

Get all the Facts

Police-reported Violence among Same-sex Intimate Partners in Canada, 2009 to 2017

- Between 2009 and 2017, there were a total of 22,323 incidents of police-reported same-sex intimate partner violence in Canada. This represented approximately 3% of all police-reported incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) over this time period.
- The proportion involved in police-reported spousal violence over the nine-year period (3%) was higher than the share of couples in Canada who reported being in same-sex spousal relationships (1%), for whom national data are available.
- While the majority (82%) of police-reported IPV involving opposite-sex partners most often involved female victims and their male assailants, just over half (55%) of police-reported same-sex IPV involved male partners.
- Common assault (level 1—the least serious form of assault) was the most common police-reported form of violence among male (59%) and female (64%) same-sex partners. Major assault, which includes assault levels 2 and 3, was more common among males (18% compared to 12% among females).
- Charges were laid or recommended considerably less often in incidents of police-reported IPV involving same-sex partners (65%) compared to those involving opposite-sex partners (82%).
- Between 2009 and 2017, there were 36 homicides involving same-sex partners, representing 5% of all intimate partner homicides over this time period.
- The number of police-reported same-sex IPV incidents declined by 11% between 2009 and 2017 and was fairly consistent for both male and female victims (-10% and -12%, respectively). The decline was smaller among opposite-sex intimate partners (-6%).
- According to a recent Statistics Canada report based on data from the the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), individuals aged 18 and over who self-identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual were generally more likely to report experiencing violence.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00005-eng.htm>

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