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Correction Notice

A correction has been made to the prevalence of intimate partner violence of young women (20 to 24) in Canada contained in Chart 1.

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Intimate partner violence: Experiences of young women in Canada, 2018

by Laura Savage, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics

Canadian research has consistently shown that younger people are more likely than older people to be victims of violence (Conroy and Cotter 2017; Cotter and Savage 2019; Perreault 2015). In addition to age, gender has also been shown to be associated with an increased risk of violence, with women being overrepresented as victims (Burczycka 2016; Cotter 2021a; Cotter and Savage 2019). The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes violence against women as a serious public health concern that has profound immediate and long-term negative impacts on victims and survivors¹ (World Health Organization 2012). Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a form of gender-based violence, and encompasses a broad range of behaviours including emotional, psychological, financial, physical and sexual abuse committed by a current or former legally married spouse, common-law partner, or dating partner. Police-reported data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey show that IPV accounts for approximately one-third of police-reported violent crime in Canada (Burczycka 2019; Conroy 2021). Although both women and men experience IPV, research to date has consistently found that women experience the most severe forms (physical assault and sexual assault) of intimate partner violence (Burczycka 2016; Burczycka 2019). Furthermore, homicide data have consistently shown that women victims of homicide in Canada are more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than by any other type of perpetrator (Roy and Marcellus 2019).

Using self-reported data from the 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), this report focuses on the experiences of IPV among young women aged 15 to 24 years in the 12 months preceding the survey.² Lifetime (since age 15) experiences of IPV among young women are limited but included. It should be noted that, although comparisons between age groups are made when discussing the 12 month prevalence of IPV, age has a considerable impact on the reference period for lifetime IPV and, as such, direct comparisons between age groups are cautioned. Simply put, women aged 25 years and older will have had more time to have been exposed to experiences of IPV.

This report will also explore how different demographic characteristics may intersect and have an impact on the risk of experiencing IPV, the emotional impacts and consequences of IPV, and experiences of non-intimate partner physical and sexual assault. Understanding young women's experiences of intimate partner violence is critical as previous research shows an association between experiencing IPV in adolescence and experiencing IPV in adulthood (Cui et al. 2013; Saint-Eloi Cadely et al. 2020).

This report is one in a series of reports highlighting the experiences of intimate partner violence among various populations based on data from the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS). The other reports in this series focus on the experiences of women (Cotter 2021a), Indigenous women (Heidinger 2021), sexual minority women (Jaffray 2021a) and men (Jaffray 2021b), women with disabilities (Savage 2021a), and ethno-cultural minority women (Cotter 2021b).³

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).

Text box 1 — end

Measuring and defining intimate partner violence

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.

Physical and sexual intimate partner violence are sometimes collapsed into one category, particularly when data on IPV are combined with non-IPV data in order to derive a total prevalence of criminal victimization.

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).

Young women more likely than women aged 25 and older to have been sexually assaulted by an intimate partner in the 12 months preceding the survey

Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes overt forms of violence like physical and sexual assault, as well as emotional, financial and psychological abuse. Although not all of these abusive behaviours rise to the threshold of criminal behaviour, emotional, financial and psychological abuse can cause profound emotional distress that can severely impact people's everyday lives (Estefan et al. 2016; Sullivan et al. 2012).

According to the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), more than four in ten (44%) women—who had ever been in an intimate partner relationship—reported experiencing some form of IPV in their lifetime (since age 15). This represents 6.2 million women aged 15 years and older. In comparison, 36% of ever-partnered⁴ men reported experiencing some form of IPV since age 15.

Looking specifically at young women aged 15 to 24 years, almost three in ten (29%) reported experiencing some form of IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 1). This proportion was much higher than that observed among ever-partnered women aged 25 years and older (10%). The same age-related pattern was evident among men, where the highest 12-month prevalence of IPV was among men aged 15 to 24 years (Cotter 2021a). There was also no statistically significant difference between 15-to-24-year-old young women and young men when it came to the proportion experiencing IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey (Cotter 2021a).

In the 12 months preceding the survey, young women were more likely than women aged 25 years and older to experience all three categories of IPV measured by the SSPPS (Table 1; Table 2). Specifically, young women were five times more likely to have been sexually assaulted (5% versus 1% of women aged 25 years and older), three times more likely to have been physically assaulted (6% and 2%, respectively), and almost three times more likely to have been emotionally, financially or psychologically abused by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months (28% versus 10%).

Looking specifically at sexual assault, young women were five times more likely than women aged 25 years and older to report that their partner had forced or tried to force them to have sex in the 12 months prior to the survey (5% and 1%, respectively). Young women were also four times more likely to report that their partner made them perform sex acts that they did not want to perform (4%, versus 1% of women aged 25 years and older) (Table 1).

When it came to physically abusive behaviours, 6% of young women said that their partner had shaken, pushed, grabbed or thrown them in the past 12 months, compared to 1% of women aged 25 years and older. Young women were also four times more likely than women aged 25 years and older to say that their partner had hit them with a fist or object, kicked or bit them (4%, versus 0.5%), threatened to hit them with their fist or anything that could hurt them (4%, versus 1%), and that their partner had slapped them (4%, versus 0.5%) in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 1).

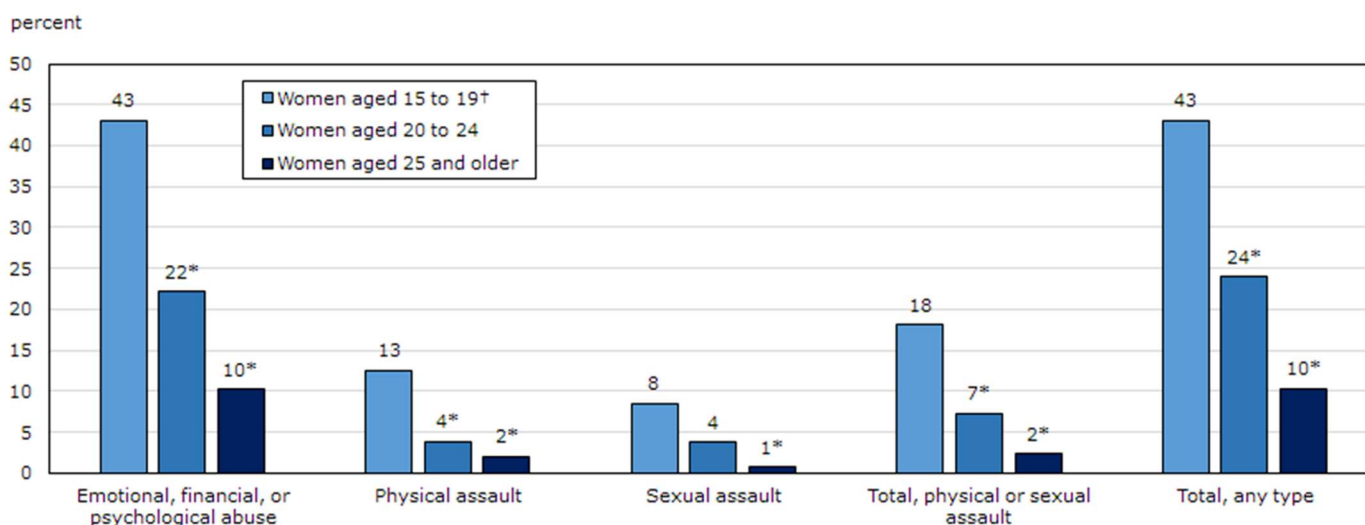
The most common psychologically abusive behaviours reported by young women were a partner being jealous and not wanting them to talk to other men or women (29%), being put down or called names to make them feel bad (20%), and being told they were crazy, stupid, or not good enough (17%). Although these abusive behaviours were also the ones most often reported by women aged 25 years and older, they experienced them at much lower proportions (3%, 7% and 6%, respectively).

Four in ten women aged 15 to 19 experienced IPV in the past 12 months

Studies have shown a high prevalence of physical and sexual assault among high school and post-secondary students (Burczycka 2020; Cui et al. 2013; Gage 2016; Maxwell 2020; Schultz and Jaycox 2008). Adolescents are at a high risk for IPV, which has been linked to some negative outcomes in adulthood, including substance use, poorer educational outcomes, risky sexual behaviour, and an increased risk of experiencing IPV in adulthood (Coker et al. 2014; Cui et al. 2013; Decker et al. 2014; Gage 2016). Although this report focuses on young women aged 15 to 24, a further age breakdown is possible. This section of the report will look at the prevalence of IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey among women aged 15 to 19 years, compared with women aged 20 to 24 years, and women aged 25 years and older.

More than four in ten (43%) women aged 15 to 19 years experienced some form of intimate partner violence in the 12 months preceding the survey. This proportion was significantly higher than those observed among ever-partnered women aged 20 to 24 (24%) and women aged 25 years and older (10%) (Chart 1).

Chart 1
Intimate partner violence among women in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2018



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

† reference category

Note: 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. See Table 1 for a list of items included in each category.

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

Notably, 15-to-19-year-old women were far more likely to experience psychological abuse by an intimate partner in the past 12 months compared to their older counterparts (43% versus 22% of 20-to-24-year-olds and 10% of women aged 25 years and older).

Women aged 15 to 19 years were eight times more likely than women aged 25 years and older to have been sexually assaulted by an intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey (8% and 1%, respectively) (Chart 1). The difference between women aged 15 to 19 and women aged 20 to 24 who were sexually assaulted by an intimate partner in the past 12 months was not statistically significant.

Moreover, women aged 15 to 19 years were far more likely than their older counterparts to report experiencing physical assault at the hands of an intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey (13% versus 4% of women aged 20 to 24 and 2% of women aged 25 years and older) (Chart 1). Around one in ten (11%) women aged 15 to 19 years said that a partner had slapped them in the 12 months preceding the survey. In comparison, this physical abuse was experienced by 1% of women aged 20 to 24 and 0.8% of women aged 25 years and older. Further, 11% of women aged 15 to 19 years said that a partner had threatened them with violence, that is to hit them with their fist or anything that could hurt them in the past 12 months, compared to 1% of women aged 20 to 24 and 0.5% of women aged 25 years and older.

Women aged 15 to 19 and women aged 20 to 24 are five times more likely than women aged 25 years and older to have been physically or sexually assaulted by a non-intimate partner in the past 12 months

In addition to asking questions about experiences of intimate partner violence, the SSPPS also asked about non-intimate partner violence; that is, violence committed by a friend, acquaintance or stranger. When it came to violence committed outside of an intimate partner relationship, women aged 15 to 19 and women aged 20 to 24 were significantly more likely than women aged 25 years and older to have been physically or sexually assaulted by a non-intimate partner in the 12 months preceding the survey (15% and 15% and 3%, respectively). Although women aged 15 to 19 were more likely than women aged 20 to 24 to be physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner in the 12 months preceding the survey, there were no statistically significant differences between them for non-intimate partner violence.

Specifically, 6% of women aged 15 to 19 and 6% women aged 20 to 24 had been physically assaulted by a non-intimate partner in the previous 12 months, compared to 1% of women aged 25 years and older. More than one in ten (12%) women aged 15 to 19 and women aged 20 to 24 had been sexually assaulted, compared to 2% of women aged 25 years and older.

IPV more common among certain populations

Although the World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes that intimate partner violence occurs in all settings and among all socioeconomic, religious and cultural groups, research has shown that certain groups of women are more at-risk for IPV than others, including young women, women with disabilities (Savage 2021a), sexual minority women (Jaffray 2021a), and Indigenous women (Heidinger 2021). In other words, other characteristics intersect with gender to impact the likelihood of experiencing IPV.

Previous research shows that people who are visible minorities tend to be less likely to experience violence in Canada; however, this finding has been largely attributed to lower victimization rates among immigrant visible minorities. In general, research shows that non-immigrant visible minorities tend to have similar rates of violence as non-visible minorities (Cotter 2021b; Ibrahim 2018; Simpson 2018). According to the SSPPS, one-quarter (25%) of visible minority women aged 15 to 24 experienced some form of intimate partner violence in the 12 months prior to the survey (Table 3). This proportion was similar to the proportion reported by non-visible minority women aged 15 to 24 (30%) and much higher than that of visible minority women aged 25 years and older (7%) (Table 3). For information specific to visible minority immigrant women and their experiences of IPV, see Cotter (2021b).

Women with a disability are often overrepresented as victims of violence, including violence committed within an intimate partner relationship (Savage 2021a). Young women with a disability were more than twice as likely as women aged 25 and older living with a disability to report experiencing some form of IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey (33% and 14%, respectively) (Table 3).

Victimization during childhood increased the risk of being a victim of IPV. Research has consistently shown an association between experiencing some type of physical, sexual or emotional abuse during childhood and an increased risk of experiencing victimization in adulthood (Burczycka and Conroy 2017; Cotter 2021a; Cotter and Savage 2019; Parks et al. 2011; Tillyer 2012; Widom et al. 2008). Among young women who had been physically or sexually abused at least once before age 15, just under three-quarters (72%) said that they had experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime. This proportion was significantly higher than that of those who had never experienced childhood abuse (50%). Similarly, young women who reported experiencing harsh parenting⁵ were also more likely than those who had never experienced harsh parenting to report experiencing IPV (62% and 43%, respectively) (Table 3).

Almost half of young women victims of IPV feel anxious or on edge because of an intimate partner

Intimate partner violence can have immediate and long-term emotional, psychological and physical impacts on victims, including feelings of anxiety, shock, fear, depression and suicidal thoughts (Chen and Ullman 2010; Haskell and Randall 2019; Karakurt et al. 2014). The SSPPS included questions about the emotional impacts and consequences that were a result of their lifetime experiences of intimate partner violence, as well as questions specifically about the violence they experienced in the past 12 months.

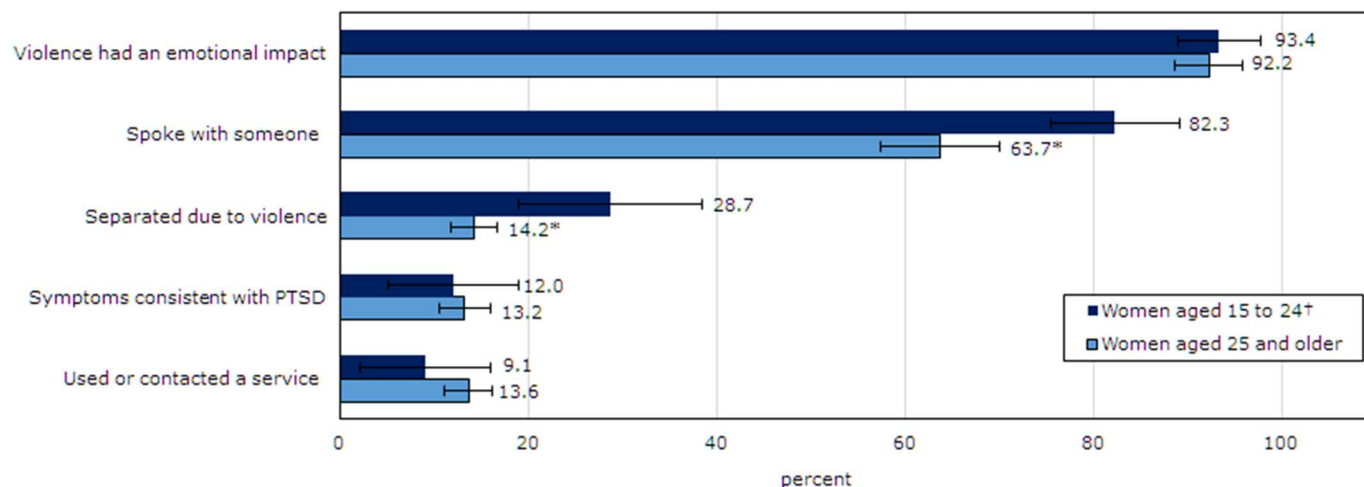
Approximately half (49%) of young women aged 15 to 24 who had experienced IPV at some point since age 15 said that they felt anxious or on edge because of an intimate partner, while four in ten (42%) said that they had felt controlled or trapped by the abusive partner. Almost one in three (29%) young women who had experienced IPV said that they had feared a partner at some point since age 15.

Overall, regardless of age, the vast majority of women who were victims of IPV said that the violence had some type of an emotional impact on them, with young women most often reporting that they felt upset, confused or frustrated (60%), hurt or

disappointed (57%), angry (48%) and annoyed (44%). Victims who experience physical and/or psychological trauma can develop post-traumatic stress disorder⁶ (PTSD) which is characterized by feelings of detachment, nightmares and avoidance behaviours.⁷ Research has suggested that victims of intimate partner violence are often diagnosed with PTSD (Dutton et al. 2006; Karakurt et al. 2014). According to the SSPPS, just over one in ten (12%) young women reported symptoms consistent with PTSD (Chart 2).

Chart 2
Impacts, consequences, and actions taken by victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2018

Impacts



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

† reference category

Note: Percent calculations are based on those who experienced some form of intimate partner violence (emotional, physical, or sexual violence committed by a current or former intimate partner).

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

Few young victims of IPV use or contact victim services

Research has consistently shown that most victims of abuse do not use or contact victim services (Conroy and Cotter 2017; Cotter and Savage 2019; Perreault 2020a), and this is also the case for the large majority of IPV victims. There are many factors that may influence a victim's decision to seek help, including the severity and frequency of abuse, injury, fear of reprisal, availability and accessibility of help, and economic circumstances (Cheng and Lo 2019; Hyman et al. 2006).

Consistent with previous findings, the vast majority (91%) of young women who had experienced some form of IPV in the past 12 months had not used or contacted a formal service (Chart 2). The most common reason given by young victims was that they did not want or need help (65%). The proportion of women aged 25 years and older who had not used or contacted a formal service was not statistically different to that of young women (86%). Speaking with someone—such as a friend, a family member or a co-worker—about the victimization was much more common, with eight in ten (82%) young women and almost two-thirds (66%) of women aged 25 years and older reporting that they had spoken with someone (Chart 2).

Young women more likely than women aged 25 years and older to separate from their partner as a result of the violence

According to the SSPPS, young women were twice as likely as women aged 25 years and older to say that they had separated from the perpetrator because of the violence (29% and 14%, respectively). The decision to leave an abusive partner is complex, and can be impacted by individual, familial and sociocultural factors. A victim of intimate partner violence may choose to stay in an abusive relationship for a variety of reasons, including a fear of retaliation, a lack of social support, financial dependency, the fear of not being believed, and concern for their children (World Health Organization 2012). Those who are younger may have fewer ties to an abusive partner as they are less likely to be tied to a partner through having children together or owning property together (Eckstein 2011), or may be less likely to have been isolated from friends and family. In the SSPPS, 3% of young women aged 15 to 24 reported having one or more children living in their household at the time of the survey, compared to 44% of women aged 25 years and older.

Text box 2 Lifetime experiences of violent victimization

In addition to questions on the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) in the past 12 months, the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) also asked about lifetime (since age 15⁸) experiences of IPV. It is important to note that women aged 25 years and older have had more time to accumulate these experiences, therefore direct comparisons between young women and their older counterparts are not recommended when talking about lifetime experiences of IPV. This text box will explore young women’s experiences of both IPV and non-IPV since age 15.

More than half of young women have experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime

According to the SSPPS, more than half (56%) of young women aged 15 to 24 who had ever been in an intimate partner relationship reported experiencing some form of IPV at least once since age 15 (Table 1). This proportion was much higher than that observed among ever-partnered women aged 25 years and older (43%).

More than one in ten (13%) young women reported being sexually assaulted at least once by an intimate partner since age 15 (Table 1). Specifically, 11% of young women said that they had been made to perform sex acts that they did not want to perform, and 10% said that their partner had forced or tried to force them to have sex (Table 1).

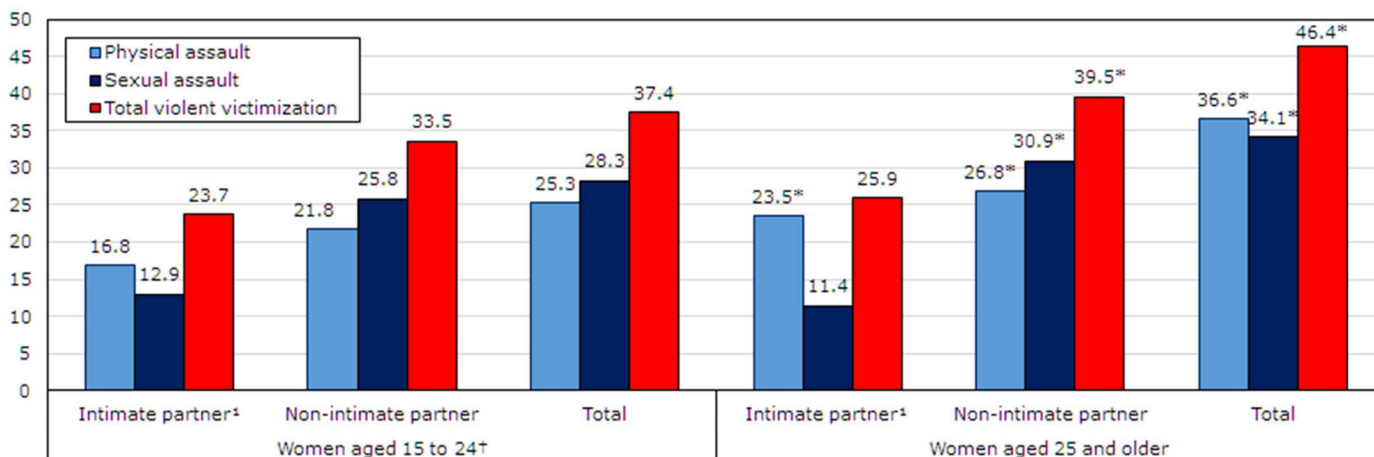
Almost two in ten (17%) young women reported that they had been physically assaulted at least once by an intimate partner since age 15. Of the physically abusive behaviours asked by the SSPPS, young women most commonly reported that they had been shaken, pushed, grabbed or thrown (12%), slapped (8%), and hit, kicked or bit (8%) by an intimate partner (Table 1).

Almost four in ten young women have been physically or sexually assaulted by a non-intimate partner in their lifetime

Young women were significantly less likely than women aged 25 years and older to report experiencing physical or sexual assault by a non-intimate partner since age 15 (Table 4). Young women were also less likely to report experiencing physical assault by an intimate partner (17%, compared to 24% of women aged 25 years and older). Young women and women aged 25 years and older reported experiencing similar levels of IPV sexual assault (Table 4; Chart 3).

**Chart 3
Physical and sexual assault since age 15, by age group and relationship to perpetrator, women, Canada, 2018**

percent



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

† reference category

‡ 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.

Almost two in ten young women have been physically or sexually assaulted in the past year

In the 12 months preceding the survey, young women were far more likely than their counterparts to experience both IPV and non-IPV physical and sexual assault (Table 5). Young women were six times more likely than women aged 25 years and older to report experiencing non-IPV sexual assault (12% and 2%, respectively) and five times more likely to experience IPV sexual assault (5% versus 1%) in the past year (Table 5).

No provincial or regional differences in the experiences of IPV between young women and women aged 25 years and older

Overall, there were no statistically significant differences across the provinces and regions between young women and women aged 25 years and older with regard to lifetime experiences of IPV. However, in Ontario, Manitoba, and the Territories, young women were considerably less likely to have been victimized by a non-intimate partner than women 25 years and older (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. 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. According to the 2016 Census of Population, 7% of the visible minority population could not speak either English or French, compared to 0.5% of the non-visible minority population. 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. This analysis compares women aged 15 to 24 years with women aged 25 years and older. Separate analysis was conducted on women aged 25 to 34 to determine whether the differences were statistically significant to the younger age group. They were and, as such, the 25-to-34 age group is grouped with those aged 35 years and older. For more information on experiences of IPV by age group, see Cotter (2021a).
3. For other SSPPS data on violence committed outside the context of intimate partner relationships, see Cotter and Savage (2019), Perreault (2020a); Perreault 2020b), and Jaffray (2020).
4. The term “ever-partnered” refers to those who indicated they had been in an intimate partner relationship at some point since age 15. This term is sometimes used interchangeably with “those who had been in an intimate partner relationship”.
5. Harsh parenting includes spanking or slapping, saying things that hurt the child’s feelings, the child feeling unwanted or unloved, and not meeting the child’s basic needs.
6. Based on responses to the Primary Care PTSD Screen (PC-PTSD) tool, a front-line assessment tool used to identify individuals who should be referred to further psychological and psychiatric treatment for the disorder. The tool is designed to assess whether an individual demonstrates key effects related to the core PTSD symptoms of re-experiencing, numbing, avoidance and hyperarousal. If an individual answers ‘yes’ to any three of the four questions, the presence of PTSD is suspected. It is crucial to note that the PC-PTSD is not a diagnostic tool, and a suspicion of PTSD is not the same as a diagnosis. In a clinical setting, a positive score on the PC-PTSD would indicate that the patient should be referred for more in-depth assessment and possible diagnosis.
7. It is important to note that the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may themselves be considered a disability. Since there is no way to know whether a disability was present when the victimization occurred, it is possible that a victim was abused and then developed PTSD.
8. Throughout this report, the terms “lifetime” and “since age 15” are used interchangeably.

Detailed data tables

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

Type of intimate partner violence	Women aged 15 to 24†						Women age 25 and older					
	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	43.6	38.1	49.3	28.6	23.0	35.1	28.2*	27.2	29.1	3.4*	3.0	3.9
Harmed, or threatened to harm your pets	2.6	1.6	4.1	1.3	0.6	3.1	4.5*	4.1	5.0	0.4	0.3	0.6
Demanded to know who you were with and where you were at all times	24.0	19.5	29.1	15.7	11.5	21.2	18.7*	18.0	19.5	2.2*	1.9	2.6
Put you down or called you names to make you feel bad	29.2	24.7	34.1	20.5	15.9	26.0	31.4	30.4	32.4	7.4*	6.7	8.0
Forced you to give them money or possessions	3.3	2.3	4.9	1.3	0.6	2.5	6.6*	6.1	7.2	0.5	0.4	0.8
Told you you were crazy, stupid, or not good enough ³	27.7	23.3	32.5	17.1	13.0	22.0	26.9	26.0	27.8	6.1*	5.5	6.7
Tried to convince your family, children, or friends that you are crazy or tried to turn them against you ³	8.9	6.3	12.6	6.1	3.3	11.1	9.9	9.3	10.6	1.5*	1.2	1.9
Followed you or hung around outside your home or work ³	8.5	6.2	11.7	4.4	2.3	8.2	12.4*	11.7	13.1	0.6*	0.4	0.8
Kept you from seeing or talking to your family or friends ³	10.2	7.7	13.4	3.9	2.3	6.4	10.6	10.0	11.2	0.9*	0.7	1.2
Harassed you by phone, text, email, or using social media ³	17.7	13.8	22.4	10.6	7.0	15.7	13.2*	12.5	13.9	2.0*	1.7	2.4
Kept you from having access to a job, money, or financial resources ³	1.9	1.1	3.3	F	F	F	5.4*	5.0	5.9	0.5	0.3	0.6
Confined or locked you in a room or other space ³	3.6	2.0	6.3	F	F	F	3.4	3.0	3.9	0.1	0.1	0.2
Damaged or destroyed your possessions or property	6.1	4.4	8.3	2.4	1.3	4.1	12.6*	11.9	13.3	1.1	0.9	1.4
Made comments about your sexual past or your sexual performance that made you feel ashamed, inadequate, or humiliated	20.9	16.6	25.9	14.3	10.0	20.1	13.9*	13.2	14.6	2.1*	1.8	2.5
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	7.5	3.9	14.0	F	F	F	6.1	4.3	8.8	F	F	F
Blamed you for causing their abusive or violent behaviour ^{3, 5}	45.8	37.6	54.2	26.5	18.5	36.4	46.9	45.1	48.6	7.4*	6.4	8.4
Total	53.6	47.8	59.4	27.8	22.8	33.3	41.7*	40.7	42.7	10.2*	9.6	11.0
Physical abuse												
Shook, pushed, grabbed, or threw you ³	11.6	8.8	15.0	5.8	3.3	9.8	17.7*	16.9	18.5	1.2*	1.0	1.4
Hit you with a fist or object, kicked or bit you ³	7.6	5.3	10.8	4.0	2.0	7.9	11.6*	11.0	12.3	0.5*	0.3	0.6
Threatened to harm or kill you or someone close to you ³	4.4	2.7	7.1	F	F	F	7.5*	6.9	8.0	0.4	0.3	0.5
Choked you ³	5.9	4.1	8.4	2.5	1.3	4.9	6.6	6.0	7.1	0.3*	0.2	0.5
Used or threatened to use a knife or gun or other weapon to harm you ³	1.6	0.9	2.8	F	F	F	4.2*	3.8	4.6	0.1	0.1	0.2
Threatened to hit you with their fist or anything that could hurt you	7.4	5.2	10.5	3.7	1.8	7.6	12.2*	11.6	12.9	0.8*	0.6	1.0
Thrown anything at you that could have hurt you	7.2	5.3	9.8	2.3	1.2	4.3	11.1*	10.5	11.8	0.7*	0.5	1.0
Slapped you	8.2	5.6	11.9	3.7	1.8	7.6	11.7*	11.1	12.4	0.5*	0.4	0.8
Beaten you	2.3	1.4	3.6	F	F	F	6.4*	5.9	6.9	0.2	0.1	0.4
Total	16.8	13.3	20.9	6.2	4.0	9.4	23.5*	22.6	24.4	2.0*	1.7	2.4

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 age group, Canada, 2018

Type of intimate partner violence	Women aged 15 to 24†						Women age 25 and older					
	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	10.6	7.8	14.2	4.1	2.5	6.7	8.3	7.7	8.9	0.5*	0.4	0.7
Forced or tried to force you to have sex ³	9.9	7.4	13.1	5.4	3.1	9.1	9.8	9.2	10.4	0.6*	0.4	0.8
Total	12.9	9.9	16.7	5.1	3.1	8.1	11.4	10.7	12.1	0.7*	0.6	1.0
Total	55.8	49.8	61.5	29.1	24.0	34.8	43.1*	42.0	44.1	10.3*	9.6	11.1

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 among women, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2018

Intimate partner violence ¹	Women aged 15 to 24 [†]			Women aged 25 and older		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
Since age 15						
Emotional, financial, or psychological	54	48	59	42*	41	43
Physical	17	13	21	24*	23	24
Sexual	13	10	17	11	11	12
Total, physical or sexual	24	19	29	26	25	27
Total, any type	56	50	62	43*	42	44
Past 12 months						
Emotional, financial, or psychological	28	23	33	10*	10	11
Physical	6	4	9	2*	2	2
Sexual	5	3	8	1*	1	1
Total, physical or sexual	10	7	14	2*	2	3
Total, any type	29	24	35	10*	10	11

* 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 among women, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by selected characteristics of victim and age group, Canada, 2018

Selected characteristic	Intimate partner violence since age 15						Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months					
	Women aged 15 to 24†			Women aged 25 and older			Women aged 15 to 24†			Women aged 25 and older		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to
First Nations, Métis, or Inuit identity²												
Indigenous person	60	44	75	61*	56	66	32	17	52	14	11	19
Non-Indigenous person†	56	49	62	42**	41	44	29	24	35	10**	9	11
LGBTQ2 person³												
Yes†	61	47	74	68	61	75	26	17	38	17	12	23
No	55	49	62	43***	42	44	30	24	36	10***	10	11
Ethnocultural group⁴												
Designated as visible minority	43*	30	57	28***	25	31	25	16	36	7***	6	9
Not designated as visible minority ^{5, †}	59	53	65	46**	45	47	30	24	36	11**	10	12
Immigrant status												
Immigrant†	44	29	60	29	27	32	26	15	42	8**	7	10
Non-immigrant	59	53	64	47***	46	49	30	24	36	11***	10	12
Disability												
Person with disability†	65	57	73	54**	52	56	33	26	42	14**	13	15
Person without disability	47*	39	55	36***	35	37	25	19	33	8***	7	9
Physical or sexual abuse before age 15												
Never†	50	44	57	34**	33	35	26	21	33	8**	7	9
At least once	72*	60	82	66*	64	68	37	27	48	16***	15	18
Harsh parenting												
Never†	43	34	53	24**	22	25	26	18	36	6**	5	7
At least once	62*	54	69	53***	52	55	31	25	38	13***	12	14
Employed in past 12 months												
Yes†	57	50	63	48**	47	49	30	25	37	12**	11	13
No	50	33	66	34*	33	36	23	13	38	7***	6	8
Highest degree earned												
Less than high school†	50	36	65	32**	29	35	38	25	53	6**	4	8
High school	62	54	70	40***	38	42	34	26	43	9***	7	10
College or trade school	48	35	62	48*	46	50	23	14	34	11***	9	12
University	54	42	66	44*	42	46	17*	11	27	12*	11	13
Household income group⁶												
Less than \$20,000†	60	44	74	56	51	61	22	14	32	12**	8	16
\$20,000 to \$59,999	61	50	72	42***	40	44	30	20	42	11**	9	13
\$60,000 to \$99,999	54	42	66	42*	40	45	29	19	42	9**	8	11
\$100,000 to \$149,999	51	37	64	43*	40	45	31	20	46	11**	9	12
\$150,000 or more	53	40	65	43*	40	45	31	21	43	10**	9	12
Location of residence												
Rural†	60	46	72	44**	41	46	32	19	49	11**	9	12
Urban	56	49	63	43**	42	44	31	25	38	10**	10	11

See notes at the end of the table.

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

Selected characteristic	Intimate partner violence since age 15						Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months					
	Women aged 15 to 24†			Women aged 25 and older			Women aged 15 to 24†			Women aged 25 and older		
	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†	36	25	50	38	37	39	16	9	25	10	9	10
Separated or divorced	F	F	F	67*	64	69	F	F	F	19*	16	23
Widowed	F	F	F	26*	24	29	F	F	F	7	3	14
Single, never married	61*	55	67	63*	59	66	33*	27	40	11**	9	13

F too unreliable to be published

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

** significantly different from estimate for women aged 15 to 24 only (p < 0.05)

*** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05) and estimate for women aged 15 to 24 (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. Further disaggregation within this category is not possible due to sample size.

3. Includes those whose sexual orientation was lesbian, gay, bisexual, or another sexual orientation that was not heterosexual. Also includes respondents whose sex at birth did not align with their gender (i.e. they are transgender).

4. Further disaggregation within this category is not possible due to sample size.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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 age group, Canada, 2018

Type of victimization by perpetrator since age of 15	Women aged 15 to 24 [†]			Women aged 25 and older		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
Intimate partner violence since age 15¹						
Physical assault	16.8	13.3	20.9	23.5*	22.6	24.4
Sexual assault	12.9	9.9	16.7	11.4	10.7	12.1
Total	23.7	19.3	28.7	25.9	25.0	26.8
Non-intimate partner violence since age 15						
Physical assault	21.8	18.6	25.3	26.8*	25.9	27.8
Sexual assault	25.8	22.4	29.5	30.9*	30.0	31.9
Total	33.5	29.8	37.5	39.5*	38.6	40.5
Total intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence since age 15						
Physical assault	25.3	21.9	28.9	36.6*	35.6	37.6
Sexual assault	28.3	24.7	32.1	34.1*	33.2	35.1
Total	37.4	33.5	41.5	46.4*	45.4	47.4

* 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 age group, Canada, 2018

Type of victimization by perpetrator in past 12 months	Women aged 15 to 24 [†]			Women aged 25 and older		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months¹						
Physical assault	6	4	9	2*	2	2
Sexual assault	5	3	8	1*	1	1
Total	10	7	14	2*	2	3
Non-intimate partner violence in the past 12 months						
Physical assault	6	4	9	1*	1	2
Sexual assault	12	9	15	2*	1	2
Total	15	12	19	3*	2	3
Total intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence in the past 12 months						
Physical assault	8	6	10	3*	3	3
Sexual assault	13	11	16	2*	2	2
Total	18	15	21	4*	4	5

* 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. 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 age group, by region, 2018

Province or region	Physical and sexual assault committed by intimate partners ¹						Physical and sexual assault committed by non-intimate partners						Total intimate and non-intimate partner physical and sexual assault					
	Women aged 15 to 24 [†]			Women aged 25 and older			Women aged 15 to 24 [†]			Women aged 25 and older			Women aged 15 to 24 [†]			Women aged 25 and older		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	% ¹	from	to	% ¹	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
Atlantic provinces	26	18	35	28	26	30	39	31	47	38	37	40	39	32	48	46	44	48
Quebec	22	14	32	22	20	23	29	22	38	32	30	34	34	26	42	39	38	41
Ontario	21	13	33	25	23	27	31	24	39	40*	38	42	36	28	45	47*	45	49
Manitoba	25	15	38	29	26	32	30	21	40	44*	41	47	34	25	44	50*	47	53
Saskatchewan	36	26	47	29	27	31	37	29	46	39	36	41	43	34	51	47	44	49
Alberta	24	15	35	31	28	33	40	31	49	45	42	47	43	34	52	52	49	54
British Columbia	29	19	40	30	28	32	40	33	49	45	43	47	41	33	49	52*	49	54
Territories	48	38	59	42	39	46	42	32	52	55*	50	59	47	37	56	65*	61	69
Canada	24	19	29	26	25	27	34	30	37	40*	39	41	37	33	42	46*	45	47

* 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: Province or region refers to the respondent's province or region 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.