

SEXUAL ASSAULT STATISTICS

General Sexual Assault Statistics

In 2007 Police reported that in **82% of sexual assaults the victim knows the perpetrator** and in **18%** of incidents, the accused was a stranger to the victim.¹

31% of accused are family members

28% are casual acquaintances

8% were identified as friends

6% were identified as authority figures

5% were current or former

boyfriends/girlfriends

4% were business acquaintances

(Statistics Canada, (2010). [The Nature of Sexual Offences](#))

In 2007 over half (**58%**) of sexual assault victims were under the age of 18, with children under 12 accounting for **25%**. **81% of these victims are female.**

(Statistics Canada, 2008, [Sexual Assault in Canada 2004 and 2007](#))

In a single day (April 19, 2006) nearly **5,300 victims of sexual assaults** or other violent offences requested assistance from victim service agencies across Canada. Of these victims, **2,488 (47%) were victimized by a spouse, an ex-spouse or an intimate partner, 9 in 10 of which were females.** (Statistics Canada, [Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile](#), 2008)

80% of sexual assaults occur at home; **49%** in broad daylight. (Sexual Assault Care Centre (1999). [Violence, Myths and Facts of Sexual Assault](#). In HEALTH bytes, Women's Health Matters.)

Reporting Sexual Assault

It is estimated that over **80%** of women who are sexually assaulted **do not report** due to humiliation or fear of re-victimization in the legal process. For women of colour, that fear is worsened by the experience of racism. (Ontario Women's Directorate, 2002, [Sexual Assault: Reporting Issues](#)).

While few sexual assault victims filed formal reports with police, **most (72%) confided in friends and many turned to family (41%)** and other informal sources of support. (Statistics Canada, 2008, [Sexual Assault in Canada 2004 and 2007](#))

In 2002, **27,094** incidents involving sexual offences were reported to police in Canada. (Statistics Canada, 2003, [Sexual Offences in Canada- Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 23, no. 6](#) p 9.)

Girls and Young Women

21% of reported sexual assaults involve date-rape drugs, up from 12% in 2003, **victims were primarily women aged 20 to 24 (26%) and 16 to 19 (23%).**

(Canadian Medical Journal, [Factors associated with suspected drug-facilitated sexual assault](#), 2009)

6 out of 10 victims who reported being sexually assaulted were under 17. (Statistics Canada, 2005, "[Children and Youth as Victims of Crime](#)", The Daily)

In 2002, children and youth accounted for **61%** of sexual assault cases reported to a subset of 94 police departments. Girls represented **79%** of those cases. (Statistics Canada, 2004, [Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile](#))

In a 2001 survey of 523 homeless youth (12 – 19 years old) in British Columbia, it was found that **87% of the girls had been physically and/or sexually abused.** ([No Place to Call Home: A Profile of Street Youth in BC](#), 2001.)

In a Canadian study, **25%** of all female post-secondary students had been physically/and or sexually assaulted by a male date or boyfriend. **1 in 5** male students surveyed said that forced intercourse was all right "if he spends money on her"... "if he is stoned or drunk", or "if they had been dating for a long time". (H.Johnson, 1996, Dangerous Domains: Violence Against Women in Canada.)

Women and Same Sex Relationships

There are no reliable statistics that clearly demonstrate the scope of lesbian relationship abuse however according to 2008 police-reported data, approximately 10% of male victims (265) and 1% of female victims (179) of dating violence involved same-sex relationships. (Statistics Canada, [Police-reported dating violence in Canada](#), 2008)

Health Canada indicated that 66% of the respondents (125 of 189) knew of lesbians who had experienced abuse in their relationships 20 reported some type of physical assault by a partner, and four women indicated they had been sexually assaulted within the relationship. (Statistics Canada, 1998, [Abuse in Lesbian Relationships: Information and Resources](#)).

Women Living with Disabilities

The risk of sexual abuse of persons with disabilities "appears to be at least **150%** of that of individuals of the same sex and similar age without disabilities". (DAWN Ontario, [Disabled Women's Network Ontario](#), 2006).

It is estimated that only 20% of sexual abuse cases involving disabled people are ever reported to the police, community service agencies, or other authorities. (DAWN Ontario, [Disabled Women's Network Ontario](#), 2006).

Among adults who are developmentally disabled, as many as **83% of the females** and **32% of the**

males are the victims of sexual assault. (Johnson, I., Sigler, R. 2000. "Forced Sexual Intercourse Among Intimates," Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 15 (1).)

The rate of sexual abuse for girls with disabilities is **four times that of the national average**. (S.Razack, 1994 From Consent to Responsibility, from Pity to Respect: Subtexts in Cases of Sexual Violence involving Girls and Women with Developmental Disabilities, Law and Social Inquiry, Vol.19)

83% of women with disabilities will be sexually assaulted during their lifetime. (L.Stimpson and M.Best, 1991, Courage Above All: Sexual Assault Against Women with Disabilities)



Women of Colour

Sexual assault and abuse are rarely discussed in low-income Toronto communities where many women of colour live, and most resources are concentrated on preventing young men from committing crimes. ([P.Kholsa, 2003, If Low Income Women of Colour Counted in Toronto, p.59](#)).

Women of colour maybe more vulnerable to sexual assault because of racist sexual stereotypes, and these stereotypes on the part of the police and the courts mean they may have less access to justice. (Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, 2002, [Fact sheet: Women's Experiences of Racism: How Race and Gender Interact](#))

First Nations Women

In a 2004 Canadian government survey, Indigenous women reported rates of violence, including domestic violence and sexual assault, **3.5 times higher than non-Indigenous women**. Studies suggest that assaults against Indigenous women are **not only more frequent, they are also often particularly brutal**. (Jodi-Anne Brzozowski, Andrea Taylor-Butts and Sara Johnson, "Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada", Juristat. Vol. 26, no. 3, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2006)

A 2000 Vancouver study on youth homelessness found that **84% of homeless Indigenous girls** had experienced sexual abuse. ([Between the Cracks: Homeless Youth in Vancouver, 2002](#).)

In one Ontario study, **8 out of 10** Aboriginal women had experienced violence in their relationships. Of these, 87% were physically injured and **57% were sexually abused**. An estimated 75% to 95% of women in some northern Aboriginal communities have been physically abused. (Ontario Native Women's Association, Breaking Free: A Proposal for Change to Aboriginal Family Violence (Thunder Bay: Ontario Native Women's Association, 1989). pp. 18-19).

82% of all federally sentenced women report having been **physical and/or sexually abused**. This percentage rises to **90% for Aboriginal women**. (Native Women's Association of Canada. (2007). [Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls: An Issue Paper](#))

Women Living in Poverty

49% of homeless women are survivors of childhood sexual abuse; 51% are survivors of childhood physical abuse. ([Canadian Mental Health Association](#), 2006.)

Low-income women who are victims of sexual assault or domestic violence are caught in a **lethal catch 22**. They are caught between legitimate concerns for their safety as women and their well-founded distrust of the police. Young women who see their neighbours and friends roughly treated by police are less likely call for help or report assaults. ([P.Kholsa, 2003, If Low Income Women of Colour Counted in Toronto, p.32](#)).

Combined with stigmatization, stereotyping, state scrutiny, and inadequate social support, poverty and unemployment are significant predictors of being vulnerable to violence. (Y.Jiwani, 2002, [Mapping Violence: A Work in Progress](#))