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Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2023

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Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2023: Highlights

- According to police data, there were 14,416 incidents of firearm-related violent crime in 2023, which includes violent crime where a firearm was present, and the firearm-specific violations of discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm. Firearm-related violent crime accounted for 2.6% of all incidents of violent crime.
- There was a decrease (-1.7%) in the rate of firearm-related violent crime, which went from 37.5 incidents per 100,000 population in 2022 to 36.9 in 2023. In contrast, overall violent crime increased 4.0%.
- Despite the decline in 2023, the rate of firearm-related violent crime was 22% higher compared to 2018 and 55% higher compared to 2013, while overall violent crime was 25% higher since 2018 and 30% higher since 2013.
- In 2023, the rate of firearm-related violent crime was notably higher in the territories (180 incidents per 100,000 population) and the provincial rural north (165) than in the provincial urban north (45.3), the provincial rural south (40.6) and the provincial urban south (32.0).
- Compared to 2022, the overall rate of firearm-related violent crime decreased in the provincial urban south (-6.5%) in 2023, largely driven by declines in Toronto, Calgary, Montréal and Vancouver. All other regions had increases, the largest in the provincial rural south (+19%) and the provincial urban north (+13%).
- In 2023, half (49%) of firearm-related violent crime involved the presence of a handgun, followed by a firearm-like weapon or an unknown type of firearm (31%), a rifle or shotgun (15%) and a fully automatic or sawed-off shotgun (4.7%). In the provinces, handguns were most common in urban areas while rifles or shotguns, and firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms, were more common in rural areas.
- The large majority (80%) of incidents of firearm-related violent crime were physical assaults, robberies, and the firearm-specific violations of discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm.
- Despite accounting for a small proportion of violent crime overall, incidents of firearm-related violent crime more often involved multiple victims (22%) than incidents where there was another type of weapon present (14%) or no weapon present (7.4%).
- Among victims of violent crime who sustained physical injury, 2,204 (1.6%) were injured by a firearm. Of these victims, three in ten (29%) sustained a major injury and one in eight (12%) died. Major injury and death were much less common when another type of weapon or physical force caused injury (5.4% and 0.3%, respectively).
- In 2023, there were 289 homicides involving a firearm, representing a rate of 0.72 incidents per 100,000 population. Following year-over-year increases in the rate between 2018 and 2022, 2023 marked a decline of 18% from the previous year. This aligned with the decline in the overall rate of homicide (-14%).
- Shooting was the leading cause of death among homicide victims in 2023, accounting for nearly four in ten (38%) of all homicides. More than half (56%) of all shooting homicides were caused by handguns.

Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2023

by Shana Conroy

While firearm-related violent crime represents a small proportion of crime in Canada, it accounts for a disproportionate share of more severe violent crime, organized crime and gang-related crime. Firearm-related violence continues to receive considerable media and public attention. There is ongoing and growing concern and dialogue about firearms and the threat they pose to public safety.

In recent years, amendments have been made to the *Criminal Code* and the *Firearms Act* (Public Safety Canada, 2022). Former Bill C-21, *An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*, received Royal Assent on December 15, 2023 (Public Safety Canada, 2024; Public Safety Canada, 2023b). As part of the federal strategy to address gun violence and strengthen gun control in Canada, Bill C-21 codified the national "freeze" on handguns. The freeze prohibits the sale, purchase and transfer of handguns by individuals in Canada, and it prohibits newly acquired handguns being brought into Canada. The Bill included measures to address unlawfully manufactured firearms (untraceable firearms commonly referred to as "ghost guns"), and unlawfully manufactured firearms were added to the definition of "prohibited firearm." Manufacturing firearms without the appropriate licence issued under the *Firearms Act* is illegal and individuals can be charged with a criminal offence. The Bill also created new offences for possessing or distributing computer data for use in a 3D printer or other system for the purpose of manufacturing or trafficking a firearm or prohibited device. In addition, the Bill increased the maximum penalties for certain firearms offences (e.g., smuggling and trafficking offences) from 10 to 14 years.

To inform decision-making about firearm policies, programs and enforcement, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics at Statistics Canada has collaborated with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and police services across the country to expand and improve data collection about firearms and crime in Canada.

Using data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey, this *Juristat* presents an update to the article "Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2022," released in early 2024. The current article provides the latest available data on police-reported violent crimes involving firearms, including information on firearm-related violent crime in 2023 and changes observed since 2022.[1]

This article was produced with funding support from Public Safety Canada.

Text box 1
Defining and measuring firearm-related violent crime

In this article, firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where a firearm was present during the commission of an offence and where police determined that the firearm was relevant to the crime, regardless of whether it was used. Firearms include handguns, rifles or shotguns, fully automatic or sawed-off firearms, and firearm-like weapons, such as starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns and BB guns.[2] Firearm-specific offences—including discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm—are also included in firearm-related violent crime.[3]

Different approaches can be used to measure violent crime. The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey allows for—but does not require—police to provide a victim record for every type of violent crime, including the firearm-specific violations listed above. As such, an approach based on victim counts may underestimate changes in firearm-related violent crime over time. Alternatively, an approach based on incident counts would also result in an underestimate as incidents of firearm-related violent crime are more likely to involve multiple victims. For these reasons, this release uses a hybrid approach—first adopted with the release of firearm data from 2022. Now, each victim is counted as a unique incident, as is each incident where there is no associated victim record. All victims and all incidents are counted the same way, regardless of whether a victim record was provided by police. For more information, see Text box 1 in Perreault, 2024.

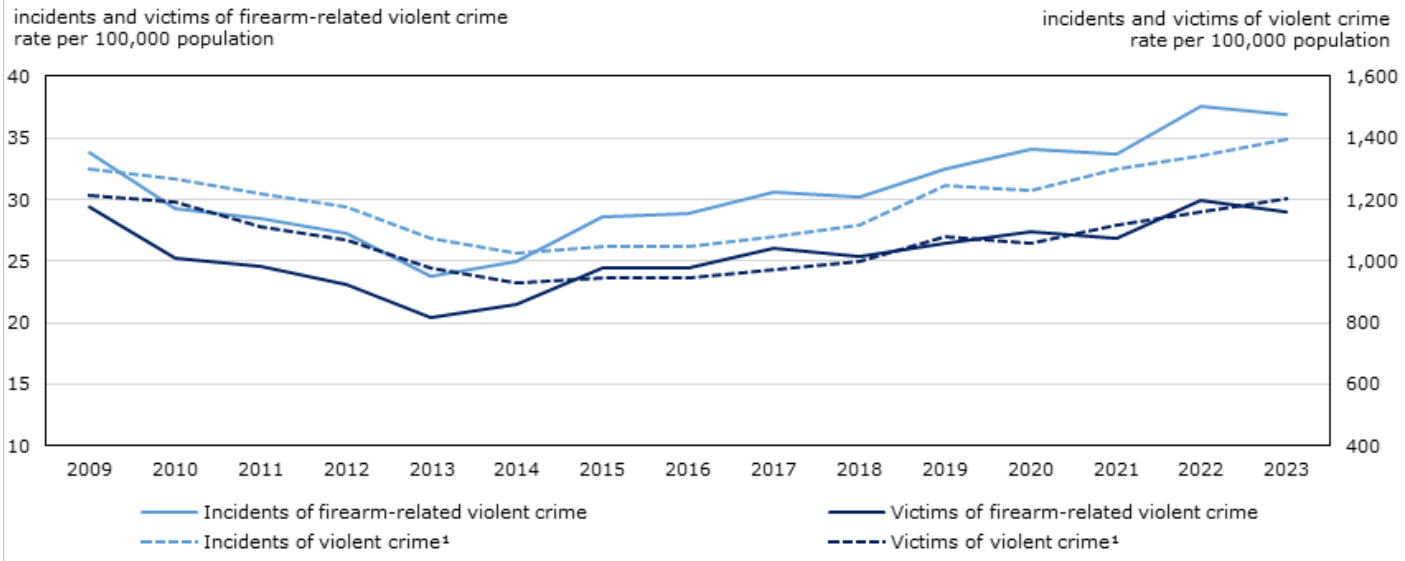
Section 1: Firearm-related violent crime

After reaching 14-year high in 2022, firearm-related violent crime declines in 2023

According to police data, the rate of firearm-related violent crime was 36.9 incidents per 100,000 population in 2023, much lower than violent crime involving another type of weapon (254), such as a knife or club, and violent crime involving no weapon (1,080) (Table 1).[4] A firearm was present for 2.6% of incidents of violent crime in Canada. Firearms (2.8% excluding the province of Quebec) were less common than knives or piercing or cutting instruments (6.0%) but more common than burning liquids or caustic agents (2.5%) and clubs or blunt instruments (2.3%).[5]

There were 14,416 incidents of firearm-related violent crime in 2023, including violent crime where a firearm was present, and the firearm-specific violations of discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm. This reflected 176 more incidents of firearm-related violent crime than in 2022. However, accounting for population size over time, the rate of firearm-related violent crime was 36.9 incidents per 100,000 population in 2023, marking a decline of 1.7% from 2022, when the incident rate reached a 14-year high (Chart 1).[6] In contrast, the incident rate for overall violent crime increased 4.0% between 2022 and 2023.[7]

Chart 1
Incidents and victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, Canada, 2009 to 2023



1. Includes firearm-related crime.
Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

In 2018, revisions were implemented to the UCR Survey—namely, a new definition of “founded” crime was introduced (see Text box 3). Since then, incidents of firearm-related violent crime increased 22% (from 30.2 incidents per 100,000 population to 36.9), while overall violent crime increased 25% (from 1,117 to 1,397).[8]

In 2013—prior to UCR Survey revisions—the rate of firearm-related violent crime was 23.7 incidents per 100,000 population, marking an increase of 55% in 2023. In comparison, the rate of overall violent crime was 1,075 incidents per 100,000 population in 2013. While 2023 also marked an increase for overall violent crime, the rise was relatively smaller (+30%) compared to firearm-related violent crime.[9]

Firearm-related violent crime declines in provincial urban south, but rises in all other regions

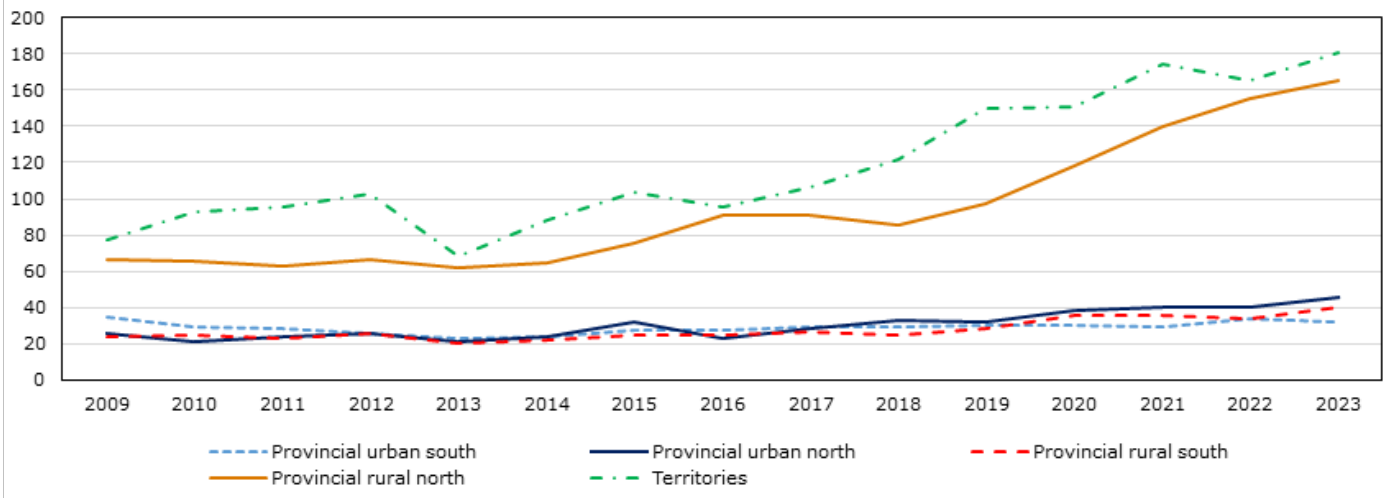
The prevalence of firearm-related violent crime differs widely by geographic location, both across provinces and territories, and between urban and rural regions. For analysis of police-reported data, urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives in a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a CMA or a CA.[10]

In 2023, the rate of firearm-related violent crime in the territories was 180 incidents per 100,000 population—the highest of any region in Canada. In comparison, in the provinces, the rate of firearm-related violent crime was 165 in the rural north and 45.3 in the urban north, while the rate was 40.6 in the rural south and 32.0 in the urban south (Table 2-a).[11] This pattern was similar for violent crime overall, with rates highest in the territories (9,789), the provincial rural north (4,722) and the provincial urban north (2,236), and lowest in the provincial rural south (1,485) and the provincial urban south (1,226).

Firearm-related violent crime is often considered an urban phenomenon. While the rate of firearm-related violent crime was lowest in the provincial urban south in 2023, seven in ten (71%) such incidents occurred in that region, and a further 4.0% occurred in the provincial urban north (Table 2-a). For reference, the large majority (84%) of the population lived in provincial urban areas in Canada in 2023 (Statistics Canada, 2024b).

Compared to 2022, the rate of firearm-related violent crime decreased in the provincial urban south (-6.5%) in 2023, driving the decrease in the overall rate (Chart 2; Table 2-b). All other regions had increases, with the largest in the provincial rural south (+19%) and the provincial urban north (+13%). Rates also increased in the territories (+9.4%) and the provincial rural north (+6.5%). It should be noted that changes in the number of incidents have a greater impact on the rate where the population is smaller. For instance, there were 23 more incidents of firearm-related violent crime in the territories and 98 more incidents in the provincial rural north in 2023 compared to 2022 (Table 2-a). However, after accounting for the population in these regions, the rate increase was larger in the territories than the provincial rural north.

Chart 2
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by region, Canada, 2009 to 2023



Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. Provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Provincial north includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A 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, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Firearm-related violent crime was higher in 2023 than in 2018 for each of these regions, although the size of the increases differed. The rate of firearm-related violent crime increased 92% in the provincial rural north during this period (Table 2-b).[12] The next largest increase was in the provincial rural south (+66%), followed by the territories (+48%), the provincial urban north (+39%) and the provincial urban south (+10%).[13] Rates of firearm-related violent crime had even larger increases in each region between 2013 and 2023.

While the territories had the highest regional rate of firearm-related violent crime in 2023, they had the lowest proportion of violent incidents where a firearm was present (1.8%) (Table 2-a). The provincial rural north had the highest proportion of violent crime that was firearm-related (3.5%). The provincial urban north had the lowest proportion of violent crime that was firearm-related (2.0%), followed by the urban south (2.6%) and the rural south (2.7%).

Rates of firearm-related violent crime highest in the territories and the Prairies

Similar to previous trends (Perreault, 2024), firearm-related violent crime was highest in the territories and the Prairie provinces in 2023. Nunavut (312 incidents per 100,000 population) and the Northwest Territories (171) had the highest rates, followed by Saskatchewan (127), Manitoba (81.2) and Yukon (70.8) (Table 2-a). In contrast, the lowest rates were in Newfoundland and Labrador (21.9) and Quebec[14] (24.6).

There were fluctuations in rates of firearm-related violent crime across Canada between 2022 and 2023, ranging from a 28% decline in the rate in the Northwest Territories (-29 incidents) to a 155% rise in Prince Edward Island (+28 incidents) (Table 2-a; Table 2-b).

The overall decline (-1.7%) in the national rate of firearm-related violent crime was largely attributed to decreases in the rate in Ontario (-6.6%, or -180 incidents), British Columbia (-6.6%, -57 incidents), Quebec (-3.9%, -35 incidents) and the Northwest Territories (-28%, -29 incidents). These declines differed from notable increases in the rate in Saskatchewan (+11%, or +186 incidents), Manitoba (+14%, +166 incidents), Nunavut (+73%, +54 incidents), Prince Edward Island (+155%, +28 incidents) and Nova Scotia (+5.1%, +26 incidents).

North–south, urban–rural differences emerge across provinces

For six provinces—the Atlantic provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan—firearm-related violent crime mirrored the pattern for broad geographic regions in 2023; that is, where applicable, it was highest in the rural north, followed by the urban north, the rural south and the urban south (Table 2-a).

Rates in the remaining provinces differed. In Quebec, firearm-related violent crime was slightly higher in the urban south (24.6 incidents per 100,000 population) than the rural south (24.4), and both were higher than the urban north (23.2). In Ontario, the rate was higher in the urban north (32.5) than the rural north (30.7), and the urban south (31.3) was higher than the rural south (16.6). In Alberta, the rural south (87.4) had a higher rate than the urban north (56.2), while in British Columbia, the urban north (83.6) had a higher rate than the rural north (57.5).

Some regions in the provinces had particularly high rates: the rural north in Saskatchewan (1,080 incidents per 100,000 population), the rural north and urban north in Manitoba (399 and 304, respectively), and the rural north in Alberta (174).

Decline in firearm-related violent crime in the provincial urban south driven by decreases in Toronto, Calgary, Montréal and Vancouver

Among the CMAs, Toronto[15] had the largest number of incidents (2,449) of firearm-related violent crime—by a wide margin—in 2023 (Table 3-a). However, as Canada's most populous CMA, Toronto ranked 11th in terms of rate (40.4 incidents per 100,000 population). The highest rates among the CMAs were in Red Deer (79.6), Regina (78.9), Chilliwack (54.8), Winnipeg (53.7) and Saskatoon (52.7). In contrast, the lowest rates were in Victoria (8.7), Guelph (11.5), Peterborough (12.1), Sherbrooke (13.6) and Belleville–Quinte West (15.5).

As noted previously, among the regions, the rate of firearm-related violent crime decreased only in the provincial urban south. While several CMAs had declines between 2022 and 2023, the decline in the urban south was driven by rate decreases in Toronto (-9.2%, or -157 incidents), Calgary (-22%, -130 incidents), Montréal (-12%, -127 incidents) and Vancouver (-15%, -75 incidents) (Table 3-a; Table 3-b). For Canada's other largest CMAs, the rate rose in Edmonton (+11%, +100 incidents) and Ottawa[16] (+5.7%, +25 incidents).

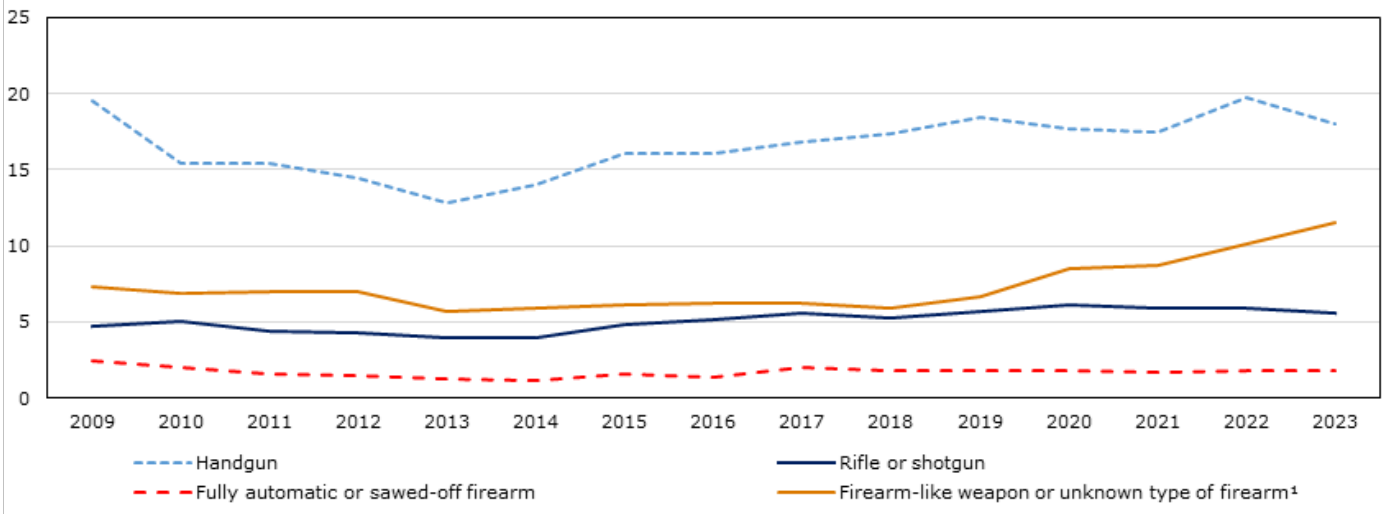
There were notable changes for some CMAs in 2023. Barrie (+73%, or +20 incidents), Lethbridge (+70%, +27 incidents) and Trois-Rivières (+55%, +21 incidents) had the largest increases in the rate of firearm-related violent crime. Meanwhile, Victoria (-61%, -58 incidents) and St. John's (-44%, -34 incidents) had the largest decreases.

Rates for violent crimes involving handguns, rifles or shotguns, or fully automatic or sawed-off firearms decline

In 2023, half (49%) of firearm-related violent crime involved the presence of a handgun, lower than in 2022 (53%) (Table 4). Still, handguns were the most common type of firearm present in incidents of firearm-related violent crime in 2023, followed by firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms[17] (31%), rifles or shotguns (15%) and fully automatic or sawed-off shotguns (4.7%).

The rate of handgun-related violent crime declined 8.6%, from 19.7 incidents per 100,000 population in 2022 to 18.0 in 2023 (Chart 3). Similarly, firearm-related violent crime involving rifles and shotguns (-4.0%) and fully automatic or sawed-off shotguns (-2.3%) decreased (from 5.9 to 5.6 and 1.79 to 1.75, respectively). In contrast, firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms increased 13% (from 10.1 to 11.5). While it is not possible to identify the exact reason behind this increase, the illicit manufacturing of firearms—that is, privately made firearms or "ghost guns"—is a growing safety concern in Canada (Public Safety Canada, 2023a; Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 2023). This includes the rise in the use of 3D printers, as well as the importation and distribution of parts, which are used to build unmarked and untraceable firearms that are untested and dangerous. Former Bill C-21, *An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*, created measures to target this risk, including defining unlawfully manufactured firearms ("ghost guns") as "prohibited firearms," and creating new offences for possessing or distributing computer data for use in a 3D printer or other system for the purpose of manufacturing or trafficking a firearm or prohibited device. The Bill received Royal Assent on December 15, 2023.

Chart 3
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by most serious type of firearm present, Canada, 2009 to 2023



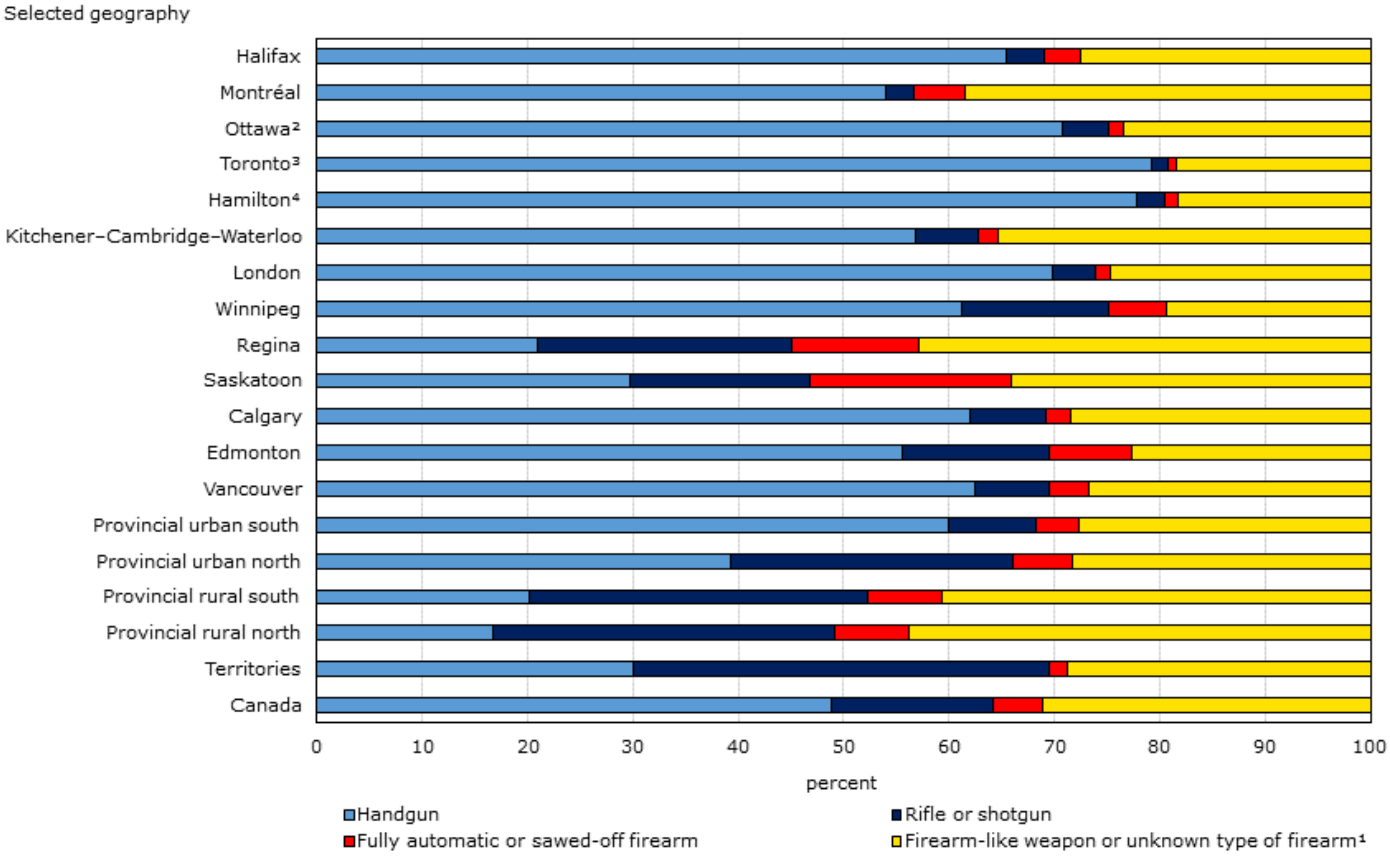
1. Includes, for example, starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns and BB guns. Also includes violent crime where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and the type of weapon was unknown.
Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

In terms of counts, there were 436 fewer incidents of handgun-related violent crime in 2023 compared to 2022, and there were 25 fewer incidents involving rifles or shotguns (Table 4). While there was a small increase in the number of violent incidents involving fully automatic or sawed-off shotguns (+4), there were 633 more incidents where firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms were present.

Most common type of firearm present differs for urban and rural regions

The most common type of firearm present in incidents of violent crime differed according to urban and rural regions. In provincial urban areas, handguns were the most common type of firearm present in the south (60%) and the north (39%) (Chart 4). In contrast, in provincial rural areas, firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms (41% in the south and 44% in the north, respectively) were most commonly present, followed by rifles or shotguns (32% and 33%, respectively) and handguns (20% and 17%, respectively). In the territories, rifles or shotguns (39%) were most often present, followed by handguns (30%).

Chart 4
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by most serious type of firearm present and selected geography, Canada, 2023



1. Includes, for example, starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns and BB guns. Also includes violent crime where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and the type of weapon was unknown.
2. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.
3. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area.
4. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton census metropolitan area.
Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. Provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Provincial north includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A 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, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

While, overall, handguns were the most common type of firearm present in urban areas, there was variation across the CMAs. For instance, around eight in ten incidents of firearm-related violent crime involved handguns in Toronto (79%) and Hamilton (78%). In contrast, firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms were most commonly present in incidents of firearm-related violent crime in Regina (43%) and Saskatoon (34%).

Text box 2
Organized crime, street gangs and firearm-related violent crime

In alignment with the *Criminal Code*, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey defines a criminal organization as a group of three or more individuals who conspire in an ongoing collective or network—as one of its main purposes or activities—to profit from illicit activities. In contrast, a street gang is defined as a group of individuals who use intimidation and violence to commit criminal acts on a regular basis to obtain power and recognition, and control over specific areas of criminal activity. The UCR Survey started collecting information from police about organized crime and street gang activity in 2016.

There were 569 incidents of firearm-related violent crime involving confirmed or suspected organized crime or street gang activity in 2023.[18] This represented a small proportion (4.0%) of firearm-related violent crime, similar to 2022 (4.5%) and 2018 (3.9%). In 2023, even smaller proportions of violent crime were linked to organized crime or street gang activity when the most serious weapon present was another type of weapon (0.5%) and where there was no weapon[19] present (0.2%).[20]

In 2023, there were 1,828 violent incidents linked to organized crime and street gangs. Compared to violent crime in general, weapons were much more common when violent crimes were linked to confirmed or suspected organized crime or street gang activity. Specifically, just over one in three (35%) such incidents involved a firearm, while one in four (24%) involved another type of weapon.[21] In comparison, 3.3% of violent incidents unrelated to organized crime or street gang activity involved the presence of a firearm, while 19% involved another type of weapon.

In terms of the type of firearm present in firearm-related violent incidents linked to organized crime and street gangs, handguns were most common (54%), followed by firearm-like weapons or unknown types of weapons (21%), rifles or shotguns (19%) and fully automatic or sawed-off firearms (6.3%). This mirrored overall firearm-related violent crime.

Decline in overall rate of firearm-related violent crime mostly due to fewer robberies

The large majority (80%) of incidents of firearm-related violent crime were physical assaults, robberies and firearm-specific violations in 2023 (Table 5). The decline in the overall rate of firearm-related violent crime was mostly due to robbery, which had 437 fewer incidents in 2023 and for which the rate decreased 14% since 2022. A decline was also noted for firearm-related homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder, which had 116 fewer incidents in 2023 and for which the rate decreased 17%. In 2023, a firearm was present for 14% of incidents of robbery and 38% of incidents of homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder.

When it came to firearm-specific offences, the overall rate increased between 2022 and 2023 (+3.8%, or +326 incidents). Each of the three unique offences also rose: the rate for using a firearm in the commission of an offence increased 7.7% (+87 incidents), discharging a firearm with intent increased 3.1% (+141 incidents) and pointing a firearm increased 2.9% (+98 incidents).

While the overall rate of firearm-related assault increased between 2022 and 2023 (+3.1%, +184 incidents), the increase was largely due to major assault (assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm [level 2] and aggravated assault [level 3]). The rate of major assault with a firearm present increased 5.2% (+207 incidents), but the rate of common assault and other assault[22] with a firearm present decreased 7.3% (-23 incidents). In addition, the rate of firearm-related threats, extortion and intimidation also increased since 2022 (+11%, +200 incidents).

Proportion of firearm-related violent crime cleared by charge differs according to offence type

In 2023, almost half (48%) of incidents of firearm-related violent crime were not cleared by police,[23] while a similar proportion (46%) was cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges and a small proportion (5.4%) was cleared otherwise.[24] Similarly, almost half (46%) of violent crime overall remained uncleared, while four in ten (40%) incidents were cleared by charge and one in seven (14%) incidents were cleared otherwise.

The proportion of firearm-related violent crime that was cleared by charge was comparable in 2022 (47%) and slightly higher in 2018 (50%) and 2013 (49%). The same emerged for violent crime overall (41% in 2022, 47% in 2018 and 46% in 2013). The decline since 2018 may be partly attributed to the revisions that were implemented that year in the UCR Survey (see Text box 3).

Firearm-related violent crime was most often cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges for the offence of using a firearm in the commission of an offence (75%) in 2023 (Table 5). This was followed by hostage taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement and trafficking in persons (66%), common assault and other assault (65%) and sexual assault (65%) where a firearm was present. Firearm-related violent crime was least often cleared by charge when it came to discharging a firearm with intent (30%), pointing a firearm (40%), threats, extortion or intimidation (41%) and robbery (43%).

Text box 3
Revisions to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey's definition of "founded" crime

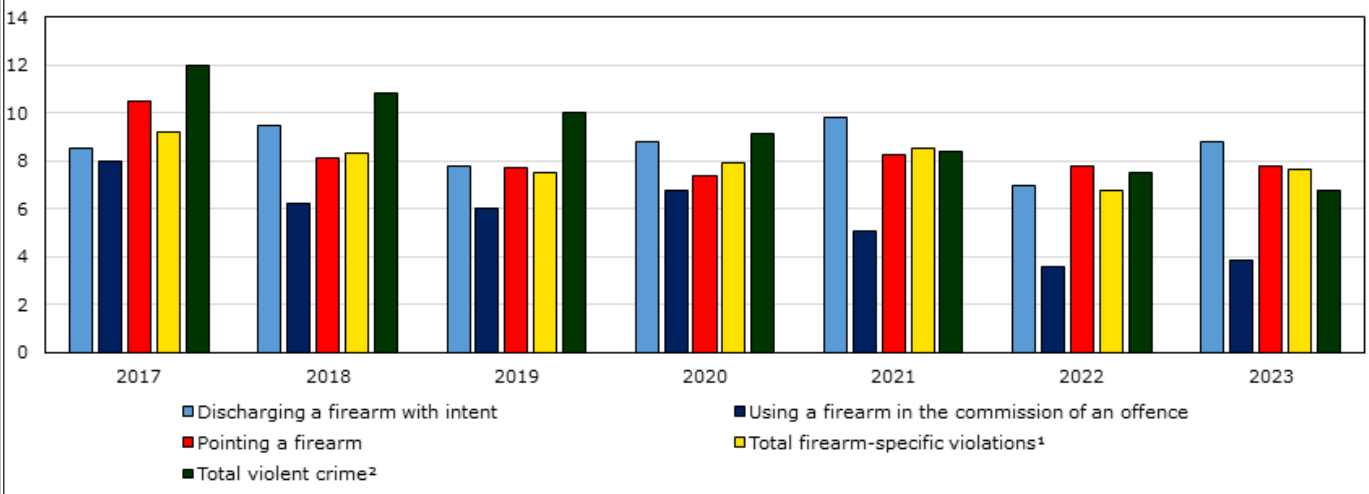
Before 2018, an incident was classified as “founded” in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey if, after police investigation, it was determined that a crime had occurred, even if the accused person was unknown (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2018). As such, the police had to establish that an incident had taken place before proceeding with the case (i.e., finding credible evidence that corroborates a victim or complainant statement).

The definition of “founded” crime was updated in January 2018 as such: “**An incident is founded if, after police investigation, it has been determined that the reported offence did occur or was attempted** (even if the charged/suspect chargeable [accused person] is unknown) **or there is no credible evidence to confirm that the reported incident did not take place. This includes third-party reports that fit these criteria**.” With the updated definition, a lack of corroborating evidence following an investigation does not mean that an incident did not occur. Because of this change, more incidents are captured by police data.

As was expected following the implementation of the revisions to the UCR Survey, the proportion of incidents deemed unfounded declined. In 2017, 12% of all incidents of violent crime were classified as unfounded, declining each year since, and dropping to 6.7% in 2023 (Chart 5).[25] A decline, while smaller, was also noted for firearm-specific violations—that is, discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm—which went from 9.2% unfounded in 2017 to 7.7% in 2023.

Chart 5
Unfounded police-reported firearm-specific violations and violent crime, Canada, 2017 to 2023

percent of incidents reported to police



1. Includes discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm.
2. Includes firearm-specific violations.
Note: Unfounded crime refers to incidents where it had been determined through police investigation that the reported incident did not occur, nor was it attempted. Information about unfounded incidents is based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey's aggregate data file, which captures all incidents reported to police. Data according to the most serious weapon present are not available from the aggregate data file; therefore, information about all firearm-related violent crime (not only firearm-specific violations) is not available. Offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, aggregate data file.

When it came to the proportion of individual firearm-specific violations deemed unfounded between 2017 and 2023, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm declined (from 8.0% to 3.8% and 10.5% to 7.8%, respectively). A similar proportion of incidents of discharging a firearm with intent were classified as unfounded in 2023 (8.8%) compared to 2017 (8.6%).

Following revisions to the UCR Survey, the progression of incidents of violent crime—from initial reporting to police through to police clearance—shifted. This included a larger number of incidents reported to police in 2023 than 2017, a larger proportion classified as founded, and a smaller proportion cleared (solved) by police. Of those that were solved, a larger proportion of incidents resulted in charges being laid or recommended by police.

For more information about changes to the UCR Survey, see Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2018.

Men and boys account for two in three victims and nine in ten persons accused of firearm-related violent crime

Similar to previous years, men and boys accounted for the majority of victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime in 2023. Of the victims where both gender and age were known to police, over half (56%) of the 11,178 victims were men aged 18 and older, and one in nine (11%) were boys aged 17 and younger (Table 6).[26] Women accounted for nearly three in ten (28%) victims, while a relatively small proportion (5.5%) of victims were girls. The median age of victims of firearm-related violent crime was slightly lower than victims of overall violent crime (29 versus 31 years).[27] Among victims of firearm-related crime, the highest rate was noted for men aged 18 to 24 (86.4 per 100,000 population) followed by boys aged 12 to 17 (76.7) (Table 6).

Half (50%) of all victims of firearm-related violent crime were victimized by a stranger, which was much more common than for victims of violent crime in general (26%).[28] Just over one in six (15%) victims of firearm-related violent crime were victimized by an intimate partner or a family member.[29] Of these 1,699 victims, two-thirds (67%) were women and girls.[30] More specifically, there were 1,051 victims of intimate partner violence where a firearm was involved, the large majority (84%) of whom were women and girls. For firearm-related intimate partner and family violence, firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms were present for 33% of victims, equal to handguns (33%), followed by rifles or shotguns (27%) and fully-automatic or sawed-off shotguns (7.4%).

In 2023, there were 7,841 persons accused in incidents of firearm-related violent crime (Table 6).[31] The large majority (89%) of accused were men and boys. The median age of those accused of firearm-related violent crime was lower than those accused of violent crime in general (26 versus 33 years),[32] and nearly one-quarter (23%) of those accused of firearm-related violent crime were youth aged 12 to 17 years.[33] Among persons accused of firearm-related crime, the highest rate was noted for boys aged 12 to 17 (127 accused persons per 100,000 population) followed by men aged 18 to 24 (91.9) (Table 6). Among youth accused, more than nine in ten (93%) were boys. Incidents with youth accused most often involved handguns (48%) and firearm-like weapons (43%).

For more detail on recent trends in characteristics of victims and persons accused of firearm-related violent crime in Canada, see Perreault, 2024.

Incidents of violent crime with a firearm present more commonly involve multiple victims

Despite accounting for a small proportion of violent crime overall, incidents of violent crime where a firearm was present more often involved in incidents with multiple victims. Of the firearm-related violent incidents where victim records were provided, nearly one in four (22%) involved multiple victims, more common than when there was another type of weapon present (14%) or no weapon present (7.4%). More specifically, around one in seven (15%) incidents where a firearm was present involved two victims, while 4.2% of such incidents involved three victims and 2.6% of incidents involved four or more victims. This was less common for incidents with another type of weapon present (11%, 2.3% and 1.1%, respectively) or no weapon present (6.1%, 0.9% and 0.4%, respectively).

When it came to different types of firearms, the proportions of incidents that involved multiple victims were relatively similar: 24% of incidents where a rifle or shotgun was present, 22% where a fully automatic or sawed-off shotgun was present, 22% where a handgun was present and 20% where a firearm-like weapon or an unknown type of firearm was present involved multiple victims. Of the incidents of firearm-related violent crime involving multiple victims, a handgun was most often present (52%), followed by a firearm-like weapon or an unknown type of firearm (27%), a rifle or shotgun (16%) and a fully automatic or sawed-off shotgun (5.2%).

In terms of the severity of incidents, the UCR Survey also captures information about the weapon causing injury. Of the victims of violent crime who were injured in 2023, 2,204 victims (1.6%) were injured by a firearm.[34] Most (59%) of these victims sustained a minor injury,[35] while three in ten (29%) sustained a major injury[36] and one in eight (12%) died. In contrast, where another type of weapon or physical force caused injury, the vast majority (94%) of victims sustained minor injuries, while 5.4% sustained major injuries and 0.3% died.

Text box 4
New firearm variables on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey has limited information on the types of firearms used in criminal incidents. The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics at Statistics Canada—along with Public Safety Canada, Justice Canada, police services and other subject matter experts—participated in consultations to explore the feasibility of adding additional variables to the UCR Survey to inform decision-making about firearm policies, programs and enforcement. Following this process, four new variables were added to the UCR Survey in 2021:

- **Firearms recovered:** The number of firearms that were recovered as part of the incident. This includes firearms that were found or turned over to police, and firearms that were previously listed as stolen by police but were later recovered or found.
- **Firearms seized:** The number of firearms that were seized as part of the incident. A firearm is considered seized when it is taken by police with a legal authority to do so. This may be for public safety reasons or for the collection of evidence as part of the incident.
- **Firearms stolen:** The number of firearms that were reported stolen to police as part of the incident.
- **Firearms discharged:** Indicates whether a firearm was discharged as part of the incident and, if so, what evidence was present (i.e., physical evidence, witness testimony or both).

As of 2023—the second year of data collection for these new firearm variables—this information was reported for a small proportion (9.2%) of all incidents of firearm-related violent crime.[37] In time, more police services will implement changes to their records management systems and report this information to the UCR Survey.

Where these data were available, more than nine in ten (92%) incidents of firearm-related violent crime did not involve the recovery of a firearm, eight in ten (81%) did not involve the seizure of a firearm and nearly all (99%) did not involve a firearm being reported as stolen. Meanwhile, 5.4% of incidents had one firearm recovered and 1.6% had two firearms recovered. One in eight (12%) incidents had one firearm seized, while 3.1% had two seized, 1.2% had three seized and 1.1% had four seized.

Nearly half (47%) of incidents of firearm-related violent crime—again, where the data were available—involved the discharge of a firearm. The determination that a firearm was discharged was most often based on physical evidence (60%),[38] while a relatively small proportion (8.5%) involved witness testimony[39] and nearly one in three incidents (31%) had a combination of the two.

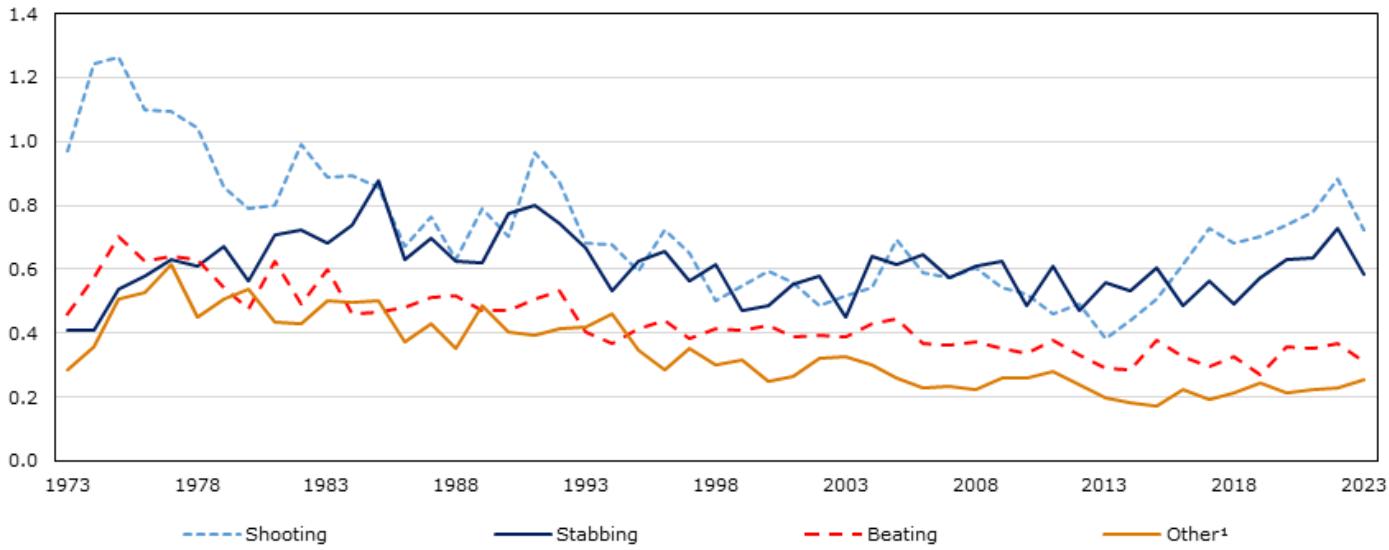
Section 2: Firearm-related homicide

After increasing every year since 2018, firearm-related homicide falls in 2023

Between 2018 and 2022, there were year-over-year increases in the rate of firearm-related homicides in Canada. In 2023, there were 289 homicides involving a firearm, representing a rate of 0.72 incidents per 100,000 population (Chart 6).[40] This marked a decline of 18% in the rate from 2022, when there were 343 incidents of homicide involving a firearm, or 0.88 incidents per 100,000 population. A decline was also noted for homicide in general, which went from 882 incidents in 2022 to 778 in 2023, or from 2.27 to 1.94 incidents per 100,000 population (-14%).

Chart 6
Homicides, by primary method causing death, Canada, 1973 to 2023

rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes, for example, strangulation, suffocation or drowning; drug overdose; poisoning or lethal injection; smoke inhalation or burns; exposure or hypothermia; abusive head trauma; motor vehicle impact or collision; neglect or failure to support life.
Note: Excludes homicides where the primary method causing death was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

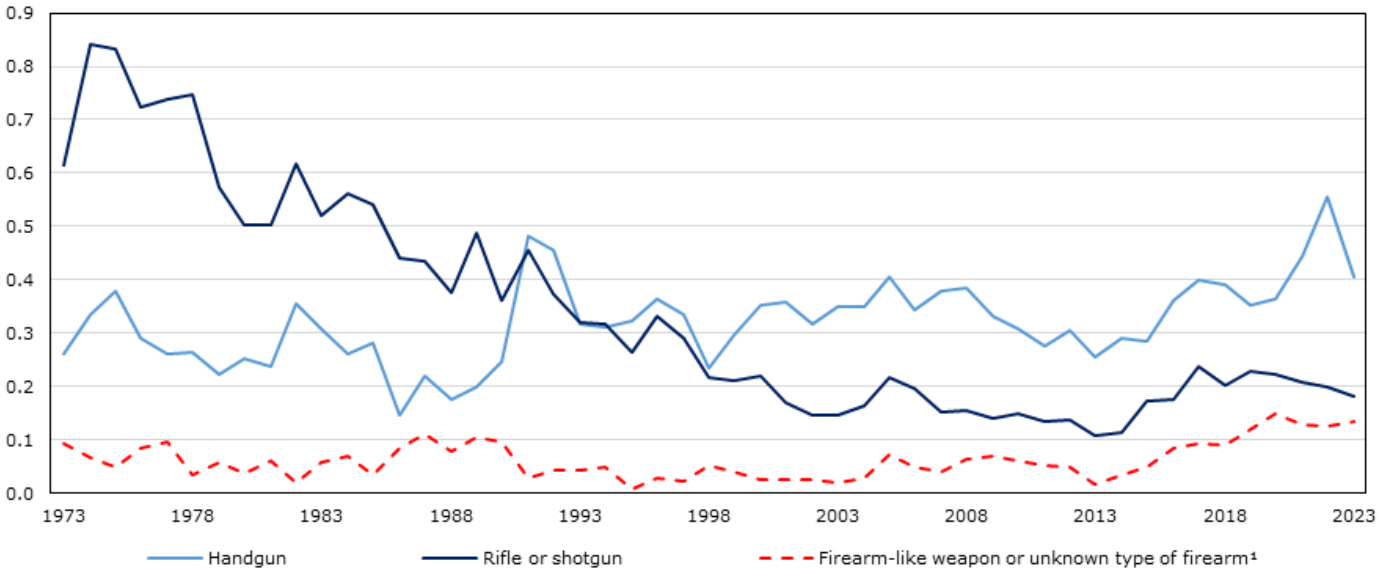
There were similar declines for homicides caused by stabbing (-20%) and beating (-16%). When it came to longer-term trends, the rate of firearm-related homicide in 2023 (0.72 incidents per 100,000 population) was 5.6% higher than 2018 (0.68, or 253 homicides), which compared to an increase of 19% for stabbing homicides, a decline of 5.3% for beating homicides and an increase of 8.3% for homicide in general. Compared to 2013 (0.38, or 134 homicides), the rate of firearm-related homicide was 89% higher in 2023, a much larger increase than stabbing homicides (+5.0%), beating homicides (+7.2%) and homicide in general (+33%).

In 2023, shooting homicides accounted for nearly four in ten (38%) of all homicides.[41] Shooting was the leading cause of death among homicide victims, followed by stabbing (31%), beating (17%) and other methods[42] (14%). Among homicides, shooting has been the most common primary method causing death every year since 2016.

Since 1995, handguns have been the most common firearm causing death in shooting homicides. In 2023, more than half (56%) of all shooting homicides were caused by handguns, followed by rifles or shotguns (25%) and other types of firearms[43] (19%) (Chart 7). Compared to 2023, handguns were somewhat more common in 2022 (63%) while rifles or shotguns and other types of firearms were slightly less common (23% and 14%, respectively).

Chart 7
Shooting homicides, by type of firearm causing death, Canada, 1973 to 2023

rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes, for example, nail guns and pellet guns. Also includes shooting homicides where the primary firearm causing death was unknown.
Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Four in five firearm-related homicides occur in provincial urban areas

Four in five (80%) shooting homicides occurred in provincial urban areas in 2023, which compared to 83% of such incidents in 2022, 87% in 2018 and 79% in 2013. Similarly, nearly four in five (78%) of all homicides occurred in provincial urban areas in 2023.[44] As mentioned, the large majority (84%) of the population lived in provincial urban areas in Canada in 2023 (Statistics Canada, 2024b).

The remaining shooting homicides took place in the provincial rural south (12%), the provincial rural north (6.9%) and the territories (1.0%) in 2023. Like firearm-related violent crime, the highest rate for shooting homicides was in the territories (2.29 incidents per 100,000 population) and the rural north (2.14). Rates were lower in the urban north (1.58), the rural south (0.71) and the urban south (0.63). It should be noted that while the territories had the highest rate, there were three shooting homicides in that region.

The vast majority (90%) of victims killed in handgun homicides were in provincial urban areas. The remaining handgun homicides occurred in the provincial rural south (6.8%) and rural north (3.1%), and the territories (0.6%). Homicides committed with a rifle or shotgun differed, with 59% occurring in provincial urban areas, 26% in the provincial rural south, 14% in the provincial rural north and 1.4% in the territories.

Said another way, more than six in ten (63%) victims of shooting homicide in provincial urban areas were killed by a handgun, while equal proportions were killed by a rifle or shotgun (19%) or another type of firearm (19%). In provincial rural areas, over half (53%) of shooting homicide victims were killed by a rifle or shotgun, followed by a handgun (29%) and another type of firearm (18%).

Organized crime or street gang activity connected to almost half of homicides involving firearms

In 2023, nearly half (45%) of all shooting homicides were related to confirmed or suspected organized crime or street gang activity, while this was much less common for homicides committed by another method (8.3%).[45] Organized crime or street gang-related activity was associated with a slightly larger proportion of shooting homicides in 2022 (48%), 2018 (50%) and 2013 (49%).

The proportion of shooting homicides linked to organized crime or street gang activity differed according to the type of firearm that was used. Just over half (52%, or 84 of 162) of shooting homicides involving handguns in 2023 were related to organized crime or street gangs. This compared to 21% (15 of 73) of shooting homicides involving a rifle or a shotgun and 59% (32 of 54) of shooting homicides involving another type of firearm.

In all, nearly four in five (78%) homicides linked to organized crime or street gang activity were shootings, nearly two-thirds (64%) of which were committed with a handgun.

Small proportion of solved shooting homicides perpetrated by an accused with a valid licence for the classification of firearm that was used

Information about how firearms used in shooting homicides were initially obtained was available for a minority (26%) of shooting homicides in 2023.[46] Of the shooting homicides where this information was known, the primary firearm had initially been legally obtained in one-third (33% or 25 of 76) of incidents.[47] It was more common for rifles or shotguns to have initially been legally obtained (43% or 10 of 23) than handguns (30% or 14 of 47). Of the shooting homicides where the firearm had initially been legally obtained, the accused was the legal firearm owner in 75% or 15 of 20 incidents.[48]

Where the primary firearm was not legally owned at the time of the homicide, 18 firearms had been illegally purchased from the legal Canadian owner or were illegal weapons (e.g., never owned legally in Canada, smuggled into Canada, purchased on the dark net or homemade). A further four firearms were lost or missing, or stolen, from the legal Canadian owner.

The primary firearm causing death was recovered for 33% of shooting homicides. Of the primary firearms that were recovered, nearly two-thirds (65% or 60 of 93) had an unknown origin. Meanwhile, 18% (17 of 93) originated from Canada, 13% (12 of 93) originated from the United States and 4.3% (4 of 93) originated from other countries.

In the large majority (91%, or 112 of 123) of solved shooting homicides, the accused did not have a valid licence for the classification of firearm that was used.[49] More specifically, the accused had a valid licence in 9.1% (6 of 66) of homicides involving a handgun and in 11% (5 of 45) of homicides involving a rifle or shotgun.

More than eight in ten shooting homicide victims are men and boys

Men and boys have consistently accounted for the majority of homicide victims in Canada. In 2023, around three-quarters (73%) of homicide victims were men and boys, and men and boys represented an even larger proportion of victims of shooting homicides (85%).[50] More specifically, where age and gender were both known to police, eight in ten (81%) victims of shooting homicides were men aged 18 and older, and 4.2% were boys aged 17 and younger. Meanwhile, women accounted for one in seven (14%) victims and a small proportion (1.0%) of victims were girls. The median age of shooting homicide victims was lower than victims of other types of homicide (31 versus 38 years).[51]

Most often, solved homicides (43%) and solved shooting homicides (50%) were perpetrated by an acquaintance.[52] Meanwhile, more than one in three (36%) solved homicides and nearly one in four (23%) solved shooting homicides were perpetrated by a family member or an intimate partner.

While women and girls accounted for nearly one in four (23%) victims of solved shooting homicides in 2023, they accounted for half (50% or 15 of 30) of victims of shooting homicides perpetrated by a family member or an intimate partner. This marked a decline from 2022 (64%), 2018 (68%) and 2013 (62%) when women and girls represented more than six in ten victims of solved shooting homicides perpetrated by a family member or an intimate partner.

In 2023, there were 95 persons accused in shooting homicides. Nearly all (97% or 92 of 95) accused in shooting homicides were men and boys. The median age of those accused in shooting homicides was lower than those accused of other types of homicide (28 versus 34 years),[53] and one in seven (14% or 13 of 95) of those accused in shooting homicides were youth aged 12 to 17 years.

Prior criminal conviction more common for those accused in shooting homicides

Persons accused in incidents of shooting homicides more often had a prior criminal conviction than those accused of homicide by other means (e.g., stabbing, beating). In 2023, nearly two-thirds (64% or 60 of 94) of persons accused of firearm-related homicide had a prior conviction, compared to over half (54%) of those accused of homicide by another method.[54] More specifically, just over half (52% or 49 of 94) of persons accused in shooting homicides had a prior violent conviction (compared with 43% of those accused of another type of homicide), 39% or 37 of 94 had a prior property conviction (compared to 35%) and 54% or 51 of 94 had a prior conviction related to other *Criminal Code* or federal statute offences, such as offences related to drugs or firearms (compared to 40%).

When it came to a history of family or intimate partner violence known to police, the opposite emerged for persons accused of shooting homicides. One-third (32%) of those accused in family or intimate partner shooting homicides between 2013 and 2023 had a known history of violence with the victim.[55] A known history of violence with the victim was more common for those accused of family and intimate partner homicides committed by another method (42%). As such, among those accused of family or intimate partner homicides, a known history of violence with the victim was less common for shootings than other types of homicide.

For detailed information about homicide in Canada, see David & Jaffray, 2022. For the latest information about homicide, see Statistics Canada, 2024a.

Text box 5
Other firearm-related crime

Not all firearm-related crimes are classified as violent. There are non-violent crimes—including breaking and entering to steal a firearm—and firearm-related administrative offences for which police report information through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.

Another measure of firearm-related crime in Canada is the number of incidents in which a firearm was reported as stolen to police. In the UCR Survey, police can identify up to five different types of property stolen in an incident, including four separate categories for firearms: restricted weapons, rifles, shotguns and other firearms. In 2023, there were 1,857 incidents where at least one firearm was among the property stolen.[56] This marked a 13% decline since 2022 (2,129 incidents), a 48% decline since 2018 (3,546 incidents) and a 42% decline since 2013 (3,208 incidents). In fact, 2023 had the lowest number of incidents where a firearm was stolen since comparable data became available in 2009, and the number of incidents has been on a downward trend each year since 2015, when they peaked at 4,138 incidents.

In 2023, firearms reported stolen were most often rifles (975 incidents involving at least one stolen rifle), followed by shotguns (494), other firearms (475) and restricted firearms (274).[57] Rifles have been the firearm type most commonly reported stolen since 2009, when comparable trend data became available.

Summary

In 2023, there were 14,416 incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, including violent crime where a firearm was present, and the firearm-specific violations of discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm.

Firearm-related violent crime continued to account for a small proportion (2.6%) of violent crime in Canada. This marked a decrease (-1.7%) in the rate of firearm-related violent crime from 2022, while overall violent crime increased 4%. The rate of firearm-related violent crime went from 37.5 incidents per 100,000 population in 2022 to 36.9 in 2023. This decline was attributed to the decrease in the provincial urban south. All other regions had increases, with the largest in the provincial rural south (+19%) and the provincial urban north (+13%).

The rate of firearm-related violent crime differed according to region, with the highest rates in the territories and the provincial rural north. Overall, firearm-related violent crime most often involved the presence of a handgun. In the provinces, handguns were most common in urban areas while rifles or shotguns, and firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms were more common in rural areas.

Despite accounting for a small proportion of violent crime overall, incidents of violent crime where a firearm was present more often involved multiple victims than incidents where there was another type of weapon present or no weapon present. Major injury and death were also more common for victims when a firearm was present than victims of violent crime in general.

While there were year-over-year increases in the rate of firearm-related homicide between 2018 and 2022, 2023 marked a decline of 18% when there were 289 homicides involving a firearm, representing a rate of 0.72 incidents per 100,000 population. There was a similar decline for homicide in general (-14%). Shooting was the leading cause of death among homicide victims, and more than half of all shooting homicides were caused by handguns.

Data sources and concepts

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was established in 1962 with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The UCR Survey is a compilation of police-reported crimes that have been reported to federal, provincial and municipal police services in Canada.

One incident can involve multiple offences. To ensure comparability, data presented in this article are based on the most serious violation in the incident. Police determine the most serious violation according to standardized classification rules in the UCR Survey that consider, for instance, whether the offence is violent as well as the maximum penalty imposed by the *Criminal Code*.

For the purposes of this analysis, a firearm-related violent crime refers to a crime where a firearm was present during the commission of the offence and where police determined that the firearm was relevant to the crime, regardless of whether it was used. Firearms include handguns, rifles or shotguns, fully automatic or sawed-off firearms, and firearm-like weapons, such as starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns and BB guns. Firearm-specific offences—including discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm—are included in firearm-related violent crime, regardless of the most serious weapon present.

This release uses a hybrid approach to measure firearm-related violent crime—first adopted with the release of firearm data from 2022 (Perreault, 2024). Now, each victim is counted as a unique incident, as is each incident where there is no associated victim record. For more information, see Text box 1.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, Trend Database, is a microdata survey that captures detailed information on crimes reported to police, including the characteristics of incidents, victims and accused persons. UCR2 coverage between 2009 and 2023 is estimated at 99% of the population of Canada. UCR2 includes only the police services that have consistently responded to allow for comparisons over time.

In Quebec, the information management system used by most police services produces a relatively high proportion of unknown values for the variable “most serious weapon present.” Although incidents of firearm-related crime are likely correctly recorded in the vast majority of cases, undercounting remains possible. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing data from Quebec to data from other provinces and territories.

This analysis excludes data from the Québec City Police Service due to data quality concerns for the variable “most serious weapon present.” Data for the Saint John Police Service (SJPS) are also excluded. The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, in communication with the SJPS, decided to remove SJPS data from the 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2023 research files due to concerns with data quality in these years. As a result, SJPS data have also been removed from the trend file, which includes only those police services who have consistently reported data every year between 2009 and 2023.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide victims, accused persons and incidents in Canada. The Homicide Survey began collecting information on all homicides in 1961.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police service completes the survey questionnaires, which are then sent to Statistics Canada. There are cases where homicides become known to police months or years after they occurred. These incidents are counted in the year in which they become known to police. Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey. Information collected through the victim and incident questionnaires are also updated accordingly when cases are solved.

The Homicide Survey recently underwent a redesign to improve data quality and enhance relevance. Changes were made to existing questions and additional questions were added as of the 2019 reporting period.

Geographic regions

An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A 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, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs.

The provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia (Variant of Standard Geographical Classification 2021 for North and South). The provincial north includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Of note, the Nunavik Police Service reports data through the UCR Aggregate Survey (UCR1). As such, in this article, northern areas in Quebec refer to northern regions south of Nunavik.

Types of firearms

For the purposes of the UCR Survey and the Homicide Survey, a firearm is any barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged and can cause serious bodily injury or death to a person. Different types of firearms are distinguished as such by the two surveys (presented in descending order of seriousness according to the hierarchy for determining most serious weapon):

- **Fully automatic firearm:** Any firearm that allows continuous and rapid fire of bullets with one pull of the trigger.
- **Sawed-off rifle or shotgun:** Any rifle or shotgun with a barrel length that has been altered to less than 457 millimetres, or with an overall weapon length of less than 660 millimetres.
- **Handgun:** Any firearm designed to be held and fired by the action of one hand.
- **Rifle or shotgun:** Any long-barrelled firearm with a barrel length of 660 millimetres or more.
- **Firearm-like weapon:** Any firearm-like weapon capable of propelling any object through a barrel by means of gunpowder, compressed carbon dioxide, pumped air, etc. Includes, for example, starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns and BB guns. This category also includes unknown types of firearms.

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Notes

1. Unless otherwise noted, information about firearm-related violent crime in this article is based on data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, Trend Database, which covers 99% of the Canadian population.

2. Incidents where police confirmed that a firearm was present and relevant to the commission of the offence, but could not reliably determine the type of firearm, are also included.

3. One incident can involve multiple offences. To ensure comparability, data presented in this article are based on the most serious violation in the incident.

4. Based on the most serious weapon present. In Quebec, the information management system used by the majority of police services produces a relatively high proportion of unknown values for the variable "most serious weapon present." Although incidents of firearm-related crime are likely recorded correctly for the vast majority of cases, undercounting remains possible. Due to data quality concerns, weapon analysis excludes data from the province of Quebec unless the most serious weapon present was a firearm, and data from the Québec City Police Service are also excluded regardless of the most serious weapon present. For comparability, the rate of firearm-related violent crime excluding the province of Quebec was 40.2 incidents per 100,000 population.

5. These were followed by motor vehicles (0.5%), fire (0.2%), ropes and other strangulation instruments (0.1%) and explosives (0.04%). For 6.2% of incidents, the most serious weapon present was a weapon that does not fit into a specific category. Percent calculation includes unknown types of weapons (4.1%). The province of Quebec is excluded as comparisons are made for weapons other than firearms (see note 4).

6. Throughout this article, percent changes are based on unrounded rates.

7. Since 2022, the incident rate for non-firearm-related violent crime increased 4.1%.

8. Since 2018, the incident rate for non-firearm-related violent crime increased 25%.

9. Since 2013, the incident rate for non-firearm-related violent crime increased 29%.

10. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A 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, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs.

11. Provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Provincial north includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

12. In comparison, the rate of violent crime overall and non-firearm-related violent crime in the provincial rural north increased 34% and 33%, respectively, since 2018.

13. In comparison, the rate of violent crime overall (+34%, +36%, +30% and +23%, respectively) and non-firearm-related violent crime (+33%, +36%, +30%, +23%, respectively) also increased in the provincial rural south, the territories, the provincial urban north and the provincial urban south since 2018.

14. See note 4.

15. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area.

16. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

17. Includes, for example, starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns and BB guns. Also includes violent crime where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and the type of weapon was unknown. It is not possible to determine whether the weapons in this category were firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms.

18. Data in this text box are based on microdata from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. As information on organized crime and street gangs was collected beginning in 2016, it is not included in the Trend Database but is available for individual years. In 2023, this information was provided by police services covering 93% of the population in Canada. More specifically, this information was provided by police services covering 100% of the population in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, and 99.8% in Prince Edward Island, 91.1% in New Brunswick, 99.3% in Quebec, 83.1% in Ontario, 99.3% in Manitoba and 98.9% in Saskatchewan. Due to data quality concerns, weapon analysis excludes data from the province of Quebec unless the most serious weapon present was a firearm, and data from the Québec City Police Service are excluded regardless of the most serious weapon present. Percent calculation excludes incidents where organized crime or street gang activity was unknown.

19. Includes physical force and threats.

20. Due to data quality concerns (see note 4), non-firearm weapon categories exclude the province of Quebec. For comparability, the proportion of violent crime linked to organized crime or street gang activity that involved a firearm excluding Quebec was 4.1%.

21. Percent calculation excludes incidents where the type of firearm was unknown. Due to data quality concerns (see note 4), non-firearm weapon categories exclude the province of Quebec. For comparability, the proportion of violent crime linked to organized crime or street gang activity that involved a firearm excluding Quebec was 32%, while the proportion of violent crime unrelated to organized crime or street gang activity that involved a firearm was 2.9%.

22. Includes physical assault level 1, unlawfully causing bodily harm, assault against peace officer, assault against peace officer causing bodily harm, aggravated assault against peace officer, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to cause or causing bodily harm and other assaults.

23. Not cleared includes incidents that were open and still under investigation, incidents with insufficient evidence to proceed and incidents where the victim or complainant declined to proceed (no accused person identified).

24. Cleared otherwise includes, for example, incidents where the victim or complainant requesting that no further action be taken where an accused person was identified and those cleared due to departmental discretion.

25. Information about unfounded crime is based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey's aggregate data file, which captures all incidents reported to police. Data according to the most serious weapon present are not available from the aggregate data file; therefore, information about all firearm-relate violent crime (not only firearm-specific violations) is not available. Data from the aggregate data file will not match those from the Trend Database presented elsewhere in this article. Offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim. Unlike analysis related to trend data and microdata from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, there are no data limitations for the province of Quebec, the Québec City Police Service, the Nunavik Police Service and the Saint John Police Service.

26. Includes incidents where a victim record was provided.

27. Median age calculation excludes victims whose age was coded as unknown. More specifically, among victims of firearm-related violent crime, the median age was 29 years for men and boys and 30 years for women and girls.

28. Percent calculation excludes victims where the accused–victim relationship was coded as unknown.

29. Victims of family violence include those aged 110 years and younger, and victims of intimate partner violence include those aged 12 to 110 years (victims of spousal violence include those aged 15 years and older, and victims of dating violence include those aged 12 years and older). Victims aged older than 110 years are excluded from analyses because of possible instances of miscoding unknown age within this age category. Victims whose age was unknown or whose relationship with the accused was unknown are excluded.

30. Percent calculation excludes victims whose gender was coded as unknown.

31. Includes all incidents, regardless of whether a victim record was provided.

32. Median age calculation excludes accused persons whose age was coded as unknown. More specifically, among those accused of firearm-related violent crime, the median age was 25 years for men and boys and 29 years for women and girls.

33. Includes accused persons aged 12 years and older as those younger than 12 years cannot be held criminally responsible.

34. Due to data quality concerns, analysis of weapon causing injury excludes the province of Quebec. Percent calculation excludes victims where the level of injury or the weapon causing injury was unknown.

35. Includes injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).

36. Includes injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility.

37. Data in this text box are based on microdata from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. As these variables are relatively new, results from the Trend Database are not available. Some data are available from police services covering 24% of the population in Canada, which accounts for the 9.2% of incidents where new data were reported. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded.

38. Includes, for example, bullets, bullet wounds, bullet damage, shell casings and video evidence.

39. Includes seeing and hearing.

40. Homicide data are based on the Homicide Survey. Unlike analysis related to trend data and microdata from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, there are no data limitations for the province of Quebec, the Québec City Police Service, the Nunavik Police Service and the Saint John Police Service.

41. Percent calculation excludes homicides where the primary method causing death was unknown. The recent homicide release (Statistics Canada, 2024a) discussed the proportion of homicide that was firearm-related (39%), calculated using the variable “primary weapon used to cause death.” The number of unknowns for primary weapon causing death was slightly higher than for the variable “primary method used to cause death,” which explains the slight difference in the proportion of homicides that were firearm-related (primary weapon causing death) and the proportion of homicides that were shooting homicides (primary method causing death). Regardless, the number of homicides that were caused by a firearm was equal to the number of homicides that were shootings (both 289).

42. Includes, for example, strangulation, suffocation or drowning; drug overdose; poisoning or lethal injection; smoke inhalation or burns; exposure or hypothermia; abusive head trauma; motor vehicle impact or collision; neglect or failure to support life.

43. Includes, for example, nail guns and pellet guns. Also includes shooting homicides where the primary firearm causing death was unknown.

44. More specifically, in 2023, 73% of shooting homicides occurred in the provincial urban south and 6.9% occurred in the provincial urban north.

45. Refers to incidents committed by, and for the benefit of, a criminal organization.

46. Given the large proportion of unknowns in this section, information should be interpreted with caution.

47. Percent calculation excludes homicides where primary weapon initially obtained legally was unknown.

48. Percent calculation excludes homicides where accused in legal possession of primary weapon was unknown.

49. Solved homicides include those where an accused person was identified. Percent calculation excludes homicides where it was unknown if the accused person was in possession of valid firearm licence for classification of firearm used.

50. Excludes victims whose gender was coded as unknown.

51. Median age calculation excludes victims whose age was coded as unknown. More specifically, among shooting homicide victims, the median age was 31 years for men and boys and 33.5 years for women and girls.

52. Percent calculation excludes solved homicides where the accused–victim relationship was unknown.

53. Median age calculation excludes accused persons whose age was coded as unknown and accused persons where the primary method causing death was unknown.

54. Percent calculation excludes accused persons where previous convictions of criminal activities was unknown and accused persons where the primary method causing death was unknown.

55. It is not possible to determine the direction of prior family or intimate partner violence—that is, whether the person accused of homicide or the homicide victim perpetrated prior violence, or whether they both did—only that a history of violence between the two was known to police. Percent calculation excludes accused persons where previous history of family or intimate partner violence with the victim was unknown, and accused persons where the primary method causing death was unknown.

56. Represents a count of incidents and not necessarily a count of firearms stolen. More than one of the same type of firearm could have been stolen in the same incident.

57. Counts do not add to the total number of incidents in which a firearm was reported stolen because multiple types of firearms could have been stolen in the same incident.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Incidents of police-reported violent crime, by most serious weapon present, province or territory and region, 2023

	Firearm[1]		Other weapon[2]		No weapon[3]		Unkown weapon	Total	
Province or territory and region	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	number	rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	118	21.9	1,271	235.9	7,792	1,446.4	844	10,025	1,860.9
Urban south	57	19.4	596	203.2	3,990	1,360.1	420	5,063	1,725.9
Rural south	46	21.2	377	173.5	2,632	1,211.2	202	3,257	1,498.8
Rural north	15	53.5	298	1,061.9	1,170	4,169.2	222	1,705	6,075.6
Prince Edward Island	45	25.9	250	144.1	2,304	1,328.3	186	2,785	1,605.6
Urban south	24	21.1	197	173.0	1,550	1,361.0	150	1,921	1,686.8
Rural south	21	35.3	53	89.0	754	1,265.7	36	864	1,450.3
Nova Scotia	333	31.6	1,927	182.7	13,829	1,311.5	813	16,902	1,602.9
Urban south	204	27.9	1,317	180.3	8,961	1,226.7	335	10,817	1,480.8
Rural south	129	39.8	610	188.3	4,868	1,502.4	478	6,085	1,878.0
New Brunswick	313	41.2	1,760	231.6	11,177	1,470.7	567	13,817	1,818.0
Urban south[4]	176	38.0	1,045	225.6	6,400	1,381.7	310	7,931	1,712.2
Rural south	137	46.2	715	240.9	4,777	1,609.5	257	5,886	1,983.1
Quebec[5]	2,015	24.6	.	.	.	.	.	103,614	1,264.4
Urban south	1,605	24.6	.	.	.	.	.	80,624	1,233.3
Urban north	73	23.2	.	.	.	.	.	4,774	1,520.5
Rural south	310	24.4	.	.	.	.	.	16,228	1,275.6
Rural north[6]	27	37.8	.	.	.	.	.	1,988	2,782.6
Ontario	4,663	30.3	27,294	177.1	123,761	803.1	3,881	159,599	1,035.7
Urban south	4,213	31.3	23,446	174.3	102,791	764.4	2,935	133,385	991.9
Urban north	181	32.5	1,788	320.9	8,149	1,462.5	344	10,462	1,877.7
Rural south	191	16.6	1,168	101.5	7,938	689.6	330	9,627	836.3
Rural north	78	30.7	892	351.6	4,883	1,924.8	272	6,125	2,414.3
Manitoba	1,142	81.2	8,678	616.8	23,350	1,659.7	1,851	35,021	2,489.3
Urban south	527	51.9	5,035	496.0	12,048	1,186.8	360	17,970	1,770.2
Urban north	40	303.8	379	2,878.4	1,376	10,450.4	210	2,005	15,227.5
Rural south	229	78.5	798	273.4	3,576	1,225.3	372	4,975	1,704.6
Rural north	346	399.1	2,466	2,844.4	6,350	7,324.4	909	10,071	11,616.5
Saskatchewan	1,502	126.9	7,107	600.3	20,842	1,760.6	2,228	31,679	2,676.0
Urban south	715	89.1	4,077	508.2	10,011	1,247.8	652	15,455	1,926.3
Rural south	375	109.2	1,376	400.7	6,386	1,859.9	880	9,017	2,626.1
Rural north	412	1,080.2	1,654	4,336.7	4,445	11,654.4	696	7,207	18,896.2
Alberta	2,590	55.1	14,430	306.8	52,553	1,117.4	3,929	73,502	1,562.8
Urban south	1,587	42.1	11,043	292.8	35,668	945.8	1,848	50,146	1,329.7
Urban north	82	56.2	558	382.3	3,032	2,077.1	382	4,054	2,777.2

See notes at the end of the table

Table 1
Incidents of police-reported violent crime, by most serious weapon present, province or territory and region, 2023

	Firearm[1]		Other weapon[2]		No weapon[3]		Unkown weapon	Total	
Province or territory and region	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	number	rate
Rural south	450	87.4	1,328	258.0	7,124	1,384.0	904	9,806	1,905.1
Rural north	471	173.7	1,501	553.6	6,729	2,481.8	795	9,496	3,502.3
British Columbia	1,459	26.4	14,217	257.6	67,980	1,231.7	2,414	86,070	1,559.5
Urban south	1,096	23.1	11,802	248.6	53,640	1,129.8	1,651	68,189	1,436.3
Urban north	199	83.6	1,216	510.6	5,381	2,259.4	272	7,068	2,967.8
Rural south	103	24.1	761	178.1	5,924	1,386.1	231	7,019	1,642.4
Rural north	61	57.5	438	413.0	3,035	2,861.4	260	3,794	3,577.0
Yukon	32	70.8	291	644.0	1,696	3,753.3	239	2,258	4,997.0
Northwest Territories	77	171.2	587	1,305.3	3,993	8,878.9	521	5,178	11,513.8
Nunavut	127	312.2	673	1,654.7	4,130	10,154.2	441	5,371	13,205.3
Canada[7]	**14,416**	**36.9**	**78,485**	**254.2**	**333,407**	**1,079.7**	**17,914**	**545,821**	**1,396.9**
Provincial urban south	**10,204**	**32.0**	**58,558**	**230.7**	**235,059**	**926.0**	**8,661**	**391,501**	**1,226.4**
Provincial urban north	**575**	**45.3**	**3,941**	**412.9**	**17,938**	**1,879.4**	**1,208**	**28,363**	**2,236.0**
Provincial rural south	**1,991**	**40.6**	**7,186**	**198.2**	**43,979**	**1,212.8**	**3,690**	**72,764**	**1,485.5**
Provincial rural north	**1,410**	**164.9**	**7,249**	**924.9**	**26,612**	**3,395.3**	**3,154**	**40,386**	**4,722.2**
Territories	**236**	**180.4**	**1,551**	**1,185.5**	**9,819**	**7,505.0**	**1,201**	**12,807**	**9,788.9**

. not available for any reference period
1. Includes handguns, rifles, shotguns, fully automatic firearms, sawed-off shotguns, firearm-like weapons (e.g., starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns, BB guns) and unknown types of firearms. Also includes violent crime where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and the type of weapon was unknown.
2. Includes knives and other piercing or cutting instruments, clubs and other blunt instruments, explosives, fire, motor vehicles, ropes and other strangulation instruments, burning liquids and other caustic agents, and other weapons.
3. Includes physical force and threats.
4. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.
5. In Quebec, the information management system used by the majority of police services produces a relatively high proportion of unknown values for the variable "most serious weapon present." Although incidents of firearm-related crime are likely recorded correctly for the vast majority of cases, undercounting remains possible. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing data from Quebec to data from other provinces and territories.
6. Excludes Nunavik as detailed data about firearm-related violent crime are unavailable.
7. Due to data quality concerns, Canada and regional totals exclude the province of Quebec for other weapon, no weapon and unknown weapon. As such, individual weapon categories will not add to total.
Note: The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. Provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Provincial north includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A 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, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Due to data quality concerns, weapon analysis excludes data from the province of Quebec unless the most serious weapon present was a firearm, and data from the Québec City Police Service are also excluded regardless of the most serious weapon present. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Table 2-a
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by province or territory and region, 2013, 2018, 2022 and 2023

Province or territory and region	2023			2022			2018			2013		
	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	118	21.9	1.2	124	23.3	1.3	130	24.6	1.8	100	19.0	1.4
Urban south	57	19.4	1.1	89	31.0	1.9	79	28.3	2.1	58	25.9	1.7
Rural south	46	21.2	1.4	28	12.9	0.9	37	16.7	1.7	36	13.1	1.3
Rural north	15	53.5	0.9	7	24.9	0.4	14	50.4	1.3	6	21.5	0.5
Prince Edward Island	45	25.9	1.6	17	10.2	0.7	25	16.5	1.6	8	5.6	0.6
Urban south	24	21.1	1.2	8	7.3	0.5	17	17.2	1.7	4	4.4	0.4
Rural south	21	35.3	2.4	9	15.5	1.2	8	15.0	1.4	4	7.5	0.9
Nova Scotia	333	31.6	2.0	307	30.1	1.9	201	21.0	1.7	226	24.1	2.0
Urban south	204	27.9	1.9	213	30.3	2.1	162	24.9	1.9	168	26.1	2.3
Rural south	129	39.8	2.1	94	29.4	1.6	39	12.7	1.1	58	19.8	1.4
New Brunswick	313	41.2	2.3	307	41.6	2.3	190	27.1	2.1	124	18.0	1.5
Urban south[2]	176	38.0	2.2	164	36.8	2.2	96	22.9	1.8	65	15.6	1.4
Rural south	137	46.2	2.3	143	49.1	2.5	94	33.3	2.6	59	21.5	1.7
Quebec[3]	2,015	24.6	1.9	2,050	25.6	2.2	1,596	20.6	2.1	1,852	24.7	2.6
Urban south	1,605	24.6	2.0	1,691	26.6	2.3	1,262	20.4	2.1	1,524	26.2	2.8
Urban north	73	23.2	1.5	52	16.8	1.1	89	28.9	2.4	47	15.0	1.3
Rural south	310	24.4	1.9	276	21.7	1.9	234	20.0	2.1	256	20.0	2.1
Rural north[4]	27	37.8	1.4	31	43.4	1.9	11	15.4	0.8	25	33.7	2.0
Ontario	4,663	30.3	2.9	4,843	32.4	3.3	4,058	28.7	3.3	2,425	18.2	2.2
Urban south	4,213	31.3	3.2	4,385	33.7	3.6	3,771	30.6	3.6	2,236	19.4	2.5
Urban north	181	32.5	1.7	211	38.8	2.1	106	20.0	1.3	68	13.0	1.0
Rural south	191	16.6	2.0	163	14.4	1.8	125	12.0	1.7	80	7.7	1.1
Rural north	78	30.7	1.3	84	33.7	1.6	56	23.3	1.3	41	16.9	0.9
Manitoba	1,142	81.2	3.3	976	71.4	3.0	787	60.1	3.1	469	38.2	2.2
Urban south	527	51.9	2.9	512	52.4	3.1	563	60.3	4.4	286	32.7	2.8
Urban north	40	303.8	2.0	27	203.8	1.4	13	93.8	0.9	5	37.2	0.6
Rural south	229	78.5	4.6	155	53.6	3.3	85	30.6	2.2	75	28.8	1.9
Rural north	346	399.1	3.4	282	325.9	2.8	126	148.2	1.7	103	129.4	1.6
Saskatchewan	1,502	126.9	4.7	1,316	114.1	4.4	943	83.4	4.1	445	41.4	2.1
Urban south	715	89.1	4.6	694	89.6	4.9	559	74.3	5.0	216	31.5	2.1
Rural south	375	109.2	4.2	305	89.3	3.6	218	64.2	3.5	148	42.1	2.2
Rural north	412	1,080.2	5.7	317	836.5	4.4	166	432.1	3.1	81	210.4	1.7
Alberta	2,590	55.1	3.5	2,571	56.9	3.7	1,851	43.0	3.3	1,273	31.9	2.5
Urban south	1,587	42.1	3.2	1,595	44.3	3.4	1,249	36.7	3.2	843	27.2	2.7
Urban north	82	56.2	2.0	85	59.7	2.1	80	56.4	2.6	49	34.7	1.4
Rural south	450	87.4	4.6	365	71.9	3.9	217	44.3	3.1	163	34.2	2.1
Rural north	471	173.7	5.0	526	195.8	5.4	305	113.5	4.3	218	81.3	2.7

See notes at the end of the table

Table 2-a
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by province or territory and region, 2013, 2018, 2022 and 2023

Province or territory and region	2023			2022			2018			2013		
	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]
British Columbia	1,459	26.4	1.7	1,516	28.3	1.8	983	19.6	1.7	1,110	24.0	1.9
Urban south	1,096	23.1	1.6	1,203	26.2	1.9	767	17.9	1.7	891	22.6	2.1
Urban north	199	83.6	2.8	125	53.1	1.8	113	48.5	2.3	92	40.9	1.7
Rural south	103	24.1	1.5	123	29.3	1.8	63	15.9	1.3	81	22.2	1.6
Rural north	61	57.5	1.6	65	61.6	1.7	40	38.2	1.5	46	43.6	1.4
Yukon	32	70.8	1.4	34	77.3	1.5	22	54.5	1.4	11	30.1	0.7
Northwest Territories	77	171.2	1.5	106	237.2	1.9	51	114.5	1.3	25	57.1	0.8
Nunavut	127	312.2	2.4	73	180.3	1.4	77	200.9	2.3	43	121.7	1.4
Canada	**14,416**	**36.9**	**2.6**	**14,240**	**37.5**	**2.8**	**10,914**	**30.2**	**2.7**	**8,111**	**23.7**	**2.2**
Provincial urban south	**10,204**	**32.0**	**2.6**	**10,554**	**34.2**	**2.9**	**8,525**	**29.0**	**2.9**	**6,291**	**23.0**	**2.5**
Provincial urban north	**575**	**45.3**	**2.0**	**500**	**40.2**	**1.8**	**401**	**32.7**	**1.9**	**261**	**21.5**	**1.3**
Provincial rural south	**1,991**	**40.6**	**2.7**	**1,661**	**34.2**	**2.4**	**1,120**	**24.4**	**2.2**	**960**	**20.6**	**1.8**
Provincial rural north	**1,410**	**164.9**	**3.5**	**1,312**	**154.8**	**3.4**	**718**	**85.8**	**2.4**	**520**	**62.2**	**1.8**
Territories	**236**	**180.4**	**1.8**	**213**	**164.9**	**1.6**	**150**	**121.7**	**1.7**	**79**	**68.3**	**1.0**

1. Reflects the proportion of violent crime that was firearm-related.
2. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.
3. In Quebec, the information management system used by the majority of police services produces a relatively high proportion of unknown values for the variable "most serious weapon present." Although incidents of firearm-related crime are likely recorded correctly for the vast majority of cases, undercounting remains possible. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing data from Quebec to data from other provinces and territories.
4. Excludes Nunavik as detailed data about firearm-related violent crime are unavailable.

Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. Provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Provincial north includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A 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, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Table 2-b
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by province or territory and region, 2013 to 2023

Province or territory and region	2023					2018 to 2022		2013 to 2022	
	percent change in rate from 2022	percent change in rate from 2018	percent change in rate from 2013	percent change in rate from average for 2018 to 2022	percent change in rate from average for 2013 to 2022	average number[1]	average rate[2]	average number[1]	average rate[2]
Newfoundland and Labrador	-6.1	-10.9	15.5	-4.8	-1.8	122	23.0	118	22.3
Urban south	-37.4	-31.2	-25.1	-25.0	-19.5	73	25.9	66	24.1
Rural south	63.8	26.6	62.1	34.3	27.7	34	15.8	37	16.6
Rural north	114.3	6.1	148.2	6.6	4.3	14	50.1	14	51.2
Prince Edward Island	154.7	57.7	367.3	103.1	105.8	20	12.8	19	12.6
Urban south	186.9	22.3	378.4	96.7	103.2	11	10.7	10	10.4
Rural south	127.0	134.9	369.6	112.1	111.7	9	16.6	9	16.6
Nova Scotia	5.1	50.5	30.8	17.0	28.7	267	27.0	237	24.5
Urban south	-8.0	12.0	7.0	-0.7	11.1	190	28.1	165	25.1
Rural south	35.3	214.4	100.8	62.0	71.4	77	24.6	72	23.2
New Brunswick	-1.1	51.9	128.9	23.0	50.8	240	33.5	193	27.3
Urban south[3]	3.3	65.6	142.8	29.0	52.0	127	29.4	106	25.0
Rural south	-5.9	38.6	114.3	16.6	49.9	113	39.6	87	30.8
Quebec[4]	-3.9	19.4	-0.6	8.5	9.1	1,788	22.7	1,742	22.5
Urban south	-7.7	20.5	-6.2	7.0	6.3	1,444	22.9	1,412	23.1
Urban north	38.7	-19.5	54.5	6.3	17.5	67	21.9	61	19.8
Rural south	12.4	22.0	21.7	17.2	22.8	253	20.8	243	19.8
Rural north[5]	-13.0	144.9	12.2	12.0	8.9	24	33.7	25	34.7
Ontario	-6.6	5.5	66.6	4.2	16.7	4,226	29.0	3,668	25.9
Urban south	-7.0	2.5	61.9	3.1	14.4	3,852	30.4	3,369	27.4
Urban north	-16.2	62.3	150.3	10.6	46.1	158	29.4	118	22.2
Rural south	15.5	38.3	114.5	22.1	43.6	149	13.6	123	11.6
Rural north	-8.7	32.1	81.9	10.2	30.1	68	27.9	58	23.6
Manitoba	13.7	35.1	112.6	22.3	44.9	888	66.3	732	56.0
Urban south	-0.8	-14.0	58.9	-11.1	3.3	556	58.4	467	50.3
Urban north	49.0	224.0	717.3	150.3	275.8	16	121.4	11	80.8
Rural south	46.4	156.5	172.2	70.0	109.1	131	46.1	105	37.5
Rural north	22.5	169.3	208.4	87.1	125.5	184	213.3	150	177.0
Saskatchewan	11.2	52.1	206.4	20.9	50.1	1,198	104.9	952	84.5
Urban south	-0.6	20.0	182.5	2.2	26.5	666	87.2	527	70.4
Rural south	22.3	70.2	159.2	29.7	55.9	287	84.2	239	70.1
Rural north	29.1	150.0	413.4	67.2	121.2	246	645.9	187	488.4
Alberta	-3.2	27.9	72.5	10.2	21.8	2,206	50.0	1,941	45.2
Urban south	-5.0	14.5	54.8	6.3	14.8	1,386	39.6	1,241	36.7
Urban north	-5.9	-0.3	62.1	-6.8	-3.5	86	60.3	83	58.2
Rural south	21.6	97.5	156.0	35.2	54.3	324	64.7	280	56.6
Rural north	-11.3	53.0	113.7	13.9	38.5	410	152.5	338	125.4

See notes at the end of the table

Table 2-b
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by province or territory and region, 2013 to 2023

	2023					2018 to 2022		2013 to 2022	
Province or territory and region	percent change in rate from 2022	percent change in rate from 2018	percent change in rate from 2013	percent change in rate from average for 2018 to 2022	percent change in rate from average for 2013 to 2022	average number[1]	average rate[2]	average number[1]	average rate[2]
British Columbia	-6.6	35.0	10.3	5.7	6.3	1,298	25.0	1,239	24.9
Urban south	-11.8	29.1	1.9	3.4	0.7	992	22.3	975	22.9
Urban north	57.3	72.3	104.3	54.8	74.0	126	54.0	111	48.0
Rural south	-17.7	51.3	8.6	-20.1	-5.9	123	30.2	101	25.6
Rural north	-6.6	50.7	32.0	6.1	15.3	57	54.2	52	49.9
Yukon	-8.4	30.1	135.1	-12.1	1.1	34	80.6	28	70.1
Northwest Territories	-27.8	49.5	200.0	-6.0	35.6	81	182.2	56	126.3
Nunavut	73.2	55.4	156.6	59.5	78.7	77	195.8	67	174.7
Canada	**-1.7**	**22.1**	**55.5**	**9.8**	**21.1**	**12,446**	**33.6**	**10,993**	**30.5**
Provincial urban south	**-6.5**	**10.1**	**38.9**	**3.6**	**12.0**	**9,297**	**30.9**	**8,338**	**28.5**
Provincial urban north	**12.9**	**38.6**	**111.2**	**23.3**	**44.6**	**454**	**36.8**	**385**	**31.3**
Provincial rural south	**18.7**	**66.3**	**97.4**	**27.8**	**46.3**	**1,500**	**31.8**	**1,296**	**27.8**
Provincial rural north	**6.5**	**92.1**	**165.2**	**38.4**	**68.3**	**1,002**	**119.1**	**823**	**98.0**
Territories	**9.4**	**48.2**	**164.1**	**18.4**	**47.4**	**192**	**152.3**	**151**	**122.4**

1. Reflects the average of the annual numbers for the identified period.
2. Reflects the average of the annual rates for the identified period.
3. Data for the census metropolitan area of Saint John are excluded due to data quality concerns associated with the Saint John Police Service.
4. In Quebec, the information management system used by the majority of police services produces a relatively high proportion of unknown values for the variable "most serious weapon present." Although incidents of firearm-related crime are likely recorded correctly for the vast majority of cases, undercounting remains possible. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing data from Quebec to data from other provinces and territories.
5. Excludes Nunavik as detailed data about firearm-related violent crime are unavailable.

Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. Provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Provincial north includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A 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, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Percent changes are based on unrounded rates. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Table 3-a
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by census metropolitan area, 2013, 2018, 2022 and 2023

Census metropolitan area[2]	2023			2022			2018			2013		
	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]
St. John's	46	20.5	1.2	80	36.6	2.2	75	35.6	2.5	57	28.0	1.9
Halifax	142	27.3	1.9	146	29.3	2.0	124	28.9	2.1	120	29.6	2.7
Moncton	98	52.3	2.8	82	46.2	2.3	50	31.1	1.9	30	20.9	1.6
Fredericton[3]	47	37.1	2.4	50	40.8	2.7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saguenay	30	17.2	1.4	22	12.9	1.0	46	27.4	2.8	15	8.9	0.9
Sherbrooke	30	13.6	1.5	33	15.3	1.8	31	15.3	1.8	27	14.0	2.0
Trois-Rivières	57	34.2	2.9	36	22.0	1.8	27	17.3	1.7	26	17.0	2.0
Drummondville[3]	22	19.5	1.1	20	18.1	1.2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Montréal	1,161	25.6	2.1	1,288	29.2	2.5	943	22.0	2.4	1,174	29.7	3.3
Gatineau[4]	107	30.1	2.3	103	29.4	2.2	61	18.2	1.6	93	29.0	2.6
Ottawa[5]	298	24.0	3.0	273	22.7	2.9	306	28.6	3.7	191	19.7	2.9
Kingston	30	16.1	1.5	32	17.6	1.7	28	16.3	1.7	15	9.3	0.9
Belleville–Quinte West[6]	19	15.5	1.4	25	20.8	1.8	22	19.5	1.7	..	..	..
Peterborough	17	12.1	1.4	24	17.7	2.0	11	8.5	1.0	26	21.4	2.6
Toronto[7]	2,449	40.4	3.9	2,606	44.4	4.7	2,374	41.9	4.9	1,195	22.4	2.9
Hamilton[8]	262	42.6	3.8	233	38.7	3.5	237	41.6	4.4	129	23.8	2.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	124	23.6	2.7	111	21.8	2.7	89	18.7	2.8	68	15.2	2.1
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	218	32.3	2.3	251	39.3	2.7	129	22.2	1.9	104	19.5	2.3
Brantford	55	34.2	2.8	66	42.6	3.6	23	16.2	1.4	41	30.4	2.9
Guelph	18	11.5	1.4	26	17.0	2.0	20	14.1	1.6	18	13.9	1.9
London	146	23.9	2.5	141	24.0	2.4	109	20.2	2.3	72	14.5	1.8
Windsor	108	25.0	2.7	116	27.8	3.3	77	24.1	2.9	52	17.1	1.8
Barrie	45	23.9	2.3	25	13.8	1.4	37	25.2	2.7	32	22.3	2.7
Greater Sudbury	58	30.7	1.8	69	37.4	2.3	26	14.6	1.2	21	12.7	1.3
Thunder Bay	44	33.9	1.5	39	30.5	1.5	28	22.2	1.4	19	15.5	1.0
Winnipeg	479	53.7	3.1	467	54.7	3.3	514	63.0	4.6	267	33.4	3.0
Regina	215	78.9	5.6	224	85.4	6.9	224	87.6	7.0	71	30.5	2.6
Saskatoon	188	52.7	3.8	191	56.1	4.1	131	40.5	3.5	90	30.8	2.3
Lethbridge[6]	63	47.0	2.2	36	27.6	1.3	34	27.6	1.5	..	..	..
Calgary	600	35.6	3.4	730	46.0	4.6	553	37.1	3.7	321	23.6	3.3
Red Deer[3]	87	79.6	3.2	86	81.8	3.6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Edmonton	726	46.3	3.3	626	41.5	3.1	513	36.1	3.0	365	28.6	2.5
Kelowna	67	27.3	1.4	55	23.1	1.2	18	8.4	0.9	32	17.0	1.5
Kamloops[3]	45	36.8	1.5	47	39.3	1.5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chilliwack[3]	69	54.8	2.0	53	43.4	1.8	..	..	..	..	..	..

See notes at the end of the table

Table 3-a
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by census metropolitan area, 2013, 2018, 2022 and 2023

Census metropolitan area[2]	2023			2022			2018			2013		
	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]	number	rate	percent[1]
Abbotsford–Mission	99	46.6	2.9	87	41.9	2.9	35	17.8	1.5	51	28.6	2.7
Vancouver	597	20.1	1.8	672	23.6	2.1	524	19.7	2.0	662	26.9	2.7
Victoria	38	8.7	0.6	96	22.5	1.5	30	7.5	0.6	39	10.7	1.0
Nanaimo[3]	34	27.2	1.2	54	44.0	1.9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Census metropolitan areas	**9,203**	**31.7**	**2.7**	**9,624**	**34.3**	**3.0**	**7,676**	**29.8**	**3.1**	**5,623**	**23.6**	**2.7**
Non-census metropolitan areas	**5,213**	**52.0**	**2.6**	**4,616**	**46.7**	**2.4**	**3,238**	**31.3**	**2.1**	**2,488**	**23.9**	**1.6**
Canada	**14,416**	**36.9**	**2.6**	**14,240**	**37.5**	**2.8**	**10,914**	**30.2**	**2.7**	**8,111**	**23.7**	**2.2**

.. not available for a specific reference period
1. Reflects the proportion of violent crime that was firearm-related.
2. The Oshawa census metropolitan area (CMA) is not presented in this table due to the incongruity between police service jurisdictional boundaries and CMA boundaries. The CMA of Saint John is not presented in this table due to the exclusion of data from the Saint John Police Service, but it is included (except for the Saint John Police Service) in the CMA total. The CMA of Québec is not presented in this table due to the exclusion of data from the Québec City Police Service, but it is included (except for the Québec City Police Service) in the CMA total.3. As of the 2021 Census of Population, Fredericton, Drummondville, Red Deer, Kamloops, Chilliwack and Nanaimo became census metropolitan areas.
4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.
5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.
6. As of the 2016 Census of Population, Belleville–Quinte West (formerly known as Belleville) and Lethbridge became census metropolitan areas.
7. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA). Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service are included in the CMA total.
8. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton census metropolitan area (CMA). Halton Regional Police Service is included in the CMA total.
Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. 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, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A census agglomeration (CA) must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Table 3-b
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by census metropolitan area, 2013 to 2023

	2023					2018 to 2022		2013 to 2022	
Census metropolitan area[3]	percent change in rate from 2022	percent change in rate from 2018	percent change in rate from 2013	percent change in rate from average for 2018 to 2022	percent change in rate from average for 2013 to 2022	average number[1]	average rate[2]	average number[1]	average rate[2]
St. John's	-44.0	-42.4	-26.8	-31.7	-27.8	64	30.0	60	28.4
Halifax	-6.5	-5.4	-7.6	0.2	7.9	126	27.3	111	25.3
Moncton	13.4	68.5	150.2	34.1	51.0	66	39.0	56	34.6
Fredericton[4]	-9.2	..	..	4.2	4.2	43	35.6	43	35.6
Saguenay	33.9	-37.0	93.2	9.4	12.6	27	15.8	26	15.3
Sherbrooke	-11.1	-11.2	-3.0	8.5	1.7	26	12.5	27	13.3
Trois-Rivières	55.4	98.0	101.5	56.0	76.4	35	21.9	31	19.4
Drummondville[4]	7.5	..	..	-3.0	-3.0	22	20.1	22	20.1
Montréal	-12.5	16.5	-14.0	3.2	0.8	1,083	24.8	1,066	25.4
Gatineau[5]	2.2	65.6	3.7	29.8	39.9	80	23.2	72	21.5
Ottawa[6]	5.7	-16.0	22.1	4.9	4.8	259	22.9	245	22.9
Kingston	-8.3	-1.2	74.0	-19.3	8.5	35	20.0	26	14.9
Belleville–Quinte West[7]	-25.3	-20.6	..	-18.0	-11.9	22	18.9	20	17.6
Peterborough	-31.7	42.2	-43.3	-15.8	-13.1	19	14.4	18	13.9
Toronto[8]	-9.2	-3.8	80.4	0.9	10.9	2,308	40.0	2,049	36.4
Hamilton[9]	10.2	2.3	78.9	14.5	24.8	218	37.2	195	34.1
St. Catharines–Niagara	8.2	26.4	55.2	-0.6	24.3	117	23.7	91	19.0
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	-17.9	45.2	65.5	12.0	35.8	176	28.8	139	23.8
Brantford	-19.8	111.6	12.4	-12.6	14.0	58	39.1	43	30.0
Guelph	-32.4	-18.7	-17.5	-22.0	-18.5	22	14.7	20	14.1
London	-0.2	18.3	65.0	11.3	29.4	121	21.5	100	18.5
Windsor	-10.1	3.8	45.8	-7.1	4.0	97	26.9	81	24.0
Barrie	72.8	-5.4	7.1	49.5	41.9	27	16.0	26	16.8
Greater Sudbury	-17.8	110.5	142.2	41.7	84.4	39	21.7	30	16.6
Thunder Bay	11.2	52.6	118.4	45.7	66.4	30	23.3	26	20.4
Winnipeg	-2.0	-14.8	60.5	-12.2	2.0	509	61.1	430	52.6
Regina	-7.6	-10.0	158.9	-8.7	17.3	224	86.5	171	67.2
Saskatoon	-5.9	30.2	71.3	-4.8	3.7	184	55.4	163	50.9
Lethbridge[7]	70.0	69.9	..	63.9	65.2	36	28.7	35	28.4
Calgary	-22.5	-4.0	50.8	-11.7	3.8	620	40.4	512	34.3
Red Deer[4]	-2.6	..	..	-5.2	-5.2	88	84.0	88	84.0
Edmonton	11.4	28.0	62.0	25.8	24.3	539	36.8	523	37.2
Kelowna	18.4	224.0	60.5	32.3	36.3	47	20.6	43	20.0
Kamloops[4]	-6.3	..	..	9.0	9.0	40	33.8	40	33.8
Chilliwack[4]	26.4	..	..	18.4	18.4	56	46.3	56	46.3

See notes at the end of the table

Table 3-b
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by census metropolitan area, 2013 to 2023

	2023					2018 to 2022		2013 to 2022	
Census metropolitan area[3]	percent change in rate from 2022	percent change in rate from 2018	percent change in rate from 2013	percent change in rate from average for 2018 to 2022	percent change in rate from average for 2013 to 2022	average number[1]	average rate[2]	average number[1]	average rate[2]
Abbotsford–Mission	11.1	161.3	63.0	70.1	57.6	56	27.4	57	29.6
Vancouver	-14.7	2.1	-25.3	-6.9	-15.8	594	21.6	629	23.9
Victoria	-61.1	15.9	-18.1	-35.3	-23.4	56	13.5	46	11.4
Nanaimo[4]	-38.2	..	..	-31.1	-31.1	48	39.5	48	39.5
Census metropolitan areas	**-7.6**	**6.4**	**34.0**	**2.7**	**10.0**	**8,287**	**30.9**	**7,429**	**28.8**
Non-census metropolitan areas	**11.3**	**65.9**	**117.2**	**26.8**	**49.2**	**4,159**	**41.0**	**3,565**	**34.8**
Canada	**-1.7**	**22.1**	**55.5**	**9.8**	**21.1**	**12,446**	**33.6**	**10,993**	**30.5**

.. not available for a specific reference period
1. Unless otherwise indicated, reflects the average of the annual numbers for the identified period.
2. Unless otherwise indicated, reflects the average of the annual rates for the identified period.
3. The Oshawa census metropolitan area (CMA) is not presented in this table due to the incongruity between police service jurisdictional boundaries and CMA boundaries. The CMA of Saint John is not presented in this table due to the exclusion of data from the Saint John Police Service, but it is included (except for the Saint John Police Service) in the CMA total. The CMA of Québec is not presented in this table due to the exclusion of data from the Québec City Police Service, but it is included (except for the Québec City Police Service) in the CMA total.
4. As of the 2021 Census of Population, Fredericton, Drummondville, Red Deer, Kamloops, Chilliwack and Nanaimo became census metropolitan areas (CMAs). Average numbers and average rates for these CMAs are calculated from 2021 to 2022.
5. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.
6. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.
7. As of the 2016 Census of Population, Belleville–Quinte West (formerly known as Belleville) and Lethbridge became census metropolitan areas (CMAs). Average numbers and average rates for these CMAs are calculated from 2016 to 2022.
8. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA). Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service are included in the CMA total.
9. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton census metropolitan area (CMA). Halton Regional Police Service is included in the CMA total.
Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. 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, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A census agglomeration (CA) must have a core population of at least 10,000. Rural areas are all areas outside of CMAs and CAs. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Percent changes are based on unrounded rates.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Table 4
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by most serious type of firearm present, Canada, 2009 to 2023

	Handgun		Rifle or shotgun		Fully automatic or sawed-off firearm		Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm[1]		Total		
Year	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	percent change in rate from previous year
2009	6,376	19.5	1,526	4.7	807	2.5	2,385	7.3	11,094	33.9	…
2010	5,111	15.4	1,663	5.0	651	2.0	2,289	6.9	9,714	29.3	-13.4
2011	5,146	15.4	1,470	4.4	544	1.6	2,342	7.0	9,502	28.4	-3.1
2012	4,901	14.5	1,443	4.3	511	1.5	2,348	6.9	9,203	27.2	-4.2
2013	4,390	12.8	1,334	3.9	444	1.3	1,943	5.7	8,111	23.7	-12.8
2014	4,839	14.0	1,377	4.0	390	1.1	2,029	5.9	8,635	25.0	5.4
2015	5,605	16.1	1,675	4.8	547	1.6	2,113	6.1	9,940	28.6	14.3
2016	5,665	16.1	1,806	5.1	466	1.3	2,200	6.3	10,137	28.8	0.8
2017	5,985	16.8	1,973	5.5	714	2.0	2,207	6.2	10,879	30.6	6.0
2018	6,257	17.3	1,884	5.2	642	1.8	2,131	5.9	10,914	30.2	-1.1
2019	6,744	18.4	2,071	5.6	653	1.8	2,428	6.6	11,896	32.5	7.4
2020	6,552	17.7	2,268	6.1	648	1.7	3,146	8.5	12,614	34.0	4.9
2021	6,500	17.4	2,184	5.9	636	1.7	3,246	8.7	12,566	33.7	-0.9
2022	7,486	19.7	2,223	5.9	680	1.8	3,851	10.1	14,240	37.5	11.3
2023	7,050	18.0	2,198	5.6	684	1.8	4,484	11.5	14,416	36.9	-1.7
Percent change in rate, 2022 to 2023	…	-8.6	…	-4.0	…	-2.3	…	13.1	…	-1.7	…
Percent change in rate, 2018 to 2023	…	4.2	…	7.9	…	-1.5	…	94.5	…	22.1	…
Percent change in rate, 2013 to 2023	…	40.5	…	44.1	…	34.7	…	101.8	…	55.5	…

… not applicable

1. Includes, for example, starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns and BB guns. Also includes violent crime where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and the type of weapon was unknown.

Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Percent changes are based on unrounded rates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Table 5
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by type of violation and clearance status, Canada, 2022 and 2023

	2023						2022		
					Firearm-related crime	Crime not involving firearms			
Type of violation	number	percent[1]	rate	percent change in rate from 2022	percent of incidents cleared by charge		number	percent[1]	rate
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder	678	38.5	1.7	-17.1	54.7	72.0	794	40.1	2.1
Sexual assault[2]	127	0.4	0.3	-1.3	65.4	31.4	125	0.4	0.3
Physical assault	3,176	1.1	8.1	3.1	55.4	47.3	2,992	1.1	7.9
Major assault[3]	2,693	3.0	6.9	5.2	53.6	58.7	2,486	3.0	6.6
Common assault and other assault[4]	483	0.2	1.2	-7.3	65.4	42.6	506	0.3	1.3
Robbery	3,352	13.8	8.6	-14.1	42.9	39.3	3,789	16.9	10.0
Firearm-specific offences	5,074	100.0	13.0	3.8	41.4	…	4,748	100.0	12.5
Discharging a firearm with intent	2,440	100.0	6.2	3.1	30.5	…	2,299	100.0	6.1
Using a firearm in the commission of an offence	886	100.0	2.3	7.7	75.3	…	799	100.0	2.1
Pointing a firearm	1,748	100.0	4.5	2.9	39.5	…	1,650	100.0	4.3
Hostage taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement, trafficking in persons	232	5.3	0.6	1.0	65.5	71.7	223	5.3	0.6
Threats, extortion, intimidation	1,602	1.6	4.1	11.0	41.4	25.2	1,402	1.5	3.7
Other violent offences	175	0.2	0.4	1.8	69.1	28.3	167	0.2	0.4
Total	**14,416**	**2.6**	**36.9**	**-1.7**	**46.4**	**39.4**	**14,240**	**2.8**	**37.5**

… not applicable
1. Reflects the proportion of violent crime that was firearm-related.
2. Includes sexual assault level 1, 2 and 3.
3. Includes physical assault level 2 and 3.
4. Includes physical assault level 1, unlawfully causing bodily harm, assault against peace officer, assault against peace officer causing bodily harm, aggravated assault against peace officer, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to cause or causing bodily harm and other assaults.
Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. The number of incidents represents the number of victims as well as incidents where the police did not provide victim records. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Percent changes are based on unrounded rates.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Table 6
Victims and persons accused of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by gender and age group, Canada, 2013, 2018, 2022 and 2023

	2023		2022		2018		2013	
Gender and age group	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Victims								
Men and boys	**7,442**	**38.2**	**7,400**	**39.1**	**6,048**	**33.7**	**4,544**	**26.8**
17 years and younger	1,177	31.4	1,142	31.0	853	23.8	737	21.2
11 years and younger	169	7.0	156	6.5	140	5.8	142	6.3
12 to 17 years	1,008	76.7	986	77.0	713	60.2	595	49.5
18 years and older	6,265	39.8	6,258	41.1	5,195	36.2	3,807	28.2
18 to 24 years	1,556	86.4	1,544	90.6	1,575	92.8	1,279	76.7
25 to 34 years	1,892	63.8	1,933	69.8	1,497	58.7	1,057	45.1
35 years and older	2,817	25.6	2,781	25.9	2,123	21.0	1,471	15.5
Women and girls	**3,736**	**19.1**	**3,795**	**19.9**	**2,956**	**16.3**	**2,324**	**13.5**
17 years and younger	616	17.4	555	15.9	337	9.9	281	8.5
11 years and younger	92	4.0	97	4.2	89	3.9	68	3.1
12 to 17 years	524	42.3	458	38.0	248	22.0	213	18.8
18 years and older	3,120	19.5	3,240	20.8	2,619	17.8	2,043	14.7
18 to 24 years	769	46.4	788	49.8	684	43.7	594	37.9
25 to 34 years	914	33.0	978	37.4	776	31.6	526	22.6
35 years and older	1,437	12.4	1,474	13.0	1,159	10.8	923	9.2
Total	**11,178**	**28.6**	**11,195**	**29.5**	**9,004**	**24.9**	**6,868**	**20.1**
17 years and younger	1,793	24.6	1,697	23.6	1,190	17.0	1,018	15.0
11 years and younger	261	5.5	253	5.4	229	4.9	210	4.7
12 to 17 years	1,532	60.0	1,444	58.0	961	41.5	808	34.6
18 years and older	9,385	29.5	9,498	30.9	7,814	26.8	5,850	21.3
18 to 24 years	2,325	67.2	2,332	71.0	2,259	69.2	1,873	57.9
25 to 34 years	2,806	48.9	2,911	54.0	2,273	45.4	1,583	33.8
35 years and older	4,254	18.8	4,255	19.3	3,282	15.7	2,394	12.3
Accused persons								
Men and boys	**6,977**	**40.9**	**7,170**	**43.5**	**5,972**	**38.4**	**4,298**	**29.3**
12 to 17 years[1]	1,663	126.6	1,452	113.4	1,033	87.3	796	66.3
18 years and older	5,314	33.7	5,718	37.6	4,939	34.4	3,502	26.0
18 to 24 years	1,656	91.9	1,862	109.3	1,789	105.4	1,410	84.5
25 to 34 years	1,754	59.2	1,905	68.7	1,643	64.4	972	41.4
35 years and older	1,904	17.3	1,951	18.2	1,507	14.9	1,120	11.8
Women and girls	**864**	**5.0**	**881**	**5.3**	**738**	**4.6**	**393**	**2.6**
12 to 17 years[1]	131	10.6	94	7.8	98	8.7	64	5.7
18 years and older	733	4.6	787	5.1	640	4.3	329	2.4
18 to 24 years	190	11.5	227	14.4	217	13.9	121	7.7
25 to 34 years	272	9.8	311	11.9	251	10.2	105	4.5
35 years and older	271	2.3	249	2.2	172	1.6	103	1.0

See notes at the end of the table

Table 6
Victims and persons accused of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by gender and age group, Canada, 2013, 2018, 2022 and 2023

	2023		2022		2018		2013	
Gender and age group	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Total	**7,841**	**22.8**	**8,051**	**24.2**	**6,710**	**21.3**	**4,691**	**15.8**
12 to 17 years[1]	1,794	70.3	1,546	62.1	1,131	48.9	860	36.9
18 years and older	6,047	19.0	6,505	21.1	5,579	19.2	3,831	14.0
18 to 24 years	1,846	53.4	2,089	63.6	2,006	61.5	1,531	47.3
25 to 34 years	2,026	35.3	2,216	41.1	1,894	37.9	1,077	23.0
35 years and older	2,175	9.6	2,200	10.0	1,679	8.1	1,223	6.3

1. Includes accused persons aged 12 years and older as those younger than 12 years cannot be held criminally responsible.
Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, use of a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. Victims include incidents where a victim record was provided and accused persons include all incidents, regardless of whether a victim record was provided. The option for police to code victims and accused persons as "non-binary" in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was implemented in 2018. In the context of the UCR Survey, the term "non-binary" refers to a person who publicly expresses themselves as neither exclusively male nor exclusively female. Given that small counts of non-binary victims and accused persons may exist, the UCR Survey data available to the public have been recoded with these victims and accused persons distributed in the "men and boys" or "women and girls" categories based on the regional distribution of victims' and accused persons' gender. This recoding ensures the protection of the confidentiality and privacy of victims and accused persons. Excludes victims and accused persons whose age or gender was coded as unknown, and those aged older than 110 years. As such, victim rates presented in this table will not match those presented elsewhere. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0, and victims whose age was reported as 80 years or older but were identified as possible instances of miscoding. Due to data quality concerns, the Québec City Police Service is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).