



# Victims of Crime Research Digest

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## Introduction

Welcome once again to the 19<sup>th</sup> issue of the Victims of Crime Research Digest. In 2025, we released a Digest that included reflective pieces from public servants and others working on victims of crime issues and research. For 2026, we return to our standard approach of short articles about research on victim issues in accessible language so that a broad audience can learn more about the interesting work that is occurring across the federal government and beyond.

Starting off this issue is an article by Principal Researcher Susan McDonald describing the efforts over the past decades of the Department of Justice Canada, Statistics Canada, and federal, provincial and territorial partners to gather and report on national victims data. Next up is an article by researchers Jane Evans and Bana Ammba that looks at the research – or lack of research – on services and supports for Black victims and survivors of crimes. The final article, by Senior Researcher Heather Clark at the Parole Board of Canada (PBC), provides a summary of recent research she has done using data on victim statements submitted to federal corrections and the PBC.

We are also very pleased to offer again a full listing of all Digest articles over the past two decades with links to make finding them as easy as possible. Next year, 2027, will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victims of Crime Research Digest. We welcome any comments or ideas you might have to celebrate 20 years of this publication.

As always, we hope that you learn a lot and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Susan McDonald  
Principal Researcher  
Research and Statistics Division

Stephanie Bouchard  
Senior Counsel and Director  
Policy Centre for Victim Issues

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# National Victims Data in Canada: Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going

By Susan McDonald<sup>1</sup>

Over the past decade, there have been numerous calls from victim advocates, the Office of the Federal Ombudsperson (formerly Ombudsman) for Victims of Crime, and various parliamentary committees<sup>2</sup> for national victims data. This article unpacks what is meant by national victims data and traces the efforts of the Department of Justice Canada (JUS), in collaboration with federal, provincial, and territorial partners, to respond to these calls.

## What is national victims data?

National victims data refers to information about **victims of crime**. It may include police-reported data, self-reported victimization data, or data collected through victim services, courts, *Criminal Code* review boards (review boards), corrections agencies, or parole boards. The information is collected from across Canada and can be compared within and between provinces and territories. It can be quantitative (numerical) or qualitative (descriptive using language) or a combination of both.

## Why is national victims data important?

National victims data:

- informs the public and the decision-makers responsible for the criminal justice system about the prevalence and nature of crime and victims of crime;
- provides a way to monitor how key victim rights are being carried out in practice across jurisdictions;
- notes who is accessing services (does this align with police-reported data? Are there some victims who are not seeking, or are not able to access, help?);
- measures workload volume, number of victims served, and types of interventions;
- helps to monitor resources and trends over time, both within and across jurisdictions;
- allows regions to see whether they differ in who is served and how, and learn from this;
- helps to encourage using and enhancing best practices; and
- helps to inform officials about gaps in services.

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<sup>1</sup> Principal Researcher, Justice Canada. Many thanks to colleagues at Justice Canada and Martin Turcotte at the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics for their helpful comments and input.

<sup>2</sup> For example, in 2022, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights released its report *Improving Support for Victims of Crime*, <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/441/JUST/Reports/RP12132484/justrp07/justrp07-e.pdf>. See also Recommendation #9, from the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, Progress Report: The Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (2020), <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-federal-ombudsperson-victims-crime/publications/specialreports-rapportsspeciaux/prcvbr-reccdv.html>. The Evaluation of the Crown Witness Coordinator Program at PPSC (2022/2023) specifically recommends to management that data collection and reporting are enhanced. (See Evaluation of the CWC Program (2024) 6.1 Data collection and reporting, [https://ppsc-sppc.gc.ca/eng/pub/ecwc-ectc/2024/index.html?wbdisable=true#section\\_6\\_1](https://ppsc-sppc.gc.ca/eng/pub/ecwc-ectc/2024/index.html?wbdisable=true#section_6_1)). In its response, management agreed to address these data inadequacies.

## What are victim services?

Victim services are services that are provided to victims of crime, most often, but not always, when they come in contact with the criminal justice system. There are many different models of victim services across the country. These have been grouped into categories, such as police- or system-based victim services (provided by government). See *Victim Services in Canada (2024)* (<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/vsc-savc/index.html>) for more detailed descriptions of these categories and a complete listing of the services available in each province and territory.

These services likely include:

- general information about the criminal justice system;
- specific information about a victim's case;
- referrals for counselling and other support services, such as housing, emergency funding, the development of a safety plan, including an emergency protection order; and
- court preparation and support, such as helping a victim to prepare a victim impact statement or attending court with the victim.

## What types of national victims data currently exist in Canada?

### Statistics Canada - Current sources of national victims data

Statistics Canada, Canada's national data agency, produces national justice data, including data relevant to victims of crime. Part of Statistics Canada, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS) is the primary source for Canadian crime and justice data. CCJCSS develops, collects, integrates, and analyzes data on crime, policing, courts and corrections. It develops indicators at the national and provincial/territorial levels on the nature and extent of crime and victimization, and manages criminal and civil justice in Canada. While the CCJCSS does run a survey about the civil courts, most of its work focuses on criminal justice. It is governed by the 40-year-old National Justice Statistics Initiative, a federal-provincial-territorial structure. Today, CCJCSS manages several key surveys and administrative data sources that include some national data on victims. These are described below.

The purpose of the Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-Based Survey (UCR, starting with version 2.2)<sup>3</sup> is to measure the incidence and nature of crime that comes to the attention of the police in Canada. The UCR collects data on victims – e.g., age, gender, and relationship – for violent crimes that are reported

<sup>3</sup> UCR 2.2 refers to a version of Canada's Surveys and statistical programs - Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3302&wbdisable=true#:~:text=There%20are%20two%20versions%20of,of%20victims%20and%20accused%20persons>, introduced around 2004. This version was designed to collect more detailed crime data, incorporating new categories, such as cybercrime, hate crime, organized crime, and geocoding, as an update to the earlier UCR 2.0 and 2.1 versions. This improved the level of data detail for law enforcement and researchers. Versions 2.3 and 2.4 were introduced in 2017 and 2024 respectively.

to the police.<sup>4</sup> For suspected hate crimes, the motivating factors are also collected (e.g., race, religion, 2SLGBTQI+, disability, etc.). Data from the UCR can be reported by incident or by victim. Another survey, the Homicide Survey, also collects detailed data on the victims of each homicide. Both the UCR and the Homicide Survey can now be linked to other Statistics Canada data, including the Census, tax data, and healthcare data, to provide a more complete portrait of victims.

In 2018, CCJCSS released a series of victim fact sheets – one for each province and territory and one at the national level – based on 2016 UCR (2.2) data and the data from a pilot of the Canadian Victim Services Indicators (CVSI) survey (described further, below). An update of those fact sheets, based on 2023 UCR data are forthcoming in 2026.

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS)<sup>5</sup> for adult and youth accused in Canada’s criminal courts added some variables about victims around 2015–2016, on the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) and the Community Impact Statements (CIS). Reporting on these variables is voluntary. Currently, five jurisdictions report on the VIS, but none report on the CIS.

The ICCS now also includes a variable about the use of testimonial aids, such as a screen, video testimony, or support person. As with the VIS and CIS, reporting on this variable is also voluntary. No jurisdiction is doing so at this time.

All jurisdictions, except for Manitoba and Quebec, report on restitution and victim surcharge as part of the sentencing options section of the ICCS. This coverage allowed CCJCSS to prepare a report for JUS on monetary penalties, the first one ever.<sup>6</sup>

The Survey on Canadians’ Safety (SCS, better known by its former name, the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization)<sup>7</sup> gathers self-reported data about victimization every five years or so. The SCS includes three violent-crime categories (sexual assault, physical assault, and robbery) and five property-crime categories. The results apply to the Canadian population aged 15 years and older in the provinces and the territories and complement the UCR’s police-reported data. After the 2019 GSS, the survey was reviewed and shortened to address declining response rates. Data collection began in 2025 for the latest version of the survey.

In 2018, Statistics Canada launched the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS),<sup>8</sup> sponsored by Women and Gender Equality Canada. The SSPPS measures how often specific types of victimization occur, including violent and non-violent crime and non-criminal acts in public spaces, online or at work. The second survey took place in 2025 and the first results were released in 2026.

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<sup>4</sup> Forthcoming is the implementation of Police-Reported Indigenous and Racialized Identity Data (PIRID). The data will be collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/consultation/2021/ucrs>).

<sup>5</sup> See Surveys and statistical programs - Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS), <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3312>.

<sup>6</sup> See Monetary penalties in adult criminal courts (2025), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/250109/dq250109b-eng.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> See Surveys and statistical programs - General Social Survey - Canadians' Safety (GSS), <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4504>.

<sup>8</sup> See Surveys and statistical programs - Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS), <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5256>.

### Other sources of data on victims of crime

Data gathered from hotline programs is now being used in Statistics Canada reporting to provide more information about victims of crimes who may never report their victimization to police. Two recent *Juristat* articles included data from the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking on victims of human trafficking and from cybertip.ca on the victims of online child sexual exploitation.

See Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2024 (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2025001/article/00008-eng.htm>) and Online child sexual exploitation: A statistical profile of police-reported incidents in Canada, 2024 (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2026001/article/00002-eng.htm>).

### Victim services: Pre-charge

The Survey of Residential Facilities for Victims of Abuse (SRFVA) is a census of Canadian residential facilities primarily mandated to provide residential services to victims of abuse. SRFVA's objective is to produce statistics on the services offered by these facilities during the previous 12 months, as well as to provide a one-day snapshot of the clientele being served on a specific date (mid-April of the survey year).

The Victim Services Survey ran for five cycles from 2001–2002 to 2011–2012 and collected data on victim services across the country.<sup>9</sup> Significant data challenges plagued this biannual survey as well as the pilot Canadian Victim Services Indicators Survey, which ran only once, in 2016. These challenges are described in detail later in this report.

Most victim services organizations keep data on the number of victims they serve, their demographics, and how they were victimized. However, models of service delivery differ greatly across jurisdictions, making it difficult to compare data nationally. For example, there are different definitions of “direct victim” (target of crime) and “secondary victim” (e.g., witness to crime) as well as how service providers count those who seek services repeatedly. Those are some of the additional challenges of collecting national victims data.<sup>10</sup>

### Victim services: Post-charge

Data collected after a charge has been laid refers to services and *Criminal Code* provisions that come into play once a charge has been laid against a person. Because there is only one *Criminal Code* for all of Canada, one would assume that the data collected would be more consistent and there would be more opportunities to collect and report on national numbers. This is the purpose of the ICCS, but it is only as good as the information provided by the provinces and territories.

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5035>

<sup>10</sup> For more detail, see the section, *infra*, on The Canadian Victim Services Indicators Survey.

Services for victims of crime post-charge are specific to their need for information, court preparation, victim impact statements, and restitution requests. Many of these programs are system-based (provided by the government) or court-based. Data<sup>11</sup> on these services – which services and how many are provided to victims in a given time period – are available from most jurisdictions.

### **Victim service: Post-sentence**

If a federal sentence (two years of custody or more) is ordered, victims can access ongoing services after registering with Correctional Service Canada (CSC). These services include information about the offender, including restorative justice (RJ) opportunities, information about parole hearings, and the opportunity to submit victim statements. Both CSC and the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) keep data on victims who have registered: their demographics and offences, number and types of requests for information, and their victim statements and appearances at parole hearings. This data is published through annual reports on departmental results, as well as specific projects.<sup>12</sup>

Data on restitution and the victim surcharge (federal and provincial) – its imposition at sentencing and to a lesser extent, its enforcement – is gathered through the ICCS and the Canadian Correctional Services Survey (CCSS).<sup>13</sup>

### **Data on restorative justice programs**

Because restorative justice processes can take place before or after a charge is laid or after sentencing, a short discussion on data on RJ programs did not fit neatly under the sub-headings above. The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Restorative Justice (FPTWG on RJ) and its subcommittees on data and evidence, and on victims, have made good progress on capturing victims' referrals to, and participation in, RJ processes.<sup>14</sup> Many gaps remain; however, efforts continue to be made to collect and report on data on RJ programs and victims who participate in them.

## **The challenge**

In Canada, the division of powers set out in the *Constitution Act, 1867* means that the federal government shares responsibility for the criminal justice system with the provinces and territories. The federal government is responsible for criminal law, including the *Criminal Code*, as well as federal corrections and conditional release for offenders sentenced to two years or more. The provinces and territories are responsible for the administration of justice, including policing, prosecutions, courts, legal aid, restorative justice, victim services, and corrections for sentences less than two years.

In the three territories, federal prosecutors from the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) are responsible for prosecutions for all *Criminal Code* offences. In the provinces, PPSC prosecutes drug

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<sup>11</sup> Also called operational or program data

<sup>12</sup> See for example, Core responsibility 2 in [Parole Board of Canada 2024-25 Departmental Results Report \(2025\)](https://www.canada.ca/en/parole-board/corporate/transparency/reporting-to-canadians/departmental-performance-report/2024-25/2024-25-departmental-results-report.html) (<https://www.canada.ca/en/parole-board/corporate/transparency/reporting-to-canadians/departmental-performance-report/2024-25/2024-25-departmental-results-report.html>).

<sup>13</sup> See Surveys and statistical programs - Canadian Correctional Services Survey (CCSS) (<https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5251>)

<sup>14</sup> See Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety - CICS, <https://scics.ca/en/conference/federal-provincial-territorial-meeting-of-ministers-responsible-for-justice-and-public-safety-13/>; also see the Justice Canada website on RJ at <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/rj-jr/res.html>

offences (under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*), terrorism offences (under the *Anti-Terrorism Act*), and quasi-criminal offences, such as environmental or transport offences in federal legislation.

Because these responsibilities are shared, delivery models for victim services and information management systems vary significantly across jurisdictions.<sup>15</sup> At the same time, information management systems – their software, their age, the purpose of the system when set up – also differ from one jurisdiction to another.

Having ten provinces and three territories means that there are many different approaches to how the criminal justice system is organized and run – even with everyone following the same *Criminal Code*. This presents challenges in how to capture consistent and comparable data across the 13 jurisdictions, 14 if the federal services provided by CSC and the PBC are also included, when victim services programs differ and even the definition of who is a “victim” differs.

In some jurisdictions, a victim services program may serve victims of crime as well as victims of accidents or natural disasters. Other programs may only serve victims of crime as they go through the criminal justice system. This challenge is no different from that of capturing national data on restorative justice programs or national data on child and youth advocacy centres or any other criminal-justice-related programming (such as the Indigenous Courtwork Program, the Indigenous Justice Program, the Drug Treatment Court Program, and even Legal Aid).

## The Federal Victims Strategy

When the Federal Victims Strategy (originally the Victims of Crime Initiative) began in 2000, research was identified as a core pillar. Over the past two and a half decades, research has remained important, although it is now considered part of the policy development process. While the Department of Justice Canada has always conducted social science research on victims of crime issues (see McDonald 2020a; McDonald 2020b), the Federal Victims Strategy has ensured somewhat stable annual funding and an ongoing commitment to address data gaps on victims and the criminal justice system.

Funding was first available in 2000 to count the number and types of victim services provided in the country. Statistics Canada, through the then-called Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), developed the Victim Services Survey (VSS). This was to be a biannual census survey going out to all organizations – governmental and non-governmental – that provided services to victims of crime and that received funding from a justice or public safety ministry. The VSS was sent to government victim services as well as to any non-governmental organizations whose primary goal was serving victims. For example, it asked these organizations questions about the demographics of clients served, types of offences, types of services, and funding sources. There was also a snapshot day when on a single designated day, all victim services organizations would provide micro-level data about the clientele they served on that specific day. This would include how many women and men were served, their ages, and what victimization they had experienced.

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<sup>15</sup> See Victim Services in Canada (2024) (<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/vsc-savc/index.html>). This is a comprehensive catalogue of victim services in each jurisdiction.

Findings from the 2011/2012 VSS included:<sup>16</sup>

- Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012, 760 victim service providers reporting to the Victim Services Survey helped almost 460,000 victims of crime.
- Police-based services (36%) were the most common, followed by community-based services (24%), sexual assault centres (14%), courts (10%), victim crisis and referral providers in Ontario (7%), and system-based services in other provinces (7%).
- The snapshot day was 24 May 2012. On that day, 696 victim service providers reported that they served over 10,000 clients. Most of these were women (78%). The majority of clients (80%) were victims of violence. Of all the victims served on that day, 49% had previously received services from the same victim service provider.

Because the survey was long, the VSS was perceived to be a burden for respondents, many of whom were small, front-line organizations. They also questioned how comprehensive the list of organizations to which the survey was sent was. Over its decade-plus history, the provinces and territories reviewed the VSS many times to try and ease the burden by shortening the survey and focusing only on key information needs.

Funding for the VSS ended after the 2011/2012 survey cycle was completed. For a couple of years the idea of a national census of victim services was put on hold.

## **The Canadian Victim Services Indicators survey**

With the coming into force of the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* (CVBR) in July 2015, the former Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, Sue O'Sullivan, worked with CCJS to develop a framework to measure how well the rights were being implemented. The Policy Centre for Victim Issues at Justice Canada then contracted with CCJS to consult with the provinces and territories to determine the national data requirements (NDRs) on victims and the criminal justice system. This process ran from fall 2015 to 2019 and resulted in the Canadian Victim Services Indicators (CVSI) survey being pilot tested. The CVSI asked provinces and territories to provide aggregated data (i.e., from multiple sources) on five key variables:

- 1) A count of direct and secondary victims who received victim services in 2016, as new referrals, using the agreed upon victim definition based on the CVBR;
- 2) Victim counts by sex and age group;
- 3) Victim counts by type of offence, using agreed upon crime categories;
- 4) Caseload: A count of services offered or provided to victims (new referrals), by service type;
- 5) Number of victim or community impact statements: forms provided and forms submitted.

The final report, 2016 Canadian Victim Services Indicators: Pilot survey evaluation and recommendations ([https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/2016cvsi-icsv2016/docs/rsd\\_rr2021-cvsi-final-](https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/2016cvsi-icsv2016/docs/rsd_rr2021-cvsi-final-)

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<sup>16</sup> See Victim Services in Canada, 2011–2012 at <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/11899-eng.htm>

[report-eng.pdf](#)), was presented to the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Victims of Crime and is available on JUS's website.

Two significant issues surfaced while developing the Canadian Victim Services Indicators Survey and they continue to have an impact on collecting data at a national level. The first issue lies within the definition of victim; while the jurisdictions had agreed on a definition of a victim of crime, the nature (i.e. whether the data would be about individuals, so microdata, or about totals of individuals and services, aggregated data) of the available data, and the point in the criminal justice system process at which this data was collected did not permit a standard measure. Some jurisdictions were able to distinguish between primary and secondary victims, whereas others could not differentiate between the two.

- Victims of crime (the definition based on the CVBR):
  - Ranges from all victims of crime, whether or not they have reported to police, to victims of crime where a charge has been laid and who are participating in the criminal justice system process.
- Victims of non-criminal situations:
  - Victim service agencies may also serve victims of trauma and their families (e.g., wildfires, car accidents, suicide). Contracted agencies did not report these victims of trauma separately.
- Secondary victims:
  - Either not all jurisdictions collect information on secondary victims or the definition of secondary victims is not always consistent with the standard definition.

The second issue is about the different ways the number of victims who access victim services are counted. Some jurisdictions only have data on victims who were clients of the system-based victim services program. That data may be restricted to post-charge victims, and not include any information collected centrally on victims of crime served by other agencies. In other jurisdictions, information has been compiled from multiple data sources in an attempt to capture a full picture. Also, not all jurisdictions are able to provide a breakdown of the victims they serve by age and sex or other demographics.

CCJCSS recommended collecting information only for victims of crime (both direct and secondary victims) where a charge has been laid. The thinking is that this option will maximize how data is compared by jurisdiction. It will also allow governments, service providers, researchers and advocates to compare information collected from the ICCS. Yet challenges remain because how victim services for VIS and testimonial aids and restitution are provided differ considerably from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.<sup>17</sup> In some jurisdictions, this data is collected by Crown prosecutors, but doing so is voluntary, so records are rarely complete. In other jurisdictions, this data is collected by court administration, but, again, doing so is voluntary so the information is not reported consistently to the ICCS. And sometimes this data is collected by victim services.

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<sup>17</sup> These differences were evident during data collection on VIS and CIS by the Research and Statistics Division in 2024/2025.

## The subcommittee

In the spring of 2023, a new subcommittee on National Victims Data was established. Seven provinces and one territory participated as well as federal partners such as CCJCSS, the Parole Board of Canada, and the RCMP. Attendees included officials who were responsible for, or understood, the information management systems for each jurisdiction. The monthly meetings included presentations about other initiatives for national data collection, learning about each jurisdiction's information management system, completing a needs assessment, and developing a workplan intended to address gaps in national victims data.

## The projects

Four projects were selected for the workplan in fiscal year 2024/2025:

- 1) A report on restitution, surcharge, and fines, released by Statistics Canada in January 2025;<sup>18</sup>
- 2) An update of the 2016 victim fact sheets, using 2023 data (forthcoming);
- 3) A report on the use of victim and community impact statements at sentencing, and review boards and victim statements in federal corrections and at parole (forthcoming); and
- 4) A research study to gather data and report on the use of testimonial aids during the criminal process (2025/2026 to 2026/2027).

As JUS researchers embarked on the four projects, it quickly became clear that different organizations collect and hold data within each jurisdiction. For the project on victim and community Impact statements, information was sought on how the statements are submitted and presented to courts and review boards, as well as victim statements to CSC and the PBC.

While victims may prepare a VIS or CIS before a conviction, these statements are only considered by a court – and may only be recorded in administrative data – once a conviction has been entered.<sup>19</sup> Each jurisdiction has a slightly different approach to collecting VIS program data. Three jurisdictions do not collect any data on VIS in courts, although two of these do collect information on VIS in review board cases. Some jurisdictions track only whether a VIS form was provided to victims, rather than whether a statement was submitted or presented. As a result, the final report draws on multiple data sources – the ICCS, victim services, Crown prosecution services, court services, review boards, CSC, and the PBC. With these different sources of data, a story did unfold; however, it remains patchwork and incomplete, reflecting both the complexity of the system and the incremental nature of national data development, and laying groundwork for future improvements.

Collecting and reporting on national victims data has been an ongoing endeavour since the start of the Federal Victims Strategy in 2000. Significant resources – time, people, and money – have been allocated to do this work. These efforts have been led or funded by JUS in close collaboration with

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<sup>18</sup> See *supra* note 3, The Daily – Monetary penalties in adult criminal courts (9 January 2025), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/250109/dq250109b-eng.htm>.

<sup>19</sup> In some jurisdictions, victims can complete their VIS before a finding of guilt. In those cases, the VIS is kept on file at the court and will only be opened by the judge if there is a conviction.

Canada's national statistical agency (CCJCSS), other federal partners, and importantly, the provinces and territories.

## Lessons learned

Since the first meeting of the subcommittee on national victims data, the group has noted two key points. The first is that undertaking any national data collection is resource-intensive, with JUS often reaching out to several different data holders in each jurisdiction. Some jurisdictions have more resources to pull data out of their systems than others, but for all of them the request from JUS for data and information is another one that goes into the queue. As evidenced by the final report on Victim Impact Statements (forthcoming), these efforts are worthwhile, but with current federal/provincial/territorial resources, it is not an exercise that could be done annually or even biannually.

The second key point is that the ICCS provides a mechanism to collect some victims data on a national scale. Importantly, the variables – testimonial aids, VIS, CIS, and restitution – put key rights in the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*, such as the rights to participation<sup>20</sup> and to protection,<sup>21</sup> into action. The VIS is tied to the right to participation and testimonial aids are tied to the right to protection and the right to participation. Eleven out of thirteen jurisdictions report on restitution orders in sentencing. High-level national numbers generated annually would allow for more in-depth studies, for example by jurisdiction or court site.

## Conclusion

National victims data is essential for understanding who accesses services and supports, where gaps remain, and how systems can improve, as well as how systems can prevent crime from happening in the first place. Jurisdictions can learn from one another and address ongoing challenges. These are good arguments, but at the end of the day, victim services provide just that – services. When resources are stretched between providing those services to those who really need them and recording numbers, providing services will always take precedence. Ultimately, victim services providers should not have to choose one over the other, especially where there is not already a culture of data collection and information management. Through the Federal Victims Strategy, including the Victims Fund, Justice Canada will continue to support jurisdictions seeking to enhance their data collection capacity.

It took decades to achieve near universal (99.7%) police reporting to the UCR. Getting there required significant collaboration between Statistics Canada and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and its subcommittees, and included training, education, and human and financial resources. While Canada is not yet at the same point with national victims data, significant progress has been made, and efforts to improve the collection of national victims data will continue. Efforts will also continue to improve the availability of disaggregated data at the national level through Statistics Canada surveys and at the level of regional and local programs. There is no reason why Canada cannot, over time, achieve the same level of high-quality data on victims of crime in Canada.

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<sup>20</sup> Canadian Victims Bill of Rights, 2015, c.13, s.14, 15.

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# Supporting Black Victims and Survivors of Crime

By Jane Evans and Bana Ammba

This article begins with an overview of victim services in Canada: the benefits they can provide and some key challenges they face. It then examines the unique experiences of Black victims and survivors of crime and the importance of culturally responsive services.<sup>22</sup> The article also presents gaps in research and data to help identify where more information is needed to support policy and program development for Black victims and survivors of crime.

## Victim services in Canada

Victim services are designed to support individuals affected by crime, including victims' emotional and practical needs, by providing information, assistance, and/or resources. Although victim services in Canada are primarily the responsibility of provinces and territories, federal departments and agencies also play a role, including in the areas of service and program delivery, policy development and implementation, and criminal law reform (Justice Canada 2024).

While the goals and principles of victim services programming are largely the same across Canada, the specific type and focus of programs and services varies across and within jurisdictions in response to specific needs, priorities, legislation, and available resources. The types of services may include:

- sharing information on victims' rights, services, and assistance;
- counselling;
- crisis intervention;
- legal advocacy;
- support groups;
- referrals to community resources;
- support to seek restitution and compensation; and
- support for participating in the criminal justice process (for example, preparing for testimony, victim impact statements, or community impact statements) (Justice Canada 2024).

Although there are generally four service delivery models, there may be differences in how they are delivered (Justice Canada 2024), including:

- Court-based: focused on support for victims participating in a criminal proceeding (for example, testimonial aids, victim impact statements).
- System-based: provided directly by a government throughout a criminal justice process (for example, referrals, court preparation, outcomes of their case).

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<sup>22</sup> Although other populations may also have unique experiences as victims and survivors of crime, this article focuses on the experiences of Black victims and survivors in Canada.

- Police-based<sup>23</sup>: focused on the immediate aftermath of the crime but can also provide services throughout the process (for example, crisis intervention, safety planning, case updates, court support).
- Community-based: delivered by non-governmental organizations, which include a broad range of services during the criminal justice process as well as outside of any formal proceedings, which may work alongside other system-based services (for example, crisis response and counseling, safety planning, court accompaniment, emergency assistance, specialized services and referrals).

The type of victim services and whether they are available can also vary within communities depending on their size and location (urban, rural, northern, and remote areas). Varied funding sources also play a role in how the services differ. These include victim surcharges paid by offenders,<sup>24</sup> federal funding through the Federal Victims Strategy,<sup>25</sup> and how provinces and territories fund victim services (Justice Canada 2024).

## Role of victim services

Victim services play an important role in helping to reduce the impact of crime (Johnston-Way & O’Sullivan 2016). This includes helping victims to reclaim their lives and to help them avoid developing issues such as addictions and health issues at the same time, all of which can have positive impacts on community well-being and safety (Johnston-Way & O’Sullivan 2016). Victims and survivors have also said that counselling, being supported emotionally, and being provided with information about the justice system are the most helpful services they have received (Prairie Research Associates Inc. 2006).

Victim services also support access to justice by providing information about the highly complex criminal justice system (McDonald & Scrim 2011). Witness support, such as testimonial aids,<sup>26</sup> and accompanying victims to court, can help provide them with the confidence to proceed with their case in court (Prairie Research Associates Inc. 2006). Testimonial aids are also believed to help with reducing systemic trauma, which victims and witnesses may experience while participating in the court process (Justice Canada 2021).

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<sup>23</sup> There are different models for police-based services across the country.

<sup>24</sup> Victim surcharges are an additional penalty on offences, above any other penalty, that is imposed on the offender. The rates vary among jurisdictions. Money collected from offenders is intended to help fund programs and services for victims of crime. See the following for more information about victim surcharges: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2016/10/federal-victim-surcharge.html> and <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/victims-victimes/code.html>.

<sup>25</sup> The Federal Victims Strategy, led by the Department of Justice Canada, provides funding to provincial and territorial governments to support projects and activities intended to benefit victims of crime in areas of shared interest.

<sup>26</sup> Testimonial aids include permitting victims and witnesses to testify outside the courtroom by closed-circuit television or inside the courtroom but behind a screen, to have a support person present during testimony, to appoint a lawyer to cross-examine a witness when the accused is self-represented, and to exclude some or all members of the public from the courtroom during all or part of the court proceedings. For more information about testimonial aids, see: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/victims-victimes/factsheets-fiches/aids-aides.html>.

## Challenges with victim services

However, victim services in Canada also face challenges that can impact access to justice for victims and survivors. The following provides an overview of some of the key challenges, then explores some that specifically impact Black victims and survivors.

### Victimization and trauma

The trauma that victims may experience as a result of being harmed can play a significant role in their ability to access victim services (Justice Canada 2021). At the same time, unless the services themselves are trauma-informed, they can make victims' experience of trauma worse (Justice Canada 2021).

### Link between trust and access

Some victims and survivors may also hesitate to access services within or adjacent to the criminal justice system, especially if they mistrust the system. This can be a result of the ongoing impacts of colonization, racism, poverty, and marginalization. That can contribute to some communities, including Black, Indigenous, and racialized, being underserved (Justice Canada 2021). People who have been victimized also tend to have less confidence in police than those who have not, regardless of whether they reported the victimization (Cotter 2021).

### Availability of services

There is a lack of services for victims and survivors across Canada. The number of available programs and staff is inadequate to meet the needs of victims. The gaps in rural and remote communities are even greater (Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime 2017; Justice Canada 2021; Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights 2022). Even when services are available, victims and survivors may not be aware of them.

A 2011 study showed that a significant number of Canadians (42 percent) were not aware that victim services existed and young adults (aged 18–24) had no knowledge of them at all (McDonald and Scrim 2011). There is a need to raise awareness about victim services, especially for those who have been victimized and for criminal justice professionals (Justice Canada 2021; Justice Canada 2026).

### Service delivery models and funding

Most victim services are designed to support victims and survivors involved with the criminal justice system in the short term. However, many victims and survivors continue to need supports over a longer period (Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime 2017). This includes access to appropriate aftercare services (for example, services outside the formal criminal justice system that support healing, including counselling) (Justice Canada 2021).

Short-term funding models or services funded on a pilot basis raise issues about how sustainable these projects and services are (Justice Canada 2021). The issues include low pay, staff burnout, high staff turnover, and not enough resources to deliver specialized services. If funding for services is insufficient

or unstable, organizations may not be able to deliver the services (Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights 2022).

### **Culturally safe and responsive services**

Black, Indigenous, and racialized victims and survivors need culturally safe and responsive services. This has been reported as a barrier to these populations' ability to access formal services. Instead, these victims and survivors pursue support through more informal mechanisms (for example, churches, peers, and other culturally appropriate services) (Sharpe et al. 2024; The Centre for Research & Innovation for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims 2022; Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights 2022; Justice Canada 2021). The next section will examine this further by looking at the experiences of Black victims and survivors.

## **Understanding the experience of Black victims and survivors of crime in Canada**

Ongoing systemic anti-Black racism within Canadian institutions and policies, rooted in Canada's colonial history, has led to a unique set of challenges for Black victims and survivors of crime.<sup>27</sup> Underfunding and general barriers to access (as outlined earlier in this article) affect victims and survivors from accessing services across the board, but systemic racism, cultural differences, community stigma, and socio-economic disparities create an added layer of complexity and structural barriers for members of Black communities (Owusu-Bempah and Jones 2023).

### **Distrust of law enforcement**

Many Black victims distrust police and justice institutions. This is a significant barrier to seeking support. For example, Black people in Canada are more likely than non-racialized people to say that they experience bias in their interactions with police and to rate aspects of police performance poorly (Cotter 2022).

Black victims have also reported being treated as suspects rather than victims when seeking police assistance, because officers assumed they were offenders, not victims (Owusu-Bempah and Jones 2023; Duhaney 2022).

This distrust is shaped by Black victims' and survivors' long-standing experiences of racial profiling, over-policing, and being disproportionately criminalized. This has led Black victims and survivors being skeptical that reporting crimes will result in fair or supportive treatment (Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2023; Owusu-Bempah and Jones 2023; Jeffers 2023; Duhaney et. al 2022; Canadian Civil Liberties Association 2021). These factors collectively discourage Black victims and survivors from reporting being victimized, reduce access to services, which are often linked to police referrals, and contribute to Black people disengaging more broadly from the justice system. Ultimately, this can reinforce the deep reciprocal distrust between Black communities and the police.

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<sup>27</sup> For more information, see Canada's Black Justice Strategy: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/cbjs-scjn/index.html>.

## **Lack of culturally safe and responsive resources**

Black victims and survivors of crime often encounter victim services that are not culturally safe or responsive to their lived experiences. Victim services may not have staff who reflect the racial and cultural diversity of the populations they serve. This can make it harder for Black victims to feel understood or supported (Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime 2024; Sharpe 2024; MacDougall et al. 2022). In many cases, the services also fail to integrate approaches that acknowledge the realities of anti-Black racism, racial trauma, and the historical mistrust between Black communities and justice institutions (Duhaney et. al 2025). Not feeling culturally safe can leave victims feeling alienated from or dismissed by the justice system. This makes it less likely that they will seek formal supports. It also reinforces their reliance on informal networks of family, faith communities, or grassroots organizations, which may not be equipped to support victims and survivors of crime (Sharpe et al. 2024).

Trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services, and cross-sector training are needed to ensure that interventions are grounded in racial realities and community contexts (The Centre for Research & Innovation for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims 2022). It is critical for Black victims and survivors of crime to be able to access these resources to foster trust and inclusion (Owusu-Bempah and Jones 2023).

## **Stigma as a barrier to support**

While some victims and survivors of crime may fear that seeking help will expose them to stigma, gossip, or retaliation within their communities, Black victims and survivors are further impacted by systemic anti-Black racism. When they are concerned about stereotypes being reinforced or surveillance being heightened, combined with their lack of trust in justice institutions, Black victims and survivors may underreport the crime and instead rely on informal supports rather than the justice system (Duhaney et. al 2025; Sharpe et al. 2024; Maynard 2017). These informal networks often provide immediate emotional comfort, a sense of belonging, and nonjudgmental listening that may feel safer than engaging with mainstream victim services. However, there is also a need for formal victim's services to prevent overburdening informal support systems (Sharpe et al. 2025).

## **Socio-economic disparities**

Black communities often suffer financial insecurity because of systemic inequalities in employment opportunities and wealth distribution<sup>28</sup> (Clark 2025; Jeffers 2023). Despite Black people in Canada having higher levels of post-secondary education than the general population, Black adults and youth are more likely to live in low-income households and to experience food insecurity (Statistics Canada 2025; Clark 2025; Uppal 2023; Wall and Wood 2023).

These economic pressures mean that many Black families must work multiple jobs or long hours to make ends meet. This leaves little time, energy, or resources to seek victim services. For victims and survivors, the costs of transportation, childcare, or lost income from taking time off work can make support programs inaccessible. Poverty and underemployment often force Black youth and adults to

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<sup>28</sup> Including unemployment, underemployment, race-based pay gaps, and the devaluation of foreign credentials.

prioritize survival over seeking help. This in turn makes them more vulnerable and deepens their mistrust in the systems that fail to meet their needs (Jeffers 2023).

### **Data and information gaps**

There is a lack of disaggregated race-based data, which inhibits the ability to understand issues of access to services for Black victims and survivors (Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights 2022).

Early justice data practices largely avoided disaggregating statistics by race, partly due to concerns from minority communities that doing so could reinforce harmful stereotypes (Owusu-Bempah and Millar 2010). As a result, past national surveys, such as the General Social Survey – Canadians’ Safety,<sup>29</sup> have tended to use broad categories, such as “visible minorities,” which only draw distinctions between Indigenous peoples and racialized and non-racialized populations. Although this approach has helped highlight disparities between White and non-White populations, it has also obscured the diversity of experiences within racialized communities.

For example, victimization data are often reported for racialized populations as one group without further disaggregation for Black populations (for example, Black Caribbean, Black African, and Historic Black communities in Canada), South Asian, or East Asian individuals. This limits researchers’ ability to have a more nuanced understanding of how structural inequalities and differential treatment by police and courts affect specific communities.

The result of not having separate race-based data is that national statistics on systemic anti-Black practices, such as racial profiling, over-policing, and barriers to culturally safe victim services, are not made visible. More recently, advocates and researchers have called for race-based and disaggregated data to be collected to capture these distinctions (Statistics Canada 2024). However, the historical reliance on broad racialized group categories has resulted in a knowledge gap in the lived experiences of Black victims and survivors of crime.

### **Victim Services Directory**

Justice Canada maintains a Victim Services Directory to help service providers, victims, and individuals locate services for victims of crime across Canada.<sup>30</sup> While the Directory was designed with several search functions,<sup>31</sup> it does not have the capacity to identify services that are specifically tailored for Black victims and survivors. To better understand what victim services and resources are currently available in Canada for Black victims and survivors of crime, Justice Canada worked with the community-based organization HOODFAMS<sup>32</sup> on an environmental scan in 2025. Although most of the victim services the scan identified were system-based, a few Black-led organizations also offer victim services.

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<sup>29</sup> For more information, see: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4504>

<sup>30</sup> Victim Services Directory: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/victims-victimes/vsd-rsv/index.html>

<sup>31</sup> The Directory can be searched by type of victimization, type of service, and type of client (including visible minority clients).

<sup>32</sup> The Holistic Ongoing Opportunities Development Facilitation and Management Services Inc: <https://www.hoodfams.com/>

While some of the providers in the justice system have tried to build capacity to provide more culturally safe services and spaces, barriers continue to exist for many Black victims and survivors as they are not accessing these services. Similar results were also found in a recent environmental scan of the availability and visibility of domestic violence services for Black women and Black communities (Duhaney, et. al. 2025).

## Looking forward – areas for future research

Although these environmental scans were a first step towards identifying what resources and services may be available for Black victims and survivors, more research is needed.

Some possible areas for future research include:

- collecting disaggregated race-based data to determine which victim services Black victims and survivors are accessing;
- understanding what supports Black victims and survivors are receiving from informal networks;
- determining how to tailor resource materials and information about services to ensure they are inclusive of Black populations;
- understanding how to design culturally responsive victim services;
- assessing how collaboration between Black communities and victim services organizations can help create culturally safe spaces for Black victims and survivors; and
- evaluating the role that anti-Black racism plays in creating and delivering victim services.

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# Victim Statements in Conditional Release – Prevalence and Predictors

By Heather Clark

The *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* (CVBR 2015) enshrines in law victims' statutory rights to information, protection, participation, and restitution. Two key mechanisms enable victims to participate in decisions that affect them:

- victim impact statements,<sup>33</sup> submitted for consideration at sentencing; and
- victim statements, submitted to the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and/or the Parole Board of Canada (PBC or the Board) for consideration during conditional release decision-making after sentencing.

Victim impact statements used during sentencing are shared with the CSC and placed on an offender's file, which is then shared with the PBC. Once a victim impact statement is on file, it will be considered for all subsequent decisions during an offender's sentence. Victims may choose to write a statement to do any or all the following: describe the impact that the crime continues to have on their life, express safety concerns, and request that special conditions be imposed for their protection should the offender be released.

Victim statements in conditional release serve dual functions: they are expressive (communicating ongoing harm and safety concerns) and instrumental (provide information that can inform the decision). Under the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA, s. 101(a)), information from victims, including victim impact statements and victim statements provided directly to the Board, is among the materials Board members consider in their decision-making. As outlined in PBC policy, Board members use these statements to assess the following (PBC 2025):

- the nature and extent of the harm and its continuing impact;
- the risk of re-offending and any threatening behaviour toward the victim;
- the offender's understanding of the offence's impact;
- whether special conditions are reasonable and necessary to protect the victim; and
- whether the offender's release plan could place them near the victim.

Results from surveys of victims registered with the PBC have suggested that victims consider both the expressive and instrumental functions of victim statements important. Victims who responded in a recent survey of federal victim services in corrections and conditional release reported that having their victim statement referred to at a PBC hearing or in a written PBC decision was an important aspect of their satisfaction. Alternatively, not feeling their statement was given sufficient weight or considered by the Board resulted in reduced satisfaction (Clark 2023). This is consistent with other studies that report

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<sup>33</sup> A victim impact statement is a written statement that describes the physical or emotional harm, property damage, or economic loss that the victim of an offence has suffered. For more information, please see Justice Canada's site: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/victims-victimes/factsheets-fiches/victim-victime.html>.

that victims find it important that the harm they experienced be acknowledged by decision-makers (Roberts and Erez 2004).

## How often do victims submit statements for sentencing or conditional release decision-making?

Despite the long-standing use of victim statements in conditional release (PBC began accepting victim statements over 40 years ago; PBC 2017), little is known about their use because little research has been done. Foundational questions, such as how often victim statements are used and what impacts their use, have not been well studied. These gaps are not unique to Canada or to conditional release. Research on victim impact statements used in courts in Canada and internationally has also been limited. Because of different legislative and policy frameworks across jurisdictions, direct comparisons of prevalence rates should be avoided. However, the following consistent patterns emerge from the available research on victim impact statements:

1. **Low overall prevalence.** Victim impact statements are generally uncommon, with only a minority of victims submitting statements (Leverick et al. 2007; Roberts and Manikis 2013). In Canada, available data suggests that about 5 to 9 percent of cases include a victim impact statement (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics n.d.; Dufour, Ternes, and Stinson 2023).
2. **Higher prevalence in serious offences.** Victim impact statements are common among more serious crimes, such as offences involving death (Dufour et al. 2023; Leverick et al. 2007), contact sexual offences (Dufour et al. 2023), and violent offences (Erez et al. 1997; Erez and Tontodonato 1990). While this pattern appears across most studies, some research has found no differences by crime type (Mastrocinque 2014).
3. **Relationships with victim demographics are unclear.** Findings are mixed regarding whether submission rates vary by victim demographics, such as gender, age, racial group, or ethnicity (Erez and Tontodonato 1990; Lens et al. 2013; 2015; Leverick et al. 2007; Mastrocinque 2014).

Only two studies examined the prevalence of victim statements in parole decisions. Both reported similar prevalence rates, with victim statements present in about 12 to 17 percent of parole decisions across two US states (Caplan 2010; Richardson 2012). However, the study that examined variation by crime type found no significant differences in the prevalence of victim statements across offence categories (Caplan 2010). This contrasts with the pattern of results found with victim impact statements.

## The current study

Considering these gaps in knowledge, PBC examined:

- the prevalence of victim statements in conditional release decision-making in Canada; along with
- trends over time; and
- how the relationship between crime severity and offender demographics affected the likelihood that a victim statement was submitted.

While previous research has investigated the impact of victim demographics, offender characteristics have not been studied. The prevalence of victim impact statements among conditional release decisions was also examined.

A sample of 30,197 PBC reviews for unique individuals serving a federal sentence who had a completed PBC review between the 2017–2018 to 2022–2023 fiscal years was included. The study considered the proportion of reviews with at least one victim impact statement or one victim statement. The prevalence of victim impact statements might be an underestimate due to missing victim impact statements in the files sent to the Board. If a victim submitted their victim impact statement as a victim statement it was counted as both a victim impact statement and a victim statement.

Crime severity was assessed using crime type and sentence type. Crime type was divided into the following categories:

- caused death (includes attempts to cause death and motor vehicle charges such as impaired driving causing death);
- sexual;
- other violent (includes other violent offences other than those that cause death); and
- non-violent.

Sentence type was divided into determinate sentences (fixed end date) and indeterminate sentences (no fixed end date).

## Results

### Prevalence

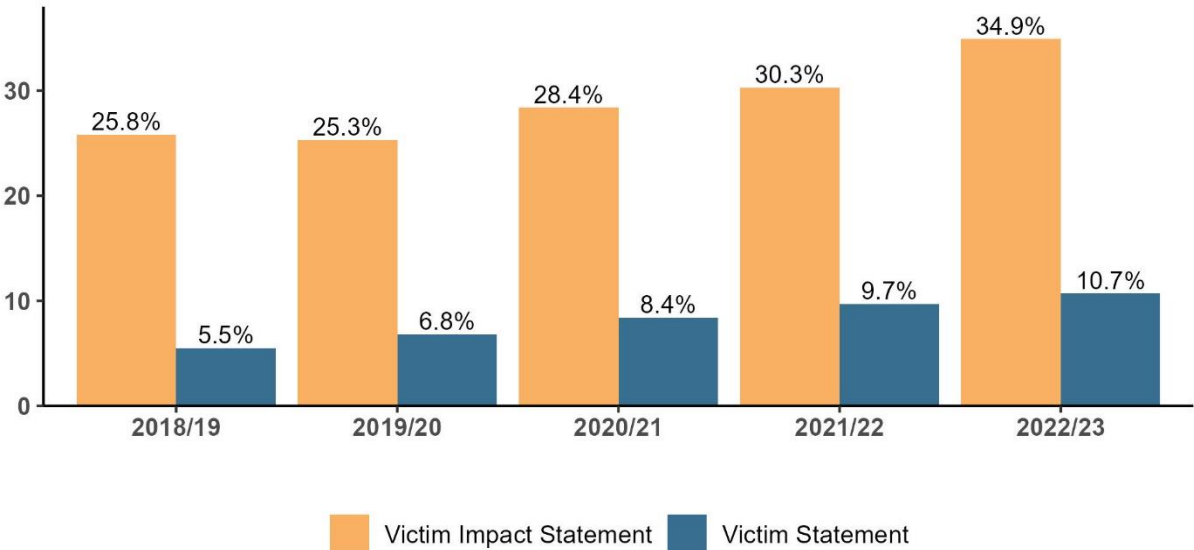
The prevalence of completed reviews between 2018–2019 and 2022–2023 with a victim statement on file was 8.6 percent. The low proportion of victims who submit statements is consistent with the low participation of victims in other areas of the criminal justice system. For example, data from the 2019 General Social Survey on Victimization (Canadians' Safety) found that a little over a third of physical assaults and only 6 percent of sexual assaults were reported to police (Cotter 2021).

Because PBC reviews involve individuals serving federal sentences, which generally reflect more serious offences, higher prevalence rates were expected. Consistent with this, 29.8 percent of reviews included a victim impact statement, substantially higher than the 5 to 9 percent typically reported for sentencing decisions in courts. Among the reviews with a victim impact statement on file from sentencing, only about one-fifth (19.2 percent) also had a victim statement on file. This suggests that many victims who submitted a victim impact statement for consideration at sentencing did not submit a new victim statement for conditional release decision-making. These results do not provide information about why victims did not submit a victim statement. Results from a survey of victims registered with the PBC showed that a little more than a quarter of registered victims who did not submit a statement were not aware they could (28.6 percent). Others were aware they could submit a statement but chose not to (71.5 percent).

Reasons for not submitting a statement included a belief that it would not impact the decision, not wanting the statement to be shared with the offender, and the emotional difficulty of writing a statement (Clark 2023). The survey results were only of victims who were registered with the PBC and might underestimate the number of victims who are aware that they can submit victim statements.

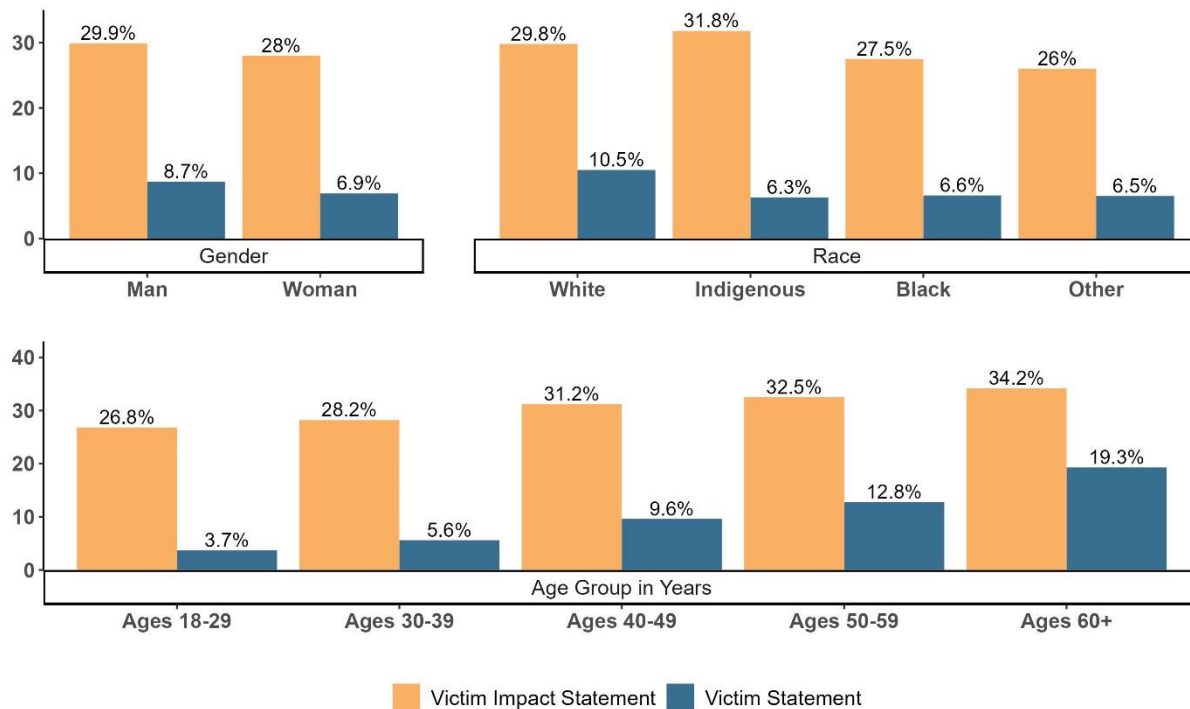
When examining trends over time (see Figure 1 below), there is a clear trend towards a higher proportion of reviews with victim statements and victim impact statements. The increase is more pronounced in victim statements, which increased 94.6 percent from 2018–2019 to 2022–2023, than victim impact statements, which increased by 35.3 percent over the same period.

**Figure 1. Prevalence of victim statements and victim impact statements over time (2018/2019 to 2022/2023)**



The prevalence of statements across age and gender showed a similar pattern for victim impact statements and victim statements (see Figure 2). Where the offender was older, reviews contained a higher proportion of both victim statements and victim impact statements, though the difference is more pronounced with victim statements. For gender, a slightly higher proportion of victim statements was found among male offenders compared with female offenders. Differences by racial group were also evident, though the pattern depended on the type of statement. Victim statements were more commonly found in reviews involving White offenders, whereas victim impact statements were slightly more prevalent when the offender was Indigenous. Reviews involving Black offenders and other racialized groups had somewhat lower proportions of both statement types.

**Figure 2. Prevalence of victim statements and victim impact statements by offender demographics**

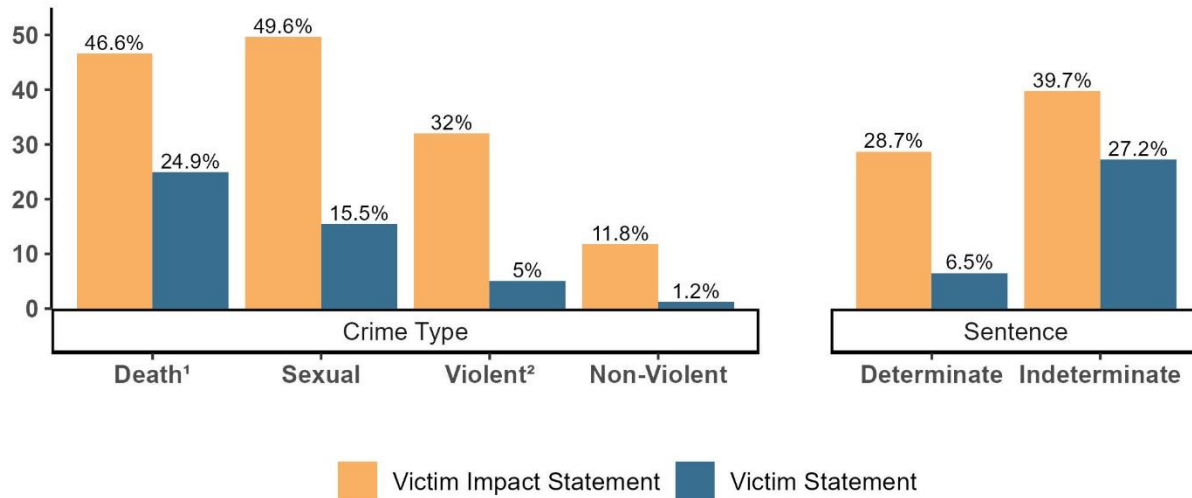


**Note:** Other racial groups included those who identified as Asian, biracial, a different racial group than White, Indigenous, Black, or were unknown.

Both victim statements and victim impact statements varied substantially by crime type and sentence type. For crime type, reviews of offences involving death had the highest proportion of victim statements on file (about 25 percent), followed by sexual offences, other violent offences, and non-violent offences. For victim impact statements, the prevalence for offences involving death and sexual offences was similar, exceeding 45 percent. It then decreased for other violent and non-violent offences.

In differences observed by sentence type, victim impact statements were roughly 10 percent more prevalent in reviews involving indeterminate or life sentences than determinate sentences. The corresponding difference for victim statements was about 20 percent.

**Figure 3. Prevalence of victim statements and victim impact statements by crime severity**



**Notes:** 1. Offences involving death include all offences that involved attempted death (e.g., attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder) or resulted in death (e.g., homicide, second-degree murder, death by motor vehicle). 2. Violent includes violent offences other than those that resulted in death.

### Relative impact of factors on the likelihood of a victim statement

While the preceding results describe how victim statement prevalence varies across groups and offence types, many of these factors were interrelated. For example, offender age was related to crime type, which means differences in prevalence by age may be partly explained by crime type. Therefore, to better understand which factors are most strongly associated with victim statement submission, a regression model was conducted that accounted for their combined effects. A mixed effects model was used to account for variation across year and region. Across regions, the prevalence of victim statements ranged from 5 percent in the Prairie region (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Northwest Territories) to 12.8 percent in the Pacific region (British Columbia and Yukon).

Results showed that offence severity, in particular crime type, had the strongest association with the likelihood of a victim statement being on file while accounting for all other variables in the model. Compared with non-violent offences, the odds of a victim statement were nearly twelve times higher for offences involving death, almost seven times higher for sexual offences, and about three times higher for other violent offences.

Sentence type was also associated with victim statement submission. The odds of a victim statement were 40 percent higher among indeterminate sentences compared with determinate ones. Reviews with a victim impact statement on file had roughly four times higher odds of also having a victim statement on file after accounting for the other variables in the model. The relationships between offender characteristics and victim statements were more modest. White offenders and older offenders

had higher odds of having a victim statement on file, while gender was not significantly related to having a victim statement on file (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Mixed effects logistic regression predicting victim statement submission**

Variables	AOR	AOR 95% CI	
		Lower	Upper
Intercept	0.01	0.01	0.01
Age <sup>1</sup>	1.27	1.11	1.33
Gender (reference: Man)	1.12	0.93	1.36
Racial Group (reference: White)			
Indigenous	0.60	0.54	0.68
Black	0.67	0.56	0.81
Other <sup>2</sup>	0.71	0.59	0.84
Crime Type (reference: Non-Violent)			
Other Violent <sup>3</sup>	3.15	2.59	3.84
Sexual	6.93	5.73	8.38
Related to Death <sup>4</sup>	11.88	9.76	14.45
Victim Impact Statement	4.01	3.63	4.42
Sentence Type (reference: Determinate)	1.40	1.23	1.60
<b>Random Variables</b>	<b>Variance</b>		
Region	0.06		
Year	0.02		

**Notes:** AOR = Adjusted Odds Ratio; CI = Confidence Interval; AORs where the upper and lower CI include 1.00 are not significant at  $p < .05$ ; 1. Age was standardized (mean = 0, standard deviation = 1); odds ratios reflect a one-standard-deviation increase in age; 2. Other racial groups included those who identified as Asian, biracial, a different racial group than White, Indigenous, Black, or were unknown; 3. Other Violent = violent offences other than those that resulted in death, 4. Offences involving death include all offences that caused death (e.g., homicide, second-degree murder, death by motor vehicle) or attempted death (e.g., attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder).

The relationship between crime severity and victim statements is consistent with previous research on victim impact statements in sentencing (Dufour et al. 2023; Erez et al. 1997; Erez and Tontodonato 1990; Lens et al. 2013; Leverick et al. 2007; Roberts and Manikis 2013) and contrasts with previous research on New Jersey parole cases (Caplan 2010). It is important to acknowledge that while crime type and sentence type (determinate versus indeterminate) capture key aspects of offence severity, they do not fully reflect its complexity. Substantial variation in harm and violence can exist within the same offence category. Given that crime severity is one of the few factors shown to have a relatively consistent relationship with victim statement submission across victim impact statements in sentencing and victim statements in conditional release, future research would benefit from exploring additional or more nuanced measures of offence severity to better capture this relationship.

## Conclusion

This study addressed an important gap on the prevalence of victim statements and related factors in conditional release decisions. Three key findings from the study were:

1. Victim statements in conditional release decisions are only present in a minority of PBC reviews.
2. Crime severity was the strongest predictor of having a victim statement on file.
3. Victims who submit a victim impact statement at sentencing are more likely to submit a victim statement in conditional release decisions.

Further research is needed to continue to advance knowledge in this area:

1. Enhancing data collection and the availability of victim data can support future research efforts to continue to advance knowledge in this under-researched area. Increasing the coverage of demographic information is one area to enhance. Although the current study examined offender demographics, victim demographics could not be included because few registered victims provide this information.
2. Other enhancements could include distinguishing between updated victim statements from submissions by new victims. This would allow the number of statements by unique victims and patterns of submissions across the conditional release process to be examined.
3. Finally, differentiating victim impact statements used as victim statements from victim statements would allow research to examine factors that impact whether victims choose to write a new statement rather than use their victim impact statement. By improving data quality and coverage, future studies will be better positioned to evaluate trends, identify disparities, and assess how victim statements are used over time.

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## A Catalogue of Victims of Crime Research Digest Articles, Issues 1-18

<b>JustResearch   No. 14   2007</b>		
<b>Articles</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Investigating the Victim Impact Statement in the Cases of Sexual Assault in Nova Scotia: Notes on Methods and some Preliminary Observations</b>	Karen-Lee Miller	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p5.html</a>
<b>Victim Impact Statement at Sentencing: Judicial Experience and Perceptions - A Survey of Three Jurisdictions</b>	Julian Roberts and Allen Edgar	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p6.html</a>
<b>An Exploration of the Needs of Victims of Hate Crimes</b>	Susan McDonald and Andrea Hogue	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p7.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p7.html</a>
<b>The Professionalization of Victim Services in Canada</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p8.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p8.html</a>
<b>Highlights from a Preliminary Study of Police Classification of Sexual Assault Cases as Unfounded</b>	Tina Hattem	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p9.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p9.html</a>
<b>Criminal Victimization in Canada's Territories: Results from the 2004 General Social Survey</b>	Jodi-Anne Brzozowski	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p10.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jr14/p10.html</a>

<b>Victims of Crime Research Digest   No. 1   2008</b>		
<b>Articles</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Victim Impact Statements: Lessons Learned and Future Priorities</b>	Julian Roberts	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p1.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p1.html</a>
<b>Codes of Ethics for Victim Services: An Annotated Bibliography</b>	Aubrie McGibbon	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p2.html</a>
<b>A Summary of Research into the Federal Victim Surcharge in New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories</b>	Lisa Warrilow and Susan McDonald	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p3.html</a>
<b>Victims and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD): A Review of the Issues</b>	Charlotte Fraser	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p4.html</a>

<b>The Court Observation Study: Collaborations Beyond Expectations</b>	Pearl Rimer and Barbara McIntyre	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p5.html</a>
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<b>Serving Canada's Crime Victims: Results from the 2005/2006 Victim Services Survey</b>	Jodi-Anne Brzozowski	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p6.html</a>
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<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2008</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p7.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr07_vic4/p7.html</a>
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### Victims of Crime Research Digest | No. 2 | 2009

Articles	Author(s)	Link
<b>Victimization, Resilience and Meaning-Making: Moving Forward in Strength</b>	James K. Hill	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p1.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p1.html</a>
<b>Understanding Restitution</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p2.html</a>
<b>Facilitating Testimony for Child Victims and Witnesses</b>	Melissa Northcott	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p3.html</a>
<b>Memorializing the Victims of Terrorism: An Overview of the Literature</b>	Rina Egbo	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p4.html</a>
<b>Bail and Breach of Conditions in Spousal Abuse Cases: Overview of Methods Used and Methodological Issues</b>	Nathalie Quann	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p5.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2009</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd09_2-rr09_2/p6.html</a>

**Victims of Crime Research Digest | No. 3 | 2010**

Articles	Author(s)	Link
<b>Documenting the Growth of Resources for Victims/Survivors of Violence</b>	Myrna Dawson	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p1.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p1.html</a>
<b>"Explain Please!" Working with Victims and Restitution</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p2.html</a>
<b>Aboriginal Victimization in Canada: A Summary of the Literature</b>	Katie Scrim	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p3.html</a>
<b>Accessing Hard-to-Reach Populations: Respondent-Driven Sampling</b>	Sidikat Fashola	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p4.html</a>
<b>Victims Services in Canada: Results from the Victim Services Survey 2007/2008</b>	Julie Sauvé	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p5.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2010</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd3-rr3/p6.html</a>

**Victims of Crime Research Digest | No. 4 | 2011**

Articles	Author(s)	Link
<b>Canadians' Awareness of Victim Issues: A Benchmarking Study</b>	Susan McDonald and Katie Scrim	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p1.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p1.html</a>
<b>Domestic Violence in Rural Canada</b>	Melissa Northcott	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p2.html</a>
<b>Practice Based Perspectives: Victimization and Substance Use</b>	Bill Morrison, Cynthia Doucet, Brenda Thomas, and Patricia Peterson	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p3.html</a>
<b>Understanding the Community Impact of Hate Crimes: A Case Study</b>	Sidikat Fashola	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p4.html</a>
<b>The 2009 General Social Survey on Victimization in the Territories: Lessons Learned</b>	Luke Pelot, Catherine Allan, Jodi-Anne Brzozowski and Patrick St-Cyr	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p5.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2011</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd4-rr4/p6.html</a>

<b>Victims of Crime Research Digest   No. 5   2012</b>		
<b>Articles</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Victim Impact Statements: Recent Guidance from the Courts of Appeal</b>	Marie Manikis and Julian V. Roberts	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p2.html</a>
<b>Identity-Related Crime: What it is and How it Impacts Victims</b>	Melissa Northcott	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p3.html</a>
<b>The Darker Side of Technology: Reflections from the Field on Responding to Victims' Needs</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p4.html</a>
<b>Understanding the Experiences of Youth Victimization</b>	Melissa Northcott	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p5.html</a>
<b>Victims before the International Criminal Court: A New Model of Criminal Justice?</b>	Frédéric Mégret	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p6.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2012</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p7.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd5-rr5/p7.html</a>

<b>Victims of Crime Research Digest   No. 6   2013</b>		
<b>Articles</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Building Our Capacity: Children's Advocacy Centres in Canada</b>	Susan McDonald, Katie Scrim and Lara Rooney	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p2.html</a>
<b>A Survey of Survivors of Sexual Violence</b>	Melissa Northcott	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p3.html</a>
<b>Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words? The Opportunities and Challenges of Using GIS-Based Mapping with a Victim's Lens</b>	Katie Scrim, and Clarinda Spijkerman	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p4.html</a>
<b>Police Responses to Elder Abuse: The Ottawa Police Service Elder Abuse Section</b>	Lisa Ha	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p5.html</a>
<b>A Comparative Overview of Victims' Rights, Enforcement Mechanisms, and Redress in England and Wales and the American Federal Jurisdiction</b>	Marie Manikis	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p6.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2013</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p7.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd6-rr6/p7.html</a>

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<b>A Snapshot of Cyberbullying</b>	Lisa Ha	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p2.html</a>
<b>Assisting Victims Through Technology</b>	Melissa Lindsay	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p3.html</a>
<b>Let's "Paws" to Consider the Possibility: Using Support Dogs with Victims of Crime</b>	Susan McDonald and Lara Rooney	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p4.html</a>
<b>Third Party Records: The Case Law from 2003-2010</b>	Susan McDonald, Siavosh Pashang and Anna Ndegwa	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p5.html</a>
<b>The Human Cost of Impaired Driving in Canada</b>	André Solecki and Katie Scrim	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p6.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2014</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p7.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd7-rr7/p7.html</a>

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<b>The Use of Close-Circuit Television: The Experiences of Child and Youth Witnesses in Ontario's West Region</b>	Pamela Hurley	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p1.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p1.html</a>
<b>Identifying Young Victims in the Media in Canada: A Media Scan</b>	Lisa Ha and Anna Ndegwa	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p2.html</a>
<b>Exclusion of the Public and Appointment of Counsel: Tools to Help Victim Witnesses in Canada's North</b>	Susan McDonald and Lisa Ha	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p3.html</a>
<b>Victim Impact Statements in a Multi-Site Criminal Court Processing Survey</b>	Melissa Lindsay	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p4.html</a>
<b>Specialized Victim Services for the Families of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: An Overview of Scope, Reach and Impact</b>	Katie Scrim and Naomi Giff-MacKinnon	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p5.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2015</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd8-rr8/p6.html</a>

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<b>Trauma - (and Violence-) Informed Approaches to Supporting Victims of Violence: Policy and Practice Considerations</b>	Pamela Ponic, Colleen Varcoe and Tania Smutylo	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p2.html</a>
<b>The Right to Information</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p3.html</a>
<b>The Use of Closed Circuit Television: The Experiences of Crown Prosecutors and Victim-Services Workers in the Ontario West Region</b>	Shanna Hickey	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p4.html</a>
<b>Vulnerable Clients and the Importance of Collaborative Treatment Planning</b>	James K. Hill	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p5.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2016</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd9-rr9/p6.html</a>

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<b>Sentencing for Intimate Partner Violence in Canada: Has s. 718.2(a)(ii) made a difference?</b>	Isabel Grant	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p2.html</a>
<b>Judging Victims: Restorative Choices for Victims of Sexual Violence</b>	Jo-Anne Wemmers	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p3.html</a>
<b>A Strategy for Assessing the Impact of the <i>Canadian Victims Bill of Rights</i> - Opportunities to Make Better use of Current Data Holdings</b>	Melanie Kowalski	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p4.html</a>
<b>Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: The Importance of Collaborative Research in Addressing a Complex National Crisis</b>	Marsha Axford	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p5.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2017</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd10-rr10/p6.html</a>

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<b>Helping Victims Find Their Voice: Testimonial Aids in Criminal Proceedings</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p2.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p2.html</a>
<b>From Traumatized to Energized: Helping Victim Support Volunteers Cultivate Compassion Satisfaction in the Face of Crisis</b>	Alisha M. Shivji and Dawn L. McBride	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p3.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p3.html</a>
<b>Understanding the Development and Impact of Child Advocacy Centres (CACs) in Canada</b>	Cynthia Louden and Kari Glynnes Elliott	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p4.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p4.html</a>
<b>Restorative Justice: The Experiences of Victims and Survivors</b>	Jane Evans, Susan McDonald and Richard Gill	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p5.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p5.html</a>
<b>Third Party Records: A Review of the Case Law from 2011-2017</b>	Carly Jacuk and Hassan Rasmi Hassan	<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p6.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p6.html</a>
<b>Victim-Related Conferences in 2018</b>		<a href="http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p7.html">http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p7.html</a>

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<b>Recent Developments in Victim and Community Participation in Criminal Justice</b>	Marie Manikis	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p2.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p2.html</a>
<b>2018 Criminal Justice Professionals Survey: A Spotlight on Restorative Justice</b>	Natacha Bourgon	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p3.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p3.html</a>
<b>Access to Justice for Victims of Crime</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p4.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p4.html</a>
<b>Testimonial Aids Knowledge Exchange: Successes, Challenges and Recommendations</b>	Shanna Hickey and Susan McDonald	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p5.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p5.html</a>
<b>Victim-related conferences in 2019</b>		<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p7.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd12-rr12/p7.html</a>

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<b>Twenty Years and More of Victims Research: Learning from the Past – Part I</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p2.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p2.html</a>
<b>Twenty Years and More of Victims Research: Learning from the Past – Part II</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p3.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p3.html</a>
<b>Talking to Young Victims and Witnesses About Repeated Abuse and Maltreatment</b>	Sonja Brubacher, Deborah Connolly, Martine Powell and Heather Price	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p4.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p4.html</a>
<b>Crime Victims' Experiences of Restorative Justice: A Listening Project</b>	Lisa Ha	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p5.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p5.html</a>
<b>Developing a Family Violence Identification and Response Tool</b>	Bianca Stumpf, Jenny Larkin, and Cherami Wichmann	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p6.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd13-rr13/p6.html</a>

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<b>Child to Parent Violence and Aggression: An Introduction</b>	Shanna Hickey and Susan McDonald	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p1.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p1.html</a>
<b>Restorative Justice and Gender-Based Violence: A Look at the Literature</b>	Jane Evans	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p2.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p2.html</a>
<b>Restorative Justice and Gender-Based Violence: Revisiting the Conversation in British Columbia</b>	Ending Violence Association of BC and Just Outcomes	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p3.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p3.html</a>
<b>Male Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: A Summary</b>	Cherami Wichmann	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p4.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p4.html</a>
<b>Restitution: An Update on the Case Law</b>	Kanchan Dhanjal and Susan McDonald	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p5.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd14-rr14/p5.html</a>

**Victims of Crime Research Digest | No. 15 | 2022**

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<b>“Pawsitive” Directions: An Update on Dogs Supporting Victims of Crime</b>	Susan McDonald and Naythan Poulin	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p1.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p1.html</a>
<b>COVID-19, Victim Services, and Well-Being</b>	Benjamin S. Roebuck and colleagues	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p2.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p2.html</a>
<b>Review of the Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Counselling Program in Ontario</b>	Jennifer Martin, Andrea Slane, Shannon Brown and Kate Hann	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p3.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p3.html</a>
<b>Impact Statements at Sentencing: Developments since the Victims Bill of Rights</b>	Marie Manikis	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p4.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p4.html</a>
<b>Restitution: An Update on the Numbers</b>	Susan McDonald and Naythan Poulin	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p5.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd15-rr15/p5.html</a>

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Articles	Author(s)	Link
<b>Hate Crimes in Canada</b>	Anna Ndegwa and Susan McDonald	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p1.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p1.html</a>
<b>An Overview of Justice Canada Research on Senior Abuse</b>	Natacha Bourgon	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p2.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p2.html</a>
<b>Supporting Victims of Crime Participate in Restorative Justice</b>	Nadine Badets	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p3.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p3.html</a>
<b>What do Canadians Know about the <i>Canadian Victims Bill of Rights</i>?</b>	Fatima Fayyaz and Nadine Badets	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p4.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p4.html</a>
<b>Understanding How Sentences of Two Years or More in Custody are Calculated</b>	The National Office for Victims	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p5.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p5.html</a>

<b>Victims of Crime Research Digest   No. 17   2024</b>		
<b>Articles</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Victim-centred restorative justice: Program design and implementation</b>	Patricia Hughes	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd17-rr17/p2.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd17-rr17/p2.html</a>
<b>Accessing justice for victims and survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd17-rr17/p3.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd17-rr17/p3.html</a>
<b>Brief overview of coercive control and the criminal law</b>	Lisa Ha	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd17-rr17/p4.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd17-rr17/p4.html</a>
<b>A portrait of Canadian Child Advocacy Centres and Child and Youth Advocacy Centres in 2021–22</b>	Bianca Stumpf	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd17-rr17/p5.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd17-rr17/p5.html</a>

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<b>Articles</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Victims' Rights in Canada in the 21st Century</b>	Alan N. Young and Kanchan Dhanjal	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a1.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a1.html</a>
<b>The Federal Victims Strategy: Reflections of a Policy Researcher over Two Decades</b>	Susan McDonald	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a2.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a2.html</a>
<b>A Retrospective Overview of Advances in Data on Victims of Crime in Canada</b>	Kathy AuCoin	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a3.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a3.html</a>
<b>Child Witnesses in Canada's Criminal Justice System: Progress, Challenges, and the Role of Research</b>	Nicholas Bala	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a4.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a4.html</a>
<b>Twenty-five Years of Victims Research in Canada</b>	Jo-Anne Wemmers	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a5.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a5.html</a>
<b>The Rich Contribution of Quebec Research in the Field of Victimology</b>	Arlène Gaudreault	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a6.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd18-rr18/a6.html</a>