

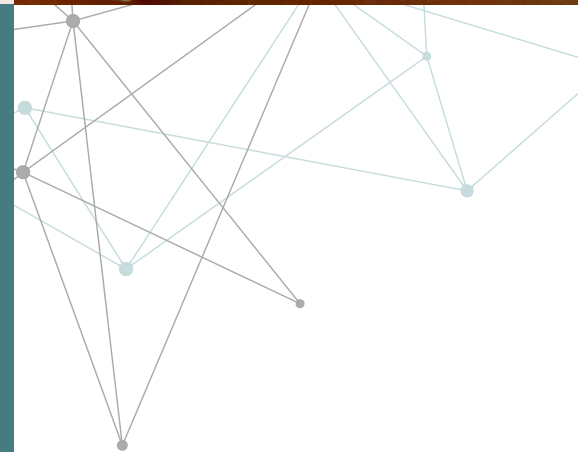


How common is cybervictimization?

The experiences of youth and young adults, including those from the 2SLGBTQIA+ and persons with disabilities communities

Introduction

Using data from a custom request to the 2019 *Canadian Health Survey of Children and Youth* (CHSCY) and the 2018 *Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces* (SSPPS), this product explores the **prevalence of cybervictimization experiences** among **youth (12 to 17 years)** and **young adults (18 to 29 years)**, including those from the **2SLGBTQIA+** and **persons with disabilities** communities.



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Date modified: 2024-11-22

Aussi disponible en français sous le titre : Quelle est la fréquence de la cybervictimisation ? Les expériences des jeunes et des jeunes adultes, y compris ceux des communautés 2ELGBTQIA+ et des personnes en situation de handicap.

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Catalogue Number: PS18-81/2025E-PDF

ISBN: 978-0-660-70382-4

Key terms



Cybervictimizationⁱ

Can be described as intentional and repeated harm done through the use of technology. People on the receiving end of this harm are considered cyber victims.ⁱⁱ



Prevalence

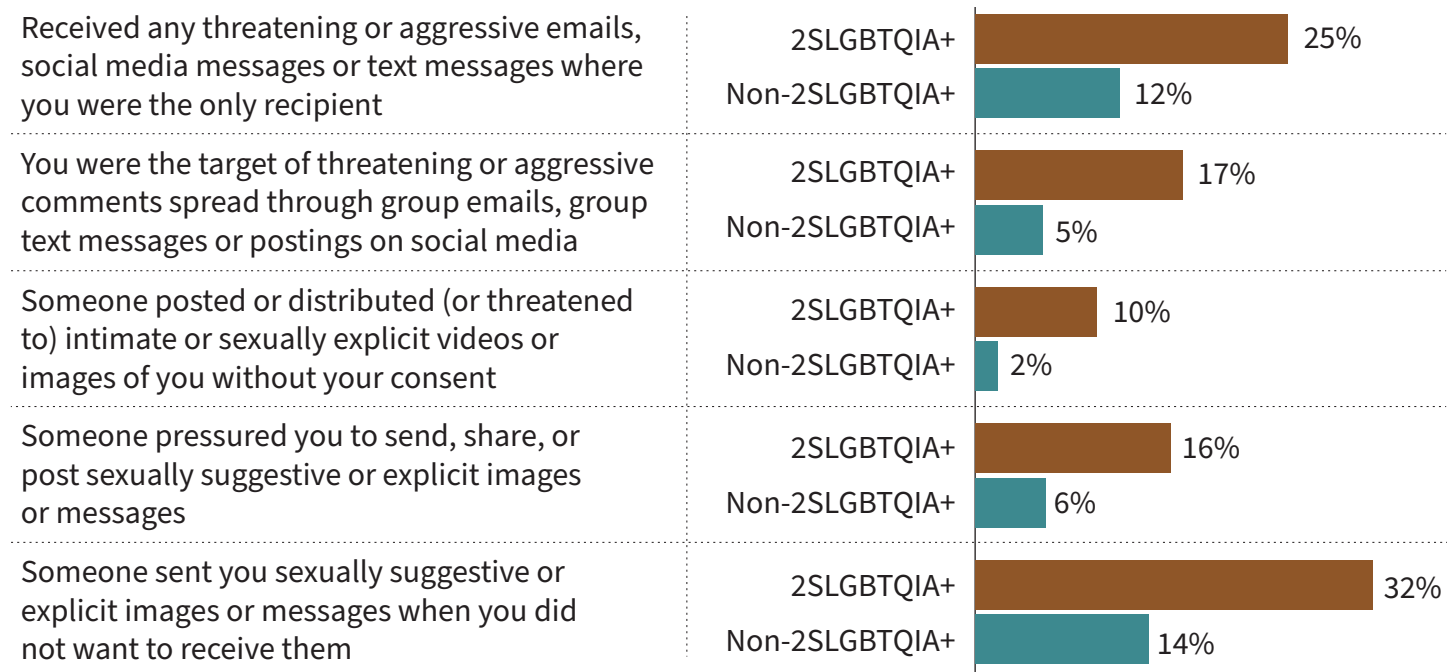
The percentage of people in a group who share a common experience (e.g., cybervictimization) in a specific time period.

Findings¹

Almost 50% of young adults who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ experienced cybervictimization. They were more than twice as likely to experience it as non-2SLGBTQIA+ young adults.

The **largest** difference between groups was in the prevalence of young adults who had reported being victimized by **the posting and distribution of intimate or sexually explicit materials without consent. 2SLGBTQIA+ young adults were five times more likely to experience this type of cybervictimization** compared to their non-2SLGBTQIA+ counterparts.

Figure 1: Prevalence of cybervictimization among young adults aged 18 to 29, by sexual/gender diversity, 2018ⁱⁱⁱ



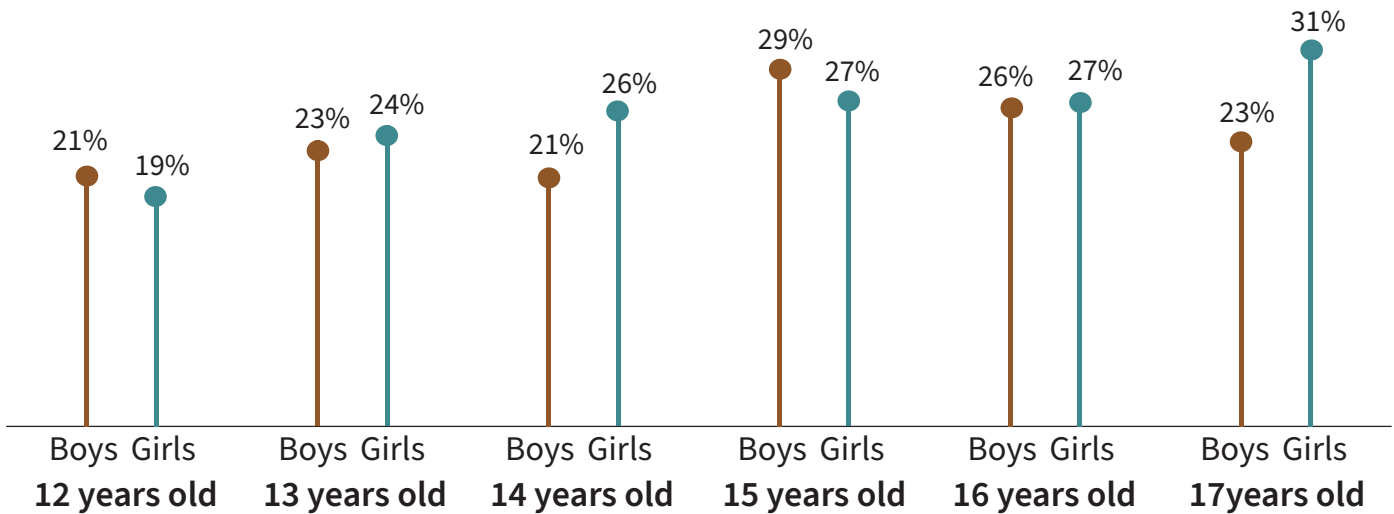
Note: Percentages of 2SLGBTQIA+ and non-2SLGBTQIA+ young adults do not add to 100 percent as some respondents chose not to disclose their sexual and gender identity. In addition, cybervictimization percentages do not add up to 100 percent because respondents could also choose multiple response categories.

¹ The data described in this product are descriptive, and no statistical tests were conducted. All interpretations are based on the percentages listed. [Back to the text](#)

The prevalence of cybervictimization among youth was greater for older youth compared to younger youth.

The **prevalence of cybervictimization** among **boys** was greatest for **15-year-olds**, while the prevalence of cybervictimization among **girls** was greatest for **17-year-olds**.

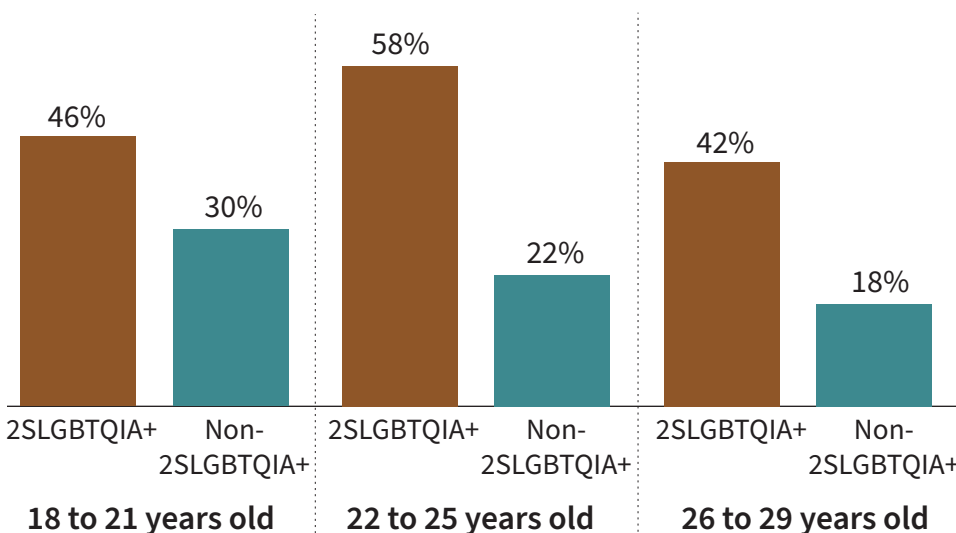
Figure 2: Prevalence of cybervictimization (any type) among youth aged 12 to 17, by age and gender, 2019^{iv}



The gap in cybervictimization prevalence rates between 2SLGBTQIA+ young adults and their non-2SLGBTQIA+ counterparts was largest in young adulthood.

While non-2SLGBTQIA+ young adults in the older age groups reported less cybervictimization, **2SLGBTQIA+ young adults** from each age group **continued to experience high rates of cybervictimization**, with the highest rates reported for young adults between the ages of 22 and 25.

Figure 3: Prevalence of cybervictimization (any type) among young adults aged 18 to 29, by age group and sexual/gender diversity, 2018^v



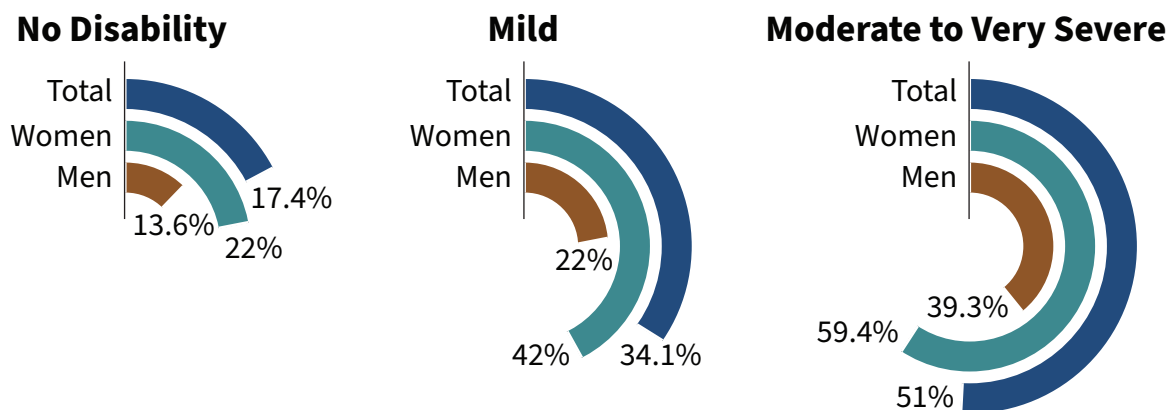
2SLGBTQIA+ young adults also reported higher rates of physical victimization (86%) compared to non-2SLGBTQIA+ young adults (54%). In particular, they reported high rates of unwanted behaviours in public (75%) and at work (53%), including physical and sexual assault (18%) committed by someone other than an intimate partner.^{vi}

The prevalence of cybervictimization among young adults was greater among those who reported more severe disabilities.

Compared to young adults with no disability, young adults with **mild disabilities** were **nearly twice as likely** to be cybervictimized and young adults with **moderate to severe disabilities** were **nearly three times** as likely to be cybervictimized.

Across all disability classes, **young women were more likely to experience cybervictimization** than young men.

Figure 4: Prevalence of cybervictimization (any type) among young adults aged 18 to 29, by severity² of disability and gender, 2018^{vii}



Note: Percentages will not add to 100 because some respondents chose not to disclose their sexual and gender identity.

² Severity scores increase with the number of disability types, the level of difficulty associated with the disability and the frequency of the activity limitation. The name assigned to each class is simply intended to facilitate use of the severity score. It is not a label or judgement concerning the person's level of disability. [Back to the text](#)

Conclusion

While these new data answer some questions about the prevalence of cybervictimization across gender, sexuality, disability, and age, more research is needed to better understand the prevalence of cybervictimization among these groups. For example, research could explore the factors related to higher rates of cyberbullying among 2SLGBTQIA+ and disabled youth and young people. It could also investigate the impacts of compounding victimization on youth and young adults from these communities.

References

ⁱ The *2019 Canadian Health Survey of Children and Youth* explored issues that have an impact on the physical and mental health of children and youth. Survey content included questions on harmful Internet posts; threats or insults through email, instant messaging, text messaging or online games; and the purposeful exclusion from an online community.

The *2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces* explored Canadians' experiences about personal experiences at home and in the workplace, in public spaces and online. Survey content included questions about inappropriate behaviours experienced online while using a cell phone or smartphone, the most serious incident experienced online while using one of these devices, the perpetrators of these incidents, and the ensuing consequences. [Back to the text.](#)

ⁱⁱ Kalia, D., & Aleem, S. (2017). Cyber Victimization Among Adolescents: Examining the Role of Routine Activity Theory. *Journal of Psychosocial Research*, 12(1), 223–232. And, Maxwell, E., Khanna, N., & Craig, W. (2022). [Examining key populations in the context of implementing cyberbullying prevention and intervention initiatives: Literature review on the role of the family](#). Public Safety Canada. [Back to the text.](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ Statistics Canada, *Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces*, 2018. [Back to the text.](#)

^{iv} Statistics Canada, *Canadian Health Survey of Children and Youth*, 2019. [Back to the text.](#)

^v Statistics Canada, *Canadian Health Survey of Children and Youth*, 2019. [Back to the text.](#)

^{vi} Jaffray, B. (2020). [Experiences of violent victimization and unwanted sexual behaviours among gay, lesbian, bisexual and other sexual minority people, and the transgender population, in Canada, 2018](#). Statistics Canada. [Back to the text.](#)

^{vii} Jaffray, B. (2020). [Experiences of violent victimization and unwanted sexual behaviours among gay, lesbian, bisexual and other sexual minority people, and the transgender population, in Canada, 2018](#). Statistics Canada. [Back to the text.](#)