

Get all the Facts

Police-reported Violence against Girls and Young Women in Canada, 2017

- Girls and young women are disproportionately victims of violent crime, and this pattern appears to continue until they reach age 45.
- In 2014, the overall rate of self-reported violent victimization among Canadians aged 15 and older was significantly higher for women than men (85 versus 68 incidents per 1,000 population).
- Young women aged 15 to 24 had the highest rate of self-reported violent victimization (216), which was significantly higher than the rates for young men aged 15 to 24 and women aged 25 and older (115 and 63, respectively).
- The police-reported violent crime rate in Canada was highest for victims who were girls and young women aged 24 and younger in 2017.
- Between 2009 and 2017, police-reported violence declined overall but the decrease was smaller for victims who were girls and young women. While physical assault offences and other violent offences decreased, sexual offences increased.
- Every province and territory recorded a decline in the rate of police-reported violence against girls and young women between 2009 and 2017, with the exception of Quebec.
- Between 2007 and 2017, Aboriginal girls and young women were over-represented among victims of homicide. Aboriginal identity was recorded for 450 of the 454 girls and young women who were victims of homicide. Of these, 34% were Aboriginal and 66% were non-Aboriginal.
- In 2017, the rate of police-reported violence was 1.8 times higher for girls and young women in rural areas than it was in urban areas (2,212 versus 1,236 per 100,000 population)
- Among younger girls aged 11 and younger, the rate for both sexual offences and physical assault offences was 2.0 times higher in rural

areas. Meanwhile, the rate for physical assault offences in rural areas was 1.9 times higher for older girls aged 12 to 17 and 2.4 times higher for young women aged 18 to 24.

Type of Offence

- In 2017, girls and young women and boys and young men experienced similar rates of physical assault and other violent offences but rates for sexual offences were consistently higher for victims who were girls and young women, regardless of age group.
- Of all police-reported violence rates were similar for female and male victims aged 24 and younger for:
 - Physical assault offences (693 versus 676 per 100,000 population)
 - Other violent offences (291 versus 289)
- Yet, victims who were girls and young women had an overall rate for sexual offences that was seven times higher than the rate for boys and young men (407 versus 58).
- Regardless of age group, rates for sexual offences were higher for girls and young women than their male counterpart:
 - Three times higher for younger girls aged 11 and younger (181 versus 60);
 - Over nine times higher for older girls aged 12 to 17 (921 versus 98); and,
 - Nearly 14 times higher for young women and 18 to 24 (371 versus 27).
- As girls and young women aged, the type of offence they experienced changed:
 - For younger girls aged 11 and younger and older girls aged 12 to 17, sexual offences had the highest rate (181 and 921 per 100,000 population, respectively); and,
 - For young women aged 18 to 24, physical assault offences had a higher rate than sexual offences (1,392 versus 371).

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- For girls and young women, rates for physical assault offences peaked at age 20 (1,450), while sexual offences peaked at age 15 (1,243) and other violent offences peaked at age 18 (546).
- Among the most common types of police-reported violence committed against girls and young women, were:
 - physical assault offences (50%),
 - sexual offences (29%) and
 - other violent offences (21%).
- Offences related to homicide or death were rare (0.2%) for girls and young women.
- Boys and young men were most often victims of:
 - physical assault offences (66%)
 - other violent offences (28%)
 - Sexual offences were far less common for men and boys (6%).
 - Physical assault offences were the most common type of offence committed against women aged 25 and older (65%); however, among women, other violent offences (27%) were more common than sexual offences (8%).
- Girls and young women were most commonly victimized on private property and of those, nearly two-thirds were victimized in their own home.
- The large majority of those accused of police-reported violence were male. This is true for violence against girls and young women as well as boys and young men (81% and 79%, respectively). For physical assault offences and other violent offences, three-quarters of accused were male (76% and 77%, respectively). Meanwhile, the accused was male for nearly all (98%) sexual offences.
- Six in ten (59%) girls and young women were victimized by someone close in age (within five years). However, while older girls and young women were most often victimized by someone within five years of their own age (63% and 61%, respectively), it was less common for younger girls (24%).
- Between 2007 and 2017, girls and young women who were victims of homicide were most often killed by a male accused (78%). A male accused was much more common for boys and young men and women aged 25 and older who were victims of homicide (both 92%).
- The proportion of female accused was nearly three times higher when victims were girls and young women than their male counterparts (22% versus 8%), and the proportion of female accused was highest for victims who were younger girls (44%).
- Girls and young women were killed by someone close to them far more often than boys and young men.
- As girls and young women aged, the most common perpetrator of homicide also shifted:
 - Three in four (75%) younger girls aged 11 and younger were killed by a parent.
 - One in four (24%) older girls aged 12 to 17 was killed by a parent, 22% by a casual acquaintance and 19% by a non-spousal intimate partner.

Characteristics of Perpetrators

- Girls and young women were often victimized by someone close to them. Around six in ten (57%) girls and young women were victimized by a family member, a non-spousal intimate partner or a friend, compared to three in ten (31%) of their male counterparts.
- Boys and young men were far more often victims of a casual acquaintance or a stranger than girls and young women (62% versus 37%).
- Their relationship with the perpetrator also differed by age:
 - Younger girls were most often victimized by a family member;
 - Older girls by a casual acquaintance; and,
 - Young women by a non-spousal intimate partner.
- The proportion of female accused was nearly three times higher when victims were girls and young women than their male counterparts (22% versus 8%), and the proportion of female accused was highest for victims who were younger girls (44%).
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- Young women aged 18 to 24 were most often killed by a spouse (25%) or a non-spousal intimate partner (24%).
- Half (48%) of girls and young women who were victims of homicide were killed by someone who had a previous conviction in Canada, most often another violent offence such as sexual assault or physical assault.
- Girls and young women were most often killed by someone under the influence of an intoxicating substance (63%); however, this was more common among boys and young men (70%).

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54981-eng.htm>

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