

# **Victimization of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada**

by Samuel Perreault

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## Highlights

- Due to the historical and intergenerational trauma resulting from colonialism and related policies, as well as individual and systemic racism, many Indigenous people today—that is, those who are First Nations, Métis or Inuit—face a number of deeply rooted social and economic challenges, including higher rates of criminal victimization.
- According to self-reported data from the 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), about 4 in 10 Indigenous people experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15. The proportion was about twice as high among Indigenous people aged 55 and older (54%) compared with those aged 15 to 34 (26%).
- Child welfare services or police were about three times more likely to have been made aware of violence experienced by Indigenous children, compared to violence experienced by non-Indigenous children (16% versus 5.2%).
- Indigenous people aged 15 and older were nearly 10 times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have been under the legal responsibility of the government during their childhood (11% versus 1.3%). This overrepresentation in child welfare services could only be partially explained by the higher rates of child maltreatment or neglect.
- More than one-third of those who experienced sexual or physical violence while under the legal responsibility of the government during their childhood were Indigenous.
- More than one-quarter (26%) of Indigenous women experienced sexual violence by an adult during their childhood, compared with 9.2% of non-Indigenous women, 5.8% of Indigenous men and 2.8% of non-Indigenous men.
- For the period from 2015 to 2020, the average homicide rate involving Indigenous victims (8.64 per 100,000 Indigenous people) was six times higher than the homicide rate involving non-Indigenous victims (1.39 per 100,000 non-Indigenous people). The homicide rates for Indigenous people were particularly high in the Prairie provinces and in the territories.
- Nearly half (47%) of Indigenous women aged 15 and older who were murdered between 2015 and 2020 were killed by an intimate partner, a proportion similar to that of non-Indigenous women (49%), but much higher than for Indigenous men (7.3%) and non-Indigenous men (4.6%).
- In 2019, nearly 1 in 10 (8.4%) Indigenous people were victims of sexual assault, robbery or physical assault, about twice the proportion of non-Indigenous people (4.2%).
- Violence experienced during childhood is closely linked to the risk of violent victimization in adulthood. For example, more than one-quarter (27%) of Indigenous people who experienced sexual violence by an adult before the age of 15 were victims of a violent crime in 2019, compared with 3.7% of Indigenous people who did not experience violence during childhood.
- Among respondents aged 15 to 34, relatively similar proportions of Indigenous people (8.8%) and non-Indigenous people (7.3%) were victims of violence in the 12 months preceding the survey. However, among those aged 35 to 54, the proportion was three times higher among Indigenous people (12.4%) than among non-Indigenous people (3.9%).
- One-third of Indigenous people experienced discrimination in the five years preceding the survey. They were also more likely to have been the victim of a violent crime—14.9% of Indigenous people who experienced discrimination were victims of a violent crime in 2019, compared with 5.1% of Indigenous people who had not suffered discrimination.
- When taking key socioeconomic indicators into account, as well as factors related to social cohesion (e.g., trust in neighbours, discrimination), health (e.g., mental health, drug use) and history of child abuse and homelessness, Indigenous people were not at a higher risk of victimization than non-Indigenous people.
- Almost 4 in 10 (39%) Indigenous victims reported the most serious sexual or physical assault (excluding intimate partner violence) they experienced to police, more than twice the proportion of non-Indigenous victims who reported their victimization to police (18%). Indigenous victims were also more likely to have faced an armed assailant, to have been injured and to have used victim services.

- A little more than 1 in 10 (13%) Indigenous people with a current or ex-intimate partner experienced violence from their partner in the five years preceding the survey, a proportion twice as high as non-Indigenous people (5.7%).
- Over a 10-year period, the proportion of Indigenous women who experienced violence from a current or former spouse or common-law partner in the five years preceding the survey has decreased; in the provinces, it fell from 15%<sup>E</sup> in 2009 to 7.5% in 2019.
- Compared to non-LGBTQ2+ non-Indigenous people, LGBTQ2+ Indigenous people were more likely to have been sexually or physically assaulted by an adult when they were under age 15 (58% versus 26% of non-LGBTQ2+ non-Indigenous people), to have been sexually or physically assaulted since age 15 (82% versus 41%), and to have experienced intimate partner violence (37% versus 13%), or non-intimate sexual or physical assault in the 12 months preceding the survey (28% versus 5.9%).
- Indigenous people (17%) were about twice more likely than non-Indigenous people (9.2%) to have little or no confidence in their local police service. The differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in this regard were greatest in Saskatchewan and in the territories.
- Overall, similar proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people reported feeling safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.

# Victimization of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada

by **Samuel Perreault**, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics

In recent years, several studies have shown that First Nations people, Métis and Inuit<sup>1</sup> are more likely than non-Indigenous people to have experienced violence during their childhood (Burczycka 2017), to have been sexually or physically assaulted (Boyce 2016; Cotter and Savage 2019; Perreault 2020), to have been victims of violence by an intimate partner (Heidinger 2021; Boyce 2016), or to have been victims of homicide (Armstrong and Jaffray 2021; Moreau 2021).

Due to the historical and ongoing colonialism and related policies—including the experiences of residential schools and the Sixties Scoop—as well as individual and systemic racism, many Indigenous people today deal with intergenerational trauma, socioeconomic marginalization. Both the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada indicated that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous people (National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation 2015; National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

To provide the most comprehensive picture of violent victimization among First Nations people, Métis and Inuit, the analyses in this article are based on various Statistics Canada data sources to measure the nature and extent of criminal victimization of Indigenous people.

The first two sections of the article use self-reported data from the 2019 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) to provide a picture of childhood victimization and the nature and extent of violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, including intimate partner violence. The third section outlines the main characteristics of violent crimes against Indigenous people using self-reported data from the 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS). Based on police-reported data from the Homicide Survey, the fourth section shows the key trends and characteristics of homicides involving Indigenous victims from 2015 to 2020. Finally, the fifth part briefly presents Indigenous people's perceptions of the criminal justice system and their personal safety using 2019 GSS data.<sup>2</sup>

Due to the ongoing concern of the victimization of Indigenous women, highlighted by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, a detailed analysis on victimization of Indigenous women is presented in a separate article (see Heidinger 2022).

## Experiences of victimization during childhood

The recent media coverage about unmarked graves of Indigenous children who died while attending residential schools brought again to the forefront the violence and mistreatment experienced by many Indigenous peoples throughout history. In addition to the mistreatment that many Indigenous persons personally suffered as children, there is also the intergenerational transmission of the trauma that these experiences have caused.

The Sixties Scoop, in which many Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their communities by child protective services and placed in the care of non-Indigenous families, and other practices that resulted in Indigenous children being separated from their families and communities, also affected the childhood of many Indigenous people, including mistreatment in their new families and the loss of cultural references. Still today, Indigenous children are overrepresented in child welfare services and foster families, and many argue that the current child welfare system is the continuation of the residential school system and the Sixties scoop (Blackstock 2007; Choate et al. 2021; National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health 2017a). Indigenous people who were taken from their families as a child may have been exposed to weak parenting models in their foster families, and may have missed opportunities to learn positive parenting skills, including traditional parenting practices (Bombay et al. 2009).

In addition, many studies have established a link between disadvantage in terms of resources and a greater vulnerability to childhood violence or maltreatment (Lefebvre et al. 2017; Rothwell et al. 2018; Patwardhan et al. 2017; Paxson and Walfogel 1999). However, many Indigenous communities and Indigenous people face limited and inequitable access or barriers (e.g., cultural barriers) to a wide range of services, including health, education and employment services, which likely impacts their socioeconomic and health circumstances (National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health 2019 2017b and 2017c). For example, GSS data shows that Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous people to report that some services, such as shelters or transition homes, were not available in their area (17% versus 7.9%). Typically, those barriers are more frequent in rural or remote areas, where geography and population size may also pose challenges in terms of services availability.

In part by consequence of the various factors documented above, and deeply rooted within the historical and ongoing effects of colonialism, many Indigenous people face socioeconomic challenges. For example, 2016 Census data shows that Indigenous total average income was \$36,043, compared to \$47,981 for non-Indigenous people.<sup>3</sup> GSS data also show that 22% of Indigenous people reported they have been unable to pay scheduled bills or make other payments in the 12 months preceding the survey, compared with 10% of non-Indigenous people. Another study noted that 26% of Inuit, 24% of First Nations people and 11% of Métis live in a dwelling in need of major repairs, compared with 6.0% of non-Indigenous people (Statistics Canada 2018). Moreover, 18% of Indigenous people live in an overcrowded dwelling, compared with 8.5% of non-Indigenous people. The same study also highlighted that Indigenous people were much more likely than non-Indigenous people to experience food insecurity.

Despite these challenges, Indigenous people also benefit from several social factors that can mitigate the risk of violent victimization. For example, GSS data show that 27% of Indigenous people report a very strong sense of community belonging (compared with 21% of non-Indigenous people), 33% said they know most people in their neighbourhood (versus 15%), and 85% said their neighbourhood was a place where people help each other. In addition, Indigenous people were more likely to report that their spiritual beliefs were very important to the way they live their life (35% versus 28% of non-Indigenous people). These indicators may be reflective of strong social cohesion, which is known to be a protective factor from criminal victimization (Fitzgerald and Carrington 2008; Rhineberger-Dunn and Carlson 2011; Sampson et al. 1997). In addition, some socioeconomic gaps may be narrowing. For example, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 20 to 24 with a high school diploma increased from 57% in 2006 to 70% in 2016, although a large gap still remains compared to non-Indigenous people from the same age group (91%) (Anderson 2021).

In 2014, questions were added to the GSS to measure childhood experiences of sexual or physical abuse perpetrated by an adult. It is important to note that these data reflect the childhood experiences of people aged 15 and over, and may not be representative of current child maltreatment. In 2014, results showed that, overall, Indigenous people aged 15 and over were 1.4 times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have experienced sexual or physical abuse as children (Burczycka 2017).

In addition to sexual and physical violence, childhood maltreatment can also include exposure to spousal violence, and experiences of neglect and harsh parenting. In 2019, more detailed questions, including questions about these types of maltreatment, were added to the GSS to better measure the nature and extent of childhood maltreatment and its impact in adulthood.

Previous studies revealed that experiencing violence during childhood was associated with various issues in adulthood, such a greater likelihood of reporting mental health problems, substance abuse, contact with the police and victimization experiences, as well as a greater risk of experiencing serious emotional or psychological consequences from victimization (Bombay et al. 2009; Boyce et al. 2015; Burczycka 2017, Cotter 2021; O'Neil et al. 2018; Perreault 2015; Scott 2007). Child abuse is rarely reported to police, and as such, self-reported retrospective measures as in the GSS are among the few available means to quantify the issue (Burczycka 2017).

## Indigenous people more likely to report having experienced certain parenting practices or had basic needs unmet

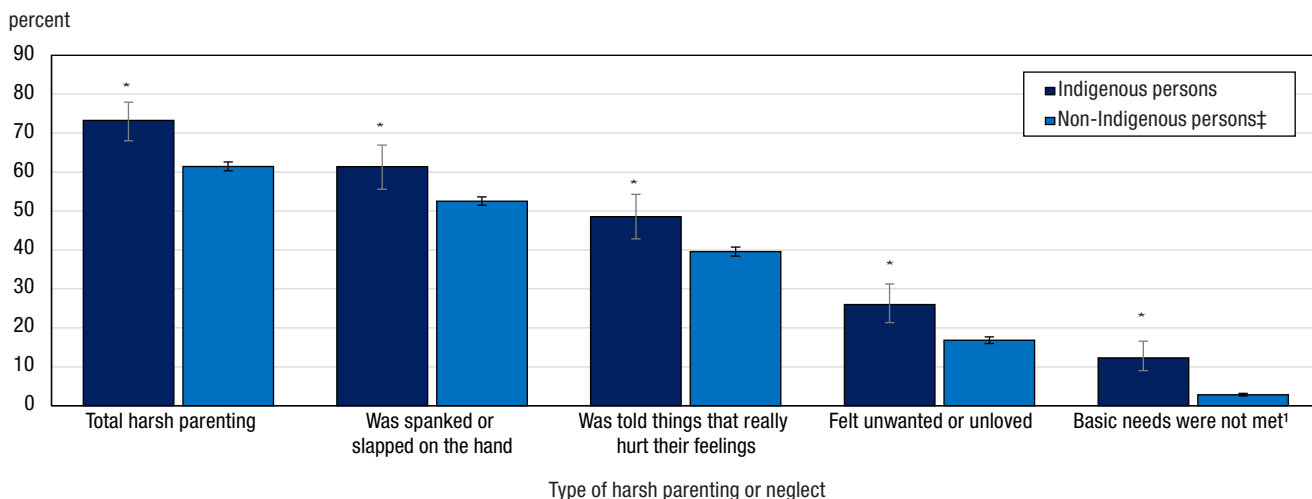
The GSS covers a wide range of behaviours of varying severity that may be defined as harsh or severe parenting practices. These include spanking, slapping on the hand, saying hurtful comments and making children feel unwanted or unloved. Although harsh parenting may appear to be less serious than criminal behaviours such as sexual or physical violence, it is nevertheless closely linked to the risk of victimization in adulthood (Cotter and Savage 2019; Cotter 2021; Perreault 2020).

Although different from harsh parenting, the GSS also included a question to measure situations where children's basic needs (e.g., washing, feeding, clothing) were not met, which can also be detrimental to children who experience it.<sup>4</sup>

The majority of people living in Canada, whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, reported experiencing at least one type of harsh parenting or situations where their basic needs went unmet before the age of 15. However, this proportion was higher among Indigenous people (78%) than among non-Indigenous people (66%) (Chart 1). More precisely, 84% of Métis and 74% of First Nations persons reported experiencing harsh parenting or had their basic needs unmet before the age of 15, whereas a similar proportion of Inuit persons (67%<sup>E</sup>) and non-Indigenous persons reported having such experiences (Table 1).<sup>5</sup>

### Chart 1

#### Population aged 15 and over who experienced harsh parenting or neglect before the age of 15, by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019



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

<sup>‡</sup> reference category

1. May include situations in which needs were not met unintentionally, including because of financial difficulties.

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

However, larger differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people were noted for specific childhood experiences. For example, Indigenous people (17%) were twice as likely as non-Indigenous people (7.8%) to have felt unwanted or unloved as children on multiple occasions (i.e., more than five times). Indigenous people were also about five times more likely to report that their basic needs had not been met, on multiple occasions, during their childhood (7.6% versus 1.4%).

Of note, the GSS does not capture who was responsible for these behaviours or situations. As such, it may have been biological parents, but it could have been a step or foster parent or another guardian. Some of these experiences, such as unmet basic needs, may also be the result of economic marginalization. For instance, several studies showed that food insecurity was higher among Indigenous people than among non-Indigenous people (First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study 2021; Polsky and Garriguet 2022; Statistics Canada 2018).

### Just over one-third of Indigenous people witnessed violence by a parent against another person

Previous studies reported higher rates of spousal or intimate partner violence among Indigenous people than among non-Indigenous people, a type of violence that can be linked to the history of colonization, intergenerational trauma, marginalization and economic deprivation (Andersson and Nahwegahbow 2010; Brownridge et al. 2017; Heidinger 2021; Public Health Agency of Canada 2012). In some cases, children in the household may witness intimate partner violence or violence by one parent against another adult or another child in the household. Regardless of whether they were themselves victims of violence, witnessing a parent’s violence against others is associated with several negative impacts (Wolfe et al. 2003; Wood and Sommers 2011).

Overall, just over one-third (34%) of Indigenous people (32% of First Nations people, 36% of Métis and 37%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) witnessed violence by one parent against another person during their childhood. In comparison, this was the case for one in five (20%) non-Indigenous people (Table 1).

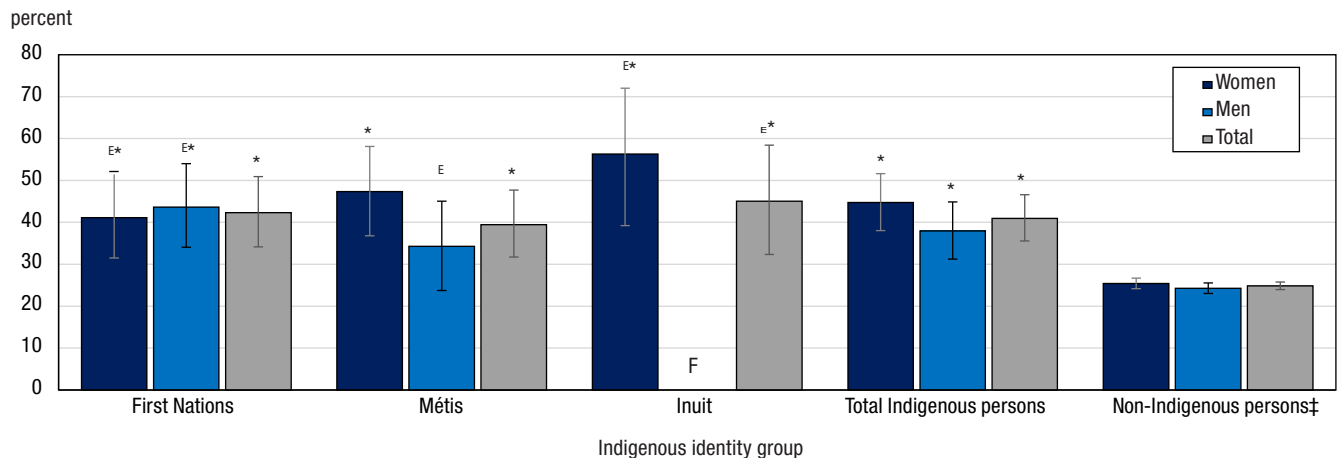
Witnessing a parent’s violence against another child in the household was most commonly reported, with just under one-quarter (23%) of Indigenous people having witnessed it during their childhood. Just over one in six (17%) Indigenous people reported witnessing violence by a parent against another parent. Seeing a parent hit an adult other than a parent was less common, but 13% of Indigenous people had nonetheless experienced it.

Compared with non-Indigenous people, Indigenous people were more likely to have witnessed parental violence on multiple occasions (i.e., more than five times). For example, Indigenous people were nearly four times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have witnessed violence by a parent against another parent on multiple occasions (8.8% versus 2.4%) and seven times more likely to have seen a parent hit another adult more than five times (4.2% versus 0.6%).

### Approximately 4 in 10 Indigenous people report experiencing sexual or physical violence as children

In 2019, Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous people to report having experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult at least once before the age of 15. Approximately 4 out of 10 (41%) Indigenous people (42% of First Nations people, 39% of Métis and 45%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) reported they had experienced such violence during childhood. Among non-Indigenous people, this proportion was 25% (Table 2, Table 3, Chart 2).

**Chart 2**  
Population aged 15 and over who experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15, by Indigenous identity group and by gender, Canada, 2019



<sup>E</sup> use with caution

<sup>F</sup> too unreliable to be published

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

‡ reference category

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.



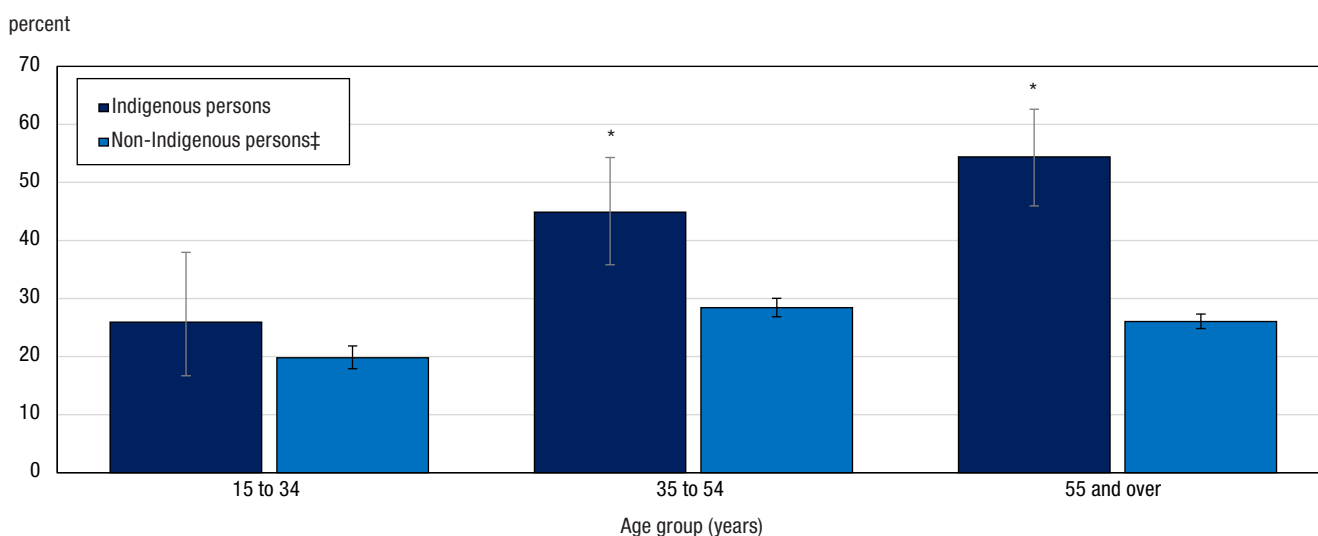
Among Canada's various regions, Ontario has the highest proportion of Indigenous people who have experienced sexual or physical violence during childhood (54%<sup>E</sup>). In comparison, this proportion was 33% in the territories and 32% in the Prairies. In the Atlantic provinces (43%) and Quebec (37%<sup>E</sup>), the proportion of Indigenous people who experienced violence during childhood was closer to the national average (41%).<sup>6</sup>

### The overrepresentation of Indigenous people among victims of violence during childhood is declining with each new cohort

The 2014 GSS data revealed age differences, with younger Indigenous people less likely than older ones to have experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult during childhood (Burczycka 2017). The 2019 GSS data confirm what was noted in 2014—that Indigenous people aged 15 to 34 (26%) were significantly less likely than Indigenous people aged 35 to 54 (45%) or 55 and older (54%) to have experienced this form of violence during childhood (Chart 3).

**Chart 3**

#### Population aged 15 and over who experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15, by Indigenous identity and by age group, Canada, 2019



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

† reference category

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

In fact, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 to 34 who experienced violence during childhood (26%) is relatively similar to the proportion of non-Indigenous people of the same age (20%), a difference that is not statistically significant. In contrast, Indigenous people aged 55 and older were nearly twice as likely as non-Indigenous people of the same age to have experienced violence during childhood (54% versus 26%).

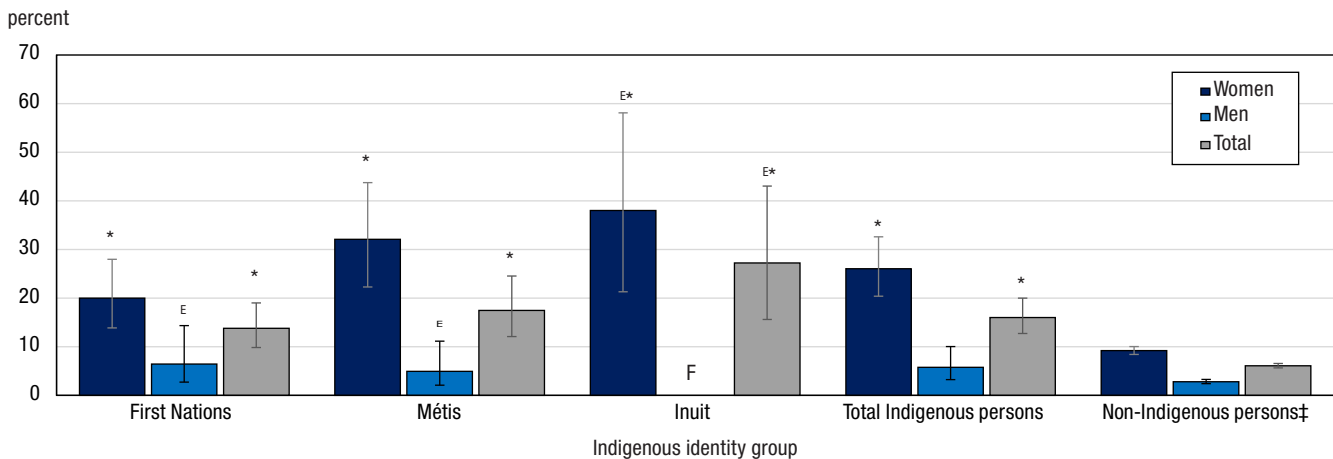
### Over one-quarter of Indigenous women experienced sexual violence during childhood

The GSS measures childhood violence using a set of five retrospective questions, two of which focus on sexual violence. More specifically, respondents are asked how many times an adult has sexually touched them and how many times they have been forced (including attempts) to engage in a sexual activity.

Overall, 16% of Indigenous people (14% of First Nations people, 17% of Métis and 27%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) experienced sexual violence perpetrated by an adult at least once before the age of 15. Among non-Indigenous people, this proportion was 6.1% (Table 2, Table 3, Chart 4).

Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous women<sup>7</sup> were much more likely than men to have experienced sexual violence during childhood. More than one-quarter (26%) of Indigenous women experienced sexual violence during childhood, nearly three times the proportion of non-Indigenous women (9.2%). This proportion was also more than four times higher than that of Indigenous men (5.8%) (Chart 4). Due to the ongoing concern of the victimization of Indigenous women and girls, highlighted by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, a detailed analysis on childhood abuse experiences of Indigenous women is presented in a separate article (see Heidinger 2022).

**Chart 4**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced sexual violence by an adult before the age of 15, by Indigenous identity group and by gender, Canada, 2019**



<sup>E</sup> use with caution  
<sup>F</sup> too unreliable to be published  
<sup>\*</sup> significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)  
<sup>‡</sup> reference category  
**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

Among the various forms of sexual violence, sexual touching was reported most often. Overall, nearly one in six Indigenous people (16%) were sexually touched by an adult during childhood, compared with 5.9% of non-Indigenous people. The difference is more pronounced when only those who have been sexually touched multiple occasions are considered; Indigenous people were about four times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have sexually touched more than five times (5.9% versus 1.4%, respectively).

Having been forced to engage in a sexual activity during childhood was reported less frequently but nonetheless experienced by 11% of Indigenous people, compared with 3.0% of non-Indigenous people. Indigenous people were about six times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have experienced this form of violence more than five times (4.5% versus 0.8%, respectively).

**In more than half of cases, the sexual violence was perpetrated by a family member**

The GSS asked individuals who experienced sexual violence by an adult during their childhood to share some information about the most serious incident<sup>8</sup> they experienced, including details about the person who committed it and the location of the assault.

The majority (56%) of Indigenous people who experienced sexual violence during childhood indicated that a family member was responsible for the most serious assault. More specifically, one-quarter (25%<sup>E</sup>) identified an immediate family member,<sup>9</sup> and nearly one-third (31%<sup>E</sup>) identified an extended family member<sup>10</sup> as being responsible. In comparison, 44% of non-Indigenous people who experienced sexual violence during childhood reported being assaulted by a family member (23% by an immediate family member, 21% by an extended family member)<sup>11</sup> (Table 4).

However, compared with Indigenous people, non-Indigenous people were more likely to have been sexually assaulted by a neighbour, friend or acquaintance (32% versus 21%<sup>E</sup>). Among both Indigenous (95%) and non-Indigenous (93%) people, a man was responsible for the most serious sexual assault in almost all cases.

Just over half (51%<sup>E</sup>) of Indigenous people who experienced sexual violence during childhood reported that the most serious incident occurred in the family home. Slightly more than one-third (35%<sup>E</sup>) reported that the incident occurred in another residence, usually that of the perpetrator, and nearly 1 in 10 Indigenous victims (8.8%<sup>E</sup>) reported that the most serious incident occurred at a school or residential school.<sup>12</sup> Non-Indigenous people were also most likely to have been sexually assaulted in a private residence, but compared with Indigenous people, they were more likely to have been assaulted in a public place (15% versus 3.6%<sup>E</sup>).

### **More than one-third of Indigenous people experienced physical violence during childhood**

Physical violence in childhood includes being slapped, beaten, pushed, grabbed, shoved, bitten, burned, kicked, punched or strangled; having an object thrown at them; or being otherwise physically assaulted. More than one-third (36%) of Indigenous people (38% of First Nations people, 36% of Métis and 34%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) reported having experienced physical violence by an adult during childhood (Table 2, Table 3).

Overall, Indigenous people (36%) were more likely than non-Indigenous people (22%) to have experienced physical violence by an adult at least once during their childhood. However, the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are more pronounced when considering those who experienced violence on several occasions.

Compared with non-Indigenous people, Indigenous people were twice as likely to have been slapped or beaten more than five times (13% versus 6.5%), three times more likely to have been shoved, grabbed, pushed or to have had an object thrown at them on several occasions (11% versus 3.3%) and over four times more likely to have been bitten, burned, kicked, punched, assaulted or otherwise physically attacked on more than five occasions (6.9% versus 1.6%).

In most cases, a man was responsible for the most serious physical assault, both among Indigenous people (65%) and non-Indigenous people (58%). However, these proportions are lower than those for sexual assaults perpetrated by a man (95% and 93%, respectively).

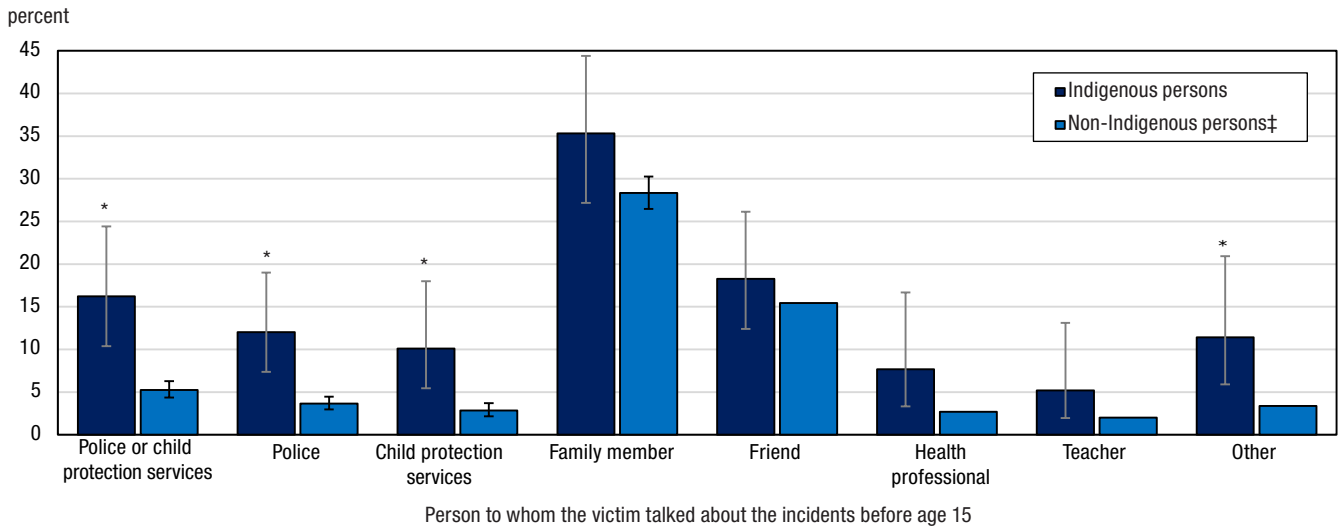
In the large majority of cases, Indigenous people who experienced physical violence during childhood reported that the most serious incident was committed by an immediate family member (73%) and that it occurred in the family home (76%).

### **Few victims of childhood violence have talked about the violence to authorities, but Indigenous victims were more likely to have done so**

Experiences of sexual or physical violence during childhood have rarely come to the attention of police or child protection services. About one in six (16%) Indigenous people who experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult during childhood reported that they had talked about it to the authorities, whether it was to the police (12%) or child protection services (10%), before the age of 15. Of note, GSS data does not ask how the violence came to the attention of authorities, which may have been reported by someone other than the victim.

Compared to Indigenous people, non-Indigenous people (5.2%) were less likely to have talked to the authorities about the violence they experienced while under the age of 15: 3.7% of victims spoke to the police and 2.8% spoke to child protection services (Chart 5). In comparison, approximately one-quarter (24%) of violent crimes committed against all victims aged 15 and older, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, were reported to the police in 2019 (Cotter 2021).

**Chart 5**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15, and who ever talked to anyone about the incidents before age 15, by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019**



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

† reference category

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

Some victims of childhood violence were also able to talk about the events to others, such as a family member or a friend. Overall, slightly less than half (46%) of Indigenous people who had experienced violence during childhood talked to someone other than the authorities about these violent events before the age of 15. Most of the time, they were family members (35%), friends (18%), health care workers<sup>13</sup> (7.7%) or teachers (5.2%).

**More than one-third of individuals who experienced sexual or physical violence while under the legal responsibility of the government are Indigenous**

Indigenous people 15 years of age and older were about 9 times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have been under the government’s responsibility during their childhood (11% versus 1.3%). Specifically, 15% of First Nations people, 7.3% of Métis and 19%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit reported that they had previously been under the government’s responsibility (Table 2).

For many children, particularly Indigenous children, these placements under the responsibility of the government were accompanied by sexual or physical violence. Overall, more than one-third (34%) of people aged 15 and older who experienced violence while they were under the government’s responsibility are Indigenous.

**Text box 1****Overrepresentation of Indigenous people in child protection services**

Several studies and reports indicate that Indigenous people are overrepresented in child protection services (Assembly of First Nations 2006; Ma et al. 2019; National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation 2015; Sinha et al. 2011).

The higher proportion of Indigenous people who have been under the legal responsibility of the government during their childhood could be partly due to a higher severity and reporting of childhood violence among the Indigenous population. Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous people to have experienced certain behaviours by an adult multiple times (i.e., more than five times) before the age of 15 (Table 1, Table 2). Respondents, whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, who reported having been repeatedly subjected to certain behaviours were also more likely to have talked the authorities about it.

For example, non-Indigenous people who reported having been forced to engage in sexual activity more than five times, sexually touched more than five times, beaten more than five times, or pushed or grabbed more than five times were about as likely as Indigenous people who had the same experiences (15% and 21%,<sup>14</sup> respectively) to have told authorities about it. As such, it is possible that the relatively high proportion of Indigenous people who have been under the legal responsibility of the government is, in part, attributable to the heightened frequency and severity of sexual and physical violence experienced as well as such violence being more commonly reported to authorities.

However, even among those who reported having experienced less serious or less frequent violence, it was more likely to have been reported to the authorities when it involved Indigenous people. For example, among those who were slapped or hit five times or less by an adult before the age of 15, Indigenous people were about four times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have talked to authorities (13%<sup>E</sup> versus 2.9%).

A multivariate analysis was conducted to analyze the factors involved in a greater likelihood of having been under the legal responsibility of the government. The analysis took into account the severity and frequency of the past acts of violence or neglect, as well as the relationship between the child and the person who committed the most serious assault, the location of the most serious assault and Indigenous identity of victim. However, several known correlates were not part of the General Social Survey and could not be included in the multivariate analysis, for example, the resources of parents (e.g., social network, financial resources), the mental health or substance use of parents, or the household situation (e.g., overcrowding in dwellings).

Nevertheless, the results show that the greater proportion of Indigenous people who have been under the government's responsibility during their childhood is, at least partly, attributable to factors other than the severity or frequency of violence or neglect. Of all the factors considered, being Indigenous remained most closely related to the likelihood of having been under the legal responsibility of the government (odds ratio = 6.85)<sup>15</sup> (Table in Box 1).

Many have criticized child protection systems as a continuation of the residential school system and for perpetuating experiences of marginalization, oppression and colonialism (Blackstock 2007; Choate et al. 2021; National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health 2017a). For its part, the report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls emphasized that the way in which child protection services investigate child apprehensions or substantiate their merits can be deemed racist and insufficient (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

In this context, former Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, received Royal Assent in June 2019. The purpose of the act is to enable Indigenous communities and groups to develop child protection policies and legislation based on their own histories, cultures and situations, to protect the relationship between children and their families, communities and cultures (Indigenous Services Canada 2019).

## Victimization experiences of people aged 15 and over in the 12 months preceding the survey

In addition to experiences of sexual or physical violence experienced by Indigenous people as children, the issue of overrepresentation of Indigenous people among victims of violent crime has also often been a focal point in recent news. The final report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG highlighted the high homicide rates and disappearances of Indigenous women and girls. Further, the report emphasized the context of such violence, often marked by intergenerational trauma; marginalization in the form of poverty, precarious housing or homelessness; and barriers to education, employment, health care and cultural support (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). The most recent data continue to show higher homicide rates and violent victimization rates among Indigenous people than non-Indigenous people (Armstrong and Jaffray 2021; Cotter 2021).

Using data from the 2019 GSS, the next section presents an analysis of the nature and extent of more recent victimization (i.e., in the 12 months preceding the survey) among First Nations people, Métis and Inuit. In addition, it discusses the context and key factors associated with this violence.

### Indigenous people are twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to have been victims of violent crime

Nearly 80,000 Indigenous people were victims of at least one sexual assault, robbery or assault in the 12 months preceding the 2019 GSS. This represents 8.4% of Indigenous people, twice the proportion of non-Indigenous people (4.2%) (Table 3, Table 5). Specifically, 4.1% of Indigenous people reported having been victims of one violent crime, while 4.3% reported having been victims of at least two violent crimes.<sup>16</sup> In comparison, 2.2% of non-Indigenous people were victims of one violent crime, and 1.9% were victims of at least two violent crimes.<sup>17</sup>

Overall, Indigenous people were the victims of just over 165,000 violent crimes, representing 6.4% of all violent crimes. This corresponds to a rate of 177 violent crimes per 1,000 Indigenous people, compared with a rate of 80 violent crimes per 1,000 non-Indigenous people.

Among the various crimes, physical assaults were the most frequent, accounting for more than two-thirds (68%) of violent crimes reported by Indigenous people. About one in five (20%) violent crimes were sexual assaults, while 12% were robberies.

### Indigenous people living in rural areas are about as likely as non-Indigenous people to have been victims of violent crime

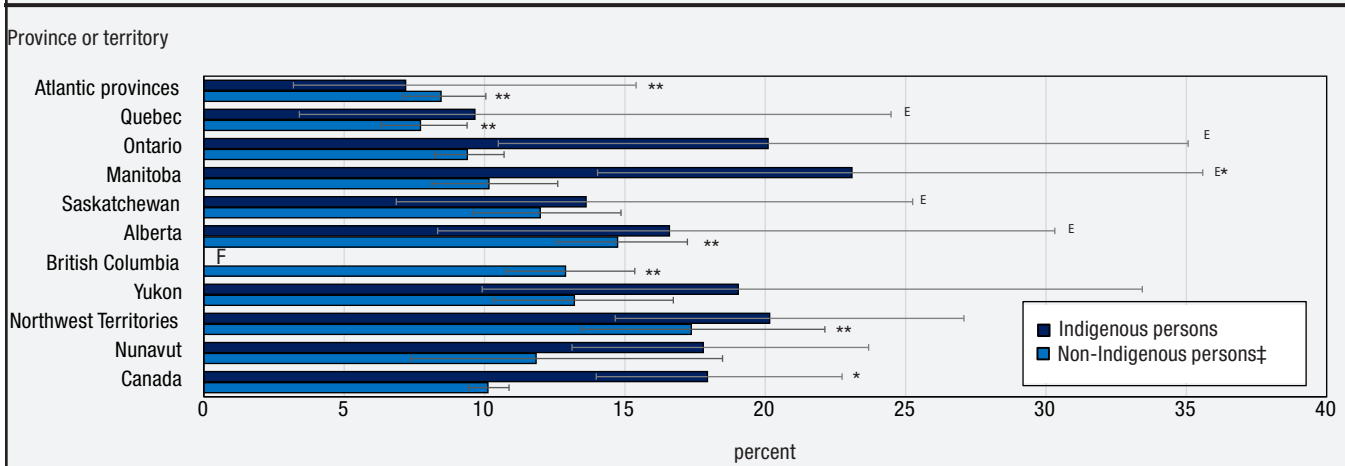
While, overall, Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous people to report having been victims of a violent crime in 2019, this may not be the case in rural areas (that is, areas outside of census metropolitan areas or census agglomerations<sup>18</sup>). In rural areas, 6.4% of Indigenous people<sup>19</sup> reported having been the victims of a violent crime, a proportion not statistically different from that reported by non-Indigenous people in rural areas (3.9%). In contrast, Indigenous people living in urban areas were about twice as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to have been victims of a violent crime in 2019 (9.7%<sup>20</sup> versus 4.2%) (Table 5, Table 6).

Previous studies based on police-reported data have found relatively high crime rates in the northern parts of the country—that is, in the provincial North and the territories (Allen and Perreault 2015; Perreault 2019), which are mostly rural. According to self-reported data from the 2019 GSS, 11% of Indigenous people living in northern areas were victims of a violent crime in 2019. However, the difference between that proportion and the proportion of victims among non-Indigenous people living in northern areas (6.2%) or among Indigenous people living in southern areas (7.6%) was not found to be statistically significant.

**Text box 2****Indigenous people living in the Atlantic provinces are less likely to have been victims of a crime against the person than Indigenous people in other regions**

In addition to providing information on experiences of violent victimization, the General Social Survey collects data on thefts of personal property that occurred in the 12 months preceding the survey. Together, this information represents crimes against the person. The analysis of all crimes against the person helps identify certain differences between the provinces or territories, which would not be possible if the analysis focused on violent crimes only because of sample size.<sup>21</sup>

Of the Indigenous population residing in all provinces and territories, Indigenous people living in the Atlantic provinces<sup>22</sup> were least likely to have been victims of a crime against the person in 2019. In the Atlantic provinces taken as a whole, 7.2% of Indigenous people were victims of a violent crime or theft of personal property. In comparison, this proportion was 18% nationwide. In addition, the proportion of Indigenous people who were victims of a crime against the person in the Atlantic provinces was similar to the proportion of their non-Indigenous counterparts (8.5%) (Chart 6).

**Chart 6****Self-reported personal victimization (violent crime and theft of personal property) in the 12 months preceding the survey, by province or territory and by Indigenous identity, 2019**

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

<sup>F</sup> too unreliable to be published

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

\*\* significantly different from the rest of Canada ( $p < 0.05$ )

‡ reference category

**Note:** Crimes against the person include sexual assault, robbery, physical assault and theft of personal property. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

Manitoba was the province with the greatest difference in victimization between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Nearly one-quarter (23%<sup>E</sup>) of Indigenous people in that province reported they were victims of at least one violent crime or theft of personal property in the 12 months preceding the survey, compared with 10% of non-Indigenous people. This difference was mainly because of high victimization rates in urban areas. In rural areas, 5.4% of Indigenous people and 5.0% of non-Indigenous people reported being victims of a crime against the person.

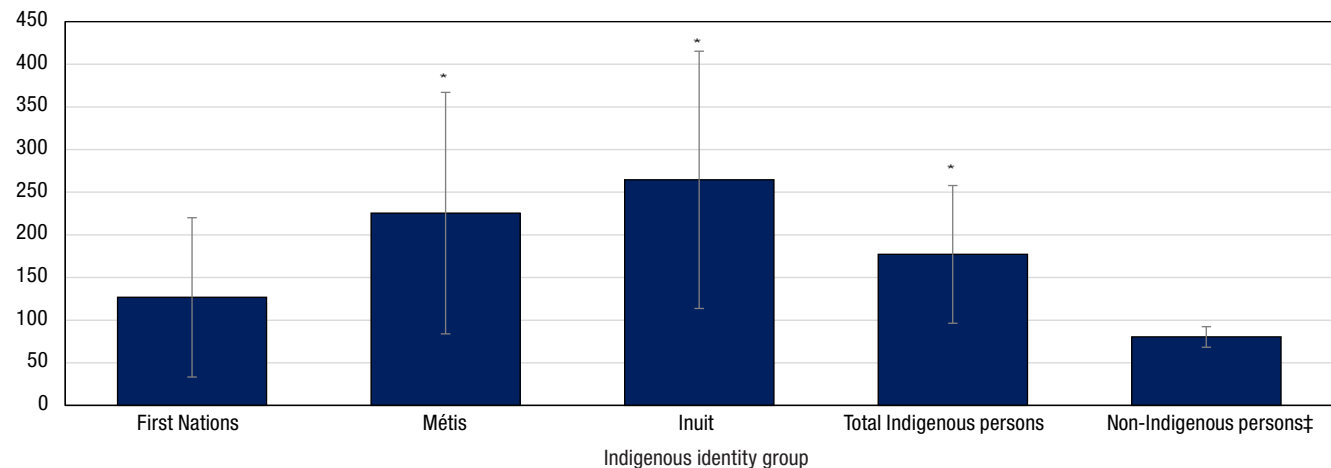
## More than 1 in 10 Métis and Inuit were victims of a violent crime in 2019

The higher victimization rates among Indigenous people are primarily attributable to the high rates reported by Métis and Inuit. More specifically, 12% of Métis (225 violent crimes per 1,000 Métis) and 11%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit (265<sup>E</sup> violent crimes per 1,000 Inuit) reported experiencing at least one violent crime in 2019. Among First Nations people, 5.5% were victims of at least one violent crime (127 violent crimes per 1,000 First Nations people), a proportion relatively similar to that of non-Indigenous people (4.2%)<sup>23</sup> (Table 3, Chart 7).

### Chart 7

#### Self-reported violent victimization incidents in the 12 months preceding the survey, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2019

rate per 1,000 population



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

<sup>‡</sup> reference category

**Note:** Violent crimes include sexual assault, robbery and physical assault. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

The higher prevalence of victimization among Métis and Inuit was observed primarily for physical assaults. The proportions of individuals who were sexually assaulted or robbed at least once were relatively similar in each Indigenous group and when compared to non-Indigenous people.<sup>24</sup> In contrast, 10%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit and 8.5% of Métis were victims of at least one physical assault incident, compared with 4.5% of First Nations people and 2.6% of non-Indigenous people (Table 3).<sup>25</sup>

## Nearly 1 in 10 Indigenous women were victims of a violent crime in 2019

While the victimization of Indigenous women is a long-standing problem (see Miladinovic and Mulligan 2015 or Brzozowski et al. 2006), as a social issue, it has received more attention in recent years. In particular, the numerous cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls led to the establishment of a national inquiry in 2016 (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). Victimization among Indigenous women is discussed in depth in the article “Violent victimization and perceptions of safety: Experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada” (Heidinger 2022).

According to 2019 GSS data, nearly 1 in 10 (9.3%) Indigenous women (5.9% of First Nations women, 15% of Métis women and 9.7%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit women) were victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 5, Table 6). More specifically, 2.8% of Indigenous women were sexually assaulted, 1.8% were robbed and 6.3% were physically assaulted. Among non-Indigenous people, approximately 1 in 20 (4.9%) women were victims of a violent crime.<sup>26</sup>

Among Indigenous men, 7.7% (5.1%<sup>E</sup> of First Nations people and 9.6%<sup>E</sup> of Métis men)<sup>27</sup> were victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey—twice the proportion of non-Indigenous men (3.4%).

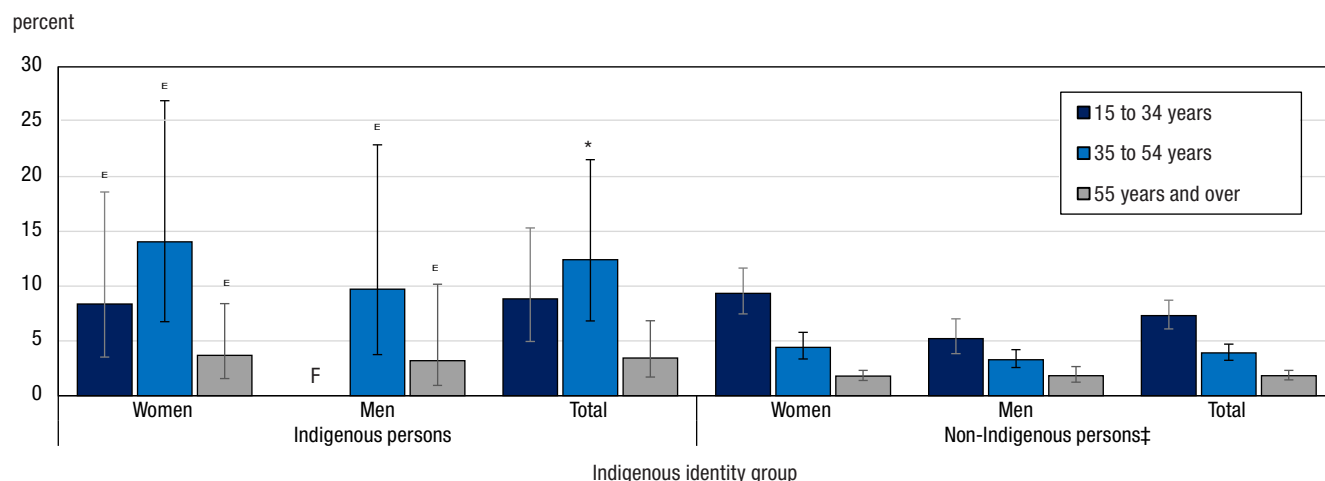


## Indigenous people aged 35 to 54 are most likely to have been victims of a violent crime

Most studies on victimization show that there is a strong link between age and risk of victimization (Cotter 2021; Perreault 2015; Siddique 2016). In general, victimization rates peak among those aged 15 to 24, then tend to decline gradually as age increases. A similar relationship has also been noted between age and the commission of crime, both in Canada and in most countries (Loeber et al. 2015; Ulmer and Steffensmeier 2014).

Among respondents aged 15 to 34 years, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people were the victims of a relatively similar level of violent crime in 2019. The highest rates were rather found among Indigenous people aged 35 to 54. As such, about one in eight (12%) Indigenous people (8.4%<sup>E</sup> of First Nations people and 19%<sup>E</sup> of Métis)<sup>28</sup> aged 35 to 54 years were victims of at least one violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey. This proportion is approximately four times higher than that of non-Indigenous people of the same age (3.9%) or Indigenous people aged 55 and older (3.4%) (Table 5, Table 6, Chart 8).

**Chart 8**  
**Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by Indigenous identity, gender and age group, Canada, 2019**



<sup>E</sup> use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

‡ reference category

**Note:** Violent crimes include sexual assault, robbery and physical assault. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

The higher rates of violent victimization among Indigenous people aged 35 to 54 may be related, in part, to the higher proportions of those who experienced violence during childhood in this age group compared with Indigenous people younger than 35. Having experienced violence during childhood is associated with mental health problems, substance use, marginalization and discrimination, which in turn can increase the risk of victimization (Boyce et al. 2015; Burczycka 2017; Cotter 2021; Perreault 2015).

### Text box 3

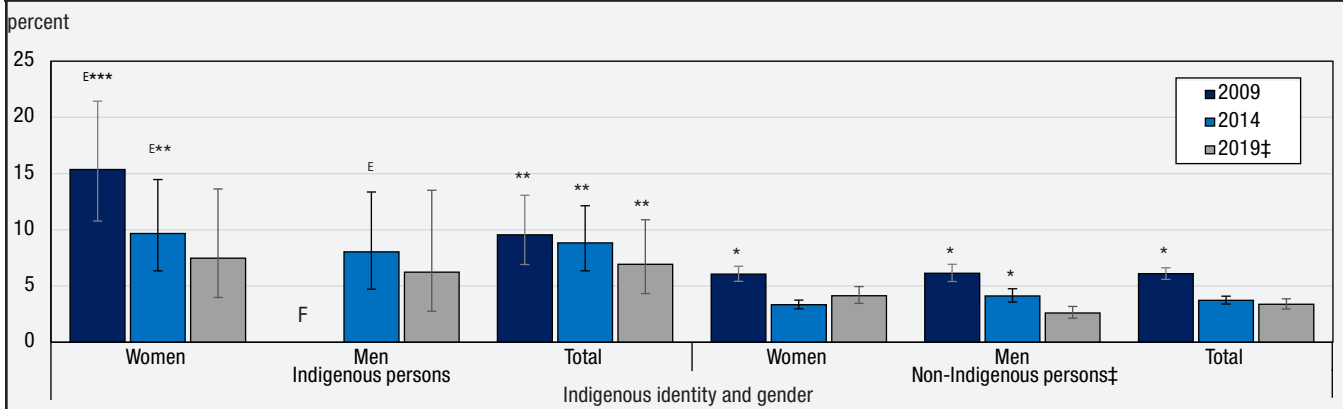
#### Self-reported spousal violence and intimate partner violence

Similar to violent victimization in general, several studies have noted higher rates of spousal violence or intimate partner violence among Indigenous people compared with non-Indigenous people (Boyce 2016, Burczykca 2016; Heidinger 2021). The ongoing legacy of colonization and cultural suppression may have led to the normalization of violence, especially against women (Andersson and Nahwegahbon 2010; Heidinger 2021; National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

In 2019, 7.5% of Indigenous people (7.3% of First Nations people, 9.4% of Métis and 15%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) who were married or in common-law relationships or had (or had contact with) a partner in the previous five years, experienced spousal violence in the five years preceding the survey. Among non-Indigenous people, the proportion was 3.4%. That said, there has been a significant decrease in spousal violence against Indigenous women. Specifically, the proportion of spousal violence victims among Indigenous women decreased by about 50% since 2009, from 15%<sup>E</sup> in 2009 to 7.5% in 2019 (Chart 9).

#### Chart 9

Population aged 15 and over who experienced violence by a spouse or partner (married or common-law, current or previous) in the 5 years preceding the survey, by Indigenous identity and gender, provinces, 2009 to 2019



<sup>E</sup> use with caution

<sup>F</sup> too unreliable to be published

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

<sup>\*\*</sup> significantly different from non-Indigenous persons (p < 0.05)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> significantly different from reference category and non-Indigenous persons (p < 0.05)

<sup>‡</sup> reference category

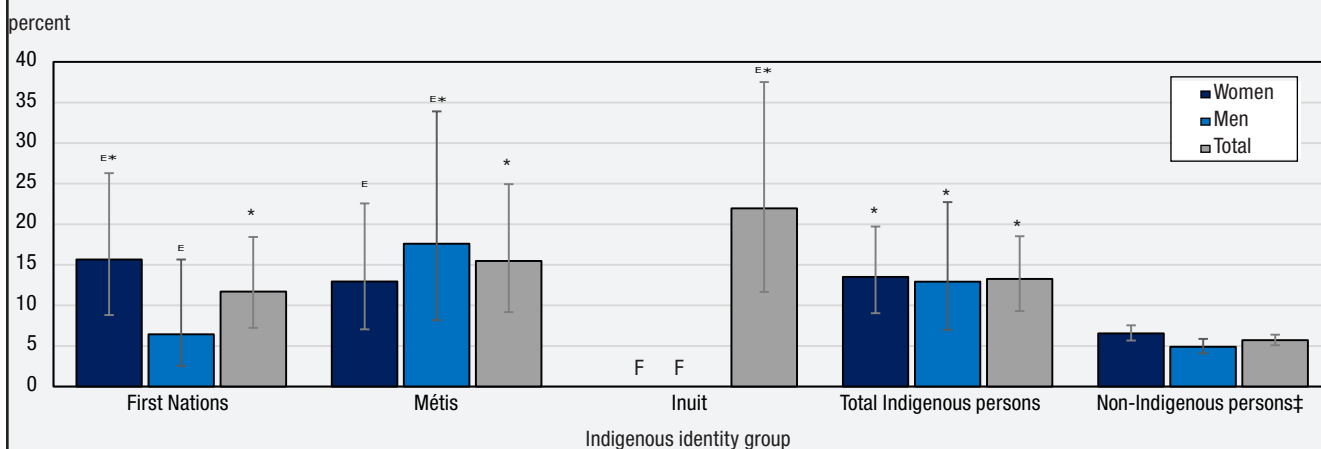
**Note:** Percent calculation is based on people who are married or in a common-law relationship or had a contact with a previous spouse or common-law partner in the 5 years preceding the survey. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Because of changes to some questions, Indigenous identity data from cycles prior to 2009 are not comparable. Because of differences in collection methodology, data from the territories are not comparable with provinces data for cycles prior to 2014. As such, data from the territories are excluded from this chart.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

In 2019, questions were added to the General Social Survey to better measure the nature and extent of violence committed by current or former intimate partners other than married or common-law partners. Overall, 11% of Indigenous people (8.9% of First Nations people, 13% of Métis and 17%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) reported having experienced violence from an intimate partner in the five years preceding the survey, more than double the proportion of non-Indigenous people (4.7%)<sup>29</sup> (Chart 10).

More specifically, 11% of Indigenous people reported having been threatened with being hit; had an object thrown at them; been pushed, grabbed or slapped by an intimate partner. Meanwhile, 18% reported having been bitten, punched or kicked; hit with an object; beaten or choked; threatened with a weapon; and forced or manipulated into engaging in non-consensual sexual activity. In comparison, these proportions were 5.1% and 3.1% for non-Indigenous people, respectively.

**Chart 10**  
**Population who experienced violence by an intimate partner (current or previous) in the 5 years preceding the survey, by Indigenous identity group, and by gender, Canada, 2019**



<sup>E</sup> use with caution

<sup>F</sup> too unreliable to be published

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

‡ reference category

**Note:** Percent calculation is based on people who are married, in a common-law or another intimate relationship or had a contact with a previous spouse, common-law or another intimate partner in the 5 years preceding the survey. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

In addition to physical or sexual violence, violence between intimate partners can sometimes take the form of psychological or financial abuse. Just over one in four (27%) Indigenous people (21% of First Nations people, 30% of Métis and 47%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) experienced psychological or financial abuse from an intimate partner,<sup>30</sup> compared with 16% of non-Indigenous people.

For more information on intimate partner violence and spousal violence, see the *Juristat* articles “Spousal violence in Canada, 2019” (Conroy 2021) and “Intimate partner violence: Experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women” (Heidinger 2021).

### Individuals who report drug use have higher victimization rates

Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous people to report having used cannabis or illicit drugs in the 12 months preceding the survey. One-quarter (25%) of Indigenous people (19% of First Nations people, 30% of Métis and 46%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) reported having used cannabis or illicit drugs, compared with 15% of non-Indigenous people. Various studies have noted an increased risk of victimization among people using cannabis or illicit drugs (Boyce 2016; Cotter and Savage 2019; Cotter 2021; Perreault 2015; Perreault 2020). The same association was noted with 2019 GSS data, where Indigenous people who used drugs were about three times more likely than those who did not use drugs to have been victims of at least one violent crime (17% versus 5.4%) (Table 7).

Among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, drug users were more likely than non-drug users to be aged 15 to 34 (49% versus 28%), to be single (41% versus 26%), to go out during the evening 20 or more times per month (31% versus 21%), to report binge drinking<sup>31</sup> at least once per month (52% versus 18%) and to have a partner who uses drugs or engages in binge drinking at least once per month (66% versus 19%).<sup>32</sup> These factors are also associated with higher victimization rates. Thus, people who use drugs may be more exposed to violence.

Drug use is also associated with other difficult life experiences or experiences of marginalization. For example, drug use was more common among Indigenous people who had experienced childhood violence (33%) or harsh parenting (29%) than those who had not experienced such violence (21%) or harsh parenting (16%). Similarly, drug use was higher among people who had previously been homeless, who had a physical or mental disability, or who had been discriminated against in the last five years. However, these life experiences are also linked to an increased risk of victimization.

Finally, some victims may use drugs to deal with the negative impact of victimization. According to data from the 2018 SSPPS, 10% of people who use drugs and who had been victims of physical or sexual assault in their lifetime<sup>33</sup> reported using substances to cope with the negative impacts of victimization.

### **A history of violence or harsh or negligent parenting during childhood is closely linked to the risk of victimization in adulthood**

Among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, experiencing violence or harsh parenting practices during childhood is one of the main factors associated with the risk of victimization in adulthood (Burczycka 2017; Cotter 2021; Perreault 2015; Perreault 2020). As noted in the first section of this article, Indigenous people, particularly those aged 35 and older, were more likely than non-Indigenous people to have experienced violence during their childhood.

Thus, higher rates of violent victimization among Indigenous people may be tied with the greater proportion having experienced violence or harsh parenting practices. For example, 1.1% of Indigenous people<sup>34</sup> who never experienced harsh or neglectful parenting<sup>35</sup> were victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey, a proportion similar to that reported by their non-Indigenous counterparts (1.7%). However, this proportion was approximately 10 times higher among Indigenous people who had experienced harsh parenting (11%, 7.5% of First Nations people and 15% of Métis), and approximately twice as high as non-Indigenous people who had also experienced such behaviours (5.7%) (Table 7).

Similarly, while 3.7% of Indigenous people who had not experienced childhood violence reported being the victims of a violent crime in 2019, this proportion was 14% (11%<sup>E</sup> of First Nations people and 22%<sup>E</sup> of Métis)<sup>36</sup> among those who experienced physical violence and 27%<sup>E</sup> among those who experienced sexual violence. Among non-Indigenous people, these proportions were 2.9%, 7.6% and 10%, respectively.

#### **Text box 4**

#### **Multivariate analysis: Indigenous identity is not a factor associated with the risk of violent victimization, but sexual violence in childhood is a significant factor**

There is a close correlation between several factors that are associated with higher rates of violent victimization. For example, being young is generally associated with higher rates of violent victimization, but being young is also associated with being single, going out during the evening more often and using more alcohol or drugs. All these factors are also associated with higher victimization rates in general. A multivariate analysis (logistic regression) analyzes these factors independently, keeping the other factors constant, and determines which ones are the most decisive.

In this article, a first round of multivariate analyses was conducted across the population to determine whether Indigenous persons remained at greater risk of victimization when other factors remained constant.

When taking into account some key socioeconomic factors (i.e., age, gender, marital status, education, and sexual orientation) Indigenous people continued to be at slightly higher risk of violent victimization compared to non-Indigenous people (Model 1). However, when additional factors related to social cohesion (trust in neighbours, discrimination), health (poor mental health), lifestyle (drug use, frequency of evenings out) and, most important, certain circumstances (childhood abuse, homelessness) were also considered, Indigenous persons did not have a higher risk of violent victimization (Model 2) (Table 8). Said otherwise, higher victimization rates among Indigenous people can be attributed to factors such as socioeconomic and health conditions, as well as history of homelessness and childhood maltreatment.

Factors associated with an increased risk of victimization may however be slightly different among Indigenous people compared with the general population. Thus, another regression model was applied only to the Indigenous population. Age was also a risk factor among Indigenous people, but as noted earlier, the risk of victimization only drops significantly around the age of 55. As was the case with the general population model, a history of childhood sexual violence and harsh parenting were among the factors most closely associated with an increased risk of victimization among the Indigenous people. Finally, even when the various risk factors are considered, Indigenous people living in the territories or the Prairie provinces were more likely to have been victims of violent crime than Indigenous people living in the other provinces (Model 3) (Table 9).

**The rate of violent victimization is four times higher among Indigenous people who have experienced discrimination than among those who have not**

In Canada, people belonging to certain population groups are more likely than others to be discriminated against (i.e., experience unfair treatment because of ethnicity or culture, gender, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability) (Gorelik 2022; Ibrahim 2020; Gravel 2015; Statistics Canada 2020).

One-third (33%) of Indigenous people (44% of First Nations people, 24% of Métis and 29%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) reported having experienced discrimination in the five years preceding the survey. The most common experiences of discrimination faced by Indigenous people occurred in a store, restaurant or bank (14%) and in the workplace (13%).

Compared with interactions with the staff of stores, restaurants and banks or interactions with co-workers, interactions with the police are generally infrequent. Thus, few people reported being discriminated against in their dealings with the police (1.2%). However, Indigenous people were overrepresented among victims of police discrimination. While they accounted for about 5% of those who had been discriminated against in general, Indigenous people accounted for 17% of those who had experienced discrimination in their dealings with the police. Systemic racism in policing in Canada is a growing concern and likely a contributing factor to Indigenous people's overrepresentation in the criminal justice system (David and Mitchell 2021)

Several of the population groups most likely to face discrimination also record relatively high rates of violent victimization. This is true of Indigenous people, but also of women, people with physical or mental disabilities, and bisexual individuals (Cotter 2021). But even within each of these population groups, those who personally experienced discrimination were the most likely to have been victims of a violent crime. For example, 15% of Indigenous people who experienced discrimination were also victims of violent crime in 2019, a rate of 354 violent crimes per 1,000 people. This rate is four times higher than that of Indigenous people who did not experience discrimination (86 crimes per 1,000 people) (Table 5, Table 6).

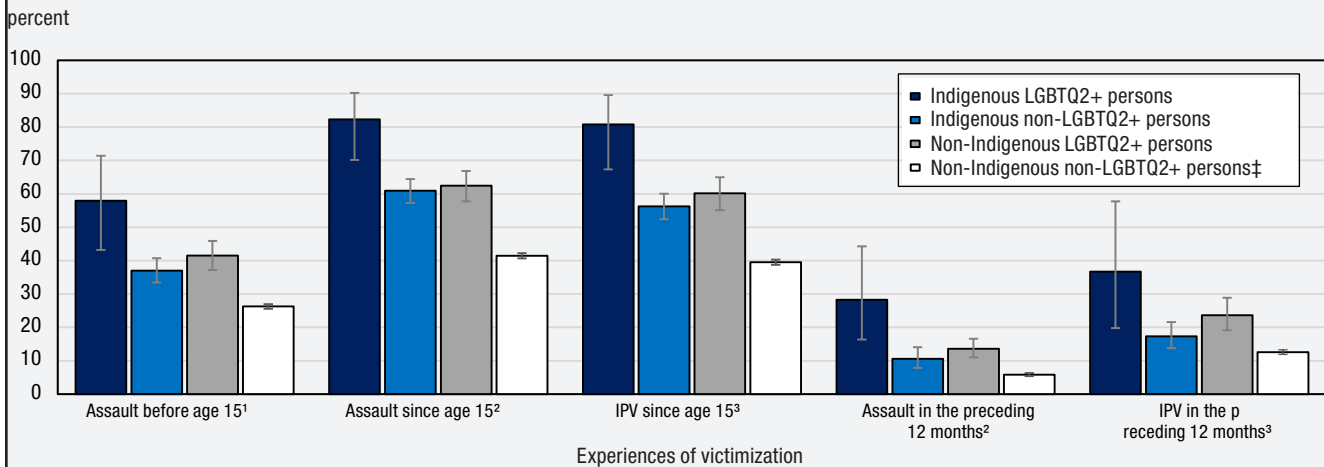
Violence may be partly rooted in the same social structures as discrimination. Thus, the most marginalized Indigenous people may also be the most vulnerable to discrimination and violence. According to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, discrimination is one of the factors behind high rates of violence against Indigenous women (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

### Text box 5 Victimization of LGBTQ2+ Indigenous people

Previous studies have shown that LGBTQ2+ people<sup>37</sup> were more likely to experience sexual or physical assaults, as well as other types of unwanted behaviours compared to non-LGBTQ2+ people (Jaffray 2020; Perreault 2020). The same studies have highlighted an increased risk of victimization among LGBTQ2+ individuals who also identify with another marginalized population group, such as people with a disability and Indigenous people.

The sample size of the 2019 General Social Survey on Canadian's Safety (victimization) does not allow reliable estimates for LGBTQ2+ Indigenous people. However, data from the 2018 Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces do show that, compared to non-LGBTQ2+ non-Indigenous people, LGBTQ2+ Indigenous people were more likely to have experienced sexual or physical assault as well as intimate partner violence (IPV). More specifically, LGBTQ2+ Indigenous people were about twice as likely to have been sexually or physically assaulted by an adult when they were under age 15 (58% versus 26%), to have been sexually or physically assaulted since age 15 (82% versus 41%), and to have experienced IPV since age 15 (81% versus 40%) (Text box 5 chart).

**Textbox 5 chart 1**  
**Self-reported victimization experiences, by Indigenous and LGBTQ2+ identity, Canada, 2018**



‡ reference category  
 1. Includes sexual and physical assault by an adult before the age of 15.  
 2. Includes sexual and physical assault, including assaults committed by an intimate partner (current or previous).  
 3. Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes sexual, physical, emotional, psychological and financial abuse by an intimate partner (current or previous). Percent calculation is based on population with an intimate partner (or who had an intimate partner) or had a contact with a previous intimate partner during the reference period.  
**Note:** LGBTQ2+ persons include those who reported being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirits or used another sexual or gender diversity-related term to identify themselves. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. All differences from reference category are statistically significant (p < 0.05).  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2018.

The picture was similar for more recent victimization, but the differences were even wider. Compared to non-LGBTQ2+ non-Indigenous people, LGBTQ2+ Indigenous people were about three times more likely to have experienced IPV in the 12 months preceding the survey (37% compared to 13% of non-Indigenous non-LGBTQ2+ people), and almost five times more likely to have experienced sexual or physical assault in the 12 months preceding the survey (28% compared to 5.9%).

## Characteristics of violent victimization incidents

In the 2019 GSS, respondents who were victims of criminal acts were asked to provide some information about each of these crimes. However, the sample size prevents analyzing the characteristics of crimes involving Indigenous victims.

As a complement to the GSS, the 2018 SSPPS is another source of data on criminal victimization. Compared with the GSS, the larger sample size may allow for the analysis of some additional information on crimes involving Indigenous victims.<sup>38</sup> However, while the GSS collects information on each of the criminal victimization incidents survey respondents experienced, the SSPPS data is limited to the physical and sexual assault that the victim considered to be the most serious in the 12 months preceding the survey.

The following section presents some of the key findings from the SSPPS data on the main characteristics of the most serious sexual or physical assault experienced by Canadians in the 12 months preceding the survey.<sup>39</sup> For almost half (46%) of non-Indigenous people and one-third (33%) of Indigenous people, the most serious assault was a sexual assault.<sup>40</sup> The characteristics of the crimes exclude assaults by an intimate partner, which were collected through a separate set of questions.

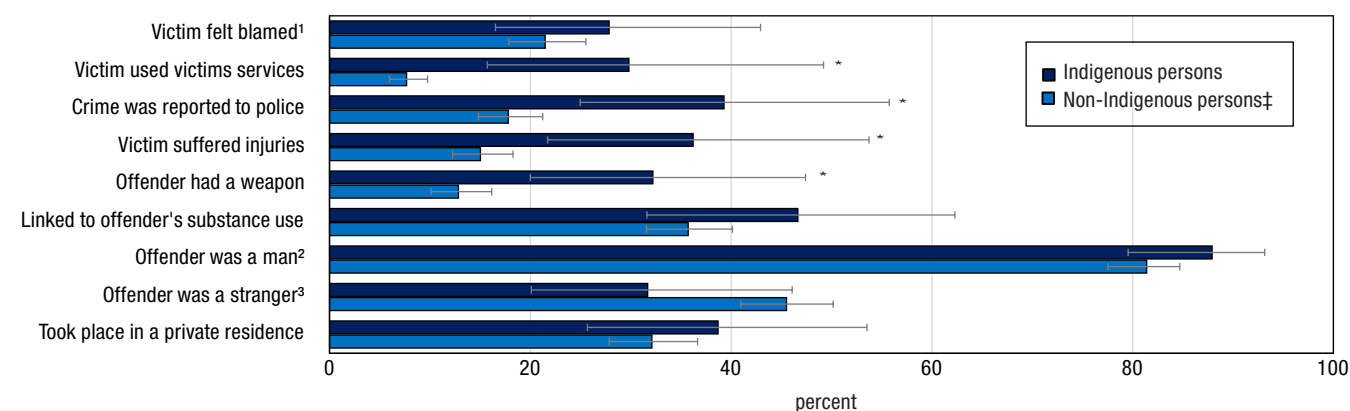
### More than one-third of Indigenous victims were injured during the most serious assault they experienced

The SSPPS data indicate that Indigenous victims were more likely than non-Indigenous victims to have been physically injured in the most serious assault. More specifically, more than one-third (36%) of Indigenous victims suffered injuries in the most serious assault they experienced in the 12 months preceding the survey. This proportion was more than double that of non-Indigenous victims (15%). Similarly, nearly one-third (32%) of Indigenous victims reported that their assailant was armed, compared with 13% of non-Indigenous victims (Table 10, Chart 11).

#### Chart 11

#### Most serious sexual or physical assault experienced in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected incident characteristics and by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018

Selected characteristics of the most serious assault



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

‡ reference category

1. Includes cases where victims were made to feel responsible for their own victimization by either the perpetrator, their friends or family, the police or any other person.

2. Includes cases where the number of offenders was known. Includes cases where a man was the only offender and cases with multiple offenders, all men.

3. In cases where there were more than one offender, all offenders were strangers or known by sight.

**Note:** Excludes intimate partner violence, for which characteristics were collected through a different set of questions. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Private and Public Spaces, 2018.

The presence of injuries or weapons may be indicators of the potential level of severity of the assaults. In fact, these are key factors in classifying levels of sexual assault and assaults in the *Criminal Code*.

## **Indigenous people are twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to have reported the most serious assault to the police**

Among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, the majority of assaults identified as the most serious experienced by victims in the 12 months preceding the SSPPS were not reported to the police. However, the most serious assaults on Indigenous people were approximately twice as likely to be brought to the attention of the police either as a result of the victim reporting the incident or otherwise.

Among Indigenous victims, nearly 4 in 10 (39%) assaults were brought to the attention of the police, compared with 18% among non-Indigenous victims. The difference was particularly pronounced among women, with one-third (32%) of Indigenous women and 12% of non-Indigenous women reporting the most serious assault (Table 10, Chart 11). Higher reporting rates may be another indicator of a higher level of severity, as the reporting rate tends to increase with severity (Sinha 2015).

Indigenous people were also more likely to have used victim services. Nearly one-third (30%) of Indigenous victims reported using services following the most serious assault, compared with 7.7% of non-Indigenous victims. Among victims who did not use victim services, the majority (51%) indicated that they did not feel the need to do so, and 29% said that the incident was too minor.<sup>41</sup>

## **Nearly half of Indigenous women felt blamed**

The term “secondary victimization” is sometimes used to refer to criticizing victims or making them feel responsible for their own victimization. A lack of support for victims or criticism can lead victims to blame themselves and therefore remain silent rather than confide in others, report the incident or seek help. Victim-blaming can have many negative emotional impacts on victims, such as increased distrust of others, anxiety or depression (Harber et al. 2015).

Nearly half (44%) of Indigenous women who were victims of a violent crime reported feeling blamed for the most serious assault they had experienced in the 12 months preceding the SSPPS. This proportion was more than double that noted among Indigenous men (17%). Among non-Indigenous women, it was rarer for them to feel blamed, with three-quarters (75%) of them reporting that they did not feel criticized or blamed for their most serious assault (Table 10).

## **Indigenous victims are less likely to have been assaulted by a stranger**

Previous studies have shown that Indigenous victims were generally less likely than non-Indigenous victims to have been assaulted by a stranger (Allen 2020; Boyce 2016; Heidinger 2022). This trend was confirmed by the SSPPS data. Slightly less than one-third (32%) of the most serious assaults experienced by Indigenous people in the 12 months preceding the survey, excluding assaults by an intimate partner, were committed by a stranger (Table 10, Chart 11).

In comparison, almost half (46%) of non-Indigenous victims were targeted by a stranger. The difference was particularly pronounced among women, with 19% of Indigenous women having been assaulted by a stranger, compared with 39% of non-Indigenous women.

This difference may be, in part, because a greater proportion of Indigenous people than non-Indigenous people reside in rural or remote areas, where interactions with strangers may be less frequent. Other studies have also shown that crimes committed by strangers are less common in rural areas than in urban areas (Burczycka 2022; Perreault 2020).

## **Most Indigenous victims were assaulted by a man**

Among both Indigenous (88%) and non-Indigenous (81%) people, most victims of a crime committed by a person other than an intimate partner were assaulted by one or more men. However, Indigenous people (6.3%) were less likely than non-Indigenous people (16%) to have been assaulted by one or more women. This difference was particularly pronounced among men, as 6.6% of Indigenous men were assaulted by one or more women, compared with 20% of non-Indigenous men (Table 10).



**Indigenous people less likely to have been assaulted in a store or institution than non-Indigenous people**

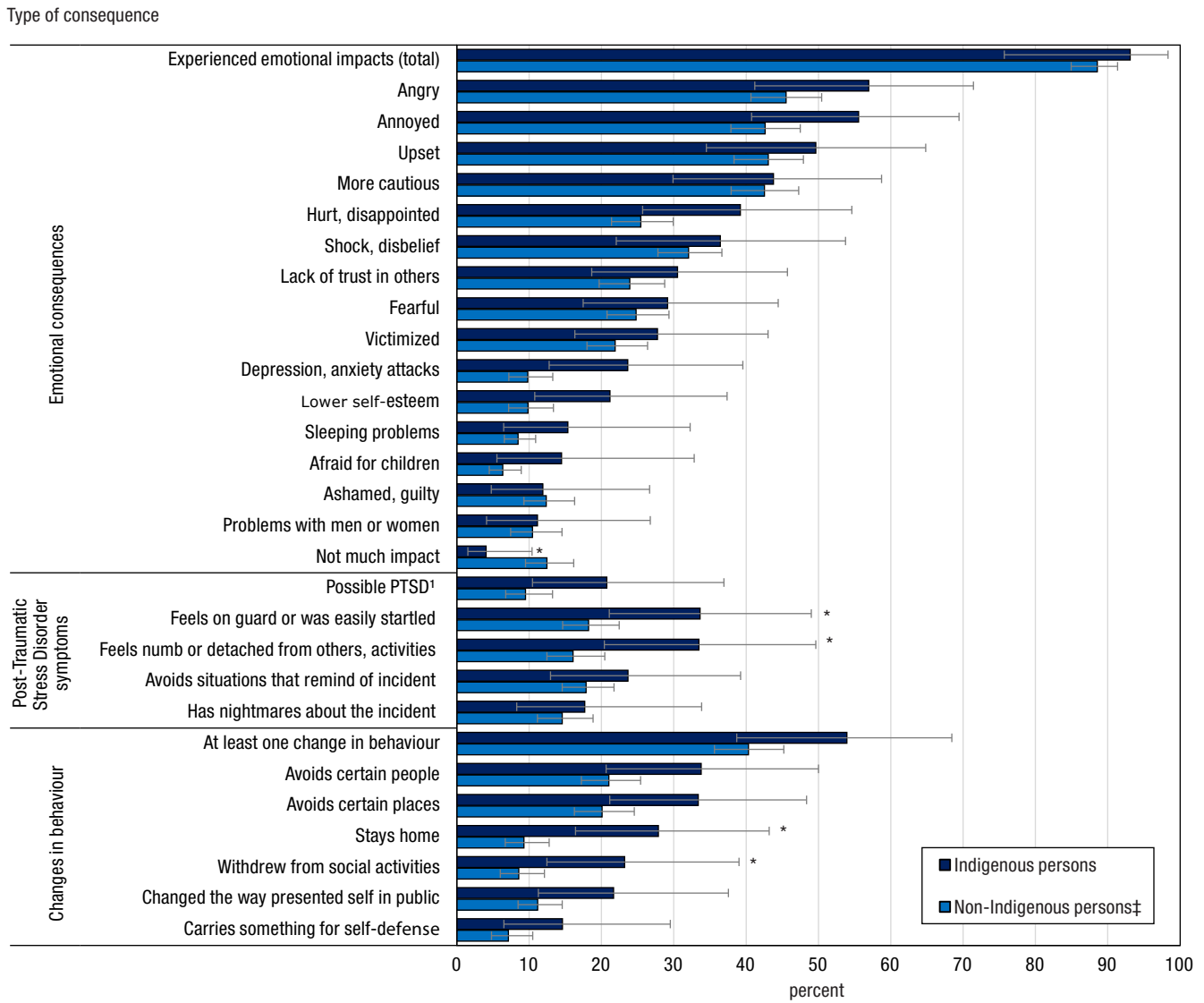
Overall, a relatively large proportion of assaults in 2018 occurred in a commercial or institutional establishment (37%), most often in a restaurant or bar (15% of all victims). However, Indigenous victims were less likely than non-Indigenous victims to have been assaulted in a commercial or institutional establishment (21% compared with 38%). Indigenous men, in particular, were more likely than non-Indigenous men to have been assaulted on the street or in another public place (51% versus 25%) (Table 10).

Indigenous women were more likely than non-Indigenous women to consider that the assault could be related to the assailant's alcohol or drug use. For example, slightly more than half (52%) of Indigenous women believed that the most serious assault they had experienced could be related to the assailant's substance use, compared with 29% of non-Indigenous women.

**Indigenous victims more likely than non-Indigenous victims to have withdrawn from social activities because of the most serious assault**

Among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, the vast majority of individuals who had been physically or sexually assaulted in the 12 months preceding the 2018 SSPPS reported having suffered emotional or psychological repercussions because of the most serious assault. However, compared with non-Indigenous victims, Indigenous victims were somewhat less likely to report being little affected (4.1% versus 12%) (Chart 12).

**Chart 12**  
**Most serious sexual or physical assault experienced in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected consequences experienced by victims and by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2018**



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

‡ reference category

1. According to the PC-PTSD Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder screening tool (see Prins et al. 2003), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is highly suspected when a person responds positively to three of the four items.

**Note:** Excludes intimate partner violence, for which characteristics were collected through a different set of questions. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Private and Public Spaces, 2018.

All should feel free to pursue their activities in safety. Although victims are not responsible for their victimization, some of them nevertheless change their habits or limit their activities to regain a certain sense of safety (Ullman et al. 2018). Some victims may also change their habits to avoid situations that would remind them of the assault (e.g., avoiding the location of the assault). Changes in habits can thus be a certain indicator of the extent of the assault’s impact on the victim. Compared with non Indigenous victims, Indigenous victims were more likely to have withdrawn from social activities (23% versus 8.6%) or to stay at home more often (28% versus 9.2%) (Chart 12).

Besides emotional repercussions and changes in habits, some victims may suffer long-term consequences consistent with the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The 2018 SSPPS included four questions designed to assess whether the victim could have PTSD.<sup>42</sup> According to these criteria, just over one in five (21%) Indigenous victims could potentially have PTSD because of the most serious assault—that is, they have identified at least three of the four symptoms measured.

Specifically, compared with non-Indigenous victims, Indigenous victims were more likely to feel numb or detached from others or activities (33% versus 16%) or to be constantly on the alert or on guard (34% versus 18%). Research suggests that the combined impacts of multiple lifetime stressors and traumatic experiences are correlated with the development and severity of PTSD symptoms (Bombay et al. 2009; O’Neil et al. 2018; Scott 2007). As such, it is possible that higher levels of PTSD symptoms among Indigenous victims be, at least in part, linked to intergenerational trauma resulting from historical and ongoing repercussions of colonization, systemic and individual racism, as well as childhood abuse experiences.

## Indigenous homicide victims

The issue of high homicide rates involving Indigenous victims is a major concern in Canada. Many studies have highlighted the significant disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in terms of homicide rates. This issue led to the establishment in 2016 of the National Inquiry into MMIWG, whose final report was tabled in 2019 (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

Statistics Canada is working with the Canadian police community to improve the quality of data collected on the Indigenous identity of victims and accused individuals. In recent years, this information has been collected through the Homicide Survey, making it possible to better quantify the nature and extent of homicides involving an Indigenous victim and to monitor progress in this matter. The next section presents the main trends in homicides among First Nations people, Métis and Inuit from 2015 to 2020.

For more information on Indigenous homicide victims, see data table 35-10-0156-01 and the Juristat articles “Homicide in Canada, 2020” (Armstrong and Jaffray 2021) and “Homicide in Canada, 2014” (Miladinovic and Mulligan 2015).<sup>43</sup>

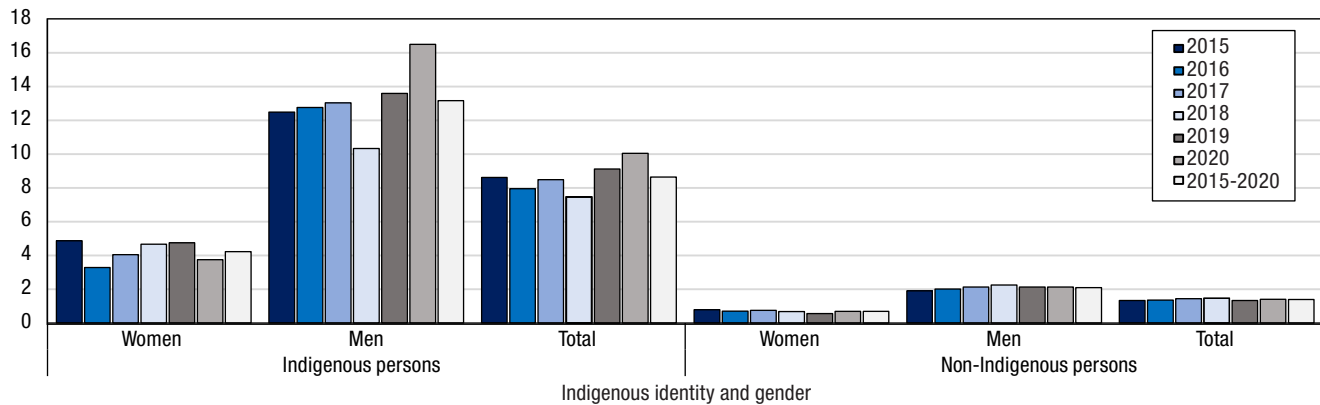
### The homicide rate involving an Indigenous victim reached its highest level since 2015

In 2020, police in Canada reported a total of 201 Indigenous homicide victims. This figure represents a homicide rate of 10.05 per 100,000 inhabitants, the highest rate since 2015. This increase was mainly due to a higher number of murdered Indigenous men than in previous years, with the homicide rate among Indigenous women having declined somewhat in 2020 compared with the previous three years.<sup>44</sup> Despite the decline in the homicide rate among Indigenous women, this rate was nearly twice that of non-Indigenous men and more than five times that of non-Indigenous women (Table 11, Chart 13).

Among non-Indigenous people, the homicide rate (1.41 per 100,000 non-Indigenous people in 2019) remained relatively stable, being 5.2% higher than in 2015, but nevertheless lower than the rates recorded in 2017 and 2018.

**Chart 13**  
**Homicides, by victim's Indigenous identity and gender, Canada, 2015 to 2020**

rate per 100,000 population



**Note:** Indigenous identity includes victims identified as First Nations persons, Métis, Inuit, or an Indigenous identity where the Indigenous group is not known to police. Homicides for which the Indigenous or gender identity was reported as unknown are excluded from the total calculations. The year 2019 marked the first cycle of collection of the Homicide Survey data for which information on gender identity was reported for victims and persons accused of homicide. Gender refers to the gender a person publicly expresses in their daily life, including at work, while shopping or accessing other services, in their housing environment or in the broader community. Prior to 2019, Homicide Survey data was presented by the sex of the victims and accused persons. Sex and gender refer to two different concepts. Caution should be exercised when comparing counts for sex with those for gender. Given that small counts of victims and accused persons identified as "gender diverse" may exist, the aggregate Homicide Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "man" or "woman" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims and accused persons identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either man or woman based on the regional distribution of victims' or accused persons' gender. Population counts are based on July 1<sup>st</sup> population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey.

To conduct a more detailed analysis of the characteristics of homicides involving an Indigenous victim, particularly by Indigenous group, the data on homicides from 2015 to 2020 were combined. For the rest of this section, analysis will cover the entire period from 2015 to 2020.<sup>45</sup> During this period, 69% of Indigenous homicide victims were First Nations people, 5.8% were Métis, 6.7% were Inuit and 18% were identified as Indigenous with an unknown or unspecified identity group.<sup>46</sup>

The average homicide rate involving an Indigenous victim for the period from 2015 to 2020 was 8.64 homicides per 100,000 Indigenous people, a rate six times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous people during the same period (1.39). Specifically, the average homicide rates for the period of 2015 to 2020 were 13.16 homicides per 100,000 Indigenous men and 4.23 homicides per 100,000 Indigenous women. Among non-Indigenous people, these rates were 2.09 per 100,000 men and 0.69 per 100,000 women (Chart 13). In other words, while Indigenous people account for about 5% of the population in Canada, they accounted for one-quarter (25%) of homicide victims during this period, both for men and women.

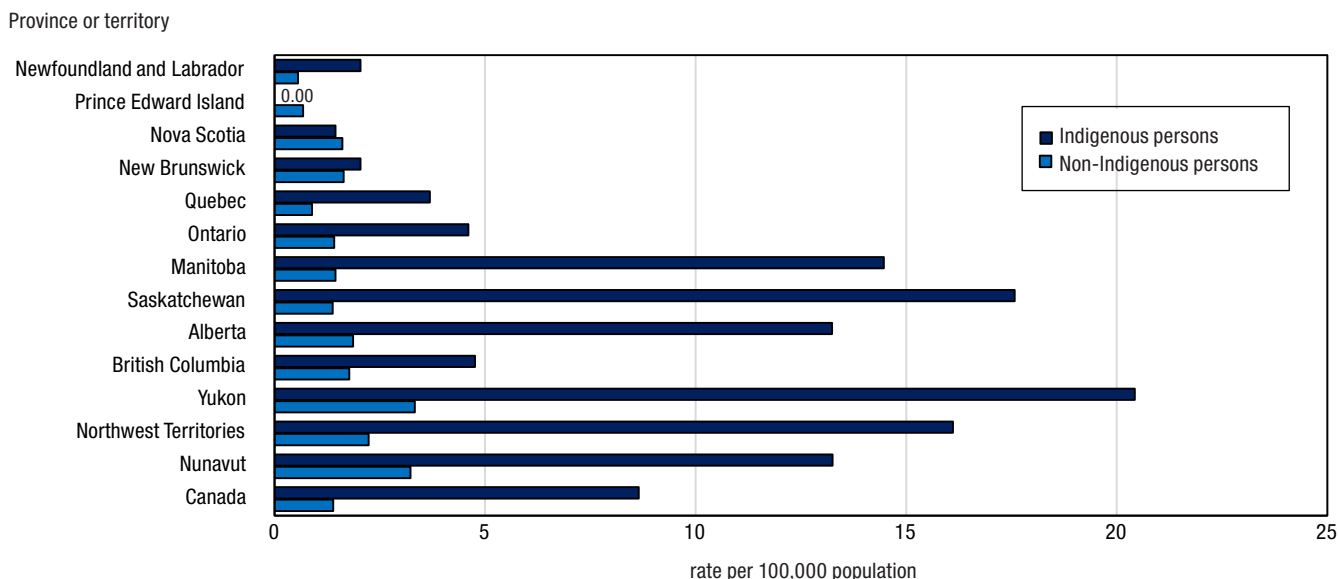
### The homicide rate among Indigenous people in Saskatchewan is 13 times higher than the rate among non-Indigenous people

In most provinces, Indigenous people have higher average rates of homicides reported by the police from 2015 to 2020 than non-Indigenous people. The only exceptions were Prince Edward Island, where no Indigenous people were murdered during this period, and Nova Scotia (Chart 14).

Overall, homicide rates among Indigenous people were the lowest in the Atlantic provinces and the highest in the Prairies and the territories. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan had the highest average homicide rate among Indigenous people (17.57 homicides per 100,000 Indigenous people). The largest difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people was also noted in Saskatchewan, where the homicide rate among Indigenous people was 13 times higher than among non-Indigenous people (1.38 homicides per 100,000 non-Indigenous people).

The higher homicide rates among Indigenous people contribute to the relatively high homicide rates generally recorded in these provinces. For example, Manitoba and Saskatchewan reported homicide rates more than twice the rate for Canada as a whole in 2020 (Moreau 2021). However, in these provinces, homicide rates among non-Indigenous people were very similar to the national average.

**Chart 14**  
**Average homicide rate, by Indigenous identity of victims and by province or territory, 2015 to 2020**



**Note:** Indigenous identity includes victims identified as First Nations persons, Métis, Inuit, or an Indigenous identity where the Indigenous group is not known to police. Homicides for which the Indigenous identity was unknown are excluded from the total calculations. Population counts are based on July 1<sup>st</sup> population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey.

Yukon had the highest homicide rate among Indigenous people (20.43 homicides per 100,000 Indigenous people). Nunavut was the territory with the lowest homicide rate involving an Indigenous victim (13.25 homicide victims per 100,000 Indigenous people).

### **Murdered Indigenous women were twice as likely as Indigenous men to have been reported missing**

The issue of missing Indigenous women and girls is an important security, justice and policy issue in Canada. To meet the need for information on the subject, the Homicide Survey has included, since 2015, a question to determine whether the homicide victims were previously reported missing.

Just under 1 in 10 (8.1%) Indigenous victims (9.1% of First Nations people, 7.1% of Métis and 7.7% of Inuit) were reported missing before the homicide came to the attention of the police. This proportion was relatively similar among non-Indigenous victims (7.3%) (Table 12).

This proportion was about twice as high among women than among men. Among Indigenous women who were victims of homicide from 2015 to 2020, 32 were reported missing (13%), compared with 47 Indigenous men (6.4%).

### **Homicides involving an Indigenous victim are more likely to have been cleared than homicides involving a non-Indigenous victim**

Overall, homicides involving Indigenous victims from 2015 to 2020 were more likely to have been cleared (solved) than homicides involving non-Indigenous victims.<sup>47</sup> More than 8 out of 10 (84%) homicides involving Indigenous victims (85% of First Nations people, 80% of Métis and 91% of Inuit) were cleared, either cleared by charge (81%) or otherwise (2.9%).<sup>48</sup> This proportion is relatively similar for women (86%) and men (83%) (Table 13).

Homicides involving non-Indigenous victims were less likely to be cleared: 70% were cleared (63% for men, 90% for women), including 62% cleared by charge and 8.0% otherwise. However, in the case of homicides where the victim had previously been reported missing, the clearance rate was similar for Indigenous (67%) and non-Indigenous (68%) victims.

Higher clearance rates for homicides involving Indigenous victims may be due in part to the fact that they are less likely to be committed by strangers or gang-related, which are crimes that are generally more difficult to solve (Hotton Mahony and Turner 2012; Ouimet and Paré 2003; Paré et al. 2007). In fact, homicides of Indigenous victims from 2015 to 2020 were, on average, solved more quickly than homicides involving non-Indigenous victims (82 days versus 45 days). This difference is mainly attributable to homicides that took more than 30 days to solve. These accounted for 21% of cleared homicides where the victim was non-Indigenous, compared with 17% where the victim was Indigenous.

### **Most victims were killed by someone they knew**

Among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, homicides committed by strangers are relatively rare, as are homicides involving a randomly chosen victim. Of the homicides reported by the police from 2015 to 2020 for which an accused was identified, less than 1 in 10 (8.8%) Indigenous victims (5.9% of First Nations people, 18% of Métis and 1.8% of Inuit) were killed by a stranger, and 6.0% (4.3% of First Nations people, 9.4% of Métis and 4.7% of Inuit) were randomly selected. Among non-Indigenous victims, these proportions were slightly higher, with 19% being killed by a stranger and 9.2% being randomly selected (Table 12, Table 13). As mentioned earlier, the greater proportion of Indigenous people living in rural areas, where interactions with strangers are less frequent than in urban areas, may partly explain these differences.

Compared with non-Indigenous victims, Indigenous victims were more likely to have been killed by a friend or a friend of the family. This was the case for about one-third (34%) of Indigenous people (36% of First Nations people, 31% of Métis and 29% of Inuit) who were victims of homicides reported by the police from 2015 to 2020, compared with 22% of non-Indigenous victims.

In addition, Indigenous people were more likely to have been killed by an extended family member, such as an uncle or a cousin. Just over 1 in 10 (11%) Indigenous victims (13% of First Nations people, 4.4% of Métis and 16% of Inuit) were killed by an extended family member, compared with 3.2% of non-Indigenous victims.

### **One in six homicides involving an Indigenous victim was committed by a spouse or intimate partner**

Among the homicides reported by the police from 2015 to 2020 for which an accused was identified, about one in six Indigenous victims (16%, or 17% of victims aged 15 and older) was killed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner. This proportion is relatively similar to that of non-Indigenous victims (18%, or 19% of victims aged 15 and older) (Table 13). Overall, Indigenous women (42%, or 47% among those aged 15 and older) and non-Indigenous women (45%, or 49% of those aged 15 and older) who were victims of homicide were much more likely to have been killed by an intimate partner than were Indigenous men (7.1%, or 7.3% among those aged 15 and older) and non-Indigenous men (4.5%, or 4.6% among those aged 15 and older). For more information on homicides of Indigenous women, please refer to the *Juristat* article “The criminal victimization of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada” (Heidinger 2022).

The proportion of homicides committed by a spouse or intimate partner also varies by Indigenous identity group. For example, 8.9% of Métis victims (10% of those aged 15 and older) were killed by a spouse or intimate partner. This proportion was 17% for First Nations victims (18% for those aged 15 and older) and 31% for Inuit victims (34% for those aged 15 and older). However, the proportions for the detailed groups are based on a relatively small number of homicides, particularly among Métis and Inuit. As a result, overall trends can vary more easily based on the characteristics of each homicide.

Among those who were killed by a spouse, intimate partner or family member, a history of family violence between the victim and the accused was more common in cases involving an Indigenous, compared to those involving a non-Indigenous, victim. Among Indigenous victims, a history of family violence or intimate partner violence was noted for more than half (53%, 52% of First Nations people, 38% of Métis and 65% of Inuit) of family homicides or those committed by a spouse or intimate partner. Among non-Indigenous victims, 38% involved a reported history of family or intimate partner violence.

### **Homicides involving an Indigenous victim were less likely to have involved a firearm or to be gang-related**

Firearms accounted for the most homicide deaths among non-Indigenous people. From 2015 to 2020, just under half (44%) of homicides involving non-Indigenous victims were committed using a firearm, most often a handgun (60% of homicides by firearm). Among Indigenous people, homicides involving firearms were less common, making up less than one-quarter (23%) of homicides. Among Inuit victims, this proportion decreased to 11%. Likely a reflection of the relatively high proportion of indigenous people living in rural areas, firearm-related homicides involving Indigenous victims have generally been committed with a rifle or hunting rifle (73% of firearm-related homicides), rather than a handgun (15%) (Table 12).

Compared with homicides involving non-Indigenous victims, homicides involving Indigenous victims reported by the police from 2015 to 2020 were also less likely to be linked to criminal activities. Among non-Indigenous people, one-quarter (25%) of homicides were gang-related or suspected of being so. Among Indigenous people, this proportion was almost half (13%) the size. Similarly, among Indigenous people, 15% of homicides were related to the illegal drug business, compared with 28% for non-Indigenous people (Table 13).

### **The majority of homicides involving an Indigenous victim were not premeditated**

The majority of homicides involving Indigenous victims were not related to gangs or criminal activities, nor were they premeditated. In fact, 6 out of 10 (60%) homicides involving Indigenous victims (57% among First Nations people, 61% among Métis and 65% among Inuit) and cleared by police involved the laying of second degree murder charges, and an additional 19% involved manslaughter charges. In comparison, 38% of homicides involving non-Indigenous victims from 2015 to 2020 were not premeditated (i.e., second-degree murder), and 10% were manslaughter (Table 13). These findings are similar to those from a study on crimes reported by the police serving a predominantly Indigenous population (Allen 2020).

Substance use may have been a factor with the lack of premeditation in some cases. In 90% of homicides involving an Indigenous victim, the police noted that the accused had used alcohol or drugs prior to the event. Among homicides involving non-Indigenous victims, this proportion is 62% (Table 13).

## **Experiences of victimization since the age of 15**

In addition to gathering information on experiences of victimization in childhood and in the 12 months preceding the survey, the 2018 SSPPS included questions to measure the extent of violent victimization since the age of 15. Victimization measured by the SSPPS included sexual assault and physical assault, regardless of whether they were committed by an intimate partner.

It should be noted that lifetime victimization is more likely than recent victimization to be underreported, particularly because of memory bias (Desai and Saltzman 2001; Glasner and van der Wander 2007; Sutton 2010; Yoshima and Gillespie 2002). Measuring it can nonetheless be informative because the experiences that survey respondents remember may have been those that affected them the most. For more information on victimization among Indigenous people since the age of 15, see data table 35-10-0168-01.

### **Nearly two-thirds of Indigenous people have experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since the age of 15**

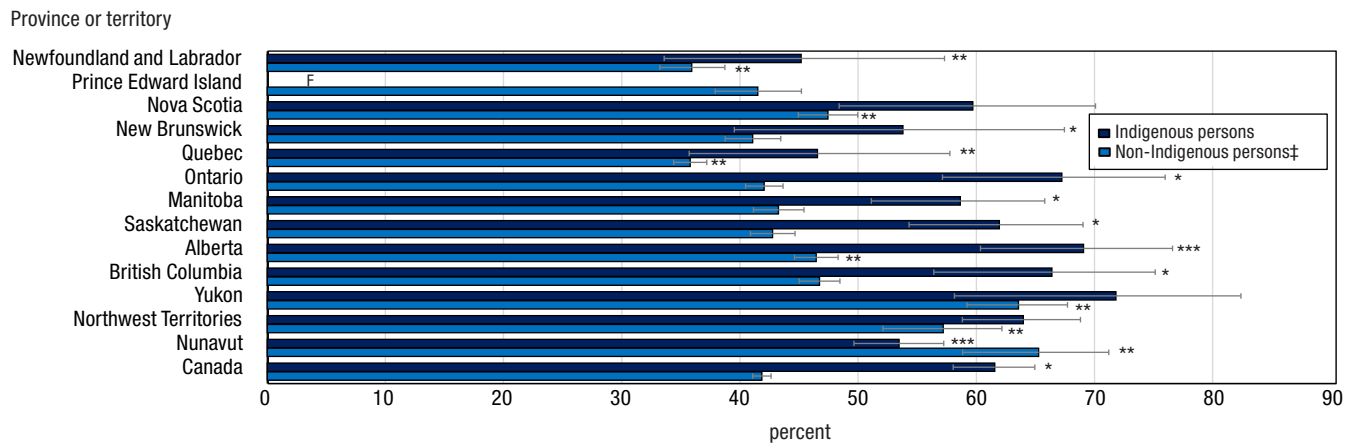
Similar to what the 2019 GSS data revealed for victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, the 2018 SSPPS data show that Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous people to have experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since the age of 15. Specifically, this was the case for almost two-thirds (62%) of Indigenous people (61% of First Nations people, 64% of Métis and 51% of Inuit), compared with 42% of non-Indigenous people (Table 3, Table 14).

More precisely, nearly one-third (31%) of Indigenous people (31% of First Nations people, 32% of Métis and 20% of Inuit) have experienced at least one sexual assault since the age of 15, and nearly 6 out of 10 (57%) Indigenous people (57% of First Nations people, 60% of Métis and 48% of Inuit) have experienced at least one physical assault since the age of 15. In comparison, 21% of non-Indigenous people had experienced at least one sexual assault, and 36% had experienced at least one physical assault.

### Indigenous people in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, and Nunavut have the lowest rates of victimization since the age of 15

The proportion of Indigenous people who have experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since the age of 15 varies across the country. Across Canada, 62% of Indigenous people have experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since the age of 15. However, this proportion was lower in Newfoundland and Labrador (45%), Quebec (47%) and Nunavut (53%) (Table 14, chart 15).

**Chart 15**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since age 15, by Indigenous identity and by province or territory, 2018**



F too unreliable to be published  
 \* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)  
 \*\* significantly different from the rest of Canada (p < 0.05)  
 \*\*\* significantly different from reference category and from rest of Canada (p < 0.05)  
 ‡ reference category  
**Note:** Province or territory refers to current province or territory of residence and therefore may include experiences of victimization which occurred in other provinces or territories. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Private and Public Spaces, 2018.

Alberta recorded the highest proportion (69%) of Indigenous people who have experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since the age of 15.<sup>49</sup> In addition, the largest differences in victimization rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people were recorded in Ontario (+25 percentage points among Indigenous people), Alberta (+23 percentage points), British Columbia (+20 percentage points) and Saskatchewan (+19 percentage points).

### Indigenous people aged 35 to 44 have the highest victimization rates since the age of 15

Overall, characteristics that were associated with higher victimization rates in 2019 were also associated with higher victimization rates since the age of 15. Similar to findings for recent victimization, Indigenous people aged 35 to 44 had the highest proportion (74%) of victimization since the age of 15 (75% of First Nations people, 75% of Métis and 64% of Inuit). In addition, Indigenous people of all age groups were more likely than their non-Indigenous counterparts to have been victims of at least one sexual assault or physical assault since the age of 15 (Table 15).

As was the case with recent victimization, a history of sexual or physical abuse in childhood, harsh parenting practices and exposure to spousal violence were also closely associated with higher victimization rates since the age of 15. For example, 91% of Indigenous people who had been both sexually and physically assaulted by an adult before the age of 15 have experienced at least one assault since age 15. In comparison, 48% of Indigenous people who had not been assaulted before the age of 15 experienced at least one assault since age 15. Likewise, 84% of Indigenous people (86% of First Nations people, 84% of Métis and 68% of Inuit) who had witnessed spousal violence before the age of 15 also experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since age 15, compared with 54% of Indigenous people who did not witness spousal violence.



### **Indigenous people with physical or mental disabilities people have higher victimization rates**

Recent studies have highlighted higher rates of victimization among people with a disability (Burczycka 2018; Cotter 2018; Savage 2021). Another suggests that rates may be even higher among those who identify with multiple population groups, such as Indigenous women with disabilities (Perreault 2020)

According to SSPPS data, nearly three-quarters (72%) of Indigenous people with physical, cognitive or mental health disabilities (75% of First Nations people, 70% of Métis and 67% of Inuit) have experienced at least one sexual assault since the age of 15, compared with 52% of Indigenous people without disabilities and 54% of non-Indigenous people with disabilities.

### **A history of criminal victimization is often associated with other social or health issues**

Previous studies have shown that criminal victimization is often associated with other social or health issues, such as poor physical or mental health, or drug or alcohol use (Andersen et al. 2014; Cotter 2021; Hughes et al. 2014; Perreault 2015; Perreault 2020). The data from the SSPPS confirm that both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who have been assaulted at least once since the age of 15 were more likely to report that they are facing or have faced some social or health issues.

For example, nearly one-quarter (23%) of Indigenous people (24% of First Nations people, 23% of Métis and 14% of Inuit) who had experienced at least one assault since the age of 15 considered their mental health to be fair or poor, compared with 11% of Indigenous people who had never been victimized (Table 16).

Similarly, approximately 4 in 10 (41%) Indigenous victims (44% of First Nations people, 38% of Métis and 48% of Inuit who have been victims) have seriously considered suicide, compared with 16% of Indigenous people who have never been victims. Finally, almost one-third (31%) of Indigenous people (34% of First Nations people, 29% of Métis and 40% of Inuit) who have experienced at least one assault reported that their alcohol use has been a source of trouble with people close to them, compared with 7.2% of Indigenous people who had not been victimized.

However, note that these data cannot establish a causal link. It is impossible to determine whether the victimization experiences are the cause of other social or health issues (e.g., using alcohol or drugs to cope with the experiences of violence), whether these issues may contribute to greater exposure to violence, or whether victimization and the other issues simply have common sources.

### **Indigenous people's perception of the criminal justice system and safety**

Issues related to the fragile bond of trust and sometimes tense relationships between Indigenous people and the police, or, more broadly, Indigenous people's perceptions of the entire criminal justice system, are well documented (Boyce 2016; Cao 2014; Cotter 2015; Council of Canadian Academies 2019; David 2019; Ibrahim 2020; Nilson and Mantello 2019).

The relationship between Indigenous people and the justice system has been largely defined by colonialism, racism, prejudice, discrimination, and fundamental cultural and societal differences (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). Therefore, Indigenous people who are in contact with the criminal justice system often face a person, policy, procedure or behaviour that shows little or no sensitivity to them or a lack of understanding of the stories and complexities that characterize police–Indigenous relations (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). Similarly, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission highlighted how police participation in the residential school system negatively affected Indigenous people's confidence in them (National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation 2015).

Recently, there has also been much discussion about systemic discrimination and racism in Canada, specifically about police–Indigenous relations (British Columbia 2020; Parliament of Canada 2020). In June 2020, the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) recognized that throughout its history, the police service had not always treated racialized and Indigenous people fairly, and that this is still the case today. At the same time, she called for renewed efforts to make changes regarding this issue (Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2020).

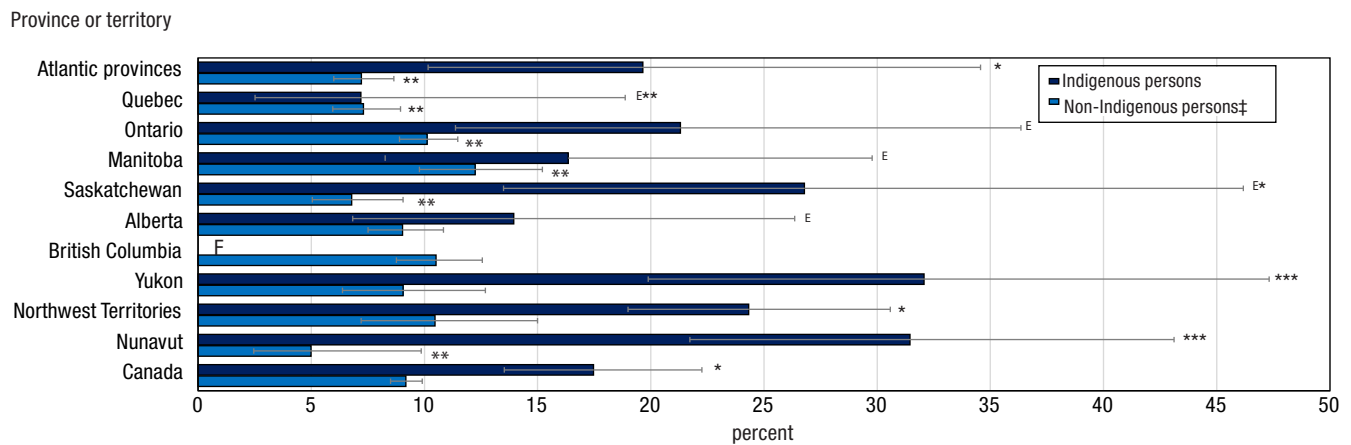
In the 2019 GSS, respondents were asked about their experiences of victimization. The survey also included a set of questions intended to measure public perceptions of the criminal justice system and their sense of safety. The next section presents the main findings of the survey on this issue.

### Indigenous people have less confidence in their local police than non-Indigenous people

The 2019 GSS data show that the majority (82%) of Indigenous people in Canada (81% of First Nations people, 85% of Métis and 70%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) have at least some confidence in their local police service or RCMP detachment. At the same time, 17% of Indigenous people (19% of First Nations people, 15% of Métis and 29%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) reported that they had no or very little confidence in their local police, nearly twice that of non-Indigenous people who held the same view (9.2%) (Table 17). However, the proportions of Indigenous people having little confidence in police may be under-estimated, as those with little confidence in police may also have little confidence in institutions in general, and as such be more reluctant to answer a federal government-led survey.

Across the country, differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in terms of level of confidence in local police were greatest in the territories and in Saskatchewan. Conversely, there was little or no difference between the perceptions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta (Chart 16).

**Chart 16**  
**Population aged 15 and over reporting little or no confidence in their local police service or detachment, by Indigenous identity and by province or territory, 2019**



<sup>E</sup> use with caution  
<sup>F</sup> too unreliable to be published  
 \* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)  
 \*\* significantly different from the rest of Canada (p < 0.05)  
 \*\*\* significantly different from reference category and from rest of Canada (p < 0.05)  
 ‡ reference category  
**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

When they were asked to assess specific aspects of the work of their local police, Indigenous people were more critical about core police duties than non-Indigenous people. That is, Indigenous people were about twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to consider that their local police does a poor job at enforcing the law (10% versus 5.2%), responding quickly to calls (16% versus 7.1%) and ensuring the safety of citizens (11% versus 5.4%).

### Nearly half of Indigenous people had contact with the police in 2019

According to 2019 GSS data, Indigenous people were more likely to have been in contact with the police, for any reason, in the 12 months preceding the survey. Specifically, nearly half (45%) of Indigenous people (43% of First Nations people, 50% of Métis and 33%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) had contact with the police, compared with 34% of non-Indigenous people (Table 17).

Both among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, the most common reason given for the contact was in the context of work or volunteering (14% of Indigenous people versus 12% of non-Indigenous people). However, the most significant differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people were in relation to witnessing a crime (8.0% versus 4.6%) or for the emotional or substance use problems of a family member (9.9% versus 2.5%) or oneself (2.5% versus 0.6%).

Interacting with the police can impact one's confidence in them. Overall, respondents who had contact with the police were slightly more likely to say that they had no or very little confidence in their local police (11% compared with 8.5% of those who did not have contact with the police). Among Indigenous people, this difference was particularly pronounced—25% of Indigenous people who had contact with the police said they had no or very little confidence in their local police, compared with 12% of Indigenous people who had no contact.

Nevertheless, the majority (80%) of Indigenous people (76% of First Nations people, and 85% of Métis) who had contact with the police felt that, overall, the experience had been positive, lower than the corresponding proportion (88%) among non-Indigenous people.

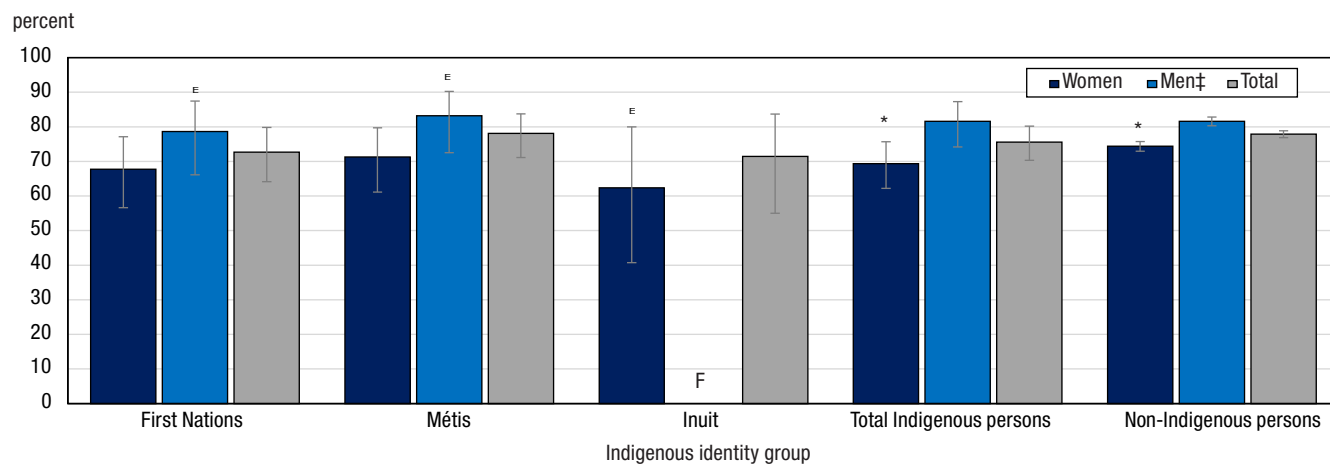
For more information on Indigenous people's perceptions of and interactions with the criminal justice system, see the *Juristat* article "Perceptions of and experiences with police and the justice system among the Black and Indigenous populations in Canada" (Cotter 2022).

### Indigenous people are as satisfied as non-Indigenous people with their personal safety from crime

Overall, most Indigenous people said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their personal safety from crime. Specifically, about three-quarters (76%) of Indigenous people (73% of First Nations people, 78% of Métis and 71%<sup>E</sup> of Inuit) thought so, a proportion similar to non-Indigenous people (78%). As with non-Indigenous people, Indigenous women were less likely than Indigenous men to be satisfied or very satisfied with their personal safety in general (69% versus 82%) (Chart 17).

**Chart 17**

**Population aged 15 and over reporting being satisfied or very satisfied with their personal safety from crime in general, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2019**



<sup>E</sup> use with caution

<sup>F</sup> too unreliable to be published

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

‡ reference category

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

When asked about their sense of safety in specific situations, Indigenous people generally had a sense of safety similar to that of non-Indigenous people. For example, 78% of Indigenous people and 80% of non-Indigenous people said they felt safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. However, a slightly smaller proportion of First Nations people reported the same since 72% said they felt safe in this situation (Table 17).

However, overall, Indigenous people (14%) were somewhat more likely than non-Indigenous people (8.3%) to say that they never walked alone in their neighbourhood after dark. This was particularly true among First Nations people, 17% of whom said that they never walked alone in their neighbourhood after dark. Women also accounted for 88% of all Indigenous people who reported never walking alone after dark.

While there are several reasons other than safety considerations why a person never walks alone after dark, 44%<sup>F</sup> of Indigenous people and 33% of non-Indigenous people<sup>50</sup> who said they never walked alone after dark said they would do so if they felt safer.

## Summary

Because of the repercussions of colonization and systemic racism—including the experiences of Indigenous residential schools, the child welfare system or as a result of the Sixties Scoop—many Indigenous people continue to cope with intergenerational trauma and sometimes difficult social and economic circumstances, which may be related to violent victimization.

Approximately 4 out of 10 Indigenous people aged 15 and older experienced physical or sexual violence during their childhood. In particular, more than one-quarter (26%) of Indigenous women experienced sexual violence during childhood, compared with 9.2% of non-Indigenous women and 5.8% of Indigenous men. However, the overrepresentation of Indigenous people among victims of childhood violence is declining among younger cohorts. Overall, similar proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 15 to 34 were victims of childhood abuse; these proportions were two times lower than that of Indigenous people aged 55 and older.

Many Indigenous people experienced violence during childhood while under the legal responsibility of the government. More than one-third of those aged 15 and older who experienced violence while they were under the government's responsibility in Canada were Indigenous. Just over 1 in 10 (11%) Indigenous people aged 15 and older have been under the government's responsibility, a proportion 10 times higher than that of non-Indigenous people. The severity and frequency of child abuse or neglect could not explain this difference entirely.

Indigenous people were also overrepresented among victims of violent crime in the 12 months preceding the 2019 GSS. Nearly 1 in 10 (8.4%) Indigenous people were victims of a violent crime during that period, compared to 4.2% of non-Indigenous people. Moreover, according to police-reported data from the Homicide survey, the homicide rate for the 2015 to 2020 period was six times higher among Indigenous people (8.64 victims per 100,000 Indigenous people) than non-Indigenous people (1.39 victims per 100,000 non-Indigenous people).

As with childhood victimization, the overrepresentation of Indigenous people among victims of violence in adulthood tends to decline among the younger generations. Indigenous people aged 15 to 24 were victims of violent crime in the 12 months preceding the GSS in a similar proportion to non-Indigenous people of the same age, while Indigenous people aged 35 to 54 were victims in a proportion three times higher than their non-Indigenous counterparts.

More than 1 in 10 (13%) Indigenous people with a current or former intimate partner experienced violence from their partner in the five years preceding the survey, a proportion more than double that of non-Indigenous people (5.7%). Moreover, nearly half of the Indigenous women murdered from 2015 to 2020 had been killed by an intimate partner. Nevertheless, the proportion of Indigenous women who have been victims of spousal violence has been declining in the provinces, from 15%<sup>F</sup> in 2009 to 7.5% in 2019.

Despite higher victimization rates than non-Indigenous people, the majority of Indigenous people report feeling safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. However, Indigenous people were slightly more likely to report never walking alone after dark, especially for safety reasons. A majority of Indigenous people also reported that they had confidence in their local police force, but the proportion of those with little or no confidence in the police was higher among non-Indigenous people.

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## Surveys descriptions

### 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 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, including those living on-reserve, 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.

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, the lower and upper bounds of the confidence intervals are presented in the tables and charts. 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. Throughout this article, unless otherwise specified, statistically significant differences were determined using 95% confidence intervals.

In addition to the confidence intervals, estimates are categorized into quality categories based on unweighted sample size. Estimates falling below the minimum thresholds are marked with the letter F. Further, estimates marked with the letter E have been deemed to be of marginal quality and should be used with caution; such as is the case for all estimates for Inuit persons.

Statistics Canada has confidence in the quality of the data disseminated from the 2019 GSS and assures that the data are fit for use for this analysis. It is important to point out that any significant change in survey methodology can affect the comparability of the data over time. It is impossible to determine with certainty whether, and to what extent, differences in a variable are attributable to an actual change in the population or to changes in the survey methodology. However, there are reasons to believe that the use of an electronic questionnaire might have an impact on the estimations. At every stage of processing, verification and dissemination, considerable effort was made to produce data that are as precise in their level of detail, and to ensure that the published estimates are of good quality in keeping with Statistics Canada standards. However, because of these changes, direct comparison of results from the 2019 GSS to previous iterations are not appropriate.

It should be noted that even when the proportion of respondents who completed the survey online is similar, it is possible that the mode effect is different across different populations.

### Survey of Safety in Private and Public Spaces (SSPPS)

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 population aged 15 and older, living in the provinces and territories, including those living on-reserve. Those residing in institutions are not included. 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%. Compared to provinces, a greater proportion of the population living in the territories was sampled in order to allow detailed analysis. As such, estimates for Inuit persons may primarily reflect experiences of those living in the territories.

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.

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, 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. 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).

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. The term Indigenous will be used in place of Aboriginal throughout this article.

## Notes

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

1. In this article, the term “Indigenous” refers to individuals who have identified themselves as First Nations, Métis or Inuit. The question was labelled as follows: “Are you an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit)?” Indigenous groups are ordered according to their respective population size. With the exception of some general contextual information, key data points are presented for all Indigenous people and for each of the three Indigenous groups for which data is releasable. It is important to recognize the diversity of Indigenous communities in Canada. Data presented in this article represent the sum of the responses provided by Indigenous respondents. The data may therefore not accurately reflect the reality of each individual community even when they are disaggregated by Indigenous group
2. In 2019, Statistics Canada launched the [Statistics on Indigenous Peoples Portal](#), which provides data on Indigenous communities, children and families; the health and well-being, education and employment of these peoples; and many other issues affecting Indigenous peoples.
3. Custom tabulation from Statistics Canada Census table 98-400-X2016171.
4. It should be noted that these situations can sometimes be the result of economic difficulties rather than parental neglect. Nevertheless, the majority (97%) of people, 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 because of neglect or a difficult economic situation.
5. Unless otherwise noted, all direct comparisons presented in the text are statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). In some cases, estimates are presented for each of the main Indigenous groups (First Nations, Métis and Inuit). In these cases, the differences with non-Indigenous people may be statistically significant only for the estimate for all Indigenous people or for some Indigenous groups only. Percent changes are calculated using unrounded numbers.
6. The sample size does not provide a reliable estimate for British Columbia. The differences between the estimate for Ontario (54%) and the estimates for the Atlantic provinces (43%) and Quebec (37%) are not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).
7. In this article, the terms “women” and “men” correspond to the gender of people. Gender identity refers to the gender a person publicly expresses in their daily life, including at work, when shopping or accessing services, in their housing environment, or in their broader community. However, homicide data prior to 2019 are based on people’s sex (see note 44).
8. For respondents who experienced more than one incident of sexual violence, information was requested only for the most serious incident. It was up to the respondents to determine which of the incidents they felt was the most serious.
9. Includes father and mother, stepfather and stepmother, grandfather and grandmother, as well as brother and sister. May also include adoptive or foster parents.
10. Includes all family members other than those included in the immediate family category.
11. Only the difference between estimates for assaults committed by a family member among Indigenous victims (56%) and non-Indigenous victims (44%) is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). The differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people for the more detailed categories (immediate family, extended family) are not statistically significant.
12. The corresponding proportion among non-Indigenous people is 3%. However, the difference from the Indigenous estimate is not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).
13. Includes, for example, doctors, nurses, psychologists, counsellors and social workers.
14. The difference between the estimate for non-Indigenous people (15%) and Indigenous people (21%) is not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

15. Odds ratio represents the odds that an outcome (e.g., victimization) will occur given a particular exposure or characteristic, compared to the odds of the outcome occurring in the absence of that exposure or characteristic. An odds ratio higher than 1 indicates a characteristic associated with an increased probability for the outcome to occur, while an odds ratio below 1 indicate a decreased probability.
16. Multiple victimization includes multiple distinct incidents and repeated victimization, that is, multiple incidents that an individual experienced at the hands of the same assailant and in similar circumstances (e.g., multiple incidents of partner violence).
17. The difference between the proportion of Indigenous people who have been victims of two or more crimes (4.3%) and the corresponding proportion for non-Indigenous people (1.9%) is not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).
18. A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in its core. A CA must have a core of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census data on place of work. Although its population size does not meet the threshold to be CA, Iqaluit was included in the urban category for the purpose of this report.
19. This proportion was 3.5% among First Nations people, 8.2% among Métis, and 14.5% among Inuit.
20. This proportion was 6.8% among First Nations people, and 13.7% among Métis. The sample size did not allow for a reliable estimate for Inuit.
21. The sample size of the General Social Survey did not allow for reliable estimates for violent crime in several provinces.
22. The sample size did not allow for reliable estimates for each of the Atlantic provinces.
23. Differences between First Nations and non-Indigenous people (proportion and victimization rate) are not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).
24. The differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).
25. The difference between Métis and First Nations people is not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).
26. The difference between the estimate for Indigenous and non-Indigenous women is not statistically significant overall ( $p < 0.05$ ). Only the difference between the estimate for Métis women and the estimate for non-Indigenous women is statistically significant.
27. The sample size of the General Social Survey does not allow for a reliable estimate for Inuit men.
28. The sample size of the General Social Survey does not allow for a reliable estimate for Inuit in this age group.
29. Percent calculation is based on population who have an intimate partner or had contact with one during the reference period (five years preceding the survey).
30. Unlike questions about physical or sexual violence, questions about psychological or economic violence were not limited to the five years preceding the survey. However, these questions should apply to the intimate partner(s) of the last five years.
31. Binge drinking means five or more drinks on one occasion.
32. Includes people who are married or in a common-law relationship.
33. Includes those who were victims of sexual or physical assault since age 15 or who were sexually or physically assaulted by an adult before the age of 15 or experienced harsh parenting.
34. This proportion was 0.9% among First Nations people. The sample size did not allow for reliable estimates for Métis and Inuit.
35. Harsh or neglectful parenting in the General Social Survey includes spanking or slapping the wrist; making hurtful comments; making the child feel unwanted or unloved; and failing to meet basic needs such as washing, feeding or clothing.

36. On account of the sample size, reliable estimates for Inuit could not be produced.
37. LGBTQ2+ persons includes those who reported being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit or used another sexual or gender diversity-related term to identify themselves.
38. However, the sample size does not allow for reliable estimates of incident characteristics by Indigenous identity groups.
39. For those who experienced multiple assaults, the victim was responsible for determining which sexual assault was the most serious and which physical assault was the most serious. In cases where a person experienced at least one sexual assault and at least one physical assault, sexual assault is considered the most serious assault.
40. The difference between the estimate for Indigenous (46%) and non-Indigenous (33%) people is not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).
41. Respondents were able to provide more than one reason. The sample size did not allow for reliable estimates for the other reasons.
42. Questions are based on the Primary Care Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder screening tool. For more information on this tool, see Prins et al. (2003). Symptoms include having nightmares or intrusive thoughts; having to avoid thinking about the incident or avoiding situations that reminded them of it; feeling constantly on guard, watchful or easily startled; or feeling numb or detached from others, activities or surroundings. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is suspected when a person shows at least three of the four symptoms.
43. Other tables are also available upon request.
44. The year 2019 marked the first cycle of collection of the Homicide Survey data for which information on gender identity was reported for both victims and people accused of homicide. Gender identity refers to the gender a person publicly expresses in their daily life, including at work, when shopping or accessing services, in their living environment, or in their broader community. Before 2019, data from the Homicide Survey were presented by the sex of victims and accused individuals. Sex and gender refer to two different concepts. Caution must be exercised in comparing enumeration by sex with that by gender.
45. Data by Indigenous identity are available for women starting in 1980 (for more information, see Miladinovic and Mulligan [2015]).
46. In this section, several estimates are presented for all Indigenous people and for each Indigenous group (First Nations people, Métis and Inuit). Estimates are generally not presented for the “unknown Indigenous group” category, although these are included in the total Indigenous population. Estimates for each of the Indigenous groups, including the “unknown Indigenous group” category, are also presented in the tables.
47. In this article, the terms “solved” and “cleared” are used synonymously to describe homicide incidents in which the police investigation has led to the identification of an accused person (charged/suspect-chargeable) and whether a charge has been laid or recommended or whether the case has been cleared by other means. The term “cleared” is widely recognized by North American and international law enforcement agencies.
48. Includes homicides where the accused died.
49. The proportion noted in Yukon was higher than that noted in Saskatchewan. In Yukon, the difference between this estimate and the estimate for all other provinces and territories was not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).
50. The difference between the estimate for Indigenous people (44%) and non-Indigenous people (33%) is not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Detailed data tables

**Table 1**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced harsh parenting or neglect or witnessed violence before the age of 15, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2019**

Type of harsh parenting	First Nations			Métis			Inuit <sup>‡</sup>			Total - Indigenous persons			Non-Indigenous persons <sup>‡</sup>		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>Experienced harsh parenting or neglect</b>															
No	29.2	21.9	37.9	19.2*	13.5	26.6	39.3	29.0	50.7	25.3*	20.7	30.5	36.7	35.6	37.9
Yes	69.8*	61.2	77.2	78.9*	71.5	84.9	58.8	47.1	69.6	73.3*	68.0	77.9	61.5	60.3	62.6
<b>Was spanked or slapped on the hand</b>															
1 to 5 times	29.9	21.3	40.1	37.8	30.1	46.2	16.4*	9.3	27.3	33.2	27.4	39.6	29.9	28.9	31.0
More than 5 times	24.8	18.2	32.8	32.5*	25.7	40.2	24.1	13.4	39.5	28.2*	23.5	33.3	22.6	21.7	23.5
<b>Was told things that really hurt their feelings</b>															
1 to 5 times	21.0	14.6	29.2	28.7	21.5	37.1	24.5	13.7	39.8	24.6	19.9	30.2	24.1	23.2	25.2
More than 5 times	23.9*	17.7	31.6	24.8*	17.6	33.6	20.7	10.3	37.1	23.9*	19.3	29.2	15.5	14.6	16.3
<b>Felt unwanted or unloved</b>															
1 to 5 times	8.0	4.8	12.8	9.9	6.1	15.6	6.0	3.3	10.5	8.7	6.1	12.1	9.0	8.4	9.7
More than 5 times	16.7*	11.6	23.5	19.0*	12.5	27.7	12.9	4.9	30.1	17.3*	13.3	22.3	7.8	7.2	8.4
<b>Basic needs were not met (i.e. hygiene, food, clothes)<sup>1</sup></b>															
1 to 5 times	6.0*	2.9	12.1	3.4	1.6	7.3	9.0	2.2	30.0	4.7*	2.8	7.8	1.4	1.2	1.7
More than 5 times	9.0*	5.4	14.6	6.7*	3.2	13.4	1.8	1.0	3.5	7.6*	5.0	11.4	1.4	1.2	1.7
<b>Heard parents say hurtful or mean things to each other</b>															
1 to 5 times	20.7	15.1	27.8	23.4	16.4	32.2	17.9	10.5	28.7	21.9	17.4	27.1	23.3	22.4	24.2
More than 5 times	28.7*	21.5	37.1	29.5*	21.4	39.0	33.6*	21.1	49.1	28.8*	23.5	34.8	16.9	16.0	17.8
<b>Witnessed violence by a parent towards another person</b>															
No	67.6*	59.6	74.8	63.1*	54.8	70.7	61.5*	47.2	74.0	65.3*	59.9	70.4	78.2	77.3	79.1
Yes	31.8*	24.7	39.9	36.0*	28.5	44.3	36.8*	24.2	51.5	33.9*	28.9	39.3	20.1	19.3	21.0
<b>Witnessed a parent hit another parent</b>															
1 to 5 times	9.1	5.3	15.2	7.2	4.6	11.1	14.6	7.0	28.1	8.6	6.1	11.9	6.0	5.5	6.6
More than 5 times	9.8*	6.1	15.3	7.3*	3.8	13.6	18.2*	8.2	35.8	8.8*	6.2	12.4	2.4	2.1	2.7
<b>Witnessed a parent hit another adult</b>															
1 to 5 times	10.4*	6.2	16.9	7.2*	4.1	12.3	5.6	3.3	9.4	8.7*	6.0	12.6	3.0	2.7	3.4
More than 5 times	4.1*	2.3	7.1	4.6	1.8	11.5	9.3	2.4	29.8	4.2*	2.4	7.2	0.6	0.5	0.8
<b>Witnessed a parent hit another child</b>															
1 to 5 times	10.1	5.8	17.1	15.6*	10.3	22.9	1.5*	0.8	2.9	12.4	8.9	17.0	8.6	8.0	9.2
More than 5 times	11.5*	7.6	16.9	11.0	6.8	17.2	15.6	6.0	34.8	11.1*	8.3	14.8	6.1	5.6	6.6

<sup>‡</sup> use with caution

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

‡ reference category

1. May include situations where needs were not met unintentionally, including because of financial difficulties.

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

**Table 2**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15, by type of violence and frequency, and by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2019**

Type of sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15	First Nations			Métis			Inuit <sup>£</sup>			Total - Indigenous persons			Non-Indigenous persons <sup>‡</sup>		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>Experienced sexual or physical violence</b>															
No	56.9*	48.2	65.1	59.4*	51.2	67.2	53.2*	40.4	65.6	58.0*	52.4	63.5	73.0	72.1	74.0
Yes	42.3*	34.1	50.9	39.4*	31.7	47.7	45.0*	32.3	58.4	41.0*	35.6	46.6	24.8	23.9	25.8
<b>Experienced sexual violence</b>															
No	85.6*	80.3	89.6	81.4*	74.4	86.8	70.6*	55.5	82.2	83.0*	79.1	86.4	92.1	91.6	92.7
Yes	13.8*	9.8	19.0	17.5*	12.1	24.6	27.2*	15.6	43.0	16.0*	12.7	20.0	6.1	5.6	6.6
<b>Was touched in a sexual way</b>															
1 to 5 times	9.1*	6.0	13.6	10.6*	7.1	15.5	12.5	5.8	24.9	9.7*	7.4	12.7	4.5	4.1	5.0
More than 5 times	3.8*	2.0	6.9	6.9*	3.5	13.2	14.5*	5.6	32.7	5.9*	3.8	8.8	1.4	1.2	1.6
<b>Someone forced or attempted to force into an unwanted sexual activity</b>															
1 to 5 times	6.4*	3.8	10.6	7.4*	4.5	11.8	11.6	4.0	29.2	6.9*	4.9	9.6	2.2	1.9	2.5
More than 5 times	2.8	1.2	6.2	6.5*	3.2	12.7	2.5	0.9	6.6	4.5*	2.7	7.6	0.8	0.7	1.0
<b>Experienced physical violence</b>															
No	61.3*	52.7	69.2	63.6*	55.4	71.1	64.7	50.4	76.8	62.8*	57.2	68.0	76.5	75.6	77.4
Yes	37.9*	30.1	46.5	35.7*	28.2	43.9	33.9	21.7	48.7	36.5*	31.3	42.0	22.0	21.1	22.9
<b>Was slapped on the face, head or ears, or hit with something hard</b>															
1 to 5 times	20.3	13.8	28.8	18.2	12.5	25.8	9.6	4.4	19.7	18.9*	14.5	24.4	12.8	12.1	13.5
More than 5 times	11.8*	7.8	17.5	14.5*	9.5	21.3	14.0	5.7	30.4	12.9*	9.7	16.9	6.5	6.0	7.1
<b>Was pushed, grabbed, shoved or had something thrown at them</b>															
1 to 5 times	11.8	7.1	18.9	10.9	6.0	19.1	6.4	3.6	10.9	11.1	7.5	15.9	7.1	6.6	7.6
More than 5 times	11.0*	7.2	16.5	10.2*	6.0	16.9	18.1*	7.5	37.3	10.7*	7.9	14.5	3.3	3.0	3.7
<b>Was kicked, bitten, punched, choked, burned, or physically attacked in some other way</b>															
1 to 5 times	6.0	3.4	10.4	4.6	2.2	9.3	3.3	2.0	5.3	5.3	3.5	8.0	3.2	2.9	3.7
More than 5 times	7.6*	4.7	12.1	6.4*	3.8	10.6	11.4	3.7	29.9	6.9*	4.8	9.7	1.6	1.3	1.8
<b>Has ever been under the legal responsibility of the government<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>15.5*</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>7.3*</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>19.1*</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>11.4*</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Experienced sexual or physical violence while under the legal responsibility of the government</b>	<b>6.8*</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>2.2*</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>2.6*</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.2*</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>

<sup>£</sup> use with caution

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

<sup>‡</sup> reference category

1. In this case, the government assumes the rights and responsibilities of a parent for the purpose of the child's care, custody and control (e.g., 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.)

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.



**Table 3**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced sexual or physical assault before the age of 15, since age 15 or in the 12 months preceding the survey, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2018 and 2019**

Type of victimization and Indigenous identity group	Before age of 15 <sup>1</sup>				Since age 15 <sup>2</sup>				In the 12 months preceding the survey <sup>1</sup>			
	number (thousands)	percent <sup>3</sup>	95% confidence interval		number (thousands)	percent <sup>3</sup>	95% confidence interval		number (thousands)	percent <sup>3</sup>	95% confidence interval	
			from	to			from	to			from	to
<b>Sexual assault</b>												
Indigenous persons <sup>4</sup>	150	16*	13	20	303	31*	27	34	16	1.7	0.9	3.5
First Nations	64	14*	10	19	141	31*	26	36	8	1.7	0.6	4.3
Métis	76	17*	12	25	148	32*	28	37	8	1.7	0.6	5.4
Inuit	13	27 <sup>E*</sup>	16	43	9	20	14	28	1	2.0 <sup>E</sup>	1.0	3.9
Non-Indigenous persons‡	1,845	6	6	7	6,252	21	21	22	406	1.3	1.1	1.7
<b>Physical assault</b>												
Indigenous persons <sup>4</sup>	340	36*	31	42	568	57*	54	61	158	6.3*	4.1	9.8
First Nations	175	38*	30	46	262	57*	51	63	82	4.5	2.4	8.2
Métis	156	36*	28	44	276	60*	55	65	75	8.5*	4.5	15.8
Inuit	16	34 <sup>E</sup>	22	49	22	48*	38	58	5	10.0 <sup>E*</sup>	6.7	14.7
Non-Indigenous persons‡	6,660	22	21	23	10,577	36	35	37	2,676	2.6	2.3	3.0
<b>Robbery</b>												
Indigenous persons <sup>4</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	1.5	0.6	3.3
First Nations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1.4	0.4	4.6
Métis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1.5	0.5	4.8
Inuit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	F	F	F	F
Non-Indigenous persons‡	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	149	0.5	0.3	0.7
<b>Total violent victimization</b>												
Indigenous persons <sup>4</sup>	382	41*	36	47	610	62*	58	65	79	8.4*	5.8	12.0
First Nations	195	42*	34	51	280	61*	56	66	26	5.5	3.2	9.5
Métis	172	39*	32	48	297	64*	59	69	51	11.7*	7.0	18.9
Inuit	22	45 <sup>E*</sup>	32	58	23	51	41	62	6	11.5 <sup>E*</sup>	7.8	16.7
Non-Indigenous persons‡	7,534	25	24	26	12,379	42	41	43	1,269	4.2	3.7	4.7
<b>Theft of personal property</b>												
Indigenous persons <sup>4</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117	12.6*	9.1	17.2
First Nations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	14.1*	8.8	21.9
Métis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55	12.6*	7.7	20.0
Inuit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1.9 <sup>E*</sup>	0.9	3.9
Non-Indigenous persons‡	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,967	6.5	5.9	7.1

... not applicable

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

‡ reference category

1. Based on data from the General Social Survey, 2019. Includes violence by an adult.

2. Based on data from the Survey of Safety in Private and Public Spaces, 2018.

3. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

4. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019 and Survey of Safety in Private and Public Spaces, 2018.

**Table 4**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15, by selected characteristics of the most serious incident, and Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019**

Selected characteristics of the most serious incident	Sexual violence						Physical violence					
	Indigenous persons			Non-Indigenous persons‡			Indigenous persons			Non-Indigenous persons‡		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>Gender of offender</b>												
Man	95 <sup>E</sup>	87	98	93	91	95	65	55	73	58	56	61
Woman	5 <sup>F</sup>	2	12	6	4	8	33	25	42	39	37	41
<b>Relationship to offender</b>												
Relative	25 <sup>E</sup>	15	39	23	20	27	73	64	81	81	79	83
Extended family	31 <sup>E</sup>	21	43	21	18	25	7	3	18	2	2	3
Neighbour, friend, or acquaintance	21 <sup>E*</sup>	12	33	32	28	35	5	2	10	5	4	6
Teacher, professor or tutor	8 <sup>E</sup>	4	16	7	6	9	10	6	17	7	6	8
Stranger or known by sight only	9 <sup>E</sup>	4	18	12	10	15	1	0	3	2	1	3
Other	F	F	F	F	F	F	2	1	5	1	0	1
<b>Location of incident</b>												
Family home	51 <sup>E</sup>	39	62	39	36	43	76	67	84	79	77	81
Other residence	35 <sup>E</sup>	25	46	38	35	42	4	2	7	5	4	6
Public area	4 <sup>E*</sup>	1	9	15	13	18	9	3	20	4	4	6
School or residential school for Indigenous children	9 <sup>E</sup>	4	18	3	2	4	10	7	15	8	7	10
Other	F	F	F	4	3	6	F	F	F	1	1	2

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

‡ reference category

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. Percent calculations include missing or not stated responses.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

**Table 5**  
**Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected socioeconomic, household and neighbourhood characteristics, and by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019**

Selected socioeconomic, household and neighbourhood characteristics	Indigenous persons							
	number of victims (thousands)	95% confidence interval		number of incidents (thousands)	95% confidence interval			
		percent	from		to	rate	from	to
<b>Gender</b>								
Women‡	44	9.3	5.6	15.1	103	217	79	355
Men	34	7.7**	4.5	13.0	62	140**	59	221
Other gender identity	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Age group (years)</b>								
15 to 34	30	8.8	4.9	15.3	61	181*	77	286
35 to 54	39	12.4***	6.8	21.5	87	276*	67	485
55 and over‡	10	3.4	1.7	6.8	17	61	20	103
<b>Marital status</b>								
Married or common-law‡	37	8.5**	5.1	13.8	71	163**	55	270
Separated, divorced or widow	5 <sup>E</sup>	3.9 <sup>E</sup>	1.7	8.9	10 <sup>E</sup>	85 <sup>E</sup>	9	160
Single, never married	37	9.9	5.5	17.2	84	227	72	381
<b>Highest diploma</b>								
Lower than high school diploma‡	10	6.2	2.6	13.7	20	127	19	234
High school diploma	22 <sup>E</sup>	8.1 <sup>E</sup>	3.3	18.5	53 <sup>E</sup>	193 <sup>E</sup>	1	384
College or trades	31	9.9**	5.7	16.5	50	157	70	245
University	15 <sup>E</sup>	8.4 <sup>E</sup>	3.9	16.9	F	F	F	F
<b>Ability to make ends meet<sup>1</sup></b>								
Very easily‡	16 <sup>E</sup>	11.1 <sup>E</sup>	4.8	23.6	47 <sup>E</sup>	319 <sup>E</sup>	1	637
Easily	33	6.8	4.3	10.5	53	107	55	160
With difficulty	29	9.9	4.8	19.1	65	224	43	404
<b>Ever homeless<sup>2</sup></b>								
No‡	46	6.4	3.8	10.6	94	128	45	211
Yes	32 <sup>E</sup>	15.8 <sup>E</sup> *	9.7	24.7	72 <sup>E</sup>	352 <sup>E</sup>	132	572
<b>Location of dwelling (urban or rural)<sup>3</sup></b>								
Census metropolitan area or Census agglomeration (urban)‡	55	9.7**	6.0	15.1	122	213**	89	337
Non Census metropolitan area or Census agglomeration (rural)	23	6.4	3.9	10.5	43	120	58	181
<b>Location of dwelling (North or South)<sup>4</sup></b>								
Southern areas	53	7.6**	4.9	11.5	110	158	77	240
Northern areas	26	10.9	5.5	20.5	55	234	30	437
<b>Household size</b>								
1 or 2 people‡	28	7.4	4.4	12.0	49	129	62	195
3 or 4 people	30	7.5	3.6	14.8	69	173	30	317
5 or more people	21	13.5 <sup>E</sup>	6.3	26.6	47 <sup>E</sup>	307 <sup>E</sup>	18	596
<b>Dwelling ownership</b>								
Owned‡	45	7.1	4.2	12.0	90	142	46	238
Rented	33	11.3	6.8	18.1	75	255	96	415
<b>Number of moves during the past 5 years</b>								
Less than 2‡	54	7.0**	4.4	11.2	103	134	53	215
2 or more	24	14.9	7.6	27.1	62	385	99	672
<b>Neighbourhood is a place where neighbours help each other</b>								
Yes‡	63	7.9**	5.1	12.0	134	169**	77	261
No	15	11.9 <sup>E</sup>	5.4	24.4	24 <sup>E</sup>	193 <sup>E</sup>	44	342
<b>Likelihood that neighbours would call the police if they witnessed a crime</b>								
Very likely‡	36	6.3	3.8	10.4	78	139	47	230
Not very likely	43	11.7**	7.0	19.1	87	239	89	390
<b>Experienced discrimination in the past 5 years</b>								
Yes‡	47	14.9	9.0	23.7	111	354	145	563
No	32	5.1*	3.0	8.6	54	86*	35	138

**Table 5**  
**Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected socioeconomic, household and neighbourhood characteristics, and by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019**

Selected socioeconomic, household and neighbourhood characteristics	Non-Indigenous persons							
	number of victims (thousands)	percent	95% confidence interval		number of incidents (thousands)	rate	95% confidence interval	
			from	to			from	to
<b>Gender</b>								
Women‡	748	4.9	4.2	5.7	1,564	102	81	124
Men	501	3.4*	2.8	4.0	847	57*	45	69
Other gender identity	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Age group (years)</b>								
15 to 34	687	7.3	6.1	8.7	1,444	153	118	189
35 to 54	373	3.9*	3.2	4.7	66	69*	56	83
55 and over‡	209	1.8*	1.5	2.3	331	29*	22	36
<b>Marital status</b>								
Married or common-law‡	524	2.9	2.5	3.4	929	51	42	60
Separated, divorced or widow	137	3.7	2.9	4.7	261	70	52	89
Single, never married	608	7.2*	6.0	8.7	1,248	149*	111	186
<b>Highest diploma</b>								
Lower than high school diploma‡	119	3.4	2.2	5.2	234	66	21	111
High school diploma	352	4.9	3.8	6.2	812	112	76	148
College or trades	368	4.3	3.5	5.3	646	76	60	92
University	428	4.0	3.3	4.8	738	69	55	83
<b>Ability to make ends meet<sup>1</sup></b>								
Very easily‡	186	2.5	1.9	3.2	384	51	29	73
Easily	704	4.4*	3.8	5.2	1,324	83*	66	100
With difficulty	362	5.8*	4.7	7.1	686	110*	85	136
<b>Ever homeless<sup>2</sup></b>								
No‡	997	3.7	3.2	4.2	1,863	69	56	81
Yes	257	9.5*	7.4	12.1	532	197*	141	253
<b>Location of dwelling (urban or rural)<sup>3</sup></b>								
Census metropolitan area or Census agglomeration (urban)‡	1,088	4.2	3.7	4.8	2,071	81	67	94
Non Census metropolitan area or Census agglomeration (rural)	181	3.9	2.9	5.3	367	79	50	107
<b>Location of dwelling (North or South)<sup>4</sup></b>								
Southern areas	1,182	4.1	3.6	4.6	2,289	79	67	92
Northern areas	86	6.2	4.0	9.4	149	106	60	152
<b>Household size</b>								
1 or 2 people‡	541	4.0	3.5	4.7	1,034	77	63	91
3 or 4 people	521	4.4	3.6	5.4	1,053	89	66	113
5 or more people	206	4.0	2.7	6.1	351	69	37	101
<b>Dwelling ownership</b>								
Owned‡	838	3.5	3.1	4.1	1,600	68	54	81
Rented	427	6.5*	5.4	7.9	831	127*	98	155
<b>Number of moves during the past 5 years</b>								
Less than 2‡	960	3.7	3.2	4.2	1,805	69	56	81
2 or more	297	7.8*	6.2	9.8	611	161*	118	204
<b>Neighbourhood is a place where neighbours help each other</b>								
Yes‡	890	3.6	3.1	4.1	1,657	67	56	78
No	356	7.4*	5.8	9.3	746	155*	103	206
<b>Likelihood that neighbours would call the police if they witnessed a crime</b>								
Very likely‡	634	3.5	3.0	4.1	1,316	73	58	89
Not very likely	630	5.2*	4.4	6.2	1,118	92	74	110
<b>Experienced discrimination in the past 5 years</b>								
Yes‡	535	9.1	7.5	11.0	1,095	187	140	233
No	718	3.0*	2.6	3.5	1,300	54*	44	65

‡ use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

\*\* significantly different from non-Indigenous category ( $p < 0.05$ )

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

‡ reference category

1. Based on answers to the following question: "Thinking of your/your household's finances, are you/is your household usually able to make ends meet?". Those who answered "With difficulty", "With great difficulty" or "No, cannot make ends meet" were grouped in the "With difficulty" category.

2. Includes those who ever been homeless and those who ever had to temporarily live with family or friends, or anywhere else because they had nowhere else to live.

3. A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in its core. A CA must have a core of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census data on place of work. Although its population size does not meet the threshold to be CA, Iqaluit was included in the urban category for the purpose of this report.

4. Northern areas include all three territories and the northern regions of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador, according to the definition agreed on by the Northern Development Ministers Forum and used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. Generally speaking, these northern boundaries reflect provincial administrative regions.

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

**Table 6**  
**Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected socioeconomic, household and neighbourhood characteristics, and by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019**

Selected socioeconomic, household and neighbourhood characteristics	First Nations			Métis		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Gender</b>						
Women‡	5.9	2.7	12.2	14.7**	7.6	26.5
Men	5.1 <sup>E</sup>	2.1	11.8	9.6 <sup>E</sup>	4.4	19.5
Other gender identity	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
15 to 34	F	F	F	10.6 <sup>F</sup>	4.5	23.2
35 to 54	8.4 <sup>E</sup>	3.6	18.3	19.1 <sup>E***</sup>	9.0	35.8
55 and over‡	2.2 <sup>E</sup>	0.5	8.8	5.0 <sup>E</sup>	2.3	10.7
<b>Marital status</b>						
Married or common-law‡	5.0	2.0	11.9	11.5**	6.0	21.0
Separated, divorced or widow	F	F	F	F	F	F
Single, never married	7.4 <sup>E</sup>	3.3	15.8	14.0 <sup>E</sup>	5.9	29.9
<b>Highest diploma</b>						
High school or less‡	1.8	0.9	3.6	11.7	4.8	25.7
Post-secondary (including trades)	8.6 <sup>E*</sup>	4.5	15.6	11.6**	6.5	19.9
<b>Ability to make ends meet<sup>1</sup></b>						
Easily‡	4.6	2.3	9.2	10.5	6.2	17.0
With difficulty	F	F	F	15.7 <sup>E</sup>	5.3	38.2
<b>Ever homeless<sup>2</sup></b>						
No‡	2.8	1.2	6.3	9.2	4.6	17.6
Yes	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Location of dwelling (urban or rural)<sup>3</sup></b>						
Census metropolitan area or Census agglomeration (urban)‡	6.8 <sup>E</sup>	3.4	13.5	13.7**	7.4	23.8
Non Census metropolitan area or Census agglomeration (rural)	3.5	1.6	7.4	8.2	3.6	17.6
<b>Household size</b>						
1 or 2 people‡	5.0 <sup>F</sup>	2.1	11.4	9.6	5.1	17.4
3 or 4 people	4.2 <sup>E</sup>	1.6	10.4	9.9 <sup>F</sup>	3.6	24.5
5 or more people	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Dwelling ownership</b>						
Owned‡	2.0	0.8	5.0	11.3**	6.0	20.1
Rented	10.9*	5.3	20.8	13.6 <sup>E</sup>	5.6	29.4
<b>Has lived in the neighbourhood for...</b>						
Less than 10 years‡	6.6	3.1	13.3	10.7	5.6	19.6
10 years or longer	4.3	1.6	10.8	12.6**	5.9	24.8
<b>Sense of belonging to local community</b>						
Strong‡	6.1	3.0	12.1	12.1**	6.6	21.4
Weak or no opinion	F	F	F	10.7 <sup>E</sup>	4.5	23.2
<b>Experienced discrimination in the past 5 years</b>						
Yes‡	9.9 <sup>E</sup>	5.0	18.6	27.0 <sup>E**</sup>	13.4	46.8
No	2.0*	0.7	5.6	7.0*	3.5	13.5
<b>Trust in neighbours</b>						
Neighbours can't be trusted‡	6.9	3.5	13.3	9.7 <sup>E</sup>	4.5	19.4
Neighbours can be trusted	4.2	1.5	11.0	12.9**	6.8	23.3
<b>Likelihood that neighbours would call the police if they witnessed a crime</b>						
Very likely‡	3.6	1.5	8.6	8.2	4.2	15.6
Not very likely	8.0 <sup>F</sup>	3.9	15.7	18.9 <sup>E**</sup>	9.4	34.6

**Table 6**  
**Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected socioeconomic, household and neighbourhood characteristics, and by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019**

Selected socioeconomic, household and neighbourhood characteristics	Inuit <sup>‡</sup>			Non-Indigenous persons <sup>‡</sup>		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Gender</b>						
Women <sup>‡</sup>	9.7	5.5	16.6	4.9	4.2	5.7
Men	F	F	F	3.4*	2.8	4.0
Other gender identity	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
15 to 34	F	F	F	7.3*	6.1	8.7
35 to 54	F	F	F	3.9*	3.2	4.7
55 and over <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	1.8	1.5	2.3
<b>Marital status</b>						
Married or common-law <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	2.9	2.5	3.4
Separated, divorced or widow	F	F	F	3.7	2.9	4.7
Single, never married	F	F	F	7.2*	6.0	8.7
<b>Highest diploma</b>						
High school or less <sup>‡</sup>	13.9**	9.3	20.4	4.4	3.5	5.4
Post-secondary (including trades)	F	F	F	4.2	3.6	4.8
<b>Ability to make ends meet<sup>1</sup></b>						
Easily <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	3.8	3.3	4.4
With difficulty	F	F	F	5.8*	4.7	7.1
<b>Ever homeless<sup>2</sup></b>						
No <sup>‡</sup>	8.7**	5.5	13.6	3.7	3.2	4.2
Yes	F	F	F	9.5*	7.4	12.1
<b>Location of dwelling (urban or rural)<sup>3</sup></b>						
Census metropolitan area or Census agglomeration (urban) <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	4.2	3.7	4.8
Non Census metropolitan area or Census agglomeration (rural)	14.5**	10.4	20.0	3.9	2.9	5.3
<b>Household size</b>						
1 or 2 people <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	4.0	3.5	4.7
3 or 4 people	F	F	F	4.4	3.6	5.4
5 or more people	F	F	F	4.0	2.7	6.1
<b>Dwelling ownership</b>						
Owned <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	3.5	3.1	4.1
Rented	16.6**	10.9	24.4	6.5*	5.4	7.9
<b>Has lived in the neighbourhood for...</b>						
Less than 10 years <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	5.6	4.8	6.6
10 years or longer	F	F	F	2.8*	2.4	3.4
<b>Sense of belonging to local community</b>						
Strong <sup>‡</sup>	13.3**	9.8	17.7	3.6	3.1	4.3
Weak or no opinion	F	F	F	5.0*	4.2	6.0
<b>Experienced discrimination in the past 5 years</b>						
Yes <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	9.1	7.5	11.0
No	9.5**	6.2	14.3	3.0*	2.6	3.5
<b>Trust in neighbours</b>						
Neighbours can't be trusted <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	6.3	5.3	7.3
Neighbours can be trusted	F	F	F	2.7*	2.3	3.2
<b>Likelihood that neighbours would call the police if they witnessed a crime</b>						
Very likely <sup>‡</sup>	F	F	F	3.5	3.0	4.1
Not very likely	F	F	F	5.2*	4.4	6.2

<sup>‡</sup> use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

\*\* significantly different from non-Indigenous category ( $p < 0.05$ )

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

<sup>‡</sup> reference category

1. Based on answers to the following question: "Thinking of your/your household's finances, are you/is your household usually able to make ends meet?". Those who answered "With difficulty", "With great difficulty" or "No, cannot make ends meet" were grouped in the "With difficulty" category.

2. Includes those who ever been homeless and those who ever had to temporarily live with family or friends, or anywhere else because they had nowhere else to live.

3. A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in its core. A CA must have a core of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census data on place of work. Although its population size does not meet the threshold of a CA, Iqaluit was included in the urban category for the purpose of this report.

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

**Table 7**  
**Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by history of childhood maltreatment and selected health and lifestyle characteristics, and by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019**

History of child maltreatment and selected health and lifestyle characteristics	Indigenous persons							
	number of victims (thousands)	percent	95% confidence interval		number of incidents (thousands)	rate	95% confidence interval	
			from	to			from	to
<b>Total population</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>8.4**</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>177**</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>Experienced harsh parenting or neglect</b>								
No‡	2	1.1	0.6	1.8	6	25	7	43
Yes	76	11.0***	7.6	15.9	158	231***	123	340
<b>Experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before age 15</b>								
No‡	20	3.7	1.8	7.2	40	74	21	126
Yes	58	15.2***	9.8	22.9	124	324*	145	504
Sexual violence	41	27.3****	16.7	41.3	78	519 <sup>E*</sup>	203	834
Physical violence	47	13.7	8.3	21.9	112	329*	130	528
<b>Witnessed a parent hit another person</b>								
No‡	23	3.7	2.2	6.3	37	61	27	94
Yes	54	17.2***	10.8	26.1	124	391***	176	607
Witnessed a parent hit another parent or another adult	42	20.6****	12.1	32.7	104	505****	191	818
Witnessed a parent hit another child	33	15.2 <sup>E*</sup>	8.1	26.9	67	304 <sup>E*</sup>	73	535
<b>Satisfaction about life as a whole</b>								
Very satisfied‡	8	3.2	1.3	8.0	15	F	F	F
Satisfied	27	7.8	4.6	13.1	48	136	66	205
Somewhat satisfied	29	13.1 <sup>E*</sup>	7.2	22.8	49	225 <sup>E</sup>	90	360
Dissatisfied	14	12.1 <sup>E</sup>	4.0	31.2	53	F	F	F
<b>Self-rated physical health</b>								
Excellent‡	42	9.2	5.7	14.4	72	158**	78	238
Good	23	7.8	3.4	16.9	52	178	3	353
Poor	11	6.2 <sup>E</sup>	3.0	12.5	21	119 <sup>E</sup>	40	198
<b>Self-rated mental health</b>								
Excellent‡	37	8.1	5.0	12.9	73	158**	52	264
Good	25	8.2	4.6	14.3	49	159	64	254
Poor	16	9.8 <sup>E</sup>	3.4	25.0	44	F	F	F
<b>Physical or mental health related disability<sup>1</sup></b>								
None‡	40	8.2	5.1	12.9	66	136**	67	206
Mild disability	17	6.3 <sup>E</sup>	3.3	11.7	27	98 <sup>E</sup>	30	167
Moderate to very severe disability	21	12.7 <sup>E</sup>	5.7	26.0	72	425 <sup>E</sup>	76	775
<b>Binge drinking (5 or more drinks on one occasion)</b>								
Never drinks alcohol‡	20	6.7	2.8	15.3	45	F	F	F
Drinks alcohol, but no binge drinking in the past month	35	10.2	6.2	16.3	82	240**	103	377
At least one binge drinking in the past month	23	8.5	4.7	14.9	38	137	40	233
<b>Drug use in the past 12 months<sup>2</sup></b>								
Never‡	37	5.4	2.8	10.0	70	102	19	185
At least once	41	17.4*	11.6	25.4	95	400*	197	604
<b>Alcohol or drug use of partner</b>								
No binge drinking and no drug use‡	13	5.5	2.5	11.8	18	74	17	130
At least one binge drinking in past month or one drug use in past 12 months	23	13.8 <sup>E</sup>	7.3	24.4	53	311 <sup>E</sup>	58	563
No partner	42	8.5	5.0	13.9	95	192	73	311
<b>Number of evening activities per month</b>								
Less than 10‡	33	7.1	3.8	13.2	60	130	20	240
10 to 19	20	8.3 <sup>E</sup>	4.2	15.6	46	194 <sup>E</sup>	70	319
20 or more	26	11.2	6.2	19.2	60	255	59	451

**Table 7****Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by history of childhood maltreatment and selected health and lifestyle characteristics, and by Indigenous identity, Canada, 2019**

History of child maltreatment and selected health and lifestyle characteristics	Non-Indigenous persons							
	number of victims (thousands)	percent	95% confidence interval		number of incidents (thousands)	rate	95% confidence interval	
			from	to			from	to
<b>Total population</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Experienced harsh parenting or neglect</b>								
No‡	184	1.7	1.3	2.2	330	30	18	41
Yes	1,060	5.7*	5.0	6.5	2,077	111*	93	130
<b>Experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before age 15</b>								
No‡	648	2.9	2.5	3.5	1,150	52	41	62
Yes	565	7.5*	6.3	8.8	1,199	159*	122	196
Sexual violence	187	10.1*	7.6	13.3	399	216*	139	294
Physical violence	507	7.6*	6.4	9.0	1,082	163*	124	201
<b>Witnessed a parent hit another person</b>								
No‡	789	3.3	2.9	3.9	1,443	61	50	72
Yes	443	7.3*	6.0	8.8	927	152*	114	190
Witnessed a parent hit another parent or another adult	281	9.3*	7.4	11.6	560	185*	143	228
Witnessed a parent hit another child	293	6.6*	5.1	8.4	647	145*	98	192
<b>Satisfaction about life as a whole</b>								
Very satisfied‡	158	2.1	1.6	2.9	302	41	22	60
Satisfied	473	3.7	3.0	4.6	826	65	50	81
Somewhat satisfied	321	5.0	4.0	6.2	671	104*	75	133
Dissatisfied	313	9.1	7.2	11.5	635	184*	128	241
<b>Self-rated physical health</b>								
Excellent‡	602	3.6	3.0	4.3	1,049	63	50	75
Good	446	4.8	3.9	5.9	912	98*	70	126
Poor	212	5.4	4.2	6.9	445	114*	79	148
<b>Self-rated mental health</b>								
Excellent‡	499	2.7	2.2	3.2	765	41	34	48
Good	363	4.6	3.7	5.8	644	82*	61	103
Poor	395	11.7	9.5	14.2	991	292*	210	374
<b>Physical or mental health related disability<sup>1</sup></b>								
None‡	621	3.1	2.6	3.6	1,030	51	42	60
Mild disability	370	5.7	4.5	7.2	717	111*	79	143
Moderate to very severe disability	277	7.4	5.8	9.4	691	184*	121	247
<b>Binge drinking (5 or more drinks on one occasion)</b>								
Never drinks alcohol‡	256	3.1	2.4	4.1	439	54	37	71
Drinks alcohol, but no binge drinking in the past month	599	4.1	3.5	4.9	1,171	80	63	98
At least one binge drinking in the past month	398	5.7	4.6	7.0	788	113*	82	144
<b>Drug use in the past 12 months<sup>2</sup></b>								
Never‡	797	3.2	2.8	3.7	1,419	57	47	66
At least once	452	9.7	7.8	11.9	970	207*	150	264
<b>Alcohol or drug use of partner</b>								
No binge drinking and no drug use‡	259	2.1	1.6	2.6	418	33	25	42
At least one binge drinking in past month or one drug use in past 12 months	216	4.8	3.7	6.3	420	93*	65	121
No partner	745	6.2	5.2	7.2	1,509	125*	98	151
<b>Number of evening activities per month</b>								
Less than 10‡	495	3.1	2.6	3.8	868	55	43	67
10 to 19	317	4.2	3.4	5.2	552	73	55	92
20 or more	451	6.7	5.3	8.3	1,012	150*	107	192

‡ use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

‡ reference category

1. Categories of severity were established based on an overall severity score. Severity scores increase with the number of disability types, the level of difficulty associated with the disability and the frequency of the activity limitation. The name assigned to each category is simply intended to facilitate use of the severity score. It is not a label or judgement concerning the person's level of disability.

2. Includes marijuana and non-prescribed drugs.

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.



**Table 8****Logistic regression models: Odds of experiencing violent victimization by selected socioeconomic, neighbourhood, health and lifestyle characteristics, and by history of childhood maltreatment, Canada, 2019**

Selected characteristics	Model 1			Model 2		
	odds ratio <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval		odds ratio <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Indigenous identity and gender</b>						
Non-Indigenous men‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Indigenous women	1.420**	1.098	1.836	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Indigenous men	1.743	0.798	3.806	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Indigenous women	2.369*	1.227	4.570	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons from other gender identities	2.775	0.776	9.932	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
<b>Age</b>	<b>0.975***</b>	<b>0.969</b>	<b>0.982</b>	<b>0.978***</b>	<b>0.970</b>	<b>0.986</b>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>						
Heterosexual‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+)	2.442***	1.527	3.907	1.675*	1.101	2.549
<b>Marital status</b>						
Married, common-law or widowed‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Single, separated or divorced	1.461**	1.141	1.869	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
<b>Ability to make ends meet<sup>2</sup></b>						
Very easily‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Easily	1.620**	1.190	2.206	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
With difficulty	1.962***	1.363	2.825	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
With great difficulty	2.714***	1.643	4.482	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
<b>Trust in neighbours<sup>3</sup></b>						
Neighbours can be trusted‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Neighbours can't be trusted	...	...	...	1.528**	1.177	1.984
<b>Experienced discrimination in the past 5 years</b>						
No‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yes	...	...	...	1.495**	1.120	1.994
<b>Self-rated mental health<sup>4</sup></b>						
Good‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poor	...	...	...	1.851***	1.361	2.518
<b>Drug use in the past 12 months<sup>5</sup></b>						
No‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yes	...	...	...	1.713***	1.279	2.294
<b>Ever homeless<sup>6</sup></b>						
No‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yes	...	...	...	1.516**	1.123	2.048
<b>Number of evening activities per month</b>						
...	...	...	...	<b>1.016**</b>	<b>1.005</b>	<b>1.027</b>
<b>Experienced sexual violence by an adult before age 15</b>						
No‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yes	...	...	...	2.314***	1.659	3.228
<b>Witnessed a parent hit another parent, child or adult</b>						
No‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yes	...	...	...	1.522**	1.156	2.005
<b>Experienced harsh parenting or neglect<sup>7</sup></b>						
No‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yes	...	...	...	2.024***	1.419	2.885

n.s. not statistically significant, excluded from the model

... not applicable

\* significantly different from reference category (p &lt; 0.05)

\*\* significantly different from reference category (p &lt; 0.01)

\*\*\* significantly different from reference category (p &lt; 0.001)

‡ reference category

1. Odds ratio represents the odds that an outcome (e.g., victimization) will occur given a particular exposure or characteristic, compared to the odds of the outcome occurring in the absence of that exposure or characteristic. An odds ratio higher than 1 indicates a characteristic associated with an increased probability for the outcome to occur, while an odds ratio below 1 indicate a decreased probability.

2. Based on answers to the following question: "Thinking of your/your household's finances, are you/is your household usually able to make ends meet?". Those who answered "With great difficulty" or "No, cannot make ends meet" were grouped in the "With great difficulty" category.

3. Based on answers to the following question: "Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Cannot be trusted at all' and 5 means 'Can be trusted a lot', what is your level of trust in people in your neighbourhood?". Those who answered 3, 4 or 5 are included in "Neighbours can be trusted"; those who answered 1 or 2 are included in "Neighbours can't be trusted".

4. Based on answers to the following question: "In general, how is your mental health?". Those who answered "Good", "Very good" or "Excellent" are included in "Good"; those who answered "Fair" or "Poor" are included in "Poor".

5. Includes marijuana and non-prescribed drugs.

6. Includes those who ever been homeless and those who ever had to temporarily live with family or friends, or anywhere else because they had nowhere else to live.

7. See table 1 for behaviours included in "harsh parenting or neglect".

**Note:** Model 2 initially included all variables in tables 5 to 7, but only significant (p<0.05) characteristics were retained in the final model. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

**Table 9**  
**Logistic regression models: Odds of experiencing violent victimization by selected socioeconomic, neighbourhood, health and lifestyle characteristics, and by history of childhood maltreatment, Canada, 2019**

Selected characteristics	odds ratio <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval	
		from	to
<b>Age group (years)</b>			
15 to 34	8.873**	2.251	34.973
35 to 54	7.615**	2.051	28.270
55 and over‡	...	...	...
<b>Region</b>			
Prairies	3.282*	1.131	9.527
Territories	4.004**	1.476	10.857
Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario or British Columbia‡	...	...	...
<b>Experienced sexual violence by an adult before age 15</b>			
Yes	7.262***	2.623	20.110
No‡	...	...	...
<b>Experienced harsh parenting or neglect<sup>2</sup></b>			
Yes	5.980***	2.814	12.707
No‡	...	...	...
<b>Witnessed a parent hit another person</b>			
Yes	4.190**	1.653	10.623
No‡	...	...	...

... not applicable

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

\*\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.01$ )

\*\*\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.001$ )

‡ reference category

1. Odds ratio represents the odds that an outcome (e.g., victimization) will occur given a particular exposure or characteristic, compared to the odds of the outcome occurring in the absence of that exposure or characteristic. An odds ratio higher than 1 indicates a characteristic associated with an increased probability for the outcome to occur, while an odds ratio below 1 indicate a decreased probability.

2. See table 1 for behaviours included in "harsh parenting or neglect".

**Note:** Initially, the model included all variables in tables 5 to 7, but only significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) characteristics were retained in the final model. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

**Table 10**  
**Most serious sexual or physical assault experienced in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected incident characteristics, and by Indigenous and gender identity, Canada, 2018**

Selected characteristics of the most serious assault	Indigenous persons								
	Women			Men†			Total		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
	from	to	from	to	from	to	from	to	
<b>Relationship to offender<sup>1</sup></b>									
Family	F	F	F	F	F	F	8	3	18
Friend, neighbour or acquaintance	49	30	69	36	17	61	41	27	58
Other known person	13	5	28	18	7	39	16	8	29
Stranger or known by sight only	19*	9	37	41	23	62	32	20	46
<b>Gender of offender<sup>2</sup></b>									
Man (or only men)	91	80	96	86	72	93	88	80	93
Woman (or only women)	F	F	F	7	3	15	6*	3	12
Men and women	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Number of offenders</b>									
One offender	89	73	96	79	58	91	83	70	91
More than one offender	F	F	F	21	9	42	15	7	29
<b>Victim felt blamed<sup>3</sup></b>									
Yes	44**	25	65	17	7	36	28	17	43
No	53***	33	72	83	64	93	71	56	82
<b>Victim used victim services</b>									
Yes	35*	18	58	26	9	56	30*	16	49
No	61*	39	80	74	44	91	69*	50	83
<b>Assault was reported to police</b>									
Yes	32*	16	53	45	25	66	39*	25	56
No	65*	44	81	55	34	75	59*	43	74
<b>Victim considered the incident could be linked to perpetrator's use of alcohol or drugs</b>									
Yes	52*	33	71	43	23	65	47	32	62
No	34	17	55	43	24	63	39	26	54
Don't know	F	F	F	F	F	F	13	6	26
<b>Location of incident</b>									
Private residence	60**	40	77	24	13	42	39	26	54
Business or institution	24	12	42	19	9	36	21*	13	33
Street or other public area	F	F	F	51	30	71	34	20	52
Other	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Victim was injured</b>									
Yes	33	16	56	39	19	63	36*	22	54
No	64	41	82	61	37	81	62*	45	77
<b>Presence of a weapon</b>									
Yes	17	6	39	42*	24	64	32*	20	47
No	78	56	91	53*	33	73	63*	48	76
Don't know	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

**Table 10**  
**Most serious sexual or physical assault experienced in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected incident characteristics, and by Indigenous and gender identity, Canada, 2018**

Selected characteristics of the most serious assault	Non- Indigenous persons								
	percent	Women		percent	Men‡		percent	Total	
		95% confidence interval	from		to	95% confidence interval		from	to
<b>Relationship to offender<sup>1</sup></b>									
Family	12**	8	18	5	3	8	9	6	12
Friend, neighbour or acquaintance	29	23	35	23	18	29	26	22	31
Other known person	16	12	22	17	14	22	17	14	20
Stranger or known by sight only	39**	33	47	52	46	58	46	41	50
<b>Gender of offender<sup>2</sup></b>									
Man (or only men)	86**	81	90	77	71	82	81	78	85
Woman (or only women)	11**	7	16	20	15	26	16	13	19
Men and women	3	1	5	3	1	5	F	F	F
<b>Number of offenders</b>									
One offender	90**	86	93	83	78	87	87	84	90
More than one offender	7**	5	11	15	11	21	11	9	14
<b>Victim felt blamed<sup>3</sup></b>									
Yes	23	18	29	19	14	25	21	18	26
No	75	69	81	81	75	86	78	73	81
<b>Victim used victim services</b>									
Yes	11**	8	15	4	3	6	8	6	10
No	88**	84	91	95	93	96	91	89	93
<b>Assault was reported to police</b>									
Yes	12**	8	16	24	20	30	18	15	21
No	87**	82	91	75	70	80	81	78	84
<b>Victim considered the incident could be linked to perpetrator's use of alcohol or drugs</b>									
Yes	29**	24	36	43	37	50	36	32	40
No	53**	46	60	38	32	44	46	42	51
Don't know	16	12	22	18	14	23	17	14	21
<b>Location of incident</b>									
Private residence	40**	33	47	23	19	29	32	28	37
Business or institution	36	29	42	41	36	47	38	34	42
Street or other public area	16**	12	21	25	20	30	20	17	24
Other	6	4	10	10	7	14	8	6	11
<b>Victim was injured</b>									
Yes	13	10	18	17	13	22	15	12	18
No	85	80	89	82	78	86	84	81	87
<b>Presence of a weapon</b>									
Yes	9**	6	15	17	13	21	13	10	16
No	84	78	89	77	71	81	80	77	84
Don't know	5	3	9	6	3	11	6	4	9

F too unreliable to be published

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

\*\* significantly different from non-Indigenous category ( $p < 0.05$ )

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

‡ reference category

1. In cases where there were more than one offender, represents the closest relationship between the victim and any of the perpetrators.

2. Only victims who provided a number of offenders were asked the question about gender of offender(s).

3. Includes cases where victims were made to feel responsible for their own victimization by either the perpetrator, their friends or family, the police or any other person.

**Note:** Respondents were asked to provide incident characteristics only for the most serious sexual assault and the most serious physical assault experienced in the 12 months preceding the survey. In cases where a person experienced both a sexual assault and a physical assault in the 12 months preceding the survey, the sexual assault incident was deemed the most serious and characteristics for this incident are the ones included in this table. Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2018.

**Table 11**  
**Homicides, by Indigenous and gender identity and by year, Canada, 2015 to 2020**

Year	Indigenous person						Non-Indigenous person					
	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>
2015	107	12.49	43	4.87	150	8.62	321	1.90	134	0.78	455	1.34
2016	113	12.76	30	3.29	143	7.96	343	2.02	122	0.71	465	1.36
2017	119	13.04	38	4.05	157	8.48	367	2.13	132	0.76	499	1.44
2018	97	10.34	45	4.67	142	7.47	393	2.25	121	0.68	514	1.46
2019	131	13.60	47	4.76	178	9.12	377	2.13	100	0.56	477	1.34
2020	163	16.50	38	3.76	201	10.05	382	2.14	125	0.69	507	1.41
2015 to 2020	730	13.16	241	4.23	971	8.64	2,183	2.10	734	0.69	2,917	1.39

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 includes victims and accused persons identified as First Nations persons, Métis, Inuit, or an Indigenous identity where the Indigenous group is not known to police. Homicides for which the Indigenous or gender identity was reported as unknown or not collected or released by police services are excluded from the total calculations. 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). 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. 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 2015 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 2015 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. The year 2019 marked the first cycle of collection of the Homicide Survey data for which information on gender identity was reported for victims and persons accused of homicide. Gender refers to the gender a person publicly expresses in their daily life, including at work, while shopping or accessing other services, in their housing environment or in the broader community. Prior to 2019, Homicide Survey data was presented by the sex of the victims and accused persons. Sex and gender refer to two different concepts. Caution should be exercised when comparing counts for sex with those for gender. Given that small counts of victims and accused persons identified as "gender diverse" may exist, the aggregate Homicide Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "man" or "woman" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims and accused persons identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either man or woman based on the regional distribution of victims' or accused persons' gender. 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, Homicide Survey.

**Table 12**  
**Homicides, by selected victim characteristics and by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2015 to 2020**

Selected victim characteristics	First Nations		Metis		Inuit		Indigenous, group unknown		Total Indigenous persons		Non-Indigenous persons	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent	number	number	percent	number	percent
<b>Gender of victim</b>												
Man	505	75	44	79	39	60	142	80	730	75	2,183	75
Woman	168	25	12	21	26	40	35	20	241	25	734	25
Unknown	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	5	...
<b>Age group of victim</b>												
Less than 18	62	9	10	18	8	12	15	8	95	10	196	7
18 to 24	134	20	9	16	6	9	37	21	186	19	520	18
25 to 34	228	34	12	21	23	35	53	30	316	33	690	24
35 to 44	110	16	14	25	13	20	41	23	178	18	471	16
45 to 54	87	13	5	9	10	15	23	13	125	13	414	14
55 and over	53	8	6	11	5	8	8	5	72	7	621	21
Unknown	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	10	...
<b>Median age</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Victim was considered a missing person at the time of their death</b>												
No	612	91	52	93	60	92	168	95	892	92	2,699	93
Yes	61	9	4	7	5	8	9	5	79	8	212	7
Unknown	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	11	...
<b>Victim was randomly selected</b>												
No	620	96	48	91	61	95	140	88	869	94	2,467	91
Yes	28	4	5	9	3	5	19	12	55	6	250	9
Unknown	26	...	3	...	1	...	18	...	48	...	205	...
<b>Primary weapon causing death</b>												
Rifle or shotgun	107	17	11	22	7	11	29	17	154	17	297	11
Handgun	20	3	2	4	0	0	10	6	32	3	741	27
Other firearm-like weapon <sup>1</sup>	15	2	0	0	0	0	9	5	24	3	189	7
Knife or other cutting instrument	258	40	22	43	34	54	75	44	389	42	794	29
Physical force	93	15	8	16	5	8	17	10	123	13	373	13
Other weapon	148	23	8	16	17	27	30	18	203	22	384	14
Unknown	33	...	5	...	2	...	7	...	47	...	144	...

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Includes other firearm-like weapon such as nail gun or pellet gun.

**Note :** Indigenous identity includes victims and accused persons identified as First Nations persons, Métis, Inuit, or an Indigenous identity where the Indigenous group is not known to police. Homicides for which the Indigenous identity was unknown are excluded from the total calculations. The year 2019 marked the first cycle of collection of the Homicide Survey data for which information on gender identity was reported for victims and persons accused of homicide. Gender refers to the gender a person publicly expresses in their daily life, including at work, while shopping or accessing other services, in their housing environment or in the broader community. Prior to 2019, Homicide Survey data was presented by the sex of the victims and accused persons. Sex and gender refer to two different concepts. Caution should be exercised when comparing counts for sex with those for gender. Given that small counts of victims and accused persons identified as "gender diverse" may exist, the aggregate Homicide Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "man" or "woman" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims and accused persons identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either man or woman based on the regional distribution of victims' or accused persons' gender.

**Source :** Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey.

**Table 13**  
**Homicides, by selected accused and incident characteristics, and by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2015 to 2020**

Selected accused and incident characteristics	First Nations		Metis		Inuit		Indigenous, group unknown		Total Indigenous persons		Non-Indigenous persons†	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
<b>Clearance status<sup>1</sup></b>												
Not cleared	103	15	11	20	6	9	39	22	159	16	886	30
Cleared by charge	553	82	44	79	51	78	137	77	785	81	1,801	62
Cleared otherwise	18	3	1	2	8	12	1	1	28	3	235	8
<b>Elapsed time between when homicide occurred and when it was cleared</b>												
1 day or less	310	54	24	53	35	61	69	50	438	54	1,002	49
2 to 30 days	158	28	16	36	15	26	46	33	235	29	607	30
31 days or more	102	18	5	11	7	12	23	17	137	17	416	21
Average elapsed time (days)	53	...	16	...	17	...	31	...	45	...	82	...
<b>Gender of accused</b>												
Man	457	82	39	91	53	90	117	87	666	84	1,824	91
Woman	103	18	4	9	6	10	18	13	131	16	177	9
Unknown	7	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	7	...	5	...
<b>Median age of accused</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Relationship to victim<sup>2</sup></b>												
<b>Married or common-law spouse</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>13</b>
Current spouse	58	10	2	4	14	25	3	2	77	10	200	10
Separated or divorced spouse	9	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	10	1	52	3
<b>Family member</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>18</b>
Relative	73	13	8	18	10	18	15	12	106	14	285	15
Extended family <sup>3</sup>	70	13	2	4	9	16	9	7	90	11	61	3
<b>Intimate partner (non-spouse)</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>5</b>
Current intimate partner	22	4	1	2	1	2	4	3	28	4	61	3
Ex-intimate partner	7	1	0	0	2	4	2	2	11	1	35	2
<b>Friend or acquaintance</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>45</b>
Friend or family friend	198	36	14	31	16	29	36	28	264	34	415	22
Neighbour	12	2	1	2	2	4	2	2	17	2	77	4
Criminal relationship <sup>4</sup>	42	8	4	9	0	0	12	9	58	7	227	12
Other known person	31	6	4	9	0	0	18	14	53	7	140	7
<b>Stranger</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>19</b>
Unknown	16	...	0	...	4	...	10	...	30	...	115	...
<b>History of family violence<sup>5</sup></b>												
Yes	97	52	3	38	20	65	13	50	133	53	193	38
No	89	48	5	63	11	35	13	50	118	47	312	62
Unknown or not applicable	385	...	37	...	28	...	112	...	562	...	1,531	...
<b>Most serious violation</b>												
First degree murder	150	22	14	25	17	26	28	16	209	22	1,527	52
Second degree murder	386	57	34	61	42	65	117	66	579	60	1,108	38
Manslaughter	138	20	8	14	6	9	32	18	184	19	284	10
Infanticide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
<b>Indigenous identity of accused</b>												
Indigenous person	504	89	34	79	58	98	88	67	684	86	218	11
First Nations person	476	84	14	33	0	0	16	12	506	63	114	6
Métis person	9	2	15	35	0	0	5	4	29	4	28	1
Inuit person	0	0	0	0	58	98	0	0	58	7	4	0
Indigenous person, group unknown	19	3	5	12	0	0	67	51	91	11	72	4
Non-Indigenous person	60	11	9	21	1	2	44	33	114	14	1,748	89
Unknown	3	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	6	...	40	...
<b>Accused has a mental illness<sup>6</sup></b>												
Yes	59	12	4	10	12	22	14	14	89	13	451	26
No	453	88	35	90	42	78	86	86	616	87	1,283	74
Unknown	55	...	4	...	5	...	35	...	99	...	272	...
<b>Accused had consumed a substance during the period leading up to the incident</b>												
Yes	426	91	23	79	46	88	63	86	558	90	756	62
No	41	9	6	21	6	12	10	14	63	10	457	38
Unknown	100	...	14	...	7	...	62	...	183	...	793	...

**Table 13**  
**Homicides, by selected accused and incident characteristics, and by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2015 to 2020**

Selected accused and incident characteristics	First Nations		Metis		Inuit		Indigenous, group unknown		Total Indigenous persons		Non-Indigenous persons†	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
<b>Accused was involved in illegal activities</b>												
No	425	75	33	79	49	89	68	59	575	74	1,437	74
Yes	139	25	9	21	6	11	48	41	202	26	503	26
Unknown	3	...	1	...	4	...	19	...	27	...	66	...
<b>Homicide related to illegal drug trade activities</b>												
Yes, or suspected	99	15	8	15	2	3	31	18	140	15	741	28
No	555	85	45	85	61	97	137	82	798	85	1,881	72
Unknown	20	...	3	...	2	...	9	...	34	...	300	...
<b>Gang-related homicide<sup>7</sup></b>												
Yes, or suspected	93	14	7	13	0	0	30	17	130	13	725	25
No	579	86	47	87	65	100	147	83	838	87	2,154	75
Unknown	2	...	2	...	0	...	0	...	4	...	43	...

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. For an incident to be cleared, at least one accused must have been identified and either a charge has been laid, or recommended to be laid, against this individual in connection with the incident, or the the accused is processed by other means.

2. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

3. Includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc., related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.

4. Includes, for example, drug dealers, and their clients, loan sharks, or gang members, as well as co-substance users.

5. Includes only homicides in which the accused was a family member or an intimate partner.

6. In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on any suspected mental or developmental disorders (such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and dementia) of accused persons.

This information reflects police perceptions of the mental condition of the accused person and is not necessarily supported by a medical or health professional's assessment. As such, it should be interpreted with caution.

7. A homicide is classified as gang-related when police confirm or suspect that the accused person and/or victim involved in the homicide was either a member, or a prospective member, of an organized crime group or street gang or was somehow associated with an organized crime group or street gang, and the homicide was carried out as a result of this association.

**Note:** Data on accused are available only for homicides that were cleared. Indigenous identity includes victims and accused persons identified as First Nations persons, Métis, Inuit, or an Indigenous identity where the Indigenous group is not known to police. Homicides for which the Indigenous identity was unknown are excluded from the total calculations. The year 2019 marked the first cycle of collection of the Homicide Survey data for which information on gender identity was reported for victims and persons accused of homicide. Gender refers to the gender a person publicly expresses in their daily life, including at work, while shopping or accessing other services, in their housing environment or in the broader community. Prior to 2019, Homicide Survey data was presented by the sex of the victims and accused persons. Sex and gender refer to two different concepts. Caution should be exercised when comparing counts for sex with those for gender. Given that small counts of victims and accused persons identified as "gender diverse" may exist, the aggregate Homicide Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "man" or "woman" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims and accused persons identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either man or woman based on the regional distribution of victims' or accused persons' gender.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey.



**Table 14**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since age 15 Indigenous identity group, and by province or territory, 2018**

Province or territory	First Nations			Métis			Inuit			Total - Indigenous persons			Non-Indigenous persons‡		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
Newfoundland and Labrador	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	45**	34	57	36**	33	39
Prince Edward Island	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	42	38	45
Nova Scotia	F	F	F	55	40	69	F	F	F	60*	48	70	47**	45	50
New Brunswick	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	54	40	67	41	39	43
Quebec	42**	27	59	52*	38	66	F	F	F	47**	36	58	36**	34	37
Ontario	69*	55	80	70*	54	82	F	F	F	67*	57	76	42	40	44
Manitoba	57*	44	69	59*	50	68	F	F	F	59*	51	66	43	41	45
Saskatchewan	65*	53	76	60*	51	68	F	F	F	62*	54	69	43	41	45
Alberta	65*	51	77	75***	65	84	F	F	F	69***	60	77	46**	45	48
British Columbia	67*	51	79	68*	55	79	F	F	F	66*	56	75	47	45	48
Yukon	73	58	84	F	F	F	F	F	F	72	58	82	64**	59	68
Northwest Territories	72***	63	79	49	34	64	59**	44	73	64	59	69	57**	52	62
Nunavut	F	F	F	F	F	F	53***	49	57	53***	50	57	65**	59	71
Canada	61*	56	66	64*	59	69	51	41	62	62*	58	65	42	41	43

F too unreliable to be published

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

\*\* significantly different from non-Indigenous category ( $p < 0.05$ )

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

‡ reference category

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Private and Public Spaces, 2018.

**Table 15**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since age 15 Indigenous identity group, and by selected sociodemographic characteristics, 2018**

Selected sociodemographic characteristics	First Nations			Métis			Inuit		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to
<b>Gender</b>									
Woman‡	64**	57	71	65**	58	71	45	30	61
Man	57**	49	66	64**	56	70	59**	48	69
Other gender identity	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Age group (years)</b>									
15 to 24‡	54**	37	70	48	32	65	39	23	59
25 to 34	67**	67	78	72***	60	82	51	27	75
35 to 44	75***	63	84	75***	64	83	64	48	78
45 to 54	65**	54	76	57**	45	69	53	37	69
55 and over	51**	42	60	65**	58	72	54**	37	70
<b>Region of birth<sup>1</sup></b>									
Atlantic provinces	61**	50	72	57**	45	68	F	F	F
Quebec	40*	26	56	F	F	F	F	F	F
Ontario	70**	55	82	70**	54	83	F	F	F
Prairies	63**	54	71	66**	60	72	68	45	84
British Columbia	67	52	80	F	F	F	F	F	F
Territories	74***	65	82	F	F	F	48	39	57
Outside of Canada	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>LGBTQ2+ person<sup>2</sup></b>									
No‡	61	55	66	64	59	69	53	42	63
Yes	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Physical, developmental or mental health-related disability</b>									
No‡	50**	43	58	57**	50	64	43	31	56
Yes	75***	67	81	70***	64	76	67*	47	82
<b>Witnessed spousal violence before the age of 15</b>									
Never‡	52**	46	58	58**	53	64	47	35	59
At least once	86***	78	92	84***	76	89	68*	58	77
<b>Experienced harsh parenting</b>									
Never‡	39**	30	49	41**	31	52	46**	33	60
At least once	72***	66	78	71***	65	76	58	40	73
<b>Experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15</b>									
Never‡	46**	39	54	52**	45	58	44	32	56
At least once	86***	78	91	83***	77	88	77*	65	86
Sexual but no physical violence	85***	75	92	81***	73	87	78***	69	86
Physical but no sexual violence	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Both sexual and physical violence	91***	77	96	93***	82	97	F	F	F

**Table 15**  
**Population aged 15 and over who experienced at least one sexual or physical assault since age 15 Indigenous identity group, and by selected sociodemographic characteristics, 2018**

Selected sociodemographic characteristics	Total Indigenous persons			Non-Indigenous persons‡		
	percent	95% confidence interval		percent	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to
<b>Gender</b>						
Woman‡	63**	58	67	45	44	46
Man	60**	55	65	39*	38	40
Other gender identity	F	F	F	F	F	F
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
15 to 24‡	49**	38	60	36	33	39
25 to 34	68***	59	75	52*	50	55
35 to 44	74***	67	80	49*	47	51
45 to 54	61**	53	69	44*	43	46
55 and over	58**	53	64	35*	34	36
<b>Region of birth<sup>1</sup></b>						
Atlantic provinces	59**	51	66	44*	42	45
Quebec	43*	33	54	38*	37	40
Ontario	70**	60	79	49*	47	51
Prairies	64**	59	69	50*	48	51
British Columbia	67**	57	76	54*	52	57
Territories	61	52	68	47	30	65
Outside of Canada	F	F	F	30*	29	32
<b>LGBTQ2+ person<sup>2</sup></b>						
No‡	61**	57	64	41	41	42
Yes	82***	70	90	62*	58	67
<b>Physical, developmental or mental health-related disability</b>						
No‡	52**	47	57	35	34	36
Yes	72***	67	76	54*	53	56
<b>Witnessed spousal violence before the age of 15</b>						
Never‡	54**	50	58	39	38	39
At least once	84***	79	89	69*	67	71
<b>Experienced harsh parenting</b>						
Never‡	39	33	46	21	20	23
At least once	71***	67	74	54*	53	54
<b>Experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15</b>						
Never‡	48	43	53	32	31	33
At least once	83***	78	87	69*	67	70
Sexual but no physical violence	82***	76	87	65*	63	66
Physical but no sexual violence	77*	58	89	74*	71	77
Both sexual and physical violence	91***	83	95	84*	81	87

F too unreliable to be published

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

\*\* significantly different from non-Indigenous category ( $p < 0.05$ )

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

‡ reference category

1. Reference category is the rest of Canada.

2. LGBTQ2+ persons includes those who reported being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirits or used another sexual or gender diversity-related term to identify themselves.

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Private and Public Spaces, 2018.

**Table 16**  
**Selected social or health outcomes, by history of sexual or physical violence victimization since age 15, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2018**

Indigenous identity group and victimization since age 15	Physical health rated as fair or poor <sup>1</sup>			Mental health rated as fair or poor <sup>1</sup>			Low life satisfaction <sup>1</sup>			Ever seriously contemplated suicide		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent <sup>4</sup>	from	to	percent <sup>4</sup>	from	to	percent <sup>4</sup>	from	to	percent <sup>4</sup>	from	to
<b>First Nations person</b>												
Experienced assault	21**	16	27	24*	18	33	24***	17	32	44***	37	52
Never experienced assault‡	16	10	25	12	7	20	9	5	15	13	7	21
<b>Métis person</b>												
Experienced assault	27***	21	34	23*	17	30	26***	19	33	38***	32	32
Never experienced assault‡	18	13	24	12	7	18	8	5	14	21	15	29
<b>Inuit person</b>												
Experienced assault	19	13	27	14*	10	19	13*	9	17	48***	36	59
Never experienced assault‡	10	7	16	4	2	8	6	3	11	16	9	27
<b>Total Indigenous persons</b>												
Experienced assault	23***	20	28	23***	18	28	24***	20	29	41***	36	46
Never experienced assault‡	16	12	21	11	8	15	9	6	12	16	12	21
<b>Non-Indigenous persons</b>												
Experienced assault	14*	13	15	18*	17	19	15*	14	16	27*	26	28
Never experienced assault‡	9	8	9	7	6	7	8	7	8	6	6	7

Indigenous identity group and victimization since age 15	Alcohol use has been a problem <sup>2</sup>			Cannabis use at least once over last month			Illicit drug use at least once over last 12 months			Has ever been homeless <sup>3</sup>		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent <sup>4</sup>	from	to	percent <sup>4</sup>	from	to	percent <sup>4</sup>	from	to	percent <sup>4</sup>	from	to
<b>First Nations person</b>												
Experienced assault	34***	28	41	38***	30	45	10**	6	15	42***	34	49
Never experienced assault‡	8	5	14	24	16	33	F	F	F	12	7	20
<b>Métis person</b>												
Experienced assault	29***	23	36	31	24	37	6	4	10	33***	27	40
Never experienced assault‡	5	3	8	22	16	31	F	F	F	9	5	15
<b>Inuit person</b>												
Experienced assault	40***	29	52	44**	34	55	3	2	6	38***	27	51
Never experienced assault‡	19	8	39	33	19	51	F	F	F	8	5	13
<b>Total Indigenous persons</b>												
Experienced assault	31***	27	36	34***	30	39	8***	6	10	37***	32	41
Never experienced assault‡	7	5	10	24	19	30	2	1	6	10	7	15
<b>Non-Indigenous persons</b>												
Experienced assault	14*	13	14	25*	24	26	5*	4	6	18*	17	19
Never experienced assault‡	4	4	5	9	8	10	1	1	2	4	4	5

F too unreliable to be published

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

\*\* significantly different from non-Indigenous category ( $p < 0.05$ )

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

‡ reference category

1. Based on the respondents' own assessment.

2. Based on answers to the following question: "Was there ever a time in your life when your drinking caused arguments or other serious or repeated problems with your family, friends, neighbours, or co-workers?"

3. Includes being homeless or staying with friends, family or any other place because there was nowhere else to live.

4. Percentage calculations include missing or unspecified responses, but these data are not shown unless they represent 5% or more of the total responses

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Private and Public Spaces, 2018.

**Table 17**  
**Perceptions of police and the criminal justice system and feelings of safety, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2019**

Perceptions of police and the criminal justice system	First Nations			Métis			Inuit <sup>E</sup>			Total - Indigenous persons			Non-Indigenous persons <sup>‡</sup>		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>Had a contact with police in the preceding 12 months</b>															
No	57	49	66	50*	42	59	67	57	75	55	49	61	66	65	67
Yes	43*	34	51	50*	41	58	33	24	43	45*	39	51	34	33	35
During a public information session	11	7	18	7	3	15	5	3	10	9	6	14	6	6	7
For work or volunteering	15	10	22	13	9	19	11	7	16	14	11	18	12	11	13
For a traffic violation	12	8	17	15	10	21	3*	1	7	12	9	16	10	10	11
As a victim of crime	7	4	11	10	5	17	6	4	10	7*	5	11	4	4	5
As a witness to a crime	10*	6	15	7	4	13	8	5	12	8	6	12	5	4	5
For being arrested	1	0	3	1	0	7	3*	2	6	1	1	3	0	0	1
For problems with emotions or substance use	2	1	6	2	1	11	4*	3	6	3	1	6	1	0	1
For a family's member problems with emotions or substance use	13*	8	21	7*	4	11	8*	5	12	10*	7	14	2	2	3
For another reason	10	5	17	13*	8	21	5	3	8	11*	8	16	7	6	7
<b>Overall experience with the police was:<sup>1</sup></b>															
Positive	76 <sup>E</sup>	63	86	85	73	92	F	F	F	80*	72	87	88	86	89
Negative	22 <sup>E</sup>	12	35	13	6	24	F	F	F	18	12	26	12	10	13
<b>Overall confidence in the police</b>															
A great deal of confidence	27*	20	35	32*	25	40	26*	17	38	29*	25	35	42	40	43
Some confidence	54	45	63	53	44	61	43	31	56	53	47	58	49	48	50
No confidence	19*	13	26	15	9	22	29*	18	44	17*	14	22	9	9	10
<b>When it comes to enforcing the laws, your local police does:</b>															
A good job	35*	27	44	41	33	49	33*	23	45	38*	32	44	47	45	48
An average job	44*	34	54	45*	37	55	19*	14	26	43*	36	49	33	32	34
A poor job	13*	8	19	6	4	10	19*	11	32	10*	7	14	5	5	6
Don't know	9*	5	14	8*	5	12	28	16	45	9*	7	13	15	14	16
<b>When it comes to promptly responding to calls, your local police does:</b>															
A good job	38	29	47	39	31	47	22*	14	31	37	32	43	40	39	41
An average job	30	22	39	31	23	40	28	17	41	30	24	36	26	25	27
A poor job	17*	11	26	12	7	19	30*	20	42	16*	12	21	7	7	8
Don't know	15*	11	22	18*	13	26	21	12	35	17*	13	22	27	26	28
<b>When it comes to being approachable and easy to talk to, your local police does:</b>															
A good job	41	33	50	49	40	57	45	33	58	45	39	50	49	48	50
An average job	37*	28	47	27	20	35	17	10	28	31*	25	37	24	23	25
A poor job	8	5	12	8	4	15	17*	9	31	8	6	12	6	6	7
Don't know	14	9	21	17	10	25	21	10	37	16	12	21	20	19	21
<b>When it comes to supplying information to the public on ways to prevent crime, your local police does:</b>															
A good job	36	28	44	40	32	48	27	18	38	37	31	43	37	36	38
An average job	25	18	33	30	23	38	14*	7	25	27	22	32	31	30	32
A poor job	19*	13	27	13	9	20	24*	15	36	16*	12	21	10	9	11
Don't know	21	13	31	16	11	24	35*	23	48	20	15	26	22	21	23

**Table 17**  
**Perceptions of police and the criminal justice system and feelings of safety, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2019**

Perceptions of police and the criminal justice system	First Nations			Métis			Inuit <sup>e</sup>			Total - Indigenous persons			Non-Indigenous persons <sup>‡</sup>		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>When it comes to ensuring the safety of the citizens in your area, your local police does:</b>															
A good job	39	31	47	45	37	54	44	33	57	42	36	48	45	43	46
An average job	36	28	45	35	27	44	18*	13	24	34	28	41	32	31	33
A poor job	13*	8	21	9	5	14	15	8	29	11*	8	16	5	5	6
Don't know	12	8	18	11*	6	19	22	11	38	12*	9	17	17	16	18
<b>When it comes to treating people fairly, your local police does:</b>															
A good job	35	28	44	46	38	55	33	23	46	40	34	46	42	41	43
An average job	26	20	34	31	23	40	18*	12	25	28	23	34	26	25	27
A poor job	18*	12	25	11	7	18	22*	14	35	15*	11	19	8	7	8
Don't know	21	13	32	12*	8	17	26	14	43	17*	12	23	24	23	25
<b>Ever had contact with the Canadian criminal courts</b>															
No	63*	55	70	61*	53	69	67*	56	77	63*	57	68	80	79	81
Yes	37*	29	45	39*	31	47	31*	22	42	37*	32	43	19	19	20
<b>Overall confidence in the Canadian criminal courts</b>															
A great deal of confidence	8*	5	14	10	6	16	8*	5	13	9*	7	13	14	13	14
Some confidence	46	37	55	48	39	56	34*	23	46	46	40	52	48	47	49
No confidence	31*	24	39	29*	22	37	27	17	41	30*	25	36	20	19	21
Don't know	14	10	21	13	7	21	30	19	42	15	11	19	18	17	19
<b>When it comes to providing justice quickly, the Canadian criminal courts do:</b>															
A good job	10	7	16	11	7	16	14	10	19	11	8	14	10	9	11
An average job	32	23	42	31	24	40	16*	10	26	31	25	37	30	29	31
A poor job	34	26	43	36	28	45	28	18	40	35	30	41	31	30	32
Don't know	23	17	31	22	15	31	42	29	55	23	19	29	29	27	30
<b>When it comes to helping victims, the Canadian criminal courts do:</b>															
A good job	16	11	23	12	8	18	21	14	31	15	11	19	14	13	15
An average job	32	23	42	33	25	41	20*	12	33	32	26	38	32	31	33
A poor job	29*	22	38	29*	22	37	15	10	22	28*	23	33	20	19	21
Don't know	23*	17	30	26	19	35	43	30	56	26*	21	31	33	32	34
<b>When it comes to determining whether the accused is guilty or not, the Canadian criminal courts do:</b>															
A good job	17	11	24	15	10	21	15	10	21	16	12	20	19	18	20
An average job	37	28	47	43	35	51	15*	11	20	38	32	45	35	34	36
A poor job	19*	13	26	14	9	22	15	9	24	17*	13	21	12	11	12
Don't know	27	21	35	28	21	37	55*	43	66	29	24	35	34	33	35
<b>When it comes to ensuring a fair trial for the accused, the Canadian criminal courts do:</b>															
A good job	22	16	30	20	15	27	21	14	31	21*	17	26	27	26	28
An average job	31	23	41	41*	34	50	14*	10	19	35	30	42	32	31	33
A poor job	21*	15	29	9	6	14	15	9	25	15*	11	19	8	8	9
Don't know	26	19	34	29	22	38	49*	36	62	28	23	34	33	32	34
<b>When it comes to supervising and controlling prisoners, the prison system does:</b>															
A good job	18	13	26	20	14	27	13*	9	18	19	15	23	19	18	19
An average job	28	19	38	34*	27	43	13	7	25	30*	24	36	23	22	23
A poor job	15*	9	23	9	6	14	15	7	29	12*	9	17	7	6	7
Don't know	39*	31	48	37*	29	46	58	45	70	39*	34	45	52	51	53

**Table 17**  
**Perceptions of police and the criminal justice system and feelings of safety, by Indigenous identity group, Canada, 2019**

Perceptions of police and the criminal justice system	First Nations			Métis			Inuit <sup>E</sup>			Total - Indigenous persons			Non-Indigenous persons <sup>‡</sup>		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to	percent	from	to
<b>When it comes to helping prisoners become law-abiding citizens, the prison system does:</b>															
A good job	9	5	15	14	9	20	12	8	17	11	8	16	9	8	10
An average job	26	18	37	21	15	29	13*	7	21	23	18	30	21	20	22
A poor job	29*	21	37	27*	20	35	21	12	34	27*	22	33	17	17	18
Don't know	36*	29	45	37*	30	46	53	41	66	38*	32	43	52	51	53
<b>When it comes to releasing offenders not likely to reoffend, the prison system does:</b>															
A good job	9	5	15	14	9	21	7	4	11	11	8	15	8	8	9
An average job	25	17	35	30	23	38	13*	7	21	27	22	33	25	24	26
A poor job	24*	17	33	22*	17	29	18	13	25	23*	19	28	16	15	17
Don't know	42	34	51	33*	26	42	61	50	71	39*	33	45	51	50	52
<b>When it comes to supervising offenders on parole, the prison system does:</b>															
A good job	10	6	17	12	8	18	14	8	22	11	8	15	9	8	10
An average job	22	14	33	28	21	37	10*	7	15	25	19	31	22	21	23
A poor job	26*	19	35	20	15	26	19	10	31	23*	19	28	16	16	17
Don't know	41*	33	50	40*	31	48	57	45	68	41*	35	47	53	51	54
<b>Feelings of safety from crime when walking alone after dark in the neighbourhood</b>															
Very safe	35	27	44	34	27	41	51*	38	64	35	30	41	37	36	38
Somewhat safe	37	28	47	50	42	58	33	20	50	42	36	49	43	42	45
Not very safe	11	7	17	5*	3	8	9	3	23	8*	5	11	11	10	12
Does not walk alone at night	17*	12	25	11	7	17	7	3	16	14*	11	19	8	8	9

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

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

<sup>‡</sup> reference category

1. Includes those who had a contact with police in the preceding 12 months.

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. These were included in each of the groups they identified with.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.

**Text box 1 table****Logistic regression model: contributing factors for ever been under the legal responsibility of the government, Canada, 2019**

Selected characteristics	odds ratio <sup>1</sup>	95% confidence interval	
		from	to
<b>Indigenous identity</b>			
Non-Indigenous person‡	...	...	...
Indigenous person	4.983***	2.978	8.337
<b>Physical violence by an adult before age 15 — Was kicked, bitten, punched, choked, burned, or physically attacked in some other way</b>			
0 to 5 times‡	...	...	...
More than 5 times	2.015*	1.078	3.764
<b>Sexual violence by an adult before age 15 — Someone forced or attempted to force into an unwanted sexual activity</b>			
Never‡	...	...	...
At least once	2.338**	1.413	3.867
<b>Harsh parenting — Was told things that really hurt their feelings</b>			
Never‡	...	...	...
At least once	2.15**	1.341	3.448
<b>Basic needs were not met (i.e. hygiene, food, clothes)<sup>2</sup></b>			
Never‡	...	...	...
At least once	3.872***	2.179	6.88
<b>Age at time of most serious assault</b>			
10 and older or not assaulted <sup>3</sup> ‡	...	...	...
Under 10	2.544***	1.571	4.121
<b>Witnessed a parent hit another adult (except another parent)</b>			
Never‡	...	...	...
At least once	2.124**	1.212	3.722

... not applicable

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )\*\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.01$ )\*\*\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.001$ )

‡ reference category

1. Odds ratio represents the odds that an outcome (e.g., victimization) will occur given a particular exposure or characteristic, compared to the odds of the outcome occurring in the absence of that exposure or characteristic. An odds ratio higher than 1 indicates a characteristic associated with an increased probability for the outcome to occur, while an odds ratio below 1 indicate a decreased probability.

2. May include situations in which needs were not met unintentionally, including because of financial difficulties.

3. Includes those who were not sexually or physically assaulted as well as those who answered "don't know".

**Note:** Indigenous people include those who reported being a First Nations, Métis or Inuit person. Respondents could report belonging to more than one Indigenous group. Initial model included all variables in tables 1, 2 and 4, in addition to gender and Indigenous identity, but only significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) characteristics were retained in the final model. Excludes people who immigrated to Canada at age 15 or older.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2019.