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Intimate partner violence: Experiences of racialized women in Canada, 2025

by Ashley Maxwell

According to the 2021 Census of Population, over one in four (27%) people in Canada belong to a racialized group (Hou et al., 2023). The *Employment Equity Act* defines these individuals as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." Over the years, Canada's racialized population has grown and diversified, driven largely by ongoing immigration (Hou et al., 2023). As the racialized population continues to grow, it is important to consider how different social and structural factors—such as economic conditions, neighbourhood environments and access to services—can shape the experiences of individuals in these communities. These factors can also contribute to differences in victimization patterns, both between racialized and non-racialized populations, and among distinct racialized groups.

One form of violence that can affect people across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups is intimate partner violence (IPV). IPV encompasses a wide range of behaviours—including emotional, economic, psychological, physical and sexual violence—and remains a pervasive health concern affecting many individuals on an annual basis. While some groups of women and girls (e.g., Indigenous women, women with disabilities, younger women) are known to experience IPV at disproportionately higher rates (Heidinger, 2026; Heidinger, 2021; Savage, 2021a; Savage, 2021b),[1] evidence suggests that women who belong to a racialized group may experience IPV in different ways (Cotter, 2026; Cotter, 2021b; Okeke-Ihejirika et al., 2020). These differences may be influenced by factors such as cultural context, systemic barriers and access to supports, as well as sociodemographic characteristics such as age and immigrant status (e.g., immigrant, non-permanent resident). Understanding these variations in experiences is essential for accurately assessing the prevalence and nature of IPV within the racialized population and for developing responses and prevention strategies to IPV that reflect the diverse realities of Canada's racialized communities.

This article is one in a series of profiles that examines IPV among members of different population groups in Canada,[2] based on self-reported data from the 2025 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS). IPV is highly gendered, with women and girls comprising most victims; women and girls are also more likely to experience the most severe forms of violence and its associated negative consequences (Burczycka, 2016; Cotter, 2026; Cotter, 2021c; Cotter & Burczycka, 2026). As such, this article explores experiences of IPV that occurred in the respondent's lifetime (i.e., since the age of 15) as well as in the 12 months prior to the survey —including the prevalence, nature, frequency and impacts—among racialized women.[3] [4] Comparisons to experiences of IPV among non-racialized women are made throughout the article.

This series of profiles on intimate partner violence were produced with funding support from Women and Gender Equality Canada.

Defining the racialized population in the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces

In this article, the "racialized population" is based on responses to the population group question in the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces. Those who identified as South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese, are designated as visible minorities based on the definition in the *Employment Equity Act*. Respondents do not self-identify as racialized, but rather the category is derived by the survey for analytical purposes. As the racialized population is not homogenous, results are disaggregated by racialized group where possible, to capture the unique experiences of the racialized population in Canada. The non-racialized population excludes individuals who identified as First Nations people, Métis or Inuit (Indigenous). This is a notable definition change from previous analyses on the racialized population using the SSPPS, which included Indigenous people in the non-racialized population group.[5]

It is also important to note some of the demographic differences between racialized and non-racialized women, as they should be considered when examining women's experiences of IPV. For instance, in the 2025 SSPPS, racialized women were younger (40% were aged 15 to 34 years, compared with 26% of non-racialized women), more likely to be employed (70% versus 63%), more likely to have a university certificate or diploma or higher (50% versus 37%), much more likely to be immigrants (80% versus 11%), and more likely to be single (34% versus 25%). These findings are consistent with what was noted in the 2018 SSPPS (Cotter, 2021b).

Text box 1
Defining and counting 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 1).

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 1).

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.

Frequency of intimate partner violence

In addition to measuring the prevalence of intimate partner violence, the SSPPS also measured the frequency of each form of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months. Respondents who stated that they had experienced any form of abuse were asked to specify the frequency of that abuse—that is, if it happened once, a few times, monthly, weekly, or daily or almost daily within the past 12 months (see Table 3). This information provides additional context and nuance in highlighting the experiences of victims and when making comparisons between different populations.

For the purposes of this analysis, those with at least one response of 'yes' to any item on the survey measuring IPV are included as having experienced intimate partner violence, regardless of the type or the frequency. That said, other measures, such as frequency, severity, the range of different types of IPV experienced, and impacts and consequences, are also explored to better identify and contextualize differences in experiences of IPV across diverse populations, even when the overall prevalence may be similar.

A forthcoming *Juristat* article will expand on the methods used to analyze intimate partner violence and violence more generally, exploring other approaches and methodologies, building upon this analysis and comparing and contrasting results. An analytical article dedicated to exploring coercive control, in the context of legislative developments in Canada[6] and elsewhere,[7] is also forthcoming.

Three in ten racialized women have experienced some form of intimate partner violence since the age of 15

In 2025, among women who had ever been in an intimate partner relationship, 29% of racialized women experienced some form of intimate partner violence—including psychological, physical, or sexual violence—in their lifetime (i.e., since the age of 15) (Table 1).[8] [9] This proportion was lower than what was observed among non-racialized women, nearly half (49%) of whom experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime.[10] [11] These proportions were similar to what was observed in the 2018 SSPPS, when 29% of racialized women and 47% of non-racialized women reported experiencing some type of IPV since the age of 15.[12] [13] Both racialized and non-racialized women most commonly experienced psychological forms of IPV in their lifetime (28% and 47%, respectively).

Most women who were victims of IPV experienced more than one type of abusive behaviour in their lifetime, regardless of whether they were racialized or non-racialized. However, a larger proportion of racialized than non-racialized women experienced a single type of IPV measured by the SSPPS in their lifetime (22% of racialized women versus 15% of non-racialized women). In addition, racialized women were less likely to have experienced ten or more of the abusive behaviours measured by the survey (22% versus 31%).

Among racialized women who experienced IPV at least once in their lifetime, the most common types of behaviours experienced were related to psychological abuse. For example, a sizable proportion of women indicated their partner was jealous and did not want them to talk to others (18%), were told they were crazy, stupid, or not good enough (17%), were put down or called names (16%), had a partner who demanded to know where they were and who they were with at all times (11%), or made comments about their sexual past or sexual performance that made them feel ashamed, inadequate or humiliated (9.0%) (Table 1).

These were also the most common abusive behaviours experienced by non-racialized women in their lifetime, however, for each of these behaviours, the prevalence was higher among non-racialized women. This was also the case for all other types of abusive behaviours measured by the SSPPS, including those measuring physical and sexual violence.

Compared to psychological forms of IPV, physical abuse was less common among both racialized (13%) and non-racialized (26%) women. The prevalence of physical IPV was similar to what was observed in 2018 (Cotter, 2021b). Racialized women most commonly experienced being shook, pushed, grabbed or thrown to the ground (8.3%) by an intimate partner. More than twice the proportion of non-racialized women experienced this behaviour in their lifetime (19%).

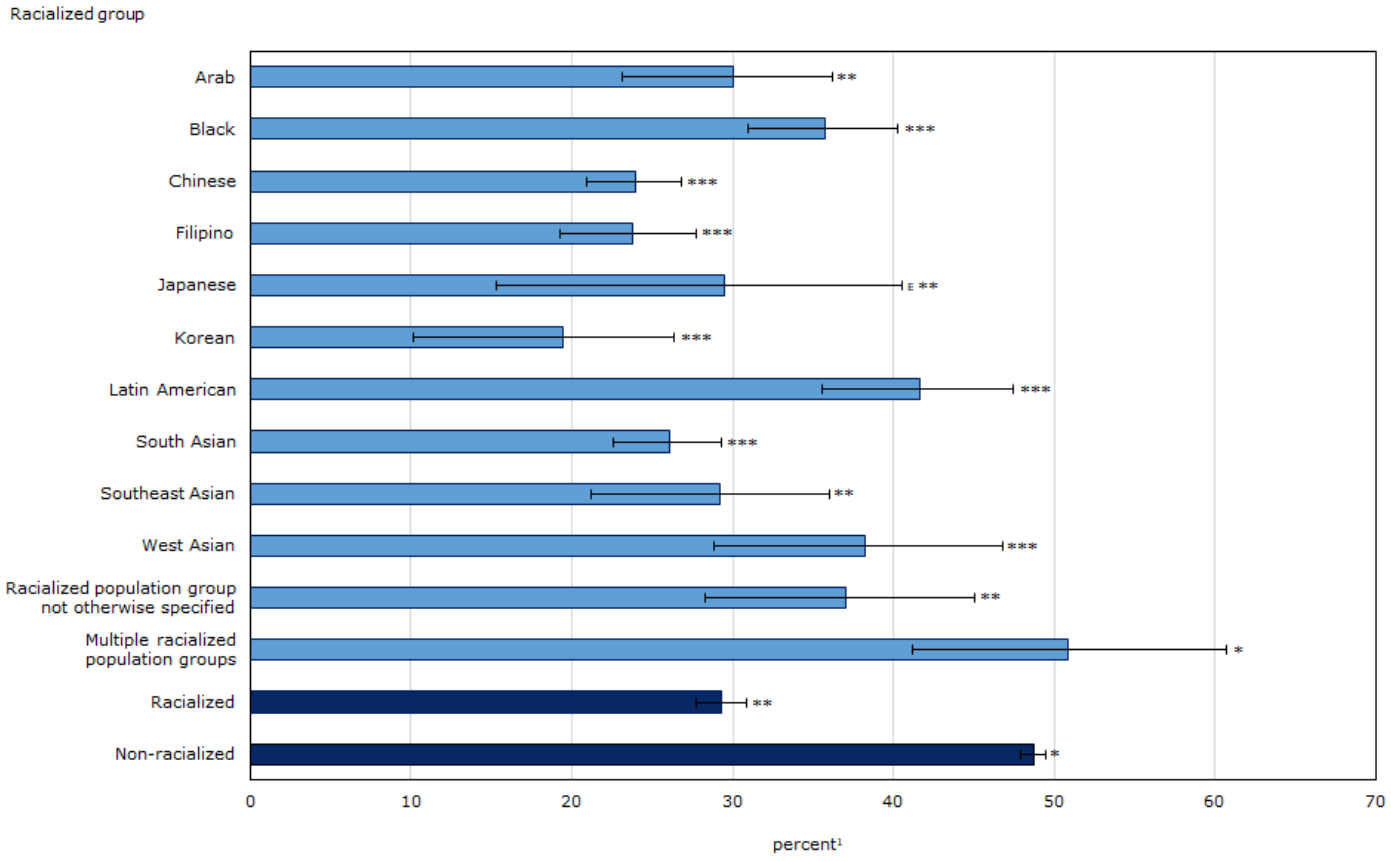
Intimate partner sexual violence—which includes behaviours such as being forced to have sex or engage in sexual acts against one's will—was experienced by smaller proportions of women in their lifetime than the other forms of IPV measured by the survey. In 2025, about one in ten (8.8%) racialized women and one in six (17%) non-racialized women experienced this form of violence in their lifetime. This was higher than what was observed in 2018, when 6.3% of racialized women and 12% of non-racialized women experienced sexual abuse at least once since the age of 15.

Relative to women of other racialized groups, Latin American, West Asian and Black women experience higher rates of intimate partner violence in their lifetime

The racialized population encompasses diverse ethno-cultural communities with varied histories, cultural origins, places of birth, languages and religions. As a result, the experiences of specific racialized groups may differ substantially from one another and from the broader population. It is therefore important, wherever feasible, to disaggregate the racialized population to more accurately reflect these differences.

In 2025, Latin American (42%), West Asian (38%) and Black (36%) women were more likely than racialized women overall (29%) but less likely than non-racialized women (49%) to have experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime (Table 2; Chart 1).[14] [15] In comparison, South Asian (26%), Chinese (24%), Filipino (24%) and Korean (19%) women were less likely than racialized women overall to have experienced IPV since the age of 15.[16]

Chart 1
Intimate partner violence since age 15, by racialized group of victim, women+, Canada, 2025



E use with caution
* significantly different from racialized group only ($p < 0.05$)
** significantly different from non-racialized group only ($p < 0.05$)
*** significantly different from racialized group ($p < 0.05$) and non-racialized group ($p < 0.05$)
1. Percent calculations are based on those who have ever been in an intimate partner relationship.
Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. The non-racialized population excludes First Nations people, Métis and Inuit.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Nearly six in ten racialized women who experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime feel anxious or on edge

Alongside measures of prevalence, the SSPPS also collects data on frequency and severity of the IPV experienced. Respondents were asked whether the IPV was experienced once or on multiple occasions. Severity, on the other hand, was captured through proxy measures, such as whether the victim experienced an emotional impact or other negative consequences following the violence.

Among women who experienced IPV in their lifetime, racialized women were less likely than their non-racialized counterparts to have experienced emotional impacts following the abuse. The most common emotional impact was feeling anxious or on edge as a result of a partner's abusive behaviour—58% of racialized women compared with 74% of non-racialized women felt this way. In addition, 42% of racialized women and 53% of non-racialized women said that they felt trapped or controlled by a partner, while smaller proportions said that they feared a partner (38% and 49%, respectively).

The emotional impacts of IPV varied, however, depending on the type of IPV experienced. For instance, racialized and non-racialized women who were physically or sexually assaulted in their lifetime were much more likely to state that they feared a partner (55% of racialized women and 67% of non-racialized women who experienced physical or sexual abuse)[17] than those who experienced only psychological forms of IPV (17% and 20%, respectively). Similar findings were also observed for the other emotional impacts of feeling controlled or trapped, or anxious or on edge.

These emotional impacts were also related to the number of behaviours experienced by victims, a pattern that was seen among both racialized and non-racialized women. Those who experienced one IPV behaviour in their lifetime were less likely to indicate feelings of being afraid of a partner at some point in their life (6% of racialized women and 10% of non-racialized women). As the number of behaviours experienced increased, the proportion of women who experienced these impacts also generally increased. Notably, 80% of racialized women and 86% of non-racialized women who experienced ten or more of the behaviours in their lifetime felt fearful of a partner.

One in ten racialized women experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months

Along with lifetime experiences of intimate partner violence, the SSPPS also collects information on IPV that occurred in the 12 months prior to the survey. In 2025, one in ten (10%) racialized women experienced IPV during this period, which was lower than the prevalence among non-racialized women (14%) (Table 1). Comparable proportions were observed among racialized and non-racialized women in 2018 (Cotter, 2021b).[18]

Similar to what was observed in the lifetime prevalence of IPV, both racialized and non-racialized women most commonly experienced psychological abuse by a partner in the past 12 months (10% and 14%, respectively). Similar proportions of racialized and non-racialized women experienced physical abuse (2.1% and 2.4%, respectively) or sexual abuse (1.6% and 2.0%, respectively) in the preceding year.[19]

Racialized women who experienced IPV in the past 12 months most frequently had a partner who told them they were crazy, stupid or not good enough (5.1%), put them down or called them names (4.5%), was jealous and did not want them to talk to others (3.6%), demanded to know who they were with and where they were at all times (2.4%), or made comments about their sexual past or sexual performance that made them feel ashamed, inadequate or humiliated (1.9%). The most frequently experienced behaviours in the past 12 months among non-racialized women were the same.

Text box 2
Experiences of intimate partner violence among racialized men

Intimate partner violence (IPV) has historically affected women disproportionately, particularly in the severity of harm experienced, as well as in the associated consequences (Burczycka, 2016; Cotter & Burczycka, 2026; Cotter, 2026; Cotter, 2021c). However, IPV is not limited to women. Men in intimate relationships also experience violence, which is why it is important to recognize and measure their victimization as well. According to the 2025 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces, more than one in three (35%) men experienced IPV at least once since the age of 15 (Cotter, 2026).

Research indicates that patterns of IPV among men differ from those observed among women, shaped in part by societal gender norms that influence how men interpret, respond to, and report experiences of violence. These norms may contribute to underreporting, minimization of harm, or reluctance to seek support due to concerns about being perceived as weak or not believed (Bates, 2020; Dahal et al., 2026; Raufu, 2025; Scott-Storey et al., 2023). As is the case among women, racialized men may also face additional factors or barriers—such as cultural stigma, economic dependence, limited social networks and mistrust of formal services—which may further shape their perceptions of IPV and influence whether and how they disclose violence perpetrated against them. Racialized men can also experience barriers to accessing victims' services, including a lack of services tailored to men, as well as language or cultural barriers, which may affect their ability to identify and access appropriate supports, and contribute to differences in reporting patterns (Stewart & Haselschwerdt, 2023).

The same pattern observed among women—where the lifetime prevalence of IPV was lower among racialized women than non-racialized women—was seen among men in 2025. About one in four (26%) racialized men experienced IPV at some point in their lifetime, compared with 37% of non-racialized men. Consistent with overall trends among women, psychological forms of IPV were the most common, with 26% of racialized men and 36% of non-racialized men experiencing it since the age of 15. Physical violence (9.1% of racialized men and 16% of non-racialized men) and sexual violence (1.7% of racialized men and 3.2% of non-racialized men) were much less common. The prevalence of all types of abusive behaviours measured by the SSPPS was lower among racialized than non-racialized men.

When looking at experiences of IPV among men in the 12 months preceding the survey, similar proportions of racialized (11%) and non-racialized (12%) men experienced it. Like what was noted in the lifetime data, psychological forms of IPV were the most common type experienced in the past 12 months by both racialized (11%) and non-racialized men (12%). Small proportions of men experienced physical (2.2% of racialized men and 2.4% of non-racialized men) or sexual violence (0.4% of racialized men and 0.3% of non-racialized men) in the preceding year.

Majority of racialized women experienced intimate partner violence more than once in the previous year

Most women who experienced IPV in the past 12 months said that it had taken place on more than one occasion. Just over half (54%) of racialized women experienced some form of IPV a few times in the past 12 months, while 26% experienced it monthly or more (Table 3). One in five (20%) racialized women experienced it once within the preceding year.[20] Similar proportions of non-racialized women experienced IPV repeatedly in the past 12 months (58% experienced it a few times, 28% experienced it monthly or more).[21]

Most (83%) racialized women experienced the behaviours associated with psychological abuse repeatedly during the previous year. For instance, 42%[E] of racialized women had a partner who demanded to know who they were with and where they were at all times at least once a month, while 26% were put down or called names and 25% were told they were crazy, stupid or not good enough. In comparison, nearly nine in ten (87%) non-racialized women experienced psychological abuse repeatedly in the previous year, however, this difference was not statistically significant from the experiences of racialized women.

One in three (34%[E]) racialized women experienced physical abuse by a partner a few times in the past 12 months. However, this proportion was not statistically different from non-racialized women (38%), or from what was observed among racialized women in 2018.

Half of those who experienced intimate partner violence were abused by a current spouse or common-law partner

The SSPPS also asked those who experienced IPV in the previous 12 months to identify who perpetrated the abuse.[22] Notably, nearly double the proportion of non-racialized women (17%) than racialized women (10%) said that a former spouse or common-law partner was responsible. This was the only significant difference noted, as similar proportions of racialized and non-racialized women indicated that their abuser was a current spouse or common-law partner (49% of racialized women and 48% of non-racialized women), a former dating partner (31% and 27%, respectively), or a current dating partner (9.5% and 6.1%, respectively).

Nearly four in ten racialized women aged 15 to 24 experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months

Research has consistently shown that age is a significant risk factor associated with victimization, and that the prevalence of most types of violence is higher among those who are younger (Cotter, 2021a; Cotter & Savage, 2019; Perreault, 2015). This association held true when it came to the experiences of IPV among racialized and non-racialized women. In 2025, nearly four in ten racialized and non-racialized women (37%, each) between the ages of 15 and 24 experienced some form of IPV in the past 12 months (Table 4). This proportion was more than double what was observed among women in any other age group, and was markedly different from the overall pattern, where IPV was generally less prevalent among racialized women.

In other age categories, such as women between the ages of 25 to 34 and 35 to 44, the proportion of racialized women who experienced IPV in the past 12 months was lower than that of non-racialized women (12% for racialized women versus 18% for non-racialized women among those aged 25 to 34; 8.9% for racialized women versus 17% for non-racialized women among those aged 35 to 44). The prevalence of IPV in the past 12 months generally decreased with age among both racialized and non-racialized women, which is consistent with what has been shown in other research, where the risk of victimization declines with age (Cotter, 2021a; Cotter & Savage, 2019; Perreault, 2015).

Unlike what was seen in the lifetime data, where the prevalence of IPV was higher among certain groups of racialized women, there were few statistically significant differences observed when looking at IPV in the past 12 months.[23] Exceptions were Filipino (9.2%), South Asian (9.1%) and Chinese women (8.8%) who had a lower prevalence of IPV in the past 12 months relative to non-racialized women (14%). However, these differences were not statistically significant from the overall population of racialized women (10%).

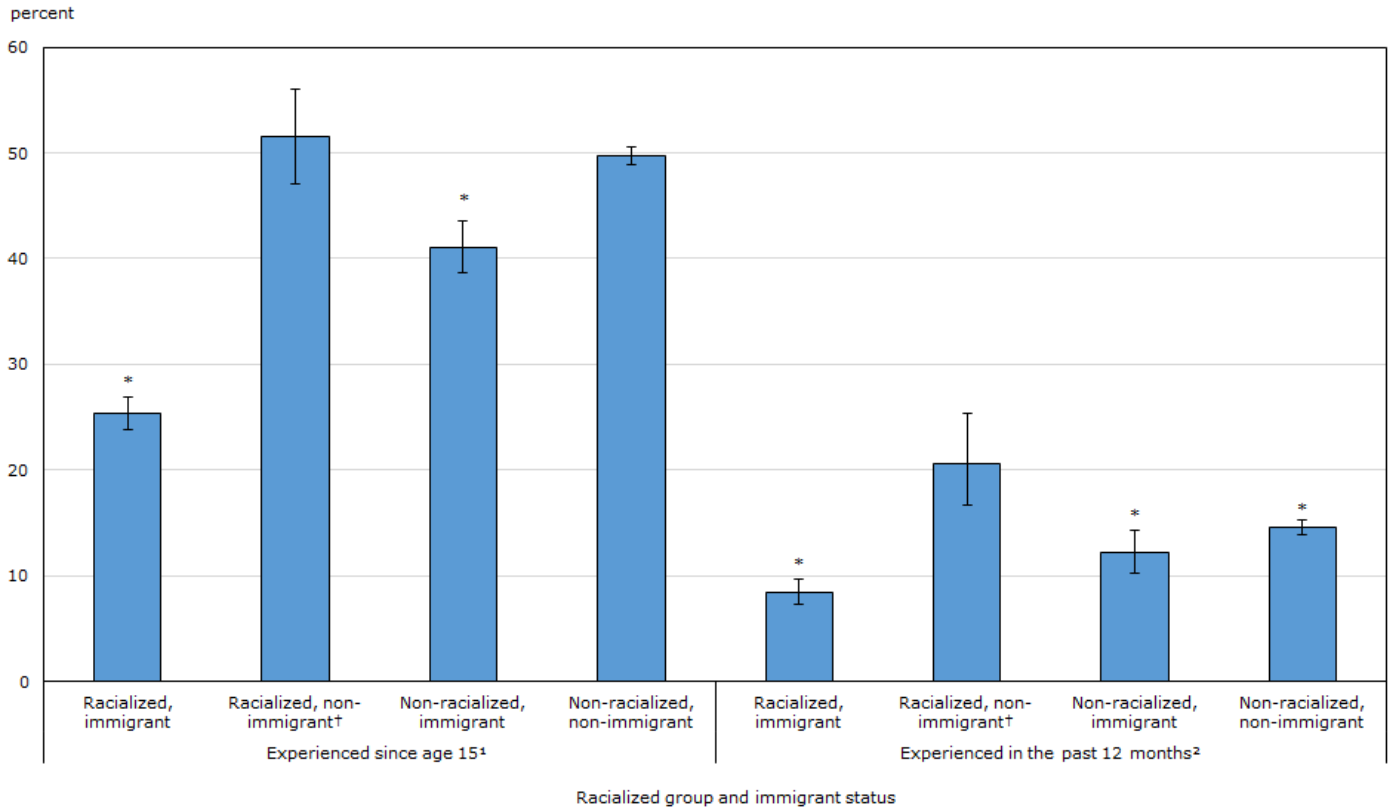
Half the proportion of racialized immigrant women than racialized non-immigrant women experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime

Beyond differences between racialized groups, further differences within the racialized population also exist, such as those between racialized immigrants[24] and racialized non-immigrants. According to the 2021 Census of Population, 67% of racialized individuals in Canada are immigrants (Hou et al., 2023).[25] Therefore, understanding the immigrant experience of the racialized population specifically can provide some further insight into how intersecting identities can shape experiences of IPV.

According to the 2025 SSPPS, eight in ten (80%) racialized women were immigrants, compared with one in ten (11%) non-racialized women. The racialized non-immigrant population was also considerably younger overall than the racialized immigrant population: 44% of racialized non-immigrant women were between the ages of 15 and 24, compared with 13% of racialized immigrant women.

In 2025, one-quarter (25%) of racialized immigrant women experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime, which was about half the proportion of racialized non-immigrant women (52%) and non-racialized non-immigrant women (50%) (Chart 2). This suggests that the lower prevalence of IPV among racialized women is likely due to the experiences of immigrants, who make up a large proportion of the racialized population. Similarly, these differences are likely also interconnected with the age differences between racialized immigrant and non-immigrant women, with young age being associated with higher rates of victimization. Similar patterns have also been noted among victims of violence in general (Cotter and Burczycka, 2026; Cotter and Savage, 2019; Ibrahim, 2018) as well as all victims of intimate partner violence (Cotter, 2026; Cotter, 2021c). This finding was also observed in the 2018 SSPPS (Cotter, 2021b).

Chart 2
Intimate partner violence since age 15 and in the past 12 months by racialized group and immigrant status of victim, women+, Canada, 2025



* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
1. Percent calculations are based on those who have ever been in an intimate partner relationship.
2. Percent calculations are based on those who had contact with a current or former intimate partner in the 12 months preceding the survey.
Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. The immigrant population includes 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). The non-racialized population excludes First Nations people, Métis and Inuit.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

A similar pattern was also prevalent among those who experienced IPV within the past 12 months, with racialized immigrant women experiencing the lowest rates (8.4%). In contrast, the prevalence of IPV within the past 12 months was highest among racialized non-immigrant women (21%).

It is important to note some of the additional differences between the immigrant and non-immigrant population—including both racialized and non-racialized individuals—which may also contribute to differences in the prevalence of IPV observed among these populations. For instance, immigrants may be less likely to disclose experiences of victimization for reasons such as language barriers, fear of negative immigration consequences, mistrust of institutions or officials, or cultural norms that may discourage disclosure or lead individuals to keep their experiences private (Okeke-Ihejirika et al., 2020; Sisic et al., 2024).

In addition, it is also important to note that the SSPPS was only conducted in English and French, which may have also affected the results of immigrant respondents. According to the 2021 Census of Population, a small proportion (6.4%) of immigrants did not have knowledge of either official language (Statistics Canada, 2024). Thus, although the large majority of immigrants in Canada speak at least one official language, it is important to recognize that, given the languages used for data collection, SSPPS results may not fully represent the experiences of immigrant women in Canada.

Racialized and non-racialized women report similar consequences from their experiences of intimate partner violence

Many women who were victims of IPV in the past 12 months reported negative emotional impacts as a result of the violence they experienced. Just over four in ten (43%) racialized women had such impacts, compared with just over half (51%) of non-racialized women (Table 5). Some women also experienced symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder (15% of racialized women and 19% of non-racialized women).[26] [27] Among women who experienced physical or sexual violence specifically, a larger proportion of racialized (90%) than non-racialized women (80%) indicated that the violence did not result in a physical injury.[28]

SSPPS respondents were also asked about the actions that were taken following their experiences of violence. A comparable proportion of racialized (12%) and non-racialized (14%) women reported that they contacted victims' services as a result of the IPV they experienced in the past 12 months. Although these differences were not statistically significant, other studies have suggested that racialized individuals may be less likely to access victims' services because of language or cultural barriers accessing them or limited awareness of available supports (Guruge, 2014; Guruge & Humphreys, 2009).

In addition, few racialized (6.5%) and non-racialized (9.4%) women indicated that the IPV they experienced was reported to police. Research has consistently shown that a large proportion of IPV tends to go unreported to police (Conroy, 2021; Cotter, 2026; Cotter, 2021c), often due to fear of retaliation, shame, embarrassment or stigma, concerns about not being believed, and a preference to deal with the violence privately (Burczycka, 2016). Although the difference between racialized and non-racialized women in reporting to police was not statistically significant, other research has suggested that racialized women may be more hesitant to report to police due to mistrust of institutions or due to fear of stigma or family reactions (Cotter, 2022; Cotter, 2021a; Davis & Henderson, 2003; Guruge, 2014; Guruge & Humphreys, 2009; Ibrahim, 2018). It should be noted, however, that many of the behaviours measured by the SSPPS do not meet the threshold of a criminal act, which may also impact levels of reporting to police.

Among those who experienced IPV in the past 12 months, a large proportion of women said that they talked to someone about the violence they experienced (61% of racialized women and 67% of non-racialized women).[29] Most commonly, racialized women indicated that they spoke to a friend or neighbour (43%) or a family member (37%) about the violence they experienced.

Smaller proportion of racialized than non-racialized women reported leaving a shared home due to the intimate partner violence they experienced

Respondents to the SSPPS were also asked whether they left a shared home due to the violence they experienced. Research has shown the interconnection between housing and experiences of IPV (Adams et al., 2018; Gezinski & Gonzalez-Pons, 2019). Many victims cite a lack of affordable and available housing as a reason for not leaving a violent relationship, or as a factor contributing to returning to a shared residence with an abuser (Hoogendam & Maduakolam, 2026; House of Commons Canada, 2019; Maki, 2020; Maki, 2019a; Maki, 2019b). For some individuals, housing instability

and personal living circumstances can make leaving a violent partner more difficult, particularly when children are involved (Saunders, 2021), or when leaving may lead to homelessness (Meyer, 2016; Sullivan et al., 2019; Yakubovich & Maki, 2021). These factors underscore the importance of integrating housing considerations into policies and programs aimed at addressing IPV.

In 2025, one in ten (11%) racialized women who experienced IPV in the past 12 months reported leaving a shared home or accommodation due to violence, which was much lower than what was reported by non-racialized women (17%) (Table 5). This difference may reflect some of the living circumstances of racialized women which differ from non-racialized women. Some racialized groups—particularly immigrants—are more likely to live in larger, multi-generational households, often due to cultural norms, intergenerational support needs or economic factors (Galbraith and Laflamme, 2025). This interconnected living arrangement can make it more difficult—or in some cases not feasible—for victims to leave a shared home after experiencing IPV. This difference may also be due to the type, frequency and severity of IPV experienced by victims, which may also impact a person's need or desire to leave a shared home.

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.

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Notes

[E] use with caution

1. For more data and analysis on intimate partner violence among Indigenous women and women with disabilities, see Chiponski (forthcoming 2027) and Conroy and Savage (forthcoming 2027).

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

3. In this analysis, the category “women” is based on the Statistics Canada standard categories of women+, unless otherwise stated. The category “women+” includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.

4. Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category “non-binary persons” are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the “+” symbol. For additional information on changes of concepts over time, please consult the Age, Sex at Birth and Gender Reference Guide.

5. Throughout this article, estimates for the non-racialized population for both the 2025 and 2018 cycles of the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces exclude Indigenous people.

6. The *Protecting Victims Act*, which received Royal Assent in June 2026, created a new offence targeting patterns of 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).

7. For example, in 2015, the United Kingdom introduced the criminal offence of “coercive control”, designed to criminalize forms of abuse that may not, on their own, constitute criminal behaviour, but occur on a repeated or continuous basis and cause the victim to fear for their safety from violence or result in substantial adverse effects (Home Office, 2015).

8. Throughout this article, the terms “lifetime” and “since age 15” are used interchangeably.

9. Percent calculations for lifetime intimate partner violence are based on those who have ever been in an intimate partner relationship (ever-partnered).

10. Unless indicated otherwise, all differences discussed in-text are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

11. The non-racialized population excludes individuals who identified as First Nations people, Métis or Inuit. This is a notable definition change from previous analyses using the 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces, which included Indigenous people in the non-racialized population group. For more information on intimate partner violence among Indigenous women, see Chiponski (forthcoming 2027) and Heidinger, 2021.

12. The difference in the proportion of racialized and non-racialized women who experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime between 2018 and 2025 is not statistically significant.

13. In this article, estimates of lifetime and the past 12-month prevalence of intimate partner violence for 2018 may differ slightly from those previously published (Cotter, 2021b) for three reasons. First, the data points in this article use the standard category of women+ (see notes 3 and 4), while in 2018, estimates used the gender variable only. Second, some single, never-married respondents in 2018 did not have contact with a partner in the past 12 months or were not asked the question about contact with a partner in error, but were included in overall estimates. The analytical scope of this article is restricted to respondents who had contact with a partner in the past 12 months. Estimates may also differ slightly due to the definitional change for the non-racialized population group, which now excludes First Nations people, Métis and Inuit (see note 11).

14. Women belonging to multiple racialized population groups (e.g., those who were Black and Filipino) had the highest prevalence of intimate partner violence in their lifetime (51%).

15. Arab women (30%) were also less likely than non-racialized women (49%) to have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime. However, the proportion of Arab women who experienced IPV in their lifetime was not statistically different than the proportion of racialized women overall who experienced it (30% versus 29%).

16. The proportion of Japanese women[E] and Southeast Asian women who experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime was not statistically different than the proportion of racialized women overall who experienced it (29%, each).

17. These percentages are not limited to those who experienced a single type of intimate partner violence in their lifetime. For instance, someone who experienced sexual abuse may have also experienced psychological abuse and therefore would be included in both categories. Due to small counts, it is not possible to look at instances where physical or sexual abuse were the only types of abuse experienced.

18. The difference in the prevalence of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months between 2018 and 2025 is not statistically significant for either racialized or non-racialized women.

19. The difference between racialized and non-racialized women who experienced physical or sexual abuse in the past 12 months is not statistically significant.

20. Once includes respondents who reported one or more types of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, but no specific type occurred more than once. If multiple behaviours were each reported as happening once, this is considered once for the purposes of this frequency measure, though in some instances these may have been separate occurrences.

21. The difference between racialized and non-racialized women who said they experienced intimate partner violence more than once in the past 12 months is not statistically significant.

22. Those who may have had more than one abusive or violent partner in the previous 12 months were asked to think about the relationship where the most serious violence or abuse occurred.

23. Like the lifetime data, racialized women who belonged to multiple racialized groups experienced the highest prevalence of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months (23%).

24. Includes 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).

25. According to the 2021 Census of Population, 11% of the non-racialized population was born outside of Canada (Hou et al., 2023).

26. 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.

27. The difference between racialized and non-racialized women who said they experienced symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the intimate partner violence they experienced in the past 12 months is not statistically significant.

28. The question on physical injury was not asked to those who experienced exclusively psychological forms of intimate partner violence.

29. The difference between racialized and non-racialized women who said they spoke to someone about the violence they experienced in the past 12 months is not statistically significant.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Intimate partner violence, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by type of intimate partner violence, Canada, 2025

	Experienced since age 15						Experienced in the past 12 months					
	Racialized women+[†]			Non-racialized women+			Racialized women+[†]			Non-racialized 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	17.9	16.6	19.3	31.4*	30.7	32.2	3.6	2.9	4.4	4.9*	4.5	5.4
Harmed, or threatened to harm your pets	1.5	1.1	2.0	5.6*	5.2	5.9	F	F	F	0.6	0.5	0.8
Demanded to know who you were with and where you were at all times	11.2	10.2	12.4	20.2*	19.5	20.9	2.4	1.9	3.1	2.9	2.6	3.3
Put you down or called you names to make you feel bad	16.4	15.2	17.7	34.7*	34.0	35.5	4.5	3.7	5.3	9.1*	8.6	9.6
Forced you to give them money or possessions	3.9	3.3	4.6	7.9*	7.5	8.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.8*	0.7	1.0
Told you you were crazy, stupid, or not good enough[4]	17.0	15.8	18.2	30.6*	29.9	31.4	5.1	4.4	6.0	7.3*	6.8	7.9
Tried to convince your family, children, or friends that you are crazy or tried to turn them against you[4]	5.9	5.1	6.7	12.7*	12.2	13.3	1.3	0.9	1.8	2.0*	1.8	2.3
Followed you or hung around outside your home or work[4]	5.9	5.2	6.8	13.1*	12.5	13.7	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.9	0.8	1.2
Kept you from seeing or talking to your family or friends[4]	5.4	4.7	6.3	12.5*	12.0	13.1	0.9	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.5
Harassed you by phone, text, email, or using social media[4]	7.8	6.9	8.8	16.6*	16.0	17.3	1.6	1.2	2.2	2.5*	2.2	2.9
Kept you from having access to a job, money, or financial resources[4]	2.4	1.9	3.0	5.7*	5.3	6.1	F	F	F	0.7	0.5	0.9
Damaged or destroyed your possessions or property	5.4	4.7	6.2	14.2*	13.6	14.8	0.7	0.5	1.1	1.3*	1.1	1.5
Made comments about your sexual past or your sexual performance that made you feel ashamed, inadequate, or humiliated	9.0	8.0	10.1	18.8*	18.1	19.4	1.9	1.4	2.5	3.4*	3.1	3.8
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	1.8	1.4	2.4	3.0*	2.7	3.3	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.5
Blamed you for causing their abusive or violent behaviour[4 5]	44.2	40.7	47.7	52.9*	51.6	54.1	11.3	8.8	14.4	8.8	7.9	9.7
Total	**28.1**	**26.6**	**29.6**	**47.0***	**46.2**	**47.7**	**9.5**	**8.4**	**10.7**	**13.9***	**13.3**	**14.6**
Physical abuse												
Shook, pushed, grabbed, or threw you[4]	8.3	7.4	9.3	18.5*	17.9	19.2	0.9	0.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.5
Hit you with a fist or object, kicked or bit you[4]	5.4	4.7	6.3	11.2*	10.7	11.8	0.6	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.7
Confined or locked you in a room or other space[4]	2.0	1.5	2.5	4.6*	4.2	5.0	F	F	F	0.3	0.2	0.4
Threatened to harm or kill you or someone close to you[4]	3.0	2.4	3.6	7.7*	7.2	8.1	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.7
Choked you[4]	3.4	2.8	4.0	7.5*	7.1	8.0	F	F	F	0.6	0.4	0.8
Used or threatened to use a knife or gun or other weapon to harm you[4]	1.9	1.5	2.5	3.9*	3.6	4.2	F	F	F	0.2	0.2	0.4

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1
Intimate partner violence, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by type of intimate partner violence, Canada, 2025

	Experienced since age 15						Experienced in the past 12 months					
	Racialized women+†			Non-racialized women+			Racialized women+†			Non-racialized 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
Threatened to hit you with their fist or anything that could hurt you	5.1	4.4	5.9	11.6*	11.1	12.2	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.9
Thrown anything at you that could have hurt you	4.3	3.7	5.0	11.8*	11.3	12.3	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.0
Slapped you	6.0	5.2	6.8	10.9*	10.4	11.5	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.4	0.3	0.6
Beaten you	3.2	2.7	3.8	5.9*	5.5	6.3	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.3
Total	**12.6**	**11.5**	**13.8**	**25.7***	**25.0**	**26.5**	**2.1**	**1.6**	**2.7**	**2.4**	**2.1**	**2.7**
Sexual abuse												
Made you perform sex acts that you did not want to perform[4]	6.7	5.9	7.7	13.9*	13.3	14.5	1.2	0.8	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.9
Forced or tried to force you to have sex[4]	6.6	5.8	7.5	14.7*	14.1	15.3	1.0	0.7	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.6
Total	**8.8**	**7.9**	**9.8**	**17.5***	**16.9**	**18.1**	**1.6**	**1.1**	**2.1**	**2.0**	**1.8**	**2.3**
Total intimate partner violence	**29.4**	**27.8**	**30.9**	**48.7***	**47.9**	**49.5**	**10.1**	**9.0**	**11.3**	**14.3***	**13.7**	**15.0**

F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
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 is an item taken from the Composite Abuse Scale - revised short form (CASr-SF).
5. Includes only respondents who indicated yes to at least one item from the CASr-SF in their lifetime.
Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. The non-racialized population excludes First Nations people, Métis and Inuit.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Table 2
Intimate partner violence since age 15, by selected characteristics of victim, Canada, 2025

	Racialized women+[†]			Non-racialized women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Age group (years)						
15 to 24[†]	50.4	43.5	57.2	60.4**	57.1	63.6
25 to 34	38.5*	34.6	42.5	61.5**	58.9	63.9
35 to 44	28.2*	25.3	31.2	58.7**	56.7	60.7
45 to 54	26.9*	23.9	30.1	56.6**	54.5	58.7
55 to 64	20.5*	17.6	23.7	46.7***	44.9	48.5
65 to 74	18.7*	15.2	22.8	37.0***	35.5	38.6
75 and over	14.5*	10.7	19.4	26.0***	24.3	27.8
Indigenous identity						
Indigenous person	…	…	…	… …	…	…
First Nations	…	…	…	… …	…	…
Métis	…	…	…	… …	…	…
Inuit	…	…	…	… …	…	…
Non-Indigenous person	29.4	27.8	30.9	48.7*	47.9	49.5
Racialized population group						
Yes	29.4*	27.8	30.9	…	…	…
South Asian	26.1*	22.9	29.6	…	…	…
Chinese	24.0*	21.2	27.0	…	…	…
Black	35.8*	31.2	40.5	…	…	…
Filipino	23.8*	19.8	28.3	…	…	…
Arab	30.1*	24.0	37.0	…	…	…
Latin American	41.6*	35.8	47.7	…	…	…
Southeast Asian	29.2*	22.3	37.1	…	…	…
West Asian	38.2*	29.7	47.6	…	…	…
Korean	19.5*	12.6	28.8	…	…	…
Japanese	29.5[E]*	18.4	43.6	…	…	…
Racialized population group not otherwise specified	37.0*	29.0	45.8	…	…	…
Multiple racialized population groups	50.9	41.1	60.6	…	…	…
No[†]	…	…	…	48.7	47.9	49.5
Immigrant status[2]						
Immigrant	25.3*	23.8	26.9	41.1***	38.7	43.5
Non-immigrant[†]	51.6	47.1	56.0	49.7	48.8	50.5
Sexual orientation						
Heterosexual[†]	29.3	27.6	31.0	46.6**	45.8	47.4
LGB+	52.4*	44.7	60.0	71.4***	68.7	74.0
Lesbian or gay	52.5[E]*	37.7	66.9	58.0*	52.3	63.5

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2
Intimate partner violence since age 15, by selected characteristics of victim, Canada, 2025

	Racialized women+†			Non-racialized women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Bisexual	52.7*	43.0	62.3	76.7***	73.4	79.6
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	F	F	F	67.8*	58.6	75.8
Identifies as a person with a disability						
Yes	41.0*	35.6	46.5	62.1***	60.1	64.0
No†	28.2	26.6	29.9	46.0**	45.1	46.9
Employed in past 12 months						
Yes	33.2*	31.3	35.1	55.2***	54.2	56.3
No†	19.7	17.4	22.2	37.7**	36.5	38.9
Individual before-tax income[3]						
Less than $20,000†	28.6	25.5	32.0	49.1**	47.1	51.2
$20,000 to $39,999	26.0	22.8	29.5	45.4***	43.8	47.1
$40,000 to $59,999	25.4	22.0	29.0	48.2**	46.4	50.0
$60,000 to $79,999	29.7	25.7	34.0	50.4**	48.4	52.4
$80,000 to $99,999	32.2	27.3	37.6	50.6**	47.9	53.4
$100,000 to $119,999	36.9*	30.3	44.0	52.1**	49.0	55.2
$120,000 or more	40.6*	35.5	46.0	50.6**	48.1	53.1
Highest level of education completed						
Less than high school†	27.1	21.9	33.1	37.9**	35.3	40.7
High school or equivalent	28.5	24.9	32.4	43.7***	42.1	45.3
College or trade school	27.4	24.1	31.0	50.5***	49.1	51.9
University	30.7	28.6	32.8	52.6***	51.3	54.0
Marital status						
Married or common-law†	20.5	18.9	22.1	42.3**	41.2	43.3
Separated, divorced, or widowed	39.3*	35.3	43.5	52.2***	50.6	53.8
Single, never married	53.9*	49.4	58.4	65.0***	62.9	66.9
Area of residence						
Rural area of the provinces	30.3	22.4	39.6	46.0***	44.2	47.7
Territories	32.0	22.3	43.6	52.3**	46.4	58.2
Urban area of the provinces†	29.3	27.8	30.9	49.4**	48.6	50.3

… not applicable
[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
** significantly different from estimate for racialized women+ ($p < 0.05$)
*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$) and estimate for racialized 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. 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).
3. 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.
Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. The non-racialized population excludes First Nations people, Métis and Inuit.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Table 3
Frequency of violence among those who experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by type of violence, Canada, 2025

Type of intimate partner violence	Racialized women+ who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months†									Non-racialized women+ who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months								
	Once[1]			A few times[1]			Monthly or more[1]			Once[1]			A few times[1]			Monthly or more[1]		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to
Psychological abuse																		
Been jealous and didn't want you to talk to other men or women	24.5	16.5	34.7	54.2	43.6	64.5	21.3	13.7	31.6	17.5	14.2	21.5	57.4	52.7	62.0	25.1	21.3	29.4
Harmed, or threatened to harm your pets	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	30.3[E]	19.6	43.6	48.0[E]	35.0	61.2	21.8[E]	12.7	34.9
Demanded to know who you were with and where you were at all times	13.5[E]	7.1	24.0	44.1[E]	31.9	57.0	42.4[E]	30.6	55.3	8.9	6.1	12.9	46.9	40.5	53.3	44.2	38.2	50.5
Put you down or called you names to make you feel bad	14.1	8.9	21.5	60.0	50.6	68.8	25.9	18.6	34.9	12.3	10.3	14.8	62.8	59.5	66.1	24.8	22.0	27.8
Forced you to give them money or possessions	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	24.7[E]	16.1	35.9	48.8[E]	37.2	60.6	26.5[E]	17.5	38.0
Told you you were crazy, stupid, or not good enough[3]	17.8	12.1	25.4	57.4	48.7	65.7	24.8	17.9	33.3	16.9	14.4	19.8	58.4	54.5	62.1	24.7	21.5	28.3
Tried to convince your family, children, or friends that you are crazy or tried to turn them against you[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	16.2	11.4	22.4	54.7	47.5	61.6	29.2	23.0	36.2
Followed you or hung around outside your home or work[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	12.1	6.6	21.1	62.5	51.4	72.4	25.4	17.1	36.0
Kept you from seeing or talking to your family or friends[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	13.9	8.7	21.4	45.7	36.7	55.0	40.4	31.5	50.1
Harassed you by phone, text, email, or using social media[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	9.4	6.3	13.9	59.6	53.1	65.8	31.0	25.1	37.5
Kept you from having access to a job, money, or financial resources[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	40.8[E]	29.1	53.5	50.1[E]	37.8	62.4
Damaged or destroyed your possessions or property	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	41.5	33.2	50.3	48.2	39.7	56.9	10.2	5.8	17.4
Made comments about your sexual past or your sexual performance that made you feel ashamed, inadequate, or humiliated	25.0[E]	14.2	40.2	60.1[E]	44.5	73.9	F	F	F	25.9	21.4	30.9	57.1	51.5	62.5	17.0	13.2	21.7

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Frequency of violence among those who experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by type of violence, Canada, 2025

Type of intimate partner violence	Racialized women+ who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months†									Non-racialized women+ who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months								
	Once[1]			A few times[1]			Monthly or more[1]			Once[1]			A few times[1]			Monthly or more[1]		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to	percent[2]	from	to
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	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Blamed you for causing their abusive or violent behaviour[4]	14.1[E]	7.7	24.5	62.3[E]	49.3	73.7	23.6[E]	14.4	36.3	16.9	13.2	21.2	59.0	53.4	64.5	24.1	19.6	29.2
Total[5]	**17.5**	**13.2**	**22.8**	**55.5**	**49.1**	**61.7**	**27.0**	**21.8**	**32.9**	**13.4**	**11.7**	**15.3**	**58.6**	**55.9**	**61.2**	**28.0**	**25.6**	**30.5**
Physical abuse																		
Shook, pushed, grabbed, or threw you[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	45.5	36.7	54.6	39.3	30.8	48.5	15.2	9.6	23.2
Hit you with a fist or object, kicked or bit you[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	43.3[E]	30.9	56.6	38.2[E]	26.4	51.7	18.4[E]	10.0	31.6
Confined or locked you in a room or other space[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Threatened to harm or kill you or someone close to you[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	33.6[E]	20.8	49.3	48.7[E]	33.8	63.9	F	F	F
Choked you[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	46.4[E]	32.9	60.5	36.0[E]	23.3	51.1	F	F	F
Used or threatened to use a knife or gun or other weapon to harm you[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Threatened to hit you with their fist or anything that could hurt you	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	38.1[E]	27.4	50.0	45.2[E]	34.0	56.9	16.7[E]	9.1	28.5
Thrown anything at you that could have hurt you	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	42.5	31.7	54.0	44.4	33.9	55.4	F	F	F
Slapped you	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	36.9[E]	23.8	52.3	40.3[E]	26.9	55.3	22.8[E]	12.2	38.7
Beaten you	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Total[5]	**54.7[E]**	**40.5**	**68.1**	**33.6[E]**	**22.1**	**47.5**	**F**	**F**	**F**	**46.7**	**40.2**	**53.4**	**37.8**	**31.6**	**44.4**	**15.5**	**11.0**	**21.3**

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Frequency of violence among those who experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by type of violence, Canada, 2025

Type of intimate partner violence	Racialized women+ who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months†									Non-racialized women+ who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months								
	Once[1]			A few times[1]			Monthly or more[1]			Once[1]			A few times[1]			Monthly or more[1]		
	percent[2]	95% confidence interval from	to	percent[2]	95% confidence interval from	to	percent[2]	95% confidence interval from	to	percent[2]	95% confidence interval from	to	percent[2]	95% confidence interval from	to	percent[2]	95% confidence interval from	to
Sexual abuse																		
Made you perform sex acts that you did not want to perform[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	28.9	21.5	37.7	54.4	45.6	62.9	16.7	11.3	23.9
Forced or tried to force you to have sex[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	31.8	23.5	41.4	51.3	41.9	60.6	16.9	10.9	25.2
Total[5]	**F**	**F**	**F**	**F**	**F**	**F**	**F**	**F**	**F**	**28.5**	**22.0**	**36.0**	**56.9**	**49.2**	**64.3**	**14.6**	**10.1**	**20.5**
Total intimate partner violence[5]	**19.8**	**15.4**	**25.1**	**54.2**	**48.1**	**60.3**	**25.9**	**21.0**	**31.6**	**14.4***	**12.6**	**16.3**	**58.1**	**55.5**	**60.8**	**27.5**	**25.2**	**30.0**

E use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
1. Respondents were able to indicate if they experienced each behaviour once, a few times, monthly, weekly, or daily or almost daily. For the purposes of analysis, monthly, weekly, and daily or almost daily have been combined.
2. Percent calculation is based on the number of respondents who experienced the behaviour in the past 12 months. See Table 1 for the overall prevalence of each behaviour.
3. This is an item taken from the Composite Abuse Scale - revised short form (CASr-SF).
4. Includes only respondents who indicated yes to at least one item from the CASr-SF in their lifetime.
5. For totals, monthly or more includes respondents who reported one or more types of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months and at least one occurred monthly or more frequently. A few times includes respondents who reported one or more types of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months where at least one occurred a few times but none occurred more frequently. Once includes respondents who reported one or more types of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months but no specific type occurred more than once. If multiple behaviours were each reported as happening once, this is considered once for the purposes of the frequency measure in this table, though in some instances these may have been separate occurrences.
Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. The non-racialized population excludes First Nations people, Métis and Inuit.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Table 4
Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by selected characteristics of victim, Canada, 2025

	Racialized women+[†]			Non-racialized women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Age group (years)						
15 to 24[†]	37.3	28.5	47.0	36.9	32.9	41.2
25 to 34	11.5*	8.9	14.8	17.7***	15.6	19.9
35 to 44	8.9*	7.2	11.0	16.8***	15.2	18.5
45 to 54	9.4*	7.4	11.9	15.7***	14.0	17.4
55 to 64	4.3*	2.9	6.5	10.7***	9.6	11.9
65 to 74	5.3*	3.2	8.5	6.4*	5.5	7.4
75 and over	F	F	F	5.4*	4.3	6.8
Indigenous identity						
Indigenous person	…	…	…	…	…	…
First Nations	…	…	…	…	…	…
Métis	…	…	…	…	…	…
Inuit	…	…	…	…	…	…
Non-Indigenous person	10.1	9.0	11.3	14.3**	13.7	15.0
Racialized population group						
Yes	10.1*	9.0	11.3	…	…	…
South Asian	9.1*	7.1	11.6	…	…	…
Chinese	8.8*	6.9	11.3	…	…	…
Black	11.6	8.1	16.3	…	…	…
Filipino	9.2*	6.5	12.7	…	…	…
Arab	12.5	8.0	18.9	…	…	…
Latin American	10.5	6.9	15.5	…	…	…
Southeast Asian	F	F	F	…	…	…
West Asian	10.9	6.0	19.0	…	…	…
Korean	F	F	F	…	…	…
Japanese	F	F	F	…	…	…
Racialized population group not otherwise specified	15.3	9.1	24.6	…	…	…
Multiple racialized population groups	22.8[E]	14.5	33.8	…	…	…
No[†]	…	…	…	14.3	13.7	15.0
Immigrant status[2]						
Immigrant	8.4*	7.3	9.7	12.2***	10.3	14.3
Non-immigrant[†]	20.7	16.7	25.3	14.6**	13.9	15.3

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4
Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by selected characteristics of victim, Canada, 2025

	Racialized women+[†]			Non-racialized women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Sexual orientation						
Heterosexual[†]	10.1	8.9	11.4	13.2**	12.5	13.9
LGB+	19.5*	13.2	27.9	25.9*	23.0	29.0
Lesbian or gay	F	F	F	15.4	11.3	20.7
Bisexual	21.6[E]*	13.7	32.5	30.7*	27.0	34.7
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	F	F	F	14.9	8.5	24.7
Identifies as a person with a disability						
Yes	16.6*	12.0	22.7	21.0*	19.1	23.1
No[†]	9.6	8.5	10.8	13.2**	12.5	13.9
Employed in past 12 months						
Yes	11.1*	9.8	12.7	16.4***	15.5	17.3
No[†]	6.8	5.1	9.0	9.8**	8.9	10.8
Individual before-tax income[3]						
Less than $20,000[†]	14.0	11.4	17.3	15.8	14.1	17.7
$20,000 to $39,999	8.7*	6.6	11.4	14.3**	12.8	15.9
$40,000 to $59,999	6.3*	4.4	8.8	13.4***	11.9	15.1
$60,000 to $79,999	9.2*	6.7	12.5	13.4**	11.8	15.2
$80,000 to $99,999	9.0*	6.1	12.9	14.0**	12.0	16.3
$100,000 to $119,999	10.8	6.9	16.6	15.5	13.2	18.2
$120,000 or more	12.9	9.3	17.6	14.6	12.6	16.8
Highest level of education completed						
Less than high school[†]	14.6	10.0	21.0	15.6	12.9	18.7
High school or equivalent	13.1	9.9	17.2	13.1	11.7	14.6
College or trade school	8.2*	6.2	10.9	14.3**	13.1	15.5
University	9.6	8.3	11.2	14.8**	13.8	16.0
Marital status						
Married or common-law[†]	6.5	5.6	7.5	10.8**	10.2	11.4
Separated, divorced, or widowed	21.4*	15.1	29.5	21.1*	18.5	24.0
Single, never married	35.0*	28.8	41.8	33.0*	30.2	35.9

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4
Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, by selected characteristics of victim, Canada, 2025

	Racialized women+†			Non-racialized 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	F	F	F	12.8*	11.5	14.2
Territories	F	F	F	10.5	6.9	15.9
Urban area of the provinces†	10.2	9.1	11.5	14.8**	14.0	15.6

… not applicable
[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
** significantly different from estimate for racialized women+ ($p < 0.05$)
*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$) and estimate for racialized 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. 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).
3. 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.
Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. The non-racialized population excludes First Nations people, Métis and Inuit.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Table 5
Selected impacts, consequences, and outcomes of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, Canada, 2025

	Racialized women+[†]			Non-racialized 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	19.3	15.2	24.1
No	90.1	81.5	95.0	79.9*	75.0	84.0
Any abuse or violence occurred while partner was drinking						
Yes	16.7	12.5	22.0	27.8*	25.4	30.2
No	82.3	77.0	86.6	71.0*	68.5	73.4
Had to leave shared home or accommodation due to violence						
Yes	10.6	7.5	14.9	16.9*	15.0	19.0
No	71.2	65.2	76.6	66.3	63.7	68.8
Did not have a shared home or accomodation	17.0	12.5	22.6	15.8	13.9	17.8
Behaviour was reported to police						
Yes	6.5	4.1	10.3	9.4	8.0	11.1
No	92.0	88.0	94.8	89.7	87.9	91.2
Behaviour was reported to police (among those who experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence)[3]						
Yes	12.9	7.1	22.4	18.0	14.1	22.7
No	84.9	75.3	91.2	81.3	76.6	85.2
Talked to someone about the violence						
Yes	61.2	55.1	66.9	66.9	64.4	69.3
No	37.6	32.0	43.6	32.1	29.7	34.6
Contacted or used victims' services						
Yes	12.1	8.4	17.3	13.5	11.7	15.5
No	86.7	81.5	90.6	85.6	83.6	87.5
Negative emotional impacts as a result of the violence						
Yes	43.2	37.4	49.2	50.7*	48.1	53.4
No	55.3	49.3	61.2	48.2*	45.6	50.9
Symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder						
Yes	15.1	11.1	20.2	18.8	16.9	20.9
No	83.4	78.1	87.6	80.1	77.9	82.1

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5
Selected impacts, consequences, and outcomes of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, Canada, 2025

	Racialized women+†			Non-racialized women+		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected impact, consequence, or outcome[1]	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder (among those who experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence)[3]						
Yes	17.8	10.9	27.8	33.2*	28.4	38.5
No	80.7	70.6	87.9	65.2*	60.0	70.1

F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
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 1.
3. While all respondents who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) were asked this question, this represents the subset of those who experienced a physical or sexual form of IPV.
Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. The non-racialized population excludes First Nations people, Métis and Inuit.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.