

Victimization of men and boys in Canada, 2021

by Danielle Sutton

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Victimization of men and boys in Canada, 2021: Highlights

- In 2021, 192,413 men and boys were victims of police-reported violent crime in Canada, representing a rate of 1,015 victims per 100,000 male population and accounting for just under half (46%) of all victims of violent crime reported to police.
- Between 2016 and 2021, the rate of victimization of men and boys increased 12%, with increases observed for most age groups. The largest increase was documented among men aged 45 and older (+22%).
- In 2021, the highest rate of victimization against men and boys was reported by police in the territories, followed by Manitoba and Saskatchewan. However, among the provinces, for boys aged 11 and younger, the highest rate was in Newfoundland and Labrador and, for those aged 12 to 17, in New Brunswick.
- The rate of victimization against men and boys was higher in almost all provincial rural areas, driven by violence in the rural North. The rate of violent victimization against men and boys was 3,519 per 100,000 population in the rural North, three times higher than the rate in the rural South (1,034) and nearly four times higher than in urban areas (936).
- Of the census metropolitan areas, the highest rate of victimization against men and boys was documented in Thunder Bay (1,737), followed by Lethbridge (1,633) and Moncton (1,575).
- Compared to women and girls, men and boys experienced higher rates of more severe forms of victimization: homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder, assault level 2, robbery, assault level 3 and extortion. Sexual assault was a notable exception to this trend.
- Physical force was used against half (51%) of all male victims and an additional 30% experienced victimization with a weapon present. Four in ten (40%) males sustained a physical injury as a result of the violent victimization.
- In 2021, of those whose violent victimization was reported to police, eight in ten (79%) men and boys were victimized by someone outside the family. Boys aged 11 and younger were most often victimized by a family member (59%) but, with increasing age, proportionately more males were victimized by a non-family member.
- In 2021, the homicide rate for men and boys was three times higher than that for women and girls (3.08 versus 1.02 per 100,000 population). The highest homicide rate among all groups was for men aged 18 to 24 (6.72).
- Between 2011 and 2021, the homicide rate among men and boys increased 22%, driven largely by the homicide of men aged 25 and older (+32%).
- Males aged 12 and older were most commonly killed by someone outside the family, such as by a friend, stranger or acquaintance.
- Between 2011 and 2021, shooting was the most common method used to cause the death of men and boys, almost double what was documented for women and girls (40% versus 22%).

Victimization of men and boys in Canada, 2021

by Danielle Sutton

In recent years, there have been several calls to action to address and prevent violence against women, with the acknowledgement that women experience certain forms of violence, within particular relationships, disproportionately. This has resulted in the recognition of violence against women as a public health concern requiring immediate attention. The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics has released many gender-based violence reports which highlight the victimization of women and girls and, while corresponding data for men and boys is shown comparatively, they have typically not been the focus of analysis. As a result, there is a gap in understanding the trends and characteristics associated with violence against men and boys in Canada and internationally. This gap is important to fill considering that police-reported data in Canada have consistently shown similarity in violent victimization rates between men and women (Allen & McCarthy, 2018; Conroy, 2018; Moreau, 2022), yet the circumstances and risk factors surrounding such victimization often differ.

For example, prior research has shown that, compared to women, violence against men often occurs between non-intimates—typically strangers or acquaintances—is more likely to have a weapon present and often involves quite different, sometimes more severe forms of victimization (e.g., violations causing death, robbery, aggravated assault) (Allen & McCarthy, 2018; Conroy, 2018; Cotter & Savage, 2019; Lauritsen & Carbone-Lopez, 2011; Statistics Canada, 2022a; Warnken & Lauritsen, 2019). Moreover, violence can affect the well-being—both short- and long-term—of men, women and gender-diverse individuals personally, in their relationships with others and with the community (Coker et al., 2002; Mercy et al., 2017). Consequences of victimization include, but are not limited to, physical injury and mental health problems, increased substance use, economic losses, the development of infectious and non-communicable diseases as well as increased risk of future violence (Mercy et al., 2017; UNODC, 2019a).

Using police-reported data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey, and self-reported data from the General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), this *Juristat* explores trends and characteristics of violence against men and boys in Canada. While some gender comparisons are drawn, the primary objective is to spotlight male victimization in Canada by examining police-reported and self-reported data.

Text box 1

Data sources and definitions

This *Juristat* article presents information drawn predominately from police-reported data sources, specifically the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey. As such, the focus of this article is to provide information on violent crime that was reported to and substantiated by police services in Canada.¹ However, because not all crime is reported to police, especially among males whose victimization, relative to females, is less likely to be reported to the authorities (Bosick et al., 2012), this article also presents self-reported data drawn from the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) to complement police-reported data. The GSS surveys a sample of Canadians aged 15 and older on their experiences of victimization, regardless of whether such experiences were reported to the police. Though the data are not directly comparable with police-reported data, the two sources can be used together to provide a fulsome picture of the experiences of victims of crime.

Because the risk of and experiences with victimization vary across the lifespan (Conroy, 2018; Kelsay et al., 2017; UNODC, 2019b), victims are grouped into the following age categories for analysis of UCR data:

- Victims aged 11 and younger
- Victims aged 12 to 17
- Victims aged 18 to 24
- Victims aged 25 to 34
- Victims aged 35 to 44
- Victims aged 45 and older

While the focus of this article is on the victimization of men and boys, information on violence against women and girls will also be presented and discussed where differences exist.

For both police-reported and self-reported data, victim gender refers to public expressions and internal feelings of gender identity which may differ from the sex they were assigned at birth (i.e., male or female). As such, within this article, males refer to those who present or identify as male, and females as those who present or identify as female, regardless of their sex at birth.²

Section 1: Police-reported victimization of men and boys

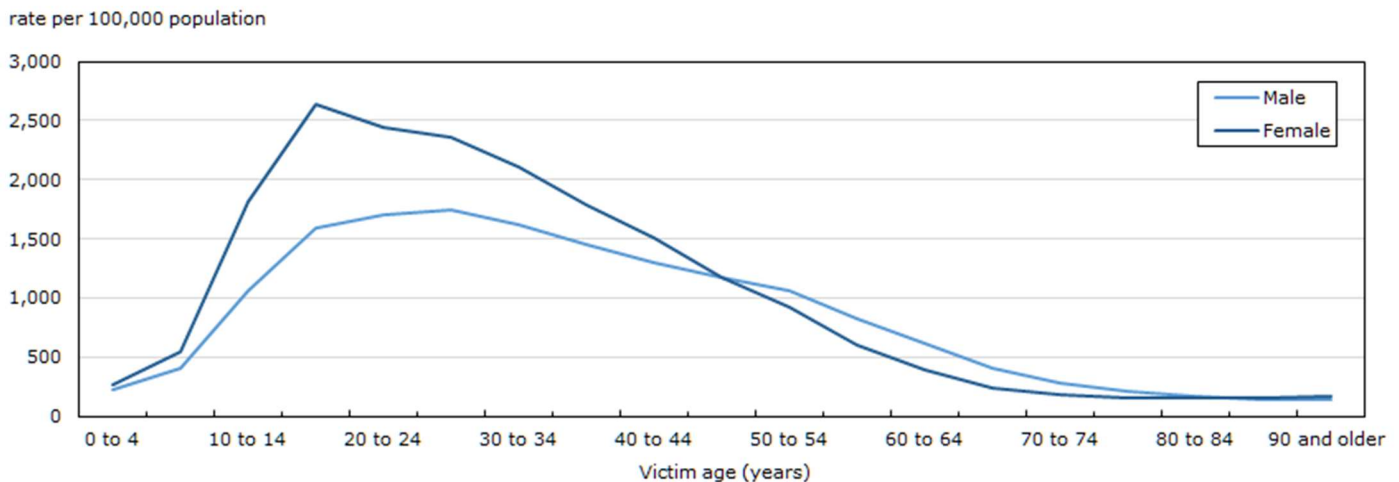
This section draws from police-reported data, specifically the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, to present information on the characteristics and trends associated with the victimization of men and boys in Canada. All self-reported information related to men's experiences with violent victimization are limited to text boxes to clearly distinguish data sources.

Rate of police-reported violence against men and boys increases until the 25-to-29-year age group before declining

In 2021, there were 192,413 male victims of police-reported violent crime in Canada,³ representing a rate of 1,015 victims per 100,000 male population and accounting for just under half (46%) of all victims of violent crime reported to police. Overall, the highest rate of violent victimization was found among men aged 25 to 34 (1,681), followed closely by those aged 18 to 24 (1,660). These findings contrast with rates documented among women and girls, where the highest rate of police-reported violence was among girls aged 12 to 17 (2,574).

Taking a closer look at age, the rate of violent victimization steadily increased for boys and men up to the 25-to-29-year age group, where the rate peaked at 1,741 victims per 100,000 men (Chart 1). In general, the rate of victimization then began to decline with increasing age. On the other hand, the victimization rate among girls and women peaked within the 15-to-19-year age group (2,633). The rate of violent victimization of girls and women exceeded what was documented among similarly aged boys and men until the 50-to-54-year age group at which point the victimization rate was higher for men than women, until age 80 to 84.

Chart 1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age and gender, Canada, 2021



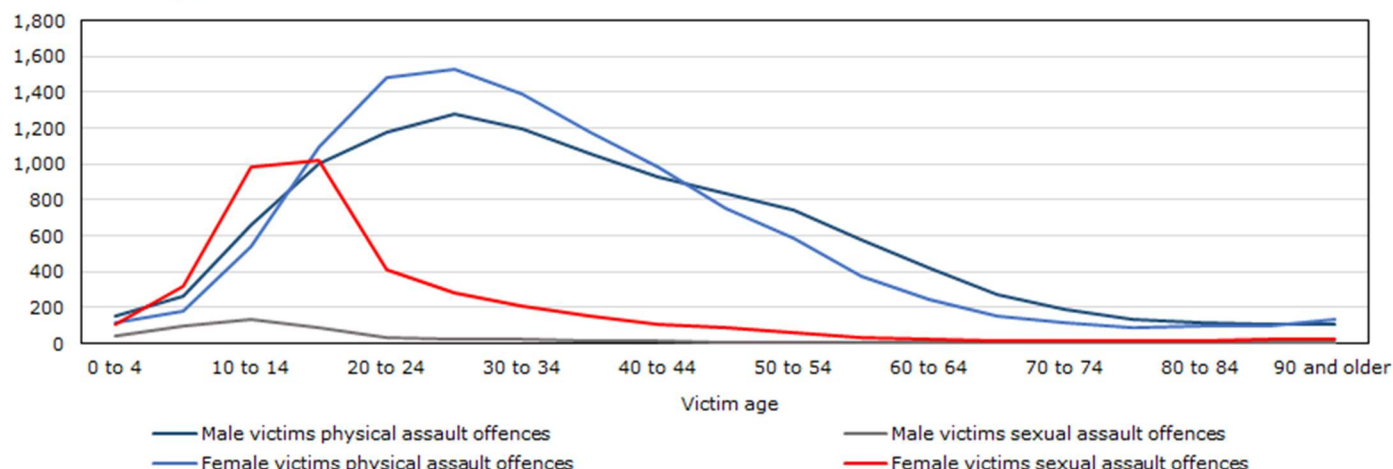
Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown and those where age was greater than 110 are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Excludes victim data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police.

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

Much of the gender gap in the rate of victimization, however, was driven by sexual assault offences. Research has shown that women and girls comprise the majority of sexual assault victims (Allen & McCarthy, 2018; Conroy, 2018; Cotter, 2021a; Cotter & Savage, 2019), whereas physical assault offences are common among men and boys. As such, when looking at victimization rates by offence type, a different pattern emerges. Specifically, rates of physical assault offences are higher for boys than girls up to the 15-to-19-year age group, at which time victimization rates among females exceed males up to and including the 40-to-44-year age group (Chart 2).

Chart 2
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age, gender and type of offence, Canada, 2021

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Physical assault offences include all physical assault related violations (e.g., all assault levels, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, other). Sexual assault offences include all sexual assault related violations (e.g., all sexual assault levels, sexual offences against children). Victims where gender or age was coded as unknown and those where age was greater than 110 are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Excludes victim data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police.

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

Higher rates of physical assault offences among men and boys

In 2021, men and boys experienced high rates of physical assault offences (708 per 100,000 male population) relative to all other violent offences (Table 1). Specifically, police-reported data revealed assault level 1 as the most common violation (433), followed by assault level 2 (207).⁴

While the overall rate of police-reported victimization was higher among women and girls compared to men and boys (1,190 versus 1,015 per 100,000 population), higher rates of more severe forms of victimization, excluding sexual assault, were seen among men and boys. For example, and lending support to prior research highlighting increased violence severity among males (Conroy, 2018; Felson, 2002), men and boys were victims of homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder at a rate three times greater than women and girls (6 versus 2). Similarly, for men and boys, higher rates were documented for assault level 2 (207), robbery (58), assault level 3 (14) and extortion (14) than what was the case for women and girls (155, 25, 6 and 7, respectively).

Women and girls, on the other hand, experienced higher rates of assault level 1 (508 per 100,000 population), sexual offences (220), criminal harassment (65), and indecent or harassing communications (31) compared to men and boys (433, 31, 21 and 13, respectively). Notwithstanding similar rates of police-reported violence across genders in aggregate form for physical assault offences and other offences involving violence or the threat of violence, with the exception of sexual offences, it is important to note that men and women have different experiences with certain types of violent offences in Canada.

Text box 2 Sextortion

Based on available Canadian data, one type of crime that appears to affect boys and young men disproportionately is sextortion. Sextortion involves a person threatening to disseminate sexually explicit or intimate images of someone without their consent for the purposes of obtaining additional images, sexual acts or money (Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 2022b; Patchin & Hinduja, 2020; Wolak et al., 2018). While the term “sextortion” is not used in the *Criminal Code*, the term often refers to conduct that is a type of extortion, which is an offence under the *Criminal Code*. In addition, there are a number of charges (e.g., child pornography offences, harassment, non-consensual distribution of intimate images) which can be laid by police and prosecutors depending on the circumstances of each case.

Data compiled by CyberTip, Canada's national tipline for reporting the abuse and exploitation of children online, revealed a 150% increase in reported instances of youth being sextorted online between December 2021 and May 2022 (Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 2022b).⁵ The vast majority (87%) of sextortion incidents reported to CyberTip affected boys—typically those aged 15 to 17—who were often contacted via social media where they were tricked into sharing sexually explicit images or were unknowingly recorded while exposing themselves over livestream (Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 2022a; Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 2022b; Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 2021). Following this, the extortionist makes demands and threatens to share the photos or videos with the youth's social network if they do not comply.

One in twenty males between the ages of 15 to 24 reported someone sharing or posting embarrassing photos of themselves online

The 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) did not capture information on sextortion specifically. However, it did collect information on cyber-bullying or cyber-stalking experiences within the five years preceding the survey, including where someone shared or posted photos that were embarrassing or made the respondent feel threatened. Though not specific to the distribution of sexually explicit or intimate photos, results reveal important information.

Just over one percent of Canadians reported having such experiences, of which 49% were male. Of these males, more than half (55%) were between the ages of 15 and 24, while about 26% of females were aged 15 to 24. Stated differently, about 1 in 20 (4.2%) young males reported having an embarrassing photo shared or posted within the past five years compared to about 1 in 50 similarly aged females (2.2%).

Text box 3

Self-reported victimization and associated emotional impacts

According to the 2019 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), about 548,000 men aged 15 and older experienced violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey,⁶ representing a rate of 59 victims per 1,000 male population. Of these men, the highest overall rate of violent victimization was documented among those aged 15 to 24 (103 victims per 1,000 male population).⁷ Men aged 15 to 24 also reported the highest rates of sexual assault and robbery (27 and 17 victims per 1,000, respectively). The highest rate of physical assault, however, was documented among men aged 25 to 34 (68 victims per 1,000).

Of the men who experienced non-spousal violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, more than seven in ten (72%) reported an emotional impact as a result of their victimization. The most commonly reported emotional impact was anger (46%), followed by feeling upset, confused or frustrated (37%), annoyed (33%) and being more cautious or aware (30%).⁸ Prior research indicates that only a fraction of men seek formal assistance for emotional problems related to victimization (Campagna & Zaykowski, 2020) and, according to the GSS, a significantly smaller proportion of men than women reported seeking out formal services for any reason following violent victimization (7% versus 18%).

Finally, of those who had reported an emotional impact following the violent victimization, about three in ten (29%) men reported a longer term consequence. Specifically, one-fifth (20%) indicated they felt constantly on guard, watchful or easily startled. One in six (17%) had tried hard not to think about the incident or went out of their way to avoid situations that reminded them of the victimization and one in eight (13%) reported feeling numb or detached from others, activities or surroundings.

Rates of police-reported violent crime against men and boys increasing since 2016

Between 2011 and 2021, according to UCR data, the rate of victimization against men and boys declined by about 6%, largely due to declines in the victimization of boys aged 12 to 17 and young men aged 18 to 24 (-28% and -26%, respectively) (Table 2).⁹ Of note, the rate of victimization against men aged 45 and older increased by 16% over the same period whereas minor rate changes were documented among the other age categories.

However, since 2016, the rate of male victimization increased 12%, with increases observed for every age group with the exception of men aged 18 to 24, where there was a slight decline (-1.3%). The largest increase was documented against men aged 45 and older (+22%). Men aged 45 and older were also the only age group with a higher rate of victimization in 2021 compared to similarly aged women (659 versus 516 per 100,000 population).

Rate of police-reported violence against men and boys highest in the territories and the Prairie Provinces

In 2021, similar to patterns documented in previous years (Allen & McCarthy, 2018; Conroy, 2021b; Conroy, 2018; Perreault & Simpson, 2016), the highest rate of victimization against men and boys was reported by police in the Northwest Territories (7,926 per 100,000 male population), followed by Nunavut (7,003) and Yukon (3,276) (Table 3). Aligned with age patterns observed in Canada overall, the highest rate of violence in each of the territories was documented against men aged 25 to 34 years. That said, the relatively small population counts in the territories, alongside a comparatively younger median age of inhabitants, produces higher and more unstable rates that should be interpreted cautiously. Of note, these areas of the country are regions where violent crime is high overall (Moreau, 2022).

In the provinces, the rate of violence against men and boys was highest in Manitoba (1,805 per 100,000 male population), followed by Saskatchewan (1,666). Some provincial variation exists, however, when examining rates among younger males. For boys aged 11 and younger, the highest rate of violence was in Newfoundland and Labrador (727 per 100,000 boys) and for those aged 12 to 17, police in New Brunswick reported the highest rate (2,553). For all other age groups, the highest rates of violent victimization were reported in Manitoba.

Compared to urban areas, higher rate of violence against men and boys in most rural areas

In 2021, the overall rate of police-reported violence against men and boys was 1.5 times higher in rural compared to urban areas (1,438 versus 936 per 100,000 male population).¹⁰ Indeed, the rate of victimization against men and boys was higher in almost all provincial rural areas, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, than what was documented in provincial urban areas.¹¹

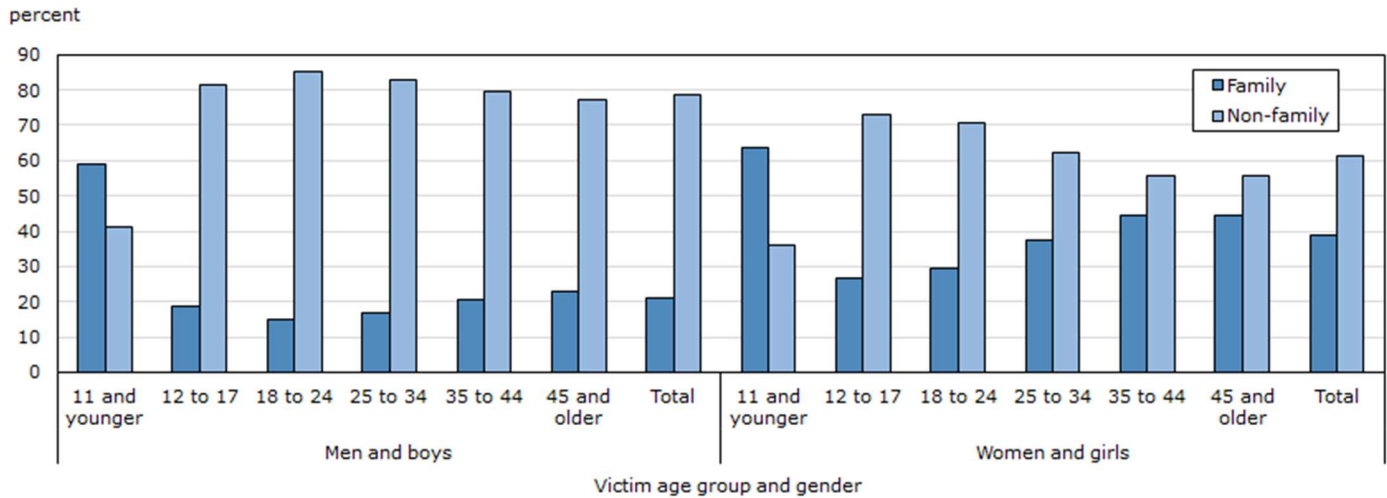
The high rates of rural violence, however, were due in large part to victimization reported to police in the rural North (Table 3).¹² Specifically, in 2021, the rate of violent victimization against men and boys was 3,519 per 100,000 population in the rural North, three times higher than the rate in the rural South (1,034) and nearly four times higher than in urban areas (936). Among the provinces, the largest differences were noted in Saskatchewan, where the rate of victimization was seven times higher in the rural North versus the rural South (10,952 versus 1,528) and almost nine times higher than in urban areas (1,242). Similarly, in Manitoba, the rate of violence against men and boys was about six times higher in the rural North compared to the rural South (7,784 versus 1,340) and five times higher than what was documented in urban areas (1,434).

It follows that the rate of violence against men and boys was lower in census metropolitan areas (CMAs)¹³ compared to non-CMAs (871 versus 1,379) (Table 4). That said, rates varied widely among the CMAs. The highest rates of victimization among men and boys were found in Thunder Bay (1,737),¹⁴ followed by Lethbridge (1,633) and Moncton (1,575). To contrast, the lowest rates of violence were documented in Guelph (454), followed by Barrie (550) and Ottawa (624).¹⁵

Most young boys victimized by a family member, older boys and men by a casual acquaintance or stranger

In 2021, of those whose violent victimization was reported to police, eight in ten (79%) men and boys were victimized by someone outside their family compared to about six in ten (61%) women and girls (Chart 3). The largest proportion of males who were victimized by a family member were aged 11 and younger (59%), of whom, three quarters (75%) were victimized by a parent.¹⁶ However, with increasing age, and as individuals' social networks begin to extend beyond family, proportionately more males were victimized by someone outside of their family. This finding reflects a longstanding trend, even throughout the pandemic whereby lockdown restrictions meant people spent an increased amount of time in the home, oftentimes with family.

Chart 3
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age and gender, and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2021



Note: Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown and those where age was greater than 110 are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Excludes victim data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police. Family includes spousal relationships, parents, children, siblings and all other family members related by blood, marriage, fostering or adoption. Non-family relations include dating and other intimate partners, friends, acquaintances, authority figures, strangers and all other relationship types. Percent calculations exclude unknown relationships.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Boys aged 12 to 17 were most commonly victimized by a casual acquaintance (39%), followed by a stranger (28%). From age 18 onwards, the largest proportion of men within each age group were victimized by a stranger. Specifically, about four in ten (42%) men aged 18 to 24 were victimized by a stranger, followed by those aged 25 to 34 (37%). Equal proportions of men aged 35 to 44 (33%) and 45 and older (33%) were victimized by a stranger.

In contrast, most women and girls experienced victimization by a family member or intimate partner with proportions ranging from 41% to 64% depending on the age group.

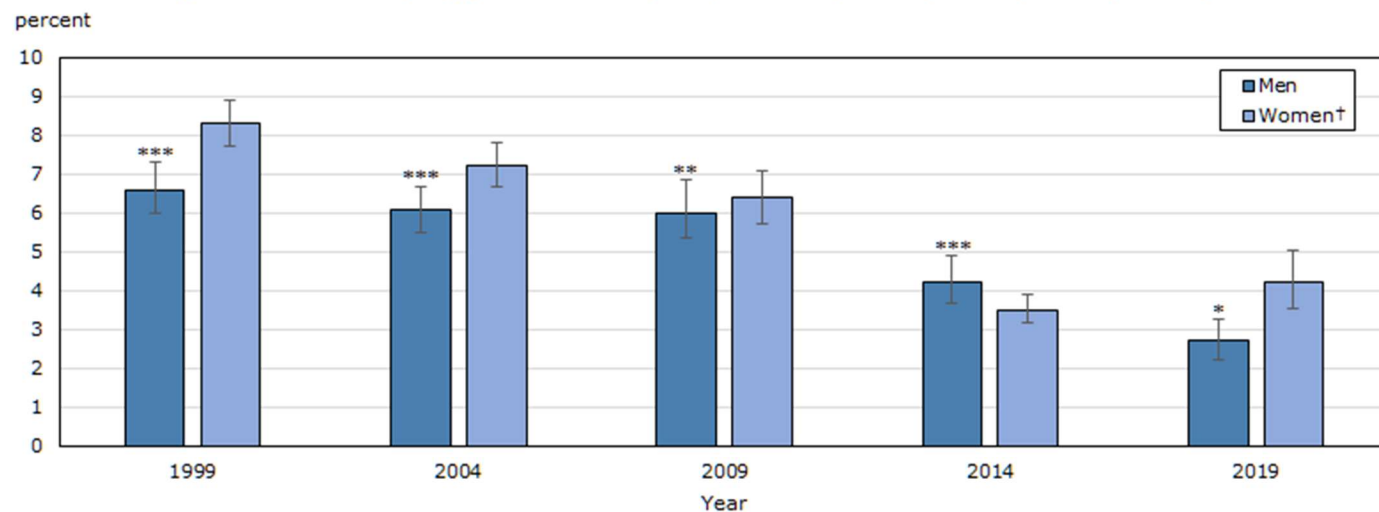
Text box 4
Male victims of intimate partner violence

While intimate partner violence (IPV) is recognized as a gendered crime, affecting females disproportionately, men are not immune to experiencing such violence. IPV has varying definitions but commonly includes acts of physical, psychological, financial or sexual violence between current or former intimate partners who may or may not live together (Conroy, 2021a; Cotter, 2021b).

Victimization surveys in Canada have consistently shown small, albeit statistically significant, differences in the proportion of men and women who experience IPV (see Conroy, 2021a; Cotter, 2021b). Gender differences are much more apparent in police-reported data due to reporting practices. Specifically, only a fraction of victims of IPV say the violence they experienced came to the attention of the authorities and, of those who did, most were female (Conroy, 2021a).¹⁷ Indeed, prior research has revealed substantial gender differences in reporting IPV: for every ten female victims who contact police, one male victim will do so (Dutton, 2012).¹⁸

For 20 years, the General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) has captured information related to spousal violence—a subset of IPV—occurring within the five years preceding each survey cycle (i.e., 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019).¹⁹ Over time, proportions of spousal violence have been somewhat different between men and women. While proportions were relatively low across genders, significantly more women reported experiencing spousal violence in each year, with the exception of 2014 where the proportion was higher among men and in 2009 where there was no significant difference between genders (Text box 4 chart).

Text box 4 chart
Victims of spousal violence, by gender and year, Canada, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019



* significantly different from estimate for women only ($p < 0.05$)
 ** significantly different from estimate for 2019 only ($p < 0.05$)
 *** significantly different from estimate for women and estimate for 2019 ($p < 0.05$)
 † reference category

Note: Spouses include those who are currently married or common-law, or had contact with a former spouse or partner in the five years preceding the survey. Error bars represent the 95% confidence intervals and can be interpreted as such: if the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the interval would cover the true population value.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization).

Notwithstanding overall declines in IPV noted for both genders since 1999, it is important to note that just under 1 in 30 men in Canada have experienced IPV in the five years preceding the 2019 survey. Moreover, men rarely seek formal assistance following IPV victimization (Burczycka, 2016; Cotter, 2021b; Cotter & Savage, 2019; Lysova & Dim, 2022; Roebuck et al., 2020). When they do, many report experiencing barriers ranging from inconsistent police response, to biases in the court processes and risk assessment tools to a lack of services tailored to address men’s experiences with violence (Dim & Lysova, 2021; Roebuck et al., 2020). The removal of such barriers is a critical step towards ensuring equity between genders when addressing IPV in Canada.

Young boys most commonly experience victimization on private property, proportions decrease with age

In 2021, according to UCR data, more than two-thirds (68%) of all boys aged 11 and younger were victimized on private property – including houses, dwelling units and other structures located on private property (Table 5). However, as age increases, proportionately fewer males were victimized at such locations. Rather, sizeable proportions of men experienced violence in outdoor and commercial locations, especially those aged 18 to 24 (49%). In contrast, the largest proportion of females, regardless of age, were victimized on private property. These findings align with previous research using self-reported data whereby men were more likely than women to be victimized outside the home (Cotter & Savage, 2019; Perreault, 2020).

It may be that the location of victimization aligns with the relationships shared between victims and accused alongside lifestyle and leisure activities. For instance, the largest proportion of men aged 18 to 24 were victimized by a stranger. Of these stranger victimizations, 75% were victimized at a school, outdoor or commercial location.²⁰ This contrasts with men who were victimized by a casual acquaintance, whereby more than half (53%) of those aged 18 to 24 were victimized on private property.

In support of the above, the majority (59%) of men aged 18 to 24 were victimized in the evening and nighttime hours (Table 5). Research has shown a correlation between violent victimization and nighttime activities, especially among males, where nighttime activities help to explain the relationship between age and victimization (Bunch et al., 2015). Specifically, younger people may participate in nighttime activities—such as going to work, school, clubs, bars or restaurants—at a greater frequency than their older counterparts, thus increasing the risk of victimization (Cotter, 2021a). In contrast, the largest proportion of boys aged 11 and younger, and those aged 12 to 17, were victimized in the morning and afternoon (64% and 57%, respectively).

Four in ten males sustained a physical injury as a result of the violent victimization

In 2021, according to UCR data, physical force was used against half (51%) of all male victims (Table 5). An additional 30% of males experienced victimization where a weapon was present, double what was documented among female victims (15%). Broken down by age, the presence of a weapon was least common among boys aged 11 and younger (20%) and most commonly reported among male victims aged 18 to 24 (35%), followed closely by those aged 25 to 34 (33%) and men aged 35 to 44 (32%).

Four in ten (40%) males sustained a physical injury as a result of the violent victimization, compared with 37% of females. Looking at variation across age groups, injury was least common among boys aged 11 and younger (35%) and was most common among men aged 25 to 34 (43%). Of all men and boys who sustained an injury, nine in ten (91%) had a minor injury and the remaining 9% had a major injury.

Charges laid or recommended against two-thirds of persons accused of victimizing men and boys

According to UCR data, in 2021, four in ten (43%) incidents of violent victimization against male victims were not cleared—meaning the incident was still under investigation, there was insufficient evidence to proceed or an accused had not been identified—compared to over one-third (37%) of incidents involving female victims.²¹ This difference could be related to incident characteristics, as males were more often victimized by a stranger, potentially increasing the difficulty in identifying and subsequently laying charges against an accused. For instance, one-third (34%) of all male victims were victimized by a stranger and, of incidents involving stranger victimization, more than half (56%) were not cleared.

That said, there were 74,648 police-reported incidents of violence against men and boys in which there was a single victim and single accused person.²² Of these incidents, and aligned with patterns noted above, about half involved the victimization of men and boys by an acquaintance (24%) or a stranger (24%). Women and girls, on the other hand, were most commonly victimized by an intimate partner or family member (70%).

Among persons accused of victimizing men and boys, two-thirds (66%) had charges laid or recommended against them. Charges were most common among persons accused of violence against men aged 25 to 34 (71%) and 35 to 44 (70%). Charges were least common among persons accused of victimizing male youth aged 12 to 17 (50%).

Text box 5

Perceptions of safety and confidence in the police among men

The 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) included questions designed to capture people's perceptions of their personal safety and confidence in the police. In general, a significantly larger proportion of men indicated they were very or somewhat satisfied with their personal safety from crime compared to women (82% versus 74%). The same was true when examining questions related to personal safety using behavioural indicators. For instance, a larger proportion of men compared to women reported feeling very or reasonably safe from crime when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (92% versus 83%), were not at all worried about using or waiting for public transit alone after dark (65% versus 40%) and were not at all worried about their safety from crime when home alone in the evening after dark (88% versus 76%).²³ About one-fifth (21%) of Canadians indicated they had taken measures to protect themselves or their property from crime in the 12 months prior to the survey, where more women than men had indicated doing so (23% versus 19%).²⁴ Despite men reporting greater satisfaction with their personal safety from crime than women, a slightly larger proportion indicated they had not very much or no confidence in the local police service (10% versus 9%).

Focusing on men exclusively, of those who had experienced violent victimization, a smaller proportion reported being very or somewhat satisfied with their personal safety from crime compared to men who had not been victimized (70% versus 82%). Similarly, men who had experienced violent victimization more commonly reported being very or somewhat worried about their personal safety while using or waiting for public transit alone after dark compared to men who had not been victimized (53%^E versus 34%). They were also more likely to have taken measures to protect themselves or their property from crime in the 12 months preceding the survey (30% versus 19% of men who had not been victimized). Finally, a significantly larger proportion of men who had experienced victimization reported having not very much or no confidence in police compared to those who had not been victimized (21% versus 10%).

Section 2: Homicide of men and boys

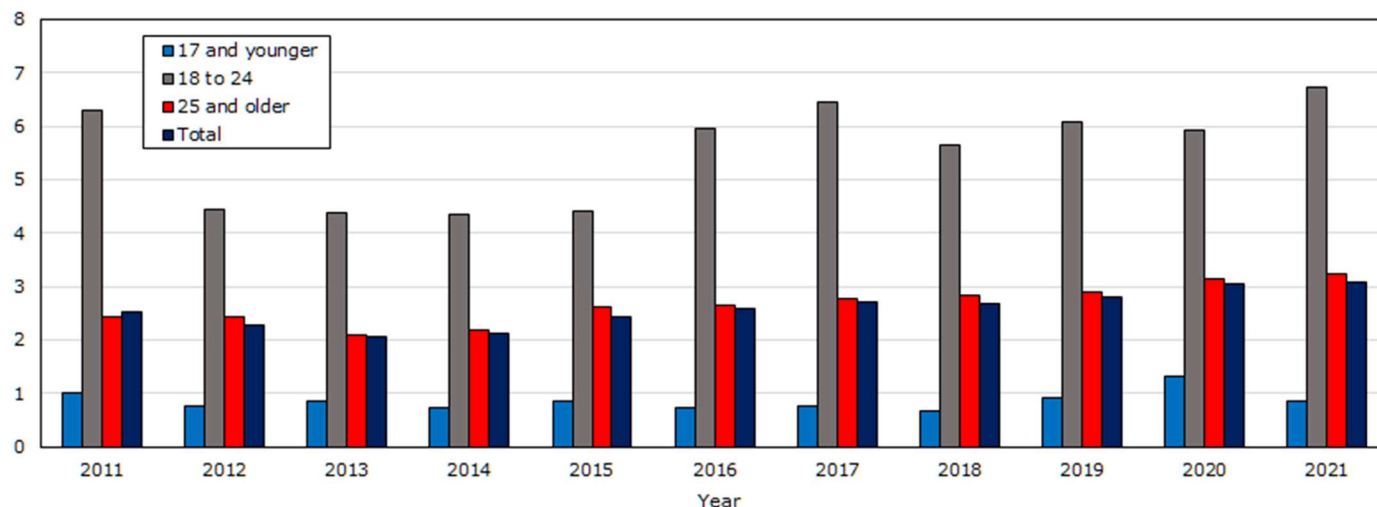
Increase in homicide rate involving male victims

In 2021, 586 men and boys were victims of homicide in Canada. The homicide rate among men and boys was 3.08 per 100,000 male population, almost unchanged from the previous year (3.04) but more than three times the homicide rate for women and girls (1.02) (Table 6). Broken down by age group, and consistent with prior trends, the highest homicide rate was documented among men aged 18 to 24 (6.72) (Chart 4). These findings are consistent with global trends showing that the male homicide rate in general is far higher than that of females and often peaks in young adulthood (UNODC, 2019b).

Chart 4

Male victims of homicide, by age group and year, Canada 2011 to 2021

rate per 100,000 population



Note: There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown. Includes solved and unsolved homicides (i.e., homicides with and without a known accused).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Between 2011 and 2021, the homicide rate among men and boys has increased (+22%), driven largely by the homicide of men aged 25 and older (+32%). A similar pattern is evident when examining the change in rates since 2016. The homicide rate among men and boys as victims increased by 20%, with the most substantial increases documented among men aged 25 and older (+22%) and boys aged 17 and younger (+20%).

Males aged 12 and older most commonly killed by a non-family member

Aligned with global patterns (UNODC, 2019a), between 2011 and 2021, the large majority (87%) of homicide victims aged 11 and younger were killed by a family member (Table 7). From age 12 and onward, however, on average 83% of male homicide victims aged 12 to 17, 18 to 24 and 25 and older were killed by someone outside of their family, most commonly by a friend, stranger or acquaintance. More specifically, male youth victims aged 12 to 17 were most often killed by a friend (41%), followed by a stranger (20%) or an acquaintance (19%). A similar pattern was observed among men aged 18 to 24, albeit with slightly higher proportions (44%, 25% and 22%, respectively). Lastly, of male homicide victims aged 25 and older, the largest proportion was again killed by a friend (34%), followed by an acquaintance (25%) and a stranger (20%).

Four in ten male homicide victims died by shooting

Overall, between 2011 and 2021, shooting was the most common primary method used to cause the death of men and boys (40%), almost double what was documented for women and girls (22%) (Table 8). The method used to cause death among men and boys, however, varied by victim age. For instance, the largest proportion of boys aged 11 and younger died by beating (36%), whereas stabbing was the most common method used to kill male youth aged 12 to 17 (44%). For adult victims, shooting was the most common method of killing for male victims aged 18 to 24 and for those aged 25 and older (54% and 37%, respectively). Recent Canadian data illustrates the gendered nature of gang-related homicides and the predominance of firearms in carrying them out, which can help explain the high proportion of young men dying in firearm-related homicides (see Cotter, 2022; David & Jaffray, 2022).

Text box 6 Victimization of Indigenous men and boys in Canada

Canadian research has consistently shown how rates of violent victimization are higher among Indigenous (First Nations people, Métis and Inuit) compared to non-Indigenous people (Boyce, 2016; Heidinger, 2021; Heidinger, 2022; Perreault, 2022). With the exception of homicide, however, police-reported data on the Indigenous identity of victims or persons accused of a violent crime is not reliably recorded within and across police services in Canada. As part of Statistics Canada's Disaggregated Data Action Plan, a new initiative will improve data collection on the racialized identity of all victims and accused persons who are involved in criminal incidents as reported through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (see Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, 2022). Such an initiative is crucial to enhance understanding of the experiences and interactions First Nations people, Métis and Inuit have with police and the Canadian justice system.

The overrepresentation of Indigenous people as victims and persons accused of crime in Canada has been linked to historical and ongoing colonialism and its associated laws and policies (Department of Justice, 2022; Heidinger, 2022; Perreault, 2022). Specifically, policies such as the residential school system, the Sixties Scoop and current child welfare practices which remove children from their families thereby contributing to the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the child welfare system, affect the relationships many Indigenous people have with each other and the broader community. The impacts of these policies are overwhelmingly negative and far reaching. For example, living with intergenerational trauma resulting from residential school experiences has contributed to high rates of mental health issues, suicide, substance use, child maltreatment and family violence among the Indigenous populations (Menziez, 2020).

To illustrate, according to the 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), Indigenous people were more likely to have reported experiencing harsh parenting and childhood sexual or physical violence, bared witness to parental violence and been under the legal responsibility of the government compared to non-Indigenous people (Perreault, 2022). Indigenous men were also twice as likely as non-Indigenous men to have been victims of at least one violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey (Perreault, 2022). Homicide data are even more illuminating. For example, despite comprising about 5% of the Canadian population (Statistics Canada, 2022b), in 2021, one-quarter (25%) of all homicide victims were Indigenous, representing a rate six times higher than non-Indigenous people (9.17 victims per 100,000 Indigenous people versus 1.55 victims per 100,000 non-Indigenous people) (David & Jaffray, 2022). Indeed, focusing on Indigenous males exclusively, between 2011 and 2021, 30% of all male homicide victims aged 17 and younger were Indigenous and about one quarter (24%) of male victims aged 18 and older were Indigenous.

Summary

In 2021, there were 192,413 male victims of police-reported crime in Canada, representing a rate of 1,015 victims per 100,000 male population and accounting for just under half (46%) of all victims of violent crime. The rate of violent victimization increased steadily for boys and men, peaking between the ages of 25 and 29, before declining with increasing age.

While the overall rate of police-reported victimization was higher among women and girls compared to men and boys (1,190 versus 1,015 per 100,000 population), men and boys experienced higher rates of many more severe forms of victimization, such as homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder, assault level 2, robbery, assault level 3 and extortion.

Consistent with previous Canadian trends, the highest rate of victimization against men and boys was reported by police in the territories, followed by Manitoba and Saskatchewan. For boys aged 11 and younger, however, the highest rate of violence was in Newfoundland and Labrador and for male youth aged 12 to 17, police in New Brunswick reported the highest rate.

In 2021, the overall rate of police-reported violence against men and boys was higher in rural compared to urban areas (1,438 versus 936 per 100,000 male population). The high rates of rural violence were due largely to victimization rates reported in the rural North, which were about three times higher than rates in the rural South.

With the exception of boys aged 11 and younger, the largest proportion of males were victimized by someone outside the family, oftentimes by a casual acquaintance or a stranger. Physical force was used against half (51%) of all male victims and an additional 30% experienced victimization with a weapon present, double what was documented among female victims (15%). Four in ten (40%) males sustained a physical injury as a result of the violent victimization.

In 2021, the homicide rate among men and boys was more than three times higher than the homicide rate for women and girls (3.08 versus 1.02 victims per 100,000 population). Between 2011 and 2021, the homicide rate among men and boys has increased (+22%), driven largely by the homicide of men aged 25 and older (+32%). From age 12 and onward, most male homicide victims were killed by someone outside of their family.

Previously, police-reported data related to the violent victimization of men and boys were used as a point of comparison when examining violence against women and girls. While victimization rates are similar across genders overall, important differences—such as the type of victimization experienced, at what age and by whom—are often concealed. Highlighting such nuances is an important step towards ensuring gender equity when addressing violent victimization in Canada.

Survey description

General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization)

This article uses data from the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization). In 2019, Statistics Canada conducted the GSS on Victimization for the seventh time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014. The main objective of the GSS on Victimization is to better understand issues related to the safety and security of Canadians, including perceptions of crime and the justice system, experiences of intimate partner violence, and how safe people feel in their communities.

The target population was persons aged 15 and older living in the provinces and territories, except for those living full-time in institutions.

Data collection took place between April 2019 and March 2020. Responses were obtained by computer-assisted telephone interviews, in-person interviews (in the territories only) and, for the first time, the GSS on Victimization offered a self-administered internet collection option to survey respondents in the provinces and in the territorial capitals. Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice.

An individual aged 15 or older was selected within each sampled household to respond to the survey. An oversample of Indigenous people was added to the 2019 GSS on Victimization to allow for a more detailed analysis of individuals belonging to this population group. In 2019, the final sample size was 22,412 respondents.

In 2019, the overall response rate was 37.6%. Non-respondents included people who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 and older.

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

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of police services in Canada. Information includes characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 2021, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada.

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

Victim age is calculated based on the end date of an incident, as reported by the police. Some victims experience violence over a period of time, sometimes years, all of which may be considered by the police to be part of one continuous incident. Information about the number and dates of individual incidents for these victims of continuous violence is not available. Excludes victims where age was greater than 110 due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age group.

The option for police to code victims as “gender diverse” in the UCR Survey was implemented in 2018. In the context of the UCR, “gender diverse” refers to a person who publicly expresses as neither exclusively male nor exclusively female. Given that small counts of victims identified as being gender diverse may exist, the UCR data available to the public has been recoded with these victims distributed in the “male” or “female” categories based on the regional distribution of victims' gender. This recoding ensures the protection of confidentiality and privacy of victims.

Homicide Survey

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

Prior to 2019, Homicide Survey data was presented by the sex of the victims. Sex and gender refer to two different concepts. Caution should be exercised when comparing counts for sex with those for gender. Given that small counts of victims and accused persons identified as “gender diverse” may exist, the aggregate Homicide Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either “male” or “female” in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims and accused persons identified as gender diverse have been distributed to either the male or female category based on the regional distribution of victims’ or accused persons’ gender.

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Notes

^E use with caution

1. Violent offences include any founded violation against the person, ranging from uttering threats, to criminal harassment, to physical or sexual violence and homicide. Crimes against property (e.g., theft, mischief) are not included. An incident is deemed founded when an investigation revealed that an offence had been completed or attempted, or lacks credible evidence to the contrary.
2. Analysis in this *Juristat* article is limited to male and female victims of violent violations. Excludes victims where the gender or age was unknown (0.3% and 1.3% of all victims in 2021, respectively). Analysis also excludes victim data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police (0.08% of all victims in 2021). The option for police to code victims as “gender diverse” in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was implemented in 2018. In the context of the UCR, “gender diverse” refers to a person who publicly expresses as neither exclusively male nor exclusively female. Given that small counts of victims identified as being gender diverse may exist, the UCR data available to the public has been recoded with these victims distributed in the “male” or “female” categories based on the regional distribution of victims’ gender. This recoding ensures the protection of confidentiality and privacy of victims.
3. For police-reported violent incidents, a victim record is collected for each victim (i.e., the target of an actual or threatened aggressive action) involved in the incident. If an individual is a victim in multiple incidents in the same reference year, that individual will be counted as a victim for each separate incident. Victims refer to those aged 110 and younger. Victims older than 110 are excluded due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age group.
4. Assault levels correspond with various offences in the *Criminal Code*. Assault level 1 refers to common assault which includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats. Assault level 2 refers to the offences of assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm, which involve carrying, using or threatening to use a weapon against a person or causing someone bodily harm, respectively. Finally, assault level 3 corresponds with the offence of aggravated assault, which involves wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of a person.
5. The increase in reporting occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, where children and youth were spending more time online. It also followed the Online Child Sexual Exploitation Public Awareness Campaign which aimed to reduce the stigma and encourage reporting incidents of sextortion to CyberTip (Public Safety Canada, 2021).
6. The General Social Survey on Victimization captures three types of violent victimization: physical assault, sexual assault and robbery.
7. The lowest overall rate of violent victimization was found among males aged 45 and older (31 victims per 1,000 population).
8. Percentages will not equal 100 due to respondents being able to select more than one emotional impact.
9. The figures presented in Table 2 are from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey Trend Database. As a result, the numbers may not match those found elsewhere in the article.
10. Data not shown. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs.
11. Data not shown.
12. Rural North includes all rural police services in the territories or in the provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.
13. A census metropolitan area (CMA) of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data.
14. In 2021, Thunder Bay also reported the highest violent crime severity index (176.3) of all census metropolitan areas, well above the national index of 92.5 (Moreau, 2022). Increases in robbery, human trafficking offences, sexual assault and sexual violations involving children were all contributing violations.
15. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.
16. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.
17. Generally speaking, intimate partner violence (IPV) may go unreported due to issues of shame or embarrassment, fear of retaliation, a desire to protect the abuser, or feeling as though it is a private, non-criminal matter that is not serious enough to

report (Burczycka, 2016; Cotter, 2021b; Dowling et al., 2018). That said, among victims who indicated having experienced IPV, a greater proportion of women indicated experiencing more severe forms and at a greater frequency than men (Burczycka, 2016; Conroy, 2021a; Cotter, 2021b), which likely contributes to discrepancies in reporting practices across genders.

18. There are several reasons why men may be reluctant to report intimate partner violence to police. For example, men may feel shame, fear that police will not believe or may arrest them, want to avoid being seen as weak or falling short of gender expectations, or have concerns surrounding negative court processes and child custody issues (Dim & Lysova, 2021; Roebuck et al., 2020).

19. The General Social Survey on Victimization defines spousal violence as physical or sexual violence experienced by a current or former spouse in the five years preceding the survey. Spouses refer to those who are currently married or common-law or had contact with a former spouse or partner in the five years preceding the survey.

20. Data not shown.

21. Data not shown.

22. An analysis of the characteristics of accused persons is limited to incidents involving a single victim and single accused to ensure that each victim file is linked with the correct accused file and that each accused is counted only once. Accused persons include those aged 12 and older.

23. Percentages exclude those who never walk alone in the neighbourhood after dark, who do not use public transit or those who stated public transit was not available in their community, and those who are never alone in the evenings or at night, respectively.

24. Protective measures include changing routine or activities, or avoiding certain people or places; installing new locks or security bars; installing burglar alarms, motion detector lights or a video surveillance system; taking a self-defence course; obtaining a dog; and changing residence or moving.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, and type of violation, Canada, 2021

Type of violation	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
	rate						
Men and boys							
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	1	5	15	12	8	3	6
Sexual offences	79	137	43	25	15	5	31
Sexual assault ²	34	66	33	20	12	4	18
Sexual violations against children ³	40	50	1	0 ^s	0 ^s	0 ^s	9
Historical sexual offence ⁴	4	5	0 ^s	0	0	0 ^s	1
Other ⁵	2	16	8	5	3	1	4
Physical assault offences	248	910	1,134	1,235	991	462	708
Level 1 (common assault)	188	611	682	667	561	308	433
Level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm)	53	272	361	364	305	128	207
Level 3 (aggravated assault)	2	10	28	30	21	7	14
Other assaults ⁶	4	17	63	173	105	19	55
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence	55	435	469	408	366	191	270
Robbery ⁷	3	115	159	97	64	31	58
Extortion	0 ^s	44	51	17	10	6	14
Criminal harassment	3	24	23	30	37	18	21
Indecent or harassing communications	1	16	17	20	23	11	13
Uttering threats	36	218	205	228	221	121	153
Other ⁸	11	18	14	16	12	5	10
Total	384	1,487	1,660	1,681	1,381	662	1,015
Women and girls							
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder ¹	1	2	4	3	3	2	2
Sexual offences	278	1,281	469	243	133	35	220
Sexual assault ²	106	744	419	219	122	33	156
Sexual violations against children ³	161	459	6	0 ^s	0 ^s	0 ^s	49
Historical sexual offence ⁴	7	8	2	0 ^s	0	0	1
Other ⁵	5	70	43	23	11	2	14

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, and type of violation, Canada, 2021

Type of violation	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
	rate						
Women and girls							
Physical assault offences	178	837	1,421	1,458	1,080	328	686
Level 1 (common assault)	135	632	1,034	1,051	792	253	508
Level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm)	38	187	344	338	250	67	155
Level 3 (aggravated assault)	2	5	14	16	10	2	6
Other assaults ⁶	3	14	29	54	28	5	17
Other offences involving violence or the threat of violence	56	454	547	531	433	154	282
Robbery ⁷	1	28	67	46	33	15	25
Extortion	1	26	18	9	7	3	7
Criminal harassment	4	84	124	134	115	32	65
Indecent or harassing communications	3	51	59	64	51	16	31
Uttering threats	35	220	208	226	195	80	129
Other ⁸	12	45	72	52	32	8	25
Total	513	2,574	2,442	2,235	1,649	518	1,190

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

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

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

3. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, making sexually explicit material available to a child, parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting sexual activity, luring a child by means of a computer, agreement or arrangement (sexual offences against a child) and bestiality (in presence of, or incites, a child).

4. Includes sexual offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983.

5. Includes sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, bestiality (commit, compel or incite a person), voyeurism and non-consensual distribution of intimate images. Also includes corrupting the morals of a child, anal intercourse and other sexual violations.

6. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace-public officer, assault against a peace-public officer with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault against a peace-public officer, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to or causing bodily harm and other assaults.

7. Includes robbery and robbery to steal a firearm.

8. Includes all other violent violations not otherwise listed.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown and those where age was greater than 110 are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Excludes victim data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police.

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

Table 2
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, and year, Canada, 2011 to 2021

Year	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
	rate						
Men and boys							
2011	374	2,056	2,226	1,681	1,305	570	1,072
2012	359	1,918	2,101	1,648	1,277	563	1,032
2013	333	1,612	1,803	1,529	1,179	535	933
2014	323	1,435	1,675	1,472	1,148	524	888
2015	317	1,441	1,687	1,509	1,180	544	903
2016	317	1,438	1,671	1,502	1,197	541	899
2017	333	1,511	1,676	1,510	1,196	558	915
2018	341	1,480	1,643	1,547	1,233	572	928
2019	401	1,666	1,748	1,651	1,313	623	1,007
2020	342	1,276	1,621	1,664	1,330	644	976
2021	381	1,478	1,649	1,670	1,368	659	1,009
percent change in rate from 2011 to 2021	1.7	-28.1	-25.9	-0.7	4.8	15.5	-5.9
percent change in rate from 2016 to 2021	20.3	2.8	-1.3	11.2	14.3	21.7	12.2
Women and girls							
2011	378	2,239	2,733	1,930	1,477	453	1,117
2012	375	2,166	2,589	1,870	1,416	444	1,073
2013	358	2,011	2,347	1,784	1,320	423	998
2014	341	1,858	2,209	1,745	1,260	409	948
2015	338	1,863	2,285	1,804	1,282	422	966
2016	341	1,940	2,302	1,839	1,296	419	974
2017	372	2,130	2,357	1,898	1,344	436	1,015
2018	400	2,208	2,359	1,969	1,396	454	1,049
2019	463	2,459	2,416	2,102	1,519	491	1,129
2020	425	2,102	2,359	2,122	1,576	494	1,109
2021	510	2,554	2,417	2,214	1,636	516	1,180
percent change in rate from 2011 to 2021	34.8	14.1	-11.6	14.7	10.8	14.0	5.6
percent change in rate from 2016 to 2021	49.5	31.6	5.0	20.4	26.3	23.0	21.2

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown and those where age was greater than 110 are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. As a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere in the report.

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

Table 3
Rate of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, province or territory and urban or rural area, Canada, 2021

	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
Province or territory and urban or rural area¹	rate						
Men and boys							
Newfoundland and Labrador	727	2,141	1,921	2,538	2,047	828	1,318
Urban area	551	1,645	1,676	1,987	1,610	638	1,096
Rural South	940	2,668	1,525	2,688	2,046	824	1,232
Rural North	1,192	3,677	6,186	7,998	6,227	3,071	4,181
Prince Edward Island	433	1,447	1,002	1,243	962	489	762
Urban area	441	1,340	1,055	1,160	1,006	549	796
Rural South	418	1,644	884	1,446	870	397	698
Nova Scotia	482	1,964	1,661	1,700	1,637	637	1,052
Urban area	450	1,616	1,403	1,443	1,418	606	957
Rural South	549	2,634	2,268	2,518	2,197	686	1,239
New Brunswick	565	2,553	2,529	2,693	2,090	921	1,464
Urban area	564	2,295	2,178	2,210	1,826	830	1,310
Rural South	566	3,065	3,241	3,755	2,654	1,062	1,742
Quebec	533	1,929	1,719	1,604	1,335	634	1,013
Urban area	497	1,875	1,698	1,544	1,307	646	1,009
Rural South	675	2,164	1,722	1,822	1,401	559	972
Rural North	1,500	3,237	4,040	4,828	3,217	1,162	2,193
Ontario	280	1,026	1,146	1,195	1,004	508	745
Urban area	267	1,012	1,118	1,144	959	510	732
Rural South	292	830	873	1,087	898	327	539
Rural North	803	2,334	3,555	4,756	4,002	1,141	2,079
Manitoba	475	2,095	3,332	3,329	2,532	1,074	1,805
Urban area	334	1,544	2,727	2,407	1,940	897	1,434
Rural South	449	1,687	2,274	2,951	2,176	760	1,340
Rural North	1,493	7,459	13,140	16,928	13,320	5,174	7,784
Saskatchewan	557	2,202	3,064	3,327	2,249	902	1,666
Urban area	396	1,700	2,269	2,158	1,592	722	1,242
Rural South	657	1,951	2,710	3,962	2,389	782	1,528
Rural North	1,935	9,635	17,809	21,194	18,673	7,568	10,952

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Rate of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, province or territory and urban or rural area, Canada, 2021

	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
Province or territory and urban or rural area¹	rate						
Men and boys							
Alberta	331	1,454	1,940	1,872	1,409	763	1,120
Urban area	303	1,432	1,841	1,602	1,244	709	1,027
Rural South	439	1,325	1,909	2,843	1,948	739	1,230
Rural North	501	1,940	3,312	5,327	3,381	1,558	2,259
British Columbia	278	1,384	1,816	1,832	1,572	764	1,110
Urban area	271	1,360	1,811	1,781	1,508	762	1,101
Rural South	274	1,308	1,492	1,997	1,742	657	966
Rural North	528	2,384	3,022	3,849	3,821	1,278	1,998
Yukon	846	4,403	4,846	5,439	4,523	2,347	3,276
Urban area	621	3,856	3,951	3,987	3,394	1,748	2,517
Rural North	2,016	7,538	9,926	13,765	10,667	4,825	6,976
Northwest Territories	1,203	3,793	10,082	13,477	11,143	7,249	7,926
Urban area	522	2,401	7,817	7,525	5,099	4,163	4,617
Rural North	1,810	5,072	12,680	20,682	18,766	10,179	11,354
Nunavut	2,177	4,881	7,484	11,831	10,105	7,905	7,003
Canada	384	1,487	1,660	1,681	1,381	662	1,015
Urban areas ²	341	1,373	1,527	1,475	1,234	628	936
Rural South ³	504	1,727	1,764	2,178	1,642	607	1,034
Rural North	1,019	3,562	5,756	7,876	5,847	2,121	3,519
Women and girls							
Newfoundland and Labrador	887	3,775	3,434	4,033	2,438	633	1,616
Urban area	563	3,023	2,463	2,383	1,525	489	1,181
Rural South	1,218	4,154	2,933	4,425	2,564	606	1,434
Rural North	2,023	8,333	15,097	20,233	10,728	2,955	7,765
Prince Edward Island	609	2,385	1,873	1,679	1,242	355	925
Urban area	415	1,962	1,807	1,545	1,179	377	877
Rural South	979	3,186	2,010	2,008	1,379	319	1,016
Nova Scotia	621	3,583	2,687	2,143	1,834	477	1,215
Urban area	545	2,982	2,338	1,724	1,558	415	1,070
Rural South	785	4,782	3,511	3,485	2,531	580	1,503
New Brunswick	725	3,976	3,870	3,447	2,691	772	1,712
Urban area	618	3,467	3,520	2,806	2,191	627	1,479
Rural South	946	4,978	4,603	5,009	3,792	1,010	2,148

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Rate of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, province or territory and urban or rural area, Canada, 2021

	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
Province or territory and urban or rural area¹	rate						
Women and girls							
Quebec	626	3,284	2,387	2,044	1,574	480	1,148
Urban area	581	3,031	2,346	1,956	1,511	482	1,122
Rural South	789	4,456	2,440	2,396	1,856	454	1,199
Rural North	2,142	8,198	6,245	6,833	3,949	790	2,786
Ontario	368	1,679	1,730	1,635	1,237	418	884
Urban area	335	1,566	1,642	1,526	1,165	410	846
Rural South	463	1,819	1,430	1,787	1,346	356	781
Rural North	1,457	6,176	7,695	8,044	5,006	1,013	3,104
Manitoba	750	4,172	4,982	4,940	3,109	854	2,314
Urban area	539	3,034	3,639	3,032	2,098	610	1,602
Rural South	756	3,464	4,017	4,741	2,932	745	1,943
Rural North	2,151	14,789	21,760	30,347	19,556	5,268	12,133
Saskatchewan	875	4,103	5,611	5,040	3,009	804	2,326
Urban area	595	3,157	3,727	2,741	1,725	539	1,506
Rural South	1,119	3,613	5,691	6,502	3,841	823	2,361
Rural North	2,773	18,913	33,062	41,568	28,192	8,025	17,956
Alberta	483	2,523	2,782	2,417	1,749	604	1,343
Urban area	420	2,407	2,469	1,986	1,471	519	1,172
Rural South	643	2,376	3,226	4,129	2,671	668	1,622
Rural North	995	4,137	6,312	8,413	5,195	1,726	3,409
British Columbia	430	2,419	2,186	2,031	1,586	531	1,115
Urban area	395	2,260	2,071	1,888	1,478	514	1,062
Rural South	624	3,140	2,824	2,893	2,038	516	1,201
Rural North	979	5,450	5,767	6,856	5,039	1,313	2,991
Yukon	1,217	5,486	9,944	9,695	5,616	2,275	4,574
Urban area	872	4,964	6,473	6,824	3,670	1,675	3,267
Rural North	3,110	8,929	31,250	26,786	17,289	4,963	11,423
Northwest Territories	1,724	11,692	24,939	25,108	16,574	7,955	12,874
Urban area	649	5,903	11,464	12,605	7,816	4,042	6,440
Rural North	2,742	16,953	38,559	40,217	28,701	11,757	19,666
Nunavut	3,210	12,726	20,433	27,969	19,403	9,190	13,727

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Rate of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, province or territory and urban or rural area, Canada, 2021

Province or territory and urban or rural area ¹	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
	rate						
Women and girls							
Canada	513	2,574	2,442	2,235	1,649	518	1,190
Urban areas ²	435	2,245	2,112	1,843	1,403	469	1,038
Rural South ³	738	3,374	2,932	3,198	2,252	544	1,363
Rural North	1,658	8,080	11,871	14,643	8,667	2,144	5,606

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

2. Nunavut is excluded from the national total of urban areas due to its entire population residing in the rural North.

3. All territories are excluded from the rural South total.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown and those where age was greater than 110 are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Excludes victim data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police. Rural police services are those that serve areas where the majority of the population lives outside of a CMA or CA. Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

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

Table 4
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, and census metropolitan area, Canada, 2021

	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
Census metropolitan area (CMA) ¹	rate						
Men and boys							
St. John's	384	1,288	1,762	1,900	1,539	615	1,061
Halifax	442	1,472	1,354	1,230	1,272	575	897
Moncton	738	2,456	2,387	2,630	1,949	1,092	1,575
Saint John	367	2,094	1,238	1,482	1,704	566	958
Saguenay	786	2,145	1,684	1,557	1,547	558	1,013
Quebec	379	1,553	1,899	1,340	1,202	579	906
Sherbrooke	445	1,520	1,100	1,079	939	397	702
Trois-Rivières	926	2,064	1,974	1,915	1,550	528	1,085
Montréal	430	1,805	1,574	1,415	1,245	697	994
Gatineau ²	477	1,874	1,639	1,809	1,397	626	1,048
Ottawa ³	180	830	985	967	801	451	624
Kingston	234	1,073	1,100	978	853	434	651
Belleville ⁴	512	991	1,583	1,668	1,215	532	877
Peterborough	211	1,066	1,373	1,391	1,044	432	727
Toronto ⁵	229	861	1,001	982	858	529	687
Hamilton ⁶	420	1,488	1,368	1,370	1,319	678	955
St. Catharines–Niagara	180	1,028	1,161	1,304	1,036	425	684
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	558	2,038	1,646	1,732	1,602	885	1,249
Brantford	383	1,030	1,459	1,385	1,218	578	857
Guelph	175	599	791	841	566	226	454
London	317	1,159	1,627	1,527	1,131	601	918
Windsor	309	861	1,044	1,177	1,113	428	697
Barrie	197	1,082	868	875	617	357	550
Greater Sudbury	376	1,365	1,591	1,839	1,497	595	1,000
Thunder Bay	428	1,739	3,153	3,615	2,671	972	1,737
Winnipeg	282	1,390	2,459	2,103	1,804	866	1,314
Regina	244	1,955	1,838	1,694	1,117	598	1,006
Saskatoon	297	1,135	1,695	1,612	1,403	625	996
Lethbridge ⁴	316	1,779	3,452	2,355	2,591	1,038	1,633
Calgary	222	1,412	1,724	1,456	1,095	623	922
Edmonton	312	1,153	1,598	1,394	1,141	692	936

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, and census metropolitan area, Canada, 2021

	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
Census metropolitan area (CMA)¹	rate						
Men and boys							
Kelowna	229	1,522	2,628	2,009	2,040	862	1,313
Abbotsford–Mission	228	1,014	1,306	1,172	1,186	537	786
Vancouver	243	1,159	1,543	1,509	1,231	690	966
Victoria	275	1,231	2,087	1,656	1,571	726	1,082
CMA total⁷	307	1,262	1,406	1,323	1,131	601	871
Non-CMA total	574	2,049	2,431	2,879	2,131	792	1,379
Canada	384	1,487	1,660	1,681	1,381	662	1,015
Women and girls							
St. John's	413	2,422	2,197	2,057	1,359	434	1,053
Halifax	525	2,742	2,042	1,357	1,259	404	963
Moncton	681	3,914	4,525	3,261	2,571	762	1,811
Saint John	432	2,327	2,310	2,018	1,672	388	1,010
Saguenay	982	4,389	2,514	2,270	1,795	424	1,226
Quebec	379	2,364	2,419	2,022	1,523	473	1,043
Sherbrooke	490	4,367	1,658	1,330	1,126	288	898
Trois-Rivières	844	5,151	3,246	2,314	1,695	436	1,294
Montréal	519	2,632	2,185	1,764	1,401	493	1,068
Gatineau ²	645	2,497	2,336	1,978	1,245	476	1,086
Ottawa ³	213	1,289	1,491	1,304	903	334	709
Kingston	306	1,889	2,077	1,419	1,011	316	805
Belleville ⁴	733	2,916	3,400	2,945	2,049	564	1,390
Peterborough	392	1,827	2,692	1,950	1,535	383	989
Toronto ⁵	289	1,171	1,309	1,248	970	392	732
Hamilton ⁶	393	1,991	2,127	2,001	1,665	550	1,106
St. Catharines–Niagara	307	1,671	1,831	1,928	1,353	396	858
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	599	2,860	2,718	2,380	2,134	767	1,512
Brantford	654	2,672	2,744	2,491	1,748	682	1,347
Guelph	214	1,611	1,385	960	779	260	626
London	437	1,869	2,177	1,868	1,494	413	1,020
Windsor	394	1,447	1,905	1,867	1,768	414	955
Barrie	238	1,601	1,243	1,303	992	261	682
Greater Sudbury	722	3,350	3,038	2,580	1,404	509	1,295
Thunder Bay	726	4,104	5,523	4,867	3,788	926	2,299

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, and census metropolitan area, Canada, 2021

	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
Census metropolitan area (CMA)¹	rate						
Women and girls							
Winnipeg	453	2,704	3,158	2,540	1,833	580	1,400
Regina	386	2,675	3,401	2,431	1,419	481	1,298
Saskatoon	521	2,402	2,801	2,033	1,315	431	1,178
Lethbridge ⁴	672	2,654	4,649	2,998	2,660	710	1,807
Calgary	317	1,841	2,146	1,663	1,143	438	958
Edmonton	433	2,473	2,109	1,780	1,387	507	1,098
Kelowna	527	2,479	2,664	2,445	2,164	612	1,312
Abbotsford–Mission	275	1,849	1,585	1,820	1,571	464	963
Vancouver	293	1,676	1,514	1,428	1,102	438	840
Victoria	365	2,191	2,858	1,847	1,574	444	1,055
CMA total⁷	390	1,977	1,917	1,639	1,260	443	949
Non-CMA total	821	4,062	4,056	4,328	2,867	689	1,816
Canada	513	2,574	2,442	2,235	1,649	518	1,190

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown and those where age was greater than 110 are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Excludes victim data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police.

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

Table 5
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, and incident characteristic, Canada, 2021

Incident characteristic	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
	percent						
Men and boys							
Incident location							
Private property ¹	68	38	43	47	50	52	49
Outdoor location ²	15	32	30	28	27	25	27
Commercial location ³	3	5	19	16	14	14	14
School ⁴	11	21	1	0 ^s	1	1	3
Other ⁵	3	4	7	9	8	7	7
Unknown location	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Incident time							
Night ⁶	7	9	22	20	16	12	16
Morning ⁷	20	15	14	17	19	21	18
Afternoon ⁸	43	42	27	29	31	35	33
Evening ⁹	30	34	36	34	34	32	34
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Weapon present							
No weapon ¹⁰	10	10	6	6	7	8	7
Threats ¹¹	6	11	10	10	12	13	11
Physical force	64	51	49	51	49	52	51
Weapon present	20	28	35	33	32	27	30
Firearm	1	4	6	4	3	2	4
Knife or other piercing instrument ¹²	4	10	12	11	10	8	10
Club or other blunt instrument	3	3	4	5	5	5	4
Other weapon ¹³	11	11	13	13	14	12	12
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Level of injury							
No physical injury ¹⁴	65	63	58	57	59	62	60
Physical injury	35	37	42	43	41	38	40
Minor physical injury ¹⁵	33	34	38	38	37	35	37
Major physical injury ¹⁶	2	2	4	5	4	3	4
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, and incident characteristic, Canada, 2021

Incident characteristic	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
	percent						
Women and girls							
Incident location							
Private property ¹	78	60	66	70	72	69	69
Outdoor location ²	9	17	17	15	14	13	15
Commercial location ³	2	5	11	9	9	9	9
School ⁴	7	14	1	0 ^s	1	1	3
Other ⁵	3	4	4	5	5	8	6
Unknown location	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Incident time							
Night ⁶	10	13	21	19	16	12	16
Morning ⁷	21	18	18	20	20	20	19
Afternoon ⁸	38	38	28	29	31	36	32
Evening ⁹	31	31	33	32	33	32	32
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Weapon present							
No weapon ¹⁰	18	22	12	11	12	12	13
Threats ¹¹	5	7	8	9	10	12	9
Physical force	66	60	65	64	61	60	62
Weapon present	12	11	16	16	17	16	15
Firearm	1	1	2	2	2	1	2
Knife or other piercing instrument ¹²	2	3	4	4	4	4	4
Club or other blunt instrument	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Other weapon ¹³	7	6	8	9	9	8	8
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and gender, and incident characteristic, Canada, 2021

Incident characteristic	11 and younger	12 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and older	Total
	percent						
Women and girls							
Level of injury							
No physical injury ¹⁴	76	76	60	58	60	66	63
Physical injury	24	24	40	42	40	34	37
Minor physical injury ¹⁵	23	24	39	40	38	33	35
Major physical injury ¹⁶	1	1	2	2	2	2	1
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

... not applicable

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

1. Includes houses, dwelling units and private property structures.

2. Includes transit buses, bus shelters, subways, subway stations, other forms of public transportation and connected facilities. Also includes parking lots, streets, roads, highways and other open areas (e.g., playgrounds, parks, fields).

3. Includes commercial residences (e.g., hotel rooms, short-term rentals) and other corporate locations where the principal purpose is to conduct legitimate business for profit.

4. Includes schools—junior kindergarten through grade 13 or College of General and Professional Teaching (CEGEP)—and universities and colleges during supervised and unsupervised activities.

5. Includes religious institutions, hospitals, group housing (e.g., homeless shelters, nursing homes, retirement homes, halfway houses) and other non-commercial locations (e.g., government buildings, community centres).

6. Includes 12:00 AM to 5:59 AM.

7. Includes 6:00 AM to 11:59 AM.

8. Includes 12:00 PM to 5:59 PM.

9. Includes 6:00 PM to 11:59 PM.

10. Includes no threat, physical force or weapon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown and those where age was greater than 110 are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0. Excludes victim data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police. For incident location, time, presence of weapon and injury sustained, percent calculations exclude unknown values.

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

Table 6
Victims of homicide, by victim age group and gender, and year, Canada, 2011 to 2021

Year	17 and younger		18 to 24		25 and older		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	rate							
2011	1.01	0.65	6.31	2.36	2.44	0.97	2.52	1.04
2012	0.76	0.62	4.43	1.30	2.43	0.92	2.28	0.90
2013	0.84	0.35	4.38	1.30	2.09	0.93	2.06	0.85
2014	0.73	0.71	4.36	0.50	2.20	0.95	2.11	0.86
2015	0.87	0.64	4.41	1.52	2.61	1.02	2.43	0.99
2016	0.72	0.38	5.97	0.89	2.65	0.97	2.57	0.85
2017	0.77	0.57	6.45	1.71	2.77	0.94	2.71	0.94
2018	0.68	0.48	5.64	1.31	2.84	0.96	2.67	0.90
2019	0.92	0.37	6.08	0.86	2.91	0.92	2.82	0.81
2020	1.32	0.68	5.93	1.17	3.14	0.97	3.04	0.93
2021	0.87	0.68	6.72	1.45	3.23	1.06	3.08	1.02
	percent							
percent change in rate from 2011 to 2021	-14.3	4.2	6.5	-38.5	32.1	9.2	22.3	-1.4
percent change in rate from 2016 to 2021	20.5	80.8	12.6	62.1	21.8	9.3	19.8	20.2
	number							
Total	344	212	1,040	230	3,728	1,404	5,112	1,846

Note: There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown. Includes solved and unsolved homicide (i.e., homicides with and without a known accused).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 7
Victims of homicide, by victim age group and gender, and relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2011 to 2021

	11 and younger		12 to 17		18 to 24		25 and older		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Accused-victim relationship	percent									
Intimate partner	...	...	1	24	2	51	7	51	5	46
Spouse ¹	...	...	0	6	1	24	4	40	3	34
Non-spousal intimate partner ²	...	...	1	18	1	27	2	10	2	12
Non-spousal family	87	88	19	32	7	10	15	21	16	25
Parent ³	79	80	7	18	1	6	1	1	4	8
Child ⁴	...	...	1	0	0 ⁵	0	7	14	5	10
Other family ⁵	8	8	11	15	6	4	8	6	8	7
Non-family	13	12	80	44	91	39	78	29	78	29
Friend ⁶	4	5	41	22	44	17	34	10	35	11
Acquaintance ⁷	7	7	19	10	22	13	25	10	23	10
Stranger	2	1	20	12	25	9	20	8	20	8
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Solved homicide total⁸	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

... not applicable

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

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

2. Includes current and former dating partners (i.e., boyfriends and girlfriends) and other intimate partners (e.g., one-night stands, mutual sexual attraction, extramarital affairs).

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

4. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.

5. Includes biological, step, half, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters, and all other family members related to the victim by blood or marriage (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, current and former in-laws).

6. Includes close friends, casual friends, family friends and roommates.

7. Includes other household members, temporary house guests, current and former intimate partners of family members, authority and reverse authority relations, neighbours, business relationships, criminal relationships, co-substance users, co-institutional facility members and other acquaintances.

8. Includes homicides with a known accused.

Note: There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada. Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown. Percent calculations are based on solved homicides only and exclude unknown relationships. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8
Victims of homicide, by victim age group and gender, and primary method to cause death, Canada, 2011 to 2021

Primary method used to cause death	11 and younger		12 to 17		18 to 24		25 and older		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	percent									
Shooting	9	7	41	29	54	25	37	23	40	22
Stabbing	11	17	44	23	33	35	33	34	33	33
Beating or blows	36	27	6	19	8	17	21	21	19	21
Strangulation, suffocation, drowning	18	27	2	17	1	17	3	13	3	15
Other ¹	26	22	8	13	3	6	6	8	6	9
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

... not applicable

1. Includes drug overdoses, poisoning or lethal injections, smoke inhalation or burns, exposure or hypothermia, abusive head traumas (previously referred to as shaken baby syndrome), motor vehicle impacts or collisions, neglect or failure to support life and other methods.

Note: There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada. Excludes victims where gender or age was coded as unknown. Percent calculations exclude unknown methods. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.