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Recent trends in police-reported clearance status of sexual assault and other violent crime in Canada, 2017 to 2022

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Recent trends in police-reported clearance status of sexual assault and other violent crime in Canada, 2017 to 2022: Highlights

- In 2018, a new definition of “founded” crime was implemented in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Following the change, the standard practice is for police to record criminal incidents as founded—that is, that reported incidents had in fact occurred—unless there is credible evidence demonstrating that incidents had not taken place. Now, a smaller proportion of crime is classified as “unfounded” while more founded incidents are “not cleared” (unsolved) by police.
- This represents a shift to a more victim-centred approach to recording crime, and it has a significant impact as more reported victim experiences are now captured by police data. This is particularly relevant to the way reported incidents of sexual assault are treated by police due to the challenges that often exist in obtaining evidence for this type of crime. A high proportion of unfounded sexual assault may have negative ramifications for victims, including deterring them from reporting and seeking justice, making it impossible to hold perpetrators accountable.
- Sexual assault is a highly gendered crime, with women and girls accounting for nine in ten (90%) victims involved in incidents reported to police in 2022. The median age of victims was higher for women and girls than men and boys (21 years versus 17 years), and 30% of all victims were youth aged 12 to 17. The vast majority (96%) of accused persons were men and boys, and most (74%) victims of sexual assault knew the person accused of the crime.
- In 2017—the last full year of data collection prior to the new definition of “founded”—14% of all reported sexual assault was classified by police as unfounded, which dropped to 7% in 2022. This was similar for overall violent crime, which went from 12% unfounded to 7% during this period.
- The rate of police-reported sexual assault increased 38% between 2017 and 2022. Similar increases were noted among women and girls (+37%) and men and boys (+36%). Overall violent crime also increased during this time (+18%), although to a lesser extent than sexual assault.
- Uncleared incidents accounted for much of the recent increase in police-reported sexual assault, representing 48% of sexual assault in 2017 and 59% in 2022. Half (51%) of uncleared incidents of sexual assault were classified by police as having insufficient evidence to proceed with laying or recommending a charge in 2022.
- The number of incidents of sexual assault cleared by charge increased between 2017 and 2022. However, because of the increase in the number of founded and uncleared incidents of sexual assault, the proportion of incidents of sexual assault that were cleared by charge decreased from 34% to 31% during this period.

Recent trends in police-reported clearance status of sexual assault and other violent crime in Canada, 2017 to 2022

by Shana Conroy

Sexual assault is a highly gendered crime, and women and girls are overrepresented among victims of such violence (Burczycka, 2021; Burczycka, 2020; Conroy & Cotter, 2017; Cotter, 2021; Cotter & Savage, 2019; Perreault, 2020a; Perreault, 2020b; Rotenberg & Cotter, 2018). Over the past decade, public perception and understanding of sexual assault, and other forms of sexual misconduct, have greatly evolved. Most notably, the #MeToo movement (me too., 2023), which gained widespread attention in late 2017, was the catalyst for much private and public dialogue on this topic. Older and more recent non-consensual sexual experiences were uncovered, and the media highlighted the existing power imbalances that perpetuate a culture of stigma, shame and silence in which these types of behaviours occur. High-profile civil and criminal cases emerged, as did investigative reporting—like the unfounded series by *The Globe and Mail* (Doolittle, 2017; Doolittle et al., 2017), which revealed the overrepresentation of incidents of sexual assault classified as unfounded by police. A reckoning for diverse fields and industries followed and, for some, institutional policies and procedures were adapted to prevent and better respond to non-consensual sexual experiences.

Monitoring the nature and prevalence of crime is essential to preventing and addressing crime. In Canada, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey the main tool used by policy makers and researchers for tracking and reporting crime. Since the UCR Survey was implemented in 1962, Statistics Canada has collected data on all crime that comes to the attention of police in the country. Since its inception, the UCR Survey has been revised several times to improve the quality of the data collected, to respond to changes in the definitions of different types of crime, and to better reflect emerging types of crime and information needs.

One such change to the collection of police-reported crime statistics was implemented on January 1, 2018, when a new definition of “founded” crime was disseminated to all police services in Canada, following extensive consultation with partners and the development of a new national standard (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2018; Greenland & Cotter, 2018). Essentially, following the change, the default position is for police to record criminal incidents as founded—that is, that reported incidents had in fact occurred—unless there is credible evidence demonstrating that incidents had not taken place. This new standard practice represents a shift to a more victim-centred approach to recording crime and explicitly recognizes the validity of third-party reporting.¹ In addition to the revised definition, more response categories were added to the UCR Survey to capture greater detail on the clearance status of incidents—that is, how police classify incidents that come to their attention—particularly those that are “not cleared” (unsolved).

This information is particularly relevant to the way reported incidents of sexual assault are treated by police due to the challenges that often exist in obtaining evidence for this type of crime. Self-reported data show that most incidents of sexual assault go unreported to police. Of the crimes covered by the 2019 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians’ Safety (Victimization), sexual assault² was reported to police least often. In contrast to 36% of physical assaults and 47%^E of robberies, only 6% of sexual assaults came to the attention of police in 2019 (Cotter, 2021). After controlling for other incident characteristics, sexual assault was about 80% less likely to be reported to the police compared to other violent crimes. Following revisions to the UCR Survey, more reported victim experiences are captured by police data.

High rates of unfounded crime may have negative ramifications for victims of sexual assault, and when sexual assault goes unreported to police, it is impossible to hold perpetrators accountable. In 2019, victims of self-reported sexual assault were more likely to report a lack of confidence in the police compared to those who were not sexually assaulted (17% versus 9%).³ Further, victims of sexual assault were more likely than those who experienced other types of violent crime (i.e., physical assault and robbery) to say they did not report to police because they thought the incident was not important enough (65% versus 40%), they considered the incident to be a private or personal matter (58% versus 37%) and they did not want the hassle of dealing with the police (57% versus 40%).⁴ Police standardizing a coding practice that reflects a more victim-centred approach, where victims and complainants are believed, is an important change to capture information more accurately about crime and seek justice for those affected.

This *Juristat* article explores recent trends in police-reported sexual assault (see Text box 1 for a list of criminal offences) and other selected types of violent crime, following the implementation of changes to the UCR Survey in 2018. Analysis includes a focus on clearance status and victim, accused person and incident characteristics, comparing results from 2017 to the years that followed the changes. Sufficient time has now passed for police services to update their records management systems and adapt to the new standards.

This *Juristat* article was produced with funding support from Women and Gender Equality Canada, as part of the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence (Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2022). It precedes another *Juristat* release which will discuss court outcomes of police-reported sexual assault in Canada.

Section 1: Founded and unfounded crime

The proportion of sexual assault classified as unfounded declined between 2017 and 2022

Before 2018, an incident was classified as “founded” in the UCR Survey if, after police investigation, it was determined that a crime had occurred, even if the accused person was unknown (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2018). As such, the police had to establish that an incident had taken place before proceeding with the case (i.e., finding credible evidence that corroborates a victim or complainant statement). For sexual assault specifically, a “justice gap” exists (Haskell & Randall, 2019). Victims are often traumatized, and they may report an incident many days after it occurred and have gaps in their memories. As such, their credibility and reliability may be questioned if they do not recall details about the incident. A lack of witnesses, and potential relationships between victims and perpetrators, may create additional investigative challenges. Misconceptions about sexual violence and rape myths persist, further complicating the process of seeking justice (CICS, 2018; Orchowski et al., 2022).

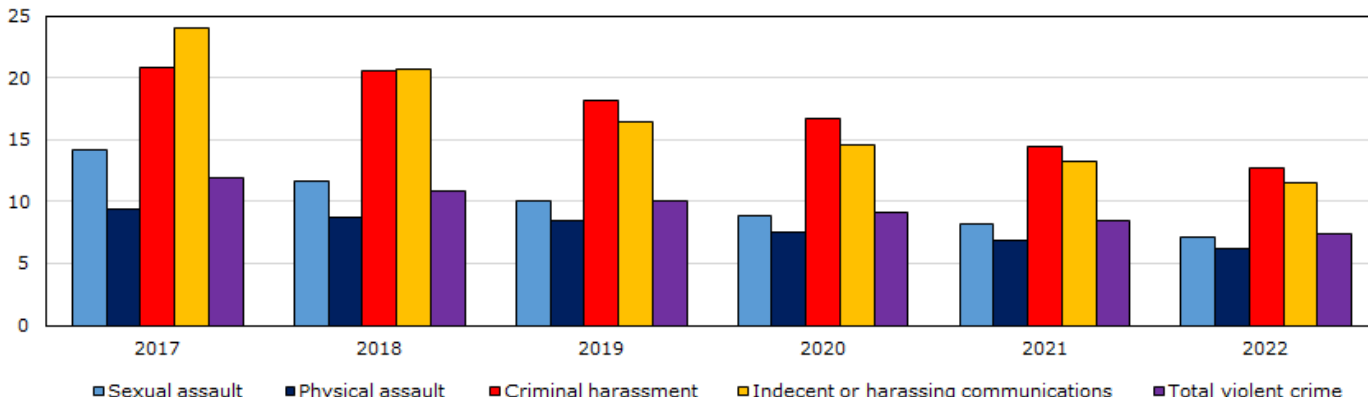
The definition of “founded” crime was updated in January 2018 as such: **“An incident is founded if, after police investigation, it has been determined that the reported offence did occur or was attempted (even if the charged/suspect chargeable [accused person] is unknown) or there is no credible evidence to confirm that the reported incident did not take place. This includes third-party reports that fit these criteria.”** With the updated definition, a lack of corroborating evidence following an investigation does not mean that an incident did not occur—and, as a result of this change, more incidents are captured by police data. The standardization of a practice that reflects a more victim-centred and trauma-informed approach to recording crime is particularly important for victims of sexual assault who may feel shame and stigmatization, think that they will not be believed by authorities, and know the perpetrator and worry about the consequences of reporting (Haskell & Randall, 2019; Orchowski et al., 2022).

Following the implementation of the new definition of founded crime, it was anticipated that unfounded incidents would decrease as more incidents were deemed founded but “not cleared” (unsolved) by police (i.e., due to incidents still being open and under investigation, there being insufficient evidence to proceed with laying or recommending a charge,⁵ or the victim or complainant declining to proceed where no accused was identified; see Text box 2). Recent trends in police-reported violent crime have confirmed these assumptions, with the proportion of incidents classified as unfounded by police having declined.

In 2017, 14% of all reported incidents of sexual assault were classified by police as unfounded (14% of sexual assault level 1, 7% of sexual assault level 2 and 9% of sexual assault level 3), which dropped to 7% in 2022 (7% of sexual assault level 1, 3% of sexual assault level 2 and 4% of sexual assault level 3; Chart 1).⁶

Chart 1
Unfounded police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, Canada, 2017 to 2022

percent of incidents reported to police



Note: Unfounded crime refers to incidents where it had been determined through police investigation that the reported incident did not occur, nor was it attempted. Information about unfounded incidents is based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey’s aggregate data file, which captures all incidents reported to police. Data according to victim gender are not available from the aggregate data file. Offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, aggregate data file.

This pattern was similar for overall violent crime. In 2017, 12% of all incidents of violent crime were deemed unfounded, declining each year since, and dropping to 7% in 2022. In 2022, 6% of physical assault, 13% of criminal harassment and 11% of indecent and harassing communications were also classified as unfounded. Combined, these four types of violations accounted for 67% of all unfounded violent crime in 2022.⁷

Text box 1

Defining sexual assault and measuring the progression of incidents reported to police

In the *Criminal Code*, sexual assault is classified into three categories depending on the nature and severity of the assault:

- Level 1 sexual assault (s. 271): assault of a sexual nature that violates the sexual integrity of the victim;
- Level 2 sexual assault (s. 272): sexual assault that involves a weapon, threats to a third party or bodily harm to the victim;
- Level 3 sexual assault (s. 273): aggravated sexual assault that involves wounding, maiming or disfiguring the victim, or endangering the life of the victim.

In this article, these three violations are grouped for analysis. Following revisions to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, the progression of incidents of sexual assault—from initial reporting to police through to police clearance—shifted in similar ways as overall violent crime (Figure 1). This included a larger number of incidents reported to police in 2022 than 2017, a larger proportion classified as founded, and a smaller proportion cleared (solved) by police. Of those that were solved, a larger proportion of incidents resulted in charges being laid or recommended by police.

Figure 1
Progression of police-reported sexual assault and violent crime, Canada, 2017 and 2022

	Sexual assault		Violent crime	
	2017	2022	2017	2022
Incidents reported to police	28,824	38,720	461,899	573,421
Incidents classified as founded	86% (24,740)	93% (35,965)	88% (406,626)	93% (531,243)
Incidents cleared (solved)	54% (13,312)	47% (17,072)	70% (284,808)	57% (300,759)
Incidents cleared by charge ¹	64% (8,550)	76% (12,930)	67% (190,244)	74% (222,269)

1. Includes charges laid or recommended.

Note: Based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey's aggregate data file, which captures all incidents reported to police. Data according to victim gender are not available from the aggregate data file, and counts and proportions based on data from the aggregate data file will not match those presented based on data from the Trend Database. Offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and violent crime includes sexual assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, aggregate data file.

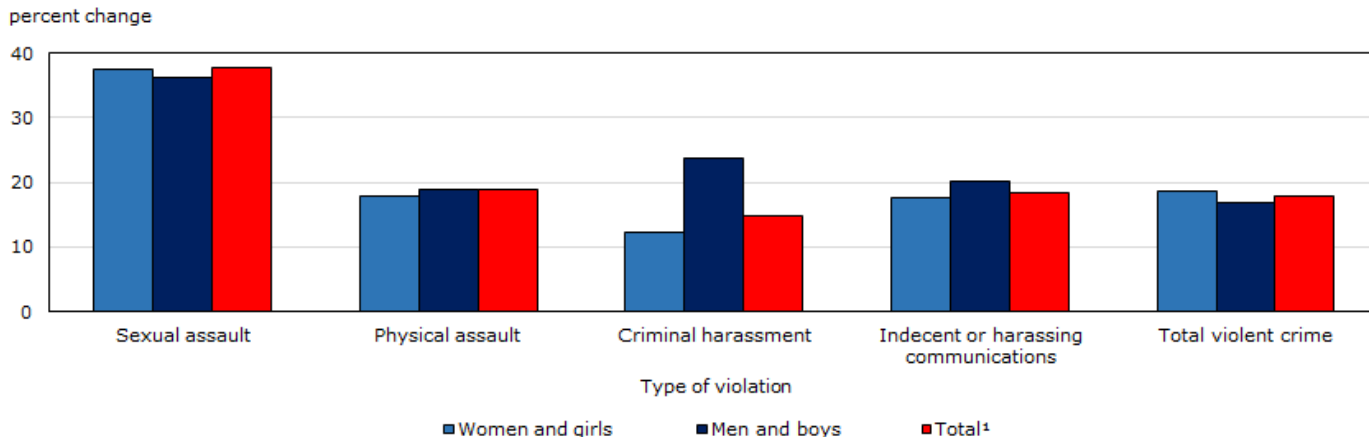
While women and girls are overrepresented among victims of police-reported sexual assault, similar increases noted regardless of victim gender

Like other types of sexual violence, sexual assault is a highly gendered crime (Burczycka, 2021; Burczycka, 2020; Conroy & Cotter, 2017; Cotter, 2021; Cotter & Savage, 2019; Perreault, 2020a; Perreault, 2020b; Rotenberg & Cotter, 2018). In 2022, women and girls accounted for just over half (53%) of victims of police-reported violent crime,⁸ but they represented nine in ten (90%) victims of sexual assault (Table 1).⁹ While the rate of violent victimization was somewhat higher for women and girls (1,208 per 100,000 population versus 1,081 for men and boys), the rate of sexual assault was nearly nine times higher for women and girls (161 per 100,000 population versus 19 for men and boys).¹⁰ This gender difference is consistent with self-reported sexual assault: according to the 2019 GSS on Victimization, there were 30 incidents of sexual assault per 1,000 population, and it was significantly higher among women than men (50 versus 9 per 1,000 population; Cotter, 2021).¹¹

In 2022, the median age of victims of sexual assault was 21 years for women and girls, and 17 years for men and boys.¹² Level 1 sexual assault accounted for the vast majority (98%) of police-reported sexual assault (Table 1). More than nine in ten (96%) accused persons were men and boys, and most (74%) victims knew the person accused of committing the crime.¹³ Between 2017 and 2022, these proportions were similar year over year.¹⁴

Had the new definition of “founded” been in place in 2017, the number of incidents of founded sexual assault that year likely would have been higher. Still, since then, the rate of sexual assault increased 38% (Chart 2), going from 66 to 91 victims per 100,000 population.¹⁵ Similar increases were noted among women and girls (+37%) and men and boys (+36%). Violent crime overall—and other selected types of violent crime—also increased during this time, although to a lesser extent than sexual assault.

Chart 2
Percent change in rate for police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by victim gender, Canada, 2017 and 2022



1. Includes a small number of victims whose gender was coded as unknown.
Note: Offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

While police-reported data provide important insight into crime trends in Canada, the potential drivers of change over time should be provided for necessary context and considered when examining trends. This is particularly important when new definitions and coding practices are introduced. As such, recent increases in police-reported sexual assault specifically and violent crime more broadly could be the result of multiple factors, including changes to the definition of “founded,” leading more incidents to be classified as founded even if they are uncleared; changes in reporting practices among the population, such as increases following the awareness raised by the #MeToo movement (Rotenberg & Cotter, 2018); and changes in the actual level of crime in society.

Text box 2
New clearance status categories for uncleared incidents

Along with the changes to the definition of “founded” crime, revisions were made to the clearance status categories (i.e., how police classify founded incidents) available to police in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. Most notably, the “not cleared” category was expanded with more detailed options to better reflect the reasons why incidents may remain uncleared. The new categories are as follows:

- **Not cleared—open/still under investigation:** This clearance option is to be used for all open investigations and for those where action has yet to be taken on the reported incident. It includes incidents that cannot be classified as “insufficient evidence to proceed” or “victim/complainant declines to proceed (no charged/suspect chargeable [accused person] identified).”
- **Not cleared—insufficient evidence to proceed:** This clearance option is to be used for incidents where there is insufficient or conflicting evidence for the police service to substantiate laying a charge or recommending a charge to the Crown. This category responds to investigative challenges that may exist and complements the new definition of founded crime.
- **Not cleared—victim/complainant declines to proceed (no charged/suspect chargeable [accused person] identified):** This clearance option is to be used for incidents where an accused cannot be identified either because the victim/complainant or other witnesses do not want to identify the accused person or they do not want to actively participate in the investigation. This category captures the situation where a victim wants the incident to be reported but may not be ready to identify the accused.

As police services updated their records management systems from 2018 onward, they began to classify uncleared incidents using these new clearance status categories. While 100% of uncleared incidents of sexual assault were classified as simply “not cleared” between 2009 and 2016, this dropped to 58% in 2018 and to 2% in 2022 as new clearance status categories were adopted.¹⁶ This was similar for overall violent crime.

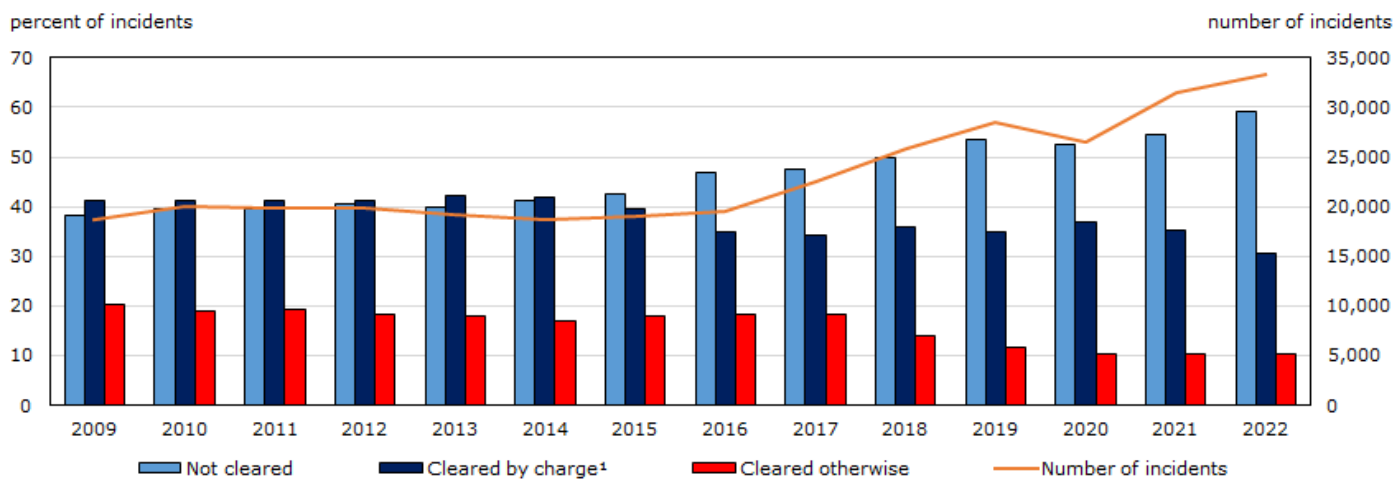
Section 2: General clearance status trends

A growing proportion of sexual assault incidents is uncleared by police, reaching six in ten incidents in 2022

Previously, without corroborating evidence, reported crimes were classified as unfounded. Since 2018, these incidents are captured by police data unless there is credible evidence proving incidents did not occur. As such, more incidents are recorded as founded, even if the police were unable to proceed with the cases.

Uncleared incidents accounted for 48% of all police-reported sexual assault in 2017—the last full year of data collection prior to the implementation of revised clearance status categories—and increased to 59% in 2022 (Table 2; Chart 3). Relative to 2017, more incidents of sexual assault were cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges in 2022. However, the increase in uncleared incidents was much larger and, therefore, the proportion of incidents that were cleared by charge decreased from 34% in 2017 to 31% in 2022. Meanwhile, the proportion of incidents that were cleared otherwise (for example, those where the victim or complainant requested that no further action be taken where an accused person was identified and those cleared due to departmental discretion¹⁷) declined from 18% to 10%.

Chart 3
Police-reported sexual assault, by incident clearance status, Canada, 2009 to 2022



1. Includes charges laid or recommended.

Note: Revised clearance status categories were introduced to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey in 2018. Police services did not adapt to the new categories at the same time. Offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

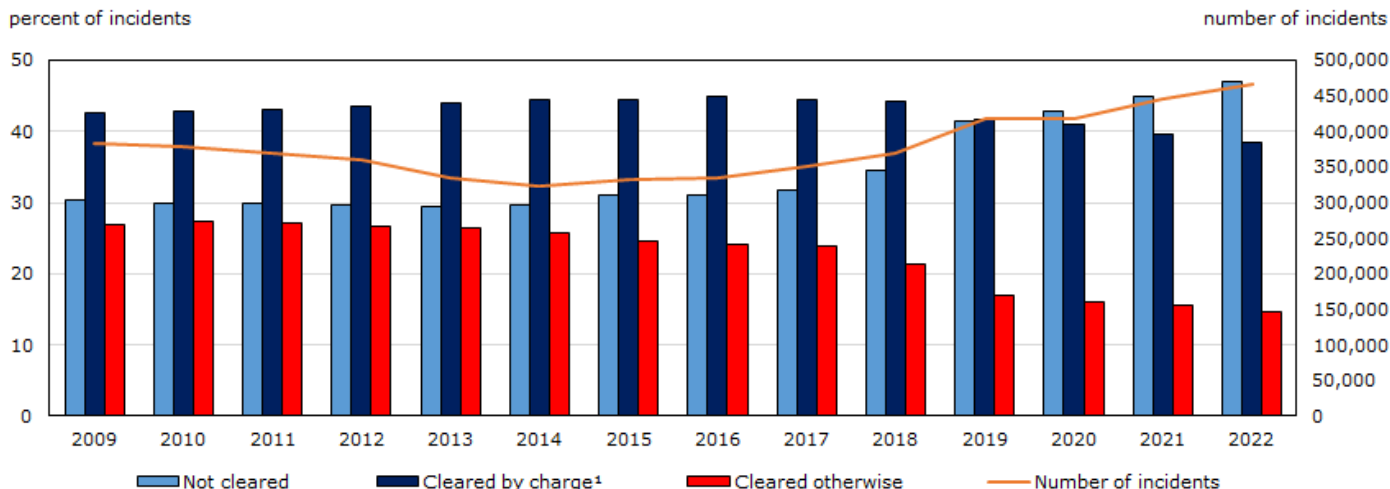
Clearance status trends for other selected types of violent crime were generally consistent (Table 2). In 2022 specifically, sexual assault was less often cleared by charge compared to overall violent crime. This may reflect the nature of sexual assault, the impact on victims and the existing barriers in the criminal justice system that can create investigative and prosecutorial challenges (Rotenberg, 2017a). Police-reported data from 2022 show that, while 31% of sexual assault was cleared by charge, 38% of overall violent crime was cleared this way. Similarly, cleared by charge was more common for physical assault (46%) and criminal harassment (37%) than sexual assault. Meanwhile, only 5% of indecent and harassing communications was cleared by charge.¹⁸

Across nearly all provinces and territories, the proportion of incidents of sexual assault and overall violent crime that were uncleared increased between 2017 and 2022, while the proportion of those that were cleared by charge decreased (Table 3). In most provinces and territories, this was due to the number of uncleared incidents increasing to a larger degree than incidents that were cleared by charge. The one exception to this pattern was Quebec. In that province, while the proportion of uncleared sexual assault and overall violent crime increased between 2017 and 2022 (from 40% to 59% and from 22% to 35%, respectively), so did the proportion of incidents cleared by charge (from 29% to 32% and from 43% to 50%, respectively).¹⁹

Since 2020, uncleared violent crime outnumbers violent crime cleared by charge

In terms of overall violent crime, prior to the implementation of UCR revisions, the proportion of incidents cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges was consistently higher than the proportion of those that were uncleared. Between 2009 and 2017, less than one-third of violent incidents were classified as uncleared by police each year (Table 2; Chart 4). In 2018, the proportion of violent incidents that were uncleared increased to 35%. This increased again in 2019, to 41%, at which point it was nearly equal to the proportion of violent incidents that were cleared by charge (42%). Since then, the proportion of violent incidents that were uncleared was larger than the proportion of those that were cleared by charge each year—reaching 47% and 38% of all violent incidents, respectively, in 2022.

Chart 4
Police-reported violent crime, by incident clearance status, Canada, 2009 to 2022



1. Includes charges laid or recommended.

Note: Revised clearance status categories were introduced to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey in 2018. Police services did not adapt to the new categories at the same time. Offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Text box 3**Charges recommended by police but declined by Crown**

Across most of Canada, police are responsible for laying charges. However, in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia, pre-charge approval by the Crown is required for the police to lay charges. In addition, some criminal violations require Crown charge approval according to legislation, regardless of province or territory.

Previously, police records management systems classified some incidents as uncleared where police in these jurisdictions decided there was enough evidence to proceed with a charge, but the Crown declined to proceed with the case. For this reason, an additional clearance status category was added to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey to capture these situations, where charges were recommended by police (and therefore, from a policing perspective, the incident was cleared or solved) but declined by the Crown.

In addition to the new clearance status categories for uncleared incidents in the UCR Survey (Text box 2), a new category was added for incidents that were cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges:

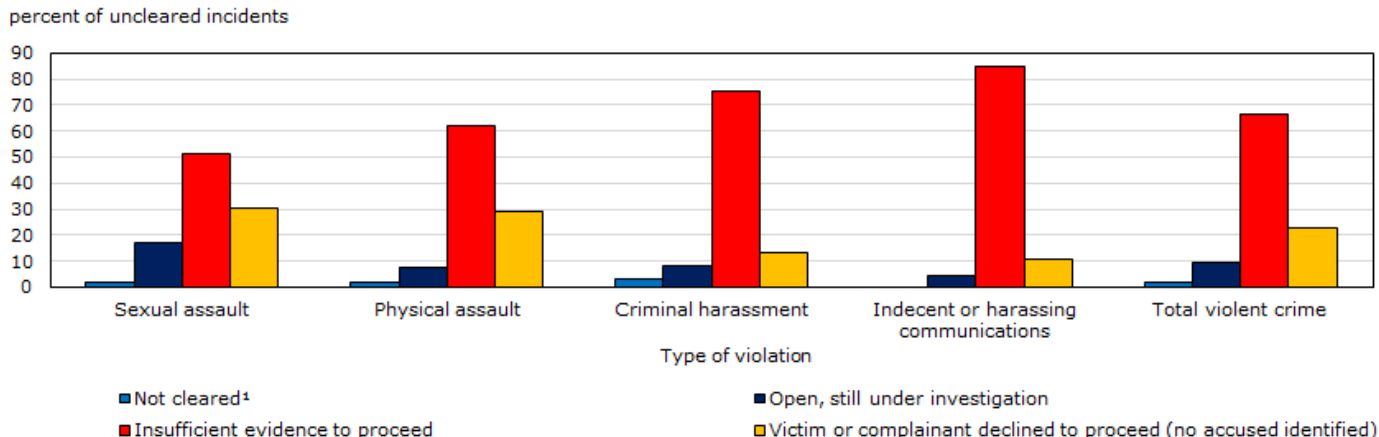
- **Cleared—Charges recommended but all declined by Crown:** When the police have recommended to the Crown that charges be laid, but the Crown declines to proceed with all the proposed charges. This clearance option applies to provinces that require Crown charge approval (i.e., Quebec, British Columbia and New Brunswick), but can also be used by police in other provinces and territories where an incident involves a recommendation to the Crown.

At the national level, in 2022, charges were recommended by police but declined by the Crown for 4% of incidents of sexual assault and 4% of violent incidents reported to police (Table 2). This varied by province or territory, as would be expected given different jurisdictional policies and procedures. The pre-charge approval provinces of Quebec (11%), British Columbia (7%) and New Brunswick (7%) had the largest proportions of incidents of sexual assault where police recommended charges but the Crown declined to proceed.²⁰ Meanwhile, the Crown declined to proceed with a charge for 15% of violent incidents in Quebec, 5% in British Columbia and 3% in New Brunswick.

In 2022, insufficient evidence to proceed with a charge most common clearance status for sexual assault

A key motivation for the clearance status revisions in the UCR Survey was that new clearance status categories allow the police to capture more detail about why incidents are classified as uncleared. Following the implementation of these revised categories, in 2022, 10,028 incidents of sexual assault were classified by police as having insufficient evidence to proceed with laying or recommending a charge, representing 30% of all police-reported sexual assault (Table 2). Among uncleared incidents, half (51%) of sexual assault was classified in this way, followed by the victim or complainant declining to proceed where no accused person was identified (30%) and the case being open and still under investigation (17%).²¹ This pattern was similar for other selected types of violent crime, but a relatively larger proportion of uncleared sexual assault was open and still under investigation (Chart 5).

Chart 5
Uncleared police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by detailed incident clearance status, Canada, 2022



1. Unsolved incidents were previously classified simply as “not cleared.” In 2018, more detailed options were added to better reflect the reasons why incidents may remain uncleared.

Note: Offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Similarly, for overall violent crime, the most common reason incidents were uncleared was that there was insufficient evidence to proceed. In 2022, two-thirds (66%) of uncleared incidents of violent crime were classified this way. Similar to sexual assault, uncleared violent crime with insufficient evidence to proceed was followed by the victim or complainant declining to proceed where no accused person was identified (23%) and the case being open and still under investigation (9%).²²

Regardless of victim gender, this pattern was consistent for uncleared sexual assault. Most often, police classified sexual assault as uncleared due to insufficient evidence to proceed (50% of uncleared sexual assault where victims were girls and women versus 57% where victims were men and boys), due to the victim or complainant declining to proceed where no accused person was identified (31% versus 27%) and due to the case still being open and under investigation (17% versus 15%).²³ The pattern for these clearance categories was also consistent for uncleared violent crime more broadly, for victims who were women and girls (63%, 24% and 11%, respectively) and men and boys (61%, 27% and 10%, respectively).

Proportion of sexual assault cleared otherwise nearly halved since 2017

Aside from uncleared incidents and incidents cleared by charge, incidents can be cleared otherwise. This classification includes a wide range of reasons.²⁴ In 2022, sexual assault that was cleared otherwise was most often cleared due to the victim or complainant requesting that no further action be taken where an accused person was identified (60%) or due to departmental discretion (18%).²⁵ These were also the most common reasons for overall violent crime that was cleared otherwise (61% and 29%, respectively) and other selected types of violent crime.

Unlike uncleared incidents, the number and proportion of incidents that were cleared otherwise declined since 2017. Nearly one in five (18%) incidents of sexual assault were cleared otherwise in 2017, dropping to one in ten (10%) in 2020. Since then, it has remained unchanged. The decrease in the proportion of incidents cleared otherwise was also noted for overall violent crime (from 24% in 2017 to 15% in 2022) and for other selected types of violent crime.²⁶

In terms of clearance due to the victim or complainant requesting that no further action be taken where an accused person was identified, similar proportions of sexual assault (6%), criminal harassment (7%) and indecent or harassing communications (6%) were cleared in this way in 2022. Meanwhile, this clearance status was relatively more common for overall violent crime (9%) and physical assault (11%).

Section 3: Clearance status trends by victim, accused person and incident characteristic

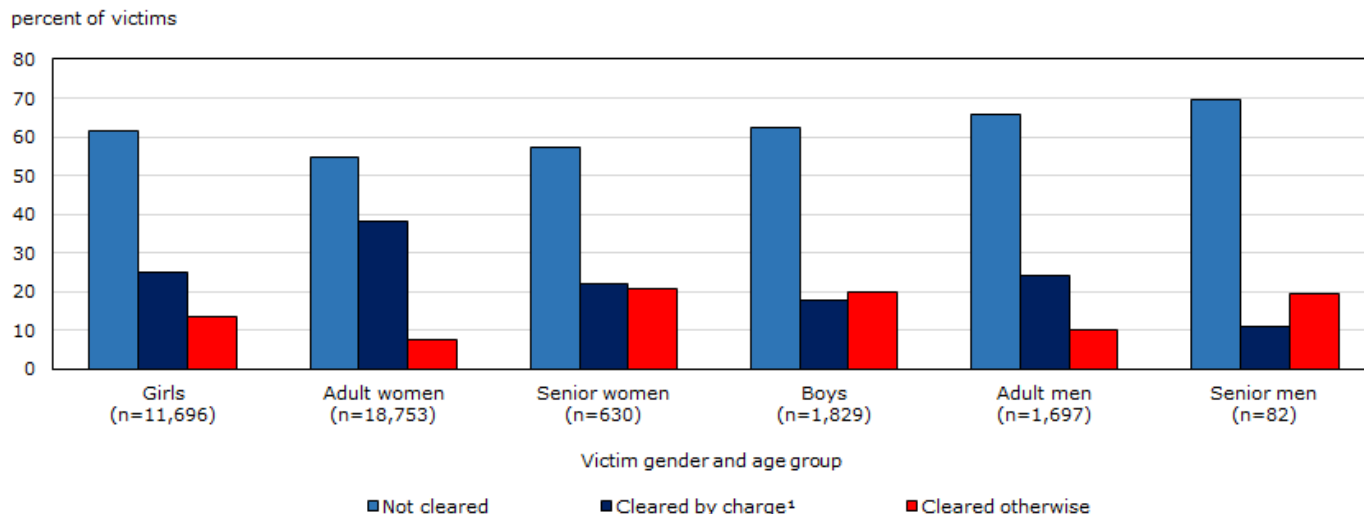
One in three women and girls, and one in five men and boys, who were sexually assaulted saw the incident cleared by charge in 2022

In 2022, sexual assault was more often cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges when the victim was a woman or girl (33%) than a man or boy (21%) (Table 4). Regardless of gender, clearance status in 2017 and 2022 matched the general trend—as the proportion that was uncleared increased, the proportion that was cleared by charge decreased.

In terms of age, children and youth had a higher proportion of sexual assault that remained uncleared than their adult counterparts (62% versus 56%) in 2022. It is important to note that young victims of crime—sexual assault or otherwise—may not be able to fully convey their experiences to authorities and this can impact how the police proceed with such cases (CICS, 2018; Haskell & Randall, 2019; Orchowski et al., 2022). The general clearance status trend applied for all age groups except seniors, among whom the proportion of sexual assault that was cleared by charge increased slightly between 2017 and 2022 (from 19% to 21%).

In 2022, when it came to gender and age group—considered together—sexual assault experienced by women and girls was most often uncleared when the victim was a girl aged 17 or younger (61%) and it was most often cleared by charge when the victim was a woman aged 18 to 64 (38%) (Chart 6).²⁷ Among men and boys who were victims, uncleared sexual assault was most common for senior men aged 65 and older (70%), while sexual assault cleared by charge was most common for men aged 18 to 64 (24%).

Chart 6
Victims of police-reported sexual assault, by gender, age group and incident clearance status, Canada, 2022



1. Includes charges laid or recommended.

Note: Girls and boys include those aged 17 and younger, adult women and adult men include those aged 18 to 64, and senior women and senior men include those aged 65 and older. Victims aged older than 110 years were coded as unknown due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category, as were certain victims whose age was reported as 80 and older, but were identified as possible instances of miscoding. Offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault. Excludes victims whose gender or age was coded as unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Victims of sexual assault most often saw the incident cleared by charge when the accused was an intimate partner

In 2022, police-reported sexual assault was most often perpetrated by a friend or an acquaintance (31%), an intimate partner²⁸ (21%), a stranger (13%) or a family member²⁹ (13%), while 13% involved an unknown accused–victim relationship (Table 1).³⁰ This was consistent for women and girls who were sexually assaulted (31%, 22%, 13%, 12% and 12%, respectively).³¹ Among men and boys who were sexually assaulted, a friend or an acquaintance was also most common (34%), while a family member (21%) was more common than an intimate partner (7%) or a stranger (11%), and 13% had an unknown relationship with the accused.

Clearance status varied according to the type of relationship between the accused and the victim. In 2022, victims of sexual assault most often saw the incident cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges when the accused was an intimate partner (50%) (Table 5). Cleared by charge was much less common for other relationship types. Sexual assault where the accused–victim relationship was unknown was most often uncleared (80%), followed by parents³² (68%) and strangers (66%). Between 2017 and 2022, all accused–victim relationship types for sexual assault followed the general trend for clearance status, with the proportion of uncleared incidents increasing as those cleared by charge decreased.

Among cleared incidents, eight in ten (81%) accused were adults—most often, aged 18 to 30 (Table 1). A larger proportion of incidents were cleared by charge when the accused was an adult than a youth (81% versus 60%; Table 6). In terms of gender, the incident being cleared by charge was more common when those accused of sexual assault were men and boys than women and girls (78% versus 60%). Regardless of age group and gender, the proportion of accused that were cleared by charge increased between 2017 and 2022. This was similar for overall violent crime and other selected types of violent crime.

Cleared by charge most common where victims of sexual assault sustained a physical injury

Nearly one in five (18%) victims of sexual assault sustained a physical injury in 2022 (Table 1),³³ and a larger proportion of victims saw the incident they experienced cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges when an injury resulted from the sexual assault than when there was no documented injury (46% versus 30%) (Table 5). More specifically, 46% of victims who sustained a minor injury³⁴ saw the incident cleared by charge, and this increased to 58% of those who suffered a major injury.³⁵ Clearance status according to level of injury for sexual assault did not differ from the general clearance status trend between 2017 and 2022.

Aside from physical injury, sexual assault can have profound emotional and psychological impacts on victims. Some of these impacts include shock, anger, fear, hypervigilance, nightmares and feeling of detachment (Haskell & Randall, 2019). While the UCR Survey does not capture information about such impacts, results from the 2019 GSS on Victimization provide insight. Victims of self-reported sexual assault most commonly reported feeling upset, confused or frustrated (52%) or angry (46%), and about one-quarter (27%) had difficulty carrying out everyday activities, as a result of the incident they experienced. Further, one in five (20%) victims of sexual assault reported experiencing three or more longer-term emotional impacts,³⁶ consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Compared to three in ten incidents of level 1 sexual assault, majority of level 2 and 3 sexual assault cleared by charge

An indicator of the nature of police-reported sexual assault is the most serious *Criminal Code* offence that applies for a given incident (see Text box 1). In 2022, while 60% of level 1 sexual assault was uncleared, 31% of level 2 sexual assault and 43% of level 3 sexual assault were classified as such (Table 7). Inversely, incidents of level 2 (65%) and level 3 (54%) sexual assault were more often cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges than level 1 sexual assault (30%). Given the nature of level 2 and level 3 sexual assault, physical injury is more common—contributing to evidence that the crime occurred—enabling the police to proceed with charges.

While the general clearance status trend indicates that the proportion of uncleared incidents increased as the proportion that was cleared by charge decreased, the same did not apply to level 2 sexual assault specifically. In 2017, 39% of level 2 sexual assault was uncleared, declining to 31% in 2022. Meanwhile, 53% of level 2 sexual assault was cleared by charge in 2017, increasing to 65% in 2022.³⁷

Incidents of sexual assault with a weapon present more often cleared by charge

Police-reported data capture whether a weapon was present during the commission of an offence, an indication of the severity of the incident.³⁸ In 2022, a small proportion (3%) of incidents of sexual assault involved the presence of a weapon (Table 1),³⁹ and sexual assault where a weapon was present was more often cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges (58%) than those with threats (39%), physical force (32%) and no weapon (26%) (Table 7). Inversely, a larger proportion of incidents of sexual assault with physical force (57%), no weapon (55%) and threats (49%) were uncleared compared to those with a weapon present (36%).

Between 2017 and 2022, sexual assault with a weapon present that was cleared by charge remained unchanged (58% both years). Notably, sexual assault with no weapon present and sexual assault with threats did not follow the general clearance status trend.⁴⁰ The proportion of sexual assault incidents with no weapon present that were uncleared decreased during this period (from 77% to 55%), while the proportion of those that were cleared by charge increased (from 11% to 26%). The same emerged for sexual assault with threats: uncleared decreased (from 56% to 49%) as cleared by charge increased (from 28% to 39%). These differences were largely unique to sexual assault, as overall violent crime and other selected types of violent crime typically reflected the general clearance status trend regardless of the most serious weapon present.

Two-thirds of incidents of sexual assault isolated or single-day incidents, nearly one in four lasted more than a week

Different police services may document the length of incidents in different ways. For example, police may only record the incident end date, which may not capture the possible ongoing nature of some types of victimization (e.g., prolonged sexual abuse or repeat sexual assault). This is particularly true for incidents that are not reported soon after they occur. With that in mind, some differences in clearance status trends did emerge based on the documented length of an incident.

In 2022, isolated or single-day accounted for two-thirds (68%) of incidents of sexual assault—that is, those that were recorded by police as having started and ended on the same date (Table 1). Meanwhile, about one in ten (9%) were ongoing incidents that lasted up to one week⁴¹ and nearly one in four (23%) were ongoing incidents that lasted more than a week.⁴² Isolated or single-day incidents matched the general clearance status trend between 2017 and 2022 (Table 8). Where the period of sexual assault was ongoing, it differed: the proportion of incidents cleared by charge increased slightly (from 33% to 34%). Ongoing incidents also had an increase in the proportion that was cleared by charge when it came to overall violent crime and other selected types of violent crime.

Sexual assault reported to police more than one year after occurring had the largest proportion of uncleared incidents, followed by those reported on the same day

Previous analysis of police-reported data has shown that, compared to physical assault, it is more common for there to be delay between a sexual assault occurring and the incident being reported to police (Rotenberg, 2017a; Rotenberg, 2017b). The decision to report sexual assault can be complex. Victims may not feel safe or comfortable reporting due to a lack of confidence in the justice system, a sense of shame or stigma, perceptions and myths about sexual violence, and concern about what might happen to the perpetrator if it is someone they know (Haskell & Randall, 2019; Orchowski et al., 2022). In 2022, half (49%) of sexual assault incidents were reported to police on the same day they occurred (Table 1).⁴³ This compared to 88% of physical assault, 82% of criminal harassment, 90% of indecent or harassing communications and 84% of overall violent crime.⁴⁴

Sexual assault that was reported to police more than one year after occurring had the largest proportion of incidents that remained uncleared in 2022 (64%) (Table 8). Interestingly, this was followed by sexual assault that was reported on the same day as the incident (60%). Slightly smaller proportions of uncleared incidents were noted for sexual assault that was reported within one week⁴⁵ (57%), within one month⁴⁶ (56%) and within one year (55%)⁴⁷ of the incident.

In contrast to the general clearance status trend, between 2017 and 2022, the proportion of sexual assault that was cleared by charge increased slightly for incidents that were reported to police within one month (from 32% to 33%) and within one year (from 32% to 34%) of occurring. In terms of the general trend, there were also some differences for cleared by charge for overall violent crime and other selected types of violent crime.

Four in ten incidents of sexual assault missing at least one key factor on file

Compared to other types of crime, sexual assault can be challenging to investigate due to the possible absence of physical evidence and witnesses, combined with the sensitivity of sexual crimes. A delay in reporting may further complicate investigations, as victims may not recall certain details after time has passed. In 2022, four in ten (41%) incidents of sexual assault had at least one key factor missing on file, including the time of the incident, the location of the incident, the accused–victim relationship, the most serious weapon present and the level of injury sustained by the victim (Table 1).⁴⁸ This compared to 22% of physical assault, 22% of criminal harassment, 23% of indecent and harassing communications, and 24% of overall violent crime.⁴⁹

Cleared by charge correlated with missing factors on the incident file. Where none of the five key factors mentioned above were missing, 36% of victims of sexual assault saw the incident cleared by charge in 2022 (Table 9). This proportion dropped to 27% where there was one unknown factor and to 10% where there were two or more unknown factors. These results highlight the reality that when key elements of a case are missing or not known by police, it is more difficult to proceed with charges. Regardless of the number of unknowns, clearance status for sexual assault according to incomplete information on the incident file followed the general trend—the proportion of uncleared incidents increased while cleared by charge decreased between 2017 and 2022.

Summary

Sexual assault is a highly gendered crime, with women and girls accounting for nine in ten victims of police-reported sexual assault in 2022. Over the past decade, public perception and understanding of sexual assault, and other forms of sexual violence and sexual misconduct, have greatly evolved. A standard coding practice that reflects more victim-centred approach to classifying reported incidents of crime, including sexual assault, has been adopted by police services in Canada. Victims and complainants are believed, and more incidents are captured by police data.

In January 2018, a new definition of “founded” crime, in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, came into effect. Essentially, the standard practice among police services is to record criminal incidents unless there is credible evidence demonstrating they had not occurred. Further, clearance status revisions were made so that police could capture more detail about the incidents they investigate. It was anticipated that, following these changes, unfounded incidents would decrease as more incidents were deemed founded and uncleared by police. Recent trends in police-reported violent crime confirmed these assumptions.

In 2017, the last full year of data collection prior to the revisions, 14% of all reported incidents of sexual assault were classified as unfounded by police, and this decreased to 7% in 2022. Had the new definition of “founded” been in place in 2017, the number of incidents of founded sexual assault that year likely would have been higher. Still, the rate of sexual assault among victims increased 38% between 2017 and 2022, and the number of such incidents grew from 22,543 to 33,293.

Similar to overall violent crime, uncleared incidents accounted for much of the recent increase in police-reported sexual assault, representing 48% of sexual assault in 2017 and 59% in 2022. While a greater number of sexual assault incidents resulted in the laying or recommendation of charges in 2022 compared to 2017, given the substantial increase in uncleared incidents, the proportion of sexual assault cleared by charge decreased from 34% to 31%. Meanwhile, the proportion of incidents that were cleared otherwise declined from 18% to 10%.

In 2022, 10,028 incidents of sexual assault were classified by police as having insufficient evidence to proceed with laying or recommending a charge, representing 30% of all police-reported sexual assault. Among uncleared incidents, half (51%) of sexual assault was classified in this way, followed by the victim or complainant declining to proceed where no accused person was identified (30%) and the case being open and still under investigation (17%).

Survey description

General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization)

In 2019, Statistics Canada conducted the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (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 is 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 (CATI), 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.

The sample size for the GSS on Victimization was 22,412 respondents, with a response rate of 37.6%. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 and older.

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The 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 2022, trend data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada.

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

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

Given that small counts of victims identified as "non-binary" may exist, the UCR Survey data available to the public have been recoded to assign these counts to either "women and girls" or "men and boys" to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims identified as non-binary have been assigned to either women and girls or men and boys based on the regional distribution of victims' gender.

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Notes

^E use with caution

1. Third parties include official third parties (e.g., government agencies, victim service programs, child protective services) and non-official third parties (e.g., family members, teachers, witnesses).
2. In the General Social Survey on Victimization, sexual assault includes forced sexual activity; attempted forced sexual activity; unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling; and sexual relations where unable to give consent.
3. Includes those who reported that they had not very much confidence or no confidence at all in police.
4. Other common reasons victims did not report sexual assault to police were that they thought no harm was intended (46%), they feared or did not want the hassle of the court process (42%), they felt shame or embarrassment (42%), they did not think it could be reported (40%), they felt they would not be believed (30%), they thought reporting would bring shame or dishonour to their family (26%), and they thought the police would be biased (23%). Among victims of other types of violent crime (i.e., physical assault and robbery), these proportions were much lower (17%, 21%, 6%, 17%, 7%, 2% and 7%, respectively).
5. Charges laid or recommended represents one clearance status category in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Charges laid and charges recommended cannot be separated for analysis.
6. Information about unfounded crime is based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey's aggregate data file, which captures all incidents reported to police. Data according to victim gender are not available from the aggregate data file, and data from the aggregate data file will not match those from the Trend Database presented elsewhere in this article.
7. For reference, these four types of violations accounted for 69% of all founded violent crime in 2022.
8. Data not shown.
9. Based on data from the Trend Database. Percent calculations exclude a small number of victims whose gender was coded as unknown.
10. Data not shown.
11. Self- and police-reported data are collected using different methodologies. As such, direct comparisons of rates from the two sources should not be made. The General Social Survey on Victimization includes those aged 15 and older. Other selected victim characteristics—including age, sexual orientation, the presence of a disability, immigrant status, marital status and childhood experiences of sexual abuse—were also associated with higher rates of sexual assault.
12. Data not shown.
13. Percent calculations exclude a small number of accused persons whose gender was coded as unknown. During processing for the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a nearest-neighbour approach is used for unknown accused–victim relationships (that is, relationships initially reported as unknown by police are manually populated based on a number of similarities with other variables). For the purposes of this indicator, the relationship imputation has been undone and the initial unknown relationship is kept as an unknown measure for investigations.
14. Other characteristics about victims, incidents and accused persons are shown in Table 1.
15. Data not shown.
16. Data not shown. Counts for detailed incident clearance status for 2017 to 2022 are shown in Table 2. In 2017, 95% of uncleared sexual assault was classified as “not cleared” and 5% was coded to the new clearance categories. These incidents were coded as such in 2018 for the previous year as part of the standard revision process.
17. Departmental discretion refers to the department's administration deciding not to proceed with a charge. They may instead give the accused person a warning or caution, or refer the accused person to a community-based program, for example.

18. Indecent or harassing communications occurs by means of telecommunication. As such, perpetrators may be anonymous, which creates investigative challenges.
19. The general trend—where the proportion of uncleared incidents increased as the proportion of incidents cleared by charge decreased—also emerged for sexual assault and overall violent crime in the urban South, the rural South and the North, and in census metropolitan areas and non-census metropolitan areas (Table 3).
20. Data not shown.
21. A small proportion (2%, or 320 incidents) of uncleared sexual assault was classified as “not cleared” with no additional detail. This reflects the original “not cleared” category and that some police services were not using the updated clearance status categories for the full 2022 calendar year.
22. The remaining 2% of uncleared violent crime was classified as “not cleared” with no additional detail. See note 21.
23. Data not shown.
24. The full list of clearance categories for cleared otherwise is shown in Table 2.
25. Data not shown. Counts for detailed incident clearance status are shown in Table 2.
26. Percentages for sexual assault and overall violent crime are shown in Chart 3 and Chart 4, respectively. Counts for other selected types of violent crime are shown in Table 2.
27. Excludes victims whose gender or age was coded as unknown.
28. Includes current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, dating partners (i.e., boyfriends and girlfriends) and other intimate partners (e.g., one-night stands). Victims of spousal violence include those aged 15 and older, and victims of dating violence include those aged 12 and older.
29. Excludes current and former legally married spouses and common-law partners. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents, and all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption (e.g., siblings, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and in-laws).
30. During processing for the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a nearest-neighbour approach is used for unknown accused–victim relationships (that is, relationships initially reported as unknown by police are manually populated based on a number of similarities with other variables). For the purposes of this indicator, the relationship imputation has been undone and the initial unknown relationship is kept as an unknown measure for investigations.
31. Data not shown.
32. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents. For sexual assault where the accused was a parent, the median age of victims was slightly lower for uncleared incidents than incidents cleared by charge (12 versus 13 years).
33. For 18% of victims of sexual assault in 2022, the level of injury was unknown.
34. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).
35. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility. Major injury was documented for a small proportion (0.2%) of all sexual assault victims in 2022.
36. Includes feeling numb or detached from others, activities or surroundings; having nightmares about it or thinking about it when they did not want to; feeling constantly on guard, watchful or easily startled; and trying hard not to think about it or going out of their way to avoid situations that reminded them of it.
37. Level 2 sexual assault accounted for a small proportion (2%) of all sexual assault in both 2017 and 2022.
38. Due to data quality concerns, excludes the province of Quebec unless the most serious weapon present was a firearm, and data from the Québec City Police Service is excluded regardless of most serious weapon present.
39. For 10% of incidents of sexual assault in 2022, the most serious weapon present was unknown.

40. Sexual assault with no weapon accounted for a small proportion (0.4%) of all sexual assault in 2017, and it increased to 9% in 2022. Sexual assault with threats accounted for a small proportion of all sexual assault in 2017 (0.4%) and 2022 (0.3%).
41. Includes incidents that lasted one to seven days.
42. Includes incidents that lasted eight days or more.
43. Based on the end date of an incident.
44. Data not shown.
45. Includes incidents that were reported one to seven days after occurring.
46. Includes incidents that were reported 8 to 30 days after occurring.
47. Includes incidents that were reported 31 to 365 days after occurring.
48. Time, location and most serious weapon present are incident characteristics, while accused–victim relationship and level of injury are victim characteristics. Some incidents include multiple victims, and accused–victim relationship and level of injury might be known for some victims but not others in a given incident. As such, incidents with multiple victims are excluded. During processing for the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a nearest-neighbour approach is used for unknown accused–victim relationships (that is, relationships initially reported as unknown by police are manually populated based on a number of similarities with other variables). For the purposes of this indicator, the relationship imputation has been undone and the initial unknown relationship is kept as an unknown measure for investigations. Due to data quality concerns for most serious weapon present, excludes the province of Quebec unless the most serious weapon present was a firearm, and data from the Québec City Police Service is excluded regardless of most serious weapon present.
49. Data not shown.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Police-reported sexual assault, by victim, accused person and incident characteristic, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Victim, accused person and incident characteristic	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Victim characteristic												
Gender												
Women and girls	21,357	90	24,658	90	26,758	89	24,993	90	29,681	90	31,207	90
Men and boys	2,493	10	2,814	10	3,234	11	2,820	10	3,400	10	3,626	10
Unknown	39	...	64	...	63	...	53	...	100	...	180	...
Total	23,889	100	27,536	100	30,055	100	27,866	100	33,181	100	35,013	100
Age group												
Children and youth	9,046	38	9,814	36	11,204	37	9,705	35	12,950	39	13,618	39
Children aged 11 years and younger	2,487	10	2,469	9	2,946	10	2,660	10	3,253	10	3,186	9
Youth aged 12 to 17 years	6,559	28	7,345	27	8,258	28	7,045	25	9,697	29	10,432	30
Adults	14,781	62	17,588	64	18,697	63	18,027	65	20,088	61	21,221	61
18 to 30 years	8,644	36	10,130	37	10,691	36	10,108	36	11,242	34	11,596	33
31 to 45 years	3,898	16	4,746	17	5,050	17	5,180	19	5,814	18	6,407	18
46 to 64 years	1,746	7	2,139	8	2,265	8	2,104	8	2,378	7	2,504	7
65 years and older ¹	493	2	573	2	691	2	635	2	654	2	714	2
Unknown	62	...	134	...	154	...	134	...	143	...	174	...
Total	23,889	100	27,536	100	30,055	100	27,866	100	33,181	100	35,013	100
Accused–victim relationship²												
Known to victim	17,607	74	20,247	74	22,384	74	21,181	76	25,183	76	26,025	74
Intimate partner ³	3,707	16	4,588	17	5,267	18	5,517	20	6,786	20	7,222	21
Family	3,363	14	3,569	13	4,062	14	3,894	14	4,743	14	4,520	13
Parent ⁴	1,064	4	1,208	4	1,426	5	1,361	5	1,687	5	1,545	4
Other family ⁵	2,299	10	2,361	9	2,636	9	2,533	9	3,056	9	2,975	8
Friend or casual acquaintance	8,196	34	9,116	33	9,986	33	8,978	32	10,482	32	11,026	31
Other ⁶	2,341	10	2,974	11	3,069	10	2,792	10	3,172	10	3,257	9
Stranger	4,165	17	4,642	17	4,504	15	3,391	12	4,015	12	4,604	13
Unknown	2,117	9	2,647	10	3,167	11	3,294	12	3,983	12	4,384	13
Total	23,889	100	27,536	100	30,055	100	27,866	100	33,181	100	35,013	100
Level of injury												
Injury	5,178	22	5,768	21	5,629	19	5,401	19	5,985	18	6,202	18
Minor injury ⁷	5,103	21	5,676	21	5,556	18	5,331	19	5,926	18	6,136	18
Major injury ⁸	75	0 ^s	92	0 ^s	73	0 ^s	70	0 ^s	59	0 ^s	66	0 ^s
No injury	15,784	66	18,363	67	20,129	67	18,078	65	21,477	65	22,447	64
Unknown	2,927	12	3,405	12	4,297	14	4,387	16	5,719	17	6,364	18
Total	23,889	100	27,536	100	30,055	100	27,866	100	33,181	100	35,013	100

Table 1
Police-reported sexual assault, by victim, accused person and incident characteristic, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Victim, accused person and incident characteristic	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Accused person characteristic⁹												
Gender												
Women and girls	322	3	365	3	359	3	412	3	524	4	523	4
Men and boys	11,612	97	12,661	97	13,027	97	12,296	97	13,803	96	12,908	96
Unknown	58	...	54	...	26	...	24	...	40	...	124	...
Total	11,992	100	13,080	100	13,412	100	12,732	100	14,367	100	13,555	100
Age group												
Youth aged 12 to 17 years	2,298	19	2,279	17	2,476	18	2,024	16	2,760	19	2,547	19
Adults	9,694	81	10,801	83	10,936	82	10,708	84	11,607	81	11,008	81
18 to 30 years	3,827	32	4,147	32	4,165	31	4,126	32	4,437	31	4,055	30
31 to 45 years	2,999	25	3,421	26	3,579	27	3,570	28	3,933	27	3,761	28
46 to 64 years	2,121	18	2,405	18	2,389	18	2,311	18	2,491	17	2,407	18
65 years and older	747	6	828	6	803	6	701	6	746	5	785	6
Total	11,992	100	13,080	100	13,412	100	12,732	100	14,367	100	13,555	100
Incident characteristic												
Type of violation												
Level 1	22,015	98	25,278	98	27,935	98	25,837	97	30,772	98	32,618	98
Level 2	387	2	420	2	490	2	568	2	571	2	563	2
Level 3	141	1	150	1	120	0 ^s	130	0 ^s	117	0 ^s	112	0 ^s
Total	22,543	100	25,848	100	28,545	100	26,535	100	31,460	100	33,293	100
Most serious weapon present¹⁰												
No weapon	70	0 ^s	234	1	834	4	1,695	8	2,129	9	2,273	9
Threats ¹¹	72	0 ^s	78	0 ^s	54	0 ^s	57	0 ^s	53	0 ^s	70	0 ^s
Physical force	16,052	89	18,403	88	19,582	84	16,843	79	19,314	78	20,280	78
Weapon	574	3	653	3	720	3	786	4	850	3	759	3
Unknown	1,258	7	1,564	7	2,051	9	1,824	9	2,287	9	2,606	10
Total	18,026	100	20,932	100	23,241	100	21,205	100	24,633	100	25,988	100
Length of incident												
Isolated or single-day incident	15,357	68	17,846	69	19,651	69	17,940	68	20,774	66	22,668	68
Ongoing incident	7,186	32	8,002	31	8,894	31	8,595	32	10,686	34	10,625	32
Up to one week ¹²	2,289	10	2,591	10	2,712	10	2,662	10	3,095	10	3,126	9
More than one week ¹³	4,897	22	5,411	21	6,182	22	5,933	22	7,591	24	7,499	23
Total	22,543	100	25,848	100	28,545	100	26,535	100	31,460	100	33,293	100
Delay in reporting to police¹⁴												
Reported same day as incident	11,145	50	12,729	50	14,273	50	13,110	50	15,244	49	16,360	49
Reported within one week of incident ¹⁵	4,316	19	4,809	19	5,088	18	4,397	17	5,078	16	5,677	17

Table 1
Police-reported sexual assault, by victim, accused person and incident characteristic, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Victim, accused person and incident characteristic	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Reported within one month of incident ¹⁶	1,689	8	1,992	8	2,106	7	1,880	7	2,233	7	2,427	7
Reported within one year of incident ¹⁷	2,442	11	3,059	12	3,510	12	3,331	13	4,081	13	4,404	13
Reported more than one year after incident	2,827	13	3,117	12	3,374	12	3,665	14	4,630	15	4,214	13
Unknown ¹⁸	124	...	142	...	194	...	152	...	194	...	211	...
Total	22,543	100	25,848	100	28,545	100	26,535	100	31,460	100	33,293	100
Incomplete information on incident file¹⁹												
No unknowns	11,476	66	13,226	66	14,113	63	12,366	61	14,166	60	14,609	59
Unknowns	5,851	34	6,863	34	8,211	37	8,059	39	9,478	40	10,348	41
One unknown	4,185	24	4,870	24	5,543	25	5,394	26	6,267	27	6,641	27
Two or more unknowns	1,666	10	1,993	10	2,668	12	2,665	13	3,211	14	3,707	15
Total	17,327	100	20,089	100	22,324	100	20,425	100	23,644	100	24,957	100

... not applicable

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

1. Victims older than 110 years were coded as unknown due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category, as were certain victims whose age was reported as 80 and older, but were identified as possible instances of miscoding.

2. During processing for the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a nearest-neighbour approach is used for unknown accused–victim relationships (that is, relationships initially reported as unknown by police are manually populated based on a number of similarities with other variables). For the purposes of this indicator, the relationship imputation has been undone and the initial unknown relationship is kept as an unknown measure for investigations.

3. Includes current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners and dating partners (i.e., boyfriends, girlfriends), and other intimate partners (e.g., one-night stands). Victims of spousal violence include those aged 15 and older, and victims of dating violence include those aged 12 and older.

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

5. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption (e.g., siblings, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and in-laws).

6. Includes neighbours, roommates, authority figures, reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher, patient-to-doctor), business relationships and criminal relationships (i.e., relationships based on illegal activities).

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

8. Includes injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility.

9. Includes accused persons aged 12 and older as those younger than 12 years cannot be held criminally responsible. Accused persons older than 110 years were coded as unknown due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

10. Due to data quality concerns, excludes the province of Quebec unless the most serious weapon present was a firearm, and data from the Québec City Police Service is excluded regardless of most serious weapon present.

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

12. Includes incidents that lasted one to seven days.

13. Includes incidents that lasted eight days or more.

14. Based on the end date of an incident.

15. Includes incidents that were reported one to seven days after occurring.

16. Includes incidents that were reported 8 to 30 days after occurring.

17. Includes incidents that were reported 31 to 365 days after occurring.

18. Includes incidents that were reported before the recorded end date.

19. Key factors for this indicator include the time of the incident, the location of the incident, the most serious weapon present, the accused–victim relationship and the level of injury sustained by the victim. Time, location and most serious weapon present are incident characteristics, while accused–victim relationship and level of injury are victim characteristics. Some incidents include multiple victims, and accused–victim relationship and level of injury might be known for some victims but not others in a given incident. As such, incidents with multiple victims are excluded. During processing for the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a nearest-neighbour approach is used for unknown accused–victim relationships (that is, relationships initially reported as unknown by police are manually populated based on a number of similarities with other variables). For the purposes of this indicator, the relationship imputation has been undone and the initial unknown relationship is kept as an unknown measure for investigations. Due to data quality concerns for most serious weapon present, excludes the province of Quebec unless the most serious weapon present was a firearm, and data from the Québec City Police Service is excluded regardless of most serious weapon present.

Note: For victim data, offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim. For incident and accused data, offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault. Unknown values are included in percent calculations for each year when they account for 10% or more of the total in 2022. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Table 2
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by detailed incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Detailed incident clearance status	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Sexual assault												
Not cleared	10,728	48	12,915	50	15,273	54	13,949	53	17,158	55	19,652	59
Not cleared ¹	10,204	45	7,474	29	2,023	7	613	2	307	1	320	1
Open, still under investigation	97	0	529	2	1,418	5	1,379	5	1,788	6	3,315	10
Insufficient evidence to proceed	360	2	3,793	15	8,279	29	7,887	30	9,219	29	10,028	30
Victim or complainant declined to proceed (no accused identified)	67	0	1,119	4	3,553	12	4,070	15	5,844	19	5,989	18
Cleared by charge	7,721	34	9,277	36	9,972	35	9,824	37	11,076	35	10,190	31
Cleared by charge	7,637	34	8,479	33	8,527	30	8,187	31	9,207	29	8,996	27
Charges recommended but declined by the Crown	84	0	798	3	1,445	5	1,637	6	1,869	6	1,194	4
Cleared otherwise	4,094	18	3,656	14	3,300	12	2,762	10	3,226	10	3,451	10
Suicide of accused	9	0	9	0	15	0	19	0	21	0	25	0
Death of accused	60	0	49	0	58	0	56	0	72	0	56	0
Death of complainant or witness	4	0	12	0	6	0	5	0	12	0	11	0
Reason beyond departmental control	988	4	559	2	151	1	105	0	109	0	61	0
Diplomatic immunity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accused under the age of 12	254	1	233	1	255	1	240	1	324	1	310	1
Accused committed to a mental health facility	7	0	11	0	4	0	6	0	0	0	6	0
Accused outside of Canada, cannot be returned	1	0	6	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	5	0
Victim or complainant requested that no further action be taken (accused identified)	1,674	7	1,786	7	1,869	7	1,662	6	1,833	6	2,071	6
Accused involved in other incidents	45	0	42	0	53	0	55	0	70	0	55	0

Table 2
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by detailed incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Detailed incident clearance status	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Accused already sentenced	4	0	16	0	4	0	9	0	8	0	4	0
Departmental discretion	898	4	763	3	692	2	446	2	549	2	632	2
Diversions program	73	0	95	0	93	0	92	0	132	0	96	0
Incident cleared by a lesser statute	5	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	3	0
Incident cleared by other municipal, provincial or federal agency	72	0	72	0	93	0	65	0	94	0	116	0
Total	22,543	100	25,848	100	28,545	100	26,535	100	31,460	100	33,293	100
Physical assault												
Not cleared	47,342	25	53,525	27	73,433	33	73,741	34	82,389	36	91,959	38
Not cleared ¹	46,892	25	40,588	20	10,104	5	3,277	2	1,328	1	1,520	1
Open, still under investigation	135	0	1,451	1	4,035	2	2,998	1	4,251	2	6,997	3
Insufficient evidence to proceed	277	0	8,686	4	42,934	19	47,895	22	52,581	23	56,817	23
Victim or complainant declined to proceed (no accused identified)	38	0	2,800	1	16,360	7	19,571	9	24,229	11	26,625	11
Cleared by charge	95,472	50	99,421	50	106,433	48	105,199	48	106,991	47	110,983	46
Cleared by charge	95,391	50	96,572	49	95,474	43	93,117	43	93,363	41	97,820	40
Charges recommended but declined by the Crown	81	0	2,849	1	10,959	5	12,082	6	13,628	6	13,163	5
Cleared otherwise	47,786	25	45,676	23	40,644	18	38,275	18	38,441	17	39,585	16
Suicide of accused	13	0	19	0	26	0	45	0	36	0	38	0
Death of accused	62	0	70	0	70	0	104	0	114	0	84	0
Death of complainant or witness	13	0	18	0	34	0	35	0	40	0	33	0
Reason beyond departmental control	7,721	4	5,868	3	645	0	439	0	211	0	207	0
Diplomatic immunity	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Accused under the age of 12	1,179	1	1,080	1	1,215	1	822	0	983	0	941	0
Accused committed to a mental health facility	79	0	73	0	116	0	114	0	98	0	86	0

Table 2
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by detailed incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Detailed incident clearance status	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Accused outside of Canada, cannot be returned	6	0	5	0	8	0	1	0	6	0	0	0
Victim or complainant requested that no further action be taken (accused identified)	25,792	14	25,902	13	26,135	12	25,791	12	25,686	11	26,284	11
Accused involved in other incidents	305	0	331	0	401	0	379	0	461	0	413	0
Accused already sentenced	36	0	58	0	48	0	45	0	46	0	20	0
Departmental discretion	11,019	6	10,546	5	9,887	4	8,807	4	8,888	4	9,677	4
Diversions program	1,326	1	1,452	1	1,757	1	1,391	1	1,520	1	1,471	1
Incident cleared by a lesser statute	119	0	142	0	174	0	158	0	191	0	192	0
Incident cleared by other municipal, provincial or federal agency	115	0	111	0	126	0	144	0	161	0	138	0
Total	190,600	100	198,622	100	220,510	100	217,215	100	227,821	100	242,527	100
Criminal harassment												
Not cleared	4,978	28	5,581	32	8,583	41	9,492	43	10,769	44	11,385	46
Not cleared ¹	4,894	27	3,994	23	1,255	6	609	3	392	2	363	1
Open, still under investigation	18	0	214	1	524	3	484	2	658	3	917	4
Insufficient evidence to proceed	59	0	1,127	6	5,973	29	7,168	32	8,135	33	8,571	34
Victim or complainant declined to proceed (no accused identified)	7	0	246	1	831	4	1,231	6	1,584	6	1,534	6
Cleared by charge	6,926	39	7,041	40	8,133	39	8,458	38	9,413	38	9,333	37
Cleared by charge	6,914	39	6,778	39	7,236	35	7,566	34	8,256	34	8,333	33
Charges recommended but declined by the Crown	12	0	263	1	897	4	892	4	1,157	5	1,000	4
Cleared otherwise	5,932	33	4,981	28	4,097	20	4,110	19	4,425	18	4,184	17
Suicide of accused	4	0	2	0	4	0	7	0	2	0	5	0
Death of accused	5	0	6	0	4	0	12	0	8	0	11	0

Table 2
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by detailed incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Detailed incident clearance status	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Death of complainant or witness	1	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	3	0	1	0
Reason beyond departmental control	767	4	543	3	68	0	60	0	12	0	21	0
Diplomatic immunity	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Accused under the age of 12	38	0	28	0	27	0	16	0	22	0	32	0
Accused committed to a mental health facility	4	0	5	0	9	0	5	0	7	0	6	0
Accused outside of Canada, cannot be returned	3	0	6	0	4	0	5	0	6	0	5	0
Victim or complainant requested that no further action be taken (accused identified)	2,102	12	1,947	11	1,834	9	1,741	8	1,884	8	1,813	7
Accused involved in other incidents	100	1	94	1	95	0	128	1	151	1	110	0
Accused already sentenced	5	0	6	0	4	0	6	0	3	0	2	0
Departmental discretion	2,751	15	2,190	12	1,885	9	1,988	9	2,174	9	2,025	8
Diversions program	120	1	123	1	133	1	119	1	109	0	116	0
Incident cleared by a lesser statute	8	0	5	0	5	0	7	0	11	0	11	0
Incident cleared by other municipal, provincial or federal agency	23	0	23	0	21	0	13	0	33	0	25	0
Total	17,836	100	17,603	100	20,813	100	22,060	100	24,607	100	24,902	100
Indecent or harassing communications												
Not cleared	10,778	69	12,075	72	17,320	79	19,934	81	21,092	81	20,779	82
Not cleared ¹	10,716	69	9,889	59	871	4	243	1	47	0	43	0
Open, still under investigation	9	0	143	1	592	3	406	2	507	2	895	4
Insufficient evidence to proceed	51	0	1,776	11	14,160	64	17,274	70	18,173	69	17,589	70

Table 2
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by detailed incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Detailed incident clearance status	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Victim or complainant declined to proceed (no accused identified)	2	0	267	2	1,697	8	2,011	8	2,365	9	2,252	9
Cleared by charge	699	5	773	5	982	4	1,091	4	1,258	5	1,143	5
Cleared by charge	698	4	745	4	885	4	975	4	1,157	4	1,041	4
Charges recommended but declined by the Crown	1	0	28	0	97	0	116	0	101	0	102	0
Cleared otherwise	4,035	26	3,880	23	3,689	17	3,651	15	3,817	15	3,296	13
Suicide of accused	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0
Death of accused	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0
Death of complainant or witness	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Reason beyond departmental control	96	1	56	0	18	0	12	0	9	0	12	0
Diplomatic immunity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accused under the age of 12	24	0	32	0	22	0	23	0	26	0	12	0
Accused committed to a mental health facility	5	0	3	0	9	0	2	0	4	0	2	0
Accused outside of Canada, cannot be returned	4	0	5	0	9	0	8	0	5	0	8	0
Victim or complainant requested that no further action be taken (accused identified)	1,675	11	1,643	10	1,486	7	1,544	6	1,581	6	1,412	6
Accused involved in other incidents	53	0	76	0	70	0	74	0	105	0	99	0
Accused already sentenced	3	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	1	0
Departmental discretion	2,141	14	2,023	12	2,019	9	1,940	8	2,027	8	1,706	7
Diversionsary program	19	0	21	0	37	0	29	0	24	0	25	0
Incident cleared by a lesser statute	1	0	5	0	4	0	3	0	13	0	6	0

Table 2
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by detailed incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Detailed incident clearance status	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Incident cleared by other municipal, provincial or federal agency	12	0	11	0	11	0	9	0	17	0	9	0
Total	15,512	100	16,728	100	21,991	100	24,676	100	26,167	100	25,218	100
Total violent crime												
Not cleared	110,800	32	127,190	35	173,282	41	179,713	43	199,723	45	219,221	47
Not cleared ¹	109,116	31	93,694	25	21,966	5	8,066	2	3,526	1	3,537	1
Open, still under investigation	367	0	3,900	1	11,192	3	9,083	2	12,300	3	20,680	4
Insufficient evidence to proceed	1,149	0	23,573	6	109,985	26	125,620	30	137,315	31	145,399	31
Victim or complainant declined to proceed (no accused identified)	168	0	6,023	2	30,139	7	36,944	9	46,582	10	49,605	11
Cleared by charge	155,678	44	162,605	44	174,581	42	171,748	41	176,398	40	178,931	38
Cleared by charge	155,444	44	157,422	43	157,486	38	153,125	37	155,273	35	159,723	34
Charges recommended but declined by the Crown	234	0	5,183	1	17,095	4	18,623	4	21,125	5	19,208	4
Cleared otherwise	83,561	24	78,437	21	70,478	17	67,349	16	68,882	15	68,489	15
Suicide of accused	68	0	83	0	116	0	133	0	125	0	139	0
Death of accused	169	0	202	0	230	0	304	0	311	0	266	0
Death of complainant or witness	23	0	41	0	57	0	53	0	67	0	56	0
Reason beyond departmental control	12,354	4	9,004	2	1,101	0	825	0	433	0	410	0
Diplomatic immunity	2	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	4	0
Accused under the age of 12	2,032	1	1,941	1	2,178	1	1,553	0	1,925	0	1,839	0
Accused committed to a mental health facility	154	0	139	0	208	0	221	0	176	0	153	0
Accused outside of Canada, cannot be returned	47	0	66	0	76	0	84	0	56	0	53	0

Table 2
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by detailed incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 to 2022

Detailed incident clearance status	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Victim or complainant requested that no further action be taken (accused identified)	41,442	12	41,431	11	41,450	10	41,463	10	41,866	9	41,641	9
Accused involved in other incidents	1,031	0	798	0	903	0	1,013	0	1,155	0	993	0
Accused already sentenced	73	0	119	0	88	0	90	0	78	0	44	0
Departmental discretion	23,178	7	21,384	6	20,324	5	18,524	4	19,165	4	19,649	4
Diversions program	2,440	1	2,648	1	3,035	1	2,438	1	2,758	1	2,472	1
Incident cleared by a lesser statute	176	0	203	0	251	0	225	0	304	0	289	0
Incident cleared by other municipal, provincial or federal agency	372	0	376	0	458	0	422	0	462	0	481	0
Total	350,039	100	368,232	100	418,341	100	418,810	100	445,003	100	466,641	100

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Unsolved incidents were previously classified simply as "not cleared." In 2018, more detailed options were added to better reflect the reasons why incidents may remain uncleared.

Note: Offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Table 3
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by province or territory, region and incident clearance status, 2017 and 2022

Province or territory, region and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Newfoundland and Labrador	307	100	517	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	194	63	345	67	34	56	60	75	75	93	44	64
Cleared by charge	102	33	127	25	50	36	21	19	2	3	40	29
Cleared otherwise	11	4	45	9	16	8	19	7	23	4	16	7
Prince Edward Island	64	100	175	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	34	53	119	68	25	45	48	84	80	91	37	65
Cleared by charge	21	33	44	25	55	43	27	9	3	3	44	26
Cleared otherwise	9	14	12	7	19	12	26	7	17	6	19	9
Nova Scotia	706	100	915	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	425	60	653	71	21	41	40	72	75	88	36	55
Cleared by charge	218	31	205	22	55	45	30	18	2	2	42	33
Cleared otherwise	63	9	57	6	24	14	30	10	23	10	22	12
New Brunswick	390	100	715	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	180	46	437	61	42	59	54	84	82	94	47	67
Cleared by charge	152	39	232	32	43	32	30	12	5	4	39	26
Cleared otherwise	58	15	46	6	15	9	16	4	12	3	15	7
Quebec	4,541	100	7,335	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,833	40	4,319	59	18	29	17	25	47	45	22	35
Cleared by charge	1,333	29	2,349	32	41	54	51	63	27	43	43	50
Cleared otherwise	1,375	30	667	9	41	16	32	12	26	12	35	15
Ontario	8,299	100	11,531	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	3,873	47	6,236	54	25	34	26	43	61	70	31	42
Cleared by charge	2,752	33	3,690	32	56	52	36	34	8	9	48	43
Cleared otherwise	1,674	20	1,605	14	19	14	38	24	32	21	21	14
Manitoba	1,294	100	1,772	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	619	48	1,030	58	20	32	27	47	43	72	26	39
Cleared by charge	446	34	462	26	55	43	28	22	1	1	49	38
Cleared otherwise	229	18	280	16	26	25	45	31	56	26	25	23
Saskatchewan	1,081	100	1,449	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	573	53	904	62	26	41	38	73	59	85	31	49
Cleared by charge	374	35	444	31	53	46	22	14	2	2	47	39
Cleared otherwise	134	12	101	7	21	13	40	13	39	13	22	13
Alberta	2,917	100	3,979	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,658	57	2,547	64	29	40	33	58	56	79	35	50
Cleared by charge	975	33	1,108	28	50	42	38	29	4	4	45	35
Cleared otherwise	284	10	324	8	21	18	29	13	40	17	20	16

Table 3
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by province or territory, region and incident clearance status, 2017 and 2022

Province or territory, region and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
British Columbia	2,558	100	4,316	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,238	48	2,741	64	31	50	46	61	87	91	44	62
Cleared by charge	1,141	45	1,322	31	48	33	34	25	2	1	39	24
Cleared otherwise	179	7	253	6	20	17	21	14	12	8	18	14
Yukon	65	100	132	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	23	35	80	61	20	46	27	73	30	83	24	54
Cleared by charge	29	45	34	26	35	23	12	12	0	1	31	20
Cleared otherwise	13	20	18	14	44	32	61	15	70	17	44	26
Northwest Territories	180	100	226	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	62	34	135	60	20	58	22	88	39	85	22	61
Cleared by charge	83	46	68	30	36	24	10	6	0	1	34	22
Cleared otherwise	35	19	23	10	44	18	67	6	61	14	44	18
Nunavut	141	100	231	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	16	11	106	46	11	31	10	74	23	80	12	37
Cleared by charge	95	67	105	45	49	41	24	7	4	0	47	37
Cleared otherwise	30	21	20	9	40	28	66	19	74	20	42	27
Canada	22,543	100	33,293	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	10,728	48	19,652	59	25	38	28	46	69	82	32	47
Cleared by charge	7,721	34	10,190	31	50	46	39	37	5	5	44	38
Cleared otherwise	4,094	18	3,451	10	25	16	33	17	26	13	24	15
Region												
North–South location¹												
Urban South²	17,255	100	24,639	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	9,227	53	15,342	62	29	40	30	43	75	83	36	49
Cleared by charge	5,182	30	6,986	28	50	46	40	40	5	5	44	38
Cleared otherwise	2,846	16	2,311	9	22	14	30	16	20	13	20	13
Rural South²	2,634	100	4,517	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	658	25	2,216	49	13	32	23	55	58	84	19	45
Cleared by charge	1,230	47	1,668	37	52	48	37	31	4	4	46	38
Cleared otherwise	746	28	633	14	35	20	40	14	37	12	35	17
North³	2,654	100	4,137	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	843	32	2,094	51	17	34	19	46	52	79	21	40
Cleared by charge	1,309	49	1,536	37	51	44	34	30	4	4	47	39
Cleared otherwise	502	19	507	12	31	22	47	24	45	17	32	21
Census metropolitan area⁴												
Census metropolitan areas	15,122	100	20,878	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	8,620	57	13,230	63	31	40	31	41	77	81	38	48
Cleared by charge	4,340	29	5,837	28	50	47	40	43	5	5	44	39
Cleared otherwise	2,162	14	1,811	9	19	13	28	16	19	14	18	12

Table 3
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by province or territory, region and incident clearance status, 2017 and 2022

Province or territory, region and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Non-census metropolitan areas	7,421	100	12,415	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	2,108	28	6,422	52	16	35	22	52	60	84	21	45
Cleared by charge	3,381	46	4,353	35	51	44	37	30	4	4	46	37
Cleared otherwise	1,932	26	1,640	13	33	21	41	18	35	13	33	18

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group.
2. Includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the southern regions of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador. 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.
3. Includes the northern regions of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the territories.
4. 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.

Note: Cleared by charge includes charges laid or recommended. Offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Table 4
Victims of police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by gender, age group and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Gender, age group and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Gender												
Women and girls	21,357	100	31,207	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	9,758	46	17,884	57	18	31	21	28	61	71	24	37
Cleared by charge	7,827	37	10,199	33	60	55	51	58	12	13	55	50
Cleared otherwise	3,772	18	3,124	10	22	14	28	15	28	15	21	13
Men and boys	2,493	100	3,626	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,254	50	2,326	64	31	43	25	36	63	76	31	44
Cleared by charge	665	27	747	21	42	39	40	47	9	9	44	41
Cleared otherwise	574	23	553	15	27	18	35	17	28	15	24	16
Total¹	23,889	100	35,013	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	11,026	46	20,345	58	24	37	22	30	61	73	28	40
Cleared by charge	8,505	36	10,975	31	51	47	48	55	11	12	50	45
Cleared otherwise	4,358	18	3,693	11	24	16	30	15	28	15	22	14
Age group												
Children and youth	9,046	100	13,618	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	4,136	46	8,391	62	27	43	23	36	58	74	32	49
Cleared by charge	2,789	31	3,270	24	37	34	34	37	5	5	39	33
Cleared otherwise	2,121	23	1,957	14	36	23	43	27	37	21	29	18
Children aged 11 years and younger	2,487	100	3,186	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,173	47	2,044	64	30	48	26	27	62	86	31	49
Cleared by charge	610	25	571	18	32	32	40	51	13	4	38	35
Cleared otherwise	704	28	571	18	38	20	34	22	25	10	31	17
Youth aged 12 to 17 years	6,559	100	10,432	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	2,963	45	6,347	61	25	41	23	38	57	73	32	48
Cleared by charge	2,179	33	2,699	26	40	34	33	35	4	5	40	32
Cleared otherwise	1,417	22	1,386	13	35	25	45	27	38	22	29	19
Adults	14,781	100	21,221	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	6,850	46	11,804	56	24	36	22	29	62	73	27	38
Cleared by charge	5,701	39	7,687	36	54	49	50	57	12	13	52	48
Cleared otherwise	2,230	15	1,730	8	23	15	29	14	27	14	21	14
18 to 30 years	8,644	100	11,596	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	4,204	49	6,455	56	25	36	21	29	64	74	29	40
Cleared by charge	3,301	38	4,221	36	55	50	50	57	11	12	53	48
Cleared otherwise	1,139	13	920	8	20	14	28	14	25	14	19	12
31 to 45 years	3,898	100	6,407	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,698	44	3,552	55	22	34	21	27	60	70	24	36
Cleared by charge	1,657	43	2,416	38	56	52	51	60	13	15	55	51
Cleared otherwise	543	14	439	7	22	14	28	13	27	16	21	13

Table 4
Victims of police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by gender, age group and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Gender, age group and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
46 to 64 years	1,746	100	2,504	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	775	44	1,379	55	24	37	21	31	61	75	27	39
Cleared by charge	649	37	902	36	50	46	49	54	12	11	49	45
Cleared otherwise	322	18	223	9	26	18	30	15	27	14	24	16
65 years and older²	493	100	714	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	173	35	418	59	25	38	27	36	63	78	29	41
Cleared by charge	94	19	148	21	39	40	41	47	8	8	39	40
Cleared otherwise	226	46	148	21	36	22	32	17	28	14	32	20
Total³	23,889	100	35,013	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	11,026	46	20,345	58	24	37	22	30	61	73	28	40
Cleared by charge	8,505	36	10,975	31	51	47	48	55	11	12	50	45
Cleared otherwise	4,358	18	3,693	11	24	16	30	15	28	15	22	14

1. Includes a small number of victims whose gender was coded as unknown.

2. Victims older than 110 years were coded as unknown due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category, as were certain victims whose age was reported as 80 and older, but were identified as possible instances of miscoding.

3. Includes a small number of victims whose age was coded as unknown.

Note: Cleared by charge includes charges laid or recommended. Offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Table 5
Victims of police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by accused–victim relationship, level of injury and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Accused–victim relationship, level of injury and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Accused–victim relationship¹												
Known to victim	17,607	100	26,025	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	7,006	40	13,833	53	15	28	18	26	53	69	18	31
Cleared by charge	6,947	39	9,111	35	57	54	50	59	14	13	55	52
Cleared otherwise	3,654	21	3,081	12	27	18	31	16	33	18	26	17
Intimate partner²	3,707	100	7,222	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,092	29	3,082	43	10	18	15	18	54	65	12	21
Cleared by charge	2,064	56	3,600	50	77	77	62	72	21	22	73	73
Cleared otherwise	551	15	540	7	13	5	23	10	26	13	14	6
Family	3,363	100	4,520	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,435	43	2,758	61	17	34	19	32	51	73	19	36
Cleared by charge	1,185	35	1,206	27	40	36	48	54	9	9	44	39
Cleared otherwise	743	22	556	12	42	30	33	14	40	17	36	25
Parent³	1,064	100	1,545	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	553	52	1,046	68	21	39	20	31	50	73	22	40
Cleared by charge	327	31	371	24	41	39	48	54	12	13	45	43
Cleared otherwise	184	17	128	8	38	22	32	15	38	14	33	18
Other family⁴	2,299	100	2,975	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	882	38	1,712	58	16	32	19	32	52	73	18	34
Cleared by charge	858	37	835	28	40	34	48	54	8	8	44	37
Cleared otherwise	559	24	428	14	44	35	34	14	40	18	38	29
Friend or casual acquaintance	8,196	100	11,026	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	3,470	42	6,209	56	21	37	21	35	52	72	24	40
Cleared by charge	2,830	35	3,174	29	41	36	34	39	8	7	41	36
Cleared otherwise	1,896	23	1,643	15	38	27	45	26	40	21	35	24
Other⁵	2,341	100	3,257	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,009	43	1,784	55	21	35	26	33	55	68	20	32
Cleared by charge	868	37	1,131	35	45	42	41	50	12	8	52	49
Cleared otherwise	464	20	342	11	34	23	33	16	33	24	28	19
Stranger	4,165	100	4,604	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	2,595	62	3,023	66	47	53	36	46	78	83	47	54
Cleared by charge	1,188	29	1,290	28	38	35	42	41	5	6	41	36
Cleared otherwise	382	9	291	6	15	12	23	13	17	11	12	10
Unknown	2,117	100	4,384	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,425	67	3,489	80	55	68	48	50	84	84	55	67
Cleared by charge	370	17	574	13	27	21	27	37	5	10	29	24
Cleared otherwise	322	15	321	7	18	10	26	13	12	6	16	9

Table 5
Victims of police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by accused–victim relationship, level of injury and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Accused–victim relationship, level of injury and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Total	23,889	100	35,013	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	11,026	46	20,345	58	24	37	22	30	61	73	28	40
Cleared by charge	8,505	36	10,975	31	51	47	48	55	11	12	50	45
Cleared otherwise	4,358	18	3,693	11	24	16	30	15	28	15	22	14
Level of injury												
Injury	5,178	100	6,202	100	100	100	100	100	...	...	100	100
Not cleared	2,139	41	2,859	46	23	32	9	14	...	...	24	33
Cleared by charge	2,429	47	2,870	46	58	55	68	77	...	...	58	55
Cleared otherwise	610	12	473	8	20	13	23	9	...	...	18	12
Minor injury⁶	5,103	100	6,136	100	100	100	100	100	...	...	100	100
Not cleared	2,115	41	2,833	46	22	32	9	14	...	...	24	33
Cleared by charge	2,380	47	2,832	46	57	54	68	77	...	...	58	55
Cleared otherwise	608	12	471	8	20	14	23	9	...	...	18	13
Major injury or death⁷	75	100	66	100	100	100	...	...	...	...	100	100
Not cleared	24	32	26	39	29	33	...	...	...	...	30	33
Cleared by charge	49	65	38	58	65	64	...	...	...	...	64	63
Cleared otherwise	2	3	2	3	6	4	...	...	...	...	5	4
No injury	15,784	100	22,447	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	7,341	47	12,878	57	25	40	22	30	61	73	29	43
Cleared by charge	5,268	33	6,838	30	44	41	48	54	11	12	45	41
Cleared otherwise	3,175	20	2,731	12	31	20	30	15	28	15	26	16
Unknown	2,927	100	6,364	100	100	100	100	100	...	...	100	100
Not cleared	1,546	53	4,608	72	33	55	13	31	...	...	36	56
Cleared by charge	808	28	1,267	20	40	30	56	55	...	...	40	31
Cleared otherwise	573	20	489	8	27	15	30	14	...	...	24	13
Total	23,889	100	35,013	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	11,026	46	20,345	58	24	37	22	30	61	73	28	40
Cleared by charge	8,505	36	10,975	31	51	47	48	55	11	12	50	45
Cleared otherwise	4,358	18	3,693	11	24	16	30	15	28	15	22	14

... not applicable

1. During processing for the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a nearest-neighbour approach is used for unknown accused–victim relationships (that is, relationships initially reported as unknown by police are manually populated based on a number of similarities with other variables). For the purposes of this indicator, the relationship imputation has been undone and the initial unknown relationship is kept as an unknown measure for investigations.
2. Includes current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners and dating partners (i.e., boyfriends, girlfriends), and other intimate partners (e.g., one-night stands). Victims of spousal violence include those aged 15 and older, and victims of dating violence include those aged 12 and older.
3. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.
4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption (e.g., siblings, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and in-laws).
5. Includes neighbours, roommates, authority figures, reverse authority figures (e.g., student-to-teacher, patient-to-doctor), business relationships and criminal relationships (i.e., relationships based on illegal activities).
6. Includes injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).
7. Includes injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility, or injuries that resulted in death.

Note: Cleared by charge includes charges laid or recommended. Offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Table 6
Persons accused of police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by gender, age group and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Gender, age group and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Gender												
Women and girls	322	100	523	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	156	48	314	60	57	66	32	52	9	18	55	64
Cleared otherwise	166	52	209	40	43	34	68	48	91	82	45	36
Men and boys	11,612	100	12,908	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	7,784	67	10,010	78	69	76	58	73	18	29	68	75
Cleared otherwise	3,828	33	2,898	22	31	24	42	27	82	71	32	25
Total¹	11,992	100	13,555	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	7,962	66	10,396	77	66	73	53	69	14	25	65	72
Cleared otherwise	4,030	34	3,159	23	34	27	47	31	86	75	35	28
Age group												
Youth aged 12 to 17 years	2,298	100	2,547	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	1,162	51	1,516	60	48	49	26	41	4	6	51	52
Cleared otherwise	1,136	49	1,031	40	52	51	74	59	96	94	49	48
Adults	9,694	100	11,008	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	6,800	70	8,880	81	68	76	55	71	16	27	67	75
Cleared otherwise	2,894	30	2,128	19	32	24	45	29	84	73	33	25
18 to 30 years	3,827	100	4,055	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	2,778	73	3,304	81	69	75	56	71	15	26	70	76
Cleared otherwise	1,049	27	751	19	31	25	44	29	85	74	30	24
31 to 45 years	2,999	100	3,761	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	2,235	75	3,160	84	71	79	59	75	16	30	69	78
Cleared otherwise	764	25	601	16	29	21	41	25	84	70	31	22
46 to 64 years	2,121	100	2,407	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	1,457	69	1,941	81	65	74	50	68	16	26	62	72
Cleared otherwise	664	31	466	19	35	26	50	32	84	74	38	28
65 years and older	747	100	785	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	330	44	475	61	39	55	38	53	10	14	40	56
Cleared otherwise	417	56	310	39	61	45	62	47	90	86	60	44
Total	11,992	100	13,555	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cleared by charge	7,962	66	10,396	77	66	73	53	69	14	25	65	72
Cleared otherwise	4,030	34	3,159	23	34	27	47	31	86	75	35	28

1. Includes a small number of accused persons whose gender was coded as unknown.

Note: Includes accused persons aged 12 and older as those younger than 12 years cannot be held criminally responsible. Accused persons older than 110 years were coded as unknown due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Cleared by charge includes charges laid or recommended. Offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Table 7
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by type of violation, most serious weapon present and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Type of violation, most serious weapon present and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Type of violation												
Level 1	22,015	100	32,618	100	100	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
Not cleared	10,537	48	19,432	60	25	40	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleared by charge	7,426	34	9,762	30	47	41	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleared otherwise	4,052	18	3,424	10	29	19	...	...	...	...	...	...
Level 2	387	100	563	100	100	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
Not cleared	150	39	172	31	25	33	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleared by charge	207	53	368	65	60	57	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleared otherwise	30	8	23	4	15	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Level 3	141	100	112	100	100	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
Not cleared	41	29	48	43	19	24	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleared by charge	88	62	60	54	78	74	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleared otherwise	12	9	4	4	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	22,543	100	33,293	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	10,728	48	19,652	59	25	38	28	46	69	82	32	47
Cleared by charge	7,721	34	10,190	31	50	46	39	37	5	5	44	38
Cleared otherwise	4,094	18	3,451	10	25	16	33	17	26	13	24	15
Most serious weapon present¹												
No weapon	70	100	2,273	100	...	...	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	54	77	1,259	55	...	...	34	55	71	84	51	71
Cleared by charge	8	11	602	26	...	...	30	26	3	4	21	15
Cleared otherwise	8	11	412	18	...	...	35	19	25	13	29	14
Threats²	72	100	70	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	40	56	34	49	28	35	29	46	64	82	42	64
Cleared by charge	20	28	27	39	53	49	39	36	5	3	31	20
Cleared otherwise	12	17	9	13	20	16	32	17	31	15	27	16
Physical force	16,052	100	20,280	100	100	100	100	100	...	...	100	100
Not cleared	7,801	49	11,632	57	25	38	14	24	...	...	28	40
Cleared by charge	5,800	36	6,530	32	52	43	72	66	...	...	51	44
Cleared otherwise	2,451	15	2,118	10	23	18	15	11	...	...	21	16
Weapon	574	100	759	100	100	100	100	100	...	...	100	100
Not cleared	198	34	275	36	28	39	30	44	...	...	33	42
Cleared by charge	334	58	441	58	58	49	50	37	...	...	55	48
Cleared otherwise	42	7	43	6	14	12	20	19	...	...	12	10
Unknown	1,258	100	2,606	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	812	65	2,146	82	62	78	38	71	96	83	57	77
Cleared by charge	232	18	257	10	19	12	17	13	4	2	22	13
Cleared otherwise	214	17	203	8	19	10	45	16	0	16	21	10

Table 7
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by type of violation, most serious weapon present and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Type of violation, most serious weapon present and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Total	18,026	100	25,988	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	8,905	49	15,346	59	26	40	32	53	70	83	34	50
Cleared by charge	6,394	35	7,857	30	52	44	34	28	4	4	45	35
Cleared otherwise	2,727	15	2,785	11	21	16	34	18	26	13	21	15

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Due to data quality concerns, excludes the province of Quebec unless the most serious weapon present was a firearm, and data from the Québec City Police Service is excluded regardless of most serious weapon present.

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

Note: Cleared by charge includes charges laid or recommended. Offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Table 8
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by length of incident, delay in reporting to police and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Length of incident, delay in reporting to police and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Length of incident												
Isolated or single-day incident	15,357	100	22,668	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	7,374	48	13,711	60	25	39	31	51	72	85	32	47
Cleared by charge	5,321	35	6,617	29	50	45	35	30	3	3	44	37
Cleared otherwise	2,662	17	2,340	10	25	17	35	18	25	12	24	15
Ongoing incident	7,186	100	10,625	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	3,354	47	5,941	56	19	28	23	32	57	69	31	43
Cleared by charge	2,400	33	3,573	34	57	63	46	56	11	13	45	46
Cleared otherwise	1,432	20	1,111	10	23	10	31	13	32	19	24	11
Up to one week¹	2,289	100	3,126	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,149	50	1,851	59	22	31	24	34	59	70	32	45
Cleared by charge	741	32	1,015	32	54	56	44	53	8	11	43	42
Cleared otherwise	399	17	260	8	24	13	31	13	33	19	25	12
More than one week²	4,897	100	7,499	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	2,205	45	4,090	55	16	24	23	31	56	68	29	41
Cleared by charge	1,659	34	2,558	34	62	69	47	57	13	14	47	48
Cleared otherwise	1,033	21	851	11	22	7	31	12	31	18	24	11
Total	22,543	100	33,293	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	10,728	48	19,652	59	25	38	28	46	69	82	32	47
Cleared by charge	7,721	34	10,190	31	50	46	39	37	5	5	44	38
Cleared otherwise	4,094	18	3,451	10	25	16	33	17	26	13	24	15
Delay in reporting to police³												
Reported same day as incident	11,145	100	16,360	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	5,239	47	9,800	60	24	38	27	47	71	83	31	47
Cleared by charge	4,105	37	4,888	30	51	46	39	36	4	4	46	38
Cleared otherwise	1,801	16	1,672	10	25	17	34	17	25	13	23	15
Reported within one week of incident⁴	4,316	100	5,677	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	2,035	47	3,236	57	29	41	31	42	62	74	35	49
Cleared by charge	1,447	34	1,852	33	43	43	37	43	8	9	38	36
Cleared otherwise	834	19	589	10	28	17	32	15	30	17	27	15
Reported within one month of incident⁵	1,689	100	2,427	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	763	45	1,366	56	28	39	31	42	56	77	34	48
Cleared by charge	534	32	793	33	43	47	37	44	8	8	39	39
Cleared otherwise	392	23	268	11	29	14	32	14	36	15	27	13
Reported within one year of incident⁶	2,442	100	4,404	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,127	46	2,439	55	26	34	29	41	57	76	34	46
Cleared by charge	793	32	1,504	34	48	58	38	45	10	9	42	44
Cleared otherwise	522	21	461	10	26	9	34	14	33	15	24	10

Table 8
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by length of incident, delay in reporting to police and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Length of incident, delay in reporting to police and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
Reported more than one year after incident	2,827	100	4,214	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,508	53	2,682	64	31	40	37	50	55	70	42	54
Cleared by charge	788	28	1,093	26	40	54	30	40	7	11	39	37
Cleared otherwise	531	19	439	10	29	6	33	9	38	18	19	9
Total⁷	22,543	100	33,293	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	10,728	48	19,652	59	25	38	28	46	69	82	32	47
Cleared by charge	7,721	34	10,190	31	50	46	39	37	5	5	44	38
Cleared otherwise	4,094	18	3,451	10	25	16	33	17	26	13	24	15

1. Includes incidents that lasted one to seven days.

2. Includes incidents that lasted eight days or more.

3. Based on the end date of an incident.

4. Includes incidents that were reported one to seven days after occurring.

5. Includes incidents that were reported 8 to 30 days after occurring.

6. Includes incidents that were reported 31 to 365 days after occurring.

7. Includes a small number of incidents where the report date was unknown (i.e., incidents that were reported before the recorded end date).

Note: Cleared by charge includes charges laid or recommended. Offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

Table 9
Police-reported sexual assault and other selected types of violent crime, by incomplete information on incident file and incident clearance status, Canada, 2017 and 2022

Incomplete information on incident file and incident clearance status	Sexual assault				Physical assault		Criminal harassment		Indecent or harassing communications		Total violent crime	
	2017		2022		2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022	2017	2022
	number	percent	number	percent	percent							
No unknowns	11,476	100	14,609	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	5,385	47	7,710	53	24	35	25	34	64	77	29	40
Cleared by charge	4,452	39	5,270	36	54	47	46	46	7	8	51	44
Cleared otherwise	1,639	14	1,629	11	22	17	29	20	29	15	21	16
Unknowns	5,851	100	10,348	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	3,334	57	7,203	70	44	62	30	45	74	81	46	63
Cleared by charge	1,567	27	2,146	21	34	25	40	40	7	8	35	26
Cleared otherwise	950	16	999	10	22	13	30	15	19	11	19	11
One unknown	4,185	100	6,641	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	2,148	51	4,122	62	39	57	29	44	72	80	41	57
Cleared by charge	1,328	32	1,769	27	38	29	40	41	7	8	39	30
Cleared otherwise	709	17	750	11	23	14	31	15	20	11	20	13
Two or more unknowns	1,666	100	3,707	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	1,186	71	3,081	83	68	81	33	56	92	87	67	80
Cleared by charge	239	14	377	10	15	10	45	31	2	7	18	12
Cleared otherwise	241	14	249	7	17	9	22	13	6	5	15	8
Total	17,327	100	24,957	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not cleared	8,719	50	14,913	60	27	41	26	37	66	78	32	45
Cleared by charge	6,019	35	7,416	30	51	42	45	45	7	8	48	40
Cleared otherwise	2,589	15	2,628	11	22	16	29	19	27	14	20	15

Note: Key factors for this indicator include the time of the incident, the location of the incident, the most serious weapon present, the accused–victim relationship and the level of injury sustained by the victim. Time, location and most serious weapon present are incident characteristics, while accused–victim relationship and level of injury are victim characteristics. Some incidents include multiple victims, and accused–victim relationship and level of injury might be known for some victims but not others in a given incident. As such, incidents with multiple victims are excluded. During processing for the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a nearest-neighbour approach is used for unknown accused–victim relationships (that is, relationships initially reported as unknown by police are manually populated based on a number of similarities with other variables). For the purposes of this indicator, the relationship imputation has been undone and the initial unknown relationship is kept as an unknown measure for investigations. Due to data quality concerns for most serious weapon present, excludes the province of Quebec unless the most serious weapon present was a firearm, and data from the Québec City Police Service is excluded regardless of most serious weapon present. Cleared by charge includes charges laid or recommended. Offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Sexual assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 sexual assault, and physical assault includes level 1, 2 and 3 assault. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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