

Get all the Facts

Stalking in Canada, 2014

- Nearly 2 million Canadians experienced stalking in the five years preceding the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization): about 8% of women and 5% of men aged 15 and older.
- Most stalking victims were women (62%) and most stalkers were male (74%). After controlling for many other factors, being female resulted in 85% greater odds of being a victim of stalking.
- Almost half (48%) of stalking victims were between 15 and 34 years of age and 31% were females between the ages of 15 and 34.
- Nearly 4 out of 10 (39%) victims reported the stalking to police and 21% said that charges were laid.
- The most commonly reported stalking or harassing behaviour (39% of victims or about 720,000 Canadians) was threats or intimidation against someone else in the victim's life, such as the victim's child or other family member.
- Most frequently, someone the victim knew was responsible for the stalking. Half of all victims (49%) identified their stalker as someone that they knew who was not a current or former intimate partner.
- There was a particularly high incidence of stalking indicated for both women and men with a learning disability. Overall, 21% of people with a condition that makes it hard for them to learn (learning disability) had been the victim of stalking, compared to 6% without such a condition.
- Stalking was especially common for women with a learning disability (25%) but also prevalent among male counterparts (16%). Even after controlling for a multitude of factors, people who reported a learning disability had double the odds of being a victim of stalking.
- Aside from police, most victims of stalking (84%) spoke to someone about what they had experienced, including:
 - Family (67%)
 - Friends or neighbours (61%)
 - Coworkers (20%)
 - Counsellors or psychologists (11%)
- Speaking to doctors, nurses, lawyers, spiritual advisors and others was less common.

Intimate Partner Stalking

- Three-quarters (74%) of intimate partner stalking victims were women. One in fifty Canadian women aged 15 and older experienced intimate partner stalking in the previous five years.
- Experiencing physical violence from a stalker was more common when the stalker was an intimate partner. Grabbing or physical attacks was reported by one-third (33%) of those stalked by an intimate partner, versus by a stranger (12%)¹ or someone else the victim knew (16%).

¹ Use with caution.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54893/01-eng.htm>

Contact info

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