

## **Canadian residential facilities for victims of abuse, 2020/2021**

by Dyna Ibrahim

Release date: April 12, 2022



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## Canadian residential facilities for victims of abuse, 2020/2021: Highlights

- In 2020/2021, there were 557 residential facilities across Canada that were primarily mandated to serve victims of abuse: 78% were short-term facilities with a general mandate of providing accommodations for less than three months, and 22% were long-term facilities which typically can provide accommodations for three months or more.
- The unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was recounted across many facilities: about one in three (34%) facilities reported being impacted to a great extent by the pandemic, overall, while more than four in ten (44%) facilities were impacted to a moderate extent. The level of impact varied throughout the pandemic, with the period of initial lockdowns enforced at the beginning of the pandemic being the most challenging time.
- Accommodation capacity was the greatest pandemic-related challenge faced by shelters. Just under half (47%) of facilities reported that their accommodation capacity was impacted to a great extent. This was of particular concern for shelters in Ontario (61%) and Quebec (60%).
- Close to half (49%) of residential facilities for victims of abuse reported increases in the number of crisis calls received since the start of the pandemic, while more than half (53%) saw an increase in demand for support or services for victims outside their facilities. Compared to before the pandemic, demand for admissions more often declined or remained about the same.
- In total, residential facilities for victims of abuse admitted just under 47,000 people in 2020/2021, much lower (-31%) than reported in 2017/2018, when data was last collected.
- On the snapshot date of April 14, 2021, there were 5,466 people living in residential facilities for victims of abuse: more than half (54%) were adult women, and just over four in ten (44%) were children accompanying adults in the facilities.
- A large majority (84%) of the 2,749 women residing in the facilities for reasons of abuse on the snapshot day were escaping intimate partner violence; most often, the abuser was a current common-law partner (38%) or spouse (25%). Seven in ten (70%) women residents were living with their abuser prior to seeking shelter.
- Relative to their representation in the Canadian population, First Nations, Métis and Inuit women, non-permanent resident women, and women who could not speak English or French were overrepresented in residential facilities for victims of abuse on the snapshot day.
- Just over half (53%) of the beds in short-term facilities were occupied on the snapshot day, and about one in seven (15%) short-term facilities were full. Nevertheless, a total of 487 people were turned away from facilities that day, most commonly because the facility was considered at capacity—the reason associated with 71% of women being turned away.
- Among women who left residential facilities for victims of abuse on the snapshot day and where destination information was provided, three in ten (30%) returned to a home where the abuser was. Smaller but equal proportions of women returned home where the abuser did not reside, or left to live with friends or relatives (12% each).
- The large majority (81%) of facilities reported that a lack of affordable and appropriate long-term housing was one of the top issues facing their residents.

# Canadian residential facilities for victims of abuse, 2020/2021

by Dyna Ibrahim

Supports availed to people at risk or victims of crime can help them escape their violent situations and help survivors to cope with the aftermath of their experiences. These supports come in many forms and from multiple sources including informal ones such as friends, family and colleagues, or from formal sources including victim services, mental health supports and sexual assault centres. For people experiencing intimate partner violence, the risk of homelessness and financial instability are of great concern when deciding to leave an abusive situation. In fact, intimate partner violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women (Maki 2021; Meyer 2016; Sullivan et al. 2019; Yakubovich and Maki 2021). Residential facilities for victims of abuse are a form of support that can help mitigate the risk of homelessness by providing victims of intimate partner violence a place to turn.

Research to date has noted that crises can exacerbate the factors known to increase the risk of violence and victimization and further negatively impact the health and well-being of victims (Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children 2021; Kaukinen 2020). Public health measures put in place throughout 2020 and 2021 to combat the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in Canadians spending more time at home. As a result of these measures, there were concerns that victims of domestic violence were now in situations where they were isolated at home with their abusers, and the financial impediments of the pandemic coupled with the mental health impacts of quarantine could lead to more violence in the home (Brooks et al. 2020; Evans et al. 2020; Humphreys et al. 2020; Ragavan et al. 2020). For example, the United Nations Population Fund (2020) had estimated that for every three months of lockdown extensions, there would be at least 15 million more domestic violence cases globally. According to research from early stages of the pandemic, one in ten (10%) Canadian women were very or extremely concerned about the possibility of violence in the home (Statistics Canada 2020). Further, earlier reports found that the pandemic created additional barriers for victims of domestic violence. Specifically, there was a reluctance for victims to seek help due to fears of contracting the virus while doing so, confusion over the impact of business closures and distancing protocols on shelter accessibility, other challenges related to COVID-19 protocols, and a preoccupation with other stressors such as job losses and school closures (Moffitt et al. 2020; Trudell and Whitmore 2020; Women's Shelters Canada 2020).

Based on data from the second iteration of the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA), this article examines the availability and accessibility of residential supports for victims of abuse across Canada during 2020/2021. The SRFVA collects information on facility characteristics, the clients they serve, and the types of services available. This information is presented, along with funding information, expenses and the challenges faced by the facilities and their residents in 2020/2021.

Crime data collected from police records can provide a wealth of information on incidents that are reported to police. However, according to the General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), only a fraction of victims report their victimization experiences to the police (Cotter 2021a). Information from the SRFVA can provide further insight on victimization that may not have been reported to police. Further, information collected through the SRFVA can provide advocates, service providers and funding partners with information regarding the specific needs of victims seeking shelter and how they can best be supported.

In order to ensure that data from Statistics Canada are relevant and timely, a new section containing several COVID-related questions were added to the SRFVA in an effort to measure the impact that the pandemic and corresponding lockdown restrictions were having on shelters across the country. Analysis based on these questions is also presented to enhance knowledge on how victims may be further impacted—directly and indirectly—by the pandemic, and to help inform decisions currently being made by policy makers, which can have a profound impact on the resources available to, and experiences of victims.

The 2020/2021 cycle of the SRFVA was conducted with funding support from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

## Text box 1

### Defining residential facilities for victims of abuse

The term “residential facility” refers to any building, location or service that provides housing to individuals, regardless of the length of stay (days, months or years). The primary mandate of such a facility refers to the main activity or service provided. For example, many facilities will offer services or support to individuals who may have experienced abuse, however, they may not explicitly include this in their mandate. The Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA) focuses on facilities whose primary mandate is to provide residential services to victims of abuse, as opposed to facilities primarily mandated to provide housing services to persons who may or may not have experienced abuse (e.g., homeless shelters). For facilities that primarily support victims of abuse, they may support other people in addition to their primary mandate.

For the SRFVA, respondents were asked to report the type of facility they operated based on the expected length of stay provided in their mandate, regardless of practice. They were grouped into two categories:

**Short-term residential facilities** include those with a general policy of providing accommodation for less than three months, and they typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units. Short-term facilities include, for example, those considered to be transition homes, domestic violence shelters or private homes that are part of safe home networks.

**Long-term residential facilities** include those with a general policy of providing accommodation for three months or more, and they typically provide residential units (e.g., apartments or houses) to residents. Long-term facilities include, for example, second- and third-stage housing, which are typically more permanent supportive types of housing that follow short-term housing.

The usual operations of short-term and long-term facilities are such that short-term facilities act as front-line centres for initial intakes and may refer residents to long-term facilities. As such, short-term facilities often provide different services given the nature of their operations. For example, of those facilities reporting the general services provided by staff or volunteers at the facility, 97% of short-term facilities provide a crisis telephone line, compared to 42% of long-term facilities.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, 84% of short-term facilities offer transportation services for medical appointments and court dates, compared to 55% of long-term facilities.

In this article, the terms “residential facilities for victims of abuse” and “shelters” are used interchangeably.

## Impact of COVID-19 on residential facilities for victims of abuse

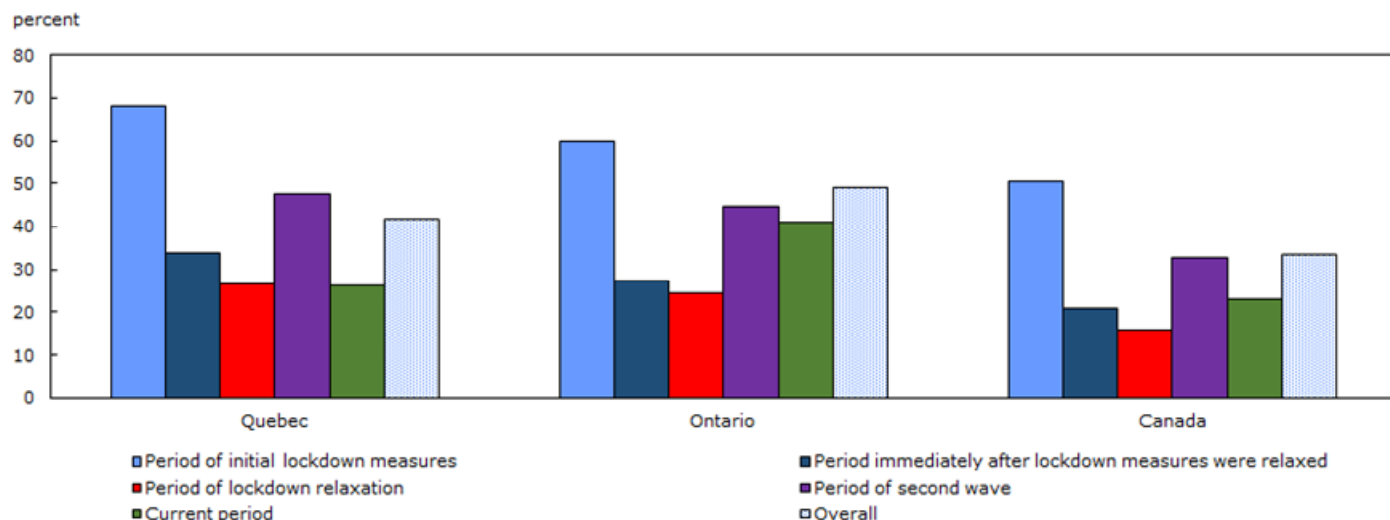
According to the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA), on the survey’s snapshot date of April 14, 2021, there were 557 facilities operating in Canada whose primary mandate was to serve victims of abuse.<sup>2</sup> About one in three (34%) facilities serving victims of abuse reported that, overall, the pandemic had impacted their ability to serve victims to a great extent, while more than four in ten (44%) indicated the impact overall was moderate (Table 1).<sup>3</sup> However, similar to results published by Women’s Shelters Canada (2020), facilities were affected differently at various times throughout the pandemic, which is not surprising given government orders for lockdowns varied within and across provinces and territories.

### Ontario and Quebec facilities report more overall impact

When asked about the overall effect of the pandemic since the start, facilities in Ontario (49%) and Quebec (42%) were most likely to report that COVID-19 impacted them to a great extent (Table 1).<sup>4</sup> Facilities in Saskatchewan (8%), British Columbia (13%) and the Atlantic provinces (22%) were least likely to report a great extent of impact overall. Instead, facilities in these provinces more often indicated that the pandemic has had a moderate impact on them, overall.

Measures implemented across the country to combat the pandemic followed different timelines in terms of when they were effected and when they were eased. The periods in which lockdown restrictions were imposed were the most impactful for shelters across Canada, particularly during the first wave of the pandemic. The impact reported during the initial lockdown period in Quebec and Ontario drove the national average. More specifically, 68% of facilities in Quebec and 60% of those in Ontario reported that during this time, they were impacted by the pandemic to a great extent (Table 1, Chart 1). Manitoba also reported a great impact that was above the national level (59% compared with 50%).

**Chart 1**  
**Residential facilities for victims of abuse reporting a great extent of impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic, by pandemic period, Quebec, Ontario and Canada, 2020/2021**



**Note:** Calculations exclude between 27% and 32% of facilities that did not provide a response to the questions. The other response categories were "To a moderate extent", "To a minor extent", "Not at all" and "Not applicable".  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

Similar results were seen in the second wave, but to a lesser degree. In Ontario (45%) and Quebec (48%), just under half of facilities reported being impacted to a great extent during this period of the pandemic.

More than a year after the onset of the pandemic (during the survey collection period of April to August 2021), the proportion of facilities in Quebec reporting a great impact had dropped to 26% compared to 23% in Canada overall.<sup>5</sup> Instead, nearly half (45%) of Quebec facilities experienced minor impact or no impact at all. In contrast, 41% of facilities in Ontario reported that, at this point, the pandemic was continuing to have a great impact on their ability to continue serving victims of abuse. These differences may be reflective of the differences in measures put in place at this time in these provinces. For example, in Ontario, a province-wide stay-at-home order was declared in April 2021 that likely had an impact on facilities, while no such an order was enforced in Quebec during this period.

### Accommodation capacity greatest pandemic-related challenge

Residential facilities for victims of abuse reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had affected their ability to provide services due to a number of challenges. Nearly half (47%) of facilities reported that the pandemic had a great impact on their ability to operate at full capacity due to physical distancing measures (Table 2). Maximum occupancy was reduced for shelters across Canada in order to meet public health regulations to limit the spread of the virus, with some shelters having to reduce their capacity by up to 50% or more (Women’s Shelters Canada 2020).

Capacity was particularly an issue in Ontario and Quebec, where 61% and 60% of facilities, respectively, reported that they were impacted to a great extent as a result of the pandemic. More than half (54%) of facilities in the territories also reported their accommodation capacity was impacted greatly by the pandemic. Half (50%) of Saskatchewan’s facilities also reported they were greatly impacted by accommodation capacity issues.

Among pandemic-related challenges faced by facilities, difficulties providing professional services or programs was also common as about one in three (31%) Canadian facilities reported experiencing a great impact. For example, professional services or programs such as legal services, addictions or substance use services, and counselling were reported to have been impacted greatly by the pandemic. This issue was of the greatest concern for facilities in Saskatchewan, where 50% reported that they were impacted to a great extent.

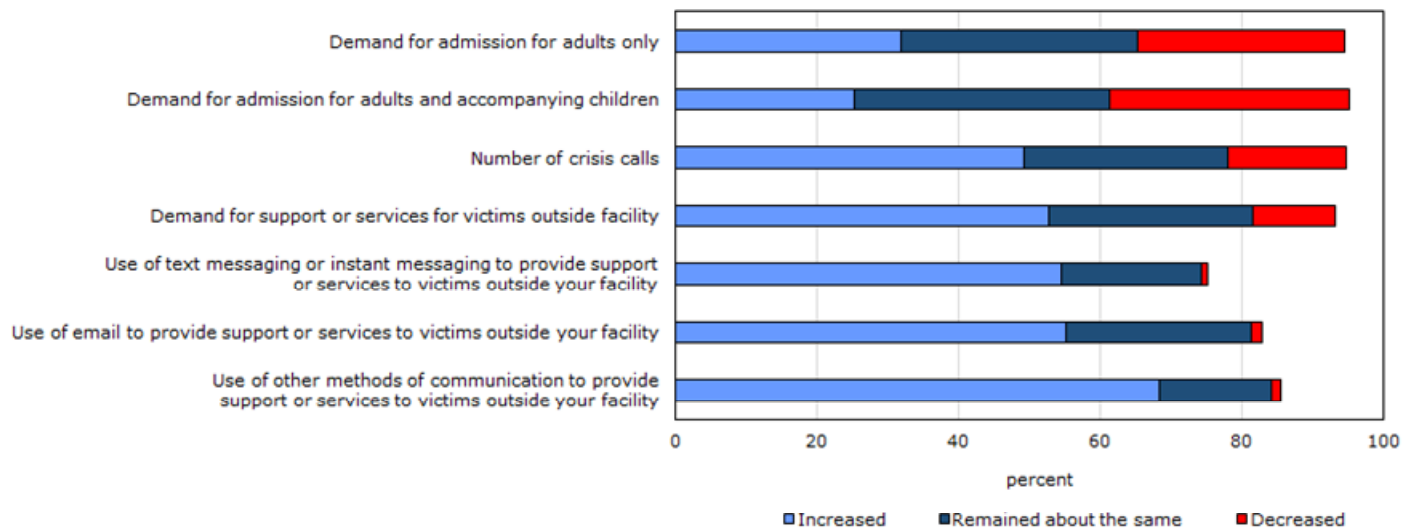
Some staffing-related issues were also reported by facilities. For example, about one in three reported that challenges related to hiring or training new staff (34%) and volunteer work (31%) were impacting them to a great extent, including experiences related to a shortage of volunteers and an inability to hire volunteers. Nearly one in five (19%) facilities reported that staff being restricted to work at one location only was impacting them to a great extent.

Other staffing issues such as reluctance or unavailability to work due to health concerns and mental health challenges (17%), self-isolation requirements (13%) and caregiving responsibilities (17%) were less commonly reported by facilities as causing a great extent of impact. About one in ten (9%) facilities were greatly impacted by staff shifting to working from home.

## Crisis calls and demand for external supports increase

While residential facilities for victims of abuse have a general mandate to provide residential services to individuals seeking shelter, these facilities also offer additional victim supports such as counselling services and crisis lines. During the pandemic, about half (49%) of facilities indicated an increase in the number of crisis calls received (Chart 2).<sup>6</sup> While the number of crisis calls remained about the same for some facilities, nearly one in six (17%) facilities reported a decrease.

**Chart 2**  
**Impact of COVID-19 on demand for services among residential facilities for victims of abuse, Canada, 2020/2021**



**Note:** Includes the response category "Not applicable". Calculations exclude between 27% and 28% of facilities that did not provide a response to the questions.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

In addition to the increase in crisis calls, demand for services outside the facilities also increased. For example, just over half (53%) of the facilities saw an increase in demand for support or services for victims outside the facility, including outreach services. Many facilities also expanded their services by supporting victims virtually outside the shelters through increasing the use of text or instant messaging (55%), email (55%) and other methods of communication such as video conferencing (68%).

According to the SRFVA, the increase in the number of crisis calls did not always translate to an increase in shelter admissions compared to pre-pandemic times. Less than one-third of facilities reported that demand for admissions for adults only (32%) and adults and accompanying children (25%) had increased. However, similar proportions indicated that demand for admissions remained unchanged. Some facilities reported decreases: 29% of facilities indicated that demand for admissions for adults only had decreased and 34% of facilities reported a decline in demand for admissions for families.

While these findings related to demand for admissions may be partly attributable to the accommodation capacity challenges cited by many facilities across Canada, they may also reflect the reality that some victims were unable to leave their homes to seek out support because their abusers were spending more time at home.

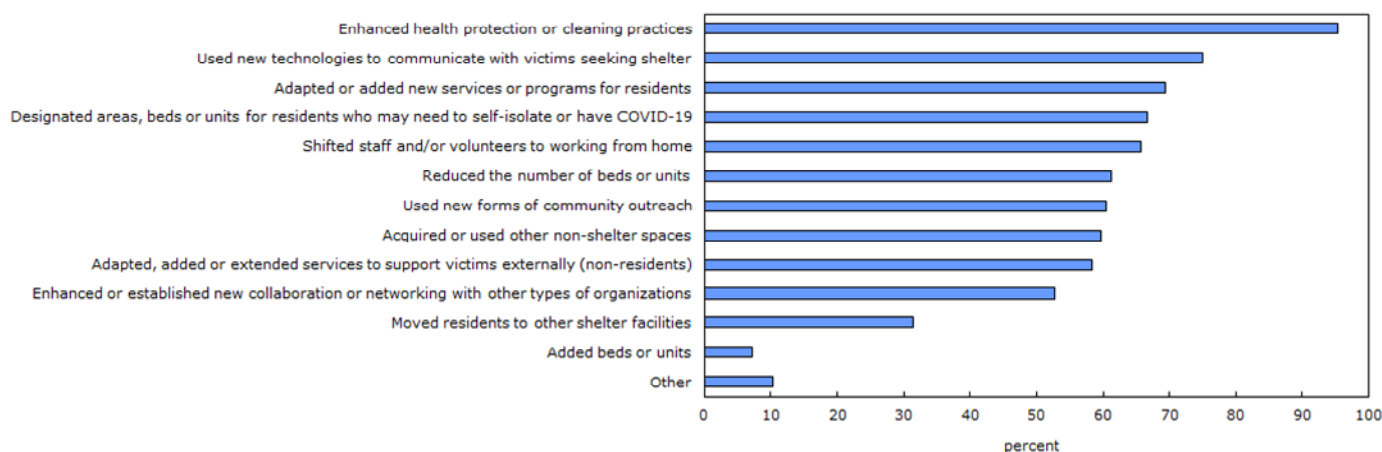
## Facilities employ multiple measures to mitigate impact of the pandemic

In the face of the challenges and impact of restrictions imposed by the pandemic, residential facilities for victims of abuse implemented a variety of measures to allow them to continue serving victims while helping to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. These measures included implementing better health protection practices, changing methods of daily operations and the way staff work, making physical changes in the facility and relying more on technology.

Enhanced health protection or cleaning practices was the most common measure put in place, reported by almost all (95%) facilities (Chart 3). Other commonly reported changes made to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on shelters included:

using new technologies to communicate with victims (75%), adapting or adding new services or programs for residents (69%), designating self-isolation areas, beds or units (67%) and shifting staff or volunteers to working virtually (66%). Overall, six in ten (61%) facilities indicated that they had reduced the number of beds or units in their facilities.

**Chart 3**  
**Measures implemented by residential facilities for victims of abuse to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada, 2020/2021**



**Note:** The sum of the response categories can exceed 100% as respondents could mark all measures that apply. Calculations exclude 28% of facilities that did not provide a response to the questions.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

## Characteristics of facilities and residents

### Majority of facilities serve women and their children only, few serve men, one in five serve adults of another gender

Residential facilities for victims of abuse typically have a general mandate or policy that governs their operations. Two-thirds (68%) of facilities reported that they were mandated to serve women and their children only and an additional 11% indicated they were mandated to serve women only.<sup>7 8</sup>

No facilities reported being mandated to exclusively serve people of another gender. Nevertheless, 20% of facilities indicated that adults of another gender (e.g., not female or male) were among the population groups they were mandated to serve.<sup>9</sup> In total, 24 facilities (or 4%) reported being mandated to serve men.<sup>10</sup> Virtually all of these facilities were mandated to serve women as well.

Regardless of their mandate to serve specific population groups, about one in five (19%) facilities reported opening their doors to people other than those specified in their policies. For example, 8% of facilities reported admitting accompanying children to their facilities though their mandate only stipulates providing services to adults,<sup>11</sup> and 5% of facilities admitted adults and accompanying children of another gender despite their mandates not specifying they serve such individuals.<sup>12</sup>

In addition to the population groups that a facility may be mandated to serve, there are also specific types of victims who have experienced a particular kind of violence or abuse that a facility may be primarily mandated to serve. The vast majority (91%) of facilities in Canada were mandated to serve victims of various types of abuse. Spousal abuse was the most commonly reported type of abuse that facilities were mandated to serve, named by virtually all (99%) facilities responding to the SRFVA, followed by other intimate relationship abuse (88%) and other family abuse (77%). Many facilities also reported having a mandate to serve victims of senior abuse (64%) and abuse by an acquaintance or friend (56%). One in ten (10%) reported that other types of abuse are included in their mandates, beyond those indicated above or in the survey.

Less than one in ten (9%) facilities were mandated to serve victims of family violence only.<sup>13</sup> One in five (20%) facilities were for intimate partner violence victims only.

The large majority (78%) of residential facilities for victims of abuse were short-term facilities, and the remaining 22% were long-term. While the types of services offered by residential facilities for victims of abuse differed between short- and long-term facilities (Table 3), there were no major differences between the mandates of the two in terms of the population groups served and types of abuse included.



## Total number of people admitted to residential facilities decreases in 2021/2022 while number of males admitted increases

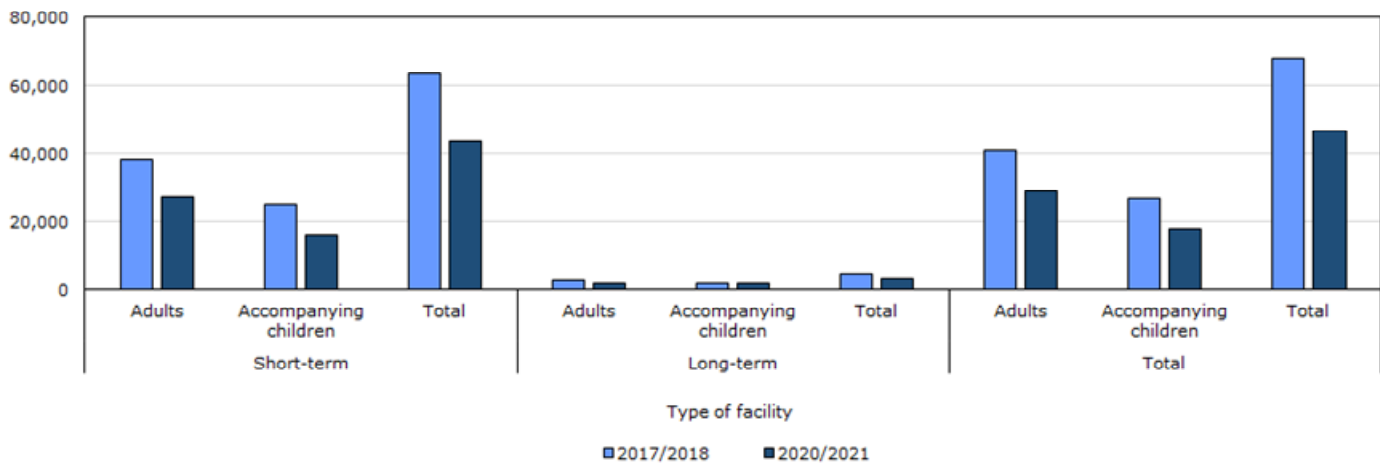
In 2020/2021, residential facilities for victims of abuse admitted a total of 46,827 clients (Table 4). This number included 28,592 adult females, 223 adult males and 195 adults of another gender. Accompanying the adults who were admitted were 9,367 female children, 8,411 male children and 39 children of another gender.

The number of admissions reported in 2020/2021 was 31% lower compared to 2017/2018, when the SRFVA was last conducted (Chart 4).

**Chart 4**

### Admissions to residential facilities for victims of abuse, by type of facility, 2017/2018 and 2020/2021, Canada

number of admissions



**Note:** An admission refers to the official acceptance of a resident into the facility with the allocation of a bed, child's bed, crib, bedroom or bedroom unit, or apartment. The total number of admissions is based on all admissions for a 12-month reference period and includes those who may have been admitted more than once. Each shelter visit is counted as a separate admission. For example, the same person being admitted to a facility three times in a year would count as three admissions. Accompanying children includes adult children (typically aged 18 or older) accompanying a parent or caregiver, such as adult children with disabilities and those who are caretakers of a parent experiencing abuse. Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than 3 months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

Although both the total number of adults and accompanying children had declined since the last cycle of the SRFVA, the decline in number of adult admissions was driven by the number of women admitted in 2020/2021 (-30%).<sup>14</sup> In contrast, the number of men admitted had increased: there were 223 adult males admitted in 2020/2021 compared to 86 in 2017/2018. This difference is likely partly attributable to a slight increase in the number of facilities that serve men. Specifically, in 2020/2021, 24 facilities indicated that they were mandated to serve men, compared to 15 in the last survey cycle. In addition, 10 facilities reported that they had admitted men in the previous year even though their mandates did not include serving male victims of abuse, compared to 7 facilities stating the same in 2017/2018.

With the exception of Nunavut and the Yukon, where facilities reported an increase in the number of admissions compared to the last survey cycle (+38% and +11%, respectively), all other provinces and the Northwest Territories reported decreases in admissions. Facilities in the Northwest Territories saw the largest drop in admissions, reporting less than half of the number of admissions than in the previous cycle (333 versus 740 people). Among the provinces, Alberta (-41%) reported the largest decline in the number of admissions, followed by British Columbia (-38%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-37%). Ontario and Quebec, which had the highest number of facilities and admissions, also reported 29% and 23% fewer admissions, respectively. Across all jurisdictions, changes in the overall number of admissions reported in 2020/2021 compared with 2017/2018 were in large part driven by changes in the number of admissions for women.

The vast majority (93%) of people admitted into a residential facility for victims of abuse in 2020/2021 were admitted into a short-term housing facility. Declines in the number of admissions since the last cycle of the SRFVA were reported among both short-term (-32%) and long-term facilities (-27%).

## Most short-term facilities operating below capacity on the snapshot day

In total, there were 6,775 funded beds across all short-term facilities in Canada, and 1,273 long-term units (Table 5).<sup>15</sup> On the snapshot date, just over half (53%) of the funded beds in short-term residential facilities for victims of abuse were occupied. Additionally, approximately one in seven (15%) short-term facilities across Canada were considered full (Text box 2).

Overall, occupancy on the snapshot day was considerably lower in 2020/2021 than reported in 2017/2018 when short-term facilities had a 78% occupancy rate, and the proportion of facilities that were considered full was double the current proportion (36%; Moreau 2019). These noteworthy differences further shed light on how the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact shelters. As previously stated, many facilities indicated that their accommodation capacity was impacted by the pandemic. In an effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, shelters implemented various measures throughout 2020 and 2021 which reduced the maximum capacity of facilities. For example, physical distancing measures put in place resulted in shelters having to reduce the number of people they could accommodate at a given time—61% of facilities indicated that they reduced their number of beds or units as a measure to curb the spread of the virus in their facility. According to a report from Women's Shelters Canada (2020), some shelters had to reduce their capacity by up to 50% or more. Therefore, while the occupancy rates may be lower than usual capacity, the maximum occupancy may have differed throughout various points of the pandemic, likely varying by region.

### Text box 2 Occupancy rate and capacity

An occupancy rate for residential facilities provides an indicator of the total space being used at a given point in time.

- The short-term occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the total number of residents on the snapshot date by the total number of funded beds, multiplied by 100.
- The long-term occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the total number of funded units that were occupied on the snapshot date by the total number of funded units, multiplied by 100.

Typically, in the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA), short-term facilities would be identified as being full if their occupancy rate was 90% or more. An occupancy rate of 90% was selected to account for some misinterpretation of the question regarding number of funded beds, as well as for the fact that some facilities may operate with fewer resources than required to fill every available bed.

Due to measures put in place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the maximum occupancy for shelters was reduced, although some shelters still remained at full capacity (Women's Shelters Canada 2020). To allow for comparisons between the 2020/2021 and 2017/2018 cycles of the SRFVA and because COVID-related measures implemented varied jurisdictionally and likely impacted shelters differently, for the purposes of this article, the 90% or higher occupancy rate was maintained as the standard to be considered full.

Long-term facilities were considered full if their occupancy rate was 100% as a unit is typically an apartment or house.

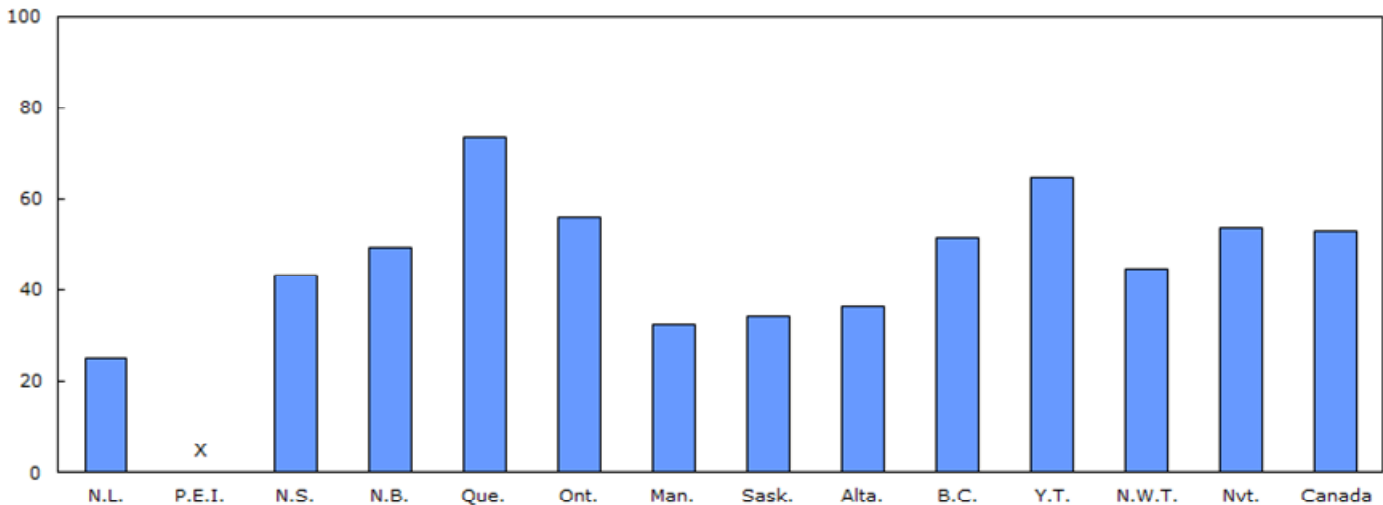
## More beds occupied in Quebec and Yukon

Occupancy rates for short-term facilities on the snapshot day were highest in Quebec, with 73% of beds occupied, and the Yukon (65%), while Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest occupancy rate, with 25% of the beds in the province being occupied that day (Table 6; Chart 5).

**Chart 5**

### Occupancy rate for short-term residential facilities for victims of abuse, by province or territory, April 14, 2021

Facility occupancy rate (percent)



X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

**Note:** The April 14, 2021 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. Short-term facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice.

Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than three months. The occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the total number of residents on the snapshot day by the total number of funded beds, multiplied by 100.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

## Short-term facilities in urban areas report higher occupancy rates than in rural areas

Overall, one in three (34%) residential facilities for victims of abuse were located in rural areas.<sup>16</sup> While the majority of facilities in both rural and urban areas were short-term, long-term facilities accounted for 13% of all facilities in rural areas, compared to 26% of those in urban areas. Long-term facilities in rural areas housed 22% of all long-term admissions in 2020/2021, compared to 30% of short-term admissions.

Similar to results seen in the past, short-term facilities in urban areas had higher occupancy rates than those in rural areas (56% versus 45%), however, overall there were more full short-term facilities in rural areas (19% versus 13% in urban areas, Table 6). Short-term facilities in urban parts of Quebec had the highest occupancy rate (76%) and more than one in five (23%) were full. Among the short-term urban facilities, this was followed by facilities in Ontario (59% occupancy rate), and 16% of the facilities were full.

Among facilities in rural areas of Canada, short-term facilities located in rural areas of Quebec (66%) and New Brunswick (57%) had bed occupancy rates that were much higher than average.

In terms of capacity in long-term facilities, the majority (82%) of units in these facilities were occupied on the snapshot date.<sup>17 18</sup> Overall, just under half (45%) of long-term facilities indicated that all of their long-term units were full on the snapshot date.

Similar to short-term facilities, the occupancy rate of long-term facilities was lower in rural areas, with 66% of units being full on the snapshot date compared to 85% of long-term units in urban areas.

## More than four in ten residents are children

Although many residential facilities for victims of abuse across Canada have the potential to serve victims of all genders, practically all (99%) of the people who were residing in these shelters on the snapshot date were adult women and their children. More specifically, on the survey snapshot date, there were 5,466 people living in residential facilities for victims of

abuse (Table 7). More than half (54% or 2,975) were adult females, and 44% (or 2,423) were children accompanying the adults in the facilities. In total, there were 55 adult men and 13 adults of another gender living in these facilities on that day.

This profile was similar for short- and long-term facilities. Similarly, residents in rural and urban facilities were mostly women and children, though there were slightly more adult residents in rural areas.

Facilities included in the SRFVA were primarily mandated to serve victims of abuse. As such, the vast majority (93%) of people residing in these facilities on the snapshot date were there for reasons of abuse. The remaining 7% of residents were admitted for other reasons, such as homelessness. There is sometimes an overlap between facilities for victims of abuse and homeless shelters. For instance, some violence against women shelters are linked to women’s homeless shelters and services are provided to both groups, recognizing the potential for hidden homelessness among these overlapping populations (Maki 2020).

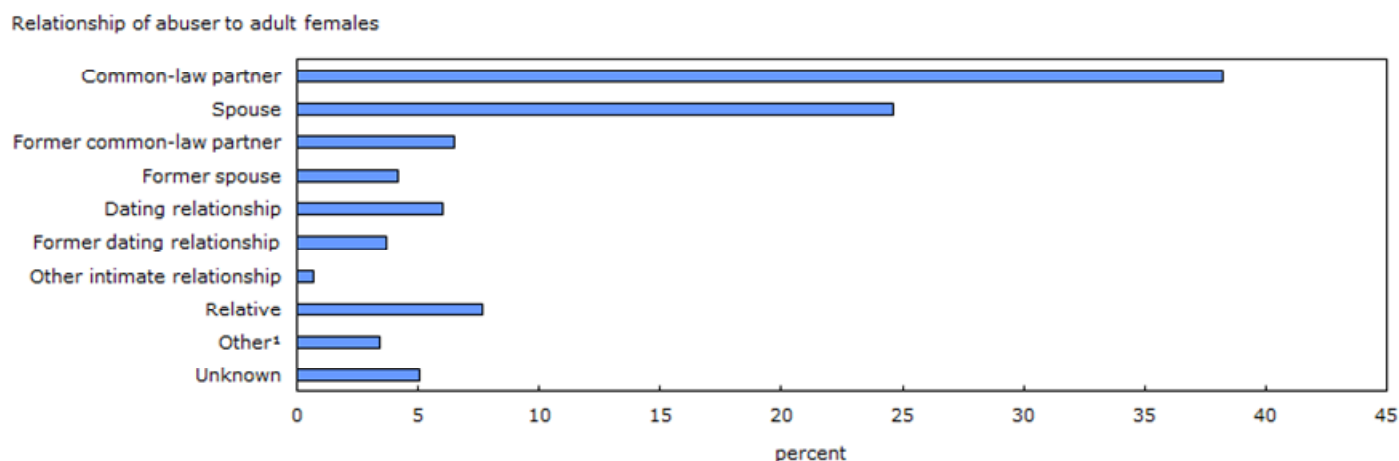
Notably, however, nearly two-thirds (64%) of adult males residing in facilities for victims of abuse were there for reasons other than abuse (reasons not specified in the survey).<sup>19</sup>

### Most women in shelters are escaping intimate partner violence

According to the 2018 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 experienced some form of intimate partner violence (physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse) during their lifetime (Cotter 2021b). Further, women disproportionately experience the most severe forms of intimate partner violence such as being choked, assaulted or threatened with a weapon, or being sexually assaulted (Breiding et al. 2014; Burczycka 2016).

The SRFVA found that the large majority (84%) of women in residential facilities for victims of abuse were there primarily to escape intimate partner violence.<sup>20</sup> In fact, almost two-thirds of the women residents were escaping violence involving a current common-law (38%) or spousal (25%) partnerships, and about one in ten were escaping abuse by a former common-law partner (7%) or former spouse (4%, Chart 6). Accordingly, most (70%) women residents in the shelters on the snapshot date were living with their abuser at the time they sought shelter. About one in four (26%) residents were not living with their abuser prior to seeking shelter.<sup>21</sup>

**Chart 6**  
**Relationship of abuser to adult females in residential facilities primarily for reasons of abuse, Canada, April 14, 2021**



1. Includes caregiver, friend/acquaintance, authority figure and other unspecified relationships.  
**Note:** In 2020/2021, the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse was updated to collect resident information based on gender instead of sex. Adult female residents includes transgender adults identifying as female. The April 14, 2021 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. The sum of the percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding. Reasons of abuse can include, for example, having experienced physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse, or harassment, among others.  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

Moreover, one in ten (10%) female residents were in facilities for victims of abuse due to violence in a dating context: 6% were escaping violence by a current dating partner and 4% by a former dating partner. Other intimate relationship violence was reported by 1% of female residents. Less than one in ten (8%) residents reported that their abuser was another family member.

According to the SSPPS, sexual minority women are overrepresented as victims of all forms of intimate partner violence (Jaffray 2021).<sup>22</sup> Results from the SRFVA indicated that, 2% of adult female residents in shelters were abused by a same-gender intimate partner. Among these residents, similar to different-gender intimate partners, the perpetrator was most commonly (70%) a current common-law partner.

On the snapshot day, one in three (34%) adult female residents in the facilities were self-referred, and this was the most common source of referral for short-term residents. For long-term facilities, fewer residents (27%) were self-referrals. Instead, 40% of adult female residents in long-term facilities were referred by another residential facility for victims of abuse, compared to 7% of residents in short-term facilities. This is unsurprising, as a typical practice, residents often stay in a short-term facility prior to finding longer-term accommodations.

### **Majority of residents experience emotional, psychological or physical abuse**

Psychological abuse, which according to the SSPPS encompasses forms of abuse that targets a person's emotional, mental or financial well-being, or impedes their personal freedom or sense of safety, is the most common form of intimate partner violence experienced by victims (Cotter 2021b). A similar pattern was found among shelter residents wherein the majority of residents who were in the shelters on the snapshot day had experienced emotional or psychological abuse (89%) or physical abuse (76%, Table 8).<sup>23</sup> More than half (54%) of residents had been financially abused.

Among female residents in the shelters, more than one-third (35%) had experienced sexual abuse. Harassment was also experienced by 34% of residents.

Further, while police-reported data show that human trafficking crimes account for a very small proportion of criminal incidents reported in Canada, this serious crime often affects girls and young women (Ibrahim 2021). According to the SRFVA, human trafficking was experienced by 4% of female residents in residential facilities on the snapshot date. In most cases (3%), these residents were victims of human trafficking related to sex work. In total, 15 residents (or less than 1%) had experienced forced labour or another form of human trafficking. These proportions were similar to those reported in 2017/2018.

### **Most women in shelters have parental responsibilities**

Seven in ten (70%) adult females residing in residential facilities for victims of abuse had parental responsibilities.<sup>24</sup> Among these residents, 76% were admitted with one or more of their children.

Residential facilities for victims of abuse reported that adult female residents with parental responsibilities were most often protecting their children from emotional or psychological abuse (78%) and exposure to violence (78%).<sup>25</sup> Nearly half (48%) of these adult women were protecting their children from physical abuse, and about one in five (22%) from neglect. About one in eight (14%) of these residents were protecting their children from harassment, and nearly one in ten (9%) were protecting them from sexual abuse.

### **Majority of women in shelters are aged 25 to 44**

Some socio-demographic characteristics have been identified as key factors for a higher risk of victimization in general, and for intimate partner violence in particular. For example, in addition to women being more likely to experience violent victimization, age has consistently been identified as one of the main factors in victimization, with rates generally declining with age. Other factors linked with higher victimization rates include having a disability and experiences of homelessness (Cotter 2018; Cotter 2021a). Similarly, in a series of articles on intimate partner violence using data from the SSPPS, intimate partner violence has been found to be more common among certain segments of the population including women (Cotter 2021b), younger women (Savage 2021a) and women with disabilities (Savage 2021b).

Residential facilities for victims of abuse in Canada reported that on the snapshot date, there were 2,749 women who were living in their facilities for reasons of abuse—representing the large majority of the adult residents in the facilities that day. There were an additional 2,281 accompanying children residing in the facilities for reasons of abuse.

Although there were fewer residents living in shelters for victims of abuse compared to the 2018 snapshot date, the age profile of residents remained consistent, and it matched that of victims of violence and intimate partner violence in that they are generally younger (Cotter 2021a; Cotter 2021b). Two-thirds (66%) of women in shelters were between 25 and 44 years old: 19% were aged 25 to 29, 22% were aged 30 to 34, and 26% were aged 35 to 44.<sup>26</sup> When the number of women in the Canadian population is taken into account, the rate of women in residential facilities for victims of abuse was highest for women aged 30 to 34, representing 32 women in shelters per 100,000 women in the same age group in the general population.<sup>27</sup> This rate was followed by 29 per 100,000 population aged 25 to 29 and 20 per 100,000 women aged 35 to 44.

Similar to 2017/2018 results (Moreau 2019), the large majority (80%) of children accompanying adults in shelters for reasons of abuse were below the age of 12 years: 41% were under the age of 5 and 39% were between 5 and 11 years of age. These proportions were similar for female and male children.<sup>28</sup>

## Indigenous women and children overrepresented in shelters for victims of abuse

The lived experiences of Indigenous people in Canada are unique because of the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization. Intergenerational trauma, ongoing socioeconomic inequities, systemic barriers and racism are among some of the factors continuing to put Indigenous people at increased risk of victimization. Indigenous women and girls, in particular, are disproportionately more likely to experience violence. Further, trauma is rooted in colonial policies such as the residential school system and Sixties Scoop. These policies have contributed to experiences of child abuse and exposure to violence including intimate partner violence and some of the most severe forms of spousal abuse (Heidinger 2021; The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015; National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

Residential facilities for victims of abuse responding to the SRFVA provided the Indigenous identity for the vast majority (91%) of their residents, while for the remaining 9% of residents, their Indigenous identity was not known.<sup>29 30</sup> The large majority (71%) of women residing in shelters for reasons of abuse on the snapshot date were not Indigenous. However, relative to their representation in the population (5%), Indigenous women were overrepresented in residential facilities for victims of abuse (Table 9).<sup>31</sup> Overall, about one in five (21%) women in facilities were of Indigenous identity. Similarly, while representing 8% of children in the Canadian population, Indigenous children represented 22% of all accompanying children in the facilities.<sup>32</sup> These findings were similar to results from the last cycle of the SRFVA.

In 2020/2021, more than one in ten (12%) residential facilities for victims of abuse reported having ties to Indigenous communities or organizations, amounting to a total of 69 facilities. Facilities with ties to Indigenous organizations or communities are those that indicated they were an Indigenous organization; were located in a First Nations, Métis or Inuit community, or on a reserve; or were owned or operated by a First Nations government (band council). More than six in ten (63%) facilities did not have ties, and 24% did not provide a response related to these questions. The vast majority (63 out of 69) of facilities with ties to Indigenous communities were short-term facilities.

While Indigenous and non-Indigenous facilities share many similarities and some differences (Maxwell 2020), the overrepresentation of Indigenous women and children was not limited to Indigenous shelters. Indigenous women made up 16% of women in facilities that did not have ties to Indigenous communities, while Indigenous children accounted for 18% of all children in facilities with no ties to Indigenous communities.

Being able to meet the diverse needs of residents can create a more inclusive environment for survivors of abuse. Overall, nearly two-thirds (64%) of facilities reported having culturally sensitive services for Indigenous peoples (Table 3).<sup>33</sup> Having dedicated services for Indigenous people, often means providing safe and equitable services that take into account the historical impacts of colonialism, and the social, cultural and economic factors that influence health outcomes, while empowering cultural identity, knowledge and traditions (Aguiar and Halseth 2015; Bombay et al. 2009; The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015).

## Three in ten women and children in shelters belong to a visible minority group

Consistent with self-reported victimization data from the SSPPS, 29% of women and 36% of children in residential facilities for victims of abuse on the snapshot day were identified as belonging to a group designated as visible minority.<sup>34 35</sup> The findings were somewhat consistent with the representation of visible minority people in the general Canadian population.<sup>36</sup>

More than one in ten women (11%) and accompanying children (11%) living in facilities for victims of abuse were non-permanent residents.<sup>37</sup> Similar to findings from the last cycle of the SRFVA, these proportions were notably higher than the proportion of non-permanent residents in the general Canadian population (3% and 1%, respectively) (Statistics Canada 2022). Additionally, facilities that reported information regarding the ability of residents to speak an official language indicated that just under one in ten (8%) women living in their facilities did not speak English or French.<sup>38</sup> In comparison, according to the 2016 Census, 2% of women and children did not speak at least one official language (Statistics Canada 2016).<sup>39</sup>

About half of shelters reported providing services for immigrants or refugees (56%) or in non-official languages (52%). Understanding the cultural contexts and impacts of domestic violence within immigrant and refugee populations is important for enhancing the safety of survivors, and can be a source of strength and support for intervention. Further, immigrants and non-permanent residents may be reluctant to use domestic violence services that inadequately account for, or are dismissive of, their cultural values and their complex and intersecting needs. Therefore, having culturally-informed approaches to providing services to immigrants and refugees, including linguistically-appropriate services, can reduce social isolation and improve social connection (Rossiter et al. 2018).

## One in eight women residing in shelters have a disability

As previously noted, women with disabilities are generally overrepresented as victims of violence, including intimate partner violence (Cotter 2018; Savage 2021b). According to the SRFVA, 13% of women and 7% of children residing in shelters on the snapshot date had a disability.<sup>40 41</sup>

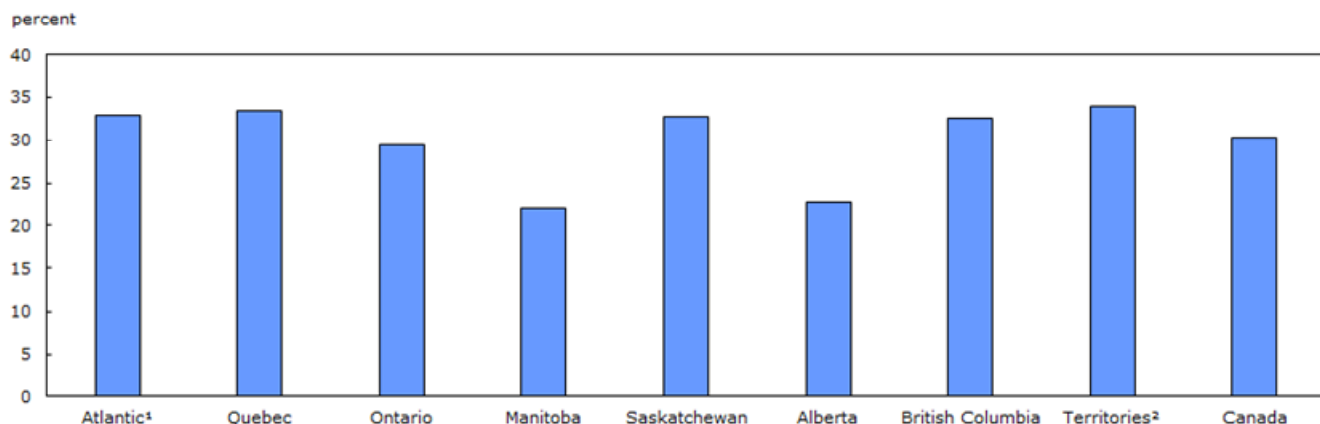
The large majority (82%) of short-term facilities reported being wheelchair accessible, compared to just under half (48%) of long-term facilities.<sup>42</sup> However, less than three in ten facilities reported offering services for persons with hearing disabilities (29%), developmental or intellectual disabilities (26%), visual disabilities (20%) or mobility disabilities (19%). When offered, these services were generally more common in short-term facilities.

## Three out of ten women report abuse to the police

According to the General Social Survey on Victimization, in 2019, about one-quarter (24%) of violent incidents were reported to the police, with women and younger victims generally being less likely to report to police (Cotter 2021a). Even fewer incidents are reported to police when they involved a spousal partner, with 19% of spousal violence victims reporting that their spousal violence experience came to the attention of police. Most often, similar to reasons given by women who were victims of crime in general, women who were victims of spousal violence did not report to the police because they considered the incident to be a private or personal matter, that the crime was minor and not worth taking the time to report, or because they felt that no one was harmed (Conroy 2021; Cotter 2021a).

Among women who were in residential facilities for victims of abuse, three in ten (30%) had reported to police the abusive situation that led them to seek shelter (Chart 7). For half (50%) of the residents, the abusive situation did not come to the attention of police, and for the remaining 20% of residents, respondents did not know if the situation was reported to police.

**Chart 7**  
Adult females in residential facilities for reasons of abuse who reported to the police the abuse that led them to seek shelter, by region, April 14, 2021



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

2. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**Note:** In 2020/2021, the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse was updated to collect resident information based on gender instead of sex. Adult female residents includes transgender adults identifying as female. The April 14, 2021 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. Reasons of abuse can include, for example, having experienced physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse, or harassment, among others. Calculations exclude 29% of adult female residents, nationally, for whom information was not provided. The percentage of excluded adult females varies by region.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

Additionally, for about one out of seven (15%) women residing in facilities on the snapshot date, charges had been laid against the suspect. An order keeping the abuser away, such as a peace bond or restraining order, had been obtained for 15% of adult women residents.<sup>43</sup> The status of whether charges were laid or an order had been obtained was not known for 41% and 36% of adult female residents.

## One in five residents stayed at the same facility in the previous year

Nearly all (96%) residential facilities for victims of abuse indicated that they allowed repeat clients.<sup>44</sup> Similar to results from the 2017/2018 cycle of the SRFVA, residential facilities which allowed repeat clients indicated that, among adult females residing in their facilities on the snapshot date, about one-third (32%) had previously been served by the same facility. More specifically, about one in five (21%) women residents had received services as residents in the previous year (and potentially through outreach as well). The remaining 11% had not been residents in the previous year, but instead had received services on an outreach basis only.

Of note, for 22% of women residents, it was not known whether or not they had received services in the previous year. It was also not known whether or not residents had received services at other facilities.

### Six in ten long-term rural residents are repeat clientele

There were notable difference between residents in rural and urban facilities in terms of repeat clientele. Women residing in long-term rural facilities on the snapshot date were most likely to have received services previously, both as residents (60%) and on an outreach basis only (19%). Women residents of short-term facilities in urban areas were least likely to have been previous residents of the same facilities (15%), compared to women residing in long-term urban facilities (20%) or short-term rural facilities (33%). No notable differences were observed among women residents who received services on an outreach basis.<sup>45</sup>

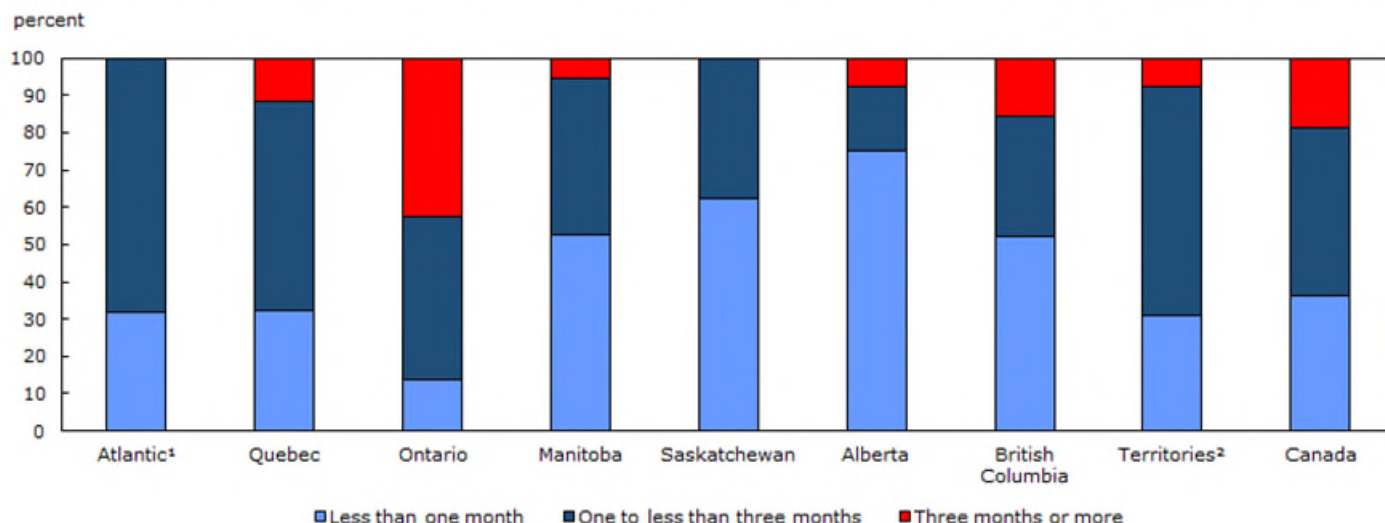
The higher prevalence of repeat clientele in rural areas may be partly attributable to limited availability of facilities in rural areas, where there are fewer options of facilities: 13% of facilities in rural areas are long-term compared with 26% of urban facilities.

### Ontario facilities more likely to report longer average length of stay, especially in urban areas

Short-term facilities, by definition, have a general mandate of housing victims of abuse for a short period of time, usually less than three months (see Textbox 1). The average length of time that residents stayed in short-term facilities for victims of abuse remained somewhat the same in 2020/2021 as had had been reported in 2017/2018. Most facilities reported an average length of stay within the mandated three months: 36% reported an average stay of less than one month, and just under half (45%) reported an average of one month to less than three months. However, for nearly one in five (19%) facilities, residents typically stayed longer than the mandated three months.

Across the country, short-term facilities in most provinces and territories reported average lengths of stay that were within three months. However, facilities in Ontario were mostly likely to report an average length of stay that was three months or longer (42%, Chart 8). The lengthier average stay in Ontario shelters may be partly attributable to Ontario's shortage of affordable housing. With increasing housing and rental prices, affordable housing is an issue faced by many Ontarians (Homeless Hub 2018). Among Canada's provinces, Ontario has the highest rates of core housing need, second only to the territories (Statistics Canada 2017).<sup>46</sup> While the proportion of facilities in British Columbia reporting an average length of stay of three months or more was slightly below the national level (16%), this proportion was the second highest in the country. Similar to Ontario, the rate of core housing need in British Columbia was among the highest in the country.<sup>47</sup>

**Chart 8**  
Average length of stay in short-term residential facilities for victims of abuse, by region, 2020/2021



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

2. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**Note:** Short-term facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than three months. The sum of the percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.



Overall, facilities in urban areas were more likely to report lengthier average stays. One in five (21%) short-term facilities in urban areas of Canada reported that the average length of stay for residents in their facility in the previous year was three months or more, compared to 14% of rural facilities. Notably, 48% of facilities in urban parts of Ontario reported an average length of three or more months, compared to 29% of rural Ontario facilities.

### Most people are turned away because shelter is full

Despite most facilities operating below capacity on the snapshot date, about three in ten (29%) facilities reported turning away people. Between midnight and noon on April 14, 2021, residential facilities across Canada turned away a total of 487 people, 47% fewer people turned away compared to the 2017/2018 snapshot date. The vast majority of the people turned away were women (79%) and children (20%). Most of the people turned away were turned away from short-term facilities (85%).

Reasons for turning people away in 2020/2021 were similar to those provided in 2017/2018. The shelter being full was the most commonly cited reason for turning away people. Specifically, for the 386 women who were turned away that day, 71% were turned away because the shelter was full.<sup>48</sup> However, because of capacity restrictions imposed by COVID-19 measures, some shelters were likely considered full for all intents and purposes despite having empty beds or units.

### Nearly one in three women leaving a shelter return to the home occupied by the abuser

In addition to people who were turned away from shelters on the snapshot date, 77 women, and 27 accompanying children and men had left the shelters that day. Just over half (52%) of all departures were from urban facilities, and the remaining 48% left rural facilities. All but 4 of the departures were from short-term facilities.

Among the women who left the shelter that day, for whom departure destination information was provided, three in ten (30%) returned to a home where the abuser was living. This was the most commonly cited place where women went after leaving the shelter. Some women returned to a home where the abuser did not reside (12%), and others left to live with friends or relatives (12%). Another 9% of women who left on the snapshot date left for another residential facility for victims of abuse. Few women headed to other destinations such as another type of residential facility, a new accommodation without the abuser or a hospital (combined total of 12%). For 24% of women who left, either the resident or the facility did not know their destination.

### Close to four in ten women residents have a history of homelessness

People with a history of homelessness, particularly when recent, are significantly more likely to experience violence (Cotter 2021a). Additionally, intimate partner violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women and a cause of concern for many contemplating leaving an abusive home situation (Meyer 2016; Sullivan et al. 2019; Yakubovich and Maki 2021).

Residential facilities for victims of abuse did not report any women leaving the shelter on the snapshot date that were departing into homelessness. Nevertheless, to further highlight the intersection of homelessness and victimization, close to four in ten (38%) women residing in residential facilities for victims of abuse had a prior history of homelessness—meaning, they had been homeless at some point in their life prior to seeking shelter in the facility.<sup>49</sup> A slightly higher proportion (42%) of the residents had never experienced homelessness, and for 20% of the residents for whom any information was reported, their prior history of homelessness was unknown. Additionally, 29% of accompanying children in the facilities had experienced homelessness.

There were no notable differences between women residing in rural and urban facilities who had a history of homelessness (39% versus 38%).

### Lack of affordable and permanent housing most common issue faced by facilities and their residents

When asked about the top three issues or challenges facing residents of shelters for victims of abuse, the vast majority (81%) of facilities who provided a response on behalf of their residents indicated that a lack of affordable long-term housing upon departure was among the top (Table 10). Many facilities also indicated that underemployment and low incomes (45%), mental health issues (36%) and substance use issues (30%) were some of the main challenges faced by residents.

Further, a lack of permanent housing was the most commonly reported issue faced by the facilities themselves. About two in five (41%) facilities reported this as one of the top three issues that they were currently facing (Table 11). Other commonly

reported issues named as the top three faced by facilities included: staff turnover (31%), meeting the diverse needs of clients (28%), low employee compensation (27%) and lack of funding (26%).

There were regional differences in the types of issues faced by facilities. For example, a lack of permanent housing was of particular concern for facilities in Ontario (51%) and British Columbia (55%). In Quebec, nearly seven in ten (69%) facilities reported staff turnover as one of the main issues they were facing, while more than four in ten (44%) facilities in Alberta indicated that meeting the diverse needs of clients was a key issue for them.

Overall, the main issues and challenges reported by facilities and their residents in 2020/2021 were similar to those reported in 2017/2018.

## Revenues and expenditures

In general, funding for shelters across the country are provided through numerous sources, including government sources at all levels, private donations, as well as fundraising activities. Monitoring shelters' revenues and mapping them against their expenditures is important in order to determine their funding needs and identify gaps in the ability of facilities to support clients.

### Majority of funding for residential facilities for victims of abuse are from provincial and territorial governments

In 2020/2021, residential facilities for victims of abuse received more than \$578.3 million in funding, with 90% going to short-term facilities. The majority (81%) of the funding came from government sources—particularly, from provincial and territorial governments. Provincial and territorial governments provided the large majority of the funding for short-term facilities (70%) and about half (48%) of the funding for long-term facilities. Federal government funding accounted for 10% and 7% of the revenues reported by short- and long-term facilities, respectively. For long-term facilities, more funding was provided by regional or municipal governments (12%). Additionally, in long-term facilities, 11% of their revenues were from charging fees for services and 10% were from foundations. Fundraising and donations provided 10% of the revenues for both short-term and long-term facilities.

There were some notable differences between the sources of funding for shelters with ties to Indigenous communities and those without such ties. For example, provincial or territorial government funding accounted for the largest share of the funding for both types of facilities, with much lower for Indigenous shelters (52% versus 71% for non-Indigenous shelters). Fundraising or donations also accounted for a notably lower proportion of the revenues for Indigenous shelters compared with non-Indigenous (3% versus 13%). However, nearly one-third (31%) of the revenues received by Indigenous facilities were from Federal government sources compared with 6% of the funding received by shelters with no ties to Indigenous communities. This difference may be partly reflective of the Federal government's commitments, through its Violence Prevention Strategy, to providing funding support for gender-based violence shelters for Indigenous peoples (Government of Canada 2020).

Shelters spent over \$509 million for their operations in 2020/2021. The large majority (89%) of these expenses were reported by short-term facilities, which accounted for 78% of all shelters (Table 12). In both short- and long-term facilities, salary costs represented the largest share of expenses, accounting for 73% of expenses in short-term facilities and 56% in long-term facilities. In long-term facilities, however, more money was spent on rent, mortgage and property taxes (14% versus 2% in short-term facilities), and other housing costs (11% versus 5%).

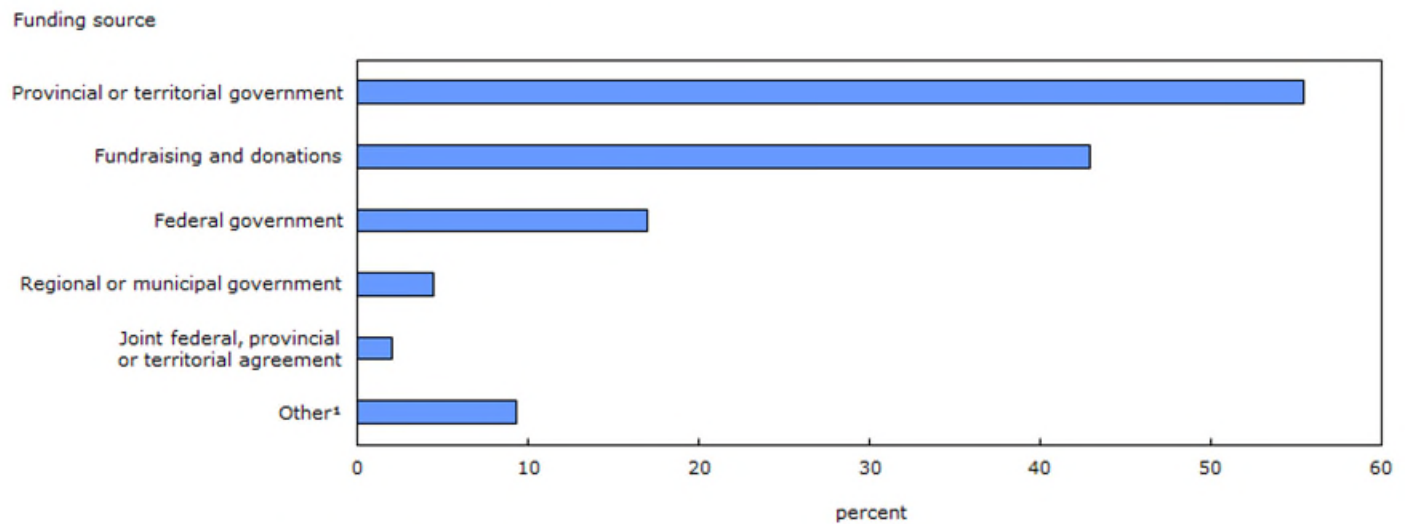
### More than four in ten facilities make major physical repairs or improvements to the facility

Previous research has found that most violence against women shelters across Canada are considered aging, having an average age of 45 years. It was found that most shelters needed some form of repairs and renovations, with a majority needing major repairs or renovations. However, funding for such repairs was an issue identified by many facilities (Maki 2019).

According to the SRFVA, about six in ten (61%) facilities indicated that they had made some type of physical repairs or improvements in 2020/2021. Just over three-quarters (77%) of these facilities reported minor repairs or improvements such as repairs to missing or loose floor tiles, or steps, railing or siding. More than four out of ten (43%) facilities reported making major physical repairs or improvements where there was a legal requirement to make repairs for safety reasons or for meeting building codes.

Provincial and territorial governments were the most common sources for funding for making physical repairs or improvements, reported by more than half (55%) of facilities that indicated making such repairs in the previous year (Chart 9). More than four in ten (43%) facilities reported that their repairs or improvements were funded through fundraising or donations. About one in six (17%) facilities reported that federal government funding was a source of funds for the repairs.

**Chart 9**  
**Funding sources for physical repairs to residential facilities for victims of abuse, Canada**  
**2020/2021**



1. Other sources of funding include insurance coverage or claims, reserve funds and operational funds.

**Note:** Calculations exclude 26% of facilities that did not provide a response to the questions. Responses exceed 100% as respondents could mark all responses that apply.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

## Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has had unprecedented impacts on how people live their lives, with measures such as lockdown restrictions and school closures. People being confined to their homes coupled with economic stressors has created situations that could lead to increases in intimate partner violence. People and organizations providing supports and services to victims of intimate partner violence have also been affected by the measures that were put in place to prevent further spread of the virus.

Residential facilities for victims of abuse across Canada implemented many measures in an effort to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, including enhancing health protection or cleaning practices, using new communication technologies, expanding their services and programs to support victims outside of their facilities, and designating isolation units or areas. About six in ten (61%) facilities reduced the number of beds or units in their facilities in an effort to minimize the spread of the virus. In 2020/2021, residential facilities for victims of abuse admitted more than 46,800 people, approximately 31% fewer compared to the 2017/2018 cycle of the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA). Further, the occupancy rate for short-term facilities was considerably lower than in 2017/2018, with 53% of short-term beds being occupied on the snapshot date of April 14, 2021—a date representing a typical day of operations for shelters. About one in seven (15%) short-term facilities were considered full on the snapshot day. Nevertheless, 487 people were turned away from these facilities. Many facilities cited the shelter being at capacity as the main reason for turning people away.

The characteristics of shelters, and the profiles of their residents and the types of abuse they experienced, remained similar to the previous cycle of the survey. However, the pandemic appeared to have an impact on the number of admissions.

According to the SRFVA, the majority of shelters were impacted to a moderate or great extent by the pandemic restrictions. The initial lockdown measures enacted at the beginning of the pandemic presented the most challenging time for shelters, with 50% indicating that they were impacted to a great extent, and 30% to a moderate extent. Many facilities reported an increase in crisis calls and saw an uptake in support services required outside the shelters on an outreach basis. Some facilities also identified staffing-related challenges during the pandemic, including challenges related to hiring or training new staff, and volunteer work.

More than a year after the onset of the pandemic, 23% of facilities reported still being impacted to a great extent, while 38% indicated that the impact was moderate. Facilities reporting minor to no impact at all doubled, from 19% at the period of initial lockdowns to 38% in the spring and summer of 2021. Similar to the last SRFVA cycle, lack of affordable and permanent housing continued to be a common issue faced by facilities and their residents in 2020/2021.

The next cycle of the SRFVA is planned for 2022/2023. Results from the next cycle, to be published in 2024, will provide further insight into residential facilities and their clients, demands for services, and how facilities may be continuing to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic or its aftermath.

## Survey description

### Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse

The Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA) is a census of Canadian residential facilities primarily mandated to provide residential services to victims of abuse (defined as ongoing victimization). The SRFVA was conducted for the second time in 2020/2021, following a major redesign of its predecessor: the Transition Home Survey. The first cycle of the SRFVA was conducted in 2017/2018.

The objective of the SRFVA is to produce aggregate statistics on the services offered by these facilities during the previous 12-month reference period, as well as to provide a one-day snapshot of the clientele being served on a specific date (mid-April of the survey year). The intent of the survey is to provide information that is useful for various levels of government, sheltering and other non-profit organizations, service providers and researchers to assist in developing research, policy and programs, as well as identifying funding needs for residential facilities for victims of abuse.

### Data collection

Active data collection for the SRFVA took place between April and August of 2021. Data collection was conducted through a self-administered electronic questionnaire. Follow-ups by Statistics Canada interviewers for non-respondents and cases of incomplete questionnaires were facilitated through the use of computer-assisted telephone interviews.

With the exception of analysis related to the impact of the pandemic on facilities which refers to pre- and post-pandemic periods, the information presented in this article refers to two distinct time periods: first, data pertaining to the number of annual admissions, average length of stay and financial information are based on a 12-month reference period (2020/2021) that preceded the SRFVA. Respondents were asked to select a 12-month reference period that most closely resembled the period their facility refers to in its annual reports. Categories included a standard fiscal year (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021), a calendar year (January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020) or a 12-month period of their choosing. In 2020/2021, 92% of facilities responding to the survey reported their annual information based on the standard fiscal year. Second, the characteristics of facilities and the types of services offered, as well as the profile of those using residential facilities are based on the snapshot date of April 14, 2021. The snapshot date is a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. The April 14, 2021 date was selected based on consultations with service providers. It reflected a period of relative stability in terms of admissions and respondents could maximize the resources available to respond to the survey. The snapshot day does not reflect seasonal differences in facility use nor long-term trends throughout the year.

### Target population and response rates

Facilities surveyed were identified by Statistics Canada through its consultations with provincial and territorial governments, transition home associations, other associations and a review of entities on the Statistics Canada Business Register. Facilities potentially in-scope were then contacted prior to the collection of the survey to determine their primary mandate. These may include short-term, long-term and mixed-use facilities; transition homes; second stage housing; safe home networks; satellites; women's emergency centres; emergency shelters; Interim Housing (Manitoba only); Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres (Alberta only); family resource centres and; any other residential facilities offering services to victims of abuse with or without children.

Of the 557 residential facilities who identified their primary mandate as providing services to victims of abuse in 2020/2021, 437 returned their questionnaire for a response rate of 78%. For those respondents who did not provide their information through the questionnaire, and for those respondents who did not answer some key questions in their questionnaires, imputation was used to complete the missing data for key questions. Imputation methods included the use of trend-adjusted historical data when available and donor imputation, where values are taken from a similar record in terms of facility location, type and size. The key questions for which imputation was carried out are: number of beds, number of units, number of residents for reasons of abuse, whether or not facility serves repeat clients, relationship to primary abuser, number of people turned away from facility, number of departures from facility, average length of stay, number of admissions, revenues and expenses.

For more information and copies of the questionnaire, refer to the Statistics Canada survey information page: Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

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## Notes

1. Throughout this article, analyses exclude facilities that did not provide a response to the specific question being analyzed. At the national level, this includes between 26% and 32% of facilities, and between 25% and 29% of adult female and accompanying children residents for analysis based on number of residents (unless otherwise specified). The percentage of excluded facilities or residents varies by question and by region. Imputation methods were used to calculate values for key questions in the survey, for which analyses are based on all facilities. For a list of these key questions, see the Survey description section. Additionally, the sum of the percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.
2. The snapshot date is a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. For more information, see the Survey description section.
3. In this article, all calculations related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on facilities exclude between 27% and 32% of facilities that did not respond to any questions in the corresponding section of the survey.
4. The waves and phases of lockdowns implemented to combat the pandemic varied across the provinces and territories. As such, the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse did not specify particular dates or timelines in the questions on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, respondents were instructed to provide responses based on the experiences in their respective province or territory during the following periods: period of initial lockdown measures; period immediately after lockdown measures were relaxed (initial provincial or territorial re-opening phase); period of lockdown relaxation; period of second wave; current period (at time of survey collection between April and August of 2021); and overall, from the beginning of the pandemic.
5. The current period refers to the point in time at which the respondent was completing the survey, between April and August of 2021.
6. Crisis calls include calls that may or may not have resulted in admission to facilities.
7. In 2020/2021, the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse was updated to collect resident information based on gender instead of sex. The survey gender categories were: adult females, adult males, adults of another gender, accompanying female children, accompanying male children and accompanying children of another gender.
8. In this article, the terms 'women' and 'adult females' are used interchangeably, and include transgender adults identifying as female.

9. Adults of another gender include adults whose current gender was not reported exclusively as male or female. Also include persons who are unsure of their gender and persons who identify as both male and female or neither male nor female.
10. In this article, the terms 'men' and 'adult males' are used interchangeably, and include transgender adults identifying as male.
11. Accompanying children includes adult children (typically aged 18 or older) accompanying a parent or caregiver, such as adult children with disabilities and those who are caretakers of a parent experiencing abuse.
12. Accompanying children of another gender include adult children accompanying a parent or caregiver and children whose current gender was not reported exclusively as male or female, or who are unsure of their gender, who identify as both male and female or neither male nor female.
13. Includes spousal abuse or other family relationship abuse. Excludes other intimate relationship abuse, abuse by an acquaintance or friend, elder abuse or any other type of abuse.
14. In 2020/2021, information was collected based on gender while in 2017/2018 it was based on sex.
15. Beds refers only to the number of funded beds, including children's beds and cribs if applicable, regardless of source of funding. Excludes unfunded beds, which may include emergency beds such as cots, sofas and sleeping bags. Units refers to the number of apartments or houses available. An individual unit may house multiple people and are typical of long-term facilities.
16. Facilities were designated as being located in either rural or urban areas based on Statistics Canada's Postal Code Conversion File Plus (PCCF+) tool. Rural facilities are those that are situated outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA), or in some cases those served by a rural post office. Urban facilities are those that are situated within a CMA or CA, and are not served by a rural post office. A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census place of work data, where 50% or more of the population commutes into the core.
17. Out of the 121 long-term facilities, 80 (or 66%) provided a response for the number of funded units that were occupied on the snapshot date. Therefore calculations for occupancy rate for long-term facilities excludes the remaining 34% of facilities that did not provide a response.
18. The question of occupancy for long-term facilities was newly introduced in the 2020/2021 cycle of the survey. Therefore, it is not possible to compare this data to last cycle of the survey.
19. Information for people of other genders are not presented due to small data counts.
20. Unless otherwise specified, characteristics of residents in the facilities on the snapshot date are based on people residing in the facilities for reasons of abuse.
21. Calculations include an unknown answer category. Therefore, totals do not add to 100%.
22. In the referenced report, sexual minority refers to those whose sexual orientation is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or another sexual orientation that is not heterosexual.
23. Respondents could select multiple types of abuse experienced by residents, therefore totals may exceed 100%.
24. For the purposes of this article, adult female residents who did not have custody of their children or who had adult children living outside of the home are considered without parental responsibilities. Analysis includes 4% of adult female residents for whom parental responsibility information was unknown.
25. Calculations are based on the number of residents with parental responsibilities (whether admitted with their children or not). Respondents could select multiple types of abuse that residents were protecting their children from, therefore totals may exceed 100%.
26. See footnote 21.
27. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1 population estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. While the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse collected information based on gender, population estimates for calculating the rates were based on the sex variable as defined in the 2016 Census of Population.
28. Comparisons to children of another gender are not feasible due to small data counts.
29. Information on Indigenous identity are based on the Aboriginal identity question from the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse. The survey asked about the number of residents by their Aboriginal identity, where being of Aboriginal identity was defined as: First Nations, Métis and Inuit. First Nations includes Status and Non-Status Indians.
30. Analyses exclude 28% of facilities that did not provide a response to the Indigenous identity question.
31. Populations based on projected estimates for 2021 based on the 2016 Census of Population, produced by Statistics Canada's Demography division. The data were adjusted to reflect various factors, including census net under coverage and

incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements, and were calibrated to match exactly the population estimates on July 1, 2021, by province or territory, age and sex.

32. For the women and children in facilities, an unknown answer category was included as a valid response to questions pertaining to identity or status. Therefore, totals do not add to 100%.

33. Respondents of the survey are instructed to include services that accommodate and recognize the diverse needs of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit persons (e.g., traditional healing methods, provision of services by spiritual Elders, integration of Aboriginal cultural norms and beliefs).

34. Data on visible minority identity cannot be disaggregated further by ethnicity, as responses were provided by the facilities on behalf of their residents. Respondents were asked to provide the number of residents on the snapshot date by whether they were of visible minority identity or not, where visible minority was defined as persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.

35. Calculations include an unknown answer category.

36. Populations based on projected estimates for 2021 based on the 2016 Census of Population, produced by Statistics Canada's Demography division. The data were adjusted to reflect various factors, including census net under coverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements, and were calibrated to match exactly the population estimates on July 1, 2021, by province or territory, age and sex. 'Visible minority' refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the Employment Equity Act and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour."

37. See footnote 35.

38. See footnote 35.

39. 'Knowledge of official languages' refers to whether the person can conduct a conversation in English only, French only, in both or in neither language. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, this includes languages that the child is learning to speak at home.

40. Includes residents with permanent and temporary mobility, visual, hearing, developmental or intellectual, or other disabilities. Due to small data counts, analysis by type of disability is not feasible.

41. See footnote 35.

42. Wheelchair accessibility includes facilities that are either fully or partially wheelchair accessible based on whether or not at least one building entrance, bedroom or bathroom is wheelchair accessible; excludes the provision of additional services for persons with mobility disabilities.

43. An order can be a peace bond, a restraining order, an undertaking to keep the peace and have good conduct, a condition of probation, an emergency intervention order, an emergency protection order, a victim's assistance order or an order to abstain from persistently following a person about from place to place.

44. Repeat client is defined in the survey as, persons previously served by the facility in the last year, including as a resident, ex-resident or non-resident.

45. The proportions of unknown repeat client status were: 2% in long-term rural facilities, 21% in long-term urban facilities, 18% in short-term rural facilities and 26% in short-term urban facilities.

46. A household in core housing need is defined as one whose dwelling is considered unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable and whose income levels are such that they could not afford alternative suitable and adequate housing in their community. In 2016, the core housing need rate was highest in Nunavut, followed in order by the Northwest Territories, Ontario, Yukon and British Columbia.

47. While Nunavut had the highest core housing need in Canada, followed by the Northwest Territories, data on average length of stay for the territories cannot be broken down due to small data counts. Overall, 92% of facilities in the territories reported an average length of stay that was within three months.

48. See footnote 35.

49. A history of homelessness includes living in locations not intended for human habitation such as on the street or in parks, cars, laneways, sidewalks, or in a makeshift shelter or an abandoned building. It also includes living in temporary accommodations for people without housing, such as homeless shelters or extreme weather shelters, or as a temporary house guest staying with family, friends or strangers (e.g., room rental guest, or other overnight guest). This also includes those who had previously resided in residential facilities for victims of abuse.



## Detailed data tables

**Table 1**  
**Impact of COVID-19 on residential facilities for victims of abuse, by pandemic period and region, 2020/2021**

Pandemic period	Atlantic region <sup>6</sup>	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Territories <sup>7</sup>	Canada
	percent								
<b>Period of initial lockdown measures<sup>1</sup></b>									
To a great extent	30	68	60	59	42	45	33	31	50
To a moderate extent	43	15	32	X	42	36	40	X	30
To a minor extent or not at all	24	16	8	27	X	17	27	54	19
<b>Period immediately after lockdown measures were relaxed (initial provincial or territorial re-opening phase)<sup>2</sup></b>									
To a great extent	20	34	27	X	0	12	8	X	21
To a moderate extent	33	42	49	50	58	62	44	X	46
To a minor extent or not at all	46	23	24	27	42	24	45	46	32
<b>Period of lockdown relaxation<sup>3</sup></b>									
To a great extent	X	27	24	X	0	17	X	X	16
To a moderate extent	35	40	43	41	42	45	45	X	41
To a minor extent or not at all	X	33	32	36	58	36	49	62	41
<b>Period of second wave<sup>4</sup></b>									
To a great extent	17	48	45	27	33	31	9	38	33
To a moderate extent	48	30	42	36	33	45	48	X	40
To a minor extent or not at all	33	22	13	32	33	21	40	46	26
<b>Current period<sup>5</sup></b>									
To a great extent	11	26	41	X	0	12	9	38	23
To a moderate extent	43	29	39	50	58	55	33	X	38
To a minor extent or not at all	43	45	20	32	42	31	55	54	38
<b>Overall impact, from the beginning of the pandemic</b>									
To a great extent	22	42	49	36	8	29	13	38	34
To a moderate extent	48	37	40	36	67	50	53	X	44
To a minor extent or not at all	28	21	11	23	25	19	33	38	22

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Period where schools and non-essential businesses were closed and travel was restricted.

2. Period where non-essential businesses began to re-open in the respondent's province or territory, while physical distancing measures and other restrictions may have been put in place.

3. Period where all businesses were open and regular activities resumed in the respondent's province or territory, while some measures may have remained in place (e.g., wearing masks).

4. Period where number of COVID-19 cases began to increase again in the respondent's province or territory.

5. The current period refers to the point in time at which the respondent was completing the survey, between April and August of 2021.

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

7. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**Note:** Information in this tables excludes 27% of facilities, nationally, that did not provide a response to these questions. The percentage of excluded facilities varies by region. "Not applicable" answer category was included as a valid response, therefore total may not add up to 100%.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 2**  
**Percent of residential facilities for victims of abuse reporting a great extent of impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic, by type of impact and region, 2020/2021**

Type of impact	Atlantic region <sup>1</sup>	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Territories <sup>2</sup>	Canada
	percent								
<b>Facility's current ability to provide services being impacted by the following challenges</b>									
Accommodation capacity	37	60	61	18	50	36	28	54	47
Shortage of funding	11	10	11	23	X	X	5	0	9
Difficulties accessing resources such as food or clothing	X	19	14	X	X	X	5	0	11
Difficulties accessing personal protective equipment (PPE) or cleaning products	11	12	5	X	X	X	X	0	7
Difficulties providing professional services or programs	31	35	29	23	50	36	26	X	31
Difficulties communicating with victims outside facility or residents	15	20	22	55	X	17	14	38	21
Difficulties communicating or working with other agencies	13	17	13	X	X	21	15	X	15
Difficulties following or applying government or public health recommendations and measures related to COVID-19	X	8	12	X	X	0	5	X	8
<b>Facility's current ability to provide services being impacted by the following staffing challenges</b>									
Staff availability or reluctance to work due to health concerns or mental health challenges	11	25	16	27	X	14	9	X	17
Staff availability due to self-isolation requirements	X	18	13	X	X	17	7	X	13
Staff availability due to family or caregiving responsibilities	11	24	19	27	X	14	5	X	17
Challenges related to staff shifting to working from home	0	13	13	X	0	19	X	X	9
Challenges related to hiring or training new staff	22	48	41	50	X	31	22	X	34
Challenges related to volunteer work	15	30	44	36	X	38	23	X	31
Staff being restricted to work at one location only	9	17	37	18	0	14	8	X	19

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

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

2. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**Note:** Information in this tables excludes between 27% and 28% of facilities nationally that did not provide a response to these questions. The percentage of excluded facilities varies by region. Other possible valid responses included "To a moderate extent", "To a minor extent", "Not at all" and "Not applicable".

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 3**  
**Percent of residential facilities for victims of abuse offering selected services, by type of service, type of facility and region, 2020/2021**

Selected services	Short-term <sup>1</sup>	Long-term <sup>1</sup>	All facilities	Atlantic region <sup>2</sup>	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Territories <sup>3</sup>
	percent										
<b>General services</b>											
Crisis phone line	97	42	85	85	94	88	64	100	74	82	71
Transportation	84	55	78	78	77	82	64	100	88	65	86
Recreation area or services	67	63	66	72	47	81	73	85	77	52	57
Classes or tutoring	21	23	22	33	10	24	45	54	30	9	X
Pet accomodation <sup>4</sup>	28	34	29	30	9	32	18	X	30	56	0
Food bank	40	48	42	63	27	40	50	77	44	40	43
Clothing items	81	68	78	87	51	83	82	92	93	79	93
Housing referrals	86	87	86	87	74	94	82	100	86	84	93
Furniture items	37	63	43	74	19	45	68	54	56	36	X
Advocacy on behalf of individuals	91	92	91	96	79	98	91	100	91	90	86
Political or social action	33	26	32	48	51	32	32	X	9	14	43
Public education	74	50	68	85	63	79	68	85	70	49	43
<b>Professional services</b>											
Medical services	13	10	12	18	9	11	X	X	29	7	X
Addictions or substance use	28	29	28	21	9	40	42	40	X	29	X
Mental health services	66	73	68	57	84	78	42	40	61	62	X
Legal <sup>5</sup>	29	60	36	39	43	35	58	60	39	21	X
Employment	64	63	64	71	59	58	33	60	90	69	50
Assistance with applications for funding	10	13	11	X	11	10	0	0	X	21	0
Financial compensation	48	62	51	46	39	59	67	70	55	38	63
<b>Services for adults</b>											
Individual counselling	86	88	86	85	95	94	100	92	85	64	57
Group counselling	58	63	59	65	74	69	100	54	49	28	X
Safety or protection planning	98	96	98	100	97	99	100	100	100	97	79
Life skills training <sup>6</sup>	83	87	83	87	80	87	95	100	87	72	79
Parenting skills training	72	72	72	85	67	76	100	85	77	54	50
<b>Services for children</b>											
Childcare	58	56	58	68	41	47	65	80	100	60	X
Counselling <sup>7</sup>	88	93	89	84	97	95	95	80	80	76	X

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 3 — end**  
**Percent of residential facilities for victims of abuse offering selected services, by type of service, type of facility and region, 2020/2021**

Selected services	Short-term <sup>1</sup>	Long-term <sup>1</sup>	All facilities	Atlantic region <sup>2</sup>	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Territories <sup>3</sup>
	percent										
<b>Services for vulnerable populations</b>											
Specialized services for older adults	45	36	43	29	56	42	57	42	34	37	64
Culturally sensitive services for Indigenous persons	63	67	64	68	22	60	100	92	89	75	100
Services for gender and sexuality diversity	46	35	44	61	33	44	71	42	34	43	55
Services in non-official languages	53	51	52	54	50	63	52	83	42	40	45
Services for immigrants or refugees	53	68	56	68	72	46	71	58	45	48	55
Wheelchair accessibility <sup>8</sup>	82	48	74	79	56	90	55	85	79	70	57
Services for persons with mobility disabilities	19	17	19	29	14	20	38	X	11	13	36
Services for persons with visual disabilities	21	14	20	18	13	33	33	X	11	6	36
Services for persons with hearing disabilities	33	16	29	X	22	54	38	42	18	10	36
Services for persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities	27	22	26	14	33	25	43	X	13	25	45

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than 3 months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units. Long-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is three months or longer, and typically provide residential units (e.g. apartments) to residents.

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

3. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

4. Excludes accommodation of service animals.

5. For example paralegal services, assistance with legal documents, legal aid.

6. For example help with budgeting, banking, groceries, day-to-day management.

7. For example play therapy, role playing and goal oriented programming.

8. Includes facilities that are either fully or partially wheelchair accessible based on whether or not at least one building entrance, bedroom or bathroom is wheelchair accessible; excludes the provision of additional services for persons with mobility disabilities.

**Note:** Information in this table excludes some additional services that were collected in the survey. Information for services in this table excludes the following percent of facilities nationally that did not report services offered in a particular category: General services excludes 24% of facilities, professional services excludes 48% of facilities, services for adults excludes 25% of facilities, services for children excludes 35% of facilities, wheelchair accessibility excludes 24% of facilities and services for other vulnerable populations excludes 39% of facilities. The percentage of excluded facilities varies by region. The sum of the response categories can exceed 100% as respondents could mark all categories that apply.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 4**  
**Admissions to residential facilities for victims of abuse, by province or territory, 2020/2021**

Province or territory	Total admissions <sup>1</sup>	Adult females	Adult males	Adults of another gender	Accompanying female children <sup>2</sup>	Accompanying male children <sup>2</sup>	Accompanying children of another gender <sup>2</sup>
					number		
Newfoundland and Labrador	626	488	X	X	70	67	0
Prince Edward Island	133	99	0	0	17	17	0
Nova Scotia	1,006	754	X	23	123	103	X
New Brunswick	922	570	X	X	182	168	0
Quebec	10,490	6,150	8	4	2,220	2,108	0
Ontario	13,804	7,998	111	86	2,938	2,641	30
Manitoba	2,500	1,655	X	X	432	411	0
Saskatchewan	2,229	1,325	X	0	431	471	X
Alberta	6,753	3,975	35	10	1,463	1,268	X
British Columbia	6,628	4,335	X	67	1,227	979	X
Yukon	680	426	51	0	120	83	0
Northwest Territories	333	241	0	0	47	45	0
Nunavut	723	576	0	0	97	50	0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>46,827</b>	<b>28,592</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>9,367</b>	<b>8,411</b>	<b>39</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. An admission refers to the official acceptance of a resident into the facility with the allocation of a bed, child's bed, crib, bedroom or bedroom unit, or apartment. The total number of admissions is based on all admissions for a 12-month reference period and includes those who may have been admitted more than once. Each shelter visit is counted as a separate admission. For example, the same person being admitted to a facility three times in a year would count as three admissions.

2. Accompanying children includes adult children (typically aged 18 or older) accompanying a parent or caregiver, such as adult children with disabilities and those who are caretakers of a parent experiencing abuse.

**Note:** In 2020/2021, the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse was updated to collect resident information for adult females, adult males, adults of another gender, accompanying female children, accompanying male children, and accompanying children of another gender. Adult females includes transgender adults identifying as female and adult males includes transgender adults identifying as male. Adults and accompanying children of another gender include people whose current gender was not reported exclusively as male or female. Also include persons who are unsure of their gender, persons who identify as both male and female, or neither male nor female.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 5**  
**Beds, units and admissions, by type of residential facility for victims of abuse, province or territory, 2020/2021**

Province or territory	Short-term <sup>1</sup>				Long-term <sup>1</sup>		
	All facilities	Facilities	Beds <sup>2</sup>	Admissions <sup>3</sup>	Facilities	Units <sup>4</sup>	Admissions <sup>3</sup>
	number						
Newfoundland and Labrador	15	X	181	608	X	X	X
Prince Edward Island	4	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nova Scotia	16	11	151	977	5	31	29
New Brunswick	20	15	207	888	5	44	34
Quebec	124	105	1,322	10,140	19	154	350
Ontario	156	125	2,478	12,855	31	451	949
Manitoba	29	19	325	2,376	10	45	124
Saskatchewan	19	16	315	2,150	3	24	79
Alberta	55	40	869	5,879	15	207	874
British Columbia	103	77	791	5,784	26	272	844
Yukon	6	X	34	671	X	X	X
Northwest Territories	6	X	38	300	X	X	X
Nunavut	4	4	41	723	0	0	0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>6,775</b>	<b>43,466</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>3,361</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than 3 months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units. Long-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is three months or longer, and typically provide residential units (e.g. apartments) to residents.

2. Beds refers only to the number of funded beds, including children's beds and cribs if applicable, regardless of source of funding. Excludes unfunded beds, which may include emergency beds such as cots, sofas or sleeping bags.

3. An admission refers to the official acceptance of a resident into the facility with the allocation of a bed, child's bed, crib, bedroom or bedroom unit, or apartment. The total number of admissions is based on all admissions for a 12-month reference period and includes those who may have been admitted more than once. Each shelter visit is counted as a separate admission. For example, the same person being admitted to a facility three times in a year would count as three admissions.

4. Units refers to the number of apartments or houses available. An individual unit may house multiple people and are typical of long-term facilities.

**Note:** Nunavut did not report having any long-term facilities.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 6**  
**Occupancy for short-term facilities, by rural or urban designation, and province or territory, April 14, 2021**

Province or territory	All short-term facilities				Urban short-term facilities <sup>1</sup>				Rural short-term facilities <sup>1</sup>			
	Facilities	Beds <sup>2</sup>	Occu-pancy <sup>3</sup>	Facilities full <sup>3</sup>	Facilities	Beds <sup>2</sup>	Occu-pancy <sup>3</sup>	Facilities full <sup>3</sup>	Facilities	Beds <sup>2</sup>	Occu-pancy <sup>3</sup>	Facilities full <sup>3</sup>
	number		percent		number		percent		number		percent	
Newfoundland and Labrador	X	181	25	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prince Edward Island	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nova Scotia	11	151	43	X	6	96	46	0	5	55	38	X
New Brunswick	15	207	49	X	9	146	46	X	6	61	57	X
Quebec	105	1,322	73	23	73	1,005	76	23	32	317	66	22
Ontario	125	2,478	56	17	87	1,995	59	16	38	483	43	18
Manitoba	19	325	33	X	9	195	27	0	10	130	41	X
Saskatchewan	16	315	34	X	13	257	35	X	3	58	33	0
Alberta	40	869	36	0	20	534	39	0	20	335	32	0
British Columbia	77	791	51	14	47	611	52	X	30	180	49	27
Yukon	X	34	65	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northwest Territories	X	38	45	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nunavut	4	41	54	X	0	0	0	0	4	41	54	X
<b>Canada</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>6,775</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>4,921</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Facilities were designated as being located in either rural or urban areas based on Statistics Canada's Postal Code Conversion File Plus (PCCF+) tool. Rural facilities are those that are situated outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA), or in some cases those served by a rural post office. Urban facilities are those that are situated within a CMA or CA, and are not served by a rural post office. A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census place of work data, where 50% or more of the population commutes into the core.

2. Beds refers only to the number of funded beds, including children's beds and cribs if applicable, regardless of source of funding. Excludes unfunded beds, which may include emergency beds such as cots, sofas, or sleeping bags.

3. Occupancy is calculated by dividing the total number of residents on the snapshot date by the total number of funded beds, multiplied by 100. A facility was considered full if its occupancy was 90% or more.

**Note:** The April 14, 2021 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than 3 months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 7**  
**Residents in facilities for victims of abuse, by province or territory, April 14, 2021**

Province or territory	Total residents	Adult females	Adult males	Adults of another gender	Accompanying female children <sup>1</sup>	Accompanying male children <sup>1</sup>	Accompanying children of another gender <sup>1</sup>
	number						
Newfoundland and Labrador	60	48	0	0	7	5	0
Prince Edward Island	33	18	0	0	6	9	0
Nova Scotia	124	70	X	4	26	23	X
New Brunswick	166	95	0	0	33	38	0
Quebec	1,136	633	0	0	234	269	0
Ontario	2,066	1,077	33	3	489	454	10
Manitoba	169	89	X	X	44	34	0
Saskatchewan	147	75	0	0	31	41	0
Alberta	624	331	7	X	138	145	X
British Columbia	840	472	9	X	176	179	X
Yukon	31	19	4	0	X	6	X
Northwest Territories	48	29	0	0	10	9	0
Nunavut	22	19	0	0	X	0	X
<b>Canada</b>	<b>5,466</b>	<b>2,975</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>13</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Accompanying children includes adult children (typically aged 18 or older) accompanying a parent or caregiver, such as adult children with disabilities and those who are caretakers of a parent experiencing abuse.

**Note:** In 2020/2021, the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse was updated to collect resident information for adult females, adult males, adults of another gender, accompanying female children, accompanying male children, and accompanying children of another gender. Adults and accompanying children of another gender include people whose current gender was not reported exclusively as male or female. Also include persons who are unsure of their gender, persons who identify as both male and female, or neither male nor female. The April 14, 2021 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.



**Table 8**  
**Types of abuse experienced by adult female residents of residential facilities for victims of abuse, province or territory, April 14, 2021**

Province or territory	Total adult female residents <sup>1</sup> number	Type of abuse										
		Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Financial abuse	Emotional or psychological abuse	Harassment	Forced marriage	Human trafficking: sex work	Human trafficking: forced labour/ other	Cultural abuse	Spiritual abuse	Other <sup>2</sup>
Newfoundland and Labrador	20	85	X	50	75	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince Edward Island	X	71	X	57	100	X	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	70	84	37	51	79	53	X	X	0	X	X	X
New Brunswick	76	82	32	58	92	29	X	X	0	0	5	0
Quebec	397	65	41	57	92	38	2	3	X	8	4	6
Ontario	721	77	35	56	90	29	2	5	1	10	5	2
Manitoba	59	80	44	64	95	53	X	X	X	7	7	0
Saskatchewan	52	87	27	31	85	27	X	X	X	12	15	0
Alberta	230	79	39	57	90	44	0	2	X	13	15	5
British Columbia	301	75	34	55	88	31	4	2	X	7	5	X
Yukon	12	83	0	33	100	X	0	0	0	X	0	0
Northwest Territories	25	96	X	20	100	X	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nunavut	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Includes residents in the facilities for reasons of abuse. In 2020/2021, the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse was updated to collect resident information based on gender instead of sex. Adult female residents includes transgender adults identifying as female.

2. For example abuse through technology or cyber abuse, or abuse related to immigration status (withholding status or information).

**Note:** The sum of the response categories can exceed 100% as respondents could mark all categories that apply. The April 14, 2021 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. Information in this tables excludes 27% of facilities nationally that did not provide a response to these questions. The percentage of excluded facilities varies by province or territory.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 9**  
**Percent of adult females and children residing in residential facilities for victims of abuse compared with individuals living in Canada, by selected characteristics, province or territory, April 14, 2021**

Selected characteristics and province or territory	Adult females living in Canada	Adult females residing in facilities	Children living in Canada	Children residing in facilities
		percent		
<b>Indigenous<sup>1 2</sup></b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	9.6	45.0	14.3	0.0
Prince Edward Island	1.9	X	3.7	X
Nova Scotia	6.3	10.0	10.2	8.0
New Brunswick	4.2	5.3	7.2	10.5
Quebec	2.4	2.9	3.7	3.7
Ontario	2.9	17.3	4.5	14.4
Manitoba	16.9	64.4	29.4	62.3
Saskatchewan	14.9	63.5	26.1	77.6
Alberta	6.3	38.5	9.8	48.3
British Columbia	5.7	19.1	10.3	19.0
Yukon	22.4	58.3	28.2	62.5
Northwest Territories	48.7	92.0	58.7	100.0
Nunavut	82.3	X	96.3	X
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>21.5</b>
<b>Non-permanent resident<sup>3</sup></b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.0	X	0.3	0.0
Prince Edward Island	4.5	0.0	1.7	0.0
Nova Scotia	2.4	8.6	0.7	22.0
New Brunswick	1.4	10.5	0.5	21.1
Quebec	2.7	13.2	1.2	13.3
Ontario	3.8	9.0	1.0	6.1
Manitoba	2.5	10.2	0.5	7.2
Saskatchewan	1.5	15.4	0.4	14.3
Alberta	1.7	17.6	0.5	24.4
British Columbia	4.6	11.2	1.9	8.9
Yukon	2.4	0.0	0.6	0.0
Northwest Territories	0.7	X	0.2	0.0
Nunavut	0.2	X	0.0	X
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>11.3</b>

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 9 — end**  
**Percent of adult females and children residing in residential facilities for victims of abuse compared with individuals living in Canada, by selected characteristics, province or territory, April 14, 2021**

Selected characteristics and province or territory	Adult females living in Canada	Adult females residing in facilities	Children living in Canada	Children residing in facilities
		percent		
<b>Visible minority<sup>1 4</sup></b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.4	X	5.4	X
Prince Edward Island	8.1	0.0	11.7	0.0
Nova Scotia	7.8	17.1	13.3	40.0
New Brunswick	4.1	18.4	7.8	31.6
Quebec	14.4	28.8	21.9	36.8
Ontario	32.6	32.4	38.9	41.7
Manitoba	20.2	16.9	24.5	20.3
Saskatchewan	14.3	17.3	19.3	8.2
Alberta	26.4	30.8	31.9	24.9
British Columbia	33.8	39.3	37.9	43.9
Yukon	11.7	0.0	12.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	13.8	0.0	12.2	0.0
Nunavut	3.7	X	1.0	X
<b>Canada</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>36.0</b>

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Populations based on projected estimates for 2021 based on the [2016 Census of Population](#), produced by Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. The data were adjusted to reflect various factors, including census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements, and were calibrated to match exactly the population estimates on July 1, 2021, by province or territory, age and sex.

2. 'Indigenous' refers to individuals identifying as First Nations people, Métis or Inuit.

3. A 'non-permanent resident' is a person who is lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis and who holds a work, study or other (excluding visitor visas) permit issued for that person along with members of their family living with them. This group also includes individuals who seek refugee status upon or after their arrival in Canada and remain in the country pending the outcome of processes relative to their claim.

4. 'Visible minority' refers to whether a person is designated as belonging to a visible minority group as defined by the *Employment Equity Act* and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The *Employment Equity Act* defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".

**Note:** Adult females and children residing in facilities excludes adult females and children who were admitted for reasons other than due to abuse. In 2020/2021, the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse was updated to collect resident information based on gender instead of sex. Adult females residing in the facilities includes transgender adults identifying as female. Children in facilities includes adult children (typically aged 18 or older) accompanying a parent or caregiver, such as adult children with disabilities and those who are caretakers of a parent experiencing abuse. Excludes between 27% and 28% of adult females and between 25% and 26% of children in facilities nationally for whom Indigenous identity, residency status and visible minority identity were not reported. The percentage of excluded adult females and children in facilities varies by province or territory. For the adult females and children in facilities, an unknown answer category was included as a valid response to questions pertaining to identity or status. The April 14, 2021 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. While the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse collected information based on gender, population estimates were based on the sex variable as defined in the 2016 Census of Population.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse; Centre for Demography, Demographic Estimates Program, Customized estimations, DEMOSIM, Customized estimations.

**Table 10**  
**Top challenges facing clients of residential facilities for victims of abuse, by type of facility and region, 2020/2021**

Challenges	Short-term <sup>1</sup>	Long-term <sup>1</sup>	All facilities	Atlantic region <sup>2</sup>	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Territories <sup>3</sup>
	percent										
Lack of affordable long-term housing	82	77	81	73	80	93	77	50	73	83	62
Underemployment and low incomes	42	54	45	38	42	48	41	33	38	57	38
Mental health issues	36	34	36	51	20	42	32	X	55	25	54
Substance use issues	33	18	30	29	11	34	50	50	33	29	54
Affordable childcare	12	19	14	X	7	13	X	X	25	23	X
Safety	15	8	13	13	21	7	X	X	20	11	X
Lack of Legal Aid funding	12	11	12	9	22	14	X	0	13	7	0
Lack of other services	12	10	11	18	15	6	23	X	10	8	0
Lack of assistance and regulations related to income	9	9	9	9	14	5	X	50	10	X	0
Criminal justice system	8	8	8	29	8	5	X	0	0	7	0
Lack of shelters	X	X	7	X	16	X	0	X	X	9	X
Food costs	5	12	6	9	7	5	X	X	X	X	X
Affordable transportation	4	13	6	X	8	5	X	0	0	9	0
Parenting issues	3	7	4	0	5	X	0	0	X	X	X
Immigration regulations	3	6	4	0	6	5	0	0	X	5	0
Lack of follow-up support	X	X	3	X	X	6	X	X	0	X	0
Racism	X	X	3	0	X	7	X	0	0	X	0
Other <sup>4</sup>	X	X	6	X	7	X	X	X	X	9	X

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than 3 months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units. Long-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is three months or longer, and typically provide residential units (e.g. apartments) to residents.

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

3. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

4. Includes difficult family court process, lack of reliable Internet, lack of health services for residents, among others.

**Note:** Information in this table excludes 28% of facilities that did not provide a response to the questions. Percentages do not equal 100% as each shelter could provide up to three challenges.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 11**  
**Top challenges facing residential facilities for victims of abuse, by type of facility and region, Canada, 2020/2021**

Challenges	Short-term <sup>1</sup>	Long-term <sup>1</sup>	All facilities	Atlantic region <sup>2</sup>	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Territories <sup>3</sup>
	percent										
Lack of permanent housing	40	43	41	44	31	51	18	X	27	55	X
Staff turnover	35	18	31	18	69	21	23	X	22	25	X
Meeting the diverse needs of clients	28	29	28	38	22	18	36	X	44	32	31
Low employee compensation	28	23	27	29	27	23	41	33	32	26	X
Lack of funding	25	29	26	27	6	41	41	42	20	23	31
Reliance on fundraising	19	21	19	33	7	24	23	X	37	8	0
Need for physical repairs	17	19	17	X	27	18	18	0	20	11	31
Capacity	14	21	16	9	16	16	X	X	10	21	38
Financial instability	9	21	12	27	5	15	27	X	X	X	X
Mental health issues for staff	12	7	11	9	9	14	X	X	17	X	X
Accessibility issues related to structure	7	17	9	9	11	11	18	0	X	5	X
Skills development	X	X	8	X	8	5	X	X	15	8	X
Lack of administrative resources	9	7	8	X	7	10	X	0	17	5	0
Criminal justice system	7	7	7	13	19	X	0	0	0	5	0
Lack of affordable childcare	4	10	5	X	5	4	X	X	0	10	0
Transportation costs	4	6	5	X	X	4	X	0	X	11	0
Providing culturally appropriate supports and services	5	4	5	X	X	5	0	X	X	8	X
Food costs	X	X	4	0	X	6	0	0	0	5	X
Not having the mandate to serve male clients	3	0	2	0	0	X	0	0	X	7	0
Restrictions tied to external regulations	X	X	2	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	0
Advocacy	2	0	1	X	X	X	0	0	0	X	0
Reliance on volunteers	0	4	1	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0
Other <sup>4</sup>	9	6	8	9	9	5	X	X	X	11	X

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than 3 months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units. Long-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is three months or longer, and typically provide residential units (e.g. apartments) to residents.

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

3. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

4. Includes accessibility of shelter, unreliable transit system, shelter located in rough neighbourhood, among others.

**Note:** Information in this table excludes 28% of facilities that did not provide a response to the questions. Percentages do not equal 100% as each shelter could provide up to three challenges.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 12**  
**Funding sources and expenditures for residential facilities for victims of abuse, Canada, 2020/2021**

Funding sources and expenditures	Total facilities		Long-term facilities		Short-term facilities	
	thousands of dollars <sup>1</sup>	percent	thousands of dollars <sup>1</sup>	percent	thousands of dollars <sup>1</sup>	percent
<b>Funding sources</b>						
Federal	56,580	9.8	3,948	6.6	52,632	10.1
Provincial/territorial	393,397	68.0	28,425	47.6	364,972	70.4
Regional/municipal	19,626	3.4	7,003	11.7	12,623	2.4
First Nations	1,444	0.2	35	0.1	1,410	0.3
Foundations	19,668	3.4	6,119	10.2	13,549	2.6
Fees for service	9,555	1.7	6,351	10.6	3,204	0.6
Lotteries	1,353	0.2	512	0.9	840	0.2
Fundraising or donations	59,220	10.2	6,108	10.2	53,112	10.2
Other <sup>2</sup>	17,525	3.0	1,246	2.1	16,279	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>578,368</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59,747</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>518,621</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Salary	360,175	70.8	32,675	56.1	327,500	72.6
Rent, mortgage, property taxes	19,144	3.8	8,373	14.4	10,771	2.4
Other housing costs	30,404	6.0	6,128	10.5	24,276	5.4
Administrative costs	21,356	4.2	2,679	4.6	18,677	4.1
Staff training	4,796	0.9	420	0.7	4,376	1.0
Office costs	11,173	2.2	1,336	2.3	9,837	2.2
Direct client costs	32,698	6.4	2,669	4.6	30,029	6.7
Reserve fund	5,898	1.2	1,113	1.9	4,785	1.1
Other <sup>3</sup>	23,416	4.6	2,859	4.9	20,557	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>509,060</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58,253</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>450,807</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding.

2. Other funding includes interest accrued on invested funds, and unspecified grants and rebates.

3. Other expenses include membership fees, association fees, programming fees, and costs associated with fundraising and volunteers.

**Note:** Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than 3 months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units. Long-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is three months or longer, and typically provide residential units (e.g. apartments) to residents.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.