



**SUPPORTING | CONNECTING | EVOLVING**

NATIONAL VICTIMS OF  
CRIME AWARENESS WEEK

APRIL 26 TO MAY 2, 2009 • [www.victimswalk.gc.ca](http://www.victimswalk.gc.ca)

## INTRODUCTION TO **FACT SHEETS**

There are few better ways to get your point across than by using numbers. Statistics and facts offer a quick and easy way to convey complex issues so that they can be understood by all.

The facts and statistics contained in this section can help you enhance education and awareness efforts during National Victims of Crime Awareness Week. By applying numbers to your education and action efforts, you can clearly and concisely demonstrate your point and communicate your message. Statistics can be used in a varied of ways and, if used effectively, can get people listening and lead to a better understanding of the issue.

The fact sheets and statistical overviews included here have been collected from a variety of sources and convey details on a crime and victimization. The topics covered include general crime rates, victim impact statements, elder abuse and violence against women and other specific groups in society affected by crime.

These fact sheets can be used in:

- Speeches and presentations.
- Media announcements.
- Letters to the editor.
- Public service announcements.
- Calls for action to local officials.
- As stand alone summaries.

Additional information and more detailed statistics can be accessed on the following web sites:

**Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics:** [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)

**Department of Justice Canada:** [www.justice.gc.ca](http://www.justice.gc.ca)

**National Clearinghouse on Family Violence:**  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf)

**Public Safety Canada:** [www.safecanada.ca](http://www.safecanada.ca)

It may also be possible to access statistical information on crime and victimization in your own community or region through your local police service, library, newspaper or victim-serving organizations.



## MEASURING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women includes physical, sexual and psychological violence that can occur anywhere, including within the family unit.

### Spousal Assault

- According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), 7% of women living with a spouse, in either common-law or marital relationship, reported being physically or sexually assaulted by their partner at least once during the previous five years. This represents 653,000 women in Canada and is an 8% decrease from 1999.
- Age is found to be a risk factor for spousal homicide. Young couples have the highest spousal homicide rates.
- Alcohol abuse at the time of spousal assault incidents tends to result in more frequent assaults and higher levels of injury. According to the 2004 GSS, 44% of female victims of spousal assault were more likely than male victims (24%) to indicate that their spouse had been drinking at the time of the assault. Although alcohol abuse is highly correlated with spousal abuse, it cannot be said to be the direct cause of violence.

### Sexual Assault

- The 2004 GSS indicates that 3% of women reported being sexually assaulted in the previous 12 months period; this same survey, however, suggests that only 8% of sexual assaults are reported to police.
- While interviewing sexual assault survivors, the reasons behind women's decisions not to report the assault to police include:
  - believing that the police could not do anything to help them;
  - wanting to keep the incident private;
  - feeling ashamed or embarrassed;
  - being reluctant to become involved with the police and courts;

- fearing that she would not be believed;
  - not being sure the incident was a crime;
  - not having sufficient proof;
  - fearing the perpetrator;
  - not wanting the perpetrator arrested or jailed (Kong et al. 2003; Lievore 2003).
- Women under the age of 25 show the highest rates of sexual assault and criminal harassment. These rates decline as the age increases.
  - In 2004, 86% of victims of sexual assaults reported to police were female. Only 38% of cases of sexual assault and 37% of sexual offences resulted in a conviction.
  - About six in 10 convictions for sexual assault (63%) and sexual offences (61%) received a period of incarceration; however, conditional sentences were used more often in sexual assaults than in other violent crime cases.

### Criminal Harassment

- In 2004, 75% of all criminal harassment incidents reported to police were directed at women. Half of these reports were from women being stalked by a person with whom they had an intimate relationship. In 2004, 2,030 male partners were reported for stalking to police.

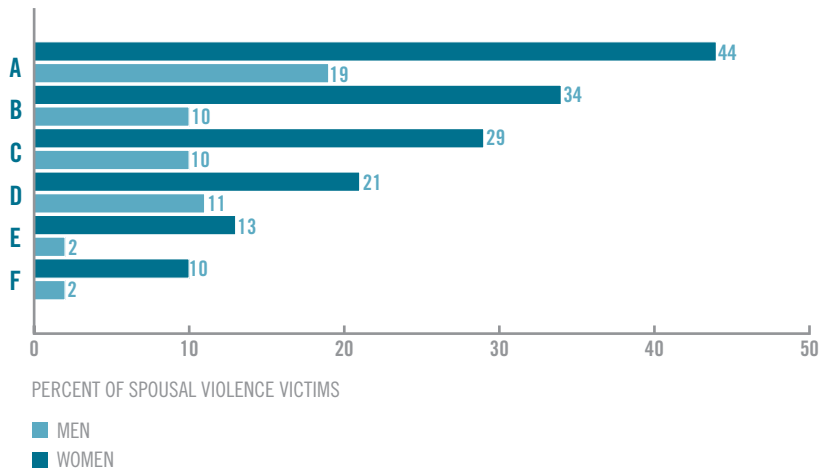
### Psychological Impacts of Violence

- The GSS indicates that among those who use public transit, 58% of women were worried about their safety after dark while waiting or using public transit. There was also another 27% of women that were worried about being alone at night in their home and 16% felt unsafe walking alone after dark.

## Physical Consequences

- Women are more than twice as likely as male victims to be physically injured by partners; six times more likely to receive medical attention; five times more likely to be hospitalized due to injuries; three times more likely to have to take time off work due to consequences of violence and are twice as likely to report chronic, ongoing assaults.

### IMPACT OF SPOUSE VIOLENCE FOR VICTIMS



- A** Were physically injured
- B** Feared for their lives
- C** Took time off daily activities
- D** Experienced ongoing assaults
- E** Received medical attention
- F** Were hospitalized

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Sources:

Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Statistics Canada, Measuring Violence Against Women, Statistical Trends 2006.

## THE IMPACTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION

The impact and consequences of criminal victimization can involve physical injury, financial loss, and property damage, as well as psychological and emotional after-effects.

- According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), there were over two million violent incidents in Canada against persons 15 years of age and older, one-quarter of which resulted in an injury. Equal proportions of physical assault (31%) and robbery incidents (30%) resulted in an injury while incidents of sexual assault were less likely to involve a physical injury (7%).
- Among violent incidents involving injuries, 24% were serious enough to require the victim to seek medical attention while 20% of incidents resulted in the victim requiring bed rest. In addition, many of these injurious incidents resulted in victims being unable to carry out their day-to-day activities (39%).
- Violent victimization can also result in sleeping problems. The GSS showed that victims of violence (32%) were almost twice as likely to report sleeping problems during the month prior to the survey than persons who had not been a victim of a crime (17%). In addition, a larger proportion of female victims (37%) of violent victimization reported experiencing sleeping problems relative to their male counterparts (28%).
- Not all violent incidents result in physical injury, but many may leave emotional scars. Among those emotions that the violent incident did evoke, being angry (32%), being upset, confused or frustrated (20%), and feeling fearful (18%) were the most prevalent. For about one in ten incidents, victims said their experience made them more cautious or aware (9%).
- Another potential consequence of victimization is a decrease in one's feelings of personal safety. According to the GSS, 37% of victims of a violent incident reported feeling very safe walking alone after dark, compared to 46% of those who had not been victimized.
- According to the GSS, just under one-third of victims of violence (30%) installed new locks or security bars while this was the case for 10% of non-victims.
- More than eight out of 10 household or property-related incidents resulted in financial losses. The majority of incidents resulted in losses of under \$500 (60%) while in 15% of household and property-related incidents losses of more than \$1,000 were reported.
- In addition to direct losses, property and household incidents are also costly when considering the time lost to replace damaged and/or stolen goods, or to wait for service or insurance agents. More than six out of 10 property and household-related incidents resulted in disruptions of the victim's day-to-day activities that exceeded six hours. A larger percentage of these non-violent incidents resulted in victims losing one day (38%) of normal activities, followed by 18% of incidents resulting in two days of disruption and a further 12% of incidents resulting in three days of disruption.
- Based on data collected through Statistics Canada surveys, it is estimated that the total financial expenditures for administering policing, courts, legal aid, prosecutions and adult corrections totaled over \$12 billion in 2002/2003. This total translates into \$399 per Canadian. The majority of the funding was spent on policing (61%), followed by adult corrections (22%), courts (9%), legal aid (5%) and criminal prosecutions (3%).
- According to a 2004 Canadian study, researchers estimated that the cost of pain and suffering experienced by victims of crime was close to \$36 billion. Researchers used police and self-reported data to determine the emotional and physical impacts of victimization. (Leung, 2004).

## Emotional impacts of domestic violence

- The emotions that were most often reported by victims of spousal violence were being upset, confused or frustrated because of the violence (37% of women and 28% of men), or angry (37% of women and 25% of men). Women were also much more likely than men to say that they were fearful in general because of the violence (30% versus 5%), hurt or disappointed (25% versus 12%), or depressed or suffer from anxiety attacks (21% versus 9%). Women were also more likely to experience being more cautious/aware, having sleeping problems, being ashamed or feeling guilty, being afraid for their children, being more self-reliant and having problems relating to members of the opposite sex.

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### Sources:

Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Kong, R. et al. 2005 Criminal Justice Indicators. Catalogue no. 85-227-XIE. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Leung, Ambrose. 2004. The costs of Pain and Suffering from Crime in Canada. Research and Statistics Division Methodological Series, Department of Justice, Canada.

## SENIORS AS VICTIMS OF CRIME IN CANADA

- Based on information provided by respondents to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization, one in every 10 seniors aged 65 years and over, experienced at least one victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey. This figure was unchanged from what was found in 1999, and was three times lower than the level of 31% for Canadians under the age of 65.
- Seniors are much less likely than younger age groups to experience a violent crime such as an assault, sexual assault or robbery. In 2004, there were approximately 12 violent incidents for every 1,000 seniors, a rate that was almost four times lower than that recorded for those aged 55 to 64 (45 per 1,000), and almost twenty times lower than the youngest group aged 15 to 24 (226 per 1,000). These findings are consistent with results from the 1999 GSS.
- Among the different types of police-reported violent crimes in 2004, common assault was the most prevalent offence committed against senior victims and non-senior victims, however, the senior rate was nine-times lower (51 incidents compared to 476 per 100,000). Similarly, rates for major assault were nine-times lower (17 compared to 153) and rates for robbery were 3.5 times lower for seniors compared to non-seniors (28 compared to 97 per 100,000).
- Senior males are more likely to be victims of violent crime than senior females. In 2004, overall rates of police-reported violent crime were 1.5 times higher among senior men than senior women (188 versus 121 per 100,000). Sexual assault was the only violent offence for which senior females had higher rates than males (5 versus less than 1 per 100,000).
- Seniors are more likely than their younger counterparts to report their victimizations to the police. For example, according to the GSS, about half (51%) of all violent incidents committed against seniors in 2004 were reported to the police, compared to 24% of violent incidents against the youngest age group (15 to 24).
- Although seniors may be perceived as being more frail and vulnerable than their younger counterparts, senior victims of violent crime are no more likely to sustain injuries. According to self-reported victimization data, over two-thirds (68%) of violent incidents involving seniors did not result in any physical injuries, a figure which was comparable to the proportion of incidents involving victims under 65 years of age.
- Seniors are less likely than their younger counterparts to experience violence at the hands of a spouse. Less than 1% of all seniors with a current or previous spouse reported experiencing any type of violence by a partner in the 12 months preceding the 2004 GSS, compared to 2% of those under the age of 65.
- Approximately 8% of seniors with a current or previous spouse reported having experienced emotional or financial abuse in the five years preceding the 2004 GSS, compared to 13% of those in the second oldest age group (55 to 64 years) and 31% of those in the youngest age group (15 to 24 years).
- According to the 2004 GSS, seniors' feelings of personal safety have improved over the last five years, with 92% of older persons reporting feeling satisfied with their overall level of safety from crime, compared to 89% reported in 1999. This increase has narrowed the gap between seniors and younger Canadians, resulting in fairly consistent levels of safety between seniors and non-seniors (92% compared with 94%).
- Levels of fear varied only slightly between seniors and non-seniors when engaging in certain evening activities. For example, 17% of seniors expressed concern about being home alone in the evening compared to 20% of non-seniors, and 21% of seniors felt somewhat or very worried walking alone in their neighbourhoods after dark compared to 15% of non-seniors.

- While there are no national statistics on the extent of telephone fraud experienced by Canadians, it has been recognized that unlike other types of crimes, seniors are particularly vulnerable to telemarketing fraud. According to PhoneBusters, Canada's anti-fraud call centre, between 1996 and 2003, 84% of the total dollar loss through telemarketing prize and lottery occurrences was accounted for by victims over 60 years of age.
- Some of the reasons cited for the increased risk of telemarketing fraud among seniors include: many seniors have substantial savings or assets, seniors are assumed by fraudulent telemarketers to be more trusting and polite towards strangers, and elderly persons are often home alone with little or no contact with family members.

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#### Sources:

Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2004.

## VISIBLE MINORITIES\* AS VICTIMS OF CRIME IN CANADA

- According to results from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization, 29% of visible minorities experienced at least one incident of victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey. This figure was similar to that for non-visible minorities (28%) and was unchanged from what was found in 1999, the last time the survey was conducted.
- Visible minorities were equally as likely as non-visible minorities to experience a violent crime such as an assault, a sexual assault or a robbery (98 incidents per 1,000 versus 107 per 1,000 population).
- There were no statistically significant differences between male visible minorities and male non-visible minorities in rates of overall violent victimization or in rates of individual violent offence types. Overall rates of violent victimization for female visible minorities and non-visible minorities were similar, however, rates of physical assault for female visible minorities were much lower than rates for female non-visible minorities (36 compared with 61 per 1,000 population).
- In 2004, the most frequently occurring type of violent victimization for visible minorities was physical assault (60 incidents per 1,000 population), followed by sexual assault (26 per 1,000). This is consistent with rates for non-visible minorities.
- When looking at the different age groups, regardless of visible minority status, the youngest age groups experienced the highest rates of violent victimization. The rates for visible minority age groups are as follows:
  - 210 (incidents per 1,000 population) for those aged 15 to 24
  - 101 for those aged 25 to 34
  - 59 for those aged 35 to 44
  - 34 for those aged 45 and over
- A similar trend was observed for victims not belonging to a visible minority. For example, those aged 15 to 24 had a violent victimization rate that was five-times higher than those aged 45 and over (223 per 1,000 versus 42 per 1,000).
- One third (33%) of all violent incidents involving visible minorities came to the attention of the police. This proportion was identical to incidents involving non-visible minorities.
- Violent incidents committed against visible minorities were less likely to result in injuries than those involving non-visible minorities. About 16% of incidents committed against visible minorities resulted in injuries compared to 26% of incidents involving non-visible minorities.
- Visible minorities were more likely than non-visible minorities to believe that the incident committed against them was a hate crime<sup>1</sup> (7% versus 2%). Visible minority victims were also more likely than non-visible minorities to report the hate-motivated incident was because of the person's hatred of their race or ethnicity (7% versus 2%)<sup>2</sup>.
- Despite having similar overall rates of violent victimization, visible minorities were less likely to be satisfied with their safety than their counterparts. For example, 39% of visible minorities stated they were very satisfied with their personal safety from crime, compared to 45% of non-visible minorities.
- Visible minorities were also more likely than non-visible minorities to believe that crime was higher in their neighbourhood compared to other areas in Canada (12% compared to 8%).

- Visible minorities were less likely than non-visible minorities to have experienced spousal violence in the previous five years (4% versus 7% respectively).

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Source:

Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

\* Respondents to the General Social Survey were asked to self-identify their cultural or racial background. Whether or not respondents belong to a visible minority group was determined using the criteria outlined in the Employment Equity Act. The Act defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”. The visible minority population includes the following groups: Chinese, South Asian, Black, Arab/West Asian, Filipino, Southeast Asian, Latin American, Japanese, Korean and Pacific Islander.

It is recognized that visible minorities are characterized by diversity in their culture, language, legal status and the various geographic settings in which they live. However, due to sample size restrictions, analysis in this fact sheet is limited to considering visible minorities as one group.

- 1 The GSS asked respondents if they thought their victimization incident was also a hate crime. This includes incidents that were committed based on the hatred of a person’s sex, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, culture or language.
- 2 Estimates for the other individual reasons were too unreliable to be published.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME\*

- According to a subset of 119 police services representing 53% of the national volume of crime in 2004, overall, children and youth under 18 years of age are more at risk of physical and sexual assault than adults. For every 100,000 children and youth who resided in the areas policed by the police services reporting to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey in 2004, 775 were either physically or sexually assaulted. This compares to a rate of 631 among adults.
- Rates for children and youth were higher than adults for both physical and sexual assault, however the disparity in rates was much greater for sexual assaults (200 per 100,000 children and youth versus 34 per 100,000 adults).
- In 2004, among children under 18 years of age, girls were at greatest risk of sexual assault whereas the rate for physical assault was higher for boys. Girls were over four times more likely to be sexually assaulted than boys (327 versus 79 per 100,000 population). The rate of physical assault among boys was 50% higher than the rate for girls (696 versus 447 per 100,000).
- According to the subset of 119 police services, children's risk of physical and sexual assault increases with age. In 2004, for every 100,000 toddlers under the age of three, police reported 126 victims of physical and sexual assault. Rates grew to 419 per 100,000 children aged three to 11 years, and then to 1,504 per 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17 years. This trend is not surprising given that children are increasingly exposed to others and acquire more independence as they grow up, increasing their risk of victimization.
- Overall, police-reported data suggest that children are most likely to be physically or sexually assaulted by someone they know and least likely to be victimized by a stranger. For every 100,000 children and youth in 2004, 376 had been assaulted by someone known to them other than a family member, 196 by a family member and 120 by a stranger.
- Data from the UCR2 survey also show that girls are at greater risk of family violence than boys. In 2004, for every 100,000 girls residing in the areas policed by the 119 police services reporting to the UCR2 survey, 242 were physically or sexually assaulted by a family member, compared to a rate of 152 for boys. This difference was driven by the fact that girls were sexually assaulted by a family member at a rate that was almost four times the rate among boys (110 versus 29 per 100,000).
- Another form of victimization experienced by children and youth is witnessing violence<sup>1</sup>. According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), 394,000 spousal violence victims reported that children saw or heard this violence. This represented 33% of all victims of spousal violence.
- Overall, female victims of spousal violence in the five years prior to the 2004 survey were more likely to report that children saw or heard the violence (40%) than male victims of spousal violence (25%).
- Among all spousal violence relationships where the victim reported that children saw or heard violence during the five-year period prior to the survey, 40% reported that they feared for their life and 44% reported that they were physically injured.

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### Sources:

Beattie, K. 2005. "Children witnessing family violence in the home" in *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2005*. K. AuCoin (ed.) Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Kong, R. 2006. "An overview of police-reported violence against children and youth" in *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2006*. L. Ogrodnik (ed.) Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

\* Information on violence against children and youth in this fact sheet is based on data collected through the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey. These data reflect both physical and sexual assault offences that came to the attention of the police and which were substantiated by the police. In 2004, the UCR2 survey collected complete data from 120 police services across Canada. Of these, 119 provided reliable data on the relationship of the accused to the victim and represented 53% of the national volume of crime that year.

<sup>1</sup> Information on children witnessing family violence in the home is based on data from the 2004 General Social Survey on Victimization.

## ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AS VICTIMS OF CRIME

- According to self-reported information from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), Aboriginal people were three times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to experience a violent victimization such as an assault, sexual assault or robbery (319 versus 101 incidents per 1,000 population). This is consistent with findings from the 1999 GSS, the last time the victimization survey was conducted.
- Violent incidents were much more likely to be committed against younger Aboriginal people than they were against their older counterparts. Those aged 15 to 34 years were nearly two and a half times more likely to experience a violent victimization compared to those who were 35 years and older (461 incidents versus 192 incidents per 1,000 population).
- Violent incidents committed against Aboriginal people were more likely to be perpetrated by someone who was known to the victim (56%), such as a relative, friend, neighbour or acquaintance, compared to violent incidents committed against non-Aboriginal victims (41%). Aboriginal people were victimized by a stranger in 25% of all violent incidents, compared to 45% of incidents committed against non-Aboriginal victims.
- Consistent with what was found in 1999, 21% of Aboriginal people reported having experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by a spouse in the five years preceding the 2004 survey. This compares to 6% of non-Aboriginal people who experienced spousal violence over the same time period.
- Aboriginal people are much more likely to be victims of homicide than non-Aboriginal people. Between 1997 and 2000, the average homicide rate for Aboriginal people was 8.8 per 100,000 population, almost seven times higher than that for non-Aboriginal people (1.3 per 100,000 population).

## Victimization in Canada's Territories

- According to the 2004 GSS, residents of the territories were three times more likely than provincial residents to experience a violent victimization such as sexual assault, robbery or physical assault (315 versus 106 incidents per 1,000 population).
- Residents of the North experienced higher levels of spousal violence than their counterparts in the provinces. Approximately 12% of northern residents reported being the victim of some form of violence at the hands of a current and/or previous spouse or common-law partner in the five years preceding the survey. This compares to 7% of the population in the provinces.
- Residents of Nunavut were far more likely to have been victims of spousal violence (22%) than residents of the Northwest Territories (11%) and the Yukon Territory (9%).
- Similar to findings from the victimization survey, police-reported crime rates in the territories were substantially higher than rates in the rest of Canada. Specifically, in 2005, crime rates in the North were over four times higher than rates in the provinces (33,186 compared to 7,679 incidents per 100,000 population).
- In 2005, the Northwest Territories had the highest police-reported crime rate among the three territories at 41,245 incidents per 100,000 population. This rate was 1.3 times higher than the rate in Nunavut, 1.8 times higher than that in Yukon and nearly three times higher than that in Saskatchewan, the province with the highest provincial crime rate (14,320).

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### Sources:

Brzozowski, J., Taylor-Butts, A. and Johnson, S. 2006. "Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada" *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 26, no. 3. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

de Léséleuc, S. and Brzozowski, J. 2006 "Victimization and offending in Canada's Territories" *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Profile Series*. Catalogue no. 85F0033MIE. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

# USE OF VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS AT SENTENCING AND PAROLE

A victim impact statement (VIS) is a written statement that describes the harm or loss suffered by the victim of an offence. The court considers the statement when the offender is sentenced, and the National Parole Board considers VIS at parole. Since amendments to the *Criminal Code* in 1999, victims have been able to read their statement to the court. At parole, the victim can rely on the victim impact statement from sentencing and/or provide another statement to the parole board. The victim impact statement is intended to give victims a voice in the criminal justice system; it allows victims to participate in the sentencing of the offender by explaining to the court and the offender, in their own words, how the crime has affected them.

Currently, data is not systematically collected on how often and how (e.g., written, oral) VIS are submitted at sentencing and at parole.

## At Sentencing

Findings from studies involving surveys of judges conducted in Ontario in 2001 and in Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia in 2006 indicate that:

- Most judges perceive victim impact statements to contain information that is in general useful, as well as, relevant to sentencing.
  - Victim impact statements (VIS) are submitted in only a small percentage of cases; an average 11% of cases have VIS.
  - Many judges report an increase in the number of VIS submitted since the 1999 amendments to the *Criminal Code*, but not in the number of victims wishing to make an oral presentation of their VIS.
  - Only rarely do victims elect to make an oral presentation of the impact statement.
  - Approximately two fifths (42%) of judges find it difficult to know whether the victim has been apprised of their right to submit a VIS.
- 97% of judges in Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia and 84% in Ontario report that victims are seldom cross-examined on the contents of their victim impact statements.
  - If the victim is present at sentencing judges will often (28% of respondents) or sometimes (35% of respondents) address him or her directly (2006 study only).
  - Only one quarter (25%) of the respondents believed that most, almost all or all victims understand the role of the victim impact statement at sentencing (2006 study only).

In other research, focus groups with victims of crime across Canada found that victims:

- Were provided with clear information about the VIS;
- Were given sufficient time and any help needed to complete their statements;
- Expressed few, if any, concerns about the privacy aspects of completing a VIS;
- Reported that their statements were rarely modified by anyone else, once submitted;
- Accepted the need for their statements to be provided to defence counsel and, by extension, to the accused;
- Supported victims being offered the opportunity to present their statements orally; and,
- Praised the provincial victim services they dealt with in preparing their statements.

## **At Parole**

In July 2001, the National Parole Board (NPB) introduced measures in policy to allow victims to read prepared victim impact statements at its hearings.

- More than 4,000 victims have attended National Parole Board hearings since 1994.
- Since the introduction of the new measures in 2001, there have been 700 presentations of VIS by victims. Families of murder victims and victims of sexual offences are the most frequent presenters.

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### Sources:

Meredith, Colin and Chantal Paquette, ARC Applied Research Consultants, Summary Report on Victim Impact Statement Focus Groups, Department of Justice Canada: Ottawa, 2001.

National Parole Board.

Roberts, Julian V. and Edgar, Allen, Victim Impact Statements at Sentencing: Perceptions of the Judiciary – Findings from a survey of Ontario Judges, Department of Justice Canada: Ottawa, 2001.

Roberts, Julian V. and Edgar, Allen, Victim Impact Statements at Sentencing: Judicial Experiences and Perceptions – A Survey of Three Jurisdictions, Department of Justice Canada: Ottawa, 2006.

