

New research estimates at least 20 security guards are assaulted every day in Canada

Kitchener, Ontario • 06 July 2026

New research by the Canadian Association of Security Professionals estimates that at least 20 security guards are assaulted every day in Canada — more than 7,300 annually. Canada does not collect statistics on assaults against security guards, so researchers identified and used two independent methods. Each method has limitations, but both produced nearly identical results, and the limitations suggest that the actual number is substantially higher.

Method 1. Assaults on security guards rarely receive widespread media coverage. National media outlets generally focus on larger stories, while local media may not be informed or may choose not to report assaults.

A notable exception is SooToday in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. SooToday reported seven incidents where security guards were assaulted during the first six months of 2026. Adjusting for population, this corresponds to an estimated 21 security guards assaulted per day nationwide.

This estimate assumes that Sault Ste. Marie is representative of the rest of Canada and that SooToday reported every assault that occurred locally. The estimate is also only based on incidents that resulted in police involvement and criminal charges. Many assaults are unreported or do not result in charges. Because of this, the actual number of assaults is significantly higher.

Method 2. Previous CA★SP research using Workers' Compensation Board data found that security guards are assaulted at half the rate of police officers. Assaults against police are tracked, and 13,600 “assaulting a peace officer” charges were laid in 2023 (the last year with complete data at Statistics Canada). This extrapolates to approximately 6,800 security guards assaulted annually, or 19 assaults per day. Given that the police do not charge everyone who assaults them, this number is also a minimum.

Security guards routinely respond to thefts, assaults, medical emergencies, and mental health crises, yet violence against them remains largely invisible. Canada needs greater awareness, better reporting, increased research, and improved training to prepare security guards to be safe and effective in their role.

— Dr. Roy Jensen, CA★SP Director

CA★SP has examined security guard licensing and training requirements across Canada. Depending on the jurisdiction, individuals can receive a security licence with anywhere from no

training to one week of online instruction. This limited training does not prepare a person for the challenging, dangerous, and litigious situations security guards are routinely expected to manage.

Security guards are Canada's largest group of first responders. Recognizing the risks they face is the first step toward requiring increased training, which will reduce occupational violence, and improve the safety of security personnel and the public.

Calls to action

Two different methods return the same result: about 20 security guards are assaulted every day in Canada. This is a conservative estimate, with the actual number likely to be substantially higher.

CA[★]SP is calling on governments, regulators, employers, and industry stakeholders to:

- establish national reporting standards for assaults against security personnel
- review and strengthen the training standards for security guards
- increase public awareness of the role security guards play in protecting people and property
- fund independent research into violence against security personnel

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About us

The Canadian Association of Security Professionals is committed to professionalizing the security industry through training and advocacy. Position papers, courses, and future plans are available at www.CASP.ca

Methodology

Method 1

- seven assaults reported in Sault Ste. Marie (January to June 2026)
- Sault Ste. Marie population: approximately 76,000; Canada population: 41,400,000
- population-adjusted national estimate: approximately 7,600 assaults annually ($\approx 21/\text{day}$)

Method 2

- 13,600 “assaulting a peace officer” charges (Statistics Canada, 2023)
- previous **CA[★]SP** research found that security personnel experience assaults at approximately half the rate of police (<https://www.CASP.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Occupational-violence-towards-security-guards-executive-summary.pdf>)
- estimated security guard assaults: approximately 6,800 annually ($\approx 19/\text{day}$)

Although both methods use different data and have limitations, they independently produced remarkably similar results, increasing confidence that the true number is at least 20 assaults daily.