



# The Impacts of COVID-19 on Indigenous Women and Gender-Diverse People in Canada

On-line Survey Conducted by Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC),  
Results audited by Nanos Research

June 3, 2020

## Overview

The purpose of this survey is to measure the impact of the global pandemic crisis on Indigenous women in Canada. Through advocacy activities such as this one NWAC can ensure the lives of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women and gender-diverse people across Canada are taken into account in decision-making by governments at all levels.

## Methodology

This on-line survey was completed using SimpleSurvey. The survey was posted on NWAC's social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter, and Google Ads.

The field dates for this survey were May 1 to May 29, 2020. In total, a sample of 750 Indigenous women and gender-diverse people aged 18 and over completed the survey. Unless stated otherwise, the responses reported below are only those of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people.

Annex A includes methodological notes from Nanos Research.

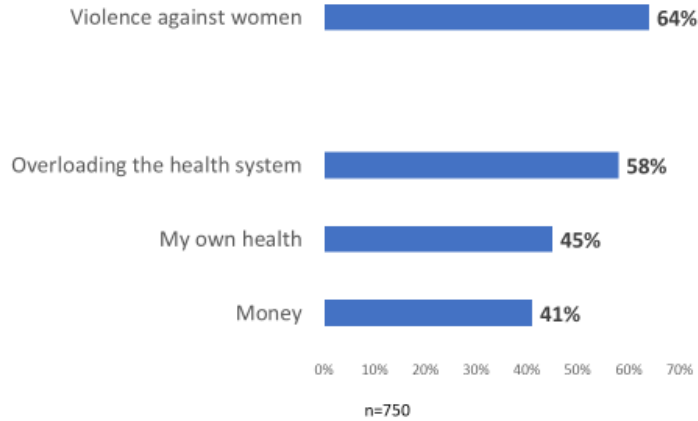
## Key Highlights of the Survey

1. Indigenous women are more worried about domestic violence than they are about most COVID-19 issues.
2. Many more Indigenous women are experiencing violence during this pandemic than usual.
3. Indigenous women most vulnerable to violence in the past three months are in the North, under 35, and have been financially impacted by COVID-19.
4. Romantic partners are overwhelmingly seen as the biggest source of violence.
5. The financial impact of COVID19 is strongly correlated to violence against Indigenous women.

The overall conclusion of this survey suggests that actions from government at all levels are needed to address the issue of systemic violence against Indigenous women and gender-diverse people.

## Indigenous Women\* are more Worried about Domestic Violence than they are about most COVID-19 issues

Percentage of people who are very worried or extremely worried

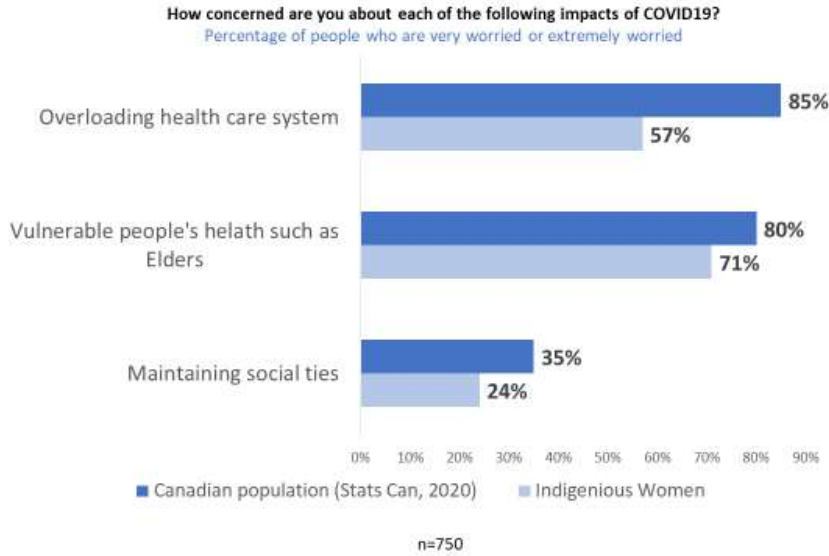


\*Throughout this report, "Indigenous women" includes Two Spirit and Gender Diverse people

Overall, Indigenous women are more worried about domestic violence against women than they are about COVID-19.

Indigenous women and gender-diverse people who have experienced violence in the past three months are far more worried about COVID-19 contributing to violence on the home than those who have not experienced violence.

## Indigenous Women are Less Worried about COVID19 than the Canadian Population

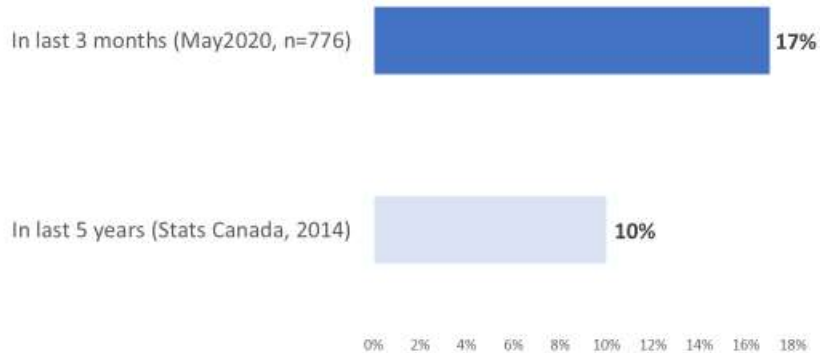


Indigenous women seem less worried about the impacts of COVID-19, in general, than all Canadians. They are most worried about the health of vulnerable people.



## Why? Violence doesn't Stop for COVID 19, in fact, it is Intensifying!

Percentage of women saying they have been victim of  
violence

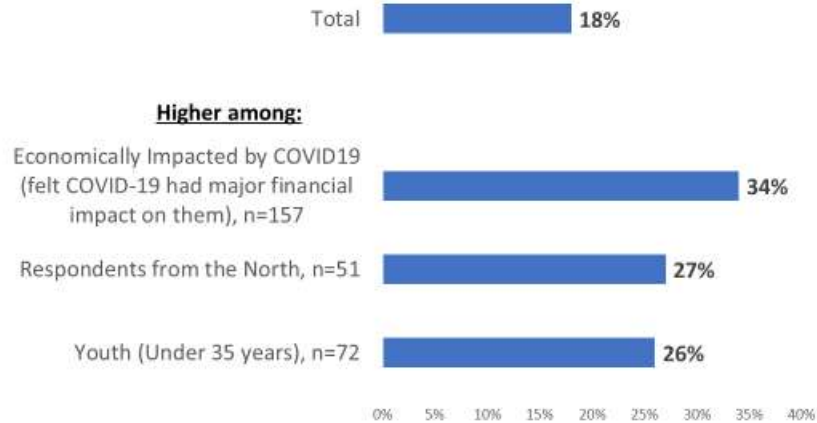


Indigenous women are reporting more violence during this time of sheltering in place. In May 2020, 17% have experienced violence (physically or psychologically) in the past three months, compared to 10% reporting violence from their spouse over the past five years in 2014.



## Indigenous Women in the North\*, Under 35, and those Economically Impacted by COVID-19 are even more Likely to Have Experienced Violence

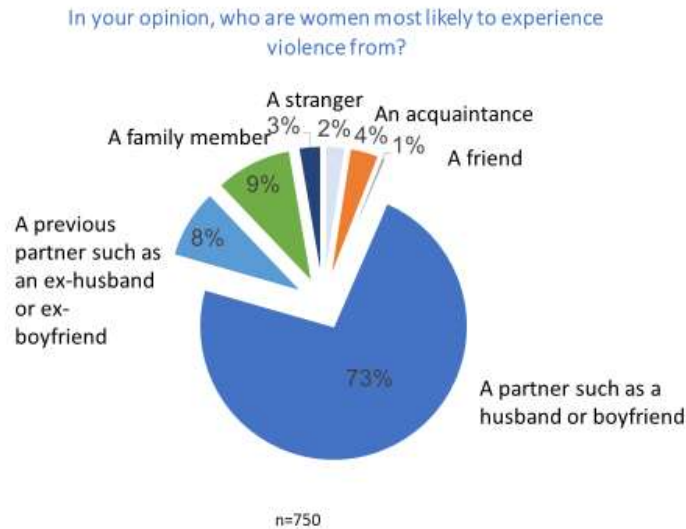
Percentage of women saying they have been a victim of violence in the past 3 months



\*North = Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon

But Indigenous women aren't all the same: some sub-groups are especially at risk of violence at this time. Those who have been financially impacted by COVID-19, those in the North, and those under 35 are even more likely to have experienced violence in the past three months.

## Romantic Partners Considered the Most Dangerous to Indigenous Women



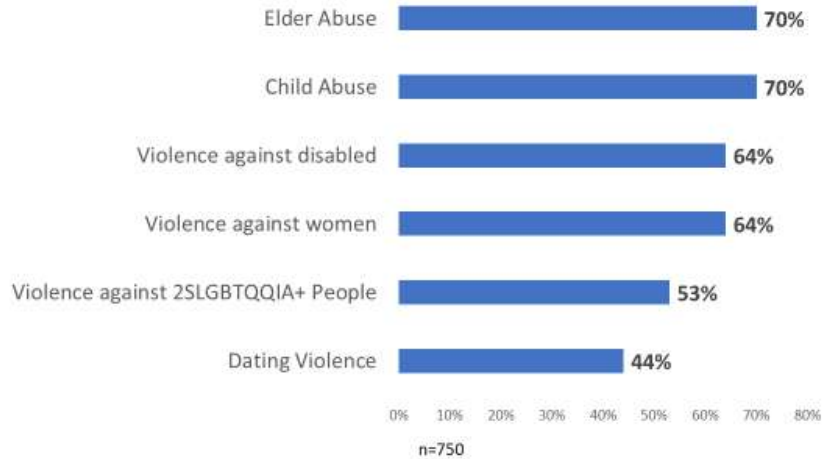
Participants overwhelmingly identify current and past partners as posing the biggest threat of violence to Indigenous women. But family is also a significant source: victims are twice as likely as non-victims to identify family members as the biggest threat. This may be because women are sheltering with family during the crisis. This is consistent with what we know from the literature: when facing financial hardship and difficulty finding housing, Indigenous women are more likely to stay with family members. As described below, Indigenous women are being hit harder financially than Canadians, in general.



## Indigenous Women are also Very Worried about Violence to Elders, Children, and Disabled

In general, how concerned are you about these forms of violence?

Percentage of people who are very worried or extremely worried



Most Indigenous women are very worried about many different types of violence and are most worried about Elders and children.





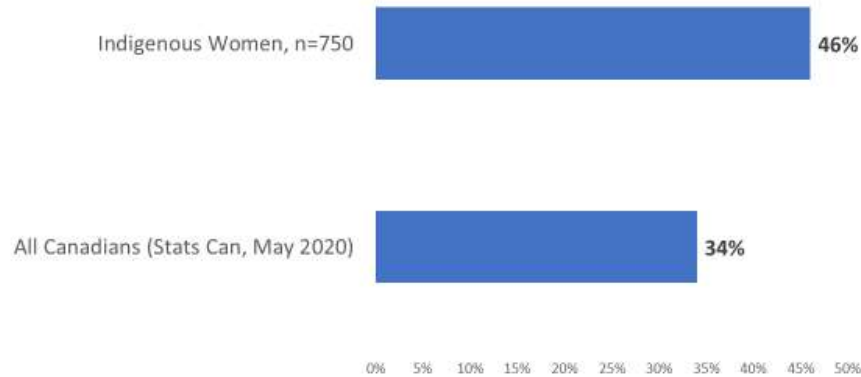
Native Women's  
Association of Canada

L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada

## Indigenous Women are more Financially Impacted by COVID-19 than Other Canadians

What has been the financial impact of COVID-19 on your ability to meet financial obligations or essential needs, such as rent or mortgage payments, utilities and groceries?

Percentage of women saying moderate or major financial impact

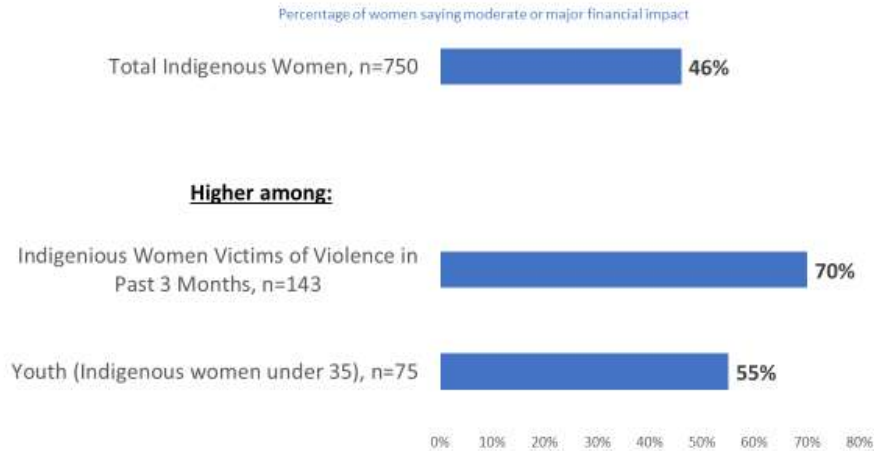


Indigenous women are being harder hit financially in this crisis than other Canadians, and as the literature and this survey show, violence against women is correlated with economic insecurity.



## Victims of Violence and those Under 35 are even more Financially Impacted

What has been the financial impact of COVID-19 on your ability to meet financial obligations or essential needs, such as rent or mortgage payments, utilities and groceries?



A majority (70%) of the women and gender-diverse people who are moderately or majorly impacted financially by COVID-19 have experienced violence in the past three months. Similarly, women under 35 are also hit especially hard financially, which is also probably contributing to their higher rate of violence.

## Conclusion

Indigenous women need action on violence now more than ever. Financial impact seems to be playing a significant role in making women unsafe. In this time of the pandemic, when shelters can't always stay open, one of the best ways to help Indigenous women and gender-diverse people experiencing violence is to ensure they know about and can easily access the government's financial support benefits, so they can afford to shelter in safe places.



## Annex A: Methodological Notes from Nanos Research



# Memo

**To:** Readers, Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) Survey of Indigenous Women  
**From:** Nik Nanos, Chief Data Scientist, Nanos Research  
**Date:** June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020  
**Re:** NWAC survey audit by Nanos

I have reviewed a survey designed, managed and conducted by NWAC to gauge opinion of Indigenous women on a series of issues related to the COVID-19 environment. In my opinion, having reviewed the questions, recruitment and the tabulations, the survey is a fair representation of opinion of Indigenous women during the period the fieldwork was conducted.

To follow are some key observations resulting from the Nanos Research audit of the methodology for the NWAC survey of Indigenous women. The survey was a non-probability open-link survey advertised online through social media platforms. The weighting and tabulations for the data were conducted by the Nanos Research Team and our audit was based on information shared by the NWAC team with the Nanos team.

### Methodology Recap

- The field dates for this survey were from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- This is a non-probability online survey where participants could self-select to participate in the survey.
- Nanos reviewed the IP addresses and determined that all responses were from a Canadian IP address and that there were no IP addresses that had an unusual number of submissions. Of the 755 IP addresses collected, only 22 had duplicates, with one instance having 3 duplicates and the rest only 2. IP addresses were not collected for the survey period prior to May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- No incentives were offered for completing the survey.
- Nanos filtered the final responding group of individuals so that only people who reported a female Indigenous identity were included in the tabulations.
- Tabulations for the closed-ended questions for female Indigenous respondents were run by Nanos.
- The results were weighted by province by Nanos using the latest Census information (2016) to ensure that the final weighted group of responses was geographically representative of Indigenous women across Canada.

### How the data was collected

The survey was advertised on Twitter, Facebook and Google Ads, as well as being posted about regularly on our Twitter and Facebook pages without advertising.

- NWAC ran the Twitter ad from May 1-7 with the caption "During #COVID19, we're here for you. Tell us how you've been affected so we know where our support is needed!". This audience was targeted based off what pages/people they followed. For example, they targeted people who followed NWAC, ITK, AFN, MNC, APTN, etc. This made up 2.2% of the responses.
- NWAC ran the Facebook ad from May 1-May 29 in two separate parts. The first part ran the same text as the above Twitter ad. The second part read "We need your help so we can help you! Take this quick survey to let us know what impact COVID-19 has had on Indigenous women" and was accompanied with a new graphic. For this second ad, they made 2 separate audiences: one targeting Indigenous people in Canada broadly (to capture the urban population) and one targeting all Indigenous communities by postal code. For this second group, they also included keyword targeting for northern communities such as "Yukon", "Arctic", and "Food Security". Their Facebook responses made up for 97.2% of the results.
- NWAC ran the Google Ad from May 20-25 with the caption "Share your views today | Native Women's Assoc of Canada Tell us how you've been affected so we know where our support is needed. During this pandemic, we're here for you." and targeted via postal codes. This resulted in 0.5% of their results.

Any questions regarding this note should be directed to Nik Nanos at [nik@nanos.co](mailto:nik@nanos.co).

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Native Women's  
Association of Canada



L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada

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**For more information about this survey, please contact:**

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