



Ending  
Violence  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

## FACTS & STATS

---

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS WIDESPREAD

- Approximately **4.7 million women in Canada** — 30% of all women aged 15 and older — have been sexually assaulted outside of an intimate relationship at least once since age 15. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2019\]](#)
- Almost **1 in 10 Canadians experienced at least one type of sexual abuse** before age 15. Women were 3 times more likely than men to have been sexually abused by an adult during childhood. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2018\]](#)
- The vast majority of sexual assaults are committed by a person known to the survivor. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2022\]](#)
- In the **Survey of Safety in Public & Private Spaces**, the most commonly cited location of a serious sexual assault was a business or institution (38%), followed by a private home or property (35%). [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2018-19\]](#)
- In the **Survey on Sexual Misconduct at Work**, one in eight women respondents had been sexually assaulted in a work-related context at one point during their working lives. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2020-21\]](#)

### EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- **Young women are significantly more likely to experience sexual assault** than women over age 24. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2021\]](#)
- For **young women aged 15-24, the sexual assault incidence rate was five times higher** than among women 25-34 years old. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2021\]](#)
- **Almost half (46%) of Indigenous women have experienced sexual assault** in their lifetime compared to almost 30% of non-Indigenous women. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2022\]](#)
- **Women with a disability** were nearly **twice as likely as women without a disability** to have been sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2018\]](#)
- **Over half of women with mental health-related disabilities (55%) and 22% of men with mental health-related disabilities** reported being a victim of sexual assault at least once since age 15. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2022\]](#)
- **Transgender Canadians** were approximately **twice as likely to encounter unwanted sexual behaviours** in public than cisgender Canadians in the last 12 months. [\[Source: Statistics Canada, 2020\]](#)

[.../more](#)



Ending  
Violence  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

## FACTS & STATS *(page 2 of 2)*

---

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS ON THE RISE

[Sources: Canadian Centre for Justice; Community Safety Statistics, 2022]

Statistics Canada's annual [incident-based crime statistics](#) include findings about police-reported sexual violence:

- The sexual assault incidence rate per 100,000 for all female victims in Canada was **43.76** in 2019.
- After a slight decrease in 2020 (41.82) reflecting pandemic lockdown and other restrictive conditions, the sexual assault incidence rate for all female victims *rose* in 2021 to **46.56**.
- Even though the incidence rates for all male victims were dramatically lower than for female victims in 2019 (**7.51**), the incidence rate for all male victims *also rose* in 2021 to **18.06**.
- The rate of police-reported assaults was **18% higher** in 2021 than in 2020 --  
**THE HIGHEST RATE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CANADA SINCE 1996.**

It is important to know that [incident-based crime statistics](#) draw on data about ***police-reported crimes only***.

Because so many sexual violence survivors choose ***NOT to report*** what happened (or have limited success with the criminal justice system), this means **the prevalence of sexual violence in Canada is in fact FAR HIGHER.**

**Greater collection of research data** – broken down by race, region, language, ethnicity, cultural group, education and other factors – **is necessary to fully understand the *extent* and *nature* of sexual violence in Canada.**