Catalogue no. 85-002-x
ISSN 1209-6393
ISBN 978-1-100-00587-4

Juristat

Intimate partner violence: Experiences of francophone women in minority communities in Canada, 2025



by Samuel Perreault

Release date: November 18, 2026

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website, www.statcan.gc.ca.

You can also contact us by

Email at infostats@statcan.gc.ca

Telephone, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

- Statistical Information Service 1-800-263-1136
- National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired 1-800-363-7629
- Fax line 1-514-283-9350

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, the Agency has developed standards of service which its employees observe in serving its clients. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.gc.ca under "Contact us" > "Standards of service to the public."

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued co-operation and goodwill.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Industry, 2026

Use of this publication is governed by the Statistics Canada Open Licence Agreement.

An HTML version is also available.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.

Intimate partner violence: Experiences of francophone women in minority communities in Canada, 2025

By Samuel Perreault

Intimate partner violence (IPV) encompasses a broad range of behaviours, ranging from isolated incidents to long-standing patterns of violence that can include multiple forms of coercion and physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse. Intimate partner violence can have many consequences. Victims may experience impacts on their physical and mental health and financial well-being (Chibber & Krishnan, 2011; Davies et al., 2015; Miller & McCaw, 2019). It can also affect victims' loved ones, including their children (MacMillan & Wathen, 2014), and society as a whole, particularly through the costs and resources required to address it (e.g., victim assistance services, health care, justice system) (Zhang et al., 2012).

Intimate partner violence is a form of gender-based violence rooted in gender norms and unequal power dynamics and perpetrated against someone because of their gender (Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2022). While men can also be victims of IPV, research has shown that women are disproportionately affected by the most severe forms of such violence and that more women experience negative impacts (Burczycka, 2016; Cotter, 2021; Davies et al., 2015; Fanslow et al., 2023).

In 2022, the Government of Canada launched the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence. Using an intersectional lens, this plan recognizes that people often experience multiple forms of oppression as a result of the combined effects of systemic discrimination (Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2022). However, some organizations have criticized the fact that francophone women in minority communities—women whose first official language is French and who live outside Quebec—were omitted from this plan (Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne, 2023; Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, 2023). According to some, this omission is part of a broader "anglonormativity,"[1] in which the francophone community is rendered invisible and excluded from government analyses, reflecting a lack of willingness to account for its unique characteristics (Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne, 2023; Fraser, 2022; Maillé, 2022). By mirroring the dominant–subordinate dynamic found in interpersonal relationships and sending the message that francophone women in minority communities are not valued, this disregard for their needs may contribute to the revictimization of women who experience intimate partner violence (Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne, 2023; Lapierre et al., 2014).

The lack of data about francophone women in minority communities who are victims of violence has also been highlighted (Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne, 2023; Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, 2023; Réseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique, 2026). This article, which is part of a series of profiles that examine intimate partner violence among different population groups,[2] fills part of this gap. Based on self-reported data from the 2025 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), this article examines the scope and nature of intimate partner violence against francophone women in minority communities, over their lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the 12 months preceding the survey. It also looks at the effects on victims, reporting to police and the use of victim assistance services. For context, the results are compared with data on women in the English-speaking majority.

This article was produced with funding support from Women and Gender Equality Canada.

Francophone women in minority communities have a different sociodemographic profile than women in the English-speaking majority

It is generally recognized that francophone women in minority communities have distinct characteristics and needs that must be considered in the context of intimate partner violence (Brunet & Garceau, 2004; Brunet & Lassonde, 2012; Éthier & Carrier, 2022; Lapierre et al., 2014; Sirois et al., 2016). This is partly because their sociodemographic profile is different from that of women in the English-speaking majority.

According to data from the 2025 SSPPS, francophone women in minority communities—i.e., women living outside Quebec whose first official language spoken is French (see Text box 1)—were about twice as likely to live in rural areas[3] as women in the English-speaking majority (28% versus 15%) (Table 1). At the provincial level, New Brunswick was home to 21% of francophone women in minority communities,[4] while Ontario was home to about half (52%). Compared with women in the English-speaking majority, francophone women in minority communities were less likely to live in the western provinces (Table 1). The geographic dispersal of the francophone minority population and the high proportion living in rural areas have

been identified as factors contributing to social isolation and creating significant challenges to accessing services, thereby limiting the ability of victims of IPV to escape and break the cycle of abuse (Brunet & Garceau, 2004; Lapierre et al., 2014; Savard & Marchand, 2016).

Overall, francophone women in minority communities are older than women in the English-speaking majority. According to data from the 2025 SSPPS, the median age[5] of francophone women outside Quebec was 52 years, while the median age of women in the English-speaking majority was 45 years (Table 1). Age is associated with the risk of intimate partner violence, with younger women being more likely to report having experienced it in their lifetime or in the 12 months preceding the survey (Cotter, 2021; Cotter, 2026). However, older francophone women in minority communities face specific challenges when it comes to IPV: they are often poorer, less educated, and more likely to live in rural areas and to face gender stereotypes, making them more vulnerable to remaining in abusive relationships (Savard & Marchand, 2016). They are also more likely to experience social exclusion (Nyqvist et al., 2021).

Although a smaller proportion of francophone women in minority communities (36%) than women in the English-speaking majority (41%) held a university degree, they reported a slightly higher median income ($48,981 compared with $44,201 for English-speaking women). This gap is partly attributable to differences in age structure, as the youngest women have not yet fully entered the labour market (Table 1). Several studies have established a link between socioeconomic status[6] and exposure to intimate partner violence (Capaldi et al., 2012; Cunradi et al., 2002; Davies et al., 2015).

Compared with women in the English-speaking majority (30%), francophone women in minority communities (14%) were less likely to have been born outside Canada. They were also less likely to be from a racialized group (10% compared with 29% of women in the English-speaking majority), although a larger proportion of them were Black (7.4% of francophone women in minority communities compared with 2.9% of English-speaking women) (Table 1). The language barrier can also be an issue for immigrant women who are victims of intimate partner violence, particularly when accessing victim support services (Cuesta-García & Crespo, 2022; Okeke-Ihejirika et al., 2020; Sanhueza-Morales et al., 2025). Yet some argue that belonging to an official language minority community contributes to exacerbating barriers, economic exclusion, and discrimination against immigrant or racialized women (Damant et al., 2015; Diotte & Flynn, 2016; Éthier & Carrier, 2022) and that these women must contend with the myth that an immigrant woman cannot be francophone (Sirois et al., 2016).

In contrast, a higher proportion of francophone women in minority communities reported an Indigenous identity—First Nations, Métis or Inuit—than women in the English-speaking majority (9.3% versus 5.7%). This difference is mainly attributable to the higher proportion of francophone women in minority communities who reported being Métis (6.4% versus 2.8%) (Table 1). Self-reported data consistently show higher rates of intimate partner violence among Indigenous people than among non-Indigenous people (Boyce, 2016; Chiponski, forthcoming 2027; Cotter, 2026; Heidinger, 2021). This reality is inextricably linked to intergenerational trauma, economic marginalization and the breakdown of family ties caused by past and present colonial and assimilative policies (Aguiar & Halseth, 2015; Bombay et al., 2014; Comack, 2018; Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015; Hoffart & Jones, 2018). Furthermore, Indigenous identity can be a significant impediment to accessing social services (Monchalin et al., 2020), a barrier that could be exacerbated by also belonging to an official language minority community (Éthier & Carrier, 2022).

It should be noted that the sociodemographic profile presented in this section reflects the situation of francophone women in minority communities across Canada and does not account for regional differences. Moreover, the data are representative of the SSPPS target population—individuals aged 15 and older in private households—and are subject to the survey limitations (see the "Survey description" section). Different results could be produced for other target populations or using other data sources.

Text box 1
Definitions

Defining intimate partner violence

As was done in 2018, the 2025 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) collected information on Canadians' experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime (i.e., since the age of 15) and in the 12 months that preceded the survey. The survey used a broad range of items covering abusive and violent behaviours committed by intimate partners, including psychological, physical, and sexual violence, drawn primarily from the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) and the Composite Abuse Scale Revised - Short Form (CASr-SF) (Ford-Gilboe et al., 2016). The definition of intimate partner was also broad and included current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, dating partners, and other intimate partner relationships, as well as same-gender and opposite-gender relationships.

In this article, intimate partner violence is broadly categorized into three types: (1) psychological violence, (2) physical violence, and (3) sexual violence.

Psychological violence encompasses forms of abuse that target a person's emotional, mental, or economic well-being, or impede their personal freedom or sense of safety. This category includes 15 specific types of abuse, including name-calling and other put-downs, stalking or harassing behaviours, economic abuse, manipulation, or property damage (for a complete list of items included in this category, see Table 3).

Physical violence includes forms of abuse that involve physical assault or the threat of physical assault. In all, 10 types of abuse are included in this category, including being threatened with a weapon or being slapped, beaten, or choked (see Table 3).

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

Defining official language minority communities in the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces

In Canada, English and French have official language status, and various federal and provincial laws guarantee a number of rights to official language minorities—i.e., francophones outside Quebec and anglophones in Quebec.[7] [8] As part of the 2025 SSPPS, linguistic characteristics were measured using the following three questions:

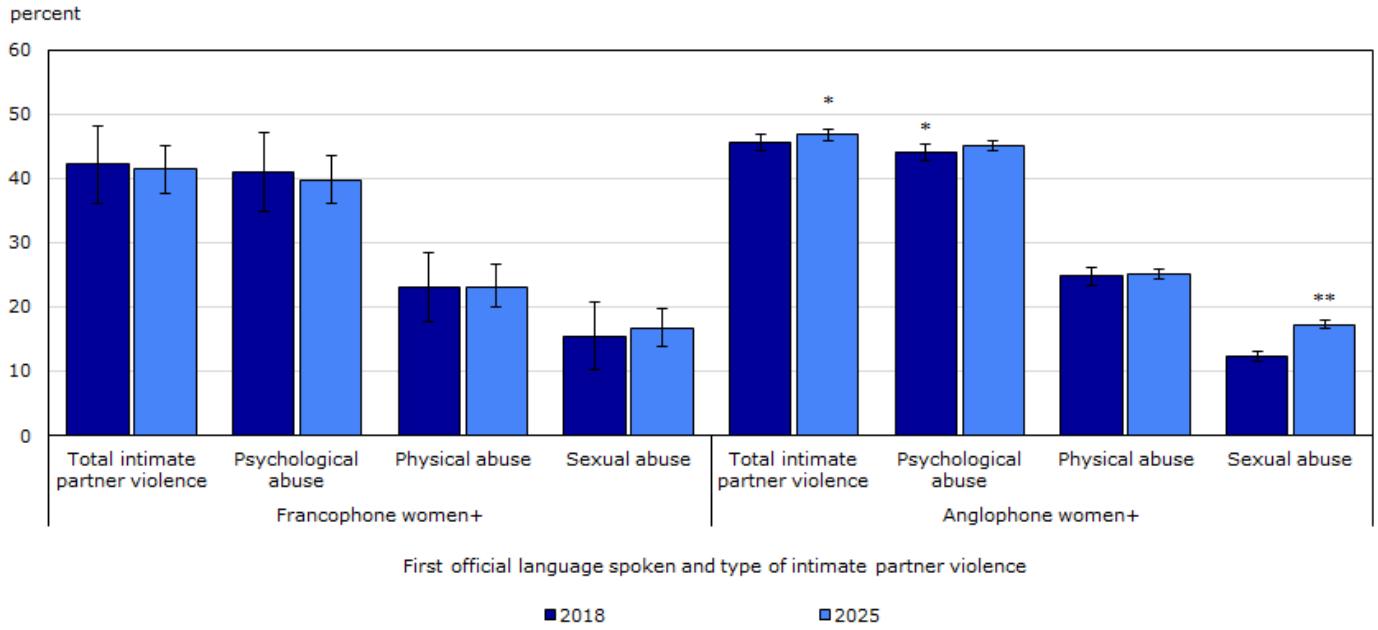
1. Can you speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation?
2. What language do you speak most often at home?
3. What is the language that you first learned at home in childhood and still understand?

However, there are different ways to define official language communities. This article uses the concept of first official language spoken, which is based on the answers to the three language-related questions above. Based on the first official language spoken, francophones are defined as a) individuals who reported speaking French well enough to conduct a conversation but who cannot conduct a conversation in English; b) individuals who can conduct a conversation in English and French or neither English nor French and who have French as their mother tongue, with no mention of English; and c) individuals who can conduct a conversation in English and French or neither English nor French, who have English and French or neither English nor French as their mother tongue, and who speak French most often at home, with no mention of English (Statistics Canada, 2023). In this article, the term "francophones in minority communities" refers to people living outside Quebec whose first official language spoken is French, while the term "English-speaking majority" refers to people living outside Quebec whose first official language spoken is English.[9]

Just over 4 in 10 francophone women in minority communities have experienced at least one form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime

Many women have experienced at least one episode of intimate partner violence since the age of 15. According to the 2025 SSPPS, approximately 200,000 francophone women in minority communities (41%) have experienced some form of physical, sexual, psychological or economic abuse.[10] However, this is lower than the proportion among women in the English-speaking majority (47%) (Table 2, Table 3). These proportions are relatively similar to those observed in the previous cycle of the SSPPS in 2018 (42% and 46%, respectively)[11] (Chart 1).

Chart 1
Intimate partner violence since age 15, by first official language spoken and type of violence, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2018 and 2025



* significantly different from francophone women+ ($p < 0.05$)
** significantly different from 2018 ($p < 0.05$)
Note: Intimate partner violence includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship. "Francophone" and "anglophone" refer to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person. First official language spoken is a derived variable. The derivation first takes into account the knowledge of the two official languages, second the mother tongue, and third the language spoken most often at home. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

The lower prevalence of IPV among francophone women in minority communities was primarily attributable to disparities in psychological abuse: 40% of francophone women in minority communities had experienced this type of abuse, compared with 45% of women in the English-speaking majority (Table 2). This was the most common form of IPV among francophone women in minority communities and women in the English-speaking majority.

More specifically, 26% of francophone women in minority communities have or have had a jealous partner who refused to let them talk to other men or women, compared with 32% of women in the English-speaking majority. Francophone women in minority communities were also slightly less likely than women in the English-speaking majority to have been told they were crazy, stupid or not good enough (27% versus 31%). Jealous behaviour and insults were the most common forms of psychological abuse among francophone women in minority communities and women in the English-speaking majority (Table 3).

While physical abuse by an intimate partner was less common than psychological abuse, nearly one-quarter (23%) of francophone women in minority communities experienced it in their lifetime. This proportion is similar to that among women in the English-speaking majority (25%) and the same as that in 2018 (23%) (Chart 1). As was the case among women in the English-speaking majority, the most common forms of physical violence experienced by francophone women in minority communities were being shaken, pushed, grabbed or thrown (16%) and being hit with a fist or object, kicked, or bitten (12%) (Table 3).

Sexual abuse by an intimate partner includes forcing the victim to have sex or to engage in sexual acts that the victim did not want to perform. About one in six francophone women in minority communities (17%) had experienced this in an intimate relationship at some point in her life. This was similar to the proportion among women in the English-speaking majority (17%) and to what was observed in 2018 (15%).

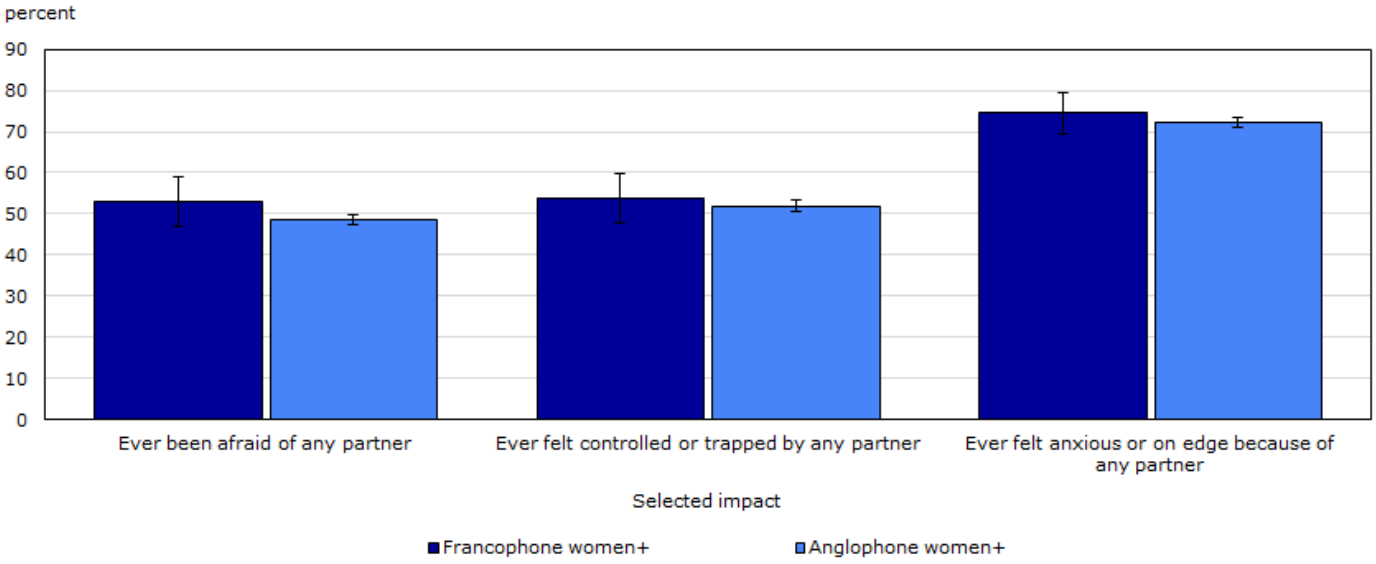
Overall, just over 1 in 10 francophone women in minority communities (13%) have experienced each of the three types of abuse (psychological, physical and sexual), a proportion similar to that among women in the English-speaking majority (12%). Experiencing more than one type of abuse can be an indicator of severity, as it reflects multiple forms of control and oppression.

The majority of women report having been afraid or having felt controlled or anxious as a result of violence

Intimate partner violence can have many emotional and psychological effects on those who experience it. Although all forms of abuse can have effects, these effects can indicate the severity of the abuse. In the SSPPS, people who had experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime were asked whether they had ever felt afraid, controlled or trapped, or whether they had ever felt anxious or on edge because of an intimate partner's behaviour.

The majority of francophone women in minority communities who had experienced IPV reported experiencing effects as a result. For example, just over half (53%) of these women have been afraid of one of their partners, 54% have felt controlled or trapped, and 75% have felt anxious or on edge because of an intimate partner. These proportions are generally similar to those observed among women in the English-speaking majority (Chart 2).

Chart 2
Selected impacts of violence among women who have experienced intimate partner violence since age 15, by first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025



Note: Percent calculations are based on those who experienced one or more types of intimate partner violence since age 15. No difference between francophone and anglophone women+ were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). "Francophone" and "anglophone" refer to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person. First official language spoken is a derived variable. The derivation first takes into account the knowledge of the two official languages, second the mother tongue, and third the language spoken most often at home. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Experiencing multiple types of abuse is associated with the likelihood of experiencing psychological or emotional impacts. For example, one-quarter (25%) of francophone women in minority communities who have experienced psychological IPV without physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime reported having been afraid of a partner at some point. This proportion rose to 86% among those who had experienced all three types of abuse (psychological, physical and sexual).[12] Among women in the English-speaking majority, 18% of those who had experienced psychological IPV without physical or sexual abuse and 84% of those who had experienced all three types of abuse reported having been afraid of a partner at some point.[13]

Text box 2
Economic abuse and its impacts

In this article, economic abuse is generally classified under the broader category of psychological abuse. However, economic abuse has specific characteristics. It occurs when a person uses money or other resources to control or exploit another person or to harm them. This form of abuse limits a person's ability to make their own decisions and maintain their autonomy. It can also make it much harder for women to leave their abusive partners, as it prevents them from having the resources to do so (Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2026). The Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces asked Canadian women whether they had ever been forced by a partner to hand over money or possessions, or whether a partner had kept them from having access to a job, money or financial resources.

Among francophone women in minority communities, 1 in 10 (10%) experienced one or more of these situations in their lifetime, the same proportion as for women in the English-speaking majority. More specifically, 8.3% of francophone women in minority communities experienced a situation in which they were forced to give money or possessions to their partner, and 5.1% were kept from having access to a job, money or financial resources (Table 2).

Economic abuse often occurs along with other forms of abuse. For example, all francophone women in minority communities who experienced economic abuse have also experienced other forms of psychological abuse. However, compared with those who experienced psychological abuse (but not economic abuse), those who experienced economic abuse were much more likely to have also experienced physical abuse (87%[E] versus 46%) or sexual abuse (74%[E] versus 28%).

Economic abuse can have significant impacts on the psychological well-being and quality of life of the women who experience it (Adams & Beeble, 2019; Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2026). For example, more than three-quarters (77%[E]) of francophone women in minority communities who have experienced economic abuse have been afraid of a partner, and 91%[E] have felt anxious or on edge because of a partner.

Many sociodemographic characteristics are associated with the prevalence of experiences of intimate partner violence

Intimate partner violence affects all segments of the population, but its prevalence varies among certain groups. This article focuses on the intersection between belonging to a francophone minority community and certain sociodemographic characteristics. IPV among certain other population groups is analyzed in greater detail in other articles in this series of profiles.[14]

Similar to what was observed among women in Canada overall (Cotter, 2026), young women were more likely to have experienced IPV in their lifetime: 63%[E] of francophone women in minority communities aged 15 to 24 experienced IPV, compared with 40% or less among those aged 55 and older.[15] Additionally, francophone women in minority communities who were single (65%) or separated or divorced (47%) were more likely to have experienced IPV in their lifetime than those who were married or in a common-law relationship (33%)[16] (Table 4).

Although several studies note a link between socioeconomic vulnerability and an increased risk of experiencing intimate partner violence (Capaldi et al., 2012; Cunradi et al., 2002; Davies et al., 2015), data from the 2025 SSPPS reveal few differences based on income, as well as a higher prevalence among individuals with higher education and those who were employed. For example, 44% of francophone women in minority communities who hold a university degree have experienced IPV in their lifetime, compared with 30% of those without a high school diploma (Table 4).

Overall, these trends were similar to those observed among women in the English-speaking majority (Table 4). However, it should be noted that these sociodemographic characteristics were measured at the time of survey collection and may have been different when the violence was experienced.

Non-Indigenous women have a lower prevalence of intimate partner violence over their lifetime

Many studies have revealed higher rates of victimization among First Nations, Métis and Inuit women—a reality inextricably linked to colonial history and the resulting intergenerational trauma from which the violence stems (Aguiar & Halseth, 2015; Bombay et al., 2014; Comack, 2018; Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015; Hoffart & Jones, 2018).

This reality is reflected among francophone women in minority communities. Among those who identify as Indigenous, 59% have experienced intimate partner violence, including 61% of Métis women. This compares with 39% of non-Indigenous francophone women in minority communities. This proportion is lower than the proportion observed for non-Indigenous women in the English-speaking majority (46%)[17] (Table 4).

In contrast, among francophone women in minority communities, the difference in the prevalence of intimate partner violence among racialized women[18] (29%) and non-racialized, non-Indigenous women (40%) was not statistically significant[19] (Table 4).

A higher proportion of LGB+ women than heterosexual women experience intimate partner violence

Compared with heterosexual individuals, LGB+[20] individuals are more likely to be targets of violence, including intimate partner violence (Cotter & Burczycka, 2026; Cotter, 2026; Jaffray, 2021).

This trend was also observed among francophone women in minority communities. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of these women who identified as lesbian, bisexual or another sexual orientation that is not heterosexual had experienced IPV in their lifetime, compared with 39% of francophone women in minority communities who reported being heterosexual. This proportion was slightly lower than the proportion for heterosexual women in the English-speaking majority (45%)[21] (Table 4).

Women with disabilities are more likely to experience intimate partner violence

Overall, women who report living with a disability[22] are also more likely to experience intimate partner violence (Cotter, 2018; Savage, 2021). The same trend was observed among francophone women in minority communities, with just over half (52%) of those with a disability having experienced IPV in their lifetime, compared with 39% of those who did not have a disability. In both cases, these proportions were lower than for women in the English-speaking majority (62% and 44%, respectively)[23] (Table 4).

Francophone women in minority communities in rural areas are less likely to have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime

As mentioned, the francophone community outside Quebec is dispersed across Canada, and a relatively large proportion lives in rural areas. For francophones in minority communities, living in a rural area can contribute to social isolation and make it more difficult to access services, and this can make it harder to escape an abusive relationship (Brunet & Garceau, 2004; Lapierre et al., 2014; Savard & Marchand, 2016).

Nevertheless, francophone women in minority communities in rural areas were less likely to have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime than those living in urban areas (35% versus 44%). They were also less likely than women in the English-speaking majority in rural areas to have experienced IPV (49%). In fact, for women in the English-speaking majority, those in rural areas had a higher lifetime prevalence of IPV (49% compared with 46% in urban areas) (Table 4).

Just over one in eight women experienced intimate partner violence in the 12 months preceding the survey

In addition to measuring intimate partner violence over a person's lifetime, the SSPPS also measured violence experienced in the 12 months preceding the survey. In 2025, just over one in eight francophone women in minority communities (13%) had experienced IPV in the previous 12 months. This proportion is similar to that among women in the English-speaking majority (14%) and to that in 2018 (10%) (Table 5).

As with abuse experienced over the lifetime, psychological abuse was the most common form of intimate partner violence experienced during the previous year. Among francophone women in minority communities, 13% experienced this form of violence in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Physical violence by an intimate partner was somewhat less common; nevertheless, 3.9% of francophone women in minority communities experienced this form of abuse in the previous year. More specifically, 1.9% of francophone women in minority communities experienced one of the forms of physical abuse measured in the survey, and 2.0% experienced two or more.[24] [25] [26] Although these experiences may have occurred during the same incident or during separate incidents, 2.6% of francophone women in minority communities reported having experienced at least one form of physical violence on more than one occasion in the 12 months preceding the survey. These proportions were relatively similar to those observed among women in the English-speaking majority: 2.6% experienced physical violence in the previous 12 months (with 1.3% experiencing one form of physical abuse and 1.3% experiencing more than one form), including 1.4% who experienced at least one form of physical abuse more than once in the previous 12 months.

Moreover, 1.9% of francophone women in minority communities experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner in the 12 months preceding the survey, a proportion similar to that among women in the English-speaking majority (2.1%). In the vast majority of cases, women who experienced sexual violence reported having experienced at least one form of sexual abuse on more than one occasion in the previous 12 months[27] (Table 2).

Similar to abuse over the lifetime, the prevalence of intimate partner violence in the 12 months preceding the survey varied according to certain sociodemographic characteristics. For example, young women, single women and separated or divorced women, employed women, LGB+ women, and women with disabilities were more likely to have experienced IPV in the previous 12 months (Table 5).

Overall, the prevalence of violence among specific sociodemographic groups varied similarly among women in the English-speaking majority, and no statistically significant differences were observed compared with women in the francophone minority.

Text box 3
Experiences of intimate partner violence among anglophone women in Quebec

Much like francophone women living outside Quebec, anglophone women in Quebec—the only province with a francophone majority—are likely to face various challenges because of their minority language status. For some of these women, including those living outside Montréal or the Outaouais region, access to services may be more limited because of the geographical concentration of English-language services. As is the case for francophone women outside Quebec, various barriers (e.g., those related to age, disability, living in a rural area, Indigenous identity or belonging to a racialized group) are exacerbated by their minority language status (Damant et al., 2015; Éthier & Carrier, 2022).

Overall, nearly 180,000 anglophone women in minority communities (45%) experienced psychological, physical or sexual abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime. This proportion is comparable to that among women in the francophone majority (43%). Psychological abuse was the most common form of abuse, reported by 43% of anglophone women in minority communities, followed by physical abuse (23%) and sexual abuse (14%). These proportions were similar to those among women in the francophone majority. However, sexual abuse by an intimate partner was slightly less common among anglophone women in Quebec (14%) than among anglophone women outside Quebec (17%) (Table 2).

Furthermore, just over 1 in 10 anglophone women in minority communities (12%) experienced intimate partner violence in the 12 months preceding the survey, similar to the proportion observed among women in the francophone majority (14%). More specifically, 11% of anglophone women in minority communities experienced psychological abuse, 2.9% experienced physical abuse and 3.2% experienced sexual abuse by an intimate partner (Table 2).

Half of victims of intimate partner violence have been psychologically affected by it

Among francophone women in minority communities who experienced psychological, physical or sexual abuse in the 12 months preceding the survey, most (85%) did not sustain any physical injuries[28] (Table 6).

However, the impacts of abuse are not limited to physical injuries. Many victims of intimate partner violence see negative effects on their well-being, mental health and quality of life. Specifically, nearly half (49%) of francophone women in minority communities who had experienced IPV were psychologically affected, and 14% experienced psychological effects consistent with symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder[29] (Table 6).

Having to leave home to break the cycle of abuse is also a common consequence. For francophone women in minority communities, this can sometimes be difficult because of limited access to French-language services or, for some, social isolation. Sometimes it can also mean leaving their region or community (Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne, 2023; Clennett-Sirois, 2015; Lapierre et al., 2014). These difficulties are compounded by the challenges faced by all women seeking to leave their home to escape an abusive partner, such as the lack of affordable housing (Clough et al., 2014) and, more generally, the overall disruption to the lives of victims and their families (Murray, 2008). Among francophone women in minority communities who experienced intimate partner violence in 2025, one in five (20%) left their home to escape an abusive partner, a proportion similar to that observed for women in the English-speaking majority (16%) (Table 6).

Francophone women in minority communities who have experienced intimate partner violence are more likely to have sought victim assistance services

For many reasons, it can be difficult for a woman who is a victim of intimate partner violence to report the abuse to the police. Studies consistently show that most cases of IPV do not come to the attention of the police (Conroy, 2021; Cotter, 2021). For francophone women in minority communities, language can pose an additional challenge when reporting abuse. According to data from the 2022 Survey on the Official Language Minority Population, approximately one-quarter (24%) of francophones in minority communities had experienced a situation of linguistic insecurity in the previous five years—that is, they found themselves in a situation where they hesitated to use the minority official language. This insecurity can arise during interactions with the police. The survey results also revealed that approximately one-quarter (24%) of francophones in minority communities who had interacted with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were able to communicate primarily in French, down sharply from 39% in 2006 (Pépin-Filion et al., 2024).

Among francophone women in minority communities who were victims of intimate partner violence in 2025, nearly 9 in 10 (88%) did not report it to the police,[30] a proportion similar to that observed among women in the English-speaking majority (91%) (Table 6). However, it should be noted that several of the abusive behaviours measured by the SSPPS do not meet the threshold for a criminal offence; this may contribute to the relatively low reporting rate.[31]

Accessing victim assistance services can also be more difficult for francophone women in minority communities. Several studies have noted the progress that has been made but point out that access to services remains limited, inequitable and unequal compared with what is available to women in the English-speaking majority. For example, several studies highlight gaps in the service continuum, such as limited availability of second-stage resources (Brunet & Garceau, 2004; Clennett-Sirois, 2015; Éthier & Carrier, 2022; Lapierre et al., 2014). Difficulty accessing services can seriously jeopardize the well-being and safety of victims and their families, causing them to stay longer in an abusive relationship and thereby increasing children's exposure to abuse (Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne, 2023; Lapierre et al., 2014; Sirois et al., 2016).

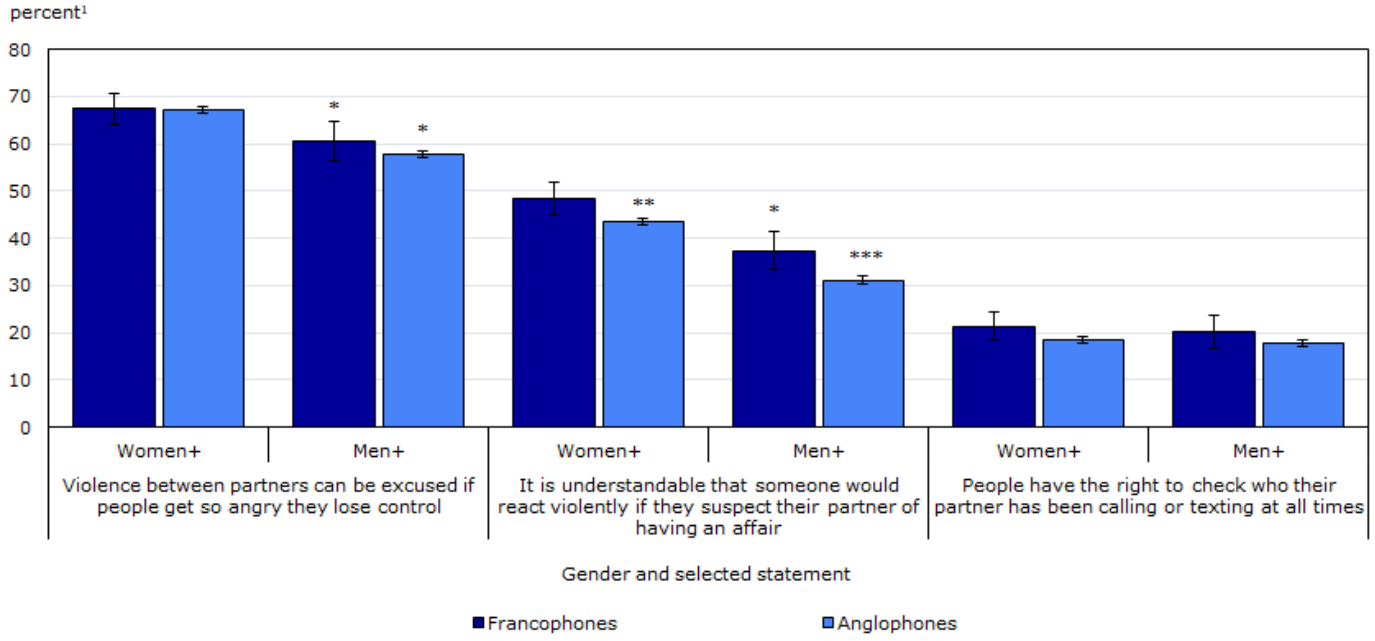
Despite these barriers, francophone women in minority communities who had experienced abuse in the 12 months preceding the survey were more likely than women in the English-speaking majority to have sought victim assistance services (28% versus 13%) (Table 6). However, the data do not indicate why the proportion is higher among francophone women in minority communities, whether the services they contacted were able to assist them or whether those services were available in their language.

While a minority of victims reported the abuse to the police or sought victim support services, most francophone women in minority communities who experienced intimate partner violence in 2025 (63%) told someone else about the abuse. For example, 44% talked about it with a family member, while 42% confided in a friend, neighbour or coworker and 15% talked to a doctor or nurse. These proportions are comparable to those for women in the English-speaking majority (Table 6).

In general, francophone women in minority communities have attitudes that disapprove of gender-based violence

In addition to measuring experiences of IPV over the course of a lifetime and in the 12 months preceding the survey, the 2025 SSPPS included questions to gauge the population's attitudes toward gender-based violence. These attitudes can reflect broader social structures and norms that can legitimize intimate partner violence (Jewkes et al., 2014; Fleming et al., 2015).

Chart 3
Proportion of individuals who strongly disagree with selected statements related to intimate partner violence, by first official language spoken and gender, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025



* significantly different from women+ ($p < 0.05$)
** significantly different from francophones ($p < 0.05$)
*** significantly different from both women+ and francophones ($p < 0.05$)
1. Reflects the proportion of respondents who reported they strongly disagreed. The other possible responses were "strongly agree," "agree," "neither agree nor disagree," and "disagree."
Note: "Francophone" and "anglophone" refer to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person. First official language spoken is a derived variable. The derivation first takes into account the knowledge of the two official languages, second the mother tongue, and third the language spoken most often at home. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Overall, francophones in minority communities and the English-speaking majority held similar attitudes toward intimate partner violence, and women were generally more likely than men to disagree with statements that legitimize violence. For example, 68% of francophone women in minority communities strongly disagreed[32] with the statement that violence between partners can be excused if people get so angry they lose control. This proportion was similar among women in the English-speaking majority (67%) (Chart 3).

In contrast, francophone women in minority communities (49%) were slightly more likely than women in the English-speaking majority (44%) to strongly disagree with the statement that it is understandable that someone would react violently if they suspect their partner of having an affair. This trend was also observed among men, although the proportions were lower (37% of men in the francophone minority compared with 31% of men in the English-speaking majority) (Chart 3).

Survey description

In 2024-2025, Statistics Canada conducted the second cycle of the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS). The SSPPS was previously collected in 2018. The purpose of the survey is to collect information on Canadians' experiences in public, at work, online, and in their intimate partner relationships.

The target population for the SSPPS included all persons 15 years of age and older in Canada, excluding full-time residents of institutions and residents of First Nations reserves. The 2025 SSPPS is a sample survey with a cross-sectional design. The survey in the provinces also now uses a targeted respondent approach, meaning a sample of persons is directly selected from the survey frame. The survey frame for the SSPPS in the territories is an area frame of dwellings constructed for the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The sample of selected dwellings was sent to the field for collection. Upon contact with a resident of the selected dwelling, one household member 15 years of age and older was randomly selected to complete the SSPPS questionnaire.

In the provinces, data collection took place from October 2024 to June 2025 inclusively. Responses were obtained by self-administered online questionnaire or by interviewer-administered telephone questionnaire. Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice. The final sample size for the 10 provinces was 46,511 respondents. The response rate in the provinces was 32.3%, down from 43.1% in 2018.

In the territories, data collection took place from January to July 2025 inclusively. Responses were obtained by self-administered online questionnaire or by interviewer-administered in-person questionnaire. Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice. The final sample size for the 3 territories was 2,036 respondents. The response rate in the territories was 53.1%, down from 73.2% in 2018.

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

Data limitations

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

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

The exclusion of those living in institutions or collective dwellings may also mean that some victims of intimate partner violence are not included in the data, if they were residing in a shelter or staying in a hospital due to the violence they experienced, for example. This may mean that, in particular, some relatively more severe experiences of intimate partner violence are not represented.

Participation in the survey is voluntary, and respondents are reminded that any information provided is strictly confidential. The questionnaire also includes important safety measures, such as a "leave page quickly" button. However, it is still possible, particularly for respondents who may be living with an abusive partner, that they do not feel comfortable participating or may not disclose abuse for fear their partner may discover their responses.

References

Adams, A. E. & Beeble, M. L. (2019). Intimate partner violence and psychological well-being: Examining the effect of economic abuse on women's quality of life. *Psychology of Violence, 9*(5), 517-525.

Aguiar, W. & Halseth, R. (2015). *Aboriginal peoples and historic trauma: The processes of intergenerational transmission.* National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health.

Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadiennes. (2023). *Stratégie nationale et plan d'action pour contrer les violences faites aux femmes et filles vivant dans les communautés francophones et acadiennes*. Accessed on June 12, 2026.

Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta. (2023). *Une stratégie de lutte contre la violence fondée sur le genre inclusive de la francophonie albertaine*. Accessed on June 12, 2026.

Bombay, A., Matheson, K. & Anisman, H. (2014). The intergenerational effects of Indian Residential Schools: implications for the concept of historical trauma. *Transcult Psychiatry, 51*(3), 320-338.

Boyce, J. (2016). Victimization of Aboriginal people in Canada, 2014. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Brunet, L. & Garceau, M. L. (2004). Faire autant avec si peu. *Bilan et profil des services en français en matière de violence contre les femmes (1994-2004).* Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes. Ottawa.

Brunet, L. & Lassonde, J. (2012). *Portrait des besoins juridiques des femmes francophones de l'Ontario*. Aide juridique Ontario.

Burczycka, M. (2016). Tendances en matière de violence conjugale autodéclarée au Canada, 2014. In *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2014*. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Capaldi, D. M., Knoble, N. B., Shortt, J. W. & Kim, H. K. (2012). A systematic review of risk factors for intimate partner violence. *Partner abuse*, *3*(2), 231.

Chibber, K.S. & Krishnan, S. (2011). Confronting intimate partner violence, a global health care priority. *Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine, 78*(3).

Chiponski, K. (forthcoming 2027). Intimate partner violence: Experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada, 2025. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Clennett-Sirois, L. (2015). Être jeune mère et survivante de violences conjugales en contexte rural et francophone minoritaire: une étude de besoins à Prescott-Russell 1. *Reflets*, *21*(1), 73-105.

Clough, A., Draughon, J.E., Njie-Carr, V., Rollins, C. & Glass, N. (2014). "Having housing made everything else possible": Affordable, safe and stable housing for women survivors of violence. *Qualitative Social Work, 13*(5).

Comack, E. (2018). Corporate colonialism and the "crimes of the powerful" committed against the Indigenous peoples of Canada. *Critical Criminology*, *26*(4), 455-471.

Conroy, S. (2021). Self-reported spousal violence in Canada, 2019. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Cotter, A. (2018). Violent victimization of women with disabilities, 2014. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Cotter, A. (2021). Intimate partner violence in Canada, 2018: An overview. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Cotter, A. (2026). Intimate partner violence in Canada, 2025: An overview. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Cotter, A. & Burczycka, M. (2026). Gender differences in experiences of violence and unwanted sexual behaviour in Canada, 2025. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Cuesta-García, A. & Crespo, M. (2022). Barriers for help-seeking in female immigrant survivors of intimate partner violence: A systematic review. *Journal of Victimology*, *14*, 33-59.

Cunradi, C. B., Caetano, R. & Schafer, J. (2002). Socioeconomic predictors of intimate partner violence among White, Black, and Hispanic couples in the United States. *Journal of family violence*, *17*(4), 377-389.

Damant, D., Bernard, J., Chbat, M. & Flynn, C. (2015). Analyse intersectionnelle de l'oppression linguistique de mères racisées victimes de violence conjugale en contexte montréalais. *Reflets*, *21*(1), 137–160.

Davies, L., Ford-Gilboe, M., Willson, A., Varcoe, C., Wuest, J., Campbell, J. & Scott-Storey, K. (2015). Patterns of cumulative abuse among female survivors of intimate partner violence: Links to women's health and socioeconomic status. *Violence Against Women, 21*(1).

Diotte, S. & Flynn, C. (2016). La précarité des femmes francophones de la région d'Ottawa à travers le prisme de la violence structurelle. *Reflets*, *22*(2), 123–146.

Éthier, A. & Carrier, A. (2022). L'accessibilité des services sociaux et de santé chez les minorités de langue officielle du Canada et les facteurs influant sur leur accès: une étude de portée. *Minorités linguistiques et société*, (18), 197-234.

Fanslow, J.L., Mellar, B.M., Gulliver, P.J. & McIntosh, T.K.D. (2023). Evidence of gender asymmetry in intimate partner violence experience at the population-level. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 38*(15-16).

Ford-Gilboe, M., Wathen, C.N., Varcoe, C., MacMillan, H.L., Scott-Storey, K., Mantler, T., Hegarty, K. & Perrin, N. (2016). Development of a brief measure of intimate partner violence experiences: The Composite Abuse Scale (Revised)—Short Form (CASR-SF). *BMJ Open, 6*(12).

Fraser, G. (2022). L'insoutenable invisibilité de la francophonie canadienne. Dans Caron, I. (dir.), *La francophonie dans les politiques publiques au Canada: Un principe au second rang*. Presses de l'Université du Québec.

Fleming, P. J., Gruskin, S., Rojo, F. & Dworkin, S. L. (2015). Men's violence against women and men are inter-related: Recommendations for simultaneous intervention. *Social Science and Medicine*. Vol. 146.

Government of Canada. (2025). *Protecting Victims Act: Proposed legislation to protect victims and keep kids safe from predators: Backgrounder.*

Heidinger, L. (2021). La violence entre partenaires intimes : expériences des femmes des Premières Nations, métisses et inuites au Canada, 2018. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Heidinger, L. (2026). Intimate partner violence in Canada, 2025: Experiences of young women in Canada, 2025. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Hoffart, R. & Jones, N. A. (2018). Intimate partner violence and intergenerational trauma among Indigenous women. *International Criminal Justice Review*, *28*(1), 25-44.

Jaffray, B. (2021). Intimate partner violence: Experiences of sexual minority women in Canada, 2018. *Juristat.* Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Jewkes, R., Flood, M. & Lang, J. (2014). From work with men and boys to changes of social norms and reduction of inequities in gender relations: A conceptual shift in prevention of violence against women and girls. *Lancet*. Vol. 385, no. 9977.

Lapierre, S., Coderre, C., Côté, I., Garceau, M. L. & Bourassa, C. (2014). Quand le manque d'accès aux services en français revictimise les femmes victimes de violence conjugale et leurs enfants. *Reflets*, *20*(2), 22-51.

MacMillan, H.L. & Wathen, C.N. (2014). Children's exposure to intimate partner violence. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America, 23*(2).

Maillé, C. (2022). Chronique d'une disparition. La langue dans l'analyse comparative entre les sexes plus (ACS+) du gouvernement du Canada. Dans Caron, I. (dir.), *La francophonie dans les politiques publiques au Canada: Un principe au second rang*. Presses de l'Université du Québec.

Maxwell, A. (2026). Intimate partner violence: Experiences of racialized women in Canada, 2025. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Maxwell, A. (forthcoming 2027). Intimate partner violence: Experiences of LGB+ women in Canada, 2025. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Miller, E. & McCaw, B. (2019). Intimate partner violence. *The New England Journal of Medicine, 380*(9).

Monchalin, R., Smylie, J. & Nowgesic, E. (2020). “I guess I shouldn’t come back here”: Racism and discrimination as a barrier to accessing health and social services for urban Métis women in Toronto, Canada. *Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities*, *7*(2), 251-261.

Murray, S. (2008). “Why doesn’t she just leave?”: Belonging, disruption and domestic violence. *Women’s Studies International Forum, 31*(1).

Nyqvist, F., Häkkinen, E., Renaud, A., Bouchard, L. & Prys, C. (2021). Social exclusion among official language minority older adults: A rapid review of the literature in Canada, Finland and Wales. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, *36*(3), 285-307.

Okeke-Ihejirika, P., Yohani, S., Muster, J., Ndem, A., Chambers, T. & Pow, V. (2020). A scoping review on intimate partner violence in Canada’s immigrant communities. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, *21*(4), 788-810.

Pépin-Filion, D., Cornelissen, L. & Lemire, É. (2024). Situation of English-speaking populations in Quebec and French-speaking populations in Canada outside Quebec: Results of the 2022 Survey on the Official Language Minority Population. *Ethnicity, Language and Immigration Thematic Series*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-657-X.

Réseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique. (2026). *Déclaration de l’élimination de la violence envers les femmes francophones*. Accessed on June 12, 2026.

Sanhueza-Morales, T., Michaelsen, S., Touati, N. & Barrio, L. R. D. (2025). Barriers in accessing intimate partner violence services: Intersecting views of immigrant and minority ethnic survivors and community organization workers. *Women’s Health*, *21*, 1-12.

Savage, L. (2021). Intimate partner violence: Experiences of women with disabilities in Canada, 2018. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Savage, L. & Conroy, S. (forthcoming 2027). Intimate partner violence: Experiences of women with disabilities in Canada, 2025. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Savard, V. & Marchand, I. (2016). Sortir de la violence conjugale dans l’avancée en âge: les réalités des femmes vivant en milieu rural francophone minoritaire. *Reflets*, *22*(2), 95-122.

Sirois, G., Cardinal, L. & Garceau, M. L. (2016). *Des intervenantes engagées: le développement des services en français dans le secteur de la violence faite aux femmes*. Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada. (2023). *Figure 1 Derivation of the First official language spoken*.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). *Honouring the truth, reconciling for the future: summary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.* Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Women and Gender Equality Canada. (2022). *National action plan to end gender-based violence*. Accessed on June 12, 2026.

Women and Gender Equality Canada. (2026). *Economic abuse*. Accessed on June 12, 2026.

Zhang, T., Hoddenbagh, J., McDonald, S. & Scrim, K. (2012). *An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Spousal Violence in Canada, 2009*. Department of Justice Canada.

Notes

[E] Use with caution

1. Maillé (2022) proposed the concept of “anglonormativity” to describe the power relations that shape the system, structures and institutions in ways that confer upon English the status of a universal norm or standard, thereby assuming that what applies to anglophones also applies to other linguistic groups. This can be reflected in methodological choices, such as overlooking language as a relevant factor or excluding (consciously or unconsciously) factors that do not reflect the experiences or meet the needs of the dominant group.

2. Articles planned for publication as part of this series include profiles of intimate partner violence among young women, women with disabilities, racialized women, LGB+ women, LGB+ men, francophone women, Indigenous women and the gender-diverse population.

3. Urban and rural areas are based on the concept of population centre. A population centre has a population of at least 1,000 and a population density of 400 people or more per square kilometre, based on population counts from the census. All areas outside population centres are classified as rural areas.

4. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province, meaning that English and French have official language status. Nevertheless, at the provincial level, francophones account for about one-third of the population and therefore meet the definition of an official language minority community used in this article (see Text box 1).

5. This is the median age of the SSPPS target population, namely women aged 15 years and older.

6. Socioeconomic status can be assessed using a variety of indicators. Level of education and income therefore provide only a partial picture.

7. In this article, the minority status of an official language is determined at the provincial level. As a result, it is possible for an official language to be spoken by the majority at the community level (e.g., a neighbourhood, city, village, region) but to be spoken by a minority at the provincial level. Because of the sample size, an analysis of intimate partner violence in official language minority communities is not possible below the provincial level.

8. See Note 4.

9. A small percentage of the population has English and French—or neither English nor French—as their first official language spoken. These individuals are excluded from the analyses presented in this article.

10. The minority status of the official language spoken reflects the status at the time of the survey, which may differ from the status at the time the violence occurred.

11. Differences between 2018 and 2025 were not statistically significant. Additionally, in 2018, the difference between francophone women in minority communities (42%) and women in the English-speaking majority (46%) was not statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

12. Most victims of physical or sexual abuse also experienced psychological abuse. Therefore, on account of the sample size, estimates for francophone women in minority communities who experienced only physical abuse or only sexual abuse in their lifetime cannot be produced. Among all women in Canada outside Quebec, 18% of those who experienced only psychological abuse, 15% of those who experienced only physical abuse and 23% of those who experienced only sexual abuse reported having been afraid of a partner at some point. The differences by type of abuse are not statistically significant.

13. The differences with the corresponding proportions for francophone women in minority communities are not statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

14. See Note 2.

15. For more information on intimate partner violence among young women, see Heidinger (2026).

16. Marital status at the time of survey collection may not reflect marital status at the time the violence was experienced, and, for those with a current partner, violence may have been perpetrated by someone other than their current partner.

17. For more information on intimate partner violence among Indigenous women, see Chiponski (forthcoming 2027).

18. It should be noted that both the racialized population and the immigrant population are diverse, and combining their experiences into broad groups may hide important differences in the experiences of specific groups.

19. For more information on intimate partner violence among racialized women, see Maxwell (2026).

20. The acronym LGB+ refers to individuals who indicated their sexual orientation as lesbian, gay, bisexual or any other sexual orientation other than heterosexual.

21. For more information on intimate partner violence among LGB+ women, see Maxwell (forthcoming 2027).

22. To differentiate people with and without a disability, respondents were asked whether they identified as a person with a disability. This differs from the method used by Statistics Canada in the Canadian Survey on Disability, which includes disability screening questions to identify those with a disability and calculate the official rates of disability in Canada.

23. For more information on intimate partner violence among women with disabilities, see Savage & Conroy (forthcoming 2027).

24. See Table 3 for a detailed list of the various forms of physical abuse measured by the SSPPS.

25. Experiencing one behaviour does not necessarily mean that there was only one instance of violence, as respondents may have experienced the same type of violence on multiple occasions.

26. The behaviours are not mutually exclusive. It is possible that responses of “yes” to multiple items reflect the same instance. However, given the broad range of behaviours covered by the survey and the fact that most victims experienced intimate partner violence on more than one occasion, the number of behaviours experienced is used as a general indicator of increased exposure to violence and abuse.

27. Overall, 1.5% of women living outside Quebec reported having experienced at least one form of sexual abuse on more than one occasion in the 12 months preceding the survey, representing 73% of all women who had experienced at least one form of sexual abuse at least once in the previous 12 months. This level of detail could not be achieved for francophone women in minority communities because of the sample size.

28. The question on physical injuries was asked only of respondents who experienced at least one form of physical or sexual intimate partner violence (see Table 3). Those who exclusively experienced psychological abuse were included in the “no” category (not physically injured).

29. Based on responses to the Primary Care Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Screen (PC-PTSD), a front-line assessment tool used to identify individuals who should be referred to a specialized service for psychological and psychiatric treatment for this disorder. The tool is designed to assess whether an individual demonstrates key symptoms associated with PTSD, namely re-experiencing, numbing, avoidance and hyperarousal. If an individual answers “yes” to any three of the four questions, the presence of PTSD is suspected. The PC-PTSD is not a diagnostic tool. In a clinical setting, a positive score on the PC-PTSD questionnaire would indicate that the patient should be referred for a more in-depth assessment and may receive a diagnosis.

30. Reporting to police includes reports by the victim or another person.

31. The criminal threshold can evolve over time. For example, the *Protecting Victims Act*, which received royal assent in June 2026, created a new offence targeting coercive and controlling behaviours (Government of Canada, 2025). Acts to amend the *Criminal Code* to specifically address coercive control have also been introduced in previous sessions of Parliament (e.g., former Bill C-332, which was before the Senate of Canada when the 44th Parliament was dissolved).

32. Corresponds to the proportion of people who answered “strongly disagree.” The other possible responses were “strongly agree,” “agree,” “neither agree nor disagree” and “disagree.” Also includes a small percentage of people who did not respond.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Sociodemographic profile of women aged 15 and older, by first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected sociodemographic characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Age group (years)						
15 to 24	12	10	15	14	14	14
25 to 34	12	9	15	18 *	18	18
35 to 44	14	12	17	17	17	17
45 to 54	14	12	17	14	14	14
55 to 64	18	15	20	15 *	15	15
65 to 74	18	16	20	13 *	12	13
75 and older	12	10	15	10 *	9	10
Median age (women aged 15 and over)	52	50	55	45 *	45	45
Indigenous identity						
Indigenous person	9	7	12	6 *	5	6
First Nations	3	2	4	3	2	3
Métis	6	5	8	3 *	3	3
Inuit	F	F	F	0	0	0
Non-Indigenous person	91	88	92	94 *	94	94
Racialized population group[2]						
Yes	10	8	14	29 *	28	30
South Asian	F	F	F	7	7	8
Chinese	F	F	F	7	7	8
Black	7	5	10	3 *	3	3
Filipino	F	F	F	4	4	4
Arab	F	F	F	1	1	1
Latin American	F	F	F	2	1	2
Southeast Asian	F	F	F	1	1	2
West Asian	F	F	F	1	1	1
Korean	F	F	F	1	1	1
Japanese	F	F	F	0	0	0
Racialized population group not otherwise specified	F	F	F	1	1	1
Multiple racialized population groups	F	F	F	1	1	1
No	88	85	91	69 *	68	70
Immigrant status[3]						
Immigrant	14	12	18	30 *	30	31
Non-immigrant	86	82	88	70 *	69	70

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1
Sociodemographic profile of women aged 15 and older, by first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected sociodemographic characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Sexual orientation						
Heterosexual	87	84	89	86	85	86
LGB+	9	7	12	10	10	11
Lesbian or gay	2	2	4	2	2	2
Bisexual	5	4	8	7	6	7
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	1	1	2	1	1	1
Identifies as a person with a disability						
Yes	19	16	22	17	16	17
No	81	78	84	83	82	84
Employed in past 12 months						
Yes	63	59	66	66	65	67
No	37	34	40	34	33	34
Individual before-tax income[4]						
Less than $20,000	19	16	22	24 *	23	24
$20,000 to $39,999	20	17	23	23	22	23
$40,000 to $59,999	21	18	24	18 *	17	18
$60,000 to $79,999	14	11	16	14	13	14
$80,000 to $99,999	11	9	13	9	8	9
$100,000 to $119,999	6	4	7	6	5	6
$120,000 or more	10	8	12	9	8	9
Median income (dollars)	48,981	45,434	52,527	44,201 *	43,357	45,045
Highest level of education completed						
Less than high school	10	8	12	9	9	9
High school or equivalent	25	22	29	24	23	24
College or trade school	28	25	32	26	25	26
University	36	33	40	41 *	41	42
Marital status						
Married or common-law	55	51	59	54	53	55
Separated, divorced, or widowed	21	18	24	17 *	17	18
Single, never married	23	20	27	29 *	28	29
Area of residence						
Rural area of the provinces[5]	28	25	32	15 *	15	16
Territories	0	0	1	0	0	0
Urban area of the provinces	71	68	75	84 *	84	85

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1
Sociodemographic profile of women aged 15 and older, by first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected sociodemographic characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Province of residence						
Newfoundland and Labrador	F	F	F	2	2	2
Prince Edward Island	F	F	F	1	1	1
Nova Scotia	3	2	5	4	3	4
New Brunswick	21	19	24	2 *	2	2
Ontario	52	49	56	50	50	51
Manitoba	4	3	5	4	4	4
Saskatchewan	2	1	3	4 *	4	4
Alberta	8	6	11	15 *	15	15
British Columbia	8	6	11	18 *	18	18
Territories	0	0	1	0	0	0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from francophone women+ ($p < 0.05$)

1. Represents the proportion of the non-institutionalized population aged 15 years and over.

2. Excludes First Nations people, Métis, or Inuit.

3. Immigrants include landed immigrants as well as all other respondents born outside of Canada (e.g., permanent and temporary residents). May also include some non-immigrants (e.g., people born outside of Canada to Canadian parents, for example diplomats or members of the Canadian Armed Forces posted outside of the country).

4. Income information was imputed for respondents who could not be linked to tax data or who did not consent for their information to be linked to other sources.

5. Includes areas outside of population centres.

Note: “Francophone” and “anglophone” refer to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person. First official language spoken is a derived variable. The derivation first takes into account the knowledge of the two official languages, second the mother tongue, and third the language spoken most often at home. The category “Women+” includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 2
Intimate partner violence since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by first official language spoken, Canada, 2025

	Canada (excluding Quebec)								Quebec							
	Francophone women+ (official language minority)				Anglophone women+ (official language majority)				Francophone women+ (official language majority)				Anglophone women+ (official language minority)			
	number (in thousands)	percent	95% confidence interval		number (in thousands)	percent	95% confidence interval		number (in thousands)	percent	95% confidence interval		number (in thousands)	percent	95% confidence interval	
Intimate partner violence			from	to			from	to			from	to			from	to
Since age 15																
Psychological abuse (excluding economic abuse)	190	39.6 [2]	36.0	43.4	4,992	45.0 [1,3]	44.2	45.8	1,153	41.3 [2]	39.9	42.8	171	42.9	38.9	46.9
Economic abuse	48	10.1	7.9	12.8	1,131	10.2 [3]	9.7	10.7	234	8.4 [2]	7.5	9.3	43	10.7	8.3	13.6
Total, psychological or economic abuse	**190**	**39.7 [2]**	**36.1**	**43.5**	**5,002**	**45.1 [1,3]**	**44.3**	**45.9**	**1,153**	**41.3 [2]**	**39.9**	**42.8**	**171**	**42.9**	**38.9**	**46.9**
Physical abuse	110	23.1	19.9	26.6	2,793	25.2 [3]	24.4	25.9	545	19.5 [2]	18.4	20.8	90	22.7	19.3	26.4
Sexual abuse	79	16.6 [3]	13.9	19.7	1,910	17.2 [3,4]	16.6	17.8	373	13.4 [1,2]	12.3	14.5	57	14.2 [2]	11.6	17.3
Total, physical or sexual abuse	**127**	**26.6**	**23.3**	**30.2**	**3,339**	**30.1 [3]**	**29.3**	**30.9**	**674**	**24.2 [2]**	**22.9**	**25.5**	**110**	**27.5**	**24.0**	**31.4**
Total, any type	**198**	**41.4 [2]**	**37.7**	**45.1**	**5,191**	**46.8 [1,3]**	**45.9**	**47.6**	**1,191**	**42.7 [2]**	**41.2**	**44.2**	**179**	**44.9**	**40.9**	**49.0**
Past 12 months																
Psychological abuse (excluding economic abuse)	45	12.9	10.2	16.1	1,108	13.1	12.5	13.8	289	13.9	12.7	15.2	33	11.3	8.6	14.7
Economic abuse	F	F	F	F	98	1.2	1.0	1.4	19	0.9	0.6	1.3	F	F	F	F
Total, psychological or economic abuse	**45**	**12.9**	**10.2**	**16.1**	**1,112**	**13.2**	**12.5**	**13.9**	**289**	**13.9**	**12.7**	**15.2**	**33**	**11.3**	**8.6**	**14.7**
Physical abuse	14	3.9 [3]	2.4	6.3	216	2.6 [3]	2.3	2.9	38	1.8 [1,2]	1.4	2.4	8	2.9	1.5	5.3
Sexual abuse	7	1.9	1.0	3.6	180	2.1 [3]	1.9	2.5	29	1.4 [2]	1.0	1.9	9	3.2	1.7	5.8
Total, physical or sexual abuse	**16**	**4.6**	**3.0**	**7.0**	**327**	**3.9 [3]**	**3.5**	**4.3**	**58**	**2.8 [2]**	**2.2**	**3.5**	**14**	**4.7**	**2.9**	**7.5**
Total, any type	**47**	**13.4**	**10.6**	**16.7**	**1,152**	**13.7**	**13.0**	**14.4**	**294**	**14.2**	**13.0**	**15.4**	**35**	**12.0**	**9.2**	**15.4**

F too unreliable to be published

1. Significantly different from francophone women+ living outside Quebec ($p < 0.05$)

2. Significantly different from anglophone women+ living outside Quebec ($p < 0.05$)

3. Significantly different from francophone women+ living in Quebec ($p < 0.05$)

4. Significantly different from anglophone women+ living in Quebec ($p < 0.05$)

Note: Intimate partner violence includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship and, for violence in the past 12 months, those who stated that they had not had contact with any current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months. See Table 3 for a list of items included in each category. “Francophone” and “anglophone” refer to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person. First official language spoken is a derived variable. The derivation first takes into account the knowledge of the two official languages, second the mother tongue, and third the language spoken most often at home. The category “Women+” includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 3
Intimate partner violence since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by type of intimate partner violence and first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Experienced since age 15						Experienced in the past 12 months					
	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+			Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Type of intimate partner violence[1]	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[3]	from	to	percent[3]	from	to
Psychological abuse												
Been jealous and didn't want you to talk to other men or women	26.4	23.3	29.9	31.5 *	30.8	32.3	5.5	3.7	8.2	5.2	4.8	5.7
Harmed, or threatened to harm your pets	5.8	4.2	8.0	5.3	4.9	5.6	F	F	F	0.6	0.5	0.8
Demanded to know who you were with and where you were at all times	20.1	17.1	23.5	20.1	19.4	20.8	2.7	1.5	4.8	3.0	2.7	3.4
Put you down or called you names to make you feel bad	28.6	25.4	32.1	31.6	30.8	32.4	9.2	7.0	12.2	7.8	7.3	8.3
Forced you to give them money or possessions[4]	8.3	6.3	10.7	7.8	7.4	8.3	F	F	F	0.7	0.6	0.9
Told you you were crazy, stupid, or not good enough[5]	27.2	24.0	30.8	30.8 *	30.0	31.6	8.0	5.9	10.8	7.5	7.0	8.0
Tried to convince your family, children, or friends that you are crazy or tried to turn them against you[5]	13.2	10.8	16.1	12.6	12.0	13.2	F	F	F	2.0	1.8	2.3
Followed you or hung around outside your home or work[5]	12.4	9.9	15.5	12.3	11.7	12.8	F	F	F	0.9	0.7	1.1
Kept you from seeing or talking to your family or friends[5]	12.1	9.7	15.0	12.2	11.6	12.7	F	F	F	1.3	1.1	1.6
Harassed you by phone, text, email, or using social media[5]	14.8	12.2	18.0	16.3	15.6	16.9	2.8	1.6	4.8	2.5	2.2	2.9
Kept you from having access to a job, money, or financial resources[4 5]	5.1	3.6	7.3	5.7	5.3	6.1	F	F	F	0.6	0.5	0.8
Damaged or destroyed your possessions or property	13.1	10.6	16.1	14.1	13.5	14.6	F	F	F	1.4	1.2	1.6
Made comments about your sexual past or your sexual performance that made you feel ashamed, inadequate, or humiliated	15.7	13.0	19.0	18.8	18.1	19.5	2.5	1.3	4.8	3.5	3.1	3.9
Revealed, or threatened to reveal, your sexual orientation or your relationship to anyone who you did not want to know about your sexuality or sexual orientation	4.5	3.0	6.6	3.3	3.0	3.6	F	F	F	0.4	0.3	0.6
Blamed you for causing their abusive or violent behaviour[5 6]	55.8	49.2	62.2	52.0	50.7	53.3	12.5	8.0	19.1	8.8	7.9	9.8
Total	**39.7**	**36.1**	**43.5**	**45.1 ***	**44.3**	**45.9**	**12.9**	**10.2**	**16.1**	**13.2**	**12.5**	**13.9**
Physical abuse												
Shook, pushed, grabbed, or threw you[5]	16.2	13.4	19.4	18.2	17.5	18.8	2.9	1.7	5.1	1.3	1.1	1.5
Hit you with a fist or object, kicked or bit you[5]	12.0	9.6	14.8	11.6	11.1	12.2	F	F	F	0.6	0.5	0.8
Confined or locked you in a room or other space[5]	4.4	2.9	6.5	4.8	4.5	5.2	F	F	F	0.3	0.2	0.4
Threatened to harm or kill you or someone close to you[5]	6.7	4.9	9.1	7.4	6.9	7.8	F	F	F	0.5	0.4	0.7

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Intimate partner violence since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by type of intimate partner violence and first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Experienced since age 15						Experienced in the past 12 months					
	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+			Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Type of intimate partner violence[1]	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[3]	from	to	percent[3]	from	to
Choked you[5]	6.0	4.3	8.2	7.8	7.3	8.2	F	F	F	0.6	0.4	0.8
Used or threatened to use a knife or gun or other weapon to harm you[5]	4.1	2.7	6.1	4.2	3.8	4.5	F	F	F	0.3	0.2	0.4
Threatened to hit you with their fist or anything that could hurt you	10.8	8.7	13.5	11.6	11.1	12.2	F	F	F	0.7	0.6	0.9
Thrown anything at you that could have hurt you	10.1	7.9	12.8	11.9	11.4	12.4	F	F	F	1.0	0.8	1.2
Slapped you	10.1	7.9	12.7	11.5	11.0	12.0	F	F	F	0.5	0.4	0.7
Beaten you	5.3	3.8	7.4	6.2	5.8	6.6	F	F	F	0.3	0.2	0.4
Total	**23.1**	**19.9**	**26.6**	**25.2**	**24.4**	**25.9**	**3.9**	**2.4**	**6.3**	**2.6**	**2.3**	**2.9**
Sexual abuse												
Made you perform sex acts that you did not want to perform[5]	12.8	10.4	15.6	13.9	13.3	14.5	F	F	F	1.7	1.5	2.0
Forced or tried to force you to have sex[5]	13.9	11.3	16.8	14.0	13.4	14.6	F	F	F	1.4	1.1	1.6
Total	**16.6**	**13.9**	**19.7**	**17.2**	**16.6**	**17.8**	**1.9**	**1.0**	**3.6**	**2.1**	**1.9**	**2.5**
Total intimate partner violence	**41.4**	**37.7**	**45.1**	**46.8 ***	**45.9**	**47.6**	**13.4**	**10.6**	**16.7**	**13.7**	**13.0**	**14.4**

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from francophone women+ ($p < 0.05$)

1. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner.

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

3. Represents the percentage of all respondents, excluding those who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship, as well as those who did not have any contact with a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months.

4. This item is used to measure economic abuse.

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

6. Includes only respondents who indicated yes to at least one item from the CASr-SF in their lifetime.

Note: "Francophone" and "anglophone" refer to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person. First official language spoken is a derived variable. The derivation first takes into account the knowledge of the two official languages, second the mother tongue, and third the language spoken most often at home. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 4
Intimate partner violence since age 15, by selected characteristics of victim and first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Age group (years)						
15 to 24[†]	63 E	46	77	60	57	63
25 to 34	51 E	37	65	56 *	53	58
35 to 44	46	36	56	50 *	48	52
45 to 54	47	37	57	49 *	47	51
55 to 64	40 *	33	47	45 *	43	47
65 to 74	30 *	23	37	38 ***	36	40
75 and older	28 *	20	37	27 *	25	29
Indigenous identity						
Indigenous person	59 E*	47	70	67 *	64	70
First Nations	F	F	F	71 *	66	75
Métis	61 E*	47	74	64 *	60	69
Inuit	F	F	F	63 *	55	71
Non-Indigenous person[†]	39	36	43	46 **	45	46
Racialized population group[2]						
Yes	29	15	47	30 *	28	31
South Asian	F	F	F	26 *	23	30
Chinese	F	F	F	25 *	22	29
Black	F	F	F	39 *	33	45
Filipino	F	F	F	24 *	20	29
Arab	F	F	F	35 *	25	46
Latin American	F	F	F	42 *	35	49
Southeast Asian	F	F	F	27 *	20	36
West Asian	F	F	F	36 *	26	46
Korean	F	F	F	21 E*	13	31
Japanese	F	F	F	30 E*	18	45
Racialized population group not otherwise specified	F	F	F	40 *	31	50
Multiple racialized population groups	F	F	F	51	40	62
No[†]	40	36	44	51 **	50	52
Immigrant status[3]						
Immigrant	34 E	23	47	31 *	29	32
Non-immigrant[†]	42	39	46	54	53	55

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4
Intimate partner violence since age 15, by selected characteristics of victim and first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Sexual orientation						
Heterosexual[†]	39	36	43	45 **	44	46
LGB+	64 E*	49	77	72 *	69	74
Lesbian or gay	F	F	F	62 *	56	68
Bisexual	F	F	F	75 *	71	78
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	F	F	F	72 *	64	79
Identifies as a person with a disability						
Yes	52 *	43	60	62 ***	60	64
No[†]	39	35	43	44 **	43	45
Employed in past 12 months						
Yes	47 *	42	52	51 *	50	53
No[†]	32	27	37	38 **	36	39
Individual before-tax income[4]						
Less than $20,000[†]	43	34	53	47	45	49
$20,000 to $39,999	42	34	50	44 *	42	46
$40,000 to $59,999	31	24	39	46 **	44	48
$60,000 to $79,999	51	41	61	48	46	50
$80,000 to $99,999	45	34	57	48	46	51
$100,000 to $119,999	53 E	37	68	49	45	52
$120,000 or more	33	24	44	50 **	48	53
Highest level of education completed						
Less than high school[†]	30	20	43	42	39	46
High school or equivalent	39	32	47	45	43	47
College or trade school	44 *	37	51	49 *	48	51
University	44 *	38	50	47 *	45	48
Marital status						
Married or common-law[†]	33	28	37	39 **	38	40
Separated, divorced, or widowed	47 *	40	54	54 *	52	55
Single, never married	65 *	54	75	64 *	62	66

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4
Intimate partner violence since age 15, by selected characteristics of victim and first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Area of residence						
Rural area of the provinces[5]	35 *	29	42	49 ***	47	51
Territories	F	F	F	54 *	50	58
Urban area of the provinces†	44	39	48	46	45	47
Total	**41**	**38**	**45**	**47 ****	**46**	**48**

E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

** significantly different from francophone women+ ($p < 0.05$)

*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$) and francophone women+ ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

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

2. Excludes First Nations people, Métis, or Inuit.

3. Immigrants include landed immigrants as well as all other respondents born outside of Canada (e.g., permanent and temporary residents). May also include some non-immigrants (e.g., people born outside of Canada to Canadian parents, for example diplomats or members of the Canadian Armed Forces posted outside of the country).

4. Income information was imputed for respondents who could not be linked to tax data or who did not consent for their information to be linked to other sources.

5. Includes areas outside of population centres.

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. “Francophone” and “anglophone” refer to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person. First official language spoken is a derived variable. The derivation first takes into account the knowledge of the two official languages, second the mother tongue, and third the language spoken most often at home. The category “Women+” includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 5
Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by selected characteristics of victim and first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Age group (years)						
15 to 34	27 *	18	38	21 *	20	23
15 to 24	F	F	F	39 *	34	43
25 to 34	F	F	F	15 *	13	17
35 to 44	16 *	10	26	14 *	12	15
45 to 54	F	F	F	14 *	13	16
55 to 64	10	6	16	10 *	9	11
65 and older†	6	3	10	6	5	7
Indigenous identity						
Indigenous person	F	F	F	20 *	17	23
Non-Indigenous person†	13	10	17	13	13	14
Racialized population group[2]						
Yes	F	F	F	10 *	9	12
No†	13	10	17	14	13	15
Immigrant status[3]						
Immigrant	F	F	F	10 *	9	11
Non-immigrant†	13	11	17	15	15	16
Sexual orientation						
Heterosexual†	12	9	15	13	12	13
LGB+	28 E*	16	44	26 *	23	29
Identifies as a person with a disability						
Yes	23 *	15	33	20 *	18	22
No†	11	8	15	13	12	13
Employed in past 12 months						
Yes	16 *	12	20	15 *	14	16
No†	9	5	13	10	9	11
Individual before-tax income[4]						
Less than $20,000†	14	8	24	17	15	19
$20,000 to $39,999	16	9	27	13 *	12	15
$40,000 to $59,999	13	8	22	12 *	10	13
$60,000 to $79,999	14 E	7	25	13 *	11	14
$80,000 or more	12	8	18	14 *	12	15

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5
Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by selected characteristics of victim and first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Highest level of education completed						
Less than high school†	F	F	F	19	15	22
High school or equivalent	12	7	21	14 *	13	16
College or trade school	14	9	20	13 *	12	14
University	13	9	18	13 *	12	14
Marital status						
Married or common-law†	9	7	12	10	9	10
Separated, divorced, or widowed	28 E*	17	44	21 *	18	24
Single, never married	39 E*	25	56	35 *	32	38
Area of residence						
Rural area of the provinces[5]	10	6	16	13	12	15
Territories	F	F	F	12	9	15
Urban area of the provinces†	15	11	19	14	13	15
Total	**13**	**11**	**17**	**14**	**13**	**14**

E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

** significantly different from francophone women+ ($p < 0.05$)

*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$) and francophone women+ ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

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

2. Excludes First Nations people, Métis, or Inuit.

3. Immigrants include landed immigrants as well as all other respondents born outside of Canada (e.g., permanent and temporary residents). May also include some non-immigrants (e.g., people born outside of Canada to Canadian parents, for example diplomats or members of the Canadian Armed Forces posted outside of the country).

4. Income information was imputed for respondents who could not be linked to tax data or who did not consent for their information to be linked to other sources.

5. Includes areas outside of population centres.

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. “Francophone” and “anglophone” refer to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person. First official language spoken is a derived variable. The derivation first takes into account the knowledge of the two official languages, second the mother tongue, and third the language spoken most often at home. The category “Women+” includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 6
Selected impacts, consequences, and outcomes of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by first official language spoken, Canada (excluding Quebec), 2025

	Francophone women+			Anglophone women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected impact, consequence, or outcome[1]	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Physically injured[2]						
Yes	F	F	F	5	4	7
No	85 [E]	72	92	94	93	95
Any abuse or violence occurred while partner was drinking						
Yes	34 [E]	24	46	28	25	30
No	63 [E]	51	74	71	68	74
Had to leave shared home or accommodation due to violence						
Yes	20 [E]	12	31	16	14	18
No	65 [E]	52	76	66	63	68
Did not have a shared home or accommodation	F	F	F	18	16	20
Behaviour was reported to police						
Yes	F	F	F	8	7	10
No	88 [E]	77	94	91	89	92
Respondent talked to someone about the violence						
Yes	63 [E]	50	75	67	64	69
Family	44 [E]	32	57	38	36	41
Friend, neighbour, coworker	42 [E]	30	55	47	44	50
Doctor or nurse	15 [E]	8	28	13	11	15
Other	F	F	F	7	6	9
No	34 [E]	23	48	32	30	35
Contacted or used victims' services						
Yes	28 [E]	17	41	13 *	11	15
No	70 [E]	57	81	86 *	84	88
Negative emotional impacts as a result of the violence						
Yes	49 [E]	36	61	52	49	55
No	49 [E]	36	61	47	44	50
Symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder[3]						
Yes	14 [E]	7	26	20	18	23
No	83 [E]	72	91	79	76	81

[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from francophone women+ ($p < 0.05$)
1. Unless otherwise noted, questions on impacts, consequences, and outcomes of intimate partner violence were asked of those who experienced one or more types of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, referring to all experiences in the past 12 months.
2. This question was only asked of respondents who experienced a physical or sexual form of intimate partner violence. See Table 3. Those who exclusively experienced psychological abuse were included in the "No" category (not physically injured).
3. Based on responses to the Primary Care PTSD Screen (PC-PTSD) tool, a front-line assessment tool used to identify individuals who should be referred to further psychological and psychiatric treatment for the disorder. The tool is designed to assess whether an individual demonstrates key effects related to the core PTSD symptoms of re-experiencing, numbing, avoidance and hyperarousal. If an individual answers 'yes' to any three of the four questions, the presence of PTSD is suspected. The PC-PTSD is not a diagnostic tool, and a suspicion of PTSD is not the same as a diagnosis. In a clinical setting, a positive score on the PC-PTSD would indicate that the patient should be referred for more in-depth assessment and possible diagnosis.
Note: "Francophone" and "anglophone" refer to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person. First official language spoken is a derived variable. The derivation first takes into account the knowledge of the two official languages, second the mother tongue, and third the language spoken most often at home. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.