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Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004

by Maire Gannon and Karen Mihorean

Highlights

- Results from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) indicate that 28% of Canadians aged 15 years and older reported being victimized one or more times in the 12 months preceding the survey. This is up slightly from 26% in 1999, when the victimization survey was last conducted.
- Increases in victimization rates were recorded for three of the eight offence types measured by the GSS: theft of personal property, theft of household property, and vandalism. There were no significant changes in rates of sexual assault, robbery, physical assault, and motor vehicle theft. A decrease was observed in the rate of break and enter.
- Household victimization offences were the most frequently occurring criminal incidents (34%), followed by violent victimization (29%) and thefts of personal property (25%). About 12% of incidents could not be classified within the eight offence types.
- Residents of western provinces generally reported higher rates of victimization than residents living east of the Manitoba-Ontario border. However, there were two exceptions to this regional pattern. Nova Scotia had the second highest rate of violent victimization, while Ontario's rate of personal property theft was comparable to rates recorded in the West.
- The risk of violent victimization (based on the number of incidents per 1,000 population) was highest among young Canadians (aged 15 to 24 years). Other factors, such as being single, living in an urban area, and having a low household income (under \$15,000) also increased the likelihood of violent victimization.
- For household victimization, rates per 1,000 households were highest among renters, those living in semi-detached, row, or duplex homes, and urban dwellers. For both household victimization and personal property theft, higher household income made households and individuals more attractive targets for victimization.
- The GSS reveals that a large proportion of Canadians never reported criminal incidents to police. In all, only about 34% of criminal incidents came to the attention of police in 2004, down from 37% in 1999. Household victimization incidents were most likely to be reported (37%), while thefts of personal property were the least likely (31%).
- In 4% of all incidents, victims believed the act was hate-motivated. This is the same as the figure recorded in 1999. In 2004, among hate-motivated incidents, about two-thirds (65%) were believed to be motivated by the victim's race or ethnicity, 26% by the victim's sex, 14% by their religion, and 12% by their sexual orientation.
- Canadians who self-identified as being Aboriginal were three times as likely as the non-Aboriginal population to report being victims of violent victimization. There was no significant difference between rates for visible minorities and non-visible minorities, while rates were lower among immigrants than non-immigrants (68 versus 116 per 1,000 population).
- Although the proportion of violent incidents without a weapon has remained relatively stable since 1999 (69% in 2004 and 72% in 1999), violent incidents resulting in injury increased. In 2004, 25% of violent offences resulted in injury to the victim, compared to 18% in 1999.
- Most often, violent incidents took place in a commercial establishment or public institution (38%). Some form of workplace violence represented 43% of the incidents occurring in a commercial establishment or public institution.



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Introduction

In 2004, as part of its General Social Survey program, Statistics Canada conducted a survey on victimization. This survey collected information on the extent and nature of self-reported criminal victimization, the impact and consequences of crime to the victim, reporting to the police and the use of informal and formal services. Information was also collected on fear of crime, and public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. Similar surveys on victimization were conducted in 1999, 1993 and 1988. For the 2004 survey, interviews were conducted by telephone with about 24,000 people, aged 15 years and older living in the 10 provinces.¹

This *Juristat* explores the overall trends and regional variations of criminal victimization in Canada and shows that the level of violence has remained stable, while non-violent forms of victimization, namely theft of personal property and household victimization, have increased in prevalence. It also examines the individual risk factors associated with victimization,² revealing that youth and lifestyle play an important role in the risk of violent victimization, and renting a home and being in an urban setting place households at greater risk of household victimization.³ The impacts and consequences of being victimized are discussed, along with the informal and formal sources of support for victims.

Measuring victimization over the survey periods

Gathering data on trends in Canadian society, such as changes in victimization, is one of the principal objectives of the General Social Survey. While repeating the survey allows for trend analysis, the introduction of survey improvements can affect the comparability between different survey periods. The 1999 and 2004 surveys on victimization contain two important differences from the 1993 GSS: the inclusion of a spousal violence module and an improved definition of assault. The module on spousal violence allows for a better assessment of the extent of spousal violence, while the definition of assault has become consistent with the *Criminal Code* definition by excluding threats that were not face-to-face.

Extent of victimization and factors related to risk

For both the 1999 and 2004 GSS, the extent of victimization can be measured by merging together spousal violence incidents and data from the general victimization component of the survey. This procedure permits the calculation of victimization rates, which include both spousal and non-spousal violence.

While the addition of a spousal violence module enhances the measurement of violence committed by current and previous spouses/common-law partners, it prevents direct comparisons in rates of violent victimization with data from the 1993 GSS. Comparisons of violent victimization can only be made between the two conceptually similar cycles (1999 and 2004), or alternatively, comparisons between all three GSS survey periods must exclude violence committed by spouses, in addition to adjusting assault data for 1993 by removing threats that were not face-to-face.

1. Data collected in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Nunavut as part of a pilot test are not included in this analysis.
2. The analysis looks at each factor individually. There are likely interrelationships between the factors, for example, age and marital status or income and main activity. However, the objective of this publication is to provide a general, descriptive overview.
3. Unless otherwise noted, differences between estimates are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

**Text box 1
Offence Types**

The 2004 General Social Survey collected information on violent victimization, thefts of personal property, and household victimization. The distinction between these types of offences is based on the target of the criminal event. For violent offences and thefts of personal property, it is an individual who is victimized, while for household offences, it is the household itself.

Data were collected on three violent crimes (sexual assault, robbery, and assault), four household crimes (break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property, and vandalism), and theft of personal property. These offences were based on *Criminal Code* definitions. Respondents were also able to report criminal victimiza-

tion that could not be classified into any three of these categories. These offences were deemed 'unclassifiable'.

Incidents involving more than one type of offence, for example a robbery and an assault, are classified according to the most serious offence. The rank of offences from most to least serious is sexual assault, robbery, physical assault, break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of personal property, theft of household property, and vandalism. Incidents are classified based on the respondent's answers to a series of questions. For example, did anyone threaten you with physical harm in any way? How were you threatened?

Offence	Description
Violent Victimization	
Sexual assault	Forced sexual activity, an attempt at forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing, or fondling.
Robbery	Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator had a weapon or there was violence or the threat of violence against the victim.
Physical assault	An attack (victim hit, slapped, grabbed, knocked down, or beaten), a face-to-face threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present.
Theft of personal property	
	Theft or attempted theft of personal property such as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet (unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim).
Household victimization	
Break and enter	Illegal entry or attempted entry into a residence or other building on the victim's property.
Motor vehicle/parts theft	Theft or attempted theft of a car, truck, van, motorcycle, moped or other vehicle or part of a motor vehicle.
Theft of household property	Theft or attempted theft of household property such as liquor, bicycles, electronic equipment, tools or appliances.
Vandalism	Wilful damage of personal or household property.

For the purpose of this *Juristat*, changes in rates of violent victimization are examined using the first approach, i.e., comparing results from the 1999 and 2004 surveys. By doing so, it is possible to consider changes in rates of victimization for both spousal and non-spousal violence. Analysis of factors associated with increased risk of violent victimization, such as age and sex of the victim, also uses the same approach by including both spousal and non-spousal violence.

Conceptual changes to the GSS have not affected non-violent categories. Therefore, rates of non-violent incidents, including theft of personal property and household victimization, can be reliably compared between the three survey periods.⁴

Profile of victimization, impact of victimization, and sources of support

Sections providing details about each of the individual criminal incident types, namely the profile of violent incidents, the impact of violent victimization, and informal and formal sources of support, must exclude incidents of spousal violence. This is

because questions in the spousal violence module were meant to obtain an overall picture of these types of assaults rather than to capture specific information on each spousal violence incident. For example, victims of spousal violence were asked how many times they had been assaulted in the previous 12 months. They were also asked if they ever reported any of these incidents to the police. If a victim reported two incidents and also indicated that they turned to the police, it would not be possible to tell if they reported one or both of the incidents. The necessary exclusion of spousal violence, however, along with the modification to the 1993 assault category, permits comparisons with results from the 1993 GSS for these sections. For a detailed analysis of spousal violence, see Aucoin, K (ed.). 2005. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue no. 85-224. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

4. No comparisons are made in this analysis to the 1988 GSS, as there were significant changes to particular crime categories between 1988 and 1993.

Text box 2

Comparing victimization and police-reported crime data

In Canada, there are two primary sources of data on the prevalence of crime: victimization surveys such as the GSS on victimization, and police-reported surveys such as the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. These two surveys are very different in survey type, coverage, scope, and source of information.¹

In particular, the GSS is a sample survey, which in 2004, sampled about 24,000 individuals aged 15 years and older. The sample is weighted so that responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 years or over. In comparison, the aggregate UCR survey is a census of all incidents reported by police services across Canada. While the GSS captures information on 8 offences, the UCR survey collects data on over 100 categories of criminal offences.

Perhaps the most striking difference between the two surveys is that the UCR survey records criminal incidents that are reported to the police and the GSS records respondents' personal account of criminal victimization incidents. Many factors can influence the UCR police-reported crime rate, including the willingness of the public to report crimes to the police; reporting by police to the UCR survey; and changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices. For instance, when victims do not report incidents to police, those incidents will not be reflected in official crime statistics. Similarly, incidents that are reported to the police, but upon investigation are judged by police to be unfounded, are also excluded from official crime statistics.

One way to estimate the extent of crime that is not reported to police is through the GSS victimization survey. Because the GSS asks a sample of the population about their personal victimization experiences, it captures information on all crimes whether or not they have been reported to police. The amount of unreported victimization can be substantial. For example, the 2004 GSS estimated that 88% of sexual assaults, 69% of household thefts, and 67% of personal property thefts were not reported to the police. As a result, victimization surveys usually produce much higher rates of victimization than police-reported crime statistics.

Despite the benefits of victimization surveys, they do have limitations. For one, they rely on respondents to report events accurately. They are also only able to address certain types of victimization. They do not capture information on crimes that have no obvious victim (e.g., prostitution or impaired driving), where the victim is a business or school, where the victim is dead (as in homicides), or when the victim is a child (anyone under the age of 15 in the case of the GSS).

1. For more detailed information, please refer to Ogrodnik, L. and C. Trainor. 1997. *Differences between Police-Reported and Victim-Reported Crime, 1997*. Catalogue no. 85-542. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Changes in victimization⁵

More than one in four Canadians victimized over the past 12 months

Results from the 2004 GSS show that 28% of Canadians aged 15 years and over reported that they were victimized one or more times in the 12 months preceding the survey. This represents a slight increase from 1999 (26%).

The level of multiple victimizations recorded in 2004 was similar to the findings from 1999. About four in ten victims indicated that they were victimized multiple times. More specifically, 19% of victims experienced two criminal incidents over the course of the previous year, while 20% were victimized three or more times.

Concerning the distribution of offence types, household victimizations were the most frequently occurring incidents (34%), about the same as in 1999. The most serious types of victimization, violent offences, represented a further 29% of incidents, followed by thefts of personal property (25%). A small proportion of criminal incidents (12%) could not be classified within the eight offence types. Examples of these incidents include fraud and hit and run violations.

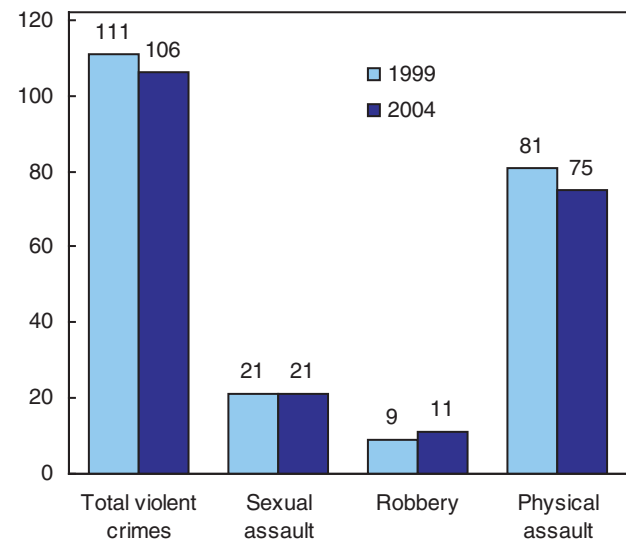
Rate of violent victimization stable

Results from the 2004 GSS found that Canadians feel safer from crime than in 1999 and are generally more satisfied with their overall personal safety (Gannon, 2005). Despite this positive shift, there has not been a corresponding decline in the rate of victimization between survey periods. According to the 2004 GSS, for every 1,000 Canadians aged 15 years and over, there were 106 incidents of violent victimization, similar to

Figure 1



Rate per 1,000 population 15 years and over



Note: Includes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999 and 2004.

5. This section includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault.

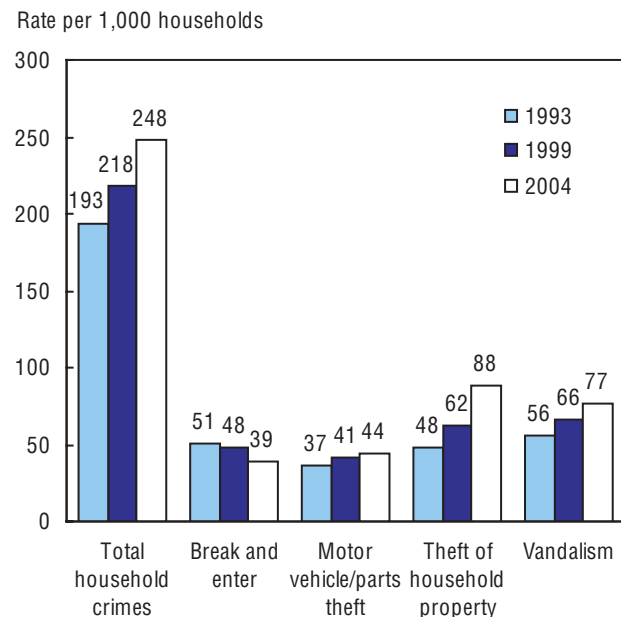
the rate recorded in 1999 (111) (Figure 1).⁶ The absence of a statistically significant change in overall rates can be attributed to the stability in rates for all three violent offence categories, namely sexual assault, robbery, and physical assault.

In contrast, household victimization continued on an upward trend (Figure 2). In 2004, there were 248 incidents of household victimization per 1,000 households in Canada, 14% higher than in 1999 (218) and 28% higher than in 1993 (193). The growth from 1999 to 2004 was due to an increase in both theft of household property and vandalism. For theft of household property, the rate rose from 62 to 88 thefts per 1,000 households between 1999 and 2004, while vandalism rates increased from 66 to 77 incidents per 1,000. The only household offence type to decrease was break and enter, which declined 19% from 48 to 39 incidents per 1,000 households. There was no significant change in rates of motor vehicle theft.

Similarly, the rate of personal property theft continued to increase in 2004, climbing from 75 to 93 incidents per 1,000 population between 1999 and 2004. This 24% increase, combined with the increase of 44% between 1993 and 1999, places the 2004 personal theft rate nearly 80% higher than the rate of 52 incidents per 1,000 population recorded in 1993.

Figure 2

 **Rates of household property theft and vandalism continue to increase**



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993, 1999, 2004.

Victimization across Canada in 2004⁷

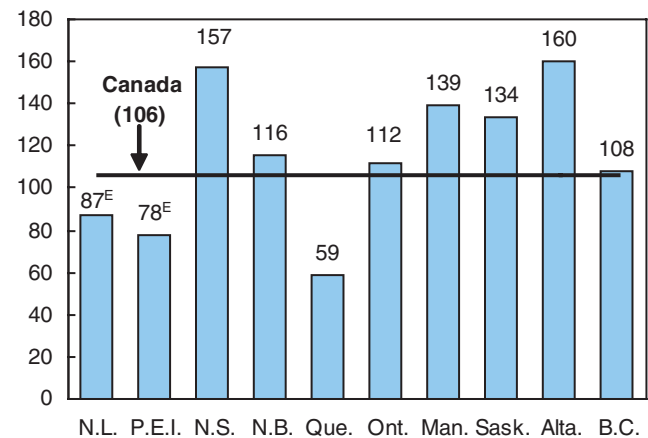
Household victimization highest in the West

Rates of victimization vary across Canada. The two highest violent victimization rates were found in Alberta and Nova Scotia (160 incidents per 1,000 population and 157 per 1,000) (Table 1, Figure 3). The next highest rates were recorded by the remaining Western provinces. In general, these rates were double the rate recorded by Quebec (59), the province with the lowest violent victimization rate.

Figure 3

 **Rates of violent victimization lowest in Quebec, 2004**

Rate per 1,000 population 15 years and over



Notes: Includes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
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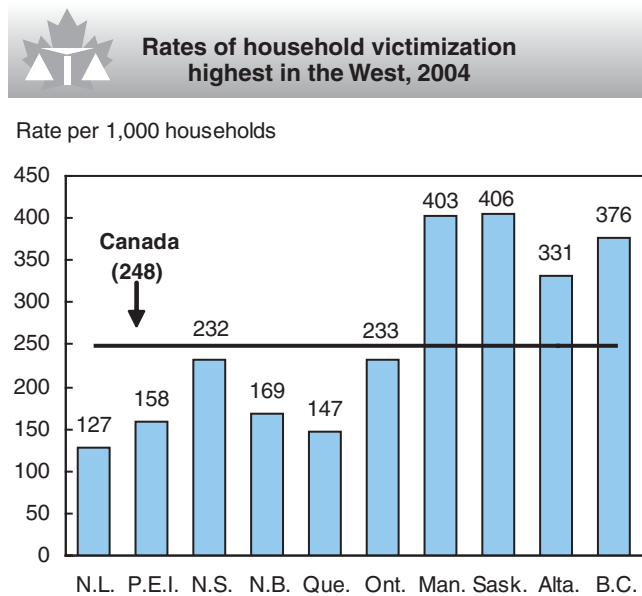
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Similar to the inter-provincial differences in victimization noted in the 1999 GSS, the likelihood of being a victim of a household offence was highest in Western Canada. Saskatchewan and Manitoba had the most household victimization incidents per 1,000 households (406 and 403) and also led the way with the largest increases since 1999 (71% and 57%, respectively) (Table 1, Figure 4). The lowest rates of household victimization were found in Newfoundland and Labrador (127 per 1,000) and Quebec (147). Quebec was also the only province to record a significant decrease in rates of household victimization (-28%). Rates of household victimization in the other provinces were generally higher than rates in 1999. The increases can be primarily attributed to increases in theft of household property and vandalism.

6. To control for size of the population, rates have been calculated to estimate the prevalence of victimization over time and between different groups of people. Rates of personal offences were calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 and over, and rates of household offences were calculated per 1,000 households.

7. This section includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault.

Figure 4



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

With the exception of Ontario, people living in Western Canada were also more likely to be victims of personal theft. Rates reported by Western provinces ranged from 96 incidents per 1,000 in Saskatchewan to 127 per 1,000 in British Columbia, while the rate in Ontario was 103. The lowest recorded rates of personal theft were found in Newfoundland and Labrador (55) and Quebec (58).

Quebec cities have lowest victimization rates

Given the fact that Canada is highly urbanized,⁸ rates of victimization in cities can have a strong impact on provincial rates. This appears to be the case, as the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) with the highest and lowest rates of victimization were generally situated in provinces with similar rankings.

Among the 17 CMAs with available violent victimization figures,⁹ Halifax recorded the highest rate of violent incidents (229) per 1,000 population aged 15 and over (Table 2). Edmonton was second with a rate of 191. In part, high rates in these CMAs help to explain why residents of Nova Scotia and Alberta had the greatest risk of violent victimization. Saint John and Regina had next highest rates (173 incidents per 1,000, each). These findings are unlike the 1999 GSS results when violent victimization rates were all highest in Western cities. In 2004, the lowest rates belonged to Québec (55) and Montréal (64), which is consistent with the low rates recorded in the province of Quebec.

Saskatoon residents were the most likely to report experiencing offences against their household with a rate of 572 incidents per 1,000 households.¹⁰ This was slightly above the second highest rate recorded in Abbotsford (561). Cities that recorded the lowest rates of household victimization were all found in the

province of Quebec. In particular, Saguenay had the lowest rate at 99 incidents per 1,000 household, followed by Sherbrooke (115), Trois-Rivières (146), and Québec (157).

For personal property theft, Vancouver and Winnipeg, which are both situated in provinces with the most personal thefts per 1,000 population, had the highest rates among the CMAs (rates of 136 and 135).¹¹ As well, Quebec CMAs again influenced the low rate recorded for the province of Quebec, as they had the lowest rates of personal property theft among the CMAs.

Violent victimization

Factors influencing risks of violent crime¹²

Research has shown that various factors contribute to a person's increased risk of being the target of a violent crime (Siegel and McCormick, 1999). These factors include personal and lifestyle characteristics, such as sex, age, marital status, main activity, frequency of going out in the evening, household income and location of residence.¹³

Women and men experience similar levels of violent victimization

Similar to what was found in 1999, women and men continue to experience comparable overall rates of violent victimization. In 2004, 102 violent incidents per 1,000 women 15 years of age and older were recorded, compared to 111 per 1,000 men 15 years of age and older (Table 3). Men's rates of physical assault (91 per 1,000) and robbery (13 per 1,000) continue to remain higher than women's rates, while the rate of sexual assault for women was five times higher than the rate for men (35 per 1,000 women versus 7 per 1,000 men).

Rates of overall violent victimization against both men and women have not changed significantly since 1999. However, while there were no significant changes in rates of robbery and sexual assault, the rate of physical assault against women dropped from 70 incidents per 1,000 in 1999 to 59 per 1,000 in 2004. The rate of physical assault against men remained relatively constant (92 in 1999 and 91 in 2004).

8. Urban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 per square kilometre, based on the previous census population counts. All territory outside urban areas is considered rural. Based on this definition, for the 2004 GSS, 80% of the population 15 years and older lived in an urban area and 20% in a rural area.
9. For violent victimization, data for 11 of the 28 CMAs were not releasable due to the high probability of sampling error (coefficient of variation over 33.3%).
10. For household crime, all 28 CMAs had releasable data.
11. For personal property theft, half of the 28 CMAs had releasable data. Data for the remaining CMAs were not releasable due to the high probability of sampling error (coefficient of variation over 33.3%).
12. This section includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault.
13. As previously indicated, the analysis looks at each factor individually. There are likely interrelationships between the factors, for example, age and marital status.

Rates of violent victimization highest among young people

Young people were particularly vulnerable to violent crime. In 2004, the rate for Canadians aged 15 to 24 years (226) was 1.5 to 19 times greater than the rate recorded for other age groups. The risk of violent victimization steadily declined as age increased. For example, those aged 25 to 34 years had a rate of 157 per 1,000, compared to a rate of 115 per 1,000 for the next oldest age group (those aged 35 to 44 years) (Table 3). Rates of violent victimization were lowest among the oldest segment of the population, those aged 65 and older. Specifically, these individuals had a rate of 12 violent incidents per 1,000 population.

Text box 3

Risk of spousal violence¹

According to the 2004 GSS, 7% of women and 6% of men experienced some form of physical or sexual violence from their current or previous spouse or common-law partner in the previous 5 years. While these figures are relatively similar, it was found that women experienced more serious, injurious and repeated violence than did men. Specifically, women were more likely than men to state that the most serious form of violence they experienced included being beaten, choked or being threatened with or having a gun or knife used against them (23% versus 15% of male victims). Women were also twice as likely as men to report experiencing more than 10 violent episodes (21% versus 11%), more than twice as likely to suffer an injury (44% versus 18%), and three times more likely to fear for their life because of the violence (34% versus 10%).

One factor related to spousal violence is emotional abuse.² In cases of current relationships in which emotional abuse existed, 25% of women and 19% of men experienced violence. In contrast, in current relationships where there was no emotional abuse, 1% of women and 2% of men reported experiencing violence. The survey also indicates that the risk of violence is particularly elevated at the time of separation, especially in the case of women. One-third (34%) of women who experienced violence during their relationship said that the violence increased in severity or frequency after separation. The number of men who indicated that the violence increased in severity following separation was too small to produce reliable estimates.

Rates of spousal violence over the previous 12 months were also found to be higher among certain segments of the population, namely young spouses, those in shorter-term relationships, and those living in common-law unions. In particular, spouses aged 15 to 24 years were more than twice as likely to be victims of spousal violence as those 35 years of age and older, while those in relationships of three years or less reported rates triple those in relationships that were longer than ten years in duration. Rates for those in common-law relationships, which tend on average to involve younger people and be of shorter duration, were three times higher than those in marital unions.

It was also found that people whose partners were heavy drinkers³ were six times more likely to experience spousal violence than those whose partners never drank heavily (6% versus 1%).

1. For more information on the nature and extent of spousal violence in Canada, see Aucoin, K (ed.). 2005. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue number 85-224-XIE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
2. Examples of emotional abuse include being isolated from family and friends, having no access to family income, or having property or possessions destroyed.
3. A heavy drinker is defined as someone who consumes five or more drinks on five or more occasions in a given month.

Frequency of evening activities elevates risk

Participating in evening activities, such as going to bars and visiting friends, is linked to other characteristics such as a person's income, marital status, and age. In 2004, those who reported participating in 30 or more evening activities in a given month also reported the highest rates of violent victimization (174 per 1,000 population) (Table 3).¹⁴ This rate was four times higher than those who partook in fewer than 10 evening activities in a one-month period (44 incidents per 1,000).

Between 1999 and 2004, rates of violent victimization remained relatively stable for people who participated in fewer than 30 evening activities per month, as well as for those who engaged in more than 30 evening activities.

Marital status linked to violent victimization

Based on the 2004 GSS, it is apparent that those who are single are at an elevated risk of being victims of violence (203 per 1,000) (Table 3). In part, this can be explained by the fact that single people tend to participate more frequently in evening activities and are generally younger.

Rates of violent victimization were somewhat lower for those who were in common-law relationships at 131 per 1,000. Yet, rates of violence were lowest among married people at 52 incidents per 1,000 population.¹⁵ While overall rates of

Text box 4

Hate-Motivated Crimes in Canada

Hate-motivated crimes are offences that not only harm the immediate victim, but may affect an entire community because they target not just the individual, but what the individual represents. Hate-motivated crimes are defined as crimes that are motivated by hate, not vulnerability, that are carried out due to the hatred of a person's sex, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or language.

In recent years in Canada, a number of hate crime units within police forces have been developed to address the special nature of these crimes. Since 1999, the GSS on victimization has attempted to quantify the extent to which victims believe that the criminal victimization was hate-motivated. In 2004, it was found that the overall percent of incidents believed by the victim to be hate-motivated remained unchanged since 1999 at 4%.

According to the 2004 GSS, violent offences are more likely than other offences to be hate-motivated: 8% of violent offences were believed to be motivated by hate, compared to 2% of household offences. In addition, similar to what was found in 1999, the most common motive for targeting an individual was their race or ethnicity, accounting for two-thirds of hate-motivated incidents (65%). About one-quarter (26%) of incidents were believed to be motivated by the victim's sex, followed by religion (14%) and sexual orientation (12%).

14. As a person can be involved in more than one activity per evening, for example going to a restaurant and then a movie, it is possible to be involved in more than 30 activities per month.
15. Data for widows and widowers were not releasable due to the high probability of sampling error (coefficient of variation over 33.3%).

Text box 5

Violence Among Diverse Populations

Through the 2004 GSS, it is possible to examine rates of violent victimization experienced by visible minorities, immigrants, including recent immigrants, and Aboriginal people, and to assess whether these segments of the population are at increased risk of being victimized.

Overall, Aboriginal people reported the highest rates of violent victimization compared to other minority populations and the non-Aboriginal population. Those who self-identified as being Aboriginal were three times more likely than the non-Aboriginal population to be the victim of a violent incident (319 people per 1,000 versus 101 per 1,000). Even when controlling for other factors such as age, sex, and income, Aboriginal people remained at greater risk of violent victimization.

Aboriginal women appeared particularly at risk of victimization. Rates for Aboriginal women were 3.5 times higher than the rates recorded for non-Aboriginal women, while rates for Aboriginal men were 2.7 times higher than those for non-Aboriginal men.

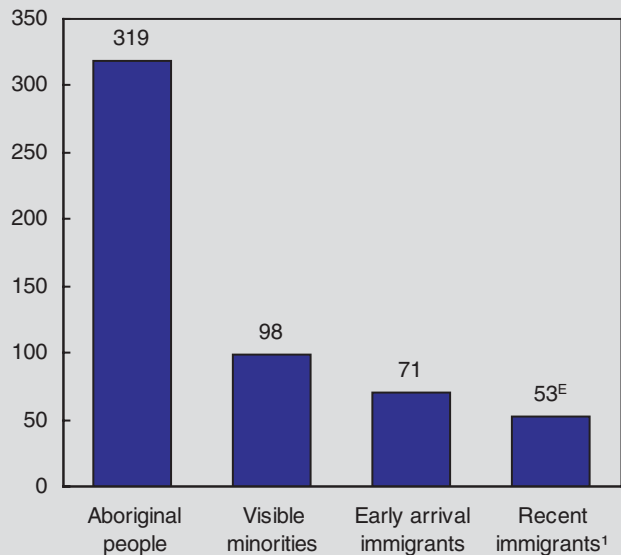
In the case of visible minorities, it was found that the risk of violent victimization did not differ significantly from their non-visible minority counterparts (98 versus 107 per 1,000 population) (Text box Figure). This was true for both men and women. However, in the case of immigrants, overall rates were lower than that of non-immigrants (68 versus 116 per 1,000 population). The reduced likelihood of victimization was even more pronounced when only those who had immigrated to Canada since 1999 were included. For example, 71 per 1,000 population of those who immigrated prior to 1999 were the victims of a violent crime, compared to 53 per 1,000 of those who had immigrated in the past 5 year period. Again, these patterns were similar for immigrant women and men.

One possible explanation for lower rates within the immigrant population may be due to the fact that the immigrant population tends to be older, a factor which reduces risk of victimization. According to the Census of the Population, compared to immigrants, a higher proportion of non-immigrants were under the age of 25 years, the most at-risk age group for violent victimization.



Aboriginal people have highest rates of violent victimization, 2004

Rate per 1,000 population 15 years and over



Notes: Includes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
^E use with caution

1. Included are immigrants arriving between 1999 and 2004.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

violent victimization among those living common-law were lower than those who were single and separated or divorced, rates of physical assault among those who were common-law and those who were separated or divorced were similar (106 versus 107 per 1,000). This finding may be due to the fact that spousal violence rates are elevated in common-law unions and among those in situations of separation and divorce.

The unemployed and students experience higher rates of violent victimization

The GSS asked people to identify their main activity over the previous 12 months. Types of activities ranged from being a student to being retired. The survey found that a person's main activity is related to their risk of violent victimization.

Overall, those who were looking for work had the highest rates of violent victimization, followed by students (207 per 1,000 and 183 per 1,000 respectively) (Table 3). This pattern is primarily driven by rates of physical assault. Rates of violent victimization were lowest for those who were retired (18 per 1,000), which may be explained by the fact that most retired individuals are also in the lowest age-risk category (aged

65 years and older) and tend to participate in fewer evening activities than their younger counterparts.

Rates highest among those with low household income

Often linked to age, marital status and main activity, individuals who lived in households with incomes of less than \$15,000 reported rates of violent victimization at least 1.5 times greater than those in higher income brackets (Table 3). However, there was relatively little difference in risk by income among individuals living in households earning \$15,000 or more.

Violent victimization rates higher in urban areas

Overall, those living in urban areas had higher rates of violent victimization than residents of rural areas. Urban residents experienced a total of 112 violent incidents per 1,000 population compared to 84 per 1,000 for rural residents (Table 3). The higher risk of victimization among urban residents was true for two of the three types of violent offences, sexual assault and robbery. There was no significant difference between urban and rural residents in terms of their risk of physical assault.

Sexual orientation associated with risk of violent victimization

As indicated in the text box examining hate-motivated crimes in Canada, it is evident that more than one in ten hate-motivated crimes are committed against someone because they were believed to be gay or lesbian. For the first time in 2004, the GSS asked all respondents to identify their sexual orientation in order to assess the extent to which one's sexual orientation impacts risk of victimization. According to the GSS, about 1% of Canadians aged 15 years and over identified themselves as Gays or Lesbians and this group was about 2.5 times more likely to be targets of violent victimization. The rate of violent victimization for those who were gay or lesbian was 242 per 1,000 population, compared to 99 per 1,000 population of those who were heterosexual. The numbers were too small to examine sexual assaults, robberies and physical assaults separately.

Profile of Violent Victimization Incidents¹⁶

While it is important to examine whether rates of violent victimization are increasing or decreasing and to assess factors that may be associated with an increased risk of victimization, it is also important to examine the nature and characteristics of these offences and who is committing acts of violence.

Victims most often victimized in commercial establishments or public institutions

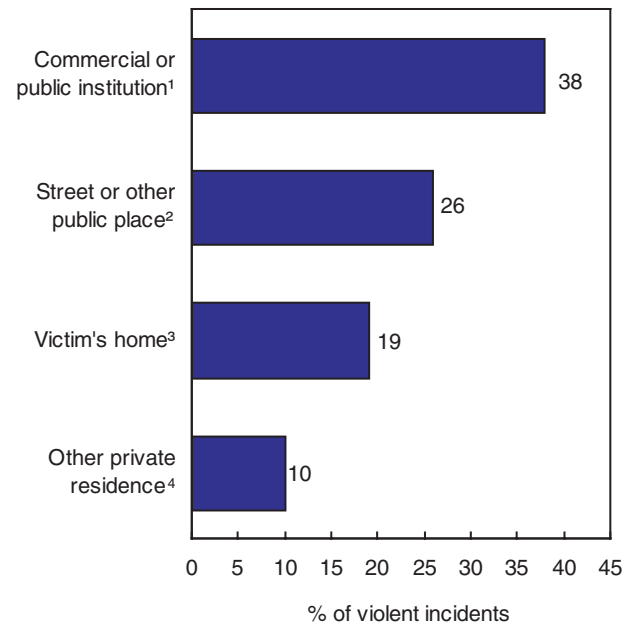
Violent incidents can occur in a number of different settings, including commercial establishments, other public places (e.g., streets and parks), and victims' homes or other private residences. Excluding spousal violence, violent incidents were most likely to occur in a commercial place or public institution (38%) (Figure 5). In particular, 14% of all violent incidents took place in an office, factory, store or shopping mall, 12% in a bar or restaurant, 7% in schools and 5% in hospitals.

In addition to being the most common location for violent victimization, commercial establishments were often the victim's place of work. In 2004, 43% of incidents occurring in a commercial establishment were also the victim's place of work. An office building, factory, store or shopping mall were most likely to be the victim's place of work (49%), followed by a hospital (31%), restaurant or bar (10%) and schools (10%).

Public places other than commercial or public institutions were the second most frequent locations of violent victimization. These places included sidewalks, streets or highways in or outside the victim's neighbourhood (18%), parking garages or parking lots (3%), rural areas or parks (3%), or on public transportation (2%).

Approximately one in five (19%) violent incidents took place either in the victim's home or elsewhere on the victim's residential property. Another 10% of incidents occurred in another private residence, which includes the offender's home or other residence or farm.

Figure 5



- Note:** Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
1. Includes a restaurant/bar, factory, a store, shopping mall, inside school or on school grounds, prison or rehabilitation centre.
 2. Includes public transportation, parking garages, parking lots, sidewalks, streets, highways, rural areas, parks.
 3. Includes inside home or apartment, vacation property, garage, building on property, yard, farm field, driveway, parking lot, shared areas such as apartment hallway or laundry room.
 4. Includes in or around offender's home or other private residence or farm.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

There were variations in the location of violent incidents depending on the offence type. While robbery incidents were most likely to take place on the street (43%), both physical and sexual assaults were most likely to occur in commercial establishments (39% and 49%, respectively). The most common commercial establishment where a sexual assault occurred was a bar or restaurant (20%) or an office building, factory, store or shopping mall (19%). In the case of physical assaults, the most frequent commercial establishment in which these offences took place was in an office building, factory, store or shopping mall (14%), followed by a bar or restaurant (11%).

A commercial establishment was more likely to be the victim's workplace in cases of physical assaults than in cases of sexual assaults (49% versus 35%). The numbers for robberies that occurred in the victim's place of work were too small to produce reliable estimates.

16. This section excludes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault because information on each incident is not available.

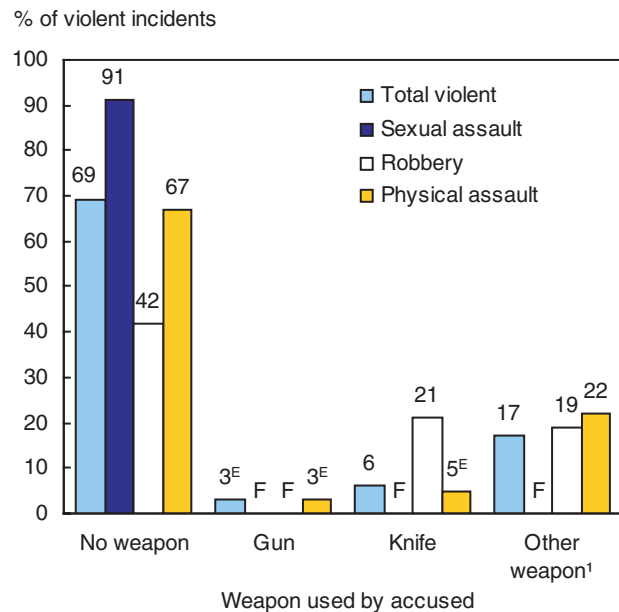
One-quarter of violent victimizations involve the use or presence of a weapon¹⁷

According to police-reported statistics, in 2004, about 75% of violent incidents did not involve the use or presence of a weapon.¹⁸ Similarly, when respondents to the 2004 GSS were asked whether a weapon was used or present in the violent incident committed against them, 69% of incidents did not involve a weapon, while one-quarter did (Figure 6).¹⁹

Among different types of violent offences, robberies were most likely to involve the use or presence of a weapon. Fully 45% of robbery incidents reported to the 2004 GSS involved the use or presence of a weapon, while this was the case for 29% of physical assaults. In the case of sexual assaults, the vast majority did not involve a weapon (91%).

Figure 6

Majority of violent incidents do not involve the presence or use of a weapon, 2004



Notes: Figures do not add to 100% due to don't know/not stated responses.

Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

^E use with caution

F too small to produce reliable estimates

1. Other weapon includes bottles, bats, sticks, and rocks.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Overall, knives were twice as likely to be present or used in a violent incident than were guns (6% versus 3%). Other weapons, including bottles, bats, sticks, and rocks, were present in 17% of violent offences.

Violent incidents often linked to alcohol or drug use

Much research has been conducted on the role of alcohol and drugs in the commission of crimes (Sumner and Parker, 1995; Boles and Miotto, 2003). In order to assess the extent to which alcohol or drugs were involved in violent crimes, respondents were asked whether they believed the incident was related to the person's alcohol or drug use. According to the 2004 GSS, in just over one-half (52%) of violent incidents, the victim believed that the accused's alcohol or drug use played a role. This proportion increased from 43% of incidents since the survey was last conducted in 1999. Alcohol or drug use by the perpetrator did not vary considerably among the three types of violent offences, which ranged from 48% of sexual assault incidents to 55% of physical assaults.

Violent victimization most often involve a male acting alone

In Canada, there has been growing concern about crimes committed by gangs (Hackler, 2003). Although the GSS does not measure gang-related violence, it is able to assess the number of accused involved in a violent incident. Results from the GSS show that about one in five violent incidents involved more than one accused (22%). The majority of violent incidents (76%), however, were committed by one accused (Table 4). Of the three types of violent offences, robberies were most likely to involve more than one accused (39%). There has been no significant change in the proportion of violent incidents committed by two or more accused between 1999 and 2004 (73% versus 76%).

Among the 76% of violent incidents in which one accused was involved, the vast majority of accused were male (87%). This remained true for the three types of violent offences, ranging from 86% of physical assaults to 91% of sexual assaults.

According to the victim, the majority of accused acting alone tended to be young, with one-half between the ages of 18 and 34 years. In another 13% of incidents, accused were believed to be between the ages of 12 and 17 (Table 4). The proportion of those who committed acts of violence was lowest among those who were 55 years of age and older. While this pattern generally holds true for the three types of violent offences, those accused of sexual assault tended to be older on average. Forty percent of sexual assault incidents were committed by someone 35 years of age and older. This was the case for only about 31% of physical assaults and 26% of robberies.

17. The GSS asked respondents whether a weapon of any kind was present or used in the violent incident. Weapons include guns, knives, bottles, bats, sticks, rocks and other things that could be used as a weapon.

18. The police-reported survey, or the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), provides detailed information on criminal incidents reported to the police. The data for 2004 are based on a sample of 120 police departments, representing 58% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

19. In 6% of violent crime incidents, it was unknown whether the person committing the incident had a weapon.

Half of violent incidents committed by someone known to the victim

Friends, acquaintances or someone else known to the victim were the perpetrators in half (51%) of violent incidents involving a lone accused.²⁰ Strangers were the next most common perpetrator, accounting for 44% of violent incidents. A small proportion (5%) of incidents was committed by a family member; however, this analysis excludes spousal violence. If spousal violence incidents were included in the total, the proportion of offences committed by a family member would increase to 32%.

The relationship of the accused varies across the different types of violent offences. For both sexual and physical assault incidents, individuals were most likely to be attacked by a friend, acquaintance or someone else known to the victim (64% and 49%). Meanwhile, perpetrators were most often strangers in robbery incidents (60%).

Impacts and consequences of violent crime²¹

There are a number of ways in which the overall impact and consequences of violent incidents can be assessed, including physical injury to the victim, seeking medical attention for injuries, experiencing difficulty carrying out main activities, and emotional impacts.

Rise in incidents of violent victimization causing injury

While there has been no significant change in the overall presence or use of a weapon in violent victimization, a higher percentage of violent incidents resulted in physical injury. In 2004, 25% of violent incidents resulted in the victim being physically injured, compared to 18% of incidents in 1999 (Figure 7). The rise may be fuelled by an increase in relatively minor physical injuries (e.g., bruises), given the fact that there has been no significant change between 1999 and 2004 in the proportion of incidents where medical attention was sought.

While there has been no change in the proportion of sexual assault incidents that resulted in physical injury (7%), significantly higher proportions of robberies (30%) and assaults (31%) resulted in physical injuries in 2004 compared with 1999 (22% for both robbery and physical assault).

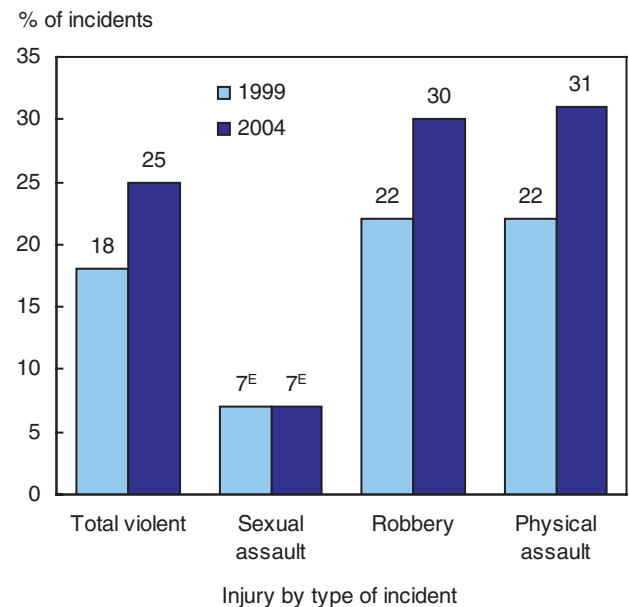
Some victims find it difficult to carry out their everyday activities

Victims had difficulty carrying out their main activity because of the violence in one-quarter of incidents. Incidents of robbery were most likely to disrupt a person's main activity. For example, in slightly more than one-third of robbery incidents (35%), victims found it difficult to carry out their main activity compared to 25% of sexual assaults and 22% of physical assault incidents.

Among those victims who had difficulty carrying out their main activity, 37% said that it was for one day, while a further 39%

Figure 7

More violent incidents resulting in injury in 2004



Note: Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault. ^E use with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

indicated it was for two to seven days. Sixteen percent of victims who had their main activities disrupted said that they were affected for more than two weeks.

One-quarter of victims of violence said that the incident didn't affect them much

Not all violent incidents result in physical injury, but many may leave emotional scars. Yet, in about one-quarter (26%) of incidents, victims said the incident did not affect them much. Among those emotions that the incident did evoke, being angry (32%), being upset, confused or frustrated (20%) and feeling fearful (18%) were the most prevalent. For about one in ten incidents, victims said that their experience made them more cautious or aware (9%) (Figure 8). There were no discernible differences in emotional impacts among the three types of violent offences.

Informal and formal sources of support²²

While some victims of violent victimization may not have told anyone about their experience until telling the survey interviewer over the phone (7%), many relied on various

20. Includes only violent incidents with one perpetrator.
 21. This section excludes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault because information on each incident is not available.
 22. This section excludes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault because information on each incident is not available.

Figure 8

Anger is the most common reaction among victims of violent victimization, 2004



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to multiple responses. Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

sources of support to help them cope with their experience, ranging from contacting the police to talking to a family member or a co-worker about the incident. In order to assess the extent to which victims seek help or support from others, a number of questions were asked concerning the use of both formal and informal services.

Reporting rates for violent victimization remains unchanged

Victim surveys capture not only incidents reported to the police, but also those that are never brought to the attention of the police. Unlike the overall patterns in police reporting, which indicate that fewer victims are turning to the police,²³ reporting of violent victimization remained stable between 1999 and 2004. In 1999, 31% of violent victimization incidents were reported to the police, compared with 33% of incidents in 2004.²⁴ Among violent incidents, robberies and physical assaults were most likely to be reported (46% and 39%). Sexual assaults were the least likely to be reported to police (8%) (Table 5).

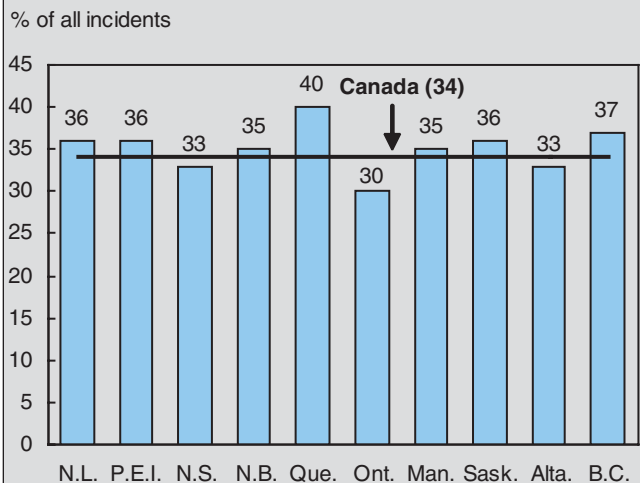
Many victims of violent victimization feel a duty to report to police

There are a number of reasons why victims of violent crime may choose to report to the police. The reason most often cited in the 2004 GSS was that they felt it was their duty to

**Text box 6
Reporting to police by region**

There are some regional variations in the decision to contact the police. Reasons for these differences could be related to the reporting structure of police services. In some areas, victims of crime can report incidents to police directly over the phone, while in other cases the victims are required to file a report in-person. Variations in the amount of time required to report and the ease of reporting may be considerations taken into account by victims in determining whether or not to report their victimization.

Rates of reporting to police vary across the country, 2004



Note: Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Overall, 34% of all victimization incidents were reported to police in 2004, down from 37% in 1999. When examining reporting by province, the proportion ranged from 40% of incidents in Quebec to 30% in Ontario (Text box Figure). The greater rate of reporting in Quebec is driven by the high level of reporting for violent incidents.

Quebec residents were most likely to report violent victimizations to police, with almost half (49%) of incidents coming to the attention of police. The next highest rates of reporting violent victimization were in Prince Edward Island (37%) and Nova Scotia (36%). As for household victimization, police were most likely to find out about the incident in Prince Edward Island (51%) and least likely in Ontario (33%).

Among the CMAs with available figures,¹ rates of reporting for all victimization incidents varied from 17% of incidents in St. Catharines-Niagara to 46% in Sherbrooke.

1. Data for some CMAs were not releasable.

23. In 1999, 37% of incidents were reported to police, compared to 34% in 2004.
 24. There was no statistically significant difference between 1999 and 2004.

report to the police, accounting for 83% of incidents.²⁵ Many violent incidents were also reported to the police because the victim wanted the offender arrested or punished (74%), or wanted the violence stopped or wanted protection from the offender (70%).

Other reasons reported, such as to claim insurance or receive compensation (20%) or because it was recommended by someone else to report to the police (19%) were only mentioned as reasons for bringing the incident to the attention of the police in about one in five violent incidents.

Other factors that appear to influence police reporting of violent victimization include the severity or seriousness of the offence, including whether the victim was injured, whether a weapon was present and whether the incident resulted in the victim having to take time off from their main activity because of the violence. Incidents in which the victim was injured were about 1.5 times more likely to be reported to the police than incidents that did not result in injury (47% versus 28%). Rates of reporting to police were more than double for incidents involving weapons than those without any weapons (53% versus 25%) and double if the victim had to take time off from their everyday activities (51% versus 27%).

Young victims least likely to turn to police

A victim's age and sex are also linked to the likelihood that a violent incident will come to the attention of police. Similar to the 1999 survey, young victims were the least likely to contact the police for help, with 24% of incidents involving victims aged 15 to 24 years being reported. This proportion is lower than the reporting rates for older age groups.

Women reported their violent victimization to police in 26% of incidents, compared to 38% of incidents involving men. The lower rate of reporting for women may be driven, in part, by the fact that women were more often than men the victim of sexual assault, which is the offence most likely to go unreported.

Visiting the scene and making a report or conducting an investigation are most common actions taken by police

Respondents who said that the police found out about the incident were asked what actions the police took when notified of the violent incident. In three-quarters of the violent incidents that were brought to the attention of the police, the police visited the scene (77%) or made a report or conducted an investigation (73%). In about one in four violent victimization, the police gave the offender a warning (37%), and in 30% of incidents the police took the offender away or made an arrest or laid a charge.

Victims satisfied with police action in six out of ten violent incidents reported to police

Generally, the Canadian public feels that their local police are doing a good job (Gannon, 2005). Victims of criminal incidents who reported the incident to the police were also asked whether they were satisfied with the actions the police took. Victims of violent victimization said that they were either very satisfied

(36%) or somewhat satisfied (24%) with police actions. In only 14% of violent incidents were victims somewhat dissatisfied, but in one-quarter of incidents victims said that they were very dissatisfied with police actions (24%). Numbers were too small to examine robbery and sexual assault separately, but in the case of physical assault, patterns of satisfaction were similar to the overall level of satisfaction with police actions for violent incidents.

"Incident not important enough" often cited as reason for not reporting

Of the 66% of violent incidents that were not reported, six in ten violent incidents were not reported to the police because the victim dealt with the violent incident in another way.²⁶ Other common reasons cited for not reporting a violent incident to the police was because the victim felt that the incident was not important enough (53%), they didn't want the police involved (42%), they felt that it was a personal matter (39%), or they didn't think the police could do anything about it (29%). In just over one in ten violent incidents, the victim felt that the police wouldn't help (13%), and in almost an equal proportion of incidents, the victim did not report because they feared retaliation by the offender (11%).

When victims were asked to cite what was the main reason for not reporting to the police, findings were similar. Overall, 28% of violent incidents were not reported to police because they were dealt with in another way and a further 28% were not reported because the victim felt that they were not important enough to bring to the attention of the police.

As indicated previously, incidents that did not involve an injury, weapon or where the victim did not have to take time off from their everyday activities were less likely to be reported to the police.

About one in ten victims of violence seek help from a formal help agency

In Canada, there are a range of services that victims can turn to for help, including counsellors or psychologists, community or family centres, women's centres, victim services and crisis centres or help lines. In 2004, victims sought assistance from these services in about one in ten violent victimization (9%). Despite having the lowest rates of police reporting, sexual assault victims were more likely than physical assault victims to rely on these services (13% versus 7%). Seeking help from a counsellor or psychologist was the most frequently used service among all victims of violence.


Victims of violent victimization most likely to turn to friends or neighbours

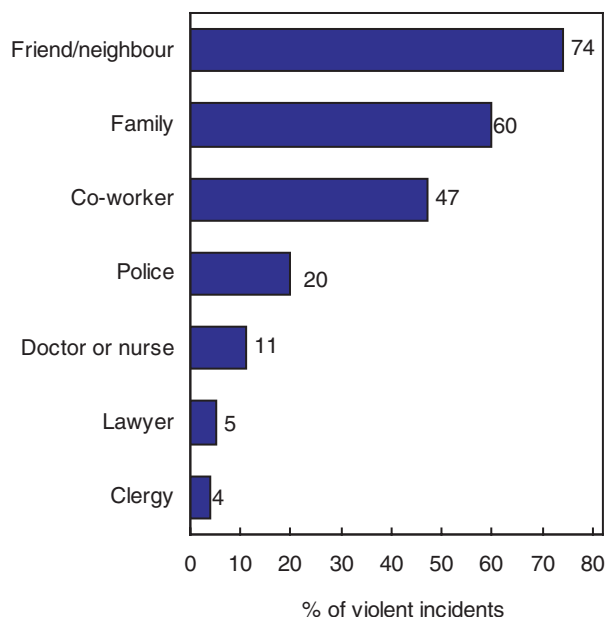
While victims turned to a formal help agency in only about one in ten violent incidents, the overwhelming majority of victims turned to informal supports to help them deal or cope with

25. Respondents were able to cite multiple reasons for contacting the police. Therefore, percentages do not total 100%.
 26. Respondents were able to cite multiple reasons for not reporting incidents to police. Therefore, percentages do not total 100%.

their experience (90%). In nearly three-quarters of incidents, victims of violence said they told either a friend or neighbour about the incident, while in 60% of incidents, victims said they discussed the incident with family (Figure 9). In just under one-half of incidents, victims confided in a co-worker (47%). Victims of violent offences mentioned the incident to a medical practitioner in about one in ten incidents and to a lawyer or clergy in about 5% of incidents.

Figure 9

 **Victims more likely to turn to a friend or neighbour following a violent incident, 2004**



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to multiple responses. Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

While victims of sexual assault were more likely to seek help from a formal help agency, they were less likely than victims of robbery or assault to turn to informal support including friends, family or co-workers.

Household victimization

Factors influencing risks of household victimization

A number of factors have been linked to a household's likelihood of being a target for victimization. These factors often center on the home's proximity to high-crime areas, its attractiveness to potential offenders, and whether there is an element of guardianship²⁷ (Besserer and Hendrick, 2001). Some of these factors include location of the home (urban/rural), the type of dwelling, home ownership, household income, and size of household.

Text box 7

Characteristics of theft of personal property

Theft of personal property includes theft of such things as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet, but unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim. It is mostly an urban phenomenon in that urban residents are one and one half times more likely than rural residents to have their personal property stolen.

According to the 2004 GSS, females were more likely than males to be the victim of personal property theft (100 per 1,000 population versus 86), and risk decreased with age. Rates for individuals aged 15 to 24 years were almost 5 times greater than the rates for those 55 years of age and older (165 versus 35 per 1,000 population). In addition, similar to household victimization, those whose income was higher were also at greater risk. Specifically, Canadians with a household income of more than \$60,000 experienced rates of personal property theft about one and one half times greater than those earning less than \$30,000.

Just under one half (44%) of these incidents took place in a commercial building, of which stores, shopping malls and office buildings were the most common location. A further one-third occurred inside or around the victim's home of which the majority of these took place around the victim's home.

In 2004, 31% of personal property theft incidents were reported to the police. This represents a decrease in reporting from both 1999 (35%) and 1993 (42%). However, as in 1999, incidents with significant dollar losses were more likely to be reported to the police. When the value of the stolen property was \$1,000 or greater, 77% of thefts were reported to police.

While victims were most likely to say that they reported to the police because they felt that it was their duty to report (58%) or to arrest and punish the offender (44%), in about 4 in 10 incidents victims said that the main reason for not reporting to the police was because it was not important enough. In fact, in 42% of personal property theft incidents, out-of-pocket expenses to the victim were less than \$100.

Shorter periods of residence related to risk

Individuals who have lived in their homes for a short period of time were more likely to experience household victimization. Rates of household victimization were highest among homes where residents lived in their dwelling for less than one year (317 incidents per 1,000 households). The rate of household victimization declined with greater residential stability. The lowest rate belonged to households with a length of residency of ten years or more (196).

As would be expected, shorter periods of residence tend to be characterized by fewer bonds with neighbours, which may translate into reduced guardianship when the home is unoccupied (e.g., people to watch over the home during the workday). According to the 2004 GSS, those who lived in their residences for short periods of time were less likely to know their neighbours and less likely to state they lived in a neighbourhood where neighbours help each other. For

27. Guardianship has been defined as the efforts that are made to increase personal safety and reduce the risk of victimization (Miethe et al., 1987).

instance, when the length of residence was under one year, 72% of individuals stated they live in a neighbourhood where people help each other. This compares to 81% for those who lived in their dwelling for 3 years to less than 5 years and 84% for those who lived in their dwelling for 5 years to less than 10 years.

When looking at all those who lived in their dwelling for less than 10 years,²⁸ it appears that although familiarity with neighbours did not influence risk of household victimization, the quality of relationships with neighbours did have an impact. The risk of household victimization among people who stated that they lived in a neighbourhood where neighbours help each other was 55% lower than for those who did not feel this way (262 incidents per 1,000 versus 404 per 1,000). As well, lower rates were recorded for those who stated their neighbours had done a favour for them in the last month (rate of 261 compared to 297).

Homes located in urban areas at increased risk

Regardless of the type of household victimization, the risk of household victimization is elevated when the home is located in an urban area. In 2004, there were 269 incidents per 1,000 households in urban areas, compared to a rate of 164 in rural areas (Table 6). Urban residents also experienced an increase in the rate of household victimization from 1999 (+16%), while people living in rural areas saw no change in the household victimization levels.

The higher rates of household victimization in urban centres may reflect the possible reduced guardianship and proximity to motivated offenders. Urban dwellers were less likely than rural dwellers to state that they live in a neighbourhood where neighbours help each other (75% versus 87%). This may suggest that fewer people in urban settings have neighbours who would keep watch over their property while they are away from their home.

Rates highest among renters

Rates of household victimization were highest among renters. In 2004, rented dwellings had a rate of 267 incidents per 1,000 households, compared to a rate of 242 for owned dwellings (Table 6). Again, people's connections with neighbours and the element of guardianship may offer one possible explanation for the higher rates of victimization for rented homes. That is, renters were less likely than home owners to say that their neighbours would help one another. Therefore, it may be less likely that neighbours are aware of and would respond to unusual activity in or around a neighbour's property.

Vandalism was the only household victimization where owned dwellings were more likely to be targeted. In fact, the vandalism rate (81 per 1,000 households) for owned homes was 19% higher than the rate for rental homes (68). One factor that may be contributing to these findings is that renters may not consider common areas or areas on the exterior of their rented dwelling as their household property. Consequently, renters may not report to the survey vandalism that occurs in these areas, whereas home owners are more likely to report vandalism occurring anywhere on their property.

Household income increases risk

While lower household income increases the risk of violent victimization, the opposite is true for household victimization. Results from the 2004 GSS suggest that the overall rate of household victimization increases with household income. In particular, households with an income of \$60,000 or more had a rate of 300 incidents per 1,000 households (Table 6). This rate was 17% greater than the rate (257) for the middle household income category of \$30,000 to \$39,999, and 88% greater than the rate (160) for the lowest household income category of less than \$15,000. Having a high income increased the risk of household victimization for all four household offences. It might be that higher income households are more attractive to potential thieves in that they presumably have more property or property that is considered more valuable.

Households with fewer members at lower risk

People living alone had the lowest risk of household victimization. In 2004, homes with one household member had a rate of 178 incidents per 1,000 households (Table 6). This rate steadily rose to a high of 323 incidents per 1,000 households for homes with 4 or more occupants. The association between household size and household victimization was fairly consistent for most types of household offences. Vandalism, however, had the highest rate (103 incidents per 1,000 households) among homes with 3 members, followed by those with 4 or more occupants (rate of 92).

Semi-detached, row, and duplex homes have highest risks

The type of home can influence the probability of household victimization. As with the 1999 GSS, people residing in semi-detached, row and duplex homes had the highest rates of household victimization, at 323 incidents per 1,000 households (Table 6). This compares to a rate of 247 per 1,000 households for single detached homes and 213 per 1,000 households for apartments.

Even when taking into account household income, home ownership and length of residency, the type of dwelling remains a general risk factor for household victimization. Residents of semi-detached, row, and duplex homes consistently have higher overall rates of household victimization than other house types with comparable income, ownership, and length of residency profiles. The risk to apartment dwellers increases slightly among households with an income of less than \$60,000, making them more vulnerable than residents of single detached homes in the same income bracket. However, apartment dwellers remain at lower risk than residents of semi-detached, row houses and duplexes.

The relationship between housing type and rates of household victimization holds true for most types of household victimization incidents. The one exception is theft of motor vehicles or parts. In this case, there was little difference in risk between the three main dwelling types. This may be because motor vehicle theft

28. Data on bonds with neighbours were collected among those who lived in their residences for less than 10 years.

is more likely than other crimes to occur in a location other than the person's home;²⁹ hence, the type of dwelling is less of a factor in the commission of these crimes.

Impact of household victimization

Victims of break and enter most affected emotionally by victimization

While not as serious as violent crime, household victimization can have considerable negative consequences on victims' emotional and financial wellbeing. In 2004, the most common emotional reaction to household victimization was that of anger (41% of incidents). In another 22% of incidents, victims felt upset, confused or frustrated, while in 12% of incidents, victims felt annoyed. No emotional impact was cited in one out of five household victimization incidents (20%).

A break and enter into the home generally evoked more negative emotions than other types of household victimization. For instance, victims of break and enter were nearly four times as likely as other household crime victims to be fearful as a result of the experience (19% of incidents compared to 5% for household thefts and 6% for vandalism and motor vehicle theft). Break and enter incidents were also most likely to make victims more cautious (13%) and feel more victimized (11%). Vandalism, however, was more likely to produce feelings of anger among victims (46% of incidents).

Most stolen items are never recovered

The GSS asked questions on whether household victimization incidents resulted in the loss or damage of property either through theft or vandalism. In some cases, incidents were not completed and are considered attempts.

Among the three theft-related offences, property was lost in about 8 out of 10 incidents. This represents an increase from 1999, when about 7 in 10 theft-related offences involved stolen property. The likelihood that items were stolen was highest for thefts of household property, where only 2% were attempts. In other words, property was taken in virtually all incidents of theft of household property (98%). For break and enter and theft of motor vehicle/parts, households suffered a property loss in over half of incidents (58% and 57%, respectively).

When property is stolen, the impact on victims can be even more severe when items are never recovered. Irreplaceable items that go unrecovered can cause additional emotional upset, while the process of replacing goods can involve time spent filing insurance claims, compiling lists of property loss, waiting for any compensation, and buying new items. In 12% of incidents, stolen property was partially or fully recovered and returned to the victim. The successful recovery of stolen property nearly doubled when it involved the theft of motor vehicles or parts (21%). Research has suggested that recovered vehicles are often those that are stolen for the purpose of joyriding, transportation, or to aid in the commission of another crime (Wallace, 2004). Those stolen vehicles that are never recovered may have been stolen as part of a larger criminal network and are therefore more difficult to locate.

Damage or destruction of personal and/or household property as a result of vandalism or other types of household victimization can have similar consequences to having property stolen. Often, damaged items must be repaired or replaced. By definition, all cases of vandalism resulted in damage to property.

Majority of victims lose under \$500

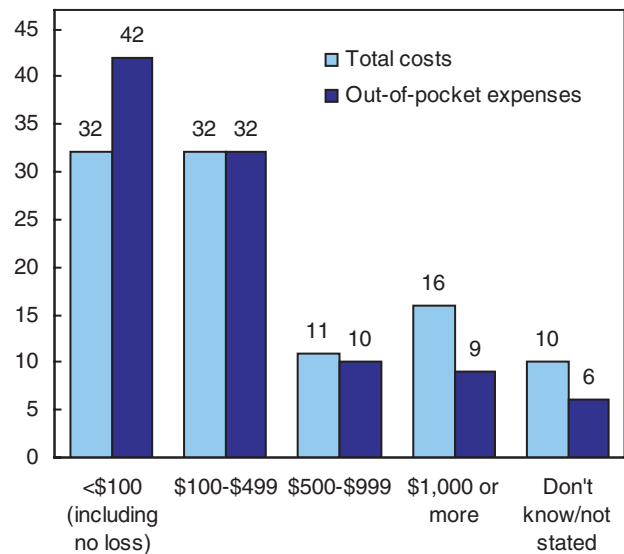
In nearly two-thirds of incidents (63%), the economic loss resulting from household victimization was less than \$500. In fact in 10% of incidents, households did not suffer any financial consequence from the experience. The relatively small amount of financial loss may be explained by the fact that 28% of break and enter incidents and 43% of theft of motor vehicles or parts were attempts.

The impact of financial loss is also tempered by compensation from insurance or other sources. In other words, the actual loss to victims decreases when accounting for successful insurance claims and other types of reimbursement, such as settlements received through criminal or civil courts. By factoring in compensation, the percentage of incidents where victims incurred losses of more than \$500 decreased from 27% of incidents to 19%. Meanwhile victims who lost less than \$100 grew from 32% of incidents to 42% (Figure 10).

Figure 10

Total cost of household victimization often less than \$500, 2004

% of household victimization incidents



Notes: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Total costs include all costs associated with the incident, while out-of-pocket costs are total costs less any compensation through insurance or other sources.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

29. According to the 2004 GSS, 56% of thefts of motor vehicle or parts took place at the person's residence. This compares to 62% of vandalism incidents, 68% of thefts of household property, and 100% of break and enters.

Not all victims are covered by insurance. Among incidents where the victims suffered some type of financial loss, 24% did not have insurance. Victims of household property theft were least likely to be insured (38% of incidents), followed by victims of break and enter (25%). In contrast, victims were insured in 91% of incidents of motor vehicle thefts/parts, reflecting the fact that provincial laws require some type of vehicle insurance. In addition, a high percentage (85%) of vandalism victims were covered, perhaps signalling that home owners, who are most at risk of vandalism, also tend to have higher rates of insurance coverage.

Overall, fewer victims of household victimization are turning to insurance companies to deal with their monetary losses. In 21% of incidents where people were covered under insurance, the victims sought compensation. This is lower than the proportion in both 1999 (31%) and 1993 (42%). One explanation may be the increase in insurance deductibles over this period.

Not surprisingly, the greater the dollar amount lost, the greater the likelihood that victims will attempt to obtain compensation through insurance.³⁰ In 62% of incidents with a loss of \$1,000 or more, victims filed an insurance claim. This compares to 23% of household victimization incidents with a loss between \$500 and \$999 and 5% with losses under \$500.

In three out of four incidents, victims who filed an insurance claim were successful. About 17% of cases did not result in compensation and 8% of cases at the time of the survey were not yet resolved.

Reporting household crimes to police

Incidents more likely to be reported when property loss is high

Closely linked to filing claims to insurance companies is reporting victimization to police. In order to obtain compensation, insurers often require a police report to process a claim. In 2004, about 4 in 10 incidents of household victimizations (37%) came to the attention of police (Table 5). This seemingly low rate of reporting can be partly explained by the fact that no items were actually taken in 21% of theft-related household crime offences.

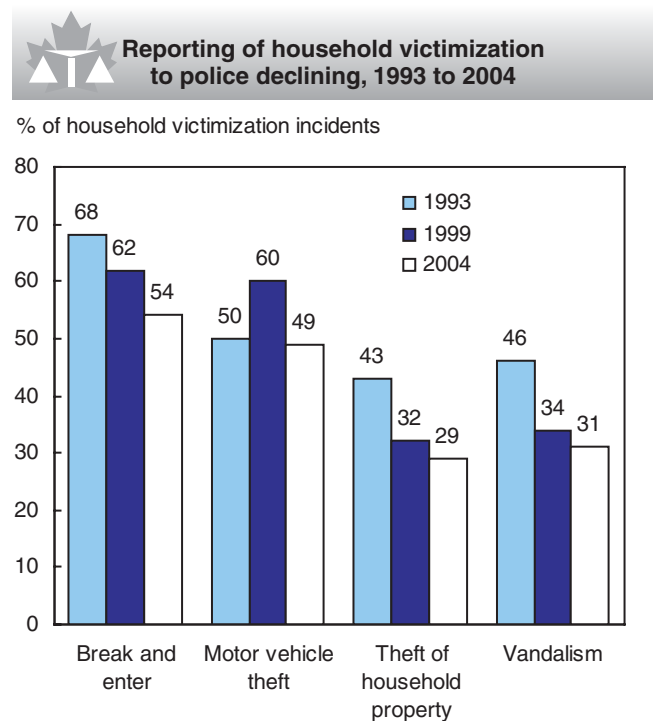
When incidents do result in a significant financial loss, people are more likely to turn to the police. For example, reporting to police occurred in 8 out of 10 incidents involving a loss of property valued at \$1,000 or greater. This proportion is more than double the reporting rate when the property stolen or damaged was valued at \$200 to \$499 (32%), and five times greater than when losses were between \$1 and \$100 (15%).

The type of offence also plays a role in whether incidents are reported to police. Break and enter and motor vehicle/parts theft incidents had the highest rates of reporting to police, with about half being reported to police (54% and 49%, respectively) (Table 5). When losses totalled \$1,000 or more, reporting rates rose to 84% for break and enter and 89% for theft of motor vehicles or parts.

Fewer victims reporting household crimes

The proportion of incidents involving police intervention has decreased from 1999 for two of the four household offences – break and enter and theft of motor vehicles/parts. Reporting break and enter continued a downward trend that began in 1993, whereas reporting to police changed course for theft of motor vehicles/parts (Figure 11). Rates for thefts of motor vehicle/parts dropped after increasing in 1999 and have returned to levels recorded in 1993.³¹ In comparison, the rate of reporting for theft of household property and vandalism remained unchanged between 1999 and 2004.

Figure 11



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993, 1999 and 2004.

Desire for compensation leading reason for reporting among victims with losses of \$1,000 or more

Victims have different reasons for contacting the police. Based on the four household offences, the most common response was that victims felt that it was their duty to tell police, which was named as a reason in 84% of cases.³² A desire to “arrest or punish” the offender was next at 62%, followed by a wish

30. Includes only those people who are covered by insurance.

31. In 1999, the increase in reporting to police for thefts of motor vehicle/parts thefts appeared to be primarily driven by reporting of parts thefts.

32. Respondents were able to cite multiple reasons for contacting the police. Therefore, percentages will not total 100%.

to obtain compensation through insurance or other sources (51%) or to stop the incident (41%). Only 12% of victims said it was because someone recommended that they make a police report.

Victims who suffered the greatest financial losses were most likely to say they reported the incident because they wanted compensation or wanted the offender arrested. For example, in 75% of incidents with losses of \$1,000 or more, victims reported the crime to police for insurance reasons. This compares to 57% of incidents where property loss totalled \$500 to \$999, and 28% of incidents with losses between \$100 and \$499. Victims wanted the offender caught and arrested in 72% of incidents involving a loss of \$1,000 and over versus 57% of incidents with a loss between \$100 and \$499.

A desire to stop the incident was more likely cited as a reason for reporting among victims who lost under \$100 compared to other victims. There were no other significant differences in reasons for reporting by value of property lost.

Police conducted an investigation in three out of every four reported household crimes

In violent crimes, police can sometimes intervene during or soon after the incident has occurred. This is rarely the case in incidents of household victimization. Victims of household crimes most often discover property has been stolen or damaged after the fact. Police are much less likely to find the accused on the scene of household crime incidents and, therefore, victims of household crimes are less likely than violent crime victims to see police deal directly with the accused. Based on those household incidents that were reported to police, victims were aware of police giving a warning to the offender in less than 10% of incidents (compared to 37% of violent victimizations). Another 5% of incidents involved taking the offender away, arresting or laying charges (compared to 30% of violent victimizations).

Conducting an investigation was by far the most frequent police action, with about 76% of household crime incidents reported to the police resulting in a police investigation. In just over half (54%) of household victimization incidents, the police visited the scene. This proportion increased to 71% when it involved a break and enter into the home.

Two out of three victims of reported household crimes were satisfied with police actions

In two-thirds of household victimizations reported to police, victims were satisfied with the handling of their case. More specifically, in 28% of incidents, victims were very satisfied with police actions, while in 40%, victims were somewhat satisfied. Satisfaction levels were relatively similar for all four types of household offences. Identical proportions of incidents had victims who were either somewhat or very dissatisfied with the actions taken by police (14% each).

Text box 8

Victims of household victimization more likely to want to participate in victim-offender mediation programs

There are a number of ways to deal with a criminal incident outside of the traditional police-court process, including victim-offender mediation programs. Victim-offender mediation programs aim to address the needs of both the victim and the offender and usually involve a formal meeting where the victim and offender meet to discuss an appropriate method of repairing the harm caused by the victimization. Meetings are face-to-face and involve a trained mediator.

All respondents who reported a victimization incident were asked whether they would have been interested in participating in a victim-offender mediation program. Similar to what was found in 1999, in almost one-half of incidents (48%) the victim indicated that they would have been willing to meet with the perpetrator in order to discuss the best method to repair the harm done, while 50% said that they would not have been interested at all.

It was also found that significant differences in the level of interest exist between victims of violent offences and victims of non-violent offences. For example, in two-thirds of violent incidents (65%), the victim was not at all interested in mediation with the offender compared to 44% of non-violent offences. Unwillingness to participate in such a program was especially evident in the case of sexual assault incidents, where in 72% of sexual assault incidents, the victim said that they were not at all interested. Overall, those most willing to participate in a mediation program were victims of vandalism.

While there was little difference expressed by male and female victims (in 47% of incidents, male victims were interested in participating in mediation, compared to 51% of incidents involving female victims), age is linked to interest in participation. Specifically, it was found that older victims were more interested in meeting with the perpetrator through a mediation program than were younger victims. For example, while in 58% of incidents, victims aged 55 to 64 years were very, somewhat, or slightly interested in participating, this was the case for only 42% of incidents involving victims aged 15 to 24 years.

“Incident not important enough” was common reason for not reporting

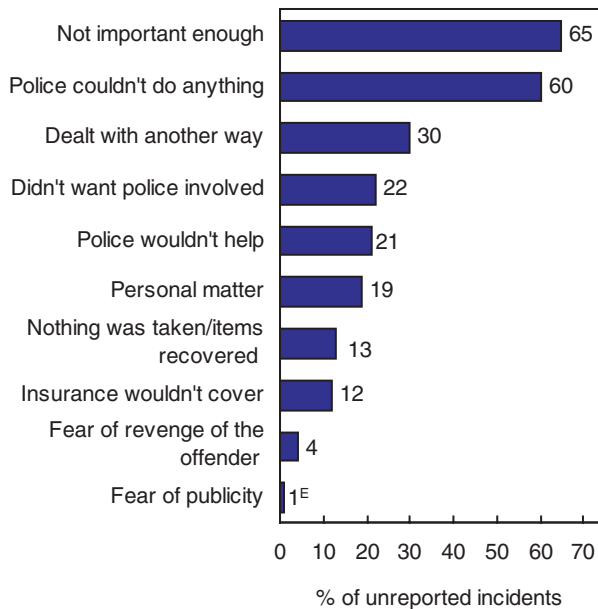
In two-thirds of household victimization incidents, victims stated that the incident was not important enough to involve the police (Figure 12).³³ Almost as common among victims of household offences was the reason that “police couldn’t do anything” (60%).

Besides the top two reasons, in 30% of household offences, victims stated that they dealt with the experience in another way, 22% did not want to involve the police and 21% thought that the police would not help. The incident was considered a personal matter and not a concern of police in one out of five cases. Issues relating to the nature and extent of financial loss were also reasons for not turning to police. In 13% of incidents, victims did not report because nothing was ever taken or the items were recovered, and in 12% of incidents, victims felt that insurance would not cover it.

33. Respondents were able to cite multiple reasons for not reporting incidents to police. Therefore, percentages will not total 100%.

Figure 12

Most common reason for not reporting household victimization was “incident was not important enough”, 2004



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to multiple responses. ^E use with caution

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

When asked to give a main reason for not reporting incidents to police, the two most common reasons again were that the incident was not important enough (43%) and that the police couldn't do anything (25%). Differences start to emerge when considering the value of property stolen or damaged. Victims of household victimization were less likely to say that the incident was “not important enough” when the value of property lost was considerable. For instance, in 60% of incidents with a property loss of \$1 to \$100, victims said that the incident was too minor to bring to the attention of police. This reason drops in prevalence to 24% for incidents with a property loss of \$500 to \$999 and 9% for losses of \$1,000 or greater.

On the other hand, as the dollar value of the property stolen or damaged increased, feelings that police could not do anything became a more common reason for not reporting. In one-third of incidents involving a loss of \$1,000 or more, victims chose not to report the household victimization based on the belief that the police could not do anything. This compares to 16% of incidents with a loss under \$100.

There were also some variations in reasons for not reporting based on the type of household victimization. Theft of household property victims were more likely than other victims to feel that the incident was too minor to report, while victims of vandalism were more likely to say that police couldn't do anything to help.

Methodology

In 2004, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the General Social Survey for the fourth time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993 and 1999. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of the extent to which people experience incidences of eight offence types, examine risk factors associated with victimization, examine reporting rates to police, and measure fear of crime and public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

Sampling

Households in the 10 provinces were selected using Random Digit Dialing (RDD). Once a household was chosen, an individual 15 years or older was selected randomly to respond to the survey. Households without telephones, households with only cellular phone service, and individuals living in institutions were excluded. These groups combined represented 4% of the target population. This figure is not large enough to significantly change the estimates.

The sample size in 2004 was about 24,000 households, similar to the sample size in 1999 (26,000) and considerably higher than the sample in 1993 and 1988 (10,000 each).

Data collection

Data collection took place from January to December 2004 inclusively. The sample was evenly distributed over the 12 months to represent seasonal variation in the information. A standard questionnaire was conducted by phone using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A typical interview lasted 30 minutes.

Response rates

Of the 31,895 households that were selected for the GSS Cycle 18 sample, 23,766 usable responses were obtained. This represents a response rate of 75%. Types of non-responses included respondents 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 years or over. Each person who responded to the 2004 GSS represented roughly 1,000 people in the Canadian population aged 15 years and over.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. The difference between the estimate obtained from the sample and the one resulting from a complete count is called the sampling error of the estimate. This *Juristat* uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate that has a high CV (over 33.3%) has not been published because the estimate is too unreliable. In these cases, the symbol 'F' is used in the figures and data tables. An estimate that has a CV between 16.6 and 33.3 should be used with caution and the symbol 'E' is used.

Using the 2004 GSS sample design and sample size, an estimate of a given proportion of the total population, expressed as a percentage is expected to be within 0.8 percentage points of the true proportion 19 times out of 20.

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Table 1

	Canada ²	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Number of incidents (000s)											
Total violent	2,751	38^E	9^E	122	72	365	1,124	128	106	410	378
Sexual assault	546	8 ^E	F	31 ^E	11 ^E	67 ^E	253	32	17	54	72
Robbery	274	F	F	13 ^E	F	45 ^E	111 ^E	18	13	42	20
Physical assault	1,931	28 ^E	F	78	52 ^E	252	759	78	75	315	286
Theft of personal property	2,408	24	11^E	65	54	358	1,032	98	76	247	443
Number of incidents (000s)											
Total household	3,206	27	9	91	53	476	1,119	186	168	414	663
Break and enter	505	4 ^E	1 ^E	13	7	97	163	34	31	57	97
Motor vehicle/parts theft	571	5 ^E	1 ^E	17	9	94	183	32	26	73	132
Theft of household property	1,136	8	4 ^E	32 ^E	22	154	414	63	61	150	229
Vandalism	993	10	3 ^E	29 ^E	15	132	359	58	50	135	205
Rate per 1,000 population 15+											
Total violent	106	87^E	78^E	157	116	59	112	139	134	160	108
Sexual assault	21	19 ^E	F	40 ^E	18 ^E	11 ^E	25	35 ^E	21 ^E	21 ^E	21 ^E
Robbery	11	F	F	17 ^E	F	7 ^E	11 ^E	20 ^E	17 ^E	16 ^E	6 ^E
Physical assault	75	65 ^E	F	101	83 ^E	41	76	85	96	123	82
Theft of personal property	93	55	95^E	84	87	58	103	106	96	97	127
Rate per 1,000 households											
Total household	248	127	158	232	169	147	233	403	406	331	376
Break and enter	39	18 ^E	21 ^E	34	22	30	34	73	76	46	55
Motor vehicle/parts theft	44	25 ^E	21 ^E	42	27	29	38	69	63	58	75
Theft of household property	88	39	69 ^E	82 ^E	71	47	86	136	147	120	130
Vandalism	77	46	48 ^E	73 ^E	49	41	75	125	120	108	116

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

^E Use with caution.


F too unreliable to be published.

1. Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Nunavut, which were collected as part of a pilot test.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 2



Number and rate of victimization by Census Metropolitan Area, 2004¹

	Total violent victimization		Total household victimization		Theft of personal property	
	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate per 1,000 population 15+	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate per 1,000 households	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate per 1,000 population 15+
CMA²						
St. John's	10 ^E	70 ^E	14	202	13 ^E	93 ^E
Halifax	71	229	46	293	40 ^E	130 ^E
Saint John	17 ^E	173 ^E	11	232	F	F
Saguenay	F	F	6 ^E	99 ^E	F	F
Québec	33 ^E	55 ^E	49	157	41 ^E	69 ^E
Sherbrooke	F	F	8 ^E	115 ^E	3	25
Trois-Rivières	F	F	11 ^E	146 ^E	82 ^E	61 ^E
Montréal	189	64	269	175	211	72
Ottawa-Gatineau	134 ^E	143 ^E	110	234	83 ^E	89 ^E
Kingston	F	F	17 ^E	282 ^E	F	F
Oshawa	44 ^E	156 ^E	32 ^E	248 ^E	36 ^E	130 ^E
Toronto	451	107	426	222	451	107
Hamilton	66 ^E	114 ^E	71	248	66 ^E	115 ^E
St. Catharines-Niagara	F	F	36 ^E	217 ^E	F	F
Kitchener	59 ^E	162 ^E	44	242	31 ^E	85 ^E
London	F	F	76	398	40 ^E	105 ^E
Windsor	F	F	42 ^E	339 ^E	F	F
Sudbury	F	F	13 ^E	220 ^E	F	F
Thunder Bay	F	F	17 ^E	322 ^E	F	F
Winnipeg	84	155	131	487	73	135
Regina	27 ^E	173 ^E	35	424	19 ^E	120 ^E
Saskatoon	27 ^E	146 ^E	54	572	18 ^E	98 ^E
Calgary	137 ^E	161 ^E	125	307	65	77
Edmonton	154 ^E	191 ^E	145	361	79 ^E	98 ^E
Abbotsford	F	F	31 ^E	561 ^E	F	F
Vancouver	194	107	413	462	246	136
Victoria	40 ^E	148 ^E	26 ^E	181 ^E	30 ^E	112 ^E

^E Use with caution.

F too unreliable to be published.

1. Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. A CMA (census metropolitan area) refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 3



Number and rate of violent victimization by victim characteristics, 2004¹

	Number of incidents				Rate per 1,000 population			
	Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Physical assault	Total violent	Sexual assault	Robbery	Physical assault
Victim characteristics								
Total	2,752	547	274	1,931	106	21	11	75
Sex								
Females	1,339	460	104 ^E	775	102	35	8 ^E	59
Males	1,412	86 ^E	170	1,156	111	7 ^E	13	91
Age (years)								
15 to 24	967	243	142	581	226	57	33	136
25 to 34	692	133	46 ^E	513	157	30	10 ^E	116
35 to 44	595	102	44 ^E	449	115	20	8 ^E	87
45 to 54	296	37 ^E	31 ^E	229	62	8 ^E	6 ^E	48
55 to 64	153	25 ^E	F	120 ^E	45	7 ^E	F	36 ^E
65 and over	48 ^E	F	F	39 ^E	12 ^E	F	F	10 ^E
Marital status								
Married	689	87 ^E	45 ^E	558	52	7 ^E	3 ^E	42
Common law	352	44 ^E	22 ^E	286	131	16 ^E	8 ^E	106
Single	1,386	339	182	866	203	50	27	127
Widow or widower	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Separated or divorced	285	70 ^E	23 ^E	192	159	39 ^E	13 ^E	107
Don't know/not stated	F	0	F	F				
Main activity								
Working at a job	1,701	267	158	1,276	114	18	11	85
Looking for work	86 ^E	9	17	60 ^E	207 ^E	F	F	145 ^E
A student	586	178	70 ^E	338	183	56	22 ^E	106
Household work ²	154	31 ^E	F	118	78	15 ^E	F	60
Retired	80 ^E	F	F	56 ^E	18 ^E	F	F	13 ^E
Other ³	101 ^E	33 ^E	13 ^E	55 ^E	167 ^E	55 ^E	21 ^E	91 ^E
Don't know/not stated	43 ^E	F	F	27				
Evening activities (# per month)								
Less than 10	277	52 ^E	F	209	44	8 ^E	F	33
10 to 19	459	81 ^E	28 ^E	350	77	14 ^E	5 ^E	59
20 to 29	525	105	57 ^E	363	104	21	11 ^E	72
30 and more	1,491	309	174	1,009	174	36	20	118
Don't know/not stated	0	0	0	0				
Household income (\$)								
0 to 14,999	177	43 ^E	19 ^E	115	156	38 ^E	17 ^E	102
15,000 to 29,999	277	64 ^E	32 ^E	180	104	24 ^E	12 ^E	68
30,000 to 39,999	236	42 ^E	F	174	105	19 ^E	F	77
40,000 to 59,999	418	95	30 ^E	293	94	21	7 ^E	66
60,000 and over	997	155	82 ^E	759	106	16	9 ^E	80
Don't know/not stated	647	147 ^E	92 ^E	409				
Location of home								
Urban	2,307	469	32	1,596	112	23	12	77
Rural	445	78 ^E	242 ^E	335	84	15 ^E	6 ^E	64

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published


1. Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. Includes taking care of children and maternity/paternity leave.

3. Includes long-term illness and volunteering.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 4



Profile of the accused in violent incidents, 2004¹

	Total violent		Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault	
	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%	No. (000s)	%
Incident characteristics								
Total	2,109	100	512	100	274	100	1,323	100
Number of accused								
One	1,595	76	457	89	159	58	979	74
More than one	460	22	31 ^E	6 ^E	107	39	321	24
Don't know/not stated	32 ^E	2 ^E	F	F	8 ^E	3 ^E	23 ^E	2 ^E
Sex of accused²								
Male	1,395	87	414	91	140	88	841	86
Female	194	12	43 ^E	9 ^E	19 ^E	12 ^E	132	14
Don't know/not stated	F	F	F	F	0	0	F	F
Age of accused²								
Under 12 years	37 ^E	2 ^E	0	0	F	F	37 ^E	4 ^E
12 to 17	204	13	F	F	24 ^E	15 ^E	165	17
18 to 34	803	50	248	54	90	57	465	47
35 to 54	443	28	143	31	38 ^E	24 ^E	261	27
55 and over	77	5	39 ^E	9 ^E	F	F	36 ^E	4 ^E
Don't know/not stated	30 ^E	2 ^E	F	F	F	F	F	F

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. Based on incidents with a single accused.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 5


Victimization incidents reported to the police, 2004¹

	Total no. of incidents	Incidents reported to the police ²		Incidents not reported to the police		Don't know/not stated	
	(000s)	(000s)	%	(000s)	%	(000s)	%
Total	7,723	2,613	34	4,962	64	148	2
Total violent	2,109	687	33	1,381	66	41^E	1^E
Sexual assault	512	42 ^E	8 ^E	448	88	F	F
Robbery	274	127	46	144	53	F	F
Physical assault	1,323	519	39	789	60	16 ^E	1 ^E
Total household	3,206	1,188	37	1,958	61	59	2
Break and enter	505	275	54	223	44	7	1
Motor vehicle/parts theft	571	281	49	285	50	5	1
Theft household property	1,136	330	29	786	69	20	2
Vandalism	993	303	31	664	67	26	3
Theft personal property	2,408	738	31	1,623	67	47^E	2^E

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

2. Includes incidents reported by the victim or by someone else.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 6


Number and rate of household victimization by household characteristics, 2004

	Number of incidents (000s)					Rate per 1,000 households				
	Total household victimization	Break and enter	Motor vehicle theft/parts theft	Theft of household property	Vandalism	Total household victimization	Break and enter	Motor vehicle theft/parts theft	Theft of household property	Vandalism
Total	3,206	505	571	1,136	993	248	39	44	88	77
Location of home										
Urban	2,786	434	497	994	861	269	42	48	96	83
Rural	420	72	74	142	132	164	28	29	56	51
Household income (\$)										
0 to 14,999	136	34	18	50	33	160	41	21 ^E	59	39
15,000 to 29,999	363	59	68	137	99	223	36	42	84	60
30,000 to 39,999	317	61	49	115	92	257	50	39	93	74
40,000 to 59,999	599	91	111	208	189	267	41	49	93	84
60,000 and over	1,229	171	231	425	402	300	42	56	104	98
Don't know/not stated	561	88	94	201	179					
Household size										
1 person	611	125	96	210	180	178	37	28	61	53
2 persons	961	144	173	323	321	219	33	39	74	73
3 persons	658	89	122	233	213	317	43	59	112	103
4 or more persons	977	147	181	370	279	323	49	60	123	92
Type of home										
Single detached	1,902	293	346	648	617	247	38	45	84	80
Semi-detached, row house, or duplex	584	82	83	236	182	323	45	46	131	101
Apartment	614	110	124	218	162	213	38	43	76	56
Other	62	11	9	23	18	215	39 ^E	32 ^E	82 ^E	61 ^E
Don't know/not stated	43	9	9	10	15					
Ownership of home										
Owned	2,140	309	377	737	718	242	35	43	83	81
Rented	1,020	187	186	387	260	267	49	49	101	68
Don't know/not stated	45	9	9	11	15					

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

For further information, please contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 19th floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 at (613) 951-9023 or call toll-free 1 800 387-2231. To order a publication, you may telephone (613) 951-7277 or fax (613) 951-1584 or visit the Internet: infostats@statcan.ca. You may also call 1 800 267-6677 (Canada and United States) toll-free. If you order by telephone, written confirmation is not required.

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