2	0.6
Total	10.2*	7.0	14.6	F	F	F	1.8	1.5	2.1	0.4	0.2	0.7
Total intimate partner violence	54.3*	47.2	61.2	20.6*	14.6	28.4	36.0	35.0	37.1	11.3	10.5	12.2

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Represents the percentage of all respondents, excluding those who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Represents the percentage of all respondents, excluding those who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship and those who stated that they had not had contact with any current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months.

3. This is an item taken from the Composite Abuse Scale - revised short form (CASr-SF).

4. This item was only asked of respondents who did not identify as heterosexual.

5. This item was only asked of respondents who indicated yes to at least one item from the CASr-SF. The percent calculation therefore does not include all respondents.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Table 2
Intimate partner violence, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by sexual orientation, Canada, 2018

Intimate partner violence ¹	Sexual minority men			Gay men			Bisexual men			Heterosexual men [†]		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
Since age 15												
Emotional, financial, or psychological	51.8*	44.7	58.8	45.6*	37.9	53.6	62.5*	48.5	74.8	34.8	33.7	35.8
Physical	29.7*	24.2	36.0	28.9*	22.5	36.1	30.4*	20.3	42.9	16.4	15.6	17.2
Sexual	10.2*	7.0	14.6	8.5*	5.4	13.2	13.0*	6.6	23.9	1.8	1.5	2.1
Total, physical or sexual	31.1*	25.4	37.4	30.0*	23.6	37.4	31.8*	21.5	44.2	16.8	16.0	17.7
Total, any type	54.3*	47.2	61.2	47.9*	40.0	56.0	65.5*	51.5	77.3	36.0	35.0	37.1
Past 12 months												
Emotional, financial, or psychological	20.6*	14.5	28.3	12.7	8.1	19.4	36.4*	22.8	52.6	11.1	10.3	11.9
Physical	4.7	2.7	8.2	3.9	2.0	7.5	F	F	F	2.8	2.3	3.3
Sexual	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	0.4	0.2	0.7
Total, physical or sexual	4.8	2.8	8.3	3.9	2.0	7.5	F	F	F	3.0	2.5	3.5
Total, any type	20.6*	14.6	28.4	12.8	8.2	19.4	36.4*	22.8	52.6	11.3	10.5	12.2

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship and, for the past 12 months, those who stated that they had not had contact with any current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months. See Table 1 for a list of items included in each category.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Table 3
Intimate partner violence, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by selected characteristics of victim and sexual orientation, Canada, 2018

Selected characteristic	Intimate partner violence since age 15						Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months					
	Sexual minority men			Heterosexual men			Sexual minority men			Heterosexual men		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to
Age group (years)												
15 to 24 [†]	F	F	F	55	49	61	F	F	F	25	20	30
25 to 34	45	30	62	48*	44	51	21	10	38	14*	12	16
35 to 44	60**	45	73	43*	40	45	10	5	18	14*	12	16
45 to 54	47	34	61	36*	34	38	F	F	F	11*	9	12
55 to 64	53**	40	66	29*	27	31	F	F	F	7*	6	9
65 and older	33	22	46	20*	19	22	F	F	F	5*	4	6
First Nations, Métis, or Inuit identity												
Indigenous person	F	F	F	53	47	59	F	F	F	15	11	22
Non-Indigenous person [†]	54**	46	61	35*	34	37	21**	14	29	11	10	12
Ethnocultural group												
Designated as visible minority	F	F	F	29	26	32	F	F	F	12	10	14
Not designated as visible minority ^{2,†}	58**	51	64	38*	37	39	20**	14	29	11	10	12
Immigrant status												
Immigrant [†]	43	28	60	28	26	30	15	6	34	11	10	13
Non-immigrant	58**	51	65	39*	38	40	23**	16	31	11	11	12
Disability												
Person with disability [†]	66**	57	74	44	42	46	28**	19	39	14	13	16
Person without disability	46**	36	55	33*	31	34	16	9	26	10 [§]	9	11
Physical or sexual abuse before age 15												
Never [†]	49**	40	58	30	29	31	18	11	28	9	9	10
At least once	63*	53	72	53*	51	55	25	16	38	17*	15	18
Harsh parenting												
Never [†]	40**	25	58	21	19	23	25	11	48	7	6	8
At least once	58**	50	65	45*	43	46	20	14	28	14*	13	15
Employed in past 12 months												
Yes [†]	56**	48	64	39	38	41	23**	16	32	13	12	14
No	45**	33	57	26*	24	28	F	F	F	7*	6	9
Highest degree earned												
Less than high school [†]	F	F	F	29	26	32	F	F	F	10	8	13
High school	61**	46	74	38*	35	40	29**	16	45	11	9	13
College or trade school	47	35	59	38*	36	40	18	11	29	11	10	13
University	53**	44	62	36*	34	38	13	8	22	12	11	13
Household income group³												
Less than \$20,000 [†]	F	F	F	52	46	58	F	F	F	15	11	20
\$20,000 to \$59,999	56**	43	69	36*	34	39	22	12	37	11	9	13
\$60,000 to \$99,999	54**	41	66	33*	31	35	19	11	31	12	12	13
\$100,000 to \$149,999	F	F	F	35*	33	37	F	F	F	10	9	12
\$150,000 or more	F	F	F	36*	34	39	F	F	F	12	10	14
Location of residence												
Rural [†]	F	F	F	36	33	39	F	F	F	9	8	12
Urban	57**	49	65	35	34	36	23**	16	31	12*	11	13

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3 — end
Intimate partner violence, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by selected characteristics of victim and sexual orientation, Canada, 2018

Selected characteristic	Intimate partner violence since age 15						Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months					
	Sexual minority men			Heterosexual men			Sexual minority men			Heterosexual men		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to
Marital status												
Married or common-law†	46**	36	56	30	28	31	17	10	28	10	9	11
Separated or divorced	F	F	F	59*	56	62	F	F	F	18*	15	22
Widowed	F	F	F	23*	19	27	F	F	F	6	3	12
Single, never married	63*	53	72	53*	50	57	24	15	15	16*	13	18

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category only (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from estimate for heterosexual men only (p < 0.05)

*** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05) and estimate for heterosexual men (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship and, for the past 12 months, those who stated that they had not had contact with any current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months.

2. The non-visible minority population includes single origin White, single origin Indigenous persons, and multiple origin White/Latin American and White/Arab-West Asian, as per Census definition.

3. Represents before-tax household income and comes from multiple sources. For 84% of respondents, income data was obtained from successful linkage to tax records. For 15% of respondents, linkage to tax records was not successful or respondents did not consent to linkage with other sources; income data for these respondents is imputed. In the territories (less than 1% of the total sample), respondents were asked to self-report their personal and household income or provide a range in which their before-tax income fell.

Note: Intimate partner violence includes psychological violence, physical violence, and sexual violence. See Table 1 for a full list of behaviours included.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Table 4
Physical and sexual assault committed by intimate partners and non-intimate partners since age 15, by sexual orientation, Canada, 2018

Type of victimization by perpetrator since age of 15	Sexual minority men			Gay men			Bisexual men			Heterosexual men†		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
Intimate partner violence since age 15¹												
Physical assault	29.7*	24.2	36.0	28.9*	22.5	36.1	30.4*	20.3	42.9	16.4	15.6	17.2
Sexual assault	10.2*	7.0	14.6	8.5*	5.4	13.2	13.0*	6.6	23.9	1.8	1.5	2.1
Total	31.1*	25.4	37.4	30.0*	23.6	37.4	31.8*	21.5	44.2	16.8	16.0	17.7
Non-intimate partner violence since age 15												
Physical assault	47.3*	41.0	53.8	42.2*	35.1	49.7	52.5*	40.1	64.5	33.1	32.0	34.2
Sexual assault	25.5*	20.8	30.8	26.6*	20.8	33.3	25.4*	17.3	35.8	7.7	7.2	8.3
Total	55.4*	48.9	61.7	52.3*	44.7	59.7	57.8*	45.0	69.6	34.9	33.9	36.0
Total intimate and non-intimate partner violence since age 15												
Physical assault	55.2*	48.8	61.4	50.4*	43.0	57.8	60.6*	48.0	71.9	37.5	36.4	38.7
Sexual assault	27.4*	22.5	32.8	28.8*	22.8	35.6	27.0*	18.4	37.7	8.6	8.0	9.2
Total	60.8*	54.3	66.9	57.8*	50.1	65.1	63.3*	50.5	74.6	39.2	38.0	40.3

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Table 5
Physical and sexual assault committed by intimate partners and non-intimate partners in the past 12 months, by sexual orientation, Canada, 2018

Type of victimization by perpetrator in past 12 months	Sexual minority men			Heterosexual men†		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months¹						
Physical assault	4.7	2.7	8.2	2.8	2.3	3.3
Sexual assault	F	F	F	0.4	0.2	0.7
Total	4.8	2.8	8.3	3.0	2.5	3.5
Non-intimate partner violence in the past 12 months						
Physical assault	6.3	4.0	9.7	3.5	3.1	4.0
Sexual assault	3.5*	2.1	5.7	0.9	0.7	1.2
Total	8.5*	5.9	12.1	4.2	3.7	4.7
Total intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence in the past 12 months						
Physical assault	8.0	5.5	11.7	5.5	4.9	6.0
Sexual assault	4.2*	2.6	6.7	1.2	1.0	1.5
Total	10.3*	7.4	14.0	6.1	5.6	6.7

F too unreliable to be published

*significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship and those who stated that they had not had contact with any current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Table 6
Physical and sexual assault committed by intimate partners and non-intimate partners since age 15, by sexual orientation and province and territory, 2018

Region, province or territory	Physical and sexual assault committed by intimate partners ¹						Physical and sexual assault committed by non-intimate partners						Total physical and sexual assault					
	Sexual minority men			Heterosexual men†			Sexual minority men			Heterosexual men†			Sexual minority men			Heterosexual men†		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
Atlantic ²	32.1	19.9	47.4	18.9	17.2	20.7	60.1*	46.4	72.4	34.7	32.7	36.8	65.2*	51.6	76.7	39.6	37.6	41.7
Quebec	35.6*	24.3	48.8	12.8	11.4	14.4	58.3*	46.6	69.2	27.1	25.3	29.0	65.9*	54.3	75.8	31.8	29.9	33.8
Ontario	23.2	15.0	34.2	16.3	14.7	18.1	55.3*	42.5	67.4	35.2	33.0	37.5	58.0*	45.1	69.9	39.1	36.8	41.5
Manitoba	F	F	F	17.7	15.3	20.4	F	F	F	39.0	35.9	42.2	F	F	F	43.1	40.0	46.3
Saskatchewan	F	F	F	19.1	17.1	21.3	F	F	F	38.2	35.5	41.0	F	F	F	42.4	39.6	45.3
Alberta	53.5*	36.7	69.6	21.0	18.8	23.4	59.2*	43.5	73.1	40.7	38.2	43.2	68.4*	52.6	80.8	45.0	42.4	47.6
British Columbia	24.7	14.5	38.7	19.4	17.2	21.7	48.3	35.2	61.6	40.7	38.1	43.3	51.9	38.2	65.2	44.3	41.7	46.9
Territories ³	F	F	F	31.6	28.5	34.9	F	F	F	54.0	50.2	57.7	F	F	F	60.1	56.4	63.7
Canada	31.1*	25.4	37.4	16.8	16.0	17.7	55.4*	48.9	61.7	34.9	33.9	36.0	60.8*	54.3	66.9	39.2	38.0	40.3

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Includes Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

3. Includes Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Note: Province or territory refers to the respondent's province or territory of residence at the time of the survey, and does not necessarily correspond to where the victimization occurred.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.