Gender Country Profile

Canada

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General

Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 2,628,413
Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 14,518,003
Total female population over 15 (CIA, 2015): 14,923,734

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,00 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 12
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 4.71
Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 4.8
Births attended by skilled health professional (2011) (WHO, 2014b): 98.4%
Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.5%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.1%

Education

Canada does not make readily available sex-disaggregated data for youth literacy (ages 15–24); instead, it presents youth literacy in terms of reading, math, and science levels in Canada, using the OECD’s PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) scores. More information about these scores is available from the Canadian Council on Learning’s Composite Learning Index site: http://www.cli-ica.ca/en/about/about-cli/indicators/know-youth-literacy.aspx

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2003 est.) (CIA, 2015): 99%
Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2003 est.) (CIA, 2015): 99%


Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2002) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 58.4%

Graduates from science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science tertiary education programs who are female (2002) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 39%

Teachers in primary education who are female (2000) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 68.1%

Teachers in secondary education who are female: NA

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2000) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 41.2%

**Economic Activity**

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 73%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 64%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 94%

Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 97%

**Decision-Making**

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 25%

**Human Rights**

Girls married before 15: NA

Females married between 15 and 19: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 6.4%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime: NA
Gender Gaps

Health
Canada’s Aboriginal women are more vulnerable to HIV infection; women constitute 25% of AIDS cases in Aboriginals, compared to 8.2% among non-Aboriginals (Canadian Women’s Health Network, 2012).

Education
According to Statistics Canada (Hango, 2013), women are less likely to enter science, technology, engineering, or mathematical (STEM) fields in higher education. Women aged 25 to 34 make up approximately 39% of those with a STEM degree, compared to 66% of those in all other fields.

Although there are now more female tertiary graduates in Canada than males, this has not resulted in workplace equality. For example, one representative of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives stated in 2013 that “the income gap is actually greater for women with university or college degrees than it is for those with high school diplomas. Having a university degree means a higher level of income overall, yes, but it also means facing a higher level of wage discrimination” (Huffington Post, 2013).

Economic
There is a significant gender gap in wages in Canada, with women earning, on average, only 64% of what men earn (World Economic Forum, 2013, p. 160).

In 2012, women comprised only 25% of those in senior management positions (CNW, 2012).

As of 2013, women comprised only 6% of the boards of listed companies in Canada (World Economic Forum, 2013, p. 160).

Decision-Making
Women comprise, on average, only 25% of Canada’s elected seats at all three levels of government (municipal, provincial and federal).

Canada has had only one female prime minister (Canada History, 2013).

Human Rights
Violence against women is a concern in Canada. Approximately half of women in Canada over age 16 have been subjected to physical or sexual violence. Only approximately 22% of cases of violence against women are reported to the police. Violence against women accounts for about 12% of all arrests related to violent crime in Canada (Canadian Women’s Foundation, 2013).

There were 582 cases of murdered or missing Aboriginal women in Canada in 2010. Both the UN and Amnesty International have encouraged the Canadian government to take action to address the high levels of violence against the country’s Aboriginal women, who are more than three times as likely to experience violence as their non-Aboriginal counterparts (Canadian Women’s Foundation, 2013).
References


