

# **Violent victimization and perceptions of safety: Experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada**

by Loanna Heidinger

Release date: April 26, 2022



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

**Canada**

---

## How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca).

You can also contact us by

email at [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)

telephone, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| • Statistical Information Service                             | 1-800-263-1136 |
| • National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired | 1-800-363-7629 |
| • Fax line  | 1-514-283-9350 |

## Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed standards of service that its employees observe. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca) under “Contact us” > [“Standards of service to the public.”](#)

## Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued co-operation and goodwill.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Industry, 2022

All rights reserved. Use of this publication is governed by the Statistics Canada [Open Licence Agreement](#).

An [HTML version](#) is also available.

*Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.*

---

## Violent victimization and perceptions of safety: Experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada: Highlights

- Violence against Indigenous peoples reflects the traumatic and destructive history of colonialization that impacted and continues to impact Indigenous families, communities and Canadian society overall.
- Violent victimization is defined in the 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), as a physical assault (an attack, a threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present) or a sexual assault (forced sexual activity or attempted forced sexual activity).
- Results from the SSPPS indicate that more than six in ten (63%) Indigenous women have experienced physical or sexual assault in their lifetime.
- Almost six in ten (56%) Indigenous women have experienced physical assault while almost half (46%) of Indigenous women have experienced sexual assault. In comparison, about a third of non-Indigenous women have experienced physical assault (34%) or sexual assault (33%) in their lifetime.
- About two-thirds of First Nations (64%) and Métis (65%) women have experienced violent victimization in their lifetime.
- Certain characteristics were associated with a higher likelihood of experiencing lifetime violent victimization among Indigenous women, including having a disability or ever experiencing homelessness.
- Indigenous women (11%) were almost six times more likely than non-Indigenous women (2.3%) to have ever been under the legal responsibility of the government and about eight in ten (81%) Indigenous women who were ever under the legal responsibility of the government have experienced lifetime violent victimization.
- Indigenous women (42%) were more likely than non-Indigenous women (27%) to have been physically or sexually abused by an adult during childhood and to have experienced harsh parenting by a parent or guardian. These childhood experiences were associated with an increased prevalence of lifetime violent victimization.
- Results from the 2019 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) indicated that Indigenous women (71%) were more likely to perceive indicators of social disorder in their neighbourhood compared with non-Indigenous women (57%).
- Indigenous women (17%) were more than twice as likely to report having not very much or no confidence in the police compared with non-Indigenous women (8.2%).

# Violent victimization and perceptions of safety: Experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada

by Loanna Heidinger, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics

First Nations, Métis and Inuit (Indigenous) peoples are diverse and have unique histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. Indigenous peoples are overrepresented as victims<sup>1</sup> of violence in Canada. The disproportionately high rates of violence and victimization of Indigenous peoples is rooted in the traumatic and destructive history of colonialization that impacted and continues to impact Indigenous families, communities and Canadian society overall (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015). Indigenous peoples were subjected to racist and oppressive laws and regulations that suppressed language and religion, destroyed culture, and dismantled Indigenous families and communities (Sharma et al. 2021). Across multiple generations, Indigenous peoples were and continue to be subjected to the detrimental harms of colonialism.

Indigenous women, in particular, have faced and continue to face high rates of violence, as reflected by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). In order to understand the disproportionate experience of violence among Indigenous women, it is important to highlight the damaging history of colonialization which shifted the role of Indigenous women in the household and in Indigenous communities (Sharma et al. 2021). Prior to colonialization, women held a significant place in Indigenous societies. Indigenous women were highly valued individuals holding positions of leadership and decision making power. However, colonialization forcibly altered traditional matrilineal views while contributing to the normalization of violence against Indigenous women. In particular, policies such as the *Indian Act* denied Indigenous women of many rights and excluded Indigenous women from community governance (Sharma et al. 2021).

Experiences of violent victimization are concerning and have a profound impact on outcomes such as social, economic, and emotional well-being; however, a large proportion of violent crime is not reported to authorities, such as the police (Cotter 2021b; Perreault 2015). For Indigenous women, the issue of reporting is complex and may be largely impacted by the mistrust in police and criminal justice systems. In particular, a history of colonialization and ongoing structural and systemic realities negatively impacted relations between Indigenous women and authorities in Canada (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015). In addition, Indigenous women may face unique barriers to reporting experiences of violent victimization or seeking help following victimization, including a lack of access to culturally appropriate resources, inaccessibility of support services, a general distrust of law enforcement, and perceived lack of confidentiality in the justice system (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015).

This *Juristat* article will present the most current self-reported data on the lifetime (since age 15)<sup>2</sup> prevalence of violent victimization, as well as the prevalence of violent victimization in the past 12 months, of Indigenous<sup>3</sup> women<sup>4</sup> in Canada. Where possible, results are provided separately for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Indigenous identity groups. The article further highlights experiences of childhood abuse and maltreatment, and explores the intersectionality of violent victimization with other demographic and socioeconomic factors. In addition, the article assesses perceptions of safety and neighbourhood disorder, and confidence and trust in the police and the justice system among Indigenous women. Lastly, homicide data highlights the prevalence and characteristics among homicide of Indigenous women in Canada. The article uses data from multiple sources including the 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), 2019 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), and five years (2015 to 2020) of data from the Homicide Survey.

## Text box 1

### Defining and measuring violent victimization

The Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) collected information on Canadians' experiences of lifetime violent victimization (violent victimization since age 15) and experiences of violent victimization in the 12 months that preceded the survey. Total violent victimization includes experiences of physical or sexual violence perpetrated by either intimate partners or those other than intimate partners (non-intimate partners), such as acquaintances, friends, family members, coworkers and others. Experiences of physical and sexual victimization are self-reported, providing a more inclusive approach to measuring violent victimization than estimates that focus solely on victimization reported to police.

The "dark figure of crime" are crimes that are not reported to, or recorded by, police and comprise the majority of criminal incidents, such as intimate partner violence and sexual assault, where only a small proportion are reported to authorities. Since many instances of violent victimization are not reported to police or other authorities, relying on police-reported violent victimization data may skew the understanding of violent victimization and estimates may not be representative of victimization in Canada. The SSPPS focuses on self-reported instances of violent victimization, and as such intends to increase knowledge and understanding of gender-based violence beyond police-reported estimates. It was developed as part of the Federal Government of Canada's strategy (It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence) to prevent and address gender-based violence in Canada and provides a more comprehensive estimate of violent victimization in Canada.

In the SSPPS violent victimization is defined as:

**Physical assault:** An attack (being hit, slapped, grabbed, pushed, knocked down, or beaten), a threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present; and

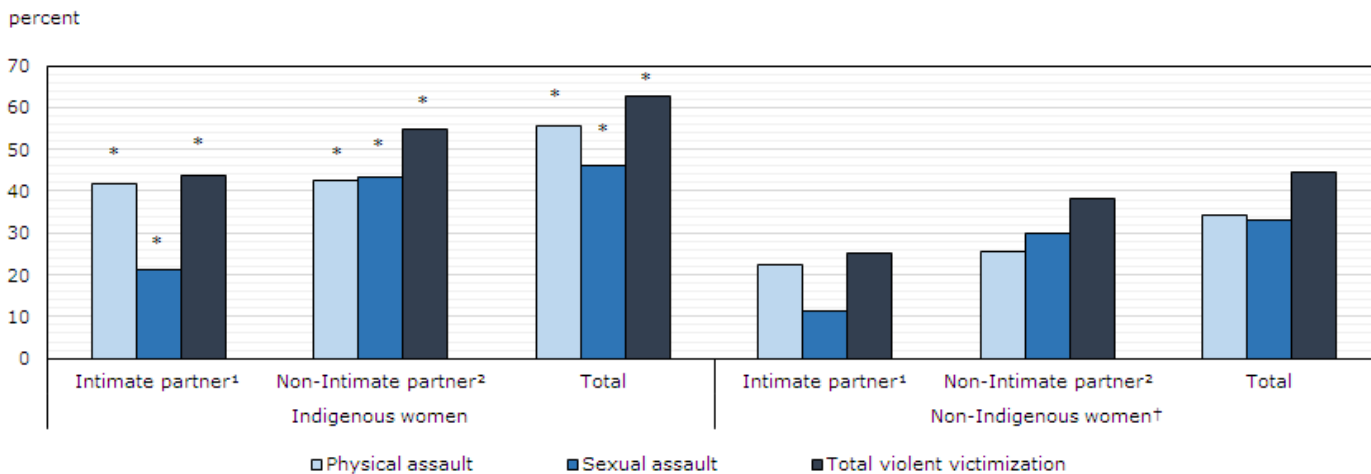
**Sexual assault:** Forced sexual activity, attempted forced sexual activity, unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling, or sexual relations without being able to give consent.

### More than six in ten Indigenous women experience violence in their lifetime

According to the SSPPS, lifetime violent victimization includes any experience of physical or sexual assault or any threat of physical or sexual assault experienced since age 15. Experiences of physical or sexual assault can have lasting detrimental implications for victims, their families, their communities, and society as a whole.

Indigenous women are overrepresented as victims of various types of violence (Brownridge et al. 2017; Burczykca 2016; Heindinger 2021). Generations of Indigenous peoples continue to be impacted by the negative consequences of colonialization and related policies that resulted in violence and trauma that continues to be perpetuated across multiple generations (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). Results from the SSPPS confirms that Indigenous women are overrepresented in lifetime experiences of violent victimization. More than six in ten (63%) Indigenous women have experienced physical or sexual violence committed by an intimate partner or a non-intimate partner in their lifetime, such as an acquaintance, colleague or stranger. In comparison, the prevalence of lifetime violence was lower among non-Indigenous women (45%; Table 1A; Chart 1A).<sup>5</sup>

**Chart 1A**  
Physical and sexual assault since age 15 among Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, by relationship to perpetrator, Canada, 2018



\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Includes violence committed by another perpetrator with whom the victim did not have an intimate relationship with, including acquaintances, friends, family members, co-workers and others.

Note: See Table 1A for confidence intervals for each estimate.

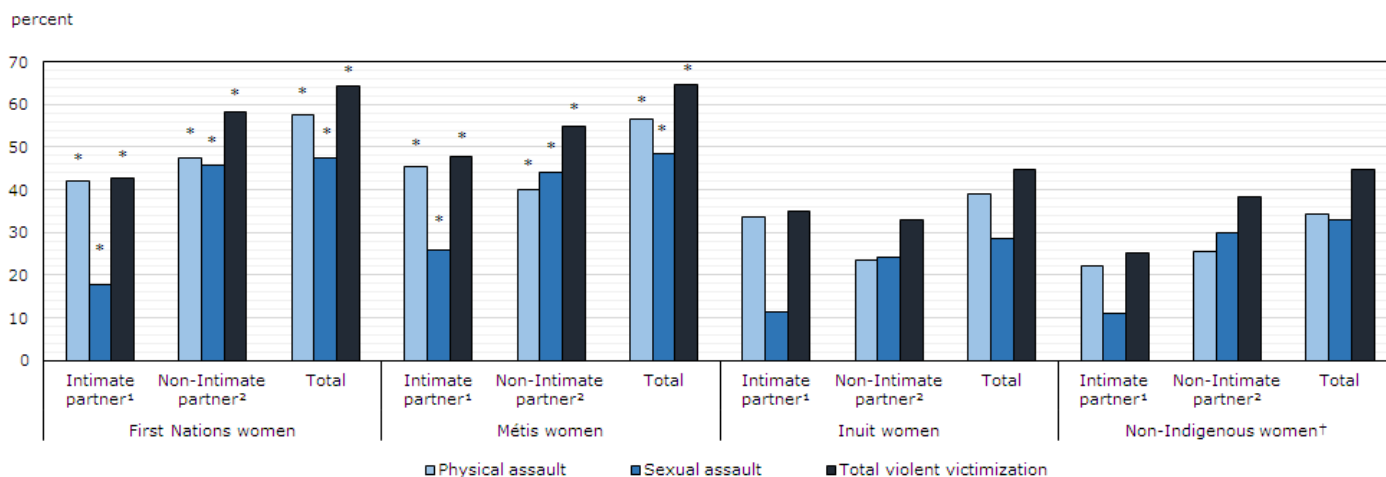
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Almost six in ten (56%) Indigenous women have experienced physical assault while almost half (46%) of Indigenous women have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime. In comparison, about a third of non-Indigenous women have experienced physical assault (34%) or sexual assault (33%) in their lifetime. When asked about violence experienced in the previous year, Indigenous women were almost twice as likely to have experienced physical assault (6.2% versus 3.5% among non-Indigenous women; Table 2A; for results by Indigenous identity group see Table 2B).

## Two-thirds of First Nations and Métis women experience physical or sexual assault in their lifetime

When looking at victimization by Indigenous identity group, about two-thirds of First Nations (64%) and Métis (65%) women have experienced violent victimization, physical or sexual assault, in their lifetime (Table 1B; Chart 1B). Of note, differences between reported experiences of violent victimization among Inuit (45%) versus non-Indigenous (45%) women were not statistically significant. Some studies suggest that a history of trauma and violence stemming from colonialization and related policies have contributed to the intergenerational violence that place Inuit women at a greater risk of growing up in abusive households where violence becomes a normalized part of interpersonal relationships and may be expected or perceived as acceptable (Brassard et al. 2015; National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019; Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Comack 2020; Perreault 2020; Williams 2019). This normalization of violence may contribute to the decreased likelihood of viewing oneself as a victim of violence and the overall underreporting of violence among Inuit women (Gone 2013; Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Comack 2020), which may explain similar reported victimization rates among Inuit and non-Indigenous women.

**Chart 1B**  
Physical and sexual assault since age 15 among First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-Indigenous women, by relationship to perpetrator, Canada, 2018



\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Includes violence committed by another perpetrator with whom the victim did not have an intimate relationship with, including acquaintances, friends, family members, co-workers and others.

Note: See Table 1B for confidence intervals for each estimate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

## Across all provinces, violent victimization was higher among Indigenous women

In each of the Canadian provinces and regions outside of the territories, Indigenous women were more likely than non-Indigenous women to have experienced violent victimization in their lifetime. This was the case for Indigenous women in the Atlantic provinces (64% versus 45% of non-Indigenous women in Atlantic provinces), Central Canada (62% versus 43%), the Prairies (61% versus 48%), and British Columbia (65% versus 50%). In the territories there was no significant difference in the reported prevalence of lifetime violent victimization between Indigenous (62%) and non-Indigenous women (61%; Table 3).<sup>6</sup>

**Text box 2****Intimate partner and non-intimate partner violence**

The Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS) differentiates between experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) and non-intimate partner violence—violence by another perpetrator that occurs in other contexts outside of intimate partner relationships. Although IPV and non-intimate partner violence are often combined to estimate a total prevalence of criminal victimization, this text box presents results for intimate and non-intimate partner violence separately due to differences in the context and nature of these experiences.

**Intimate partner violence**

IPV is a serious public health issue that has profound impacts on victims, families, and communities (World Health Organization 2017). IPV encompasses a broad range of behaviours, such as physical and sexual assault, as well as emotional, psychological and financial abuse; however, only a small proportion of IPV is reported to authorities. In addition to the negative consequences victims of IPV experience, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, financial hardship, injury and profound emotional distress, IPV further contributes to the cycle of intergenerational violence (Public Health Agency of Canada 2020).

Overall, both men and women experience IPV; however, women are overrepresented as victims of police-reported IPV (Conroy 2021) and are more likely to experience more severe types of IPV (Cotter 2021a; Women and Gender Equality Canada 2021). In addition, women victims of homicide are more likely to have been killed by an intimate partner than by any other perpetrator. The overall risk of victimization is heightened among Indigenous women who experience higher rates of IPV than non-Indigenous women (Boyce 2016; Heidinger 2021; Perreault 2015).

The SSPPS defines an intimate partner as a current or former spouse, common-law partner or dating partner and measures IPV using 27 broad items (for a complete list of items included in measures of IPV see Table 4). In line with total experiences of violent victimization, the range of abusive behaviours include indicators of physical and sexual violence. In addition, psychological abuse, including emotional and financial abuse, are included in measures of IPV.

**More than four in ten Indigenous women experience physical or sexual assault by an intimate partner**

According to the SSPPS, Indigenous women were more likely than non-Indigenous women to experience IPV<sup>7</sup> in their lifetime—that is, violence committed by a current or former legally married or common-law spouse, dating partner, or other intimate partner. More than four in ten (44%) Indigenous women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. In comparison, one-quarter (25%) of non-Indigenous women have experienced physical or sexual assault by an intimate partner in their lifetime, significantly less than Indigenous women (Table 1A; Chart 1A).

When looking at IPV by Indigenous identity group, four in ten (43%) First Nations women and almost half (48%) of Métis women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. More than a third (35%) of Inuit women have experienced physical or sexual IPV in the same time frame, though this proportion was not statistically different from that of non-Indigenous women (25%; Table 1B; Chart 1B).

In addition to being more likely to experience physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner, Indigenous women also disproportionately experienced multiple specific physical and sexual abusive behaviours by an intimate partner compared with non-Indigenous women. These physical and sexual abusive behaviours are often considered some of the most severe types of abuse and Indigenous women were overrepresented in all of them.

For example, Indigenous women were about two times more likely to have been: shook, pushed, grabbed or thrown (32% versus 17% of non-Indigenous women) or hit with a fist or object, or kicked or bit (26% versus 11%) by an intimate partner. Indigenous women were about three times more likely to have been: threatened with a weapon (13% versus 3.6% of non-Indigenous women); choked (17% versus 6.1%); or beat (16% versus 5.7%) by an intimate partner. Furthermore, Indigenous women were twice as likely to have had an intimate partner who: made them perform sex acts that they did not want to perform (17% versus 8.2% of non-Indigenous women) or forced or tried to force them to have sex (19% versus 9.5%; Table 4).

**Overall, six in ten Indigenous women experience psychological abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime**

While physical and sexual assault are often considered the most severe types of violence, other forms of abuse exist in intimate partner relationships. Psychological abuse is characterized by behaviours that are intended to control, isolate, manipulate or humiliate victims. This type of abuse can have detrimental and long lasting consequences on victims that continue long after contact with an abuser ends (Karakurt et al. 2014).



Though it may be considered a less overt form of IPV, experiences of psychological abuse was the most common type of IPV experienced among women overall. However, as with physical and sexual violence, Indigenous women (60%) were more likely to have experienced psychological abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime (Table 4). In particular, significantly higher proportions of First Nations (57%) and Métis (63%) women have experienced psychological abuse by an intimate partner compared with non-Indigenous women (42%).

Furthermore, Indigenous women were overrepresented in several specific types of psychologically abusive behaviours by an intimate partner. Indigenous women were more likely to have had an intimate partner who: was jealous and didn't want them to talk to other men or women (46% versus 29% of non-Indigenous women); put them down or called them names to make them feel bad (50% versus 31%); or told them they were crazy, stupid, or not good enough (44% versus 26%).

Notably, lifetime experiences of financial abuse by an intimate partner was significantly more prevalent among Indigenous women. More specifically, Indigenous women were almost three times more likely than non-Indigenous women to have been forced to give their partner money or possessions (16% versus 6.0% of non-Indigenous women), or to have been kept from having access to a job, money, or financial resources by their partner (13% versus 4.8%; Table 4).

Financial cost is a known barrier to leaving an abusive partner. Experiences of financial abuse can create an economic dependency that may increase the difficulty of leaving an abusive relationship. The lack of access to financial resources or the lack of control over finances in abusive relationships may further trap victims to abusive partners (Postmus et al. 2020), in particular for Indigenous women who experience higher rates of poverty and marginalization (Truth and Reconciliation report 2015).

### **Indigenous women more likely to experience fear, anxiety and feelings of being controlled or trapped by an intimate partner**

Results from the SSPPS indicate that Indigenous women are more likely to experience IPV compared with non-Indigenous women. In addition, measures of emotional and psychological impacts of IPV can provide additional context to experiences of abuse. Being afraid of a partner can indicate the severity of IPV and may reveal a pattern of repeated abuse that is more coercive and controlling in nature (Johnson and Leone 2005).

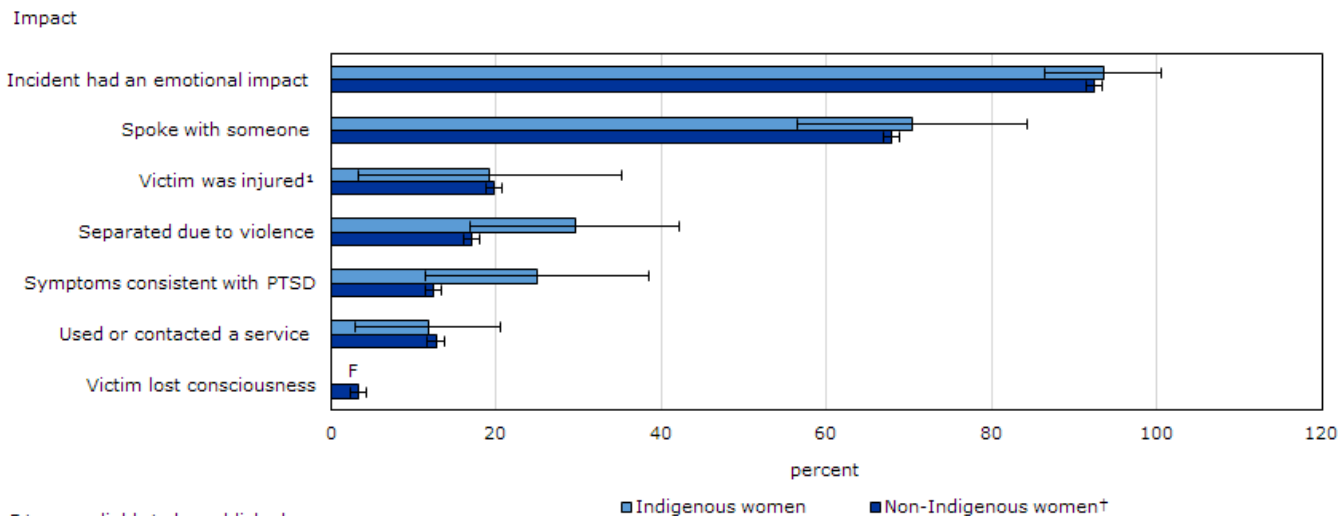
Indigenous women were more likely to experience emotional and psychological impacts of IPV. Just over half (52%) of Indigenous women who had experienced IPV were ever afraid of an intimate partner and almost six in ten (56%) Indigenous women who had experienced IPV ever felt controlled or trapped by an abusive partner. In comparison, among non-Indigenous women who had experienced IPV, more than one-third (36%) were ever afraid of an intimate partner and about four in ten (42%) ever felt controlled or trapped by an abusive partner. Similar proportions of Indigenous women (62%) and non-Indigenous women (57%) who had experienced IPV were ever anxious or on edge due to a partners abusive behaviours.

### **Consequences and actions following IPV similar for Indigenous and non-Indigenous women**

In addition to the emotional and psychological impacts of IPV, the SSPPS measured consequences and actions taken by women who were victims of IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey. Overall, there were no significant differences in self-reported outcomes or actions among Indigenous women compared with non-Indigenous women (Chart 2).



**Chart 2**  
**Impacts, consequences, and actions taken by victims of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months among Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, Canada, 2018**



1. Percent calculations are based on those who experienced at least one form of physical or sexual violence.  
**Note:** Percent calculations are based on those who experienced some form of intimate partner violence (emotional, physical, or sexual violence; see Table 4 for a list of items in each category) committed by a current or former intimate partner. None of the differences in this chart are statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$ .  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

The vast majority of Indigenous (94%) and non-Indigenous (92%) women who experienced IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey reported that the incident had an emotional impact. About seven in ten Indigenous (70%) and non-Indigenous (68%) women spoke with someone, such as a family member, friend, doctor, or lawyer, about the abuse, and about one in ten Indigenous (12%) and non-Indigenous (13%) women used or contacted a service following abuse experienced in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Similar proportions of Indigenous (19%) and non-Indigenous (20%) women who experienced IPV in the past 12 months sustained a physical injury, such as a bruise, cut, fracture, or internal injury, from the abuse. One-quarter (25%) of Indigenous women who experienced IPV in the past month experienced symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); this proportion was not statistically different from the proportion among non-Indigenous women (12%) who experienced IPV in the same time frame.

Non-significant differences in consequences and actions following IPV may reflect barriers among Indigenous women to report experiences of IPV or access services following abuse. Some barriers include the inaccessibility of resources, supports and services due to a lack of culturally relevant programs and services, as well as a lack of available services in more remote locations (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019; Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Comack 2020). In addition, Indigenous women may seek other forms of support, such as cultural practices and processes of healing within Indigenous communities, which may not be captured in the measures collected in the SSPPS.

For additional results on the experience of IPV among Indigenous women in Canada, see Heidinger 2021.

**More than half of Indigenous women experience non-intimate partner violence**

As with violence committed by an intimate partner, a higher proportion of Indigenous women have experienced violent victimization committed by a non-intimate partner—another perpetrator with whom the victim did not have an intimate relationship with, including acquaintances, friends, family members, co-workers, strangers and others. Overall, more than half (55%) of Indigenous women have experienced violent physical or sexual assault by a non-intimate partner in their lifetime (Table 5A; Chart 1A). More specifically, First Nations (58%) and Métis (55%) women have experienced significantly higher levels of violent victimization by a non-intimate partner. In comparison, about four in ten (38%) non-Indigenous women have experienced violent victimization by a non-intimate partner (Table 5B; Chart 1B).

### **Indigenous women more likely to experience physical or sexual victimization by a non-intimate partner in their lifetime**

Indigenous women (43%) were significantly more likely to have experienced physical violence by a non-intimate partner in their lifetime. In particular, almost half (48%) of First Nations women and four in ten (40%) Métis women have experienced physical assault by a non-intimate partner in their lifetime. In contrast, about a quarter (26%) of non-Indigenous women have experienced physical assault by a non-intimate partner. The proportion of non-intimate partner physical assault reported by Inuit women (23%) was not statistically different from the proportion reported by non-Indigenous women (Table 5B).

As with physical violence by a non-intimate partner, Indigenous women were overrepresented as victims of sexual violence by a non-intimate partner in their lifetime, with more than four in ten (43%) Indigenous women experiencing sexual violence during this time frame. More specifically, almost half of First Nations (46%) and Métis (44%) women have experienced sexual assault by a non-intimate partner. Approximately one quarter (24%) of Inuit women reported experiencing sexual violence by a non-intimate partner in their lifetime; this proportion was not statistically different from the proportion reported among non-Indigenous women (30%; Table 5B).

### **Intersection of Indigenous identity with other factors increases prevalence of violent victimization**

Various demographic and socioeconomic factors, such as age, intersect and may be associated with a higher prevalence of violent victimization. While, lifetime violent victimization was higher among Indigenous women overall, the intersectionality of Indigenous identity with other socio-economic and demographic factors may contribute to differences in the prevalence of lifetime violent victimization among Indigenous women.

Among Indigenous women, those with a disability (74%) were more likely than Indigenous women without a disability (50%) to have experienced lifetime violent victimization. In addition, Indigenous women with a disability were more likely than non-Indigenous women with a disability to have experienced lifetime violent victimization (74% versus 57%, respectively). In the 12 months preceding the survey, Indigenous women with a disability (12%) were two and a half times more likely than Indigenous women without a disability (5.0%) to have experienced violent victimization (Table 6).

### **Experiences of homelessness among Indigenous women associated with lifetime violent victimization**

According to the SSPPS, 9.4% of Indigenous women have ever experienced homelessness—that is, having to live in a shelter, on the street, or in an abandoned building. This proportion was almost five times larger than the proportion among non-Indigenous women (1.9%). Furthermore, about a quarter (26%) of Indigenous women ever had to temporarily live with family or friends or anywhere else because they had nowhere else to stay compared with one in ten (10%) non-Indigenous women.

Among Indigenous women who reported experiencing homelessness, the vast majority (91%) also experienced lifetime violent victimization compared with six in ten (60%) Indigenous women who had not experienced homelessness. Similarly, Indigenous women who ever had to temporarily live with family or friends or anywhere else because they had nowhere else to live (85%) were more likely than Indigenous women who did not have to temporarily live elsewhere (55%) to have experienced violent victimization in their lifetime (Table 6).

### **Indigenous women six times more likely to have ever been under the legal responsibility of the government**

A history of colonialization and forced assimilation has impacted Indigenous families negatively and contributed to the financial hardship and neglect present in a disproportionate number of Indigenous families and communities (Truth and Reconciliation report 2015). The legacy of the wide spread apprehension of Indigenous children, and placement of these children into systems that failed to protect them, has had lasting harms. In particular, Indigenous children were forcibly removed from families and communities and placed in residential schools intended to dismantle Indigenous culture and identity. Experiences of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse and maltreatment were rampant in residential schools and contributed to a learned behaviour of violence (Sharma et al. 2021).

As residential school systems were dismantled, the apprehension of thousands of Indigenous children continued. During the Sixties Scoop, large numbers of Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families and placed in adoptive or foster homes (Sharma et al. 2021). While the last residential school in Canada closed in 1996, Indigenous children continue to be removed from their homes and communities. The disproportionate number of Indigenous children in the child welfare

system and the especially high rate of death among Indigenous children within this system further suggests that these systems continue the oppression and assimilation of Indigenous communities (Truth and Reconciliation report 2015).

In certain circumstances, the government may assume the rights and responsibilities of a parent for the purpose of the child's care, custody and control, such as in foster care, group home under child protection or child welfare services, or residential school for Indigenous children. The SSPPS asked respondents if as a child, they were ever under the legal responsibility of the government.<sup>8</sup> Results indicated that Indigenous women had disproportionately experienced placement in the child welfare system compared with non-Indigenous women. Notably, Indigenous women (11%) were almost six times more likely than non-Indigenous women (2.3%) to have ever been under the legal responsibility of the government (Table 7A). Specifically, about one in six (16%) First Nations women were ever under the legal responsibility of the government, eight times higher than non-Indigenous women. The proportion of Métis (7.0%) and Inuit (6.9%) women ever under the legal responsibility of the government was over three times higher than non-Indigenous women (Table 7B).

Being under the legal responsibility of the government was associated with a greater likelihood of lifetime violent victimization. About eight in ten (81%) Indigenous women who were ever under the legal responsibility of the government experienced lifetime violent victimization. In comparison, six in ten (60%) Indigenous women who were never under the legal responsibility of the government experienced lifetime violent victimization (Table 8).

### **More than four in ten Indigenous women experienced physical or sexual abuse during childhood**

In addition to being under the legal responsibility of the government, early childhood experiences of abuse and neglect can also increase the risk for violent victimization in adulthood (Cotter 2021a; Perreault 2021; Whitfield et al. 2003).

A history of abuse and trauma rooted in experiences of colonialization continue to have a negative impact on Indigenous peoples (Andersson and Nahwegahbown 2010). Experiences of trauma and displacement at an early age, linked to placement in residential schools and foster care systems where abuse and maltreatment were rampant, may further perpetuate violence through the cycle of intergenerational trauma and contribute to an increased risk of child abuse.

Results from the SSPPS indicate that Indigenous women are overrepresented as victims of childhood violence and maltreatment by an adult, such as a parent, other family member, friend, neighbour, or other adult. Overall, Indigenous women (42%) were more likely than non-Indigenous women (27%) to have been physically or sexually abused by an adult before the age of 15 (Table 7A). In particular, more than four in ten First Nations (42%) and Métis (43%) women experienced physical or sexual assault by an adult during childhood (Table 7B).

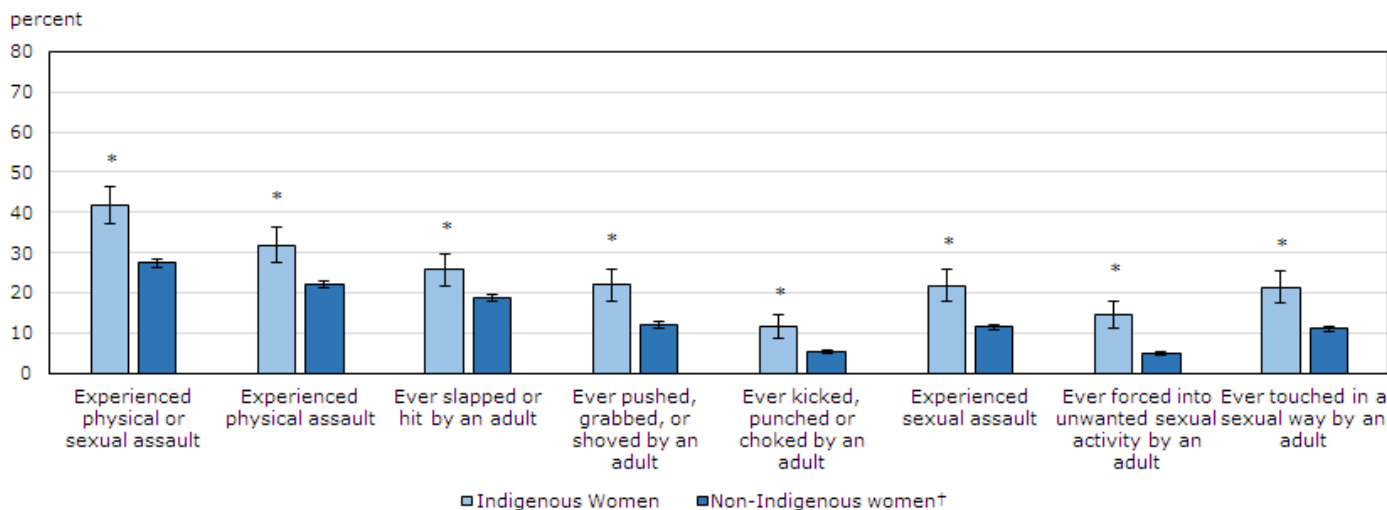
About three in ten (32%) Indigenous women have experienced physical abuse by an adult during childhood with about a third of First Nations (33%) and Métis (34%) women having experienced physical abuse before the age of 15. In comparison, about two in ten (22%) non-Indigenous women have experienced physical abuse by an adult during childhood.

Indigenous women (22%) were two times more likely than non-Indigenous women (11%) to have experienced sexual abuse by an adult before the age of 15. More specifically, about two in ten First Nations (22%) and Métis (22%) women have experienced sexual abuse during childhood.

### **All types of childhood maltreatment measured were more common among Indigenous women**

Overall, Indigenous women have experienced childhood physical and sexual abuse by an adult at higher rates relative to non-Indigenous women; this was true for each of the specific forms of child maltreatment measured (Table 7A; Chart 3). Indigenous women were more likely to have been slapped on the face, on the head or ears or hit with a hard object (26% versus 19% of non-Indigenous women) by an adult during childhood. Notably, Indigenous women were almost two times more likely to have been pushed, grabbed or shoved or had a hard object thrown at them (22% versus 12% of non-Indigenous women), or to have been kicked, bit, punched, choked, burned or physically attacked in some way (12% versus 5.2%) by an adult during childhood.

**Chart 3**  
**Physical and sexual assault before age 15 among Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, Canada, 2018**



\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)  
 † reference category  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Furthermore, Indigenous women were three times more likely to have been forced into unwanted sexual activity by an adult (15% versus 5.0% of non-Indigenous women) and about twice as likely to have been touched in a sexual way by an adult (21% versus 11%) during childhood (Table 7A).

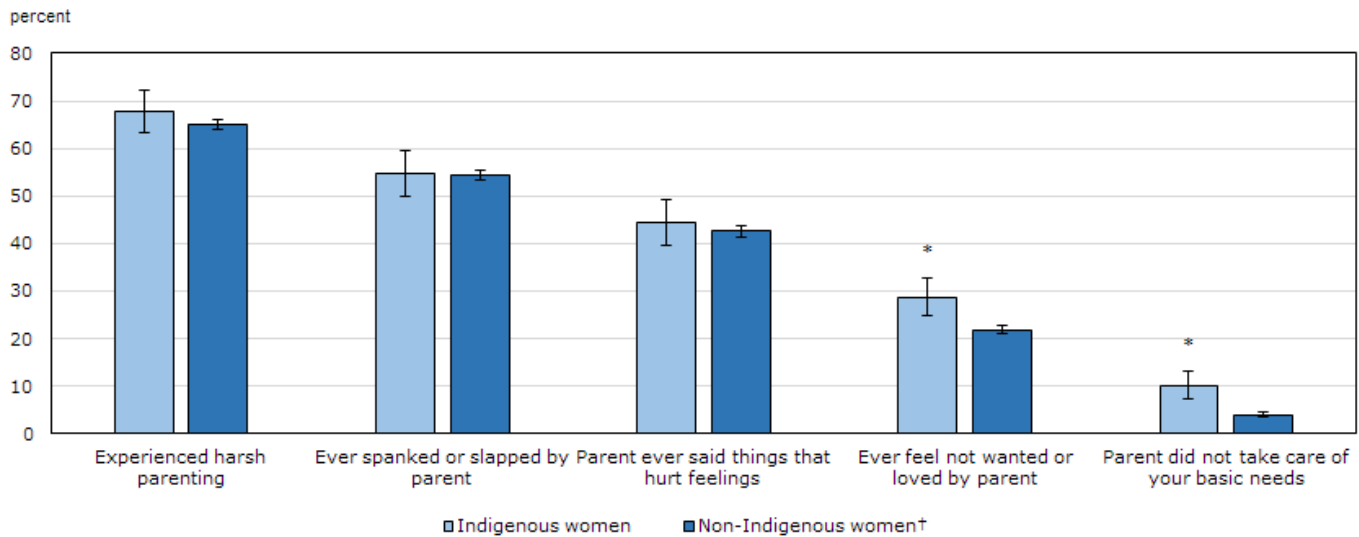
### One in ten Indigenous women had basic needs unmet during childhood

In addition to a higher prevalence of child abuse, the history of trauma and forced assimilation linked to experiences of colonialization may also negatively impact parenting patterns and impede the success of Indigenous families across generations through the cycle of abuse (Truth and Reconciliation report 2015). Prior to colonialization, child-rearing in Indigenous communities involved a network of family, extended family and community. However, in addition to the loss of tradition, language and culture, colonialization resulted in the loss of family and community connections. In particular, residential schools contributed to the dismantling of Indigenous culture and traditional parenting patterns and resulted in a lack of parenting skills and positive parenting role models (Lafrance and Collins 2013).

Harsh parenting during childhood, as defined in the SSPPS, includes having been slapped, spanked, made to feel unwanted or unloved, or been neglected or having basic needs unmet by parents or guardians. It is important to note that a disproportionately large proportion of Indigenous children have spent part or all of their lives in foster care; therefore, experiences of harsh parenting among Indigenous women may not have occurred by a parent or guardian within the birth family.

Overall, similar proportions of Indigenous women and non-Indigenous women have experienced harsh parenting during childhood (68% and 65%, respectively). However, during childhood, Indigenous women were more likely to have had a parent or guardian who made them feel unwanted or unloved (29% versus 22% of non-Indigenous women) and were two times more likely to have had a parent or guardian who did not take care of their basic needs<sup>9</sup> (10% versus 4.1%; Table 7A; Chart 4). Experiences of having basic needs unmet may be the result of economic difficulties rather than parental neglect; however, the vast majority of women, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who did not have their basic needs met also experienced at least one other type of harsh parenting by a parent or guardian.

**Chart 4**  
**Harsh parenting before age 15 among Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, Canada, 2018**



\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

More specifically, First Nations women (13%) were three times more likely, and Métis women (8.1%) were two times more likely, to have had a parent or guardian who did not take care of their basic needs during childhood compared with non-Indigenous women (4.1%; Table 7B). There were no significant differences for these experiences between Inuit women and non-Indigenous women.

Witnessing violence during childhood is another early childhood experience that can have detrimental consequences during adulthood. Indigenous women were overrepresented in experiences of hearing or witnessing violence during childhood. In particular, during childhood, Indigenous women were more likely to have heard or seen any of their parents or caregivers say hurtful or mean things to each other or to another adult in their home (54% versus 46% of non-Indigenous women) and two times more likely to have heard or seen any one of their parents, step-parents or guardians hit each other or another adult (25% versus 12%).

### Experiences of childhood physical or sexual abuse associated with lifetime violent victimization

Childhood experiences of victimization and maltreatment are important risk factors for violent victimization in adulthood (Brownridge et al. 2017; Burczycka 2017; Cotter 2021a; Perreault 2015). For Indigenous peoples in particular, the forced removal of children from homes and communities and the placement of Indigenous children in residential schools or foster homes resulted in many Indigenous children experiencing abuse and neglect. This dismantling of culture and identity coupled with experiences of childhood trauma and maltreatment has had long lasting consequences that continues to perpetuate across generations (Andersson and Nahwegahbown 2010; Gone 2013). Results from the SSPPS further highlight the disproportionate prevalence of violence among Indigenous women with a history of childhood abuse and maltreatment.

Experiencing physical or sexual abuse by an adult during childhood was associated with a higher likelihood of lifetime victimization for women overall. However, Indigenous women who had experienced abuse by an adult during childhood were two times more likely to have experienced lifetime violent victimization (88%) compared with Indigenous women who had not experienced abuse during childhood (44%). Similarly, non-Indigenous women who had experienced childhood abuse by an adult were two times more likely to have experienced lifetime violent victimization (72%) than non-Indigenous women who had not experienced abuse during childhood (34%; Table 8).

### Experiences of harsh parenting in childhood associated with increased risk of lifetime violent victimization

Experiencing harsh parenting by a parent or guardian during childhood was also associated with lifetime violent victimization. Approximately three-quarters (73%) of Indigenous women who had experienced harsh parenting by a parent or guardian during childhood experienced lifetime violent victimization, significantly larger than the proportion of Indigenous women who had not experienced harsh parenting (41%). This pattern was also evident among non-Indigenous women where a higher proportion who had experienced harsh parenting by a parent or guardian during childhood experienced lifetime violent victimization (56%) compared with the proportion of non-Indigenous women who had not experienced harsh parenting (23%; Table 8).



In addition, Indigenous women who witnessed violence before the age of 15 were more likely to experience lifetime victimization compared with Indigenous women who did not witness violence during childhood. In particular, Indigenous women who saw or heard any of their parents or caregivers say hurtful or mean things to each other or to another adult in their home were more likely to have experienced lifetime victimization (74%) compared with Indigenous women who had not experienced this type of violence (49%). Similarly, Indigenous women who saw or heard any one of their parents, step-parents or guardians hit each other or another adult were more likely to have experienced lifetime violent victimization (83%) compared with Indigenous women who had not experienced this type of violence (56%).

This pattern was also evident among non-Indigenous women. A higher proportion of non-Indigenous women who saw or heard any of their parents or caregivers say hurtful or mean things to each other or to another adult in their home experienced lifetime violent victimization (59%) compared with the proportion of non-Indigenous women who had not experienced this type of violence (32%). Non-Indigenous women who saw or heard any one of their parents, step-parents or guardians hit each other or another adult were also more likely to have experienced lifetime violent victimization (69%) compared with non-Indigenous women who had not experienced this type of violence (42%).

### **Text box 3**

#### **Homicide among Indigenous women in Canada**

Homicide is a relatively rare occurrence in Canada and accounts for a small proportion of police-reported violence; however, it is the most severe form of violence and, similar to violent victimization, Indigenous women are overrepresented as victims of this type of violence (Armstrong and Jaffray 2021).

In response to the murder and disappearance of Indigenous women and girls in large numbers, the Government of Canada, along with other agencies, launched a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in 2016. The inquiry highlighted that Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be missing or murdered compared with non-Indigenous women and girls (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

According to the Homicide Survey, between 2015 and 2020 there were 1,000 women<sup>10</sup> who were victims of homicide in Canada. While Indigenous women represent approximately 5% of women in Canada, they represented almost one-quarter (24%; 241 victims) of all women homicide victims over this time. From 2015 to 2020, police have reported 168 First Nations women (17% of all women victims of homicide), 26 Inuit women (3%), and 12 Métis women (1%) as victims of homicide. An additional 35 women homicide victims were reported by police as being Indigenous but their specific Indigenous identity group was unknown. These victims accounted for 4% of women victims.

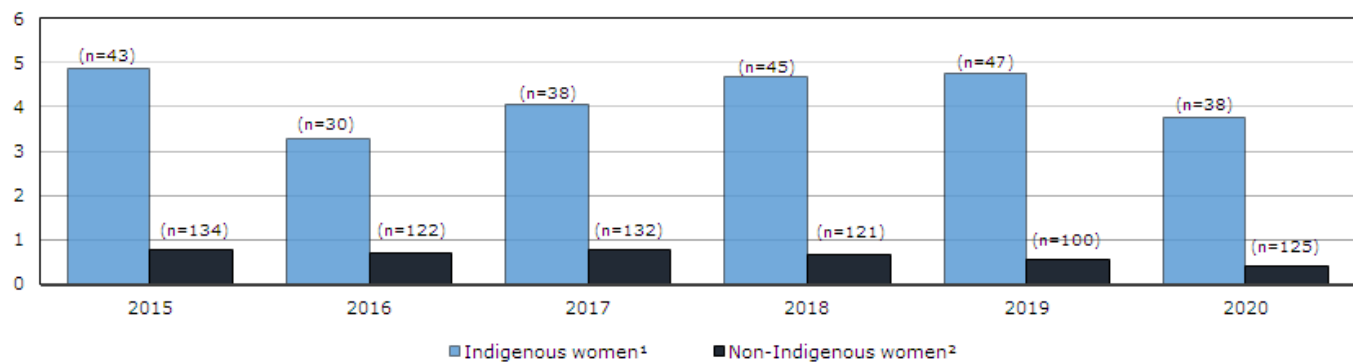
Indigenous women victims of homicide were generally younger than non-Indigenous women victims of homicide on average from 2015 to 2020. Results mirror the age distribution of the general population, whereby the Indigenous population is younger than the non-Indigenous population. Just over one in ten (13%) Indigenous women victims of homicide were considered a missing person at the time of their death from 2015 to 2020 (Table 9).

The majority of women victims of homicide between 2015 and 2020 knew their killer. The proportion of Indigenous women (3.9%) who were killed by a stranger during this time frame was smaller than the proportion of non-Indigenous women (11%) who were killed by a stranger. Among Indigenous women victims of homicide, about a quarter (26%) were killed by an acquaintance (i.e., non-family) and more than half (54%) were killed by a family member, including 27% by a current or former spouse and 27% by another family member.

In 2020, about 23% (163 homicides) of homicide victims were women and almost one-quarter (23%; 38 homicides) of those were Indigenous. The homicide rate for Indigenous women (3.8 per 100,000 Indigenous women) in 2020 was more than five times that of non-Indigenous women (0.7 per 100,000 non-Indigenous women; Table 10; Chart 5).

**Chart 5**  
**Rate of women homicide victims, by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2015 to 2020**

rate per 100,000 population



n= number of victims

1. "Indigenous identity" includes those identified by police as First Nations persons (either status or non-status), Métis, Inuit, or an Indigenous identity where the Indigenous group was not known to police. Rates are calculated per 100,000 Indigenous women population. Refer to the 'Survey description' section of this report for further information.

2. "Non-Indigenous identity" refers to instances where the police have confirmed that a victim is not identified as an Indigenous person. Rates are calculated per 100,000 non-Indigenous women population. Refer to the 'Survey description' section of this report for further information.

**Note:** The release of complete Indigenous identity information for victims of homicide began in 2014. The Indigenous identity status was unknown by police for 1% of victims in 2016 to 2018, 5% in 2019, and 4% in 2020. Populations are based upon July 1st, 2020 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

For more information on homicide in Canada, see Armstrong and Jaffray 2021.

## Indigenous women more likely to perceive indicators of social disorder in their neighbourhood

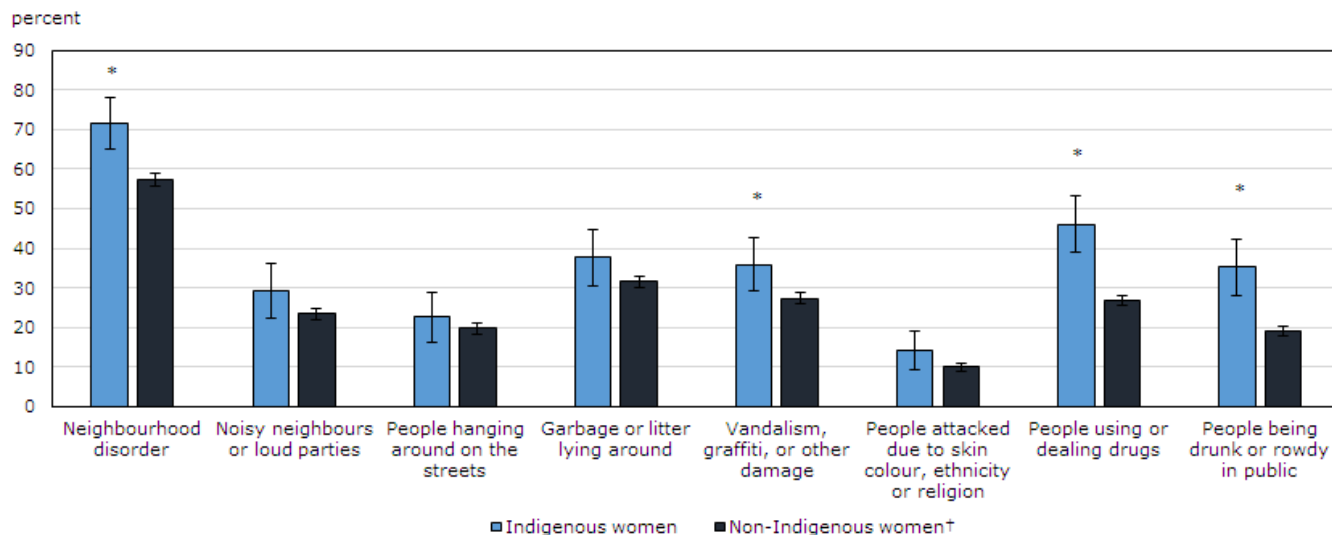
The 2019 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) included questions on perceptions of neighbourhood, including a measure of social cohesion and whether social or physical disorder were problems in participants' neighbourhoods. Perceptions of neighbourhoods can be reliable indicators of safety and trust within a social environment and can be used to gauge the level of social order and control (Gau and Pratt 2008).

According to the GSS on Victimization, a larger proportion of Indigenous women lived in communities where they were acquainted with their neighbours. Specifically, about half (48%) of Indigenous women reported residing in a neighbourhood where they know most or many of the people compared with about one-third (34%) of non-Indigenous women (Table 11A). While knowing most or many people in a neighbourhood is a good indicator of social cohesion and a measure of neighbourhood community, integration and shared values, other neighbourhood factors, such as the level of neighbourhood disorder, may also contribute to an increased risk of victimization.

Neighbourhood disorder or social disorder is associated with higher victimization rates and lower levels of life satisfaction, and is linked to perceptions of neighbourhood safety, including elevated fear when walking alone at night or taking public transportation (Cotter 2016; Perreault 2015). Neighbourhood disorder is often an indicator of the level of perceived safety and crime in neighbourhoods. Indigenous women were more likely to perceive indicators of social disorder in their neighbourhood, with about seven in ten (71%) Indigenous women reporting at least one small, moderate, or big problem in their neighbourhood. In comparison, almost six in ten (57%) non-Indigenous women perceived social disorder in their neighbourhood (Table 11A). The measure of social disorder included indicators such as the extent of noisy neighbours or loud parties, garbage or litter lying around, people being attacked due to skin colour, ethnicity or religion, and people using or dealing drugs in their neighbourhood (Chart 6).



**Chart 6**  
**Perceptions of neighbourhood disorder among Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, 2019**



\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)  
 † reference category  
 Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization).

Similar proportions of Indigenous (13%) and non-Indigenous (17%) women felt somewhat or very unsafe when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. These proportions are based on respondents who walked alone after dark, and did not include about one-quarter of respondents who said they did not walk alone after dark in their neighbourhood. The choice to not walk alone in neighbourhood after dark may be due to concerns about safety.

### Indigenous women twice as likely to have not very much or no confidence in police

Perceptions of police may be associated with the level of crime in a neighbourhood or community and as such are a critical aspect of public safety. Confidence and opinions about the police may be shaped by varying factors including direct personal experience, the influence of others, and the influence of the media (Chow 2012). Negative experiences with police, such as experiences of discrimination or inequality, can impact perceptions of police, and how citizens view police may further influence reporting of crime and victimization (Ibrahim 2020).

For Indigenous peoples, experiences of colonialization and the historical involvement of police in systems of oppression, such as residential schools, have tarnished the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the police (Cao 2014). Other studies suggest that involvement with the criminal justice system and the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in the correctional system may further perpetuate the mistrust in police among Indigenous peoples (Truth and Reconciliation report 2015).

While a large majority of Indigenous women indicated having a great deal of confidence in police (82%), the proportion was lower than among non-Indigenous women (91%). Moreover, Indigenous women (17%) were more than twice as likely to report having not very much or no confidence in the police compared with non-Indigenous women (8.2%; Table 11A; for results by Indigenous identity group see Table 11B).

### Summary

This article examined violent victimization and perceptions of safety among Indigenous women, and provides an overall statistical overview of gender-based violence experienced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada.

According to data from the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), Indigenous women are overrepresented as victims of violence with more than six in ten (63%) Indigenous women having experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime compared with non-Indigenous women (45%). This overrepresentation of Indigenous women in experiences of violent victimization is linked to historical and continued experiences of violence and trauma linked to colonialization and related policies aimed at erasing Indigenous cultures and dismantling Indigenous families and communities.

Certain characteristics were associated with a higher likelihood of experiencing lifetime violent victimization among Indigenous women, including having a disability or ever having experienced homelessness. Childhood experiences, including

experiences of abuse, maltreatment and neglect were also associated with a higher likelihood of lifetime violent victimization. Notably, Indigenous women who had ever been under the legal responsibility of the government were more likely to have experienced violent victimization compared with Indigenous women who were never under the legal responsibility of the government.

When looking at perceptions of neighborhood cohesion and disorder, data from the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) found that while Indigenous women were more likely than non-Indigenous women to be acquainted with their neighbours, Indigenous women were also more likely to perceive indicators of social disorder in their neighbourhood. Compared with non-Indigenous women, Indigenous women were more than twice as likely to report having not very much or no confidence in the police.

## Survey description

### Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces

In 2018, Statistics Canada conducted the first cycle of the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS). The purpose of the survey is to collect information on Canadians' experiences in public, at work, online, and in their intimate partner relationships.

The target population for the SSPPS is the Canadian population aged 15 and over, living in the provinces and territories. Canadians residing in institutions are not included. This means that the survey results may not reflect the experiences of intimate partner violence among those living in shelters, institutions, or other collective dwellings. Once a household was contacted, an individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey.

In the provinces, data collection took place from April to December 2018 inclusively. Responses were obtained by self-administered online questionnaire or by interviewer-administered telephone questionnaire. Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice. The sample size for the 10 provinces was 43,296 respondents. The response rate in the provinces was 43.1%.

In the territories, data collection took place from July to December 2018 inclusively. Responses were obtained by self-administered online questionnaire or by interviewer-administered in-person questionnaire. Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice. The sample size for the 3 territories was 2,597 respondents. The response rate in the territories was 73.2%.

Non-respondents included people who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 and older.

### General Social Survey on Victimization

This article uses data from the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization). In 2019, Statistics Canada conducted the GSS on Victimization for the seventh time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014. The main objective of the GSS on Victimization is to better understand issues related to the safety and security of Canadians, including perceptions of crime and the justice system, experiences of intimate partner violence, and how safe people feel in their communities.

The target population was persons aged 15 and older living in the provinces and territories, except for those living full-time in institutions.

Data collection took place between April 2019 and March 2020. Responses were obtained by computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI), in-person interviews (in the territories only) and, for the first time, the GSS on Victimization offered a self-administered internet collection option to survey respondents in the provinces and in the territorial capitals. Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice.

An individual aged 15 or older was randomly selected within each household to respond to the survey. An oversample of Indigenous people was added to the 2019 GSS on Victimization to allow for a more detailed analysis of individuals belonging to this population group. In 2019, the final sample size was 22,412 respondents.

In 2019, the overall response rate was 37.6%. Non-respondents included people who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 and older.

## Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed.

For the quality of estimates from the SSPPS and GSS on Victimization, the lower and upper bounds of the confidence intervals are presented. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: If the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value.

## Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. The Homicide Survey began collecting information on all murders in 1961 and was expanded in 1974 to include all incidents of manslaughter and infanticide. Although details on these incidents are not available prior to 1974, counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) and are included in the historical aggregate totals.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police service completes the survey questionnaires, which are then sent to Statistics Canada. There are cases where homicides become known to police months or years after they occurred. These incidents are counted in the year in which they become known to police (based on the report date). Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey. Information collected through the victim and incident questionnaires is also accordingly updated as a result of a case being solved. For incidents involving more than one accused, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

Due to revisions to the Homicide Survey database, annual data reported by the Homicide Survey prior to 2015 may not match the annual homicide counts reported by the UCR. Data from the Homicide Survey are appended to the UCR database each year for the reporting of annual police-reported crime statistics. Each reporting year, the UCR includes revised data reported by police for the previous survey year. In 2015, a review of data quality was undertaken for the Homicide Survey for all survey years from 1961 to 2014. The review included the collection of incident, victim and charged/suspect-chargeable records that were previously unreported to the Homicide Survey. In addition, the database excludes deaths, and associated accused records, which are not deemed as homicides by police any longer (i.e., occurrences of self-defense, suicide, criminal negligence causing death that had originally been deemed, but no longer considered homicides, by police). For operational reasons, these revisions were not applied to the UCR.

## Defining Indigenous identity for the Homicide Survey

Indigenous identity is reported by police to the Homicide Survey and is determined through information found with the victim or accused person, such as status cards, or through information supplied by victims' or accused persons' families, the accused persons themselves, community members, or other sources (i.e., such as band records). Forensic evidence such as genetic testing results may also be an acceptable means of determining the Indigenous identity of victims.

For the purposes of the Homicide Survey, Indigenous identity includes those identified as First Nations persons (either status or non-status), Métis, Inuit, or an Indigenous identity where the Indigenous group is not known to police. Non-Indigenous identity refers to instances where the police have confirmed that a victim or accused person is not identified as an Indigenous person. Indigenous identity reported as 'unknown' by police includes instances where police are unable to determine the Indigenous identity of the victim or accused person, where Indigenous identity is not collected by the police service, or where the accused person has refused to disclose their Indigenous identity to police.

## References

- Andersson, N. and A. Nahwegahbow. 2010. "Family violence and the need for prevention research in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Communities." *Pimatisiwin*. Vol. 8, no. 2. p. 9-33
- Armstrong, A. and B. Jaffray. 2021. "Homicide in Canada, 2020." *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Boyce, J. 2016. "Victimization of Aboriginal people in Canada, 2014." *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Brassard, R., Montminy, L., Bergeron, A., and I. Sosa-Sanchez. 2015. "Application of Intersectional analysis to data on domestic violence against Aboriginal women living in remote communities in the province of Quebec." *Aboriginal Policy Studies*. Vol. 4, no. 1. p. 3-23.
- Brownridge, D., Taillieu, T., Afifi, T., Chan, K., Emery, C., Lavoie, J., and F. Elgar. 2017. "Child Maltreatment and Intimate Partner Violence among Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Canadians." *Journal of Family Violence*. Vol. 32, no. 6. p. 607-619
- Burczykca, M. 2016. "Trends in self-reported spousal violence in Canada, 2014." In "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2014." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Cao, L. 2014. "Aboriginal people and confidence in the police." *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Vol. 1. p. 1-34.
- Chow, H. 2012. "Attitudes towards police in Canada: A study of perceptions of university students in a western Canadian city." *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*. Vol. 7, no. 1. p. 508-523.
- Conroy, S. 2021. "Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019." *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Cotter, A. 2016. "Canadians' perceptions of neighbourhood disorder, 2014. Spotlight on Canadians: Results from the General Social Survey." Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-652-X.
- Cotter, A. 2021a. "Intimate partner violence in Canada, 2018: An overview." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Cotter, A. 2021b. "Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2019." *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Gau, J.M. and T.C. Pratt. 2008. "Broken windows or window dressing? Citizens' (in)ability to tell the difference between disorder and crime." *Criminology and Public Policy*. Vol. 7, no. 2. p. 163-194.
- Gone, J. 2013. "Redressing First Nations Historical Trauma: Theorizing mechanisms for Indigenous culture as mental health treatment." *Transcultural Psychiatry*. Vol. 50, no. 5. p. 683-706.
- Heidinger, L. 2021. "Intimate partner violence: Experiences of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women in Canada, 2018." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Ibrahim, D. 2020. "Public perceptions of the police in Canada's provinces, 2019." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Johnson, M.P. and J.M. Leone. 2005. "The differential effects of intimate terrorism and situational couple violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey." *Journal of Family Issues*. Vol. 26, no. 3. p. 322-349.
- Karakurt, G., Smith, D. and J. Whiting. 2014. "Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Women's Mental Health." *Journal of Family Violence*. Vol. 29, no. 7. p. 693-702.
- Lafrance, J. and D. Collins. 2013. Residential School and Aboriginal Parenting: Voices of Parents. *Native Social Work Journal*. 4(1). p. 104-125.
- National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. 2019. "Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls."
- Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and E. Comack. 2020. "Addressing Gendered Violence against Inuit Women: A review of police policies and practices in Inuit Nunangat." Report in Brief and Recommendations.
- Perreault, S. 2020. "Gender-based violence: Sexual and physical assault in Canada's territories, 2018." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Perreault, S. 2015. "Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Postmus, J., Hoge, G., Breckenridge, J., Sharp-Jeffs, N., and D. Chung. 2020. "Economic Abuse as an Invisible Form of Domestic Violence: A multicountry review." *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*. Vol. 21, no. 2. p. 261-283.
- Public Health Agency of Canada. 2020. "Family Violence Initiative."
- Sharma, R., Pooyak, S., Jongbloed, K., Zamar, D., Pearce, M. E., Mazzuca, A., Schechter, M. T., Spittal, P. M., and Cedar Project Partnership. 2021. "The Cedar Project: Historical, structural and interpersonal determinants of involvement in survival sex work over time among Indigenous women who have used drugs in two Canadian cities." *International Journal of Drug Policy*. Vol. 87.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015. "[Honouring the truth, reconciling for the future: summary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.](#)"

Whitfield, C., Anda, R., Dube, S., and V. Felitti. 2003. "Violent childhood experiences and the risk of intimate partner violence in adults: Assessment in a large health maintenance organization." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Vol. 18, no. 2. p. 166-185.

Williams, J., Gifford, W., Vanderspank-Wright, B., and J. Phillips. 2019. "Violence and health promotion among First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women: A systemic review of qualitative research." *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. p. 1-17.

Women and Gender Equality Canada. 2021. "Fact Sheet: Intimate Partner Violence."

World Health Organization. 2017. "Violence against women."

## Notes

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

1. Though other terms, such as survivor, could be used to refer to those who have experienced intimate partner violence, the term 'victim' is used to stay consistent with the terminology used in other Statistics Canada reports.

2. Throughout this article, the terms "lifetime" refers to violent victimization that occurred since age 15.

3. The Indigenous population was identified using the following question: "Are you an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit)?" In this article, the term "Indigenous" is used to refer to all First Nations, Métis and Inuit. Where possible, results are presented separately for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Indigenous identity groups. It is important to recognize the diversity of Indigenous communities in Canada. The data presented in this article represent the sum of the responses provided by Indigenous respondents and may therefore not accurately reflect the reality of each individual community, including when the data are disaggregated by Indigenous group.

4. Throughout this article, the term "women" refers to women and girls aged 15 and older, whose sex assigned at birth corresponds to their current gender (cisgender), and those whose sex assigned at birth does not correspond to their current gender (transgender).

5. Unless indicated otherwise, all differences discussed in-text are statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$ .

6. The regions provided in Table 6 are a combination of geographic regions, and provinces or territories. Some provinces and territories were combined to facilitate reporting due to small sample size, in particular the Atlantic Provinces, the Prairies, and the Territories.

7. Percent calculations for lifetime intimate partner violence are based on those who have ever been in an intimate partner relationship (ever-partnered).

8. The government assumes the rights and responsibilities of a parent for the purpose of the child's care, custody and control. For example, in foster care, group home under child protection or child welfare services, orphanage, residential school for Indigenous children, under the custody of a youth justice facility or group home.

9. It should be noted that these situations can sometimes be the result of economic difficulties rather than parental neglect. Nevertheless, the vast majority of women, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who experienced such situations said they had also experienced at least one other type of harsh parenting. As a result, the terms "neglect" or "harsh parenting" are sometimes used for the sake of brevity and refer to all situations where the child's basic necessities have not been satisfied, whether due to neglect or a difficult economic situation.

10. Throughout Textbox 3, homicides among women refers to homicides of women and girls.

## Detailed data tables

**Table 1A**  
**Physical and sexual assault committed by intimate partners and non-intimate partners since age 15 among women, by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018**

Type of victimization by perpetrator since age 15	Indigenous Women			Non-Indigenous Women <sup>†</sup>		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Intimate partner violence since age 15<sup>1</sup></b>						
Physical assault	41.7*	36.9	46.6	22.3	21.4	23.2
Sexual assault	21.2*	17.5	25.4	11.1	10.5	11.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.7*</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>26.0</b>
<b>Non-intimate partner violence since age 15<sup>2</sup></b>						
Physical assault	42.7*	38.0	47.6	25.6	24.6	26.6
Sexual assault	43.2*	38.5	47.9	29.9	28.9	30.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.9*</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>39.2</b>
<b>Total violence since age 15</b>						
Physical assault	55.5*	50.6	60.3	34.3	33.3	35.4
Sexual assault	46.2*	41.5	50.9	32.9	31.9	33.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.7*</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>45.7</b>

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Includes violence committed by another perpetrator with whom the victim did not have an intimate relationship with, including acquaintances, friends, family members, co-workers and others.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.



**Table 1B**  
**Physical and sexual assault committed by intimate partners and non-intimate partners among women since age 15, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2018**

Type of victimization by perpetrator since age 15	First Nations Women			Métis Women			Inuit Women			Non-Indigenous Women†		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
<b>Intimate partner violence since age 15<sup>1</sup></b>												
Physical assault	42.0*	34.8	49.5	45.5*	38.5	52.7	33.6	20.9	49.2	22.3	21.4	23.2
Sexual assault	17.7*	12.7	24.1	25.8*	20.2	32.4	11.3	6.5	19.0	11.1	10.5	11.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.7*</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>47.7*</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>26.0</b>
<b>Non-intimate partner violence since age 15<sup>2</sup></b>												
Physical assault	47.6*	40.3	54.9	40.1*	34.2	46.5	23.4	14.6	35.4	25.6	24.6	26.6
Sexual assault	45.7*	38.6	53.0	44.0*	37.4	50.8	24.1	15.1	36.3	29.9	28.9	30.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.1*</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>54.9*</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>39.2</b>
<b>Total violence since age 15</b>												
Physical assault	57.6*	50.3	64.6	56.6*	50.0	63.0	39.0	25.5	54.5	34.3	33.3	35.4
Sexual assault	47.5*	40.4	54.7	48.4*	41.8	55.0	28.4	18.1	41.6	32.9	31.9	33.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.4*</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>64.8*</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>45.7</b>

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Includes violence committed by another perpetrator with whom the victim did not have an intimate relationship with, including acquaintances, friends, family members, co-workers and others.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.



**Table 2A**  
**Physical and sexual assault committed by intimate partners and non-intimate partners in the past 12 months among women, by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018**

Type of victimization by perpetrator in past 12 months	Indigenous Women			Non-Indigenous Women†		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months<sup>1</sup></b>						
Physical assault	3.6	2.1	6.0	2.4	2.0	2.8
Sexual assault	2.4	1.2	4.8	1.1	0.9	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Non-intimate partner violence in the past 12 months<sup>2</sup></b>						
Physical assault	4.3*	2.5	7.1	2.0	1.6	2.4
Sexual assault	4.1	2.5	6.7	2.9	2.5	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>Total violence in the past 12 months</b>						
Physical assault	6.2*	4.2	9.1	3.5	3.1	4.0
Sexual assault	5.0	3.3	7.7	3.5	3.1	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Includes violence committed by another perpetrator with whom the victim did not have an intimate relationship with, including acquaintances, friends, family members, co-workers and others.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

**Table 2B**  
**Physical and sexual assault committed by intimate partners and non-intimate partners in the past 12 months among women, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2018**

Type of victimization by perpetrator in past 12 months	First Nations Women			Metis Women			Inuit Women			Non-Indigenous Women†		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
<b>Intimate partner violence in the past 12 months<sup>1</sup></b>												
Physical assault	5.8	3.0	10.9	F	F	F	5.6	3.1	9.9	2.4	2.0	2.8
Sexual assault	4.2	1.9	9.3	F	F	F	1.6	0.7	3.7	1.1	0.9	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.1*</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>1.3*</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Non-intimate partner violence in the past 12 months<sup>2</sup></b>												
Physical assault	4.5	2.0	9.8	3.1	1.6	6.0	F	F	F	2.0	1.6	2.4
Sexual assault	4.7	2.3	9.6	3.2	1.5	6.9	F	F	F	2.9	2.5	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>Total violence in the past 12 months</b>												
Physical assault	7.3	4.2	12.4	3.7	2.1	6.6	11.5	5.4	22.7	3.5	3.1	4.0
Sexual assault	6.3	3.4	11.2	3.4	1.6	7.0	9.4	3.6	22.2	3.5	3.1	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Includes violence committed by another perpetrator with whom the victim did not have an intimate relationship with, including acquaintances, friends, family members, co-workers and others.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

**Table 3**  
**Physical or sexual assault since age 15 among women, by region and Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018**

Province or region	Physical assault since age 15						Sexual assault since age 15						Total physical or sexual assault since age 15					
	Indigenous Women			Non-Indigenous Women†			Indigenous Women			Non-Indigenous Women†			Indigenous Women			Non-Indigenous Women†		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
Atlantic provinces <sup>1</sup>	54.7*	45.4	63.6	34.6	32.8	36.3	50.9*	41.9	59.9	33.3	31.5	35.1	64.2*	55.1	72.4	44.9	43.0	46.8
Central Canada <sup>2</sup>	58.0*	47.3	67.9	32.7	31.2	34.1	41.2*	31.8	51.4	30.8	29.4	32.3	62.4*	51.8	71.9	42.6	41.1	44.1
Prairies <sup>3</sup>	53.9*	47.0	60.6	36.9	35.2	38.7	46.3*	39.5	53.2	36.1	34.4	37.9	61.3*	54.6	67.6	48.0	46.2	49.9
British Columbia	54.0*	41.1	66.4	38.6	36.3	40.9	53.9*	41.3	66.0	38.4	36.1	40.7	65.3*	51.7	76.8	49.7	47.4	52.1
Territories <sup>4</sup>	54.8	48.0	61.3	50.4	46.4	54.4	38.2*	33.7	42.8	47.0	42.9	51.2	61.8	55.9	67.4	61.3	57.2	65.1
<b>Canada</b>	<b>55.5*</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>46.2*</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>62.7*</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>45.7</b>

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Includes Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

2. Includes Quebec and Ontario.

3. Includes Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

4. Includes Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**Note:** Province or region refers to the respondent's province or region of residence at the time of the survey, and does not necessarily correspond to where the victimization occurred.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

**Table 4**  
**Intimate partner violence among women, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by Indigenous identity and type of intimate partner violence, Canada, 2018**

Type of intimate partner violence	Indigenous Women						Non-Indigenous Women†					
	Experienced since age 15 <sup>1</sup>			Past 12 months <sup>2</sup>			Experienced since age 15 <sup>1</sup>			Past 12 months <sup>2</sup>		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
<b>Emotional, financial, or psychological abuse</b>												
Been jealous and didn't want you to talk to other men or women	45.8*	40.8	50.8	7.3	4.8	11.1	28.9	27.9	29.9	5.3	4.7	6.1
Harmed, or threatened to harm your pets	9.7*	7.3	12.8	F	F	F	4.1	3.7	4.6	0.5	0.3	0.6
Demanded to know who you were with and where you were at all times	34.6*	30.1	39.5	7.2*	4.6	11.1	18.6	17.8	19.5	3.1	2.7	3.7
Put you down or called you names to make you feel bad	50.1*	45.1	55.1	13.2*	9.2	18.5	30.6	29.5	31.6	8.2	7.5	9.0
Forced you to give them money or possessions	15.9*	12.5	20.0	3.0*	1.5	6.0	6.0	5.6	6.6	0.5	0.4	0.7
Told you you were crazy, stupid, or not good enough <sup>3</sup>	44.4*	39.6	49.4	10.3	7.0	15.1	26.3	25.4	27.2	6.8	6.2	7.5
Tried to convince your family, children, or friends that you are crazy or tried to turn them against you <sup>3</sup>	21.5*	17.5	26.0	5.0*	2.8	8.8	9.4	8.8	10.0	1.8	1.4	2.2
Followed you or hung around outside your home or work <sup>3</sup>	22.8*	18.8	27.4	F	F	F	11.7	11.0	12.4	0.9	0.6	1.2
Kept you from seeing or talking to your family or friends <sup>3</sup>	23.0*	19.1	27.5	3.0	1.4	6.3	10.1	9.5	10.7	1.1	0.9	1.4
Harassed you by phone, text, email, or using social media <sup>3</sup>	25.9*	21.7	30.7	5.7*	3.4	9.4	13.1	12.4	13.9	2.6	2.1	3.1
Kept you from having access to a job, money, or financial resources <sup>3</sup>	12.8*	9.6	16.9	F	F	F	4.8	4.4	5.3	0.5	0.3	0.6
Confined or locked you in a room or other space <sup>3</sup>	11.1*	8.0	15.1	F	F	F	3.2	2.8	3.6	0.3	0.1	0.6
Damaged or destroyed your possessions or property	29.8*	25.5	34.4	2.9	1.5	5.5	11.5	10.8	12.1	1.1	0.9	1.4
Made comments about your sexual past or your sexual performance that made you feel ashamed, inadequate, or humiliated	28.0*	23.6	32.9	4.4	2.4	7.8	14.0	13.2	14.8	3.0	2.5	3.6
Revealed, or threatened to reveal, your sexual orientation or your relationship to anyone who you did not want to know about your sexuality or sexual orientation <sup>4</sup>	25.1*	12.2	44.7	F	F	F	5.4	3.8	7.7	F	F	F
Blamed you for causing their abusive or violent behaviour <sup>3,5</sup>	55.9*	49.0	62.6	8.5	4.9	14.4	46.3	44.5	48.1	9.1	7.9	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.7*</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>16.8*</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>12.6</b>

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 4 — end**  
**Intimate partner violence among women, since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by Indigenous identity and type of intimate partner violence, Canada, 2018**

Type of intimate partner violence	Indigenous Women						Non-Indigenous Women†					
	Experienced since age 15 <sup>1</sup>			Past 12 months <sup>2</sup>			Experienced since age 15 <sup>1</sup>			Past 12 months <sup>2</sup>		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
<b>Physical abuse</b>												
Shook, pushed, grabbed, or threw you <sup>3</sup>	31.6*	27.1	36.5	2.4	1.1	5.2	16.6	15.9	17.4	1.5	1.2	1.9
Hit you with a fist or object, kicked or bit you <sup>3</sup>	26.4*	22.3	30.9	2.1	0.9	5.0	10.8	10.1	11.5	0.7	0.5	1.0
Threatened to harm or kill you or someone close to you <sup>3</sup>	17.8*	14.2	22.2	0.9	0.4	1.9	6.8	6.3	7.3	0.5	0.3	0.8
Choked you <sup>3</sup>	17.3*	13.8	21.3	1.2	0.5	3.0	6.1	5.6	6.7	0.5	0.3	0.7
Used or threatened to use a knife or gun or other weapon to harm you <sup>3</sup>	13.4*	10.2	17.3	F	F	F	3.6	3.3	4.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
Threatened to hit you with their fist or anything that could hurt you	27.8*	23.6	32.5	2.5	1.2	5.2	11.3	10.6	11.9	1.0	0.7	1.3
Thrown anything at you that could have hurt you	25.7*	21.6	30.4	2.3	1.0	5.1	10.3	9.6	10.9	0.8	0.6	1.1
Slapped you	25.5*	21.4	30.1	F	F	F	10.9	10.3	11.6	0.7	0.5	1.1
Beaten you	16.0*	12.9	19.6	0.7	0.3	1.4	5.7	5.2	6.2	0.2	0.1	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.7*</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Sexual abuse</b>												
Made you perform sex acts that you did not want to perform <sup>3</sup>	16.6*	13.2	20.7	1.3	0.6	2.8	8.2	7.6	8.8	0.8	0.6	1.1
Forced or tried to force you to have sex <sup>3</sup>	18.6*	15.1	22.5	2.4	1.1	5.2	9.5	8.9	10.1	0.9	0.7	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.2*</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Total intimate partner violence</b>	<b>60.9*</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>16.8*</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>12.8</b>

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

1. Represents the percentage of all respondents, excluding those who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

2. Represents the percentage of all respondents, excluding those who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship and those who stated that they had not had contact with any current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months.

3. This is an item taken from the Composite Abuse Scale - revised short form (CASr-SF).

4. This item was only asked of respondents who did not identify as heterosexual.

5. This item was only asked of respondents who indicated yes to at least one item from the CASr-SF. The percent calculation therefore does not include all respondents.

**Note:** Intimate partner violence includes violence committed by a current or former spouse, common-law partner, dating partner, or someone with whom the victim was in another type of intimate relationship. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

**Table 5A**  
**Non-intimate partner violence among women since age 15 and in the past 12 months, by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018**

Type of violent victimization	Indigenous women						Non-Indigenous women†					
	Experienced since age 15			Experienced in the past 12 months			Experienced since age 15			Experienced in the past 12 months		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>Physical violence</b>												
Attacked	37.1*	32.5	41.8	3.4	1.8	6.3	22.0	21.1	22.9	1.4	1.1	1.7
Threatened to attack or threaten with weapon	26.6*	22.5	31.2	3.2*	1.8	5.6	13.6	12.8	14.3	1.1	0.8	1.4
<b>Total Physical violence</b>	<b>42.7*</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>4.3*</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Sexual violence</b>												
Unwanted sexual touching	40.3*	35.7	45.0	3.8	2.3	6.4	28.4	27.5	29.4	2.6	2.2	3.1
Unwanted sexual activity	17.2*	13.7	21.3	1.0	0.3	3.2	8.3	7.8	8.9	0.3	0.2	0.5
Non-consensual sexual activity	19.6*	15.9	23.8	1.6	0.6	4.3	8.3	7.7	8.8	0.5	0.3	0.7
<b>Total Sexual violence</b>	<b>43.2*</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Total Physical or Sexual Violence</b>	<b>54.9*</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

**Note:** Non-intimate partner violence includes violence committed by another perpetrator with whom the victim did not have an intimate relationship with, including acquaintances, friends, family members, co-workers and others.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

**Table 5B**  
**Non-intimate partner violence among women since age 15, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2018**

Type of violent victimization	First Nations women			Métis women			Inuit women			Non-Indigenous women†		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>Physical violence</b>												
Attacked	40.4*	33.6	47.6	36.5*	30.6	43.0	21.5	13.0	33.3	22.0	21.1	22.9
Threatened to attack or threaten with weapon	29.1*	22.7	36.5	25.1*	20.1	30.9	13.0	6.7	23.8	13.6	12.8	14.3
<b>Total Physical violence</b>	<b>47.6*</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>40.1*</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>26.6</b>
<b>Sexual violence</b>												
Unwanted sexual touching	42.8*	35.9	50.0	40.9*	34.5	47.7	22.5	13.9	34.4	28.4	27.5	29.4
Unwanted sexual activity	18.5*	13.2	25.4	15.7*	11.6	21.0	7.5	4.7	11.7	8.3	7.8	8.9
Non-consensual sexual activity	23.5*	17.7	30.4	17.6*	13.0	23.4	12.8	6.2	24.8	8.3	7.7	8.8
<b>Total Sexual violence</b>	<b>45.7*</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>44.0*</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>30.8</b>
<b>Total Physical or Sexual Violence</b>	<b>58.1*</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>54.9*</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>39.2</b>

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

**Note:** Non-intimate partner violence includes violence committed by another perpetrator with whom the victim did not have an intimate relationship with, including acquaintances, friends, family members, co-workers and others.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.



**Table 6**  
**Total violent victimization since age 15 and in the past 12 months among women by selected characteristics of victim and Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018**

Selected characteristic	Violent victimization since age 15						Violent victimization in the past 12 months					
	Indigenous Women			Non-Indigenous Women†			Indigenous Women			Non-Indigenous Women†		
	% <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval		% <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval		% <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval		% <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>Age group</b>												
15 to 24†	46.3	32.5	60.6	37.4	33.3	41.7	27.6	16.6	42.3	17.7	14.5	21.4
25 to 34	69.9***	58.5	79.3	55.0*	52.0	58.0	7.1†	4.3	11.5	7.6*	6.2	9.3
35 to 44	73.2***	62.9	81.5	50.4*	47.8	53.0	5.1†	2.4	10.3	6.9*	5.6	8.4
45 to 54	63.7**	52.9	73.3	48.5*	46.0	51.1	8.7*	4.1	17.6	4.4*	3.5	5.5
55 to 64	71.6***	61.7	79.9	45.7*	43.6	47.8	F	F	F	2.4*	1.8	3.1
65 to 74	48.9	36.9	60.9	38.3	36.2	40.5	F	F	F	1.9*	1.3	2.7
75 and over	F	F	F	27.1*	24.6	29.8	F	F	F	0.3*	0.2	0.6
<b>Disability</b>												
Person with disability†	74.0**	67.9	79.3	56.6	54.8	58.3	12.0	8.2	17.1	9.3	8.1	10.7
Person without disability	50.1***	42.8	57.5	37.0*	35.7	38.4	5.0†	2.9	8.7	4.1*	3.5	4.8
<b>Employed in past 12 months</b>												
Yes†	67.2**	61.4	72.6	49.1	47.6	50.5	10.4	7.1	15.1	7.9	7.0	8.8
No	55.4***	47.4	63.1	36.0*	34.5	37.6	5.7	3.2	9.7	2.7*	2.2	3.4
<b>Highest degree earned</b>												
Less than high school†	48.0**	36.6	59.6	25.5	22.8	28.4	14.3**	7.5	25.6	4.8	3.3	6.8
High school	58.2**	49.4	66.6	40.8*	38.5	43.2	9.5	5.3	16.3	8.0*	6.5	9.7
College or trade school	71.2***	63.2	78.1	48.5*	46.6	50.4	4.7†	2.6	8.4	5.6	4.6	6.8
University	71.4***	61.2	79.8	50.7*	48.9	52.6	7.6	3.4	16.3	5.7	4.9	6.7
<b>Household income group<sup>2</sup></b>												
Less than \$20,000†	74.7**	58.7	85.9	51.1	46.2	56.0	17.7	9.2	31.5	11.9	9.1	15.5
\$20,000 to \$59,999	63.2**	55.7	70.2	42.4*	40.6	44.3	9.8**	6.0	15.5	4.7*	3.9	5.7
\$60,000 to \$99,999	64.1**	53.0	73.9	43.9*	41.8	46.0	5.2†	1.9	13.1	5.5*	4.5	6.9
\$100,000 to \$149,999	59.9**	47.5	71.2	45.6*	43.2	48.1	4.6*	2.2	9.2	5.6*	4.4	7.2
\$150,000 or more	53.9	40.1	67.1	45.6	43.1	48.1	8.2	2.5	23.3	7.4*	5.9	9.2
<b>Location of residence</b>												
Rural†	67.6**	55.0	78.1	43.1	40.7	45.6	F	F	F	4.3	3.3	5.5
Urban	64.2**	57.8	70.2	44.6	43.4	45.9	9.9*	6.5	14.9	6.5*	5.8	7.3
<b>Marital status</b>												
Married or common-law†	62.1	55.6	68.2	42.8	41.5	44.1	3.2	1.9	5.3	3.8	3.3	4.4
Separated or divorced	82.0***	72.8	88.6	62.5*	59.6	65.3	8.8	3.5	20.5	5.7*	4.4	7.4
Widowed	42.5*	28.7	57.5	29.8*	27.1	32.7	F	F	F	0.7*	0.4	1.2
Single, never married	59.2**	49.4	68.4	46.8*	44.1	49.5	18.3*	12.2	26.6	13.5*	11.6	15.7
<b>Ever homeless</b>												
Yes†	90.6	68.3	97.7	90.0	84.6	93.6	21.5	10.7	38.6	19.9	13.9	27.7
No	59.8***	54.8	64.7	43.9*	42.9	45.0	7.2	4.9	10.4	5.9*	5.3	6.6

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 6 — end

Total violent victimization since age 15 and in the past 12 months among women by selected characteristics of victim and Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018

Selected characteristic	Violent victimization since age 15						Violent victimization in the past 12 months					
	Indigenous Women			Non-Indigenous Women†			Indigenous Women			Non-Indigenous Women†		
	% <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval		% <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval		% <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval		% <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>Ever lived with family/friends because nowhere else to go</b>												
Yes†	85.0	76.2	90.9	79.5	76.8	82.0	15.3	9.3	24.2	13.7	11.5	16.4
No	54.7***	49.0	60.3	41.1*	40.0	42.3	6.1*	4.0	9.2	5.4*	4.7	6.0

F too unreliable to be published

\* significantly different from reference category only ( $p < 0.05$ )

\*\* significantly different from estimate for non-Indigenous women only ( $p < 0.05$ )

\*\*\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ ) and estimate for non-Indigenous women ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

1. Percent calculation excludes respondents who reported that they have never been in an intimate partner relationship and, for the past 12 months, those who stated that they had not had contact with any current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months.

2. Represents before-tax household income and comes from multiple sources. For 84% of respondents, income data was obtained from successful linkage to tax records. For 15% of respondents, linkage to tax records was not successful or respondents did not consent to linkage with other sources; income data for these respondents is imputed. In the territories (less than 1% of the total sample), respondents were asked to self-report their personal and household income or provide a range in which their before-tax income fell.

**Note:** Violent victimization includes intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

**Table 7A**  
**Childhood abuse and maltreatment among women, by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018**

Type of childhood abuse or maltreatment	Indigenous women			Non-Indigenous women <sup>†</sup>		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
Ever saw or heard parents say hurtful things to other adult	54.0*	49.2	58.7	46.1	45.1	47.2
Ever saw or heard parents hit each other or other adult	24.9*	20.7	29.5	11.9	11.3	12.6
Ever under legal responsibility of the government	11.4*	8.7	14.8	2.3	2.0	2.7
<b>Experienced physical or sexual assault before age 15</b>	41.9*	37.3	46.6	27.4	26.5	28.4
<b>Experienced physical assault before the age of 15</b>	31.9*	27.7	36.5	22.0	21.1	22.9
Ever slapped or hit by adult	25.8*	21.9	30.1	18.7	17.8	19.6
Ever pushed, grabbed, or shoved by adult	22.0*	18.1	26.4	12.0	11.3	12.7
Ever kicked, punched or choked by adult	11.6*	8.9	14.9	5.2	4.8	5.7
<b>Experienced sexual assault before the age of 15</b>	21.8*	18.1	25.9	11.4	10.8	12.0
Ever forced into unwanted sexual activity by adult	14.6*	11.6	18.4	5.0	4.6	5.4
Ever touched in a sexual way by adult	21.4*	17.7	25.5	11.1	10.5	11.7
<b>Experienced harsh parenting before age 15</b>	67.8	63.1	72.2	64.9	63.9	66.0
Ever spanked or slapped by parent	54.8	50.0	59.5	54.4	53.3	55.5
Parent ever said things that hurt feelings	44.5	39.7	49.4	42.5	41.5	43.6
Ever felt not wanted or loved by parent	28.8*	24.9	33.0	21.9	21.0	22.8
Parent did not take care of your basic needs	10.2*	7.6	13.4	4.1	3.7	4.5

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

**Table 7B**  
**Childhood abuse and maltreatment among women, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2018**

Type of childhood abuse or maltreatment	First Nations women			Métis women			Inuit women			Non-Indigenous women†		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
from		to	from		to	from		to	from		to	
Ever saw or heard parents say hurtful things to other adult	52.1	44.9	59.3	58.2*	51.4	64.6	37.8	24.6	53.1	46.1	45.1	47.2
Ever saw or heard parents hit each other or other adult	26.0*	20.0	33.1	25.3*	19.4	32.3	16.3	10.7	24.1	11.9	11.3	12.6
Ever under legal responsibility of the government	16.4*	11.9	22.2	7.0*	4.0	12.0	6.9*	3.9	11.8	2.3	2.0	2.7
<b>Experienced physical or sexual assault before age 15</b>	42.3*	35.4	49.5	43.4*	36.8	50.3	22.1	13.9	33.2	27.4	26.5	28.4
<b>Experienced physical assault before the age of 15</b>	32.9*	26.4	40.1	33.8*	27.6	40.5	13.0*	7.5	21.6	22.0	21.1	22.9
Ever slapped or hit by adult	26.1*	20.6	32.5	27.6*	21.8	34.1	11.2*	6.2	19.6	18.7	17.8	19.6
Ever pushed, grabbed, or shoved by adult	23.9*	18.0	31.1	21.9*	16.8	28.1	7.9	4.3	13.9	12.0	11.3	12.7
Ever kicked, punched or choked by adult	12.2*	8.4	17.4	10.3*	6.8	15.4	8.9	4.5	16.7	5.2	4.8	5.7
<b>Experienced sexual assault before the age of 15</b>	22.3*	17.0	28.8	21.9*	17.0	27.9	15.1	9.0	24.1	11.4	10.8	12.0
Ever forced into unwanted sexual activity by adult	15.4*	10.8	21.5	15.9*	11.6	21.5	8.9	5.5	14.2	5.0	4.6	5.4
Ever touched in a sexual way by adult	22.0*	16.6	28.5	21.7*	16.8	27.6	14.1	8.2	23.0	11.1	10.5	11.7
<b>Experienced harsh parenting before age 15</b>	66.3	59.1	72.8	73.3*	66.7	79.0	41.5*	27.3	57.4	64.9	63.9	66.0
Ever spanked or slapped by parent	52.0	44.7	59.2	61.0	54.2	67.3	32.4*	18.6	50.1	54.4	53.3	55.5
Parent ever said things that hurt feelings	43.5	36.2	51.0	47.7	41.0	54.6	17.8*	11.2	27.2	42.5	41.5	43.6
Ever felt not wanted or loved by parent	29.6*	23.5	36.5	28.1*	22.9	34.0	9.8*	6.2	15.2	21.9	21.0	22.8
Parent did not take care of your basic needs	12.6*	8.6	18.1	8.1*	5.1	12.8	3.4	1.8	6.2	4.1	3.7	4.5

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

**Table 8**  
**Violent victimization since age 15 and in the past 12 months among women, by experiences of childhood abuse and maltreatment, and Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018**

Type of childhood abuse or maltreatment	Experienced violent victimization since age 15						Experienced violent victimization in the past 12 months					
	Indigenous women			Non-Indigenous women			Indigenous women			Non-Indigenous women		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
from		to	from		to	from		to	from		to	
<b>Ever saw or heard parents say hurtful things to other adult</b>												
Never†	49.4**	42.0	56.9	32.3	31.0	33.7	6.3	3.4	11.4	3.5	2.9	4.2
At least once	74.2***	68.2	79.4	59.3*	57.6	60.9	10.8	7.3	15.7	9.2*	8.1	10.3
<b>Ever saw or heard parents hit each other or other adult</b>												
Never†	56.0**	50.4	61.5	41.6	40.4	42.7	7.8	5.2	11.4	5.6	5.0	6.3
At least once	82.5***	74.9	88.2	68.9*	65.9	71.8	10.9	5.9	19.3	9.9*	7.9	12.2
<b>Ever under the legal responsibility of the government</b>												
No†	60.4**	55.1	65.4	44.4	43.4	45.5	8.7	6.2	12.2	6.1	5.5	6.8
Yes	80.7***	69.5	88.5	63.3*	54.8	71.0	6.8	2.8	15.4	7.9	4.8	12.6
<b>Experienced physical or sexual assault before age 15</b>												
No†	44.3**	37.9	50.9	34.3	33.1	35.5	4.8	2.8	8.1	4.6	4.0	5.4
Yes	87.6***	81.9	91.7	72.3*	70.5	74.1	13.4*	8.9	19.7	10.0*	8.7	11.4
<b>Experienced physical assault before the age of 15</b>												
No†	50.4**	44.3	56.5	37.2	36.1	38.4	5.6	3.4	9.1	5.0	4.3	5.7
Yes	88.2***	82.5	92.3	71.5*	69.4	73.6	14.3*	9.2	21.7	10.1*	8.7	11.7
<b>Ever slapped or hit by adult</b>												
Never†	52.8**	46.9	58.6	38.5	37.3	39.7	6.3	3.9	10.1	5.1	4.5	5.9
At least once	89.8***	84.4	93.5	72.0*	69.7	74.2	14.5*	9.2	22.0	10.3*	8.7	12.1
<b>Ever pushed, grabbed, or shoved by adult</b>												
Never†	54.8**	49.2	60.2	40.5	39.4	41.7	6.1	4.0	9.2	5.2	4.6	5.9
At least once	90.0***	82.3	94.6	76.0*	73.1	78.6	16.7*	9.8	26.9	12.9*	10.8	15.3
<b>Ever kicked, punched or choked by adult</b>												
Never†	59.2**	53.9	64.3	42.7	41.6	43.8	6.9	4.6	10.2	5.6	5.0	6.3
At least once	88.0*	78.3	93.8	82.4*	78.6	85.7	20.1*	11.2	33.3	15.0*	11.4	19.4
<b>Experienced sexual assault before the age of 15</b>												
No†	55.4***	49.8	60.9	40.1	39.0	41.3	6.9	4.6	10.2	5.6	5.0	6.3
Yes	88.3***	79.0	93.8	80.6*	78.4	82.7	13.5	7.4	23.3	9.9*	8.0	12.3
<b>Ever forced into unwanted sexual activity by adult</b>												
Never†	57.8**	52.5	63.0	42.8	41.6	43.9	7.4	5.0	10.7	5.9	5.3	6.6
At least once	90.5***	82.3	95.1	82.6*	79.2	85.5	13.8	6.8	25.9	10.7*	8.2	13.8
<b>Ever touched in a sexual way by adult</b>												
Never†	55.5**	50.0	61.0	40.2	39.1	41.4	7.0	4.7	10.3	5.6	5.0	6.3
At least once	88.8***	79.3	94.3	80.8*	78.5	82.8	13.7	7.5	23.7	9.9*	8.0	12.3

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 8 — end**  
**Violent victimization since age 15 and in the past 12 months among women, by experiences of childhood abuse and maltreatment, and Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018**

Type of childhood abuse or maltreatment	Experienced violent victimization since age 15						Experienced violent victimization in the past 12 months					
	Indigenous women			Non-Indigenous women			Indigenous women			Non-Indigenous women		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>Experienced harsh parenting before age 15</b>												
No†	41.5**	32.7	50.8	23.2	21.8	24.8	5.9	2.8	11.9	2.8	2.1	3.6
Yes	72.7***	67.1	77.6	56.1*	54.7	57.5	9.9	6.8	14.0	7.9*	7.1	8.8
<b>Ever spanked or slapped by parent</b>												
Never†	48.5**	40.7	56.5	29.7	28.2	31.2	5.9	3.4	10.2	4.1	3.4	4.9
At least once	74.2***	68.2	79.3	57.1*	55.7	58.5	10.7	7.1	15.7	7.7*	6.8	8.8
<b>Parent ever said things that hurt feelings</b>												
Never†	48.7**	42.1	55.3	31.6	30.4	32.8	4.7	2.7	8.0	3.5	2.9	4.1
At least once	80.4***	74.1	85.5	62.0*	60.3	63.7	13.5*	9.1	19.5	9.7*	8.6	11.0
<b>Ever felt not wanted or loved by parent</b>												
Never†	53.0**	47.0	59.0	37.8	36.6	39.0	6.3	4.0	10.0	4.7	4.1	5.3
At least once	86.8***	80.4	91.3	69.3*	66.9	71.7	14.2*	9.0	21.6	11.3*	9.7	13.2
<b>Parent did not take care of your basic needs</b>												
Never†	59.1**	53.9	64.2	43.6	42.5	44.7	7.1	5.0	10.1	5.9	5.3	6.6
At least once	95.3***	88.4	98.2	71.6*	66.3	76.3	22.9*	11.7	39.9	11.4*	8.3	15.4

\* significantly different from reference category only (p < 0.05)

\*\* significantly different from estimate for non-Indigenous women only (p < 0.05)

\*\*\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05) and estimate for non-Indigenous women (p < 0.05)

† reference category

**Note:** Violent victimization includes intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

**Table 9**  
**Homicides among women, by selected characteristics of victim and Indigenous identity, Canada, 2015 to 2020**

Selected characteristic	Indigenous women <sup>1</sup>		Non-Indigenous women <sup>2</sup>	
	count	%	count	%
<b>Total Homicides</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>73.4</b>
<b>Age group of the victim</b>				
Less than 18	33	13.7	73	10.0
18 to 24	49	20.3	68	9.3
25 to 34	70	29.1	138	18.9
35 to 44	46	19.1	107	14.6
45 to 54	26	10.8	105	14.3
55 and over	17	7.1	241	32.9
Unknown	0	...	2	...
<b>The victim was considered a missing person at the time of their death</b>				
Yes	32	13.3	82	11.2
No	209	86.7	650	88.8
Unknown	0	...	2	...
<b>Relationship of perpetrator to the victim<sup>3</sup></b>				
<b>Spousal relationship<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>55</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>34.5</b>
Spouse or common-law	50	24.5	173	27.1
Ex-spouse or ex-common-law	5	2.5	47	7.4
<b>Other family relationship</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>25.9</b>
Immediate family <sup>5</sup>	39	19.1	137	21.5
Extended family <sup>6</sup>	17	8.3	28	4.4
<b>Intimate partner relationship<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>11.3</b>
Intimate partner	21	10.3	42	6.6
Ex-intimate partner	9	4.4	30	4.7
<b>Acquaintance</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>17.4</b>
Friend or family friend <sup>8</sup>	39	19.1	51	8.0
Neighbour	3	1.5	24	3.8
Criminal relationship <sup>9</sup>	8	3.9	18	2.8
Other acquaintance <sup>10</sup>	4	2.0	18	2.8
<b>Stranger</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>10.8</b>
<b>Other relationship</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Unknown relationship	37	...	96	...

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

... not applicable

1. "Indigenous identity" includes those identified by police as First Nations persons (either status or non-status), Métis, Inuit, or an Indigenous identity where the Indigenous group was not known to police.

2. "Non-Indigenous identity" refers to instances where the police have confirmed that a victim is not identified as an Indigenous person.

3. Includes homicides with a known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

4. Includes current and former same-sex spouses.

5. Includes biological, adopted, step, and foster relationships.

6. Includes parent, step-parent, child, step-child, sibling (including step sibling).

7. Excludes spousal and includes intimate partner, extra-marital intimate partner, other intimate partner.

8. Includes close friends, casual friends, and family friends.

9. Includes criminal relationship and co-substance user.

10. Includes roommates, other household members, temporary house guests, intimate partners of a family member (includes ex partners), business relationships, authority figures, reverse authority figures, co-institutional facility members, other acquaintances.

**Note:** Indigenous identity is reported by the police and is determined through information found with the victim, such as status cards, or through information supplied by the victims' families, community members, or other sources (i.e., such as band records, or forensic evidence such as genetic testing). There may be a small number of homicides in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

**Table 10**  
**Homicides among women, by Indigenous identity and year, Canada, 2015 to 2020**

Year	Indigenous women		Non-Indigenous women	
	count	rate <sup>1</sup>	count	rate <sup>1</sup>
2015	43	4.87	134	0.78
2016	30	3.29	122	0.71
2017	38	4.05	132	0.76
2018	45	4.67	121	0.68
2019	47	4.76	100	0.56
2020	38	3.76	125	0.69
<b>2015 to 2020</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>4.23</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>0.69</b>

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. **Note:** Indigenous identity is reported by the police and is determined through information found with the victim, such as status cards, or through information supplied by the victims' families, community members, or other sources (i.e., such as band records, or forensic evidence such as genetic testing). Population counts prior to 2001 were not available for this Juristat article. Due to a lack of annual estimates of the Canadian population by Indigenous identity, the population counts used here were either calculated or projected, depending on the years. As a result, these population counts are subject to a certain level of uncertainty and could be revised in the future. Between the years 2001 and 2011, population counts were calculated using linear interpolations between the 2001 and 2006 censuses of population and the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS)—adjusted for net undercoverage—of the population living on incompletely enumerated reserves and persons living in collective dwellings. Although information from the 2016 Census of Population broken down by Indigenous identity was available at the time this Juristat article was written, the coverage studies that would have been used to adjust the 2016 data for net undercoverage were not. It was therefore impossible to linearly interpolate Indigenous populations consistently between 2011 and 2016. Moreover, given that the new projections based on the 2016 Census are not yet available, customized population projections, with the 2011 NHS as their base population—adjusted for net undercoverage—of the population living on incompletely enumerated reserves and persons living in collective dwellings were used to prepare population counts for the period from 2012 to 2017. The selected projection assumptions regarding components of growth are mostly based on the constant fertility scenario from the publication Projections of the Indigenous Population and Households in Canada, 2011 to 2036 (Statistics Canada 2015), whereas an additional calibration process using population estimates from 2012 to 2017 took into account the most recent trends in fertility, mortality, immigration, emigration and internal migration. The projected populations correspond to the mid-year population. There may be a small number of homicides included total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.



**Table 11A**  
**Perceptions of crime, neighbourhood and safety, and criminal courts among women, by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019**

Perceptions	Indigenous women			Non-Indigenous women†		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Compared to other areas in Canada, believe neighbourhood has</b>						
A higher amount of crime	10.0*	6.2	15.7	4.4	3.8	5.1
A lower amount of crime	64.5	56.9	71.4	70.3	68.8	71.7
About the same amount of crime	25.1	19.2	32.1	24.4	23.1	25.9
<b>During the last 5 years, believe crime in neighbourhood has<sup>1</sup></b>						
Increased	26.6	20.5	33.7	20.5	19.3	21.8
Decreased	4.5	2.4	8.2	5.4	4.7	6.3
Remained the same	68.7	61.5	75.1	73.1	71.7	74.5
<b>Sense of belonging to local community</b>						
Somewhat or very strong	61.2	53.7	68.1	62.2	60.6	63.7
Somewhat or very weak	25.7	19.5	33.0	24.0	22.7	25.5
No opinion	13.0	9.4	17.7	13.6	12.4	14.8
<b>Perceives social disorder in neighbourhood</b>						
Yes	71.5*	64.5	77.6	57.4	55.8	58.9
No	28.3*	22.2	35.3	42.4	40.8	43.9
<b>Of the people in neighbourhood, know</b>						
Most or many of the people	48.0*	41.0	55.2	33.9	32.5	35.3
Few or none of the people	52.0*	44.8	59.0	65.7	64.3	67.1
<b>People in neighbourhood help each other</b>						
Yes	82.3	75.8	87.4	81.4	80.1	82.6
No	15.7	10.8	22.2	16.5	15.3	17.8
<b>Likelihood neighbours would contact police about criminal activity</b>						
Very or somewhat likely	85.7	79.6	90.2	89.8	88.7	90.8
Somewhat unlikely or not likely	12.2	8.1	18.2	8.3	7.4	9.4
<b>Feel safe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark<sup>2</sup></b>						
Very or reasonably safe	86.7	79.6	91.5	82.4	81.1	83.7
Somewhat or very unsafe	13.1	8.2	20.1	17.3	16.1	18.7
<b>Taken measures to protect self from crime in past 12 months</b>						
Yes	22.0	16.5	28.6	22.6	21.2	24.1
No	78.0	71.3	83.4	77.3	75.9	78.7
<b>Satisfaction with personal safety from crime</b>						
Very or somewhat satisfied	69.4	62.2	75.7	74.4	73.0	75.7
very or somewhat dissatisfied	9.4*	5.5	15.7	4.1	3.5	4.7
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	21.0	15.8	27.3	21.4	20.0	22.7
<b>Confidence in police</b>						
A great deal or some confidence	81.7*	75.6	86.6	91.4	90.4	92.3
Not very much or no confidence	17.4*	12.6	23.6	8.2	7.3	9.2
<b>Confidence in criminal courts</b>						
A great deal or some confidence	53.6	46.2	60.7	60.4	58.9	62.0
Not very much or no confidence	31.2*	24.8	38.4	19.7	18.5	21.0
Don't know	15.1	10.7	20.9	19.6	18.2	21.0

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

1. Excludes respondents who reported that they had not lived in their current neighbourhood long enough to assess.

2. Excludes respondents who said they never walked alone in their neighbourhood after dark.

**Note:** Violent victimization includes intimate partner violence, non-intimate partner violence and robberies.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization).

**Table 11B**  
**Perceptions of crime, neighbourhood and safety, and criminal courts among women, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2019**

Perceptions	First Nations women			Métis women			Inuit women			Non-Indigenous women†		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>Compared to other areas in Canada, believe neighbourhood has</b>												
A higher amount of crime	14.5 <sup>E</sup>	8.0	24.8	4.8 <sup>E</sup>	2.1	10.2	5.0 <sup>E</sup>	2.7	9.1	4.4	3.8	5.1
A lower amount of crime	58.1 <sup>E</sup>	46.9	68.5	74.1 <sup>E</sup>	64.3	81.9	59.7 <sup>E</sup>	42.2	75.0	70.3	68.8	71.7
About the same amount of crime	27.4 <sup>E</sup>	18.6	38.3	21.1 <sup>E</sup>	14.0	30.5	30.0 <sup>E</sup>	16.3	48.5	24.4	23.1	25.9
<b>During the last 5 years, believe crime in neighbourhood has<sup>1</sup></b>												
Increased	23.6 <sup>E</sup>	15.8	33.7	30.2 <sup>E</sup>	20.9	41.4	23.5	11.2	43.0	20.5	19.3	21.8
Decreased	5.4 <sup>E</sup>	2.2	12.6	4.8 <sup>E</sup>	1.8	12.1	5.4	2.9	10.0	5.4	4.7	6.3
Remained the same	70.7 <sup>E</sup>	60.0	79.5	65.0 <sup>E</sup>	53.9	74.7	69.4	50.9	83.2	73.1	71.7	74.5
<b>Sense of belonging to local community</b>												
Somewhat or very strong	57.5 <sup>E</sup>	46.6	67.7	69.1 <sup>E</sup>	59.1	77.6	50.4 <sup>E</sup>	31.3	69.3	62.2	60.6	63.7
Somewhat or very weak	33.1 <sup>E</sup>	23.3	44.7	15.1 <sup>E</sup>	9.2	23.7	26.7 <sup>E</sup>	12.5	48.2	24.0	22.7	25.5
No opinion	9.3 <sup>E</sup>	5.4	15.7	15.5 <sup>E</sup>	9.7	23.9	22.9 <sup>E</sup>	8.7	48.1	13.6	12.4	14.8
<b>Perceives social disorder in neighbourhood</b>												
Yes	71.8 <sup>E</sup>	61.4	80.2	71.9 <sup>E</sup>	60.9	80.7	74.9 <sup>E</sup>	58.6	86.3	57.4	55.8	58.9
No	28.2 <sup>E</sup>	19.7	38.6	27.7 <sup>E</sup>	18.9	38.6	25.0 <sup>E</sup>	13.7	41.3	42.4	40.8	43.9
<b>Of the people in neighbourhood, know:</b>												
Most or many of the people	45.9 <sup>E</sup>	35.9	56.2	51.0 <sup>E</sup>	40.6	61.3	46.7 <sup>E</sup>	29.0	65.2	33.9	32.5	35.3
Few or none of the people	54.1 <sup>E</sup>	43.8	64.1	49.0 <sup>E</sup>	38.7	59.4	53.3 <sup>E</sup>	34.8	71.0	65.7	64.3	67.1
<b>People in neighbourhood help each other</b>												
Yes	78.0 <sup>E</sup>	67.1	86.0	89.9 <sup>E</sup>	83.5	94.0	73.4 <sup>E</sup>	54.4	86.5	81.4	80.1	82.6
No	19.1 <sup>E</sup>	11.6	30.0	9.5 <sup>E</sup>	5.6	15.8	23.7 <sup>E</sup>	11.1	43.6	16.5	15.3	17.8
<b>Likelihood neighbours would contact police about criminal activity</b>												
Very or somewhat likely	84.6 <sup>E</sup>	74.3	91.3	89.0 <sup>E</sup>	82.1	93.5	76.4 <sup>E</sup>	56.2	89.1	89.8	88.7	90.8
Somewhat unlikely or not likely	13.4 <sup>E</sup>	7.2	23.7	9.1 <sup>E</sup>	5.1	15.8	20.8 <sup>E</sup>	8.7	41.9	8.3	7.4	9.4
<b>Feel safe walking alone at night in neighbourhood<sup>2</sup></b>												
Very or reasonably safe	82.7 <sup>E</sup>	71.0	90.4	91.1	83.0	95.5	86.8	65.5	95.8	82.4	81.1	83.7
Somewhat or very unsafe	16.7 <sup>E</sup>	9.1	28.6	8.9	4.5	17.0	13.2	4.2	34.5	17.3	16.1	18.7
<b>Taken measures to protect self from crime in past 12 months</b>												
Yes	21.8 <sup>E</sup>	14.9	30.8	25.5 <sup>E</sup>	16.5	37.3	9.4 <sup>E</sup>	5.3	16.1	22.6	21.2	24.1
No	78.2 <sup>E</sup>	69.2	85.1	74.5 <sup>E</sup>	62.7	83.5	90.3 <sup>E</sup>	83.3	94.5	77.3	75.9	78.7
<b>Satisfaction with personal safety from crime</b>												
Very or somewhat satisfied	67.7 <sup>E</sup>	56.6	77.1	71.3 <sup>E</sup>	61.1	79.7	62.4 <sup>E</sup>	40.7	80.0	74.4	73.0	75.7
very or somewhat dissatisfied	13.7 <sup>E</sup>	7.0	25.1	6.7 <sup>E</sup>	3.1	14.0	2.1 <sup>E</sup>	0.9	5.0	4.1	3.5	4.7
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	18.1 <sup>E</sup>	11.5	27.5	21.9 <sup>E</sup>	14.7	31.4	35.2 <sup>E</sup>	17.6	58.0	21.4	20.0	22.7

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 11B— end**  
**Perceptions of crime, neighbourhood and safety, and criminal courts among women, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2019**

Perceptions	First Nations women			Métis women			Inuit women			Non-Indigenous women†		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
<b>Confidence in police</b>												
A great deal or some confidence	80.1 <sup>E*</sup>	71.6	86.6	86.4 <sup>E</sup>	75.2	93.0	68.9 <sup>E*</sup>	49.3	83.5	91.4	90.4	92.3
Not very much or no confidence	19.6 <sup>E*</sup>	13.2	28.2	12.1 <sup>E</sup>	5.8	23.6	30.0 <sup>E*</sup>	15.5	50.1	8.2	7.3	9.2
<b>Confidence in criminal courts</b>												
A great deal or some confidence	54.5 <sup>E</sup>	43.9	64.7	57.0 <sup>E</sup>	45.6	67.6	36.2 <sup>E*</sup>	21.6	53.9	60.4	58.9	62.0
Not very much or no confidence	28.2 <sup>E</sup>	20.3	37.7	33.9 <sup>E*</sup>	23.5	46.1	29.5 <sup>E</sup>	15.6	48.6	19.7	18.5	21.0
Don't know	17.3 <sup>E</sup>	10.3	27.5	9.2 <sup>E*</sup>	5.2	15.5	33.2 <sup>E</sup>	19.0	51.2	19.6	18.2	21.0

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

1. Excludes respondents who reported that they had not lived in their current neighbourhood long enough to assess.

2. Excludes respondents who said they never walked alone in their neighbourhood after dark.

**Note:** Violent victimization includes intimate partner violence, non-intimate partner violence and robberies.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization).