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Gender differences in experiences of violence and unwanted sexual behaviour in Canada, 2025

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Gender differences in experiences of violence and unwanted sexual behaviour in Canada, 2025: Highlights

- Examining gender differences in experiences of violence show that certain forms of violence disproportionately impact women and girls. In 2025, women were more likely than men to have been victims of intimate partner violence, to have been sexually assaulted, and to have experienced unwanted behaviours in a public place. In contrast, men were more likely to have been physically assaulted by someone other than an intimate partner.
- Nearly 15 million people living in Canada, or 44% of the population 15 years of age and older, have been physically or sexually assaulted since the age of 15. Women were more likely than men to have ever been sexually assaulted, regardless of the relationship to the perpetrator, and more likely to have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner. The lifetime prevalence of non-intimate partner physical assault was higher among men than women.
- In 2025, approximately 2 million people were physically or sexually assaulted in the past 12 months, representing 5.8% of the population. This was similar to 2018 (6.2%).
- The prevalence of sexual assault, physical assault, and unwanted behaviours in public in the 12 months preceding the survey was consistently higher among certain groups of the population: youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years, Indigenous people, those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or another sexual orientation that is not heterosexual, those who are gender-diverse, and people with a disability.
- Among women who were physically or sexually assaulted and men who were sexually assaulted, the perpetrator was typically someone known to the victim. In contrast, about half (52%) of men who were physically assaulted said that a stranger was the perpetrator, and strangers were most often responsible for unwanted behaviours in public regardless of gender.
- Sexual assault continues to be underreported to police, relative to other types of crime; 8.6% of victims of sexual assault said the most serious incident they experienced was reported to police, compared with 28% of victims of physical assault. Despite the low rate of reporting sexual assault to police, this did mark an increase compared with 2018.
- In 2025, similar proportions of women (8.7%) and men (8.4%) who were sexually assaulted reported the most serious incident to police. Compared with 2018, the proportion of both women and men who did not report their sexual assault declined.
- Among those who reported their sexual assault to police, about seven in ten felt that they were informed about available services and resources, treated with respect, and were believed. However, about half also felt that speaking with police was not worth the time and effort, compared with 35% of those who reported a physical assault to police who felt this way.
- Three in ten women who were physically (32%) or sexually (29%) assaulted reported symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder, compared with 16% of men who were physically assaulted and 24% who were sexually assaulted.
- Experiences of physical assault, sexual assault, and unwanted behaviours in public were associated with poorer self-rated mental health, lower levels of life satisfaction, and a higher prevalence of cognitive and mental health-related conditions.

Gender differences in experiences of violence and unwanted sexual behaviour in Canada, 2025

by Adam Cotter and Marta Burczycka

Gender-based violence includes a wide range of behaviours, from non-criminal acts such as unwelcome comments or gestures, to criminal behaviours such as sexual assault or homicide. While not all forms of gender-based violence meet the criminal threshold, they all generally refer to acts committed against someone based on their actual or perceived gender, gender identity, or gender expression (Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2025). Regardless of the specific form of violence, these behaviours can result in a broad range of negative impacts for those who experience them.

Measuring gender-based violence is complex, as victims and perpetrators may not perceive or recognize the social or systemic factors related to gender and inequality that, broadly, contribute to gender-based violence. In other words, asking an individual directly if they have experienced gender-based violence may not yield accurate results. Instead, focusing on specific and detailed behaviours and acts of violence and then examining the broader contexts around these experiences can reveal differences in the ways in which women and men experience violence, in terms of the context, type, and consequences. Furthermore, there are differences among women and men based on the intersection of other demographic and socioeconomic characteristics.

Many forms of gender-based violence impact women and girls disproportionately. In many cases, other characteristics, such as Indigenous identity, disability, or sexual orientation, intersect with gender to impact not only the likelihood of experiencing violence, but also other factors such as levels of reporting to police or the availability of appropriate support services. These experiences can have significant short, medium, and long-term consequences on the physical and mental health and well-being of those who are victims.¹

Gender-based violence has a far-reaching impact on society, even beyond the immediate and potentially traumatic impact on those who directly experience it. Gender-based violence has been associated with numerous negative consequences at the societal level, including the generational impact that exposure to violence and trauma can have on future victimization and perpetration of violence, an increased demand on social service, healthcare and justice systems, and the economic impacts of lost productivity (e.g., Hoddenbagh et al., 2014; Lachapelle & Savard, 2025; United Nations, 2020; Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2025; Zhang et al., 2012).

In 2025,² the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) was conducted for the second time, following its initial cycle in 2018. The SSPPS measures a wide range of criminal and non-criminal behaviours in public, online, in the workplace, at school, and within intimate partner relationships. The survey thus provides a broad overview of the types of gender-based violence faced by individuals living in Canada.

This analysis focuses on overall patterns of violence in the 12 months preceding the 2025 SSPPS, with particular attention to the relationship between gender³ and the type, nature, severity, and prevalence of violence.⁴ Results are based on responses received from more than 48,500 people 15 years of age and older living in Canada, weighted so as to be representative of the total population. This information can be used to better understand gender differences and focus resources on addressing particular forms of violence, particular populations at risk of violence, or particular concerns or needs that may disproportionately impact women or men who have been victims of violence.

This analysis serves as a general overview of experiences of physical and sexual violence and unwanted behaviours in Canada, presenting key findings and highlighting changes since 2018. Moving forward, these data can be further used—on their own and in combination with complementary sources such as police-reported data—to examine more specific populations, types of violence, or research questions in greater depth and detail.

This *Juristat* article, along with the development and collection of the SSPPS, was funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada as part of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2022).

Text box 1:**Measuring violent victimization in the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces**

Two offence types with particularly distinct gendered patterns—sexual assault and physical assault—are the main focus of this analysis. In the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), questions about these two types of assault are asked separately, and have somewhat different definitions, when they refer to intimate partner violence versus violence committed by someone other than an intimate partner. For the purposes of this report, both intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence are included and are sometimes combined to examine overall levels of physical and sexual assault. However, intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence differ in several important ways (see Text box 2).

This analysis largely focuses on measuring experiences of violence through prevalence; that is, the proportion of people who have experienced physical or sexual assault in the past 12 months and since the age of 15. Prevalence is an important measure, providing information on the total scope of the population impacted by violence, but it does not take into consideration other factors such as frequency or severity.

In the SSPPS, physical assault includes:

- Being shaken, pushed, grabbed, thrown, hit, bit, kicked, slapped, beaten, choked, threatened with harm or death, having a weapon used or threatened to use against them, or having an object thrown at them, by an intimate partner (a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other type of intimate partner).
- Being threatened, hit, slapped, pushed, grabbed, shot, beaten, or threatened with an attack or a weapon, by anyone other than an intimate partner (e.g., family member, acquaintance, stranger).

Sexual assault includes:

- Being forced (or attempted) into having sex, or being made to perform sex acts that the victim did not want to perform, by an intimate partner (a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other type of intimate partner).
- Being subjected to unwanted touching, grabbing, kissing, or fondling, being forced (or attempted) into unwanted sexual activity by physical threat, or any other sexual activity where the victim was unable to consent due to being drugged, intoxicated, manipulated, or forced other than physically, by anyone other than an intimate partner (e.g., family member, acquaintance, stranger).

The questions and definitions used in the SSPPS broadly align with the definitions of physical and sexual assault in the *Criminal Code* and with those used in other victimization surveys in Canada.

Intimate partner violence, and gender-based violence more broadly, go beyond physical and sexual assault, and some of these other forms of violence are also measured by the SSPPS. For instance, intimate partner violence can also include forms of abuse that are psychological, emotional, or economic in nature, and may or may not rise to the current criminal threshold.⁵ These forms of intimate partner violence will be examined in greater detail in future *Juristat* articles (for a brief overview, see Text box 2).

As with intimate partner violence, gender-based violence is a continuum of behaviours, ranging from unwanted behaviours that may not be criminal in nature, to forms of criminal violence such as sexual assault and homicide. The SSPPS captures information on certain forms of non-criminal gender-based violence (see section Experiences of unwanted behaviours in public).

Overall prevalence of physical and sexual assault similar to 2018

In 2025, approximately 2 million people living in Canada, or 5.8% of the population 15 years of age and older, were victims of physical or sexual assault in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 1).⁶ This was similar to 2018, when 6.2% of the population indicated that they had been physically or sexually assaulted in the previous 12 months.⁷

Overall, the prevalence of sexual assault declined (from 2.5% to 2.2%), while there was no significant difference for physical assault (4.6% in 2018 and 4.5% in 2025).

Sexual assault more prevalent among women than men, while the reverse is true for physical assault

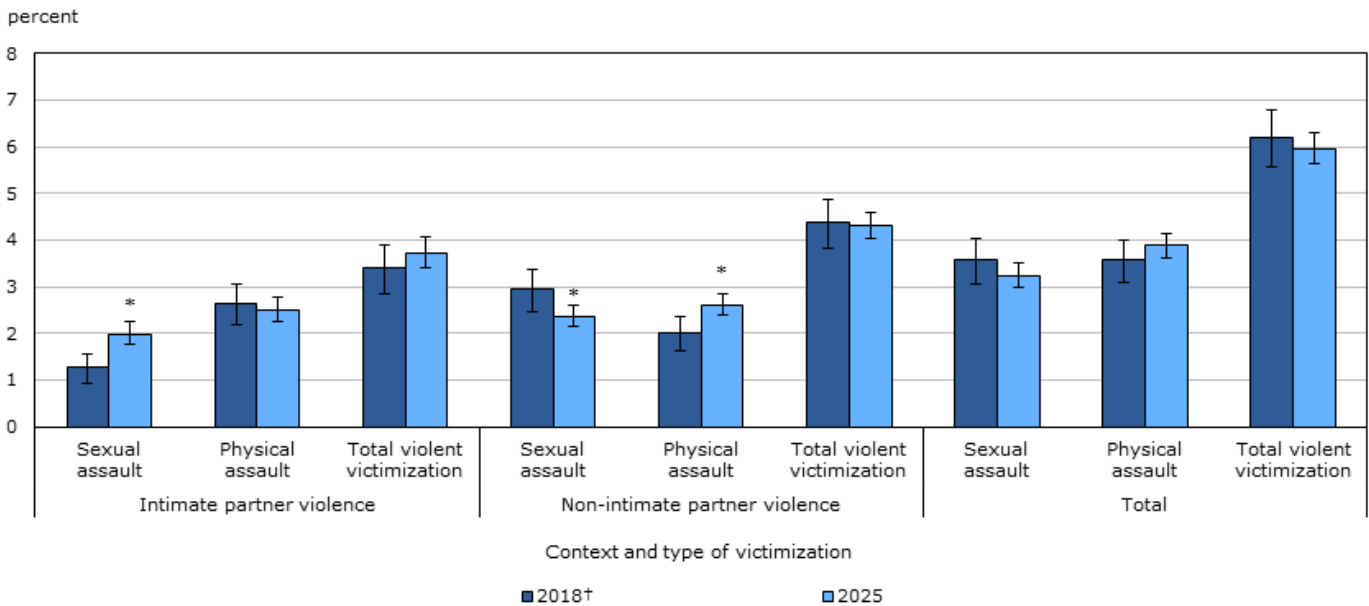
There are important gender differences in the types and contexts of violence that are experienced. Mirroring the overall pattern found in 2018 (Cotter & Savage, 2019), as well as in numerous other studies based on self-reported (Conroy & Cotter, 2017; Cotter, 2021a) and police-reported data (Cotter, 2024), women (3.2%) were more likely than men (1.1%) to be victims of sexual assault. In contrast, physical assault was more prevalent among men (5.1%) than women (3.9%) (Table 1).

More specifically, physical assault was more prevalent among men when it occurred outside of intimate relationships (3.7% versus 2.6% among women), including both threats and physical attacks. However, the past 12-month prevalence of intimate partner physical assault was similar between men (2.5%) and women (2.5%). When examining the specific behaviours measured, men were more likely to be slapped (1.4%) or hit, kicked, grabbed, or bit (1.3%) by an intimate partner when compared with women (0.6% each). A higher proportion of women, in contrast, were shaken, pushed, grabbed or thrown (1.3% versus 1.0% of men), threatened with a weapon (0.5% versus 0.3%), or choked (0.6% versus 0.2%) by an intimate partner.⁸

For women, intimate partner sexual assault has increased, while non-intimate partner sexual assault declined

The overall prevalence of sexual assault among women was unchanged from 2018 to 2025 (3.6% to 3.2%, a difference not found to be statistically significant). However, during that time, intimate partner sexual assault and non-intimate partner sexual assault have trended in opposite directions (Chart 1). In 2025, 2.0% of women indicated that they had been sexually assaulted by an intimate partner in the past 12 months, up from 1.3% in 2018. At the same time, the proportion of women sexually assaulted by someone other than an intimate partner declined, from 2.9% in 2018 to 2.4% in 2025.

Chart 1
Women's experiences of physical and sexual assault in the past 12 months, by context of victimization, 2018 and 2025



* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

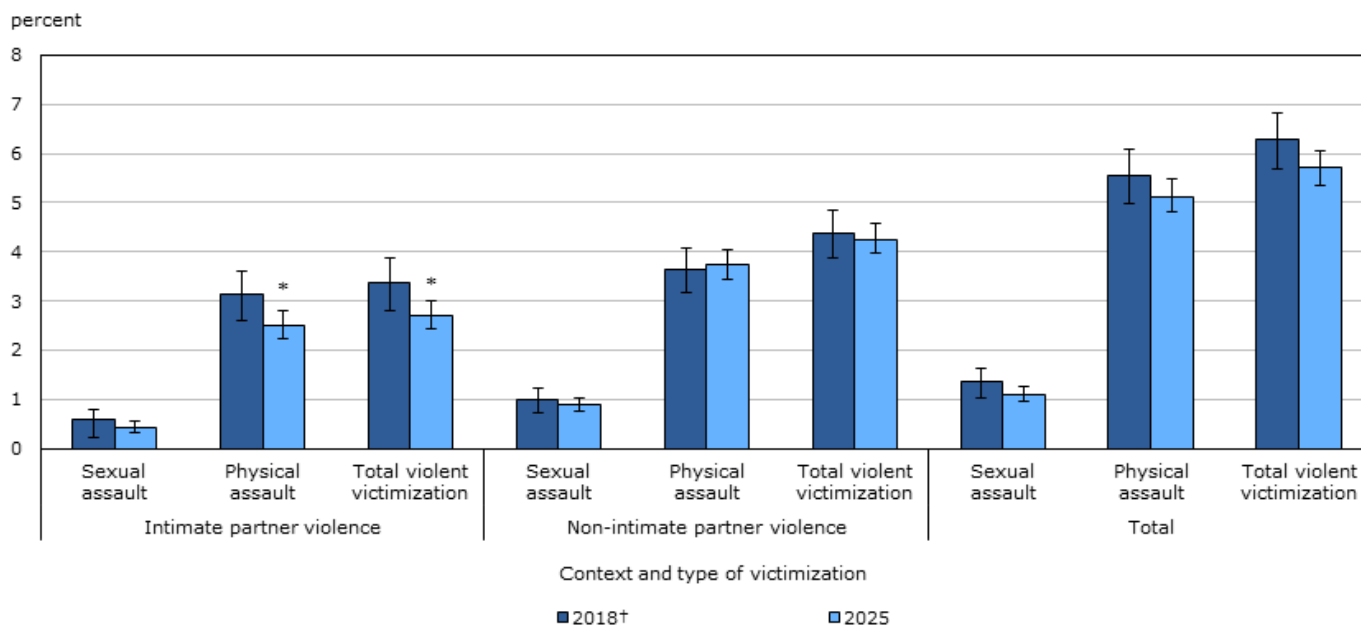
Note: Includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. Percent calculations for intimate partner violence exclude respondents who have never been in an intimate partner relationship, as well as those who did not have any contact with a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months.

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

When it came to physical assault, the proportion of women physically assaulted by a non-intimate partner increased from 2.0% to 2.6%, relative to 2018.

For men, similarly, the overall prevalence of physical and sexual assault was not statistically different in 2025 when compared to 2018. However, the proportion of men who were physically assaulted by an intimate partner declined, from 3.1% in 2018 to 2.5% in 2025 (Chart 2).

Chart 2
Men's experiences of physical and sexual assault in the past 12 months, by context of victimization, 2018 and 2025



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

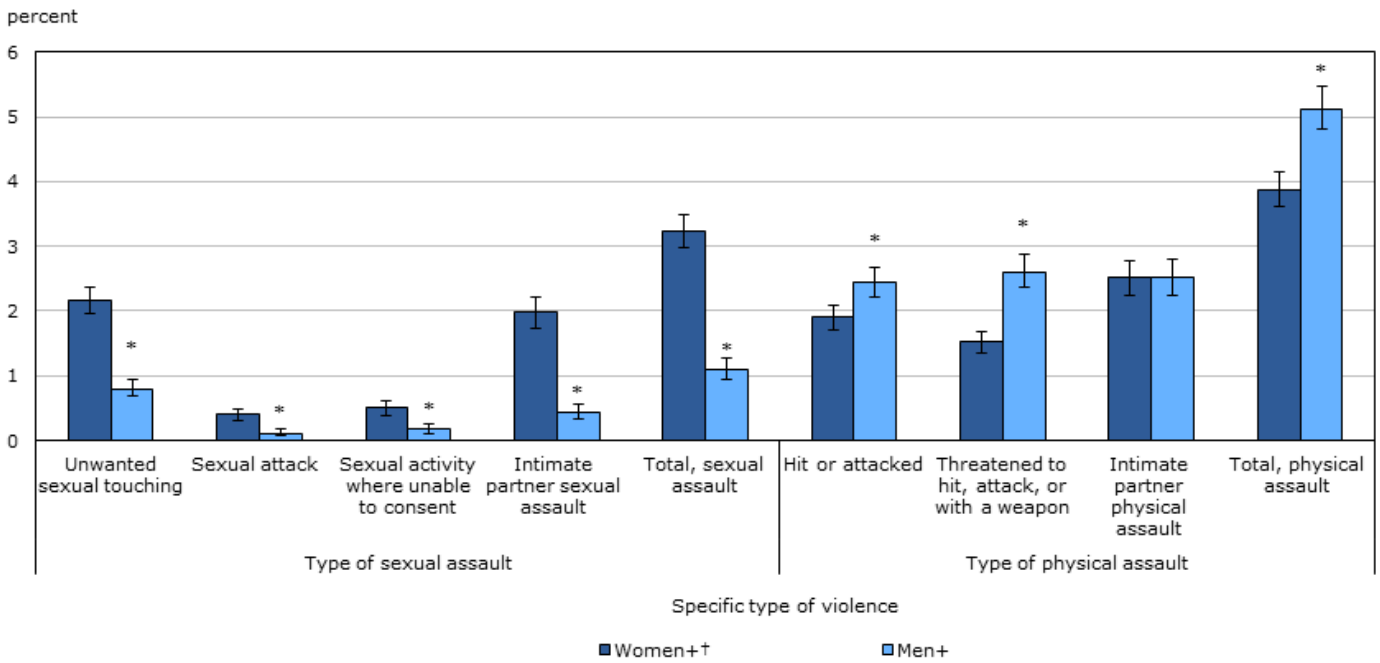
† reference category

Note: Includes men, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. Percent calculations for intimate partner violence exclude respondents who 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.

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

Altogether, in 2025, women were more likely to be victims of sexual assault than men, both in the context of intimate partner violence (2.0 % versus 0.4%) and when the incident was not committed by an intimate partner (2.4% versus 0.9%) (Table 1). The gender gap was seen for sexual assault overall and for each specific type of sexual assault measured by the survey (Chart 3).

Chart 3
Physical and sexual assault in the past 12 months, by gender and specific type of victimization, 2025



* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

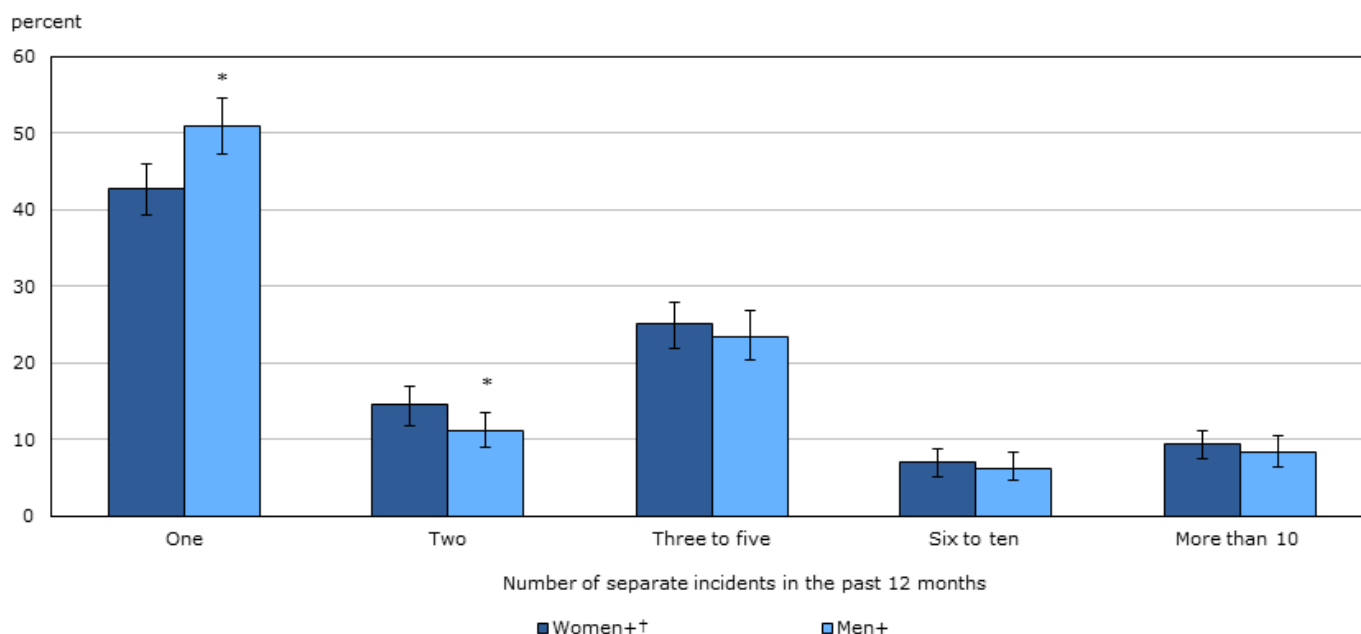
Note: See text box 1 for more detailed descriptions of each category of violence. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender. Percent calculations for intimate partner violence exclude respondents who 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.

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

Nearly one in ten victims of physical or sexual assault experienced ten or more separate incidents

As noted, prevalence does not account for other important factors such as frequency or severity.⁹ Many victims of violence experience repeated or multiple instances of violence, which can exacerbate the impacts and consequences of victimization. In 2025, about six in ten (56%) women who were physically or sexually assaulted by a non-intimate partner¹⁰ said that it happened on more than one occasion in the previous 12 months, compared with just under half (49%) of men (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Number of incidents of physical or sexual assault in the past 12 months, by gender, 2025



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

Note: Includes all respondents who were victims of physical or sexual assault in the 12 months preceding the survey. Excludes intimate partner violence, which was collected separately and used a different measure of frequency. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

The gender difference was seen in the proportion of victims who experienced one or two incidents, as there were no significant differences in the proportion of victims who experienced three or more separate incidents in the 12 months preceding the survey. Overall, among those who were victims of physical or sexual assault in 2025, 8.9% said that they experienced this violence on more than ten separate occasions.

Notably, while the overall prevalence of violent victimization was similar, the proportion of victims who reported more than 10 separate incidents was higher in 2025 (8.9%) than in 2018 (5.7%).

Text box 2

Intimate partner violence

One form of gender-based violence is intimate partner violence—that is, violence or abuse committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or other intimate partner. In the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), intimate partner violence (IPV) is measured by asking respondents a series of 27 questions covering a broad range of abusive and violent behaviours.¹¹

In 2025, 3.2% of the population 15 years of age and older were victims of a physical or sexual assault perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner during the previous 12 months, unchanged from 2018 (3.1%). Women (3.7%) were more likely than men (2.7%) to have been victims of this type of IPV (Table 1). The gender difference was the result of a higher prevalence of intimate partner sexual assault among women (2.0%) compared with men (0.4%), as the proportions of those who experienced physical violence were similar (2.5% of women and 2.5% of men).

However, physical and sexual assault does not encompass all forms of IPV. The SSPPS also measures a broad range of other behaviours that are considered IPV but do not involve physical or sexual assault. This includes behaviours such as jealousy, name-calling and other put-downs, coercive or controlling behaviours, stalking or harassing behaviours, manipulation, confinement, or property damage.

In 2025, 13% of women experienced some form of emotional, psychological, or economic abuse on at least one occasion in the previous year, a slightly higher proportion than was seen among men (12%) (Table 2). Emotional, psychological, or financial abuse was more common than physical or sexual violence.

As with violence in general, not all populations experience IPV at the same rate. In addition to gender differences, the proportion of those who were victims of any form of IPV was higher among those who were younger. More than one-third of women (37%) and men (34%) who were 15 to 24 years of age experienced IPV in the past 12 months. In line with what was found for victimization more generally, a higher proportion of Indigenous people (20% of women and 17% of men¹²), those who self-identified as having a disability (20% of women and 16% of men), and those who are LGB+ (26% of women and 22% of men)¹³ experienced IPV in the past 12 months, while proportions were lower among racialized women (10%)¹⁴ and those born outside of Canada (9.5% of women and 10% of men).¹⁵

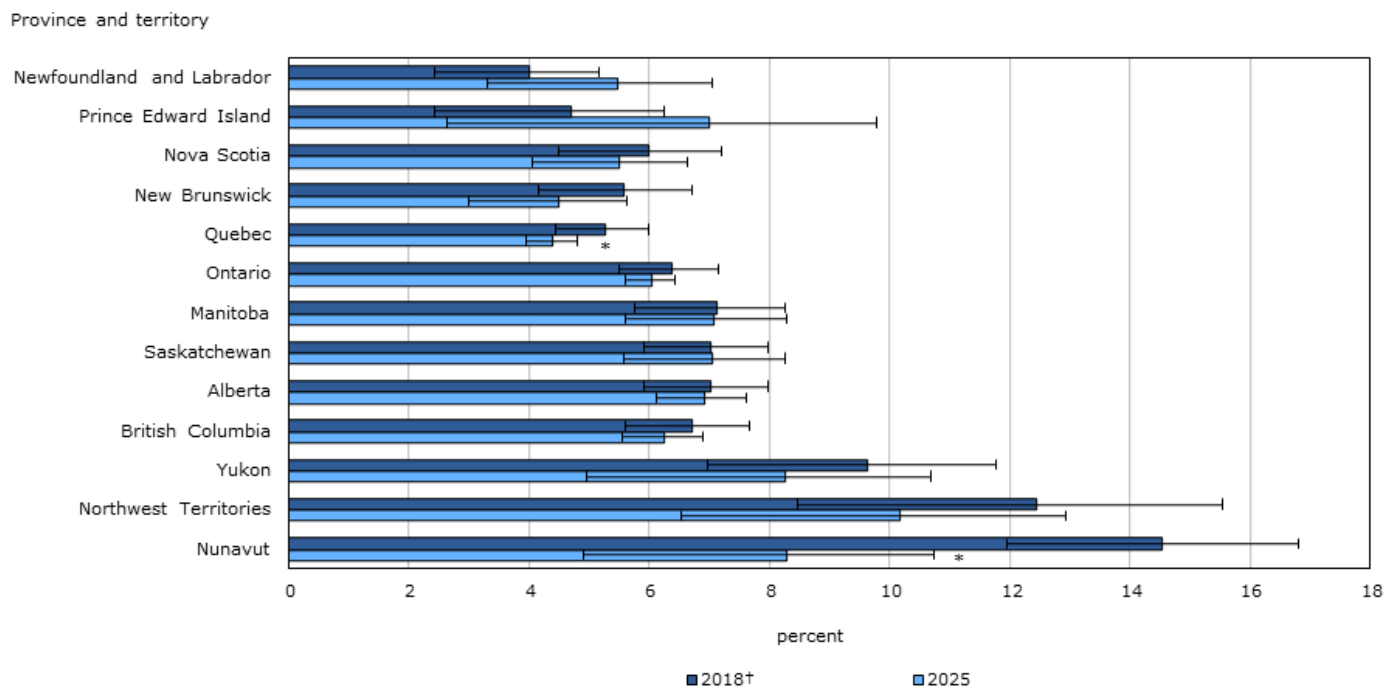
Overall, when considering all forms of IPV—emotional, financial, physical, and sexual—four in ten (40%) people in Canada have experienced at least one abusive or violent behaviour by an intimate partner since the age of 15 (Table 2). Women (45%) were more likely than men (35%) to have been victims.

More in-depth analysis of intimate partner violence is planned for future *Juristat* articles dedicated to this topic.

Prevalence of physical and sexual assault in most provinces similar to 2018

In line with the overall general stability in the prevalence of violent victimization between 2018 and 2025, there were few statistically significant changes among the provinces and territories over this time (Chart 5). Among the provinces, only Quebec saw a notable change (declining from 5.3% in 2018 to 4.4% in 2025).

Chart 5
Physical and sexual assault in the past 12 months, by province and territory, 2018 and 2025



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

† reference category

Note: Includes intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence. Differences between provinces and territories may not be statistically significant. See Table 3 for more information.

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

Among the territories, the prevalence of physical and sexual assault declined in Nunavut, from 15% in 2018 to 8.2% in 2025. In Yukon and the Northwest Territories, there was no statistically significant change.

In 2025, the overall prevalence of physical and sexual assault was higher than the rest of the country in the Northwest Territories (10%) and Alberta (6.9%) (Table 3). Quebec (4.4%) and New Brunswick (4.5%), in contrast, were the only provinces where the prevalence of victimization was lower than the national average. The higher prevalence in Alberta was primarily due to higher levels of victimization among men, particularly physical assault. In the Northwest Territories, significant differences relative to the rest of the country were seen in the prevalence of victimization among women, particularly physical assault. In Quebec, the lower prevalence was observed for both women and men, and for both physical and sexual assault. In New Brunswick, it was driven by a lower prevalence of sexual assault.

There were also some differences in terms of area of residence; that is, living in an urban or rural area.¹⁶ In 2025, those living in an urban area of the provinces were victims of sexual assault (2.2%) more commonly than those living in rural areas (1.8%).¹⁷ In contrast, there was no significant difference in overall physical assault between urban (4.5%) and rural (4.2%) residents.¹⁸ However, physical assault by a non-intimate partner was more prevalent among those living in an urban area (3.2%) than those in a rural area (2.8%), while there was no significant difference in intimate partner physical assault (2.5% of urban and 2.5% of rural residents).

Beyond prevalence, victimization in urban versus rural areas can differ in important ways; for instance, the impact of victimization may be heightened among rural residents, who may face additional challenges such as distance from or availability of services in more remote or less populated areas (Hale & Harkness, 2023; Letourneau et al., 2023).

Prevalence of sexual assault higher among youth and young adults—particularly women and girls

The prevalence of physical and sexual assault can also vary considerably among women and men, depending on other demographic and socio-economic characteristics. For instance, decades of research and data in Canada have found that age is one of the most significant factors associated with victimization; youth and young adults are more likely to be victims of violent crime than those in older age groups (Cotter, 2021a; Cotter & Savage, 2019; Perreault, 2015). This continued to be the case according to the 2025 SSPPS. Of the approximately 745,000 victims of sexual assault 15 years of age and older in 2025, more than four in ten (43%) were between the ages of 15 and 24.

This pattern was particularly apparent among women and girls. One in ten (10%) of those aged 15 to 24 years were sexually assaulted in the 12 months preceding the survey, more than double the proportion of women aged 25 to 34 (4.6%), and at least four times higher than any other age group of women or men (Table 4). This is consistent with the 2018 SSPPS, which found that the prevalence of sexual assault was also highest among women and girls aged 15 to 24 (13%).¹⁹ Not only that, age remained significantly associated with the likelihood of being a victim of sexual assault, even when other factors were held constant (Model 1).

Among men, the youngest age group, those aged 15 to 24, also recorded a higher prevalence (2.9%) of sexual assault in the past 12 months than any other age group. Unlike what was seen for women, however, age group did not remain a significantly associated factor for men when controlling for other characteristics, with a consistent decline not seen until age 45 and older (Model 1).²⁰

Prevalence of sexual assault higher among Indigenous women and men

First Nations people, Métis, and Inuit—particularly women—face higher levels of many types of violence than non-Indigenous people (Burczycka & Cotter, 2023; Heidinger, 2022; National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019; Perreault, 2022; Sutton, 2023). Numerous inquiries, studies, and commissions in Canada have identified the historical and ongoing processes of colonization and its related policies, such as the Indian Act, sixties scoop, and residential schools, as the root cause of many social inequalities encountered by Indigenous people, including but not limited to victimization and gender-based violence (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019; Truth and Reconciliation Commission, 2015).

This disparity remains evident when it comes to sexual assault, for both women and men. In 2025, 5.7% of Indigenous women were sexually assaulted in the 12 months preceding the survey, almost double the prevalence among non-Indigenous women (3.1%) (Table 4). Likewise, 2.7% of Indigenous men were victims of sexual assault, a proportion that was three times higher than non-Indigenous men (1.0%).

More specifically, in 2025, 6.9% of First Nations women were sexually assaulted, a proportion that was more than double that of non-Indigenous women (3.1%) and First Nations men (3.2%). Among Métis women (4.7%) and Inuit women (5.9%), the difference in prevalence was not statistically different from that for non-Indigenous women.

No significant difference in prevalence of sexual assault among racialized population groups

The past 12-month prevalence of sexual assault was similar between racialized women (2.7%) and non-racialized, non-Indigenous women (3.2%) (Table 4).²¹ Likewise, among men, there was no difference between racialized (1.0%) and non-racialized populations.

More specifically, the proportion of South Asian (2.8%), Chinese (2.2%), Black (3.1%), and Filipino (2.5%) women who were victims of sexual assault was not statistically different from the non-racialized, non-Indigenous population.²²

Sexual assault higher among those born in Canada, but not when controlling for other factors

In 2025, the prevalence of sexual assault was higher among Canadian-born women (3.6%) than among those born outside of Canada (2.1%), an association that remained significant when controlling for other demographic characteristics (Table 4; Model 1). In contrast, there was no significant difference among men (1.2% and 0.9%, respectively).

The finding of lower victimization rates among the immigrant population is consistent with previous results (Cotter, 2021a; Cotter & Savage, 2019; Ibrahim, 2018). Some research suggests that immigrants may be less likely to disclose victimization for a number of reasons, including language barriers, fear of negative impact on their residence or immigration status, or cultural norms deeming these experiences private (Okeke-Ihejirika et al., 2018; Sisic et al., 2024). On the other hand, other research has found that many indicators (e.g., better health outcomes, lower victimization rates) tend to be more positive among immigrants, before shifting to align closer to the non-immigrant population over time (Xie & Baumer, 2021; Sabina, Cuevas, & Schally, 2012; Vaughn et al., 2014).

Place of birth may be part of the reason for the similar prevalence observed between the racialized and non-racialized populations. In 2025, 3.8% of racialized people born outside of Canada were victims of physical or sexual assault, compared with 7.3% of Canadian-born racialized people. This pattern held when looking more specifically at gender or type of violence. For instance, 4.9% of Canadian-born racialized women stated that they had been sexually assaulted in the past 12 months, more than double the proportion of racialized women born outside of Canada (2.1%).

Sexual assault more prevalent among those who are gay or bisexual

Sexual orientation is of particular relevance when measuring gender-based violence. Many of the attitudes or beliefs that are associated with gender-based violence, such as sexism, homophobia, or rigid views of gender norms or gender expression, can place those who are not heterosexual at greater risk of various forms of violence.

In 2025, the prevalence of sexual assault was nearly seven times higher among LGB+²³ men (6.5%) than among heterosexual men (0.7%). Both bisexual (7.0%) and gay (5.8%) men experienced a significantly higher prevalence than what was observed among heterosexual men (0.7%).²⁴

Among women, the same pattern was evident. More specifically, it was the experiences of bisexual women that explained the higher prevalence among LGB+ women. More than one in ten (11%) bisexual women were sexually assaulted in the 12 months preceding the survey. This was well above the proportions among heterosexual (2.6%) or lesbian (3.9%) women.²⁵

The association between sexual orientation and sexual assault remained significant, even when controlling for other demographic characteristics (Model 1). This was the case for both women and men. In particular, the likelihood of being sexually assaulted was close to seven times higher for LGB+ men than for heterosexual men (Model 1).

Persons with a disability record higher prevalence of sexual assault

Research and data on victimization in Canada has consistently found that disability of any type is associated with a higher prevalence of all forms of violent victimization (Cotter, 2018; Savage, 2021). Not only do risk and prevalence levels tend to be higher, but the impacts and consequences of victimization can also be heightened (Dembo et al., 2018).

The prevalence of sexual assault was higher among people identifying as a person with a disability²⁶ when compared with those who did not—roughly twice as high among women (5.5% versus 2.8%) and men (2.2% versus 0.9%). The association between sexual assault and disability remained statistically significant when controlling for other factors as well (Model 1).

Sexual assault most common among those who are single, never married

In 2025, the prevalence of sexual assault was about five times higher among single women (7.1%) and single men (2.2%) when compared with those who were married or in a common-law relationship (1.5% and 0.5%, respectively). Those who were separated, divorced, or widowed had a prevalence that was in between the two (2.3% among women and 0.9% among men).

Other factors are, in part, related to these findings. For instance, age is significantly associated with a higher prevalence of sexual assault, and the population who is single, never married, is on average younger. In addition, research on intimate partner violence has consistently identified the period following separation as a time of particularly high risk for violence, which may in part explain higher rates among the separated or divorced population (Brownridge, 2006). When controlling for factors known to be associated with victimization, including age, status as an LGB+ person, and others, the association between marital status and sexual assault remained— though when these other factors were considered, the likelihood of sexual assault was highest among the separated, divorced, or widowed population (Model 1).

Individual income is not associated with the likelihood of sexual assault

Income can be related to experiences of violence in multiple ways. For instance, economic hardship can increase stress, which can be a source of conflict; a lower income can be a barrier to those seeking to access services or leave a violent or abusive situation; those with lower income may be more likely to live in a precarious housing situation. On the other hand, an experience of victimization can also itself result in lower income, for example if a person is unable to work due to the impacts of an incident of physical or sexual assault.

That said, personal income is also linked to other individual characteristics such as age, education, and employment. It can also be associated with broader societal factors, including barriers to educational or employment opportunities among certain population groups which may lead to lower incomes (Uppal & Facette, 2026). For example, in 2025, the prevalence of sexual assault was highest among women and men whose personal income was less than \$20,000, when compared with those whose personal income was higher (Table 4). However, when controlling for other demographic characteristics, individual income was not significantly associated with variations in the likelihood of sexual assault for women or for men (Model 1).

Prevalence of sexual assault similar across broad official language minority communities

Living in a minority language community can pose significant challenges, particularly in terms of being able to access appropriate services in the official language of their choice (Pépin-Fillion et al., 2024), including but not limited to services related to victimization. In 2025, 3.4% of women whose first official language spoken was English were sexually assaulted, compared with 2.4% of those whose first official language was French.²⁷

Language and community are closely linked; however, in terms of linguistic minority communities, there was no statistically significant difference in past 12-month prevalence between Francophone women living outside of Quebec (2.4%) compared with Anglophone women living in Quebec (3.2%).^{28 29}

Prevalence of physical assault generally higher among men

Unlike sexual assault, which is more prevalent among women, physical assault outside of intimate partner relationships is more common among men (3.7%) than women (2.6%), while within intimate partner relationships, the prevalence was similar (2.5% of men and 2.5% of women). As with sexual assault, however, not all men or women experience physical assault at the same levels. Furthermore, among many groups, the prevalence of physical assault was similar between women and men, despite the overall higher prevalence among men. This is in contrast to sexual assault which, with few exceptions³⁰, was almost always more prevalent among women than men regardless of other characteristics.

Many of the patterns seen with sexual assault also observed for physical assault

Many of the same characteristics that were associated with a higher prevalence and likelihood of sexual assault also had the same relationship with experiences of physical assault (Table 5; Model 2). For instance, as with sexual assault, the prevalence of physical assault is highest among the youngest age groups, those aged 15 to 24 (8.8% among men and 8.5% among women).³¹

The decline associated with age was more marked among women than men. Among women, the prevalence dropped considerably between those aged 15 to 24 (8.5%) to those aged 25 to 34 (5.2%). Among men, it was to a lesser extent (from 8.8% to 7.1%). Regardless of gender, those aged 55 and older recorded the lowest prevalence.

Indigenous people more likely to be physically assaulted, with no significant difference between women and men

As with sexual assault, the prevalence of physical assault was higher among Indigenous people (9.1%) than among non-Indigenous people (4.2%). Specifically, physical assault was more common among First Nations people (10%), Métis (7.9%), and Inuit (11%) when compared with non-Indigenous people.

Unlike the overall pattern for physical assault, there was no statistically significant difference in overall prevalence between Indigenous women (8.3%) and Indigenous men (9.8%) in the 12 months preceding the survey. While non-intimate partner

physical assault was more prevalent among Indigenous men (7.6%) than Indigenous women (5.3%), there was no significant difference for intimate partner physical assault (5.3% of Indigenous men and 6.3% of Indigenous women).

As with sexual assault, Indigenous identity remained associated with a higher likelihood of physical assault, even when controlling for other factors.

Physical assault more prevalent among the LGB+ population, regardless of gender

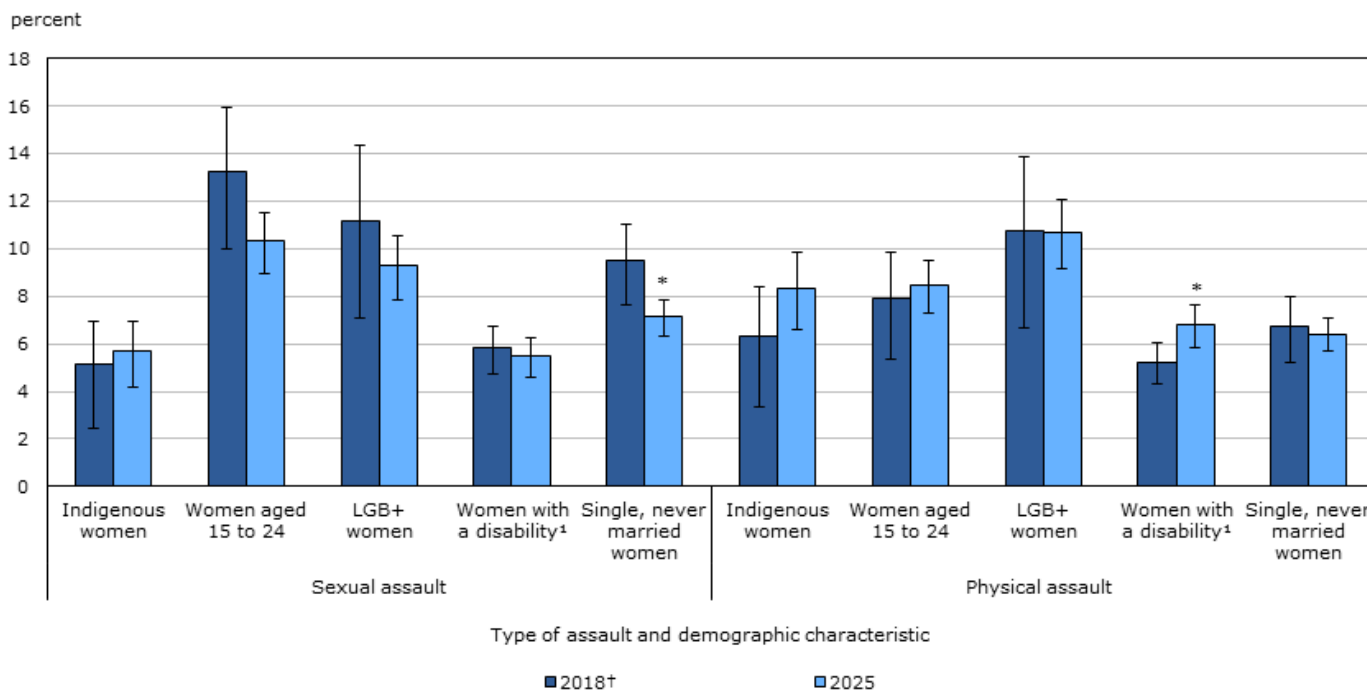
About one in ten LGB+ women (11%) and men (9.8%) were physically assaulted in the 12 months preceding the survey, well above the proportions of those who are heterosexual (3.1% of women and 4.9% of men). Notably, unlike sexual assault, where the prevalence was similar between heterosexual and lesbian women, lesbian women were victims of physical assault almost three times more often than heterosexual women (9.1% versus 3.1%). Physical assault was also more common among bisexual women (11%) than among heterosexual women.³²

Regardless of whether the physical assault occurred in an intimate partner relationship (6.4% among LGB+ women and 5.2% among LGB+ men) or was committed by a non-intimate partner (8.0% among LGB+ women and 7.8% among LGB+ men), the overall prevalence was similar between women and men.

As with overall trends, few changes in prevalence between 2018 and 2025 among select groups

When looking more specifically at some of the demographic groups with the highest prevalence of physical and sexual assault, there were few changes observed in prevalence between 2018 and 2025 (Chart 6, Chart 7). As was the case at the aggregate level, the prevalence of physical and sexual assault in 2025 was not statistically different from what was recorded in 2018.

Chart 6
Physical and sexual assault among women in the past 12 months, by selected demographic characteristics, 2018 and 2025



* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

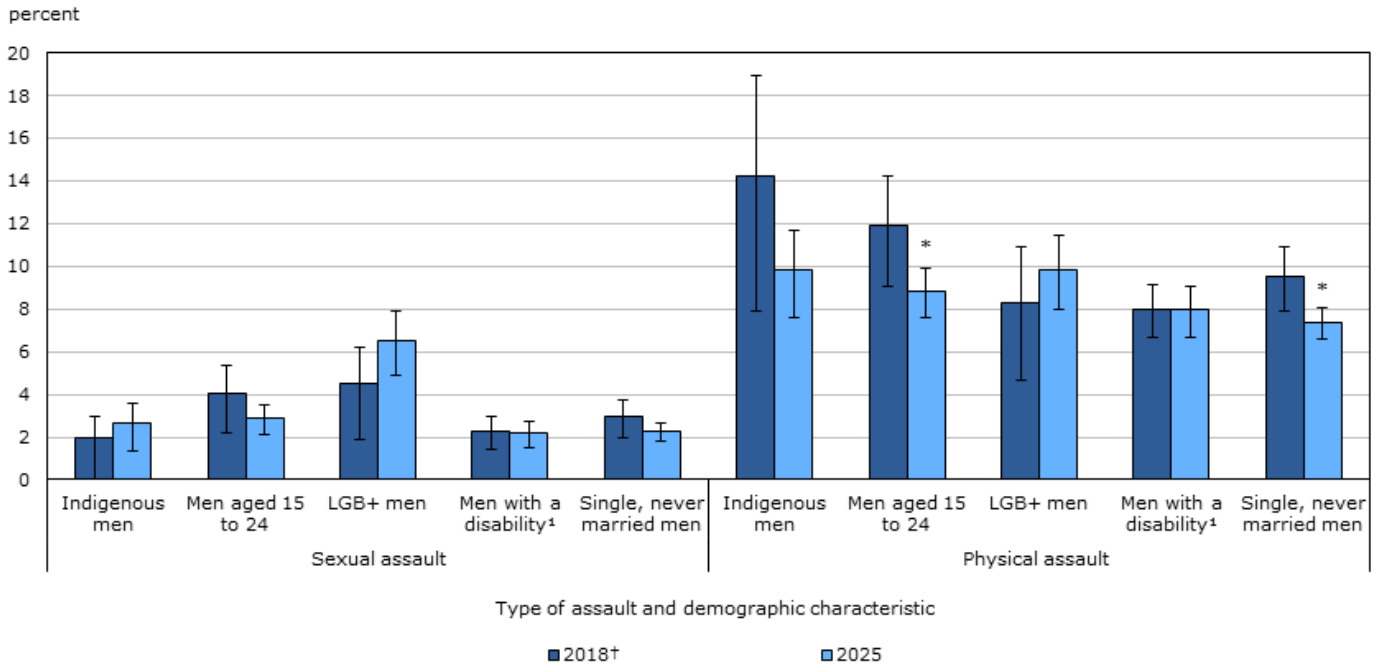
† reference category

1. The measure of disability changed between 2018 and 2025. Comparisons should be made with caution.

Note: Includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. Includes intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence. Differences between groups within the same year may not be statistically significant. See Tables 4 and 5.

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

Chart 7
Physical and sexual assault among men in the past 12 months, by selected demographic characteristics, 2018 and 2025



* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. The measure of disability changed between 2018 and 2025. Comparisons should be made with caution.

Note: Includes men, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender. Includes intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence. Differences between groups within the same year may not be statistically significant. See Tables 4 and 5.

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

Among the few exceptions to the general trend, a decline was noted in the proportion of single women who were sexually assaulted in the past 12 months (from 9.5% in 2018 to 7.1% in 2025), and an increase in physical assault among women with a disability (from 5.2% to 6.8%).³³ Among certain groups of men, there was a downward trend in the prevalence of physical assault: for single men, 9.5% were physically assaulted in 2018 versus 7.4% in 2025. Likewise, for men ages 15 to 24, 12% were physically assaulted in 2018 compared with 8.8% in 2025.

Text box 3
Experiences of physical and sexual assault among the gender-diverse population in Canada

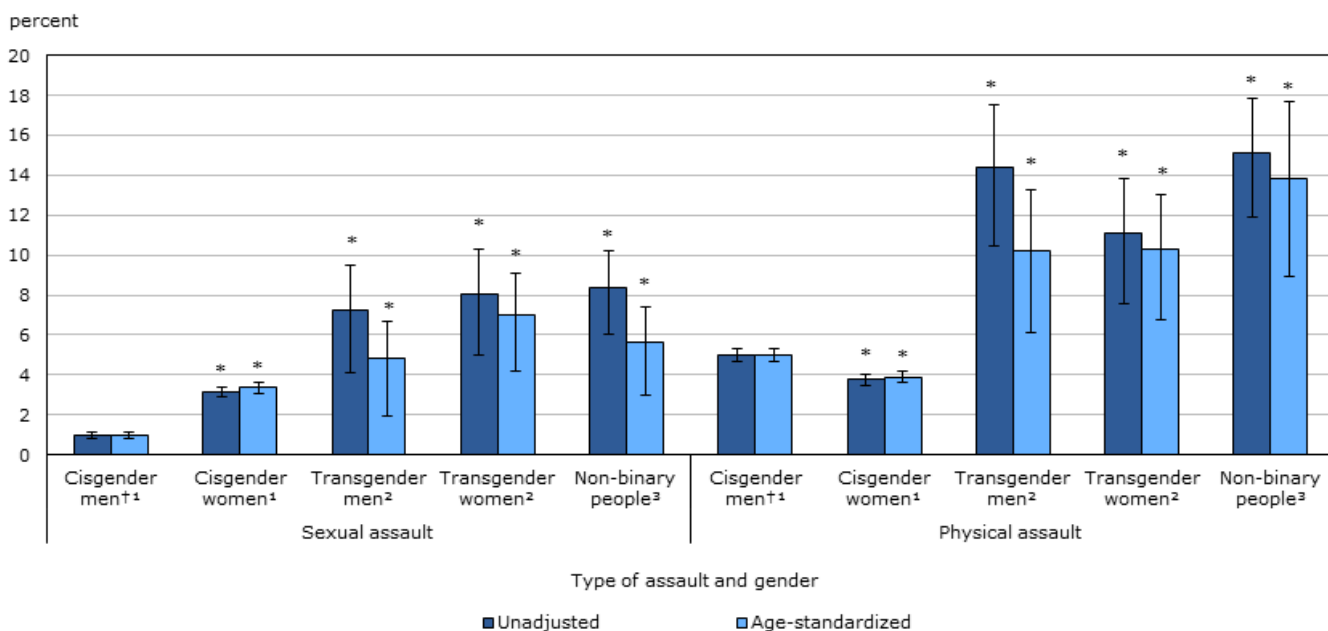
In 2018, the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) became the first social survey at Statistics Canada to collect information on both sex at birth and gender of respondents, as well as allowing gender diverse and non-binary respondents to specify their gender. In 2025, the same approach was used.

The gender-diverse population is relatively small, accounting for about 0.3% of the population 15 years of age and older as of the 2021 Census (Statistics Canada, 2022). Most of the analysis in this article is based on self-reported gender using a variable with two categories, Women+ and Men+.³⁴ Experiences of gender-based violence among the gender-diverse population will be explored in greater detail in a forthcoming *Juristat* article.

However, some results specific to the gender-diverse population are presented here.

Gender-diverse individuals are overrepresented as victims of violence (Chart 8). For both sexual assault and physical assault, the past 12-month prevalence³⁵ was higher among transgender and non-binary individuals when compared with cisgender people.³⁶ A notable exception was for sexual assault, where there was no statistically significant difference between cisgender women and transgender men.

Chart 8
Unadjusted and age-standardized prevalence of physical and sexual assault in the past 12 months among the gender-diverse population, Canada, 2025



* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Cisgender refers to persons whose gender corresponds to their sex at birth.

2. Transgender refers to persons whose gender does not correspond to their sex at birth.

3. Non-binary refers to persons whose gender is not exclusively male or female.

Note: Includes intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence. Unadjusted percentages represent the prevalence of sexual or physical assault by gender. Age standardized percentages take into account the variations in population structures among the gender diverse population by standardizing to the age structure of cisgender men.

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

While some of the higher prevalence of victimization is explained by the fact that the gender-diverse population is, on average, considerably younger, the prevalence remained higher even after controlling for age.

Likewise, experiences of violence since age 15 were more common among gender diverse individuals. Among the non-binary population, six in ten (61%) were sexually assaulted in their lifetime, higher than the proportion of cisgender men (11%) or cisgender women (37%). Transgender men (50%) and transgender women (43%) were also more likely to have been sexually assaulted than cisgender men or cisgender women.

For physical assault over the course of the lifetime, transgender men (58%), transgender women (62%), and non-binary people (67%) all recorded a higher prevalence than either cisgender men (37%) or cisgender women (36%).

Characteristics of the most serious incident of non-intimate partner physical and sexual assault

As noted, the SSPPS measures intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence differently. This includes questions about the details of incidents. Intimate partner violence often occurs repeatedly, making it more difficult to identify details of distinct incidents; for this reason, details are asked in reference to all behaviours experienced in the past 12 months.³⁷

In contrast, for non-intimate partner violence, details are asked about incidents of physical and sexual assault. For respondents who were physically or sexually assaulted more than once, they are asked to respond thinking of the most serious incident (i.e., the one that impacted them the most). As a result, incident details may not be representative of all incidents of physical or sexual assault, as they are expected to skew towards more serious experiences. As noted, in 2025, 56% of women and 49% of men who were physically or sexually assaulted were victims in more than one incident in the past 12 months.³⁸

In the section that follows, details are based on the most serious incident of non-intimate partner physical and sexual assault. Details, impacts, and consequences of intimate partner violence will be examined in future *Juristat* reports.

Physical or sexual assault typically involves a lone perpetrator

Regardless of gender or type of victimization, more than three-quarters of victims of non-intimate partner violence stated that they were assaulted by a perpetrator acting alone. This was more common among women (86% of those who were sexually assaulted and 85% of those who were physically assaulted) than men (77% and 79%, respectively) (Table 6).

In general, most victims of sexual or physical assault stated that the perpetrator or perpetrators were men. In particular, this was the case for nine in ten (91%) women who were sexually assaulted. Similarly, when it came to physical assault, three-quarters of women (75%) and men (77%) stated the perpetrators were men.

Sexual assault of men was a notable exception to this finding. Similar proportions of men who were victims stated that the perpetrators were men (44%) or women (37%).³⁹

Sexual assault less often perpetrated by a stranger, compared with physical assault

In general, victims of violent crime tend to know the perpetrator, as opposed to being victimized by a stranger, even when excluding intimate partner violence. In 2025, this was particularly the case among victims of sexual assault; more than seven in ten women (73%) and men (74%) were sexually assaulted by someone they knew, such as a friend, acquaintance, family member, or someone they knew from work or school (Table 6).⁴⁰ Despite this, many myths about sexual assault persist, one of which is that “true” sexual assaults are committed by strangers (OFOVC, 2025). This perception has many negative impacts, including the ways in which victims may be treated by police or the criminal justice system if they report their victimization, or the ways in which victims conceptualize their own experiences (OFOVC, 2025; Shaw et al., 2017).

Non-intimate partner physical assault, in contrast, was more likely to be perpetrated by a stranger. Among men, about half (52%) of those who were physically assaulted said that a stranger was the perpetrator in the most serious incident they experienced. Among women, the proportion was closer to that observed for sexual assault, as two-thirds (67%) were physically assaulted by someone they knew.

Despite an increase in reporting to police, sexual assault continues to be underreported relative to other types of violent crime

Self-reported surveys have consistently shown that a small proportion of sexual assaults come to the attention of police (Cotter, 2021a; Conroy & Cotter, 2017). Data from the 2025 SSPPS show that this continues to be the case: 8.6% of victims of sexual assault stated that the most serious incident was reported to police, well below the proportion of victims of physical assault who said the same (28%) (Table 6).

While sexual assault remained considerably less likely to be reported to police, there was an increase in the proportion of the most serious incidents that were reported to police—up from 4.3% in 2018.⁴¹ In contrast, there was no statistically significant difference in levels of reporting for physical assault (29% in 2018).

The overall increase in the proportion of sexual assaults that came to the attention of police was driven by a change among both men and women who were victims. Among men, 89% of those who were sexually assaulted in 2025 did not report the most serious incident to police, a significantly smaller proportion than in 2018 (98%). Meanwhile, in 2025, 88% of women who were sexually assaulted did not report the most serious incident to police—also marking a decline from 2018 (93%).

In 2025, there was no significant difference between women and men in terms of reporting the most serious sexual assault to police. In 2018, in contrast, the proportion of victims who did not report their most serious incident of sexual assault to police was higher among men than women.

There was no significant change in the proportion of men (30%) or women (25%) who reported the most serious incident of physical assault to police in 2025, when compared with 2018 (30% and 25%, respectively).

Whether or not an incident is reported to police is complex. It may be an individual decision, based on a belief that the incident was not important enough or too minor to warrant reporting.⁴² However, low rates of reporting can also be reflective of barriers that exist and serve to discourage reporting (Johnson, 2017; Lorenz et al., 2021). Victims of sexual assault, in particular, are also more likely to cite factors such as concerns with the police or the criminal justice system more broadly, feelings of shame or embarrassment, fear of not being believed, or not wanting to bring shame or dishonor to their family as reasons for not reporting, when compared to those who were victims of other types of violent crime (Cotter, 2024).

Recently, an investigation into the ways in which victims of sexual assault experience the criminal justice system was conducted by the Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime (OFOVC, 2025). This report identified numerous barriers to reporting to police, often rooted in social or systemic structures such as the acceptance of myths and stereotypes about sexual violence (OFOVC, 2025). Other factors, such as financial stability (e.g., loss of income from taking time off work to attend justice proceedings) or personal safety (e.g., fear of retaliation) were also identified by many who did not report. It also noted that often, decisions not to report to police are based on lived experience with many of these barriers, such as having reported previous incidents or knowledge of how others have been treated.

About half of victims of sexual assault who reported to police felt it was not worth their time or effort

The SSPPS did not ask victims of physical or sexual assault their reasons for not reporting the most serious incident.⁴³ It does, however, ask those who reported or spoke with police about their assault to evaluate how they were treated and how police responded. Approximately seven in ten victims of sexual assault who reported to police said that they were informed about services, programs, or resources (72%^E), were treated with respect (69%^E), and felt as though their report was believed (71%^E) (Table 7).⁴⁴

Despite that, when evaluating their overall experience, about half felt that speaking to police was not worth the time and effort it took or were satisfied or very satisfied with the way they were treated by police. Perceptions were quite different among those who were physically assaulted and reported to police, with most (64%) stating that reporting was worth their time and effort.

Some evidence suggests that police response to sexual assault has improved in recent years, with a larger proportion of victims who report feeling believed and being informed about updates to their case (OFOVC, 2025). In part, this may also be related to broader social changes in the way police respond to and record incidents of sexual assault (Rotenberg & Cotter, 2018).

In reference to the most serious incident of non-intimate partner sexual assault, the most common action taken by police was to make a report or conduct an investigation (59%^E). A smaller proportion of victims stated that police visited the scene (33%^E), laid charges against the offender (31%^E), arrested the offender (26%^E), or gave a warning to the offender (21%^E). One in seven (14%^E) victims who reported the most serious incident of sexual assault to police said that no action was taken.

The actions taken by police in incidents of physical assault were largely similar, with one exception: about half (51%) of respondents said that police visited the scene of the incident, higher than the proportion among those who reported a sexual assault to police (33%^E).

One in three women felt blamed for their own victimization, with more women feeling blamed for sexual assault compared with 2018

Many victims of crime face additional trauma or hardship due to secondary victimization, which results from experiences related to their victimization after the fact, such as through interactions with the criminal justice system, friends or family, or society more broadly (OFOVC, 2025). One way in which this can manifest is through victim-blaming, where people are made to feel at fault for their own victimization. This can include criticizing the victim for their behaviour or appearance, which shifts the responsibility for the violence from the perpetrator—the person committing the violence—to the victim.

One-third of women who were victims of non-intimate partner violence said that someone blamed them or made them feel responsible for their own victimization, a proportion that was similar for both sexual assault (32%) and physical assault (32%). Notably, in 2018, a smaller proportion of women (20%) stated that they felt blamed for their own sexual assault, while there was no significant change for physical assault (32%).

Men also commonly felt blame for their own sexual victimization; this was reported by 27% of men who were victims of sexual assault, not statistically different from the proportion among women who were sexually assaulted. One in five (22%) men felt blamed for their own physical assault, lower than the proportion among women who were physically assaulted.⁴⁵ Among men, there were no significant changes in the proportion who felt blamed for their victimization from 2018.

Among those who felt blamed for their own sexual assault, about six in ten said it was the person or persons who committed the violence who made them feel that way (61% of women and 59% of men), while about one-third (34%) said it was family or friends.⁴⁶ Smaller proportions identified police (6%) or victims' services (4%) as the source of the blame.^{47 48}

A minority of victims of sexual or physical assault use or consult victims' services

Though the SSPPS measures the details, impacts, and consequences of the most serious incident of non-intimate partner victimization only, the results still show that most victims of physical and sexual assault did not use or contact victims' services as a result. There was a notable difference when looking at use of services, gender, and type of victimization. Women who were sexually assaulted were slightly less likely than those who were physically assaulted to contact or use victims' services (17% versus 22%). The opposite trend was seen among men; a higher proportion of those who were sexually assaulted reached out to a victims' service, compared with those who were physically assaulted (16% versus 10%) (Table 6).

For both women and men, the proportion who used or consulted a victims' service for an incident of physical assault was not statistically different from 2018. For sexual assault, in comparison, the proportion of victims who consulted or used a service was twice as high in 2025 (17%) as in 2018 (7.0%). Among women in particular, the proportion increased from 9% to 17%.⁴⁹

While most victims of physical or sexual assault did not use or consult victims' services, those who did often reported positive outcomes as a result. The most common outcome was that the service helped with physical or mental health and well-being. This was cited by about three-quarters of women who accessed services following a sexual assault (78%) or a physical assault (71%) and was also the most common reason for men who were physically assaulted (68%). While it was still the most common outcome cited by men who accessed services following a sexual assault, the proportion was notably lower (47%).⁵⁰

Not wanting or needing help, or a belief that the incident was too minor, are the most common reasons for not using victims' services

Regardless of gender and type of victimization, those who did not use or consult victims' services most commonly stated that they did not access services because they didn't want or need help, or they felt that the incident was too minor. For example, about half of those who were sexually assaulted (48% of women and 48% of men) or physically assaulted (47% of women and 51% of men) said that they did not want or need help.

That said, there were some important differences. For example, those who did not consult services for the most serious incident of sexual assault were more likely to cite shame or embarrassment or a feeling that they would not be believed than was the case for victims of physical assault.

A small proportion of victims did not use or consult victims' services for reasons that suggest it was not due to a personal choice, but rather a barrier, such as distance or capacity.⁵¹ Of all victims of physical or sexual assault who did not consult services, 2% said it was because none were available, 1% said it was due to a waitlist, and 0.5% said it was due to the distance from the nearest available service.⁵²

Despite the relatively low levels of accessing victims' services, most of those who were physically or sexually assaulted did talk to someone for support. Victims of sexual assault most commonly turned to a friend or neighbour (52% of women and 48% of men), followed by a family member (35% of women and 23% of men).⁵³ Those who were physically assaulted, in contrast, most often turned to a family member (50% of women and 47% of men), followed by a friend or neighbour (44% of women and 38% of men).⁵⁴

Overall, 68% of men and 77% of women who were sexually assaulted talked to someone about the assault, proportions that were not statistically different. Likewise, men and women who were physically assaulted were equally likely to turn to someone for support (78% and 82%, respectively).

Most incidents of physical and sexual assault did not involve weapons or physical injury

A minority of victims were physically injured as a result of the most serious incident they experienced. For both women and men, physical injuries were about twice as common in incidents of physical assault than sexual assault. One-quarter (25%) of women were physically injured in the most serious incident of physical assault, compared with 16% who were physically injured in a sexual assault. Among men, these proportions were 23% and 9.6%, respectively (Table 6).

Similarly, most victims said that the most serious incident they experienced did not involve weapons, but the presence of a weapon was more common in physical assaults than in sexual assaults. For instance, 31% of men said that, in the most serious physical assault, the perpetrator had a weapon, about twice as high as the proportion among women (16%). In contrast, for sexual assault, 5.6% of men and 3.2% of women said the perpetrator had a weapon, a difference that was not statistically significant.⁵⁵

Notably, men who were physically assaulted in 2025 were more likely than those in 2018 to state that the most serious incident involved a weapon (31% versus 23%). There were no statistically significant differences in the proportions among those who were sexually assaulted or women who were physically assaulted.

Both sexual and physical assault result in negative emotional consequences for a higher proportion of women than men

Regardless of the type of assault, more women than men stated that they were emotionally impacted by the incident. More than six in ten women who were sexually (64%) or physically assaulted (63%) stated that the incident impacted them emotionally, compared with 49% and 40% of men, respectively (Table 6). Notably, men who were sexually assaulted were more likely to report that the most serious incident resulted in a negative emotional impact than men who were physically assaulted; in contrast, among women the likelihood of negative emotional impact was similar with both types of assault.

More severe and longer-lasting emotional impacts were also relatively common among those who were assaulted. Three in ten women—regardless of whether they were sexually assaulted (29%) or physically assaulted (32%)—reported three or more longer-term emotional impacts because of the most serious incident they experienced. This is consistent with suspected post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).⁵⁶ Among men, 24% of those who were sexually assaulted had three or more longer-term emotional impacts, consistent with a suspicion of PTSD, not significantly different from women who were sexually assaulted. In contrast, physical assault less often resulted in impacts consistent with PTSD for men (16%).

More than 4 in 10 people living in Canada have been physically or sexually assaulted in their lifetime

In addition to asking about experiences of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, the SSPPS also asks about experiences of violence across the life course, since the age of 15. Nearly 15 million people living in Canada have been physically or sexually assaulted since the age of 15, representing 44% of the population 15 years of age and older. This proportion was similar to what was noted in 2018, when the SSPPS was last conducted (42%).

Unlike what was seen when looking only at the past 12 months, the lifetime prevalence of violent victimization was higher among women (48%) than men (39%) (Table 1). This was due to sexual assault being far more common among women (37%, versus 11% among men). The lifetime prevalence of physical assault, on the other hand, was similar (37% among both women and men). For women in particular, intimate partner violence (IPV) figured prominently in their lifetime experiences of victimization (see Text box 2). More than one-quarter (28%) of women had experienced violence by an intimate partner, compared to 16% of men. Physical assault by an intimate partner was more common among women (24% versus 15%), as was sexual assault by an intimate partner (16% versus 3%).

Women were also more likely than men to have experienced multiple forms of victimization since the age of 15: 26% were victims of both physical and sexual assault, compared with 9% of men.⁵⁷ Experiencing a single form of victimization differed according to gender: more women (11%) than men (2%) had experienced solely sexual assault in their lifetime, while more men (27%) than women (10%) had experienced solely physical assault, when including both intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence.

Most of the patterns seen between demographic characteristics and victimization were observed for both previous-year and lifetime victimization. For example, a lower proportion of women who were members of racialized groups (23%) or born outside of Canada (24%) had experienced sexual assault in their lifetime, compared to their non-racialized (41%) and Canadian-born (42%) counterparts (Table 8).

Notably, some sociodemographic characteristics—such as place of birth—do not change over a person's lifetime. Others, such as income or disability, can shift over time. Lifetime prevalence is based on the responses provided to the 2025 survey, and may not reflect characteristics at the time of all incidents experienced since age 15.

Higher prevalence of lifetime sexual assault among Indigenous women and men

While patterns of lifetime victimization followed what was seen with data covering the 12 months prior to the survey, some demographic groups experienced especially high prevalence of sexual assault over their lives. This included Indigenous women, among whom over half (52%) had been sexually assaulted, including 53% of First Nations women, 51% of Métis women, and 52% of Inuit women.⁵⁸ In comparison, 37% of non-Indigenous women had experienced sexual assault since age 15 (Table 8).

Two-thirds of bisexual women experience sexual assault in their lifetime

Lifetime sexual assault among LGB+ people was also particularly high (52%), including 61% of women and 38% of men in this group (Table 8). Among LGB+ women, bisexual women had an especially high prevalence of sexual assault over their lifetimes, with two-thirds (66%) having been victimized this way.

Prevalence of lifetime sexual assault highest among those aged 25 to 34

Because older individuals have had more years over which to accumulate various experiences, it could be expected that the lifetime prevalence of victimization would be lowest among younger people. Indeed, data from the 2025 SSPPS show that lifetime experiences of sexual assault were lowest among those aged 15 to 24 (21%) (Table 8). However, instead of a steady increase in prevalence from the younger age groups to the older, lifetime experiences of sexual assault peaked with people aged 25 to 34 (32%). This was the case among women, where almost half (49%) of women aged 25 to 34 reported having been sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Among men, 17% of those in this age group had experienced sexual assault, a proportion higher than with all other age groups of men except those aged 35 to 44 (from whom no significant difference in prevalence was noted, 14%).

Lifetime physical assault prevalence lower among immigrants and racialized people, higher among Indigenous and LGB+ people

For most sociodemographic characteristics measured by the 2025 SSPPS, patterns of lifetime physical assault largely mirrored patterns seen with peoples' experiences in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 9). For example, lifetime prevalence of physical assault was lower among members of racialized populations (25%) and immigrants (27%) compared to non-racialized (40%) and Canadian-born (41%) people—a pattern similar to what was noted when looking at both the 12-month prevalence of physical assault, and at sexual assault since age 15.

Lifetime physical assault more common among Indigenous women than Indigenous men

The same groups who experienced particularly high prevalence of sexual assault over their lifetimes also experienced high levels of physical assault. This included Indigenous people (55%), among whom women (57%) were more likely to experience lifetime physical assault than men (52%) (Table 9). This was the opposite of what was seen among non-Indigenous people, where the prevalence was similar between men and women (both 36%). More than half of all First Nations people (56%), Métis (55%), and Inuit (53%) had been physically assaulted in their lifetime.⁵⁹

Lifetime experiences of physical assault were also more common among LGB+ women (58%) and men (54%). About half (52%) of persons with a disability had been physically assaulted in their lifetime, with the prevalence being higher among women (55%, versus 49% of men).

Text box 4

Homelessness and victimization

Like victimization, homelessness is often disproportionately experienced among relatively more marginalized populations. Experiences of homelessness are also associated with victimization, both as a risk factor (for instance, living in a precarious situation) or as a consequence (for instance, becoming homeless as a result of leaving a violent living situation).

The Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) measured two forms of homelessness: absolute and hidden. Absolute homelessness refers to having lived on the street, in a shelter, or in a car, because the respondent had nowhere else to go. Hidden homelessness refers to having temporarily stayed with family or friends because they had nowhere else to live (e.g., couch-surfing).

Overall, 15% of people 15 years of age and older experienced some form of homelessness in their lifetime, whether hidden (14%) or absolute (2.7%). A slightly higher proportion of women (15%) than men (14%) had been homeless at some point.

While these experiences of homelessness may have occurred at any point in the respondent's life, there was a notable relationship with prior homelessness and victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey. In 2025, 10% of those who had ever been homeless were physically or sexually assaulted, compared with 4.9% of those who had not. This difference was even more pronounced among those who had lived on the street or in a shelter at some point, among whom 16% had been physically or sexually assaulted in the past 12 months.

People who have been homeless more often experience lifetime victimization

People who had been homeless at one point in their lives also experienced a high lifetime prevalence of physical or sexual assault. Overall, 83% of women and 73% of men with a history of homelessness were also victimized at some point since age 15. It is important to note that the data cannot show whether these experiences happened during individuals' experiences of homelessness, or at other points in their lives.

More specifically, almost seven in ten (69%) women who had been homeless had been sexually assaulted, along with over one-quarter (27%) of men. In addition, three-quarters (75%) of women and a slightly smaller proportion of men (71%) who had ever been homeless had been physically assaulted.

Many of those who have been homeless identified a direct link with victimization, particularly women

Those who had ever been homeless were asked directly if they had become homeless because they were leaving an emotionally abusive or physically violent situation. While the overall prevalence of homelessness was similar between women and men, there appeared to be a notable gender difference when it came to whether homelessness was due to leaving emotional abuse or physical violence. Two-thirds (66%) of women who experienced absolute homelessness identified victimization as the root cause of their homelessness, compared with 36% of men. A similar pattern was noted among those who experienced hidden homelessness, with women (52%) more commonly stating that it was due to victimization than men (23%).

Experiences of unwanted behaviours in public

Assault and other criminal forms of violence represent part of the continuum of gender-based violence. Other behaviours, while not rising to the criminal threshold, can still impact the extent to which individuals can freely engage and participate in various social settings. Furthermore, many of the same characteristics that are associated with increased prevalence or risk of criminal forms of gender-based violence also increase the likelihood of experiencing non-criminal forms.

The 2025 SSPPS asked about experiences of eight behaviours in three distinct settings: at work, at school, and in public.⁶⁰ The behaviours measured were inappropriate sexual jokes, unwanted sexual attention, unwanted physical contact, suggestions that someone does not act like someone of that gender is supposed to act, being insulted, mistreated, ignored, or excluded due to (actual or assumed) gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity, and indecent exposure.

This analysis focuses on experiences in the past 12 months when in public places; that is, anywhere people are able to access with little or no restriction, such as streets, businesses, public transportation, bars, or restaurants. Some information on experiences specific to work and school settings is presented in Text box 6.

One in five women experienced unwanted sexual behaviour in public

When looking specifically at public spaces, 15% of the population 15 years of age and older experienced at least one form of unwanted sexual behaviour measured by the SSPPS in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 10). The prevalence was nearly three times higher among women (22%) than men (8%). In addition to the prevalence being higher among women than men, so too was the frequency. Among those who experienced an unwanted behaviour in public, 60% of women and 54% of men said that they experienced at least one behaviour three or more times.

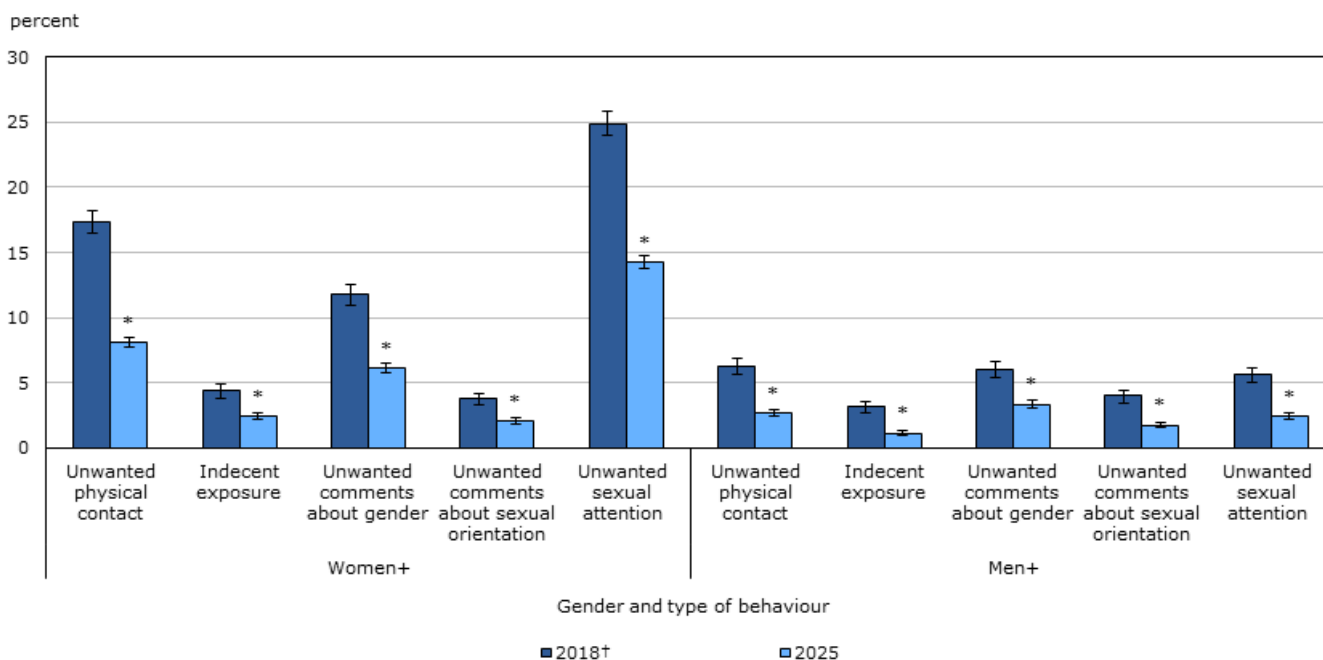
Of the eight behaviours measured by the survey, seven were more prevalent among women than men, with the largest gender gap seen for experiences of unwanted sexual attention (14% versus 2%). The lone exception was being insulted, mistreated, ignored, or excluded due to sexual orientation, which was equally likely among women (1.8%) and men (1.6%).

Text box 5 Experiences of unwanted behaviour in public places down since 2018

Between 2018 and 2025, the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) was revised to include more content about experiences in the workplace and school environment (see Text box 6). One of these changes involved a revision to questions on unwanted behaviours⁶¹, in order to make them consistent across three environments: at work, at school, and in public. In 2018, questions about the workplace were asked separately, but respondents were not asked to differentiate between school and public settings.

Five behaviours—unwanted physical contact, indecent exposure, unwanted comments about gender, unwanted comments about sexual orientation, and unwanted sexual attention—were measured in both the 2018 and 2025 SSPPS.⁶² For all 5, and for both women and men, their prevalence was lower in 2025 than it was in 2018 (Chart 9).

Chart 9
Experiences of unwanted behaviours in public in the past 12 months, by gender and type of behaviour, 2018 and 2025



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

† reference category

Note: This chart combines experiences in public and at school (2025), for the purposes of comparison with 2018, when the two categories were not separated. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Overall, this meant that while one in four (23%) of those 15 years of age and older experienced at least one of these behaviours in public in 2018, this declined to 13% in 2025. For women, the proportion went from one in three (32%) to one in five (19%). Among men, it was half as high in 2025 (7%) as it was in 2018 (13%).

Given the changes in the way the questions were asked, comparisons should be made with caution, as differences may be reflective of a change in the survey instrument as opposed to a true difference. At the same time, it may also reflect ways in which public spaces have changed since 2018. For instance, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a shift in the way many Canadians work, go to school, socialize, and pursue entertainment, which may have resulted in less time spent in public places, in general. Further, increased education and awareness about issues such as consent and street harassment may have resulted in a change in behaviour.

As with physical and sexual assault, the prevalence of unwanted behaviours in public varied considerably depending on demographic and socio-economic characteristics (Table 11). More often than not, the patterns observed were similar to those seen for sexual assault, reinforcing the notion that many of the underlying motivations and structural factors are present for gender-based violence in general, regardless of whether an act or behaviour meets the criminal threshold.

For instance, age, which increased the likelihood of both physical and sexual assault, was also associated with a higher prevalence of unwanted behaviours in public. In particular, 39% of women between the ages of 15 and 24 and 36% of those aged 25 to 34 experienced unwanted behaviour in public. Even as prevalence declined with age, women remained more likely than men to experience these behaviours; almost one in five (18%) women aged 45 to 54 experienced unwanted behaviour in public, which was higher than the prevalence among even the most at-risk age groups of men (13% each among those 15 to 24 and 25 to 34).

More than one in five (22%) Indigenous people experienced unwanted behaviour in public, compared with 14% of the non-Indigenous population (Table 11). This pattern was seen for both Indigenous women (31% versus 21%) and Indigenous men (13% versus 8%). That said, the association did not remain significant for women or for men when controlling for other characteristics (Model 3).

While overall, those belonging to a racialized population group were less likely to have experienced unwanted behaviours in public, there were some exceptions when looking more specifically at different groups. More than one in five Arab (21%) and Latin American (24%) women experienced unwanted behaviours in public, higher than the proportion for racialized women overall (16%) and similar to the proportion of non-Indigenous, non-racialized women (23%).

Self-identification as a person with a disability was, like violent victimization, also associated with a higher prevalence of unwanted behaviour in public. This was the case for both women (31% versus 20%) and men (15% versus 7%). Disability was associated with a higher probability of experiencing unwanted behaviours when controlling for other factors as well.

Among the demographic characteristics examined in this analysis, sexual orientation was associated with the highest prevalence of unwanted behaviour in public. More than four in ten (45%) LGB+ individuals—including 53% of LGB+ women and 32% of LGB+ men—experienced unwanted behaviour in public in the 12 months preceding the survey, three times higher than the proportion among heterosexual people (12%). Sexual orientation remained a significant factor when controlling for other characteristics as well, particularly among men (Model 3).

In addition to demographic characteristics, unwanted behaviours in public places were more common among those living in urban areas. For instance, 22% of women living in urban areas experienced at least one unwanted behaviour in public in the past 12 months, compared with 18% of women in rural areas. Women in urban areas were also slightly more likely to have experienced three or more instances (61%) than those living in rural areas (57%).

Strangers are most common perpetrators of unwanted behaviours in public

As would be expected, given the nature of public spaces, nearly three-quarters (73%) of those who experienced unwanted behaviours in public said that a stranger was responsible. Women (77%) were more likely than men (59%) to state that the perpetrator was a stranger. In particular, almost nine in ten women aged 15 to 24 (85%) or 25 to 34 (85%) stated that a stranger was the perpetrator. In contrast, an acquaintance (19%) or a friend (16%) were more often identified by men than by women (15% and 7%, respectively).

Unwanted behaviours also differed from criminal forms of gender-based violence in terms of the number of perpetrators. While sexual and physical assault most often involved a lone offender, those who experienced unwanted behaviours in public were equally likely to state that one (48%) or multiple (50%) people were responsible. Women (50%) and men (49%) were equally likely to say that there were multiple perpetrators.

Unwanted behaviours occur in many public places, but most commonly on the sidewalk or street

Experiences of unwanted behaviours occurred in many public places. Overall, half of women (50%) said that at least one of the behaviours they experienced was on a sidewalk, street, or highway, the most common location among women. This was

followed by a restaurant or bar (35%) or another commercial location (32%).⁶³ Among men, the most common locations were a restaurant or bar (33%) or the street or sidewalk (33%).

Recently, a number of jurisdictions across Canada have seen considerable increases in the number of police-reported transit-related crimes (Lindsay, 2025). Experiences of violence, harassment, or other unwanted behaviours while using or waiting for public transit can influence decisions about how and when to commute, with negative impacts on individuals and commuters more generally (Ceccato et al., 2022; Ison et al., 2024). In 2025, one in four (25%) of those who experienced unwanted behaviours said at least one instance occurred on public transit, with a higher proportion among women (27%) than men (21%). As may be expected, this was also largely an urban experience; public transit was cited as the location of at least one behaviour by 28% of urban residents, compared with 11% of those in rural areas.

The location of unwanted behaviours also varied by age. For example, more than four in ten (41%) women and girls aged 15 to 24 experienced at least one unwanted behaviour on public transit, a proportion that declined to 32% among those 25 to 34 and 21% among those aged 35 to 44.

Two-thirds of women and half of men negatively impacted by unwanted experiences in public

Unwanted behaviours were commonly associated with negative impacts among those who experienced them. Overall, two-thirds (67%) of women and half (51%) of men identified at least one negative impact as a result of the behaviours they experienced. Most commonly, those who experienced unwanted behaviours stated that they avoided people or situations (34%), avoided certain places (30%), and had negative emotional and psychological consequences (28%) as a result.

Each of the specific behavioural changes or consequences measured by the survey were more commonly cited by women than men, with one exception. Women (13%) and men (15%) were equally likely to state that they became withdrawn from social events or activities they typically enjoyed because of unwanted behaviours they experienced.

Part of the difference in impact between women and men was due to the increased frequency among women, as those who had more frequent experiences of unwanted behaviours in public were more likely to have changed their behaviour as a result. Three-quarters (76%) of women who experienced unwanted behaviour three or more times changed their own behaviour in public as a result, compared with 55% of women who faced unwanted behaviour once or twice. Among men, the proportions were 57% and 43%, respectively.

Text box 6

Gender-based violence at work, school and online

One notable revision to the 2025 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) was the addition of questions specific to experiences of sexual assault and gender-based violence in the workplace and in school-related settings, as well as unwanted behaviours online. The SSPPS includes key indicators on these settings that were previously collected in the 2020 Survey on Sexual Misconduct at Work and the 2019 Survey of Individual Safety in the Post-Secondary Population.

More than one in ten Canadians experienced unwanted sexual behaviours in the workplace

In 2025, 12% of the population who was employed at some point in the 12 months preceding the survey experienced at least one form of unwanted sexual behaviour while at work or participating in a work-related event. Women (17%) were more likely to experience any of these behaviours than men (8%).

Among women, the most common behaviours were inappropriate sexual jokes (experienced by 8%), and being insulted, mistreated, ignored, or excluded due to their gender (8%). Inappropriate sexual jokes were also the most common behaviour among men (4%), followed by being told they did not act like a man is supposed to act (3%).

Among those who were sexually assaulted in the 12 months prior to the survey, and who were also employed, more than one in five (21%) said that at least one incident took place in their workplace or in a work-related setting.

Unwanted sexual behaviour more common at school than at work or in public

Relative to public places in general (14%) and the workplace (12%), experiences of unwanted sexual behaviour were more common in school-related settings (16%). The student population is considerably younger than the population in general or the population in the workforce; according to the SSPPS, 68% of those who attended school in the 12 months preceding the survey were aged 15 to 24. As such, some of the higher prevalence is likely explained by age.

One in five (19%) women and more than one in ten (12%) men who had attended school in the previous year had experienced at least one of the behaviours measured by the survey. Among women, these most commonly took the form of unwanted sexual attention (9%) or inappropriate sexual jokes (9%), while for men, inappropriate sexual jokes (6%) and suggestions that they did not act like a man is supposed to act (5%) were most common.

The prevalence of sexual assault was also considerably higher among those who had attended school in the past 12 months (5.6%), when compared with those who had not (1.5%). There was also a notable gender difference, as women (8.2%) who attended school in the past 12 months were more than three times more likely than men (2.7%) to be victims of sexual assault. Close to one in five (18%) of all victims of sexual assault said that at least one incident was committed in a school-related setting.

One in ten Internet users encountered unwanted behaviours online

The 2025 SSPPS asked respondents about certain unwanted behaviours that they may have experienced online, whether that was through text message, on a social media site, or another Internet-based platform. Many of these behaviours were explicitly related to gender-based violence, namely sharing intimate images without consent, pressure to share suggestive or explicit images, or receiving suggestive or explicit images without giving consent. Additionally, the survey asked whether respondents had received threatening or aggressive messages, either as the messages' only recipient or as part of a group targeted with messages.

Overall, one in ten (11%) Canadians had experienced this kind of behaviour online in the year prior to the 2025 survey, including a slightly higher proportion of women (12%) than men (9%). Almost one-fifth of young women and girls aged 15 to 24 years had experienced unwanted behaviours online, along with 12% of men and boys in that age group. For women, the most common types of unwanted behaviour experienced online were receiving suggestive or explicit images without consent (7%) and receiving threatening or aggressive messages as the only recipient (6%). The latter type of behaviour was also the most common among men (5%).

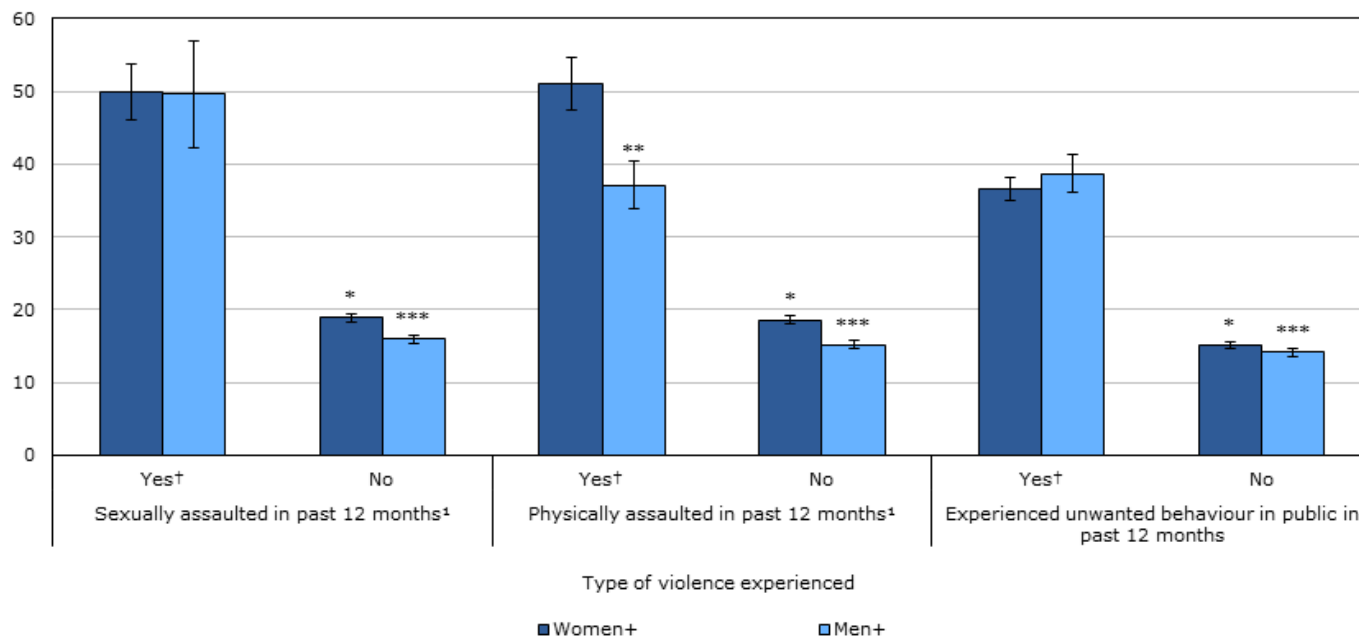
Experiences of violence associated with lower life satisfaction, poorer health

Differences in prevalence—over the past 12 months and since the age of 15—as well as specific outcomes of victimization reveal a number of important similarities, and differences, based on the type of assault, gender, and other characteristics. Another way to examine the impact of violence, beyond looking at the immediate consequences tied directly to the incidents themselves, is to look at more general measures, such as self-reported health and life satisfaction. While direct causal links cannot be made between victimization and these measures, there are clear relationships.

Experiences of victimization are associated with poorer self-rated mental health, in particular. Among women, for instance, half of those who were sexually assaulted (50%) or physically assaulted (51%) rated their mental health as fair or poor. In contrast, about one in five women who were not sexually assaulted (19%) or not physically assaulted (19%) in the 12 months preceding the survey rated their mental health as fair or poor (Chart 10). Likewise, those who experienced unwanted behaviour in public were significantly more likely to rate their mental health as fair or poor.

Chart 10
Self-rated mental health, by gender and type of victimization, 2025

percent with fair or poor self-rated mental health



* significantly different from reference category only (p < 0.05)
 ** significantly different from Women+ only (p < 0.05)
 *** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05) and Women+ (p < 0.05)
 † reference category

1. Includes intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence.

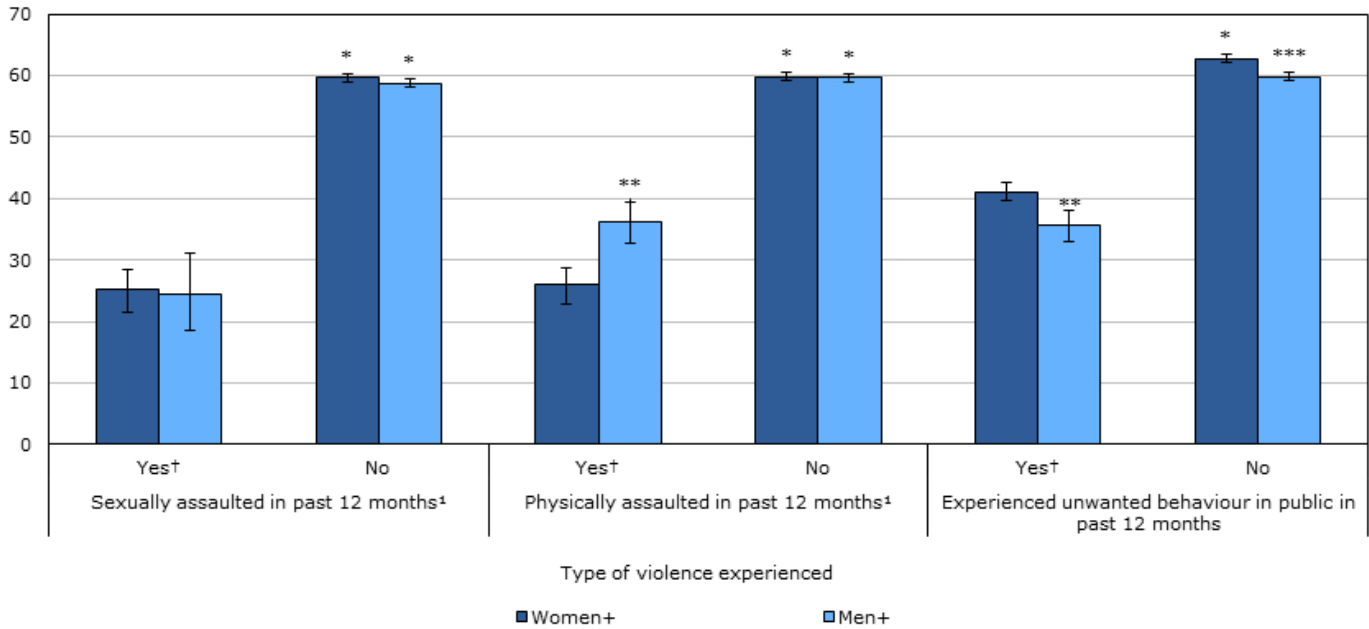
Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Similarly, those who were sexually assaulted, physically assaulted, or experienced unwanted behaviour in public were less likely to be very satisfied⁶⁴ with their life, when compared to those who did not experience any of these forms of violence (Chart 11).

Chart 11
Life satisfaction, by gender and type of victimization, 2025

percent who are very satisfied with their life



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

1. Includes intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence.

Note: "Very satisfied with their life" refers to respondents who rated their satisfaction with their life as a whole as an 8, 9, or 10, on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means very unsatisfied and 10 means very satisfied. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

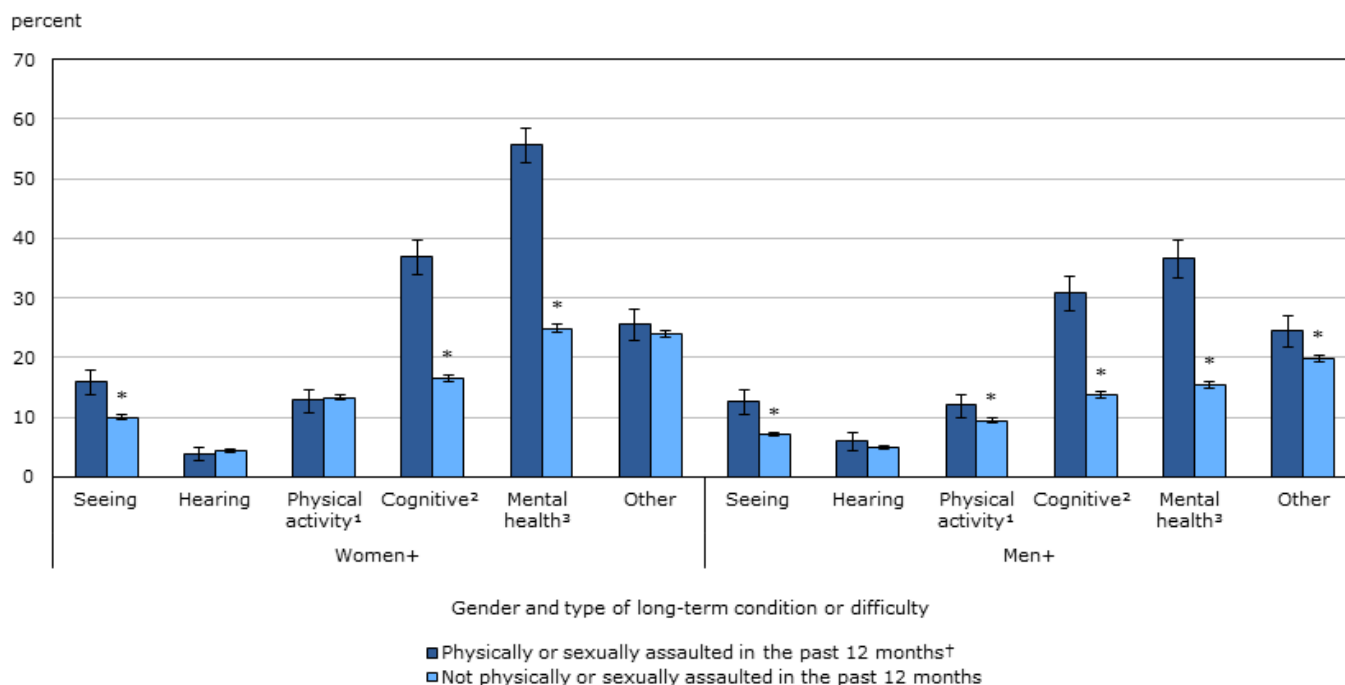
This pattern was apparent regardless of gender and type of violence or behaviour experienced. However, among women, experiences of sexual and physical assault appeared to have a greater impact on mental health and life satisfaction; while the gap was still evident among women who experienced unwanted behaviours in public, it was smaller. Among men, in contrast, those who were sexually assaulted had the lowest levels of mental health and life satisfaction; those who were physically assaulted or experienced unwanted behaviours in public had comparable outcomes.

Cognitive and mental-health related conditions more prevalent among those who have been victimized

Experiences of victimization were also associated with a number of longer-term health outcomes. Many conditions or difficulties have been identified as having a relationship with victimization, whether as an outcome of being victimized, a risk factor for victimization, or both (Burczycka, 2018; Cotter, 2018). This is particularly the case when it comes to conditions or difficulties related to cognition and mental health (Burczycka, 2018).

Data from the SSPPS cannot identify whether the presence of a long-term condition existed prior to victimization or if it was caused or worsened by having been victimized. That said, when looking at the presence of various conditions, many were more common among those who reported an experience of physical or sexual assault in the previous 12 months (Chart 12).

Chart 12
Long-term conditions, by gender and victimization, Canada, 2025



* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes difficulty walking, using stairs, using hands or fingers, or doing other physical activities.

2. Includes difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.

3. Includes emotional, psychological, or mental health conditions (e.g., anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, substance use, anorexia).

Note: Conditions refer to long-term difficulties or conditions that have lasted or are expected to last for six or more months. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

In particular, for both women and men, mental health-related conditions and cognitive difficulties were more common among those who had been physically or sexually assaulted in the 12 months preceding the survey, when compared with those who had not. The proportion of women who were victimized and faced a mental health-related condition (56%) or a cognitive difficulty (37%) was more than double that among those who were not victimized (25% and 17%, respectively). The same was true among men, with mental health (37%) and cognitive (31%) difficulties being twice as prevalent among victims of violence as among those who were not (15% and 14%, respectively).

Summary

Gender-based violence encompasses a wide range of behaviours and can occur in numerous contexts. The 2025 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) provides the most current data on the prevalence and nature of gender-based violence in Canada.

According to the 2025 SSPPS, the prevalence of violent victimization—physical and sexual assault—was similar to 2018, when the SSPPS was first collected. While the overall prevalence was similar between women and men, a closer examination shows that sexual assault is more prevalent among women, while physical assault is more prevalent among men, driven by a higher proportion of men who are physically assaulted outside of the context of an intimate partner relationship.

There were few statistically significant changes in the prevalence of victimization between 2018 and 2025, as the overall prevalence remained stable. For women, the prevalence of intimate partner sexual assault and non-intimate partner physical assault increased, while non-intimate partner sexual assault declined. Among men, intimate partner physical assault declined. Further, the prevalence was unchanged between 2018 and 2025 for many groups at higher risk of violence, such as Indigenous people, young people, and the LGB+ population.

Despite the fact that physical and sexual assault have very different gender profiles, many characteristics that are associated with the likelihood of being a victim are shared between the two types of violent victimization. Among the demographic characteristics examined in this analysis, age, sexual orientation, Indigenous identity, and identifying as a person with a disability were all significantly associated with a higher likelihood of being a victim of physical or sexual assault, even when controlling for other factors.

Beyond differences in prevalence, the characteristics and impacts of physical and sexual assault differed in many ways, highlighting another way in which the experiences of women and men may differ when it comes to violence. For example, while the majority of physical assaults were committed by a stranger, a perpetrator known to the victim was more common among women than men who were physically assaulted. When it came to both physical and sexual violence, women were more likely to experience negative impacts on their mental health and well-being.

In addition to physical and sexual violence which meets the criminal threshold, the 2025 SSPPS also measured peoples' experiences of unwanted behaviours. Women were more likely than men to have experienced some form of unwanted behaviour while in a public place in 2025, with the most common type being unwanted sexual attention. The prevalence of sexual assault, physical assault, and unwanted behaviours in public was consistently higher among certain groups of the population: youth and young adults, Indigenous people, lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, and those who identified as a person with a disability.

This analysis presents some of the broad, overarching findings from the 2025 SSPPS, but does not fully cover the breadth and depth of experiences of violence and unwanted behaviours. Future analysis can focus on specific populations or specific types of violence to further respond to data gaps and information needs for the development of adequate supports, programs, and policies for victims of violence in Canada.

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

^E use with caution

1. While other terms, such as survivors, may be preferred and could be used, the term “victims” is used in this *Juristat* article for consistency with other Statistics Canada products.
2. More precisely, data for the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) was collected from October 2024 to June 2025 in the provinces, and from January to July 2025 in the territories. Given that collection ended in 2025, the survey is referred to as the 2025 SSPPS in this analysis.
3. 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. For findings specific to the gender diverse population, see Text box 3.
4. Unless otherwise noted, all differences presented in text are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$. Estimates are categorized into quality categories based on unweighted sample size. At the national level for the 2025 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces, estimates are releasable if their minimum unweighted sample was 10 in the numerator and 45 in the denominator; estimates falling below these thresholds are considered too unreliable to be published and appear as an F in tables and charts. Further, estimates based on an unweighted sample falling between 45 and 90 (inclusive) in the denominator are denoted with an ^E; they are considered to be of marginal quality and should be used with caution. Percentages below 10% are shown to one decimal place; those 10% or higher are rounded to the nearest whole number.
5. For example, the *Protecting Victims Act* proposes the creation of 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). As such, the criminal threshold can evolve over time.
6. This includes physical and sexual assaults committed by intimate partners, as well as information for respondents living in the territories. This information was unavailable at the time of the initial release of the 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (Cotter & Savage, 2019), which excluded intimate partner violence as well as respondents living in the territories. For that reason, some 2018 data points may differ from the initial report. Overall prevalence of violent victimization in 2018, including intimate partner violence and the territories, was published in Cotter (2021b).
7. The difference in the overall prevalence of sexual and physical assault between 2018 and 2025 is not statistically significant.
8. For the remaining behaviours that make up the category of intimate partner physical assault (see Text box 1), the difference between women and men was not statistically significant.
9. While detailed analysis of intimate partner violence for 2025 is forthcoming, results from 2018 found that while the overall prevalence of intimate partner physical assault was not significantly different between women (2.4%) and men (2.8%), women were more likely to report more severe impacts of intimate partner violence, such as injury or fearing for their life, as well as a higher prevalence of some of the more severe types (e.g., choking) (Cotter, 2021b).
10. Unlike the data on prevalence, this excludes information on intimate partner violence. This is because information is collected separately, and in a different way. For non-intimate partner violence, respondents are asked on how many different occasions any incidents of physical or sexual assault occurred. For intimate partner violence, respondents are asked for each behaviour they experienced if it occurred once, a few times, monthly, weekly, or daily or almost daily in the previous 12 months.
11. The measure used for intimate partner violence was unchanged from the 2018 survey; for an overview, see Cotter, 2021b; particularly Text box 1.
12. The difference between Indigenous women and Indigenous men is not statistically significant.
13. The difference between LGB+ men and LGB+ women is not statistically significant.

14. The difference between racialized men (11%) and non-racialized men (12%) is not statistically significant.
15. The difference between women and men born outside of Canada is not statistically significant.
16. "Urban" is based on population centres, and includes all population living in the cores, secondary cores and fringes of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as the population living in population centres outside CMAs and CAs. All areas outside population centres are classified as rural areas.
17. This remained true when looking at rural-urban differences in intimate partner sexual assault and non-intimate partner sexual assault separately.
18. This differs from what is typically seen in police-reported data, where violent crime rates are higher in rural areas (Cotter, 2025). This may be explained by a number of factors, including differences in the number of crime types captured by self-reported versus police-reported data, the exclusion of people under the age of 15 in self-reported data, levels of reporting to police, the impact of repeat or multiple victimization, and other factors. Detailed analysis of rural victimization according to self-reported surveys (the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces and the 2026 Survey of Canadians' Safety) is planned for a forthcoming *Juristat* article.
19. The difference between 2018 (13%) and 2025 (10%) is not statistically significant.
20. There was a significant difference between men aged 15 to 24 and men aged 25 to 34, but the adjusted percentage was not different between men aged 15 to 24 and men aged 35 to 44.
21. Gender breakdowns by specific racialized groups are limited, due to sample size. See Table 4.
22. The prevalence of sexual assault in the past 12 months for other specific racialized population groups is too unreliable to be published.
23. LGB+ refers to those whose sexual orientation is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or another sexual orientation not elsewhere classified.
24. The difference between bisexual men and gay men is not statistically significant.
25. The difference between heterosexual women and lesbian women is not statistically significant.
26. To differentiate persons with and without a disability, respondents were asked if they identified as a person with a disability. This differs from the method used by Statistics Canada in the Canadian Survey on Disability, which includes disability screening questions to identify persons with a disability and calculate the official rates of disability in Canada. The 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces used disability screening questions to identify persons with a disability; as a result, comparisons should be made with caution.
27. As noted, the prevalence of sexual assault was lower in Quebec when compared with the rest of the country, and a considerable proportion of Francophone people in Canada live in Quebec. As such, these findings may be more related to location than language spoken or mother tongue.
28. While there are many Francophone communities outside of Quebec, and many Anglophone communities in Quebec, a more detailed analysis of specific location of residence is not possible due to sample size.
29. Among Francophone women in Quebec, 2.4% had been sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. Among Anglophone women living outside of Quebec, 3.4% were sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. There were no statistically significant differences between either of these estimates and those living in official language minority communities.
30. These exceptions include among the Black population and among those who identify as gay or lesbian, where differences between women and men were not statistically significant. See previous section and Table 4.
31. The difference between women and men is not statistically significant.
32. The difference between bisexual women and lesbian women is not statistically significant.
33. The measure of disability changed between 2018 and 2025. See Note 26. Comparisons should be made with caution.

34. 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*.
35. Includes intimate partner violence as well as incidents perpetrated by someone other than an intimate partner.
36. Cisgender refers to persons whose gender corresponds to their sex at birth. Transgender refers to persons whose gender does not correspond to their sex at birth. Non-binary refers to persons whose gender is not exclusively male or female.
37. In the SSPPS questionnaire, this can include intimate partner violence that is not physical or sexual assault (e.g., emotional, psychological, or financial abuse).
38. For some respondents, the most serious incident of sexual assault and the most serious incident of physical assault were part of the same incident. In these cases, details were reported once and are classified in this analysis as an incident of sexual assault. Ultimately, 8% of respondents who were physically assaulted said that their most serious incident of physical assault was also the most serious incident of sexual assault they experienced; these incident details are subsequently excluded from analysis of characteristics of physical assault to avoid counting the same incident twice when making comparisons.
39. The remaining proportion indicated that multiple people of different genders were responsible, or that they did not know the gender of the perpetrator or perpetrators.
40. Respondents were asked to indicate all relationships that applied with all perpetrators. Instances with multiple perpetrators are counted as perpetrated by a person known to the victim if at least one perpetrator was known to the victim. The category “person known to the victim” includes some intimate partner relationships, despite this information being collected separately in the survey. Intimate partners in this category are predominantly former dating partners. In many cases, this is due to incidents with multiple perpetrators where one of the perpetrators was identified as a former dating partner. It may also reflect respondents who were victims of both intimate and non-intimate partner sexual assault and considered an incident of intimate partner sexual assault as the most serious.
41. The most serious incident is not necessarily representative of all incidents or of overall levels of reporting; reporting rates may differ if information on all incidents was asked. Data from the forthcoming Survey of Canadians’ Safety will provide information on reporting rates of sexual assault, along with other types of violent, personal, and household crime, for all self-reported incidents.
42. These were the two most common reasons for not reporting sexual assault, according to the 2019 General Social Survey on Victimization.
43. This information is collected in the Survey of Canadians’ Safety (formerly the General Social Survey on Canadians’ Safety). The data has previously been published (see Cotter, 2024; Cotter, 2021a).
44. Results disaggregated by gender are too unreliable to be published; therefore, percentages reflect all victims of sexual assault. These questions were also asked in the 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces; however, results were too unreliable to be published. As a result, trend comparisons are not possible.
45. The difference between men who felt blamed for their own sexual assault and men who felt blamed for their own physical assault is not statistically significant.
46. 35% of women and 30%^E of men who felt blamed for their own sexual assault stated that family or friends made them feel this way; however, the difference is not statistically significant.
47. Estimates for women or men specifically are too unreliable to be published.
48. Respondents were asked to identify all individuals who made them feel responsible; therefore, percentages add to more than 100.
49. The proportion of men who used or consulted a victims’ service as a result of the most serious incident of sexual assault in 2018 is too unreliable to be published. That said, in 2018, 97% of men who were sexually assaulted stated that they did not use or contact a victims’ service. In 2025, this was the case for 82%.

50. Estimates for all of the other outcomes of using services for men who were victims of sexual assault are too unreliable to be published.

51. In most cases, results disaggregated by the type of violent victimization and gender disaggregated results are too unreliable to be published. The reasons presented therefore combine physical and sexual assault for all genders.

52. These proportions are likely an underestimation as they reflect the experiences of victims who reached out to a service and were unable to access it due to one of these reasons. As noted, most victims did not consult or use services because they did not want or need help or felt the incident was too minor; had they reached out to a service, some of these barriers to access may have been present.

53. Differences between women and men are not statistically significant.

54. Differences between women and men are not statistically significant.

55. More specifically, 1.5% of victims of sexual assault said that, in the most serious incident, the perpetrator had a knife. Further information on type of weapon or gender breakdowns for sexual assault is not possible due to sample size. Those who were physically assaulted stated that the perpetrator of the most serious incident had a gun (3.0%), a knife (9.6%), a bottle (1.7%), a bat or stick (5.4%), or another type of weapon (7.4%).

56. 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.

57. Reflects different types of violence but not necessarily different instances; it is possible that one incident involved both physical and sexual assault.

58. No statistically significant differences were found between the proportions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women who had experienced sexual assault since age 15.

59. No statistically significant differences were found between the proportions of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit who had experienced physical assault since age 15.

60. The questions on experiences in the workplace and school were only asked of those who were employed or attended school in the past 12 months, respectively.

61. There were minor wording changes to some of the existing questions, as well as a change in response categories. In 2018, the questions used a scale (0 times, 1 to 2 times, 3 to 5 times, 6 to 10 times, more than 10 times), while in 2025, they were yes or no questions.

62. For the purposes of comparison over time, 2025 includes experiences in public and in school-related settings, as respondents were not asked separately about the school setting in 2018. Data points in this text box may therefore differ from the body of the article, where school and public settings are not combined.

63. Respondents were asked to indicate the locations for all of the behaviours they had experienced in the past 12 months; therefore, percentages add to more than 100.

64. Based on responses to the question "Using a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means "very dissatisfied" and 10 means "very satisfied", how do you feel about your life as a whole right now?". In line with other indicator frameworks used by Statistics Canada, those who responded 8, 9, or 10 are considered to have high life satisfaction.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Violent victimization since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by type of victimization and gender of victim, 2025

Type of victimization by perpetrator	Women+†			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Since age 15									
Intimate partner violence^{1 2}									
Physical assault	23.6	23.0	24.2	15.2 *	14.7	15.8	19.5	19.1	19.9
Sexual assault	16.0	15.5	16.6	3.1 *	2.8	3.3	9.7	9.4	10.0
Total	28.3	27.6	28.9	16.0 *	15.4	16.6	22.3	21.9	22.7
Non-intimate partner violence									
Physical assault	31.1	30.5	31.6	33.9 *	33.2	34.6	32.5	32.0	32.9
Sexual assault	34.8	34.2	35.5	10.3 *	9.9	10.8	22.6	22.3	23.0
Total	43.7	43.1	44.4	36.1 *	35.4	36.8	39.9	39.5	40.4
Total violent victimization									
Physical assault	36.8	36.2	37.4	37.1	36.4	37.7	36.9	36.5	37.4
Sexual assault	37.2	36.6	37.9	11.3 *	10.8	11.7	24.3	23.9	24.7
Total	47.9	47.2	48.5	39.1 *	38.4	39.8	43.5	43.0	44.0
In the past 12 months									
Intimate partner violence^{1 3}									
Physical assault	2.5	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.7
Sexual assault	2.0	1.8	2.2	0.4 *	0.3	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.3
Total	3.7	3.4	4.1	2.7 *	2.4	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.4
Non-intimate partner violence									
Physical assault	2.6	2.4	2.8	3.7 *	3.5	4.0	3.2	3.0	3.4
Sexual assault	2.4	2.2	2.6	0.9 *	0.8	1.0	1.6	1.5	1.8
Total	4.3	4.0	4.6	4.3	4.0	4.6	4.3	4.1	4.5
Total violent victimization									
Physical assault	3.9	3.6	4.2	5.1 *	4.8	5.5	4.5	4.3	4.7
Sexual assault	3.2	3.0	3.5	1.1 *	0.9	1.3	2.2	2.0	2.3
Total	6.0	5.6	6.3	5.7	5.4	6.1	5.8	5.6	6.1

* 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 have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

3. Percent calculations exclude respondents who 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.

Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 2
Experiences of intimate partner violence since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by type of victimization and gender of victim, 2025

Type of violence	Women+†			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Since age 15¹									
Emotional, psychological, or financial abuse	43.4	42.7	44.1	33.9 *	33.2	34.6	38.8	38.3	39.3
Physical or sexual violence	28.3	27.6	28.9	16.0 *	15.4	16.6	22.3	21.9	22.7
Physical violence	23.6	23.0	24.2	15.2 *	14.7	15.8	19.5	19.1	19.9
Sexual violence	16.0	15.5	16.6	3.1 *	2.8	3.3	9.7	9.4	10.0
Total	45.1	44.4	45.8	35.3 *	34.6	36.0	40.3	39.8	40.8
In the past 12 months²									
Emotional, psychological, or financial abuse	13.2	12.6	13.8	11.9 *	11.3	12.4	12.5	12.1	12.9
Physical or sexual violence	3.7	3.4	4.1	2.7 *	2.4	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.4
Physical violence	2.5	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.7
Sexual violence	2.0	1.8	2.2	0.4 *	0.3	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.3
Total	13.6	13.1	14.2	12.3 *	11.8	12.9	13.0	12.6	13.4

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

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

2. Percent calculations exclude respondents who 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.

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, while the category “Men+” includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 3
Violent victimization in the past 12 months, by gender and province or territory of residence, 2025

Type of victimization and province and territory	Women+†			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Physical assault									
Newfoundland and Labrador	4.0	2.3	6.9	4.1	2.2	7.7	4.1	2.7	6.2
Prince Edward Island	F	F	F	F	F	F	5.7	3.2	10.0
Nova Scotia	3.5	2.3	5.2	4.3	2.9	6.5	3.9	2.9	5.2
New Brunswick	3.7	2.4	5.7	3.9	2.4	6.3	3.8	2.7	5.2
Quebec	2.8 **	2.4	3.3	3.9 ***	3.4	4.6	3.4 **	3.0	3.8
Ontario	3.9	3.5	4.4	5.1 *	4.6	5.7	4.5	4.2	4.9
Manitoba	3.7	2.6	5.3	6.9 *	5.2	9.2	5.3	4.3	6.6
Saskatchewan	4.5	3.1	6.3	7.5 ***	5.8	9.7	6.0 **	4.9	7.4
Alberta	4.7 **	3.9	5.6	6.4 ***	5.4	7.5	5.5 **	4.9	6.2
British Columbia	4.7 **	3.9	5.5	5.4	4.5	6.4	5.0	4.5	5.7
Yukon	7.1	4.1	11.9	7.3	4.0	12.9	7.2	4.8	10.6
Northwest Territories	10.5 **	7.0	15.4	6.7	4.1	10.9	8.6 **	6.1	11.9
Nunavut	6.9	3.9	11.7	5.7	3.2	10.0	6.3	4.1	9.5
Canada	3.9	3.6	4.2	5.1 *	4.8	5.5	4.5	4.3	4.7
Sexual assault									
Newfoundland and Labrador	4.1	2.5	6.8	F	F	F	2.9	1.9	4.4
Prince Edward Island	F	F	F	F	F	F	3.4	1.7	6.8
Nova Scotia	3.6	2.5	5.3	F	F	F	2.5	1.7	3.5
New Brunswick	1.9 **	1.1	3.2	F	F	F	1.2 **	0.7	1.9
Quebec	2.6 **	2.2	3.1	0.8 ***	0.5	1.1	1.7 **	1.5	2.0
Ontario	3.5	3.1	4.0	1.2 *	0.9	1.5	2.4	2.1	2.6
Manitoba	3.8	2.7	5.4	1.9 *	1.1	3.4	2.9	2.1	3.9
Saskatchewan	2.8	1.8	4.3	F	F	F	1.9	1.3	2.8
Alberta	3.5	2.8	4.4	1.2 *	0.8	1.8	2.3	1.9	2.8
British Columbia	3.0	2.4	3.8	1.1 *	0.7	1.7	2.1	1.7	2.5
Yukon	3.3	1.8	6.0	F	F	F	1.9	1.1	3.2
Northwest Territories	5.4	2.6	10.6	F	F	F	3.6	2.0	6.2
Nunavut	4.6	2.3	8.8	F	F	F	3.3	1.9	5.8
Canada	3.2	3.0	3.5	1.1 *	0.9	1.3	2.2	2.0	2.3

See notes at the end of the table

Table 3
Violent victimization in the past 12 months, by gender and province or territory of residence, 2025

Type of victimization and province and territory	Women+†			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Total violent victimization									
Newfoundland and Labrador	5.5	3.5	8.3	5.5	3.2	9.3	5.5	3.9	7.7
Prince Edward Island	7.7	4.1	14.1	F	F	F	7.0	4.2	11.4
Nova Scotia	6.0	4.5	8.0	4.9	3.4	7.2	5.5	4.3	6.9
New Brunswick	4.7	3.2	6.8	4.3	2.7	6.7	4.5 **	3.4	6.0
Quebec	4.5 **	3.9	5.0	4.4 **	3.8	5.0	4.4 **	4.0	4.9
Ontario	6.3	5.8	6.9	5.7	5.1	6.3	6.0	5.6	6.5
Manitoba	6.5	4.9	8.4	7.7	5.8	10.0	7.1	5.8	8.5
Saskatchewan	5.9	4.4	7.9	8.1 **	6.3	10.4	7.0	5.8	8.5
Alberta	6.8	5.9	7.9	7.0 **	6.0	8.2	6.9 **	6.2	7.7
British Columbia	6.4	5.6	7.5	6.1	5.1	7.1	6.3	5.6	7.0
Yukon	9.2	6.0	13.9	7.3	4.0	12.9	8.3	5.8	11.6
Northwest Territories	12.8 **	8.7	18.3	7.7	4.9	12.0	10.2 **	7.4	13.8
Nunavut	10.6 **	6.9	15.8	6.1	3.5	10.5	8.3	5.8	11.7
Canada	6.0	5.6	6.3	5.7	5.4	6.1	5.8	5.6	6.1

F too unreliable to be published

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

** significantly different from estimate for rest of Canada ($p < 0.05$)

*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$) and estimate for the rest of Canada ($p < 0.05$)

Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender. The reference category for each province and territory is the sum of all other provinces and territories.

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

Table 4
Sexual assault in the past 12 months, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Age group (years)									
15 to 24†	10.3	9.1	11.6	2.9 **	2.3	3.7	6.5	5.8	7.2
25 to 34	4.6 *	3.9	5.5	1.5 ***	1.1	2.1	3.0 *	2.6	3.5
35 to 44	2.7 *	2.2	3.3	1.4 ***	1.0	1.9	2.0 *	1.7	2.4
45 to 54	2.2 *	1.7	2.7	0.5 ***	0.3	0.9	1.4 *	1.1	1.7
55 and older	0.7 *	0.6	0.9	0.2 ***	0.1	0.3	0.5 *	0.4	0.6
Indigenous identity									
Indigenous person	5.7 *	4.5	7.3	2.7 ***	1.8	4.1	4.3 *	3.5	5.3
First Nations	6.9 *	4.9	9.6	3.2 ***	1.8	5.6	5.1 *	3.8	6.8
Métis	4.7	3.2	6.9	2.4	1.3	4.5	3.6 *	2.6	5.0
Inuk	5.9	3.4	10.0	F	F	F	3.5	2.1	5.9
Non-Indigenous person†	3.1	2.8	3.3	1.0 **	0.8	1.2	2.0	1.9	2.2
Racialized population group¹									
Yes	2.7	2.2	3.3	1.0 **	0.7	1.4	1.8	1.5	2.2
South Asian	2.8	1.9	4.2	F	F	F	1.6	1.1	2.3
Chinese	2.2	1.4	3.5	F	F	F	1.5	1.0	2.2
Black	3.1	1.8	5.0	1.8	0.9	3.8	2.4	1.6	3.7
Filipino	2.5	1.4	4.5	F	F	F	1.7	1.0	2.9
Arab	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Latin American	F	F	F	F	F	F	1.6	0.8	3.2
Southeast Asian	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
West Asian	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Korean	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Japanese	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Multiple racialized population groups	F	F	F	F	F	F	3.8	2.0	7.4
Racialized population group not otherwise specified	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
No†	3.2	2.9	3.5	0.9 **	0.8	1.1	2.1	1.9	2.3
Place of birth									
Born outside Canada	2.1 *	1.7	2.6	0.9 **	0.6	1.2	1.5 *	1.2	1.8
Born in Canada†	3.6	3.3	3.9	1.2 **	1.0	1.4	2.4	2.2	2.6
Sexual orientation									
Heterosexual†	2.6	2.4	2.9	0.7 **	0.6	0.9	1.7	1.5	1.8
LGB+	9.3 *	8.0	10.7	6.5 ***	5.2	8.2	8.2 *	7.3	9.3
Lesbian or gay	3.9	2.5	6.0	5.8 *	4.1	8.3	5.0 *	3.8	6.6
Bisexual	11.4 *	9.7	13.3	7.0 ***	5.1	9.5	10.1 *	8.7	11.6
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	7.9 *	5.0	12.2	8.2 *	4.1	15.9	8.0 *	5.5	11.5

See notes at the end of the table

Table 4
Sexual assault in the past 12 months, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Identifies as a person with a disability									
Yes	5.5 *	4.7	6.4	2.2 ***	1.7	2.9	4.0 *	3.5	4.5
No†	2.8	2.5	3.0	0.9 **	0.8	1.1	1.8	1.7	2.0
Employed in past 12 months									
Yes	4.0 *	3.7	4.4	1.2 **	1.0	1.4	2.5 *	2.3	2.7
No†	1.8	1.5	2.1	0.9 **	0.7	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.6
Individual before-tax income									
Less than \$20,000 ¹²	5.2	4.5	6.0	2.3 **	1.8	3.0	3.9	3.5	4.5
\$20,000 to \$39,999	3.3 *	2.8	3.9	1.3 ***	0.9	1.9	2.4 *	2.1	2.8
\$40,000 to \$59,999	2.3 *	1.8	2.9	0.8 ***	0.6	1.3	1.6 *	1.3	2.0
\$60,000 to \$79,999	2.6 *	2.0	3.3	0.7 ***	0.4	1.2	1.6 *	1.3	2.0
\$80,000 to \$99,999	2.3 *	1.7	3.2	0.4 ***	0.2	0.9	1.3 *	1.0	1.7
\$100,000 to \$119,999	2.4 *	1.6	3.6	0.6 ***	0.3	1.2	1.4 *	0.9	1.9
\$120,000 or more	2.1 *	1.5	2.9	0.7 ***	0.5	1.1	1.2 *	0.9	1.5
Not stated	4.1	3.1	5.3	1.4 ***	0.9	2.3	2.7 *	2.1	3.4
Attended school in the past 12 months									
Yes	8.2 *	7.2	9.3	2.7 ***	2.1	3.3	5.6 *	5.0	6.2
No†	2.2	2.0	2.4	0.8 **	0.7	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.6
Marital status									
Married or common-law†	1.5	1.3	1.7	0.5 **	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.1
Separated, divorced, or widowed	2.3 *	1.9	2.8	0.9 **	0.5	1.5	1.8 *	1.5	2.2
Single, never married	7.1 *	6.4	7.9	2.2 ***	1.9	2.7	4.5 *	4.1	4.9
Area of residence									
Rural area of the provinces	2.9	2.3	3.5	0.8 ***	0.5	1.2	1.8 *	1.5	2.2
Territories	4.4	2.9	6.5	1.4 **	0.7	2.8	2.9	2.1	4.0
Urban area of the provinces†	3.3	3.0	3.6	1.2 **	1.0	1.4	2.2	2.1	2.4
First official language spoken									
English†	3.4	3.1	3.7	1.2 **	1.0	1.4	2.3	2.1	2.5
French	2.4 *	2.0	2.9	0.8 ***	0.5	1.1	1.6 *	1.4	1.9
English and French	4.8	2.7	8.4	F	F	F	2.7	1.6	4.4
Neither English nor French	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

F too unreliable to be published

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

** significantly different from estimate for Women+ ($p < 0.05$)

*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$) and estimate for Women+ ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

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

2. Respondents who were 15 years of age and who did not link to tax data were assumed to have an individual income of \$0.

Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 5
Physical assault in the past 12 months, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Age group (years)									
15 to 24†	8.5	7.4	9.6	8.8	7.7	10.0	8.6	7.9	9.5
25 to 34	5.2 *	4.4	6.1	7.1 ***	6.2	8.3	6.2 *	5.5	6.9
35 to 44	4.3 *	3.6	5.0	6.4 ***	5.6	7.3	5.3 *	4.8	5.9
45 to 54	3.7 *	3.1	4.3	4.2 *	3.5	5.0	3.9 *	3.5	4.4
55 and older	1.5 *	1.3	1.8	2.3 ***	2.0	2.6	1.9 *	1.7	2.1
Indigenous identity									
Indigenous person	8.3 *	6.9	10.1	9.8 *	8.0	12.1	9.1 *	7.9	10.4
First Nations	10.7 *	8.3	13.6	9.9 *	7.1	13.7	10.3 *	8.5	12.5
Métis	6.1 *	4.3	8.7	9.9 ***	7.3	13.4	7.9 *	6.3	10.0
Inuk	12.1 *	8.0	18.0	10.6 *	6.6	16.7	11.4 *	8.3	15.5
Non-Indigenous person†	3.5	3.3	3.8	4.8 **	4.5	5.2	4.2	4.0	4.4
Racialized population group¹									
Yes	2.9 *	2.4	3.5	3.7 ***	3.2	4.4	3.3 *	3.0	3.8
South Asian	3.2	2.3	4.6	3.7 *	2.7	5.0	3.5 *	2.8	4.4
Chinese	2.7	1.9	4.0	4.0	2.8	5.6	3.3 *	2.6	4.3
Black	2.4	1.4	4.1	3.7	2.3	5.9	3.0 *	2.1	4.3
Filipino	2.5	1.5	4.2	F	F	F	2.4 *	1.6	3.7
Arab	3.2	1.6	6.3	3.8	2.0	7.0	3.5	2.2	5.6
Latin American	F	F	F	3.4	1.7	6.6	3.4	2.1	5.4
Southeast Asian	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
West Asian	F	F	F	F	F	F	4.1	2.2	7.3
Korean	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Japanese	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Multiple racialized population groups	F	F	F	8.1	4.2	14.9	6.1	3.5	10.3
Racialized population group not otherwise specified	F	F	F	F	F	F	3.7	1.8	7.4
No†	3.7	3.4	4.0	5.2 **	4.8	5.6	4.4	4.2	4.7
Place of birth									
Born outside Canada	2.6 *	2.1	3.0	3.5 ***	3.0	4.1	3.0 *	2.7	3.4
Born in Canada†	4.2	3.9	4.6	5.7 **	5.3	6.2	5.0	4.7	5.3
Sexual orientation									
Heterosexual†	3.1	2.9	3.4	4.9 **	4.5	5.2	4.0	3.8	4.2
LGB+	10.7 *	9.4	12.2	9.8 *	8.2	11.7	10.4 *	9.3	11.5
Lesbian or gay	9.1 *	6.7	12.3	7.0	5.1	9.5	7.9 *	6.4	9.8
Bisexual	11.0 *	9.4	13.0	12.0 *	9.4	15.2	11.3 *	9.8	13.0
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	12.1 *	8.5	16.9	13.9 *	8.9	21.2	12.7 *	9.6	16.6

See notes at the end of the table

Table 5
Physical assault in the past 12 months, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Identifies as a person with a disability									
Yes	6.8 *	6.0	7.8	8.0 *	6.9	9.2	7.3 *	6.6	8.1
No†	3.2	2.9	3.5	4.6 **	4.3	5.0	3.9	3.7	4.2
Employed in past 12 months									
Yes	4.6 *	4.2	5.0	5.7 ***	5.3	6.1	5.2 *	4.9	5.4
No†	2.6	2.2	3.0	3.7 **	3.2	4.3	3.0	2.7	3.4
Individual before-tax income									
Less than \$20,000 ¹²	5.2	4.6	6.0	7.1 **	6.1	8.2	6.1	5.5	6.7
\$20,000 to \$39,999	3.3 *	2.8	3.9	5.3 ***	4.5	6.2	4.1 *	3.7	4.7
\$40,000 to \$59,999	2.9 *	2.3	3.5	3.9 ***	3.2	4.7	3.3 *	2.9	3.8
\$60,000 to \$79,999	3.6 *	2.9	4.4	3.3 *	2.7	4.2	3.5 *	3.0	4.0
\$80,000 to \$99,999	3.2 *	2.5	4.2	5.6 **	4.6	6.8	4.5 *	3.8	5.3
\$100,000 to \$119,999	4.5	3.5	5.8	4.5 *	3.5	5.7	4.5 *	3.7	5.4
\$120,000 or more	3.3 *	2.5	4.3	5.2 ***	4.4	6.1	4.5 *	3.9	5.2
Not stated	6.3	5.1	7.9	6.1	4.9	7.7	6.2	5.3	7.3
Attended school in the past 12 months									
Yes	7.3 *	6.4	8.3	8.6 *	7.6	9.8	7.9 *	7.2	8.7
No†	3.2	2.9	3.4	4.5 **	4.1	4.8	3.8	3.6	4.0
Marital status									
Married or common-law†	2.9	2.6	3.2	4.0 **	3.6	4.4	3.5	3.2	3.7
Separated, divorced, or widowed	2.7	2.3	3.3	4.2 **	3.3	5.3	3.2	2.8	3.7
Single, never married	6.4 *	5.8	7.1	7.4 *	6.6	8.1	6.9 *	6.4	7.5
Area of residence									
Rural area of the provinces	3.6	3.0	4.4	4.7 **	4.0	5.6	4.2	3.7	4.8
Territories	8.2 *	6.2	10.8	6.7	4.8	9.1	7.4 *	5.9	9.2
Urban area of the provinces†	3.9	3.6	4.2	5.2 **	4.8	5.6	4.5	4.3	4.8
First official language spoken									
English†	4.0	3.7	4.4	5.4 **	5.0	5.8	4.7	4.4	5.0
French	2.9 *	2.4	3.4	4.1 ***	3.5	4.8	3.5 *	3.1	3.9
English and French	5.4	3.4	8.5	4.5	2.6	7.6	4.9	3.4	6.9
Neither English nor French	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

F too unreliable to be published

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

** significantly different from estimate for Women+ ($p < 0.05$)

*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$) and estimate for Women+ ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

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

2. Respondents who were 15 years of age and who did not link to tax data were assumed to have an individual income of \$0.

Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 6
Characteristics of the most serious incident, by type of victimization and gender of victim, Canada, 2025

Selected characteristics of the most serious incident	Sexual assault						Physical assault					
	Women†			Men			Women†			Men		
	percent ¹	95% confidence interval		percent ¹	95% confidence interval		percent ¹	95% confidence interval		percent ¹	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
Location of the incident												
Private residence, property, or surrounding area	40.0	35.3	44.8	32.5	25.4	40.5	39.6	34.9	44.6	24.9 *	21.6	28.5
Commercial or institutional establishment	38.1	33.4	43.0	44.9	37.0	53.0	25.1	21.2	29.6	21.6	18.5	25.2
Street or other public place	14.1	10.9	18.1	12.8	8.1	19.5	26.2	22.0	30.8	40.7 *	36.7	44.7
Other	6.1	4.2	8.7	7.5	4.1	13.4	7.4	5.2	10.3	11.8 *	9.4	14.6
Number of perpetrators												
One	85.9	82.3	88.8	77.3 *	69.4	83.7	85.4	81.8	88.4	78.6 *	75.3	81.6
More than one	12.4	9.6	15.9	19.2	13.4	26.7	13.0	10.1	16.6	20.3 *	17.4	23.7
Gender of perpetrator												
Single perpetrator (man) or multiple perpetrators (all or mostly men)	91.2	88.3	93.5	44.0 *	36.3	52.1	74.7	70.3	78.6	76.6	73.0	79.8
Single perpetrator (woman) or multiple perpetrators (all or mostly women)	4.2	2.7	6.6	36.8 *	29.5	44.8	15.7	12.5	19.5	10.5 *	8.2	13.3
Other ²	2.8	1.6	4.9	13.7 *	9.0	20.3	7.0	5.0	9.8	10.4	8.2	13.2
Not stated	F	F	F	F	F	F	2.6	1.5	4.5	2.5	1.5	4.1
Relationship to perpetrator												
Stranger	25.1	21.2	29.4	21.8	15.8	29.3	31.3	27.0	36.0	52.3 *	48.1	56.4
Someone known to the victim	73.2	68.8	77.2	74.0	65.9	80.7	66.7	61.9	71.1	46.4 *	42.3	50.5
Presence of a weapon												
Yes	3.2	1.8	5.4	5.6	3.0	10.2	15.8	12.7	19.6	31.1 *	27.6	34.9
No	87.2	83.7	90.0	83.0	75.4	88.6	70.6	66.1	74.7	56.2 *	52.2	60.1
Don't know	7.2	5.1	10.0	8.0	4.1	14.9	12.0	9.3	15.3	12.1	9.6	15.1
Victim sustained physical injuries												
Yes	15.6	12.4	19.4	9.6 *	5.9	15.3	25.4	21.5	29.9	23.4	20.1	27.0
No	81.9	78.1	85.2	86.6	79.9	91.4	73.1	68.6	77.1	76.0	72.4	79.3
Victim was emotionally impacted by the incident												
Yes	64.3	59.6	68.8	49.4 *	41.4	57.5	62.6	57.9	67.1	39.6 *	35.8	43.6
No	32.4	27.9	37.1	46.5 *	38.4	54.8	35.0	30.6	39.7	58.9 *	54.9	62.8
Three or more longer-term emotional impacts consistent with PTSD												
Yes	29.3	25.1	33.9	24.4	18.0	32.2	31.8	27.3	36.6	16.1 *	13.3	19.3
No	67.1	62.5	71.5	70.8	62.6	77.9	65.5	60.7	70.1	82.3 *	79.0	85.1
Incident reported to police												
Yes	8.7	6.3	11.8	8.4	4.8	14.3	25.1	21.3	29.3	29.6	26.1	33.3
No	88.4	85.1	91.1	88.8	82.2	93.1	73.1	68.8	76.9	69.3	65.5	72.8

See notes at the end of the table

Table 6
Characteristics of the most serious incident, by type of victimization and gender of victim, Canada, 2025

Selected characteristics of the most serious incident	Sexual assault						Physical assault					
	Women†			Men			Women†			Men		
	percent ¹	95% confidence interval		percent ¹	95% confidence interval		percent ¹	95% confidence interval		percent ¹	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
Talked to someone for support												
A family member	34.8	30.3	39.6	23.0 *	16.7	30.9	49.7	45.0	54.4	47.2	43.1	51.4
A friend or neighbour	51.8	47.0	56.6	47.7	39.4	56.2	44.4	39.6	49.3	38.2	34.3	42.2
A co-worker	13.3	10.3	16.9	10.1	6.0	16.5	24.5	20.5	29.0	23.6	20.3	27.3
A doctor or nurse	11.8	9.0	15.2	7.6	4.4	13.0	12.7	10.0	16.1	7.2 *	5.4	9.5
A lawyer	2.0	1.0	4.3	F	F	F	3.0	1.8	5.0	4.4	3.1	6.4
A priest, rabbi, imam, elder, or other spiritual advisor	F	F	F	F	F	F	2.5	1.3	4.5	1.9	1.1	3.4
Other	6.3	4.3	9.1	9.1	5.3	15.3	11.4	8.7	14.7	9.5	7.5	12.1
No	21.4	17.9	25.5	29.8	22.7	38.1	16.0	12.8	19.8	22.1 *	18.9	25.7
Contacted or used victims' services for help												
Yes	17.3	14.0	21.3	15.6	10.8	21.9	22.3	18.5	26.7	9.8 *	7.7	12.5
No	80.3	76.2	83.8	82.2	75.5	87.4	76.0	71.6	79.9	89.1 *	86.3	91.4
Blamed or made to feel responsible for the incident												
Yes	32.4	28.1	37.0	27.1	20.7	34.6	32.4	28.1	37.0	21.9 *	18.8	25.4
No	64.6	59.9	69.0	69.4	61.7	76.1	65.8	61.2	70.1	76.7 *	73.2	79.9
Changed behaviour as a result of the incident												
Yes	80.0	75.0	84.3	71.3	59.8	80.5	79.0	74.0	83.2	74.8	68.4	80.2
Avoiding certain places	45.3	39.4	51.3	42.9	32.3	54.3	42.6	37.0	48.5	43.7	37.6	50.1
Avoiding certain people or situations	46.4	40.5	52.3	45.2	34.2	56.6	49.4	43.7	55.2	45.9	39.7	52.2
Changing the way you present yourself in public	35.5	29.9	41.5	37.6	27.6	48.8	24.3	19.5	29.8	23.7	18.7	29.5
Carrying something to defend yourself or alert others	24.0	19.3	29.4	17.9	10.7	28.3	19.8	15.5	25.0	18.3	14.0	23.6
Becoming withdrawn from social events or activities you typically enjoy	36.2	30.8	41.9	38.8	28.3	50.4	31.4	26.0	37.3	24.6	19.7	30.2
Staying home in order to avoid similar experiences	38.7	33.0	44.7	41.0	30.6	52.3	29.1	23.8	35.0	26.8	21.6	32.8
Other	8.3	5.5	12.3	6.0	2.7	13.1	11.8	8.6	15.9	9.2	6.2	13.3
No	14.5	11.0	19.0	19.9	12.1	30.9	16.9	13.1	21.6	21.3	16.3	27.3
Not stated	5.4	3.4	8.7	F	F	F	4.1	2.4	6.9	4.0	2.2	7.1

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses but are not displayed unless they represent 5% or more of total responses.

2. Includes incidents where the perpetrators were all or mostly gender diverse (single or multiple perpetrators), where there were multiple perpetrators of different genders that were equally divided, or where the respondent did not know the gender of the perpetrator or perpetrators.

Note: Excludes physical and sexual assault committed by an intimate partner, which was collected using a different methodology. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 7
Perceptions of interactions with police and action taken by police, by type of victimization, Canada, 2025

Interactions and actions taken	Sexual assault			Physical assault		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
Perceptions of interactions with police¹						
Informed about services, programs, or resources						
Yes	71.7 ^E	56.8	83.0	55.4	49.3	61.4
No	28.3 ^E	17.0	43.2	44.3	38.4	50.4
Treated with respect						
Yes	69.3 ^E	54.1	81.2	84.0	78.9	88.0
No	28.8 ^E	17.3	43.8	15.7	11.8	20.7
Felt as though report was believed						
Yes	70.8 ^E	55.8	82.4	81.6	76.4	85.8
No	27.2 ^E	16.1	42.0	17.8	13.6	23.0
Felt that speaking to police was worth the time and effort						
Yes	44.2 ^E	30.6	58.7	64.3	58.3	69.9
No	55.8 ^E	41.3	69.4	35.2	29.6	41.2
Overall satisfaction with police treatment						
Satisfied or very satisfied	50.9 ^E	36.1	65.6	63.1	57.2	68.7
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	F	F	F	14.4	10.6	19.3
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	36.1 ^E	23.1	51.5	22.5	17.9	27.9
Actions taken by police²						
Visited the scene	32.9 ^E	20.5	48.1	50.8	45.2	56.3
Made a report or conducted an investigation	59.5 ^E	45.1	72.4	49.4	43.6	55.1
Gave a warning to the offender	21.0 ^E	11.5	35.2	23.1	18.6	28.2
Took away the offender	F	F	F	20.2	15.8	25.5
Arrested the offender	26.3 ^E	15.2	41.6	26.3	21.3	31.9
Laid charges against the offender	31.4 ^E	19.7	46.1	23.6	19.3	28.6
Any other action	F	F	F	8.4	5.7	12.1
No action	14.2 ^E	7.2	26.2	16.0	12.3	20.7
Overall satisfaction with actions take by police						
Satisfied or very satisfied	42.0 ^E	28.7	56.5	51.5	45.8	57.3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	F	F	F	18.4	14.5	23.1
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	47.7 ^E	33.6	62.3	29.9	24.9	35.3

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Percent calculations are based on the number of victims who stated that they personally reported the incident to police or spoke with police in relation to the incident at any point.

2. Percent calculations are based on the number of victims who stated the incident was reported to police.

Note: Excludes physical and sexual assault committed by an intimate partner, which was collected using a different methodology.

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

Table 8
Sexual assault since the age of 15, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Age group (years)									
15 to 24†	32	30	34	10 **	9	12	21	20	22
25 to 34	49 *	47	51	17 ***	15	18	32 *	31	33
35 to 44	44 *	42	45	14 ***	13	16	29 *	28	30
45 to 54	41 *	39	43	11 **	10	13	26 *	25	27
55 and older	30 *	29	31	7 ***	7	8	19 *	19	20
Indigenous identity									
Indigenous person	52 *	49	55	16 ***	14	19	35 *	33	37
First Nations	53 *	49	58	17 ***	14	21	36 *	33	40
Métis	51 *	47	55	16 ***	13	20	34 *	32	37
Inuk	52 *	45	59	14 **	9	20	33 *	29	39
Non-Indigenous person†	37	36	37	11 **	11	12	24	23	24
Racialized population group†									
Yes	23 *	21	24	8 ***	7	9	15 *	14	16
South Asian	18 *	15	21	6 ***	5	8	11 *	10	13
Chinese	21 *	18	23	5 ***	4	7	13 *	12	15
Black	25 *	22	29	10 **	7	13	18 *	15	20
Filipino	18 *	14	21	9 **	7	13	14 *	12	16
Arab	22 *	18	28	9 **	6	13	15 *	12	18
Latin American	34 *	29	39	10 **	7	15	22 *	19	26
Southeast Asian	19 *	14	25	10 **	6	16	14 *	11	19
West Asian	32 *	24	40	14 **	9	20	22 *	17	27
Korean	16 *	10	25	F	F	F	10 *	6	15
Japanese	39 ^E	26	53	F	F	F	26	18	36
Multiple racialized population groups	43	34	52	12 **	7	20	27	22	34
Racialized population group not otherwise specified	30 *	23	38	9 **	5	16	20 *	16	25
No†	41	41	42	12 **	11	13	27	26	27
Place of birth									
Born outside Canada	24 *	23	26	8 ***	7	9	16 *	15	17
Born in Canada†	42	41	43	12 **	12	13	28	27	28
Sexual orientation									
Heterosexual†	35	35	36	10 **	9	10	22	22	23
LGB+	61 *	58	63	38 ***	35	41	52 *	50	54
Lesbian or gay	46 *	42	51	37 ***	33	41	41 *	38	44
Bisexual	66 *	63	69	36 ***	31	40	57 *	55	60
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	56 *	49	62	54 *	45	62	55 *	50	60

See notes at the end of the table

Table 8
Sexual assault since the age of 15, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Identifies as a person with a disability									
Yes	52 *	50	54	20 ***	18	21	37 *	36	39
No†	34	34	35	10 **	10	10	22	22	23
Employed in past 12 months									
Yes	42 *	41	43	12 ***	12	13	26 *	26	27
No†	28	27	29	9 **	8	10	20	19	20
Individual before-tax income									
Less than \$20,000 ¹²	33	32	35	13 **	12	15	24	23	25
\$20,000 to \$39,999	33	32	35	12 **	11	13	24	23	25
\$40,000 to \$59,999	36 *	34	38	10 ***	9	11	24	23	25
\$60,000 to \$79,999	41 *	39	42	11 ***	10	12	26	25	27
\$80,000 to \$99,999	44 *	42	47	10 ***	9	12	26	25	27
\$100,000 to \$119,999	45 *	43	48	11 ***	10	13	26	24	27
\$120,000 or more	47 *	44	49	11 ***	10	12	23	22	24
Not stated	31	28	33	11 ***	9	13	20 *	19	22
Attended school in the past 12 months									
Yes	37	35	39	12 **	11	13	25	24	26
No†	37	37	38	11 **	11	12	24	24	25
Marital status									
Married or common-law†	36	35	37	9 **	9	10	22	22	23
Separated, divorced, or widowed	37	36	39	12 ***	10	13	29 *	28	30
Single, never married	40 *	39	41	15 ***	14	16	26 *	26	27
Area of residence									
Rural area of the provinces	37	36	39	9 ***	8	10	23 *	22	24
Territories	41	37	45	11 **	9	14	26	24	28
Urban area of the provinces†	37	37	38	12 **	11	12	25	24	25
First official language spoken									
English†	39	38	40	12 **	12	13	26	25	26
French	32 *	31	33	8 ***	7	9	20 *	20	21
English and French	31 *	26	37	13 **	9	17	21 *	18	25
Neither English nor French	5 *	3	9	F	F	F	3 *	2	6

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from estimate for Women+ (p < 0.05)

*** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05) and estimate for Women+ (p < 0.05)

† reference category

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

2. Respondents who were 15 years of age and who did not link to tax data were assumed to have an individual income of \$0.

Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 9
Physical assault since the age of 15, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Age group (years)									
15 to 24†	28	26	30	28	26	30	28	27	29
25 to 34	44 *	42	45	44 *	42	46	44 *	42	45
35 to 44	42 *	41	44	46 ***	44	47	44 *	43	45
45 to 54	43 *	41	45	44 *	42	45	43 *	42	44
55 and older	32 *	31	33	30 ***	30	31	31 *	31	32
Indigenous identity									
Indigenous person	57 *	54	60	52 ***	49	56	55 *	53	57
First Nations	60 *	56	64	51 ***	45	56	56 *	53	59
Métis	54 *	50	59	55 *	50	59	55 *	51	58
Inuk	55 *	48	62	51 *	43	58	53 *	47	58
Non-Indigenous person†	36	35	36	36	36	37	36	36	37
Racialized population group¹									
Yes	23 *	22	25	26 ***	25	28	25 *	24	26
South Asian	21 *	18	23	21 *	18	23	21 *	19	23
Chinese	18 *	16	21	25 ***	22	28	22 *	20	24
Black	29 *	26	33	30 *	26	34	30 *	27	33
Filipino	19 *	16	23	20 *	16	24	19 *	17	22
Arab	18 *	13	23	30 ***	25	35	24 *	21	28
Latin American	38	32	44	37	32	44	38	34	42
Southeast Asian	21 *	15	27	26 *	20	34	23 *	19	28
West Asian	27 *	20	35	39 **	31	47	33 *	28	39
Korean	24 *	17	34	23 *	15	34	24 *	18	31
Japanese	24 E*	14	38	F	F	F	26 *	17	37
Multiple racialized population groups	39	31	49	40	31	49	40	33	46
Racialized population group not otherwise specified	38	30	46	32	25	41	35	30	41
No†	40	39	41	40	39	41	40	39	41
Place of birth									
Born outside Canada	27 *	25	28	28 *	27	29	27 *	26	28
Born in Canada†	41	40	41	41	40	42	41	40	41
Sexual orientation									
Heterosexual†	35	34	36	36 **	36	37	36	35	36
LGB+	58 *	56	60	54 ***	51	57	56 *	55	58
Lesbian or gay	50 *	45	55	49 *	45	53	50 *	46	53
Bisexual	60 *	57	63	57 *	52	62	59 *	57	62
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	62 *	55	68	64 *	55	72	62 *	57	67

See notes at the end of the table

Table 9
Physical assault since the age of 15, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Identifies as a person with a disability									
Yes	55 *	53	56	49 ***	47	51	52 *	51	53
No†	33	33	34	35 **	35	36	34	34	35
Employed in past 12 months									
Yes	40 *	39	41	40 *	39	41	40 *	39	40
No†	31	30	32	30	29	31	31	30	31
Individual before-tax income									
Less than \$20,000 ¹²	33	32	35	35	33	37	34	33	35
\$20,000 to \$39,999	34	33	36	35	33	37	35	34	36
\$40,000 to \$59,999	36 *	35	38	33 ***	32	35	35	34	36
\$60,000 to \$79,999	39 *	38	41	38 *	36	40	39 *	37	40
\$80,000 to \$99,999	41 *	39	44	40 *	38	43	41 *	39	42
\$100,000 to \$119,999	44 *	41	46	40 ***	37	42	41 *	39	43
\$120,000 or more	44 *	42	47	43 *	41	45	44 *	42	45
Not stated	32	30	35	32	30	35	32	30	34
Attended school in the past 12 months									
Yes	33 *	31	35	33 *	31	35	33 *	32	34
No†	38	37	38	38	37	39	38	37	38
Marital status									
Married or common-law†	35	34	36	36	35	37	35	35	36
Separated, divorced, or widowed	42 *	41	44	43 *	41	46	43 *	41	44
Single, never married	37 *	36	38	38 *	36	39	37 *	36	38
Area of residence									
Rural area of the provinces	37	36	39	36	34	38	36	35	38
Territories	47 *	43	51	46 *	42	50	47 *	44	50
Urban area of the provinces†	37	36	37	37	36	38	37	36	37
First official language spoken									
English†	39	38	40	39	38	40	39	39	40
French	31 *	30	32	30 *	29	31	30 *	30	31
English and French	30 *	25	36	33 *	28	38	31 *	28	35
Neither English nor French	13 *	9	18	17 *	10	26	14 *	10	19

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from estimate for Women+ (p < 0.05)

*** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05) and estimate for Women+ (p < 0.05)

† reference category

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

2. Respondents who were 15 years of age and who did not link to tax data were assumed to have an individual income of \$0.

Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 10
Experiences of unwanted behaviour in public and online, by type of behaviour and gender, 2025

Type of behaviour	Women+†			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
In public¹									
Inappropriate sexual jokes	9.6	9.3	10.0	3.6 *	3.3	3.9	6.6	6.4	6.9
Unwanted sexual attention	13.9	13.4	14.4	2.3 *	2.1	2.5	8.1	7.8	8.4
Unwanted physical contact	7.6	7.2	8.0	2.4 *	2.1	2.6	5.0	4.8	5.2
Suggestions that you do not act like someone of your gender is supposed to act	5.6	5.3	5.9	2.9 *	2.7	3.2	4.2	4.0	4.5
Being insulted, mistreated, ignored or excluded due to gender	7.9	7.6	8.3	2.0 *	1.8	2.3	5.0	4.8	5.2
Being insulted, mistreated, ignored or excluded due to (actual or assumed) sexual orientation	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.8
Being insulted, mistreated, ignored or excluded because you are (or are assumed to be) transgender	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.6 *	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Indecent exposure	2.3	2.1	2.5	1.1 *	0.9	1.2	1.7	1.5	1.8
Total	21.6	21.0	22.1	8.0 *	7.6	8.5	14.8	14.5	15.2
Online²									
Received threatening or aggressive emails, social media messages, or text messages where you were the only recipient	6.1	5.8	6.5	5.2 *	4.8	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.9
Target of threatening or aggressive comments spread through group emails, text messages, or social media postings	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.3
Someone posted or distributed, or threatened to post or distribute, intimate or sexually explicit videos or images of you without your consent	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.7 *	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.6
Someone pressured you to send, share, or post sexually suggestive or explicit images or messages	2.5	2.3	2.7	1.0 *	0.8	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.9
Someone sent you sexually suggestive or explicit images or messages when you did not want to receive them	6.6	6.3	7.0	3.5 *	3.2	3.8	5.0	4.8	5.3
Total	12.0	11.6	12.5	9.1 *	8.6	9.5	10.6	10.2	10.9

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes places that the population can access with little or no restriction, such as streets, sidewalks, bars, restaurants, coffee shops, and other public places.

2. Percent calculations exclude respondents who stated they did not use the Internet 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, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Table 11
Unwanted behaviour in public in the past 12 months, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Age group (years)									
15 to 24†	39	37	41	13 **	11	14	25	24	26
25 to 34	36 *	34	38	13 **	11	14	24	23	25
35 to 44	26 *	24	27	9 ***	8	10	17 *	16	18
45 to 54	18 *	17	20	7 ***	6	8	13 *	12	14
55 and older	9 *	8	9	3 ***	3	4	6 *	6	6
Indigenous identity									
Indigenous person	31 *	29	34	13 ***	11	15	22 *	21	24
First Nations	34 *	30	38	13 ***	10	16	24 *	21	27
Métis	30 *	26	34	12 ***	9	16	22 *	19	24
Inuk	27	21	34	14 ***	10	21	21 *	17	26
Non-Indigenous person†	21	21	22	8 **	7	8	14	14	15
Racialized population group¹									
Yes	16 *	15	17	6 ***	5	7	11 *	10	11
South Asian	14 *	12	17	5 ***	4	7	9 *	8	11
Chinese	13 *	11	16	4 ***	3	6	9 *	8	10
Black	15 *	13	19	7 **	5	9	11 *	9	13
Filipino	13 *	11	17	4 ***	3	7	9 *	7	11
Arab	21	16	27	5 ***	3	8	12 *	9	15
Latin American	24	19	29	13 **	9	18	18	15	22
Southeast Asian	11 *	7	16	6	3	11	8 *	6	12
West Asian	17	11	24	11	7	17	14	10	18
Korean	11 *	6	20	F	F	F	8 *	4	12
Japanese	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Multiple racialized population groups	39 *	30	48	13 **	8	21	26 *	20	32
Racialized population group not otherwise specified	14 *	9	21	F	F	F	10 *	7	14
No†	23	22	23	8 **	8	9	16	15	16
Place of birth									
Born outside Canada	14 *	13	15	5 ***	5	6	9 *	9	10
Born in Canada†	25	24	25	9 **	9	10	17	17	17
Sexual orientation									
Heterosexual†	19	18	19	7 **	6	7	12	12	13
LGB+	53 *	50	55	32 ***	29	35	45 *	43	46
Lesbian or gay	45 *	40	49	29 ***	26	34	36 *	33	39
Bisexual	57 *	54	60	32 ***	28	36	49 *	47	52
Sexual orientation not elsewhere classified	46 *	39	53	43 *	34	51	45 *	40	50

See notes at the end of the table

Table 11
Unwanted behaviour in public in the past 12 months, by gender and selected characteristics of the victim, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Identifies as a person with a disability									
Yes	31 *	29	32	15 ***	14	16	24 *	23	25
No†	20	19	20	7 **	7	7	13	13	14
Employed in past 12 months									
Yes	26 *	25	27	8 ***	8	9	17 *	16	17
No†	13	13	14	7 **	6	8	11	10	11
Individual before-tax income									
Less than \$20,000 ¹²	26	24	27	12 **	10	13	19	18	20
\$20,000 to \$39,999	18 *	17	19	9 ***	7	10	14 *	13	15
\$40,000 to \$59,999	18 *	17	19	7 ***	6	8	13 *	12	14
\$60,000 to \$79,999	22 *	20	23	5 ***	5	6	14 *	13	15
\$80,000 to \$99,999	24	22	26	7 ***	6	9	15 *	14	16
\$100,000 to \$119,999	24	21	26	7 ***	5	8	14 *	13	15
\$120,000 or more	24	22	26	7 ***	6	8	13 *	12	14
Not stated	22 *	20	25	11 **	9	13	16 *	15	18
Attended school in the past 12 months									
Yes	36 *	34	38	13 ***	11	14	25 *	24	26
No†	19	18	19	7 **	7	8	13	12	13
Marital status									
Married or common-law†	17	16	17	6 **	5	6	11	11	11
Separated, divorced, or widowed	14 *	13	15	8 ***	7	9	12 *	11	13
Single, never married	36 *	34	37	12 ***	12	13	23 *	22	24
Area of residence									
Rural area of the provinces	18 *	17	19	6 ***	5	7	12 *	11	13
Territories	24	20	27	10 **	7	13	17	14	19
Urban area of the provinces†	22	22	23	8 **	8	9	15	15	16
First official language spoken									
English†	23	22	24	9 **	8	9	16	16	16
French	17 *	16	18	5 ***	5	6	11 *	11	12
English and French	24	19	29	12 **	8	16	17	14	21
Neither English nor French	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

F too unreliable to be published

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

** significantly different from estimate for Women+ ($p < 0.05$)

*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$) and estimate for Women+ ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

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

2. Respondents who were 15 years of age and who did not link to tax data were assumed to have an individual income of \$0.

Note: The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary respondents and some respondents who did not state their gender, while the category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons and some respondents who did not state their gender.

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

Model 1
Logistic regression: Sexual assault in the past 12 months, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval		adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval		adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Gender									
Women+†	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.8	1.6	2.0
Men+	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.6 ***	0.5	0.7
Age group (years)									
15 to 24†	6.8	5.5	8.4	1.4	0.9	2.0	3.5	2.9	4.2
25 to 34	3.7 ***	3.0	4.6	0.8 *	0.6	1.3	1.9 ***	1.6	2.4
35 to 44	2.6 ***	2.1	3.2	1.2	0.9	1.7	1.7 ***	1.4	2.1
45 to 54	1.9 ***	1.4	2.4	0.4 ***	0.2	0.7	1.0 ***	0.8	1.3
55 and older	0.7 ***	0.5	0.9	0.2 ***	0.1	0.3	0.4 ***	0.3	0.5
Indigenous identity									
Indigenous person†	ns	ns	ns	1.1	0.7	1.8	1.6	1.3	2.1
Non-Indigenous person	ns	ns	ns	0.5 ***	0.4	0.6	1.0 ***	0.9	1.1
Place of birth									
Born outside Canada	1.4 *	1.1	1.8	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Born in Canada†	2.0	1.7	2.2	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Sexual orientation									
Heterosexual†	1.7	1.5	1.9	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.1
LGB+	2.8 ***	2.3	3.5	3.1 ***	2.2	4.2	2.3 ***	1.9	2.8
Identifies as a person with disability									
Yes†	2.9	2.4	3.5	ns	ns	ns	1.7	1.4	2.0
No	1.7 ***	1.5	1.9	ns	ns	ns	1.0 ***	0.9	1.1
Employed in past 12 months									
Yes†	2.2	1.9	2.5	ns	ns	ns	1.2	1.0	1.3
No	1.3 ***	1.0	1.6	ns	ns	ns	0.8 ***	0.7	1.0
Marital status									
Married or common-law†	1.3	1.1	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9
Separated, divorced, or widowed	3.8 ***	3.0	4.7	1.0 **	0.6	1.8	2.1 ***	1.7	2.7
Single, never married	2.3 ***	1.8	2.8	0.7 **	0.5	1.0	1.4 ***	1.2	1.7
First official language spoken									
English only†	1.9	1.7	2.2	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
French only, both English and French, or a non-official language	1.5 *	1.2	1.8	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns

... not applicable

ns not significant; removed from final model

† reference category

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.01)

*** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.001)

1. Adjusted percentages are the predicted probabilities (between 0 and 1), multiplied by 100 to align with the data presented elsewhere in the model. A higher adjusted percentage represents an increased likelihood of the outcome being measured, when controlling for other factors. An adjusted percentage of 100 would mean that the likelihood of observing the phenomenon of interest (in this case, sexual assault) is 100%.

Note: This table shows the results of three separate models: one for the total population (including gender as an independent variable) and one each for women and men. The model was constructed based on variables that were significant in the bivariate analysis (see Table 4), and categories were removed or collapsed until only significant differences remained. Missing and not stated values are excluded.

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

Model 2
Logistic regression: Physical assault in the past 12 months, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval		adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval		adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Gender									
Women+	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.0	2.8	3.3
Men+	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.3 ***	4.0	4.6
Age group (years)									
15 to 24 [†]	6.5	5.2	8.1	8.0	6.9	9.2	7.2	6.5	8.0
25 to 34	3.9 ***	3.2	4.7	6.3 *	5.3	7.5	5.0 ***	4.4	5.7
35 to 44	3.8 ***	3.2	4.6	6.2 *	5.4	7.2	4.9 ***	4.4	5.5
45 to 54	3.6 ***	3.0	4.4	4.1 ***	3.4	5.0	3.8 ***	3.3	4.3
55 and older	1.5 ***	1.3	1.9	2.4 ***	2.1	2.8	2.0 ***	1.8	2.2
Indigenous identity									
Indigenous person [†]	4.9	3.9	6.1	7.1	5.7	8.8	6.0	5.1	7.0
Non-Indigenous person	2.8 ***	2.6	3.1	4.3 ***	4.0	4.6	3.5 ***	3.3	3.7
Place of birth									
Born outside Canada	2.4 **	2.0	2.9	3.5 ***	3.0	4.1	2.9 ***	2.6	3.3
Born in Canada [†]	3.1	2.9	3.4	4.8	4.4	5.2	3.9	3.7	4.2
Sexual orientation									
Heterosexual [†]	2.7	2.5	3.0	4.3	4.0	4.6	3.5	3.3	3.7
LGB+	5.5 ***	4.5	6.6	6.2 ***	5.0	7.6	6.0 ***	5.2	6.8
Identifies as a person with disability									
Yes [†]	4.9	4.1	5.8	7.3	6.2	8.6	6.1	5.4	6.8
No	2.6 ***	2.4	2.9	4.1 ***	3.8	4.4	3.3 ***	3.1	3.5
Employed in past 12 months									
Yes [†]	3.2	2.9	3.6	4.7	4.3	5.1	3.9	3.7	4.2
No	2.4 *	2.1	2.9	3.7 *	3.2	4.4	3.0 ***	2.7	3.4
Marital status									
Married or common-law [†]	2.7	2.4	3.1	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Separated, divorced, or widowed	3.6 *	2.9	4.5	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Single, never married	2.9	2.4	3.5	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
First official language spoken									
English only [†]	3.1	2.8	3.4	4.6	4.2	5.0	3.8	3.6	4.0
French only, both English and French, or a non-official language	2.5 *	2.1	3.0	3.8 *	3.2	4.4	3.1 **	2.8	3.5

... not applicable

ns not significant; removed from final model

† reference category

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.01)

*** significantly difference from reference category (p < 0.001)

1. Adjusted percentages are the predicted probabilities (between 0 and 1), multiplied by 100 to align with the data presented elsewhere in the model. A higher adjusted percentage represents an increased likelihood of the outcome being measured, when controlling for other factors. An adjusted percentage of 100 would mean that the likelihood of observing the phenomenon of interest (in this case, physical assault) is 100%.

Note: This table shows the results of three separate models: one for the total population (including gender as an independent variable) and one each for women and men. The model was constructed based on variables that were significant in the bivariate analysis (see Table 5), and categories were removed or collapsed until only significant differences remained. Missing and not stated values are excluded.

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

Model 3
Logistic regression: Unwanted behaviours in public places in the past 12 months, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval		adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval		adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
Gender									
Women+	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.5	17.9	19.1
Men+	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.1 ***	5.7	6.5
Age group (years)									
15 to 24 [†]	30.1	27.7	32.7	9.2	7.9	10.8	17.8	16.4	19.3
25 to 34	30.7	28.8	32.8	10.0	8.8	11.4	18.4	17.2	19.7
35 to 44	25.2 **	23.6	27.0	9.1	8.1	10.1	15.4 **	14.4	16.4
45 to 54	18.1 ***	16.7	19.6	6.9 *	6.0	8.0	11.1 ***	10.3	12.0
55 and older	9.6 ***	9.0	10.3	3.2 ***	2.8	3.6	5.5 ***	5.2	5.9
Indigenous identity									
Indigenous person [†]	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	12.2	10.9	13.5
Non-Indigenous person	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	10.8 *	10.4	11.1
Place of birth									
Born outside Canada	12.5 ***	11.6	13.4	4.6 ***	4.0	5.3	7.6 ***	7.0	8.1
Born in Canada [†]	20.7	20.0	21.4	7.0	6.6	7.5	12.4	11.9	12.8
Sexual orientation									
Heterosexual [†]	16.8	16.3	17.4	5.7	5.3	6.1	9.9	9.6	10.3
LGB+	33.8 ***	31.5	36.2	22.3 ***	19.9	24.9	26.1 ***	24.4	27.8
Identifies as a person with disability									
Yes [†]	26.0	24.3	27.8	10.4	9.1	11.7	16.6	15.5	17.8
No	16.9 ***	16.3	17.5	5.8 ***	5.4	6.2	10.0 ***	9.7	10.4
Employed in past 12 months									
Yes [†]	20.0	19.2	20.8	ns	ns	ns	11.5	11.1	12.0
No	15.0 ***	14.0	16.1	ns	ns	ns	9.4 ***	8.7	10.0
Income									
Less than \$80,000 ²	17.2	16.6	17.9	ns	ns	ns	10.3	9.9	10.7
\$80,000 or more	21.8 ***	20.4	23.2	ns	ns	ns	12.4 ***	11.7	13.2
Marital status									
Married or common-law [†]	15.7	15.0	16.5	5.6	5.2	6.1	9.5	9.0	9.9
Separated, divorced, or widowed	20.8 ***	19.3	22.5	9.1 ***	7.6	10.9	13.0 ***	12.0	14.1
Single, never married	21.7 ***	20.3	23.1	6.7 *	6.0	7.6	12.7 ***	12.0	13.5

See notes at the end of the table

Model 3

Logistic regression: Unwanted behaviours in public places in the past 12 months, 2025

Selected characteristic	Women+			Men+			Total		
	adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval		adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval		adjusted percent ¹	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
First official language spoken									
English only [†]	19.5	18.9	20.2	6.8	6.3	7.2	11.7	11.3	12.1
French only, both English and French, or a non-official language	14.3 ***	13.3	15.3	4.7 ***	4.1	5.4	8.4 ***	7.9	9.0

... not applicable

ns not significant; removed from final model

† reference category

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.01)

*** significantly difference from reference category (p < 0.001)

1. Adjusted percentages are the predicted probabilities (between 0 and 1), multiplied by 100 to align with the data presented elsewhere in the model. A higher adjusted percentage represents an increased likelihood of the outcome being measured, when controlling for other factors. An adjusted percentage of 100 would mean that the likelihood of observing the phenomenon of interest (in this case, unwanted behaviours in public) is 100%.

2. Following the results of the initial model, respondents who did not link to a tax record were included in this category. When leaving the two categories separate, for example, the adjusted percentage was 10.3% for income under \$80,000 and 10.2% for those that did not link.

Note: This table shows the results of three separate models: one for the total population (including gender as an independent variable) and one each for women and men. The model was constructed based on variables that were significant in the bivariate analysis (see Table 11), and categories were removed or collapsed until only significant differences remained. Missing and not stated values are excluded.

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