



Social Determinants of Health

Good Governance

October 2025

Quality of Care NL is proud to partner
with **Choosing Wisely Canada**



Who We Are



Quality of Care NL is an applied health and social systems research and evaluation program aimed at improving social and health outcomes in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Proud partner of Choosing Wisely Canada  **Choosing Wisely NL**

Good Governance



Safety of a community, personal safety, and confidence in institutions and the media, all play significant roles in people's health and well-being.

Crime rates show the safety of the community, or the perception of safety. Unsafe neighborhoods can cause anxiety, depression and stress. Fear of violence can keep people indoors, away from neighbors, exercise, and other social interactions.

Victimization can lead to increased incidences of depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and suicide; increased risk of cardiovascular disease; and premature mortality. The health consequences of violence can vary with the type, duration and number of incidents of victimization and also with the age and sex of the victim.

Levels of public confidence in institutions (such as the police, the justice system and courts, the school system, and Federal Parliament) and trust in the media can be linked to mental health and overall well-being.

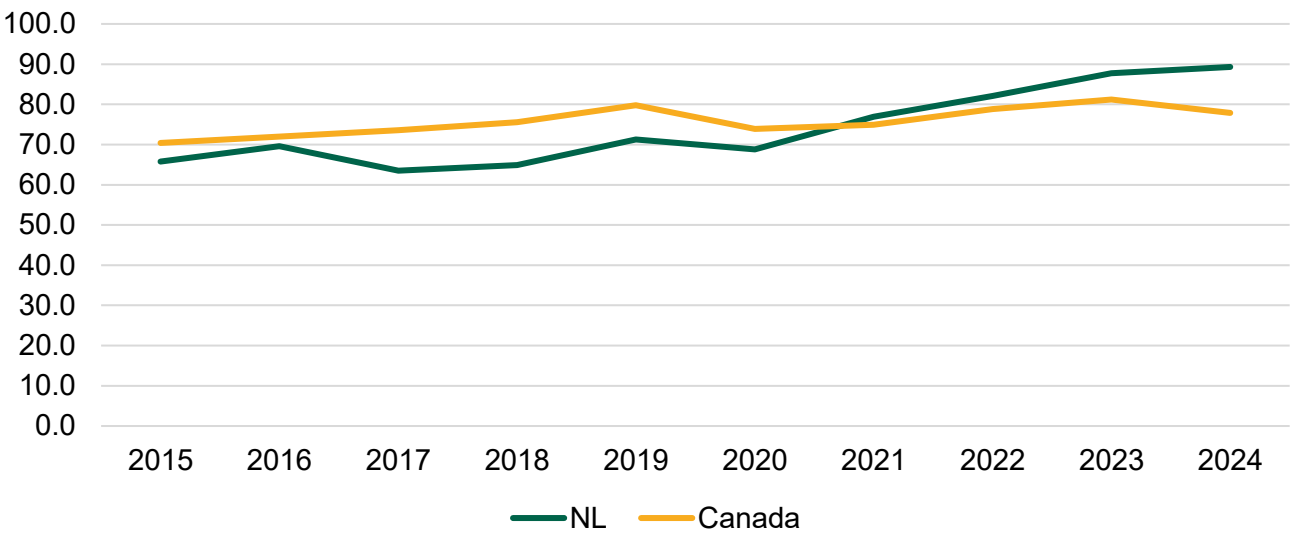
Safety and Security: Crime Severity Index

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime by accounting for both the amount of crime reported by police in a given jurisdiction and the relative seriousness of the crimes. The CSI takes into account both the volume and severity of crime. In the Index, all crimes are assigned a weight based on their seriousness. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, and less serious offences lower weights.

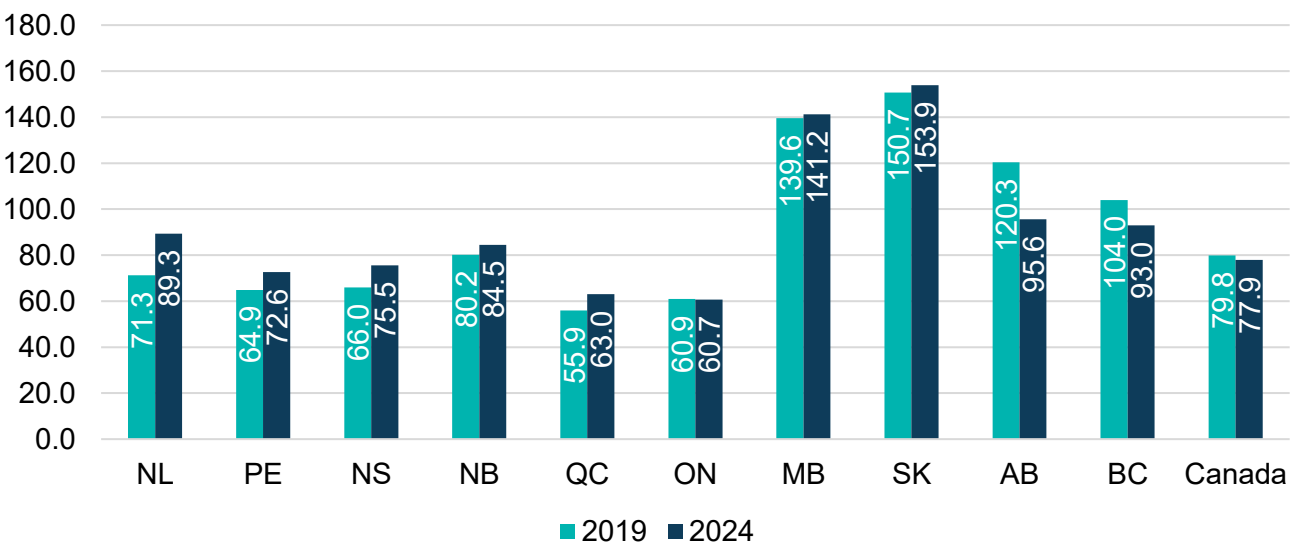
There are three indexes – an overall CSI, a Violent CSI and a Non-Violent CSI. The overall CSI includes all Criminal Code violations including traffic, as well as drug violations and all Federal Statutes. The Violent CSI includes all violent offences, while the Non-violent CSI includes everything that does not fall into the category of violent offences.

- Overall, the Crime Severity Index (CSI) has increased in NL (36% increase) and across Canada (11% increase) from 2015 to 2024.
- From 2015 to 2020, the CSI was lower in NL compared to Canada and from 2021 onwards it was higher in NL. In 2024, the CSI was 15% higher in NL compared to Canada.
- In 2019, NL ranked fifth for its CSI and in 2024 NL ranked sixth (1=best and 10=worst).

Crime Severity Index in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada, 2015 to 2024

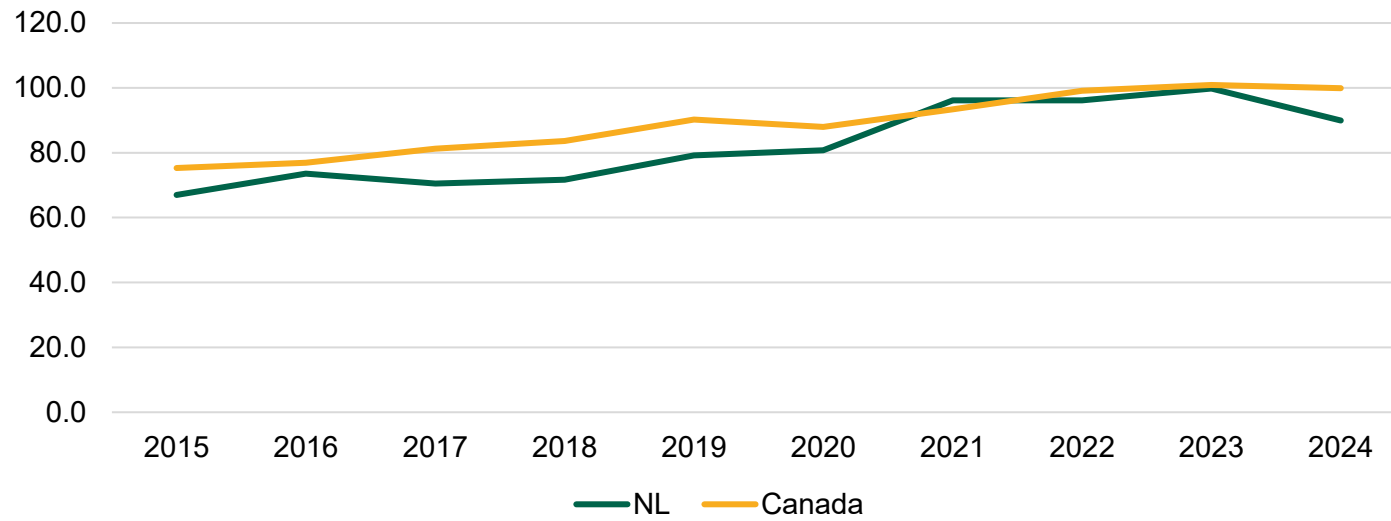


Crime Severity Index by Province, 2019 and 2024

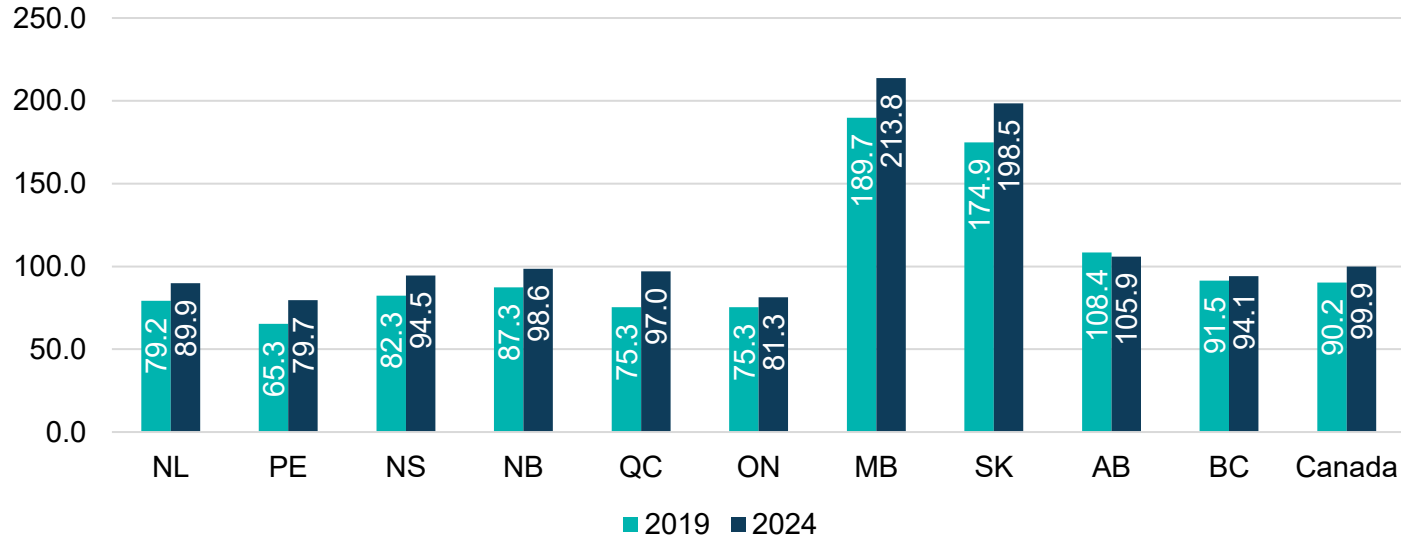


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas; Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCRS), 2015 to 2024

Violent Crime Severity Index in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada, 2015 to 2024



Violent Crime Severity Index by Province, 2019 and 2024



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas; Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCRS), 2015 to 2024

Safety and Security: Violent Crime Severity Index

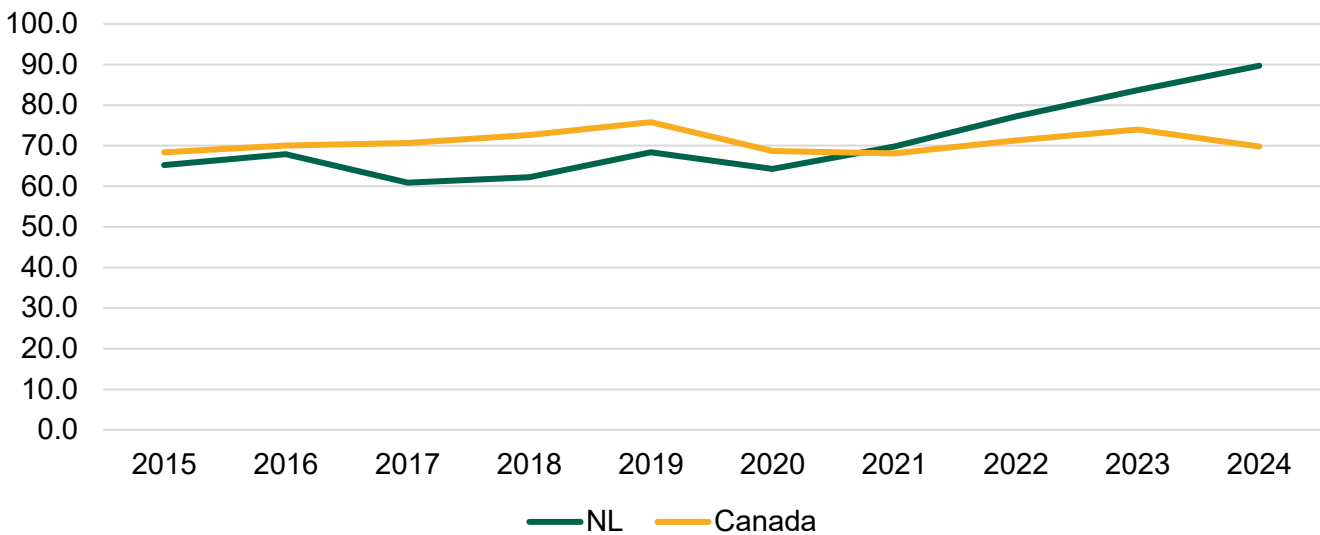
The violent CSI includes all violent offences (such as homicide, sexual assault, assault, forcible confinement or kidnapping, trafficking, robbery, criminal harassment, extortion, and uttering threats) while the non-violent CSI includes everything that does not fall into the category of violent offences (such as drug and traffic violations, break and enter, theft, mischief, fraud, disturbing the peace, arson, and weapons violations).

- Overall, the Violent Crime Severity Index (CSI) has increased in NL (34% increase) and across Canada (33% increase) from 2015 to 2024.
- From 2015 to 2020, the violent CSI was lower in NL compared to Canada but since then the rates have been more similar for NL and Canada (with the exception of 2024).
- In 2019, NL ranked fourth for its violent CSI and in 2024 NL ranked third (1=best and 10=worst).

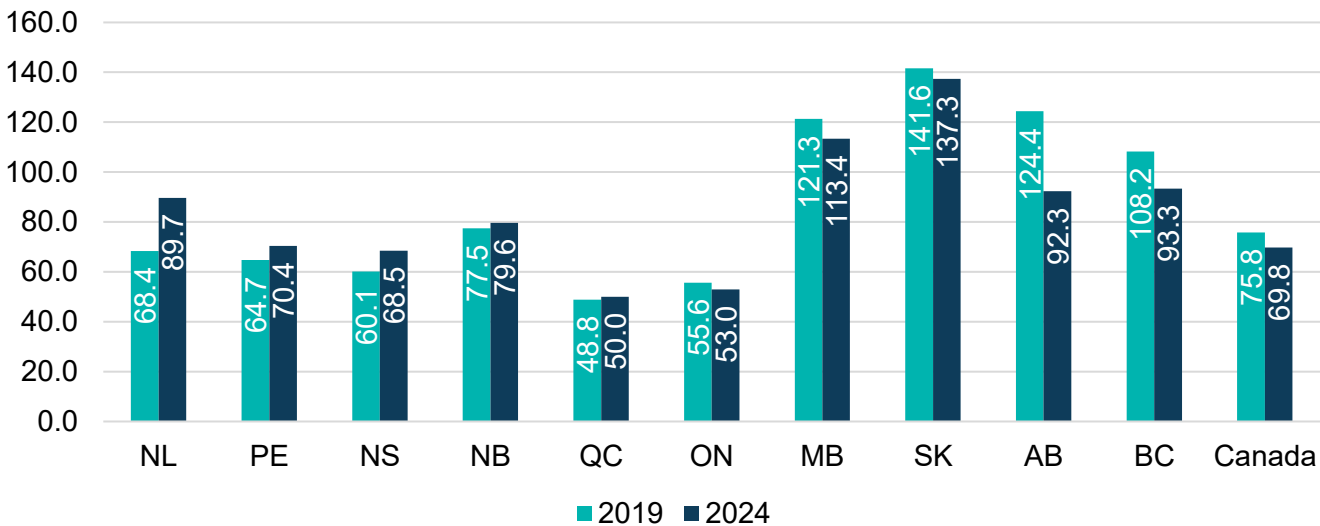
Safety and Security: Non-Violent Crime Severity Index

- Overall, the Non-Violent Crime Severity Index (CSI) has increased in NL (38% increase) from 2015 to 2024. Across Canada, it has remained more stable during this time.
- From 2015 to 2020, the non-violent CSI was lower in NL compared to Canada. Since 2020, it has been higher in NL.
- In 2019, NL ranked fifth for its non-violent CSI and in 2024 NL ranked sixth (1=best and 10=worst).

Non-Violent Crime Severity Index in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada, 2015 to 2024

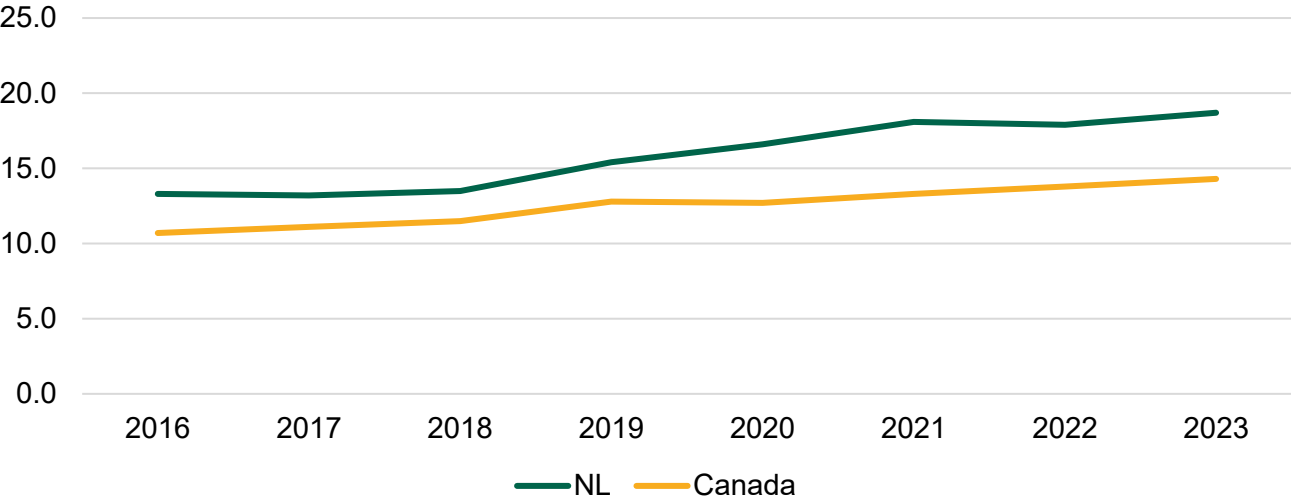


Non-Violent Crime Severity Index by Province, 2019 and 2024

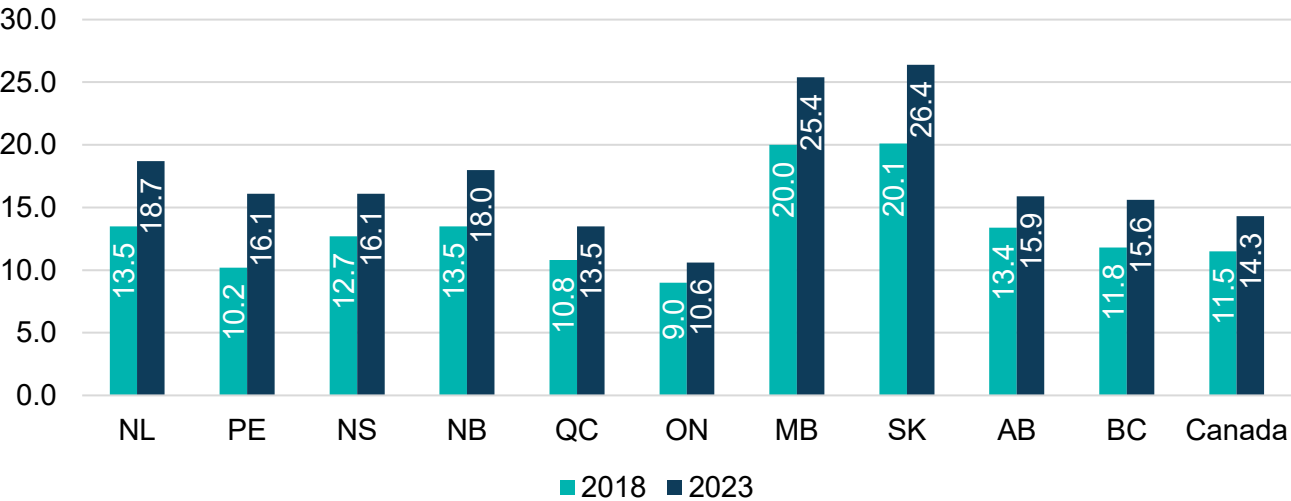


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas; Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCRS), 2015 to 2024

Violent Criminal Code Violations (per 1,000 population based on actual incidents) in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada, 2016 to 2023



Violent Criminal Code Violations (per 1,000 population based on actual incidents) by Province, 2018 and 2023



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), Special Tabulations, 2016 to 2023 (data compiled by Community Accounts; see <https://www.communityaccounts.ca>)

Safety and Security: Crime Rates

The police-reported crime rate differs from the CSI in that it measures the volume of crime only. Crime rates are based on Criminal Code incidents and are calculated as the number of crimes committed per unit of population.

Safety and Security: Violent Criminal Code Violations

Violent criminal code violations include homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault, assault, extortion, criminal harassment, etc.

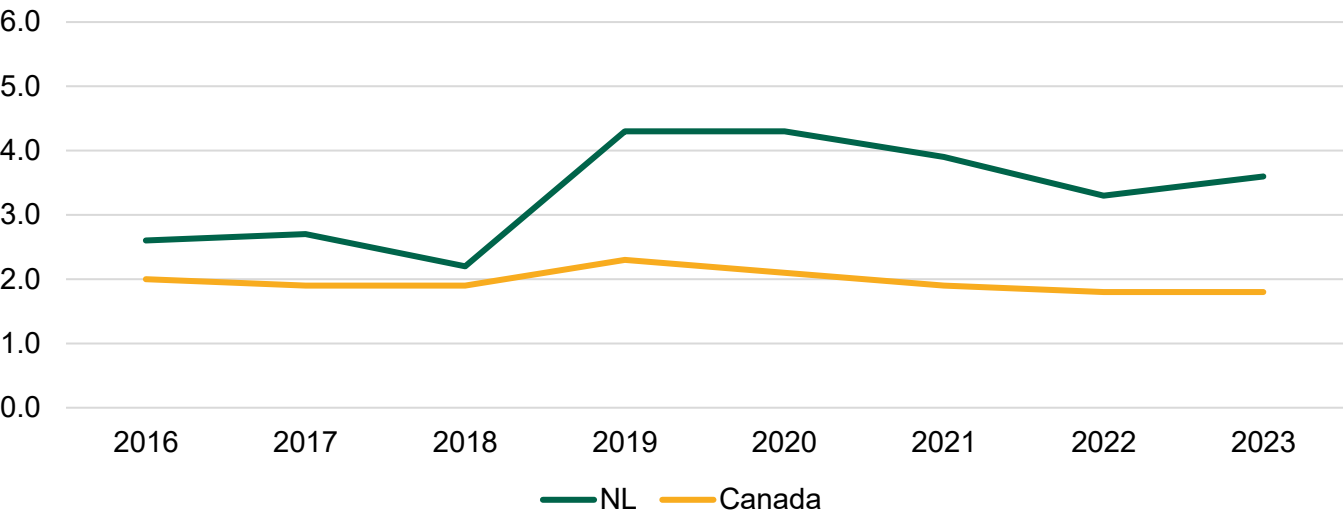
- From 2016 to 2023, the rate of violent criminal code violations increased across Canada for all provinces (41% increase in NL and 34% increase for Canada).
- The rate of violent criminal code violations was higher in NL compared to Canada from 2016 to 2023.
- In 2023, the rate of violent criminal code violations was more than 30% higher in NL compared to the Canadian rate.
- In 2018, NL ranked seventh (tied with NB) among the Canadian provinces for rate of violent criminal code violations and in 2023 NL ranked eighth (1=best and 10=worst).

Safety and Security: Impaired Driving Violations

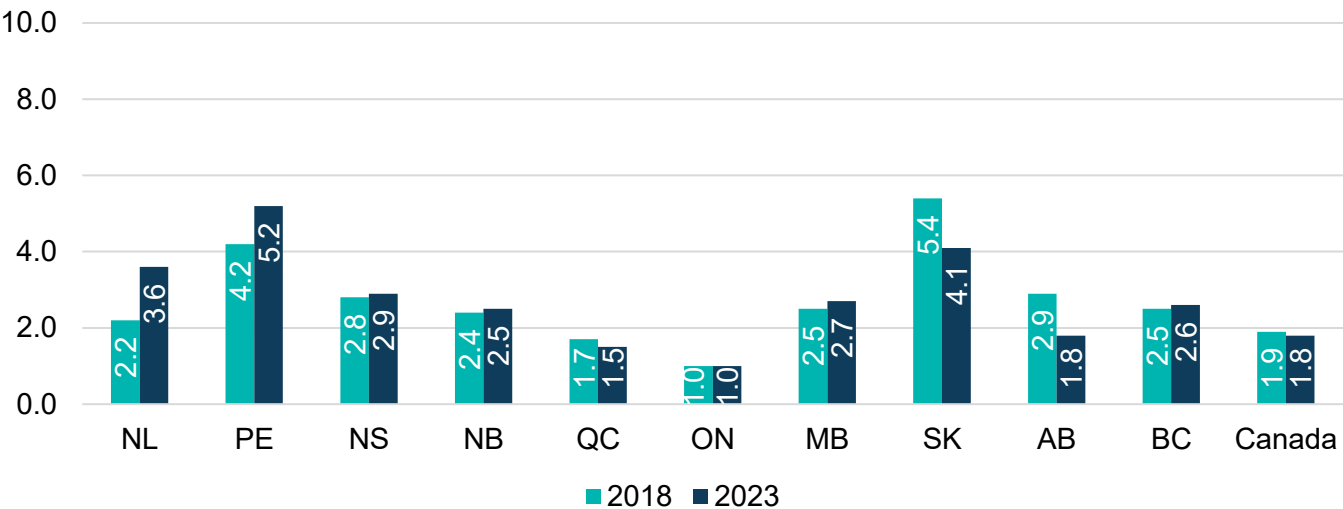
Impaired driving violations include impaired operation due to alcohol and/or drugs. The violations include impaired operation, impaired operation causing bodily harm or death, failure to provide breath sample, and failure to comply or refusal.

- Overall, from 2016 to 2023, the rate of impaired driving violations remained stable across Canada but increased in NL (38% increase).
- The rate of impaired driving violations was higher in NL compared to Canada from 2016 to 2023.
- In 2023, the rate of impaired driving violations in NL was double the Canadian rate.
- In 2018, NL ranked third for rate of impaired driving violations and in 2023 NL ranked eighth (1=best and 10=worst).

Impaired Driving Violations (per 1,000 population based on actual incidents) in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada, 2016 to 2023

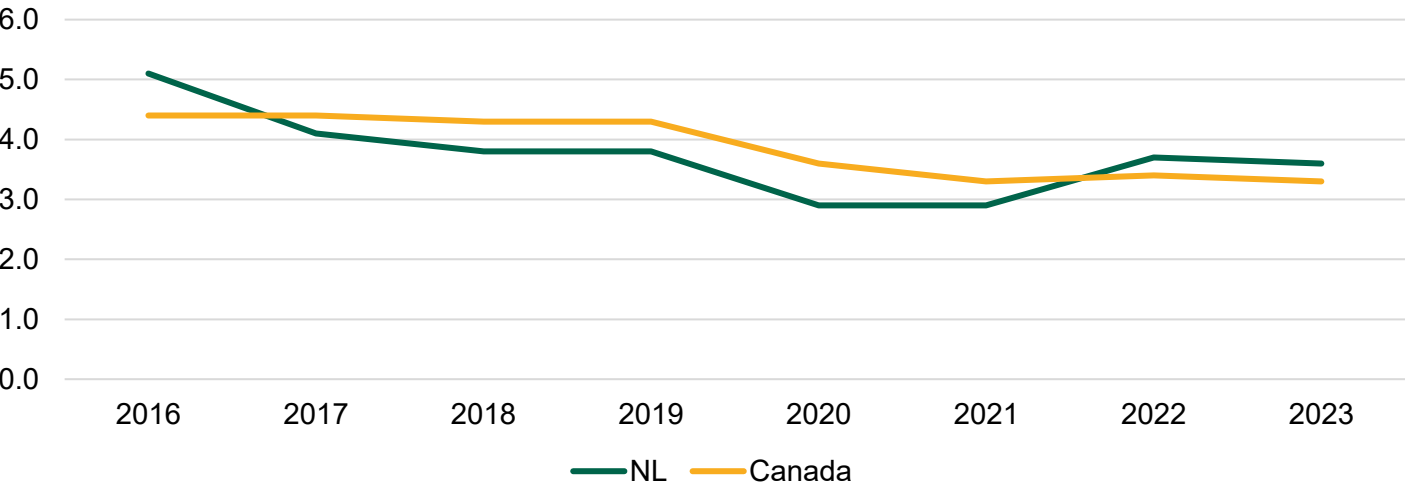


Impaired Driving Violations (per 1,000 population based on actual incidents) by Province, 2018 and 2023

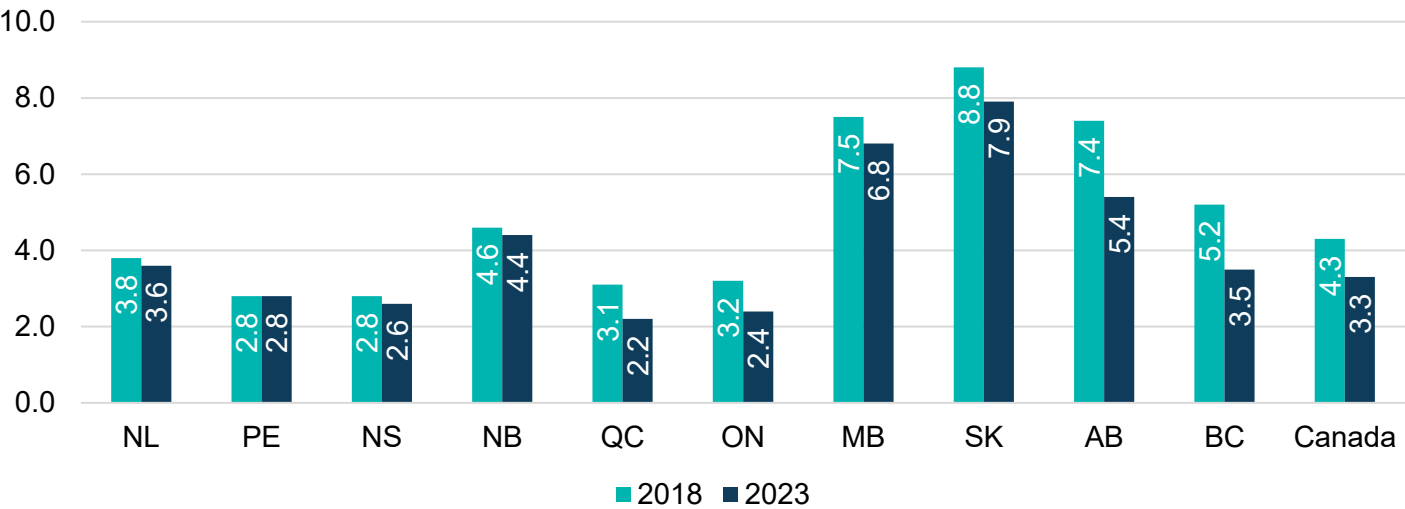


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), Special Tabulations, 2016 to 2023 (data compiled by Community Accounts; see <https://www.communityaccounts.ca>)

Breaking and Entering Violations (per 1,000 population based on actual incidents) in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada, 2016 to 2023



Breaking and Entering Violations (per 1,000 population based on actual incidents) by Province, 2018 and 2023



Safety and Security: Breaking and Entering Violations

Police consider breaking and entering to be the most severe type of property crime. It includes both residential and commercial break and entering.

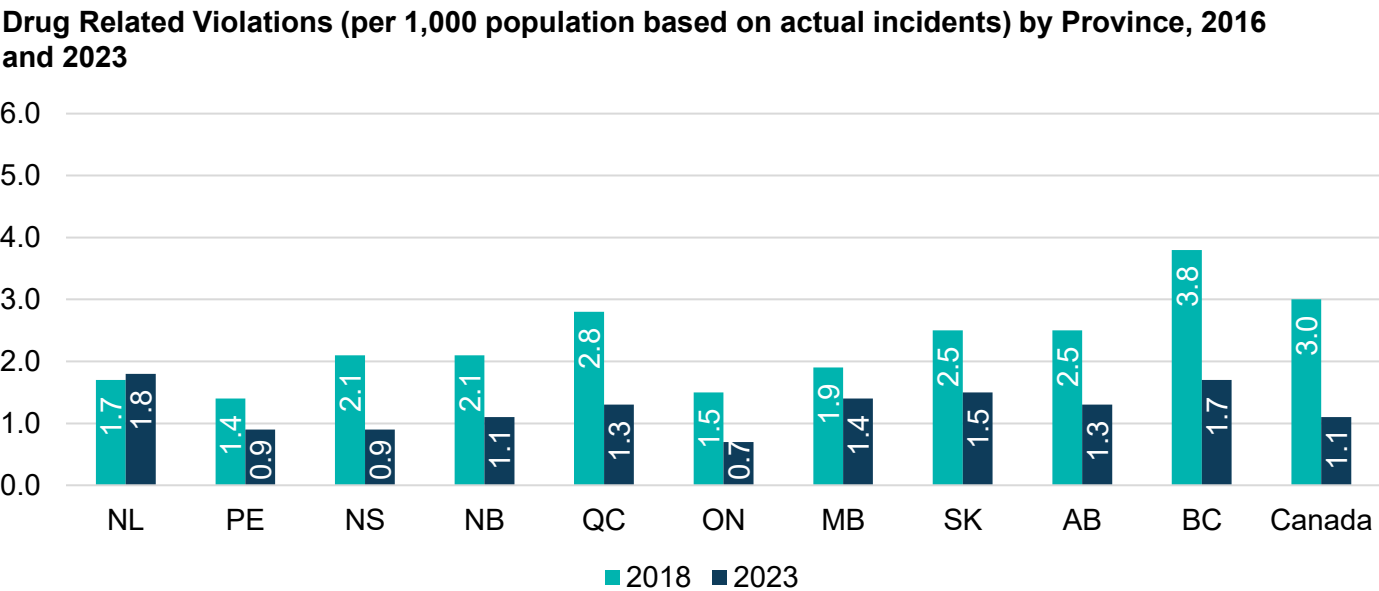
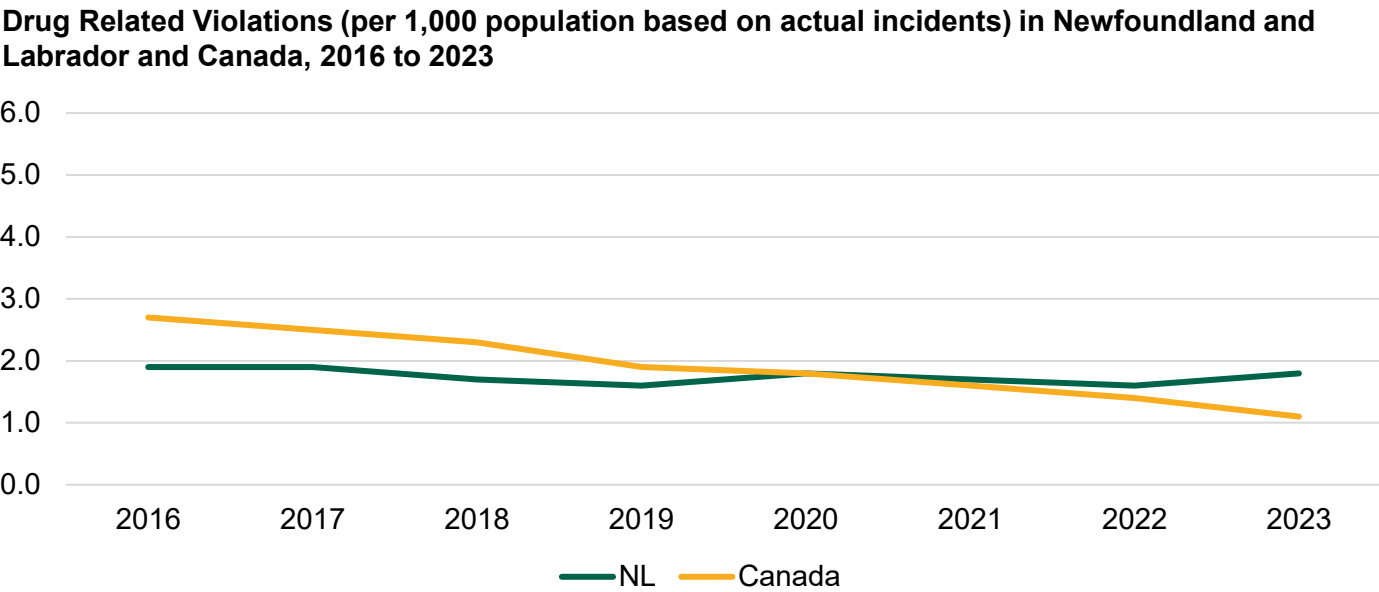
- Overall, from 2016 to 2023, the rate of breaking and entering violations decreased in NL (29% decrease) and across Canada (25% decrease).
- From 2017 to 2021, the rate of breaking and entering violations was lower in NL compared to Canada but since 2021 it has been higher in NL.
- In 2018, NL ranked fifth for rate of breaking and entering violations and in 2021 NL ranked sixth (1=best and 10=worst).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), Special Tabulations, 2016 to 2023 (data compiled by Community Accounts; see <https://www.communityaccounts.ca>)

Safety and Security: Drug Related Violations

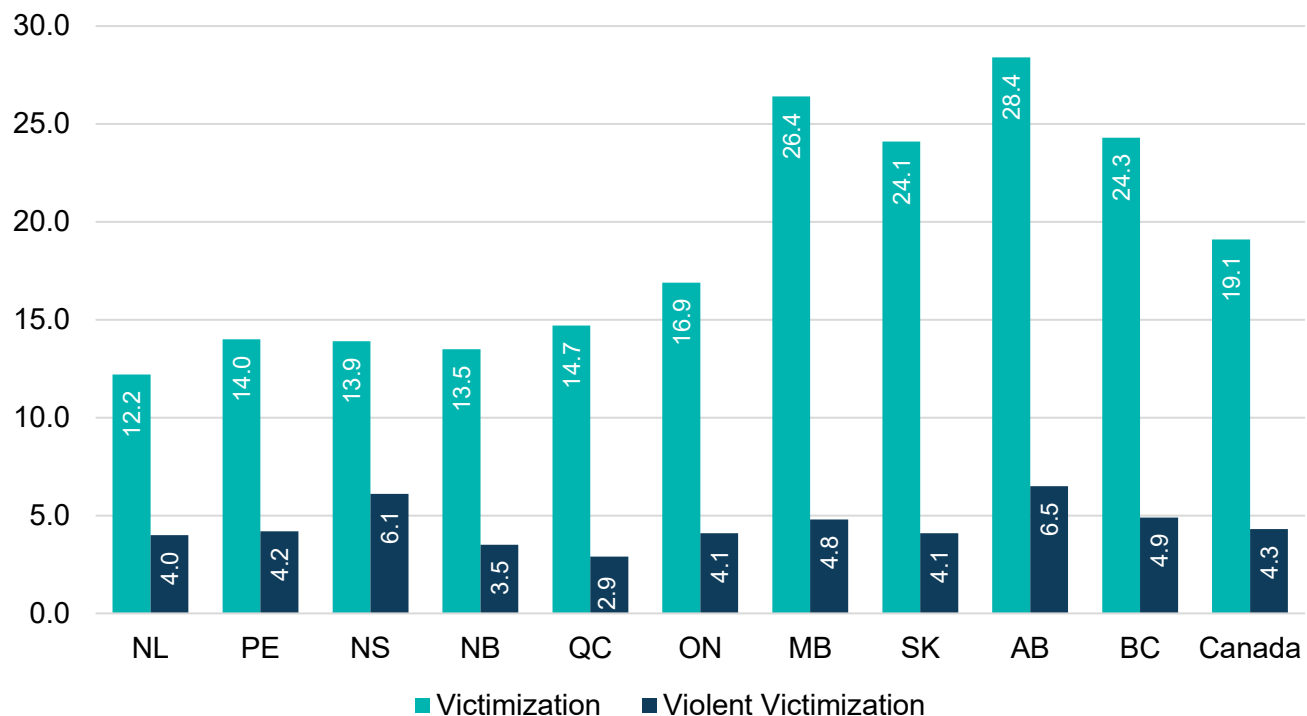
Drug related violations include offences such as possession, production, sale, distribution, trafficking, and importation/exportation of controlled substances.

- Overall, from 2016 to 2023, the rate of drug related violations remained fairly stable in NL but decreased across Canada.
- From 2018 to 2023, all provinces in Canada, with the exception of NL, saw a decrease in the rate of drug related violations.
- In 2018, NL ranked third for rate of drug related violations and in 2023 NL ranked tenth (1=best and 10=worst).



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), Special Tabulations, 2016 to 2023 (data compiled by Community Accounts; see <https://www.communityaccounts.ca>)

Self-reported Victimization in the Past 12 Months by Province (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), 2019



Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), 2019 (custom tabulations)

Personal Safety: Victimization/Violent Victimization

The General Social Survey collects information on eight types of incidents of victimization: sexual assault, robbery and physical assault, theft of personal property, breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, theft of household property and vandalism.

Incidents of victimization can be classified as violent or non-violent. Violent incidents include sexual assault, robbery and physical assault. Non-violent incidents include theft of personal property and household victimization (break and enter, theft of motor vehicles or parts, theft of household property or vandalism).

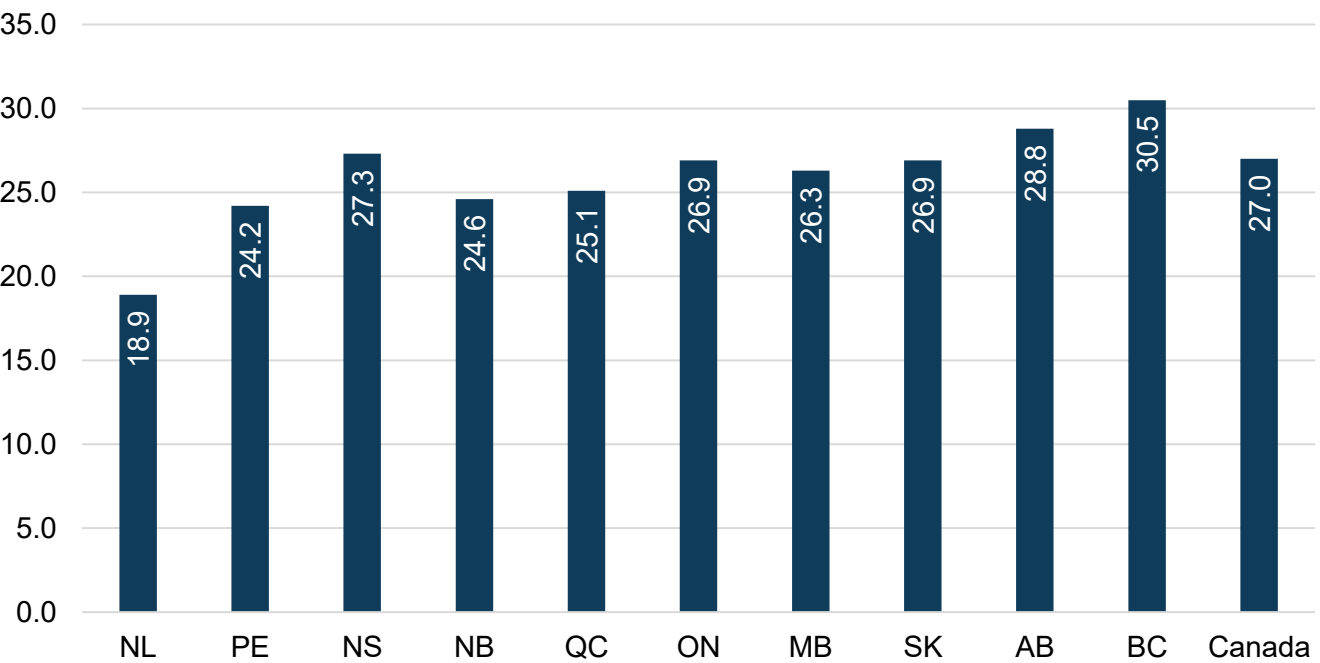
- In 2019, approximately 1 in 8 individuals in NL self-reported being victimized in the past 12 months compared to approximately 1 in 5 across Canada.
- Self-reported violent victimization was similar in NL and Canada in 2019 (4.0% and 4.3%, respectively).
- In 2019, NL had the lowest rate of self-reported victimization (rank 1) and ranked third for rate of self-reported violent victimization (1=best and 10=worst).

Personal Safety: Childhood Maltreatment

Child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age and is associated with poorer health and socioeconomic outcomes later in life.

- In 2018, approximately 1 in 5 individuals in NL reported physical or sexual abuse during childhood.
- Childhood maltreatment was 30% lower in NL compared to Canada.
- Across Canada, NL had the lowest rate of individuals reporting physical or sexual abuse during childhood among the Canadian provinces.

Childhood Maltreatment (self-reported physical or sexual abuse during childhood) by Province (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), 2018

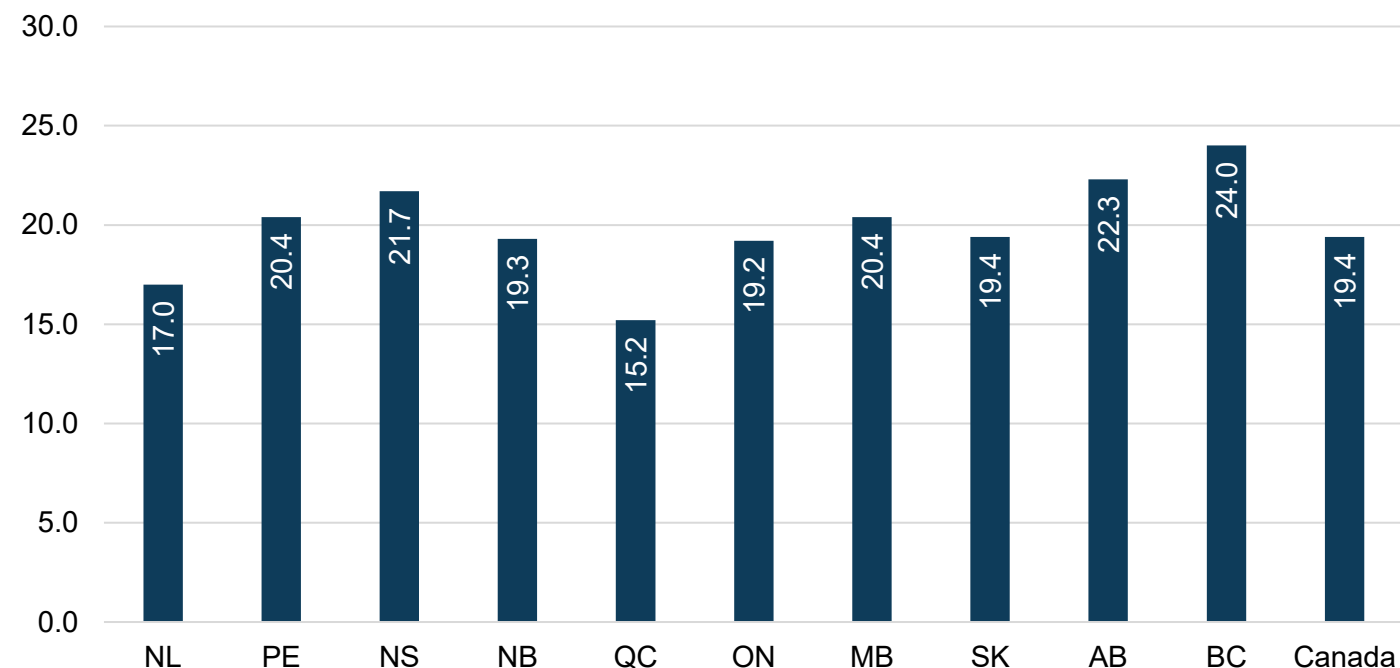


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0167-01 Self-reported physical and sexual abuse during childhood; Survey of Safety in Public and Private Places (SSPPS), 2018

Personal Safety: Self-reported Sexual Assault (since age 15)

- In 2018, approximately 1 in 6 individuals in NL reported being sexually assaulted since the age of 15.
- Self-reported sexual assault (since age 15) was 12% lower in NL compared to Canada.
- Across Canada, NL had the second lowest rate of individuals reporting sexual assault (since age 15) among the Canadian provinces.

Self-reported Sexual Assault Since Age 15 by Province (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), 2018

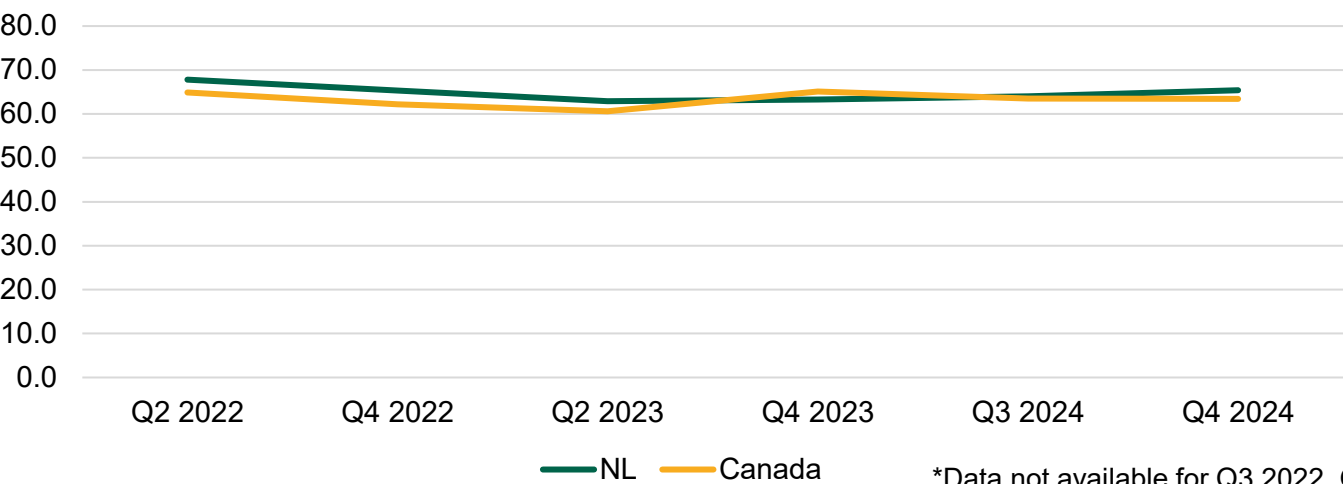


Confidence in Institutions: Police

This indicator was measured using the following question, “Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means ‘No confidence at all’ and 5 means ‘A great deal of confidence’, how much confidence do you have in the police?”

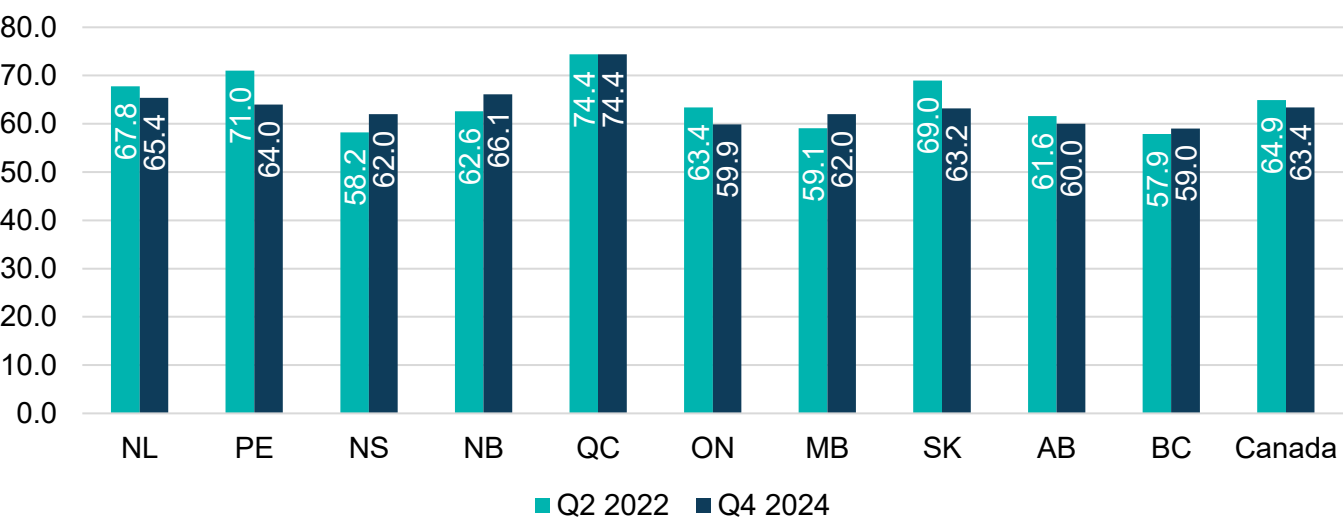
- Overall, from Q2 2022 to Q4 2024, confidence in the police remained fairly stable in both NL and across Canada.
- From Q2 2022 to Q4 2024, confidence in the police was slightly higher in NL compared to Canada (with the exception of Q4 2023).
- In Q2 2022, NL ranked fourth for its confidence in the police and in Q4 2024 NL ranked third (1=best and 10=worst).

Confidence in the Police (rating 4 or 5) in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q2 2022 to Q4 2024



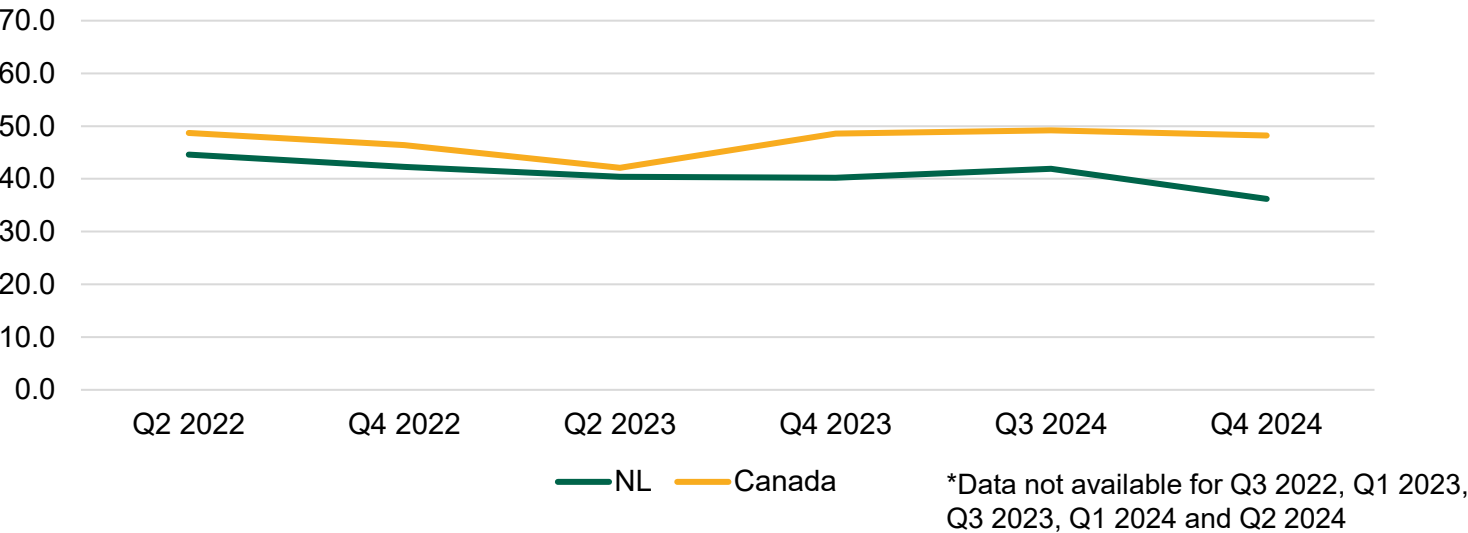
*Data not available for Q3 2022, Q1 2023, Q3 2023, Q1 2024 and Q2 2024

Confidence in the Police (rating 4 or 5) by Province (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q2 2022 and Q4 2024

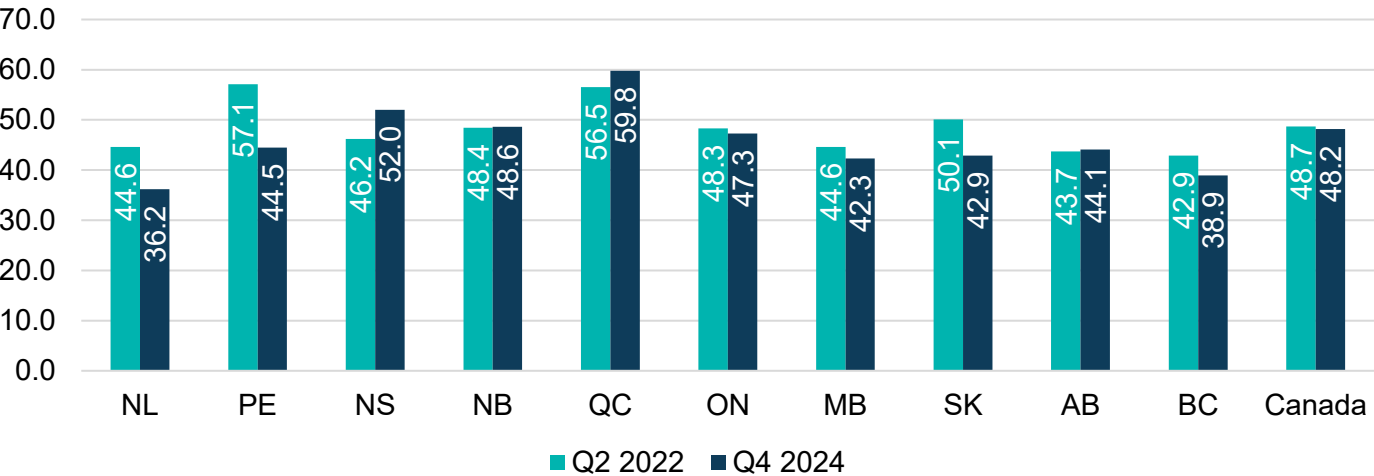


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 45-10-0073-01 Confidence in institutions, by gender and province; Canadian Social Survey (CSS), Q2 2022 to Q4 2024

Confidence in the Justice System and Courts (rating 4 or 5) in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q2 2022 to Q4 2024



Confidence in the Justice System and Courts (rating 4 or 5) by Province (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q2 2022 and Q4 2024



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 45-10-0073-01 Confidence in institutions, by gender and province; Canadian Social Survey (CSS), Q2 2022 to Q4 2024

Confidence in Institutions: Justice System & Courts

This indicator was measured using the following question, “Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means ‘No confidence at all’ and 5 means ‘A great deal of confidence’, how much confidence do you have in the justice system and courts?”

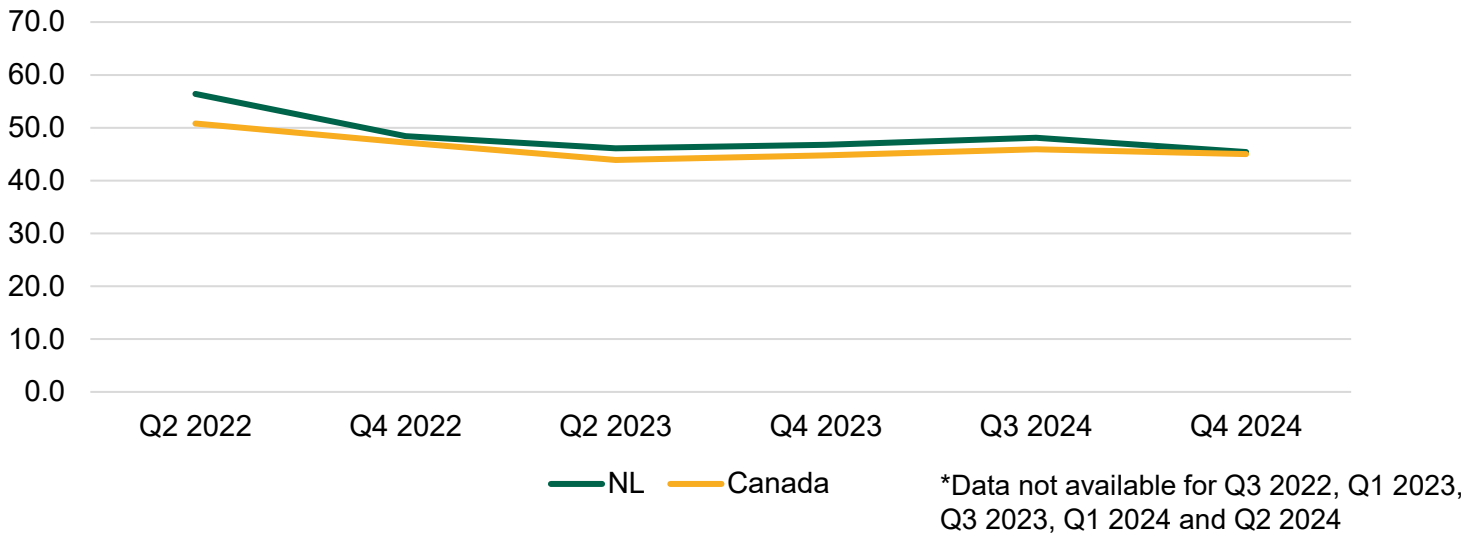
- Confidence in the justice system and courts decreased in NL from Q2 2022 to Q4 2024 (19% decrease). Across Canada, confidence decreased from Q2 2022 to Q2 2023 but increased again after that to comparable levels to Q2 2022.
- From Q2 2022 to Q4 2024, confidence in the justice systems and courts was lower in NL compared to Canada.
- In Q2 2022, NL ranked seventh (tied with MB) for its confidence in the justice system and courts and in Q4 2024 NL ranked tenth (1=best and 10=worst).

Confidence in Institutions: School System

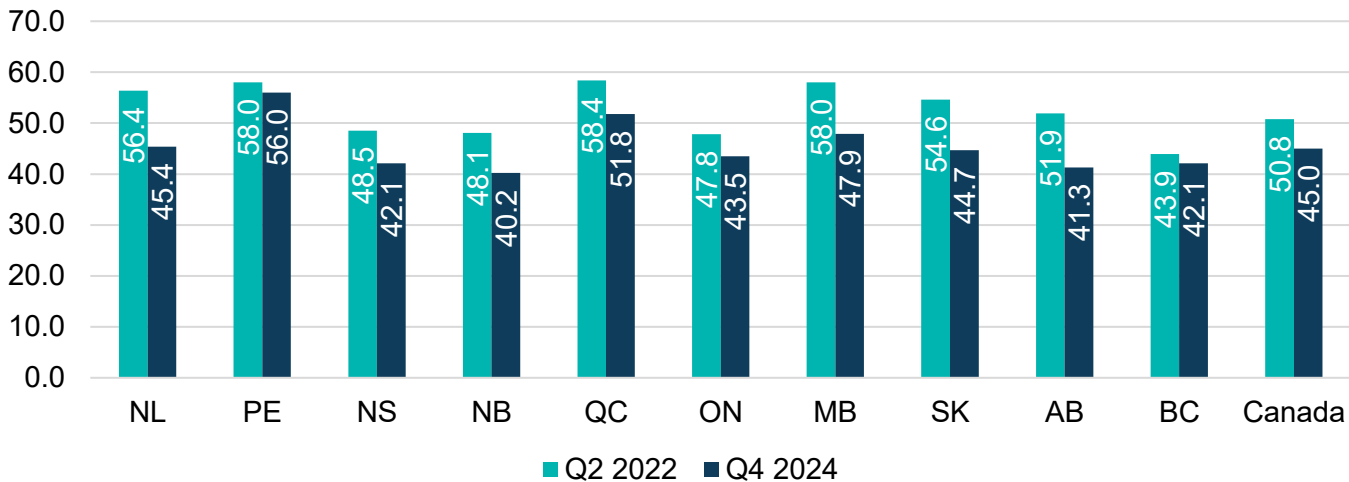
This indicator was measured using the following question, “Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means ‘No confidence at all’ and 5 means ‘A great deal of confidence’, how much confidence do you have in the school system?”

- Overall, from Q2 2022 to Q4 2024, confidence in the school system decreased in NL (20% decrease) and across Canada (11% decrease).
- Confidence in the school system was slightly higher in NL compared to Canada from Q2 2022 to Q4 2024.
- In both Q2 2022 and Q4 2024, NL ranked fourth for its confidence in the school system (1=best and 10=worst).

Confidence in the School System (rating 4 or 5) in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q2 2022 to Q4 2024

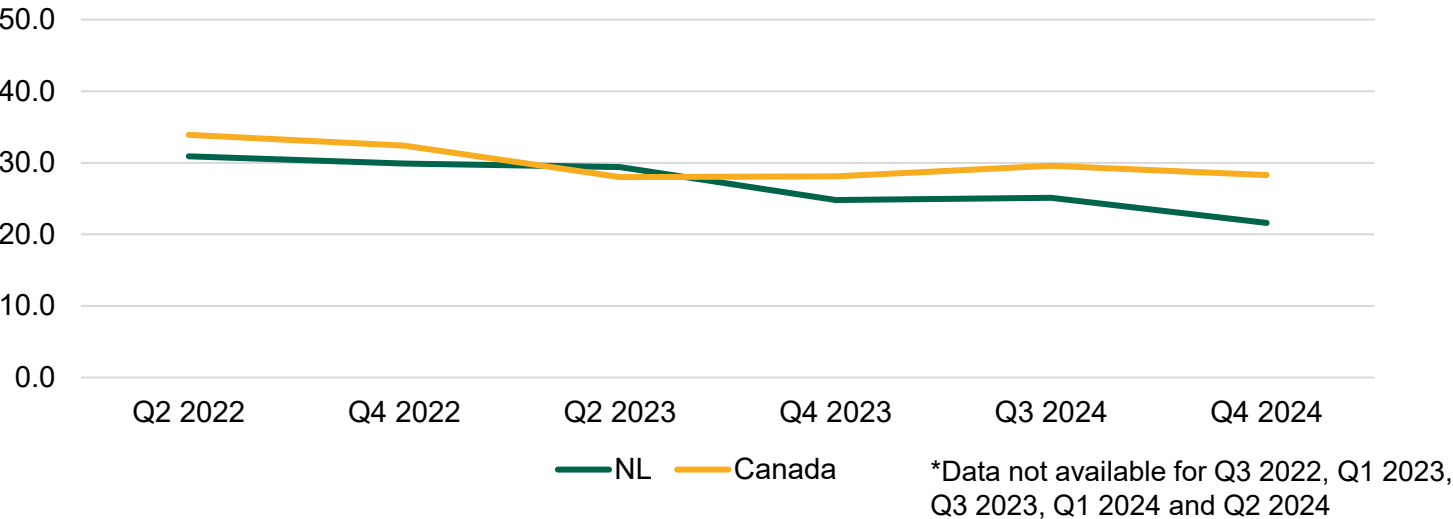


Confidence in the School System (rating 4 or 5) by Province (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q2 2022 and Q4 2024

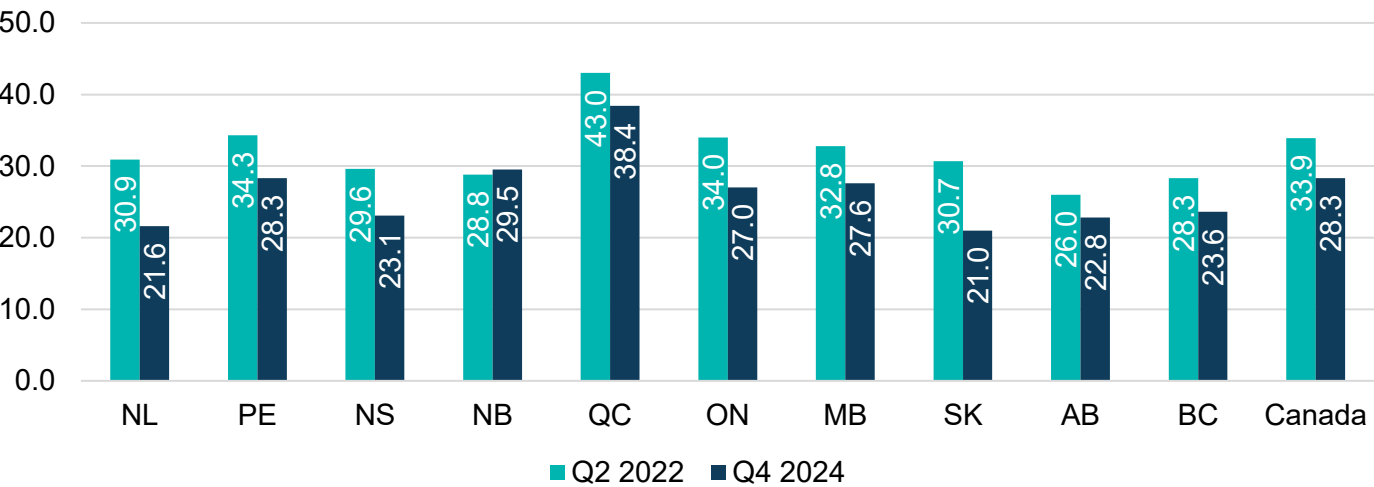


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 45-10-0073-01 Confidence in institutions, by gender and province; Canadian Social Survey (CSS), Q2 2022 to Q4 2024

Confidence in Federal Parliament (rating 4 or 5) in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q2 2022 to Q4 2024



Confidence in Federal Parliament (rating 4 or 5) by Province (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q2 2022 and Q4 2024



Confidence in Institutions: Federal Parliament

This indicator was measured using the following question, “Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means ‘No confidence at all’ and 5 means ‘A great deal of confidence’, how much confidence do you have in Federal Parliament?”

- Overall, from Q2 2022 to Q4 2024, confidence in Federal Parliament decreased in NL (30% decrease) and across Canada (17% decrease).
- Confidence in Federal Parliament has generally been lower in NL compared to Canada (with the exception of Q2 2023).
- In Q2 2022, NL ranked fifth for its confidence in Federal Parliament and in Q4 2024 NL ranked ninth (1=best and 10=worst).

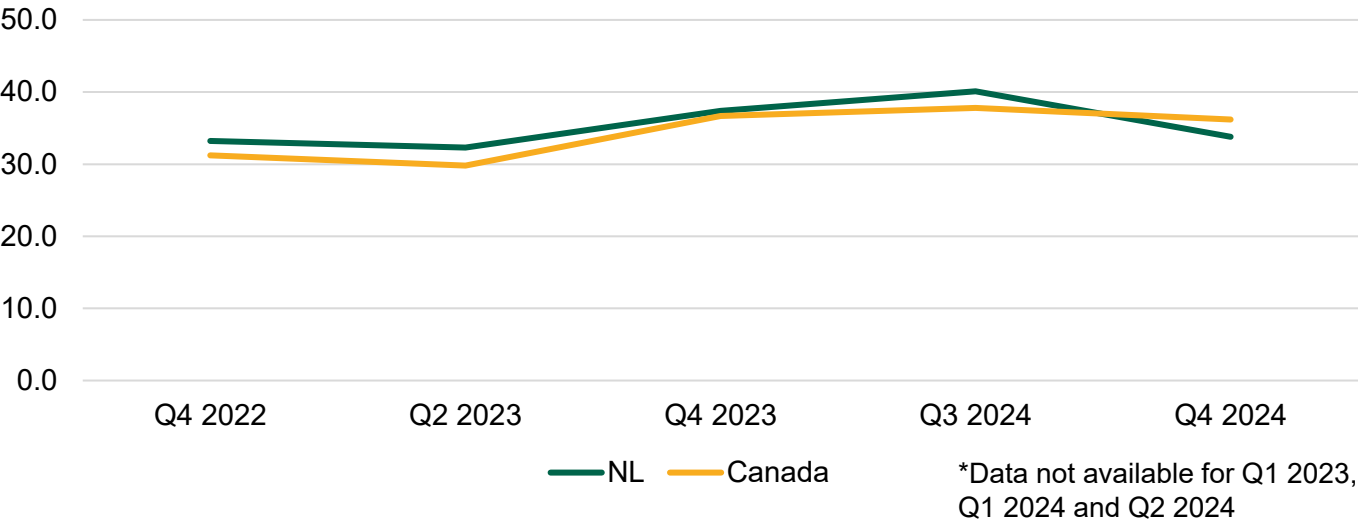
Source: Statistics Canada. Table 45-10-0073-01 Confidence in institutions, by gender and province; Canadian Social Survey (CSS), Q2 2022 to Q4 2024

Confidence in Institutions: Canadian Media

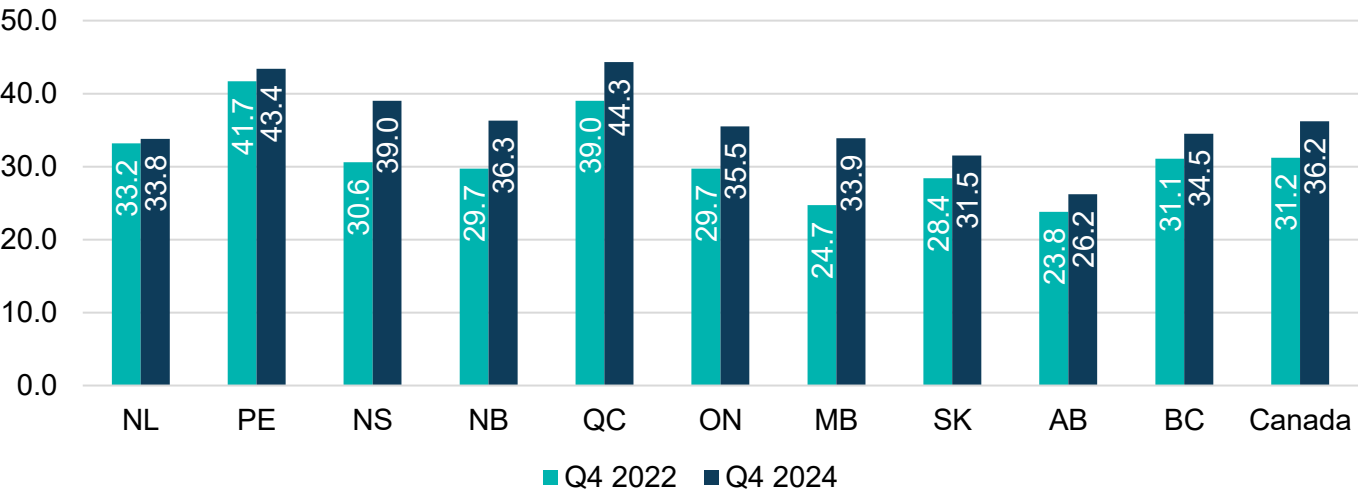
This indicator was measured using the following question, “Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means ‘No confidence at all’ and 5 means ‘A great deal of confidence’, how much confidence do you have in the Canadian media?”

- Overall, from Q4 2022 to Q4 2024, confidence in the Canadian Media increased across Canada. In NL, confidence in the Canadian Media increased in NL from Q4 2022 to Q3 2024 but decreased in Q4 2024.
- Confidence in the Canadian Media has been slightly higher in NL compared to Canada (with the exception of Q4 2024).
- In Q4 2022, NL ranked third for its confidence in the Canadian Media and in Q4 2024 NL ranked eighth (1=best and 10=worst).

Confidence in the Canadian Media (rating 4 or 5) in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q4 2022 and Q4 2024



Confidence in the Canadian Media (rating 4 or 5) by Province (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q4 2022 and Q4 2024



(Source: Statistics Canada. Table 45-10-0073-01 Confidence in institutions, by gender and province; Canadian Social Survey (CSS), Q4 2022 to Q4 2024)



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