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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Report of Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on her country visit to Canada from 13 to 23 April 2018

Comments by the State*

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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I. Data on Violence against Women in Canada

1. Statistics Canada is the federal organization responsible for national data collection. The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), part of Statistics Canada, is responsible for justice statistics in particular. The CCJS works closely with federal, provincial and territorial partners to ensure that the justice data are as robust and comprehensive as possible. National data on the prevalence of sexual assault, intimate partner violence and other forms of violence against women are primarily retrieved from two complementary data sources:

(a) A national household survey of Canadians who self-report their experiences of victimization – *the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization)* – which is conducted every 5 years and will next be in the field in 2019; and

(b) Official police records - the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) - which record reported incidents of crimes and are submitted to Statistics Canada. The UCR data may be linked to court records in order to follow cases through the criminal justice system and to analyze court outcomes.

2. The Homicide Survey, the Integrated Criminal Court Survey, and the Transition Home Survey are also surveys that contribute to our understanding of the prevalence and nature of violence against women, as well as the criminal justice system response. For example, the Transition Home Survey has been documenting shelters and transition housing for women fleeing abusive situations for over 40 years. Data tables from this survey in 2016 were released in January.

3. In addition to these national statistics, the Department of Justice Canada, as well as other federal departments and agencies, other levels of government, academics and non-governmental organizations, undertake research. The Department's Victims Fund also makes funding available for research.

4. It is possible to search by general categories such as family violence or victims, by date or by product type, on the general website for the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, which can be found here: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/crime_and_justice?HPA=1 There are hundreds of reports and data tables available on the website. Special requests for data may also be made to CCJS. Below are some recent releases from CCJS that may be of interest.

II. Sexual Assault

A. Self-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2014

5. Adam Cotter and Shana Conroy, *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*

<http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc?ObjId=85-002-X201700114842&ObjType=47&lang=en>

This report uses self-reported data from the 2014 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) to present information on sexual assault in Canada, including sexual attacks, unwanted sexual touching and sexual activity where the victim was unable to consent. This article examines the characteristics of sexual assault victims and their perceptions of safety, and the characteristics of sexual assault offenders and incidents. The emotional and physical consequences of sexual assault, in addition to reporting sexual assault to the police and the reasons for not reporting, are also discussed.

B. Police-reported sexual assaults in Canada, 2009 to 2014: A statistical profile

6. Cristine Rotenberg, *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/54866-eng.htm>

This *Juristat* article presents a statistical profile of sexual assaults reported by police in Canada between 2009 and 2014. A comprehensive analysis of incident, victim and accused characteristics over a six-year period is undertaken to offer a deeper understanding of those who commit sexual assault and those who are victims of it. Factors explored include location of the sexual assault, weapon(s) used, level of physical injury to the victim, as well as the age and sex profiles of accused and victims and the relationship between them. For the first time, new analysis on the delay in reporting to police is presented. Findings are compared with physical assault where appropriate in order to provide an analytical reference point. This *Juristat* article serves as the baseline profile for a forthcoming study that traces the outcomes of sexual assault cases in the justice system.

C. From arrest to conviction: Court outcomes of police-reported sexual assaults in Canada, 2009 to 2014

7. Cristine Rotenberg, *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/54866-eng.htm>

While conviction rates and severity of sentencing outcomes are often used as measures of criminal justice, neither take into account the potentially large volume of cases that never made it to court. For the first time, this *Juristat* measures the ‘fall-out’ of sexual assault cases in the Canadian criminal justice system in order to provide vital context for how sexual assaults are handled in the justice system. Using linked data from police services and criminal courts, this study presents new findings on the attrition rate of sexual assaults as well as court outcomes for those that make it to court. Attrition and conviction outcomes are also analyzed by characteristics of the sexual assault incident (e.g., location, weapon use, delay in reporting to police), the accused, the victim (e.g., age, sex, physical injury), and the relationship between them in order to provide more detail on how certain factors may be related to a higher likelihood of dropping out of the justice system. Findings are compared with physical assault outcomes where appropriate in order to provide an analytical reference point.

III. Family Violence

A. Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2016

8. *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54893-eng.htm>

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile is an annual report produced by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics under the Federal Family Violence Initiative. Since 1998, this report has provided current data on the nature and extent of family violence in Canada, as well as analysis of trends over time. The information presented here is used extensively to monitor changes that inform policy makers and the public.

9. The 2016 edition of the report features an in-depth analysis of self-reported stalking in Canada, using data from the 2014 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization). This featured section examines the nature and prevalence of self-reported stalking, including how stalking behaviour has changed over time. A particular focus on intimate partner stalking is also presented, including an overview of how stalking that occurs in the context of these relationships differs from other kinds of stalking in important ways. The featured section also provides a multivariate analysis of various risk factors that impact the odds of stalking victimization, both within and outside of intimate partner relationships.

10. As in past years, this year's report also includes sections dedicated to police-reported data on family violence in general, intimate partner violence specifically, family violence against children and youth, and family violence against seniors. Presented in a fact sheet format accompanied by detailed data tables, these sections provide readers with key findings for 2016 from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the Homicide Survey. For the first time in 2016, these sections also include an analysis of persons accused of family violence.

11. In this report, ‘family’ refers to relationships defined through blood, marriage, common-law partnership, foster care or adoption; ‘family violence’ refers to violent criminal offences where the perpetrator is a family member of the victim, as defined above.

Section 1: Stalking in Canada, 2014

Section 2: Police-reported family violence in Canada - An overview

Section 3: Police-reported intimate partner violence

Section 4: Police-reported family violence against children and youth

Section 5: Police-reported family violence against seniors

Survey description

IV. Other

A. Homicide in Canada, 2016

12. Jean-Denis David, *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/54879-eng.htm>

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. The Homicide Survey began collecting information on all murders in 1961 and was expanded in 1974 to include all incidents of manslaughter and infanticide. Although details on these incidents are not available prior to 1974, counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and are included in the historical aggregate totals.

B. Violent victimization of women with disabilities, 2014

13. Adam Cotter, *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics*

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54910-eng.htm>

C. Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS)

14. <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5256>

Announced in 2017, Statistics Canada launched a new survey as part of the Gender-Based Violence Strategy that will be conducted every five years. Data collection for the survey, called the *Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS)* (also known as the *Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Survey*), started the first week of April and will continue until the end of the year. The survey will ask questions about:

- (a) Intimate partner violence: patterns of coercive abuse – additional data needed (e.g., frequency and severity of abusive behaviour)
- (b) Attitudes and norms that are conducive to violence
- (c) Inappropriate sexual behaviours in public places
- (d) Cyberviolence as a gendered behaviour (e.g., sexual nature)

Vulnerable populations (e.g., gender non-conforming and trans* individuals, women living with disabilities, Indigenous women, etc.)