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

By Loanna Heidinger

Intimate partner violence is a public health issue encompassing various criminal and non-criminal abusive behaviours perpetrated by an intimate partner that can have lasting and pervasive consequences for victims over time (Devries et al., 2013; Dillon et al. 2013; Stubbs & Szoeke, 2022; White et al., 2024). Previous research finds that intimate partner violence disproportionately impacts women and girls (Davies et al., 2015; Fanslow et al., 2023). Intimate partner violence is often considered one of the most prevalent forms of gender-based violence in Canada, experienced by nearly half of women and girls since age 15 who have ever been in a relationship (Cotter, 2026).

In addition to the higher likelihood of experiencing intimate partner violence in general, women and girls often experience more severe forms of violence and violence that occurs on an ongoing, repeated basis (Cotter, 2026). However, barriers to reporting intimate partner violence, including fear of retaliation, emotional trauma or shame, financial considerations, concerns about the welfare of children, and a general distrust in authorities, may lead to an underestimation of the overall prevalence of intimate partner violence.

Violence among women and girls is not uniform, with certain populations of women having an elevated risk of experiencing intimate partner violence. In particular, women under the age of 25 consistently report more experiences of intimate partner violence relative to older women (Savage, 2021a). Age differences in victimization may reflect developmental, relational, and structural factors that can increase the vulnerability to abusive partners rather than characteristics of young women themselves (Kusunoki et al., 2022). In general, dating patterns of younger women, including the context of intimate relationships where patterns of coercive or controlling behaviour can be difficult to recognize, may contribute to the age differences in experiences of intimate partner violence. Dynamics in relationships may include power imbalances that can make young women more vulnerable to coercion and control (Policastro & Finn, 2021). Young women may also have less financial independence or limited financial resources, as well as fewer support networks that may pose as barriers to leaving an unsafe relationship.

This article uses data from the 2025 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) to examine the self-reported experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) among young women (aged 15 to 24)[1] [2]. The prevalence, nature and impact of IPV are examined, with specific attention on experiences of IPV occurring in the 12 months preceding the survey. These results are limited to those who had previously been in an intimate partner relationship and will be compared with experiences of IPV among older women (aged 25 and older). Where possible, lifetime measures of IPV are also considered and overall results are further compared to those from 2018, the first iteration of the SSPPS.

This article is one in a series of short reports examining experiences of IPV among various population groups in Canada. The initial release includes a general overview of IPV among women and men (Cotter, 2026), IPV among racialized women (Maxwell, 2026), and official language minority women (Perreault, 2026) populations.

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 2).

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 2).

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.

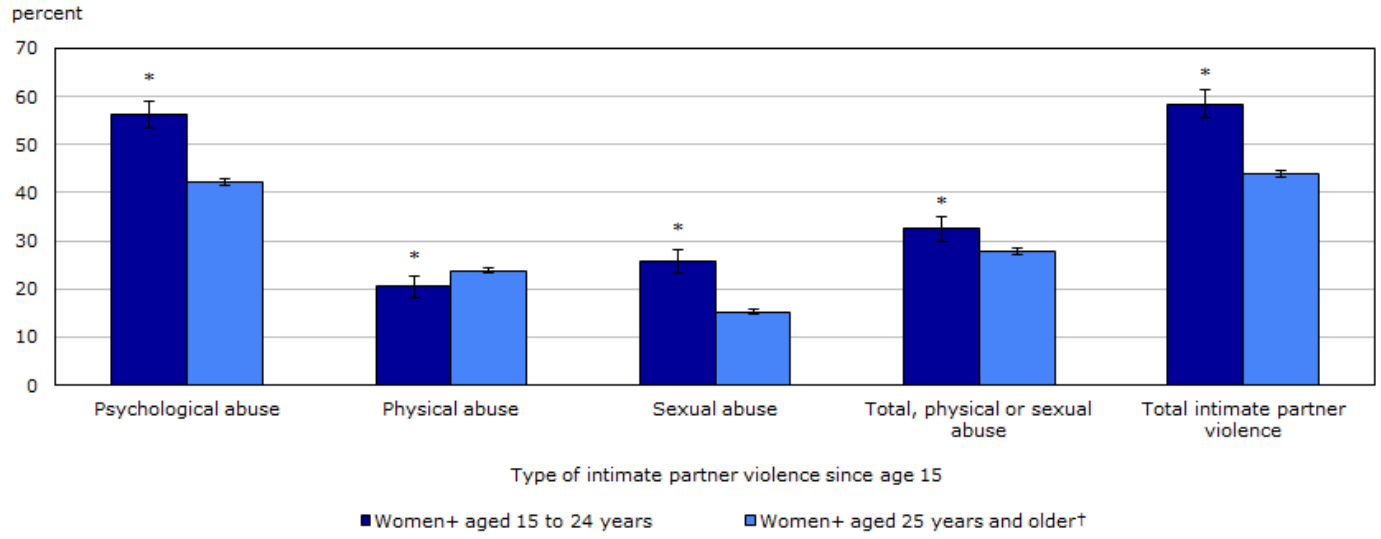
A forthcoming *Juristat* article will expand on the methods used to analyze intimate partner violence and violence more generally, exploring other approaches and methodologies, building upon this analysis and comparing and contrasting results. An analytical article dedicated to exploring coercive control, in the context of legislative developments in Canada[3] and elsewhere,[4] is also forthcoming.

Almost six in ten young women experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime

Intimate partner violence (IPV) encompasses a wide range of abusive behaviours that may occur at varying levels of frequency, from one single abusive incident to repeated events. Some forms of IPV, such as physical or sexual abuse, may be considered more severe and overt and often reach the threshold of criminal behaviour. Physical and sexual abuse likely involve conduct or behaviours that are explicitly prohibited under criminal law and may be more likely to be reported to police. Other forms of IPV, such as psychological abuse, may be less overt and more difficult to identify; however, the profound negative impacts, including the detrimental impacts on health and overall well-being, are well documented (Potter et al, 2021).

According to the 2025 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), almost six in ten (58%) young women aged 15 to 24 experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime (since the age of 15) (Table 1) (Chart 1). In comparison, a smaller proportion of older women aged 25 and older experienced some form of IPV in their lifetime (44%). These proportions represent about 760,000 young women and almost 6.2 million older women across Canada.

Chart 1
Intimate partner violence among women since age 15, by age group, Canada, 2025



* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
Note: Intimate partner violence includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. Percent calculations exclude respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. See Table 2 for a list of items included in each category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

These proportions are similar to those observed in 2018, when the first cycle of the SSPPS was conducted, where a significantly higher proportion of young women, compared to older women, experienced IPV in their lifetime (56% vs 43%, respectively).

Over half of young women experienced psychological abuse in their lifetime

Psychological abuse, consisting of abusive behaviours that often involve an intent to control, isolate, manipulate or humiliate victims, was the most common type of IPV experienced by women overall. However, young women had a higher prevalence of experiencing at least one behaviour corresponding to this type of abuse in their lifetime (56%) compared with older women (42%) (Table 1).

About one-third (32%) of young women experienced either physical or sexual abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime, a higher proportion compared with about three in ten (28%) older women. While the overall lifetime prevalence of physical or sexual abuse was higher among young women, this pattern was not consistent when physical and sexual abuse were considered separately.

Following overall patterns, a significantly larger proportion of young women (26%) experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime relative to older women (15%); however, a slightly larger proportion of older women (24%) experienced physical abuse in their lifetime compared with younger women (21%).

Variation in lifetime prevalence of psychologically abusive behaviours among women

When looking at lifetime experiences of psychologically abusive behaviours, the prevalence varied between young and older women (Table 2). Compared with older women, a larger proportion of young women had an intimate partner in their lifetime who: was jealous and did not want them to talk to other men or women (44% versus 28% among older women); told them they were crazy, stupid, or not good enough (33% versus 28%); made inappropriate comments about their sexual past or performance (26% versus 16%); or demanded to know who they were with and where they were at all times (25% versus 18%).

In contrast, more older women, relative to younger women, had an intimate partner who was economically abusive, such as an intimate partner who damaged or destroyed their possessions or property (13% versus 8% among young women), who forced them to give up money or possessions (8% versus 6%), or kept them from having access to a job, money or financial resources (6% versus 2%).

Like experiences of physical abuse overall, older women were more likely to have experienced almost all of the physically abusive behaviours by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Compared with young women, a higher proportion of older women had an intimate partner in their lifetime who: shook, pushed, grabbed or threw them (17% versus 14% among young women), hit them with a fist or object, kicked or bit them (11% versus 8%), threw anything at them that could have hurt them (11% versus 8%), or slapped them (11% versus 8%).

In contrast, young women were more likely to have experienced all sexually abusive behaviours by an intimate partner in their lifetime. A higher proportion of young women ever had an intimate partner who made them perform sex acts that they did not want to perform (21% versus 12% among older women) or forced or tried to force them to have sex (19% versus 13%).

Similar proportions of young and older women experience anxiety following IPV, age differences observed by type of IPV experienced

The SSPPS asked respondents about the emotional impacts that were a result of IPV experienced since the age of 15. Emotional impacts can extend beyond the length of an abusive relationship and can be a major consequence of IPV. Profound and lasting impacts may further be indicative of the severity of the abuse and may affect help-seeking or even reporting behaviours following IPV.

Overall, similar proportions of young and older women experienced some emotional impacts following IPV in their lifetime. Among women who ever experienced IPV in their lifetime, a majority of young (70%) and older (72%) women ever felt anxious or on edge as a result of the violence experienced and almost half of young (49%) and older (52%) women ever felt controlled or trapped by an abusive partner.

A slightly smaller proportion of young women (43%), relative to older women (49%), who experienced IPV in their lifetime felt afraid of an abusive intimate partner.

Differences in emotional impacts were observed when looking at specific types of IPV experienced. Among women who experienced psychological abuse or sexual abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime, a smaller proportion of young women (43% and 66%, respectively), relative to older women (50% and 74%, respectively) ever felt afraid.

A larger proportion of young women (76%) who experienced physical abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime felt controlled or trapped by an intimate partner relative to older women (67%). Whereas among women who experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner, the inverse was observed with less young women (68%) than older women (75%) feeling this way.

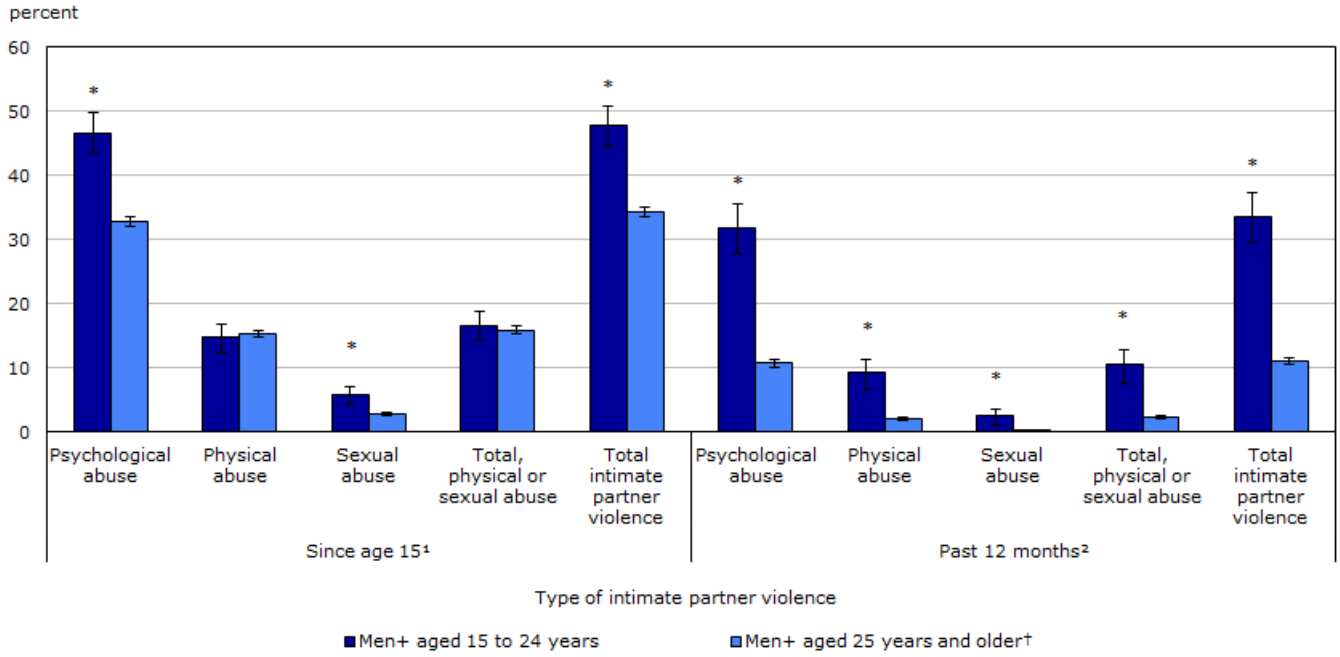
Notably, the proportion of young and older women who were anxious or on edge as a result of an intimate partner was highest when the violence experienced was sexual or physical compared with emotional. The vast majority of women who experienced physical or sexual abuse in an intimate partnership during their lifetime felt anxious or on edge as a result of the violence experienced. However, a larger proportion of young women (92%) than older women (84%) who experienced physical abuse by an intimate were anxious or on edge. Whereas, a slightly smaller proportion of young women (84%) who experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner were anxious or on edge compared with older women (90%).

Text box 2
Intimate partner violence among young men

While a higher proportion of women than men experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime and in the 12 months preceding the survey (Cotter, 2026), men are still impacted by intimate partner violence (IPV). Among men, the patterns of victimization and the barriers to reporting may differ to those of women victims of IPV. Younger men, in particular, may experience stigma and gender stereotypes surrounding disclosure and may not recognize intimate partner violence as a problem.

According to the SPPSS, almost half of young men aged 15 to 24 (48%) experienced IPV in their lifetime, more than the about one-third of older men aged 25 and over (34%) (Chart 2). Similar to overall trends for women, psychological abuse was the most common type of IPV experienced by both young and older men; however, in their lifetime, young men were significantly more likely to experience psychological abuse by an intimate partner (47%) relative to older men (33%). Notably, the prevalence of lifetime sexual IPV was twice as high among young men (5.8%) compared with older men (2.8%).

Chart 2
Intimate partner violence among men since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2025



* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
1. Percent calculations exclude respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.
2. Percent calculations exclude respondents 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.
Note: Intimate partner violence includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. The category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. See Table 2 for a list of items included in each category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Differences in the prevalence of IPV between young men and older men were more pronounced when looking at the 12 months preceding the survey. In the past 12 months, about one-third (34%) of young men experienced any type of IPV, more than three times the prevalence among older men (11%). Younger men experienced all types of IPV measured by the survey in the past 12 months at a higher prevalence than older men.

Similar to overall trends, psychological abuse was the most common type of IPV experienced in the past 12 months among men; however, about one-third (32%) of young men experienced this type of abuse, three times more than the about one in ten older men (11%).

While there was no statistical difference observed in the prevalence of lifetime physical IPV between young and older men (15% for each, respectively), there was a notable difference when looking at the prevalence of physical IPV in the past 12 months. The prevalence of this type of violence in the past 12 months among young men (9.3%) was almost five times the prevalence among older men (2.1%).

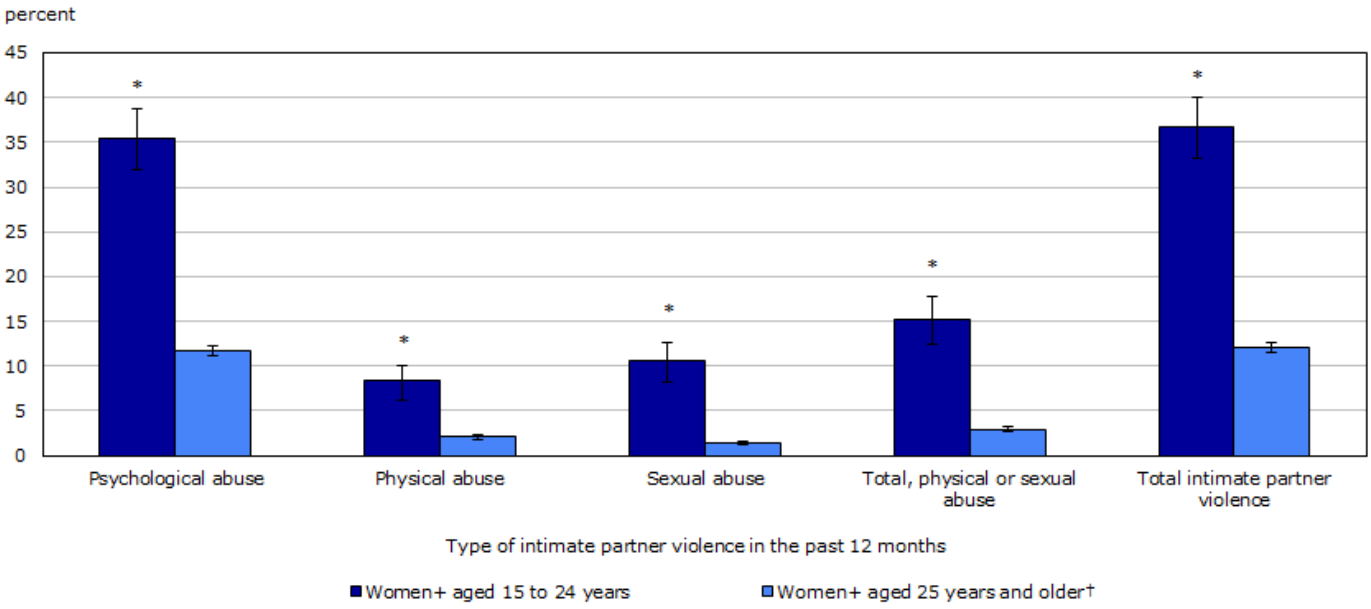
In the past 12 months, the prevalence of sexual IPV among young men (2.7%) was three times that observed among older men (0.3%).

Prevalence of IPV in past 12 months among young women more than three times that of older women

The SSPPS also collects information on the prevalence, frequency, characteristics, and consequences of IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Overall, almost four in ten (37%) young women experienced any type of IPV in the past 12 months, more than three times the proportion among older women (12%) (Table 1) (Chart 3). These results were similar to those observed in 2018, when the first cycle of the SSPPS was conducted, where a significantly higher proportion of young women, compared to older women, experienced IPV in the 12 months preceding survey collection (38% versus 11%).[5]

Chart 3
Intimate partner violence among women in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2025



* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
Note: Intimate partner violence includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. Percent calculations exclude respondents 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. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. See Table 2 for a list of items included in each category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Like trends observed for the lifetime prevalence of IPV, psychological abuse was the most common type of IPV experienced among women in the past 12 months. However, the difference between young and older women was more pronounced in the 12 months preceding the survey, with more than one-third of young women (35%) having experienced this type of abuse in the past 12 months, about three times that of older women (12%).

In the year preceding the survey, the prevalence of physical or sexual abuse committed by an intimate partner among young women was five times the prevalence observed among older women (15% versus 2.9%). More specifically, young women experienced both physical (8.3%) and sexual (11%) abuse by an intimate partner at significantly higher prevalences than older women (2.1% and 1.4%, respectively).

Young women have a higher prevalence of almost all abusive behaviours in past 12 months relative to older women

When looking at the prevalence of specific abusive behaviours committed by an intimate partner in the past 12 months among women who were in an intimate relationship, young women experienced almost all behaviours at a disproportionately higher prevalence than older women (Table 2).

Overall, a larger proportion of young women experienced abusive behaviours characterized as psychological relative to older women. In particular, the prevalence of some of the most common psychologically abusive behaviours was higher among young than older women. For example, the proportion of young women who had an intimate partner who put them down or called them names (18%), blamed them for causing their abusive behaviour (18%), or told them they were crazy, stupid or not good enough (16%) was more than two times the prevalence among older women (7.5%, 8.6%, 6.4%, respectively).

Notably, one-quarter of young women (25%) had an intimate partner in the past year who was jealous and did not want them talking to other men or women, more than six times the prevalence among older women (3.5%).

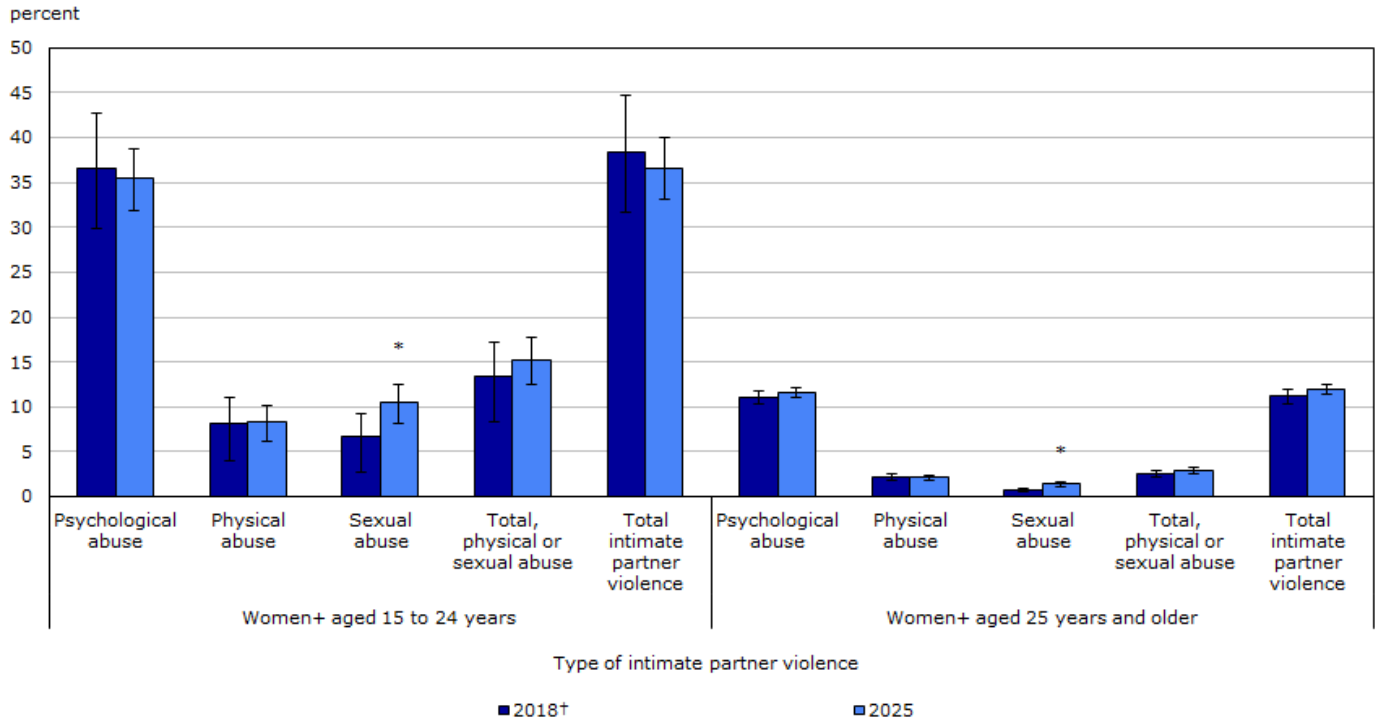
Similarly, in the past 12 months, the prevalence of specific physical and sexual abusive behaviours committed by an intimate partner was higher among young women relative to older women (Table 2). Young women were more likely to have had a partner in the past 12 months who shook, pushed, grabbed or threw them (4.9% versus 1.1% of older women), hit them with a fist or object, kicked or bit them (2.7% versus 0.5%), or threw anything at them that could have hurt them (2.8% versus 0.8%).

Notably, the prevalence of young women who had an intimate partner who made them perform sex acts they did not want to perform (9.4%) or forced or tried to force them to have sex (6.8%) in the past 12 months was more than seven times that of older women (1.0% and 1.0%, respectively).

Prevalence of IPV among young and older women similar in 2025 to 2018

Compared to the 2018 SSPPS cycle, in 2025 there were no statistically significant differences observed in the 12-month prevalence of IPV among young (38% in 2018 and 37% in 2025) or older (11% in 2018 and 12% in 2025) women (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Intimate partner violence among women in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2018 and 2025



* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
Note: Intimate partner violence includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. Percent calculations exclude respondents 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. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. See Table 2 for a list of items included in each category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

This was the case for the 12-month prevalence of almost all types of IPV, except for sexual assault. Notably, in 2025, the 12-month prevalence of sexual IPV among young women was higher (11%) compared to the 12-month prevalence among young women in 2018 (6.7%). An increase in the 12-month prevalence was also observed for older women, although the increase was less pronounced (0.8% in 2018 vs. 1.4% in 2025).

Young women experience IPV at a higher frequency than older women

In addition to experiencing a higher overall prevalence of IPV, young women also experienced abusive IPV behaviours at a higher frequency relative to older women. Overall, the majority of women who experienced IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey experienced the abusive behaviour at least a few times or more (Table 3). Among those who were victims of IPV, almost four in ten (37%) young women experienced violence or abuse monthly or more, compared with 27% of older women.

A relatively small proportion of women who experienced IPV in the past 12 months experienced the behaviour a single time, though the proportion was lower among younger women (11%) than older women (16%).

Statistically similar proportions of young (52%) and older (57%) women who experienced IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey, experienced the abusive behaviour a few times.

This pattern was consistent across all types of IPV experienced in the past 12 months, with a higher proportion of young women having experienced the abuse monthly or more relative to older women. In the past 12 months, almost four in ten younger women experienced psychological abuse (38%) or sexual abuse (37%) by an intimate partner monthly or more compared with just over one-quarter of older women (27% and 27%, respectively).

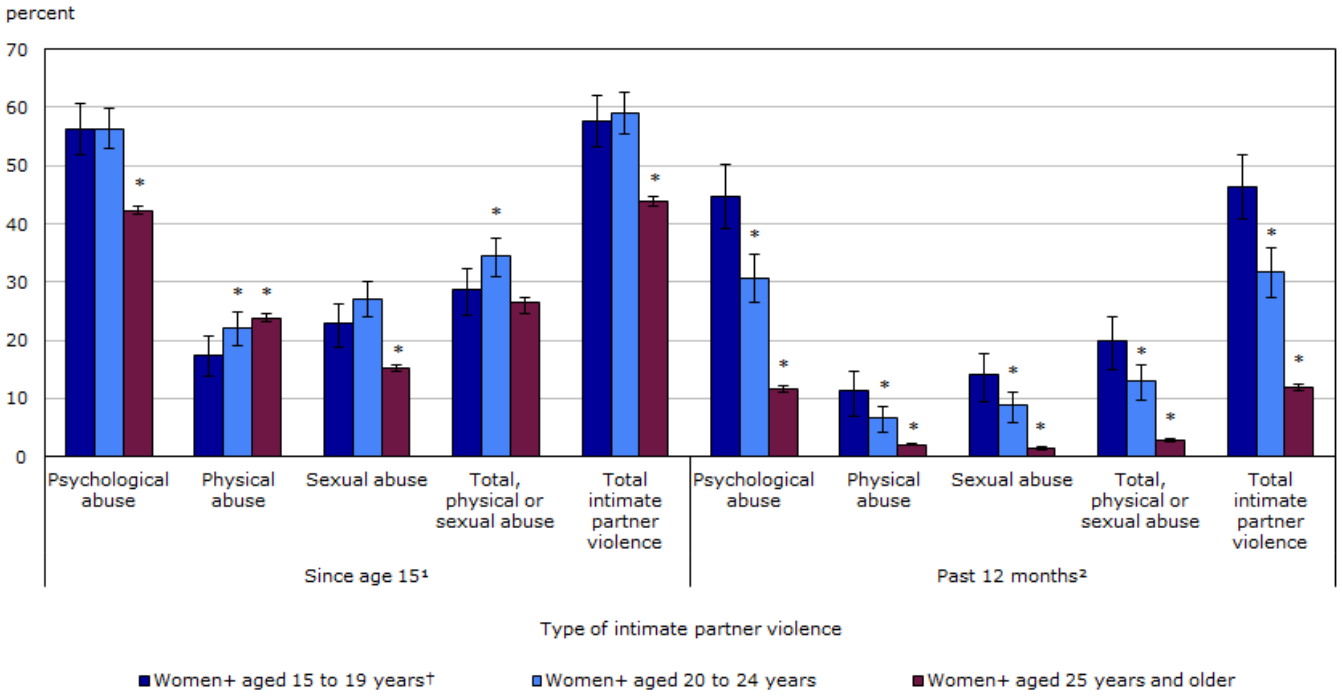
Notably, the proportion of young women who experienced physical abuse by an intimate partner monthly or more (28%) was over double that of older women (12%). In contrast, half of older women (50%) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months said it happened once compared with three in ten young women (30%).

Text box 3
Intimate partner violence among adolescent women (aged 15 to 19)

Adolescence is an important developmental period where individuals are learning about healthy relationship behaviours. The context of teens dating may be characterized by shorter more tumultuous relationships with less stability. Previous research on the 12-month prevalence of physical and sexual assault finds that adolescents experience a higher prevalence of recent intimate partner violence relative to older counterparts. Using SSPPS data, it is possible to further disaggregate the population of young women and examine experienced of IPV among those aged 15 to 19 compared with those aged 20 to 24.

According to the SSPPS, almost half of women aged 15 to 19 (46%) experienced any IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey. This was more than the proportion among women aged 20 to 24 (32%) and almost four times the proportion among women aged 25 and over (12%) (Chart 5).

Chart 5
Intimate partner violence among women since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2025



* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
1. Percent calculations exclude respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.
2. Percent calculations exclude respondents 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.
Note: Intimate partner violence includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. See Table 2 for a list of items included in each category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Women aged 15 to 19 experienced all types of IPV at proportions significantly higher compared with women aged 20 to 24 and those aged 25 and over.

As with older age groups, the most common type of IPV experienced by women aged 15 to 19 was psychological abuse. However, more women aged 15 to 19 (45%) experienced this type of violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months compared with women aged 20 to 24 (31%) and women aged 25 and older (12%).

A significantly larger proportion of women aged 15 to 19 experienced physical (11%) or sexual (14%) IPV relative to women aged 20 to 24 (6.8% and 8.8%, respectively). Notably, the proportion of women aged 15 to 19 who experienced physical assault by an intimate partner was more than five times the proportion among women aged 25 and over (2.1%), and the proportion who experienced sexual assault by an intimate partner (14%) was fourteen times the proportion among women aged 25 and older (1.4%).

A larger proportion of young women relative to older women separated with their intimate partner due to violence

Overall, the largest proportion of young women indicated that a former dating partner was the perpetrator in the most serious abuse or violence experienced (69%). In contrast, the largest proportion of older women indicated the perpetrator was a current spouse or common-law partner (56%).

The SSPPS collected information on the impacts, consequences and actions taken by women who were victims of IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 4). About three in ten (29%) young women separated with their intimate partner due to the violence experienced, a proportion that was double that among older women (14%).

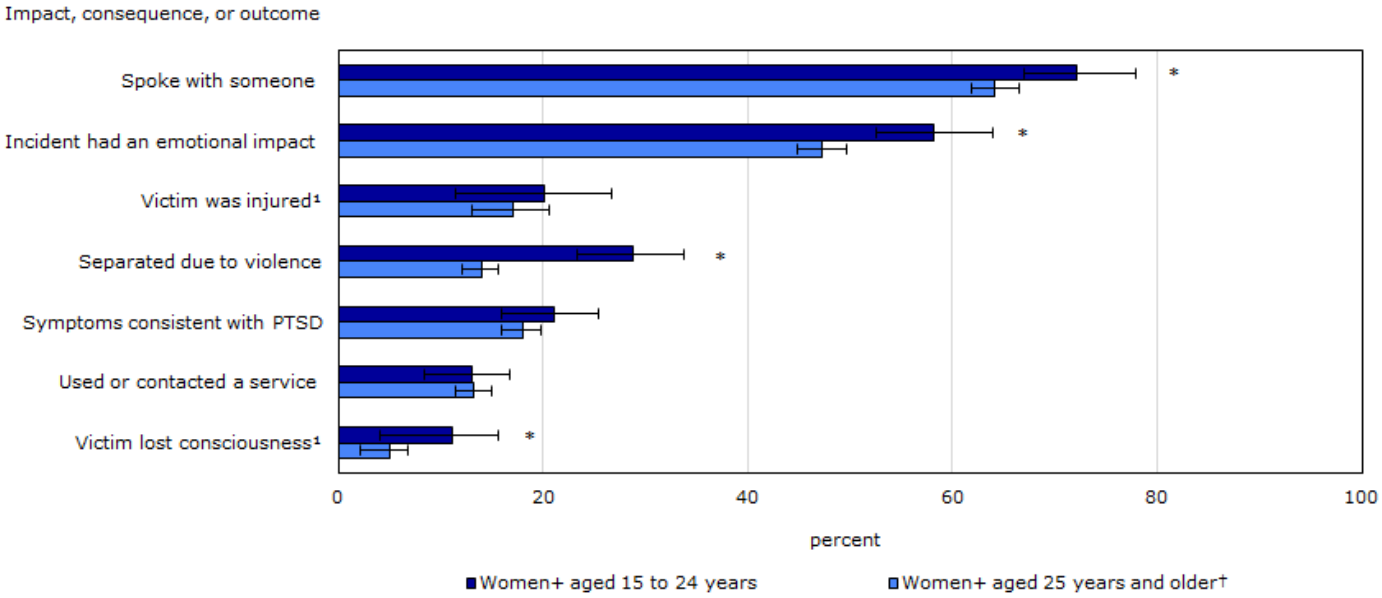
Furthermore, less than one in ten (6.2%) young women had to leave a shared home or accommodation due to violence, significantly less than the almost two in ten (18%) among older women who experienced IPV in the past 12 months.

Older women may experience different barriers to leaving an abusive partner relative to young women. Older women are more likely to be married or common law with an intimate partner, which may make separation or divorce more financially complex. In particular, the greater likelihood of shared accommodation, including jointly owned homes and intertwined finances may add another layer of difficulty when attempting to leave an abusive relationship.

Six in ten young women had a negative emotional impact to the IPV experienced in the past 12 months

Relative to older women, young women who experienced any type of IPV in the past 12 months were more likely than older women to have experienced negative emotional impacts as a result of the abuse experienced (58% versus 47%) (Table 4) (Chart 6).

Chart 6
Selected impacts, consequences, and outcomes of intimate partner violence among women in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2025



* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
† reference category
1. This question was only asked of respondents who experienced a physical or sexual form of intimate partner violence. See Table 2.
Note: Intimate partner violence includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. 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 (psychological, physical or sexual) in the past 12 months. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.
Source: Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Notably, among women who specifically experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months, just over three-quarters of young women (76%) experienced negative emotional impacts compared with six in ten older women (61%). Equal proportions of young (31%) and older (31%) women who experienced physical or sexual assault by an intimate partner in the past 12 months had symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder.

About two in ten women physically injured by an intimate partner in past 12 months

Statistically similar proportions of young (20%) and older (17%) women who experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months were physically injured in any way. Notably, young women more commonly reported that they lost consciousness or almost lost consciousness following the violence (11%) compared with older women (4.9%).

Small proportion of IPV reported to police

According to previous research, IPV rarely comes to the attention of police. In line with this finding, the reporting of behaviours of abuse to police was not common for either young or older women. There was no statistically significant difference observed between the small proportions of young (7%) and older (10%) women who indicated that the police were made aware of the IPV they experienced in the past 12 months. Similarly, just over one in ten young (13%) and older (13%) women contacted or used victim services following the abuse experienced.

Looking specifically at women who experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months, the police were made aware about the abuse for about three in twenty young (15%) and older (17%) women.

While the prevalence of IPV coming to the attention of police or victim services was low, a higher proportion of women, in general, spoke with someone about the abuse they experienced in the past 12 months. Just over seven in ten (72%) young women said they spoke to someone about the abuse, more than the two-thirds (64%) of older women.

IPV among women and the intersection of age with other characteristics

Previous research finds that certain groups experience IPV at disproportionately high rates. Considering intersecting identities provides a better understanding of IPV among young and older women, and the ways in which multiple intersecting identities can shape the risk of experiencing violence and the ability to seek help.

Higher prevalence of IPV among Indigenous women overall, no age group differences among Indigenous women observed

Indigenous peoples, and in particular Indigenous women, are more likely to experience violence relative to their non-Indigenous counterparts (Heidinger, 2021). Previous research has linked the elevated risk of violence among Indigenous people to the trauma of historical violence that continues to have an enduring impact on the perpetuation of violence among Indigenous people (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015).

As with previous findings, more Indigenous women experienced IPV in their lifetime relative to non-Indigenous women, regardless of age group (Table 5). More specifically, about seven in ten young (71%) and older (64%) Indigenous women experienced some form of IPV since the age of 15, compared with the lower prevalence among non-Indigenous women of the same ages (58% and 43%, respectively). There was no observed statistically significant difference between the proportion of young and older Indigenous women that experienced lifetime IPV.

In the past 12 months, a larger proportion of younger Indigenous women (40%) experienced IPV compared with the proportion among older Indigenous women (16%). There was no statistically significant difference observed between the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women regardless of age group who experienced IPV in the past 12 months.

Half of young, racialized women experienced IPV, more than older racialized women

Overall, for both young and older women, a larger proportion of those who did not belong to a racialized group experienced IPV in their lifetime. However, among women who belong to a racialized population half (50%) of young women experienced IPV since age 15, significantly more than the almost three in ten (28%) older women.

The age group difference among women who belong to a racialized population was more pronounced for experiences of IPV in the past 12 months. In the 12 months preceding the survey, almost four in ten (37%) young women belonging to a racialized population experienced IPV, significantly more than the about one in ten (9%) older women counterparts.

A larger proportion of LGB+[6] women, overall, experienced IPV since the age of 15 compared with heterosexual women; however, there was no observed statistically significant difference between the proportion of LGB+ young women (70%) and older women (69%) that experienced IPV in their lifetime. More young heterosexual women (53%) experienced IPV in their lifetime compared to older heterosexual women (43%).

Young women with a disability have the highest lifetime prevalence of IPV

Previous research has found that women with disabilities often report higher rates of IPV relative to women without disabilities (Savage, 2021b). This higher risk of IPV is attributable to social and structural barriers that disproportionately impact women with disabilities rather than the disability itself. In abusive partnerships, women with disabilities may have a greater dependence on their partner for caregiving or daily needs, may experience financial instability, or discrimination which can all function as barriers to leaving an abusive relationship.

A significantly larger proportion of young and older women with a disability experienced IPV since the age of 15, relative to women of the same age without a disability. Notably, among women with a disability, over two-thirds of young women (67%) experienced IPV in their lifetime, significantly more than the six in ten (60%) among older women.

Age group differences among women with a disability were also observed for the 12-month prevalence of IPV. In the past 12 months, four in ten (40%) young women with a disability experienced IPV, just over double the proportion among older women counterparts (18%).

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.

Caution should be exercised when interpreting results, such as weighted frequencies or percentages, for the Inuit population within the provinces in 2025. Even if the number of respondents for this subpopulation is sufficient to meet quality guidelines, there is still a concern regarding the quality of the data as bias might subsist after the weighting process. Note that this concern only applies to the Inuit population in the provinces and not in the territories. Estimates for Inuit in 2018 are largely reflective of the population living in the territories. Estimates for Inuit in the provinces for 2018 are not releasable due to sample size and data quality.

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Notes

1. In this analysis, the categories “women” and “men” are based on the Statistics Canada standard categories of Women+ and Men+, unless otherwise stated. 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 some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender.

2. 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*.

3. 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).

4. 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).

5. Estimates of the past 12-month prevalence of intimate partner violence for 2018 in this report may differ slightly from those previously published (Savage, 2021a) for two reasons. First, the data points in this report use the standard categories of Women+ and Men+ (see notes 2 and 3), 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 scope of this report was changed so that the universe of analysis is only those who had contact with a partner in the past 12 months.

6. This category includes persons whose reported sexual orientation is lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, or another sexual orientation that is not heterosexual.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Intimate partner violence among women, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2025

	Women+ aged 15 to 24 years				Women+ aged 25 years and older†			
			95% confidence interval				95% confidence interval	
Type of intimate partner violence[1]	number (in thousands)	percent	from	to	number (in thousands)	percent	from	to
Since age 15[2]								
Psychological abuse	729	56.3 *	53.5	59.1	5,971	42.2	41.5	42.9
Physical abuse	266	20.5 *	18.4	22.9	3,368	23.8	23.2	24.5
Sexual abuse	332	25.7 *	23.4	28.1	2,144	15.2	14.6	15.7
Total, physical or sexual abuse	**420**	**32.4 ***	**29.9**	**35.1**	**3,943**	**27.9**	**27.2**	**28.5**
Total intimate partner violence	**756**	**58.5 ***	**55.7**	**61.2**	**6,199**	**43.9**	**43.1**	**44.6**
Past 12 months[3]								
Psychological abuse	270	35.4 *	32.1	38.9	1,265	11.6	11.1	12.2
Physical abuse	63	8.3 *	6.5	10.5	229	2.1	1.9	2.4
Sexual abuse	81	10.6 *	8.6	13.0	151	1.4	1.2	1.6
Total, physical or sexual abuse	**116**	**15.2 ***	**12.8**	**18.1**	**317**	**2.9**	**2.6**	**3.2**
Total intimate partner violence	**279**	**36.6 ***	**33.3**	**40.1**	**1,307**	**12.0**	**11.5**	**12.6**

* 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. See Table 2 for a list of items included in each category.

2. Percent calculations exclude respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

3. Percent calculations exclude respondents 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.

Note: 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 among women, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by age group and type of intimate partner violence, Canada, 2025

	Experienced since age 15[2]						Experienced in the past 12 months[3]					
	Women+ aged 15 to 24 years			Women+ aged 25 years and older[†]			Women+ aged 15 to 24 years			Women+ aged 25 years and older[†]		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Type of intimate partner violence[1]	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Psychological abuse												
Been jealous and didn't want you to talk to other men or women	44.4 *	41.7	47.1	27.8	27.2	28.4	24.8 *	21.9	28.1	3.5	3.2	3.9
Harmed, or threatened to harm your pets	3.3 *	2.5	4.3	5.1	4.8	5.4	1.3	0.7	2.4	0.5	0.4	0.7
Demanded to know who you were with and where you were at all times	24.9 *	22.6	27.3	18.3	17.8	18.9	12.2 *	10.1	14.6	2.3	2.1	2.6
Put you down or called you names to make you feel bad	32.4	29.9	35.1	30.9	30.3	31.6	17.6 *	15.0	20.4	7.5	7.1	8.0
Forced you to give them money or possessions	6.0 *	4.8	7.5	7.6	7.3	8.1	1.8 *	1.1	3.1	0.7	0.6	0.9
Told you you were crazy, stupid, or not good enough[4]	33.2 *	30.7	35.8	27.9	27.2	28.5	16.4 *	14.0	19.2	6.4	6.0	6.9
Tried to convince your family, children, or friends that you are crazy or tried to turn them against you[4]	10.7	9.1	12.5	11.8	11.3	12.3	4.2 *	3.0	5.9	1.8	1.5	2.0
Followed you or hung around outside your home or work[4]	9.9 *	8.4	11.7	12.1	11.6	12.5	4.1 *	2.9	5.8	0.7	0.5	0.8
Kept you from seeing or talking to your family or friends[4]	14.3 *	12.5	16.3	11.2	10.8	11.7	6.0 *	4.5	8.0	0.9	0.8	1.1
Harassed you by phone, text, email, or using social media[4]	21.2 *	19.0	23.6	14.8	14.3	15.3	9.3 *	7.3	11.7	2.0	1.8	2.3
Kept you from having access to a job, money, or financial resources[4]	1.8 *	1.2	2.6	5.6	5.3	6.0	F	F	F	0.6	0.5	0.8
Damaged or destroyed your possessions or property	7.5 *	6.2	9.1	13.4	12.9	13.9	2.2	1.4	3.6	1.2	1.1	1.4
Made comments about your sexual past or your sexual performance that made you feel ashamed, inadequate, or humiliated	25.9 *	23.6	28.4	16.4	15.9	17.0	13.3 *	11.0	15.9	2.6	2.3	2.9
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	6.0 *	4.8	7.6	2.6	2.4	2.9	2.1 *	1.2	3.4	0.3	0.2	0.4
Blamed you for causing their abusive or violent behaviour[5]	47.5 *	43.4	51.6	53.1	51.9	54.3	18.4 *	14.7	22.8	8.6	7.9	9.5
Total	**56.3 ***	**53.5**	**59.1**	**42.2**	**41.5**	**42.9**	**35.4 ***	**32.1**	**38.9**	**11.6**	**11.1**	**12.2**
Physical abuse												
Shook, pushed, grabbed, or threw you[4]	13.9 *	12.2	15.9	17.3	16.7	17.8	4.9 *	3.6	6.6	1.1	0.9	1.3
Hit you with a fist or object, kicked or bit you[4]	7.5 *	6.2	9.1	10.8	10.3	11.3	2.7 *	1.7	4.1	0.5	0.4	0.6
Confined or locked you in a room or other space[4]	4.5	3.5	5.8	4.3	4.0	4.6	1.7 *	0.9	3.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
Threatened to harm or kill you or someone close to you[4]	5.0 *	4.0	6.4	7.2	6.8	7.6	2.0 *	1.2	3.2	0.4	0.3	0.5
Choked you[4]	6.7	5.4	8.2	7.1	6.7	7.5	2.6 *	1.7	3.8	0.4	0.3	0.6

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2
Intimate partner violence among women, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by age group and type of intimate partner violence, Canada, 2025

	Experienced since age 15[2]						Experienced in the past 12 months[3]					
	Women+ aged 15 to 24 years			Women+ aged 25 years and older†			Women+ aged 15 to 24 years			Women+ aged 25 years and older†		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Type of intimate partner violence[1]	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Used or threatened to use a knife or gun or other weapon to harm you[4]	2.9 *	2.1	3.9	3.9	3.6	4.2	1.2 *	0.6	2.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Threatened to hit you with their fist or anything that could hurt you	7.2 *	5.9	8.7	11.1	10.6	11.6	1.9 *	1.1	3.0	0.6	0.5	0.8
Thrown anything at you that could have hurt you	8.0 *	6.6	9.7	11.0	10.5	11.4	2.8 *	1.9	4.2	0.8	0.6	0.9
Slapped you	8.2 *	6.8	9.8	10.5	10.1	11.0	2.6 *	1.7	3.9	0.5	0.3	0.6
Beaten you	3.7 *	2.8	4.9	5.9	5.6	6.3	F	F	F	0.3	0.2	0.4
Total	**20.5 ***	**18.4**	**22.9**	**23.8**	**23.2**	**24.5**	**8.3 ***	**6.5**	**10.5**	**2.1**	**1.9**	**2.4**
Sexual abuse												
Made you perform sex acts that you did not want to perform[4]	21.3 *	19.2	23.6	11.9	11.4	12.4	9.4 *	7.5	11.7	1.0	0.8	1.2
Forced or tried to force you to have sex[4]	19.1 *	17.0	21.4	12.7	12.2	13.2	6.8 *	5.2	8.9	1.0	0.8	1.1
Total	**25.7 ***	**23.4**	**28.1**	**15.2**	**14.6**	**15.7**	**10.6 ***	**8.6**	**13.0**	**1.4**	**1.2**	**1.6**
Total intimate partner violence	**58.5 ***	**55.7**	**61.2**	**43.9**	**43.1**	**44.6**	**36.6 ***	**33.3**	**40.1**	**12.0**	**11.5**	**12.6**

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. Percent calculations exclude respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

3. Percent calculations exclude respondents 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.

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.

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

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

	Women+ aged 15 to 24 years who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months[1]									Women+ aged 25 years and older who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months[1] [†]								
	Once[2]			A few times[2]			Monthly or more[2]			Once[2]			A few times[2]			Monthly or more[2]		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Type of intimate partner violence	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Psychological abuse																		
Been jealous and didn't want you to talk to other men or women	15.3	10.6	21.5	56.0	48.8	63.0	28.7	22.8	35.5	20.0	16.5	24.2	58.0	53.2	62.7	22.0	18.3	26.1
Harmed, or threatened to harm your pets	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	31.5 [E]	21.5	43.6	47.9 [E]	36.3	59.7	20.5 [E]	12.7	31.5
Demanded to know who you were with and where you were at all times	8.5	4.2	16.4	41.8	32.1	52.1	49.8	39.8	59.7	10.6	7.6	14.5	48.7	42.7	54.8	40.7	35.0	46.6
Put you down or called you names to make you feel bad	12.4	7.9	18.8	49.2 *	41.0	57.4	38.4 *	30.7	46.8	12.6	10.6	14.9	63.3	60.2	66.2	24.1	21.5	26.9
Forced you to give them money or possessions	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	18.2	11.4	27.8	47.9	38.0	58.1	33.9	25.0	44.1
Told you you were crazy, stupid, or not good enough[3]	11.1 *	6.8	17.5	53.1	44.2	61.7	35.8 *	27.9	44.7	17.3	14.9	20.0	58.5	55.0	61.9	24.2	21.3	27.4
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	16.4	12.0	22.0	54.6	48.1	61.0	29.0	23.3	35.4
Followed you or hung around outside your home or work[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	15.5	8.9	25.6	62.0	50.8	72.1	22.5	15.1	32.2
Kept you from seeing or talking to your family or friends[3]	F	F	F	40.5 [E]	27.4	55.1	54.2 [E*]	39.6	68.1	17.4	11.7	25.2	48.8	40.0	57.6	33.8	25.8	42.9
Harassed you by phone, text, email, or using social media[3]	14.6 [E]	8.3	24.4	45.3 [E*]	33.9	57.2	40.1 [E]	29.2	52.1	8.1	5.2	12.2	59.7	53.4	65.6	32.3	26.7	38.4
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	41.3	30.9	52.4	52.2	41.5	62.8
Damaged or destroyed your possessions or property	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	40.5	33.1	48.5	51.2	43.5	58.8	8.2	4.9	13.5
Made comments about your sexual past or your sexual performance that made you feel ashamed, inadequate, or humiliated	16.2 *	10.3	24.7	57.6	47.6	67.0	26.2 *	18.3	36.0	27.0	22.5	32.1	57.9	52.4	63.3	15.1	11.5	19.4
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]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	26.5 [E]	14.7	43.0	58.1 [E]	41.4	73.1	F	F	F
Blamed you for causing their abusive or violent behaviour[4]	12.3 [E]	6.8	21.4	42.3 [E*]	31.1	54.4	45.4 [E*]	33.4	57.9	17.3	13.9	21.4	61.2	56.2	65.9	21.5	17.7	25.8
Total[5]	**10.5 ***	**7.1**	**15.1**	**51.5**	**45.3**	**57.6**	**38.1 ***	**32.5**	**44.0**	**15.0**	**13.2**	**16.9**	**58.0**	**55.5**	**60.4**	**27.1**	**24.9**	**29.3**

See notes at the end of the table.

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

	Women+ aged 15 to 24 years who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months[1]									Women+ aged 25 years and older who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months[1] [†]								
	Once[2]			A few times[2]			Monthly or more[2]			Once[2]			A few times[2]			Monthly or more[2]		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Type of intimate partner violence	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Physical abuse																		
Shook, pushed, grabbed, or threw you[3]	33.0 [E]	20.1	49.2	45.4 [E]	30.6	61.1	21.5 [E]	11.4	36.8	47.3	39.0	55.8	37.9	30.0	46.5	14.8	9.7	22.0
Hit you with a fist or object, kicked or bit you[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	45.3 [E]	33.4	57.7	31.6 [E]	21.4	43.9	23.2 [E]	14.4	35.1
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	32.2 [E]	20.7	46.3	48.6 [E]	35.2	62.2	19.2 [E]	10.5	32.4
Choked you[3]	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	43.7 [E]	29.8	58.8	33.6 [E]	21.3	48.6	22.7 [E]	12.5	37.6
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	42.1	32.0	52.9	41.8	31.8	52.6	16.1	9.7	25.7
Thrown anything at you that could have hurt you	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	49.5	39.8	59.2	43.1	34.0	52.8	F	F	F
Slapped you	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	48.4 [E]	35.8	61.2	29.0 [E]	18.8	41.8	22.6 [E]	13.1	36.0
Beaten you	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	40.0 [E]	25.9	56.0	35.0 [E]	21.5	51.5	24.9 [E]	13.1	42.4
Total[5]	**29.5 [E]***	**19.8**	**41.7**	**42.4 [E]**	**31.1**	**54.7**	**28.0 [E]***	**18.4**	**40.2**	**50.4**	**44.4**	**56.5**	**37.4**	**31.6**	**43.5**	**12.2**	**8.7**	**16.8**
Sexual abuse																		
Made you perform sex acts that you did not want to perform[3]	27.4 [E]	18.1	39.3	50.4 [E]	38.5	62.3	22.2 [E]	14.0	33.3	28.6	20.9	37.7	55.6	46.5	64.3	15.9	10.5	23.3
Forced or tried to force you to have sex[3]	34.5 [E]	23.0	48.1	45.3 [E]	32.5	58.9	20.2 [E]	11.3	33.5	28.4	20.7	37.6	54.8	45.5	63.7	16.8	11.0	24.8
Total[5]	**26.9**	**18.0**	**38.1**	**52.5**	**41.2**	**63.6**	**20.6**	**13.1**	**30.8**	**28.6**	**22.1**	**36.1**	**57.1**	**49.6**	**64.3**	**14.3**	**9.8**	**20.3**
Total intimate partner violence[5]	**11.5 ***	**8.1**	**16.0**	**51.5**	**45.6**	**57.5**	**37.0 ***	**31.5**	**42.8**	**16.0**	**14.3**	**18.0**	**57.3**	**54.8**	**59.7**	**26.7**	**24.6**	**28.9**

See notes at the end of the table.

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

	Women+ aged 15 to 24 years who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months[1]									Women+ aged 25 years and older who were victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months[1] †								
	Once[2]			A few times[2]			Monthly or more[2]			Once[2]			A few times[2]			Monthly or more[2]		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Type of intimate partner violence	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to

[E] use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

† reference category

1. Percent calculations exclude respondents 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. See Table 2 for the overall prevalence of each behaviour.

2. 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.

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: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. 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
Selected impacts, consequences, and outcomes of intimate partner violence among women in the past 12 months, by age group, Canada, 2025

	Women+ aged 15 to 24 years			Women+ aged 25 years and older†		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected impact, consequence, or outcome[1]	percent[1]	from	to	percent[1]	from	to
Respondent was physically injured[2]						
Yes	20.1	13.6	28.7	17.1	13.6	21.2
No	78.4	69.7	85.1	80.1	75.7	83.8
Any abuse or violence occurred while partner was drinking						
Yes	24.0	19.2	29.5	26.7	24.5	29.0
No	75.0	69.4	79.8	71.0	68.6	73.2
Respondent had to leave shared home or accommodation due to violence						
Yes	6.2 *	4.0	9.6	18.2	16.4	20.2
No	49.1 *	43.4	54.9	69.1	66.7	71.4
Did not have a shared home or accommodation	43.3 *	37.6	49.2	10.5	9.0	12.2
Behaviour was reported to police						
Yes	7.3	4.7	11.2	9.5	8.2	11.1
No	91.7	87.6	94.5	88.2	86.5	89.8
Behaviour was reported to police (among those who experienced physical or sexual IPV)[3]						
Yes	15.2	9.4	23.6	17.4	13.9	21.6
No	83.7	75.2	89.7	79.5	75.0	83.3
Respondent talked to someone about the violence						
Yes	72.2 *	66.3	77.3	64.1	61.7	66.4
No	27.1 *	22.0	32.9	33.3	31.1	35.7
Contacted or used victims' services						
Yes	13.1	9.5	17.8	13.2	11.6	15.1
No	86.2	81.5	89.9	84.4	82.3	86.2
Negative emotional impacts as a result of the violence						
Yes	58.1 *	52.3	63.7	47.3	44.9	49.7
No	41.2 *	35.7	47.0	50.1	47.7	52.5
Symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder						
Yes	21.1	16.8	26.1	18.0	16.1	20.0
No	78.3	73.2	82.6	79.4	77.3	81.3
Symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder (among those who experienced physical or sexual IPV)[3]						
Yes	31.5	23.9	40.2	30.9	26.4	35.7
No	67.5	58.8	75.1	65.5	60.5	70.3

* 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, 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 2.

3. While all respondents who experienced IPV were asked this question, this represents the subset of those who experienced a physical or sexual form of intimate partner violence.

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. 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 among women since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by age group and selected characteristics of victim, Canada, 2025

	Intimate partner violence since age 15[1]						Intimate partner violence in past 12 months[2]					
	Women+ aged 15 to 24 years			Women+ aged 25 years and older†			Women+ aged 15 to 24 years			Women+ aged 25 years and older†		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Indigenous identity												
Indigenous person	70.8 *	62.5	77.9	63.9 *	60.9	66.8	40.3 **	31.2	50.1	16.2 *	13.7	19.1
First Nations	69.2 E	56.3	79.7	67.0 *	62.3	71.3	41.3 E**	27.7	56.5	16.6 *	12.6	21.6
Métis	72.4 E*	59.7	82.2	62.2 *	57.7	66.5	40.6 E**	27.1	55.6	14.8	11.5	18.9
Inuit	66.9 E	48.5	81.4	62.9 *	55.0	70.2	F	F	F	24.8 *	17.1	34.6
Non-Indigenous person†	57.7 **	54.7	60.6	43.1	42.4	43.9	36.8 **	33.1	40.7	11.8	11.2	12.4
Racialized population group[3]												
Yes	50.4 ***	43.5	57.2	27.6 *	26.0	29.2	37.3 **	28.5	47.0	8.6 *	7.5	9.8
No†	60.4 **	57.1	63.6	47.7	46.9	48.5	36.9 **	32.9	41.2	12.8	12.2	13.5
Immigrant status[4]												
Immigrant	49.9 ***	41.8	58.0	29.6 *	28.3	30.9	34.5 **	24.5	46.0	8.7 *	7.7	9.7
Non-immigrant†	60.2 **	57.3	63.1	50.0	49.1	50.8	37.5 **	33.9	41.3	13.4	12.7	14.1
Sexual orientation												
Heterosexual†	53.3 **	49.8	56.7	42.7	41.9	43.4	33.6 **	29.5	37.9	11.6	11.1	12.2
LGB+[5]	69.7 *	64.9	74.1	69.2 *	66.3	71.9	42.5 ***	36.7	48.5	20.0 *	17.4	22.9
Lesbian or gay	67.6 E*	55.8	77.4	56.8 *	51.1	62.3	44.2 E**	29.9	59.5	11.1	7.9	15.3
Bisexual	70.2 *	64.6	75.3	74.3 *	70.8	77.6	41.7 ***	35.0	48.8	24.4 *	20.9	28.3
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	68.9 E*	53.5	81.0	68.7 *	59.7	76.5	F	F	F	14.1	8.2	23.2
Identifies as a person with a disability												
Yes	67.0 ***	60.7	72.6	59.7 *	57.9	61.4	40.1 **	32.9	47.8	18.3 *	16.6	20.0
No†	56.7 **	53.5	59.8	41.3	40.5	42.0	36.2 **	32.4	40.3	11.1	10.5	11.7
Employed in past 12 months												
Yes	58.4 **	55.4	61.3	49.4 *	48.5	50.4	35.6 **	32.0	39.4	13.6 *	12.9	14.4
No†	58.8 **	52.0	65.4	34.1	33.1	35.2	41.7 **	33.0	50.9	8.3	7.6	9.2
Highest level of education completed												
Less than high school†	59.9 **	54.0	65.5	31.9	29.6	34.4	43.4 **	36.2	50.9	9.2	7.3	11.6
High school or equivalent	61.7 **	57.7	65.5	38.1 *	36.6	39.7	40.8 **	35.8	45.9	8.9	7.8	10.0
College or trade school	57.1 **	50.2	63.7	47.3 *	46.0	48.5	31.4 ***	23.7	40.2	12.8 *	11.7	13.9
University	50.7 *	43.8	57.5	46.2 *	45.0	47.4	24.0 ***	17.0	32.8	13.1 *	12.3	14.0
Marital status												
Married or common-law†	55.7 **	47.8	63.2	37.3	36.4	38.1	15.6 **	10.7	22.4	9.8	9.3	10.3
Separated, divorced, or widowed	F	F	F	50.3 *	48.8	51.7	F	F	F	21.2 *	18.9	23.8
Single, never married	58.9 **	55.9	61.8	65.5 *	63.4	67.5	42.1 ***	38.2	46.2	27.4 *	24.5	30.6

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5
Intimate partner violence among women since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by age group and selected characteristics of victim, Canada, 2025

	Intimate partner violence since age 15[1]						Intimate partner violence in past 12 months[2]					
	Women+ aged 15 to 24 years			Women+ aged 25 years and older†			Women+ aged 15 to 24 years			Women+ aged 25 years and older†		
		95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Selected characteristic	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Area of residence												
Rural area of the provinces	61.9 **	55.5	67.9	44.6	43.0	46.3	32.1 **	24.7	40.5	11.8	10.6	13.2
Territories	65.1 E	44.8	81.1	51.8 *	47.6	56.0	F	F	F	10.8	8.1	14.2
Urban area of the provinces†	57.7 **	54.6	60.8	43.7	42.9	44.4	37.8 **	33.9	41.8	12.1	11.5	12.7

E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

** significantly different from estimate for women+ aged 25 years and older ($p < 0.05$)

*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$) and from estimate for women+ aged 25 years and older ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

1. Percent calculations exclude respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Percent calculations exclude respondents 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.

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

4. 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).

5. This category includes persons whose reported sexual orientation is lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, or another sexual orientation that is not heterosexual.

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