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Children and Youth as Victims of Violent Crime

by Kathy AuCoin

Highlights

- According to a subset of 122 police services representing 61% of the national volume of crime, in 2003, children and youth, under 18 years of age were the victims of 22% of violations against the person.
- Sexual assaults are largely crimes committed against children and youth. Overall, children and youth accounted for 61% of all victims of sexual assaults reported to police and accounted for 21% of all victims of physical assault.
- Six out of ten physical assault victims and half of sexual assault victims under the age of 6 were assaulted by a family member.
- Teenagers (14-to-17) experienced a higher proportion of assaults perpetrated by persons from outside of the family circle.
- As age increases the proportion of violent crime categorized as other violations involving violence or the threat of violence which includes robbery, extortion, uttering threats and criminal harassment increased.
- Youth 14-to-17 years of age were victims in 17% of all reported robberies and in 14% of all police-reported cases of extortion – yet they represent 5% of the population.
- At each age, female children and youth were assaulted more than males by a family member while male children and youth were more likely to be assaulted by persons from outside of the family.
- According to the same subset of 122 police services, in 2003, there were 157 parental abductions of children and 134 non-parental abductions reported to the police. Over half of non-parental abductions were at the hands of strangers (57%) and the majority of victims were under the age of 13 (89%).



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Introduction

Children and youth are victims of physical and sexual assaults and other forms of violence which are perpetrated by fathers, mothers, siblings, acquaintances, friends and strangers. They are targeted at home, in their neighbourhood, at school and even when they are surfing on the Internet.

In addition to the immediate physical and emotional consequences of victimization – children and youth may suffer many adverse long-term impacts. The emotional consequences that children and youth experience as a result of victimization may lead to hostility, withdrawal and aggressiveness (Ristock, 1995). Research has also shown that individuals who have been victimized have higher rates of delinquent behaviour (Fitzgerald, 2004). American researchers found that victims of childhood abuse and neglect had increased odds of being arrested as juveniles and were more likely to be arrested for violent crime (Widom and Maxfield, 2001). These results support the theory that childhood experiences of victimization can contribute to the likelihood of experiencing or initiating violent behaviour in later years – therefore continuing the cycle of violence.

Children who witness family violence may also experience long-term consequences and be at risk of behavioural and developmental problems as well as emotional disorders such as depression, fear or anxiety. Male children who had witnessed their fathers abusing their spouses were found to be three times more likely to be violent in their own intimate relationships (Johnson, 1996). Children who witness violence in the home have more than double the odds of acting out aggressively than do children who never witness violence (Hotton, 2003) and have higher levels of anxiety (Moss, 2003). This research suggests that early intervention is essential in order to reduce the negative impacts of violence on children and youth.

Legislation has, over the years, evolved in an effort to better protect the youngest members of society. For example, mandatory reporting laws were implemented in cases of child abuse, child abuse registries were created to better protect children and amendments to the *Criminal Code* of Canada and the *Canada Evidence Act* were enacted (Department of Justice Canada, 2001a). In addition, significant improvements have been made to the criminal justice system to recognize the needs of the child and signify that the courts perceive them as legitimate witnesses and recognize that adjustments must be made in order to facilitate their participation in the justice system. Witness court preparation programs and permitting children to have their statements videotaped, are examples of such initiatives.

This *Juristat* explores police-reported data to shed light on both the nature and extent to which children and youth are victimized. Included in this analysis is a description of who is most vulnerable to what offences and by whom. Offences that are examined include physical assaults, sexual assaults, and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence (including robbery, extortion, uttering threats and criminal harassment), homicides and abductions. In addition, the *Juristat* will also examine other *Criminal Code* child-specific sexual offences such as child pornography. The characteristics and court outcomes of these child-specific sexual offences are presented.

While this report relies on police-reported data as a means of measuring the prevalence and incidence of violent victimization of children and youth, research suggests that cases that come to the attention of the police represent only a portion of incidents of child victimizations. Victimization surveys show that many instances of violence against teens remain unreported to police. According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS), which asked people 15 years of age and older about their victimization experiences, 86% of sexual assaults and 73% of physical assaults were not reported to the police by youth aged 15-to-17 years. It would be expected that this would hold true for victims younger than 15 who may lack the understanding of what constitutes abuse, may be dependant on the offender and may be unaware of how or to whom to report a crime. The GSS results also suggest that the likelihood of victims reporting incidents of violent offences increased with age (Trainor, 2001).

Finkelhor and Hashima (2001) state that there are developmental factors unique to children and youth which impede reporting victimization to police. For the youngest victim the fact that their parents are “gatekeepers” to police results in the likelihood that violent behavior remains unreported. Youth victims, according to Finkelhor, may also choose not to report violence to police due to a belief that turning to the police is inappropriate or could result in reprisals.

As children age, the people and environments that they come into contact with increases and the likelihood and nature of victimization changes. This *Juristat* will present data on the violent victimization of children and youth in a chronological manner. Children under 6 years of age spend the majority of their time with a primary caregiver be it a parent, relative or a paid caregiver and are at highest risk of intra-familial victimization. Children aged 6-to-10 years of age typically spend time in a broader array of environments and have an increasing amount of unsupervised time, such as walking to and from school or on playgrounds, which may lead to more opportunities for victimization by non-family members. The range of activities, contacts and unsupervised time broadens further for children in the “middle school years”, aged 11-to-13. This includes increased use of the Internet and growing ties with peers. Finally, youth aged 14-to-17 years typically begin to obtain a greater degree of separation from their families relative to younger children. Rebellious behavior in the teen years and to a lesser extent pre-teens may lead to high-risk behaviors or situations where youth are at higher risk of being victimized.

Each of these age cohorts has specific physical and cognitive capabilities and social spheres which all have an impact on the types of assaults that they may fall victim to – be it the range of persons who assault them, the severity of the injury experienced or the location and time of the assault. Consequently, the following analysis will be categorized into four age groups, birth to preschool (under the age of 6), early school years (6-10), middle school years (11-13) and finally high school years (14-17).

The prevalence of police-reported violence against children and youth¹

In 2003, children and youth under 18 years of age represented 21%² of the Canadian population and 22%³ of victims of violent offences reported to 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime. Over half of all offences involving violence against children and youth were physical assaults (58%) followed by other violations involving violence or the threat of violence (23%) and sexual assaults (19%) (Table 1). In 2003, there were a total of 48 homicides against children and youth in which an accused person was identified, representing 12% of the total solved homicides reported to police in 2003.⁴

Children and youth were victims in six out of ten reported sexual assaults (61%) in 2003 (Table 1). Further, police figures may underestimate the problem. Earlier estimates derived from the 1999 General Social Survey suggests that more than three-quarters of sexual assaults of adults aged 15 years and over

(see Textbox 1 for definitions) are not reported to the police. This may be further exacerbated for younger victims, who due to their lack of understanding do not define these offending behaviours as criminal.

Children and youth were the victims in 21% of physical assaults reported to police departments in 2003 (Table 1). Similar to adult victims of violent crime, the most common type of physical assault experienced by children and youth was assault level 1, (common assault) (78%) followed by assault level 2 (20%).

Just under one-fifth of all other violations involving violence or the threat of violence, reported to police in 2003, were against children and youth (17%). Similar to adult victims, within this category, uttering threats (45%) and robbery (41%) were the most common types of offences experienced by children and youth (Table 1).

Violent victimization rates increase with age

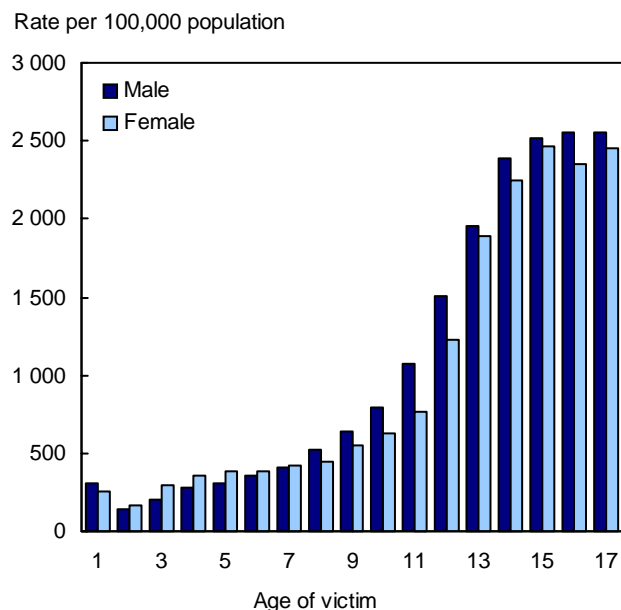
According to police-reported data, in 2003, the risk of violent victimization for children and youth increased as the child ages. Rates of violent victimization for male and female victims remain relatively similar up until the age of 8, after which male rates exceed those of females. The rate of victimization for female victims increases through the teenage years to peak at 2,463 assaults per 100,000 population at age 15. For male victims, rates increase sharply up until age 13 and peak at 2,557 at age 17 (Figure 1). Some researchers attribute the increased rate of violent victimization of youth as a direct result of their risk-taking behaviours (Lauritsen, et.al. 1991). For example, youth aged 14-to-17 are beginning to experiment with alcohol and drugs. According to data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY), 29% of 14-year olds and 44% of 15-year olds reported drinking to intoxication at least once in the last year, 1998/1999 (Hotton & Haans, 2004). Data from the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) also found that almost one third (29%) of youth, aged 15-to-17 years, reported using marijuana in the past year and 8% reported using other illicit drugs. A higher proportion of males than females reported using cannabis and other illicit drugs (Tjepkema, 2004).

Many studies have also found that male youth are more likely to partake in high risk behaviors relative to females of the same age. For example, a larger proportion of 15-to-19 year old males reported binge drinking on a monthly basis than females (29% and 19% respectively, binge drinking is defined as more than five drinks at one sitting) (Perez, 1999).

1. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.
 2. Census data excluding persons over the age of 89 and children under one year of age, postcensal estimations.
 3. These include physical and sexual assaults, murder, abductions, kidnapping, and other violent violations or the threat of violence.
 4. In 2003, there were a total of 59 homicides of children of which 48 were solved (a perpetrator of the homicide was determined) and the remaining 11 were unsolved. For the purposes of this analysis only solved homicides are included.

Figure 1

Rates of police-reported violent victimization highest for older children, 2003^{1,2,3,4}



1. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.
 2. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.
 3. Includes sexual and physical assault, abduction, kidnapping, murder, and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.
 4. Rate per 100,000 population under the age of 18, based on estimates provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Trends in police-reported incidents of violence against children, 1998-2003

The UCR Trend Database contains data from 71 police services that have reported to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey since 1998 and which represent 46% of the national volume of crime in Canada in 2003. Data from this survey provides an overview of changes in the occurrence of violence against children and youth.

Trends for all types of violent offences (including sexual and physical assaults and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence) have remained relatively stable for children under the age of 11. Overall, assault rates against youth, aged 14-to-17 show a slight decline since 2000 when rates were highest at 2,372 per 100,000. This slight downward trend is also apparent for victims aged 11-to-13 with rates highest in 2000 at 1,399 incidents of violence per 100,000 population and then declining to 1,246 in 2003 (Table 2).

Rates of police-reported physical assault for youth on the decline

Further analysis of the trend database indicates that the fall in the victimization rates experienced by youth is driven by decreases in rates of physical assaults. Physical assault rates were highest in 2000 for victims aged 14-to-17 (1,371 assaults per 100,000 population), 11-to-13 (812) and 6-to-10 (253) after which time they decreased slightly in each of the subsequent years (Table 2). Physical assault rates for victims under the age of 6 peaked in 2002 at 107 and have since fallen.

On the other hand, sexual assault rates against children and youth generally increased between 1999 and 2002 but have subsequently fallen in 2003 for each age group (Table 2).

Between 1999 and 2000, rates for other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁵ including robbery, extortion, criminal harassment and uttering threats increased for victims over the age of 6. These rates fell to a 4 year low in 2002 before rising in 2003 (Table 2).

Police-reported physical assaults, 2003

Over half of all assaults reported to police against children and youth are physical assaults

In 2003, just under 28,000 physical assaults against children and youth were reported to a subset of 122 police departments. The most common type of physical assault experienced by a child or youth was assault level 1 (common assault) (78%) which is an assault that involves pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats. Assault level 2 (20%) defined as carrying, using or threatening to use a weapon against someone or causing someone bodily harm was the second most common type of physical assault experienced by children and youth. Assault level 3 (1%) involving wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of someone was less common (Table 1).

Youth aged 14-to-17 years were victims in over half (57%) of all reported physical assaults against children and youth, and one quarter of physical assaults were against victims aged 11-to-13 years. Male children and youth were victims in over six out of ten (61%) police-reported physical assaults against children and youth.

Male children and youth, regardless of age, were proportionally more likely to be physically assaulted by someone from outside of the family than were females. In over 7 out of 10 cases reported to the police against male youth, over the age of 11, the victim was assaulted by someone from outside of the family (Table 3).

5. Rates for other violations involving violence or the threat of violence are not presented for 1998 as partial year data only was available for the offence of "uttering threats" for that year.

Textbox 1

Physical Assault refers to the following *Criminal Code* offences:

Common assault, (section 265). This includes the *Criminal Code* category assault (level 1). This is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

Assault levels 2 and 3, (sections 267, 268). This includes more serious forms of assault, i.e. assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3). Assault level 2 involves carrying, using or threatening to use a weapon against someone or causing someone bodily harm. Assault level 3 involves wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of someone.

Sexual assault includes the following *Criminal Code* offences:

Sexual assault level 1, (section 271). This involves minor physical injuries or no injuries to the victim.

Sexual assault level 2, (section 272). This includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats or causing bodily harm.

Aggravated sexual assault level 3, (section 273). This results in wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of the victim.

Other sexual offences include a group of offences that are primarily meant to address incidents of sexual abuse directed at children. The *Criminal Code* offences that are included in this category are:

Sexual interference (Section 151) – is the direct or indirect touching (for a sexual purpose) of a person under the age of 14 years using a part of the body or an object.

Invitation to sexual touching (Section 152) – is the inviting, counselling, or inciting of a person under the age of 14 years to touch (for a sexual purpose) the body of any person directly or indirectly with a part of the body or with an object.

Sexual exploitation (Section 153) – occurs when a person in a position of trust or authority towards a young person or a person with whom the young person is in a relationship of dependency, commits sexual interference or invitation to sexual touching. In this section “young person” refers to a person aged 14-to-18 years of age.

Incest (Section 155) – occurs when an individual has sexual intercourse with a person that has a known defined blood relationship with them.

Anal intercourse (Section 159) and *Bestiality* (Section 160) are also included in this category of offences. These offences may be directed at children, but not always.

Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence include the following *Criminal Code* offences:

Criminal harassment, which is the act of repeatedly following another person from place to place, attempting to contact the person against their wishes, causing that person to fear for their personal safety or the safety of anyone known to them.

Extortion is the act of threatening another individual through words, actions or violence in order to force the person to do something against their will.

Uttering Threats to a Person is the act of threatening to harm either another person, his/her belongings, family or pets.

Robbery is the act of stealing and in the process using violence or the threat of violence in the act.

This category also includes the following; arson, explosives causing death or bodily harm as well as other violent violations (which includes the offences of abandoning a child, accessory after the fact to murder, conceal body of a child and other offences).

Young children (under 6 years) most often physically assaulted by family members

According to police-reported data, the majority of physical assaults against children under 6 years of age were perpetrated by someone the victim knew. In six out of ten police-reported physical assaults of children under 6, the perpetrator was a family member (64% female victims, 62% male victims) and in 18% of cases the perpetrator was a close friend or acquaintance - persons who may have come into contact with the child through an older family member (Table 3).⁶

Fathers most often accused in family-related physical assaults against children and youth

Overall, when a family member was accused of physically assaulting a child or youth, more than six in ten of these accused (65%) was a parent (biological, step, foster or adoptive)⁷. According to police data, 44% of those accused in family-related physical assaults against children and youth were fathers, followed by mothers (21%)⁸ and brothers (15%). Just under one half (49%) of parents accused of physically assaulting their child were aged 35-to-44 years while one quarter (25%) were aged 25-to-34 years.

Among physical assaults perpetrated by a mother, a higher proportion of victims were daughters (63%) while fathers assaulted a higher proportion of sons (55%).

Youth (aged 14-to-17) were more likely to be physically assaulted by a stranger or peer

Older youth are at highest risk of being assaulted by their peers. For example, youth aged 11-to-17 were more likely to be physically assaulted by a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (63% of victims aged 11-13 years and 61% of victims aged 14-to-17 years). Considering only victims aged 14-to-17, 63% of those accused of physical assault that were classified as a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship, were from the same age group as the victim. In the case of victims aged 11-to-13, 52% of close friends, acquaintance and business relationship accused were from the same age group as the victim.

6. It should be noted that the classification of a close friend or acquaintance are terms that, with the youngest victim, does not translate into a playmate, but rather in most instances is someone brought into the victim's environment by an older family member. Close to two thirds (65%) of persons accused of assaulting children under the age of 6 and classified as a close friend, acquaintance or a business relationship were over 18 years of age and therefore it could be reasoned that the contact between the victim and the offender was brought about by an older family member.
 7. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey does not distinguish between biological, step, or foster parent.
 8. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey does not distinguish between biological, step, or foster parent.

Strangers were responsible for a larger proportion of physical assaults against youth aged 14- to-17 years of age (15% female victims, 28% male victims) relative to any other age group (Table 3). Youth of this age are more independent and mobile than younger age groups and consequently are more likely in situations where they might be exposed to strangers and the possibility of being victimized. In addition, male victims at each age group had a higher proportion of physical assaults perpetrated by a stranger relative to female victims of physical assault.

Injury requiring medical attention more common among youngest victims (under 6 years of age) and male youth (14- to-17)

Relative to other types of assaults experienced by children and youth, physical assaults resulted in a larger proportion of child and youth victims experiencing a minor or major injury. Children under the age of 6 and male youth aged 14-to-17 were most likely to sustain a major injury (7% and 6% respectively). Major injury is defined as requiring professional medical attention at the scene of the crime or requiring transportation to a medical facility (Table 4).

Some researchers attribute the fact that young children have little choice to leave an abusive situation as a primary reason why they are at greatest risk of severe victimization (Lynch, 1991). For example, Finkelhor (1994) points out that the youngest victims who live in a home where abuse is the norm do not have the choice or the option of leaving. Therefore the likelihood of enduring ongoing and escalating violence is greater for younger children. In contrast, some researchers believe that male youth may be more prone to injury, relative to younger and adult victims, due to the fact that many male youth are confronted by multiple assailants and/or assailants who are carrying a weapon (Finkelhor and Hashima, 2001).

Physical force most common method of causing injury in cases of physical assault

Regardless of the age of the victim, physical force, defined as using ones own strength to cause bodily harm was used in the majority of physical assaults causing injury, according to police data (Table 5).⁹ As would be expected, due to their small size, assaults against the youngest victims (less than 6 years of age) were least likely to involve the use of a weapon (12%), relative to older victims (Table 5).

Among children and youth victims of physical assault, the use of a weapon which resulted in an injury was most common in incidents committed against females aged 6-to-10 (24%), followed by male youth aged 14-to-17 (20%). When a weapon was used against these victims, it was most likely categorized as an "other" weapon (9% for male youth aged 14-to-17 years and 18% for females aged 6-to-10 years).¹⁰ For male youth weapons used to cause injury also included a club or blunt instrument (6%), a knife (5%) or a firearm (1%) (Table 5).

Male youth physically assaulted on streets, open areas and parking lots while young children (under 11 years of age) and female youth more likely to be assaulted in a private dwelling

Children under the age of 11 were more likely to be physically assaulted in a private dwelling¹¹ (Table 6). This is not surprising given the fact that children are more likely to be victimized by a family member. As the age of the victim increased, the proportion of physical assaults which occurred outside of a home also increased.

Male youth victims, aged 11 years and older, experienced a larger proportion of physical assaults on streets, roads and in parking lots and open areas (32% of 11-to-13 year olds and 35% of 14-to-17 year olds). For these victims the second most common location of a physical assault was a school (28% for male victims aged 11-to-13 and 22% for males aged 14-to-17). In contrast, female victims of physical assault aged 11 years and older, similar to younger victims, experienced a higher proportion of assaults relative to male victims of the same age in a private dwelling (38% of female victims aged 11-to-13 years and 42% of female victims aged 14-to-17 years) (Table 6).

Hour after school closure a time period with the highest percentage of physical assaults against school-aged children

The four hour block between three o'clock and seven o'clock, during the school year, was a time period in which children, aged 6-to-13 were at greatest risk of physical assault. Over forty percent (43%) of physical assaults against children aged 6-to-10 transpired during this time period and 37% of physical assaults against those aged 11- to-13.^{12,13} Furthermore, the one hour period between three and four o'clock, when many children and teenagers are homebound and often unsupervised was the hour of highest risk with 16% of physical assaults against victims aged 6-to-10 and 15% of those against children aged 11-to-13 occurring during this one hour block.¹⁴

In contrast, youth aged 14-to-17 years were more likely to be victims of physical assaults during the afternoon hours of noon to four pm (29%) which could be attributed to truancy. Similar to the younger age groups, the hour following school closure between three and four o'clock had an elevated risk of physical assaults (10% of incidents).

9. Toronto police force is excluded from the analysis on methods of violence causing injury.
 10. Other weapons might include vehicles, pepper spray, whips, and objects that may be used for strangulation.
 11. Private dwelling includes the following categories; single home, dwelling unit or commercial dwelling unit (apartment building).
 12. These data reflect physical assaults which occurred during the school months, September through to June, inclusive. During the summer months of July and August there was no one hour period with a large percentage of incidents reported, the hour between 3 o'clock and 4 o'clock during these months had 8% of reported incidents of physical assaults.
 13. This analysis includes only those incidents that transpired during 2003 and excludes incidents involving victims under six year of age.
 14. During the summer months of July and August there was no one hour period with a large percentage of incidents reported, the hour between 3 o'clock and 4 o'clock during these months had 6% of reported incidents of physical assaults.

**Textbox 2
Assaults on school property**

School aged children (aged 6-to-17 years) spend a significant amount of their waking time at school and it is expected that this location would have a high percentage of police-reported assaults. According to police-reported data, in 2003, 17% of all types of reported assaults against school aged children and youth occurred on school property. Over half of these assaults were against youth aged 14-to-17 (56%) while one third were against children aged 11-to-13 (33%).

When considering only those assaults which transpired on school property – the majority were physical assaults (70%), followed by uttering threats (14%), sexual assaults (8%), robbery (4%) and criminal harassment (4%). Physical force was employed in the majority of assaults which caused an injury (74%) followed by other weapons (9%) (for example whips or vehicles) and a club or blunt instrument (2%).

In the last few years increasing attention has been given to the health of school aged children. Since 1993 Canada has participated in the *Health Behaviours in School-Aged Children* (HBSC) study. The survey focuses on three age groups, 11, 13 and 15-year-olds, who are in grades 6 through to 10. Data from the last two cycles of this survey carried out in 1997/98 and 2001/02 touched upon feelings of safety at school and bullying.

According to results from the 1997/98 cycle, 10% of boys and 6% of girls reported that they never or rarely felt safe at school. At each grade level a larger proportion of male students reported feeling unsafe. In addition, a larger proportion of male students reported that most or all of their friends carried weapons, 9% of males surveyed from grade 8, and 9% in grade 9 and 7% in grade 10. By comparison, only 2% of grade 9 and 10 female students and 3% of female grade 8 students reported having friends who carried weapons (King, 1999).

Results from the 2001/02 cycle of the survey indicate that 25% of males and 21% of females reported some form of bullying. For both male and female victims of bullying, teasing was the most frequently reported form of bullying (79% females, 67% of males), followed by having rumors spread (72% females and 63% males). A larger proportion of bullied male students reported being physically victimized relative to females (45% and 21% respectively). The rate of this physical victimization decreased with age for each sex. In contrast, a larger proportion of female victims of bullying behavior reported sexual harassment, defined as being victimized by sexual jokes, comments or gestures and this form of bullying increased with age for females and peaked at grade 9 (55%) (Craig, 2004).

According to data from the 1997/98 cycle it appears that each gender group experienced different "offender types" of bullies. For example, grade 6 male victims of bullying reported being harassed primarily by one male (43%), a group of males (40%), a group of males and females (12%), a group of females (4%) or by one female (2%). In contrast, female victims reported a higher proportion of female perpetrators (19% lone female bully, 18% group of females, 22% group of males and females, 24% lone male and 17% group of males) (King, 1999).

Sources
King, Alan, W. Boyce, and M. King, (1999) Trends in the Health of Canadian Youth, Health Canada.

Craig, Wendy. 2004. Bullying and Fighting. In Boyce, William, *Young people in Canada: their health and well being*. Health Canada.

Police-reported sexual assaults, 2003

Females aged 11- to-17 are victims in a high proportion of sexual assaults

Sexual assaults are largely crimes committed against children and youth. Overall, children and youth accounted for 61% of all victims of sexual assaults reported to police. According to statistics from 122 police department there were over 9,000 child and youth victims of sexual assaults in 2003, the vast majority of which were female victims (80%). Teenaged girls aged 14-to-17 accounted for just under one third (31%) of all child and youth sexual assault victims and females aged 11-to-13 accounted for almost one quarter (23%) (Table 3). Sexual assault (level 1), (see Textbox 1 for a complete definition) accounted for 84% of police-reported sexual assaults against children and youth in 2003 (Table 1).

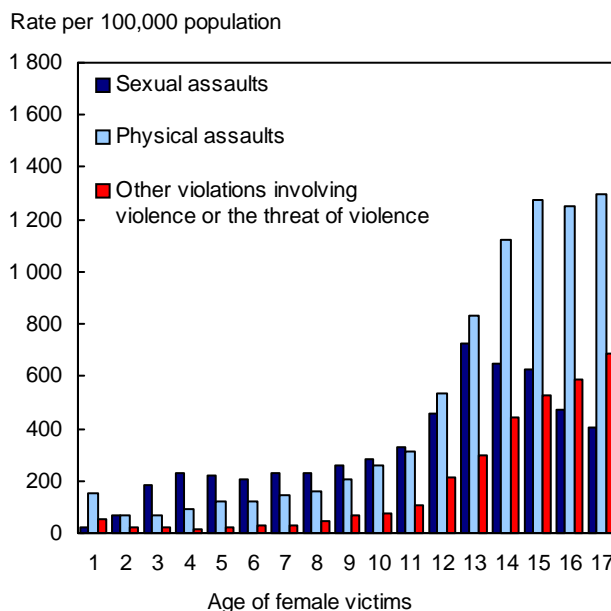
Prior to the age of 12, female victims were more likely to be sexually assaulted than to be victims of other types of violent crimes against the person. For female victims the rate of sexual assaults, reported to police in 2003, generally increased until age 13 at which point there was a constant decrease. In contrast at each age sexual assaults was an offence that was least likely to be experienced by male children and youth (Figures 2 and 3).

Overall a significant proportion of sexual assaults were perpetrated by an individual known to the victim (86%). Half of victims under the age of 6 were sexually assaulted by a family member while this was the case for 44% of victims aged 6-to-10 (Table 3).

Strangers were implicated in only 5% of the reported sexual assaults against children and youth, and of these assaults the majority of the victims were older teens aged 14-to-17 (50%) or aged 11-to-13 (24%).

Figure 2

Rates of police-reported female victimization by age and assault type, 2003^{1,2,3}



1. Excludes cases where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown.
 2. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.
 3. Rate per 100,000 population per age, based on estimates provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Female youth (11-to-17 years) sexually assaulted by non-family perpetrators

As was the pattern with physical assaults, as the age of the victim increases the proportion of sexual assaults perpetrated by a family member decreased and the proportion of sexual assaults perpetrated by a non-family member increased. For example, a larger proportion of female youth (14-to-17) were sexually assaulted by persons from outside of the family circle (72%), while a relatively larger proportion of sexual assaults against the youngest victims (under age 6) involved a family member (50%) (Table 3). As was the case with physical assaults, a larger proportion of female victims relative to male victims were assaulted by a family member- regardless of the age of the victim.

Fathers most often accused in family-related sexual assaults against children and youth

Overall, when a family member was accused of sexually assaulting a child or youth, the majority of incidents were perpetrated by a male relative (98%). Considering only family-related sexual assaults, over one third of incidents were perpetrated by fathers¹⁵ (36%) followed by brothers¹⁶ (32%) and extended male relatives (28%). A female relative was accused in 2% of sexual assaults against children and youth reported to the police in 2003. A small percentage of family-related sexual assaults (1%) were perpetrated by the victim's spouse or ex-spouse, the majority of which were accused aged 14-24 years (82%).

Female youth (aged 14-to-17) were more likely to be sexually assaulted by a casual acquaintance

When considering only those sexual assaults involving accused persons from outside of the family, casual acquaintances were responsible for over half of all police-reported sexual assaults against female youth aged 14- to-17 (52%), followed by a close friend (20%) and a stranger (17%). Once again the age of these accused suggests that they are peers, as the majority were relatively young with 28% aged 14-17, and one quarter aged 18-to-24 (25%) and 16% aged 25-to-34.

Female youth (14-to-17) and young children (under 6) more likely to sustain minor injuries in sexual assaults

As stated earlier, the majority of child and youth victims of sexual assaults, reported to police, were instances of sexual assault level 1, unwanted sexual touching – which is an offence that generally does not result in an injury. As a result major injuries were not associated with this offence category. Minor injuries were sustained in 11% of police-reported sexual assaults against children and youth in 2003. Young female victims under 6 (13%) and female youth aged 14-to-17 (14%) sustained the highest proportion of minor injuries relative to male victims and other age groups (Table 4).

In contrast to physical assaults experienced by children and youth, sexual assaults reported to police, in most instances, did not involve weapons causing an injury. For each age group, physical force was the most common method used to inflict injury (Table 5).

Two-thirds of reported sexual assaults took place in a private dwelling

Most sexual assaults reported to police occurred in private dwellings (67%) followed by streets, roads, open areas and highways (11%). Younger victims of sexual assaults (under 6) were more often assaulted in a private home (82%) than were older victims (Table 6). As was the pattern for physical assaults, as the age of the victim increased, the proportion of sexual assaults occurring in a private dwelling decreased while the proportion of assaults taking place outside a home increased. School was a location for 11% of sexual assaults against children aged 11-to-13 years (Table 6). For female youth (14-to-17 years) the second most common location of sexual assaults was a street, road, highway, parking lot or open area (17%).

Afternoon and late evening hours, peak hours of sexual assaults against youth¹⁷

Police-reported incidents of sexual assaults for victims under the age of 13 years occurred most often between three pm and seven pm. Almost one third of reported sexual assaults against victims of this age occurred during this four hour block (6-to-10 years, 29%; 11-to-13 years, 28%) while older youth aged 14-to-17 were at greater risk of sexual assault during the afternoon hours of 1 pm to 5 pm (23%) as well as between 10 pm and 2 am (21%).

Victims aged 6-to-10 years experienced the largest proportion of sexual assaults during the one hour period from four to five o'clock in the afternoon (11%). For older victims there was no one hour block of time which had a significantly higher proportion of reported sexual assaults.

Police-reported other violations involving violence or the threat of violence, 2003¹⁸

Risk of being a victim of threats, robberies and harassment increases with age

From age ten and onwards the rates of other violations involving violence or the threat of violence steadily increased (Figures 2 and 3). Males were victims in 6 out of 10 instances of police-reported "other violations involving violence or the threat of violence" against children and youth. At each age, males experienced a higher rate than female victims.

Children and youth were victims in 17% of other violations involving violence or the threat of violence reported to 122 police departments in 2003 (Table 1). These offences include robbery, extortion, uttering threats, and criminal harassment. Youth aged 14-to-17 were victims in 17% of all reported robberies and in 14% of all reported cases of extortion - a sizable proportion considering that this age group represents only 5% of the total population (Table 1). This reflects the reality

15. This includes biological, step, foster, or adoptive parents.

16. This includes biological, step, foster or adoptive brothers.

17. This analysis includes only those incidents that transpired during 2003 and excludes incidents involving victims under six year of age.

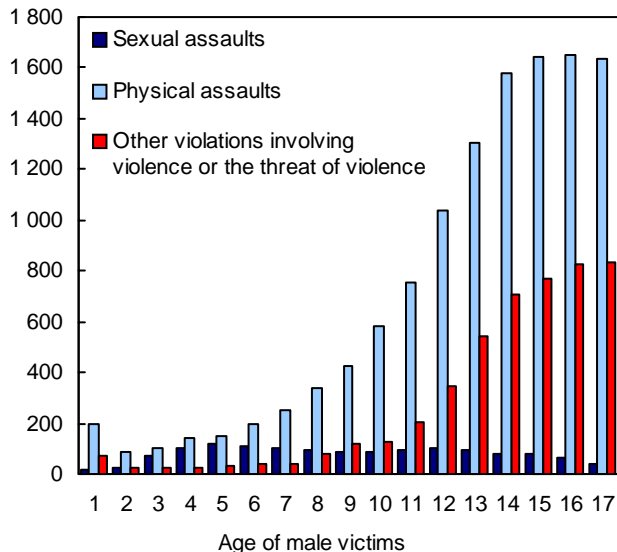
18. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence include the following offences; robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violent offences.

that once youth become consumers and owners of tangible goods they become targets of crimes related to goods. Among child and youth victims of other violent offences, those aged 14-to-17 predominated (67%), followed by victims aged 11-to-13 (22%), and victims aged 6-to-10 years (8%) (Table 1).

Figure 3

Rates of police-reported male victimization assault type and age, 2003^{1,2,3}

Rate per 100,000 population



1. Excludes cases where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown.
 2. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.
 3. Rate per 100,000 population per age, based on estimates provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Robberies, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence perpetrated by close friends, acquaintances and business relationships

In 2003, “other violations involving violence or the threat of violence” was the violent category that was least likely to be perpetrated by a family member. Eight percent of child and youth victims of police-reported violations involving violence or the threat of violence were assaulted by a family member. Overall, close friends, acquaintances and business relationships were the most common perpetrators (42%) followed by a stranger (40%) and unknown accused (10%). Further analysis of the data indicates that female youth victims of this type of assault (11-to-17) had a higher proportion of assaults perpetrated by a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (53% of female victims aged 11-to-13 years and 55% of female victims aged 14-to-17 years) relative to their males counterparts (Table 3).

Persons accused of robbery, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence most often a peer

Over one fifth (22%) of persons accused of robbery, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence against a child or youth were females and 78% of accused were males. Females accused of these types of assaults against children and youth were predominately teens aged 14-to-17 years (44%) followed by accused aged 18-to-24 years (21%). The majority of females accused of this type of assault were considered a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (74%), in other words an individual who was a peer to the victim, followed by an unknown person (10%) or a stranger (8%). In most instances when the accused was a female the victim was a female (85%) – indicating that this is an assault which occurs between same-sex peers.

Similarly, males accused of robbery, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence were predominantly teens aged 14-to-17 years (41%) and aged 18-to-24 years (25%). The majority of male accused were also considered a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (63%) of the victim, while one fifth (21%) of male accused were strangers. As was the case with female accused, most males accused of robbery, extortion, uttering threats and criminal harassment victimized another male (64%) and most often were from the same sex as their victim.

Injuries sustained by male youth

Overall, child and youth victims of robberies, uttering threats, harassment and other violations involving the threat of violence were less likely to sustain an injury as a result of the offence relative to victims of sexual and physical assaults. The exceptions were male victims aged 11-to-13 and males aged 14-to-17. Each of these victim groups sustained a larger proportion of injuries relative to other females and younger males. Over one fifth (21%) of male youth victims aged 14-to-17 sustained a minor injury and 2% sustained a major injury. Finally 15% of male victims aged 11-to-13 sustained a minor injury (Table 4).

Even though physical assaults resulted in a larger proportion of injured child and youth victims relative to other violations involving violence or the threat of violence, this latter category involved a larger proportion of injuries which were sustained with the use of a weapon. Of those victims injured with a weapon as the result of a violation involving violence or the threat of violence the majority of victims had been robbed (80%). Research suggests that robbery offenders are more likely to use a weapon in the commission of a crime relative to other offenders (Correctional Services of Canada, 1995), therefore resulting in more injuries that are related to the use of a weapon. Police-reported data indicate that one out of five youth victims of other violations involving violence or the threat of violence (14-to-17 years) were injured with a weapon and the weapons that injured these victims were knives (8%), “other” weapons (6%) or clubs and blunt instruments (4%) (Table 5).

Location of offences such as uttering threats, robberies, harassment and other threats of violence

Offences such as uttering threats, robberies, harassment and other threats of violence more often transpired on streets, highways, in parking lots and open areas. Close to half of these types of offences involving males aged 11-to-13 years occurred in streets, parking lots and open areas (47%) followed by schools (21%). In contrast, female victims, as was the pattern with other types of assaults, had a higher proportion of assaults transpiring in a private dwelling (Table 6).

Time of other violations involving violence or the threat of violence¹⁹

When considering only offences such as robberies, uttering threats, harassment and other offences involving the threat of violence, the time of these offences was most often between three and seven o'clock for victims under the age of 13 years (41% of victims aged 6-to-10 years and 36% of victims aged 11-to-13 years). This was the same time pattern for both sexual and physical assaults for these age groups. Youth victims (aged 14-to-17 years) were at greatest risk in the four hour block between 7 pm and 11 pm (31%).

Homicides of Children and Youth

Infants (under 1) at highest risk of homicide

Male and female infants (under 1) were at highest risk of homicides with rates of 26 and 24 homicides per million infants (Figure 4). Older male teens (aged 14-to -17 years) were at greatest risk of homicides than females of the same age (Figure 4).

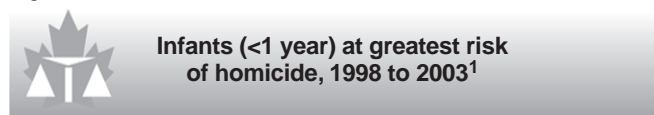
Between 1998 and 2003, there were 401 homicides of children and youth, of which 87% or 350 were solved. Of these solved homicides, over half (53%) were homicides of children under the age of six (Table 7). Two thirds (66%) of homicides against children and youth were committed by a family member and the majority of these were committed by the victim's father (60%), followed by the mother (32%), and other family members (9%).

Parents accused of killing their young child (under 6 years) were generally young parents aged 15-to-24 years (40%) while family members charged with killing an older youth (14-to-17 years) were all over the age of 30.

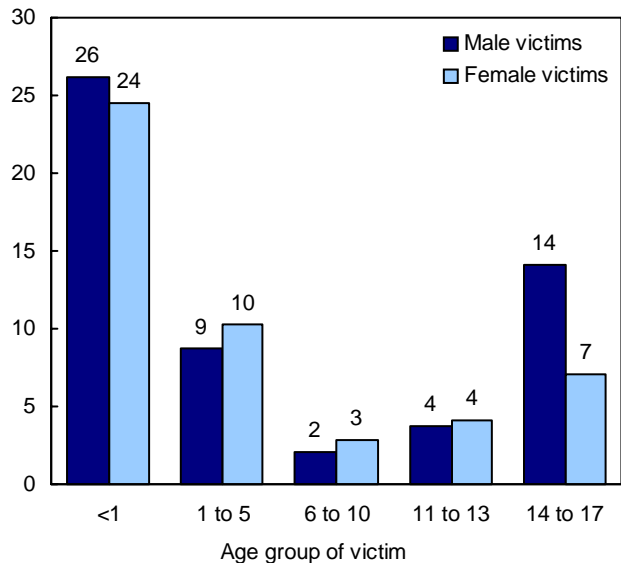
Close friends and acquaintances were the second most common perpetrator (15%), followed by strangers (11%). When considering only children under the age of 10 – the proportion of family-related homicides is 8 out of 10 solved homicides. In contrast, youth victims (14-to-17 years) were less likely to be killed by a family member (25%) and more likely to be killed by a close friend or acquaintance (37%) followed by a stranger (26%) (Table 7).

As was the case with other types of assaults, peers were more likely to be responsible for killing teens. Of those non-family homicides against victims 14-to-17 years of age, 38% of accused were aged 14-to-17 years and a further 29% were aged 18-to-20 years. In addition, 13% of homicides of youth 14-to-17 were gang related.

Figure 4



Rate per million population per age group



1. Rate per 1,000,000 population under the age of 18, based on estimates provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Considering only family homicides during this six year period, males and females were at equal risk of familial homicide (49% and 51% respectively). In contrast males were at greater risk of homicides perpetrated by persons from outside of the family (68% male and 32% female).

Prior history of offending

Less than one quarter of those accused of family-related homicides of children and youth had a known history of domestic violence against the victim (23%), while 37% had a previous conviction for a criminal offence. Of these, more than half of the convictions were for another violent act (53%) followed by a property offence (22%).

When considering only homicides of children and youth perpetrated by persons outside of the family, a larger proportion of accused had a previous criminal record (55%). Over half of these accused had a prior conviction for another violent offence (55%) followed by a property offence (20%). Among non-family related homicides involving victims aged 14-to-17 there exists a larger proportion of accused with a prior criminal history (62%), most often for a violent crime (53%).

Youngest homicide victims killed with physical force

As was the case with other types of assaults reported to the police, solved homicides of the youngest victims (under

19. This analysis includes only those incidents that transpired during 2003 and excludes incidents involving victims under six year of age.

age 6) usually involved some form of physical force, for example, strangulation or suffocation (25%), beating (21%) and forceful shaking (Shaken Baby Syndrome) (24%). Youth victims of homicides aged 14-to-17 were more likely to be stabbed (41%), beaten (21%) or shot (20%) (Table 8).

When considering only infant homicides (<1 and 1 year olds) the proportion of victims killed as a result of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) increases to 36%. After reviewing medical records, researchers have suggested that some cases of SBS may be misdiagnosed and as a result, underreported (King, et. al. 2003).

Frustration is the motive most often reported in homicides of children under 6 years of age

The youngest victims of homicide were most often killed as a result of frustration (63%). This is not surprising considering that the majority of offenders are parents using force. Conversely, youth victims (aged 14-to-17) were most often killed as a result of an argument (38%) followed by frustration (17%) revenge (8%) settling of accounts (5%) or jealousy (5%). As stated earlier, the majority of homicides of youth are committed by acquaintances and are often the result of an argument between peers.

Other Offences Involving Children and Youth

In addition to being the targets of violent offences, children and youth are also the target of offences that may not involve “violent” behaviours but in fact exploit and harm them. Children and youth are victims of several child-specific offences under the *Criminal Code* of Canada that are recorded but do not include a victim file. For example, child pornography is an offence where children and youth have been exploited through the capturing of their images in sexually explicit poses.

Child Pornography

Section 163 of the *Criminal Code* of Canada, states that it is an offence to produce, publish or distribute obscene material, recordings or pictures of children and youth. Child pornography victimizes and exploits children and youth by using photos and images depicting the individual as a sexual object and by distributing them for profit or other purposes.

According to the 122 police services that reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, in 2003, there were 166 persons charged with the production and distribution of child pornography. Almost all offenders were male (99%) and the majority were aged 25-to-54 years (53%).

The UCR Trend Data file, which collects data from 71 police services that have reported to the UCR consistently since 1998, reveals a significant increase in the number of reported incidents of child pornography between 1998 and 2003. Since 1998, there has been an eight-fold increase in the number of charges laid by police for child pornography, from a low of 20 charges in 1998 to a high of 159 charges in 2003.²⁰ This increase may be attributed to the proliferation and affordability of digital video and camera equipment coupled with the ease of transmitting images over the Internet as well as increased enforcement efforts and targeted detection by police forces.

According to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS), between 1996 and 2003, offenders charged and found guilty of distributing child pornography were mostly sentenced to probation (52%), followed by prison (33%). Conviction rates for child pornography have increased from 41% of cases in 1999 to 58% in 2001, at which point the rate has remained relatively stable.

20. The UCR Trend Data file is comprised of 71 police services that have consistently reported to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and represents 46% of the national volume of crime. Aggregated counts from the UCR Trend Data file will not match that of the UCR2 file which has a larger coverage, 122 police services representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

**Textbox 3
Use of the Internet for the purposes of child sexual exploitation**

Technology has provided another mechanism in which children and youth can be victimized. According to the Household Internet Use Survey, 64% of Canadian households had at least one member of the household who used the Internet on a regular basis (Statistics Canada, 2004). Faster computers and photo quality images have made it much easier to produce and distribute child pornography, both images and video. Once created, these images are easily distributed worldwide making it increasingly difficult to monitor or control. The Internet has also been used by sexual offenders as a means of luring children and youth into sexual situations. According to Jupiter, an internet based research company in the United States, once logged onto a computer, 50% of teens enter a chat room (Jupiter Research, 2003) where they may encounter individuals intent on luring them into a dangerous situation. Research suggests that many pedophiles are attracted by the anonymity offered by the Internet and as a result use it frequently as a means of seeking out vulnerable children to exploit. Consequently, the simple activity of surfing the Internet has become a situation where a child or youth could be placed at risk (Department of Justice Canada, 2001b).

The use of the Internet as a means of carrying out offences has resulted in many challenges for legislators and police personnel. First, the volume of potential investigations is overwhelming and as a result, police personnel are forced to prioritize their investigations. The borderless nature of these crimes and the number of offenders that are involved results in a significant amount of time and coordination between different police forces within Canada and between countries. Tracking the identity of persons through their Internet Service Provider is complicated, due to the fact that the identity of users can be stored

in a geographical location away from the user, which is problematic when trying to obtain search warrants (Department of Justice Canada, 2001b).

Recently, the *Criminal Code* of Canada was amended to deal with sexually offensive material and behavior directed at children and carried out through the Internet. Bill C-15A makes it illegal to communicate with a child on the Internet with the purposes of sexual exploitation defined as sexual interference. This crime carries a penalty of up to five years of imprisonment. In addition, a prison sentence of up to ten years maybe given to those individuals convicted of transmitting child pornography over the Internet, or posting child pornography on websites. Any person who intentionally accesses child pornography from the Internet may also face a prison term of up to five years (Baer, 2003).

The Bill also gives the court the power to order Internet service providers to remove any child pornography once it has been established that the material in question is in fact child pornography. The Bill allows judges to order the apprehension of equipment and material used in the creation and distribution of child pornography. Bill C-15A also gives power to the court to issue protective orders for children who are at risk of being victims of sexual offenders (Department of Justice Canada, 2001b).

Sources:
Baer, Nicole. 2003. Recent Criminal Code Updates Aim to Make the Justice System Sleeker, Techno-friendly. Department of Justice Canada.

Department of Justice Canada. 2001. Borders Conference – Rethinking the Line: The Canada – U.S. Border, Child Pornography on the Internet, Research and Statistics Division.

**Textbox 4
Cybertip.ca**

In May 2001, Child Find Manitoba (CFM) was mandated by the Manitoba Department of Justice to develop and implement a tip line to encourage individuals to report instances of online sexual exploitation of children, defined as child pornography, luring of children via the Internet, child sex tourism and child prostitution.

In September 2002, Child Find Manitoba launched *Cybertip.ca* whose mandate is to receive and analyse information from the public about possible illegal images, material and/or activities related to online sexual exploitation of children. When received, this information is reviewed by *Cybertip.ca* to determine whether or not it is in fact illegal. If found to be illegal, the information is then forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

During their first two years of operation *Cybertip.ca* has received over 1,200 reports related to child sexual exploitation from the public, of these, 87% deal with alleged child pornography, 10% with luring children, of which the majority of luring reports involved adolescent girls. The remaining 3% of reports involved sex tourism and child prostitution.

After reviewing these reports, 533 were forwarded to police agencies. This resulted in as many as 320 web sites being shut down, as well as 10 arrests and a further 48 under investigation.

In May of 2004 the Federal government announced plans to expand the *Cybertip.ca* program nationally and it was launched in January of 2005.

Source:
Unpublished report; *Cybertip.ca* Pilot Phase: Trends and Patterns of Victimization, Child Find Manitoba, 2005

**Textbox 5
Sex Offender Information Registration Act**

In April 2004, the Government of Canada created a national sex offender registration system which would allow police to have quick access to the most current information on convicted sex offenders. The *Sex Offender Information Registration Act* allows for the creation of a Sex Offender Database which will be maintained on the Canadian Police Information Centre computer system. The system requires that anyone convicted of a sexual offence to submit their address, telephone number, complete names and aliases and any identifying marks (tattoos) to the police. The database will include the names of offenders convicted of sex offences who are incarcerated, on parole or on probation for sex offences, as of the day the law takes effect. The database will not include offenders who completed their sentence prior to proclamation of the legislation. The database will help law enforcement by generating a list of all known sex offenders located near the scene of an offence (Department of Justice Canada, 2004).

Proposed legislative reforms

Bill C-2 which is currently before Parliament, proposes numerous reforms to the *Criminal Code* of Canada and the *Criminal Evidence Act* that seek to enhance existing protections against child pornography by broadening the definition of child pornography; prohibiting advertising child pornography; increasing the maximum sentence on summary conviction and making the commission of any child pornography offence with intent to profit an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes; and providing a new two-part, harms-based "legitimate purpose" defence for child pornography.

In addition, Bill C-2 proposes to create a new prohibition against the sexual exploitation of young persons between 14 -18 years of age. Bill C-2 proposes additional sentencing reforms including requiring sentencing courts, in all cases involving the abuse of a child, to give primary consideration to the denunciation and deterrence of such conduct. Bill C-2 also proposes numerous reforms to facilitate the receipt of testimony by all child victims/witnesses under the age of 18 years. (Department of Justice Canada, 2004).

**Textbox 6
Sex Tourism, a global problem**

International Dimensions of the Sexual Exploitation of Children, Global Report

The International Tribunal for Children's Rights defines the globalization of child sexual exploitation as involving three different typologies; child pornography, child prostitution and the sexual trafficking of children. Sex tourism is defined as commercially organized travel and services, often across international borders, for individuals who desire to purchase sexual services, often from young children, who are citizens of the country being traveled to.

Sex tourism is a problem in countries where there is a high degree of poverty, such as South East Asia and several countries in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Sex tours are advertised on the Internet – selling images of an exotic location and a willing sexual partner. Offenders travel to another country under the belief that their sexual involvement with young boys and girls will not be punishable in the host country.

Bill C-27 amends the *Criminal Code* of Canada in order that any Canadian or a permanent resident of Canada who partakes in any form of sexual exploitation in another country will be prosecuted. The maximum sentence for this offence is 5 to 14 years imprisonment.

Source:
International Dimension of the Sexual Exploitation of Children: Global Report. 2001. International Bureau for Children's Rights.

Response of Criminal Courts to offenders charged with age-specific sexual offences against children and youth²¹

In Canada, there are several sexual offences which are defined by the age of the victim, sexual interference involving children under the age of 14, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation and incest²² (see Textbox 1). Court data provides a means of determining who is being charged with these child-specific offences and how they are being dealt with by the courts.

Between 1994 and 2003 there were just under 21,000 cases before the courts in Canada involving sexual offences against children. Of these, the majority were cases of sexual interference (74%) followed by sexual exploitation of a child, by a person of authority or power (13%) and invitation to sexual touching (10%). The majority of conviction outcomes for these cases were stayed, dismissed, withdrawn or discharged at a preliminary inquiry (64%), while in over one third (36%) the offender was found guilty. Almost all of those persons found guilty of these offences were male (98%), and of these over half (54%) were aged 25-to-44 years.

Those offenders found guilty of sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation or incest against a child or youth were more likely to obtain a prison sentence than any other form of sentencing. In 58% of the cases, the offender received a prison sentence. The high proportion of offenders sentenced to prison is similar to research which found that in single conviction cases of sexual assaults against children and

21. *Sexual offences refer to subsections; 151-sexual interference under 14, 152-invitation to sexual touching, 153-sexual exploitation, position of trust and/or authority, (between the ages of 14 and 18), 155-incest, 170-parent procuring sexual activity under 18 and 171-household permitting sexual activity under 18.*
22. *The Adult Criminal Court Survey does not collect information on the age of the victim, therefore it is not possible to identify whether the victim is under the age of 18. Given the nature of incestuous relationships, however, it is likely that the majority of incest cases involve a minor and not an adult child.*

youth, 42% of offenders received a prison sentence (Gannon & Brzozowski, 2004). The length of prison sentences varied widely with a length of 90 days of incarceration being the most likely (13%) followed by 180 days (11%).

Abductions and kidnapping of children and youth

Another form of victimization of children and youth is the physical removal of a child. There are two offences that describe this form of victimization, abduction and kidnapping. A kidnapping involves the physical removal of a victim against his/her will; in contrast abduction involves the removal of a child without the consent of the legal guardian.

According to the *Criminal Code* of Canada there are two categories of abduction - parental and non-parental. Non-parental abductions can be further subdivided based on the age of the child, either under 14 or under 16 years of age. Researchers have found that there are several characteristics specific to non-parental abductions - the motivation of the abduction is for profit, sexual or emotional reasons and the victim is often chosen based on their sex, age or the perpetrator's motivation (Dalley, 2002).

In 2003, 134 non-parental abductions were reported to 122 police departments. Over half of these incidents were carried out by a stranger (57%) followed by a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (14%). Children aged 6-to-13 years were victims in over half of these incidents (66%) followed by children under the age of 6 (23%). In over six out of ten cases the victim was female.

Injuries sustained as a result of these abductions were few with 1% of victims experiencing a major injury and 8% a minor injury in known cases of injury. As would be expected with the relatively few injuries sustained in these abductions, very few weapons were used in non-parental abductions. Only in one in ten cases of non-parental abductions the accused employed physical force and 1% used some type of weapon which resulted in the victim sustaining an injury.

Parental abductions are also categorized into two subgroups based on whether or not the guardianship of the child has been established. "Parental abduction that is in contravention of a custody order" occurs when a non-custodial parent abducts his/her child. The second form of parental abduction is an instance where a custody order does not exist and a parent takes the child. Parental abductions are often the end result of dissension during divorce and custody proceedings. Researchers suggest that the reasons parents abduct their children include revenge, a need to have the child entirely to themselves, psychological problems of the abducting parent, disagreements over custody and concerns over the safety of the child (Dalley, 2000).

According to the 122 police forces reporting to the UCR2, in 2003 there were a total of 157 parental abductions of children, the majority of which (68%) were instances where the abduction was in contravention of a custody order. Of these cases the majority of victims were under the age of 11 (85%). In instances of parental abductions, the offender was more likely to be a father (60%) than a mother (40%). This is reflective of the fact that more mothers have historically obtained sole custody of their children than fathers (Daily, Divorces, May 4, 2004)

Textbox 7 Missing Children - RCMP Data Majority of missing children are runaway children

According to the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) maintained by the RCMP, over 67,000 children were reported missing in 2003. The majority of these cases were in fact runaway children (79%). There are a multitude of reasons why a child may choose to run away from home and may include, escaping family conflict, emotional, sexual or physical abuse, problems at school or drug abuse. The process of running away is seen by the child or youth as a coping strategy to a problem that they are unable to solve (Dalley, 2004).

Characteristics of a runaway include; having significant problems at school, not being involved in school or community sports, coming from a home with a high degree of conflict, and lacking the necessary skills or training to secure employment (Dalley, 1993).

In 2003, more young females were runaways than males (59% and 41% respectively). A large majority of the missing children were aged 12-to-17 years (96%), a finding that is similar to previous years. Data from the CPIC determined that of these runaway children, 75% were classified as having habitual missing characteristics, with less than one quarter of the runaways (24%) not having a prior history of running away. When children were reported missing, over one third (34%) were reported missing from the family home (Dalley, 2004).

Year-end comparisons from 1993 to 2002 show an increase in the total number of reported missing children per year. During this ten year period the lowest number of missing children occurred in 1994 at 51,973 which had increased by 21% in 2001 to 66,994 which has since dropped slightly (Dalley, 2004).

More than one-quarter of court abduction cases results in a finding of guilt

Between 1994 and 2003, over 1,200 abduction cases were before the courts in Canada, six out of ten of these were stayed, dismissed, withdrawn or discharged at a preliminary inquiry and in just over one quarter (28%) of these cases the offender was found guilty.

The majority of abduction cases before the courts during this ten-year period were cases of parental abduction (67%). In over one quarter of parental abduction cases the parent was found guilty (27%). Parents found guilty of abducting their child were evenly split between mothers and fathers (50% each). About one third (31%) of these parents were sentenced to prison. More fathers found guilty of abductions were given prison sentences than mothers (37% and 25% respectively).

Over half of the cases (56%) before the courts concerning non-parental abduction of children and youth were stayed. The majority of these offenders were male (72%) and over one-fifth of these were aged 18-to-24 years (22%). Offenders of non-parental abductions were more likely than parents to be found guilty. In less than one third of the cases the offender was found guilty (30%). Non-parent offenders were also more likely to receive a prison sentence (40%) than parents (31%). During this ten-year period, conviction rates have remained relatively stable, ranging from a low of 19% in 1994 to a high of 41% in 2002/03.

Female youth more likely than males to be victims of kidnapping and forcible confinement

Kidnapping or forcible confinement is described in the *Criminal Code* as instances where a person is confined against his/her will, held for ransom against his/her will or is transported out of Canada against his/her will. According to the UCR2 Survey,

there were 469 kidnapping incidents of children under the age of 18 years reported to 122 police departments in 2003 which represented 18% of all kidnappings.

Teenaged girls aged 14-to-17 were more likely than all other age groups, to be victims of kidnapping (43%), followed by males of the same age group (21%). Some researchers believe that the primary motive for kidnapping is sexual assault which would explain females' greater risk of being victims of this type of offence (Finkelhor & Dziuba-Leatherman, 1994). Of these victims, a larger proportion were kidnapped by a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (54% female victims and 46% male victims).

In incidents involving a kidnapping offence, over one half (64%) involved additional offences. Of these additional offences, 39% were physical assaults, 21% sexual assaults and 17% were other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.

More than four out of ten kidnapping incidents were perpetrated by a close friend, acquaintance, or a business relationship (42%), while over one third of the incidents were perpetrated by a stranger (34%). Only a very few cases of kidnapping involved a family member (15%) – of those that were perpetrated by a family member the victims were primarily young (56% under 11 years of age).

Impact of childhood victimization on individuals and society as a whole

Recently researchers have attempted to quantify the “societal costs” of violence against children and youth, that is what are the costs to society as a whole that go beyond those experienced by the victim and his/her family. Studies which attempt to quantify the magnitude of the impacts of abuse and violence hope to point to the importance of investing in services for the prevention and protection of victims of violence. A recent study, funded by the Law Commission of Canada and carried out by researchers at the University of Western Ontario, determined that the economic costs of child abuse in Canada was measured at a “conservative” 15.7 billion (for 1998). The authors of this report defined abuse as involving physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and witnessing violent behaviour. Researchers used data from provincial and federal budgets, the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect and the 1990 Ontario Health Survey Mental Health Supplement to arrive at their cost estimate. Estimated delivery and program costs were placed in a model containing the following major categories: education, employment, health, judicial, personal and social services (Bowlus, et. al. 2003).

According to the study, victims experienced significant financial burdens associated with the abuse (15% of the total estimated cost). Costs paid out to deal with legal proceedings, therapies, both counselling and drug, were just a few of the personal costs described. In addition to the personal costs paid out by the victim, researchers stated that the largest cost (70% of the total estimated cost) was assumed by adult survivors in lost employment income. Researchers stated that many victims of abuse experience behavioural problems and learning problems which result in lower levels of educational

achievement. Consequently, these victims are unable to secure employment or their level of employment is somewhat low. In addition, the long term impacts of abuse may also lead to high rates of absenteeism and addictions which would have a negative impact on a victim's ability to secure stable employment (Bowlus, et. al., 2003).

In addition to the personal costs carried by victims, researchers attributed 13% of the total estimated cost towards societal costs, defined as social program costs which included services provided to victims of abuse, both privately and publicly funded programs; health costs for short and long term impacts of abuse; judicial costs (for example policing, court trials and legal aid costs); and educational costs to provide special education programs for victims of abuse who often experienced learning and/or behavioural problems as a result of the abuse (Bowlus, et. al., 2003). While beyond the scope of the Law Commission study, other societal impacts of violence in childhood that have been identified by researchers include the capacity of adult survivors to parent children and maintain a healthy and safe family and intimate partner relationships.

Methodology

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime reporting (UCR2) survey collected detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 2003, detailed data were collected from 122 police services in 9 provinces representing 61% of the national volume of reported actual *Criminal Code* incidents. Other than Ontario and Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data that permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of incidents, accused and victims, such as the victim-accused relationship. This database currently includes 71 police services that have reported to the UCR2 Survey consistently since 1998. These respondents accounted for 46% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961 and began collecting data on family-related homicides in 1974. Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The count for a particular year represents all homicides reported in that year, regardless of when the death actually occurred. In 1991 and 1997, the survey was revised and expanded to include additional variables, such as previous conviction histories of the accused and victim, employment of the accused and victim, victim's use of force at the time of the incident, and Shaken Baby Syndrome as a cause of death.

Adult Criminal Court Survey

The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) provides statistical information on the processing of cases through provincial/territorial adult criminal court systems. A case is defined in the ACCS as one or more charges against an accused person or corporation that receive a final decision on the same day. Charges in each case are ranked according to the type of final decision and the charge with the most serious decision is used to represent the case.

The 2003/04 reference period represents the first time that a ten year time-series (1994/95 to 2003/04) is available from the ACCS for analysis at 80% coverage of the national adult criminal court caseload. This section reviews trends for the eight jurisdictions that have participated every year in the ACCS during that ten year period. The eight jurisdictions are: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon.

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Table 1

Offence	Number and proportion of children and youth victims (under age 18)										Number of children and youth victims (under 18) and proportion of total victims	Number of adult victims (over 18) and proportion of total victims		
	Total victims		under 6		6 to 10 years		11 to 13 years		14 to 17 years					
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%			no.	%
Sexual assault – Total	15,319	100	1,261	8	2,251	15	2,556	17	3,284	21	9,352	61	5,967	39
Aggravated sexual assault	105	100	3	3	10	10	8	8	22	21	43	41	62	59
Sexual assault with a weapon	244	100	1	0	9	4	14	6	43	18	67	27	177	73
Sexual assault	13,329	100	1,044	8	1,800	14	2,061	15	2,964	22	7,869	59	5,460	41
Other sexual crimes ³	1,641	100	213	13	432	26	473	29	255	16	1,373	84	268	16
Physical assault – Total	135,366	100	1,385	1	3,692	3	6,927	5	15,949	12	27,953	21	107,413	79
Assault level 3	1,873	100	62	3	8	0	12	1	173	9	255	14	1,618	86
Assault level 2	28,910	100	231	1	651	2	1,167	4	3,523	12	5,572	19	23,338	81
Assault level 1	98,298	100	1,048	1	3,001	3	5,695	6	12,075	12	21,819	22	76,479	78
Unlawfully causing bodily harm	595	100	14	2	3	1	15	3	71	12	103	17	492	83
Discharge firearm with intent	98	100	1	1	4	4	12	12	7	7	24	24	74	76
Assault against peace-public officer	4,228	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,228	100
Criminal negligence causing bodily harm	180	100	20	11	1	1	3	2	39	22	63	35	117	65
Other assaults ⁴	1,184	100	9	1	24	2	23	2	61	5	117	10	1,067	90
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁵ - Total	66,630	100	379	1	891	1	2,499	4	7,506	11	11,275	17	55,355	83
Robbery	20,758	100	18	0	203	1	921	4	3,471	17	4,613	22	16,145	78
Extortion	810	100	5	1	10	1	60	7	113	14	188	23	622	77
Criminal harassment	10,547	100	12	0	68	1	263	2	839	8	1,182	11	9,365	89
Uttering threats	34,034	100	255	1	539	2	1,228	4	3,064	9	5,086	15	28,948	85
Explosive causing harm/arson	119	100	2	2	4	3	5	4	6	5	17	14	102	86
Other violent violations ⁶	362	100	87	24	67	19	22	6	13	4	189	52	173	48
Total violent violations	217,315		3,025		6,834		11,982		26,739		48,580		168,735	

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True zero or a value rounded to zero.

1. Data are not nationally representative. Data are based on a sample of 122 police departments, representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

2. Includes only cases where age and sex of victim is known.

3. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey groups other sexual crimes including sexual interference, sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, etc., into one category.

4. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey groups other assaults, including unlawfully causing bodily harm and criminal negligence causing bodily harm, etc., into one category.

5. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/arson and other violent violations.

6. Other violent violations includes abandoning a child, accessory after the fact to murder, conceal body of a child and other offences.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 2



Child and youth rates of victimization of sexual assault, physical assault and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence, reported to a subset of police departments, 1998-2003^{1,2,3}

Year	Sexual assault ⁴				Physical assault ⁵				Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence ⁶			
	< 6	6-to-10	11-to-13	14-to-17	< 6	6-to-10	11-to-13	14-to-17	< 6	6-to-10	11-to-13	14-to-17
	rate											
1998	99	164	261	260	95	249	755	1,234
1999	97	157	253	258	89	230	750	1,246	27	52	297	639
2000	100	155	287	293	99	253	812	1,371	26	64	300	708
2001	100	163	290	269	98	240	755	1,363	28	54	283	653
2002	107	176	294	281	107	242	732	1,346	27	54	250	635
2003	102	160	276	269	101	232	697	1,292	32	62	273	660

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or the age of the victim was unknown.

2. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 71 police departments, representing 46% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

3. Rate per 100,000 population under the age of 18, based on estimates provided by Demography division, Statistics Canada.

4. Sexual assault includes sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, aggravated sexual assault and the "other sexual crimes" category which includes sexual interference, sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, etc.

5. Physical assault includes assault levels 1, 2 and 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, criminal negligence causing bodily harm and other assaults.

6. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence including robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm and other violent violations. Rates for other violations involving violence or the threat of violence are not presented for 1998 as some of these violations were not in existences for the entire year.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Trend Database.

Table 3



Age group and type of assault by accused relationship to victim, 2003^{1,2,3}

Relationship of accused to victim	Age group, sex and type of assault												
	Total	<6			6-to-10			11 -to-13			14-to-17		
		Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
no.													
Physical assault													
Total physical assaults	27,953	1,385	583	802	3,692	1,181	2,511	6,927	2,366	4,561	15,949	6,705	9,247
%													
Total family	63	64	62	33	40	30	18	26	14	16	24	10	
Parent ⁴	55	57	53	27	33	24	12	18	9	8	12	5	
Sibling ⁵	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	3	4	5	3	
Spouse/ex-spouse ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	
Other Family ⁷	4	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	1	
Total non-family	26	26	27	57	50	61	73	67	77	75	68	79	
Close friend, acquaintance, business relationship ⁸	18	18	19	44	39	46	56	52	58	52	53	52	
Stranger	8	8	8	14	11	15	17	15	18	22	15	28	
Unknown	11	10	11	10	10	10	9	8	9	9	8	11	
no.													
Sexual assault													
Total sexual assaults	9,352	1,261	858	403	2,251	1,595	656	2,556	2,122	434	3,284	2,917	367
%													
Total family	50	50	50	44	47	37	28	29	25	20	20	21	
Parent ⁴	24	26	17	14	15	11	11	11	10	10	10	9	
Sibling ⁵	14	13	18	16	17	16	9	10	8	4	4	6	
Spouse/ex-spouse ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	
Other Family ⁷	12	11	14	14	15	11	8	9	7	6	6	6	
Total non-family	41	41	42	49	46	56	66	65	68	71	72	69	
Close friend, acquaintance, business relationship ⁸	37	36	38	39	36	46	54	53	57	53	52	57	
Stranger	4	5	3	10	10	10	12	12	11	19	20	13	
Unknown	8	8	9	7	7	7	6	6	7	8	8	10	
no.													
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁹													
Total other violations involving violence or the threat of violence	11,275	379	166	213	891	341	550	2,499	875	1,624	7,506	3,049	4,457
%													
Total family	54	58	51	22	29	17	6	7	5	5	8	2	
Parent ⁴	45	49	43	17	23	13	3	4	2	1	2	1	
Sibling ⁵	4	5	4	3	4	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	
Spouse/ex-spouse ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	
Other Family ⁷	4	4	5	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	
Total non-family	36	31	39	66	55	73	85	81	87	86	81	89	
Close friend, acquaintance, business relationship ⁸	16	14	17	38	30	42	45	53	41	43	55	35	
Stranger	20	16	22	28	25	30	39	27	46	43	26	55	
Unknown	10	11	9	13	16	11	9	12	8	9	11	8	

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True 0 or value rounded to zero.

1. Includes only cases where age and sex of victim is known.

2. Data are not nationally representative, based on data from 122 police departments, representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

3. Includes sexual and physical assaults and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.

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

5. Sibling includes biological, step, half, foster or adoptive siblings.

6. Includes legally married, common-law, separated and divorced partners.

7. Other family include all others related to victim through blood, marriage, foster care or adoption.

8. In some incidents the close friend, acquaintance or business relationship may be an accused person who is associated with the parent or another relative of the victim.

9. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/ arson and other violent violations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 4


Level of injury by sex, age group and type of assault, 2003^{1,2}

Level of injury	Sex of victim, by age group and offence type											
	< 6			6-to-10			11-to-13			14-to-17		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
	%											
Physical assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No injury ³	31	31	32	45	46	44	44	44	43	34	38	32
Minor injuries ⁴	50	50	49	44	43	45	48	48	48	55	53	56
Major injuries ⁵	7	8	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	6
Unknown	12	11	12	10	11	10	7	7	7	7	8	7
Sexual assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No injury ³	66	66	66	74	73	75	77	77	78	72	71	76
Minor injuries ⁴	11	13	9	8	8	7	8	8	6	13	14	8
Major injuries ⁵	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	23	22	25	18	18	17	15	15	17	15	15	15
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁶	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No injury ³	81	82	80	83	89	80	79	86	76	76	85	70
Minor injuries ⁴	4	4	4	5	2	7	12	7	15	16	8	21
Major injuries ⁵	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2
Unknown	15	15	16	12	8	13	9	7	10	7	6	7

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True 0 or value rounded to zero.

1. Data are not nationally representative, based on data from 122 police departments, representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

2. Includes only cases where age and sex of victim is known.

3. No visible injury was observed at the time of the incident though weapons or physical force was used.

4. Minor injuries are defined as those that require no professional medical treatment or only some first aid.

5. Major injuries are defined as those requiring professional medical attention at the scene of the crime or requiring transportation to a medical facility.

6. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/ arson and other violent violations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 5

Method of violence causing injury against children and youth by age and type of assault, 2003^{1,2,3}

Method of violence	Sex, age group by assault type											
	< 6			6-to-10			11-to-13			14-to-17		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
	%											
Physical assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physical force	78	78	78	70	66	71	77	78	76	76	81	73
Unknown/No weapon	10	11	8	10	9	10	8	8	8	7	7	7
Weapons - Total	12	10	14	20	24	18	15	15	16	17	12	20
Club, blunt instrument	2	2	2	4	5	4	3	2	3	4	2	6
Knife ⁵	1	0	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	4	3	5
Firearm ⁶	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Other weapon ⁷	9	8	10	13	18	11	9	10	9	8	7	9
Sexual assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physical force	85	84	88	72	70	77	67	69	59	74	75	65
Unknown/No weapon	14	15	12	26	27	21	31	29	39	23	22	27
Weapons - Total	1	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	8
Club, blunt instrument	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Knife ⁵	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Firearm ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other weapon ⁷	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	7
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁴	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physical force	x	x	x	54	37	58	67	51	73	64	54	67
Unknown/No weapon	0	0	0	32	47	28	17	26	14	15	25	12
Weapons - Total	x	x	x	15	16	14	16	24	14	21	21	21
Club, blunt instrument	0	0	0	3	5	3	3	2	3	4	1	5
Knife ⁵	0	0	0	4	5	5	5	6	5	8	9	8
Firearm ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	2	2	3	2
Other weapon ⁷	x	x	x	6	5	7	5	11	4	6	8	6

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True 0 or value rounded to zero.

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

1. Includes only those cases where sex and age of victim was known.

2. Data are not nationally representative, based on data from 121 police departments, representing 54% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

3. Due to data quality issues that result in physical force being coded as "other", Toronto police force is excluded from the analysis on methods of violence.

4. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/ arson and other violent violations. The majority of incidents which resulted in an injury as the result of a weapon use were robberies.

5. Knife includes "other cutting/piercing instrument".

6. Firearms include fully automatic firearms, sawed off rifles, handguns, rifles and other firearm like weapons.

7. Other weapons might include vehicles, pepper spray, whips, and other objects that may be used for strangulation.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 6



Location of assault by type of assault and age group, 2003^{1,2}

Location	< 6			6-to-10			11-to-13			14-to-17		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
	%											
Physical assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Single home, dwelling unit ³	75	76	75	45	50	42	29	38	24	30	42	22
Commercial, corporate places ⁴	8	7	8	6	6	6	10	10	11	13	11	14
School	3	3	3	17	16	18	25	21	28	20	16	22
Public transportation and connected facilities	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	4	3
Street roads, highways, parking lots, open areas	9	9	9	27	22	29	30	26	32	31	24	35
Unknown	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	4	3	3	4
Sexual assault	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Single home, dwelling unit ³	82	83	81	77	78	74	62	62	64	58	57	65
Commercial, corporate places ⁴	3	3	4	4	4	5	7	6	12	10	9	11
School	2	2	2	3	3	4	11	12	7	8	8	6
Public transportation and connected facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2
Street roads, highways, parking lots, open areas	3	4	2	9	8	10	12	13	8	16	17	9
Unknown	8	7	11	6	6	7	6	6	8	6	6	7
Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence⁵	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Single home, dwelling unit ³	72	76	68	41	48	37	22	32	17	27	41	18
Commercial, corporate places ⁴	11	12	11	5	4	6	9	8	10	16	18	15
School	1	1	0	16	16	16	23	26	21	14	15	12
Public transportation and connected facilities	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	3	6	3	7
Street roads, highways, parking lots, open areas	15	11	17	35	29	39	41	28	47	35	19	46
Unknown	2	0	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	2

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True 0 or value rounded to zero.

1. Data are not nationally representative. Data are based on 122 police departments, representing 61% of the national volume of crime in 2003.

2. Includes only cases where the age and sex of the victim is known.

3. Includes commercial dwelling units - apartment buildings.

4. Includes public institutions.

5. Other violations involving violence or the threat of violence includes the following offences: robbery, extortion, criminal harassment, uttering threats, explosives causing bodily harm/ arson and other violent violations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 7


Solved homicides of youth and children by relationship of accused to victim, 1998 - 2003

Relationship of accused to victim	Age of victim									
	Total		< 6 years		6-to-10 years		11-to-13 years		14-to-17 years	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Total family homicides	230	66	157	85	25	83	21	72	27	25
Father ¹	137	39	91	49	23	77	12	41	11	10
Mother ¹	73	21	62	34	2	7	5	17	4	4
Other family ²	20	6	4	2	0	0	4	14	12	11
Total non-family homicides	120	34	28	15	5	17	8	28	79	75
Close friend/acquaintance	54	15	8	4	3	10	4	14	39	37
Ex/current intimate partner	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
Authority figure ³	15	4	15	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stranger	39	11	5	3	2	7	4	14	28	26
Criminal relationship	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Total solved homicides⁴	350	100	185	100	30	100	29	100	106	100

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

0 True zero or a value rounded to zero.

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

2. Other Family include all other related to victim through blood, marriage, foster care or adoption.

3. Authority figures include teacher, doctor, baby-sitter, priest, etc..

4. Between 1998-2003, 401 children and youth were killed, but for the purposes of this analysis only solved homicides are included.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8


Cause of death for child and youth homicides by age group, 1998-2003

Cause of death	Age group of victim									
	Total		< 6		6-to-10		11-to-13		14-to-17	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Total¹	350	100	185	100	30	100	29	100	106	100
Shooting	49	14	10	5	10	33	8	28	21	20
Stabbing	67	19	14	8	5	17	5	17	43	41
Beating	66	19	39	21	3	10	2	7	22	21
Strangulation, suffocation	76	22	47	25	9	30	9	31	11	10
Shaken baby syndrome	45	13	45	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other ²	41	12	25	14	3	10	4	14	9	8
Unknown	6	2	5	3	0	0	1	3	0	0

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

0 True zero or a value rounded to zero.

1. Between 1998-2003, 401 children and youth were killed, but for the purposes of this analysis only solved homicides are included.

2. Other includes poisoning, smoke inhalation, burns, exposure and other causes.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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

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