

Recontact with police among child and youth victims of violent crime, 2010 to 2024

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Recontact with police among child and youth victims of violent crime, 2010 to 2024: Highlights

- The majority of child and youth victims of violent crime had subsequent contact with police either as a victim of violent crime, as a person accused of crime, or both. Of the 59,636 child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010, nearly six in ten (58%) had at least one subsequent contact with police by the end of 2024.
- Of all child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010, three in ten (30%) had recontact as both a victim and an accused person. Smaller proportions had recontact as an accused person only (17%) or as a victim only (11%).
- Half (51%) of victims of violent crime aged 12 to 17 in 2010 were later accused in at least one police-reported incident of crime between 2010 and 2024.
- Similar proportions of boy (29%) and girl (31%) victims had subsequent contact with police as both a victim and an accused person during the follow-up period. However, boys more commonly had recontact as an accused person only (22% versus 10% of girls), while girls more often had recontact as a victim only (15% versus 8% of boys).
- Prevalence of recontact was lowest among those where the accused was a stranger in the initial incident; those where the accused in the initial incident was a family member or someone known to the victim more often had recontact with police.
- About one-third (35%) of youth aged 12 to 17 who were victims of violent crime in 2010 were subsequently accused in a violent incident by the end of 2024.
- A higher proportion of youth who were victims of physical assault in 2010 had subsequent contact with police than those where the initial incident was a sexual offence (67% versus 59%).

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Extensive research has established that experiences of victimization early in life are associated with a wide range of negative impacts across the life course. These impacts may be immediate, such as harm, injury, or emotional distress, or long-term, such as lower levels of life satisfaction, poorer physical health and mental health, worse socioeconomic outcomes, higher levels of substance use and addiction, an increased likelihood of offending, and additional victimization (e.g., Benedini, Fagan, & Gibson, 2016; Burczycka, 2016; Fernandez et al., 2015; Forbes et al., 2019; Heidinger, 2022; Jennings et al., 2011; McDougall & Vaillancourt, 2015; McGrath et al., 2011; Mersky et al., 2012; Mulford et al., 2018; Perez & Widom, 1994; Scrafford et al., 2018; Swanston et al., 2003; Takizawa et al., 2014; Turanovic, 2023; Widom & Ames, 1994; Widom et al., 2008; Wright et al., 2016).

When it comes to victimization and offending specifically, research generally supports the notion of the cycle of violence: experiences of violent victimization are associated with a higher likelihood of more violence—both as a victim and as an accused person. Some research focuses specifically on future experiences of violence, others on subsequent offending or delinquency, while others highlight the correlation of the two, referred to as the victim–offender overlap (Jennings et al., 2011). Previous research has consistently found that a large proportion of violent offenders were, at one point, victims of violent crime. However, most victims of violent crime do not become offenders themselves (OFOVC, 2021; Wright et al., 2016).

This *Juristat* article uses data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey to identify a cohort of unique child and youth (aged 0 to 17) victims of violent crime in 2010, with this considered to be the initial contact with police.¹ It then follows their subsequent contact² with police as victims of violent crime and persons accused of violent, property, or other types of crime³ through to the end of 2024. Characteristics of the victim and the initial 2010 incident are examined, to explore how various factors may influence future pathways of contact with police.

This approach differs from previous research that relies on retrospective questions to explore the impact of victimization on later life outcomes (e.g., Burczycka, 2016; Heidinger, 2022). Instead, it focuses on police-reported incidents of childhood victimization recorded at the time of occurrence in 2010, as opposed to self-reported data on experiences that may have taken place years or even decades prior. It also allows for these children and youth to be followed longitudinally to examine their patterns of contact with police, as opposed to representing an estimate at a single point in time. These shorter-term impacts and outcomes have less frequently been the focus of national-level Canadian research.

The initial creation of a dedicated data file examining recontact among child and youth victims of violent crime was funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada. The final creation of the analytical file, as well as this analysis, was funded by the Department of Justice Canada.

Majority of child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010 had subsequent contact with police by end of 2024

In 2010, 59,636 children and youth were victims of a police-reported violent crime. The large majority (79%) were youth, aged 12 to 17, while smaller proportions were older children, aged 6 to 11 (15%), or younger children, aged 0 to 5 (6%). Depending on their age at the time of initial contact,⁴ these victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010 were between the ages of 14 and 31 by the end of 2024.

Overall, just over half (52%) of child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010 were boys. Notably, boys were overrepresented among older children (58%). Among younger children and youth, the proportion of boys (50% and 51%, respectively) and girls (50% and 49%, respectively) was similar.

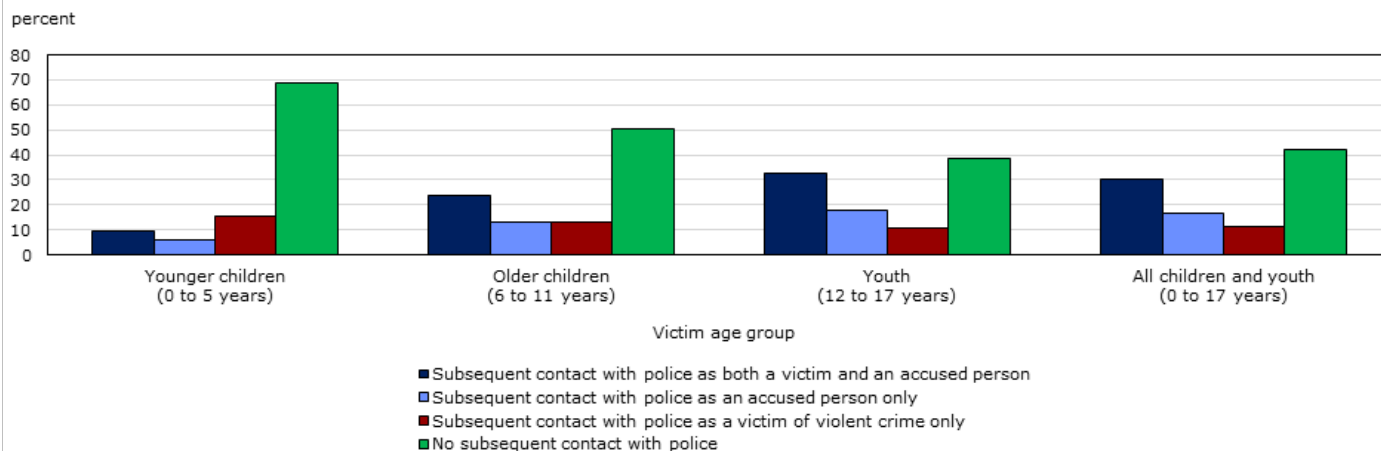
Almost six in ten (58%) child and youth victims of crime in 2010 had at least one subsequent contact with police—as a victim, an accused person, or both—by the end of the follow-up period (Table 1).⁵ There was often overlap in terms of recontact as a victim and an accused person. More specifically, 30% of child and youth victims of violent crime had additional contact with police as both a victim and an accused, while 17% had recontact as an accused only, and 11% as a victim only.

There were differences in subsequent contact with police depending on the age group of the victim at the time of the initial contact. The proportion of those with any subsequent contact with police was twice as high among youth (62%) when compared with those who were younger children (31%) at the time of the initial victimization.

The nature of subsequent contact also varied by age (Chart 1). Victims who were younger children in 2010 most commonly had additional contact with police as a victim of violent crime only (15%), while smaller proportions were an accused only (6%) or both victims and accused (10%). Recontact as an accused person increased with age at the time of initial victimization; half (51%) of youth victims of crime in 2010 were accused in at least one criminal incident between 2010 and 2024.⁶ Youth aged 12 to 17 in 2010 were between the ages of 26 and 31 by the end of the follow-up period, meaning that many of these recontacts with police were during adulthood.

Chart 1

Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group at initial victimization, and subsequent contact with police, Canada, 2010 to 2024



Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

Notably, for those who were youth at the time of the initial incident, the follow-up period includes the entire period of late teenage and early adulthood, where rates of both victimization and offending may be elevated, relative to other ages. Regardless of victimization history, some of the higher levels of police contact among this group may be explained by age. For younger children, many of the years included in the study period fall well before these ages. Furthermore, the age of criminal responsibility in Canada is 12, and so for younger children included in the analysis, much of the follow-up period includes years during which they could not be charged with a criminal offence.⁷ This may influence the extent to which they came into contact with police and were recorded in the UCR Survey data, particularly as an accused person (Carrington 2007).⁸

Similar recontact between girls and boys—but boys more often as accused, girls more often as victims

Overall, recontact was similar between girls and boys who were victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, with 59% of boys and 57% of girls having at least one recontact with police following the initial incident of victimization.

While similar proportions of boys (29%) and girls (31%) had recontact with police as both a victim and an accused person during the follow-up period, there was a notable gender difference in the nature of subsequent contact with police. It was much more common for boys (22%) than girls (10%) to have had additional contact as an accused person only. In contrast, girls (15%) more often had recontact as a victim only, when compared with boys (8%).

Following the overall trend, those who were youth at the time of initial victimization had the highest proportion of further contact with police (Table 2). More than half (55%) of youth boy victims in 2010 were subsequently accused of any crime, compared with 46% of youth girls. In contrast, half (50%) of youth girl victims were subsequently victims of another police-reported violent crime, as were 38% of youth boys.

Text box 1 – Prior police contact among child and youth victims of violent crime in 2024

One limitation of police-reported data is that only those incidents that come to the attention of police are captured. Due to the underreporting of violent victimization to authorities, particularly when the victim is a child or youth, the true prevalence of violence against children and youth may be underestimated.

Another limitation of the file used for analysis in this article is that the 2010 incident of victimization, while treated as the initial incident for analytical purposes, may not represent the true first time a child or youth experienced violent victimization. While 2010 was selected as the starting point for the linkage for data quality reasons, as coverage and some key information is missing for earlier years, any police contact that occurred prior to 2010 is not reflected.

To better understand this potential gap, a complementary analytical file was created. This file identified all child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2024 and allowed for an examination of prior histories of contact with police. Results from this 2024 cohort of child and youth victims offered insight into how much past contact may be unobserved in the 2010 cohort.

In 2024, there were 66,664 child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime. Overall, almost two-thirds (64%) had no previous contact with police as a victim of violent crime nor as a person accused of crime. However, histories of prior contact with police varied considerably by age, with levels of prior contact increasing with age.

Younger child victims (aged 0 to 5) less commonly had previously been a victim of a police-reported violent crime prior to the 2024 incident. Among older child victims (aged 6 to 11), almost one in five (18%) had previous contact with police. More specifically, 14% had previously been victims, 2% had previously been accused, and 1% had been both a victim and an accused person prior to the incident in 2024.⁹

Among youth (aged 12 to 17), 57% of victims had no prior contact with police as a victim or an accused person; however, compared to other child age groups, a large proportion of youth had at least one prior contact with police (43%). Overall, 18% had previously been a victim, 10% had previously been accused, and 15% had previously been both a victim and an accused person.

Retrospective results from the 2024 sample of child and youth victims suggest that, for most children, the incident in 2010 likely represents the true first instance of police-reported victimization. However, for many youth, contact with police prior to the 2010 incident may have already influenced their trajectory.

Victims of incidents perpetrated by strangers had less recontact

Patterns of future contact with police among the 2010 cohort of child and youth victims of violent crime are consistent with the notion that future police-reported victimization and offending are shaped by different contexts and types of violence.

The distribution of accused–victim relationships varied by victim age, reflecting differences in various stages of childhood and youth. For instance, violence perpetrated by a family member was most common among younger children (67% of all incidents in 2010), while violence committed by friends, acquaintances, or strangers was more common for youth (76%). These results further reflect broader age patterns in social relationships that show younger children are more likely to spend the majority of time surrounded with immediate and extended family members, whereas youth are generally more independent and have a wider range of contact with people outside the home and family.

Regardless of victim age in the initial 2010 victimization, recontact was lowest among those who were victims of a violent crime committed by a stranger (Table 3). More specifically, 21% of younger children, 43% of older children, and 52% of youth victims where a stranger was the accused in 2010 had subsequent contact with police by the end of 2024. This compares to 31%, 50%, and 62% of child and youth victims overall, respectively.

Furthermore, those who were victims of a stranger-perpetrated incident in 2010 with further police contact were less often both victims and accused compared to victims of other accused relationships. Previous research has found that compared

to other types of violence, the risk factors, consequences, and likelihood of repeat victimization are different for stranger-perpetrated violence than for other types of violence, such as family violence or peer violence (e.g., ongoing bullying or harassment at school) (Turanovic, 2023). This may, in part, explain some of the observed variance in recontact with police.

Those who were initially victims of a violent incident where an extended family member (e.g., aunt, uncle, grandparent, cousin) was accused had more recontact with police: 36% of younger children, 52% of older children, and 70% of youth were victims or accused in at least one subsequent incident.

In comparison, those who were initially victimized by a parent tended to have less recontact overall compared to those who were victimized by another immediate or extended family member. Overall, three in ten (30%) younger children victimized by a parent in 2010 had further contact with police, as did almost half (46%) of older children and about six in ten (62%) youth.

This is likely related to the age profiles of those who are victimized by a parent, as younger children had less recontact but were more often victimized by a parent. For half (49%) of younger children who were victims of violent crime in 2010, the perpetrator was a parent, a proportion that declined to 25% among older children and 8% among youth. It is also possible that incidents perpetrated by a parent are less likely to be reported to police, relative to those that involve another type of accused person such as a stranger, an acquaintance, or an extended family member.

Majority of youth victims of intimate partner violence had recontact with police

For youth, it is also possible to examine experiences of violence within the context of an intimate partner¹⁰ relationship. Unlike many other accused-victim relationships, there were nine times as many youth girl victims of intimate partner violence (3,525) than there were boys (380) in 2010.

Overall, seven in ten (70%) youth who were victims of intimate partner violence in 2010 had recontact with police during the follow-up period, most commonly, as both a victim and an accused person (42%). Relatively smaller proportions had recontact as a victim only (15%) or as an accused person only (12%).

Among youth boys who were victims of intimate partner violence in 2010, two-thirds (66%) were later accused in another criminal incident between 2010 and 2024, and nearly half (47%) were victims in another incident.^{11,12} In contrast, for girls, more than half of those who were victims of intimate partner violence in 2010 were later accused (53%) or victims (58%) in another incident.¹³

Exposure to violence during childhood has been linked to an increased likelihood of both victimization and perpetration of intimate partner violence later in life (Burczycka, 2016; Cotter, 2021b; Widom et al., 2008). One common explanation for this link is the social learning theory, or the intergenerational transmission of violence (Powers et. al, 2017), which indicates that witnessing or experiencing violence at a young age, particularly when it is perpetrated by influential adults (e.g., parents), may shape certain beliefs among children about normative behaviours in relationships and approaches to conflict resolution. That is, the likelihood of future perpetration of violence as well as victimization is generally higher, as individuals may learn that violence is a normal part of interpersonal relationships, including but not limited to intimate partner relationships (Neppi et al. 2019; Richards et al. 2017; Widom et al. 2014).

Frequency of recontact as an accused higher among youth

In addition to subsequent police contact, the data file also allowed for analysis of the number of additional contacts with police as either a victim of violent crime or a person accused of any crime.¹⁴ There was variation in the frequency of recontact, with differences noted by gender and age group of the victim at the time of initial victimization (Table 4, Table 5).

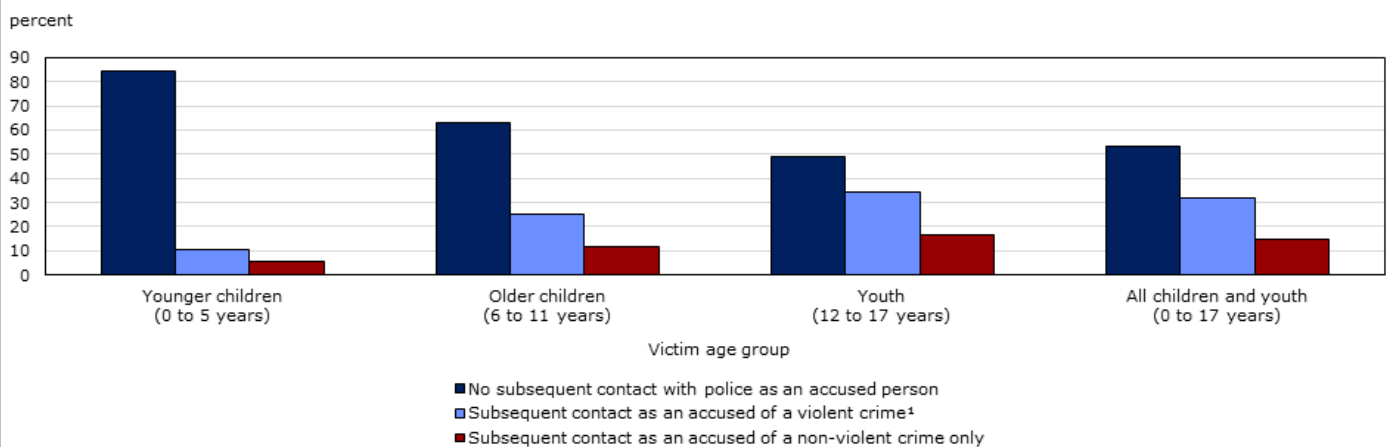
For example, half (51%) of youth victims of violent crime in 2010 had subsequent contact with police as an accused person of any crime and, of these, about one-quarter (27%) had 10 or more recontacts as an accused person. Boy victims more commonly had recontact as an accused (55%) than girl victims (46%), and among youth with recontact, a larger proportion of boys had 10 or more recontacts (31%) than girls (22%). On average, youth boy victims with recontact as an accused of any crime had 12 recontacts, while youth girl victims had 8 recontacts.

In comparison, a smaller proportion (16%) of younger children who were victims of violent crime in 2010 had recontact with police as an accused person by the end of 2024. For younger children, as noted, the follow-up period in this analysis includes many years before the age of 12, which is the youngest age at which a person can be held criminally responsible for a crime in Canada. This influences the extent to which younger children are formally identified as accused persons within the context of the UCR Survey (Carrington, 2007).

About one-third of youth victims of violent crime in 2010 later accused in a violent incident

Notably, many of those who had recontact with police as an accused person were accused of a violent crime (Chart 2; Table 4). For example, about one-third (35%) of all youth who were victims of violent crime in 2010 were subsequently accused in a violent incident, with an average of 3.8 such contacts. In contrast, 16% of youth victims of violent crime in 2010 were later accused, but in non-violent incidents only.

Chart 2
Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group at initial victimization, and subsequent contact with police as an accused person, Canada, 2010 to 2024



1. Reflects persons who were ever accused in a violent incident, whether or not they were also ever accused in a non-violent incident.

Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

A similar age pattern was observed for recontact with police as a victim of crime, where those who were older at the time of the initial violent incident were more often victims in a subsequent incident, and those who were older and had recontact more commonly experienced a higher number of violent incidents (Table 5).

Police recontact as an accused more common among victims of physical assault

Another factor that may be relevant to future victimization or offending is the type of violence experienced in the initial incident. For example, sexual violence during childhood has been associated with a number of negative consequences, including a higher likelihood of future victimization and offending, among other adverse outcomes (McGrath et al., 2011; Widom & Ames, 1994).

Among youth, a higher proportion of victims of violent crime in 2010 where the initial incident was a physical assault had recontact with police (67%) than those where the initial incident was a sexual offence (59%) (Table 6).

The difference was more pronounced for subsequent contact as an accused person: 58% of youth who were physically assaulted in 2010 later came into contact with police as an accused person, compared with 43% of those who were sexually assaulted.¹⁵ In contrast, the difference was marginal when it came to subsequent victimization: 47% of those who were physically assaulted in 2010 were victims again, compared to 46% of those who were sexually assaulted.

Early childhood experiences are often a focus of research on future outcomes related to crime and offending. Among victims who were younger children in 2010, almost three in ten (28%) of those who were sexually assaulted subsequently had contact with police as a victim in another incident, slightly higher than the proportion of those who were physically assaulted (25%).¹⁶

Patterns of recontact associated with the type of offence are also likely shaped by gender differences, as girls are disproportionately victims of sexual offences. Furthermore, police-reported data include only incidents that come to the attention of police, and self-reported victimization surveys have consistently shown that only a small proportion of sexual assaults come to the attention of police (Conroy & Cotter, 2017; Cotter, 2021a). This underreporting can be compounded among child and youth victims, but also among men and boys who are victims of sexual offences.

No notable differences in recontact depending on presence of weapon in initial incident

There were no notable differences in recontact with police among child and youth victims of violent crime by presence of a weapon in the initial incident, regardless of age group.¹⁷ For example, similar proportions of youth, regardless of whether a weapon was present in the initial incident, had recontact as both victims and accused (33% when a weapon was present versus 34%), accused only (22% versus 18%), victims only (8% versus 11%), or had no further contact (37% versus 38%) (Table 7).

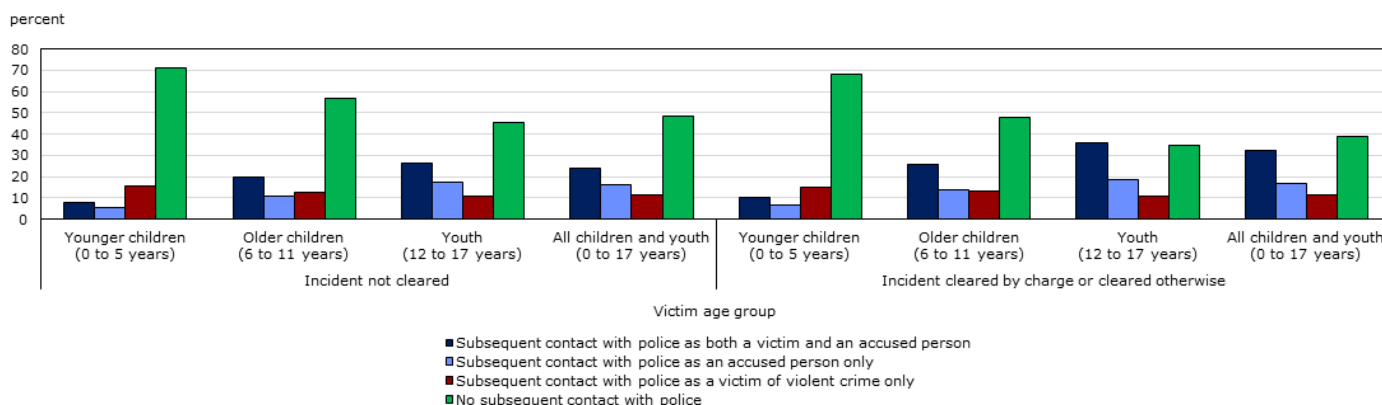
Notably, among youth, if there was a firearm present in the initial incident, recontact was slightly lower (60%) compared to when a different type of weapon, such as a knife or blunt instrument, was involved (64%).¹⁸

Less police recontact observed when initial incident was not cleared

The clearance status of an incident—that is, whether an accused is identified by police and charged,¹⁹ identified but not charged, or not identified—may also shape future trajectories of police recontact for children and youth who experienced victimization. For example, if the accused person is charged in connection with the offence, there may be conditions put in place that alter or prevent future interactions with the perpetrator (e.g., no-contact orders, changes in parenting time or decision-making responsibility for a child). Alternatively, the involvement of a victim may be required in an investigation and, if charges proceed to court, a trial, which may exacerbate the negative impacts or trauma of victimization (Whitcomb, 2003).

There were differences observed in patterns of police recontact depending on the clearance status of the initial incident. Across the three age groups examined, those whose initial incident was not cleared (i.e., there was no accused person identified) less commonly had any recontact with police (Chart 3).

Chart 3
Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group and clearance status of initial victimization incident, and subsequent contact with police, Canada, 2010 to 2024



Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

Overall, half (49%) of child and youth victims whose initial 2010 violent incident was not cleared by police had no further contact with police as neither a victim nor an accused person. This proportion declined to 39% among those where the accused person in the initial incident was charged or cleared otherwise.²⁰

While an incident being cleared is not in itself an indicator of severity, it is possible that some more serious and potentially more traumatic cases may be more likely to be cleared owing to the presence of physical evidence, such as DNA or physical injury.

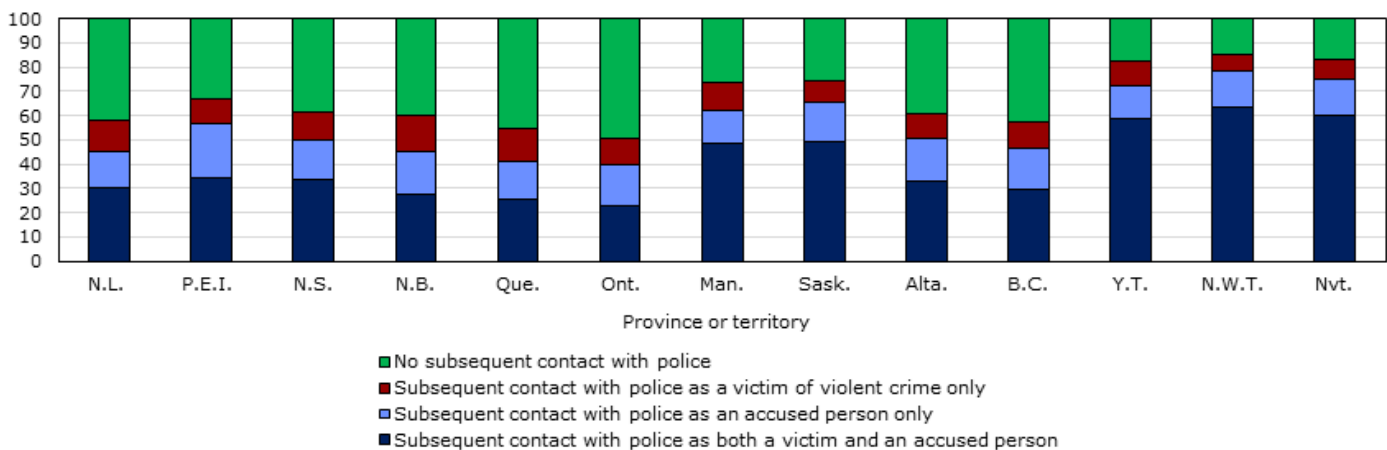
Recontact with police highest among children and youth initially victimized in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the territories

Among child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010, the patterns observed overall held in each province and territory, with police recontact increasing with age at the time of initial violent victimization. The findings observed in terms of subsequent contact with police mirror those generally found in police-reported data, with the most recontact observed in the provinces and territories that tend to have the highest overall rates of police-reported crime: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the territories (Chart 4).

Chart 4

Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by province or territory of initial victimization, and subsequent contact with police, Canada, 2010 to 2024

percent



Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

For instance, among youth, two-thirds or more of those who were victims in 2010 in Manitoba (67%), Saskatchewan (71%), and the territories (84%) had at least one recontact with police as an accused person, while 63%, 61%, and 75%, respectively, were victims in a subsequent incident. In contrast, youth who were initially victims in Quebec or Ontario, where police-reported crime rates tend to be lower, had less recontact as accused (45% and 44%, respectively) or victims (41% and 35%, respectively).

It was also in Manitoba (53%), Saskatchewan (53%), and the territories (70%) where the proportion of youth victims in 2010 had the highest proportions of recontact as both victims and accused persons, again highlighting the overlap between victimization and offending. Likewise, the proportion of youth who were later identified as both victims and accused persons was lowest in Quebec (28%) and Ontario (25%).

Text box 2 – Length of time to recontact as an accused person

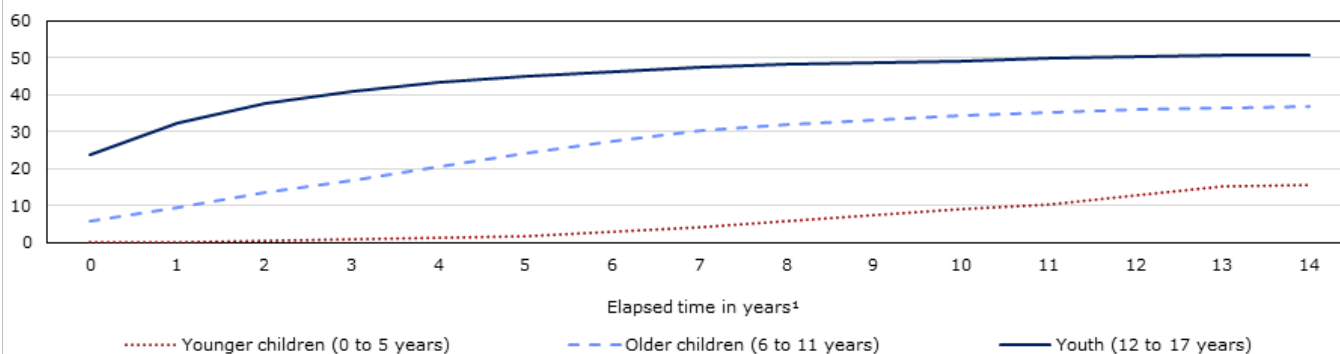
The choice of a follow-up period has implications for data on recontact. In this article, the longest possible follow-up period—14 years—was selected to capture a longer trajectory, particularly for younger children who did not reach the age of criminal responsibility until near the end of the study period. However, it is possible that results would have differed if another, shorter, follow-up period was used.

In addition to differences in the prevalence of recontact, elapsed time between the initial incident and the first contact with police as an accused person also varied depending on the age group of the victim at the time of the initial incident (Chart 5).²¹ For example, one-quarter (24%) of all youth victims of violent crime in 2010 were accused in a criminal incident within one year.²² By five years after the initial incident, 45% of youth had been accused in a criminal incident, with only a marginal increase of six percentage points (up to 51%) over the following 10 years.

Chart 5

Elapsed time from initial police-reported violent victimization in 2010 to first subsequent contact with police as an accused person, by victim age group, Canada, 2010 to 2024

cumulative percent



1. Based on the elapsed time from the incident date for the initial contact to the first subsequent contact with police. Whenever possible, the first known date of an ongoing incident is used. The last known date of the incident is used for incidents where the first date value is invalid. Percentages are cumulative. For example, five years indicates the proportion of individuals who had a first subsequent contact within five years (i.e., also includes the proportion of accused persons who had a first subsequent contact within one year, two years, and so on).

Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). First recontact or first subsequent contact as an accused is the first official contact with police as an accused person that follows the initial victimization incident and occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

In contrast, for younger child victims, a notable increase in the proportion with subsequent contact with police was not observed until six to seven years after the initial incident—when the oldest members of the cohort were approaching or entering the age of criminal responsibility.

Summary

This analysis explores subsequent contact with police among a cohort of children and youth who were victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010. Between the first incident in 2010 and the end of 2024, almost six in ten (58%) children and youth victims of a violent crime had subsequent contact with police as a victim of violent crime, a person accused of crime, or both.

Police recontact varied by age. The youngest children, those aged 0 to 5 in 2010, had the least recontact with police by the end of 2024 (31%). In contrast, 62% of youth aged 12 to 17 had recontact with police by the end of 2024.

There is also a clear overlap between subsequent victimization and offending among child and youth victims of violent crime. Of all child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010, 30% had recontact as both a victim and an accused person. Meanwhile, a smaller proportion had recontact as an accused only (17%) or victim only (11%).

Other characteristics, such as the type of violation and the accused-victim relationship, may contribute to differences in recontact with police following childhood victimization. Those who were initially victimized by a stranger had less recontact compared with those initially victimized by a family member or someone known to them.

Not all children and youth who were victims of violent crime in 2010 went on to have further contact with police. It is possible that factors other than the initial victimization shape trajectories of recontact. In other words, victimization or offending after the initial incident of victimization may not necessarily be related to the initial incident itself, but rather to broader factors that increased the risk of contact with police in the first place.

For example, external or societal factors—such as marginalization, intergenerational violence, socioeconomic status, and access to education—are associated with both the likelihood of being a victim and being a perpetrator of crime (Turanovic, 2023). Individual-level factors, such as depression and anxiety, have also been shown to be both predictors for and outcomes of victimization (Forbes et al., 2019).

Though external factors may play a role, it is also relevant to note that, when looking at the odds of violent victimization among adults in Canada, experiences of violence during childhood were one of the most significant risk factors, even when controlling for other characteristics (Cotter, 2021a).

Taken together, the data presented in this article support previous findings that victimization during childhood and youth may influence future contact with police as victims and as persons accused of crime. Future research can build upon this initial exploration, using the data file to examine longitudinal patterns of contact with police for specific groups or for specific types of violence. Linkages with other data sources can also be explored to analyze additional demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of children and youth who are victims of violent crime, further allowing for an assessment of risk and protective factors associated with recontact.

Survey description

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was established in 1962 with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The UCR Survey measures criminal incidents that have been reported to federal, provincial, and municipal police services in Canada.

One incident can involve multiple offences. To ensure comparability, counts presented in this article are based on the most serious offence in the incident as determined by a standard classification rule used by all police services. Counts based on all violations are available upon request.

Methodology and limitations

As this analysis is based on police-reported data, it captures only those incidents that are officially recorded and reported by police. Individuals may have experiences of victimization or may perpetrate behaviour that would be criminal, but are not reflected in official statistics because they are never reported. It may also mean that certain non-criminal adverse experiences—such as emotional abuse and witnessing violence between parents—are not reflected, despite research showing that these experiences can have similar outcomes (Cotter, 2021a; Cotter & Savage, 2019).

Levels of reporting are not the same for all offences and vary depending on many factors. For example, certain types of violence, such as sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and family-related violence, are less likely to be reported to police (Conroy, 2021; Cotter, 2021a). Furthermore, underreporting is compounded when the victim is a child or youth, particularly one who is very young, as they may not know how to report, they may not recognize that certain behaviours are wrong and warrant reporting, and they may be dependent on others to notice and report on their behalf (Finkelhor et al., 2001; Kuoppamäki et al., 2011). The likelihood of reporting may also be influenced by the relationship between the victim, the accused, and the third party.

Another limitation of the file is the way in which subsequent contact was defined. Once the initial contact was identified, any incidents that were reported on or after that date were considered subsequent contacts (i.e., recontacts). It is possible that

some children and youth were victims and accused in the same initial incident (e.g., a physical altercation between peers). The way the file was compiled, this would count as being a victim of crime, with recontact as an accused person, which may slightly overestimate recontact as an accused person and not necessarily reflect the reality of the trajectory.²³

Some experiences for some members of the cohort are not included or represented. For example, someone who was a victim of crime at age 15 in 2010 may have been victimized on one or more prior occasions, and this may have impacted their future trajectory. This would not be reflected in the analysis as the incident in 2010 would appear to be their “first” contact.

By starting the follow-up period after the first instance of victimization in 2010 and therefore misattributing an incident as a “first” contact, it is also possible that the trajectory is misrepresented in another way. For instance, some child and youth victims of crime—particularly older children and youth—may have come into contact with police as an accused person prior to their first contact as a victim. This is not captured by the data file and not reflected in the analysis.

Despite these limitations, the linked file makes it possible to follow individuals longitudinally providing the opportunity to examine their trajectories and determine patterns of contact and characteristics associated with differences in future outcomes.

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Notes

1. Refers to the first incident reported to police in 2010. For some members of the cohort, they may have been accused of a crime prior to the first time they were a victim. For some members of the cohort, they may have been victims of a violent crime prior to 2010; this would not be reflected in this analysis.
2. For a small number of children and youth, subsequent contact as an accused occurred on the same day or as part of the same incident identified as the “initial contact” in 2010. For victimization to be considered re-contact, it must have occurred at least one day later than the incident considered to be the initial contact. For a small number of child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010, a subsequent contact may have been as a victim of a traffic offence causing bodily harm.
3. In the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, victim information is provided by police for selected offences (violent crimes and certain *Criminal Code* traffic offences). In contrast, information on accused persons is provided for all types of crime where an accused person is identified, including violent offences, property offences, other *Criminal Code* offences, drug offences, and other violations.
4. For the purposes of this analysis, the initial “contact” refers to the first time, in 2010, that a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident. See footnote 2.
5. A beneficial approach to further examine the potential impact of initial contact with police would be to compare levels of police contact between a cohort of child and youth victims and a reference cohort of children and youth of the same ages. The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics is currently developing an analytical file based on a cohort of all children and youth born in 1997, which will facilitate this type of analysis in the future.
6. Among victims in 2010, 33% of youth were subsequently identified as both victims and accused persons between 2010 and 2024; 18% were accused persons only.
7. While they cannot be charged or held legally responsible for a criminal offence, accused persons under the age of 12 may still be identified and recorded in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. However, since they cannot be charged, it is possible that police would use their discretion to not record this information, particularly in minor incidents (Carrington and Schulenberg, 2003).
8. It is also possible that some youth had already been in contact with police as a victim or person accused of crime prior to the initial incident in 2010. See Text box 1.
9. Notably, children under the age of 12 cannot be held criminally responsible in Canada, which may influence the extent to which they come into contact with police as accused.
10. Includes current or former boyfriends, girlfriends, and other intimate partners, as well as a small number of current or former spouses or common-law partners. Spousal or common-law relationships include victims 15 years of age and older. Dating or other intimate partner relationships include victims 12 years of age and older.
11. Those who had recontact as both victims and accused are counted in each percentage; therefore, percentages sum to more than 100.
12. Recontact with police as a victim or accused person was not necessarily for intimate partner violence. Analysis of the prevalence and nature of recontact specific to intimate partner violence is planned for a future *Juristat* article.
13. Those who had recontact as both victims and accused are counted in each percentage; therefore, percentages sum to more than 100.
14. See footnote 2.
15. Some of the difference could be related to physical assaults, particularly those that are less serious, that involve mutual infliction of violence and, based on the parameters of the file, are counted as recontact.
16. The proportion of young children who had any recontact with police was slightly higher among those whose initial incident of victimization was criminal harassment; however, it is based on a small total number of child and youth victims (27).

17. Data on weapons excludes the province of Quebec, except for incidents involving a firearm, and excludes data from the Quebec City Police Service entirely, due to data quality issues.

18. For the youngest children who were victims in 2010, recontact was higher when the initial weapon was a firearm, as opposed to another type of weapon. However, it is based on a small total number of child and youth victims where the incident was firearm-related (36).

19. In most provinces and territories, police lay charges against an accused person. In some provinces (New Brunswick, Quebec, and British Columbia) or for some offences, a process is in place where police recommend charges to the Crown, who then decides whether to proceed. In this article, any reference to “charges laid” includes charges that are recommended but not necessarily laid by police. It is not possible to distinguish between “charges laid” and “charges recommended” using data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

20. Incidents reported by police are all assigned a clearance status: uncleared (i.e., an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident), cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges, or cleared otherwise. An incident is considered to be “cleared otherwise” when an accused person is identified by police, but charges are not or cannot be laid or recommended against the accused person. Examples of reasons for which incidents are cleared otherwise include the death of the accused person, departmental discretion, the victim requesting that no further action is taken, or reasons beyond the control of the department.

21. As noted, it is possible that some members of the cohort, particularly youth, had already been in contact with police as a person accused of crime prior to the initial incident in 2010. See Text box 1.

22. For a small number of youth, they were accused in the same incident or on the same day as the incident for which they were a victim.

23. That said, it should be noted that most of those children and youth who had recontact with police as an accused person had more than one recontact.

Detailed Data Tables

Table 1

Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age at initial victimization and subsequent contact with police, 2010 to 2024

Victim age at initial victimization	Subsequent contact with police as both a victim and an accused person		Subsequent contact with police as an accused person only		Subsequent contact with police as a victim of violent crime only		No subsequent contact with police		Total
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	
Younger children (aged 0 to 5 at initial victimization)	371	10	232	6	588	15	2,642	69	3,833
0 (age 0 to 14 during follow-up period)	18	4	23	5	65	13	377	78	483
1 (age 1 to 15 during follow-up period)	29	7	20	5	61	15	295	73	405
2 (age 2 to 16 during follow-up period)	34	7	28	6	88	18	350	70	500
3 (age 3 to 17 during follow-up period)	83	11	41	5	113	15	518	69	755
4 (age 4 to 18 during follow-up period)	98	12	59	7	126	15	538	66	821
5 (age 5 to 19 during follow-up period)	109	13	61	7	135	16	564	65	869
Older children (aged 6 to 11 at initial victimization)	2,129	24	1,173	13	1,140	13	4,478	50	8,920
6 (age 6 to 20 during follow-up period)	142	15	83	9	135	15	558	61	918
7 (age 7 to 21 during follow-up period)	184	18	119	12	127	12	598	58	1,028
8 (age 8 to 22 during follow-up period)	260	22	138	11	153	13	652	54	1,203
9 (age 9 to 23 during follow-up period)	348	25	201	14	182	13	664	48	1,395
10 (age 10 to 24 during follow-up period)	481	27	254	14	216	12	849	47	1,800
11 (age 11 to 25 during follow-up period)	714	28	378	15	327	13	1,157	45	2,576
Youth (aged 12 to 17 at initial victimization)	15,380	33	8,464	18	5,092	11	17,947	38	46,883
12 (age 12 to 26 during follow-up period)	1,252	31	627	16	517	13	1,624	40	4,020
13 (age 13 to 27 during follow-up period)	1,892	33	908	16	596	10	2,340	41	5,736
14 (age 14 to 28 during follow-up period)	2,587	33	1,418	18	880	11	2,997	38	7,882
15 (age 15 to 29 during follow-up period)	3,061	33	1,708	18	992	11	3,522	38	9,283
16 (age 16 to 30 during follow-up period)	3,212	33	1,824	19	999	10	3,582	37	9,617
17 (age 17 to 31 during follow-up period)	3,376	33	1,979	19	1,108	11	3,882	38	10,345
Total	17,880	30	9,869	17	6,820	11	25,067	42	59,636

1. Excludes a small number of child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010 whose gender was reported by police as unknown.

Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence.

This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

Table 2**Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age at initial victimization, gender, and subsequent contact with police, 2010 to 2024**

Victim age at initial victimization	Boys								
	Subsequent contact with police as both a victim and an accused person		Subsequent contact with police as an accused person only		Subsequent contact with police as a victim of violent crime only		No subsequent contact with police		Total
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number
Younger children (aged 0 to 5 at initial victimization)	192	10	176	9	225	12	1,298	69	1,891
0 (age 0 to 14 during follow-up period)	13	5	15	6	22	9	208	81	258
1 (age 1 to 15 during follow-up period)	18	8	14	6	30	13	168	73	230
2 (age 2 to 16 during follow-up period)	16	6	23	9	39	16	169	68	247
3 (age 3 to 17 during follow-up period)	36	10	32	9	42	12	237	68	347
4 (age 4 to 18 during follow-up period)	58	15	43	11	47	12	250	63	398
5 (age 5 to 19 during follow-up period)	51	12	49	12	45	11	266	65	411
Older children (aged 6 to 11 at initial victimization)	1,264	25	887	17	502	10	2,470	48	5,123
6 (age 6 to 20 during follow-up period)	79	17	60	13	56	12	282	59	477
7 (age 7 to 21 during follow-up period)	109	20	89	17	50	9	289	54	537
8 (age 8 to 22 during follow-up period)	156	22	104	15	71	10	365	52	696
9 (age 9 to 23 during follow-up period)	222	26	154	18	78	9	384	46	838
10 (age 10 to 24 during follow-up period)	287	27	198	18	98	9	492	46	1,075
11 (age 11 to 25 during follow-up period)	411	27	282	19	149	10	658	44	1,500
Youth (aged 12 to 17 at initial victimization)	7,434	31	5,836	24	1,693	7	9,034	38	23,997
12 (age 12 to 26 during follow-up period)	652	30	468	21	225	10	859	39	2,204
13 (age 13 to 27 during follow-up period)	928	31	604	20	205	7	1,213	41	2,950
14 (age 14 to 28 during follow-up period)	1,230	31	943	23	286	7	1,564	39	4,023
15 (age 15 to 29 during follow-up period)	1,453	31	1,162	25	322	7	1,736	37	4,673
16 (age 16 to 30 during follow-up period)	1,571	32	1,253	25	315	6	1,814	37	4,953
17 (age 17 to 31 during follow-up period)	1,600	31	1,406	27	340	7	1,848	36	5,194
Total	8,890	29	6,899	22	2,420	8	12,802	41	31,011

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2

Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age at initial victimization, gender, and subsequent contact with police, 2010 to 2024

Victim age at initial victimization	Girls								
	Subsequent contact with police as both a victim and an accused person		Subsequent contact with police as an accused person only		Subsequent contact with police as a victim of violent crime only		No subsequent contact with police		Total
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number
Younger children (aged 0 to 5 at initial victimization)	177	9	56	3	363	19	1,330	69	1,926
0 (age 0 to 14 during follow-up period)	5	2	8	4	43	19	168	75	224
1 (age 1 to 15 during follow-up period)	11	6	6	3	31	18	125	72	173
2 (age 2 to 16 during follow-up period)	18	7	5	2	49	19	181	72	253
3 (age 3 to 17 during follow-up period)	47	12	9	2	71	17	280	69	407
4 (age 4 to 18 during follow-up period)	39	9	16	4	79	19	287	68	421
5 (age 5 to 19 during follow-up period)	57	13	12	3	90	20	289	65	448
Older children (aged 6 to 11 at initial victimization)	864	23	284	8	638	17	1,990	53	3,776
6 (age 6 to 20 during follow-up period)	63	14	23	5	79	18	274	62	439
7 (age 7 to 21 during follow-up period)	75	15	29	6	77	16	309	63	490
8 (age 8 to 22 during follow-up period)	104	21	34	7	82	16	284	56	504
9 (age 9 to 23 during follow-up period)	126	23	47	8	104	19	278	50	555
10 (age 10 to 24 during follow-up period)	194	27	56	8	118	16	351	49	719
11 (age 11 to 25 during follow-up period)	302	28	95	9	178	17	494	46	1,069
Youth (aged 12 to 17 at initial victimization)	7,938	35	2,624	12	3,397	15	8,844	39	22,803
12 (age 12 to 26 during follow-up period)	600	33	159	9	292	16	760	42	1,811
13 (age 13 to 27 during follow-up period)	963	35	303	11	391	14	1,121	40	2,778
14 (age 14 to 28 during follow-up period)	1,355	35	473	12	594	15	1,421	37	3,843
15 (age 15 to 29 during follow-up period)	1,606	35	546	12	670	15	1,771	39	4,593
16 (age 16 to 30 during follow-up period)	1,638	35	571	12	684	15	1,750	38	4,643
17 (age 17 to 31 during follow-up period)	1,776	35	572	11	766	15	2,021	39	5,135
Total	8,979	31	2,964	10	4,398	15	12,164	43	28,505

1. Excludes a small number of child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010 whose gender was reported by police as unknown.

Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes a small number of child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010 whose gender was reported by police as unknown, as well as historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

Table 3**Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group and relationship to accused person at time of initial victimization, and subsequent contact with police, 2010 to 2024**

Victim age group and relationship to accused person at initial victimization	Subsequent contact with police as both a victim and an accused person		Subsequent contact with police as an accused person only		Subsequent contact with police as a victim of violent crime only		No subsequent contact with police		Total
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	
Younger children (aged 0 to 5 at initial victimization)									
Intimate partner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Current or former spouse or common- law partner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Current or former boyfriend, girlfriend, or other intimate relationship	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-spousal family violence	237	9	150	6	411	16	1,741	69	2,539
Parent ¹	175	9	102	5	303	16	1,325	70	1,905
Other immediate family ²	19	7	15	6	48	18	181	69	263
Extended family ³	43	12	33	9	60	16	235	63	371
Other person known to the victim	103	11	65	7	145	15	637	67	950
Friend or casual acquaintance	67	12	42	7	98	17	370	64	577
Authority figure	22	9	10	4	26	11	181	76	239
Other relationship ⁴	14	10	13	10	21	16	86	64	134
Stranger	26	9	13	4	25	8	235	79	299
Older children (aged 6 to 11 at initial victimization)									
Intimate partner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Current or former spouse or common- law partner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Current or former boyfriend, girlfriend, or other intimate relationship	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-spousal family violence	745	22	408	12	443	13	1,720	52	3,316
Parent ¹	466	20	287	12	298	13	1,246	54	2,297
Other immediate family ²	133	28	47	10	69	14	230	48	479
Extended family ³	146	27	74	14	76	14	244	45	540
Other person known to the victim	1,110	26	604	14	563	13	1,986	47	4,263
Friend or casual acquaintance	947	27	491	14	464	13	1,557	45	3,459
Authority figure	65	18	48	14	46	13	194	55	353
Other relationship ⁴	98	22	65	14	53	12	235	52	451
Stranger	264	21	152	12	130	10	725	57	1,271

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3

Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group and relationship to accused person at time of initial victimization, and subsequent contact with police, 2010 to 2024

Victim age group and relationship to accused person at initial victimization	Subsequent contact with police as both a victim and an accused person		Subsequent contact with police as an accused person only		Subsequent contact with police as a victim of violent crime only		No subsequent contact with police		Total
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number
Youth (aged 12 to 17 at initial victimization)									
Intimate partner	1,649	42	484	12	592	15	1,180	30	3,905
Current or former spouse or common- law partner	419	47	105	12	143	16	229	26	896
Current or former boyfriend, girlfriend, or other intimate relationship	1,230	41	379	13	449	15	951	32	3,009
Non-spousal family violence	2,732	38	1,212	17	774	11	2,495	35	7,213
Parent ¹	1,418	33	726	17	476	11	1,627	38	4,247
Other immediate family ²	619	41	255	17	149	10	483	32	1,506
Extended family ³	695	48	231	16	149	10	385	26	1,460
Other person known to the victim	8,238	35	4,280	18	2,605	11	8,219	35	23,342
Friend or casual acquaintance	7,719	36	3,975	18	2,417	11	7,543	35	21,654
Authority figure	171	29	110	18	73	12	243	41	597
Other relationship ⁴	348	32	195	18	115	11	433	40	1,091
Stranger	2,753	22	2,484	20	1,119	9	5,984	48	12,340

... not applicable

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive, and foster relationships.

2. For example, siblings. Includes biological, step, adoptive, and foster relationships.

3. For example, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents. Includes biological, step, adoptive, and foster relationships.

4. For example, neighbours.

Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence.

This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Also excludes incidents where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

Table 4**Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group at initial victimization, gender, and subsequent contact with police as an accused person, 2010 to 2024**

Victim age group at initial victimization and subsequent contact as an accused person	Any crime					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Younger children (aged 0 to 5 at initial victimization)						
Subsequent contact as an accused person						
No	1,523	81	1,693	88	3,216	84
Yes	368	19	233	12	601	16
1 subsequent contact	152	41	106	45	258	43
2 subsequent contacts	69	19	42	18	111	18
3 subsequent contacts	36	10	16	7	52	9
4 subsequent contacts	18	5	17	7	35	6
5 to 9 subsequent contacts	55	15	30	13	85	14
10 or more subsequent contacts	38	10	22	9	60	10
Average number of subsequent contacts	4.5	...	3.9	...	4.3	...
Older children (aged 6 to 11 at initial victimization)						
Subsequent contact as an accused person						
No	2,972	58	2,628	70	5,600	63
Yes	2,151	42	1,148	30	3,299	37
1 subsequent contact	645	30	400	35	1,045	32
2 subsequent contacts	310	14	190	17	500	15
3 subsequent contacts	206	10	105	9	311	9
4 subsequent contacts	140	7	73	6	213	6
5 to 9 subsequent contacts	318	15	147	13	465	14
10 or more subsequent contacts	532	25	233	20	765	23
Average number of subsequent contacts	9.4	...	7.5	...	8.7	...
Youth (aged 12 to 17 at initial victimization)						
Subsequent contact as an accused person						
No	10,727	45	12,241	54	22,968	49
Yes	13,270	55	10,562	46	23,832	51
1 subsequent contact	3,309	25	3,429	32	6,738	28
2 subsequent contacts	1,825	14	1,592	15	3,417	14
3 subsequent contacts	1,084	8	957	9	2,041	9
4 subsequent contacts	848	6	658	6	1,506	6
5 to 9 subsequent contacts	2,147	16	1,552	15	3,699	16
10 or more subsequent contacts	4,057	31	2,374	22	6,431	27
Average number of subsequent contacts	11.5	...	8.2	...	10.0	...

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4**Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group at initial victimization, gender, and subsequent contact with police as an accused person, 2010 to 2024**

Victim age group at initial victimization and subsequent contact as an accused person	Violent crime					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Younger children (aged 0 to 5 at initial victimization)						
Subsequent contact as an accused person						
No	1,651	87	1,772	92	3,423	90
Yes	240	13	154	8	394	10
1 subsequent contact	121	50	81	53	202	51
2 subsequent contacts	40	17	29	19	69	18
3 subsequent contacts	22	9	12	8	34	9
4 subsequent contacts	17	7	9	6	26	7
5 to 9 subsequent contacts	28	12	23	15	51	13
10 or more subsequent contacts	12	5	0	0	12	3
Average number of subsequent contacts	2.9	...	2.4	...	2.7	...
Older children (aged 6 to 11 at initial victimization)						
Subsequent contact as an accused person						
No	3,626	71	3,018	80	6,644	75
Yes	1,497	29	758	20	2,255	25
1 subsequent contact	614	41	349	46	963	43
2 subsequent contacts	242	16	147	19	389	17
3 subsequent contacts	164	11	69	9	233	10
4 subsequent contacts	95	6	48	6	143	6
5 to 9 subsequent contacts	247	16	99	13	346	15
10 or more subsequent contacts	135	9	46	6	181	8
Average number of subsequent contacts	3.9	...	3.1	...	3.6	...
Youth (aged 12 to 17 at initial victimization)						
Subsequent contact as an accused person						
No	14,843	62	15,777	69	30,620	65
Yes	9,154	38	7,026	31	16,180	35
1 subsequent contact	3,236	35	3,145	45	6,381	39
2 subsequent contacts	1,631	18	1,263	18	2,894	18
3 subsequent contacts	936	10	767	11	1,703	11
4 subsequent contacts	655	7	499	7	1,154	7
5 to 9 subsequent contacts	1,641	18	964	14	2,605	16
10 or more subsequent contacts	1,055	12	388	6	1,443	9
Average number of subsequent contacts	4.3	...	3.1	...	3.8	...

... not applicable

Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Includes a small number of children and youth whose subsequent contact was on the same day as the initial victimization. Excludes a small number of child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010 whose gender was reported by police as unknown, as well as historical offences (those that occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

Table 5**Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group at initial victimization, gender, and subsequent contact with police as a victim, 2010 to 2024**

Victim age group at initial victimization and subsequent contact as a victim	Boys		Girls		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Younger children (aged 0 to 5 at initial victimization)						
Subsequent contact as a victim						
No	1,474	78	1,386	72	2,860	75
Yes	417	22	540	28	957	25
1 subsequent contact	261	63	294	54	555	58
2 subsequent contacts	80	19	111	21	191	20
3 subsequent contacts	27	6	54	10	81	8
4 subsequent contacts	21	5	28	5	49	5
5 to 9 subsequent contacts	27	6	43	8	70	7
10 or more subsequent contacts	1	0	10	2	11	1
Average number of subsequent contacts	1.8	...	2.2	...	2.0	...
Older children (aged 6 to 11 at initial victimization)						
Subsequent contact as a victim						
No	3,357	66	2,274	60	5,631	63
Yes	1,766	34	1,502	40	3,268	37
1 subsequent contact	868	49	654	44	1,522	47
2 subsequent contacts	385	22	261	17	646	20
3 subsequent contacts	206	12	185	12	391	12
4 subsequent contacts	110	6	117	8	227	7
5 to 9 subsequent contacts	169	10	204	14	373	11
10 or more subsequent contacts	28	2	81	5	109	3
Average number of subsequent contacts	2.3	...	3.1	...	2.7	...
Youth (aged 12 to 17 at initial victimization)						
Subsequent contact as a victim						
No	14,870	62	11,468	50	26,338	56
Yes	9,127	38	11,335	50	20,462	44
1 subsequent contact	4,463	49	4,122	36	8,585	42
2 subsequent contacts	1,950	21	2,241	20	4,191	20
3 subsequent contacts	1,017	11	1,301	11	2,318	11
4 subsequent contacts	597	7	910	8	1,507	7
5 to 9 subsequent contacts	914	10	1,929	17	2,843	14
10 or more subsequent contacts	186	2	832	7	1,018	5
Average number of subsequent contacts	2.4	...	3.6	...	3.1	...

... not applicable

Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes a small number of child and youth victims of violent crime in 2010 whose gender was reported by police as unknown, as well as historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police at least one day following the initial victimization incident, as a victim of a violent crime, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024). Includes a small number (less than 1%) of subsequent contacts as the victim of a *Criminal Code* traffic offence.

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

Table 6**Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group and type of violence at initial victimization, and subsequent contact with police, 2010 to 2024**

Victim age group and type of violence at initial victimization	Subsequent contact with police as both a victim and an accused person		Subsequent contact with police as an accused person only		Subsequent contact with police as a victim of violent crime only		No subsequent contact with police		Total
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	
Younger children (aged 0 to 5 at initial victimization)									
Sexual assault or other sexual offence	114	10	52	5	194	18	736	67	1,096
Physical assault	204	11	127	7	270	14	1,327	69	1,928
Criminal harassment	3	11	2	7	2	7	20	74	27
Indecent or harassing communications	1	7	0	0	2	13	12	80	15
Uttering threats	23	6	24	6	74	20	249	67	370
Other violent offence	24	6	27	7	46	12	284	75	381
Older children (aged 6 to 11 at initial victimization)									
Sexual assault or other sexual offence	385	21	187	10	271	15	995	54	1,838
Physical assault	1,424	27	791	15	643	12	2,460	46	5,318
Criminal harassment	27	18	13	9	24	16	85	57	149
Indecent or harassing communications	10	12	7	9	11	14	53	65	81
Uttering threats	201	20	111	11	140	14	555	55	1,007
Other violent offence	81	16	62	12	51	10	312	62	506
Youth (aged 12 to 17 at initial victimization)									
Sexual assault or other sexual offence	1,777	31	694	12	872	15	2,360	41	5,703
Physical assault	9,917	38	5,253	20	2,473	9	8,560	33	26,203
Criminal harassment	323	22	173	12	258	17	724	49	1,478
Indecent or harassing communications	257	25	121	12	155	15	482	47	1,015
Uttering threats	1,930	33	994	17	772	13	2,236	38	5,932
Other violent offence	1,168	18	1,225	19	560	9	3,516	54	6,469

Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence.

This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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

Table 7**Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime in 2010, by victim age group and weapon presence at initial victimization, and subsequent contact with police, 2010 to 2024**

	Subsequent contact with police as both a victim and an accused person		Subsequent contact with police as an accused person only		Subsequent contact with police as a victim of violent crime only		No subsequent contact with police		Total
Victim age group and weapon presence at initial victimization	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number
Younger children (aged 0 to 5 at initial victimization)									
Weapon present¹	39	10	35	9	52	13	282	69	408
Gun	2	6	4	11	7	19	23	64	36
Knife or piercing or cutting instrument	9	12	6	8	11	15	49	65	75
Club or blunt instrument	6	17	2	6	3	9	24	69	35
Other weapon	22	8	23	9	31	12	186	71	262
No weapon present	222	10	141	6	323	14	1,596	70	2,282
Physical force	192	10	115	6	267	14	1,317	70	1,891
Threat	11	6	13	8	31	18	117	68	172
No weapon	19	9	13	6	25	11	162	74	219
Older children (aged 6 to 11 at initial victimization)									
Weapon present¹	337	26	216	17	143	11	596	46	1,292
Gun	43	21	35	17	29	14	98	48	205
Knife or piercing or cutting instrument	64	24	46	17	35	13	127	47	272
Club or blunt instrument	23	21	25	23	8	7	53	49	109
Other weapon	207	29	110	16	71	10	318	45	706
No weapon present	1,371	24	713	13	703	12	2,861	51	5,648
Physical force	1,180	26	608	13	557	12	2,273	49	4,618
Threat	106	18	60	10	79	14	332	58	577
No weapon	85	19	45	10	67	15	256	57	453
Youth (aged 12 to 17 at initial victimization)									
Weapon present¹	2,222	33	1,489	22	551	8	2,470	37	6,732
Gun	269	27	229	23	99	10	401	40	998
Knife or piercing or cutting instrument	714	32	522	24	161	7	811	37	2,208
Club or blunt instrument	256	33	178	23	62	8	277	36	773
Other weapon	983	36	560	20	229	8	981	36	2,753
No weapon present	10,286	34	5,367	18	3,317	11	11,421	38	30,391
Physical force	8,315	35	4,359	18	2,403	10	8,493	36	23,570
Threat	1,210	29	648	16	493	12	1,797	43	4,148
No weapon	761	28	360	13	421	16	1,131	42	2,673

1. In order to be recorded, the weapon must be present and relevant to the commission of the offence, but not necessarily used.

Note: Initial victimization refers to the first incident of violent victimization in 2010 where a child or youth was identified as a victim of a police-reported violent offence. This initial incident is defined for analytical purposes and may not represent the true first experience of victimization as child and youth victims included in the cohort may have been victims of a violent crime or accused of a crime prior to this 2010 incident. Excludes historical offences (those that were reported in 2010 but occurred prior to January 1, 2010). Also excludes data from the province of Quebec, except when the most serious weapon was a firearm, and excludes data from Quebec City Police Service, regardless of weapon, for data quality reasons. Recontact or subsequent contact is any official contact with police that follows the initial victimization incident, either as a victim of a violent crime or as a person accused of any criminal incident, that occurs during the timeframe selected for analysis (2010 to 2024).

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