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Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014

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Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
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- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^P preliminary
- ^r revised
- X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- * significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014: highlights

- Just under one-fifth of Canadians aged 15 years and older reported being the victim of one of the eight offences measured by the 2014 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization, down from just over a quarter in 2004.
- Victimization rates for all crimes measured by the 2014 GSS were lower than those reported 10 years earlier, with the exception of sexual assault, which remained stable. From 2004, the violent victimization rate fell by 28%, while the household victimization rate decreased by 42% and the rate of theft of personal property declined by 21%.
- Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec recorded the lowest rates of violent victimization among the provinces, while Manitoba posted the highest rate in 2014.
- All of the Atlantic provinces and Ontario reported household victimization rates below the average for the 10 provinces, while the opposite was observed in each of the Prairie provinces and British Columbia.
- Among the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) with releasable estimates, the CMA of Calgary recorded the lowest violent victimization rate while the CMAs of Halifax and Winnipeg posted the highest.
- Household victimization rates were lowest in the Québec CMA, while most western CMAs recorded rates that were higher than the national average.
- Unlike previous GSS cycles on victimization that found similar violent victimization rates among males and females, women posted a higher rate than men in 2014. This was mainly due to the relative stability of the sexual assault victimization rate—of which the majority of victims are women—while the victimization rate of other violent crimes declined.
- Being young was the main contributing factor to the risk of violent victimization. The rate of violent victimization was highest among persons aged 20 to 24 years and then decreased gradually with age.
- Mental health was the second most influential factor associated with the risk of violent victimization in 2014. About 1 in 10 Canadians reported a mental health-related disability, a developmental or learning disability, or self-assessed their mental health as poor or fair. These individuals combined reported a rate of violent victimization more than four times that of people who self-assessed their mental health as excellent or very good.
- Just under one-third of Canadians reported experiencing some form of abuse at the hands of an adult before the age of 15. People who experienced child maltreatment recorded violent victimization rates that were more than double those of people who did not experience child maltreatment.
- According to the GSS, in 2014 just over one-quarter of violent incidents involved a weapon and just under one in five violent incidents resulted in injury to the victim. In about half of violent incidents (excluding spousal violence) the victim knew the offender.
- About one out of seven victims of violent crime reported having suffered symptoms similar to post-traumatic stress as a result of their victimization.
- Some of the main risk factors for experiencing household victimization are living in a CMA, living in a single (detached) house, living in a dwelling for only a short time, living in a neighbourhood with low social cohesion, or renting the place that you live in.
- According to the GSS, just under one-third (31%) of criminal incidents were brought to the attention of the police in 2014, a proportion slightly lower than 10 years earlier, when 34% of incidents were reported. The proportions of incidents reported to the police ranged from 50% for break-ins to as little as 5% for sexual assaults.

Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014

by Samuel Perreault

Criminal victimization has serious impacts on the well-being of victims, their families and friends, their community and on society as a whole (Justice Canada 2013). Impacts can be both direct and indirect and can include financial, physical, psychological as well as emotional consequences. Overall, crime can impact a community's sense of well being, and can result in heightened costs for policing, victim services and additional prevention measures adopted by businesses and communities.

In addition to collecting police-reported data annually through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), every five years Statistics Canada conducts the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization which asks Canadians to self-report victimization for eight offence types.¹ Data from the GSS inform us on the victimization experiences of Canadians aged 15 years and older, including incidents not brought to the attention of the police. This information is used by various justice stakeholders to guide victim services, policing, family violence initiatives, and crime prevention programs (Government of Canada 2012).

This *Juristat* article presents the first results from the 2014 GSS on Victimization. The analysis provides insight on the nature and extent of criminal victimization in the 10 provinces.^{2,3} The report also examines the factors associated with the risk of being the victim of a crime, the consequences of victimization, and the reporting of incidents to police. While the rates presented in the first part of this report include data on spousal violence, the sections on the characteristics of incidents, consequences of victimization and reporting to police exclude data on spousal violence. Data on spousal violence were collected using a different methodology and will be analysed in a separate report.

Text box 1

Definition of criminal victimization in Canada

The GSS on Victimization surveyed Canadians on their experiences with eight types of offences, which are:

Violent victimization: Sexual assault, robbery or physical assault.

- **Sexual assault:** Forced sexual activity, attempted forced sexual activity, unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling, or sexual relations without being able to give consent.
- **Robbery:** Theft or attempted theft in which the offender 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, purse or wallet. Unlike robbery, the offender does not confront the victim.

Household victimization: Break and enter, theft of motor vehicle or parts, theft of household property or vandalism.

- **Break and enter:** Illegal entry or attempted entry into a residence or other building on the victim's property.
- **Theft of motor vehicle or parts:** 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.

Decrease in victimization reported by Canadians

In 2014, just under one in five Canadians aged 15 years and older (approximately 5.6 million people) reported that they or their household had been the victim of at least one of the eight crimes measured by the GSS in the 12 months preceding the survey. This proportion is down from 2004, when just over a quarter of Canadians reported having been a victim of a crime.

Canadians reported a total of 6.4 million criminal incidents in 2014. The majority (65%) of those incidents were non-violent. Theft of personal property was the crime most frequently reported by Canadians to the GSS, representing one-third (34%) of all victimization incidents. Physical assault, the most frequent violent crime, followed at 22%. This was followed by theft of

household property (12%), sexual assault (10%), vandalism (9%), break and enter (7%), theft of motor vehicle or parts (4%) and robbery (3%).

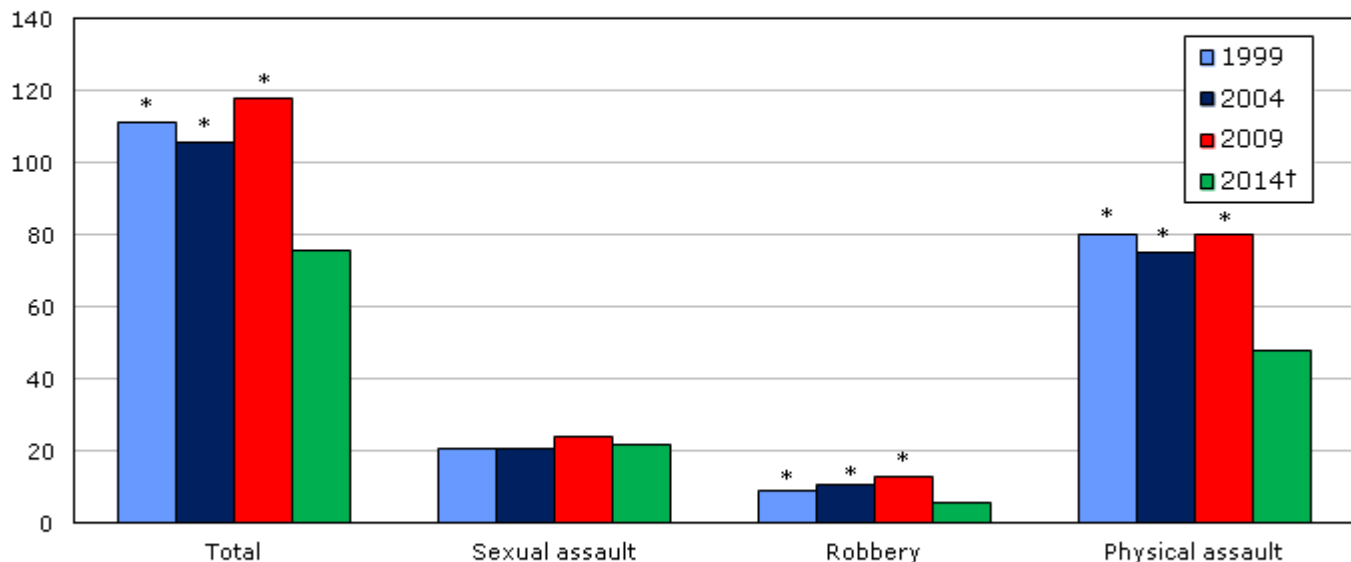
Most Canadians who had been victimized reported only a single incident. However, more than one-third (37%) of victims reported having been the target of at least two victimization incidents in the preceding 12 months.

Violent victimization declines

Violent victimization, which includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault, was lower in 2014 than 10 years ago. Just over 2.2 million violent incidents were reported by Canadians in 2014, for a rate of 76 violent incidents per 1,000 people aged 15 years and older. This rate is 28%⁴ lower than in 2004 and represents the first decline since 1999.⁵ (Table 1, Chart 1).

Chart 1
Violent victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by type of offence, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014

rate per 1,000
population
aged 15 and over



† reference category

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

Note: As of 2014, sexual assault includes having had non-consensual sexual relations because the victim was drugged, manipulated or forced in some way other than physically.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Among the different types of violent crime, robbery showed the most significant decrease from 2004, falling by 39%.⁶ Physical assault was next, with a decrease of 35%. Sexual assault, at 22 incidents per 1,000 people, was the only crime for which the victimization rate remained relatively stable over the past decade. Furthermore, sexual assault was the only violent crime type for which the victimization rate remained relatively stable since 1999, while the 2014 rates for both physical assault and robbery were significantly lower than in 1999.

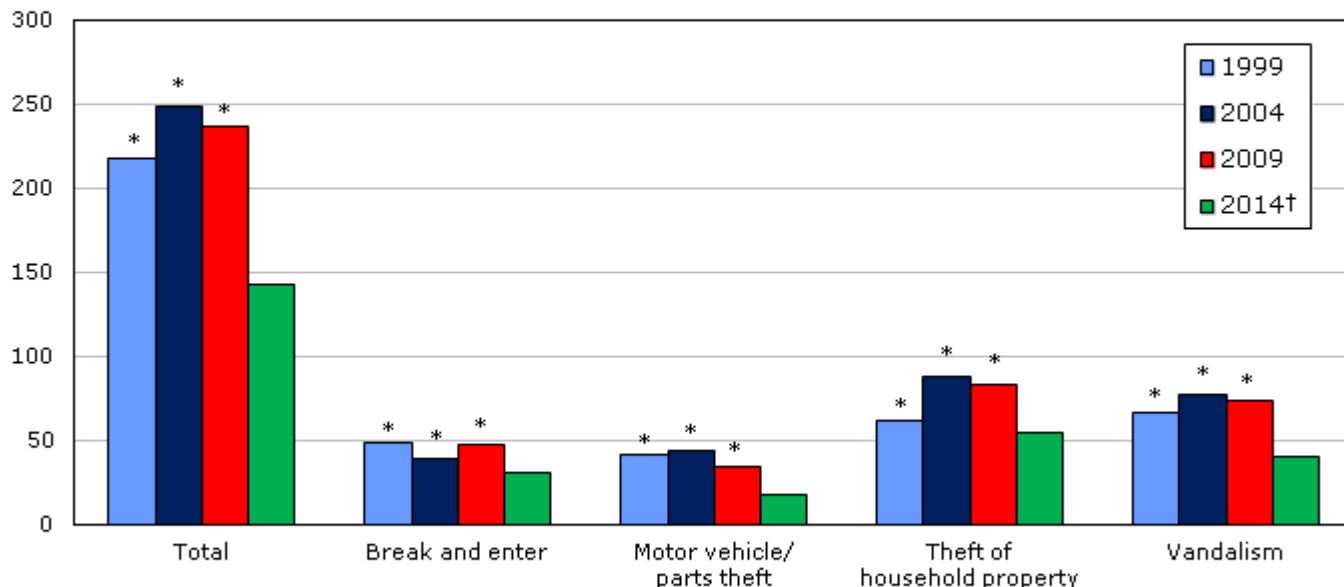
In 2014, a question was added to the GSS to take into account sexual assaults in which the victim was not able to consent to sexual activity because, for example, he or she was drugged, intoxicated, manipulated or forced in ways other than physically. This type of sexual assault represented 9% of all sexual assaults reported by Canadians, while forced sexual activity accounted for 20%. The remaining 71% of sexual assaults involved sexual touching. Without the addition of this new question, the rate of sexual assaults would have been 20 incidents per 1,000 people, still a rate not significantly different from that recorded in 2004.

Decrease in all types of household victimization measured by the GSS

The rate of household victimization, which includes break-ins, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property and vandalism, rose steadily between 1993 and 2004 until stabilizing between 2004 and 2009. In 2014, just over two million incidents of household victimization were reported by victims for a rate of 143 incidents per 1,000 households. The 2014 rate was 42% lower than the rate reported 10 years earlier (Table 1, Chart 2).

Chart 2
Household victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by type of offence, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014

rate per 1,000 households



† reference category

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Victimization rates for all household crimes were lower in 2014 than in 2004, with theft of motor vehicle or parts undergoing the largest decrease (-59%), followed by vandalism (-49%), theft of household property (-39%) and break-ins (-21%).

Text box 2**Comparability of 2014 GSS data to previous GSS cycles**

The 2014 GSS used a slightly different sample design than previous GSS cycles. In the past, only those households with a landline telephone could have been selected for the survey. The increased use of cell phones by Canadians, as well as the increase of households with no landline, made it necessary to include cell phones in the sample frame to ensure the sample was as representative of the Canadian population as possible.

Another change implemented with the 2014 GSS was the different placement from previous cycles of numerous reminders to respondents as to the reference period for all of the questions, specifically the reminder that the questions were about the preceding 12 months. The goal here was to limit the “telescoping” effect. Telescoping occurs when a respondent shares an incident that took place outside the reference period, whether because the respondent was inattentive when the reference period was mentioned or because he or she wants to share a victimization experience despite it not falling within the reference period. Although the results obtained in 2014 are stronger, it is noteworthy to keep this change in mind when comparing the 2014 data to previous GSS victimization cycles.

Comparability of GSS data and police-reported data

Although the data from the GSS on Victimization and the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) both capture information on crime in Canada, the two surveys have many differences including survey type, scope, coverage and source of information. As such, numbers from these two surveys should not be directly compared and trends should be compared with caution.

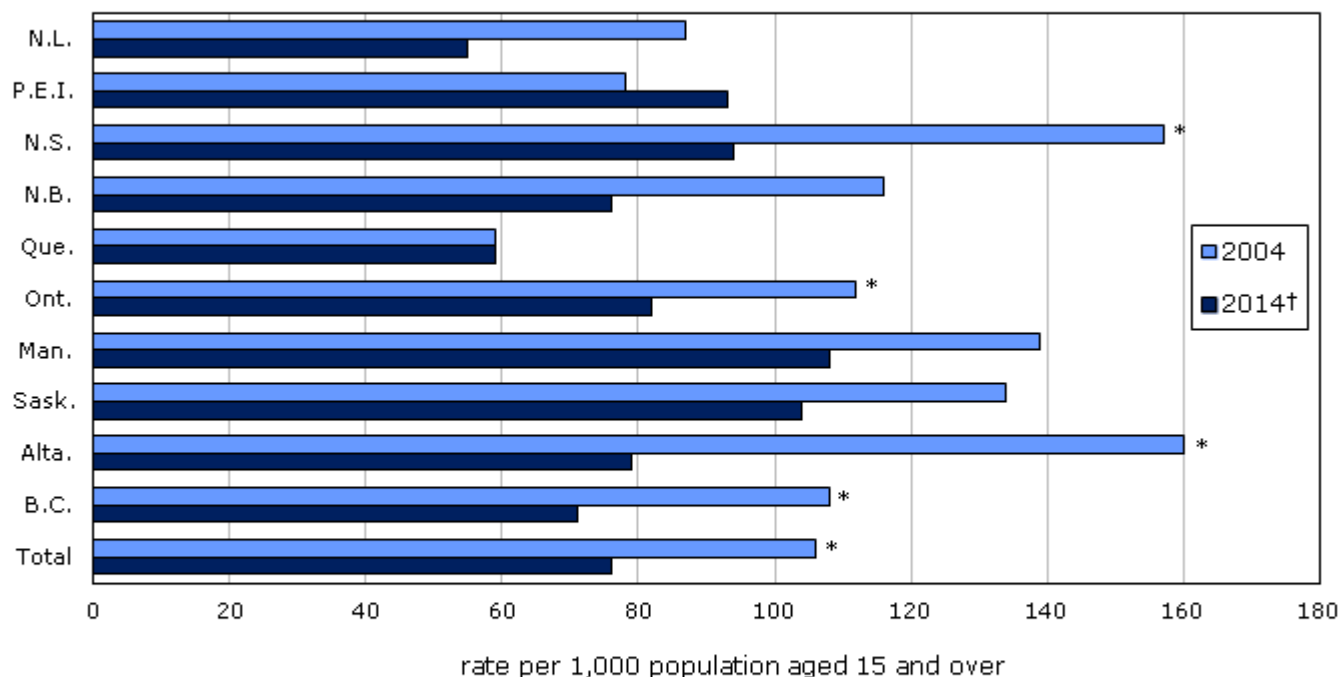
The GSS is a sample survey which, in 2014, collected data from about 33,000 non-institutionalized individuals aged 15 years and older living in the 10 provinces. The GSS collects data on eight types of offences but excludes crimes targeting businesses or institutions. One of the main advantages of the GSS is that it captures information on criminal incidents that do not come to the attention of the police, which is sometimes referred to as the “dark figure” of crime (see the Survey description section for more information on the GSS). In comparison, the UCR is an annual census of all offences under the *Criminal Code* and certain other federal laws that come to the attention of the police and are reported by them to Statistics Canada.

Despite these important methodological differences, it is notable that the GSS data and those of the UCR mostly show similar trends over the 10-year period between 2004 and 2014. For example, the GSS shows a 28% decline in the rate of violent victimization and a 42% decline in the rate of household victimization over this period. In comparison, according to the UCR there was a 26% decrease in the rate of violent crimes and a 40% decrease in the rate of crime against property over the same time period.

Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec reported the lowest rates of violent victimization among the provinces

Among the provinces, only Newfoundland and Labrador (55 incidents per 1,000 population) and Quebec (59 per 1,000) recorded violent victimization rates significantly lower than the average for the 10 provinces (76 per 1,000). However, the significant decreases in the violent victimization rates in Alberta (-51%), Nova Scotia (-40%), British Columbia (-35%) and Ontario (-27%) certainly contributed the most to the overall decline in violent victimization between 2004 and 2014 (Table 2, Chart 3).⁷

Chart 3
Violent victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by province, 2004 and 2014



† reference category

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

Note: Violent victimization includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault. Comparisons between provinces should be interpreted with caution because not all of the differences are statistically significant. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut, which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

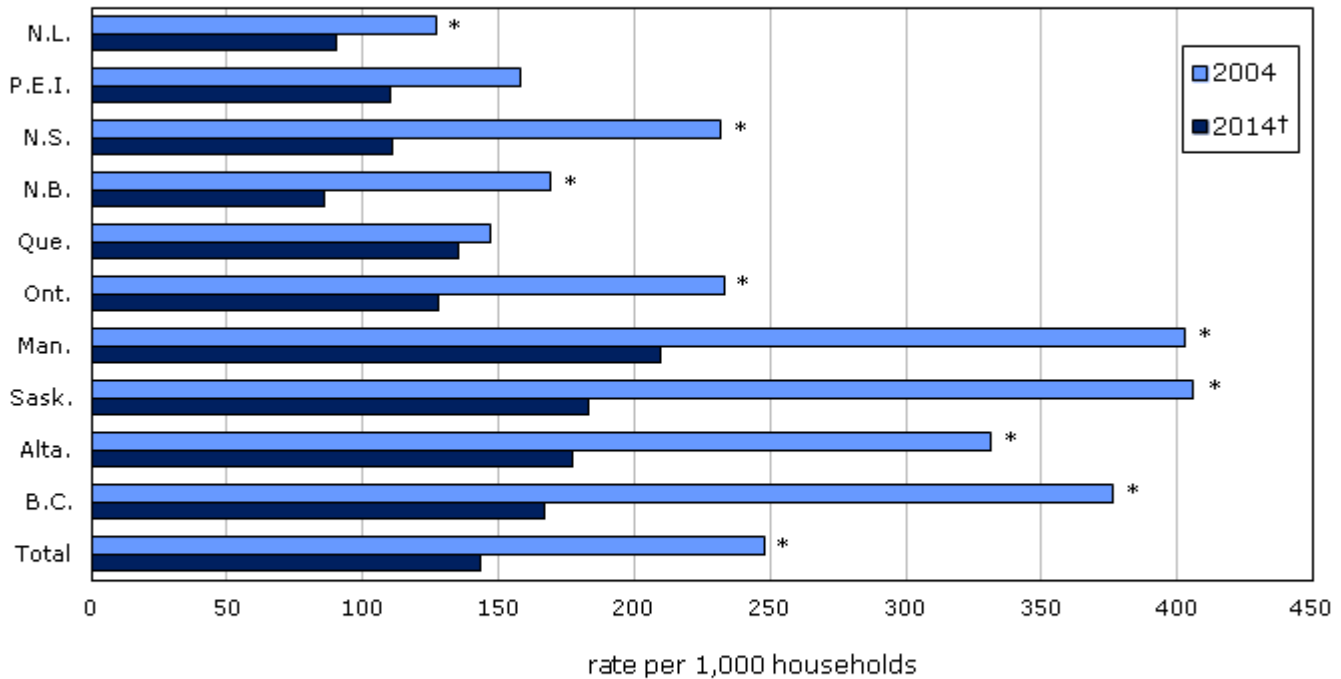
In contrast, the drop in the rate of violent victimization was not statistically significant in Manitoba, the province with the highest rate of violent victimization in 2014 (108 incidents per 1,000 population).

Household victimization rates lowest in the Atlantic provinces

As was the case in previous GSS cycles on victimization, household victimization rates were generally lower in the eastern provinces of the country than in the west. All of the Atlantic provinces and Ontario recorded household victimization rates lower than the provincial average, while the opposite was observed among rates for all of the Prairie provinces and British Columbia (Table 2).

All provinces, except Prince Edward Island and Quebec, recorded a statistically significant decline in the rate of household victimization between 2004 and 2014 (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Household victimization incidents reported by Canadians,
by province, 2004 and 2014



† reference category

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

Note: Household victimization includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle (or parts), theft of household property and vandalism. Comparisons between provinces should be interpreted with caution because not all of the differences are statistically significant. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut, which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

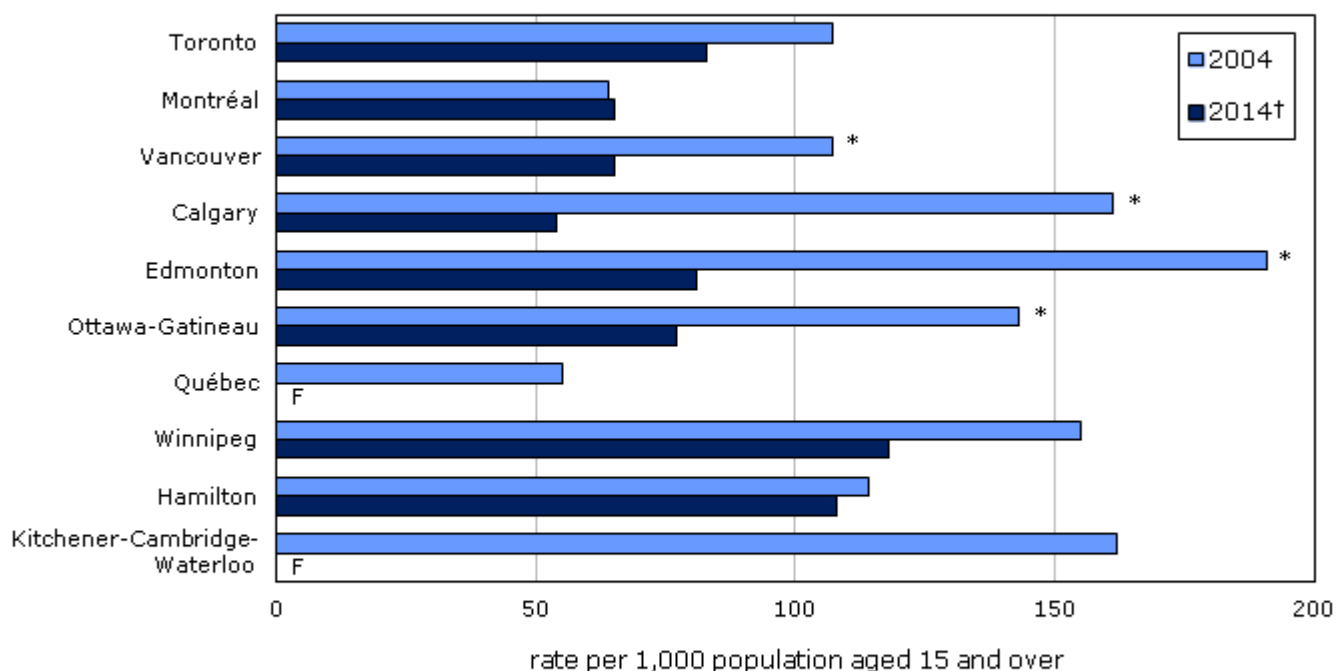
Halifax and Winnipeg recorded the highest rates of violent victimization among the census metropolitan areas

Overall, the rate of violent victimization in census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁸ (78 incidents per 1,000 population), that is population centres with at least 100,000 inhabitants, was higher than the rate recorded in census agglomerations (CAs)⁹ (61 per 1,000), that is, communities with between 10,000 and 100,000 inhabitants. Regions outside the CMAs and CAs reported rates (81 per 1,000) similar to those of the CMAs (Table 3).

Among the CMAs with a releasable violent victimization rate, Halifax recorded the highest rate, despite the fact that its rate dropped 44% from 229 incidents per 1,000 population in 2004 to 129 in 2014.¹⁰ Winnipeg had second highest rate, with 118 incidents per 1,000 population. Although Saskatoon also recorded a relatively high rate, the difference compared to the national average was not statistically significant.

In contrast, the Calgary CMA, which enjoyed a 66% decrease in its rate of violent victimization between 2004 and 2014, recorded the lowest rate (54 per 1,000) of all CMAs with a releasable violent victimization rate (Chart 5).

Chart 5
Violent victimization incidents reported by Canadians,
by the 10 most populous census metropolitan areas,
2004 and 2014



F too unreliable to be published

† reference category

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

Note: Violent victimization includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault. Comparisons between CMAAs should be interpreted with caution because not all of the differences are statistically significant.

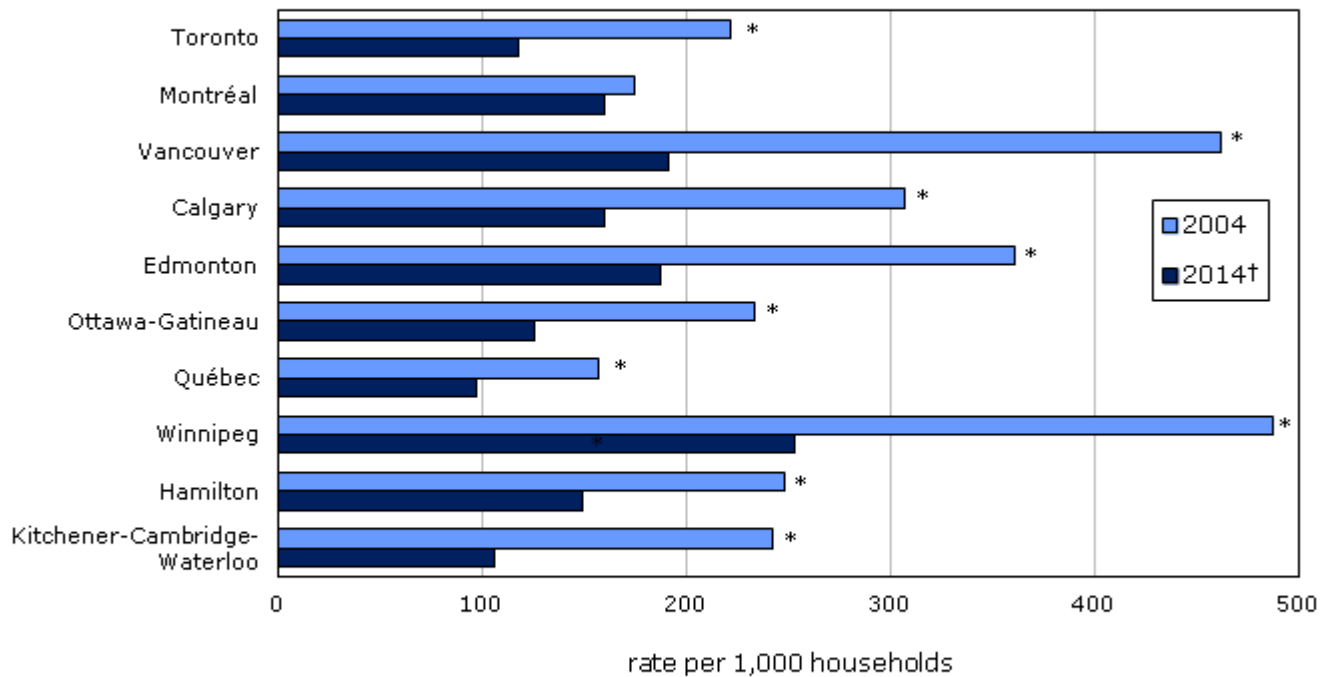
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Household victimization rates higher in western CMAAs

Unlike violent victimization, the rate of household victimization in the CMAAs (152 per 1,000) was relatively similar to that recorded in the CAs (139 per 1,000). Instead, it was the regions outside the CMAAs and CAs that, in general, recorded the lowest rate of household victimization (108). All CMAAs in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and Ontario with releasable household victimization rates recorded similar or lower rates than the national average (143), with the Québec CMAA recording the lowest rate (97). In contrast, all western CMAAs with releasable household victimization rates, with the exception of Calgary, Kelowna and Victoria, recorded rates higher than the national average (Table 3).

The majority of CMAAs with reliable estimates for 2004 and 2014 saw rates of household victimization drop during this period. Of the 10 most populous CMAAs, Montréal was the only one for which the rate remained relatively unchanged (Chart 6).

Chart 6
Household victimization incidents reported by Canadians,
by the 10 most populous census metropolitan areas,
2004 and 2014



† reference category

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

Note: Household victimization includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle (or parts), theft of household property and vandalism. Comparisons between CMAAs should be interpreted with caution because not all of the differences are statistically significant.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Characteristics of violent victimization

The risk of being a victim of a violent crime is not the same for everyone. Lifestyle, the places people frequent or the areas in which they live can expose people to a higher risk of being the victim of a crime (Lilly 2014).

Several characteristics have been shown to be associated with higher rates of victimization (Perreault and Brennan 2010). Some of these characteristics can be interrelated: for example, young people may have a higher rate of victimization than older people, and students may have higher rates of victimization than those who are employed. However, as has been noted in previous research, being a student may not be associated with a higher risk of violent victimization when other factors are controlled for, mainly age (Mihorean et al. 2001).

Using the 2014 GSS data, a multivariate analysis was conducted to determine which factors had an impact on the risk of violent victimization (Model 1). The following section highlights those characteristics that were found to be associated with a higher risk of violent victimization after all other risk factors measured by the GSS were taken into account.

Women were at higher risk than men of being victims of a violent crime

In previous GSS cycles on victimization, men and women showed relatively similar rates of violent victimization. However, in 2014, women recorded a higher rate (85 incidents per 1,000 women) than men (67 per 1,000) (Table 4).

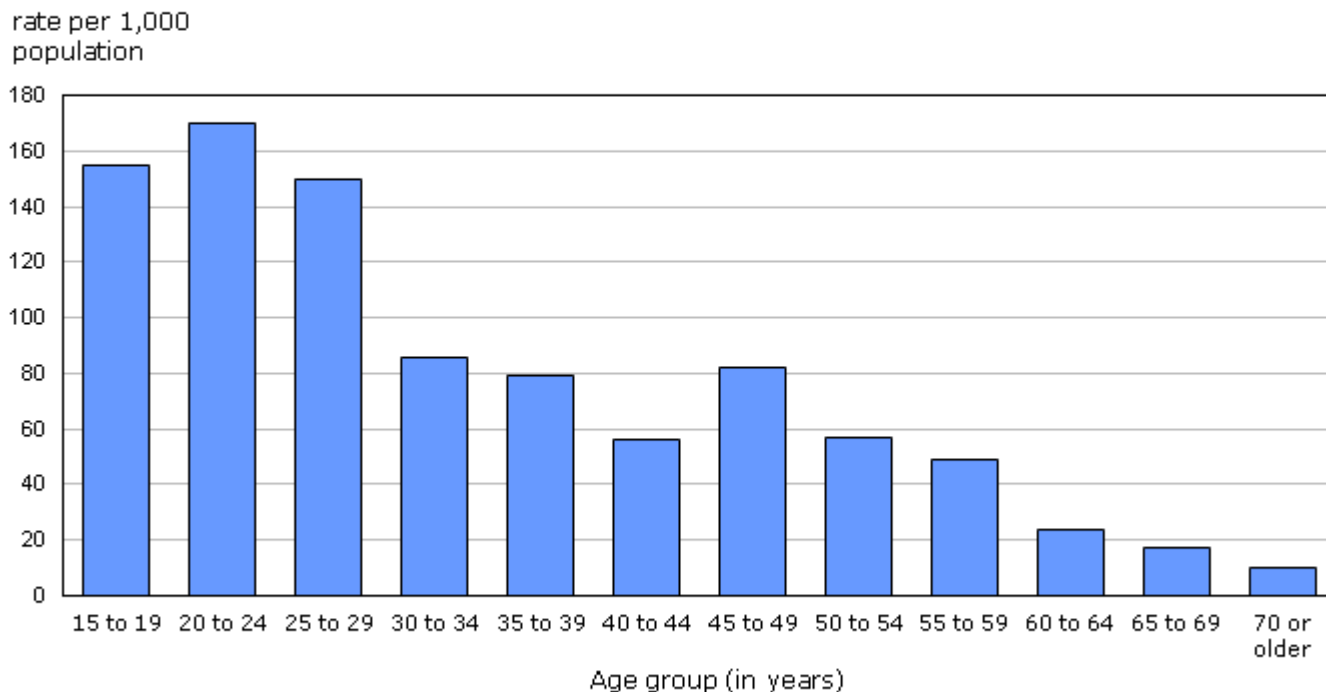
This finding is primarily due to the fact that the sexual assault rate—a crime in which the majority of victims are women—remained stable over the past decade, while the rates for robbery and physical assault—in which the majority of victims are men—dropped significantly since 2004. However, it should be noted that, overall, the rates of violent victimization between 2004 and 2014 declined for both women (from 102 to 85 incidents per 1,000 women) and men (from 111 to 67 incidents per 1,000 men).

When all other risk factors were taken into account, women maintained a risk of violent victimization that was about 20% higher than men. In other words, the higher rates of violent victimization among women could not be completely explained by the other risk factors measured by the GSS.

Age was the key risk factor in violent victimization

As has been observed in previous GSS cycles, in 2014 age was once again the key factor associated with violent victimization. The rate of violent victimization was highest among people aged 20 to 24 (170 incidents per 1,000 population) and then dropped considerably beginning at age 30 (Chart 7).

Chart 7
Violent victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by age group of the victim, 2014



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Age is often associated with a lifestyle that involves greater exposure to potential offenders or risky situations wherein the risk of experiencing violence is higher (Lilly 2014; Perreault and Brennan 2010; Cohen and Felson 1979). For example, the 2014 GSS showed that people aged 20 to 24 were more likely to frequently engage in evening activities or to use drugs. Even taking all other risk factors into account, young people aged 20 to 24 recorded a risk of violent victimization six times higher than people aged 65 and older.¹¹

Drug use, binge drinking and the frequency of evening activities were associated with the risk of violent victimization

Among various lifestyle characteristics, drug use¹² was the factor with the greatest impact on the risk of violent victimization, and that risk varied with frequency of use and type of drug. People who stated that they used drugs during the month preceding the survey recorded a rate of victimization more than four times higher than non-users (256 incidents per 1,000 population compared to 62). The rate of violent victimization was 436 incidents per 1,000 population among people who reported using cannabis daily and 610 among people who used drugs other than cannabis (Table 5).

Alcohol consumption was also linked to a higher risk of violent victimization. For example, people who reported engaging in at least one binge drinking episode—that is, at least five alcoholic drinks on a single occasion—during the month preceding the survey recorded a violent victimization rate more than twice as high as those who did not do so (127 incidents per 1,000 population compared to 58). However, people who drink alcohol frequently but not to the extent that their consumption would be considered binge drinking did not report higher than average rates of violent victimization.

The frequency of evening activities was also associated with the risk of violent victimization. People who reported more than 20 evening activities per month recorded a rate of victimization about four times that of people who never went out in the evening (141 incidents per 1,000 population compared to 34). Evening activities can include going out for work, for school, for shopping, to visit friends, to go to the cinema, to go to restaurants or to go to bars, among other activities. The type of activity made a difference. For example, people who reported more than 10 evenings out in a bar or pub had an even higher rate of violent victimization, at 250 incidents per 1,000 population.

Mental health was associated with the risk of violent victimization

Mental health was among the main factors associated with the risk of violent victimization in 2014. Altogether, people who reported that their daily activities were limited by a mental health-related disability, a learning or a developmental disability or who self-assessed their mental health as being poor or fair recorded a rate of violent victimization more than four times higher than people who assessed their mental health as excellent or very good (230 incidents per 1,000 population compared to 53).

People who reported a mental or psychological disability or self-assessed their mental health as being poor or fair often had other characteristics associated with a higher risk of violent victimization, which may partially explain their overall higher victimization rates. For example, according to the 2014 GSS these individuals were more likely to use drugs or have a history of homelessness. Taking all risk factors into account, people who reported a mental or psychological disability or who self-assessed their mental health as being poor or fair recorded a risk of violent victimization about 2 times higher than people who self-assessed their mental health as excellent or very good (Model 1).

It should be noted that a mental health-related disability or a poor self-assessed mental health, could sometimes also be the result of the victimization. For example, among victims reporting a mental health-related disability or self-assessed their mental health as poor, 31% reported that their victimization caused them depression, anxiety attacks or symptoms related to potential post-traumatic stress.¹³ In other words, for at least some of the people suffering from a mental health condition, it cannot be determined if this problem existed prior to the victimization or was a consequence of it.

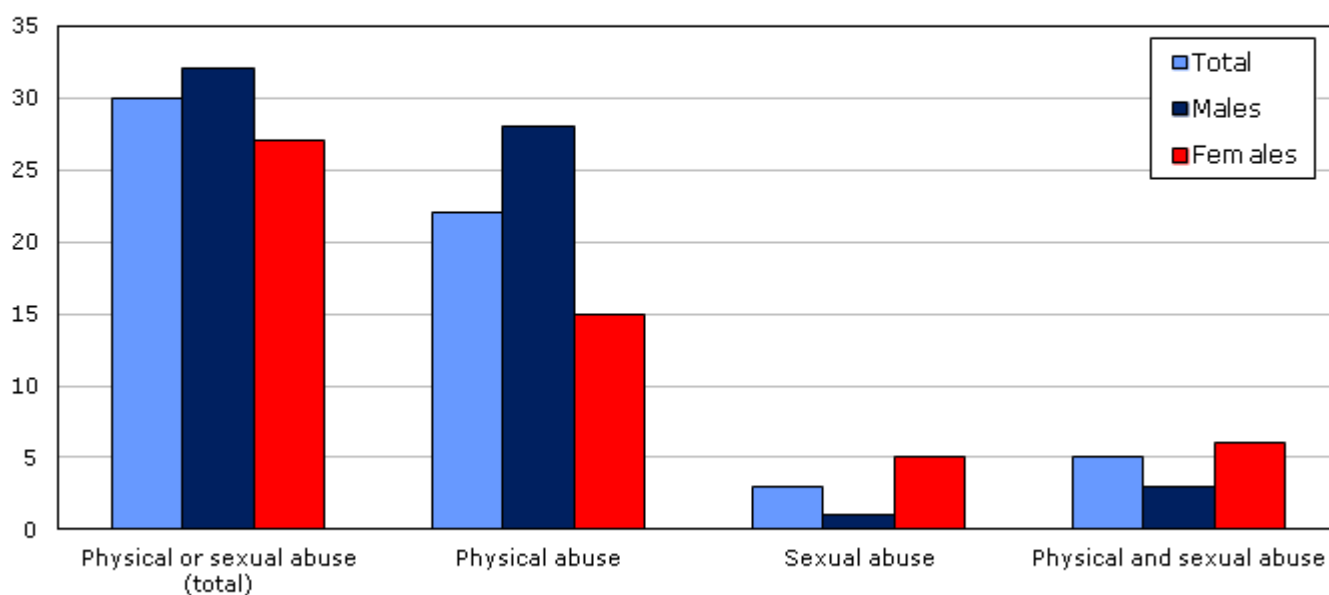
**Text box 3
Child maltreatment**

Several studies show a link between abuse experienced during childhood and both an increased risk of victimization in adulthood (Parks 2011; Reid 2009; Desai 2002) and an increased likelihood of having contact with police (Boyce 2015). For the first time, the 2014 GSS included detailed questions about child maltreatment.

Approximately one-third of Canadians (30%) reported being victims of some form of abuse by an adult at least once before the age of 15. More specifically, 22% reported experiencing physical abuse,¹⁴ 3% suffered sexual abuse,¹⁵ and 5% experienced both physical and sexual violence.

**Text box 3 chart
Victimization by an adult during childhood (before age 15),
2014**

percent



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

In most cases of physical abuse, the offender¹⁶ was a family member, generally the father (35%) or mother (23%). In cases of sexual abuse, the offender was often also a member of the immediate family¹⁷ (18%) or extended family (20%), though many victims identified a stranger (21%), acquaintance (12%), neighbour (8%), friend or teacher (6% each). However, among those victims of multiple incidents of sexual abuse,¹⁸ a member of the immediate or extended family (65%) was more commonly identified as the perpetrator of the most serious incident of sexual abuse.

The majority of self reported cases of child maltreatment (93%) never came to the attention of authorities, either the police or child protective services. However, the probability of reporting the abuse increased with the severity and frequency of the abuse. For example, 27% of people who were, before the age of 15, sexually assaulted more than 10 times stated that they had spoken about the abuse to authorities.

People who suffered child maltreatment were more likely to be victims of a violent crime

Victimization during childhood is another factor that increased the risk of being a victim of a violent crime as an adult. Overall, people who experienced child maltreatment recorded a rate of violent victimization more than double that of people who did not experience such abuse (125 per 1,000 compared to 55). Both physical and sexual abuse experienced during childhood were associated with higher rates of violent victimization (Table 5).

Child maltreatment includes being slapped, hit on the head or pushed, as well as more serious actions such as being punched, kicked or forced into unwanted sexual activity. All of these forms of childhood abuse—even those that might be considered to be less serious—were associated with higher rates of violent victimization (Table 5).

Moreover, people who themselves were never directly abused as children, but who witnessed violence by one of their parents toward another adult, also recorded higher rates of violent victimization in 2014 (97 incidents per 1,000, compared to 53 per 1,000 among those who did not experience child maltreatment and did not witness violence by one of their parents).

Child maltreatment is associated with several other risk factors for violent victimization in adulthood. For example, those respondents that reported experiencing child maltreatment were more likely to report using drugs (10% compared to 6%) and having a mental health condition (16% compared to 8%) than respondents who did not experience abuse as a child. Even when all risk factors were taken into account, the risk of victimization remained higher for people who experienced child maltreatment (Model 1).

People with a history of homelessness were more likely to report being a victim of a violent crime

People with a history of homelessness—those who have ever been homeless or have had to live with someone else or in their vehicle because they had nowhere else to go—reported higher violent victimization rates than people without such a history. For example, people who had been homeless at some point in their lifetime reported a victimization rate five times higher than people who had never been homeless (358 incidents per 1,000 population compared to 71) (Table 5).

People with a history of homelessness were also more likely to have lived in neighbourhoods with weak social cohesion, experienced child maltreatment, used drugs, and had reported experiencing a mental health condition, which partly—but not completely—explain their higher violent victimization rates (Model 1).

The risk of violent victimization was higher among people residing in a neighbourhood with low social cohesion

Low social cohesion was found to be associated with a higher risk of violent victimization. Strong social cohesion generally refers to a neighbourhood where people know each other, help each other and share common values (Charron 2009; Forrest and Kearns 2001).

Low social cohesion seems to be associated with higher levels of crime, particularly due to lesser social control and collective efficacy in the neighborhood (Sampson 2012; Charron 2009). For example, in 2014, lower rates of violent victimization were observed among people who considered their neighbourhood a place where people help each other (69 incidents per 1,000 population) than among people who believed the opposite (136 incidents per 1,000 population) (Table 6).

Moreover, the presence of social disorder—such as litter, noisy neighbours, people being drunk or using drugs in public places—can be considered a sign of social disorganization (Brown et al. 2004). People who reported the presence of social disorder in their neighbourhood recorded a rate of violent victimization almost three times higher than people who did not perceive social disorder (109 incidents per 1,000 compared to 40). Even when all risk factors were taken into account, the presence of social disorder and the lack of help between neighbours continued to be key risk factors for violent victimization (Model 1).

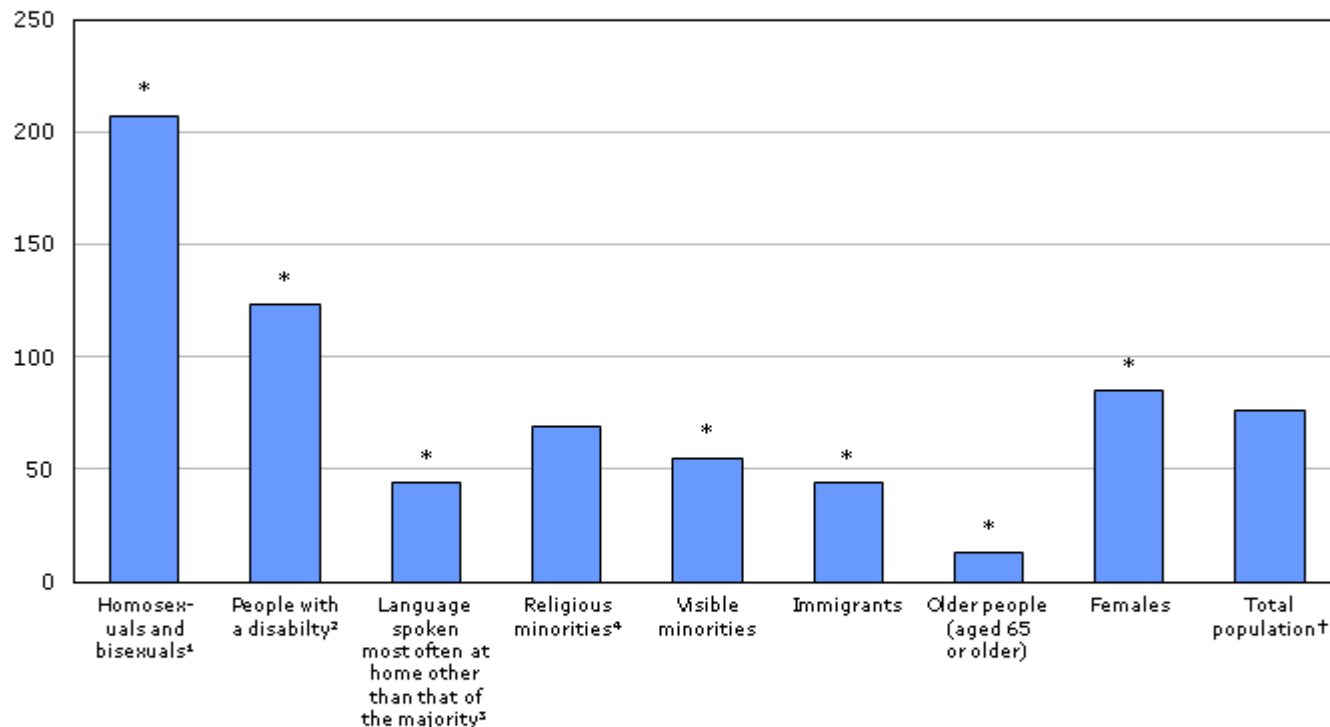
Homosexuals and bisexuals recorded high victimization rates

Canada has a very diverse population and governments have adopted various laws to protect its minority groups. For example, there are provisions under article 718.2 of the *Criminal Code* for more severe sentences for hate-motivated crimes. Both police-reported data and data collected through the GSS show that these crimes most often involve minority groups (Allen 2015). As such, monitoring violent victimization among different minority groups could help the development of targeted prevention programs or victim services.

Among the minority groups covered by article 718.2 of the *Criminal Code*, people self-identifying as homosexual or bisexual recorded the highest violent victimization rate at 207 incidents per 1,000 population, compared to 69 per 1,000 for heterosexuals, according to the 2014 GSS. People with disabilities also had an above-average victimization rate (123), and while this category includes all types of disabilities, physical and mental, these higher rates appear to be specifically the result of the high victimization rates among those with a mental or learning disability. It should be noted, however, that all of these rates include crimes motivated by hate as well as those that are not motivated by hate. Consequently, these higher rates may also be related to other factors (Chart 8).

Chart 8 Violent victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by selected population groups, 2014

rate per 1,000
population aged 15
and over



† reference category

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

1. Excludes people under the age of 18 years.

2. Includes people with a disability related to mobility, vision, hearing, learning, mental or psychological disorders, physical disorders or any other long-term condition limiting activities.

3. Includes people living outside Quebec whose language spoken most often at home is other than English, and people living in Quebec whose language spoken most often at home is other than French.

4. Includes people who reported belonging to a non-Christian religion.

Note: Violent victimization includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

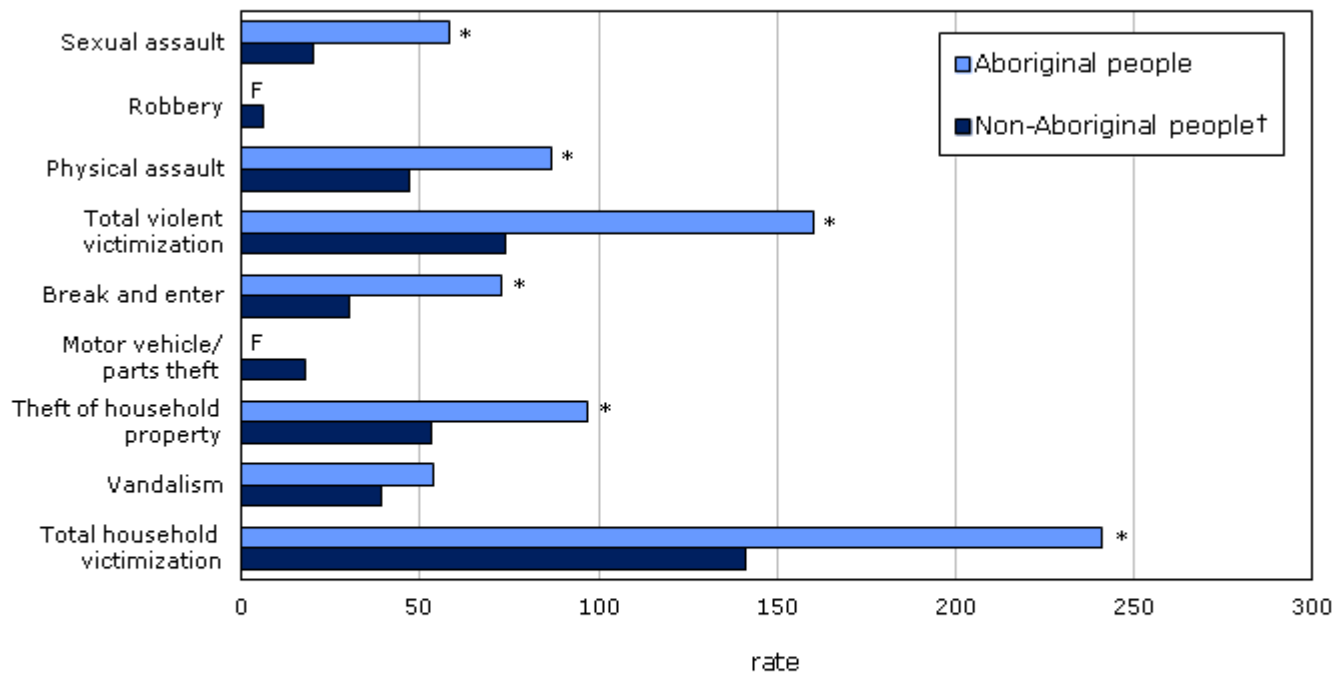
Immigrants and members of a visible minority, religious minority or persons whose language most often spoken at home differed from that of the majority in their province all posted victimization rates similar to or lower than the average.

Aboriginal people, in particular women, were more likely to be victims

Data from various sources show that Aboriginal people are overrepresented as both offenders and victims of crime (Statistics Canada 2015; Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2014; Perreault 2011). The 2014 GSS data confirm this trend. Close to one in three (30%) Aboriginal people¹⁹ reported that they or their household had been the victim of at least one of the eight crimes measured by the GSS in the 12 months preceding the survey, down from 38% in 2009.²⁰ In comparison, fewer than one in five (19%) non-Aboriginal people reported that they or their household had been victimized, down from 27% in 2009.

The differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people were most pronounced for break-ins and sexual assaults, with the rates for Aboriginals being more than double those for non-Aboriginals (Chart 9).

Chart 9
Victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by Aboriginal identity, 2014



F too unreliable to be published

† reference category

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

Note: Rates of violent victimization are calculated per 1,000 people aged 15 years and older. Household victimization rates are calculated per 1,000 households. Aboriginal households consist of households in which the two spouses have Aboriginal identity; lone-parent families in which the parent has Aboriginal identity; single people with Aboriginal identity; and other households in which the respondent reported having Aboriginal identity and living with related people only.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Violent victimization rates were especially high among Aboriginal females. For example, they recorded a sexual assault rate of 115 incidents per 1,000 population, much higher than the rate of 35 per 1,000 recorded by their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Relative to their non-Aboriginal counterparts, Aboriginal people were more likely to have certain characteristics associated with a higher risk of violent victimization. In particular, they were about 1.4 times more likely to report having been victims of childhood maltreatment, about twice as likely to report a mental health condition, 2.3 times as likely to use drugs, and 2.5 times more likely to have a history of homelessness. The Aboriginal population is also younger (on average) than the non-Aboriginal population.

When all risk factors measured by the GSS were controlled for, Aboriginal identity itself did not stand out as a characteristic linked to the risk of victimization. Instead, the higher victimization rates among Aboriginal people, overall, appeared to be related to the increased presence of risk factors among this group than among non-Aboriginals (Model 1).

However, the same analysis carried out specifically for women revealed that, in 2014, Aboriginal identity itself remained a key risk factor for victimization among women, even when controlling for the presence of other risk factors. In other words, higher rates among Aboriginal females could not completely be explained by the factors measured in this analysis; so factors other than those measured may be at play.

One-quarter of violent incidents took place at the victim's place of work²¹

Only a small proportion of the violent crime took place on the street or in a public place. According to the 2014 GSS, violent incidents, other than those related to spousal violence, happened most often in a private residence (34%), often the victim's

home, or in a commercial or institutional establishment (39%) such as a bar or restaurant, shopping mall, school, hospital, office building or factory (Table 7).

Some of these locations, where violent incidents occurred, may also have been the victim's place of work. In 2014, this was the case in just over one-quarter (27%) of incidents of violent victimization. One-third of incidents that occurred in the victim's place of work involved a victim working in the fields of education, law, social and community services (18%) or health (15%), despite these occupations representing smaller proportions of the working population (12% and 6% respectively, according to the GSS). Similarly, one-quarter of violent incidents that occurred in the victim's place of work involved a victim working on a rotating (21%) or night shift schedule (4%), while respectively 9% and 2% of the working population actually work on these types of schedules.

The majority of offenders were male and, on average, in their early thirties

As was observed in previous cycles of the GSS, and in keeping with police-reported data, offenders were generally male (86% of violent incidents). Sexual assaults were more likely to be committed by a male offender (94%) than were physical assaults (82%) (Table 7).

According to victims, those persons committing the violent crimes against them were perceived to be, on average, aged 34 years old. However, the average age of the offenders was slightly lower when the victims themselves were young. For example, in incidents involving a victim between the ages of 15 and 24 years, the perceived average age of the offender was 24 years.

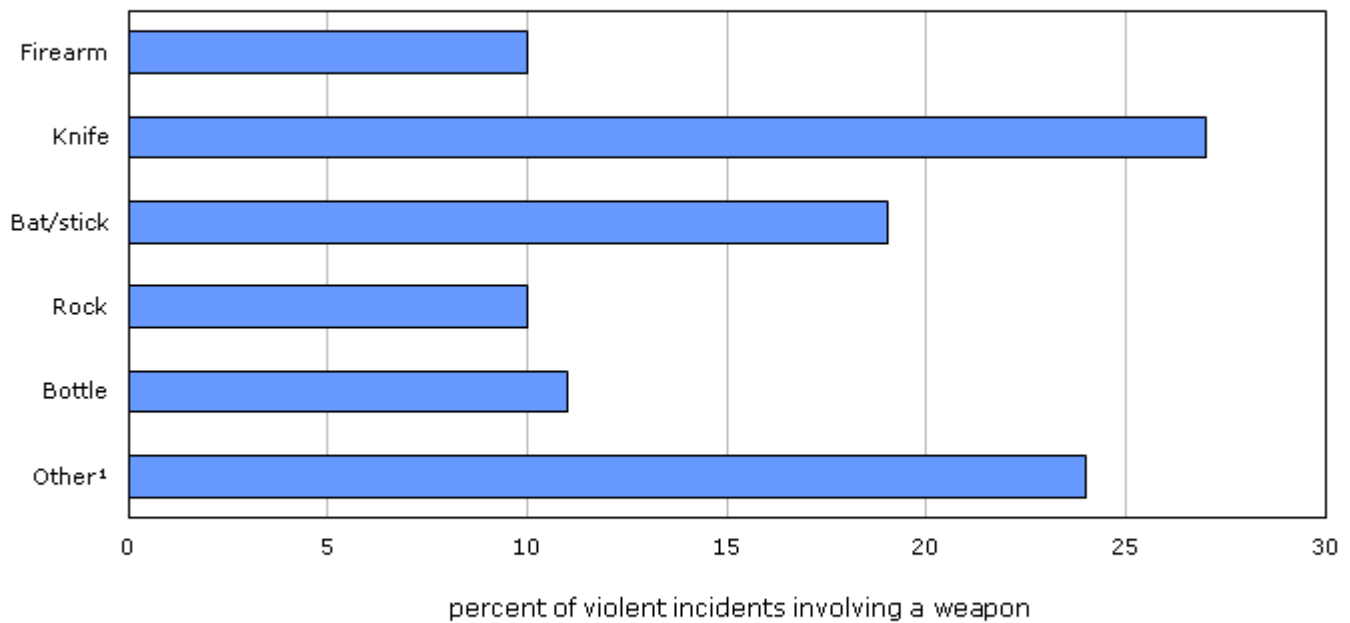
Most victims knew their attacker

Although the fear of being the victim of a crime is often linked to a fear of being attacked by a stranger (Wilcox 2006; Garofalo 1979), victims often know their attacker. The offender was a stranger in just under half (48%) of violent incidents, after excluding incidents of spousal abuse.²² Robbery was the crime most likely to be committed by a stranger (63% of robberies) while sexual assault was the least likely to be (44% of sexual assaults) (Table 7).

Most violent incidents did not involve weapons and did not result in physical injury

The majority of violent incidents reported by victims in 2014, excluding incidents of spousal violence, involved neither a weapon nor an injury. A weapon was present in just over one-quarter (26%) of violent incidents, a similar proportion to that recorded in 2004. The most frequently used weapon was a knife (27% of incidents involving a weapon), followed by a bat/stick (19%), a bottle (11%) or a firearm (10%) (Chart 10).

Chart 10
Violent victimization incidents involving a weapon, by type of weapon, 2014



1. Includes any other object used as a weapon, such as a hammer or a mace.

Note: Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

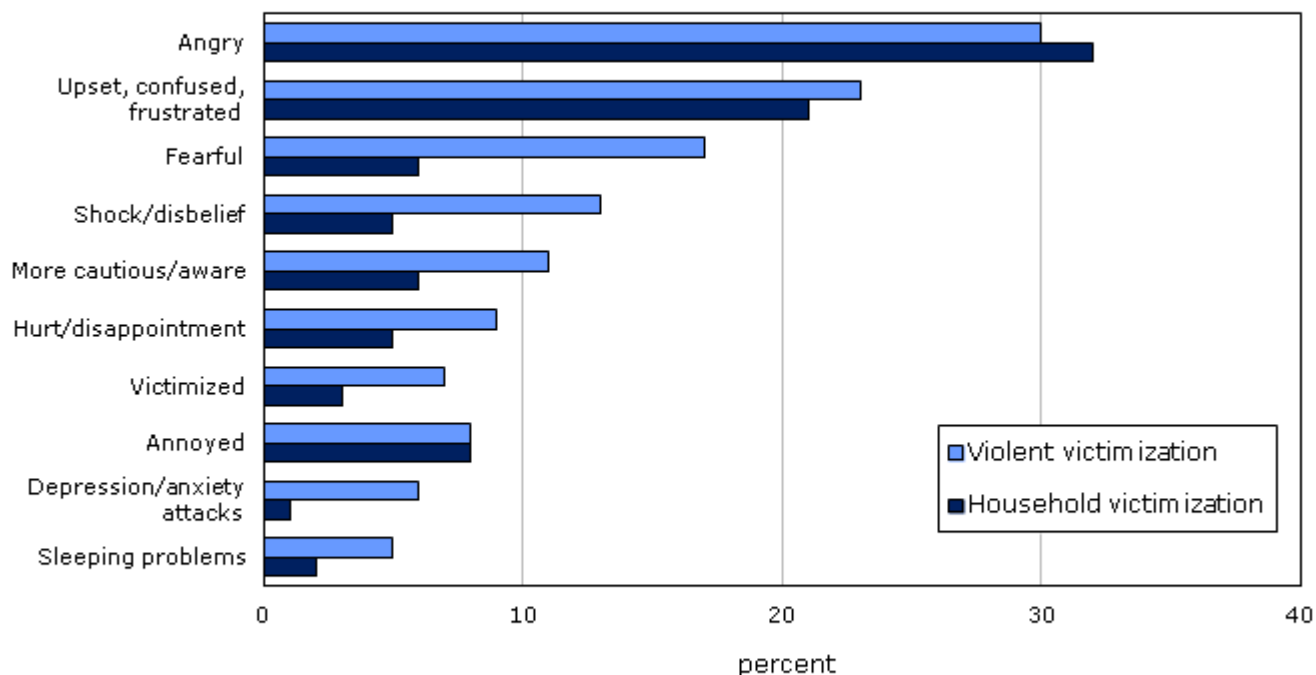
Violent incidents resulting in injury were less frequent than incidents involving a weapon. Just under one in five (19%) incidents caused an injury and a minority (3%) required medical attention. The proportion of violent incidents causing physical injury in 2014 was down from that recorded in 2004 (25%).

Causing injury or the presence of a weapon are two elements that can be used to measure the seriousness of a violent crime. In particular, these criteria are used to classify the different levels of physical assault and sexual assault under the *Criminal Code*.

About one in seven victims of violent crime have experienced symptoms consistent with suspected post-traumatic stress disorder

Anger was the most frequent emotional reaction to violence cited by victims (30%). Some victims also reported experiencing depression or anxiety attacks (6%) or sleeping problems (5%) as a result of the incident. However, just over one-quarter (26%) of victims said that they were hardly or not at all affected (Chart 11).

Chart 11
Emotional reactions following victimization, by type of offence, 2014

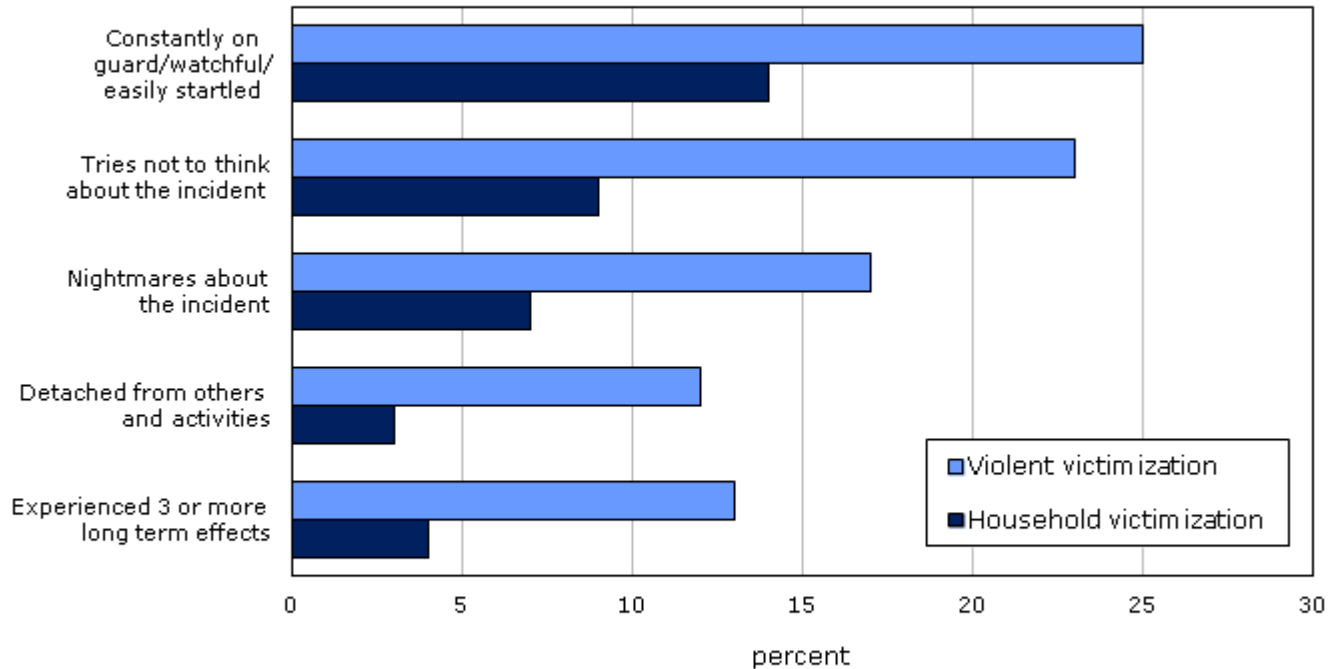


Note: Respondents were able to give more than one answer. Violent victimization includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault, but exclude incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault. Household victimization includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle (or parts), theft of household property and vandalism.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

In 2014, victims who reported being emotionally affected by the incident were asked four subsequent questions about the long-term effects of victimization based on the Primary Care Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Screen (see Text box 4). Although it is not possible to diagnose PTSD based on the results of these questions, they do inform us about the long-term effects of victimization. Just over one-third (35%) of victims of violent crime reported feeling at least one of these four long-term effects and just under one in seven (13%) reported feeling at least three of these effects, which fits the criteria indicating that PTSD is suspected. Being constantly on guard and easily startled was the long-term effect mentioned most often by victims (25% of violent incidents) (Chart 12).

Chart 12
Long-term psychological consequences, by type of offence,
2014



Note: Respondents were able to give more than one answer. Violent victimization includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault, but exclude incidents of sexual and physical assault between spouses. Household victimization includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle (or parts), theft of household property and vandalism.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Text box 4 **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**

Some research to date has found that victims of violence may experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which can affect individuals that have experienced physical and/or psychological trauma, and is characterized by feelings of detachment, being constantly on guard, nightmares and avoidance behaviors. Studies of those affected have found that PTSD is associated with impaired physical health, decreased quality of life and increased mortality (Prins et al. 2003).

Victims were asked whether they had experienced the following as a result of their victimization:

In the past month have you:

- Had nightmares about it or thought about it when you did not want to?
- Tried hard not to think about it or went out of your way to avoid situations that reminded you of it?
- Felt constantly on guard, watchful or easily startled?
- Felt numb or detached from others, activities or your surroundings?

These new questions included in the GSS are from the Primary Care PTSD Screen (PC-PTSD) tool, a front-line assessment tool used to identify individuals who should be referred to further psychological and psychiatric treatment for the disorder (Prins et al. 2003). The tool is designed to assess whether an individual demonstrates key affects related to the core PTSD symptoms of re-experiencing, numbing, avoidance and hyperarousal. If an individual answers 'yes' to any three of the four questions, the presence of PTSD is suspected. It is crucial to note that the PC-PTSD is not a diagnostic tool, and a suspicion of PTSD is not the same as a diagnosis. In a clinical setting, a positive score on the PC-PTSD would indicate that the patient should be referred for more in-depth assessment and possible diagnosis.

One-quarter of violent crime victims had to take time off from their daily activities

One-quarter of victims of violent crime were unable to continue their daily activities for at least one day, because they needed to receive care for an injury, regroup emotionally, replace stolen property, take legal action or for some other reason. The median time that victims were absent from their daily activities was two days, but since a minority of victims had to be absent for a considerable length of time (3% of victims were absent at least 60 days), the average length of absence was 23 days.

Financial loss is another consequence incurred by victims of violent crime. Robbery was the violent crime that resulted most often in financial loss (55%). In close to one out of five robberies (19%), the loss was \$1,000 or more.

Characteristics of household victimization

As with violent victimization, certain characteristics are related to whether a household is more or less likely to be the target of a crime. A multivariate analysis was also carried out to identify which factors were associated with the risk of household victimization (Model 2).

Low social cohesion was associated with a higher risk of household victimization

As was the case for violent victimization, low social cohesion in a neighbourhood was associated with a higher risk of household victimization. For example, the rate of household victimization was almost triple when neighbourhood social disorder was present than when it was not (209 per 1,000 households compared to 70 per 1,000). As mentioned earlier, social disorder can be considered as a sign of low social cohesion (Brown et al. 2004). When all risk factors were taken into account, households residing in a neighbourhood with social disorder still recorded a risk of victimization about three times higher than others (Table 6, Table 8 and Model 2).

Households residing in apartments or condos were less likely to be victimized by household crime

Households residing in an apartment or condo recorded a lower risk of household victimization than people residing in single detached homes, and this was especially true for those residing in a building with 5 or more floors. When all risk factors measured by the GSS were taken into account, households residing in an apartment building with 5 or more floors recorded a risk that was about 60% lower than households residing in a single detached home. As for households residing in an apartment or condo in a building with fewer than 5 floors, the risk was about 35% lower (Model 2).

Although, in general, apartments and condos tend to be located in CMAs, where victimization rates are higher, this type of housing is likely to provide some protection. First, it may be more difficult for potential offenders to reach the dwelling and, in certain circumstances, a vehicle due to controlled security devices and/or building attendants. Second, there is generally little or no outside space with properties of this type that could be the target of theft or vandalism (Weisel 2004).

In contrast, household victimization rates were higher among tenant households than among households owning their dwelling (165 incidents per 1,000 households compared to 135). The greater victimization risk among households renting their home remained even after taking other risk factors into account.

The size of the household was linked to the risk of victimization

The more members a household had, the greater was its likelihood of becoming the target of a household crime. For example, households consisting of one or two people recorded a household victimization rate of 115 incidents per 1,000 households, compared to a rate of 206 incidents for households with five or more members. When all other factors measured by the GSS were controlled for, each additional household member increased the risk of household victimization by about 13% (Table 6, Table 8 and Model 2).

The size of the household may be an indicator of the quantity of property that it owns. For example, 71% of households with only one member reported owning at least one motor vehicle and 8% had an household income over \$100 000. In comparison, these proportions were 92% and 63% respectively among households with five or more members. Property owned is also property that can be stolen or vandalized.

Victims of break-ins were the most likely to experience emotional and psychological consequences

Compared to incidents of violent victimization, crimes targeting households were less likely to result in emotional or psychological consequences. Nevertheless, two-thirds of victims of household crimes reported one form or another of an emotional reaction, most often anger. Victims of break-ins were most likely to have experienced the most serious

consequences: 6% stated having had sleeping problems and/or depression and 8% reported experiencing at least three of the long-term effects measured by the Primary Care PTSD Screen.

One incident in five resulted in losses of \$1,000 or more

Financial loss was the most frequent result of household crimes in 2014. Most (81%) household victimization incidents led to a financial loss and 19% involved losses of \$1,000 or more. Break and enter (24%) and theft of motor vehicle or parts (21%) were the incidents most likely to result in losses of \$1,000 or more.

Text box 5 Theft of personal property

Theft of personal property was the crime most frequently reported by Canadians among the eight offences measured by the GSS in 2014. Slightly more than one in 20 Canadians (6%) had been a victim during the 12 months preceding the survey. Just over two million thefts of personal property were reported, a number higher than all household crimes combined (Table 1).

The personal characteristics associated with higher levels of theft of personal property were often the same as those for violent crimes, although the impact of these characteristics was generally less significant than in the case of violent offences. For example, as was the case for rates of violent victimization, the rate of theft of personal property varied with age, but did not really begin to decline until age 45. High household income and living in a CMA were among the characteristics specifically associated with higher rates of theft of personal property.

In 2014, according to the GSS, the property stolen most often was money (37% of thefts), a purse or bank or credit cards (16%), clothing and accessories such as jewellery (14%), or electronic equipment (12%). In most cases (59%) the value of the property stolen was less than \$200, though it was as high as \$1,000 or more in 11% of cases.

Most victims of theft of personal property (64%) were emotionally affected by the incident. Theft of personal property were brought to the attention of the police in almost one-third of cases (29%) in 2014 (Table 9).

Reporting victimization to police

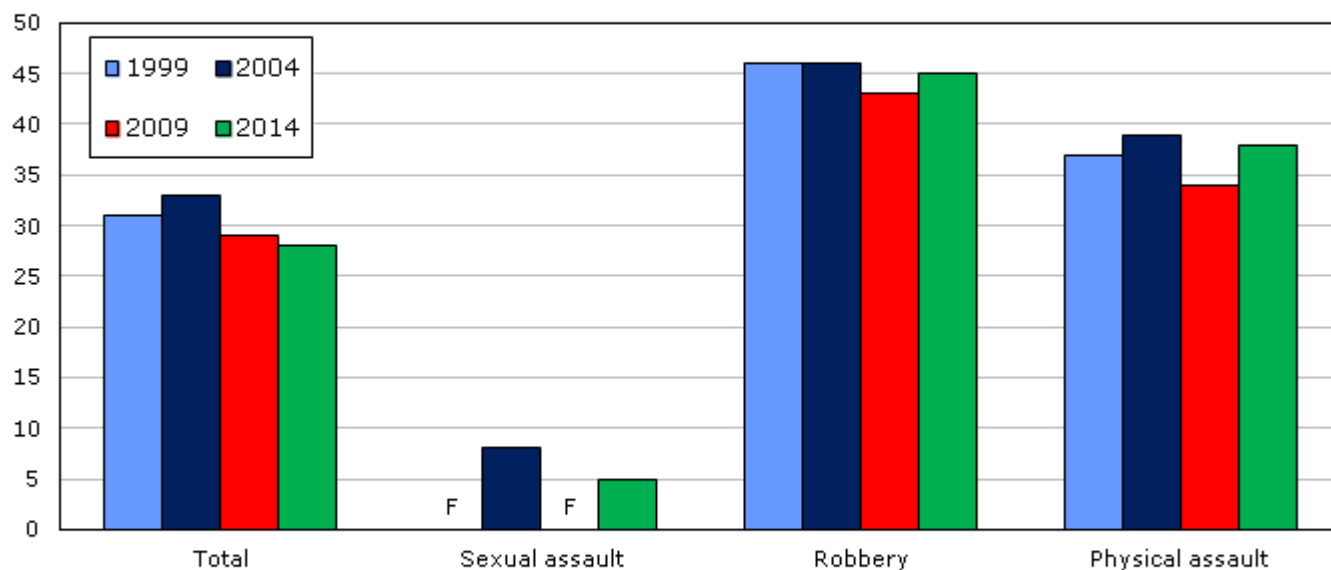
Most incidents of victimization did not come to the attention of the police

Most incidents of victimization, both violent and non-violent, never came to the attention of the police in 2014. Just under one-third (31%) were reported to the police, either by the victim directly (21%) or in some other way (10%). According to the GSS, the proportion of incidents reported to police in 2014 was slightly lower than that recorded in 2004 (34%) but unchanged from 2009 (Table 9).

In general, the more serious an incident, the greater the likelihood it came to the attention of the police. Thus, robberies, break-ins and thefts of motor vehicle or parts were reported to police at least 44% of the time (Table 9, Chart 13 and Chart 14). Incidents causing injury (45%), those involving a weapon (53%) or those that resulted in financial loss of \$1,000 or more (70%) were also more likely to be reported.

Chart 13
Violent victimization incidents reported to the police,
1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014

percent

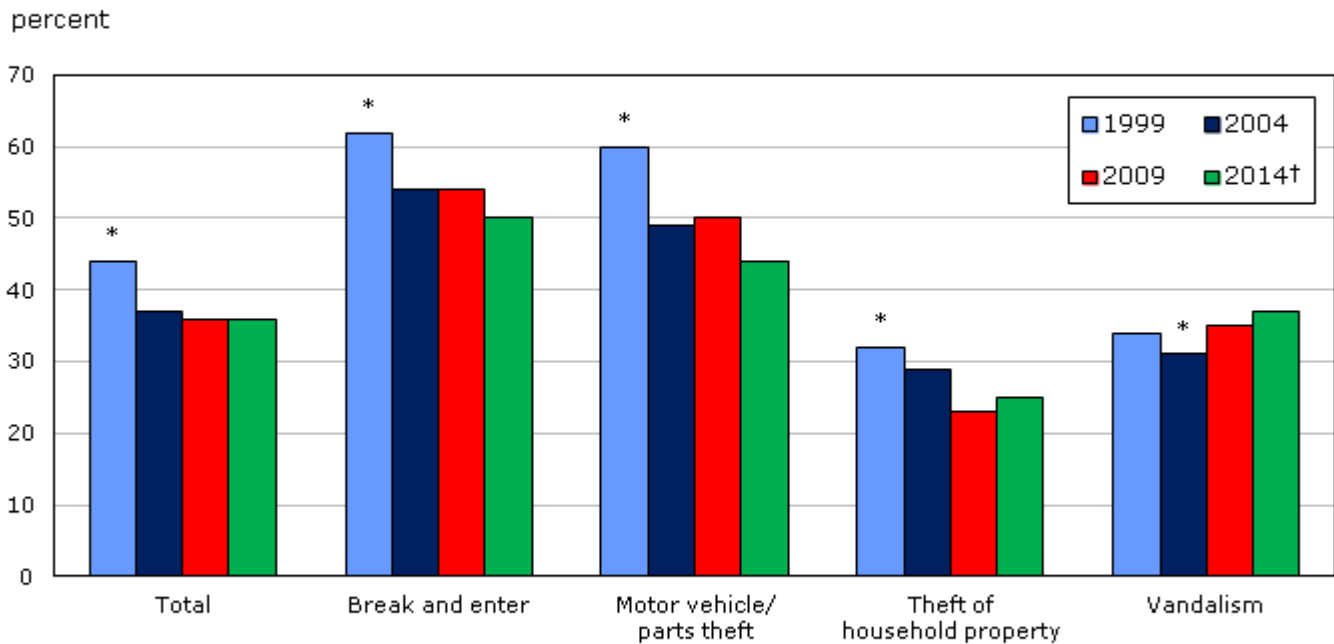


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Note: Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault. There are no significant differences ($p < 0.05$) compared to 2014.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Chart 14
Household victimization incidents reported to the police,
1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014



† reference category

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

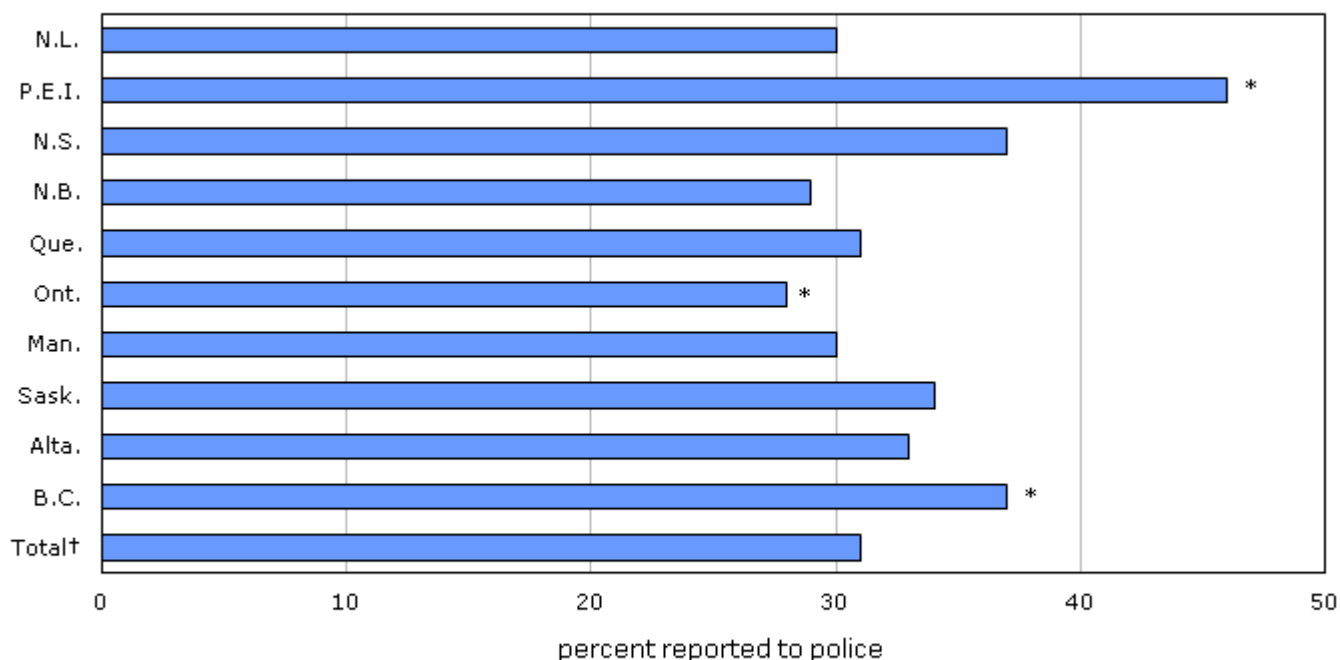
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Sexual assault was the notable exception to this trend. Despite being the most serious offence measured by the GSS, only 5% of sexual assaults were brought to the attention of the police in 2014, a proportion not significantly different from that recorded a decade earlier (8%).

Ontario had the lowest rate of reporting to the police of all provinces

Among the provinces, Ontario recorded the lowest rate of reporting to the police (28%). This difference is based primarily on low reporting rates for household victimization (32% compared to 36% for all provinces), since the rates of reporting violent incidents and thefts of personal property in Ontario were relatively similar to the rates for the provinces as a whole. In contrast, Prince Edward Island (46%) and British Columbia (37%) had the highest rates of reporting incidents to the police. The reporting rates in the other provinces were not statistically different from the national average (Chart 15).

Chart 15
Victimization incidents reported to police, by province, 2014



† reference category

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

Note: Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Victims who did not report an incident often felt it was not important enough

The majority (78%) of victims who did not bring the incident to the attention of the police felt that it was, among other reasons, too minor to be worth taking the time to report. In about two in five victimization incidents (43%), this was the main reason the incident was not reported. The trend was the same for all crimes, although the proportions were smaller for violent offences (Table 10).

The reasons for not bringing an incident to the attention of the police varied somewhat depending on the type of crime. For example, a number of violent crime victims felt that it was a personal matter (63%), or did not want to get the offender in trouble (27%) or feared revenge (18%), all reasons that might be related to the fact that many victims knew their attacker. Some 12% of sexual assault victims also stated that they did not want to bring shame or dishonour to their family.

Reasons for not reporting incidents of household victimization to police appeared to be primarily linked to a somewhat low expectation of results. For example, many victims believed that the police would not consider the incident important enough (66%), that they would not be able to identify the perpetrator or find the property stolen (65%), or that there was a lack of evidence for meaningful police action (61%).

Lastly, victims of violent crime and property crime who did not report their victimization to the police gave reasons related to their expectations of the justice system. In particular, 38% of victims believed that the offender would not be adequately punished, 34% believed that the police would not be effective, 25% feared or did not want the hassle of dealing with the court process, and 17% stated they had received unsatisfactory service from the police in the past.

Women more likely than men to make use of victim services

In addition to the police, crime victims may seek assistance from other formal services such as crisis centres, victim services, women’s centres, psychologists or social workers. Victims of household crimes or thefts of personal property rarely turned to these services, but 14% of violent crime victims contacted at least one such source of support, most often a psychologist or social worker. Women who were victims of violence were more than twice as likely as men to make use of one of these services (19% compared to 7%).

A number of victims also confided in other people, such as family, friends, colleagues, clergy members, spiritual advisors, lawyers or doctors. The majority of victims (91%) of a crime, whether violent or property, talked about it after the incident.

Summary

Victimization rates, according to the GSS, in 2014 were lower than those recorded 10 years ago for almost all measured crimes, sexual assault being the only notable exception. In general, victimization rates tended to be lower in the eastern provinces and higher in the western provinces.

In 2014, the GSS included new questions on childhood maltreatment as well as more detailed questions on drug use, homelessness and disabilities, including mental or psychological disabilities. All these factors were found to be strongly associated with the risk of violent victimization, as were binge drinking, low social cohesion and being young. All of these factors also helped to explain higher violent victimization rates among Aboriginal males but could not completely explain higher rates experienced by Aboriginal females.

New questions were also added to the GSS in 2014 to better measure the consequences of victimization, including questions based on the Primary Care Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Screen (PC-PTSD) tool. These questions revealed that one in seven violent crime victims suffered symptoms consistent with a suspected PTSD.

Less than one in three (31%) criminal incident was reported to the police in 2014. This proportion was slightly lower than that recorded ten years earlier (34%). Among all measured offences, sexual assault was the least likely to be reported to police, with just one in twenty being brought to the attention of the police.

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Survey description

In 2014, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the General Social Survey (GSS) for the sixth time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993, 1999, 2004 and 2009. The purpose of the survey is to provide data on Canadians' personal experiences with eight offences, examine the risk factors associated with victimization, examine rates of reporting to the police, assess the nature and extent of spousal violence, measure fear of crime, and examine public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

This report is based on Cycle 28 of the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization conducted in 2014. The target population was persons aged 15 and over living in the 10 Canadian provinces, except for people living full-time in institutions. In 2014, the survey was also conducted in the three territories using a different sampling design; the results for these regions will be available in a separate report to be released in 2016.

Once a household was selected and contacted by phone, an individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey. An oversample of immigrants and youth was added to the 2014 GSS for a more detailed analysis of these groups.

In 2014, the sample size was 33,127 respondents. Of that number, 2,787 were from the oversample.

Data collection

Data collection took place from January to December 2014 inclusively. Responses were obtained by computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI). Respondents were able to respond in the official language of their choice.

Response rates

The overall response rate was 52.9%, down from 61.6% in 2009. Non-respondents included people who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 and older.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. This article uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Estimates with a high CV (over 33.3%) were not published because they were too unreliable. In these cases, the symbol "F" is used in place of an estimate in the figures and data tables. Estimates with a CV between 16.6 and 33.3 should be used with caution and the symbol "E" is used. Where descriptive statistics and cross-tabular analyses were used, statistically significant differences were determined using 95% confidence intervals.

Notes

1. Statistics Canada conducts a General Social Survey every year. Each year has a different theme, and victimization is surveyed every five years. For the purposes of the present report, GSS refers to the GSS on Victimization.
2. Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut were collected through a separate survey and will be published at a later date.
3. Unless otherwise indicated, the differences presented in the text of this report are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$ and the coefficient of variation (CV) of the proportions presented in the text is less than 33.3.
4. Percentage changes are calculated on unrounded rates and therefore may be different from results that might be obtained from the rates presented in the tables and charts, which are rounded to the unit.
5. The decrease observed between 1999 and 2004 was not statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).
6. See endnote 4.
7. The declines (or increases) recorded in the other provinces were not statistically significant.
8. A CMA consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a central core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the central core. To be included in a CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by the percentage of commuters established from previous census place of work data.
9. A census agglomeration (CA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a central core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in a CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by the percentage of commuters established from previous census place of work data.
10. The Saskatoon CMA recorded a rate of violent victimization of 144 incidents per 1,000 inhabitants. However, the difference between this rate and the total rate was not statistically significant.
11. In the multivariate analysis in Model 1, age is included as a continuous variable, that is, all age values (in years) are included in the model, rather than age groups. Thus, the model in Model 1 shows that for each additional year of age, that is, as a person ages one year, the risk of violent victimization decreases by 3%. However, to make presenting this result easier, the model in Model 1 was reworked with the age variable grouped in categories.
12. Includes the use of marijuana, hashish, hashish oil, any other product derived from cannabis, or any other non-prescription drug (for example, magic mushrooms, cocaine, speed, methamphetamines, ecstasy, PCP, mescaline or heroin).
13. Includes people who stated experiencing at least three symptoms. For further details on measurement of symptoms related to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, see Text box 4.
14. Physical violence includes being slapped, hit on the head or ears, hit with an object, pushed, grabbed, thrown, shoved, punched, strangled or kicked.
15. Sexual violence includes being touched in an unwanted sexual manner or being forced to have unwanted sexual activity.
16. For victims reporting more than one incident of abuse, the relationship to the person who committed the most serious incident was requested.
17. Includes parents, in-laws, grandparents, and brothers and sisters.
18. Includes people who reported more than five incidents of sexual touching or more than five incidents of sexual assault.
19. Includes First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The question on Aboriginal identity was asked solely of people who reported being born in Canada, the United States, Greenland or Germany (because of the large number of Canadian Forces members in the latter country). People born in other countries were classified as non-Aboriginal.
20. The question used to identify the Aboriginal population was changed in 2009 to coincide with the question used in the 2006 Census. As such, results for the Aboriginal population cannot be directly compared to those from victimization cycles prior to 2009.
21. The remainder of this report excludes incidents of sexual assault and physical assault between current or former spouse or common-law partner. The information on violence between spouses is collected using a different methodology in order to take into account the entire spousal violence situation rather than each individual incident, as is the case for the other types of victimization. Spousal violence is analyzed in detail in a separate report.
22. Questions on the relationships between the victim and the offender or offenders were asked only of victims who had previously established the number of offenders. Consequently, the data exclude victims who did not provide information on their offenders. When there was more than one offender, the relationship is that of the offender with the closest relationship to the victim. Although rates presented in this report do include spousal violence incidents, detailed information on these incidents are collected through a different module and are analysed in a separate report.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by type of offence, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014

Type of offence	1999		2004		2009		2014†	
	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate
Sexual assault ^{1,2}	502	21	546	21	677	24	633	22
Robbery ¹	228	9*	274	11*	368	13*	190	6
Physical assault ¹	1,961	80*	1,931	75*	2,222	80*	1,422	48
Total violent victimization¹	2,691	111*	2,751	106*	3,267	118*	2,245	76
Break and enter ³	587	48*	505	39*	630	47*	441	31
Motor vehicle/parts theft ³	501	41*	571	44*	453	34*	261	18
Theft of household property ³	760	62*	1,136	88*	1,109	83*	766	54
Vandalism ³	808	66*	993	77*	992	74*	561	40
Total household victimization³	2,656	218*	3,206	248*	3,184	237*	2,029	143
Theft of personal property¹	1,831	75	2,408	93*	2,981	108*	2,154	73

† reference category

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

1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older.

2. As of 2014, this category includes having had non-consensual sexual relations because the victim was drugged, manipulated or forced in some way other than physically.

3. Rates are calculated per 1,000 households.

Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014.

Table 2
Victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by type of offence and province, 2014

Provinces	Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault		Total violent victimization	
	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹
Newfoundland and Labrador	F	F	F	F	18 ^E	43 ^E	24 ^E	55 ^{E*}
Prince Edward Island	F	F	F	F	9 ^E	73 ^E	11 ^E	93 ^E
Nova Scotia	19 ^E	24 ^E	5 ^E	6 ^E	51	65	75	94
New Brunswick	F	F	F	F	27 ^E	42 ^E	48 ^E	76 ^E
Quebec	105 ^E	15 ^E	44 ^E	6 ^E	254	37*	403	59*
Ontario	290	25	42 ^E	4 ^{E*}	604	53	935	82
Manitoba	25 ^E	24 ^E	17 ^E	16 ^{E*}	70 ^E	67 ^E	112	108*
Saskatchewan	F	F	F	F	63 ^E	71 ^E	92	104
Alberta	83 ^E	25 ^E	F	F	160	48	263	79
British Columbia	70 ^E	18 ^E	47 ^E	12 ^E	166	42	282	71
Total†	633	22	190	6	1,422	48	2,245	76

Provinces	Break and enter		Motor vehicle/ parts theft		Theft of household property	
	number (thousands)	rate ²	number (thousands)	rate ²	number (thousands)	rate ²
Newfoundland and Labrador	5 ^E	22 ^E	F	F	6 ^E	31 ^{E*}
Prince Edward Island	F	F	F	F	2 ^E	41 ^E
Nova Scotia	7	19*	7 ^E	18 ^E	17	42*
New Brunswick	6 ^E	20 ^{E*}	F	F	11 ^E	35 ^{E*}
Quebec	105	30	65	19	173	50
Ontario	138	26*	68	13*	276	52
Manitoba	26	54*	12 ^E	24 ^E	32	65
Saskatchewan	15 ^E	34 ^E	13 ^E	30 ^E	27	63
Alberta	56	35	46	29*	98	62
British Columbia	82	42*	43 ^E	22 ^E	123	63
Total†	441	31	261	18	766	54

Provinces	Vandalism		Total household victimization		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate ²	number (thousands)	rate ²	number (thousands)	rate ¹
Newfoundland and Labrador	5 ^E	25 ^{E*}	19	90*	25	59
Prince Edward Island	F	F	7	110*	13 ^E	103 ^E
Nova Scotia	13	32	44	111*	57	71
New Brunswick	7 ^E	21 ^{E*}	27	86*	29 ^E	46 ^{E*}
Quebec	123	36	466	135	432	64
Ontario	197	37	679	128*	901	79
Manitoba	33	67*	103	210*	101	97*
Saskatchewan	24	57*	79	183*	88	99*
Alberta	81	51*	281	177*	237	71
British Columbia	77	39	325	167*	272	68
Total†	561	40	2,029	143	2,154	73

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

† reference category

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

1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older.

2. Rates are calculated per 1,000 households.

Note: Corresponds to the victim's province of residence; the incident may have occurred in another province. Caution should be used in making comparisons between provinces as not all differences between provincial estimates are statistically significant. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Table 3
Victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by census metropolitan area, 2014

Census metropolitan area ^{1,2}	Total violent victimization ³		Total household victimization ⁴		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate ⁵	number (thousands)	rate ⁶	number (thousands)	rate ⁵
St. John's	12 ^E	73 ^E	10	121	16	97
Halifax	46	129*	23	129	36	100*
Saint John	8 ^E	72 ^E	5 ^E	103 ^E	F	F
Québec	F	F	33	97*	38 ^E	58 ^E
Sherbrooke	F	F	17 ^E	204 ^E	F	F
Montréal	216	65	271	160	268	80
Gatineau ⁷	F	F	22 ^E	168 ^E	F	F
Ottawa–Gatineau	83 ^E	77 ^E	66	126	117 ^E	107 ^E
Ottawa ⁸	52 ^E	63 ^E	44	112	82 ^E	100 ^E
Oshawa	F	F	34 ^E	265 ^E	F	F
Toronto	423	83	268	118*	308	61
Hamilton	69 ^E	108 ^E	44	149	58 ^E	90 ^E
St. Catharines–Niagara	31 ^E	80 ^E	24 ^E	128 ^E	46 ^E	117 ^E
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	F	F	21 ^E	106 ^E	F	F
London	F	F	32 ^E	164 ^E	34 ^E	86 ^E
Windsor	F	F	19 ^E	170 ^E	F	F
Winnipeg	78 ^E	118 ^{E*}	78	253*	71	108*
Regina	F	F	22	241*	16	82 ^E
Saskatoon	35 ^E	142 ^E	23	201*	35 ^E	143 ^{E*}
Calgary	62 ^E	54 ^{E*}	87	160	86 ^E	75 ^E
Edmonton	87 ^E	81 ^E	93	187*	80	74
Kelowna	F	F	15 ^E	160 ^E	F	F
Vancouver	140	65	191	191*	156	73
Victoria	F	F	24 ^E	145 ^E	F	F
All CMAs	1,619	78	1,497	152*	1,646	79*
All CAs ⁹	248	61*	285	139	271	67
Non CMA/CA	378	81	247	108*	237	51*
Total†	2,245	76	2,029	143	2,154	73

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

† reference category

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

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by the flow of daily migration calculated from census data.

2. The following CMAs are not included in the table because reliable estimates could not be established for them due to sample size: Moncton, Saguenay, Trois-Rivières, Kingston, Peterborough, Brantford, Guelph, Barrie, Greater Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Abbotsford–Mission.

3. Includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault.

4. Includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle or parts, theft of household property and vandalism.

5. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older.

6. Rates are calculated per 1,000 households.

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

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

9. A census agglomeration (CA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a central core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in a CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by the percentage of commuters established from previous census place of work data.

Note: Corresponds to the victim's CMA of residence; the incident may have occurred outside the victim's CMA. Comparisons between CMAs should be interpreted with caution because not all differences in CMA estimates are statistically significant. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Table 4
Personal victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by type of offence and selected demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, 2014

Characteristics	Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault		Total violent victimization		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate
Sex										
Male†	80 ^E	5 ^E	113 ^E	8 ^E	786	54	979	67	1,085	75
Female	553	37*	77 ^E	5 ^E	636	43*	1,266	85*	1,069	72
Age groups										
15 to 24†	321	71	82 ^E	18 ^E	334	74	737	163	495	110
25 to 34	159 ^E	32 ^{E*}	37 ^E	8 ^{E*}	388	78	585	118*	479	97
35 to 44	49 ^E	10 ^{E*}	F	F	257	55	319	68*	446	95
45 to 54	69 ^E	13 ^{E*}	30 ^E	6 ^{E*}	261	50*	360	69*	382	73*
55 to 64	18 ^E	4 ^{E*}	F	F	139	30*	177	38*	232	50*
65 and over	F	F	F	F	43 ^E	8 ^{E*}	68 ^E	13 ^{E*}	121	23*
Marital status										
Married†	83 ^E	6 ^E	33 ^E	2 ^E	470	32	585	40	916	62
Common-law	F	F	F	F	235	73*	303	94*	282	88*
Single	461 ^E	57*	114 ^E	14 ^{E*}	553	68*	1,128	139*	783	97*
Widowed	F	F	F	F	13 ^E	9 ^{E*}	22 ^E	16 ^{E*}	27 ^E	19 ^{E*}
Separated/divorced	37 ^E	20 ^{E*}	19 ^E	10 ^{E*}	150 ^E	79 ^{E*}	207	108*	146	77
Main activity										
Employed†	240	14	89 ^E	5 ^E	973	58	1,302	78	1,387	83
Looking for paid work	F	F	F	F	48 ^E	107 ^E	75 ^E	165 ^{E*}	43 ^E	95 ^E
Student	260	73*	59 ^E	16 ^{E*}	202	56	521	146*	380	106*
Household work ¹	31 ^E	18 ^E	F	F	78 ^E	47 ^E	119 ^E	72 ^E	137 ^E	82
Retired	F	F	F	F	54	9*	88	15*	168	29*
Other ²	F	F	F	F	53 ^E	61 ^E	90 ^E	104 ^E	33 ^E	39 ^{E*}
Aboriginal identity										
Non-Aboriginal people†	577	20	175	6	1,337	47	2,089	74	2,055	72
Aboriginal people ³	54 ^E	58 ^{E*}	F	F	81 ^E	87 ^{E*}	149	160*	95	102*
First Nation	F	F	F	F	59 ^E	135 ^{E*}	95 ^E	216 ^{E*}	33 ^E	75 ^E
Métis	F	F	F	F	23 ^E	50 ^E	55 ^E	119 ^E	61 ^E	131 ^{E*}
Immigrant status										
Non-immigrant†	564	25	167	7	1,222	54	1,953	86	1,832	80
Immigrant	69 ^E	10 ^{E*}	23 ^E	3 ^{E*}	200 ^E	30 ^{E*}	292	44*	322	49*
Recent immigrant	F	F	F	F	37 ^E	25 ^{E*}	59 ^E	40 ^{E*}	66	45*
Immigrated before 2005	50 ^E	10 ^{E*}	20 ^E	4 ^{E*}	163 ^E	32 ^{E*}	233	45*	256	50*
Visible minority										
Non-visible minority†	498	21	155	7	1,267	53	1,920	80	1,843	77
Visible minority ⁴	104 ^E	21 ^E	F	F	133 ^E	27 ^{E*}	271 ^E	55 ^{E*}	292	59*
Sexual orientation⁵										
Heterosexual†	443	17	136	5	1,245	47	1,824	69	1,915	72
Homosexual or bisexual	74 ^E	102 ^{E*}	F	F	57 ^E	79 ^{E*}	150	207*	67	93
Homosexual	F	F	F	F	24 ^E	69 ^E	49 ^E	142 ^{E*}	32 ^E	92 ^E
Bisexual	57 ^E	151 ^{E*}	F	F	33 ^E	88 ^E	100 ^E	267 ^{E*}	35 ^E	94 ^E

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

† reference category

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

1. Includes housework, child care and maternity or paternity leave.

2. Includes long-term illness, volunteering and other types of occupations.

3. Includes those who self identified as First Nation, Métis or Inuit.

4. Includes the categories set out in the *Employment Equity Act*.

5. Includes persons aged 18 years and older only.

Note: Rates are calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Table 5
Personal victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by type of offence, history and selected health characteristics, 2014

Characteristics	Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault		Total violent victimization		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹
Physically or sexually assaulted by an adult before age 15 (total)										
No†	285	15	79 ^E	4 ^E	710	36	1,073	55	1,245	63
Yes	312	36*	109 ^E	12 ^{E*}	676	77*	1,097	125*	861	98*
Childhood victimization: slapped/hit by an adult										
Never†	377	17	95	4	822	38	1,294	59	1,432	66
1 or 2 times	85 ^E	30 ^E	F	F	171	60*	296	104*	231	81
3 to 10 times	63 ^E	31 ^E	F	F	162	80*	246	122*	186	92
More than 10 times	74 ^E	38 ^E	31 ^E	16 ^{E*}	234	120*	340	174*	274	140*
Childhood victimization: pushed/grabbed/shoved by an adult										
Never†	404	17	123	5 ^E	979	41	1,506	63	1,610	67
1 or 2 times	72 ^E	35 ^{E*}	F	F	143	70*	231	112*	173	84
3 to 10 times	58 ^E	46 ^{E*}	F	F	95 ^E	75 ^{E*}	174	138*	138 ^E	110 ^{E*}
More than 10 times	63 ^E	55 ^{E*}	28 ^E	25 ^{E*}	171 ^E	148 ^{E*}	263 ^E	227*	206	178*
Childhood victimization: kicked/punched/choked by an adult										
Never†	509	19	148	6	1,157	43	1,814	68	1,853	69
1 or 2 times	F	F	F	F	75 ^E	77 ^{E*}	113 ^E	117*	82 ^E	85
3 to 10 times	F	F	F	F	41 ^E	78 ^{E*}	78 ^E	148 ^{E*}	75 ^E	143 ^{E*}
More than 10 times	F	F	25 ^E	42 ^E	126 ^E	212 ^{E*}	185 ^E	312 ^{E*}	116 ^E	196 ^{E*}
Childhood victimization: forced into unwanted sex. activity by adult										
Never†	489	18	160	6	1,237	45	1,886	68	1,950	71
1 or 2 times	F	F	F	F	89 ^E	121 ^{E*}	184 ^E	252 ^{E*}	85 ^E	116*
3 to 10 times	F	F	F	F	25 ^E	93 ^E	45 ^E	170 ^{E*}	F	F
More than 10 times	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	349 ^{E*}	70 ^E	282 ^{E*}
Childhood victimization: touched in a sexual way by adult										
Never†	445	17	154	6	1,171	44	1,770	67	1,878	71
1 or 2 times	64 ^E	47 ^{E*}	F	F	108 ^E	78 ^{E*}	189 ^E	138 ^{E*}	115	84
3 to 10 times	F	F	F	F	30 ^E	68 ^E	58 ^E	133 ^{E*}	45 ^E	103 ^E
More than 10 times	F	F	F	F	93 ^E	253 ^{E*}	163 ^E	441 ^{E*}	90 ^E	243 ^{E*}
Mental/psychological disability										
No†	444	16	140	5	1,208	44	1,792	66	1,951	72
Yes	165	95*	48 ^E	27 ^{E*}	197	113*	410	236*	193	111*
Learning disability										
No†	524	19	149	5	1,268	45	1,942	69	2,012	72
Yes	86 ^E	82 ^{E*}	F	37 ^{E*}	138 ^E	132 ^{E*}	263	250*	138	131*
Self-rated mental health										
Excellent†	113 ^E	10 ^E	68 ^E	6 ^E	380	33	562	49	801	70
Very good	128 ^E	13 ^E	49 ^E	5 ^E	419	44*	596	62*	643	67
Good	182 ^E	28 ^{E*}	39 ^E	6 ^E	353	54*	574	88*	474	73
Fair	140 ^E	111 ^{E*}	29 ^E	23 ^{E*}	202 ^E	160 ^{E*}	370	293*	208	165*
Poor	F	F	F	F	50 ^E	180 ^{E*}	100 ^E	358 ^{E*}	24 ^E	86 ^E

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5 — continued
Personal victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by type of offence, history and selected health characteristics, 2014

Characteristics	Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault		Total violent victimization		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹	number (thousands)	rate ¹
Used drugs during the month preceding the survey										
No†	465	17	137	5	1,083	40	1,685	62	1,793	66
Yes	145 ^E	71 ^{E*}	51 ^E	25 ^{E*}	324	159*	520	256*	351	173*
Cannabis - not everyday	80 ^E	52 ^{E*}	F	F	197	127*	308	199*	248	160*
Cannabis - everyday	63 ^E	144 ^{E*}	F	F	111 ^E	256 ^{E*}	190 ^E	436*	98 ^E	224 ^{E*}
Other drug - at least once	46 ^E	235 ^{E*}	F	F	57 ^E	289 ^{E*}	120 ^E	610 ^{E*}	49 ^E	249 ^{E*}
5 or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting (binge drinking) during the month preceding the survey										
None†	348	16	98	5	796	37	1,241	58	1,367	64
At least once	261	35*	90 ^E	12 ^{E*}	609	81*	961	127*	769	102*
Number of evening activities during the month preceding the survey										
None†	F	F	F	F	50 ^E	24 ^E	70 ^E	34 ^E	54 ^E	27 ^E
1 to 10	116 ^E	10 ^E	41 ^E	4 ^E	320	28	476	42	639	57*
11 to 20	159	19*	59 ^E	7 ^E	417	51*	635	77*	640	78*
21 or more	329	45*	79 ^E	11 ^{E*}	616	85*	1,024	141*	801	110*
Ever been homeless										
No†	565	20	167	6	1,301	46	2,033	71	2,019	71
Yes	F	F	21 ^E	44 ^{E*}	107 ^E	222 ^{E*}	173 ^E	358 ^{E*}	125 ^E	258*
Had to temporarily live with family/friends/car, because nowhere else to live										
No†	480	18	145	5	1,152	43	1,777	66	1,846	69
Yes	130 ^E	56 ^{E*}	44 ^E	19 ^{E*}	256	111*	429	186*	298	129*

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

† reference category

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

1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older.

Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Table 6
Victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by selected household, dwelling and neighbourhood characteristics, 2014

Characteristics	Total violent victimization ¹		Total household victimization ²		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate ³	number (thousands)	rate ⁴	number (thousands)	rate ³
Living arrangement of household						
Alone†	220	62	406	114	177	49
Couple ⁵	356	42*	442	107	429	51
Couple with children	1,096	83*	824	178*	1,143	86*
Lone-parent family	389	143*	238	186*	297	109*
Other living arrangement ⁶	184 ^E	126 ^{E*}	120	194*	109	75*
Household size						
1 or 2 people†	815	60	988	115	728	54
3 or 4 people	1,059	89*	798	181*	1,027	87*
5 people or more	370	90*	243	206*	399	97*
Dwelling type						
Single detached†	1,484	75	1,275	146	1,527	77
Semi-detached, row house, duplex	318	72	344	160	382	87
Apartment or condo in a building	390	84	366	123*	215	46*
Other	F	F	40	134	25 ^E	50 ^{E*}
Dwelling ownership						
Owned†	1,597	69	1,417	135	1,713	74
Rented	645	103*	604	165*	429	69
Living in the dwelling						
Less than 1 year†	260	109	221	185	203	85
1 year to less than 5 years	681	91	647	168	565	76
5 years to less than 10 years	406	69*	392	139*	506	86
10 years or more	898	66*	764	121*	876	64
Sense of belonging to local community						
Very strong†	372	50	379	104	384	51
Somewhat strong	982	68*	941	137*	1,079	74*
Somewhat weak	557	116*	438	189*	441	92*
Very weak	266	165*	217	259*	205	127*
People in neighbourhood help each other						
Yes†	1,694	69	1,540	131	1,718	70
No	471	136*	415	237*	349	101*
Likelihood that neighbours call the police if witness what seems like criminal behaviour						
Very likely†	1,260	66	1,170	127	1,267	66
Somewhat likely	689	89*	602	163*	682	88*
Somewhat unlikely or not at all likely	260	153*	223	262*	184	108*
Social disorder in the neighbourhood						
No†	533	40	446	70	482	36
Yes ⁷	1,694	109*	1,565	209*	1,654	107*
Household income						
Less than \$20 000†	90	79	136	142	49	43
\$20 000 to \$59 999	291	60	346	111*	218	45
\$60 000 to \$99 999	288	56	297	113	321	63*
\$100 000 to \$139 999	225	59	241	140	283	75*
\$140 000 to \$179 999	118	54	134	145	183	84*
\$180 000 or more	168 ^E	69 ^E	142	143	206	84*

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

† reference category

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

1. Includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault.

2. Includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle or parts, theft of household property and vandalism.

3. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older.

4. Rates are calculated per 1,000 households.

5. Includes couples living with unrelated persons.

6. Includes unrelated persons (e.g., roommates) and/or related persons who are neither spouses nor children living with their parents.

7. Includes persons who responded that at least one of the following situations was a problem in their neighbourhood: noisy neighbours or loud parties; people hanging around on the streets; garbage or litter lying around; vandalism; people being attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion; people using or dealing drugs; people being drunk or rowdy in public places.

Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Table 7
Violent victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by selected characteristics of the incident, 2014

Characteristics	Sexual assault	Robbery	Physical assault percent	Total violent victimization
Location of the incident				
Residence of the victim	7 ^E	51	25	22
Other private residence	22 ^E	F	8 ^E	12
Commercial or institutional establishment	43	F	41	39
Street or other public place	14 ^E	27 ^E	24	21
Other	F	F	F	2 ^E
Don't know/refusal	12 ^E	F	F	4 ^E
Location of the incident is the victim's place of work¹				
Yes	24 ^E	F	31	27
No	67	83	64	67
Don't know/refusal	10 ^E	F	5 ^E	6 ^E
Sex of offender²				
Male	94	83	82	86
Female	6 ^E	F	18	14
Age of offender²				
Under 18 years old	10 ^E	F	13 ^E	12
18 to 24	31	F	19	24
25 to 34	27 ^E	32 ^E	23	25
35 to 44	8 ^E	F	18	14
45 to 54	12 ^E	F	13	12
55 years or older	10 ^E	F	10	10
Relationship of offender to the victim³				
Family	F	F	7 ^E	5 ^E
Friend, acquaintance, neighbour	52	27 ^E	33	38
Stranger	44	63	48	48
Other	F	F	12	8
Number of offenders				
One	79	60	75	75
Two	F	15 ^E	8 ^E	7
Three or more	F	14 ^E	14 ^E	11
Don't know/refusal	13 ^E	F	3 ^E	7 ^E
Gang-related incident (when more than one offender)				
Yes	F	F	F	15 ^E
No	F	43 ^E	66	64
Don't know/refusal	F	F	21 ^E	21 ^E
Incident related to the offender's alcohol or drug use				
Yes	54	60	51	53
No	29	32 ^E	42	37
Don't know/refusal	17 ^E	F	8	11
Incident was a hate crime⁴				
Yes	F	F	12	10
No	82	89	87	85
Don't know/refusal	14 ^E	F	F	5 ^E

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 7 — continued
Violent victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by selected characteristics of the incident, 2014

Characteristics	Sexual assault	Robbery	Physical assault percent	Total violent victimization
Presence of a weapon				
Yes	F	57	33	26
Firearm	F	F	F	2 ^E
Knife	F	20 ^E	8	7
Bottle, bat, stick, rock	F	20 ^E	14	10
Other	F	F	8	6
No	86	40	64	69
Don't know/refusal	13 ^E	F	F	5 ^E
Caused injuries				
Yes	F	23 ^E	26	19
Received medical attention	F	F	4 ^E	3 ^E
No medical attention received	F	21 ^E	20	16
No	93	77	74	80
Victim reports post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms				
Yes ⁵	15 ^E	17 ^E	12	13
No	73	83	87	82
Don't know/refusal	12 ^E	F	F	5 ^E

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Due to an error in the survey application, victims who reported the location of the incident as "Other" were not asked the place of work question. Approximately one-third of these incidents were recoded based on other information provided. The proportions on place of work presented in this table were calculated solely for incidents for which there was a valid response.

2. Excludes incidents for which there was more than one offender.

3. Includes incidents for which the victim identified the number of offenders. If there was more than one offender, the relationship is that of the offender with the closest relationship to the victim.

4. An incident is motivated by hate when the victim believes that the offender was motivated by hate of the victim's sex, ethnic origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or language.

5. Based on the Primary Care Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Screen. Includes people who reported at least three of the four symptoms evaluated.

Note: Excludes incidents of sexual assault and physical assault between spouses. The answers "Don't know" and "Refusal" are included in the calculation of the percentages, but may not appear in the table when they represent less than 5% of responses. Because of the inclusion of the answers "Don't know" and "Refusal" and of rounding, totals may not add up to 100. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Table 8
Household victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by type of offence and selected household, dwelling and neighbourhood characteristics, 2014

Characteristics	Break and enter		Motor vehicle/ parts theft		Theft of household property		Vandalism	
	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate	number (thousands)	rate
Living arrangement of household								
Alone†	117	33	43	12	144	40	103	29
Couple ¹	92	22*	68	16	155	38	127	31
Couple with children	158	34	102	22*	337	73*	226	49*
Lone-parent family	47	37	27 ^E	21 ^{E*}	88	69*	75	59*
Other living arrangement ²	27 ^E	44 ^E	21 ^E	33 ^{E*}	42	67*	30 ^E	49 ^{E*}
Household size								
1 or 2 people†	245	28	121	14	349	41	274	32
3 or 4 people	161	36*	102	23*	311	70*	225	51*
5 people or more	36	31	38 ^E	32*	106	90*	63	53*
Dwelling type								
Single detached†	270	31	167	19	467	53	371	42
Semi-detached, row house, duplex	62	29	37	17	154	72*	92	43
Apartment or condo in a building	99	33	53 ^E	18	125	42*	89	30*
Other	10 ^E	34 ^E	F	F	17 ^E	58 ^E	F	F
Dwelling ownership								
Owned†	315	30	173	16	515	49	414	39
Rented	125	34	87	24*	248	68*	143	39
Living in the dwelling								
Less than 1 year†	47	39	36 ^E	30 ^E	84	70	53	45
1 year to less than 5 years	126	33	89	23	270	70	162	42
5 years to less than 10 years	83	29	35	12*	156	55	118	42
10 years or more	186	29	100	16*	253	40*	226	36
Sense of belonging to local community								
Very strong†	89	25	54	15	124	34	111	30
Somewhat strong	198	29	126	18	358	52*	259	38*
Somewhat weak	95	41*	47	20	174	75*	122	53*
Very weak	47	56*	28 ^E	33 ^{E*}	86	102*	56	67*
People in neighbourhood help each other								
Yes†	327	28	204	17	578	49	431	37
No	101	57*	47	27*	156	89*	112	64*
Likelihood that neighbours call the police if witness what seems like criminal behaviour								
Very likely†	255	28	144	16	426	46	344	37
Somewhat likely	122	33	86	23*	235	64*	158	43
Somewhat unlikely or not at all likely	59	69*	26 ^E	30 ^{E*}	85	100*	53	62*
Social disorder in the neighbourhood								
No†	97	15	60	10	171	27	118	19
Yes ³	342	46*	198	26*	586	78*	439	59*
Household income								
Less than \$20 000†	43	44	14 ^E	15 ^E	48	50	32	33
\$20 000 to \$59 999	85	27*	48	16	126	40	87	28
\$60 000 to \$99 999	61	23*	30	11	110	42	97	37
\$100 000 to \$139 999	49 ^E	28 ^E	28 ^E	16 ^E	100	58	64	37
\$140 000 to \$179 999	27 ^E	29 ^E	14 ^E	15 ^E	52 ^E	56 ^E	41	44
\$180 000 or more	32	32	21 ^E	21 ^{E*}	42	43	46	47

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

† reference category

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

1. Includes couples living with unrelated persons.

2. Includes unrelated persons (e.g., roommates) and/or related persons that are neither spouses nor children living with their parents.

3. Includes persons who responded that at least one of the following situations was a problem in their neighbourhood: noisy neighbours or loud parties; people hanging around on the streets; garbage or litter lying around; vandalism; people being attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion; people using or dealing drugs; people being drunk or rowdy in public places.

Note: Rates are calculated per 1,000 households. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Table 9
Victimization incidents reported by Canadians, by reporting to the police and type of offence, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014

Type of offence	1999			2004			2009			2014†		
	Not reported	Reported	Don't know/refusal	Not reported	Reported	Don't know/refusal	Not reported	Reported	Don't know/refusal	Not reported	Reported	Don't know/refusal
Total	59*	37*	3	64	34*	2	68	31	1*	67	31	2
Victimization¹												
Violent victimization incidents¹												
Sexual assault ²	78	F	14	88	8 ^E	4*	88	F	F	83	5 ^E	12 ^E
Robbery	51	46	F	53	46	F	56	43	F	54	45	F
Physical assault	61	37	F	60	39	F	65	34	F	60	38	F
Total	64	31	6	65	33	2*	69	29	F	67	28	5
Household victimization incidents												
Break and enter	35*	62*	F	44	54	F	46	54	F	49	50	F
Motor vehicle/parts theft	37*	60*	F	50	49	F	48	50	F	54	44	F
Theft of household property	67*	32*	F	69*	29	2	76	23	F	74	25	F
Vandalism	64	34	F	67	31*	3*	64	35	F	62	37	F
Total	53*	44*	2*	61	37	2*	62	36	1	63	36	1
Theft of personal property	63*	35*	F	67	31	2	71	28	F	70	29	F

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

† reference category

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

1. Excludes incidents of sexual assault and physical assault between spouses.

2. As of 2014, this category includes having had non-consensual sexual relations because the victim was drugged, manipulated or forced in some way other than physically.

Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014.

Table 10
Reasons for not reporting victimization incidents to the police, by type of offence, 2014

Type of offence	Fear of revenge by the offender	Police wouldn't have found property/offender	Lack of evidence	Police wouldn't have considered the incident important enough	Police would not have been effective	Unsatisfactory service (from police) in the past	Tried to report but could not get through	Could have caused victim trouble with the law	Did not want to get the offender in trouble	Did not want the hassle of dealing with the police	Reporting to the police would bring shame and dishonour to the family	percent	
Total victimization¹	8	51	52	58	34	17	1^E	3^E	13	37	2^E		
Violent victimization incidents¹													
Sexual assault	22 ^E	21 ^E	43	43	26	13 ^E	F	F	30	45	12 ^E		
Robbery	F	52	56	50	49 ^E	31 ^E	F	F	F	66	F		
Physical assault	13 ^E	20	22	42	25	17 ^E	F	12 ^E	25	49	F		
Total	18	23	33	43	27	17	F	8^E	27	49	8^E		
Household victimization incidents													
Break and enter	11 ^E	61	57	62	40	19	F	F	11 ^E	33	F		
Motor vehicle/parts theft	F	74	60	68	38	12 ^E	F	F	F	23	F		
Theft of household property	3 ^E	65	62	68	40	18	F	F	4 ^E	30	F		
Vandalism	6 ^E	66	62	63	37	18	F	F	8 ^E	29	F		
Total	5	65	61	66	39	18	1^E	1^E	6	29	F		
Theft of personal property	2 ^E	64	61	65	36	17	F	F	7	34	F		
Type of offence	Incident was a private or personal matter and was handled informally	Crime was minor and not worth taking the time to report	No one was harmed/ no financial loss	No harm was intended	Offender would not be convicted or adequately punished	Feared or did not want the hassle of dealing with the court process	Police would be biased	Insurance wouldn't cover it	Did not need a police report to file claim	Nothing was taken/all items were recovered	Reported to another official	percent	
Total victimization¹	43	8	78	49	35	38	25	6	12	6	8	10	
Violent victimization incidents¹													
Sexual assault	67	30	71	63	39	40	34	13 ^E	F	F	F	F	
Robbery	65	F	65	45	F	51	52	F	F	F	F	F	
Physical assault	59	11 ^E	66	45	21	30	27	11 ^E	F	F	F	19 ^E	
Total	63	19	68	52	27	36	32	12^E	F	F	F	13	
Household victimization incidents													
Break and enter	38	8 ^E	76	51	35	39	24	6 ^E	13	4 ^E	14	F	
Motor vehicle/parts theft	29	F	79	45	31	37	18 ^E	F	15 ^E	F	F	F	
Theft of household property	30	F	87	49	39	38	20	3 ^E	21	11	5 ^E	5 ^E	
Vandalism	33	4 ^E	77	45	34	45	23	4 ^E	20	12	34	7 ^E	
Total	32	3	82	48	36	40	21	4	19	9	15	5	
Theft of personal property	36	3 ^E	83	48	40	39	23	3 ^E	16	9	8	12	

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Excludes incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Note: Respondents were able to give more than one reason. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Model 1

Logistic regression: risk of violent victimization, by selected characteristics, 2014

Independent variables	Odds ratio
Age	0.97***
Number of evening activities	1.02***
Sex	
Male	Reference
Female	1.22*
5 or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting in past month	
Never	Reference
At least once	1.29*
Drug use in past month	
Never	Reference
At least once	1.96***
Childhood victimization	
Never	Reference
At least once	1.79***
Mental health	
Excellent or very good ¹	Reference
Good ¹	1.28*
Mental health-related disability or negative self-assessment of mental health ²	2.12***
Homelessness history	
No	Reference
Yes ³	1.80***
Social disorder in the neighbourhood	
No	Reference
Yes ⁴	1.93***
People in neighbourhood help each other	
Yes	Reference
No	1.35*
Likelihood that neighbours call the police if witness what seems like criminal behaviour	
Very likely or somewhat likely	Reference
Somewhat unlikely or not at all likely	1.58**
Immigrant status	
Non-immigrant	Reference
Immigrant	0.67**

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

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

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

1. Based on a self-assessment of mental health, excluding those who reported a mental health-related disability, a developmental or learning disability.

2. Includes people who have a mental health-related disability, a developmental or learning disability or who self-assessed their mental health as fair or poor.

3. Includes people who have previously been homeless or have had to live with relatives, friends or in their vehicle because they had nowhere else to go.

4. Includes people who reported the problematic presence of at least one type of social disorder in their neighbourhood. Social disorder may include noisy neighbours or loud parties; people hanging around on the streets; garbage or litter lying around; vandalism; people being attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion; people using or dealing drugs; people being drunk or rowdy in public places.

Note: Only significant characteristics were retained in the final model. For all the variables tested, see the variables presented in Tables 4 to 6. Sexual orientation was not included in the model because the sexual orientation question was not asked of the entire sample. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.

Model 2**Logistic regression: risk of household victimization, by selected characteristics, 2014**

Independent variables	Odds ratio
Number of household members	1.13***
Location of residence	
Outside a census metropolitan area	Reference
In a census metropolitan area	1.37***
Type of dwelling	
Single detached house	Reference
Semi-detached or row house	0.70***
Low-rise apartment (less than 5 stories)	0.65***
High-rise apartment (5 or more stories)	0.37***
Duplex	n.s.
Other type of dwelling	n.s.
Dwelling ownership	
Owned	Reference
Rented	1.28***
Living in the dwelling	
10 years or more	Reference
1 to 10 years	1.25***
Less than 1 year	1.81***
Social disorder in the neighbourhood	
No	Reference
Yes ¹	2.82***
People in neighbourhood help each other	
Yes	Reference
No	1.47***
Likelihood that neighbours call the police if witness what seems like criminal behaviour	
Very likely or somewhat likely	Reference
Somewhat unlikely or not at all likely	1.49***

n.s. not significant

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

1. Includes people who reported the problematic presence of at least one type of social disorder in their neighbourhood. Social disorder may include noisy neighbours or loud parties; people hanging around on the streets; garbage or litter lying around; vandalism; people being attacked because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion; people using or dealing drugs; people being drunk or rowdy in public places.

Note: Only significant characteristics were retained in the final model. For all the variables tested, see the variables presented in Table 6. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2014.