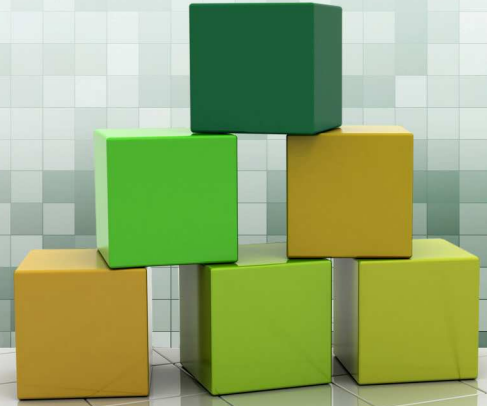




# Building Knowledge



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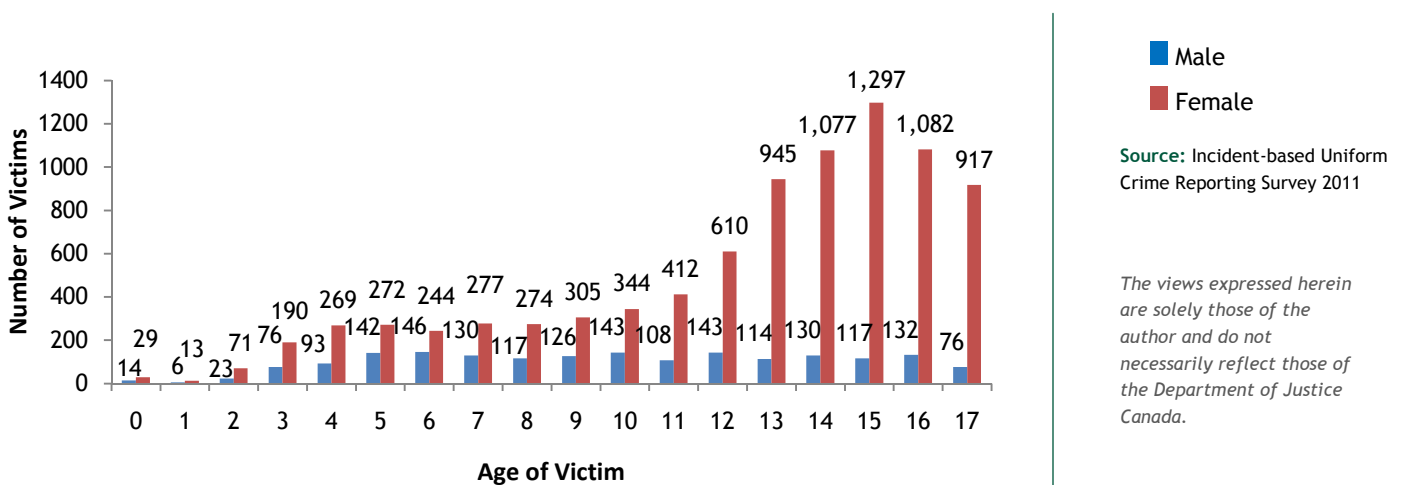
## Number of Female Victims of Police-Reported Sexual Assaults Increases in the Teen Years

This first issue of Building Knowledge looks at the number of young victims of all levels of sexual assault (I, II, III). When we think of victims of crime who are under the age of 18, we may focus on the very youngest as the most vulnerable; yet, as Figure 1 below shows, the number of female victims of sexual assault (levels I, II and III) for police-reported incidents starts to increase with the teen years (age 12-13), peaks at age 15, then starts to decline. We know that the majority of sexual assaults are never reported to police and the reasons for this are

complex and often very personal. Based on the 2009 General Social Survey on Victimization, it is estimated that 88% of sexual assaults against Canadians aged 15 years and older are not reported to police.<sup>1</sup>

The numbers in Figure 1 show the disproportionate impact of sexual assault on young females as compared to males. Females in their mid-teens are particularly vulnerable. The number of male victims of police-reported incidents remains relatively stable from the early years onwards.

**Figure 1: Number of victims of police-reported sexual assaults against children and youth (0-17), 2011**



<sup>1</sup> Samuel Perreault and Shannon Brennan, Criminal victimization in Canada, 2009, *Juristat* 30, no. 2 (2010):14.