



Brief: Police-reported statistics on firearm-related crime

Submitted to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security

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**Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics
Statistics Canada**

INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS), a division of Statistics Canada, is responsible for providing information to the justice community and the public on the nature and extent of crime and victimization and the administration of criminal and civil justice in Canada. Governance for the production of this information, through national data collection and reporting, is provided through the National Justice Statistics Initiative (NJSI). The NJSI is a collaboration between Federal, Provincial and Territorial Deputy Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety in Canada and the Chief Statistician of Canada.

It is important to note that the data included throughout this submission include only incidents that meet the threshold of a criminal offence as defined by the *Criminal Code of Canada* and which were reported by police.

Data availability specific to the criminal use of firearms

Statistics Canada collects data on all crimes reported to the police through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, and the Homicide Survey. Each are briefly outlined below.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The UCR Survey collects administrative records from police services. A range of information related to firearms is collected through the UCR Survey, including: *Criminal Code* violations specific to firearms, whether a firearm was present in the commission of a violent offence and whether a victim sustained an injury caused by a firearm. Below are the specific details collected through the UCR Survey by police services.

Most serious weapon present: indicates the most serious weapon present and deemed by police to have been relevant during the commission of a violent crime, regardless of whether or not the weapon was used, and whether or not a victim was involved. Of all types of weapons, the UCR Survey ranks a firearm as the most serious and will therefore always be captured in the UCR Survey. Present is defined as either used against a victim causing injury, used against a victim without causing injury (e.g., as a threat) or was present during the offence but was not used in any manner.

Weapon causing injury: indicates the type of weapon used during the commission of a violent offence if the victim suffered a physical injury.

The most serious weapon present could be different than the weapon causing injury if multiple weapons were involved.

The Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey is a separate survey whereby every police service in Canada reports data on every homicide in Canada, including the characteristics of the incidents, the victims and the accused persons / chargeable suspects. The scope of the survey is incidents of first and second degree murder, culpable manslaughter and infanticide. The Homicide Survey collects detailed information related to firearms where the firearm was the cause of death, including: whether the firearm was recovered; the ownership status of the firearm; whether the firearm was registered; and the classification of the identified weapon. After the survey underwent a redesign in 2019 in order to

improve data quality and enhance relevance. New firearm questions were added to address additional data needs, including: if the accused was in legal possession of the firearm; the status of an illegally owned firearm (e.g., stolen, lost or missing); the action type and barrel length of the firearm; whether the firearm was sent for tracing; and the origin of the firearm (i.e., within Canada or outside). Data for some of these are subject to higher levels of unknown or non-response and include cautions regarding reliability.

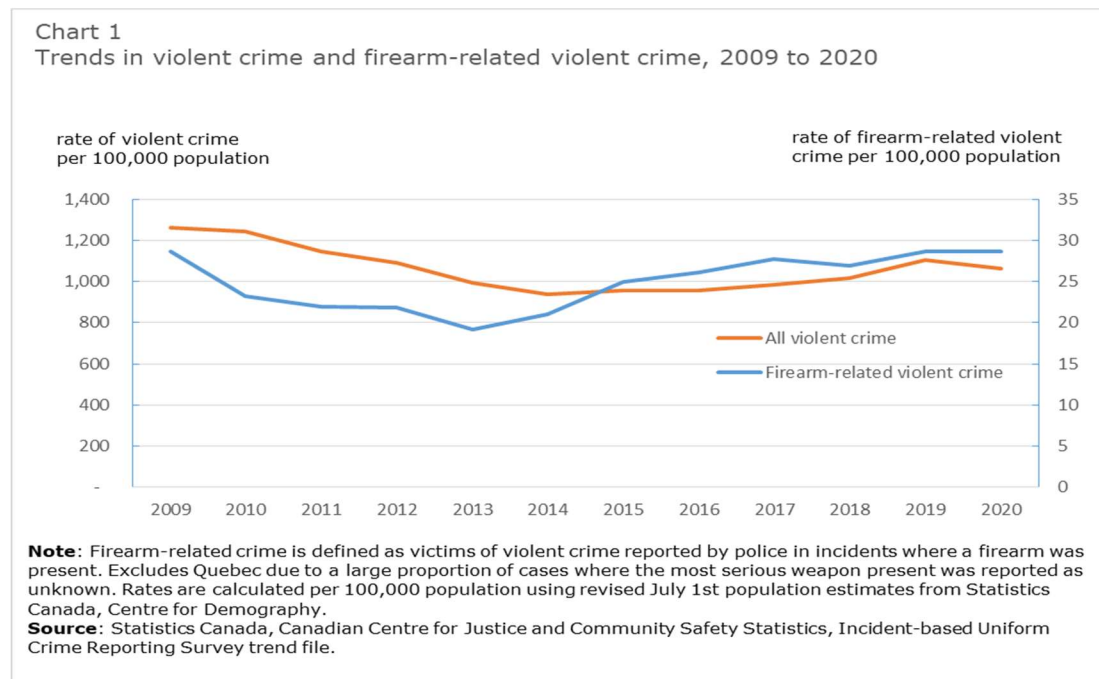
Trends in firearm-related violent crime in Canada, 2009 to 2020

As has been found historically, violent Criminal Code offences in 2020 accounted for about one in five crimes that came to the attention of police. Firearm-related violent crime typically represents less than 3% of police-reported violent crime in Canada; nevertheless, it has a significant emotional and physical impact on victims, families and communities. Additionally, rates of firearm-related violence have seen an increase over the past several years.

For the majority of the analysis that follows, firearm-related violent crime refers to violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm and where police deemed the presence of the firearm relevant to the incident. Of note, for an incident to be considered firearm-related, a firearm need only be present during the commission of the offence, not necessarily used.ⁱ

Increase in firearm-related violent crime since 2013, with large increase in 2015

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of victims of firearm-related violent crime in Canada decreased, following a similar trend in overall violent crime. However, firearm-related violent crime started an upward climb in 2014, with the largest increase documented between 2014 and 2015.



The rate of firearm-related violent crime in Canada was found to be 20% higher in the six years from 2015 to 2020 than over the previous six years (2009 to 2014).

Firearm-related violent crime highest in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Territories

As with violent crime generally, rates of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were highest in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Territories. The high rates of firearm-related violent crime in Saskatchewan and Manitoba were mainly due to high rates of robbery and major assaults where a firearm was present.ⁱⁱ Among the provinces, Saskatchewan reported the second highest combined rate of firearm-related homicide and attempted murder in 2020 (second to Nova Scotia where the high rate was due to the mass shooting in April 2020).ⁱⁱⁱ

High rates of firearm-related violent crime may be a reflection of overall high rates of violence. The provinces where the proportion of violent crime that was firearm-related was highest were Saskatchewan (3.9%), Alberta (3.4%) and Ontario (3.2%). This was also the case among major cities. As in 2019, the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) with the highest rates of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were Regina, Brantford, Winnipeg and Saskatoon.

Table 1
Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, provinces and territories, rural and urban regions, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Geography	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019		2020		Change in rate between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020	Change in rate 2019 to 2020
	average rate ¹	average rate ¹	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	percent	
Canada	23	27	8,256	29	8,344	29			20	0
Urban	22	26	6,699	27	6,617	27			17	-2
Rural South	17	23	875	25	1,001	28			32	14
Rural North	53	76	682	81	726	86			42	6
Newfoundland and Labrador	12	13	71	14	57	11			11	-20
Urban	9	9	28	10	31	11			2	11
Rural South	12	16	29	14	20	10			27	-31
Rural North	36	41	14	50	6	22			16	-57
Prince Edward Island	10	12	14	9	18	11			20	27
Urban	10	11	3	3	12	12			8	294
Rural South	11	15	11	20	6	11			39	-46
Nova Scotia	25	18	171	18	210	22			-27	22
Urban	28	19	112	18	161	25			-30	42
Rural South	19	15	59	18	49	15			-20	-17
New Brunswick	17	23	185	26	199	28			36	7
Urban	15	21	106	25	104	24			44	-3
Rural South	20	26	79	29	95	34			26	20
Ontario	19	23	3,435	24	3,547	24			22	2
Urban	20	24	3,280	25	3,360	25			22	1
Rural South	9	10	114	11	133	12			8	16
Rural North	17	17	41	16	54	21			0	32
Manitoba	35	50	802	60	676	51			44	-16
Urban	33	51	586	62	478	50			58	-19
Rural South	19	24	91	31	89	30			25	-3
Rural North	101	123	125	142	109	123			22	-13
Saskatchewan	35	67	920	80	858	74			93	-7
Urban	29	57	531	71	436	58			99	-19
Rural South	33	54	214	59	236	65			67	11
Rural North	166	383	175	444	186	471			131	6
Alberta	28	36	1,572	36	1,709	39			28	7
Urban	27	33	1,197	33	1,210	33			22	0
Rural South	24	40	197	41	264	54			66	31
Rural North	56	80	178	71	235	94			44	32
British Columbia	23	19	947	19	947	18			-19	-1
Urban	23	19	835	18	802	17			-20	-5
Rural South	16	16	81	19	109	25			-4	34
Rural North	32	31	31	27	36	31			-3	16
Yukon	36	47	24	58	26	62			29	7
Urban	24	28	11	32	13	37			19	16
Rural North	92	138	13	185	13	186			50	1
Northwest Territories	45	84	52	115	64	142			87	23
Urban	12	25	10	45	10	44			113	-1
Rural North	74	139	42	184	54	239			89	29
Nunavut	127	129	63	163	33	84			2	-49

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of victims over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

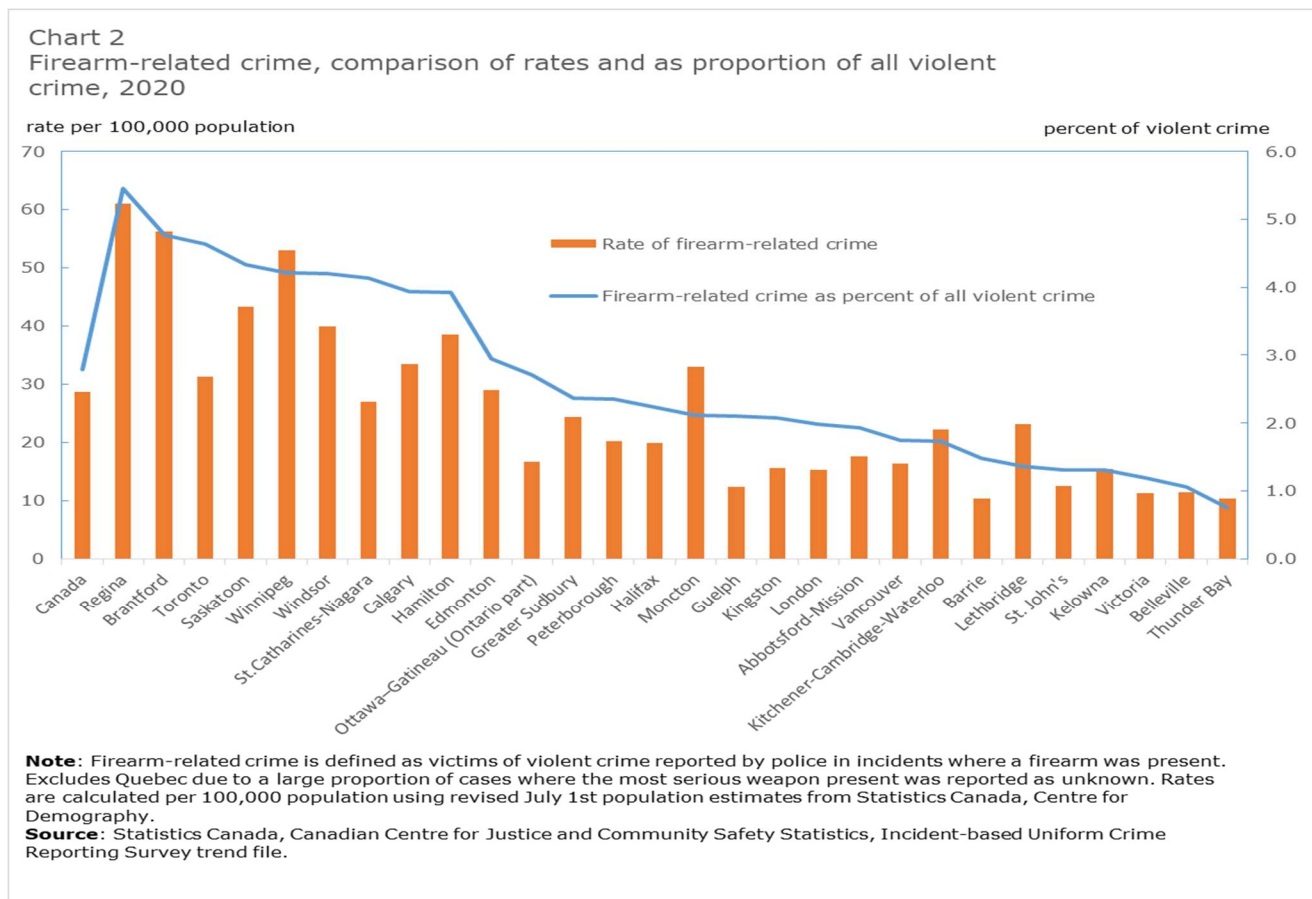
2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

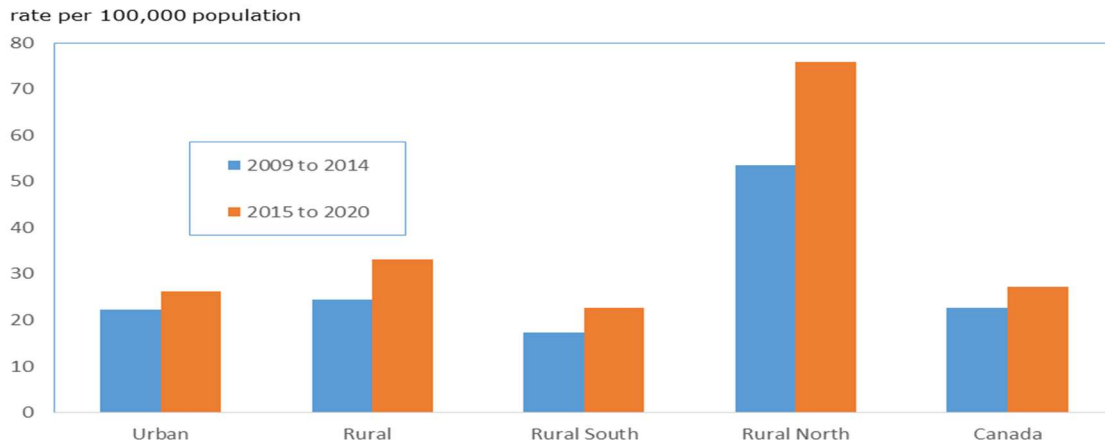
Rates of firearm-related violent crime higher in rural compared to urban areas in most provinces

Firearm-related crime in rural areas differs by province and territory. As in previous years, rates of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were higher in rural areas than in urban centres in most provinces. A variety of factors can help to explain the higher rates in these areas. For example, more firearm ownership may contribute to higher rates in rural communities, as firearms may be required for hunting or farming, and therefore a firearm may be more often present when an offence is committed.



In many provinces, while rates of firearm-related violence were higher in rural areas (particularly in the rural North), violence that involved firearms was proportionally more frequent in urban areas. In particular, in 2020, the urban jurisdictions where firearms were the most common (as a proportion of violent crimes) were urban centres in Saskatchewan (4.6% of violent crime), Manitoba (3.5%) and Ontario (3.4%).^y The rural areas where these proportions were the highest were in Alberta, where firearms were more frequently present in crime in southern rural areas (4.4%) and northern rural areas (3.8%), compared to urban areas (3.2%). Proportions were also high (over 3%) in rural Saskatchewan (3.5% in the rural South and 3.4% in the North), although lower than in urban areas.

Chart 3 Trends in firearm-related violent crime, 2009 to 2020



Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Rural North encompasses rural police services in the Territories as well as in the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. See "Data sources and concepts" section for a full definition of urban, rural South and rural North.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Firearm-related violent crimes in urban areas most often involve handguns, while rifles or shotguns are more often used in rural areas

In 2020, for most victims of firearm-related violent crime in urban areas (63%) and in most CMAs, the incident involved handguns (Table 8).vi Handguns were the most common firearm present in Toronto (86% of firearm-related violent crime), Windsor (80%), Ottawa (78%) and Barrie (78%). The CMAs with the highest rates of handgun-related crime were Windsor, Brantford, Hamilton, Toronto and Winnipeg.

In contrast, rifles and shotguns were used most frequently in the commission of a firearm-related violent crime in rural areas (46% in the rural South and 39% in the rural North). Other firearm-like weapons, such as pellet guns accounted for a notable share of firearm-related crime in the rural South (29%) and rural North (32%).

Finally, the highest rates of handgun-related crime in Canada were reported in northern Saskatchewan, which is all rural, and the Northwest Territories. Moreover, rates of handgun-related crime in Canada’s rural North were considerably higher between 2015 and 2020 compared to the previous six-year period.

Firearm-related violent crimes involving organized crime or street gangs

Although the UCR Survey has been structured to collect data from police on the connection of the crime to organized crime or street gang activity, there are organizational challenges to reporting accurate information. In 2017, Statistics Canada and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police released seven recommendations improve reporting. These included, for example, support by the Police Service Executive to raise the priority of collecting organized crime data, and; amending policies should the information on organized-crime involvement reside somewhere other than the

system used for reporting to the UCR Survey (add reference). After a concerted effort to provide police with best practices and support in reporting, Statistics Canada began publishing in 2018 information from police on organized crime and street gang activity, with data from 2016 onward. Police services representing 93% of the Canadian population reported this information specific to organized crime in 2020.

In 2020, where this information was reported, 6% firearm-related violent crime was identified by police as confirmed or suspected to be committed by, and for the benefit of, a criminal organization or street gang.^{vii} Although police report and sign off on these data, there are likely still challenges in reporting accurately whether or not the incident was committed by or for the benefit of organized crime, therefore this is likely an undercount.

Among incidents with a firearm present, the most frequent offences that were identified as confirmed or suspected to have been committed for the benefit of organized crime or gang activity were homicide (x%), other violations causing death and attempted murder (27% combined), robbery (22%) and discharging a firearm with intent (21%).^{viii}

Trends in firearm-related homicide

Based on detailed information from the Homicide Survey, the national homicide rate increased for a second consecutive year in 2020, marking the highest rate since 2005 (1.95 per 100,000 population). In 2020, police across Canada reported 743 homicides, 56 more than 2019. Of the 743 homicides, 277 were caused by a firearm, 15 more than in 2019 (0.73 per 100,000 population). It should be noted that April 2020 marks the deadliest mass shooting in Canadian history when 22 people were killed in Nova Scotia.

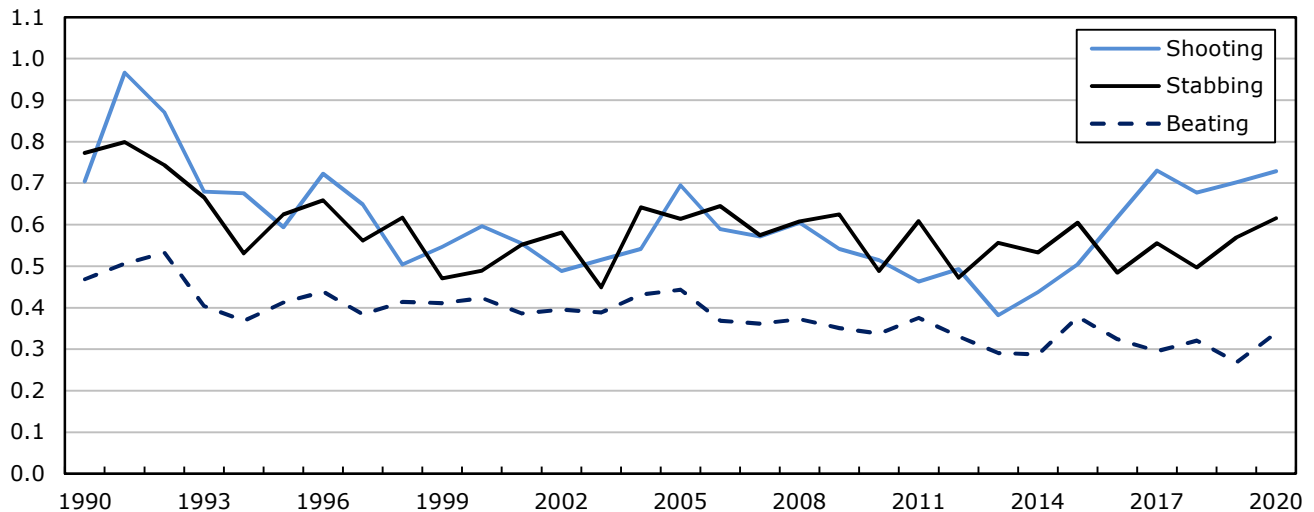
The rate of firearm-related homicides has been generally increasing over the last eight years, seeing a 91% increase from 2013 to 2020, moving from 1.45 homicides per 100,000 population in 2013 to a rate of 1.95 in 2020. As a result, the proportion of homicides that involved a firearm rose from 26% of all homicides in 2013 to 37% in 2020.

More than one in three homicides in Canada are firearm-related

Historically, shooting and stabbing have been the most common methods used to commit homicide in Canada. However, in the past five years shooting has become more common (Chart 5), accounting for 37% to 41% of all homicides where the method used to commit the homicide was known. The rise in total firearm-related homicides in Canada is a result of the increases in Nova Scotia (+22), and Alberta (+21). Nova Scotia's increase was due to the 22 homicides that occurred during the Nova Scotia attacks, while increases in Alberta can mostly be attributed to more incidents occurring in the CMAs.

Chart 4
Homicides, by most common method, Canada, 1990 to 2020

rate per 100,000
 population



Note: Populations are based upon July 1st, 2020 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Almost three-quarters of gang-related homicides reported in 2020 were committed with a firearm

In 2020, 39% of firearm-related homicides were related to gang activity, the lowest proportion since 2015. Overall, in 2020, gang-related homicides committed with a firearm represented 14% of all homicides, compared to 20% the year before and 19% in 2018. Put differently, of the 148 gang-related homicides reported in 2020, 107 or 72%, were committed with a firearm, the lowest proportion since 2013.

In 2020 firearms were recovered in 39% of firearm-related homicides. Of those incidents where the firearm was recovered, 69% were sent for tracing. This was in fact higher than in 2019 when roughly the same proportion were recovered but only 43% were sent for tracing. In 2020, the origin was reported as unknown for 60% of firearms sent for tracing; this was 54% for 2019.^{ix}

As mentioned, the Homicide Survey underwent a re-design in 2019, adding considerable content related to firearms, including this information on tracing. However to date, much of this information has not been released due to low data quality resulting from a high proportion unknowns reported.

Handguns remain the most widely used firearm in homicides

The type of firearm used to commit homicide in Canada has changed over the past 30 years. Prior to the 1990s, rifles or shotguns were used far more frequently than handguns. However, a shift towards the use of handguns in homicides in Canada has been observed since the early 1990s.

Handguns continued to be the most used firearm in homicides in 2020 with 49% of all firearm-related homicides being committed with a handgun. The proportion of handguns used in firearm-related homicides was higher than other types of firearms in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta where a rifle or shotgun was used in 83% and 45%, respectively. This was also the case in Nova Scotia, where the type of firearm was unknown for two-thirds of firearm-related homicides in 2020.

Data gaps related to firearms

It is important to recognize that there are limitations in our data collection about firearms used in crime. There is little information currently collected about the characteristics of these firearms, such as details about the exact type of gun, who owned it (e.g., accused, victim, or someone else), how it was stored, or whether the owner was licensed. In addition, while some police services collect information on shootings, there has been no consistent definition of a shooting applied by police services in Canada. There was also a need in Canada for a consistent definition as to what firearms are considered 'crime guns'.

2021 UCR Survey Expansion and standardized definitions

To address these limitations, the CCJCSS carried out a feasibility study in consultation with key stakeholders and identified information priorities and data that could potentially be collected from police services using the UCR Survey. Consequently, the CCJCSS has made a number of revisions to the UCR Survey, which began collection in 2021. It should be noted that it may take a few years for these changes to be fully implemented by police services in a way that allows the reporting of this information to the UCR Survey. As a result the UCR Survey now collects:

- information on the number of firearms recovered, seized or stolen in a criminal incident;
- improved measures related to "shootings" through development and implementation of a standard definition of a shooting to be used by police services and adding a variable to the UCR Survey to identify whether a firearm was discharged in an incident;
- Development and implementation of a standard definition for a "crime gun" to be used by police services. "Crime guns" are defined as a) firearms (as defined under the *Criminal Code*) that are used or suspected to be used in the commission of a criminal offence, regardless of whether the firearm was possessed legally; or b) a firearm that has an obliterated, altered or removed serial number.

Origin of crime-guns

Of particular relevance to this committee is that there is currently little information publically available which indicates origin of firearms used in crime to determine whether a firearm used in a crime was stolen, illegally purchased or smuggled into the country.

There are currently no complete information on the origin of every firearm used in a criminal incident. First, not all firearms used in a crime are recovered, therefore there is no weapon to send for tracing. Second, not all recovered firearms are sent for tracing. The RCMP Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre processes firearm tracing requests to assist national and international law

enforcement agencies in their investigations. They maintain a database that contains the tracing data for firearms when a firearms trace request has been submitted (usually only to support a criminal investigation or a prosecution). However, when tracing information is not required for such purposes, a request is not typically sent to the Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre. Further, there is also no requirement for provinces and territories to send their guns to RCMP for tracing so there is no national firearms tracing database. Finally, in addition to the tracing service provided by the RCMP, Ontario has its own Firearms Tracing and Enforcement Centre.

The CCJCSS is currently working on an additional feasibility study in collaboration with Public Safety Canada which takes a more in-depth look at the requirements for supporting comprehensive national data collection on the origin of crime gun, with respect to both tracing (where an organization or law enforcement agency gathers information on where a crime gun originated, and its history, as determined through firearms tracing) and tracking (where a law enforcement agency gathers intelligence on the movement of crime guns from the point of their origin, through to their link to a criminal occurrence). This project will make recommendations on how to produce national data on the origin of crime guns in fiscal year 2022-23.

Key stakeholders will be engaged to determine:

- the types of data collected that are relevant to either tracing or tracking crime guns, and the processes and policies/procedures in place regarding tracing and tracking;
- data and information sharing capabilities and practices, including any challenges or barriers to sharing or obtaining these data or information;
- resources that would be required to collect tracking and tracing information on all crime guns that come into possession of police services.

Additional information gaps

Aside from information about crime guns, there are a number of additional gaps in our knowledge of the nature of firearm-related violence in Canada. Although efforts have been made to render the UCR Survey as a tool to identify crimes committed for the benefit of organized crime or street gangs, the extent to which organized crime is involved in firearm-related violence is currently unclear. In addition, there remain gaps in various socio-economic and demographic information that would help understand risk factors for criminal justice system involvement, in order to inform prevention. This includes information on the Indigenous and racialized identity (with the exception of homicide data), and socioeconomic characteristics of both victims and persons accused of firearm-related violence.

In addition to working to improve data collection for information directly related to firearms, Statistics Canada is currently working with the policing community and key organizations to make recommendation on how to collect police-reported data on the Indigenous and racialized identity of victims and accused persons via the UCR Survey.

NOTES

ⁱ This measure does not include non-violent Criminal Code offences where a firearm was present, including administrative offences such as unsafe storage, or firearm-specific violent offences such as discharging a firearm with intent where there was no victim identified.

ⁱⁱ Major assaults include aggravated assault (level 2) or assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 3).

ⁱⁱⁱ This combined rate also includes other violations causing death such as criminal negligence causing death.

^{iv} A census metropolitan area (CMA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centre on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core, based on adjusted data from the previous census.

^v The jurisdictions where a higher proportion of violent crime involved firearms in rural, compared to urban, areas in 2020 were in New Brunswick, Alberta (both rural North and South), the rural South of British Columbia and rural areas in Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

^{vi} The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey uses four categories to collect information on the most serious weapon present during the commission of a crime, regardless of whether or not it was used. Handguns consist of any firearm that is designed to be held and fired with one hand, including semi-automatic pistols. Rifles and shotguns include most long-barrelled firearms. Sawed-off rifles or shotguns and all fully automatic firearms are collected separately and identified as “other firearms” in this article. In addition, information is also collected on firearm-like weapons such as a pellet gun or a flare gun and firearms where the type is unknown.

^{vii} Based on information provided by those police services included in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file that reported information on organized crime and street gang activity.

^{viii} These figures are based on the most serious violation against the victim. Using an examining victims where any violation in the incident involved discharging a firearm, 11% of the incidents were reported as confirmed or suspected organized crime or street gang activity.

^{ix} When origin is reported as unknown this means either the trace was unsuccessful and no origin was determined or that the origin information had not yet been received by the police service from the tracing service or was not reported by police to the survey.

RESOURCES

Armstrong, A, and Jaffray, B. 2021. “Homicide in Canada, 2020.” *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no 85-002-X. Available at: [Homicide in Canada, 2020 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.htm)

Moreau, G. Moreau, G. 2021. “Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2020.” *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Available at: [Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2020 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.htm)

Munch, C. and Silver, W. 2017. “Measuring organized crime in Canada: Results of a pilot project.” *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Available at: [Measuring organized crime in Canada: Results of a pilot project \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/00001-eng.htm)

[APPENDIX A: Additional tables of relevance](#)

The tables below were requested from Vice-Chair of the Committee Ms. Raquel Dancho. Additional data tables can be provided upon request.

Table 1a
Number of homicide victims, by number of victims killed in an incident and primary weapon, Canada, 1974 to 2020

Year ¹	One victim						Two victims						Three or more victims					
	Firearm ²	Sharp object ³	Physical force	Other weapon ⁴	No weapon ⁵	Unknown	Firearm ²	Sharp object ³	Physical force	Other weapon ⁴	No weapon ⁵	Unknown	Firearm ²	Sharp object ³	Physical force	Other weapon ⁴	No weapon ⁵	Unknown
1974	214	...	...	299	...	1	44	...	...	8	...	0	25	...	...	6	...	0
1975	226	...	...	361	...	0	46	...	...	24	...	0	20	...	...	23	...	0
1976	215	...	...	362	...	0	32	...	...	18	...	0	11	...	...	29	...	0
1977	208	...	...	396	...	0	28	...	...	18	...	0	24	...	...	38	...	0
1978	206	...	...	383	...	0	31	...	...	17	...	0	13	...	...	12	...	0
1979	171	...	...	366	...	2	36	...	...	30	...	0	0	...	...	27	...	0
1980	164	...	...	315	...	0	22	...	...	24	...	0	8	...	...	58	...	0
1981	173	...	...	416	...	1	18	...	...	28	...	0	8	...	...	3	...	0
1982	184	...	...	382	...	0	32	...	...	20	...	0	33	...	...	16	...	0
1983	178	...	...	411	...	0	30	...	...	40	...	0	16	...	...	7	...	0
1984	171	...	...	396	...	0	34	...	...	28	...	0	24	...	...	14	...	0
1985	175	...	...	441	...	0	29	...	...	27	...	0	18	...	...	14	...	0
1986	143	...	...	354	...	0	21	...	...	31	...	0	11	...	...	7	...	0
1987	155	...	...	407	...	1	35	...	...	27	...	0	12	...	...	7	...	0
1988	136	...	...	381	...	0	20	...	...	22	...	0	13	...	...	4	...	0
1989	164	...	...	366	...	1	28	...	...	38	...	0	24	...	...	33	...	0
1990	159	...	...	413	...	0	36	...	...	32	...	0	0	...	...	17	...	0
1991	214	211	120	113	1	6	33	11	1	13	0	0	24	2	0	5	0	0
1992	199	198	126	95	2	8	23	12	6	9	0	2	25	1	1	27	0	0
1993	171	177	114	99	5	4	24	9	2	10	1	0	0	5	1	4	0	0
1994	168	149	104	91	9	6	28	2	0	14	2	0	0	3	0	20	0	0
1995	151	171	117	85	0	7	17	12	2	19	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
1996	164	158	93	108	1	11	33	16	5	6	0	0	17	21	0	2	0	0
1997	155	159	100	78	2	7	26	8	3	19	0	0	13	1	0	16	0	0
1998	129	168	101	91	3	15	20	11	3	6	0	0	3	6	3	0	0	0
1999	134	131	104	93	3	12	28	9	5	10	0	0	4	3	0	3	0	0
2000	153	137	103	86	2	11	26	9	0	6	0	1	4	4	0	4	0	0
2001	132	159	78	99	3	12	25	8	0	15	2	2	15	3	0	0	0	0
2002	130	174	106	86	7	37	16	8	2	4	0	0	7	0	2	1	0	2
2003	135	139	98	106	6	28	25	2	2	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
2004	149	190	100	98	1	31	18	13	0	17	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0
2005	185	177	111	90	3	27	29	14	2	6	0	1	10	6	0	3	0	0
2006	158	198	87	73	1	25	16	5	5	8	0	0	18	6	0	8	0	0
2007	154	170	86	91	1	30	20	13	0	3	0	2	14	4	0	5	0	4
2008	179	179	104	68	3	23	16	10	1	9	0	0	6	13	0	1	0	2
2009	159	201	84	84	0	23	17	9	0	12	0	2	6	0	0	10	0	4
2010	151	164	88	83	7	20	24	2	2	7	0	3	0	0	1	5	0	0
2011	137	203	103	87	7	18	16	6	0	10	0	4	6	0	0	11	0	0
2012	142	151	97	71	4	24	26	7	0	11	0	0	3	7	3	2	0	0
2013	108	175	88	69	4	17	23	16	0	1	2	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
2014	124	171	77	70	4	18	18	9	5	3	0	1	13	8	0	0	0	3
2015	155	194	116	64	2	22	19	17	0	4	2	0	6	4	0	6	0	0
2016	192	161	107	78	1	25	28	8	2	2	0	2	3	2	0	5	0	0
2017	213	180	75	74	3	32	41	20	3	10	0	0	13	0	2	1	0	0
2018	214	173	96	70	4	34	26	8	0	4	0	2	11	3	2	13	0	0
2019	239	203	86	68	2	39	23	9	1	3	0	2	0	4	0	8	0	0
2020	234	222	93	89	3	39	32	3	2	6	0	1	11	5	0	0	0	3

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Disaggregated data for 1974 to 1990 is unavailable due to differing methods of collection.

2. Firearm includes homicides where the primary weapon used was a rifle or shotgun, sawed-off rifle or shotgun, handgun, fully automatic firearm, other firearm-like weapon (e.g., nail gun or pellet gun), or a firearm but the type of firearm was unknown.

3. Sharp object includes homicides where the primary weapon used was a knife or other piercing or cutting instrument.

4. Other weapon includes homicides where the primary weapon used was a club or blunt instrument, an explosive, a motor vehicle, a ligature, a burning liquid or caustic agent, a poison, drug, gas or fume, fire, water, or other primary weapon (e.g., electricity, dog, pillow, sand).

5. No weapon includes homicides in which there was no weapon used to kill the victim. Examples include newborns who suffocate on their own secretions, as well as incidents where the victim was frightened, fled and encountered misadventure, such as falling off a cliff or running into the path of an on-coming vehicle. Also includes homicides resulting from hypothermia or exposure.

Note: There may be a small number of homicides in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 1b

Number of victims per incident in firearm and non-firearm-related homicides with three or more victims, Canada, 1974 to 2020

Year	Three or more victims									Average total number of victims per incident
	Number of firearm ¹ victims	Total number of firearm-related incidents	Average number of victims per incident	Number of non-firearm ² victims	Total number of non-firearm-related incidents	Average number of victims per incident	Total number of victims	Total number of incidents ³		
1974	25	7	3.57	6	2	3.00	31	9	3.44	
1975	20	6	3.33	23	4	5.75	43	9	4.78	
1976	11	3	3.67	29	8	3.63	40	11	3.64	
1977	24	7	3.43	38	6	6.33	62	12	5.17	
1978	13	4	3.25	12	3	4.00	25	7	3.57	
1979	0	0	...	27	8	3.38	27	8	3.38	
1980	8	2	4.00	58	4	14.50	66	6	11.00	
1981	8	2	4.00	3	1	3.00	11	3	3.67	
1982	33	9	3.67	16	5	3.20	49	14	3.50	
1983	16	4	4.00	7	2	3.50	23	6	3.83	
1984	24	7	3.43	14	5	2.80	38	11	3.45	
1985	18	5	3.60	14	4	3.50	32	9	3.56	
1986	11	3	3.67	7	2	3.50	18	5	3.60	
1987	12	4	3.00	7	3	2.33	19	6	3.17	
1988	13	4	3.25	4	1	4.00	17	5	3.40	
1989	24	4	6.00	33	8	4.13	57	12	4.75	
1990	0	0	...	17	5	3.40	17	5	3.40	
1991	24	8	3.00	7	2	3.50	31	9	3.44	
1992	25	8	3.13	29	8	3.63	54	15	3.60	
1993	0	0	...	10	3	3.33	10	3	3.33	
1994	0	0	...	23	7	3.29	23	7	3.29	
1995	6	2	3.00	0	0	...	6	2	3.00	
1996	17	3	5.67	23	7	3.29	40	10	4.00	
1997	13	4	3.25	17	5	3.40	30	8	3.75	
1998	3	1	3.00	9	3	3.00	12	4	3.00	
1999	4	1	4.00	6	2	3.00	10	3	3.33	
2000	4	1	4.00	8	3	2.67	12	3	4.00	
2001	15	4	3.75	3	1	3.00	18	5	3.60	
2002	7	2	3.50	5	2	2.50	12	3	4.00	
2003	3	1	3.00	0	0	...	3	1	3.00	
2004	6	2	3.00	0	0	...	6	2	3.00	
2005	10	3	3.33	9	3	3.00	19	6	3.17	
2006	18	4	4.50	14	4	3.50	32	8	4.00	
2007	14	4	3.50	13	4	3.25	27	7	3.86	
2008	6	2	3.00	16	5	3.20	22	7	3.14	
2009	6	2	3.00	14	4	3.50	20	6	3.33	
2010	0	0	...	6	2	3.00	6	2	3.00	
2011	6	2	3.00	11	3	3.67	17	5	3.40	
2012	3	1	3.00	12	4	3.00	15	5	3.00	
2013	3	1	3.00	3	1	3.00	6	2	3.00	
2014	13	3	4.33	11	3	3.67	24	6	4.00	
2015	6	2	3.00	10	3	3.33	16	5	3.20	
2016	3	1	3.00	7	2	3.50	10	3	3.33	
2017	13	3	4.33	3	1	3.00	16	4	4.00	
2018	11	4	2.75	18	4	4.50	29	7	4.14	
2019	0	0	...	12	3	4.00	12	3	4.00	
2020	11	4	2.75	8	3	2.67	19	6	3.17	
Total	510	144	3.54	622	163	3.82	1132	295	3.84	

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Firearm includes homicides where the primary weapon used was a rifle or shotgun, sawed-off rifle or shotgun, handgun, fully automatic firearm, other firearm-like weapon (e.g., nail gun or pellet gun), or a firearm but the type of firearm was unknown.

2. Non-firearm includes homicides where the primary weapon used was a knife or other piercing or cutting instrument, a club or blunt instrument, an explosive, a motor vehicle, a ligature, a burning liquid or caustic agent, a poison, drug, gas or fume, fire, water, or other primary weapon (e.g., electricity, dog, pillow, sand) and where the primary weapon used was unknown.

3. Number of firearm-related and non-firearm related incidents may not add up to total incidents.

Note: There may be a small number of homicides in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3

Number of accused, by number of victims killed in a solved incident, accused's previous convictions¹, and firearm-related, by 5 year aggregates, Canada, 2001 to 2020

Year	Firearm-related ²												Not firearm-related											
	One victim				Two victims				Three or more victims				One victim				Two victims				Three or more victims			
	Accused with previous convictions		Accused with no previous convictions		Accused with previous convictions		Accused with no previous convictions		Accused with previous convictions		Accused with no previous convictions		Accused with previous convictions		Accused with no previous convictions		Accused with previous convictions		Accused with no previous convictions		Accused with previous convictions		Accused with no previous convictions	
	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³	number	percent ³
2001 to 2005	395	69.5	173	30.5	30	56.6	23	43.4	8	50.0	8	50.0	1389	64.9	752	35.1	35	53.8	30	46.2	0	0.0	5	100.0
2006 to 2010	423	68.1	198	31.9	32	66.7	16	33.3	18	64.3	10	35.7	1249	60.8	804	39.2	26	59.1	18	40.9	9	50.0	9	50.0
2011 to 2015	363	65.6	190	34.4	20	42.6	27	57.4	3	27.3	8	72.7	1229	60.1	816	39.9	31	59.6	21	40.4	7	50.0	7	50.0
2016 to 2020 ⁴	547	67.7	261	32.3	30	50.0	30	50.0	4	28.6	10	71.4	1240	62.3	749	37.7	19	46.3	22	53.7	6	50.0	6	50.0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. The Homicide Survey began collecting data on previous convictions of the accused in 1997, therefore data is not available for 1974 to 1996.

2. Firearm-related homicides include all homicides where the primary weapon used to kill the victim was a firearm.

3. Accused where it was unknown whether they had a previous conviction are excluded from the calculation of percentages.

4. This category includes the two most recent years of accused data, thus counts may increase in the future due to police having more time to identify an accused.

Note: For all multi-victim homicide incidents where the primary weapon causing death is different between the victims, all accused for that incident will be represented in their respected columns. For example, in an incident with two victims and two accused, where one victim was killed with a firearm, and the other was killed with a knife, both of the accused would be captured under "firearm-related" and both would also be captured under "not firearm-related". There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4

Number and proportion of homicide victims of firearm-related homicides, by firearm licensing status of the identified charged / suspect-chargeable¹ and firearm type, 2010-2020

Reporting Year	Charged / suspect-chargeable ¹ possesses a valid firearms license										Charged / suspect-chargeable ¹ does not possess a valid firearms license										Unknown whether the charged / suspect-chargeable ¹ possesses a valid firearms license										Total number of firearm-related homicides where a charged / suspect-chargeable ¹ was identified ²
	Rifle or shotgun		Handgun		Other firearm-like weapon		Firearm - type unknown		Total firearms		Rifle or shotgun		Handgun		Other firearm-like weapon		Firearm - type unknown		Total firearms		Rifle or shotgun		Handgun		Other firearm-like weapon		Firearm - type unknown		Total firearms		
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
2010	9	8.5	7	6.6	0	0	1	0.9	17	16.0	35	33.0	42	39.6	0	0	2	1.9	79	74.5	0	0	7	6.6	1	0.9	2	1.9	10	9.4	106
2011	13	13.3	14	14.3	0	0	0	0	27	27.6	22	22.4	34	34.7	0	0	2	2.0	58	59.2	6	6.1	5	5.1	0	0	2	2.0	13	13.3	98
2012	8	7.3	9	8.2	0	0	1	0.9	18	16.4	34	30.9	32	29.1	0	0	2	1.8	68	61.8	1	0.9	21	19.1	0	0	2	1.8	24	21.8	110
2013	5	6.0	9	10.8	0	0	0	0	14	16.9	30	36.1	33	39.8	0	0	1	1.2	64	77.1	3	3.6	2	2.4	0	0	0	0	5	6.0	83
2014	8	7.8	8	7.8	0	0	0	0	16	15.5	31	30.1	43	41.7	1	1.0	2	1.9	77	74.8	0	0	10	9.7	0	0	0	0	10	9.7	103
2015	14	13.3	9	8.6	0	0	0	0	23	21.9	38	36.2	34	32.4	2	1.9	1	1.0	75	71.4	2	1.9	2	1.9	0	0	3	2.9	7	6.7	105
2016	11	9.5	6	5.2	0	0	1	0.9	18	15.5	34	29.3	39	33.6	0	0	6	5.2	79	68.1	6	5.2	12	10.3	0	0	1	0.9	19	16.4	116
2017	23	15.6	12	8.2	1	0.7	0	0	36	24.5	47	32.0	46	31.3	0	0	2	1.4	95	64.6	3	2.0	9	6.1	2	1.4	2	1.4	16	10.9	147
2018	15	12.1	6	4.8	0	0	1	0.8	22	17.7	39	31.5	45	36.3	0	0	4	3.2	88	71.0	7	5.6	2	1.6	0	0	4	3.2	13	10.5	124
2019	20	15.0	4	3.0	0	0	0	0	24	18.0	42	31.6	39	29.3	1	0.8	7	5.3	89	66.9	3	2.3	5	3.8	1	0.8	0	0	9	6.8	133
2020	14	8.8	4	2.5	0	0	0	0	18	11.3	47	29.4	47	29.4	0	0	23	14.4	117	73.1	3	1.9	11	6.9	0	0	3	1.9	17	10.6	160
Total	140	10.9	88	6.8	1	0.08	4	0.3	233	18.1	399	31.1	434	33.8	4	0.3	52	4.0	889	69.2	34	2.6	86	6.7	4	0.3	19	1.5	143	11.1	1285

Homicide includes Criminal Code offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

1. Charged / suspect-chargeable refers to someone against whom, based on police reporting, enough information exists to lay a charge in connection with a criminal incident.

2. The total for years 2019 (11 victims) and 2020 (8 victims) include firearm-related homicides for which the CSC possessing a valid firearms license was stated as Not applicable.

Note: Prior to 2019, the Homicide Survey collected information regarding whether or not the CSC possessed a valid firearms licence, after the survey underwent a redesign in 2019, the survey now collects information regarding whether or not the CSC possessed a valid firearms licence for the type of firearm used in the incident and the CSC discharged the fatal shot. Caution should be exercised when comparing counts prior to 2019 to those 2019 and after. Due to the high portion of firearm-related homicide victims for which there is no charged / suspect-chargeable identified (43% of all firearm-related homicides between 2010 and 2020) and relatively high portion of firearm licensing status reported as unknown (11.2% of all firearm-related homicides where a charged / suspect-chargeable was identified), data related to firearm licensing of the charged / suspect-chargeable should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.