

Catalogue no. 85-002-X  
ISSN 1209-6393

**Juristat**

## **Canadian residential facilities for victims of abuse, 2017/2018**

by Greg Moreau  
The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Release date: April 17, 2019



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## Canadian residential facilities for victims of abuse, 2017/2018: Highlights

- In 2017/2018, there were 552 residential facilities for victims of abuse operating across Canada that saw over 68,000 admissions in the previous year, the vast majority being women (60.3%) and their accompanying children (39.6%).
- On the snapshot day of April 18, 2018, a total of 3,565 women, 3,137 accompanying children, and 8 men were residing in residential facilities for reasons of abuse.
- Of the 3,565 women reporting abuse as their primary reason for seeking shelter on snapshot day, over eight in ten were there due to abuse by a current or former intimate partner.
- Just over three-quarters of women residing in facilities for reasons of abuse on snapshot day with parental responsibilities were admitted with their children. Women were protecting their children from multiple types of abuse, including protecting them from exposure to violence (60%), from emotional or psychological abuse (53%), from physical abuse (35%), from neglect of all kinds (20%), and from sexual abuse (8%).
- Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) women and children were overrepresented in residential facilities for victims of abuse. Representation of Aboriginal women and children was respectively 5 and 3 times higher in these facilities compared to their representation in the Canadian population.
- In terms of immigration status, for non-permanent resident women, their presence was 6 times higher in residential facilities for victims of abuse than in the general population, and for their children, representation in facilities was nearly 10 times higher.
- Of the women who left a facility on snapshot day, 21% returned to a residence where their abuser continued to live. For an additional 36% of women, either the facility or the women did not know where they were going upon departure from the facility. Other women reported they would be living with friends or relatives (18%), or entering another residential facility for victims of abuse (11%).
- More than one-third of short-term residential facilities were full on snapshot day. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan reported the highest percentage of short-term facilities that were full (47%), followed by Quebec (43%), British Columbia (43%) and Ontario (42%).
- Nationally, 78% of short-term beds were occupied on snapshot day. Provincially, Quebec (90%), Ontario (84%) and Saskatchewan (78%) had the highest proportion of occupied short-term bed spaces. Regionally, the territories had the highest occupancy rate at 98% (Nunavut 113%, Yukon 96% and the Northwest Territories 80%).
- On snapshot day, 669 women, 236 accompanying children and 6 men were turned away from residential facilities for victims of abuse. The most common reason for a woman being turned away was due to the facility being full (82%).
- While the average length of stay for the large majority (82%) of short-term facilities was less than three months, the average length of stay exceeded the mandated maximum stay of three months for 18% of short-term facilities. Ontario reported the highest percentage of short-term facilities with longer than expected average lengths of stays, with 30% reporting stays of three months or longer.

## Canadian residential facilities for victims of abuse, 2017/2018

by Greg Moreau

Victims of violence often rely on support from social services that exist outside of the formal criminal justice system (Sinha 2013). In Canada, referrals to residential facilities and emergency shelters are among the most common made by victim service providers (Allen 2014; Munch 2012). There is also significant social and capital investment in addressing issues of family violence and gender-based violence nationally and internationally. Canada is among the 45 member states of the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women, and in 2017, the Government of Canada announced It's Time: Canada's strategy to prevent and address gender-based violence (UNCSW 2018; Government of Canada 2017).

Residential facilities for victims of abuse have been providing an essential service to many individuals and families since the 1970s (Maki 2018; Tutty 2015). In addition to providing safe shelter and basic living needs, many also offer extensive in-house and outreach services specific to those who have experienced abuse of various kinds. These facilities also advocate on behalf of all victims of abuse in order to reduce victimization and its impact on communities.

Using data from the 2018 Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA), this *Juristat* presents information on residential facilities in Canada that are primarily mandated to serve victims of abuse, including women, men and accompanying children. The SRFVA replaces the Transition Home Survey (THS) which was conducted every two years from 1993 through 2014 (see Survey description). This article provides a profile of people who accessed residential facilities for victims of abuse, as well as a profile of those facilities.

The information presented in this article refers to two distinct time periods. First, data pertaining to the characteristics of facilities, the number of annual admissions and the types of services offered were collected in 2018, and are based on a 12-month reference period (2017/2018) that preceded the survey.<sup>1</sup> Second, a profile of those using residential facilities is based on the characteristics of persons residing in residential facilities on the snapshot day of April 18, 2018.<sup>2</sup>

This *Juristat* article was produced by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics at Statistics Canada with the funding support of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

### Over 68,000 admissions to residential facilities for victims of abuse in 2017/2018

As of the snapshot day of April 18, 2018, there were 552 residential facilities primarily mandated to serve victims of abuse operating across Canada (Text box 1). These facilities saw over 68,000 admissions<sup>3</sup> in the previous 12 months, the vast majority being women (60.3%) and their accompanying children (39.6%) (Table 1). In total, there were 86 males admitted to residential facilities for victims of abuse (0.1%) over the 12-month period. These numbers may not fully represent the demand for services among male victims of abuse (Text box 2).

#### Text box 1

##### Types of residential facilities

The term "residential facility" refers to any building, location or service that provides housing to individuals, regardless of the length of stay (days, months, or years). The primary mandate of such a facility refers to the main activity or service provided. For example, many facilities will offer services or support to individuals who may have experienced abuse (e.g., homeless shelters), however, they may not explicitly include this in their mandate. The Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA) focuses on facilities whose primary mandate is to provide residential services to victims of abuse, as opposed to facilities primarily mandated to provide housing services to persons who may or may not have experienced abuse. For facilities that primarily support victims of abuse, they may also support other people in addition to their primary mandate.

Within the context of the SRFVA, respondents were asked to report the type of facility they operated based on the expected length of stay provided for in their mandate, regardless of practice. They were grouped into two categories:

- **Short-term residential facilities** include those with a general policy of providing accommodation for less than three months, and they typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units. Short-term facilities include those considered to be transition homes, domestic violence shelters, or private homes that are part of safe home networks.
- **Long-term residential facilities** include those with a general policy of providing accommodation for three months or more, and they typically provide residential units (e.g., apartments or houses) to residents. Long-term facilities include second- and third-stage housing, which are typically more permanent supportive types of housing that follow short-term housing.

### **Text box 1 — end**

#### **Types of residential facilities**

The usual operations of short-term and long-term facilities are such that short-term facilities act as front-line centres for initial intakes, and may refer residents to long-term facilities. As such, short-term facilities often provide different services given the nature of their operations. For example, of those facilities reporting the general services provided by staff or volunteers at the facility,<sup>4</sup> 95% of short-term facilities provide a crisis telephone line, compared to 30% of long-term facilities. Similarly, 78% of short-term facilities offer transportation services for medical appointments and court dates, compared to 42% of long-term facilities.

Facilities reported operating either as short-term housing (428 or 78%) or long-term housing (124 or 22%), and are further characterized by the populations they serve.

For the 12-month reference period, there were 63,507 admissions to short-term facilities accounting for 93% of all admissions (Table 2). On average, each short-term facility reported 148 admissions. Meanwhile, long-term facilities reported 4,599 admissions with an average of 37 per facility.

The majority of long-term facilities (80%) and short-term facilities (59%) were located in urban areas.<sup>5</sup>

### **Text box 2**

#### **Residential facilities for male victims of abuse**

The majority of residential facilities for victims of abuse are mandated to serve certain segments of the population.

According to the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA), the large majority (82%) of facilities were primarily mandated to serve women and accompanying children. A further 10% of facilities reported offering services to women only. Of the remaining facilities, 15 (3%) indicated that they were mandated to serve men as well as women and their accompanying children. No facilities indicated they were mandated to serve only men. The remaining 5% of facilities offered services to varying combinations of women and accompanying children.

The facilities that served men reported admitting 86 men in 2017/2018, and there were a total of 16 men residing in facilities on snapshot day of April 18, 2018.

These numbers are not necessarily indicative of the demand for services among male victims of abuse. According to the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization,<sup>6</sup> equal proportions of women and men reported being victims of spousal violence during the preceding 5 years (4%, respectively). Women, however, reported the most severe types of spousal violence more often than men. According to the National Shelter Study conducted in 2014, 72.4% of emergency shelter users aged 15 and older were male (Segaert 2017). Similarly, in the National Youth Homelessness Survey, conducted in 2016, 57.6% of the sample identified as male, and of those, 53.6% experienced one or more forms of abuse as children (Gaetz et al. 2016). Overall, more than one-third of the sample reported abuse by a parent as a contributing factor to their homelessness. These findings suggest that men are likely underrepresented as residents in facilities for victims of abuse, but are overrepresented among those accessing residential services through the homelessness services sector. This sector was out of scope for the SRFVA.

### **Women and accompanying children represent virtually all residents**

On snapshot day, there were 7,397 individuals staying in residential facilities for victims of abuse. Of these residents, 4,020 (54.3%) were women, 3,361 (45.4%) were accompanying children, and 16 (0.2%) were men (Table 3).<sup>7</sup> The vast majority (91%) of residents were residing in a facility primarily because of abuse, while the remaining 9% of residents were there primarily for other reasons (e.g., homelessness, crisis intervention, or emergency shelter).<sup>8</sup> Overall, a total of 3,565 women, 3,137 accompanying children and 8 men were residing in residential facilities for reasons of abuse on the snapshot day.

In general, the characteristics of residents were similar between short-term and long-term facilities.

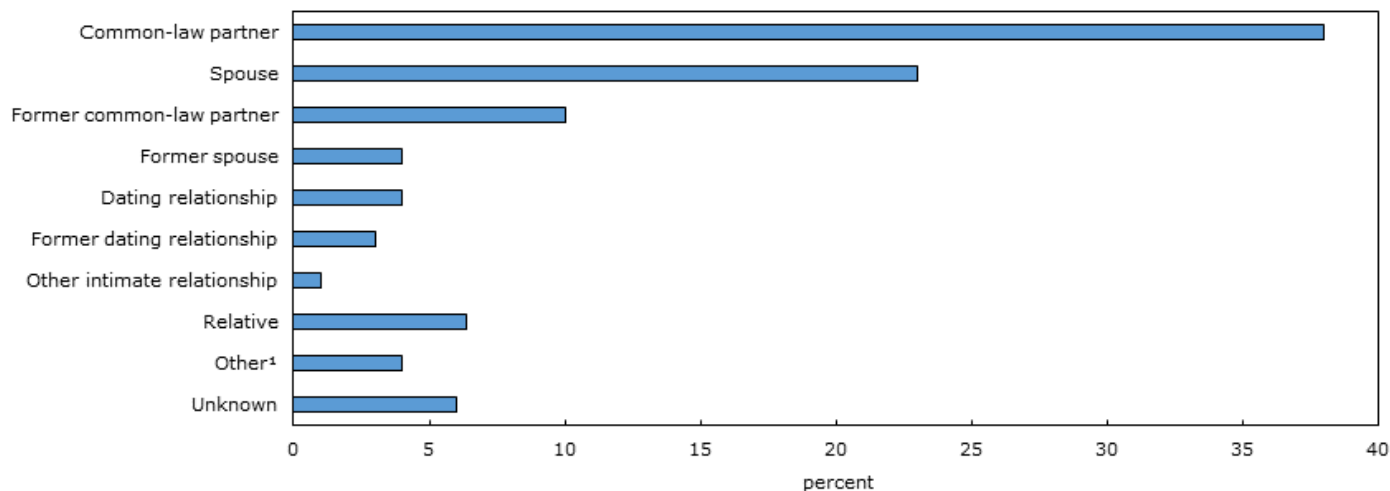
## More than eight in ten women experienced abuse by a current or former intimate partner

For the majority of women residing in facilities on snapshot day, the primary abuser was an intimate partner. Intimate partners include individuals who are legally married, common-law or dating.<sup>9</sup> Of the 3,565 women residing in facilities on snapshot day and reporting abuse as their primary reason for seeking shelter, 66% identified a current intimate partner as their abuser and 18% identified a former intimate partner (Chart 1).<sup>10</sup>

**Chart 1**

### Relationship of abuser to women in residential facilities primarily for reasons of abuse, Canada, April 18, 2018

Relationship of abuser to women



1. Includes caregiver, friend/acquaintance, authority figure and other unspecified relationships.

**Note:** The April 18, 2018 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. The sum of the percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding. Reasons of abuse can include, for example, having experienced physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse, or harassment, among others.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

More specifically, a total of 2,686 (75%) women in residential facilities on snapshot day identified their abuser as a current or former spouse or common-law partner.

Overall, 1.5% were there due to abuse by a same-sex intimate partner.

Residential facilities offer various counselling services for adults, including individual (87%) or group (68%) counselling, safety and protection planning (97%), life skills training (82%), and parenting skills training (71%) (Table 4).<sup>11</sup>

An important service that has been recently identified as critical to those escaping violence is the accommodation of pets. The abuse of a pet or the threat thereof frequently co-occurs with domestic violence and is employed by the abuser as a means of preventing victims from leaving their homes (Barrett et al. 2017; Shelter Voices 2018; Stevenson 2009). In 2017/2018, 19%<sup>12</sup> of residential facilities offered pet accommodations in some capacity. According to the Shelter Voices Survey conducted by Women’s Shelters Canada, a lack of resources was the most common reason why women’s shelters were unable to offer pet accommodation services (Shelter Voices 2018).

## Majority of women experienced multiple types of abuse

Of the women residing in facilities where the type of abuse they experienced was reported, emotional or psychological abuse (89%)<sup>13</sup> and physical abuse (73%) were the most common reasons for being at the facility on snapshot day. Financial abuse was also reported by about half (51%) of the women in these facilities (Table 5). About one-third of women experienced sexual abuse (33%) and harassment (31%). Other types of abuse experienced included cultural abuse (7%), spiritual abuse (6%), other unspecified abuse (5%) and forced marriage (2%). Additionally, 3% of women residents sought shelter to escape human trafficking or exploitation by being forced into sex work, and 1% of women residents sought shelter to escape human trafficking or exploitation through forced labour or other means.

## Just under three in ten women who sought shelter also turned to the police

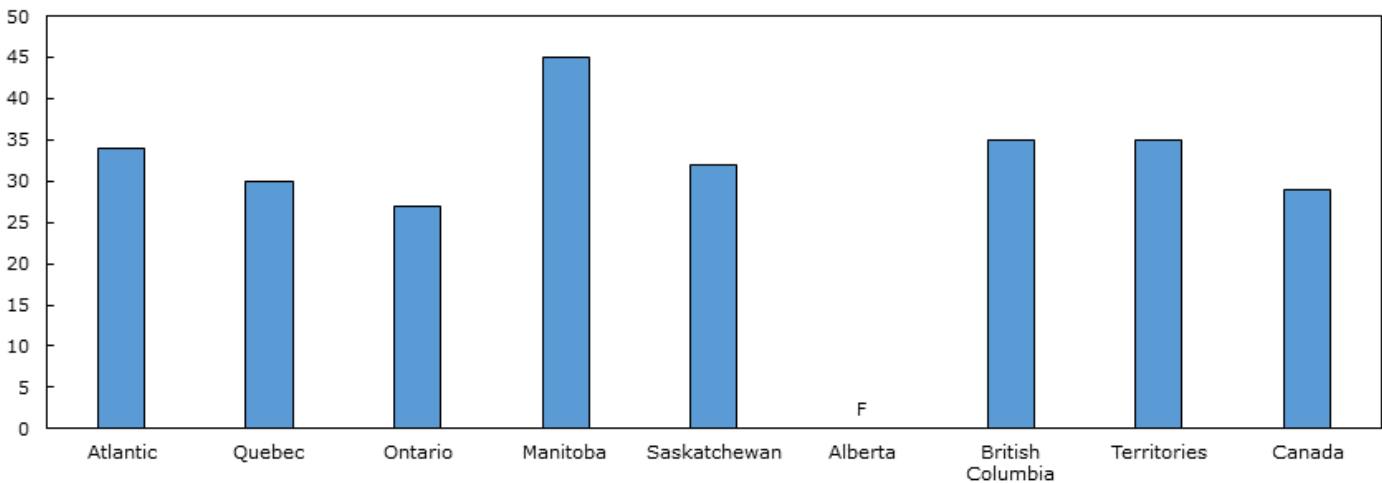
Self-reported data on victimization indicate that about one in five violent crimes is reported to the police, including spousal or intimate partner violence (Perreault 2015; Simpson 2018; Sinha 2015).

Just under three in ten women who sought shelter due to the abuse they suffered reported that abuse to the police (Chart 2).<sup>14</sup>

**Chart 2**

**Women in residential facilities for reasons of abuse who reported to the police the abuse that led them to seek shelter, by region, April 18, 2018**

percent<sup>1</sup>



F too unreliable to be published

1. Excludes 12% of women for whom a response was not stated.

**Note:** Data for Alberta are suppressed due to a high percentage of unknown values. The April 18, 2018 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. Reasons of abuse can include, for example, having experienced physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse, or harassment, among others.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

Women in facilities in Ontario (27%) were least likely to report the incident they experienced to the police, followed by women in Quebec (30%) (Chart 2). In contrast, 45% of women in residential facilities in Manitoba reported to police.

The majority of facilities reported offering various services that can support victims of abuse in engaging with the criminal justice system following an incident. Nationally, 92%<sup>15</sup> of facilities reported engaging in advocacy on behalf of victims of abuse, and 71%<sup>16</sup> of facilities reported offering legal services (e.g., paralegal services, assisting persons with legal documents, and obtaining legal aid or court support). The proportion of facilities offering legal services is driven by Quebec (87%) and Ontario (84%) (Table 4).

### Three-quarters of women with parental responsibilities admitted with their children

The latest victimization data found that children who witnessed violence by a parent or guardian against another adult in the home were often also physically or sexually abused themselves during childhood, and they were more likely to have experienced the most severe forms of childhood abuse (Burczycka 2017). Additionally, after controlling for other risk factors, research to date has identified a positive association between childhood maltreatment and the risk of both violent victimization in adulthood, and the most severe types of spousal violence (Burczycka 2017; Perreault 2015).

Of the women (2,181)<sup>17</sup> residing in facilities with parental responsibilities,<sup>18</sup> 76% (1,652) were admitted with one or more of their children, while the remaining 24% (529) were admitted without any of their children. On snapshot day, there were 3,137 accompanying children residing in facilities.

Overall, 26% of women did not have children or parenting responsibilities at the time of admission and the parental responsibilities of 7% of the women were not known.

In long-term facilities, 86% of women with children were admitted with one or more of them, compared to 71% of women in short-term facilities. Among those with parental responsibilities, women in short-term facilities were more likely to have been admitted without any of their children (29% versus 14%).

Given the potential impact of family violence on children, either by direct experience or bearing witness to it, it is important to have effective, child-focused services available to residents and their accompanying children. Of the facilities that offered services for children, 86%<sup>19</sup> of them reported offering counselling for children (e.g., play therapy, role playing and goal-oriented programming) (Table 4).



## Majority of women protecting their children from exposure to violence

Facilities were asked to report which types of abuse women were protecting their children from by coming to the facility.<sup>20</sup>

Nationally, 60% of women were reported to be protecting their children from exposure to violence, 53% from emotional or psychological abuse, 35% from physical abuse, 20% from neglect of all kinds, and 8% from sexual abuse.<sup>21</sup>

In Nunavut, the percentage of women reporting protecting their children from all forms of abuse was notably high compared to other areas. Specifically, 69% of women (20 of 29) residing in facilities in Nunavut with their children indicated they were protecting them from sexual abuse, compared to the national average of 8%.

## Majority of women younger than 45

Age is a key factor associated with the risk of violent victimization, and the rate of violent victimization drops significantly beginning at age 30 (Perreault 2015). Similarly, the highest rates of police-reported intimate partner violence for both males and females were experienced by people aged 25 to 34 (Burczycka 2018).

Of the women staying in residential facilities for reasons of abuse on snapshot day who reported their age, the large majority (76%)<sup>22</sup> were under the age of 45 while women aged 30 to 44 represented 43% of residents. The highest rates of residency were reported for women aged 30 to 34 (50 per 100,000 women of that age group),<sup>23</sup> followed by women aged 25 to 29 (47 per 100,000), and women aged 35 to 44 (28 per 100,000). The rate of women aged 65 and older residing in facilities for reasons of abuse was lowest (2 per 100,000 women of that age group).

Of those accompanying children whose ages were reported,<sup>24</sup> the vast majority (81%) were between the ages of 0 to 11. Specifically, 41% were aged 4 or younger and 40% were aged 5 to 11. These proportions were similar for both girls and boys. The highest rates of residency were reported for children aged 0 to 4 (58 per 100,000 population in that age group), followed by children aged 5 to 11 (39 per 100,000).

Children aged 12 to 14 accounted for 10% of accompanying children, while children aged 15 and older<sup>25</sup> accounted for 6%. These proportions were similar for both girls and boys. These proportions may be partially impacted by the policy of some facilities to restrict the admissions of accompanying adolescent males after a certain age.

## Aboriginal women and children overrepresented in residential facilities for victims of abuse

According to the latest Canadian Census of Population, 4% of Canadian women aged 18 and older and 8% of children aged 0 to 17 are Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis or Inuit).<sup>26</sup> In the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse, 86% of facilities, accounting for 91% of residents, reported the Aboriginal identity of their residents as of snapshot day. More than one in five (22%) women aged 18 and over, and one in four (25%) children residing in facilities for victims of abuse on that day were Aboriginal (Table 6).

The overrepresentation of Aboriginal persons as victims of violence has been documented in previous research (Boyce 2016; Miladinovic and Mulligan 2015; Perreault 2015; Scrim, 2009). After controlling for other risk factors such as younger age, lower education and higher unemployment, Aboriginal identity was found to be a characteristic linked to a greater risk of victimization for women, but not men (Perreault 2015). According to an analysis of the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization,<sup>27</sup> Aboriginal females (220 violent incidents per 1,000 population) had an overall rate of violent victimization that was close to triple that of non-Aboriginal females (81 per 1,000) (Boyce 2016). Similarly, Aboriginal women (10%) were proportionately more likely than non-Aboriginal women (3%) to have been a victim of spousal violence in the five years that preceded the survey.

Over half (57%)<sup>28</sup> of the residential facilities that reported the services they provide to vulnerable populations offer culturally sensitive services that accommodate the unique needs of Aboriginal persons. For example, these services may recognize traditional healing methods and Aboriginal cultural norms and beliefs. At 24%, Quebec reported the lowest proportion of facilities offering such services. In other jurisdictions the proportion of residential facilities that offered culturally sensitive services ranged between 51% and 100% (Table 4). Quebec had the second lowest rate of Aboriginal residents staying for reasons of abuse on snapshot day (7%), after Prince Edward Island (0%).

Nationally, 30 (6%)<sup>29</sup> residential facilities indicated they were located on a reserve. Provincially, Ontario (7), Quebec (6), British Columbia (5), Alberta (4) and Manitoba (4) accounted for the majority of on reserve facilities, while another 4 facilities were located in the Atlantic region. The majority (27 of 30) of facilities located on reserve were short-term facilities.



Overall, short-term facilities located on reserve had an average length of stay (89% were less than 3 months) similar to short-term facilities located off reserve.<sup>30</sup> They had slightly fewer beds per short-term facility than those located off reserve (12 compared to 15) and fewer average annual admissions (104 admissions per facility compared to 151). Occupancy rates were similar for the 27 short-term on reserve facilities (71% occupancy rate and 26% of facilities full) compared to short-term facilities located off reserve (79% occupancy rate and 36% of facilities full) (Text box 3).

### **Text box 3**

#### **Occupancy rates and capacity of residential facilities**

The occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the total number of residents on a given day by the total number of funded beds, multiplied by 100. The occupancy rate provides an indicator of the total bed space being used at a given point in time.

While the occupancy rate may be below 100% for a given jurisdiction, individual facilities may be operating at or over capacity. Facilities were identified as being full if their occupancy rate was 90% or more. An occupancy rate of 90% was selected to account for some misinterpretation of the question regarding number of funded beds, as well as for the fact that some facilities may operate with fewer resources than required to fill every available bed.

### **Representation of non-permanent resident women six times higher in facilities than in the Canadian population**

Overrepresentation of non-permanent residents<sup>31</sup> in facilities for reasons of abuse is also apparent. Of the women whose residency status was known on snapshot day,<sup>32</sup> 9% identified as non-permanent residents, a rate six times higher than their representation in the overall population<sup>33</sup> (Table 6).

Nationally, 8% of accompanying children aged 0 to 17 were non-permanent residents, compared to 0.9% of the general population of children of the same age, a rate nearly ten times higher than their representation in the overall population.

Non-permanent residency often carries additional barriers to accessing affordable and safe housing, including lower average incomes, less stable housing and employment, financial interdependence, and a lack of awareness of available services (Baker and Tabibi 2017; Tencer 2018). Similarly, these barriers may impact the ability of victims of abuse to seek alternative housing options or to make long-term plans when living with their abuser.

More than half (56%)<sup>34</sup> of residential facilities in Canada offer specialized services directed toward immigrants or refugees (Table 4).

### **Women who do not speak English or French overrepresented in residential facilities**

Generally speaking, collecting data on service users through self-report data may lead to individuals who cannot speak either official language being underrepresented in findings. The Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA), however, collects administrative data from residential facilities so they are able to report whether a resident can speak at least one official language.

The 2016 Census of Population indicates 2% of women aged 18 and older, and 2% of children aged 0 to 17 are unable to speak at least one official language.<sup>35</sup>

Of the residents in the SRFVA for whom it was reported whether they could speak at least one official language well enough to carry on a conversation, 8% of women<sup>36</sup> and 10% of children were unable to speak at least one official language on snapshot day, suggesting they are overrepresented compared to the general population in Canada.

Just over half (53%)<sup>37</sup> of the facilities reported providing specialized services for individuals in languages other than the two official languages (Table 4).

According to the 2016 Census of Population, 21% of women aged 18 years and older and 27% of children aged 0 to 17 years self-identified as visible minorities.<sup>38</sup> According to the GSS, the rate of self-reported violent victimization among visible minorities was significantly lower than among non-visible minorities (Simpson 2018). The number of women and children identified as visible minorities in residential facilities was more representative of the general population. Nationally, 23%<sup>39</sup> of women and 29% of accompanying children were reported as visible minorities (Table 6).

## Just over one in ten women in residential facilities have disabilities

The 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)<sup>40</sup> found that just over one in five (22%) Canadians aged 15 and older had at least one disability, and more than two-thirds (71%) of those with a disability had multiple disabilities (Morris et al. 2018). Research to date has found that having a disability, and the severity of the disability, are linked to lower levels of employment, and higher levels of poverty and violent victimization (Cotter 2018; Morris et al. 2018).

A recent analysis of self-reported data on violent victimization found that women with a disability were twice as likely to be victims of violent crime, and experience repeated violence over a 12-month period, than women who do not have a disability (Cotter 2018). Furthermore, over one in five women (23%) and men (22%) with a disability experienced abuse by a current or former partner in the five years that preceded the survey, a rate approximately two times higher than those without a disability.

Keeping in mind that women with disabilities are at greater risk of being a victim of violence it would be expected that they would make up a larger proportion of residents – however, this was not the case. According to the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse, 13% of women and 8% of children residing in a facility for reasons of abuse on snapshot day had at least one disability.<sup>41</sup> The lower prevalence of disability among those in a facility for reasons of abuse could be attributed to the ability of victims to leave their home, the accessibility of facilities and the requirement of specialized services to meet the needs of persons with certain disabilities.

On snapshot day, just over half (53%) of long-term facilities, and over three out of four (78%) short-term facilities reported being either fully or partially wheelchair accessible.<sup>42, 43</sup> Non-accessibility was higher in some regions. Nationally, 28%<sup>44</sup> of facilities reported no wheelchair accessibility, while 48% of facilities in Quebec, 44% in Manitoba and 40% in the territories reported no wheelchair accessibility (Table 4).

The survey also collected data on more specialized services for residents who have certain types of disabilities. Of the facilities reporting specialized services in this area,<sup>45</sup> roughly one-third or less offered services for persons with hearing disabilities (34%), persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities (32%), persons with mobility disabilities (20%), or persons with visual disabilities (19%) (Table 4).

When asked about challenges faced by facilities, meeting the diverse needs of clients was the third most commonly cited issue (30% of facilities).

## Less than one in ten residents were repeat clients

Just under half (45%) of the women residents were first-time clients, while 24% had previously received service on an outreach basis only and 7% had previously received service as a resident in the last year.<sup>46</sup> The facilities did not know the repeat status for 25% of the residents. It should be noted that the survey was unable to determine if clients had previously been residents of other facilities before arriving at their current facility.

## One in five women who leave a residential facility return to a residence where their abuser lives

On snapshot day, 103 women and 30 accompanying children departed a facility, 94% of whom left short-term facilities. For 95 of those women, information was reported regarding their destination: 21% were returning to a residence where their abuser lived, 18% reported they were going to live with friends or relatives, 11% were entering another residential facility for victims of abuse and 8% were returning home without the abuser there. For 36% of the women, either the facility or the women did not know where they were going upon departure from the facility.

## Self-referral most common referral source for women entering facilities

The referral sources for women in short-term and long-term facilities differed significantly. This is expected in so far as entering a short-term facility often precedes or is a prerequisite to entering a long-term facility.

Of the short-term facilities<sup>47</sup> reporting referral sources on snapshot day, 44% of the women reported they self-referred to the facility. The most commonly reported external referral sources were the police (9%), a phone help line (9%), or a family member or friend (8%).

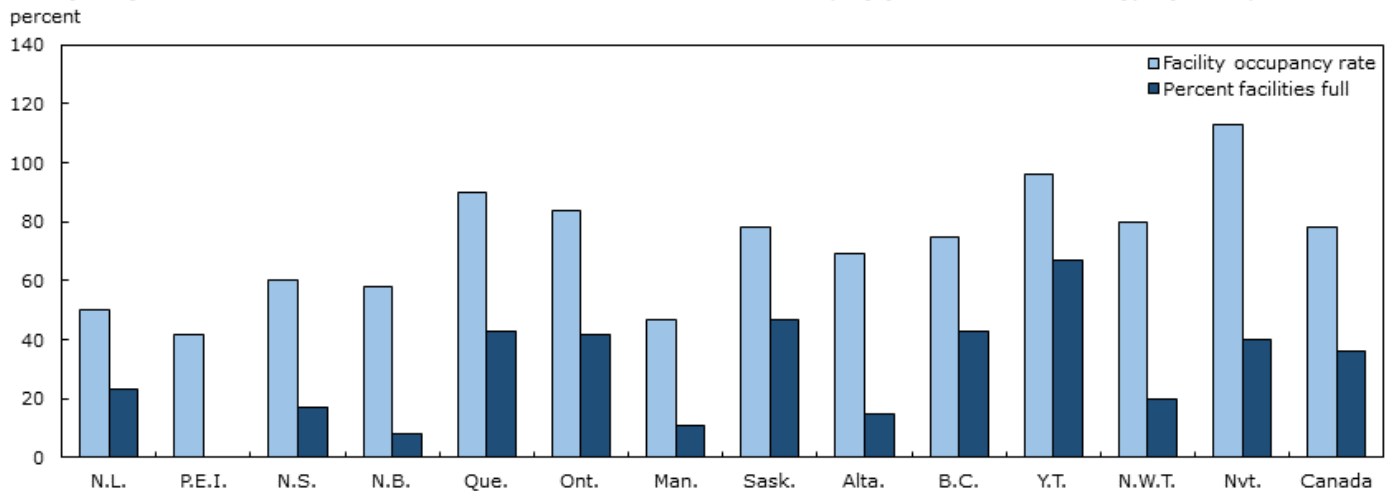
Of the long-term facilities<sup>48</sup> the most commonly reported external referral sources for women were another residential facility for victims of abuse (43%), another type of residential facility (11%), or other community agencies (8%), while one in four (23%) reported they self-referred to the facility.

## More than one-third of short-term facilities in Canada were full

The availability of space within residential facilities can be measured by the percentage of facilities that are full (meaning at, or over, capacity), and through occupancy rates (Text box 3). There were a total of 6,500 funded beds in short-term residential facilities as of snapshot day, for an average of 15.2 beds per facility.<sup>49</sup>

In Canada, 36% of short-term facilities were full on snapshot day (Chart 3, Table 7).<sup>50</sup> Among the provinces, the following reported the highest percentage of short-term facilities that were full: Saskatchewan (47% of facilities), Quebec (43%), British Columbia (43%) and Ontario (42%). These four provinces account for 78% of the short-term residential facility population.

**Chart 3**  
**Occupancy for short-term residential facilities for victims of abuse, by province or territory, April 18, 2018**



**Note:** The April 18, 2018 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. Short-term facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than three months. The occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the total number of residents on the snapshot day by the total number of funded beds, multiplied by 100. A facility was considered full if its occupancy rate was 90% or more. Prince Edward Island had no facilities that were full on snapshot day.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

While data suggest nearly two-thirds (64%) of facilities were not full on snapshot day, ease of access is also an issue. Individuals in need of residential services may have issues with transportation or mobility, such that they may only reasonably have access to facilities that are full. Similarly, residential facilities may also be limited by an insufficient number of staff or limited financial resources, despite beds being available.

## Almost eight in ten beds in short-term facilities for victims of abuse occupied

Nationally, 78% of short-term beds were occupied on snapshot day. Provincially, Quebec (90%), Ontario (84%) and Saskatchewan (78%) reported the highest proportion of occupied beds (Chart 3, Table 7). Regionally, the territories had the highest occupancy rate at 98% (Nunavut 113%, Yukon 96% and the Northwest Territories 80%).

The occupancy rate is consistently higher in urban (83%) versus rural (67%) short-term facilities, except in Manitoba (23% versus 58%), Saskatchewan (75% versus 86%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (48% versus 53%), where the reverse was true. According to police-reported data from the 2017 Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)<sup>51</sup> Survey, rural rates of crime are higher than urban rates overall, and rural rates were higher in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan relative to other provinces (Allen 2018).

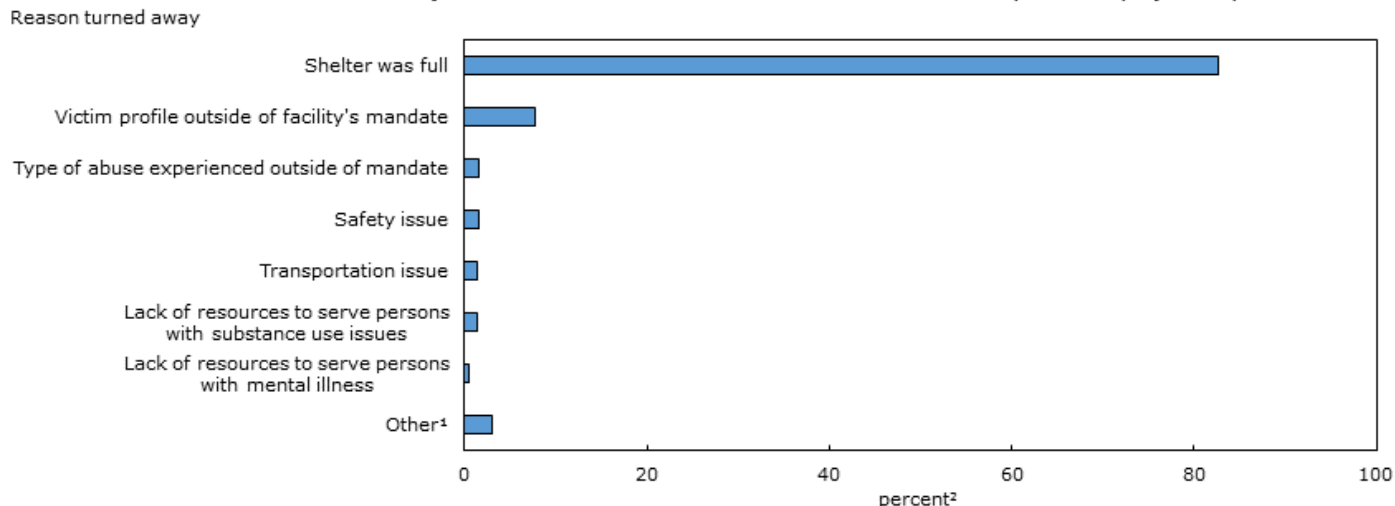
In terms of long-term facilities, there were 124 long-term facilities with 1,314 units, for an average of 11 units per facility. On snapshot day, 2,332 residents were residing in long-term facilities, representing 32% of all facility residents, and an average of 1.8 residents per long-term unit. There was no significant difference in residents per unit for urban versus rural long-term facilities.

## Facility at full capacity the most common reason for turning away victims seeking shelter

On snapshot day, 669 women, 236 accompanying children and 6 men were turned away from residential facilities for victims of abuse. Of the women turned away from facilities, 84% were turned away from short-term facilities. For all women who were turned away, the facility being full was cited as the most common reason (82%)<sup>52, 53</sup> (Chart 4). Other reasons for turning

a woman away included the victim profile being outside of the facility’s mandate (8%), safety issue (e.g., the individual was on a non-admit or caution list) (2%), and type-of-abuse experienced is outside the facility’s mandate (2%).

**Chart 4**  
Reasons women were turned away from residential facilities for victims of abuse, Canada, April 18, 2018



1. Other reasons include house dynamics (residents of house have extreme high needs) and no space for pets.

2. Excludes 14% of women turned away where the reason for turn away was unknown or not reported.

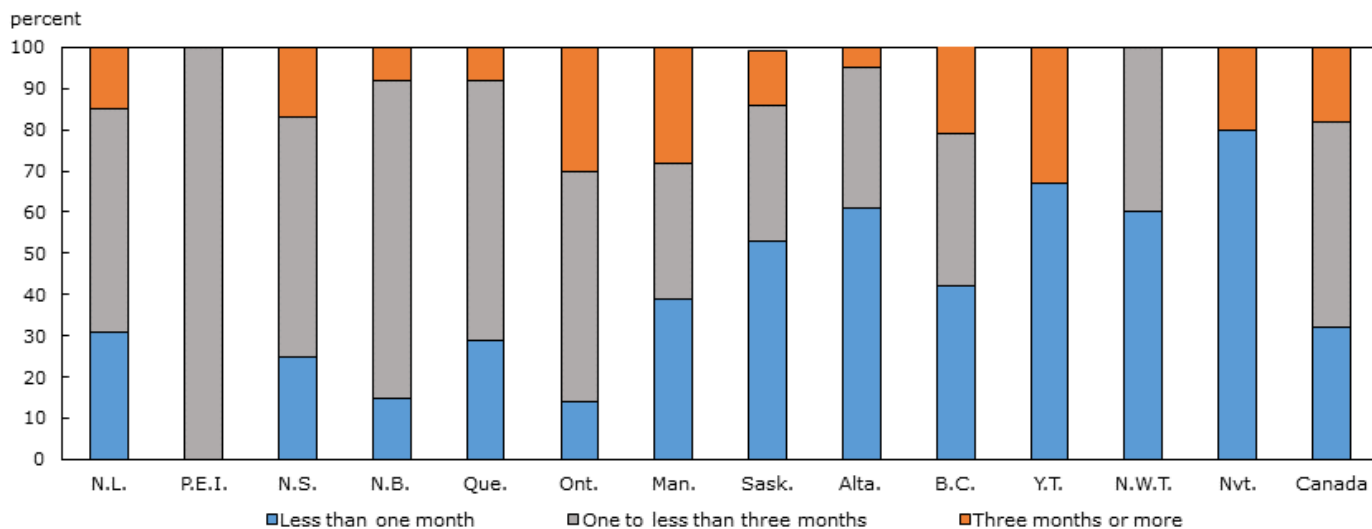
**Note:** The April 18, 2018 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. Excludes two other response categories available to respondents for reason turned away, language barrier and accessibility issues, as reporting was too low or non-existent.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

### Highest percentage of short-term facilities with longer average lengths of stay in Ontario and Manitoba

The average length of stay for the large majority (82%) of short-term facilities was less than three months, in line with the expected length for these facilities (Chart 5). However, it is notable that for 18% of short-term facilities in Canada, the average length of stay exceeded the mandated maximum of three months.

**Chart 5**  
Average length of stay in short-term residential facilities for victims of abuse, by province or territory, 2017/2018



**Note:** Short-term facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than three months. The sum of the percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

According to the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse, two of the top challenges facing facilities and their residents were a lack of permanent housing (38% of facilities) and a lack of affordable and appropriate long-term housing options upon departure (77% of facilities reporting on behalf of their residents).

Provincially, the average length of stay varied. For example, among the provinces, Prince Edward Island (100%) and Alberta (95%) had the highest percentages of facilities reporting average stays of less than three months. Ontario reported the highest percentage of facilities with average stays of three months or longer (30%), followed by Manitoba (28%).

For the majority (66%) of long-term facilities, the average length of stay was nine months or longer. The most common lengths of stay were stays between one and two years (31%), and stays between nine months to a year (26%). There were no differences in the average lengths of stay in the provinces or territories for long-term facilities.

### **Lack of funding, affordable and appropriate long-term housing most common challenges**

Canada's 2018 population growth rate marks the highest seen in almost 20 years and is the highest among G7 countries (Statistics Canada 2018). With this increased growth has come increased demand for housing and services. Vancouver and Toronto, for example, have low vacancy rates and the most expensive housing and rental markets in the country, prompting the development of new municipal housing strategies to address unmet housing needs (Housing Vancouver 2017; Toronto 2016). A lack of affordable and accessible housing, combined with a diversified set of needs, exemplify some of the difficulties victims of intimate partner violence face in successfully accessing and using the services designed to assist them.

Research suggests there is a link between homelessness and family violence or violent victimization more generally, in so far as victimization can often be a precipitant to homelessness or housing instability (Ali 2016; Gaetz et al. 2016; Kirkby and Mettler 2016; Maki 2017; Novac 2006; Perreault 2015). As noted above, almost one in five short-term facilities for victims of abuse are accommodating people beyond the mandated maximum of three months (Chart 5). Moreover, according to the latest National Shelter Study, between 2005 and 2014 the Canadian emergency shelter system was operating at over 90% capacity (92% occupancy rate in 2014) (Segaert 2017). In the same study, the average length of stay in emergency shelters had nearly doubled from 2005 to 2014, with a typical shelter stay increasing from 5.7 days to 10.2 days.

According to the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse, the top four challenges facing residents were a lack of affordable and appropriate long-term housing options upon departure (77% of facilities reporting on behalf of their residents), underemployment and low incomes (50%), mental health issues (37%) and substance use issues (30%).<sup>54</sup>

The top three challenges facing facilities in delivering residential services were a lack of funding (46%), a lack of permanent housing (38%), and issues meeting the diverse needs of the clients (30%).<sup>55</sup>

### **Funding for residential facilities for victims of abuse largely provided by provincial or territorial governments**

Residential facilities for victims of abuse reported spending \$429.3 million to operate in 2017/2018 (Table 8). The greatest expense was for salaries, accounting for 72% of spending, followed by housing costs (e.g., house insurance, utilities and furniture) (7%) and direct client costs (e.g., food, supplies, transportation and disbursements to residents) (5%). The median annual cost of running the 428 short-term facilities in Canada was almost \$705,000 each. For the 124 long-term facilities, the median annual operating cost per facility was about \$151,500.

In terms of sources of funding, residential facilities reported \$443.1 million in 2017/2018, with provincial or territorial government funding (71%) being the largest source of funding overall. Short-term facilities relied mostly on funds from provincial or territorial governments (74%), fundraising or donations (9%) and federal government funding (8%). Meanwhile, long-term facilities obtained funding largely from provincial or territorial governments (54%), regional or municipal governments (12%), and fundraising or donations (11%). The median funding obtained for 2017/2018 for short-term facilities was \$726,000 and for long-term facilities was \$163,500.

### **For half of facilities that made repairs or improvements, changes were major**

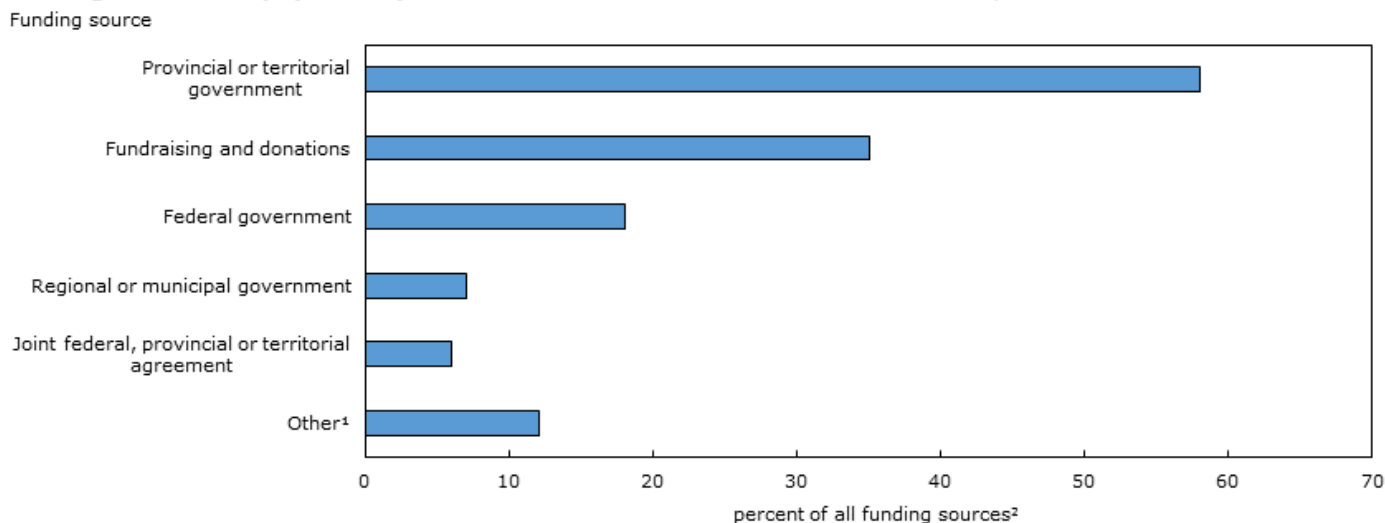
Prior research has found that more than one-third of facilities for violence against women were built prior to 1980, and almost half of the facilities reporting needing repairs or renovations lacked the funds to afford them (Maki 2018).

Of the 552 facilities, 503 reported whether they had made any physical repairs or improvements to their facility in 2017/2018. Of those facilities, 68% of them reported making physical repairs or improvements, while 32% did not.



Of the facilities providing a breakdown of their repairs or improvements,<sup>56</sup> 50% reported making only major, or major and minor repairs or improvements to their facility, and 50% reported making only minor repairs or improvements. The majority (58%) of facilities<sup>57</sup> used provincial or territorial government funding to make physical repairs or improvements, and 35% of facilities indicated using fundraising and donations (Chart 6).

**Chart 6**  
**Funding sources for physical repairs to residential facilities for victims of abuse, Canada 2017/2018**



1. Other sources of funding include insurance coverage or claims, reserve funds and operational funds.  
 2. Funding sources were reported for 338 of the 341 facilities that indicated making physical repairs or improvements in the previous year.  
**Note:** Responses exceed 100% as respondents could mark all responses that apply.  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

## Summary

An understanding of the state of residential facilities for victims of abuse and the people accessing these services is essential to develop targeted strategies for addressing issues related to abuse and victimization, as well as evaluating broader housing needs.

Findings from the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse show that there were 552 facilities whose primary mandate was to serve victims of abuse operating across Canada in 2018 that saw over 68,000 admissions in 2017/2018. The vast majority of admissions were women and their accompanying children.

On the snapshot day of April 18, 2018, a total of 3,565 women, 3,137 accompanying children and 8 men were residing in facilities for reasons of abuse. Aboriginal women and children, and non-permanent resident women and children were overrepresented in these facilities compared to their representation in the Canadian population. Additionally, most women sought shelter as a result of experiencing abuse from an intimate partner. Of the women who left a facility on snapshot day, 21% returned to the home where their abuser continued to live. For an additional 36% of women who left a facility, it was unknown where they were going upon departure.

Across Canada, more than one-third of short-term facilities were at or over capacity, and almost 8 in 10 short-term bed spaces were occupied. Residents identified a lack of affordable and appropriate long-term housing as the main challenge they face, while facilities identified a lack of funding and a lack of permanent housing as the main challenges they face.

## Survey description

### Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse

The Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA) is a census of Canadian residential facilities primarily mandated to provide residential services to victims of abuse (defined as ongoing victimization). The objective of the SRFVA is to produce aggregate statistics on the services offered by these facilities during the previous 12 month reference period, as well as to provide a one-day snapshot of the clientele being served on a specific date (mid-April of the survey year). The intent of the survey is to provide valuable information that is useful for various levels of government, sheltering and other non-profit organizations, service providers and researchers to assist in developing research, policy, and programs, as well as identifying funding needs for residential facilities for victims of abuse. This information may also be used by Statistics Canada for other statistical and research purposes.



The SRFVA is a redesign of the Transition Home Survey (THS). As part of the Family Violence Initiative, the THS was developed in order to address the need for improved information about services for victims of family violence.

The SRFVA questionnaire content was developed through consultations with stakeholders that occurred between October and December 2015 and subsequent focus group testing. The SRFVA differs from the THS in terms of survey frame, content, collection, processing and analysis. In particular, the scope of the SRFVA was changed from all facilities serving abused women and their children, to facilities primarily mandated to provide residential services to victims of abuse, including women, men and accompanying children. Due to these changes, data collected for the SRFVA are not comparable with historical THS data.

### Target population and response rates

Facilities surveyed were identified by Statistics Canada through its consultations with provincial and territorial governments, transition home associations, other associations and a review of entities on the Statistics Canada Business Register. Facilities potentially in scope were then contacted prior to the collection of the survey to determine their primary mandate. These may include short-term, long-term, and/or mixed-use facilities, transition homes, second stage housing, safe home networks, satellites, women's emergency centres, emergency shelters, Interim Housing (Manitoba only), Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres (Alberta only), family resource centres, and any other residential facilities offering services to victims of abuse with or without children.

Of the 552 residential facilities who identified their primary mandate as providing services to victims of abuse in 2017/2018, 509 returned their questionnaire for a response rate of 92%. For those respondents who did not provide their information through the questionnaire, and for those respondents who did not answer some key questions in their questionnaires, imputation was used to complete the missing data for key questions. Imputation methods included the use of trend-adjusted historical data when available and donor imputation, where values are taken from a similar record in terms of facility location, type and size.

For more information and copies of the questionnaire, refer to the Statistics Canada survey information page: Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

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## Notes

1. Respondents were asked to select a 12-month reference period that most closely resembled the period their facility refers to in its annual reports. Categories included a standard fiscal year (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018), a calendar year (January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017) or a 12-month period of their choosing. In 2017/2018, 87% of facilities responding to the survey reported their annual information based on the standard fiscal year.
2. The snapshot day is a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. The April 18, 2018 date was selected based on consultations with service providers. It reflected a period of relative stability in terms of admissions and respondents could maximize the resources available to respond to the survey. The snapshot day does not reflect seasonal differences in facility use nor long-term trends throughout the year.
3. An admission refers to the official acceptance of a resident into the facility with the allocation of a bed, child's bed, crib, bedroom or bedroom unit, or apartment. The total number of admissions includes those who may have been admitted more than once. Each residential facility visit is counted as a separate admission. For example, the same person being admitted to a facility three times in a year would count as three admissions.
4. Excludes 6% of long-term facilities and 9% of short-term facilities where a response was not reported.
5. Facilities were designated as being located in either rural or urban areas based on Statistics Canada's Postal Code Conversion File Plus (PCCF+) tool. Rural facilities are those that are situated outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban facilities are those that are situated within a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census place of work data, where 50% or more of the population commutes into the core.

6. Every five years Statistics Canada conducts the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), which asks Canadians to self-report victimization for eight offence types. For the purposes of the present article, GSS refers to the GSS on Victimization.
7. Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.
8. The Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse only requested detailed characteristics of those residents who indicated their primary reason for seeking shelter was due to abuse; those residing in facilities for other reasons were not included in any subsequent breakdowns.
9. Also includes other intimate partners where the people involved had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction but to which none of the other relationship options apply. This can include "one-night stands" or brief sexual relationships.
10. Due to rounding, the components for former intimate partner in Chart 1 sum to 17%.
11. Excludes 10% of facilities where a response was not reported.
12. Excludes 9% of facilities where a response was not reported.
13. Excludes 13% of women residents for whom a response was not reported. The sum of the response categories can exceed 100% as respondents could mark all categories that apply.
14. Excludes 12% of women for whom a response was not reported. For 19% of the women for which a response was provided, information about whether the incident was reported to the police was unknown.
15. Excludes 9% of facilities where a response was not reported.
16. Excludes 35% of facilities where a response was not reported.
17. Nationally, 85% of facilities, accounting for 92% of women residents, reported on the parental responsibility status of their residents.
18. Excludes women without children, women who have adult children living outside of the home or women who do not have custody of their children.
19. Excludes 26% of the 491 facilities that indicated a primary mandate to accommodate children but where services offered specifically for children were not reported.
20. Protection of children includes protecting those under the age of 18 as well as adult children under the care of their parent(s), such as those with disabilities.
21. Excludes 19% of women for whom a response was not reported. Responses exceed 100% as respondents could mark all responses that apply.
22. Excludes 13% of residents for whom age was not reported.
23. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
24. Excludes 12% of residents for whom age was not reported.
25. Accompanying children includes adult children (generally 18 years of age and older) with disabilities or who are caretakers of a parent experiencing abuse.
26. Populations based on 2016 Census of Population estimates from the long-form census questionnaire in catalogue 98-400-X. Readers should be aware that the universe for the long-form census questionnaire is the population in private households which excludes persons in collective dwellings. 'Aboriginal identity' refers to whether the person identified with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This includes those who are First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who are Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the *Indian Act* of Canada), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band.
27. Every five years Statistics Canada conducts the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), which asks Canadians to self-report victimization for eight offence types. For the purposes of the present article, GSS refers to the GSS on Victimization.
28. Excludes 29% of facilities that did not report on services directed toward vulnerable populations.
29. Excludes 8% of facilities where a response was not reported.
30. Short-term facilities located off reserve excludes 36 facilities where a response was not reported.
31. 'Non-permanent resident' includes persons from another country who have a work or study permit or who are refugee claimants, and their family members sharing the same permit and living in Canada with them.
32. Excludes 9% of women and children for whom residency status was not reported.

33. Populations based on 2016 Census of Population estimates from the long-form census questionnaire in catalogue 98-400-X. Readers should be aware that the universe for the long-form census questionnaire is the population in private households which excludes persons in collective dwellings. While every attempt has been made by the Census to enumerate non-permanent residents, there are factors (e.g., not being aware of the need to participate) which may have affected the estimate of this population. Previous coverage studies have indicated that the non-permanent resident population was missed at a higher proportion than the general population. For more information on coverage, refer to the *Census Technical Report: Coverage, Census of Population, 2011* and the *Census Technical Report: Coverage, Census of Population, 2006*.
34. Excludes 29% of facilities that did not report on services directed toward vulnerable populations.
35. Populations based on 2016 Census of Population estimates from the long-form census questionnaire sample data. Readers should be aware that the universe for the long-form census questionnaire is the population in private households which excludes persons in collective dwellings. 'Knowledge of official languages' refers to whether the person can conduct a conversation in English only, French only, in both or in neither language. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, this includes languages that the child is learning to speak at home.
36. Excludes 9% of women and children for whom the ability to speak at least one official language was not reported.
37. Excludes 29% of facilities that did not report on services directed toward vulnerable populations.
38. Populations based on 2016 Census of Population estimates from the long-form census questionnaire in catalogue 98-400-X. Readers should be aware that the universe for the long-form census questionnaire is the population in private households which excludes persons in collective dwellings. 'Visible minority' refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the *Employment Equity Act* and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The *Employment Equity Act* defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".
39. Excludes 9% of women and children for whom visible minority identity was not reported.
40. The purpose of the Canadian Survey on Disability is to provide information about Canadian youth and adults whose everyday activities are limited due to a long-term condition or health-related problem. This information may be used to plan and evaluate services, programs and policies for Canadians living with disabilities to help enable their full participation in society.
41. Excludes 8% of residents for whom whether they had a disability was not reported.
42. Excludes 6% of long-term facilities and 9% of short-term facilities where a response was not reported.
43. Includes facilities that are either fully or partially wheelchair accessible based on whether or not at least one building entrance, bedroom or bathroom is wheelchair accessible.
44. Excludes 8% of facilities where a response was not reported.
45. Excludes 29% of facilities that did not report on services directed toward vulnerable populations.
46. Excludes 19% of residents for whom their repeat status was not reported.
47. Excludes 13% of women residents in short-term facilities for whom a referral source was not reported.
48. Excludes 16% of women residents in long-term facilities for whom a referral source was not reported.
49. Short-term facilities responding to the Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse provide a count of the funded beds (including each bed, child's bed, and crib) they have for clients (whether a bed is currently occupied). The purpose is to establish the "normal capacity" of facilities, therefore respondents are asked to exclude unfunded emergency beds such as cots or sofas. The total number of beds available presented here might therefore undercount the total number of beds that residential facilities are prepared to provide to clients, if those facilities chose to offer unfunded beds.
50. For comparison, while 36% of facilities had occupancy rates of 90% or more, 28% of facilities had occupancy rates of 100% or more.
51. These data conform to a nationally approved set of common crime categories and definitions that have been developed in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey collects and reports on police-reported federal statute offences.
52. Of the 669 women who were turned away, the reason for turn away was provided for 575 (86%) of them, excluding unknown and not reported responses.
53. Values indicated in Chart 4 may differ slightly from those in the text as they exclude two answer categories available to respondents where reporting was too low or non-existent.
54. Excludes 57 facilities that did not report. Percentages do not equal 100% as each facility could provide up to three challenges.
55. Excludes 56 facilities that did not report. Percentages do not equal 100% as each facility could provide up to three challenges.
56. Excludes two facilities that did not provide a breakdown of the repairs or improvements made.
57. Excludes one facility that did not provide a funding breakdown.

## Detailed data tables

**Table 1**  
**Admissions to residential facilities for victims of abuse, by province or territory, 2017/2018**

Province or territory	Total admissions <sup>1</sup>	Women	Men		Accompanying girls <sup>2</sup>	Accompanying boys <sup>2</sup>
			number			
Newfoundland and Labrador	998	765	0		131	102
Prince Edward Island	203	131	0		40	32
Nova Scotia	1,143	830	0		181	132
New Brunswick	1,347	927	0		225	195
Quebec	13,707	8,294	1		2,800	2,612
Ontario	19,492	11,556	40		4,087	3,809
Manitoba	3,855	2,537	9		659	650
Saskatchewan	3,320	1,414	0		1,008	898
Alberta	11,419	6,334	36		2,687	2,362
British Columbia	10,742	7,182	0		1,958	1,602
Yukon	615	402	0		114	99
Northwest Territories	740	480	0		135	125
Nunavut	525	226	0		149	150
<b>Canada</b>	<b>68,106</b>	<b>41,078</b>	<b>86</b>		<b>14,174</b>	<b>12,768</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. An admission refers to the official acceptance of a resident into the facility with the allocation of a bed, child's bed, crib, bedroom or bedroom unit, or apartment. The total number of admissions is based on all admissions for a 12-month reference period and includes those who may have been admitted more than once. Each shelter visit is counted as a separate admission. For example, the same person being admitted to a facility three times in a year would count as three admissions.

2. Accompanying children includes adult children (typically aged 18 or older) accompanying a parent or caregiver, such as adult children with disabilities and those who are caretakers of a parent experiencing abuse.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 2**  
**Beds, units and admissions, by type of residential facility for victims of abuse, and province or territory, 2017/2018**

Province or territory	Short-term <sup>1</sup>				Long-term <sup>1</sup>		
	All facilities	Facilities	Beds <sup>2</sup>	Admissions <sup>3</sup>	Facilities	Units <sup>4</sup>	Admissions <sup>3</sup>
	number						
Newfoundland and Labrador	16	13	147	936	3	25	62
Prince Edward Island	5	X	26	177	X	X	X
Nova Scotia	17	12	171	1,115	5	31	28
New Brunswick	19	13	200	1,267	6	40	80
Quebec	124	104	1,265	13,110	20	163	597
Ontario	156	118	2,334	18,149	38	517	1,343
Manitoba	28	18	308	3,024	10	52	831
Saskatchewan	19	15	246	3,228	4	31	92
Alberta	54	41	825	10,741	13	224	678
British Columbia	100	79	858	9,921	21	211	821
Yukon	4	X	27	574	X	X	X
Northwest Territories	5	5	40	740	0	0	0
Nunavut	5	5	53	525	0	0	0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>63,507</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>4,599</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than three months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units. Long-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is three months or longer, and typically provide residential units (e.g. apartments) to residents.

2. Beds refers only to the number of funded beds, including children's beds and cribs if applicable, regardless of source of funding. Excludes unfunded beds, which may include emergency beds such as cots, sofas or sleeping bags.

3. An admission refers to the official acceptance of a resident into the facility with the allocation of a bed, child's bed, crib, bedroom or bedroom unit, or apartment. The total number of admissions is based on all admissions for a 12-month reference period and includes those who may have been admitted more than once. Each shelter visit is counted as a separate admission. For example, the same person being admitted to a facility three times in a year would count as three admissions.

4. Units refers to the number of apartments or houses available. An individual unit may house multiple people and are typical of long-term facilities.

**Note:** Northwest Territories and Nunavut did not report having any long-term facilities.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.



**Table 3**  
**Residents in residential facilities for victims of abuse, by resident type, province or territory, 2017/2018**

Province or territory	Total residents	Women	Men number	Accompanying girls <sup>1</sup>	Accompanying boys <sup>1</sup>
Newfoundland and Labrador	111	79	0	16	16
Prince Edward Island	33	19	0	8	6
Nova Scotia	146	92	0	31	23
New Brunswick	189	114	0	37	38
Quebec	1,392	811	0	269	312
Ontario	2,739	1,517	11	600	611
Manitoba	239	108	0	58	73
Saskatchewan	267	98	0	95	74
Alberta	1,066	491	5	281	289
British Columbia	1,077	603	0	223	251
Yukon	46	31	0	5	10
Northwest Territories	32	15	0	11	6
Nunavut	60	42	0	9	9
<b>Canada</b>	<b>7,397</b>	<b>4,020</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>1,718</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Accompanying children includes adult children (typically aged 18 or older) accompanying a parent or caregiver, such as adult children with disabilities and those who are caretakers of a parent experiencing abuse.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 4**  
**Percent of residential facilities for victims of abuse offering selected services, by type of service and region, 2017/2018**

	Atlantic region	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Territories	Canada
<b>Selected services</b>	percent								
<b>General services</b>									
Crisis phone line	68	93	84	64	79	75	72	70	80
Transportation	70	66	65	52	84	85	75	80	70
Pet accomodation <sup>1</sup>	34	5	16	16	5	25	32	10	19
Advocacy on behalf of individuals	94	79	96	84	100	100	96	90	92
<b>Professional services</b>									
Addictions or substance use	26	20	35	44	42	35	27	20	30
Legal <sup>2</sup>	46	87	84	56	58	65	56	0	71
Employment	43	32	26	19	50	43	22	20	31
<b>Services for adults</b>									
Individual counselling	90	95	94	100	84	94	61	40	87
Group counselling	65	82	79	87	74	73	33	10	68
Safety or protection planning	98	94	99	91	100	98	98	100	97
Life skills training <sup>3</sup>	88	77	83	83	89	96	76	60	82
Parenting skills training	73	69	72	91	84	85	61	40	71
<b>Services for children</b>									
Childcare	63	49	72	70	79	98	75	100	69
Counselling <sup>4</sup>	86	96	87	100	79	74	74	67	86
<b>Services for vulnerable populations</b>									
Culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal persons	60	24	51	81	93	88	69	100	57
Services in non-official languages	23	50	59	38	60	70	52	57	53
Immigrants or refugees	60	66	52	62	73	53	49	29	56
Wheelchair accessibility <sup>5</sup>	70	52	89	56	74	83	73	60	72
Persons with mobility disabilities	27	17	21	14	13	23	20	29	20
Persons with visual disabilities	13	13	36	10	20	16	12	0	19
Persons with hearing disabilities	17	23	63	33	20	21	23	14	34
Persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities	40	31	35	33	40	26	28	29	32

1. Excludes accommodation of service animals.

2. For example paralegal services, assistance with legal documents, legal aid.

3. For example help with budgeting, banking, groceries, day-to-day management.

4. For example play therapy, role playing and goal oriented programming.

5. Includes facilities that are either fully or partially wheelchair accessible based on whether or not at least one building entrance, bedroom or bathroom is wheelchair accessible; excludes the provision of additional services for persons with mobility disabilities.

**Note:** Information in this table excludes some additional services that were collected in the survey. Information for services in this table excludes the following number of facilities that did not report services offered in a particular category: General services excludes 47 facilities, professional services excludes 195 facilities, services for adults excludes 55 facilities, services for children excludes 187 facilities and services for vulnerable populations excludes 161 facilities except for wheelchair accessibility which excludes 46 facilities.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 5**  
**Types of abuse experienced by women residing in residential facilities for victims of abuse, by province or territory, April 18, 2018**

Province or territory	Total women residents <sup>1</sup> number	Type of abuse										
		Physical	Sexual	Financial	Emotional/ psychological	Harassment	Forced marriage	Human trafficking: sex work	Human trafficking: forced labour/other	Cultural	Spiritual	Other <sup>2</sup>
		percent										
Newfoundland and Labrador	27	74	X	41	74	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince Edward Island	13	92	54	69	100	85	0	8	0	0	8	0
Nova Scotia	82	83	49	49	96	52	X	X	X	5	11	X
New Brunswick	105	86	46	71	96	23	0	X	0	X	6	0
Quebec	609	69	37	62	94	31	2	1	1	10	5	8
Ontario	1,148	73	32	46	89	28	2	3	0	6	5	3
Manitoba	98	85	45	59	82	45	0	X	0	X	6	0
Saskatchewan	91	75	23	44	91	30	X	4	X	X	4	0
Alberta	349	78	26	61	94	30	1	6	1	11	9	6
British Columbia	522	64	27	42	76	31	2	1	1	7	6	11
Yukon	25	80	X	64	100	36	0	X	X	0	0	0
Northwest Territories	9	67	X	56	89	67	0	0	0	X	0	0
Nunavut	29	93	69	X	97	21	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Excludes 13% of women residents for which the type of abuse experienced was unknown or not reported.

2. Other includes abuse through technology or cyber abuse, and abuse related to immigrant status (withholding status or information).

**Note:** The sum of the response categories can exceed 100% as respondents could mark all categories that apply. The April 18, 2018 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.

**Table 6**  
**Percent of women and children residing in residential facilities for victims of abuse compared to private households, by selected characteristics, province or territory, April 18, 2018**

Selected characteristics and province or territory	Women in private households in Canada <sup>1</sup>	Women in facilities	Children in private households in Canada <sup>1</sup>	Children in facilities
		percent		
<b>Aboriginal Identity<sup>2</sup></b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	8	22	13	F
Prince Edward Island	2	0	3	0
Nova Scotia	5	F	9	F
New Brunswick	3	9	6	4
Quebec	2	7	3	10
Ontario	3	14	4	13
Manitoba	15	70	29	64
Saskatchewan	14	66	27	77
Alberta	6	34	10	36
British Columbia	5	31	10	31
Yukon	23	56	31	71
Northwest Territories	49	100	61	100
Nunavut	82	100	95	100
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Non-permanent resident<sup>3</sup></b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.6	20.0	0.6	14.0
Prince Edward Island	0.9	0.0	0.8	0.0
Nova Scotia	0.9	9.0	0.7	7.0
New Brunswick	0.5	10.0	0.4	8.0
Quebec	1.1	9.0	0.6	11.0
Ontario	1.6	7.0	0.9	4.0
Manitoba	1.3	33.0	0.8	18.0
Saskatchewan	1.1	16.0	0.7	12.0
Alberta	2.0	8.0	1.0	F
British Columbia	2.3	7.0	1.7	9.0
Yukon	1.2	0.0	0.3	0.0
Northwest Territories	1.0	0.0	0.2	F
Nunavut	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>8.0</b>

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 6 — end

## Percent of women and children residing in residential facilities for victims of abuse compared to private households, by selected characteristics, province or territory, April 18, 2018

Selected characteristics and province or territory	Women in private households in Canada <sup>1</sup>	Women in facilities	Children in private households in Canada <sup>1</sup>	Children in facilities
		percent		
<b>Visible minority<sup>4</sup></b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	2	6	4	0
Prince Edward Island	4	0	7	0
Nova Scotia	5	15	10	20
New Brunswick	3	6	6	8
Quebec	12	26	18	33
Ontario	28	28	35	39
Manitoba	16	8	21	5
Saskatchewan	10	4	14	2
Alberta	23	27	28	28
British Columbia	30	19	35	26
Yukon	8	16	12	7
Northwest Territories	10	0	10	0
Nunavut	3	0	1	0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

F too unreliable to be published

1. Population of women aged 18 or older and children aged 0 to 17 living in private households, based on the 2016 Census of Population estimates from the long-form census questionnaire. Readers should be aware that the universe for the long-form census questionnaire is the population in private households which excludes persons in collective dwellings.

2. 'Aboriginal identity' refers to individuals identifying as First Nations people, Métis or Inuit.

3. 'Non-permanent resident' includes persons from another country who have a work or study permit or who are refugee claimants, and their family members sharing the same permit and living in Canada with them. Although every attempt has been made by the Census to enumerate non-permanent residents, there are factors (e.g., not being aware of the need to participate) which may have affected the Census estimate of this population. Previous coverage studies have indicated that the non-permanent resident population was missed at a higher proportion than the general population. For more information on coverage, refer to the *Census Technical Report: Coverage, Census of Population, 2011* and the *Census Technical Report: Coverage, Census of Population, 2006*.

4. 'Visible minority' refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the *Employment Equity Act* and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The *Employment Equity Act* defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".

**Note:** Women and children in facilities excludes women and children who were admitted for reasons other than due to abuse. Women and children in facilities excludes 9% of residents for which Aboriginal identity, residency status and visible minority identity were not reported. For the women and children in facilities, an unknown answer category was included as a valid response to questions pertaining to identity or status. The April 18, 2018 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse; Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X.

**Table 7**  
**Occupancy for short-term facilities, by urban or rural area, province or territory, April 18, 2018**

Province or territory	All short-term facilities				Urban short-term facilities <sup>1</sup>				Rural short-term facilities <sup>1</sup>			
	Facilities	Beds <sup>2</sup>	Occu-pancy <sup>3</sup>	Facilities full <sup>3</sup>	Facilities	Beds <sup>2</sup>	Occu-pancy <sup>3</sup>	Facilities full <sup>3</sup>	Facilities	Beds <sup>2</sup>	Occu-pancy <sup>3</sup>	Facilities full <sup>3</sup>
	number		percent		number		percent		number		percent	
Newfoundland and Labrador	13	147	50	23	4	71	48	0	9	76	53	33
Prince Edward Island	X	26	42	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nova Scotia	12	171	60	17	6	90	59	0	6	81	60	33
New Brunswick	13	200	58	8	8	146	59	0	5	54	56	20
Quebec	104	1,265	90	43	69	919	95	46	35	346	75	37
Ontario	118	2,334	84	42	83	1,924	87	46	35	410	67	31
Manitoba	18	308	47	11	4	97	23	0	14	211	58	14
Saskatchewan	15	246	78	47	10	168	75	50	5	78	86	40
Alberta	41	825	69	15	18	456	72	22	23	369	66	9
British Columbia	79	858	75	43	49	654	81	47	30	204	56	37
Yukon	X	27	96	67	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northwest Territories	5	40	80	20	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nunavut	5	53	113	40	0	0	0	0	5	53	113	40
<b>Canada</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>4,564</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>29</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Rural facilities are those that are situated outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban facilities are those that are situated within a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census place of work data, where 50% or more of the population commutes into the core.

2. Beds refers only to the number of funded beds, including children's beds and cribs if applicable, regardless of source of funding. Excludes unfunded beds, which may include emergency beds such as cots, sofas, or sleeping bags.

3. Occupancy is calculated by dividing the total number of residents on the snapshot day by the total number of funded beds, multiplied by 100. A facility was considered full if its occupancy was 90% or more.

**Note:** The April 18, 2018 reference period reflects the survey snapshot day, a predetermined business day meant to represent a typical day of operations for facilities across Canada. Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than three months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.



**Table 8**  
**Funding sources and expenditures for residential facilities for victims of abuse, Canada, 2017/2018**

Funding sources and expenditures	Total facilities		Long-term facilities		Short-term facilities	
	thousands of dollars <sup>1</sup>	percent	thousands of dollars <sup>1</sup>	percent	thousands of dollars <sup>1</sup>	percent
<b>Funding sources</b>						
Federal	34,789	7.9	2,969	4.9	31,820	8.3
Provincial/territorial	315,627	71.2	32,586	53.5	283,041	74.0
Regional/municipal	18,578	4.2	7,485	12.3	11,093	2.9
First Nations	554	0.1	0	0.0	554	0.1
Foundations	9,445	2.1	3,177	5.2	6,268	1.6
Fees for service	6,723	1.5	4,195	6.9	2,529	0.7
Lotteries	1,041	0.2	350	0.6	691	0.2
Fundraising	41,807	9.4	6,515	10.7	35,292	9.2
Other <sup>2</sup>	14,570	3.3	3,627	6.0	10,943	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>443,134</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60,904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>382,230</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Salary	307,036	71.5	33,376	57.7	273,660	73.7
Rent, mortgage, property taxes	15,316	3.6	6,170	10.7	9,146	2.5
Other housing costs	28,207	6.6	6,153	10.6	22,053	5.9
Administrative costs	19,536	4.6	3,192	5.5	16,344	4.4
Staff training	5,005	1.2	567	1.0	4,438	1.2
Office costs	8,438	2.0	1,079	1.9	7,359	2.0
Direct client costs	22,274	5.2	2,739	4.7	19,536	5.3
Reserve fund	3,327	0.8	430	0.7	2,897	0.8
Other <sup>3</sup>	20,187	4.7	4,146	7.2	16,041	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>429,325</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57,852</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>371,473</b>	<b>100.0</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding.

2. Other funding includes interest accrued on invested funds, and unspecified grants and rebates.

3. Other expenses include membership fees, association fees, programming fees, and costs associated with fundraising and volunteers.

**Note:** Facilities are defined by their mandated expected length of stay, regardless of practice. Short-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is less than three months, and typically provide individual beds to residents, as opposed to separate apartments or units. Long-term facilities include facilities whose expected length of stay is three months or longer, and typically provide residential units (e.g. apartments) to residents.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse.