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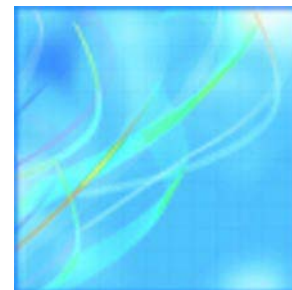
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Catalogue no. 85-224-X

# Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile



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# Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile

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- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0<sup>s</sup> 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

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# **Preface**

This is the thirteenth annual *Family Violence in Canada* report produced by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics under the Federal Family Violence Initiative. This report provides the most current data on the nature and extent of family violence in Canada, as well as trends over time, as part of the ongoing initiative to inform policy makers and the public about family violence issues.

Each year the report has a different focus. This year, the focus of the report is on self-reported incidents of spousal victimization from the 2009 General Social Survey on Victimization.

In addition, using police-reported data, the report also presents information on family violence against children and youth, family violence against seniors (aged 65 years and older), and family-related homicides.

# **Highlights: Family violence in Canada – A statistical profile**

## **Self-reported spousal violence, 2009**

- The 2009 General Social Survey (GSS) found that self-reported spousal violence remained stable from 2004, when the survey was last conducted. Similar to 2004, 6% of Canadians with a current or former spouse reported being physically or sexually victimized by their spouse in the 5 years preceding the survey.
- The proportion of Canadians who reported spousal violence was similar across the majority of provinces. The exceptions were in Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec where the proportions were below the national average.
- Overall, the seriousness of violence experienced in spousal incidents remained stable between 2004 and 2009. The proportion of victims who reported the most serious forms of spousal violence such as being sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a gun or knife was similar to 2004.
- Younger Canadians were more likely to report being a victim of spousal violence than were older Canadians. Those aged 25 to 34 years old were three times more likely than those aged 45 and older to state that they had been physically or sexually assaulted by their spouse.
- In 2009, victims of spousal violence were less likely to report the incident to police than in 2004. Just under one-quarter (22%) of spousal violence victims stated that the incident came to the attention of the police, down slightly from 2004 (28%).
- In addition to physical and sexual violence, many Canadians also reported being the victim of emotional and financial abuse. As in 2004, close to one in five (17%) Canadians said that they had experienced some form of emotional or financial abuse in their current or previous relationship, with put-downs and name calling being the most common form of abuse.

## **Police-reported family violence against children and youth, 2009**

- Police-reported data for 2009 indicate that children and youth under the age of 18 were most likely to be sexually victimized or physically assaulted by someone they knew (85% of incidents).
- Nearly 55,000 children and youth were the victims of a sexual offence or physical assault in 2009, about 3 in 10 of which were perpetrated by a family member.
- Six in ten children and youth victims of family violence were assaulted by their parents. The youngest child victims (under the age of three years) were most vulnerable to violence by a parent.
- In 2009, the rate of family-related sexual offences was more than four times higher for girls than for boys. The rate of physical assault was similar for girls and boys.

## **Police-reported family violence against seniors, 2009**

- In 2009, police reported over 2,400 senior victims (65 years and older) of violent crime by a family member, representing about one-third of all violent incidents committed against older adults.



- Family violence against seniors tends to be lower compared to younger age groups. The rate for seniors in 2009 was less than half that for adults aged 55 to 64 and more than eight times lower than the rate for adults aged 25 to 34.
- Although the overall rate of violent victimization was higher for senior men than senior women, family-related violent victimization was higher among senior women. Senior men were more likely to be victimized by an acquaintance or a stranger than a family member.
- Spouses and grown children were the most common perpetrators of family violence against senior women, while grown children were most often the perpetrators of family violence against senior men.
- Just over half (53%) of police-reported family violence against seniors involved common assaults, the least serious form of assault.
- Six in ten police-reported incidents of family violence against seniors did not result in physical injury. When physical injuries were sustained, the vast majority were relatively minor in nature.

## Family-related homicides, 2000 to 2009

### Spousal homicides

- Between 2000 and 2009, there were 738 spousal homicides, representing 16% of all solved homicides and nearly half (47%) of all family-related homicides.
- The 2009 spousal homicide rate remained stable for the third consecutive year. This follows nearly three decades of gradual decline.
- Women continue to be more likely than men to be victims of spousal homicide. In 2009, the rate of spousal homicide against women was about three times higher than that for men.
- Between 2000 and 2009, men were most likely to be killed by a common-law partner (66%) whereas women were slightly more likely to have been killed by their legally married spouse (39%) than by a common-law partner (33%). In addition, female victims of spousal homicide were more likely than male victims to be killed by a partner from whom they were separated (26% versus 11%).
- For both male and female spouses, homicide rates peaked among 15 to 24 year olds and declined with increasing age.
- Stabbings were the most common method used to commit spousal homicide, particularly against male victims.

### Family-related homicides against children and youth

- Over the past 10 years, there were 326 homicides committed by a family member against a child or youth (0 to 17 years), accounting for 7% of all solved homicides and 21% of all family-related homicides.
- Parents committed the majority (84%) of family-related homicides against children and youth.
- Infants under the age of one experienced higher rates of family homicide compared to older children.
- Children under 4 years of age who were killed by a family member were most often shaken or beaten to death whereas older children were most often killed with a weapon, such as a knife or firearm.

**Family-related homicides against seniors**

- There were 160 family-related homicides against seniors (65 years and older) between 2000 and 2009, accounting for 4% of all solved homicides and 10% of all family-related homicides.
- The rate of family-related homicides against seniors has gradually declined over the past 30 years. In 2009, the rate of family-related homicide against seniors was 61% lower than in 1980.
- Senior women were most likely to be killed by their spouse (41%) or son (36%), while the majority of senior men were killed by their son (72%).
- Frustration, anger and despair was the most common motivation for a family member killing a senior person, resulting in about one-third (33%) of all such homicides between 2000 and 2009. Another 26% of family-related homicides against seniors stemmed from an argument.

# Section 1

## Self-reported spousal violence, 2009

by Shannon Brennan

Spousal violence is a devastating reality for many Canadian families that cuts across all social, economic and cultural groups (Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, n.d.). This form of violence encompasses physical and sexual violence, as well as emotional and financial abuse, perpetrated by a current or former legal or common-law spouse.

Statistics Canada collects information about spousal violence using two different, yet complementary, data sources: police statistics and victimization surveys. While police-reported statistics are useful for understanding the nature and extent of spousal violence that comes to the attention of police, we know through self-reported victimization surveys that less than one-quarter of spousal violence victims report the incident to police (22% in 2009). The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization captures information on people's experiences of spousal violence regardless of whether or not the incident was reported to police.

Using data from the 2009 GSS on Victimization, this section examines the prevalence and nature of self-reported physical and sexual spousal violence in the 10 provinces. Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut was collected as part of a separate survey and will be published at a later date. Looking specifically at Canadians who were married or living in a common-law relationship, or who had contact with an ex-partner within the previous five years, this study examines the frequency of spousal violence, the socio-demographic risk factors associated with spousal violence, the impact and consequences on victims and police reporting behaviour. Where applicable, data from previous GSS cycles (1999, 2004) are included to provide comparisons and to identify trends in self-reported spousal violence.

### Text box 1

#### Measuring spousal violence through the General Social Survey

Every five years Statistics Canada conducts a General Social Survey cycle on victimization that collects information from a random sample of Canadian women and men aged 15 years and older about their experiences of criminal victimization, including spousal violence.

All respondents who are married or living in a common-law relationship at the time of the survey, or had contact with their ex-partner within the previous five years, are asked a series of 10 questions about spousal violence. This includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses.

The questions measure both physical and sexual violence as defined by the *Criminal Code* that could be acted upon by the police. This includes acts such as being threatened with violence, being pushed, grabbed, shoved, slapped, kicked, bit, hit, beaten, choked, threatened with a gun or knife or forced into sexual activity.

Respondents are also asked about emotional and financial abuse that they had experienced at the hands of a current or ex-partner within the previous five years. While incidents of emotional and financial abuse are not used to calculate the overall proportion of spousal violence victims, information about these other forms of abuse help to create a better understanding of the context in which physical or sexual violence may occur.

Unless otherwise stated, the differences reported in this report are statistically significant. For more information, see the "Data Sources" section.

### 1.1 Spousal violence stable since 2004

Of the 19 million Canadians who had a current or former spouse in 2009, 6% reported being physically or sexually victimized by their partner or spouse in the preceding five years. This proportion was lower than that reported in 1999, but has remained stable since 2004 (Table 1.1). Overall, a similar proportion

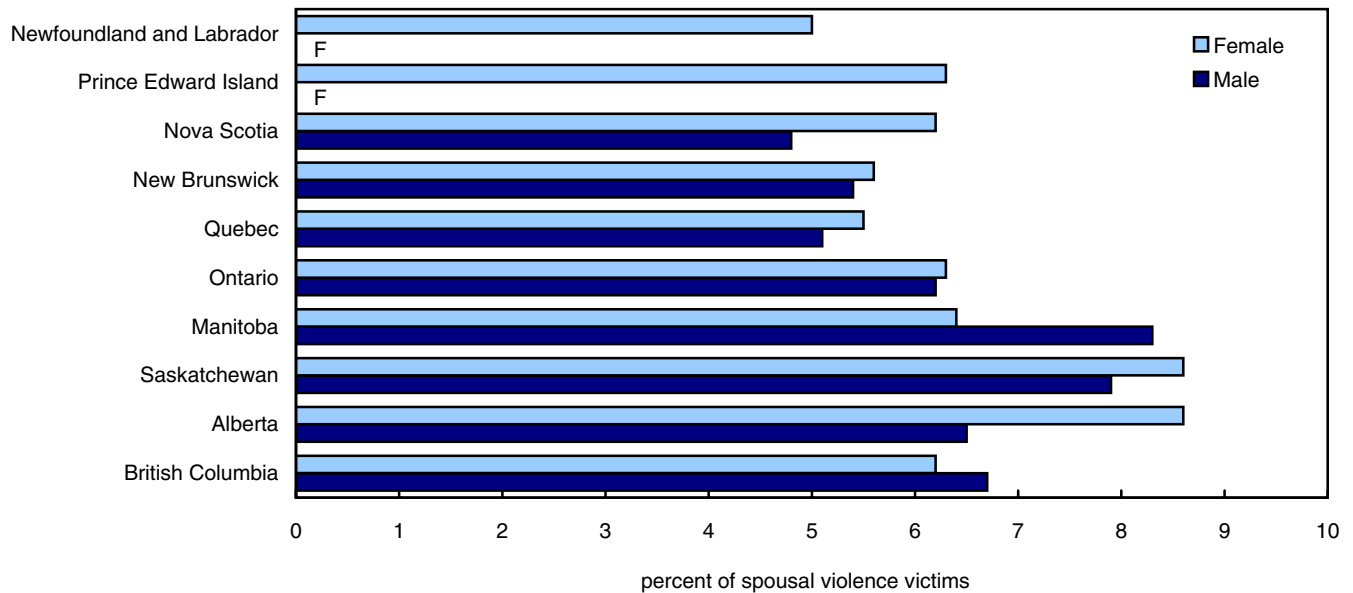
of males and females reported having experienced spousal violence in the previous 5 years (Table 1.2).

When asked about their experiences within the preceding 12 months, the proportion of Canadians who reported spousal violence dropped to 2% (Table 1.3). Again, the finding was similar for males and females.

As in previous cycles of the GSS, many victims of spousal violence reported recurring incidents. Just under one-half of victims who had experienced an incident of spousal violence in the previous five years stated that the violence had occurred on more than one occasion. Females were more likely than males to report multiple victimizations, at 57% and 40% respectively.

Spousal violence was more likely to occur between ex-spouses or partners than current spouses or partners (Table 1.1, Table 1.3). For example, in 2009, 17% of Canadians who had contact with an ex-spouse or partner in the previous 5 years reported that they had been physically or sexually assaulted by their partner at least once during that time. This proportion fell to 4% when looking at Canadians who were victimized by a current spouse or partner.

**Chart 1.1**  
Victims of self-reported spousal violence within the past 5 years, by province, 2009



**Note(s):** Includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses who reported having experienced violence within the 5-year period preceding the survey. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Data for the proportion of males who experienced spousal violence in Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island not shown as too small to produce reliable estimates.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

## 1.2 Proportion of spousal violence similar across majority of provinces

Self-reported victimization data indicate that in 2009 the proportion of Canadians who experienced spousal violence was similar among the provinces. The only exceptions were in Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec, where the proportions of spousal violence victims were significantly lower than the national average. The proportion of Canadians who reported at least one incident of spousal violence in the previous five years ranged from 4%<sup>1</sup> in Newfoundland and Labrador to 8% in Saskatchewan and Alberta<sup>2</sup> (Table 1.4, Chart 1.1).

Reflecting the overall national trend, provincial proportions of spousal violence have remained stable since 2004.

1. Use with caution.
2. With the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec, differences in proportions between provinces were not statistically significant.

### 1.3 Females report more serious violence than males

Similar to previous GSS victimization cycles, females continued to report more serious forms of spousal violence than males. For example, in 2009, females who reported spousal violence were about three times more likely than males (34% versus 10%<sup>3</sup>) to report that they had been sexually assaulted, beaten, choked or threatened with a gun or a knife by their partner or ex-partner in the previous 5 years (Chart 1.2).

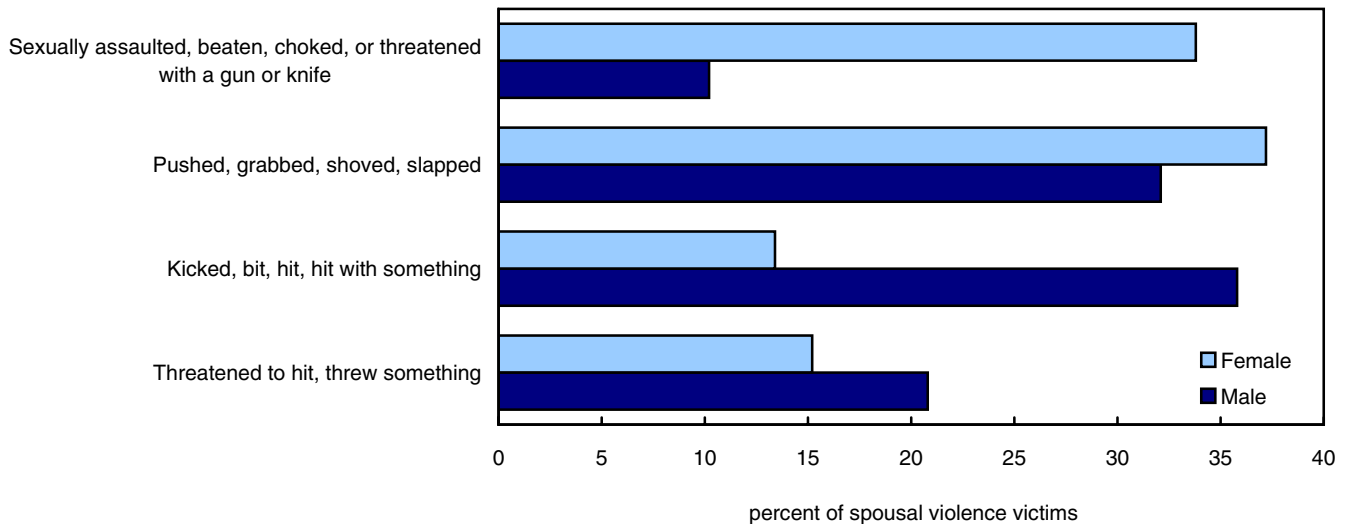
Overall, the proportion of victims who reported the most severe form of spousal violence has remained stable since 2004. In 2009, 22% of spousal violence victims stated that they had been sexually assaulted, beaten, choked, or threatened with a gun or a knife, a proportion that did not differ significantly from 2004 (29%) (Table 1.5).

### 1.4 Socio-demographic risk factors associated with spousal violence

The GSS gathers information on the socio-demographic risk factors associated with spousal violence. This information is based upon spousal victimizations that occurred within the previous 12 months.

Chart 1.2

Victims of self-reported spousal violence, by most serious form of violence, by sex, 2009



**Note(s):** Includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses who reported having experienced violence within the 5-year period preceding the survey. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Don't know and not stated are included in the total but not shown.  
**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

### 1.4.1 Spousal violence highest among younger Canadians

Similar to previous GSS victimization cycles, the 2009 data indicate that younger Canadians were more likely to report being a victim of spousal violence than older Canadians. Canadians aged 25 to 34 were three times more likely than those aged 45 and older to report being physically or sexually assaulted by a current spouse in the previous 12 months (Table 1.6).

Spousal violence was also higher among common-law couples. Canadians living in common-law relationships were approximately three times more likely than their married counterparts to report having experienced at least one incident of spousal violence in the previous 12 months. Canadians living in blended<sup>4</sup> families were also three times more likely than both intact families and families without children to report experiencing spousal violence (Table 1.6).

3. E use with caution.

4. A blended family contains children of both spouses (married or common-law) from one or more previous unions or one or more children from the current union and one or more children from previous unions.

**Text box 2****5-year socio-demographic characteristics of spousal violence victims, 2009**

There are other socio-demographic characteristics of spousal violence victims that can be examined based upon victimizations that occurred within the past five years. These include sexual orientation, presence of an activity limitation, Aboriginal identity, visible minority status and immigrant status.<sup>5</sup>

Those who self-identified as gay or lesbian were more than twice as likely as heterosexuals to report having experienced spousal violence, while those who self-identified as bisexual were four times more likely than heterosexuals to self-report spousal violence.

Of those who reported having an activity limitation (such as a physical or mental condition or health problem), 8% reported having been a victim of spousal violence in the previous 5 years, compared to 6% who did not have an activity limitation.<sup>6</sup>

Aboriginal identity was another socio-demographic factor associated with spousal violence.<sup>7</sup> The results of the 2009 General Social Survey indicated that those who self-identified as an Aboriginal person were almost twice as likely as those who did not to report being the victim of spousal violence (10% versus 6%).

On the other hand, those who identified themselves as a visible minority or an immigrant were not found to be associated with increased levels of spousal violence. A similar proportion of visible and non-visible minorities self-reported experiencing spousal violence (5% versus 6%), while people who identified as an immigrant were less likely to report being a victim of spousal violence than non-immigrants (4% versus 7%). These findings are consistent with those for victimization in general (Perreault and Brennan 2010).

5. Due to small numbers, the proportion of victims who experienced spousal violence in the previous 12 months were not publishable for the following: sexual orientation, presence of an activity limitation, Aboriginal identity, visible minority status and immigrant status. Therefore, proportions are based upon 5-year estimates of spousal violence by a current or former partner.
6. It should be noted that respondents may not have had their health condition or activity limitation when the incident of spousal violence occurred.
7. The question used to identify the Aboriginal population in the 2009 victimization survey is different than that used in 2004 and 1999. The 2009 results for the Aboriginal population should not, therefore, be directly compared with those from previous victimization surveys. Households in the ten provinces were selected for the GSS by a sampling method called Random Digit Dialling (RDD) and respondents were interviewed by telephone. It should be noted that the proportion of households with a landline telephone may be low on some Indian reserves and settlements.

Other socio-demographic factors, such as household income and education levels, were found to have had little impact on experiencing spousal violence. Victims and perpetrators of spousal violence were no more likely to be university graduates than to have dropped out of high school. Similarly, there was little difference in the proportions of spousal violence victims across various income groups. Regardless of whether Canadians belonged to the highest or lowest household income category, the proportion of victims of spousal violence was between 1% to 2%.

## 1.5 Reporting victimizations to police and use of restraining orders

### 1.5.1 Spousal violence victims less likely to report incidents to police than in the past

In each victimization cycle of the GSS, victims are asked whether or not the incident came to the attention of police. In 2009, less than one-quarter (22%) of spousal violence victims stated that the police found out about the incident, down from 28% in 2004 (Table 1.7). The decline in reporting occurred primarily among female victims.

Most incidents of spousal violence that were brought to the attention of police were reported by victims themselves. While female victims were about three times more likely than male victims to state that they had reported the incident to police (23% versus 7%), the reasons for choosing to report were similar for both groups.

Overall, the most common reason for reporting incidents of spousal violence to police was a desire to stop the violence and to receive protection (89%). Other reasons included: a sense of duty (49%), wanting their partner arrested and punished (31%) and someone else recommending that they report the incident (26%). Of those victims who did report the victimization to the police, over 6 in 10 stated that they were satisfied with the police response.

For a variety of reasons, some people choose not to report incidents of spousal violence to police. Among those who did not report such incidents in 2009, the most common reason was the belief that the incident was a personal matter that did not concern the police (82%). Other reasons included dealing with the

situation in another way (81%), and feeling that the incident was not important enough (70%) (Chart 1.3).

As in previous victimization cycles, the 2009 GSS found that many victims of spousal violence had been victimized multiple times before they turned to the police. For example, almost two-thirds of spousal violence victims (63%) said that they had been victimized more than once before they contacted the police. Nearly 3 in 10 (28%) stated that they had been victimized more than 10 times before they contacted the police.

### 1.5.2 One in ten spousal violence victims obtained restraining orders

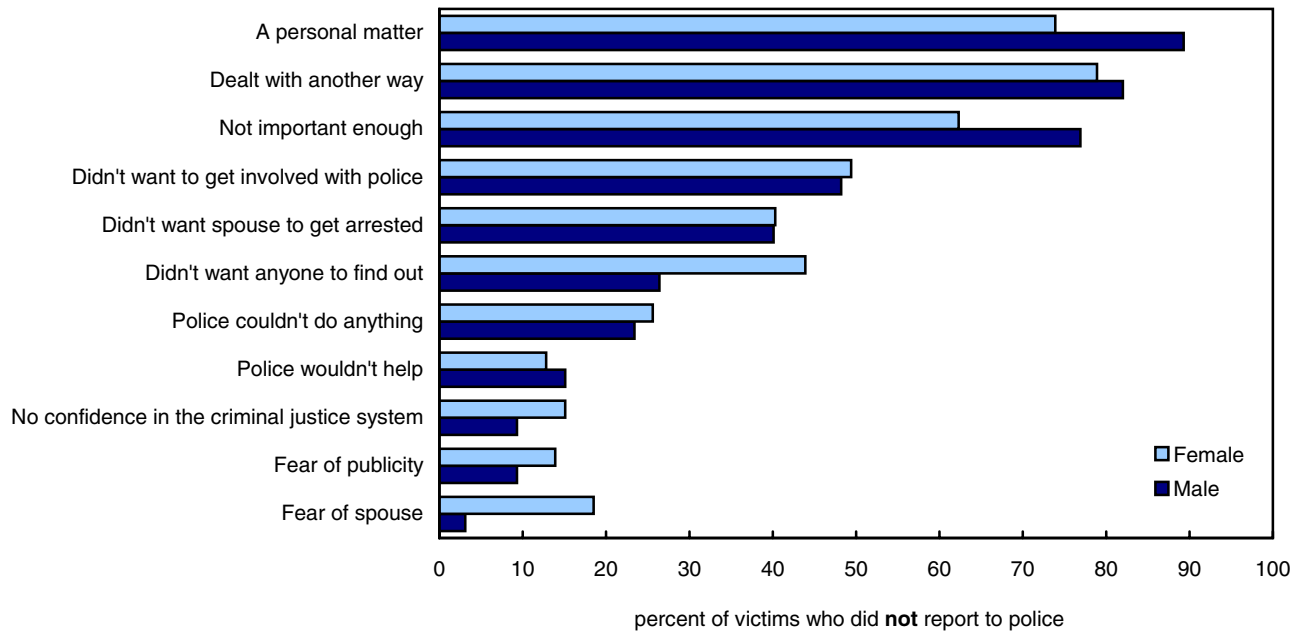
Some victims of spousal violence, primarily women, reported having obtained a restraining or protective order from a criminal or civil court. These orders are

intended to protect victims who fear for their safety or the safety of their children, through a number of means including removing the abuser from the home, giving the victim exclusive occupation of the home or placing restrictions on the abuser's communication with the victim.

In 2009, one in ten victims of spousal violence (10%) stated that they obtained a restraining or protective order against their abuser. Females were three times more likely than males to state that they had obtained a restraining order against their spouse or ex-spouse (15% versus 5%).

Of those who had obtained a restraining or protective order, nearly one-third of victims (30%) reported that their abuser violated its terms. Over two-thirds (67%) of these victims stated that they reported this violation to the police.

**Chart 1.3**  
Reasons for not reporting spousal violence to police, by sex, 2009



**Note(s):** Includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses. Figures do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.  
**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

## 1.6 Sources of support for victims of spousal violence

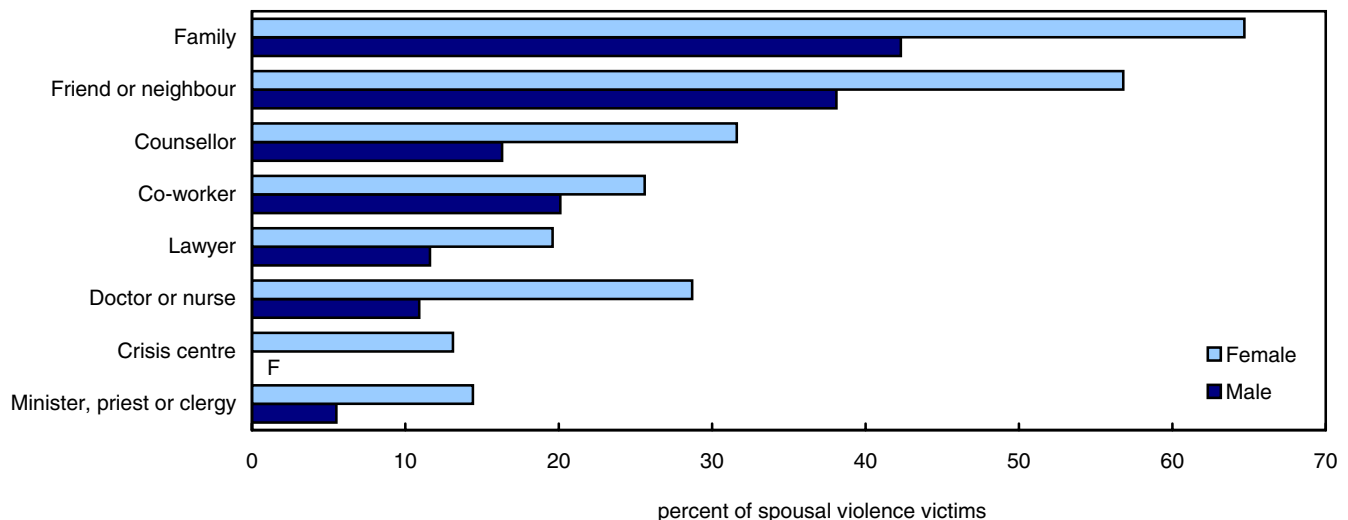
### 1.6.1 Female victims more likely than male victims to seek support

Many victims of spousal violence, particularly females, choose to seek support from sources outside the criminal justice system. Overall, close to 7 in 10 victims of spousal violence turned to informal sources of support, such as family, friends, neighbours, co-workers and spiritual advisors (Chart 1.4, Table 1.7).

In addition to informal sources, spousal violence victims were also asked to identify whether or not they had used or contacted a formal victim service or program. In 2009, close to 3 in 10 victims (28%) reported contacting or using a formal service, such as a counsellor or psychologist, to help them deal with the violence.

Overall, fewer victims of spousal violence used or contacted formal victim services in 2009 than in 2004 (28% versus 34%). The most frequently cited reason for not accessing victim services was that the victim did not want or need help (54%) followed by the belief that the incident was too minor (29%). This finding held true for both males and females.

**Chart 1.4**  
Victims of self-reported spousal violence, by sex and type of support sought, 2009



**Note(s):** Includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses who reported having experienced violence within the 5-year period preceding the survey. The proportion of males who reported contacting crisis centres is not shown as it was too small to produce reliable estimates. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

## 1.7 Physical and emotional consequences of spousal violence

### 1.7.1 Bruises most common physical injury

Victims of spousal violence were asked whether or not they had been physically injured as a result of the violence. Similar to 2004, the 2009 GSS found that 3 in 10 spousal violence victims had been injured during the commission of the offence, with females being more than twice as likely as males to report an injury (42% versus 18%).

Among those who stated that they had been injured, bruises were the most common form of injury reported by both female (95%) and male (75%) victims. Male victims were more likely than female victims to report suffering cuts, scratches or burns (59% versus 30%). Just under 1 in 10 females reported bone fractures as an injury. Among victims of spousal violence who reported an injury, 13%<sup>8</sup> stated that they were hospitalized as a result of the violence.

8. <sup>F</sup> use with caution.



### 1.7.2 Most victims of spousal violence report emotional consequences

In addition to physical injuries, more than three-quarters of spousal violence victims reported being emotionally affected. The most common emotional reaction reported by spousal violence victims was feeling upset, confused, or frustrated (32%). Other reactions included feeling angry (27%), hurt or disappointed (16%), fearful (15%), and depressed (15%).

Some victims of spousal violence also reported having experienced disruptions to their daily lives as a result of the incident. Overall, close to one in five victims (18%) stated that they had to take time off or away from their daily activity as a result of the spousal violence. Females were three times more likely than males to report that the violent incident had disrupted their daily routine.

Not all victims of spousal violence reported experiencing emotional consequences. In 2009, 30% of males and 9%<sup>9</sup> of females said the violence had not affected them much. The higher proportion of females who suffered an emotional reaction may be partly related to the finding that the frequency and severity of violence perpetrated against females tends to be greater than that experienced by males.

## 1.8 Emotional and financial abuse

### 1.8.1 Name calling most common form of emotional abuse

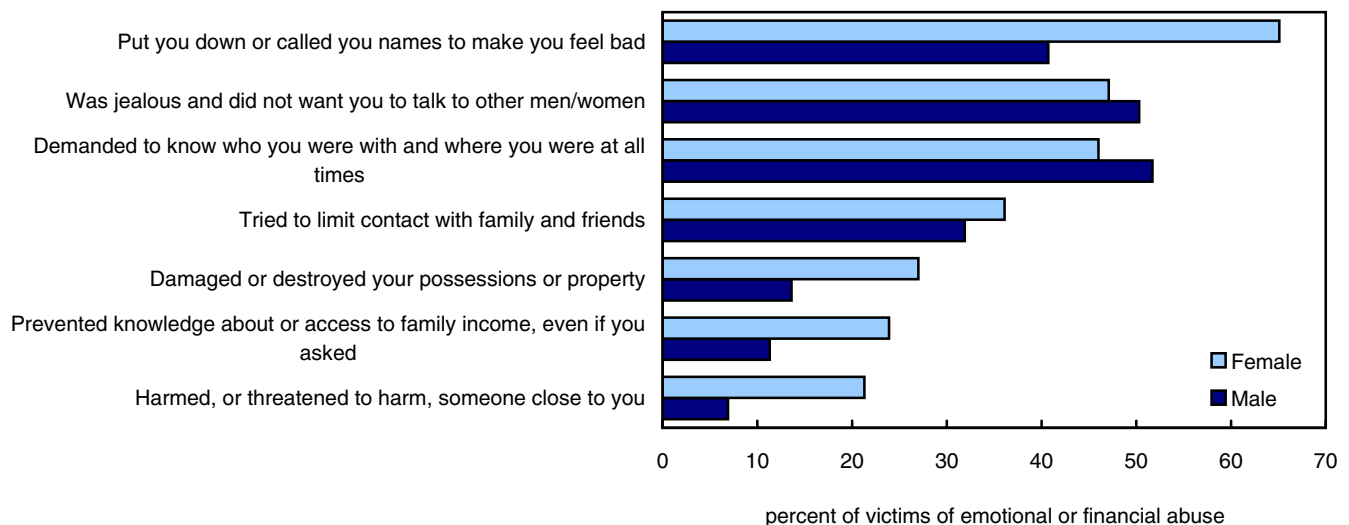
In addition to collecting information about physical violence perpetrated by current or ex-spouses, the GSS also asks Canadians whether they had been subjected to other forms of abuse, such as emotional or psychological abuse. In addition, respondents are also asked about financial abuse, namely preventing knowledge or access to the family income.

According to the 2009 GSS, close to 1 in 5 Canadians aged 15 years and older (17%) reported that their current or ex-partner had been emotionally or financially abusive at some point during their relationship, a proportion similar to 2004.

The most common form of emotional abuse reported by victims was being put down or called names by their partner to make them feel bad (53%). Other manifestations of emotional abuse included: having their partner not wanting them to talk to others, having their partner demand to know where they were at all times, and trying to limit their contact with family and friends (Chart 1.5).

<sup>9</sup> Use with caution.

**Chart 1.5**  
Victims of self-reported emotional and financial abuse, by sex and type of abuse, 2009



**Note(s):** Includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses. Figures do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Results from the 2009 GSS indicate that emotional and financial abuse often accompanies physical and sexual spousal violence. Close to 7 in 10 respondents who reported being a victim of spousal violence said that they had also experienced emotional and/or financial abuse.

## 1.9 Summary

The incidence of spousal violence, within both current and previous relationships, remained stable between 2004 and 2009 at about 6% of the Canadian adult population. The proportion of Canadians who reported having been victims of emotional and financial abuse also remained stable at about 17% in 2009.

The proportion of Canadians who reported being sexually assaulted, beaten, choked, or threatened with a gun or a knife by a current or ex-spouse remained

stable between 2004 and 2009, however females continued to experience more serious types of spousal violence than males.

Demographic characteristics including being younger, living in a common-law relationship, and living in a step-family were associated with increased levels of spousal violence. Other socio-demographic factors, such as household income and education levels, were found to have had little impact on self-reported spousal violence.

Victims of spousal violence continue to rely on informal sources of support, such as family and friends, more often than on formal services or the police. In 2009, fewer victims of spousal violence stated that they contacted a formal service than in 2004. Further, the proportion of victims who reported the incident to the police also declined in 2009.

**Table 1.1**  
**Victims of self-reported spousal violence within the past 5 years, 1999, 2004 and 2009**

Status of spousal relationship	1999		2004		2009 <sup>1</sup>	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Current relationship <sup>2</sup>						
Yes	562	3.8	552	3.5	661	3.8
No	13,501	90.8	14,911	94.2	16,393	94.5
Previous relationship <sup>3</sup>						
Yes	697	25.2 *	659	18.9	534	17.4
No	2,022	73.3	2,784	79.7	2,498	81.4
Current and previous relationship						
Yes	1,239	7.4 *	1,200	6.6	1,186	6.2
No	14,504	86.8	16,443	91.1	17,608	92.2

\* significant difference from reference group ( $p < 0.05$ )

1. Reference group.

2. Includes legally married, common-law and same-sex spouses.

3. Includes those separated from a legal marriage, common-law or same-sex relationship as well as divorced spouses.

**Note(s):** Responses of "Don't know" and "Not stated" are not listed, therefore, the sum of percentages may not add up to 100%. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

**Table 1.2**  
**Victims of self-reported spousal violence within the past 5 years, by sex, 2009**

Status of spousal relationship	Male		Female <sup>1</sup>		Total	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Current relationship <sup>2</sup>						
Yes	393	4.4	267	3.2	661	3.8
No	8,423	93.9	7,970	95.2	16,393	94.5
Previous relationship <sup>3</sup>						
Yes	195	14.2 *	339	20.1	534	17.4
No	1,163	84.4	1,335	79.0	2,498	81.4
Current and previous relationship						
Yes	585	6.0	601	6.4	1,186	6.2
No	8,937	92.3	8,670	92.1	17,608	92.2

\* significant difference from reference group ( $p < 0.05$ )

1. Reference group.

2. Includes legally married, common-law and same-sex spouses.

3. Includes those separated from a legal marriage, common-law or same-sex relationship as well as divorced spouses.

**Note(s):** Responses of "Don't know" and "Not stated" are not listed, therefore, the sum of percentages may not add up to 100%. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

**Table 1.3**  
**Victims of self-reported spousal violence within the past 12 months, by sex, 2009**

Status of spousal relationship	Male		Female <sup>1</sup>		Total	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Current relationship <sup>2</sup>						
Yes	121	1.3	111	1.3	232	1.3
No	8,850	98.7	8,257	98.7	17,107	98.6
Previous relationship <sup>3</sup>						
Yes	35	2.5	69	4.1	104	3.4
No	1,343	97.5	1,622	95.9	2,966	96.6
Current and previous relationship						
Yes	155	1.6	178	1.9	334	1.7
No	9,530	98.4	9,233	98.1	18,763	98.3

\* significant difference from reference group (p < 0.05)

1. Reference group.

2. Includes legally married, common-law and same-sex spouses.

3. Includes those separated from a legal marriage, common-law or same-sex relationship as well as divorced spouses.

**Note(s):** Responses of "Don't know" and "Not stated" are not listed, therefore, the sum of percentages may not add up to 100%. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

**Table 1.4**  
**Victims of self-reported spousal violence within the past 5 years, by province, 1999, 2004 and 2009**

Province	1999		2004		2009 <sup>1</sup>	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	4.7	16	5.1	13 <sup>E</sup>	4.1 <sup>E</sup>
Prince Edward Island	7	9.6	4 <sup>E</sup>	5.1 <sup>E</sup>	6 <sup>E</sup>	7.0 <sup>E</sup>
Nova Scotia	38	7.2	41	7.5	31	5.5
New Brunswick	34	7.9	29	6.5	25	5.5
Quebec	312	7.4 *	238	5.4	242	5.3
Ontario	366	6.0	442	6.4	453	6.2
Manitoba	46	7.7	46	7.3	48	7.4
Saskatchewan	51	9.5	46	8.4	47	8.2
Alberta	158	9.9 *	156	8.7	153	7.6
British Columbia	214	9.4 *	183	7.5	167	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>7.4 *</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>6.2</b>

\* significant difference from reference group (p < 0.05)

1. Reference group.

**Note(s):** Includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

**Table 1.5**  
**Victims of self-reported spousal violence within the past 5 years, by type of violence, 1999, 2004 and 2009**

Type of violence	1999		2004		2009 <sup>1</sup>	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Threatened to hit, threw something	158	12.7 *	152	12.7 *	213	18.0
Pushed, grabbed, shoved, slapped	375	30.3	448	37.4	411	34.7
Kicked, bit, hit, hit with something	311	25.1	251	20.9	290	24.5
Sexually assaulted, beaten, choked, threatened with a gun or knife	388	31.3 *	342	28.5	262	22.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>100</b>

\* significant difference from reference group (p < 0.05)

1. Reference group.

**Note(s):** Includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

**Table 1.6**  
**Victims of self-reported spousal violence in current relationships within the past 12 months, by sex and selected demographic characteristics, 1999, 2004 and 2009**

Type of demographic characteristic	1999		2004		2009	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Age group of victim						
15 to 24	23 <sup>E</sup>	4.7 <sup>E</sup>	21 <sup>E</sup>	4.5 <sup>E</sup>	F	F
25 to 34 <sup>1</sup>	87	3.1	70	2.5	69 <sup>E</sup>	2.3 <sup>E</sup>
35 to 44	82	2.0	65	1.6	72 <sup>E</sup>	1.9 <sup>E</sup>
45 and over	57	0.8 <sup>*</sup>	74	0.9 <sup>*</sup>	74	0.7 <sup>*</sup>
Marital status						
Married <sup>1</sup>	172	1.3	142	1.1	142	1.0
Common-law	77	3.8 <sup>*</sup>	88	3.3 <sup>*</sup>	90 <sup>E</sup>	2.8 <sup>E*</sup>
Family type						
Intact <sup>1</sup>	120	1.7	105	1.5	104	1.3
Blended <sup>2</sup>	27 <sup>E</sup>	3.7 <sup>E*</sup>	17 <sup>E</sup>	1.8 <sup>E</sup>	33 <sup>E</sup>	3.1 <sup>E*</sup>
Couple without children	96	1.4	105	1.4	89	1.1
Lone parent	F	F	F	F	F	F
Household income						
Less than \$30,000 <sup>1</sup>	58	2.8	27 <sup>E</sup>	1.7 <sup>E</sup>	22 <sup>E</sup>	1.8 <sup>E</sup>
\$30,000 to \$59,999	85	1.9	76	1.8	52 <sup>E</sup>	1.5 <sup>E</sup>
\$60,000 or more	66	1.3 <sup>*</sup>	104	1.5	144	1.4
Not stated/don't know	41 <sup>E</sup>	1.2 <sup>E*</sup>	22 <sup>E</sup>	0.8 <sup>E</sup>	14 <sup>E</sup>	0.5 <sup>E</sup>
Education of victim						
High school diploma or less <sup>1</sup>	83	1.6	66	1.3	42 <sup>E</sup>	0.9 <sup>E</sup>
Some post secondary <sup>3</sup>	112	2.0	95	1.5	117	1.6
University degree	49	1.6	62	1.6	73 <sup>E</sup>	1.4 <sup>E</sup>
Not stated/don't know	F	F	F	F	F	F
Education of spouse or partner						
High school diploma or less <sup>1</sup>	125	1.8	94	1.3	75	1.1
Some post secondary <sup>3</sup>	68	1.7	79	1.8	80	1.6
University degree	49	1.7	49 <sup>E</sup>	1.3 <sup>E</sup>	75 <sup>E</sup>	1.5 <sup>E</sup>
Not stated/don't know	F	F	F	F	F	F
Victim's place of residence						
Census metropolitan area	..	..	146	1.5	172	1.5
Non census metropolitan area	..	..	84	1.4	60 <sup>E</sup>	1.0 <sup>E</sup>
<b>Total violence by current partner</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>1.3</b>

\* significant difference from reference group ( $p < 0.05$ )

1. Reference group.

2. A blended family contains children of both spouses (married or common-law) from one or more previous unions or one or more children from the current union and one or more children from previous unions.

3. Some post secondary includes diploma, a certificate from a community college, or a trade/technical school.

**Note(s):** Includes legally married, common-law, and same-sex spouses. Values may not add up to totals due to rounding. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

**Table 1.7**  
**Victims of spousal violence within the past 5 years, by sex and service contacted or used, 1999, 2004 and 2009**

Victims use of services	1999		2004		2009 <sup>1</sup>	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Told informal sources <sup>2</sup>						
Yes	869	70.1 *	873	72.7 *	805	67.9
No	333	26.9	317	26.4	372	31.3
Contacted or used formal services <sup>3</sup>						
Yes	425	34.3 *	412	34.3 *	333	28.1
No	774	62.5	776	64.7	844	71.2
Police found out about the incident						
Yes	338	27.3 *	333	27.8 *	259	21.8
No	864	69.7	857	71.5	917	77.3
Respondent reported to police						
Yes	240	19.4 *	228	19.0 *	180	15.2
No	962	77.6	962	80.2	996	84.0
Police found out some other way						
Yes	97	7.9	105	8.8	79	6.8
No	1,101	88.8	1,085	90.5	1,096	92.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>100</b>

\* significant difference from reference group ( $p < 0.05$ )

1. Reference group.

2. Informal sources include family, a friend or neighbour, a co-worker, a doctor or nurse, a lawyer, or a spiritual advisor.

3. Formal services include a crisis centre or crisis line, a counsellor or psychologist, a community or family centre, a shelter, centres for women, men or seniors, or victim services or victim witness assistance programs.

**Note(s):** Includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses. Don't know and not stated are included in the total, but not listed. Therefore totals will not add up to 100%. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

# Section 2

## Police-reported family violence against children and youth, 2009

by Maire Sinha

Family violence against children and youth continues to be a pervasive issue in Canadian society. Using police-reported data, this section focuses on the nature and extent of physical assaults and sexual offences perpetrated by family members against children and youth. These types of violence may be committed by parents, siblings or extended family members related by blood, marriage or adoption.<sup>1</sup>

### 2.1 Family members commit almost one-third of physical assaults and sexual offences against children and youth

In 2009, police reported almost 55,000 children and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of a physical assault or sexual offence (Table 2.1). Of these, about 3 in 10, or close to 15,000 children and youth, were victimized by a member of their own family. Another 54% were victimized by a friend or acquaintance and 15% by a stranger. These findings are consistent with international literature which states that most violent acts committed against children and youth are perpetrated by individuals who are part of the victim's immediate environment (United Nations, 2006).

Expressed as a rate, there were 214 children and youth victims of family violence for every 100,000 persons aged 0 to 17 years in 2009 (Table 2.2). Data from police services shows that the rate of family violence against children and youth has remained relatively stable since this information became available in 2004.<sup>2</sup>

1. For additional information pertaining to violence against children and youth see: Loughlin and Taylor-Butts, 2009; AuCoin, 2005; and Trocmé et al., 2010.
2. Trend data are drawn from a non-representative sub-set of police services which in 2009 covered 57% of the population of Canada. Population data by age for this sub-set of police services became available in 2004.

#### Text box 1: Measuring violence against children and youth

The information presented in this section on sexual offences and physical assaults against children is based upon police-reported data collected as part of the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey. These data represent the number of criminal incidents that have been reported to, and substantiated by Canadian police services. In 2009, information from this survey covered approximately 99% of the Canadian population.

**Sexual offence:** Includes sexual assault (level 1), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), aggravated sexual assault (level 3) and the "other sexual crimes" category. The term "other sexual crimes" includes a group of offences that primarily address incidents of sexual abuse directed at children such as: sexual interference, sexual exploitation, invitation to sexual touching and incest.

**Physical assault:** Includes common assault (level 1), assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), aggravated assault (level 3), unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, criminal negligence causing bodily harm and other assaults.

It is important to note that the data presented in this section may under-estimate the true extent of family violence against children and youth as many cases may not come to the attention of legal authorities. In addition, other types of family violence such as criminal harassment, abduction and emotional or psychological abuse are not included in this analysis.

### 2.2 Minor physical assaults most common type of family violence

Of the 15,000 child and youth victims of family-related violence in 2009, about two-thirds (67%) were physically assaulted. The majority of these offences (81%) were level 1 assault, the category of least physical harm to victims. Serious assaults, namely aggravated assault and assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, accounted for about 18% of

all physical assaults committed by family members against children and youth. The remaining 1% involved other assaults and firearm offences.

The other one-third (33%) of children and youth victims of family violence suffered sexual offences. As with physical assaults, most (77%) were classified as level 1 sexual assault, the category of least serious injury to the victim. More serious forms of sexual offences, including aggravated sexual assault and sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, accounted for less than 1% of all sexual offences against children and youth. A variety of other sexual crimes, such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching and luring a child via a computer, comprised the remaining 23% of sexual offences committed by family members against children and youth.

### 2.3 Parents commit more than half of all family-related physical assaults and sexual offences against children and youth

Parents<sup>3</sup> were responsible for more than half (59%) of all family-related sexual offences and physical assaults against children and youth victims in 2009. For every 100,000 children and youth in Canada in 2009, 126 were physically or sexually assaulted by their parent. This figure was about three times higher than the rate committed by siblings (41 per 100,000) or other family members (47 per 100,000) (Table 2.3, Chart 2.1).

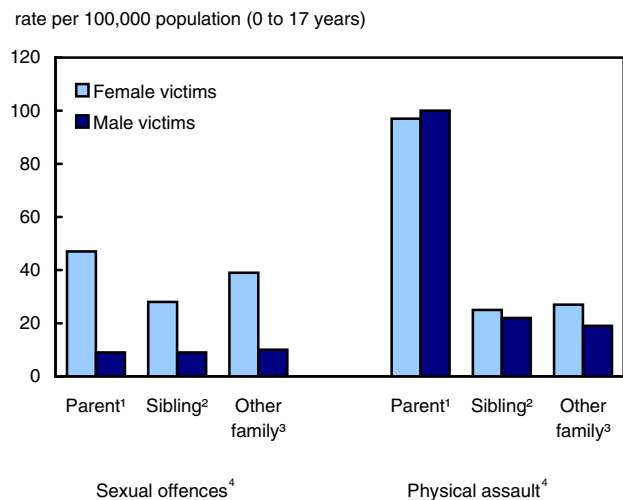
The youngest child victims (under the age of three years) were most vulnerable to violence by a parent (Table 2.4). In 2009, about 8 in 10 victims (or 81%) in this age group were assaulted by their parent. This compares to 60% of 3 to 11 year-olds and 55% of 12 to 17 year-olds.

### 2.4 Girls victimized by family members more often than boys

Overall, police-reported data show that girls under the age of 18 were more likely than boys of the same age to be victims of family violence. This finding was due largely to victimizations involving sexual offences. In 2009, the rate of sexual offences

by family members that came to the attention of police was four times higher for girls than boys (113 versus 28 per 100,000 children and youth population) (Table 2.3). Higher rates of sexual victimization against girls held true regardless of the victim's age.

**Chart 2.1**  
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault by family members, by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2009



1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.
  2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
  3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include spouses (current or former), uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
  4. See Table 2.1 for a list of offences included in each crime category.
- Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

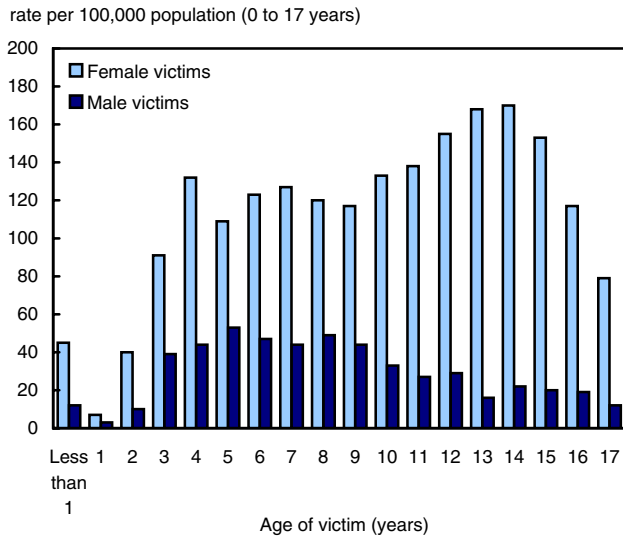
The age at which sexual offences were committed by family members against children and youth differed between girls and boys. For girls, the rate of sexual victimization tended to increase throughout childhood and peak at 14 years of age. For boys, however, the rates were highest between 5 and 8 years of age (Chart 2.2).

Rates of physical assault perpetrated by family members against female and male children and youth were closer than those for sexual offences (149 versus 140 per 100,000 children and youth population). For both girls and boys, the rates were highest during the teenage years (Chart 2.3).

3. Includes biological, adoptive, step and foster parents.



**Chart 2.2**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences committed by family members, by sex and age, Canada, 2009**



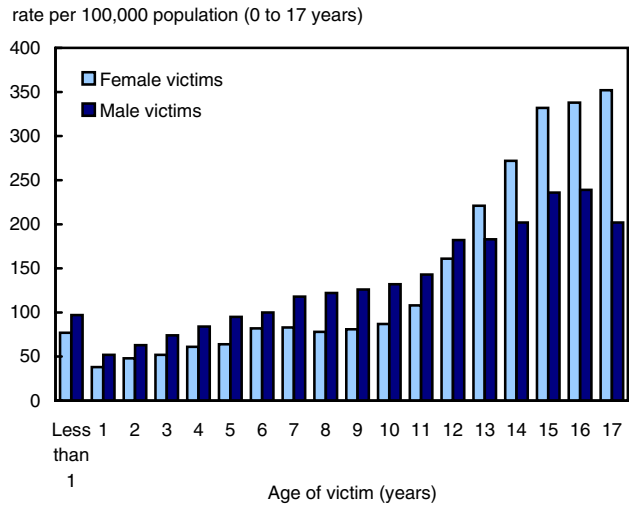
**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

## 2.5 Few physical assaults or sexual offences result in serious injury

Some incidents of family violence cause physical injury to victims. While relatively few children and youth required professional medical attention as a result of the incident, 57% of those who had been physically assaulted and 16% of those who had been sexually victimized required minor treatment, such as first aid (e.g. bandage, ice) (Table 2.5). These proportions were similar to those reported for children and youth who had been physically assaulted or sexually victimized by a non-family member (58% and 14%).

**Chart 2.3**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported physical assault committed by family members, by sex and age, Canada, 2009**



**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

## 2.6 Summary

Police-reported data from 2009 show that close to one-third of physical and sexual offences against children and youth were committed by family members, with parents committing more than half of all family-related physical assaults and sexual offences.

Physical assaults accounted for just over two-thirds of family-related violence reported to the police, while sexual offences accounted for the remaining one-third. Girls were more likely than boys to be assaulted, particularly sexually assaulted. For both physical and sexual offences committed against children, the majority were classified as level 1 assaults, the category of least serious injury to the victim.

**Table 2.1**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault, by age group and type of offence, Canada, 2009**

Type of offence	Total victims		Adult victims (18 years and older)		Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years)		Children and youth victims by age group					
							Less than 3 years		3 to 11 years		12 to 17 years	
	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total sexual offences and physical assault</b>	<b>263,985</b>		<b>209,325</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>54,660</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>1,479</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>12,606</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>40,575</b>	<b>1,600</b>
Sexual offences	23,650		9,815	37	13,835	200	454	41	5,037	154	8,344	329
Sexual assault (level 3) - aggravated	117		95	0	22	0	1	0	7	0	14	1
Sexual assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	340		238	1	102	1	1	0	18	1	83	3
Sexual assault (level 1)	19,800		9,179	34	10,621	153	177	16	3,714	114	6,730	265
Other sexual crimes <sup>2</sup>	3,393		303	1	3,090	45	275	25	1,298	40	1,517	60
Sexual interference	1,583		0	0	1,583	23	192	17	751	23	640	25
Invitation to sexual touching	397		0	0	397	6	57	5	165	5	175	7
Luring a child via a computer	253		0	0	253	4	2	0	37	1	214	8
Incest	183		46	0	137	2	7	1	71	2	59	2
Sexual exploitation	74		0	0	74	1	0	0	0	0	74	3
Voyeurism	260		194	1	66	1	2	0	10	0	54	2
Corrupting children	26		0	0	26	0	1	0	11	0	14	1
Anal intercourse	14		7	0	7	0	1	0	3	0	3	0
Bestiality - commit, compel, incite a person	3		2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Unknown other sexual crimes	600		54	0	546	8	13	1	250	8	283	11
Physical assault	240,335		199,510	744	40,825	590	1,025	92	7,569	232	32,231	1,271
Assault (level 3) - aggravated	3,448		3,050	11	398	6	86	8	26	1	286	11
Assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	51,437		43,014	160	8,423	122	195	17	1,498	46	6,730	265
Assault (level 1)	174,624		143,173	534	31,451	454	719	64	5,940	182	24,792	978
Pointing a firearm	498		399	1	99	1	0	0	24	1	75	3
Unlawfully causing bodily harm	519		422	2	97	1	6	1	6	0	85	3
Criminal negligence causing bodily harm	251		182	1	69	1	14	1	25	1	30	1
Using firearm or imitation firearm in commission of offence	179		127	0	52	1	2	0	8	0	42	2
Discharge firearm with intent	185		142	1	43	1	0	0	11	0	32	1
Trap likely to or causing bodily harm	6		2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Other assaults <sup>3</sup>	9,188		8,999	34	189	3	3	0	31	1	155	6

- Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
  - As of April 1, 2008, the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey discontinued the offence category "other sexual crimes" and began collecting detailed information on these types of offences. However, some police services have not yet fully transitioned from reporting to the general category to the specific sexual crime categories.
  - Includes assaults against police and other peace officers.
- Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.
- Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 2.2**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2009**

Type of offence <sup>1</sup>	Total		Accused-victim relationship								
			Family <sup>2</sup>		Friend or acquaintance <sup>3</sup>		Stranger		Unknown <sup>4</sup>		
	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	
Total assault											
Total	54,660	789	14,833	214	25,778	372	7,195	104	6,854	99	
Female	28,273	838	8,858	263	13,475	400	2,743	81	3,197	95	
Male	26,387	743	5,975	168	12,303	346	4,452	125	3,657	103	
Sexual offences											
Total	13,835	200	4,837	70	6,082	88	1,301	19	1,615	23	
Female	11,335	336	3,827	113	5,008	148	1,145	34	1,355	40	
Male	2,500	70	1,010	28	1,074	30	156	4	260	7	
Physical assault											
Total	40,825	590	9,996	144	19,696	284	5,894	85	5,239	76	
Female	16,938	502	5,031	149	8,467	251	1,598	47	1,842	55	
Male	23,887	673	4,965	140	11,229	316	4,296	121	3,397	96	

1. See Table 2.1 for a list of offences included in each crime category.
2. Includes parents, siblings and other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption.
3. Includes any relationship in which the accused and the victim are familiar with each other but are not related or in a legal guardian relationship. Examples include friends, acquaintances, neighbours, authority figures (e.g. teacher, day care worker), criminal relationships and business relationships.
4. Includes unsolved incidents and those in which police reported the accused-victim relationship as unknown.
5. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 2.3**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault committed by family members, by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2009**

Type of offence <sup>1</sup>	Total family		Accused-victim relationship						
			Parent <sup>2</sup>		Sibling <sup>3</sup>		Other family <sup>4</sup>		
	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	number	rate <sup>5</sup>	
Total assault									
Total	14,833	214	8,719	126	2,866	41	3,248	47	
Female	8,858	263	4,849	144	1,776	53	2,233	66	
Male	5,975	168	3,870	109	1,090	31	1,015	29	
Sexual offences									
Total	4,837	70	1,915	28	1,258	18	1,664	24	
Female	3,827	113	1,579	47	938	28	1,310	39	
Male	1,010	28	336	9	320	9	354	10	
Physical assault									
Total	9,996	144	6,804	98	1,608	23	1,584	23	
Female	5,031	149	3,270	97	838	25	923	27	
Male	4,965	140	3,534	100	770	22	661	19	

1. See Table 2.1 for a list of offences included in each crime category.
2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.
3. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include spouses (current or former), uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
5. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 2.4**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault committed by family members, by age group and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2009**

Accused-victim relationship	All ages	Age group of victim					
		Under 3	3 to 5	6 to 8	9 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 17
		number					
Parent <sup>1</sup>	8,719	744	1,018	1,157	1,281	2,188	2,331
Sibling <sup>2</sup>	2,866	72	266	365	473	742	948
Other family <sup>3</sup>	3,248	99	340	421	425	685	1,278
<b>Total family</b>	<b>14,833</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>3,615</b>	<b>4,557</b>
		percent					
Parent <sup>1</sup>	59	81	63	60	59	61	51
Sibling <sup>2</sup>	19	8	16	19	22	21	21
Other family <sup>3</sup>	22	11	21	22	20	19	28
<b>Total family</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.

2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include spouses (current or former), uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 2.5**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault committed by family and non-family members, by level of injury, Canada, 2009**

Type of offence <sup>1</sup>	Total		No injuries <sup>2</sup>		Minor <sup>3</sup>		Major <sup>4</sup>		Unknown	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
<b>Family members</b>										
Total assault										
Total	14,833	100	7,033	54	5,869	45	180	1	1,751	...
Female	8,858	100	4,562	59	3,115	40	74	1	1,107	...
Male	5,975	100	2,471	46	2,754	52	106	2	644	...
Sexual offences										
Total	4,837	100	3,315	84	618	16	0	0	904	...
Female	3,827	100	2,658	84	495	16	0	0	674	...
Male	1,010	100	657	84	123	16	0	0	230	...
Physical assault										
Total	9,996	100	3,718	41	5,251	57	180	2	847	...
Female	5,031	100	1,904	41	2,620	57	74	2	433	...
Male	4,965	100	1,814	40	2,631	58	106	2	414	...
<b>Non-family members</b>										
Total assault										
Total	32,973	100	15,186	49	15,125	49	539	2	2,123	...
Female	16,218	100	8,445	56	6,427	43	91	1	1,255	...
Male	16,755	100	6,741	42	8,698	55	448	3	868	...
Sexual offences										
Total	7,383	100	5,577	86	940	14	1	0	865	...
Female	6,153	100	4,618	85	829	15	1	0	705	...
Male	1,230	100	959	90	111	10	0	0	160	...
Physical assault										
Total	25,590	100	9,609	39	14,185	58	538	2	1,258	...
Female	10,065	100	3,827	40	5,598	59	90	1	550	...
Male	15,525	100	5,782	39	8,587	58	448	3	708	...

1. See Table 2.1 for a list of offences included in each crime category.

2. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.

3. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first injury aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

4. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

## Section 3

### Police-reported family violence against seniors, 2009

by Maire Sinha

Seniors represent a growing segment of the Canadian population. In 2009, those aged 65 years and older comprised 13% of the population, up from 9% 30 years earlier (Statistics Canada, 2010). While the health and well-being of seniors has improved considerably over the years, they continue to have higher levels of physical disability, mental vulnerability and financial dependency than younger adults (Ramage-Morin, Shields and Martel, 2010). Meeting the needs of this growing population often falls to relatives (Cranswick and Dosman, 2008), thus placing an increasing number of seniors at possible risk of family violence.

Using police-reported data, this section focuses on the nature and extent of violent crimes perpetrated by family members against seniors. These types of incidents may be committed by spouses, grown children, siblings or extended family members related by blood, marriage or adoption.

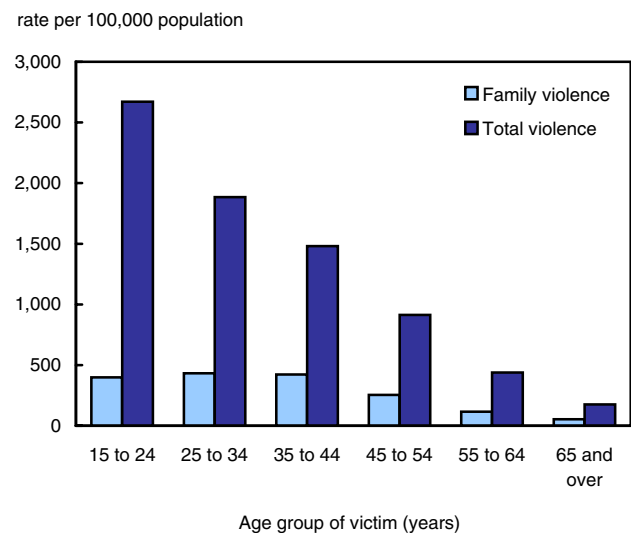
#### 3.1 Family violence against seniors lower than younger age groups

In general, seniors (aged 65 years and older) tend to have lower rates of police-reported violent victimization than younger age groups. In 2009, the rate of violence against seniors was two and half times lower than the rate for the second oldest age group (55 to 64 years), and about 15 times lower than the highest at-risk group, those aged 15 to 24 years of age (Chart 3.1). That

1. Trend data are drawn from a non-representative sub-set of police services which in 2009 covered 57% of the population of Canada. Population data by age for this sub-set of police services became available in 2004.

being said, data from a sub-set of police services show that the rate of family violence against seniors has increased by 14% since 2004, when this information first became available.<sup>1</sup>

**Chart 3.1**  
Victims of violent crime, by age group, Canada, 2009



**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Police reported nearly 7,900 senior victims of violent crime in 2009 (Table 3.1). Of those where the accused-victim relationship was known, over 2,400 or about one-third (35%) were committed by a member of the victim's family. Another 35% were committed by a friend or acquaintance and 29% by a stranger.

**Text box 1****Measuring violence against seniors**

The information presented in this section on violence against seniors (65 years and older) is based upon police-reported data collected as part of the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey. These data represent the number of criminal incidents that have been reported to, and substantiated by Canadian police services. In 2009, information from this survey covered approximately 99% of the Canadian population.

It is important to note that the policing data presented in this section may under-estimate the true extent of family violence against seniors as many cases may not come to the attention of legal authorities. According to results from the 2009 General Social Survey, overall, about 7 in 10 violent victimizations were never reported to police most commonly because victims did not believe the incident was important enough or they dealt with the matter in some other way (Perreault and Brennan, 2010). In addition, other types of family violence such as criminal harassment, abduction, emotional or psychological abuse, neglect and maltreatment are not included in this analysis.

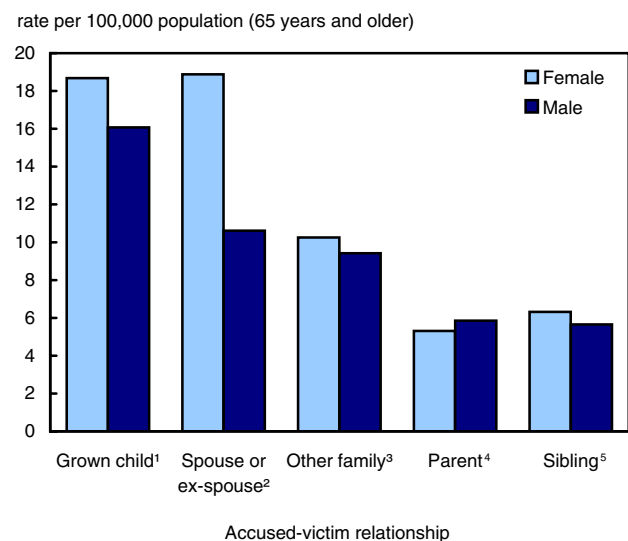
### 3.2 Family violence against seniors most often committed by spouses and grown children

Although senior men were more likely than senior women to be the victim of overall violent crime, family-related violent crime was more often perpetrated against senior women than senior men. In 2009, family members committed 41% of all victimizations against senior women compared to 23% of victimizations against senior men. Senior men were more likely to be victimized by an acquaintance or a stranger than a family member.

Family-related victimizations against senior men were most often committed by grown children in 2009 (Chart 3.2). Senior women were almost equally likely to be victimized by their spouse as their grown child.

**Chart 3.2**

**Senior victims (65 years and older) of family violence, by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2009**



1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.
2. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
4. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.
5. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

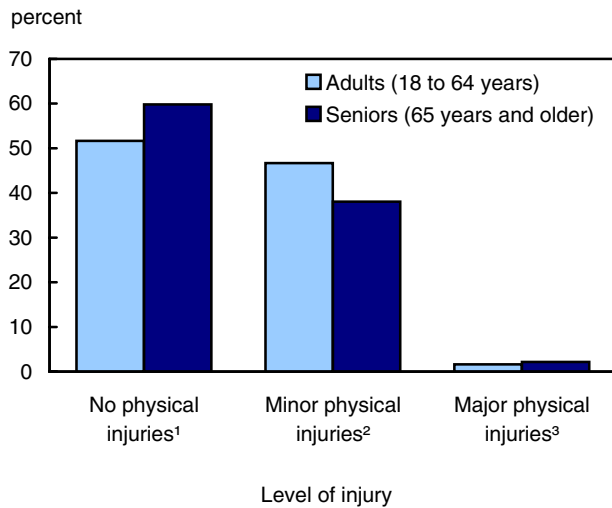
### 3.3 Common assault most common violent crime against seniors

Common assault, the category of least serious physical harm to victims, was the most common violent offence committed by family members against seniors in 2009 (Table 3.2). This offence accounted for more than half (53%) of all family violence. Another 21% of family-related violence involved uttering threats, 13% were major assaults (levels 2 and 3) and 4% were criminal harassment. The remaining 9% involved a variety of violent offences including sexual assault, robbery and extortion. These proportions were similar for both male and female senior victims.

Most seniors (6 in 10) did not suffer injury as a result of having been victimized by a family member in 2009 (Table 3.3, Chart 3.3). However, 38% of seniors required minor treatment, such as first aid (e.g.

bandage, ice), and 2% required medical intervention as a result of a major injury. Ten seniors died as a result of being violently victimized by a family member.

**Chart 3.3**  
**Senior victims (65 years and older) and adult victims (18 to 64 years) of family violence, by level of injury, Canada, 2009**



1. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.
2. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first injury aid (e.g., bandage, ice).
3. Refers to injuries that resulted in death as well as those that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility.

**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

As with violent crime in general, the majority of family-related victimizations against seniors did not involve a weapon. In 2009, violent incidents by family members against seniors were more commonly committed by way of physical force (61%) or threats than a weapon (15%) (Table 3.4).

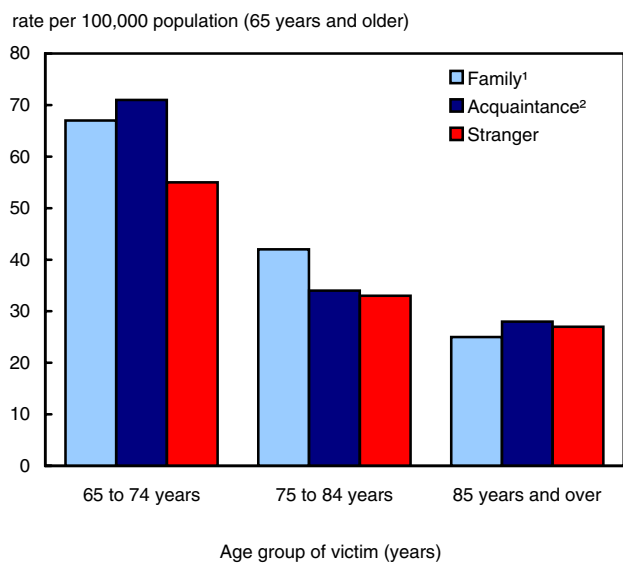
### 3.4 Older seniors less at risk of violent crime by a family member

Mirroring the pattern of violent crime rates in general, the prevalence of family violence committed against seniors tends to decrease with age (Chart 3.4). The rate of family violence against the youngest seniors (aged 65 to 74) was highest at 67 per 100,000, compared to a rate of 42 per 100,000 for seniors

aged 75 to 84 and 25 per 100,000 for the oldest seniors (aged 85 and over).

In addition, perpetrators of violence against seniors tend to differ depending on the age of the senior. Seniors aged 75 to 84 years were the only age group where the most common perpetrators of violence were family members. For the youngest and oldest seniors, friends or acquaintances were the most common perpetrators of violence (Chart 3.4).

**Chart 3.4**  
**Senior victims (65 years and older) of violence, by age group and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2009**



1. Includes all those related by blood, marriage or adoption.
2. Includes friends, current or former boyfriends or girlfriends, neighbours, authority figures, business relationships, criminal relationships and casual acquaintances.

**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Some research has suggested that lower rates of family violence against the oldest seniors may be partly related to their living conditions and health status. As seniors age, they become more likely to reside in an institutional setting (Cranswick and Dosman, 2008) and therefore less likely to be exposed to family members and the possibility of violence. In addition, older seniors are more likely to suffer from chronic illnesses and cognitive impairment which may limit their ability to report violence to police (Sev'er, 2009; Welfel et al., 2000).



**Table 3.1**  
**Senior victims (65 years and older) of violent crime by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2009**

Accused-victim relationship	Total		Sex of victim			
			Female		Male	
	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total family</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>48</b>
Grown child <sup>2</sup>	785	18	461	19	324	16
Spouse or ex-spouse <sup>3</sup>	680	15	466	19	214	11
Sibling <sup>4</sup>	270	6	156	6	114	6
Parent <sup>5</sup>	249	6	131	5	118	6
Extended family <sup>6</sup>	443	10	253	10	190	9
<b>Total friends, acquaintances, others</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,521</b>	<b>75</b>
Friend or acquaintance <sup>7</sup>	2,044	46	799	32	1,245	62
Business relationship	373	8	105	4	268	13
Criminal relationship	12	0	4	0	8	0
Stranger	1,997	45	802	32	1,195	59
Unknown	1,018	23	440	18	578	29
<b>Total violence against seniors</b>	<b>7,871</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>4,254</b>	<b>211</b>

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 years and older). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
  2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.
  3. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
  4. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
  5. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.
  6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
  7. Includes friends, current or former boyfriends or girlfriends, neighbours, authority figures and casual acquaintances.
- Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 3.2**  
**Senior victims (65 years and older) of family violence by sex and offence type, Canada, 2009**

Type of offence	Total		Sex of victim			
			Female		Male	
	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>
Homicide or attempted homicide	18	0	10	0	8	0
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3)	25	1	24	1	1	0
Major assault (levels 2, 3)	304	7	163	7	141	7
Common assault (level 1)	1,284	29	774	31	510	25
Robbery	20	0	12	0	8	0
Extortion	18	0	7	0	11	1
Criminal harassment	103	2	79	3	24	1
Uttering threats	520	12	304	12	216	11
Other violent offences <sup>2</sup>	135	3	94	4	41	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>48</b>

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 years and older). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
  2. Includes, for example, indecent/harassing telephone calls, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, using firearm/imitation of firearm in commission of offence, pointing a firearm, trap likely to or causing bodily harm, kidnapping, unlawfully causing bodily harm, and other violent offences.
- Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 3.3**  
**Senior victims (65 years and older) of family violence, by sex and level of injury, Canada, 2009**

Level of injury	Total		Sex of victim			
			Female		Male	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
No injuries <sup>1</sup>	1,366	60	838	61	528	58
Minor physical injuries <sup>2</sup>	869	38	515	37	354	39
Major physical injuries <sup>3</sup>	39	2	20	1	19	2
Death	10	0	8	1	2	0
Unknown	143	...	86	...	57	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>100</b>

1. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.

2. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first injury aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

3. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 3.4**  
**Senior victims (65 years and older) of family violence, by sex and type of weapon, Canada, 2009**

Type of weapon	Total		Sex of victim			
			Female		Male	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
No weapon	175	8	111	8	64	7
Physical force	1,407	61	863	62	544	59
Threat	384	17	235	17	149	16
Weapon	349	15	183	13	166	18
Club or blunt instrument	69	3	40	3	29	3
Knife or other piercing instrument	106	5	51	4	55	6
Firearm	26	1	14	1	12	1
Other weapon <sup>1</sup>	148	6	78	6	70	8
Unknown	112	...	75	...	37	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>100</b>

1. Includes, for example, explosives, fire, motor vehicle or poison.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2009, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 99% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

# Section 4

## Family-related homicides, 2000 to 2009

by Andrea Taylor-Butts and Lindsay Porter

Homicides, particularly those involving family members, are a relatively rare occurrence in Canada, accounting for less than 1% of all violent crimes reported to police each year. This section examines the nature and extent of family-related homicides in Canada. These types of incidents involve first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter or infanticide committed by family members related by blood, marriage or adoption.

Information is presented on three groups: spouses, children and youth (0 to 17 years) and seniors (65 years and over). Data are drawn from the Homicide Survey which collects detailed information from police services on all homicides that occur in Canada.

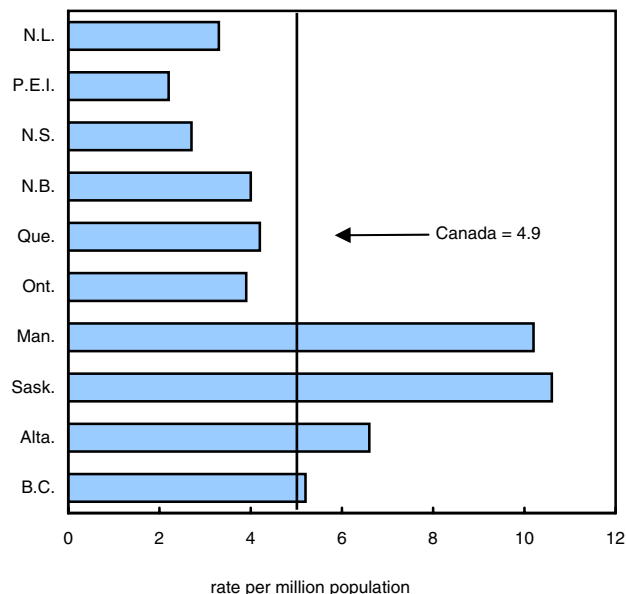
### 4.1 Family members commit one-third of solved homicides

Over the past 10 years, police identified just over 1,500 homicides committed by family members, accounting for about one-third (35%) of all solved<sup>1</sup> homicides (Table 4.1). The rate of family-related homicides has ranged from 4 to 6 victims per million population over this period.

Similar to the trend in homicide overall, the rate of family-related homicide over the past decade was generally higher in western Canada than in the eastern part of the country. Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island recorded the lowest rate while Saskatchewan and Manitoba recorded the highest rates (Table 4.2, Chart 4.1).

1. Solved homicides refer to those where at least one accused has been identified by police.

Chart 4.1  
Family-related homicides, by province, 2000 to 2009



**Note(s):** Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

### 4.2 Spousal homicides

Spousal homicides involve those committed by persons in legal marriages, those in common-law relationships as well as those who are divorced or separated from legal or common-law unions. Between 2000 and 2009, spousal homicides accounted for 16% of all solved homicides and nearly half (47%) of all family-related homicides.

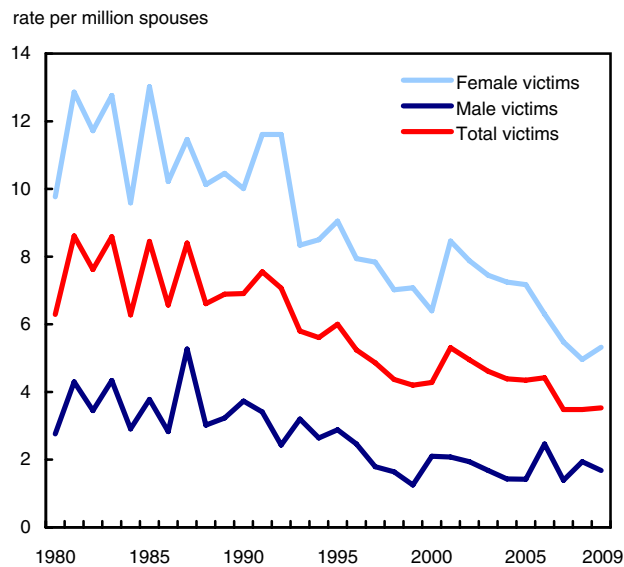
#### 4.2.1 Spousal homicide rate stable for third year in a row

Following nearly three decades of general decline, the spousal homicide rate remained stable in 2009 for the third consecutive year (Table 4.3). The rate

of 3.5 victims per million spouses in 2009 was 44% lower than 30 years ago. Some research has suggested that more equitable male to female employment ratios, increasing levels of education and higher rates of divorce may have contributed to the long-term decline in spousal homicide rates (Dawson, Pottie Bunge and Baldé, 2009).

While males were more likely to be the victims of homicide, females were more likely to be the victims of family-related homicide, particularly spousal homicide. Over the past 30 years, the rate of spousal homicides against females has consistently been about three to four times higher than that for males (Chart 4.2).

**Chart 4.2**  
**Spousal homicides by sex, Canada, 1980 to 2009**



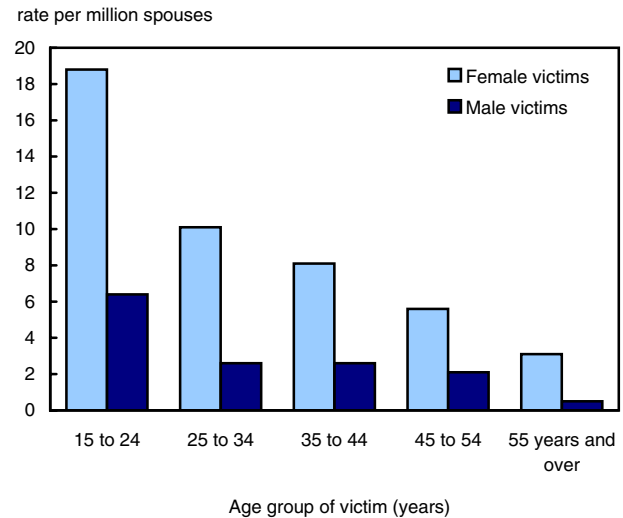
**Note(s):** Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes homicides of same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of population data on same-sex couples.  
**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

#### 4.2.2 Risk of spousal homicide declines with increasing age

For both males and females spousal homicide rates tend to be highest among 15 to 24 year olds and to decline with increasing age (Chart 4.3). Between 2000 and 2009, the spousal homicide rates for males and females aged 15 to 24 were about

double those for their 25 to 34 year old counterparts, the second highest age category.

**Chart 4.3**  
**Spousal homicides by sex and age group, Canada, 2000 to 2009**



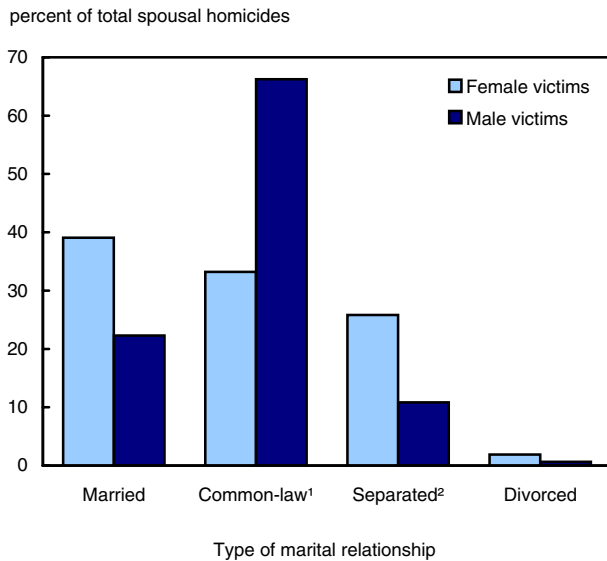
**Note(s):** Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes homicides of same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of population data on same-sex couples.  
**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

#### 4.2.3 Male spouses most often killed by a common-law partner, female spouses by a married partner

Overall, most spousal homicides were committed by a current rather than a former spouse. Between 2000 and 2009, 40% of spousal homicides involved common-law partners and 36% involved married spouses. Another 23% were against separated spouses and 2% were against divorced spouses.

The type of spousal relationship tended to differ depending on the gender of the victim. While the majority of male victims were killed by a common-law partner (66%), female victims were slightly more likely to have been killed by their legally married spouse (39%) than by a common-law partner (33%). In addition, female victims of spousal homicide were more likely than male victims to be killed by a partner from whom they were separated (26% versus 11%) (Chart 4.4).

**Chart 4.4**  
**Spousal homicides by sex and type of marital relationship, Canada, 2000 to 2009**



1. Includes same-sex spouses.  
 2. Includes those separated from a legal or common-law relationship.  
**Note(s):** Excludes homicides where the sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.  
**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

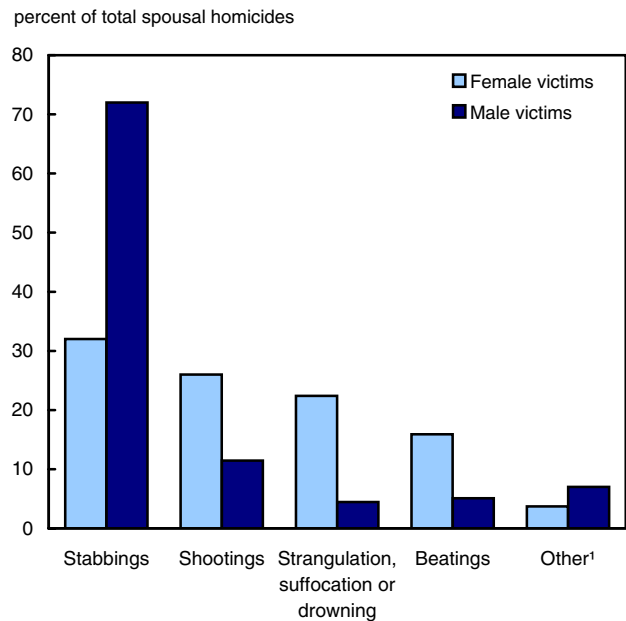
#### 4.2.4 Stabbings most common method used to commit spousal homicide

Throughout the past decade, stabbings were the most common method used to commit spousal homicide. This method, however, was much more commonly used against males (72%) than females (32%) (Table 4.4, Chart 4.5). Female victims were more likely than male victims to be shot (26% versus 11%), strangled, suffocated or drowned (22% versus 4%) or beaten to death (16% versus 5%).

The use of firearms, particularly rifles and shotguns, during the commission of spousal homicides has dropped steadily over the past 30 years. The rate for spousal homicides involving firearms fell 74% from

nearly 3 per million spouses in 1980 to less than 1 per million spouses in 2009 (Chart 4.6). Nevertheless, shootings were the cause of death in nearly one-quarter (23%) of spousal homicides between 2000 and 2009, second only to stabbings (41%).

**Chart 4.5**  
**Spousal homicides by cause of death and sex of victim, Canada, 2000 to 2009**

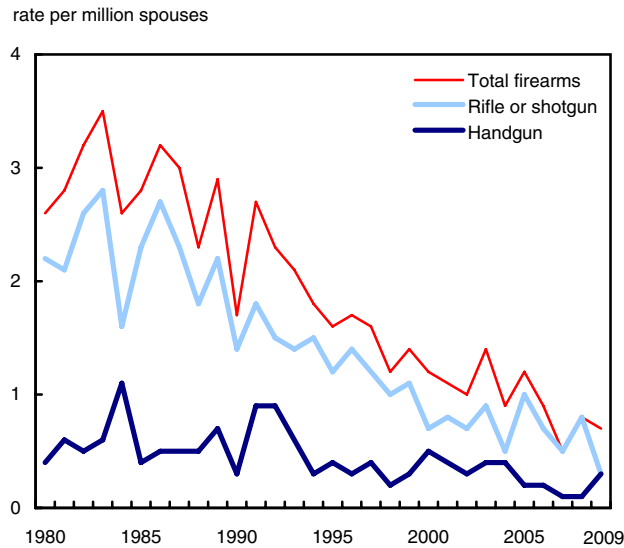


1. Includes other causes of death not otherwise listed. Examples include poisoning, lethal injection, smoke inhalation and burns.  
**Note(s):** Spousal relationships include legally married, common-law, separated, divorced and same-sex partners. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.  
**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

#### 4.3 Family-related homicides against children and youth

Between 2000 and 2009, there were 326 homicides against children and youth (0 to 17 years) committed by a family member, accounting for 7% of all solved homicides and 21% of all family-related homicides.

**Chart 4.6**  
**Firearm-related spousal homicides by type of firearm, Canada, 1980 to 2009**



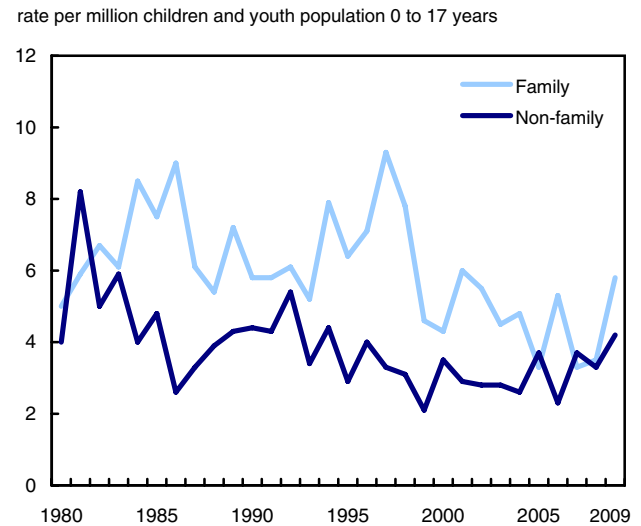
**Note(s):** Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes homicides of same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of population data on same-sex couples.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

### 4.3.1 Parents commit the majority of family-related homicides against children and youth

In general, homicides against children and youth were committed more often by family members than non-family members (i.e., friends, acquaintances and strangers) (Chart 4.7). While the disparity between the rates of family and non-family homicides of children and youth has lessened in recent years, the 2009 rate of family homicides of children and youth (6 per million population) continued to be higher than the non-family rate (4 per million population).

**Chart 4.7**  
**Homicides against children and youth, by family and non-family relationship, Canada, 1980 to 2009**



**Note(s):** Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

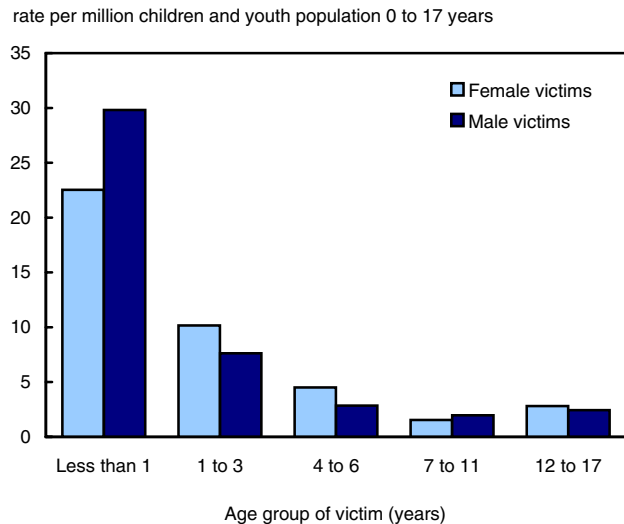
**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Parents commit the majority of family-related homicides against children and youth. During the most recent 10-year period, fathers and/or mothers were responsible for 84% of all family-related homicides against children and youth under 18 years of age. Siblings or extended family members, such as uncles or aunts, grandparents or cousins, were responsible for the remaining 15% of such homicides.

### 4.3.2 Infants at highest risk of homicide by a family member

The risk of homicide by family members tends to be highest for infants (less than one year of age) and to decrease as children grow older (Chart 4.8). Between 2000 and 2009, the rate of family-related homicide against infants was nearly triple the rate of 1 to 3 year-olds, the next highest age group.

**Chart 4.8**  
**Family-related homicides against children and youth, by sex and age group, Canada, 2000 to 2009**



**Note(s):** Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.  
**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Parents were almost invariably the accused person identified in family-related homicides against infants, accounting for about 98% of all such homicides between 2000 and 2009.

#### 4.3.3 Weapons used more often against older children than younger children

The most common methods used by family members to kill children and youth tend to differ according to the victim's age (Table 4.5). Younger victims, namely those under four years of age, were most often shaken or beaten to death. Older children, on the other hand, were most often killed with a weapon, such as a knife or firearm.

### 4.4 Family-related homicides against seniors

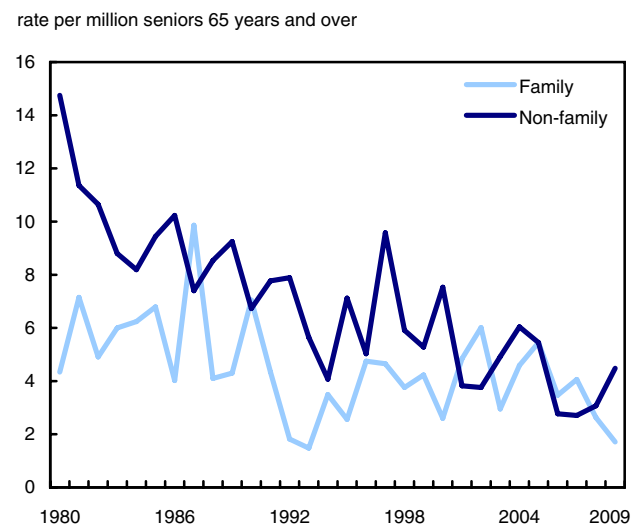
Between 2000 and 2009, there were 160 homicides against seniors (65 years and older) committed by a family member, accounting for 4% of all solved homicides and 10% of all family-related homicides.

#### 4.4.1 Family-related homicides against seniors decline

Over the past 30 years, seniors have been killed more often by non-family members (such as friends, acquaintances or strangers) than family members. Although the gap has narrowed in recent years, the rate of homicide by non-family members against seniors in 2009 continued to be about two and a half times higher than that by family members.

The rate of both family-related and non-family-related homicides against seniors has gradually declined (Chart 4.9). In 2009, the rate of family-related homicide against seniors was 34% lower than in 2000 and 61% lower than in 1980.

**Chart 4.9**  
**Homicides against seniors, by family and non-family relationship, Canada, 1980 to 2009**



**Note(s):** Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 senior population (65 years and older). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.  
**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

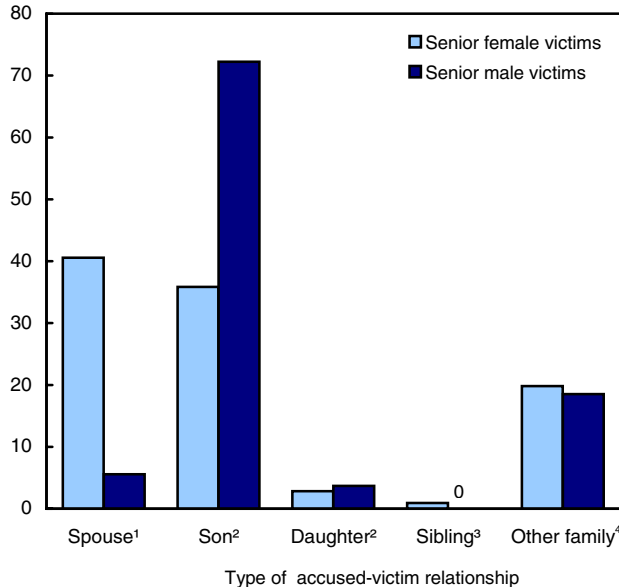
#### 4.4.2 Senior women at greater risk of family-related homicide than senior men

Senior women are more likely to be killed by a family member than senior men. Between 2000 and 2009 the rate of family-related homicides against senior women was 4.4 per million compared to 2.9 per million for senior men.

Older women were most likely to be killed by their spouses (41%) or sons (36%), while the majority of senior men were killed by their sons (72%) (Chart 4.10).

**Chart 4.10**  
**Family-related homicides against seniors, by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2000 to 2009**

percent of family-related homicides against seniors  
(65 years and over)



1. Includes legally married, common-law, same sex, separated and divorced spouses.

2. Includes biological, adoptive, step and foster children.

3. Includes biological, adoptive, step and foster siblings.

4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.

**Note(s):** Excludes homicides in which the sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

#### 4.4.3 Frustration, anger or despair most common motivation for family-related homicides against seniors

The most common motivation for a family member killing a senior person was frustration, anger and

despair, accounting for about one-third (33%) of all such homicides between 2000 and 2009 (Table 4.6). Another 26% of family-related homicides against seniors stemmed from an argument. In contrast, homicides against seniors committed by non-family members were most often motivated by financial gain (33%).

## 4.5 Summary

Between 2000 and 2009, about one-third of all solved homicides in Canada were committed by a family member. Among the provinces, the highest rates were in the western part of the country, particularly Saskatchewan and Manitoba, similar to the trend in overall homicide.

About half of all family-related homicides involve spouses. Following nearly three decades of gradual decline, the 2009 rate of spousal homicide remained stable for the third consecutive year. The spousal homicide rate against women has consistently been about three to four times higher than the rate against men. For men and women alike, rates of spousal homicide peaked among 15 to 24 year olds.

Family-related homicides against children and youth, the majority of which were committed by parents, represented 21% of all family-related homicides between 2000 and 2009. Infants under the age of one experienced higher rates of family-related homicide compared to older children.

About one in ten family-related homicides involved victims aged 65 and older. The rate of family-related homicides against seniors has gradually declined over the past 30 years. Senior women were at greater risk of family-related homicide than senior men.



**Table 4.1**  
**Homicides by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2000 to 2009**

Victim killed by	Sex of victim				Total	
	Male		Female		number	percent of total solved homicides
	number	percent of total solved homicides	number	percent of total solved homicides		
<b>Family</b>						
Spouse	157	5.2	581	40.1	738	16.4
Married	35	1.2	227	15.7	262	5.8
Common-law <sup>1</sup>	104	3.4	193	13.3	297	6.6
Separated <sup>2</sup>	17	0.6	150	10.4	167	3.7
Divorced	1	0.0	11	0.8	12	0.3
Parent <sup>3</sup>	157	5.2	153	10.6	310	6.9
Father	108	3.5	95	6.6	203	4.5
Mother	49	1.6	58	4.0	107	2.4
Child <sup>4</sup>	110	3.6	95	6.6	205	4.6
Son	98	3.2	85	5.9	183	4.1
Daughter	12	0.4	10	0.7	22	0.5
Sibling <sup>5</sup>	67	2.2	24	1.7	91	2.0
Brother	61	2.0	19	1.3	80	1.8
Sister	6	0.2	5	0.3	11	0.2
Other family <sup>6</sup>	155	5.1	68	4.7	223	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>34.9</b>
<b>Acquaintance</b>						
Casual acquaintance	840	27.6	143	9.9	983	21.9
Criminal relationship	413	13.6	72	5.0	485	10.8
Friend	277	9.1	39	2.7	316	7.0
Other intimate relationship <sup>7</sup>	58	1.9	133	9.2	191	4.3
Neighbour	98	3.2	27	1.9	125	2.8
Business relationship	73	2.4	10	0.7	83	1.8
Authority figure	9	0.3	9	0.6	18	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>49.0</b>
<b>Stranger</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>16.1</b>
<b>Relationship unknown</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Total solved homicides</b>	<b>3,075</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,532</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total unsolved homicides</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,254</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1,684</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>5,938</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. Includes same-sex spouses.

2. Includes those separated from a legal or common-law relationship.

3. Includes biological, adoptive, step and foster parents.

4. Includes biological, adoptive, step and foster children.

5. Includes biological, adoptive, step and foster siblings.

6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.

7. Includes current or former boyfriends, girlfriends and other intimate partners.

**Note(s):** Excludes homicides where the sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages exclude unsolved homicides and those in which the accused-victim relationship was reported by police as unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

**Table 4.2**  
**Family-related homicides by province and territory, 2000 to 2009**

Province or territory	Sex of victim						Total		
	Male			Female			number	rate <sup>1</sup>	percent of total solved homicides
	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	percent of total solved homicides	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	percent of total solved homicides			
Newfoundland and Labrador	6	2.4	35.3	11	4.2	52.4	17	3.3	44.7
Prince Edward Island	x	x	x	x	x	x	3	2.2	33.3
Nova Scotia	7	1.5	9.6	18	3.8	69.2	25	2.7	25.3
New Brunswick	14	3.8	28.6	16	4.2	76.2	30	4.0	42.9
Quebec	107	2.9	22.2	208	5.4	68.9	315	4.2	40.2
Ontario	155	2.5	16.6	326	5.2	66.1	481	3.9	33.7
Manitoba	72	12.3	22.8	48	8.1	57.1	120	10.2	30.0
Saskatchewan	75	15.1	31.8	31	6.1	48.4	106	10.6	35.3
Alberta	108	6.4	24.2	111	6.8	64.2	219	6.6	35.4
British Columbia	86	4.1	19.7	133	6.3	55.6	219	5.2	32.4
Yukon	4	24.8	33.3	2	12.9	50.0	6	18.9	37.5
Northwest Territories	5	22.6	29.4	5	24.4	71.4	10	23.5	41.7
Nunavut	7	45.0	31.8	9	62.4	81.8	16	53.4	48.5
<b>Canada</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>34.9</b>

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Note(s):** Excludes homicides where the sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

**Table 4.3**  
**Spousal homicides, by sex, 1980 to 2009**

Year	Sex of victim						Total		
	Male			Female			number	rate <sup>1</sup>	percent of total solved homicides
	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	percent of total solved homicides against males	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	percent of total solved homicides against females			
1980	17	2.8	5.1	61	9.8	33.0	78	6.3	15.0
1981	27	4.3	7.9	82	12.9	37.6	109	8.6	19.4
1982	22	3.5	5.8	76	11.7	39.2	98	7.6	17.1
1983	28	4.3	7.5	84	12.8	38.5	112	8.6	18.9
1984	19	2.9	5.3	64	9.6	32.5	83	6.3	14.9
1985	25	3.8	6.6	88	13.0	40.0	113	8.4	18.8
1986	19	2.8	6.0	70	10.2	39.1	89	6.6	17.9
1987	36	5.3	10.2	80	11.5	40.0	116	8.4	21.0
1988	21	3.0	6.4	72	10.1	40.7	93	6.6	18.5
1989	23	3.2	6.7	76	10.5	34.9	99	6.9	17.7
1990	27	3.7	8.0	74	10.0	37.4	101	6.9	18.9
1991	25	3.4	6.7	87	11.6	38.0	112	7.5	18.6
1992	18	2.4	4.6	88	11.6	40.0	106	7.1	17.3
1993	24	3.2	7.0	64	8.3	37.0	88	5.8	17.0
1994	20	2.6	6.2	66	8.5	38.2	86	5.6	17.4
1995	22	2.9	7.0	71	9.0	41.8	93	6.0	19.3
1996	19	2.5	5.6	63	7.9	34.6	82	5.2	15.6
1997	14	1.8	4.9	63	7.8	35.2	77	4.9	16.6
1998	13	1.6	4.5	57	7.0	35.8	70	4.4	15.6
1999	10	1.3	3.8	58	7.1	36.9	68	4.2	16.2
2000	17	2.1	6.1	53	6.4	38.7	70	4.3	16.8
2001	17	2.1	5.7	71	8.5	47.7	88	5.3	19.7
2002	16	1.9	5.7	67	7.9	36.6	83	5.0	17.9
2003	14	1.7	4.8	64	7.5	47.1	78	4.6	18.3
2004	12	1.4	4.0	63	7.3	35.8	75	4.4	15.7
2005	12	1.4	3.4	63	7.2	43.2	75	4.3	15.0
2006	21	2.5	6.4	56	6.3	41.5	77	4.4	16.6
2007	12	1.4	4.2	49	5.5	36.3	61	3.5	14.4
2008	17	1.9	5.6	45	5.0	36.9	62	3.5	14.7
2009	15	1.7	4.6	49	5.3	37.7	64	3.5	14.1

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes homicides of same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of population data on same-sex couples.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

**Table 4.4**  
**Spousal homicides by cause of death and sex of victim, Canada, 2000 to 2009**

Cause of death	Sex of victim				Total	
	Male		Female		number	percent
	number	percent	number	percent		
Stabbing	113	72.0	183	32.0	296	40.6
Shooting	18	11.5	149	26.0	167	22.9
Beating	8	5.1	91	15.9	99	13.6
Strangulation, suffocation or drowning	7	4.5	128	22.4	135	18.5
Other <sup>1</sup>	11	7.0	21	3.7	32	4.4
Unknown	0	...	9	...	9	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. Includes other causes of death not otherwise listed. Examples include poisoning, lethal injection, smoke inhalation and burns.

**Note(s):** Spousal relationships include legally married, common-law, separated, divorced and same-sex partners. Excludes homicides where the sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages exclude homicides in which the cause of death was reported by police as unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

**Table 4.5**  
**Family-related homicides against children and youth (0 to 17 years), by age group and cause of death, Canada, 2000 to 2009**

Cause of death	Victim's age group										Total	
	Less than 1 year		1 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		number	percent
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent		
Strangulation, suffocation or drowning	23	27.1	17	18.5	8	20.5	8	25.0	15	22.4	71	22.5
Beating	21	24.7	35	38.0	6	15.4	3	9.4	4	6.0	69	21.9
Stabbing	5	5.9	14	15.2	7	17.9	10	31.3	21	31.3	57	18.1
Shaken Baby Syndrome <sup>1</sup>	29	34.1	12	13.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	13.0
Shooting	1	1.2	6	6.5	7	17.9	8	25.0	18	26.9	40	12.7
Poisoning or lethal injection	0	0.0	3	3.3	8	20.5	2	6.3	4	6.0	17	5.4
Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	0	0.0	2	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.0	4	1.3
Other <sup>2</sup>	6	7.1	3	3.3	3	7.7	1	3.1	3	4.5	16	5.1
Unknown	6	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	0	...	11	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. Shaken Baby Syndrome refers to homicides committed against a baby (under the age of three years) where the primary cause of death resulted from being shaken, tossed or thrown.

2. Includes causes of death not otherwise stated. Examples include exposure/hypothermia, deaths caused by motor vehicles, starvation, heat, etc.

**Note(s):** Family-related homicides are homicides committed by a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Excludes homicides where the sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages exclude homicides in which the cause of death was reported by police as unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

**Table 4.6**  
**Homicides against seniors (65 years and older) by motive, family and non-family relationship, Canada, 2000 to 2009**

Motive	Family <sup>1</sup>		Non-family		Unknown		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Argument	39	25.7	35	19.7	0	...	74	20.5
Frustration, anger or despair	50	32.9	32	18.0	2	...	84	23.3
Jealousy	4	2.6	5	2.8	0	...	9	2.5
Revenge	4	2.6	6	3.4	3	...	13	3.6
Financial gain <sup>2</sup>	9	5.9	58	32.6	20	...	87	24.1
Fear of apprehension	2	1.3	4	2.2	0	...	6	1.7
Mercy killing or assisted suicide	8	5.3	0	0.0	0	...	8	2.2
No apparent motive <sup>3</sup>	29	19.1	33	18.5	2	...	64	17.7
Other <sup>4</sup>	7	4.6	5	2.8	4	...	16	4.4
Unknown	8	...	8	...	21	...	37	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. Family-related homicides are homicides committed by a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other members related by blood, marriage or adoption.

2. Includes, for example, robberies and homicides committed to obtain insurance monies or inheritances.

3. Includes, for example, mental illness and dementia.

4. Includes, for example, sexual violence, personal protection and settling of gang or drug-related accounts.

**Note(s):** Excludes homicides where the sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

# Data Sources

## General Social Survey

### Sampling

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

The target population included all persons 15 years and older in the 10 Canadian provinces, excluding full-time residents of institutions, such as hospitals or prisons. The survey was also conducted in the three Canadian territories using a different sampling design and its results will be available in a separate report to be released in 2011. Households were selected by a telephone sampling method called Random Digit Dialling (RDD). Once a household was contacted an individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey. Households without telephones or those with only cellular phone service were excluded from the survey. These two groups represented approximately 9% of the target population in 2009 and 4% in 2004. The coverage, therefore, for 2009 (Cycle 23) and 2004 (Cycle 18), was 91% and 96%, respectively.

### Data collection

Data collection took place from February to November 2009 inclusively. The sample was evenly distributed over the 10 months to represent seasonal variation in the information. A standard questionnaire was administered by phone using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A typical interview lasted 45 minutes.

### Response rates

Of the 31,510 households that were selected for the GSS Cycle 23 sample, 19,422 usable responses were obtained. This represents a response rate of 61.6%, a decrease from 2004 (74.5%). Types of non-response included respondents who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 years or over. Each person who responded to the 2009 GSS represented roughly 1,400 people in the Canadian population aged 15 years and over.

### Data limitations

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

Using the 2009 GSS sample design and sample size, an estimate of a given proportion of the total population, expressed as a percentage, is expected to be within 0.95 percentage points of the true proportion 19 times out of 20.

### **Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey**

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationship), and accused persons (age, sex). In 2009, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada.

### **Homicide Survey**

The Homicide Survey collects detailed information on all homicides that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationship), and accused persons (age, sex). Coverage for the Homicide Survey has represented 100% of the population since recording began in 1961. The count for a particular year represents all homicides reported in that year, regardless of when the death actually occurred.

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# Appendix A

## Children and youth

Table A

Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault, by age group and type of offence, Canada, 2008

Type of offence	Total victims	Adult victims (18 years and older)	Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years)		Children and youth victims by age group						
					Less than 3 years		3 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		
	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Total sexual offences and physical assault</b>	<b>259,355</b>	<b>203,667</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>55,688</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>13,265</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>41,163</b>	<b>1,594</b>
Sexual offences	20,394	9,332	35	11,062	159	149	14	3,993	122	6,920	268
Sexual assault (level 3) - aggravated	127	99	0	28	0	1	0	8	0	19	1
Sexual assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	326	220	1	106	2	0	0	30	1	76	3
Sexual assault (level 1)	19,941	9,013	34	10,928	157	148	14	3,955	121	6,825	264
Other sexual crimes <sup>2</sup>	1,583	203	1	1,380	20	28	3	665	20	687	27
Sexual interference	687	0	0	687	10	41	4	376	12	270	10
Invitation to sexual touching	220	0	0	220	3	24	2	105	3	91	4
Luring a child via a computer	113	0	0	113	2	0	0	21	1	92	4
Incest	80	20	0	60	1	1	0	24	1	35	1
Sexual exploitation	50	0	0	50	1	0	0	0	0	50	2
Voyeurism	140	94	0	46	1	1	0	15	0	30	1
Corrupting children	18	0	0	18	0	1	0	8	0	9	0
Anal intercourse	13	11	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Bestiality - commit, compel, incite a person	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown other sexual crimes	1,583	203	1	1,380	20	28	3	665	20	687	27
Physical assault	236,056	194,006	735	42,050	606	1,015	93	8,057	246	32,978	1,277
Assault (level 3) - aggravated	3,385	2,960	11	425	6	72	7	16	0	337	13
Assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	51,891	42,782	162	9,109	131	205	19	1,848	57	7,056	273
Assault (level 1)	170,051	138,056	523	31,995	461	702	64	6,060	185	25,233	977
Pointing a firearm	272	212	1	60	1	1	0	16	0	43	2
Unlawfully causing bodily harm	474	380	1	94	1	4	0	11	0	79	3
Criminal negligence causing bodily harm	242	172	1	70	1	20	2	18	1	32	1
Using firearm or imitation firearm in commission of offence	107	91	0	16	0	1	0	3	0	12	0
Discharge firearm with intent	155	103	0	52	1	1	0	25	1	26	1
Assault against peace/public officer	7,321	7,317	28	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Trap likely to or causing bodily harm	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other assaults	2,155	1,930	7	225	3	9	1	60	2	156	6

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

2. As of April 1, 2008, the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey discontinued the offence category "other sexual crimes" and began collecting detailed information on these types of offences. However, some police services have not yet fully transitioned from reporting to the general category to the specific sexual crime categories.

**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2008, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 98% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.



**Table B**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2008**

Type of offence <sup>1</sup>	Total		Accused-victim relationship								
			Family <sup>2</sup>		Friend or acquaintance <sup>3</sup>		Stranger		Unknown <sup>4</sup>		
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	
Total assault											
Total	55,688	100	14,359	30	26,323	55	7,492	16	7,514	...	
Female	28,534	100	8,726	35	13,556	54	2,819	11	3,433	...	
Male	27,154	100	5,633	24	12,767	55	4,673	20	4,081	...	
Sexual offences											
Total	13,638	100	4,664	39	5,961	50	1,332	11	1,681	...	
Female	11,138	100	3,770	39	4,832	50	1,132	12	1,404	...	
Male	2,500	100	894	40	1,129	51	200	9	277	...	
Physical assault											
Total	42,050	100	9,695	27	20,362	56	6,160	17	5,833	...	
Female	17,396	100	4,956	32	8,724	57	1,687	11	2,029	...	
Male	24,654	100	4,739	23	11,638	56	4,473	21	3,804	...	

1. See Table 2.1 for a list of offences included in each crime category.

2. Includes parents, siblings and other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption.

3. Includes any relationship in which the accused and the victim are familiar with each other but are not related or in a legal guardian relationship. Examples include friends, acquaintances, neighbours, authority figures (e.g. teacher, day care worker), criminal relationships and business relationships.

4. Includes unsolved incidents and those in which police reported the accused-victim relationship as unknown.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2008, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 98% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table C**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault committed by family members, by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2008**

Type of offence <sup>1</sup>	Total family		Accused-victim relationship						
			Parent <sup>2</sup>		Sibling <sup>3</sup>		Other family <sup>4</sup>		
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	
Total assault									
Total	14,359	100	8,255	57	2,790	19	3,314	23	
Female	8,726	100	4,645	53	1,730	20	2,351	27	
Male	5,633	100	3,610	64	1,060	19	963	17	
Sexual offences									
Total	4,664	100	1,734	37	1,203	26	1,727	37	
Female	3,770	100	1,432	38	911	24	1,427	38	
Male	894	100	302	34	292	33	300	34	
Physical assault									
Total	9,695	100	6,521	67	1,587	16	1,587	16	
Female	4,956	100	3,213	65	819	17	924	19	
Male	4,739	100	3,308	70	768	16	663	14	

1. See Table 2.1 for a list of offences included in each crime category.

2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.

3. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include spouses (current or former), uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2008, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 98% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table D

**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault committed by family members, by age group and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2008**

Accused-victim relationship	All ages	Age group of victim					
		Under 3	3 to 5	6 to 8	9 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 17
		number					
Parent <sup>1</sup>	8,255	661	961	1,162	1,222	2,163	2,086
Sibling <sup>2</sup>	2,790	66	268	322	480	723	931
Other family <sup>3</sup>	3,314	85	352	436	502	749	1,190
<b>Total family</b>	<b>14,359</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>2,204</b>	<b>3,635</b>	<b>4,207</b>
		percent					
Parent <sup>1</sup>	57	81	61	61	55	60	50
Sibling <sup>2</sup>	19	8	17	17	22	20	22
Other family <sup>3</sup>	23	10	22	23	23	21	28
<b>Total family</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.

2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.

3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include spouses (current or former), uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2008, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 98% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table E**  
**Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences and physical assault committed by family and non-family members, by level of injury, Canada, 2008**

Type of offence <sup>1</sup>	Total		No injuries <sup>2</sup>		Minor <sup>3</sup>		Major <sup>4</sup>		Unknown	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
<b>Family members</b>										
Total assault										
Total	14,359	100	6,903	54	5,636	44	161	1	1,659	...
Female	8,726	100	4,493	59	3,065	40	66	1	1,102	...
Male	5,633	100	2,410	47	2,571	51	95	2	557	...
Sexual offences										
Total	4,664	100	3,253	85	584	15	0	0	827	...
Female	3,770	100	2,620	84	487	16	0	0	663	...
Male	894	100	633	87	97	13	0	0	164	...
Physical assault										
Total	9,695	100	3,650	41	5,052	57	161	2	832	...
Female	4,956	100	1,873	41	2,578	57	66	1	439	...
Male	4,739	100	1,777	41	2,474	57	95	2	393	...
<b>Non-family members</b>										
Total assault										
Total	33,815	100	15,560	49	15,483	49	614	2	2,158	...
Female	16,375	100	8,377	55	6,617	44	135	1	1,246	...
Male	17,440	100	7,183	43	8,866	54	479	3	912	...
Sexual offences										
Total	7,293	100	5,537	86	889	14	8	0	859	...
Female	5,964	100	4,496	85	778	15	6	0	684	...
Male	1,329	100	1,041	90	111	10	2	0	175	...
Physical assault										
Total	26,522	100	10,023	40	14,594	58	606	2	1,299	...
Female	10,411	100	3,881	39	5,839	59	129	1	562	...
Male	16,111	100	6,142	40	8,755	57	477	3	737	...

1. See Table 2.1 for a list of offences included in each crime category.

2. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.

3. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first injury aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

4. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2008, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 98% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

# Appendix B

## Seniors

**Table A**  
**Senior victims (65 years and over) of violent crime by sex and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2008**

Accused-victim relationship	Total		Sex of victim			
			Female		Male	
	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total family</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>43</b>
Adult child <sup>2</sup>	752	17	435	18	317	16
Spouse or ex-spouse <sup>3</sup>	647	15	485	20	162	8
Sibling <sup>4</sup>	252	6	138	6	114	6
Parent <sup>5</sup>	163	4	98	4	65	3
Extended family <sup>6</sup>	412	9	223	9	189	10
<b>Total friends, acquaintances, others</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,352</b>	<b>69</b>
Friend or acquaintance <sup>7</sup>	1,835	42	748	31	1,087	56
Business relationship	369	8	116	5	253	13
Criminal relationship	16	0	4	0	12	1
Stranger	1,859	43	728	30	1,131	58
Unknown	993	23	410	17	583	30
<b>Total violence against seniors</b>	<b>7,298</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>3,385</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>3,913</b>	<b>200</b>

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 years and older). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
  2. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.
  3. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
  4. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
  5. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster parents.
  6. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
  7. Includes friends, current or former boyfriends or girlfriends, neighbours, authority figures and casual acquaintances.
- Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. In 2008, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 98% of the population of Canada.
- Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table B**  
**Senior victims (65 years and older) of family violence, by sex and type of weapon, Canada 2008**

Type of weapon	Total		Sex of victim			
			Female		Male	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
No weapon	96	5	56	4	40	5
Physical force	1,328	64	847	66	481	60
Threat	319	15	198	15	121	15
Weapon	348	17	182	14	166	21
Club or blunt instrument	77	4	42	3	35	4
Knife or other piercing instrument	116	6	66	5	50	6
Firearm	20	1	10	1	10	1
Other weapon <sup>1</sup>	135	6	64	5	71	9
Unknown	135	6	96	7	39	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>100</b>

1. Includes, for example, explosives, fire, motor vehicle or poison.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2008, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 98% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table C**  
**Senior victims (65 years and over) of family violence by sex and offence type, Canada, 2008**

Type of offence	Total		Sex of victim			
			Female		Male	
	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>	number	rate <sup>1</sup>
Homicide or attempted homicide	20	0	11	0	9	0
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3)	22	1	20	1	2	0
Major assault (levels 2, 3)	312	7	164	7	148	8
Common assault (level 1)	1,205	28	772	32	433	22
Robbery	21	0	15	1	6	0
Extortion	13	0	7	0	6	0
Criminal harassment	103	2	74	3	29	1
Uttering threats	435	10	254	11	181	9
Other violent offences <sup>2</sup>	95	2	62	3	33	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>43</b>

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 years and older). Populations based upon July 1<sup>st</sup> estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

2. Includes arson (disregard for human life), other assaults, assault against a peace/public officer, intimidation of a justice system participant or a journalist, intimidation of non-justice participant, indecent/harassing telephone calls, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, using firearm/imitation of firearm in commission of offence, pointing a firearm, trap likely to or causing bodily harm, kidnapping, unlawfully causing bodily harm, and other violent offences.

**Note(s):** Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. In 2008, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 98% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table D**  
**Senior victims (65 years and older) of family violence, by sex and level of injury, Canada, 2008**

Level of injury	Total		Sex of victim			
			Female		Male	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
No injuries <sup>1</sup>	1,232	55	756	55	476	56
Minor physical injuries <sup>2</sup>	806	36	495	36	311	37
Major physical injuries <sup>3</sup>	58	3	36	3	22	3
Death	13	1	7	1	6	1
Unknown	117	5	85	6	32	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>100</b>

1. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.

2. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first injury aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

3. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility.

**Note(s):** Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. In 2008, data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey covered 98% of the population of Canada.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.