

Juristat Article

Homicide in Canada, 2007



by Geoffrey Li

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Note of appreciation

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Symbols

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^p preliminary
- ^r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

Homicide in Canada, 2007: Highlights

- Police reported 594 homicides in Canada during 2007, 12 fewer than the previous year, resulting in a 3% decrease in the homicide rate (1.80 homicides per 100,000 population).
- This is the second consecutive decline in the homicide rate and continues the long-term downward trend from its peak in 1975.
- Homicide rates fell in seven of ten provinces, with Manitoba being the main exception. The 2007 rate in Manitoba was the highest among all the provinces and the highest in that province since statistics were first collected in 1961.
- Contrary to a decline in homicides overall, gang-related homicides continued to increase in 2007 and accounted for about one in five homicides in Canada.
- Generally, Canadian homicide victims are at equal risk of being either shot or stabbed, with each method accounting for about one-third of all homicides.
- The use of handguns to commit homicide continues to rise, while the use of rifles/shotguns continues to decline. In 2007, two-thirds of firearm-related homicides were committed with a handgun.
- Most homicide victims know their killer. In 2007, 84% of solved homicides were committed by someone known to the victim, most often a family member or an acquaintance.
- Although the spousal homicide rate fell 18% in 2007, spousal homicides continue to account for just under half of the homicides committed by family members.
- After peaking in 2006, the number of youth accused of committing a homicide decreased from 85 to 74 in 2007. However, the 2007 rate of youth accused of committing homicide was the second highest since 1961.

Homicide in Canada, 2007

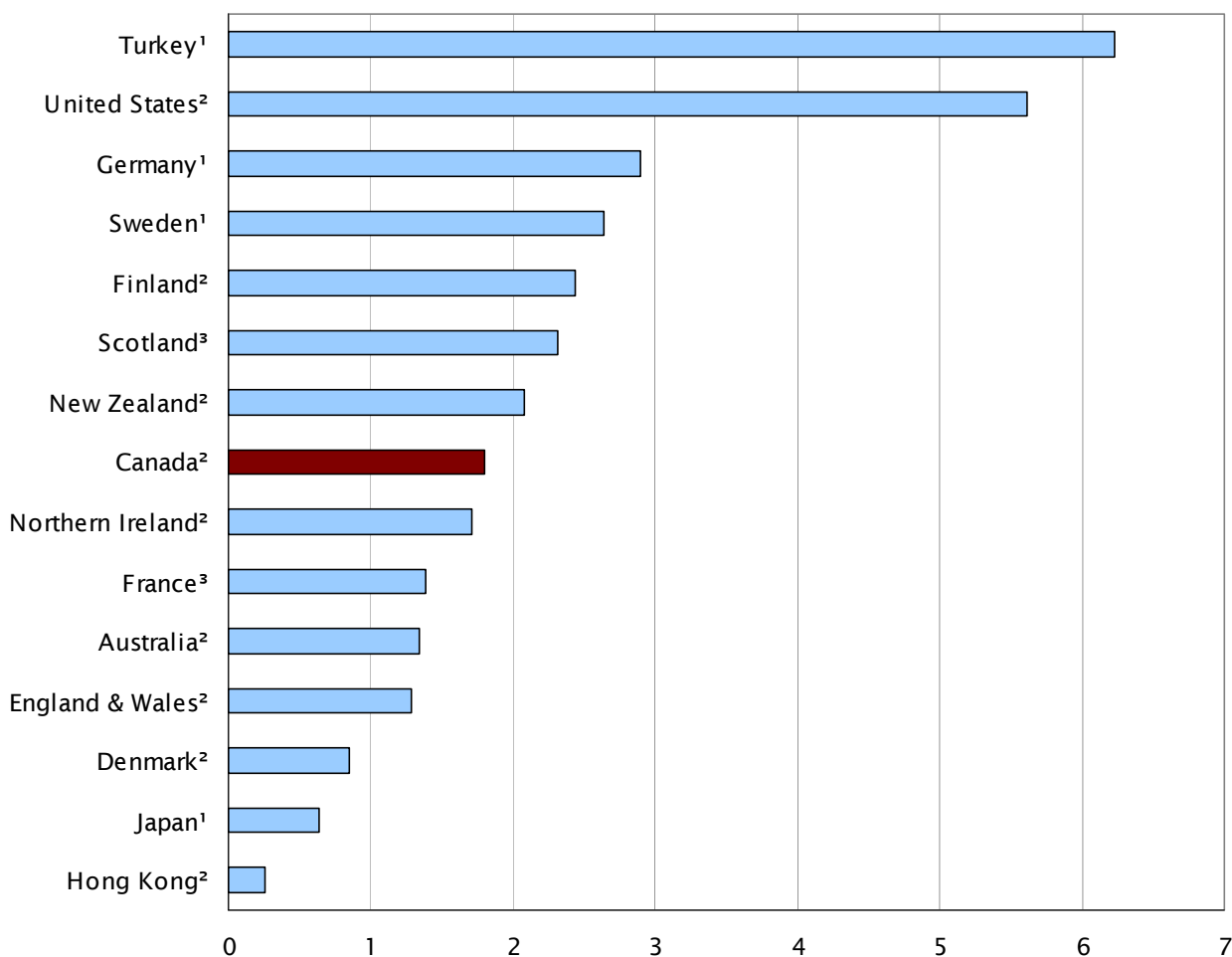
by Geoffrey Li

Homicides are a relatively rare occurrence in Canada and have been generally declining over the past 30 years. In 2007, homicides made up less than one percent of all violent crime in Canada. In fact, Canadians are about four times more likely to be killed in a traffic accident and about six times more likely to commit suicide than they are to be a victim of a homicide.¹

In addition to being the most serious criminal offence, a country's homicide rate is often used as a barometer of the level of violence in that society. Homicide is also the only criminal offence that is truly comparable among nations. Compared to other countries, Canada's homicide rate continues to be about one-third that of the United States, but comparable to Australia, New Zealand and many European nations (Chart 1).

Chart 1 Homicide rates for selected countries

rate per 100,000 population



1. Figures reflect 2005 data.

2. Figures reflect 2007 data.

3. Figures reflect 2006 data.

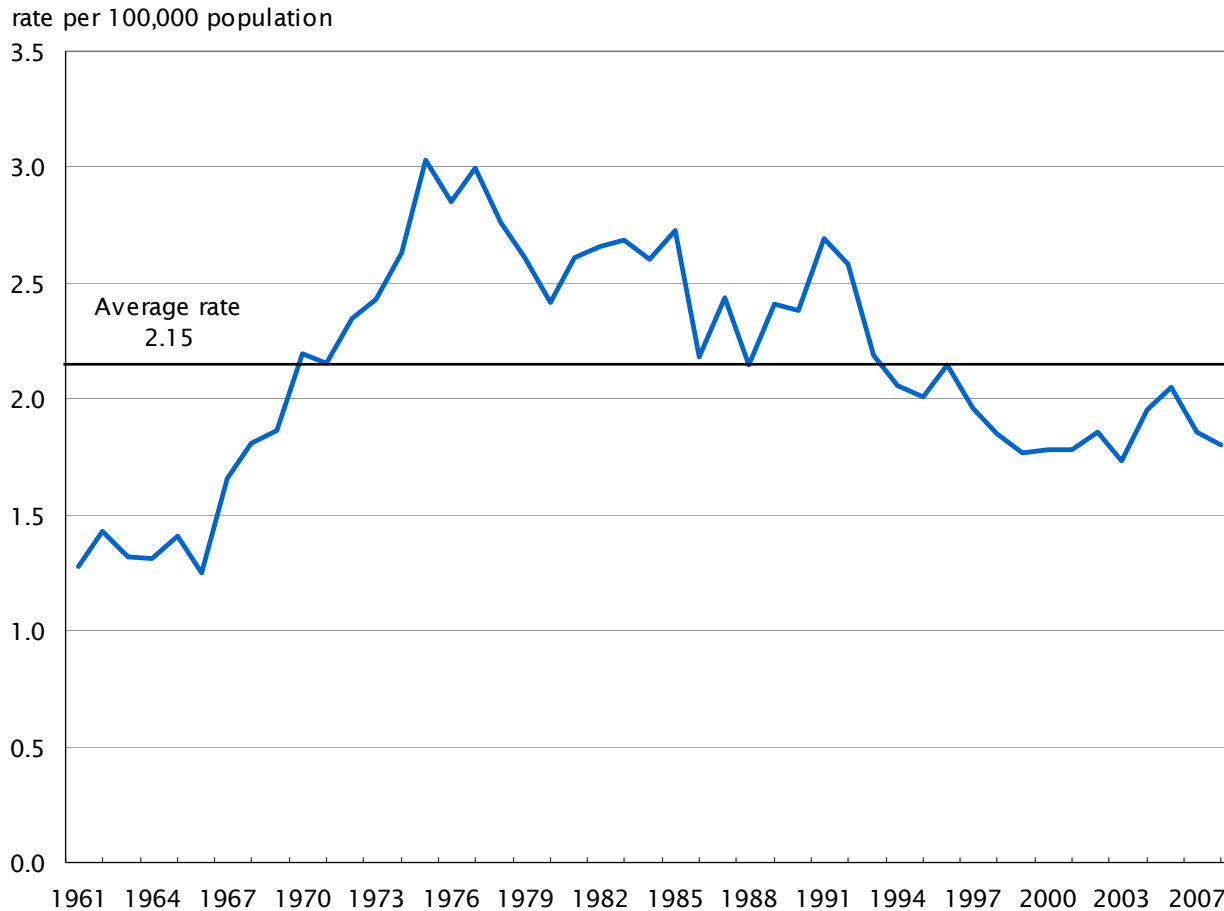
Source: Statistics Canada, Interpol Ottawa and national statistical office websites.

Canada's homicide rate continues to decline

Between the mid-1960s and mid-1970s, Canada experienced a sharp rise in homicides. The rate more than doubled over this period, from 1.25 homicides per 100,000 population in 1966 to 3.03 in 1975 (Chart 2).

Since then, Canada's homicide rate has generally been declining and is down 40% since 1975. This trend continued in 2007, with a further 3% decrease in the rate. The 2007 rate of 1.80 was similar to what it was in the late 1960s (Table 1). The rate of attempted murder also declined in 2007, down 5% (Dauvergne, 2008).

Chart 2 Homicides peaked in mid-1970s



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

There were 594 homicides reported by police in 2007, 12 fewer than in 2006 (Table 2). This decline was seen in most provinces, with the largest being reported in British Columbia (20 fewer homicides) and Saskatchewan (12 fewer) (Chart 3).

The decline in homicides in British Columbia resulted in the second lowest homicide rate in that province since statistics were first collected in 1961 (1964 was the lowest ever recorded). Quebec's homicide rate was at its lowest point in over 40 years.

Chart 3 Highest homicide rates usually in Manitoba and Saskatchewan



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

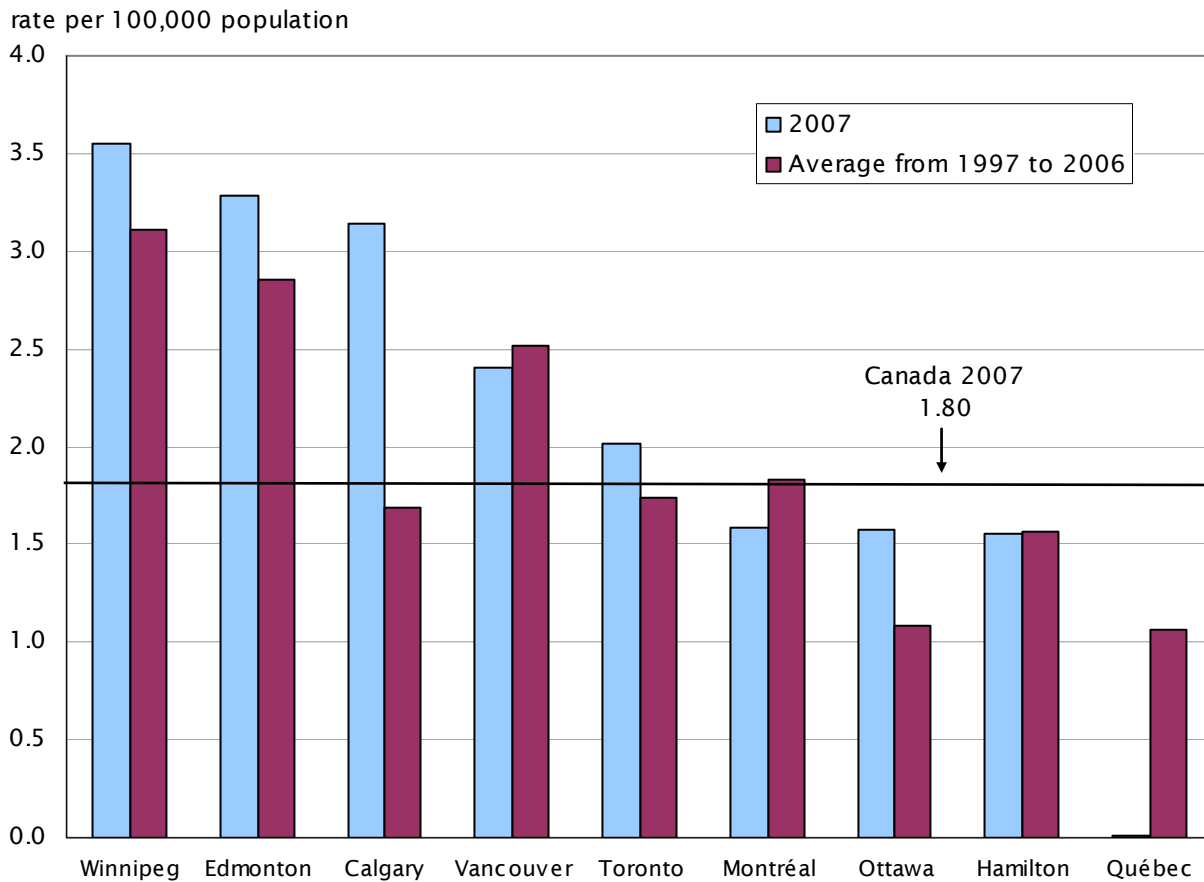
Manitoba, however, was an exception to the general decline in 2007. With 62 homicides, 23 more than in 2006, Manitoba's homicide rate of 5.22 was the highest in that province since 1961. Most of the increase in Manitoba in 2007 occurred in small urban and rural areas. Manitoba also experienced a 53% increase in attempted murders in 2007 (Dauvergne, 2008).

Homicide rates highest in the west and the north

Over the past 10 years, the western provinces, particularly Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and the territories have consistently reported the highest homicide rates in the country. Last year was no exception, as the highest rate was in Manitoba, followed by Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador continue to report the lowest rates.

One consistent finding is that homicide rates in the nine largest census metropolitan areas² (CMAs), over 500,000 population, are higher than in the smaller metropolitan areas with populations between 100,000 and 500,000 (Table 3). This was once again the case in 2007, where the rate in the larger metropolitan areas (2.07) was almost 50% higher than in the smaller metropolitan areas (1.45) (Chart 4).

Chart 4 Among the largest census metropolitan areas homicide rates highest in the west



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

In 2007, three large metropolitan areas, all in western Canada, reported homicide rates in excess of 3.0 per 100,000 population: Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary. Saskatoon, although a smaller metropolitan area, actually reported the highest rate of all cities (3.60).

Toronto, Calgary and Trois-Rivières each reported their highest homicide rate since the early 1990s. Although almost one in every five homicides in the country occurred in Toronto in 2007, taking population into account, Toronto’s rate ranked in the middle of the nine largest cities.

Calgary’s rate in 2007 was much higher than the average of the previous 10 years, as the homicide rate there has increased sharply since 2003.

Quebec City reported having no homicides in 2007, marking the first time since CMA data were first available in 1981 that any metropolitan area with over 500,000 population did not have any homicides.

Homicide victims at equal risk of being shot or stabbed

For the past 20 years, Canadian homicide victims have been at equal risk of being shot or stabbed. This held true in 2007 as 190 homicide victims were stabbed and 188 were shot, with each method accounting for about one-third of all homicides (Table 4).

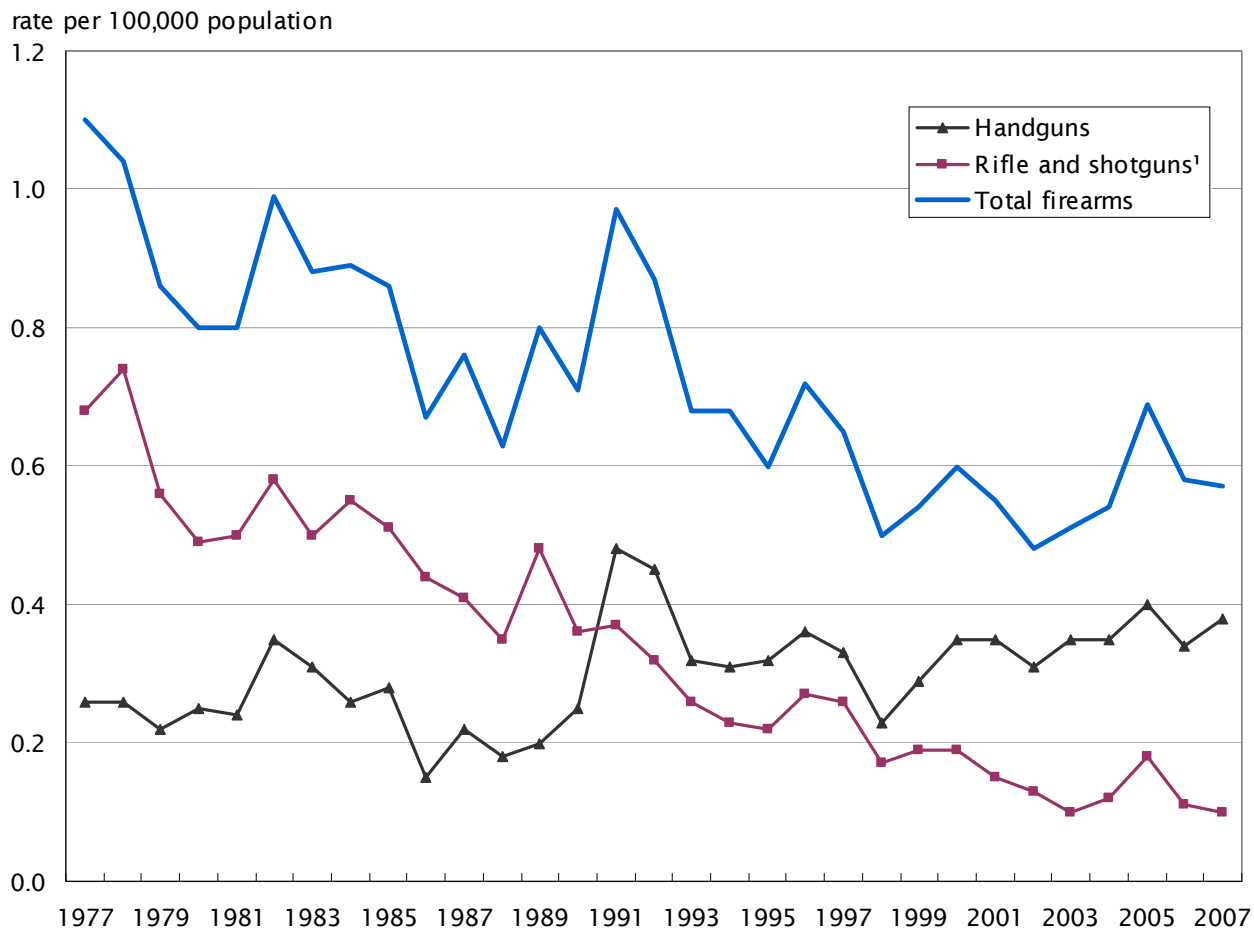
There were 116 victims killed by beating (20%), 50 by strangulation or suffocation (8%) and 16 by a motor vehicle (3%). This represented the most victims killed by an accused using a motor vehicle since these data were first collected in 1997.

The use of handguns to commit homicide increasing

Although the overall rate of homicides committed with a firearm has generally been declining since the mid-1970s, the use of handguns has generally been increasing since the mid-1980s. However, the use of rifles or shotguns continues to decline (Chart 5).

Of the 188 firearms used to commit homicide in 2007, two-thirds were handguns – 16 more than in 2006 (Table 5). There were also 32 homicides committed with rifles/shotguns and 17 with sawed-off rifles/shotguns in 2007, both down from 2006.

Chart 5 Use of rifles and shotguns continue to decline in 2007



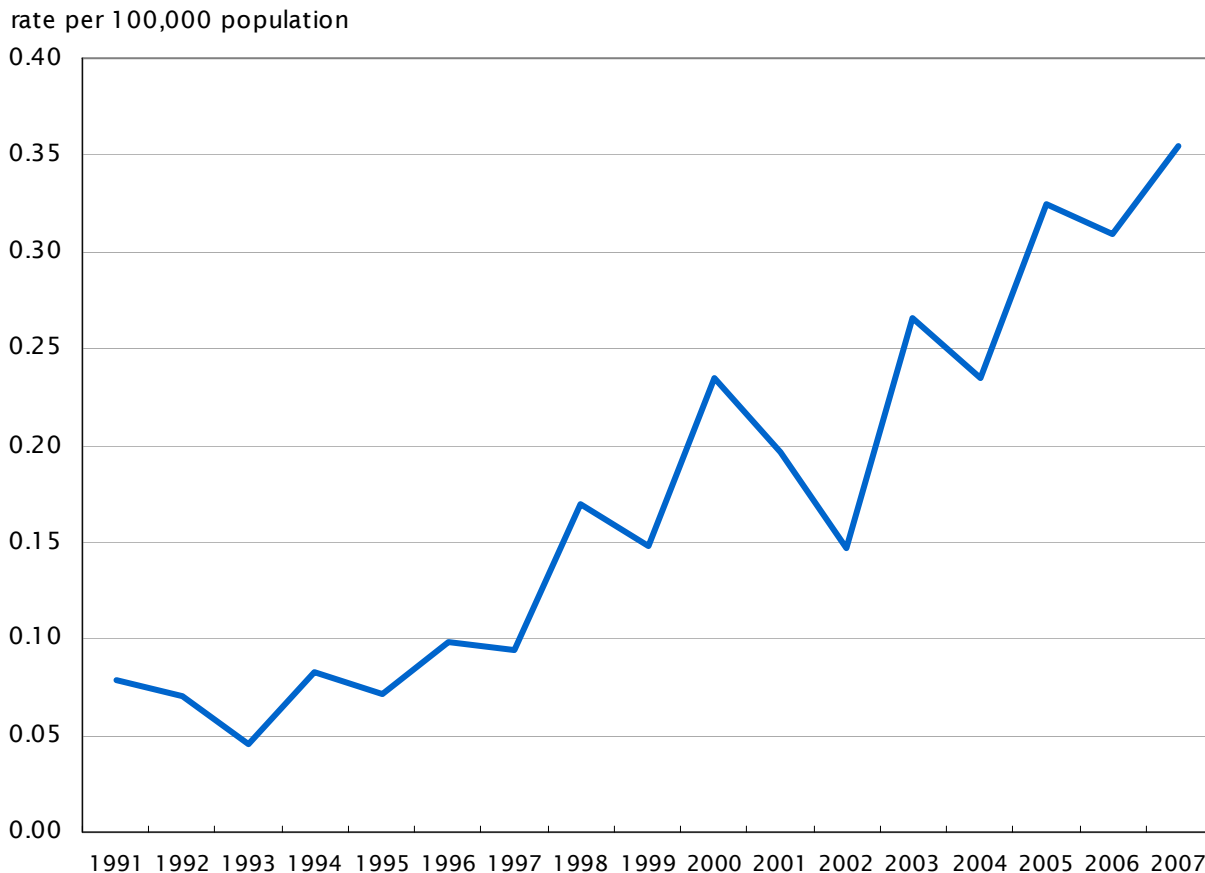
1. Excludes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.

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

Homicides committed with handguns are primarily an urban phenomenon. Within the nation’s metropolitan areas, 81% of all firearm homicides were committed with a handgun in 2007, compared to 29% in the rest of Canada. Although Toronto recorded the highest number of handgun homicides, controlling for population, its rate was below those of both Vancouver and Edmonton.

One in five homicides were gang-related

Gang-related homicides, which include those of gang members as well as police officers and innocent bystanders, have been increasing since this information was first collected by the Homicide Survey in 1991 (Chart 6). In 2007, 117 homicides were reported by police as gang-related, accounting for about one in five homicides. The 2007 total was 16 more than in 2006 (Table 6).

Chart 6 Gang-related homicides on the increase

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

Firearms were used more often in gang homicides than in other types of murder. In 2007, 69% of gang-related homicides were committed with a firearm, compared to about 20% of homicides which did not involve gangs. In total, 43% of all homicides committed with a firearm last year were gang-related.

In Saskatchewan, 9 of the 30 homicides in 2007 were gang-related – the highest proportion among the provinces (30%). The Atlantic provinces (8%) and Ontario (14%) reported the lowest proportions of gang-related homicides.

Most gang-related homicides occurred within Canada's largest cities. The nine largest metropolitan areas accounted for about 60% of Canada's homicides in 2007, but more than three-quarters of all gang homicides. Edmonton reported the highest rate of any of these large cities.

Prostitutes at risk of being victims of homicide

In addition to gang-related homicides,³ there were 58 homicides in 2007 that were linked to illegal activities of the victim, such as the drug trade and prostitution, up from 40 the previous year. Police reported that 15 prostitutes were killed as a direct result of their profession in 2007,⁴ up from an average of 7 per year for the previous decade.

In comparison, it is less common to be a victim of homicide as a direct result of legal employment. On average, there have been 17 victims killed each year since 1997 while "on the-job". In 2007, there were eight legal occupation-related homicides, including four police officers. Since reporting began in 1961, an average of 3 police officers have been killed each year.

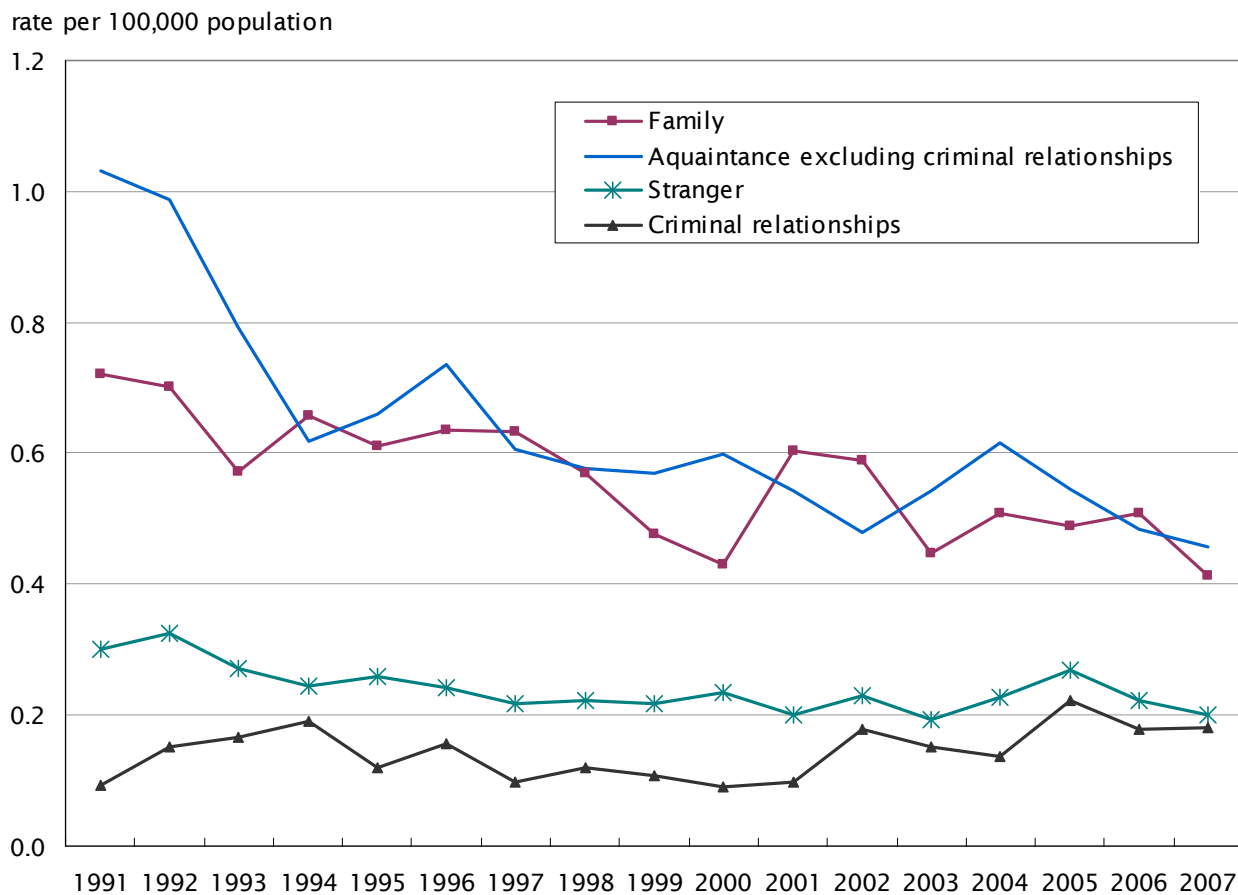
Taxi drivers have one of the highest at-risk homicide rates among legal occupations (de Léséleuc, 2007). Since 1997, an average of two taxi drivers have been killed each year while on the job, including one in 2007.

The large majority of victims knew their attacker

Most victims knew the person who killed them – in 2007, a relatively small proportion (16%) of solved homicides were committed by a stranger. The rate of homicides committed by a stranger has been fairly stable over the past 30 years (Chart 7).

Homicide victims in Canada are almost equally likely to be killed by a family member as they are an acquaintance. In 2007, of all solved homicides, about one-third of victims were killed by an acquaintance and a further one-third by a family member (Table 7).

Chart 7 Most homicides committed by someone known to victim



Note: Criminal relationship data unavailable prior to 1991.

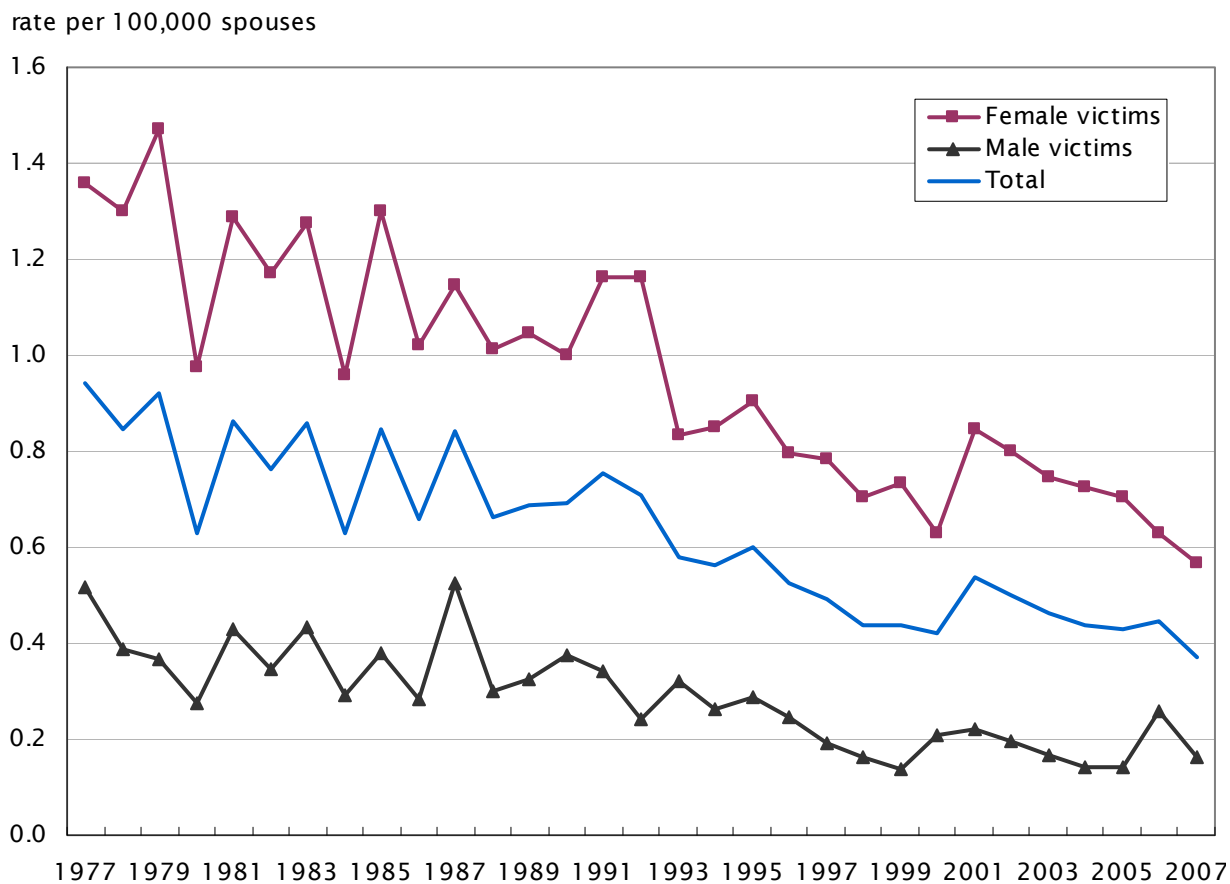
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Spousal homicides continue to decline

The rate of spousal homicide has been declining since the mid-1970s. This trend continued in 2007, with 13 fewer spousal homicides than in 2006. The spousal homicide rate is now at its lowest point since the mid-1960s (Chart 8).

Women continue to be about 4 times more likely to be victims of spousal⁵ homicide than men. In 2007, there were 51 women and 13 men killed by a current or former spouse. For both men and women, more victims were killed by a common-law spouse than by a legally-married spouse in 2007.

Chart 8 Spousal homicide rate is now at its lowest since the mid-1960s



Notes: Spouses include legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.

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

Women also continue to be at greater risk than men of being killed by a former spouse. In 2007, 11 of the 51 female spousal victims were killed by a separated or divorced spouse, compared to none of the male victims.

In addition to the 65 spousal homicides,⁶ there were 16 homicides committed by a current or former boyfriend/girlfriend or intimate partner in 2007, similar to numbers seen in previous years.

Males account for majority of homicide victims and those accused of homicide

As has been the case historically, males accounted for about three-quarters of homicide victims and 9 in 10 accused persons in 2007 (Table 8). Male victims and accused tend to be younger than female victims and accused. In 2007, the median age of male victims was 29.5, compared to 35.5 for female victims. The median age of males accused of homicide was 24 compared to 27 for females accused of homicide.

Males accused of homicide have been getting younger in recent years. The median age of males accused of homicide was down from 29 in 2002 to 24 in 2007, while the age of accused females has remained about the same.

Decline in youth accused of homicide follows peak in 2006

There were 74 youth aged 12 to 17 accused of homicide in 2007, 11 fewer than in 2006 (Table 9). Despite recent fluctuations, the rate of youth accused of homicide has remained relatively stable over the past 30 years. The 2006 rate of youth accused (3.29 per 100,000 youth) was the highest since recording began in 1961. Even though the 2007 rate was lower, it was still the 2nd highest ever recorded.

Compared to adults, a higher proportion of homicides involving youth were gang-related or were incidents where more than one person was accused of committing the crime. Among incidents with an accused youth, 57% involved multiple accused compared to 17% where an adult was accused. Similarly, 32% of incidents with a youth accused involved gangs compared to 11% of incidents with an adult accused.

Homicides committed by youth in 2007 also differed from those committed by adults in the method used. While the most common method employed by a youth to commit homicide was a physical beating (38%), shootings were the most common method used by adults (37%).

Summary

In Canada, homicides are relatively rare, accounting for less than one percent of all violent crime reported to police. Since peaking in 1975, the homicide rate has generally been declining. This trend continued in 2007 with a further 3% decline. Homicide rates fell in most provinces, with Manitoba being the main exception. The 2007 rate in that province was the highest among all the provinces and the highest in Manitoba since statistics were first collected in 1961.

Although there was an overall decline in homicide, gang-related homicides continue to increase, now accounting for about one in five homicides in Canada. Canadian homicide victims are generally at equal risk of either being shot or stabbed, with each method accounting for about one-third of all homicides. The use of handguns to commit homicide continues to rise, while the use of rifles/shotguns continues to decline.

Most homicide victims knew the person who killed them. In 2007, 84% of solved homicides were committed by someone known to the victim. Homicide victims in Canada are as likely to be killed by a family member as they are by an acquaintance – about one-third each. Although the spousal homicide rate fell 18% in 2007, spousal homicides continue to account for just under half of the homicides committed by family members.

After peaking in 2006, the number of youth accused of committing a homicide declined from 85 to 74 in 2007. However, the 2007 rate of youth accused of committing homicide was still the 2nd highest since 1961.

References

de Léséleuc, Sylvain. 2007. *Criminal Victimization in the Workplace*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85F0033MIE No. 013. Ottawa.

Dauvergne, Mia. 2008. "Canadian crime statistics, 2007." *Juristat*. Vol. 28, no. 7. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002.

Notes

1. There were 2,896 deaths resulting from a traffic accident, and 3,613 suicides reported to Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics - Death Database, in 2004, the latest year for which data are available.
2. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single CMA.
3. There were 70 gang-related homicides which were linked to the victims' involvement in illegal activities.
4. Of the 15 prostitute homicides reported in 2007, 5 occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police submit the Homicide Survey to Statistics Canada.
5. Including common-law, separated and divorced spouses.
6. Including one same-sex partner.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Homicide rates by province and territory, 1961 to 2007

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ¹	Y.T.	N.W.T. ²	Nvt.	Canada	Percent change Canada
	rate ³														percent
1961	0.22	0.96	0.81	0.33	0.99	1.43	1.63	1.51	1.35	2.09	6.84	0.00	...	1.28	...
1962	0.00	0.93	1.34	1.32	1.15	1.20	2.03	1.40	1.31	3.31	19.99	0.00	...	1.43	11.6
1963	0.63	0.00	0.80	0.82	1.26	1.17	1.69	0.86	1.92	2.06	20.01	3.89	...	1.32	-7.8
1964	1.04	0.00	1.72	0.82	0.93	1.22	1.67	2.12	1.75	1.83	6.69	11.18	...	1.31	-0.3
1965	1.23	3.69	1.32	0.81	1.11	1.13	1.55	1.58	1.38	3.17	20.57	7.29	...	1.41	7.5
1966	0.61	0.92	1.19	0.97	0.97	1.02	1.77	1.26	1.85	2.56	0.00	0.00	...	1.25	-11.4
1967	0.20	0.00	1.32	0.81	1.28	1.60	1.56	2.61	2.55	2.42	39.97	6.89	...	1.66	32.8
1968	0.99	0.00	1.17	0.80	1.72	1.43	2.88	2.40	1.64	3.64	6.65	0.00	...	1.81	9.2
1969	0.97	0.90	1.55	0.16	2.11	1.50	2.86	3.44	1.48	2.43	0.00	3.22	...	1.86	2.8
1970	0.19	0.91	1.92	1.28	2.34	1.52	2.95	2.55	2.63	3.67	35.25	21.21	...	2.19	17.8
1971	0.38	0.00	2.01	1.56	2.02	1.92	3.30	3.11	2.70	2.72	0.00	5.49	...	2.15	-1.8
1972	0.37	1.76	1.75	1.70	2.54	1.77	3.59	3.04	2.18	3.82	14.89	5.16	...	2.34	8.9
1973	0.55	0.00	2.34	2.59	2.49	1.98	3.77	2.52	2.09	3.68	18.91	9.82	...	2.43	3.5
1974	0.55	1.72	0.98	3.16	2.70	1.95	4.12	3.41	2.51	4.38	23.73	19.45	...	2.63	8.4
1975	0.72	0.00	1.69	1.77	3.57	2.48	3.61	3.92	3.15	3.92	27.39	11.67	...	3.03	15.1
1976	1.07	1.69	2.99	2.03	3.20	2.17	3.00	3.65	3.64	3.47	17.80	18.05	...	2.85	-6.0
1977	1.42	0.83	1.67	5.46	3.06	2.26	4.24	4.87	3.59	3.54	26.27	8.96	...	3.00	5.2
1978	1.59	3.29	1.54	3.86	2.79	2.12	3.75	3.36	4.15	3.25	8.42	8.84	...	2.76	-8.0
1979	0.88	0.00	2.00	1.56	2.88	2.02	4.24	3.75	2.67	3.38	16.67	15.31	...	2.61	-5.5
1980	0.52	0.81	1.41	1.27	2.78	1.81	3.00	3.20	2.51	3.83	8.22	8.64	...	2.41	-7.4
1981	0.70	0.81	1.29	2.41	2.84	1.93	3.96	2.97	3.18	3.90	4.18	10.51	...	2.61	8.1
1982	1.04	0.00	1.40	1.84	2.89	2.06	3.34	3.95	2.96	3.79	8.17	14.14	...	2.66	1.7
1983	1.04	0.00	1.50	1.54	2.88	2.23	3.77	3.29	3.14	3.72	4.23	5.88	...	2.69	1.2
1984	1.03	0.00	1.71	1.94	2.99	2.07	4.01	2.95	2.26	3.73	8.36	9.51	...	2.60	-3.1
1985 ⁴	0.86	0.78	2.94	1.93	3.29	2.08	2.40	2.73	2.62	3.80	24.63	18.38	...	2.72	4.6
1986	0.69	0.00	1.69	1.65	2.33	1.47	4.31	2.53	2.63	2.96	12.26	25.60	...	2.18	-20.0
1987	0.87	0.00	1.57	2.75	2.57	2.12	4.01	2.90	3.00	2.56	0.00	3.63	...	2.43	11.7
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.81	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.37	...	2.15	-11.7
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.45	3.10	1.73	3.90	2.16	2.69	2.69	7.38	12.27	...	2.41	12.0
1990	0.00	0.77	0.99	1.62	2.63	1.77	3.53	3.57	2.91	3.34	3.60	20.37	...	2.38	-1.1
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.56	2.35	3.79	2.09	3.24	3.79	0.00	4.92	...	2.69	12.9
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.34	2.29	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.64	20.86	...	2.58	-4.1
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.84	3.36	0.00	11.04	...	2.19	-15.3
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	2.00	1.75	1.77	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	10.10	6.15	...	2.06	-6.0
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.86	1.87	1.65	2.39	2.07	2.19	3.18	13.14	4.52	...	2.01	-2.4
1996	1.25	0.74	1.93	1.20	2.13	1.69	3.97	3.14	1.91	3.23	0.00	5.93	...	2.14	6.9
1997	1.27	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.81	1.59	2.73	2.46	2.16	2.94	3.15	4.44	...	1.96	-8.6
1998	1.30	0.74	2.58	0.67	1.88	1.37	2.90	3.24	2.21	2.26	9.63	7.44	...	1.85	-5.6
1999	0.37	0.73	1.39	1.20	1.87	1.41	2.28	1.28	2.07	2.74	3.25	2.46	7.46	1.77	-4.4

Table 1 (continued)
Homicide rates by province and territory, 1961 to 2007

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ¹	Y.T.	N.W.T. ²	Nvt.	Canada	Percent change Canada
	rate ³														percent
2000	1.14	2.20	1.61	1.33	2.04	1.34	2.61	2.58	1.96	2.10	6.57	2.47	10.91	1.78	0.5
2001	0.19	1.46	0.97	1.07	1.89	1.43	2.95	2.70	2.29	2.06	3.32	9.80	10.67	1.78	0.2
2002	0.39	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.58	1.47	3.12	2.71	2.25	3.06	0.00	9.64	6.96	1.86	4.1
2003	0.96	0.73	0.85	1.06	1.32	1.45	3.70	4.12	2.02	2.26	3.27	9.47	10.29	1.73	-6.6
2004	0.39	0.00	1.49	0.93	1.47	1.51	4.27	3.92	2.68	2.69	22.67	9.34	13.50	1.95	12.5
2005	2.14	0.00	2.14	1.20	1.32	1.74	4.17	4.34	3.29	2.37	3.22	0.00	6.66	2.05	5.2
2006 ⁴	1.37	0.72	1.71	0.93	1.22	1.54	3.31	4.25	2.82	2.50	0.00	0.00	6.58	1.86	-9.5
2007	0.59	0.00	1.39	1.07	1.17	1.57	5.22	3.01	2.53	2.01	6.45	4.69	22.50	1.80	-3.0

1. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2007, 5 reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

2. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. 1961 to 1970: final intercensal estimates; 1971 to 1995: revised intercensal from 1971 to 1995; 1996 to 2000: final intercensal estimates; 2001 to 2004: final postcensal estimates; 2005 to 2006: updated postcensal estimates; 2007: preliminary postcensal estimates.

4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

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

Table 2
Number of homicides by province and territory, 1961 to 2007

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ¹	Y.T.	N.W.T. ²	NVT	Canada
	number													
1961	1	1	6	2	52	89	15	14	18	34	1	0	...	233
1962	0	1	10	8	62	76	19	13	18	55	3	0	...	265
1963	3	0	6	5	69	76	16	8	27	35	3	1	...	249
1964	5	0	13	5	52	81	16	20	25	32	1	3	...	253
1965	6	4	10	5	63	77	15	15	20	57	3	2	...	277
1966	3	1	9	6	56	71	17	12	27	48	0	0	...	250
1967	1	0	10	5	75	114	15	25	38	47	6	2	...	338
1968	5	0	9	5	102	104	28	23	25	73	1	0	...	375
1969	5	1	12	1	126	111	28	33	23	50	0	1	...	391
1970	1	1	15	8	141	115	29	24	42	78	6	7	...	467
1971	2	0	16	10	124	151	33	29	45	61	0	2	...	473
1972	2	2	14	11	157	141	36	28	37	88	3	2	...	521
1973	3	0	19	17	155	160	38	23	36	87	4	4	...	546
1974	3	2	8	21	169	160	42	31	44	107	5	8	...	600
1975	4	0	14	12	226	206	37	36	57	98	6	5	...	701
1976	6	2	25	14	205	183	31	34	68	88	4	8	...	668
1977	8	1	14	38	197	192	44	46	70	91	6	4	...	711
1978	9	4	13	27	180	182	39	32	84	85	2	4	...	661
1979	5	0	17	11	186	175	44	36	56	90	4	7	...	631
1980	3	1	12	9	181	158	31	31	55	105	2	4	...	592
1981	4	1	11	17	186	170	41	29	73	110	1	5	...	648
1982	6	0	12	13	190	184	35	39	70	109	2	7	...	667
1983	6	0	13	11	190	202	40	33	75	108	1	3	...	682
1984	6	0	15	14	198	190	43	30	54	110	2	5	...	667
1985 ²	5	1	26	14	219	193	26	28	63	113	6	10	...	704
1986	4	0	15	12	156	139	47	26	64	89	3	14	...	569
1987	5	0	14	20	174	204	44	30	73	78	0	2	...	644
1988	7	1	11	8	154	186	31	23	66	80	1	8	...	576
1989	5	1	16	18	215	175	43	22	67	86	2	7	...	657
1990	0	1	9	12	184	182	39	36	74	110	1	12	...	660
1991	10	2	21	17	181	245	42	21	84	128	0	3	...	754
1992	2	0	21	11	166	242	29	32	92	122	2	13	...	732
1993	7	2	19	11	159	192	31	30	49	120	0	7	...	627
1994	4	1	19	15	126	192	29	24	66	113	3	4	...	596
1995	5	1	17	14	135	181	27	21	60	120	4	3	...	588
1996	7	1	18	9	154	187	45	32	53	125	0	4	...	635
1997	7	0	24	8	132	178	31	25	61	116	1	3	...	586
1998	7	1	24	5	137	156	33	33	64	90	3	5	...	558
1999	2	1	13	9	137	162	26	13	61	110	1	1	2	538
2000	6	3	15	10	150	156	30	26	59	85	2	1	3	546

Table 2 (continued)
Number of homicides by province and territory, 1961 to 2007

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ¹	Y.T.	N.W.T. ²	NVT	Canada
	number													
2001	1	2	9	8	140	170	34	27	70	84	1	4	3	553
2002	2	1	9	9	118	178	36	27	70	126	0	4	2	582
2003	5	1	8	8	99	178	43	41	64	94	1	4	3	549
2004	2	0	14	7	111	187	50	39	86	113	7	4	4	624
2005	11	0	20	9	100	219	49	43	108	101	1	0	2	663
2006 ¹	7	1	16	7	93	196	39	42	95	108	0	0	2	606
2007	3	0	13	8	90	201	62	30	88	88	2	2	7	594

Notes: There are some homicides that are included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

1. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2007, 5 reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

2. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

Table 3
Homicides by census metropolitan area

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ⁵	500,000 and over population							
	2007 ¹			2006 ^{r,2}			Average 1997 to 2006	
	Population ³	Victims	rate ⁴	Population ³	Victims	rate ⁴	Victims	rate ⁴
	number			number			number	
Toronto	5,510,424	111	2.01	5,433,967	99	1.82	86	1.74
Montréal	3,729,820	59	1.58	3,710,947	52	1.40	65	1.84
Vancouver	2,286,517	55	2.41	2,257,866	55	2.44	53	2.52
Calgary	1,145,924	36	3.14	1,104,692	25	2.26	17	1.69
Edmonton	1,095,968	36	3.28	1,061,721	39	3.67	28	2.86
Ottawa ⁶	890,013	14	1.57	888,572	16	1.80	9	1.09
Québec	732,452	0	0.00	726,062	7	0.96	8	1.06
Winnipeg	732,048	26	3.55	726,772	22	3.03	21	3.11
Hamilton	707,333	11	1.56	703,217	7	1.00	11	1.57
Total	16,830,499	348	2.07	16,613,816	322	1.94	297	1.92

Table 3 (continued)
Homicides by census metropolitan area

Census metropolitan area (CMA) ⁵	100,000 to less than 500,000 population							
	2007 ¹			2006 ^{r,2}			Average 1997 to 2006	
	Population ³	Victims	rate ⁴	Population ³	Victims	rate ⁴	Victims	rate ⁴
	number			number			number	
Kitchener	496,370	7	1.41	491,382	2	0.41	5	0.98
London	476,640	6	1.26	474,515	5	1.05	6	1.27
St. Catharines-Niagara	433,946	3	0.69	434,563	4	0.92	7	1.52
Halifax	385,457	7	1.82	383,281	6	1.57	8	2.05
Oshawa	345,305	5	1.45	339,598	3	0.88	3	0.81
Victoria	338,747	4	1.18	335,286	4	1.19	6	1.72
Windsor	332,710	4	1.20	332,968	5	1.50	6	1.93
Gatineau ^{7,8}	292,720	2	0.68	289,681	9	3.11	4	1.36
Saskatoon	250,269	9	3.60	245,615	9	3.66	7	2.91
Regina	203,453	5	2.46	200,917	11	5.47	7	3.60
St. John's	182,605	1	0.55	181,297	1	0.55	2	0.91
Abbotsford ⁹	169,084	2	1.18	165,869	3	1.81	4	2.71
Greater Sudbury	162,438	4	2.46	162,145	2	1.23	2	1.35
Kingston ⁹	152,833	1	0.65	153,795	2	1.30	3	1.85
Sherbrooke	149,875	2	1.33	149,145	1	0.67	1	0.89
Trois-Rivières	146,740	4	2.73	145,887	0	0.00	1	0.68
Saguenay	144,924	1	0.69	144,989	0	0.00	1	0.77
Thunder Bay	122,540	2	1.63	122,867	2	1.63	2	1.67
Saint John	101,429	2	1.97	98,745	1	1.01	1	0.83
Total	4,888,085	71	1.45	4,852,545	70	1.44	71	1.55
CMA totals	21,718,585	419	1.93	21,466,361	392	1.83	368	1.84
Less than 100,000 population¹⁰	11,257,441	175	1.55	11,183,121	214	1.91	212	1.90
Canada	32,976,026	594	1.80	32,649,482	606	1.86	581	1.86

Note: Due to rounding, the sum of the averages may not add up to the total.

1. A total of 17 homicides were reported and included in 2007 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Montréal; 1 in Toronto; 1 in Greater Sudbury; 1 in Saskatoon; 1 in Edmonton; 7 in Vancouver; and 5 in areas less than 100,000 population.

2. A total of 15 homicides were reported and included in 2006 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Montréal; 1 in Toronto; 2 in Regina; 1 in Saskatoon; 1 in Edmonton; and 9 in areas less than 100,000 population.

3. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2006 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2007.

4. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

5. Note that a CMA usually comprises more than one police force.

6. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

7. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

8. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2006.

9. Abbotsford and Kingston became CMAs in 2001. Average number and rate are calculated from 2001 to 2006.

10. Includes 4 homicides that occurred in correctional institutions in 2006.

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

Table 4
Methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1997 to 2007

	Victims									
	Shooting		Stabbing		Beating		Strangulation or suffocation		Shaken Baby Syndrome ¹	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
1997	193	32.9	168	28.7	115	19.6	53	9.0	6	1.0
1998	151	27.1	186	33.3	125	22.4	61	10.9	6	1.1
1999	165	30.7	143	26.6	125	23.2	55	10.2	7	1.3
2000	184	33.7	149	27.3	129	23.6	40	7.3	12	2.2
2001	171	30.9	171	30.9	122	22.1	47	8.5	8	1.4
2002	152	26.1	182	31.3	126	21.6	67	11.5	8	1.4
2003	161	29.3	142	25.9	121	22.0	65	11.8	8	1.5
2004	173	27.7	205	32.9	137	22.0	63	10.1	5	0.8
2005	223	33.6	198	29.9	144	21.7	47	7.1	12	1.8
2006 ¹	190	31.4	210	34.7	119	19.6	48	7.9	3	0.5
2007	188	31.6	190	32.0	116	19.5	50	8.4	3	0.5

	Victims											
	Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)		Poisoning		Vehicle ¹		Other ²		Unknown		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
1997	30	5.1	8	1.4	6	1.0	2	0.3	5	0.9	586	100
1998	12	2.2	6	1.1	3	0.5	2	0.4	6	1.1	558	100
1999	11	2.0	5	0.9	13	2.4	4	0.7	10	1.9	538	100
2000	5	0.9	4	0.7	14	2.6	1	0.2	8	1.5	546	100
2001	8	1.4	8	1.4	5	0.9	5	0.9	8	1.4	553	100
2002	9	1.5	3	0.5	7	1.2	6	1.0	22	3.8	582	100
2003	12	2.2	6	1.1	6	1.1	6	1.1	22	4.0	549	100
2004	13	2.1	8	1.3	6	1.0	1	0.2	13	2.1	624	100
2005	10	1.5	7	1.1	4	0.6	3	0.5	15	2.3	663	100
2006 ¹	12	2.0	1	0.2	9	1.5	1	0.2	13	2.1	606	100
2007	4	0.7	0	0.0	16	2.7	0	0.0	27	4.5	594	100

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

1. Data became available in 1997.

2. Other includes exposure/hypothermia, starvation/dehydration and, prior to 1997, Shaken Baby Syndrome and deaths caused by vehicles.

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

Table 5
Homicides involving firearms, by type of firearm, Canada, 1997 to 2007

	Type of firearm					
	Handgun		Rifle or shotgun		Fully automatic firearm	
	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides
1997	99	51.3	77	39.9	2	1.0
1998	70	46.4	51	33.8	12	7.9
1999	89	53.9	58	35.2	6	3.6
2000	107	58.2	58	31.5	4	2.2
2001	110	64.3	46	26.9	3	1.8
2002	98	64.5	40	26.3	3	2.0
2003	110	68.3	32	19.9	2	1.2
2004	112	64.7	37	21.4	2	1.2
2005 ¹	130	58.3	59	26.5	7	3.1
2006 ¹	110	57.9	37	19.5	2	1.1
2007	126	67.0	32	17.0	2	1.1
Average 1997 to 2006	104	58.7	50	28.1	4	2.4

	Type of firearm							
	Sawed-off rifle or shotgun		Firearm-like weapons ¹		Unknown type		Total	
	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	Homicides involving firearms as a percent of total homicides
1997	10	5.2	0	0.0	5	2.6	193	32.9
1998	14	9.3	0	0.0	4	2.6	151	27.1
1999	6	3.6	2	1.2	4	2.4	165	30.7
2000	11	6.0	0	0.0	4	2.2	184	33.7
2001	7	4.1	2	1.2	3	1.8	171	30.9
2002	6	3.9	0	0.0	5	3.3	152	26.1
2003	13	8.1	0	0.0	4	2.5	161	29.3
2004	15	8.7	0	0.0	7	4.0	173	27.7
2005 ¹	11	4.9	1	0.4	15	6.7	223	33.6
2006 ¹	25	13.2	2	1.1	14	7.4	190	31.4
2007	17	9.0	1	0.5	10	5.3	188	31.6
Average 1997 to 2006	12	6.7	1	0.4	7	3.7	176	30.4

1. Firearm-like weapons include (nail gun, pellet gun, etc.).

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

Table 6
Gang-related homicides, by region, 1997 to 2007

	Atlantic	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Territories	Canada	Victims of gang-related homicides as a percent of all homicides
	number									
1997	1	17	1	2	0	1	6	0	28	4.8
1998	1	31	6	2	2	2	7	0	51	9.1
1999	0	30	5	1	0	4	5	0	45	8.4
2000	4	38	11	3	1	5	10	0	72	13.2
2001	0	23	19	4	1	4	10	0	61	11.0
2002	0	7	19	4	0	9	7	0	46	7.9
2003	1	15	38	6	4	8	12	0	84	15.3
2004	0	18	17	5	4	15	16	0	75	12.0
2005 ¹	1	24	31	5	5	23	16	0	105	15.8
2006 ¹	1	23	27	7	9	21	13	0	101	16.7
2007	2	22	29	11	9	20	23	1	117	19.7
Average 1997 to 2006	1	23	17	4	3	9	10	0	67	11.5

Note: Previous to 2005, police were asked if the homicide was "gang-related". Beginning 2005, the question was amended to give police the option of specifying whether the homicide was: (a) confirmed as gang-related or (b) "suspected" as being gang-related. While it is unknown if "suspected" gang-related incidents were included in these numbers prior to 2005, indications from police officers are that they would have been in the majority of cases.

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

Table 7
Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship, Canada

Relationship type ¹ (Victims killed by)	Victims					
	2007		2006 ¹		Average 1997 to 2006	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Family relationship						
Spousal relationship						
Husband (legal)	18	4.3	26	5.7	24	5.2
Husband (common-law)	22	5.3	16	3.5	20	4.5
Husband (legal, separated and divorced) ²	6	1.4	9	2.0	16	3.5
Husband (common-law, separated)	5	1.2	5	1.1
Wife (legal)	4	1.0	4	0.9	4	0.8
Wife (common-law)	9	2.2	16	3.5	9	2.0
Wife (legal, separated and divorced) ²	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
Wife (common-law, separated)	0	0.0	1	0.2
Same-sex spouse (current or former) ³	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2
Total spousal	65	15.7	78	17.0	77	16.9
Non-spousal relationship						
Father ⁴	13	3.1	18	3.9	24	5.3
Mother ⁴	8	1.9	13	2.8	14	3.0
Son/daughter ⁴	21	5.1	14	3.1	20	4.4
Sibling	6	1.4	7	1.5	9	2.0
Other family relation ⁵	23	5.6	36	7.8	21	4.5
Total non-spousal	71	17.1	88	19.2	87	19.2
Total family	136	32.9	166	36.2	166	36.5
Acquaintance						
Boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate (current or former)	16	3.9	15	3.3	17	3.8
Close friend	25	6.0	35	7.6	31	6.9
Neighbour	4	1.0	7	1.5	15	3.2
Authority figure	2	0.5	0	0.0	3	0.5
Business relationship (legal)	7	1.7	7	1.5	10	2.1
Casual acquaintance	97	23.4	94	20.5	98	21.6
Total acquaintance	151	36.5	158	34.4	173	38.1
Criminal relationship ⁶	60	14.5	58	12.6	43	9.5
Stranger	66	15.9	73	15.9	70	15.3
Unknown relationship	1	0.2	4	0.9	5	1.1
Total solved homicides	414	100.0	459	100.0	455	100.0
Unsolved homicides	180	...	147	...	125	...
Total homicides	594	...	606	...	581	...

1. Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

2. Includes separated common-law prior to 2005.

3. Separate variables for same-sex spouse and ex-same-sex spouse were created in 2005.

4. Includes biological, adopted, step and foster relationships.

5. Includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc. related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.

6. Include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients, loan sharks, gang members, etc.

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

Table 8
Victims of homicide and accused persons, by sex, Canada, 1997 to 2007

	Victims					Accused				
	Males		Females		Total	Males		Females		Total
	number	percent	number	percent	number	number	percent	number	percent	number
1997 ¹	381	65.0	205	35.0	586	445	85.7	74	14.3	519
1998 ^r	381	68.3	177	31.7	558	475	88.0	65	12.0	540
1999 ^r	365	67.8	173	32.2	538	446	90.3	48	9.7	494
2000 ²	397	72.7	149	27.3	546	423	88.1	57	11.9	480
2001 ²	392	70.9	161	29.1	553	449	87.5	64	12.5	513
2002 ^{1, r}	376	64.6	206	35.4	582	484	89.1	59	10.9	543
2003	391	71.2	158	28.8	549	488	88.7	62	11.3	550
2004 ^r	425	68.1	199	31.9	624	533	89.6	62	10.4	595
2005 ^r	483	72.9	180	27.1	663	583	90.2	63	9.8	646
2006 ^r	444	73.3	162	26.7	606	484	86.9	73	13.1	557
2007 ¹	432	72.7	162	27.3	594	474	89.9	53	10.1	527
Average 1997 to 2006	404	69.5	177	30.5	581	481	88.5	63	11.5	544

1. Total of accused excludes one person whose gender was reported by police as unknown.

2. Total of accused excludes two persons whose gender was reported by police as unknown.

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

Table 9
Youth aged 12 to 17 years accused of homicide, Canada, 1997 to 2007

	Youth accused			Rate per 100,000 youth population ¹			Total youth as percent of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
	number			rate			percent
1997	45	11	56	3.59	0.93	2.29	10.8
1998 ^r	55	3	58	4.35	0.25	2.36	10.7
1999	37	9	46	2.92	0.75	1.86	9.3
2000 ^r	38	5	43	2.99	0.42	1.74	8.9
2001	27	5	32	2.11	0.41	1.28	6.2
2002	33	9	42	2.55	0.73	1.67	7.7
2003	52	10	62	4.00	0.81	2.44	11.3
2004	39	5	44	2.98	0.40	1.72	7.4
2005 ^r	62	10	72	4.71	0.80	2.80	11.1
2006 ^r	73	12	85	5.51	0.95	3.29	15.3
2007	66	8	74	4.97	0.63	2.86	14.0
Average 1997 to 2006	46	8	54	3.58	0.65	2.15	9.9

1. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. 1997 to 2000: final intercensal estimates; 2001 to 2004: final postcensal estimates; 2005 to 2006: updated postcensal estimates; 2007: preliminary postcensal estimates.

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