

An Overview of Gender-Based Violence in Quebec

Statistical Information and Factsheet for The Transformation Hub

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About

This document highlights the scope and impact of gender-based violence (GBV) in Quebec from an intersectional lens, using recently published research data to identify key findings that can be used by organizations to support advocacy, raise awareness, and strengthen community responses to GBV. Our analysis of available data identifies how gender, sexuality, and race are key factors impacting experiences of GBV in the province.

What is Gender-Based Violence (GBV)?

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. GBV encompasses a wide range of physical, psychological, sexual, and economic forms of harm. Although GBV is often experienced at the interpersonal level, this form of violence is rooted in structural inequalities, systemic power imbalances, discrimination, and social norms that enable and shape experiences of violence. We highlight how sexuality-based violence is connected to gender-based violence. GBV includes violence and discrimination against individuals based on their actual or perceived gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation.

GBV includes, but is not limited to*:

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Institutional abuse
- Economic or financial abuse
- Digital and cyber violence

***Note:** GBV is not limited to these examples and can take many forms. GBV is often shaped by intersecting systems of power and oppression. While women, trans people, and girls are disproportionately affected, GBV can be experienced by anyone, regardless of their gender expression, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

For more data on gender-based violence, visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/gender-based-violence/facts-stats.html>

Available Data on GBV in Quebec

There is limited data available on GBV among racialized groups and trans people in Quebec and statistical information on rates of GBV among gender diverse people, immigrants, visible minorities, and other racialized groups may not be accurate due to underreporting linked to factors such as precarious immigration status, stigma, language barriers, social norms, and risk of criminalization.

When reporting does happen, racialized survivors of GBV often face limited access to culturally sensitive, trauma-informed services, which are essential to reducing the long-term psychological, social, and economic impacts of violence (Essue et al. 2023).

To develop this factsheet, we drew on national available data from Statistics Canada, the Government of Canada's Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) program, national research studies, and Quebec-specific data on GBV rates. Where data is not available, we estimate the intersectional impacts of GBV by comparing national and provincial data available on specific demographic areas of the population.

GBV and 2SLGBTQI+ Communities

2SLGBTQI+ people can also face specific forms of GBV, such as “corrective” sexual violence or “conversion therapy” intended to punish or change someone's gender or sexual identity, or threats to disclose a person's sexual orientation or gender identity without their consent (also known as “outing”). The denial or withholding of gender-affirming care (e.g. clothing and accessories, hormones, and/or surgical procedures) and the targeted verbal abuse related to someone's gender identity, sexual orientation, or sex characteristics are also forms of GBV (WISDOM2ACTION, 2022).

For example, although **67% of queer women** have experienced intimate partner violence in Canada (WAGE 2024), experiences of GBV among same-gender or same-sex couples may be minimized or invalidated because of the assumption that only men enact violence against women.

OTHER INTERSECTIONAL IMPACTS ON GBV

National data on gender-based violence shows that intersecting oppressions impact rates of violence: 61% of Indigenous women, 57% of women living in poverty, 55% of disabled women have experienced gender-based violence in their lifetime.

Half (49%) of queer women in Canada have indicated that they “had been physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner since age 15, almost double what was indicated by heterosexual women (25%)” (WAGE 2024).

Spotlight on National Data on Racialized Trans people in Canada

In a first-of-its-kind report, which includes data on Quebec, Trans Pulse Canada—a national community-based research initiative—surveyed 2,873 trans and non-binary people across the country (Chih et al. 2020). Approximately **14%** of respondents **identified as racialized** or were perceived as people of color. The report found that:

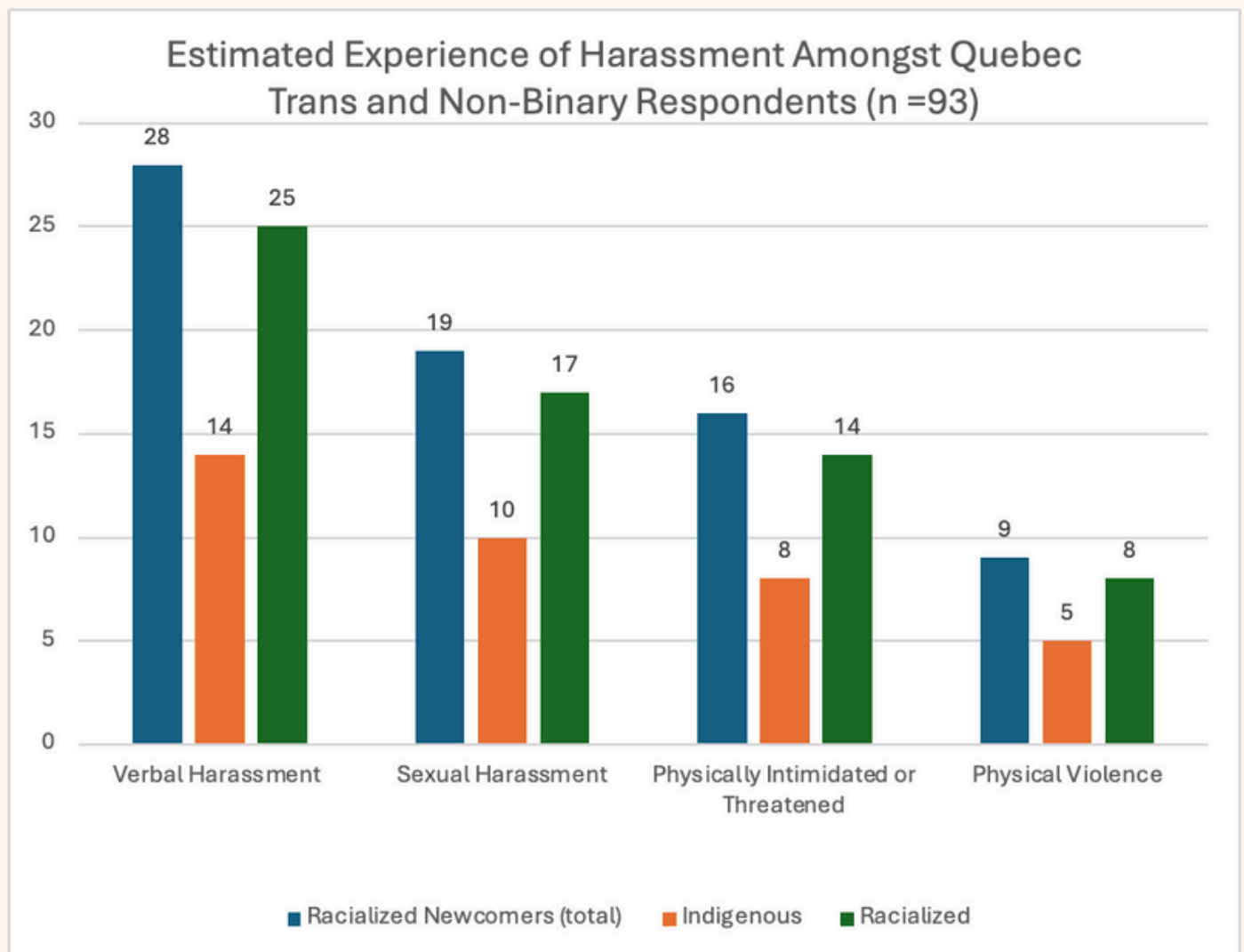
- **72%** of racialized respondents experienced verbal harassment
- **49%** experienced sexual harassment
- **41%** were physically intimidated or threatened
- **23%** experienced physical violence

73% of racialized trans and non-binary respondents expressed concern about being harassed by police, compared to **50%** of non-racialized respondents. Approximately **33%** reported avoiding calling 911 in emergencies due to mistrust of law enforcement.

OTHER INTERSECTIONAL IMPACTS ON GBV

Spotlight on National Data on Racialized Trans and Non Non-Binary People in Quebec

Out of the 2,873 trans and non-binary individuals surveyed in the Trans Pulse Canada study, the following provides a snapshot of the impact of gender-based violence (GBV) on the population in Quebec:



Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) as a form of GBV

Recent data from the Quebec Survey on Intimate Partner Violence (2021–2022), released in 2023, provides an in-depth look into the prevalence and forms of intimate partner violence (IPV) among adults aged 18 and over in Quebec. The survey reveals that approximately **40% of women** (1,329,500) have experienced at least **one act of intimate partner violence in their lifetime** and **26%** of men (about 858,400) reported similar experiences. This survey does not distinguish experiences of IPV among radicalized people, 2SLGBTQI+, or other groups; however, drawing on national data available through statistics Canada, we can correlate the data to approximate in Quebec.

Estimated Quebec Statistics for IPV among visible minority and Indigenous women

***Important Note:** The statistics below are not based on data collected in Quebec. Quebec does not collect race-based data on GBV. The figures below were calculated by comparing rates in data available through Statistics Canada, the Quebec Survey on Intimate Partner Violence (2021-2022), and other published study data.

In 2021, visible minority women comprised **16.2%** of the total female population in Québec, which correlates to an estimate of 729,545 visible-minority women in the province (Institut de la statistique du Québec) and 90,995 Indigenous women (Statistics Canada 2016 Census). Drawing on data from Statistics Canada (2018), 30% of visible minority women have experienced IPV, which correlates to 218,863* visible-minority women in Quebec, and approximately 60% of Indigenous women, which correlates 54,597* Indigenous women in the province.

Visible minority women in Canada are **three times more likely** to experience GBV compared to non-visible minority women (Statistics Canada). According to this figure, we estimate that 3 out of every 10 women in Quebec who experience gender-based violence are members of a visible minority group:

Gender-Related Homicides of Women and Girls in Canada

National data collected between 2011–2021 (Statistics Canada, 2023) highlights the continued disproportionate impact of gender-related violence on women and girls in Canada. Over this ten-year period, police reported a total of 1,125 gender-related homicides involving female victims. The majority of these homicides were perpetrated by individuals known to the victims.

Note

In 2021, Canada recorded 0.27 gender-related attempted murders per 100,000 women and girls, with Quebec exceeding the national rate at 0.42. Quebec reported the highest annual rate of gender-related attempted murders of women and girls across all three measured years: 2011, 2016, and 2021.

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