MMEIP Statistics

Assembly of First Nations, Rights & Justice: Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women & Girls, https://afn.ca/rights-justice/murdered-missing-indigenous-women-girls/

- Indigenous Women are four times more likely to be victims of violence than non-Indigenous women are; Indigenous women make up 16% of all female homicide victims and 11% of missing women, yet Indigenous Peoples only make up 4.3% of Canada's entire population

- Indigenous women are more likely to experience sexual and physical assault than non-Indigenous women; Regarding Indigenous women, 56% have suffered physical assault and 46% have suffered sexual assault. Meaning ⅓ Indigenous women have experienced these assaults in their lifetimes

- From 2001-2014, the average rates of homicides involving Indigenous female victims was four times that of those involving non-Indigenous female victims; this overrepresentation was even higher among Indigenous female victims in the territories

Government of Canada: Court outcomes in homicides if Indigenous women and girls,

2009-2021. (2023)
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2023001/article/00006-eng.htm

- Between 2009-2021, the rate of homicide against Indigenous women and girls was six times higher than the rate among their non-Indigenous counterparts

- 81% of Indigenous women and girls were killed by someone they knew; most often an acquaintance (24%), a spouse (23%), or a family member (22%).

- Between 2014-2021, 8 in 10 persons accused of killing an Indigenous women and girl were Indigenous themselves; it has been noted that early exposure to family violence, family breakdown due to residential schools and forced apprehension of Indigenous children, and other factors related to colonialism that are related to violence within Indigenous communities.

- Indigenous Peoples are also overrepresented among those accused of committing a crime and among those who are incarcerated; this overrepresentation is in relationship between colonialism, intergenerational trauma and offending, as well as systemic biases within the justice system and Canadian society, which further disadvantage Indigenous Peoples when it comes to criminality and incarceration.

- Police-reported data shows that homicides of Indigenous women and girls tended to be classified by police as having relatively less serious violations compared to homicides of non-Indigenous women and girls overall; first-degree murder was considered to be the MSV half as often when the victim was an Indigenous woman or girl than when she was non-Indigenous (27% vs. 54%).

- Second-degree murder and manslaughter were the most common MSV among Indigenous women and girls

Aboriginal Alert: Canada's Indigenous Awareness Network- 2025 Missing Indigenous Alerts in Canada Review and Insights, https://www.aboriginalalert.ca/resources/2025-missing-indigenous-alerts-in-canada-review-insights

- Throughout 2025, Aboriginal Alert recorded 1,144 missing persons alerts involving Indigenous Peoples; there were 1,324 in 2024 and 1,208 in 2023

-These statistics work out to an average of 88 new alerts each month, with 52 involving Indigenous women and girls, and 35 involving men and boys

-2025's 1,144 cases: women and girls made up 59% (679) and men and boys made up 40% (458), with the remaining 1% (7) with no gender specification

-By the end of 2025, 80 Indigenous Peoples remained missing (41% women and girls & 59% men and boys)- each unsolved case carries a weight of uncertainty, grief, and loss that does not ease with time

-In 2025, 47 Indigenous Peoples who were reported missing were found and reported as deceased, 30% women and girls, 70%

-Out of the 1,017 Indigenous Peoples who were located alive in 2025, 62% were women and girls, 37% were men and boys, and 1% did not have a gender specified

Aboriginal Alert: Canada's Indigenous Awareness Network- 2025 Missing Indigenous Alerts in Canada Review and Insights (CONTINUED)

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

-In 2025, Indigenous women and girls accounted for 59% of all missing person alerts (679 cases recorded over 12 months)

-By the end of 2025: 33 remained missing, 14 were found deceased, & 632 were located alive

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys

-Although Indigenous men and boys represented a smaller percentage of missing person alerts in 2025 (40% and 458 cases recorded), the outcomes they face are disproportionately serious

-Indigenous men and boys account for 70% of all cases where the missing individual was found deceased

-By the end of 2025: 47 remained missing, 33 were found deceased, and 378 were located alive

Children and Youth

-In 2025, individuals aged 17 and younger accounted for 43% of all recorded alerts (495 cases total)

-Of these young people, 13 remained missing by the year's end, 7 were found deceased, and 475 were located alive

-There is a severe gender gap among missing Indigenous youth: 65% of reported cases involved girls, compared to 34% boys and 1% unspecified; Indigenous girls under 18 are going missing at nearly twice the rate of Indigenous boys

-Indigenous youth between the ages of 12-17 account for the vast majority of youth alerts, a period of life when young people are especially vulnerable

Alerts by Location

-Manitoba had the highest total of alerts at 378

-Alberta recorded the most individuals found deceased at 17

-Ontario had the highest number of individuals still missing at the year's end at 17

-Across nearly every province, Indigenous men who go missing are found deceased at a substantially higher rare than women and girls

-Winnipeg recorded 313 alerts alone, Regina and Prince Albert followed with 59 and 50 alerts respectively

-The concentration in certain urban centres is striking, with Alberta accounting for the highest concentration of urban alerts among the provinces

Statistics Canada, Victimization of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada, https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00012-eng.htm

-According to data from a 2018 survey on Safety in Public and Private Spaces, LGBTQ2+ Indigenous Peoples were more likely to have experienced sexual or physical assault, as well as intimate partner violence, compared to their non-Indigenous LGBTQ2+ counterparts

-LGBTQ2+ Indigenous Peoples were twice as likely to have been physically or sexually assaulted by an adult when they were under the age of 15 (58% vs 26%), to have been sexually or physically assaulted since age 15 (82% vs 41%), and to have experienced intimate partner violence since age 15 (81% vs 40%)

Ogden. C. L & Tutty. L. M. (2025). "Never Give Up. The Creator Has Good Things in Store for You": Risk Factors, Protective Factors, and Evidence of Resilience for Canadian Indigenous Women Abused by Intimate Partners. Violence Against Women, 31(6-7). https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/10778012241233002

-Risk factors stem from a variety of sources, including the induvial, family, and community/society; Indigenous Peoples tend to experience greater risk factors than non-Indigenous Canadians

-People of Indigenous backgrounds have additional risks associated with genocide, historical and current colonialism, racialized violence, stereotyping, systemic oppression, and social exclusion

-Western scholars identify protective factors in 3 categories: individual, family, & community

-However, for Indigenous Peoples, protective factors must be viewed holistically and relationally

-Protective factors that influence the resilience of Indigenous Peoples include identity, family, community, traditional culture, traditional spirituality, healing ceremonies, oral traditions, and wisdom of Elders

-During the first interview (Colonization and IPV), 32 of the 40 women linked colonization, intergenerational abuse, and intimate abuse by their partners, one commenting, “At one time, a prime minister said, ‘A good Indian is a dead Indian.’ When they couldn’t annihilate us, they assimilated us through the residential schools that my parents, my grandparents attended. All this abuse has come out from it.” (Ogden & Tutty, 1615).

-17 women reported seeking out traditional cultural teachings and ceremonies to help heal from their partner’s abusive behaviours

-14 described how smudging, prayer, sweating, & circles helped them heal; “You have to heal. To find yourself, find your culture. I got to know my culture well. I found myself and how to respect myself”

-During interview 3 (Evidence of Resilience), 25 women provided advice for other abused women or described how they had coped, both exemplifying their resilience, one woman commenting, “Never give up. The Creator has good things in store for you.”

RISK FACTORS	EVIDENCE OF RESILIENCE	PROTECTIVE FACTORS
IPV (CAS scores)	CESD (Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale)	Informal Support
Child Abuse History	PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder)	Community Support
Poverty	SCL-10 (symptom checklist-10)	Spirituality
Colonialism	QOL (Quality of Life)	Childhood Residence
Disability	Qualitative Comments	Services (formal support)
Remaining with abusive partners		

- Although the women faced numerous risks, they maintained their mental health and wellbeing; it is crucial that the complexity of their lives is understood and respected, only then are we able to create practices, services, and programs that are truly useful, making steps towards a more equitable, decolonized society

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Unveiling Truths: The Media. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60cfc1ed597174036c9b6f97/t/670c7dc5eb8db75705017c8a/1728871880803/MMIWReport-Media-ENdigital.pdf

-Perpetuating demeaning stereotypes can contribute to the violence Indigenous women and girls experience, and "sustains both the hypervisibility of Indigenous girls' racialized bodies and their invisibility as diverse and complex subjects"

-Media representations either portray Indigenous women and girls as "invisible as victims of violence and hyper-visible as deviant bodies"

-Gilchrist (2010) conducted a study that found that reports of disappearances, violence or murdered against Indigenous women and girls are covered 3.5x less frequently than similar crimes against non-Indigenous women; white women who experience violence are mentioned in media 6x more often with 4x more words than Indigenous women

-Stories about Indigenous women often had blank images for pictures and are tucked around advertisements; these major inequalities not only skews public perceptions of MMIWG, but also minimized the severity of the violence experienced and the loss felt by their families, communities, and loved ones.

-Indigenous women become "hyper-visible" as news media focuses on their Indigenous identity and "degenerate" characteristics; language such as "high-risk lifestyle", "prostitute", "sex-trade worker", and "drug user" are frequently used to describe missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, with mugshots being frequently used to bring attention to criminality

-This language and images being used perpetuate victim-blaming and imply that these women "put themselves at risk and that violence against them cannot be prevented"

-The media often participates in "colonial amnesia", ignoring historic violences and injustices Canada has inflicted upon Indigenous Peoples for generations; instead of including how colonialism is responsible for the living conditions of Indigenous women and the lack of social, political, and economic power they hold to change their circumstances, the media often places blame on Indigenous Peoples for the violence they experience

-Media is a powerful influence of public opinion; when murders and disappearances of Indigenous women are not adequately covered in the media, it communicates to the public that these women and the violence they experience are not important.

-LaRocque noted that negative stereotypes and labels are "a grotesque dehumanization that has rendered all Native women and girls vulnerable to gross physical, psychological and sexual violence… I believe that there is a direct relationship between these horrible racist/sexist stereotypes and violence against women and girls"

-Sexualized stereotypes (“Indian princesses, etc) perpetuated by media marks Indigenous women as “easy targets” for sexual violence; these stereotypes increase Indigenous women’s risks of violence and pre-labels them as “unworthy victims”, ultimately influencing media and societal responses to their victimization

-Indigenous women being presented as “deviant” (prostitute, drug-user, etc) while filtering out their histories and realities frames Indigenous victims as “unworthy” victims

With the media driving negative perceptions of Indigenous women and the public remaining unaware or indifferent about MMIWG, this shows Indigenous communities and families that the violence they experience is “normal and acceptable”, rather than horrifying and unacceptable

Sutton-Preddie, D. (2024). Trafficking in Persons in Canada, *Statistics Canada.* https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2025001/article/00008-eng.htm

- From 2014-2024, there were 5,070 human trafficking incidents reported by police in Canada
- Around 2 in 5 (39%) of human trafficking incidents include multiple violations, often for offences related to the sex trade and physical assault charges
- The vast majority of identified victims of police-reported human trafficking were women and girls (93%), with two thirds of these women being younger than 25
- Compared to women and girl victims, men and boy victims of human trafficking were generally older and more often to be involved with incidents with multiple victims
- From 2014-2024, 82% of persons accused of human trafficking were men and boys; when the accused were women and girls, they were younger than men and boys
- The types of relationships between victims and accused traffickers differed by victim gender; women and girls often shared an intimate relationship with their accused (36%), while men and boys were most often trafficked by someone they shared a business relationship with (46%)