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Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2024

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Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2024: Highlights

- Firearm-related violent crime accounted for 2.6% of all violent crime reported by police in 2024.
- Police services in Canada reported 14,488 firearm-related violent crimes, almost 200 fewer than in 2023. This marked the sharpest decline in the rate of firearm-related violent crime in more than 10 years, from 37.6 incidents per 100,000 population in 2023 to 36.0 incidents per 100,000 population in 2024.
- Some provinces experienced an increase in the rate of firearm-related violent crime from 2023 to 2024. This was the case for Newfoundland and Labrador (+30.7%), Ontario (+6.3%), and Quebec (+0.8%). In the territories, Yukon (+24%) and the Northwest Territories (+7.3%) also recorded increases.
- The Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA) experienced an increase in the rate of firearm-related violent crime (+12%), which reached its highest level in 15 years (44.8 incidents per 100,000 population). The CMAs of Guelph (+85%), Drummondville (+52%) and St. John's (+42%) also experienced substantial annual increases. Conversely, the majority of CMAs in British Columbia and Alberta posted declines, contributing to the decrease seen at the national level.
- The firearm-related violent crime rate was almost five times higher in the provincial rural north (172.2 incidents per 100,000 population) compared with the national average (36.0 incidents per 100,000 population). The firearm-related violent crime rate in the provincial rural north has increased by 2.7% since 2023, and by 167% since 2014.
- As in 2023, about half (49%) of firearm-related violent crimes involved handguns in 2024. This proportion has decreased over time, from 56% in 2014. The number of crimes involving a handgun increased (+46%) during this period, but crimes involving a rifle (+52%), an automatic weapon or a sawed-off firearm (+98%), or another type of firearm (+124%) increased more rapidly.
- Firearm-specific offences—discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm—continued to rise and accounted for 37% of firearm-related violent crime in 2024.
- Approximately 4% of firearm-related violent crimes committed in 2024 were attributable to organized crime or gangs, representing nearly 3 out of 10 gang-related violent crimes (29%). In 2018, 38% of violent crimes linked to organized crime or gangs involved a firearm.
- In 2024, nearly 1% of incidents of intimate partner violence against women involved a firearm. This proportion was 0.73% in 2014, and 0.60% in 2009. Women victims of intimate partner violence were almost twice as likely as men to have a firearm used against them.
- In 2024, the shooting homicide rate declined for the second consecutive year to 0.69 incidents per 100,000 population in 2024. Nevertheless, this rate is considerably higher than 10 years earlier (0.44 per 100,000 population in 2014). Canada's rate of shooting homicides is significantly higher than in many comparable countries.
- The majority (80%) of those accused of firearm-related homicides did not hold a valid licence for the classification of firearm that was involved.
- Nearly 4 in 10 firearm-related homicides (39%) in 2024 were attributable to organized crime or gangs, down from 2023 (45%) and from 10 years earlier (44% in 2014).
- Of those accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024, nearly 6 out of 10 (58%) were identified by police as the accused in at least one other prior violent crime that occurred between 2018 and 2024. In comparison, this proportion was 39% among persons accused of non-firearm-related violent crime.
- More than half (59%) of men accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024 had a recent history of violence, and close to one in five (18%) had a recent history of firearm-related violent crime. Among women, these proportions were 48% with a recent history of violence and 8% with a recent history of firearm-related violent crime.
- Individuals accused of the most serious crimes, such as homicide and robbery, and those accused of crimes linked to or suspected to be linked to organized crime or gangs, were more likely to have had recent prior contact with police in relation to violent crime, including firearm-related violent crime.
- Among individuals accused of firearm-related violent crime in 2014, nearly two-thirds (65%) were later identified by police as the accused in at least one other criminal incident that occurred from 2014 to 2023 (excluding traffic offences). In comparison, this proportion was 57% among persons accused of non-firearm-related violent crime.

Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2024

by Samuel Perreault

Firearm-related crimes account for a small proportion of all violent crimes in Canada. However, they remain a major public safety concern because of the significant impact of these crimes. Firearms are often involved in the most serious crimes, including those linked to organized crime and gangs. Over the past decade, the number of homicide victims who were shot generally surpassed the number of victims who were stabbed.

Police-reported statistics show a general upward trend in firearm-related violent crime since the mid-2010s (Conroy, 2025, Perreault, 2024). Data from the Canada Border Services Agency also show an increase in firearms seizures at borders since 2020/2021.¹ In addition, new technologies such as 3D printers have led to an increase in unlawfully manufactured firearms.

In recent years, several measures to reduce crime involving firearms have been put in place by provincial governments and the federal government. Specifically, amendments were made to the *Criminal Code* and the *Firearms Act* (Public Safety Canada, 2022a). 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, 2025a; Public Safety Canada, 2023) (see Text box 4).

Using data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey² and the Homicide Survey, this *Juristat* article presents the most recent trends in firearm-related violent crime, a complex and sensitive issue. Also discussed are certain characteristics of these incidents, their victims and the persons accused. For the first time, an analysis of accused persons who have had repeated contacts with the police for firearm-related violent crime is included in this article. These results will help to better identify those most likely to be responsible for a disproportionate share of firearm-related crime. They will contribute to the development of measures and policies targeting those most at risk of repeated contacts, thus offering the best potential for results in addressing firearm-related crime.

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 in which 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. 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

Violent crimes (or crimes against the person) are offences that normally include the use of an act of aggression with intent to harm, or the threat of such an act, by one person against another. Violent crime includes violations causing death, attempted murder, sexual violations, assaults, violations resulting in the deprivation of freedom, sexual services offences and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence. A detailed list of offences can be found on the Data Elements and Violation Coding Structure for the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey – 2024 page (Statistics Canada, 2025).

In the Uniform Crime Reporting survey, firearms include handguns; rifles or shotguns; fully automatic or sawed-off firearms; unlawfully manufactured firearms; and other firearm-like weapons such as starter pistols, flare guns, air guns and BB guns.⁴

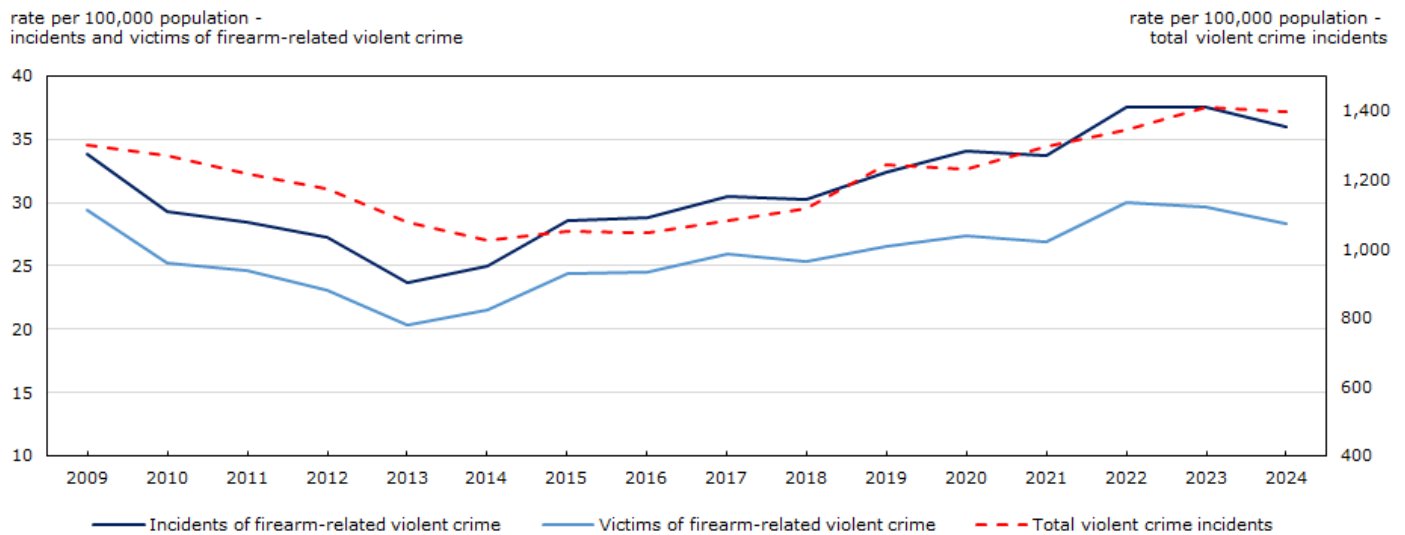
As with aggregated crime statistics, data presented in this article are incident-based. A criminal incident involves one or more related offences that are committed during a single criminal event and have been reported to police. Where there are multiple victims within a single criminal event, a separate incident is counted for each victim. For example, a single incident involving an assault on three victims at the same time and location is counted as three incidents of assault. For an incident to be counted in the crime statistics, it must be recorded as “founded” as opposed to “unfounded.” Police services can report up to four violations for each incident. However, both the traditional crime rate and the Crime Severity Index are

based on the most serious violation in the criminal incident. For the purposes of this article, “crime” and “incident” are used interchangeably. Prior to 2022, firearm-related violent crime statistics included only crimes in which a victim had been identified.⁵ Since 2022, firearm-related violent crime includes all violent crimes in which a firearm was present and relevant to the crime, regardless of whether a victim was identified. For more information, see Text box 1 in Perreault, 2024.

The rate of firearm-related crime sees sharpest decline in more than 10 years

In 2024, police services in Canada reported 14,488 firearm-related violent crimes. This was almost 200 fewer crimes than the previous year, during which 14,679 of these crimes were recorded. The rate of firearm-related violent crime (36.0 incidents per 100,000 population) decreased by 4.2% compared with 2023 (37.6 incidents per 100,000 population), the largest drop since 2013.⁶

Chart 1
Incidents and victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, Canada, 2009 to 2024



Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

From 2009, when comparable data became available, to 2013, the rate of firearm-related violent crime declined sharply (-30% in four years). However, the rate then began an upward trend, reaching a peak in 2023.⁷ During this period of almost constant increases, only two other years were marked by declines—2018 (-1.1%) and 2021 (-0.9%)—both of which were smaller decreases than that recorded in 2024 (Chart 1).

The proportion of firearm-related violent crimes decreases slightly

Firearm-related crimes account for a small proportion of all police-reported violent crimes (less than 3%). Most often, violent crimes involve no weapons or involve physical force alone. In 2024, 2.6% of violent crimes were firearm-related, a slight decrease from the previous year (2.7%). This was also the lowest proportion recorded since 2014, when 2.4% of violent crimes involved a firearm. Thus, from 2023 to 2024, the firearm-related violent crime rate decreased (-4.2%) more sharply than the overall violent crime rate (-1.0%) (Chart 1).

The rate of firearm-related violent crime declines in most provinces

Overall, 7 of 10 provinces recorded a decline in the rate of firearm-related violent crime from 2023 to 2024. Only Newfoundland and Labrador (+31%), Ontario (+6.3%) and Quebec⁸ (+0.8%) recorded an increase in the rate of firearm-related violent crime compared with the previous year. Among the territories, Yukon (+24%) and the Northwest Territories (+7.3%) also experienced an increase in the rate of firearm-related violent crime compared with 2023 (Table 1).

Prince Edward Island (-46%), British Columbia (-22%), Alberta (-14%) and New Brunswick (-11%) were the provinces with the largest declines in their rates from 2023 to 2024. Prince Edward Island (15.2 incidents per 100,000 population) and British Columbia (20.7 incidents per 100,000 population) had the lowest rates of firearm-related violent crime among the provinces. In the territories, Nunavut experienced a 37% decrease in its rate of firearm-related violent crime (Table 1).

At the provincial level, the rate of firearm-related violent crime was generally higher in the Prairie provinces, with the highest rate being in Saskatchewan (120.1 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Manitoba (81.3) and Alberta (49.3). The proportion of firearm-related violent crimes was also higher in these provinces. For example, 4.5% of violent crimes in Saskatchewan involved a firearm, compared with 1.0% in Prince Edward Island and 1.4% in British Columbia (the two provinces with the lowest proportions of firearm-related violent crime). Nevertheless, the three Prairie provinces experienced a decline in the rate of firearm-related violent crime from 2023 to 2024 (Table 1).

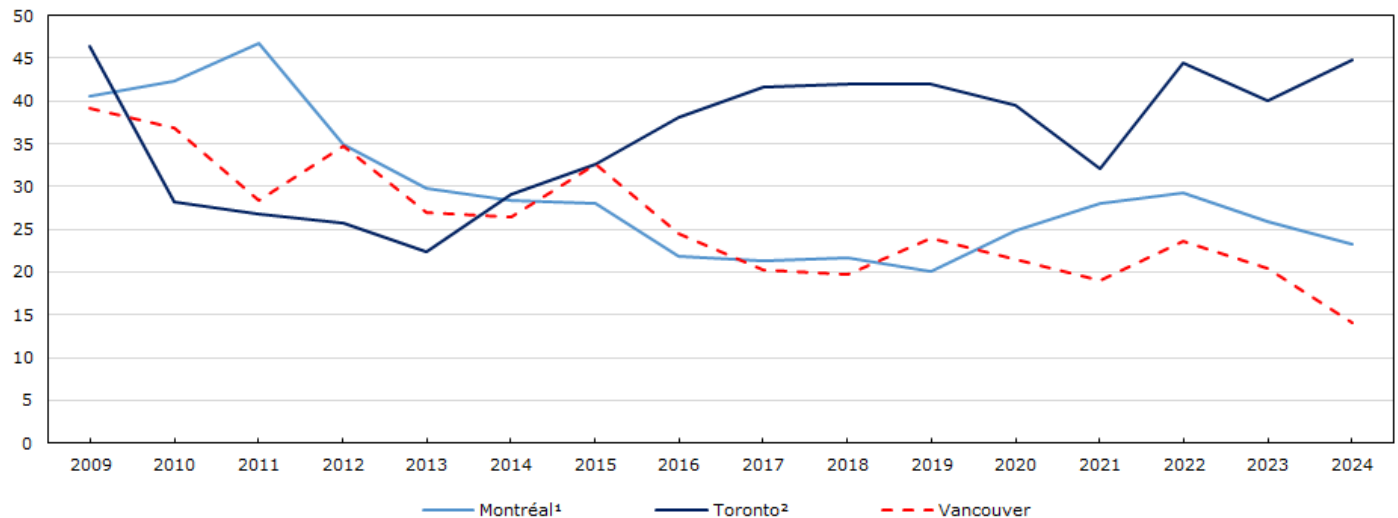
The rate of firearm-related violent crime in Toronto reaches its highest level in 15 years

While a decline in the rate of firearm-related crime was noted across the country, the opposite trend was observed in Toronto,⁹ Canada's most populous census metropolitan area (CMA).¹⁰ In 2024, 2,843 firearm-related crimes were recorded in Toronto, representing a rate of 44.8 firearm-related crimes per 100,000 population. This rate was the highest recorded in Toronto since 2009.

The increase in the rate of firearm-related violent crime in Toronto was partly because violent crime increased slightly overall in Toronto in 2024, but also because violent crimes were slightly more likely to have involved a firearm. In 2024, 4.2% of violent crimes in Toronto were firearm-related, up from 3.8% the previous year. Of the other CMAs, only Regina recorded a higher proportion of firearm-related violent crime (Table 2).

Chart 2
Police-reported incidents of firearm-related violent crime, Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver, 2009 to 2024

rate per 100,000 population



1. In Quebec, the information management system used by a majority of police services generates a relatively high proportion of unknown values for the variable "most serious weapon present." Although firearm-related crimes are likely correctly recorded in the vast majority of cases, undercounting remains possible. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing data from Quebec with data from other provinces or territories.

2. Excludes the portions of the Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto 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, using 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. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

The trend was the reverse in the other two most populous CMAs in the country. Montréal (1.9%) and Vancouver (1.4%) recorded their lowest proportions of firearm-related violent crimes in 2024 since comparable data became available in 2009. In 2023, these proportions were 2.1% for Montréal and 1.8% for Vancouver. In Montréal, this translated into a 10% decrease in the rate of firearm-related violent crime compared with 2023, while the corresponding decrease in Vancouver was 31%. Montréal and Vancouver were the only two CMAs in Canada whose rate of firearm-related violent crime in 2024 was substantially lower than in 2014¹¹ (Chart 2, Table 2).

The majority of census metropolitan areas in Alberta and British Columbia show a decline in firearm-related violent crime in 2024

In 2024, just over half of CMAs (22 out of 39) saw their rate of firearm-related violent crime decrease from the previous year. Western CMAs were particularly likely to have seen their rates decline, including Alberta's four CMAs and five of British Columbia's seven CMAs. The CMAs of Red Deer (-51%), Chilliwack (-47%) and Lethbridge (-46%) recorded the largest decreases in the rate of firearm-related violent crime compared with 2023 (Table 2).

Conversely, the CMAs of Guelph (+85%), Drummondville (+52%) and St. John's (+42%) recorded the largest increases in the rate of firearm-related violent crime in 2024 compared with 2023. Nevertheless, these CMAs continued to have lower rates than the CMA average in 2024. It should also be noted that the CMAs with the largest annual changes in 2024, both upward and downward, had fewer than 250,000 residents and record relatively small numbers of firearm-related crimes each year. The rate in these CMAs is therefore more likely to experience significant annual fluctuations.

The rate of firearm-related violent crime continues to rise in the provincial rural north

The provincial north includes Labrador and the northern regions of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, according to the definition agreed on by the Northern Development Ministers Forum and used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. These northern boundaries generally reflect provincial administrative regions (Allen & Perreault, 2015; Statistics Canada, 2022b).

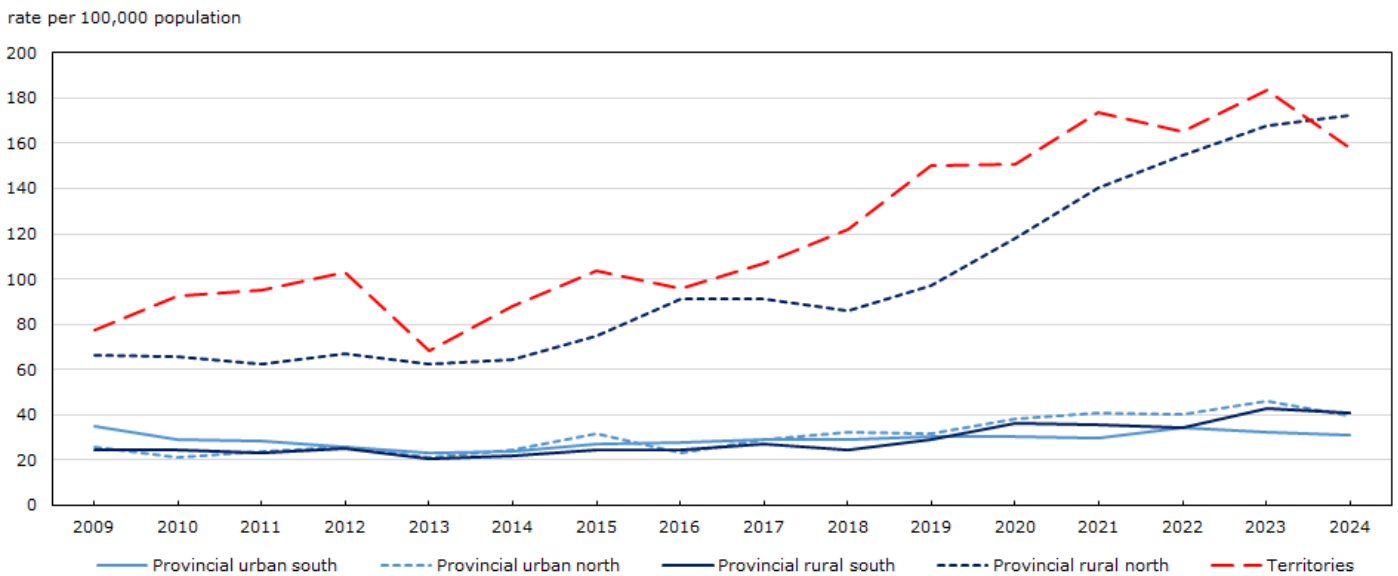
Many earlier analyses have noted higher crime rates the provincial north, and especially in northern rural areas (Allen & Perreault, 2015; Cotter, 2025; Perreault, 2023; Savage et al., 2025). For example, the violent crime rate in northern rural areas was 17,766 incidents per 100,000 population in 2024, about three times higher than in southern urban areas (5,106) (Perreault, forthcoming).

The socioeconomic and demographic profile of rural northern communities differs significantly from that of the provincial urban south. Some socioeconomic issues are more severe in the north than in the south, such as higher unemployment and poverty rates, lower levels of education, residential instability, inadequate or insufficient infrastructure, and substance abuse, all of which are known to have an impact on crime (Ceccato & Abraham, 2022; Kitchen, 2006; Sapp, 2023; Savage et al., 2025; Ukert et al., 2018). In addition, Indigenous Peoples represent a relatively large proportion of the population in rural areas and in the provincial North. Self-reported and police-reported data have consistently shown high rates of victimization and offending among First Nations people, Métis and Inuit (Allen, 2020; Boyce, 2016; Perreault, 2022). This reality cannot be separated from the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization upon Indigenous Peoples that contribute to socioeconomic marginalization, trauma and intergenerational violence (Aguir & Halseth, 2015; Bombay et al., 2014).

Overall, rates of firearm-related violent crime are generally higher in the northern regions of the provinces than in their southern regions.¹² In 2024, 3.7% of violent crimes in the provincial rural north involved a firearm, corresponding to a rate of 172.2 incidents per 100,000 population. That rate was almost 6 times higher than in the provincial urban south (31.1 incidents per 100,000 population, or 2.5% of violent crimes) (Table 1).

In the provincial rural north, both the rate and the proportion of firearm-related violent crimes increased from 2023 to 2024. This trend was the opposite of what was observed in the southern regions of the provinces, but also in the provincial urban north and in the territories. For the first time since 2009, the territories had a lower rate of firearm-related violent crime than the provincial rural north (Table 1, Chart 3).

Chart 3
Police-reported incidents of firearm-related violent crime, by urban or rural area of provincial south or north and territories, 2009 to 2024



Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. The provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. The 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 CMAs and CAs. Data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group are excluded. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

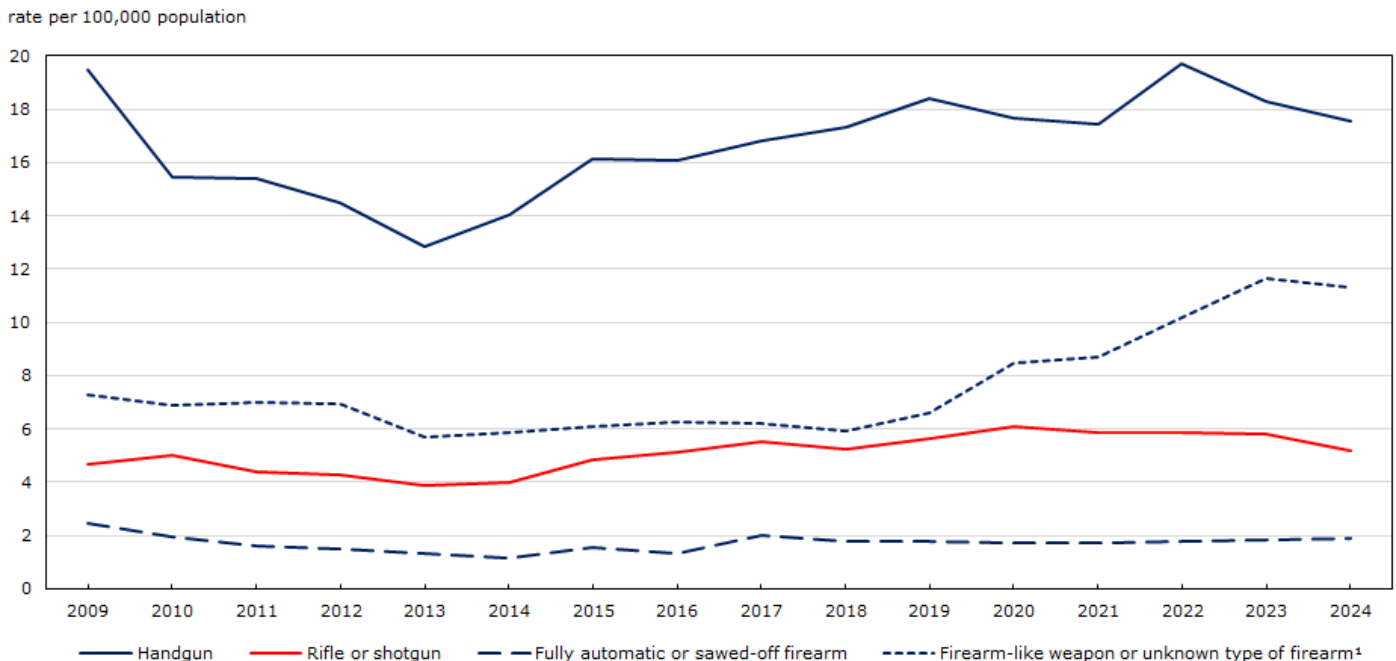
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

A recent study of a cohort of accused persons revealed a particularly high rate of recidivism in the provincial rural north. Specifically, 28% of accused persons in the rural north in 2014 were identified as accused in at least 10 other crimes in the following nine years (Savage, 2025), suggesting that a small number of individuals are responsible for a disproportionate share of crime in the north. Although the study in question looked at crime as a whole, trends for firearm-related violent crime offenders are similar (see the section entitled “Persons accused of firearm-related violent crime who had repeated contacts with police” at the end of this article).

Handguns involved in nearly half of firearm-related violent crimes

Handguns were involved in almost half (49%) of firearm-related violent crimes in 2024. More specifically, police reported a rate of 17.6 violent crimes involving a handgun per 100,000 population in 2024, down 4.1% from the rate recorded the previous year (18.3 incidents per 100,000 population). In comparison, the rate of violent crimes involving firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearms was 11.3 incidents per 100,000 population. The rate of violent crimes that involved a rifle or shotgun followed, with 5.2 incidents per 100,000 population (Table 3, Chart 4).

Chart 4
Police-reported incidents of firearm-related violent crime, by type of firearm, Canada, 2009 to 2024



1. Includes, for example, starter pistols, flare guns, air guns and BB guns. Also includes incidents where the type of firearm was unknown.

Note: Type of firearm represents the most serious firearm present in the incident. Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

The proportion of firearm-related violent crime involving a handgun has declined, from 56% in 2014 to 49% in 2024. However, the decrease in the proportion of violent crimes involving a handgun does not mean that these crimes are on the decline, but rather that there were larger increases in the number of crimes involving other types of firearms. The number of violent crimes involving a handgun has increased by 46% since 2014, from 4,839 incidents to 7,068 incidents in 2024. By comparison, the number of violent crimes involving a rifle or shotgun rose by 52% (from 1,377 to 2,098 incidents), and the number of violent crimes involving a fully automatic or sawed-off firearm increased by 98% (from 390 to 774 incidents). Violent crimes involving a firearm-like weapon or an unknown firearm¹³ increased the most; the number of these incidents rose from 2,029 incidents in 2014 to 4,548 in 2024 (+124%) (Table 3).

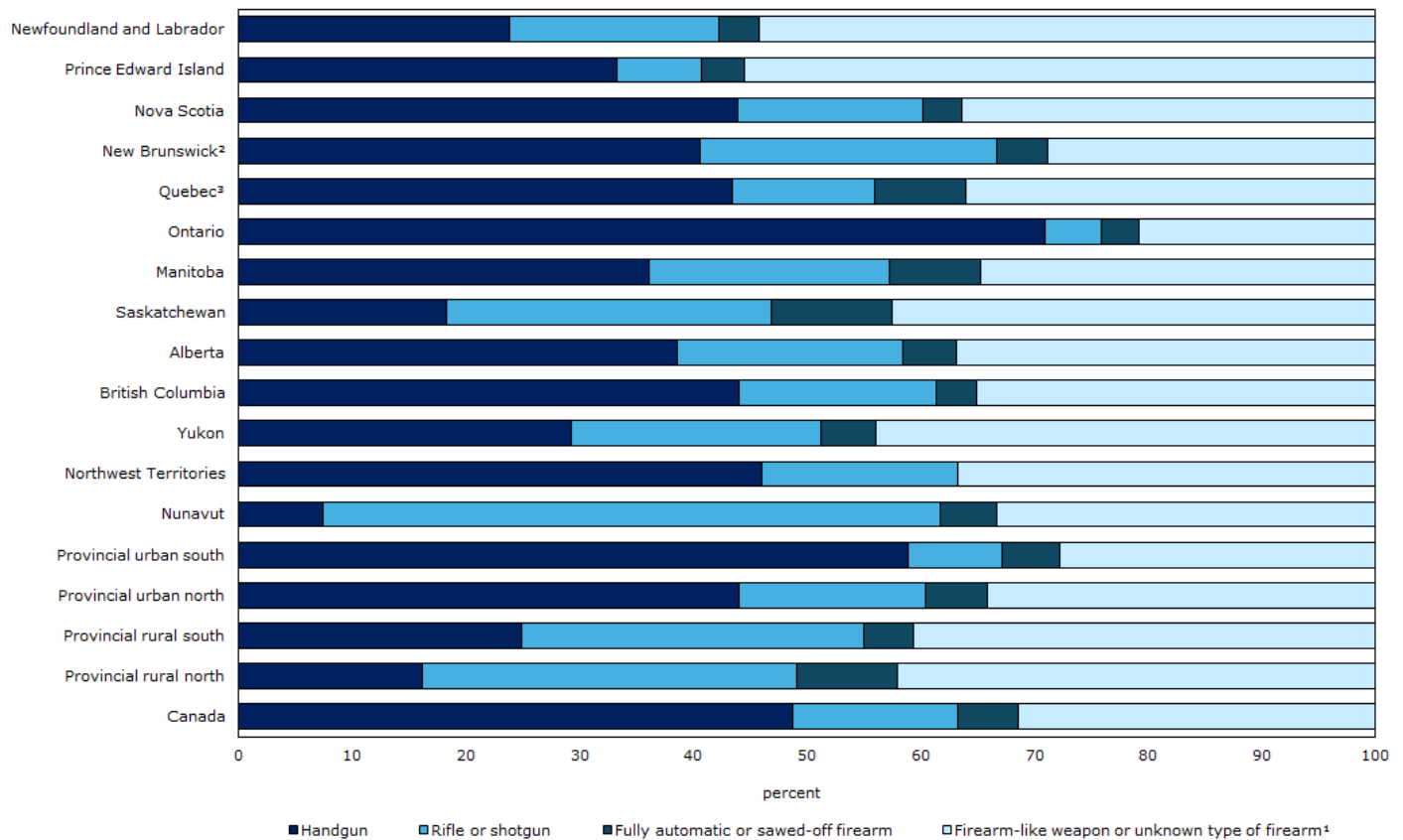
Firearm-like weapons and unknown firearms include airsoft guns, BB guns, pellet guns or air guns. For a crime to be considered a crime involving a firearm, these weapons must have been used in a threatening, intimidating or criminal manner. This category may also include replica firearms and unlawfully manufactured firearms, including those made using 3D printers, which are a growing source of concern (Public Safety Canada, 2025b; Public Safety Canada, 2025c).

Handguns involved more often in urban than in rural areas

Urban and rural areas differ in the type of weapon most often involved in firearm-related violent crime. In the provincial urban south, nearly 6 in 10 firearm-related violent crimes (59%) in 2024 involved a handgun. Conversely, this proportion was 16% in the provincial rural north, where firearm-related violent crime most often involved a firearm-like weapon or an unknown type of firearm (42%), or a rifle or shotgun (33%). Such differences can be expected given the higher rates of rifle or shotgun ownership in rural areas (Doherty & Hornosty, 2008; Gomez et al., 2020).

Chart 5
Police-reported incidents of firearm-related violent crime, by type of firearm, province or territory and urban or rural area of provincial south or north, 2024

Province, territory and urban or rural area of provincial south or north



1. Includes, for example, starter pistols, flare guns, air guns and BB guns. Also includes incidents where the type of firearm was unknown.
 2. Excludes data for the Saint John Police Force. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information.
 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 with data from other provinces and territories.
Note: Type of firearm represents the most serious firearm present in the incident. Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. The provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. The 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 CMAs and CAs. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

Typically, more urbanized provinces had a higher proportion of firearm-related violent crimes involving handguns. In Ontario, for example, 7 out of 10 firearm-related violent crimes (71%) involved a handgun in 2024. Conversely, this proportion was 7% in Nunavut. However, the Northwest Territories was an exception: 46% of firearm-related violent crimes in 2024 involved a handgun, the second-highest proportion among the provinces and territories (Chart 5).

Presence of a firearm declines in most crime categories

The rate of firearm-related violent crime fell in most crime categories from 2023 to 2024. These decreases largely reflect a decrease in crime overall. Still, the proportion of crimes involving a firearm also fell slightly for most crime categories, especially among the most serious crimes.

The rate of firearm-related attempted murder, homicide and other offences causing death fell by 9.1% from 2023 to 2024 (from 1.77 incidents per 100,000 population in 2023 to 1.61 in 2024). The rate of sexual assault involving a firearm fell 13% (from 0.34 incidents per 100,000 population in 2023 to 0.30 in 2024), as did rates of firearm-related robbery (from 8.7 to 7.9 incidents per 100,000 population, or -8.8%) and hostage-taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement or human trafficking (from 0.61 to 0.52 incidents per 100,000 population, or -15%). In contrast, discharging a firearm with intent and the “other violent crimes” category saw a slight increase in 2024 (Table 4).

While the firearm-related crime rate declined from 2023 for most violent crime categories, the longer-term trend is different. Compared with 10 years earlier, only firearm-related robberies (-21%) and hostage-taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement or human trafficking (-10%) decreased. Most other violations recorded increases. For example, increases have been seen since 2014 for firearm-related attempted murder, homicide and other offences causing death (+29%); sexual assault (+108%); and assault (+64%) (Table 4).

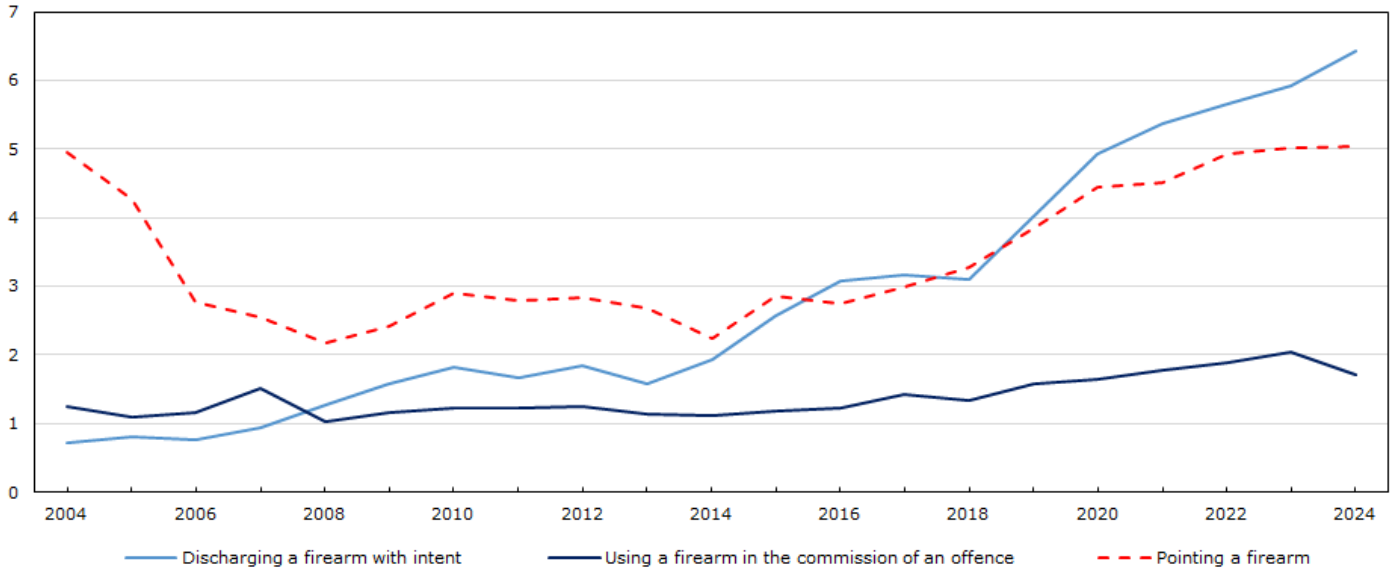
Discharge of a firearm with intent accounts for nearly one in five violent crimes involving a firearm

The *Criminal Code* includes a number of violent offences explicitly relating to firearms. Specifically, discharging a firearm with intent,¹⁴ pointing a firearm and using a firearm in the commission of an offence are, by definition, firearm-related violent crimes.

Firearm-specific offences have increased significantly over the past 15 years and are largely responsible for the rise in firearm-related violent crime over this period. In 2009, these offences accounted for 15% of firearm-related violent crime. In 2014, this proportion was 21%, and it rose steadily to 37% by 2024. In other words, the rate for all these offences rose from 5.2 incidents per 100,000 population in 2009 to 13.2 incidents per 100,000 population in 2024.¹⁵

Chart 6
Police-reported firearm-specific offences, Canada, 2004 to 2024

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Data are based on the most serious offence in the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

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

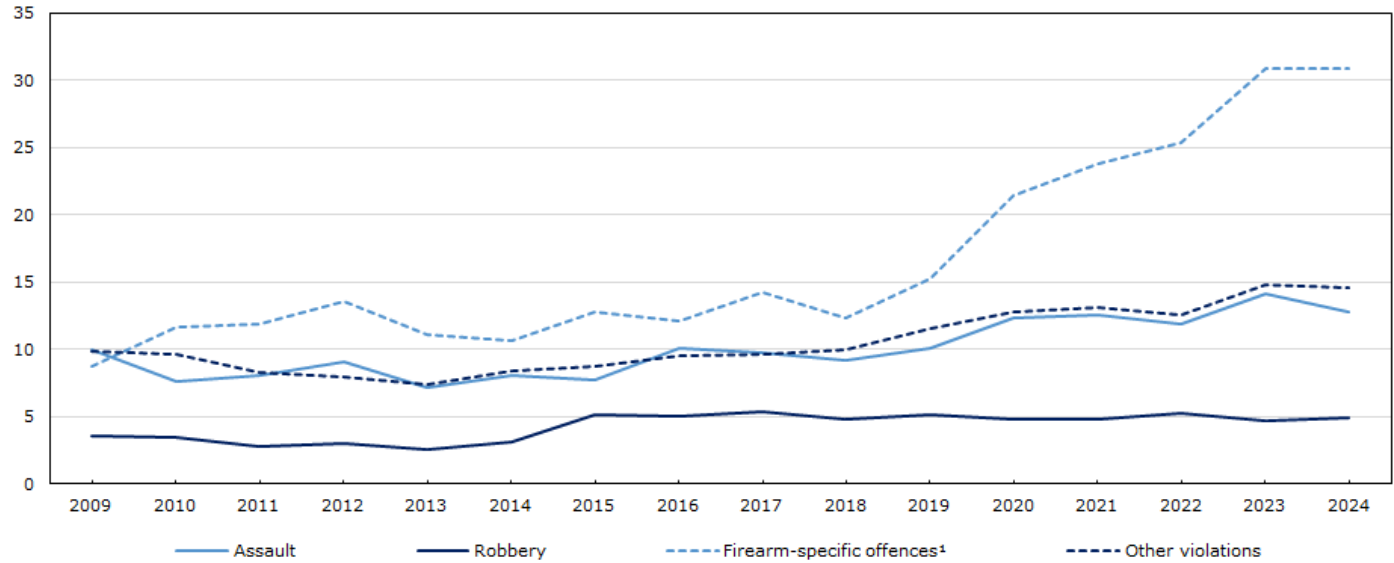
Among all firearm-related violent crimes, discharging a firearm with intent had the largest increase from 2009 to 2024. In 2009, discharging a firearm with intent accounted for 5.4% of firearm-related violent crimes. This proportion was 19% in 2024. The rate of incidents of discharging a firearm with intent thus rose from 1.6 incidents per 100,000 population in 2009 to 6.4 incidents per 100,000 population in 2024 (Chart 6).

Rate of firearm-specific offences up sharply, especially in rural areas

Firearm-specific offences have risen especially rapidly in rural areas. From 2009 to 2024, the rate of these offences more than tripled, from 8.7 incidents per 100,000 population to 30.8 incidents per 100,000 population (Chart 7). By 2024, these offences accounted for almost half (49%) of all firearm-related violent crime in areas outside CMAs and census agglomerations.¹⁶

Chart 7
Police-reported incidents of firearm-related violent crime, by selected offence, rural areas, 2009 to 2024

rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm.

Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. Rural areas are all areas outside census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs). 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. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

More specifically, firearm-specific offences increased the most in the provincial rural north. From 2009 to 2024, the rate of these offences increased sixfold, from 16.0 incidents per 100,000 population to 95.6 incidents per 100,000 population.

Text box 2

Firearm-related hate crimes

In Canada, hate crime refers to criminal offences motivated, in whole or in part, by bias, prejudice or hatred based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, gender expression, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factor. Although some offences are specifically hate crimes (e.g., public incitement of hatred, advocating genocide), any offence can be considered a hate crime if there is evidence that the offence was motivated by hatred. The motivation should then be considered as an aggravating factor by the judge when imposing the sentence.

Hate crimes target not just a person, but the identity of that person and what they represent. Thus, hate crimes can affect not only the person targeted but also the community as a whole (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, 2014; Perry, 2010).

Although hate crimes rarely involve firearms, there have been several high-profile incidents in recent years. For example, Jewish schools and synagogues have been targeted by gunfire (Service de police de la Ville de Montréal, 2025; Toronto Police Service, 2026), and several police services have reported an increase in hate crime incidents targeting Jewish and Muslim communities in the wake of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Service de police de la Ville de Montréal, 2023; Toronto Police Service, 2024; Vancouver Police Service, 2024).

In 2024, police reported 31 hate-motivated firearm-related violent crimes, representing 1.2% of violent hate crimes in Canada. This number was slightly lower than in 2023 (35) and 2022 (32). Of the firearm-related hate crimes recorded in 2024, 13 (46%) were motivated by race or ethnic origin, and 5 (18%) were motivated by religion.¹⁷

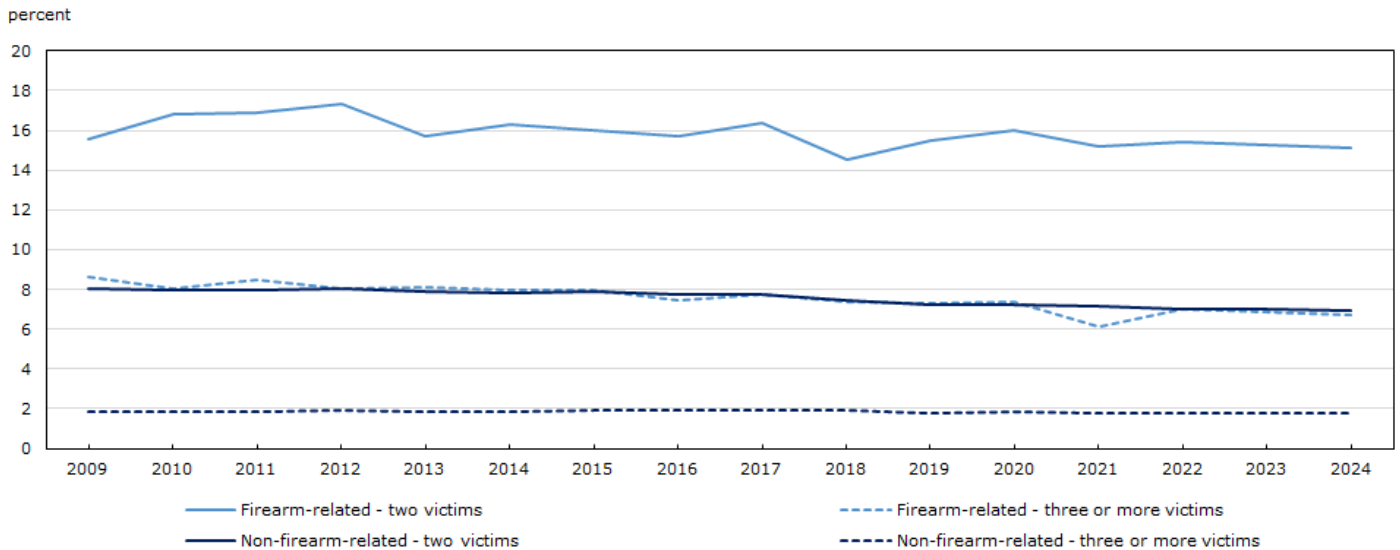
It should be noted that police-reported data on hate crime include only incidents that are brought to their attention and subsequently categorized as confirmed or suspected hate crimes. To determine whether a crime is motivated by hate, and to indicate the type of motivation, police rely on strict legal criteria. More information on hate crimes can be found in the *Daily* article entitled “Police-reported hate crime in Canada, 2024” (Statistics Canada, 2026). An interactive statistical data visualization dashboard on hate crimes reported by police is also available on the Police-reported Information Hub.

Firearm-related violent crime more likely to involve multiple victims and multiple accused persons

Violent crimes are much more likely to involve multiple victims¹⁸ when a firearm was present than when one was not. In 2024, just under one-quarter (22%) of firearm-related violent crimes had more than one victim. In comparison, this was the case for 8.7% of non-firearm-related violent crimes.

The proportion of firearm-related violent crimes involving more than one victim is trending downward slightly. In 2009, 24% of firearm-related violent crimes resulted in more than one victim, 2 percentage points higher than in 2024. Crimes with three or more victims largely accounted for the decline; the proportion of these crimes fell from 8.6% in 2009 to 6.7% in 2024 (Chart 8).

Chart 8
Police-reported incidents of violent crime, by number of victims, Canada, 2009 to 2024

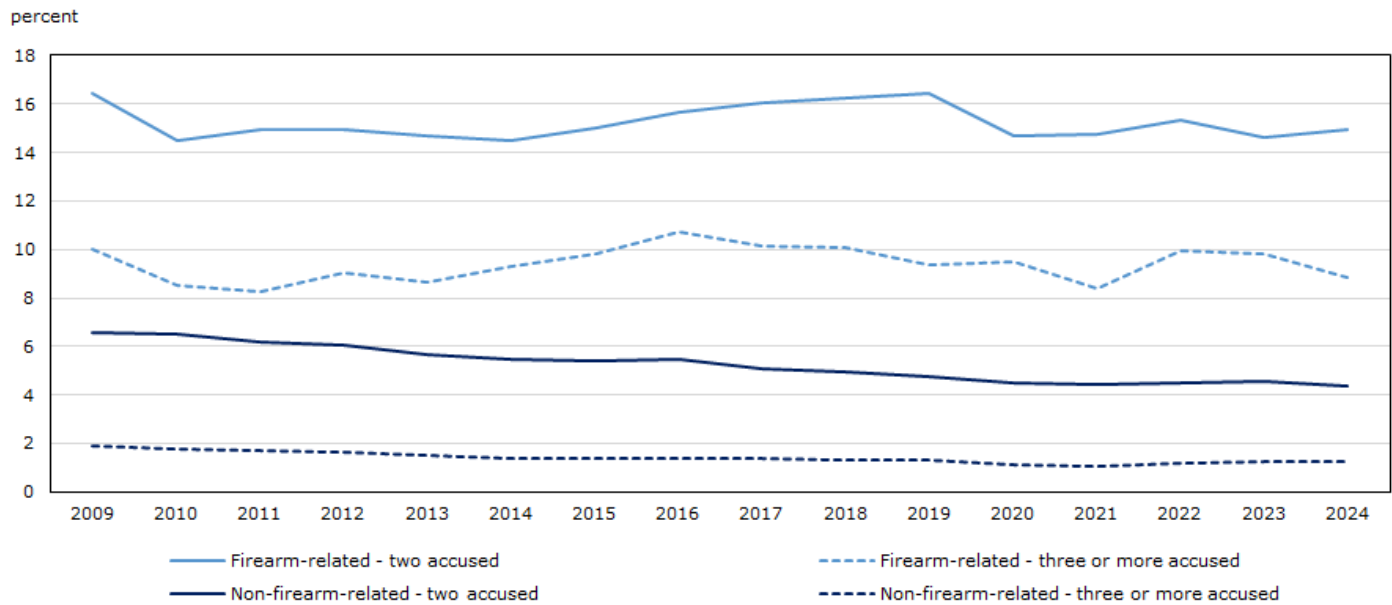


Note: Includes incidents for which the police provided a victim record. Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm) and other violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm. Incidents with more than one victim are counted as one incident. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

Firearm-related violent crimes often involve both multiple victims and multiple accused persons. In 2024, almost one-quarter (24%) of firearm-related violent crimes were perpetrated by several accused persons acting together.¹⁹ For non-firearm-related violent crimes, this proportion was around four times lower (5.7%) (Chart 9).

Chart 9
Police-reported incidents of violent crime, by number of accused persons, Canada, 2009 to 2024



Note: Includes incidents in which police identified at least one accused person. Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. Incidents with more than one victim are counted as one incident. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

There is no clear trend in the proportion of firearm-related violent crimes perpetrated by more than one accused. After a slight upward trend that began in 2015, the proportion of these crimes returned to its pre-2015 level five years later and has remained relatively stable since. Meanwhile, the proportion of non-firearm-related violent crimes involving several accused persons has shown a clear downward trend, falling from 8.4% in 2009 to 5.7% in 2024 (Chart 9).

Text box 3 Gangs and firearms

Firearm violence and gangs are often seen as closely linked (Public Safety Canada, 2021). Police-reported data show that more than one-quarter (29%) of violent organized crime or street gang-related^{20 21} crimes in 2024 involved a firearm.²² However, this is a decrease from 2018 (38%), when comparable data first became available.

In 2024, 4.0% of police-reported firearm-related violent crimes were organized crime or gang-related, a proportion relatively similar to that recorded in 2018 (3.9%). In 2024, the proportion of firearm-related violent crimes linked to organized crime was about 15 times²³ higher than for non-firearm-related violent crimes (0.3%).

Firearm-related violent crimes were more likely to be organized crime or gang-related when they involved multiple accused. In 2024, 2.0% of firearm-related violent crimes involving a single accused were organized crime or gang-related.²⁴ This proportion increased to 5.3% when two accused were involved and to 9.6% when three or more accused were involved.

At the provincial level, firearm-related violent crime was most likely to be organized crime or gang-related in Saskatchewan (8.6%), followed by Quebec (5.0%) and Manitoba (4.2%).

The proportion of firearm-related violent crimes attributable to organized crime or gangs increases with the severity of the crime. For example, among firearm-related violent crimes not resulting in injury, 3.0% were organized crime or gang-related. When these crimes resulted in serious injury or death, the proportion climbed to 18%. Additionally, firearm-related

violent crimes were slightly more likely to be organized crime or gang-related when the accused was aged 18 to 24 (6.9%) or 25 to 34 (6.6%) than when the accused was aged 12 to 17 (2.4%) or 35 and over (2.6%). Weapons trafficking^{25 26} is also often linked to organized crime: according to police, 12% of such incidents were attributable to organized crime or gangs in 2024.

Firearm-related violent crimes are equally likely to be organized crime or gang-related in urban and rural areas. In 2024, 4.0% of firearm-related violent crimes in CMAs and census agglomerations were organized crime or gang-related, exactly the same proportion as outside CMAs and census agglomerations. However, in rural areas, this proportion was lower in the provincial south (3.1%) than in the provincial north (5.4%).

The majority of victims of firearm-related violent crime are men

Overall, women and girls are slightly more likely to be victims of violent crime than men and boys. In 2024, women and girls accounted for 53% of victims of violent crime, while men and boys accounted for 47% of victims.²⁷ However, the picture is somewhat different for firearm-related violent crimes, which were more likely to have men or boys as victims in 2024 (66%).

Specifically, police recorded 7,368 firearm-related violent crimes involving men and boys as victims in 2024, representing 36.6 incidents per 100,000 men and boys. This rate was lower (-6.3%) compared with 2023. In comparison, police recorded 3,855 firearm-related violent crimes where the victim was a woman or girl, a rate of 19.2 incidents per 100,000 women and girls (-1.7% compared with 2023) (Table 5).

Most persons accused of firearm-related violent crime are also men

Most persons accused of violent crime are men or boys (76% of accused of violent crimes in 2024).²⁸ This is also the case for firearm-related violent crime more specifically, but the proportion is even higher. In 2024, men and boys accounted for 89% of persons accused of firearm-related violent crimes reported by police. This proportion was highest among accused aged 12 to 17 (93%), contrasting with violent crime overall, where boys accounted for 70% of accused in this age group in 2024. In fact, 6.3% of violent crimes in which the accused was a boy aged 12 to 17 involved firearms, the highest proportion of any age group.

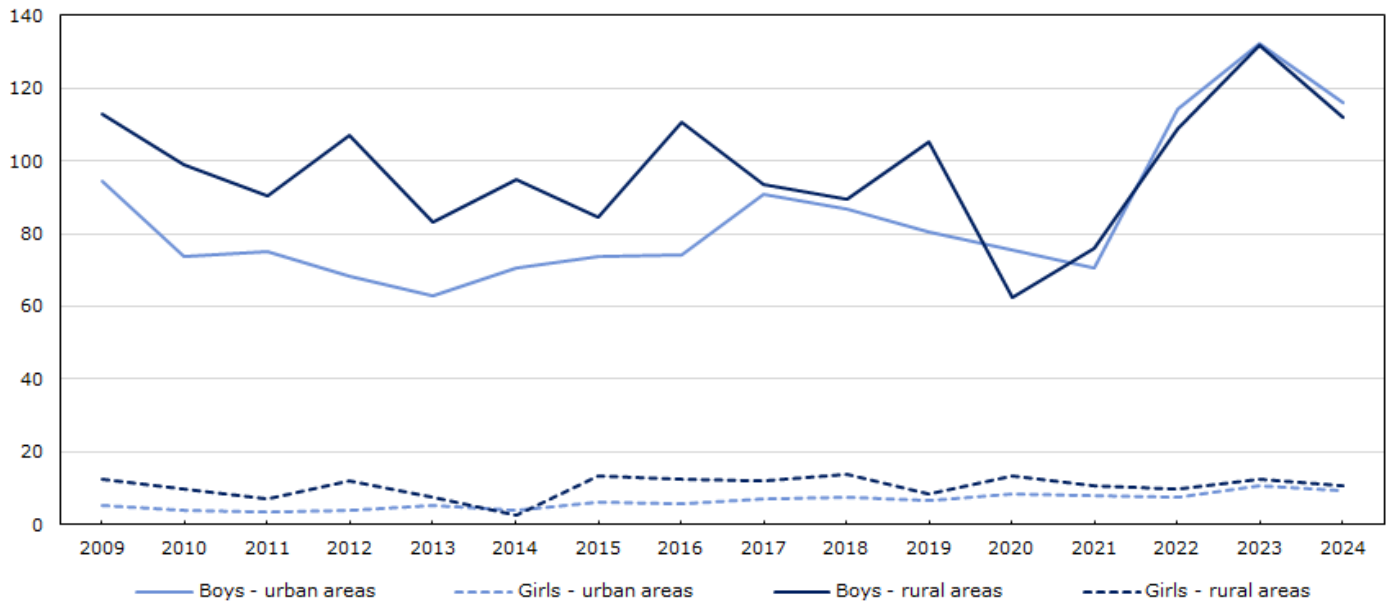
However, it is among women and girls that the rate of persons accused of firearm-related violent crimes has risen the most over the last 10 years. From 2014 to 2024, the rate of accused women and girls jumped 88%, from 2.6 incidents per 100,000 women and girls in 2014 to 4.9 in 2024. The biggest increase was among teenage girls (+141%), though they represented a small proportion (7%) of accused aged 12 to 17 (Table 5).

Although the rate of women accused of firearm-related violent crimes has almost doubled since 2014, they continued to represent a small fraction of accused persons. For example, although the increase was proportionately lower among men and boys, police nonetheless identified nearly 2,200 more men and boys as persons accused of firearm-related violent crimes in 2024 than in 2014. Among women and girls, there were 480 more (Table 5).

Among youth, the rate of accused persons rose particularly rapidly from 2021 to 2023, before falling back slightly in 2024 (Chart 10). This increase coincides with a rise in violent crimes committed with a firearm-like weapon or unknown types of firearms. In 2024, these weapons were involved for 40% of incidents involving accused aged 12 to 17, compared with 26% of incidents involving accused aged 18 and over.

Chart 10**Youth accused of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by gender and urban or rural area, Canada, 2009 to 2024**

rate per 100,000 population



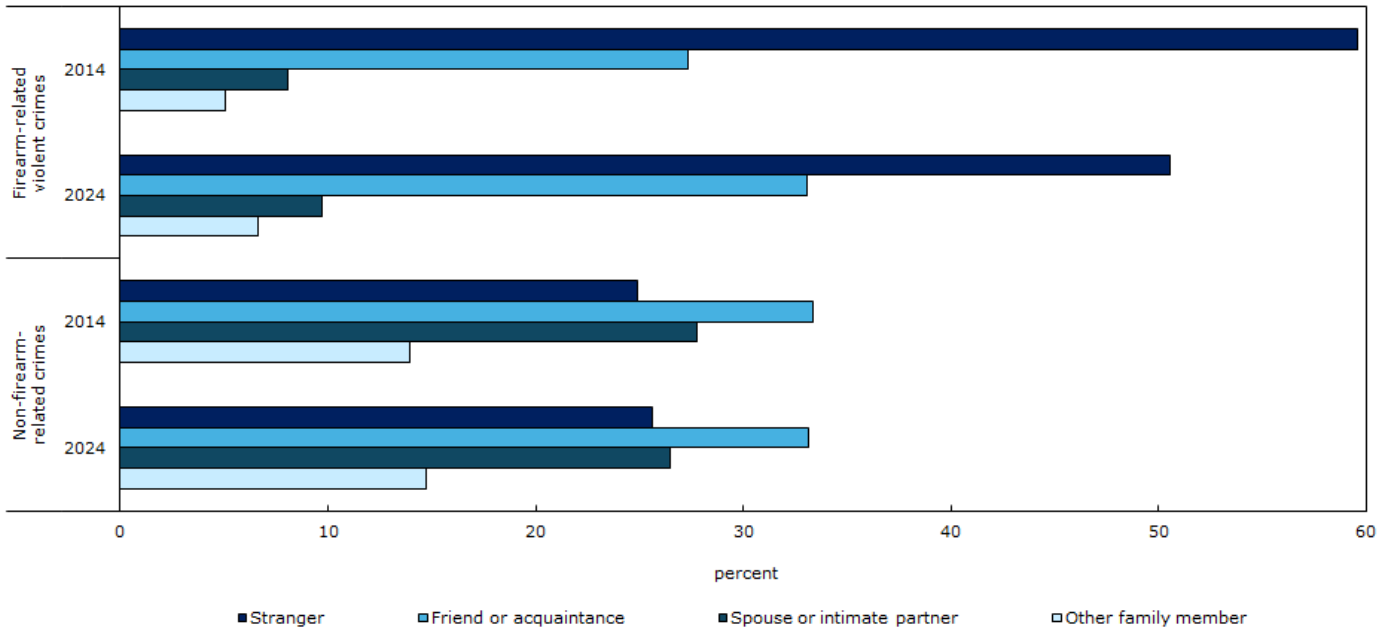
Note: Data are based on the number of youth aged 12 to 17 who were either charged (or recommended for charging) by police or diverted from the formal criminal justice system through the use of warnings, cautions, referrals to community programs, etc. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA (see "Data sources"). 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 a man or a boy nor exclusively a woman or a girl. Given that small counts of victims and accused persons identified as being non-binary may exist, the UCR 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. Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 12 to 17 years old. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

Roughly half of victims of firearm-related violent crimes were targeted by a stranger

In 2024, about half (51%) of firearm-related violent crimes in which at least one victim and accused person were identified involved an accused person unknown to the victim.²⁹ This proportion was approximately double that recorded for non-firearm-related violent crimes (26%), which were more often committed by friends and acquaintances (33%) or an intimate partner (27%) (Chart 11).

Chart 11
Victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by relationship of accused to victim, Canada, 2014 and 2024



Note: Includes victims of crimes where an accused person was identified. If there was more than one accused person, the relationship with the accused person who committed the most serious violation was counted, or the accused person with the closest relationship to the victim if two or more accused persons committed the same violation. Incidents where the relationship between the victim and accused person was unknown are excluded. Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

The relationship between the accused person and the victim varies according to the victim’s gender. More specifically, firearm-related violent crimes committed in 2024 were much more likely to be by an intimate partner³⁰ when the victim was a woman (24%) than when the victim was a man (2.1%).

However, the proportion of firearm-related violent crimes committed by strangers has been declining in recent years. While 51% of firearm-related violent crimes in 2024 involved an accused who was unknown to the victim, this proportion was 60% in 2014. This trend contrasts with what is seen for non-firearm-related violent crimes, where the proportion of crimes committed by a stranger remained relatively stable during the same period (Chart 11).

Intimate partner violence against women increasingly involves a firearm

Firearm-related violent crimes represent a small fraction (less than 1%) of all violent crimes committed by intimate partners. Nevertheless, the issue of firearms in situations of intimate partner violence remains a concern. The Government of Canada has taken steps to address this issue. As of April 2024, those convicted of an offence where violence was used or threatened against an intimate partner or family member are automatically ineligible to obtain or hold a firearms licence. A chief firearms officer must also revoke an existing licence if they have reasonable grounds to suspect the licence holder may have engaged in an act of domestic violence or stalking (Public Safety Canada, 2025a).

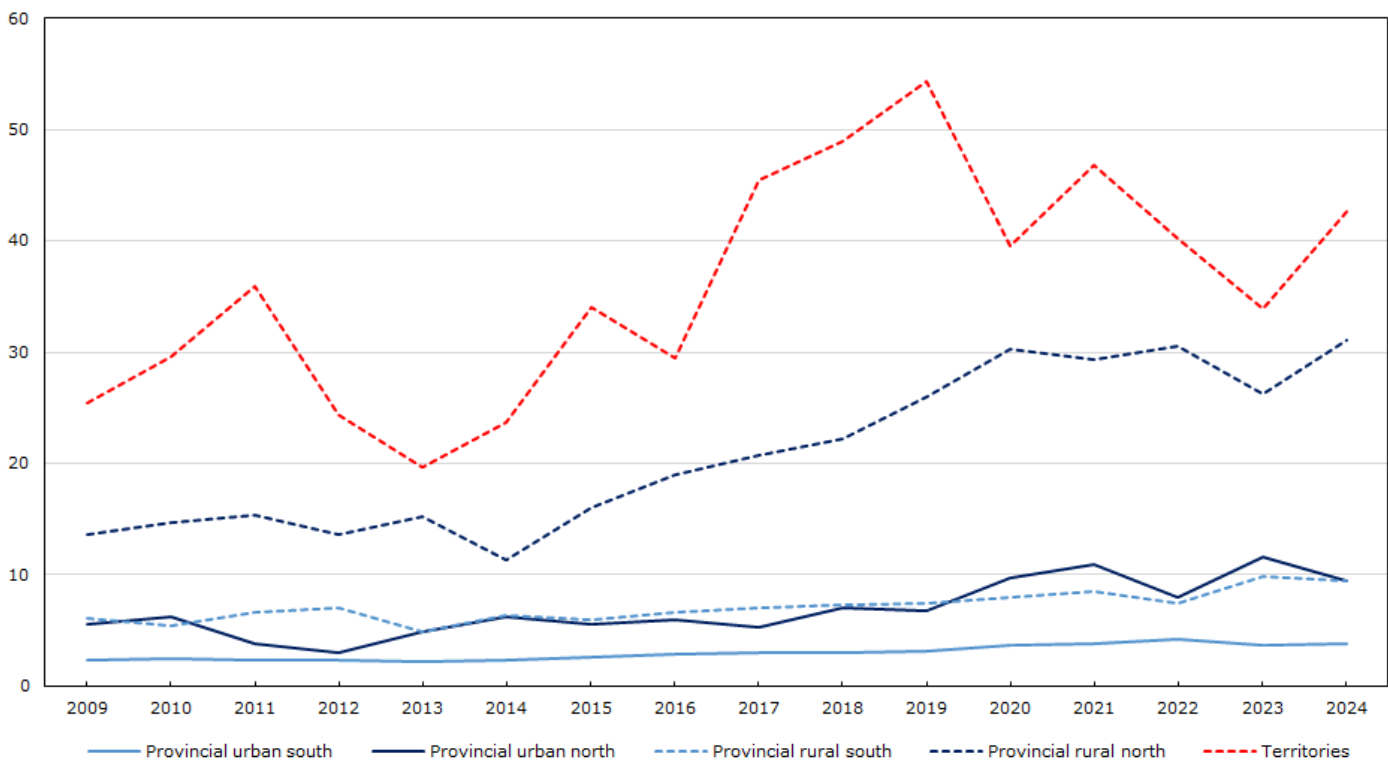
In situations of intimate partner violence, women are more likely than men to experience violence involving a firearm. In 2024, police reported that a firearm was present in 0.96% of incidents of intimate partner violence against women. This proportion was almost half when the victim was a man (0.55%). It should be noted that these incidents do not represent instances where a firearm was present in the house, but rather incidents in which the police deemed the firearm relevant to the commission of the crime. Studies have noted that the mere presence of a firearm in the house tends to increase the severity of violence and increase the risk of homicide, even when the firearm is not used to commit violence (Wiebe, 2003; Zeoli et al., 2016). The presence of a firearm in the context of intimate partner violence also tends to further reduce the victim’s sense of safety and thereby exacerbate the emotional and psychological repercussions (Lynch & Jackson, 2021; Sorenson & Wiebe, 2004; Zeoli et al., 2016).

Intimate partner violence against women is also increasingly likely to involve a firearm. Thus, although the rate of women victims of intimate partner violence remained relatively stable from 2009 to 2024—the rate initially decreased slightly until the mid-2010s before rising to the same level in 2024 as in 2009—the rate of women victims of firearm-related violent crimes committed by an intimate partner increased 60% during this period (from 3.3 incidents per 100,000 women in 2009 to 5.3 incidents per 100,000 in 2024). During the same period, the proportion of intimate partner violence incidents against women where a firearm was present continued to increase. In 2009, police reported that a firearm was present in 0.60% of incidents of intimate partner violence against women. This proportion peaked (1.01%) in 2022 before declining slightly in the following two years (0.96%).

The increase in the rate of women victims of firearm-related violent crime committed by an intimate partner is particularly significant in rural and northern areas in the provinces. In these areas, police reported 31.1 of these incidents per 100,000 women and teenage girls in 2024. That is more than twice the rate recorded 15 years earlier (13.7 incidents per 100,000 women and teenage girls). The increase was also slightly more pronounced in the provincial urban north (+68%) and in the territories (+67%) than in the provincial urban south (+61%) and provincial rural south (+55%) (Chart 12).

Chart 12
Women and girl victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime perpetrated by an intimate partner, by urban or rural area of the provincial south or north and territories, 2009 to 2024

rate per 100,000 women and girls aged 12 and over



Note: Includes victims of crimes where an accused person was identified. If there was more than one accused person, the relationship with the accused person who committed the most serious violation is counted, or the accused person with the closest relationship to the victim if two or more accused persons committed the same violation. Victims of unknown age or gender are excluded, as are victims where the relationship between the victim and accused person was unknown. 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 a man or a boy nor exclusively a woman or a girl. Given that small counts of victims and accused persons identified as being non-binary may exist, the UCR 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. Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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 provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. The 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 CMAs and CAs. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 12 and over. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

Trends in police-reported data on intimate partner firearm-related violence are examined in greater detail in another *Juristat* article (see Cotter, forthcoming).

Text box 4

Firearm control in Canada

Under the *Criminal Code*, firearms are classified into three categories: prohibited firearms, restricted firearms and non-restricted firearms. Prohibited firearms include 25 and 32 calibre handguns (excluding certain target pistols), handguns with a barrel length of less than or equal to 105mm, fully automatic firearms; sawed-off rifles and shotguns, any unlawfully manufactured firearm, any long gun that discharges centre-fire ammunition in a semi-automatic manner, that was originally designed with a detachable cartridge magazine with a capacity of six cartridges or more, and was designed and manufactured on or after December 15, 2023; and any other firearms prescribed as prohibited under *Criminal Code* regulations. Handguns that do not fall into the prohibited category are classified as restricted firearms, while rifles and shotguns, also called “long guns,” are found in each of the three categories based on their characteristics and the *Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited or Restricted* (SOR/98-462).

Canadian law requires anyone who wants to own a firearm or purchase ammunition to hold a valid firearms licence issued under the *Firearms Act*. Over the years, various amendments have been made to the *Criminal Code* and the *Firearms Act*. In 2012, former Bill C-19 (*Ending the Long-gun Registry Act*) abolished the requirement to register non-restricted firearms. Subsequent amendments simplified the firearms licensing regime for individuals, limited the discretionary authority of Chief Firearms Officers and permitted information sharing about commercial importations of firearms (Bill C-42; 2015). Amendments also imposed certain conditions on the transfer of non-restricted firearms, and removed some automatic authorizations to transport prohibited and restricted firearms (Bill C-71; 2019).

In 2020, 2024 and most recently in 2025, the government prohibited approximately 2,500 makes and models of firearms. These changes were made based on the characteristics of firearms with semi-automatic action and sustained rapid-fire capability (tactical or military design with a large magazine capacity) that are, in the Governor in Council’s opinion, not suitable for hunting or sport shooting and exceed safe civilian use. In 2023, Bill C-21, *An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*, received royal assent (Public Safety Canada, 2025a; Public Safety Canada, 2023). As part of the federal strategy to address gun violence and strengthen gun control in Canada, the former bill codified the national “freeze” on handguns, which prohibits the sale, purchase and transfer of handguns by individuals in Canada. It increased the maximum penalties for certain firearms offences (e.g., smuggling and trafficking offences) from 10 to 14 years. The bill also included measures to address the growing threat of unlawfully manufactured firearms with new offences targeting the unlawful manufacturing (e.g., 3D printing) and trafficking of “ghost guns,” and to classify unlawfully manufactured firearms as prohibited. Additionally, it provides for new harm reduction measures, including “red flag” laws and expanded licence revocation and ineligibility provisions to help address the role of firearms in domestic, intimate partner and gender-based violence, as well as self-harm. More information on Bill C-21 can be found at <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/frms/c21-en.aspx>.

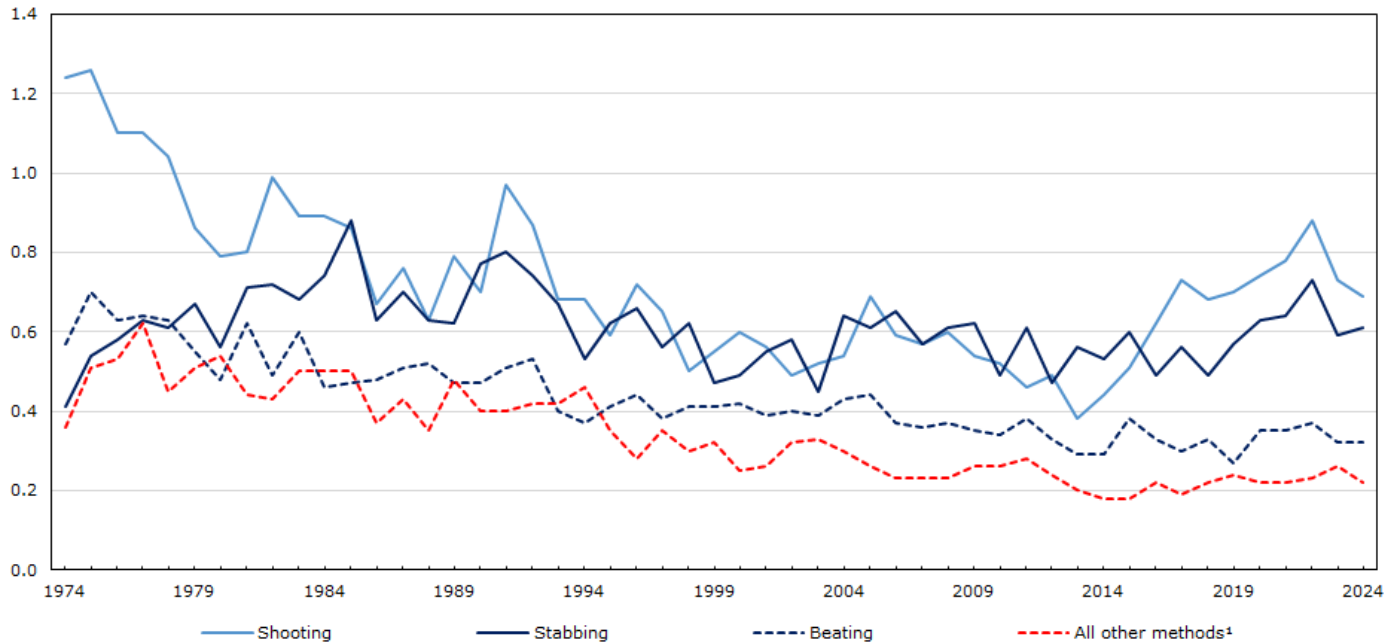
Shooting was the cause of death in nearly 4 out of 10 homicides

The attention firearm-related violence receives can be attributed to the fact these crimes are more likely to cause death than crimes involving any other weapon (Beaman et al., 2020; Zeoli et al., 2016; Zimring, 1967). While firearms were involved in less than 3% of police-reported violent crimes in 2024, they were involved in 38% of homicides.³¹

In 2024, homicide victims were more likely to have died by firearm than to injuries inflicted by any other method. More specifically, police reported 286 homicide victims who died by shooting in 2024, a rate of 0.69 homicides per 100,000 population. In comparison, 250 people were stabbed to death in the same year—the second most common method, with a rate of 0.61 homicides per 100,000 population. Police also reported 131 deaths caused by beating, a rate of 0.32 homicides per 100,000 population (Chart 13).

Chart 13
Homicides, by primary method causing death, Canada, 1974 to 2024

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

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

After doubling in less than 10 years, the shooting homicide rate has dropped for the second consecutive year

Since 2016, shooting has been the most common homicide method. This contrasts with what had been observed since the mid-1980s, when stabbings were about as common as shootings (Chart 13).

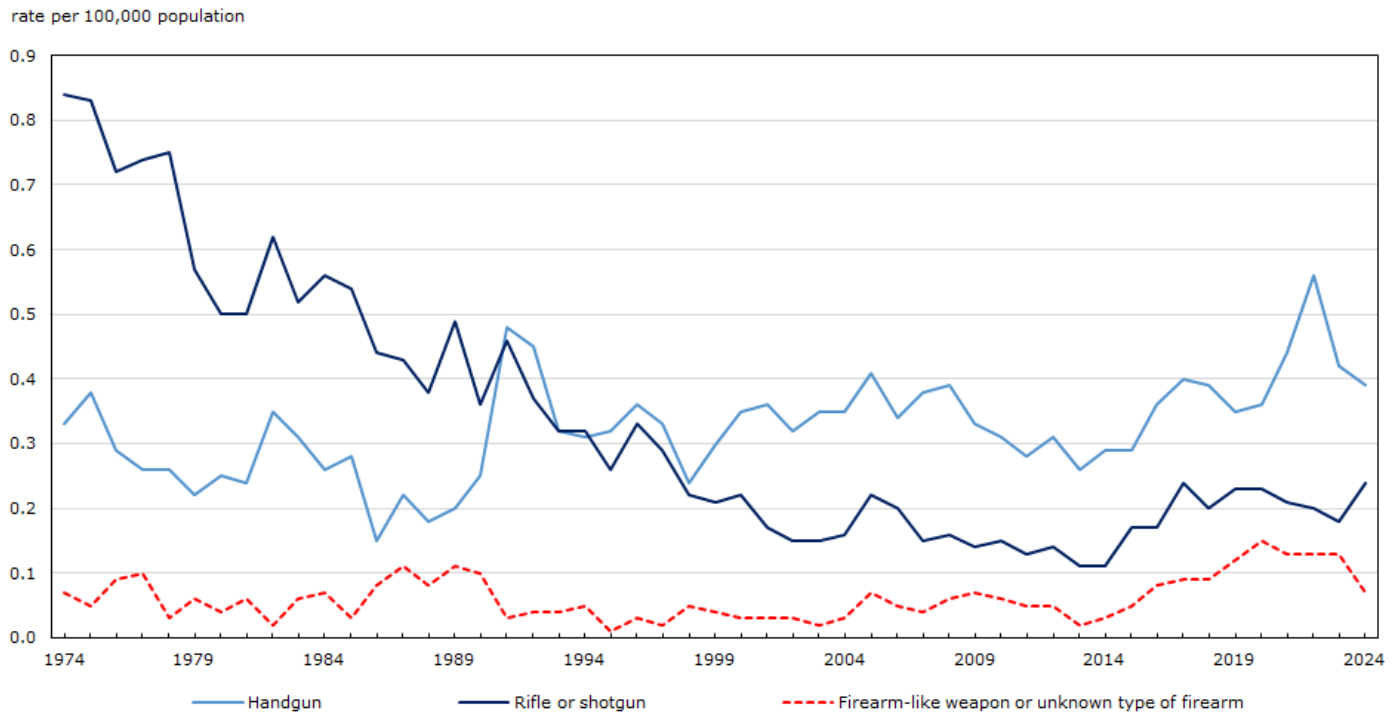
After reaching a low in 2013 (0.38 incidents per 100,000 population), the shooting homicide rate surged in the years that followed, more than doubling to 0.88 incidents per 100,000 population in 2022. Since then, the rate has dropped twice in a row, reaching 0.69 incidents per 100,000 population in 2024 (Chart 13).

The drop in the firearm-related homicide rate since 2022 is largely attributable to the decline in handgun-related homicides

After the shooting homicide rate hit a low in 2013, homicides committed with handguns and those committed with rifles, shotguns and other firearm types have increased significantly.

The handgun-related homicide rate peaked in 2022 (0.56 incidents per 100,000 population). Since then, the rate has fallen for two consecutive years, to 0.39 incidents per 100,000 population in 2024, a 30% drop from its peak in 2022. Despite the drop in the handgun-related homicide rate, handguns continued to be involved in more than half (56%) of firearm-related homicides.³²

Chart 14
Firearm-related homicides, by type of firearm used, Canada, 1974 to 2024



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

However, after several successive years of decline, the rate of homicides committed with rifles or shotguns rose by 32% from 2023 to 2024. The rate of 0.24 homicides committed with rifles or shotguns per 100,000 population was the highest recorded since 1997. Nonetheless, the rate was markedly lower than in the 1970s, when it was approximately three times higher (Chart 14).

More than four out of five victims of firearm-related homicides are men and boys

Since the inception of the Homicide Survey in 1961, men and boys have always accounted for the majority of victims. This is particularly the case when it comes to firearm-related homicides. In 2024, 82% of firearm-related homicide victims were men or boys. This proportion was slightly lower than in the previous year (85%), owing to both a drop in the number of men and boys killed by firearms (-12) and an increase in the number of women and girls who were victims (+6). In comparison, men and boys represented 66% of victims of homicides involving a knife or another cutting object and 55% of victims of homicides involving other weapons.

In 2024, 85% of victims of handgun-related homicides were men and boys, while this proportion was 77% among victims of homicides where a rifle or shotgun was involved.

Victims of firearm-related homicides were also, on average, younger than those killed with other weapons. In 2024, the median age of firearms homicide victims was 34. However, the median age of firearms homicide victims was slightly higher than in previous years, when it was typically closer to 30.³³ In comparison, victims of homicides by knife had a median age of 39, while the median age was 41 for homicides by other weapons. This difference was primarily attributable to homicides of men or boys. The median age of women and girls killed in firearm-related homicides was 40.

The majority of firearms sent for tracing come from Canada

As part of the Homicide Survey, the police collects information about the legal status of the firearm and its owner. It should be noted that this information is available for a minority of incidents and firearms, so results should be interpreted with caution.³⁴

In 2024, information on legal firearm ownership was available in 53% of all firearm-related homicides. According to that information, at the time of the homicide, the firearm involved was legally owned in nearly one-quarter of homicides (24%, or 37 out of 152 homicides), meaning that the firearm had been legally acquired and that the legal conditions for firearm possession had been met.

Information on the origins of firearms that were illegally owned at the time of the homicide is available in a minority of homicides (22%, or 25 out of 115). Of these, police indicated that 32% of cases involved a firearm that had been stolen from its legal Canadian owner, while 8% of cases involved a weapon lost by its legal Canadian owner. In the remaining cases, the firearm was illegal, meaning that it had never been legally owned in Canada (56%) or had been illegally purchased from its legal Canadian owner (4%).

The firearm used to cause death was recovered in 41% of firearm-related homicides. Of the recovered firearms, 77 (70%) were sent for tracing. It was possible to trace the origins of nearly half of these firearms (44%, or 34 out of 77). Of the 34 firearms whose origins could be determined, most (74%) came from Canada, while most of the remainder originated in the United States (24%).

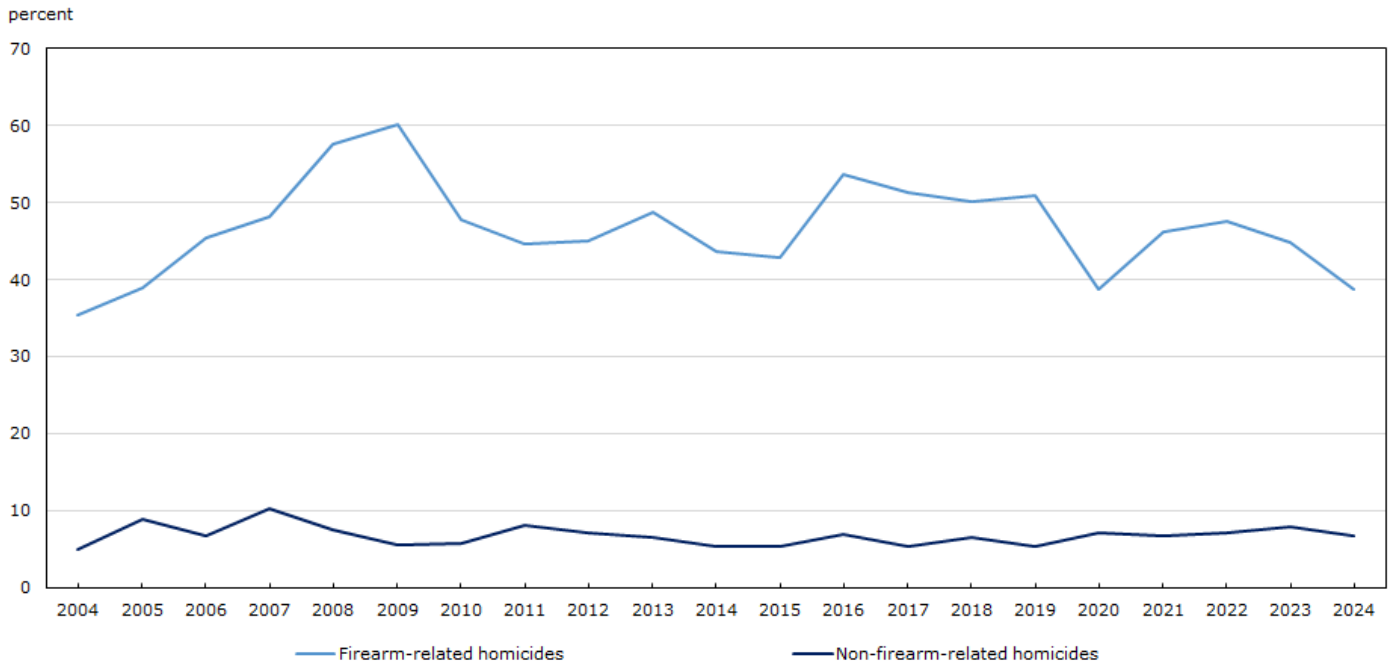
Overall, one in five persons accused of a firearm-related homicide had a valid firearms licence for the class of firearm used

In firearm-related homicides where an accused person was identified, one in five accused persons (20%)³⁵ had a valid firearms licence for the class of firearm used. Conversely, in 80% of cases, the accused did not have a valid licence. The proportion of accused persons with valid licences was much higher in homicides committed with rifles and shotguns (30%) than in homicides committed with handguns (10%).

About 4 in 10 firearm-related homicides are linked to organized crime or street gang activity

Most organized crime or gang-related homicides³⁶ involve firearms. In 2024, just over three-quarters (79%)³⁷ of homicides linked or suspected to be linked to organized crime or street gangs involved firearms, while 14% involved a knife or another cutting object. This means that a significant portion of firearm-related homicides are attributable to organized crime. More specifically, nearly 4 in 10 firearm-related homicides (39%) were linked to or suspected of being linked to organized crime in 2024, whereas this was much less common with homicides involving other types of weapons (6.7%). The proportion of firearm-related homicides attributable to organized crime peaked in 2009 (60%). Since then, such cases have been slowly trending downward (Chart 15).

Chart 15
Proportion of organized crime or gang-related homicides, by primary weapon causing death, Canada, 2004 to 2024



Note: A homicide is classified as organized crime or gang-related when police confirm or suspect that the accused person or victim of the homicide was either a member, or a prospective member, of an organized crime group or street gang or was somehow associated with an organized crime group or street gang, and the homicide was carried out as a result of this association. The calculation of percentages excludes homicides where the gang-related status was reported as unknown. There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

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

The proportion of firearm-related homicides related to organized crime or street gang activity varied depending on the type of firearm used. In 2024, just under half (48%) of handgun-related homicides were linked to organized crime or street gangs, compared with 20% of homicides involving a rifle or shotgun and 54% of homicides involving other types of firearms.

Most persons accused of firearm-related homicides have a criminal history

Whether gang-affiliated or not, the majority (60%) of the persons accused of firearm-related homicides in 2024 had a criminal record involving at least one previous conviction for criminal activity.³⁸ Notably, 44% had a history of crimes against persons. This proportion was slightly higher than what was observed in homicides by other means. For example, 48% of those accused of a homicide by knife or other cutting object in 2024 had a criminal history, including 36% for crimes against persons.

Firearms homicides involving victims aged 25 to 34 are most often related to gangs or organized crime

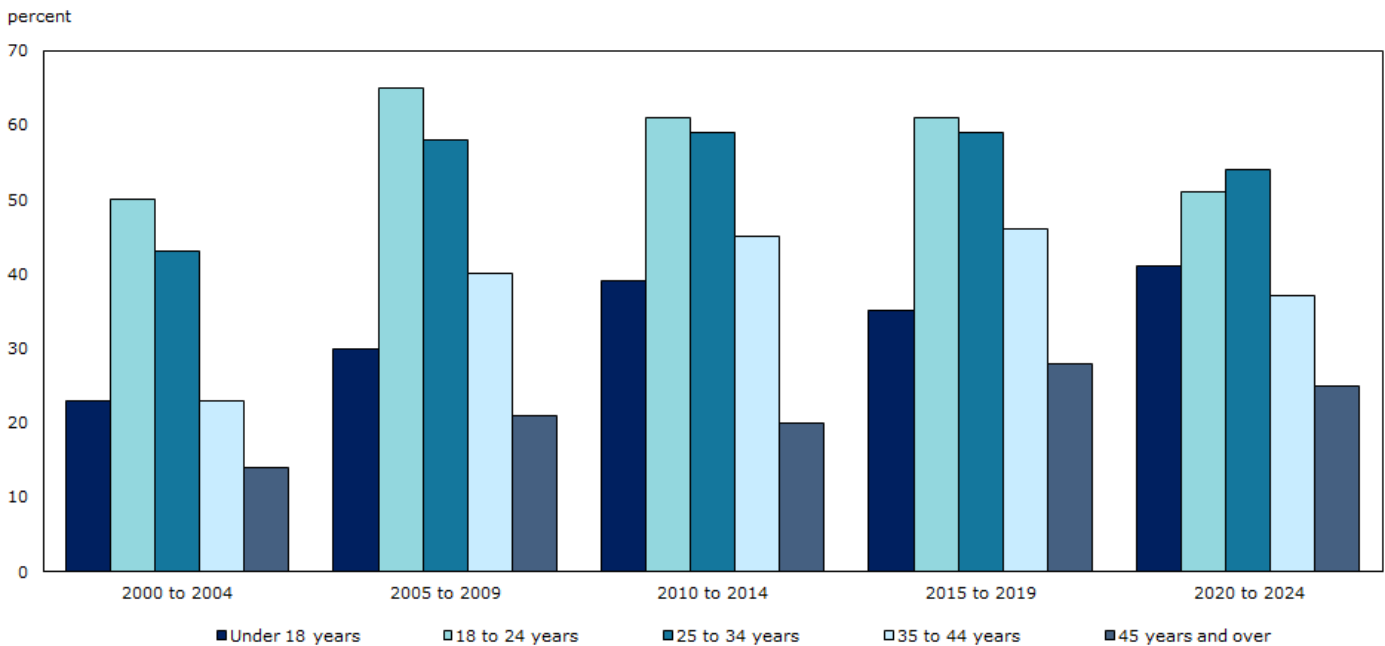
The majority of homicide victims are men and boys. This is especially the case when it comes to firearm-related homicides, and still more so when these homicides are linked to organized crime or gangs. In 2024, 101 men and boys were killed by a firearm in an organized crime or gang-related homicide. These victims represented 44% of all men or boys killed by firearms, and they represented 92% of organized crime or gang-related firearms homicide victims.³⁹ Firearms homicides involving female victims were much less likely to be linked to organized crime or gangs. In 2024, 9 of the 50 (18%) firearm-related homicides of women and girls were organized crime or gang-related.

Firearm-related homicides involving victims aged 25 to 34 were also more likely to be gang-related than homicides with victims of any other age. In 2024, more than half (55%) of firearms homicides involving victims aged 25 to 34 were related to organized crime or gangs.

Historically, firearm-related homicides involving victims aged 18 to 24 were most likely to be gang-related. From 2005 to 2019, gang-related homicides made up 61% to 65% of firearm-related homicides involving victims aged 18 to 24. This proportion decreased to 51% over the period of 2020 to 2024, which was lower than the proportion of homicides involving victims aged 25 to 34 (54%). Conversely, the proportion of gang-related firearm homicides has been climbing slightly in cases involving victims under 18 or over 45 (Chart 16).

Chart 16

Proportion of firearm-related homicides that were identified as organized crime or gang-related, by age group of victim, Canada, 2000 to 2024



Note: A homicide is classified as organized crime or gang-related when police confirm or suspect that the accused person or victim of the homicide was either a member, or a prospective member, of an organized crime group or street gang or was somehow associated with an organized crime group or street gang, and the homicide was carried out as a result of this association. The calculation of percentages excludes homicides where the gang-related status was reported as unknown. Victims whose age was reported as unknown are excluded. There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

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

As with victims, persons accused of gang-related homicides involving firearms are generally men and boys. From 2020 to 2024, almost all (97%) of persons accused of gang-related homicide involving a firearm were men. Over the same period, those accused of gang-related shooting homicides (average age of 26) were also younger on average than those accused of shooting homicides not related to gangs (average age of 36). Youth aged 12 to 17 accounted for a minority of those accused (9%), but 31% of firearm-related homicides where the accused was a youth were gang-related. This proportion was slightly higher among accused aged 18 to 24 (36%) and accused aged 25 to 34 (32%) but then dropped to 11% for those aged 35 to 44.

Text box 5

The shooting homicide rate in Canada is one of the highest among peer countries

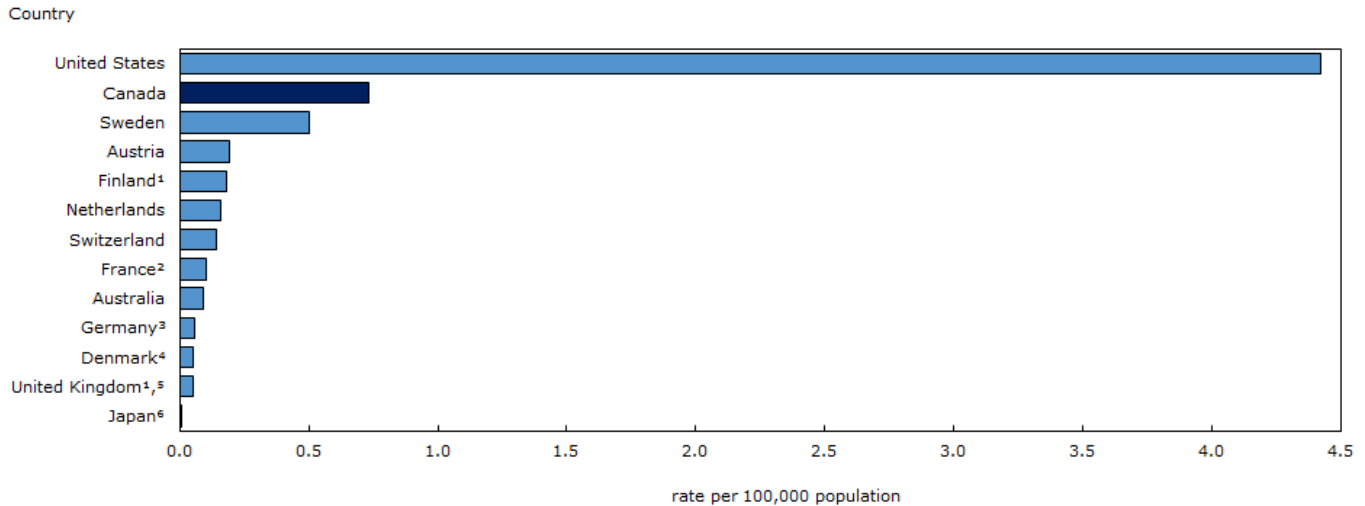
In 2023, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime released a detailed study on homicide in the world (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2023).⁴⁰ The study finds specifically that the Americas have the highest homicide rate among all continents (about 15 homicides per 100,000 population). In addition, in the Americas, homicides are by far the most likely to be committed with a firearm (75% of homicides).

In comparison, not only are the overall homicide rates much lower in Europe (2.2 homicides per 100,000 population) and in Asia (2.3 homicides per 100,000 population), but homicides in these continents are much less frequently firearm-related (about one in six homicides).

According to the study, the main factors behind the particularly high homicide rates in the Americas are the way firearms contribute to both the speed and the intensity of violent conflict escalation, the relative ease of access to firearms, their misuse, and a certain sense of impunity. However, the study notes that it is not as much the number of firearms in circulation that poses a problem (i.e., the number of firearm owners) as the weakness of laws and controls that govern them (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2023).

Compared with other countries in the Americas, Canada has a relatively low rate of shooting homicides,⁴¹ and the percentage of homicides that are firearm-related is lower than in most other countries in the Americas. However, when Canada is compared with peer countries elsewhere in the world,⁴² it has one of the highest rates of shooting homicides. In fact, only the United States, a true outlier in this regard, reports a higher rate than Canada (Chart 17).

Chart 17
Shooting homicides, by selected peer country, 2023



1. Data are from 2022.
 2. Data are from 2017.
 3. Data are from 2020.
 4. Data are from 2018.
 5. Data for England and Wales.
 6. Data are from 2019.

Note: Peer countries were determined using a methodology developed by the Conference Board of Canada. The process started with countries classified as high income by the World Bank, then it excluded those with a population under 1 million, those with an area smaller than 10,000 square kilometres and those with a per capita income that was below the previous five-year average. This left 16 countries: Canada, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (England and Wales) and the United States. Belgium, Ireland and Norway are not presented in this chart because of the unavailability of recent data. The following countries do not have information on the mechanism for more than 50% of homicides: Denmark, France, Germany.

Source: Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey; and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, dataUNODC, data extracted on March 20, 2026 from <https://data.unodc.org/datareport/hom-victim>.

Overall, homicide rates in Canada (all causes combined) are generally higher than in peer countries, except the United States. However, the difference is much more apparent with respect to shooting homicides. For instance, the overall homicide rate in Canada is nearly twice that of the United Kingdom; when comparing shooting homicides specifically, the Canadian rate is about 15 times higher than that of the United Kingdom.

In 2017, the last year data were available for the countries in the chart above, there were more shooting homicides in Canada (267) than in all the other countries in this analysis combined (258), excluding the United States.

Although there may be slight differences in how countries define and record homicides, they are tracked in relatively similar ways and provide a solid basis for comparing crime between countries. Homicides still account for only a minimal fraction of violent crime, including those that are firearm-related. Therefore, the differences observed with respect to homicides may not accurately reflect the differences for other types of crimes, as was noted in a recent analysis (Cotter & Sinha, 2025).

Nevertheless, it is still probable that violent crimes involving a firearm are, overall, more frequent in Canada than in most comparable countries. For example, according to the United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics, nearly 9,000 firearm-related crimes were recorded in that country in 2023.⁴³ In Canada, despite a population that is about two-thirds the size of the United Kingdom's, more than 14,000 such crimes were recorded in 2023—a difference that is unlikely to be explained by methodological differences alone.

The number of incidents in which a firearm is stolen continues to decline, while incidents involving firearm possession keep increasing

Not all crimes involving firearms are classified as violent. Several firearm-related offences are non-violent, including breaking and entering to steal a firearm and a range of firearm-related administrative offences that police report under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.

The number of incidents in which a firearm was reported stolen to the police is another indicator of firearm-related crime in Canada. Under the UCR Survey, the police can record up to five different types of stolen property in an incident, including four distinct categories of firearms: restricted firearms, rifles, shotguns and other firearms. In 2024, 1,699 non-violent incidents were reported by the police in which at least one firearm was among the articles stolen.⁴⁴ More precisely, there were 862 non-violent incidents where at least one rifle was stolen, 491 incidents where at least one shotgun was stolen, 230 incidents where at least one restricted firearm was stolen and 468 incidents where at least one firearm of another type was stolen.⁴⁵

Compared with the previous year, there were 131 fewer incidents of firearms being reported as stolen, a decrease that was largely attributable to a drop in the number of non-violent incidents where a rifle (115 fewer incidents, or -12%) or a restricted firearm (41 fewer incidents, or -15%) was stolen.

Thefts of firearms have also declined sharply since 2014, when there were 3,568 non-violent incidents where at least one firearm was reported as stolen. This drop was noted across all types of firearms, although it was somewhat more pronounced for thefts of rifles (-55%) and other types of firearms (-56%) than it was for thefts of shotguns (-44%) and restricted firearms (-24%).

In fact, 2024 marked the lowest number of incidents involving the theft of a firearm since comparable data became available in 2009. Furthermore, the number of incidents peaked in the mid-2010s, while in contrast, the rate of firearm-related violent crimes reached its lowest point. Since then, the number of non-violent incidents in which at least one firearm was stolen has continued to decline each year.

Among the other offences that are not classified as violent crimes, possession of a weapon was the most frequent, although distinguishing incidents involving a firearm from those involving another type of weapon is not possible. In 2024, police reported 20,203 incidents of weapon possession, nearly double the number reported a decade earlier in 2014 (11,242 incidents).

Persons accused of firearm-related violent crime who had repeated contacts with police

It is generally recognized that a small number of highly active criminals—namely repeat offenders or “chronic offenders”—are responsible for a disproportionate share of crime (Brennan & Matarazzo, 2016; Carrington, 2007; Pedneault et al. 2024; Savage, 2025). Therefore, crime prevention policies must pay particular attention to factors associated with recidivism. In 2022, Public Safety Canada launched the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism (Public Safety Canada, 2022b). This framework, which aims to increase public safety, is the first step in creating a plan to identify key factors that influence why people reoffend.

While some studies have noted a higher risk of recidivism for individuals involved in firearm-related crimes (Devitt Westley et al., 2018; Ostermann & Hashimi, 2023), others, in contrast, have found no association (Huebner et al., 2007). In any case, the available Canadian data on the subject remain limited.

There are several ways to define and measure the concept of recidivism. This often includes analyzing indicators such as re-contact with the police as an accused person, reconvictions and reincarcerations (Justice Canada, 2020). Crimes brought to the attention of the police do not all result in convictions or prison sentences, but they can nevertheless have significant negative consequences for individuals and communities.

Re-contacts with the police over a nine-year period among a cohort of those accused of committing a crime in 2014

The analysis that follows is based on data from the UCR Survey. Recidivism is measured based on re-contacts⁴⁶—in other words, subsequent contacts—with the police among a cohort of individuals accused of a violent crime reported by the police in 2014. The analysis focuses on the contacts that occurred in the period of 2014 to 2023.

Two-thirds of the individuals accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2014 had at least one subsequent contact with police

Among the 2,977 persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2014, nearly two-thirds (65%) were identified by police as accused persons in at least one other criminal incident (excluding traffic offences) during the study period. This was 8 percentage points higher than the corresponding proportion (57%) among the 169,332 accused persons whose initial contact in 2014 was a non-firearm-related violent crime (Table 6).

More specifically, half (50%) of accused persons whose first contact with the police in 2014 was a firearm-related violent crime had two or more subsequent contacts with the police in the study period, 26% of whom had more than five contacts. For comparison, these percentages were 42% (two or more subsequent contacts) and 21% (more than five contacts) among accused persons whose initial offence in 2014 was a non-firearm-related violent crime (Table 6).

Compared with accused persons whose initial offence was a non-firearm-related violent crime, those whose initial offence was firearm-related were more likely to have re-contact for a violent crime (50% of those whose initial contact was a firearm-related violent crime, compared with 44% of those whose initial contact was non-firearm-related). Similarly, those whose initial offence was a firearm-related violent crime were more likely to have a re-contact for a firearm-related violent crime (13%) than those whose initial offence was a non-firearm-related violent crime (3%).

In the territories and the provincial rural north,⁴⁷ persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2014 were the most likely to have had at least one re-contact with the police in the nine-year study period, with 74% of them having at least one such re-contact. However, they were no more likely than their counterparts whose initial violent offence was non-firearm-related (75%). The greatest differences were instead observed in the provincial urban south. In those regions, 65% of accused persons whose initial offence was a firearm-related violent crime had at least one subsequent contact with the police, compared with 54% of those whose initial violent offence was non-firearm-related (Table 6).

Most accused persons who had re-contacts with the police are men

The majority of persons accused of violent crimes are men or boys. This is especially the case for firearm-related violent crime, and even more so when re-contacts are considered. For example, men accounted for 97% of accused persons who had at least one re-contact for another firearm-related violent crime.

Accused persons aged under 35 were also slightly more likely to have had re-contacts with the police after an initial contact in 2014. Among youth aged 12 to 17 accused of committing a firearm-related violent crime in 2014, 71% had at least one subsequent contact with police for an offence under the *Criminal Code* (excluding traffic offences)—a proportion similar to those observed among accused persons aged 18 to 24 (70%) and 25 to 34 (72%). However, this percentage declined among accused persons who were older at the time of the initial offence in 2014, standing at 66% for accused persons aged 35 to 44 and 44% for those aged 45 and over. Nonetheless, youth aged 12 to 17 were the most likely to have had more than 5 subsequent contacts (34%) and more than 20 re-contacts (9.0%). Youth aged 12 to 17 accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2014 were also the most likely to have re-contacts for another firearm-related violent crime (20%, compared with 15% or less among each of the other age groups).

Previous contacts with police among a cohort of persons accused of an offence in 2024

While the previous section focused on re-contacts with police following an initial contact in 2014, this section does the opposite, examining contacts that occurred prior to the most recent contact with police in 2024. For this analysis, a cohort of persons accused of a firearm-related violent offence in 2024 was selected. If the same accused person was involved in more than one firearm-related violent offence in 2024, the most recent incident was selected for the cohort. For persons accused of an offence under the *Criminal Code* or another federal statute who did not commit a firearm-related violent offence in 2024, the most recent incident was selected for the cohort.

The majority of persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime had a history of violence

An overwhelming majority of the persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024 had had recent contact with police, i.e., they had been previously identified by police as the accused person in at least one other offence from 2018 to 2024. Specifically, 70% had had police contact for a *Criminal Code* offence (excluding traffic offences), and more than half (58%) had had contact for at least one violent crime. In addition, approximately one in six persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime (17%) had had previous contact with police for at least one other firearm-related violent crime from 2018 to 2024 (Table 7, Chart 18).

Accused persons whose most recent crime in 2024 was a non-firearm-related violent crime were much less likely to have had such contacts. For example, less than half of them (47%) had had recent contacts for other *Criminal Code* offences, 39% had had contacts for violence, and 2% had had prior contacts for a firearm-related violent crime (Table 7).

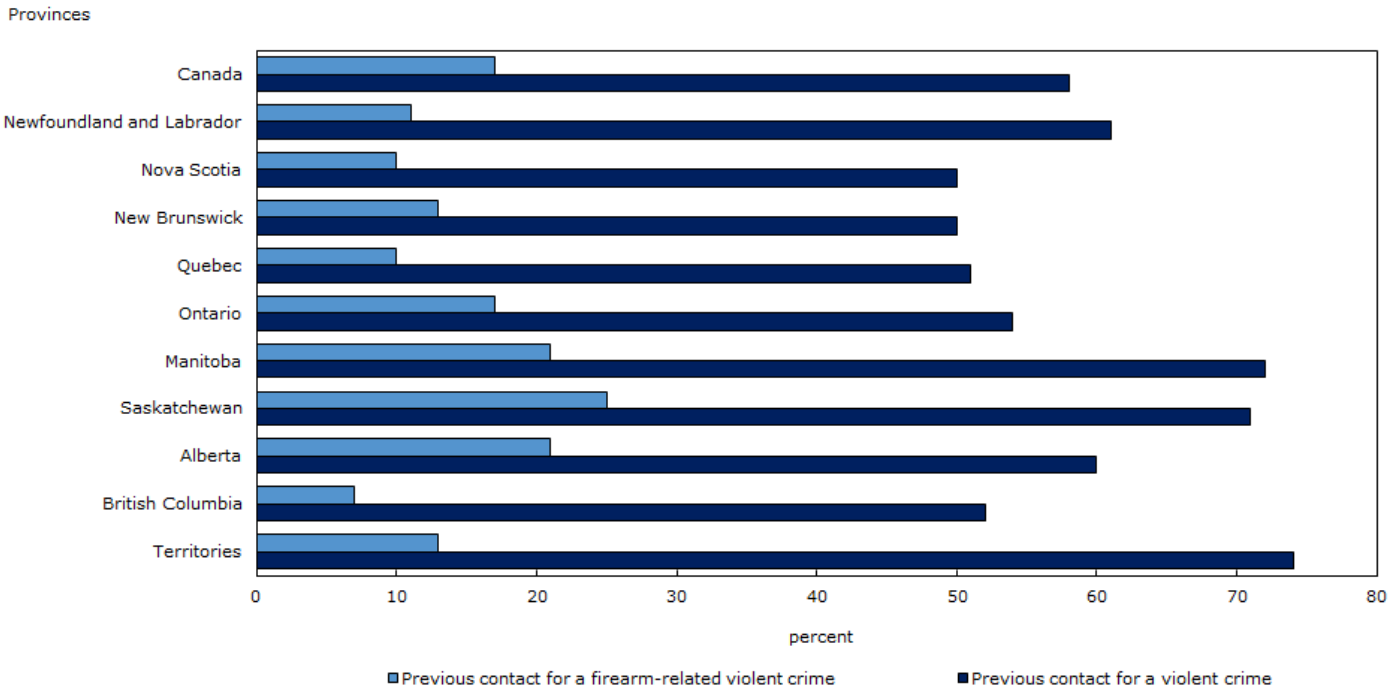
Persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024 were notably more likely than those accused of other violent crimes to have had multiple prior contacts with police. For example, 11% of those accused of a firearm-related violent crime had been identified as accused persons in more than five previous violent crimes from 2018 to 2024, and 8.0% had been previously identified in at least two firearm-related violent crimes. In comparison, those percentages were 4.7% and 0.3%, respectively, for persons accused of non-firearm-related violent crimes (Table 7).

Persons accused of firearm-related violent crimes in the territories, Manitoba and Saskatchewan were the most likely to have had a history of violence

In the territories, persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024 were the most likely to have had prior contact with police for a violent crime reported from 2018 to 2024. Approximately three-quarters (74%) of them had had such contact. However, 13% of them had had prior contact for firearm-related violent crimes, which was lower than the Canadian average of 17% (Chart 18).

In the Prairies, especially in Saskatchewan (25%) and Manitoba (21%), those accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024 were the most likely to have had recent contact for at least one other firearm-related violent crime (Chart 18). These figures suggest that the high levels of firearm-related violent crime in the territories and the Prairies could be at least partly

Chart 18
Proportion of persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024 who had at least one previous contact with police from 2018 to 2024, by province, 2024



Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. A contact is defined as being an accused person in relation to a police-reported *Criminal Code* or other federal statute violation (only contacts for violent crimes are shown in this chart). To be considered in scope for this analysis and included in the cohort, the most recent incident for which a person was accused must have been reported between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Charges may or may not have been laid or recommended by police. Previous contacts included in this analysis must have been reported by police between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2024. An individual may have had prior police contact before this period. Each distinct incident represents one contact, including instances where an accused was arrested once in relation to multiple incidents. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Because of small counts and to ensure the protection of the confidentiality and privacy of victims and accused persons, data for Prince Edward Island are not shown in this chart but are included in national figures.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

attributable to higher-than-average recidivism rates. In contrast, persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime in British Columbia (7%), Nova Scotia (10%) and Quebec (10%) were the least likely to have had previous contact with police for at least one other firearm-related violent crime (Chart 18).

Men are more likely to have had previous contacts with police

Similar to the findings regarding subsequent contacts, men accused of a firearm-related violent crime were more likely than women to have had previous contact with police for an offence reported from 2018 to 2024. In particular, men were more likely than women to have had recent contact related to at least one *Criminal Code* offence (excluding traffic offences) (70% versus 66%), a violent crime (59% versus 48%) or another firearm-related violent crime (18% versus 8%) (Table 7).

Those accused of the most serious crimes are the most likely to have had previous criminal contact with police

Those accused of the most serious violent crimes, such as homicides, were more likely to have had previous contact with police. Among those accused of a firearm-related homicide or other crime causing death, or attempted murder, in 2024, 78% had had recent contact related to a *Criminal Code* offence (excluding traffic offences), 65% had had recent contact related to a violent crime, and 29% had had contact involving a firearm-related violent crime. In comparison, when those crimes had been committed without a firearm present, 51% of accused persons had had recent contact for violent crime and 4% had had recent contact for firearm-related violent crimes (Table 7).

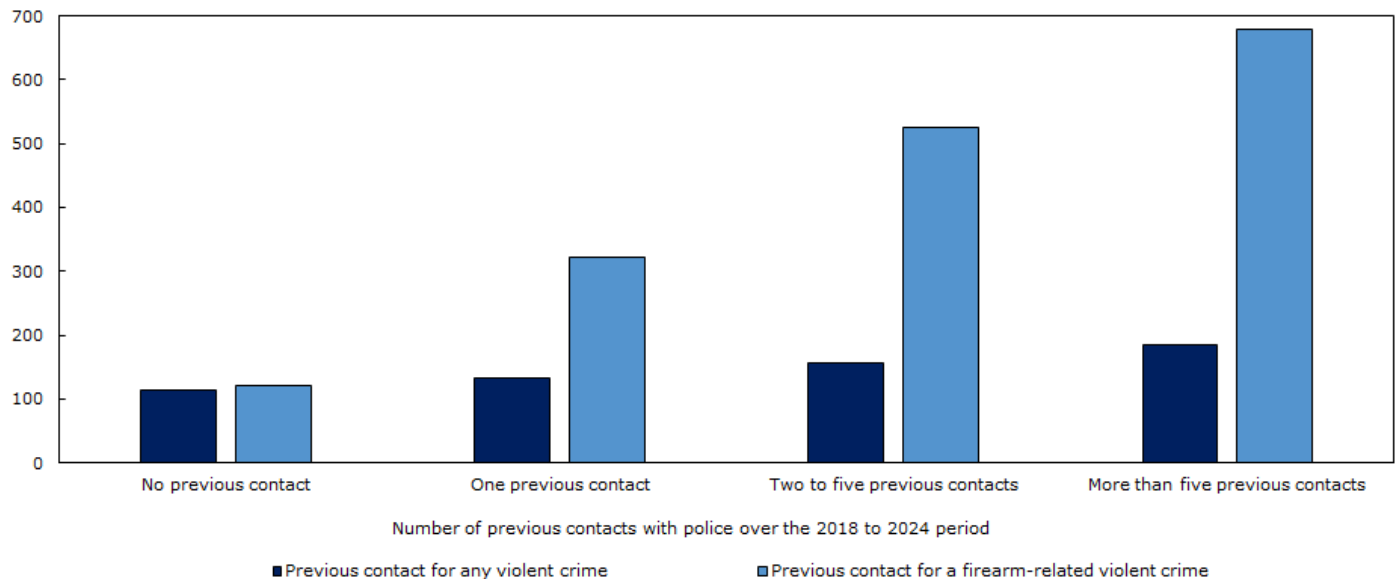
Those accused of firearm-related robbery in 2024 were also particularly likely to have had recent contact for a criminal offence (79%), a violent crime (65%) or a firearm-related violent crime (26%). In addition, 40% of those accused of a firearm-

related violent crime committed in a bank had had previous contact with police for at least one other firearm-related violent crime from 2018 to 2024. This was also the case for 32% of those who were accused of a firearm-related violent crime committed in a convenience store, a gas station or a pharmacy.

Overall, the more previous offences an accused person has on their record, the more serious the crimes they are accused of. To measure the severity of a violation, the weight assigned to each offence in the Crime Severity Index can be used. These weights are calculated based on the duration of the average sentence, with the offences that have the longest prison sentences being considered more severe and weighted most heavily. For example, common assault (level 1) is assigned a weight of 26.2, while aggravated assault (level 3) is assigned a weight of 501.1. First-degree murder is assigned the highest weight, 8,273.6.

Chart 19
Average severity of most recent violent crime attributed to an accused person, by type and number of previous contacts with police since 2018, Canada, 2024

average severity (CSI weight)¹



1. The Crime Severity Index (CSI) was developed to complement the conventional crime rate and other indicators by considering both the number and the severity of crimes in a given area. Each violation is assigned a weight that represents its severity. The severity is based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, and less serious offences are assigned lower weights.

Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. A contact is defined as being an accused person in relation to a police-reported *Criminal Code* or other federal statute violation (only contacts for violent crimes are shown in this chart). To be considered in scope for this analysis and included in the cohort, the most recent incident for which a person was accused must have been reported between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Based on the most recent police-reported firearm-related violent crime attributed to an accused person or, if a person was not accused of firearm-related crime in 2024, based on the most recent *Criminal Code* or other federal statute offence (only those whose most recent offence was a violent crime are included in this chart). Charges may or may not have been laid or recommended by police. Previous contacts included in this analysis must have been reported by police between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2024. An individual may have had prior police contact before this period. Each distinct incident represents one contact, including instances where an accused was arrested once in relation to multiple incidents. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded.

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

Among persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime or whose most recent crime in 2024 was a violent crime, and who had no previous history of violence, the average weight of the offences they were accused of was just over 100. That weight then increased depending on the number of previous contacts with police: 132 for accused persons who had had previous contact for a violent crime, 156 for accused persons who had had two to five previous contacts, and 186 for accused persons who had had more than five previous contacts (Chart 19).

Looking specifically at prior contacts for firearm-related violent crime, the increase is exponential. For persons who had no prior contact for firearm-related violent crimes, the violent crimes they were accused of in 2024 had an average weight of 122. Among accused persons who had had more than five previous contacts with police for a firearm-related violent crime from 2018 to 2024, the average weight of offences was 680 (Chart 19).

Almost three-quarters of those accused of a firearm-related violent crime linked to gangs had a recent history of violence

Just as those accused of more serious crimes were more likely to have a history of violence, those accused of a firearm-related violent crime that was linked to organized crime or gangs were also more likely to have had previous contact with police. Almost three-quarters (73%) of them had had previous contact with police from 2018 to 2024 for a violent crime, and one-third (33%) had had at least one previous contact for a firearm-related violent crime. In comparison, those percentages were 61% and 13%, respectively, among persons accused of non-firearm-related violent crimes that were linked to organized crime or gangs (Table 7).

More than three-quarters of persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime committed with a fully automatic or sawed-off firearm had a criminal history

Persons accused of firearm-related violent crimes were most likely to have a recent criminal history when the crime was committed with a fully automatic or sawed-off firearm (77%). They were also more likely to have a recent history of violence (66%). The proportion who had a criminal history (73%) or a history of violence (60%) was also relatively high among those whose crime was committed with a handgun. In comparison, those proportions were 66% and 55%, respectively, among those whose crime was committed with a rifle, a firearm-like weapon or an unknown type of weapon (Table 7).

Summary

In 2024, 14,488 firearm-related violent crimes were reported by police services in Canada, which represented 2.6% of violent crimes. Compared with 2023, this was a decrease of approximately 200 firearm-related violent crimes. Thus, the rate of these crimes declined from 37.6 incidents per 100,000 population to 36.0 per 100,000 population.

Most provinces and territories recorded a decrease in the rate of firearm-related violent crimes from 2023 to 2024. Exceptions were Newfoundland and Labrador (+31%), Yukon (+24%), the Northwest Territories (+7.3%), Ontario (+6.3%), and Quebec (+0.8%). Although decreases in the rate were observed in many regions of the country, the large drops in urban regions in British Columbia and Alberta contributed significantly to the decline in the national rate. While Toronto's rate of firearm-related violent crime in 2024 (44.8 incidents per 100,000 population) was its highest in 15 years, Vancouver saw its lowest rate (14.1 incidents per 100,000 population).

Overall, rates of firearm-related violent crime were lowest in urban regions (i.e., census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations), and they were highest in rural regions. In 2024, police reported a rate of 31.1 firearm-related violent crime incidents per 100,000 population in the provincial urban south and 39.5 per 100,000 population in the provincial urban north. The rates were slightly higher in the provincial rural south (40.9 incidents per 100,000 population) but much higher in the territories (157.7 per 100,000 population) and in the provincial rural north (172.2 per 100,000 population).

Firearm-related violent crimes were more likely than other violent crimes to involve multiple victims or accused persons. In 2024, 22% of these crimes resulted in at least two victims, and 24% of all firearm-related violent crimes involved at least two accused persons. These percentages were more than twice as high as those for non-firearm-related violent crimes (8.7% with at least two victims and 5.7% with at least two accused persons).

Firearm-related violent crimes were approximately 15 times more likely than other violent crimes to be linked to organized crime or gangs. Nevertheless, gang-related crimes represented a small percentage of firearm-related violent crimes (4%). For homicides involving a handgun, that proportion was considerably higher (48%). In addition, almost three-quarters (73%) of persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime that was linked to gangs had had recent contact with police for at least one violent crime, and one-third (33%) of them had had previous contact for a firearm-related violent crime.

The rate of shooting homicides decreased for a second consecutive year in 2024, from 0.73 incidents per 100,000 population in 2023 to 0.69 per 100,000 population in 2024. That decrease was largely because of fewer handgun-related homicides and homicides linked to organized crime. However, the rate of shooting homicides remains significantly higher than rates recorded in comparable countries, except for the United States.

Most persons accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024 (70%) had a recent criminal history; that is, they had been identified by police as an accused person in at least one prior criminal incident (excluding traffic offences) from 2018 to 2024. This proportion was 47% among those accused of a non-firearm-related violent crime in 2024. Overall, the more prior contacts an accused person had with police, the more serious the crime they were accused of in 2024.

Data sources and concepts

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was launched in 1962 with the collaboration and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The purpose of the survey is to quantify the crimes reported by federal, provincial, territorial and municipal police services in Canada.

An incident may include more than one offence. To ensure that the data is comparable, the numbers in this article are based on the most serious offence in the incident. The police determine the most serious offence based on the standardized classification rules of the UCR Survey: for example, the violent or non-violent nature of the offence and the maximum sentence allowable under the *Criminal Code*.

In the context of this analysis, a firearm-related violent crime is a crime where a firearm was present during the commission of the offence, whether the firearm was used or not. Firearms include handguns, rifles or shotguns, fully automatic or sawed-off firearms, and weapons similar to a firearm, such as starter pistols, flare guns, compressed air guns and BB guns. Offences that are specifically related to firearms — including discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an indictable offence, and pointing a firearm — are also included in firearm-related violent crimes, regardless of the most serious weapon present in the crime.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database

The Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-Based Survey (UCR2) database on trends is a microdata survey that is used to collect detailed information about crimes reported to the police. The data includes the characteristics of the incidents, the victims and the accused persons. It is estimated that, from 2009 to 2023, the UCR2's coverage increased to 99% of the Canadian population. It includes only the police services that have always responded to the UCR2 Survey, so that comparisons can be made over time.

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” at the crime scene. Although firearm-related violent crimes are probably recorded correctly in the vast majority of cases, undercounting is still possible. Thus, caution should be exercised when comparing the Quebec data to that of other provinces or territories.

This analysis excludes the data from the Service de police de la Ville de Québec because of concerns about the quality of the data for the variable “most serious weapon present.” The data from the Saint John Police Service (SJPS) are also excluded. The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS), in collaboration with the SJPS, decided to delete the SJPS data for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023 and 2024 from the files because of concerns about the quality of the data for those years. Consequently, the SJPS data was also deleted from the trends data file, which includes only the police services that reported data every year from 2009 to 2024.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects data from police services on the characteristics of homicide incidents, homicide victims and persons accused of homicide in Canada. This survey has collected police-reported data on all homicides since 1961.

When the police become aware of a homicide, the police service that conducts the investigation fills out the Homicide Survey questionnaires and sends them to Statistics Canada. Some homicides are reported to police months or years after they were committed. They are counted in the year during which they were reported to police. Information on persons accused of homicide are available only for cases that have been closed (i.e., those in which at least one accused person has been identified). The characteristics of the accused persons are updated as the homicide cases are closed, and the new

information is sent to the Homicide Survey. The data gathered through the questionnaires on the victim and the incident are also updated once the case is closed.

The Homicide Survey was recently revised in order to improve the quality and relevance of the data. Changes were made to existing questions, and questions were added for the 2019 reporting period.

Geographic regions

Urban regions are regions located within the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and the Census Agglomerations (CAs). 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 at least 50,000 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 regions are all regions located outside of the CMAs and CAs.

The provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. (Variant of the Standard Geographical Classification [SGC] 2021 for the North and the South.) The provincial north includes the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. Note that the Nunavik Police Service reports its data to the UCR Survey (version 1). In this article, northern Quebec means the northern regions in the province that are located 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 the 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 and BB guns. This category also includes unknown types of firearms.

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Notes

1. According to data from the Canada Border Services Agency website, 548 firearms were seized in 2020/2021. In 2024/2025, that number was 1,038. The Canada Border Services Agency enforcement actions statistics page can be consulted for more details (Canada Border Services Agency, 2025).
2. Unless otherwise specified, the information on firearm-related violent crimes contained in this article is based on data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database, which includes 99% of the Canadian population.
3. One incident may involve multiple offences. To ensure comparability, data presented in this article are based on the most serious violation in the incident.
4. Incidents in which police confirmed that a firearm was present and relevant to the commission of an offence, but could not determine with certainty the type of firearm involved, are also included.
5. There are several violent offences for which the police are not required to provide information about the victims. For example, this may be because a crime did not have a clearly identifiable direct victim (e.g., in some incidents of discharging a firearm) or because the victims are a group of people present at the place and time of the incident but are not counted as victims (e.g., people present during a robbery in a business, people present in a public space where shots were fired).
6. Throughout this article, percent changes are based on unrounded rates.
7. It should be noted that when the 2023 data were released, they first showed a decline in the rate of firearm-related violent crime. With each release, data from the previous year's Uniform Crime Reporting Survey are revised based on new developments that come to the attention of the police, or corrections. Revised 2023 data now show a slight increase (+0.1%) in the rate of firearm-related violent crimes compared with 2022.
8. 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 to be recorded correctly in the vast majority of cases, undercounting is still possible. Because of concerns about the quality of data on the most serious weapon present, data from the Service de police de la Ville de Québec are excluded.
9. Excludes the portions of the Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that serve the Toronto census metropolitan area.
10. 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 (Statistics Canada, 2022a).
11. In addition to Montréal and Vancouver, only the Trois-Rivières CMA (-0.4%) and the Ontario portion of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA (-1.1%) recorded declines, but much more modest. The rate for the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA as a whole was 2.1% higher than in 2014.
12. The provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. The provincial north includes Labrador and the northern regions of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia (Statistics Canada, 2022b).
13. Includes firearm-like weapons such as starter pistols, flare guns, air guns and BB guns. Also includes violent crimes where the type of firearm was unknown. For this category, it is not possible to determine whether the weapon was a firearm-like weapon or an unknown firearm.
14. That is, with intent to wound, maim or disfigure, to endanger the life of or to prevent the arrest or detention of any person (*Criminal Code*, s. 244).

15. The rates in this section are taken from Chart 6, which is based on aggregate data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, whose data are available prior to 2009. Aggregate UCR data include all police services reporting data, including the Service de police de la Ville de Québec and Saint John Police Force. Rates may differ slightly from those calculated using data taken from the UCR Survey trend database and presented in the other tables and charts in this article. Aggregate data from the UCR Survey cannot be used to produce data on all firearm-related violent crimes. For this reason, the percentages (proportion of firearm-related violent crimes) in this section are based on data from the UCR Survey trend database.

16. An urban area is defined as a 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 CMAs and CAs (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

17. The percentage calculation excludes unknown motivations.

18. Includes incidents where a victim record was provided.

19. Includes incidents where at least one accused person was identified.

20. A criminal organization consists of a static or fluid group of three or more individuals who communicate, cooperate and conspire within an ongoing collective or network, and it has as one of its main purposes or activities the facilitation or commission of offences undertaken or planned to generate material benefits or financial gain. A street gang is defined as a more or less structured group of adolescents, young adults or adults who use intimidation and violence to commit criminal acts on a regular basis, to obtain power and recognition or control specific areas of criminal activities. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, information on organized crime and street gangs is collected through a single indicator. As such, it is not possible to differentiate crimes linked to street gangs from those linked to other criminal organizations. The terms “organized crime” and “gangs” are therefore used interchangeably in this report.

21. Includes incidents that were confirmed or suspected to be linked to organized crime or gangs.

22. The data presented in this text box are based on microdata from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Since information on organized crime and street gangs was first collected in 2018, the data are not included in the trend database but are available for separate years. In 2024, this information was provided by police services serving approximately 93% of the population in Canada. Data from the Ontario Provincial Police and the Saint John Police Force are excluded. Percentage calculations exclude incidents where organized crime or street gang activity was unknown.

23. The calculation is based on unrounded values.

24. Includes incidents where at least one accused person was identified.

25. Includes weapons trafficking or manufacture (3365) and unauthorized importing or exporting of weapons (3380). The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey does not collect information about the types of weapons involved in these cases, so it is possible that some of these crimes involve weapons other than firearms.

26. Unlike the other firearms data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey in this article, the weapons trafficking data include data from the Service de police de la Ville de Québec.

27. The calculation of percentages excludes victims whose gender and age were unknown.

28. Includes all persons accused of a violent crime involving a firearm, regardless of whether a record related to the victim was provided.

29. The calculation of percentages excludes incidents for which the relationship between the accused and the victim was coded as an unknown relationship.

30. Victims of intimate partner violence include people aged 12 to 110. Victims aged 111 and over were excluded from the analysis because incidents for which the victim’s age was unknown may have been incorrectly classified in this age category. Victims whose age was unknown or whose relationship to the accused was unknown are excluded.

31. Homicide data are from the Homicide Survey, which covers 100% of the Canadian population. Unlike the analysis related to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend data and microdata, no police departments are excluded from homicide analyses.
32. The calculation of percentages excludes homicides in which the main weapon used to cause death was unknown.
33. Represents the median age of victims of firearm-related homicides from 2014 to 2024. The calculation excludes victims whose age was coded as unknown.
34. The availability of this information depends, for example, on whether an accused was identified, whether documentation on the firearm (e.g., possession of a valid licence) was collected, whether the firearm was recovered and whether the firearm was sent for tracing.
35. The calculation of percentages excludes homicides for which this information was unknown (i.e., 6.3% of cleared homicides).
36. Represents incidents perpetrated by and for a criminal organization.
37. The calculation of percentages excludes homicides for which this information was unknown (i.e., 0.5% of homicides).
38. The calculation of percentages excludes accused persons whose previous convictions for criminal activity were unknown and those whose primary weapon used to cause death was unknown.
39. The percentage calculation excludes homicides where the link to organized crime or gangs was unknown.
40. Data provided in this section are based on the data released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and may differ from those from other sources. Unless otherwise specified, comparisons between the countries presented in this section are based on the most recent year available for each country.
41. According to the data compiled by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, every year from 2018 to 2023, Canada reported the lowest homicide rate among the countries in the Americas with available data. The comparison excludes countries with populations under 100,000 inhabitants.
42. Peer countries were determined according to the methodology developed by the Conference Board of Canada. The process started with countries classified as high income by the World Bank, then it excluded those with a population under 1 million, those with an area smaller than 10,000 square kilometres and those with a per capita income that was below the previous five-year average. This left 16 countries: Canada, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (England and Wales) and the United States.
43. This represents data from the fiscal year from April 2023 to March 2024, and it includes England and Wales. In the United Kingdom, a crime is considered firearm-related when shots are fired, when the firearm is used as a blunt object or when it is used to threaten. The data in this article excluded crimes committed with pepper spray, since they do not fall under the firearm category as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey in Canada. For further information on data from the United Kingdom, please see *Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables - Office for National Statistics*.
44. This represents the number of incidents and not necessarily the number of firearms stolen. More than one firearm of the same type may have been stolen in the same incident.
45. More than one type of firearm may have been stolen in a single incident. Therefore, the sum of the categories is greater than the total number of incidents where at least one firearm was stolen.
46. The re-contact may be for any other offence under the *Criminal Code* (excluding traffic offences). The analysis factors in all accused persons identified by the police, whether the case was closed with or without charges.
47. Represents the location of initial contact. Subsequent contacts may have occurred in another region.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by province or territory and region, 2014, 2023 and 2024

Province or territory and region	2024					2023			2014		
	number	rate	percent ¹	percent change in rate from 2023	percent change in rate from 2014	number	rate	percent ¹	number	rate	percent ¹
Newfoundland and Labrador	168	30.8	1.6	30.7	71.3	127	23.6	1.2	95	18.0	1.4
Urban south	78	25.6	1.5	29.9	59.7	58	19.7	1.1	44	16.1	1.3
Rural south	62	29.1	1.8	19.3	105.8	53	24.4	1.6	32	14.2	1.6
Rural north	28	99.5	1.6	74.4	46.8	16	57.0	0.9	19	67.8	1.6
Prince Edward Island	27	15.2	1.0	-46.4	36.6	49	28.3	1.7	16	11.1	1.3
Urban south	20	16.9	1.1	-19.5	286.7	24	21.1	1.2	4	4.4	0.5
Rural south	7	11.6	0.9	-72.3	-48.6	25	42.0	2.8	12	22.6	2.8
Nova Scotia	319	29.8	2.0	-6.8	18.3	336	31.9	2.0	235	25.2	2.0
Urban south	192	25.7	1.9	-8.0	9.2	204	28.0	1.9	148	23.6	1.9
Rural south	127	38.9	2.1	-4.6	37.0	132	40.8	2.2	87	28.4	2.1
New Brunswick	291	37.5	2.1	-11.3	123.0	320	42.3	2.3	116	16.8	1.6
Urban south ²	178	36.8	2.4	-3.1	122.2	176	38.0	2.2	69	16.6	1.6
Rural south	113	38.5	1.8	-21.2	124.8	144	48.9	2.4	47	17.1	1.6
Quebec³	2,101	25.1	1.9	0.8	4.1	2,036	24.9	2.0	1,816	24.1	2.6
Urban south	1,589	23.8	1.8	-4.5	-6.3	1,621	24.9	2.0	1,487	25.4	2.8
Urban north	123	38.7	2.2	61.9	98.0	75	23.9	1.6	61	19.6	1.7
Rural south	344	26.7	2.0	8.6	36.2	313	24.6	1.9	251	19.6	2.2
Rural north ⁴	45	63.0	2.0	66.6	173.1	27	37.8	1.4	17	23.1	1.4
Ontario	5,142	32.3	3.0	6.3	60.1	4,688	30.4	2.9	2,714	20.2	2.6
Urban south	4,661	33.5	3.3	6.6	58.1	4,225	31.4	3.1	2,474	21.2	2.9
Urban north	191	33.3	1.8	2.3	97.5	181	32.6	1.7	88	16.9	1.4
Rural south	188	16.1	1.8	-8.5	61.9	203	17.7	2.1	100	10.0	1.6
Rural north	102	40.2	1.6	28.7	86.9	79	31.2	1.3	52	21.5	1.1
Manitoba	1,176	81.3	3.5	-1.4	134.5	1,160	82.4	3.3	430	34.7	2.1
Urban south	564	53.8	3.1	2.2	77.3	534	52.6	3.0	262	30.3	2.7
Urban north	28	213.8	1.5	-37.4	630.0	45	341.6	2.2	4	29.3	0.5
Rural south	221	74.3	4.2	-5.3	228.9	229	78.4	4.6	64	22.6	1.7
Rural north	363	416.0	4.1	2.5	231.3	352	405.9	3.5	100	125.6	1.6
Saskatchewan	1,458	120.1	4.5	-8.2	145.8	1,549	130.8	4.8	531	48.8	2.4
Urban south	670	81.0	4.3	-10.8	91.3	726	90.7	4.7	295	42.3	2.8
Rural south	376	107.8	3.9	-8.7	138.3	409	118.0	4.5	159	45.2	2.4
Rural north	412	1,077.1	5.4	-1.8	441.7	414	1,097.2	5.7	77	198.8	1.6

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by province or territory and region, 2014, 2023 and 2024

Province or territory and region	2024					2023			2014		
	number	rate	percent ¹	percent change in rate from 2023	percent change in rate from 2014	number	rate	percent ¹	number	rate	percent ¹
Alberta	2,415	49.3	3.2	-14.1	38.7	2,695	57.4	3.6	1,455	35.6	2.8
Urban south	1,436	36.3	2.8	-17.6	21.5	1,659	44.1	3.3	955	29.9	2.9
Urban north	58	38.2	1.4	-35.2	-19.5	86	59.0	2.1	69	47.5	2.0
Rural south	467	89.7	4.7	-1.5	128.4	468	91.0	4.7	189	39.2	2.5
Rural north	454	166.1	4.9	-6.9	85.7	482	178.4	5.0	242	89.4	3.1
British Columbia	1,182	20.7	1.4	-22.4	-13.1	1,479	26.7	1.7	1,124	23.9	2.1
Urban south	878	17.8	1.3	-23.6	-23.4	1,111	23.3	1.6	933	23.3	2.3
Urban north	113	46.6	1.7	-44.6	39.3	201	84.1	2.8	76	33.4	1.5
Rural south	115	26.9	1.6	8.4	22.6	106	24.8	1.5	81	21.9	1.9
Rural north	76	70.9	2.0	24.0	121.0	61	57.2	1.6	34	32.1	1.2
Yukon	41	87.9	1.8	24.4	16.6	32	70.7	1.4	28	75.4	1.7
Northwest Territories	87	194.5	1.6	7.3	349.2	81	181.3	1.6	19	43.3	0.6
Nunavut	81	196.8	1.5	-36.9	26.4	127	312.0	2.3	56	155.7	1.9
Canada	14,488	36.0	2.6	-4.2	43.9	14,679	37.6	2.7	8,635	25.0	2.4
Provincial urban south	10,266	31.1	2.5	-4.0	29.2	10,338	32.4	2.6	6,671	24.1	2.7
Provincial urban north	513	39.5	1.8	-14.9	61.8	588	46.4	2.0	298	24.4	1.6
Provincial rural south	2,020	40.9	2.7	-3.8	85.2	2,082	42.5	2.8	1,022	22.1	2.1
Provincial rural north	1,480	172.2	3.7	2.7	166.9	1,431	167.6	3.5	541	64.5	1.9
Territories	209	157.7	1.6	-14.1	79.1	240	183.7	1.9	103	88.0	1.4

1. Reflects the proportion of violent crime that was firearm-related.

2. Excludes data from the Saint John Police Force because of data quality concerns.

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 with data from other provinces and territories.

4. Excludes Nunavik because 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, using 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. The provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. The 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 CMAs and CAs. Data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group are excluded. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

Table 2
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by census metropolitan area, 2023 and 2024

Census metropolitan area ²	2024					2023			2014 to 2023		
	number	rate	percent ¹	percent change in rate from 2023	percent change in rate from 2014	number	rate	percent ¹	number	average annual rate	percent ¹
St. John's	67	29.0	1.6	41.9	45.1	46	20.4	1.2	587	27.6	1.9
Halifax	135	25.4	1.9	-4.4	15.1	138	26.6	1.8	1,129	25.3	1.9
Moncton	99	50.4	2.8	-6.5	90.5	101	53.9	2.8	635	38.4	2.3
Fredericton ³	39	29.2	2.2	-14.0	..	43	34.0	2.2	129	35.1	2.3
Saguenay	46	26.0	2.0	40.8	14.8	32	18.4	1.5	275	16.3	1.5
Sherbrooke	39	17.3	1.7	23.0	40.1	31	14.1	1.5	274	13.3	1.7
Trois-Rivières	41	23.9	1.9	-28.7	-0.4	56	33.6	2.8	335	21.1	2.0
Drummondville ³	34	29.6	1.6	51.6	..	22	19.5	1.1	66	19.9	1.3
Montréal	1,079	23.2	1.9	-10.4	-18.4	1,170	25.9	2.1	10,579	25.0	2.5
Gatineau ⁴	83	22.8	1.6	-24.2	13.4	107	30.1	2.3	735	21.7	1.9
Ottawa ⁵	268	20.9	2.7	-14.4	-1.1	303	24.4	3.1	2,557	23.4	3.2
Kingston	30	15.8	1.6	-2.1	96.9	30	16.1	1.5	271	15.7	1.6
Belleville–Quinte West ⁶	27	21.9	1.7	32.5	..	20	16.5	1.4	159	17.6	1.5
Peterborough	24	16.5	1.7	15.1	236.0	20	14.4	1.7	172	13.3	1.6
Toronto ⁷	2,843	44.8	4.2	12.0	54.1	2,439	40.0	3.8	21,737	38.2	4.5
Hamilton ⁸	276	43.7	3.8	0.8	55.5	267	43.3	3.8	2,084	36.2	3.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	133	24.7	2.6	3.5	63.2	125	23.8	2.7	966	20.1	2.9
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	203	28.7	2.0	-11.2	95.3	218	32.4	2.3	1,506	25.5	2.2
Brantford	33	19.8	2.4	-42.2	91.6	55	34.2	2.8	447	30.8	2.6
Guelph	34	21.3	2.3	85.5	115.1	18	11.5	1.4	199	13.9	1.8
London	171	27.3	2.9	12.9	112.8	147	24.2	2.5	1,073	19.7	2.2
Windsor	156	34.9	3.4	39.8	141.4	108	25.0	2.7	864	25.0	3.0
Barrie	35	18.0	1.9	-31.3	62.7	49	26.3	2.5	278	17.2	1.9
Greater Sudbury	76	38.9	2.7	26.5	192.3	58	30.7	1.7	328	18.9	1.5
Thunder Bay	42	31.9	1.4	-6.1	86.0	44	34.0	1.5	280	22.3	1.3
Winnipeg	504	54.6	3.2	0.6	74.6	485	54.3	3.1	4,519	54.8	4.0
Regina	238	84.7	6.2	6.7	168.4	215	79.4	5.6	1,851	72.8	5.8
Saskatoon	177	47.7	3.3	-10.5	12.2	190	53.3	3.8	1,730	53.3	4.1
Lethbridge ⁶	35	25.2	1.3	-46.4	..	63	47.1	2.2	311	30.9	1.7
Calgary	617	34.6	3.3	-11.8	34.3	660	39.3	3.6	5,454	36.1	3.8
Red Deer ³	44	39.0	1.8	-50.7	..	86	79.0	3.2	262	82.3	3.5
Edmonton	622	38.0	2.7	-18.7	17.3	731	46.7	3.3	5,593	39.1	3.2
Kelowna	59	23.6	1.2	-15.0	7.9	68	27.7	1.5	463	21.3	1.5
Kamloops ³	43	34.4	1.5	-8.4	..	46	37.6	1.5	126	35.1	1.4
Chilliwack ³	38	30.1	1.1	-46.8	..	70	56.5	2.0	182	49.8	1.9
Abbotsford–Mission	81	36.5	2.2	-20.9	26.6	99	46.1	2.9	619	31.4	2.4

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by census metropolitan area, 2023 and 2024

Census metropolitan area ²	2024					2023			2014 to 2023		
	number	rate	percent ¹	percent change in rate from 2023	percent change in rate from 2014	number	rate	percent ¹	number	average annual rate	percent ¹
Vancouver	437	14.1	1.4	-31.2	-46.9	609	20.4	1.8	6,235	23.1	2.2
Victoria	44	10.0	0.7	11.0	67.9	39	9.0	0.6	456	11.4	0.9
Nanaimo ³	39	30.6	1.4	19.5	..	32	25.6	1.1	128	34.8	1.5
Census metropolitan areas	9,286	30.9	2.6	-3.7	24.8	9,311	32.1	2.7	77,889	29.8	3.0
Non-census metropolitan areas	5,202	51.2	2.5	-4.4	99.7	5,368	53.6	2.6	38,611	37.6	2.2
Canada	14,488	36.0	2.6	-4.2	43.9	14,679	37.6	2.7	116,500	32.0	2.7

.. 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 because of the incongruity between police service jurisdictional boundaries and CMA boundaries. The CMA of Saint John is not presented in this table because of the exclusion of data from the Saint John Police Force, but it is included (except for the Saint John Police Force) in the CMA total. The CMA of Québec is not presented in this table because of the exclusion of data from the Service de police de la Ville de Québec, but it is included (except for the Service de police de la Ville de Québec) in the CMA total.

3. As of the 2021 Census of Population, Fredericton, Drummondville, Red Deer, Kamloops, Chilliwack and Nanaimo became census metropolitan areas (CMAs). Therefore, data prior to 2021 for these CMAs are excluded from the "2014 to 2023" column.

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 (CMAs). Therefore, data prior to 2016 for these CMAs are excluded from the "2014 to 2023" column.

7. Excludes the portions of the Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA). The Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service are included in the CMA total.

8. Excludes the portion of the Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton census metropolitan area (CMA). The 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, using 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. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

Table 3
Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by most serious type of firearm present, Canada, 2009 to 2024

Year	Handgun		Rifle or shotgun		Fully automatic or sawed-off firearm		Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm ¹		Total		percent change in rate from previous year
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	
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	7,154	18.3	2,274	5.8	707	1.8	4,544	11.6	14,679	37.6	0.1
2024	7,068	17.6	2,098	5.2	774	1.9	4,548	11.3	14,488	36.0	-4.2
Percent change in rate, 2023 to 2024	...	-4.1	...	-10.4	...	6.3	...	-2.8	...	-4.2	...
Percent change in rate, 2019 to 2024	...	-4.5	...	-7.7	...	8.0	...	70.6	...	10.9	...
Percent change in rate, 2014 to 2024	...	25.3	...	30.7	...	70.2	...	92.3	...	43.9	...

... not applicable

1. Includes, for example, starter pistols, flare guns, air guns and BB guns. Also includes incidents where the type of firearm 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, using 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. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's 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 type of violation and clearance status, Canada, 2023 and 2024

Type of violation	2024						2023			
	number	percent ¹	rate	percent	percent	Firearm- related crime percent of incidents cleared by charge	Non-firearm- related crime	number	percent ¹	rate
				change in rate from 2023	change in rate from 2014					
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder	648	38.5	1.61	-9.1	28.7	53.4	76.8	692	38.6	1.77
Sexual assault ²	119	0.3	0.30	-13.2	108.3	63.0	32.0	133	0.4	0.34
Physical assault	3,236	1.0	8.04	-2.7	64.3	52.3	47.1	3,228	1.1	8.26
Major assault ³	2,776	3.0	6.90	-3.5	76.5	50.7	60.0	2,792	3.0	7.15
Common assault and other assault ⁴	460	0.2	1.14	2.4	15.7	62.4	41.7	436	0.2	1.12
Robbery	3,199	13.1	7.95	-8.8	-21.4	42.5	38.5	3,405	14.0	8.72
Firearm-specific violent offences	5,317	100.0	13.21	0.0	145.9	39.0	...	5,161	100.0	13.21
Discharging a firearm with intent	2,751	100.0	6.84	6.9	222.4	29.6	...	2,497	100.0	6.39
Using a firearm in the commission of an offence	775	100.0	1.93	-16.3	48.1	73.4	...	899	100.0	2.30
Pointing a firearm	1,791	100.0	4.45	-1.5	128.0	38.5	...	1,765	100.0	4.52
Hostage taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement, trafficking in persons	209	4.1	0.52	-15.5	-10.4	66.5	70.0	240	4.9	0.61
Threats, extortion, intimidation	1,561	1.5	3.88	-7.1	60.2	41.4	25.4	1,631	1.6	4.18
Other violent offences	199	0.3	0.49	2.2	113.4	75.4	27.6	189	0.3	0.48
Total	14,488	2.6	36.00	-4.2	43.9	44.7	39.3	14,679	2.7	37.58

... 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, assault against peace officer causing bodily harm, and aggravated assault against peace officer.

4. Includes physical assault level 1, unlawfully causing bodily harm, 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, using 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. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's 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
Victims and persons accused of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by gender and age group, Canada, 2014, 2023 and 2024

Gender and age group	2024					2023			2014		
	number	percent ¹	rate	percent change in rate from 2023	percent change in rate from 2014	number	percent ¹	rate	number	percent ¹	rate
Victims											
Men and boys	7,368	3.3	36.6	-6.3	29.3	7,621	3.5	39.1	4,852	3.2	28.3
17 years and under	1,272	3.3	33.4	3.6	59.6	1,207	3.2	32.2	728	3.0	20.9
11 years and under	179	1.5	7.3	2.4	28.7	173	1.6	7.1	130	1.8	5.7
12 to 17 years	1,093	4.1	80.8	2.7	60.0	1,034	3.8	78.6	598	3.5	50.5
18 years and over	6,096	3.3	37.4	-8.2	23.7	6,414	3.5	40.7	4,124	3.2	30.2
18 to 24 years	1,497	4.6	79.1	-11.4	-0.2	1,595	5.0	89.2	1,327	4.7	79.2
25 to 34 years	1,905	3.6	60.9	-6.9	24.0	1,945	3.9	65.4	1,170	3.3	49.1
35 years and over	2,694	2.6	23.9	-8.7	40.7	2,874	2.9	26.1	1,627	2.5	17.0
Women and girls	3,855	1.5	19.2	-1.7	31.1	3,814	1.5	19.5	2,541	1.5	14.6
17 years and under	670	1.4	18.6	5.3	77.2	625	1.3	17.6	347	1.2	10.5
11 years and under	128	1.1	5.5	39.2	33.9	91	0.7	3.9	90	1.2	4.1
12 to 17 years	542	1.6	42.4	-1.5	84.5	534	1.5	43.1	257	1.2	23.0
18 years and over	3,185	1.6	19.3	-3.1	23.8	3,189	1.6	19.9	2,194	1.6	15.6
18 to 24 years	769	2.0	44.7	-6.0	6.7	784	2.0	47.6	655	1.9	41.9
25 to 34 years	905	1.5	31.1	-7.5	31.4	933	1.5	33.6	556	1.4	23.6
35 years and over	1,511	1.5	12.7	0.1	31.5	1,472	1.5	12.7	983	1.6	9.7
Total	11,223	2.4	27.9	-4.7	30.2	11,435	2.5	29.3	7,393	2.3	21.4
17 years and under	1,942	2.3	26.2	4.2	65.4	1,832	2.1	25.1	1,075	2.0	15.8
11 years and under	307	1.3	6.4	15.1	30.9	264	1.1	5.6	220	1.5	4.9
12 to 17 years	1,635	2.7	62.1	1.3	67.3	1,568	2.5	61.4	855	2.3	37.1
18 years and over	9,281	2.4	28.3	-6.5	24.1	9,603	2.5	30.2	6,318	2.4	22.8
18 to 24 years	2,266	3.2	62.7	-9.4	2.5	2,379	3.3	69.3	1,982	3.2	61.2
25 to 34 years	2,810	2.5	46.5	-7.0	27.6	2,878	2.6	50.0	1,726	2.3	36.5
35 years and over	4,205	2.0	18.1	-5.7	37.4	4,346	2.2	19.2	2,610	2.1	13.2
Accused persons											
Men and boys	6,781	3.2	38.4	-11.3	24.1	7,390	3.4	43.3	4,589	2.5	30.9
12 to 17 years ²	1,561	6.3	115.3	-12.6	54.4	1,736	6.6	132.0	885	4.1	74.7
18 years and over	5,220	2.8	32.0	-10.8	18.0	5,654	3.0	35.9	3,704	2.2	27.1
18 to 24 years	1,614	5.6	85.3	-13.5	0.8	1,763	6.0	98.6	1,417	3.6	84.6
25 to 34 years	1,684	2.9	53.9	-14.6	12.9	1,874	3.2	63.0	1,136	2.3	47.7
35 years and over	1,922	1.9	17.0	-7.2	41.9	2,017	2.0	18.3	1,151	1.5	12.0

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5
Victims and persons accused of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by gender and age group, Canada, 2014, 2023 and 2024

Gender and age group	2024					2023			2014		
	number	percent ¹	rate	percent change in rate from 2023	percent change in rate from 2014	number	percent ¹	rate	number	percent ¹	rate
Women and girls	879	1.3	4.9	-5.7	88.2	904	1.4	5.2	399	0.7	2.6
12 to 17 years ²	121	1.1	9.5	-13.6	140.5	136	1.3	11.0	44	0.5	3.9
18 years and over	758	1.3	4.6	-4.3	82.0	768	1.4	4.8	355	0.8	2.5
18 to 24 years	199	2.0	11.6	-5.6	48.2	202	2.0	12.3	122	1.0	7.8
25 to 34 years	287	1.5	9.9	-4.6	81.1	287	1.5	10.3	128	0.9	5.4
35 years and over	272	1.0	2.3	-4.9	121.6	279	1.0	2.4	105	0.5	1.0
Total	7,660	2.7	21.6	-10.6	30.1	8,294	2.9	24.2	4,988	2.1	16.6
12 to 17 years ²	1,682	4.7	63.9	-12.8	58.4	1,872	5.1	73.3	929	3.1	40.4
18 years and over	5,978	2.4	18.2	-9.9	24.4	6,422	2.6	20.2	4,059	1.9	14.6
18 to 24 years	1,813	4.7	50.2	-12.3	5.6	1,965	5.0	57.2	1,539	3.0	47.5
25 to 34 years	1,971	2.6	32.6	-13.2	22.2	2,161	2.8	37.6	1,264	2.0	26.7
35 years and over	2,194	1.7	9.5	-6.9	49.0	2,296	1.8	10.2	1,256	1.3	6.4

1. Reflects the proportion of violent crime that was firearm-related.

2. Includes accused persons aged 12 years and over, since those under 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, using 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 a man or a boy nor exclusively a woman or a girl. 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. Victims and accused persons whose age or gender was coded as unknown are excluded, as are those over 110 years of age. A small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but was miscoded as 0 are excluded, as are victims whose age was reported as 80 years or over but were identified as possible instances of miscoding. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada’s Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend database.

Table 6
Proportion of persons accused of a violent crime in 2014 who had re-contact with police, by number of re-contacts, rural or urban area and north or south region, Canada, 2014 to 2023

	Urban ¹			Rural ¹			Total		
	South ¹	North ¹	Total	South ¹	North ¹	Total	South ¹	North ¹	Total
Number of re-contacts	percent								
Re-contact for any <i>Criminal Code</i> violation (excluding traffic offences)									
Initial contact (cohort) was for a firearm-related violent crime									
No re-contact	35	33	35	37	27	34	35	29	35
Re-contact	65	67	65	63	73	66	65	71	65
1 re-contact	15	13	15	17	13	15	15	13	15
2 to 5 re-contacts	25	27	25	23	23	23	25	24	25
6 to 10 re-contacts	12	11	12	9	15	11	11	14	12
More than 10 re-contacts	13	16	13	14	22	17	13	20	14
Initial contact (cohort) was for a non-firearm-related violent crime									
No re-contact	46	37	45	43	25	36	45	29	43
Re-contact	54	63	55	57	75	64	55	71	57
1 re-contact	15	15	15	16	12	15	16	13	15
2 to 5 re-contacts	21	23	21	22	24	23	21	24	21
6 to 10 re-contacts	8	10	8	9	14	11	8	12	9
More than 10 re-contacts	10	15	10	10	25	16	10	21	12
Re-contact for a violent crime									
Initial contact (cohort) was for a firearm-related violent crime									
No re-contact	51	48	51	53	41	49	52	43	50
Re-contact	49	52	49	47	59	51	48	57	50
1 re-contact	19	23	19	18	19	18	19	20	19
2 to 5 re-contacts	23	21	23	22	27	24	23	25	23
More than 5 re-contacts	7	8	7	7	13	9	7	12	7
Initial contact (cohort) was for a non-firearm-related violent crime									
No re-contact	59	50	58	56	38	49	58	42	56
Re-contact	41	50	42	44	62	51	42	58	44
1 re-contact	17	18	17	18	18	18	18	18	18
2 to 5 re-contacts	19	23	19	20	29	23	19	26	20
More than 5 re-contacts	5	9	6	6	16	10	5	13	7

1. Geographical region is based on the location of the offence in the initial contact in 2014 (i.e., cohort incident). Subsequent contacts may have occurred in another region.

Note: Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where the most serious violation was a firearm-specific violent offence (discharging a firearm with intent, using 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. To be included in the cohort, the initial intervention must have been for a violent offence that occurred between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2014. Charges may or may not have been laid or recommended by police. An individual may have had prior police contact before this period. Accused persons may have had additional contacts with police in other years or may have come into contact with police for another reason (e.g., as a victim of crime, or related to an incident for which they were not formally identified as an accused person). The provincial south includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as the southern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. The 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 CMAs and CAs. Data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group are excluded. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded. Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

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

Table 7
Persons accused of firearm-related violent crime and of non-firearm-related violent crime, by criminal history (previous contacts with police) and selected accused and incident characteristics, Canada, 2024

Accused and incident characteristics ¹	Previous contacts for any <i>Criminal Code</i> violation (excluding traffic offences)							
	No previous contact		1 previous contact		2 to 5 previous contacts		More than 5 previous contacts	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024¹								
Gender of accused person								
Men	1,838	29.7	773	12.5	1,483	23.9	2,102	33.9
Women	296	33.9	132	15.1	184	21.1	260	29.8
Age of accused person								
12 to 17 years	614	42.1	219	15.0	344	23.6	282	19.3
18 to 24 years	449	27.2	214	13.0	406	24.6	582	35.3
25 to 34 years	385	20.8	198	10.7	417	22.5	855	46.1
35 to 44 years	270	22.6	138	11.5	312	26.1	477	39.8
45 years and over	425	46.2	137	14.9	189	20.6	168	18.3
Type of violation								
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder	86	22.5	62	16.2	88	23.0	147	38.4
Physical assault	606	33.4	238	13.1	409	22.5	564	31.0
Robbery	297	20.7	154	10.8	358	25.0	623	43.5
Firearm-specific offences	701	30.7	290	12.7	558	24.4	734	32.2
Hostage taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement, trafficking in persons	61	34.7	18	10.2	42	23.9	55	31.3
Threats, extortion, intimidation	314	40.3	105	13.5	168	21.5	193	24.7
Other violent offences	81	38.0	39	18.3	45	21.1	48	22.5
Type of firearm								
Handgun	902	27.4	451	13.7	853	25.9	1,091	33.1
Rifle or shotgun	407	33.6	158	13.1	235	19.4	410	33.9
Fully automatic or sawed-off firearm	101	23.0	42	9.6	91	20.7	205	46.7
Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm ²	736	34.4	255	11.9	489	22.9	658	30.8
Organized crime or gang-related incident								
Yes	45	14.9	27	8.9	82	27.2	148	49.0
No	1,932	30.1	828	12.9	1,515	23.6	2,142	33.4
Total	2,146	30.3	906	12.8	1,668	23.5	2,364	33.4

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 7
Persons accused of firearm-related violent crime and of non-firearm-related violent crime, by criminal history
(previous contacts with police) and selected accused and incident characteristics, Canada, 2024

Accused and incident characteristics ¹	Previous contacts for any <i>Criminal Code</i> violation (excluding traffic offences)							
	No previous contact		1 previous contact		2 to 5 previous contacts		More than 5 previous contacts	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Accused of a non-firearm-related violent crime in 2024¹								
Gender of accused person								
Men	67,603	51.3	19,479	14.8	24,426	18.5	20,396	15.5
Women	25,328	56.3	6,798	15.1	7,771	17.3	5,059	11.3
Age of accused person								
12 to 17 years	14,282	62.2	3,869	16.9	3,563	15.5	1,229	5.4
18 to 24 years	10,717	46.7	3,519	15.3	4,877	21.3	3,834	16.7
25 to 34 years	20,290	45.6	6,339	14.2	8,953	20.1	8,915	20.0
35 to 44 years	19,717	48.7	5,904	14.6	7,725	19.1	7,100	17.6
45 years and over	28,217	60.8	6,698	14.4	7,122	15.3	4,393	9.5
Type of violation								
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder	265	39.7	84	12.6	146	21.9	173	25.9
Physical assault	61,169	52.6	16,877	14.5	20,807	17.9	17,361	14.9
Robbery	1,331	29.4	592	13.1	1,033	22.8	1,575	34.8
Hostage taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement, trafficking in persons	1,100	48.8	348	15.4	457	20.3	349	15.5
Threats, extortion, intimidation	11,198	48.2	3,694	15.9	4,829	20.8	3,517	15.1
Other violent offences	18,321	60.0	4,734	15.5	4,968	16.3	2,496	8.2
Organized crime or gang-related incident								
Yes	111	29.5	53	14.1	95	25.3	117	31.1
No	86,385	52.4	24,365	14.8	29,990	18.2	24,009	14.6
Total	93,384	52.6	26,329	14.8	32,240	18.2	25,471	14.4

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 7
Persons accused of firearm-related violent crime and of non-firearm-related violent crime, by criminal history
(previous contacts with police) and selected accused and incident characteristics, Canada, 2024

Accused and incident characteristics ¹	Previous contacts for a violent crime							
	No previous contact		1 previous contact		2 to 5 previous contacts		More than 5 previous contacts	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024¹								
Gender of accused person								
Men	2,518	40.6	1,116	18.0	1,837	29.6	725	11.7
Women	457	52.4	160	18.3	200	22.9	55	6.3
Age of accused person								
12 to 17 years	763	52.3	233	16.0	343	23.5	120	8.2
18 to 24 years	648	39.2	280	17.0	510	30.9	213	12.9
25 to 34 years	598	32.2	342	18.4	640	34.5	275	14.8
35 to 44 years	437	36.5	237	19.8	390	32.6	133	11.1
45 years and over	541	58.9	184	20.0	154	16.8	40	4.4
Type of violation								
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder	135	35.2	82	21.4	119	31.1	47	12.3
Physical assault	804	44.2	352	19.4	491	27.0	170	9.4
Robbery	497	34.7	234	16.3	489	34.1	212	14.8
Firearm-specific offences	978	42.8	408	17.9	642	28.1	255	11.2
Hostage taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement, trafficking in persons	79	44.9	32	18.2	47	26.7	18	10.2
Threats, extortion, intimidation	400	51.3	121	15.5	190	24.4	69	8.8
Other violent offences	97	45.5	47	22.1	59	27.7	10	4.7
Type of firearm								
Handgun	1,327	40.2	612	18.6	1,012	30.7	346	10.5
Rifle or shotgun	549	45.4	226	18.7	299	24.7	136	11.2
Fully automatic or sawed-off firearm	149	33.9	71	16.2	152	34.6	67	15.3
Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm ²	965	45.1	367	17.2	574	26.8	232	10.9
Organized crime or gang-related incident								
Yes	82	27.2	54	17.9	118	39.1	48	15.9
No	2,701	42.1	1,162	18.1	1,834	28.6	720	11.2
Total	2,990	42.2	1,276	18.0	2,037	28.8	781	11.0

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 7
Persons accused of firearm-related violent crime and of non-firearm-related violent crime, by criminal history
(previous contacts with police) and selected accused and incident characteristics, Canada, 2024

Accused and incident characteristics ¹	Previous contacts for a violent crime							
	No previous contact		1 previous contact		2 to 5 previous contacts		More than 5 previous contacts	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Accused of a non-firearm-related violent crime in 2024¹								
Gender of accused person								
Men	77,601	58.8	22,856	17.3	24,505	18.6	6,942	5.3
Women	29,305	65.2	7,543	16.8	6,655	14.8	1,453	3.2
Age of accused person								
12 to 17 years	16,172	70.5	3,657	15.9	2,655	11.6	459	2.0
18 to 24 years	12,898	56.2	4,000	17.4	4,628	20.2	1,421	6.2
25 to 34 years	24,011	54.0	7,965	17.9	9,547	21.5	2,974	6.7
35 to 44 years	22,865	56.5	7,254	17.9	8,082	20.0	2,245	5.6
45 years and over	31,273	67.4	7,577	16.3	6,283	13.5	1,297	2.8
Type of violation								
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder	330	49.4	123	18.4	152	22.8	63	9.4
Physical assault	70,548	60.7	19,624	16.9	20,424	17.6	5,618	4.8
Robbery	1,935	42.7	847	18.7	1,223	27.0	526	11.6
Hostage taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement, trafficking in persons	1,239	55.0	447	19.8	451	20.0	117	5.2
Threats, extortion, intimidation	13,172	56.7	4,272	18.4	4,552	19.6	1,242	5.3
Other violent offences	20,156	66.0	5,140	16.8	4,393	14.4	830	2.7
Organized crime or gang-related incident								
Yes	147	39.1	77	20.5	120	31.9	32	8.5
No	99,430	60.4	28,229	17.1	29,123	17.7	7,967	4.8
Total	107,380	60.5	30,453	17.2	31,195	17.6	8,396	4.7

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 7
Persons accused of firearm-related violent crime and of non-firearm-related violent crime, by criminal history
(previous contacts with police) and selected accused and incident characteristics, Canada, 2024

Accused and incident characteristics ¹	Previous contacts for a firearm-related violent crime						Total	
	No previous contact		1 previous contact		More than 1 previous contact			
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Accused of a firearm-related violent crime in 2024¹								
Gender of accused person								
Men	5,080	82.0	578	9.3	538	8.7	6,196	100
Women	802	92.0	43	4.9	27	3.1	872	100
Age of accused person								
12 to 17 years	1,232	84.4	94	6.4	133	9.1	1,459	100
18 to 24 years	1,296	78.5	178	10.8	177	10.7	1,651	100
25 to 34 years	1,466	79.0	215	11.6	174	9.4	1,855	100
35 to 44 years	1,033	86.3	99	8.3	65	5.4	1,197	100
45 years and over	867	94.3	35	3.8	17	1.8	919	100
Type of violation								
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder	271	70.8	70	18.3	42	11.0	383	100
Physical assault	1,614	88.8	112	6.2	91	5.0	1,817	100
Robbery	1,053	73.5	156	10.9	223	15.6	1,432	100
Firearm-specific offences	1,899	83.2	218	9.5	166	7.3	2,283	100
Hostage taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement, trafficking in persons	146	83.0	16	9.1	14	8.0	176	100
Threats, extortion, intimidation	723	92.7	34	4.4	23	2.9	780	100
Other violent offences	191	89.7	15	7.0	7	3.3	213	100
Type of firearm								
Handgun	2,656	80.6	321	9.7	320	9.7	3,297	100
Rifle or shotgun	1,041	86.0	97	8.0	72	6.0	1,210	100
Fully automatic or sawed-off firearm	333	75.9	54	12.3	52	11.8	439	100
Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm ²	1,867	87.3	149	7.0	122	5.7	2,138	100
Organized crime or gang-related incident								
Yes	203	67.2	48	15.9	51	16.9	302	100
No	5,364	83.6	547	8.5	506	7.9	6,417	100
Total	5,897	83.2	621	8.8	566	8.0	7,084	100

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 7
Persons accused of firearm-related violent crime and of non-firearm-related violent crime, by criminal history (previous contacts with police) and selected accused and incident characteristics, Canada, 2024

Accused and incident characteristics ¹	Previous contacts for a firearm-related violent crime							
	No previous contact		1 previous contact		More than 1 previous contact		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Accused of a non-firearm-related violent crime in 2024¹								
Gender of accused person								
Men	128,862	97.7	2,530	1.9	512	0.4	131,904	100
Women	44,628	99.3	300	0.7	28	0.1	44,956	100
Age of accused person								
12 to 17 years	22,664	98.8	237	1.0	42	0.2	22,943	100
18 to 24 years	22,101	96.3	675	2.9	171	0.7	22,947	100
25 to 34 years	43,328	97.4	961	2.2	208	0.5	44,497	100
35 to 44 years	39,745	98.3	612	1.5	89	0.2	40,446	100
45 years and over	46,055	99.2	345	0.7	30	0.1	46,430	100
Type of violation								
Homicide, other violations causing death and attempted murder	639	95.7	19	2.8	10	1.5	668	100
Physical assault	113,998	98.1	1,853	1.6	363	0.3	116,214	100
Robbery	4,256	93.9	216	4.8	59	1.3	4,531	100
Hostage taking, kidnapping, forcible confinement, trafficking in persons	2,194	97.3	50	2.2	10	0.4	2,254	100
Threats, extortion, intimidation	22,746	97.9	427	1.8	65	0.3	23,238	100
Other violent offences	30,221	99.0	265	0.9	33	0.1	30,519	100
Organized crime or gang-related incident								
Yes	328	87.2	32	8.5	16	4.3	376	100
No	161,553	98.1	2,687	1.6	509	0.3	164,749	100
Total	174,054	98.1	2,830	1.6	540	0.3	177,424	100

1. Based on the most recent police-reported firearm-related violent crime attributed to an accused person or, if a person was not accused of firearm-related violent crime in 2024, based on the most recent *Criminal Code* or other federal statute offence (only those whose most recent offence was a violent crime are included in this table).

2. Includes, for example, starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns and BB guns. Also includes incidents where the type of firearm 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, using 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. A contact is defined as being an accused person in relation to a police-reported *Criminal Code* or other federal statute violation (only contacts for violent crimes are shown in this table). To be considered in scope for this analysis and included in the cohort, the most recent incident for which a person was accused must have been reported between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Charges may or may not have been laid or recommended by police. Previous contacts included in this analysis must have been reported by police between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2024. An individual may have had prior police contact before this period. Each distinct incident represents one contact, including instances where an accused was arrested once in relation to multiple incidents. Because of quality concerns regarding weapon data, the Service de police de la Ville de Québec is excluded.

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