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Police-reported Violent Crimes against Young Women and Girls in Northern Canada, 2017

- Young women and girls in Canada's northern areas were victims of violent crime at the highest rates versus any other sex/age groups.
- The violent crime rate for females aged 24 and younger in the North was 3,643 victims per 100,000 population. This was:
 - Nearly three (2.9x) times higher than the rate for young women and girls in the South (1,235)
 - Close to twice (1.7x) as high as the rate for young men and boys in the North (2,090)
 - Nearly four (3.8x) times higher than for the total Canadian population overall (968)
- Young women and girls aged 24 and younger in the North accounted for less than 7% of young Canadian females under 25 and 17% of all young female victims of violent crimes.
- Rural northern Canada had rates of violent crime against young women and girls about twice (2.1x) that of the urban North (5,023 versus 2,354 victims per 100,000 population).
- Young adult women between 18 and 24 years old in the North were victims of violent crime at the highest rate (6,910 victims per 100,000 population), followed by teenage girls between 15 and 17 years old in the North (6,557).
- Violent crimes against young women and girls in the North were both more prevalent and more severe in nature than in the South. More young women and girls in the North:
 - Suffered a physical injury as a result of violent crime (45% versus 32%)
 - Were victims of the more serious violent crimes—including homicide and level 3 physical assault
 - Aggravated physical assaults (level 3) had a rate seven (7.0x) times greater in the North than in the South (34 versus 5 victims per 100,000 population)
- Level 2 physical assaults had a rate nearly four (3.8x) times higher than in the South (417 versus 109)
- Homicide and other offences causing death rates were more than 3 times higher in the North than in the South (3.4x; 3.33 versus 0.98)
- Violence against young women and girls in the North was most commonly perpetrated by:
 - An intimate partner or spouse (44%)
 - A casual acquaintance (22%)
 - A family member (20%)
- Compared to in the South, young women and girls in the North were more likely to be assaulted by:
 - Someone they knew (95% versus 92%)
 - Someone they were dating at the time of the crime (27% versus 20%)
 - An extended family member (9% versus 4%)
- Compared with their male counterparts in the North, young women and girls in the North were victimized at a higher rate across all almost major types of violent offences. Homicide offences were the exception, where young males in the North were victims of offences related to homicide or death at a higher rate than young females in the North (9.93 versus 3.93 victims per 100,000 population).
- Most young women and girls aged 24 and younger in the North were victimized by a male (77%), the vast majority (82%) of whom were older than them. Over half (53%) of these older male assailants were more than five years older than their young female victim, and over one-third (36%) were 10 or more years older.

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- The rate of intimate partner violence was three-and-a-half (3.5x) times greater for young female victims in the North than in the South (959 versus 271 victims per 100,000 population), which is a wider gap than for the overall rate of violent crimes committed against young women and girls in the North compared with the South (2.9x).
- Violent crimes committed against young women and girls by a family member had a rate nearly four-and-a-half (4.4x) times higher in the North than in the South (438 versus 99 victims per 100,000 population).
- In addition to a higher prevalence, a higher proportion of young female victims in the North were victimized by a family member than in the South (20% versus 16%). Among these, extended family members accounted for nearly double the proportion of assailants in the North than they did in the South (43% versus 23%), which translated to a rate of violent victimization at the hands of an extended family member more than eight (8.4x) times higher in the North (187 versus 22).
- From 2009 to 2017, 74 young women and girls in the North were victims of police-reported homicide. Overall, 14% of all female homicide victims in Canada were killed in the North, over one-third (37%) of whom were aged 24 and younger. For reference, in 2017, 6% of all females in Canada resided in the North, less than one-third (31%) of whom were aged 24 and younger.
- Compared with the South, a higher proportion of young victims of homicides from 2009 to 2017 in the North were female (31% versus 24%). On average, homicide rates for young women and girls were more than three (3.4x) times higher in the North than in the South.
- Compared with young women and girl victims of homicide in the South, female victims in the North were more likely to be killed by someone who was:
 - Male (87% versus 74%),
 - Aged 24 and younger (62% versus 39%),
 - Known to them (97% versus 90%)
 - Their intimate partner (38% versus 32%)
 - Consuming alcohol and/or drugs prior to the crime (86% versus 62%)
 - Previously convicted of a crime (56% versus 47%)

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00012-eng.htm>

Contact info

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