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Violent Victimization of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals in Canada, 2014

- According to the 2014 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), Canadians aged 18 years and older who identified as lesbian or gay (142¹) and bisexual (267¹) were much more likely than their heterosexual (69) counterparts to be victims of violent crime.
- Even after controlling for other factors, the odds of being a victim of violent victimization were two times higher among lesbian, gay or bisexual Canadians than among their heterosexual counterparts.
- Compared with heterosexual Canadians, bisexual individuals were almost nine times more likely to be sexually assaulted (151¹ versus 17 incidents per 1,000 population) in the previous 12 months.
- The rate of self-reported violent victimization of lesbian and gay individuals decreased by 67% between 2009 and 2014. This is compared to a decrease of 30% for heterosexual individuals.
- In 2014, overall, there were more than 100,000¹ incidents of violent victimization involving a bisexual victim and more than 49,000¹ incidents involving a lesbian or gay victim, corresponding to rates of 267¹ and 142¹ incidents per 1,000 population, respectively.
- Bisexual individuals were particularly over-represented as victims of violent crime. For example, in 2014, bisexual Canadians were almost nine times more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to report experiencing sexual assault (151¹ versus 17 incidents per 1,000 population). There were no statistically significant differences between the rates of physical assault for heterosexual and lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals.
- Results from the 2016 Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey show that police-reported hate crimes targeting sexual orientation rose 25% from the previous year, accounting for 13% of all hate crimes reported to the police during that year.
- Discrimination incidents motivated by a hatred of sexual orientation were more likely to be violent (71%) and were more likely to result in injuries to the victim (44%). Most (82%) of the victims were male and almost half (43%) of all victims were under the age of 25.
- Bisexual women were four times more likely to report experiencing violent victimization (327¹ versus 75 incidents per 1,000 population) and seven times more likely to report experiencing sexual assault (208¹ versus 29 incidents per 1,000 population) than their heterosexual counterparts in the 12 months preceding the survey. The age-standardized rate of sexual assault for bisexual women was 112¹ incidents per 1,000 population.
- The large majority (86%) of victims who were victimized by a single offender reported that the offender was male. Most (69%) violent incidents did not include the presence of a weapon.

¹ Use with caution.

Contact info

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- Bisexual individuals were far less likely than heterosexual counterparts to report violent victimization to the police. Almost nine in ten (85%) bisexual victims stated that they had not reported the incident to the police, versus 64% of heterosexual victims. However, lesbian and gay Canadians were as likely to report the same to police (58% versus 64%).
- Discrimination was far more common among lesbian and gay (31%) and bisexual (39%) individuals, compared to their heterosexual (13%) counterparts.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54923-eng.htm>

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