

Police-reported violent crimes against young women and girls in Canada's Provincial North and Territories, 2017

by Cristine Rotenberg

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Police-reported violent crimes against young women and girls in Canada's Provincial North and Territories, 2017: Highlights

- Young women and girls in northern Canada—comprising the territories and the northern parts of most provinces—were disproportionately victims of violent crimes in 2017.
 - Although young women and girls aged 24 and younger in the North accounted for less than 7% of the total young Canadian female population under 25, they represented 17% of all young female victims of violent crimes across Canada.
 - The violent crime rate was nearly three times higher for young women and girls aged 24 and younger in the North than for young women and girls in the South (3,643 versus 1,235 victims per 100,000 population), and nearly four times higher than for Canadians overall (968).
 - Young women and girls in the North were victims of violent crime at a rate nearly twice that of young men and boys aged 24 and younger in the North (3,643 versus 2,090). This difference was larger than the gap observed between young females and males in the South (1,235 versus 954).
- Violent victimization of young women and girls in the North first peaked around age 15 and continued at consistently high rates until declining after age 30. This age victimization profile was unlike that for females in the South, whose rates peaked at age 15 but declined well before entering adulthood.
- Violent crime rates against young women and girls were highest in northern Saskatchewan (13,886 victims per 100,000 population) and northern Manitoba (9,025). Rates in these regions were between five to six times higher than their respective provincial southern areas, and both higher than each of the three territories.
- Rural areas in northern Canada had considerably higher rates of violent crime against young women and girls, at about twice the rate of urban areas in the North (5,023 versus 2,354 victims per 100,000 population).
- Violent crimes against young women and girls in the North were both more prevalent and more severe in nature than in the South: a greater proportion of young women and girls in the North had suffered a physical injury as a result of the violent crime committed against them (45% versus 32%), and they were victims of the more serious violent crimes—including homicide and level 3 physical assaults—at far greater rates.
- Young female victims in the North were most commonly victimized by a male (77%), close to half (44%) of whom were more than five years older than the young woman or girl they victimized.
- Violence against young women and girls in the North was most commonly perpetrated by an intimate partner or spouse (44%), a casual acquaintance (22%), or a family member (20%). Compared with the South, a slightly larger proportion of young female victims in the North knew their assailant (95% versus 92%), more often as someone they were dating at the time of the crime (27% versus 20%), or as an extended family member (9% versus 4%).
- Overall, four-in-five (80%) violent crimes against young women and girls in the North were reported to police on the same day the crime took place, compared with just over two-thirds (71%) in the South. Delay in reporting varied depending on the nature of the crime, with sexual assaults taking longer to come to the attention of police in both the North and the South.

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by Cristine Rotenberg, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Violence against young women and girls has long been established as an ongoing human rights issue and barrier to gender equality (United Nations 1993; World Health Organization 2013). Emotional trauma suffered by victims of violence can negatively impact their daily lives and their long-term mental and physical health, relationships, and overall well-being. This is especially the case if the violence occurred at a young age (Arnow 2004; Bosick et al. 2012; Springer et al. 2007; UNICEF 2014). Further, intersecting social inequalities can disproportionately negatively impact marginalized groups such as young Indigenous¹ women (Dawson et al. 2018) and place them at increased risk for violent victimization (Boyce 2016; Hotton Mahony et al. 2017; Miladinovic and Mulligan 2015; Perreault 2015; Perreault and Simpson 2016; Statistics Canada 2013a; Statistics Canada 2018).

Higher rates of violent victimization are also seen among Canadians living in rural areas (Allen 2018) and crime is consistently more prevalent and more severe in the three territories than in the southern provinces (Allen and Perreault 2015; Boyce et al. 2014; Charron et al. 2010; Perreault and Hotton Mahony 2012). Living in a rural or remote area may also prevent a victim of abuse from leaving a violent relationship, which enables ongoing violence as well as potentially dissuading victims from reporting the violence to police, particularly when the assailant was a family member or an intimate partner (Edwards 2014; House of Commons Canada 2019). Research has found that, compared with the provinces, a higher proportion of victims in the territories did not report the crime to police because they perceived the incident as a private or personal matter that was handled informally (Perreault 2015; Perreault and Simpson 2016). The use of victim services, such as shelters, crisis centres, or support programs, is also much lower in the North (Perreault 2015; Perreault and Simpson 2016), in part due to the limited availability of such services in remote areas.

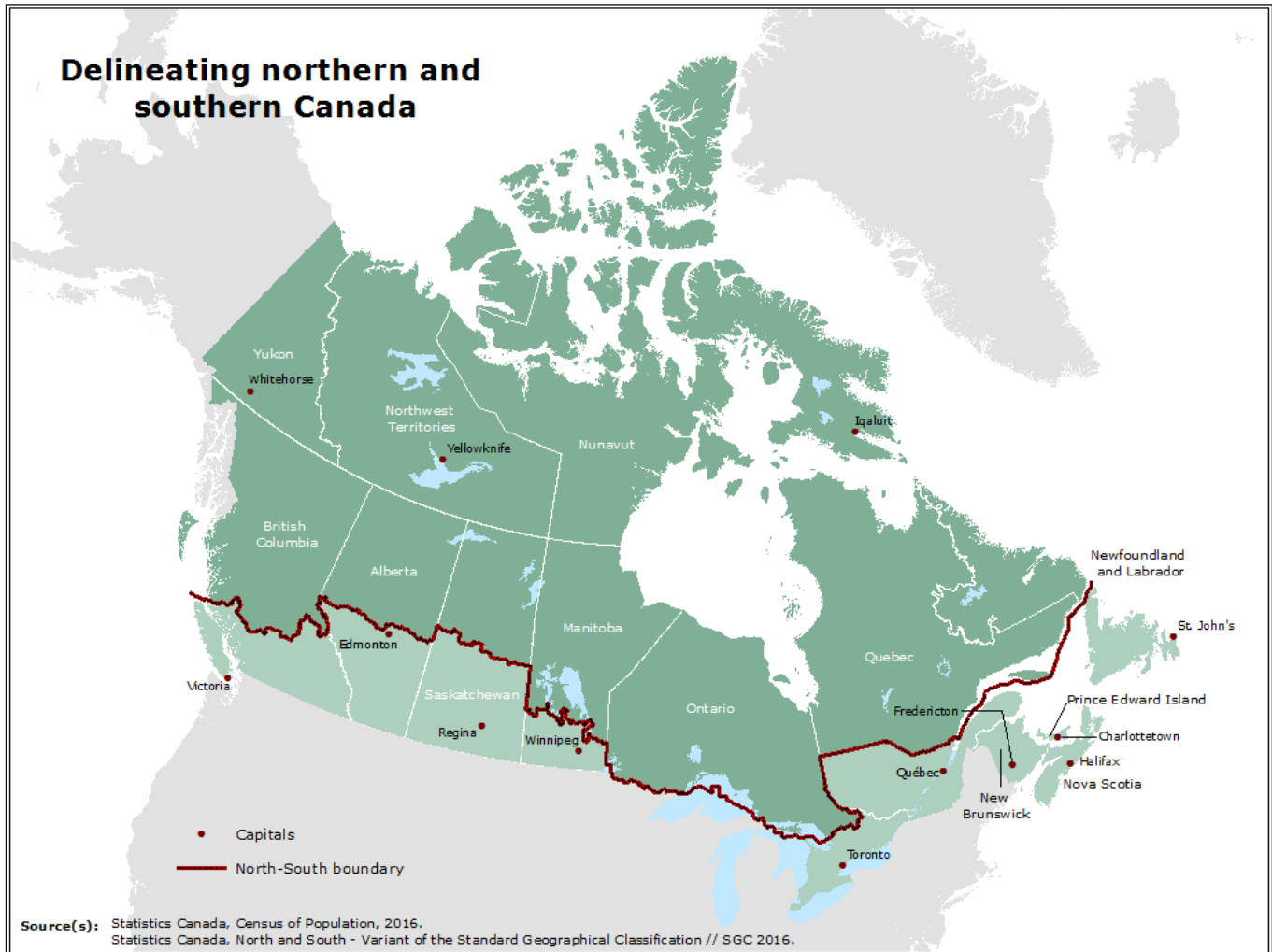
The current report builds on recent studies that have explored police-reported crimes in Canada's Provincial North and territories (Allen and Perreault 2015), violent crimes against young women and girls (Conroy 2018), urban and rural crime (Perreault 2019), and crimes in Indigenous communities (Allen, forthcoming). Given that previous research produced by Statistics Canada provided a comprehensive analysis of the gender disparity for young victims of violent crime in Canada (Conroy 2018), the current report will focus mainly on the disparity between young female victims of violent crimes in the North and those living in the South. Some gender comparisons are provided throughout for additional context.

In this study, 'young women and girls' refer to females aged 24 and younger. The 'North' represents the three territories as well as most of the remote regions in the northern areas of the Canadian provinces, which are generally more similar to the territories in terms of geographic remoteness, economic, and social characteristics. Instead of solely comparing the three territories to the provinces,² this North/South breakdown allows for increased analytical detail in pinpointing where young women and girls are most at-risk of violence. These regional comparisons are made with consideration to the compounding socioeconomic impacts of geographic remoteness and Canada's sociopolitical history of colonization, including residential schools and the forced relocation of Indigenous peoples³ (Text box 1).

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Delineating northern and southern Canada

Figure 1 below shows the line which delineates the North from the South for the purposes of this study.



Geographically, the majority (85%) of Canada's landmass is considered the North (Conference Board of Canada 2011). Yet, given its remoteness and harsher climate and living conditions, the North has proportionally far fewer residents. In 2017, about 6% of the Canadian population resided in the Provincial North, and less than 1% lived in the territories.⁴ It is important to consider how the vast remoteness of the North is distinctly different from the South, and how such varying demographic landscapes contribute to populations with different social characteristics (see Text box 1).

Text box 1

Characteristics of the North

Northern Canada is home to many Indigenous people and communities. According to the 2016 Census, the largest proportion of Indigenous people lived in the territories: nearly 9 in 10 (86%) residents in Nunavut identified as Indigenous (nearly all specifically as Inuit), as did half the residents (51%) in the Northwest Territories and just under one-in-four (23%) in the Yukon (Statistics Canada 2017a). Among the provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan had the largest proportion of Indigenous residents (18% and 16%, respectively). In the North, just under half (48%) of the young population aged 24 and younger was female, similar to in the South (49%).⁵

Overall, in 2016, Indigenous people accounted for about 5% of the total Canada population. Over half (58%) identified as First Nations, just over one-third (35%) as Métis, and 4% as Inuit (Statistics Canada 2018). The First Nations population and the Métis population were both most concentrated in Ontario as well as in the western provinces, with around four-fifths of each population living in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, or Saskatchewan. Nearly three-quarters of the Inuit population lived in Inuit Nunangat, which includes Nunavut as well as some of the northernmost areas of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon (see Statistics Canada 2017b).

The higher rates of violent victimization in the North presented in this paper (as well as non-violent crimes) are driven by a combination of several demographic, social, and economic factors that make the living conditions of the North unique from southern Canada.

A history of colonization, including residential schools (the last of which closed in Saskatchewan in 1996), work camps and forced relocation in the North is recognized for having profoundly impacted Indigenous communities and families for their role in intergenerational violence (Bombay et al. 2009; Holmes and Hunt 2017; Klingspohn 2018; The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015). In part due to its remote geography, the northern regions of Canada generally have limited or less access to: education programs, professional or high-income employment opportunities, technological services such as mobile phone networks or the Internet, and healthcare facilities and professionals (Auditor General of Canada 2011a; Auditor General of Canada 2011b). Access to justice and victim services can also present a challenge in the North (Perreault and Simpson 2016). Research on Indigenous or northern populations—with the latter largely focusing on Canada's three territories—has found that these populations are also more likely to consist of lone-parent families, children in foster care, people with poorer mental health outcomes, substance abuse disorders or suicidal thoughts, and a younger population overall (Allen and Superle 2016; Arriagada 2016; Boyce et al. 2015; Kelly-Scott and Smith 2015; Kumar 2016; Perreault and Simpson 2016; Statistics Canada 2013a; Turner 2016). These can all serve as compounding risk factors that collectively foster a population that is more vulnerable to criminal victimization and offending behaviours.

For more information about the characteristics of Indigenous people in Canada, including further breakdowns for the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit population, see *First Nations People, Métis and Inuit in Canada: Diverse and Growing Populations* (Statistics Canada 2018) or findings from the 2016 Census.

Measuring police-reported crime in the Provincial North and territories

This report explores violent crimes committed against young women and girls (defined as female victims aged 24 and younger at the time of the incident) as reported and founded⁶ by police in the North in 2017, and compares figures with those for young female victims in the South. Some gender-based analysis is provided throughout, though the reader should refer to a recent Statistics Canada publication (Conroy 2018) for a comprehensive analysis of gender disparities among young victims of violent crime at the national level.

The Provincial North boundary used in this study is based on provincial administrative regions defined by the Northern Development Ministers Forum and used by the Conference Board of Canada's (2014) Centre for the North. The 'North' includes the three territories in addition to the northern regions of most of the Canadian provinces. This method of delineating the North and South provides more information on crime in Canada at the geographic level than was previously available (see Allen and Perreault 2015),⁷ and is applied in the current study:

- The 'North' includes (see Figure 1):
 - The three territories (Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut).
 - The 'Provincial North' (northern regions of the following provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador).
- The 'South' includes:
 - All of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.
 - The southern areas of the Canadian provinces that do not fall under the Provincial North.

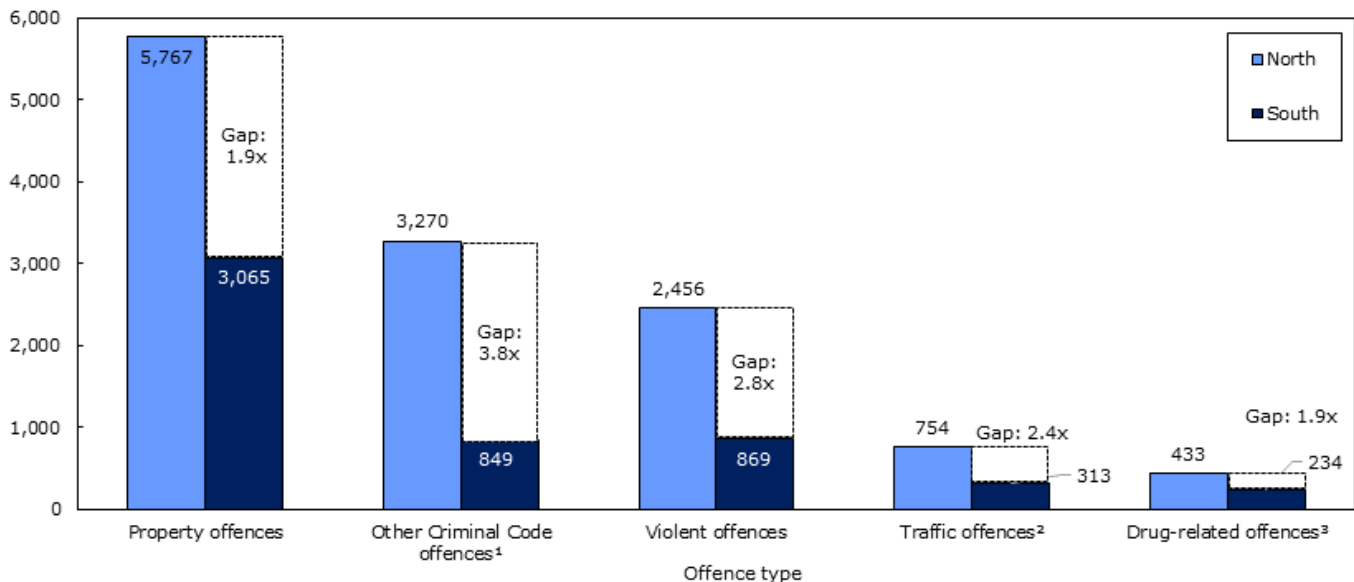
Police-reported crime rates higher in northern Canada

When population size is accounted for, police-reported crime in Canada is typically far more prevalent in the North than in the South. In 2017, the overall rate of police-reported *Criminal Code* offences (including traffic violations) was nearly two-and-a-half (2.4x) times higher in the North (12,834 incidents per 100,000 population) than in the South (5,394). Prior research has found that high rates of mischief and disturbing the peace in the Provincial North and territories drove much of this gap (Allen and Perreault 2015).⁸

However, the North/South crime rate gap was larger when looking specifically at violent crime. Violent crimes range from uttering threats to physical and sexual violence to homicide.⁹ In 2017, police-reported violent crime rates were close to three (2.8x) times higher in the North than in the South (2,456 versus 869 incidents per 100,000 population; Chart 1). To put this in perspective, while 6% of the Canadian population resided in the North in 2017, 15% of all police-reported violent crimes in Canada took place in the North (see Table 3 for list of violent offences).

Chart 1
Police-reported crime rates, by offence type and North/South region, Canada, 2017

rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes crimes such as disturbing the peace and offences against the administration of justice such as failure to comply with an order, failure to appear and breach of probation.

2. Includes crimes such as alcohol-impaired driving, drug-impaired driving, and other traffic violations.

3. Includes offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* such as importation, exportation, trafficking, production and possession of drugs or narcotics. Examples include cannabis/marijuana, cocaine, heroin and other drugs such as crystal meth, PCP, LSD and ecstasy.

Note: Based on the total number of incidents reported by police as a founded criminal offence in 2017. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The rate gap represents how many times greater the crime rate was in the North compared with the South, for a given offence type. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This chart does not include other federal statute violations outside of the *Criminal Code* and the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Although the present report focuses on violent crimes, it is worth noting that crime rates were higher in the North than in the South across all other major crime types, including: property crimes (1.9x higher in the North), drug offences (1.9x), traffic offences (2.4x), and other *Criminal Code* offences¹⁰ (3.8x) (Chart 1).

Violent crime in the North

Young women and girls in the North overrepresented among victims of violent crime

While young women and girls in the North accounted for less than 7% of the female population aged 24 and younger in Canada, according to 2017 police-reported data, they represented 17% of young female victims of violent crime across Canada.

In the North, females accounted for just under half (48%) of the population aged 24 and younger, but nearly two-thirds (62%) of victims of violent crime in the North were female. In fact, young women and girls in the North were overrepresented as victims of violent crime whether they were compared with all females, all young Canadians, or all Canadians in the North

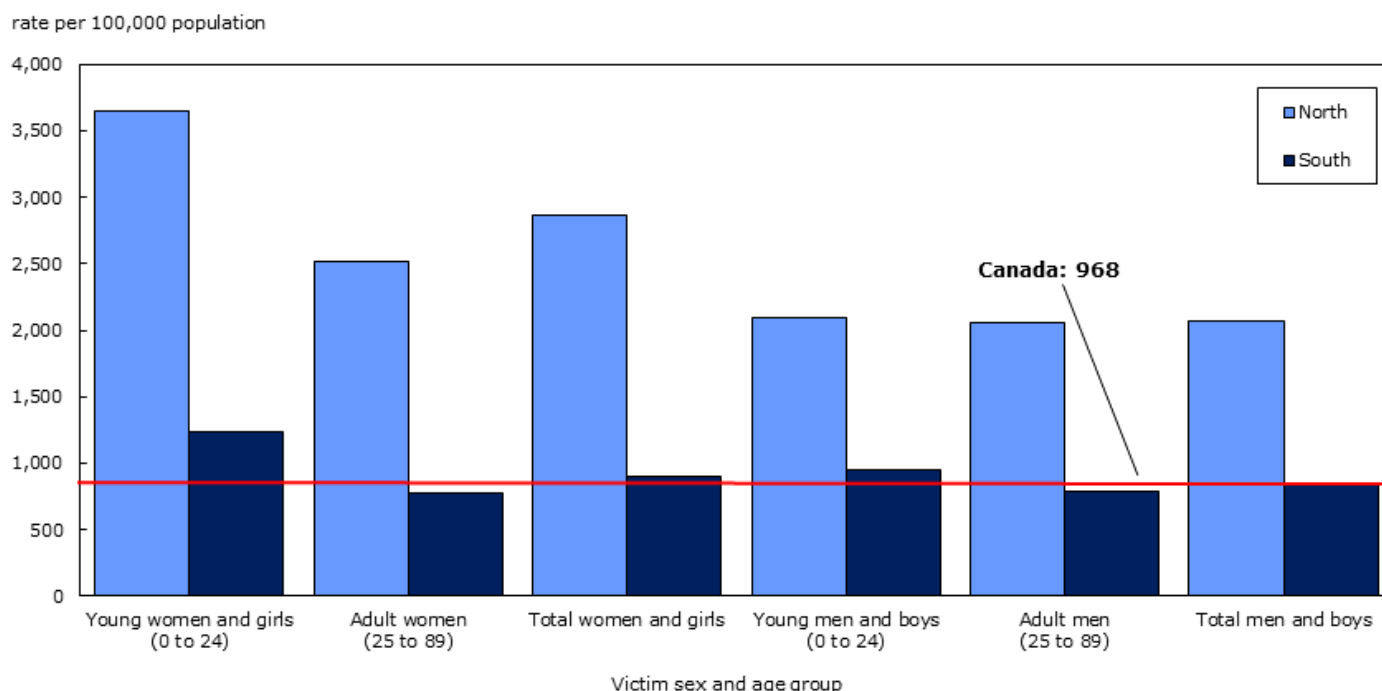
(Table 1). This overrepresentation among victims of violent crime was observed both in the territories and in the Provincial North.¹¹ The disproportionate violent victimization of young women and girls—whether compared with older Canadians or males—is a finding that is consistent with past research (Allen and Perreault 2015; Boyce 2016; Hotton Mahony et al. 2017).

In 2017, over half (53%) of all victims of police-reported violent crimes were female, of whom nearly one-in-five (17%) resided in the North.^{12, 13} About two-in-five (39%) of these female victims in the North were aged 24 and younger. Overall, 12,036 victims of police-reported violent crimes in the North were young women and girls aged 24 and younger.

Police-reported violent crime rate three times higher for young women and girls in the North than in the South

Young women and girls in Canada’s northern areas were victims of violent crime at higher rates than all other combinations of sex and age groups. In 2017, the police-reported violent crime rate for females aged 24 and younger in the North was 3,643 victims per 100,000 population. This was nearly three (2.9x) times higher than the rate for young women and girls in the South (1,235), close to twice (1.7x) as high as the rate for young men and boys in the North (2,090), and nearly four (3.8x) times higher than for the total Canadian population overall (968) (Chart 2; Table 2).

Chart 2
Police-reported violent crime rates, by victim sex and age group, and North/South region, Canada, 2017



Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

When looking at age groups, police-reported data suggest that young adult women between 18 and 24 years old in the North were victims of violent crime at a higher rate (6,910 victims per 100,000 population) than all other combinations of sex, age, or North/South geography groups, followed by teenage girls between 15 and 17 years old in the North (6,557). Young adult women in the North had a violent crime rate nearly three-and-a-half (3.4x) times greater than those in the South. The widest North/South gap among female victims of violent crime, however, was seen among women aged 25 to 34 years old, who were victims of violent crime at a rate nearly four times (3.9x) higher in the North than in the South (Table 2).

Compared with their southern counterparts, young women and girls in the North had consistently higher crime rates across all violent offence types, including physical assaults, sexual assaults, and criminal harassment (Table 3). Overall, rates for crimes against young females were higher in the North across nearly all violent crime types, with the exception of robbery, trafficking in persons and commodification of sexual activity offences, and attempted murder, which had higher rates in the South, though these offences were committed far less frequently than other types of violent crimes.

Gender gap for violent victimization of young Canadians wider in the North than in the South

Young women and girls in the North were victims of violent crime at a rate close to twice (1.7x) that of their young male counterparts (3,643 versus 2,090 victims per 100,000 population) (Table 2). In the South, the violent crime rate was still higher for young females than for males (1,235 versus 954), but the gap was narrower (rate for females being 1.3x higher than for males) than in the North (1.7x), which suggests that the gender disparity for violent victimization of young Canadians is wider in the North than in the South. Among the older populations aged 25 and older in the North, adult women had a higher violent crime rate than adult men (2,521 versus 2,059; 1.2x greater), but there was virtually no gap between adult women and men in the South (779 versus 791). Overall, police-reported data suggest that the largest disparity in violent victimization between males and females is among young persons aged 24 and younger who live in the North.

When broken down further by age group, the largest gender disparity was noted among teenage victims between 15 and 17 years old in the North, where teenage girls were victims of a violent crime at a rate just over twice (2.1x) that of teenage boys (6,557 versus 3,140 victims per 100,000 population) (Table 2). In the South, the gap in violent crime rate between teen girls and boys was notably narrower (1.3x; 2,235 versus 1,699). The gender disparity for victims of violent crime was consistently wider in the North than in the South across all age groups.

Overall, in the North, females were always victims of violent crimes at higher rates than males, except for those aged 55 and older, where the rate was slightly greater for males. This was similar to the pattern in the South, with females generally having higher violent crime rates up until 45 years of age, after which the rate for males in the South was greater.

Compared with their male counterparts in the North, young women and girls in the North were victimized at a higher rate across all almost major types of violent offences, including: sexual offences (with a rate eight [8.0x] times higher for young female victims in the North than for males), physical assault offences (1.4x), criminal harassment and threat offences (1.4x), and deprivation of freedom offences (1.7x). Homicide offences were the exception, where young males in the North were victims of offences related to homicide or death at a higher rate than young females in the North (9.93 versus 3.93 victims per 100,000 population) (Table 3; Table 4).

Recent increase but overall decline in rate of young female victims of violent crime

The rate of police-reported violent crimes against young women and girls in the North generally declined from 2009¹⁴ to 2015, and then rose slightly year-over-year until 2017 (Table 5). The more recent increase was driven partly by a rise in reported sexual offences: from 2009 to 2017, the rate of sexual offences against young females that were reported by police increased by 32% in both the North and the South.¹⁵ This is likely not a reflection of an increase in sexual crimes committed, but rather of the increased reporting of incidents as founded crimes by police in addition to an increase in victims reporting to police after the #MeToo movement (see Rotenberg and Cotter 2018).

While overall rates of violent crime against young females saw a net decline from 2009 to 2017, the decrease was smaller for young females in the North (-11%) than for those in the South (-19%) (Table 5), as rates of physical assault and criminal harassment and threat-related offences did not decline as much in the North as they did in the South. Young male victims in the North saw a larger decline in overall violent crime rate over the nine-year period (-25%) (data not shown¹⁶), while rates were relatively unchanged for adult women aged 25 and older in the North (Table 5).

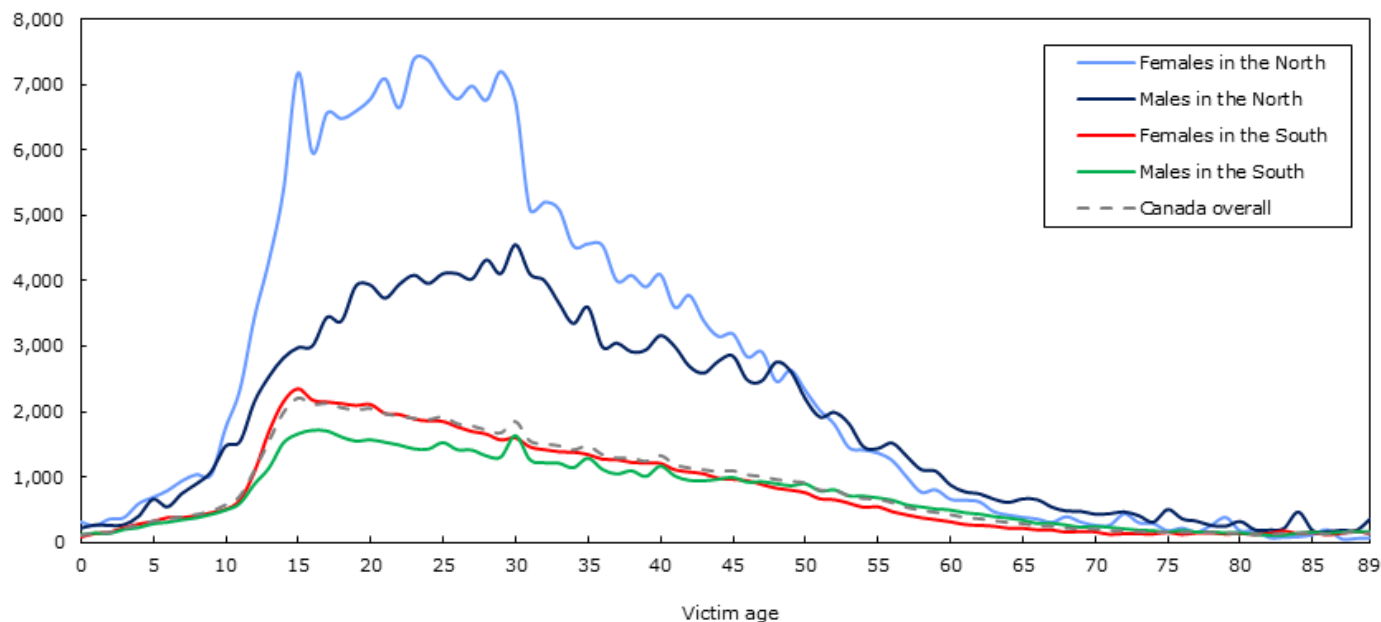
Rate of police-reported violent crime against females in the North first peaked at age 15 and continued at high rates until declining after age 30

In 2017, the police-reported violent crime rate in Canada overall first peaked for victims at age 15, after which the rate declined steadily with age (Chart 3). By contrast, for women and girls in the North, the rate spiked at age 15 and then remained consistently high—with some fluctuation—until declining at around age 31. This age victimization profile is unlike that for women in the South, which followed the overall Canada trend of decline after peaking at age 15, as well as unlike the profile for males in the North, where victimization was highest leading up to the victims' thirties (Chart 3). Women and girls in the North were victims of a violent crime at higher rates than men and boys nearly consistently from birth up until around 50 years of age, after which point males in the North generally had higher rates than females.

Chart 3

Police-reported violent crime rates, by victim age and sex, and North/South region, Canada, 2017

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Victim age is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.

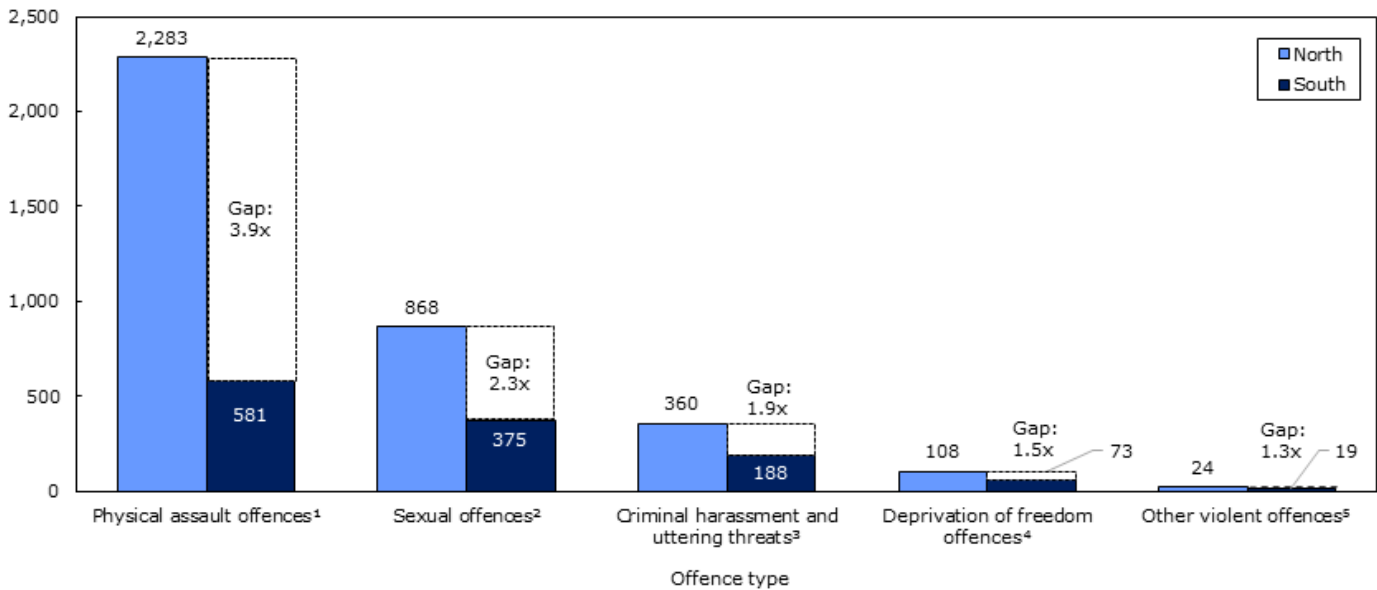
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Gap in violent victimization rates between young women and girls in the North and the South mostly driven by physical assaults

Young women and girls in the North were victims of violent crime at higher rates than their southern counterparts across all major violent offence types (Chart 4). That said, by far the biggest discrepancy was for physical assault-related offences,¹⁷ for which rates were nearly four (3.9x) times higher among young women and girls in the North than in the South (2,283 victims per 100,000 population versus 581) (Table 3).¹⁸ Physical assault-related offences also accounted for a much greater proportion of violent crimes against young women and girls in the North than in the South (63% versus 47%), most of which were level 1 physical assault offences (Table 6).^{19, 20}

Chart 4**Police-reported violent crime rates for young female victims, by offence type and North/South region, Canada, 2017**

rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes physical assault (level 1, 2 and 3) and other assault-related offences.

2. Includes sexual assault (level 1, 2 and 3), sexual violations against children and other sexual offences.

3. Includes criminal harassment, uttering threats and indecent/harassing communications.

4. Includes robbery, kidnapping, abduction, trafficking in persons and other deprivation of freedom offences.

5. Includes all other violent criminal offences.

Note: Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The rate gap represents how many times greater the crime rate was in the North compared with the South, for a given offence type. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown.

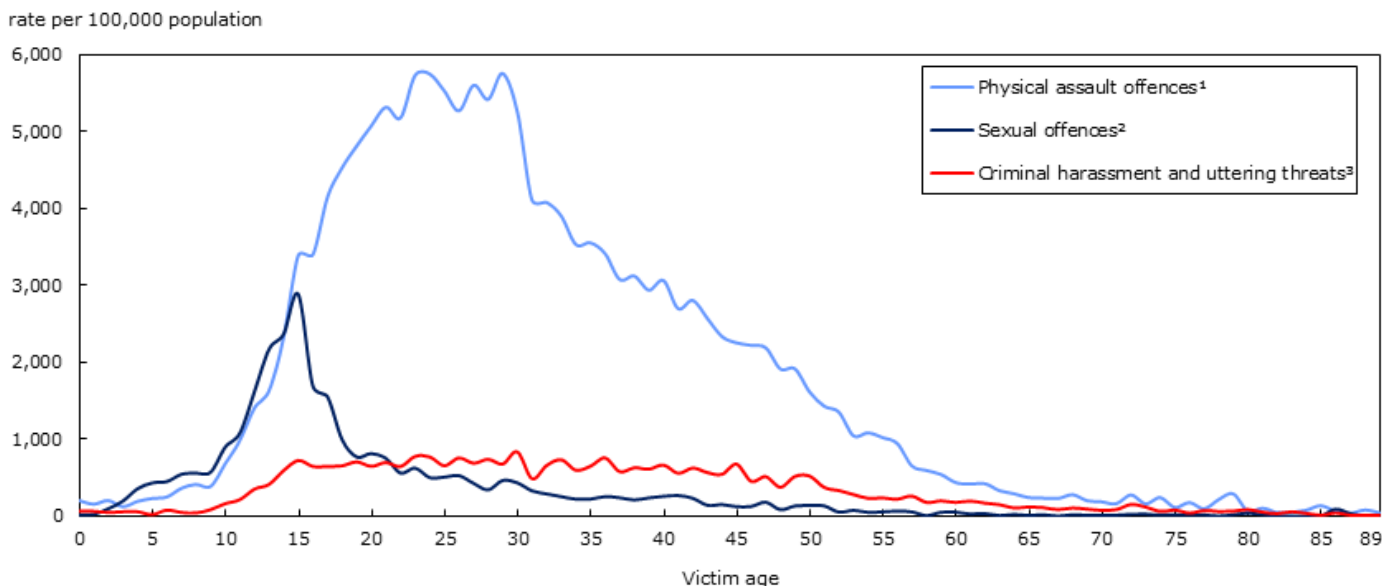
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Violence against females in the North shifts from mostly sexual in nature during childhood to mostly physical assault as victims enter adulthood

There was a notable shift in the types of police-reported violent crimes committed against females in the North as victims' moved into their adult years. Younger victims were more often victimized sexually, while young women were more often victimized physically as they entered adulthood, at around 18 years of age, and in the years leading up to it. These shifts were also consistent with age victimization trends for females in the South, and to a lesser extent males in either region, as rates of physical assault-related crimes were generally higher than sexual crimes for males at any age, though a spike is noted for younger boys who were victims of a sexual offence (data not shown; see also Cotter and Beaupré 2014; Rotenberg 2017a). When interpreting rates of sexual offences, it is important to recall that only 1 in 20²¹ sexual assaults are reported to police (Conroy and Cotter 2017), and therefore sexual crimes reported by police likely underestimate the true extent of sexual assault and sexual violence against young women and girls in Canada.

In the North, while crime rates for physical assault-related offences were highest for women in their mid-twenties to around 30 years old, sexual offences (including sexual assault, sexual offences against children, and other sexual offences) peaked much younger at around 15 years of age (Chart 5). Rates of sexual victimization declined abruptly after the late teen years, whereas rates for physical assault offences were high and relatively stable for a longer period throughout adulthood. Criminal harassment and uttering threat offences had a relatively stable rate beginning with young women at 16 years of age until their late forties.

Chart 5
Police-reported violent crime rates for female victims in the North, by victim age and selected offence type, Canada, 2017



1. Includes physical assault (level 1, 2 and 3) and other assault-related offences.
 2. Includes sexual assault (level 1, 2 and 3), sexual violations against children and other sexual offences.
 3. Includes criminal harassment, uttering threats and indecent/harassing communications.
Note: Victim age is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

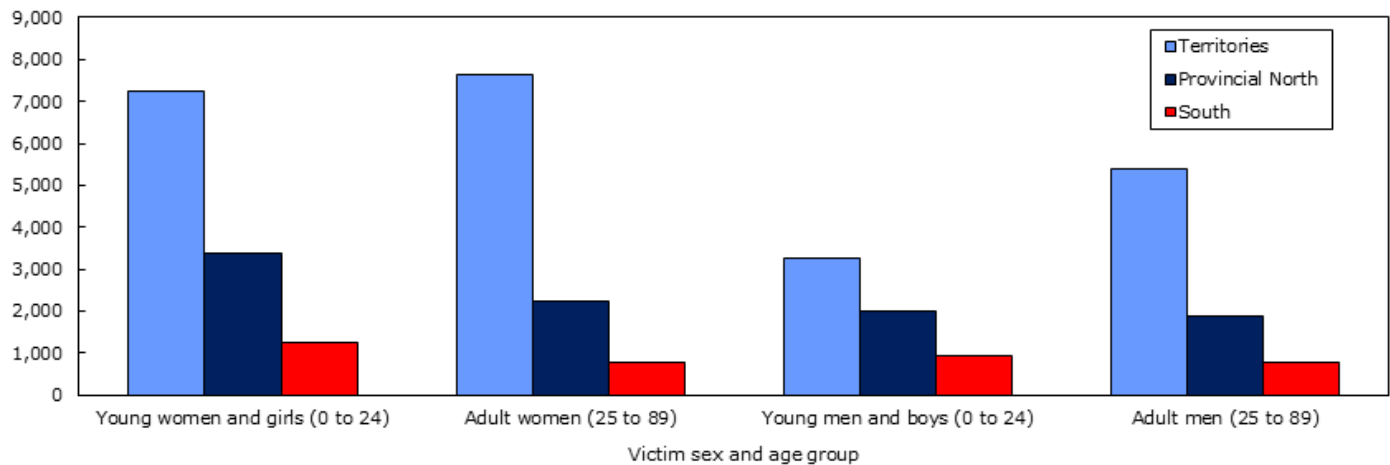
Victimization age patterns by offence type were similar in the South, with the exception of physical assault-related offences peaking at a younger age (early twenties) than in the North (data not shown). These findings are consistent with research that has highlighted the various risk factors, including the age of the victim, for different types of victimization. For example: children, students or those in the teen to young adult age group have a higher risk for sexual assault, while physical assaults tend to be committed against older women and are often tied to domestic violence (Allen and McCarthy 2018; Conroy 2018; Perreault 2015).

Rate of violent crime against young women and girls two times higher in the territories than in the Provincial North overall

According to 2017 police-reported data, regardless of victim age or sex, violent crime rates were higher in the territories than in the Provincial North overall, and higher in the Provincial North than in the South (Chart 6). For young women and girls aged 24 and younger, the violent crime rate in the territories (7,232 victims per 100,000 population) was about twice (2.1x) that of the Provincial North (3,391), while the rate in the Provincial North was over two-and-a-half (2.7x) times that of the South (1,235). However, differences in rates were observed at the provincial level (see the section “Rates of violent crimes against women and girls higher in northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba than in the territories”), as well as across major cities (Table 7).

Chart 6**Police-reported violent crime rates, by victim age group and sex, and North/South region, Canada, 2017**

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The Territories includes Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The Provincial North includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Rural areas in northern Canada drive up rates of violent crime against young women and girls in the North

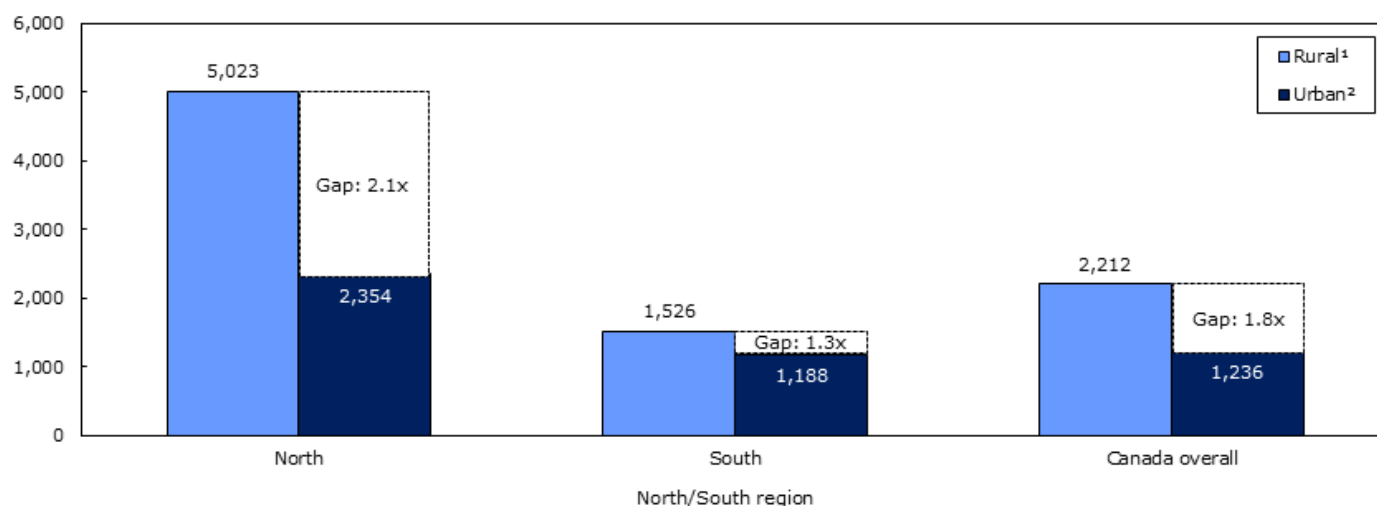
Urban versus rural population measures provide another level of geographical distinction that can be used alongside analysis of North/South regions.^{22, 23} Within the Provincial North, there are both urban and rural areas: around 40% of the population living in northern Quebec,²⁴ northern Ontario, and northern British Columbia live in rural areas and small towns (i.e., outside of census metropolitan areas or census agglomerations²⁵), while all of northern Newfoundland and Labrador and northern Saskatchewan is considered rural (Allen and Perreault 2015).

Although rural areas were home to just under half (48%) of the female population aged 24 and younger in the North,²⁶ over two-thirds (67%) of police-reported violent crimes against young female victims in the North took place in a rural area. By contrast, in the South, the proportion of young females living in a rural area (14%) was roughly on par with the percent of violent crimes committed against young females that took place in a rural area (17%). This finding underscores the considerably disproportionate violent victimization of young women and girls in the most remote and rural areas of the North. Rural areas in the North include over 200 remote townships and communities with populations ranging from over 100 to 30,000 residents.²⁷ The remaining third (33%) of young female victims of police-reported violent crime in the North resided in urban areas. This includes larger cities such as Greater Sudbury (Ontario), Saguenay (Quebec), and Thunder Bay (Ontario), as well as Thompson (Manitoba), Prince George (British Columbia), Wood Buffalo (Alberta), Grande Prairie (urban section, Alberta),²⁸ Timmins (Ontario), and North Bay (Ontario) among other smaller townships.

The rate of violent crime against young women and girls was two (2.1x) times higher in northern rural areas than in northern urban areas (5,023 versus 2,354 victims per 100,000 population). While on a national level, rates of violent crimes against young women and girls are higher in rural areas (Conroy 2018), it is clear that the gap is far wider in the North than in the South. As a result, the findings suggest that the gap in violent crimes between young female victims in the North and South is driven in large part by violence in the rural North (Chart 7), which is also the case for police-reported crime overall (Perreault 2019). The type of crime also varied, with violent crimes against young women and girls in the rural North more likely to be physical assault-related than in the urban North (68% versus 52%), and consequently, less commonly a sexual offence (21% versus 29%) or criminal harassment and threat-related offence (8% versus 14%) (data not shown).

Chart 7
Police-reported violent crime rates for young female victims, by North/South region and rural/urban area, Canada, 2017

rate per 100,000 population



1. Rural areas are all areas outside of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) or census agglomerations (CAs).

2. An urban area is defined as a CMA or a CA. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000.

Note: Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The rate gap represents how many times greater the violent crime rate was in rural areas compared with urban areas, in the North, South and Canada overall. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown.

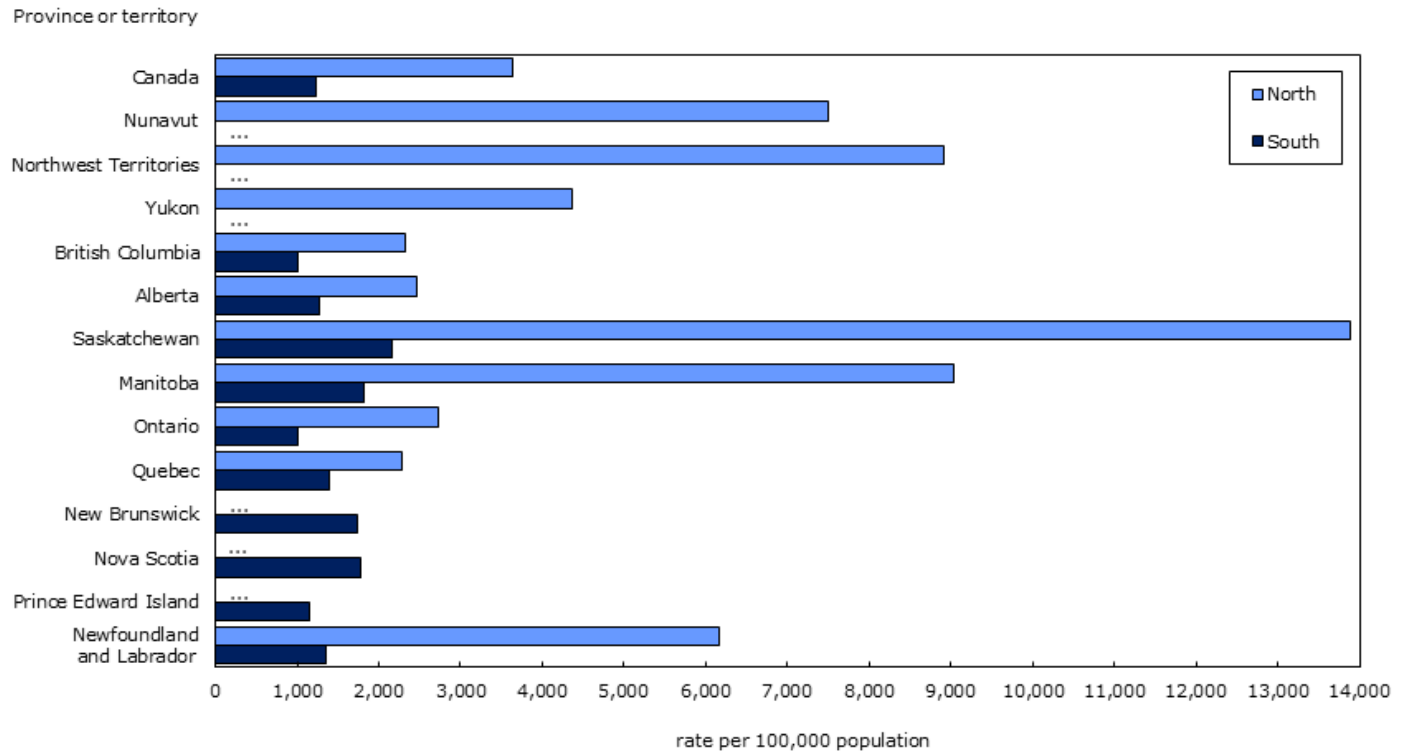
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Rates of violent crimes against women and girls higher in northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba than in the territories

Consistent with past research (Allen and Perreault 2015), in 2017, police-reported violent crime rates against young women and girls were higher in the North than they were in the South across all provinces, with the largest North/South gap reported in Saskatchewan (6.4x higher in the North) and Manitoba (4.9x). Northern Saskatchewan reported the highest rate at 13,886 victims per 100,000 population, followed by northern Manitoba (9,025), both of which had a higher rate than each of the three territories, though not notably higher than the Northwest Territories (8,909) (Chart 8; Table 8). This was not unique to young female victims; rather, northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba had consistently higher violent crime rates than the territories for males and females of all major age groups (Table 9), with northern Saskatchewan having the highest rate at over twice (2.2x) that for Canadians in the territories overall (13,071 versus 6,002). Northern Saskatchewan in particular shares several similar socio-economic conditions with the territories, such as a high population of Indigenous people, a generally younger population, larger families and lone-parent families, more adults without high school or postsecondary education, higher unemployment rates, and lower income levels (Allen and Perreault 2015; Statistics Canada 2013b).

Chart 8

Police-reported violent crime rates for young female victims, by province or territory and North/South region, Canada, 2017



... not applicable

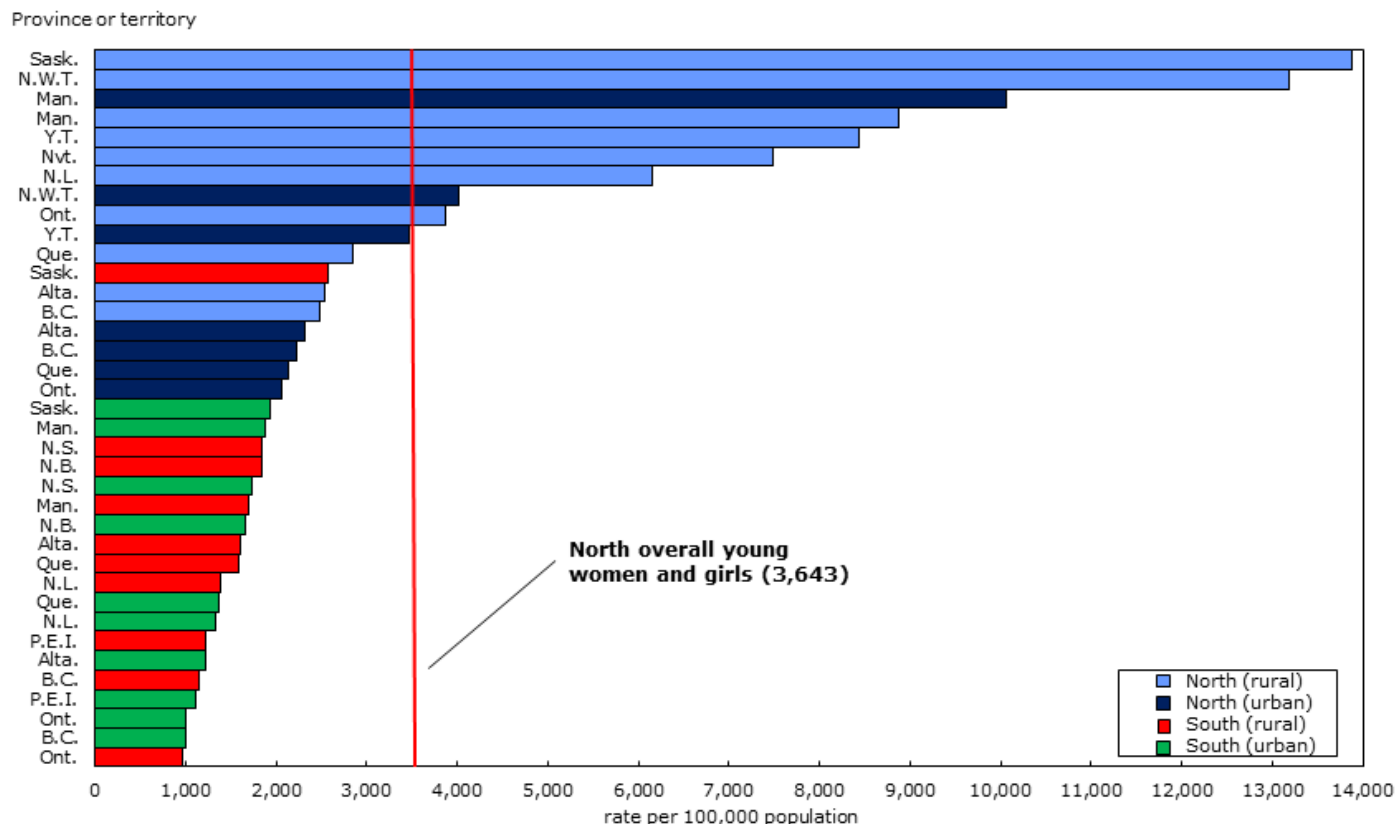
Note: Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Some differences were noted across violent crime types. Though northern Saskatchewan reported the highest rates of both physical assault offences (10,882 victims per 100,000 population) and criminal harassment and threat-related offences (919) against young women and girls, the Northwest Territories reported the highest rates for sexual offences (1,827) (see Table 10).

When the provinces and territories were further broken down by urban and rural areas, northern Saskatchewan—which is entirely rural²⁹—remained the area with the highest reported rate of violent crime against young women and girls, at 13,886 victims per 100,000 population. Rural areas in the Northwest Territories had a similarly high rate of violent crimes against young women and girls (13,190), followed by northern urban Manitoba (10,053), which, contrary to most other provinces with a northern region, had a higher rate in the urban North than in the rural North (8,881) (Chart 9).³⁰

Chart 9
Police-reported violent crime rates for young female victims, by province or territory, North/South region and urban/rural area, Canada, 2017



Notes:
Rural areas are all areas outside of census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA).
An urban area is defined as a CMA or CA. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000.
 Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Some areas are not listed in the chart because these provinces or territories do not have an urban or rural area in a given North/South region (e.g., there are no urban areas in northern Saskatchewan, only rural areas). Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown. Note that because data are broken down by multiple levels of geography, caution should be used when interpreting differences in rates as there may be greater variability when population or incident counts are low in certain areas.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

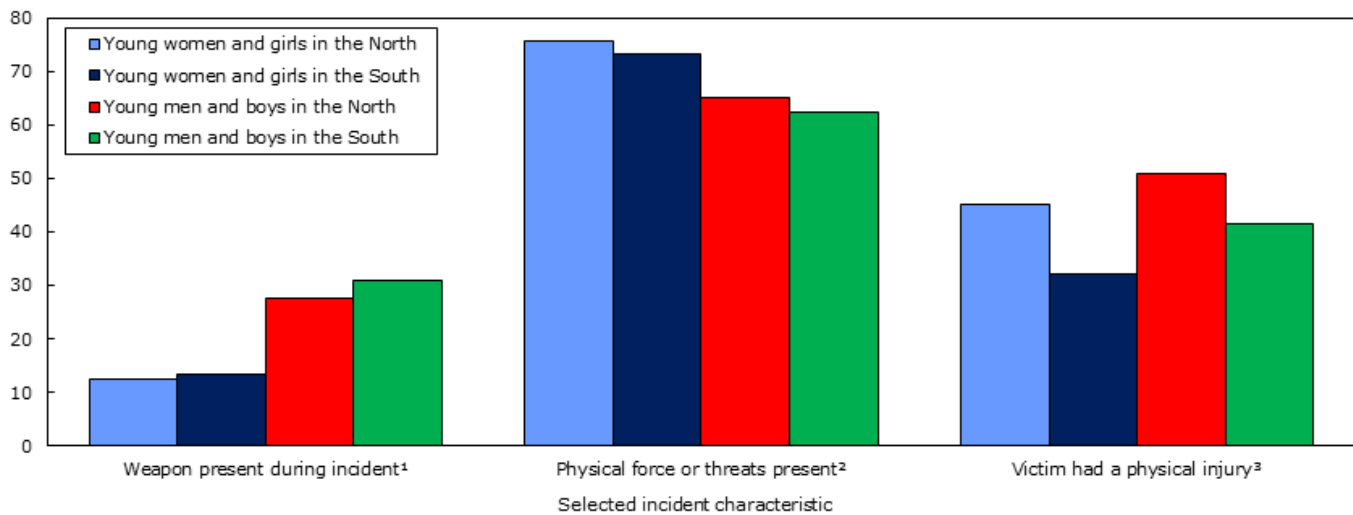
Violent crimes against women and girls more severe in the North than in the South

In Canada, violent crimes include a number of offences that range in degree of severity or harm to the victim.³¹ Young females in the North were victims of more serious violent offences at higher rates than their counterparts in the South: aggravated physical assaults (level 3) had a rate seven (7.0x) times greater in the North than in the South (34 versus 5 victims per 100,000 population), representing the largest North/South gap across all violent offence types (Table 3). Level 2 physical assaults against young females in the North had a rate nearly four (3.8x) times higher than in the South (417 versus 109), as did homicide and other offences causing death (3.4x; 3.33 versus 0.98; see the Homicides in the North section of this paper). Compared with young men and boys aged 24 and younger also living in the North, young females had higher rates of the lowest level of physical assault (level 1) but lower rates of the more serious level 2 and 3 physical assaults (see Table 3 and Table 4).³² Young women and girls in the North also had lower rates of homicide than young men and boys in the North.³³

According to crimes reported by police in 2017, violence against women and girls was more likely to result in physical injuries in the North than in the South (Chart 10; Table 11). While close to half (45%) of young female victims of violent crime in the North suffered a physical injury (the vast majority of which were classified by police as minor injuries³⁴), about one-third (32%) of young female victims in the South had suffered the same.³⁵ Even when considering only physical assault-related offences, a higher proportion of victims in the North had suffered a physical injury than in the South (63% versus 54%; data not shown).³⁶ A lower proportion of young female victims of violent crime suffered a physical injury than did young male victims also living in the North (45% versus 51%) (Chart 10).

Chart 10**Weapon presence and physical injury among police-reported violent crimes against young victims, by North/South region, Canada, 2017**

percent



1. A weapon (e.g., knife, other piercing object, club or blunt instrument, firearm or other type of weapon) was the most serious weapon present during the commission of the violent offence. Included in the percentage calculation are incidents where the presence of a weapon was reported by police as unknown (5% for young females in the North, 3% for young females in the South). Excludes data from the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns.

2. Physical force or threats were considered the most serious weapon used during the commission of the violent offence. Physical force can involve the accused using their body strength to cause bodily harm or death (e.g., choking, pushing or punching) and threats can include any gesture or vocal indication that conveys to the victim a threat that is construed to imply that death or injury is possible. Excludes data from the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns.

3. Includes physical injuries to the victim at the time of the incident or as determined through police investigation that were: minor physical injuries (did not require professional medical treatment or only some first-aid [e.g., band-aid, ice, etc.]), major physical injuries (more than 'trifling' or 'transient' in nature and required professional medical treatment or immediate transportation to a medical facility) or resulted in the death of the victim (<1%). Included in the percentage calculation are incidents where physical injury to the victim was reported by police as unknown (8% for young females in the North, 6% in the South) and incidents that did not involve weapons or physical force and subsequently could not have caused physical injury (12% for young females in the North, 14% in the South).

Note: Young victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Violent crimes against young women and girls were far less likely to involve a weapon than violence against young men and boys, whether in the North or the South (Chart 10). Though weapons were present in a nearly equal proportion of violent crimes against young females in the North and the South (both 13%; Table 11),³⁷ among these, crimes against young women and girls in the North were slightly more likely to involve a knife or cutting instrument (31% versus 29%) and less likely to involve a firearm (10% versus 13%) (data not shown). For both young women and girls in the North and the South, as well as young males in either region, a higher proportion of victims had suffered a physical injury when a weapon was present (data not shown).

Of note, higher proportions of physical injury to victims of violent crimes in the North was not unique to young women and girls; in fact, adult women, young males, and adult male victims in the North also suffered a physical injury in greater proportions (an average of 10% higher) than their southern counterparts,³⁸ even when considering only physical assault offences³⁹ (data not shown).

Young women and girls in the North most commonly violently victimized by a male older than them

According to 2017 police-reported data where an accused had been identified by police in connection with a violent crime,⁴⁰ most young women and girls aged 24 and younger in the North were victimized by a male (77%), the vast majority (82%) of whom were older than them.⁴¹ Over half (53%) of these older male assailants were more than five years older than their young female victim, and over one-third (36%) were 10 or more years older. The age differences for young female victims and their male assailants in the North were similar to that of the South (Table 12). Because of the unique differences between male and female perpetrators, female against female violent crimes in the North are explored in Text box 2.

Text box 2

Female-against-female violence

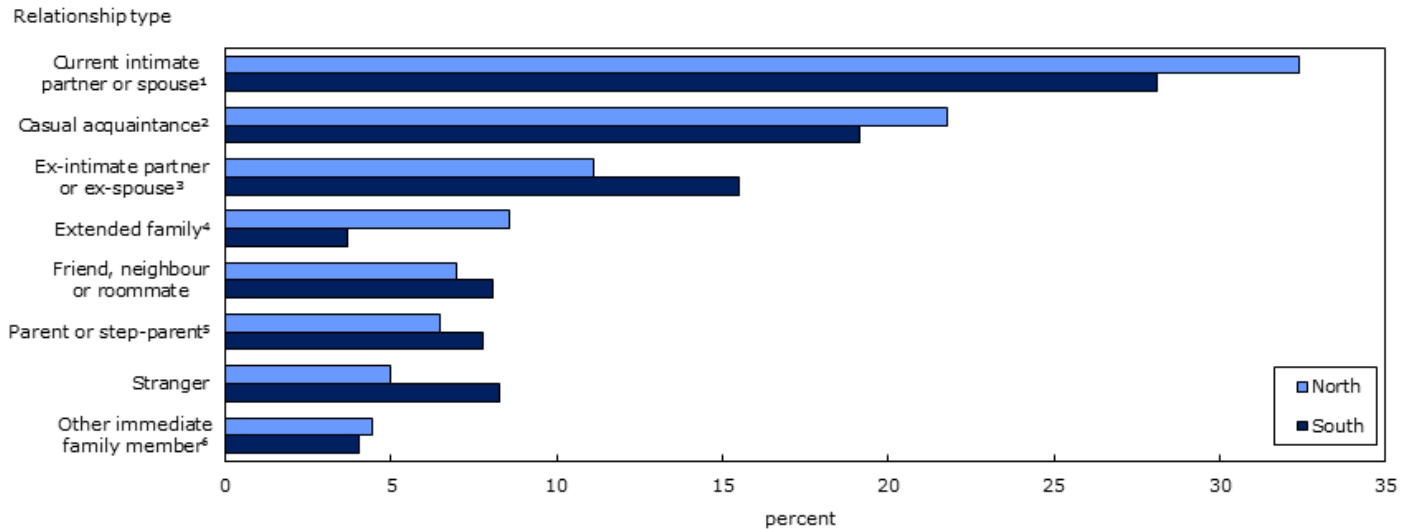
The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator in female-against-female violence is often of a very different nature than for males who victimize women or girls. In 2017, just under one-quarter (23%) of perpetrators of a police-reported violent crime against a young woman or girl in the North were also female,⁴² a higher proportion than in the South (17%).

Three-in-five (61%) females accused of a violent crime against a young female in the North were also under 25 years old like their victims, and nearly one-third (31%) were youth offenders between 12 and 17 years old, a much larger proportion than among male perpetrators of violence against a young female (13%). As a result, females accused of a violent offence against another female in the North were generally closer in age to their victim and typically skewed younger in age than males who committed a violent offence against a female (median age of 21 versus 24 years old). The findings are similar at the national level, where female offending typically peaks at a younger age than for male offenders (Savage 2019).

Female perpetrators of violence against a young female in the North were most commonly a casual acquaintance (44%), followed by a family member (28%)—most often an extended family member (11%)—or a friend, neighbour, or roommate (12%). Overall, female accused in the North were more likely to be casual acquaintances of the victim than were male accused in the North, as they were less often an intimate partner of or related to the victim (data not shown).

Violence against young women and girls in the North most often perpetrated by an intimate partner, a casual acquaintance, or family member

Overall, when considering both male and female perpetrators of a violent crime against a young female (with males representing the majority of accused in the North [77%] and in the South [83%]), victimization by a stranger was less common in the North (5%) compared with the South (8%). This may be explained by the realities of smaller communities in the North where people are more likely to know each other. The nature of victim-accused relationships were more or less consistent for young women and girls in the North compared with the South (Chart 11; Table 12), with the exception of intimate partner relationships where current partners were more common in the North rather than former partners, as well as more family members, particularly extended family.

Chart 11**Young female victims of police-reported violent crime, by most common victim-accused relationship type and North/South region, Canada, 2017**

1. Includes current spouses, current common-law partners, and those who had a close and affectionate relationship with the victim (e.g., boyfriend, girlfriend) at the time of the crime.

2. A social relationship which is neither long-term nor close; includes acquaintances known by sight only.

3. Includes former spouses, former common-law partners, and those who previously had a close and affectionate relationship with the victim (e.g., ex-boyfriend, ex-girlfriend).

4. Family related to the victim either by blood or by marriage (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sister/brother-in-law, parents-in-law, etc.).

5. Parents, step-parents and legal guardians with legal custody and care of the child.

6. Other family related to the victim, including the natural brother or sister of the victim or step/half/foster/adopted sibling.

Note: Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. Data include violent offences committed by a male or female accused against a young female victim in the North where a single victim matched to a single accused. Male perpetrators accounted for 77% of accused in the North, and 83% of accused in the South. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims and accused where sex or age was unknown. Totals will not add up to 100% because infrequent relationship types are not presented. This includes children or step-children, authority figures, business relationships, criminal relationships, other types of intimate partners, and reverse authority relationships (collectively accounting for 3% in the North and 5% in the South).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Just over two-in-five (44%) young female victims of violent crime in the North were victimized by an intimate partner, whether a current (32%) or ex-intimate partner (11%), including spouses (Chart 11). The large majority (74%) of young females in the North who were victimized by an intimate partner had been in a relationship with their assailant at the time of the crime,⁴³ while one-in-four (25%) were ex-partners⁴⁴ when the violence took place.⁴⁵ More than one-third (36%) of young females in the North who were victimized by an intimate partner had been living with their assailant when the incident occurred.⁴⁶

Although intimate partner violence accounted for an equal proportion of violent crimes against young women and girls in the North (44%) as it did in the South (44%), the status of the intimate relationship differed. Compared with the South, a larger proportion of young female victims in the North knew their assailant as a current boyfriend or girlfriend at the time of the crime (27% versus 20%) rather than as a former boyfriend or girlfriend (10% versus 12%)⁴⁷ (Table 12). Said otherwise, compared with the South, young females in the North who were subjected to violence by an intimate partner were more commonly victimized by someone they were currently dating when the violence took place (61% in the North versus 46% in the South), rather than an ex-intimate partner, which was more common in the South (22% versus 27%).

Overall, the rate of violent crimes committed by an intimate partner was three-and-a-half (3.5x) times greater for young female victims in the North than in the South (959 versus 271 victims per 100,000 population) (data not shown), which is a wider gap than for the overall rate of violent crimes committed against young women and girls in the North compared with the South (2.9x).

When broken down by sex of the accused, male perpetrators of violence against a young female in the North were most commonly an intimate partner (55%), whereas this was infrequently the case for female perpetrators (5%). As a result, compared with female perpetrators, male perpetrators of violence against a young female in the North were less commonly most other relationship types (e.g., family member [18% of male perpetrators versus 28% of female perpetrators], casual acquaintance [15% versus 44%], or a friend, neighbour, or roommate [5% versus 12%]). However, male perpetrators knew their victim more often, as a lower proportion of violent crimes against a young female in the North were committed by a male who was a stranger to the victim (4%) than they were by a female perpetrator (8%) (data not shown).

Just over one-in-five (22%) young female victims of violent crime in the North were victimized by a casual acquaintance, and another one-in-five (20%) by a family member (other than a spouse). Most family members were extended family (9%) (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters/brothers-in-law, or parents-in-law, etc.⁴⁸), followed by a parent (6%),⁴⁹ or other immediate family, namely, a sibling (e.g., brothers or sisters, including step/half/foster/adopted siblings) (4%) (Chart 11; Table 12). Just over two-in-five (42%) victims had been living with the family member who victimized them.⁵⁰

Overall, violent crimes committed against young women and girls by a family member had a rate nearly four-and-a-half (4.4x) times higher in the North than in the South (438 versus 99 victims per 100,000 population) (data not shown). In addition to a higher prevalence, a higher proportion of young female victims in the North were victimized by a family member than in the South (20% versus 16%). Among these, extended family members accounted for nearly double the proportion of assailants in the North than they did in the South (43% versus 23%), which translated to a rate of violent victimization at the hands of an extended family member more than eight (8.4x) times higher in the North (187 versus 22) (data not shown). According to Census data, Indigenous populations, particularly those in the North, are more likely to live in crowded households⁵¹ with other family members (Statistics Canada 2018); however, among victims of violent crime at the hands of a family member, young women and girls were less likely to have been living with their assailant in the North than in the South (42% versus 55%),⁵² which suggests that family violence against young women and girls in the North is not driven solely by living with more family. For more information on the living conditions of the Indigenous population, see recent Census publications (Statistics Canada 2017b; Statistics Canada 2017c; Statistics Canada 2018).

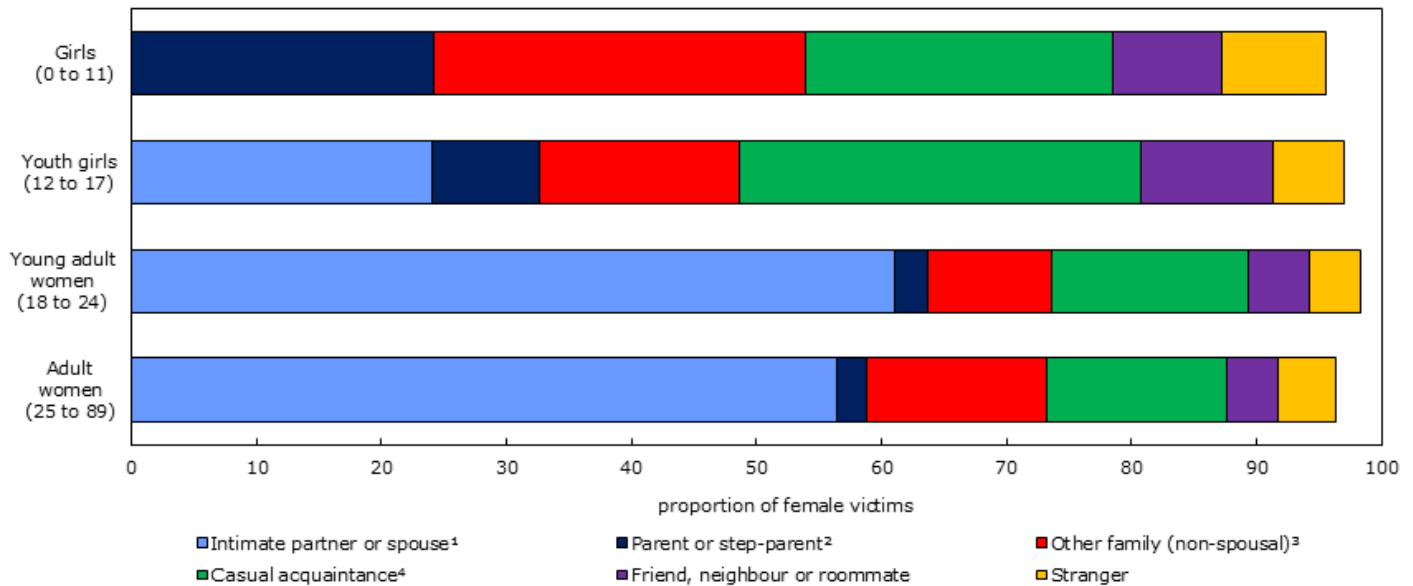
In the context of family and domestic violence, it is also important to consider how the historical mistreatment of Indigenous peoples, including the use of residential schools and forced assimilation, contributes to intergenerational trauma in the North. Violence within the family can be a consequence of the social, cultural and economic insecurities resulting from a history of exclusion, which then fuels a cycle of violence whereby victims or observers of violence become perpetrators of violence later on in life (Bombay et al. 2009; Bombay et al. 2014; Holmes and Hunt 2017; Klingspohn 2018).

Girls mostly victimized by family, young women by intimate partners

Research has established that young female victims of violence are at a greater risk than older victims for victimization at the hands of a family member (Conroy 2018). The same was the case in the North: over half (54%) of female victims under 12 years old in the North had been violently victimized by a family member (24% by a parent, 20% by extended family, and 10% by other immediate family), whereas this was less commonly the case for older victim groups (Chart 12).

Chart 12
Police-reported violent crimes against female victims in the North, by victim age group and relationship between victim and accused, Canada, 2017

Victim age group



1. Includes current or former spouses, common-law partners, and those who had a close and affectionate relationship with the victim (e.g., current or ex-boyfriend or girlfriend), or a sexual or mutual sexual attraction with the victim (e.g., one-night stand).
2. Parents, step-parents and legal guardians with legal custody and care of the child.
3. Includes family other than parents or spouses, namely family related to the victim either by blood or by marriage such as extended family (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sister/brother-in-law, parents-in-law, etc.), other immediate family (e.g., natural brother or sister of the victim or step/half/foster/adopted sibling) and children or step-children of the victim.
4. A social relationship which is neither long-term nor close; includes acquaintances known by sight only.

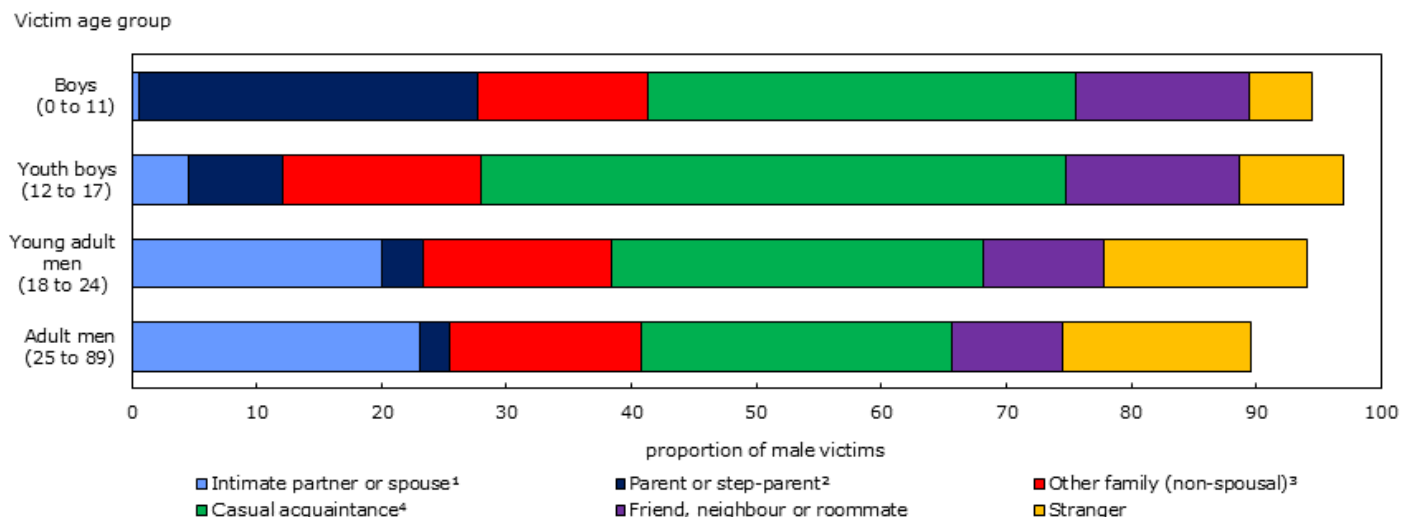
Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Data include violent offences committed by a male or female accused against a female victim in the North where a single victim matched to a single accused. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador; Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims and accused where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years. Totals will not add up to 100% because infrequent relationship types are not presented. This includes authority figures, business relationships, criminal relationships and reverse authority relationships (collectively accounting for 3% in the North).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Unlike children under 12, young girls in the North between 12 and 17 were most commonly victimized by a casual acquaintance (32%), two-thirds (67%) of whom were within five years of the victim's age. Adolescent women between 18 and 24 years old were most likely to have been victimized by an intimate partner (61%), slightly more than adult women aged 25 and older were (56%) (Chart 12). These findings were similar for females in the South (data not shown).

In addition to differences seen across age groups, the type of victim-accused relationship varied depending on the sex of the victim. Compared with boys aged 11 and younger who were victims of a violent crime in the North, girls in the North were more often related to their assailant as immediate or extended family members (excluding parents) (30% versus 14%) (Chart 12; Chart 13). For victims approaching their teenage years, young girls and boys aged 12 to 17 were both most commonly victimized by a casual acquaintance (32% versus 47%), but girls were victimized far more often by an intimate partner (24% versus 5%). The same latter finding was true for young and older adult women and men, as the majority of perpetrators of violence against women 18 years and older in the North were intimate partners, while this was less frequently the case for men, who were instead more commonly victimized by a casual acquaintance.

Chart 13
Police-reported violent crimes against male victims in the North, by victim age group and relationship between victim and accused, Canada, 2017



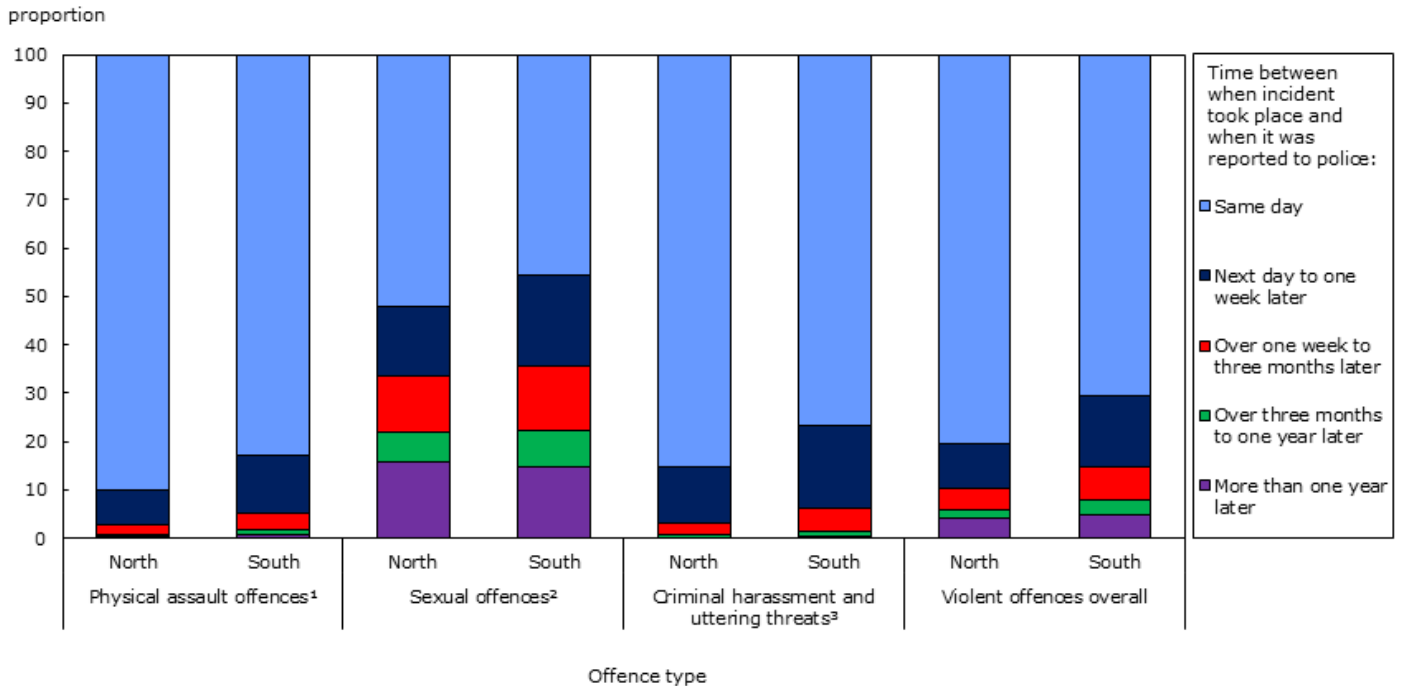
1. Includes current or former spouses, common-law partners, and those who had a close and affectionate relationship with the victim (e.g., current or ex-boyfriend or girlfriend), or a sexual or mutual sexual attraction with the victim (e.g., one-night stand).
 2. Parents, step-parents and legal guardians with legal custody and care of the child.
 3. Includes family other than parents or spouses, namely family related to the victim either by blood or by marriage such as extended family (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sister/brother-in-law, parents-in-law, etc.), other immediate family (e.g., natural brother or sister of the victim or step/half/foster/adopted sibling) and children or step-children of the victim.
 4. A social relationship which is neither long-term nor close; includes acquaintances known by sight only.
Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Data include violent offences committed by a male or female accused against a male victim in the North where a single victim matched to a single accused. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims and accused where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years. Totals will not add up to 100% because infrequent relationship types are not presented. This includes authority figures, business relationships, criminal relationships and reverse authority relationships (collectively accounting for 9% in the North).
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Violent crimes against young women and girls came to the attention of police sooner in the North than in the South

The time between when a crime occurs and when it is brought to the attention of police can be a crucial investigational challenge that has implications on justice outcomes. Long delays in reporting a violent crime to police have been associated with a lower likelihood of going to court and a lower chance of criminal conviction (Rotenberg 2017b). In 2017, among violent crimes against young women and girls in the North that were brought to the attention of police and founded as a crime, they tended to be reported to police sooner after they occurred than they were in the South.

In the North, four-in-five (80%) violent crimes were reported to police on the same day the crime took place, compared with just over two-thirds (71%) in the South (Chart 14).⁵³ It is important to note that, given the familiarity of residents in smaller communities with one-another, more crimes may come to the attention of police in the North as a result. Also, as the findings from this study have shown, violent crimes committed against young women and girls in the North that are reported to police tend to be more serious and more severe in nature than those reported in the South, which may influence shorter reporting delays. In addition, a delay in reporting is not necessarily a reflection of the victim choosing to wait to report the incident to police—rather, bringing a crime to the attention of police can be done by any party, including the victim, a parent or guardian, or a third party.

Chart 14
Delay in reporting violent crimes against young female victims to police, by offence type and North/South region, Canada, 2017



1. Includes physical assault (level 1, 2 and 3) and other assault-related offences.

2. Includes sexual assault (level 1, 2 and 3), sexual violations against children and other sexual offences.

3. Includes criminal harassment, uttering threats and indecent/harassing communications.

Note: Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. The incident date is the date the incident is known or believed to have occurred. Excludes incidents whose report dates were erroneously reported as prior to the incident date (<1%). The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Delay in reporting a crime to police also varies greatly depending on the nature of the crime and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. As is consistent with other research (Rotenberg 2017a), sexual offences against young women and girls had the longest delays in reporting, whether in the North or the South, as did those involving family members, while shorter delays in reporting were seen for physical assault offences. Although the North had proportionally more physical assault-related offences than the South (63% versus 47%), the higher proportion of same-day reporting among young women and girl victims of violent crime in the North was not driven by more physical assaults. Rather, more violent crimes were brought to the attention of police in the North on the same day they occurred regardless of the offence type (Chart 14).

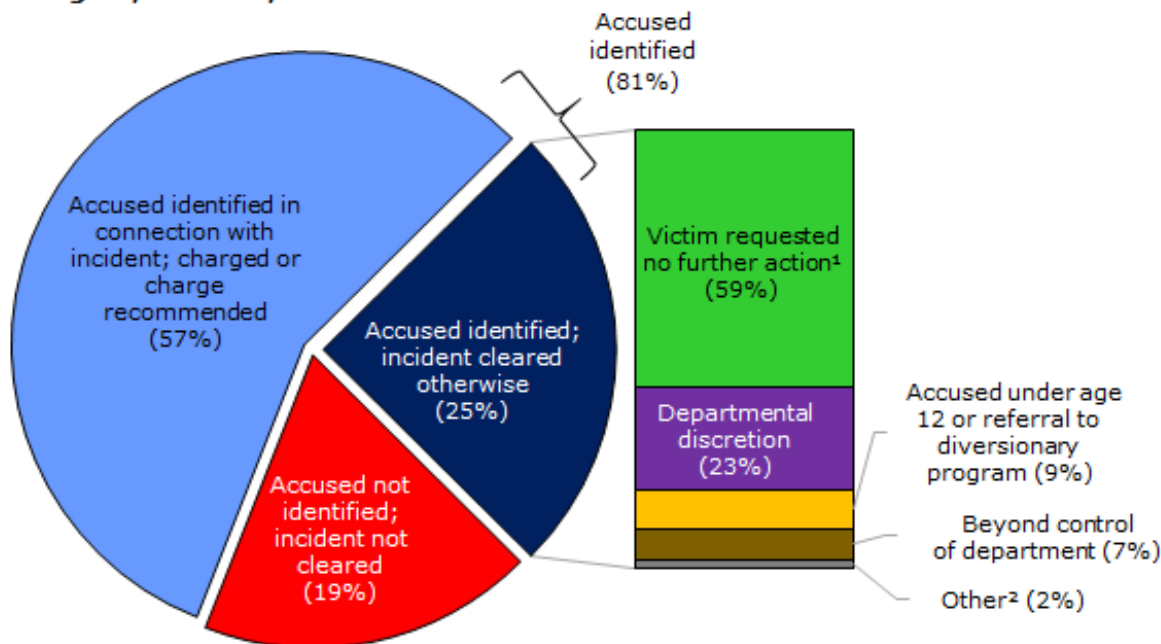
Around half (52%) of sexual offences against young women and girls in the North were reported to police on the same day they took place, compared with just under half (46%) for young females in the South. However, of sexual offences reported later than the day of, the median delay in reporting was nearly twice as long for female victims in the North (57.5 days) than for female victims in the South (33 days). This gap may be driven in part by the increased rates of sexual offences at the hands of a family member, particularly extended family members, among young women and girls in the North. More than one-third (35%) of sexual offences against young females in the North committed by a family member were reported to police over one month after the incident, compared with just under one-quarter (23%) of those involving a perpetrator who was not related to the victim (data not shown). The significant psychological barriers to reporting one's sexual victimization at the hands of a family member to authorities are well established in the literature (Felson and Paré 2005; London et al. 2008).

Police more likely to identify accused in violent crimes against young women and girls in the North than in the South

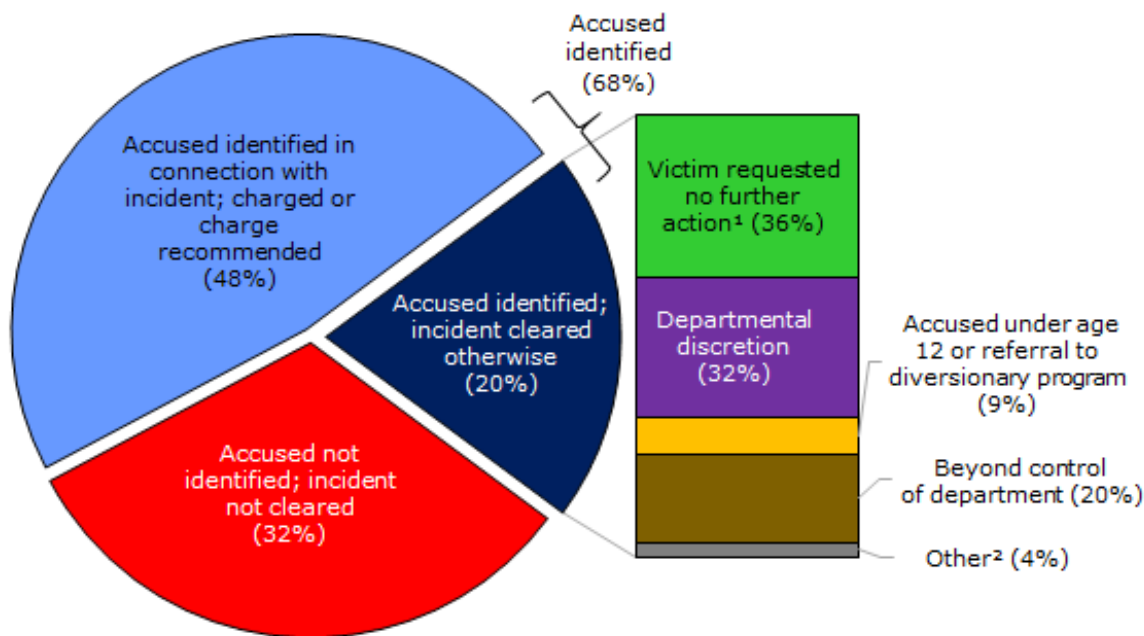
In 2017, young female victims of violent police-reported crime were far more likely to see their accused identified by police in connection with the crime in the North than in the South (81% versus 68%) (Chart 15). This may be explained as a product of the realities of smaller communities where victims more often know their assailant, which can make it easier for police to identify an accused. This North/South gap was also observed among male victims, as young male victims of violent crime were more likely to see their accused identified by police in the North (79%) than were young male victims in the South (62%) (data not shown).

Chart 15
Clearance status of police-reported violent crimes against young female victims, by North/South region, Canada, 2017

North



South



1. Includes incidents where an accused person was known and sufficient evidence was obtained to support the laying of a charge, but the complainant refused to proceed with charges against the accused. As a result, police used discretion to not lay or recommend a charge.

2. Includes accused involved in other criminal incidents, death or suicide of accused or victim, accused committed to a mental hospital, accused already sentenced, accused outside of Canada, or the accused was cleared by another municipal/provincial/federal agency or a lesser statute.

Note: Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. Incidents include violent offences reported and founded by police. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

When an accused was identified, violent crimes against young women in the North and South were equally likely to result in a criminal charge

According to 2017 police-reported violent crimes where an accused was identified by police, there was no difference in the proportion of criminal charges laid⁵⁴ in incidents involving young female victims in the North compared with those in the South (69% versus 70%).

Charge rates varied depending on the nature and characteristics of the crime and the parties involved. The proportion of violent crimes against a young female in the North that resulted in a criminal charge tended to be lower when: the victim was a child under 12 years old; the offence was criminal harassment or threat-related; there was a delay of over one year in reporting the crime to police; the victim did not suffer a physical injury; no weapons were present during the crime; the incident took place on school property, in a bar or restaurant, in an open area, in northern Quebec,⁵⁵ in the Yukon, or in southern Quebec; or the accused was female, a youth offender between 12 and 17 years old, a casual acquaintance, a friend, neighbour, or roommate, or related to the victim, particularly as a sibling (data not shown).

When an accused is identified in connection with a crime but not criminally charged, the case can be cleared by police for a number of reasons. Among violent crimes committed against a young female that were cleared otherwise, the most common reason for clearing without a criminal charge in the North was due to the victim requesting that no further action be taken⁵⁶ (59%), which was much higher than in the South (36%) (Chart 15). This may again be driven in part by the degree of familiarity and nature of the relationship between the victim and their assailant.

There are a number of reasons why victims may request that no further action be taken in a criminal case against their assailant, including: fear of retribution by the offender, not believing the offence was serious enough, a belief that evidence against the accused would be insufficient, not wanting to participate in an ongoing investigation, ongoing stress and emotional trauma related to the violence and having to recount the details of the crime throughout the judicial process, having a pre-existing close or family relationship with the offender, and, for parents of younger victims, opting out of pursuing the case on their child's behalf in effort to protect them from further stress (Dawson and Dinovitzer 2001; Parkinson et al. 2002). Some of these reasons may be even more relevant in remote northern communities where avoiding the assailant among others who may be aware of the case may be more difficult.

For young female victims in the North, victims requesting that no further action be taken was more common for criminal harassment or threat-related offences (25%), violence that involved an accused who was related to the victim (33%), crimes that did not result in physical injury to the victim (21%), or crimes that took place in northern Manitoba (25%), northern Quebec (22%)⁵⁷ or the territories (27%), specifically the Northwest Territories (34%) (data not shown).

While these data are limited to charges laid or recommended at the police level and not a reflection of charge outcomes in criminal court, other research, specifically on sexual assault attrition rates, has found that the proportion of charged cases going to court in the territories is typically higher in the Yukon than the Canadian average, but lower in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (Rotenberg 2017b). However, of sexual assaults that went to court, conviction rates were notably higher in all three territories compared with the southern provinces (Rotenberg 2017b).

Homicides in the North

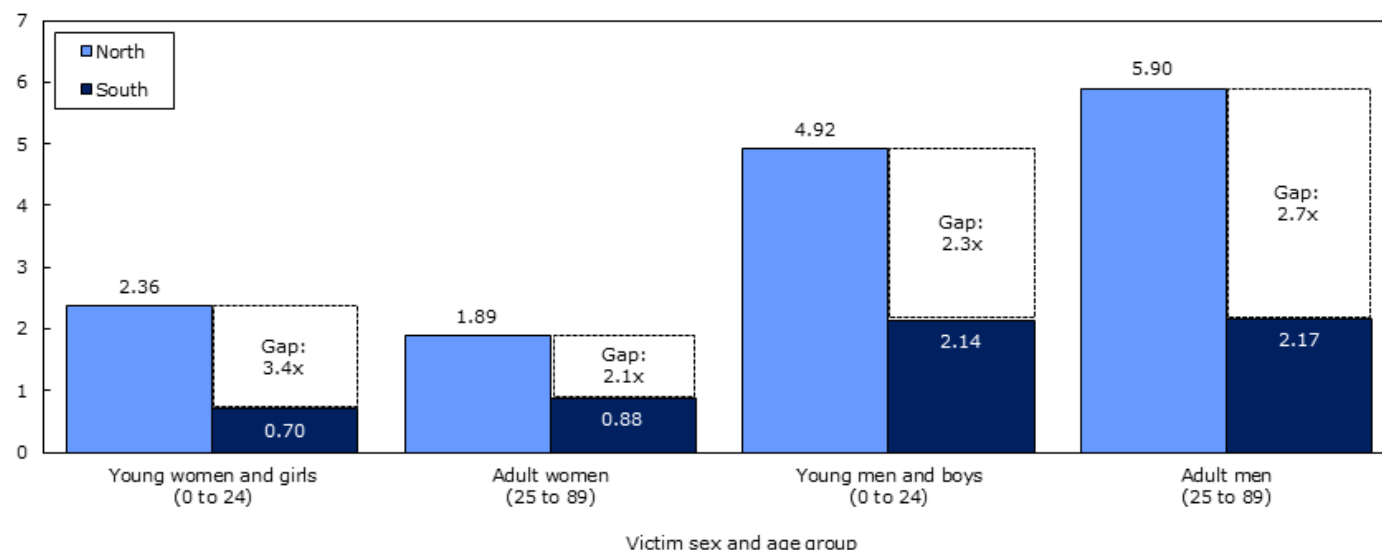
North/South homicide rate gap widest for young women and girls aged 24 and younger

From 2009 to 2017, there were 74 young women and girls in the North who had been the victim of a police-reported homicide.⁵⁸ Overall, 14% of all female homicide victims in Canada were killed in the North, over one-third (37%) of whom were aged 24 and younger. For reference, in 2017, 6% of all females in Canada resided in the North, less than one-third (31%) of whom were aged 24 and younger.⁵⁹

Compared with the South, a higher proportion of young victims of homicides from 2009 to 2017 in the North were female (31% versus 24%). On average, homicide rates for young women and girls were more than three (3.4x) times higher in the North than in the South (Chart 16). Adult women, young men and boys, and adult men in the North also had a higher homicide rate than their southern counterparts, though the North/South gap was not as wide.

Chart 16
Police-reported homicide rates, by victim sex and age group, and North/South region, Canada, 2009 to 2017

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Rates represent the average rate across a nine-year period between 2009 and 2017. The rate gap represents how many times greater the homicide rate was in the North compared with the South, for a given victim sex and age group. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

When broken down further by age group, teenage girls aged 12 to 17 had the widest North/South disparity with a homicide rate close to seven (6.6x) times higher in the North (3.18 victims per 100,000 population) than in the South (0.48). That said, it is important to consider the low baseline figures used in the calculation of these rates when interpreting the findings (see Table 13). Of note, males were victims of homicide at higher rates than females regardless of age group or North/South region, though the gap was smaller among children.

Although Indigenous people represent a minority (5%) of the Canadian population (Statistics Canada 2018), research has consistently found that young Indigenous women and girls are overrepresented among victims of homicide (Conroy 2018; David 2017). A recent report on the national picture of violence against young women and girls found that from 2007 to 2017, one-third (34%) of young female victims of homicide were Aboriginal (Conroy 2018). This proportion was even higher in the North: in the current study, three-in-four (56 victims, or 76%) of the 74 young female victims of homicide in the North were identified as Aboriginal. More specifically, 25 (34%) girls and young women who were victims of homicide in the North were First Nations, 9 (12%) were Inuit, and 1 (1%) was Métis. The remaining 21 (28%) Aboriginal girls and young women were recorded as Aboriginal but it was not known to which identity group they belonged. In the South, one-in-four (25%) young female victims had been identified as Aboriginal (data not shown).^{60, 61}

Four-in-five (81%) homicides of young female victims in the North from 2009 to 2017 resulted in a criminal charge or were recommended for charge by police. The charge rate was slightly lower for young female victims in the South (79%) (data not shown).

For more information related to homicides in the North, see Statistics Canada's homicide publications which provide data by victim Aboriginal identity (David 2017; Hotton Mahony et al. 2017; Miladinovic and Mulligan 2015) as well as other publications that offer important context on the intersection of gender and Indigenous identity (Dawson et al. 2018; Native Women's Association of Canada 2010; Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2014).

Over half of young female victims of homicide in the North were killed by a male intimate partner or a family member

From 2009 to 2017, the vast majority (87%) of young girls and women in the North who were victims of a solved homicide⁶² were killed by a male accused, most (60%) of whom were also aged 24 and younger.⁶³ Victims almost always knew the person who killed them, as only 3% of homicides were perpetrated by a stranger (Table 14). Over one-third (38%) of young female victims in the North had been killed by an intimate partner (including current or former spouses), one-quarter (26%) by a casual acquaintance, and another quarter (25%) by a family member.

Compared with young women and girl victims of homicide in the South, female victims in the North were more likely to be killed by someone who: was male (87% versus 74%), aged 24 and younger (62% versus 39%), was known to them (97% versus 90%),⁶⁴ was their intimate partner (38% versus 32%), had consumed alcohol and/or drugs prior to the crime (86% versus 62%),⁶⁵ and who had a previous criminal conviction (56% versus 47%)⁶⁶ (Table 14). Use of an intoxicating substance prior to the homicide was also more common among young female victims in the North than in the South (62% versus 37%) (data not shown).⁶⁷ Young female victims in the North were also more commonly killed following an argument or quarrel (38% versus 22%),⁶⁸ and by beating or blows (34% versus 23%)⁶⁹ (data not shown).

Summary

In 2017, young women and girls aged 24 and younger in the North represented about 7% of the young female population across Canada, but accounted for 17% of all young female victims of police-reported violent crimes. Consequently, young women and girls in the North were victims of violent crimes at three times the rate of their female counterparts in the South. They were also victimized at higher rates than adult women in the North, as well as males of all ages in the North and the South. Said otherwise, young women and girls living in northern Canada are the most at-risk group for violence.

Previous research has established that, when compared with young men and boys, young women and girls are disproportionately victims of violence in Canada overall (Conroy 2018). The present study found that this gap was even wider for young women and girls in the North, where they were victims of violent crime at a rate nearly twice as high than for young males in the North (3,643 versus 2,090 victims per 100,000), compared with a narrower gap in victimization between sexes in the South (1,235 versus 954). Beyond routine provincial and territorial crime reporting which shows that the territories are home to the highest violent crime rates in Canada (Allen 2018; Savage 2019), the North/South geographical breakdown applied in this report revealed that northern Saskatchewan—which is entirely rural—and northern Manitoba had the highest rates of violent crimes against young females, higher than each of the three territories.

Most violent crimes against young women and girls in the North were perpetrated by a man, the vast majority of whom were older than their victim. Perpetrators of violence were almost always someone known to the victim rather than a stranger, most commonly an intimate partner, a casual acquaintance, or a family member, particularly extended family members, which was more common in the North than in the South.

The majority of violent crimes against young women and girls in the North consisted of physical assault-related offences, which contributed to much of the North/South gap in violent crime rate. Young female victims of violent crimes in the North were more likely to suffer a physical injury as a result of the crime compared with those in the South. Although violent crimes against young females in the North were generally more severe and serious in nature, they were typically reported to police sooner and resulted in a criminal charge more often than violent crimes in the South. This was due in part to the fact that the identification of an accused in connection with the crime was far more common in the North. An exception, however, was noted for young female victims of sexual offences who reported at least one day after the crime, where the delay in reporting was twice as long for those in the North than in the South.

It is important to recall that this report includes crimes that come to the attention of and are founded by police. Other research has shown how violent crimes against young women and girls go largely unreported, with around 1 in 10 (11%^E) violent incidents experienced by female victims aged 15 to 24 years old reported to the police in 2014 (Conroy 2018; Conroy and Cotter 2017; Sinha 2015). Further, reporting to police may be more of a barrier in the North given the realities of lack of help or assistance for victims (such as victims' services programs) in rural or remote areas (House of Commons Canada 2019), especially in situations of family or intimate partner violence (Edwards 2014). Coupled with lower confidence in police among Indigenous groups (Cotter 2015), these social and demographic factors should be considered for their role in the underreporting of violent crimes to police. As such, the true incidence of violence against young women and girls in the North is likely far greater than the figures and rates reported by police.

The findings presented in this report echo those of past research studies that highlight the increased prevalence and severity of violent crimes against young women and girls in the more remote and northern areas of Canada. Future research on violent crimes against young women and girls with a particular focus on Indigenous populations would be of additional value in providing insight on trends and characteristics of victims and accused involved in the ongoing social issue of violence against females in these communities.

Text box 3**Summary of key differences between young female victims of violent crime in the North and the South**

Compared with young women and girls aged 24 and younger in southern Canada, according to police-reported violent crimes in 2017, young women and girls in the North were:

- Nearly three (2.9x) times more likely to be a victim of a police-reported violent crime overall.
 - Nearly three-and-a-half (3.4x) times more likely to be a victim of homicide and other offences causing death.
 - Nearly four (3.9x) times more likely to be a victim of a physical assault-related offence.
 - More than two (2.3x) times more likely to be a victim of a crime of a sexual nature.
 - Nearly two (1.9x) times more likely to be a victim of a criminal harassment offence.
- Victims of violent crimes well beyond the peak age of victimization (15 years old), with rates remaining consistently high until their thirties.

Compared with their young female counterparts in the South, a greater proportion of young women and girl victims of police-reported violent crimes in the North:

- Were victimized by someone they knew (95% versus 92%), including a family member (20% versus 16%).
- Had reported the crime to police sooner after it took place (with 80% versus 71% reported on the same day of the crime).
- Had suffered a physical injury (45% versus 32%).
- Had their assailant identified by police in connection with the crime (81% versus 68%) and as a result, a greater proportion saw their accused criminally charged or recommended for charge (57% versus 48%).
- Requested that no further action in pursuance of criminal charges be taken (59% versus 36%, of cases where accused was identified but not charged).

On a geographical level, young women and girls had the highest rates of police-reported violent crimes in:

- Rural areas in the North (5,023 victims per 100,000 population), with a rate over twice (2.1x) that of urban areas in the North (2,354), and over three (3.3x) times that of rural areas in the South (1,526).
- Northern Saskatchewan (13,886), followed by northern Manitoba (9,025). These were between five and six times higher than their respective southern areas, and both notably higher than the territories (7,232).
- Within the territories, the Northwest Territories had the highest rate (8,909), followed by Nunavut (7,491) and Yukon (4,356).

Survey description**Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey**

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, police services in Canada. Information includes characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 2017, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada. The count for a particular year represents incidents reported during that year, regardless of when the incident actually occurred.

One incident can involve multiple offences. In order to ensure comparability, counts are presented based on the most serious offence in the incident as determined by a standard classification rule used by all police services. Counts based on all violations are available upon request.

Victim age is calculated based on the end date of an incident, as reported by the police. Some victims experience violence over a period of time, sometimes years, all of which may be considered by the police to be part of one continuous incident. Information about the number and dates of individual incidents for these victims of continuous violence is not available. Counts represent the number of victims involved in incidents of violence. It is possible that individual victims may have experienced more than one incident, and would therefore be counted more than once here.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects detailed information on all homicide that has come to the attention of, and has been substantiated by, police services in Canada. Information includes characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Since 1961 when recording began, coverage for the Homicide Survey has represented 100% of homicide in Canada. The count for a particular year represents homicide reported during that year, regardless of when the homicide actually occurred.

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Notes

^E use with caution.

1. Canada's Indigenous people include those who identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit. In some cases throughout this article, the term "Aboriginal" is used instead of "Indigenous" in order to remain consistent with the terminology that was used for the cited data sources or survey concepts.
2. Crime rates in the territories are often contrasted with crime rates in the Canadian provinces (see, for example, Statistics Canada's annual Canadian crime statistics publications: Allen 2018; Keighley 2017). While these routine crime rate comparisons are of great value on a provincial and territorial level, it is important to consider how, within the provinces, crime rates in the more remote northern areas can be vastly different from those in the more populated northern areas.
3. At the time of writing, data on the Aboriginal identity of a victim or person accused of a violent crime other than homicide is not consistently reported.
4. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division that were provided to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics for the purposes of calculating crime rates per population in combination with Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey data. These population figures may not equate to the most current Census figures.
5. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division that were provided to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics for the purposes of calculating crime rates per population in combination with UCR Survey data. These population figures may not equate to the most current Census figures.
6. Crime data reported by police include only offences that were reported to and deemed founded by police as a criminal incident. This excludes incidents that were deemed 'unfounded'. An incident is classified as unfounded if police investigation determined that the reported offence did not occur, nor was it attempted. For more information on founded and unfounded incidents of crime, see *Revising the collection of founded and unfounded criminal incidents in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey* (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 2018) and *Unfounded criminal incidents in Canada, 2017* (Greenland and Cotter 2018).
7. Though the definition was established in 2014, North/South categories can be applied back to 2009 data from the UCR Survey and Homicide Survey.
8. More information on police-reported crimes in the North including non-violent offences can be found in Allen and Perreault (2015).
9. Non-violent offences such as theft and fraud, and other forms of conduct not covered by the *Criminal Code*, are not included. For a list of violent offences covered in this report, see Table 3.
10. Other *Criminal Code* offences in the North most commonly included: disturb the peace (47%), failure to comply with order (27%), breach of probation (10%) and failure to appear (5%).
11. For context, in 2017, most of the female population aged 24 and younger in the North resided specifically in the Provincial North (93%), that is, in the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, rather than in the three territories (7%). Most (87%) 2017 police-reported violent crimes against young women and girls in the North took place in the Provincial North, while 13% occurred in the territories.
12. Excludes victims whose age or sex were reported as unknown, or where the age of the victim was older than 89 years.
13. It is also worth noting that females overall (aged 0 to 89) represented a higher proportion of victims of violent crime in the North (57%) than they did in the South (52%). That said, this was mostly driven by adult women as younger female victims aged 24 and younger were nearly equally represented in both regions (39% versus 38%).
14. North/South indicators are available for incident trend analysis back to 2009.

15. The rate of police-reported violent sexual offences against young women and girls increased from: 646 victims per 100,000 population in 2009 to 851 in 2017 in the North, and from 284 in 2009 to 374 in 2017 in the South.
16. "Data not shown" signifies that for at least one of the figures provided in-text, the baseline totals or corresponding data is not provided in a table or chart in this report.
17. Physical assault-related offences include: level 1 physical assault, level 2 physical assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, level 3 aggravated physical assault, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace-public officer, assault against a peace-public officer with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault against a peace-public officer, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to or causing bodily harm, and other assaults.
18. Most of these constituted level 1 physical assault offences (79% for both North and South) which young women and girls in the North were victims of at a rate nearly four times that of their southern counterparts (1,804 versus 459 victims per 100,000 population). However, for level 3 aggravated physical assaults (which represented about 1% of all physical assault-related offences for women and girls in either region), the rate in the North was seven times higher than in the South (34 versus 5).
19. Physical assault has three levels: level 1 assault, also referred to as common assault, which includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats; level 2 assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, which involves carrying, using or threatening to use a weapon against someone or causing someone bodily harm; and level 3 aggravated assault, which involves wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of someone.
20. Most of the 12,036 young female victims of police-reported violent crime in the North had been victims of a physical assault-related offence (63%), of which most (79%) were level 1 physical assaults specifically. Another one-in-four (24%) were victims of a sexual offence, over half (57%) of whom were victims of a level 1 sexual assault, which typically involve violations of a sexual nature without a weapon or evidence of bodily harm, and almost 4 in 10 (38%) were victims of a sexual offence against a child. Another 1 in 10 (10%) young female victims of violent crime had been the victim of a criminal harassment or threat-related offence, and the remaining (4%) were victims of other types of violent offences (see Table 6).
21. Estimate has a coefficient of variation of 16.6% to 33.3%. This estimate should therefore be used with caution.
22. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA).
23. A rural area is defined as all areas outside of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs). This includes remote, rural, and small town areas (RSTs). An RST refers to the population living outside the commuting zone of larger population centres. RSTs include all municipalities with populations of 1,000 to 9,999 and rural areas, where less than 50% of the employed individuals commute to the core of a CMA or CA. This definition differs from "Census rural" which is based on population size and density.
24. Excludes Kativik Regional Police Force in Kuujuaq, Quebec due to data quality concerns.
25. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. A census agglomeration (CA) must have a core population of at least 10,000.
26. Data is based on urban/rural categories on the UCR Survey which is determined by the majority of population served by the police service. This classification may not equate to census classifications.
27. The number of cities, townships, and communities are based on police services reporting to the UCR Survey in 2017. The most populated towns and communities in the rural North include, for example: Domaine-du-Roy Region (Quebec), Grande Prairie (rural section, Alberta), Peace River (Alberta), West Parry Sound (Ontario), Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (Ontario), St. Paul (Alberta), Fort Vermillion (Alberta), Bonnyville (Alberta), Sturgeon Falls (Ontario), and Smithers (British Columbia).
28. Grande Prairie, Alberta, has both an urban and a rural area.
29. Note that, according to the Conference Board of Canada's (2014) Centre for the North definition of the North and Statistics Canada urban/rural definition (see endnotes 22 and 23), northern Saskatchewan does not have an urban area; it is considered entirely rural. The urban parts of Saskatchewan are in southern Saskatchewan. Nunavut and the northern region of Newfoundland and Labrador are also entirely rural and do not have an urban area.
30. Because data are broken down by multiple levels of geography, caution should be used when interpreting differences in rates as there may be greater variability when population and/or incident counts are lower, in addition to a small number of police services (in some cases only one) responsible for policing an area. Of note, northern Saskatchewan (which is entirely rural), the rural areas of the Northwest Territories, and urban northern Manitoba also had the highest violent crime rates for victims overall in 2017 (data not shown).
31. For example, physical assault has three levels where the highest level (level 3) involves overt physical violence that wounds or endangers the life of the victim, while the lowest (level 1) involves pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats. Other violent offences such as criminal harassment and uttering threats may less frequently involve physical contact violence but are still considered violent offences.

32. Rates of police-reported physical assault offences committed against young persons aged 24 and younger in the North in 2017, for female versus male victims: level 1 physical assault (1,804 young female versus 1,068 young male victims per 100,000 population; rate for females was 1.7x higher than for males); level 2 physical assault (417 versus 454; 0.9x), level 3 physical assault (34 versus 46; 0.7x).

33. Rates of police-reported homicide and other offences causing death committed against young persons aged 24 and younger in the North in 2017 was 3.33 victims per 100,000 for young females, compared with 5.11 for young males (Table 3; Table 4).

34. Nearly all (97%) physical injuries suffered by young female victims of violent crime in the North were classified by police as minor injuries that did not require professional medical treatment, or required only some first-aid (e.g., band-aid, ice, etc.). The remaining 3% were reported as major physical injuries that were more than 'trifling' or 'transient' in nature and required professional medical treatment or immediate transportation to a medical facility. Less than 1% (0.2%) of physical injuries resulted in the death of the victim. This distribution of level of physical injury was virtually the same for young female victims of a violent crime in the South.

35. Included in the percentage calculation are incidents where physical injury to the victim was reported by police as unknown (8% in the North, 6% in the South) and incidents that did not involve weapons or physical force and subsequently could not have caused physical injury (12% in the North, 14% in the South).

36. Physical injuries resulting from sexual offences were less common, and there was less of a gap between the North and the South (17% in the North versus 15% in the South).

37. Included in the percentage calculation are incidents where the type of weapon was reported by police as unknown (5% in the North, 3% in the South). Excludes data from the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns.

38. Proportion of victims who suffered a physical injury as a result of a violent crime: adult women aged 25 and older (50% in the North versus 39% in the South); young males aged 24 and younger (51% versus 41%); adult men aged 25 and older (51% versus 42%). The average gap in percentage points between the North and South regions for these three groups was 10%.

39. Proportion of victims of a physical assault-related offence who suffered a physical injury: adult women aged 25 and older (61% in the North versus 55% in the South); young males aged 24 and younger (62% versus 55%); adult men aged 25 and older (61% versus 54%). The average gap in percentage points between the North and South regions for these three groups was 7%.

40. Includes incidents with a single victim and a single accused. Those with more than one victim or accused are excluded in order to avoid the methodological issue of confounding characteristics for incidents with multiple persons involved. Although accused-only analysis can be done at the multiple-accused level, for continuity and simplicity of presented figures, all subsequent accused or victim-accused data in this report are based on incidents with a single accused and a single victim. Multiple-record exclusions represent 19% of young female victims aged 0 to 24 in the North and 19% of their accused. Excludes victims or accused whose age or sex were reported as unknown or older than 89 years.

41. Requires that the accused be at least one year older in age than the victim at the time of the incident, as per the apparent age of the parties as reported by police. This could include parties less than a full year apart if birthdates are close but age on the date of the incident identified them as one year apart.

42. Includes incidents involving a single victim and a single accused.

43. Includes current boyfriend or girlfriend (61% of cases involving an intimate partner) and current spouse (13%).

44. Includes ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend (22% of cases involving an intimate partner) and former spouse (3%) (i.e., separated or divorced).

45. The remaining 1% involved other types of intimate relationships where the victim had a sexual or a mutual sexual attraction to the accused but none of the other relationship options applied. This can include a 'one-night stand' or otherwise a person with whom the victim had a brief sexual relationship with.

46. About half (48%) of young females in the North victimized by a past or current intimate partner were reportedly not living with their assailant at the time of the crime. The living situation was reported by police as unknown for the remaining 16%.

47. Note that the vast majority (97%) of persons accused of a violent crime against a young female in the North who were identified as the current or former 'boyfriend or girlfriend' of the victim were male. This was also the case in the South (98%).

48. Detailed family relationship types beyond 'extended family' are not reported on the UCR Survey and thus the specific relationship type cannot be determined.

49. Includes parents (5%) (natural father, mother, or legal guardian) and step-parents (1%).

50. Another two-in-five (41%) young females in the North who were victimized by a family member were reportedly not living with their assailant at the time of the crime. The living situation was reported by police as unknown for the remaining 17%.

51. According to the National Occupancy Standard, which was developed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, crowded households are defined as housing where the dwelling does not have enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household.

52. The victim-accused living situation was reported by police as unknown for 17% of young female victims of violent crime who were victimized by a family member in the North and for 9% of victims in the South.
53. The delay in reporting is measured using the time elapsed between the date the incident occurred and the date it was reported to police. The incident date is the date when the crime is known or believed to have occurred. The report date is the date when the incident became known by the police or was reported to the police. Excludes incidents whose report dates were erroneously reported as prior to the incident date (<1%).
54. Includes criminal incidents that were charged by police or where a charge was recommended by police in provinces where the Crown is responsible for laying a charge (British Columbia, Quebec, and New Brunswick). The Crown reserves the right to deny or dismiss a charge, data for which is not currently available from 2017 police-reported data.
55. Excludes Kativik Regional Police Force in Kuujuaq, Quebec due to data quality concerns.
56. While the decision to lay a criminal charge on an accused rests with the police service and/or the Crown, a victim may decline to proceed with the investigation. In these cases, charges may not be laid as it can be challenging for police and/or the Crown to gather sufficient evidence without victim collaboration. As a result, police used discretion to not lay or recommend a charge.
57. Excludes Kativik Regional Police Force in Kuujuaq, Quebec due to data quality concerns.
58. Due to sample size and the more recent availability of the North/South incident indicator, homicide data from 2009 to 2017 are combined for analysis. In 2017, there were 32 female victims of homicide in the North, 10 of whom were aged 24 and younger.
59. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division that were provided to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics for the purposes of calculating crime rates per population in combination with UCR Survey data. These population figures may not equate to the most current Census figures.
60. Includes victims whose Aboriginal identity was not collected or reported as unknown (0% in the North, 1% in the South).
61. For more information on homicide and Aboriginal women, see *What Their Stories Tell Us: Research Findings from the Sisters in Spirit Initiative* (Native Women's Association of Canada 2010) and *Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview* (Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2014).
62. Includes homicides that were reported to and cleared by police (i.e., an accused was identified in connection with the homicide).
63. Includes homicides of young women and girls in the North who were the only victim in the incident, and whose assailant was the only accused (single victim and single accused; 61 victims from 2009 to 2017).
64. Includes all relationship types apart from stranger. Includes unknowns (<1% in the North and the South).
65. Includes consumption of an intoxicating substance, whether alcohol, drugs, or both, whether legal or illegal, or an intoxicating substance other than alcohol or conventional drugs (e.g., glue, gas, solvents), as well as consumption of an unknown type of intoxicating substance with the intent of becoming intoxicated, as reported by police. Excludes accused whose consumption of an intoxicating substance was reported by police as unknown, which was more common in the South (33%) than in the North (7%). If unknowns are included, the proportion of persons accused of killing a young female in 2017 who had consumed an intoxicating substance was 80% in the North and 41% in the South. Data are based on homicides where there was only one person accused in the incident (single accused) and only one victim (single victim).
66. Includes accused whose previous criminal conviction history was unknown (0% in the North and less than 1% in the South). Data are based on homicides where there was only one person accused in the incident (single accused) and only one victim (single victim).
67. Excludes victims whose consumption of an intoxicating substance was reported by police as unknown, which was slightly less common in the North (15%) than in the South (18%). If unknowns are included, the proportion of young female victims of homicide in 2017 who had consumed an intoxicating substance was 53% in the North and 30% in the South. Data are based on all young female victims in a homicide incident (includes multiple victims).
68. Includes homicides where the motive of the accused was reported as unknown (0% in the North and 8% in the South). Data are based on homicides where there was only one person accused in the incident (single accused) and only one victim (single victim).
69. Includes victims whose cause of death was unknown (2% in the North and 3% in the South). Data are based on homicides where there was only one person accused in the incident (single accused) and only one victim (single victim).

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Overrepresentation of young females among victims of police-reported violent crimes in the North, Canada, 2017

Population and age group	Population ¹			Victims ²			Percent difference ⁴
	Canada number	Young females (0 to 24) in the North number	Young females account for ³ percent	Canada number	Young females (0 to 24) in the North number	Young females account for ³ percent	
Total Canadians (0 to 89)	36,203,036	330,387	0.9	350,457	12,036	3	3
Females (0 to 89)	18,183,711	330,387	2	185,586	12,036	6	5
Young Canadians (0 to 24)	10,337,135	330,387	3	124,742	12,036	10	6
Young females (0 to 24)	5,027,049	330,387	7	70,058	12,036	17	11
Total Canadians in the North (0 to 89)	2,196,843	330,387	15	54,040	12,036	22	7
Females in the North (0 to 89)	1,079,625	330,387	31	30,922	12,036	39	8
Young Canadians in the North (0 to 24)	682,855	330,387	48	19,404	12,036	62	14
Young females in the North (0 to 24)	330,387	330,387	100	12,036	12,036	100	0

1. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Excludes records where sex or age was unknown or over 89 years.

2. Represents victims of a police-reported violent crime in 2017. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or over 89 years.

3. The proportion of the population/victims that young females (aged 24 and younger) living in the North represent, out of the corresponding total group as indicated in the far left population or victim column (Canada).

4. The difference, in percentage points, between the percent of victims that females 24 and younger in the North account for out of all victims of a given group, and the percent the same group accounts for out of the population. May not equal the exact difference between the percent of population and victim columns due to rounding.

Interpretation: This table provides a measure of how disproportionately young women and girls in the North are overrepresented among victims of violent crime. Each row of different population groups can be considered independently. For example, the first row, Total Canadians (0 to 89) would be interpreted as: while young females (0 to 24) in the North account for 0.9% of the total Canadian population (0 to 89), they accounted for 3% of all victims of violent crime in Canada. Another example, for young Canadians in the North (0 to 24) (second to last row): while young females (0 to 24 years of age) in the North account for just under half (48%) of the young (0 to 24) population in the North, they accounted for over three-in-five (62%) young victims of crime in the North.

Note: Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by age group and sex, and North/South region, Canada, 2017

Victim age group and sex	North			South			Gap in rate ¹
	number	percent	rate	number	percent	rate	
Total male and female victims	54,040	100	2,460	296,417	100	872	2.8
Young males and females (0 to 24)	19,404	36	2,842	105,338	36	1,091	2.6
Adult men and women (25 to 89)	34,636	64	2,288	191,079	64	785	2.9
Total female victims	30,922	57	2,864	154,664	52	904	3.2
Young women and girls (0 to 24)	12,036	39	3,643	58,022	38	1,235	2.9
Children (girls 0 to 11)	1,406	5	872	7,163	5	336	2.6
Youth (girls 12 to 17)	4,044	13	5,476	20,386	13	1,948	2.8
12 to 14	1,603	5	4,377	8,486	5	1,651	2.7
15 to 17	2,441	8	6,557	11,900	8	2,235	2.9
Young adult women (18 to 24)	6,586	21	6,910	30,473	20	2,006	3.4
18 to 20	2,591	8	6,614	12,883	8	2,121	3.1
21 to 24	3,995	13	7,117	17,590	11	1,929	3.7
Adult women (25 to 89)	18,886	61	2,521	96,642	62	779	3.2
25 to 34	8,634	28	6,129	38,175	25	1,587	3.9
35 to 44	5,248	17	3,924	27,238	18	1,186	3.3
45 to 54	3,216	10	2,262	18,040	12	763	3.0
55 to 64	1,298	4	828	8,509	6	358	2.3
65 to 89	490	2	279	4,680	3	158	1.8
Total male victims	23,118	43	2,069	141,753	48	839	2.5
Young men and boys (0 to 24)	7,368	32	2,090	47,316	33	954	2.2
Children (boys 0 to 11)	1,167	5	684	6,863	5	306	2.2
Youth (boys 12 to 17)	2,204	10	2,820	16,003	11	1,448	1.9
12 to 14	966	4	2,495	6,425	5	1,187	2.1
15 to 17	1,238	5	3,140	9,578	7	1,699	1.8
Young adult men (18 to 24)	3,997	17	3,851	24,450	17	1,517	2.5
18 to 20	1,581	7	3,744	10,243	7	1,581	2.4
21 to 24	2,416	10	3,924	14,207	10	1,474	2.7
Adult men (25 to 89)	15,750	68	2,059	94,437	67	791	2.6
25 to 34	5,955	26	4,025	32,484	23	1,350	3.0
35 to 44	4,103	18	2,969	24,246	17	1,065	2.8
45 to 54	3,282	14	2,212	20,085	14	849	2.6
55 to 64	1,702	7	1,031	12,120	9	519	2.0
65 to 89	708	3	429	5,502	4	215	2.0

1. Represents how many times greater the violent crime rate was in the North compared with the South, for a given population group. Rate gaps may be adjusted from baseline figures provided in table due to rounding.

Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3
Rate of police-reported violent crime against female victims, by type of offence, victim age group and North/South region, Canada, 2017

Type of offence	Victim age group and North/South region										Gap in rate ¹ (Total 0 to 24)
	Young women and girls aged 0 to 24								25 to 89		
	0 to 11		12 to 17		18 to 24		Total 0 to 24		North	South	
	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	
	rate per 100,000 population										
Offences related to homicide or death	1.86	0.94	4.06	1.24	7.34	4.02	3.93	2.00	4.00	2.03	2.0
Homicide and other offences causing death ²	1.86	0.61	2.71	0.48	6.30	1.84	3.33	0.98	2.80	0.93	3.4
Attempted murder	0.00	0.33	1.35	0.76	1.05	2.17	0.61	1.02	1.20	1.10	0.6
Sexual offences	427	162	2,038	843	708	350	868	375	141	63	2.3
Sexual assault	157	70	1,054	504	652	318	500	247	131	57	2.0
Sexual assault (level 1)	155	69	1,041	496	636	312	492	243	127	56	2.0
Sexual assault (level 2)— weapon or causing bodily harm	2	1	11	6	8	4	6	3	4	1	1.9
Sexual assault (level 3)— aggravated	0	0.1	1	2	7	2	2	1	1	0.5	2.2
Sexual violations against children ³	262	90	895	284	0	1	328	104	0	0	3.1
Other sexual offences ⁴	7	3	89	54	57	31	40	23	10	6	1.7
Physical assault offences	341	125	2,729	682	5,224	1,152	2,283	581	1,921	486	3.9
Assault	329	123	2,710	675	5,159	1,132	2,254	572	1,882	473	3.9
Assault (level 1)	244	95	2,251	544	4,097	911	1,804	459	1,514	381	3.9
Assault (level 2)— weapon or causing bodily harm	79	26	427	127	981	211	417	109	340	87	3.8
Assault (level 3)— aggravated	6	1	32	4	81	10	34	5	28	4	7.0
Other assault offences ⁵	12	3	19	8	65	19	29	9	38	14	3.2
Criminal harassment and threat offences	66	34	561	305	701	324	360	188	372	175	1.9
Criminal harassment	4	4	110	78	187	111	80	55	87	53	1.5
Indecent, harassing communications	2	2	79	41	63	42	37	24	31	21	1.6
Uttering threats	60	28	372	186	451	171	242	110	254	101	2.2
Deprivation of freedom offences	27	8	97	80	253	158	108	73	70	44	1.5
Robbery ⁶	5	1	31	44	76	94	31	41	27	30	0.8
Kidnapping, forcible confinement, abduction, hostage taking ⁷	22	7	61	19	170	51	73	24	42	13	3.0
Trafficking in persons, commodification of sexual activity ⁸	0	0	5	17	7	12	3	8	1	1	0.4

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3 — end
Rate of police-reported violent crime against female victims, by type of offence, victim age group and North/South region, Canada, 2017

Type of offence	Victim age group and North/South region										Gap in rate ¹ (Total 0 to 24)
	Young women and girls aged 0 to 24								25 to 89		
	0 to 11		12 to 17		18 to 24		Total 0 to 24		North	South	
	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	
	rate per 100,000 population										
Other violent offences ⁹	10	5	47	37	17	19	20	17	13	8	1.2
Total	872	336	5,476	1,948	6,910	2,006	3,643	1,235	2,521	779	2.9

1. Represents how many times greater the violent crime rate was in the North compared with the South, for the female population aged 0 to 24. Rate gaps may be adjusted from baseline figures provided in table due to rounding.

2. Includes murder (first and second degree), manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death and other related offences causing death.

3. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, making sexually explicit material available to a child, parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting sexual activity, luring a child by means of telecommunication, agreement or arrangement (sexual offences against a child) and bestiality (in presence of, or incites, a child). Some victims experience violence over a period of time, sometimes years, all of which may be considered by the police to be part of one continuous incident. Information about the number and dates of individual incidents for these victims of continuous violence is not available. For this reason, a small number of victims older than 17 years of age appear for sexual violations against children as one of the included offences was the most serious offence recorded as part of the continuous incident.

4. Includes sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit, compel or incite a person), voyeurism and non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

5. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace-public officer, assault against a peace-public officer with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault against a peace-public officer, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to or causing bodily harm and other assaults.

6. Includes robbery and robbery to steal a firearm.

7. Includes kidnapping, forcible confinement, hostage taking, trafficking in persons, abduction younger than age 14 (not a parent or guardian), abduction younger than age 16, removal of a child from Canada, abduction younger than age 14 (contravening a custody order) and abduction younger than age 14 (parent or guardian).

8. Includes obtaining sexual services for consideration, obtaining sexual services for consideration from a person younger than age 18, material benefit from sexual services, material benefit for sexual services provided by a person younger than age 18, procuring, procuring a person younger than age 18 and advertising sexual services.

9. Includes conspiring to commit murder, corrupting a child, extortion, intimidating of a justice system participant or journalist, intimidating a non-justice system participant, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson (disregard for human life), failure to comply with safeguards, forging or destruction of documents and other violations against the person.

Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4
Rate of police-reported violent crime against male victims, by type of offence, victim age group and North/South region, Canada, 2017

Type of offence	Victim age group and North/South region										Gap in rate ¹ (Total 0 to 24)
	Young men and boys aged 0 to 24								25 and older		
	0 to 11		12 to 17		18 to 24		Total 0 to 24		North	South	
	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	
	rate per 100,000 population										
Offences related to homicide or death	1.17	1.16	7.68	3.89	26.01	15.08	9.93	6.29	11.90	5.76	1.6
Homicide and other offences causing death ²	1.17	0.62	5.12	1.18	11.56	6.76	5.11	2.74	7.19	2.64	1.9
Attempted murder	0.00	0.54	2.56	2.71	14.45	8.31	4.82	3.55	4.71	3.12	1.4
Sexual offences	116	56	191	92	34	27	108	54	11	6	2.0
Sexual assault	55	31	96	48	32	24	57	32	10	5	1.8
Sexual assault (level 1)	54	30	91	47	30	22	55	31	9	5	1.8
Sexual assault (level 2)— weapon or causing bodily harm	1	0.3	5	1	1	1	2	1	1	0.2	3.6
Sexual assault (level 3)— aggravated	0	0.2	0	0	1	1	0.3	0.5	0	0.1	0.6
Sexual violations against children ³	60	25	75	37	0	0.1	46	19	0	0	2.4
Other sexual offences ⁴	1	1	19	7	2	3	5	3	2	1	1.8
Physical assault offences	480	199	2,082	833	3,191	1,022	1,634	608	1,639	550	2.7
Assault	471	195	2,032	820	3,022	972	1,569	587	1,482	494	2.7
Assault (level 1)	367	152	1,460	584	1,926	630	1,068	404	998	339	2.6
Assault (level 2)— weapon or causing bodily harm	103	42	550	225	960	314	454	171	428	145	2.7
Assault (level 3)— aggravated	2	1	22	11	137	28	46	12	56	10	3.8
Other assault offences ⁵	9	3	50	13	169	50	65	21	157	55	3.1
Criminal harassment and threat offences	65	34	452	227	445	194	262	129	331	155	2.0
Criminal harassment	5	3	31	22	27	18	17	12	30	18	1.4
Indecent, harassing communications	1	1	5	10	10	10	4	6	14	11	0.7
Uttering threats	59	29	416	196	409	166	241	111	287	125	2.2
Deprivation of freedom offences	15	11	72	273	141	231	65	141	49	62	0.5
Robbery ⁶	4	4	63	266	121	223	51	134	44	59	0.4
Kidnapping, forcible confinement, abduction, hostage taking ⁷	12	6	9	6	19	7	13	7	5	3	2.0
Trafficking in persons, commodification of sexual activity ⁸	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.2	0	0.2	0.3	0	0.0

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4 — end
Rate of police-reported violent crime against male victims, by type of offence, victim age group and North/South region, Canada, 2017

Type of offence	Victim age group and North/South region										Gap in rate ¹ (Total 0 to 24)	
	Young men and boys aged 0 to 24								25 and older			
	0 to 11		12 to 17		18 to 24		Total 0 to 24					
	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South		
	rate per 100,000 population											
Other violent offences ⁹	7	6	17	19	14	28	11	16	17	12	0.7	
Total	684	306	2,820	1,448	3,851	1,517	2,090	954	2,059	791	2.2	

1. Represents how many times greater the violent crime rate was in the North compared with the South, for the male population aged 0 to 24. Rate gaps may be adjusted from baseline figures provided in table due to rounding.
2. Includes murder (first and second degree), manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death and other related offences causing death.
3. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, making sexually explicit material available to a child, parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting sexual activity, luring a child by means of telecommunication, agreement or arrangement (sexual offences against a child) and bestiality (in presence of, or incites, a child). Some victims experience violence over a period of time, sometimes years, all of which may be considered by the police to be part of one continuous incident. Information about the number and dates of individual incidents for these victims of continuous violence is not available. For this reason, a small number of victims older than 17 years of age appear for sexual violations against children as one of the included offences was the most serious offence recorded as part of the continuous incident.
4. Includes sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit, compel or incite a person), voyeurism and non-consensual distribution of intimate images.
5. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace-public officer, assault against a peace-public officer with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault against a peace-public officer, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to or causing bodily harm and other assaults.
6. Includes robbery and robbery to steal a firearm.
7. Includes kidnapping, forcible confinement, hostage taking, trafficking in persons, abduction younger than age 14 (not a parent or guardian), abduction younger than age 16, removal of a child from Canada, abduction younger than age 14 (contravening a custody order) and abduction younger than age 14 (parent or guardian).
8. Includes obtaining sexual services for consideration, obtaining sexual services for consideration from a person younger than age 18, material benefit from sexual services, material benefit for sexual services provided by a person younger than age 18, procuring, procuring a person younger than age 18 and advertising sexual services.
9. Includes conspiring to commit murder, corrupting a child, extortion, intimidating of a justice system participant or journalist, intimidating a non-justice system participant, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson (disregard for human life), failure to comply with safeguards, forging or destruction of documents and other violations against the person.

Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5
Rate of police-reported violent crime, by selected victim age group and sex, and North/South region, Canada, 2009 to 2017

Year reported by police	Young women and girls (aged 0 to 24)			Adult women (aged 25 to 89)			Male and female victims overall (aged 0 to 89)		
	North rate per 100,000	South rate per 100,000	Gap in rate ¹	North rate per 100,000	South rate per 100,000	Gap in rate ¹	North rate per 100,000	South rate per 100,000	Gap in rate ¹
2009	3,998	1,514	2.6	2,465	915	2.7	2,620	1,099	2.4
2010	4,170	1,515	2.8	2,564	910	2.8	2,680	1,077	2.5
2011	3,957	1,415	2.8	2,357	846	2.8	2,528	1,003	2.5
2012	3,797	1,346	2.8	2,348	815	2.9	2,521	959	2.6
2013	3,520	1,224	2.9	2,250	767	2.9	2,328	879	2.6
2014	3,380	1,131	3.0	2,230	736	3.0	2,260	832	2.7
2015	3,377	1,147	2.9	2,280	755	3.0	2,304	847	2.7
2016	3,458	1,167	3.0	2,388	754	3.2	2,351	847	2.8
2017	3,561	1,232	2.9	2,462	777	3.2	2,404	870	2.8
Average rate (2009 to 2017)²	3,691	1,299	2.8	2,372	808	2.9	2,444	935	2.6
Percent change in rate (2009 to 2017)	-11	-19	...	-0.1	-15	...	-8	-21	...

... not applicable

1. Represents how many times greater the violent crime rate was in the North compared with the South, for a given population group. Rate gaps may be adjusted from baseline figures provided in table due to rounding.

2. Average rates were calculated by first dividing the sum of police-reported violent incidents by the population count for each respective year, multiplied by 100,000 population, and then calculating the average rate across all rates for 2009 through 2017.

Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years. Figures in this table are from the Trend Database; as a result, numbers may not match those presented elsewhere.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 6
Female victims of police-reported violent crime in the North, by type of offence and victim age group, Canada, 2017

Type of offence	Victim age group									
	Young women and girls aged 0 to 24								25 to 89	
	0 to 11		12 to 17		18 to 24		Total 0 to 24		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Offences related to homicide or death	3	0.2	3	0.1	7	0.1	13	0.1	30	0.2
Homicide and other offences causing death ¹	3	0.2	2	0.1	6	0.1	11	0.1	21	0.1
Attempted murder	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	9	0.1
Sexual offences	688	49	1,505	37	675	10	2,868	24	1,060	6
Sexual assault	253	18	778	19	621	9	1,652	14	985	5
Sexual assault (level 1)	250	18	769	19	606	9	1,625	14	949	5
Sexual assault (level 2)— weapon or causing bodily harm	3	0.2	8	0.2	8	0.1	19	0.2	31	0.2
Sexual assault (level 3)— aggravated	0	0	1	0	7	0.1	8	0.1	5	0
Sexual violations against children ²	423	30	661	16	0	0	1,084	9	0	0
Other sexual offences ³	12	1	66	2	54	1	132	1	75	0.4
Physical assault offences	550	39	2,015	50	4,979	76	7,544	63	14,390	76
Assault	530	38	2,001	49	4,917	75	7,448	62	14,102	75
Assault (level 1)	393	28	1,662	41	3,905	59	5,960	50	11,345	60
Assault (level 2)— weapon or causing bodily harm	127	9	315	8	935	14	1,377	11	2,545	13
Assault (level 3)— aggravated	10	1	24	1	77	1	111	1	212	1
Other assault offences ⁴	20	1	14	0.4	62	1	96	1	288	2
Criminal harassment and threat offences	106	8	414	10	668	10	1,188	10	2,785	15
Criminal harassment	6	0.4	81	2	178	3	265	2	651	3
Indecent, harassing communications	4	0.3	58	1	60	1	122	1	232	1
Uttering threats	96	7	275	7	430	7	801	7	1,902	10
Deprivation of freedom offences	43	3	72	2	241	4	356	3	524	3
Robbery ⁵	8	1	23	1	72	1	103	1	204	1
Kidnapping, forcible confinement, abduction, hostage taking ⁶	35	2	45	1	162	2	242	2	311	2
Trafficking in persons, commodification of sexual activity ⁷	0	0	4	0.1	7	0.1	11	0.1	9	0.1

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 6 — end**Female victims of police-reported violent crime in the North, by type of offence and victim age group, Canada, 2017**

Type of offence	Victim age group									
	Young women and girls aged 0 to 24								25 to 89	
	0 to 11		12 to 17		18 to 24		Total 0 to 24		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Other violent offences⁸	16	1	35	1	16	0.2	67	1	97	1
Total	1,406	100	4,044	100	6,586	100	12,036	100	18,886	100

1. Includes murder (first and second degree), manslaughter, infanticide, criminal negligence causing death and other related offences causing death.

2. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, making sexually explicit material available to a child, parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting sexual activity, luring a child by means of telecommunication, agreement or arrangement (sexual offences against a child) and bestiality (in presence of, or incites, a child).

3. Includes sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit, compel or incite a person), voyeurism and non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

4. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, assault against a peace-public officer, assault against a peace-public officer with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault against a peace-public officer, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to or causing bodily harm and other assaults.

5. Includes robbery and robbery to steal a firearm.

6. Includes kidnapping, forcible confinement, hostage taking, trafficking in persons, abduction younger than age 14 (not a parent or guardian), abduction younger than age 16, removal of a child from Canada, abduction younger than age 14 (contravening a custody order) and abduction younger than age 14 (parent or guardian).

7. Includes obtaining sexual services for consideration, obtaining sexual services for consideration from a person younger than age 18, material benefit from sexual services, material benefit for sexual services provided by a person younger than age 18, procuring, procuring a person younger than age 18 and advertising sexual services.

8. Includes conspiring to commit murder, corrupting a child, extortion, intimidating of a justice system participant or journalist, intimidating a non-justice system participant, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson (disregard for human life), failure to comply with safeguards, forging or destruction of documents and other violations against the person.

Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Number columns represent the number of female victims of a police-reported violent crime in 2017. Percent columns represent the distribution of violent crimes across offence types, for each individual age grouping. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 7
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and sex, North/South region and census metropolitan area, Canada, 2017

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ¹	Young women and girls (aged 0 to 24)		Adult women (aged 25 to 89)		Male and female victims overall (aged 0 to 89)	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Total North	12,036	3,643	18,886	2,521	54,040	2,460
Total CMAs in the North	943	1,670	1,483	880	4,434	990
Greater Sudbury	316	1,482	397	648	1,277	780
Saguenay	283	1,429	525	844	1,568	949
Thunder Bay	344	2,244	561	1,246	1,589	1,333
Non-CMAs in the North²	11,093	4,050	17,403	2,997	49,606	2,836
Total South	58,022	1,235	96,642	779	296,417	872
Total CMAs in the South	39,320	1,115	66,781	730	206,831	823
St. John's	305	1,113	653	838	1,878	907
Halifax	925	1,668	1,269	787	4,126	962
Moncton	366	1,796	676	1,148	2,003	1,267
Quebec	1,393	1,388	2,295	760	7,333	920
Sherbrooke	368	1,386	398	535	1,456	728
Trois-Rivières	301	1,598	446	744	1,411	907
Montréal	7,104	1,251	12,041	803	35,982	877
Gatineau ³	716	1,490	1,190	993	3,653	1,096
Ottawa ⁴	1,343	903	2,145	575	6,620	645
Kingston	347	1,644	373	589	1,221	726
Peterborough	242	1,503	297	621	971	783
Toronto ⁵	7,301	912	13,343	643	41,748	739
Hamilton ⁶	987	1,259	1,403	684	4,897	871
St. Catharines-Niagara	563	951	758	441	2,488	549
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	1,210	1,460	1,735	887	5,489	987
Brantford	318	1,562	492	976	1,459	1,044
Guelph	234	1,182	268	546	886	658
London	866	1,169	1,143	601	3,813	734
Windsor	460	1,024	828	756	2,251	737
Barrie	286	854	443	571	1,349	612
Winnipeg	2,091	1,785	3,202	1,119	10,289	1,282
Regina	637	1,700	886	1,007	2,721	1,081
Saskatoon	741	1,520	992	884	3,396	1,046
Calgary	2,127	983	4,295	828	12,610	848
Edmonton	2,742	1,351	4,587	941	14,202	1,016
Kelowna	244	996	552	726	1,605	809
Abbotsford-Mission	299	1,039	497	764	1,451	769
Vancouver	3,008	877	6,632	702	20,372	798
Victoria	604	1,381	1,086	745	3,452	928
Non-CMAs in the South	18,702	1,599	29,861	917	89,586	1,010

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 7 — end

Victims of police-reported violent crime, by victim age group and sex, North/South region and census metropolitan area, Canada, 2017

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ¹	Young women and girls (aged 0 to 24)		Adult women (aged 25 to 89)		Male and female victims overall (aged 0 to 89)	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Total CMAs (North and South)	40,263	1,123	68,264	732	211,265	826
Total non-CMAs (North and South)	29,795	2,064	47,264	1,232	139,192	1,310
Canada	70,058	1,394	115,528	878	350,457	968

1. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

2. Non-CMAs consist of all other cities or townships outside of the identified list of CMAs in this table that do not qualify as CMAs based on population size and density. This includes over 900 cities or townships spread out across Canadian provinces and territories.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto CMA.

6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton CMA.

Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Total figures include incidents in selected CMAs that are not presented in the table due to the incongruity between the police service boundaries and the CMA boundaries. This includes: Saint John, Oshawa, and the areas of CMAs policed by Durham Regional Police Service and Halton Regional Police Service. As such, the individual CMA incident figures will not add up to the Total CMA figures. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 8
Young female victims of police-reported violent crime, by province or territory and North/South region, Canada, 2017

Province or territory	Territories		Provincial North		North (overall)		South		Gap in rate ¹
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	
Provinces overall	...	...	10,470	3,391	10,470	3,391	58,022	1,235	2.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	...	...	270	6,153	270	6,153	807	1,351	4.6
Prince Edward Island	...	...	...	...	...	...	241	1,155	...
Nova Scotia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,124	1,776	...
New Brunswick	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,481	1,730	...
Quebec	...	...	1,068	2,279	1,068	2,279	14,554	1,399	1.6
Ontario	...	...	2,888	2,734	2,888	2,734	18,676	1,000	2.7
Manitoba	...	...	2,093	9,025	2,093	9,025	3,353	1,827	4.9
Saskatchewan	...	...	1,285	13,886	1,285	13,886	3,636	2,158	6.4
Alberta	...	...	1,719	2,460	1,719	2,460	7,274	1,272	1.9
British Columbia	...	...	1,147	2,316	1,147	2,316	5,876	1,014	2.3
Territories overall	1,566	7,232	...	...	1,566	7,232	...	...	...
Yukon	228	4,356	...	...	228	4,356	...	...	...
Northwest Territories	678	8,909	...	...	678	8,909	...	...	...
Nunavut	660	7,491	...	...	660	7,491	...	...	...
Canada	1,566	7,232	10,470	3,391	12,036	3,643	58,022	1,235	2.9

... not applicable

1. Represents how many times greater the violent crime rate against young women and girls was in the North (overall) compared with the South, for a given province or territory. Rate gaps may be adjusted from baseline figures provided in table due to rounding.

Note: Number columns represent the number of young female victims of a police-reported violent crime in 2017. Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The territories includes Yukon, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories. The Provincial North includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The North includes the three territories as well as the Provincial North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 9
Police-reported violent crime rates, by victim age group and sex, province or territory and North/South region, Canada, 2017

Province or territory	Young women and girls (aged 0 to 24)		Adult women (aged 25 to 89)		Young men and boys (aged 0 to 24)		Adult men (aged 25 to 89)		Total victims (aged 0 to 89)	
	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South
	rate per 100,000 population									
Provinces overall	3,391	1,235	2,255	779	2,008	954	1,881	791	2,254	872
Newfoundland and Labrador	6,153	1,351	4,148	761	2,602	1,059	3,331	783	3,936	878
Prince Edward Island	...	1,155	...	710	...	993	...	675	...	801
Nova Scotia	...	1,776	...	852	...	1,178	...	830	...	1,005
New Brunswick	...	1,730	...	958	...	1,224	...	951	...	1,088
Quebec	2,279	1,399	1,106	811	1,606	1,032	1,140	812	1,328	919
Ontario	2,734	1,000	1,431	627	1,573	843	1,257	629	1,563	713
Manitoba	9,025	1,827	10,723	1,191	5,222	1,221	7,934	1,178	8,307	1,289
Saskatchewan	13,886	2,158	17,829	1,311	7,951	1,393	12,518	1,195	13,071	1,414
Alberta	2,460	1,272	2,493	980	1,535	997	1,975	946	2,135	1,014
British Columbia	2,316	1,014	1,803	739	1,343	823	1,611	861	1,738	830
Territories overall	7,232	...	7,635	...	3,272	...	5,379	...	6,002	...
Yukon	4,356	...	3,493	...	1,884	...	2,945	...	3,172	...
Northwest Territories	8,909	...	9,398	...	4,077	...	6,672	...	7,448	...
Nunavut	7,491	...	10,942	...	3,438	...	6,777	...	7,170	...
Canada	3,643	1,235	2,521	779	2,090	954	2,059	791	2,460	872

... not applicable

Note: Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 10
Young female victims of police-reported violent crime in the North, by type of offence and province or territory, Canada, 2017

Province or territory	Sexual offences ¹		Physical assault offences ²		Criminal harassment and threat offences ³		All violent offences ⁴	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Provinces overall								
(Northern regions)	2,533	820	6,478	2,098	1,053	341	10,470	3,391
Newfoundland and Labrador	58	1,322	189	4,307	19	433	270	6,153
Quebec	356	760	454	969	197	420	1,068	2,279
Ontario	910	862	1,542	1,460	303	287	2,888	2,734
Manitoba	327	1,410	1,572	6,778	130	561	2,093	9,025
Saskatchewan	159	1,718	1,007	10,882	85	919	1,285	13,886
Alberta	383	548	1,082	1,548	200	286	1,719	2,460
British Columbia	340	686	632	1,276	119	240	1,147	2,316
Territories overall	335	1,547	1,066	4,923	135	623	1,566	7,232
Yukon	52	994	148	2,828	23	439	228	4,356
Northwest Territories	139	1,827	467	6,137	60	788	678	8,909
Nunavut	144	1,634	451	5,119	52	590	660	7,491
Canada	2,868	868	7,544	2,283	1,188	360	12,036	3,643

1. Includes sexual assault (level 1, 2 and 3), sexual violations against children and other sexual offences.

2. Includes physical assault (level 1, 2 and 3) and other assault-related offences.

3. Includes criminal harassment, uttering threats and indecent/harassing communications.

4. Includes all violent offences. Figures will be greater than the sum of sexual, physical assault and criminal harassment-related offences as the total includes other types of violent offences outside of these categories.

Note: Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are not included in this table as they are located exclusively in the South. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years. When the number of victims is low for a given province and offence type, exercise caution when interpreting rate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 11
Young female victims of police-reported violent crime, by North/South region and selected incident characteristics, Canada, 2017

Selected incident characteristics	North		South		Percent difference ¹
	number	percent	number	percent	
Location of incident					
Private property ²	8,341	69	34,394	59	10
Open area ³	1,749	15	10,151	18	-3
Commercial area ⁴	508	4	3,600	6	-2
School ⁵	619	5	4,536	8	-3
Bar or restaurant ⁶	149	1	1,508	3	-1
Other location type ⁷	551	5	2,620	5	0.1
Physical injury to victim⁸					
No physical injury	4,082	34	27,581	48	-14
Minor physical injury ⁹	5,292	44	18,026	31	13
Major physical injury ¹⁰	141	1	581	1	0.2
Weapon present during incident¹¹					
Yes ¹²	1,380	13	5,806	13	-1
Physical force or threats only ¹³	8,304	76	31,874	73	2
No weapon present	681	6	4,464	10	-4
Total victims	12,036	100	58,022	100	0

1. The difference, in percentage points, between the proportion of victims with a given characteristic in the North compared with the South. When the number of victims is low for a selected characteristic, exercise caution when interpreting percent difference. Percent difference may be adjusted from baseline figures provided in table due to rounding.

2. Includes a single home, a dwelling unit or a private property structure.

3. Includes streets, roads or highways, parking lots, transit bus/bus shelters, subway/subway stations, other public transportation and connected facilities, and other open areas.

4. Includes commercial dwelling units (motel or hotel rooms, bed and breakfast accommodations, short term rental units) or other commercial or corporate places where the principal purpose is to conduct legitimate business for profit, including building or warehouse surrounding areas.

5. Includes junior kindergarten through to grade 13 schools or equivalent, whether during supervised or unsupervised activities, as well as university, college or business school campuses.

6. Includes any commercial establishment in which the primary activity is drinking, eating or entertainment.

7. Other location types include other non-commercial/corporate places, hospitals, correctional institutions, convenience stores, gas stations, religious institutions, banks or other financial institutions, construction sites and homeless shelters/mission locations.

8. Included in the calculation of percentages but not listed as a category are incidents that did not involve weapons or physical force and subsequently could not have caused physical injury (12% in the North, 14% in the South).

9. Physical injuries to the victim at the time of the incident or as determined through police investigation that were minor in nature (did not require professional medical treatment or only some first-aid [e.g., band-aid, ice, etc.]).

10. Physical injuries to the victim at the time of the incident or as determined through police investigation that were major in nature (more than 'trifling' or 'transient' and required professional medical treatment or immediate transportation to a medical facility).

11. Excludes data from the province of Quebec due to data quality concerns.

12. A weapon (e.g., knife, other piercing object, club or blunt instrument, firearm, or other type of weapon) was the most serious weapon present during the commission of the violent offence.

13. Physical force or threats were considered the most serious weapon present during the commission of the violent offence. Physical force can involve the accused using their body strength to cause bodily harm or death (e.g., choking, pushing or punching) and threats include any gesture or vocal indication that conveys to the victim a threat that is construed to imply that death or injury is possible.

Note: Number columns represent the number of young female victims of a police-reported violent crime in 2017. Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan Alberta, and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years. Numbers or percentages may not add up to totals due to exclusion of unknowns in list of categories, or exclusion of selected categories from the Table that represent a minority of victims. The proportion of unknowns are as follows (North only): location of incident, 1%; physical injury to victim, 8%; weapon present during incident, 5%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 12
Young female victims of police-reported violent crime, by selected accused-victim relationship characteristics and North/South region, single victim/single accused cases only, Canada, 2017

Selected incident characteristics	North		South		Percent difference ¹
	number	percent	number	percent	
Relationship between accused and victim					
Stranger	361	5	2,376	8	-3
Known to the victim	6,858	95	26,427	92	3
Intimate partner	3,167	44	12,745	44	-0.4
Current spouse	408	6	2,191	8	-2
Current boyfriend or girlfriend	1,931	27	5,900	20	6
Ex-spouse	105	1	1,078	4	-2
Ex-boyfriend or girlfriend	699	10	3,383	12	-2
Other intimate partner ²	24	0.3	193	1	-0.3
Family member	1,447	20	4,655	16	4
Parent or step-parent ³	467	6	2,245	8	-1
Extended family ⁴	619	9	1,053	4	5
Other immediate family ⁵	321	4	1,166	4	0.4
Child ⁶	40	1	191	1	-0.1
Casual acquaintance ⁷	1,573	22	5,517	19	3
Friend, neighbour or roommate	505	7	2,330	8	-1
Authority figure ⁸	104	1	386	1	0.1
Other relationship type ⁹	62	1	794	3	-2
Relationship by sex					
Female victim, male accused	5,579	77	23,771	83	-5
Female victim, female accused	1,640	23	5,032	17	5
Age gap between victim and accused¹⁰					
Victim younger than accused	5,695	79	22,296	77	1
1 to 5 years younger	2,627	36	10,778	37	-1
6 to 10 years younger	1,118	15	3,704	13	3
11 to 15 years younger	567	8	1,713	6	2
16 or more years younger	1,383	19	6,101	21	-2
Same age	623	9	3,181	11	-2
Victim older than accused	901	12	3,326	12	1
1 to 5 years older	822	11	3,078	11	1
6 to 10 years older	73	1	223	1	0.2
11 to 15 years older	6	0.1	25	0.1	0.0
Total single victims with single accused	7,219	100	28,803	100	0

1. The difference, in percentage points, between the proportion of victims/accused with a given characteristic in the North compared with the South. When the number of victims is low for a selected characteristic, exercise caution when interpreting percent difference. Percent difference may be adjusted from baseline figures provided in table due to rounding.

2. Includes relationships where the victim had a sexual or a mutual sexual attraction to the accused but none of the other relationship options applied, including 'one-night stands' or otherwise a person with whom the victim had a brief sexual relationship.

3. Parents, step-parents and legal guardians with legal custody and care of the child.

4. Family related to the victim either by blood or by marriage (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sister/brother-in-law, parents-in-law, etc.).

5. Other family related to the victim, including the natural brother or sister of the victim or step/half/foster/adopted sibling.

6. The child or step-child of the victim or child who is under the legal care and custody of the victim.

7. A social relationship which is neither long-term nor close; includes acquaintances known by sight only.

8. A person who is in a position of trust or authority and is not a family member.

9. Includes business relationships, criminal relationships and reverse authority relationships.

10. The age difference (in years) between the victim and their assailant at the time of the crime.

Note: Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. Number columns represent the number of young female victims of a police-reported violent crime in 2017 who were the only victim in the incident (single victim) in which there was also only one accused (single accused). The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims and accused where sex or age was unknown. Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 13
Victims of police-reported homicides, by age group and sex, and North/South region, Canada, 2009 to 2017

Victim age group and sex	North		South		Gap in rate ²
	number	average rate ¹	number	average rate ¹	
Total female victims	201	2.04	1,242	0.83	2.5
Young women and girls (0 to 24)	74	2.36	297	0.70	3.4
Children (girls 0 to 11)	10	0.69	98	0.53	1.3
Youth (girls 12 to 17)	24	3.18	48	0.48	6.6
Young adult women (18 to 24)	40	4.30	151	1.09	3.9
Adult women (25 to 89)	127	1.89	945	0.88	2.1
Total male victims	569	5.59	3,192	2.16	2.6
Young men and boys (0 to 24)	163	4.92	955	2.14	2.3
Children (boys 0 to 11)	19	1.25	118	0.60	2.1
Youth (boys 12 to 17)	39	4.99	115	1.09	4.6
Young adult men (18 to 24)	105	10.55	722	5.00	2.1
Adult men (25 to 89)	406	5.90	2,237	2.17	2.7

1. The average rate is based across a nine-year period between 2009 and 2017.

2. Represents how many times greater the average 2009 to 2017 homicide rate was in the North compared with the South, for a given population group. Rate gaps may be adjusted from baseline figures provided in table due to rounding.

Note: Number columns represent the number of victims of a police-reported homicide between 2009 and 2017. Victim age group is based on the age of the victim at the time of the homicide. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown or older than 89 years. Because of the small count of victims of homicide, exercise caution when interpreting rates across age groups.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 14
Young female victims of police-reported homicides, by selected incident characteristics and North/South region, Canada, 2009 to 2017

Selected incident characteristics	North		South		Percent difference ¹
	number	percent	number	percent	
Relationship between accused and victim					
Stranger	2	3	20	9	-5
Known to the victim	59	97	211	90	7
Intimate partner or spouse ²	23	38	76	32	5
Family member (non-spousal) ³	15	25	86	37	-12
Casual acquaintance ⁴	16	26	24	10	16
Relationship by sex					
Female victim, male accused	53	87	172	74	13
Female victim, female accused	8	13	62	27	-13
Age of accused					
12 to 24	38	62	92	39	23
12 to 17	12	20	17	7	12
18 to 24	26	43	75	32	11
25 to 89	23	38	142	61	-23
Intoxicating substance used by accused⁵					
No intoxicating substance	8	14	60	38	-24
Alcohol, drugs or both ⁶	49	86	97	62	24
Accused previous conviction⁷					
No previous conviction	27	44	121	52	-7
Any previous conviction	34	56	111	47	8
Violent offence ⁸	23	38	78	33	4
Non-violent or other offence ⁹	11	18	33	14	4
Total single victims with single accused	61	100	234	100	0

1. The difference, in percentage points, between the proportion of victims with a given characteristic in the North compared with the South. Because of the small number of victims for a selected characteristic, exercise caution when interpreting percent difference. Percent difference may be adjusted from baseline figures provided in table due to rounding.

2. Includes current or former spouses, common-law partners, and those who had a close and affectionate relationship with the victim (e.g., current or ex-boyfriend or girlfriend), or a sexual or mutual sexual attraction with the victim (e.g., one-night stand). Excludes victims and accused under 15 years of age.

3. Includes family other than spouses, namely family related to the victim either by blood or by marriage such as parents, step-parents, extended family (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sister/brother-in-law, parents-in-law, etc.), other immediate family (e.g., natural brother or sister of the victim or step/half/foster/adopted sibling) or children or step-children of the victim.

4. A social relationship which is neither long-term nor close; includes acquaintances known by sight only.

5. Excludes accused whose consumption of an intoxicating substance was unknown, which was more common in the South (33%) than in the North (7%). If unknowns are included, the proportion of persons accused of killing a young female between 2009 and 2017 who consumed an intoxicating substance (alcohol, drugs, or both) was 80% in the North and 41% in the South.

6. Includes consumption of an intoxicating substance, whether alcohol, drugs, or both, whether legal or illegal, or an intoxicating substance other than alcohol or conventional drugs (e.g., glue, gas, solvents), as well consumption of an unknown type of intoxicating substance with the intent of becoming intoxicated, as reported by police.

7. Includes accused whose previous criminal conviction history was unknown (0% in the North and <1% in the South). Previous conviction of a violent offence can include homicide, robbery or other violent offences. Non-violent offences can include property crimes, drug offences or other *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offences.

8. Includes, for example, homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault, physical assault, criminal negligence causing death and robbery.

9. Includes, for example, property crimes, drug offences, and other *Criminal Code* and provincial/federal statute offences that resulted in the creation of, or the addition to, a criminal record.

Note: Number columns represent the number of young female victims of a police-reported homicide between 2009 and 2017 who were the only victim in the incident (single victim) in which there was also only one accused (single accused). Young women and girls/female victims include those aged 0 to 24 years at the time of the incident. The North includes the three territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, based on a geographical definition used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. The South includes the southern regions of these provinces in addition to all of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding, exclusion of unknowns for some categories, or inclusion of only selected characteristics. Excludes victims where sex or age was unknown. Because of the small count of victims of homicide, exercise caution when interpreting percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.