

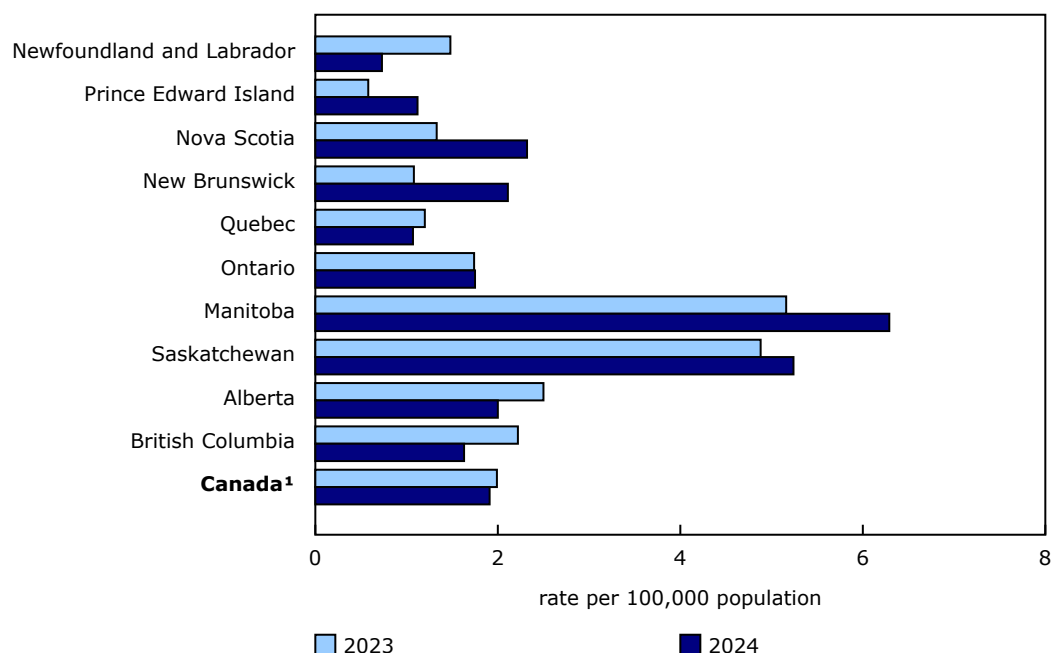
Homicide trends in Canada, 2024

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Police services reported 788 homicides across Canada in 2024, 8 fewer homicides than the previous year. In Canada, homicides—which include first-degree murder, second-degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide—account for about 0.1% of all police-reported violent crimes. The homicide rate is considered a key metric for assessing the state of violence, community safety and social welfare of a country. Domestic and international policy makers analyze the incidence of homicides to understand the extent of violence, identify trends and determine an appropriate response.

The national homicide rate decreased 4% in 2024, dropping from 1.99 to 1.91 homicides per 100,000 population. This is the second consecutive year when the homicide rate has been below 2 homicides per 100,000 population.

Chart 1
Homicide rate, by province, 2023 and 2024



1. Includes the territories.

Note(s): Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source(s): Homicide Survey (3315).

Varying trends in provincial homicide rates in 2024

In 2024, homicide rates decreased in four provinces, with the largest decline in Newfoundland and Labrador (-51%), followed by British Columbia (-27%), Alberta (-20%), and Quebec (-11%).

Conversely, the six remaining provinces saw increases. New Brunswick's homicide rate nearly doubled from 1.08 to 2.11 per 100,000 population, as the 18 homicide victims in 2024 were up from 9 in 2023. In 2024, eight of those victims died by shootings, which was twice the number in 2023.



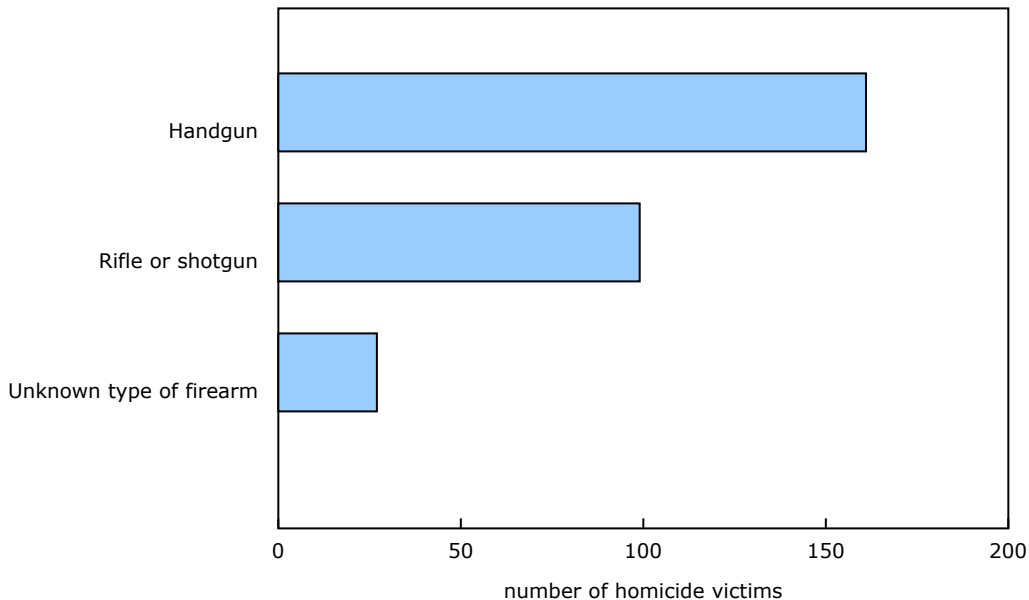
Elsewhere, Prince Edward Island's homicide rate increased from 0.58 to 1.12 per 100,000 population (from one victim to two victims) in 2024. Nova Scotia's rate rose substantially, from 1.33 to 2.32 per 100,000 (from 14 to 25 victims). Nova Scotia recorded a notable increase in homicides related to illegal drug trade activities in 2024 (7), up from 2 in the previous year. For the first time in four years, Nova Scotia also had three incidents involving multiple homicide victims. Farther west, Manitoba recorded a 22% increase in its homicide rate, while Saskatchewan's rate grew by 7%, and Ontario's remained largely unchanged at 1.75 per 100,000.

Reflecting the broader downward trend in the national homicide rate, 22 of the 42 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) saw reductions in their homicide rates in 2024, with the most substantial decrease being recorded in Moncton (-81%). However, among the three largest CMAs (Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver), only Vancouver experienced a drop. Thunder Bay recorded Canada's highest homicide rate in 2024, rising from 5.41 to 6.08 per 100,000, followed by Chilliwack (4.75) and Winnipeg (4.66).

Handguns are the primary weapon in more than half of firearm-related homicides

Consistent with recent trends, firearms were used in more than one in three homicides (36%) in 2024. Among the 287 firearm-related homicides, handguns were the most common firearm used (56%), followed by rifles and shotguns (34%). The remaining cases involved unspecified types of firearms (e.g., where the exact firing mechanism is unknown).

Chart 2
Number of homicide victims, by type of firearm used to commit the homicide, Canada, 2024



Source(s): Homicide Survey (3315).

Overall decreases in gang-related homicide trends

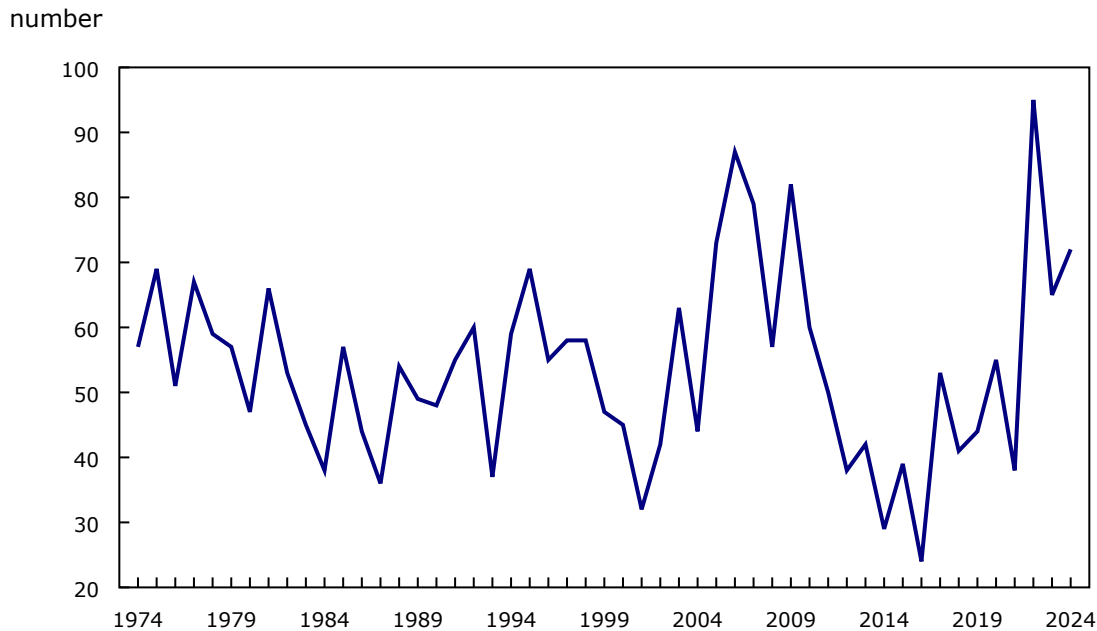
Gang-related homicides (152 homicides, or 0.37 homicides per 100,000 population) dropped in 2024, down from 174 in 2023, making up less than one-fifth (19%) of all homicides. For the first time since 2016, Canada's gang-related homicide rate dropped below 0.40 per 100,000 population.

A recent analysis revealed several decreases in gang-related homicide trends in 2024. First, homicides associated with illegal drug trade activities (e.g., possession and trafficking) have become less frequent, dropping from 120 homicides in 2023 (69% of all gang-related homicides) to 80 homicides in 2024 (53%). Second, the number of gang-related homicides involving a firearm decreased, from 132 in 2023 to 110 in 2024. Together, these changes contributed to an increase in the overall proportion of gang-related homicides involving a firearm, from 78% in 2023 to 79% in 2024. The number of accused in gang-related homicides decreased from 121 to 95, resulting in a drop in the proportion of accused who were involved in gang-related homicides, from 18% in 2023 to 14% in 2024.

More youths charged with homicide

More youths under the age of 18 were charged with homicide in 2024 (72) than in 2023 (65). This pushed up the rate of youths accused of homicide from 0.87 to 0.94 per 100,000 youths. In 2024, police reported 13 incidents involving multiple youths accused of homicide, 5 of which had 3 or more youths accused.

Chart 3
Number of youths accused of homicide, Canada, 1974 to 2024



Note(s): Anyone below the age of 18 is considered a youth.
Source(s): Homicide Survey (3315).

Indigenous peoples continue to be overrepresented among homicide victims

Indigenous peoples in Canada—First Nations people, Métis and Inuit—continue to face a disproportionate risk of homicide, which is deeply rooted in the historical and present-day effects of colonization, including systemic discrimination, poverty and intergenerational trauma.

In 2024, Indigenous peoples made up 3 in 10 homicide victims (30%) while representing 5% of the overall population of Canada. The proportion of Indigenous homicide victims increased by 4 percentage points from 2023, when Indigenous peoples accounted for 26% of all homicide victims. With a homicide rate of 10.84 per 100,000 population in 2024, Indigenous peoples were victims of homicide at a rate over eight times

higher than that of non-Indigenous Canadians. Among Indigenous homicide victims, increases were more pronounced for Indigenous women, with the number of homicides rising from 50 in 2023 to 71 in 2024. Homicides among Indigenous men increased from 144 to 152.

Nearly 3 in 10 homicide victims belong to a racialized group

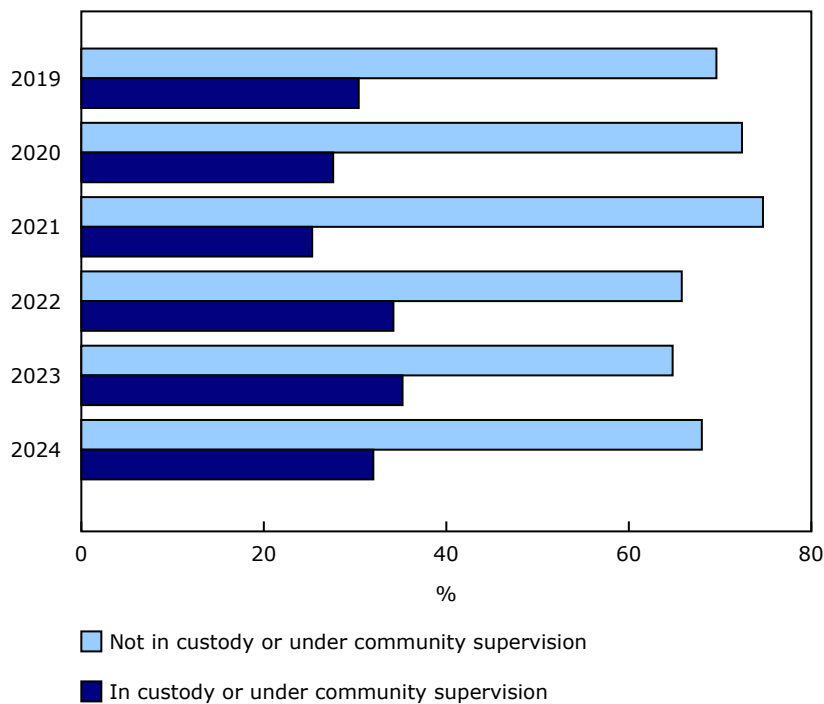
In 2024, close to 3 in 10 homicide victims (29% or 226 victims) belonged to a racialized group. The homicide rate for racialized victims was 1.72 victims per 100,000 population, lower than the rate for non-racialized victims (1.98 per 100,000 population). Among racialized victims, the most affected groups were the Black (45%), South Asian (22%), and Arab (9%) populations.

Individuals accused of homicide often have prior criminal records

Crimes against a person are offences that involve or threaten bodily harm to a victim. This category is broad, including the most severe crimes like homicide (murder, manslaughter and infanticide), as well as sexual assault, attempted murder, robbery, criminal harassment, uttering threats and various levels of physical assault. In 2024, 42% of individuals accused of homicide had a record of either having committed or having been accused of previous crimes against a person, a rate slightly lower than in 2023 (47%).

From 2019 to 2024, roughly one-third of individuals accused of homicide were already under some form of justice system supervision. This proportion was 32% in 2024, after peaking at approximately 35% in 2023, following a low of 25% in 2021. This broad category of supervision includes not only those on bail, but also those on remand, sentenced to custody or on probation.

Chart 4
Proportion of people accused of homicide in custody or under community supervision at the time of the homicide, Canada, 2019 to 2024



Note(s): Excludes homicides where it was unknown whether the charged/suspect-chargeable was in custody or under community supervision at the time of the homicide.

Source(s): Homicide Survey (3315).

Missing persons as victims of homicide

In 2024, the reduction in overall homicides was mirrored by a decrease in cases where victims were previously reported missing.

Approximately 1 in 20 homicide victims (5% or 41 victims) had been reported missing at the time of their death in 2024, down slightly from 6% (44 victims) in 2023. For Indigenous homicide victims, where the gender was known, 4% of both Indigenous women and men were previously reported as missing compared with 5% of non-Indigenous women and 6% of non-Indigenous men. Despite the large increase in the number of Indigenous women who were homicide victims, the percentage of those who were previously reported as missing was 3.25 times lower in 2024 than the average calculated since these data were first collected in 2015 (13%).

Women continue to account for a disproportionate number of victims of intimate partner homicide

In 2024, almost one in six homicide victims (17%) were killed by a spouse or an intimate partner, totalling 100 victims. This is an increase from the 72 victims recorded in 2023. Increases were reported in 8 of the 10 provinces. Following a historical pattern, women (81%) were disproportionately the victims of intimate partner homicide in 2024, including homicide committed by a current or former spouse, common-law spouse or dating partner. More specifically, the number of women who were victims saw a sharp increase—from 53 in 2023 to 81 in 2024—while the number of men who were victims remained consistent.

Table 1
Number of homicides, by province and territory, 2015 to 2024

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	number of victims									
Canada	613	619	669	665	691	765	801	885	796	788
Newfoundland and Labrador	3	8	4	2	5	4	8	3	8	4
Prince Edward Island	1	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	2
Nova Scotia	12	13	21	11	6	37	23	20	14	25
New Brunswick	11	11	10	13	17	14	11	15	9	18
Quebec	79	67	93	84	78	87	90	111	106	97
Ontario	174	206	198	272	253	244	284	293	272	282
Manitoba	48	43	47	55	74	62	62	90	75	94
Saskatchewan	47	57	38	35	55	64	71	73	59	65
Alberta	133	116	119	83	100	143	119	119	117	98
British Columbia	96	90	121	93	91	100	125	155	123	93
Yukon	1	4	8	3	1	0	4	2	4	0
Northwest Territories	6	3	2	6	2	6	1	3	6	6
Nunavut	2	1	6	8	7	3	2	1	2	4
Difference in Canada number from previous year	88	6	50	-4	26	74	36	84	-89	-8

Note(s): 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(s): Homicide Survey (3315).

Table 2
Rate of homicides, by province and territory, 2015 to 2024

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	rate ¹									
Canada	1.72	1.71	1.83	1.79	1.84	2.01	2.09	2.27	1.99	1.91
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.57	1.51	0.76	0.38	0.95	0.76	1.52	0.56	1.48	0.73
Prince Edward Island	0.69	0.00	1.34	0.00	1.28	0.63	0.62	0.00	0.58	1.12
Nova Scotia	1.28	1.38	2.21	1.14	0.61	3.74	2.30	1.95	1.33	2.32
New Brunswick	1.45	1.44	1.30	1.69	2.19	1.79	1.39	1.85	1.08	2.11
Quebec	0.97	0.81	1.12	1.00	0.92	1.02	1.05	1.28	1.20	1.07
Ontario	1.27	1.48	1.41	1.90	1.74	1.65	1.91	1.94	1.74	1.75
Manitoba	3.71	3.27	3.52	4.07	5.40	4.49	4.45	6.37	5.16	6.29
Saskatchewan	4.19	5.02	3.31	3.03	4.72	5.48	6.08	6.19	4.88	5.24
Alberta	3.21	2.76	2.81	1.93	2.30	3.24	2.69	2.64	2.50	2.00
British Columbia	2.01	1.85	2.45	1.85	1.78	1.93	2.39	2.89	2.22	1.63
Yukon	2.65	10.38	20.24	7.43	2.43	0.00	9.31	4.56	8.80	0.00
Northwest Territories	13.56	6.72	4.48	13.47	4.50	13.48	2.24	6.72	13.43	13.41
Nunavut	5.48	2.70	15.93	20.88	18.02	7.60	4.99	2.47	4.91	9.72
Percent change in rate for Canada from previous year	15.89	-0.16	6.79	-2.01	2.40	9.52	4.13	8.51	-12.63	-3.89

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

Note(s): 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(s): Homicide Survey (3315).

Table 3
Counts and rates of homicides, by census metropolitan area¹, 2014 to 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	Difference from 2023	Difference from 2023	Average from 2014 to 2023	Average from 2014 to 2023
	count	rate ²	population	count	rate ²	number	% change in rate	count	rate ²
Canada	788	1.91	41,288,599	796	1.99	-8	-3.89	703	1.88
CMA total	518	1.67	30,937,079	518	1.73	0	-3.48	464	1.72
500,000 and over population									
Toronto	133	1.90	7,002,113	119	1.77	14	7.60	109	1.74
Montréal	58	1.24	4,663,357	56	1.24	2	0.61	48	1.12
Vancouver	37	1.19	3,109,701	48	1.61	-11	-26.08	50	1.86
Calgary	23	1.29	1,781,614	25	1.49	-2	-13.23	29	1.95
Edmonton	36	2.20	1,637,829	48	3.07	-12	-28.32	43	2.99
Ottawa ³	27	2.10	1,283,677	18	1.45	9	45.20	14	1.30
Winnipeg	43	4.66	922,465	46	5.15	-3	-9.51	34	4.19
Québec	3	0.34	883,152	9	1.04	-6	-67.49	5	0.62
Hamilton	10	1.21	829,193	11	1.36	-1	-11.22	11	1.49
Kitchener–Cambridg e–Waterloo	5	0.71	706,875	5	0.74	0	-4.67	5	0.91
London	10	1.59	627,289	8	1.31	2	21.29	8	1.41
Oshawa	11	1.93	570,677	9	1.65	2	16.71	8	1.75
St. Catharines–Niagar a	15	2.78	539,180	12	2.29	3	21.55	6	1.14
Halifax	11	2.07	530,610	8	1.54	3	34.31	8	1.84
100,000 to less than 500,000 population									
Windsor	6	1.24	483,687	5	1.07	1	16.28	6	1.45
Victoria	2	0.45	441,415	2	0.46	0	-1.63	4	1.00
Saskatoon	14	3.75	372,990	13	3.63	1	3.50	11	3.37
Gatineau ⁴	5	1.38	363,435	5	1.41	0	-2.32	4	1.03
Barrie	2	0.68	293,387	1	0.35	1	93.19	2	0.90
Regina	6	2.14	280,995	10	3.69	-4	-42.17	9	3.70
Kelowna	2	0.80	250,105	5	2.04	-3	-60.80	4	1.93
St. John's	2	0.87	230,927	3	1.33	-1	-35.03	3	1.22
Sherbrooke	3	1.33	225,285	2	0.91	1	46.70	1	0.68
Abbotsford–Mission	4	1.80	222,082	4	1.86	0	-3.28	5	2.54
Moncton	1	0.51	196,448	5	2.67	-4	-80.93	3	1.57
Greater Sudbury	2	1.02	195,577	5	2.65	-3	-61.40	4	2.02
Kingston	5	2.63	190,126	0	0.00	5	...	3	1.51
Saguenay	2	1.13	177,080	0	0.00	2	...	1	0.41
Brantford	3	1.72	174,843	0	0.00	3	...	4	2.30
Trois-Rivières	1	0.58	171,224	1	0.60	0	-2.65	2	0.95
Guelph	3	1.88	159,360	4	2.56	-1	-26.35	2	1.19
Peterborough	2	1.38	145,180	4	2.87	-2	-52.06	2	1.47
Saint John	3	2.12	141,342	2	1.44	1	47.02	2	1.52
Lethbridge ⁵	1	0.72	138,745	1	0.75	0	-3.52	1	1.39
Fredericton ⁶	5	3.75	133,505	1	0.79	4	374.02	...	...
Thunder Bay	8	6.08	131,594	7	5.41	1	12.45	8	6.46
Nanaimo ⁶	2	1.57	127,516	3	2.40	-1	-34.62	...	...
Chilliwack ⁶	6	4.75	126,372	6	4.84	0	-1.95	...	...
Kamloops ⁶	1	0.80	124,896	4	3.27	-3	-75.49	...	...
Belleville–Quinte West ^{5,7}	3	2.43	123,531	2	1.65	1	47.24	1	1.44
Drummondville ⁶	0	0.00	114,783	0	0.00	0	...	...	...
Red Deer ⁶	2	1.77	112,917	1	0.92	1	92.87	...	...
Non-CMA total	270	2.61	10,351,520	278	2.72	-8	-4.08	239	2.28

... not applicable

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. It is important to note that while official police-reported data on crime from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey use Statistics Canada's standard CMA names, the boundaries for the policing-based CMAs do not always fully align with the standard CMA geographic units used for disseminating information about the Census of Population.
 2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1 population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.
 3. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
 4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
 5. Belleville and Lethbridge became CMAs in 2016.
 6. Fredericton, Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Drummondville and Red Deer became CMAs in 2023.
 7. The CMA of Belleville–Quinte West was formerly known as Belleville.
- Note(s):** 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(s):** Homicide Survey (3315).

Note to readers

Because of the relatively small population sizes in the territories, variations in year-over-year homicide rates need to be interpreted with caution. Therefore, the territories are included in the overall national rate but not displayed separately.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3315.

The infographic "[Homicide in Canada, 2024](#)" (11-627-M) is now available.

Additional data are available upon request.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).