

## Discrimination against minority groups

Canadians increasingly believe there is ongoing discrimination in society against ethnic and racial groups in this country, especially Muslims and Aboriginal peoples, and to lesser extent Blacks, South Asians, Jews and Chinese people. There has been a sharp decline in perceptions of frequent discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Canadians take pride in their country being one that accepts if not celebrates its ethnic and cultural diversity. But at the same time there is widespread understanding that some groups experience ongoing discrimination in society today. Perceptions of discrimination have been largely stable over the past decade with a few notable shifts over the past four years.

The survey asked about each of seven specific ethnic or minority groups and asked about the level of discrimination in Canadian society today. In all cases, a majority say each of the groups experiences discrimination at least “sometimes”, and in all cases but one this view has increased since 2011.

As before, Canadians are most likely to say that it is Muslims who experience discrimination often (51%), and this reflects a noticeable increase since 2011 (up 9 percentage points). Almost as many now attribute the same level of discrimination to the country’s Aboriginal Peoples (47%, up 5 points), compared with 14 percent who say it happens rarely or never (down 7 from 2011).

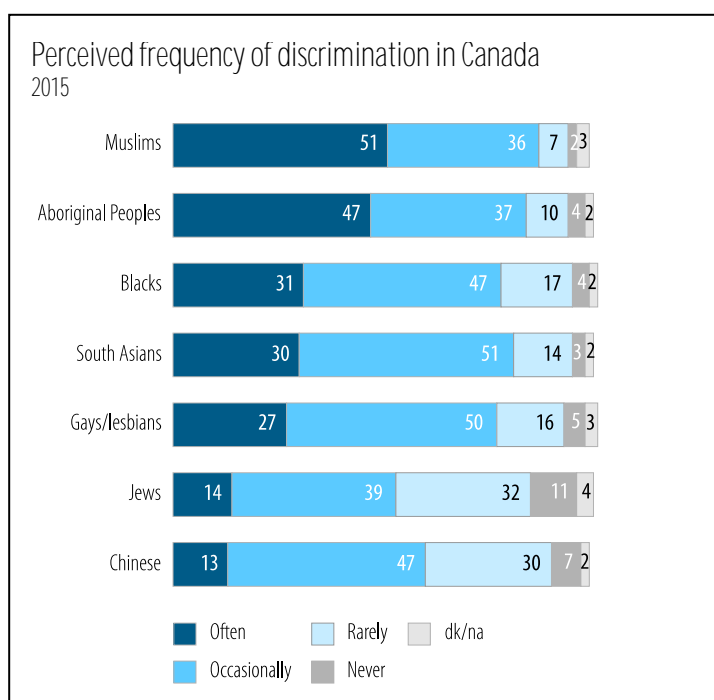
Three in ten say that discrimination happens often to Blacks (31%, up 4) and South Asians (30%, up 1), in both cases with increasing proportions indicating the frequency is “sometimes” (with shrinking minorities maintaining these groups experience little to no discrimination).

By comparison, just over one in ten Canadians continue to say that Jews (14%) and Chinese people (13%) experience frequent discrimination (both unchanged since 2011). In both cases, the proportion saying it happens “sometimes” has increased modestly.

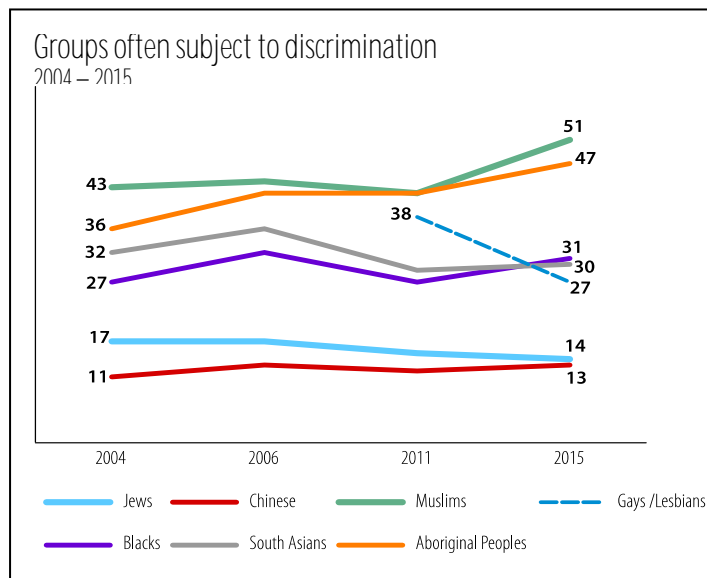
In sharp contrast, there has been a significant decline in Canadians’ perception of frequent discrimination against gays and lesbians in this country. The proportion who believe this happens often dropped to 27%, down 11 points since 2011), with a comparable increase in the proportion who say it occurs “sometimes” 50%, up 12). One in five continues to maintain that discrimination is rarely or never experienced by gays and lesbians in Canada.

Across the country, increasing perceptions of systemic discrimination against minority groups is evident across most of the population, and varies somewhat across segments:

- Rising concerns about treatment of Muslims is most evident in Quebec and Atlantic Canada, as well as among Canadians living in smaller sized communities and those with less education; this view is now most widespread among Canadians 18 to 29 (60%), Quebecers (68%) and Federal NDP supporters (62%), and least evident in Vancouver (40%) and among Conservative Party supporters (40%);



- Perceptions of frequent discrimination against Aboriginal peoples is up most noticeably in Montreal and Vancouver, and among Canadians with a high school diploma. This view is now most prevalent in Alberta (53%), among Canadians with a university degree (52%) and NDP supporters (57%), and least so among Canadians without a high school diploma (39%) and Conservative Party supporters (38%);



- Sensitivity to frequent discrimination against Blacks has increased especially in Ontario and eastern Canada and among the university educated, and is now most widespread in Quebec (notably in Montreal at 47%) and Toronto (41%), and lowest among Manitoba/Saskatchewan residents (13%) and Conservative Party supporters (23%);
- Rising concerns about the treatment of South Asians is most evident among Canadians 18 to 29, residents in smaller sized communities and those with lower levels of education. Belief such discrimination happens often has declined among Canadians with a university degree, as well as in Vancouver (to 18%, down 8) where a majority say it occurs sometimes.
- Belief in frequent discrimination against Jews is most prevalent in Quebec (23%; 25% in Montreal), while lowest in Vancouver (6%) and among Canadians with a university degree (9%).
- Perceptions of ongoing poor treatment of Chinese people is marginally higher in Vancouver (18%), but has declined since 2011, while increasing modestly in Montreal. Canadians 18 to 29 (20%) are twice as likely to agree with this view as are those 45 and older (10%), with the difference being in the proportion who say discrimination happens sometimes;
- Declining perceptions of frequent discrimination against gays and lesbians is across the board, but especially among younger Canadians, residents of Alberta and British Columbia, and NDP supporters. This view is now most widespread among BQ (40%) and Green Party (39%) supporters, and lowest in B.C. (16%);