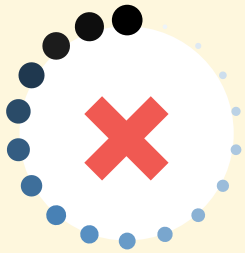


SEXUAL ASSAULT INCIDENTS IN CANADA:

From the police to criminal courts



Sexual assault cases experience **attrition** at all stages of the criminal justice system.



- Attrition refers to the phenomenon whereby, at each stage of the criminal justice process, some cases “drop out” and do not proceed. Fewer cases remain or are retained throughout the entirety of the process.
- There are many reasons for attrition. For example, police or courts can determine that there is not enough evidence to support charges, or victims may decide to not participate.

Sexual assault is a gendered crime



89% of victims are women and girls



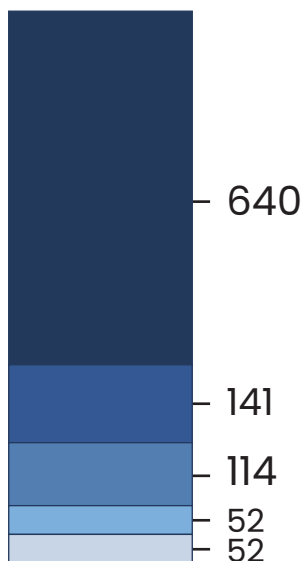
97% of accused are men and boys

Few (6%) sexual assaults are reported to police.

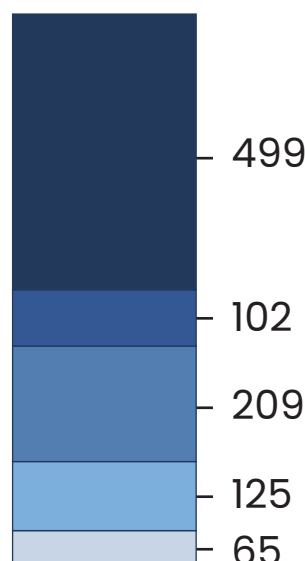
This compares with 36% of physical assaults.



For every 1,000 sexual assaults reported to police



For every 1,000 physical assaults reported to police



Overall, about **1 in 19 sexual assaults** that were reported to police **led to an accused person being sentenced to custody.**

- Did not lead to charges
- Led to charges, but did not go to court
- Went to court, but did not lead to a guilty finding
- Led to a guilty finding, but not to a sentence of custody
- Led to a guilty finding and a sentence of custody

Attrition levels were below average for sexual assaults that...



were classified as more serious by police



resulted in major injury or had a weapon present



were perpetrated by a stranger



took place in an open area or on public transit

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Integrated Criminal Court Survey, General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization); Cotter, A., 2024, "Criminal justice outcomes of sexual assault in Canada, 2015 to 2019", *Juristat*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

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