



# Building Knowledge



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Research and Statistics Division

## Child and Youth Victims of Assault

In this issue of Building Knowledge, police-reported assaults against child and youth victims are explored. Police-reported assaults refer to all substantiated assaults reported to the police; these are captured in the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) through Statistics Canada. There are three main types of assault captured in the UCR2: Assault (Level 1) (common assault), Assault with a Weapon or Causing Bodily Harm (Level 2), and Aggravated Assault (Level 3). For the purposes of this issue, these three types of assault are combined to create a total number of child and youth victims of assault broken down by age and gender. These assaults could have been perpetrated by youth or adult perpetrators.

As can be seen in the figure below, in 2011, the number of child and youth victims of assault that were reported to the police generally increased as children and youth became older. For both males and females, the frequency of victimization peaked at age 17. These data also indicate that at every age, a higher number of males were the victims of police-reported assault in comparison to females.

In addition, although the three types of assault are combined here, at every age and for both males and females, common assault accounted for the largest percentage of all assault types (approximately 78%).

**Figure:** Number of victims of police-reported assaults against children and youth (0-17) by age and gender of victim, 2011

