

Get all the Facts

Self-Reported Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014

- Just under one in five Canadians aged 15 years and older (approximately 5.6 million people) reported that they or their household had been the victim of at least one of the eight crimes in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- The majority (65%) of incidents were non-violent. Physical assault was the most frequent violent crime and was reported by 22% of respondents.
- Sexual assault was the only crime for which the victimization rate remained relatively stable over the past decade. There were 22 incidents reported per 1,000 people.
- Previously, men and women showed relatively similar rates of violent victimization. However, in 2014, women recorded a higher rate (85 incidents per 1,000 women) than men (67 per 1,000).
- This is primarily due to the fact that the sexual assault rate—a crime in which the majority of victims are women—remained stable over the past decade, while the rates for robbery and physical assault—in which the majority of victims are men—dropped significantly since 2004.
- When all other risk factors were taken into account, women maintained a risk of violent victimization that was about 20% higher than men.
- Approximately one-third of Canadians (30%) reported being victims of some form of abuse by an adult at least once before the age of 15
 - 22% reported experiencing physical abuse
 - 3% suffered sexual abuse
 - 5% experienced both physical and sexual violence
- In most cases of physical abuse, the offender was a family member, generally the father (35%) or mother (23%). In cases of sexual abuse, the offender was often also a member of the immediate family (18%) or extended family (20%).
- The majority of self-reported cases of child maltreatment (93%) never came to the attention of authorities.
- People self-identifying as homosexual or bisexual recorded the highest violent victimization rate at 207 incidents per 1,000 population, compared to 69 per 1,000 for heterosexuals.
- Close to one in three (30%) Aboriginal people reported that they or their household had been the victim of at least one of the eight crimes measured by the General Social Survey in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- The differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people were most pronounced for break-ins and sexual assaults, with the rates for Aboriginals being more than double those for non-Aboriginals.
- Violent victimization rates were especially high among Aboriginal females. For example, they recorded a sexual assault rate of 115 incidents per 1,000 population, much higher than the rate of 35 per 1,000 recorded by their non-Aboriginal counterparts.
- Offenders were generally male (86% of violent incidents) and sexual assaults were more likely to be committed by a male offender (94%) than were physical assaults (82%).

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- Victims often know their attacker. The offender was a stranger in just under half (48%) of violent incidents, after excluding incidents of spousal abuse. Sexual assault was the least likely to be perpetrated by a stranger.
- Only 5% of sexual assaults were brought to the attention of the police in 2014.
- Women who were victims of violence were more than twice as likely as men to make use of one of support services (19% compared to 7%).

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.htm>

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